0:00:00

Song "What is this thing called love", Cole Porter, by Leo Reisman & His Orchestra

"What is this thing called love
this funny thing called love
just who can solve its mystery
why should it make a fool of me?"

0:01:51 GABE & JUDY’S HOME

TV
Einstein was then celebrating the 70th birthday anniversary and there was a colloquium given for him. And he said: "God doesn't play dice with the universe."

GABE
No, he just plays hide-and-seek.

TV
Learn to write screenplays, television scripts, plays…

GABE
Jesus, they're so full of it. You can't teach writing. You expose students to good work and hope it inspires them. Some can write, others will never learn.

JUDY
You lose patience if the student isn't Dostoyevsky.

GABE
No, that isn't true. That's crazy. It's worth it when you get a gifted pupil. A girl in my class wrote a great story: "Oral Sex in the Age of Deconstruction." It's full of insight, romantic…

JUDY
They're here.

GABE
Jack will wanna take us for Chinese food again.

JUDY
I think Sally's tired of our pasta places.

JACK
Hi. Is it supposed to rain?

SALLY
Hi.

JUDY
Let me take your coat. I opened some white wine. You want some?

JACK
They're doing something at th.
JUDY
Jack? You want some cold white wine?

GABE
When I go to your place, it's murder. So, Chinese, right? I can't talk you into Italian?

JACK
Listen, don't get crazy, you know?

SALLY
Before we go out to dinner we wanna tell you something.

JACK
You want to? Go ahead.

GABE
What? What? Somebody tell us.

SALLY
Jack and I are splitting up.

GABE
Oh, I see. It's just... Nothing serious.

JACK
We discussed this for a long time and we both think it's for the best.

GABE
You are joking, of course.

JACK
Don't make a big deal, okay? We're fine.

JUDY
Are you serious?

SALLY
We are. We're fine.

JACK
We both... We discussed it.

SALLY
It's mutual.

JUDY
What do you mean?

JACK
Let's go talk about this at dinner.

JUDY
I'm not going out to dinner.

GABE
Since when has this been decided? What are we talking about here?

SALLY
We've been discussing it.

JACK
Don't be worried. There's no hostility. You see? We're fine.
GABE
What is the reason?

JACK
Don't--

JUDY
Gabe, it's none of our business.

JACK
Don't turn this into a tragedy. It's a positive thing.

GABE
How can you break up? It's insane. You're Jack and Sally. You got two kids.

JACK
Our kids are grown up. They're in college.

SALLY
We won't bore you with details.

JUDY
I can't get my mind around this. Since when? You get along so well.

GABE
She's right. Have you met other people?

JUDY
Gabe, it's not our business.

GABE
I'm fascinated by this.

JUDY
I feel sick.

JACK
We didn't wanna ruin anything. We wanna see what it's like to be...

SALLY
Apart for a while. Don't not support us. We've gotten the nerve.

GABE
This is insanity. You'll be back together...

JACK
She's keeping the place in Riverdale. I'm looking for a place in town.

JUDY
I just feel shattered.

SALLY
Oh, come on, Judy.

JUDY
I do.

SALLY
Come on, let's eat.

JUDY
What do you mean, "Come on, let's eat"? "Come on"? I can't eat.

SALLY
Don't get angry.
JUDY
I'm not! I'm not angry!

JACK
I knew it.

JUDY
You march in here and announce you're breaking up? You have two kids! Why are you doing this?

GABE
This is not our business.

JUDY
Why not? They're our closest friends!

JACK
There is no one traumatic event. People grow apart. It's a lot of little personal things. Now stop it.

JUDY
I don't wanna hear this bullshit.

JACK
Why is she so upset?

GABE
Judy...

SALLY
She cares about us.

GABE
Well, I care about you too.

JACK
We're fine, okay? We wanna do this.

GABE
This is crazy. (TO JUDY) Why are you taking this so personally?

JUDY
I'm upset! All right? Can't I be upset?

SALLY
I've discussed this in therapy.

JUDY
You have? You never said a word!

GABE
You said this wasn't our business.

JUDY
We were all so close! I assumed we were.

GABE
She's very upset.

JACK
Will you please not turn this into a wake?

GABE
Why is this such a personal thing for you? I don't know what to say.
SALLY
Let's just go out to dinner and forget it.

GABE
Judy, come on!

JACK
I knew this would happen.

**0:06:28 INTERVIEW**

OFF
So why were you so upset?

JUDY
I don't know. I really don't know.

OFF
It was a total shock?

JUDY
Yeah, completely. They were so casual about it. They didn't seem to be appropriately upset.

OFF
Were you hurt because Sally never mentioned anything to you?

JUDY
Well... I think, if I look hard... Searching over the time, when we were alone together, she may have occasionally remarked about wondering what it would be like to be single now, with all she knew, all she'd experienced. That kind of thing. But she never said anything negative about Jack.

OFF
Before we go on, tell us something about yourself. So we know who you are.

JUDY
Okay. My name is Judy Roth. I'm married to Gabe. We've been married about ten years. I work for an art magazine. We don't have any children. I have a daughter from a previous marriage. I was married when I was very young, to an architect. It didn't work out. It's nobody's fault.

**0:07:37 DINNER AT RESTAURANT**

OFF
Judy told us they did finally go to dinner. She said she was tense and nervous, although the others seemed fine. Afterwards, they walked home. She tried to participate, but found the atmosphere strained. All in all, she said, it was a very peculiar evening.

**0:07:57 GABE & JUDY'S BEDROOM**

GABE
It's amazing, isn't it? You think you're friendly with people and it turns out you really have no idea what they're thinking.

JUDY
Do you ever hide things from me?

GABE
Me? What kind of things?

JUDY
I don't know. Feelings, you know. Longings. Complaints.
GABE
No. Do you?

JUDY
No... Sometimes, maybe.

GABE
Really? Like what?

JUDY
I don't know. You know how you're always so critical? We've had this conversation.

GABE
You're definitely in a strange mood tonight.

JUDY
I'm fine. I'm sorry... Jack never gave you an inkling? It's strange, you guys are so close.

GABE
I remember one incident he mentioned at his office.

0:08:55 JACK’S OFFICE

COLLEAGUE
Jack, trust me on this. This girl is to die. Shawn Grainger, she's built out to here. You will have the time of your life. And for $200 believe me, it's a bargain.

JACK
I'm not gonna do it. What about AIDS?

COLLEAGUE
She's not a whore. She's a high-class call girl. She'll do anything you want. And on top of it, she's got friends.

JACK
What about my wife? It's dangerous.

COLLEAGUE
Who was the guy who told me that your sex life wasn't so terrific?

JACK
Come on, at a two-martini lunch I'll say anything.

COLLEAGUE
Shawn has got a mouth like velvet. Believe me. She was a former Miss Something-or-Other.

JACK
What exactly did I say at lunch?

COLLEAGUE
You said that Sally was cold, and you were dying to fuck your aerobics trainer.

JACK
I should never drink at lunch.

COLLEAGUE
I'm gonna write down the number. I advise you to...

JACK
What are you doing? Hey. What...?

COLLEAGUE
Have I steered you wrong?

JACK
I've never... Get out of here.

COLLEAGUE
There it is. Use it.

0:10:11 SHAWN’S APARTMENT

SHAWN
He called. I thought it was about a month after he got my number. He was polite on the phone. A little tense. I can always tell who's inexperienced. He wanted to meet at the Americana Hotel. When I got there he was very polite, very gentlemanly. Very nervous. He couldn't go through with it. He couldn't get it up. He had pains in his chest. I thought it was a heart attack, but they passed.

OFF
That was the last you saw of him?

SHAWN
He called a month later. We met at the same hotel. This time we had sex. Then I started seeing him fairly regularly, every two, three weeks. He said he'd seen a psychiatrist and worked out his problem. Once I couldn't make it so I sent a friend. Then he started seeing both of us. Then neither one of us ever saw him again.

0:11:10 GABE & JUDY’S BEDROOM

JUDY
At least he threw the number away.

GABE
Well, as far as I know. But Jack is not a hooker guy. He's very strait-laced.

JUDY
And Sally's cold in bed.

GABE
That's no surprise. She's very cerebral.

JUDY
Am I cold in bed?

GABE
No. Why would you say that?

JUDY
But I'm inhibited, right? You said that.

GABE
You can't forget that. We had one minor argument years ago. Which you blew up into a major confrontation...

JUDY
Do you ever want to sleep with a whore?

GABE
Me? No, definitely not. When I was in college, I did.

JUDY
Yeah?

GABE
You're in an odd mood. Their breakup has definitely affected you.

JUDY
You think... You think we'd ever break up?

GABE
What? I'm not planning it, are you?

JUDY
No.

GABE
Okay.

JUDY
But I don't know how I'll feel if you still don't wanna make me pregnant.

GABE
Are we gonna have that conversation again? You have a daughter...

JUDY
I want another.

GABE
Why? It's cruel to bring life into this terrible world.

JUDY
Don't glorify your refusal on philosophical grounds.

GABE
You should see the angry look on your face when you say that.

JUDY
You wanna make love?

GABE
Okay, if we can get into it in some way. I can't just do it on command.

JUDY
We can get into it.

