

A Gay Marriage

by

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Character Breakdown

Jack, Married to Brian - 30's to 40's

Brian, Married to Jack - 30's to 40's

Karen, Sister to Jack - 40's

Morty, Father to Brian - 60's to 70's

Eileen, Mother to Brian - 60's to 70's

PROLOGUE: NEWS

The NBC News Theme song begins to play as the stage and house lights fade to black. In the darkness we hear in voice over the actual news footage from June 26, 2015:

PETE WILLIAMS

(voice over)

Historic ruling here, for the first time the Supreme Court has said there is a constitutional right to same sex marriage, you can hear the cheer in the crowd a very dramatic moment here. A 5-4 decision written by Justice Anthony Kennedy. This is a total victory for the advocates of same sex marriage.

SCENE 1: JACK AND KAREN

JACK

Did you ever think about killing your husband?

KAREN

Like seriously kill?

JACK

Seriously.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KAREN
Like dead?

JACK
Yes.

KAREN
No.

JACK
Never?

KAREN
No.

JACK
That's good.

KAREN
Why?

JACK
I wanted to kill Brian last Friday.

KAREN
Oh, come on, don't say that.

JACK
Well I didn't actually kill him.

KAREN
And that's good.

JACK
But I thought about it.

KAREN
I love Brian.

JACK
I love him, too, but he pissed me off so bad last Friday I literally wanted to kill him.

KAREN
Well, it's really good you didn't cause you would not do well in jail.

JACK
Well, of course, I would never kill him.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

KAREN

But you want to.

JACK

I wanted to. I don't want to. I was just so angry. I wasn't just pissed off I was in a crazy rage.

KAREN

What did he do?

JACK

Nothing! It was nothing. It was stupid.

KAREN

What?

JACK

It was nothing. That's the point.

KAREN

But what was it?

JACK

He wouldn't give me 20 bucks.

KAREN

What?

JACK

We were at a Casino. We were down about a hundred bucks and he won it back so he decided we were done but I wanted to keep playing so I asked him for 20 dollars.

KAREN

You didn't have 20 dollars on you?

JACK

We only take one wallet when we go and he was holding it so he had all the money and I just wanted another 20 dollars and I promised him if I won I'd walk away. So he gave me another 20 and I lost it really fast so I asked him for another one and he said, "hell no, we're done", and he turned and walked away.

KAREN

He sounds like a very responsible gambler.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

JACK

I swear I wanted to kill him. I just snapped. So I start walking after him and I tried to be calm even though I was totally pissed and I said, "Brian, can I please just get another 20 bucks?"

SCENE 2: THE CASINO

Brian appears in a spotlight.

BRIAN

No. You're done. We're done. We're leaving.

JACK

I'm not leaving.

BRIAN

Well I'm leaving.

JACK

So you're the boss now?

BRIAN

Well someone needs to be the adult here?

JACK

Come on it's 20 bucks.

BRIAN

And when does it end?

JACK

Would you please just gimme 20 dollars.

BRIAN

No. I gave you a 20 and you lost it. Let's go. We had fun. It's over.

JACK

Just gimme the fucking wallet.

BRIAN

Nope.

JACK

Brian, seriously.

BRIAN

Nope. Nope. Nopity, nope, nope no.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JACK

You know you sound like a stereotypical faggot when you talk that.

BRIAN

You are seriously fucked up.

Back to Karen.

JACK

And he turned to walk away and I sort of pushed him from behind and he turned around and said:

BRIAN

Do that again I fucking dare you.

JACK

(mocking)

"Do that again I fucking dare you."

BRIAN

What the fuck is wrong with you?

JACK

What the fuck is wrong with YOU?

KAREN

(to Jack)

What the fuck is wrong with you BOTH??? You're fighting over 20 bucks in a casino lobby??? That is like serious white trash.

JACK

I know!!! It's insane. I don't know what happened. So a security guard saw it and came over and he wants to know what's going on so I said, "My fucking husband's being a total cunt."

KAREN

You called your husband a cunt? This is really bad.

JACK

And the guard tells me to watch my language and I tell him to fuck off and he threatens to have me arrested and then Brian starts laughing really loud and with a big smile on his face he says...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

BRIAN

"We're leaving, I'm sorry...my husband can be really immature sometimes...but I'm fine. We're leaving. Come on crazy, lets go. Come on cray cray."

KAREN

Like he talked to you like you were a dog?

JACK

A dog named Cray Cray.

KAREN

Now, that's funny.

JACK

Well, it's funny now but it wasn't then! And I thought my head was gonna explode. I literally wanted to punch him in the face. I wanted to hurt him so bad. It was not good. Oooohhh, I was so pissed.

KAREN

So what happened?

JACK

We drove home in silence.

They are now in the car driving home in silence. No words. Just driving.

JACK (CONT'D)

I thought about killing him. I thought about all the ways I would kill him and not get caught. I thought about going to prison for 1st degree murder. Then we got in the house.

They are now drinking wine in the house.

JACK (CONT'D)

I had a glass of wine. I calmed down. I apologized. He made a joke about me almost getting arrested and we laughed about it...

They kiss.

JACK (CONT'D)

...and we went to bed and we had great sex.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

Brian exits as Jack moves over to Karen.

JACK (CONT'D)
So what do you think? You think I'm
insane?

KAREN
I think you're married.

JACK
You know we never fought like that before
we got married.

KAREN
Exactly, you remember what I told you?

JACK
I remember.

KAREN
Be careful what you wish for.

JACK
I hate the fact that you're always right.

KAREN
Isn't "equality" wonderful?

SCENE 3: BRIAN & JACK AT HOME - THE NEXT MORNING

Brian enters eating a bowl of cereal.

BRIAN
You were very tough last night.

JACK
Wasn't I?

BRIAN
I was terrified.

JACK
Yeah, you seemed terrified.

BRIAN
You know they have a twelve-step program
for people like you.

JACK
Like what?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BRIAN
It's called gamblers anonymous.

JACK
Right.

BRIAN
I think maybe you're addicted.

JACK
Brian, darling, I apologized.

BRIAN
"Just 20 more bucks and then we'll go, I promise."

JACK
I'm never going gambling with you again.

BRIAN
Thank God!

JACK
So don't ask me.

BRIAN
And don't use money from our account.

JACK
Don't worry I won't.

BRIAN
Because I'm just a "stereotypical faggot."

JACK
Did I not apologize?

BRIAN
I'm a "cunt!"

JACK
I lost my head, I'm sorry.

BRIAN
I should have had that security guard arrest you.

JACK
You would have enjoyed that, right?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

BRIAN

I just loved watching you squirm.

JACK

I bet you did.

BRIAN

I did. I think you'd look sexy in handcuffs.

JACK

I'm sure I would.

BRIAN

Seriously, honey, you need to learn to walk away. When you're winning you leave.

JACK

It was 20 dollars.

BRIAN

It's the principal. When you're up you walk away. You leave when you're ahead. Everybody knows that. Everybody but you.

JACK

Yes sir.

BRIAN

The house always wins. How many times do I have to tell you that? The machines are only good for a while. Eventually they dry up and you lose everything you put into them. So when you're up, like we were, you cash out and you go home.

JACK

I forgot you have a PHD in slot machines.

BRIAN

If I hadn't been there, you would have just poured everything you'd won right back into the machine and at the end of the night you would have had nothing.

JACK

Are you done with the gambling lesson?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

BRIAN

Would you rather end up with 100 dollars
or no dollars?

SCENE 4: JACK & KAREN

KAREN

Brian's pretty smart you know.

JACK

(still looking at Brian but
talking to Karen)
I don't care...sometimes I want to kill
him.

KAREN

Don't, OK?

JACK

I won't.

KAREN

Please don't kill him.

JACK

Don't worry. I won't. I love him so
much. I love him too much. I don't want
to hurt him. I really don't.
(they kiss)
Besides, it would just give his fucking
parents one more reason to hate me.

KAREN

That's a good point.

JACK

Maybe I should kill them instead.

Music plays as Morty walks on stage reading a newspaper. He
sits and continues to read. Eileen enters, crosses down
center stage and looks in a full length mirror.

SCENE 5: EILEEN AND MORTY - AT HOME

EILEEN

I don't know why I've gotten so fat.

MORTY

I like you fat.

EILEEN

Don't say that.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MORTY

It's cute.

EILEEN

Shut up.

MORTY

It's OK to be a little overweight when you're sixty-four.

EILEEN

I'm not a little overweight, I'm a lot overweight.

MORTY

You're adorable.

EILEEN

And I'm sixty-three.

MORTY

No you're not.

EILEEN

Morty.

MORTY

You're fifty-nine.

EILEEN

Thank you. Look at my butt Morty.

MORTY

It's beautiful.

EILEEN

Eileen It's huge.

A doorbell rings.

MORTY

Are we expecting company?

EILEEN

No.

MORTY

Don't answer it. It's probably Jehovah's Witnesses.

EILEEN

Or Mormons.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

MORTY
Don't answer it.

Second doorbell.

EILEEN
I'll get it.

She goes to the door.

MORTY
Look through the peep hole.

EILEEN
Really Morty?

She looks through peep hole.

EILEEN (CONT'D)
It's Brian.

She opens door. Huge hugs!

BRIAN
Hi Mom.

EILEEN
Brian!!! Brian!!! Hi, honey. You never just drop by. This is so great. It's like what you're supposed to do. Drop in unannounced and visit your parents. I love it. Have you eaten?

BRIAN
I need a Diet Coke.

MORTY
You came over for a Diet Coke?

BRIAN
Do you have any?

EILEEN
I'll get you one. Hold on.

She exits.

MORTY
Are you OK?

BRIAN
No.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

MORTY
What happened?

