THE ODDS OF LOVE

By

MIKE SHELTON

shelton.mike@gmail.com WGA# 1098215 INT. WEDDING RECEPTION HALL - NIGHT

The room is filled with people sitting at tables, standing around, and dancing. A man and woman stand at the bar.

The man is NEWTON LAWLER, 31. He is tall and thin, with glasses and short, dark hair. He wears a tuxedo.

The woman is MELISSA LAWLER, 25. She wears a wedding dress, and her long blond hair is up.

MELISSA What are you worried about?

NEWTON Sometimes I fear I'm off putting to women.

MELISSA I think you're overreacting.

NEWTON

Then how do you explain me being thirty one, single, and at my little brother's wedding without anything even remotely resembling a date?

MELISSA You're taking bachelorism to a whole new level?

NEWTON Patronizing will get you nowhere.

MELISSA It was worth a shot.

NEWTON

I know I'm looking for Miss Right, but I need some limits. I'm sure women pass judgment on me all the time.

MELISSA

They do.

NEWTON Something you're not telling me?

MELISSA

No, it's just one of those things people do. Just hang in there,

MELISSA something will happen when you least expect it.

NEWTON I suppose you're right.

MELISSA I know I am. Just let me see what I can do for you with Franny, ok?

NEWTON Wouldn't that fall into the expecting category?

MELISSA The wise older brother. Always the smartass.

NEWTON

Go mingle.

Melissa goes to greet the guests as Newton stares at the bottom of his empty glass. His brother NATHAN, 26, who bears a strong resemblance to Newton without glasses, walks up.

NATHAN

Big brother!

NEWTON And how is the groom doing?

NATHAN Little drunk, but you know how it goes.

NEWTON

Sure.

NATHAN You alright? You seem to be moping a bit.

NEWTON

Well --

DAD, 60, with a short, stocky build and white hair in a military style buzz cut, walks up and slaps Nathan and Newton on the back. He wears a tuxedo and has obviously had many drinks.

NATHAN

Hello Dad.

DAD My two boys!

NEWTON Yes Dad, your two boys.

DAD

What a splendid affair. My boy finally ties the knot, and not a moment too soon. You got a real prize there, Nate.

NATHAN

Thanks.

Dad points his finger at Newton.

DAD

And you, when the hell are you going to meet a nice girl and settle down? Are you one of those funny boys?

NATHAN

Funny boys?

Dad rubs his forearm with a fist.

DAD You know, in through the out door?

NEWTON I'm not gay, Dad.

DAD I guess we'll just wait and see, eh short pants?

Dad walks away.

NATHAN Pay no mind Newt, you know how he gets.

NEWTON But that's exactly how it's been going all night. When are you going to get married? When are you going to meet a nice girl? You'll die without a son!

NEWTON

He did.

Newton points to Dad, who talks to HENRY, 65, and a few other partygoers.

NEWTON I'm just tired of answering the same questions over and over.

NATHAN Apparently so. I'm gonna get back into the grind with the relatives.

Don't let it bother you. NEWTON

I'll catch up to you later.

NATHAN

Think you'll be able to fit me into your busy schedule of pissing and moaning?

NEWTON I'll try to squeeze you in somewhere between the best man speech and cousin Mary kicking you in the balls.

Nathan walks away talking to himself.

NATHAN That only happened once, and I was twelve.

Dad still talks to Henry and the other partygoers.

DAD

My own son plays for the other team. What do you make of all this, Henry?

HENRY There's worse things in the world than that I'm sure.

Newton saunters over.

NEWTON Is he telling you I'm gay?

THE WHOLE GROUP

No!

NEWTON Well I'm not if anyone cares. I like women.

HENRY Speaking of women, when are we going to be attending your wedding?

NEWTON That's like asking the next time the Cubs will win the World Series, Uncle Henry.

DAD See? It'll be a cold day in hell! You're going to die alone!

NEWTON C'mon, it's Nathan's wedding day, not ask Newton about his wedding day. It's getting old.

BARRY, a short bald man, 38, walks up.

BARRY

Hey Newt.

NEWTON Hey Barry, how ya been?

BARRY Good. We were just over there talking and wondering when you're gonna get married. You should be ashamed of yourself.

An angry look comes over Newton's face. He grabs Barry by the shirt and begins shouting at him.

NEWTON Never, Barry, never! I'm going to die alone! I'm going to, how do you say it Dad?

DAD Die without a son? NEWTON

Die without a son! Does that answer your stupid question Barry? And what gives you the right to tell me I should be ashamed of myself? You're not married either!

Barry is very much afraid. Newton glares at him.

BARRY It wasn't me! AUNT HILDY said that!

NEWTON Well how about you go back and tell Aunt Hildy to quit being such a busybody and mind her own business!

Newton lets go of Barry.

BARRY

I'm sorry, I'm sorry.

Barry goes back to his table and whispers in Aunt Hildy's ear. She puts her hand to her mouth in shock and shakes her head at Newton.

NEWTON Ok, I need to get outta here.

DAD Where the hell you gonna go?

NEWTON Just out. I'll get some air.

Newton walks out.

DAD That's my boys! They're about as useful as tits on a bull, but they got our genes in 'em, so they can't be all bad, eh Henry?

HENRY Whatever you say.

DAD I say we need another drink. Barkeep, light em up.

He puts his finger in the air signaling the bartender and leans over to Henry.

DAD That Hildy's a real tightass anyway.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Newton walks along the sidewalk until he reaches a Chinese restaurant with a chef cooking in the window.

He looks beyond the chef to a couple seated at a table.

He watches them talk and laugh for a moment before continuing down the street with his head down.

INT. WEDDING RECEPTION HALL - NIGHT

Dad and Henry continue talking amongst the group. Nathan has since joined them.

NATHAN What exactly are you asking?

DAD Your wife, she has friends right?

NATHAN

Yeah.

DAD Some of which are single?

NATHAN

Yeah.

DAD

See? You're not such a dumbass after all. What you do is you introduce one of those single friends to your single brother, sit back, relax, and watch them get married, and have ten thousand little Lawlers.

NATHAN If things only worked that way.

DAD Things do work that way. The trick is to get your head out of your ass. NATHAN Good talk, Dad.

Nathan walks away. Dad is befuddled.

DAD What? What did I say?

INT. CAPTAIN CAFFEINE'S COFFEE - NIGHT

Newton stands at the counter with PETE, 44. He's a short man with a medium build, blond hair and matching goatee.

He pours Newton a cup of coffee in a takeout cup.

PETE

Families nag, that's what they do. The trick is to go on enough dates to have some girl to talk about.

NEWTON

I might have to try that.

PETE Well it's got Pete's personal guarantee on it, and I usually reserve that strictly for the coffee.

NEWTON If it's half as good it'll work out nicely.

Pete places a lid on the cup and hands it to Newton.

PETE Anyone who'll leave a wedding to come in here for a coffee gets a free one.

NEWTON Thanks Pete. I'll see you on Monday.

PETE Take it easy, and remember, dates for discussion purposes.

NEWTON

Gotcha.

Newton walks towards the door with his head down and walks right into SARA, 28. He spills his coffee all over her coat and she falls to the ground.

NEWTON Oh god, I'm so sorry. Are you ok?

SARA

I'm fine.

Newton takes a long, gazing look at her. She's petite, has shoulder length brown hair, and dark brown eyes to match.

SARA Can you help me up?

Newton snaps out of his stare and offers his hand to her.

NEWTON You sure you're ok? I didn't burn you did I?

SARA No, I'm fine.

Newton turns to Pete, smirking.

NEWTON Hey Pete, I told you I wanted hot coffee. This girl didn't even get burned.

Pete laughs as Newton turns back to Sara. She just stares at him.

SARA You're joking right?

NEWTON Well I was trying to. Not too good huh?

SARA I probably would have enjoyed it a lot more if I weren't the one with the coffee all over me.

NEWTON Well if you take it for dry cleaning, just drop the bill off with Pete here. My name's --

Sara throws her hands up.

She eyes Newton up and down in his tuxedo.

SARA Bond. James Bond.

NEWTON Close, it's Newton Lawler.

He extends his hand and Sara shakes it.

SARA That was going to be my next guess. Sara Renfeld.

NEWTON I'm terribly sorry about the spill. Can I buy you a coffee to make up for it?

SARA Sure, why not?

INT. WEDDING RECEPTION HALL - NIGHT

A crowd is gathered on the dance floor waiting for the garter toss. Dad runs up to Nathan.

DAD Here's what you do. You take the garter off, turn around and immediately fire it at your brother. He'll catch it out of instinct.

NATHAN I would if I could but I can't. He still isn't back yet.

DAD Where the hell did he go?

NATHAN I don't know, a walk?

DAD A plague on the house of Lawler!

INT. CAPTAIN CAFFEINE'S COFFEE - NIGHT

Newton and Sara sit at a table sipping coffee.

NEWTON I try to travel, go to the movies a lot, the usual.

SARA I see a lot of movies myself. Usually go with my friend Liz.

NEWTON I don't want to sound forward, but are you single?

SARA At the moment, but who knows, you seem like a nice guy from the little bit we've talked.

They share a smile.

INT. DAD'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Dad, Nathan, and Melissa sit in the living room.

DAD Whose idea was it to have dinner today?

NATHAN We didn't think there was any reason not to.

DAD How bout a wicked hangover?

NATHAN Oh you'll be fine.

MELISSA Where's Newt at anyway?

NATHAN I haven't seen or heard from him since he left last night.

MELISSA Maybe he went to Carl's. DAD Carl, that no good bum.

NATHAN Carl's ok, Dad.

DAD

Ok my foot. He'd nail Christ to the cross, and then come back and steal the nails.

MELISSA

I didn't know you disliked him that much.

NATHAN

He's just hanging on to some stupid little thing that happened 15 years ago.

DAD Little thing? Little thing? He drank a whole bottle of Southern on me. I paid eighteen bucks for that bottle.

Newton enters the house, whistling a happy tune.

NEWTON Hello everybody.

NATHAN Where did you go last night?

NEWTON You guys aren't gonna believe it.

