

THE PROPOSAL

FADE IN:

1 INT. BEDROOM – MARY’S APARTMENT – NIGHT 1

MARY, 24, tall, slim, long hair, is dressing for a date. She’s wearing a chic form-fitting red dress, cleavage-revealing white blouse and tie with a matching red vest. Her girlfriend is SHEILA, 23, short, moderately overweight, laying on the bed munching on chips and candy.

MARY

I should be back around one...or maybe not. Depends on the mood.

SHEILA

It’s your birthday. Live a little. Or a lot. Where’s he taking you?

MARY

Some French restaurant in Beverly Hills.

SHEILA

Really! Sounds very ‘savoir faire’. Very classy.

MARY

Dennis is a classy guy. I could even marry him.....if only he wasn’t so damn boring!

SHEILA

His conversation? Clothes? What...?

MARY

His everything, girl! I like a man who’s exciting. A man who’s spontaneous. Who wants to do things! Go places! Take chances!

SHEILA

In bed?

MARY

In bed or out of bed. Who cares? He’s the same old predictable Dennis.

SHEILA

Then why are you still with him? Men consider you hot. You can have any guy you want?

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MARY

I know. But Dennis is safe. And going back into the dating scene would be more trouble than it's worth. You told me that. Remember?

SHEILA

Only because there's a limited market for plus-sized girls like me. But I love boring. I'll trade you any day of the week? Now on the other hand, your type.....?

MARY

Musical beds, Sheila. That's not love.

SHEILA

Who's talking about love? I'm talking about plain old down and dirty sex!

MARY

You're hopeless.

Mary holds up two large artificial roses to her head. One red. One white.

MARY (Cont'd)

Which one goes with this outfit?

SHEILA

With all that red you're wearing you look like a stop sign. You unbutton that vest, he'll be talking to your boobs all through dinner. Give his eyes a break. Let the white rose draw them up to your face for once....

DISSOLVE:

2

INT. L'AFFICHE RESTAURANT – BEVERLY HILLS – NIGHT

2

A chic gourmet French restaurant with intimate settings. The walls covered by large black and white photographs of famous French celebrities including Edith Piaf, Charles Aznavour and Jean Paul Belmondo. Small, candle-lit tables served by tuxedo-clad waiters. Mary and DENNIS 29, tall, casually dressed, his face marked by scars from acne. Mary is wearing the large RED

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rose in her hair. She unbuttons the vest part way to reveal her white blouse and the bulge of cleavage. The WAITER finishes filling their glasses from a bottle of red wine as Dennis and Mary read the menu.

DENNIS

You decide yet?

MARY

Decide what? I have absolutely no idea what I'm looking at. I wish they had pictures. You order for the two of us.

DENNIS

You sure now?

MARY

I trust you, Dennis. And if I don't like it, I'll give you money for my part of the bill and we'll go to McDonalds!

Dennis speaks to the waiter in perfect French. As the waiter starts to leave, Dennis motions for him to bend down as he whispers in his ear. The waiter straightens up and smiles.

WAITER

(to Dennis in French)

Oh, oui, oui monsieur. Je comprends.

(to Mary in french)

Bon anniversaire, mademoiselle!

DENNIS

He said happy birthday.

MARY

I got that much.

(to waiter)

Merci.

The waiter bows and leaves.

MARY

I didn't know you spoke French, Dennis?
I thought your major was pre-law?

DENNIS

Minored in Romance Languages. Figured I'd work for the State Department and do some traveling.

MARY

Why'd you change?

DENNIS

You master a language, there's nothing left to learn. Nothing new to get excited about.

MARY

I most definitely see your point.

DENNIS

And speaking of excitement....

Dennis reaches into his jacket pocket, pulls out a small package wrapped in multicolored ribbons. He pushes it across the table to Mary.

DENNIS

Happy birthday, sweetheart.

MARY

Aw, Dennis. This is so sweet. Thank you.

Mary leans across the table and kisses Dennis. Mary starts to unwrap the box just as the waiter brings the tray of hors d'oeuvres.

WAITER

Bon appétit, monsieur. Mademoiselle....

MARY

I'll unwrap it after dinner. Before desert. Okay?

DENNIS

That flower in your hair is working the hell out of that vest, girl...!

Mary winks and smiles knowingly as they start to eat.

DISSOLVE:

The plates of food are nearly empty. The wine bottle is less than half full. Mary is unwrapping her present. There is a smaller box inside the larger box. And a third box inside the second that she opens to reveal a glittering diamond engagement ring. Mary is shocked into silence for a beat.

