BETWEEN FRIENDS

written by
David A. Washington
FADE IN:

INT. ISLANDS RECREATION CENTER—GYM—DAY

A youth girls basketball TEAM runs laps around an empty gym.

Their coach, KEVIN WALKER, 26, medium height and build, stands in the center of the court, while holding a basketball.

KERI, a tough and gritty 9 year old, cuts across the line. Kevin notices this.

KEVIN
Keri, stay on the outside of the lines and stop cutting the floor.

KERI
(out of breath)
But my legs hurt and I'm tired.

KEVIN
I know. I'm tired too. Keep running.

The girls GRUMBLE, but continue to run.

KERI
Ah-- man.

Moments later, Kevin BLOWS his whistle and the girls sprint towards him.

The girls form a circle around him. They stand with their hands on their hips, or they slump over, out of breath.

KEVIN
ACE. Attitude, Commitment and Effort is the formula for success. Your success in basketball and in life will depend heavily on your attitude... the type of person you are. No one wants to be around a jerk.

He eyes every player. The players focus attentively.

KEVIN
You have to be committed. Set goals and work hard to achieve them, with all of the effort you have. Then you can achieve great success. Now, what's the most important thing about basketball?
TEAM
TEAM WORK!

KEVIN
What do we do when we're on offense?

TEAM
SHARE THE BALL!

KEVIN
And when we're on defense?

THE TEAM
HELP EACH OTHER OUT!

KEVIN
All right, everybody in.

The girls tighten the circle.

Kevin extends the basketball and each girl touches it with one hand.

KEVIN
Team on three. One, two, three!

KEVIN AND TEAM
TEAM!

Everyone goes their separate way.

Keri grabs a ball and continues to shoot around, with a couple of teammates.

ALICIA, 10 years old, tugs at Kevin's arm. She looks upset.

ALICIA
Coach, can I talk to you?

KEVIN
Sure, Alicia. Let's go to my office.

INT. ISLANDS RECREATION CENTER - KEVIN'S OFFICE- CONTINUOUS

The walls are clear of debris, except for a calendar that hangs on the wall by Kevin's desk. A computer desk sets in the corner, facing the doorway.

Kevin reclines in his desk chair. Alicia sits opposite of him.
KEVIN
Now, what's this about?

ALICIA
Well, I don't...

KEVIN
Just spit it out, Alicia. You can tell me anything.

She sighs, gets up and paces the floor.

ALICIA
I... I can't afford the team shoes. My dad lost his job and he said that money was tight--

KEVIN
--Listen to me. Everything is going to be okay. We'll work something out. Don't worry. What's your shoe size?

ALICIA
Size five.

She sheds a tear.

Kevin gets up and walks around the table.

KEVIN
Hey, listen to me. Don't cry. Just keep playing and practicing hard. Everything will work out. Trust me.

He gives her a convincing smile.

She nods and gives him a hug.

ALICIA
Thanks, coach.

KEVIN
Don't mention it. Now, go get some tissue and dry your eyes.

She scurries off and Kevin stares beyond the doorway.
EXT. RIVER FRONT PLAZA- THE WEIGHT ROOM- DAY

Cars are parked throughout a large parking lot. The businesses are aligned like a horseshoe.

A sign hangs over a business states, "THE WEIGHT ROOM." A red Honda Civic is parked in front.

INT. HONDA CIVIC

KARLA EDWARDS, 25, hugs and kisses JOE, mid 20's, who looks like the body-builder type.

Karla is medium in complexion and has long hair.

JOE
I'll talk to you later.

KARLA
Call me before three, or after eleven. I have to work tonight.

JOE
Sure thing, babe.

The man exits the vehicle.

KARLA
Bye.

The man looks back and waves. He turns and continues towards The Weight Room.

She undresses him with her eyes, as he enters the building. She drives away with a blissful smile.

EXT. CITY STREETS- CONTINUOUS

Karla drives on a lonely road that stretches through a green terrain.

EXT. ISLAND RECREATION CENTER - CONTINUOUS

Karla's car pull in to the lot and parks in a space.

INT. KARLA'S CAR- CONTINUOUS

She continues to glow as she tightens up in the rear view mirror, grabs her purse and exits the car.
INT. ISLAND RECREATION CENTER- HALLWAY- CONTINUOUS

Karla waltzes through the double doors. Her brilliant red dress highlights every curve of her body.

She walks a short distance to Kevin's office. She finds him reclined in his desk chair. His hands cover his face.

She KNOCKS on the door and walks in.

KEVIN'S OFFICE-

KARLA

Kevin, is everything okay?

He sits up.

KEVIN

Oh, hey. Um. No, it's not. One of the parents lost their job and can't afford the team shoes. So, now I gotta buy shoes. Another gift to put under the Christmas tree.

KARLA

That's sweet. You know Kevin, you really go far and beyond. They should build a shrine for you... put you up on one of those billboards... give you a key to the city.

KEVIN

No. That won't be necessary. To see them go on and be successful in life is recognition and thanks enough for me. So, how was your day?

She sits in the folding chair.

KARLA

Good. I spent most of it with Joe.

Kevin frowns at this. He gets up and puts a folder in the file cabinet.

KEVIN

Oh-- that's great. Break out the balloons and the confetti. Yippy.
KARLA
Come on, Kevin. You're always giving Joe a hard time.

He slides the cabinet door SHUT, then turns to her.

KEVIN
That's because he's an idiot and he's going to break your heart.

She gets up. Kevin retreats to his chair.

KARLA
You know, you've said that about every guy I've dated since middle school.

KEVIN
And how many times have I wrong?

KARLA
Well-- that's beside the point. I just wish that you could support me, you know?

KEVIN
Look, I'm sorry, okay. Maybe I've been a little hard on Joe. I don't think I have, but maybe I have. So, I'll try to be nice.

Karla's eyes widen and a growing smile consumes her face. She rounds the desk and embraces him.

KARLA
Oh-- thank you, thank you. I knew I could count on you. You're the best.

KEVIN
Wait a minute. Don't get too excited, here. I'm only tolerating him because of you... he's gonna end up hurting you. I-- I just wish you could see that.

KARLA
You know, you should really think about following your own advice.

KEVIN
And what's that supposed to mean?

The front door OPENS.
KARLA
Oh-- speak of the devil.

KEVIN
What?

Kevin glances towards the front door and spots TIFFANY, (20's). Tiffany fits the profile of a model. She makes her way to Kevin's office.

TIFFANY
Hello, everyone. Tiffany has just entered the building. Bow before me as I grace you with my presence.

Karla sighs.

KARLA
(scoffs)
No.

KEVIN
Tiff.

TIFFANY
Kevin, darling.

Kevin gets up and gives Tiffany a kiss.

KARLA
Hiya-- Tiff. So nice of you to drop by. We were just about to talk about you.

TIFFANY
(giggles)
Oh yeah? What about?

KARLA
He was just telling me how beautiful and... talented... and smart you are.

TIFFANY
(continues)
Really?

Kevin nods in approval.

KARLA
No... not really.

He awkwardly laughs.
KEVIN
She's kidding. In fact, I was about to suggest to her that we go on a double date with her and Joe.

Tiffany eyes Karla, who hides her outrage.

KEVIN
Isn't that right, Karla?

KARLA
Well, Um -- Yeah. Sure. I think that would be great. To give everyone a chance to get to know one another, you know what I mean?

Karla taunts Kevin with a devilish grin.

Tiffany stands unconvinced.

KEVIN
Yeah. I know what you mean.

TIFFANY
(to Kevin)
We need to talk.

Karla looks at her watch and grabs her purse.

KARLA
I think I'll be going now.

TIFFANY
Oh-- leaving so soon?

KARLA
(to Tiffany)
Errands.
(to Kevin)
Talk to you later.

Karla walks away.

KEVIN
Count on it.

Tiffany watches her leave in confusion. She turns to Kevin.

TIFFANY
Am I missing something, here?

KEVIN
What?

Tiffany's eyes narrow and Kevin releases a small grin.
TIFFANY
You're sleeping with her. I just know it. I can tell by the way she looks at you.

KEVIN
Excuse me?

TIFFANY
Well, you can have her. I came by here to break up with you, Kevin.

A moment of silence as Kevin stands in shock.

He walks slowly, then sits behind his desk.

TIFFANY
Well, don't you have anything to say?

KEVIN
(shrugs)
Okay. I can live with that.

Tiffany leans across the desk and SLAPS Kevin in the face. One of Kevin's players notices this and scampers away.

KEVIN
Ow!

TIFFANY
So, you are sleeping with her?!

KEVIN
What the hell's the matter with you?

She SLAPS him again.

TIFFANY
(appalled)
How dare you curse at me?

KEVIN
Hey, you slap me again, I'll--

Tiffany's mouth opens wide. She SLAPS him once more.

By this time, Kevin's entire team stands at the door. The girls stare at Tiffany angrily.
EXT. ISLAND RECREATION CENTER - DAY

A LOUD ROAR, as Kevin's team chases Tiffany out of the building. Her hair stands disheveled, with noticeable patches of hair missing.

Alicia and Keri have pieces of Tiffany's hair in their hand.

Kevin surfaces from the building.

KEVIN
Hey-- get back in here. How many times have I told you that you have to be respectful to adults?

KERI
But she was hitting you. Why are you mad with us?

ALICIA
You are the one who always tell us to stick together.

KEVIN
On the basketball court. Not going around beating people up like a bunch of thugs. Everyone inside. Now. And give me that.

Alicia and Keri give him Tiffany's hair. Everyone goes inside.

Kevin looks at the hair and shakes his head. He throws it in the garbage and enters the building.

INT. KEVIN AND KARLA'S APT - LIVING ROOM- NIGHT

The living room suit is blue. An oak wood coffee table sets in front of the couch.

A flat screen TV and home entertainment system are angled in the corner.

Kevin and Karla sit on the couch and eat their meal.

KARLA
That's horrible. She better be glad I wasn't there. I would have kicked her teeth in.

KEVIN
That's okay. The girls chased her away.
KARLA
Are you serious?

KEVIN
Yeah. And to tell you the truth, it kinda felt good to see them stick up for me.

KARLA
Well, good for them.

KEVIN
She also seems to think that you and I have this thing going.

KARLA
That's because she is a ding-bat.

KEVIN
Don't you think you're being a little harsh?

KARLA
Come on, Kevin. Tiffany is about as deep as a puddle of water.

Kevin considers this and nods in agreement.

KEVIN
You're right. She's not the brightest bulb on the Christmas tree.

KARLA
Worst. She's the one light that never blinks.

He stares at the table.

KEVIN
Thank you, for pointing that out. God-- I feel like such an idiot.

Karla puts her arm around him. He leans on her shoulders.

KARLA
Listen to me, Kevin. You are an amazing guy, but your problem is that you always go for the cheerleader type.

Kevin pulls back.
KEVIN
What are you talking about? I've never dated a cheerleader.

KARLA
I think you're missing the point. For as long as I can remember, you've always been attracted to the prettiest, most popular, stuck up, prissy, girls and unfortunately, those are the type of women who manipulate and walk all over people to get where they're going in life.

He becomes distant.

KARLA
You have to stop judging the cover of a book before reading the pages. Do I need to call in sick?

KEVIN
No. I'll be fine. Really. Thank for putting things into perspective.

Kevin gets up, walks to his room and shuts the door. Karla's room is opposite from his.

INT. NURSING HOME- NURSES STATION- NIGHT

Karla, along with LOUISE and ROCHELLE, both in their 20's, congregate at the nurses station.

Karla stands at the counter and jots something in a patient's file.

Louise sits in a chair, while Rochelle stands beside Karla.

LOUISE
No.

ROCHELLE
Yeah-- girl. She's the best beautician in town.

LOUISE
I don't know about that, but she did one hell of a job on your head.

Karla looks at Rochelle.
KARLA
I think it looks great.

ROCHELLE
Thank you. I just hope Terrell likes it.

LOUISE
Probably not, but it's hard to say. Men are such assholes, sometimes.

ROCHELLE
You're right, but Terrell is one of the good ones.

LOUISE
Well-- Willie is a moron, but he's my moron. I just hate the way he snores. I mean, all-night-long...

Louise imitates the way Willie snores. Karla and Rochelle laugh at this.

LOUISE
...Why do you think I work night shift?

KARLA
Well, I'm still trying to figure out Joe. He's mysterious and appeals to my curiosity.

A light appears on the switchboard, accompanied by a BEEPING.

Louise looks at the switchboard.

LOUISE
Karla, that's your guy.

Karla walks away.

KARLA
Now, why am I not surprised?

INT. NURSING HOME- MR. JENKINS' ROOM- CONTINUOUS

There is a KNOCK at the door and Karla enters.

KARLA
Hi, Mr. Jenkins. You needed something?

MR. JENKINS, a man in his mid to late 60's, sits on the edge of the bed.
MR. JENKINS
Ah-- if it aint my favorite nurse. Come on over here and teach an ole dog a new trick.

KARLA
Mr. Jenkins!

She takes Mr. Jenkins' water container and fills it with water from the bathroom sink.

He lies on his back and stares at the ceiling.

MR. JENKINS
I bet you taste as good as tapila fish.

Karla laughs from the bathroom. She emerges and returns the container to the stand beside his bed.

KARLA
You're a dirty old man, you know that?

He sits up in bed.

MR. JENKINS
I'm not dirty. I'm naughty by nature. Come over here and let me show you.

With a devilish grin, Mr. Jenkins raises his eyebrows up and down.

Karla shakes her head in amazement.

KARLA
What am I going to do with you?

