

"The Weddings"

written by

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Based on novella on WordPress by

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FADE IN

Unmistakable. BIG BEN stands majestically on the horizon. The last of the London early morning fog has yet to burn off. The sounds of a city bustingly.

EXT./INT. GLOBAL TRAVEL MAGAZINE HEADQUARTERS-DAY

Outside, an ultra-modern five story glass and chrome building in the heart of the city. The sidewalks jammed with WORKERS, COMMUTERS.

Inside is exactly what you imagine. The massive atrium screams upper-crust. And the PEOPLE coming and going are at the top of the fashion and travel world. The one-percenters. This place reeks of money.

A WOMAN, JENNIFER YORK, 40, hustles across the lobby, eyes glued to her iPhone. She is an odd mix of punk, class and cynicism. Brown spiked hair cropped tight, a two thousand dollar Cartier watch and bamboo sandals -- probably off the feet of a Sherpa in the Himalayas.

She steals a glance at her watch.

JENNIFER
(in British accent)
SHIT!
(she looks up)
HOLD THAT ELEVATOR! HOLD THAT --

The doors shut.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)
Son of a bitch.

Another elevator opens. She steps in. The doors are about to close when a TINY WOMAN'S hand splits through the crack. The doors ease back open.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)
Of course.

In steps JESSICA PILLSBURY, late-20's. Cute as a button, redheaded firecracker with enough energy to power a village. Tennis shoes, conservative skirt. If we had to guess she was a cheerleader in high school or college and the prom queen. And her thick Texas accent stands out like a sore thumb in the heart of London.

Jennifer doesn't look up from her phone.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)
Uh-huh.

JESSICA
 Could ya'll press--

Jennifer leans forward and stabs the 4th FLOOR Button with her finger.

JESSICA (CONT'D)
 OMG, my oh my. How did ya'll know that? Must be my lucky da--

The elevator doors shut.

INT. GLOBAL TRAVEL MAGAZINE FOURTH FLOOR - CONTINUOUS

A labyrinth of cubicles and busy PEOPLE fill the area. In the far back is an enormous all glass office with NAOMI GIBSLOW - EDITOR, Stenciled on the door.

The ELEVATOR DINGS and the doors open --

JESSICA
 --And then when my bike tires were flat it was like, hey yo, what in tarnation am I gonna do now?

JENNIFER
 Uh-huh...

Jennifer still studies her phone and without looking up walks out of the elevator -- she knows exactly where she's going. But she stops and turns to the loo.

Behind her, Jessica steps out and freezes. A grin from ear to ear she is a kid in a candy store -- awestruck.

INT. OFFICE

It's an enormous all-glass office. Modern art and travel posters adorn the walls.

NAOMI GIBSLOW---EDITOR, a well preserved 50-year-old Cloris Leachman lookalike dressed to the nines with a phone in her hand, bluetooth on her head---computer monitors surround the desk. She stares out the fourth floor window overlooking the THAMES.

NAOMI
 (into her phone)
 I don't care. I want to see proofs in twenty minutes. If they are up here in twenty two, I will throw them, and you out my window.
 (MORE)

NAOMI (CONT'D)

(beat)

I know they don't open. That's the point.

She slaps the end call button on her phone.

A tapping on Naomi's glass door. Through the glass stands Jessica.

JESSICA

(muffled through the glass)

Ms. Gibslow? It's me, Jessica.
Jessica Pillsbury.

Naomi waves her in. She turns her chair around as Jessica enters.

NAOMI

Ah, come in. We're waiting for your new partner.

Jennifer enters.

JENNIFER

You wanted to see me?

Naomi swings her ergo chair around to face her.

NAOMI

Yes. This is your new partner,
Jessica Pillsbury.

Jennifer shakes hands with Jessica. Jennifer's not exactly thrilled.

NAOMI (CONT'D)

I wanted you two to meet here in my office so we can jump right into my new endeavor and explaining myself twice is like, you know... explaining myself twice, which I don't do.

JENNIFER

Naomi, you know I work alone.

NAOMI

Not anymore. She's a temp photographer.

JESSICA

Ms. Gibslow, I just wanted to say how excited I am---

NAOMI

--Save it. We've got work to do.
I've been struggling with -- okay,
I never struggle with anything but
I've been searching for the next
big thing for Global Travel
Magazine and you two are it.

Jennifer looks up and with one raised eyebrow stares at Naomi waiting for the other shoe to drop.

She points at her desk. It's full of formal wedding invitations like a circle on her desk. Jennifer and Jessica pick up the announcements and read them quietly. Jennifer's head drops.

JENNIFER

Shit.

Jessica sits on the edge of her seat.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)

I recognized the Carltons of
London. They're old friends of mine
from Oxford University.

She's looking at the London announcement.

PICTURES: Neville and April Carlton, fraternal Protestant twins with red hair, green eyes, and moles. Neville's engaged to a Greek Orthodox, Peter Kostas, a gray-haired middle-aged man. April's engaged to May Braddock, an Afro-British Presbyterian woman with cropped half-blond, half-dyed pink hair. The double wedding is located at Camden Town Hall.

BACK TO SCENE

Naomi looks up and raises her hands open like she's Moses parting the Red Sea.

NAOMI

Worldwide Weddings of the Rich and
Powerful.

Jessica jumps out of her seat.

JESSICA

Yee Haaa! Wait...what about Vegas
or Atlantic City?

NAOMI

That's inconsequential. They're
mainly wedding central.

JENNIFER

Listen, boss. I'm a writer and do you know what writers need?

NAOMI

Prozac? Zoloff?

JENNIFER

(thinks)

Well, yeah that too. But what we really need is isolation. I can't do this with the Energizer bunny bouncing around behind me.

JESSICA

Ya'll won't even know I'm here.

JENNIFER

I wish.

Naomi stands between the two ladies.

NAOMI

Jen, you are a better reporter than any man I've ever met, and you know I've met them all.

JENNIFER

Yeah, we'll go with, "Met them."

NAOMI

It's decided. You two will work together like a singing duet whether you like it or not. Make it happen, ladies!

She goes back to her desk.

NAOMI (CONT'D)

Moreover, I want accuracy and intriguing articles and pictures. I want the truth! No lies, no libel, no slander. No fake weddings. No fictitious weddings. No exaggerations. No secret weddings. Think you can do it?

Jennifer and Jessica ponder. They nod as one.

JESSICA

Ma'am, I guarantee you that this will be successful and stupendous! The best stories you have ever read.

(MORE)

JESSICA (CONT'D)
 The best stories people will ever
 read! The best pictures you will
 ever see!

Naomi crosses her arms. She snorts in laughter.

NAOMI
 So, the deadline is October 26---
 two weeks from now. The magazine's
 next issue will be published four
 days later.

Naomi approaches Jessica.

NAOMI (CONT'D)
 By the way, Ms. Pillsbury---

JESSICA
 Yes?

Naomi looks up and down at Jessica. The whole body.

NAOMI
 Give yourself a makeover. Be more
 like Jennifer. She's prettier than
 you.

She approaches Jessica and tugs at her sweater.

NAOMI (CONT'D)
 These clothes you're wearing---
 where did you buy them? Salvation
 Army? Ha!

Naomi slightly slaps Jessica on the face.

NAOMI (CONT'D)
 Oh, what a shame. That birthmark
 scarred your pretty little face.
 Didn't your mother teach you how to
 cover it up with makeup?

She tsks.

INT. LOUNGE ROOM

Jennifer and Jessica eat biscuits. Jennifer sips her green
 tea. Jessica drinks her coffee.

JESSICA
 Is she always such a conniving
 bitch?

JENNIFER

Don't let her get to you. It's just the way she is. She's been married twice. Makes her bitter.

JESSICA

Oooh! This is so exciting! I'm really looking forward to it! We are going to have so much fun!

She claps in excitement.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

(speaking speedily)

So, tell me about yourself, Jennifer! What do you do for fun? Maybe we'll go out someday. You're a fantastic writer! I love your articles! Especially the ones about the Safari jungle trek and the food and wine festival in Hawaii! You're in adventure movies!

JENNIFER

Whoa, whoa, whoa. Slow down. But thank you for the compliment.

INT. DOWNSTAIRS

They take off the escalator.

JENNIFER

I will NEVER get married.

JESSICA

Why not?

JENNIFER

I can't.

JESSICA

Why?

JENNIFER

None of your business.

JESSICA

Ok, ok, I get it. You don't believe in marriage, Ms. Bachelorette. Sure, marriage isn't for everyone. There's affinity, compatibility, and destiny. Some people are meant to be together, some not.

They stop at a water fountain. She digs around in her purse.

JENNIFER

By the way, don't get your hopes up for this trip. Some weddings will be all glamour and fun, some will turn to shit...down the drains.

JESSICA

Are you Brits always that cynical and pessimistic?

JENNIFER

Are you Texans always that optimistic?

Jessica pulls her Rail pass out. She shoves it in her pocket.

JESSICA

Come on, it'll be fun! Give it a chance.

Jennifer sighs.

JENNIFER

Ok, fine. I rather support than boycott. Let's make a vow to set our differences aside and work together. Agreed?

Jessica salutes like a soldier.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)

'Pillsbury.' Any relation to the pastry company?

Jessica chuckles.

JESSICA

Quite a coincidence, but no. I get that a lot.

JENNIFER

See ya tomorrow, mate.

(V.O.)

Welcome to hell, Jen.

She leaves the building. Jessica nods and waves goodbye.

Jessica spots Naomi speaking to BRIAN, a tall, black man with a beard. They walk out of the elevator. Jessica hides behind a large plant.

NAOMI

I bet that if those two idiots both fail, I win thirty pounds. If they succeed, you win the lolly.

BRIAN

(in British accent)

You know what, maybe we should call it off. We can't toy with other people's emotions behind their backs.

NAOMI

Good idea.

Jessica heads for the loo.

NAOMI (CONT'D)

However, if we do, I'll go on social media and blab about your..

(air quotes)

'personal life.'

(no air quotes)

No woman would want a man like you. You prefer toying with them than treating them like human beings.

BRIAN

You're bluffing.

NAOMI

Am I?

EXT. CAMDEN TOWN HALL-SEPT. 22-MORNING

It's a lovely day. Jennifer and Jessica arrive early. They sit down on the steps. Jessica has a large black bag on her sleeve. She watches the goldfinches, eating bird seeds on the street.

THEN:

NEVILLE and APRIL CARLTON, PETER KOSTAS, and MAY BRADDOCK show up. Neville recognizes Jennifer immediately.

NEVILLE

Jennifer!

JENNIFER

Neville!

He hugs her.

NEVILLE

Good god! You look fabulous! I haven't seen you since Oxford! And I can't believe you're reporting my wedding.

He releases Jennifer. April doesn't seem pleased to see Jennifer. She puts on a fake smile.

APRIL

Fancy seeing you, Jennifer.

JENNIFER

Good to see you too, April.

NEVILLE

Just a heads up. Our families and friends except a few supporters refused to come.

JENNIFER

Why?

NEVILLE

They think homosexuality is 'immoral.' We don't give a shit about that.

JENNIFER

They're bigots! No offense.

PETER

None taken. Someday, they'll come around.

MAY

Either they accept us or never speak to us for the rest of our lives.

JENNIFER

It's not the nineteenth century anymore. It's okay to be gay here.

JESSICA

And in America too. In fact, they made same-sex marriage legal in all of the states a few months ago.

Peter taps his watch indicating 'it's time.'

EXT./INT. ROOM-A FEW MINUTES BEFORE..

Outside, Jennifer stands by the Carltons, waiting for the ceremony to begin.

NEVILLE

Jennifer, I already forgave you for choosing your first ex-fiancé over our friendship years ago. I meant to call you, but I've been way too busy with my life and all. I'm sorry.

He hugs her.

JENNIFER

No need to apologize.

Neville looks at April. April sighs. She smiles.

APRIL

Oh, what the hell. Let bygones be bygones.

Neville releases Jennifer. April hugs her patting her on the back.

MONTAGE-VARIOUS:

-INT. ROOM-a tolerant officiant marries off Neville and Peter.

-On Neville's right, Jessica snaps a few pictures with her Nikon D810 camera on quiet mode.

-Neville and Peter kiss.

-April and May stand in front of the officiant. They kiss.

-One of the supporting FRIENDS sings John Lennon's "All You Need is Love" in acapella.

-INT. BALLROOM-NEXT DOOR: Guests are seated as the wait staff pours the wine. The meat eaters eat sea bass, Athen's stuff leg of lamb with pepperocini peppers served with red wine, rosemary pilaf roasted vegetables, and the Chicken Souvlakia skewers.

-The vegetarians eat the vegetarian souvlakia.

-A GUEST makes a weird, inappropriate speech about the couple.

-Jennifer steps in. She makes a better speech. She raises her glass of champagne up.

JENNIFER

A toast to the brides and the grooms.

-Everyone else raises their glasses.

ENTIRE PARTY

(in unison)

Hear, hear! To the brides and the grooms.

-The DJ from earlier plays the Beach Boys' "God Only Knows."

-April and May dance slowly on the floor. In the middle of the song, Neville and Peter step on the floor and dance slowly as well.

END OF MONTAGE

The DJ plays an upbeat Ricky Martin song. Everyone else joins.

JENNIFER

Come on, Jess!

JESSICA

No, you go ahead. I'll watch.

Jennifer shrugs and hits the dance floor.

MOMENTS LATER

FAMILIES and FRIENDS of the Carltons and their new spouses happily show up with lavish gifts. Peter, May, and the Carltons are surprised.

MAY

I guess one of the guests here was the little bird that told them.

EXT. CAMDEN TOWN HALL

Everyone cheers and throw rice and confetti at the couples. The newlyweds climb in a green mini-van.

Jennifer and Jessica leave.

JENNIFER & JESSICA
 (in unison)
 Our work is done.

EXT./INT. CATHOLIC CHURCH-ESSEX-SEPT. 24

SHOT:

A beautiful, white Catholic church. The weather is still the same as before.

MOTHER (O.S.)
 (in British accent)
 She only has a year to live. Brain cancer is hard to beat.

INTERCUT:

Jennifer walks with the bride's Afro-British MOTHER. She carries a pencil and notepad.

JENNIFER
 I'm so sorry.

MOTHER
 It was her wish to get married in this church. I married her father here. She wanted to have a family, but...

She shakes her head no. Jennifer puts her hand on the bride's mother's shoulder.

MOTHER (CONT'D)
 At least, she completed other tasks on her bucket list. She donated half of her belongings to the poor children in Africa. She visited London, Australia, and America, skied on the Alps, watched the new Star Wars movie before its actual release date, and sang on the hotel roof. Not well, I might add.

Jennifer's impressed.

INT. CHURCH

Jennifer and Jessica sit in the back row, waiting for the ceremony to begin. It's a black-tie wedding. Jennifer wipes a tear with her hand. She sniffs.

JESSICA

You ok?

Jennifer nods.

JENNIFER

Of course. I feel sorry for her.

JESSICA

She kind of reminds me of Brittany Maynard, the 29-year-old woman who died of terminal brain cancer and assisted suicide last year. She advocated for the Right to Die law.

The music begins. The doors open. Everyone, including Jennifer and Jessica stand up.

The Afro-British BRIDE walks down the aisle with her FATHER. She carries a bible. Down the aisle, the Caucasian GROOM waits, smiling. Jennifer writes on her notepad.