MARY

(stuttering)

Oh, Dennis....! I...I...uh, really don't know what to say?

DENNIS

Just one word. Yes.

Mary stares at the ring, admiring its brilliance. But she doesn't take it out of the box. Doesn't want to hurt his feelings.

MARY

Dennis you know how I feel about you. How we feel about each other. I just...I mean we never talked about this.

DENNIS

And that's my fault. I was just so afraid you'd say no that I kept putting it off and putting it off. Finally I said to myself, what the hell -- we've been dating for three years. It's now or never. And what better occasion than your birthday. Right?

MARY

Right. What better occasion than my birthday. But I have to be honest with you Dennis, I'm not really sure I want to be tied down with commitment just yet. I mean, I'm only 24?

DENNIS

(in shock, his feelings hurt)

What, you don't love me? Everything you said was a lie? Just pillow talk? You got somebody else?

MARY

Don't be silly, Dennis. Of course, I love you. And no, there's nobody else! I just kinda enjoy the relationship the way it is now.

DENNIS

(disappointed)

So after all this time together, you just see us as friends with benefits? Nothing more?

MARY

Who's got time for other friends? Have I ever denied you my body? When Sheila's gone for the weekend, do I not have you over? And whenever you call for us to hook up or spend time together, have I ever refused you? Ever?

DENNIS

If it's money, Mary, I know I've only been out of law school four years. But my job with the firm is secure. I can support us....!

MARY

I know you can, honey. Money's not the issue. I just like having my independence. I enjoy writing copy for tv journalists. It's just an entry level job, but I really like it. If we got married, I'd have to be both attentive and accountable to you. And right now, all my energy goes in to making this career work. You're a lawyer on the way up to Partner. You can understand that, right?

(beat)

Let me think about it, Dennis. Let's have desert. We'll talk about this later. Okay?

Mary reaches across the table, kisses Dennis affectionately. She removes the red rose from her hair and places it on the lapel of his jacket. Momentarily the waiters all surround the table and begin singing Happy Birthday. But instead of a cake with candles, they place a dinner plate in front of Mary that is covered by a large napkin. As the staff leaves, Dennis removes the napkin revealing a plate full of chocolate covered roaches.

DENNIS

Chocolate covered roaches, Mary. It's a French delicacy and I thought.....

Mary is speechless. The plate with the delicacy has an almost mystical hypnotic effect on Mary. Her eyes open wide in awe.

MARY

(screaming)

OH...MY...GOD, DENNIS!!! OH MY GOD!
Oh my God! Oh....my....God! Chocolate covered
roaches!!! You don't know what you've done! You
have no idea what you've just done? No idea at all!!!

Mary begins eating the chocolate covered roaches one after another.
The chocolate smearing itself on her lips as she consumes the delicacy
at an almost manic ever-increasing rate.

MARY(Cont'd)

Oh Dennis, baby. You have no idea....? I am so
sorry I underestimated you! I never will again!

Suddenly Mary gets out of her chair, grabs Dennis and begins kissing
him passionately about the head and neck. She manages to sit on his
lap while still kissing him passionately.

MARY (Cont't)

Yes, I'll marry you, Dennis! Oh yes! Yes! Yes! Where's
the ring, baby? Give me the ring, Dennis! The ring! I
want the ring! That ring is mine! I'll wear it forever,
Dennis! And you are mine! Mine! Mine for all time!

Mary fumbles haphazardly among the dishes and glasses on the table, grabs
the ring out of the box and slips it on her finger, still kissing Dennis.

MARY (Cont'd)

Tonight, Dennis! I wanna get married tonight! Wait!
Wait....wait! Oh wait, I...I think I'm...having...an...an.....

Mary suddenly shakes violently as if having a seizure. Momentarily it passes.
She collapses exhausted, her head on Dennis's shoulder.

MARY (Cont'd)

(drowsy)

I'm sorry I ever doubted you, Dennis. I love
you so much. More than you'll ever know!
Chocolate covered roaches are my kryptonite.
How did you know that?

DENNIS

You talk in your sleep.

3

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MARY
(sleepy)

You cheated.

Dennis removes the red rose from his jacket lapel, places it back in Mary's hair.

DENNIS
Yes. I cheated. Do you want a new trial?

MARY
(almost asleep, yawning)
No. I'm guilty as charged. Punish me some more.
Are there any chocolate covered roaches left?

DENNIS
There will always be more roaches....

MARY
(almost asleep, yawning)
That's good. It means we'll be married for
a long....long....long....time.....

FADE OUT:

MUSIC IS UP:

CREDITS ARE ON:

