

# **A Good Marriage**

by  
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Character Breakdown

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

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

Larry, Brother to Jack - 40's

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

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

SCENE 1: JACK AND LARRY

Jack sits on a couch and stares forward. Thinks. Larry enters and hands Jack a beer. They both pop them open at the same time. Drink in unison. Look at each other.

JACK

Did you ever think about killing your wife?

LARRY

Like seriously kill?

JACK

Seriously.

LARRY

Like dead?

JACK

Yes.

LARRY

No.

JACK

Never?

LARRY

No.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JACK  
That's good.

LARRY  
Why?

JACK  
I wanted to kill Karen last Friday.

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

JACK  
Well I didn't actually kill him.

LARRY  
And that's good.

JACK  
But I thought about it.

LARRY  
I love Karen.

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

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

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

LARRY  
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.

LARRY  
What did she do?

JACK  
Nothing! It was nothing. It was stupid.

LARRY  
What?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

JACK

It was nothing. That's the point.

LARRY

But what was it?

JACK

She wouldn't give me 20 bucks.

LARRY

What?

JACK

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

LARRY

You didn't have 20 dollars on you?

JACK

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

LARRY

She sounds like a very responsible gambler.

JACK

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

SCENE 2: THE CASINO

Karen appears in a spotlight.

KAREN

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

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JACK  
I'm not leaving.

KAREN  
Well I'm leaving.

JACK  
So you're the boss now?

KAREN  
Well someone needs to be the adult here?

JACK  
Come on it's 20 bucks.

KAREN  
And when does it end?

JACK  
Would you please just gimme 20 dollars.

KAREN  
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.

KAREN  
Nope.

JACK  
Karen, seriously.

KAREN  
Nope. Nope. Nopity, nope, nope no.

JACK  
You know you sound like a super bitch  
when you talk that.

KAREN  
You are seriously fucked up.

Back to Larry.

JACK  
And she turned to walk away and I sort of  
pushed her from behind and she turned  
around and said:

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

KAREN

Do that again I fucking dare you.

JACK

(mocking)

"Do that again I fucking dare you."

KAREN

What the fuck is wrong with you?

JACK

What the fuck is wrong with YOU?

LARRY

(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  
wife is being a total cunt."

LARRY

You called your wife 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  
Karen starts laughing really loud and  
with a big smile on her face she says...

KAREN

"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."

LARRY

Like she talked to you like you were a  
dog?

JACK

A dog named Cray Cray.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

LARRY

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 her in the  
face. I wanted to hurt her so bad. It  
was not good. Oooohhh, I was so pissed.

LARRY

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 her. I thought  
about all the ways I would kill her 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. She 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.

Karen exits as Jack moves over to Larry.

JACK (CONT'D)

So what do you think? You think I'm  
insane?

LARRY

I think you're married.

JACK

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

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

LARRY  
Exactly, you remember what I told you?

JACK  
I remember.

LARRY  
Be careful what you wish for.

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

LARRY  
Isn't marriage wonderful?

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

Karen enters eating a bowl of cereal.

KAREN  
You were very tough last night.

JACK  
Wasn't I?

KAREN  
I was terrified.

JACK  
Yeah, you seemed terrified.

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

JACK  
Like what?

KAREN  
It's called gamblers anonymous.

JACK  
Right.

KAREN  
I think maybe you're addicted.

JACK  
Karen, darling, I apologized.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KAREN

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

JACK

I'm never going gambling with you again.

KAREN

Thank God!

JACK

So don't ask me.

KAREN

And don't use money from our account.

JACK

Don't worry I won't.

KAREN

Because I'm just a "super bitch."

JACK

Did I not apologize?

KAREN

I'm a "cunt!"

JACK

I lost my head, I'm sorry.

KAREN

I should have had that security guard arrest you.

JACK

You would have enjoyed that, right?

KAREN

I just loved watching you squirm.

JACK

I bet you did.

KAREN

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

JACK

I'm sure I would.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

KAREN

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

JACK

It was 20 dollars.

KAREN

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, Ma'm.

KAREN

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.

KAREN

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?

KAREN

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

SCENE 4: JACK & LARRY

LARRY

Karen's pretty smart you know.

JACK

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

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LARRY  
Don't, OK?

JACK  
I won't.

LARRY  
Please don't kill her.

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

LARRY  
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.

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.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

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.

MORTY  
Don't answer it.

Second doorbell.

EILEEN  
I'll get it.

She goes to the door.

MORTY  
Look through the peep hole.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

EILEEN  
Really Morty?

She looks through peep hole.

EILEEN (CONT'D)  
It's Karen.

She opens door. Huge hugs!

KAREN  
Hi Mom.

EILEEN  
Karen!!! Karen!!! 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?