NOTEPAD:

White wedding dress symbolizes purity in the wedding era.
Blue garter=something blue, something borrowed from a friend

BACK TO SCENE

Gunshots fire outside. Everyone panics.

One second later, a POLICE OFFICER BARGES IN.

POLICE OFFICER

Don't panic, everyone. Calm down! I apologize for this. Rest assured, everybody, no one was hurt. We already caught the crazy lunatic. He attempted to assassinate the Prime Minister. Please, go on as if nothing had happened.

The police officer closes the door.

MONTAGE:

-INT. RECEPTION-BALLROOM: On the dance floor, the wedding band plays classical music during the father-daughter dance. The groom politely cuts in halfway through the dance.

-The band's tune changes to Etta James' 'At Last.' The bride and groom dance to that song. They cry a little.

-Jessica uses the wide-angle zoom on one of her five cameras.

-During dessert time, the couple cuts lemon thyme cake and feed it to each other.

END OF MONTAGE

Taylor Swift's "Shake It Off" plays. Jennifer and Jessica are sit at a corner table.

JESSICA

Come on, girl, let's shake it off!
This girl needs to get her drink
on, baby!

JENNIFER

We can't. We're not supposed to.
We're working.

JESSICA

So? Let's take a break. Just a
drink or two, a little dancing, and
we're outta here. What Naomi
doesn't know can't hurt her.

Jennifer sighs.

MOMENTS LATER

Oblivious to the wedding party, Jennifer and Jessica are drunk. They carry glasses of champagne while dancing with two of the USHERS.

INT. COAT CLOSET-NIGHT

Jennifer has sex with the short-statured USHER.

INT. MEN'S ROOM

A GRAY-HAIRED man dries his hands. He hears loud sex noises. The man runs away.

INT. STALL

Jessica has sex with the tallest USHER.

USHER
 Oh, yeah, baby! Oh yeah! Suck my
 cock like it was a popsicle!

They stop. Jessica's appalled.

INT. CLOSET--2 A.M.

Jennifer wakes up, all sobered up and naked. She realizes her purse is missing.

JENNIFER
 Oh no! No, no, no, no, no! FUCK!

INT. FRONT DOOR-HALL

Half-way dressed, she runs into Jessica and two SECURITY GUARDS, both male and female.

FEMALE SECURITY GUARD
 Are you Jennifer York?

Jennifer nods. The guard hands her the purse. Jennifer's full of glee.

JENNIFER
 Oh! Thank you! Thank you so much!

She rummages it through. The purse has her wallet, hotel key, iPhone, makeup, notepads, writing utensils.

JESSICA
 I saw the guy who stole your purse.
 I summoned the security guards. He
 tried to get away.

MALE SECURITY GUARD
 Rest assured, love, we caught the
 bloke. He's on the wanted list for
 robbing other weddings in London,
 Cambridge, Buckinghamshire, and
 Kingston.

FEMALE SECURITY GUARD
 I guarantee you that his wedding
 crashing days are over.

EXT./INT. SYNAGOGUE DES TOURNELLES-PARIS-SEPT. 26-DAY

Outside, the sun shines on the exquisite synagogue.

Inside, Jennifer and Jessica, dressed in elegant black and blue dresses with lace, ARRIVE. They see GUESTS singing and greeting the 50-year-old groom, JACQUES RUBENSTEIN and the bride, JACQUELINE MONTEL, early 30s.

Jennifer checks her watch: 10 a.m.

JENNIFER

Oh, fuck! I thought it was at 9.

Jessica shushes her. They walk to the front.

JESSICA

Calm down. Naomi must've mixed up the times. Or on purpose. Who knows? Who cares?

They stand against the wall. Jessica sets up her equipment. A tall FRENCHMAN with a thin moustache approaches them.

FRENCHMAN

Excusez-moi? Are you the lovely ladies from Global Travel Magazine?

Jennifer and Jessica are flattered.

JENNIFER

Oui, monsieur.

FRENCHMAN

You did not miss anything important. They are not married yet. This is the pre-wedding customs. They started an hour ago.

Jennifer and Jessica sigh of relief.

JENNIFER

Oh, thank you! I mean, Merci.

JESSICA

Merci.

He nods and excuses himself.

The bride's mother, MRS. BERNARD and the groom's mother, MRS. RUBENSTEIN stand together. They break a plate.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

According to the Jewish wedding sites, the bride is called the kallah and the groom is called the chatan.

Jennifer doesn't show much interest.

JENNIFER
(sarcastically)
Fascinating.

JESSICA
At least, it's not World War II.

JENNIFER
Oh no! That'd be nasty if the Nazi
pigs were here.

LATER

Under the chuppah, Jacques steps on the glass with his right foot. Jacqueline steps back a little. GUESTS stand up and cheer.

GUESTS
(in unison)
MAZEL TOV!

INT. RECEPTION-TENT-SYNAGOGUE'S GARDEN

The newlyweds, Jacques's two TEENAGE SONS and Jacqueline's 9-year-old DAUGHTER and the GUESTS dance to the Hora.

THEN:

Suddenly, a huge grizzly brown bear ENTERS. It roars loudly. The Hora stops. Everyone panics.

The bear approaches the table. It munches on the salmon. Most people are disgusted. The kids laugh. Some of the guests take pictures and record it with their iPhones.

GUEST #1
(in French, with
subtitles)
That's the bear that escaped from
the zoo last night!

Jacqueline's father, MR. BERNARD hangs up his cell phone.

MR. BERNARD
(in French, with
subtitles)
Animal Control is on the way.

Mrs. Rubenstein pokes the bear with her cane.

MRS. RUBENSTEIN
 (in French, with
 subtitles)
 Bad bear, bad bear! Go away! You
 are ruining the reception!

The bear roars loudly. Jacques pulls her away.

JESSICA
 She poked the bear.

Two ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICERS, a man and a woman, ENTER. They have a metal leash. The bear runs away. The chase continues out of the tent.

EXT. SYNAGOGUE-SUNSET

The newlyweds climb into a tiny red car. The sign, "Epousé Juste" is on the trunk. Jacques drives away. GUESTS wave goodbye at them.

Jennifer and Jessica leave.

JENNIFER & JESSICA
 (in unison)
 Our work is done.

EXT. CITY OF PARIS-SUNSET

Jennifer and Jessica, in jeans and cashmere sweaters, walk with croissants and coffee. Jessica sighs happily.

JESSICA
 London and Paris, it's the Tale of
 Two Cities.

JENNIFER
 The reception dance was quite
 entertaining!

She imitates the dance.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)
 Hora! Hora! Hora!

Jessica laughs.

JESSICA
 Despite the 'wedding crasher,' it
 was a lovely wedding.

Jennifer is irritated.

JENNIFER

(sarcastically)

Sure, it was. It was nearly a disaster. I'm sure the next few weddings will either be enjoyable or utterly turn into disasters. Most wedding attendees are idiots. Not all of the marriages will last long.

Jessica is clearly annoyed. She stops on her tracks.

JESSICA

All right! That's it! This is the last straw! I am trying to ignore this, but your stupid comments...ugh! Enough is enough!

JENNIFER

Blimey! Calm down, Jess. Don't make a scene here. You're overreacting. You're probably tired from all that travelling and working.

JESSICA

I am not overreacting!

JENNIFER

What's the big deal, Jess?

JESSICA

We agreed to set aside our differences, but no. Perhaps that alcohol at the reception made you forget to keep your opinions to yourself. We're too different.

Jessica walks faster, avoiding Jennifer. Jennifer chases after her.

JENNIFER

Look, I'm sorry I broke our agreement. I forgot about it. I should've written it down. I didn't drink today. Just a little champagne.

Jessica stops. Jennifer catches her breathe.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)

You wanna know the truth about me?

EXT. PONT NEUF-NIGHT

Jennifer and Jessica stare at the river.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)

My parents divorced when I was ten. I vowed to never be like them. I was engaged twice. Neither panned out. I set sail on the ocean of love twice, but I just wasted away in the desert. My first engagement, in my early twenties---I didn't care if there were any dealbreakers. Three months later, I catch him in bed with another woman. We call it off. Two years later, my second ex-fiance turned out to be a lying, snake son-of-a-bitch imposter. A con artist, a fake, a fraud. I turned him in. Good riddance.

Jessica looks guilty. Jennifer bites her croissant a little. She sips her coffee.

JESSICA

Crazy.

JENNIFER

Truthfully, I was more interested in my career than having a family. I lost my trust in men.

She walks to the other side.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)

Speaking of children, not that I don't like them, but it's not for me. No interest. Besides, I'm extremely busy.

JESSICA

I'm sorry about my outburst. I just---

JENNIFER

No, no, no. I get it. You were fed up, that's all. You felt like your head was about to explode.

The wind breezes.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)

I wasn't always a journalist til I was around...your age or close.

(MORE)

JENNIFER (CONT'D)

I tried to be the next Jane Austen or Charlotte Bronte, but that didn't quite work out. So, I switched to travel journalism. Geography fascinates me. I don't regret that for one bit.

Jennifer straightens her clothes a little.

JESSICA

You know, I wasn't always a travel photographer 'til after the divorce. I tried to be the next Picasso with robots, but...
(shakes her head no)
I chose this career the same reason you chose yours. No regrets.

The wind blows the ladies' hair to the east. The wind stops
The ladies straighten their hair a little.

EXT. CITY

They continue to walk.

JESSICA

My parents divorced when I was sixteen. I met my first husband in high school. We eloped right after graduation. Things went downhill starting him losing his job. Drugs, alcohol, and strippers were involved. Whenever I tried to help him, he would...hurt me...

They stop. Jessica points at her upper shoulders, stomach, both legs, and a scar that's faded on her left shoulder. Jennifer gasps. She's speechless.

Jessica points at the glob.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

That's my birthmark. Nothing to do with the abuse. Anyway, one day, I had the courage to turn him into the police. Good riddance.

Jennifer pats Jessica on the back. Cars ZOOM on street. They pass a group of drunken young people laughing and giggling loudly.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

I lost my trust in men until I started dating again.

A carriage with horses pass by.

JENNIFER

That must've been daunting for you.

JESSICA

Yeah, I've been in a couple of relationships. Every date requires a background check. When I have kids, I can manage to balance between a family and my career.

JENNIFER

I'm sure you will. You're the type. I'm not.

She glances at the city lights.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)

You know, life is not a fairytale. There's more to life than marriage and kids. Whatever you do, you rely on yourself for happiness, not other people. Not every woman needs a man.

She folds her arms.

JESSICA

And no one should ever be alone. There's more to life than a career. Without love from family, friends, or in some cases, a life partner, you have nothing. It's called loneliness.

EXT. SQUARE DU-VERT GALANT

They stop.

JESSICA

You know you're not a bad person at all. You're ok.

Jennifer chuckles.

JENNIFER

You're not a bad person either. I like it when you see the best in situations. I know I have difficulty expressing my feelings, but don't push me, ok?

Jessica nods.

JESSICA

I know I can be a bit pushy and overly enthusiastic, but I like positivity. It helped me move from my divorce. From now on, I'll let you open up on your own terms. Don't push me away, ok?

JENNIFER

Let's agree again to set aside our differences and work together. We'll ignore each other's opinions and comments. Remind me if I forget.

Jessica nods.

SERIES OF SHOTS:

FLASH! Pictures of Jennifer and Jessica sightseeing in the city and selfies of them.

END OF SERIES OF SHOTS

SHOT--SEPT. 29:

APPLE MACBOOK AIR:

Jennifer types: WEDDING OF VIMAL KRISHNA & RADHA VERMAN CANCELLED. One of the lines says: Krishna has run off with another woman. Arranged marriages are not for everyone these days.

MONTAGE:

-INT. BRIDE'S HOUSE-BACKYARD-SEOUL-OCT. 1: There are only 75 guests. The Caucasian American GROOM gives a piggyback ride to the South Korean BRIDE'S MOTHER.

-He gives the South Korean BRIDE a piggyback ride.

-Everyone gathers around in a circle. In the center, the bride carries a date fruit.

BRIDE

Whoever receives the seed wears the pants in the relationship.

She also says it in Korean.

-Everyone splits the date fruit.

-The groom has the seed.

-INT. RECEPTION (KYEOLHON PIROYEON)-GRAND BALLROOM: Jennifer and Jessica guzzle down a few glasses of water to drown the spicy Korean food.

-Jennifer writes on her notepad.

NOTEPAD:

Groom marries former student from English-speaking class. Plans to move to Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA.

BACK TO SCENE

-Everyone dances to upbeat Korean music.

END OF MONTAGE

INT. JW MARRIOTT HOTEL-NIGHT

Jessica uploads pictures of the wedding and the reception on her laptop. Jennifer peers over.

JENNIFER

Your photos are quite divine.

JESSICA

Thank you.

She deletes a few blurry pictures.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

Not always perfect.

JENNIFER

Life is not perfect.

She notices Jessica's pink sketchpad on her bedside and picks it up. She flips over the pages.

SKETCHPAD:

Sketches of robots eating food on sticks, dancing and drinking, taking spas, having erotic sex on bed, and flying with birds on the sky.

Jennifer laughs.

BACK TO SCENE

Jessica turns away from her laptop.

JESSICA

I know, I know, they're weird,
aren't they?

JENNIFER

No, no, They're actually hilarious.
You could make an animated movie
based on this. Fifty shades of
metal on this one.

She points at the erotic picture.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)

Why specifically robots?

JESSICA

They're cute. After my art career
failed, I turned it into a hobby
instead. Not everyone's interested
in robots. Drawing's the first
step. They'll turn into paintings
sometime.

JENNIFER

I noticed you looking at birds
once. Is birdwatching another hobby
of yours?

JESSICA

It's so relaxing.

Jennifer sets the sketchpad aside.

JENNIFER

(in a robotic voice)
May I have this dance, miss?

Jessica laughs.

JESSICA

(in a robotic voice)
Delighted.

She's about to accept Jennifer's hand. Jennifer withdraws her hand away from Jessica.

JENNIFER

Seriously, I don't know how to slow dance.

JESSICA

Okay.

Jennifer's embarrassed.

JENNIFER

It's...been so long since I danced with someone.

JESSICA

That's no big deal. If you want, I can help you refresh your memory. You know, in case, you're in situations where slow-dancing is required like a black-tie party or something.

JENNIFER

Absolutely.

Jessica turns back to her laptop.

COMPUTER SCREEN

Jessica puts on iTunes. She selects Jackson 5's "I'll Be There."

BACK TO SCENE

Jessica gets up and beckons her finger at Jennifer. Jennifer walks closer to her.

JESSICA

Ok, pretend I'm the man. I lead you. Sometimes, you lead if he lets you.

SERIES OF SHOTS:

A. Jessica teaches Jennifer how to position herself. Jennifer's shoulders line up and posititons her arms.

B. Jessica places her right hand on the small part of Jennifer's back. She holds her left hand out to the side at chest level.

C. Jennifer places her left hand on Jessica's shoulder. Jennifer raises her arm to chest level. She extends her hand out to hold Jessica's hand. Their hands are interlocked like two C's.

D. They leave some space, three to six inches of distance. Jessica makes sure that Jennifer's were relaxed with a comfortable bend in the elbow.

E. Jessica leads Jennifer. They move slowly and clockwise.

F. Jennifer accidentally steps on Jessica's toe.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

Ow!

