

The Truth About Sex

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The present day.

ELLIE (39) and Alvin (40) FINKELSTEIN sit on a sofa. They are speaking directly to camera. Alvin is a posh English, public school boy type with that typical dry, smart English humour. Ellie is an attractive bouncy American.

ALVIN
Marriage takes work.

ELLIE
Keeping that flame alive.

ALVIN
It goes out pretty quick.

ELLIE
Ultimately, a couple can survive
the rocky road ahead if they have
one thing.

ALVIN
Comfortable shoes.

She shoots him a look.

ELLIE
A firm foundation of love.

ALVIN
And, a 62" plasma TV.

Beat.

OPENING CREDITS

CUT TO:

ELLIE
The truth is, it wasn't always
like this.

ALVIN
No. In fact, it was pretty good
in the beginning.

ELLIE
It always is, isn't it?

ALVIN

Do you remember when we first met?

ELLIE

You had very high hair.

ALVIN

And if 80s Madonna had a clone - that would be you.

ELLIE

Lots of big, dry, frizzy gravity defying hair. Brittle, really.

ALVIN

Lace gloves, headscarf, the whole nine yards.

ELLIE

NOT a pretty site.

ALVIN

No.

A beat.

CUT TO:

3 TITLE CARD: "THE TRUTH ABOUT FIRST DATES" 3

4 EXT. CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY - DAY 4

TITLE: 18 years ago

Alvin (22) sits on a step outside an academic building. He sports VERY HIGH HAIR, and is wearing a heavy metal t-shirt. He is airdrumming with drumsticks.

Ellie, (21), dressed exactly like Madonna from the 80s, walks up the stairs and trips, dropping ALL of her books.

Alvin immediately jumps to the rescue.

ALVIN

Here let me help.

ELLIE

I'm like, so clumsy.

ALVIN

'Steps, like life, can be difficult to circumnavigate.'

He helps pick up the books.

ELLIE
(referring to his quote)
Gandhi?

ALVIN
No. Alvin, I'm afraid. Gandhi is
just down the path to the left.

ELLIE
(she smiles)
Well Alvin... I love your hair.

ALVIN
(taken aback)
You do?

ELLIE
Do you use any products?

ALVIN
It's just naturally springy. I
wake up like this.
(beat)
You're American?

They start walking. Alvin following.

ELLIE
What gave it away?

ALVIN
Well, Madonna called and wants
her clothes back.

ELLIE
Charming.

ALVIN
What I lack in hair products I
make up with charm.

ELLIE
Charm is good. We American girls
like charm.
(beat)
My parents moved here two years
ago. They work for the
consulate.

ALVIN
Ah. Well done.

ELLIE

So what... are you, like, a drummer?

ALVIN

No.

ELLIE

But you have drumsticks.

ALVIN

I'm an air drummer.

ELLIE

How can you drum the air?

ALVIN

The air, the table, the wall.

She stops.

ELLIE

So let me get this straight. You drum the air, the table the wall, and basically any surface except drums?

ALVIN

Well, when you put it like that, it sounds silly, but yes, that's the gist of it.

ELLIE

I'm Ellie. Ellie Winters.

She holds out a hand.

ALVIN

Alvin. Alvin... Finkelstein. But you can call me Gandhi if it helps.

ELLIE

Can I just call you Alvin?

ALVIN

That also works.

ELLIE

Well, Alvin, how would you like to take the new girl out for dinner tonight?

ALVIN

That's not a euphemism for something is it?

ELLIE

Yes. It's a euphemism for dinner.

They smile. A connection.

CUT TO:

5

INT. DORM ROOM

5

Alvin opens the door and startles his roommate, HENRY O'BRIAN, who quickly pulls up his trousers. He has been jacking off on Alvin's bed.

ALVIN

Oh! Oh dear Lord. Henry! And on my bed?

HENRY

What? Your sheets are softer than mine.

Alvin grabs the photo that Henry is jacking off to.

ALVIN

Is that...? Is that my mother?

HENRY

I'm sorry. It's just... she's hot. I mean, really hot.

ALVIN

Please, you cretin. Just stop. Go.

HENRY

She is. I know she's your mother and it's kind of weird, but totally objectively, I would do her.

ALVIN

You will wash my sheets and never touch my mother's photograph again.

HENRY

I can commit to the sheets, but not sure about the photo.

ALVIN

(aside)

I AM living with a perverted sociopath.

HENRY
 Hey! Who you calling a sociopath?

CUT TO:

6

EXT. OUTDOOR DININGG FACILITIES - DAY

6

Alvin and Henry are eating lunch at an outdoor table.
 Alvin spots Ellie at the lunch line buying some food.

ALVIN
 I have a date tonight?

HENRY
 What? With who?

ALVIN
 See that girl over there?

Henry looks back.

HENRY
 Holy cow?

ALVIN
 She is neither holy, nor a cow.
 Her name is Ellie Winters. She's
 American.

HENRY
 That is truly exotic.
 (beat)
 Now, a few things. Whatever you
 do, no air drumming.

ALVIN
 What's wrong with my air
 drumming?

HENRY
 You don't own drums and you have
 never drummed a drum. It's
 stupid.

Alvin shakes his head.

HENRY (CONT'D)
 Second, you have to do something
 about your hair. It's too....
 high.

ALVIN
 It's naturally springy, ok!

HENRY

Whatever. It defies the laws of gravity. That can't be good.

(beat)

Third. No milk products. You know you have that funny tummy thing.

ALVIN

Lactose Intolerance.

HENRY

That's it. If you get to second base, you know, that could be awkward.

ALVIN

Yes, air point. Let's just hope she doesn't order anything with cheese.

CUT TO:

7

INT. ITALIAN RESTAURANT - EVENING

7

Alvin and Ellie sit opposite each other in a nice Italian restaurant. Alvin's hair is gelled down and parted on the side. It looks pretty damn awful.

There is a spread on the table of cheesy PIZZA, and tomato mozzarella salad.

The waiter is grating Parmesan on top of the pizza.

ELLIE

(to the waiter)

Come on, go crazy. Grate it like you mean it!

The waiter looks annoyed.

ELLIE (CONT'D)

Oh for heaven's sake just give it to me.

She grabs the grater and grates cheese like it's an Olympic sport. Alvin's eyes widen at the amount of cheese.

ELLIE (CONT'D)

I love parmesan.

ALVIN

Why wouldn't you?

ELLIE

You do like cheese, right?

Alvin doesn't want to offend.

ALVIN

Yes. Yes. Perhaps not quite so liberally spread. But, woohoo, cheese is good.

The waiter leaves.

She holds up a glass.

ELLIE

Well then, cheers. To making new friends.

ALVIN

To new friends.

They drink.

ELLIE

I love what you've done with your hair by the way.

ALVIN

Just.. you know... tried something a bit different. Does it work?

ELLIE

(not quite sure)
Oh yes, definitely, it works.

ALVIN

Good, because I wasn't quite sure.

ELLIE

Yeah, no... it's good. I mean, it's not so high any more. It's well... flattened.

CUT TO:

8

INT. ITALIAN RESTAURANT - LATER

8

They are at the end of the meal and one piece of pizza remains. She picks it up.

ELLIE

Have a bite of this, it's the last piece.

ALVIN
 (has had enough of
 cheese)
 No I'm good.

ELLIE
 Eat.

ALVIN
 Really, I'm fine.

Ellie thrusts the fork into Alvin's mouth.

ELLIE
 (forcefully)
 EAT!

ALVIN
 Ok.
 (mouth full)
 Ummm. Yummy. Cheesy.

ELLIE
 Good huh?

The waiter approaches

WAITER
 Desserts?

ELLIE
 Cheesecake, please.

CUT TO:

9 INT/EXT. CAR - NIGHT

9

Alvin's little car pulls up to a dorm building. It's a cold night and there is snow on the ground.

The car comes to a stop and they look at each other - there is chemistry but they are both a little nervous.

ELLIE
 I had fun tonight.

ALVIN
 Me too.

A pause.

They both lean forward and kiss softly. Alvin can't help it and lets out a small fart - sounds more like a dog yelping.

ELLIE
 (stops in her tracks)
 What was that?

ALVIN
 What?

ELLIE
 That sound.

ALVIN
 It was a - um...

ELLIE
 Sounded like a-

ALVIN
 It was a -

ELLIE
 Like a dog.

ALVIN
 Dog, yes.
 (running with it)
 In fact there-

He looks back. In the distance is a small dog being walked by its owner. Ellie looks a bit baffled.

ELLIE
 But it's such a small dog. And
 so far away.

ALVIN
 Sound travels. It's the snow.
 Sound has a funny way of
 deflecting off snowy surfaces...

She seems to accept it.

ELLIE
 Do you want to come up?

ALVIN
 Sure.

CUT TO:

Alvin is seated on the sofa. He is trying to find the best position to sit in, to be comfortable, look cool and also be ready when she returns back to the room from the kitchen.

ELLIE (O.S.)

Drink?

ALVIN

With pleasure.

ELLIE

Tea, coffee?

Alvin's tummy starts to rumble and make funny sounds. He tries desperately to hold the sounds in.

ALVIN

Perhaps just hot water.

He gets up and walks around. He heads towards the window. He makes sure she is not looking, opens the window, and lets out a well needed little fart.

He looks around and sees some pictures of another girl.

ALVIN (CONT'D)

Who's this girl? In the photos?

ELLIE (O.S.)

That's Jenny. My roommate. She's doing a chemistry study group tonight. So we have the place all to ourselves.

Beat.

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

So tell me, Alvin, how come a charming English man like you doesn't have a girlfriend?

ALVIN

I ask myself the same question. Perhaps people can't see past the hair... literally.

His stomach rumbles again. He does his best to contain himself.

ALVIN (CONT'D)

And what's a nice girl from Oklahoma doing with such an obsession with cheese.

ELLIE

Ya'know. I grew up on a farm. If I wasn't milking the cow, I was fucking the goat.

He does a double take.

She emerges from the kitchen and hands him his cup of hot water.

ALVIN

Sorry. I thought for a second you said something about a goat and, um... fucking.

ELLIE

Yes, fucking the goat.

He looks disturbed. She looks quite serious.

And then she starts laughing.

ELLIE (CONT'D)

I'm joking.

He looks relieved.

ALVIN

Phew thank God!

ELLIE

It's my crass American humour!
Fucking a goat! Hah!
(she becomes serious)
But fucking a horse, now that would be cool.

He becomes serious for a second as if he believes her. And then she starts laughing again. Another joke. Strained laughter.

ALVIN

(dryly and not quite convinced)

Wow... what a sense of humour.

ELLIE

Hey man, you gotta lighten up a bit.

She puts his mug on the table. She tickles him. He laughs.

She tickles him again. He lets out another laugh.

This time she goes full force and goes crazy on the tickles.

Unable to control his laughter, and also his bowels, he lets out a RIPROARING and neverending FART.

She stops tickling him and looks at him slightly shocked.

