

CHEATING SEASON

by
Timothy Aaron

INT. LEONARD, LEHMAN AND LOWE, LLP - DAY

CLOSE ON a bouquet of red, heart-shaped balloons.

SUPER TITLE: VALENTINE'S DAY, 2005

A MESSENGER moves through the secretary pool with this bouquet of balloons. Heads turn. A SECRETARY surges past and spins the Messenger around. This is CHARLOTTE "CHARLIE" MILES (20s, a knockout). She's been crying, but a steely resolve has taken hold. She heads towards an office at the end of the hall.

OFFICE - THAT MOMENT

PETER BRANDT (20s, serious, unobtrusive) sits at his desk, staring at his computer. On the screen is a document he created: **QUITTING - PROS AND CONS**

PROS: New Opportunities, Improved Mental Health, and This is your last, best chance. CONS: Loss of income, loss of security and NOT GETTING TO SEE CHARLIE EVERY DAY.

He looks up and sees Charlie headed his way. His look says it all. He closes the document, gets up and sits on the front edge of his desk.

PETER
Hey, Charles.

She pauses in his doorway. She's about to break down.

PETER
You okay?

She buries her head in his chest. He holds her tight.

PETER
Isn't it your lunch hour?

CHARLIE
I went home. And I found something. Which confirmed everything I've suspected...

PETER
What can I do?

CHARLIE
This was supposed to be it. We were supposed to be...

Peter eyes Charlie's engagement ring. She's running her finger over the band.

PETER
Forever?

CHARLIE
Cheesy, right?

Their eyes lock for just a moment.

PETER
Not if it's the right person.

She pulls away and collects herself.

CHARLIE
Thanks, Peter.

PETER
You want to tell me what happened?

CHARLIE
He made the biggest mistake of his life.

She walks out. The Messenger is surrounded by Secretaries. Charlie pulls a clip out of her hair and pops one of the balloons with it, never breaking stride.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Back Bay, Boston. A tree lined street of Victorian brownstones. It's snowing. A Ford Galaxie is parked in the middle of the street, in front of a brownstone. Its hazard lights flash.

INT. GALAXIE - THAT MOMENT

Whitney Houston's "Saving All My Love for You" is on the radio. AMANDA MURPHY (20s, terribly pretty, a real ballbuster) is in the passenger seat.

AMANDA
(singing along, badly)
'Cause tonight is the night. For
feeling alright. We'll be making
love the whole night through. So,
I'm saving all my love. Yes I'm
saving all my love. YES I'M
SHAVING OFF MY MUFF FOR YOU.

INT. BROWNSTONE - THAT MOMENT

Charlie furiously packs a bag. She zips it up and storms out of the room. She's stopped in the hall by MR. X. He's handsome and smug. You just want to punch him.

MR. X

Can't we work this out?

He moves to kiss her.

CHARLIE

God!

Charlie side steps him.

MR. X

I know I was careless.

CHARLIE

Careless? Ya think? Did you figure I'd find these-

She grabs a leopard print thong off of a table and swings it around on her finger.

CHARLIE

-and just assume they were mine? And that I'd just stop right there...and not check the phone bill and your credit card bill, your e-mail...I mean, do you see what I've become?

MR. X

Like a fucking detective.

CHARLIE

You don't get to be pissed. You're the one who cheated. If you're not groveling, you're doing it wrong.

She moves past him, into their galley kitchen, towards the refrigerator. She pulls off magnet after magnet, papers falling to the floor. She stuffs the magnets in her bag.

MR. X

What are you doing?

CHARLIE

These are my magnets. They're not your magnets. You never had any magnets.

MR. X

I'm sorry, okay?. I wish I could go back and...

CHARLIE

Yeah. I'd love to go back too. Get a little sexy. Feel those four inches struggling to stay inside me. Smell that rancid cologne you refuse to get rid of...probably because SHE likes it. Have Friday night dinner with your intolerable parents. Just bask in all that is you and me. Us. But, really, if I had the chance, I'd go back further. Go and find your mother, give her a coat hanger, and direct her to the alleyway, so I'd never have had the trouble.

Mr. X moves to her. They're very close, his hand on her hip.

MR. X

Can't we skip the fight and go straight to the make-up sex?

CHARLIE

You're unbelievable.

He presses his crotch against her thigh.

MR. X

All this fighting's got me excited.

Charlie smiles coyly, leading him on and then knees him in the groin. She steps over him and grabs her bag. She pulls off her engagement ring and slams it down on the counter. PUSH IN on the ring. Charlie is HEARD STORMING OUT.

EXT. STREET - THAT MOMENT

Charlie walks towards the Galaxie. She throws her bag in the trunk and then gets in on the driver's side.

AMANDA

You okay? I brought eggs. We could egg the house. I find it can be cleansing. Like yoga.

CHARLIE

He called me a detective.

AMANDA

That's your consolation prize. We caught him.

CHARLIE

What if...?

AMANDA

What?

CHARLIE

What if I just found out what I'm supposed to do with my life? Catch assholes like...

Mr. X runs out of the brownstone. He stands in front of the Galaxie, his legs flush with the bumper.

MR. X

Don't go.

CHARLIE

Get out of the way.

MR. X

Charlie, we can work this out.

Charlie turns the key in the ignition and starts the car.

MR. X

What are you gonna do? Hit me? It was a mistake. It's not like you've never made a mistake.

Charlie seethes.

AMANDA

If you want to tap him, it's alright by me.

CHARLIE

This is why you're my best friend.

AMANDA

My questionable moral character?

CHARLIE

Exactly.

Charlie puts the car in drive. Her foot hits the gas.

BLACK.

CHEATING SEASON

EXT. THE FOUR SEASONS - NIGHT

Establishing.

SUPER TITLE: FIVE YEARS LATER

INT. THE FOUR SEASONS - LAUNDRY ROOM - NIGHT

A calendar hangs on the wall. It's turned to January. Every day is X'd, save for the 31st. Charlie emerges, still fitting herself into a maid's uniform. She pushes a housekeeping cart towards the service elevator.

CHARLIE

Going up.

MAIN BALLROOM

A panel rests on an easel by the door. It reads: PHARMCO SALES CONFERENCE. 8:30 AM - SALES FORCE STRATEGIES. 10 AM - MANAGEMENT OF BUYER-SELLER RELATIONSHIPS. PUSH IN on 9 PM - PRIVATE PARTY.

A flurry of name tags: BRITNEY. HEATHER. BETHANY. KRISTA. TROUBLE. This last one belongs to Amanda. She's in a room full of PHARMACEUTICAL REPS (male pattern baldness, spare tires, ugly ties) and HOOKERS. Amanda looks over to an opposite corner of the room. THE EXEC (50, dyed jet black hair, perma-tan) lounges with a BLONDE HOOKER. He runs his hands through her hair. He has a wedding ring tan line. The Hooker's hand disappears down the Exec's pants. She applies a kung-fu grip to his package.

AMANDA

(to Charlie)

You can take your time.

12TH FLOOR

Charlie exits the elevator and pushes the housekeeping cart. She swipes a key card and enters room 1221.

AMANDA

(from Charlie's earpiece)

He's not going anywhere.

MAIN BALLROOM

A handsome, athletic salesman corners Amanda. His name tag reads "BRAD." He clinks his drink with hers.

BRAD

Hi there.

AMANDA

Hi...

Amanda eyes his name tag and smiles politely.

AMANDA

Brad.

BRAD

Can I tell you something? I think you're the hottest one in here.

AMANDA

You know that everyone in this room with a vagina is a hooker, right? Which would make me the hottest hooker in here. Do I look like a hooker, Brad?

Brad's speechless. Amanda spies the Exec leaving with the Blonde Hooker.

AMANDA

(to Charlie)

He's moving.

LOBBY

Charlie watches the Exec and the Blonde Hooker walk to the elevators, where they're each handed a white robe by a BODYGUARD (black suit, black tie, built like a linebacker). PUSH IN on Charlie's eyes.

INSERT: A series of photographs of the Exec and the Blonde Hooker making out in the hotel's heated pool.

STAIRWELL

Charlie bursts through the door and hurries down the stairs, holding a camera. Seconds later, the Bodyguard bursts through the same door and hurries after Charlie.

KITCHEN

Charlie dashes towards the exit, dodging WAITERS and COOKS. She swipes a french fry from a passing tray and pops it in her mouth. The Bodyguard is close behind, in hot pursuit.

ALLEYWAY BEHIND THE HOTEL

Charlie exits the hotel and darts to the left. A black SUV comes to a screeching halt, blocking the way out. Charlie turns around. The Bodyguard emerges. He catches his breath and puts out his hand.

BODYGUARD
The camera. Now.

CHARLIE
Or what?

He pulls his pants up a little and rolls his shoulders.

BODYGUARD
We dance.

Charlie laughs and puts the camera down.

UNDERGROUND PARKING LOT

Amanda runs like mad towards the Galaxie.

AMANDA
TIMMY. TIMMY.

TIMMY MILES (Charlie's older brother) is behind the wheel of the Galaxie. He's a big man. A former bouncer. He leans his head out the window.

TIMMY
What's goin' on?

AMANDA
START THE CAR.

He ducks back inside and starts the car. Amanda jumps in. The car speeds out of the lot.

ALLEYWAY BEHIND THE HOTEL

Charlie's only a few feet from the Bodyguard now.

CHARLIE
I should tell you. I've taken lessons. I know all the steps.

BODYGUARD
I bet you do.

They both spot a WOMAN eyeing the directory at the front entrance. This is JANINE RANCZINSKY (40, in a home-made ensemble).

CHARLIE

Are you from the temp agency?

Janine turns, smiles and smooths her skirt.

JANINE

Janine Ranczinsky.

CHARLIE

Charlie Miles. This is my partner,
Amanda Murphy.

INT. OFFICE BUILDING - HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

MOVING towards the door at the end of the hall. Etched on its frosted glass window: **M & M INVESTIGATIONS**

INT. M & M INVESTIGATIONS - MOMENTS LATER

The phone is ringing. Amanda pulls the plastic off of the dry cleaning. It's the maid uniform that Charlie wore last night. She hangs it up in a closet with several other phony hotel uniforms. Charlie picks up the phone.

CHARLIE

(into the phone)

M & M, this is. Yes, Mrs.
Halloren. I've got one of my best
people on it.

INT. STRIP CLUB - THAT MOMENT

Timmy couldn't be happier. An electric blue cocktail in his hand and boobs in his face. SYMPHONY (20s) gives him a lap dance. Suddenly, a thought strikes Timmy. He nervously scans the space around him. He doesn't see who he's looking for.

TIMMY

Shit. Symphony, you were supposed
to help me keep an eye on my guy.

SYMPHONY

He left, like, three songs ago. I
thought you knew.

INT. M & M INVESTIGATIONS - DAY

Charlie and Amanda stand with Janine at the front desk. There's an empty board behind the desk.

AMANDA

What did the agency tell you about what we do here?

JANINE

Not much.

CHARLIE

Today's the first day of Cheating Season. That's why we need you.

JANINE

Cheating Season?

CHARLIE

February first to Valentine's Day. Accountants have tax season. Elmer Fudd has wabbit season. We have Cheating Season. It's the one time a cheater has to cheat. Jewelry, candy, dinners. It's a real Hallmark moment when you've got yourself a Valentine. But when you've got more than one.

AMANDA

Hallmark will fuck your S up.

M & M INVESTIGATIONS - LATER

Charlie, Amanda and Janine sit around the conference table together, eating Zaftig's takeout.

CHARLIE

Our business usually slows around Thanksgiving, when everybody has to spend time with their families. And Christmas and New Year's. They're stuck.

AMANDA

But not now. Now, they've got to make everybody happy. The wife, the girlfriend, the mistress, the booty call. All of them.

CHARLIE

It actually makes the job kind of easy. Most people don't have a lot of free time. So they double date. Have a romantic dinner with the wife. Make up some excuse about needing to swing by the office afterwards. And then book it to some motel off the Mass Pike.

AMANDA

And you'll learn fast. There are all kinds of cheaters. A lot of it's just emotional cheating.

INT. OFFICE - DAY

MAX (30, puffy) looks longingly at KRISTA (20s, bottle blonde). Krista catches his glance and smiles.

AMANDA (V.O.)

Maybe it's a not-so-secret crush.

INT. T.G.I. FRIDAY'S - NIGHT

Max sits across from Krista. He's on his third Ultimate Margarita.

MAX

(slurring)

She doesn't understand me. She thinks I should give up my music.

Krista puts her hand on top of his.

AMANDA (V.O.)

Or a shoulder to cry on.

INT. M & M INVESTIGATIONS - CONTINUOUS

AMANDA

It's usually nothing.

CHARLIE

Or it's how it all starts.

INT. HOTEL CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

A room full of PEOPLE try not to fall asleep watching a Power Point presentation.

Max and Krista sit next to each other in the back row. Max's head is back. His eyes are shut. And Krista's arm is working overtime.

CHARLIE (V.O.)
And your crush is giving you an
OTPHJ at a weekend seminar.

INT. M & M INVESTIGATIONS - CONTINUOUS

JANINE
OTPHJ?

CHARLIE
Over the pants hand job.

