

THE FAKE FIANCÉ

written by

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SUPER: SEVENTH GRADE. THE WORST GRADE. SOME TIME AGO...

INT. MRS. BANKS'S ENGLISH CLASS - DAY

We're looking at the back of a BOY'S HEAD. His thick, luscious locks hang down to his T-shirt as a NASALLY STUDENT mechanically recites a poem at the front.

NASALLY STUDENT (O.S.)
*Love is a rainbow. Love is a
flower. Love is a train tow.*

The boy turns his head to us, rolling his big, blue eyes.

SHARLENE DAVIS, 13, giggles back, louder than she wanted to. She can't help it. She finds the boy hilarious.

MRS. BANKS, 30s, glares at them. Conservatively dressed, her measured words make it clear she runs a tight ship.

MRS. BANKS
Sharlene. Danny. Do I have to
separate you two?

Sharlene and the boy (Danny) shake their heads.

Mrs. Banks doesn't seem to believe them. Nevertheless, she gestures for the nasally student to continue.

NASALLY STUDENT
Love is a tower. The end.

MRS. BANKS
Very good. Alright, who's next?

Sharlene shoots her hand into the air.

MRS. BANKS (CONT'D)
(polite but strained)
Alright, Sharlene.

Sharlene pops out of her seat, paper in hand. Her pigtails sway as she makes her way to the front. There's a spring in her step, a song in her heart and candy in her braces.

MRS. BANKS (CONT'D)
Once again, class, I'd like to
remind y'all to please be
respectful. It's important for us
to share our feelings.

SHARLENE
My poem's called "The Big D".

MRS. BANKS

Um, as in our great city of Dallas?

SHARLENE

No.

(confidently performing,
poetry-slam style)

*D. D. D. D. 'Dis hottie-boom-
bottie's got a hold on me.
Picture two strangers in one lunch
line, but when our hands touched
briefly, deeply, sweetly as we both
reached for the milk, your skin
soft as silk, I knew he must be
mine. He said his name was Danny,
with a Big Ol' D. That milk you
bought was two percent, but you
stole one hundred percent of me.*

Danny can't look at her. Cheeks burning red.

SHARLENE (CONT'D)

*Danny, if you need proof of my
truth, just look at my books. I
covered them in Big D's. Little
D's. Squiggly D's. D's for days.*

Mrs. Banks quietly regrets giving this assignment.

SHARLENE (CONT'D)

*Meet my lips after class. It's a
subject I'll pass. I have sweetness
and sass. So D, D, Big Ol' D, do
you want to go out with me?*

The class is stunned. They burst into laughter.

MRS. BANKS

Alright, settle down. QUIET!!

SHARLENE

It's fine. Danny? Did you like it?

A long beat.

DANNY

Um, you're like, totally pathetic.

The class gasps. Sick burn.

Sharlene stands there, devastated but keeping it together as her classmates laugh, their volume increasing until-

SMASH TO:

INT. SHARLENE'S TRUCK - MOVING - DAY

SHARLENE DAVIS, now 32, hair pulled back and dressed in an oversized tee with paint-stained jeans, sings all out to a Katy Perry-type pop song in her pickup truck.

EXT. WILLOWBROOK ESTATE - DAY

The truck rolls up to the front of a modern mansion.

Sharlene steps out of the truck. Looks at her fitbit.

It shows **5:59** turning to **6:00**.

She smiles. Then:

She hacks at an unruly tree branch with a machete.

JOLENE (PRE-LAP)
Our Sharlene can be a bit, uhh...

INT. MISSING PIECE HEADQUARTERS - DAY

Large, framed portraits of various HAPPY COUPLES hang on the walls of a creative office space - wedding photos and engagement shots - finally landing on the company's logo looming over its front desk: **Missingpiece.com**

JOLENE (O.S.)
Would you say you like a challenge?

RUGGED MAN (O.S.)
Is she difficult?

BUCK (O.S.)
Not difficult.

JOLENE (O.S.)
Challenging. Like yoga.

JOLENE AND BUCK'S OFFICE

JOLENE and BUCK DAVIS, late 50s, in love, sit together. Dressed in the latest from Nieman's, Jolene wears two jewelry pieces too many. Buck's down-to-earth in light denim.

JOLENE
Do you like to yoga?

BUCK
Go ahead. I won't judge.

A RUGGED MAN, 30s, well-built, thick beard and kind eyes, sits across from them.

RUGGED MAN
More of a wrestler.

BUCK
You like... wrestling?
(to Jolene)
I like this one for her.

Jolene hands the Rugged Man a FILE.

INT. WILLOWBROOK ESTATE - DAY

Back to Sharlene placing an accent chair near a fireplace. Not satisfied, she moves the chair again. And again.

JOLENE (V.O.)
*She won't know the real reason
you're there.*

BUCK (V.O.)
*That's right, so whatever you do,
do not tell her.*

JOLENE (V.O.)
YOU CAN NOT TELL HER.

She wrangles four great danes, dragging them to the garage.

JOLENE (V.O.) (CONT'D)
*Now we prepared some research to
help you look like a legit buyer.*

She takes a stylish, professional dress of its Prada garment bag and carefully lays it on a bed.

BUCK (V.O.)
*And you should know that there'll
be other fellers there vying for
her attention.*

Sharlene showers. Then scrubs the shower till it shines.

JOLENE (V.O.)
*That's right, so if for some crazy
reason you don't tickle her fancy,
we're still giving you a six month
membership to missingpiece.com, so
y'all play nice now!*

Sharlene arranges charcuterie, now flawlessly dressed.

BUCK (V.O.)
*Just be yourself. You know. Under
 the pretenses. You'll do fine.*

She stands in the grand foyer, ready to present.

Her FITBIT shows **11:59** turning to **12:00**. She smiles.

SHARLENE
 I am a champion, and you're gonna
 hear me roar.
 (noticing the empty table
 next to her)
 Dang it. Flowers.

DING DONG!

Sharlene answers the door. Standing there is a POMPOUS MAN,
 30s, in a preppy sports coat and slacks.

POMPOUS MAN
 I hope I'm not late. Starts at
 noon, yes? I just had my Rolex set.
 (showing her his Rolex)
 It's a loaner, for my other one
 that's in the shop. My nice one.

SHARLENE
 Oh? They do that?

POMPOUS MAN
 For their VIPs they do.

SHARLENE
 Okay, well, welcome to Willowbrook
 Estate. Let me show you around.

As she closes the door, a COWBOY BOOT blocks it from closing.

In walks COWBOY MAN, 30s, a straight-shooter. Tips his hat.

COWBOY MAN
 You must be Sharlene. Gunner
 Phillips. Howdy. Nice house.

POMPOUS MAN
 Excuse me, Gunner, but we're in the
 middle of a tour.

SHARLENE
 Actually, we just started. I can
 show you both around.

The guys exchange fake smiles, masking their disappointment.

EMPTY ROOM

Sharlene leads Pompous Man and Cowboy Man through a large, nondescript space with wall-to-wall shelves.

SHARLENE

It'll be a challenge to fill up this space.

COWBOY MAN

Oh I enjoy a challenge. Reckon I'd turn this room into my gym.

POMPOUS MAN

I'd make it a library. I'd put my Ayn Rand collection over there-

SHARLENE

Actually, gentlemen-

COWBOY MAN

I can crack this here walnut with my bare hands. Wanna see?

POMPOUS MAN

Sharles. May I call you, Sharles?

SHARLENE

Um, Sharlene's fine.

POMPOUS MAN

Would you say these shelves could fit a hundred... thousand books?

COWBOY MAN

(squeezing his nut)
They're for dumbbells, you-!
(CRACK!)
Got it!

SHARLENE

Gentleman. This is the pantry.

PRIMARY BEDROOM - LATER

Sharlene leads HORN-DOG, 40s, into a massive suite.

SHARLENE

So this room opens up to its own private balcony. There's his and hers en suite dressing areas.

HORN-DOG

Are the windows soundproof?

They look out the balcony. An OLDER COUPLE tours the back yard. Horn-Dog closes the balcony doors.

HORN-DOG (CONT'D)

Watch them. See if they hear me.

(shouting)

Oh God! God, it's so big! I want it! I want it so bad!

Sharlene snaps out of the stunned terror she's feeling and-

OUTSIDE THE PRIMARY BEDROOM

Sharlene hurries out of the room, closing the doors behind her and encountering a WHOLESOME-LOOKING FAMILY of five.

HORN-DOG (O.S.)

Yes! YES!!

Sharlene smiles, trying to diffuse the worry on their faces.

SHARLENE

Potential buyer. Super excited.

HORN-DOG (O.S.)

Put it in!

SHARLENE

Yes, sir! I'll, I'll put in that offer right away, sir!

(to the kids)

Would y'all like to see the pool? It has a slide.

HORN-DOG (O.S.)

I'm coming!!

SHARLENE

No, no!! You stay there!!

GRAND FOYER

A long train of men line up to sign the GUESTBOOK.

IN THE LIVING ROOM

Sharlene watches them, on the phone with TOUGH SELLER, 50s.

TOUGH SELLER (ON PHONE)
How's my Open House going?

SHARLENE
 I've... got a line out the door.

TOUGH SELLER (ON PHONE)
*Good girl! I don't care what that
 Will Stone says, I believe in you.*

Sharlene stops in her tracks.

SHARLENE
 You've been talking to Will Stone?

TOUGH SELLER (ON PHONE)
*Well, our agreement is expiring in
 a couple weeks, and, well, only
 prudent I keep my options open.*

She sees Pompous Man and Cowboy Man lingering nearby.

SHARLENE
 Sir, based on the interest I'm
 seeing, I'll have 'em fighting over
 the place by the end of the day.

She notices a man in a nice blue suit. His back's to her.

SHARLENE (CONT'D)
 Hi, welcome to Willowbrook Estate.
 I'm Sharlene Davis.

The man turns. It's Rugged Man, the one we met at the office.

Cowboy Man mozies over to Sharlene.

COWBOY MAN
 Ma'am, could I see you *en privito*?

RUGGED MAN
 (to Sharlene)
 I was kinda hoping you could show
 me around.

COWBOY MAN
 (holding up a walnut)
 Bet you can't crack this.

SHARLENE
 How many of those do you have??

RAY-JAY, 14, giving off a rock n' roll vibe in his jeans and
 Blondie tee comes in with a heavy bouquet of flowers.

SHARLENE (CONT'D)
 (to the men)
 Excuse me.
 (crossing to Ray-Jay,
 excited)
 Oh, they're beautiful!

COWBOY MAN (O.S.)
 What the damn hell??

Pompous Man, Cowboy Man and Rugged Man march over, upset.

POMPOUS MAN
 You're breaking the rules. It was
 agreed upon. No flowers. No gifts.

SHARLENE
 (confused)
 What? This is my nephew.

The three men exchange embarrassed looks.

SHARLENE (CONT'D)
 Alright, what's going on?

RAY-JAY
 (struggling with the vase)
 Can I put this down?

COWBOY MAN
 Here, lil' fella, allow me.

RUGGED MAN
 No, let me.

SHARLENE
 Did Will Stone put you up to this?

POMPOUS MAN
 Who?

Right on cue, WILL STONE, 34, breezes into the room, as charming, slim and handsome as the Armani he's wearing.

WILL STONE
 Nice turnout.

SHARLENE
 I knew it. Will, I can't believe
 you'd ruin my Open House just-

SHARLENE (CONT'D)
 -to take my listing.

WILL STONE
 What?? I'm here for support.

SHARLENE (CONT'D)
Are times that hard for you?

Cowboy Man gets in Will's face.

COWBOY MAN
Sounds like the lady here wants you
to skedaddle.

WILL STONE
Skedaddle?
(to the others)
Is this guy for real?

COWBOY MAN
Why don't you find out how real I
am?

Cowboy Man pushes Will into Rugged Man.

SHARLENE
Alright.

Rugged Man pushes Will into Cowboy Man.

SHARLENE (CONT'D)
Gentlemen.

Cowboy Man takes a swing at Will! Will ducks, and Cowboy
Man's punch hits Rugged Man.

SHARLENE (CONT'D)
Stop!

Sharlene tries to pull Cowboy Man and Rugged Man off each
other, only Cowboy Man pushes Sharlene away, so Pompous Man
punches Cowboy Man!

SHARLENE (CONT'D)
Help!!

Ray-Jay smashes the flower pot over Pompous Man.

Cowboy Man and Rugged Man tussle, tearing the foyer apart.
Paintings and tables are used as weapons.

A crowd gathers to watch.

Sculptures are broken. A grand piano's destroyed.

A baby cries.

Will stands by, recording on his phone.

Sharlene dials 9-1-1. Rugged Man climbs atop a stair railing.

SHARLENE (CONT'D)

Don't. Don't you do it.

9-1-1 DISPATCH (ON PHONE)

9-1-1, *what's your emergency?*

Rugged Man dives off the railing onto Cowboy Man, knocking the crystal chandelier above them in the process.

The CHANDELIER teeters... then-

CRASH!!

Sharlene surveys the horrific scene. Dirt and glass and charcuterie litter the floor. She turns to her guests.

SHARLENE

Did I mention the marble tile is scratch-resistant?

EXT. WILLOWBROOK ESTATE - DAY

Paramedics wheel an injured Cowboy Man into an ambulance. Sharlene cuts between them.

SHARLENE

Who put you up to this??

INT. LIMO - MOVING - NIGHT

Buck and Jolene - all dressed to the nines in formal wear - defend themselves to Sharlene.

JOLENE

We were only trying to help.

SHARLENE

For the last time, stop it. The Willowbrook listing is my biggest yet, and I now have thirteen days, nineteen hours and seven minutes to get an offer or it's going to my ex.

(even worse)

And I have to replace a chandelier!

BUCK

If you're having money troubles, you know we're more than happy to-

SHARLENE

NO. No. Thank you. I appreciate you trying to help, but I do not want it. Not financially. And not romantically. It's important I succeed on my own the way y'all did.

DEDE (O.S.)

Well, Ray-Jay and I certainly appreciate your loving support.

DEDE, 37, her off-beat personality represented by the baby-blue vintage evening dress she's wearing, sits next to Ray-Jay, whose head's buried in his phone.

DEDE (CONT'D)

Right, Ray-Jay? Tell them you're grateful.