BRIAN
I'll tell you in a minute.

MORTY
Did someone die?

BRIAN
No. Maybe. I don't know.

MORTY
What happened?

BRIAN
I'm very upset.

MORTY
What happened?

EILEEN
(offstage)
Do you want it in a glass?

BRIAN
Please.

EILEEN
(offstage)
Coming up.

MORTY
What happened? Tell me.

Brian crosses to the sofa and sits. Brian is about to speak but changes his mind.

BRIAN
I want to tell you both at the same time.

Eileen enters with a Diet Coke in a glass with ice.

EILEEN
Here you go.

BRIAN
Thanks, Mom.

He sits and drinks. They watch him.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

BRIAN (CONT'D)

This is so good.

EILEEN

We have better Diet Coke on this side of town.

BRIAN

It's great.

MORTY

It's Diet Coke.

EILEEN

You don't drink it. You don't know.

Brian drinks and finishes his Diet Coke while they sit in silence.

BRIAN

OK. Here we go. When I got home tonight there was a note from Jack that said, "I'm leaving you because I love you so much and I don't want to hurt you."

EILEEN

What?

BRIAN

That's all it said and his clothes were gone and his phone's turned off and he's not answering e-mails.

MORTY

What happened?

BRIAN

I don't know.

MORTY

What do you mean you don't now?

BRIAN

I don't know.

EILEEN

Did you guys have a fight?

BRIAN

No.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

EILEEN

You must have had a fight.

BRIAN

Not this week we haven't. We had a thing at the casino about three weeks ago but since then everything's perfect.

MORTY

Well, obviously it isn't.

BRIAN

I swear I don't know what's going on.

EILEEN

Where is he now?

BRIAN

Mom, I don't know. He didn't say how to get a hold of him.

EILEEN

This is crazy.

BRIAN

I know.

MORTY

He just left a note?

BRIAN

And all of his clothes are gone.

EILEEN

This isn't like Jack.

MORTY

Oh I think it's exactly like him. I warned you about him at the wedding.

EILEEN

Shut up, Morty.

MORTY

Well, I did.

EILEEN

Please shut up, Morty.

BRIAN

So that's it.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (6)

EILEEN

Maybe he's having a mid-life crisis.

BRIAN

He had one last year.

EILEEN

Well maybe he's having another one.

BRIAN

How many mid-life crises can one person have?

Brian gets up and crosses to the dining room table and sits on a chair.

MORTY

Well he's always been a little greedy.

EILEEN

Morty, please.

BRIAN

So that's all I know.

EILEEN

He'll come back.

BRIAN

I don't think so. I have a really bad feeling about this.

EILEEN

Of course he'll come back.

BRIAN

The note is so...it's just so direct.

MORTY

Men are assholes. Remember what I told you when you announced you were gay?

EILEEN

Morty, please.

MORTY

"Well good luck to you, son, because most men are assholes." Do you remember that?

EILEEN

Morty, stop!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (7)

MORTY

Well what do you want me to tell you?

BRIAN

Tell me he's coming back.

MORTY

He's coming back.

BRIAN

Say it like you mean it.

MORTY

I don't know Brian. I've never understood Jack. I've never understood your relationship.

EILEEN

This is not what he wants to hear right now.

BRIAN

It's OK.

MORTY

He never seemed like the type to keep commitments.

EILEEN

Honey, please.

MORTY

I'm sorry, I'm just being honest. I never fully trusted him.

BRIAN

But everything was fine.

EILEEN

Was it, really?

BRIAN

I thought it was.

EILEEN

Do his friends know where he is?

BRIAN

I haven't tried them.

EILEEN

I'm sure he's staying with a friend.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (8)

BRIAN

What am I supposed to do? Call up his friends and say, "Jack left me today. I was wondering if you know where he is or why he left?"

EILEEN

Well you have to find him.

BRIAN

Why?

EILEEN

What do you mean why?

BRIAN

Why do I have to find him? If he wants to leave me, that's his choice. He's entitled to leave me.

MORTY

No he's not.

Morty stands up and crosses to the table.

MORTY (CONT'D)

The Supreme Court gave you gay marriage not gay divorce. You're supposed to stay together, for better or for worse. You now have the right to be as miserable as your mother and I.

EILEEN

Keep it up, Morty, one more word...

BRIAN

People aren't like you and Mom anymore. People don't stay together because they're supposed to.

EILEEN

Well they should.

BRIAN

Well they don't.

EILEEN

Well they should.

Eileen joins them at the table.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (9)

EILEEN (CONT'D)

You don't walk down an aisle in front of three hundred people and promise in front of a priest that you'll stay together and then divorce three years later.

BRIAN

Three years is a record these days, Mom.

EILEEN

Forty-eight years Brian, that's a record. Forty-eight years. When I was your age I didn't even know divorce was allowed. I thought you went to jail for getting divorced.

BRIAN

So if he doesn't love me anymore he should just stay with me, anyway?

MORTY

Welcome to marriage.

EILEEN

Shut up, Morty. He does love you.

BRIAN

Maybe he doesn't anymore.

EILEEN

Of course he does. He said it in the note. He's just got a bug in his cap. He'll be back in the morning.

MORTY

Or when he runs out of money.

EILEEN

Remember when you were nine and you ran away from home and we didn't come after you because we knew you'd come back and you were so mad?

BRIAN

I remember.

EILEEN

But you came back honey and we were right.

BRIAN

You were right.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (10)

EILEEN

We're always right. That's why kids hate their parents because they know their parents are always right.

MORTY

One day your mom is gonna be wrong and we're gonna throw a big party to celebrate.

Eileen shoots him a look.

MORTY (CONT'D)

I'm just saying.

EILEEN

Do you want something to eat?

BRIAN

That's OK.

EILEEN

I made pasta.

BRIAN

That sounds good, actually.

MORTY

Trust me it's not.

They all start laughing.

EILEEN

One second.

Eileen exits. Brian checks his phone and his e-mail on his smart phone.

BRIAN

Nada.

Awkward silence.

MORTY

He'll call.

BRIAN

You're so optimistic.

Eileen enters with a bowl of pasta and a fork.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (11)

EILEEN

Here's your pasta.

Hands Brian pasta. Brian eats while they sit and watch him.

BRIAN

It's great.

They sit and watch him some more. Eileen notices her watch and stands up.

EILEEN

Do you want to stay the night?

BRIAN

Do you mind?

EILEEN

Honey, of course not. I'll make your bed up.

Eileen exits. They watch her go and make sure she is out of earshot.

BRIAN

Did you ever want to leave Mom?

MORTY

Everyday.

They pull their chairs closer.

BRIAN

No, really?

MORTY

It's never been an option.

BRIAN

Because of me?

MORTY

Because of everything. I couldn't live with myself if I walked out on you and your Mother.

BRIAN

But have you ever wanted to?

MORTY

You know, you fight one afternoon, but it goes away.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (12)

BRIAN

We don't even fight that much.

MORTY

Have you been fighting more lately?

BRIAN

Not more often but more spontaneously.

MORTY

What do you mean?

BRIAN

We'll have these intense flair ups over little things, but it's always over nothing and we never stay mad.

MORTY

Well you're both under a lot of pressure.

BRIAN

I'm under more pressure than him.

MORTY

Yeah, but I'm sure he panicked because the first song he sold was so successful and now there's a lot of pressure to live up to it.

BRIAN

Yeah, but that's the business, he knows that.

MORTY

Remember how great it was when he sold that song to that girl. What's her name?

BRIAN

Carrie Underwood.

MORTY

Yeah her. Remember how excited you both were?

BRIAN

He never thought he'd sell anything.

MORTY

Well you supported him for so long.

BRIAN

I know.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (13)

MORTY
You don't think he's leaving you because
of his success?

BRIAN
No.

MORTY
Maybe it's about money.

BRIAN
It's not about money.

MORTY
How do you know?

BRIAN
He's greedy but he's not that greedy.

MORTY
A lot of people get divorced after their
careers take off.

BRIAN
I have a good career, Dad.

MORTY
That's true.

BRIAN
If anything I should leave him. Who
knows if he'll ever sell another song.

MORTY
I'm sure he will.

BRIAN
I don't know.

They sit in silence. Brian eats his pasta.

MORTY
Be honest.
(beat)
What do you think of the pasta?

Brian grimaces as we cut to the next scene.

SCENE 6: KAREN & JACK AT KAREN'S HOUSE

Karen and Jack enter with pillow cases and pillows. They are
making up the couch for Jack to sleep on.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JACK
It's fine.

KAREN
It's lumpy, but it'll do for one night or
two or...

JACK
Hopefully one.

KAREN
And what about tomorrow?

JACK
I'm going apartment hunting.

KAREN
No you're not.

JACK
I am.

KAREN
You can stay here as long as you want.
You just need some time.

JACK
I don't think so.

KAREN
Jack, you have a great marriage. Trust
me, I know the difference between a good
marriage and a bad one.

JACK
I don't want a good marriage, I want a
great one.

KAREN
But you love Brian.

JACK
Everybody loves Brian.

KAREN
You can't just leave him.

JACK
Why not?

KAREN
Because you can't.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

JACK

You and Lucas were together for seven years but after three years everybody knew it was over.

KAREN

You're not me.

JACK

But you stayed together four years longer than you should have. You guys almost killed each other. You divided everybody up. You made your friends choose. It got so ugly.

Jack crosses over to the dining room table turns the light on. Heads to the kitchen and comes back with a Diet Coke in a can.

KAREN

And you're not me. And Brian isn't Lucas.

JACK

So what? Stay together? Like Mom and Dad? I don't want to become Mom and Dad.

KAREN

Well, that's unavoidable.

JACK

No, it's not.