JENNIFER

Sorry.

Jennifer looks down at her feet.

JESSICA

Don't stare at your feet all the time. Look at me.

Jennifer lifts her head up slowly. She makes eye contact with Jessica.

JENNIFER

May I lead?

Jessica nods. Jennifer leads Jessica and turns around. Jennifer's improving.

JESSICA

You dance gracefully.

The song ends. They stop dancing. Jennifer releases Jessica.

JENNIFER

So, how did I do?

Jessica claps.

JESSICA

I give this an A+. Good job!

The iTunes automatically switches to Daft Punk's "Technologic." They dance to it robotically.

INT. MARRIOTT HOTEL-OTTAWA, CANADA-OCT. 5---6 A.M

Jennifer looks so pale and drenched, lying down in bed. She presses her ear on the hotel phone, listening to Naomi.

NAOMI (V.O.)

Oh, I am so sorry to hear you both are ill. Blast those 24-hour bugs.

Jessica vomits off-screen.

INTERCUT----PHONE CONVERSATION

INT. NAOMI'S OFFICE--LONDON-1 PM

NAOMI

The garden wedding couple will understand. If you feel better in two days, there will be a spiritual Great Gatsby-themed wedding at the hotel you're staying at.

JENNIFER (V.O)

Oh, thank you so much!

NAOMI

You're welcome. Goodbye!

She hangs up the phone. Brian sips his tea.

BRIAN

Illnesses don't count, do they?

Naomi shakes her head no.

BRIAN (CONT'D)

If they miss one wedding, it doesn't count either?

Naomi shakes her head no again.

INT. MARRIOTT HOTEL-OTTAWA

Jennifer and Jessica sit on bed, eating slices of pb bread. They're mindlessly watching "Downton Abbey" reruns on TV.

JESSICA

Last year, I got a bug during a cruise. It was the Princess cruise from Galveston to Central America.

(MORE)

JESSICA (CONT'D)

I got better when the ship stopped at Cozumel, Mexico. I also went to Belize City and Roatan, Belize City, Belize and Roatan, Bay Islands, and the Honduras. It was an awesome business trip.

Jennifer puts her plate down. She leaps off the bed and runs to the bathroom. She vomits off-screen.

MOMENTS LATER

Jessica's asleep. Jennifer sews two bracelets with a needle, some thread, and pink and blue beads.

EXT. VICTORIAN BALLROOM-2 DAYS LATER-11:30 A.M.

It's snowing outside. Cars drive on icy roads.

Jennifer and Jessica ARRIVE, in flapper dresses and beaded purses. Jessica has her equipment. Jennifer glances at her watch on her right wrist. A blue bracelet with her name on it is above her watch.

JENNIFER

Made it. Thirty minutes before. We overslept a bit. No big deal.

Jessica shows Jennifer her pink bracelet with her name on it. It's on her left wrist.

JESSICA

Thanks for the bracelet. Very creative.

JENNIFER

You're welcome. I felt like I doing something nice for you.

JESSICA

Awww, you didn't have to, girl.

A woman yells off-screen.

WOMAN (O.S.)

OH, SHIT! FUCK! FUCK! FUCK! IT'S FUCKING RUINED!

A slightly overweight woman, the BRIDE, appears. She's mortified when she sees Jennifer and Jessica.

BRIDE

(in Canadian accent)

I'm sorry you heard me. I ripped my wedding dress, picking up my bouquet. Tell me. Is it that bad, eh?

She turns around to show the rip on the back of her dress. It's torn a little. The back shows her red bikini underwear. Jennifer and Jessica stifle their giggles.

JESSICA

No, it's not that bad.

JENNIFER

I can fix it for you quickly.

The bride turns around.

BRIDE

Oh, thank you, thank you, thank you, you are such a saint!

Jennifer pulls her sewing box out of her purse. The bride turns around. Jennifer sews the back of the dress.

JESSICA

So, what's with the Gatsby theme? Not that I don't like it, it's cool. I read the book and saw the movies.

BRIDE

My fiance and I love the book and the Leo DiCaprio movie version, not the boring Robert Redford one. My fiance originally wanted to do the zombie theme, but I'm like, no way! Too creepy!

Jessica opens her equipment bag. She rummages through it. She realizes there's only one camera left. It's about to die.

BRIDE (CONT'D)

Then, I suggested Game of Thrones. But he shot it down. Thought it'd be too frivolous. And the theme would traumatize people. So, we compromised.

Jennifer finishes patching up the back of the dress.

JENNIFER

There you go. Good as new.

The bride turns around. She's satisfied.

BRIDE

Thanks again!

JENNIFER

Uh, we're from Global Travel Magazine.

BRIDE

Oh, that's right, I forgot about that. I'll see you after the ceremony.

She ENTERS the ballroom.

JESSICA

I forgot the other cameras. The one I have is dying. I'll be right back. Go on without me.

She RUNS back to her room.

MONTAGE:

-INT. VICTORIAN BALLROOM-RECEPTION-1:00 P.M: Two of the BRIDESMAIDS, the BRIDE'S STEPFATHER, and the GROOM'S STEPMOTHER make embarrassing, inappropriate toasts. Obviously, they're all intoxicated. The bride and GROOM cover their faces in humiliation. The groom's stepmother tumbles off the stage.

-The DJ plays will.i.am's "Bang Bang." BOOMER, the dog stands up on his back paws. He dances to the song. He makes a backflip.

-Jessica records it with one of her cameras. Half of the WEDDING ENTOURAGE and some of the GUESTS use their cell phones to record and take pictures of Boomer.

-The youngest BRIDESMAID, a teenager, uploads the video of Boomer on Facebook on her iPhone.

SCREEN

She types, Who Let the Dogs Out? Lol. She posts the video.

BACK TO SCENE

END OF MONTAGE

The song ends. Next song is Justin Bieber and Nicki Minaj's "Beauty and the Beat."

An ugly, male DRUNKARD approaches Jennifer and Jessica. He puts his hands on their shoulders. That startles them.

DRUNKARD

(slurring)

Hey, pretty ladies, l-l-et's do a threesome in the bathroom. What do ya say? Huh? Huh?

JENNIFER

No, thank you. We're busy.

She and Jessica try to leave. The drunkard grabs them both by their waists. He holds them tightly.

DRUNKARD

Oh, come on! I wanna play with your honkers and pussies. I'm gonna make your pussies wet.

Jennifer and Jessica struggle to get out.

JENNIFER

Get your dirty arms off us, you drunken idiot!

JESSICA

Let us go! We said no!

The drunkard strokes their breasts.

Jennifer elbows him in the stomach. The drunkard releases them. Jessica turns around and kicks him in the testicles. He holds onto his crotch. He falls down on the floor.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

That's what you get for messin' with us.

She fists bumps with Jennifer.

A pair of handsome twin brothers, ROBERT "ROBBIE" and RYAN HILL, mid-30s, APPEAR. Ryan has a square-shaped birthmark above his lip.

RYAN
 (in Canadian accent)
 Was that guy bothering you?

JESSICA
 Yeah, he was harassing us. He
 wouldn't let us go. We're fine now.
 He's obviously drunk.

ROBBIE
 He's one of the groomsmen. We'll
 take him back to his wife, wherever
 she is.

RYAN
 I'm Ryan Hill. This is my brother,
 Robert---call him Robbie.

Robbie nods at the girls.

JESSICA
 I'm Jessica Pillsbury. This is my
 partner, Jennifer York.

Jennifer nods at the twins.

INTERCUT:

BAR

Jennifer, Jessica, and the Hills have a drink together.

RYAN
 Are you two here for the bride or
 groom?

Jessica talks speedily.

JESSICA
 Neither. We're covering weddings,
 including this one, for Global
 Travel magazine based in London,
 UK. I'm the temporary photographer,
 she's the permanent journalist.
 Technically, I'm from
 Fredericksburg, Texas. She's from
 London.

Ryan's impressed. Robbie doesn't seem interested.

RYAN
 Must be exciting.

Jessica gazes at him adoringly.

JESSICA

It is. Right now, we're halfway through.

RYAN

Wait a minute, did you say Global Travel Magazine? We subscribe to that.

JENNIFER

Correct.

Robbie looks at Jennifer.

ROBBIE

And you don't happen to be Jennifer York, one of the writers?

JENNIFER

Guilty as charged.

ROBBIE

I thought your name rang bells. We read some of your articles. Non-wedding ones, particularly, mostly. You write well.

Jennifer nods as a thank you.

RYAN

So far, this is the third party we're catering for. You see, we work for a travelling catering company based in our hometown, Vancouver, BC. We also cater at birthdays, showers, funerals, etc. Personally, I prefer cheerful parties.

ROBBIE

The funeral reception in Vancouver was the first one we catered for. Then, it was some kid's Harry Potter themed-birthday party in London, Ontario. Ottawa is the third city so far.

RYAN

In my opinion, this is one of the best weddings we've catered for.

Oblivious to them, Robbie rolls his eyes at the word 'weddings.' Jennifer raises an eyebrow.

RYAN (CONT'D)

The Great Gatsby theme is fascinating. The book, the DiCaprio movie, and the music are in my top 20 pop culture lists.

JESSICA

Me too!

ROBBIE

Everything fascinates you, Ryan.

RYAN

Hey, you girls wanna go in the kitchen?

JENNIFER

We're not supposed to, are we?

RYAN

Long as you're with us, nah.

INT. KITCHEN

Robbie looks both ways. The coast is clear. He motions for everyone to follow him. They sneak in.

They approach one of the tables. Ryan takes two tiny Canadian bacon and kangaroo meat sandwiches from the tray.

RYAN

Here, try these. They're Canadian bacon and kangaroo meat sandwiches.

Jennifer and Jessica accept them. They bite them. Their eyes grow widely. They look like the 1970s paintings with the big eyes.

JESSICA

(in mouth full)

OMG! This is so delicious!

She swallows her sandwich.

RYAN

Thank you. I made them. Sandwiches and green beans are my favorite food.

ROBBIE

Have you tried the desserts at the party?

JENNIFER

They melted in my mouth. The chocolate devil cake with vanilla ice cream was better than the pineapple one. It was ok. No offense.

ROBBIE

None taken. We changed the dessert menu because we ran out of nuts for the butter tarts.

JENNIFER

Good. We hate nuts.

ROBBIE

I'm allergic to all kinds of nuts. Ryan's allergic to pepper.

He eats one of the sandwiches and swallows.

ROBBIE (CONT'D)

Ryan has to cater another party tonight. Would you ladies like to hang out? I know a good pub nearby.

Jennifer looks at Jessica.

JENNIFER

You up for it, Jess?

Jessica yawns.

JESSICA

I think I'm gonna take a raincheck. Thanks.

ROBBIE

Suit yourself.

INT./EXT. MAPLE LEAF PUB-LATER

Inside, Robbie and Jennifer drink whiskey.

JENNIFER

The receptions are more fun than the ceremonies.

(MORE)

JENNIFER (CONT'D)

I have to report on other people's nuptials whether I like it or not. My anti-romance views don't matter.

ROBBIE

We're on the same page. I have to set aside my personal bullshit at certain parties and just do my job.

He sips his whiskey. A dish of poutine arrives. They share it.

ROBBIE (CONT'D)

Weddings suck. They're crazy, stupid, expensive. Single life saves you the stress from all that bullshit. Marriage lacks freedom and ruins everything. You don't have time to explore your passions, travel, etc. What's the point in getting hitched? It's not like the old days where you have to get married and have kids.

Robbie sips more of his whiskey.

ROBBIE (CONT'D)

There are other options these days. Some people are happier being single. Sometimes, the person you marry or about to turn out to have a dark side. And speaking of children, don't get me wrong, I like kids, only when they're polite and courteous, not spoiled brats. I just don't think I'm parental material.

JENNIFER

Tell me about it.

ROBBIE

The day I called off my engagement three years ago was the happiest day of my life. I stopped trusting women, no offense.

Jennifer shakes her head, indicating "none taken."

JENNIFER

I had bad luck in relationships too. I bombed out twice.

She sips her whiskey.

ROBBIE

When Ryan's ex-wife broke his heart two years ago, it surprised me that he still believes in love.

JENNIFER

Before I met Jessica, she lost her trust in men after she left her abusive husband.

Robbie looks solemn.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)

She gave romance another chance. Did you notice that she and Ryan could not keep their eyes off each other at the reception?

She sips her whiskey.

ROBBIE

(sarcastically)
Love at first sight.

JENNIFER

He's not going to break her heart, is he?

ROBBIE

No, he's decent. Trust me.

Outside the pub, Robbie and Jennifer leave. Robbie points at a middle-aged man across the street.

ROBBIE (CONT'D)

Look, that man over there. He's a food critic. He gave me a bad review for my work at an 18-year-old birthday party in Toronto a month ago. He said my kangaroo burgers were bland and insipid. Other critics loved them. Fuckin' prick.

Robbie stares at the snow on the sidewalk. He kneels down. He makes snowballs.

JENNIFER

Oh no, no, no, no! Don't even think about it! Robert! Christ, you're being childish.

Robbie shushes her and nods towards her.

ROBBIE
Get behind me!

Jennifer scoffs. She hides behind him.

Robbie leaps up, throws a snowball at the critic, and gets down. He giggles silently. He gives Jennifer a snowball. She leaps up, throws it at the critic, and lays low.

Robbie and Jennifer stay still quietly.

The critic turns around. He looks around, shrugs, and leaves.

CRITIC
(mumbling)
Kids.

Robbie leaps up. The coast is clear.

EXT. STREETS

Jennifer and Robbie walk.

ROBBIE
I know that was childish, but he deserved it.

JENNIFER
At least, there were no cops around. If my boss was here, I'd throw snowballs at her only if she took things too far. She's a cheeky bitch, well, not cunning.

ROBBIE
On a scale of one to ten, how bad is she?

JENNIFER
Around seven or eight. She's been my boss for five years. I don't wanna work for that witch for the rest of my life. Someday, I'll get a new job with a nicer boss or start my own magazine. I ask myself, 'when is the right time for that?'

ROBBIE
The time is never right for anything.
(MORE)

ROBBIE (CONT'D)

Sometimes, you have to be patient for good things to happen when you least expect them. You can't rush into them.

Jennifer trips over a hole on the icy pavement. Robbie grabs her in time.

ROBBIE (CONT'D)

Whoa, careful!

JENNIFER

Thanks.

They gaze at each other's eyes. There's a spark. Robbie releases her.

ROBBIE

You ok?

Jennifer blushes.

JENNIFER

Y-yeah, I'm fine. I uh...I gotta head back to the Marriott. So, I'll see you later.

She heads back to to the hotel.

ROBBIE

Bye!

He stares at her ass. He slaps his forehead and shakes his head.

INT. HALL

Jessica and Ryan take a stroll.

RYAN

Glad the party was cancelled.

JESSICA

Me too. Glad I decided to take a walk.

RYAN

I'm sorry about your awful marriage. It makes me sad. What you been through and all.

JESSICA

I appreciate your sympathy, but I'm in a good place right now. Positivity helped me move on.

RYAN

The ex and I grew in different directions. We married too young. I want to start a family, but only with the right woman.

JESSICA

Me too, with the right man, of course.

RYAN

So, what's Jennifer's deal?