CUT TO:

11 EXT. DORM ROOM BUILDING - NIGHT 11

Ellie hands Alvin his coat.

ALVIN
If you let me explain... you
see.. It was the-

She closes the door.

ALVIN (CONT'D)
Cheese.

He turns and goes.

CUT TO:

12 INT. WHITE ROOM 12

The present day.

Ellie and Alvin are seated, looking into camera as before.

ELLIE
(trying not to laugh)
You still have that lactose
thing, right?

Alvin takes it very seriously.

ALVIN
It's a genuine problem.

ELLIE
I know. I'm sorry honey. It's
just very-

ALVIN
Inconvenient, is what it is.

ELLIE
What about that time... you know,
the first night?

ALVIN
How could I forget?

CUT TO:

13 TITLE CARD: "THE TRUTH ABOUT THE FIRST NIGHT" 13

Flashback to university.

Alvin is looking through some books on a shelf. He sees Ellie looking at some books on an opposite shelf.

He gets up and goes to the other side of the bookshelf and peers through the books.

ALVIN

Hi.

She spots him.

ELLIE

Oh. It's you.

ALVIN

Hey look. About the other night. See, it was the cheese.

ELLIE

The cheese?

ALVIN

Yes, the cheese, the cheesecake, cream, milk. In fact, all dairy.

ELLIE

(listening)

Um-hmm.

ALVIN

I have this condition. More like an intolerance. Since I was a child. I just can't digest dairy.

ELLIE

Really? Is that what that is?

ALVIN

Yes. And it's awful, because I just get the most terrible flatulence.

She starts laughing.

ALVIN (CONT'D)

I know you must think I'm a right wally and all. I don't blame you if you never want to see me again.

She laughs again. This time it is sweetly.

ALVIN (CONT'D)
What is it?

ELLIE
I think it's wonderful.

ALVIN
You do?

She comes around to where he is.

ELLIE
You ate all those dairy products
just to impress me?

ALVIN
Yes.

ELLIE
That's the most romantic thing
any man has ever done for me.

Alvin is slightly taken aback.

ALVIN
It is? I mean, is it?

She smiles and then gives him a long kiss on the mouth.

ELLIE
Tell you what, let's just wipe
the slate clean. Start again.
(beat)
Do you like Soya Milk?

CUT TO:

15 INT. ALVIN'S ROOM

15

Alvin is busy prepping a lovely meal.

Henry comes out dressed in a horrendously mismatched outfit
and bowler hat.

HENRY
How do I look?

ALVIN
Like an imbecile, as usual.

HENRY
Perfect.

ALVIN
Where are you going?

HENRY
To the pub to get utterly
shitfaced.

ALVIN
So I have the place to myself
tonight?

HENRY
Indeed. Good luck my friend. May
you plant your seed deep in the
soil of love's young flower.

ALVIN
Do me a favour. If you get drunk
and end up in a ditch again,
please don't call me.

HENRY
Toodaloo!

He exits.

CUT TO:

16 INT. ALVIN'S ROOM - LATER

16

The empty plates from dinner sit on the table top. Wine glasses and an almost empty bottle of wine are atop the coffee table.

Alvin and Ellie are making out heavily on the sofa.

ELLIE
Let's go to the bedroom.

They move to the bedroom.

ANGLE ON BEDROOM

Ellie and Alvin are making out heavily on the bed. She takes off his shirt/ He takes off his shirt.

ALVIN
Do you mind if we get under the
covers?

ELLIE
Sure.

ALVIN
It's just, I have very bad
circulation and my toes get very
cold.

ELLIE
No, that's fine, yeah.

They get under the covers and remove the rest of their
clothes.

CUT TO:

17 EXT. DORM ROOM BUILDING - NIGHT 17

Henry and 4 drunken male friends swagger to the entrance of
the building.

HENRY
(drunk)
You, my friend. I love you.

Henry tries hard to get the keys in the door but has
trouble finding the opening.

HENRY (CONT'D)
And you - I don't know who you
are, but I could learn to love
you too.

Finally he gets the keys in the door.

CUT TO:

18 INT. ALVIN'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS 18

Ellie stops momentarily.

ELLIE
Do you have any condoms?

ALVIN
Shit, no. I didn't really think
that far ahead.

He thinks fast.

ALVIN (CONT'D)
Maybe Henry has.

He jumps up and rifles through Henry's bedside table.

Success! He pulls out a condom and jumps back in bed.

He opens the wrapper. The condom is BRIGHT PINK.

ELLIE
Wow. It's very pink.

ALVIN
Ummm. Oh well.

He continues anyway, his hand disappearing beneath the sheets.

They start having sex.

Ellie's face looks as though something is not right.

ALVIN (CONT'D)
Everything ok?

ELLIE
Not sure really. It's a bit...
itchy.

Alvin grabs the condom package and reads it.

ALVIN
It's cherry flavour. Of course,
it would be, wouldn't it.
(beat)
You must be having some sort of
reaction to the lubricant.

ELLIE
Do you mind if we take it off?

ALVIN
No of course not.

He reaches down and pulls of the rubber. He spots the trash bin, which is by Henry's bed. He flicks the condom to the bin, but instead it lands on Henry's pillow.

ALVIN (CONT'D)
Oh shit.

Suddenly, the SOUND of the door opening.

Henry stumbles in, singing and mumbling to himself.

Alvin and Ellie freeze in the bed.

Henry walks into the bedroom, doesn't really seem to notice anyone, and then collapses into a catatonic state on his bed, his face falling onto the rubber.

He starts snoring loudly.

Ellie and Alvin remain motionless, slightly shocked at the situation.

DISSOLVE TO:

19 INT. BATHROOM - MORNING 19

Ellie is brushing her teeth.

Suddenly the doors opens and Henry appears in his t-shirt, underwear and with a pink condom stuck to his face.

Ellie screams. Henry screams. Ellie points to his face. Henry looks in the mirror and sees the rubber stuck to his face. Still screaming he grabs the rubber and throws it with force off of his face and it lands on Ellie's face. Ellie screams and throws it out the window, before running out into the bedroom.

Outside, it lands on a girl's head, who doesn't seem to notice and keeps walking.

20 INT. LOUNGE - CONTINUOUS 20

Ellie runs into Alvin's arms.

ALVIN

What is it? What's going on?

Henry emerges from the bathroom in his pants.

HENRY

Good morning. We haven't been formerly introduced. My name's Henry.

CUT TO:

21 INT. WHITE ROOM 21

Present day. Ellie and Alvin to camera as before.

ALVIN

Things got better after that.

ELLIE

Oh yeah, much better. The beginning of the relationship. That was like, the honeymoon period.

CUT TO:

22 MONTAGE SEQUENCE

22

MUSIC: Nat King Cole's "L-O-V-E" plays (L is for the way you look at me...)

Ellie and Alvin walking by the river hand in hand.

Buying ice cream and eating from each others cones. Ice cream falling off the cones.

Having a picnic. A dog comes and tramples through their food.

Tearing clothes off in the bedroom.

Trying to eat sushi (unsuccessfully)

Watching a movie.

Ellie popping spots on Alvin's back.

Very much in love.

CUT TO:

23 INT. WHITE ROOM

23

Present Day. The couple to camera.

ELLIE

And things were fine for a while.

ALVIN

We were very much in love.

He smiles fondly at the thought.

ELLIE

And then the honeymoon period kind of ended.

ALVIN

Actually you ended it.

ELLIE

Me? No, no, no. You ended it.

ALVIN

Me? I was very much in love with you.

ELLIE

Anyway, it ended.

CUT TO:

24 TITLE CARD: "THE TRUTH ABOUT BREAK-UPS" 24

25 INT. ELLIE'S DORM ROOM 25

Alvin is watching TV. He is clipping his toes nails.

Ellie is in the kitchen area making some food. She is watching him clip his toe nails.

ELLIE

What do you want to eat? Chicken
or pasta?

ALVIN

Anything. Either is fine.

ELLIE

(annoyed)

Can't you just pick something? I
mean, for once make a decision?

ALVIN

Honestly, whatever you want is
fine.

ELLIE

Do you really have to cut your
toenails on my couch?

ALVIN

Sorry. I've got all the nails
here... see?

He holds up a handful of nail clippings.

ELLIE

Achhh! No! I don't want to see
your nail clippings, Alvin.

ALVIN

Look, what has gotten into you?

ELLIE

You're annoying me.

ALVIN

Well I'm sorry, Miss 'must have
everything her way', but would
you prefer my nails grow long?
Nails sometimes need clipping!

ELLIE

Not on my couch they don't!

ALVIN
I bought you this couch.

ELLIE
Well you can have it back.

ALVIN
Have you completely lost your
mind? Is this some sort of
female hormonal thing?

ELLIE
(open-mouthed)
Haaaaaaw! You men. Whenever you
don't like something we say you
blame it on hormones.
(beat)
First of all, yes, I have my
period. And second of all, you
annoy the crap out of me.

Beat.

ALVIN
Well perhaps I should just go
then.

ELLIE
Perhaps you should.

ALVIN
Ok, I will.

He gets his coat and goes to the door barefoot, forgetting
his shoes. He slams the door behind him.

After a moment's silence there is a knock on the door.

Ellie opens it.

ALVIN (CONT'D)
Can I have my shoes please? And
socks...

She grabs his shoes and throws them at him.

CUT TO:

26

INT. WHITE ROOM

26

Present day. The couple to camera.

ELLIE
We broke up over toe nail
clippings?

ALVIN
Toe nail clippings.

ELLIE
Gosh, I'm sorry Alvin. It seems so trivial.

ALVIN
That's how fights start, don't they?

ELLIE
I guess so.
(beat)
Toe nail clippings? Really?

He nods.

ELLIE (CONT'D)
Gosh. I'm such a jerk.

He shrugs, not disagreeing.

ALVIN
And then uni ended and I didn't see you again for a few years.

ELLIE
But there were no other women apart from me, right?

Alvin's look suggests otherwise.

CUT TO:

27 TITLE CARD: "THE TRUTH ABOUT ONE NIGHT STANDS" 27

28 INT. OFFICE 28

It is a few years later. Alvin has a sensible hair cut and looks more mature and respectable in a suit.

A young nervous intern (MARY) brings Alvin some papers.

MARY
Here are the charts you asked for Mr Finkelstein.
(beat)
And here is your lunch. Turkey, lettuce, tomato, and pickle on toasted ciabatta just as you asked.

ALVIN
No mayonnaise right?

MARY
There shouldn't be.

ALVIN
Because you know those sandwich shops leave the mayonnaise out of the fridge most of the day. And it just ferments.

MARY
Sure.

ALVIN
It's a certain way to get Samonella, Mary. If you learn one thing from this internship, let that be it.

MARY
Thank you Mr Finkelstein.

ALVIN
Don't mention it.

She exits. He unwraps his sandwich and starts to eat.

His phone rings. It is his old friend HENRY.

INTERCUT WITH HENRY, who is on a sunbed by a pool.