MR. JENKINS
 Anything you want. Just remember to be gentle. I aint young like I used to be. Back in my day, I used to be able to go all night long, but now, you better get yours before I get mine, is all I gotta say.

Karla exits the room.

KARLA
Good night, Mr. Jenkins.
Mr. Jenkins
Hey-- let me know if you're going to the store.

The door SHUTS.

Mr. Jenkins
I got a big date tomorrow and I need some condoms! Mmm--mmm! Now that's fine. If I was a few years younger... Just a few years younger.

Int. Kevin and Karla's Apt - Kevin's Room - Night
Kevin lounges around on the bed and watches TV. He cycles through the channels, when the phone RINGS.

He looks at the caller ID and answers the phone.

Kevin
Hello.

Int. Frozen Paradise - Night
The place is packed. The light show illuminates the dance floor.

A waitress passes by with a tray of drinks.

People sit at the bar and others stand in line.

Kevin stands at the entrance of the club and looks around.

Two guys, Tony and Phil, both in their 20's, motion to Kevin.

Kevin spots them and makes his way towards their booth.

Kevin and his friends sit and nurse two pitchers of beer.

Tony
Let's make a toast. Bachelors, forever!

Phil
Here, here.

Kevin
You can say that again.

They raise their cups and down its contents.
TONY
(to Kevin)
It sucks what that evil bitch did to you, man.

KEVIN
Yeah-- Tony. It was. Thanks for reminding me.

TONY
No problem. What are friends for?

PHIL
We called Kev here to forget about her, you idiot! Now that Kev is back on the market, he should put himself out there.

Phil gives Tony the evil eye.

KEVIN
It's okay, Phil. Really. It's not like I loved her or something.

TONY
Dude. She's a future super model. What's not to love?

PHIL
Have you ever loved any woman?

KEVIN
Yes. I--I love my mom, my sister and Karla.

PHIL
Not that kind of love. I'm talking about loving a woman romantically.

Kevin stares at the table and remains silent.

PHIL
You haven't, have you?

TONY
That is so sad. How can someone go through life without ever being in love? Maybe you should seek a therapist or talk to one of us.

Kevin chuckles in mocking fashion.
KEVIN
I don't need therapy and why would I talk to you? You're an imbecile.

He looks around the club and focuses on the dance floor. Something catches his eye.

PHIL
Now, that was uncalled for. True, but uncalled for.

He stares harder.

KEVIN
Son-of-a-bitch.

TONY
What? I was just kidding about the therapy thing.

KEVIN
No. Look.

Joe dances closely with another woman.

TONY
What are you gonna do? Let's go over there and kick his ass.

KEVIN
No. Let's not. What are you? Stupid? Look at him. He's... He's... too big. He'll kill us.

PHIL
Yep. I kinda got that same impression, which is why if you do go over there, you're on your own.

KEVIN
I'm not going over there.
(to Tony)
You wanna kick his ass? Go... by all means. I'm not even that mad at him, but Karla.

Kevin frowns and reaches in his pocket for his cell phone.

LATER-

Karla appears at the entrance. She walks in, looks around and spots Kevin and his friends.

She approaches the table.
18.

KARLA

Kevin!

KEVIN

Oh-- hey Karla. I'm sorry I called while you were still at work.

PHIL AND TONY

Hi, Karla.

KARLA

Hi, guys.

Karla sits next to Kevin. She does a thorough inspection of him.

KARLA

That's okay. I already made my last rounds with my relief. I started to go home first, but it sounded like something was wrong. Are you okay?

KEVIN

No, no... I'm fine. It's nothing like that.

KARLA

Then, what is it?

Kevin points to Joe, as he kisses the woman on the neck.

Karla is stunned. She drinks the full contents of Kevin's cup.

She becomes irate and storms over to Joe's table.

Kevin and his friends eye one another and follow.

Joe doesn't notice Karla standing behind him. She taps him on the shoulder.

JOE

Karla! Oh... oh shit... What are you doing here?

Karla throws a drink in his face.

KARLA

You bastard!

Joe gets up and dries himself with a napkin. An argument ensues. The woman slips away conveniently.

Karla punches Joe in the face.
A GASP from nearby people, as they move away in fear.

Kevin grimaces and Phil looks impressed.

PHIL
Way to go, Karla!
(to Tony)
Did you see that?

Tony seems unimpressed.

TONY
Yeah, but she didn't knock him out.

Phil stares at Tony in disbelief.

Karla pushes Joe in the forehead with her finger.

KARLA
Don't ever call me again, you jerk!

She walks away. Kevin and his friends follows.

People look on in mocking fashion. They LAUGH and point at Joe.

An angry Joe pounds his fist into his hand.

INT. KEVIN AND KARLA'S APT.- LIVING ROOM- NIGHT
Karla and Kevin sit on the couch.

KARLA
(sobbing)
I just don't understand... And things were going so well. Is every guy out to break my heart? Is there something about me that says, Hi, I'm Karla. Please break my heart?

She continues to sob.

KEVIN
No. There's nothing wrong with you. You're nice, you're smart and you're pretty.

KARLA
(continues)
Then why can't I keep a man? Do I offend?

She sniffs under her armpit.
KARLA
Do I have bad breath?

She blows on her hand and inhales.

KARLA
I have the cooties.

KEVIN
The cooties? What the hell is that?

KARLA
You know, that-- that kissing disease teenagers get.

Kevin fails to hold back his laughter.

KARLA
You're laughing? How could you laugh at a time like this?

KEVIN
Because this is silly. Come on. You smell good... most of the time... your breath only smells like stale fish sticks when you wake up, but that's normal. And there's no such thing as cooties. At least I don't think it is.

Karla sighs and hangs her head.

KARLA
Maybe, I'm just destined to go through life alone.

He puts his arm around her.

KEVIN
You know, I feel the same way. So you're already not alone.

She lays her head on his shoulder and begins to cry.

KARLA
All I want is for someone to love me. Is... Is that too much to ask?

KEVIN
No. No, it isn't. It's a reasonable request, but hey, for what it's worth, I love you and you'll always have me.

Through her tears, a small grin.
KARLA
Aw. I love you too, Kev. You're my best friend and the only one in the world I can depend on.

They continue to sit quietly.

INT. KEVIN AND KARLA'S APT.- LIVING ROOM- NEXT MORNING

Kevin lies on the couch with one hand around Karla. Her head rests on his chest.

She awakes and gathers her thoughts. She gently nudges him.

KEVIN
Huh.

KARLA
Time to get up. I'll make some breakfast.

Kevin opens his eyes. He looks confused and tries to gather himself.

KEVIN
Okay... Ewe... Fish sticks.

She hits him with a pillow.

KARLA
Jerk.

He sits up and looks at his watch.

She intentionally blows her breath in his face. He turns his head and fights her off.

KEVIN
Okay, seriously. I'm calling Homeland Security.

INT. KEVIN AND KARLA'S APT- KITCHEN- CONTINUOUS

Karla stands by the stove. She uses a fork to scramble eggs in a frying pan.

LATER-

Kevin and Karla sit at the table, have breakfast and read the morning paper.

The two exchange sections of the paper and continue to read, while eating.
KARLA
Hey-- listen to this. "Are you tired of failed relationships? Are you looking for ways to keep your mate for a lifetime? The How To Keep Your Mate Seminar is the answer. Registration will begin today at the Hilton from three to five. Registration fee is fifty dollars."

KEVIN
I saw that. And your point?

KARLA
My point is, I think we should sign up for the seminar.

He peeks from behind the paper.

KEVIN
(chewing food)
Are you insane? No. I'm not signing up for a stupid class on how to keep a mate. You're not gonna get me all mixed up in your little ventures. Besides, I'm not searching.

KARLA
Well, I am. And my biological clock is ticking.

KEVIN
You're only twenty-five. You have plenty of time left on the clock.

KARLA
Well, last I checked, time waits for no one. I don't want to be an old maid, Kevin.

Kevin folds the paper and sets it on the table.

KEVIN
So, sign up for the class if it means that much to you.

KARLA
I can't sign up by myself, moron. The class is for couples.

He gets up and takes his plate to the sink.
KEVIN
Well, you're just gonna have to find someone else.

KARLA
But I have nobody else. Come on, Kevin. Please?

KEVIN
No. No. No. No. I won't do it and you can't make me.

INT. THE HILTON- HALLWAY- AFTENoon
A hallway with emerald green carpet. Light fixtures are aligned across the walls.

Kevin and Karla stand in the registration line with the other couples. He shows his displeasure.

KEVIN
You know, I can't believe that I let you talk me into this.

KARLA
Thank you, Kevin. I really appreciate this. I owe you one.

KEVIN
Yeah, you do... and I'm gonna collect.

The line begins to thin out as Kevin and Karla near the front.

KARLA
Anything... just name it.

KEVIN
Good. Because next week, we're going to see wrestling.

She rolls her eyes and sighs.

KARLA
Anything, but that.

KEVIN
I'm leaving.

Kevin starts to turn away.

KARLA
Okay, Okay. I'll do it.
KEVIN
I knew you'd see things my way.

INT. THE HILTON- CONFERENCE ROOM- CONTINUOUS

Beautiful chandeliers hang from the ceiling.

A podium stands on a stage. A buffet sits in a corner to the left of the stage.

The conference room is almost full. Very few seats remain. Kevin and Karla sit up front.

KEVIN
(loud whisper)
Why is your card maxed out? There's nothing new in the apartment. Do you have a secret life I don't know about?

KARLA
Come on, Kevin. Relax.

KEVIN
What? I was just asking.

KARLA
You've been complaining since we left the apartment. You're not giving this a chance.

KEVIN
Okay.

Kevin momentarily looks away, then turns and leans towards Karla.

KEVIN
Well, do you?

Karla sighs and folds her arms.

KARLA
Do-I-what, Kevin?

KEVIN
Have a secret life I don't know about?

KARLA
(pleads)
No. I don't have a secret life, okay? Now, will you please?
KEVIN
Okay, okay.

Kevin shifts his attention to the table of food.

She punches him softly in the arm.

KARLA
Thank you. Now, stop being difficult. Oh-- it's about to start.

DR. WILFORTH, in his 60's, steps up to the podium. The audience APPLAUDS his arrival.

Kevin continues to glare at the table of food.

DR. WILFORTH
Thank you. Thank you. Please be seated. Thank you all for coming. Welcome to the most successful seminar in the country.

Kevin begins to lick his lips. Karla notices this.

He gets up and walks over to the table. This embarrasses her.

Dr, Wilforth eyes Kevin.

DR. WILFORTH
We have successfully helped couples from all around the country rekindle or sustain the romance in their relationships. During the course of eight weeks, you--

Dr. Wilforth stops and looks at him.

Kevin helps himself to a plate of hot wings and dinner rolls. All eyes are on him.

The people in the room begin to MURMUR and Karla covers her face in shame.

Dr. Wilforth CLEARS his throat and Kevin turns around.

KEVIN
Oh... Oh don't mind me. I'll just be a minute. Go ahead. I'm still listening.

Dr. Wilforth eyes Kevin, until he returns to his seat.

Karla's face reflects her anger, as she stares at him.
KEVIN
(whispers)
What? I was hungry.

Kevin begins to eat.

DR. WILFORTH
Did you get everything, Mr...?

KEVIN
(chews food)
Kevin. Just call me, Mr. Kevin.

Karla slumps further in her seat.

DR. WILFORTH
All right, Mr. Kevin?

KEVIN
Man, these wings are incredible!

A quiet laughter fills the room. Dr. Wilforth stands amazed.

Karla looks disgusted.

DR. WILFORTH
Great. I'm glad you like the wings. But, uh... if you don't mind, can we proceed?

KEVIN
(mouth full of food)
Please? By all means.

Dr. Wilforth is taken back.

DR. WILFORTH
Thank you. Now. During the next 8 weeks, you will have series of exercises, designed to help you find out a little something about your mates, as well as yourselves. Each couple will have classroom and home exercises.

Kevin raises his hand.

DR. WILFORTH
Yes, Mr. Kevin. You have a question?

He licks his fingers.
KEVIN
Yes. What kind of exercises? And are we going to be graded?

EXT. CITY STREETS- KARLA'S CAR- CONTINUOUS
Karla drives down the street in moderate traffic.
Kevin looks out of the window.

KARLA
Un-be-lievable. I have never been so embarrassed in all of my life. I can't believe you, Kevin.

Karla glances at him.

KEVIN
I was hungry. What was I supposed to do? It's not like they posted a sign that said, "Don't eat until after the presentation."

KARLA
"Mr. Kevin? Call me Mr. Kevin?"
God-- Kevin. You... you were being mean and-- and obnoxious.

KEVIN
It's just that he doesn't strike me as a love doctor.

KARLA
What does that have to do with anything? You're impossible, you know that? This isn't even about Dr. Wilforth. It's about you agreeing to do this. Instead, you chose to be a jerk.

KEVIN
Flattery will get you nowhere.

Karla's face reveals her anger. Kevin notices this.

KEVIN
Look. I'm sorry, okay? I won't make any more trouble.

KARLA
You better not. Because I-- I won't pay you back.
INT. ISLAND RECREATION CENTER– GYM– DAY

Kids shoot around on the court, while others jump rope off to the side.

The bigger kids play on the far end of the court and the smaller kids play on the front end.

Kevin sits in the bleachers with Phil and Tony.

TONY
Is Karla going to be okay?

KEVIN
Of course not. She's losing her mind. She enrolled us in this seminar on relationships.

PHIL
That's great, Kev. This is like therapy.

A ball bounces in Kevin's direction. He catches it and tosses it back onto the court.