INT. HOTEL CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

Max's eyes burst open. He makes what sounds like some kind of mating call. EVERYONE turns and looks.

INT. M & M INVESTIGATIONS - CONTINUOUS

CHARLIE
If it goes beyond just thinking
about it, then it's either
a...mistake.

INT. BAR - BATHROOM STALL - NIGHT

A MAN and a WOMAN have sex.

AMANDA (V.O.)
One too many shots of tequila,
maybe.

WOMAN
Fuck me, Dave.

He stops.

MAN
My name's Dan.

WOMAN
Don't stop, Dave.

They get back to it.

INT. BANQUET HALL - NIGHT

BOB (50) and SHEILA (50) stand under a "CLASS OF 1979" banner.

CHARLIE (V.O.)
Or re-connecting with an old flame.

INT. MOTEL 6 - ROOM - NIGHT

Bob and Sheila stumble inside, removing each other's clothes.

INT. BAR - NIGHT

BACHELORETTES (all wearing penis necklaces) dance on the bar. Save for one. STACY (20s, wearing a big purple penis necklace) guides some GUY's shaky hand up her skirt.

AMANDA (V.O.)
Or it's just some guy at some bar
you shouldn't be at because you
should've gone home because you're
already wearing a necklace with a
big fat dick on it and you should
try to limit the number of stupid
things you do in an evening to one.

INT. M & M INVESTIGATIONS - CONTINUOUS

CHARLIE
And now you have a secret to keep
or two lives to maintain. And
maybe you pull that off the rest of
the year. But for these two weeks,
you are mandated to tell the people
you love that you love them. And
the hints and clues you've let
slip, that your significant other
might've missed last summer or in
the fall...they will most certainly
notice them now.

JANINE
Like what?

CHARLIE
Maybe she's pulling an Eliza
Doolittle.

AMANDA

New clothes. New style. Lots of hats. Maybe an accent.

CHARLIE

Or suddenly it's like you're living in Jonestown. Every story he tells revolves around someone you've never met.

AMANDA

Jane likes this. Jane likes that. Jane really got me into Thai food.

CHARLIE

Or they order a Whopper at McDonald's.

JANINE

What?

CHARLIE

An unexplained sexual request.

TIMMY (O.S.)

And it's usually some freaky shit.

They all turn.

CHARLIE

I didn't even hear you come in.

TIMMY

'Cause I'm a fuckin' ninja.

Amanda walks over to him.

AMANDA

You smell like stripper.

TIMMY

That's the sweat of my labor.

AMANDA

You're disgusting.

TIMMY

You think the human body's disgusting?

AMANDA

No. Just yours.

TIMMY
This is just my natural musk.

AMANDA
Cigarettes and pussy?

TIMMY
Only when I'm aroused.

Amanda storms off. Timmy looks back after her.

TIMMY
You're smiling!

CHARLIE
Janine, this is my brother Timmy.
Timmy, Janine's our new secretary.

He shakes Janine's hand.

TIMMY
Welcome to the show.

INT. M & M INVESTIGATIONS - LATER

Janine's at her desk. The board behind her is now like a giant calendar, with fourteen boxes, one for each day of Cheating Season. February 1st - 4th have been X'd out with a red marker. The phone's ringing off the hook.

JANINE
M & M, please hold.

A WOMAN bursts out of Charlie's office, sobbing. She surges past Janine's desk. Janine holds out a box of tissues. The Woman grabs a tissue, never breaking stride, on her way out.

WOMAN
MOTHERFUCKER.

The door slams behind her. Charlie emerges from her office.

CHARLIE
There goes the unluckiest woman in Boston.

JANINE
She didn't seem too happy.

CHARLIE
That's Mr. February's fiancé.

JANINE
Who's Mr. February?

INT. HOTEL - LOBBY - DAY - FLASHBACK

A MAN waits, turning a hotel room key card over and over again in his hand. He wears a dark suit, a white dress shirt (the top three buttons undone, exposing ample chest hair) and a red heart pin on the lapel. This is MR. FEBRUARY.

CHARLIE (V.O.)
A few years ago, we got hired by a
dentist, who thought his wife...

A WOMAN enters through the revolving door. She's in candy-colored dental hygienist scrubs.

CHARLIE (V.O.)
...who also happened to be his
hygienist...was cheating on him.

She rushes over to Mr. February. They kiss. He puts his arm around her and they head for the elevators.

INT. SUSHI RESTAURANT - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

Mr. February tells a story with dramatic hand gestures.

CHARLIE (V.O.)
Mr. February told her he was a
travel writer.

INT. BARNES AND NOBLE - DAY - FLASHBACK

Mr. February sits at a table, pouring through travel book after travel book, jotting things down, sticking Post-Its to particular pages, pounding a Venti Starbucks drink.

CHARLIE (V.O.)
That he'd been all over the world.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

Mr. February and a WOMAN (50s, sultry) are in bed together.

CHARLIE (V.O.)
Two years ago, he broke up a thirty
year marriage.

Mr. February kisses up her body, starting at the ankles.

MR. FEBRUARY

Je veux vous faire cum. Rendez vos genoux faibles. Incitez-vous a crier mon nom.

CHARLIE (V.O.)

She never knew he wasn't French.

INT. M & M INVESTIGATIONS - CONTINUOUS

CHARLIE

Last year, we got hired by a groom, a week before his Valentine's Day wedding. Turns out his future wife was fucking the wedding singer.

JANINE

No way.

CHARLIE

Mr. February had been posing as a wedding singer for over a year.

INSERT: Mr February's wedding singer ad, featuring a photo of him shirtless, holding a microphone by its cord.

CHARLIE

For Mr. February, cheating's a sport.

JANINE

And now he's engaged?

CHARLIE

Not for long.

INT. M & M INVESTIGATIONS - DAY

A WOMAN nervously taps her foot, the heel of her shoe click-clacking against the floor. This is REBECCA ABBOT (30s, pretty, wound a bit too tight). Amanda walks over to her.

AMANDA

Hi. You must be...

Rebecca stands. They shake hands.

REBECCA

Rebecca Abbot.

AMANDA

Amanda Murphy. Nice to meet you.
So, what tipped you off?

REBECCA

Excuse me?

AMANDA

What made you think your boyfriend
was cheating? Find a bunch of
receipts for flowers you never got?
A trip you never took? Lingerie
you never got to return for store
credit? Does his voice go up an
octave every time he calls to
cancel your plans? Did you smell
her on his dick?

REBECCA

You're not the person I talked to
on the phone.

AMANDA

That was my partner. She's the
romantic.

INT. RITZ CARLTON TOWERS - DAY

High end condominiums overlooking the Boston Common. An
M & M PAINTING COMPANY van is parked out front.

INT. VAN - THAT MOMENT

Charlie and Timmy sit inside, watching surveillance footage:
a MAN (50, balding) locks lips with a WOMAN (20s, sexy).

TIMMY

How does a guy like that get a girl
like her?

CHARLIE

Money. Money. And some more
money. His wife found receipts. A
necklace. Two handbags. A gym
membership.

TIMMY

What kind of asshole keeps the
receipt to a gift he bought for his
mistress?

On the monitor: *the Man (only wearing Valentine's Day boxers) flops onto the bed. The Woman (wearing just a thong) stands at the foot of the bed.*

CHARLIE

The kind that keeps us in business.

WOMAN

Mmm...let me see it.

CHARLIE

Showtime.

The Man slips off his boxers. He's not what you would call well-endowed.

CHARLIE

Where is it?

Timmy points at the screen.

TIMMY

I think that's it.

CHARLIE

What is that?

TIMMY

That's sad.

Charlie points at the Man's tiny dick on the screen.

CHARLIE

Boop.

INT. M & M INVESTIGATIONS - LATER

Janine answers one line after another.

JANINE

(into the phone)

M & M, please hold. M & M, please hold.

Amanda walks past. Charlie and Timmy enter, carrying surveillance equipment.

AMANDA

Hey, you guys.

CHARLIE

How did it go with what's her name?

AMANDA

Her name's Rebecca Abbot. Junior partner at Gelman and Schirn. Met her boyfriend in law school but they didn't date until after. Been together three years. Long distance thing until a few months ago.

Janine walks over and hands Charlie the file. Charlie's expression turns immediately upon opening it.

AMANDA

Boyfriend's name is Peter Brandt. Works for the Sox. Special assistant to the general manager.

CHARLIE

(to herself)
He really did it.

AMANDA

What?

CHARLIE

I know him. I haven't seen him in five years, but...when we worked together, he always said he was going to quit and become a baseball scout.

AMANDA

Wait a second. This is the guy, isn't it? The one who wanted you but didn't ever have a chance because you were committed to spending the rest of your life with assface.

TIMMY

This keeps getting better.

CHARLIE

He just doesn't seem like the type.

AMANDA

Whatevs. If you'd have given him the slightest hint five years ago...

TIMMY

Not very bros before hoes of him.

AMANDA

Rebecca thinks he was a real road dog when he was a scout. Might not have someone new yet, but if we add you to the equation. Have you bump into him, wearing some sexy, barely there dress that shows the girls off, acting all flirty. Good way to see his true colors. It's not like it hasn't worked before.

Charlie flips through the file.

CHARLIE

Running a honey trap with nothing to go on but...
(re: the file)
...random suspicions is just wrong.

AMANDA

You and your ethics.

CHARLIE

I'll follow him. See where it leads.

AMANDA

Oh, I know you will.

CHARLIE

F off.

EXT. FLOWER SHOP - DAY

Peter's inside, talking to the CLERK. Photographs are taken. Click-click-click.

Peter exits. Photographs are taken. Click-click-click.

INT. GALAXIE - THAT MOMENT

Charlie lowers her camera and watches him walk off.

INT. LEONARD, LEHMAN AND LOWE, LLP - DAY - FLASHBACK

Peter and Charlie stand together, looking out at the Boston skyline, sharing the same bag of Swedish fish. It's very comfortable. A SECRETARY pops her head in.

SECRETARY

Charlie, those copies aren't going to make themselves.

Charlie turns. The Secretary's gone.

CHARLIE

I want a snow day. There's nothing better than a snow day.

PETER

But it never snows in March.

CHARLIE

Peter, are you crushing my dreams?

PETER

(laughing)
Not intentionally.

EXT. DINER - DAY

Peter's in a booth by the window, eating lunch alone.

INT. GALAXIE - THAT MOMENT

Charlie's parked across from the diner, surveilling him.

INT. LEONARD, LEHMAN AND LOWE, LLP - DAY - FLASHBACK

Charlie emerges from an elevator with a gaggle of SECRETARIES. Charlie's holding several gifts. She walks one way, while the rest of the Secretaries go the other.

SECRETARIES (O.S.)

Happy birthday, Charlie!

Charlie spots Peter standing by her desk, a wrapped gift in his hand. He's debating whether or not to leave it there for her. He puts it on the desk and then removes it more than once. Charlie's getting closer and closer to her desk.

MR. X (O.S.)

Charlie.

Charlie stops. Peter turns. His eyes meet with Charlie's. Neither of them say a word. He walks away from her desk, with the gift still in his hand. She turns around to see Mr. X.

CHARLIE
What are you doing here?

They kiss.

MR. X
It's your birthday. And it's happy
hour. Let's go.

She puts the gifts down on her desk. She looks back down the
hall for Peter. His office door is shut.

INT. GYM - DAY

Peter jogs, iPod buds in his ears. Charlie's a few paces
back, trying to keep up with him. Around and around they go,
mile after mile. This is a regular activity for Peter, but
Charlie's near death. She finally stops. She hunches over,
trying to catch her breath. She pulls out her phone and
dials.

INT. M & M INVESTIGATIONS - THAT MOMENT

Amanda answers Charlie's call. She hears Charlie breathing
heavily.

AMANDA
Charlie?

Cutting between them:

CHARLIE
Hey.

AMANDA
Why are you out of breath? You're
supposed to follow him, not fuck
him.

CHARLIE
I hate you.

AMANDA
I love you too. What's goin' on?

CHARLIE
I think I'm just gonna run into
him. Accidentally...on purpose.
Catch up. See where that gets us.

AMANDA
 (from the phone)
 Is this your polite way of running
 a honey trap?

CHARLIE
 (offended)
 No.

AMANDA
 (from the phone)
 You're so the honey.

CHARLIE
 I'm so not.

Charlie ends the call. She catches her breath and starts jogging again.

CHARLIE
 (to herself)
 This is not a honey trap. You are
 not the honey.

She's jogging side by side with Peter. He's in his own world. Charlie waits for him to notice her, but he doesn't.

CHARLIE
 Peter?

He turns. He can't believe it. He slows down and pulls his headphones out of his ears. And just as he does, another JOGGER slams right into him. He goes down. The other Jogger keeps on going.

JOGGER
 Watch it, bra.

Charlie rushes over to help him up.

PETER
 (after the Jogger)
 Thanks for all your concern. DICK.

CHARLIE
 (laughing)
 Oh my God. Are you okay? I
 shouldn't be laughing.

PETER
 It's been a long time, Charles.

CHARLIE
 Five years.

PETER
Did you actually get hotter?