KAREN  
I need a Diet Coke.

MORTY  
You came over for a Diet Coke?

KAREN  
Do you have any?

EILEEN  
I'll get you one. Hold on.

She exits.

MORTY  
Are you OK?

KAREN  
No.

MORTY  
What happened?

KAREN  
I'll tell you in a minute.

MORTY  
Did someone die?

KAREN  
No. Maybe. I don't know.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

MORTY  
What happened?

KAREN  
I'm very upset.

MORTY  
What happened?

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

KAREN  
Please.

EILEEN  
(offstage)  
Coming up.

MORTY  
What happened? Tell me.

Karen crosses to the sofa and sits. Is about to speak but changes her mind.

KAREN  
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.

KAREN  
Thanks, Mom.

She sits and drinks. They watch him.

KAREN (CONT'D)  
This is so good.

EILEEN  
We have better Diet Coke on this side of town.

KAREN  
It's great.

MORTY  
It's Diet Coke.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

EILEEN

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

Karen drinks and finishes her Diet Coke while they sit in silence.

KAREN

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?

KAREN

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?

KAREN

I don't know.

MORTY

What do you mean you don't now?

KAREN

I don't know.

EILEEN

Did you guys have a fight?

KAREN

No.

EILEEN

You must have had a fight.

KAREN

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.

KAREN

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

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

EILEEN  
Where is he now?

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

EILEEN  
This is crazy.

KAREN  
I know.

MORTY  
He just left a note?

KAREN  
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.

KAREN  
So that's it.

EILEEN  
Maybe he's having a mid-life crisis.

KAREN  
He had one last year.

EILEEN  
Well maybe he's having another one.

KAREN  
How many mid-life crises can one person  
have?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (6)

Karen 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.

KAREN

So that's all I know.

EILEEN

He'll come back.

KAREN

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

EILEEN

Of course he'll come back.

KAREN

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

MORTY

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

EILEEN

Morty, please.

MORTY

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

EILEEN

Morty, stop!

MORTY

Well what do you want me to tell you?

KAREN

Tell me he's coming back.

MORTY

He's coming back.

KAREN

Say it like you mean it.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (7)

MORTY

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

EILEEN

This is not what she wants to hear right now.

KAREN

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.

KAREN

But everything was fine.

EILEEN

Was it, really?

KAREN

I thought it was.

EILEEN

Do his friends know where he is?

KAREN

I haven't tried them.

EILEEN

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

KAREN

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.

KAREN

Why?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (8)

EILEEN

What do you mean why?

KAREN

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)

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...

KAREN

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

EILEEN

Well they should.

KAREN

Well they don't.

EILEEN

Well they should.

Eileen joins them at the table.

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.

KAREN

Three years is a record these days, Mom.

EILEEN

Forty-eight years Karen, that's a record. Forty-eight years. When I was your age I didn't even know divorce was allowed.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (9)

EILEEN (CONT'D)

I thought you went to jail for getting divorced.

KAREN

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.

KAREN

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?

KAREN

I remember.

EILEEN

But you came back honey and we were right.

KAREN

You were right.

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.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (10)

MORTY (CONT'D)  
I'm just saying.

EILEEN  
Do you want something to eat?

KAREN  
That's OK.

EILEEN  
I made pasta.

KAREN  
That sounds good, actually.

MORTY  
Trust me it's not.

They all start laughing.

EILEEN  
One second.

Eileen exits. Karen checks her phone and her e-mail on his smartphone.

KAREN  
Nada.

Awkward silence.

MORTY  
He'll call.

KAREN  
You're so optimistic.

Eileen enters with a bowl of pasta and a fork.

EILEEN  
Here's your pasta.

Hands Karen pasta. Karen eats while they sit and watch her.

KAREN  
It's great.

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

EILEEN  
Do you want to stay the night?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (11)

KAREN  
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.

KAREN  
Did you ever want to leave Mom?

MORTY  
Everyday.

They pull their chairs closer.

KAREN  
No, really?

MORTY  
It's never been an option.

KAREN  
Because of me?

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

KAREN  
But have you ever wanted to?

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

KAREN  
We don't even fight that much.

MORTY  
Have you been fighting more lately?

KAREN  
Not more often but more spontaneously.

MORTY  
What do you mean?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (12)

KAREN

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.

KAREN

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.

KAREN

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?

KAREN

Carrie Underwood.

MORTY

Yeah her. Remember how excited you both were?

KAREN

He never thought he'd sell anything.

MORTY

Well you supported him for so long.

KAREN

I know.

MORTY

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

KAREN

No.

MORTY

Maybe it's about money.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (13)

KAREN

It's not about money.

MORTY

How do you know?

