

Swinging with the Finkels

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SHOOTING SCRIPT

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1 INT. ELLIE AND ALVIN'S LOUNGE

1

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

OLD WOMAN

You may not think it by looking at him, but George's willy has shrunk.

OLD MAN

(hard of hearing)

Hey?

OLD WOMAN

I said your willy has shrunk.

OLD MAN

Yeah, my willy has shrunk.

OLD WOMAN

But that doesn't stop us, even at our age. We love each other very much. 69 years we been married. Now we just want to see what else is out there. Spice it up a little.

(beat)

See, back then you used to just close your eyes and think of the Queen.

OLD MAN

Oh she's lovely, she was.

OLD WOMAN

Yes. We're proud to be British.

OLD MAN

Hey?

OLD WOMAN

I said we're proud to be British.

OLD MAN

Yeah.

OLD WOMAN

Go ahead, George. Show em. Pull down your trousers. They all want to see it.

George stands up and drops down his trousers.

His boxers are patterned into the BRITISH FLAG.

They smile.

CUT TO:

*

1A **EXT. BOROUGH MARKET - DAY**

1A

CREDIT SEQUENCE.

Alvin emerges from a door outside Borough Market. He walks through the market, getting some fruit, veg and bread before sitting at Maria's Cafe opposite Ellie. He lifts a menu, which fills the screen - lettering on the menu reads:

SWINGING WITH THE FINKELS

2 **INT. ELLIE AND ALVIN'S LOUNGE**

2

The present day. ELLIE (American, 30ish) and Alvin (British, mid 30s) sit on a couch.

*
*

To camera.

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.

3 **EXT. GOLF COURSE - DAY**

3

Alvin and Peter, good looking mid 30s, are trying hard to drive some golf balls into the range. Both are complete novices. Peter is struggling to carry a large golf bag and fumbles with the clubs. They set up and begin to drive balls into the range.

*
*
*

ALVIN
How often do you have sex?

(CONTINUED)

PETER

I don't know. Since we conceived,
maybe once or twice-

ALVIN
A month? Bloody hell.

PETER
A year. What about you?

ALVIN
We've hit a plateau. Maybe once a month, if that. How do you stay married to the same person and not get bored?

PETER
You don't. You just deal with the boredom. That's why God invented the internet, and why man invented porn.

(beat)
Don't worry. You still have the joy of children to come. Then your sex life rots quicker than a chicken carcass in the summer sun.

He takes a swing and misses.

CUT TO:

INT. JANET'S KITCHEN

Janet, Peter's wife, preparing milk for her son Max while simultaneously preparing coffee for her and Ellie. *

JANET
I just have no time for myself at all, let alone Peter. I can't even take a shower when I want to. And I get the sense he finds me unattractive. Since our second baby was born I've just been unable to shift the weight. *

Janet wades through a sea of plastic toys and plonks Max in front of the TV and switches it on.

ELLIE
That's normal. Surely he understands?
(beat)
Should he be sitting that close?
(pointing to TV)

JANET
What? No, it's fine. It's Loose Women - his favorite show.
(beat)
Look, men don't understand, Ellie.

(CONTINUED)

He thinks that if I managed to get that skinny for the wedding, it should be easy to lose the weight now.

CUT TO:

5 EXT. GOLF COURSE - DAY

5

Alvin and Peter as before.

PETER

I mean, she managed to fit into her wedding dress, why can't she shift the pounds now? Is it that hard to diet? You just don't eat. You don't need to pay an expert to tell you 'don't eat' and to jog around the park a few times. Pay me! I'll tell you... 'Don't eat!' 'Jog around the park.'!

(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:

6 INT. JANET'S KITCHEN

6

Ellie and Janet as before.

JANET

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

Janet affixes a pump to her breast.

ELLIE

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

JANET

I guess.

(beat)

She expresses milk into a bottle.

7 EXT. GOLF COURSE - DAY

7

Alvin and Peter.

(CONTINUED)

PETER

At what point do you chuck in the towel and admit the boxing match has come to it's natural end. There really is no victor - just two very damaged individuals who quietly beat the shit out of each other over the years.

ALVIN

I feel like I'm just pretending everything's ok when it's not. How do you know?

PETER

You know when you can't take it anymore. And that's when you answer the one fundamental question that every man in a relationship has asked himself at one point or another... is the grass greener on the other side?

INT. JANET'S KITCHEN

Ellie and Janet.

JANET

Because if a man is not getting sex at home, he's going to want to get it somewhere else.

She holds the breast milk out to Ellie.

JANET (CONT'D)

Sure you don't want to try?

ELLIE

Your breast milk? No, I'm good. I'm fine, thanks.

JANET

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

CUT TO:

EXT. GOLF COURSE - DAY

Alvin and Peter as before. He takes a swing again and completely misses the ball.

PETER

Shit. This game is tough. We better get to the restaurant.

(CONTINUED)

(beat)
Just do me a HUGE favour. Watch my
drink while I go take a leak.

Alvin reflects.

CUT TO:

INT. THAMESIDE RESTAURANT - EVENING

Ellie and Alvin are seated in a nice restaurant on the
Thames overlooking London. They sit opposite Peter and
Janet.

They are looking at menus.

The waiter comes by and stands behind the table.

PETER
Here's a question. Why is cooked
chicken called chicken, but cooked
beef is called steak? What's that
about?

ELLIE
(to Alvin)
What are you having?

ALVIN
Chicken, I think.

ELLIE
I'll have the pan friend scallops.

JANET
Me too.

PETER
Have you ever noticed how versatile
the chicken is?

Janet rolls her eyes. The waiter is still waiting.

PETER (CONT'D)
On the one hand, you have chicken.
But on the other, you have egg.
Think of all the things you can do
with egg. Apart from boil, fry and
scramble, you can make cake, you
can bind meat, you can make
desserts like meringues and
souffles - you can even coat a
piece of chicken in egg, and then
roll it in breadcrumbs. It's
really quite fascinating. The
chicken is God's gift to man.

WAITER

So you want the chicken?

PETER

No. I'll have the steak, thanks.

The waiter exits.

PETER (CONT'D)

The 'filet mignon'. The 'cute
steak'.

(he chuckles)

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.

PETER

I can vouch for that. Very nice.

Janet hits Peter on the shoulder.

PETER (CONT'D)

It was!

ELLIE

Oh yeah? What colour was it?

ALVIN

(clearly improvising)

Blue... green... redish-blue.

Look, there are other attractive
women in the universe besides
you. It's genetic. As a man, I am
pre-programmed to look at a woman
when she enters and assess her
attractiveness.

ELLIE

But what for?

ALVIN

To decide whether or not I would
sleep with her in my head.

JANET

That's ridiculous.

(CONTINUED)

ALVIN

Completely. I agree. Especially since I will never ever talk to her.

JANET

Yet you still do it, even in your wife's presence?

ALVIN

That's the worst part. We try to hide it, but we can't. I've tried not to move my neck many times. But it just goes. See, there it goes again.

He stares at a pretty woman entering.

ALVIN (CONT'D)

And it's not just my neck, Peter's neck moved too... see?

PETER

I was stretching. I sleep on an abnormally high pillow and I just get the worst pains.

(off Janet's look)

What? It's true.

ELLIE

It's ok, Alvin. You're allowed to find other women attractive.

(beat)

I thought she was attractive.

Alvin takes this in.

ALVIN

See, all woman have the capacity to find other women attractive, and therefore, switch teams.

JANET

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... fishing tackle.

JANET

What? Do you do that Peter?

PETER

Me? Not 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

It's the golden rule. Never look. You speak straight ahead - straight into the wall.

PETER

Or, if possible, you choose a urinal not next to your friend.

ALVIN

Correct. It's the one urinal gap rule.

JANET

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

ALVIN

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

PETER

Some men, not me, have a particularly voracious stream of urine, which, if fired too quickly, can cause excessive spray into the ether.

JANET

You are disgusting.

A waiter approaches and uncorks a bottle.

ELLIE

Have you ever touched another man's penis?

Alvin almost chokes on his water.

WAITER

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

The cork pops out of the wine bottle.

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!

The waiter pours out some wine.

WAITER

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

ELLIE

Acch! Gross.

JANET

He makes a fair point. Peter gathers an enormous amount of sweat under his.

PETER

It's called the cremasteric reflex thank you very much. And it's the body's way of maintaining optimal testicular temperature, if you must know.

JANET

Moist and sticky.

ELLIE

Can we talk about something else?

PETER

The cow. After chicken, God's second most versatile land mammal. Just think what you can do with milk!

Ellie holds up a glass.

ELLIE

To the cow!

ALL

The cow!

WAITER

The cow!

They look at him as if to say what the hell are you still doing here. He exits. They drink.

(CONTINUED)

'Swinging with the Finkels' Pink Revisions 11
10 CONTINUED: 10

PETER
And don't get me started on tuna.

11 **INT. MEN'S RESTROOMS** 11

Peter walks in and picks a urinal a space apart from a stranger. *

They look at each other and nod. *

Peter's voracious spray of urine sprays everywhere as it hits the urinal.

Peter cries in anguish.

PETER
Ahhh! Shit. Shit!

The stranger exits quickly. *

12 **INT. THAMESIDE RESTAURANT - MOMENTS LATER** 12

Alvin, Ellie and Janet stand waiting for him putting their coats on.

Peter emerges from the loo as if nothing has happened. He smiles before dipping his hand into a bowl of mints and swirling it around.

PETER
Mints. Gotta love em. Want one?

They all exit.

13 **EXT. RIVER BANK - LATER THAT EVENING** 13

Ellie and Alvin are in the midst of saying goodbyes to Peter and Janet.

ALVIN
What were you going to say about tuna?

PETER
Just that tinned tuna bears no resemblance to actual cooked tuna. Doesn't even taste the same.

ALVIN
Hmm. Yeah I see your point.
(beat)
Later.

PETER
Later.

(CONTINUED)

They hug and bang fists in an awkward homeboy way, although Peter hurts his knuckles.

PETER (CONT'D)

Shit. That hurt my knuckles.

Peter and Janet walk off hand in hand. She rests her head on his shoulder as they do.

Alvin and Ellie walk down the street by the river bank. Ellie is thinking about something.

ALVIN

So that was fun.

ELLIE

(not so
enthusiastically)

Yeah.

ALVIN

You ok?

She takes a moment.

ELLIE

What's going on with us, Alvin?

ALVIN

What do you mean?

ELLIE

I mean, we used to be all over each other.

ALVIN

You're busy, I'm busy. We get home late. We're tired I guess.