RAY-JAY

Barf.

DEDE

Ray-Jay. You better not be watching porn again.

RAY-JAY

Mom.

DEDE

Y'all know what I caught him watching?

RAY-JAY

Mom! It's Sharlene.

Confused silence.

SHARLENE

What?

RAY-JAY

You're viral.

SHARLENE

I'm what??

Sharlene snatches Ray-Jay's phone and plays a VIDEO of the mini-Wrestlemania that happened earlier.

JOLENE

Oh is that the Open House Fail? You were the most beautiful one there.

SHARLENE
 (to Ray-Jay)
 Take it down. Can you take it down?

RAY-JAY
 I didn't post it.

SHARLENE
 Who did??

INT. HOTEL - BANQUET HALL - EVENING

Projecting on a SCREEN: **LONE STAR REALTY AWARDS BANQUET**

Will holds court at a bar, surrounded by coworkers and their dates eating up his story.

WILL
 So this guy climbs up on top of the railing, and she's like, "Don't you do it. Don't you do it."

A hush falls. Sharlene stands behind him. Glaring.

A STAIRWELL

Someplace quiet and private where Sharlene and Will talk.

WILL
 You should thank me. I made you an internet sensation.

SHARLENE
 For Epic Open House Fail!

WILL
 No such thing as bad publicity.

SHARLENE
 Take. It. Down.

WILL
 (smiling)
 How. 'Bout. No.

He opens a door to leave. Dede spills in. An awkward pause.

DEDE
 Sorry. Wrong stairwell.

Dede leaves.

WILL

Know what? I am being unreasonable.
I'll take the video down.

SHARLENE

Thank you.

WILL

If you give me the Willowbrook
listing.

SHARLENE

Wooooooooooooow. Classy.

WILL

Class my ass. I'd been working that
seller for years, and you somehow
snaked your way in with your witty
charm and your annoyingly perfect
put-together poise.

SHARLENE

(wiping spit off her face)
Thanks for the shower.

WILL

Point is you took my listing.

SHARLENE

Oh, please. We both had our shot,
and he chose me because I'm the
better agent.

WILL

We'll see.

SHARLENE

Oh it'll be seen.
(beat, going to leave)
This isn't over.

She opens the door to leave. Dede spills back in.

DEDE

(feigning innocence)
Oh. Is this the same stairwell?

BACK INSIDE THE BANQUET HALL

Jolene and Buck corner a handsome SILVER FOX, 50s, showing
him pictures of Sharlene on their phone.

JOLENE

There's Sharlene on a horse. And here she is on a jet ski in Cabo. You can tell she works out.

LADIES ROOM

Sharlene follows Dede inside.

DEDE

Y'all still have a thing for each other, don't tell me you don't.

SHARLENE

We don't.

(Dede rolls her eyes)

Will and I had a thing. We had a great thing, but I blew it with the whole Philippe thing.

DEDE

(going into a stall)

What Philippe thing?

SHARLENE

(Oh shit.)

What?

DEDE

You said there was a Philippe thing?

Sharlene washes her hands.

SHARLENE

I can't hear you in there. What words are you saying?

(hitting the dryer,
shouting over it)

Listen, tonight's a big deal for me! I've worked really hard to get to this level in my career! Can we just celebrate that?!

BACK IN THE BALLROOM - LATER

The Silver Fox stands at a podium, opening an envelope.

SILVER FOX

And the award for the North Texas Agent of the Year goes to... if I could get a drum-roll...

Will and Sharlene share a look, like two drivers trying to psych each other out before a race.

SILVER FOX (CONT'D)
Sharlene Davis!

Sharlene gasps with joy.

Will takes his defeat in stride and applauds as she exchanges congratulatory hugs with family.

SILVER FOX (CONT'D)
Get on up here and give us a speech.

Sharlene freezes. The idea of giving a speech terrifies her.

SILVER FOX (CONT'D)
Come on, now.

Sharlene covers her face. Waves a "no".

SILVER FOX (CONT'D)
Sharlene, it's company tradition.

Sharlene stands, her face drained of color.

Will clocks this with concern.

Breathing hard, she takes her place at the podium, nervously stroking her hair. She takes gulp-after-gulp of the Silver Fox's water. Taking in the audience. Sweating.

SHARLENE
I'm gonna keep this short. Thanks.

Her eyes roll back. She falls!

A circle forms around Sharlene as Dede revives her.

SHARLENE (CONT'D)
What happened?

DEDE
You're alright, you take it easy.

SHARLENE
Why? What happened??

JOLENE
(nudging Silver Fox)
Here's your chance. Go offer her a drink of water.

SILVER FOX
Mrs. Davis... I'm married.

Sharlene exhales, exasperated.

INT. LIMO - MOVING - NIGHT

Sharlene lies with her award on one side of the limo, while Jolene, Buck, Dede and Ray-Jay sit crammed on the other side.

SHARLENE
When I win this again next year,
I'll give the greatest speech they
ever heard. I'll show 'em. I. Am
not. Pathetic.

DEDE
Oh, Shar. Nobody thinks that.

JOLENE
Nobody. The minute you stood up to
get your award, I guarantee you
everyone was thinking the same
thing: how is she not taken?

SHARLENE
Oh my God.

JOLENE
Well, you were the most beautiful
one there.

DEDE
Oh my God!

SHARLENE
Is marrying me off all y'all care
about??
(Jolene and Buck shrug)
And I suppose I just need to accept
that you'll never stop. Like, you
two will never ever stop until I
find my missing piece?

JOLENE
We're like the Terminators of love.

BUCK
We have a mission, and we're gonna
get you. A husband, that is.

They pretend to aim guns, shoot, and act like the Terminator.

JOLENE
 (sighing, turned on)
 Oh, Bucky...

They kiss... and start to make out. Dede and Sharlene share a look of horror. Ray-Jay smirks, giggling, head in his phone.

DEDE
 (to Ray-Jay)
 So. What are you up to, sweetie?

Ray-Jay shows them a video he's editing.

It's Sharlene fainting. Over and over. With auto-tune.

RAY-JAY
 Sick, right?

Sharlene nods, feeling dead inside.

EXT. JOLENE AND BUCK'S MANSION - NIGHT

Buck and Jolene hurry inside their huge brick house.

As Ray-Jay heads inside, Dede walks Sharlene to her truck.

SHARLENE
 You're so lucky mom and dad aren't obsessed with you finding a husband.

DEDE
 Well, all you need to do is find one like I did, then find him taking a picture of his pecker to send to his gym buddy, Hawk.

SHARLENE
 Tale as old as time.

DEDE
 Yeah. Suppose mom and dad have just been giving me my space to heal.

SHARLENE
 Hm. I wonder how long that'll last.

DEDE
 As long as I keep telling them...
 (faking emotion)
 "I'm just not ready to date. The hurt is too fresh."

Her phone chirps. Dede instantly shifts gears.

DEDE (CONT'D)

Oh my God, this guy's been messaging me like, non-stop.

SHARLENE

Oh is this leather pants guy or gorilla-chest guy?

DEDE

No this is guy with all the guns.

SHARLENE

Wow. Dating without pressure, I wonder what that's like.

INT. JOLENE AND BUCK'S MANSION - DEDE'S ROOM - NIGHT

On Dede's PHONE, she texts emojis of a Donut and Banana.

Now dressed in tight jeans and a low-cut shirt, Dede finishes her lips in the mirror.

She grabs her purse and goes to the window. Opens it. Looks back to the door, then, turning to sneak out-

Sharlene is suddenly there at the window!

Dede jumps, giving a weird kind of grunt scream.

SHARLENE

(climbing in)

That's how you scream?

DEDE

(recovering)

That's how you enter a room?

SHARLENE

You know how mom and dad don't bother you about dating again because they think you're still traumatized from your divorce?

DEDE

Dude...

SHARLENE

What if I was traumatized? They'd treat me the same way, right?

(off Dede, staring blankly)

Dede, I need to get dumped.

DEDE

Cool. Um. Can this wait? I was kinda heading out.

SHARLENE

Just tell me how this sounds. I hire someone to pretend to be my boyfriend and propose to me, and then I figure, give it a couple weeks, a couple dinners with the fam to really sell it-

Dede pinches Sharlene.

SHARLENE (CONT'D)

Ow!

DEDE

Sorry, I just had an edible, I thought I was hallucinating.
(Sharlene pinches Dede)

Ow!

SHARLENE

You're not. So then at the ceremony, I want him to leave me at the altar. I mean what could be more traumatizing than that?

DEDE

You at the window two seconds ago.

SHARLENE

It's a good idea, right?

DEDE

Yeah, you could do all that, OR, why don't you just have a serious talk with mom and dad?

SHARLENE

Are you kidding me? I have. So many times. But they. Won't. Listen. Dede, you heard them today, they even said they won't stop interfering in my life until I'm married, and I can't live like that anymore. We have to stop them.

DEDE

We?

SHARLENE

I need your help. You work with them. You have access to the Missing Piece database. You can help me find the perfect guy to pull this off.

DEDE

I don't know. I don't want to hurt mom and dad's feelings, and I don't like being sneaky.

SHARLENE

Dude, you were literally just sneaking out of the house.

DEDE

Yeah, 'cause if they knew I was ready to date again...
(realizing)
Aw, crapballs.

She texts.

SHARLENE

What are you doing?

DEDE

Canceling my banana donut.

She tosses her phone aside. Opens her laptop. Logs into missingpiece.com.

Thumbnails of various MALE PROFILE PICS appear.

DEDE (CONT'D)

Well... whoever we find, he has to be believable or they won't buy it.

As they talk, they scroll and click on men they like.

SHARLENE (O.S.)

Absolutely. He needs to be attractive. Fit. A sense of style.

DEDE (O.S.)

And confidence.

SHARLENE (O.S.)

Confidence! Yes. You know, I might just end up falling for this guy.

The last click is on a handsome guy in his 30s.

INT. HOTEL CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

Suddenly, we're looking at this guy in the flesh. TIMID MAN.
Sucking on his teeth.

TIMID MAN
Do, do I have anything in my teeth?
I ate a Tootsie Roll.

Sharlene terror-smiles.

SHARLENE
Dede, are we ready yet?

OUTSIDE THE HOTEL CONFERENCE ROOM

A row of fit, GOOD-LOOKING MEN sit outside, waiting to go in.

BACK INSIDE THE HOTEL CONFERENCE ROOM

Sharlene stands with a stoic, MAN OF FEW WORDS, 30s, by a makeshift wedding altar. Dede stands by with a camera.

SHARLENE
Okay, we're at the altar, suddenly,
you have a change of heart, and...
action.

MAN OF FEW WORDS
I'm leaving you.

He walks out. They wait... and wait...

SHARLENE
I think he really left.

DEDE
I liked it.

ENTER COCKY MAN

20s. Tall. A player.

COCKY MAN
Screw this. Screw you. J-Rod out.
(before he leaves)
And I'm banging your sister!

SHARLENE
What?!

J-ROD

Nah.

(a wink, to Dede)

But I want to. What's up, girl?

DEDE

(flattered)

Okay, J-Rod.

LATER

Sharlene and Dede lay various PROFILE PICS across a table.

SHARLENE

No. None. None of these.

DEDE

So, cool if I call J-Rod?

HOT MAN, 30s, knocks at the door. Leather jacket. Tight tee.

Sharlene and Dede share a look, intrigued by Hot Man.

MOMENTS LATER

Hot Man auditions with Sharlene. He's crying real tears.

SHARLENE

Are you scared? Is it me? Something else? Talk to me.

HOT MAN

Talk! Talk! Talk! Don't you get it?
(taking off his jacket)
I need more than talk.

His T-shirt is basically soaked through, his arms wet like he just took a dip. His arms drop, vulnerable, wanting a hug.

Sharlene, repulsed but trying not to show it, declines.

HOT MAN (CONT'D)

You never want to touch me. Why won't you let me hold you?

He moves towards her, his shoes squeaking from sweat.

Sharlene reluctantly accepts his wet hug, he pulls her face into his sopping chest.

LATER

As porters break down the room, Sharlene dries herself with a handful of cocktail napkins. Dede eats a Danish.

Sharlene turns on her PHONE. Discovers a ton of missed calls.

SHARLENE
Oh shoot. My office.

INT. SHARLENE'S TRUCK - MOVING - DAY

Sharlene drives Dede. Jolene and Buck are on speakerphone.

SHARLENE
Sorry, dad, can't talk long, I'm heading to work.

BUCK (ON PHONE)
Well listen, sweetheart, your mom and I feel real bad about how we've been behaving.

JOLENE (ON PHONE)
Real bad, so we did a little thing to hopefully set things right.

Sharlene sees something up ahead. Slams on the brakes!

EXT. FREEWAY - DAY

A giant BILLBOARD features a modeling photo of Sharlene with her office number. It reads: **THE SINGLE BEST REALTOR IN TOWN**

Sharlene and Dede stand underneath, with Jolene and Buck still on speakerphone.

SHARLENE
I look like a prostitute!

BUCK (ON PHONE)
You look like an angel!

JOLENE (ON PHONE)
Honey, why we're only trying to draw attention to your business.

SHARLENE
Oh I know what business you're drawing attention to. The single is underlined and italicized. You have to take this down, like, RIGHT NOW.
(MORE)

SHARLENE (CONT'D)
 (another call's coming in)
 Is this why my office is calling
 me?

INT. SHARLENE'S TRUCK - DAY

Sharlene and Dede get into the truck. There's a pause.

DEDE
 I know this is crazy, but what if
 you got Will to be your fiancé?
 (Sharlene groans)
 You said anything. Look, there's
 history between y'all that you
 won't need to make up. Plus, mom
 and dad still think he's great.

SHARLENE
 I'd rather eat a live scorpion.
 (her phone rings)
 Hang on, it's my boss. Hey-
 (a muffled, angry voice
 chews her out)
 I'm sorry, I assure you I will have
 it taken down immediately.

We hear the call end. Sharlene takes a deep breath.

INT. LONE STAR REALTY OFFICES - BULLPEN - DAY

Will bursts into the busy office.

WILL
 Good morning! Yo, Jake, you see the
 whiteboard? Whose name's up top?

Sharlene comes out of an office, holding a basket.

SHARLENE
 Can we talk?