KAREN

You're already a carbon copy of Dad.

JACK

Don't say that.

KAREN

Don't deny it. It's true.

JACK

No, it's not.

KAREN

You guys are identical.

JACK

No we're not.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

KAREN

He loves that you write music. He adores Brian and he'd be devastated if you guys broke up.

JACK

Him and Mom should have divorced twenty years ago.

KAREN

How can you say that? They're a great couple.

JACK

Dad doesn't like Mom.

KAREN

He loves her.

JACK

Yes, but he doesn't like her. Dad wants adventure in his life. He's an explorer, he can't stand to sit still and Mom is basically lazy and apathetic.

KAREN

Don't say that Jack.

JACK

It's true.

KAREN

Why do you always feel the need to insult Mom?

JACK

I'm not insulting Mom.

KAREN

You just called her lazy and apathetic.

JACK

Why is that an insult?

KAREN

You don't think that's insulting?

JACK

I'm stating facts.

KAREN

You're being mean.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

JACK
I love Mom.

KAREN
Really?

JACK
Yes.

KAREN
You just think she's lazy and apathetic.

JACK
She is.

KAREN
Jack.

JACK
She is.

KAREN
Jack, shut the fuck up.

She crosses to the table.

KAREN (CONT'D)
Why do you have to criticize everyone who isn't exactly like you. Some people are content, Jack. Some people like staying home. Some people are happy with their patterns. Mom likes to stay home and watch her shows, so what? Why is that bad?

JACK
It's not bad, I'm just saying that I think Dad expected more out of life and he's never gonna get it.

KAREN
Is that what this is about? You want more from Brian and you think he's gonna turn out to be like Mom?

JACK
No.

KAREN
Then why are you so scared?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

JACK

I'm scared because everyone I know stays in situations that make them miserable or they tolerate situations until they're eventually driven crazy or worse, and I see that coming and I don't want to become one of those people.

KAREN

So because of that you can only stick with something until it becomes uncomfortable.

JACK

Maybe.

KAREN

That's lazy. That's apathetic.

JACK

No it's not.

KAREN

It's worse than Mom. At least Mom commits. She's given her whole life to her family. She never had a lot of friends, she was always there when we came home from school, she was there when we went to bed, she got us up in the morning, she dressed us, fed us, she drove us everywhere we wanted to go. What did you need that you didn't get? How many meals did you see Dad cook? How many times did you see Dad lug groceries in from the car? How many times did Dad pick you up from school? A woman dedicates her entire life to her family and you dismiss her as lazy and apathetic.

JACK

That's not what I meant.

KAREN

That's how it sounded.

JACK

I don't want to fight with you.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (6)

KAREN

You're the lazy one Jack. Lazy is leaving your husband a note saying it's over. Did you even call him? Send him a message?

JACK

No.

KAREN

That's apathy Jack. Apathy is not Mom, apathy is you. At least Lucas and I tried couples counseling.

JACK

You don't understand what I'm saying.

Jack crosses back to the couch.

KAREN

No, I understood you perfectly. You think Mom's nothing because she never sold a song to Carrie Underwood.

JACK

I didn't say that.

KAREN

But you think it.

JACK

I don't.

Karen crosses and sits on the chair next to the couch.

KAREN

Everybody blames their parents these days. My dad molested me so I killed everyone at my job. My mom didn't love me so I rape women.

JACK

No, Karen.

KAREN

Yes, Jack. Everybody blames everybody else. If it wasn't for Mom, you wouldn't even be here. If you got pregnant you'd have an abortion because you couldn't deal with the pain. You make everything about you.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (7)

JACK

What are you talking about?

KAREN

You only see one side. Your perspective is so limited. If people don't live their lives the way you think they should then they're not valid or they're wrong or they're self-destructive.

JACK

I'm trying to explain me. How I feel, my fears. Brian is a great person. I'm not leaving him because I'm selfish, I'm leaving him because I don't want to hurt him.

KAREN

You're hurting him now.

JACK

I know.

KAREN

You should at least call him.

JACK

I'll call him tomorrow.

KAREN

I just hope you think about what you're doing.

JACK

All I've been doing is thinking about it. You think this is rash? You think this is easy? Brian is the only person I've ever met that I feel completely at home with. This isn't easy, I'm not taking this decision lightly. Three weeks ago at the casino when I was so angry, it was clear to me that something was wrong. I wanted to kill him...over 20 dollars. If we hadn't been in public, I think I seriously think I would have hit him.

KAREN

But you didn't, see, and that's the point.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (8)

JACK

I can't think of anyone else who has pissed me off that much in the last, say, two years.

KAREN

So.

JACK

Don't you think it's awful that the person in my life who means the most to me, the person I have dedicated my life to, the person I love more than anyone else in the world, don't you think it's a little disturbing that I could feel so much hate toward that person?

KAREN

It's called marriage, Jack. You guys spent so many years fighting for the right to get married but you had no idea what you were fighting for. Marriage is work, Jack. It's not a circuit party. It's a job. Have you ever really wondered why so many marriages end in divorce? Did you ever really ponder that? Because for most people, being married sucks. I never understood why homophobes fought so hard to stop you guys from having equal rights because if they really hated gay people the meanest thing they could have done is encourage you all to get married. You know the last year Lucas and I were together he finally just said flat out he wasn't interested in sex anymore. But then I, I don't think I ever told you this, but I found a secret file on his computer labeled work project and it was filled with a bunch of porn, really nasty stuff, and a lot of the files had been opened in the last week. So clearly he hadn't lost interest in sex, he'd just lost interest in me. I knew it was over when I opened that file.

JACK

So why should I stay in my marriage when you didn't stay in yours.

Karen moves and sits next to Jack on the couch.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (9)

KAREN

I don't know. Cause I want you to be better than me. I've always wanted that for you. I guess a part of me hoped that gay people would somehow be better at marriage the way you guys are better at a lot of things.

JACK

You mean like flower arranging?

KAREN

No. That's not what I mean. A lot of straight people get married because they have to cause of a pregnancy, or pressure from the parents, or religion, but gay marriage seemed purer to me...like you all were getting married only for love...and you guys fought so hard for the right to marry that...I guess, I thought you would somehow approach it differently...I don't know...but it turns out you're just like us dumb straight people who get married too fast and walk away too quickly and beat each other up over 20 dollars. You're just like your dumb sister. I just wanted more for you. I didn't want you to be me and Lucas.

(long pause...they sit in silence)

You know In your heart it's over, don't you?

JACK

I do.

SCENE 7: EILEEN, MORTY & BRIAN - AT HOME

We hear a voice over from a television show as the family enters. As the TV plays Brian, Morty and Eileen enter and move to the couch area to watch TV. Brian lays on the couch, Eileen is in the chair next to him and Morty stands next to Eileen.

TV SHOW

(voiceover)

...as family members hang wreaths at the Marillon Avenue station. It is a somber 20 year anniversary. "

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TV SHOW (CONT'D)

It's something that stays with you for the rest of your life to the day I die." It was the height of rush hour on a crowded Long Island railroad train. Colin Ferguson opened fire only stopping when passengers tackled him. Six people died, nineteen were injured and two decades later hearts are still broken...

EILEEN

They should've taken take him out behind the courthouse and shot him and thrown him in the river, or better yet, tied him to the tracks of the Long Island Railroad.

MORTY

Your mother is so advanced in her ideas about capitol punishment.

EILEEN

The man's a lunatic.

MORTY

And even lunatics are entitled to a fair trial.

EILEEN

Paid for by me? No thank you. He kills a bunch of people and now for the rest of his life he's guaranteed a clean bed and three meals a day.

MORTY

Don't glamorize prison.

EILEEN

They get to watch TV all day and read Playboy. Is that punishment to you? That man doesn't deserve to live.

MORTY

This is why I can't take you anywhere. I took her to a dinner last month for retired defense attorneys. She had the whole table in an uproar.

EILEEN

They loved me.

MORTY

It was humiliating.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

EILEEN

You think I'm intimidated by a bunch of old men in suits with their big old gold watches they got for defending scum all their lives? I hate defense attorneys.

BRIAN

Yet, you married one.

MORTY

You should have seen her. I kept playing it off like everything she said was joking.

EILEEN

They don't intimidate me. You can't be intimidated by people who are wrong. That's why I don't pay any attention to your father because he's always wrong.

MORTY

She's awful.

BRIAN

Mom, you really are.

EILEEN

I'm not. Most straight men are usually wrong.

MORTY

Here we go.

EILEEN

When was the last time a gay man went on a Long Island Railroad train and blew up everybody? Did gay men blow up the World Trade Center? No, it was a bunch of crazy straight men from Saudi Arabia. Who was the last gay serial killer you can remember?

BRIAN

Jeffrey Dahmer.

EILEEN

Okay so one.

MORTY

John Wayne Gacy Jr.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

EILEEN

Ok so 2. 2 out of how many? Hundreds!

BRIAN

Why are we talking serial killers?

EILEEN

I'm talking about straight men. The point I'm making is that straight men are responsible for most of the problems in the world. If there weren't straight men, we wouldn't have a deficit and we wouldn't have wars and we wouldn't have serial killers.

BRIAN

Well we'd have two serial killers.

MORTY

And we wouldn't have people. Straight men make people. Without straight men there wouldn't be women or gay guys so cut us some slack.

EILEEN

Well if we didn't need you guys for that, all of our problems would be solved. You know how to solve crime?

BRIAN

I bet you're gonna tell us?

EILEEN

Well, you don't do it by banning assault weapons. You do it by banning men. If they just banned men there wouldn't be any crime.

BRIAN

There's a lot of women criminals.

EILEEN

Not that many.

BRIAN

There's a lot.

