



HUSBANDS AND WIVES

Woody Allen, 1991

SCRIPT

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 APPARTMENT

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

GABE

So she wasn't crazy.

JUDY

No, just boring.

GABE

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

JUDY

But he pays a price.

GABE

This is junk. I'll throw it away.

JUDY

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

GABE

You're prejudiced, you're my wife.

JUDY

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

GABE

It's not true.

JUDY

It is true.

GABE

I think it's a mediocre novel.

JUDY

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

GABE

I would not.

0:33:32 JUDY, SALLY

OFF

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

SALLY

I like being single.

JUDY

You do? I had the opposite impression.

SALLY

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.

JUDY

Yeah. I can imagine.

SALLY

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

Preservation? I don't believe in capital punishment except for New York builders.

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
I sometimes think of living in Paris. Europe in general. I find that romantic. I like café life. I'd like to write, get a flat.

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.

0:54:05 RAIN PARENTS' HOUSE

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

OFFJust 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 Indian.

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?

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