HENRY
Tell me you haven't forgotten the show tonight?

ALVIN
Henry! A delight as usual.

Meanwhile, Peter, Alvin's good looking colleague enters the room and sits on a sofa, waiting for the conversation to end.

ALVIN (CONT'D)
Is it Thursday already?

HENRY
Sure is. 7pm at the Ladbroke Grove Gallery, yes?

ALVIN
If I said I was having a minor operation this evening on my phalanges, would that sound remotely believable?

HENRY
Unacceptable Finkelstein. See you
tonight.

Henry hangs up.

PETER
Who was that?

ALVIN
Old school friend with an
obsession for older women. Henry
has organised some sort of an art
exhibition this evening.

PETER
Excellent! Art shows are
fabulous places to meet women.
I'll swing by after work and we
can go together.

Peter picks up some of Alvin's sandwich and takes a bite.

ALVIN
(dryly)
Please, help yourself to my
lunch.

PETER
(with mouth full)
Good sandwich but could do with a
bit of mayonnaise or something.

CUT TO:

29 INT. ART GALLERY - EVENING

29

Peter and Alvin enter the gallery. Henry spots Alvin as he
enters and goes up to him.

HENRY
Woo-hoo! Glad you made it. How`s
that lovely mother of yours.

ALVIN
Henry, this is my friend Peter.
Peter, meet my still very
depraved sociopathic ex roommate
Henry.

They shake hands.

ALVIN (CONT'D)
Unlike fine wine, Henry gets
worse with age.

HENRY

I am more like cheese. Slightly moldy on the outside, but scrape beneath the surface, and you get a nice soft, smelly, but very tasty cheesy experience.

ALVIN

His analogy, not mine.

HENRY

Well, make yourselves cosy. Enjoy the art. That`s Arrabella over there, the artist.

He points to an older eccentric looking woman.

Alvin and Henry pick up some wine from a cute passing server, VICKY. Alvin and her share a smile.

DISSOLVE TO:

30

INT. ART GALLERY - LATER

30

Peter and Alvin are staring at a rather odd painting.

PETER

What a load of old tosh. Who on earth would buy this rubbish?

ARRABELLA, the artist, approaches behind them.

ARRABELLA

(excited)

What do you think?

PETER

Superb. Absolutely superb.

ARRABELLA

I call this one, `Rape on a Landscape`.

PETER

Hmmm.

Alvin sees Vicky, the cute server, standing by a painting staring at it.

He wonders off next to her.

ANGLE ON ALVIN AND VICKY

ALVIN

Do you like Impressionism?

VICKY
 (Scottish accent)
 Oh yeah. Robin Williams is my
 favorite.

ANGLE ON PETER AND ARRABELLA

ARRABELLA
 Once the harvest has been toiled,
 the earth is raped - violated
 like earth`s bosom.

Henry walks up next to Arrabella.

HENRY
 I see you`ve met Peter.

ARRABELLA
 Hello lover boy.

She and Henry kiss. Peter looks shocked, namely because of
 the gross age difference.

ANGLE ON ALVIN AND VICKY

Vicky is now drinking from one of the wine glasses off of
 her tray.

ALVIN
 I`m fairly sure you`re not
 supposed to be drinking that.

VICKY
 You`re cute. I like older men.
 (beat)
 What do you say we get out of
 here?

Alvin clears his throat, not sure if he heard correctly.

Alvin and Vicky exit the gallery. A shocked Peter looks
 on.

CUT TO:

31 INT. SMALL FLAT

31

Alvin and Vicky making out passionately against the wall of
 her tiny flat.

ALVIN
 Do you have any protection?

VICKY
 What, you mean like an alarm?

ALVIN
No, like a rubber?

VICKY
No, don't you?

ALVIN
No.

A pause.

VICKY
It's fine. I don't do this very often.

ALVIN
Me neither.

They resume kissing and move to the bed.

DISSOLVE TO:

32 INT. VICKY'S FLAT - MORNING

32

Alvin wakes up to the sound of cartoons.

Vicky, sitting in bed, is watching cartoons and laughing her head off.

VICKY
You have got to see this! The squirrel just dropped a nut onto the fox's head!

Alvin shakes his head, wondering what he's even doing there.

CUT TO:

33 INT. WHITE ROOM

33

Present Day. Ellie and Alvin as before.

ELLIE
You never told me about her?

ALVIN
Well, there's a lot I haven't told you. We weren't going out at the time.

ELLIE
What else haven't you told me about?

He looks sheepish.

CUT TO:

34 INT. OFFICE BATHROOM 34

One week later.

Alvin is in the toilet peeing.

He looks uncomfortable, if not a little sore.

CUT TO:

35 INT. SEX CLINIC 35

Alvin is seated in the hallway next to some young spotty teenagers.

NURSE

Mr Finkelstein? The nurse will see you now.

The teenagers laugh at his name.

Alvin walks down the hall.

CUT TO:

36 INT. SURGERY ROOM 36

Alvin enters. A large black nurse gives him a withered tired look.

NURSE

Right then Mr Finkelstein. My name is Nurse Franklin. What seems to be the problem?

ALVIN

Well. I've sort of developed a bit of an itch.

NURSE

Whereabouts?

ALVIN

Down there.

NURSE

Can you be more specific?

ALVIN
In my trousers.

NURSE
What part of your body?

ALVIN
The general nether region. The
crotch.

NURSE
(straight out with it)
Your penis?

ALVIN
(terribly embarrassed)
Yes. Yes my penis.

NURSE
Any other symptoms?

ALVIN
When I, you know, pee, it kind of
burns.

NURSE
Can you tell me a bit about your
recent sexual history?

ALVIN
Well, there was a girl, a few
weeks ago, just a one night
thing.

NURSE
Mmm, hmmm. Where did you meet
her?

ALVIN
At an art exhibit.

NURSE
What kind of art?

ALVIN
Impressionist.

NURSE
Ok. Did you buy anything?

ALVIN
No.
(beat)
Anyway, back to my problem.

NURSE

Sounds to me like you probably caught something. Most likely a sexually transmitted infection.

ALVIN

Oh my god.

NURSE

God can't help you, Mr Finkelstein. But I can. I'd like to be sure, so in addition to urine, I should probably take a swab.

ALVIN

A what? .

NURSE

A urethral swab.

ALVIN

(in a state of shock)
I beg your pardon?

NURSE

A swab of the inside of your penis?

His eyes widen.

She gets up and starts to prep -putting on gloves etc etc.

ALVIN

(trying to hide his shock)

I see. I'm no expert, but I really don't think anything, especially swabs, are meant to go in that part of a man's anatomy.

NURSE

Mmmhmmmm. Don't worry, I've done this a million times. They call me Urethra Franklin!

(beat)

Now pull down your trousers.

Reluctantly, he pulls down his trousers.

She pulls out a thin long Q-Tip and holds it up.

NURSE (CONT'D)

What I need you to do is to hold open the tip of your penis while I insert this swab.

(MORE)

NURSE (CONT'D)

(beat)

Are you ok? You're sweating?

ALVIN

Just do it fast, please.

NURSE

Mr Finkelstein. It is VERY IMPORTANT that you remain absolutely still. No movement at all. Do you understand?

ALVIN

Completely.

She gets ready.

ALVIN (CONT'D)

Is this going to hurt?

NURSE

I won't lie to you. This is not going to feel very good.

He closes his eyes.

She reaches down.

Alvin SCREAMS.

CUT TO BLACK

37

INT. WHITE ROOM

37

Present day. Alvin and Ellie to camera. Alvin looks uncomfortable at the memory.

ELLIE

Yes, I can see how that would not be great.

ALVIN

A man's urethra is like a one way street. And it should never, ever see the light of day.

ELLIE

I feel your pain.

ALVIN

Being a man in today's society is not as easy as everyone thinks.

ELLIE

No, honey. You have it tough.

ALVIN

We do.

ELLIE

If it's any consolation, I had some pretty uncomfortable experiences during that time too.

ALVIN

What could possibly be worse than Uretha Franklin?

She raises her eyebrows.

CUT TO:

38 TITLE CARD: "THE TRUTH ABOUT FEMALE MASTURBATION" 38

39 INT. LOBBY OF ELLIE'S APARTMENT BLOCK 39

Ellie comes out of the lift and makes her way down the lobby. She looks very stylish, much more mature than her college days and clearly out of her Madonna phase.

The lobby attendant (ALFREDO) waves to her.

ALFREDO

Good morning, Ms Winters.

ELLIE

Morning Alfredo.

ALFREDO

Ah, Ms Winters, I didn't get to see you last night, but your mother stopped by while you were at work yesterday.

ELLIE

Thanks, Alfredo.

ALFREDO

What should I do if she comes again?

ELLIE

I don't know. Just let her up. It's fine. Have a great day.

ALFREDO

You too!

CUT TO:

40 INT. ELLIE'S OFFICE

40

Ellie now works for a large clothes designer.
She is in an open plan office making sketches of an outfit.
Her gay colleague ANDREW looks at her design.

ANDREW
Achhh. Love that.

ELLIE
You don't think it's too shooshy?

ANDREW
TOO shoosy? Could do with more
shoosh.

She smiles.

Her mobile rings. It is her good friend JANET on the line.

ELLIE
Hello.

JANET (O.S.)
You... me... lunch... followed by
mani-pedis.

ELLIE
Argh! I don't know. What time is
it?

She looks at her watch.

JANET
Time to clean the dirt from under
your fingernails.

Ellie looks at her grubby fingernails.

JANET (CONT'D)
Pick you up at 1?

ELLIE
Ok.

41 INT. BEAUTY SALON

41

Ellie is getting a pedicure. She is seated next to her
friend, JANET, who is also getting a pedicure by a Chinese
woman.

JANET

Whatever you do, don't get married.

ELLIE

I thought you guys were good?

JANET

In the beginning yes, but I've found text messages and emails from another woman. I think he's having an affair.

CHINESE PEDICURIST

(strong accent)

My husban' have affair I cut off his dick. Work everytime.

The girls try to ignore her.

ELLIE

That's awful. How are you coping?

JANET

Honestly? We both checked out a while ago.

ELLIE

But I though he was 'the one'.

JANET

Ellie, what I've discovered is there is no such thing as 'the one'.

CHINESE PEDICURIST

Just Keanu Reeves. Matrix.

JANET

Yes. Wise words. The 'one' is a myth propagated by books and popcorn movies.

CHINESE PEDICURIST

Tom Hanks/Meg Ryan. Julia Roberts/Richard Gere-

JANET

Yes, ok thank you.

(beat)

The sooner you realise that the myth doesn't actually exist, you don't have to base your life on a fairy tale and can get on with living.

ELLIE

I am seriously depressed
now, Janet.

CHINESE PEDICURIST

No need man. Woman's best friend
is right hand.

ELLIE

Excuse me?

Janet chuckles.