EILEEN

Brian, how many of your women friends do you know that own assault weapons?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

BRIAN

42.

EILEEN

Shut up. I'm serious. When was the last time you heard a woman say she wanted an assault weapon.

BRIAN

Sarah Palin.

EILEEN

She doesn't count.

MORTY

Why doesn't she count???

EILEEN

Because I don't want her to! The point is I don't know any women that want to buy assault weapons.

MORTY

I don't know any men that want them either.

EILEEN

Well somebody wants them, otherwise they wouldn't have to ban them.

BRIAN

Criminals want them.

MORTY

And we don't know any criminals.

EILEEN

Except your attorney friends.

MORTY

You don't solve crime by banning guns, you solve crime by preventative medicine. If we didn't have poverty we wouldn't have crime.

EILEEN

You're right, O.J. Simpson was broke, so he killed his wife to make more money.

MORTY

You know what I mean.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

EILEEN

How can I know what you mean when you
don't know what you mean?

MORTY

Isn't your mother so loving?

BRIAN

Mother Theresa.

EILEEN

Ok, I'm done.

They sit in silence. Eileen moves to the couch to comfort
Brian.

EILEEN (CONT'D)

Brian.

BRIAN

Mom.

EILEEN

You know everything's gonna be fine with
you and Jack.

BRIAN

No, I don't know that.

EILEEN

You guys make a wonderful couple. Jack
is a wonderful man and he loves you and
you're gonna be back together in a few
days and this will all be over and you'll
be on to the next chapter of your lives.
And then you'll wake up one day and
you'll be old and miserable and
celebrating your 40th wedding anniversary
just like your parents.

BRIAN

I'm not so sure.

EILEEN

He loves you, Brian.

BRIAN

I know.

EILEEN

He'll come back.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (6)

BRIAN

Maybe.

EILEEN

He will.

They sit in silence.

EILEEN (CONT'D)

How 'bout some ice cream.

BRIAN

I'll pass.

EILEEN

Come on. You can't just sit around all night feeling sorry for yourself. Have some ice cream.

MORTY

He doesn't want any.

EILEEN

Yes, he does.

BRIAN

I'm fine.

EILEEN

It's low fat. Your dad put me on a diet because he said my butt's getting too big.

MORTY

I never said that.

EILEEN

(To Brian)

Honey, do you think my butt's getting too big?

BRIAN

It's fine.

EILEEN

Don't mope honey, come on.

MORTY

He's upset. Leave him alone. Let him mope if he wants to. Go eat your ice cream. Seriously.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (7)

Eileen leaves.

MORTY (CONT'D)

I live with that. 24 hours a day.

(they sit in silence)

It's gonna be OK, Brian.

BRIAN

I don't think so. I feel like something cracked...and it can't be repaired.

Music as Brian checks his phone and the lights fade to black so the only light on stage is Brian's face being illuminated by his phone. Then Eileen enters in the darkness and she, too, is looking at her phone. Karen enters the same so there are now three faces illuminated by cell phone light and the lights come up as the scene begins. Jack exits as Karen and Eileen saunter around the stage on their phones never looking at each other but criss-crossing and passing close by each other sort of like an accidental dance.

SCENE 8: EILEEN CALLS KAREN

EILEEN

Karen, this is Eileen Mack. I'm Brian's mother. We met at the wedding.

KAREN

Oh, yes, hi Eileen, how have you been?

EILEEN

Great. Great. I've been great. Thank you for asking. How 'bout you?

KAREN

Great, yeah, everything's good. Just worried about Brian and Jack.

EILEEN

Me, too, have you seen Jack? Is he there?

KAREN

No, actually he isn't.

EILEEN

Do you know where he is?

KAREN

I don't, actually.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

EILEEN

You have no idea where your brother is?

KAREN

I don't.

EILEEN

Has he called you?

KAREN

Yes.

EILEEN

But he hasn't told you where he's staying?

KAREN

No, actually he hasn't.

EILEEN

Come on, Karen.

KAREN

I wish I could help you but...

EILEEN

Karen, if you know where is, please tell me.

KAREN

I really don't know.

EILEEN

You really don't?

KAREN

I really don't.

EILEEN

Karen, listen to me. You're a great sister. I respect that you want to help Jack, I know he's having a hard time, but I just want to talk to him.

KAREN

Eileen, he doesn't want to talk right now, he's very upset.

EILEEN

Everyone's upset. This has caught everybody off guard.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

KAREN

It caught me off guard.

EILEEN

I'm sure it caught Jack off guard too, but we need to talk about it. There needs to be some communication. Brian is absolutely devastated. He doesn't even know why Jack left.

KAREN

Well I know that Jack loves Brian very much.

EILEEN

I know he does.

KAREN

Does Brian know that?

EILEEN

Yes, Brian knows that.

KAREN

Jack doesn't think you like him.

EILEEN

Who?

KAREN

You and your husband.

EILEEN

We love Jack.

KAREN

I think he's afraid of your husband.

EILEEN

My husband? My husband is nothing. My husband's a pussycat.

KAREN

Jack doesn't like conflict.

EILEEN

No one does. No one wants to fight with Jack. I just want to talk to him. I'm not gonna yell at him.

KAREN

He's just not ready.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

EILEEN

Will you please put him on.

KAREN

He's not here.

EILEEN

Where is he?

Jack appears having overheard his sister on the phone. He is not thrilled that his sister is talking to his Mother-in-law.

KAREN

Mrs. Mack...

EILEEN

Eileen, call me Eileen.

KAREN

Eileen, I understand your concern, but Jack is in a really bad place right now. He's very unhappy with himself. He's not mad at Brian. He loves Brian. But he's dealing with some really confusing stuff and you just have to trust him that it's better for them to be apart.

EILEEN

If Jack feels that they need to be separated, then yes, they should be separated but all I'm asking for is an explanation. Just a dialogue. He doesn't need to see Brian. But any communication right now would be very appreciated.

KAREN

Mrs. Mack, Eileen. I'm sure he'll call very soon.

EILEEN

When?

KAREN

I don't know.

EILEEN

What am I supposed to tell Brian?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

KAREN

Tell him that Jack loves him and that he's extremely depressed right now and that he doesn't have his thoughts together and that he'll call when he gets his head clear...

Jack takes the phone.

JACK

Eileen?

EILEEN

Jack?

JACK

Hi.

EILEEN

Jack!

JACK

Hi Eileen.

EILEEN

Thank you Jack. Thank you for taking my call.

JACK

I'm not trying to hurt anyone.

EILEEN

I know.

JACK

I'm just having a hard time.

EILEEN

I know Jack. I just feel that we need to talk.

JACK

I know.

EILEEN

Can we get together?

JACK

I don't think so.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

EILEEN

Jack, Brian doesn't know I'm calling. In fact he'd probably be upset if he knew but we need to start talking. We are all completely at a loss here.

JACK

I know.

EILEEN

We don't even know why you left.

JACK

I know.

EILEEN

Why did you?

JACK

This isn't the time.

EILEEN

Can we please get together?

JACK

I don't think so.

EILEEN

Just you and me. Just to talk.

JACK

I'm not sure what to say.

EILEEN

Jack, you know I adore you.

JACK

I know.

EILEEN

Morty loves you, too.

JACK

Well...

EILEEN

He does, he really does Jack, but most of all Brian loves you.

JACK

I know.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (6)

EILEEN

So if there's anything anyone can do to get this thing worked out...

JACK

I just don't know what to say.

EILEEN

Let's just get together. We'll go to the Zoo. We'll just walk around and talk about anything. We don't even have to talk about Brian.

JACK

I don't know.

EILEEN

Come on Jack, please. We'll just hang out for the afternoon. I won't tell Brian or Morty, but if we could just talk.

(Jack sighs)

Jack?

JACK

OK.

EILEEN

When and where?

JACK

Um.

EILEEN

Anytime. Tomorrow preferably.

JACK

OK. Tomorrow.

EILEEN

When?

JACK

Afternoon. 2pm.

EILEEN

Perfect.

JACK

We'll meet at the zoo.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (7)

EILEEN
Wonderful.

JACK
Please don't bring Brian.

EILEEN
I promise I won't.

JACK
Please don't.

EILEEN
Just you and me.

Musical underscoring as we slowly cross fade to just a spotlight on Eileen as she whispers "Thank you" to the heavens and we move in to the next scene,

SCENE 9: MORTY & BRIAN AT THE WEDDING

Morty enters alone in a tuxedo and looks in the mirror. Brian, also in a tuxedo, enters in a rush.

MORTY
Oh, I'm so nervous.

BRIAN
I'm the one whose supposed to be nervous.

MORTY
I know.

BRIAN
It's not like you're getting married.

MORTY
That I could handle.

BRIAN
Dad, you'll be fine. We just walk down the aisle.

MORTY
I can't do this.

BRIAN
Dad.

MORTY
You don't have to do this.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BRIAN

How many years did we wait for this.

MORTY

I know.

BRIAN

For the last 5 years all I've heard was "don't worry one day it's gonna be legal and I'm gonna walk you down the aisle."

MORTY

But you really think this is the one.

BRIAN

Dad, we've been together for over two years.

MORTY

He doesn't have a job.

BRIAN

He's a musician.

MORTY

You're gonna have to support him.

BRIAN

I have a good job.

MORTY

You shouldn't have to support him.

BRIAN

He's very talented, he'll sell songs.

MORTY

Marriage is different than dating.

BRIAN

I know that.

MORTY

But does he know that? Are you sure he's ready.

BRIAN

He's a great guy.

MORTY

But is he thee guy?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

BRIAN
He's a wonderful person.

MORTY
But there are a lot of great guys out there.

BRIAN
Dad.

MORTY
You know my knees are shaking.

Morty goes to sit down on the couch.