CHARLIE
Did you actually get game?
(beat)
Where've you been?

PETER
I did what I told you I was going
to do.

CHARLIE
You didn't steal me away from my
shitty boyfriend.

PETER
Did I say I would do that?

CHARLIE
Once. At the Christmas party. You
were really drunk.

PETER
I became a scout for the Red Sox.
I was in the Dominican. Venezuela.
Korea for a little while. But now
I'm back. Special assistant to the
general manager.

She touches Peter's forearm, affectionately.

CHARLIE
I'm really proud of you.

PETER
Can't be miserable forever, right?

CHARLIE
Do you want to get lunch some time
this week? Catch up?

PETER
Lunch...?

CHARLIE
It comes between breakfast and
dinner.

PETER
(laughing)
Yeah. Right. When?

CHARLIE
Friday? How about Stephanie's on
Newbury at 1?

PETER
Yeah. I can do that.

CHARLIE
Perfect. Well, I have to get
going, but...this was a really nice
surprise.

PETER
Yeah.

Charlie walks off. Peter watches her go. He exhales,
dramatically.

PETER
Charlie Miles.

He nearly gets bulldozed again by another JOGGER.

INT. GALAXIE - MORNING

Timmy and Amanda are parked across the street from Peter and
Rebecca's building. A black Volvo emerges from the
building's underground garage. Rebecca is driving.

TIMMY
There she goes.

AMANDA
He should be leaving any minute
now.

As if on cue, Peter emerges from the building. He heads off.

INT. PETER AND REBECCA'S APARTMENT BUILDING - MORNING

Timmy picks the lock to Peter's apartment. They go inside.

EXT. STREET - MORNING

Peter walks towards the T station. He realizes he's
forgotten something and turns around.

INT. PETER AND REBECCA'S APARTMENT - MORNING

Amanda bugs the telephone.

EXT. PETER AND REBECCA'S APARTMENT BUILDING - MORNING

Peter runs up the steps and enters.

INT. PETER AND REBECCA'S APARTMENT BUILDING - MORNING

Timmy presses the "DOWN" button. He and Amanda wait for the elevator. The elevator arrives. The doors open, slowly. In an instant, Timmy spies Peter. Peter's busy looking at his phone. He doesn't see Timmy and Amanda. Timmy grabs Amanda, pulls her close and kisses her. Peter gets off the elevator, sees Timmy and Amanda kissing, thinks nothing of it and heads towards his apartment. Timmy and Amanda's lips part.

AMANDA

What was that?

Timmy puts his hand over her mouth and gestures towards Peter. Amanda eyes Peter entering his apartment.

TIMMY

Never get recognized.

AMANDA

He's never seen us before.

TIMMY

Exactly.

She shoves him away.

AMANDA

That was the last time I let you get away with this.

TIMMY

It's just as horrible for me as it is for you.

The elevator arrives. They get in. As the doors are closing, Amanda slaps Timmy in the back of the head.

INT. GALAXIE - NIGHT

Charlie's parked across the street from a French restaurant. Peter and Rebecca go inside. Charlie lowers her camera as she watches Rebecca reach for and clasp Peter's hand.

INT. RESTAURANT - LATER

Peter and Rebecca wait at the jammed bar.

REBECCA
I'll be right back.

Rebecca walks off towards the bathroom.

VICTORIA (O.S.)
PETER!

Peter turns. VICTORIA QUINTERO (30s, sexy) surges towards him, arms extended, beaming. Peter's happy to see her.

PETER
Hey, Victoria!

They hug. Victoria kisses him on both cheeks.

VICTORIA
How are you, honey? Glad to be
back home?

PETER
Yeah. You here with Hector?

VICTORIA
No. Just some friends.

Rebecca walks back. She sees Peter talking to Victoria.

VICTORIA
You look good. Do the spin for me.

PETER
Are you kidding?

Victoria slaps him on the ass.

VICTORIA
(laughing)
Come on.

He spins around so she can get a better look at him.

VICTORIA
The bags under your eyes are gone.
And that stupid beard you kept
trying to grow. Your special lady
whipped you into shape real quick.

Peter spots Rebecca. She looks pissed.

PETER
I should...

VICTORIA
Yeah. Of course.

PETER
Tell Hector I said hi.

She gives him another kiss on the cheek and walks off.
Rebecca makes her way over to Peter.

REBECCA
Who the hell was that?

PETER
Here we go again.

REBECCA
Y'know, you talk a big game about
how nothing ever happened all this
time we were apart but...

Peter's exasperated.

PETER
I'd rather have my taint waxed than
have this conversation again. That
was Hector Quintero's wife. I
signed him out of the Mexican Fall
League. Pitched a complete game
shutout in Game 7 of the ALCS.
Kind of the reason I got this job.

Rebecca's embarrassed.

HOSTESS (O.S.)
Peter. Party of two.

REBECCA
I'm sorry.

PETER
You either trust me or you don't.

REBECCA
I do.

He kisses her.

PETER
You better.

INT. PETER AND REBECCA'S APARTMENT - MORNING

Rebecca's awake. Peter's not. Rebecca's staring at the tent that Peter's morning wood is making of the top sheet. She slips out of bed and walks out into the living room. She spies Peter's bag resting on a chair, a well worn Red Sox hat peaking out of it.

BATHROOM

Rebecca enters with Peter's bag. She puts it on the counter and then turns on the shower. She sits on the covered toilet with the bag on her lap and rifles through it.

BEDROOM

Peter wakes up to the sound of the shower. He gets out of bed and heads for the bathroom.

BATHROOM

Rebecca empties the bag out onto her lap: paperwork, iPod, the well worn Red Sox hat, etc. Nothing incriminating. She grumbles. As she puts everything back in the bag, she realizes she never locked the door and Peter walks in, naked.

PETER

What the...?

Startled, Rebecca gets up too fast, the contents of the bag going up in the air and landing on the floor, except for the Red Sox hat. The hat's left hanging on Peter's hard-on.

PETER

Fucking ridiculous.

He takes the hat off of his boner, puts it on Rebecca's head and storms out. Rebecca, crying now, runs after him.

REBECCA

(in between sobs)

Peter. Look. It's just that.

PETER

God dammit. Stop. You know I can't handle you crying. Why do I suddenly feel like I should be apologizing when you're the crazy one?

REBECCA

I need to get over this. Because you're amazing. And I love you. And if I push you away, I'll never forgive myself.

PETER

This is the last time I'm going to say this. Nothing happened in the Dominican. Or Venezuela. Or anywhere else. I never cheated on you. And do you know why I never did?

REBECCA

Because you love me?

PETER

Yeah, dumbass. Because I love you.

REBECCA

I love you too.

He turns towards the bedroom.

REBECCA

Where are you going?

PETER

I need pants to argue.

She grabs him by the arm.

REBECCA

What can I do to make it up to you?

PETER

I don't know. I...

She starts jerking him off. Peter is lost for words.

REBECCA

You were saying...?

PETER

I was...

REBECCA

I'm a bad girlfriend.

PETER

But getting better by the minute.

INT. FENWAY PARK - CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

Peter sits at a conference table with three SCOUTS -- SCOTT (30s, nerdy), DAN (40s, a former jock) and ALEJANDRO (30s, paunchy). College baseball footage plays on a TV.

ALEJANDRO

Why did we draft a guy who can't
hit for shit?

Everyone laughs.

PETER

You guys all travel a lot. How do
you convince your lady that you're
not fucking around?

DAN

For real not fucking around or I
don't want her to know I'm fucking
around?

PETER

For real.

DAN

Oh. That's not really my area of
expertise.

ALEJANDRO

(to Dan)

I don't think I've ever seen you
turn down pussy.

DAN

That's because I never have.

Dan puts his hand up for a high-five. He doesn't get one.

SCOTT

It all depends on how you want to
play it. You can string her along
for a while. Keep her on edge.
And if she's like my wife, she'll
try to fuck that road strange right
out of your mind.

Alejandro sighs.

ALEJANDRO

Peter. It's almost Valentine's
Day. If you give a woman the
Valentine's Day of her
dreams...she's yours.

ALEJANDRO (CONT'D)

And she'll fuck the shit out of you
for no other reason than she really
wants to fuck the shit out of you.

PETER

You think?

ALEJANDRO

No, Peter. I know.

INT. M & M INVESTIGATIONS - DAY

Janine's at her desk. The entire first week is X'd out on the Cheating Season board behind her. A box marked "M.E.A. TRANSCRIPTIONS" is dropped onto Janine's desk by Amanda. Timmy's with her.

JANINE

What the...?

AMANDA

Two days worth of transcribed phone records. Cell, office, home.

JANINE

Who?

AMANDA

Charlie's love interest.

Amanda opens the box and hands out stacks of paper.

AMANDA

Everybody gets some.

TIMMY

That's your motto, isn't it?

Amanda slaps him in the back of the head.

INT. STEPHANIE'S - DAY

Charlie and Peter sit across from each other. A WAITER serves them their drinks.

PETER

Guess who I ran into on the way
over here...

CHARLIE

Who?

PETER
Bonnie Blaylock.

CHARLIE
I remember Bonnie.

Charlie pulls out her cell phone, as if she just got a text.

CHARLIE
Sorry. I hate when people do this.

PETER
Don't worry about it.

Charlie texts "CHECK BONNIE BLAYLOCK - CALLS TO AND FROM."

INT. M & M INVESTIGATIONS - THAT MOMENT

Amanda receives the text.

AMANDA
Look for all calls to and from
Bonnie Blaylock.

INT. STEPHANIE'S - THAT MOMENT

Charlie tucks her phone away.

PETER
Bonnie's the one who started the
rumor about us.

CHARLIE
There was a rumor about us?

PETER
We quit within three days of each
other. Bonnie convinced half the
office that we had run away
together.

CHARLIE
Where'd we go?

PETER
I heard Mexico. Paris from a few
people. I told her she was crazy.

CHARLIE
Crazy.

INT. M & M INVESTIGATIONS - THAT MOMENT

Amanda finishes reading. Timmy and Janine toss down their pages.

AMANDA
Anything?

JANINE
Nada.

TIMMY
No Bonnie Blaylock.

INT. STEPHANIE'S - CONTINUOUS

PETER
So, what do you do now?

CHARLIE
I'm a private investigator.

PETER
Really?

CHARLIE
When I found out my fiancé was cheating, it wasn't because he confessed. I caught him. When I was doing it, I didn't think...I'm good at this. This could be a career. But after I ended it, I realized exactly that.

PETER
That's your specialty? Infidelity?

She nods.

PETER
Must be hard to not become jaded.

CHARLIE
Just because I make a very comfortable living off of people's inability to commit to another person, doesn't mean I don't believe in love.

PETER
No, that's not what I...

CHARLIE

Because I do. And I get that love can be a transient emotion, but I just don't think that when you're not into it anymore, you have the right to be an asshole.

A long beat as Charlie and Peter are served their food.

PETER

So, umm, feel free to say no to what I'm about to ask.

Charlie gets a text from Amanda. The text reads: "Nothing."

CHARLIE

Okay...

PETER

My girlfriend and I...

CHARLIE

Your girlfriend...

PETER

Yeah. Didn't I...? Oh. Did you...? You didn't think...? I figured lunch was safe and wouldn't, uh...

CHARLIE

I didn't think it was a date, Peter.

PETER

Good. I mean...not "good," but...any guy would be...

Charlie waits.

PETER

Too lucky for his own good.

CHARLIE

Why's that?

PETER

Are you fishing for compliments?

She laughs, smiles.

PETER

I think you know you're
ridiculously hot. And smart. And
cool. I'm betting moms love you.

CHARLIE

Anyway. You were saying...

PETER

My girlfriend and I have been
together for three years. Most of
that time's been long distance.
And things have been...rocky, since
I got back. And I have an idea
that I think might solve a lot of
our problems. I want to give her
the perfect Valentine's Day. A
bunch of stuff. All over the city.
But having been away a while, I
think I need someone to show me
around. Guide me in the right
direction.

CHARLIE

And you thought of me?

PETER

I don't know if you have the time
to or the, uh, desire, but...

A long beat.

CHARLIE

Why not...

INT. THE T - NIGHT

Charlie's packed inside with the rest of the sardines. She's
attempting to compile a "Perfect Valentine's Day" list, but
to no avail. The page is blank, save for the hand-written
header.

INT. CHARLIE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Charlie enters. She turns on the lights and enters her
bedroom. She puts the still blank "Perfect Valentine's Day"
list on her bed. She strips out of her clothes. She puts
her leg up and delicately pokes at the bruise on her ankle,
courtesy of the Bodyguard's baton.

INT. PETER AND REBECCA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Rebecca's packing a suitcase. Peter's with her.

PETER

You sure you don't want me to come?
I could...

REBECCA

It's just for a few days. And I'll
be in court every day anyway. But
it's really sweet that you want to.

PETER

I kinda like you.

REBECCA

I'm kinda special.

PETER

Shit. I almost forgot.

He leaves the room and comes back in with a stack of new magazines (*US Weekly, In Touch, OK*), a Sudoku puzzle book and some snacks.

REBECCA

Honey, you didn't have to...

PETER

Trashy magazines. A Sudoku book.
Some snacks. In case you get
bored.

REBECCA

I don't deserve you.

She kisses him.

REBECCA

I'll be back on Valentine's Day.

She puts everything in her bag and zips it up.

PETER

Well...good luck.

REBECCA

Thanks, babe.

She heads out.

INT. CHARLIE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Charlie sits on her couch with her laptop. Suddenly, something she reads piques her interest.

INT. PETER AND REBECCA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Peter's in front of his computer. Something he reads piques his interest.

EXT. PETER AND REBECCA'S APARTMENT BUILDING - NIGHT

Peter exits. Timmy's parked across the street in the Galaxie. He gets out and follows after Peter.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Charlie walks, bracing against the cold.

INT. THE T - NIGHT

Peter stands amidst a crowd of commuters. Timmy stands at the other end of the car, keeping his eye on Peter.

INT. PANINI PALACE - NIGHT

Charlie pays for her sandwich.

EXT. THE COOLIDGE CORNER THEATRE - NIGHT

Charlie buys a ticket and walks inside. On the marquee: Billy Wilder's *The Apartment*.

INT. THE COOLIDGE CORNER THEATRE - NIGHT

Charlie sits by herself, with her wrapped sandwich resting on her lap. She looks around. There's barely anyone there.

EXT. THE COOLIDGE CORNER THEATRE - NIGHT

Peter pays for a ticket and goes inside. Timmy watches him enter, but does not follow.

INT. THE COOLIDGE CORNER THEATRE - NIGHT

Charlie sits by herself.

PETER (O.S.)
Don't I know you?

Charlie looks up. Peter's standing beside her. She smiles, but then hides it.

CHARLIE
I doubt it.

PETER
I'm sure I do.

CHARLIE
Didn't you learn anything growing up? You're supposed to avoid strangers at all costs. No talking. No checking out the inside of their van. No...

He sits down next to her.

PETER
You're one to talk about rules.

CHARLIE
What?

He pulls out the sandwich he got at Panini Palace.

PETER
Bringing in outside food is strictly forbidden.

CHARLIE
Where did you get that?

PETER
Panini Palace.

CHARLIE
Me too. It's the best.

PETER
Wanna swap? If it's a disaster, we can...

CHARLIE
Okay.

They swap sandwiches. Charlie unwraps hers and pauses.

CHARLIE
You're freaking me out.

PETER
What did I do?

CHARLIE
This is what I ordered.

Peter eyes his still wrapped sandwich.

PETER
Way to ruin the surprise.

Charlie laughs.

PETER
I always loved your laugh. Made me
want to be funnier.

A beat. Charlie doesn't know what to say.

CHARLIE
I was going to call you.

PETER
Is this about Valentine's Day?

CHARLIE
I'm the last person you want
helping you. I break up couples.
I don't help them stay together.

PETER
But this is a special case.

The lights go down, bringing an awkward halt to their conversation. The screen goes white and the lights come up. The THEATRE MANAGER enters.

THEATRE MANAGER
Sorry for the delay, folks. We're
having a little trouble with the
projector, but we should be back up
and running in a few minutes.
Thanks for your patience.

The Theatre Manager exits.

CHARLIE
What makes your case so special?

PETER

Every girl I've ever dated has
cheated on me.

(beat)

I can't believe I just said that
out loud.

CHARLIE

Every girl? How far back are we
talking about?

PETER

It started in the sixth grade.

INT. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - HALLWAY - MORNING - FLASHBACK

MEGAN CASSIDY (11, heart shaped berets in her hair) swaps
spit with JOEY RANDANO (11, spiked hair).

PETER (V.O.)

With Megan Cassidy.

PULL OUT to reveal Peter (age 11) several yards away. He
drops the heart shaped valentine he'd been holding.

PETER (V.O.)

On Valentine's Day no less.

INT. THE COOLIDGE CORNER THEATRE - CONTINUOUS

PETER

And then the next summer. At band
camp.

CHARLIE

Band camp?

PETER

Don't pile on.

EXT. CAMP HORNS APLENTY - DAY - FLASHBACK

Peter (12, braces) sobs. KIMMY (12, pretty, in a pink Camp
Horns Aplenty T-shirt) stands across from him.

PETER

Stan? Stan FUCKING Gable? You let
him feel under your bra? But he's
not even first chair! I am!

INT. THE COOLIDGE CORNER THEATRE - CONTINUOUS

PETER

Then both high school girlfriends.

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

Peter (age 16) stands, in uniform, with the rest of the MARCHING BAND. He watches his CHEERLEADER GIRLFRIEND talk to a FOOTBALL PLAYER on the sidelines. They're very close. She hands him a folded note and then whispers provocatively in his ear. The band begins to play and march. Peter's frozen in place. It's like falling dominoes.

INT. BEDROOM - DAY - FLASHBACK

Peter sits on a bed, underneath a DC Talk poster.

PETER (V.O.)

Including the one who told me that
we couldn't make out because she
was so religious.

Peter looks around and down a hallway to make sure no one's coming. He pulls a leather bound diary down off of a shelf. He opens it and reads furiously. His expression worsens by the second.

FEMALE VOICE

I like Peter. But...I LOVE GREG.
Last night, I let him finger me. I
CAME SOOOOOOOO HARD.

He snaps the diary shut.

INT. THE COOLIDGE CORNER THEATRE - CONTINUOUS

CHARLIE

What about college?

PETER

Three more times.

CHARLIE

Oh my God.

INT. DORM ROOM - DAY - FLASHBACK

TIGHT ON a tattoo. In ornate, Gothic lettering: FUCK MACHINE.

MALE VOICE

YEAH. THAT'S IT. RIGHT THERE.
YEEEEEEAH.

PULL OUT to reveal a NAKED GUY (shaved head, muscular) whose back is adorned with this tattoo. Peter enters the room. He freezes. His eyes go directly to the FUCK MACHINE tattoo.

PETER

What the...?

JAMIE (19, naked and on her knees) peeks around Fuck Machine (who she's been blowing) and sees Peter.

INT. BAR - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

Peter (21) sits across from ADAM (also 21).

ADAM

Dude, she's so fucking hot. She's got this little rose tattoo right, y'know, there. Her initials are in the petals. So you gotta get real close. Know what I'm sayin'?

PETER

Are you fucking serious?

ADAM

Yeah, man.

Peter pulls out his wallet, removes a yearbook photo of a PRETTY BRUNETTE and slides it across the table to Adam.

ADAM

Why do you have her picture in your wallet?

PETER

Gee. I wonder.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

It's snowing heavily. Peter (21) walks along and then spots something: RACHEL (20, blonde, stunning) walking hand in hand with ERIC (21, wearing a ridiculously long scarf). Eric kisses Rachel's hand. She puts her head on his shoulder. Peter's shoulders slump. He turns and walks in the opposite direction, disappearing behind a curtain of snow.

CHARLIE (V.O.)

And then what?

INT. THE COOLIDGE CORNER THEATRE - CONTINUOUS

PETER

I stopped dating. Stopped looking.
When you knew me, I was physically
incapable of doing anything but
having an unrequited crush. That's
why I liked you so much. Because
there was no chance of it ever
happening.

CHARLIE

Right.

The lights go down again. The movie starts.

Charlie and Peter watch the movie. Charlie focuses on how
close her hand is to his.

INT. COFFEE SHOP - NIGHT

Timmy's at a table, by the window. He's watching the
entrance to the movie theater. He watches Charlie and Peter
exit together, talking, laughing. He shakes his head.

TIMMY

God dammit, Charlie.

He pulls out his phone and dials.

EXT. THE COOLIDGE CORNER THEATRE - THAT MOMENT

Charlie laughs at something Peter just said. Her phone
rings. She answers it.

CHARLIE

Hey, big brother.

Cutting between them:

TIMMY

What the hell do you think you're
doing?

Charlie covers the phone.

CHARLIE

(to Peter)

I'll be just a minute.

She moves far enough away from Peter, that he won't hear.
She scans her surroundings, looking for Timmy.

CHARLIE

What are you talking about?

She spots Timmy sitting by the window of the coffee shop across the street. He catches her look. He waves.

TIMMY

We've been following this guy for a few days and nothing. And then the night his girlfriend goes out of town...

CHARLIE

She went out of town?

TIMMY

...guess who turns out to be his date?

CHARLIE

We bumped into each other.

TIMMY

Accidentally? On purpose? Charlie, it's one thing to run a honey trap. It's a whole other thing if you're just stealing him away from his woman.

CHARLIE

Who do you think you're talking to? What did I tell you five years ago?

TIMMY

That you were out. Done with all of it. That you believe in love but...

CHARLIE

It's just not for me.
(beat)
Nothing's changed.

TIMMY

You sure about that?

CHARLIE

Go home.

TIMMY

You should too.

CHARLIE

Planning on it.

She ends the call. She walks back over to Peter.

CHARLIE
Sorry about that.

PETER
No problem. Hey, do you want to go get a drink? There's a great dive just a few blocks from here.

CHARLIE
I don't know, Peter. There are rules about how much time you can spend with a guy with a girlfriend.

PETER
It's just a drink.

CHARLIE
Just one.

INT. DIVE BAR - NIGHT

Charlie and Peter sit together, a mess of empty glasses between them. They're both drunk. They're the only people there, save for the BARTENDER and a few sad DRUNKS at the bar.

PETER
So, how do you catch them?

CHARLIE
What?

PETER
Like, when a client comes to you, is it just because their husband or wife is acting distant or stopped having sex with them or...?

CHARLIE
Sure. But you have to dig deep for that. This time of year, it's usually something cheaper, dirtier. Like, say, finding two Victoria's Secret bags tucked in the corner of your closet, with a different set of initials on each.

PETER
People suck.

CHARLIE

Not everybody. But enough to make it shitty for the rest of us.

PETER

When you...umm...when you found whatever it was you found that day you came into my office...crying...

Charlie shoots up from her seat.

CHARLIE

I'm gonna go put something on the jukebox.

Peter digs a dollar out of his pocket and slides it across to her. She takes it and saunters over to the jukebox. She selects "I Don't Want To Do Wrong" by Gladys Knight and The Pips. She sashays away from the jukebox, her eyes closed, grooving to the slow jam.

GLADYS KNIGHT

(singing)

Mmm, I don't wanna do wrong. But you've been gone, baby, so long. And I hope I hope you'll understand. That it's really, it's really. Oh yes it is. It's out of my hands. But I don't wanna do wrong.

Peter puts his hand on her hip. Charlie opens her eyes. They meet Peter's. He grabs her hand. They dance a little. Peter's foot lands on hers.

CHARLIE

(laughing)

You're a terrible dancer.

PETER

I'm drunk.

CHARLIE

Somehow, I doubt it's any better when you're sober.

PETER

I can't believe how long it's been. I got used to seeing you every day.

CHARLIE

You're better off.

PETER

I doubt that.

They're very close now. Something could happen. One of them just has to make a move. Charlie stiffens.

CHARLIE

I have to go to the bathroom.

She frees herself from him and rushes to the bathroom.

BATHROOM

Charlie's on her cell phone. The sound of disco comes from the other end of the phone.

CHARLIE

(into the phone)

Amanda?

INT. AMANDA'S APARTMENT - THAT MOMENT

Amanda dances to disco in her underwear. She presses the "SPEAKER" button on the phone.

AMANDA

Hey, Charlie. I hear you're being bad.

Cutting between them:

CHARLIE

Fuckin' Timmy.

AMANDA

What's goin' on?

CHARLIE

Peter's not cheating. But I think he'd cheat with me.

AMANDA

How do you feel about that?

CHARLIE

I feel like a terrible person.

AMANDA

Why?

CHARLIE

Because I kinda want him to.

STEVE (O.S.)
Who are you talking to?

Amanda's dancing across from STEVE (30, terribly handsome).

CHARLIE
(from the phone)
Am I on speaker?

AMANDA
I'm hosting a dance party. I can't
be on the phone as host of such an
event.

CHARLIE
Dance party? Why wasn't I invited?

AMANDA
It's a two person party.

CHARLIE
Oh. HEY, GARTH.

Amanda stops dancing and picks up the phone.

AMANDA
(into the phone)
Did you fall down? Hit your head
at some point in the evening?

CHARLIE
What?

AMANDA
Garth is Monday, Wednesday and
Sunday. Thursdays are...

CHARLIE
That's right. Sorry. Steve. HI
STEVE.

AMANDA
Did you think I put you back on
speaker?

CHARLIE
My bust.

EXT. AMANDA'S APARTMENT BUILDING - MORNING

The Galaxie pulls up in front. Timmy gets out, stretches and
heads inside.

INT. AMANDA'S APARTMENT - MORNING

A knock at the door. Amanda answers. It's Timmy.

AMANDA
Hey. I'll be ready in a minute.

TIMMY
You talk to Charlie?

AMANDA
They went to a bar after the movie.

TIMMY
God dammit.

AMANDA
Nothing happened. Even though she kinda wishes something would. And considering how she's been for the last...

TIMMY
Five years.

AMANDA
That's kinda like progress.

TIMMY
Couldn't she just sign up for E-Harmony or some shit?

Timmy becomes distracted by something in Amanda's kitchen.

TIMMY
Is there a naked guy in your kitchen?

A NAKED GUY eyes the contents of Amanda's refrigerator.

AMANDA
You know Steve.

Steve turns around and gives Timmy quite a good look at the merchandise.

TIMMY
Better than I did before. Do you know if he's always been...?

AMANDA
Manscaped?

TIMMY

It makes it look bigger, right? I mean...that's what I've heard.

AMANDA

Yeah, no. That's a total myth. It just makes it look sad and lonely.

Timmy laughs.

AMANDA

I'll be right back.

Amanda walks off. Steve grabs her by the waist, pulls her close and kisses her. Her leg kicks back. Timmy watches, jealousy all over his face.

STEVE (O.S.)

Hey.

Timmy turns. Steve is suddenly right in front of him.

TIMMY

Hey, man.

STEVE

You're Timmy, right? Amanda talks about you all the time.

TIMMY

Oh. That's...

STEVE

It's great to finally meet you.

Steve hugs Timmy.

TIMMY

DUDE.

Steve pulls away. Timmy looks down and sees shaving cream residue on his pants.

TIMMY

Aww, man.

STEVE

Shit. I thought I got it all. I usually shower after.

TIMMY

Don't you have some...?

STEVE

What?

TIMMY

Pants?

STEVE

Does the male form make you
uncomfortable? I mean, it's just a
dick. A rod. A...

TIMMY

Johnson?

Steve backs up, as if to give Timmy a better view.

TIMMY

What are you...?
(calling out)
Amanda?

STEVE

Did I miss any spots? I get these
hairs on my shaft. Do you get
those? I usually tweeze them.
Don't want to cut my shaft.

Timmy looks. He throws up a little in his mouth.

TIMMY

Looks awesome.

STEVE

You're sure I didn't miss any...?

He thrusts his crotch towards Timmy.

TIMMY

You're thrusting. No thrusting.

Steve backs up, revealing Amanda. She's cracking up.

AMANDA

Am I interrupting?

INT. M & M INVESTIGATIONS - MORNING

Charlie, Amanda, Timmy and Janine sit around the conference
table. Timmy taps his pen on the table, incessantly.
Charlie reaches across, pulls the pen from his hand and
tosses it across the room.

CHARLIE
What's with you?

TIMMY
A naked man hugged me this morning.
Right after he'd been shaving his
junk. Then we had a conversation.
During which he had a chubby.

Amanda laughs.

TIMMY
Did I say something funny?

AMANDA
Are you really that freaked out
about this?

TIMMY
Me? I'm not the one dating the
guy.

AMANDA
I don't think what we do counts as
dating.

CHARLIE
Are you two done?

Timmy sighs, angrily.

CHARLIE
Where are we with Dr. Happy?

JANINE
The plastic surgeon?

INSERT: A gauzy, oddly sexual commercial for the plastic surgery practice of Dr. R.J. Happy. Elevator music plays as DR. HAPPY (55, hair plugs) encounters MODEL after MODEL. He styles their hair and makes lewd shapes with his hands.

CHARLIE
The very one.

TIMMY
Played tennis yesterday with what's
his name...Feldman...the lawyer.
No wives. No girlfriends.

CHARLIE
Locker room talk?

TIMMY

Twenty six minutes about the economy, the Celtics and a time share they're going in on in the Bahamas.

CHARLIE

Maybe we should start following the mistress. I mean, we've been following him for months and nothing. Either Mrs. Happy's super paranoid or her husband's really clever.

JANINE

You know who she is?

CHARLIE

Yeah.

JANINE

If Mrs. Happy knows her husband is cheating, why bother hiring you?

CHARLIE

Because she only thinks he's cheating with her. She needs proof. Without proof, it's just paranoia.

JANINE

How often are people wrong?

CHARLIE

In my experience. About 1 in 10.

AMANDA

Great odds, huh?

TIMMY

(directed at Amanda)

Waaaah. Statistics make me date douche nozzles. Waaaah.

Amanda glares at him. She almost says something but then stops herself. She leans across the table to Charlie.

AMANDA

Tell me something. And be honest. Have you been thinking about him this whole time? Like behind the whole, I'm the boss, we have work to do front...have you just been...?

Janine leans in.

JANINE
Are we talking about Peter Brandt?

Now Timmy leans in.

TIMMY
No. We're talking about Gary
Coleman and how despite getting
married, he remains a virgin.

JANINE
(to Charlie)
Wait. You're not a virgin, are
you?

CHARLIE
Timmy. You know Janine's always a
step behind. And yet you insist
on...

TIMMY
Admit it's funny.

JANINE
I'm not always a step behind.

CHARLIE
(to Amanda and Timmy)
Why are you two fighting?

AMANDA
We're not fighting. Are we
fighting?

Timmy puts on a fake smile, much to Amanda's chagrin.

TIMMY
What could we possibly have to
fight about?

M & M INVESTIGATIONS - MOMENTS LATER

Everyone exits the conference room.

JANINE
(to Charlie)
I'll get you all the Dr. Happy
files.

CHARLIE

Thanks, Janine.

(to Timmy and Amanda)

You two are on Mr. February?

AMANDA

Lunch with the fiancé. Told her he was booked all day after that.

We'll let you know.

EXT. RESTAURANT - DAY

Mr. February and his Fiancé enter, hand in hand. Photographs are taken. Click-click-click.

INT. GALAXIE - THAT MOMENT

Amanda lowers her camera. She and Timmy are parked across from the restaurant.

AMANDA

Y'know, I've dated nice guys. I want a nice guy.

TIMMY

No, you don't.

AMANDA

Because I don't want you? Jesus, Timmy. I'm your sister's best friend. Your parents call me their second daughter. I mean, we're practically related.

TIMMY

You've heard of shrinkage, right? What you just said...made my dick crawl back inside my body.

AMANDA

I doubt it was a very long journey.

TIMMY

You're just afraid to be hurt or disappointed.

AMANDA

Timmy...how many times are we going to have this same fight?

TIMMY

Until I win.

INT. PETER'S OFFICE - DAY

Peter's on the phone, flipping his ticket stub to "The Apartment" over and over again in his hand.

INT. M & M INVESTIGATIONS - THAT MOMENT

Charlie sifts through a box marked "DR. HAPPY." Her phone rings. It's Peter. She wants to ignore the call, but she can't.

CHARLIE
(into the phone)
Charlie Miles.

Cutting between them:

PETER
Hey.

CHARLIE
Hey, Peter.

PETER
So, look, I know you said you
couldn't help me with Valentine's
Day...and that's totally fine and I
completely understand, but...

CHARLIE
What?

PETER
I'm no good at buying jewelry. And
I know that's what Rebecca wants
and I just don't want to fuck up.
And if you could...

CHARLIE
Don't you have any other friends?

PETER
Guys. Just as lost as I am.

Charlie sighs.

CHARLIE
You free this afternoon?

PETER
You're a life saver.

CHARLIE

Lucky me.

EXT. RESTAURANT - DAY

Mr. February and his Fiancé kiss goodbye. They walk off in opposite directions.

INT. GALAXIE - THAT MOMENT

Amanda gets out of the car.

AMANDA

(to Timmy)

I'll call you.

She heads off after Mr. February.

INT. THE T - DAY

Mr. February is seated, reading Rules of the Game by Neil Strauss. Amanda is seated a few rows back, keeping an eye on him.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Amanda follows Mr. February. He enters an Enterprise Rent-A-Car. Amanda pulls out her phone and dials.

AMANDA

(into the phone)

Timmy. Enterprise Rent-A-Car.
Congress Street at Government
Center.

INT. GALAXIE - THAT MOMENT

Timmy starts the car, pulls out of his spot and speeds off.

EXT. STREET - LATER

Amanda spots the Galaxie. She waves him down. Timmy pulls up. She gets in.

INT. GALAXIE - THAT MOMENT

They've got a great view of the entrance and exit to the rental car lot. A Chrysler Sebring convertible comes to the lot's exit.

AMANDA

There he is. Chrysler Sebring convertible.

TIMMY

That's a douchebag car.

AMANDA

We're following a douchebag.

TIMMY

This is the business we've chosen.

Mr. February pulls out of the lot. They follow after him.

EXT. MASSACHUSETTS TURNPIKE - DAY

Mr. February's Chrysler Sebring convertible takes an exit off the turnpike. The Galaxie follows.

INT. GALAXIE - THAT MOMENT

They follow Mr. February as he turns into the lot of the Twin Pines Motel.

EXT. TWIN PINES MOTEL - THAT MOMENT

Mr. February parks. He gets out. Photographs are taken. Click-click-click.

He heads up the stairs to the second level. Photographs are taken. Click-click-click.

He walks to Room 206 and knocks. Photographs are taken. Click-click-click.

The door opens. A WOMAN IN LINGERIE answers. She wraps her arms around him and kisses him, feverishly. Photographs are taken. Click-click-click.

INT. GALAXIE - THAT MOMENT

Amanda lowers her camera.

TIMMY

What did he tell his fiancé?

AMANDA

That he had meetings the rest of the day.

TIMMY

Well, I guess that's kinda true.

INT. M & M INVESTIGATIONS - DAY

Charlie's headed for the door.

CHARLIE

Janine, I'm going out for a few hours.

JANINE

Where are you going?

CHARLIE

Don't ask.

JANINE

Saying that only makes me want to know more than I ever would have in the first place.

CHARLIE

Let's just say it reflects poorly on my decision making skills.

JANINE

Are you going somewhere with Peter?

CHARLIE

Jewelry shopping. For his girlfriend.

JANINE

Are you retarded?

CHARLIE

I might be.

JANINE

Are you planning on making a move? Y'know, to test him?

CHARLIE

No. He's not a cheater. If I actually did make a move, it'd probably ruin any slim chance I have.

JANINE

That's really sad.

CHARLIE

No. It's just really stupid.

INT. T STATION - DAY

Charlie and Peter wait for the train. Awkward silence. The train rumbles past and comes to a stop.

INT. THE T - DAY

The doors open. Charlie and Peter get on. There are no seats available. Charlie reaches for a bar to hold onto. Another WOMAN grabs the same bar. Charlie instantly notices the Woman's nail polish. It's chipped but it's clear that she has "NEW ENGLAND" spelled out in Patriots' colors (red, white and blue) on her nails. Charlie lets go of the bar, grabs Peter and heads towards the other end of the train car.

PETER

What's goin' on?

She pulls out her phone and dials.

INT. M & M INVESTIGATIONS - THAT MOMENT

The phone rings. Janine answers.

JANINE

(into the phone)

M & M Investigations.

Cutting between Charlie and Janine:

Charlie's focused on the Woman with the chipped nail polish.

CHARLIE

Janine, send me a picture of Dr. Happy's mistress.

PETER

The plastic surgeon? From TV?

Charlie nods to him.

PETER

Those commercials haunt my dreams.

Charlie laughs.

JANINE

He's funny. Funny's dangerous.

CHARLIE

Tell me about it.

Janine searches through photos of Patriots cheerleaders.

JANINE

Okay. You should have it.

Charlie receives the picture on her phone.

CHARLIE

Jackpot. She's on the train with me.

JANINE

You're kidding...

CHARLIE

What's the name of that nail place at the Galleria?

JANINE

Koko's?

CHARLIE

Yeah. Call them. Pretend you're her boss or something. Just confirm her appointment time.

JANINE

How do you...?

CHARLIE

Trust me, Janine. I'm good at this.

EXT. MALL PARKING LOT - DAY

Charlie and Peter follow Dr. Happy's Mistress.

CHARLIE

I just want to see where she goes. If she meets anyone. And then...

PETER

Don't worry about it. This is fun.

Peter hears footsteps behind them. He looks. A WOMAN (40, curvy, busting out of a pantsuit) is charging ahead.

PETER

(re: the Woman)

She means business.

Charlie turns to look.

CHARLIE

Oh fuck.

PETER

What?

CHARLIE

That's Mrs. Happy.

Charlie breaks from Peter and meets up with Mrs. Happy.

CHARLIE

Whatever it is you're planning to do here, whatever it is you think you're going to accomplish, just don't. Okay? Just turn around.

MRS. HAPPY

That'd be the right thing to do, wouldn't it?

CHARLIE

But you're not going to do that, are you?

MRS. HAPPY

I might be wrong. BUT AT LEAST I'M NOT A WHORE.

Dr. Happy's Mistress stops and turns around. Peter slowly backs out of the line of fire.

MISTRESS

Probably what you said to Jenny Craig after that shit just didn't work out.

MRS. HAPPY

Should've followed your lead, I guess, low carb diet of nothing but dick.

MISTRESS

I don't know why you're mad at me.
I'm not the one who hung the do not
disturb sign in front of your
pussy.

Mrs. Happy pulls a gun out of her purse and with her
trembling hand points it at her husband's Mistress.

MRS. HAPPY

Keep talking.

Charlie spies two MALL SECURITY GUARDS walking over.

CHARLIE

We're outside a Jamba Juice,
Marilyn. Do you want to go the
rest of your life being the Jamba
Juice Killer? Have a boost named
after you? Spend the rest of your
days in some 8x10 with some bitch
who looks like the ugly Indigo Girl
making you moisturize her thighs
every night? Over what? Some
asshole who-

Mrs. Happy fires. The bullet whizzes by Peter's head, taking
a large chunk of his left ear with it. Peter goes down.

