

TOGETHER

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Made in Highland

PLOT: A recently separated couple tries to rekindle their relationship; with the help of a marriage counsellor...

CHARACTERS:

- BARNEY: brown hair; blue eyes; 27 years; love interest of JOY; homebody
- JOY: blonde hair; blue eyes; 27 years; love interest of BARNEY; office manager
- ASTRID: 57 years; marriage counsellor; curly brown hair; blue eyes

LOCATIONS:

- JACKSON: fictional city; cars; trams everywhere; emerald-greenery surrounds city

INT. INSIDE - ASTRID'S MARRIAGE COUNSELLING CLINIC

(FADE INSIDE ASTRID'S MARRIAGE COUNSELLING CLINIC. The door knocks; ASTRID makes her way to the door; and opens it. She smiles as she notices the young couple BARNEY & JOY... and greets them...)

ASTRID

(smiles to BARNEY & JOY) Now hello you two... how are you both today?

(BARNEY & JOY hating each other; look annoyed at each other then back at ASTRID. ASTRID gets the picture.)

ASTRID

(worried to herself) Oh.. I get the picture... the marriage of yours is crumbling... well that's why I'm here to help... go on... have a seat..

(ASTRID remaining positive and optimistic; smiles and encourages the two to sit down at the two-seater sofa beside her chair..)

ASTRID

(to BARNEY & JOY) Please.. please.. HAVE a seat... the BOTH of you..

(ASTRID & BARNEY sit down beside each other; refusing to look at each other; overcome with hatred and anger. ASTRID sits down on her chair; opposite the toxic couple overcome with tension... she speaks..)

ASTRID

(calms BARNEY & JOY) Okay.... you two... we need to breathe... and calm.... you are both obviously here for marriage counselling... and it's only going to work through the art of communication... not through ignoring each other and creating so much tension... now... please... both of you look at each other... and BREATHE..

(BARNEY & JOY breathe and look at each other calmly; though still hateful of each other in the inside. BARNEY & JOY breathe and continue looking at each other as by ASTRID's instruction... ASTRID worries..)

ASTRID

(worried to herself) So much tension... (to BARNEY & JOY) Breathe again... release that tension... please..

(ASTRID & BARNEY breathe once again; relieving the tension finally.... and both look back at ASTRID. ASTRID smiles and is relieved...)

ASTRID

(smiles to BARNEY & JOY) Okay... good... but damn... if we are really here to fix the art of communication between you two... we need to breathe, remain calm and communicate... (pleads) Please.

(BARNEY & JOY look at each other and breathe; making themselves clear they will cooperate)

BARNEY

(to ASTRID) We will... JOY and I will communicate... our..

JOY

(to ASTRID) Barney and I really do want to fix our marriage... it truly is off the rails..

ASTRID

(to JOY & BARNEY) Yes... well let's get started..

(THE SCENE FADES TO A FLASHBACK)

FLASHBACK - 2 YEARS BEFORE - THE WEDDING
OF BARNEY & JOY
INT. NIKES PARK - JACKSON

(FADE IN NIKES PARK at the city of JACKSON. The wedding vows between BARNEY & JOY has taken place; with the rings on their ring fingers. The celebrant announces the husband-and-wife to kiss)

WEDDING CELEBRANT

(Smiles to BARNEY) You may kiss the bride..

(BARNEY kisses JOY.... the young couple jump in excitement for their newly-wed status...)

BARNEY

(excited TO JOY) Oh yes.... I can't believe we are now husband and wife... oh yes.. I can't believe it.

(JOY leaps onto BARNEY's arms... they kiss as BARNEY is handing her...)

JOY

(loving to BARNEY) Oh I love you... I love you my handsome man... oh I love you..

(The scene closes with JOY & BARNEY kissing...)