She reveals an assortment of immaculate, homemade MUFFINS.

WILL
 (pretending not to care)
 Where's the red plum jam?

WILL'S OFFICE

Sharlene spreads RED PLUM JAM on Will's muffin.

SHARLENE

-I want this to be as quick and painless as possible, couple dinners, small ceremony, you leave me at the altar, that's it.

WILL

Sharlene, put the muffin down.

SHARLENE

Did I put on too much?

WILL

What about Philippe? Why don't you ask him?

SHARLENE

(hesitates)

Because... I'm asking you, Will, and you still haven't heard the best part.

WILL

Yeah, but, you made it very clear that Philippe was the one who'd do anything for you.

SHARLENE

Look, he wasn't all he appeared to be, okay? As I was saying, THE BEST PART. If you help me with this teeny little thing... I'll let you have the Willowbrook listing.

He takes a bite of muffin, a devilish glint in his eyes.

WILL

Huh. I just realized something. You're desperate.

(relishing)

This could be fun.

SHARLENE

Yes. Fun.

INT. JOLENE AND BUCK'S MANSION - FAMILY ROOM - NIGHT

Jolene, Buck, Dede and Ray-Jay pass a bucket of KFC around watching wrestling on their giant flatscreen TV.

On TV, Eddie the Iron Lion hoists another wrestler on his shoulders. The family chants at the screen, "Li-on! Li-on!"

JUST AROUND THE CORNER

Sharlene and Will quietly prepare to interrupt the family.

WILL

Last chance to change your mind.
 (before she can)
 Oh mom and daaaaad!

BACK IN THE DINING AREA

Sharlene and Will appear before the Davis Clan. There's an awkward, confused exchange between both sides.

Will nudges Sharlene. She shows off her engagement ring.

Shocked silence.

SHARLENE

I'm sure y'all have some questions.

Jolene and Buck celebrate like they just won the Super Bowl.

LATER, IN THE FAMILY ROOM

POP! Buck pours champagne for the family (minus Ray-Jay).
 Dede eats popcorn chicken like it's... popcorn.

JOLENE

Well now we know why you've been acting all squirrely about us trying to set you up. You didn't want us messing up y'all's secret romance.

SHARLENE

Yep. You know me so well.

WILL

I didn't want to keep it a secret, but this one was so embarrassed that she never got over me. Right?
 (Sharlene awkwardly nods)
 She didn't want anyone to know till she officially pinned me down. She just would not leave me alone.

BUCK

(proud)
 My little girl.

WILL

Tell them what you say to me every night before we go to sleep. It is so sweet.

SHARLENE

That... is... private.

WILL

Oh come on, it's your family. You put your face right up to my face, like this, you gaze longingly, longingly, into my eyes, and say...

SHARLENE

"My darling, could you please stop farting in bed?"

WILL

Ohhhh, this one, so afraid to speak the truth. Would you rather I speak the truth?

SHARLENE

I say... you... are... the sexiest.

WILL

And the best...?

He puts his lips together, indicating kissing.

SHARLENE

You are the best... kisser.

WILL

And the most successful...?

SHARLENE

Agent.

WILL

(feigning disbelief)
Not better than you.

SHARLENE

Mm-hm. Better than me.

Buck puts an arm around Jolene.

BUCK

Thank you, Will, for getting her to open up like that.

JOLENE

Now why can't you be this honest
with us?

Off Sharlene, eyes popping out of her head-

EXT. JOLENE AND BUCK'S MANSION - DECK - NIGHT

Will and the Davis Clan have moved outside to share pecan pie
overlooking their pool and lake.

BUCK

You know what I'm really looking
forward to? Going to Miami.

SHARLENE

Oh.

JOLENE

Didn't think we'd forget, did you?

SHARLENE

Ohhhhhh.

WILL

Wait, what's, what's in Miami?

JOLENE

Sharlene didn't tell you?

DEDE

(mouth full of pie)
Oh hell yeah! Destination wedding!
(off Sharlene's glare)
Oh but she doesn't want that
anymore, mom.

WILL

What are we talking about?

SHARLENE

A long time ago when I was a kid we
went on vacation to Miami, and, I
thought it was so beautiful, I said
I wanted to get married there.

JOLENE

She kept a cute little wedding
notebook and everything. Hang on,
I'll get it for you.

WILL

I imagine you want this wedding to be the most special day in your daughter's life, and I promise you, it will be, only instead of a big, over-the-top destination wedding, we've decided on something simple. Intimate.

SHARLENE

And soon.

Jolene and Buck look at them a moment... then crack up.

JOLENE

Listen to these two chickadees chirping all that nonsense.

BUCK

Now, sweetie, you know how excited mom and I get watching wrestling? Well this wedding is our Wrestlemania, so it's gotta be balls to the wall.

SHARLENE

Ew. That's really not what we want.

JOLENE

Why not? Honey, we've got the money.

SHARLENE

NO. No. I should've said this- I'm paying for the wedding. Don't argue with me. That's it.

BUCK

We get it. Small. So we'll only give you fifty-K.

SHARLENE

Dad-

BUCK

You're right. Sorry. Seventy-five.

SHARLENE

Stop.

JOLENE

The more you argue the more we're giving.

There's a brief standoff. Then:

SHARLENE

Fine. But it has to be immediate family only and it has to be...

WILL

Soon.

SHARLENE (CONT'D)

...soon. Like this month.

JOLENE

Wait a minute. Are y'all...?

She indicates pregnant.

SHARLENE

No!

WILL

No, no, BUT, the sooner we get married, the sooner we can be...

JOLENE

Let's start looking for venue cancelations.

BUCK

I'll fire up the computer!

Jolene and Buck giddily run off. Dede licks her fingers.

DEDE

Welcome to the family.

Will and Sharlene share a look, we hear the sound of a plane landing, and just like that-

EXT. MIAMI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT - DAY

A plane touches down on a runway in sunny Miami.

INT. LUXURY ESCALADE - MOVING - DAY

Jolene drives the Davis Clan and looks in the rearview mirror. Sharlene's staring off and Will's on his phone.

JOLENE

Awfully quiet.

SHARLENE

Hm?

JOLENE
Y'all are being suspiciously quiet.

SHARLENE
No we're not.
(nudging Will)
Honey?

WILL
Hm? Oh. Apologies. I'm opening
escrow on that Willowbrook home.

SHARLENE
Really.

JOLENE
Why, isn't that the one Sharlene
couldn't sell so she gave it to
you? How much is it going for?

WILL
Fifty over asking.

SHARLENE
Really. That was fast.

WILL
Yeah, I'd been working with the
buyer a while, so...

SHARLENE
So you double-sided the deal. Wow.
Nice commission.

JOLENE
That y'all get to share now, once
you're married. Well? Aren't you
gonna congratulate your man?

Will turns to Sharlene. *Well?*

SHARLENE
Um, snookems, did you have that
buyer back when I had the listing?

WILL
You know, I hate embarrassing my
cookie-puss here, but whenever one
of us puts a home into escrow, we
do the cutest thing for each other,
the congratulations song.

SHARLENE
Oh. No. I can't.

WILL

Don't be shy, it's adorable. Do it.
Do it, do it, do it-

The rest of the family joins in: "Do it, do it..."

Sharlene claps something that becomes a rhythm, and she sings, badly, something that resembles a "Happy Birthday" song from a Chili's or a Friday's.

SHARLENE

*Happy. Happy. Happy. I'm so very
happy. I'm so very happy for you.
You had a secret buyer, you're such
a big fat... tiger.
(aggressive)
I'm very, very HAPPY FOR YOU!!*

The family quietly exchanges awkward looks.

EXT. FANCY HOTEL - DAY

Ray-Jay opens the back of the SUV to take out luggage, but Sharlene interrupts him.

SHARLENE

Oh thanks, Ray-Jay, but...
(pulling Will over)
My man does the cutest thing, he
insists on taking care of my bags.
And I'm sure he'll take care of
yours, and everyone's.

She slams a bag into Will's midsection.

SHARLENE (CONT'D)

Right, poo-poo platter?

A group of COLLEGE BABES IN BIKINIS pass by, catching Ray-Jay's attention. Dede clocks this.

DEDE

Excuse me, ladies. Y'all dropped
something. My son's jaw.

The babes walk away laughing as Ray-Jay blushes hot red.

DEDE (CONT'D)

My baby gets embarrassed so easy.

Just then, she hears a familiar vibrating sound and turns the same shade of red as Ray-Jay. She rushes over to Will, who's stacking bags, and pulls hers from the stack.

DEDE (CONT'D)

Oh that's, I think that's my um, my
toothbrush.

She shoves her arm into the bag, rooting around, searching for the source of the vibration. Soon Sharlene and Jolene join her, grabbing their own bags and doing the same thing.

SHARLENE

Actually, I better have a look at
my um, my toiletries.

JOLENE

And I might've forgotten to take
the batteries out of my toothbrush.
Y'all head inside now, we'll get
the bags.

WILL

Wait a minute.
(unzipping a cosmetics case
hanging off his shoulder)
I think it's coming from-

SHARLENE

No!

Will pulls out a vibrator. Seeing it, he shouts and drops it.

The VIBRATOR clanks off the ground.

The DAVIS CLAN freeze, horrified.

The VIBRATOR rolls down the driveway ramp into the mouth of a Boston terrier being walked by a KINDLY OLD WOMAN, 70s.

KINDLY OLD WOMAN

What do you have there, Buttons?
What is this? Oh my...

Sharlene watches, hand over mouth. Will crosses to her and squeezes her shoulder, feeling sorry for her.

KINDLY OLD WOMAN (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Buttons! Buttons, give it to me!

Will leads Sharlene away. Behind them, the old woman throws the vibrator, and Buttons chases after it.

KINDLY OLD WOMAN (CONT'D)

Buttons, no!!

INT. FANCY HOTEL - DAY

Jolene hands Sharlene a room key, avoiding eye contact.

JOLENE

So, so here's y'all's key.

Will steps in.

WILL

I don't have my own room?

JOLENE

Oh please, Bucky and I aren't a couple of sticks in the mud.

She leaves, laughing. Will and Sharlene share a tense smile.

INT. HOTEL - BRIDAL SUITE - DAY

A single BRIDAL BED stares Sharlene and Will in the face.

SHARLENE

I'll sleep on the couch.

WILL

No. I want my own room.

SHARLENE

Well... Here you go, you close the door, it's like having your own-

WILL

No, I need my own space to be away from you and your horny family.

SHARLENE

Oh! You think I want to share a room with the snake who sat on a buyer till my listing expired-?

WILL

You would've done the same thing-

SHARLENE

Oh God, that's such a ridiculous justification for doing something wrong. And I think you know, Will, that I would never be so sneaky.

(beat)

Now we just need my parents to believe we're getting married for a few more nights, so if we could-

SHARLENE

Well... I'm sorry I got all preachy, earlier. I probably would've done the same thing.

WILL

See?!

SHARLENE

Whatever. You see nothing.

They naturally share a smile... that throws them both.

SHARLENE (CONT'D)

Hey, so, I get that you'd like to spend this week drunk, and I don't blame you, BUT, you get loose lips when you drink, and-

WILL

Wooooow. I believe I get charming when I drink.

SHARLENE

Yeah, you also believe crunchy peanut butter's better than creamy-

WILL

Hey. Crunchy rules-

SHARLENE

I'm not having this discussion again!

WILL

You know, you're giving me a lot of rules, when-

SHARLENE

One rule! Don't drink-

WILL

I'm a grown man, I know my limits.

He gulps down the rest of the Jack.

SHARLENE

Great. Because I know my parents will eventually get over you leaving me at the altar, but if they were to find out I set this whole thing up... they'd never recover from something like that.

(beat)

(MORE)

SHARLENE (CONT'D)

Now they're planning a week for us so sickeningly romantic, we'll be puking rose petals, so if we're going to pull this off, we have to face them as a united front. What do you say?

Will crosses over to the minibar. Takes out two miniatures of Captain Morgan. He cracks them open and hands one to her.

Sharlene grins. Clinks his miniature.

WILL

So who's this wedding planner?

EXT. LOVE LAND - DAY

Two gold - actual gold - doors engraved **L L** grandly open, revealing a short, unusual-looking man wearing a top hat and tailcoat.

SHARLENE (V.O.)

My mom found him. His name's Cupid Loveland. Calls himself the Willy Wonka of Love.

On cue, CUPID LOVELAND, 53, somersaults, then GLITTER and CONFETTI explodes out the end of his cane-

-raining down upon a surprisingly wowed Will and Sharlene.

INT. LOVE LAND - DAY

Cupid leads Sharlene and Will over to two diamond doors.

SHARLENE

You know, I didn't think you'd be able to top the gold doors back there, but you did. You really did.

CUPID

Give me your hands. My dear love-lovers. Have you ever sought to enter the Garden of Eden?

Sharlene and Will turn to each other, thinking.

CUPID (CONT'D)

It's more of a rhetorical- I find the experience is best if you just let me do my thing, 'kay? Good. Goody goody.

(MORE)

CUPID (CONT'D)

(beat)

These doors are a gateway to paradise, a world created for two, where everything you could ever want or could ever wish for is provided with care, and yes, love.

(annoyed)

And since I'm asked about this a lot, our clearance items are towards the back. 'Kay? Good. Goody goody.

He hands a heart-shaped key each to Sharlene and Will. As they place their keys into the LOCKS:

CUPID (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Welcome to Love Land.

THE SHOWROOM

Sharlene and Will enter through the diamond doors, in awe. We hear a harp play.

Beyond them, a world of wedding fascination stretches on for what seems like miles.

ARRANGEMENTS of flowers. ICE SCULPTURES of angels. FOUNTAINS of chocolate and cheese.

Will and Sharlene walk along the HEART-SHAPED tile.

Cupid hangs back, gesturing to a nearby LITTLE HARPIST. He brings a diamond-studded microphone to his lips.

CUPID

*Love Land is the land of love. /
Love Land is the place where dreams
come true. / When you find your
little tur-tle-dove, / Love Land
will be waiting for you.*

Will follows Sharlene over to a canopy of roses.

WILL

Where'd your mom find this guy?

SHARLENE

(impressed)

You have to admit, this place...

WILL

Will be haunting my dreams. Did you see his little oompa-loompa harpist?