ELLIE

I guess. I just wish-

(beat)

I wish things could be like they were when we first met.

ALVIN

Excuse me - but as I recall, it wasn't all plain sailing in the beginning.

ELLIE

Yeah, but you were charming back then.

ALVIN

I'm not charming now?

13

ELLIE
Now you're just kind of annoying.

ALVIN
Men will do anything to impress a woman when they first meet. We become extra charming, we listen to you attentively like we're actually interested in what you have to say. We start out as the ideal man. Once we've got you, there's no need to impress you anymore.

ELLIE
Can't you just say something nice to me, for once?

Alvin stops.

ALVIN
I'm sorry. Force of habit.

ELLIE
Something nice, Alvin.

ALVIN
(beat)
Look. I remember when we met. I remember thinking: that's the most beautiful girl I've ever seen. I'm gonna marry her one day.

Ellie's face lights up.

ELLIE
You thought that?

FLASHBACK TO:

13A **EXT. CAMBRIDGE RIVER - DAY**

13A

Establisher.

14 **EXT. CAMBRIDGE RIVER - DAY**

14

9 years ago.

*

Alvin (early 20s, now with very HIGH HAIR) is on a small punting boat with his roommate, HENRY, amongst other boats that are passing.

They are rowing voraciously.

They overtake ELLIE (also early 20s), who is punting in a boat with another GIRL. As they do, Alvin's boat bangs Ellie's and pushes them into the bank.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Ellie, out of control, hits some branches of a tree, loses her balance and falls into the river.

14

CONTINUED:

14

HENRY

Well done. Take out the
competition.

ALVIN

(leans back)

Sorry!

He checks her out, realising she is extremely attractive.

15

EXT. CAMBRIDGE RIVER BANK - DAY

15

Alvin, spotting Ellie's boat approaching, sees a mother and child on the grass. The mother is distracted by her child and Alvin grabs the towel off the grass.

Ellie's boat comes up to the dock. She gets out of the boat, very unsteady and soaking wet.

Alvin holds the towel out.

ELLIE

Oh it's you.

ALVIN

With a towel and a hundred
apologies. So sorry.

He holds the towel for her to take.

She looks at the towel and the picture of the DUCK on it.

ELLIE

Nice duck.
(taking it)
Alright. Accepted.

HENRY

(beckoning)
Alvin - come on.

A spark of something between Alvin and Ellie.

Alvin runs off with Henry and waves.

The mother comes and grabs the towel angrily out of Ellie's hands.

16

EXT. CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY

16

Outside a beautiful building, Alvin waits on some steps.

He is airdrumming with drumsticks.

(CONTINUED)

Ellie, dressed rather eclectically in a mish mash of styles, 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 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 Finkel. Gandhi is just
down the path to the left.

ELLIE
I know you. You almost killed me in
the river.

ALVIN
First impressions count! And so do
second impressions - so I got you
something to say sorry. This time
not stolen from any little
children.

He holds out an extremely tiny DAISY.

ELLIE
Oh, how lovely. I mean, it's
probably the smallest flower any
man has EVER got me, but the
sentiment is there.
(she likes it)
Ellie. Ellie Winters.

They start walking. Alvin following.

ALVIN
Nice to meet you on dry land.

ELLIE
You too.
(beat)
I like your hair. It's springy.

ALVIN
Thanks. You're American?

ELLIE

Yes. What gave it away?

ALVIN

Well, for one, the Salvation Army called and wants their clothes back.

ELLIE

Charming.

ALVIN

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

ELLIE

Charm is good. We girls like charm. Actually I designed this outfit myself.

ALVIN

(sarcastically)
I never would have guessed. A Cambridge scholar AND a creative genius?

ELLIE

Correct on both counts!

(beat)

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.
Easy really.

He demonstrates. She stops.

ELLIE

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

CONTINUED:

ALVIN

Correct. Never touched a drum set
in my life.

'Swinging with the Finkels' Pink Revisions
CONTINUED:

17
16

16

ELLIE
Interesting.
(beat)
Hey, we should go out some time.

Alvin beams.

CUT TO:

17

EXT. OUTDOOR DINING FACILITIES - DAY

17

ELLIE is getting into a fight with a faulty VENDING MACHINE.

Alvin and Henry are sat at a table.

ALVIN
See that girl over there?

Henry looks back.

HENRY
You mean the one that looks like she got run over by a fast moving train? She's lovely.

ALVIN
No, idiot. The other one.

HENRY
Oh... her. Didn't you-

ALVIN
Knock her into the river? Yes. Small issue, easily worked out. Her name is Ellie Winters. I think I'm in love.
(beat)
And guess what? She asked ME out.

HENRY
She asked YOU out? - if you play your cards right - you could be in there.

Henry begins playing with his fish fingers, peas and mash - rearranging it to make a picture of a face.

ALVIN
Ya think?

HENRY
Sure! Alvin, my young naive friend. When a woman asks a man out, it generally means she wants to have sex with him.

(CONTINUED)

ALVIN

How do you know that? You've never had sex.

HENRY

True, but I have come very close on several occasions. And that's through using tried and tested techniques.

(beat)

See, when a man asks a woman out, it's because he wants to have sex with her. But the woman, will generally always go out on a first date, even if they aren't physically attracted to a man, because they might see some other redeeming quality - like a sense of humour, or financial stability, or the ability to hunt and, crucially, gather. The fact that she asked you out means she wants to have sex with you.

Alvin looks at Henry's plate and the picture made of peas, and mash.

ALVIN

What the hell is that?

HENRY

Prince Charles.

(beat)

Now, a few things. One: 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)

Two: you have to do something about your hair. It's too.... high.

ALVIN

It's naturally springy, ok! She said she liked it.

CONTINUED:

HENRY

She lied to be polite. It defies
the laws of gravity.

That can't be good.

(beat)

Third, and most important, if you do get in there, remember the following: stroke her hair exactly three times.

ALVIN

3 times? That's a very exact number.

HENRY

It's what women call 'foreplay'. A silly notion, really, but you have to oil the engine before you start the car. Women like to be seduced.

(beat)

And, most important, if you do find yourself getting to 1st base - put this video on.

He pulls out a VHS video from his bag.

ALVIN

What is it? And why do you carry it around with you?

HENRY

It's called a VHS. It's short for 'video home system'. Amazing thing- you can record images onto this little tape.

ALVIN

Yes, thank you I know it's a goddam VHS. What's on it?

HENRY

Calming senses of meadows and fields of green, tranquil music. Trust me. Woman go crazy for this stuff. It will set the mood.

ALVIN

Are you sure?

HENRY

Alvin, I have almost had sex with 2 women. I know what I'm talking about.

CUT TO:

18

INT. LOCAL CAMBRIDGE RESTAURANT - EVENING

18

Alvin and Ellie sit opposite each other in a local 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 PIZZA.

ALVIN

Again, I have to compliment you on an amazing outfit. Did you make this one?

ELLIE

Thank you and yes I did.

ALVIN

What are you doing here? It's so academic.

ELLIE

My parents are psychologists and my grandparents are psychologists. Why not one more?

ALVIN

You should follow your heart, it's important. Life is too short. You should be designing.

ELLIE

You think so?

ALVIN

Come on. Your stuff is amazing.

ELLIE

(genuinely)

Thank you. That's nice to hear.

(beat)

What about you? Have you decided what you are studying?

ALVIN

No. Still on the fence. I can't decide between English literature or land registry in medieval Britain.

The waiter grinds pepper onto the pizza.

WAITER

(sarcastically)

Because the latter is such a riveting subject.

ALVIN

In fact it is, thank you. I'll take it from here.

The waiter leaves.

ALVIN (CONT'D)

Britain has a very interesting
history in the development of
land ownership and titles.

Alvin takes a bite of the pizza - a very long strand of
cheese remains between his mouth and the pizza.

ALVIN (CONT'D)

Boy this is cheesy pizza.
(back to the subject)
You know, how land changed hands
and stuff.

ELLIE

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

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.
(beat)
So you were saying?

ALVIN

I was going to say that English
Lit is fun, but I've come to
realize that every book is the
same but different- boy meets
girl, boy dresses up as girl,
girl dresses up as boy but
pretends to be a girl
masquerading as boy and girl
accidentally falls in love with
girl pretending to be a boy not
realising he's actually a girl.

She takes a bite of the pizza - a long strand of cheese like
a rubber band remains.

ELLIE

Sounds pretty simple.

ALVIN

It is. But where it gets complicated is us, boys and girls. We're English Lit - we're the same, but we're different.
(beat)

ELLIE

You're right, this is cheesy pizza.
(beat)
We're all just human.

ALVIN

Not really. Women are a completely different species to men.

ELLIE

I would say that men are the foreigners on this planet.

ALVIN

That's my point. We're different. For example, we men, we would have no problem getting out of a car and peeing on the side of the road, or onto a bonfire, or the top of a mountain. Women, on the other hand, pee before they leave the house.

ELLIE

That's just common sense.

ALVIN

Men have coins everywhere - in our pockets, on dressers, on the windowsill, in empty pickle jars. We even have a little pocket in the pocket of our jeans.
(he stands and shows the pocket)

We fill these pockets with coins. Well, at least I do, because I don't really know why the hell there is a pocket in my pocket. My point is... women... carry handbags.

ELLIE

You should get yourself a handbag.

ALVIN

Hmmm... I never thought of that.
(beat)
You know, you have really pretty eyes.

18 CONTINUED: 18

She smiles, bashfully. They stare at each other for a moment.

19 **EXT. HALLS OF RESIDENCE - DUSK / EVENING** 19

Alvin and Ellie walk up to the halls of residence.

They look at each other - there is chemistry but they are both a little nervous.

ELLIE
I had fun tonight.

ALVIN
Me too, I think.

ELLIE
Wanna come up?

CUT TO:

20 **INT. ELLIE'S HALL OF RESIDENCE** 20

They are on the couch making out. Remembering the words of his intrepid roommate Henry, he takes this opportunity to stroke her hair exactly 3 times.

ELLIE
Ummm, that's nice.

She stops.

ALVIN
Everything ok?

ELLIE
Yeah. Lemme just go and... freshen up. Won't be a sec.

She goes to the bathroom. Alvin, remembering the video, puts it into the VHS player.

Ellie comes out again with her hair down. She spots the TV screen, which at this point, is just idyllic green pastures.

ELLIE (CONT'D)
What's that?

ALVIN
Just green fields, tranquil music - does it bother you?

ELLIE
I guess not.

They start kissing again.