CHINESE PEDICURIST

You light candle, listen to
Justin Timberlake, get picture of
Brad Pitt, then take very big
cucumber and stick it-

ELLIE

(cutting her short)
Ok, I get the idea.

JANET

Actually, she does have a point.

ELLIE

What?

JANET

Oh come on. Do you mean to tell
me that you've never stuck a
cucumber up your fanny?

ELLIE

No!

JANET

Not even once?!

ELLIE

Are you serious? That's
disgusting.

JANET

Why? It's natural.

An older woman, about 60, who is having her hair washed
next to Ellie, chimes in with her two cents.

OLDER WOMAN

I still masturbate about twice a
week. Helps keep me on my toes
and relieves tension.

ELLIE

Are we really having this conversation?

OLDER WOMAN

Of course, Brad Pitt's lovely, but I prefer to think of a young Stallone, early Rocky days.

CHINESE PEDICURIST

'Stop or my mom will shoot'.
'Staying Alive'.

JANET

That was John Travolta.

CHINESE PEDICURIST

Stallone write and direct. Very talented.

JANET

I did not know that. Did you Ellie?

ELLIE

You are all completely nuts.

CUT TO:

42 INT. ELLIE'S APARTMENT

42

A chic apartment block. Ellie enters.

She throws her bag on the table and looks through some letters.

She goes to the fridge and opens it, looking for something to eat.

She pulls out some juice.

She notices the 'cucumber' still in wrapping. She discards the idea and closes the fridge door.

CUT TO:

43 INT. ELLIE'S APARTMENT - LATER

43

Ellie is in her PJs watching TV. She flicks the channel, Brad Pitt appears topless in Thelma and Louise.

Is it a sign? She shakes her head and flicks the channel. A Justin Timberlake video on MTV. She flicks it again. Stallone with a machine gun in Rambo.

She switches off the TV.

She goes to the refrigerator and opens the door. The cucumber stares at her. Giving it one final thought, she pulls out the cucumber and looks at it.

ELLIE
(aside)
What am I doing?!

She throws it back into the fridge.

She goes back to her sofa and picks up a magazine. She rifles through some pages before finally throwing it down on the table and marching back to the fridge, opening the door and pulling the cucumber out.

CUT TO:

44 INT. ELLIE'S BEDROOM

44

The room is lit by loads of candlelights.

Ellie stares at the bed.

She has laid out the cucumber, some lotion, and a picture of George Clooney, grinning.

She switches on her Ipod and Barry White's "I'm Gonna Love You Just A Little More Baby" comes on.

She takes a deep breath and then lays down on the bed. She squirts some lotion onto the cucumber, not quite believing, herself, what she's about to do.

She looks at the picture of George propped up on her bed.

She closes her eyes and starts to touch herself down below.

After a few minutes she picks up the cucumber and moves it down below.

CUT TO:

45 INT. LOBBY OF ELLIE'S APARTMENT BLOCK

45

An older woman and man enter the building. This is Ellie's parents, STEPHEN AND CLAIRE WINTERS.

They approach the concierge, Alfredo, who recognises her.

ALFREDO
Ah! Mrs Winters, right? Nice to see you again.

MRS WINTERS

Hello young man. We were just passing by. Is my daughter in this evening?

ALFREDO

She sure is. Let me call.

He picks up the phone and dials her extension.

46 INT. ELLIE'S APARTMENT 46

Her phone rings but the music is so loud she does not hear it in the other room.

47 INT. LOBBY OF ELLIE'S APARTMENT BLOCK 47

Alfredo puts the phone down.

ALFREDO

She's definitely in.
(he think for a second)
Tell you what. Let me get you a key. She told me to just let you in if you come.

He gets a spare key from a room in the back.

ALFREDO (CONT'D)

Everyone likes a surprise, right?!

MRS WINTERS

Thank you young man.

The parents head toward the lifts.

48 INT. ELLIE'S APARTMENT 48

Ellie is busy enjoying the music, Clooney and the cucumber.

49 INT. HALLWAY 49

The lift opens and Mr & Mrs Winter walk down the hallway towards Ellie's apartment.

They reach the door.

MR WINTER

We should probably buzz first, no? What if she's, you know, with a guy?

MRS WINTERS

Not likely. But I suppose you're right.

Mrs Winter rings the buzzer. No answer.

INSIDE THE ROOM

Ellie cannot hear the buzzer.

OUTSIDE THE FLAT

Mrs Winter puts the key in the door.

MRS WINTERS (CONT'D)

I hope she's alright.

MR WINTER

We better go in.

INSIDE THE ROOM

Ellie is deriving more and more pleasure from the organic vegetable.

INSIDE THE LOUNGE

MRS WINTER

Ellie? Is everything alright?

The door to her bedroom swings open.

Ellie opens her eyes and sees what any woman would dread most to see at this moment... HER PARENTS!

Her mother screams. Ellie screams.

The cucumber shoots out of her nether region and hits her father in the groin. He doubles over in pain.

CUT TO:

50

INT. LOUNGE

50

Ellie sits on the couch. She looks embarrassed beyond comprehension.

Her parents sit on the couch. No one knows quite what to say. Her mother is crying.

Finally...

MRS WINTERS

Is it something we did?

MR WINTERS
 (to his wife)
 If you hadn't given her all those
 healthy snacks as a kid this
 never would have happened.

A pause.

ELLIE
 Look on the bright side...
 (beat)
 At least it was organic!

CUT TO:

51 INT. WHITE ROOM

51

Present day.

Ellie and Alvin to camera.

Alvin stares at Ellie in astonishment.

ALVIN
 That's kind of hard to top.

She squints her eyes at him.

ELLIE
 D'ya think?

ALVIN
 (he thinks for a second)
 I guess, not long after that, we
 met again.

ELLIE
 We sure did.

CUT TO:

52 INT. ALVIN'S OFFICE

52

Alvin is working on some papers.

Peter walks in holding two tickets.

PETER
 Do you know what these are?

ALVIN
 Tickets to see Michael Jackson
 starring in Phantom?

PETER
Michael Jackson is in Phantom?

ALVIN
No. What are they?

PETER
Way better. Two tickets to the
Mishcon Goya Fashion show with
backstage passes.

ALVIN
Woohoo! Who's Mishcon Goya?

PETER
The hottest designer in Europe
right now. And a client. But
that's not the point. There are
going to be some extremely
gorgeous models, and you and I
are going to pull. Well, maybe
just me, but the sentiment is
there.

53 INT. FASHION SHOW MAINSTAGE 53

Peter and Alvin take their seats in the front row of a
funky runway.

Opposite them, Ellie's friend Janet takes a seat.

54 INT. BACKSTAGE 54

Ellie is busy pinning clothes to the models.

It is mayhem. Andrew, from Ellie's company is coordinating
the models.

ANDREW
Ok people, 1 minute to go.

More mayhem.

55 INT. FASHION SHOW MAINSTAGE 55

The lights dim and models starts to walk down the runway to
some funky music.

They are wearing all sorts of eccentric and stylish garb.

Peter is enjoying the sight of the models as they strut
their stuff. It is all kind of lost on Alvin.

Janet is clapping along. She and Peter notice each other - a connection.

The show continues for some minutes.

After some time, the music ends and the audience applaud.

ALVIN

I'm just going to run to the loo.

The models walk out with Mishcon and Ellie on either side.

Alvin has his back turned to the stage as he walks to the restroom, and so does not see her.

CUT TO:

56

INT. BACKSTAGE

56

Peter gleefully shows his backstage pass to the doorman, who lets him and Alvin in.

ALVIN

I'll get some drinks, shall I?

PETER

Good idea.

Janet walks up to Peter.

JANET

I couldn't help but notice you in the front row.

(beat)

Janet.

Offering a hand.

PETER

Peter.

JANET

Are you a friend of Mishcon?

PETER

Actually he's a client of our law firm. And you?

JANET

My dear friend designed the range.

PETER

She's a talented woman.

JANET
She certainly is.

Ellie walks past. Janet grabs her arm and pulls her to the conversation.

JANET (CONT'D)
And speaking of talent... here she is!

ELLIE
(proffers a hand)
Ellie Winters.

PETER
Peter. Peter Goodman.

Alvin appears holding two flutes of champagne.

PETER (CONT'D)
And this is my good friend-

ELLIE
Alvin.

ALVIN
Ellie.

They are both startled to see each other.

ALVIN (CONT'D)
Wow. You look great.

ELLIE
You too.

JANET
You guys know each other?

ALVIN
Yes, we went to Cambridge together.

ELLIE
We went out, for a while.

ALVIN
Yes.

PETER
You sly dog.
(remembering he is with
other people)
Sorry.

JANET

Maybe we should let you two get
reacquainted. And Peter here can
refill my glass.

PETER

With pleasure.

She grabs Peter's arm and leads him off, leaving Ellie and Alvin.

ALVIN

My God. What are you doing here?

ELLIE

I designed the range.

ALVIN

Good lord. Did I miss something?

ELLIE

Did you see the show? I was on
stage at the end!

ALVIN

Ah yes, but you see, you know my
rather hysterical bladder. Call
of nature.

ELLIE

Of course.

(beat)

So what about you? Successful
banker?

ALVIN

Gosh I'm so predictable aren't I?

ELLIE

Yes.

Some music starts up, quite loudly.

ELLIE (CONT'D)

(over the music)

It's really good to see you!

ALVIN

What?

ELLIE

I said, it's really good to see
you!

ALVIN

Yes!

Annoyed at the music, she signals him to follow her.
They head to the balcony.

CUT TO:

57

EXT. BALCONY - NIGHT

57

Alvin and Ellie emerge onto the balcony.

ALVIN

You're the star. Won't you be missed?

ELLIE

They can do without me for a little while.

(beat)

Gosh. It's been a few years, huh?

ALVIN

Sure has. I'm really pleased to see you're doing so well.

ELLIE

Me too - you that is.

(beat)

So... married? Kids?

ALVIN

On both counts, no. And you?

ELLIE

Single.

The door opens and Andrew pops his head out.

ANDREW

Ellie, there you are. You have got to meet Francois Fourmage. He's just flown in from Paris.

He grabs her by the arm and pulls her in.

ELLIE

(to Alvin)

Sorry. Don't leave without saying goodbye.

And with that she has been pulled back into the party.

CUT TO:

58

INT. PARTY

58

Alvin walks up to Peter, whose lips are glued to Janet.

ALVIN
(clearing his throat)
Uh-hummm.

Peter does not hear him.

ALVIN (CONT'D)
(louder)
Uh-hummm.

Peter stops and turns.

PETER
Oh Alvin. You alright?

JANET
I think I'll just pop to the
ladies.

Janet walks off.

PETER
Wow. Does she have an
extraordinary long tongue. Almost
touches my tonsils.
(beat)
How are you getting on?

ALVIN
I don't know. It's weird.

PETER
Seemed like you two still have
chemistry.

ALVIN
She was the love of my life.

PETER
And why did you break up?

ALVIN
(beat)
Toe nail clippings.