KEVIN
You mean, it's a hassle. We have homework... and we have to meet every two weeks.

TONY
Homework? What kind of homework?

KEVIN
Every time we meet, Dr. Wilforth gives us these exercises- more like projects. And when we meet, we have to share our experiences with the group.

TONY
Boring.

A GIRL chases a BOY with and throws a ball at him.

KEVIN
Hey-- hey... that's enough, you two.

GIRL
Tell him to leave me alone!

BOY
She hit me first!
KEVIN
Don't play hitting.

The kids scamper away. The girl continues her chase.

KEVIN
Anyway, I'm only doing this to help Karla and for the food.

PHIL
The food?

KEVIN
They have the best hot wings you'll ever wanna taste.

PHIL
Interesting. Well, what's your first project?

INT. ITALIAN RESTAURANT- NIGHT

The dining room is almost full. Waiters walk back and forth from the kitchen to the tables.

A bus boy wipes a table clean and takes away the dirty dishes.

Kevin and Karla have a candle light dinner.

KEVIN
I can't do this.

KARLA
Yes, you can. We have to simulate a relationship and dating is part of it. Now... this is our first date... We didn't come together and you've just arrived. What'aya say?

Kevin leans forward.

KEVIN
You're my best friend, for crying out loud. I can't look at you in a romantic way.

Karla leans forward.

KARLA
So, there is something wrong with me?
KEVIN
No. It just feels... weird, that's all. Why you couldn't pick a class for singles? Then, you wouldn't need me at all.

Karla sighs.

KARLA
Can you at least try? Just think of me as someone else, if it bothers you that much.

Kevin sits back.

KEVIN
Okay. Karla, you look radiant.

Karla reveals a smile and retreats to a normal posture.

KARLA
Thank you. You look nice, also.

KEVIN
So, tell me a little about yourself.

KARLA
Let's see. I'm a twenty-five year old nurse and I work at a nursing home. I share an apartment with my best friend.

KEVIN
Really? What's her name?

KARLA
His name is Kevin.

Kevin shows concern.

KEVIN

KARLA
I hope it's not a problem for you. Kevin means the world to me, so if that's a problem, we'll finish our meal and go our separate way.

KEVIN
(impressed)
Sounds like a great guy.

Karla leans forward with an adoring smile.
KARLA
He's more than great. He's amazing.

Kevin releases a growing smile.

DANCE FLOOR-
The band plays a TUNE.
Kevin and Karla dance, joined by other couples.

KARLA
See. You were all worried and we're having a great time.

KEVIN
Yes. As a matter of fact, I am.

He twirls Karla around and pulls her close.

KARLA
I didn't realize you were such a great dancer.

KEVIN
You're not so bad yourself.

Kevin and Karla continue to dance. He dips her.

EXT. RIVER STREET- NIGHT
The night lights illuminate off the waters of the Savannah River. A tour boat sails by.

Kevin and Karla walk along the river walk, while sipping on drinks.

KARLA
(sighs)
It's really beautiful out, tonight.

KEVIN
Yes. It is, but you act like you've never seen the river at night before.

KARLA
I have, but never on a date.
KEVIN
(nods)
Oh. What kind of guys you've been dating?

KARLA
Apparently, the wrong ones.

KEVIN
Ah, a break through.

The two continue to walk.

INT. KEVIN AND KARLA'S APT- FOYER- MOMENTS LATER

Kevin and Karla laugh from beyond the door. The front door opens and the two walk in.

LIVING ROOM-

Kevin drops his keys on the coffee table and the two sit on the couch.

KARLA
I'm so exhausted.

Karla takes off her shoes and rubs her foot.

KEVIN
So am I.

KARLA
I really had a great time tonight.

KEVIN
I know. You were with me. What did you expect?

KARLA
Shut up.

She switches and rubs the other foot.

KARLA
So-- how does a first date typically end, for you?

Kevin releases a sly grin.

KEVIN
Well...

KARLA
Don't even think about it.
KEVIN
You shouldn't have asked if you didn't wanna know the answer.

She hits him with a pillow.

KEVIN
Oh-- so, you like fore-play.

He grabs a pillow and gets up. She gets up in a defensive stance.

KARLA
Don't sing it. Bring it.

Kevin chases her through the apartment. He catches her and the two engage in a pillow fight.

INT. ISLAND RECREATION CENTER - GYM - DAY

A game is in progress. Kevin stands by his team's bench.

Alicia scores a three-point basket and the crowd WILDLY CHEERS. Karla does the same.

The other team has the ball and attempts to throw it in play.

KEVIN
Pick up a person! Right here, Keri! Deny! Deny!

Keri steals the pass and goes to the basket for a lay-up. She makes it and the ball goes to the other team.

The other team throws the ball in bounds and the girl races down the court for an uncontested lay-up.

Kevin is less than impressed with his team.

KEVIN
What was that? Hey-- Time out!

The REFEREE BLOWS his whistle and points to Kevin's team bench.

REFEREE
Time out, gold!

Kevin's team runs to the bench and huddles around him.
KEVIN
We have to play better defense, if we're going to compete at State. There are no excuses for allowing an easy basket.

Keri points to the scoreboard.

KERI
Coach, we're winning by twenty-five.

KEVIN
I realize that, Keri. But I also know that you guys can't afford to slack up on the defensive end. What happens when we play a good team?

The horn BLOWS.

Kevin and the team touch hands.

KEVIN
Okay, girls. Let's get back out there and play Lady Eagles basketball. Lady Eagles on three. One, two, three!

KEVIN AND TEAM
LADY EAGLES!

INT. PIZZA PALACE- AFTERNOON

Kevin treats his team to pizza. The girls still wear their uniforms. Karla, Phil, Tony and some of the parents join the team in celebration.

Karla and a parent pass out pizza to the girls.

Kevin, Phil and Tony sit in a booth and eat pizza.

PHIL
That was an awesome game.

KEVIN
Thanks man, but we have a lot of work to do, if we're gonna get better as a team.

TONY
Dude, they've won like 40 straight games. How good do you want them to be?
KEVIN
I don't care about the wins, you idiot. Recreational sports is a critical time for a young player. No matter the sport, a rec. coach has to focus on the fundamentals. That's how I approach it. If my team wins, that's the only reason why.

TONY
That's easy to say, when you're winning.

PHIL
Well-- you're doing a great job. What'aya say we go out and celebrate at The Purring Kitty?

Kevin looks on his team with pride, then checks his watch.

KEVIN
I wish I could guys, but Karla and I have plans.

Karla smiles as she interacts with Kevin's team.

PHIL
(jokingly)
I forgot that you and Karla are an item.

TONY
Did you hit it, yet?

KEVIN
What?

TONY
You know? Did you get the goods, the pooh-nanny?

KEVIN
Uh-- no. She's my best friend, stupid.

PHIL
So-- let me get this straight. You and Karla go out on dates, but you're only best friends. So, you're not actually doing the things that couples do?
KEVIN
That about sums it up. Unless you count talking.

Phil and Tony stare at one another in disbelief.

TONY
I have another question.

KEVIN
Shoot.

TONY
What exactly are you getting out of this?

Kevin ponders the question.

KEVIN
Well...

EXT. CHRISTMAS TREE LOT- DAY

Dozens of Christmas trees stand in rows. People walk around and browse the lot.

Kevin and Karla navigate their way through the lot.

KARLA
This is great. Our first natural tree.

KEVIN
I still don't see what's wrong with the plastic tree we have.

Karla details a particular tree with her fingers.

KARLA
For one, it's old. We bought that tree when we moved into our first apartment. Now that we're in a new apartment, it's time for something new. Can't you just smell the freshness of the pine?

She inhales and sighs in a euphoric manner.

Kevin inhales and makes a strange face.

KEVIN
Yeah-- it smells really, really like pine.

Karla points to the tree that she likes.
KARLA
There it is. Come on.

She drags Kevin to the tree.

Kevin focuses on the tree. His face reflects his skepticism.

KEVIN
Don't you think it's a little big?

KARLA
No. It's perfect.

KEVIN
I don't know. It looks pretty big to me.

KARLA
It's just nice and full. Just how a Christmas tree is supposed to be.

Kevin spots a smaller tree.

KEVIN
Why can't we get that tree over there? It's short and stout.

KARLA
Because I want this one.

KEVIN
And how are we supposed to get that in the truck?

Karla examines the tree.

KARLA
I have a solution.

EXT. CITY STREETS- CONTINUOUS

Traffic moves at a snail's pace.

Kevin drives with the tree tied to the roof of his SUV.

INT. KEVIN'S SUV-

Kevin drives and Karla sits in the passenger seat. He can hear the scratches on the roof caused by the tree.

Every bump in the road leads to new SCRATCHES.
KEVIN
Oh... my roof. I'm gonna need a new paint job. I just know it.

KARLA
Stop being such a Scrooge.

KEVIN
Oh, forgive me for not wanting the roof of my brand new car to be scratched.

Kevin cringes at every scratch, as he continues to drive.

I/E. KEVIN AND KARLA'S APT.- FRONT PORCH/FOYER- CONTINUOUS
The tree is stuck in the front doorway.

Kevin stands in the foyer and Karla pushes the tree from the porch.

KEVIN
So, what now, genius? We'll never get the tree inside. Let's take this tree back and exchange it for a smaller one.

KARLA
We can make this work. All it needs is an extra... push.

Karla makes a strong push.

KARLA
There.

She forces the tree through the doorway.

Kevin loses his balance and falls on the floor. The tree falls on top of him.

KEVIN
Whoa! Oh... Oh... get this tree off of me.

Karla rushes in.

KARLA
Kevin! I'm so sorry. Are you okay?

Karla rolls the tree off of Kevin. A small piece of a branch is stuck in Kevin's nose.
KEVIN
Ow! I think I've stabbed my brain.

He pulls it out and reveals a slight nosebleed.

INT. KEVIN AND KARLA'S APT - LIVING ROOM- NIGHT

Christmas MUSIC plays on the entertainment system.

Kevin stands on a step ladder. He has a piece of tissue in his nose.

Karla stands nearby and gives him the ornaments to put on the tree.

KARLA
This is going to be the best Christmas ever.

KEVIN
Yeah-- and it only cost me fifty dollars, a bloody nose and a scratched roof on my new truck. What a steal.

KARLA
It's not that bad. At least your nose isn't bleeding anymore. And you have insurance.

He removes the tissue and tosses it in the trash can, a few feet away.

KEVIN
Just give me another ornament.

She gives him a star and he places it on top of the tree.

Kevin steps down from the ladder. He and Karla step back and admire their handy work.

KARLA
Let's turn on the lights.

He plugs in the tree lights.

KEVIN
Go ahead. Flip the switch.

She turns the room lights off. The tree lights cast a dim white/golden glow about the room.

Karla stands in awe.
OH, KARLA
Oh, Kevin. It's... It's beautiful.

KEVIN
Yeah-- it is. Very beautiful.

LATER-
The lights from the tree continue to give light.

Karla and Kevin sit on the couch, drink eggnog and continue to listen to music.

KEVIN
Okay... So you were right. A real tree is better.

KARLA
I told you. You should try listening to me more.

He focuses on the tree.

KEVIN
As beautiful as the tree, something is missing.

A puzzled Karla surveys the tree.

KARLA
Hmm... What could possibly be missing from the tree? It has more than enough lights and ornaments.

KEVIN
Presents.

The two continue to sit and watch the flickering lights.

INT. NURSING HOME- HALLWAY- DAY

Patients move about. A woman resident pushes the wheelchair of a male resident.

Karla stands at her medicine cart. She writes something on a paper and grabs a small plastic cup.

She KNOCKS on a door and walks in.

Moments later, Karla emerges from the room.

Mr. Jenkins, who wears a purple pimps hat, with a pair of purple slacks and a t-shirt, stand at the doorway of his room, in his bedroom slippers.

SALLY, in her mid 60's, strolls by Mr. Jenkins' room.
MR. JENKINS
Hey-- Miss Sally. How about a little nookie before lunch?

Sally stops and flirts with Mr. Jenkins.

SALLY
I knew you'd be back for more. How much this time?

MR. JENKINS
For you, only twenty-five dollars.

SALLY
Oh-- my. That's a little steep. I haven't received my SSI check, yet.

Karla walks towards Mr. Jenkins and Sally.

MR. JENKINS
That's okay. You can pay me later. I know you're good for it.

SALLY
Well, let's get it on.

KARLA
Let's not. Mr. Jenkins I need to talk to you... now!

MR. JENKINS
Sally, give me a few minutes. I'll come to your room.

SALLY
Okay.

KARLA
No, he won't. Do you want me to call your son, Ms. Sally?

Sally walks away with haste.

MR. JENKINS
You are a cock-blocker... always hatin' on a pimp.

KARLA
Need I remind you that prostitution is illegal?
MR. JENKINS
Who cares? It's also the oldest profession known to man.

KARLA
(loud whisper)
It is against policy for patients to have sex in this facility and you-- you definitely can't charge for it.

MR. JENKINS
You know what I think?

KARLA
No, what?

MR. JENKINS
I think that you want me for yourself and you're too shy to admit it.

Karla mouth drops.

KARLA
What?

MR. JENKINS
I tell you what.
(whispers)
I'll give you a special rate. Fifty-dollars a year. Not including holiday's. So... what'aya say?

KARLA
No, I don't want you for myself and I certainly wouldn't pay for it.

MR. JENKINS
Okay... How about a free sample?

KARLA
Not even for free. Besides, if you were lucky enough to hit this, you'd probably die from heart failure.

Mr. Jenkins watches with a smile, as she walks away.

MR. JENKINS
I just love when they talk dirty.
EXT. ISLAND RECREATION CENTER- DAY- RAIN

The trees blow in the wind, the rain pounds the pavement and lightning flashes, as thunder can be heard in the distance.

INT. ISLAND RECREATION CENTER - GYM

Kevin stands in the middle of the court and his team sits in a circle on the floor.

KEVIN
At the end of the game, everyone always wants to know who scored the most points, and how many points did I score, right?

Keri and the team nods in agreement.

KEVIN
Don't be concerned with what you do on offense. Ask yourselves how many points did the player I defended score. Moral to the story... defense wins championships.

Alicia raises her hand.

KEVIN
Yes, Alicia.

ALICIA
Where is State this year?

KEVIN
It will be in Atlanta. But it's important to take one game at a time. We'll worry about State when it's time to worry about State.

Keri chimes in.

KERI
Nobody's gonna beat us. We can play the worst game ever and still beat everybody by twenty.

This surprises Kevin.

KEVIN
That's just great... A very smart thing to say. Let me tell you something. Never underestimate your opponents and never overestimate your abilities. On (MORE)
KEVIN (CONT'D)
any given day, you can be
defeated. Remember. You were
champions last year. Every team
really wants to beat you. And they
will give it their all. I suggest
you do the same. Everyone in.

INT. CIVIC CENTER- ARENA- NIGHT

The ringside bell CHIMES.

Thousands of people have packed the arena.

Two men wrestle in a square ring. They emerge from their
corner.

The ENORMOUS WRESTLER pokes the Little Wrestler in the eye
and stuns him.

A chorus of BOOS erupt throughout the arena.

Karla shows her displeasure with the enormous wrestler.

KARLA
(appalled)
Hey! He can't do that. That's
cheating.

KEVIN
Well, he's the bad guy. He doesn't
want you to like him.

KARLA
He's succeeded. I mean, look at
what he's doing to that little
man.

The Enormous Wrestler beats the Little Wrestler to a pulp.

KEVIN
(chuckles)
Karla, you don't understand.
Wrestling isn't real. His
character is to be a bad guy and
six months from now, he'll be a
good guy. That's how it works.

KARLA
Well tonight, he's being an
asshole. I don't see what you men
see in this.
KEVIN
It's hard to explain. It's sort of like the soap operas, only it's geared towards men. Look around you. There are plenty of women in here, too.

Karla looks around the arena to find women everywhere.

The Enormous Wrestler picks the Little Wrestler up and holds him high in a show of strength.

Then, he tosses him out of the ring. The Little Wrestler crashes to the floor in front of Kevin and Karla's section.

KARLA
Oh my God!

The Enormous Wrestler GROWLS at the crowd. He makes eye contact with Karla. She jumps to her feet.

KARLA
Hey-- asshole! Pick on somebody your own size!

Kevin pulls her back to the seat.

KEVIN
Okay. Can you calm down, please? Before you get us killed.

KARLA
Oh-- he's not gonna do anything. CHUMP! You're right Kevin, this is fun. Much better than watching it on TV.

Kevin looks at Karla and shakes his head. He mumbles to himself and notices his empty cup.

The Enormous Wrestler exits the ring and savagely beats on the Little Wrestler.

Kevin stands with his cup and looks around.

KEVIN
Where is that beer man? I'm getting thirsty.

Karla continues to fuss at the enormous wrestler.

KARLA
You big bully! You leave him alone!

The Enormous Wrestler grabs the Little Wrestler by the head
and presents him to Karla. He slaps him hard in the chest, sending the Little Wrestler to the ground.

    ENORMOUS WRESTLER
    (looks at Karla)
    Shut up, you bitch!

He continues his offense on the Little Wrestler.

    KARLA
    Bitch?! I got yo bitch!

Karla throws her drink on the wrestler and fades behind the standing crowd.

The wrestler stands up and notices Kevin's empty cup.

Kevin has a frown on his face. He continues to look around.

    KEVIN
    Where is that son of a bitch!

The Enormous Wrestler climbs over the padded guard rails and comes after Kevin.

    ENORMOUS WRESTLER
    Hey! You son-of-a-bitch! You threw your drink on me and now you're going to pay!

Kevin is perplexed.

    KEVIN
    What? Oh my God! What are you talking about?!

The wrestler puts his enormous hands around Kevin's neck and lifts him off of the ground.

    KEVIN
    Hey-- what are you doing? No! Wait! Help! Put me down!

Karla's face reveals fear.

    KARLA
    Put him down! Leave him alone!

The Enormous Wrestler looks at Karla with an evil grin. Then, he head butts Kevin repeatedly, until he's unconscious.

He drops Kevin on the ground and Kevin lays limp.
EXT. CIVIC CENTER - MOMENTS LATER

An ambulance speeds away, with flashing lights and SIRENS.

INT. MEMORIAL HOSPITAL- ER- WAITING ROOM- NIGHT

A nervous Karla sits in a crowded waiting room. The TV is on.

A sickly man sips water from a fountain. Two SMALL CHILDREN laugh and run around in circles.

Their MOTHER finally rings them in.

MOM IN WAITING ROOM
Hey! Get over here this instant.

The kids go to their mother.

A NURSE, in her 30's, comes from the back and walks over to Karla.

NURSE
Ma'am, you can go back to see him, now.

Karla gets up.

INT. MEMORIAL HOSPITAL - ER - TREATMENT ROOM A- CONTINUOUS

A KNOCK at the door.

KEVIN
Come in.

Karla walks in and SHUTS the door.

Kevin lies in the bed and watches TV. His head is wrapped in a bandage and his neck supported by a brace.

KARLA
Hey... You okay?

Karla rushes beside him.

KEVIN
I have a cracked skull and jammed neck and why? Because some idiot threw a drink on a very big man and I... I was the one standing with an empty cup in my hand! So, no, I'm not okay.

Karla paces the floor.
KARLA
I'm pretty sure they didn't know the man was gonna attack you. Otherwise, they wouldn't have done it.

KEVIN
No. They do these types of things all the time. Oh look, it's on the news.

EXT. CITY STREETS- KARLA'S CAR- CONTINUOUS

INT. KARLA'S CAR-

Karla drives and Kevin sits in the passenger seat in silence. Kevin's face reveals his anger. He stares at her with his arms folded.

She takes a few quick glances at him.

KARLA
At some point, we're gonna have to discuss this.

He turns in his seat.

KEVIN
Discuss what? How you got me beat up by the biggest man on the planet?! How could you do this to me?

KARLA
Hey, wait a minute-- don't blame me. You're the one who said wrestling wasn't real.

KEVIN
But you can't throw your drink on a man that size.

Karla controls the urge to laugh, but shows signs.

KEVIN
Oh-- you... you think this is funny? I might have a dent in my forehead for the rest of my life. Unbelievable.

KARLA
Stop exaggerating. The doctor said that you'll be fine in a week.
KEVIN
Well, what about this week? And what about the mental scars I will carry around, for years to come? What about that?

Kevin returns to his former posture. Karla looks at him.

KARLA
He called me a bitch, Kevin. I'm sorry. I didn't mean for this to happen.

Kevin looks at her from the corner of his eyes.

INT. KARLA AND KEVIN'S APT - LIVING ROOM- EVENING

Kevin lounges around on the couch. He still wears the head bandage and a neck brace. He watches TV and eats a sandwich.

The doorbell RINGS.

Kevin looks towards the foyer and sighs. He grimaces in pain as he slowly gets up makes his way to the door.

FOYER-

Kevin stops at the door.

KEVIN
Who is it!

PHIL
(beyond the door)
It's Phil and Tony!

Kevin opens the door and they enters.

LIVING ROOM-

Kevin sits in the recliner, while Phil and Tony sit on the couch.

Phil shows concern.

KEVIN
Sorry guys. I didn't mean to bail on you like that. It's just that, when I woke up this morning, I couldn't move. I tried, but it felt like I was cemented to the bed.
PHIL
Kev, I understand. I was watching it when it happened and I felt horrible.

Tony reveals a mocking smile.

TONY
Yeah-- "Big Tsunami" really kicked your ass. You didn't even get a lick in. You always say wrestling isn't real. It looks pretty real to me.

KEVIN
Can you please not speak? Why did you bring him?

PHIL
Don't pay him any attention. He's just clowning around.

KEVIN
I know. It's just that this seminar and fake dating Karla is making me crazy. Not to mention, it's been hazardous to my health.

PHIL
Hey, don't complain now, my friend. You're the one who allowed her to talk you into mess. Besides, it doesn't really look that bad.

Kevin takes the wrap off and reveals a bruise that covers his entire forehead.

Phil cringes and Tony's face reveals his shock.

KEVIN
Look at me! And you say it isn't that bad?!

PHIL
Okay, that looks bad--

Tony nods in agreement.

TONY
Yeah-- pretty much. It looks like a gigantic birth mark or something.
KEVIN
And now I gotta stand before those people at the seminar like this.

TONY
Wear a skully. You can pull it down to your eyebrow...no one has to see a thing.

KEVIN
You know, Tony, I've been alive for twenty-six years and I've met a lot of stupid people in my life, but I've never, I mean never, have met anyone as stupid as you. You shouldn't be proud, but somehow, I know that you are.

PHIL
Oh... Oh-- That's cold.

TONY
Aw-- you just jealous. You know the Big Tsunami is one of my many my space friends. I can get him to beat you up, again.

Kevin picks up the remote and throws it at Tony. He ducks out of the way.

INT. THE HILTON- CONFERENCE ROOM- AFTERNOON
Class starts, as Dr. Wilforth stands at the podium.
Kevin and Karla sit in their same seats.
Kevin still wears a neck brace. He has a noticeable bruise on his forehead.

DR. WILFORTH
It takes a solid foundation for a relationship to last. A foundation that's built on trust and a transcending love. A love that's powerful enough to withstand the turmoil when the romance fades. It's been said that the best of friends makes the best of lovers.

Kevin and Karla eye one another.
DR. WILFORTH
Now a days, people often confuse love with infatuation. Never realizing that love is something that can withstand the test of human imperfection. Most people spend a life-time trying to change your mate, instead of loving them for who they are.

Kevin notices a sign by the buffet, which states: "No eating until after the seminar."

Dr. Wilforth looks at Kevin, then focuses on the audience.

DR. WILFORTH
I trust that everyone has done their assignments and is ready to share the experiences. Why don't we start with Mr. Kevin and Karla.

The people APPLAUD as Kevin and Karla stand before the group.

Pockets of LAUGHTER erupt around the room and others begin to MURMUR.

KEVIN
(whispers)
You go first.

KARLA
No, you first.

Dr. Wilforth shows his impatience.

DR. WILFORTH
Come on, guys. We don't have all night.

KARLA
Well, lets see. Kevin and I went on two dates. On the first date, he took me out to an Italian restaurant and for a walk on River Street. I had a great time. It was probably one of the best dates of my life.

Karla adores Kevin with a smile, as she looks at him.
KARLA
But the second date, as you can see, didn't go too well. We went to the wrestling event and we kind of ran into problems. Other than that, I think everything went well.

DR. WILFORTH
Tell me, what if anything did you learn about yourself and/or Mr. Kevin?

She looks at Kevin with admiration.

KARLA
I learned that he's incredibly romantic on dates and he's quite a dancer. I'm not sure what I learned about myself, though. I think that I need more time.

DR. WILFORTH
Interesting. Uh-- Mr. Kevin... your experiences and what you've learned.

KEVIN
Ah-- yes. I totally agree with what she said.

DR. WILFORTH
Is that it?

Karla sternly nudges him with her elbow. Kevin holds his side in discomfort.

KEVIN
(under his breath)
Ow... Okay.
(to the audience)
At first, it felt a little weird, because Karla and I are best friends.

DR. WILFORTH
Wait a minute. You mean, the two of you aren't a couple?

KEVIN
No. We're just friends. Best friends.
DR. WILFORTH
I see... Carry on.
(to Karla)
Smart move.

KEVIN
We always hang out, but never on
dates. It felt different, but I enjoyed it. We probably won't go
to see wrestling again, but she's a great date.

DR. WILFORTH
Did you learn anything?

Karla eyes Kevin.

KEVIN
Yeah. Never go to wrestling with her, again.

Kevin looks and smiles at Karla. She frowns at this.

INT. NURSING HOME- COMMUNITY ROOM- DAY

Patients in wheel chairs sit in a big room and watch TV. A decorated Christmas tree stands by the window.

A man sits in a reclining chair.

Mr. Jenkins and MAYBELLE sit at a table. Maybelle, in her 60's, has gray hair and wears glasses.

Karla and Rochelle sit in the back of the room.

KARLA
Thanks for working over, today. I would have caught hell dealing with all of these patients by myself.

ROCHELLE
That's okay, girl. So, how are things going with the class?

KARLA
Everything is going well. Kevin's finally forgiven me for the wrestling debacle and he really seems to be getting into it.

ROCHELLE
That's good, but, can I say something?
KARLA

Sure.

ROCHELLE

Be careful?

KARLA

Careful of what? Kevin?

ROCHELLE

You may not want to get too close to him. What if you fall for him and it's not reciprocated? It could ruin the relationship the two of you already have.

Karla scoffs at this.

KARLA

No chance of happening. Kevin is my best friend. Nothing more. I mean, come on. Me and Kevin? That's the silliest thing that I've ever heard.

ROCHELLE

Are you gonna invite him to the Christmas Party?

KARLA

Probably.

ROCHELLE

Just be careful, okay.

Karla's eyes grow big. She notices that Mr. Jenkins is kissing Maybelle on the neck.

KARLA

Trust me, I got everything under control. I think Maybelle has more to worry about, than me.