JESSICA

Like your brother, she doesn't believe in marriage and all. She's been engaged twice, but never walked down the aisle. She's a little unpredictable sometimes. Don't get me wrong, she has a soft heart. Unlike our cold, stuck-up, conniving boss. Luckily, this job is temporary.

RYAN

When this is all over, what are you gonna do then?

JESSICA

I don't know. Find a permanent job, I guess. With the American economy slowly recovering and all--

She gets interrupted by loud sex noises from a suite room. Ryan kneels down to listen.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

(whispering)

Isn't that rude?

Ryan shushes her.

RYAN

(whispering)

Not if they know we're here. It's not like we're perverts or something.

Jessica looks around. Luckily, no one else is there. This is so awkward. The lady sounded like a yodeler.

JESSICA

I think it might be the newlyweds.

She listens for a few minutes. She scampers off. Ryan follows her.

INT. JENNIFER AND JESSICA'S ROOM

Jessica lies on her stomach on her bed.

LAPTOP SCREEN

She types in 'Ryan Hill' on the search engine of Facebook on her computer.

BACK TO SCENE

Jennifer sits in front of her Air Macbook.

SCREEN

Robbie's Facebook profile. Status: Engaged.

BACK TO SCENE

Disappointed, Jennifer shuts down her computer. She changes facial expression.

JENNIFER

(nonchantaly)

He's engaged. Oh, well.

Jessica looks up.

JESSICA

Forget him. He was probably just some creep trying to get in your pants. A bad apple he was. At least, Ryan's available. He's a good apple. He's got a clean slate.

Jennifer stands up. She sits down on the floor and starts pilates.

JENNIFER

At least, Robbie and I didn't fuck. Although, he did beguile me. Charming and intimidating.

Jessica raises an eyebrow. Jennifer shakes her head. She blushes.

JESSICA

That's the understatement of the year. I wanted to sleep with his brother. But I...chickened out. I mean I barely knew him.

JENNIFER

Obviously, you fancied each other at the reception.

Jessica chuckles a little. She shuts down her computer and turns on the TV. "The Wedding Planner" plays on HBO.

INT. MANHATTAN INN HOTEL-NYC-OCT. 9-NIGHT

Jennifer sits in front of her computer screen.

SCREEN

Jennifer writes an article about the nuptials of a sixty-something South African man and his African-American wife, thirty years his junior. The wedding was at a Christian Church near Times Square. Half of the customs are South African.

BACK TO SCENE

INTERCUT

TWO DAYS LATER

Toilet's flushed. Jessica comes out of the bathroom. She walks to her bed like a zombie.

She plops in her bed. Jennifer brings her a glass of water.

JENNIFER

Here. Drink this. A few small sips wouldn't hurt.

Jessica groans.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)

(insisting)

Come on, it'll help you a little. I insist. If you don't, I'll spank you.

Jessica laughs, sarcastically. She lifts her head up. Takes a few small sips. Jennifer sets the glass of water on the table.

JESSICA

Oh, I should've never eaten that salad last night.

Jennifer lugs the camera equipment with her.

JENNIFER

Don't worry about it, people eat bad stuff all the time without realizing it. The witch said I can do these two weddings alone. Right now, your health is more important. Take it easy, ok?

She LEAVES. Jessica grabs the small trash can.

INT. SUBWAY

The subway moves. Jennifer writes this on her notepad.

NOTEPAD

CENTRAL PARK GAY WEDDING CALLED OFF. BRIDE RAN AWAY WITH EX-BOYFRIEND.

BACK TO SCENE

Jennifer observes a MALE GAY COUPLE making out. The man wears a sparkly, diamond ring. Jennifer's a little suspicious.

JENNIFER (V.O.)

Could that be him? The runaway bride? Hmmm...possibly. Probably.

A few seats away from her, she witnesses a MAN getting down on his knee. He opens a ring box. His GIRLFRIEND is surprised.

MAN

Will you marry me?

WOMAN

(nodding)

Yes.

All of the passengers clap. Jennifer looks out the window.

INT. WILLIAMSBURG BRIDGE

The wedding is upscale and wealthy. People dress elegantly. The BRIDE's dress is big and puffy.

The PRIEST drags on and on about love and affection. Jennifer nearly falls asleep. She drinks coffee from her thermos. Some of the GUESTS snore.

The groom has trouble putting the ring on the bride's middle finger. Obviously, the ring is too small and the bride's finger is swollen.

INT. TENT-RECEPTION-AFTERNOON

The tables, chairs, and silverware are fancy. The DJ plays Kanye West music. Some of the GUESTS twerk. That disgusts Jennifer.

She sets the equipment near the dance floor. Screaming and whiny KIDS make her roll her eyes and shake her head. She sighs of irritation. She reads the manual.

She presses a lot of buttons. The flashes blind the newlyweds and half the ENTOURAGE. They glare at her.

JENNIFER

Sorry! Sorry! Sorry! I'm new at this.

(mumbling to herself)

Goddamn it! Perhaps I misread this.

Two kids run. They knock down one of the the cameras. BANG! It's completely shattered. Jennifer's shocked and upset.

KID #1

Sorry, miss. Sorry.

KID #2

We didn't mean to break your camera. It was an accident.

Jennifer takes two deep breaths. She puts on a fake smile.

JENNIFER

(stuttering)

It-it's ok, don't...don't worry about it. I'm sure it was an accident. J-just go now. I'll fix this.

She gestures them to leave. She gathers the pieces together.

On the dance floor, an ELDERLY MAN breathes, heavily, holding onto his chest. His face is red. THUD! He collapses.

Everyone gasps. The music stops. Silence.

The bride and her MOTHER run to the old man.

BRIDE
GRANDPA!

BRIDE'S MOTHER
DADDY!

GUEST #1
Somebody call 911!

Jennifer dials 9-1-1 on her iPhone.

FADE TO BLACK

FADE IN

INT. HOTEL-EVENING

Jessica studies the pictures. One has a blob, one is blurry, and the other photos have poor exposure. Two are picture-perfect.

Jennifer sits in front of her Macbook Air. She begins to type.

JENNIFER
Doves flew from a box when they
said "I Do," fireworks popped when
they got married, children jumped
from a chocolate fountain at the
reception and sang to the couple...

Jessica disapproves.

JESSICA
Isn't that unethical?

Jennifer ignores her.

JENNIFER
I don't care. Some writers lie all
the time. Some just simply...change
the truth. It's no big deal. I'm
trying to make it more enthralling.

JESSICA

If the cat's outta the bag, we're screwed. We'd be fired or sued.

JENNIFER

Whatever you say, Miss I-Rather-Break-A-Bone-Than-a-Rule.

She taps her knee.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)

You should've seen that wedding dress. It was big and puffy. You'd think she was hiding something. Not as puffy as the late Princess Diana's dress.

JENNIFER'S COMPUTER SCREEN-NEXT DAY:

A lesbian couple marries in a civil union ceremony at City Hall. The groom suffers from Stage 2 of breast cancer.

SHOT:

Picture of lesbian couple in front of City Hall. The groom wears a pink breast cancer wristband on her right wrist.

INTERCUT:

JENNIFER'S COMPUTER SCREEN:

Jennifer types: CHEROKEE WEDDING AT TOWNHOUSE: The widowed groom, who was in his 40s, marries a widowed family friend, twenty years his senior. They chose to do a modern wedding with a few ancient traditional things.

Venison symbolized his intention to keep meat in the household and her corn symbolized her willingness to be a good Cherokee housewife. The couple was blessed by the priestess.

SHOT:

PICTURE OF NATIVE AMERICAN COUPLE: Middle-aged man, 40s interlocked with gray-haired widow in her 60s. They carry a basket of food. She wears an Ivory dress.

EXT. BRIDGE-ASSATEAGUE ISLAND-D.C.-OCT. 14-DAY

It's windy. The sky is eerily gray. Jennifer and Jessica walk on the sidewalk. A few cars pass by.

JESSICA

Where could she be? Maybe she's got cold feet or pulled a Runaway Bride stunt.

JENNIFER

It's just a movie. Or she ran off with an ex like that gay guy in New York. Central Park, not Williamsburg.

They stop. They spot a 24-year-old African American woman, CATRINA SHAW, leaning toward the bridge. A star tattoo is on the back of her neck. A Minnie Mouse watch is on her right wrist.

JESSICA

Think that's her.

Jennifer and Jessica approach her.

JENNIFER

Excuse me, Catrina Shaw? Excuse me, Catrina Shaw?

Catrina turns to her.

CATRINA

Yes?

JENNIFER

I'm Jennifer York and this is my partner, Jessica Pillsbury. We're from Global Travel Magazine.

She and Jessica shake hands with Catrina.

CATRINA

Oh yeah, that's right. You're the ones reporting my wedding. At first, Jerome, my fiancé and I weren't interested in the idea of being exposed. Then we changed our minds to set an example of a military wedding.

JESSICA

If you don't mind me asking, what happened? Why did you take off?

Catrina sighs. She looks solemn.

CATRINA

I don't want this on the magazine.

JENNIFER

Don't worry, It's off the record.

CATRINA

Well, I-I got scared. I freaked out.

JESSICA

People get wedding jitters all the time.

CATRINA

It's more than jitters. I was 100% sure ready for this, you know, but then...it hit me. Don't get me wrong, I love Jerome so much. He's my heart and soul. He's not a bad apple. And I'm proud of him for doing his duty---serving the country and all. It's just that... it's complicated.

She steps back and folds her arms. The wind blows. She tucks a string of hair behind her ear.

CATRINA (CONT'D)

Life as an army wife will be complicated. What if he gets killed? What if he bangs some whore or some lady from the Army? What if he misses out on our kids' lives? How will I know whether this marriage survives or not?

She sniffs a little. She wipes her eyes with the back of her hand. Jessica puts her hand on Catrina's shoulder.

JESSICA

You don't. Marriage is not always a scary thing. Ok, marriage is not a picnic, but you have to work on it. It's a sacred union of love and happiness. You haven't entered the circle yet. Running away from your fears is not the answer. You have to face them.

The wind blows.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

Everybody's scared of losing their loved ones, especially those who are in the military. Absence make the heart grow fonder.

(MORE)

JESSICA (CONT'D)

When you have kids, he'll do the best he can to be there for them. He's not gone and he never will be. Have faith. Have courage. Tell him the truth. Either get married or not. Call the wedding off or see how the marriage goes. Your choice.

Catrina seems to take all of this in.

MAN (O.S.)

Catrina?

Jessica, Jennifer, and Catrina turn around. It's SGT. JEROME ALLEN, Africa-American, handsome, bald, and a Mickey Mouse watch on his wrist.

CATRINA

Jerome!

Catrina runs toward Jerome. She hugs him tightly.

JEROME

Thank the lord you're all in one piece!

He kisses her on the lips, her cheek, and the neck.

CATRINA

It's bad luck for the groom to see the bride before the wedding.

JEROME

That's superstitious.

CATRINA

I'm sorry I scared you.

Jennifer and Jessica leave, to give the couple privacy.

CATRINA (CONT'D)

By the way, take that watch off. You're too old for it.

JEROME

Everybody loves Mickey and Minnie Mouse, babe. Look at your watch.

Catrina glances at her watch.

CATRINA

So?

EXT. ASSEATEAGUE ISLAND—MOMENTS LATER

It's a military wedding.

MR. SHAW walks Catrina down the aisle. Jerome sings Jamie Foxx's "When I First Saw You." Everyone, including Catrina, is so surprised and touched.

Jessica takes pictures in silent mode. Jennifer jots down a few notes on her notepad.

INTERCUT:

Jerome and Catrina kiss passionately. The CHAPLAIN does a blessing. The bride and groom turn, face the GUESTS, and remain there.

The SABER BEARERS get into position. The SENIOR SABER BEARER issues a quiet cue, all the saber bearers turn, precede to the center aisle in pairs, facing the guests, and stop at a point just forward from the first line.

SENIOR SABER BEARER
CENTER FACE!

The bearers pivot. The officers are in two lines facing each other.

SENIOR SABER BEARER (CONT'D)
ARCH SABERS!

The saber raises with the right hand until it touches the tip of the saber directly opposite. The cutting edge is up.

The guests stand up. The bride and groom start the recessional, passing beneath the arch.

SABER BEARER
CARRY SABERS! REAR FACE! FORWARD!
MARCH!

The saber bearers prepare for the second arch. The Allens pass under the arch. The saber bearers exit. The recessional continues. The Allens jump over a broom.

Everyone cheers. It begins to rain. BOOM! CRACKLE! Everyone panics. They get drenched. They open their umbrellas.

Jessica quickly packs her equipment. Jennifer opens her leopard umbrella. She beckons Jessica to get under. Jessica gets in, carrying her equipment with her.

GUEST #1
IT'S RAINING CATS AND DOGS!

INT. OCEAN CITY BALLROOM

On the stage, CATRINA'S SISTER sings Percy Sledge's "When a Man Loves a Woman." She's part of the wedding band. Catrina and Jerome dance on the floor. Jessica snaps a picture of that.

Catrina buries her face on Jerome's shoulder. Jerome pats her on the back. He kisses her on the top of her head. He whispers into her ear.

JEROME

I love you.

Catrina lifts her head up.

CATRINA

I love you too. And I'm not afraid of taking this path. I'm not worried if our marriage survives.

JEROME

Baby, we've discussed this. We should've discuss more of this last year. If anything happens to me, I want you to be happy with someone else. Right now, we have each other.

They kiss passionately.

SERIES OF SHOTS:

-Catrina dances with her father to the band's version of the Temptations' "My Girl."

-Jerome dances with his mother, MRS. ALLEN to the band's version of the Intruders' "I'll Always Love My Mama."

-Catrina's sister sings Clean Bandit's "Rather Be."

-Jennifer finishes her interview with Mrs. Allen and the Shaws at the tables.

-The Saber Bearers ENTER in formation lining up in front of the wedding cake, facing each other.

-Jerome and Catrina leave the receiving line and pass beneath the arch. They kiss. They precede to the cake.

-Jerome hands Catrina his unsheathed saber and with his hands over hers. Jessica takes a picture of the cake cutting.

END OF SERIES OF SHOTS

Far away, in the right corner, some of the guests are in a drunken brawl. Pretty soon, things get chaotic and out of control. Other attendees try to break up.

Jessica's displeased. Jennifer laughs. Jessica glares at her.

JESSICA
This isn't funny.

JENNIFER
Who cares?

She borrows Jessica's video camera to record this.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)
Now that's a party!

JESSICA
Hey, give it back!

JENNIFER
Chill out, girl, I'm just borrowing it.

She films it a little. She returns the camera to Jessica.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)
It ran out of film.

The POLICE BURST IN. They arrest half the brawlers and drag them away.

EXT. BALLROOM-LATER-NIGHT

The Allens climb in a green Corvette car. A sign, "Just Married" is on the trunk. ZOOM! The car takes off.

Jennifer and Jessica leave.

JENNIFER & JESSICA
(in unison)
Our work is done.

JESSICA (CONT'D)
Maybe we can go visit the White House if we have time.
(MORE)

JESSICA (CONT'D)

If not, next time. Maybe the Obamas will be there.

JENNIFER

We'll see.

JESSICA

I'm not much of a political person, but I'm on Barack's side when it comes to certain issues such as education, the economy, civil rights, violence, and healthcare. His wife, Michelle has a good program to reduce obesity.