PETER
I see. Why don't you tell her how
you feel?

ALVIN
You know me. Not one to wear my
heart on my sleeve.

Peter gets serious for a second and takes Alvin by the shoulders face on.

PETER

Look, Alvin. Life sometimes presents opportunities. It's called serendipity. This is one of those pivotal moments in your life. If you don't do this now, you may live to regret it.

Janet returns.

PETER (CONT'D)

Now please excuse me.

Janet and Peter resume snogging.

The words, though, have struck Alvin. He looks over at Ellie, who looks radiant, and is the center of a small group, chatting away and clearly very popular.

He downs his flute of champagne. Dutch courage.

ALVIN

Right.

With a new found courage, he waltzes over to Ellie with stride and determination.

At the exact moment he reaches her she is whisked off by two more people who want her attention.

Alvin, not quite as vocal as the others, is left behind her.

Defeated, he walks to the exit.

CUT TO:

59 EXT. STREET - NIGHT

59

Alvin exits the building and starts to walk down the street. He looks dejected.

Then a voice.

ELLIE (O.C.)

Alvin!

He turns around to see Ellie about 20 feet away.

She walks towards him.

ELLIE (CONT'D)
You forgot something.

ALVIN
I did? What?

ELLIE
Me.

She smiles.

And then she leans in... and they kiss.

It's a moment that lasts forever.

ELLIE (CONT'D)
What do you say you take me home?
This time, for good?

They kiss again.

CUT TO:

60 INT. ELLIE'S APARTMENT - MORNING

60

The sun shines into the bedroom.

Ellie and Alvin lay naked beneath the sheets, cuddled up.

ELLIE
(waking up)
I can't believe I'm waking up
with you. I've missed you.

ALVIN
Me too.

ELLIE
Why did we break up again?

ALVIN
Something trivial.

ELLIE
It always is.
(beat)
I'm gonna take a shower.

She gets up and puts on her robe heading towards the bathroom.

ELLIE (CONT'D)
You wanna make some breakfast?

ALVIN

Sure.

He heads towards the kitchen.

ALVIN (CONT'D)

Bloody hell. Your flat is much nicer than mine. You must earn a fortune.

She peeks her head out.

ELLIE

I do!

He opens the fridge and pulls out some eggs.

ALVIN

Scrambled eggs?

ELLIE

(from the bathroom)

Sounds good!

The shower starts up.

ALVIN

There's something I want to tell you. You see, I've not really thought about anyone else all these years. We never should have broken up. The truth is, I love you.

He looks towards the shower. No response.

ALVIN (CONT'D)

Maybe we should... get married.

(beat)

Did you hear me? No?

He thinks she has not heard.

And then the water stops... and Ellie emerges in a towel and wet hair.

She walks up to him.

ELLIE

Yes. I heard you.

(beat)

Maybe?

ALVIN

Well, if you want? If you don't want, that's fine too.

She laughs.

ELLIE
Yes, I'll marry you!

They kiss.

ELLIE (CONT'D)
But let's give it some time to
settle in...

CUT TO:

61 INT. WHITE ROOM

61

Present day. Ellie and Alvin to camera.

ELLIE
That was a great morning.

ALVIN
It was.

ELLIE
And we waited about 6 months
before we told a single soul.

ALVIN
Just to be sure...

CUT TO:

62 TITLE CARD: "THE TRUTH ABOUT MARRIAGE"

62

63 INT. CAFE - DAY

63

Ellie and Alvin sit opposite Peter and Janet.
They are having brunch.

JANET
How are you two love birds?

ELLIE
How are you two love birds?

JANET
We have some news.

ELLIE
So do we.

JANET
You first.

ELLIE
No you.

JANET
We're getting married!

ELLIE
What!?! Oh my God! We're getting married!

The two girls whoops and holler with delight.

The men sit there slightly embarrassed.

ELLIE (CONT'D)
But wait. You're already married.

JANET
Yes. First I'm getting a divorce.
And then I'm getting married!

ELLIE
I don't know whether to be happy
for you or sad!?

JANET
Happy! Be happy!

Peter and Alvin shake hands.

PETER
How cool is that? We're friends,
they're friends.

ALVIN
Kind of...spooky, yes.

ELLIE
(to Janet)
There's so much to do.

JANET
We can do it together.

The girls chatting away as we focus in on Alvin's face.
The realisation of marriage is suddenly dawning on him.

CUT TO:

ELLIE

Truthfully... did you want to get married?

ALVIN

Yes, and no. I mean, marriage changes things doesn't it?

ELLIE

It shouldn't.

ALVIN

But it does.

ELLIE

Why do you suppose that is?

ALVIN

If you eat chocolate everyday, eventually you're going to want vanilla. I mean, chocolate could be the greatest taste known to man, but day in and day out, after a while, you need to eat something else.

CUT TO:

65

INT. BATHROOM

65

Alvin looks at himself in the mirror. He is dressed as the groom.

He takes a deep breath. Is he really ready for this? His nervous look says it all.

A knock at the door. Peter and Henry stand outside.

PETER (O.S.)

Hey Alvin? Alvin you ok?

ALVIN

Just need a couple minutes.

HENRY (O.S.)

You're gonna be late for your own wedding.

Alvin opens the door and walks out.

He sits on the bed.

ALVIN

I'm not sure I can do this.

PETER

What? Of course you can.

ALVIN

Marriage - it's just so... final.

PETER

The trick, is to look at it as a day to day thing. That's how you survive it.

(beat)

Look at me and Janet. We've been married for 7 months now and things couldn't be better.

ALVIN

Really?

PETER

Absolutely.

Peter doesn't look 100% convinced himself.

ALVIN

(off his look)

What?

PETER

Look, I won't lie to you, it's not without its foibles. But what marriage isn't, right? I mean, the nagging can get a little oppressive, as can the constant ordering one about, and you know, the sex kind of dwindles a bit... well, quite a bit... but hey, that's marriage! And we stick with it because we love that person, right?

HENRY

You've convinced me. I'm never going to get married... EVER!

(beat)

See, this is why I date older women. All these problems are byproducts of youth.

PETER

(sensing Henry is not helping!)

Henry, just go stand over there.

HENRY

What'd I say?!

PETER

Alvin... you choose and accept
someone not just for the way they
are... but the way they are not.

(beat)

Go out there, and when you see
her, you'll know. And if it
doesn't feel right, don't do it.
But if it does feel right, than
that's love.

Alvin reflects.

CUT TO:

66

EXT. GARDEN - DAY

66

About 50 of their closest and dearest friends have gathered
and are seated at this lovely intimate ceremony.

Alvin stands at the front under a canopy. Peter and Henry
and Janet are all seated. Janet is pregnant.

He looks nervous.

And then he turns and sees Ellie walking down the aisle.

(Note: Chaplin's 'SMILE' plays during the following
montage)

She looks radiant - absolutely beautiful. He smiles to
himself, knowing he is making the right choice.

She glides to the front and stands next to him.

They exchange rings.

They say 'I do'.

They kiss.

Now under a marquee... they cut the cake.

They have the first dance.

The sky turns grey and a crack of thunder and lightening as
the heavens open up.

(MUSIC ENDS)

Suddenly it starts pouring with rain.

ELLIE

Hope you're not superstitious!

ALVIN
This is England. It rains every
second day!

ELLIE
Good! Because some people might
take it as a sign!

ALVIN
Not me!

Everyone piles under the marquee.

It begins to fill up with rain. Eventually, the weight of
the rainwater makes the marquee buckle and collapse -
soaking everyone under it including our newlyweds.

Alvin and Ellie run to the car soaking wet.

It has been CLAMPED! Alvin looks truly pissed off. He
kicks the clamp hard with his foot. A little too hard,
injuring himself.

ALVIN (CONT'D)
Bugger!

ELLIE
Are you ok?

HENRY
I guess I shouldn't have parked
on that double yellow line.

ALVIN
Probably not the best idea.

He stands and looks around. Gusts of wind... a plastic bag
blows onto his face.

Ellie removes it.

ELLIE
At least it can't get any worse.

A tree branch crashes into the windscreen of their car.

CUT TO:

67

INT. WHITE ROOM

67

Present day. Alvin and Ellie to camera.

ELLIE
If nothing else, it was
memorable.

(MORE)

ELLIE (CONT'D)
I mean, how many weddings have
you been to that are just so
boring?

ALVIN
I suppose.

ELLIE
And anyway, things got better
after that.

ALVIN
Yeah, they were good.

ELLIE
And then Peter and Janet had a
baby.

ALVIN
Ummm.

CUT TO:

68 TITLE CARD: "THE TRUTH ABOUT BABIES" 68

69 INT. SHOPPING MALL 69

A busy mall.

Peter has his baby strapped to a Bjorn sling on his chest.
He is carrying several bags.

Janet also has several bags.

They look pretty miserable.

JANET
Come on.

PETER
I'm going as fast as I can. I do
have a baby strapped to my chest
you know.

JANET
Stop complaining.

PETER
Stop annoying me.

All of a sudden, they bump into Alvin unexpectedly.

ALVIN
Peter! Janet!

JANET

Alvin.

PETER

Alvin! Fancy seeing you here!

ALVIN

Just, you know, getting some ink for my printer. Gosh you really have your hands full. How is the little one?

PETER

If constant crying, shitting, and occasional projectile vomiting constitute a good day, then he is doing really great.

JANET

Don't use that word.

PETER

What?

JANET

Shitting.

PETER

Sorry.

(beat)

'Pooing.'

(beat)

What can I say? It's a joy.

ALVIN

We should, you know, go for a beer or something.

Peter looks at Janet.

JANET

You can go for a beer.

ALVIN

How about Thursday?

Peter looks at Janet again for an answer.

PETER

Thursday?

JANET

Fine with me.

CUT TO:

70

INT. KITCHEN

70

Alvin and Ellie are eating breakfast. Alvin is reading the newspaper and drinking coffee.

Moment of silence.

ALVIN

Oh, I'm having drinks with Peter tonight.

ELLIE

Oh! That's nice.

ALVIN

Yes, I bumped into him and Janet at the mall on the weekend.

ELLIE

In that case maybe I'll pop over and see Janet.

ALVIN

Yes, why not.

ELLIE

How's the baby?

ALVIN

Fine, I guess.

A pause.

ELLIE

I'd love to have a child.

ALVIN

(still reading)

Yes, one day that would be nice.

ELLIE

No. I mean... now.

He puts down his paper.

ALVIN

Well, I can pop to the shops on the way home. I think there's a two for one sale at Costco.

ELLIE

I'm serious Alvin. I'm not getting any younger.

CUT TO:

71 INT. PUB - EVENING

71

Alvin and Peter having a pint at the pub.

PETER

And you'll find this biological need to procreate just dominates your relationship.

He takes a sip from his pint.

PETER (CONT'D)

All I can say is, your relationship goes downhill when children come along. And sex? Hah! Don't even get me started. How often do you and Ellie have sex?