CHARLIE

Peter!

Charlie rushes over to him.

PETER

I hear sirens.

CHARLIE

She shot you in the ear.

PETER

WHAT?

She grabs his hand.

CHARLIE

You're going to be okay.

PETER

If I die...

CHARLIE

You're not going to die.

PETER
I just want you to know...

CHARLIE
What?

PETER
That...

He turns his head and sees something that scares him. Charlie follows his eyes and sees the rest of Peter's ear lying nearby. Peter passes out. Charlie turns around and spies Mrs. Happy fumbling with the gun, trying to get it back in her bag.

CHARLIE
Marilyn, go get some ice from Jamba Juice.

Mrs. Happy heads towards Jamba Juice.

CHARLIE
And we're gonna need your car.

INT. MRS. HAPPY'S CAR - MOVING

Charlie drives. Peter lies down in back. Mrs. Happy's in the passenger seat holding up the bag of ice with the piece of Peter's ear in it.

INT. EMERGENCY ROOM - DAY

Peter (stoned on painkillers, sipping on a juicebox) gets his ear stitched back together. Charlie stands nearby.

CHARLIE
I think I'm gonna barf.

Charlie runs out.

EXT. TWIN PINES MOTEL - EARLY EVENING

Mr. February exits Room 206. Photographs are taken. Click-click-click.

INT. GALAXIE - THAT MOMENT

Timmy starts the car. They follow the Sebring out of the parking lot. Mr. February isn't taking the exit back to Boston.

TIMMY

Shut the fuck up. He's going for three.

They follow him back onto the Mass Pike, heading away from the city.

AMANDA

He's really not that hot. I don't get why so many chicks want to fuck him.

TIMMY

Word on the street is he's a vagina whisperer.

Amanda cracks up.

TIMMY

And, anyway, you're one to judge.

AMANDA

You're right. I did fuck you.

TIMMY

No you didn't.

AMANDA

You put it in.

TIMMY

For three seconds. And then you ran out of the room.

AMANDA

We were playing just the tip.

TIMMY

No. Playing, as it's defined by all other humans, lasts longer than three seconds. And, afterwards, the girl of your dreams doesn't run out of the room.

AMANDA

I'm the girl of your dreams?

TIMMY

No.

AMANDA

You just said it.

TIMMY
No I didn't.

Timmy tries to stay focused on the road. Amanda's gaze is fixed on Timmy.

INT. PETER AND REBECCA'S APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY

Charlie walks a still very stoned Peter down the hall.

PETER
(singing, badly)
'Cause tonight is the night. For
feeling alright. We'll be making
love the whole night through. So,
I'm saving all my love. Yes I'm
saving all my love. YES I'M
SHAVING OFF MY MUFF FOR YOU.

CHARLIE
My best friend sings it like that.

PETER
What do you mean, "like that?"

CHARLIE
Those aren't the lyrics. Whitney
isn't singing about shaving her
chocha.

PETER
She isn't?

Charlie laughs.

CHARLIE
No.

INT. GALAXIE - SUNSET

Mr. February turns off down a country road. Timmy drives a little further and then pulls off the highway a few moments later. Timmy and Amanda look back at the spot where Mr. February turned off.

INT. PETER AND REBECCA'S APARTMENT - SUNSET

Charlie walks to the bedroom. Peter's in his bed, still dressed, on top of the covers. Charlie puts a glass of water down on the bedside table.

CHARLIE
Are you okay? Do you need
anything? Because I'm gonna go.

Peter pats the space next to him in bed.

PETER
Just stay for a minute.

CHARLIE
I don't know.

PETER
Come on. Just for a minute.

Charlie lies down beside him.

PETER
Do you know I've never cheated on
anyone? Not even for revenge.
Y'know, do the whole thing where
you pretend not to know and then
just bang some random girl.

CHARLIE
Did you just say, bang?

PETER
Maybe.
(beat)
I got shot.

CHARLIE
I'm so sorry.

Peter holds her hand.

PETER
I'm not mad.

A moment passes. He's still holding her hand.

CHARLIE
What are we doing?

PETER
This doesn't count.

INT. GALAXIE - SUNSET

Timmy and Amanda drive past a "NO TRESPASSING" sign as they get deeper and deeper into the woods. They stop at a precipice that overlooks a valley.

Nestled in the valley is a newly built cabin. Mr. February's Chrysler Sebring convertible is parked out front.

AMANDA

This is a lair.

A beat. An awkward silence.

AMANDA

What if we fucked? Just got it out of the way. And then went back to being friends.

TIMMY

There's a problem with your plan.

AMANDA

What's that?

TIMMY

There's no way we would just fuck once.

AMANDA

Why not?

TIMMY

Because you don't do anything great just one time.

AMANDA

How do you know it would be great?

TIMMY

I know a few things.

EXT. CAFE - DAY - FLASHBACK

Amanda removes the top piece of bread from her sandwich. She removes the tomato. She pulls out a pocket knife, withdraws the blade and cuts the seeds out of the tomato.

TIMMY (V.O.)

I know that when you get tomato on a sandwich, you always cut the seeds out.

She shuts the knife. PUSH IN on the knife. Kappa Kappa Sigma is engraved on the side.

TIMMY (V.O.)

With the pocket knife you stole from your college boyfriend.

INT. AMANDA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

Amanda's in bed, masturbating, while reading Twilight.

TIMMY (V.O.)

I know you masturbate to novels
instead of porn.

INT. AMANDA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

A drawer full of colorful cocktail umbrellas.

TIMMY (V.O.)

I know you keep cocktail umbrellas
whenever you get them.

Amanda has a drink with an umbrella in it. She's in her pajamas, on her couch, watching "The Goonies."

TIMMY (V.O.)

And put them in your drinks at home
when you're feeling sad.

INT. GALAXIE - CONTINUOUS

TIMMY

And I know that if we fucked, we'd
want to make fucking our job.

She turns to him.

AMANDA

I'm going to kiss you now?

TIMMY

Yeah?

AMANDA

Don't get any ideas.

She kisses him. It's the kiss everybody waits for. They both hear the sound of a CAR PULLING UP. They part and watch as a black Volvo parks in front of the cabin. Amanda reaches for her camera.

Mr. February comes out of the cabin, holding a bottle of champagne. Photographs are taken. Click-click-click.

The door to the Volvo opens. And out steps Rebecca Abbot. Photographs are taken. Click-click-click.

TIMMY
Isn't that...?

AMANDA
Holy fucking shit.

Mr. February and Rebecca meet, embrace and kiss passionately. Photographs are taken. Click-click-click.

INT. CHARLIE'S APARTMENT BUILDING - NIGHT

Amanda and Timmy race towards Charlie's apartment. Amanda pounds on her door.

INT. CHARLIE'S APARTMENT - THAT MOMENT

Charlie sits in her walk-in closet. She's fairly despondent. A box holding her never-worn wedding dress rests in front of her. She's glaring at it. She hears a KNOCK AT THE DOOR. She grabs the box and puts it back on a high shelf and walks out, towards the door.

CHARLIE
Just a second.

She unlocks the door and opens it. Amanda and Timmy are mauling each other in the doorway.

CHARLIE
Finally!

Amanda and Timmy part.

AMANDA
You're never going to believe this?

CHARLIE
(re: Amanda and Timmy)
Really?

AMANDA
Oh. Not that. I mean, how long can I go on kidding myself?

TIMMY
Long enough.

They come inside. Charlie shuts the door.

AMANDA
Rebecca Abbot is a projector.

INT. PETER AND REBECCA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Peter wakes up. He looks over at the empty space beside him in bed. Not thinking, he rolls over on his stitched up ear.

PETER
(pained)
Fuck me in the nuts.

INT. M & M INVESTIGATIONS - NIGHT

Charlie's frantically gathering everything to do with Rebecca and Peter's case. Janine's at her side.

JANINE
I don't understand.

CHARLIE
A projector is a special kind of cheater. They're already cheating. But out of some kind of arbitrary fear that they'll be blamed when their blessed union is torn asunder...projectors accuse their partner of being the one who's cheating.

She's gathered everything together.

JANINE
What now?

CHARLIE
I don't know. This wasn't one of the options I had considered.

JANINE
But it's good, right? Now you and Peter can...

CHARLIE
I'd be his rebound.

JANINE
No. If he gets with you, then he got with the one that got away. And the one that got away can never be a rebound.

CHARLIE
Is that real or did you just make that up?

JANINE
I just made it up.

CHARLIE
Whatever. I like it.

Charlie's eyes turn to the big board behind Janine's desk. Every day is X'd except for Valentine's Day.

CHARLIE
On more day and it's all over.

JANINE
One more day and it all starts.

Charlie cringes.

JANINE
Too much?

CHARLIE
Lil' bit.

EXT. BOSTON - MORNING

Over the skyline, in big, bold, red letters:

V-DAY

EXT. BISTRO - MORNING

It's not open yet. And even it was, you couldn't get a table.

INT. BISTRO - MORNING

Following CARLOS (20, a busboy) through swinging doors into the empty kitchen. He goes to the back door and shoves it open, a gust of wintry air chilling him. Timmy's waiting out in the alley.

CARLOS
He just got here.

Timmy enters. Carlos shuts the door behind them. Timmy sits on a stool at a cooking station. Carlos goes back into the restaurant. Timmy pulls a manila envelope out from his jacket and places it down. Within moments, CHEF MICHAEL BARLOE (40s, graying, long hair) enters. He is not expecting to see Timmy.

CHEF BARLOE
Hello. May I help you?

TIMMY
You've got a really great
restaurant here.

CHEF BARLOE
Thank you.

TIMMY
Really hard to get a reservation.

CHEF BARLOE
Do I know you?

Timmy slides the manila envelope over to him.

CHEF BARLOE
What is this?

TIMMY
A Valentine's Day intervention.

Chef Barloe opens the envelope and pulls out a short stack of photographs. He flips through them. They're all of him and a young ASIAN WOMAN kissing in the Boston Common, in Harvard Square, in front of a movie theater, and on and on.

CHEF BARLOE
My wife hired you.

TIMMY
What gave it away?

CHEF BARLOE
Why are you showing me these?

TIMMY
I'm in a certain kind of mood right
now. I'm a guy in love. A guy in
love and a guy who wants a table
for two for tonight. Around eight.
Maybe by the window. And if that's
something you can make happen, I
can make these pictures disappear.
And we can tell your wife she has a
faithful, loving husband.

INT. CHARLIE'S APARTMENT - MORNING

Charlie pulls a bottle of champagne out of her fridge and
then leaves.

INT. M & M INVESTIGATIONS - MORNING

One CLIENT after another -- crying, screaming, cursing, laughing (bitterly, hysterically, maniacally), as they look at photographs and video of their PARTNERS caught in the act. And when it's all over and they're all gone, Charlie exhales.

CHARLIE
Happy Valentine's Day.

JANINE (O.S.)
You're clear now until Rebecca
Abbot at four.

She gets up and walks out of her office, past Janine who's picking out particular candy hearts and eating them.

JANINE
You ever notice how candy hearts
kinda taste like Pepto Bismol?

CHARLIE
I think that's intentional.

She opens the refrigerator and pulls out the bottle of champagne she brought from home. Janine notices.

JANINE
What's that for?

CHARLIE
I have a date.

Janine hurries over to Charlie.

JANINE
With Peter?

CHARLIE
Peter has a girlfriend, Janine.
Sure, she's a cheating whore. But
he doesn't know that yet. And
despite what you may think, I do
have some professional ethics.

JANINE
Then who's your date?

EXT. AMANDA'S APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY

Snow covered steps. Frosted windows. Over this, the SOUND OF A BUBBLING HOT TUB.

INT. AMANDA'S APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY

Charlie and Amanda are in a hot tub together. Amanda fills both of their glasses with champagne.

CHARLIE

I can't believe your building has a hot tub.

AMANDA

I know!

CHARLIE

You can never move.

They toast.

AMANDA

Happy Valentine's Day.

INT. AMANDA'S APARTMENT - LATER

The door opens. Charlie and Amanda enter, wrapped in towels, still sipping on champagne.

CHARLIE

Y'know, I still have the dress.

Amanda freezes.

AMANDA

What? You didn't burn it? Or at least return it for store credit? How did I not know about this?

CHARLIE

If...

AMANDA

If what?

CHARLIE

If what's scheduled to happen at four o'clock causes what I expect it to cause...

AMANDA

Are you saying what I think you're saying?

CHARLIE

I can't have a never worn...

AMANDA
Probably cursed...

CHARLIE
Probably cursed wedding dress in my
closet.

EXT. CHARLIE'S APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY

Charlie and Amanda stand in front of a flaming garbage can.
Charlie hugs Amanda.

CHARLIE
Thanks.

AMANDA
We all have to let go sooner or
later.

INT. PETER AND REBECCA'S APARTMENT - DAY

Peter's cleaning up. A knock at the door. Peter answers the
door. It's Charlie.

PETER
Hey, Charles.

CHARLIE
Hey.