DAD What? You stumble into a meeting of rainbow warriors and cross over to the dark side?

NEWTON Can I tell my story?

MELISSA Before I forget, I talked to Franny. She's dating somebody.

NEWTON That's what I'm getting at. I met somebody last night. NATHAN

Where?

NEWTON On the street.

DAD Oh son, those hookers will be the death of you.

NEWTON She's not a hooker.

MELISSA So how'd you meet her?

NEWTON

I was walking out of Captain Caffeine's, and I ran into her and spilled my coffee all over her coat.

NATHAN Isn't that romantic?

NEWTON

Shut up.

A cooking timer sounds.

DAD C'mon turkeys done.

NATHAN You made turkey?

DAD

Yeah why?

NATHAN I get tired every time I eat turkey.

DAD Isn't there something in it that causes that?

NEWTON

Tryptophan.

DAD You got a hangover too? It's in the medicine cabinet. NEWTON No, the stuff in turkey that makes you sleepy. It's called tryptophan.

DAD No it isn't it's something else. It does start with a T though.

NEWTON Well, the technical term for it is turkeysleepy, actually.

Dad stares in silence for a moment.

DAD You're a moron.

INT. DAD'S HOUSE, DINING ROOM - NIGHT

The group sits at the table.

DAD So, Newton, this girl you met. Is she nice?

NEWTON

Sure.

DAD

Pretty?

NEWTON I think so.

DAD Good, good.

They sit in silence for a moment.

DAD Don't blow it son.

Nathan chuckles to himself.

NEWTON You have given me renewed confidence, kimo sabe. INT. NEWTON'S OFFICE - DAY

Newton sits at his desk reading the paper. His boss, JANE, 35, enters. She has short red hair, and is dressed professionally.

JANE Is that our paper?

NEWTON

Nope.

JANE And why not?

NEWTON Because we don't have a sports section, or real news for that matter.

JANE A lot of our stories come from real news.

NEWTON If you mean how we take an honest to goodness world crisis, and fabricate some ridiculous crap story around it, then you're absolutely right. I mean, who

honestly believes this stuff?

Newton picks up a copy of The New York Star Times. The headline reads DEWILDE FAMILY EATEN BY LOCHNESS MONSTER.

JANE It's not about believing, it's entertainment. One million copies a week equals a lot of entertained people.

NEWTON Well until I can stand by what I write, I'll keep using a pseudonym.

JANE Yeah, about that. The higher ups would prefer if you didn't use Heywood Jablowme anymore.

NEWTON I didn't think they'd catch that one. I'll figure out something else.

JANE Well now that that's settled, how was the wedding? NEWTON Typical family function. When will you meet a nice girl? When are you going to get married? JANE I told you I would have gone with you. NEWTON After the last time? I don't think so. JANE What did I do? NEWTON You told my dad that you gave me a blowjob in the car on the way over. JANE I told everyone I was kidding.

NEWTON And then revealed that you were my boss.

JANE

So?

NEWTON So for six weeks after I had to listen to my dad tell everybody that my balls were in my boss' purse.

JANE Ok, well if you ever need my assistance, just ask.

NEWTON You're tops on my list.

Jane leaves. Newton sits at his desk for a moment before taking a piece of paper from his pocket. He picks up the phone and dials. An OPERATOR answers.

OPERATOR (V.O.) Good Morning, Locke, Flagg, and Carter. How may I direct your call?

NEWTON Sara Renfeld please.

OPERATOR

One moment.

Easy listening music plays briefly until Sara answers.

SARA (V.O.) Sara Renfeld.

NEWTON Hey Sara, it's Newton.

SARA (V.O.) Newton who?

NEWTON Lawler. We met the other night. I spilled my coffee on you?

SARA (V.O.) I'm sorry, can you be a little more specific? That happens to me at least three times a week.

NEWTON

На На На.

SARA (V.O.) Just trying to see how long I could string you along. So what's up?

NEWTON Just calling to see if you'd like to get together again sometime.

SARA (V.O.) Sure. When?

NEWTON Whenever's good for you.

SARA (V.O.)

Tonight?

NEWTON

Tonight? Uh, tonight's no good. I've already made plans with another girl for tonight. SARA (V.O.) You call me up for a date when you have plans with somebody else? Why you --

NEWTON Sara. I'm screwing with ya.

SARA (V.O.) I knew that. So tonight then?

NEWTON Sure, meet me at Captain Caffeine's. 8 o'clock?

SARA (V.O.) No problem. I'll see you then. Bye Newton.

NEWTON

Bye.

Newton hangs up the phone, spins around in his chair, and throws his hands in the air.

NEWTON

Yeah!

Workers standing outside of his office stop what they are doing and stare at him.

NEWTON Lunchtime, boy do I love lunchtime. I think I'll go out and enjoy my lunchtime, on this day that I have...a lunchtime.

The workers continue staring.

NEWTON Ah, go back to fuckin' work.

INT. DINER - DAY

Newton and CARL, 31, sit in a booth. Carl is heavy set, with shaggy, dark blonde hair.

NEWTON I'm telling you, she's smart, funny, and beautiful. Best of all she likes me. I'm on cloud nine.

Carl stares off into space.

NEWTON Carl? You hear me?

CARL Yeah yeah. Girl. Smart. Cloud nine. I got it.

Newton looks in the direction that Carl is staring.

NEWTON What are you looking at?

CARL That girl. Short skirt. No panties. I want it.

NEWTON You are a true slob, Carl, and I mean that sincerely.

Carl snaps out of his daze and looks back at Newton.

CARL If you've got a shot then go for it, at least to get your family off your back.

NEWTON That's the funny part of this. I haven't even thought about that.

CARL So where'd you meet her? Nathan's wedding?

NEWTON

Sort of.

CARL Either you did or you didn't.

NEWTON I met her when I went out for some air.

CARL Was it really air, or were you fighting off the temptation to strangle one of your blue haired aunts? NEWTON

Little of both. I could have used your help.

CARL Yeah, those business trips really stick it in and break it off.

NEWTON

I know. I had the same thing happ--

CARL

Quit getting off the subject. What happened?

NEWTON

I was walking out of Captain Caffeine's. I bumped into her and spilled my coffee all over her coat.

CARL

And she found that attractive, did she?

NEWTON Well I did sweet talk her a little.

CARL

No! Not the "this coffee is supposed to be hot" thing.

NEWTON

Yeah.

CARL

Your clumsy ass has spilled more coffee on more people than I could ever know, and you always use that dumb joke. You mean to tell me she thought it was funny?

NEWTON

A little I guess.

CARL

Well any girl who can hear that, and not automatically dismiss you as a boob is a clear keeper.

NEWTON

She has other qualities you know.

CARL And I'm sure they're real nice, but the not thinking you're a boob thing is like triple the points.

NEWTON Thanks for the positive reinforcement.

CARL So, did ya nail her shut?

NEWTON No. We just went back inside, I bought her a cup of coffee, and we talked.

CARL For how long?

NEWTON I don't know. Eight hours maybe.

CARL Eight hours?! That's like three dates. What could you possibly talk about for that long?

NEWTON All kinds of stuff.

CARL My advice to you is to get on that. These chicks nowadays, if you ain't

layin', they ain't stayin'. NEWTON

What an endearing poem.

CARL

This isn't nineteen fifty we're living in. They wanna test the merchandise before settling in.

NEWTON

I rather like my nineteen fifties approach.

CARL

Your whole basis for what works in a relationship is based off of a movie. Me, I'm a pure whore. NEWTON Neither you nor I are whores.

CARL I won't deny it. Carl's baloney pony has given many a ride.

NEWTON You think the pony can rise up and be my wing man?

CARL

Aww man. You want me to go out with a fat chick.

NEWTON I didn't say she was fat.

CARL

If she wasn't you would've asked me by now.

NEWTON

I don't think she's fat.

CARL

You and me, we're best buds, but don't ask me to jump on the grenade for you.

NEWTON

Alright man whore, look at it this way. Maybe you'll get laid.

CARL Oh, well in that case, call me hog slayer.

NEWTON I knew I'd appeal to your tender side.

CARL There needs to be some initiative if I'm gonna throw myself under the bus for ya.

NEWTON I'll give you all the details once I find out. INT. NEWTON'S OFFICE - DAY

Newton enters, picks up his phone and listens to his messages.

SARA (V.O.) Hi Newt, it's Sara. Just calling to let you know I'm having lunch with Liz today, and I'll talk to her about our discussion. Let me know if you hear from Carl. Miss ya. Bye.

Newton hangs up the phone and throws his hands triumphantly in the air.

NEWTON Could this work out any better? I don't think so!

Another group outside his office stares.

NEWTON Don't you people have lives?

INT. CAPTAIN CAFFEINE'S COFFEE - NIGHT

Newton and Carl sit at a table. Newton wears dress casual. Carl, a Hawaiian shirt.

> CARL I'm not worried about fine. I'm worried about laid.

NEWTON That spectacular shirt will certainly heighten your chances.

CARL Don't I look dashing?

NEWTON If you're looking to be on the cover of fat party guys weekly, yes.

CARL What's wrong with my shirt?

NEWTON Wearing a Hawaiian shirt is like riding in the back of a pickup NEWTON truck. There's no way to do it and look cool.

CARL C'mon, it took me like, ten minutes, to put this look together. What do you want me to do?

NEWTON

Just try to put a little more effort into the date than you did on your wardrobe, ok?

Carl looks at his watch.

CARL They're officially late. It's 8:02.

NEWTON My god, we've been stood up.

CARL Nah, her friend is probably just waxing her mustache or something.

NEWTON Nothing like accentuating the positive.

CARL Can we at least order something?

NEWTON You can wait.

CARL But I'm hungry now.

NEWTON

I'm sure they'll be here soon. Probably just fashionably late.

CARL There's that mustache thing again.

NEWTON Or maybe they just care about their appearance?

CARL But what they don't realize is that it's all for nothing. I'm a party guy, I can't be tied down. CARL I love to boogie.

INT. SARA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Sara runs around the apartment in a frenzy. She has one shoe in her hand and searches for the other.

LIZ, 27, with long, semi curly blond hair, and a plus size figure with a pretty face, sits on the couch. She looks at her watch.

LIZ We're now five minutes late.

SARA

I know, I know. I just want to look good, that's all.

LIZ

Why?

SARA Because this guy is really nice and

I like him. Maybe if you gave somebody a chance you'd meet a nice guy too.

LIZ The day I do, I'll take longer than fifteen minutes to get ready.

SARA Your date sounds ok. Just go with the flow. I'm not asking you to marry him or anything.

LIZ

Well that's refreshing. I don't know how I managed to dodge the bullet with all the winners you've set me up with.

SARA Hey I tried.

LIZ So what are these guys' names anyway? SARA Carl and Newton.

LIZ Newton? You're setting me up with a guy named Newton?

SARA No, Newton is mine.

LIZ What is he, a librarian?

SARA He's a writer.

LIZ Oh, so he writes the books that go in the library?

SARA Ladies and gentlemen, Miss cynic U-S-A!

Sara claps her hands wildly.

LIZ One of us has to be. Good cop, bad cop method. And why should I take a bunch of time to get ready? I just wanna take it off anyway.

Sara finally finds her shoe. She puts it on and heads for the door.

SARA Ok, let's go.

INT. CAPTAIN CAFFEINE'S COFFEE - NIGHT

CARL

He stormed in and beat the bejesus out of me with a wire hanger. Whap, whap, whap. I took it for about a minute when I, uh, never mind.

NEWTON When you what? C'mon tell me.

CARL I peed my pants and started crying.

NEWTON That's hilarious.

CARL I learned a valuable lesson that day. Never touch your dad's remote control.

Sara and Liz arrive and stand at the table.

SARA Sorry we're running late. I couldn't find my shoe.

CARL Aww, it's like Cinderella.

Newton glares at Carl before getting up to seat Sara. Liz seats herself.

NEWTON Don't worry about it. You look great.

SARA That's sweet.

CARL AND LIZ So sweet my teeth hurt.

Newton whispers into Sara's ear.

NEWTON At least they have something in common.

CARL

What?

NEWTON Nothing. Carl, this is Sara.

The two shake hands.

CARL Nice to meet you. Can we eat now?

Sara laughs.

SARA Sure, but wouldn't you like to meet Liz first?

CARL Hi Liz. You hungry? I sure am. I'd really like to eat now as a matter of fact, which I was just commenting on mere seconds ago. Hey Pete! Carl waves for Pete, who comes to the table. PETE What can I get ya? CARL Did you put that burger on the menu yet? PETE No Carl. This is a coffee shop. I can get you a donut if you want, but no burgers. I don't even have a grill. CARL Well, one day you'll have a grill, and you'll have burgers, and everyone will love them, and you'll thank me for it. People will come from all over just to sample the Carl burger. PETE Well until that day comes, what can I get you? Carl lowers his head in defeat. CARL Coffee black. Two chocolate donuts. NEWTON The usual. PETE Coffee, black and sugar. SARA I'll have the same. LIZ

Coffee, cream and sugar, and a banana muffin.

PETE Back in a sec. Carl leans in close to Liz. CARL So, do you like big bananas? He gives her an odd wink. LIZ Not as much as charming men like you. NEWTON Carl, you disgust me. CARL Yeah, I do that a lot. LIZ No it's fine. To answer his question, I don't. I like tiny ones. So I guess you still have a chance. CARL Oh yeah? LIZ Yeah. CARL You couldn't handle me, sister. LIZ I'm pretty sure I could, big guy. CARL Well, I'll see your clever retort and do you one better. You wanna go someplace and screw like banshees? Newton and Sara go bug eyed. Liz is stunned. LIZ What did you just say to me? CARL You heard me, or did all of your pent up sexual frustration cause you to go deaf?

LIZ

I'll show you sexual frustration!

She stands up, and pulls Carl out of the coffee shop. Carl gives Newton thumbs up and a childish smile as he goes through the door. Pete returns with the orders.

PETE Where are they going?

NEWTON Uh, they said something about a place that has cheeseburgers.

PETE Alright, I'll just leave this here in case they come back.

NEWTON

Thanks Pete.

Pete sets down the order and heads back to the counter.

NEWTON I'm sorry. I didn't mean for things to work out this way.

SARA Oh no, it's completely fine. Trust me.

Newton places her hand on Sara's.

NEWTON

Listen Sara, I don't want to come off like a cheesy twelve year old here, but I really like you.

SARA You're not cheesy. I like you too.

NEWTON

Really?

SARA Sure. If I didn't I wouldn't have met you again.

NEWTON

I suppose you're right, but what I'm getting at is that I'd like to make things more official between us.

SARA You mean see each other exclusively. NEWTON Exactly. SARA Newton, you're a nice guy and all, but... NEWTON There's always a but. SARA ... but what I can't figure out is why you waited so long to ask me. Sara laughs and Newton lets out a deep breath. NEWTON Ok, you got me. SARA I figured I would. INT. SARA'S OFFICE - DAY Liz enters and closes the door. SARA Things go well with your raping of Carl? LIZ Can't complain. How was the rest of your date? Sara smiles. SARA He asked me out. LIZ Asked you out? Like to be his girlfriend? SARA Well, yeah.

LIZ What are you, twelve?

SARA I think it's cute.

LIZ

To a point yes, but on the other hand it's kind of silly. That's the type of thing that's just assumed nowadays.

SARA You know I prefer to do things the old fashioned way.

LIZ Ah yes, Marty. The movie that is the entire basis of your approach to dating.

SARA Now tell me what happened with Carl.

LIZ That man is a moron in every sense of the word.

SARA So you won't be seeing him again?

LIZ Sure I'll see him. I've always wanted a bed buddy.

SARA I'm glad you have so much in common.

LIZ Speaking of bed buddies, how are Newt's goods?

SARA Don't know. We haven't slept together.

LIZ

Why not?

INT. NEWTON'S OFFICE - DAY NEWTON There's no rush. CARL Good kisser? NEWTON I don't know. INT. SARA'S OFFICE - DAY LIZ You're kidding me. SARA Nope. LIZ What are you waiting for? SARA For that one moment when we can do it and it will feel... INT. NEWTON'S OFFICE - DAY NEWTON Special. INT. SARA'S OFFICE - DAY LIZ That's beautiful. INT. NEWTON'S OFFICE - DAY CARL You're such a fag. INT. SARA'S OFFICE - DAY

LIZ We exchanged numbers so I'd assume whenever the urge strikes us. You? SARA Maybe tonight. I'll probably give him a call later.

LIZ Well, from the two minutes I met him he seems like a nice guy. Potential?

SARA

Tons.

INT. NEWTON'S OFFICE - DAY

CARL It's not love man. It's sex.

NEWTON

I didn't say anything about love. I just asked if you see anything developing from it.

CARL Sure. Lots and lots of meaningless sex. Whoo!

NEWTON Right up your alley.

CARL

Never was into the whole relationship thing. I better head back to work. They seem to frown upon me disappearing for hours at a time.

NEWTON Those insensitive bastards. I'll talk to you later.

CARL Keep me posted on new developments.

INT. SARA'S OFFICE - DAY

LIZ I noticed you were a little upset lately, but I couldn't figure out why. Not until you met Newton.

SARA Was it that obvious? LIZ A little, yeah. SARA I really did try to hide it. LIZ Now you don't have to. Go out, have fun, live it up. SARA Definitely. Feel like lunch today? LIZ You think you can dock the love boat long enough? SARA I'll make an exception in your case. LIZ I'm flattered. I'll be back later. INT. NEWTON'S OFFICE - DAY Newton works on his computer. Jane enters. JANE Ok, fill me in on the new lady. NEWTON What do you wanna know? JANE She nice? Pretty? Met the fam? NEWTON Let's see. Yes, yes, and no, although she has met Carl. JANE I hope you prepared her for that. NEWTON She brought a friend with her so I think that helped.

JANE

I feel sorry for the friend.

NEWTON I did too, at least until she pulled Carl off to have sex somewhere.

JANE Are you kidding me?

NEWTON Absolutely not.

JANE So they leave and then it's just you and what's her name?

NEWTON

Sara.

JANE You and Sara. Then what?

NEWTON We had a cup of coffee, chatted a bit, and headed home.

JANE Your place or hers?

NEWTON We went to our own homes.

JANE Goodnight kiss?

NEWTON

Nope.

JANE You going soft?

NEWTON No, I just haven't thought about it.

JANE Better get on the ball. If you ain't layin, she ain't stayin. NEWTON Are you sure you and Carl aren't related?

JANE What do you mean?

NEWTON He said that same thing to me recently.

JANE So what's next?

NEWTON Sunday dinner at my dad's.

JANE Will the rest of the family be there?

NEWTON Naturally, and Carl will be there too.

JANE I thought he's not allowed there anymore.

NEWTON Technically he's not, but I'll sweet talk the old man into it.

INT. DAD'S HOUSE - DAY

DAD No No No. Absolutely not.

NEWTON Dad, be reasonable here. It's one dinner.

DAD I don't want him here.

NEWTON You're holding some stupid grudge over something that happened years ago. DAD I don't care if it happened years ago or if it happened yesterday. I don't want him here. NEWTON Would it help if I gave you my word that he won't drink your Southern or steal your remote?

DAD No it wouldn't.

NEWTON Then you leave me no choice.

DAD Oh really? What are you gonna do?

NEWTON

Well I thought I would be able to get through this, but I may as well tell Sara the truth.

DAD What? That your friend is a rotten, thieving bastard?

NEWTON

That I'm gay.

DAD Whaddya mean you're gay?

NEWTON I just can't help it. I've been trying to fight it off since I started seeing Sara, but if I don't have your support, well.

DAD You're bluffing.

Newton takes out his wallet.

NEWTON I think I have that big stud's number in here somewhere.

Dad grabs Newton by the shoulders.

DAD Listen. Put the wallet away. Invite whoever you want. Just don't be gay son. Don't be gay.

NEWTON You got any Barbra Streisand records?