JENNIFER

Politics is not on my interests list either, but I'm into big, important stuff. You know, stuff involving the Royals. They outrank David Cameron, the Prime Minister, whom I hate. He's too conservative.

She straightens her sleeves a little.

JESSICA

British politics are different than American politics.

INT. BEST WESTERN INN

Jessica's in front of her laptop. She SCREAMS. Jennifer runs out of the bathroom in a robe.

JENNIFER

What's wrong?

Jessica shows Jennifer her laptop screen.

SCREEN

Photos of a dead bride and groom on a cliff on her Facebook timeline.

BACK TO SCENE

Jennifer gasps, covering her mouth.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)

OH MY GOD! BLOODY HELL!

JESSICA

Naomi just emailed me this. I am in a lot of hot water. She's gonna fire me if I don't take down those photos. There's a lawsuit involved.

JENNIFER

What do you mean by lawsuit?

JESSICA

The families of the bride and groom are suing the magazine, mainly me.

Jessica leaps out of her chair. She paces back and forth.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

This is bullshit! I didn't do this! Somebody must've hacked into my account. We didn't cover a wedding involving a cliff.

JENNIFER

Calm down, Jessie, we'll fix this. I believe you. I know you would never do such a thing like that. Geez, this is so bizarre.

Jennifer and Jessica use software on Jessica's laptop to analyze the photos.

LATER

JESSICA

Holy shit! They're photoshopped.

NEXT MORNING

Naomi's on speaker phone with Jennifer and Jessica on the hotel telephone.

NAOMI (O.S.)

Jessica, I apologize for the misunderstanding. Apparently, it was a jealous photographer who was after your job. She faked those photos and hacked into your account. I fired her immediately. The lawsuit has been dropped.

Jennifer and Jessica high five.

INT. BALLROOM-BLOOMINGTON, IND.-OCT. 16

PEOPLE socialize by chatting using their voices or in sign language.

Jennifer stands against the wall. She jots down a few notes.

NOTEPAD

COUNTRYSIDE LUTHERAN CHURCH---DEAF WEDDING; GROOM ALSO HAS CEREBRAL PALSY. Professional interpreters translated vows.

BACK TO SCENE

One of the DEAF GUESTS spits out hors d'oeuvres on her plate.

DEAF GUEST
(signing)
God, this tastes like dirty underwear!

SERIES OF SHOTS:

A. A flat screen goes down from the balcony.

B. Half the WEDDING ENTOURAGE put on a brief slideshow of pictures of the NEWLYWEDS and their courtship. Everyone goes 'awww!'

C. The slideshow ends. The screen goes up.

D. Some people clap loudly, some do the deaf applause. The bride pushes the groom's wheelchair to the dance floor.

E. On the right corner, the DJ turns on the bass version of Willie Nelson's "Always On My Mind."

F. On the dance floor, the BRIDE gently picks up the GROOM, from the wheelchair. They slowly dance to the song. She holds him tight, so he doesn't fall. They kiss.

G. On the left corner, Jessica cries softly while snapping pictures in silent mode. She wipes the tears away with her hand.

H. The DJ switches to the middle of Ed Sheeran's "Thinking Out Loud" in bass version.

I. Most of the GUESTS join the floor. They slowly dance to Blake Shelton's "God Gave Me You."

J. Everyone dances to bass version of Keith Urban's "Kiss a Girl." Jennifer dances with a CLUMSY OLD WOMAN.

K. Jessica dances with the RING BEARER and the FLOWER GIRL to a Martina McBride (or Carrie Underwood) song. They sign, singing along the lyrics.

L. DESSERT TABLE: The bride and groom feed each other heart-shaped chocolate chip and oatmeal cookies.

EXT. BALLROOM

An uber leaves. Everyone waves goodbye. Jennifer and Jessica leave.

JENNIFER & JESSICA
(in unison)
Our work is done.

The bottom of Jessica's dress gets caught in a bush.

JESSICA (CONT'D)
Oh shit! Fuck!

She struggles to wiggle her dress out. Jennifer kneels down.

JENNIFER
Here.

She manages to wiggle the dress out. It has a little tear.

INT. ROOM-HILTON HOTEL-NIGHT

Jennifer finishes sewing the bottom of Jessica's dress. The hotel phone rings. Jennifer answers it.

JENNIFER
Hello?

NAOMI (V.O.)
Jennifer?

JENNIFER
Oh, hello, wi--Naomi.

NAOMI (V.O.)
Thought I give you some feedback on the previous weddings. I love them all, especially the Williamsburg wedding. It was quite superb! Except the part about the dead grandpa---how unfortunate. What a pity. Hold on a sec.

Jennifer eavesdrop Naomi speaking to Brian.

NAOMI (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Forty-five pounds would do. Doesn't
matter who wins. Yes, I still
believe York and Pillsbury will
fail. You still bet they'll pass
the test.

Jennifer's confused. Naomi's back to Jennifer.

NAOMI (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Sorry, where was I?

JENNIFER
Are you betting on Jessica and me
that we'll fail?

NAOMI (V.O.)
Excuse me?

JENNIFER
Oh my god, you are betting on us,
aren't you? You only gave Jessica
and me this assignment just because
of a bet?

Jessica pops out of the bathroom in a towel.

NAOMI
No, no, no, you misheard me, Ms.
York, I was talking
about...cricket.

JENNIFER
I'm not buying that. Why me? Why
her? Why us?

NAOMI
I always test my employees---old
and new. I trusts no one except
Brian. The bet was my idea. That's
why I paired you up with that
stupid, ugly, American woman. She
was fired for screwing up.

JENNIFER
Take back what you said! Her name
is Jessica Pillsbury. She is smart
and beautiful. And FYI, she was
laid off, not fired.

NAOMI
(sarcastically)
What's the difference?

JENNIFER

Let me tell you something, Naomi Gibslow. Jessica Pillsbury is the best photographer and the nicest, most loyal woman that I have ever met. So, you can go fuck yourself and bet your OWN life, bitch!

She slams the phone down.

JESSICA

I thought it wasn't actually going to happen.

JENNIFER

What are you saying? You knew about the bet?

JESSICA

Back in London, after you left, I accidentally overheard her talking to Brian what's-his-name. They were betting on us. She said if he couldn't go along, she'll post his womanizing lifestyle or something online. I should've told you---

Jennifer raises her hand up.

JENNIFER

No apologizes necessary. Not your fault. She's been toying with our emotions all along. I guess we did this for nothing.

She hits a pillow.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)

Goddamn it! What the hell is wrong with that woman? She is way harsher than I thought! A fuckin' manipulative bitch!

Jessica shakes her head no.

JESSICA

Come on, Jen, this is ridiculous. So what? It's a stupid bet. We can still do the mission anyway. The Dragon Lady obviously has issues.

Jessica sits on the edge of the bed.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

We have come this far. I am not quitting and neither shall you. We make a damn awesome team! We are doing it for for the readers, not for her or some stupid bet. We are going to prove to ourselves and to her that we are worthy. We are going to tell a fantastic story about the weddings! We're gonna get this right!

Jennifer seems to take it all in.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

By the way, thanks for standing up for me.

JENNIFER

You're welcome. You're very persevered.

Jessica returns to the bathroom.

INT. INDIANAPOLIS AIRPORT-NEXT DAY

Jessica hands Jennifer her Starbucks coffee. She sips her own.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)

Naomi called before we left. The bet is off for sure.

JESSICA

Good. Guess who I ran into?

JENNIFER

Who? A movie star? A singer? A politician? An old friend of yours?

JESSICA

Annh! Wrong!

She nods her head toward the Hill brothers. Jennifer is astonished. She quickly stands up.

JENNIFER

Fancy seeing you two.

RYAN

Good to see you too, Jennifer.

ROBBIE

It's a small world, eh?

INTERCUT:

Robbie sits next to Jennifer.

ROBBIE (CONT'D)
I'm not lying, I am single, I swear. I was so busy with my career and stuff that I forgot to change my status on Facebook.

JENNIFER
I don't buy it.

ROBBIE
You don't believe me? I'll prove it. Somehow, I accidentally recorded our breakup and forgot to delete it. We ended things well.

He opens his iPad and shows Jennifer a video.

VIDEO

INT. APARTMENT-VANCOUVER, BC

An UGLY WOMAN throws money, jewelry, and boxes at Robbie.

WOMAN
You piece of shit! You dumb son of a bitch! How could you do this to me? You don't wanna marry me! You don't love me! Just because I slept around doesn't mean you don't wanna marry me!

ROBBIE
It's over, slut! Get the fuck out of my life! Get outta here or I'm calling the Mounties!

BACK TO SCENE

JENNIFER
Ok, I've seen enough. I believe you now. Glad you ended things.

The video ends. Robbie closes his iPad.

INT. PLANE

Jessica and Ryan sleep together peacefully. Across from them, Jennifer's head accidentally lands on Robbie's shoulder. Robbie stares at her. He smiles and kisses her on the forehead.

INT. DUPLEX BACKYARD-RECEPTION-SAN ANTONIO, TX-OCT. 18-DAY

It's a beautiful day. EVERYONE dresses up as Disney characters, Marvel superheroes, and "Star Wars" characters. The party seems more like a costume party than an average wedding reception.

Jessica snaps a few pictures of the guests in costumes.

She snaps one picture of the groom, FRANKLIN "FRANKIE" JONES and the bride, FRANCES "FRANKIE" PHOENIX. Jones is around late 20s or early 30s, dressed as Luke Skywalker. Phoenix is one year his junior, dressed as both Belle from "Beauty and the Beast" and Elsa from "Frozen."

Jessica snaps another picture of them. This time, they're kissing lovingly.

GUESTS dip meatballs in cheese fondue. They help themselves with seafood, vegetables, grilled chicken, fruit cups, and mini food. They socialize, joke, and laugh.

Robbie and Ryan gently set two cakes down on a mid-sized table. One is a flat, sugary stormtrooper. Next to it is a Disney princess-themed cake with all of the Disney princesses on each layer. A tag that says, SUGAR-FREE is in front of the bottom layer.

The atmosphere gets noisy and crowded. Overwhelmed, Frankie Phoenix runs inside her duplex apartment.

INT. DUPLEX APARTMENT

Phoenix sits down on a chair. She sets her small plate of snacks and diet Coke can down. She sighs of relief and fans herself.

Her hands shake a little. She pulls her medical kit out of her purse. She places a strip on the end of her blood sugar meter, pricks her middle finger, and drops a bit of blood on the strip. The meter shows: 55.

Frankie gasps. She wipes her hand with a disinfectant wiper. She stuffs herself with a mini quesadilla and fruit cup. She guzzles down a diet Coke can.

JENNIFER (O.S.)
Do you mind if I record this?

WOMAN (O.S.)
Go ahead.

JENNIFER (O.S.)
So, why did they pick the
courthouse?

EXT. RECEPTION-PICNIC TABLE

Jennifer is sitting with MRS. PHOENIX, an average, middle-aged woman with gray curly hair and glasses. Jennifer's audio digital recorder rolls.

MRS. PHOENIX
To save money. And to save them
from all the stress of wedding
planning. My new son-in-law,
Frankie, doesn't mind. He doesn't
care where as long as he's with my
daughter, the other Frankie, you
know.

She sips her coffee.

JENNIFER
It's funny they're both called
Frankie. I assumed she kept the
name Phoenix to avoid confusion?

MRS. PHOENIX
If she didn't, there would've been
too Frankie Joneses. Like Lauren
Bush who married Ralph Lauren's
son.

She laughs.

MRS. PHOENIX (CONT'D)
Anyway, stress is the worst factor
for my Frankie. You see, she's both
autistic and diabetic. She's on the
spectrum, but high-functioning.
Type 1 diabetes entered her body a
few years ago.

Jennifer sips tea from her thermos.

MRS. PHOENIX (CONT'D)
 Since she was eighteen and to protect her from being taken advantaged of, her father and I were her guardians until she married today. Jones will take good care of her. If he doesn't treat her right, we'll kick his ass!

She glances at her watch.

MRS. PHOENIX (CONT'D)
 Oh, dear, it's almost cake time. I'm sorry. I have to go fetch her! Wherever she is.

JENNIFER
 Thank you for the interview.

MRS. PHOENIX
 You're welcome, my dear.

She leaves.

JENNIFER
 (over recorder)
 Luke Skywalker marries Queen Belsa.

SERIES OF SHOTS:

A. DESSERT TABLE: Jones cuts a piece of the princess cake and feeds it to Phoenix. She cuts a piece of the stormtrooper cake and feeds it to him.

B. The DJ plays Elton John's "Can You Feel the Love Tonight." The newlyweds waltz.

C. The bride dances with her father to The Temptations' "My Girl."

D. The groom dances with his mother to Celine Dion's "Because You Loved Me."

E. Phoenix sits on a white chair on middle of grass. Jones sings some of Frankie Valli's "Can't Take My Eyes Off of You" and Bruno Mars' "Just the Way You Are" over a microphone. Everyone, including Phoenix is, utterly touched.

F. DESSERT TABLE: An UGLY BRIDESMAID hits on Robbie. Oblivious to her, Robbie fakes the flirting.

G. Farther from them, Jennifer's jealous. She walks out angrily.

H. The ugly bridesmaid leaves.

I. Robbie sees Jennifer leaving. He chases after her.

J. Jessica and Ryan notice that. They shrug. They have no idea what's going on.

ROBBIE

Jennifer! Jennifer! Wait! Wait!
Stop!

Jennifer stops and turns around.

ROBBIE (CONT'D)

Look, I'm not interested in that girl, ok? She's ugly as a rat. She clearly didn't see that. I was just being nice. Believe me. I'm not an idiot. Ok, fine, I'm an idiot. I---

Jennifer impulsively kisses Robbie on the lips. He kisses her back.

END OF SERIES OF SHOTS

INT. RIVERWALK HOTEL-NIGHT

Jennifer and Jessica relax on their separate beds. They drink wine while watching the ending of "Hercules" movie on TV.

JESSICA

Naomi said the wedding in San Francisco has been delayed. Don't know why. Something about food poisoning or money problems or whatever.

Jennifer nods.

MONTAGE-NEXT DAY:

-EXT. RIVERWALK: Jessica and Ryan watch the ducks and a boat passing by. Behind them, Jennifer and Robbie joke around and watch other people walking.

-INT. ALAMO: The four tour around. Jessica reads about the Revolutionaries between Texas and Mexico on plaques.

-AMC THEATRES: Jessica and Ryan watch a new drama romantic movie.

During the sad scene, Jessica wipes her moisted eyes with tissues. Ryan puts his arm around her. She places her hand on his crotch. Oblivious to the world, he's aroused.

END OF MONTAGE

INT. RYAN'S ROOM-HOLIDAY INN HOTEL

Pop music jams on Ryan's Kindle Fire HD. Jessica and Ryan build a sandwich tower on the table. They copy it from Jessica's drawing. Only the drawing has two robots---male and female---building the sandwich tower.

The ingredients are meat, lettuce, tomato, mustard, mayonnaise, pickles, and Feta cheese.

RYAN

When did you draw the picture?

JESSICA

During one of my flights.

RYAN

It's a funny pic.

JESSICA

This is a good idea to copy my drawing. Speaking of pictures, what did you think of the ones I took of the wedding?

RYAN

Remarkable! Fabulous! You included the buffet! Some of the partygoers said that the salad ingredients tasted like garbage.