Cupid appears, causing Will and Sharlene to jump.

CUPID

Her name is Cheryl. She has scoliosis.

(suddenly excited)

Don't you wide-eyed dreamers look totes adorbs.

(taking out his camera)

Why don't you put your arm around her and give us a kiss. Go on, lad, she's not your sister.

(Wait a minute...)

She's not your sister, is she-?

NO.

SHARLENE

NO.

WILL

WILL (CONT'D)

Can you just take us to the clearance section, please?

Cupid blinks, trying to act as if he's not offended.

SHARLENE

I'm so sorry, Mr. Loveland, I need a quick word with my fiancé.

CUPID

Yes you do.

Sharlene pulls Will under a wedding arch of unicorns.

WILL

I don't see any price tags.

SHARLENE

I know, that's always a bad sign.

WILL

Don't you feel guilty wasting your parents money?

SHARLENE

Of course I do. I feel guilty as hell. This wasn't my plan. I didn't want to use their money. I didn't want to come to Miami. I don't want any of this!

Startled, Cheryl the harpist strikes the wrong note.

SHARLENE (CONT'D)
 (to Cupid)
 To... overshadow... our love.

Cupid gestures for Cheryl to keep playing.

SHARLENE (CONT'D)
 (quietly, to Will)
 Let's be honest. This is just a drop in the bucket for them. I mean they're expecting us to plan our dream wedding, which means we have to go all... balls to the wall or they won't buy it.
 (crossing to bouquets of flowers)
 Now, can you see me crying into these flowers, or these flowers?

EXT. FANCY HOTEL - POOL - DAY

A child cannonball dives into a curvy pool, and we move alongside it to see various families playing with their loud little children, over to Buck and Jolene, sipping cocktails at a table. Ray-Jay sucks down all of his soda.

RAY-JAY
 Can we go to the beach now?

JOLENE
 Maybe when your mom gets back from her massage.

RAY-JAY
 Grandpa, didn't you want to walk on the beach and pick up...

His eyes go to a BEAUTIFUL WOMAN leaving the hotel.

RAY-JAY (CONT'D)
 ...shells?

BUCK
 Oh, I was gonna do that at the Shell Shack while your nana works on her tan.

RAY-JAY
 But you can do that AT THE BEACH.

Dede saunters in, feeling great.

DEDE
Hello, my beautifuls.

JOLENE
Perfect timing. We're trying to finish planning the family excursions, but we can't make out your sister's writing.

She slides an OLD JOURNAL over to Dede.

RAY-JAY
Mom, can we go to the beach?

DEDE
"My Dream Wedding" by Sharlene- you really did keep her journal.

BUCK
Oh, we kept everything.

JOLENE
We still have your baby teeth.

Dede pages through the journal. It's an adorable scrapbook of LISTS and DRAWINGS... and ZAC EFFRON.

DEDE
Ah, yes. Her Zac Effron phase. You know, Sharlene's grown up a lot since she made this.

JOLENE
Oh this is just a guidebook, hon, nothing's set in stone.

BUCK
Except grandkids.

RAY-JAY
Mom.

DEDE
Hold on, Ray-Jay.
(to Jolene and Buck)
Ummmm, hhhhhhwhat?

JOLENE
You heard her, Sharlene wants to start a family soon as possible.

DEDE
Well-

BUCK
We're praying for at least two.

JOLENE
One for sure. But I think we can
convince 'em two's better.
(turning their attention to
Dede)
You know, Ray-Jay's always wanted a
little brother.

RAY-JAY
Uhh-

DEDE
This place looks nice!

She shows them a DRAWING Sharlene did of a flower garden.

DEDE (CONT'D)
You think where she's getting
married will be anything like this?

The DRAWING of the flower garden slowly becomes-

EXT. FAIRCHILD TROPICAL BOTANICAL GARDEN - DAY

A real FLOWER GARDEN. Cupid leads Sharlene and Will over to a
patch of grass. Flowering trees serve as a canopy above them.

Cupid carefully watches as Sharlene takes in the breathtaking
area, amazed, while Will's more interested with his phone.

CUPID
Aren't you lucky this place had a
last-minute cancellation? I always
wanted to be married here. The
intimacy is delectable. It's...

CUPID (CONT'D)
Perfection.

SHARLENE
Perfection.

SHARLENE (CONT'D)
Yes, it is. Will? Babycake!

Suddenly, Cupid appears behind Sharlene, startling her!

CUPID
My, what a busy bee he is.

SHARLENE
Will? Yeah. He's in the middle of
closing a deal.

CUPID
 (jokingly)
 Always be closing.
 (then, dead serious)
 I'm three seconds away from walking
 off this wedding.

SHARLENE
 What??

CUPID
 Two.

SHARLENE
 Why??

CUPID
 I've designed exactly ninety-three
 weddings and none of them have
 ended in divorce.

SHARLENE
 Wow, that's... incredible.

CUPID
 It's because I don't do duds. Good
 day.

SHARLENE
 Wait, what? What are you saying?

CUPID
 Love is a sacred bond, and you two
 have all the adhesive power of a
 cheap band-aid. I give the marriage
 three weeks, and for that, I must
 decline. Good day.

SHARLENE
 Wait, come back. Will!

She gestures Will over.

SHARLENE (CONT'D)
 Mr. Loveland doesn't believe our
 marriage will last, and he's
 threatening to walk off the job.

WILL
 Let him. We'll find another.

SHARLENE

Oh will we? You and me, we'll just team up and call around town, see who's willing to put together a wedding by Saturday? Which of course would mean that we would have to start this process all over again. Is that what we want?

WILL

Okay, Cupid, what will it take to get you to stay?

CUPID

When did you know she was the One?

WILL

Aw, come on, man.

Cupid doffs his top hat and turns to leave.

WILL (CONT'D)

Alright, alright! Um... you want to know the moment I knew she was the One? Okay, so I'm particular about my coffee, right? And one morning, she went out to get us coffee, we were in New York, it was our first trip together, and, um, okay, this is silly, but, so basically she brought in the coffee and the different types of sweeteners and creamers, and after I fixed it the way I wanted, she asked if she could taste it so she could make it for me exactly the way I like it.

(beat)

That did it for me.

They all bask in the story a moment.

Off Sharlene, struck with a mix of emotions-

INT. UBER CAR - MOVING - DAY

Sharlene and Will ride in the back.

SHARLENE

Thank you for sharing. That couldn't have been easy.

WILL
 I told him what he wanted to hear.
 (a long beat)
 You broke my heart.

More awkward, painful silence, then-

INT. OLD WORLD ITALIAN RESTAURANT - NIGHT

GIAN GRASSO, 50s, a former opera singer and current romantic, serenades two dining lovers with an Italian love song.

ENTRANCE FOYER

The Davis Clan mill about as Sharlene and Will stand before CARLO, 40s, a cheeky maitre d.

CARLO
 If the seventh member of your party doesn't arrive in the next five minutes, I'm afraid you'll have to forfeit your reservation.

WILL
 (to Sharlene)
 Don't worry, my bro texted me, he's almost here-

SHARLENE
 Seriously?? We better not lose this reservation, 'cause with the day we've had, I just, I'm getting hangry, and you know how I get...

WILL
 Carlo, you may want to rethink your policy.

SHARLENE
 He's not gonna screw anything else up, is he?

WILL
 Who, Carlo?

SHARLENE
 No, your brother. Are you sure he's even on board with all of this?

WILL

Yes, there's a reason he's my best man. There's nobody I trust more. He won't tip off your parents.

SHARLENE

(an idea)

Tip.

She slides a \$20 BILL across the counter towards Carlo.

SHARLENE (CONT'D)

Now that our seventh member has arrived, now may we be seated?

There's an excited commotion behind Sharlene and Will.

HUDSON STONE, 36, warmly greets the Davis Clan. Dressed in a beautiful linen suit, Hudson enters every situation like he's walking onto a yacht with a drink in his hand.

Will gives Hudson a big hug, happy to see him.

SHARLENE (CONT'D)

(to Carlo)

Great, he's here. So if I could just...

Carlo's fingers are on the \$20 BILL. Sharlene tries to slide the bill back, but Carlo won't let go.

Hudson crosses to Sharlene, arms wide open.

HUDSON

Sharlene! It's been so long. Give me a hug.

Not wanting to let go of the bill, Sharlene one-arm hugs him.

HUDSON (CONT'D)

Okay.

Sharlene reluctantly lets go of the bill to give him a proper hug, only Hudson walks away, hearing Gian singing opera in the other room.

HUDSON (CONT'D)

Is that "Ol sole mio"? Listen...

He listens a moment, enraptured, then perfectly harmonizes with Gian with a stunningly gorgeous voice.

IN THE DINING ROOM

Hudson enters, singing. He and Gian cross to each other and meet in the middle of the dining room.

The kitchen and waitstaff come out to listen to their duet.

As do Carlo and the Davis Clan. All enthralled and amazed.

Gian and Hudson aren't competitive with one another, they complete each other, and my God, it's glorious.

They hold on a high note..... and finish to great applause!

CARLO

Bravo, bravo! Belissimo!
(gesturing to the Davis's)
Come, come. I'll take you to our
best table.

As Carlo seats the Davis Clan, Buck hands Carlo a \$20 tip.

CARLO (CONT'D)

Please, that is not necessary.

He takes the money, anyway, seating Sharlene.

SHARLENE

Bravo, Carlo. Bravo.

Dede sits next to Hudson.

DEDE

Where'd you learn to sing like
that?

HUDSON

Oh, well our parents were always
playing opera, yeah, whether it was
cooking dinner, cleaning the house,
it was always on in the background,
and I guess some of it stuck with
me. I don't know.

JOLENE

We're sorry to hear about your mom
and dad.

HUDSON

Oh, thank you. Yeah, they feel
really bad they can't be here.

Sharlene chokes on her water. Confused looks all around.

BUCK

We thought they passed on.

WILL

Um, they did, but... should we order drinks?

He signals to a waiter.

SHARLENE

Hudson still communicates with his parents in the spiritual sense. Isn't that right?

HUDSON

Yeah, I know it sounds strange, but this way, it's almost like they're still alive. And well. In Austin.

DEDE

It is so refreshing to hear a man talk like that. Sensitivity is such an attractive quality.

Hudson and Dede share a smile, a spark of attraction that Sharlene clocks with a pang of envy.

Gian Grasso pours water for Sharlene and Will.

GIAN

Ohhhhh! Look atta you two! I wanna putta you two faces together and kissa them bothhh...uh!

(to Sharlene)

I canna tell in his eyes, hissa love-ah for you is deepa assa the deepest ocean.

(to Will)

And her smile, I canna tell by herra smile she wanna give you babies, little *bambinos*, she wanna give-ah you so many babies, you gonna have-ah your own *futbol* team!

(beat)

What are you waiting forra? Kissa the girl!

WILL

I um...

SHARLENE

He has a cold sore.

WILL

No I don't.

SHARLENE

Nothing to be embarrassed about,
peanut, you can barely see it.

DEDE

I can't see it at all.

HUDSON

Yeah, I think it's cleared up, bro.
You're good to go.

GIAN

Kissa her. KISSA HER.

Sharlene and Will know they don't have a choice, so Will
leans in... and gives Sharlene a peck.

GIAN (CONT'D)

You gotta be joking. She's a
begging for it. How canna you look
at her and notta need to smoosha
you face into hers and humpa her
witha your mouth!

Will kisses Sharlene. The kiss is simple. Tender. Perfect.

Buck and Jolene lead the restaurant in applause.

Sharlene and Will part, avoiding eye contact with each other.

Hudson clocks this and excuses himself.

DEDE

I'll save your seat.

She watches him go, then looks Hudson up on Instagram.
Looking at his pics, Dede receives a direct message.

From HUDSON: **hey**

From HUDSON: **meet me in the back?**

Dede covers her mouth, excited.

EXT. OLD WOLRD ITALIAN RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Hudson texts on his phone. Dede comes outside.

DEDE

Oh hello.

HUDSON

Listen, I hope I'm not out of line.

DEDE

Oh no, we're totally on the same page.

HUDSON

So I'm not crazy. Will and Sharlene still have a thing for each other.

DEDE

(thrown, disappointed)

Oh.

(recovering)

Yeah! No, they do. No I've always felt they should be together.

HUDSON

Me too. It's crazy they can't see the attraction.

DEDE

Right? When it's right in front of them.

HUDSON

Maybe... I don't know, this is really out there, but if we put our heads together, I think there's a chance we could turn this fake wedding into a real one.

DEDE

Yeah, yeah I'd love to put our heads together.

HUDSON

Great.

DEDE

Great.

Their eyes linger. Then:

HUDSON

Again, hope I'm not out of line, but I'm very attracted to you. Is there any interest in exploring-?

DEDE

A lot, yes. Strong interest.

HUDSON

Great.

DEDE

Great.

INT. FANCY HOTEL - HALLWAY - NIGHT

Sharlene knocks on a room door. Dede answers.

SHARLENE

Great. Sorry, I got the wrong room.
Do you know which one's Hudson's?

HUDSON (O.S.)

Do you need cash for a tip?

DEDE

Oh, no, it's just Sharlene.

HUDSON (O.S.)

Is everything okay?

DEDE

(to Sharlene, Go away.)
Yeah, she just got the wrong room.

SHARLENE

(quietly, to Dede)
Okay, I have a problem with this.

Dede steps out of the room, closing the door for privacy.

DEDE

Well I have a problem with this,
'cause what are you doing looking
for Hudson?

SHARLENE

'Cause I have a problem with this.

Reveal: Will sitting against a wall, drunk off his ass.

WILL

(to no one in particular)
This wedding is a lie!

SHARLENE

WILL. YOU ARE GOING TO GET US
KICKED OUT.

(to Dede)

I was kind of hoping Will could
crash with Hudson.

DEDE

Well I was kind of hoping I could
crash with Hudson.

SHARLENE

Dede, I've had the longest,
weirdest day and I just want to
sleep.

WILL

Beware this temptress! She's a
peddler of lies!

DEDE

Aw. He's such a flirt.
(Sharlene glares)
Oh just take him to bed and be done
with it, already. My God, y'all are
making this way too hard.

SHARLENE

Dede...

DEDE

Seriously, y'all just need to sex
out your differences.