GABE
Okay, so put your diaphragm on... You'd never say you were putting your diaphragm on and then not do it, right?

JUDY
What? What a thing to say! That's a terrible thing to say. You really trust no one. No wonder people accuse you of cynicism.

GABE
Okay. I apologize.

JUDY
Jesus!

GABE
I'm tired. It's one a.m...

JUDY
We don't have to do it... Are you still attracted to me?

GABE
Yes, I am.

JUDY
Truly?

GABE
Of course.

JUDY
We do it less and less.

GABE
Our schedules are not exactly...

JUDY
When we wanted to, we found time.

GABE
Come here.

JUDY
Parties, people's bathrooms...

GABE
Sit and relax for a minute, will you? If you remember clearly, when we used to do that spontaneous sex you never really liked it. You were always tense. You always heard people in the next room making noises. Now you remember it in a glorified way.

JUDY
Are you ever attracted to other women?

GABE
Like who?

JUDY
Like all the women you have in class, who are so talented and insightful. I'm sure they worship you.

GABE
Can I tell you that they don't want an old man? All right?

JUDY
I think an old man does better than an old woman.

GABE
Then we're definitely stuck with one another. Now, come on. You're really... Come on.

0:14:22 SALLY HAS AN APPOINTMENT WITH PAUL, A COLLEAGUE

OFF
Some time later, Sally had a date with Paul, a colleague at work who had always liked her.

PAUL
Sally. Come in. -Thank you very much. Come into my rent-stabilized den. Can I take your coat?

SALLY
It's lovely. I love it.

PAUL
Thank you. I thought we'd have a drink. I was able to get tickets to Don Giovanni.
SALLY
Great.

PAUL
You all right? What would you like?

SALLY
Anything. White wine?

PAUL
White wine. I hear the staging of this opera is not to be believed.

SALLY
Oh, really? How fabulous. That's lovely.

PAUL
Oh, hey, don't worry about it. I'll get it later.

SALLY
Can I use the phone?

PAUL
Yeah, sure. You all right?

SALLY
I'm looking forward to it.

PAUL
This way. A good friend of mine did the sets.

SALLY (telephone)
It's me. You are living with her, aren't you? You've moved in together. Don't lie to me, Jack. You are. Because I know. Because I do. Yes, I heard. It's been three fucking weeks! How did you meet someone so fast? Bullshit. You had to have known her before. Bullshit! Don't give me that shit! Oh, you're in love? So fast? I don't fucking believe it! You were seeing whoever it is all along. Of course, I expected things to happen. But not so fast! Are you that sure? No, I'm not. Oh, God, it's just fucking dishonest bullshit!

PAUL
Hi, are you...?

SALLY
I'm fine.

PAUL
If you're having a personal...

SALLY
Really. I'm okay. I'm looking forward to tonight. What are we seeing?

PAUL
Don Giovanni.

SALLY
A Don Juan story.

PAUL
I can only think of it as Mozart.

SALLY
Fucking Don Juans. They should have cut his fucking dick off.

PAUL
Can I get you some more wine?

SALLY
Please.

PAUL
You know, we don't have to go.

SALLY
No. I'm not gonna put my life on hold. I've been dying to see this opera. Excuse me one second.

PAUL
Sure.

SALLY (telephone)
Hello. Me again. I know who she is. Bullshit! It's Gail. She's been after you since she joined the firm. You both like sports! Don't lie to me, Jack. She's your type. She's got that look. She's bright and all that Princeton bullshit! No! I thought it was an experiment! I didn't think it was final. I didn't realize you were having an affair! That's bullshit! I don't buy a fucking word of it! (hangs off) What time do we have to be there?

PAUL
Listen... I don't really think I can do this. I'm feeling upset.

SALLY
What are you upset about? Fucking men! When a woman gets to this age, it's a different ball game. Don't defend your sex! It's true! It's great till you start to show your age, then they want a newer model.

PAUL
Sally. Sally, you're a very attractive woman, for any age.

0:18:52 INTERVIEW

SALLY
It was a terrible blow to my ego. I thought he loved me. That we were experimenting.

OFF
But if you had met someone first...?

SALLY
Probably right. Probably would've done the same thing. I had fantasized about being single many times. It's hard to keep a marriage going smoothly. All the frustration and baggage. I don't know. I don't know.

(Jack's office)
Gail came to his office the year before. I'd met her several times. Look, what can I say? She's cultivated, intelligent. It's what he likes. She'd been over to the house a few times. She loved my taste in everything. She even dressed like me. What can I say? She's me, but she's younger.

0:19:52 GABE’S CLASSROOM

GABE
Listen, your short story was absolutely fabulous.

RAIN
Really?

GABE
Yeah. I was very impressed, I must say. It was probably the best this term. It was wonderful.
RAIN
That's great!

GABE
The insights were great, the prose was very graceful. You know, in general, I was impressed.

RAIN
God, I'm blushing, right?

GABE
Well, don't...

RAIN
My face gets all red. I may just cry.

GABE
Well, don't take it that badly. I meant it as a compliment. It was great. Wonderful.

RAIN
Your approbation means more than anybody's. You're the reason why I wanted to write.

GABE
Really?

RAIN
Yeah. My family and I, we used to quote "The Grey Hat."

GABE
How do you remember that story?

RAIN
"Giving up his hopes, compromising one's dreams, is like putting on a grey hat." I love that!

GABE
You remember that. That's great.

RAIN
Listen. You can hear my heart beating.

GABE
How'd you get the name Rain?

RAIN
My parents named me after... Rilke.

GABE
Did they?

RAIN
Yeah, it's my mother's favourite poet. So that's how I got it.

GABE
Are your folks, you know, writers?

RAIN
No, my dad's an investment banker and my mom works at Lincoln Center.

GABE
Are you an only child?

RAIN
Why are you asking these questions?

GABE
I'm interested. I was so impressed. I gave it to someone else and she was also impressed.

RAIN
Oh, really?

GABE
Are you from New York?

RAIN
I'm from East End Avenue.

GABE
Are these too many questions?

RAIN
No. It's just the only child one. Yes, I was an only child. Yeah.

GABE
So how did you manage to write something so deep? I mean, have you had a...? Have you been married and divorced? Is your whole family stormy and tempestuous or...?

RAIN
What? I didn't know I was stormy and tempestuous.

GABE
Well, the writing was very... It was intense.

RAIN
I don't know. It's just a trick, you know? It's like... when I was ten I wrote a story on Paris and I'd never been there. You don't have to... It's just a trick. You don't have to know or...

GABE
Can you just turn it out?

0:22:48 INTERVIEW

GABE
There are a number of very good professors who are notorious for seducing their female pupils. This goes on because it's a cinch. You know, they look up to them. You know, they're older men and students are flattered by the attention. It's not something I've ever done. Not to say I haven't had daydreams. Some of those women are very attractive and interesting. But I've never... I've never acted on it. I've never cheated on Judy. Or any other relationship in my life, really. Because that has not been my style. But, once... One time, many years ago I was living with this fabulous, 0:23:40 interesting woman named Harriet Harmon. I'm ashamed to say this, but Harriet Harmon was the great love of my life. It was a very passionate relationship. I loved her very intensely. And, you know, we just made love everywhere. She was sexually carnivorous. We did it in stalled elevators and in bushes and people's houses, at parties in the bathroom. In the back of cars, she'd put a coat on our laps and grab my hand and stick it between her legs. She was really something. And she, you know, she was highly libidinous. You know? She wanted to make love with other women. She got into dope for a while. She'd break that thing that you sniff when she'd have her orgasm. I was getting a real education. I was fascinated. I was absolutely nuts about her. And ultimately she wound up in an institution. I mean, it's not funny, it was a very sad thing. She was great, but nuts. See, I've always had this penchant for what I call "kamikaze women." I call them kamikazes because they crash their plane. They crash it into you, and you die with them. As soon as
there's little chance of it working out something clicks in my mind. Maybe because I'm a writer. A dramatic or aesthetic component becomes right and I go after that person. There's a certain dramatic ambience that's almost as if I fall in love with the situation. Of course, it has not worked out well for me. It has not been great and... 0:25:38 STREET: GABE, JUDY, SALLY, JACK, SAM
A few weeks after Jack and Sally split, you know. He and I didn't speak much. I found him elusive. We spent more time with Sally. She was depressed. We'd try and cheer her up.

GABE
I'd be scared to live alone where you live.

SALLY
It's really scary. There have been burglaries. My neighbour was robbed. And nearby, people were at home. It's lucky for them they didn't wake up.

GABE
I would die. I'd never close my eyes at night. You wanna get something to eat?

JUDY
Sure.

GABE [seeing Jack and Sam are in the other side of the street]
Hey.

JACK
This is Sam.

SAM
Hi.

JACK
This is Gabe and Sally. This is Judy.

SALLY
I have to go. Sorry.

GABE
Don't be silly.

SALLY
No, I have an appointment.

GABE
Really? Don't be crazy.

SALLY
I have to go.

GABE
We were gonna eat.

JACK
I just wanted you...

SALLY (pouring her things as she gets into a cab) God!

JACK
Some coincidence.

GABE
I know. What was your name?
SAM
Sam.

GABE
Sam. Right. So you guys are just walking?