KAREN

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

MORTY

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

KAREN

I have a good career, Dad.

MORTY

That's true.

KAREN

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

MORTY

I'm sure he will.

KAREN

I don't know.

They sit in silence. Karen eats his pasta.

MORTY

Be honest.

(beat)

What do you think of the pasta?

Karen grimaces as we cut to the next scene.

SCENE 6: LARRY & JACK AT LARRY'S HOUSE

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

JACK

It's fine.

LARRY

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

JACK

Hopefully one.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LARRY

And what about tomorrow?

JACK

I'm going apartment hunting.

LARRY

No you're not.

JACK

I am.

LARRY

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

JACK

I don't think so.

LARRY

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.

LARRY

But you love Karen.

JACK

Everybody loves Karen.

LARRY

You can't just leave her.

JACK

Why not?

LARRY

Because you can't.

JACK

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

LARRY

You're not me.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

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 beer in a can.

LARRY

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

JACK

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

LARRY

Well, that's unavoidable.

JACK

No, it's not.

LARRY

You're already a carbon copy of Dad.

JACK

Don't say that.

LARRY

Don't deny it. It's true.

JACK

No, it's not.

LARRY

You guys are identical.

JACK

No we're not.

LARRY

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

JACK

Him and Mom should have divorced twenty years ago.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

LARRY

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

JACK

Dad doesn't like Mom.

LARRY

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.

LARRY

Don't say that Jack.

JACK

It's true.

LARRY

Why do you always feel the need to insult Mom?

JACK

I'm not insulting Mom.

LARRY

You just called her lazy and apathetic.

JACK

Why is that an insult?

LARRY

You don't think that's insulting?

JACK

I'm stating facts.

LARRY

You're being a jerk.

JACK

I love Mom.

LARRY

Really?

JACK

Yes.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

LARRY

You just think she's lazy and apathetic.

JACK

She is.

LARRY

Jack.

JACK

She is.

LARRY

Jack, shut the fuck up.

She crosses to the table.

LARRY (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.

LARRY

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

JACK

No.

LARRY

Then why are you so scared?

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.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

LARRY

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

JACK

Maybe.

LARRY

That's lazy. That's apathetic.

JACK

No it's not.

LARRY

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.

LARRY

That's how it sounded.

JACK

I don't want to fight with you.

LARRY

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

JACK

No.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (6)

LARRY

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

JACK

You don't understand what I'm saying.

Jack crosses back to the couch.

LARRY

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.

LARRY

But you think it.

JACK

I don't.

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

LARRY

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, Larry.

LARRY

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.

JACK

What are you talking about?

LARRY

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.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (7)

JACK

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

LARRY

You're hurting her now.

JACK

I know.

LARRY

You should at least call her.

JACK

I'll call her tomorrow.

LARRY

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? Karen 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 her...over 20 dollars. If we hadn't been in public, I think, I seriously think I might have hit her.

LARRY

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

JACK

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

LARRY

So.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (8)

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?

LARRY

It's called marriage, Jack. 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. You know the last year Patricia and I were together she finally just said flat out she wasn't interested in sex anymore. But then I, I don't think I ever told you this, but I found all these dirty text messages to some guy named Gabe...naked pictures, really graphic stuff. So clearly she hadn't lost interest in sex, she'd just lost interest in me. I knew it was over when I saw those messages.

JACK

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

Larry moves and sits next to Jack on the couch.

LARRY

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 you would somehow be better at marriage than me. The same you're better at a lot of things.

LARRY (CONT'D)

A lot of people get married because they have to cause of a pregnancy, or pressure from the parents, or religion, but you and Karen just seemed purer to me...like you were only getting married for love...I guess, I thought you would somehow approach it differently...I don't know...but it turns out you're just like your stupid older brother who got married too fast and walked away too quickly and fought with his wife over 20 dollars.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (9)

LARRY (CONT'D)

You're just like your dumb older brother.  
I just wanted more for you. I didn't  
want you to be me and Patricia.

(long pause...they sit in  
silence)

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

JACK

I do.

SCENE 7: EILEEN, MORTY & KAREN - AT HOME

We hear a voice over from a television show as the family enters. As the TV plays Karen, Morty and Eileen enter and move to the couch area to watch TV. Karen 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. "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.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

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.

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.

KAREN

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.

KAREN

Mom, you really are.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

EILEEN

I'm not. Most men are usually wrong.

MORTY

Here we go.

EILEEN

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

MORTY

Aileen Wuornos.

EILEEN

Okay so one.

MORTY

Lizzie Borden.

EILEEN

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

KAREN

Why are we talking serial killers?

EILEEN

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

KAREN

Well we'd have two serial killers.

MORTY

And we wouldn't have people. Men make people. Without men there wouldn't be women 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?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

KAREN

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.