SHARLENE

I can't sleep with him this drunk.

DEDE

Ah. So you're saying if Will was
sober, you'd sleep with him?

SHARLENE

I... what??

DEDE

Hm. Interesting. Well, do with that
revelation as you wish. I love you.
Have fun. Wear protection. See you
in the *mañana*.

She closes the door on Sharlene. Sharlene turns to Will.

WILL

Shout out to bourbon!

INT. FANCY HOTEL - BRIDAL SUITE - NIGHT

Sharlene heaves Will onto the bed. She looks at him a moment,
the drunken mess of a man all unkempt and sprawled.

SHARLENE

Charming.

She laughs to herself, then lies down next to him to rest a moment, closing her eyes, when suddenly-

IT'S THE NEXT MORNING

Will puts his arm around Sharlene, spooning her, both smiling. Then the phone rings. They wake. And scream.

They jump away from each other, falling off the bed and checking themselves to see they're both still wearing the same clothes from last night. They nod. They're okay.

Sharlene picks up the phone.

JOLENE (ON PHONE)

*Rise n' shine, my little
chickadees! It's excursion time!*

EXT. BEACH - DAY

The wedding party - Hudson included - put on life vests.

Will stands apart from them, warily looking out at the water without a life vest. Sharlene comes by.

SHARLENE

It'll be alright, I promise. Have you ever heard of a shark attacking a person on a jet ski?

WILL

June 22, 2011, Orange Beach, Alabama. August 6, 2020, Florida coast, and August 9, 2021, Queensland, Australia. I googled it this morning.

SHARLENE

Well, statistically speaking...

WILL

Exactly. We're due.

Sharlene hands him a life vest and walks away.

EXT. OCEAN - MORNING

We cruise high above the ocean and find Sharlene leading a trail of jet ski riders, having the time of her life.

Will trails far behind.

Everyone but Will circles up to talk.

BUCK

Never pegged Will to be a slowpoke.

Will putters along, frantically searching for sharks.

JOLENE

Bless his heart.

SHARLENE

Maybe someone should stay with him.

HUDSON

Great idea. Thanks!

He takes off, as does everyone but Sharlene.

SHARLENE

Wait. Y'all... Damn it! This is the one thing I was looking forward to.

Will finally arrives.

SHARLENE (CONT'D)

You know, sharks can't get you if you go fast.

WILL

Yeah, but if I go too fast I might fall off, and then the sharks-

SHARLENE

Oh my God, there are no sharks!

WILL

No? Um.
(pointing, terrified)
What are those?

Several fins poke out of the water, moving towards them.

SHARLENE

Oh my God.
(excited)
Dolphins!

A pod of dolphins swim by them. They both reach down to touch them, only Will leans over too far and falls into the water.

SHARLENE (CONT'D)

(laughing)

Are you okay?

WILL

Yeah! This is amazing!

(a dolphin bumps him)

Oop. They're a little aggressive.

(another one bumps him)

Ow! Hey.

The aggressive dolphins ping him back-and-forth like a ball.

SHARLENE

Get out of there!

WILL

I can't! There's too many! And they're very aggressive!

Will thrashes. Panicking.

The rest of the party shows back up.

DEDE

Stop, you're scaring them!

HUDSON

Will, listen to me carefully! Are. They. Humping. You?

BUCK

You're not even trying, son, punch 'em in the nose!

JOLENE

No, that's sharks!

WILL

Sharks?!!

RAY-JAY

(recording on phone)

You need to stop thrashing! I can't see your face!

SHARLENE

Grab my hand, I'll pull you up!

A dolphin snags Will's life jacket and takes off with him.

Sharlene chases after on her jetski.

The dolphin zips a screaming Will across the water.

Sharlene catches up and jumps onto Will, breaking him free from the dolphin.

They emerge from the water. Coughing. Sputtering.

WILL

Why'd you do that? I always wanted
to swim with dolphins.

Sharlene splashes him in the face.

EXT. BEACH - DAY

The wedding party returns their jet skis to land.

Will collapses onto the sand, exhausted. Sharlene plops down next to him.

WILL

You're the only one...

SHARLENE

Hm?

WILL

You're the only one who tried to
save me. Thanks.

(Sharlene snorts)

What?

SHARLENE

Hold still.

(brushing sand off his
face)

There.

Off Sharlene, catching feelings in spite of herself-

INT. BRIDAL SHOP - EVENING

Inside a dressing room, Dede helps Sharlene into a wedding dress.

SHARLENE

I don't think this is gonna work.

DEDE

Take a deep breath in. Big exhale.
(zipping up the dress)
See?

SHARLENE

No. Um. I think I still have
feelings for Will.

Dede's eyes go wide with excitement.

OUTSIDE THE DRESSING ROOM

Jolene's looking at veils with a salesperson. We hear an
excited shriek! Jolene hurries over to the dressing room.

JOLENE

Goodness! I want to see.

She pulls open a curtain, revealing Dede with Sharlene in her
wedding gown. Jolene gasps. Bursts into tears.

Which makes Dede begin to tear up.

SHARLENE

(rolling her eyes)
Ugh. So emotional. It's a dress.

She goes over to the mirror to look at herself. She looks
stunningly beautiful... which makes her tear up.

Without a skipping a beat, the salesperson hands out tissues.

SHARLENE (CONT'D)

Mom, can you get me that one veil
that was in the display window? The
one with the flower embroidery?
(to the salesperson)
Could you show her, please?

The salesperson leads Jolene into the front of the store.

SHARLENE (CONT'D)

I don't know what to do about Will.
Should I tell him how I feel?

DEDE

Yes!

SHARLENE

But yesterday he told me I broke
his heart.

DEDE

Listen, if you're having these feelings, you need to pursue them, you need to tell him how you feel.

SHARLENE

But there's only two days before the wedding, that's too much pressure, even if he does have feelings for me, I don't see how-

DEDE

TELL HIM HOW YOU FEEL. TO-NIGHT.

Sharlene stares off, knowing Dede's right.

SHARLENE

Shit.

EXT. FIRE PIT RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Now Sharlene's sitting on the beach, still staring off, her face lit by firelight.

WILL (O.S.)

Sharlene?

Sharlene looks to Will, sitting all cozy on pillows set by a fire pit, one of many romantic fire pits dotting the beach.

WILL (CONT'D)

I was saying we should've given this reservation to Hudson and Dede.

SHARLENE

(distracted)

Oh. Yeah.

WILL

Yeah, so... how did your parents find this place?

SHARLENE

According to Tripadvisor, this is the most romantic restaurant in all of Miami. What they failed to mention was how slow the service is, 'cause I'm about to eat my napkin.

WILL
 Don't you have one of your protein
 bars in your purse?

SHARLENE
 I ate it on the way here.

WILL
 I'll get the waiter.
 (he signals)
 Oh shoot.

A sweet ROSE LADY, 70s, comes by with a basket of roses.

ROSE LADY
 Rose for the beautiful-?
 (recognizing Sharlene)
 I know you. You're a movie star.

SHARLENE
 Um. No.

ROSE LADY
 Model?

SHARLENE
 No.

ROSE LADY
 News anchor?

WILL
 She's a realtor.

ROSE LADY
 Ah! I remember now! You're the Open
 House Fail Lady.
 (beat)
 Would you like a flower, Open House
 Fail Lady?

WILL
 (handing money over)
 Here. Keep the change.

ROSE LADY
 Bless you. And bless you, Open
 House Fail Lady.

Rose Lady leaves. Will cracks up.

SHARLENE
 You see what you've done? Thank
 you. Thank you for that.

WILL

I'm sorry.

A waiter serves them a plate of three raw mini hot dogs. And by mini, they're like, ultra-mini.

SHARLENE

What? What are we supposed to do with these?

(Will roasts a weenie over the fire)

No. You're kidding.

WILL

Sooner they're roasted, sooner we feast.

SHARLENE

Wow. Real romantic.

WILL

Well, if we were on a real date, this would be the part where we got to know each other, let our guards down, share our feelings.

SHARLENE

Will, um... I don't know how to say this.

Their eyes hold a moment.

SHARLENE (CONT'D)

I have a really teeny weenie. Look. Look at it. Will, do you see how teeny my weenie is?

(they laugh)

Want to get some real food?

INT. TACO TUESDAY'S - NIGHT

Sharlene and Will scarf down chain-restaurant tacos.

SHARLENE

Is this bad? Are we those tourists who go somewhere new and then eat at a chain restaurant?

WILL

Nah. It's comfort food. You know what you're getting.

A quick look of recognition. But are they talking about food?

EXT. TACO TUESDAY'S - NIGHT

Sharlene and Will leave the restaurant and walk along a crowded, bustling strip of restaurants, clubs and galleries.

SHARLENE

This street reminds me of New York, right?

WILL

Yes. Remember that one night, we were in the Village or, we were trying to see *Blue Man Group*, and there were no street numbers-

SHARLENE

Oh my God, and we were using my phone for direction-

WILL

And we couldn't tell if we were walking the right way.

SHARLENE

'Cause the dot kept shifting-

WILL

'Cause you kept shifting, you were like...

He acts out her turning. Taking a few steps one way. A few steps another. Sharlene laughs.

SHARLENE

It was very confusing, I didn't know where we were.

WILL

If you had just been patient... we would've made it.

An awkward pause.

SHARLENE

For what it's worth, I wish I had been. More patient. I'm sorry.

He plants himself, wanting to say something serious.

WILL

Sharlene... what... what if...?
(getting a text)
Huh. Looks like Hudson and Dede have other plans.
(MORE)

WILL (CONT'D)

They won't be joining us, so... do you want to call it a night?

SHARLENE

I don't want to.

WILL

I don't, either.

Suddenly, a group of young, tight-shirted men and tight-skirted women walk past them, chirping with excitement.

EXT. 62 LINCOLN NIGHT CLUB - NIGHT

Sharlene and Will watch this group go into a salsa club. The vibrant music inside calls to Will and Sharlene. Luring them.

They share a look. A shrug. *Why not?*

INT. 62 LINCOLN NIGHT CLUB - NIGHT

A server carrying drinks weaves between salsa dancers and palm trees swaying under starlight, past colorful vintage cars that have been converted to VIP seating over to a bar area, where we find Sharlene handing Will a shot.

Will reacts with surprise. Sharlene toasts, they drink, then a confident, SULTRY WOMAN grabs Will.

Will gives Sharlene a look. *You good?*

Sharlene gestures. *Go. Go.*

As the woman leads Will away, a sexy, CONFIDENT MAN appears, extending his hand to Sharlene. She takes it.

ON THE DANCE FLOOR

Sharlene and Will salsa dance with various partners. Neither Will nor Sharlene really know how to salsa dance, but that's okay, everyone's friendly here. It's a go-with-the-flow vibe.

Sharlene and Will laugh.

They drink. And eventually...

They dance. Dancing together feels natural, not awkward. Surprisingly good. Sharlene and Will get swept up in the music, the heat and the alcohol, and before you know it-

INT. UBER CAR - NIGHT

Sharlene and Will are making out.

INT. HOTEL - SHARLENE AND WILL'S BRIDAL SUITE - NIGHT

They're on the bed, still making out. The phone rings. Fumbling, Sharlene hangs it up and takes it off the hook.

They're rolling around, clothes coming off, when-

KNOCK. KNOCK. KNOCK.

SHARLENE

Ignore it.

DING-DONG. DING-DONG, DING-DONG. DING-DONG DING-DONG DING-

AT THE FRONT DOOR

Sharlene opens the door, revealing Luis, the humble clerk.

LUIS

Good news!

(holding up a card key)

A room has opened up.

SHARLENE

Oh, thanks, but we um, we're good.

Will comes in, zipping his pants.

LUIS

Really. Because you were quite adamant about a second room.

Another one may not open up.

WILL

I'll take the key.

SHARLENE

Oh, you're taking it?

WILL

Well... wait, I'm confused.

LUIS

As am I.

SHARLENE

Will you excuse us, please?

Luis patiently nods. She closes the door.

WILL
What? We agreed. Separate rooms.

SHARLENE
Yeah, but that was before...

WILL
Before what?

An awkward pause.

SHARLENE
Nothing. Nevermind.
(opening the door)
We'll take the room, thanks.

LUIS
Glorious.
(handing her the key)
If you have a moment, there's a
brief online survey, if you could-

SHARLENE
Good night, Luis.
(handing Will the key)
Good night, Will.

WILL
Wait. Sharlene-

Sharlene's gone into her room, slamming the door closed. Will and Luis share an awkward smile.

INT. HOTEL - WILL'S ROOM - NIGHT

Will storms into his room. Throws his luggage on the bed.

WILL
You know what? I want my own room
and there's nothing wrong with
that. There's nothing wrong this.
This, this is great.
(nodding)
This is great.

INT. HOTEL - SHARLENE AND WILL'S BRIDAL SUITE - NIGHT

Sharlene sits on the bed, giving herself a pep talk.

SHARLENE

You're drunk, you're scared, you're overreacting to everything. Just sleep it off, and tomorrow... you'll fix it.

She screams into a pillow, and the sound becomes-

EXT. EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK - MORNING

The scream of a parrot flying across the Everglades.

Wind blows through sawgrass.

Ray-Jay paddles ahead of the Davis Clan in his own kayak. Buck and Jolene paddle behind him in their own kayak.

JOLENE

Don't get too far ahead, Ray-Jay, there's snakes and gators and Lord knows what else out here.

Ray-Jay turns around to see Dede giggling with Hudson in their own kayak, so Ray-Jay paddles faster.

Sharlene and Will bring up the rear.

WILL

Hey, so about last night...

SHARLENE

Don't worry about it. It's a new day. It's gonna be great.

An IGUANA sits on a nearby log.

SHARLENE (CONT'D)

Ooh, take a picture.

She leans out of the kayak to get close to the iguana. Will leans back to keep the kayak from tipping over.

WILL

I don't like the way it's looking at you. Does it have teeth?

CLICK. We see the PHOTO of herself looking scared.

SHARLENE

Aw, man.

The iguana dives into the water.

WILL

That's okay. Plenty more to see.

They paddle around a bend. No one's in front of them.

They paddle a little farther. Still no one.

SHARLENE

(calling out)

Hello? HELLLLOOOOO!!

She and Will share a look. *Oh shit.*

LATER

Sharlene and Will paddle through the marsh.