ALVIN

I guess, I don't know, a couple times a fortnight.

PETER

Wow! That my friend, is very good. Janet and I haven't had sex since Max was conceived.

CUT TO:

72 INT. JANET'S KITCHEN

72

Janet is rocking her son, MAX. Ellie is drinking a glass of wine.

JANET

I get the sense he finds me unattractive. Since the baby was born I've just been unable to shift the weight.

ELLIE

That's normal. Surely he understands?

JANET

Men don't understand, Ellie. He thinks that if I managed to get that skinny for the wedding, it should be easy to lose the weight now.

CUT TO:

73 INT. PUB

73

Alvin and Peter as before.

PETER

I mean, she managed to fit into her wedding dress, why can't she shift the pounds now?

(beat)

But more than that, every waking second is spent on that child. Don't get me wrong. I love my boy to death, but I just wish-

CUT TO:

74 INT. KITCHEN

74

Ellie and Janet as before.

JANET

-things were the way they were when we first met.

ELLIE

But that's being in a relationship, isn't it? I mean, things evolve, they change. Marriage takes work.

JANET

I guess.

(beat)

Can you do me a favour? Just hold Max for a second while I go to the loo?

She hands Ellie her son.

CUT TO:

75 INT. PUB

75

Alvin and Peter as before.

PETER

Just do me a HUGE favour. Hold my drink while I go take a piss.

ALVIN

Sure.

Peter exits. Alvin drinks Peter's pint.

CUT TO:

76 INT. KITCHEN

76

Ellie with Max.

ELLIE
Hello little man! Hello!

Ellie throw Max gently into the air.

ELLIE (CONT'D)
Do you like that? Weeee!

Max projectile vomits all over Ellie. She holds him at a distance.

CUT TO:

77 EXT. HOUSE - DAY

77

Peter kisses his child affectionately.

Janet stands nearby.

ELLIE (V.O.)
Not long after, Janet and Peter separated.

Peter gets into the car and drives off.

ELLIE (V.O.) (CONT'D)
They say the first year of having a child is the hardest on your relationship.

CUT TO:

78 INT. WHITE ROOM

78

Present day. Ellie and Alvin to camera.

ELLIE
After that incident we kind of put the baby thing on hold.

ALVIN
Yes. We wanted to enjoy our relationship for a while.

ELLIE

Before we got to that stage that couples get to when they have kids.

ALVIN

You mean divorce?

ELLIE

Yeah, that's it.

ALVIN

But then we ran into problems of our own.

ELLIE

Sexual problems.

ALVIN

We kind of hit a plateau.

ELLIE

As many couples do. Something happens when you get married.

ALVIN

What is that? Psychological?

ELLIE

Whatever it is, it sucks.

ALVIN

It's not just us.

ELLIE

No. Every married friend of ours seems to have the same issues. Even if they don't always admit it. You can just see it on their faces.

ALVIN

Things kind of just got-

ELLIE

Boring. What he means is that we got bored of each other.

ALVIN

(sarcastically)

And that's when you had your 'great' idea.

She raises her eyebrows.

CUT TO:

79 INT. POSH RESTAURANT - EVENING

79

Ellie and Alvin are seated in a nice restaurant.

Alvin checks out a hot girl as she walks past. Ellie clocks this look.

ALVIN
(off her look)
What?

ELLIE
It's ok.

ALVIN
She had a nice... dress.

ELLIE
Oh yeah? What colour was it?

ALVIN
(clearly improvising)
Blue... green... redish-blue.

ELLIE
It's ok, Alvin. You're allowed to
find other women attractive.
(beat)
I thought she was attractive.

Alvin takes this in.

ALVIN
You did?

ELLIE
Sure.

ALVIN
That proves my theory.

ELLIE
Theory?

ALVIN
Yes. All women have the capacity
to, you know, bat for the same
team.

ELLIE
And what about men?

ALVIN

Not the same for men. Straight men aren't remotely interested in seeing another man naked, unless it's to compare the size of one's... tackle.

ELLIE

You do that?

ALVIN

Not me specifically. I mean, I have, glanced, when it's in my peripheral vision.

ELLIE

What about when you are at a urinal? Peeing next to a friend or something.

ALVIN

Ah. Golden rule. Never look. You speak straight ahead - straight into the wall. Or, if possible, you choose a urinal not next to your friend.

ELLIE

That's kind of awkward, isn't it?

ALVIN

No. More like an unspoken rule. Part of man's survival toolkit.

A waiter approaches.

ELLIE

Have you ever touched another man's penis?

Alvin almost chokes on his wine. The waiter places some plates down.

WAITER

I did once, back in college. It wasn't all it was cracked up to be.

(beat)

Black Pepper?

They shake their head no.

ELLIE

So?

ALVIN

No! No, never. And I have no intention to thank you very much. If you knew the level of hygiene amongst the common man you would never touch a penis ever again in your entire life.

ELLIE

Come on!

ALVIN

You think I'm kidding? Do you know how much sweat gathers under a typical pair of male testicles?

ELLIE

Acch! Gross.

ALVIN

Exactly. That's why women are attracted to other women. You are clean, feminine, made up with lovely perfumes and colours, products and things. You take care of yourselves. If I was a woman I would definitely be a lesbian.

CUT TO:

80

EXT. STREET - LATER THAT EVENING

80

Ellie and Alvin are walking down the river bank later after dinner.

Ellie is thinking about something.

ELLIE

So what's going on with us, Alvin?

ALVIN

What do you mean?

ELLIE

I mean, we used to be all over each other. Now, I don't know, things have just kind of reached a -

ALVIN

Plateau?

ELLIE

Exactly.

ALVIN

I can't say, Ellie. Isn't that just what happens?

Beat.

ELLIE

(slightly defeated)

Is it?

(beat)

Do you want to see other woman?

ALVIN

Gosh.

ELLIE

I have an idea, Alvin. Just an idea. It might sounds a little crazy. But it could work.

(beat)

Why don't we swing?

ALVIN

You know I have a childhood pathological fear of playgrounds.

She stops walking.

ELLIE

Why don't we... together, and with each other's consent, meet another couple?

ALVIN

Are you serious?

ELLIE

Think about it. Before you, or I, get so bored that we have an affair behind each other's back, this way, there's no cheating, no deceit, no pain. We're in it together.

ALVIN

It's just... well, the thought of crossing swords with another man really traumatizes me.

CUT TO:

81 INT. WHITE ROOM

81

Present day. Ellie and Alvin to camera.

ELLIE

So we placed a discreet ad, on a website.

ALVIN

And we got quite a response too. Here's the picture we used.

He holds up a rather naff photo of the two of them grinning.

ELLIE

You look quite handsome in that photo.

ALVIN

It`s been photoshopped. Just a little.

(beat)

Anyway, we got quite a few responses.

ELLIE

And then we thought it best to, well you know... interview them before we made up our mind.

CUT TO:

82 TITLE CARD: "THE TRUTH ABOUT SWINGING"

82

83 INT. ELLIE & ALVIN'S LOUNGE

83

Ellie and Alvin are sat with teas on the sofa.

Opposite them, another couple are seated (Sam & RUTH)

RUTH

I'm not sure if I should say, really. Can I say?

SAM

Oh go on.

RUTH

Well... Henry likes me to pee on him.

Ellie and Alvin look uncomfortable.

SAM
 (chuckles)
 What can I say? It's true.

RUTHY
 Red wine has a particular odour
 and colour.

SAM
 Fruity!
 (he laughs)

CUT TO:

84 INT. ELLIE & ALVIN'S LOUNGE 84

Another time, another couple, slightly disheveled (MIKE & SARAH).

MIKE
 If there's one thing that really
 turns me on... it's toes.

SARAH
 He likes his toes.

MIKE
 Big, fat, hairy toes.

SARAH
 The hairier the better.

MIKE
 Let them be dirty, sweaty, full
 of toe jam... I don't care. Just
 love toes.

SARAH
 He loves toes.

CUT TO:

85 INT. ELLIE & ALVIN'S LOUNGE 85

Another time, another couple.

This couple are dressed in black leather bondage gear. She holds a dog chain which is connected to a collar around his neck.

MAN
 We don't walk around like this.
 Well, only in the house.
 (MORE)

MAN (CONT'D)
 (beat)
 I'm a banker.

CUT TO:

86 INT. ELLIE & ALVIN'S LOUNGE 86

Alvin holds up a photograph of a good looking hunk and his slim bikini clad girlfriend.

ALVIN
 Are you sure this is you?

He lowers it to reveal a couple that clearly bare no resemblance to the photograph!

CUT TO:

87 INT. ELLIE & ALVIN'S LOUNGE 87

An elderly couple sit perched on the sofa. He looks decrepid and senile. She just looks really old.

OLD WOMAN
 George loves his tomato patch,
 don't you George?

George holds a hand up to his ear, clearly quite deaf.

GEORGE
 Huh?

OLD WOMAN
 (louder)
 I said `you love your tomato
 patch.`

GEORGE
 What`s that?

She gives up.

ANGLE ON

Alvin watches the old lady and George, pushing a Zimmer frame, leave the house.

88 INT. KITCHEN 88

Ellie and Alvin have had enough. They sit in silence at the dining table.

ELLIE
 Maybe this wasn't such a good
 idea?

Then the doorbell rings.

89

INT/EXT. FRONT DOOR

89

Ellie and Alvin open the door.

A very handsome, respectable looking couple stand there
 smiling (RICHARD & CLEMENTINE)

Ellie looks out and sees the Porsche in the driveway. They
 both like what they see. Their faith might be restored
 after all.

CUT TO:

90

INT. ELLIE & ALVIN'S LOUNGE

90

Richard and Clementine sit drinking coffee.

RICHARD
 After I sold the law firm we
 moved to the country, and we've
 just been quietly enjoying a
 slice of rural living.

ELLIE
 (hanging on to every
 word)
 That's really lovely.

RICHARD
 My wife, Clementine, just has a
 vast sexual appetite, and to be
 honest, I can't keep up the way I
 could when I was 20.

ELLIE
 Neither can Alvin.

Alvin smiles a "Thanks for the vote of confidence" smile.

CLEMENTINE
 We've not really ever done
 anything like this before.

ELLIE
 Neither have we.

CLEMENTINE
 So we're a little apprehensive.

ELLIE

So are we. But it's nice to meet like minded folk.

RICHARD

And I think the key is just to take it slow, get to know each other first, then see how things develop.

ELLIE

I totally agree. Don't you, Alvin?

ALVIN

I guess, yes.

CUT TO:

91 INT. KITCHEN

91

Alvin is making more tea.

Richard and Clem are seated in the lounge.

Ellie comes in.

ELLIE

What do yo think?

ALVIN

Well, yes, they're very nice.

ELLIE

I think they're perfect. Plus, we all have chemistry. Do you find her attractive?

ALVIN

I suppose, yes.

(beat)

And you, him... and or, optionally, her?

ELLIE

Ummm, yes. Both.

They look back into the lounge. She waves.