Dad shakes Newton.

DAD Don't be gay!

NEWTON Alright, we'll see you around four.

Dad releases his grip. He breathes heavily with nervousness.

DAD

Yeah, sure.

Newton exits.

INT. NEWTON'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Newton is on the phone with Carl.

CARL (V.O.)

No way.

NEWTON

C'mon, I had enough trouble getting my dad to agree. I gotta deal with you too now?

CARL (V.O) The last time I was in that house I got the crap beat outta me.

NEWTON That was fifteen years ago. Aren't you just a tad bit old to be afraid of my dad now?

CARL (V.O.) He beat my ass!

NEWTON True, but just think of how much bigger you are than him now.

CARL (V.O.) You know something, you're right. I can take him. NEWTON How bout we try making it through dinner first? CARL (V.O) Fine, but if he tries anything, I'll drop the hammer. I'm fat and I'm crazy. INT. SARA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT Sara sits on the couch. There is a knock at the door. SARA Who is it? NEWTON (O.S.) Candygram. SARA Uh oh. Is there a big scary shark out there? She opens the door for Newton and he enters the apartment. NEWTON Nope. Just a big scary man. SARA Nah, you're not scary. NEWTON There goes my self image. SARA Then my mission is accomplished. She smiles at him. NEWTON Very funny. SARA Have a seat. I'll be ready in a sec. He takes a seat on the couch.

NEWTON

No rush.

SARA Want a beer or something?

NEWTON

Sure.

She gets two beers from the fridge, gives one to Newton, and sits next to him.

SARA I need to ask you something.

NEWTON

Ok.

SARA

Is there anything I should know about your family? Things I should or shouldn't talk about?

NEWTON I'd say anything is fair game with them.

SARA Just figured I'd ask. The last thing I want to do is make a fool of myself.

NEWTON There is one thing you should know.

SARA

What?

NEWTON

My dad has to test the merchandise. He's always gotten the first crack at any woman me or my brother has ever brought home. That's why I haven't kissed you yet.

SARA

Well if that isn't the creepiest thing I've ever heard.

He smiles at her.

SARA

But now that you mention it.

She plants a kiss on him and he wastes no time in returning it.

NEWTON

Wow.

SARA Wow is right. And Liz thought I was crazy.

NEWTON Why did she think you were crazy?

SARA You'll think I'm silly.

NEWTON C'mon tell me. Please.

He makes a puppy dog face.

SARA Oh how could I say no to that face? I told her that when we finally kissed, it would be.

NEWTON

Special?

SARA

Exactly!

NEWTON I said the same thing to Carl.

SARA

That's sweet.

NEWTON He didn't think so. He called me a fag.

SARA

Well I'm sure that's par for the course when guys discuss a subject like that. Just don't let it get to you.

NEWTON Nah, we always go back and forth like that. Sara gets up from the couch. SARA I'll finish getting ready. EXT. DAD'S HOUSE, PORCH - NIGHT Newton and Sara stand on the porch as Dad opens the door. DAD Hello Hello. You must be Sara. Nice to meet you. He shakes Sara's hand. SARA Nice to meet you Mister Lawler. DAD Please, call me Tank. Everyone does. SARA Ok. Tank. DAD C'mon in. You'll catch your death of cold out there. They enter the house and Dad closes the door. INT. DAD'S HOUSE, HALLWAY - NIGHT Newton discreetly grabs Dad by the arm. NEWTON Make yourself at home, Sara. We'll be there in a sec. SARA Ok. Sara heads to the living room. DAD I've got some snacks in the kitchen.

NEWTON Ok. DAD She looks nice, Newt. NEWTON Thank you. DAD Why are you holding my arm? NEWTON Tank? DAD You don't like it? NEWTON Who has ever called you Tank? DAD Nobody. I just thought it was time I had a nickname. NEWTON And you gave yourself one? DAD Sure. NEWTON You're sixty years old. Isn't it a little late in the game to be doing things like that? DAD Ah, you don't know shit from fat meat. He pulls his arm away and heads to the kitchen. NEWTON

This is true.

The doorbell rings. Newton opens the door and Nathan and Melissa enter.

NATHAN Hey, didn't expect to see you here this early. NEWTON Figured I'd let Sara get settled in with Dad before everyone got here.

NATHAN So she came then?

NEWTON She's in the living room.

MELISSA Who's everyone? Somebody else coming?

NATHAN Carl's coming.

NEWTON How'd you know?

NATHAN

Dad must have called me right after you left on Thursday. He rambled on for about an hour.

NEWTON

About what?

NATHAN

He said he was letting Carl in the house for the sake of his future grandkids. You did the gay thing didn't you?

NEWTON Indeed. C'mon, I'll introduce you guys to Sara.

INT. DAD'S HOUSE, LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Newton and Sara sit on a loveseat, Dad in his chair, and Nathan and Melissa on the couch.

MELISSA I'm glad you could make it Sara. It's nice to have a woman around here for a change.

DAD Oh you don't enjoy the company of three handsome young men? MELISSA That's not what I meant.

DAD So what did you mean?

NEWTON That she doesn't enjoy the company of two handsome young men and a dried up old prune.

DAD Speaking of prunes, I'll be back. Please hold down the kitchen, ladies. And by ladies I mean the N brothers.

NATHAN I'm burning your food.

DAD It would probably taste better if you did.

Dad heads upstairs. The doorbell rings.

NEWTON That's probably Carl.

NATHAN So go answer it.

NEWTON It's your turn. I got it when you showed up.

NATHAN It's your friend.

NEWTON Like you don't know Carl.

Another ring.

NATHAN Better hurry flash, the natives are getting restless.

NEWTON Oh, how I hate you.

Newton gets up and heads for the door.

INT. DAD'S HOUSE, HALLWAY - NIGHT

Newton answers the door and Liz is standing there.

NEWTON Hey Liz. Didn't expect to see you here.

LIZ Carl asked me to come along. He said he needed protection. I hope you don't mind.

NEWTON No, not at all. Where's he at?

LIZ Parking the car.

NEWTON

He actually let you out at the door? He must like you.

Carl walks up.

CARL It wasn't a complete stop. More like a tuck and roll.

NEWTON That's heartwarming. C'mon in.

INT. DAD'S HOUSE, LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Newton, Carl, and Liz enter the living room.

NATHAN

Hey Carl.

CARL Nathan, Melissa, this is Liz.

SARA I didn't know you were coming.

CARL She's my bodyguard.

LIZ I still don't understand this bodyguard business. NEWTON Carl's afraid of my Dad.

LIZ

Why?

CARL Because when me and Newton were kids, I drank a whole bottle of --

Dad comes storming into the room with an empty bottle in his hand.

DAD Southern Comfort!

He takes a swing at Carl with the bottle, but Carl drops to the floor and he misses.

CARL

Help! Help!

Newton and Nathan restrain Dad.

NEWTON What the hell are you doing?

DAD I need my revenge. Lemme go, lemme go.

NATHAN Gimme that bottle.

Nathan pries the bottle from Dad's hands and Carl jumps up.

CARL

A ha!

Dad kicks Carl in the balls and he falls like a stone.

Newton and Nathan let Dad go and attend to Carl.

Dad raises his arms in victory. Melissa runs into the kitchen.

DAD The day is mine! NEWTON

You ok?

CARL My balls. He kicked them. Hard.

The brothers help Carl to his feet and sit him on the couch. Melissa returns with a cup of coffee and hands it to Dad.

> MELISSA Here, drink this.

NEWTON What the hell is wrong with you?

DAD I got my revenge!

NEWTON Revenge for what?

DAD Drinking my Southern.

NEWTON Are you serious? That's what all of this is about?

DAD You're damn right it is.

NEWTON You're pathetic.

DAD The only thing that's pathetic is the fact that I didn't have you bring him here sooner.

NEWTON Alright alright, why don't you just lighten up a little bit there, Tank.

NATHAN

Tank?

NEWTON

Dad tried to tell Sara his name was Tank. Apparently it's real hip with the old folks to give yourself a ridiculous nickname.

NATHAN Oh that's nothing. DAD You shut up Nathan.

NATHAN Dad told Melissa his name was Snake.

MELISSA Oh god, I forgot all about that.

CARL

After that kick to my junk he should change his name to Bruce Lee.

NATHAN

Oh you picked the perfect day to come to dinner. Most people don't find out how crazy our family is for weeks, even months. You're very lucky.

SARA I knew I was lucky the moment I met Newton.

CARL That's funny. I usually have the opposite thought when someone spills hot coffee on me.

DAD Let's find out.

Dad throws his coffee into Carl's crotch. Carl screams.

CARL My balls are on fire! My balls are on fire!

NEWTON

Jesus, Dad.

A timer bell sounds.

DAD Dinner's ready.

Dad casually walks towards the kitchen.

INT. DAD'S HOUSE, DINING ROOM - NIGHT

The family and friends sit at the dinner table.

LIZ So how long have you two been married?

MELISSA A week and a day now.

CARL Had you asked Nathan, he probably would have said forever and a day.

A slice of ham hits Carl in the face.

DAD Mind your mouth.

CARL Damn, old man. Your aim is incredible.

DAD It's your big mouth that's incredible.

Liz lightly taps her forehead.

LIZ

Sara, I'm sorry. I forgot to remind you to call your parents.

SARA Oh, I remembered to call them. They were happy to hear I'm dating somebody. Maybe they'll get off of my back now.

NEWTON Oh, you too huh?

DAD What's that supposed to mean?

NEWTON Are you kidding me? Your constant nagging almost drove me to the brink. DAD Oh that's ridiculous.

NATHAN He did almost kill Cousin Barry at the wedding.

DAD And that's my fault?

NEWTON

Kind of.

DAD Well maybe if you didn't act like a little girl I wouldn't have nagged you. I knew I should have toughened you up more.

CARL You could have thrown hot coffee in his crotch or some ham in his face. You seem to be pretty good at that.

The table freezes. Dad glares at Carl momentarily before lunging at him. Carl lets out a girlish scream.

EXT. DAD'S HOUSE, FRONT PORCH NIGHT.