JESSICA

Well, I disagree. The build-your-own-salad thing were fine. Overall, the buffet was delicious, luscious, and scrumptious. I tried a sample of each food item. Although, the Princess cake was delectable, it made me toot.

RYAN

It was for the disabled bride. She was diabetic.

JESSICA

That's an understatement.

Ryan stacks more of the meat. They finish the sandwich tower with one last piece of bread. It's close to the ceiling. Jessica takes of picture of it with her iPhone.

JESSICA (CONT'D)
Wow! It is so tall as the Eiffel Tower and the Empire State Building.

RYAN
It's a Jenga sandwich.

SNAP!

Jessica and Ryan take a selfie.

The sandwich tower falls on top of them. SPLAT! They laugh. Jessica jumps in his arms. They fall on the bed and make out. They release the kiss. They gaze at each other.

RYAN (CONT'D)
Um...Jessica?

JESSICA
Yes?

Ryan swipes the meat off her hair.

RYAN
(stammering)
It might seem a bit fast. You're the most wonderful woman I ever met. I like...uh, like, uh love...being around you. I love you...Wait, what?

Jessica places her finger on his mouth. She shushes him.

JESSICA
I haven't felt like that way since the divorce and my last two post-divorce relationships. I love you too.

They lean toward the kiss, strip each other's clothes off, and have sex.

EXT. GARDEN-CANYON LAKE

Jennifer runs and hits the ball with a hockey stick. Robbie grabs her by the waist and spins her around. They laugh like hyenas.

Robbie's pin accidentally falls out of his torn jean pocket. He stops and puts Jennifer down. She picks the pin up. It says, "DRUG ADDICT SUPPORT GROUP." She's shocked. She looks at Robbie.

INTERCUT:

PICNIC TABLE-MOMENTS LATER

Jennifer and Robbie set their picnic up.

ROBBIE

It was after my mother died of breast cancer. My father was a negligent workaholic. My heroin addiction cost me my job at a five-star bistro. I blew off people I care about, including Ryan. Rehab was the next step.

Jennifer looks sympathetic.

JENNIFER

I'm so sorry.

ROBBIE

That's where my cooking career revived. And that's where I met...her.

JENNIFER

The ex-fiancee?

Robbie nods. Jennifer pours a bottle of Pinot wine in both glasses.

ROBBIE

After rehab, cooking with Ryan strengthened our brotherly relationship. I mean, we've always been cooking since we were teenagers. Catering was a better opportunity for us than a regular restaurant job.

JENNIFER

And you both love to travel, I take it?

She takes her glass of wine. He takes his. He nods.

ROBBIE

Right now, the company we work for is declaring bankruptcy. Shit, I wasn't supposed to mention that. It's confidential.

JENNIFER

I won't say a word.

ROBBIE

Frankly, I don't want my kids to end up like me. That's why children is not on the agenda.

Jennifer nods. She raises her glass up.

JENNIFER

I like to propose a toast to us, our partners, and the paths we have crossed.

They clink their glasses and drink up.

INTERCUT:

Spandau Ballet's "True" plays on Robbie's iPhone. Jennifer and Robbie dance smoothly. She smells the cologne on his neck. She loves it. He strokes her hair gently and smells it.

Robbie whispers in her ear.

ROBBIE

(softly)
I dare you to jump in the lake...naked.

Jennifer's aroused.

INTERCUT:

Jennifer and Robbie run to the lake. They strip their clothes off. SPLASH! They jump in the lake.

They laugh and splash at each other. They stop.

ROBBIE (CONT'D)

(singing off-key)
/I know that much is true. Ha, ha, ha, ha, ha. I know that much is true./

JENNIFER

You are the worst singer ever. You should take singing lessons.

ROBBIE

(sarcastically)

Ha, ha, ha, very funny. Lol.

Jennifer's smile fades. She looks mortified.

ROBBIE (CONT'D)

What's wrong?

JENNIFER

I'm peeing in the lake.

ROBBIE

That's ok. Me too. It won't pollute the water. Nobody's around.

He looks both ways. The coast is clear.

JENNIFER

Good thing, this isn't a public pool. Otherwise, we'd in a lot of hot water.

Robbie beckons Jennifer with his finger. She swims closer to him. He caresses her face. They kiss passionately.

INT. JENNIFER'S HOTEL ROOM

Robbie and Jennifer are in her bed together.

ROBBIE

I want to move forward.

JENNIFER

What?

ROBBIE

I want to date you. Maybe, a commitment. I trust you. You're nothing like my ex. You get me.

Jennifer gets up. She looks doubtful.

JENNIFER

I don't know, Robbie. You're an amazing person.

ROBBIE

Oh, god, here we go.

JENNIFER

No, no, no, don't take this the wrong way. This is a questionable situation, not a rejection. I know you're different than my exes, but...I made a lot of mistakes in the past. I had bad luck in relationships. If ours ended badly, what if you went back to drugs?

ROBBIE

That's different. Our possible relationship could be a fresh start for both of us. I mean, if you're willing to.

JENNIFER

You know, long-distance relationships don't last forever. Don't you think we're rushing into this?

ROBBIE

Not really. Maybe. We'll figure things out when we finish our jobs. Ryan and I considered starting our own business in case the company does go out of business.

Jennifer snuggles up to him. She kisses him on the chest and the neck. He seems aroused.

INT. MEXICAN RESTAURANT-NIGHT

Jennifer and Jessica drink beer together. Jessica spots the Hills at a corner table. They drink margaritas.

JESSICA

Hey, look, it's the Hills again! We've been bumping into them a lot lately.

Jennifer looks at them. They wave at the ladies.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

Let's go say hi.

She and Jennifer take their beer bottles with them. They sit down.

RYAN

Hey, nice bumping into you again. We're partying tonight!

JENNIFER
What's the occasion?

ROBBIE
Our company is still standing. It's
getting back on track financially.

JESSICA
Congratulations!

They all clink their glasses and drink up.

FADE TO WHITE

FADE TO BACK

INT. RIVERWALK HOTEL ROOM-NEXT DAY-11 A.M.

Disoriented, Jennifer and Ryan wake up, moaning and groaning.
He's surprised to see her.

RYAN
Jennifer?

JENNIFER
Robbie?

RYAN
I'm Ryan.

Jennifer gasps. She's shocked.

JENNIFER
Oh my god! Shit! Fuck!

She jumps out of the bed. So does Ryan.

RYAN
What the hell happened last night?

JENNIFER
I'm not sure. Uh...last night, we
were at that Mexican restaurant.
Um, we had all that beer and those
margaritas. We indulged in all that
Mexican food. And...uh...uh...one thing
led to another...

RYAN
Let's check the other bed.

Jennifer and Ryan peek under those sheets on the other bed. Jessica and Robbie snore. Jennifer and Ryan shake the sleepers a little. Jessica and Robbie stop snoring. Jessica faces Jennifer.

JESSICA

Whaaa---? Good morning.

JENNIFER

Jessica, look at your left and don't scream.

Jessica moves her body to the other side. Robbie wakes up. They scream. They panic, getting out of bed.

RYAN

Ok, everyone, let's all calm down! Does anybody remember exactly what happened last night?

JESSICA

I know. You fucked my guy, you slut!

She steps on Jennifer's foot.

JENNIFER

Owww! How dare you! You're the one who fucked MY MAN!

She slaps Jessica on the face.

ROBBIE

You fucked my girl, you son of a bitch! Some brother you are!

He shoves Ryan.

RYAN

Hey, don't do that! That is unacceptable.

He shoves Robbie back. They fight physically. Jennifer and Jessica start a catfight.

The two separate fights end in a few seconds. They all catch their breathe. Robbie gets up.

ROBBIE

Fuck all of you.

He walks off. SLAM! He slams the door loudly. Ryan glances at the ladies. Embarrassed, he leaves.

JESSICA

You're an insane, overworked, man-stealing bitch! You're no different than Naomi. No wonder you don't have any friends.

JENNIFER

Fuck you, asshole!

Jessica rips her friendship bracelet off her wrist and throws it at Jennifer. SLAM! She slams the door. Jennifer pushes her face on a pillow to muffle her scream. She puts the pillow down.

She cries a little. The walls are painted red, purple, pink, blue, black, yellow, green, and white. At the end of her bed, she notices a dirty bowl of spoiled fruit and melted ice cream.

FLASHBACK:

INT. MEXICAN RESTAURANT

Jennifer and Jessica dance with the Hills to a salsa band while gulping beer and margaritas and Mexican food. A skinny waitress hands Jennifer a plate of beer and margaritas.

EXT. RIVERWALK

They waddle. Oblivious to them, Jessica and Ryan sing songs with cursive words loudly. PEDESTRIANS glare at them. PARENTS cover their CHILDREN's ears.

ROBBIE

SHHH! Guys, please, keep it down!
Everyone's staring at us.

EXT. STREETS

Jessica notices a box of graffiti cans in front of a sleeping, HOMELESS PERSON.

JESSICA

Oooh, they look pretty.

She steals the box.

ROBBIE

Hey, I got an idea! Let's go skinny-dipping!

JENNIFER

Count me in! Don't care where!
LET'S PARTYYYYY AND SHAKE OUR
BOOOOTTAAY!

EXT. UNFAMILIAR APT. BLDG

Jennifer, Jessica, and the Hills climb over a gated fence. Everyone except Jessica strips off their clothes and go skinny dipping in a swimming pool. They pee in the pool. Half of the water turns yellow.

Jessica paints a little on the pavement red, blue, and pink.

In the pool, the Hills splash at each other. Jennifer does the butterfly stroke. She flips her body and swims underwater.

Jessica vomits off-screen. She strips off her clothes, jumps in the pool, and pees. Ryan vomits off the pool off-screen. Jennifer pops out of the pool and breathes.

Soon, they hear police sirens. The building's lights are turned on.

RYAN

Oh, crap! We better go! Hurry!

Everyone climbs out of the pool, grabs their clothes and climb over the fence. Jessica grabs the graffiti cans and catches up with everyone else.

INT. JENNIFER & JESSICA'S HOTEL ROOM

On the floor, Jennifer lies down on her back, eating a bowl of fruit and ice cream that's resting on her chest. Jessica paints all over the walls in graffiti.

Robbie and Ryan jump on separate beds, singing songs randomly off-key. They stop jumping and pass out. Jessica passes out on the bed Robbie's on.

Jennifer swipes the bowl off her chest. She lifts herself up. She passes out on the bed Ryan's on.

BACK TO REALITY:

Jennifer cringes.

JENNIFER

Bloody hell.

Jennifer tidies up the room a little while listening to her Adele and Jennifers Hudson and Lopez on her iPod. She puts the dish out of her room. She grabs her iPhone from her purse.

EXT. STREETS

Jessica walks. She sips her Starbucks coffee. She looks better than before. Her iPhone beeps. She whips it out of her pocket and reads three texts from Jennifer.

JENNIFER (TEXT 1)

I know you're mad at me, right now.
Please, come back to the hotel.
PLEASE! I just remembered what
happened last night.

JENNIFER (TEXT 2) (CONT'D)

We barked up the wrong tree. I am
so sorry! So very sorry! SORRY,
SORRY, SORRY!

JENNIFER (TEXT 3) (CONT'D)

Please, don't hate me!

Three sad emojis.

Jessica shakes her head no and puts her iPhone away. She stops at a cross sign. Without becoming too obvious, she eavesdrops on two YOUNG WOMEN standing next to her.

WOMAN #1

I forgive you, bestie. I knew you
didn't mean to sleep with my
boyfriend. You were both drunk.
Wasn't your fault.

She hugs her friend.

WOMAN #1 (CONT'D)

We will always be friends no matter
what. Our friendship comes first.

Jessica realizes something.

EXT. HOLIDAY INN

Jessica knocks on the Hills' door. No answer. She knocks three more times. No answer. Disappointed, Jessica leaves.

INT. RIVERWALK HOTEL ROOM

Jennifer draws a picture of two female robots on the hotel notepad with a pen. The robots look exactly like her and Jessica, arm-hugging. Below is the word, 'BFF' in huge letters.

Jessica ENTERS. An awkward, silent moment between them.

Jennifer covers her face with the picture. Jessica chuckles.

JESSICA

Cute.

Jennifer lowers down the picture to show her face.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

Hey, listen. I recalled what happened---

JENNIFER

Last night?

JESSICA

Yeah, last night.

JENNIFER

We were at that Mexican restaurant with the Hills. We got drunk, you and Ryan sang rap songs loudly at the Riverwalk, people starred at us, you stole graffiti cans from a homeless man, we trespassed somewhere and went skinny-dipping, fled from the cops, and...well, you know the rest. We never slept with each other's men.

JESSICA

That's so weird. I remembered the exact same thing.

JENNIFER

All those pieces fit together like a puzzle.

Jessica chuckles.

JESSICA

Boy! What a crazy, wild night we had.

JENNIFER

Blimey, yeah! We got away!

JESSICA

We could've been caught!
Trespassing, skinny-dipping, public
intoxication, thievery. Thankfully,
we were fast enough to run away
from the police. Do you think that
building had security cameras?

Jennifer taps her chin. She shrugs.

JENNIFER

Not that I noticed. Maybe not. If
it did...busted!

JESSICA

Sorry, I...didn't respond to your
texts. I needed time to think it
over.

Jennifer nods. She sighs.

JENNIFER

I am so sorry about this morning.
Physical violence is unacceptable.
We were such idiots making a big
deal over nothing. We barked up the
wrong tree. Actually, it was my
fault. I should have never ordered
extra booze.

Jessica shakes her head no. She sits next to Jennifer on the
edge of bed.

JESSICA

Don't blame yourself. We all fucked
up. People get drunk all the time.
It happens.

Jennifer cringes.

JENNIFER

By the way, I searched for condoms
and stuff around here. Nothing
happened. No proof of sexual
intercourse. Like I said, I never
slept with Ryan. You never slept
with Robbie.

JESSICA

Are you sure?

JENNIFER

Positive. It's not in my memory
bank either.

JESSICA

Speaking of the Hills, I wouldn't worry about them for a while. They're brothers. They'll work it out amongst themselves. They'll come around eventually and...hopefully.

Jessica stops searching.

JENNIFER

You went to see them, didn't you?

JESSICA

They already checked out. I don't blame them. Look, I still love you no matter what, bestie. Friendship is about loyalty and unconditional love. It means a lot to me. I thought about getting a new partner, but...forgiveness restores a damaged friendship.

She gives Jennifer a one-arm hug.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

I would never cross the line by sleeping with someone else's boyfriend or whatever he is to you.

JENNIFER

Me either. That's the ultimate betrayal. After I lost a few friends and two fiancés, I always put my career first. I never cared for anyone until I met you. You're my best friend.

They embrace tightly.

EXT. BALCONY

They watch an eagle, landing on the pole of the Texas flag. They wear their friendship bracelets. Jennifer arm-hugs Jessica.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)

Once again, I'm really sorry about--

JESSICA

Let it go, ok? It's over. We're in a good place now.

They stay like that for two seconds. They let go.

JENNIFER

Are you in love with Ryan? Just curious.

Jessica smiles.

JESSICA

He makes me happy. Are you in love with Robbie?

Jennifer scoffed.

JENNIFER

No.

JESSICA

Yeah, right, girl, admit it. You are in love with him. No shame in that.

Jennifer playfully punches Jessica.

JENNIFER

Shut up.

JESSICA

Denial, denial...