PETER
Come on in.

She comes in. He closes the door behind them.

CHARLIE
How's the ear?

PETER
It's okay. The ringing stopped.
And if I hadn't rolled over on it
last night...

CHARLIE
She's cheating on you.

His mind comes to a screeching halt.

PETER
What did you just say?

CHARLIE

Rebecca hired me. To follow you.
And as it turns out. She's the one
who's cheating. She's a projector.
To cover her own ass, she accuses
you. That way, she figures if you
get sick of all the tension and
break it off, it won't be her
fault.

(beat)

I didn't know until last night.

Peter's silent.

CHARLIE

I know that this looks like a
really shitty situation. Your
girlfriend's cheating on you. And
I've been keeping things from you.
Important things. And you're stuck
with this feeling that every girl
you ever get involved with will
cheat on you or lie to you. Not
that...not that we're involved.
Anyway...what I'm saying is that
this might all be for the best.

PETER

Did you just give me the "for the
best" speech?

CHARLIE

What I'm trying to say is maybe
being newly single isn't the worst
thing that could ever happen to
you.

A long beat.

PETER

Does she know you know?

CHARLIE

No. I'm meeting with her in half
an hour. I wanted to tell you
first.

PETER

Can you go now?

CHARLIE

Oh.

PETER

I, uh, have to start making dinner.

CHARLIE

Okay...

Peter walks over to the door and opens it for her. She walks out. After a few steps, she turns around.

CHARLIE

Peter, I'm sorry.

He shuts the door.

INT. M & M INVESTIGATIONS - DAY

Rebecca sits across from Charlie. Rebecca looks through the pictures taken of her with Mr. February outside of the cabin.

REBECCA

Why were you following me?

CHARLIE

We weren't. We were following him.

REBECCA

What?

CHARLIE

Birds of a feather. His fiancé hired us.

REBECCA

Fiancé?

CHARLIE

What is that? You're cheating on your boyfriend of three years. A really great guy I might add. And you're morally offended by the idea that the guy you're cheating with might not be some white knight?

REBECCA

You think I'm a terrible person, don't you?

CHARLIE

No. I think you have shitty taste and some questionable judgement and those two things together make you seem kinda dumb overall, but I don't think you're terrible.

INT. PETER AND REBECCA'S APARTMENT - DAY

Peter heads for the door with a pair of packed bags. He opens the door. Rebecca's in the doorway, fumbling with her keys.

REBECCA

Peter. I'm so sorry.

PETER

That's nice.

He moves past her.

REBECCA

Stay. Please. So I can...

PETER

What? So, you can explain?
Because I don't really care why you
suck at life. I guess I should,
right? I mean, after all, I wasted
three years of my life with you.
But I just don't care. And the
more I think about it...

He gives her the finger.

PETER

That's all I have to say.

He turns and walks off.

INT. AMANDA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Amanda's getting ready. She's nervous. A KNOCK AT THE DOOR. She runs out of the bathroom, down the hall, to answer the door. It's Timmy.

AMANDA

You're early.

TIMMY

I'm always early.

She turns around.

AMANDA

Zip me up.

TIMMY

Y'know, this place isn't all that great. We could just skip dinner and...

She turns and kisses him.

AMANDA

Zip me up.

EXT. BISTRO - NIGHT

The Galaxie pulls up. The VALET hands Timmy his ticket and gets in the car. The door is opened for them. Amanda walks in. Timmy follows after her. Amanda reaches back and grabs Timmy's hand.

INT. BISTRO - NIGHT

Timmy and Amanda sit together, by the window.

AMANDA

This is weird.

TIMMY

Weird in a creepy way or weird in a good, sexy way?

AMANDA

A good, sexy way. Which is weird.

Timmy leans across the table and kisses her.

TIMMY

Still weird?

She shrugs and kisses him again.

INT. PETER AND REBECCA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Rebecca finds the makings of a romantic dinner set out on the kitchen counter, an unopened box of candles and a bottle of champagne in the fridge. Touched, she pulls out her phone and calls Peter.

INT. BAR - NIGHT

Peter's nursing a drink. Local news is on the TV above the bar:

NEWS ANCHOR

Coming up, Cheryl Hendricks live from Faneuil Hall, where a few thousand Bostonians are going to try to set a new world record.

Peter's phone rings. It's Rebecca calling. He ignores it.

INT. PETER AND REBECCA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Rebecca calls Peter's office.

INT. PETER'S OFFICE - THAT MOMENT

Peter's phone (which rests next to a Red Sox bobble-head doll) rings and rings. No one's there.

INT. BATTING CAGE - NIGHT

The pitching machine spits out baseballs. GUYS take their hacks. Rebecca looks for Peter, to no avail.

INT. BAR - NIGHT

Peter pays his tab and leaves.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Charlie's out for a walk, to clear her head. But her mind keeps returning to Peter.

INT. LEONARD, LEHMAN AND LOWE, LLP - DAY - FLASHBACK

Peter and Charlie stand together, looking out at the Boston skyline, sharing the same bag of Swedish fish. It's very comfortable.

INT. LEONARD, LEHMAN AND LOWE, LLP - DAY - FLASHBACK

Peter stands by Charlie's desk, a wrapped gift in his hand. He's debating whether or not to leave it there for her. He puts it on the desk and then removes it more than once.

INT. THE COOLIDGE CORNER THEATRE - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

Charlie and Peter watch "The Apartment" together. Charlie notices how close their hands are to touching.

INT. DIVE BAR - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

Peter and Charlie dance. They're very close.

INT. PETER AND REBECCA'S APARTMENT - SUNSET - FLASHBACK

Peter and Charlie lie in bed together. Peter's just had his ear stitched back together. He and Charlie hold hands.

CHARLIE

What are we doing?

PETER

This doesn't count.

INT. BAR - NIGHT

Rebecca enters the bar that Peter just left. She looks for him. On the TV above the bar:

Correspondent CHERYL HENDRICKS (sexpot, weird face lift) is in front of a large CROWD at Faneuil Hall.

CHERYL HENDRICKS

Tom, I'm here at Faneuil Hall, where in a few minutes, a few thousand Boston couples are going to kiss to celebrate Valentine's Day and attempt to set a world record in the process.

EXT. FANEUIL HALL - NIGHT

Cheryl Hendricks has just finished her remote. A few thousand PEOPLE are gathered behind her. Peter makes his way around the perimeter of the crowd. He spots a man in a Guinness World Records jacket. The GUINNESS REP is taking a head count.

PETER

What's going on?

GUINNESS REP
 Trying to set a world record.
 Largest number of people kissing
 simultaneously. It's going to be
 close.

EXT. STREET - THAT MOMENT

Charlie walks towards Faneuil Hall.

EXT. FANEUIL HALL - THAT MOMENT

Rebecca heads around the perimeter of the crowd.

Charlie's at the edge of the crowd now.

PETER (O.S.)

I...

Charlie's startled. Peter's right beside her.

PETER

...didn't think it would be this
 easy to sneak up on a detective.

CHARLIE

We're just like everybody else.

PETER

I hope not.

CHARLIE

(re: the crowd)
 What is this?

PETER

They're all swingers. In a couple
 of minutes, they're all gonna strip
 down and bump uglies, right here in
 front of the Crate and Barrel and
 the Auntie Anne's.

Charlie laughs.

CHARLIE

This is the thing I saw on the
 news, right? The kissing record or
 whatever?

PETER

Why'd you ask, if you knew?

CHARLIE
Your bullshit makes me laugh.

PETER
Happy to be of service.

CHARLIE
How are you?

PETER
Better now.

CHARLIE
Really? Why's that?

Their eyes meet.

PETER
Ever set a world record?

CHARLIE
Don't even.

PETER
Once they start, we're not going to
be able to control ourselves.
Kissing is contagious.

CHARLIE
Like yawning?

PETER
Like sexy yawning.

CHARLIE
If I'm going to kiss you, I'm not
doing it at, uh, Mardi Gras.
That's not...

Peter pulls her close and kisses her. She melts and then kisses him back, passionately. PULL OUT to reveal the massive crowd of KISSING COUPLES behind them. And Rebecca, standing only a few feet away, staring at Peter and Charlie. She's PISSED.

INT. CHARLIE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

The lights are off. The door opens. Peter and Charlie kiss in the doorway. They stumble inside, taking off each other's clothes. Peter slips his pants off and walks away from them. His cell phone vibrates in the back pocket.

INT. PETER AND REBECCA'S APARTMENT - THAT MOMENT

Rebecca's on the phone.

REBECCA
 (into the phone)
 So, who cheated first? Me or you?

INT. THE T - DAY

Peter and Charlie kiss -- underground and above ground.
 EFFECT: See through his back pocket. His phone's ringing.
 It's Rebecca.

INT. CHARLIE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

They make out on the couch. Peter's cell phone vibrates on the coffee table. It's Rebecca calling.

INT. GALAXIE - MORNING

It's parked on a tree lined, residential street. Charlie is in the driver seat, camera in her lap. Peter is at her side. They both hear his cell phone vibrating.

CHARLIE
 Maybe you should answer.

PETER
 Is this a test? Like, if I say
 yes, you'll get mad. Or if I say,
 no...

CHARLIE
 It's not a test.

PETER
 I'm done. It's over. She'll let
 go eventually. She just can't
 handle someone walking out on her.

CHARLIE
 Here we go.

Charlie grabs her camera. A MIDDLE-AGED MAN (rumped suit, slept-on hair) exits a brownstone and heads down the street.

CHARLIE
 Walk of shame.

Charlie snaps photograph after photograph of him. The final shot is a close-up of the part of his shirt that's sticking out of his zipped up fly. Charlie leans over to Peter and kisses him.

CHARLIE

Let's go.

She starts the car.

INT. CHARLIE'S APARTMENT - LATER

Charlie strides down the hallway. She pulls her shirt off over her head, looking back at Peter for just a second, with a seductive, coy smile. Peter follows after her, struggling to walk and get his pants off at the same time.

Later, Charlie and Peter lie together, post-sex.

CHARLIE

I need to ask you something.

PETER

What?

CHARLIE

Remember that birthday gift you never gave me? From back in the day?

PETER

Yeah.

CHARLIE

You don't still have it do you?

PETER

No. Why?

CHARLIE

I've just always been curious what it was.

PETER

It wasn't anything special.

CHARLIE

I just regret...y'know, never seeing you for...

He kisses her.

PETER
The past is the past.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Charlie and Amanda walk together. Peter and Timmy walk together behind them.

TIMMY
What about Haverbrook?

PETER
He's good. Three pitches. Real good change-up. Probably start at Double-A.

TIMMY
What if we need a lefty down the stretch?

PETER
We might. But if that means we have to lean on a 19 year old kid who just learned to actually pitch a year ago and not just wind up and hurl it as hard as he could, we have bigger problems.

Timmy nods in agreement.

TIMMY
Charlie, he knows his shit.

Charlie smiles.

CHARLIE
He likes me, doesn't he?

AMANDA
Everybody's got a blind spot.

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Peter, Charlie, Timmy and Amanda sit together, all of them deciding what to order, joking, having a good time. A WAITER serves them their drinks. FOLLOW him as he walks away, passing a table where Rebecca sits, seething, as she watches Charlie whisper in Peter's ear.

BATHROOM - LATER

Charlie and Amanda check themselves out in the mirror.

AMANDA
So, how is it?

CHARLIE
What?

AMANDA
The sex. You are having sex,
aren't you? You're not just
cuddling and talking about exes
until two in the morning?

CHARLIE
The first time...

INT. CHARLIE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

Peter and Charlie have sex.

CUT TO:

CHARLIE'S APARTMENT - LATER - FLASHBACK

Peter and Charlie lie next to each other.

SUPER TITLE: ONE MINUTE AND TWENTY THREE SECONDS LATER

CHARLIE (V.O.)
Didn't exactly last very long.
But...

PETER AND CHARLIE SEX MONTAGE:

A series of shots of Charlie and Peter having sex. Different positions. Different locations. Quickies. Trying out things they find in a Kama Sutra book. Romantic, intimate moments. Peter making Charlie laugh, afterwards.

INT. RESTAURANT - BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

CHARLIE
Practice makes perfect.

AMANDA
When will it not be weird for me to
tell you...?

CHARLIE
About your sex life with my
brother?

AMANDA
Yeah.

CHARLIE
Two thousand and never.

AMANDA
You realize I'm eventually going to
break down and just tell you and
then I won't be able to stop?

CHARLIE
Well aware. I'm just trying to
delay the inevitable.

They exit. Rebecca emerges from a stall. She's even more
pissed than she was before.

REBECCA
Nobody steals from me.

INT. CHARLIE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Charlie and Peter lie in bed together.

PETER
Alright, F, Marry, Kill.

CHARLIE
I get to F one person, marry one
person and kill one person?

PETER
Out of three people I choose.

CHARLIE
I don't get to choose them.

PETER
No. If you choose them, it's not a
game.

CHARLIE
Okay.

PETER
Your neighbor who's into leather.

INT. CHARLIE'S APARTMENT BUILDING - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

A MAN IN LEATHER CHAPS pounds on a door.