KAREN

There's a lot of women criminals.

EILEEN

Not that many.

KAREN

There's a lot.

EILEEN

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

KAREN

42.

EILEEN

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

KAREN

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.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

KAREN  
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.

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

MORTY  
Isn't your mother so loving?

KAREN  
Mother Theresa.

EILEEN  
Ok, I'm done.

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

EILEEN (CONT'D)  
Karen.

KAREN  
Mom.

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

KAREN  
No, I don't know that.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

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.

KAREN

I'm not so sure.

EILEEN

He loves you so much, Karen.

KAREN

I know.

EILEEN

He'll come back.

KAREN

Maybe.

EILEEN

He will.

They sit in silence.

EILEEN (CONT'D)

How 'bout some ice cream.

KAREN

I'll pass.

EILEEN

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

MORTY

She doesn't want any.

EILEEN

Yes, she does.

KAREN

I'm fine.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (6)

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 Karen)

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

KAREN

It's fine.

EILEEN

Don't mope honey, come on.

MORTY

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

Eileen leaves.

MORTY (CONT'D)

I live with that. 24 hours a day.

(they sit in silence)

It's gonna be OK, Karen.

KAREN

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

Music as Karen checks her phone and the lights fade to black so the only light on stage is Karen's face being illuminated by her phone. Then Eileen enters in the darkness and she, too, is looking at her phone. Larry enters, the same so there are now three faces illuminated by cel phone light and the lights come up as the scene begins. Jack exits as Larry 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 LARRY

EILEEN

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

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LARRY

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

EILEEN

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

LARRY

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

EILEEN

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

LARRY

No, actually he isn't.

EILEEN

Do you know where he is?

LARRY

I don't, actually.

EILEEN

You have no idea where your brother is?

LARRY

I don't.

EILEEN

Has he called you?

LARRY

Yes.

EILEEN

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

LARRY

No, actually he hasn't.

EILEEN

Come on, Larry.

LARRY

I wish I could help you but...

EILEEN

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

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

LARRY  
I really don't know.

EILEEN  
You really don't?

LARRY  
I really don't.

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

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

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

LARRY  
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. Karen is absolutely devastated. She doesn't even know why Jack left.

LARRY  
Well I know that Jack loves Karen very much.

EILEEN  
I know he does.

LARRY  
Does Karen know that?

EILEEN  
Yes, Karen knows that.

LARRY  
Jack doesn't think you like him.

EILEEN  
Who?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

LARRY  
You and your husband.

EILEEN  
We love Jack.

LARRY  
I think he's afraid of your husband.

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

LARRY  
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.

LARRY  
He's just not ready.

EILEEN  
Will you please put him on.

LARRY  
He's not here.

EILEEN  
Where is he?

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

LARRY  
Mrs. Mack...

EILEEN  
Eileen, call me Eileen.

LARRY  
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 Karen. He loves Karen. 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.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

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 Karen. But any communication right now would be very appreciated.

LARRY

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

EILEEN

When?

LARRY

I don't know.

EILEEN

What am I supposed to tell Karen?

LARRY

Tell him that Jack loves her 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.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

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.

EILEEN

Jack, Karen 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.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (6)

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 Karen loves you.

JACK  
I know.

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 Karen.

JACK  
I don't know.

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

(Jack sighs)  
Jack?

JACK  
OK.

EILEEN  
When and where?

JACK  
Um.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (7)

EILEEN  
Anytime. Tomorrow preferably.

JACK  
OK. Tomorrow.

EILEEN  
When?

JACK  
Afternoon. 2pm.

EILEEN  
Perfect.

JACK  
We'll meet at the zoo.

EILEEN  
Wonderful.

JACK  
Please don't bring Karen.

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 & KAREN AT THE WEDDING

Morty enters alone in a tuxedo and looks in the mirror.  
Karen, in a beautiful white wedding dress, enters in a rush.

MORTY  
Oh, I'm so nervous.

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

MORTY  
I know.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KAREN

It's not like you're getting married.

MORTY

That I could handle.

KAREN

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

MORTY

I can't do this.

KAREN

Dad.

MORTY

You don't have to do this.

KAREN

How many years did you wait for this.

MORTY

I know.

KAREN

For the last five years all I've heard was, "when are you kids gonna get married, when are you kids gonna get married so I can walk you down the aisle."

MORTY

But you really think this is the one.

KAREN

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

MORTY

He doesn't have a job.

KAREN

He's a musician.

MORTY

You're gonna have to support him.

KAREN

I have a good job.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

MORTY

You shouldn't have to support him.

KAREN

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

MORTY

Marriage is different than dating.

KAREN

I know that.

MORTY

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

KAREN

He's a great guy.