INT. HOTEL

Jennifer and Jessica pack up their suitcases.

JESSICA

Did Robbie tell you about his drug addiction?

JENNIFER

Yesterday. I felt sorry for the poor bloke.

She packs her suitcases.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)

Another thing, I'm not sure about starting a relationship with him. I don't want to get hurt again. If things end badly between us, what if he starts using again? It'll be my fault.

JESSICA

Every relationship is different. If Ryan is the right guy for me, maybe I'll have another shot of happiness. Amid long-distance. Second chances are the next steps in life. I always have faith in myself and so should you. Don't let your doubts and fears push people away.

INT. AIRPLANE

Jennifer looks out the window. Her eyes close.

DREAM:

EXT. CANYON LAKE

Jennifer wanders around.

JENNIFER

(singing)

If there's a prize for rotten judgment. I guess, I've already won that. No man is worth the aggravation. That's ancient history, been there, done that.

Jessica and a few ROBOTS pop out of a tree.

JESSICA AND ROBOTS:

(in unison)

*Who do you think you're kiddin'?
He's the earth and heaven to you
Try to keep it hidden
Honey, we can see right through
you.*

(JENNIFER: *Oh no!*)

*Girl, you can't conceal it.
We know how you feel and
Who you're thinking of.*

Jennifer walks away.

JENNIFER

*Oh! No chance, no way I won't say
it, no, no!*

JESSICA AND ROBOTS

*You swoon, you sigh. Why deny it?
Uh, oh.*

JENNIFER

*It's too cliché. I won't say I'm in
love.*

JESSICA & ROBOTS

Shoo doo, shoo doo, oooh!

Jennifer sits down at edge of lake. She stares at her reflection.

JENNIFER

*I thought my heart had learned its
lesson. It feels so good when you
start out.*

She stands up and throws her arms up in the air.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)

*My head is screaming, get a grip,
girl. Unless you're dying to cry
your heart out. Oh!*

She walks around.

JESSICA & ROBOTS

*You keep on denying who you are and
how you're feeling. Baby, we're not
buying. Hon, we saw you hit the
ceiling.*

(JENNIFER: Oh no!)

*Face it like a grown up.
When you gonna own up.
That you got, got, got it bad.*

She sits down at a picnic table.

JENNIFER

*Oh! No chance, no way I won't say
it, no, no.*

A picture of Robbie magically appears. Jennifer stares at the picture. She grins.

JESSICA & ROBOTS

*Give up, give in! Check the grin
you're in love.*

Jennifer throws the picture away.

JENNIFER

*This scene won't play. I won't say
I'm in love!*

She walks further away from the table. Jessica and the robots follow her.

JESSICA & ROBOTS

*You're doin' flips. Read our lips.
You're in love.*

JENNIFER

*You're way off base. I won't say it
no. Get off my case. I won't say
it.*

One of the robots picks a red rose from a bush. He gives it to Jennifer.

JESSICA & ROBOTS

*Girl, don't be proud. It's okay,
you're in love.*

Jennifer smiles and spins around.

JENNIFER

*Ooh! At least out loud. I won't say
I'm in love.*

She falls down on her back on the grass.

BACK TO REALITY:

A huge TOOT wakes Jennifer up. Jessica giggles. Her face is covered in the "Gone Girl" book. Jennifer shushes her.

JESSICA

*I told you not to eat that bean
burrito for lunch.*

Jennifer looks in all ways.

JENNIFER

*I don't think anyone will notice or
hear that.*

She reads a Maya Angelou book.

A FLIGHT ATTENDANT walks down the aisle. She smells something awful. Her eyes roll up. She faints.

EXT. FRANCISCAN ROOM-SIR FRANCIS DRAKE HOTEL-SF-OCT. 21-DAY

Outside, near the door, a board on an easel says: "WEDDING OF DAVID HARRISON & PENELOPE EDELSTEIN."

Inside, the room is exquisitely beautiful.

The bride, PENELOPE "PENNY" EDELSTEIN, 36, in a white sleeveless gown, walks down the aisle with her STEPFATHER. Her stomach shows a little baby bump.

Her childhood friend, the MAID OF HONOR, plays with her guitar and sings Josh Groban's "You Raise Me Up" beautifully.

The blond-and-blue eyed-groom, DAVID HARRISON, 31, awaits. Two symbols---one Christian and one Mormon--are on his breast pocket of his black tux. He smiles at Penny. His eyes are full of glee.

Jennifer and Jessica stand beside the bride's side. Jennifer jots down a few notes on her notepad.

NOTEPAD

Non-denominational, spiritual wedding of on/off-again college sweethearts.

GROOM: David Harrison, 31, Mormon wealthy former Navy SEAL. Recovered from PTSD a year ago. Expecting a non-military career like law or something?

WEDDING DAY is also 13th BIRTHDAY OF HARRISON'S PATERNAL COUSIN, DIANA.

BACK TO SCENE

Jessica snaps two pictures. She opens her vanilla folder. She analyzes ten pictures of the bride, groom, and wedding entourage at the Legion of Honor. All picture perfect except one is blurry and the last one had her fingers on the lens.

The bride's stepfather lets her go. He returns to his seat. GUESTS sit down. The OFFICIANT addresses everyone.

OFFICIANT

Welcome, everyone. David and Penelope, you have come together today in this beautiful place to seal your love and commitment to each other in this wedding ceremony. You have come to confirm this union in the presence of your family and friends. Above all, you have come to rejoice in love and its possibilities.

(MORE)

OFFICIANT (CONT'D)

If anyone objects, speak now or forever hold peace.

Silence. A few guests clear their throats. THEN:

OFFICIANT (CONT'D)

To bless this union we ask God to be present to guide us through this ceremony and to lead this couple into their common future. Marriage is the promise made and kept between two people with intentions of trusting, supporting and loving each other. It will help you grow as individuals, as well as a couple, and allow you to see each other as your soul sees them—as beautiful and powerful spirits of light. And now say your vows.

David faces Penny.

DAVID

I, David Harrison, take you Penelope Edelstein as my wife. I promise to respect and love you. To support you and care for you. To be your best friend as well as your loving husband. As fortune may smile, as challenges may come, I will be the shoulder you can lean on. And the rock that stands by you. I promise to love you all the days of my life.

PENNY

I, Penelope Edelstein, take you David Harrison, as my husband. I promise to respect and love you. To support you and care for you. To be your best friend as well as your loving wife. As fortune may smile, as challenges may come, I will be the shoulder you can lean on. And the rock that stands by you. I promise to love you all the days of my life.

OFFICIANT

May we have the rings please?

The BEST MAN, David's friend from the Navy, hands them out.

Jennifer snores. Jessica elbows her. Jennifer wakes up. She rubs her eyes out.

THEN:

A couple of gunshots fire outside of the room. Everyone's alarmed.

A few seconds later, the HOTEL MANAGER, BURSTS IN.

HOTEL MANAGER
Everyone, please, remain calm!

Silence falls in the room.

HOTEL MANAGER (CONT'D)
I apologize for the inconvenience. Unfortunately, two people were injured, but no one has died. Rest assured, everyone, the police caught the shooter. They have him in their hands. Apparently, it was a disgruntled, ex-employee of mine.
(does the crazy sign)
He was nuts.

GUEST #1
So, are we safe?

MANAGER
Yes, I assured you, we are safe for now. Everything is all right, people.

Everyone sighs of relief.

MANAGER (CONT'D)
Once again, I apologize for this. Everything is under control. Congratulations to the happy couple. Carry on.

He closes the doors.

OFFICIANT
Now, where were we? Oh, yes. The ring exchange.
(to David)
David, repeat after me--I give you this ring as a symbol of my love and my commitment to you. Just as this ring has no ending, neither has my love for you.

David repeats the officiant's words as he slips the ring on Penny's middle finger. Penny looks a little nervous.

OFFICIANT (CONT'D)

Penelope, repeat after me. I give you this ring as symbol of my love and my commitment to you. Just as this ring has no ending, neither has my love for you.

PENNY

I give you this ring as a symbol of my love and...and...uh...

Penny laughs, mortified. Some people laugh. Jennifer smiles.

PENNY (CONT'D)

I'm sorry...I-I forgot. I'm a little nervous.

OFFICIANT

That's all right, Penelope. Now, repeat after me.

MONTAGE:

-INT. RECEPTION-PRIVATE ROOM: Penny and David slowly dance to Percy Sledge's "When a Man Loves a Woman."

-Penny and her stepfather dance to Fleetwood Mac's "Landslide."

-David and his stepmother dance to Celine Dion and R. Kelly's "I'm Your Angel."

-Penny, David, and most of the wedding entourage does a flash mob to Bruno Mars' "Uptown Funk."

-David dances with his 13-year-old cousin, DIANA rapidly to One Direction's "What Makes You Beautiful."

DAVID

Happy birthday, Diana!

DIANA

Thanks! It's so cool you got married on my birthday!

DAVID

This dance is my gift to you.

-People dance to J-Lo's "On the Floor."

-David and Penny stuff each other's mouths with drizzled strawberry-vanilla cake.

-Some of the guests dip fruit melons and biscotti in a huge chocolate fountain.

-INT. LADIES' RESTROOM-No one's there. Penny pulls out two mini Kit-Kat bars and stuffs them in her mouth.

-INT. PRIVATE ROOM: Beyonce's "Singles Ladies" played during the catch the bouquet scenario.

EXT. BAR

Jennifer drinks a glass of wine, solemnly. She looks at a picture of Robbie on her iPhone. A tear sheds her eye.

INTERCUT:

CORNER OF DANCE FLOOR

Jessica dejectedly stares at a picture of her and Ryan behind the sandwich tower in San Antonio on her iPhone.

EXT. HOTEL

The newlyweds climb in a black limousine. A sign, "Just Married" is on the trunk.

Jennifer and Jessica leave the hotel.

JENNIFER & JESSICA
(in unison)
Our work is done.

MONTAGE:

-EXT. HARBOUR LODGE-HOPETOWN, BAHAMAS-OCT. 23: Sunny day. Jennifer watches the Afro-Bahamian GROOM comforting his crying, white European-Bahamian BRIDE. They both sit on the rocks.

-A mile away from them is a middle-aged Afro-Bahamian COUPLE yelling at each other. They point at each other's shoes and stains on clothes.

-Jennifer jots down a few notes. She seems uncomfortable witnessing all this.

NOTEPAD

Bride's mother disapproves of their interracial relationship.
PERSONAL NOTE: What a bigot!

Groom's parents fighting over stupid little things. Wrong shoes, mismatched socks, stained clothes, the forgotten jewelry and bowtie.

BACK TO SCENE

-Jessica, in a coastal dress, sets up her equipment near the ocean. Some of the BRIDESMAIDS wear terrible makeup and hairstyles. SNAP!

-The sun's in the way of the first picture. Five wild monkeys sneak behind. Jessica takes another picture. SNAP!

-Wild monkeys jump from the trees onto the WEDDING ENTOURAGE. They scamper off. The camera malfunctions. Jessica sighs of frustration.

-FLOWERED ALTAR: The monkeys destroy the ice sculpture of the couple. Everyone's horrified.

-INT. RECEPTION-TENT: The CHEF brings a buttered pound cake without icing. The bride is extremely angry.

BRIDE

That's the wrong cake! It's supposed to be yellow, green, and blue with white icing and berries. What the hell's wrong with you?

The chef is frightened.

CHEF

I'm sorry about the mix-up, ma'am. We are short of staff. That's why some of the guests are not eating. Those who did eat the cuisine are sick.

-Some of the GUESTS moan and groan of starvation. Some exit the tent and vomit off-screen.

BRIDE

Well, go fix it! I don't care the problems! Go fix it! NOW! NOW! NOW!

-The chef takes off.

-The GROOM'S SISTER is in a drunken rage. It embarrasses him.

-The BRIDE'S FRIENDS play Kanye West's "Gold Digger." People boo. They leave. The groom storms away angrily.

GROOM

Where the hell is the band? Why aren't they showing up?

SHOT:

Jennifer types on her Macbook AirL HEADLINE: WORST WEDDING EVER!

INT. MARSH HARBOUR AIRPORT-DAY-OCT. 24

Jennifer and Jessica arrive to see the flight's status on the screen.

SCREEN:

FLIGHT TO BUENOS AIRES: DELAYED

BACK TO SCENE

Jennifer stomps on her foot.

JENNIFER

Oh, fuck! Are you fuckin' kidding me!? We're gonna miss the deadline!

She stomps her other foot.

JESSICA

Calm down! Don't make a scene! Can't Naomi extend the deadline or send us to another wedding or something?

JENNIFER

No way! She thinks extending deadlines is a waste of time! She already assigned us to a different wedding in Toronto. I'm not sure if she can make expectations.

JESSICA

Jennifer, you need to chillax! This is not a big deal. We'll make it. We can't control the airlines' problems.

Jennifer mellows down. She takes three deeps breathes.

JENNIFER

I'm sorry. I'm just tired and all.

INT. CATEDRAL METROPOLITANA IGLESIA-BUENOS AIRES-OCT. 25

JAVIER VASQUEZ, a 30-year-old Argentinian man with slick black hair, walks down the aisle with his suspicious, short-statured mother, MRS. VASQUEZ.

MRS. VASQUEZ

(whispering in Spanish)

You may be my only son, but I'm so proud of you. And I love you. I'm gaining a daughter. I'll kick her ass if she breaks your heart.

JAVIER

(whispering in Spanish)

Mama, please! She is a wonderful woman. I'm worthy enough for her.

Mrs. Vasquez nods. They continue to walk. They stop at the end.

INTERCUT:

SOFIA DELGADO, a 27-year-old woman with long, black hair in a white dress and silver emerald jewelry, walks down with her tall, suspicious father, SENOR DELGADO. He leans toward her ear and whispers to her.

SENOR DELGADO

(in Spanish)

He better take care of you or I'll break his bones!

SOFIA

(in Spanish)

Papa, please! He's a good man with a clean slate.

SENOR DELGADO

(in Spanish)

I know. I'm just worried about you. Every father has a hard time letting go of his daughter. I love you, princess.

SOFIA

(in Spanish)

I love you too, papa.

MONTAGE:

-RECEPTION-KITCHEN-DELGADOS' HOUSE-8 P.M: The house is large. EVERYONE helps themselves at the buffet. They eat sandwiches with varied ingredients including fine fish and prosciutto.

-INT. LIVING ROOM: Several ribbons, with hidden trinkets at one end, are attached to the Rogel cake. All of the SINGLE GIRLS pull a ribbon each.

-One of the BRIDESMAIDS holds a ribbon with a ring at the other end.

-Jennifer catches a ribbon with a ring. She shakes her head no.

-Javier and Sofia cut the Rogel cake.

-They tango on the floor.

-Everyone dances, sings songs in Spanish, and plays horse-riding games.

-Sofia gives bridal garters away to her single girlfriends.

-EXT. HOUSE: The newlyweds climb on a black Harley motorcycle. A "Recién Casado" is on the motorcycle's back. ZOOM!

END OF MONTAGE

Jennifer and Jessica leave.

JENNIFER & JESSICA
(in unison)
Our work is done.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)
Finally!

INT. NAOMI'S OFFICE-GLOBAL TRAVEL-OCT. 26

Jennifer and Jessica ENTER. Nobody's there. Jennifer rummages through the file drawers on the wall.

Jessica opens the top drawer of Naomi's desk. She reads a document proving the lawsuit over the cliff photos was a hoax. Nobody was fired for framing Jessica. Naomi used photoshop to create the cliff photos.

Jessica's extremely outraged.

Jennifer pulls a blue folder labeled "The Weddings" out of the bottom drawer. The papers say that Naomi plans to take credit for their work. Jennifer's extremely indignant.

JESSICA (O.S.)

Jen, look.

Jennifer approaches Jessica.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

The lawsuit was a hoax.

JENNIFER

What?

She shows Jennifer the document. Jennifer's furious. She slams down the blue folder on Naomi's desk.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)

What a sociopath! She has gone too far! Look at this. She's planning to take credit for our work after she called off her stupid little bet.

Jessica reads the paper in the blue folder. She's shocked.

JESSICA

Oh my god. This is our work, not hers! OUR WORK! She can't do that!

NAOMI (O.S.)

Yes, I can.

That startles Jennifer and Jessica. It's none other than Naomi herself, standing on the doorway. She ENTERS and CLOSES the door.

Jennifer walks closer to Naomi.

JENNIFER

You greedy, manipulative psychotic, bitch!

Naomi is frozen. She doesn't flinch. She grins evilly.

NAOMI

Is that a way to greet your beloved boss?

She sits down on her chair. Jessica moves out of the way. Jennifer secretly pulls her audio digital recorder out of her back jeans pocket. She presses the play button.

JESSICA

Do you always test temps with fake lawsuits? Or am I the only victim?

NAOMI

I always like to test temps or newbies to see how well they handle situations like that. The fake lawsuit was part of the bet. I was actually surprised when you passed.

JENNIFER

The magazine's wedding section--- was that for real?

Naomi pulls out two paychecks from her purse.

NAOMI

Of course it is. I underestimated you two.

(sarcastically)

Great job!

She writes the paychecks.

NAOMI (CONT'D)

On the other hand, York, I thought the Williamsburg article was a little exaggerated. You think I'm stupid?

Jennifer shoves her hair behind her ears.

NAOMI (CONT'D)

So, once the story gets printed under MY name, written and edited by ME, the Board of Directors of the European Journalism Centre will see ME as the hard worker instead of the pathetic social climber, the dragon lady, the wicked witch they think I am. I might become chairwoman of EJC. I've been planning to take someone else's work since last year. Couldn't decide whose. Yours was valuable.

She hands Jennifer a paycheck and stretches her arm out to Jessica, expecting her to take it. Jennifer and Jessica accept them. Both say 3,000 pounds.

Jessica's eyes open widely. She plops on the couch, eyes glued to the paycheck.

JENNIFER

Is that what this is all about? To earn the board's respect for you? You think of nobody but yourself! You won't get away with this!

NAOMI

How are you going to stop me?

JENNIFER

I'll keep this quiet if you give me your job or we'll tell the board about your crimes.

NAOMI

How dare you blackmail me!

Jennifer shows Naomi her recorder. She presses the play button.

JESSICA

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(MORE)

NAOMI (CONT'D)

I've been planning to take someone else's work this since last year. Couldn't decide whose. Yours was valuable.

Naomi's horrified. Jennifer stops the recorder.

JENNIFER

So, what's it gonna be? Take it or leave it?

NAOMI

Congratulations, Ms. York, you're the new owner of Global Travel Magazine.

Jennifer is grateful. Jessica jumps off her couch.

JESSICA

YES! Bye, bye, dragon lady. You can kiss my ass, or what y'all say here...

She turns around, pulls down her pants, and moons at Naomi.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

Arse!

Disgusted, Naomi scoffs. Jennifer laughs.

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM

There's a party. All the EMPLOYEES drink, socialize, and dance to music that's playing on the radio. Jennifer and Jessica toast and drink up.

JESSICA

The Wicked Witch of the West has left the building.

JENNIFER

Jessica, my first duty as boss, I'm offering you a permanent job as my co-publisher.

JESSICA

Are you kidding?! That's a great opportunity! I...I don't know what to say. I'm...speechless.

JENNIFER

You wanna sleep on it? I mean, the move from America to England is a big transition. A huge adjustment. Unless there are other job offers on the line.

JESSICA

I'll think about it.

SHOT:

FOUR DAYS LATER...

Global Travel magazine is on stands at grocery stores, convenience stores, medical offices, barber shops, and kiosks everywhere in the world. It has a global logo on the magazine. "Global Travel" is in huge yellow letters.

EXT. KIOSK-NEW YORK CITY

A BUSINESSWOMAN pays for the magazine and opens it. Other people on the streets read the story in the same magazine as well. They laugh at the Hopetown article. All of the articles say they're written by Jennifer and pictures taken by Jessica.

INT. PUB-LONDON, UK-DAY

SINGLE PEDESTRIANS and ENGAGED and MARRIED COUPLES enjoy reading the wedding section in the Global Travel magazine. Some read the articles online on their electronics.

A distance away, two middle-aged CRITICS, a man and a woman, study the articles in the magazine.

MALE CRITIC

The Williamsburg article. It's a shame about the bride's grandfather, but overall, quite boring!

FEMALE CRITIC

Other weddings are better. Essex, and Washington D.C. are quite blissful. I feel bad for the poor bride in Essex. Terminal cancer is dreadful.

MALE CRITIC

It also mentioned that the groom made a foundation website in honor of her.

FEMALE CRITIC

And all of the pictures are fabulous!

EXT. BEACH-CANCUN, MEXICO-NOV. 1-MORNING

All of the subjects of the articles, except the couples from Bloomington and Hopetown, relax, play games, and swim in the water.

Further away, oblivious to the world, Jennifer and Jessica relax. They lie down on their towels under an umbrella. They wear sunglasses. Their skins are tan.

Jennifer wears a one-piece green bathing suit. Jessica's in a red polka dot bikini. Jennifer reads "The Weddings" story of the Global Travel magazine. She's satisfied.

JENNIFER

At least, most people love our work. It'll probably be nominated for a Pulitzer Prize.

(shrugs)

I don't know. Hard to get there.

Jessica applies a little more sunscreen on her arms and legs.

JESSICA

You know what's funny? All of the couples ended up here for their honeymoon. Quite a coincidence!

JENNIFER

Except for the deaf couple from Indiana. I think one of the parents said they're skiing in Aspen, Colorado. Who knows about the couple from the Bahamas?

The Hills approach the ladies.

ROBBIE

Jennifer? Jessica?

Jennifer and Jessica look up. Jennifer's surprised to see them. Jessica's not.

The Hills are shirtless. Robbie's in a red Nike swimsuit and Ryan's in a blue speedo.

JENNIFER

What are you guys doing here?

RYAN

We just came back from a wild quinceanera party that we catered.

JESSICA

I hope it's all right, Jen. I emailed them before we left. It's time to bury the hatchet.

Robbie and Ryan sit down.

ROBBIE

Look, we're really sorry about what happened in San Antonio. This whole thing was stupid and immature. We should've remembered what happened instead of jumping to conclusions.

JENNIFER

No, I'm the one who should apologize. It was partly my fault.

JESSICA

No, it's on me.

RYAN

Hey, it's nobody's fault! We all fucked up! It happens. Let's rewind the whole thing. Another shot at double date night tonight. How's that sound?

The wind breezes.

JENNIFER

Good idea.

Jessica nods.

ROBBIE

A fresh start is like a second chance.

INTERCUT:

Robbie and Jennifer happily walk by the shore, holding hands.

ROBBIE.

Ryan loved your story and Jessica's pictures. I thought the whole thing was quite superb. Oh, and congratulations, Madam Publisher.

JENNIFER

Thank you.

ROBBIE

Once again, I'm sorry about---

JENNIFER

Let bygones be bygones, love.

She lays her head on Robbie's upper arm.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)

After San Antonio, I've been thinking about you. I missed you. I want to be with you. Normally, long-distance relationships fizzle out, but we'll figure things out. You're unlike any other man I ever met. I love you, Robert Hill.

ROBBIE

I love you too, Jennifer York. I missed you too. I have never stopped thinking about you since the day I met you.

He puts his arm around Jennifer.

ROBBIE (CONT'D)

Maybe we ought to take things slow. See what the next step is after Cancun.

Jennifer nods. They stop on their tracks and kiss passionately. They fall in the water.

INT. HILLS' HOTEL ROOM

Ryan hands Jessica a bunch of beautiful, Mexican flowers. Jessica happily accepts them.

JESSICA

Oh, thank you. These are lovely.

She smells them. With her smile, the flowers obviously smell good.

RYAN
Jessica, I love you.

JESSICA
I love you too, Ryan. I really want
to be with you.

Jessica sets her flowers aside.

JESSICA (CONT'D)
If I take up on Jennifer's offer,
what if this doesn't work out?

RYAN
You'll find another job.

JESSICA
No, I mean, you live in Vancouver.
If I move to England, what if WE
don't work out? What if we're
unable to maintain a long-distance
relationship? I need to do what's
right for me, the path to whatever
makes me happy.

He walks closer to her.

RYAN
Don't fret, sweetheart, we'll see.
We'd only be eight hours apart. One
of us will fly whenever we can or
if we cross paths. After all,
travelling is part of our careers.

JESSICA
Good point.

He picks her up and spins her around. She laughs. They kiss
and fall in bed. They strip each other's beach clothes off
and go under the covers. They have fun sex.

INT. LOBBY-AFTERNOON

Jessica POPS out of Ryan's room. She overhears Vimal and
Aanya, the runaway couple from India. They're sitting on a
couch.

AANYA
We can have the wedding at the
ballroom.

VIMAL
But we have no guests.

AANYA

We'll have to make do with the staff and some of the newlyweds we met here. This is the perfect location for our wedding.

VIMAL

We could've eloped, but we wanted to wait. At least, we saw half the world.

Jessica hesitates to think.

SERIES OF SHOTS:

A. INT. BALLROOM-TWO HOURS LATER: Jennifer, Jessica, and the Hills, in Indian clothes, stand by the sacred altar, the Mandap, on each side. The witnesses are random bystanders, subjects of "The Weddings," and half the STAFF.

B. The ceremony is performed in Sanskrit. During the Ganesh, Vimal, in a modern blue Kurta, enters the Mandap and prepares himself for the ensuring marriage rites. To bless the occasion, the Hills invoke the spirit of Ganesh.

C. During the Lagnavidhi, the instrumental version of Jodha Akbar's "Jashn-E-Barhaaraa" plays as Aanya, in a light blue saree, walks down the aisle with Robbie.

D. She enters the mandap while the pundit recites verses of good omens and prayers.

E. Jerome and Catrina Allen place a veil between Vimal and Aanya to conceal their view of each other. Some of the witnesses laugh when Vimal and Aanya play the "I See You" game.

F. The Allens drop the veil at the end of the verses. Vimal and Aanya face each other.

G. During the jai mala, Vimal and Aanya exchange flower garlands. Jennifer smiles at the couple.

H. Next is the kanya daan. Robbie enters the mandap and takes Aanya's hand.

ROBBIE

On this auspicious day, I will be giving the bride away.

He hands her to Vimal and steps out of the Mandap.

I. Together, they take a solemn oath to remain entirely devoted to each other.

J. Next step is the gathtbandhan, the loose ends of the bride and groom's garments are tied together in a matrimonial knot.

K. Then, the Saptapadi, seven small piles of rice are placed near the sacred fire.

L. Robbie turns on the small, black radio in the corner.

RADIO

(in Indian voice)

Together we shall cherish each other in sickness and health, in happiness and sorrow. Together we shall become lifelong partners, loving each other and living in harmony. Together we shall share with each other in all things, body and soul. Together we shall nourish each other's strengths. Together we shall provide and care for our children. Together we shall respect our elders and their welfare. Together we will look forward to the mysteries of the future with awe.

M. Finally, the Managalsutra, Vimal places a necklace of black and golden beads around the bride's neck. They kiss. The witnesses clap. Some get a little emotional.

N. DINING HALL-RECEPTION: Everyone, except the Allens, dance to upbeat Indian music.

O. During a Hindi ballad, Vimal and Aanya do their first dance. Jennifer dances with Robbie while Jessica dances with Ryan.

P. The Patels and the Krishnas show up. Vimal's surprised. He looks at Aanya.

VIMAL

You didn't.

Aanya shrugs.

AANYA

I wanted to make things right.

EXT. LOBBY

Jennifer, Jessica, and the Hills are exhausted.

ROBBIE

Boy, I'm beat.

JENNIFER

Me too. That was quite enjoyable!

JESSICA

It was a nice wedding.

RYAN

It was. Definitely better than San Antonio. Our double date, I mean, not the wedding which was nice.

JENNIFER

Why don't we do this again next time? In England, Canada, or wherever?

JESSICA

Count me in!

Robbie and Ryan agree.

EXT. BEACH-NIGHT

The night is young and beautiful. Jennifer walks alone. She sits on the big rocks. She stares at the Caribbean Sea and the stars on the sky.

JESSICA (O.S.)

Hey.

Jennifer gasps. She's relieved that it's only Jessica.

JENNIFER

Oh, it's you! You almost gave me a heart attack.

JESSICA

Sorry. I was just strolling along when I found you.

Jennifer beckons her finger at Jessica. Jessica climbs on the rocks and sits next to Jennifer.

JENNIFER

Did you...you know...with Ryan?

JESSICA

I don't kiss and tell. What about you and Robbie...? Hmmmm...?

She grins and raises an eyebrow.

JENNIFER

I don't kiss and tell either.

JESSICA

It's pretty at night. The night is young.

JENNIFER

Jessica?

JESSICA

Yeah?

Jennifer lays her hand on Jessica's shoulder.

JENNIFER

I love you, bestie.

Jessica is touched by that.

JESSICA

Ditto, girl.

They bump their bracelets like bumping fists and embrace for a second. They release the embrace.

Jennifer hums Wilson Phillips' "Hold On."

JENNIFER

On the way to Cancun, I listened to this song on my iPod. It's in my head.

(singing)

I know there's pain.

Why do lock yourself up in these chains?

No one can change your life except for you.

Don't ever let anyone step all over you

*Just open your heart and your mind
Is it really fair to feel this way inside?*

Jennifer and Jessica sit-down dance together.

JENNIFER & JESSICA (CONT'D)

(singing in unison)

*Some day somebody's gonna make you
want to turn around and say
goodbye.*

*Until then baby are you going to
let them.*

Hold you down and make you cry.

Don't you know?

Don't you know things can change

Things'll go your way

If you hold on for one more day

Can you hold on for one more day

Things'll go your way

Hold on for one more day

JESSICA (CONT'D)

(singing solo)

You could sustain

*Or are you comfortable with the
pain?*

*You've got no one to blame for your
unhappiness*

You got yourself into your own mess

Lettin' your worries pass you by

*Don't you think it's worth your
time*

To change your mind?

Jennifer and Jessica clap.

JENNIFER & JESSICA (CONT'D)

(singing together)

*Some day somebody's gonna make you
want to turn around and say
goodbye.*

*Until then baby are you going to
let them.*

Hold you down and make you cry

Don't you know?

Don't you know things can change

Things'll go your way

If you hold on for one more day

Can you hold on for one more day

Things'll go your way

Hold on for one more day

They laugh.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

The answer is yes.

JENNIFER

To what?

JESSICA

You're looking at your new co-
publisher of Global Travel
Magazine.