(CONTINUED)

20

CONTINUED:

20

Suddenly, MOANS & GROANS can be heard from the TV, along with some animal noises.

Ellie stops and looks. She tilts her head. Alvin stops and looks, tilting his head. He TOO, can't believe what he is seeing!

ELLIE (CONT'D)

Oh! Oh! God, no... urgh!

ALVIN

If you let me explain see...

CUT TO:

21

INT. ELLIE'S HALL OF RESIDENCE - NIGHT

21

Ellie hands Alvin his coat, and then the video, and slams the door in his face.

He knocks on the door. She opens it.

ALVIN

Can I have my shoes please?

She throws them at him.

ALVIN (CONT'D)

And my socks. Thanks.

She slams the door.

CUT TO:

22

INT. ALVIN'S ROOM

22

Alvin walks in. Henry stands by the wall in his underwear on a ladder. He has created a portrait of himself in BLUTACK.

HENRY

It's a self portrait. And in case you're wondering, no, it's not easy finding this amount of blu-tack

ALVIN

My God - it's official, you are autistic. I'm living with Rain Man.

He dismounts the ladder.

HENRY

So, how'd it go? Did you play the video?

(CONTINUED)

22

CONTINUED:

22

Alvin shoots him a look. He holds out the video and then in a fit of rage pulls out ALL of the magnetic ribbon from the tape and throws it on Henry's bed.

HENRY (CONT'D)

I take it she's not an animal lover then?

23

INT. ALVIN & ELLIE'S KITCHEN - PRESENT DAY

23

A KNIFE goes through a whole raw CHICKEN. Ellie is carving it up.

Alvin is perched at the kitchen island staring into the distance. He holds a half eaten banana.

ELLIE

Alvin, is something on your mind?

ALVIN

Huh? Nothing.

ELLIE

Sure? You look like you're thinking something real important.

ALVIN

Not really.

ELLIE

But you're just holding that banana and not eating it.

ALVIN

I'm just momentarily pausing.

ELLIE

What?

ALVIN

Look, let me let you in on a little secret. We men are pretty simple. You over-read us. When you ask us what's on our mind, and we say nothing - we generally mean nothing.

ELLIE

Really?

ALVIN

Oh yeah. Absolutely. When I am staring into space in a vegetative state like I was doing just now - it looks as though I am thinking about something incredibly important - but it's usually quite trivial. If you want the truth, I was thinking how I need to pause for a moment while I eat this banana. But I didn't want to verbalise that because it sounds stupid. I could have lied. I could have said something really intellectual, you know. More often than not, though, I'm just thinking about nothing.

Ellie puts the meat in the oven.

ELLIE

Really? Just nothing?

ALVIN

Just nothing. I'm really quite shallow in that respect.

ELLIE

Well, I'm thinking about something.

ALVIN

Of course you are. Because when you ask me what's on my mind, you really want to talk about what's on your mind.

ELLIE
We never finished that
conversation.

ALVIN
See! Which one?

ELLIE
The one about what's going on
with us. Am I the only one that
thinks there's a problem in this
marriage. You're pretending like
nothing's wrong.

He gets serious for a moment.

ALVIN
You're right. I'm sorry. Yes, you
are right. We should discuss it.

ELLIE
Well, ever since we got married
things have just been going down
hill.

ALVIN
Marriage changes things doesn't
it?

ELLIE
It shouldn't.

ALVIN
But it does.

ELLIE
Why?

Alvin looks at his banana.

ALVIN
If you eat bananas everyday,
eventually you're going to want a
plum.

(he grabs a plum from the
fruit bowl)
I mean, bananas could be the
greatest taste known to man, and
as God is my witness, I love
bananas, but day in and day out,
after a while, you need to eat
something else.

ELLIE
Have you thought about eating
something else? Have you thought
about eating plums?

CONTINUED:

I mean, we rarely touch each
other anymore - you might want a
plum?

You might go out looking for plums? Who's to say that you might leave the banana for the plum, or the kiwi, or a bunch of grapes?

ALVIN
I knew we should have refrigerated this fruit.

*

ELLIE
Hear me out. I'm just saying, and I don't know about you. But I'll do anything to save what's left of our marriage.
(beat)
Do you feel the same way?

ALVIN
(in agreement)
I like bananas.

ELLIE
Good. So here's my idea.
(beat)
Why don't we... together... see another couple.

ALVIN
What do you mean?

ELLIE
Why don't we, ya know... do a swap... you know... swing?

24 INT. SUSHI RESTAURANT

24

Alvin and Peter eating sushi from a conveyor belt.

PETER
Woah! Wait a second. Did you say swing?

ALVIN
Yes.

PETER
Like, she's going to allow you to have sex with another woman?! Consensual sex within marriage is every man's fantasy!

ALVIN
Is it? I don't know. I mean, she gets to have sex with another man.

(CONTINUED)

PETER

Oh, just for the record, in case you were thinking of us, Janet probably wouldn't be too happy.

ALVIN

Thanks for the offer but you two are probably a little too close to home.

EXT. PRIMROSE HILL - DAY

Ellie, Janet, Jack (aged 4) and baby Max are sat on the top of Primrose Hill having a picnic.

ELLIE

Think about it. Before he, 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. I'm a banana, ya know?

JANET

Yes, but you're a ripe, yet, firm, yellow, seasonal banana.

ELLIE

It's like gardens, you know? You have your garden, and you've done it up all nicely, but when you look over your neighbour's fence, you prefer what they've done with theirs.

JANET

Why can't we just be happy with our garden?

ELLIE

Yes... exactly!

Jack goes running down the hill.

*

JANET

Shit. Fucking toddlers. Be right back.

*

Janet goes chasing after him screaming his name.

JANET (CONT'D)

Jack! Jack!

*

CUT TO:

26

INT. SUSHI RESTAURANT - CONTINUOUS

26

Alvin and Peter as before.

PETER

Look, if you have the luxury of pruning someone else's garden - who am I to judge, my friend?

He grabs some fish from the conveyor belt.

PETER (CONT'D)

Clever bunch the Japanese. Take the skin off the fish, don't even cook it, stick it on a plate and, like mugs, we pay a fortune for it.

Beat.

PETER (CONT'D)

I need you to do me a favour.

ALVIN

Sure. What is it?

Peter pulls out some paper and a pen and writes.

PETER

Meet me at this address tomorrow.

ALVIN

What is it?

PETER

A clinic.

ALVIN

I don't get it.

PETER

A sex clinic. I developed a little problem.

ALVIN

What kind of problem?

PETER

OK. This is tough.

(beat)

I had an affair.

(CONTINUED)

ALVIN

What? Jesus. Throw that in between the spicy tuna and yellowtail. With whom?

PETER

With a patient at my dental practice. She had perfect teeth. Just the most gorgeous mandibular central incisors. I couldn't resist.

ALVIN

How long?

PETER

About half an inch long and 5mm wide.

ALVIN

The affair!

PETER

Oh, just the once.

ALVIN

Does Janet know?

PETER

Not yet. No.

ALVIN

Are you gonna tell her?

PETER

I made a terrible mistake. It's eating away at my conscience.

(beat)

Just keep it to yourself for now, will ya? Until I figure out what to do.

INT. SEX CLINIC WAITING ROOM

Alvin and Peter are sat in the waiting room sandwiched between some young spotty teenagers playing mini computer games. Peter stares at some ominous wallposters about HIV and sexually transmitted diseases.

PETER

Thanks for coming. I just needed a friend, for moral support. And in case I faint.

A nurse calls out Peter's name.

CONTINUED:

NURSE
Dr Peter Garby?

Peter jumps up. He beckons Alvin in with him.

CUT TO:

28

INT. SURGERY ROOM

28

Alvin and Peter enter. A large black nurse gives them a withered tired look.

NURSE

Right then, Mr Garby. My name is Nurse Franklin. I see you're a Doctor?

PETER

Cosmetic dentistry actually. If you want those stains removed I'm your man.

She doesn't look amused.

NURSE

(looks at Alvin)
This your boyfriend?

PETER

Him? No. I'm married. Not to him. Not that I wouldn't marry you - I mean, if I was that way inclined.

NURSE

What seems to be the problem?

PETER

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

NURSE

Whereabouts?

PETER

Down there.

NURSE

Can you be more specific?

PETER

In my trousers.

NURSE

What part of your body?

PETER

The general nether region. The crotch.

ALVIN

(straight out with it)
Your penis? Just say it, Peter.

(CONTINUED)

PETER
(terribly embarrassed)
Yes, alright, ok. Yes my penis.

NURSE
Any other symptoms?

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

Alvin winces.

NURSE
When was the last time you had sex?

PETER
A few weeks ago.

NURSE
Does your wife have any symptoms?

PETER
My wife? I haven't had sex with
her in ages!

He laughs. The nurse does not look amused.

ALVIN
He had a one night stand.

PETER
Yes, alright. I'll tell her. She
was a patient. She had very nice
mandibular central incisors. I
couldn't resist.

NURSE
Do you use protection?

PETER
What, like an alarm system?

NURSE
Like a condom.

PETER
(gets serious)
Oh. On and off. I mean, it was on,
and then it was just kind of off.
Just disappeared, you know?
(she doesn't)
No. I guess not.

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

PETER
That's what I figured. Oh god.

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

PETER
A what?

ALVIN
A what?

NURSE
A urethral swab.

PETER
(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'm no expert pal, but I really
don't think anything, especially
swabs, are meant to go in that part
of a man's anatomy.
(beat)
Perhaps I better wait outside.

Alvin heads to the door.

PETER
Don't go, mate. I need you.

NURSE
Don't worry, Mr Darby, 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.

(beat)
Are you ok? You're sweating?

PETER
Just do it fast, please.

NURSE
Mr Darby. It is VERY IMPORTANT that you remain absolutely still. No movement at all. Do you understand? Show Nurse Franklin a little R-E-S-P-E-C-T.

(she chuckles)
Little joke, there.

PETER
Funny.

She gets ready.

PETER (CONT'D)
Is this going to hurt?

NURSE
Yes.

PETER
Yes, you're supposed to lie to me and say no.

NURSE
Ok. No. Here, bite down on this.

She puts a stick in his mouth and then she reaches down.

CUT TO:

Alvin, standing outside the door, hears a HOWLING SCREAM from Peter.

Then silence.

The door opens and Peter comes out, completely normal, as though nothing has happened.

PETER
Yeah. That wasn't so bad.

CUT TO:

*
*
*
*
*
*

35

INT. BATHROOM

35 *

Alvin is in the bath under an excessive amount of bubble bath and a few rubber ducks. Ellie is taking off her make-up. Alvin, whose head is under the water, surfaces.

*

She smiles.

Alvin ducks his head under the water.

ALVIN
Have you ever wondered why your
head never fills up with water
through the holes in your ears?

ELLIE
Right, because it's not like
there's anything actually IN your
head.

ALVIN
The human body is amazing, isn't
it?

Beat.

ELLIE
How about we place a little ad,
you know, on a website...

Alvin gets out of the bath and puts a towel around his waist.

ALVIN
You really want to go ahead with
this?

ELLIE
I don't know. As ridiculous as it
seems, perhaps it's what we need
to save our marriage.

ALVIN
And if it doesn't work?

ELLIE
Then we've only wasted the last 9
years of our life.

Alvin wraps a towel around his head like a woman with long
hair.

ALVIN
Has it really been that long?
Jesus...

She exits.

35

CONTINUED:

35

He looks in the mirror and then opens the MEDICINE CABINET as we:

FLASHBACK TO:

*

35a

INT. CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

35a

*

9 years ago. CLOSE UP ON A BOOKSHELF.

*

Alvin is looking through some books. 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. I know you must think I'm a real idiot and all. I don't blame you if you never want to see me again.

*

*

*

*

ELLIE

*

That was disgusting - depraved.

*

ALVIN

*

Clearly a bad decision on my part. My autistic roommate gave that video to me. I swear, I had never seen it before in my life.

*

*

*

*

ELLIE

*

I can't shake the images out of my head.

*

*

ALVIN

*

Yes, I know. Trust me - I have to live with him. For the past year he thought that vulva was a make of German car. You know Professor Shlobonsky - who teaches 20th Century German politics? He actually told her he loves her new vulva.

*

*

*

*

*

*

*

*

ELLIE

*

What did she say?

*

ALVIN

She said, thanks. My husband got it for me.

She chuckles. The ice broken.

ALVIN (CONT'D)

Can we wipe the slate clean?

(beat)

I got you something.

He hands her an empty book.

ELLIE

What is it?

ALVIN

It's an empty book.

ELLIE

(sarcastically)

Wow.

ALVIN

Not totally - look at the first page.

She opens it. There is a picture of Michaelangelo wearing a skirt, headscarf, and frilly top. It has been pasted together crudely.

ALVIN (CONT'D)

See, I got the first page started for you. It's an empty book for you to organise all your sketches and designs in. So one day you'll be a famous fashion designer. And I'll have contributed, in a small way, to that dream.

She looks at him with admiration and, this time... genuine affection.

ALVIN (CONT'D)

Look. I like you. You're fun, quirky. You have this wacky mismatched style of dressing which I don't totally get but can tell is totally cool - and that's what makes you 'you', I guess.

She smiles.

ALVIN (CONT'D)

(pointing to the book)

You can use that design by the way.

CUT TO:

36

INT. ALVIN'S ROOM - LATER

36 *

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 is washing dishes. Ellie is taking the plates to the kitchen. *

ELLIE *

That was delicious. You're not a bad cook. *

ALVIN *

Thanks. The only reason we men offer to cook is because it takes the hard work out of getting a women into their home voluntarily. *

ELLIE *

Is that what that is? *

ALVIN *

Yes, and because if we can impress you with our culinary skills, we think that's one tick off the box in our favour. Hunter gatherer and all that jazz. 'Can cook'... 'make fire'. *

ELLIE *

Boy, you're just full of answers. *

He kisses her. *

ELLIE (CONT'D) *

Shall we go to the bedroom? *

ALVIN *

What? No. My roommate is probably performing some naked ritual on my bed. *

A voice from the room... *

HENRY (O.S.) *

I'll just move then, shall I? *

ELLIE *

I have a better idea. *

CUT TO: *

37

INT. CAMBRIDGE BUILDING - DAY

37 *

Ellie and Alvin are kissing passionately against a building. She is beginning to get a bit saucy and goes to unzip his trousers. *

(CONTINUED)

37

CONTINUED:

37

ALVIN

Wait! Not here - are you crazy,
what if someone sees.

*
*
*

They run through the campus looking for open doors. They are
all locked. They run up a flight of emergency stairs adjoined
to a building. The door opens.

*
*
*

CUT TO:

*

38

INT. INNER TEMPLE LIBRARY

38

*

They enter the building. They are on the top floor of the
museum (which is a balcony overlooking a room that stretches
all the way round.)

*
*
*

CUT TO:

*

39

INT. INNER TEMPLE LIBRARY - CONTINUOUS

39

*

A man is leading a tour group through the museum.

*

TOURGUIDE

*

The library contains over 7 million
volumes and is home to some
priceless classics, including the
Gutenberg bible from 1455. And
before you ask... no it bears no
relation to Steve Guttenberg of
Police Academy fame.

*
*
*
*
*
*
*
*

(he chuckles at his own
joke)

*
*

Any questions?

*

A young boy raises his hand.

*

YOUNG BOY

*

Are they part of the exhibit too?

*

The tour guide looks up to see Alvin and Ellie, half clothed,
waving down.

*
*

ALVIN

*

Don't mind us.

*

ELLIE

*

It's a lovely library. Simply
lovely.

*
*

They scuttle away, extremely embarrassed.

*

40

INT. ELLIE AND ALVIN'S OFFICE AT HOME

40 *

Present day. Ellie is sketching some clothes designs on a large board. Alvin walks in with a piece of paper.

ALVIN

As far as libraries, go I think
it's the nicest I've seen.

*
*
*

ELLIE

It was a lovely library.
(she smiles at the memory)

*
*
*

ALVIN

So...how's this?
(beat)

*
*

"He, mid 30s, extremely attractive, intelligent, bordering on genius, regular gym user, physically toned and athletic build. She, neurotic, skinny, but with a little extra weight in places she can't get rid of, seek like minded couple to rid us of our interminable boredom and help save our marriage."

ELLIE

Not bad. Keep working.

She smiles sarcastically.

ALVIN

What do you think of this photo of me? We can scan it in and upload it.

*
*
*
*

Ellie looks at it. It is a ridiculous photo taken years ago.

*

ELLIE

Alvin, when was this photo taken?

*
*

ALVIN

1983 I think.

*
*

ELLIE

The photo is the most important part of the ad. If we don't put up a good photo, we won't attract a good couple. Look, if we can't find anything good we can just take a new picture and upload it.

*
*
*
*
*
*

DISSOLVE TO:

Later. Ellie, in her pyjamas, is still working on her sketches. Alvin walks in with some photos.

*

ALVIN

Hey, look at this. We have loads of replies already.

*
*
*

He scrolls down. Ellie looks over his shoulder.

*

ALVIN (CONT'D)

How we gonna sort through everything?

*
*
*

CONTINUED:

ELLIE

Easy. We just invite a few round
and see who we like.

*
*
*

41 'Swinging with the Finkels' Pink Revisions
CONTINUED:

42-44

41

*
*

(CONTINUED)

41 'Swinging with the Finkels' Pink Revisions
CONTINUED:

45

41

*

*

(CONTINUED)

41 'Swinging with the Finkels' Pink Revisions
CONTINUED:

46

41

*

(CONTINUED)

41 'Swinging with the Finkels' Pink Revisions
CONTINUED:

47

41

*

48

INT. ELLIE AND ALVIN'S LOUNGE

48 *

A couple on a sofa sitting opposite Alvin and Ellie.

WOMAN

It's the one word that's taboo
amongst woman.

MAN

'restraint.'

WOMAN

(correcting him)
Masturbation.

MAN

Masturbation.

WOMAN

Every woman does it.

MAN

Shop.

WOMAN

(correcting him)
Masturbate.

(CONTINUED)

MAN

Masturbate.

WOMAN

But very few actually talk about.
Derek, enjoys watching me
masturbate.

MAN

Yes.

(beat)

I also like shopping.

INT. BEAUTY SALON

Ellie is getting a pedicure. She is sat next to Janet, who is also getting a pedicure by a Chinese woman.

ELLIE

Clearly they weren't the ones. But
it's early days.

JANET

You're very brave, meeting strange
people.

ELLIE

Can I ask you, Janet - how did you
know Peter was the one?

CHINESE PEDICURIST

No such thing as 'the one' just
Keanu Reeves. Matrix.

JANET

Yes. Wise words. I mean, he might
not have been 'The one'. He's 'a
one'. Ok, he's 'someone'. Someone I
fell in love with. 'The one' is a
myth propagated by books and
popcorn movies.

CHINESE PEDICURIST

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

ELLIE

That's depressing.

CHINESE PEDICURIST

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

Janet chuckles.

CHINESE PEDICURIST (CONT'D)

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

ELLIE

(cutting her short)
Yes, we get the idea.

JANET

Actually, she does have a point.

ELLIE

What?

JANET

Oh come on. Do you mean to tell me
you never - you know?

ELLIE

Stuck a cucumber up my fanny? No.
That's disgusting.

JANET

Ok, maybe not a cucumber... that is
a little new age. Vibrators work
absolutely fine.

ELLIE

Do we have to go into such detail?

JANET

Why? It's natural. Men do it all
the time. I'm not saying let Alvin
watch, like that couple you met.
But just learn to find pleasure
within yourself, then you can
please Alvin. Maybe that's what's
lacking in your relationship.

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. Sitting on the tumble dryer
usually does the trick.

ELLIE

Come on. Really?

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.

INT. ELLIE AND ALVIN'S LOUNGE

An ENORMOUSLY OBESE woman tucks into a bowl of NUTS.

She sits next to the thinnest known man in the universe.

OBESE LADY

I'd say that, between the both of us, I'm probably the dominant one. Wouldn't you say, Slawek?

SKINNY MAN

(Polish accent)

Yes-

OBESE LADY

(she cuts him off)

He's from Poland. His English isn't very good.

SKINNY MAN

My English, not so good.

OBESE LADY

I generally like to be on top when we make love. Which kind of takes the pressure off Slawek to perform.

SKINNY MAN

You put lot of pressure on me. You very heavy.

Alvin and Ellie look at each other.

INT. ELLIE'S OFFICE

Ellie, at her design firm, is in an open plan office making sketches of an outfit. Her gay colleague ANDREW looks at her design.

51

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.

ELLIE
Hello.

ALVIN (O.S.)
It's me. What time do your parents
get in?

ELLIE
Around 9. You still ok to pick
them up?

ALVIN (O.S.)
Sure. I'll stop and get some food
for us on the way home.

She looks at her watch.

ELLIE
Good, because I could really do
with a rest before they come.

52 **INT. ELLIE AND ALVIN'S HOUSE**

52

Ellie 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:

53 **INT. ELLIE AND ALVIN'S HOUSE - LATER**

53

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 dials Alvin on her mobile.

(CONTINUED)

ELLIE
(into phone)
Hi honey. What time are you getting home? Oh really? No that's fine. Take your time. Me... nothing... cool... see you when you get back.

She goes to the refrigerator and opens the door. The cucumber stares at her. She also examines the courgette, the baby carrots, and a large marrow.

Giving it one final thought, she pulls out the cucumber and looks at it.

ELLIE (CONT'D)
(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:

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:

Alvin's car pulls up with Ellie's parents.

(CONTINUED)

55

MRS WINTERS
Thanks for picking us up, Alvin.

MR WINTERS
What? Do you think he'd make us
take a cab?

MRS WINTERS
You don't mind cooking, do you
Alvin?

ALVIN
Not at all - we have tons of food.
We can go out tomorrow.

MR WINTERS
As long as you don't give me any of
that black tar stuff. What's that
black tar called?

ALVIN
Marmite.

MR WINTERS
Yeah that's it. Marmite. My God -
what's wrong with these people?

ALVIN
It's an acquired taste.

MR WINTERS
Yeah? Well so is ear wax and you
don't see me eating that, do you?

56 **INT. ELLIE'S ROOM**

56

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

57 **INT. FRONT DOOR**

57

Alvin puts the keys in the door. He opens up.

ALVIN
Honey? We're home. Honey?

No reply.

ALVIN (CONT'D)
Plane came on time. Honey?

INSIDE THE ROOM

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

OUTSIDE THE ROOM

(CONTINUED)

57

CONTINUED:

57

Alvin and her parents.

Hand on the doorknob.

Door opens to reveal: A shocked ELLIE with a cucumber in a compromising position.

Ellie opens her eyes and sees... Alvin and 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:

58

INT. KITCHEN - EVENING

58

Ellie, Alvin and her parents sit in awkward silence around the dinner table.

ELLIE

How was your flight?

Mr Winters is sat in stoney silence.

MRS WINTERS

Long.

A beat.

ALVIN

Salad, anyone?

He holds up the bowl.

MR WINTERS

That's it. I'm going to KFC.

ALVIN

(finishing his thought)
...perhaps not.

Mr Winters gets up and storms out of the house.

CUT TO:

59

INT. DENTAL PRACTICE

59

Peter has metal dental tools buried in Alvin's mouth. He wears a lens over one eye that magnifies it to an enormous size.

His female dental assistant {JULIE} stands nearby.

PETER

Woman actually masturbate?

(CONTINUED)

ALVIN
(unable to speak)
Of course.

*

PETER
I thought that was a myth!

ALVIN
Uh-uh.

Peter looks at Julie.

PETER
Is it true? Do woman masturbate,
Julie?

She nods.

PETER (CONT'D)
Well, I'll be.
(beat)
Spit.

Alvin sits up and drinks the water and spits.

PETER (CONT'D)
Thanks Julie. That'll be all.

Julie exits.

Peter still wears the magnifying glasses. He grabs some X-RAYS of teeth and shows them to Alvin.

PETER (CONT'D)
I told her. I told Janet about the
girl with the lovely teeth.

Alvin jumps in fright at the magnified eyes.

PETER (CONT'D)
Sorry.

He takes them off.

PETER (CONT'D)
That better?

ALVIN
Much. How'd she take it?

PETER
Not good.
(beat)
Hey, wanna see a picture of her?

Peter grabs some HUGE X-RAYS of TEETH and place them into a light box.

59

PETER (CONT'D)
Beautiful, huh? Can you blame me?

ALVIN
Look, I won't judge you, you're my
friend. But I want to ask you a
question.
(beat)
Why'd you do it?

PETER
Remember you told me about that
plateau you hit?

He nods.

PETER (CONT'D)
Well, we hit it a long time ago and
did nothing about it.
(beat)
Lollipop? Sugarfree of course.

He holds out a lollipop.

*
*
*

60

INT. WOMEN'S CLOTHES SHOP

60

Janet and Ellie. Janet is hysterical.

*

JANET
We were watching a rerun of Jerry
Springer. It was an episode called
'I married a prostitute and now I
want you back,' or something like
that, and I guess he felt guilty
and just told me.

She starts crying.

ELLIE
I'm so sorry.

She puts an arm round her.

ELLIE (CONT'D)
What do you think you'll do?

JANET
I don't know. Right now... I just
don't know.

She tries on some sunglasses and realises they look quite
good.

*
*

JANET (CONT'D)
These aren't bad. How much are
these?

*
*
*

61

INT. ELLIE AND ALVIN'S LOUNGE

61

A middle aged Indian couple with very strong accents. They are surrounded by smoky incense sticks.

INDIAN WOMAN

Back in India, we believe in
Tantra. And we worship the God
Shakti.

(CONTINUED)

INDIAN MAN

We also worship the elephant.

The man holds up a colourful statue of an Elephant.

INDIAN MAN (CONT'D)

This is Ganesh. He is an elephant.

Beat. He then holds up an Elephant's penis.

INDIAN MAN (CONT'D)

This is an elephant's penis.

INDIAN WOMAN

We don't worship the Elephant's
Penis.

INDIAN MAN

No. It was a two for one deal.

CUT TO:

INT. JEWISH DELI - DAY

Alvin sits next to Ellie. Her parents sit opposite. Lots of Orthodox Jews in the deli.

MR WINTERS

(looking around)

Geesus. I feel like I'm on a
shtetl in Russia.

The waiter puts down some plates of salt beef sandwiches.

ALVIN

Best salt beef in town, Mr Winters.

MR WINTERS

Ellie, you want my cucumber?

She looks embarrassed. Mrs Winters shoots her husband a look.

Mr Winters slaps on a load of English mustard on his salt
beef sandwich.

ALVIN

Easy on the mustard, Sir. It's very
strong.

He takes a bite of the sandwich. The mustard hits him and his
eyes almost pop out of his head and he starts tearing.

MR WINTERS

The mustard! Went right up my nose
and I actually felt it back here.

(CONTINUED)

He taps to the back of his head before coughing and then drinking water.

MRS WINTERS

You'll have to excuse my husband.
It was a long flight.

MR WINTERS

Look. I know I'm an old man, but
lemme give you kids a little
advice.

(he takes himself
seriously)

The second you start sticking
vegetables inside of you,
something's not right.

Ellie gets up - seriously embarrassed.

ELLIE

I'm just going to the ladies.

MRS WINTERS

Now look what you did.

MR WINTERS

What? What I do?

MRS WINTERS

Come on. Give her a break.

MR WINTERS

All I'm saying is, you would never
have done something like that when
you were Ellie's age.

MRS WINTERS

That's because we had sex all the
time.

Alvin is getting too uncomfortable.

ALVIN

Perhaps I should go check on her?

MR WINTERS

Is there something you want to tell
us, Alvin? Is everything alright in
that department?

ALVIN

Everything is fine. We're just
going through a little dry patch,
that's all.

MR WINTERS

You're not a fagala are you?

MRS WINTERS

Oh my God. Are you a fagala, Alvin?

ALVIN

Excuse me?

MRS WINTERS

Her Uncle Marty was a fagala. Look
what happened to him. Had a
terrible accident with a lawn
mower.

Mr Winters takes another bite of his sandwich and gets
another mustard attack.

MR WINTERS

Holy cow! Right at the back of the
head. Damn you English and your
mustard.

EXT. JEWISH DELI - DAY

Mr & Mrs Winters sit in a taxi. Alvin and Ellie stand
outside.

Alvin talks to the driver.

ALVIN

Heathrow Terminal 3.

(beat)

Bye guys. Safe flight.

Ellie waves, smiling politely. The car pulls away. Her smile
turns to tears of embarrassment. Alvin puts his arms around
her.

ALVIN (CONT'D)

You know what, I've learnt
something. I've learnt that my wife
masturbates when I'm not around. I
never knew that.

*
*
*

ELLIE

You weren't supposed to know.
Neither were my parents. I will
never ever eat another cucumber
again in my life.

ALVIN

Hey. Look on the bright side... at
least it was organic.

She chuckles.

64

INT. ELLIE AND ALVIN'S LOUNGE

64

A disheveled couple sit on Ellie and Alvin's couch.

(CONTINUED)

64

MAN 2
Hmmm. One thing that really turns
me on... it's toes.

WOMAN 2
He likes his toes.

MAN 2
Big, fat, hairy toes.

WOMAN 2
The hairier the better.

MAN 2
Let them be dirty, sweaty, full of
toe jam... I don't care. Just love
toes.

WOMAN 2
He loves toes.

CUT TO:

65 **INT. ELLIE AND ALVIN'S LOUNGE**

65

A middle aged Japanese man in a suit sits next to an attractive Japanese woman. He speaks for an extraordinary long time. When he stops, the Japanese woman translates. They speak to camera.

JAPANESE WOMAN
(strong accent)
He says, "he like doggy style".

The Japanese man speaks again - for what seems like an eternity.

JAPANESE WOMAN (CONT'D)
And... sex in public places.

JAPANESE MAN
Hai.

66 **INT. ELLIE AND ALVIN'S LOUNGE**

66

A rather posh, middle aged 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.
(beat)
I'm a banker.

CUT TO:

67

INT. ROOM

67

A middle aged man and woman are sat on a sofa.

WOMAN

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

MAN

Oh go on.

WOMAN

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

MAN

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

WOMAN

Red wine has a particular odour and
colour.

MAN

Fruity!
(he laughs)

CUT TO:

68

INT/EXT. FRONT DOOR

68

Ellie and Alvin open the door.

A very handsome, respectable looking couple stand there
smiling.

It's 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.

69

INT. ELLIE AND ALVIN'S LOUNGE

69

A handsome man and his wife sit on a sofa looking into
camera.

RICHARD

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

CLEMENTINE

I work as a landscape gardener.
Love my job.

(CONTINUED)

RICHARD

And I occasionally consult for the firm. Nothing major.

(beat)

And, anyway, we just want a bit of excitement in our lives. Things have gotten a bit stale.

CLEMENTINE

We're just a normal couple.

RICHARD

Yes. Normal average, everyday couple.

CLEMENTINE

So, have you guys ever done anything like this before?

ALVIN

No, never. How about you?

RICHARD

Never. It was my wife's idea.

ALVIN

Mine too.

ELLIE

Would you like another jaffa cake?

She holds the plate for Clem.