Karla motions towards Mr. Jenkins and Maybelle.

ROCHELLE

What? Oh my God.

KARLA

Mr. Jenkins, stop that!

Mr. Jenkins gets up and walks over to Karla and Rochelle.
MR. JENKINS
See, I knew you wanted me.

KARLA
No, Mr. Jenkins. I don't.

MR. JENKINS
Well, don't hate the pimp. Come on, Maybelle. Let's go to the room.

Maybelle gets up.

MAYBELLE
Your room, or mines?

KARLA
Maybelle, I can't believe you... you better not.

MAYBELLE
Honey, you better believe it. I aint gettin' no younger. Hell-- just because you can't keep a man don't mean I can't do my thang'.

Maybelle follows Mr. Jenkins.

Karla reveals her bewilderment.

KARLA
How pathetic? Everyone knows I can't keep a man. I'm such a loser.

She buries her face in her hands.

ROCHELLE
No, you're not a loser. You'll find a man, someday. You'll see.

Karla's eyes narrow.

INT. ISLANDS RECREATION CENTER - GYM- DAY

Kevin works from his desk. The bruise on his forehead has almost disappeared.

Phil surfs the internet.

PHIL
Oh-- look! You're on U-Tube!

Kevin gets up to get a closer look.
KEVIN
That's just great. Now the whole world will know I got my skull bashed in, by that... that maniac.

Phil gets up from the computer.

PHIL
Look on the bright side. At least he's the biggest man on earth.

KEVIN
It felt like he was the biggest man on the earth. You know, I think I know why Karla can't keep a man.

PHIL
And why is that?

KEVIN
She's a lunatic. A raving lunatic. I mean, don't get me wrong. She's a very sweet person, until you get on her bad side.

PHIL
But she's always been that way.

KEVIN
I know.

Kevin puts the papers in a folder, walks over to the file cabinet and puts the folder inside.

PHIL
So does this mean that you're gonna stop fake dating Karla and start hanging out with your boys?

KEVIN
No. I'm not "gonna stop fake dating Karla." I promised her and I gotta see this through.

Phil shakes his head.

PHIL
She's gonna be the death of you. You know that, right.

Kevin's cell phone RINGS. He retrieves the phone and answers it.
KEVIN
What's up... Um... sure... I'd love to. When is it?

Phil makes fun of Kevin.

Kevin looks at his calender and writes something on December 18.

KEVIN
Got it marked. Okay. See you when I get home. Bye.

Kevin hangs up and sits his phone on the desk.

PHIL
"I'd love to. See you when I get home." What is with you two? Are you pretend married, now?

Kevin sighs and shakes his head.

KEVIN
No. She invited me to a Christmas party at her job.

Phil gets up and stands in front of Kevin's desk.

PHIL
Okay. This has to stop. Kev, wake up man. This little charade you and Karla have going, is only gonna cause friction. You can mess up what you already have.

KEVIN
It's just a Christmas party.

Kevin gets up and rounds the desk.

PHIL
Yeah, for now. Then it's gonna be a picnic in the park, ending with you and her at some... altar.

Kevin considers this.

KEVIN
Okay... Even if there was a remote chance of something like that ever happening... that wouldn't be a bad thing, would it? But it won't happen, because she and I are best friends. I've never thought of her in that way.
PHIL
So you mean to tell me, you've never wondered what it would be like to experience a life of romance with Karla?

KEVIN
No. Never even crossed my mind. We played in the crib together.

PHIL
This is insane. I bet you two haven't had the first kiss.

Kevin reveals his guilt.

PHIL
Come on, Kevin. You should have your players card revoked.

Kevin becomes distant.

INT. NURSING HOME - COMMUNITY ROOM- EVENING

The residents, staff members and guests gather for the Christmas Party. Kevin and Karla sit next to each other.

They all SING the Christmas Carol: "Jingle Bells."

After the song, everyone CLAPS.

LATER-

Everyone mingles to the sounds of light MUSIC.

Mr. Jenkins has a female resident under the mistletoe. Maybelle periodicaly watches him, while she visits with her relatives.

Kevin and Karla stand by the refreshments.

KARLA
So, are you enjoying yourself?

KEVIN (measured)
I think... I'm glad that you invited me.

Karla smiles and looks at Mr. Jenkins.
KARLA
I'm glad that you came. Oh-- come with me. Let me introduce you to Mr. Jenkins.

Kevin and Karla walk over to Mr. Jenkins. He still gropes the woman under his mistletoe.

Kevin laughs at this.

KEVIN
Look at him. Pops is over there getting his groove on.

KARLA
He's always trying to get his groove on. Mr. Jenkins! Stop that! I want you to meet Kevin.

Mr. Jenkins gets up. He walks with his purple cane and stares Kevin up and down.

MR. JENKINS
So you're the one she chose instead of me?

KEVIN
Yeah-- I guess I am. I'm Kev--

As Kevin extends his hands, Mr. Jenkins hits Kevin in the groin with his cane.

KEVIN
Oh... Hell no!

Kevin grabs his crotch and slumps over in pain. He falls to his knees.

EXT. CITY STREETS- NIGHT

INT. KEVIN'S CAR-

It's total silence in the car. Kevin looks upset as he drives down the street. Karla stares at him.

KARLA
Did I tell you that Mr. Jenkins tries to seduce me, everyday?

KEVIN
No. And he's lucky he's an old man. Is there any place I can go with you and not get injured?

Karla smiles and rubs the top of his head.
KEVIN
How do I keep letting you get me in these jams?

INT. BOWLING ALLEY- NIGHT

Kevin stands ready to bowl. He releases the ball and bowls a strike.

Karla claps and cheers for him.

KEVIN
Submit, to the king.

Karla gets up and grabs a bowling ball.

KARLA
Not bad... Not bad at all.

KEVIN
Okay, now it's your turn. Let me show you how to--

KARLA
--Excuse me. I don't need your help.

KEVIN
Okay, but I gotta tell ya, that's not the correct way to hold the ball.

KARLA
I said, I don't need help.

Karla stands ready to bowl. Kevin throws his hand in the air.

KEVIN
Fine. Have it your way.

Karla tries to release the ball and slips, falling onto the floor.

Kevin makes fun of her. She gets up and punches him on the arm.

KARLA
That's not funny.

KEVIN
Oh-- I'm sorry. I thought you had it.

She goes after Kevin, jumps on his back and the two fall to the ground.
KEVIN AND KARLA HANG OUT- MONTAGE

-Kevin and Karla eat popcorn and watch a movie at the cinema. She wipes the tears from her eyes. He puts his arm around her.

-Kevin and Karla stand in the middle of the living room. They briefly speak, shake hands and go to their own rooms.

-Karla easily ice skates, while Kevin struggles to keep his balance. She grabs his hand and causes him to lose his balance. They both fall and she lands on top of him.

-Kevin and Karla are at the mall. Kevin comes out of the dressing room. He models a pair of black slacks, a burgundy shirt and a heavy black coat.

-Karla turns her nose up at the attire.

-He disappointingly walks back to the dressing room and returns, wearing a pair of green slacks and yellow shirt.

-Karla gives Kevin a thumbs down. He storms back into the dressing room.

-He reappears wearing nothing, but his boxers and a bra. Karla laughs at him.

-Kevin walks with bags and Karla walks beside him. She looks at him, moves closer and grabs his hand. Kevin is pleasantly surprised and the two continue to walk hand and hand.

-Kevin and Karla stand in the middle of the living room. They hug one another and go to their own rooms.

-Karla smiles as she and Kevin share their experiences with the group.

-Dr. Wilforth seems intrigued.

-The people CLAP and Karla hugs Kevin.

-Alicia and Keri pass the ball back and forth until Alicia takes the lay-up. She hits it.

-The people in the stands CHEER.

-Keri steals a pass and takes it in for the easy basket.

-Everyone stands in APPLAUSE. Karla happily jumps up and down.

-Kevin takes three shots on the pool table and hits them all. Karla frowns.

-Karla stands in Kevin's view and distracts him on this
shot. He misses badly.

-Karla makes seven pool shots in a row. Kevin stands in shock.

-Karla sinks the eight ball and brushes both shoulders with her hands.

-Kevin and Karla stand in the middle of the living room. They embrace one another and Kevin gives her a peck on the cheek.

-Kevin and Karla stand in the doorway of their own rooms and glare at one another.

-Kevin and Karla go fishing. Karla's line begins to pull and she tries to reel in the fish.

-Kevin sits his pole down and helps Karla. He reels in a stingray.

- Kevin and Karla sit on a blanket and have a picnic in the park. Children play in the play ground a short distance away. Karla nurses a sandwich and Kevin says something to makes her laugh.

- Moments later, he plays a tune for her with his saxophone.

-Kevin chases Karla with the sting ray. Karla SCREAMS for him to "STOP," but he continues.

INT. KEVIN AND KARLA'S APT- KITCHEN- NIGHT

Kevin and Karla have dinner. They have fish on their plates, along with a glass of wine. A bottle of wine sits on the table. Karla laughs and nurses her glass of wine.

KARLA
I can't believe how much fun I've had these last few weeks.

KEVIN
It has been a blast, hasn't it?

KARLA
Yeah, it has.

KEVIN
Yeah.

A brief moment of awkwardness for Kevin and Karla. They momentarily stare at one another. Kevin quickly attend to his fish.
KARLA
So... What did you get me for Christmas?

KEVIN
I haven't bought it yet...

Karla raises her eyebrows.

KEVIN
but don't worry. I'm going to get your present tomorrow.

KARLA
Don't make me take yours back.

KEVIN
Chill out. You won't be disappointed.

Kevin fills their glass with more wine. The two hit their glasses and consumes it all. They adoringly look at one another.

LIVING ROOM-

Kevin and Karla lounge on the couch, in a drunken stupor.

Karla lies on the couch, while Kevin sits. She rests her feet on Kevin's lap. Her toes are beautifully painted.

The two laugh.

KARLA
And the one thing I hate most, is men with smelly feet. Don't you just hate women with smelly feet?

KEVIN
No. Then that means I'd have to hate you.

Karla puts her feet in Kevin's face.

KARLA
My feet don't stink, thank you. They smell like apricots and cantaloupes.

Kevin sniffs her foot and makes a funny face.

KEVIN
And nothing stinks more than rotten apricots and cantaloupes.
KARLA
You're a really funny man, you know that?

Kevin massages her foot.

KEVIN
Now you know not to take me too serious.

Kevin lays his head back and rests his eyes. Karla adoringly looks at him.

KARLA
That's cute... Um... Kev?

Kevin looks at her with one eye open.

KEVIN
What's up?

KARLA
Why haven't we had our first kiss?

Kevin looks stunned.

KEVIN
Well... I... I didn't know you wanted one. You want one?

KARLA
Yeah. That would be nice.

KEVIN
Okay.

Kevin kisses her on the top of her foot.

KARLA
That's a start. But I'm not talking about there.

Kevin kisses her on the leg.

KARLA
You're getting warmer.

Kevin continues to move up and works his way up her arm.

KARLA
Now, I'm getting warmer.

Kevin gazes into her eyes and slowly kisses her on the lips. He pulls back and sits back.

A moment of awkwardness fills the room. She touches her lips
and eyes Kevin.

Kevin swallows the lump in his throat.

    KARLA
    Do that again?

Before he answers, Karla leaps into his arms and the two make out on the couch.

INT. KEVIN'S BEDROOM- NEXT MORNING

The sunlight invades the room. Kevin and Karla sleep under the covers. The two face one another.

Kevin awakes. He looks at Karla and briefly smile. Kevin's eyes grow wide and he starts to panic.

He successfully slips out of bed, without awakening Karla.

EXT. CITY STREETS- KEVIN'S SUV- CONTINUOUS

Cars stop at a traffic light. Kevin's SUV is in the middle of traffic.

INT. KEVIN'S SUV-

Kevin freaks out in the car. He continues to look at his watch.

    KEVIN
    What have I done? Oh-- I'm a bad friend. A very bad friend. How could I have allowed this to happen? because I'm an idiot, that's how... and she's gonna wake up in my bed and never speak to me again. It's not even my fault. She's the one who got me drunk and took advantage of me... I mean... What was I supposed to do? I'm only a man!

INT. ISLAND RECREATION CENTER- ACTIVITY ROOM- MORNING

Kevin, Phil and Tony hang out in a room, with long tables and folding chairs. The TV is on.

Phil's face reveals his shock.

    PHIL
    You did what?!
TONY
Get out!

PHIL
What were you thinking?!

KEVIN
I-- I don't know. We were drinking... she asked why we never had a first kiss. I started kissing her and when I woke up this morning, she was in my bed... naked... and so was I.

PHIL
You idiot! Do you know what this means? This is no longer a pretend thing, here. You're in uncharted waters... infested with sharks... without a boat... or a life jacket.

KEVIN
Come on. It's not that bad.

TONY
Are you nuts? This is the absolute worst. How was it? I always wanted to hit that. I bet she can--

Kevin gets up and begins to walk.

KEVIN
--All right! That's enough!

TONY
Someone's jealous.

KEVIN
(scoffs)
I'm not jealous.

TONY
Sure you are.

KEVIN
No. I'm not. You think I wanna hear about how you fantasize about my girlfriend?

PHIL
Oh, so she's your girlfriend, now?
KEVIN
(perplexed)
No... Yes... I mean no.

PHIL
What are you saying?

KEVIN
I'm saying, I... I don't know what I'm saying... or thinking.

Kevin flops into the chair and stares into open space.

Phil gets up.

PHIL
That's a first. See, man. I told you something like this was gonna happen, but did you listen to me?
No.