MORTY

But is he thee guy?

KAREN

He's a wonderful person.

MORTY

But there are a lot of great guys out there.

KAREN

Dad.

MORTY

You know my knees are shaking.

Morty goes to sit down on the couch.

KAREN

Really?

Karen touches Morty's knees.

MORTY

You can't feel 'em but they are.

Karen paces nervously as Morty sits on the couch.

KAREN

Just relax.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

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.

KAREN

I'm sure she was nervous.

MORTY

She's unflappable.

KAREN

It's just an act.

MORTY

And it was such a quick birth.

KAREN

That's what Mom said.

MORTY

You just popped out.

KAREN

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

MORTY

You were such a cute baby.

KAREN

Dad, don't do this.

MORTY

You were.

KAREN

Dad.

MORTY

I cried so hard the first time I held you.

KAREN

Dad, don't make me cry.

MORTY

And now you're all grown up and you're getting married and I'm so happy for you but I'm sad, too.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

Karen 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.

KAREN

I want you to e happy for me?

MORTY

I am happy for you.

KAREN

So smile. It's not a funeral.

MORTY

It feels like it is.

KAREN

Dad.

MORTY

I'm sorry.

KAREN

I know you don't like Jack.

MORTY

It's not about Jack.

KAREN

What is it then?

MORTY

I don't know. Marriage changes you.

KAREN

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

KAREN

Do you regret getting married?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

MORTY  
Never.

KAREN  
Never?

MORTY  
Always.

KAREN  
Which one?

MORTY  
Both.

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

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

KAREN  
Can you smile?

MORTY  
I'm smiling.

KAREN  
You're not.

MORTY  
I'm smiling.

Wedding music. Morty smiles big.

KAREN  
That's us. You ready?

MORTY  
(through a forced smile)  
Oh my God.

KAREN  
Here we go.

Karen exits but Morty stays on the couch. Karen reenters and motions for her Dad to hurry. Karen exits. Morty still remains on the couch.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (6)

Karen reenters one final time, gently picks up her 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 sit on a bench and eat 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.

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 Karen.

JACK

You've been very good.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

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.

EILEEN

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

JACK

Even if I kill Karen?

EILEEN

What?

JACK

That's why I left.

EILEEN

Excuse me?

JACK

I had an overwhelming urge to kill Karen.

EILEEN

What are you talking about?

JACK

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

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

EILEEN

Why?

JACK

She 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. She wanted to leave, I wanted to stay and she wouldn't give me any more money.

EILEEN

So you wanted to kill her?

JACK

I know it makes no sense, but it scared me. Sometimes she does things and I want to kill her 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 her a lot?

JACK

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

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

EILEEN

Have you ever hit each other?

JACK

No.

EILEEN

Have you ever cheated on her?

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 her names all the time.

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 Karen and me.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

JACK (CONT'D)

Before we got married I was so happy. Every date was like a party. 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 her 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 Karen to get home and find out what she wants and decide together. Some days I don't want to do "together" I just want to do what I want to do. 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. She wanted it big and perfect. Lots of people. I wanted it small and easy. But we'd waited so long to get married and Karen is so popular I felt like 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.

EILEEN

And I apologize. I wanted a big wedding. I was the selfish one. When Karen was born I thought of all the wonderful things coming my way. Proms, weddings, baby showers, Grandkids. I wanted that big wedding and I never asked you what you wanted and I apologize. I love you, Jack. Please talk to Karen. I'm begging you. Please talk it out. You guys just need to talk.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

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: KAREN & JACK WRITE THANK YOU CARDS

KAREN

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?

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

JACK

I was sleeping.

KAREN

No, you weren't

JACK

I was asleep.

Jack goes over to the table.

KAREN

Bullshit. You never take naps.

JACK

Do we have to do this?

KAREN

Yes.

JACK

I don't want to do this.

KAREN

You're the writer.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JACK

We got over two hundred gifts.

KAREN

Isn't life hard?

JACK

I said I wanted a small wedding.

KAREN

Well fortunately you weren't in charge.

JACK

I should have been.

KAREN

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.

KAREN

My Mother has one daughter 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 the 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.

KAREN

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

JACK

Mmmmmmm...I love it when you talk like that.

KAREN

Come on, get busy.

JACK

Let's do it tomorrow.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

KAREN  
Tomorrow's Monday.

JACK  
Let's do it next Sunday.

KAREN  
We've put it off for four weeks.

JACK  
One more week, that's all.

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

JACK  
I can't tomorrow.

KAREN  
Why not?

JACK  
Because I don't want to.

KAREN  
What else do you have to do? Jack?

JACK  
I have to write some songs.

KAREN  
You haven't written in two weeks.