JACK
We just had lunch.

GABE
What do you do, Sam?

SAM
Aerobics. And I'm a trainer and some nutrition.

JACK
You wanna have dinner at the house? She's a great cook.

SAM
I am.

JUDY
I don't think...

SAM
It's vegetarian.

JUDY
We can't.

SAM
You don't eat meat, do you?

GABE
I don't. She eats a little.

SAM
I used to eat meat, then I gave it up. Then I had some again and I got so bloated!

JACK
Or there's a Mexican place.

SAM
Oh, yeah! I flip over couscous! You feel like cooking? Whatever you want. Let's do it. Yeah. We'll watch the Grammys.

JACK
I'm not watching that.

SAM
I bet Jill over the best single!

JACK
I'm not watching the Grammys.

GABE
My mother's in town.

JUDY
Yeah, she's here for a week.

JACK
Okay, maybe later. I've been meaning to call.
JUDY
I'd like to pick up some decaf.

SAM
Oh, there's a great store. I need some ginseng.

0:28:00 STORE. JACK, GABE

JACK
She is so great. You know, she's got a degree in psychology. She's into fitness.

GABE
You're fucking nuts.

JACK
She is terrific. She's a nice girl. Her family's from Delaware. Her father's in police work.

GABE
I can't get my mind around it. You leave Sally for this? I'm shocked.

JACK
Careful. I'm serious about her.

GABE
You're my friend, I love you. It's like your IQ is in remission. It's like you had a stroke.

JACK
Don't give some moralizing discourse. You're not my rabbi.

GABE
I just can't believe it. You're with Sally for years. You raise a family. She's wonderful. So she's a ball-breaker sometimes...

JACK
She is. I lived with her, you don't know her.

GABE
I don't? So tell me something terrible.

JACK
There's nothing terrible to tell you. I don't wanna hurt her. That's not what this is about.

GABE
Suddenly you take up with a cocktail waitress...

JACK
She's not a cocktail waitress.

GABE
I think of you and Sally.

JACK
She's warm and she's nice and I can relax around her. Sally was hyper. You know that. She's great, but she's cold and difficult. Her Radcliffe friends and the crap about her decorator. I was bored at the opera. She'd never go to a game. We'd never just relax. If I put an ashtray down in the wrong place, that was it!

GABE
It took fifteen years to understand this?
JACK
I should've done it before now. But we had kids and we're all scared of being alone. I love Sally. But what's wrong with aerobics? What am I? A snob?

GABE
What's it got to do with aerobics?

JACK
Big deal. So she's not Simone de Beauvoir. I want somebody who screams when I fuck her.

GABE
She's a fucking cocktail waitress.

JACK
That's not your business. You don't know what goes on between us. I'm tired of being corrected and criticized. That's all I ever did with Sally. And your mother is not in town. She's in Florida.

0:30:10 INTERVIEW. JUDY EX

JUDY EX
I think no matter how hard we worked, the marriage wouldn't have lasted.

OFF
How long were you and Judy married?

EX
Five years.

OFF
Why did you split up?

EX
I thought I wanted out. I felt I had just run out of gas. But as I look back, I think it was Judy who wanted out.

OFF
So she left you?

EX
No, she'd never. That's not her style. Don't let Judy fool you. She's what I call passive-aggressive. Everything is, "Poor me, give me a break." But she gets what she wants. I remember when she met her current husband, Gabe Roth.

0:30:55 JUDY MEETS GABE IN THE HAMPTONS

JUDY
My husband and daughter are staying but I'm leaving tomorrow. I have to work.

GABE
Let me give you a lift.

JUDY
No, don't be silly.

GABE
Why go on the train?

JUDY
It's fine. Would you like something to eat?

GABE
Me? No. I'll get you something.
JUDY
I was just on my way.

GABE
Don't be silly. Pasta? Anything else?

JUDY
That's fine. And at the station I can easily get a cab.

0:31:20 INTERVIEW. EX

EX
See? He winds up getting the food. He changes his schedule, drives her home. And all the time it's, "No, I'll be okay. Don't help me."

0:31:33 INTERVIEW. JUDY

JUDY
What he doesn't say is that for the last two years of our marriage he was virtually impotent, when it came to me. He was just raging because I didn't turn out to be what he thought. He thought I'd be one thing. His mother, to be exact. And I couldn't take the fact that he was unromantic in every way. He'd give you an appliance for your birthday.

0:31:20 INTERVIEW. EX

EX
I never got her a Melior coffeemaker for a birthday present. I got her a camera once. And an enlarger for our anniversary. She asked for it.

0:32:11 JUDY AND GABE’S BEDROOM

GABE
What are you thinking about?

JUDY
I don't know. I was thinking about that manuscript you're reading.

GABE
It's just a terrible novel.

JUDY
Very autobiographical.

GABE
What else can I work on?

JUDY
Should I be insulted?

GABE
Why insulted?

JUDY
The way we met. That party in the Hamptons?

0:32:30 GABE MEETS JUDY IN THE HAMPTONS

OFF (female)
"He spotted her from a distance and Harriet leapt to mind. He was drawn to her instantly because she reminded him of his only genuine passion. His sixth sense told him to move on it. But she wasn't Harriet. The minute he met her, the dream evaporated."

0:32:55 JUDY AND GABE’S BEDROOM
So she wasn't crazy.

No, just boring.

She's the best. That's why he marries her.

But he pays a price.

This is junk. I'll throw it away.

You're wrong! It's full of vitality and wit. It's good.

You're prejudiced, you're my wife.

Your dull wife. I don't know why you ask for my opinion. You don't care.

It's not true.

It is true.

I think it's a mediocre novel.

You have no respect for my judgment. If somebody else said that you'd accept it totally.

I would not.

After some time, Judy and Sally had lunch. Sally made a surprising announcement.

I like being single.

You do? I had the opposite impression.

That's anticipatory anxiety. You realize it's not as bad as you fantasized. Like pulling a bad tooth. All the festering wounds of your marriage, the disappointments, the resentments, they're gone in one clean yank and you're free. After years of accumulating problems and swallowing one's anger you have a chance to begin again.

Yeah. I can imagine.
The clock ticks faster for a woman. Do it while you have some allure left. The one advantage of being older is you have a lot of experience. I have a better shot at making things work out if I met someone.

JUDY
If Gabe and I met now, knowing all the things we know we'd have a better relationship. No question.

SALLY
Would you still marry him?

JUDY
God, what a question! You know, for me, I just... The thought of breaking up is just so painful.

SALLY
You can't stay out of fear. You know what you become?

JUDY
What?

SALLY
My mother and father.

JUDY
Well... I've pictured myself free.

SALLY
I know you have.

JUDY
How do you know?

SALLY
Because you got so angry that night when Jack and I said we were splitting. I realized we must have touched a nerve.

JUDY
No.

SALLY
Yes! It's like Hamlet and Oedipus. You were angry because I did what you really want to do.

JUDY
You're over-dramatizing. Gabe and I are okay. Nobody has it perfect.

SALLY
I know. I know. When it's good, nothing's better.

JUDY
Listen, I think maybe I have a possibility for you.

SALLY
Tell me.

JUDY
Michael Gates.

SALLY
The one you said was attractive? In your office?

JUDY
He's only been there a few months. He had a girlfriend, but they've broken up. I do think he's attractive. He's charming, he's bright. The timing's
perfect. Come up to the office now and meet him. See how you feel. If you're interested, we could all arrange something or go out together.

O:36:10 JUDY’S OFFICE. MICHAEL, JUDY, SALLY

JUDY
Michael, this is Sally. I'm finding some back issues for her. She's with the Preservation Committee.

MICHAEL

SALLY
Not just New York. There's always a blind passion for the new, the young.

JUDY
Listen, you two wait here and I'll be right with you.

MICHAEL
Take your coat off.

SALLY
All right.

MICHAEL
Throw it anywhere. We're putting out an issue of German furniture styles in the 20's and 30's.

SALLY
I hate that period. I did my college thesis on Bauhaus architecture. It was called "Function and Fascism." This was years ago at Radcliffe. It was very unpopular. Not that it won't make a good magazine subject.

MICHAEL
Have a look at that chair. Remember that? Isn't it wonderful?

SALLY
I truly dislike that chair.

MICHAEL
This one?

SALLY
I hated that.

O:37:06 JUDY’S OFFICE. JUDY, SALLY

JUDY
What do you think? Isn't he sweet?

SALLY
Well, yes. He seems nice.

JUDY
Yeah. I think he's great-looking.

SALLY
And he's single and not gay.

JUDY
I'm telling you, he just broke up. I don't know him that well. He's quiet. I like that about him. He's got a great sense of humour. He's a very charming drunk. There was a party here and he'd had a lot. He was quoting Yeats' poems and he was crying.
SALLY
He was? He weeps?

JUDY
But in the sweetest way. So shall I get us all together?

SALLY
He already asked me to lunch.

JUDY
He did?

SALLY
We both took courses at Cambridge. He suggested we have lunch next week.

JUDY
That would be great! I'd be the matchmaker.

0:38:02 INTERVIEW. MICHAEL

MICHAEL
I took an instant liking for Sally. I was immediately attracted. She spoke her mind, she spoke her thoughts. And she's very sexy, you know? Look, I wasn't looking for another relationship because... I'd just split up with Amy and sworn off getting involved. But with Sally, there was something that just hooked in at once.