Kevin jumps to his feet.

KEVIN
This is a disaster. What have I done? What am I gonna do?

Kevin frantically paces the floor.

PHIL
You gotta end this before things get out of hand.

KEVIN
Too late. It's already out of hand. I think I'm in love with her.

TONY
You think?

KEVIN
How the hell am I supposed to know? I've never been in love before. I know that I've never felt this way about anyone in my life.

PHIL
You gotta tell her.

Kevin gets up and awkwardly moves about.
KEVIN
I can't tell her.

TONY
What'aya mean you can tell her? You have to tell her.

KEVIN
What if she doesn't feel the same way? It will ruin everything.

PHIL
That's the dumbest thing I ever heard in my life. Even for Tony. What if she does feel the same way? It takes two to tango, you know.

Kevin stares beyond the doorway.

INT. NURSING HOME - HALLWAY - AFTERNOON

Karla stands by her medicine cart and puts some medicine in a cup. She sports a glowing smile and walks to Mr. Jenkins' room.

Karla KNOCKS on the door.

MR. JENKINS ROOM-

Mr. Jenkins lies under the covers. The TV is on.

MR. JENKINS
Come in.

Karla opens the door and walks towards Mr. Jenkins. He notices this.

KARLA
Hi-- Mr. Jenkins. Feeling a little better?

Mr. Jenkins slowly sits up in bed.

MR. JENKINS
No. This gout is really kickin' my ass, today.

Karla pours a cup of water and gives it to him, along with a plastic cup.
KARLA
Well... I brought another pain pill. Here.

Mr. Jenkins takes the pill and throws the small plastic cup in the trash.

MR. JENKINS
Thank you, darlin.

KARLA
Don't mention it.

Karla starts for the door.

MR. JENKINS
Hey-- Karla. Whatever it is that has you glowing, hold on to it.

KARLA
Thank you, Mr. Jenkins.

Karla walks away.

HALLWAY-
Karla attends to her cart. She writes in a patient's chart and looks at her watch.

Just then, a DELIVERY MAN comes to the nurses station. He holds a bouquet of carnations and red roses.

One of the nurses points in Karla's direction and the delivery man walks towards her.

DELIVERY MAN
Excuse me? Karla Edwards?

KARLA
Yes. That's me.

Karla turns and notices the flowers.

DELIVERY MAN
These are for you.

He gives her the flowers and walks away.

KARLA
Thank you.

Karla takes a look at the card. The card states: "Thank you for the best night of my life."

Karla sighs and releases a growing smile.
INT. MALL - JEWELRY STORE - AFTERNOON

Kevin looks in a small mirror and carefully surveys the necklace around his neck.

A SALESWOMAN, in her 20's, stands behind the counter.

SALESWOMAN
It looks great on you and it's twenty percent off.

KEVIN
Really? In that case. I'll take it. It's gonna need a charm.

SALESWOMAN
What type of charm would you like?

KEVIN
No. I was just thinking out loud. That's all I want.

Kevin takes the necklace off and gives it to the woman. She walks to the register.

Kevin starts to follow her, but something in the display catches his eye.

KEVIN
Excuse me, Miss. How much for this one?

The saleswoman walks over to Kevin.

SALESWOMAN
Which one?

KEVIN
(points)
That one?

SALESWOMAN
A great choice. It's a little expensive, but--

KEVIN
--I'll take it.

Kevin pulls out his credit card and gives to the woman.

SALESWOMAN
Okay. I'll just grab it for you. Anything else I can get for you?
KEVIN
No, that will be all.

SALESWOMAN
Do you want these wrapped?

KEVIN
Not the necklace. You can give that to me, now.

The saleswoman gives Kevin the necklace and he puts it back around his neck.

He looks in the small mirror and releases a smile.

EXT. RESTAURANT- NIGHT
A dimly lit place with soft music in the background.

Kevin and Karla have dinner. They sit in a booth by the window.

Kevin sports the new necklace around his neck.

KARLA
That's a really nice necklace.

KEVIN
Thank you. Just a little present to myself. I got this at the mall today, while I was shopping.

Kevin and Karla awkwardly make eyes at one another.

KARLA
This is really good. How did you find out about this place?

KEVIN
Phil told me about it. He said the food was great and that it wasn't expensive.

Still a moment of awkwardness continues.

KARLA
So-- about last night.

KEVIN
It was totally unexpected.
KARLA
Yeah-- I know what you mean. I was thinking about it all day long. Oh, by the way, thanks for the flowers.

KEVIN
You're welcome.

KARLA
Listen, Kevin. I don't want you to think you owe me anything. Last night was wonderful, but I understand. We were drunk and...

Kevin focuses on the bottle of wine.

KEVIN
Yeah-- we just got carried away.

KARLA
Yeah.

Things get quiet. They only stare at one another.

KARLA
So. Oh-- have you come up with anything?

KEVIN
About?

KARLA
You know... Why I can't keep a man?

Kevin looks at her and releases a smile.

KEVIN
Actually, I don't think that it's you. It's the men that you date with the problem.

KARLA
Really? I was starting to think that I really sucked at relationships.

Karla looks out of the window and something grabs her attention. A growing anger reflects her face.

Kevin reaches in his jacket pocket.
KEVIN
No... I think that you're great.
In fact-- I wanted to ask...
you... What's wrong?

Kevin looks out of the window.

Joe and Tiffany walk hand and hand, across the street.

KARLA
I can't believe this.

Karla gets up and rushes out of the restaurant.

KEVIN
No... Karla. Wait! Dammit man!

Kevin gets up and follows her.

EXT. CITY STREETS- CONTINUOUS

Karla emerges from the restaurant and rushes across the street. Kevin emerges and follows her.

Karla confronts Joe and Tiffany.

KARLA
Hey! Hey... Hey-- just what do you think you're doing?

Joe and Tiffany stop and turns as Karla approaches.

Kevin tries to intervene.

KEVIN
Karla! Stop! Who cares what they do? They deserve one another.

KARLA
What are you doing with my boyfriend, you-- you trollop?

TIFFANY
Boyfriend?!

KEVIN
Boyfriend?!

Kevin stares at the ground.

JOE
Boyfriend?

Tiffany and Karla are face to face.
TIFFANY
Look, you stupid bitch. He is not your man, anymore. He's with me now. I suggest you crawl back under the rock from where you came.

Karla takes off her earrings and heels.

KARLA
Bitch?! I've got your bitch.

Kevin tries to hold Karla at bay, but she snatches away from him.

KEVIN
What's the matter with you?!

KARLA
Can't you see that these two went behind our backs?

KEVIN
I don't care. Why do you?

JOE
Wait a minute. Correct me if I'm wrong, but didn't you dump me?

KARLA
But that doesn't mean for you to date Kevin's ex, you asshole!

TIFFANY
Look... Joe is my man, now. You need to move on and get a life.

Kevin shakes his head in disgust.

KEVIN
Karla, why are you doing this?

Karla jacks Tiffany up against the wall.

KARLA
Oh-- man up Kevin! Instead of questioning me, you should be kicking his ass!

Kevin nervously looks at Joe.
KEVIN
(with fear)
No. Oh no. I-- I don't want to
dfight him. If I did, I would have
fought him at the club.

Joe becomes upset.

JOE
So, it was you that called her to
the club?

KEVIN
(duh)
Uh-- yeah. She deserves a good
man, not a jerk like you.

Karla PUNCHES Tiffany in the face and she collapses to the
ground.

KEVIN
That's for Kevin!

Karla kicks her one last time.

Joe grabs Kevin and slams him from wall to wall, before he
slams Kevin to the ground.

Karla jumps on Joe's back.

Kevin lies on the ground and moans in obvious pain.

EXT. CITY STREETS- CONTINUOUS
An ambulance drives away with flashing lights and SIREN.

INT. MEMORIAL HOSPITAL- ER- TREATMENT ROOM B- NIGHT
Kevin lies in the hospital bed. He has a two ice packs, one
over each eye, and a sling on his arm.

Karla walks through the door.

KARLA
Kevin. I'm so sorry. Are you okay?

Kevin glares at Karla, but says nothing.

Karla walks close to the bed.

KARLA
Come on, Kevin. I said I was
sorry. Please speak to me?
KEVIN
Leave me alone.

Kevin turns his head opposite of Karla. She hangs her head.

INT. KEVIN AND KARLA'S APT - LIVING ROOM- CONTINUOUS

Kevin sits on the couch. He stares at the TV. He has two black eyes.

Karla walks in with a cup of water and two pills. Kevin frowns at the sight of her.

KARLA
Here, take this.

Karla gives them to Kevin and sits beside him.

Kevin gets up and limps towards his room.

KARLA
I'm sorry, Kevin. I didn't mean to--

He stops and turns to Karla.

KEVIN
--You never mean to, Karla. You got into a fight with my ex, over a man that isn't even yours. Then on top of that, you drew me into a confrontation that I didn't even want. While you were over there doing your wonder woman impression, I was getting bounced around by Joe "The Freakin" Body Builder. Look at me! I look like the freakin' Hamburgular! I-- I can't do this anymore.

KARLA
Do what?

KEVIN
This... this pretend dating thing... it has to stop.

KARLA
But why?

KEVIN
You have to ask? It's been one disaster after another. I mean... come on, Karla... If you're not getting me beat up, you're busy (MORE)
KEVIN (CONT'D)
seducing me, trying to get me into
to bed.

KARLA
Hey-- that's not true. You started
kissing me, remember?

Kevin limps back towards Karla.

KEVIN
Only because you asked me to. If
it wasn't for this stupid seminar,
I wouldn't have a cracked skull...
a dislocated shoulder and believe
me, I definitely wouldn't have
slept with you.

KARLA
But we're half way through the
seminar. You can't bailout on me
now. In four more weeks, the class
is over and things can go back to
the way they use to be.

KEVIN
Fine. I will still go to the
class, but the dating part is
over.

KARLA
But what about the assignments? If
we don't do them, then we'll fail.

KEVIN
Why don't you do the assignments
with your boyfriend, Joe? He's the
one you want. And for the record,
things will never be the same.
Never.

Kevin walks into his room and SLAMS the door.

A confused Karla watches as Kevin disappears from sight.

INT. THE HILTON - CONFERENCE ROOM- EVENING

The room is almost full.

Kevin and Karla sit up front. Kevin looks unhappy. Karla
notices this.

KARLA
Do you have to look like that?
KEVIN
Like what? Like I don't wanna be here?

KARLA
Yes.

KEVIN
Look. I said that I would finish the class, but don't expect me to break dance in the middle of the floor.

Karla stares at the floor.

KARLA
Why are you angry with me? You never get angry with me.

KEVIN
Angry is not necessarily the word I would use... Hurt and disappointment is more like it.

Dr. Wilforth walks from his room, onto the stage and stands at the podium.

KARLA
Can we discuss this later?

KEVIN
Whatever.

Karla oddly looks at Kevin. She shrugs and her attention goes to Dr. Wilforth.

DR. WILFORTH
Welcome back, everyone. Today, we're gonna go right into your presentations. Who wants to be first?

One of the couples, BILL AND SHARON, both in their mid to late 40'S, raises their hands.

DR. WILFORTH
Okay, Bill and Sharon, come up.

Bill and Sharon walk up to the front.

Kevin frowns and shakes his head.

Karla looks subdued. She eyes Kevin, who continues to frown and pout.
BILL
Thank you, Dr. Wilforth. The last two weeks were filled with excitement. We went to see the play, "The Nutcracker." It was different for me, because I'm not really a Nut Cracker kinda guy. But I have to say I really enjoyed it.

Everyone CLAPS for them, but Kevin. He looks miserable.

Sharon begins to speak, but Kevin interrupts her.

Kevin jumps up.

KEVIN
You know, I've had just enough of this stupid seminar and you people. This seminar is gimmick and a total waste of time. I mean, look at us. We're here taking a class from an unmarried man, who knows nothing about keeping a mate.

Dr. Wilforth looks surprised.

Karla's mouth is wide open, as she stares at Kevin.

BILL
You are such an asshole.

KEVIN
And you, sir, are an idiot. If you've been married for twenty years and you need a class on how to keep the magic going, maybe you shouldn't be married at all.

SHARON
So, why are you here?

KEVIN
I'm here only to help her find out why she can't keep a god-damn man.

A GASP from the group. Total silence fills the room.

Karla's eyes reveals her hurt feelings.

SHARON
You're a jerk!

Kevin bites his bottom lip, angrily walks over to the buffet table and pours a cup of red juice.
He walks back over to Bill and Sharon tosses the drink on both of them.

    KEVIN
    Now, I'm a jerk.

Bill pushes Kevin and he falls near the buffet table. Kevin gets up and starts throwing food at Bill.

Bill ducks and the food hits another man in the face. The man gets up and a food fight ensues.

MOMENTS LATER-

Food flies everywhere as more and more people get involved. Kevin and Bill continue to throw food at one another. Dr. Wilforth tries to restore order, but to no avail. Karla puts her head in her lap.

INT. KEVIN AND KARLA'S APT - LIVING ROOM- DAY

Karla sleeps on the couch. She wraps herself under a blanket.

The front door SHUTS and keys RATTLE. Karla awakens. Kevin walks into the room. He notices Karla on the couch and attempts to go to his room.

Karla sits up.

    KARLA
    We need to talk.

Kevin scoffs at Karla, continues to his room and shuts the door.

KEVIN'S ROOM-

A KNOCK at the door and Karla comes in.

Kevin lies on his back and focuses on the ceiling.