BRIAN
Really?

Brian touches Morty's knees.

MORTY
You can't feel 'em but they are.

Brian paces nervously as Morty sits on the couch.

BRIAN
Just relax.

MORTY
I didn't think I'd be so emotional. I remember the day you were born. Your mom was cool and calm and I was rushing around the house like a madman.

BRIAN
I'm sure she was nervous.

MORTY
She's unflappable.

BRIAN
It's just an act.

MORTY
And it was such a quick birth.

BRIAN
That's what Mom said.

MORTY
You just popped out.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

BRIAN

I wanted to get here, I was cooped up for nine months.

MORTY

You were such a cute baby.

BRIAN

Dad don't do this.

MORTY

You were.

BRIAN

Dad.

MORTY

I cried so hard the first time I held you.

BRIAN

Dad, don't make me cry.

MORTY

And now you're all grown up and you won the fight and you get to get married and I'm so happy for you but I'm sad, too.

Brian sits next to his Dad on the sofa.

MORTY (CONT'D)

Life goes by too fast. You graduated high school. Then college. Now marriage. Slow down for Goddsake. Everything happens too fast.

BRIAN

How many years did we wait for the Supreme Court?

MORTY

And I'm happy for you.

BRIAN

So smile. It's not a funeral.

MORTY

It feels like it is.

BRIAN

Dad.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

MORTY

I'm sorry.

BRIAN

I know you don't like Jack.

MORTY

It's not about Jack.

BRIAN

What is it then?

MORTY

I don't know. Marriage changes you.

BRIAN

I'm 39. I'm pretty set.

MORTY

Trust me, you'll change. It's like suddenly having a Siamese twin 24 hours a day. There's no escape. It's not like dating. It's forever. You're no longer a person. You're a couple. It's completely different. Nothing prepares you for it. I wasn't prepared for it

BRIAN

Do you regret getting married?

MORTY

Never.

BRIAN

Never?

MORTY

Always.

BRIAN

Which one?

MORTY

Both.

BRIAN

Dad, this is the wrong time to be having this conversation.

MORTY

I'm sorry. I'm happy. Ignore me.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

BRIAN
Can you smile?

MORTY
I'm smiling.

BRIAN
You're not.

MORTY
I'm smiling.

Wedding music. Morty smiles big.

BRIAN
That's us. You ready?

MORTY
(through a forced smile)
Oh my God.

BRIAN
Here we go.

Brian exits but Morty stays on the couch. Brian reenters and motions for his Dad to hurry. Brian exits. Morty still remains on the couch. Brian reenters one final time, gently picks up his Dad off the sofa and they exit only to quickly reappear and we are now at the wedding and they are walking arm in arm down the aisle. The audience becomes the wedding guests.

Jack and Eileen appear walking arm in arm as well but they are at the zoo. We hear the sounds of birds and monkeys.

SCENE 10: JACK & EILEEN AT ZOO

Jack and Eileen are now sitting on a bench eating popcorn.

JACK
I can never get over the polar bears.

EILEEN
Yeah, I like 'em too.

JACK
They look so cuddly but you know they'd just tear you apart. I think they're my favorites.

EILEEN
I like the monkeys the best.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JACK
Why?

EILEEN
They're so human.

JACK
I like the way they take stuff out of
each other's hair.

They quietly look at each other.

EILEEN
More popcorn?

JACK
No, I'm fine.

Long pause. Silence.

EILEEN
(proud of herself)
You notice I haven't brought up Brian.

JACK
You've been very good.

EILEEN
I just wanted to see you.

JACK
Here I am.

EILEEN
I'm glad you came.

JACK
Do you hate me?

EILEEN
No.

JACK
Promise?

EILEEN
How could I hate you, you're my son?

JACK
In law.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

EILEEN

You're my son. You're family and you'll always be.

JACK

Even if I kill Brian?

EILEEN

What?

JACK

That's why I left.

EILEEN

Excuse me?

JACK

I had an overwhelming urge to kill him.

EILEEN

What are you talking about?

JACK

He just really pissed me off three weeks ago and I just, I just...I just literally wanted to kill him. I don't recall ever feeling such rage.

EILEEN

Why?

JACK

H wouldn't give me 20 dollars.

EILEEN

What the fuck are you talking about?

JACK

We had a fight at the casino.

EILEEN

Over 20 dollars? You both have plenty of money.

JACK

I left my wallet in the car. He wanted to leave, I wanted to stay and he wouldn't give me any more money.

EILEEN

So you wanted to kill him?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

JACK

I know it makes no sense, but it scared me. Sometimes he does things and I want to kill him and I never felt that way before we got married. We never had any conflict before we got married. It was just bliss. But after we got married...something changed. I don't know. Something changed in me. I started to feel trapped.

EILEEN

Look, I want to kill Morty all the time but I don't.

JACK

Well I don't want to be with someone who I want to kill.

EILEEN

Do you think about killing him a lot?

JACK

Never, that's why I left. I love Brian but I don't think we should be with people we wanna kill.

EILEEN

Have you ever hit each other?

JACK

No.

EILEEN

Have you ever cheated on him?

JACK

No.

EILEEN

Do you call each other names?

JACK

Sometimes.

EILEEN

Well that's OK. I call Morty names all the time, he loves it.

JACK

I don't call him names all the time.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

EILEEN

Then you're doing better than Morty and I. I think you have a good marriage.

JACK

We do have a good marriage but don't you think it's better to leave while things are good instead of letting things get bad?

EILEEN

But they're not bad.

JACK

I think we're about to enter that phase.

EILEEN

Jack, you are incredibly naive if you think you can be in a marriage with someone and not think about killing them. I hate Morty about three times a day, but he's my life. I'd be lost if I didn't see his face every morning.

JACK

I'm just not sure that it will be that way for Brian and me. When we got the right to get married I was so happy. We felt so embraced by the country. We won. But now it's like the hangover after the party. I miss being alone. I miss having my stuff where I want it. I hate some of his friends but I have to put up with them. I hate the dealmaking; "I'll cook if you do the dishes." I hate doing the dishes but I don't want to be rude but I miss the days of just eating when I'm hungry and letting the dishes sit in the sink for three days. Now I gotta wait for Brian to get home and find out what he wants and decide together. Some days I don't want to do "together" I just want to do what I want to do. In the past we would go some place and I would refer to him as my friend but now everywhere I go I either have to refer to him as my husband or just lie cause when I'm at the mechanic with him I don't feel like referring to him as my husband. I don't like outing myself everywhere I go.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

JACK (CONT'D)

And I hate wearing a wedding ring...people see it and they ask about my wife and then I get to decide if I want to be honest or go in the closet. I'm proud to be a gay man, you know that but I was in 7-11 on Valentines Day and the guy behind the counter says, "Don't forget to buy some flowers for your wife. We have roses." And I realize he's looking at my wedding ring. So do I correct him? Or do I play along that I'm straight. I never had to think about that before in 7-11. I just wanted to get some coffee and get out but now the act of buying coffee or getting an oil have has turned into a political dilemma. I don't want to get into my whole private life with strangers but I don't want to lie either. I want to be proud but I want to be private. And I never thought about these things when I was single. Marriage is like being branded with a giant M on your chest. And the pressure. I don't want to be the first of our gay friends to get a divorce. But do I stick it out just to save face? I'm just too selfish to be a husband. I'm a really great boyfriend, I'm the best boyfriend, but I'm a lousy husband. Even the wedding. He wanted it big and perfect. Lots of people. I wanted it small and easy. But I felt like we won such a big victory that we had to go over the top to celebrate and put on a big show for everybody so I went along for the ride but we spent so much money, you and Morty spent so much money, and then we spent 3 days writing thank you notes and...can I be totally honest? I hated every single minute of it. I kept thinking to myself, "God, I wish I were home alone watching television." Do I sound like a selfish asshole.

EILEEN

I think you sound human.

JACK

Thank you.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (6)

EILEEN

And I apologize. I wanted a big wedding. When Brian told me he was gay I was so sad. I was so selfish. But I thought of all the things I'd never have. Proms, weddings, baby showers, Grandkids. I was ignorant. I wanted that wedding and I never asked you what you wanted and I and I apologize. I love you, Jack. Please talk to Brian. I'm begging you. Please talk it out. You guys just need to talk.

JACK

I'm just not sure what to tell him.

EILEEN

Just be honest.

JACK

What? "I love you but I want a divorce because I'm worried that in five years from now I might kill you and that would really suck for both of us?"

EILEEN

I wouldn't say that.

SCENE 11: BRIAN & JACK WRITE THANK YOU CARDS

BRIAN

Jack, please come in here and help me write these thank you notes. I know you're not asleep. Jack get your lazy ass off the couch and help me write these. Please. Jack?

Jack is at the table writing notes and Brian is lying on the couch.

JACK

I was sleeping.

BRIAN

No, you weren't

JACK

I was asleep.

Jack goes over to the table.

BRIAN

Bullshit. You never take naps.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JACK

Do we have to do this?

BRIAN

Yes.

JACK

I don't want to do this.

BRIAN

You're the writer.

JACK

We got over two hundred gifts.

BRIAN

Isn't life hard?

JACK

I said I wanted a small wedding.

BRIAN

Well fortunately you weren't in charge.

JACK

I should have been.

BRIAN

You would've had us getting married in a courtroom.

JACK

Lots of our friends got married in courtrooms and they posted the pics on Facebook and we all clicked like and it was over.

BRIAN

My Mother has one son and she never thought she'd see me get married and there was no way I was gonna deprive her of that by getting married in a courtroom. Plus all her friends wanted to go to their first gay wedding and they all brought fabulous presents so the least we can do is write thank you notes. Yes?