CLEMENTINE

I LOVE jaffa cakes.

ALVIN

(excited he has something in common)

Me too!

ELLIE

More tea?

Alvin is making more tea. Richard and Clem are seated in the lounge. Ellie comes in.

ELLIE

What do you think?

ALVIN

Well, yes, they're actually a really nice couple.

70

ELLIE

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

ALVIN

I do. And we have so much in common. I mean, the whole jaffa cake thing,
(beat)
What about you?

ELLIE

He's almost as handsome as you.

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:

71 INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

71

Ellie is reading in bed. Alvin walks in and changes into his PJs.

ALVIN

We'll have to set some ground rules of course. And we'll have to have like, a 'safe word', in case we don't want to go through with it. What can our safe word be? How about 'geometry' or something?
(beat)
Hey, you ok?

ELLIE

I just can't stop thinking about Janet and Peter. Awful, huh?

ALVIN

Yeah.

(CONTINUED)

71

ELLIE

Amazing the secrets some couples keep. Most of them just carry on through life unhappily married, blissfully unaware that their husband has had an affair.

ALVIN

Look, we don't have to go through with it. It's not too late to back out.

ELLIE

All the more reason we should. Get it out of the way. See what the neighbor's grass actually looks like.

(beat)

Funny, you never expect these things to happen to your friends. Everyone seemingly has a perfect life. The big house, the cushy job. I always thought they had it together.

CUT TO:

72

INT. ALVIN AND ELLIE'S KITCHEN

72

Music plays, candles are lit etc... Alvin comes down in a sweater.

ALVIN

How do I look? Too preppy? The sweater is too preppy isn't it?

He takes it off.

ALVIN (CONT'D)

Shit, I'm nervous.

ELLIE

Relax. You look fine.

ALVIN

What about this shirt? Is it too tight? Does my belly stick out?

ELLIE

Your belly is fine.

ALVIN

We don't have to do this. Remember the safe word-

ELLIE

Yes - 'algebra'.

(CONTINUED)

ALVIN
Geometry.

ELLIE
Geometry, yes.

The doorbell rings.

ALVIN
Shit, they're early.

He runs to the door with Ellie.

Ellie hands him a pack of condoms.

ELLIE
Remember - if things do happen,
safe sex, ok?

He puts them in his pocket.

They open the door to a smiling Richard and Clementine.

INT. LOUNGE

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
Oooh, 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:

74 INT. LOUNGE - LATER

74

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.

(CONTINUED)

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:

Alvin puts the glasses in the sink.

Clementine appears behind him with some empty glasses.

75

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

CUT TO:

76

INT. LOUNGE

76

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:

77

INT. KITCHEN

77

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.

78

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

78

From the hallway, we can see that Alvin and Clem are in one
bedroom, kissing. Ellie and Richard are in the next bedroom.

ELLIE
One sec.
(beat)
(calling)
Alvin.

Ellie goes into the hallway Alvin emerges, who has just come
out of the room.

ELLIE (CONT'D)
You ok with this?

ALVIN
I guess. You?

(CONTINUED)

78

ELLIE
I guess.

ALVIN
Ok. Good luck.

ELLIE
You too. See you in the morning.

ALVIN
Wait - you don't want to mix it up -
do you?

ELLIE
What? You mean like in the same
room?

ALVIN
Too weird?

ELLIE
Yeah.

ALVIN
Just thought I'd throw it out
there. Ok, see you in the morning.

They kiss awkwardly and then go off back into their
respective bedrooms and shut the door.

FADE TO BLACK.

79 **INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT**

79

Alvin creeps out of the bedroom and goes into the toilet.

80 **INT. BATHROOM**

80

Alvin is sitting on the loo wearing PJs, reading a HOMES AND
GARDEN 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.

(CONTINUED)

ALVIN (CONT'D)
-toilet.

Richard enters and goes to the sink.

ALVIN (CONT'D)
(with no choice in the
matter)
But please... come in.

Richard comes in.

RICHARD
What are you reading?

ALVIN
(awkward)
Just a magazine. Homes & Garden I
think.

RICHARD
Good magazine.
(beat)
You don't mind if I use your
toothbrush do you?

He uses it anyway.

ALVIN
(of course he minds)
No not at all.

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

ALVIN
Yes, well, you can keep that.
Hey, do you think you could-

RICHARD
I didn't want to say anything
before, but you're a good looking
man.

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 wanted to, you know...
I would...

ALVIN
(not something he wants to
entertain)
Right. Thanks. Can I just say,
straight off the bat... no.

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.

INT. KITCHEN - MORNING

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)
I don't know. You?

ELLIE

I don't know. How was it?

ALVIN

Weird.

ELLIE

Me too. I haven't been with a man
other than you for such a long
time. You used protection, right?

ALVIN

Oh yeah. You?

81

CONTINUED:

81

ELLIE

Oh yeah. Yes.

An awkward moment.

82

EXT. JANET'S HOUSE - DAY

82

Peter has loaded his car with suitcases. Janet stands there holding Max and with Jack at her side.

PETER

Well, that should be everything,
I guess. I'll come by and see the
kids on the weekend.

*

*

He picks up Max and gives him a huge hug and kiss, then
kisses Jack. He gets choked up.

*

*

PETER (CONT'D)

Wow. This is hard.

JANET

Well, every thoughtless act of
stupidity has a consequence,
Peter.

PETER

Yeah.

He hands Max and Jack back to Janet and then gets into the
car and drives off.

83

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

83

Alvin and Ellie lay awake in bed, not touching, just staring
up at the ceiling. Ellie reaches for Alvin's hand. It's
awkward.

ELLIE

What's up?

ALVIN

I don't know.

ELLIE

Are things any different?

ALVIN

That's just it. Things are the
same... but now they're just...
(searching for the word)

Awkward.

(beat)

How are you?

(CONTINUED)

83

ELLIE
Fine.

She is clearly NOT fine.

She rolls over and switches off the light.

CUT TO:

84

INT. ELLIE & ALVIN'S HOUSE - DAY

84 *

Alvin is cutting his nails on the couch watching TV. Ellie is sketching some designs. She is watching him clip his toe nails. Ellie holds up some sketches of her designs. *

ELLIE
(trying to make conversation)
I'm excited about my show. We've got some big names confirmed for the runway. *

ALVIN
Have you ever wondered how they deshell pistachios? You have to be pretty clever to invent a machine that deshells them. Sorry, what were you saying? *

ELLIE
Do you ever actually listen to me? *

ALVIN
Sure. But the truth is, and don't take this the wrong way, sometimes you have nothing interesting to say. *

ELLIE
Then just pretend. Pretend you are listening and are interested. *

ALVIN
If I pretend, you'd still know, instinctively, that I'm pretending. You'd still catch me out. That's why you have female friends. You guys are interested in trivial banter. When I get together with my men friends there are often long periods of silence and it's fine.
(beat)
We're fine with silence. *

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

And technically, I own half the couch. This half I'm sitting on. Look, what has gotten into you?

ELLIE

At least could you pretend to show some interest in my life for once? I have a big show coming up. It's important

ALVIN

What'd I do?

ELLIE

You did nothing.

ALVIN

Since when is nothing such a crime? Only men can get into such trouble by not saying a word.

ELLIE

Nothing means you don't care.

ALVIN

That's because I'm not an expert.

ELLIE

Showing you care about someone by expressing an interest or an opinion doesn't require you to be an expert.

ALVIN

I don't have any forceful opinions on women's apparel, that's all. It's plain and simple.

ELLIE

Achh! Stop doing that. Stop reducing us to your pseudo intellectual psycho babble bullshit. It's annoying!

ALVIN

You always have to have the last word. Anything I say afterwards is just the beginning of a new argument.

ELLIE

Because you don't know when to shut up and just apologize for being a man. You're a slob, I have to clean up after you and cook.

ALVIN

We can order Chinese.

ELLIE

I don't want Chinese food.

ALVIN

Indian?

ELLIE

I want romance! I want passion! I want the fairy tale. I want -

ALVIN

All the things we don't have. I get it.

Silence. The truth hurts.

ALVIN (CONT'D)

I guess the swinging thing wasn't such a good idea.

ELLIE

Maybe not. Things are different. Things are... weird.

ALVIN

I know.

(beat)

Perhaps we should just... spend some time apart..

ELLIE

Perhaps we should.

Ellie comes out. The rain is falling hard. She doesn't care. Alvin has a suitcase and is putting it into the car.

ELLIE

What so that's it?

ALVIN

Go back inside! You're not dressed.

ELLIE

Don't you love me anymore?

Silence.

ALVIN

Do we have to do this here? Now?

ELLIE

When else are we gonna do it,
Alvin?

(beat)

Can't you answer the question?

ALVIN

I don't know.

ELLIE

Of course not. After 9 years how
could you?

*

85

CONTINUED:

85

He doesn't know how to respond.

ELLIE (CONT'D)
Well until you can... just go.

CUT TO:

86

INT. HALLWAY OF PETER'S BUILDING

86

Alvin walks down the hallway and stops at a door. An attractive blond girl walks past him and they share a connection.

ATTRACTIVE GIRL
Hey.

ALVIN
Hey.

ATTRACTIVE GIRL
Friend of Peter's?

ALVIN
Yeah.

ATTRACTIVE GIRL
Cool. See you around.

She smiles and then enters the apartment next door.

87

INT. PETER'S FLAT

87

A grotty, disgusting, and clearly 'lived in by a man' apartment.

Clothes everywhere.

Unwashed dishes, takeaway boxes everywhere.

Peter is flat out on the sofa watching TV and drinking beer.

The doorbell rings.

He gets up to open it.

Alvin stands there with a suitcase. He looks inside.

ALVIN
Bloody hell. Is this where the single man comes to die?

PETER
Your bed is there - well, somewhere there under the pizza boxes. Sorry.

(CONTINUED)

Things are kinda tough right now,
as you can imagine, and I haven't
had time really to clean up.

(beat)

Want something to eat?

ALVIN

(not sure)

Sure.

Peter looks for some food and finds a carton of old Chinese
food.

He grabs a plate and then turns the carton upside down.

Nothing comes out.

He gives it a shake.

After a second, the Chinese glob drops out - the shape of the
box plopping onto the plate.

He hands it to Alvin.

PETER

Fortune cookie?

ALVIN

To tell me that I've arrived at
the land of the dead? No thanks.

They both plop down onto the sofa and switch the TV on.

PETER

So?

ALVIN

So what?

PETER

Did you find the answer to the
question?

ALVIN

What question?

PETER

Is the grass greener on the other
side?