OFF
So you were grateful to Judy?

MICHAEL
Yes, I was. Very. It's funny, you know. When I... When I first got to know Judy, I thought she was flirting with me. And I thought she must be unhappily married. I met her husband, they seemed fine. That's typical of her. She's very giving... And she did me this favour by introducing me to Sally.

0:38:52 STREET. GABE, RAIN

GABE
Your second story was as interesting as your first. It was wonderful.

RAIN
Great!

GABE
I was knocked out.

RAIN
I'm thrilled. I'm so glad you like it. You're so encouraging to me. I want you to know that.

GABE
Don't be silly. I'm just one opinion.

RAIN
You're the opinion.

GABE
Your line was great. "Life doesn't imitate art, it imitates bad TV." I think it's completely true.

RAIN
Right. I can't tell you how much your opinion means to me, you know. Listen, you wanna go for a walk? I mean...
GABE
A walk?

RAIN
You're busy, right?

GABE
No, no.

RAIN
I just meant for a walk, to discuss....

GABE
You want to hear more about your story? The way you structured the story? The tension built up beautifully and you released the energy in the last paragraph. That was very sophisticated.

RAIN
Thanks. I spent five days searching for the word to describe the husband... and came up with "appucious."

GABE
Appucious. I couldn't find it in the dictionary.

RAIN
I made it up.

GABE
Oh, really?

RAIN
Yeah, it described it perfectly.

GABE
Tolstoy is a full meal. Turgenev is a fabulous dessert. That's how I characterize him.

RAIN
Dostoyevsky?

GABE
Dostoyevsky is a full meal with a vitamin pill and extra wheat germ.

RAIN
"I fall upon the thorns of life. I bleed." I used to think that Shelley was so romantic. To write, to fall in love, and to experience real passion.

GABE
Really? You think passion could actually be sustained?

RAIN
I don't know. Time magazine said you lose your sexual attraction for the other person in four years, I think it was. Time must know, right?

GABE

RAIN
Sounds great.

GABE
Walking the streets is fun in Paris. Until you've been kissed on a rainy Parisian afternoon you've never been kissed.
RAIN
And were you kissed?

GABE
I wasn't kissed, I was the kisser.

RAIN
Okay, I was wondering if I could read your novel.

GABE
How'd you know I had a novel?

RAIN
You mentioned it when we had lunch that time.

GABE
I'm very disenchanted with it.

RAIN
Yes. I know. I'm only asking you because I could learn a lot from it. I would like to know what you like and what you don't... and why you're so critical of it.

GABE
Let me think about it... Are you okay?

RAIN
Yes.

GABE
Let me think about it. I'll think about it.

RAIN
I shouldn't have asked you.

GABE
No, no, no. Let me think about it.

RAIN
Okay.

0:41:55 INTERVIEW. JACK

JACK
Gabe. He's always picked the wrong women. Except for Judy. She's the first sane woman he fell for. He's attracted to the crazies, the nut cases. I got a couple of theories about it. One is that he knows it's not gonna work and so he suffers. That kind of atones for some sort of early-on guilt he's got over. What? I don't know. Another is, like all of us, he grew up on movies and novels where doomed love was romantic.

OFF
How are things going with Sam?

JACK
Great. Absolutely great. Saturday, we got up. We had a run down by the river. It was a beautiful day. It was terrific. I'm down to a good weight. I'm exercising. It feels incredible to get in shape. I eat great. Salads, no meat. Never touch meat. Later in the day, we rented some kind of a video. Some sort of dopey, funny, stupid little thing. Something Sally wouldn't have allowed. I laughed like hell. I had a terrific time and I didn't have to feel guilty about it. She's not Simone de Beauvoir. We argue sometimes.

0:43:18 STREET JACK, SAM
JACK
Trust me. It's King Lear. Shakespeare never wrote about a King Leo.

SAM
Well, Mr. Intellectual. Shakespeare wrote in English, not Japanese.

JACK
That's wonderful.

0:43:30 LIVING ROOM, GABE, JUDY

JUDY
I was just gonna make some cappuccino. You want some?

GABE
No.

JUDY
You're sure?

GABE
I'm positive. Absolutely.

JUDY
Don't start getting excited. I don't have my diaphragm.

GABE
I want to make love to you without your diaphragm.

JUDY
What are you talking about?

GABE
I was thinking about it. I thought maybe I've been resisting having a child too strenuously.

JUDY
What? Since when?

GABE
I don't know. These are some thoughts that I've had. Maybe... Maybe it would be helpful.

JUDY
What kind of help did you have in mind? Are you unhappy in our marriage?

GABE
I don't think about it that much. Which is probably a good sign.

JUDY
It's late, I'm tired. Do you want to talk about this now?

GABE
All I said was, it was a good idea to have a baby.

JUDY
It's not such a good idea.

GABE
Why not, all of a sudden?

JUDY
We have some straightening out to do before we have a baby.
GABE
You wanted a baby. Why are you in a bad mood?

JUDY
Do you want somebody new?

GABE
No. Who? Like who? Do you?

JUDY
Certainly not a baby.

GABE
So forget it. Because I thought you wanted.

JUDY
Okay, fine.

GABE
Something you wanna say to me and you're not?

JUDY
We don't want to get into something you can't get out of.

GABE
You don't want a baby, right? That's what I should--

JUDY
You know I do.

GABE
Then we have to work on it. But not tonight. Any thought of sex is now....

JUDY
I'm sorry.

GABE
Not your fault. I'm begging you to have a baby I don't want.

JUDY
I knew you didn't want it.

GABE
I don't mean it that way. You know, it's late and I'm confused. We have a fine marriage. I don't know what all this talk is for.

0:45:32 OFFICE. JUDY, MICHAEL

JUDY
Michael? I brought you a won ton soup since you were busy.

MICHAEL
Thanks, Judy. You're a sweetheart.

JUDY
I see you're going to Carnegie Hall.

MICHAEL
To see Mahler's Ninth.

JUDY
Really?

MICHAEL
I hope Sally likes Mahler.
JUDY
She will. It's my favourite. Here are some napkins.

MICHAEL
I've got this great place to bring her to after the concert. A little supper joint. It's very intimate. Courtyard, trellis, fairy lights.

JUDY
That's beautiful.

MICHAEL
It is. It is. It's funny seeing someone who's just left a long marriage. I bet it's been a while since she was romanced, eh?

JUDY
Yes, I'm sure.

MICHAEL
I'm such a square. I'm old-fashioned. I eat all that stuff up. Music, intimate restaurants, candlelight joints and stuff. Amy used to say I should have been born in the 1800. She found it all a bit corny.

JUDY
No, not at all. It's very sweet.

MICHAEL
You go for that stuff too, don't you?

JUDY
Oh, sure.

MICHAEL
Yeah.

0:46:44 CONCERT HALL/STREET. MICHAEL, SALLY

MICHAEL
Tonight was fun, eh?

SALLY
Yes, it was good.

MICHAEL
And that music was fantastic.

SALLY
I usually hate Mahler, but it was good. The last movement's too long. The second movement was good. It began well. Then it gets sentimental.

MICHAEL
Yeah.

JUDY
The conductor fought his way out. Dinner was wonderful. Although I should teach the chef how to make an Alfredo sauce.

MICHAEL
Sorry.

SALLY
Want to...?

MICHAEL
Is it okay?
SALLY
Coffee?

MICHAEL
I'd love to.

SALLY
I'm yawning because I'm hyper-oxygenating. The ride made me sick.

MICHAEL
I'm sorry. I'm not the greatest driver in the world.

SALLY
No, your driving was fine, for the most part. I shouldn't have had the last one Margarita. Three's my limit.

MICHAEL
I couldn't finish the second. Ah, this is lovely. Very homely. English pine. It's the finest.

SALLY
I prefer French. My decorator screwed me. It's too big. I have to get a place in town. It's funny how your whole life changes. I'm scared here alone. There's been robberies.

MICHAEL
I bet. Do you want to get married again or do you like being single?

SALLY
I love being single.

MICHAEL
Because I think certain personalities just need to be married.

SALLY
I disagree.

MICHAEL
Well, that's what they say.

SALLY
Not me. Although I did.

MICHAEL
I do. I think it's time for me.

SALLY
So why have you never got married?

MICHAEL
Oh, I don't know. I got close in my 20s once, but it didn't work out.

SALLY
Is wine okay?

MICHAEL
Lovely. Thank you.

SALLY
I want to be alone for a while at least. I want to have a few experiences. If it happens, great. If not, that's just fine.

MICHAEL
I'm sure you'll get what you want. You're a very beautiful woman.
SALLY
Oh, thank you... I'm sorry. I can't go so fast.

MICHAEL
Sorry.

SALLY
It's just, you know... It's not my rhythm.

MICHAEL
I understand.

SALLY
Thank you. I haven't been in a social situation that's meant anything to me in a very long time.

MICHAEL
Thank you. I'm glad to know you care.

JUDY
I wouldn't be with you if I wasn't at least interested in exploring it.

MICHAEL
Well, cheers.