JACK

I don't even know most of these people.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

BRIAN

You're helping on these notes so sit down
and shut up.

JACK

Mmmmmmm...I love it when you think you're
the top.

BRIAN

Come on, get busy.

JACK

Let's do it tomorrow.

BRIAN

Tomorrow's Monday.

JACK

Let's do it next Sunday.

BRIAN

We've put it off for four weeks.

JACK

One more week, that's all.

BRIAN

No. We're gonna do this today and you're
gonna drop 'em in the mail tomorrow.

JACK

I can't tomorrow.

BRIAN

Why not?

JACK

Because I don't want to.

BRIAN

What else do you have to do? Jack?

JACK

I have to write some songs.

BRIAN

You haven't written in two weeks.

JACK

No, tomorrow I'm definitely writing like
a hundred songs.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

JACK (CONT'D)
(he rolls his eyes)
All day.

BRIAN
You are the laziest son of a bitch I've
ever met.

JACK
I know it's awful.

BRIAN
You are.

JACK
I'm so lazy.

BRIAN
You are.

JACK
But I'm crazy in love with you...

BRIAN
Jack.

He kisses his neck.

BRIAN (CONT'D)
Please help me write these notes.

Jack becomes more aggressive.

BRIAN (CONT'D)
Stop.

JACK
Come on.

BRIAN
No.

JACK
Come on.

BRIAN
Jack.

JACK
(imitating Pitbull)
"You know you want me. I know I wanch
ya. I know you want meeeee. You know I
wanch ya."

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

BRIAN

I want to write these notes.

JACK

OK. You write the notes and I'll stand here and play with your nipples.

BRIAN

(giggling)

Stop, you know what that does to me.

JACK

(now he's Rod Stewart)

"If you think I'm sexy, and you want my body come on..."

BRIAN

Jack, that is not working for me.

Jack sticks his tongue in Brian's ear.

BRIAN (CONT'D)

Jack don't, that tickles.

JACK

You know you love it!

BRIAN

Baby, please. Can we write these notes?

JACK

You have to kiss me first.

BRIAN

No.

JACK

Then you're on your own.

BRIAN

OK.

He gives a quick kiss.

JACK

That's it? That's a kiss?

BRIAN

That's all you deserve.

JACK

Forget it.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

BRIAN

OK, OK, come here. Come here baby.

They kiss for a long time.

JACK

Mmmm, you kiss good.

BRIAN

OK, let's write these notes now.

JACK

God, I hate doing this kind of stuff.

BRIAN

You need to learn how to kiss ass better.

JACK

I don't hear you complaining.

BRIAN

You're dirty. OK, I've arranged this by name and gift.

JACK

How many are there?

BRIAN

A hundred and ninety-four.

JACK

Oh my God.

BRIAN

You do the odd numbers, I'll do the evens.

JACK

That's way too confusing.

BRIAN

You know which numbers are odd?

JACK

I forget.

BRIAN

Jack, we could have this done in two hours if you'd be serious.

JACK

One, three, five...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (6)

BRIAN

Good. Now here's the stationary. You write, "Thank you for the whatever we really loved it, we use it all the time." Then sign our names, Jack and Brian.

JACK

(he starts one)

Dear Mrs. Humphreys. We love the cobalt blue candy dish, we use it all the time.

BRIAN

You're hopeless Jack.

JACK

And you are the most handsome man I have ever seen.

SCENE 12: DANCE SEQUENCE

Music Cue: Blue Champagne by Freddy Martin

Eileen and Morty in formal ballroom attire enter and do a ballroom dance, the kind that older people would learn in a once-a-week ballroom dance class. The song they dance to is the Blue Champagne by Freddy Martin.

As they dance Brian and Jack slow dance in the background.

SCENE 13: EILEEN & MORTY

Eileen and Morty are now arriving home from their ballroom dance class. They enter wearing coats over their dance clothes. Morty takes their jackets and goes off stage to hang them up while Eileen sits on the couch where she stays for the entire scene.

MORTY

So how was the zoo?

EILEEN

It was fine.

MORTY

What did Jack say?

EILEEN

He said he loves Brian and he wants a divorce because he wants to end the marriage on a good note. He wants to end it while they're still in love.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MORTY

That doesn't make any sense.

EILEEN

That's what he said.

MORTY

That's asinine.

EILEEN

Well that's what he told me.

Morty sits on the chair next to the couch.

MORTY

He wants a divorce because they're happily married?

EILEEN

I don't know, Morty.

MORTY

I never heard of such a thing.

EILEEN

He seemed genuinely concerned.

MORTY

Is he cheating?

EILEEN

He said he wasn't.

MORTY

Did you believe him?

EILEEN

Yes.

MORTY

Well maybe one of 'em's fooling around and they got caught and they don't want you to know.

EILEEN

I don't think so.

MORTY

So what is it.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

EILEEN

You know Jack's a very sincere guy. Very thoughtful.

MORTY

And?

EILEEN

Well he doesn't take things lightly.

MORTY

Obviously he does if he can just walk away from a great guy and a great marriage.

EILEEN

He said he had thoughts about killing Brian.

MORTY

What?

EILEEN

He said he's afraid if they stay together they'll end up killing each other.

MORTY

He said that?

EILEEN

Sort of.

MORTY

Did he say it or not.

EILEEN

He said he loves Brian more than anything in the world but last month they had a fight and he says if they hadn't been in public he would definitely have hit him.

MORTY

Brian could beat the crap out of him.

EILEEN

Well, that's not the point.

MORTY

Do they have fist fights?

EILEEN

I don't think so.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

MORTY

But we don't know.

EILEEN

I don't think so.

MORTY

Maybe they do. Maybe he's leaving because they're fighting.

EILEEN

I really don't think that's the case.

MORTY

But he wants to hurt Brian.

EILEEN

He doesn't want to hurt him that's the point but I think he's having some anger issues.

MORTY

And what does that mean?

EILEEN

He said he wanted to hit him and he didn't, but he's upset because he wanted to.

MORTY

He should be upset.

EILEEN

Well, he is.

MORTY

If he lays a hand on Brian...

EILEEN

What would you do?

MORTY

I wouldn't allow it.

EILEEN

You wouldn't?

MORTY

Of course I wouldn't.

Morty waves her off and heads to the kitchen.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

EILEEN

Who hit me last year?

Morty stops dead in his tracks. Slowly turns back to face Eileen.

MORTY

And who hit me back?

EILEEN

So don't act all high and mighty, because if he hit him we'd never know it and if you did there's very little we would or could do about it.

MORTY

Well he wouldn't stay in an abusive relationship.

EILEEN

You don't know that.

MORTY

He's too strong.

EILEEN

Strong people don't stay in abusive relationships?

MORTY

You know Brian.

EILEEN

I think I do.

MORTY

He wouldn't allow someone to mistreat him. He's a tough kid.

Morty exits off to the kitchen.

EILEEN

So what? My mother was tough and my dad used to hit her all the time and at his funeral, she cried louder than anyone.

MORTY

Well, then maybe they *should* get divorced. I don't know.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

EILEEN

I just don't think divorce is an answer.
They fought so hard to get married. All
that waiting for the Supreme Court and
now they don't want it anymore.

Morty re-enters with two wine glasses and a bottle of wine.

MORTY

People never want what they can have.
You know that. Once they get what they
want they want something else. That's
American consumerism for you. Always on
to the next thing. We want Vietnam oh no
we don't, we want Iraq, oh forget that we
want Afghanistan. Americans get bored
too easily these days.

He takes Eileen's wine over to the couch.

EILEEN

People are different now, Morty. People
are lazy. People don't want to work.
They want things easy.

MORTY

We've had hard times.

EILEEN

I know.

MORTY

We didn't divorce.

EILEEN

They're not us. We're not them. It's a
different time.

MORTY

I like Jack.

EILEEN

I know you do.

MORTY

He doesn't think I do, but I do.

EILEEN

He knows you like him.

MORTY

He's thoughtful, I like that.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (6)

Morty returns to the table to pour his own glass.

EILEEN

But maybe he thinks too much, maybe he's just being dramatic.

MORTY

But maybe he's not and I guess that's the issue. You don't think he'd really kill Brian, do you, like in some fit of rage?

EILEEN

Well I can't imagine it, but who'd have thought O.J. Simpson would ever have killed his wife?

MORTY

You're comparing Jack to O.J. Simpson?!?!

EILEEN

It raises an important point.

MORTY

No, it doesn't.

EILEEN

Yes, it does.

MORTY

Nicole Simpson has nothing to do with our son.

EILEEN

She has everything to do with our son. Did O.J. kill his first wife?

MORTY

No.

EILEEN

That's right, because he divorced her first. And did he kill Nicole in the first three years of their marriage? Yes or no?

MORTY

No.

EILEEN

Did Nicole and O.J. ever separate?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (7)

MORTY

Yes.

EILEEN

But they got back together.

MORTY

Yeah.

EILEEN

And they separated and they got back together and they separated and they got back together and they separated and they got back together and now she's dead.

MORTY

I don't see the relevancy.

EILEEN

Then you're blind.

MORTY

It's not relevant.

EILEEN

This is not a courtroom. We're talking about our son.

MORTY

I know.

EILEEN

Jack raises a valid point.

MORTY

That it's right to leave a good marriage that you're both happy in?

EILEEN

Maybe.

MORTY

I just don't see the logic.

EILEEN

You don't?

MORTY

No.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (8)

EILEEN

You know who kills people in this country? Their spouses! One third, Morty, one third. Most people are killed by people they know; their husbands, their kids, co-workers. Maybe if more couples separated at the first sign of trouble there'd be a lot less dead spouses in this country.

MORTY

Well, one third sounds awfully high to me.

EILEEN

Google it. Google it!