(FADE OUT: END OF SCENE)

INT. MOTEL 44 - JACKSON MOTEL INN

(THE FLASHBACK CONTINUES; AN HOUR HAS PASSED. FADE IN MOTEL 44; BARNEY walks in the room carrying the happily JOY; kissing her as he holds her... BARNEY closes the door behind himself and lays JOY down on the bed.... JOY & BARNEY kiss on the bed...)

JOY
 (loving to BARNEY) Oh BARNEY... newly-weds
 we are... I just... can't believe it..

BARNEY
 (romantic to JOY) Believe it HONEY.. believe
 it....

(JOY squeals in sexual desire. JOY
 smiles and giggles; with BARNEY)

JOY
 (romantic to BARNEY) Now ah... that...,
 (points at shirt) has to come off... come
 on..

(BARNEY smiles as he removes the
 shirt... dropping it on the
 ground... JOY squeals in
 excitement as she takes her pink
 tank off; following the purple
 bra.... exposing her breasts. They
 continue to squeal...)

BARNEY
 (romantic to JOY) Oh I love you..., I love
 you my pretty woman.... PRETTY.... just stay
 there and don't move..

(BARNEY & JOY kiss for 20 minutes
 straight..)

(BARNEY & JOY both lay topless on
 the bed; holding hands and talk..)

JOY
 (loving to BARNEY) Oh BARNEY... this is the
 dream... the dream..

BARNEY
 (loving to JOY) Yes... yes... what every
 couple dreams of.

JOY
 (loving to BARNEY) Yes.... yes... now that
 is right... that is right...

(JOY TILTS TO THE SIDE; LOOKING AT
 BARNEY; PUTTING HER HAND ON
 BARNEY'S CHEST. BARNEY SMILES AS
 HE LOOKS DOWN; THEN LOOKS BACK UP
 AT JOY)

JOY
 (romantic to BARNEY) Oh I love you BARNEY...
 promise to never leave me... you promise...
 YOU PROMISE...

BARNEY

(smiles to JOY) I promise... I PROMISE...
never forget it..

(JOY & BARNEY continue to kiss
with love; and begin a kissing
spree thereafter... the scene ends
and the camera pans out on the
kissing couple...)

BACK TO PRESENT

INT. INSIDE _ ASTRID'S MARRIAGE COUNSELLING
CLINIC

(FADE IN; ASTRID talks...)

ASTRID

(questions BARNEY) Barney... when do you
remember the most loving time you had with
JOY?

BARNEY

(to ASTRID) Well... the most loving
moment... where I had the most sexual
arousement... has got to be our honeymoon...

(BARNEY chuckles...)

BARNEY

(chuckles to ASTRID) I mean... any couple
would say that..

ASTRID

(questions JOY) And you JOY?

JOY

(to ASTRID) yes... yes... I have to agree...
that is the time I remember we were truly
happy..

ASTRID

(questions JOY) Well what happened? (to
BARNEY) What happened to you two? What was
the massive conflict?

(JOY & ASTRID look at each
other...)

(THE SCENE CLOSES and opens with
another flashback...)

FLASHBACK - 2 MONTHS BEFORE

INT. KITCHEN - BARNEY'S APARTMENT

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(FADE IN the KITCHEN of BARNEY'S APARTMENT. CUT TO BARNEY; washing dishes. A very unhappy JOY enters the scene. The house is a pigsty; with scraps of food everywhere; with rats running amuck; with the whole kitchen cluttered in boxes and cockroaches...)

JOY

(annoyed to BARNEY) Oh damn BARNEY... I come home from work... and you just leave this house a pigsty... oh my GOD... damn BARNEY... I'm getting sick of it...

(BARNEY ignores JOY; though is getting annoyed... JOY continues whinging in annoyance..)

JOY

(annoyed to BARNEY) All I ask.. is you vaccum... just keep the house clean whilst I work... DO YOU KNOW HOW MUCH I HATE coming to work to a messy house? Damn.... FUCKIN damn... I'm getting sick of it... SO SICK of it..

(JOY annoyed; breathes. BARNEY continues to remain silent)

JOY

(ANNOYED TO BARNEY) I JUST CAN'T BELIEVE IT... YOU DON'T DO ANYTHING... YOU SIT ON YOUR ARSE.. WHILST I WORK TO PAY THIS FUCKIN APARTMENT RENT... I'M SICK OF YOU... WHAT DO YOU DO? WHAT DO YOU DO?

(JOY screams as she pushes BARNEY... BARNEY grows aggravated and shouts at JOY...)

BARNEY

(shouts to JOY) STOP PUSHING ME... STOP.

JOY

(shouts to BARNEY) Why won't you HELP VACCUM? Why? I don't have time to clean this place up? I don't have time... all the stress I put up with work; I just want to come home and relax... but I can't.... YOU WON'T VACCUM this place... why can't you FUCKIN HELP...?

(BARNEY remains silent... JOY grows enraged even more...)

JOY

(Shouts to BARNEY) FUCKIN TALK TO ME... TALK TO ME YOU FUCKIN ARSE-

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(BARNEY grows enraged..)

BARNEY

(shouts to JOY) STOP FUCKIN YELLING AND CURSING ME... YOU FUCKIN BITCH... YOU FUCKER...

(BARNEY enraged; glasses JOY in the face. JOY screams from the glassed face; and cries...)

JOY

(crying to BARNEY) Barney... why.... I... I..

(BARNEY regrets his action and speaks up..)

BARNEY

(worried to JOY) Joy.... JOY... I... I'm sorry...

JOY

(shouts to BARNEY) YOU... You just committed DOMESTIC VIOLENCE... we're over... WE ARE OVER..

(BARNEY remains hurt; and calms down..)

BARNEY

(worried to JOY) No JOY... no... PLEASE DON'T GO.... please... I...

JOY

(shouts to BARNEY) I hate YOU... STAY AWAY FROM ME... you ABUSER... FUCK this... I'm out of here.

(BARNEY starts to beg JOY to stay; seriously regretting his physical decision..)

BARNEY

(pleads with JOY) Joy... no.. please... sorry... sorry I shouldn't have DONE THAT..

(JOY makes her way out the front door... the scene CONTINUES)

INT. LOUNGE ROOM - BARNEY'S APARTMENT

(FADE IN THE LOUNGE ROOM at BARNEY'S APARTMENT. JOY prepares to open the door; BARNEY grabs JOY's hand; preventing her escape..)

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BARNEY

(begs JOY) Joy... JOY... I shouldn't have...
I shouldn't have... i'm sorry..

JOY

(shouts to BARNEY) YOU FUCKIN ARSEHOLE...
you are a FUCKIN ABUSER... you HURT YOUR
WOMAN... I HATE YOU.... WE'RE OVER... I want
a divorce...

BARNEY

(begs JOY) No.. no please JOY... I lost my
temper.. I'm sorry... no.. please.

(BARNEY continues to restrict
JOY's escape; JOY grows annoyed
and speaks firmly to BARNEY)

JOY

(Shouts to BARNEY) LET ME GO... GET your
HAND off ME.... GET YOUR HAND OFF ME..

(JOY with force; forces her hand
back and opens the door; leaving
with force; slamming the door
behind her... BARNEY in shock and
frustration screams...)

BARNEY

(Shouts to himself) I'm AN IDIOT... AN
IDIOT.. A FUCKIN IDIOT...

(THE CAMERA PANS out with the
screaming voice of BARNEY)

(FADE OUT: END OF SCENE)

BACK TO PRESENT

INT. INSIDE ASTRID'S MARRIAGE COUNSELLING
CLINIC

(FADE INSIDE ASTRID'S MARRIAGE
COUNSELLING CLINIC. ASTRID listens
to JOY speak...)

JOY

(To ASTRID) And so we divorced.. and here
we are...