JACK  
No, tomorrow I'm definitely writing like a hundred songs.  
(he rolls his eyes)  
All day.

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

JACK  
I know it's awful.

KAREN  
You are.

JACK  
I'm so lazy.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

KAREN

You are.

JACK

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

KAREN

Jack.

He kisses her neck.

KAREN (CONT'D)

Please help me write these notes.

Jack becomes more aggressive.

KAREN (CONT'D)

Stop.

JACK

Come on.

KAREN

No.

JACK

Come on.

KAREN

Jack.

JACK

(imitating Pitbull)

"You know you want me. I know I wanch ya. I know you want meeeeeee. You know I wanch ya."

KAREN

I want to write these notes.

JACK

OK. You write the notes and I'll stand here and kiss your neck.

KAREN

(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..."

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

KAREN

Jack, that is not working for me.

Jack sticks his tongue in Karen's ear.

KAREN (CONT'D)

Jack don't, that tickles.

JACK

You know you love it!

KAREN

Baby, please. Can we write these notes?

JACK

You have to kiss me first.

KAREN

No.

JACK

Then you're on your own.

KAREN

OK.

He gives a quick kiss.

JACK

That's it? That's a kiss?

KAREN

That's all you deserve.

JACK

Forget it.

KAREN

OK, OK, come here. Come here baby.

They kiss for a long time.

JACK

Mmmm, you kiss good.

KAREN

OK, let's write these notes now.

JACK

God, I hate doing this kind of stuff.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

KAREN

You need to learn how to kiss ass better.

JACK

I don't hear you complaining.

KAREN

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

JACK

How many are there?

KAREN

A hundred and ninety-four.

JACK

Oh my God.

KAREN

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

JACK

That's way too confusing.

KAREN

You know which numbers are odd?

JACK

I forget.

KAREN

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

JACK

One, three, five...

KAREN

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 Karen.

JACK

(he starts one)

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

KAREN

You're hopeless Jack.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (6)

JACK

And you are the most beautiful woman 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 Karen 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 Karen 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.

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.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

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 us to know.

EILEEN

I don't think so.

MORTY

So what is it.

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 gal and a great marriage.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

EILEEN

He said he had thoughts about killing Karen.

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 Karen more than anything in the world but last month they had a fight and he says if they hadn't been in public he says might have actually hit her.

MORTY

Karen could beat the crap out of him.

EILEEN

Well, that's not the point.

MORTY

Has he hit her?

EILEEN

I don't think so.

MORTY

But we don't know.

EILEEN

I don't think so.

MORTY

Maybe he has. Maybe he's leaving because he can't control himself.

EILEEN

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

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

MORTY

But he wants to hurt Karen.

EILEEN

You're not listening. He's never hit her...he doesn't want to hurt her...that's the point but I think he's having some serious anger issues.

MORTY

And what does that mean?

EILEEN

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

MORTY

Well he should be upset.

EILEEN

Well, he is.

MORTY

If he ever laid a hand on Karen...

EILEEN

What would you do?

MORTY

I's kill him.

EILEEN

You would?

MORTY

Of course I would.

Morty waves her off and heads to the kitchen.

EILEEN

Who hit me last year?

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

MORTY

And who hit me back?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

EILEEN

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

MORTY

Well she wouldn't stay in an abusive relationship.

EILEEN

You don't know that.

MORTY

She's too strong.

EILEEN

Strong women don't stay in abusive relationships?

MORTY

You know Karen.

EILEEN

I think I do.

MORTY

She wouldn't allow someone to mistreat him. She'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.

EILEEN

I just don't think divorce is an answer. They waited so long to get married. They didn't rush into it. They really thought about it and talked about it and planned it and we had that huge wedding and now they don't want it anymore.

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

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

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.

Morty returns to the table to pour his own glass.

EILEEN

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

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (6)

MORTY

But maybe he's not and I guess that's the issue. You don't think he'd really kill Karen, 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 daughter.

EILEEN

She has everything to do with our daughter. Did OJ 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?

MORTY

Yes.

EILEEN

But they got back together.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (7)

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 daughter.

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.

EILEEN

You know who kills women in this country? Their husbands! One third, Morty, one third. Most women are killed by people they know; their husbands, their ex-husbands, their jealous boyfriends.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (8)

EILEEN (CONT'D)

Maybe if more couples separated at the first sign of trouble there'd be a lot less dead women 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 husbands kill their wives, 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.

MORTY

Are you sure?

EILEEN

Don't be silly.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (9)

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.

EILEEN  
I am.

MORTY  
Well then.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (10)

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.

MORTY

Go have an affair, then.

EILEEN

Would you forgive me?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (11)

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?

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: LARRY & JACK - AT LARRY'S HOUSE

LARRY  
Don't do this.