The family and friends leave the house. Carl holds his head.

NATHAN Alright everybody, we'll see you later.

MELISSA Take care Sara, it was nice to meet you.

SARA Same here.

MELISSA Keep an eye on Carl, Liz. He took quite a beating.

LIZ Will do. Hope to see you guys soon.

Nathan and Melissa head off to their car.

CARL I think I have internal bleeding in my head. DAD Rocks don't bleed, son. CARL I'll get the car. Carl heads off and Dad goes in the house. SARA You think he's ok to drive? NEWTON He's fine. I've seen him in worse shape before. LIZ I'm sure he has a thick skull. NEWTON You know him all too well. So how's it going with you guys? LIZ I'll put it like this. I'm more worried about his ability to do other things than driving. NEWTON Understood. Carl pulls up and beeps the horn. LIZ Ok guys. I'll see you later. Newton and Sara wave as Liz heads to the car and they drive off. SARA So I guess it's just you and me. NEWTON Yep.

> SARA Feel like doing anything?

NEWTON

Sure.

A brief pause. SARA Ok. What do you feel like doing? NEWTON I don't know Ang, what do you feel like doing? Sara puts her hand up to her mouth. SARA Oh my god. NEWTON Something wrong? SARA You just quoted Marty. NEWTON It's my favorite movie. SARA Mine too! NEWTON Well I have it at my place if you feel like watching it. SARA Sure, and maybe you could spill some more hot coffee on me. NEWTON You liked that huh? SARA Must be some weird fetish I've developed. The two laugh. INT. NEWTON'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Newton and Sara sit on the couch eating popcorn and watching Marty. Both wear t-shirts and pajama pants. He has his arm around her.

SARA Thanks for the couch potato outfit.

NEWTON

No problem.

SARA I like this, just sitting here with you.

He squeezes her a little.

NEWTON

I do too.

SARA

I know we haven't been together long, but I think you and I could have a really good, long relationship together.

NEWTON

I don't see why not. Kinda funny isn't it?

SARA What's that?

NEWTON

That two people like us with no luck in relationships and nagging families, get together and discover that they both like a movie about two people with no luck in relationships and nagging families.

SARA

Just don't let anyone call me a dog or a college girl one step from the street.

NEWTON

Otherwise I'll blow it and have to go back to the Stardust Ballroom.

SARA It's loaded with tomatoes.

NEWTON

Exactly.

He kisses her on top of her head.

INT. SARA'S OFFICE, LUNCHROOM - DAY Sara makes coffee as Liz walks in. LIZ Oh thank you. I was just coming to make it. SARA If I had only waited five more minutes. LIZ Very funny. SARA No, just lazy. LIZ I figured you'd slept in since I didn't see you on the train. SARA I didn't exactly take the usual way to work today. LIZ You stayed at his house? SARA Yeah. LIZ You slept with him? SARA No. LIZ You stayed the night and didn't sleep with him? What's wrong with you? SARA We just watched a movie and fell asleep. LIZ More and more I really do believe you guys are twelve.

SARA Sorry to disappoint you. LIZ Was it at least a good movie? SARA Marty. LIZ You gave him the Marty test already? SARA That's just it. He owns it. I didn't have to. LIZ What is it with that movie anyway? SARA I don't know. It's just my favorite movie, and I think that if I'm going to be with someone they should at least like it. LIZ I'm sorry, but I just don't see the realism in it. SARA That's where you and I differ. I think it's highly possible. There's someone out there for everyone. LIZ Like a knight in shining armor? SARA Exactly. That's exactly what I want. LIZ Well you deserve it. Especially after everything you went through with Vincent. Liz puts her hand to her mouth. SARA It's ok, Liz.

LIZ I'm sorry. I didn't mean to say that. I should just keep my mouth shut. SARA Liz. Liz leaves the lunchroom. Sara turns, puts her head down and places her hands on the counter. INT. NEWTON'S OFFICE - DAY Newton sits at his desk on the phone. Carl enters, and Newton puts a finger up that he'll be with him in a minute. NEWTON Actually he just walked in. I'll run it by him and get back to you, ok? Miss you too. Bye. Newton hangs up the phone. CARL Sara I take it. NEWTON Yeah. CARL So what do you need to run by me? NEWTON Dinner with her parents. CARL Who's gonna be there? NEWTON Us, and I quess my Dad and Nathan and Melissa. Sara thought it'd be a good idea to have one big meet and greet. CARL You can count me in. NEWTON Really? I figured my dad would have deterred you.

58.

CARL Decision making isn't exactly my strong point right now.

NEWTON Starting to wear out?

CARL She's like a damn cat in heat.

Newton laughs.

NEWTON I'll put my dad between the two of you.

CARL What did you do after we left?

NEWTON Went back to my place.

CARL

Score!

NEWTON No, we just watched Marty.

CARL What is it with you and that movie?

NEWTON

I don't know. I like it. It's a time when things seemed much less complicated in this world.

CARL

Less complicated? You need to think about the present. Do you know that half of today's marriages end in divorce?

NEWTON

And half don't.

CARL

Alright, Mister half full, but you need to start spending less time in nineteen fifty five, and more time in the present day. You need to get back to the future. Carl rubs his chin and smiles.

CARL Ya know? I think I just did.

NEWTON Nice work by you.

CARL

Alright, you do what you wanna do. I'm going to go back to my own place of employment now.

NEWTON You keep popping in like this and people will start to think you work here.

CARL My intellect far surpasses the like of this place.

NEWTON So does your weight.

CARL I'll see ya.

Carl leaves.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Sara exits her work building. A car horn sounds and she looks to see that it is Newton.

He waves for her to get in and she does.

INT./EXT. CAR - DAY

SARA What are you doing here?

NEWTON I had a fantastic idea earlier today, and thought I'd act on it. SARA

You're kidnapping me aren't you?

Newton laughs.

NEWTON In a sense, yes. Just sit tight. We'll be there soon enough.

INT. FOUR STAR HOTEL - DAY

They enter the lobby. Sara's mouth is wide open.

SARA What are we doing here?

NEWTON We're taking a sort of mini vacation.

SARA Mini vacation?

NEWTON We can stay here until Sunday.

SARA You couldn't kidnap me longer than that?

They both laugh.

NEWTON Sorry. I'm that rare breed of kidnapper that only keeps the victims for about forty eight hours. C'mon the elevator's this way.

INT. FOUR STAR HOTEL, ELEVATOR - DAY

They stand in the elevator with two elderly ladies, who look at Newton and smile.

NEWTON

Hello.

OLD LADY #1 Hello young man. OLD LADY #2

Hello.

NEWTON How are you today?

OLD LADY #1

Good.

OLD LADY #2 Good. Yourself?

The door opens and the ladies begin to exit.

NEWTON Ok I guess. A little nervous though. This is my first kidnapping.

The ladies turn and look at Newton with shock as the doors close.

NEWTON

Have a good night.

The doors close completely, and Sara collapses in a ball of laughter.

SARA Oh my god! I can't believe you just did that!

NEWTON That was too easy to pass up.

Sara stops laughing and places her hand over her mouth.

SARA What am I going to do about clothes? I can't wear this until Sunday.

Newton lifts the overnight bag.

NEWTON All taken care of.

SARA You dress nice and all, but I don't think I'd look too good in your clothes. NEWTON

I agree, which is exactly why this here overnight bag is chock full of t-shirts and flannel pants.

Sara kisses Newton.

SARA My guy, always thinking ahead.

INT. FOUR STAR HOTEL, ROOM - MONTAGE

Newton and Sara play fight on the bed.

They order a pay per view movie.

They eat a huge amount of room service.

They make funny faces in the mirror and laugh as they brush their teeth.

INT. SARA'S APARTMENT BULDING, HALLWAY - DAY

Newton escorts Sara to her door.

NEWTON So I'll pick you up later?

SARA Sure. The dinner's at eight so I'd say around seven or so.

NEWTON Dinner with the parents. Dun dun dun.

SARA Oh you'll be fine.

NEWTON I sure hope so.

SARA

Bye bye.

They kiss. Sara heads into her apartment and Newton leaves.

Newton is ironing a shirt. There is a knock at the door. He answers it to find Sara, and he lets her in.

NEWTON

Hey, what are you doing here? I thought I was going to pick you up.

SARA

That was the plan, but I figured I'd surprise you. You're not the only one with a trick up their sleeve.

NEWTON

Fortunately for me I hid my other girlfriend out of instinct.

SARA And I thought you didn't have a shirt on because you were ironing.

NEWTON I was just getting dressed.

SARA

Sure you were.

She takes off her coat and hangs it up.

NEWTON

Ok, you caught me. I'm a nudist and I only have pants on because of the knock at the door.

SARA

I knew it. I finally meet a great guy and he turns out to be a nudist.

NEWTON Well I finally meet the perfect girl and she's not.

Sara is a little shocked.

SARA You think I'm perfect?

NEWTON To me you are. SARA Nobody's ever said anything like that to me before.

NEWTON Well I'm saying it now. You're perfect. So much so that every minute I'm not with you seems to last forever.

He runs a hand through her hair. She places her hand on his chest and stands on her tiptoes to kiss him. They hold the kiss for a few seconds.

SARA Perhaps we should move to a more comfortable location.

NEWTON What do you have in mind?

She motions her head towards the bedroom.

SARA Perhaps somewhere in that general vicinity?

He smiles at her, takes her by the hand, and leads her to the bedroom.

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Newton's family, Carl, Liz, and Sara's parents, JAMES, 55, and HELEN, 52, sit at a table. Everyone is dressed semi formal.

CARL I wonder where they are. Newt's usually on time for everything.

LIZ Sara's not. I'm sure they'll be along soon.

CARL I hope so. So, Mister and Misses Renfeld --

JAMES Please Carl, James and Helen is fine. No need to be so formal.