JUDY
Cheers.

MICHAEL
Tonight's meant a lot to me. Thank you.

SALLY
Lovely. That's nice. [Michael kisses her] What's the rush?

MICHAEL
I'm sorry, I apologize. I'm just overanxious because I like you a lot.

SALLY
Oh, dear. Michael, what can I say? I haven't made love in such a long time. My marriage, I told you, was dead. For years. I don't know why. Yes, I do. The second law of thermodynamics: Sooner or later, everything turns to shit. That's my phrasing.

MICHAEL
Strange, often one doesn't even see it happen.

SALLY
I did. That's the part that kills me. I was in town working. Jack was on business, in Chicago. All of a sudden, by sheer accident... [Sally sees Jack shopping in a lingerie. Then, at home...]

JACK
Hi. How you doing?

SALLY
Hey, how was Chicago?

JACK
It was good. I mean, it was busy. The old guy doesn't want to settle. He's a tough old bird, boy.

SALLY
[Newly with Michael] I couldn't bring it up. I was so hurt. And so full of rage. And scared. For weeks I waited for him to say he'd met someone. He
never did. Although I was suspicious, I never found another incident. So I chose to overlook it and I hoped it would go away. But it didn't. Because I began thinking of getting rid of him and being single. And things just got worse between us. We put up bigger and bigger fronts. Now I'm single. And I realize I'm one of those people who needs to be married.

0:52:30 STREET. GABE, RAIN

GABE
Hey! Hey! Come here.

RAIN
Hi.

GABE
Where are you going?

RAIN
Home.

GABE
Come on, I'll give you a lift.

RAIN
Great.

GABE
Come on. I have a surprise.

RAIN
What?

GABE
I don't know if you'll think so. You can read my novel.

RAIN
Oh, great! Oh, that's great! Thanks.

GABE
You have to go easy on it because...

RAIN
Oh, of course.

RAIN
Wanna come up?

GABE
Now?

RAIN
Meet my parents. They're so in love with you. Don't you wanna see how I live? Richard, what are you doing here?

RICHARD
This is why I don't see you.

RAIN
What do you mean? You're mistaken.

RICHARD
I wanted to see what he looked like. You're not what I imagined.

RAIN
This isn't my boyfriend. He's my professor.
RICHARD
Your professor?

RAIN
Yes.

GABE
I'm Professor Gabriel Roth.

RICHARD
Nice to meet you. Columbia?

RAIN
Stop.

RICHARD
Barnard.

RAIN
How interested are you? Come on.

RICHARD
I want to ask you something. You seduce all your students?

GABE
I don't know what this is about.

RAIN
Okay, just go, please. What are you doing here?

RICHARD
You led me on!

RAIN
I did not! I told you from day one...

RICHARD
When you have her in your arms, what does she say to you?

GABE
I don't know what to say.

RAIN
Why are you acting childish? You're acting like a fifteen-year-old. I'm sorry.

RICHARD
You're sorry. What do you think I am?

RAIN
I don't know.

RICHARD
Why don't you just go in?

RAIN
I am. What? I'm trying to help you out.

GABE
I'm cold.

RAIN
I'm sorry.
RAIN
This is my mother. Gabe Roth.

MOTHER
It is such an immense pleasure.

RAIN
That's my father.

FATHER
It is an honour, sir. What can we get you?

GABE
Nothing. I'm just... I'm fine. Just a sedative, if you have one. Who was that character downstairs?

RAIN
I'll tell you about it later. It's got so sunny all of a sudden.

MOTHER
We're fans of yours. We wish you'd still write those...

FATHER
Let me take your coat.

MOTHER
... funny stories.

GABE
What were you going to tell me about that guy?

RAIN
I better start from the beginning if I'm gonna tell you. My father, he had this... this colleague who was... his business partner.

GABE
This guy was his business partner?

RAIN
No, no. This is why I have to start from the beginning. It leads up to him. My father's business partner, he'd come by the house fairly often. And one day, he told me that he was in love with me, right? I was very flattered, to say the least. He was real bright and single. We started having this affair. Naturally, we told nobody. I have this friend, Jane. Her parents were divorced. Her father, Jerry, developed this mad crush over me, right? And before long, I was seeing both these men. Instead of being happy, I was just miserable. I couldn't get my feelings straight, so I went to an analyst. I tried for a few months to work things out. Then, one day, he said he was gonna stop treating me because he felt it wasn't the thing to do since he was falling in love with me. I was taken with him. You can imagine, he's quite brilliant. And I started seeing him. I did. I broke off from the other two. Something inside me told me he couldn't be a very stable person, let alone a good analyst. So I never really let things get too far with him. Then one night I met Carl. He was very sweet and he really came on with me. I came to my senses. I said to myself: "What am I doing with these older men?" So I cleaned up my act and I've been dating Carl. As you can see, Richard is so unstable. He really took it badly.

GABE
God! You've got material for your first novel and the sequel and an opera by Puccini here! This is incredible.

RAIN
Yes, but don't you think I'm right? I mean, Carl, he's fun. What the hell am I doing with the midlife crisis set? They're all wonderful, rather accomplished men. In the end, I felt like I was a symbol of lost youth or unfulfilled dreams. Am I being dramatic?

FATHER
Gabe. Rain's birthday is coming up, and we'd love you to come.

GABE
I don't know.

RAIN
He doesn't want to come.

MOTHER
We would love you to come for a drink. You and your wife.

RAIN
Mom, he's not gonna come to my birthday.

FATHER
You've been a great influence on her. Inspirational.

GABE
Well, she's great.

FATHER
I'd consider it an honour if you'd come by.

0:57:46 JUDY'S OFFICE. MICHAEL

OFF
Just as Gabe gave his manuscript to Rain, Judy also showed her writing.

MICHAEL
Listen, I finally got around to reading these lovely poems.

JUDY
You can be honest.

MICHAEL
I am.

JUDY
It's just a hobby.

MICHAEL
I was moved. They're full of feeling. What does your husband say?

JUDY
I'd never show them to him. He'd be much too critical. He has very high standards. He'd be right too.

MICHAEL
The two you wrote about New England?

JUDY
There's a graveyard there where I'd love to be buried.

MICHAEL
I new it. I used to say to Amy, that's the place I'd choose too. Do you want to eat lunch outside?

JUDY
Sure. [They go out. Start to rain and they come back]
JUDY
Are you soaked?

MICHAEL
No. What about you?

JUDY
I think just my coat.

MICHAEL
Your hair's wet.

JUDY
Is it?

MICHAEL
Thank you, Annie. That was fun.

JUDY
Yes. My hair's a mess.

MICHAEL
Listen. Judy, can I speak frankly to you?

JUDY
Sure.

MICHAEL
Thanks for introducing me to Sally.

JUDY
Oh. Oh, yeah.

MICHAEL
I think I'm in love with her.

JUDY
Gee, that was quick.

MICHAEL
Not that she shares my feelings or ever will.

JUDY
She hasn't been single that long.

MICHAEL
Yeah, but it's like I like someone and can't wait for the other shoe to fall.

JUDY
You probably had... You're just a little gun-shy from some bad experiences.

MICHAEL
Is she as terrific as she seems?

JUDY
She is. She's wonderful. She's... honest and decent... I can't say enough good things.

MICHAEL
Thank you, Judy. You know I respect your opinion.

JUDY
Do you mind if I...? I'm just feeling a little funny.

MICHAEL
I'll get you a....

JUDY
I'm fine.

0:59:54 INTERVIEW. JUDY

JUDY
I don't know why I introduced them. Why did I push them together? When obviously, I had feelings for him myself. I was just confused. I didn't know what I wanted.

1:00:08 PARTY

MAN
You look good. You don't get any older. You work out, huh?

JACK
Since Sally and I broke up, I'm single. I gotta watch it, you know?

MAN
I saw Sally the other night. She's dating some guy. Nice-looking. Claire can tell you.

WOMAN
Yeah, I think... What was he? He's an editor.

JACK
So... What's the deal? Are they seeing one another or...?

WOMAN
We don't know.

MAN
I'm drunk, so don't hold me responsible. You gave up a great one.

WOMAN
Ken! He's having a good time.

JACK
No, he's right. I know. Look, we were together a lot of years. She's a great lady.

MAN
She'll be all right. This guy, Michael something, seemed fine.

WOMAN
Let's go.

JACK
I'm not out of line.

MAN
You're okay, right? That girl, Samantha, should be in the Olympics.

JACK
What do you think? Are they serious?

WOMAN
Don't know.

JACK
What did she say?

WOMAN
We didn't talk. For a few minutes we...

MAN
She looked great. Has she had face work?

JACK
Face work?

WOMAN
We gotta go. Good to see you.

JACK
Where is Sam?

MAN 2
If astrology were true, twins would have the same fate.

SAM
It is totally provable!

WOMAN 2
From gypsies?

SAM
Why wouldn't it have an influence on our personalities?

WOMAN 2
You know who believes this? My babysitter.

SAM
There is more crime during the full moon.

MAN 2
Well, who knows?

SAM
It's like the universe knows this stuff. You guys just don't get the fundamental basics...

WOMAN 2
You should meet my babysitter. She doesn't know anyone in New York. She's been with me two months.