(JOY looks at BARNEY; then back at
ASTIRD)

JOY

(To ASTRID) Barney.... desperately wants us
back together.. so I am doing this for him..

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(ASTRID looks at BARNEY)

ASTRID
(To BARNEY) So did you apologise to JOY for physically hitting her?

(BARNEY nods his head; with the memory haunting him...)

BARNEY
(worried; to ASTRID) Yes.... yes I did... I really regret it... it is something I seriously regret...

(A PAUSE... ASTRID speaks...)

ASTRID
(TO BARNEY & JOY) WELL IT SEEMS LIKE YOU TWO DON'T KNOW TEAMWORK... BY BEING A COUPLE... ONE WORKS... WHILST ONE SHOULD STAY HOME AND COOK... AND DO THE HOUSEWORK... SO BARNEY... WHY DON'T YOU WORK IF YOU DON'T LIKE TO CLEAN SO MUCH?

BARNEY
(to ASTRID) I... I've had corporate jobs in the past. The stress is... it's just over the top for me.. I can't handle it..

ASTRID
(to BARNEY) Well... I understand that.. but remember being a couple includes commitment to each other... meaning a house requires one person to work and pay the house off; whilst the other is required to clean the house... commitment and functionality is important to a healthy relationship..

(BARNEY agrees to understand ASTRID; and speaks his mind...)

BARNEY
(to ASTRID) I see... I see.. I uh..

(BARNEY LOOKS AT JOY AND HOLDS HER HAND...)

BARNEY
(to JOY) I understand now... I understand... JOY... I'm sorry.... I know the stress you put up with can be much... and I know you are much better at handling stress than I am.... I just want to say... I apologise... and I will do better to be more of a helping-man towards you.

(JOY smiles though looks for reassurance..)

JOY

(questions BARNEY) Are you sure BARNEY? Will you HELP ME? Do you promise me? You know I can't do both... I can't work and clean...

(A PAUSE..)

JOY

(to BARNEY) When I get back from work... all I want to do is relax... that's all I want to do.. UNDERSTAND?

(BARNEY NODS HIS HEAD AND SMILES AT JOY)

BARNEY

(smiles to JOY) I understand...

JOY

(smiles to BARNEY) Good... good man.... GOOD...

(JOY & BARNEY kiss... and smile back at ASTRID)

BARNEY

(smiles to ASTRID) Thank you... thank you ASTRID... you really have taught me the art of teamwork and commitment in a relationship... as well as contribution... I will contribute more... thanks...

ASTRID

(smiles to BARNEY) No worries... keep the relationship healthy... any other worries or concerns... contact me once again...

BARNEY

(smiles to ASTRID) Thanks... thanks...

JOY

(smiles to BARNEY) Let's go BARNIE-boy... let's go for a shot of coffee.

(BARNEY smiles at JOY...)

BARNEY

(smiles to JOY) Okay... actually... I need to tell ASTRID something personal... just wait outside..

(JOY seems annoyed...)

JOY

(Annoyed to BARNEY) Tell ASTRID what... secrets I ought to know that you won't let me know..

BARNEY

(annoyed to JOY) No darling JOY... it's something business-minded... I will tell you later... just... order me a cappuccino and I will meet you there..

(JOY appears worried..)

JOY

(worried to BARNEY) Okay then.. okay... better not be any secrets... i won't be happy...

BARNEY

(assures JOY) I promise JOY... no secrets..

(JOY SMILES AT BARNEY; THEN LEAVES; exiting the scene... ASTRID SMILES AT BARNEY)

ASTRID

(Chuckles to BARNEY) Does the BITCH ever shut up?

BARNEY

(chuckles to ASTRID) No... never.. hate the complaining bitch of a wife... but I... I... I think I love older women instead.

(BARNEY squeals in sexual desire; removing his shirt... the scene ends with the shirtless BARNEY & ASTRID kissing; falling on the floor minutes later...)

(FADE OUT: END OF SCENE & STORY)