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)
In any order you prefer or all at
the same time.

CUT TO:

Peter has JACK strapped to his chest in a BJORN slin and is
holding hands with Max. Alvin walks with him.

*
*

PETER
Geesus. I didn't realise how hard
it is looking after kids all by
myself. He's a heavy little
bugger- I mean, sweetheart. It's
like having a bowling ball
strapped to your chest. Wait, can
we sit for a second?

*
*

ALVIN
Sure.

They sit. Peter leans backwards like a pregnant woman onto
the bench.

PETER
Much better.

ALVIN
This is fun. Now I know what
women do all day.

PETER
You know what? We should treat
ourselves.

ALVIN
What do you mean?

CUT TO:

Alvin and Peter are sat in chairs having both pedicures and
manicures AND a facial. A Chinese woman is rocking Jack back
and forth. Max is occupied with nail varnish.

*
*

PETER
(to Chinese woman)
You sure you're ok with them?

*

(CONTINUED)

She nods.

PETER (CONT'D)

Cool. Just holler if you need anything.

ALVIN

I could get used to this.

PETER

I always thought that mani-pedi was a pedicure for men. To my surprise, it is both a manicure and pedicure at the same time. How quaint!

Beat.

ALVIN

So is it better?

PETER

What?

ALVIN

Life on the other side.

PETER

You tell me, pal. We get to watch TV whenever we want. We don't have to wash dishes, or clothes. Alternating between Chinese and Indian food? We get to do cool stuff together, like this? Isn't that the life every single man dreams of?

ALVIN

Really? Really really?

PETER

Wow. That's 3 reallys in one sentence. Look, I won't lie to you. Marriage is not without it's foibles. But I kind of miss the nagging, the ordering about, the fights. I never thought I'd say this. But I miss my wife.

A beat.

CHINESE PEDICURIST

You fuck up big time, man. It's hard for woman to find good man.

PETER

She's right.
(beat)

(to the pedicurist)
Do you think you could use a
little more of that aloe vera
moisturizer?

91 **EXT. JANET'S HOUSE - DAY**

91

Peter arrives at Janet's home with Jack and Max.

From the window Janet watches as Peter takes Jack and Max out of the car, gives them a really big kiss and cuddle, and then plays on the front lawn for a second before walking up to the door. She opens it. *

JANET
Hello pumpkin!

She gives Jack a huge kiss and cuddle, and then takes hold of Max.

JANET (CONT'D)
Have fun with Daddy?

PETER
We had a great time.

An awkward pause. Jack runs into the house.

PETER (CONT'D)
How are you?

JANET
I'm ok. How are you?

PETER
Not good.

Janet hands Max to her housekeeper for a moment and then sits on the step with him.

PETER (CONT'D)
(sitting)
I was thinking about our first date. I remember picking you up from your little pokey flat in this awful neighbourhood in South London. And out of this awful, rundown crack house, emerged this beautiful vision. I had butterflies in my stomach. That moment is forever etched in my mind. As are the tatoos on that pimp that was standing on the corner.

She smiles.

91

PETER (CONT'D)
I just want to say... I'm sorry.
As the pedicurist put it... I
fuck up big time.

She smiles.

JANET
You had a pedicure?
(beat)
I can't say I forgive you, Peter.
Because I'm still real angry. The
trust is broken. It will take
time to rebuild.

PETER
I know that.

*

92 **EXT. FLAT - EVENING**

92

Deleted

93 **EXT. FASHION SHOW - DUSK/EVENING**

93

Peter and Alvin walk up to the entrance to the fashion show.

*

Alvin finally appears wearing a velvet blazer.

*

PETER
I didn't think you were gonna make
it.

*

*

*

ALVIN
Yeah me neither. But I know what it
means to her.

*

*

*

PETER
Janet is saving some seats.

*

*

ALVIN
What, so you're speaking now?

*

*

PETER
We're working - isn't that what
marriage is?
(beat)
What the hell are you wearing?

*

*

*

*

*

ALVIN
What? We're going to a fashion
show, right? Velvet is very
fashionable.

*

*

*

*

PETER
Yeah, on a sofa, maybe.

*

*

(CONTINUED)

*

CUT TO:

94 INT. FASHION SHOW MAINSTAGE 94

Peter and Alvin take their seats next to Janet in the front row of a funky runway. *

*

95 INT. BACKSTAGE 95

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. You you and you - look fabulous. You, not so good. *

*

*

*

More mayhem.

96 INT. FASHION SHOW MAINSTAGE 96

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. *

*

The show continues for some minutes.

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

*

CUT TO:

97 INT. BACKSTAGE 97

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

*

PETER

I'll get some drinks, shall I? *

*

*

ALVIN

Good idea. I could do with one. *

*

*

JANET

(to Alvin) *

*

*

What did you think of the show? *

*

ALVIN

Yeah, pretty cool. *

*

*

(CONTINUED)

Ellie walks past.

Peter grabs her arm and pulls her to the conversation.

PETER

And speaking of pretty cool... here she is!

ELLIE

Hey Peter, Janet.

(beat)

Alvin.

ALVIN

Ellie.

They both look at each other awkwardly.

ALVIN (CONT'D)

It was great. Really great.

ELLIE

Thanks for coming.

Andrew grabs Ellie's arm.

ANDREW

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

He pulls her away.

ALVIN

Hey maybe we could-

ELLIE

(to Alvin)

Sorry. I'll be right back.

And with that she has been pulled back into crowd.

Alvin tries to get closer to Ellie but a large crowd forms around her. He watches as a charming FRENCHMAN flirts with her.

Dejected, he leaves the party.

CUT TO:

Alvin, upset, sits on a bench overlooking the river.

	'Swinging with the Finkels'	Pink Revisions	82-84B	
97b	CONTINUED:		97b	
	A dog walks up to him and looks at him with sad puppy eyes before peeing on the bench.			* *
		FLASHBACK TO:		*
97b	INT. BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS		97b	*
	Flashback to 7 years ago.			*
	MUSIC: Nat King Cole's "L-O-V-E" plays (L is for the way you look at me...)			* *
	"I RUV U" is written in lipstick on the mirror.			*
	Alvin appears behind her in the reflection with fake oversized silly teeth. She laughs. He takes them out and they kiss.			* * *
97c	INT. SUSHI RESTAURANT		97c	*
	Still in the past.			*
	Ellie tries, in vain, to pick up some slimy fish with chopsticks.			* *
	Alvin thrusts the wriggly fish like it's alive into Ellie's face. She laughs.			* *
97d	EXT. STREET - DAY		97d	*
	Alvin buys Ellie an ice cream. He gives it to her and the ice cream falls off the cone and onto the ground. He tries to pick it up and put it back on.			* * *
97e	INT. GOLDERS GREEN APARTMENT		97e	*
	Ellie and Alvin enter an empty apartment, Ellie jumps on the bed like a child.			* *
	Alvin goes to her and they kiss.			*
	They fall onto the bed and rip their clothes off.			*
97f	INT. GOLDER'S GREEN APARTMENT: KITCHEN		97f	*
	Alvin and Ellie are eating breakfast. Alvin is reading the newspaper and drinking coffee.			* *
	Ellie opens the fridge door and finds a post-it note on the jar of jam. It says 'Alvin & Ellie - 4Ever'. She smiles.			* *

97g

EXT. PARK - DAY

97g *

The sun is setting. Ellie and Alvin sit on a bench. She leans *
against his shoulder. He puts his arm around her. *

CUT TO: *

97g	'Swinging with the Finkels' CONTINUED:	Pink Revisions	85 97g	
			CUT TO:	*
98	EXT. STREET - NIGHT deleted		98	*

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

*

INT. PETER'S FLAT - PRESENT DAY

Alvin opens his eyes.

He is on the couch.

The doorbell is ringing.

Alvin opens it. It is Henry.

HENRY
(looking at the wartorn
place)
Nice.

ALVIN
You bring some beers?

He holds up a case.

ALVIN (CONT'D)
Enter.

Peter is transfixed by the TV screen.

He is playing guitar hero on the Wii console, which involves pressing buttons on the plastic guitar as they correspond to the screen.

He is getting into it.

HENRY
Woo-hoo. You rock, man.

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

HENRY
I think it's Gene Simmons,
actually. And he plays bass.

PETER
So who's Richard Simmons?

ALVIN
He's the American aerobics guy in
the shorts. Real name, Milton
Teagle Simmons.

HENRY
How do you know that?

ALVIN
I watch a lot of TV, ok?

Peter messes up.

PETER
Shit. You're breaking my
concentration, man.

Alvin takes the guitar and starts up with the music.

PETER (CONT'D)
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?

Ellie and Janet and Max are on the floor of the kitchen with
plastic toys piled around them.

100

ELLIE
That depends. Alvin didn't make
much of an effort at my show.

*
*
*

JANET
At least he came, right? Look, come
for us, come for your own sanity.
Come because it's not a time to be
alone thinking about how depressing
your life is.

*
*
*
*
*

101 INT. PETER'S FLAT - CONTINUOUS

101

As before.

ALVIN
I don't know. I'm kind of on the
fence.

HENRY
Let's put this in context. You
marry the girl of your dreams who
likes nooky in public places, who
lets you dip your pen into
another woman's ink, and you're
on the fence?

(beat)
Alvin, I may not always have
given you the best of advice over
the years, but let me put it like
this... if you sit on the fence,
you're gonna get splinters up
your ass.

Alvin reflects.

FLASHBACK TO:

102 EXT. GARDEN - DAY

102

Wedding... Deleted

*

	'Swinging with the Finkels'	Pink Revisions	89	
102	CONTINUED:		102	
				*
103	INT. ELLIE AND ALVIN'S LOUNGE		103	
	Ellie, on the sofa, looking through a wedding album at pictures of her and Alvin, her parents, etc...			*
	She is in a robe and has a towel in her hair - straight out of the shower.			*
			CUT TO:	
104	INT. PETER'S FLAT		104	
	Alvin sitting at the table drinking coke.			
	He pulls the RINGPULL off the can and stares at it reflectively.			
	He places it on his finger.			
			FLASHBACK TO:	*
106	INT. SHOWER		106	
	She turns on the shower, disrobes, and then gets inside.			
	The heat begins to steam up the bathroom.			
	A message begins to appear on the mirror (from the steam). It reads: "MARRY ME?"			

(CONTINUED)

She turns around and Alvin is standing behind her with a ringpull from a can of coke.

He places it on her finger (or tries to).

They kiss.

A joyous moment.

Alvin tries to pull the ringpull off.