Morty is very annoyed now.

EILEEN (CONT'D)

GOOGLE IT!

MORTY

Eileen, enough.

Crossing over to Eileen.

MORTY (CONT'D)

Fine. So lots of people kill their spouses, so there's a lot of horrible people on this planet but Jack doesn't have a violent bone his body. He's a pansy song writer for Godssake.

EILEEN

So you think two people should stay together even if it means waking up one day and realizing that you hate each other?

MORTY

Do you hate me? Is that what this is about?

EILEEN

What?

MORTY

Do you hate me?

EILEEN

No.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (9)

MORTY
Are you sure?

EILEEN
Don't be silly.

MORTY
You hate me don't you?

EILEEN
Oh God, of course not.

MORTY
You can be honest.

EILEEN
I don't hate you.

MORTY
But...

EILEEN
I don't hate you.

MORTY
But you wish you'd left me while you
still loved me.

EILEEN
I love you now.

MORTY
Do you?

EILEEN
Of course.

MORTY
Maybe you don't.

EILEEN
I do.

MORTY
I wonder.

EILEEN
Morty.

MORTY
Let's talk honestly.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (10)

EILEEN

I am.

MORTY

Well then.

EILEEN

I don't hate you. I don't, honestly. I can't believe you'd even say that. But sometimes I feel very sad...because I'm coming to the end of my life...and I think about what maybe I've missed.

MORTY

What have you missed?

EILEEN

That's the point. I'll never know. It's all behind me.

MORTY

You talk as if you'll be dead next week.

EILEEN

I'm sixty-four, Morty.

MORTY

And.

EILEEN

What do I have left? Five good years, maybe eight? I don't know. Don't you ever get sad?

MORTY

Not really, I'm pretty content.

EILEEN

And I'm not.

MORTY

I'm sorry.

EILEEN

Well sometimes I am but not often. I want to have an affair.

MORTY

With who?

EILEEN

I don't know.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (11)

MORTY

Go have an affair, then.

EILEEN

Would you forgive me?

MORTY

What?

EILEEN

If I had an affair, would you forgive me?
Or would you kill me?

MORTY

Eileen, you can do whatever you want. I
never want to prevent you from having
fun.

EILEEN

I know.

MORTY

I want you to be happy. You go do
whatever you need to do to be happy. I'm
not going anywhere. I love you with all
my heart. I love you more today than I
did yesterday.

EILEEN

I know you do.

MORTY

But you're not happy, anymore? Is that
what you're saying?

EILEEN

Of course, I'm happy. I'm just shooting
my mouth off, again. I'm just a crazy
old lady, just ignore me.

MORTY

That's not very easy.

EILEEN

You really love me more today than
yesterday?

MORTY

Absolutely.

EILEEN

Do you love my huge butt?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (12)

MORTY
I love all of you.

They toast. Sit next to each other and lean in for a kiss as we transition into the next scene.

SCENE 14: KAREN & JACK - AT KAREN'S HOUSE

KAREN
Don't do this.

JACK
I'm gonna be late.

KAREN
Cancel.

JACK
I need to go.

KAREN
Give it another week.

JACK
I've made up my mind.

KAREN
You don't know what you're doing.

JACK
I think I do.

KAREN
You don't.

JACK
This isn't easy.

KAREN
You don't throw a guy like Brian away.

JACK
I'm not throwing him away.

KAREN
You're not?

JACK
No.

KAREN
What do you call it?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JACK

Change.

KAREN

Divorce. It's called divorce, Jack.

JACK

It's better this way.

KAREN

You're wrong.

JACK

I know what I'm doing.

KAREN

You're making a huge mistake.

JACK

I don't think so.

KAREN

What are you so afraid of?

JACK

I've told you.

KAREN

Tell me again.

JACK

I have to go.

KAREN

He's waited for two weeks, what's ten more minutes?

JACK

I don't want to be late.

KAREN

He'll forgive you for being late but he won't forgive you for destroying his life.

JACK

I'm not destroying his life.

KAREN

You're not?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

JACK

Do you feel your life was "destroyed"
when Lucas left you?

KAREN

Yes! I did. I acted tough but yes. I
was devastated. I miss him everyday.
You're making a huge mistake.

JACK

I can't be married anymore. I'm not a
good husband. I'm gonna turn into an
angry abusive husband and I'm sorry it
took me three years to realize it. I'm
sorry.

KAREN

Don't apologize to me, apologize to the
guy who supported you when you had
nothing.

JACK

I plan to in about twenty minutes.

KAREN

Have fun.

SCENE 15: EILEEN, BRIAN & MORTY

EILEEN

Call us the minute you're done.

BRIAN

Do I look too business-like?

EILEEN

You look great.

BRIAN

Why am I nervous?

EILEEN

It'll be fine.

BRIAN

I feel like I'm going on a blind date.

MORTY

He's your husband.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BRIAN

I feel like I haven't seen him in two years.

EILEEN

It's gonna be fine.

BRIAN

I'll call you the minute I'm done.

EILEEN

We'll be waiting.

BRIAN

I'm gonna be late.

MORTY

It's not a job interview.

BRIAN

It kind of is.

EILEEN

Brian, honey, listen. Everything's gonna work out fine.

BRIAN

All right, I'm going.

Music underscoring as Brian sets up two chairs and table.

SCENE 16: JACK & BRIAN - RESTAURANT

Brian sits and waits for Jack. Jack enters and Brian stands to greet him.

JACK

Sorry I'm late.

BRIAN

You're not late.

JACK

My watch says I'm late.

BRIAN

I'm early.

JACK

Oh, good.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BRIAN

Actually you're two minutes late but
don't worry about it.

They hug. It is sweet and awkward. They are deeply in love
and they are strangers.

JACK

You look nice.

BRIAN

Anything else? I didn't want to dress
nice because it would feel like an
interview and I didn't want to dress dark
because it would be like a funeral so...

JACK

You look fine.

They both take off their jackets and put them on the back of
their chairs then they both sit.

BRIAN

I feel like I'm on a blind date.

JACK

Well we sort of are, right?

BRIAN

Except you know what's gonna happen.

JACK

Well not completely.

BRIAN

So, are we gonna talk or chat?

JACK

I'm not sure where to start.

BRIAN

Just say something.

JACK

What?

BRIAN

Anything.

JACK

I'm not sure what to say.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

BRIAN
Just start, Jack. Just tell me
something, Jack.

JACK
I can't live with you anymore.

BRIAN
Why?

JACK
Because I don't want to hurt you.

BRIAN
Don't give me that.

JACK
It's true.

BRIAN
We've done fine 'till now.

JACK
Not really.

BRIAN
Compared to our friends.

JACK
It's not a competition, Brian.

BRIAN
It's not supposed to be perfect.

JACK
I know.

BRIAN
It's supposed to be good.

JACK
And it is. It's very good.

BRIAN
Then why are we here?

JACK
Because I know it won't stay good.

BRIAN
You don't know that.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

JACK

I do.

BRIAN

No, you don't. You may think you know that but you don't really know.

JACK

I know.

BRIAN

No, Jack, you don't. I hate to break it to you but you are not the smartest man in the world.

JACK

I didn't say I was.

BRIAN

You don't know how it ends 'till it's over.

JACK

I know how I feel.

BRIAN

Tell me that.

JACK

Scared.

BRIAN

Why?

JACK

I compose music, Brian. I arrange notes. I put them on the page and they stay there as I've arranged them. That's why I love music, it's so precise. You can finish a piece of music and be done with it. And it will always be there and if it's good, every time you play it, it will make you happy. Even if it's a sad song. It's the joy of making something that works. And with a piece of music, if it bothers me or depresses me or disturbs me, I can walk away from it. I can turn it off. I can throw it away. I can destroy it and who cares really? I spend months with a song but if it doesn't work and I throw it out, I throw it away and who cares really?

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

JACK (CONT'D)

Me, maybe I care, but it's not like I've affected anyone else. But marriage is the opposite. It's unpredictable and messy and wonderful and scary and I just can't do it anymore.

BRIAN

But you chose it.

JACK

I did.

BRIAN

You chose to marry me.

JACK

I know.

BRIAN

You chose me.

JACK

I know.

BRIAN

We chose each other.

JACK

I know.

BRIAN

We made choices.

JACK

I agree.

BRIAN

We aren't music, Jack. You can't write us. You don't get to compose our marriage. We're a team. This is a collaboration and you may choose to walk away, but I don't. I made a commitment to you. Not because I was bored or lonely, or because I wanted to make a political statement but because I knew it was right. I knew that we could create something wonderful together.

JACK

I thought so, too.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

BRIAN

Thought so Jack? What about think so?

JACK

I thought we could.

Brian gets up and puts on his jacket as if to leave but he can't walk out.

BRIAN

You talk like it's already over. You're not even considering coming back are you? You've made the decision already. Without me. We aren't partners. We aren't are we? It's your way or no way. What you want. There isn't gonna be a compromise is there? Is there? Say it, Jack.

JACK

You don't make it easy.

BRIAN

Easy? You expected this to be easy? How like you. "What's the easiest way to get outta my marriage? How can I do it with out any conflict or pain?" You are so weak.

JACK

You don't need to be ugly.

BRIAN

I married a fucking child.

JACK

Brian.

BRIAN

A self centered baby who wants to go to the casino and compose music and watch me get up everyday and go to work nine to five while you stay home and create. Maybe write a little music, maybe watch a little Netflix, everything easy.

JACK

This is going well.

Brian sits again.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (6)

BRIAN

I just figured it out. You don't want a husband. You want a Dad. You want me to tuck you in and tell you it's gonna be OK and give you 20 bucks to go gambling.

JACK

I'm biting my tongue.