DAD I'd let 'em. He needs to learn some manners. CARL Hey, I've got plenty of manners. Watch this. DAD Have at it. Carl picks up a bread basket and holds it in front of Liz. CARL Would you care for a roll, milady? Everyone except Dad laughs. LIZ No thank you, good sir, but that's awfully mannerly of you. Carl puts the basket down. CARL See? HELEN I sure hope everything's alright, that they're not lost or anything. LIZ Trust me. Sara's late for everything. Wait, there they are. Sara and Newton take their seats at the table. Sara smiles from ear to ear. SARA Sorry everyone. We hit a little spot of traffic. JAMES We got stuck ourselves. SARA Mom, Dad, this is Newton. Newton, my mom and dad.

Newton shakes their hands.

NEWTON Nice to meet you Mister and Misses Renfeld.

HELEN James and Helen is fine, Newton.

Sara stands up.

SARA Sorry to be so rude, but I'm going to use the bathroom. Liz can you come with me?

LIZ

Sure.

Liz gets up and the go to the bathroom.

INT. RESTAURANT, BATHROOM - NIGHT

LIZ Traffic my ass! Why don't you tell me what really happened cause it's written all over your face.

SARA

It is?

LIZ You're glowing.

SARA

I am?

LIZ You're about as shiny as a brand new quarter.

SARA Ok, maybe a little.

LIZ Maybe a lot.

SARA I think I'm in love Liz.

LIZ Now there's something we can dig our claws into. We'll continue this later, ok? SARA

Sure.

Liz exits the bathroom.

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

NEWTON

Nice place.

JAMES

They serve up a good meal here. I was just telling Carl about it right before you and Sara showed up.

CARL Yes, much more pleasant than being beat up by your dad.

Carl looks at Dad who raises a fist at him. Nathan grabs dad's fist and puts it down.

NATHAN

Easy killer.

A busboy, VINCENT, 29, walks up. He wears a white shirt, and his jet black hair is slicked back.

VINCENT

Well, if it isn't my favorite family of losers.

JAMES This has got to be a mirage.

CARL What kind of place is this? The busboys insult you?

JAMES

I do believe you are not allowed within two hundred feet of me or anyone in my family.

VINCENT

True, but I don't think that applies when I'm working. You guys came in here.

HELEN So have you finally decided to quit selling the drugs and make a decent life for yourself? VINCENT Are you crazy? Since I started working here my business has tripled. NEWTON Who is this guy? JAMES His name is Vincent. He's Sara's ex. VINCENT Sorry for not properly introducing myself. I couldn't see you behind the whale. He points at Liz. CARL I'm sorry. What did you say? VINCENT I said you got a fat girlfriend. Carl jumps up and gets right in Vincent's face.

CARL I suggest you apologize. Now.

Vincent sizes up Carl, who dwarfs him.

VINCENT Ok, ok. I'm sorry old fogies. I'm sorry fat twins and skinny toothpick guy. I didn't mean to cause trouble. I honestly thought the two hundred feet rule only applied to your slut daughter.

Carl grabs Vincent by the shirt and raises a fist, but Newton jumps up and gets between them. His back is to Vincent.

> NEWTON Whoa whoa whoa. Let's slow down a minute here.

VINCENT Yeah Newton. Sit down.

The people at the table look on in equal amounts of shock and shame. Carl looks at Newton in amazement.

DAD If you're not gonna fight, then sit your goofy ass down.

CARL Did you not hear what he just said about Sara?

VINCENT In case you didn't, I said she's a slut.

Newton winks at Carl.

NEWTON No, I heard it, but I'm sure there's a perfectly rational expla

He turns and hits Vincent as hard as he can, knocking him out.

CARL Holy shit!

Newton shakes his hand.

NEWTON

What?

CARL As long as I've known you I've never seen you raise your hand to anybody.

NEWTON Well nobody ever called my girlfriend a slut either.

DAD That's cause you never had one.

Newton glares at Dad.

CARL I didn't think you were gonna do anything.

NEWTON

Gee, thanks.

Sara comes back from the bathroom and notices Vincent on the ground. Fear crosses her face.

SARA Why is he here?

NEWTON Apparently he works here.

SARA I can't stay here. I have to go.

Sara quickly rushes to the exit.

NEWTON What the hell is going on here?

The HOST, 40, and a large black man, the CHEF, 35, walk up to the table. The host wears a black suit. The chef, a chef's outfit.

HOST You have to leave.

NEWTON What? This guy came up to our table and started harassing us!

HOST And he will be fired, but I'm afraid you have to leave.

NEWTON Screw this, I'm outta here.

Newton exits.

HOST Please leave.

DAD And what if we don't? You gonna sic the cream of wheat guy on us?

He points at the chef.

CHEF That's it. I'm calling the cops.

JAMES There's no need. We'll be taking our business elsewhere.

They gather their belongings and exit.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Newton runs up to his car and sees Sara leaning against it and crying. He puts his arm around her.

> NEWTON What's the matter?

SARA Can we just go?

NEWTON Are you ok?

SARA Yeah, I just want to get out of here.

NEWTON Do you want me to take you home?

SARA

Yes.

He opens the door for her and then gets in on the driver's side. They drive off.

INT./EXT. NEWTON'S CAR - NIGHT

Newton drives along and occasionally looks over at Sara. She stares out the window.

NEWTON

Sara?

She continues looking out the window.

SARA

Yeah?

NEWTON

Are you ok?

SARA

Yeah.

NEWTON Why did you run away like that?

SARA I couldn't bear to look at him.

NEWTON I understand, but I wish you would have at least waited for me to leave with you. You had me worried.

SARA Well I'm sorry to have worried you. I'll try to make a more conscious effort to sit in a room with a person I can't stand a little longer next time.

NEWTON Sara, you know I didn't mean it like that.

Sara sighs.

SARA I know you didn't. I know.

INT. SARA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

The two enter the apartment. Sara throws her keys on the table and removes her coat.

Newton stands in front of the door watching her for a moment before she notices. She walks over to him and rests her head in his chest.

> SARA I'm sorry. I didn't mean to come off like I was taking anything out on you.

NEWTON It's fine. I just want to make sure that you're ok. SARA I need to tell you what went on between us.

NEWTON

Ok.

SARA

We dated for about six months a couple years back. Things were ok until I found out that he was into drugs, both dealing and doing. I decided to break it off.

NEWTON

What did he do?

SARA

He broke my jaw and bruised up my shoulders pretty bad, but I was able to get away.

NEWTON

That sonofabitch.

SARA

So I filed a restraining order against him, and he's not allowed within two hundred feet of me or my family.

NEWTON

Well I'm here, and I'll knock that bastard out again if he goes anywhere near you.

SARA

You knocked him out?

NEWTON

Yeah. Who did you think did it?

SARA

I really didn't think about it. I guess I assumed that it was both you and Carl since the two of you were standing there.

NEWTON

Nope. I did it on my own, and I'll do it again if I have to. I love you, Sara.

SARA I love you too.

They kiss and she places her head back in his chest. He squeezes her tightly.

INT. NEWTON'S APARTMENT - DAY

Newton sits on the couch. There is a knock at the door and Carl enters.

CARL

Hey slugger.

NEWTON What's going on?

CARL

Nothin' much. I just wanted to stop by to see if everything was ok.

NEWTON Sure, everything's fine.

CARL

Man you really pasted that guy. It takes a lot to knock somebody out with one punch like that.

NEWTON

I wouldn't really know.

CARL

Is Sara here?

NEWTON

No, she's at home. I was by her place pretty late last night, talking things over.

CARL

About that Vincent guy?

NEWTON

Yeah. She told me what happened between them. Pretty bad stuff.

CARL

I heard.

NEWTON How did you hear?

CARL

We ended up going to eat at another place and James told us about it. That guy deserved a good punch in the face.

NEWTON

And I was more than happy to administer it. Nobody's going to talk about the woman I love like that.

CARL

You did the right thing. I was about ready to, waitaminute, did you say love?

NEWTON

Yeah.

CARL As in you love Sara love?

NEWTON

Yeah.

CARL This calls for a celebration. A toast, if you will.

NEWTON Isn't it a little early?

CARL We'll have light beers.

Carl gets two beers from the fridge and they toast.

CARL

To your love, may it last forever.

NEWTON Now how about your relationship with Liz? CARL Oh that's easy. We're friends with benefits.

NEWTON That's the biggest load of crap I've ever heard in my life. CARL I can't stick up for a friend?

NEWTON C'mon Carl, be real.

They stare each other down momentarily.

CARL Fine, you got me. I really like Liz.

NEWTON

It's not an unusual thing to happen when two people spend enough time together you know.

CARL But I'm not getting the same vibe from her. I don't know what to do.

NEWTON I suggest you go home and watch Marty.

CARL What good is that going to do?

NEWTON For starters, it will teach you the fifties approach to dating, and two, it will get you out of my apartment so I can go meet Sara.

CARL Gee, thanks for the help.

NEWTON Trust me. Everything will be fine. I can see she likes you.

CARL We'll see, but thanks for not rubbing it in, you know, about me having a sensitive side and all. INT. CAPTAIN CAFFEINE'S COFFEE - DAY

Newton and Sara sit at a table drinking coffee.

NEWTON

Was there something you wanted to talk about?

SARA

Not especially, no. Why do you ask?

NEWTON

I just thought something might be on your mind since you asked me to meet you here.

SARA

No. I just wanted to spend a little time with you. We can talk about whatever.

NEWTON

Oh ok.

Another moment of silence.

SARA Do you ever think about death?

NEWTON

Death? Is that what you want to talk about?

SARA

Not death like morbid death, more like the aspects of it. Have you ever thought about who would show up at your funeral? What you would want it to be like?

NEWTON

I suppose I have at some point, although the specifics escape me at the moment. Have you?

SARA Not recently, but for some reason it just popped into my head. NEWTON

And?

SARA

I'd want it to be like a ball, where all the guys wear tuxes and the women wear formal gowns and stuff.

NEWTON

I guess that would be ok.

SARA

Just some random thought that popped into my head. Anything you'd like to talk about?

NEWTON

Figured I'd tell you that Carl, and I'm assuming my family know about what happened between you and Vincent.

SARA

I know. I talked to my mom this morning and she told me that my Dad told them.

NEWTON

Sorry.