    KARLA
    Kevin. I don't know exactly what's going on between the us, but I don't like it.
KEVIN
That makes the two of us. I don't like what I'm feeling, right now. The scary part is I don't know what I'm feeling, because I've never felt this way before.

Karla sits on the bed beside Kevin

KARLA
Look, Kevin. I'm sorry that I made you go to the seminar with me. It's just that... I want to have kids and a family dog. I wanna be happy, you know? And I guess I thought that this seminar was the answer. But, I'm more confused now, than ever.

Kevin sits up on the bed.

KEVIN
(sighs)
And that is why you can't keep a man.

KARLA
What are you talking about?

KEVIN
I don't think you know what you want, Karla. I hear what you say, but your actions say otherwise. You're like one of the players on my team, you know. You have the dream, but you don't have the drive.

Karla becomes defensive. She gets up.

KARLA
So, I'm the reason why I can't keep a man. That's just great... It's all my fault. Well, what about you, Kevin? Huh? You're just as bad. I mean, come on, Kevin. Really. Or maybe you're attracted to bimbos, because they are easy to manipulate and you're too afraid of the challenge of a real woman.

Kevin gets up.
KEVIN
Is that what you think?

Karla stands her ground.

KEVIN
Well, here's a little info for you. I can't keep a woman because I live with you. If you were a man, I'd probably be married right now... and you... you'd probably still be confused and single.

Kevin walks out of the room.
A stunned Karla follows Kevin out the room.

LIVING ROOM-
Kevin grabs his keys from the coffee table. He heads for the foyer.
Karla angrily follows.

KARLA
Well, if you feel that way, why don't you just leave?

FOYER-
Kevin opens the door.

KEVIN
Fine! I will! I'll be out in three days.

Kevin walks outside of the apartment.
Karla stands in the doorway.

KARLA
Why so long? How about tomorrow... or tonight!

Karla SLAMS the door. She trembles and she buries her face in her hands.

LIVING ROOM-
Karla collapses on the couch. She stares in open space and begins to cry.
KEVIN AND KARLA APART—MONTAGE

Kevin sits at his desk and does some paper work. He slams his pen on the desk and covers his face.

Karla lies in bed and stares at the wall. Her face reveals her anguish and pain. A box of tissues sits beside her.

Kevin lies on a cot in front of his desk. He uses a seat cushion for a pillow. He looks uncomfortable.

Karla lies asleep. Her face reflects tension as she tosses and turns, unable to find comfort.

Kevin lies on the floor beside the cot. He stares at the desk.

A somber Karla stands by her cart and writes on a chart. She knocks on the door and walks into a patient's room.

A young man, in a wheelchair, sits in front of his TV. Karla tries to hide her pain, as she greets the man and gives him a little plastic cup. The man takes his medication and gives the plastic cup back to Karla.

The gym is packed for the game. Alicia steals a pass and goes in for the lay-up. She misses.

Kevin shows his disappointment.

JASMINE, a tall 10 year old girl, grabs a rebound and turns it over.

Kevin shakes his head. He looks over to Karla's usual seat and it's empty.

He drops his head for a moment and tries to mentally get back into the game.

Karla lounges on the couch in a pair of Kevin's pajamas. She looks through a photo album.

A picture reveals Karla and Kevin, about 2 years old, standing in the middle of the play pin. The two embrace one another and share a kiss. Karla touches the picture with her fingers, then turns the page.

Another picture shows Karla in a gown and Kevin in a tuxedo, standing side by side.

Another picture shows Karla and Kevin in party hats, which states: "HAPPY NEW YEARS". Kevin kisses her on the cheek.

Karla briefly laughs and she burst into tears.

Three boxes sit in the middle of the floor. Another box
sits on the bed, as Kevin packs the last of his things.

-Kevin's SUV sits in front of the door. He struggles to get the box into the trunk. He stands and wipes his brow with a towel.

-Kevin grabs the last box from his bed and starts to walk away. He turns and looks around the room.

-Very few cars drive on this two-lane street. A red car travels ahead of Kevin's SUV.

-Kevin looks distraught. He changes the station repeatedly and pounds on the steering wheel out of frustration.

-Karla throws her keys on the coffee table and starts for her room. She notices that Kevin's room is empty and detours.

-Karla stands in the doorway, looks at the bare walls and empty closet. She takes a deep breath, hangs her head, turns and walks away.

-Karla sits on one of the swings in the park. She focuses on the sand and gently swings back and forth.

-Karla smiles as she watches a young boy and young girl play together. The boy and girl hide behind a tree and kiss one another.

-It's dark. The park is empty and the lights brightly shine.

-Kevin sits in the same swing as Karla did. He swings back and forth and gazes into the stars.

-A somber Karla stands at her cart. She puts medicine in small plastic cups. She writes in a notebook.

INT. ISLANDS RECREATION CENTER - KEVIN'S OFFICE- DAY

Kevin sits behind his desk and reclines in his chair. Phil sits at the computer, while Tony sits in the folding chair.

TONY

You know this is for the best, right?

KEVIN

Then, why does it feel like a part of me has died?

Kevin rests his head on the desk.
TONY
Hey-- Kev. You remember my cousin from Philly?

KEVIN
Yeah-- so.

TONY
So-- she's in town for the holidays and she asked me if I had a friend to show her around. Are you interested?

Kevin looks at Tony.

GYM-

Kevin practices his team. He looks depressed and the girls recognize this.

The team does lay-up drills.

KEVIN
You're not jumping.

The girls continue the drill and make an effort to jump.

KEVIN
That's better.

Kevin looks preoccupied. He stares at the floor and Alicia glances his way. She notifies Keri. Now both look at him.

LATER-

The girls sit in a circle on the floor. Kevin stand in the center of the circle.

KEVIN
Girls, you must not be afraid to make mistakes. Mistakes are a part of life. As long as you live, you will make mistakes. It's what you do after you make a mistake that defines you as a person.

Kevin begins to walk around.

KEVIN
The championship game is Saturday and if we are going to be successful, we have to lay it all on the line. We can't hold anything back. Just know that win, lose or draw, I'm proud of you.
Just then, Karla walks through the doors. Kevin notices this. His face lights up at the sight of her.

Alicia and Keri notice this, then look at one another.

**KEVIN**
Okay, girls. Bring it in.

The girls get up and huddle around Kevin.

Karla sits in the bleachers.

**KEVIN**
Lady Eagles on three. One, two, three!

**KEVIN AND TEAM**
LADY EAGLES!

The girls run out of the gym and leave Kevin and Karla alone. He walks over to the bleachers and sits.

Alicia and Keri sneak back in and hide under the bleachers.

**KEVIN**
Hi.

**KARLA**
Hi... Look, Kevin. I know that we're not on the best of terms, but I figured that you would at least have said goodbye, before moving all of your stuff.

Kevin gets up.

**KEVIN**
I'm sorry. I just thought it would be less painful.

**KARLA**
I understand. So, where will you be staying?

**KEVIN**
Probably here, in my office, until I can find a place of my own. I have a cot so... uh... yeah.

An moment of awkwardness, as Kevin and Karla stare at one another.

**KARLA**
Yeah. So-- how's the team?
KEVIN
Good, actually. The championship game is Saturday? Are you coming? I mean, the girls... they were asking... you know... I told them I would ask.

KARLA
I wish I could, but I have to work.

Kevin drops his head.

KEVIN
Yeah... of course you do.

Karla gets up and slowly walks towards Kevin.

KARLA
But hey, there's gonna be a party after the seminar. You can meet me there... you know, if you want?

KEVIN
I can't. Tony's cousin is in town and he asked me to show her around. I-- I told him I'd do it.

Alicia and Keri are in shock.

Karla releases a small smile.

KARLA
That's... That's just great, Kevin. I'm happy for you. I hope she's the one.

Karla turns her back to Kevin and reveals her pain.

KEVIN
It doesn't mean a thing. I'm just doing Tony a favor.

KARLA
You don't have to explain anything to me. I'm not one of your exs. We were only pretend dating, remember.

KEVIN
Yeah-- I guess we were.

Karla checks her watch.
KARLA
I... I gotta run. I have to get ready for work. Good bye, Kevin.

She closes in and embraces him. Kevin returns the gesture.

KEVIN
Good bye, Karla.

Karla breaks away and quickly makes her exit.

Kevin watches as Karla disappears from sight.

INT. NURSING HOME- COMMUNITY ROOM- DAY

Karla sits alone at a table. Her face reveals sadness.

Mr. Jenkins notices this. He makes his way to Karla.

MR. JENKINS
Hey there. How is my favorite nurse doing today?

Karla turns and a tear streaks down her face.

MR. JENKINS
What happened to your glow?

KARLA
Kevin and I had a fight... a big fight... he hates me.

MR. JENKINS
Well, what happened?

KARLA
I blew it. I had the greatest best friend in the world and I-- I absolutely blew it.

MR. JENKINS
Aw-- he'll come around.

KARLA
I don't blame him. I should have never forced him to go to that seminar with me. I just pushed him too far. I love him so much and now, he'll probably never speak to me again.
MR. JENKINS
Karla, the way that young man looked at you, it's hard to believe that.

KARLA
Tell me, why is he going out on a date?

MR. JENKINS
Listen, I don't know why we men do some of the things we do, but I do know this. He loves you. Does he know how you truly feel?

KARLA
No... Because I'm just realizing my true feelings and if I tell him and he doesn't feel the same way... well, it may completely destroy any hope of saving our friendship.

MR. JENKINS
You know, I loved a woman once. And it turns out that she would be the only woman that I would ever love.

KARLA
Mr. Jenkins, I never knew you were married?

MR. JENKINS
I wasn't. I never told her how I felt. She married a lawyer and I... I became a pimp. And now, I have no one. No children... or grandchildren... and I'm stuck in a nursing home, where I'm around the only family I have.

Karla becomes distant.

MR. JENKINS
I wonder what my life would have been like if I just would have told her? Anyway, I gotta go. Maybelle is waiting for me.

A confused Karla stares in open space.
INT. ISLAND RECREATION CENTER - GYM- AFTERNOON

It's standing room only and the bleachers are full. People are aligned against the wall.

Alicia dribbles the ball up the floor. She looks around the court and passes the ball to Keri.

Keri takes a three-pointer and hits the shot. The crowd wildly CHEERS.

Kevin's team immediately gets in a full fourt press.

The other team tries to throw the ball in bounds, but Alicia steals the pass. Alicia goes in for an uncontested lay-up.

The fans CHEER.

The scoreboard reads: 22-20.

The other team throws the ball in bounds and the girl dribbles the ball up the floor. She looks around and shoots. It goes in. Kevin calls time out.

The scoreboard shows: 29-28.

Kevin's team sprint to the bench.

KEVIN
Okay... This is not the end. We have fifteen seconds to score. Now they are going to proably double Alicia and Keri, so that means, someone else is going to have to step up. It's going to have to be you, Jasmine.

Jasmine stands in shock.

JASMINE
But coach. What if I miss?

KEVIN
Then, you miss. You can't allow the fear of failure to keep you from trying. If you miss, hopefully you'll make it next time. I got faith in you and now it's time for you to have faith in yourself.

The HORN sounds. The referee walks over to Kevin's team bench.
KEVIN
See what can happen with a little faith. You never know what you can accomplish unless you are willing to try. Jasmine you scored your first points of the season and it couldn't have come at a better time. Congratulations.

Everyone CHEERS. Alicia and Keri pat Jasmine on the back.

KEVIN
I wanna take time to thank everyone for a memorable season. Thank you parents for showing your steady support throughout the season... and to my players... for their hard work and dedication. You are champions and no one can ever take that away.
Kevin sits the trophy on the table.

KEVIN
But we have more work to do. Now, it's time to compete in the state competition. So practice will be Monday. Until then, enjoy this moment and enjoy the rest of the weekend. All right, everybody in, parents included.

They all huddle around Kevin.

KEVIN
Team on three! One, two, three!

PARENTS AND TEAM
TEAM!

They continue to celebrate.

Alicia and Keri comes to Kevin.

ALICIA
Coach, can we talk to you?

KEVIN
Sure, girls. What about?

ALICIA
Well-- you've been helping us learn the game of basketball ever since we were six years old.

KERI
And now it's time for us to help you.

KEVIN
Help me? With what? What are you girls getting at?

Alicia and Keri stare at one another.

ALICIA
Tell her how you feel.

KEVIN
Tell who?

KERI
Karla, you big dummy. How can you tell us that Attitude, Commitment and Effort are the formula for success and to work hard for what (MORE)
KERI (CONT'D)
we want, when you don't do the same?

ALICIA
You know that you love her.

KEVIN
Well, it's a complicated situation. Thanks girls. I know you mean well, but--

ALICIA
--But nothing. Come on, coach. Why are you giving up so easily? Where's your fight--

KERI
--Come on Alicia. I guess the ACE thing was just a joke, after all.

Alicia and Keri walk away.

Kevin puts his hand on his hip and looks up.

INT. HILTON - CONFERENCE ROOM- NIGHT

People begin to file in. The sound of quiet MURMUR, as the group mingles with one another.

Karla sits alone. Her face reveals her sadness.

INT. RESTAURANT- NIGHT

A moderate amount of patrons sit at tables. The sounds of distant CHATTER fills the room.

A waiter takes the menus from Kevin and TAYLOR'S table and walks away.

Taylor, in her 20's, is a tall woman with a short hairstyle.

TAYLOR
This place is so beautiful. The lighting... the soft music... I'm really glad we came here.

KEVIN
Yeah. Me too.

Kevin stares off into the distance.
TAYLOR
You know, most of the guys I date never take me to places like this. They always take me to cheap and sleazy places, like fast food restaurants and motels.