SHARLENE

HELLLOOOOO!!

WILL

CAN ANYONE HEAR US?!

SHARLENE

(holding up her phone)

Still no signal.

WILL

Alright, I say we pick a spot and stay. Let them come to us.

SHARLENE

No, we need to find an area that gives us a signal so we can send out our coordinates or something-

WILL

Our coordinates?

SHARLENE

Or something.

Sharlene's eyes go wide with terror.

Up ahead, a massive gator - 10 feet long! - slips into the water and heads their way.

Sharlene and Will freeze.

The gator's head dips under water.

WILL

Paddle in. Get your paddle in.

Sharlene takes her paddle out of the water, only a snake's coiled around it. She screams. Flings it over her shoulder.

The snake lands on Will's chest! He shrieks and flails, causing the kayak to tip over, tossing them both overboard!

Freaking out, they help get each other to their feet, realizing the water's roughly waist high. And cold.

They right the kayak and jump in.

WILL (CONT'D)

There goes... our phones...

SHARLENE

Where's our paddles?

A gator chomps down on a PADDLE.

Sharlene and Will stare silently.

LATER

Will and Sharlene paddle... using their shoes.

WILL

I think using our life vests would be faster.

SHARLENE

You can, but there's no way I'm taking mine off.

WILL

South is the ocean, so if we move north, we're bound to hit civilization... eventually.

SHARLENE

And this way's north. Right?

WILL

... Sure.

SHARLENE

Look!

There's a BLUE ARROW attached to a tree. A marker.

WILL

Good eye.

SHARLENE
Good navigating.

HIKING TRAIL

Over by the tree with the blue arrow, Sharlene and Will discover a muddy stretch of trail.

SHARLENE
You want to take a break and eat something?

WILL
I'm starving. What do you have?

She looks through her bag, there's only one protein bar left.

SHARLENE
You want a protein bar?

WILL
Please.
(she hands it to him)
You're not gonna eat?

SHARLENE
No, not right now. I'll eat later.

WILL
Are you sure?

SHARLENE
I'M FINE.

DOWN THE TRAIL - LATER

Sharlene and Will hike through mud. Sharlene searches through her bag.

WILL
HELLO!!
(beat)
What are you looking for?

SHARLENE
Sunscreen. It has to be here.

WILL
You've looked through your bag like forty times-

SHARLENE

I'm sure I packed it, I can feel my skin baking. You know how red I get.

WILL

Okay, well... worst case scenario, you can cover yourself in mud. Elephants do it.

(Sharlene pauses, looks through her bag)

It's not gonna magically appear-

SHARLENE

Alright, alright!

She reaches into the ground, scoops up mud and lightly dabs it on her arms.

Will sighs, shaking his head. *That's not gonna do it.*

She turns around for privacy. Will scoops up a clump of mud and splats it on the back of her neck. She gasps.

WILL

(playing innocent)

What? You're really red there. And here.

He wipes a line of mud on her nose and cheeks. Like warpaint.

SHARLENE

Thank you. You know, you're looking a little red yourself.

She picks up a whole heap of mud and slaps it on him like a pie to the face. Will clears his eyes.

WILL

Thanks. Oh wait. I missed a spot.

He takes the mud from his face and puts it on hers.

SHARLENE

Better?

WILL

Much.

SHARLENE

Well allow me to return the favor.

They playfully cover each other in mud.

EXT. DIFFERENT PART OF TRAIL - DAY

Buck and a SURLY PARK RANGER, 50s, examine FOOT TRACKS.

SURLY PARK RANGER
 Good news is these tracks are
 fresh. Bad news is they're headed
 straight towards Alligator Alley.

Off Buck's worried face-

ALLIGATOR ALLEY

Sharlene and Will wind through trees.

SHARLENE
 (calling out)
 HELLO!!
 (hearing something)
 Will. D'you hear that?

They listen a moment. Bushes rustle.

WILL
 (quiet)
 Whatever it is, I'll protect you.

They stare into the bushes.

WILL (CONT'D)
 I think it's gone.

SHARLENE
 (seeing something)
 Look!

Will jumps, screaming, absolutely terrified. Sharlene points.

Through a clearing in the distance, an AMERICAN FLAG furls.

SHARLENE (CONT'D)
 Come on, hero.

They head towards the flag. Will laughs, relieved.

WILL
 God bless America.

Turning a bend, he steps on a tail.

An ALLIGATOR hisses!

Sharlene and Will freeze. There are gators in their path.

Eight of them.

SHARLENE

Oh my God. Oh my God. Will. Will.

Will gulps. He takes Sharlene's hand, leads her over to a tree and helps her climb it.

She reaches for a branch. It breaks!

Sharlene falls onto Will.

A gator snaps, hissing!

Will picks up the broken branch.

WILL

Run.

Sharlene runs. Well, she slogs. It's tough in this mud.

Swinging the branch, Will fends off gators.

WILL (CONT'D)

Faster!

Sharlene trips and falls. Looking up, she screams.

Lying across from her... are BONES and REMAINS of the eaten.

Will picks her up and carries her.

He's chugging through the mud, fueled by adrenaline.

Sharlene looks up at his face, impressed.

LATER

They reach the flagpole. Beside it is an OLD HOUSE.

INT. OLD HOUSE - DAY

The FRONT DOOR falls off its hinges. Sharlene and Will enter and look around. The house is empty. Dirty, wood-plank floors. Sharlene gives a dusty rocking horse a rock.

SHARLENE

Found us a ride.

WILL

I'm already hungry again. You must be starving. What do you have left?

SHARLENE

So... the thing about that is...

WILL

You gave me all your food.

SHARLENE

I thought we'd be out of here by now.

WILL

(speechless)

Sharlene...

SHARLENE

No biggie. I have to squeeze into my dress tomorrow, anyway, so...

(crossing to him)

Sorry, can't help myself.

(pulling a twig out from his crusty hair)

You don't have to say anything. I know I look amazing.

Her hair's a hot bird's nest, and her skin's all speckled with mud. But Will smiles. She kind of does look amazing.

She turns to walk away. He grabs her by the belt loop and pulls her towards him.

He goes to run his hand through her hair, only it gets caught in a muddy tangle. They laugh.

SHARLENE (CONT'D)

Um. Ow.

WILL

Sorry.

He pushes the hair off her shoulder and softly kisses it.

She exhales, lost in the moment.

He kisses her other shoulder. Then her neck. Working his way up to her lips. Just before they meet...

They look into each other's eyes, and-

WhirrrRRRRR!! They hear a noise getting louder and louder.

INT. AIRBOAT - EVENING

A TOUR GUIDE, 40s, slows his boat near the old house, talking to a collection of tourists.

TOUR GUIDE

Okay, folks, this is the old Teddy Roosevelt hunting camp.

(messing with the children)

Now keep a sharp eye out, little ones, 'cause legend says this house is haunted by-

CHILD TOURIST

Swamp people!

Sharlene and Will run out of the house, yelling and waving.

The Tour Guide screams in terror, falling off his seat.

EXT. STEAK HOUSE - NIGHT

The rehearsal dinner. Sharlene and Will sit closely, regaling the family with their Everglades encounter.

SHARLENE

So I was trying to get the snake off my paddle-

WILL

And it landed right on top of me.

SHARLENE

So then he did the There's A Snake on Me dance.

WILL

As one does.

Will wriggles around to everyone's amusement.

SHARLENE

And that's when we fell in the water and lost our phones.

WILL

Which is a blessing, 'cause mine was in need of an upgrade. So that's one good thing.

He takes her hand out of instinct, like it's natural.

SHARLENE

Yeah, mine too, so, I guess two good things came out of this.

They share a look. They giggle.

BUCK

Glad it all worked out. And I'm really glad it worked out with Will. Might as well tell you now, I remember, this was back when y'all were dating the first time, when he asked me for your hand in marriage, I um...

SHARLENE

Wait, wait, what?
(to Will, astounded)
What??

Dede tears off tiny pieces of bread, eating, intrigued AF.

WILL

Anyone want to share the porterhouse?

BUCK

(looking at phone, excited)
Oh he's here. Hon?

TING. TING. TING. Jolene stands to address the table.

JOLENE

Alright, love birds. No dream wedding is complete without some kind of celebrity involved, so, to officiate your wedding, your dad and I flew in-

DEDE

Oh my God. Zac Efron?

The table laughs. Except for Sharlene.

BUCK

(like a ring announcer)
"Coming to the table, standing seven feet even and weighing a massive three hundred eighty-three pounds, it's the WBW world wrestling champion and your favorite cousin, The Iron Lion."

Buck plays entrance music on his phone. In walks EDDIE, "The Iron Lion", 32, a gentle giant. Sport coat and slacks.

SHARLENE

Eddie?

EDDIE

I. Could. Cry right now!

Eddie gives Sharlene a big hug, lifting her off the ground. Then he turns his attention to Will.

EDDIE (CONT'D)

Look at this handsome little devil.
I am man-crushing so frickin' hard
right now.

(whispering to Will)

Treat her like a goddess, or I will
pull your spine out through your
poop-shoot.

Eddie laughs, clapping Will's back.

SHARLENE

(distracted)

Wow. Really great to see you, thank
you so much for coming, um, Will,
could I see you...?

EDDIE

Where are you crazy kids running
off to? I just got here, and we
have a lot of catching up to do.

Sharlene pulls herself together. Puts on a smile.

SHARLENE

You know what? You're right.

(smiling, to Will)

We certainly do.

(to Eddie)

So you're an official... officiant?

BUCK

Eddie did the Danger Sisters
wedding at the Holidays of Pain.
Get over here, you!

As Eddie greets Buck, Sharlene and Will sit, composing themselves.

He reaches for her hand, she pulls it back.

INT. HOTEL - BRIDAL SUITE - NIGHT

Sharlene reaches for a mini-vodka. Her fourth.

WILL

Of course I wanted to marry you. I thought we were on the same page. Even when your ex came into the picture-

SHARLENE

Yes! Okay. So when I told you Philippe wanted to marry me, don't you think that would have been a good time to tell me that you wanted to marry me? I mean you didn't seem to care, like, at all.

WILL

Why would I care about friggin' Philippe? I was confident about us.

SHARLENE

It didn't seem that way, it seemed like you wouldn't fight for me.

WILL

I thought I already had you. But then the way you started talking about Philippe. You talked about him so much, I started to think you still had feelings for him.

SHARLENE

That's... impossible.

She grabs another vodka from the fridge and sits.

SHARLENE (CONT'D)

I wish we had this conversation back then.

(drinks)

I'm such a dick.

WILL

Hey, this is my fault, too. Maybe things would've worked out differently had I been more open.

SHARLENE

Maybe. But that's in the past. We need to talk about tomorrow.

WILL
 (taking a deep breath)
 Yeah. Well, like I said, I
 should've been more open, and, um,
 I don't want to make that same
 mistake again. So...

He gets down on one knee. Sharlene gasps, hand to mouth.

WILL (CONT'D)
 Sharlene, I've loved you for two
 years, four months and one insane
 week-

SHARLENE
 I love you, too, but...

WILL (CONT'D)
 -and nothing would make me
 happier than... Did you say
 'but'?

SHARLENE (CONT'D)
 Will, I do love you...

WILL
 But...

SHARLENE
 And this past week has been
 amazing.

WILL
 BUT.

SHARLENE
 Will you let me talk?

WILL
 I can't believe you said 'but'.
 There's no coming back from 'but'.

SHARLENE
 Will, okay, just listen to me, you
 deserve someone better.

WILL
 But...?

SHARLENE
 No. That's it. You deserve someone
 as good as you. I'm a liar and a
 schemer, and honestly, I need help.

WILL
 Maybe, BUT... can you believe it? I
 still want to marry you.

(MORE)

WILL (CONT'D)

'Cause you're also smart, you're funny, determined as hell. I mean, even liars and schemers need love.

She kisses him.

SHARLENE

Can we not make this harder than it already is?

WILL

Is this what you really want? You really want me to leave you at the altar?

SHARLENE

No. I don't think you should show up at all.

Will nods. Goes to the fridge. Takes a mini-vodka, then a mini-whiskey, then all the mini-bottles. He goes to the door. Hands full, he struggles to open it. A couple bottles fall.

WILL

I don't regret what I said.

He kicks the fallen bottles out the door and leaves.

Off Sharlene, tears streaming down her face-

DEDE (PRE-LAP)

So let me get this straight.

LATER THAT NIGHT

Dede hands Sharlene a tissue.

DEDE

You find out you got in the way of his first proposal.

SHARLENE

Yep. Turns out, if I hadn't tried so hard to um...

DEDE

Trick him into proposing?

SHARLENE

I prefer inspire. Or motivate.

DEDE

Only that's okay, because now he's genuinely proposing to you, which is what you've wanted all along, and... you get in your way again?

SHARLENE

Well, when you say it back to me like that...

(realizing)

I AM THE BIGGEST DICK.

Dede nods. Hands Sharlene her phone.

LATER

Dede watches Sharlene pace. She's on the phone.

WILL (ON PHONE)

Hi.

SHARLENE

Hey, listen-

WILL (ON PHONE)

*This is Will Stone's voicemail.
Leave a message.*

SHARLENE

Will, I, I really want you there tomorrow, and, you know what? Just call me back when you get this.

(ends call)

Shoot. That was good, right?

Dede shrugs, unimpressed. Sharlene redials.

SHARLENE (CONT'D)

Will, I've made a huge mistake. And I know it's been a long road to get here, and I know I've done things in the past that were hurtful, and partly that's because I didn't think I deserved you, and honestly, I'm still not sure I do, but deep down, somehow I've always known we'd end up here at this point. Nobody gets me the way you do, no one understands me the way you do. You make me feel secure, heard and seen. I love you, Will. No matter what, I will always love you.

OPERATOR (ON PHONE)
*Your message cannot be saved. The
 voice mailbox you're attempting to
 call is full.*

What?? SHARLENE OPERATOR (ON PHONE) (CONT'D)
*Please try again later.
 Goodbye.*

Sharlene screams.

She texts Will: **Call me**

SHARLENE (CONT'D)
 Wait, does that sound angry?

She texts: **Call me, please**

SHARLENE (CONT'D)
 Shoot, now I sound desperate.