JACK  
I'm gonna be late.

LARRY  
Cancel.

JACK  
I need to go.

LARRY  
Give it another week.

JACK  
I've made up my mind.

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

JACK  
I think I do.

LARRY  
You don't.

JACK  
This isn't easy.

LARRY  
You don't throw a woman like Karen away.

JACK  
I'm not throwing her away.

LARRY  
You're not?

JACK  
No.

LARRY  
What do you call it?

JACK  
Change.

LARRY  
Divorce. It's called divorce, Jack.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JACK  
It's better this way.

LARRY  
You're wrong.

JACK  
I know what I'm doing.

LARRY  
You're making a huge mistake.

JACK  
I don't think so.

LARRY  
What are you so afraid of?

JACK  
I've told you.

LARRY  
Tell me again.

JACK  
I have to go.

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

JACK  
I don't want to be late.

LARRY  
She'll forgive you for being late but she won't forgive you for destroying her life.

JACK  
I'm not destroying her life.

LARRY  
You're not?

JACK  
Do you feel your life was "destroyed" when you Patricia left you?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

LARRY

Yes! I did. I acted tough but yes. I was devastated. I miss her 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.

LARRY

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

JACK

I plan to in about twenty minutes.

LARRY

Have fun.

SCENE 15: EILEEN, KAREN & MORTY

EILEEN

Call us the minute you're done.

KAREN

Do I look too business-like?

EILEEN

You look great.

KAREN

Why am I nervous?

EILEEN

It'll be fine.

KAREN

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

MORTY

He's your husband.

KAREN

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

EILEEN

It's gonna be fine.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

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

EILEEN  
We'll be waiting.

KAREN  
I'm gonna be late.

MORTY  
It's not a job interview.

KAREN  
It kind of is.

EILEEN  
Karen, honey, listen. Everything's gonna  
work out fine.

KAREN  
All right, I'm going.

Music underscoring as Karen sets up two chairs and table.

SCENE 16: JACK & KAREN - RESTAURANT

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

JACK  
Sorry I'm late.

KAREN  
You're not late.

JACK  
My watch says I'm late.

KAREN  
I'm early.

JACK  
Oh, good.

KAREN  
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.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JACK  
You look nice.

KAREN  
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.

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

JACK  
Well we sort of are, right?

KAREN  
Except you know what's gonna happen.

JACK  
Well not completely.

KAREN  
So, are we gonna talk or chat?

JACK  
I'm not sure where to start.

KAREN  
Just say something.

JACK  
What?

KAREN  
Anything.

JACK  
I'm not sure what to say.

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

JACK  
I can't live with you anymore.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

KAREN

Why?

JACK

Because I don't want to hurt you.

KAREN

Don't give me that.

JACK

It's true.

KAREN

We've done fine 'till now.

JACK

Not really.

KAREN

Compared to our friends.

JACK

It's not a competition, Karen.

KAREN

It's not supposed to be perfect.

JACK

I know.

KAREN

It's supposed to be good.

JACK

And it is. It's very good.

KAREN

Then why are we here?

JACK

Because I know it won't stay good.

KAREN

You don't know that.

JACK

I do.

KAREN

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

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

JACK

I know.

KAREN

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.

KAREN

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

JACK

I know how I feel.

KAREN

Tell me that.

JACK

Scared.

KAREN

Why?

JACK

I compose music, Karen. 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? 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.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

KAREN  
But you chose it.

JACK  
I did.

KAREN  
You chose to marry me.

JACK  
I know.

KAREN  
You chose me.

JACK  
I know.

KAREN  
We chose each other.

JACK  
I know.

KAREN  
We made choices.

JACK  
I agree.

KAREN  
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 to make my parents happy but because I knew it was right. I knew that we could create something wonderful together.

JACK  
I thought so, too.

KAREN  
Thought so Jack? What about think so?

JACK  
I thought we could.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

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

KAREN

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.

KAREN

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.

KAREN

I married a fucking child.

JACK

Karen.

KAREN

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.

Karen sits again.

KAREN

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

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (6)

JACK  
I'm biting my tongue.

KAREN  
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.

KAREN  
Oh it's always about money, Jack.

JACK  
No, it's not.

KAREN  
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.

KAREN  
How is it different? What's changed?

JACK  
It's changing.

KAREN  
Is it?

JACK  
Yes.

KAREN  
How?

JACK  
Slowly.

KAREN  
How?

JACK  
Little ways.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (7)

KAREN

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

JACK

Exactly.

KAREN

So you've changed. Not me.

JACK

Yes.

KAREN

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

JACK

We're both changing.

KAREN

You're changing.

JACK

It's changing.

KAREN

Because you're changing it.

JACK

It's changing itself.