SARA No big deal. I take it you made it home ok last night.

NEWTON Yeah, got a lot of thinking done.

SARA

About?

NEWTON About us maybe moving in together.

SARA

You want to move in together?

NEWTON

Any day I don't see you is wasted. We can have that much more time together, and cut our bills in half. Sound like a plan? SARA

No.

NEWTON It doesn't?

SARA It sounds like a very good plan.

EXT. CAPTAIN CAFFEINE'S COFFEE - DAY

As Newton and Sara laugh and continue talking, Vincent watches them from a phone booth across the street.

INT. NEWTON'S APARTMENT - DAY

Newton is in bed. Sara is in the bathroom brushing her teeth.

SARA (O.S.) Better get up. You'll be late for work.

NEWTON I don't care.

Sara enters the bedroom.

SARA Ok, I'll be late for work.

NEWTON

I'll get up.

Newton hops out of bed and follows Sara into the bathroom.

SARA I knew you cared about my personal well being.

NEWTON Not even living here yet and already telling me what to do. I may have to rethink this.

Sara playfully punches him and continues brushing her teeth.

NEWTON What do you say we both play hooky and have some fun today? SARA What do you wanna do?

NEWTON Maybe we can go shopping or something.

SARA I've never had a guy ask me to go shopping with him.

NEWTON Yeah, but most guys aren't as fantastic as I am.

SARA This is true.

NEWTON

So you in?

SARA Sure, why not?

Newton gives her thumbs up and heads to the phone in the bedroom.

INT. MALL - DAY

The two window shop various stores. They walk along until they reach a jewelry store. Sara stops at the display window.

Newton walks a little further until he notices that Sara has stopped. He goes back.

NEWTON What are you looking at?

She points at a ring.

SARA That ring.

NEWTON Looks nice.

SARA Looks expensive.

NEWTON Let's find out.

He takes her by the hand and leads her inside the store.

INT. MALL, JEWELRY STORE - DAY

The walk up to a CLERK.

CLERK Hi, something I can help you with today?

NEWTON How much is that ring in the window?

CLERK The engagement ring?

SARA Is that what it is?

CLERK Platinum setting? One carat round cut diamond?

NEWTON I have no idea.

SARA That's the one.

CLERK Yes that's an engagement ring. It's four thousand dollars. Would you like me to take it out so you can look at it up close?

SARA Oh no, that's ok. We were just curious. Thanks for your help.

CLERK No trouble at all.

They exit the jewelry store.

SARA That was expensive.

NEWTON Is it? I didn't think it was that bad.

SARA I bet if you took the engagement title off of that ring it would cut the price in half.

NEWTON Perhaps, but if that's what someone wants.

SARA If we ever get to that point in our relationship, I give you full permission to buy on the cheap.

The two laugh and continue walking.

INT. NEWTON'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Newton sits on the couch. There's a knock at the door and Carl enters.

NEWTON

Hey Carl.

CARL Alright I took your advice and watched Marty last night.

NEWTON

And?

CARL I don't see the connection. What am I supposed to do?

NEWTON Don't let her get away.

CARL That's it? You made me watch that movie again so I could learn that I can't let her get away? NEWTON

Basically. I don't want to overload you too much since you're still new to this approach.

CARL You are such a bastard.

NEWTON

This is delicate ground you're treading here. You've got to be sure you know what you're doing. Just sit back, relax, and enjoy the ride.

CARL You make it sound so easy.

NEWTON

From that first time I met her at the coffee shop, to telling her I love her, to asking her to move in, it has been.

CARL You asked her to move in? This is incredible.

NEWTON

What is?

CARL

That you went from being this pathetic little man with no self confidence, to this I'll punch you in the face renegade with giant honeydew melons for balls.

NEWTON

I'm sure there's a compliment in there somewhere.

CARL

God bless ya.

NEWTON

I was thinking of running over to my dad's if you wanna tag along. We can grab some dinner if you didn't eat yet. NEWTON Is that all?

CARL I was running short on time.

INT. DAD'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Newton and Carl enter. Dad sits in his chair, and Nathan and Melissa are on the couch.

NEWTON What are you guys doing here?

NATHAN I was about to ask you the same thing.

DAD Christ, now I'll never get any peace.

MELISSA We stopped by a furniture store looking for some new stuff. We were in the area, so we figured we'd stop by.

NEWTON No furniture stores in the suburbs?

NATHAN All of their stuff was crappy. So what's the reason for your visit?

CARL

We were in the neighborhood, so I told Newton how much I would love it if we could stop by and have your dad rough me up a little.

Dad stands up.

DAD Sure. I won't even charge you.

NEWTON Just passing the word that Sara and I are moving in together. NATHAN Congratulations. That's great, huh Dad?

Dad scratches his head. He has an unsure look on his face.

Newton sits on the couch and Nathan sits next to him.

NEWTON

You guys are acting like somebody died. Did somebody die?

NATHAN

No. The truth of the matter is that we didn't go furniture shopping. Dad asked us to come here.

NEWTON

Why?

DAD Because you're going to get yourself into a very bad situation.

NEWTON

What?

DAD

I'm sure Sara told you about it by now. That guy from the restaurant, he's a two bit, drug dealing, stalker. You need to get away from her.

NEWTON

You want me to break up with Sara because of her ex?

DAD Her two bit, drug dealing, stalker ex.

NEWTON Well I hate to break this to you, but I'm not gonna do it.

DAD Goddamit! Why won't you listen to me! NEWTON Because I'm not a child. If something happens I'll take care of it.

NATHAN I told you it wouldn't work.

Newton turns quickly to Nathan.

NEWTON

Are you telling me you agree with him?

NATHAN No no no. I told him not to do it.

I think his entire reasoning is garbage.

DAD Well nobody asked you what you thought of it.

Newton gets up.

NEWTON

I came here to tell you that we were moving in together and I've accomplished that.

DAD

Fine, you do what you want, but I don't approve of this.

NEWTON

I don't care what you approve of. The only thing I care about is being happy, and Sara makes me happy.

DAD

You're only happy because you don't know any better.

NEWTON

What is that? What does that mean?

DAD

You're only happy because this is the first girl you've ever really dated. You're completely missing the obvious here. She's in with a bad crowd and by dating her, so are you.

NEWTON

Uh oh Carl, were in with the bad crowd now. You got your leather jacket and hair grease handy?

DAD Go ahead, be a smartass.

NEWTON

I really don't see any other way of reacting to this.

DAD

You just keep thinking that you can protect her all day, everyday, when you know good and well that you can't. And when something happens and she has to go back into a mental hospital --

NEWTON

Mental hospital? There was no mental hospital. She saw a psychologist.

DAD

Whatever it is it's bad news, and if you stay with her I don't want anything to do with you.

NEWTON

Fine! You want it that way? You want to continue ignoring reason? You want to keep acting like an asshole? Well fuck this! I'm out of here!

Newton walks over to the door, throws it open, and rushes out without closing it. Carl just stands there.

CARL You know something Mister Lawler?

DAD

I don't wanna hear it Carl.

CARL Well I'm sorry, but this is something I've gotta say.

DAD I said I don't wanna hear it! CARL As long as Newton and I have been adults, all you've done is dump on him for being single. And now that he finally goes and meets a nice girl, she's not good enough for you. That's just wrong.

DAD This is none of your business!

CARL He's my friend. I think that makes it my business.

DAD No it doesn't! Now get out of my house!

CARL Fine, but before I go, I want you to know something. I have absolutely no respect for you or your bullshit theories.

Carl turns and exits. Dad stands there with his hands on his hips.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Newton stands at his car pounding on the roof until Carl walks up.

CARL Take it easy man, take it easy.

NEWTON Do you believe that?

CARL Just relax. Everything will be fine.

NEWTON How the hell am I going to explain this to Sara?

CARL I don't know, man. Maybe just tell her the truth and sugarcoat it a little. Newton places his hands on the roof and rests his head on them. The two sit in silence for a moment. An idea hits Newton and he springs up.

NEWTON What time is it?

Carl looks at his watch.

CARL Just after seven. Why?

NEWTON C'mon. We've still got time.

CARL

For what?

NEWTON Just get in. I'll tell you on the way.

INT. SARA'S APARTMENT BUILDING, PARKING GARAGE - NIGHT

Sara removes a bag from the trunk of the car. She closes the trunk and proceeds to walk through the garage towards the elevator.

As she passes a concrete column, Vincent walks out, grabs her from behind, and covers her mouth.

VINCENT

You think you're real cute, don't ya slut? Well your boyfriend isn't here to sucker punch me this time.

She bites him hard on the hand. He lets out a groan and grabs his hand in pain.

She quickly reaches into her purse and pulls out a can of pepper spray.

SARA Stay away from me you sonofabitch!

She sprays him directly in the eyes, but he lunges forward and tackles her. Sara lets out a scream as they fall to the ground. EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Vincent walks along. An ambulance passes him. A cell phone in his pocket rings. He takes it out and the caller ID says Newton. He answers it.

> VINCENT Hello Newton.

NEWTON (V.O) Hello? Who is this?

VINCENT You don't know who this is? That's too bad considering I just beat the ever loving piss out of your slut girlfriend.

NEWTON (V.O.)

Vincent?

VINCENT You got it chief.

NEWTON (V.O.) You sonofabitch!

VINCENT Try to look at the bright side of things. An ambulance just passed, and I think it's on the way to get her carcass out of the parking garage.

NEWTON (V.O) You're dead!

VINCENT No, but if you don't hurry, little Miss Sara will be.

Vincent hangs up the phone, drops it to the ground, and stomps on it.

INT./EXT. NEWTON'S CAR - NIGHT

Newton is still on the phone.

NEWTON Hello? Hello? Shit!

He hangs up and calls Carl.

CARL (V.O.)

Hello?

NEWTON Carl. I need your help. I'm coming to get you.

CARL (V.O.) No way my man. This is something you've got to do on your own.

NEWTON It's not about that. Sara's hurt.

CARL (V.O.) What happened?

NEWTON I'll be there in a minute.