She texts: **We need to talk**

SHARLENE (CONT'D)
 Damn it, now I sound angry again!
 I'll just throw in a smiley face
 emoji to soften it up-

DEDE
 Phone. Put the phone down-

SHARLENE
 Well there's no emoji that says I
 want to marry you at our fake
 wedding. Is there? Wait, ring plus
 bride plus church equals thumbs up-

Dede tackles Sharlene, attempting to get the phone from her.

INT. HOTEL - OUTSIDE WILL'S ROOM - NIGHT

Sharlene walks with Luis the clerk.

SHARLENE
 I'm just really worried about him,
 I shouldn't be telling you this but
 he has a drug problem and I just
 want to make sure he's alright.

LUIS
 Whatever, lady.

INT. HOTEL - WILL'S ROOM - NIGHT

Luis opens the door. Sharlene takes a couple steps inside. The room is empty, and we begin to hear pre-wedding music that becomes-

EXT. FAIRCHILD TROPICAL BOTANICAL GARDEN - DAY

A quartet orchestra plays beautiful pre-wedding music.

The Davis Clan mill around, formally dressed.

INT. BOTANICAL GARDEN - DRESSING ROOM - DAY

Dede helps Sharlene put on her veil.

Sharlene checks her phone. We see she's sent Will like, a million texts. With no response. Trying to cheer her up:

DEDE

Damn, girl, what happened to those
itty bitty...
(patting Sharlene's chest)
What's your Victoria's Secret?
Push-up bra? Chicken cutlets? Titty
tape?

Finally, Sharlene cracks a smile. There's a knock at the door. Sharlene and Dede eagerly turn. Hudson enters.

HUDSON

Just me. No sign of him yet. I'll
keep trying, but he probably turned
off his phone. Can I get you ladies
anything?

Sharlene and Dede shake their heads. Hudson exits.

SHARLENE

He's one of the good ones.

DEDE

If there's something not to like
about him, I haven't found it yet.

Sharlene smiles, happy for Dede. There's another knock on the door, then Cupid Loveland bursts in with his trusty cane.

CUPID

Still no groom, I presume?

SHARLENE

Sorry. Looks like I'll be breaking your streak of perfect weddings.

CUPID

I had a feeling this would happen. But I'm glad it did, I've always felt Will was a bit of a weirdo. He never loved you the way you should be loved.

He stamps his cane on the ground, and a flower bouquet pops out. Handing the flowers to Sharlene:

CUPID (CONT'D)

As the god dang goddess you are. Let's face it, destiny has brought us together.

He reaches behind Sharlene's ear and pulls out a ring.

DEDE

I'm confused. Is he a wedding planner or a magician?

CUPID

Marry me. The moment you chose the violet pampas grass for your wedding arch, I knew.

SHARLENE

I...

CUPID

I know this is happening so fast, but when the winds of romance blow...

SHARLENE

No. I don't... I don't know you.

CUPID

I'm a Libra. And I like dry toast.
(shrugging)
Marry me, anyway. For shits and gigs.

DEDE

Alright, come on, Cupid-

CUPID

Keep back, you harpy!

DEDE

Whoa...! What the hell's a harpy?

CUPID

(tormented)

Oh God. I'm so sorry. It's this streak of flawless weddings, it's my brand, and...

(to Sharlene)

I mean obviously I don't want to marry you.

SHARLENE

Wow.

CUPID

But the streak... we can't break it. We can't break the streak. THE STREAK MUST NOT BE BROKEN!

HUDSON (O.S.)

He's here! Will's here! He's here!

Cupid gives an awkward glance towards the door. He adjusts his hair, composing himself.

CUPID

I'll inform the orchestra.

EXT. FAIRCHILD TROPICAL BOTANICAL GARDEN - DAY

Standing at the altar, Hudson straightens Will's tie.

HUDSON

You okay?

WILL

Yeah. She changed her mind. Couldn't be happier.

He smiles, but something seems off. Distant.

NEAR THE MOOS SUNKEN GARDEN

Dede walks Sharlene over to the ceremony.

SHARLENE

My heart is pounding. Oh my God. Oh my God he's really here.

She sees Will at the altar, standing under a canopy of flowers. The moment looks perfect.

SHARLENE (CONT'D)
 'Can we hit a pause? Should I go
 talk to him? What should I do?

Hudson gives them a thumbs up.

DEDE
 You should go get married.

Buck walks over to them.

SHARLENE
 Hey, dad. This is really happening.

BUCK
 (fighting emotion)
 If I talk I'm gonna lose it.

We hear the string quartet play the bridal march.

Dede takes her place at the altar. Jolene and Ray-Jay stand.

Buck walks Sharlene down the aisle. Sharlene looks to Will.

Will looks back, eyes brimming with tears.

She takes her place across from him. Smiling. Ready.

Eddie serves as officiant, wearing a floral jacket with a pink tie.

EDDIE
 Dearly beloved, marriage is more
 than a bond, it's a conversation.
 Listening and talking. In and out,
 like breath. Indeed, conversation
 is the breath that keeps a marriage
 alive. I wish I'd known that before
 I married Rhonda.

(voice cracking)
 Sharlene...? 'Scuse me. Sharlene,
 do you take this man to be your
 husband?

SHARLENE
 I absolutely do.

EDDIE
 And do you, Will, take this woman
 to be your wife?

Everyone stares at Will with anticipation.

EDDIE (CONT'D)

Will? Buddy?

Sharlene nods her head up and down, urging him to say yes.

WILL

I can't. Sorry, I can't.

SHARLENE

(Please, get it.)

Okay, I know you may think you can't, but you can.

BUCK

You can, son.

Will sniffs. Shifts his weight.

CUPID (O.S.)

Say yes!

Will abruptly leaves.

SHARLENE

Will. Will, come back. Will,
please, come back! Will!!

Her knees buckle. She collapses into Dede.

Eddie shakes, rage building. He shouts a terrifying war cry and takes off after Will.

HUDSON

Holy...
(calling out to Will)
Run, bro!!

Hudson takes off after Eddie.

DEDE

Hudson, wait!
(to Sharlene)
Listen, hon, you need to get a hold
of yourself and quick.

Buck watches Sharlene wipe her tears. He clenches his fists.

BUCK

Dede, you take care of your sister
now.
(to Sharlene)
Don't you worry, darling, daddy's
gonna get that sonofabitch.

He takes off after Will.

DEDE

Dad, wait, don't go! Mom!

Jolene gives a look to the chase, a look to her daughters.

JOLENE

MAKE HIM BLEED OUT HIS ASS, BUCKY!!

Sharlene's still in shock, so Dede shakes her.

DEDE

You got to come back to me, Shar,
or Will's gonna bleed out his ass!

Sharlene snaps to her senses. She gives a look to Ray-Jay. He's scrolling through his phone, not a care in the world.

Suddenly, Cupid bursts onto the scene, driving a golf cart with 'Just Married' banner on it, decorated with streamers, flowers and bells. He stops next to Sharlene and gets out.

CUPID

Forget the wedding, go get your
man.

THE GARDEN HOUSE LAWN

Will runs for his life. Looking over his shoulder, Eddie's gaining on him.

Sharlene plows through a rose garden to get to Will.

SHARLENE

Get in!

PARKING LOT

Sharlene and Will whizz along. She looks behind.

So many people chasing them in golf carts. Jolene, Buck and Eddie chase them in one. Hudson and Ray-Jay in another.

And Security Guards bringing up the rear, in golf carts, riding segways, on foot.

SECURITY GATE

Two CHILL SECURITY GUARDS, 50s, stand post, one pouring Cuban coffee into the other's little cup.

ALAMRED DISTPATCH (ON WALKIE-TALKIE)
*Security, we have three stolen golf
 carts heading north towards the
 exit. Secure the exit, I repeat, DO
 NOT LET THEM LEAVE.*

They watch the golf carts whizz past them, sipping coffee.

CHILL SECURITY GUARD
 (nonchalant)
 Stop. Come back.

EXT. SOUTH MIAMI - DAY

The golf cart chase makes its way onto a two-lane road. They all swerve in between various honking cars and trucks.

INT. SHARLENE'S GOLF CART - MOVING - DAY

Sharlene drives Will.

SHARLENE
 I am so sorry I got you into this,
 I had no idea my family would want
 to make you bleed out your ass.

WILL
 They what??

SHARLENE
 Why didn't you call me back?? Did
 you know I wanted you to say yes??

WILL
 You what??

SHARLENE
 I called you, Hudson called you,
 Dede called you, I emoji-ed you.

WILL
 I got your message saying you want
 me to show up after all, and I
 thought that was it.

SHARLENE
 I specifically asked you to call
 me.

WILL
 I didn't want to talk to you!

SHARLENE

Well...! That makes sense!

WILL

So now you want to marry me?

A giant dress shoe flies in from the rear. Eddie's behind them, shaking his fist at Will.

SHARLENE

I totally understand you might have some reservations about marrying into this family.

(to the driver ahead)

MOVE IT, BUTTHOLE!

She cuts into another lane - *HONK! HONK!* - barely missing a delivery van and making a hair-pin turn onto another street.

SHARLENE (CONT'D)

I'm sorry I turned you down last night, it was the biggest mistake of my life. Wait. No. Losing you the first time was the biggest mistake, so I guess losing you again would be the second-

WILL

Watch!

SHARLENE

(swerving through traffic)

I'm trying to say you'd be marrying a stupid idiot, but a stupid idiot who loves you more than anything, and I'm sorry for what I put you through, and if there's any chance you still might want to be with me after this, I'm committed to being less of a stupid idiot and more of the person you deserve.

WILL

Okay.

SHARLENE

Okay... okay you'll marry me?

WILL

Okay, thanks for telling me!

SHARLENE

Oh! Okay!

EXT. MATHISON HAMMOCK ATOLL BEACH - DAY

Children knock a beachball around at a quiet family beach.
Beachgoers pause, hearing the sound of bells rattling.
Sharlene and Will burst onto the scene in their cart!

INT. SHARLENE'S GOLF CART - MOVING - DAY

Will and Sharlene look around, plotting their escape.

SHARLENE

Look, so, before you decide, I need
to come clean about something the
first time we were dating-

WILL

Kid! Kid!!

Sharlene swerves around a child caught in their path. Behind
them, the other carts close in.

SHARLENE

Shoot. We're running out of juice.

WILL

We're going in a circle. Here, take
your foot off.

Will stomps on the pedal. Their cart jerks forward!

A child chasing after a beachball jumps in front of them.
Sharlene screams, veers, and flips the cart off the pathway
and into the water!

The rest of the Davis Clan catch up and head into the water.

JOLENE

My baby! Sharlene, are you
alright?!

Will helps Sharlene to her feet. Seeing Eddie charging their
way, they retreat backward and fall over themselves.

BUCK

Make sure they're okay before you
kill him, Eddie!

An INSANE WRESTLING FAN, 20s, in the crowd points out Eddie.

INSANE WRESTLING FAN

No way. It's the Iron Lion!

Will and Eddie circle like combatants, people in the crowd chant, "Li-on! Li-on! Li-on!"

Hudson jumps off the pathway onto Eddie's back. Eddie powerbombs Hudson into the water! Some in the crowd cheer.

Dede jumps in after Hudson.

DEDE

Hudson! Do you need CPR?!

Screaming, Will charges at Eddie. He leaps, flying like a squirrel... only to bellyflop into the water.

And right at Eddie's feet. Eddie lifts Will up by his hair and rears back to punch when Sharlene steps in his way.

SHARLENE

Stop! Stop!! STOP!!

Eddie lets Will go. The Davis Clan surrounds her, as do onlookers with their phones.

SHARLENE (CONT'D)

This isn't Will's fault, it's mine.
I asked Will to pretend to be my fiancé and then leave me at the altar.

JOLENE

Sweetheart...

BUCK

...why?

SHARLENE

TO MAKE YOU STOP. Stop interfering with my life.

Jolene and Buck aren't getting it.

SHARLENE (CONT'D)

Y'all sent a throng of men to my open house.

They're still not getting it.

SHARLENE (CONT'D)

For fuck's sake, you put my face and number on a billboard!

BUCK

That bothered you?

JOLENE

Why didn't you just say so?

SHARLENE

Oh my God, I did! I told you to stop so many ways, and in none of the ways did you listen!!

(to Will)

And you... Will, I should've been honest with you from the start.

WILL

Yes, you should've.

SHARLENE

I know!

WILL

Okay!

(taking her hand)

Okay.

(beat)

You can ask me that question, again, Eddie. Ask me if I take her to be my wife.

SHARLENE

Wait, wait-

WILL

What?? OH MY GOD, WHAT THE HELL IS WRONG WITH YOU, SHARLENE??

(calmer)

Sorry. Sorry. Yes, dear?

SHARLENE

So. Um. Oh God.

(beat)

I made up Philippe.

Will blinks. Stunned. His head droops.

HUDSON (O.S.)

Heyyy... is this normal?

He raises his arm. It's broken. Dangling like limp spaghetti.

LATER

Will watches paramedics place Hudson into the back of an ambulance. He turns to Sharlene.

WILL
I think we need some time apart.

SHARLENE
Sure. Okay.

It's revealed that police are handcuffing the Davis Clan.

SHARLENE (CONT'D)
(half-joking)
Is five to ten enough?

Will doesn't respond. He steps into the ambulance.

The police handcuff Sharlene.

INT. POLICE STATION - HOLDING CELL - DAY

Sharlene sits apart from her family.

JOLENE
I should be into my third glass of
champagne, doing the Macarena...

BUCK
How does that one go?

Dede starts to do the chicken dance.

SHARLENE
No, that's the chicken dance. The
Macarena's...

Sharlene shows them, and everyone glares at her.

SHARLENE (CONT'D)
(awkward)
Heyyy, Macarena.

EXT. POLICE STATION - DAY

Sharlene and the Davis Clan walk out of the police station.

JOLENE
Uber's on its way, but it only
seats five.

SHARLENE
Oh, why don't I get a second Uber?
That way we're not so crowded.

LATER

Sharlene sits on the curb. Alone. An Uber car pulls up.

INT. UBER CAR - DAY

A SASSY DRIVER, 30s, watches Sharlene load her dirty, miserable self into the back.

SASSY DRIVER
Daaaaaaaaaaaaamn. You don't need
him, boo. Shiiit. This one's on me.