KAREN

What's wrong with change?

JACK

Nothing.

KAREN

Everything changes.

JACK

That's the problem.

KAREN

You just found this out?

JACK

Maybe.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (8)

KAREN

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...

KAREN

But it's so obvious.

JACK

It's not and you know it.

KAREN

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

JACK

Yes, I could have.

KAREN

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, Karen.

KAREN

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.

KAREN

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

JACK

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

KAREN

Why?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (9)

JACK

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

KAREN

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.

KAREN

Good is better than what most people get.

JACK

Well good is not what I want.

KAREN

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?

KAREN

Jack, why did you marry me?

JACK

I can't remember.

KAREN

Try.

JACK

Because you were smart and funny and sexy and open minded. You were perfect.

KAREN

But not now?

JACK

You're just different now.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (10)

KAREN

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

JACK

I'm not perfect.

KAREN

You're perfect for me.

JACK

I'm really not.

KAREN

We're perfect together.

JACK

We aren't.

KAREN

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

JACK

Karen, listen to me....

KAREN

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

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

JACK

What do you wanna do?

KAREN

I don't know.

JACK

Do you wanna order?

KAREN

I'm not hungry.

JACK

They have really good sandwiches.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (11)

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

JACK  
We have?

KAREN  
Yes.

JACK  
When?

KAREN  
Oh God, Jack.

JACK  
When?

KAREN  
Just shut up.

JACK  
What did I say?

KAREN  
Nothing.

JACK  
I didn't mean to upset you.

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

JACK  
OK.

KAREN  
I need to go.

JACK  
Where?

KAREN  
I need to get out of here.

JACK  
Do you want to go somewhere else?

KAREN  
We've eaten here before.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (12)

JACK

When?

KAREN

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.

KAREN

When is my birthday Jack?

(Jack pauses)

When's my birthday?

JACK

September.

KAREN

September what?

JACK

September 26th.

KAREN

What year?

(he thinks)

Don't figure it out just tell me.

JACK

1977.

KAREN

November 12, 1977.

JACK

Sorry.

KAREN

November. How many times have we gone over this?

JACK

I'm sorry.

KAREN

November.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (13)

JACK

Sorry.

KAREN

November 12th.

JACK

Got it.

KAREN

November 12th, 1977. Where was I born?

JACK

New Jersey.

KAREN

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

JACK

I don't know.

KAREN

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

JACK

I didn't know.

KAREN

I've told you this.

JACK

What is this a test?

KAREN

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

JACK

Penn.

KAREN

That was under-grad.

JACK

Delaware.

KAREN

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

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (14)

JACK  
(hesitating for a second)  
Beth.

KAREN  
You paused.

JACK  
Beth. After your Grandma.

KAREN  
You paused.

JACK  
Of course, I know your middle name.

KAREN  
But you paused, Jack, you had to think.

JACK  
No, I didn't.

KAREN  
You had to pause, Jack.

JACK  
No, I didn't.

KAREN  
Oh please.

JACK  
I'm not good with details.

KAREN  
Details?

JACK  
Facts.

KAREN  
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. You were raised in the San Fernando Valley. You got your first apartment in North Hollywood and studied music part time at UCLA.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (15)

KAREN (CONT'D)

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

Karen, listen to me.

KAREN

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.

KAREN

More material for you next song.

JACK

You wanna talk about who gets what?

KAREN

Not really.

JACK

I think we should.

KAREN

Take what you think belongs to you.

JACK

Most of it belongs to us.

KAREN

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

JACK

It's not a game.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (16)

KAREN

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

KAREN

You already have and you've won.

JACK

Why does it always have to get ugly with you?

KAREN

Because I'm a "cunt". Because I'm a "super bitch".

JACK

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

KAREN

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.

KAREN

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.

KAREN

What?

JACK

Just wow. I thought this would be easier.

KAREN

How easy did you expect it to be?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (17)

JACK

I didn't expect it to be so ugly.

KAREN

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

Karen.

KAREN

Starting now. We're done. The end.

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

KAREN (CONT'D)

And one last thing. You write really shitty music.

Karen 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

Karen slowly enters, she is walking very slowly, in pajamas maybe or an old sweater, she has a cane, she is not sick but she is old, very old. She moves like an old woman but she is not on her deathbed. Maybe her hand shakes a little. She heads toward the sofa and sits alone. The audience should think that Karen has grown old in this house, old and alone. It should not be sad but matter-of-fact.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

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 her lovingly but not overly sentimental. Jack slowly arrives at the sofa and hands one glass to Karen. Karen 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 Karen on the sofa.

KAREN

Happy Anniversary, Jack.

JACK

Happy Anniversary, Karen.

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

Black out.

Curtain call.

THE END