It is stuck.

New Year's. Present day.

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 is also there. *

Janet sidles up to Peter in the kitchen.

JANET
Where's Alvin?

PETER
On his way, I hope.

Henry, with a spoonful of food in his mouth, comes up to Janet.

HENRY
This dip is delicious. What is it?

JANET
Oh thanks for reminding me. Here Zippy, here girl?

She places the dip (CAT FOOD) on the floor and Zippy the cat starts lapping it up.

Henry tucks into more catfood.

109 INT. PETER'S FLAT

109

Alvin is putting on a tie and looking at himself in the mirror.

He is hesitant.

Fighting can be heard coming from next door.

The sound of a glass breaking against the wall.

Alvin goes out into the hallway to investigate.

110 INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

110

Alvin knocks on the door. A pleasant man in his 30s answers [BOB]

ALVIN

Hey, Bob. Everything ok?

BOB

Oh yeah. Hey, fine. Everything's real good, thanks.

An ashtray comes whizzing near his face smashing near the door, thrown by the attractive girl Alvin met in the hallway briefly.

ALVIN

Are you sure?

BOB

Yeah, we're dandy. Thanks for asking. Catch up with you tomorrow?

ALVIN

Sure.

Bob closes the door.

More screaming and broken crockery.

Alvin reflects for a moment on the state of this broken couple.

A realisation as something dawns on him.

ALVIN (CONT'D)

(to himself)

What the hell am I doing here?

He bolts down the hallway.

CUT TO:

111 INT. JANET'S HOUSE

111

Ellie comes up to Janet.

ELLIE

Hey, thanks for throwing this party. It's really great. I just wish...

(she becomes reflective)

I mean, I got him a present too.

She holds up a little box.

ELLIE (CONT'D)

Nevermind...

JANET

What, is Alvin not here yet?

ELLIE

Do you mind if I go?

JANET

No. You can't go. It's not even New Year's yet. Wait, I'll ask Peter to call Alvin.

Janet goes to find Peter.

CUT TO:

112 EXT. MINI MART

112

Alvin has parked his car outside a mini mart. He is inside buying something. A clamping vehicle pulls up next to his car.

113 INT. JANET'S HOUSE

113

Janet and Peter.

JANET

Where's Alvin. Have you called him?

PETER

He's not here yet?

JANET

Just call him.

Peter dials him on the cell phone. No answer.

PETER

No answer.

(CONTINUED)

113

CONTINUED:

113

JANET

Try again.

PETER

Maybe there's no answer for a reason.

JANET

Try again.

PETER

Ok.

He dials again.

CUT TO:

114

INT. PETER'S FLAT

114

Alvin's phone, sitting in a box of Chinese glop, rings.

The cat jumps up on the counter and investigates the ringing Chinese food.

115

INT. JANET'S HOUSE

115

Peter hangs up.

PETER

Sorry. Nothing.

JANET

But he said he would be here right? He said he would come?

Peter nods. He turns to Ellie.

PETER

Sorry Ellie.

JANET

At least wait for the countdown. It's happening any second.

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

JANET (CONT'D)

There! See.

EVERYONE

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

Ellie looks around. Still no sight of Alvin. Peter and Janet naturally come together.

(CONTINUED)

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 things could be back on track.

Ellie, all by herself, sees them kiss. She goes up to the housekeeper.

ELLIE

Do you think you could call me a cab?

Ellie goes outside to wait.

Alvin comes out of the mini mart clutching a bag.

A traffic warden is putting a CLAMP on the wheel.

ALVIN

What? It's New Year's! You cannot be serious.

TRAFFIC WARDEN

Double yellow. Sorry.

ALVIN

You're not sorry. You don't know the meaning of sorry, pal.

TRAFFIC WARDEN

Happy New Year.

The warden leaves.

ALVIN

Yeah whatever.

Alvin tries to pull the clamp off.

He falls over.

He gets up and kicks the clamp and doubles up in pain.

A REFUSE WORKER moving a dustbin to his truck sees Alvin.

DUSTBINMAN

You won't get it off, mate. Made of solid steel it is.

116

CONTINUED:

116

ALVIN
Clamping on New Year's Eve! Can
you believe it?

DUSTBINMAN
Try picking up rubbish on New
Year's.

CUT TO:

117

INT. JANET'S HOUSE

117

Ellie looks inside at the happy people.

A GARBAGE TRUCK comes down the street and parks outside the
house (seen through the window).

CUT TO:

118

EXT. STREET - CONTINUOUS

118

Sandwiched between two very large men in the front seat of
the truck, is ALVIN.

ALVIN
I mean they were a lovely couple,
but a little creepy, ya know? He
actually came into the bathroom and
propositioned me. And you wanna
hear the worst thing? He used my
toothbrush!

They wince in disgust.

DUSTBINMAN
A man's toothbrush is holy and
should never be touched.

ALVIN
Exactly.

DUSTBINMAN
I hope you got a new one.

ALVIN
Only like, immediately,

119

INT. JANET'S HOUSE

119

Janet spots the garbage truck through the window.

JANET
Is that... Alvin?

120 **INT/EXT. GARBAGE TRUCK** 120

Alvin hops out.

ALVIN

Thanks for the lift. Happy New
Years, chaps.

DUSTBINMAN

Good luck, mate.

Alvin jumps out and goes inside.

The garbage truck pulls away and a taxi appears in its place.

121 **INT. HOUSE** 121

Alvin runs unto the kitchen. As he does so, Ellie leave the house through the lounge. They have missed each other completely.

ANGLE ON ALVIN IN KITCHEN

PETER

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

ALVIN

Yes, Happy New Year and all that
stuff. Listen, have you seen Ellie?

PETER

Yeah, she was here a second ago.
What's that smell?

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.

122 **EXT. HOUSE - NIGHT** 122

Alvin watches as the taxi drives away. Ellie is nowhere in sight. He turns and goes back into the house.

123 **INT. HOUSE - CONTINUOUS** 123

Alvin looks dejected. He has lost his chance.

PETER

I'm sorry. She waited for you old
chum.

124

INT. HOUSE

124

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.

ALVIN
You came back.

ELLIE
I was going to leave this here for you, just in case you showed up.

ALVIN
What is it?

ELLIE
A present.

ALVIN
No kidding? I got you something too. Here.

He hands her the present.

ALVIN (CONT'D)
Open it.

She opens it.

ALVIN (CONT'D)
Sorry about the wrapping. I got it from the minimart. That's why I'm late. Well, and also because my car got clamped and I had to get a ride in a garbage truck.

ELLIE
Is that what that smell is?

ALVIN
Sorry.

(CONTINUED)

She reaches into the bag and pulls out a can of Diet Coke and a squashed bar of chocolate.

ELLIE

Umm... nice.

ALVIN

No, sorry, those are for me. The other present.

He grabs the coke and squashed chocolate.

She reaches in again and pulls out a BOOK. She opens the book.

ELLIE

Another book, huh?

The first page has some pictures of he and Ellie made from a collage that Alvin has put together.

ALVIN

The rest of the book is blank. That's for the next 10 years.

She chuckles.

ELLIE

So what does this mean, Alvin?

ALVIN

Tonight it hit me. This couple, they were having a terrible fight. I mean like breaking the family heirlooms and throwing stuff. And when I knocked on their door and asked if everything was ok, do you know what Bob said?

ELLIE

Bob?

ALVIN

Yeah. He lives next door to the bachelor pad. He said. We're fine. We're fine. But they weren't fine.

ELLIE

I don't get it.

ALVIN

Don't you see, Ellie. What it means is that we've spent 9 years together. 9 crazy, beautiful, hard, fun, challenging years.

*
*

Sometimes we've driven each other
up the wall and wanted to pull
our hair out. I married you...
for better or for worse.

(beat)

What it means, is that the grass
is not greener on the other side.
I've seen it. It's an illusion.
We think it's greener. It's sort
of half green half brown, but
that doesn't matter because it's
the same colour on each side
anyway you get what I'm saying
right?

ELLIE

What are you saying Alvin?

ALVIN

I'm saying I want bananas. I'm
saying I want to spend the next 9
years with a banana, and the 9
after that. I love bananas,
Ellie. I love you. And I hope
it's not too late to say that.

*
*
*
*

'Awws' from the group of friends watching from the window,
that they now become aware are watching them.

PETER

(to Janet)

Hoorah for bananas!

*

ELLIE

You're such an idiot Alvin.

(beat)

I love you for your stupid
airdrumming, your incessant and
sometimes offensive comments
about the female gender. I love
you, not just the way you are,
but the way you are not. So no,
it's not too late. It's just in
time.

Henry watches from the window.

HENRY

Kiss her you imbecile.

They kiss.

ELLIE

You still haven't opened your
present.

He opens up the small box and pulls out a very small pair of
baby tennis shoes.

(CONTINUED)

ALVIN

I don't get it. They're lovely,
but they're really far too small
for me.

ELLIE

That's because they're not for you.

He raises his eyebrows. She shakes her head as if saying,
yes, it's true.

ELLIE (CONT'D)

Think you can handle it?

ALVIN

With pleasure.

They hug to great applause from the peanut gallery.

Peter and Janet squeeze hands.

Henry hugs a random girl. It starts snowing. Everyone runs
outside into the snow. *

(MUSIC: WHITE CHRISTMAS)

Alvin and Ellie walk into the house. The camera cranes up.

ALVIN (CONT'D)

(voice trailing off)

I could learn to play, you know.
I could get a drumset. I could be
like George Harrison.

ELLIE

You mean Ringo? Ringo played the
drums.

ALVIN

So what did George do?

CUT TO:

Mr and Mrs Winters are sitting on a sofa.

They are talking to camera in a formal interview type
setting.

MR WINTERS

Marriage takes work. Keeping the
flame alive. It ain't easy.

MRS WINTERS

You think living with him is
easy?

(CONTINUED)

The snoring, the complaining.
That sound you make in the
morning when you wake up-

MR WINTERS

The constant nagging in my ear
all day long. Chuck do this,
Chuck do that.

MRS WINTERS

We got married in 1969. That's over
40 years ago.

MR WINTERS

I don't know what I'd do without
you. You are my rock. I love you.

They turn to each other and kiss.

A 3 year old girl runs into frame.

GIRL

Granny, Grandad. Come. Come.

MR WINTERS

Hello, muffin.

They get up, take their granddaughter by the hand, and walk
out, leaving an EMPTY ROOM.

THE END

Alvin plays the drums... very badly... as the CREDITS SCROLL.

**Use some improvised interview footage over credits.