MAN IN LEATHER CHAPS
LET ME IN. THIS ISN'T FUNNY.

PULL OUT to reveal Charlie and Peter standing nearby, at the top of the stairs, gawking at him.

CHARLIE
Actually it kind of is.

INT. CHARLIE'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

CHARLIE
I had just gotten the image of his chunky butt out of my mind. Thank you.

PETER
The guy you caught the other day, making the walk of shame.

CHARLIE
Snodgrass?

PETER
His name's Snodgrass? That's even better.

Charlie thinks about it and shudders.

CHARLIE
Yeesh.

PETER
And the pretty guy at your coffee place.

INT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY - FLASHBACK

Meet the PRETTY GUY at Charlie's coffee place. There's an angelic glow around him. He's like the slightly hotter, but much less successful fourth Jonas brother.

INT. CHARLIE'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

CHARLIE
I wasn't flirting with him.

PETER
He's very pretty. It's like a
freebie.

CHARLIE
You don't get any freebies.

PETER
I know I don't. Okay. Decide.
Who are you F-ing, who are you
marrying and who's getting the
heave-ho off the cliff?

CHARLIE
I have to marry pretty coffee boy.

PETER
Obviously.

CHARLIE
And I guess I'm going with
Snodgrass and kicking chunky butt
right off the cliff.

PETER
Sick.

She gets on top of him.

CHARLIE
I should throw you off the cliff.

PETER
I wasn't one of your options.

CHARLIE
I wouldn't throw you off a cliff.

PETER
I was worried.

CHARLIE
Don't get too comfortable.

PETER
Be gentle.

She kisses him.

INT. CABIN - NIGHT

Mr. February slouches on his couch in a ratty bathrobe and
Valentine's Day boxers, watching TV. His cell phone rings.

He perks up. It's Rebecca calling. He unsuccessfully tries to calm himself down and then answers.

MR. FEBRUARY
 (into the phone)
 Hello?

REBECCA
 (from the phone)
 I need your help.

MR. FEBRUARY
 (into the phone)
 Anything.

INT. RED SOX OFFICES - NIGHT

A pre-season party, in full swing. Peter shows Charlie off, but he's really the one that shines. He's in his element. He knows everyone and everyone knows and likes him.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

A non-descript van moves along at a decent clip.

INT. VAN - MOVING

JOEY GRECO (smarmy host of TV's "Cheaters") has a camera fixed on him. Rebecca's sitting next to him.

INSERT: Video footage.

JOEY GRECO
I'm Joey Greco from Cheaters.
Rebecca has long suspected her
boyfriend of cheating. And
tonight, she's finally going to
confront him.

EXT. RED SOX OFFICES - NIGHT

Peter and Charlie exit together and walk towards the Galaxie.

CHARLIE
 That was fun.

PETER
 For you. I see those people every
 day.

Charlie gets into the Galaxie. Peter doesn't. He watches the Cheaters van speed into the parking lot and come to an abrupt stop just a few feet from him. The van's side door slides open. Joey Greco, TWO CAMERAMEN and Rebecca exit. Peter quickly realizes what's happening.

PETER
(to Rebecca)
Are you fucking high?

The Cameramen surround him.

JOEY GRECO
Peter, I'm Joey Greco from Cheaters. Do you have any explanation for what you're doing here with this woman?

PETER
Are you fucking crazy? I work here.

JOEY GRECO
Can you explain to Rebecca...?

Charlie rolls down the window.

CHARLIE
Don't make me get out of this car, Greco.

JOEY GRECO
Oh, hi, Charlie. Long time no see.

PETER
You actually know each other?

JOEY GRECO
We go way back.

CHARLIE
Greco's been giving a bad name to my profession before it was even my profession. Oh and I fucking hate him.

JOEY GRECO
Feeling's mutual, bitch.

Charlie gets out of the car.

CHARLIE
What did I tell you the last time we crossed paths?

REBECCA

(to Peter)

This. This is who you left me for?
Really?

CHARLIE

(to Joey)

What did I tell you?

JOEY GRECO

That I'd need a good dentist when
you were done with me.

Charlie's right arm is down at her side. Her hand curls into a fist.

CHARLIE

Martin. Forman. DDS.

INT. CITY LOCK-UP - NIGHT

Charlie sits on a bench. Her cell door is SLAMMED SHUT.

INT. CHRYSLER SEBRING - MORNING

Mr. February and Rebecca are together up front. They're parked across from City Lock-Up. Peter's standing outside.

MR. FEBRUARY

Sorry that didn't work out. I
forgot Charlie and Greco had beef.

REBECCA

I appreciate the effort.

MR. FEBRUARY

But this'll work. She'll come out
over there.

He points to a door at the opposite end of the building from where Peter stands.

MR. FEBRUARY

So, we just have to time it right.

He hands her an earpiece. She puts it in.

REBECCA

We're like spies.

MR. FEBRUARY

I'll signal you.

She kisses him.

INT. CITY LOCK-UP - MORNING

Charlie is handed her belongings by a STERN FEMALE OFFICER.

INT. CITY LOCK-UP - MORNING

Peter waits. Suddenly, his expression turns. Rebecca's coming his way.

PETER

Get the fuck away from me.

REBECCA

I want to talk to you. I want to explain.

PETER

I'm not really interested in doing that.

REBECCA

Three years together and you just walk out at the first sign of trouble?

PETER

Penises that aren't mine being inside you is a little more than a bump in the road.

REBECCA

How can you just give up on us? We're good together. Don't you remember that weekend in Montreal? Weekends like that don't just happen.

PETER

Yes they do. All the time. It's the rest of it that doesn't happen.

Charlie exits the building.

INT. CHRYSLER SEBRING - THAT MOMENT

Mr. February spots Charlie. He pulls out a walkie-talkie.

MR. FEBRUARY
 (into the walkie-talkie)
 Here she comes.

EXT. CITY LOCK-UP - THAT MOMENT

Rebecca subtly looks behind her and spies Charlie.

REBECCA
 Well, I'm not giving up on us.

PETER
 You're just procrastinating.

REBECCA
 I love you.

PETER
 No, you don't. You just can't
 stand that I don't love you
 anymore.

She kisses him and simultaneously grabs his junk. He should be pushing her away but he's not. Finally, Peter opens his eyes. Charlie's standing just a few feet away. She turns around and heads for the Galaxie. Peter pushes Rebecca away.

REBECCA
 (after Charlie)
He kissed me.

Peter looks back at her with disgust. Charlie fumbles with her keys as she tries to get into the car. Peter rushes over to her.

PETER
 She kissed me. I didn't kiss her
 back.

CHARLIE
 You dead lipped her?

PETER
 What else was I supposed to do?

CHARLIE
 You're a grown ass man, Peter. You
 could've pushed her away.

PETER
 Charles...

CHARLIE
Don't call me that.

PETER
We're talking about seconds, here.
SECONDS.

She's not hearing it.

PETER
You've been waiting for this,
haven't you?

CHARLIE
Waiting for what?

PETER
An easy out. That way you can go
back to thinking that everything
sucks.

CHARLIE
No. We're not talking about
everything. We're talking about
this. And this sucks. It's too
messy. Too complicated.

PETER
Good luck finding something that
isn't. You're seriously doing
this, aren't you? You. You who
hasn't dated anyone for five years.
You bring that baggage to the table
and I'm cool with it. But I
can't...I can't have one psychotic
ex-girlfriend with a flair for the
dramatic.

CHARLIE
Stop joking around.

PETER
Let it go.

CHARLIE
What?

PETER
Just let it go.

CHARLIE
I don't know how to do that.

She gets in the car. She turns the engine over. Peter's standing in front of the car.

PETER

Charlie, don't do this. If this doesn't work out, let it be because we failed, not because of your past or mine.

CHARLIE

Get out of the way.

PETER

Please.

CHARLIE

Get out of the way, Peter

He steps aside. She speeds off.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Peter lies in his bed. He's miserable. He repeatedly pokes at his stitched-up ear.

PETER

OW. OW. OW. OW.

INT. CHARLIE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Charlie's in her bed. She's equally miserable.

INT. AMANDA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Amanda and Timmy are playing Wii tennis.

AMANDA

Yeah, bitch. How ya like me now?

Timmy wins the point. He laughs. Amanda's dejected.

TIMMY

We have to work on your trash talk. It's mostly a timing issue.

AMANDA

You want a re-match?

TIMMY

I've beaten you eight straight times. Do you want a re-match?

Amanda's cell phone rings. She sees that it's Peter calling.

AMANDA
Should I answer it?

TIMMY
Yes.

AMANDA
Charlie might get mad.

Timmy shrugs.

TIMMY
Let her.

Amanda takes the call.

AMANDA
(into the phone)
Peter?

INT. HOTEL ROOM - THAT MOMENT

Peter sits at the edge of the bed.

PETER
(into the phone)
I know what to do to get her back.

Cutting between them:

AMANDA
(to Timmy)
He has a plan.

TIMMY
Aww shit. P-Diddy's got a plan.

PETER
I need your help.

INT. GALAXIE - MORNING

Amanda is parked across from Charlie's building. Peter's with her.

AMANDA
Timmy's got her on some dead-end stakeout.

Charlie exits the building and walks off. Peter gets out and goes behind the car. Amanda pops the trunk.

INT. CHARLIE'S APARTMENT - MORNING

Peter and Amanda enter with their arms full of grocery bags. They put them down. Peter then pulls out a wrapped box, the same one he never gave Charlie five years ago. Amanda eyes it.

AMANDA

She's gonna lose her shit.

PETER

I hope so.

AMANDA

Can I just say, though. That is not an appropriate gift to give an engaged woman.

PETER

What do you want from me? I was in love. I thought it'd cause one of those moments where the person realizes what they've been missing.

AMANDA

That doesn't happen too often.

PETER

It happened with you and Timmy, right?

AMANDA

Touché.

PETER

I just hope it happens today.

Amanda crosses her fingers.

AMANDA

Fingers and toes.

She kisses him on the cheek and leaves.

EXT. ROOFTOP - MORNING

Charlie's at the edge, camera in hand. A steaming cup of Dunkin' Donuts coffee on the ledge.

INT. M & M INVESTIGATIONS - MORNING

Timmy sits on the edge of Janine's desk, holding a tracphone.

JANINE
I don't know, Timmy.

TIMMY
Just call and tell her there's been
a break-in at her building and she
needs to come back right away.

JANINE
Won't she know it's me?

TIMMY
No. You'll be using this.

He hands her the tracphone.

JANINE
Whose phone is this?

TIMMY
It's a tracphone. Often used by
shady characters. Like detectives
or drug dealers.

JANINE
I don't know.

TIMMY
You won't get fired.

JANINE
Promise?

TIMMY
Sure.

JANINE
Comforting.

She dials Charlie's number.

EXT. ROOFTOP - THAT MOMENT

Charlie's phone rings. She answers it.

CHARLIE
(into the phone)
Charlie Miles.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

(beat)

WHAT?

INT. CHARLIE'S APARTMENT BUILDING - MORNING

Charlie rushes up the stairs. She charges towards her apartment.

INT. CHARLIE'S APARTMENT - THAT MOMENT

Charlie bursts in. She stops. She smells something. And then Peter appears at the opposite end of the hall, hiding the gift behind his back. He's in pajamas.

CHARLIE

What's that smell?

PETER

That's lunch. It comes...

CHARLIE

Between breakfast and dinner.

(beat)

There wasn't a break-in was there?

PETER

It was your secretary who called.

CHARLIE

Fuckin' temp agency.

He reveals the gift.

CHARLIE

What is that? Is that...?

She inches closer and closer to him.

CHARLIE

Why are you wearing pajamas?

He hands her the gift.

PETER

Open it.

She takes it from him. She unwraps it. It's a VHS tape.

CHARLIE

What is this?

PETER

Put it in.

She walks into the living room. She puts the VHS into the VCR and presses "PLAY." The tape plays old local news footage of a blizzard. Announcing road closures, school cancellations, etc.

CHARLIE

Oh my God.

Charlie takes in the room now. The curtains are drawn. Candles are lit. There's a stack of DVDs on the coffee table.

CHARLIE

You gave me a snow day.

PETER

From here on out, today is officially Snow Day. We take off from work, stay in, cook, watch a bunch of shitty movies, put a puzzle together, I don't know. All I do know is it comes with no baggage. Because it's ours and no one else's. We don't need Valentine's Day. We don't need any of that shit. That's for the rest of them. We have Snow Day.

She wraps her arms around him and they kiss.

CHARLIE

There's just one problem.

PETER

What?

CHARLIE

I still really want to punch you.

PETER

Oh, that's...

CHARLIE

I think I'll feel better afterwards.

PETER

What happens after you punch me?

Charlie whispers something in his ear.

PETER
I'm pickin' up what you're puttin'
down.

CHARLIE
Want to get it out of the way?

PETER
You're serious?

CHARLIE
One last thing to let go of.

PETER
Okay.

He backs away from her slightly, preparing for the punch.

CHARLIE
This might hurt.

Charlie punches him. He stumbles. Charlie catches him and pulls him close.

PETER
Happy Snow Day.

They kiss.

FADE OUT.

Credits roll over the local news footage on the Snow Day VHS.