Alvin and Ellie return to the lounge with more coffee.

ELLIE (CONT'D)

So, we've decided.

(beat)

How does Saturday sound?

The other couple smile and look at each other, delighted.

CLEMENTINE
That would be really, lovely.
We'd like that wouldn't we
Richard?

RICHARD
Very much so.

CUT TO:

92 INT. LOUNGE

92

The night of...

Alvin and Clementine are standing by the bar, which is shaped like a globe of the world.

Ellie and Richard are playing on a pink scrabble board.

ALVIN
Screaming orgasm or jism on the
face?

CLEMENTINE
Ooh, now what's in jism on the
face again?

ALVIN
It's vodka, kahlua, coconut milk,
and a little bit of froth on the
head.

CLEMENTINE
I think I'll have a jism on the
face, thanks.

ELLIE
Darling I'll have a gorilla fart,
please.

ALVIN
One jism on the face, and one
Gorilla fart coming up.

ELLIE
I always thought jism was a place
in Kent.

ALVIN
How about you Richard? Fancy a
cocktail?

Richard looks through the cocktail book.

RICHARD
Can I have a Dirty Canadian,
please?

ALVIN
I'm gonna need the book back for
that one.

Richard hands the cocktail book to Alvin.

CLEMENTINE
This is a lovely bar.

ALVIN
It's an antique.

He spins the globe around.

ALVIN (CONT'D)
Look, China.
(he points to China)
Me so Horny.

He laughs at his own joke.

DISSOLVE TO:

93 INT. LOUNGE - LATER

93

The foursome are sat around the scrabble board. The words
on the board are all dirty and sexual.

The foursome have had a few too many cocktails, as
witnessed by the empty glasses.

ELLIE
(excited)
Ooh! Ohh! I've got one. All my
letters.

ALVIN
This should be good.

She puts all her letters on the board.

ELLIE
"Clitoris".

ALVIN
(taking it quite
seriously)
What?! No. No. Clitoris has 8
letters.

ELLIE

So what?

ALVIN

You're only allowed 7.

ELLIE

Oh, come on, Alvin, it doesn't matter.

ALVIN

Of course it does. Scrabble has rules. You can't just put down 8 letters. The game would turn into anarchy.

ELLIE

Yeah, but you put down vulvum and I didn't challenge that.

ALVIN

Vulvum is the plural of vulva.

ELLIE

I think you'll find it's Vulvae.

RICHARD

I think she's right actually.

ALVIN

Well, you should have challenged me.

CLEMENTINE

Gosh, Scrabble. It`s a fierce game.

He gets up and takes the empty glasses to the kitchen.

Ellie shrugs to her guests.

CUT TO:

94

INT. KITCHEN

94

Alvin puts the glasses in the sink.

Clementine appears behind him with some empty glasses.

CLEMENTINE

Vulvum, Vulvae... as long as you know where it is, that's the important thing.

CUT TO:

95 INT. LOUNGE 95
 Ellie and Richard. Richard puts his hand on Ellie's thigh.

RICHARD
 You truly are a very attractive
 woman.

ELLIE
 Thank you.

They are getting closer, and finally kiss.

CUT TO:

96 INT. KITCHEN 96
 Clem puts her hand on Alvin's chest. She moves closer.

ALVIN
 This is odd.

CLEMENTINE
 I know. Just go with it, Alvin.
 Go with it.

She kisses him.

FADE TO BLACK.

97 INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT 97
 Alvin creeps out of the bedroom and goes into the toilet.

98 INT. TOILET. 98

Alvin is sitting on the loo wearing PJs, reading a
 magazine. A faint knock on the door.

Alvin is not sure if he heard it.

Again a knock.

ALVIN
 Hello?

RICHARD (O.S.)
 It's Richard.

ALVIN
 Oh Richard. I'm just in the-

The door swings open. Richard is standing there.

ALVIN (CONT'D)

-loo.

Richard enters and goes to the sink.

ALVIN (CONT'D)

(with no choice in the
matter)

But please... come in.

Richard comes in.

RICHARD

You don't mind if I use your
toothbrush do you?

He uses it anyway.

ALVIN

(of course he minds)

No not at all. In fact you can
keep that.

RICHARD

I just have, kind of a funny
taste in my mouth.

ALVIN

Yes, well, I'm not surprised.

RICHARD

I didn't want to say anything
before, but you have a very nice
shaped penis.

ALVIN

Right.

(not sure what to say)

Thanks? I think.

RICHARD

I'm not gay or anything.

ALVIN

No, of course not.

RICHARD

But if you want me to, you
know... I would...

ALVIN

(not something he wants
to entertain)

Right. Thanks. Can I think
about it?

RICHARD
 Sure. Yeah, of course.
 (beat)
 Well, you know where to find me!

Richard walks out, and we realise he is not wearing any TROUSERS as we see his bum from behind.

Richard closes the door, leaving Alvin on the loo to ponder this awfully awkward encounter.

99

INT. KITCHEN - MORNING

99

Alvin is making coffee.

Ellie comes down, bleary eyed.

ELLIE
 Ummm. Coffee.

ALVIN
 Would you like a cup?

ELLIE
 Yeah, strong. I think I drank too many cocktails last night.

Richard and Clem come downstairs, fully dressed.

There is a very strained awkwardness this morning, which is very palpable between all four, more so between Alvin and Richard.

RICHARD
 Morning?

ELLIE
 Morning.

CLEMENTINE
 Morning.

ALVIN
 Morning.

ELLIE
 Coffee?

CLEMENTINE
 Sure.

RICHARD
 We best be off.

CLEMENTINE

Oh, ok.

ELLIE

Are you sure? Can't get you something before you head out?

RICHARD

Honestly, we have a long drive ahead.

A strained moment.

RICHARD (CONT'D)

Well it was fun.

He goes to hug Alvin, he moves back and they kind of half hug.

ALVIN

Sure.

Clementine hugs Alvin and Ellie. More strained awkwardness.

RICHARD

Don't worry. We'll see ourselves out.

The couple exit to the front door.

Ellie rubs Alvin on the back.

ELLIE

Are you ok?

ALVIN

(clearly not)
Yeah, fine.

He drinks his entire cup of coffee in one sip.

CUT TO:

100

INT. WHITE ROOM

100

Present Day. Ellie and Alvin to camera.

Ellie looks at him.

ALVIN

Needless to say. That was the first, and last time we ever did that.

ELLIE

Soon after that we broke up.

ALVIN

Yeah. And it was pretty final
that time.

CUT TO:

101 TITLE CARD: "THE TRUTH ABOUT BREAKING UP... AGAIN." 101

102 INT. RAQUETBALL COURT 102

Peter and Alvin are playing raquetball fiercely.

ALVIN

How is Janet?

PETER

Truth is, I only see her on
weekends when I pick up Max, and
it's very brief.

(beat)

Still costing me a bloody
fortune, but what can you do?

(beat)

How's Ellie?

ALVIN

We're separating.

Peter lets the ball hit him in the head at the news.

CUT TO:

103 INT. GYM 103

Ellie and Janet are doing sit ups. A very handsome
instructor (RUSSELL) is holding Janet's legs.

JANET

What? That's crazy! You can't
separate. What hope is there for
the rest of us if you two split
up!?

(beat)

How am I doing, Russell?

RUSSELL

Just a few more.

JANET

Goddam it!

ELLIE

At what point do you just admit
that your relationship has run
its course?

CUT TO:

104 INT. BAR OF RAQUETBALL CLUB 104

Peter and Alvin are seated at a table in gym gear. Peter is holding ice to his forehead.

ALVIN

The truth is, I don't know
anymore. I'm bored. We hit this
plateau.

PETER

That happens in relationships.
(beat)
How's my head?

He removes the ice.

CUT TO:

105 INT. GYM 105

Ellie and Janet as before. This time Ellie is doing sit ups and Russell is holding her legs.

ELLIE

He doesn't know what he wants.

JANET

And you?

ELLIE

I know. I want Alvin. I love
Alvin. I just can't take his
indecisiveness any more. He
should know by now.

JANET

Everyone gets bored. But then
something else develops -
friendship, fun, companionship.

CUT TO:

106 INT. BAR OF RAQUETBALL CLUB 106

Alvin and Peter.

PETER

If you ask me you should just get
a dog. Problem solved.

CUT TO:

107 INT. GYM

107

Ellie and Janet. Russell holding Janet's legs as she is now
doing situps.

Ellie is doing her own situps.

JANET

Go out and treat yourself to a
handbag or nice pair of shoes.
You deserve it.

(to Russell)

You just have the most fantastic
arms I have ever seen.

Russell smiles.

Ellie stops her situps.

ELLIE

Urgh. I'm not feeling so good.

CUT TO:

108 INT. ALVIN'S HOUSE

108

Alvin has packed his bag.

Ellie holds a cup of coffee.

ALVIN

Look... I'm sorry.

ELLIE

Me too. If you sit on the fence
you're just gonna get splinters
up your ass.

ALVIN

Aptly put.

ELLIE

And that's always been your
problem, Alvin.

ALVIN

I just, don't know what I want.
That's all. I just need some
time.

ELLIE

I would hope by now, after all
these years, you'd have some
sense of commitment, or
responsibility.

ALVIN

I'm... sorry.

ELLIE

Don't be sorry. Just go.

CUT TO:

109 EXT. HOUSE - DAY 109

Alvin puts the suitcase into the boot of his car. He looks
up at the window and sees Ellie standing by the curtain.

He gets in and drives off.

110 INT. HOUSE 110

Ellie goes into the bathroom.

She looks at the used pregnancy test she has just taken- it
is POSITIVE. She is pregnant.

She starts to cry.

DISSOLVE TO:

111 INT. ALVIN'S FLAT 111

Alvin is in a small bachelor pad.

The doorbell rings. He opens it to reveal a man delivering
Chinese food. He pays and takes the food inside.

He opens the box of Chinese glop and stares at it
despairingly.

CUT TO:

112 INT. BEAUTY SALON

112

Janet and Ellie are getting their hair washed next to each other.

ELLIE

If I tell you something, can you swear to keep a secret?

JANET

You know me.

ELLIE

Exactly, that's why I'm asking.

JANET

Yes, darling. Of course I will.

ELLIE

I'm pregnant.

JANET

What?! Oh my god!

(beat)

That's amazing! Alvin must be thrilled!

ELLIE

Actually, I haven't told him yet.

CHINESE HAIRWASHER

Oh boy. He gonna be pissed when he find out.

JANET

She's right.

ELLIE

I will tell him. I just want it to be about us, before it's about the baby. Does that make sense?

JANET

Completely.

CHINESE HAIRWASHER

Completely.

CUT TO:

113 EXT. HOUSE - DAY

113

Peter is putting Max into his car. Janet stands nearby.

PETER
So you've packed everything he
needs?

JANET
It's all there.

PETER
Great.

JANET
Did you hear? Probably not.

PETER
What? What is it?