INT. HOTEL - BRIDAL SUITE - DAY

Sharlene comes into the room. Waiting for her inside is a tray of chocolate-covered strawberries and champagne on ice.

SHARLENE
(reading a card)
"So happy you found your missing
piece, all our love..."

She sets down the card. Grabs the champagne. Walking to the bedroom, she reaches to unzip herself, only she can't reach. She tries and tries, getting more and more frustrated.

INT. HOTEL - FRONT DESK - DAY

Luis enters data into a computer. Looking up, he screams.

SHARLENE
Luis!

Luis runs away from her. She chases.

SHARLENE (CONT'D)
Luis, I need your help!

Luis disappears behind a door marked **STAFF ONLY**.

SHARLENE (CONT'D)
Luis!!

She bangs desperately on the door.

Confused hotel guests watch her. She turns to them.

SHARLENE (CONT'D)
Can anyone help me take this off?

A brash teenage boy volunteers as Eddie enters.

SHARLENE (CONT'D)

Eddie!

INT. EMERGENCY ROOM - DAY

A triage room. Hudson shows Dede the cast on his arm.

HUDSON

It's glow in the dark. It's all they had. Might be hard to sleep with. Could you sleep with this?

DEDE

Um...

(laughing, embarrassed)

I think I could.

HUDSON

Would you?

DEDE

Okay. Gee. Bold, aren't we? Well, I like where this is going, but typically, I like to get to know a guy better before I...

Hudson holds up a marker.

DEDE (CONT'D)

(realizing)

...sign his cast.

WAITING ROOM

Ray-Jay watches a show on his phone. Will sits next to him, his eyes red.

Will pulls out his PHONE. Water drips out of it.

Will tosses the phone into a garbage can. Nudges Ray-Jay.

WILL

What are you watching?

RAY-JAY

Um... *Face Swap*.

WILL

Face Swap. What's that?

RAY-JAY

Um. I guess, it's this reality show where um, where these people swap their faces out for other people's. It's like walk a mile in someone else's shoes. Only it's faces.

WILL

Well that sounds dumb. Can I watch?
(watching)

So this person's going around lying to everyone, and afterwards, the people who've been lied to are supposed to be like... what? They go around acting like everything's fine? 'Cause it's not. She's traumatizing them.

RAY-JAY

Uh, pretty sure that's a dude.

Will gets up and leaves.

TRIAGE ROOM

Will walks in.

WILL

Are you ready to goooo...?

Dede and Hudson are kissing.

WILL (CONT'D)

...OH!

Dede and Hudson giggle. Busted.

WILL (CONT'D)

This is. This is great. This is great. No. This is great. I'm going.

HUDSON

Okay. See you back at the hotel?

WILL

No, I'm going home.

DEDE

Now? You're not flying back with us?

HUDSON

Want me to come with you?

Will looks at the two of them, looking happy together.

WILL

No, that's alright. I'll be fine.

INT. MIAMI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT - DAY

Will cries at a gate, stuffing his face with a Cinnabon.

INT. HOTEL - BRIDAL SUITE - DAY

Sharlene stuffs a chocolate strawberry into her mouth as Eddie tugs and tugs at the zipper on her dress.

SHARLENE

There's no way out of this.

EDDIE

You have any scissors? Ooh! I have some in my sewing kit.

SHARLENE

Even if I tried something, it would just blow up in my face, anyway.

(Help me.)

What can I do?

EDDIE

First, you can stop eating all the damn chocolate strawberries.

SHARLENE

Oh. Did you want-?

EDDIE

(hangry)

Yes! They look scrumptious. Thank you.

She gives him what's left of the berries. He chews. Thinks.

EDDIE (CONT'D)

Remember the time you read that poem in Mrs. Bank's class?

(Sharlene doesn't remember)

Seventh grade. That poem you wrote.

(still doesn't remember)

O-M-G. How can you not remember??

INT. MRS. BANKS'S CLASS - DAY (FLASHBACK)

We return to seventh grade Sharlene standing before her laughing classmates, looking heartbroken.

In the back of the class sits SEVENTH GRADE EDDIE, 12, but still a giant, shaking with rage. He gets out of his seat and pounds on Danny Klein!

EXT. BRIDAL SUITE - BALCONY - DAY (BACK TO PRESENT)

The memory comes back to Sharlene, she's buried it way down.

SHARLENE

Oh my God... poor Danny. What was I thinking?

(cringing)

That was the worst day.

EDDIE

Sharlene! That was your best day. It had such an impact on me. I remember wanting to be someone that bold and honest and vulnerable.

SHARLENE

Yeah, and look what that got me. After that, I promised, I swore I would never...

EDDIE

What? Let yourself be hurt like that again? Maybe closed yourself off to protect yourself? Maybe made up fake fiancés instead of being open and honest?

SHARLENE

I'm open and honest. Just not as open... or honest.

EDDIE

And look what that got you. If you love someone, show them.

SHARLENE

But...

EDDIE

"Never trust your fears, they don't know your strength."

SHARLENE

Wow. Did you just come up with that?

EDDIE

I saw it on a pillow.

Sharlene thinks a moment. Realizing what she has to do, she steels herself.

INT. TAXI - DAY (MOVING)

Sharlene rides in the back. She's on the phone with Eddie and still wearing her wedding dress.

SHARLENE

Talk to me, Eddie, what do we got?

INT. HOTEL - EDDIE'S ROOM - DAY

Eddie checks his laptop, adjusting his reading glasses.

EDDIE

We're in luck, there's only one flight going to Dallas, it's flight 957 leaving from gate G-36 in...
(checking his watch)
Oh no!

INT. TAXI - DAY (MOVING)

Sharlene sits up.

SHARLENE

What? Am I not gonna make it?

INTERCUT - EDDIE'S ROOM - DAY / TAXI (MOVING) - DAY

EDDIE

There's a stain on my shirt. What is this? Oil? I hope it's not-

SHARLENE

Eddie!

EDDIE

Oh, you're fine. Flight leaves in an hour and a half. Should be plenty of time.

INT. MIAMI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT - DAY

Sharlene stands before a PERKY ATTENDANT, 60s, taking her sweet time on the computer. Sharlene checks her phone. Waits.

PERKY ATTENDANT

I see you're not signed up for our credit card. Would you be interested?

SHARLENE

Not today. I'm in a hurry.

PERKY ATTENDANT

Got it. But if you sign up today, you'll get an extra thirty thousand bonus miles.

SHARLENE

Just the flight, thanks.

PERKY ATTENDANT

Got it.

(typing)

Good news. I've been authorized to waive the ninety dollar annual fee if you sign up today for our-

SHARLENE

Look, Phyllis, just get me on flight 957 to Dallas.

PERKY ATTENDANT

Got it. I see that all we have left is one first class seat.

SHARLENE

Great. Fine. Book it.

PERKY ATTENDANT

Got it. Now if you sign up for that credit card today-

SHARLENE

(holding in frustration)

Phyllis. Look at me. I need you to get it.

Phyllis holds up a long application form, playfully tempting.

Sharlene sighs. Reaches for the form.

GATE G-36

Will takes a pill from a bottle of **SLEEP-EAZE**.

On TV, a NEWS SHOW plays video of the post-wedding fight: Eddie slamming Hudson, Will bellyflopping, etc.

Will sighs. Gulps down the pill.

SECURITY SCREENING AREA

Holding her train in her hands, Sharlene runs over to the screening area. Stops. There's a ridiculously LONG LINE.

Sharlene wades into the line, occasionally getting stuck when someone accidentally steps on her train.

SHARLENE

Sorry! Excuse me! I promise I never do this!

AT THE TSA KIOSK

Sharlene hands her boarding pass and ID to a TSA DUDE, 20s. The dude gives her a look up-and-down, suspicious.

TSA DUDE

This doesn't look like you.

SHARLENE

Well... with my hair down...

TSA DUDE

Still not seeing it. Hey, Rick...

RICK, another TSA DUDE, 30s, ambles over. Rick compares Sharlene's ID PHOTO to Sharlene.

RICK

Oof. Hmmm. Maybe without the crazy hair, puffy eyes and double-chin.

SHARLENE

(checking her chin)
What??

TSA DUDE

Oh yeah. It's totes the double-chin. Most brides lose weight before their wedding.

RICK
Hashtag chinning.

SHARLENE
Can I go?

AT THE METAL SCANNER

Sharlene dumps her purse and slippers into a bin. Passengers give her angry looks.

SHARLENE
I'll be really quick, I promise!

She steps into the scanner. It scans. Sharlene tries to walk out and is cut off by an AGGRESSIVE AGENT, 40s.

AGGRESSIVE AGENT
Back into the scanner, ma'am.

SHARLENE
But-

AGGRESSIVE AGENT
Ma'am. Back into the scanner.
(she's scanned again)
This way, ma'am.

WANDA, 50s, an aggressive female agent, scans her with a wand. It beeps over her chest.

WANDA
Ma'am, we're detecting a foreign object.

SHARLENE
Oh! I know what it is. My dress is really tight and I wanted to kind of... enhance... my...
(Wanda's not getting it)
You know. Enhance... Come on, please don't make me...

WANDA
(calling out)
Strip search!

SHARLENE
No no no! Here.
(taking out the chicken cutlets in her dress)
You got me. Happy?

She waves the cutlets in Wanda's face.

GATE G-36

Will's head bobs, drowsy from the pill he took.

A GATE ATTENDANT makes an announcement.

GATE ATTENDANT
Attention all passengers of flight
957 traveling to Dallas Ft. Worth.
There's been a gate change.

Will groans, slowly gets up and follows the other passengers.

LONG HALL

Sharlene runs down a ridiculously long hall, into a-

CONCOURSE

Sharlene catches her breath. Looks at her ticket.

SHARLENE
G-36... G-36...

She looks at the nearest gate next to her: **G-1**

Sharlene groans. She spots a CHILD riding a suitcase scooter around the gate.

SHARLENE (CONT'D)
Hey! Hi!

Sharlene flags the child down, picks him up and gets on.

SCOOTER CHILD
Mommy!

SHARLENE
Sorry, I'm sorry, you'll understand
when you're older and in love.

Scooter Child's PARENTS yell for security.

A nearby SECURITY GUARD looks at Sharlene.

Sharlene rides off on the scooter. Guard and parents chase.

She tears past gates, smiling. **G-3, G-4, G-5...**

Suddenly, the scooter slows. Its BATTERY flashing low.

SHARLENE (CONT'D)

No no no no no!

She tries to use her feet to make the scooter go faster.

The parents - and now two security guards - are gaining.

Sharlene abandons the scooter and runs towards a moving walkway. Looking behind her-

The group chasing her are at her heels.

She accidentally runs onto the opposing walkway, causing her to fall and roll back-

She crashes into the people chasing her like a bowling ball, knocking everyone down.

Sharlene gets up. RRRRRRIP!!

Her dress train's caught on the walkway, pulling her in.

Sharlene tries to run and claw and pull herself away, and just as the guards grab on to her dress-

RRRRRRIP!!

Her entire skirt tears off, setting Sharlene free and revealing a thin layer of puffy tulle and spanx.

AT THE OTHER END OF THE CONCOURSE

Will stumbles his way towards his new gate, trying hard to keep his eyes open.

Sharlene runs. Chased by the world. Agents, passengers, etc.

She and everyone chasing her run past Will.

Will slows a moment, totally confused, trying to figure out if what he saw was really what he saw. He shakes his head.

WILL

Nah.

He keeps going.

Sharlene looks up at the gate numbers: **G-33, G-34, G-35...**

GATE G-36

Sharlene runs around.

SHARLENE
Will?! WILL?!

The crowd of agents and onlookers surround her.

She slows like a wounded animal.

SHARLENE (CONT'D)
Will?

The agents slowly move in on her.

Sharlene runs over to the window. Pounds.

SHARLENE (CONT'D)
WILL!!

The agents slam into her, pressing her face and body into the glass to handcuff her.

WILL (O.S.)
STOP!!

Everyone turns to Will, who stumbles through the crowd to cross to her, still very drowsy.

Phones recording are everywhere.

Sharlene and Will stand face-to-face.

WILL (CONT'D)
Sharlene... you look like... a
deranged ballerina.

SHARLENE
Security was a bitch.

Will smiles.

WILL
Is anyone here an ordained
minister?

A bunch of hands shoot into the air.

Will turns to her, leans in for a kiss, closing his eyes...

He falls onto her, dead asleep.

CROSSFADE TO:

EXT. ATLANTIC OCEAN - DAY

Calm, blue waves stretch on for miles.

SUPER: **ONE WEEK LATER**

EXT. BOAT - DAY

As we follow a trail clothes discarded on the floor:

SHARLENE (O.S.)

Do you need more champagne, or are you ready to uh, go down?

WILL (O.S.)

It's not the going down that scares me, it's what I'll encounter when I'm down there.

SHARLENE (O.S.)

It'll make me so happy. And you'll be so proud you did it. Trust me...

We discover Will and Sharlene in wet suits.

SHARLENE (O.S.) (CONT'D)

...you'll be so glad you faced your fears.

Dede and Hudson come by. Dede picks up their clothes.

DEDE

Jeez. Y'all are as bad as Ray-Jay.

Sharlene gets a text on her phone.

SHARLENE

Oh Lord. Not again.

DEDE

What is it this time?

SHARLENE

Mom and dad sent me another article. *Seven Easy Tips to Conceive Quickly*.

DEDE

At least they didn't send you pages from the Kama Sutra.

WILL

Actually...

He shows them his phone.

DEDE

Wow, y'all are so screwed.
 (looking at the pictures)
 Just gonna... text myself... aaaand
 sent. You know, you could always
 just fake a pregnancy.

SHARLENE

Ha ha. No.
 (reconsidering, then-)
 No.

Hudson looks over the boat.

Sharks swim below.

HUDSON

Wow that's a lot of sharks.
 (to Will and Sharlene)
 You're up first.

SHARLENE

After you, Mr. Stone.

WILL

No I insist, after you, Mrs. Stone.

SHARLENE

Babe. Get in the cage.

Sharlene and Will help each other climb into the cage.

They put on their snorkel masks. They lock eyes.

Then they take each other's hands, nodding in unison.

1... 2... 3...

They take the plunge together.

THE END