KEVIN
Imagine that.

INT. HILTON - CONFERENCE ROOM - NIGHT
More people walk through the door and seat themselves.
Bill and Sharon sit with Karla. Karla looks upset.

SHARON
Where is Mr. Kevin?

KARLA
I... I don't think he's coming, tonight. We had a huge fight.

BILL
I'm so sorry.

SHARON
That's horrible.

KARLA
Yeah, tell me about it. Before this class, we were best friends and now... I don't know.

Just then, WILFORTH'S ASSISTANT steps up to the podium.

WILFORTH'S ASSISTANT
Attention everyone. If you will kindly find your seats. Class will start in five minutes.

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT
The sounds of distant CHATTER continues, as Kevin and Taylor have dinner.

KEVIN
So tell me a little about yourself.

TAYLOR
Well... I born and I had my first birthday a year after that. By the age of six, I had every boy in elementary school sending me (MORE)
TAYLOR (CONT'D) notes. I was junior high and high school prom queen. Do I have any food in my teeth?

Taylor opens her mouth and reveals food particles between all of her teeth.

Kevin looks at her in shock.

KEVIN Yeah... You might wanna brush and floss... more than twice a year.

Taylor fills her mouth with wine and gargles. She spits the wine back into her glass.

All of the food particles float around in her glass. Kevin looks at the glass and gives her an odd stare.

TAYLOR Okay, better. Now, enough about me. I wanna know about you.

KEVIN Um... sure. What'aya wanna know?

TAYLOR What's your idea of a perfect mate? You know, someone you can see yourself spending the rest of your life with?

KEVIN Well...

Kevin focuses on the table.

INT. KEVIN AND KARLA TOGETHER- FLASHBACK- MONTAGE

- Kevin and Karla eat at a restaurant. Karla displays a glowing smile.
- Karla laughs at one of Kevin's jokes.
- Kevin and Karla dance. He dips her.
- Kevin and Karla sit in his office. Her eyes grow big and a growing smile consumes her face. She quickly rounds the desk and hugs Kevin.
- Kevin chases Karla through the apartment. He catches her and the two engage in a pillow fight.
- Karla and Kevin sit on the couch. She leaps into his arms and the two make out on the couch.
INT. RESTAURANT- NIGHT- BACK TO PRESENT

Kevin continues to stare.

TAYLOR
Kevin. Kevin.

Kevin looks at Taylor and stands.

KEVIN
I gotta go.

TAYLOR
What? What'aya mean, you gotta go? Was it something I said?

KEVIN
(gets up)
Ah-- no. It's not you... really. I'm sorry, Taylor. There's some place that I need to be.

TAYLOR
What's wrong? I don't understand.

Kevin pulls out his wallet and leaves the bill money on the table. He reluctantly kisses Taylor on the cheek.

KEVIN
You're quite a woman. Thanks for a lovely time and thanks for opening my eyes.

Kevin rushes away.

TAYLOR
But wait! Oh-- man. This always happens to me.

INT. HILTON - CONFERENCE ROOM- NIGHT

A couple, MR.and MRS. ANDERSON, stand and share their experiences with the group.

Dr. Wilforth stands at the podium. He looks at his cell phone and puts it to his ear. He walks away from the podium, turning his back to the group.

MR. ANDERSON
We really enjoyed the seminar. We learned a lot about ourselves and met a few new friends in the process--

Dr. Wilforth puts his phone back in his pocket and walks back to the podium.
MRS. ANDERSON
--Most importantly, we rekindled the love we shared when we first met, thirty years ago. If it wasn't for the seminar and Dr. Wilforth, I don't know where we would be. So we say thank you. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

MR. ANDERSON
Thanks everybody.

Everyone stands in APPLAUSE. The couple return to their seats.

Karla's eyes continue to reflect her sorrows. She shakes her head.

DR. WILFORTH
Thank you, Mr. and Mrs. Anderson. I am happy to say that you've passed with flying colors.

Everyone CLAPS.

DR. WILFORTH
Okay. Now, who wants to go next?

Bill and Sharon stand.

BILL
We do.

DR. WILFORTH
Okay. Let's hear it for Bill and Sharon.

Everyone CLAPS as Bill and Sharon make their way to the front.

EXT. CITY STREETS- NIGHT

INT. KEVIN'S CAR-

Kevin is stuck in traffic. He looks at his watch and HONKS the horn, repeatedly.

KEVIN
Come on! Move it! Oh-- I'll never make it in time!

He POUNDS the steering wheel with his fist.
KEVIN
God-dammit! I gotta do something.

Kevin looks around and veers onto the side walk. The tires SCREECH as Kevin speeds off.

People scamper and frantically try to get out of the way, as Kevin HONKS his horn and speeds past them.

A MAN ON A BIKE tries to avoid Kevin's car and crashes into a trash can, falling to the ground.

MAN ON A BIKE
Whoa!

KEVIN
Oh... sorry. I'm so sorry.

The man looks as Kevin speeds away.

MAN ON A BIKE
ASSHOLE!

As Kevin approaches the intersection, he swerves back onto the street. Tires SCREECH and horns BLOW as he nearly causes an accident. He continues on.

INT. HILTON- CONFERENCE ROOM- NIGHT

Bill and Sharon continue to speak in front of the group.

BILL
It was because of this class, that we were able to relive the magic we once shared... and because of this class and sharing our experiences with all you, we will be able to keep that magic alive.

SHARON
We'd like to take the time to thank Dr. Wilforth and you guys for an amazing experience and we will never forget you. Thanks for everything guys.

Everyone APPLAUDS Bill and Sharon, as the two return to their seats.

DR. WILFORTH
Thank you, Bill and Sharon. I'm glad that you were able to find the magic that brought the two of you together.

Everyone CLAPS.
DR. WILFORTH
Okay. Now for our final couple. Karla and Mr. Kevin. Uh— where's Mr. Kevin?

A broken Karla stands and turns towards the group.

KARLA
As you can see, Kevin is not here and I doubt that he's coming.

The audience quietly MURMURS and shake their heads in sympathy.

KARLA
I realize this means that we've failed the course, but I just wanted to share with my experiences with you all, anyway.

EXT. CITY STREETS—HILTON—NIGHT

Kevin struggles to find a parking space. He looks around and no spot is available.

KEVIN
That's just great. Now what am I gonna do?

Kevin circles the block and encounters the same scenario of no parking spaces. He comes up on the Hilton, he looks at his watch and SLAMS on breaks.

Kevin jumps out of the car and leaves it in the middle of the street. He runs towards The Hilton.

The SECURITY GUARD confronts Kevin near the top of the steps. Kevin stops.

SECURITY GUARD
Hey— You can't abandon your car in the middle of the street! Move it, or I'll have it towed!

Kevin looks back at the car.

KEVIN
(sternly)
I don't care. Do what you have to do. Just get the hell outta my way.

He continues past the security guard.

The guard shakes his head and speaks into a hand held device.
INT. THE HILTON LOBBY- CONTINUOUS

Kevin continues to make his way to the lobby. The elevator opens and Joe and Tiffany emerges.

Joe spots him and the two confront Kevin.

JOE
What the hell are you doing here?

Tiffany chimes in.

TIFFANY
He's following us, Joe. Kick his ass again.

KEVIN
Look... I don't want any trouble. I got something to do and nothing is going to keep me from doing it.

Joe pushes Kevin in the chest.

JOE
Well, you've got trouble, you little punk.

Joe grabs Kevin by both arms. Kevin gives Joe a stiff knee to the groin.

JOE
Oh!

Joe slumps over and falls to the ground. Kevin starts to leave, then stops. He goes back.

Kevin snatches a couple of Tiffany's braids out of her hair.

TIFFANY
Ouw!

KEVIN
That's for slapping me in the face.

Kevin runs away.

Tiffany grabs her head and Joe continues to lay on the ground and grimaces in pain.

TIFFANY
Get up, Joe. You can't be hurt that bad. It's not like it's a whole lot down there. I don't know why I'm even with you.
CONFERENCE ROOM-

Karla continues to stand in front of the group.

    KARLA
    You see, it's not all Kevin's
    fault. I forced him to take this
    class with me and it ruined our
    friendship. And now, he hates me.

Kevin opens the door.

    KEVIN
    (out of breath)
    I don't hate you.

A GASP from the audience. Karla looks at Kevin.

    KARLA
    Kevin. What are you doing here?

All eyes and angry faces are on Kevin. The audience GRUMBLES
and MURMURS among themselves.

    KEVIN
    (continues)
    I have something to say.

    DR. WILFORTH
    Apparently, Mr. Kevin has
    something to say... for himself.

Dr. Wilforth steps aside and gives Kevin the floor.

Kevin slowly turns towards the audience. Their faces reflect
anger.

    KEVIN
    (nervously)
    First of all, I would like to
    apologize to all of you for being
    such a jerk.
    (to Dr.
    Wilforth)
    Especially to you, Dr. Wilforth.
    I'm sorry for starting the food
    fight and for all of the
    disruptions. Except, of course,
    for the chicken wings.

Karla shakes her head in disappointment.

Kevin turns towards Karla.
KEVIN
(to Karla)
I'm sorry. I'm sorry that I hurt
you. I would never do anything to
intentionally hurt you.

Kevin slowly walks towards Karla.

KEVIN
(continues)
I admit, I never was sold on this
seminar, but this has been the
best eight weeks of my life.

Karla eyes reflects her sadness.

KARLA
All I know, is that on a night
when I really needed you the most,
you chose to go out on a date. How
should that make me feel? I've
always been there for you. Always.

KEVIN
I know and I'm truly sorry.

Karla's eyes tear up.

KEVIN
But funny you should mention my
date. And in a weird way, if it
wasn't for my date tonight, I... I
probably wouldn't have come.

KARLA
What are you talking about? That's
the craziest thing I've heard in
my life.

KEVIN
She asked me a question and the
answer was you.

KARLA
What? Who is your best friend? She
shouldn't have had to remind you
of that, Kevin.

KEVIN
Actually... she wanted to know
what type of woman I wanted to
spend the rest of my life with.

Karla's eyes light up.
KEVIN
You see, I can imagine a lot of things like... never being rich or not having a big house and a fancy car, but I can't imagine a life without you.

Karla becomes emotional. The two stand face to face. He strokes the side of her face with his fingers.

KEVIN
You are my best friend... the person I want to spend all of my free time with and because of this seminar and my date, I found out that you're the person that I'm in love with... the woman I want to be the mother of my children.

Tears streak down her face. Kevin kisses her tears away, sits her down and gets on one knee.

KEVIN
(compassionately)
Don't cry. From this moment on, you'll never have to cry again.

Kevin puts his hand in his pocket.

KEVIN
Everything I was searching for is right in front of me... and it's you. No one will ever love you the way I will. You are my soul-mate and I... I want the smell of stale fish sticks to wake me up, everyday, for the rest of my life.

Kevin brandishes a small gray box. He opens it and reveals a sparkling platinum diamond ring.

KARLA
(gasping)
Oh-my-God!

Karla becomes overwhelmed with emotions, unable to utter a word.

KEVIN
What'aya say?

She smiles, leans forward and blows her breath in his face.

Kevin closes his eyes, inhales and releases a blissful
Kevin and Karla passionately embrace and kiss one another.
A THUNDEROUS APPLAUSE consumes the room.
Dr. Wilforth REJOICES.

DR. WILFORTH
Congratulations! You've passed!

Karla hugs Dr. Wilforth.
Kevin extends his hand to Dr. Wilforth, but Dr. Wilforth moves his hand, gives him a hug and a pat on the back.

LATER-
The entire group MINGLES around, eating and talking. Soft music PLAYS in the background.
Kevin and Karla stand by the table of food. People stop by to shake their hand.
Dr. Wilforth approaches them.

DR. WILFORTH
So-- how are you two love birds doing?

KARLA
Great. This is like a dream come true.

DR. WILFORTH
I'm so happy for the two of you. You have the total package... everything it takes to make a long and successful marriage.

Dr. Wilforth shakes Kevin's hand and walks away.

KEVIN
Hey-- Dr. Wilforth.

Dr. Wilforth turns around.

KEVIN
I did learn something during the seminar.

DR. WILFORTH
Oh, yeah? What's that?
KEVIN
There's nothing wrong with romance between friends.

DR. WILFORTH
Ah... sounds like you've learned a valuable lesson. Goodbye, Mr. Kevin.

KEVIN
Please? Call me, Kevin.

DR. WILFORTH
Goodbye, Kevin.

Kevin looks at Dr. Wilforth with admiration.
Dr. Wilforth nods, turns and walks away.

Kevin and Karla embrace and kiss one another.

KEVIN AND KARLA'S WEDDING AND RECEPTION MONTAGE.

-Kevin and Karla stand at the altar. A preacher stands in front of them with a Bible. Phil, Tony and Bill stand as groomsmen, while Louise, Rochelle and Sharon stand as bridesmaids.

-Kevin's entire team dresses as flower girls. Kevin and Karla kiss one another and the two walk away, arm and arm.

-Everyone converges on the dance floor. Kevin and Karla dance in the center of the floor. Kevin's team gleefully look on. Alicia and Keri look at one another and give each other a high-five.

-Kevin and Karla gaze into each others eyes and kiss.

- A photo album reveals the picture of two toddlers, hugging and kissing.

-Another photo shows Kevin and Karla dressed in a tuxedo and gown.

-A photo of Kevin and Karla wearing hats that states, "HAPPY NEW YEARS," with Kevin kissing her on the cheek, sets under the first.

- A wedding photo of Kevin and Karla is beside the former.

THE END

FADE OUT.