MAN 3
My ex-wife believed in this.

SAM
You should listen to her. I'm just making a point. Because the position of the planets is crucial to your life. I can't stress this enough. And your body...

WOMAN 2
Be logical.

SAM
But I'm totally logical. I would not put a Sagittarius...

JACK
Sam, we gotta go. Come on.

MAN 2
We're just getting started.

JACK
It was good to see you.
SAM
It's early!

JACK
It's getting later. See you, guys.

SAM
It was nice meeting you.

JACK
Come on. If you don't know what you're talking about, why don't you not talk?

SAM
They don't know what they're saying!

JACK
You feel obligated to talk. How about listening?

SAM
I listen!

JACK
That's a novel idea for you.

SAM
You are so rude. I can't believe you just did that!

JACK
You're the expert.

SAM
That's the most embarrassing--

JACK
Let's get out before you make it any worse. This bullshit astrology. It's stupid.

SAM
It's not stupid.

JACK
I'm sick of listening to your crap about soybeans and Zen foods. Get in the car!

SAM
Leave me alone. No.

JACK
Who do you think you're talking to? They're making intellectual talk, and you're jerking off about tofu.

SAM
Believe me, they're just stupid!

JACK
Get in the car.

SAM
I'm not going.

JACK
You are.

SAM
Help!

JACK
Shut up, will you? Shut your mouth! Are you crazy?

SAM
I wanna embarrass you!

JACK
Embarrass me? Are you coming?

SAM
I hate you and your... stupid fucking asshole friends!

JACK
Get in. Get in the car.

SAM
Where's my bag?

JACK
I don't know. It doesn't matter. Here. Get in the car. Goddamn, I must have been out of my mind. You're crazy.

SAM
You're too drunk to drive.

JACK
Just shut up and let's go. [Carcrash] Goddamn it!

SAM
Look what you've done now! Let me out of here! Let me out of here! Will you just stop?!

JACK
I'm not stopping. Get in the car!

SAM
You maniac!

JACK
Trying to be cute?

SAM
No!

JACK
Get in the car!

SAM
No!

JACK
Oh, I don't believe this.

SAM
No! Help!

JACK
What am I doing? Get in the car, you infant! Get in the fucking car! Christ!

1:04:43 SALLY AND JACK’S BEDROOM. SALLY AND MICHAEL MAKING LOVE

1:05:00 INTERVIEW. SALLY
OFF
You had an orgasm with Michael and not with your husband?

SALLY
I didn't. I was trying very hard. I was tense. I came close.

OFF
What makes it so difficult for you?

SALLY
My mind gets racing with thoughts. You'd laugh. I get so mentally hyperactive.

OFF
Like what?

SALLY
I liked what Michael was doing to me and it felt different from Jack. More gentle. And... more exciting. How different Michael was from Jack. How much deeper his vision of life was. And I thought... Michael was a hedgehog and Jack was a fox. And then I thought Judy was a fox and Gabe was a hedgehog. And I thought about all the people I knew and which were hedgehogs and which were foxes. Al Simon, a friend, was a hedgehog. His wife, Jenny, was a hedgehog. And Cindy Salkind was a fox. And Lou Patrino was a hedgehog.

1:06:24 SALLY AND JACK’S BEDROOM. SALLY AND MICHAEL MAKING LOVE

MICHAEL
I had the impression that at times you weren't quite into it.

SALLY
No. No! I mean... You know... I told you the problems I've had with Jack. No! It was wonderful.

MICHAEL
I've hurt your feelings, right?

SALLY
Don't get the wrong impression. I loved it.

MICHAEL
Me too.

SALLY
I used to get excited when we got married. Somewhere along the line, it slipped away.

MICHAEL
It's okay.

SALLY
What? That I'm not responsive?

MICHAEL
We had a nice experience.

SALLY
We had two separate, nice experiences.

MICHAEL
But they were nice.

SALLY
They were separate.
MICHAEL
No wonder your husband went crazy.

SALLY
Very funny.

MICHAEL
Oh, come on, Sally. You hungry?

SALLY
He said, changing the subject.

MICHAEL
Oh, stop it. What was that?

SALLY
There's been some burglaries.

MICHAEL
Is the alarm on?

SALLY
No! No!

MICHAEL
Well, call the police.

JACK
Who are you?

MICHAEL
Who are you?

SALLY
Jack, my God!

JACK
You changed the lock on my own house! Who's this?

SALLY
This is my husband. None of your business. Leave.

JACK
I don't want to.

MICHAEL
Are you all right?

JACK
Am I all right? Is he living here?

MICHAEL
Don't get upset.

JACK
Is he fucking you?

MICHAEL
Let's not get ugly.

JACK
This is my house, pal.

SALLY
I can talk to him. Go upstairs.

JACK
Where's he going?

SALLY (to Michael)
Please. I know.

JACK
You going up to our bed?

SALLY
It's not our bed anymore. Listen, you need some black coffee. Then just go.

JACK
Listen, I want to come back.

SALLY
You're drunk.

JACK
Oh, please. My life is such a mess.

SALLY
This is not the place to discuss this. Please go.

JACK
This is my fucking house.

SALLY
No, this is my fucking house. Is my house now.

JACK
I want to start over again.

SALLY
That's not possible.

MICHAEL
Sally, can I help?

SALLY
Oh, please.

JACK
Would you get lost? What is this? This is ridiculous!

SALLY
I can handle this.

JACK
I don't believe this.

SALLY
You don't have to. Go.

JACK
You... Listen. God, I... This was not all my fault. It takes two of us...

SALLY
I didn't say it was all your fault.

JACK
You're so hard to live with! I would just break my back all the time. See? Perfect.
SALLY
What do you want me to say? Our marriage was full of problems. I know that. Some were my fault, some were yours. You lied to me, you cheated on me...

JACK
Why don't you run upstairs? There's a stranger here.

SALLY
He knows. He knows.

JACK
Swell. That's perfect too. You show me one couple that doesn't have problems. It's tough. Everybody has a tough time, you know?

SALLY
What about the one you lived with?

JACK
That's total bullshit.

SALLY
Well, I've met someone I like.

JACK
What? You what?

SALLY
I met someone I like.

JACK
What about all the years we had together?

SALLY
Well, you had no problem wiping them out when it suited you.

JACK
But I... I didn't know what else to do.

SALLY
No! No! I can't discuss this now. Please! Go! You'll feel better tomorrow.

JACK
I'm gonna feel like shit tomorrow.

SALLY [hearing the bell]
Oh, shit.

SAM
Hi. I need to speak to Jack. You're gonna leave me out there?

JACK
I told you...

SAM
I have never been treated this way before!

JACK (to Sally)
Perfect how you ruin a life.

SALLY
Then see a psychiatrist.

SAM
I need to see a shrink, slimebag!
JACK (to Michael)
Come on in. This is about all of us. We don't have any secrets here.

SALLY
Bullshit.

SAM
I never met a Scorpio who wasn't?

JACK
Will you stop?!

SALLY
I'm going to bed. Get out. Both of you!

JACK
What's the big deal? So I did some things wrong. Does it have to be irreversible?

1:11:43 RAIN READING GABE'S NOVEL

GABE VOICE
The heart raged, grew melancholy and confused. And toward what end? To articulate what nitwit strategy? Procreation? It told him something. How millions of sperm competed for a single egg, not the other way around. Men would make love with any number of women even total strangers, while females were selective. They were catering to the demands of one small egg. While males had millions of frantic sperms screaming: "Let us out, let us out!" It was like personal ads. Dozens of requirements followed by, "Non-smokers only." Feldman longed to meet an attractive woman with this personality: A sense of humour equal to his, a love of music equal to his and a love of Bach and balmy climates. In short, himself as a pretty woman. Pepkin married and led a warm, domestic life. Placid, but dull. Knapp was a swinger. He eschewed nuptial ties and bedded different women: Nurses, housewives, students, a doctor, a salesgirl. They all held Knapp between their legs. Pepkin, from the calm of his fidelity, envied Knapp. Knapp, lonely beyond belief, envied Pepkin. What happened after the honeymoon? Did desire grow or did familiarity make partners want other lovers? Was the notion of ever-deepening romance a myth along with simultaneous orgasm? The only time Rifkin and his wife experienced one was when they were granted their divorce. Maybe in the end, the idea was not to expect too much out of life.

1:13:43 CAFÉ. RAIN, GABE

RAIN
So the book was wonderful. Entertaining, imaginative and moving...

GABE
You don't have to say this. You can be critical. Be honest.

RAIN
You make suffering so funny. The lost souls running around.

GABE
That's funny. I've had so much trouble with the book.

RAIN
Has anybody else read it?

GABE
Not exactly, you know. I'm so thrilled you feel this way. I can't tell you how encouraged I am. Your feelings about it are really... But you are a sucker for my work. I shouldn't get too excited.
RAIN
I'm objective and, yes, I do love the way you write. I had some criticisms...

GABE
I'm sure you did. What were they?

RAIN
Nothing serious. The whole thing was just a delight.

GABE
Really? I've had such a love-hate relationship with this book.

RAIN
Oh my God, this can't be...

GABE
What?

RAIN
I think I left it in the cab.

GABE
You're kidding! In a taxicab? Are you sure?