BRIAN

Who supported you till you sold that stupid song to Carrie Underwood? You didn't have any money when you met me.

JACK

This isn't about money.

BRIAN

Oh it's always about money, Jack.

JACK

No, it's not.

BRIAN

Our relationship is no different today than it was two year ago, except now you have money, and money equals freedom. So off you go.

JACK

Our relationship is not the same as it was two years ago and you know it.

BRIAN

How is it different? What's changed?

JACK

It's changing.

BRIAN

Is it?

JACK

Yes.

BRIAN

How?

JACK

Slowly.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (7)

BRIAN

How?

JACK

Little ways.

BRIAN

Yeah, things I did when we first got married were cute, and now they're annoying.

JACK

Exactly.

BRIAN

So you've changed. Not me.

JACK

Yes.

BRIAN

Well don't say we've changed when you've changed.

JACK

We're both changing.

BRIAN

You're changing.

JACK

It's changing.

BRIAN

Because you're changing it.

JACK

It's changing itself.

BRIAN

What's wrong with change?

JACK

Nothing.

BRIAN

Everything changes.

JACK

That's the problem.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (8)

BRIAN

You just found this out?

JACK

Maybe.

BRIAN

Did you discover this before or after you cashed the check from Carrie Underwood?

JACK

Please, stop bringing that up. That has nothing to do with any of...

BRIAN

But it's so obvious.

JACK

It's not and you know it.

BRIAN

Well you couldn't have left two years ago because two years ago you were broke.

JACK

Yes, I could have.

BRIAN

You could have but you wouldn't have because you would have had to work. You would have to sleep in your car or move in with family because God forbid the artist gets an actual job.

JACK

Writing is my job, Brian.

BRIAN

Nine to five is a job, Jack. Writing is a luxury that most people don't get to experience because they have JOBS! They go to work 8 hours a day.

JACK

And I'm grateful for everything you gave me.

BRIAN

Then what logical explanation do you have for wanting to end this?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (9)

JACK

How about the fact that some days I feel like bashing your skull in?

BRIAN

Why?

JACK

Because you really piss me off. You can be incredibly difficult sometimes.

BRIAN

And you're not difficult? You piss me off too. Some days I'd like to bash your skull in as well. Some days I hate you too. There are you happy? But then I look at our friends and realize that despite our problems we have a very good marriage.

JACK

I don't want good.

BRIAN

Good is better than what most people get.

JACK

Well good is not what I want.

BRIAN

You don't want good, you want great. But you can't always have great. And good is better than nothing.

JACK

I'm not sure I agree with that?

BRIAN

Jack, why did you marry me?

JACK

I can't remember.

BRIAN

Try.

JACK

Because you were handsome and funny and articulate and open minded. You were perfect.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (10)

BRIAN

But not now?

JACK

You're just different now.

BRIAN

Bullshit. I'm still handsome and funny and articulate and open-minded and perfect. And so are you.

JACK

I'm not perfect.

BRIAN

You're perfect for me.

JACK

I'm really not.

BRIAN

We're perfect together.

JACK

We aren't.

BRIAN

I don't want this to end. I trusted you. I'm sorry I'm not good enough for you anymore.

JACK

Brian, listen to me...

BRIAN

I can't listen to you anymore. I'm sorry. I can't.

Brian gets up to leave and tries to stay calm but it's a battle.

JACK

What do you wanna do?

BRIAN

I don't know.

JACK

Do you wanna order?

BRIAN

I'm not hungry.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (11)

JACK
They have really good sandwiches.

BRIAN
I know what they have. We've eaten here before.

JACK
We have?

BRIAN
Yes.

JACK
When?

BRIAN
Oh God, Jack.

JACK
When?

BRIAN
Just shut up.

JACK
What did I say?

BRIAN
Nothing.

JACK
I didn't mean to upset you.

BRIAN
I'm tired of talking, I don't want to talk anymore.

JACK
OK.

BRIAN
I need to go.

JACK
Where?

BRIAN
I need to get out of here.

JACK
Do you want to go somewhere else?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (12)

BRIAN

We've eaten here before.

JACK

When?

BRIAN

Really??? How 'bout my birthday? We ate here on my fucking birthday. It really meant a lot to me but to you I guess for you it was just another boring meal with me.

JACK

I'm sorry, I forgot.

BRIAN

When is my birthday Jack?

(Jack pauses)

When's my birthday?

JACK

September.

BRIAN

September what?

JACK

September 26th.

BRIAN

What year?

(he thinks)

Don't figure it out just tell me.

JACK

1977.

BRIAN

November 12, 1977.

JACK

Sorry.

BRIAN

November. How many times have we gone over this?

JACK

I'm sorry.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (13)

BRIAN
November.

JACK
Sorry.

BRIAN
November 12th.

JACK
Got it.

BRIAN
November 12th, 1977. Where was I born?

JACK
New Jersey.

BRIAN
That's where I grew up, where was I born?

JACK
I don't know.

BRIAN
Philadelphia. We moved to New Jersey
when I was three.

JACK
I didn't know.

BRIAN
I've told you this.

JACK
What is this a test?

BRIAN
Yes, and you're flunking. Where did I
get my masters?

JACK
Penn.

BRIAN
That was under-grad.

JACK
Delaware.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (14)

BRIAN

Good that's half a point. And my middle name is?

JACK

(hesitating for a second)
Morton.

BRIAN

You paused.

JACK

Morton. After your Dad.

BRIAN

You paused.

JACK

Of course, I know your middle name.

BRIAN

But you paused, Jack, you had to think.

JACK

No, I didn't.

BRIAN

You had to pause, Jack.

JACK

No, I didn't.

BRIAN

Oh please.

JACK

I'm not good with details.

BRIAN

Details?

JACK

Facts.

BRIAN

We aren't talking about facts, we're talking about me. JFK's birthday is a fact, mine is my life. The people I surround myself with are not facts. My middle name is not a fact. It's my name, it's who I am. You were born on August 4, 1978.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (15)

BRIAN (CONT'D)

You were raised in the San Fernando Valley. You got your first apartment in North Hollywood and studied music part time at UCLA. Your middle name is Mitchell and your first car was a Volkswagen. I know everything about you because you mean something to me and because I care about you. Your life matters to me. But sitting here today I realize what an idiot I've been. I thought we had a life together. But you were just hangin' out until something more exciting happened. You were never really invested.

JACK

Brian, listen to me.

BRIAN

I think I've heard what I needed to hear. Thursday...Thursday, I would like you to move your stuff out and get on with your exciting life, writing music for mediocre country stars.

JACK

I was hoping to discuss what you wanted to keep but this conversation has turned a little surreal.

BRIAN

More material for you next song.

JACK

You wanna talk about who gets what?

BRIAN

Not really.

JACK

I think we should.

BRIAN

Take what you think belongs to you.

JACK

Most of it belongs to us.

BRIAN

Take what you care about. It will be interesting to see what you leave.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (16)

JACK

It's not a game.

BRIAN

How fascinating to see what you take and what you leave. I feel very confident that you'll take more than you leave.

JACK

I don't want to turn this into a game

BRIAN

You already have and you've won.

JACK

Why does it always have to get ugly with you?

BRIAN

Because I'm a "cunt". Because I'm a "stereotypical faggot".

JACK

And thank you for proving my point that everything turns ugly eventually.

BRIAN

Go fuck yourself.

JACK

I'm so glad we're in a restaurant right now because if we were home I would bash your smug little fucking face right thru that fucking wall.

BRIAN

Do it. I dare you. Go ahead. Hit me. See what happens. Cause if you lay one hand on me I'll fucking kill you and you know I will.

JACK

Wow.

BRIAN

What?

JACK

Just wow. I thought this would be easier.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (17)

BRIAN

How easy did you expect it to be?

JACK

I didn't expect it to be so ugly.

BRIAN

I didn't expect a lot of things. But here we are. So Thursday... Thursday...you take what you want...and if you truly love me, if you really want me to be happy, like you said you do, then please don't ever try to contact me again.

JACK

Brian.

BRIAN

Starting now. We're done. The end.

Brian gets up, takes one last look, exits the restaurant. Jack sits alone on stage. A few beats later Brian re-enters the restaurant.

BRIAN (CONT'D)

And one last thing. You write really shitty music.

Brian exits again this time for good.

Jack sits alone. Thinks. Deeply disturbed. He is sad. Introspective. Relieved. Devastated. Free. Alone. Relaxed. He takes in a deep breath and exhales. He is finally free again. He slowly takes out his ipod and puts on his headphones (earbuds) and pushes play.

Music Cue: Blue Champagne

(The song plays thru the end of the show, into the curtain call and as the audience exits)

Jack casually nods his head to the music. He is devastated and free and alone. He gets up and exits the restaurant.

SCENE 17: MANY YEARS LATER

Brian slowly enters, he is walking very slowly, in pajamas maybe or an old sweater, he has a cane, he is not sick but he is old, very old. He moves like an old man but he is not on his deathbed. Maybe his hand shakes a little. He heads toward the sofa and sits alone.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The audience should think that Brian has grown old in this house, old and alone. It should not be sad but matter-of-fact.

A few moments later Jack enters. He is also very old now as well. He carries two glasses of champagne. As he walks toward the sofa Jack looks at him lovingly but not overly sentimental. Jack slowly arrives at the sofa and hands one glass to Brian. Brian is a little more frail than Jack but he can still hold the glass by himself though it might shake a little.

They smile at one another, they softly click their champagne glasses together and then Jack sits next to Brian on the sofa.

BRIAN

Happy Anniversary, Jack.

JACK

Happy Anniversary, Brian.

They exchange a simple, sweet kiss as the lights fade to black and the song, Blue Champagne, swells.

Curtain call.

THE END