JANET
It's Ellie.

PETER
Is she ok?

JANET
She's pregnant.

PETER
Oh my god!

JANET
She hasn't told Alvin yet, so you
must SWEAR not to say anything.

PETER
But they have to get back
together. The world wouldn't be
right without Alvin and Ellie
together.

JANET
We can't interfere.

PETER
No, I agree. But we can
facilitate.

He looks like he has an idea.

CUT TO:

114

INT. ALVIN'S FLAT

114

The doorbell rings.

Alvin opens it to reveal Peter and Henry.

Peter holds up a case of beer and Henry hold up a plastic guitar.

ALVIN
And what did I do to deserve
this?

PETER
We have cold beer.

HENRY
And `guitar hero`. It is
unofficially heavy metal night.
Get out your airdrums, young
Finkelstein.

PETER
And thanks for hosting.

The men all barge in and make themselves comfortable.

CUT TO:

115 INT. ELLIE'S LOUNGE 115

The doorbell rings. Ellie opens it to reveal Janet.
She holds a tub of ice cream and a DVD.

JANET
I have Ben and Jerry and Brad
(referring to the ice
cream and DVD
respectively)

ELLIE
What about Max?

JANET
He's with my mom tonight.

CUT TO:

116 INT. ALVIN'S FLAT 116

The men are transfixed by the TV screen. They are playing guitar hero on the Wii console, which involves pressing buttons on the plastic guitar as they correspond to the screen.

Peter is getting into it.

HENRY
Woo-hoo.

PETER
You rock, man.

HENRY
I totally do. Gene Simmonds eat
your heart out. He played the
guitar, right?

He messes up.

HENRY (CONT'D)
Achhh. Blast.

Your turn. Alvin takes the guitar and starts up with the
music.

PETER
So Alvin, Janet and I are
throwing this New Year's party,
right-

ALVIN
What, have you gotten back
together?

PETER
No. But we just want everyone we
know and love to be in one place.
And we'd love it if you came. Do
you have any plans?

ALVIN
If you leave the computer game
with me then I might not make it.

PETER
I'll take that as a yes then,
shall I?

ALVIN
Wait. Is Ellie going to be there?

PETER
She might.

Henry is still engrossed in the game.

HENRY
How's your airdrumming, Alvin? I
really think we should start a
rock band.

CUT TO:

117 INT. ELLIE'S LOUNGE

117

Ellie and Janet are tucked up under a duvet watching TV and eating ice cream from the tub.

The movie has just come to an end.

ELLIE

(crying)

That was beautiful. The way he,
and she, and they, and oh, just
give me the ice cream will you?

She grabs the tub from Janet and digs in to the ice cream.

ELLIE (CONT'D)

Well, that's it. We finished the
tub.

(beat)

Hey, how are you and Peter?

JANET

We're friends. And going in the
right direction. We both have a
beautiful child, and that's
important right now.

(beat)

And hey, that reminds me, we
actually decided to throw a bit
of a party on New Year's for our
nearest and dearest. Say you'll
be there?

ELLIE

Of course. If there's more ice
cream I wouldn't miss it.

CUT TO:

118 INT. SUPERMARKET

118

Alvin is walking through the aisles. From a distance he
sees Ellie pushing a shopping cart.

He heads towards her but suddenly she is intercepted by
RUSSELL, her gym instructor.

ANGLE ON ELLIE/RUSSELL

RUSSELL

Hey you, haven't seen you since
you almost threw up at the gym.

ELLIE

Sorry, you know, female stuff.

RUSSELL
Is there something we should
know, Ellie?

He has a knowing smile.

ELLIE
Yes, fine, I'm pregnant! But keep
it to yourself.

He hugs her.

At this point, Alvin is in earshot in the aisle behind. He
hears the conversation from this point on..

RUSSELL
(touching her belly)
A baby?! I'm so excited.

Russell hugs her. She reaches for some items nearby Alvin
peering face.

Alvin, in a mad rush, dashes down the aisle.

ANGLE ON ELLIE

Another handsome man approaches Russel - clearly his gay
partner.

RUSSELL (CONT'D)
There you are you naughty boy.
(to Ellie)
This is my partner, Carlitos.

CARLITOS
Hola.

Their voices trail off in the background as Alvin rushes
away with his trolley.

CUT TO:

119 INT. JANET AND PETER'S HOUSE

119

New Year's.

Title card: "THE TRUTH ABOUT LOVE"

The bell rings and Janet opens to reveal Ellie looking
stunning.

ELLIE
Happy New Year!

They hug. She sees Peter. They hug.

Guests are milling about drinking and eating. Henry and Arrabella are also there.

DISSOLVE TO:

120 LATER...

120

Henry approaches Peter.

HENRY
So where's Alvin?

PETER
He said he was coming.

HENRY
It's almost New Year's!

Peter goes to one side and pulls out his mobile.

121 INT. ALVIN'S FLAT

121

Alvin has a suit on. He sits on the couch, debating whether or not to go.

Suddenly his phone rings. Intercut with Peter. Henry stands listening.

ALVIN
Hello?

PETER
Alvin? Where are you?

ALVIN
I'm here, at home.

PETER
Well, are you coming?

ALVIN
I don't know. Yes, no, maybe.

PETER
What's up? Is everything alright?

ALVIN
No. She's pregnant.

Peter sighs.

PETER
Yes, I know.

ALVIN
What? You knew?

PETER
Yes, but I was sworn to secrecy.

ALVIN
So everyone knew she got knocked
up by some beefcake from the gym
except me?

Henry takes the phone from Peter`s hands and holds it to
his ear.

HENRY
Alvin, you imbecile. It's yours.
The baby is yours.

Alvin looks shellshocked as the realisation dawns on him.

HENRY (CONT'D)
Hello? Hello?

Alvin has closed the phone.

He hightails it out of the flat.

CUT TO:

122 EXT. STREET - NIGHT

122

Snow covers the ground.

Alvin reaches his car but it has a clamp on it! He kicks
the clamp.

ALVIN
Bugger!

He doubles up in pain from the kick.

ALVIN (CONT'D)
Ah, shit! Bugger!

He limps down the road. The streets are empty except for a
few cars.

Alvin pulls out his phone and dials Peter.

Intercut with Peter at the party.

PETER
Hello?

ALVIN
I'm coming.

PETER
Great.

ALVIN
But I've been clamped, and there
are no bloody taxis.

PETER
Well just get here as fast as you
can.

They hang up.

ANGLE ON PETER

Ellie comes up to Peter.

ELLIE
Hey, thanks for throwing this
party. It's really great. I just
wish...
(she becomes reflective)
Nevermind...

The TV starts to count down the New Year with the clock of
BIG BEN.

EVERYONE
10...9...8...7...

Ellie looks around - she doesn't really have anyone to
kiss.

Peter and Janet naturally come together.

EVERYONE (CONT'D)
3...2... 1

Janet and Peter kiss. They close their eyes. It is a
moment between them, and the kiss lingers. A connection
has been made... and in this moment, we know their future
is secure...

Ellie goes up to the housekeeper.

ELLIE
Do you think you could call me a
cab?

HOUSEKEEPER
Yes, ma'am, of course.

CUT TO:

123 EXT. HOUSE - NIGHT 123

Alvin pulls up in a taxi and gets out.

ALVIN

Thanks.

Alvin rushes inside. The taxi lingers.

CUT TO:

124 INT. HOUSE 124

The house is heaving. Alvin goes through the kitchen, looking everywhere for Ellie.

Unseen to him, Ellie exits through the lounge out to the front.

CUT TO:

125 EXT. HOUSE - NIGHT 125

Ellie walks out onto the snow and sees the cab.

ELLIE

Wow, that was fast.

CUT TO:

126 INT. HOUSE 126

Alvin finds Peter and Janet.

PETER

Alvin! You made it. Happy New Year old boy.

ALVIN

Listen, have you seen Ellie?

PETER

Yeah, she was here a second ago.

Alvin suddenly looks out the window and we see Ellie at the open door of the taxi about to get in.

Alvin runs to the front door.

CUT TO:

127 EXT. HOUSE - NIGHT 127

Alvin watches as the taxi drives away. Ellie is nowhere in sight.

He turns and goes back into the house.

128 INT. HOUSE - CONTINUOUS 128

Alvin looks dejected. He has lost his chance.

We can still see outside through the open door, but Alvin's back is to it.

Behind him, we see the taxi pull back to the drive in soft focus.

Ellie gets out and walks back towards the house.

Alvin hears the sound of the car and after a moment, slowly turns around... We pull focus to see Ellie standing at the bottom of the drive.

They look at each other.

Alvin walks the rest of the drive until he is a few feet away from her.

ELLIE

You forget something?

She holds up a wallet.

ALVIN

Ah, yes, thanks for that. I'll probably need it to support our child.

(beat)

You should have told me, Ellie.

ELLIE

I'm sorry. I should have.

(beat)

I just had to know you were in it for the right reason.

ALVIN

Look, I know I`m an indecisive fool sometimes. If I have one main flaw, apart from the lactose intolerance thing, it`s that I sometimes have trouble making up my mind.

ELLIE
Sometimes?

ALVIN
Ok. A lot of the time. But now I know. I know I want to have a child. Most importantly, I know I want to be with you.
(beat)
So you asked me if I forgot something, and the answer is yes. I forget to tell you how much I love you.

She smiles.

They look towards the window of the house and see EVERYONE peering out at them.

Henry lowers the window.

HENRY
(out the window)
Kiss her you fool!

Alvin and Ellie kiss to great applause from the onlookers.

Peter and Janet squeeze hands. Henry and Arrabella look at each other romantically.

It starts snowing. Everyone runs outside into the snow.

(MUSIC: WHITE CHRISTMAS)

ALVIN
What do you say this time I take you home. For good.

ELLIE
Sounds like a plan.

CUT TO:

129

INT. WHITE ROOM

129

Present day. Ellie and Alvin to camera.

ALVIN
So that's it. That's the truth about sex.. The truth about us...

ELLIE
The truth about love.

ALVIN

We've been together ever since,
and we'll be together always.
What I realised is that if you
sit on the fence, you'll just get
splinters up your ass.

ELLIE

And I realised that 'What is...
is.'

ALVIN

That's profound.

ELLIE

Yes. I got it from a Bruce Lee
film.

The camera pulls back to reveal that Ellie is at FULL
PREGNANCY.

A 3 year old girl runs into frame and jumps up on Ellie.

And then another 3 year old twin girl runs up and jumps on
Alvin. They have twins AND she's pregnant!

Peter walks into frame.

PETER

Guys. The food's almost ready.

ALVIN

Sorry.

They all get up and exit as we:

CUT TO:

130 EXT. GARDEN - DAY

130

Alvin, pregnant Ellie, their two kids emerge into the
garden, where Peter is hosting a BBQ with Janet and their
kids.

Henry and Arrabella are also present.

Peter and Janet kiss. A happy reconciled couple.

The camera cranes up to the sky...

THE END