INT. CARL'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Carl hangs up the phone, grabs his coat, and walks to the door. He opens it and Liz is standing there getting ready to knock. He exits and puts his hands on her arms.

CARL C'mon we have to go downstairs and wait for Newton.

LIZ

Why?

CARL He said that Sara's been hurt.

LIZ Oh my god. Is it bad?

CARL I don't know. He just said he'd be here in a minute.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Carl and Liz stand outside of his apartment building. Newton pulls up and they get in the car. They speed off.

Newton busts through the door. They head to the nurse's station.

NEWTON I'm looking for Sara Renfeld.

NURSE She's currently in the I-C-U.

NEWTON Is she ok?

NURSE Are you family?

NEWTON I'm her boyfriend.

NURSE

The doctors are currently working on her. They haven't been out yet, but as soon as they give more information I'll let you know.

NEWTON Has anyone else been notified?

NURSE

We found an address book in her purse and notified her parents.

NEWTON Ok, thank you. I'll be right over here.

He takes a seat in the waiting area. Carl and Liz walk in.

CARL You're in lot number two.

He gives the keys to Newton and they sit down.

NEWTON I don't think I'll need these anytime soon.

CARL Did they have any info? Just that they're working on her, and we'll get info as it's passed along. All we can do is sit and wait.

CARL You want a coffee or something?

NEWTON

Sure.

Carl motions for Liz to come with him and they head to the cafeteria. James and Helen enter moments later.

JAMES What happened?

NEWTON

Vincent.

HELEN He did this?

NEWTON

Yeah.

JAMES

How bad?

NEWTON Pretty bad. She's unconscious.

Helen breaks down and starts crying.

HELEN Our daughter, James, our daughter.

James hugs her.

JAMES I'm sure the doctors are doing all they can.

NEWTON

This is all my fault. If only I didn't knock him out in the restaurant.

JAMES

Newton, this is not your fault, and don't say it is. What you did that night was more than acceptable, it was required. A DOCTOR walks up. Carl and Liz return with cups of coffee.

DOCTOR Are you the family of Miss Renfeld?

JAMES Yes. Is everything ok?

DOCTOR

We managed to stabilize her condition, although she is still unconscious.

LIZ How bad is she?

DOCTOR

She's suffered numerous blows to the head and torso. At this point we can only monitor her condition and hope that she wakes up.

NEWTON

How long?

DOCTOR

Unfortunately there is no answer for that. It could be an hour or a month.

JAMES

I see.

DOCTOR

There's really not much that you can do at this point. We're going to try and move her up to a room shortly, but visiting hours don't start up again until nine a-m. You should probably go home and get some rest.

JAMES Ok. Thank you doctor.

The doctor nods at them and walks away.

NEWTON You guys go ahead. I need to stay here. HELEN Understood.

JAMES We'll see you in the morning. If there's any change give us a call.

He hands Newton a piece of paper.

NEWTON

I will.

Helen hugs Newton tightly. Her and James leave.

CARL Well I guess we should get comfortable. It's gonna be a long night.

Newton hands Carl his car keys.

NEWTON No, you guys go ahead. I'll see you later.

CARL Let us know if you find out anything. We'll come back in the morning.

They leave and Newton takes a seat in one of the chairs. He reclines and closes his eyes.

INT. HOSPITAL - DAY

Newton is asleep in his reclined position. Liz and Carl stand over him. Carl taps him on the shoulder. He wakes up suddenly.

NEWTON Yeah? Any news?

CARL It's just me.

Newton rubs his eyes.

NEWTON I thought you were one of the doctors. CARL Nope. Just a fat guy with a cup of coffee for ya.

He hands him a cup of coffee.

NEWTON

Thanks.

LIZ Anything yet?

NEWTON

Nope.

The doctor walks up.

DOCTOR

I just wanted to fill you guys in since I'm going off shift. Her condition is still the same, but we've moved her upstairs. You can visit her, but only two people at a time are allowed in the room. She's in six twenty four.

NEWTON

Thank you.

Newton bolts for the elevator.

INT. HOSPITAL, SARA'S ROOM - DAY

Newton enters the room. Sara lies in the bed unconscious with an IV and monitor hooked up to her. Newton pulls a chair up close to the bed, sits down and holds her hand.

NEWTON

Sara, it's me, Newton. I hope you can hear me because what I'm about to say is really important. I need you to wake up. Not because of how much I love you or how happy I am to have found you, but because I simply can't make it without you. My life is so much better with you in it, and I can't bear to think of it any other way.

He squeezes her hand.

Sara lies motionless. Newton puts his head down on the edge of the bed.

DAD (O.S.) Take your hands off me!

CARL (0.S.) He doesn't want to see you.

Newton gets up and heads out into the hallway. He sees Carl holding Dad back. James, Helen, and Liz are there as well.

NEWTON Let him go Carl.

Carl lets him go and he walks up to Newton

NEWTON Come to say I told you so?

DAD Your brother told me what happened. I just wanted to come by to say I'm sorry. For this and for what I did.

NEWTON How did Nathan know?

CARL I called him.

DAD I came as soon as I heard.

NEWTON Well you were right. I blew it Dad.

DAD

You didn't blow anything. You love that girl. I could tell the first time I saw you two together, and it scared me.

NEWTON Why did it scare you?

DAD Because since your mom died, you and Nathan are all I have, and now DAD

that he's married, he stopped coming around as much and it was just you. And then when I saw you and Sara together, I knew it was only a matter of time before I was all alone.

NEWTON

That's why you said all that? Because you didn't want to be alone?

DAD Yeah. Pretty selfish huh?

NEWTON Yeah, but you'll be happy to know that some good came out of it.

He reaches into his pocket and pulls out a jewelry box.

He opens it to reveal the engagement ring that he and Sara had admired in the mall. Liz and Helen rush up to admire the ring.

> LIZ It's beautiful.

> > HELEN

Breathtaking.

NEWTON

When Sara wakes up, I'm going to ask her to marry me, if that's ok James?

JAMES It's more than ok.

Dad hugs Newton and whispers in his ear.

DAD It's fantastic.

DOCTOR # 2 walks up.

DOCTOR # 2 Are you the Renfeld family?

Newton points to James and Helen.

NEWTON Those are her parents.

JAMES What's the status?

DOCTOR # 2 I was performing a status check on her and her eyes began to flutter.

NEWTON Is that good or bad?

DOCTOR # 2 She may be slipping deeper into unconsciousness.

HELEN

No.

Newton runs into the room. The gang follows him.

INT. HOSPITAL, SARA'S ROOM - DAY

Newton stands over the bed while everyone else stands at the door. Sara's eyes continue to flutter.

NEWTON Wake up Sara, wake up. This is for you.

He holds up the ring.

NEWTON It's the same one you wanted, the same one from the mall. I didn't go cheap on you.

He laughs to himself. Liz starts to cry. Carl looks at the doctor.

CARL Isn't there anything that can be done?

DOCTOR # 2 I'm afraid not.

NEWTON Oh yes there is. EXT. CHURCH - DAY

A hearse is parked in front of the church.

INT. CHURCH, WAITING ROOM - DAY

Newton sits in a chair with his head in his hands. Carl places a hand on his shoulder. They both wear tuxedos.

CARL

I know there's not much to say at a time like this, but I'm sorry. I know how upset you are, and if I could go back and make thinks right, I would in a heartbeat. I feel somewhat responsible for this.

Newton jumps up and grabs Carl by the lapels.

NEWTON Somewhat? Somewhat? This is all your fault!

CARL Ok, so I missed a little detail. I said I was sorry.

NEWTON

I specifically remember when I told you that story, that I specifically stated that she wanted to have tuxedos at her funeral, not a hearse at her wedding, you jackass!

Liz walks in.

LIZ

If you two are done fighting, Sara would like to get married now.

CARL

How did you know we were fighting?

LIZ We can hear you all the way in the back of the church. Now c'mon, let's go. CARL I can't believe you're getting married.

NEWTON Me either. When Sara was in the hospital, and that monitor flat lined, I thought I'd lost her forever.

> CARL vou'd noti

If only you'd noticed that you had disconnected the cord when you leaned in and kissed her. Luckily she woke up.

LIZ Luck had nothing to do with it. It was all in the kiss. Like a fairy tale.

CARL Ok, I'm gonna start crying if we don't get this thing going.

NEWTON Alright, let's do this.

INT. CHURCH, ALTAR - DAY

Newton and Sara stand at the altar. A PRIEST blesses them.

PRIEST I now pronounce you man and wife. You may kiss the bride.

The two kiss and the crowd breaks into loud applause.

EXT. CHURCH, STEPS - DAY

They stand on the steps. Many people come up to greet and congratulate them.

DAD You did it!

NATHAN Congratulations! SARA Oh, this old thing?

They share a laugh. Jane walks up holding a newspaper.

JANE Congratulations you two. I thought you might like to see this.

NEWTON Is it the new article?

JANE Sure is. And thank you for finally using your real name.

DAD What's it about?

NEWTON Kind of a little play on that fantasy of yours.

He shows Dad the paper. The front page reads COUPLE HAS 10,000 BABIES.

There is a picture of Newton and Sara under the headline. Everyone looks at it and laughs.

> DAD Simply amazing.

CARL I'll show you amazing.

Carl gets down on one knee in front of Liz.

CARL

Liz, I love you. Will you marry me?

He pulls a ring out of his pocket. Liz doesn't answer, but instead puts her finger out excitedly and shakes her head yes.

NEWTON Congratulations, you guys.

CARL I guess your Marty approach inspired me, because I made sure to CARL watch it this morning to pump myself up. Strange huh?

DAD Stranger things have happened.

NEWTON Like beating the odds of love?

SARA

Precisely.

Cousin Barry and Aunt Hildy walk up to offer congratulations. Barry appears nervous.

BARRY Congratulations you two.

NEWTON

Hey Barry.

BARRY

Yeah?

NEWTON When are you going to get married? You should be ashamed of yourself.

He winks at Aunt Hildy who has the same look on her face as she did at Nathan's wedding. He wraps his arms around Sara, dips her, and gives her a long passionate kiss.

THE END