THE PERFECT PAIR

by

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FADE IN:

INT. CARROLL HOUSE - KITCHEN - MORNING

KEVIN CARROLL (25) chows down on a bowl of Wheaties and a half a dozen hard boiled eggs at the table like a man on a mission. He weighs close to two hundred fifty pounds all in his upper body. He has an obvious tendency to skip leg day.

PEGGY CARROLL (50) a sweet-faced woman, stands over the counter making herself a cup of coffee. Next to her is her husband FRANK (55). His face haggard and drawn as he adjusts his glasses and browses the morning paper.

Peggy nudges him in the ribs and nods in Kevin's direction. Frank hesitates.

PEGGY
Talk to him.

FRANK
Do I have to?

PEGGY
For me.

Frank sighs and sits himself down across the table from Kevin.

FRANK
Good morning son.

Kevin raises an eyebrow. Peggy watches on.

FRANK (CONT'D)
Your Mom was thinking --

Peggy clears her throat. Frank checks back.

FRANK (CONT'D)
Actually we were thinking maybe you might wanna start looking for your own place. You know somewhere you can feel comfortable bringing girls to.

Peggy shuffles towards the table.

PEGGY
You do need a girl son.

KEVIN
Sometimes I think I'm adopted.
FRANK
You are adopted. Your adoption papers are framed and have been hanging over your bed for the last twenty-five years.

KEVIN
You know what I mean.

PEGGY
Not really son, no.

KEVIN
This is about Nicole isn't it?

Frank throws his hands up in the air.

FRANK
No no noooooo... well yes that's got a lot to do with it. Actually most of it. Come to think of it, Yes, it's all Nicole.

KEVIN
She said you don't like her.

Peggy moves closer to Frank and rests her hands on his shoulders.

PEGGY
Listen Kevin, we just think you can do better.

Kevin stares blankly. He slowly raises his other hand over the table. A small red wig followed by two google eyes and a bright red lipstick mouth painted on a white sock emerges from under the table.

Frank rests his head in his hands and mumbles.

FRANK
Sweet Jesus.

Kevin opens Nicole's mouth wide. He rotates Nicole to glance at him then at his parents. He changes his voice a few octaves higher and talks through his gritted teeth.

KEVIN/NICOLE
Why don't you like me?

FRANK
I'm not doing this.

Frank begins to breathe exaggerated breathes.
PEGGY
Son, you're giving your Father a
heart attack and I can't deal with
that right now. I have a nail
appointment and I'm not missing that.

KEVIN/NICOLE
Can I come with you? Just us girls?

PEGGY
Nicole... You're a sock!

Kevin opens Nicole's sock mouth as wide as possible as if in
shock. Kevin glares at Peggy.

KEVIN
You hurt her feelings.

Frank bangs his fist on the table.

FRANK
This is not normal. You can not
have a relationship with a sock.

KEVIN
Other guys do.

FRANK
That's different, more for clean up.

Kevin uses his other hand to place his finger and thumb over
her "ears".

KEVIN
You don't understand, she won't let
me. She said she'll hurt me if I
find someone else.

FRANK
We're gonna give you ten days to
find an actual woman of the human
kind. Otherwise your bags are packed
and you're outta here.

Peggy checks her watch.

PEGGY
Ohh I'm gonna be late.

She kisses Frank on the lips, walks around kisses Kevin on
the forehead. Kevin lowers Nicole's "head" and waits for a
kiss.

Peggy pats her instead, shakes her own head and leaves.
Kevin continues to cover the "ears".
KEVIN
(Whispers)
This ultimatum is not fair. How do I even know if I found the right girl?

FRANK
Easy. You'll want one that cares for you, trusts you and wants only you.

KEVIN
Ok.

FRANK
You'll want a girl that makes you laugh.

KEVIN
I agree.

FRANK
You'll want a girl who makes your home a home. You know... Likes to cook, clean, maybe has a job. Of course you must definitely find a woman that's good in bed.

Frank signals to Kevin to get closer, he leans in.

FRANK (CONT'D)
And most importantly, make sure those women never meet each other.

Kevin and Frank trade warm smiles. Nicole glares at Kevin.

INT. CARROLL HOUSE - BASEMENT - DAY

Kevin sits in front a computer, guzzling muscle milk from a can. He's joined by his best friend JIM WARD(24) who's got a face only a mother could love.

JIM
It's a little rough with the ultimatum but they do have a point. Nicole is a little creepy.

Nicole is propped up on an upside down fake plastic foot. Jim shivers.

JIM (CONT'D)
The whole thing is weird. Can you throw a blanket over her?
KEVIN
Nope, anyways you live in a one-bedroom apartment with your Mom. I believe you sleep in the same bed.

JIM
Yeah but it's not like we share the same alarm clock, if that's what you mean... That would be strange.

Kevin throws his empty protein shake to one side. It joins the other twenty or so in a pile on the floor. He clicks on the mouse and the computer powers on.

KEVIN
There are thousands of sites for hookups, all you gotta do is search and be honest, nobody likes to be disappointed.

Kevin cracks his fingers and glances back at Nicole.

KEVIN/NICOLE
I'm warning you.

KEVIN
I'm doing this for us.