RAIN
I can't believe I did this to you! Okay, he was Armenian.

GABE
You left it in an Indian's cab?

RAIN
No. He was Armenian.

GABE
That was the only copy.

RAIN
I know.

GABE
You must be joking.

RAIN
Hargopian?

GABE
Mr. Hargopian, Swami Hargopian, what?

1:15:26 INTERVIEW. GABE

GABE
I was totally crushed. I wanted to die. This was the worst thing that happened.

OFF
You put up a false front.

GABE
The poor girl was wrecked. I was trying to bail her out.

OFF
So this book was very meaningful to you despite what you said.

GABE
I guess so.
OFF
And the young woman, Rain?

GABE
Her approbation was very significant to me.

OFF
Why was her encouragement so pleasing? Your own wife liked it very much and you gave her a hard time.

GABE
I don't know. There was some kind of rapport I felt here that was... meaningful.

1:16:09 STREET. CAB. RAIN, GABE

MAN
Hey! Hey! Somebody found your envelope. They're waiting at the house now.

RAIN
It's... It's so Freudian.

GABE
What is?

RAIN
The whole thing, leaving the novel in the cab.

GABE
Don't be silly. It could happen to anybody.

RAIN
No, I think maybe it meant something.

GABE
Like what?

RAIN
Well... I don't know. Maybe I could have been threatened.

GABE
Threatened by my book?

RAIN
Yeah. I'm very competitive by nature.

GABE
That's absurd.

RAIN
Why, because I'm a young female?

GABE
Don't get angry. I'm in your corner. I'm your biggest fan.

RAIN
Yeah. I just think I could have been threatened by certain things.

GABE
Like what?

RAIN
Some of the attitudes towards women and your ideas on life.
GABE
You told me you loved the book.

RAIN
I do. I do love it.

GABE
What were your criticisms?

RAIN
Nothing.

GABE
Tell me your criticisms.

RAIN
I was a little disappointed with some of your attitudes.

GABE
Like what? What attitudes? With what?

RAIN
The way people just casually have affairs like that.

GABE
The book doesn't condone affairs. I'm exaggerating for comedy.

RAIN
Are our choices really between chronic dissatisfaction and suburban drudgery?

GABE
I'm deliberately distorting it. I'm trying to show how hard it is to be married.

RAIN
You have to be careful not to trivialize things like that.

GABE
Jesus, I hope I haven't.

RAIN
The lead character's views on women is so retrograde, so shallow.

GABE
What? You told me it was a great book.

RAIN
I never said great, I said it's... brilliant and it's alive. We're not arguing about whether it's brilliant or not. "Triumph of the Will" was a great movie, but you despise its ideology.

GABE
So you despise my ideas?

RAIN
No, I don't despise them. That example was... Isn't it beneath you as a thinker to allow your lead character to waste so much energy obsessing over a psychotic woman that you fantasize as powerfully sexual and inspired when she was pitifully sick.

GABE
I don't need a lecture on writing from a fifteen-year-old twit. You asked to read my book, you said you loved it.

RAIN
And I do.

GABE
You leave it in a taxicab. You're weeping, I'm consoling you and you turn on me.

RAIN
Okay. Well, I must have hit a nerve.

GABE
Well, yeah. You know... I'd hate to be your boyfriend. He must go through hell.

RAIN
Well, I'm worth it.

1:19:40 ARRIVE TO THE HOUSE OF THE NOVEL’S FINDER

WOMAN
Any trouble finding the house?

GABE
No, it was very easy.

WOMAN
Please. Step this way. I'm so glad you found the house.

MAN
I jumped in the cab and wound up sitting on it.

GABE
That's so nice of you. Let me give you some...

MAN
No, it's okay.

GABE
Really, I can't...

WOMAN
I want you to stay for coffee.

GABE
No, you're...

WOMAN
I won't take no for...

MAN
She won't.

RAIN
We'll have coffee.

MAN
Okay, good.

RAIN
I'm sorry, it was my fault.

GABE
It was totally...

MAN
If you don't mind my saying, you have a beautiful daughter.
1:20:34 INTERVIEW. GABE

GABE
I admit it, her argument in the cab I found attractive. It attracted me to
her. That she was not a passive, worshipful pupil. Something in me sensed...
not that I'd do anything about it... I had, you know, certain daydreams about
it.

1:20:50 DINER. SALLY, JACK, JUDY, GABE

OFF
A week later, Jack and Sally reunited. This was celebrated over dinner.

JACK
You can't just wipe out years of closeness. You think you can. But the roots
are there.

SALLY
I think some people are just not meant to be single.

JACK
Everybody screws up. The question is... do you learn from it?

SALLY
I think the true test is how you weather a crisis.

JACK
Yes, everyone looks great when everything's going smoothly.

JUDY
It's great. If you can be that mature, it's great.

JACK
It's not that. You just start thinking about priorities.

SALLY
How long can you discuss physical fitness and the zodiac?

JACK
And this Michael character was no bargain.

SALLY
How was Michael?

JUDY
I don't know, he was sick. I gave him a call and he did sound very terrible.

SALLY
I guess I really pulled the rug out from under him. Although his real crush
is on Judy.

JUDY
Not to offend you, Gabe.

GABE
I'm not. I love it when someone likes Judy.

JUDY
Gabe needs confirmation of his feelings when it comes to me.

GABE
That's a terrible thing to say.

SALLY
I'd watch it if I were you, Gabe. He always talks about Judy in hushed tones. [To Judy] I think those poems you wrote impressed him.

JACK
Here's to a good marriage. The best two people can hope for.

SALLY
Absolutely.

1:22:30 GABE AND JUDY AT HOME

GABE
I didn't know about the poetry.

JUDY
I didn't think you'd care.

GABE
Well, why not?

JUDY
Because... I'd be embarrassed to show you my stuff.

GABE
Why?

GABE
You're so hard on everything.

GABE
What are you talking about?

JUDY
You're very, very judgmental.

GABE
I like poetry. I'm crazy about Shakespeare and Byron and T.S. Eliot.

JUDY
My stuff isn't that good yet.

GABE
I'd give an objective evaluation.

JUDY
I don't want an objective evaluation. I'd like something a little more supportive and generous.

GABE
From that character in your office?

JUDY
He's not a character.

GABE
Do you love him?

JUDY
No! Why, because I show him my poems?

(CUT)

JUDY
I saw Dr. Ritchie today.
GABE
Oh, where?

JUDY
I went back into psychotherapy.

GABE
You don't need psychotherapy, and certainly not with her!

JUDY
Why? Because she's postmodern?

GABE
Anyone who thinks the Sabine women had it coming to them...

JUDY
That's not it.

(CUT)

GABE
I don't flirt.

JUDY
Don't tell me that. I've seen you do it. You put on a different personality.

GABE
You're crazy.

JUDY
You pretend to want things you don't.

GABE
Like?

JUDY
Going to Europe. That's flirting. You couldn't survive off the island of Manhattan.

GABE
You misrepresented yourself to me.

JUDY
What do you mean by that?

GABE
Like you had one child then decided that was it.

JUDY
I'm not the same person I was.

GABE
That's why relationships go sour.

JUDY
You hate change.

GABE
Change equals death.

JUDY
Bullshit. That's bullshit! Maybe your students think it's insightful, but it means nothing. Life is made of change. If you don't change, you just shrivel up.
(CUT)

JUDY
I don't want to. You get sexual at the oddest times. You use sex to express every emotion but love.

(CUT)

JUDY
You were attracted to me because in some way, I reminded you of Harriet. But my sanity disappointed you.

GABE
I liked you because you were decent and not crazy.

JUDY
And you found that too boring.

GABE
No... As it turns out you were as crazy as her.

JUDY
So I did remind you of Harriet.

GABE
No. I had a feeling you were unstable. On the surface you were but now that we're having problems, you're not. This is all very clear to me.

(CUT)

GABE
We both couldn't sleep one night, remember, and we found Wild Strawberries on cable. We stayed up all night watching it. That was great. Or when we were going to the faculty dinner and we were on Fifth Avenue on an icy black night. We were walking downtown. Suddenly we decided not to go to the dinner. It was such a beautiful night. We walked into Central Park. You could see every star. You were so beautiful in that black dress.

JUDY
Don't do that.

GABE
Why not?

JUDY
Because it's over and we both know it.

GABE
Do we?

JUDY
All that stuff, those memories, they're just memories. They're from years gone by. They're isolated moments, they don't tell the whole story.

1:26:22 HOTEL

OFF
Several days later, Gabe moved into a hotel.

1:26:30 INTERVIEW. JUDY

JUDY
I wasn't being totally honest with Gabe. Because I didn't want to hurt him. But I knew what I wanted. I was in love with Michael. I wanted to be free to... pursue that and not have to lie or sneak around or anything.
1:26:48 INTERVIEW. GABE

GABE
How could I be honest with Judy? I loved her and I didn't want to hurt her. What am I gonna say? That I'm becoming infatuated with a twenty-year-old? That I see myself sleepwalking into a mess?

OFF
Then why didn't you stop yourself?

GABE
There was something in my marriage that I was not getting. Rain... There was excitement there.

OFF
Rain had a boyfriend.

GABE
I know. Everything about it was wrong. That did not deter me. If anything, as usual, there was something interesting.

OFF
So, what is it? You have a self-destructive streak?

GABE
I don't know. My heart does not know from logic.

1:27:38 SALLY AND JACK AT HOME

SALLY
Hello? Oh, Michael, please. I can't keep discussing this. It was a decision I needed to make... No. Wanted to make. I said I'm sorry. I can't keep discussing this... No. I don't want to have a drink. I have to go... Well, you make it hard! I have to go.

1:28:15 JUDY, MICHAEL

OFF
One week later, Judy helped Michael get over the loss of Sally.

JUDY
Here we go.

MICHAEL
Heavens, Judy.

JUDY
Pretty good, huh?

MICHAEL
That's mine, where's yours? I am so happy that's not true.

JUDY
Thanks.

MICHAEL
Right, shall I be mum? Cheers. It's a real treat.

JUDY
You're welcome.

1:28:42 GABE GOING OUT OF A SHOP WITH A PACKAGE

1:29:00 RAIN'S BIRTHDAY PARTY
RAIN’S MOTHER
Where's your wife?

GABE
We're not together anymore.

RAIN’S MOTHER
Oh, you writers. You're so....

JESSICA
Happy birthday!

RAIN
Did you meet that woman Jessica?

RAIN’S BOYFRIEND
No, I met Angela, though.

MAN
Did you see that?

GABE
It's incredible, this time of year.

RAIN
Oh, I love storms.

RAIN’S BOYFRIEND
They said we were supposed to get some of that hurricane.

GABE
It's really coming down heavy.

RAIN
How fitting. I was born in a storm.

GABE
It's dangerous.

RAIN’S FATHER
She looks great.

RAIN’S MOTHER
She's! It's absolutely incredible. Our little Rainer.

RAIN’S FATHER
I'm gonna be 55.

RAIN’S MOTHER
It's our 25th wedding anniversary in June.

1:30:00 THE LIGHT IS OFF

VOICES
Don't worry. We got some light in here for you.
I know I paid that bill.
Take some of these candles out there.
I can't believe this. I know I had a flashlight.

RAIN
Oh, this is just my luck on my own birthday. It goes black.

GABE
You look very pretty in candlelight.
RAIN
Oh, did you see the lightning flashes? It's supposed to get worse. How's everybody gonna get home now?

GABE
Happy birthday. I didn't want to give it to you in the other room because it could be misconstrued, so... I've been hiding it in my jacket.

RAIN
Very nice. That's lovely! That is so pretty.

GABE
Happy birthday.

RAIN
Why would it be misconstrued? It would just look funny.

GABE
Because you have a boyfriend. People wouldn't understand.

RAIN
It wouldn't look funny at all. It's beautiful. You know what I'd really like?

GABE
What?

RAIN
A nice birthday kiss.

GABE
You want a birthday kiss?

RAIN
Yeah.

GABE (kissing her chick)
Happy birthday.

RAIN
That's all?

GABE
I'm drunk. This is not funny. What do you mean? That was a birthday kiss. You want me to stick my tongue down your throat?

RAIN
Come on, you know what I mean.

GABE
You got a boyfriend in the other room.

RAIN
I know. It's not serious. It isn't serious.

GABE
Listen, I can't even have this conversation. Not that I haven't thought about it. I have, but it's just too crazy.

RAIN
It's so disappointing.

GABE
It isn't disappointing. You got a boyfriend.
RAIN
You couldn't ask for a more romantic moment. I mean, it's my 21st birthday, and we're in a storm, the lights are out and there's the rain sweeping the skyline.

GABE
Why do I hear $50,000 worth of psychotherapy dialling now?

RAIN
It's magical. I'm sorry. I'm sorry. I've had a little too much to drink too.

GABE
Me too. I had....

RAIN
I'm just....

GABE
You want to kiss? I mean, you want a real kiss? You want an actual, professional kiss?

RAIN
Yes.

GABE
Both lips, upper and lower. At once?

RAIN
I've thought about it. I gotta tell you.

GABE
Come here.

1:33:38 INTERVIEW. GABE

GABE
I was just hoping that lightning can't come into a penthouse Because it was tumultuous outside. It was crashing all around and the scene had to be played. I mean, I was... I wanted to kiss her, it was pouring but I figured, any second the lightning would come right into the apartment and and that I would die.

1:33:54 MICHAEL'S APPARTMENT

MICHAEL
Judy, I don't want to spend Sunday together, because I need time alone!

JUDY
Be alone! I'm not pushing you.

MICHAEL
Yes. Yes, you are, in that quiet, steady way of yours. "Supportive," is your word. "Understanding." Stop being so understanding. I still have feelings for Sally. Feelings I don't think I could ever have for you. Oh, God! Where are you? Oh, for... I'm sorry.

JUDY
I never want to see you again!

MICHAEL
I need you.

JUDY
It's good to know how you feel. I'm glad to know. You are so self-centred!
MICHAEL
I know. I didn't mean those things.

JUDY
Why did you say them?

MICHAEL
I'm confused. I never want to hurt you.

JUDY
Bullshit!

MICHAEL
It's not bullshit. I don't deserve you. I'm sorry. Please!

1:34:52 SALLY AND JACK'S BEDROOM. THEY'RE IN THE BED

SALLY
Did you shut the windows?

JACK
I was thinking it's a good thing we fixed that leak in the den.

SALLY
Even now I'm still scared of thunder. Any loud noise.

JACK
We would have been nuts to use those theatre tickets. We'd have been swerving all over.

SALLY
I'm glad we stayed home.

JACK
Me too.

SALLY
When we were apart, this storm would have terrified me. I was scared enough sleeping alone.

JACK
Sometimes you can be alone when you're with someone.

SALLY
Should we have given those other tickets to Gabe or Judy? We did buy them for them.

JACK
Yeah, I know, but the situation's completely different now.

1:36:08 INTERVIEW. JUDY AND MICHAEL

NARRATOR
A year and a half later, much had occurred. Judy was married to Michael.

OFF
So, you happy?

MICHAEL
Go ahead.

JUDY
Yes, I think things have gone pretty smoothly. He puts up with my idiosyncrasies.
MICHAEL
No, she puts up with mine.

1:36:04 JUDY’S EX

She's passive-aggressive. Somehow, she gets what she wants. She wanted me, she wanted Gabe, she wanted the job at the magazine, out of her marriages, she wants Michael....

1:36:38 INTERVIEW. MICHAEL

MICHAEL
I disagree. When Sally went back to Jack, I went after Judy. Not at first, but when I decided, I went after her.

JUDY
Gee, I hope I didn't push. I wanted it to work, it's true.

1:36:55 INTERVIEW. JACK AND SALLY

JACK
We're doing fine. Really. We've learned to tolerate our problems more. Don't you think?

SALLY
I've learned, anyway, that love is not about passion and romance necessarily. It's also about companionship and it's like a buffer against loneliness, I think.

JACK
That stuff is important. Somebody to grow old with. What kills most people is unreal expectations.

OFF
What about things that can't be talked about? Like sexual problems, for instance.

JACK
That...

SALLY
Unresolved.

OFF
Unresolved?

SALLY
Well, there's some things you can't solve and then you have to live with it. You construct some kind of patchwork thing. But sometimes they flare up.

JACK
They do, and when it happens it gets tough when that happens.

SALLY
You learn to deal with it and then push it under the rug.

JACK
And it works. That's the weird thing. It's not bad.

SALLY
You can't force yourself to conform to some abstract vision of love, or you know, marriage. Every situation's different.

JACK
Whatever works is the deal. Ours is just one way.
SALLY
It's funny. Last year when we were at Gabe and Judy's and we announced so flippantly we were splitting I wasn't that confident.

JACK
I wasn't either.

SALLY
I remember thinking they were so lucky. They had such a great marriage.

JACK
It's ironic that we're together and they aren't.

SALLY
Yeah.

JACK
Weird.

1:38:47 INTERVIEW. GABE

GABE
I had a romantic moment with Rain at her 21st birthday party and I could feel the old pull coming back. The old attraction coming back. Feelings I'd had from my past. It was very vivid to me.

1:39:10 RAIN'S BIRTHDAY PARTY

GABE
That was a... That was a... a great moment. I don't really think we should follow up on it.

RAIN
What do you...? What do you mean?

GABE
Well, you know, I just.... If things were different, If I was younger, or if you were older or anything different, but somehow I just feel I know how this is gonna come out.

RAIN
You sure?

GABE
I am. You know, I really am.

RAIN
I knew how it would end.

1:40:08 INTERVIEW. GABE

GABE
And I left and I walked out into the pouring rain. I just headed instinctively back to my apartment because I wanted to hold Judy and kiss her and say things to her, and then... then I realized that, you know, I really blew it.

OFF
So, what's your life like now?

GABE
I'm out of the race for now. I don't want to get involved. I don't want to hurt anyone. I don't want to get hurt. I don't mind living by myself and working. It's temporary. I'll have the urge to get back into the swing of
things. That seems to be how it goes. I'm writing, I'm working on a... a new novel. Not the old one anymore, and, um... it's fine.

OFF
Is it different?

GABE
My novel? Yes, it's less confessional, more political. Can I go? Is this over?