Jim looks back and forth between the two.

JIM
I'm staying outta this.

Kevin begins to type.

KEVIN
Online dating sites for larger than life men who are in other relationships with socks.

JIM
Ok that's a little too specific.

KEVIN
Ahh here's twelve I can choose from.

JIM
What! Let me see.

Jim leans in.

JIM (CONT'D)
Here's a good one. Wooly mate... catchy! Fill in your details.
Kevin types then presses enter with confidence.

    KEVIN/NICOLE
    I'm not happy; we had something.

Kevin bangs the table and turns around to face Nicole.

    KEVIN
    Would you shut up!

Silence fills the air. They eyeball each other like an old style Western. Kevin begins to squint, Nicole's google eyes remain focused. Kevin blinks.

    KEVIN/NICOLE
    You're so weak.

    KEVIN
    Damn it.

    JIM
    That was intense.

A ding pops up on the computer.

    KEVIN
    Wow that was fast. Hmmm.

INT. CARROLL HOUSE - FOYER - DAY

Kevin is dressed in a casual suit. He holds roses in one hand; Nicole is in the other. Peggy and Frank stand close by. Peggy picks some stray fluff off of the suit.

    PEGGY
    Are you sure you can't take Nicole off?

    KEVIN
    She needs to meet her too.

A car pulls up outside the front door.

    FRANK
    I think she's here.

Peggy opens the front door, JILL DONOVON (24) a full figured beauty approaches.

    JILL
    Are you Kevin?

Kevin just nods.
JILL (CONT'D)
Well I'm Jill, Jill Donovan.

She reaches out her hand. Peggy nudges him in the back. Kevin forces the flowers onto her.

KEVIN
These are for you.

JILL
Oh thank you and who is this?

KEVIN/NICOLE
I'm Nicole... his fiancee.

She reaches her other hand out to Nicole, unsure.

KEVIN/NICOLE (CONT'D)
Are you planning to stick that in my mouth? I don't know where it's been.

Frank and Peggy laugh nervously.

PEGGY
Well you kids have fun.

She pushes Kevin out and closes the door.

EXT. CARROLL HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

They look longingly into each other's eyes.

KEVIN
What do you wanna do?

MONTAGE - KEVIN AND JILL HAVE FUN TOGETHER

-- EXT. BEACH - DAY -- They run across the sand holding hands. A small dog jumps up, catches hold of Nicole and wrestles her to the ground.

-- EXT. COTTON CANDY STAND - DAY -- Jill makes her own cotton candy; she dips her stick in. Kevin accidentally dips Nicole leaving a huge cotton candy head. Kevin and Jill share a hearty laugh... Nicole not so much.

-- EXT. MOVIES - NIGHT -- Kevin has one arm around Jill the other arm has Nicole munching on popcorn. The popcorn is flinging everywhere.

An employee shines a light on her, tells her to leave. He takes Nicole off Kevin's hand and escorts her out. Kevin watches over his shoulder as she leaves and mouths "sorry".

END MONTAGE
EXT. CARROLL HOUSE – NIGHT

Kevin and Jill stare into each others eyes.

JILL
I had a great time.

KEVIN
Me too.

They close their eyes and lean in for kiss. Just before their lips meet Nicole sandwiches between them.

KEVIN/NICOLE
I won't let this happen.
(to Jill)
You've destroyed my life.

Kevin is disgusted.

KEVIN
I've had enough of you.

JILL
It's ok. Call me tomorrow.

KEVIN
I will.

Jill skips towards her car. She checks back to make sure Kevin watches; he does with a smile.

INT. CARROLL HOUSE – KITCHEN – MORNING

Kevin stands at the counter making coffee. He whistles a happy tune.

His parents wander in.

PEGGY
Wow, someone is a good mood.

FRANK
Had a good night son?

KEVIN
Yeah, you guys want some coffee?

FRANK/PEGGY
Sure.

Kevin pours them both a cup.
KEVIN
Jill's coming over tonight, is that ok?

PEGGY
Oh yes son. And where's you know who?

KEVIN
Oh she's asleep... she's not happy. I'm just hoping she doesn't do anything stupid.

INT. CARROLL HOUSE - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Everyone sits around the table. After dinner drinks are on hand. Nicole is wearing sunglasses as she lowers herself under the table. She pops up suddenly with a syringe full of liquid.

Nobody pays attention. She moves closer towards Jill's wine glass. She's just about to drop the liquid in when Jill turns around and faces her. She drops the syringe on the floor.

JILL
I have a surprise for you Nicole.

KEVIN/NICOLE
For me? Nobody ever surprises me.

JILL
Hold on.

Jill puts her hand in her purse. Everyone watches, puzzled. She pulls out her own sock puppet... a large black sock complete with google eyes, a stuck on goatee and a small red beret.

She opens his mouth and speaks a few octaves lower in a french accent.

JILL/ARNOLD
Bonjour, I'm Arnold, aren't you a pretty girl.

Nicole opens her mouth wide in astonishment as does Peggy and Frank. Arnold picks up a chocolate bon bon and shoves it in Nicole's mouth.

Frank turns to Peggy.
10.

FRANK
Well isn't this romantic.

FADE OUT: