

GRANDMA WANTS TO DIE

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INT. A FUNERAL HOME - MID FUNERAL

PEOPLE are scattered about wearing all black, smudged make up and various stages of grief.

At the front of the room are TWO WOODEN CASKETS. In the middle, an easel with various pictures of a happy couple...now deceased.

I know. But strap in. It gets worse.

We settle on a couple in their late 50s. MINNIE (the type of person who could destroy you with one syllable) and FRANCIS (the type of person commonly destroyed by one syllable).

They're mid-argument, staring at something we don't yet see.

MINNIE

Will you stop him please?

FRANCIS

Go easy.

We snap around to see what they're looking at - an 8-year-old boy named BEN playing with a hot wheels car on the hood of one of the closed caskets. It's not out of disrespect. This little fucker just has no idea what he's doing.

MINNIE

That's your son in there.

FRANCIS

It's also his father. And his mother.

(a beat)

I got a great deal on those caskets.

MINNIE

You can tell.

FRANCIS

What's the problem?

MINNIE

You bought them at *Costco*.

Francis holds - careful not to make a scene. Ben has started to gain some attention. Minnie notices the mostly horrified looks spread throughout the room.

MINNIE (CONT'D)

Just do something about that.

FRANCIS

You don't have to be so hard on him.

MINNIE

And you didn't have to buy their caskets a row over from the Twizzlers and Diet Cola.

FRANCIS

You buy everything at Costco.

MINNIE

NOT A FUCKING CASKET.

The room silences, but they all know better than to stare. Minnie collects herself and pace races over to Ben.

She holds out an open hand in which the car should be *cooperatively* placed.

MINNIE (CONT'D)

Give me that.

Ben closes he fist around the little car. Option B.

BEN

No.

Minnie grabs him by the arm, prying at his fingers. But he just grips it tighter.

MINNIE

Benjamin.

BEN

No! It's mine!

Minnie wraps around his arm, digging deeper and pulling him away, but Ben anchors himself on the casket.

The casket's rickety holder wobbles under the tension. The others have started to look on- Minnie settles them with a smile.

MINNIE

You're making a scene.

BEN

You're making a scene.

Minnie gives him one last look as if to say "you sure you wanna do this?"

Ben grits his teeth. Yup. He does.

Minnie with all her might - RIPS at his arm - but with his other arm still anchored it RIPS the casket off its holder and ONTO BEN who falls to the ground. The casket lands right on his knee.

BEN (CONT'D)

OW!

There's exchanged horror around the room now as Minnie and Ben try to push the casket off - but it's too heavy.

Francis races over, but in his old age, it's too heavy to lift more than a corner.

Another MAN races over to help too but the shitty Costco wood *torques* under the pressure-

And *torques*-

And then SNAPS OPEN-

A MALE ARM TUMBLES OUT AND LANDS ON BEN'S FACE! Minnie screams. Francis screams. Ben screams - he's being crushed and facepalmed by the body of his dead father as we-

SMASH CUT TO:

TITLE CARD: GRANDMA WANTS TO DIE

SUPER: Like, 20 years later...

EXT. RETIRED MINDS - MORNING

A four-story corporate building that's seen better days. Bushes are dying, lawns are browning, and the sprinklers are definitely not sprinkling.

On the side of the building, a sign: RETIRED MINDS.

A GREEN PRIUS rolls up the driveway and pulls into the mostly empty parking lot. From the driver side, steps BEN (Now 30s/button down, tie, bagged lunch, messenger bag. The little boy from our opening, all grown up).

Ben smiles, then beeps his car locked and walks into the building.

INT. RETIRED MINDS - FRONT DESK

The interior is even more of a shit hole. The fluorescent light shades are hanging off or gone all-together. Ben climbs the last step, tapping on the front desk. Sitting behind it, is a cardboard motion sensing CUTOUT of an assistant wearing a headset.

BEN
Morning, Barbar-

CUTOUT
GOOD MORNING AND WELCOME TO-

CLEARLY SOMEONE ELSE
RETIRED MINDS.

Another employee DARREN (40s/black dude, heavysset) wanders by, drinking a cup of coffee.

BEN
What is this?

DARREN
Layoffs.

BEN
Who's gonna answer the phones?

DARREN
Who knows man. We got budget cuts all over the place. They already took the good coffee machine. Without that french vanilla squirter I honestly don't think this shit would be drinkable.

Darren sips his coffee.

BEN
What french vanilla squirter?

DARREN
The one in the kitchen, in between the coffee machine and the sink.

BEN
That's a soap dispenser.

Darren sips again... thinking over this new info.

The front desk phone rings. Ben and Darren look at eachother...a stand off.

It rings again.

Darren walks off, sipping his coffee. Ben picks it up.

BEN (CONT'D)
Retired Minds, Insurance for the
ages...one moment I'll transfer
you.

This is not the defiant little kid we once met.

INT. RETIRED MINDS - SALES BAY - LATER

Most of the cubicles are empty. This is a life insurance company on the outs.

We settle on Ben in his cubicle who logs in to the Bank of America portal.

Checking: \$2,452.76

Savings: \$1,105.45

Ben refreshes the page - a new charge pops up "Refresh fee - 10.00"

Checking \$2,442.76

Savings: \$1,095.45.

BEN
What the f-

ALYSSA (30's/fellow salesman - picture Tiffany Haddish) pops her head over the cubicle divider.

ALYSSA
Hey man have you heard anything
about this buyout?

BEN
What buyout?

ALYSSA
Some place called Lifeco is
apparently making an offer.

BEN
For what? We have like 3 clients.

On his desktop, Ben googles "Lifeco" - clicking the first link to lifeco.com, a little talking umbrella pops up (BRELLY).

BRELLY

Hey heyyyy there - how can I keep you dry today?

BEN

Do they even have salesmen?

ALYSSA

That place comes in here- we're the first to go.

Ben picks up a LITTLE BLUE STRESSBALL and begins squeezing it while eyeing Brellly on the computer screen.

BOB (O.S.)

Suck my ass, boy.

We turn to see BOB (60's/decaying salesman, high pants) is mid argument with DARREN (Vanilla syrup guy) over a desk chair.

DARREN

You know I need this chair, man. I've got back issues.

BOB

You know in my day, when one of you had back issues, we shot em.

DARREN

What does that mean?

Bob raises his eyebrows.

BEN

Can you guys keep it down?

Bob flips him off.

BOB

Fuck your mother. How's that, Ben?

BEN

That's great. Thanks, Bob.

ALYSSA

Who wouldn't want this sales staff?

(then)

At least you got that wedding to look forward to. How far out are you?

BEN

It's a month from Thursday.

ALYSSA

Your family must be jacked. My mom's been trying to marry me off since I could walk.

Ben is a little more focused on the website he's scrolling which reads "No Salesmen. Just chatlines 24/7."

BEN

Yeah. Mary's family is really excited.

ALYSSA

You and her family tight?

In the background, we see the Bob, Darren situation escalate. Bob immitates Darren's bad back.

Ben realizes his rudeness, turning to re-engage with Alyssa.

BEN

I'm um- We're all having dinner tonight so hopeful I can- you know, chip away.

ALYSSA

Your family's coming too?

BG: Bob shoves Darren who stumbles back catching his footing.

BEN

I don't really have any family.

ALYSSA

What? Wait, were you one of those test tube babies? You got a barcode?

BG: Darren shoves Bob- HARD. He stumbles back and falls over.

BEN

My parents died when I was kid.

ALYSSA

What about a grandmomma? Everybody's got a grandmomma.

BG: People have crowded around Bob to make sure he's ok.

BEN

We don't really keep in touch.

ALYSSA

Does she know you're getting married?

BEN

I hope not.

ALYSSA

What?? Dude my grandmomma would shit her pants if she found out I was getting married. I mean she shits her pants 3 times a day anyways but that one...that one would be mine.

BG: Bob jumps up, lunge-kicking Darren right in the face, knocking him out cold. Bob pops the knuckle in his neck then spits on him.

ALYSSA (CONT'D)

Holy shit!

Ben doesn't even notice - he clicks on BRELLY again.

BRELLY

Hey heyyyy there - how can I keep you dry today?

EXT. OAK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - LATER

Ben's Prius pulls up outside a school with a sea of children outside.

Ben checks his watch when out of the front door comes MARY (30s/Social butterfly with an edge). Ben smiles as she climbs into the Prius. They kiss.

MARY

How was your day?

BEN

Lost a couple clients, a coworker got kicked in the face and our receptionist is a cardboard cutout. You?

MARY

A child spit into my naked eyeball.

BEN

So not bad, then.

Mary looks him up and down.

MARY
You nervous?

BEN
(lying)
No.

Ben puts the car into gear and they pull away.

EXT. MILLER HOUSEHOLD - LATER

A beautifully maintained 2 story Colonial home. Perfectly landscaped, with a mint, Black 1968 Ford Mustang convertible sitting in the driveway.

The Prius pulls in the parking lot right next to it. He pops his door open, scuffing the Mustang. Blood drains from his face right away.

BEN
Ffuuuuu-

MARY
Did you just ding my dad's mustang?

BEN
Nope. Definitely not.

Ben brushes at the scuff. Mary pokes her head around to see it.

MARY
Ok relax. It's fine. You're going to be fine. Just remember what we talked about. Remind my mother that you've been studying with Father Johnson, talk to my dad about golf.

BEN
I don't know anything about golf.

MARY
Oh and don't ask Hank about his wife.

BEN
Has Trina still not taken him back?

MARY
Oh yeah no she did, that's why I'm telling you not to bring her up.

BEN

Can you not sarcasm me right now?

MARY

You need to relax. They're going to be your family soon too and they're going to love you. They have to.

Mary and Ben smile at one another before Mary leads him into the house.

INT. MILLER HOUSEHOLD - LIVING ROOM - SLIGHTLY LATER

Ben eyes a family photo/Christmas card on the wall.

- Front and center is Mary (pictured: 20s) next to HANK (late 20s/looks 40, over the hill jock) next to his wife TRINA (early 30s/extremely pregnant). Above them all is GEORGE and WANDA (50s/from another generation - both have hands on Mary's shoulder). Ben smiles at Mary in the photo.

HANK (O.S.)

Eyein' in the shots, Benji?

HANK approaches (now 30s w/ TWO 12-month-old sleeping twins JAY and LEO strapped to his chest in a reverse backpack type holder).

HANK (CONT'D)

Look at that. Family picture before that whorebag took her trip to whoretown.

BEN

Je-sus-Christ, Hank.

HANK

I'm sorry man. I haven't slept since Trina left. They sleep 2 hours a night and shit 3 times a day.

BEN

I'm sorry man.

HANK

And now Leo is doing this thing where he just smashes shit...all the time. I swear, nobody tells you how hard being a parent is.

BEN

I mean-...

Hank takes a pull from his beer but a little splashes out and onto one of the babies' heads. He squeaks awake. Hank doesn't move a muscle.

HANK

Did one of 'em just wake up?

Ben nods. Hank still stiff, silently just starts rocking side to side until eventually... the baby nods back off.

HANK (CONT'D)

Close call, Benji.

Ben and Mary make eye contact across the room and share a smile.

BEN

I'm gonna go check on Mary.

Ben exits.

ANGLE ON: Ben makes his way over to Mary who's chatting with WANDA (60s/Mary's stiff, conservative mother) by the wetbar.

MARY

We were just talking about you.

BEN

Hi Wanda so great to-

WANDA

We were discussing your sessions with Father Johnson. Every Saturday, right?

BEN

Yup. They've been going great. He says I'm on track to be all 'Christian-ed' up by the wedding.

Ben laughs. Wanda does not. Mary cringes.

WANDA

Catholicism is a path, Benjamin.

BEN

Right. Well that's why they call me the pathfinder.

Strike two.

BEN (CONT'D)

...Or Nissan.

Strike three.

WANDA
I'm going to check on dinner.

Wanda scowls then walks away leaving Ben and Mary. Before she can speak-

MARY
I need you to reel it in.

BEN
Yeah, thanks.

INT. MILLER HOUSEHOLD - DINING ROOM

Mary and Ben sit across from Hank (now attempting to feed Jay and Leo in a high-chairs - food is going everywhere), with Wanda and GEORGE (60s/Mary's country club father) at each head of the table.

MARY
Is this your first time feeding them?

HANK
Trina always handled this stuff.

MARY
What *stuff*?

HANK
Baby stuff!

GEORGE
So glad you could join us, Benjamin.

BEN
Yeah. This looks great!

WANDA
Would you like to say grace?

BEN
Oh. Sure yeah of course.

WANDA
Something nice for my mother.

BEN
I'm sorry?

Wanda turns our attention to the mantle where an URN rests peacefully next to a picture of WANDA'S MOTHER. Mary grips Wanda's hand.

BEN (CONT'D)
Oh right. Meemaw was it?

WANDA
Mimoo. She'd be so proud of you,
Mary.

GEORGE
Oh shoot. Benjamin, could you come
help me with the tenderloin?

BEN
Sure.

George walks back towards the kitchen door, Ben follows.

Wanda rolls her eyes. We hold on the urn.

INT. MILLER HOUSEHOLD - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

George holds the kitchen door open for Ben.

GEORGE
Oh there it is. Grab it would ya
Benny boy?

Ben grabs the metal pan holding the tenderloin then turns to see George has just slid the door closed. It's just the two of them now.

BEN
Everything ok, George?

GEORGE
Ben... men have a code in this
world. Are you familiar with that?

BEN
Sure. Bros before hoes.

Ben chuckles uncomfortably. The pan is starting to feel hot, but he can't drop it.

GEORGE
Bros before hoes. Wow I like that.
Can I use that?

BEN
I think anyone can.

GEORGE

Things haven't been exactly booming around here. I'm out of work and the stock market's in the shitter and well- cash isn't going to be flowing like it used to.

Ben struggles with the pan, eyeing the counter as an escape.

BEN

Why don't you just sell the mustang?

GEORGE

Why don't I just give Wanda my testicles in a little glass jar that she can keep on her knitting table?

BEN

Um. Ok.

GEORGE

I can handle that part. But- well there are a few wedding costs we're not going to be able to cover. I've pushed them off as long as I could, but if some of these vendors don't get their cash- this wedding isn't going to be one. Know what I'm saying?

BEN

We're a month out.

GEORGE

It would really be a big favor, Ben.

George digs his pupils into Ben's. And off that moment-

BEN

Right. Yeah I could probably handle that. How much are we talking?

GEORGE

Well there's the back half of the venue.

(off Ben's nod)

Then there's the caterer's final 10%, the florist and the valet guys who only take cash. All told it's probably no more than 20 or 25k.

Ben loses his breath.

GEORGE (CONT'D)

Now as much as I appreciate this, I can't just lay down and let you be the big man in my house you know? So we'll have to put on a bit of a show out there.

The pan is burning Ben's skin off. Ben eyes a glass bowl icing down some wine.

GEORGE (CONT'D)

The last thing I need is Wanda finding out is that we've been using Mary's wedding fund to keep the heat off the credit card companies.

BEN

Got it heat is bad.

GEORGE

Good man.

George slaps Ben's shoulder who almost drops the pan but grabs it even tighter, searing the hot pan into his palms. Ben eyes the condensation dripping down the bowl.

BEN

Hah! You can count on me.

The door slides open, drawing their attention. Ben slams the pan down on the counter then plunges his hands in the bowl - sweet relief.

WANDA

Have you found it yet? It's the thing that looks like a tenderloin.

GEORGE

Yep found it! Just having a little guy chat. Ya know, bros before hoes. Ben taught me that.

WANDA

Oh did he?

BEN

No- that's not-

Wanda just leaves.

George feels the hot-pan, then grabs some oven mitts and lifts the pan to bring back in.

GEORGE

Oh sure, let's have beef tenderloin-
\$32 a pound.

(then)

Don't get married, Ben.

George steels himself, then exits. Ben sighs.

INT. MILLER HOUSEHOLD - DINNER TABLE - LATER

Everyone eats. Hank tries to feed the two babies. Jay (quiet and docile) kindly takes his food while Leo (nightmare) grabs the spoon out of Hank's hand and starts violently smashing it against the table.

HANK

Stop it, Leo! Be more like your
brother!

MARY

Hank let me help you.

HANK

I do not need your help.

Ben rubs his burnt hands on his pants. Mary takes note.

MARY

Everything ok?

BEN

Yeah. Fine!

GEORGE

So Ben. Still no family to invite,
huh?

MARY

Can we not do this right now?

WANDA

It is awfully sad, Mary. We can't
just dance around it.

HANK

Wait, Benji you have no family
alive? Like zero? I know your folks
died but like- no cousins or
anything?

BEN
Not really.

GEORGE
How can you *not really* have any
cousins? You either have 'em or you
don't.

BEN
Well I have a grandmother, but-

MARY
Wait, really?

BEN
Sort of.

MARY
You told me on our first date you
have no family.

BEN
Yeah. Technically I do but- yeah.
It's not important.

Ben smiles to Mary who, after a moment, returns it. She
doesn't push.

HANK
I used to have a family too, Benji.
(to Jay)
Then your bitch mother, cheated on-

WANDA
Hank. Language.

HANK
(to the urn)
Sorry Mimoo.

CUT TO:

EST. BEN AND MARY'S HOUSE - THAT NIGHT

Small single-family home in a decent neighborhood. Out front
we'll see Ben's Prius parked for the night.

INT. BEN AND MARY'S HOUSE - BEDROOM

Mary looks through credit card statements on her computer
while we hear Ben brushing his teeth in the bathroom.

MARY
We're spending a lot out.

BEN (O.S.)
Well then let's go out less.

MARY
Yeah.

Mary closes her laptop.

MARY (CONT'D)
So, you definitely never told me
you had a grandmother.

The brushing stops. Then we hear a spit. And a sink. And Ben comes out. Ben hops in bed.

BEN
Pretty sure I did.

MARY
I wouldn't just forget that.

Ben takes a deep breath then-

BEN
We haven't spoken in a really long
time and I'd kind of like to keep
it that way.

MARY
You're getting married. Don't you
think you should at least tell *your*
grandmother? I actually would love
to meet her.

BEN
No you really wouldn't. We just
need to live our lives and wait for
her to die. Best case scenario is
that she already has.

MARY
I'm just saying. When Mimoo died I
always wished I had more time with
her. Although she still left me
some money so...it's up to you.

Ben thinks on this.

Mary rolls over and flips off the light.

Ben, sort of alone now, opens his phone - goes to the Bank of America app. Still the same shitty numbers... now with a new lens of impending doom.

Ben takes a deep sigh and we HARD CUT TO:

INT. BEN'S CAR - MOVING - THE NEXT MORNING

On the dash is a bouquet of grocery store flowers. Ben drives with Mary riding shotgun.

MARY

So she goes by Minnie?

BEN

People call her all sorts of stuff.

MARY

We really don't have to go if you don't want to.

BEN

No no, you were right. She's my grandmother. My only living relative and she should at least be invited.

EXT. SUNNY ACRES NURSING HOME - DAY

A nursing home. Tightly trimmed lawns, tennis courts etc. It's a nice place to eventually die.

Ben and Mary's Prius pulls in the driveway.

INT. BEN'S CAR - MOVING - SAME TIME

Mary takes in the landscape as Ben drives slowly through the campus grounds.

BEN

Welcome to Sunny Acres Nursing Home.

MARY

It's beautiful. So why have you never even told me about her?

They roll to a stop.

BEN

Ok listen. When my parents died she took me in. Only we didn't get along then and, and we probably won't get along now. We had a big fight when I left her and my grandfather here 10 years ago and... Well we haven't spoken since then.

MARY

You have a grandfather too?

BEN

He died. Don't bring him up. Basically all you need to know is, don't tell her anything, don't ask her anything and don't look her directly in the eyes.

Ben exits the car. Mary holds for a moment then follows.

MARY

Wait, what?

INT. SUNNY ACRES NURSING HOME - LOBBY

A NURSE (20s) sits behind a check-in counter. Ben and Mary approach.

BEN

Ben Becker, here to see Minnie Becker.

NURSE

Hah. Go ahead.

BEN

You don't need my ID or anything?

NURSE

Not if you're here to see her. You can take her anywhere.

Ben and Mary push through a set of doors.

INT. SUNNY ACRES NURSING HOME - HALLWAY

Mary and Ben walk through linoleum floored hallways housing individual rooms. People are as happy as they can be in a nursing home.

Ben hesitates upon reaching a set of double doors.

MARY

You ok?

BEN

Yeah.

Ben takes a deep breath then pushes through it into-

INT. SUNNY ACRES NURSING HOME - COMMON ROOM

There's a group of very old people hovered around a table. In the middle of it we hear:

MINNIE (O.S.)

Why in God's name would you do such a stupid thing?

ANGLE ON - Minnie (From our opening. Now 70s) who at the moment is ripping someone a new one.

They're playing the board game Risk - a war strategy game and on the other end of her thrashing, is DALE (90s/wheelchair, pipes from the nose...you get the picture). It should be noted she's a good 10+ years younger than everyone else.

DALE

I'm fortifying.

MINNIE

Fortifying what?

DALE

Australia! It's a continental high ground in case you hadn't-

MINNIE

You've been fortifying Australia for the last 6 turns. Do you think I want an ally who's just going to sit on the other side of the world while I'm being demolished by Rose's army?

ROSE

Minnie, I can take the troops out of-

MINNIE

You leave them.

Rose retracts her hand.

DALE

I can't advance on Siam until I
have enough troops to-

MINNIE

To what? What the hell do you know
about advancing troops?

DALE

I was on the beaches of Normandy!

MINNIE

That was 70 years ago! And I'm sure
you didn't survive by sitting on
the goddamn boat and *fortifying*.

DALE

Oh fuck you, Minnie! You weren't
even alive 70 years go.

BEN

Ma!

Everyone freezes. Minnie turns to see Ben and Mary have been
standing there the whole time. Ben raises his palms.

MINNIE

Benjamin.

It's been a while.

MINNIE (CONT'D)

(re: Mary)

Who's this?

BEN

This is Mary. My fiancée.

MINNIE

Oh.

Minnie looks her up and down. One syllable -she's still got
it.

MINNIE (CONT'D)

(to group)

I'm going to speak with my
grandson. When I come back there
better be a horse in Siam or I'm
gonna blow one of those cannons up
your ass.

Minnie walks off.

EXT. SUNNY ACRES NURSING HOME - QUAD

Ben and Mary sit across from Minnie on a park picnic table in the middle of a grassy quad looking area.

MARY

So Mrs. Becker, this place is gorgeous.

MINNIE

It's Ms., dear. My husband died 9 years ago thank you for reminding me. What'd you say your name was again?

MARY

It's Mary.

MINNIE

(to Ben)

What are you doing here? Have you come to replace my Steven Tyler scarf? You know... the one you set on fire.

BEN

You mean when I was 12?

MINNIE

Oh please. I had a mortgage when I was 12.

BEN

Why would I set something on fire from my own favorite band??

Mary puts a hand on his arm. Minnie checks it.

MINNIE

So then why are you here?

BEN

We're getting married and we'd like you to be there.

MINNIE

Why?

BEN

Because we would. What does it matter? This is a good thing. Your grandson is getting married.

MINNIE

To some girl I've never met.

Mary takes it on the chin.

BEN

She's right here, you know.

MINNIE

What if I don't want to go?

BEN

Then don't come.

MINNIE

Well, I think I should be there,
Benjamin.

BEN

Jesus f-

MARY

Ben. Ms. Becker. You're his only
family. And we just came here
because we thought you might like
to come and at the very least I
thought it'd be nice to actually
meet you.

MINNIE

But you don't think that anymore?

MARY

What?

MINNIE

You said "thought." As in you
previously thought it'd be nice to
meet me but now...no?

MARY

No. It's um- it's very nice to-

MINNIE

What do you do for work, Miranda?

MARY

(brushing it off)
It's Mary. I'm a speech
pathologist.

MINNIE

And yet- speechless. Hm.
(to Ben)
When is it? The wedding.

MARY

August 8th.

MINNIE

I can't make it.

BEN

What're you predicting that you'll
be dead in a month?

MINNIE

Actually yes.

Beat.

BEN

...I'm sorry.

MINNIE

It's ok. I've made my peace with
it.

BEN

If I had known, I wouldn't have-

MINNIE

How would you? I only decided a
couple weeks ago.

BEN

Wait, what do you mean you decided?

MINNIE

I'm having an assisted suicide in a
couple days. Your timing is great
actually, as it turns out I need a
signature from a relative.

BEN

You just let me sit there like you
were dying?

MINNIE

You were still right.

BEN

What is happening right now?

MINNIE

Why do you even care? I seem to remember you leaving me and your grandfather saying... what was it? Stay out of my life?

BEN

Stay out of my *fucking* life, I believe it was.

MINNIE

Yes, well I'm doing just fine in this shithole without you, thanks.

MARY

Maybe I should give you guys a minute.

MINNIE

Yes thank you, Meredith.

MARY

It's Mary.

MINNIE

Right.

Mary collects her ego and exits.

BEN

Why didn't you tell me?

MINNIE

Why didn't you tell me you were getting married?

BEN

That's totally different.

MINNIE

How?

BEN

Well for starters, one of them is legal.

MINNIE

It's completely legal...in Montana, Oregon, Vermont, Washington, California, Colorado and D.C.

BEN

We're in Maryland.

MINNIE

Yes that reminds me, I'll need a ride too. The doctor is in D.C.

BEN

So just so I'm clear- not only have you chosen to skip my wedding, but you've done it so you can kill yourself, and you'd like me to take you there and sign off on it.

MINNIE

I don't know about *skip*. I mean by that logic, the rest of the family is skipping as well.

A beat.

BEN

It was great to see you.

Ben stands to leave - making it a full 2 steps away.

MINNIE

Aren't you going to ask me?

(off Ben's pause.)

You know you may have grown up but you still beg like a child outside the arcade. The flowers, the compassion and eventually the concession. You need money.

Ben freezes.

BEN

I don't need your money.

MINNIE

(leaning in)

You sure about that?

Ben takes a moment to swallow his pride.

BEN

I'm a little short on some wedding payments.

MINNIE

What? Why isn't Melanie's father-

BEN

Mary.

MINNIE

Why isn't Melanie's father, Mary paying for the wedding?

BEN

He basically cornered me, told me the family is broke and if I don't pay for the wedding there isn't going to be one.

MINNIE

And you just said yes?

BEN

What was my other option?

MINNIE

Growing a pair of testicles and telling him *no*. How short are you?

BEN

Like twenty...five thousand.

MINNIE

Jesus, Ben. And I assume Mary doesn't know.

(off his reaction)

Look at you.

BEN

Are you going to help me or not?

Mary comes back.

MARY

Everything ok, Ben?

A beat.

MINNIE

Oh we're just fine. Ben and I were just discussing my ride on Thursday. The appointment is at 2. So we should probably leave here by 12? 12:30?

(narrowing)

Maybe I could even kick you a few bucks for the lift.

Ben and Minnie share a look. Do we have a deal?

Ben walks away.

MARY
Nice to meet you.

MINNIE
Mhmm real treat, dear.

INT. BEN AND MARY'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - THAT NIGHT

They're both in bed. Mary reads a book as we pan over to Ben who is just staring at the ceiling.

MARY
Why did she say you 'left her?'

BEN
I think I'm gonna take her.

MARY
I thought you didn't want to see her again?

BEN
Yeah you know. I didn't-

MARY
But now you're ok to just take her to kill herself?

BEN
I mean, it's her life. Her decision. If she wants to do this, who am I to stand in the way?

MARY
Is it even legal?

BEN
It's legal where we're going. I would assume that's enough.

MARY
OK. If this is what you want, then we'll take her.

BEN
Oh, you don't have to come. You've got enough to worry about you don't need this on your plate too. It's gonna be a long drive and it'll be all traffic and-

MARY

If you don't want me there, that's all you have to say.

BEN

No. What? I do. It's just- Minnie is really particular and you know how those last moments are with people and- yeah. I'll just take her.

Ben breaks eye contact. Mary leaves it alone as we CUT TO:

INT. SUNNY ACRES NURSING HOME - COMMON AREA

Minnie, bag-in-hand delivers a final "fuck you" speech to the rest of the nursing home who are all spread throughout the room, watching her go. Ben stands behind her.

MINNIE

I would say I'll miss you all but I think we all know that's just not the case. So many of you found yourselves in this black hole by way of chance, but I'd like to be the first to tell you that you will all die here. Maybe not today. Maybe not tomorrow...but it will happen. And I will not.

Minnie takes one last look around.

MINNIE (CONT'D)

See you all in hell.

Minnie walks out.

BEN

Do you think they got all that?

Ben follows.

CUT TO:

EXT. SUNNY ACRES NURSING HOME - PARKING LOT

Ben and Minnie climb into the Prius and pull away.

EXT. MARYLAND/D.C. LINE / INT. BEN'S CAR

The Prius breezes past the sign: WELCOME TO WASHINGTON D.C.

EXT. DOCTOR BLACK MEDICAL OFFICES - PARKING LOT - LATER

The Prius pulls into the empty, cold lot and parks.

The building is an exact replica of the medical office you grew up visiting. Concrete, stale and shared with dental offices who by the smell of it, only cater to the urine-soaked.

Ben looks to Minnie who focuses her eyeline on the building. The reality of it all, settling in for him.

BEN

This is it?

MINNIE

Can't get anything past you.

Minnie exits. Ben follows her into the building, leaving the now emotionless car.

INT. DOCTOR BLACK MEDICAL OFFICE - EXAM ROOM

Minnie sits on a steel examination bed with Ben on the doctor's stool beside her.

BEN

How does this work? I sign something and then what?

MINNIE

I'll write you a check when you sign the forms.

A beat.

BEN

How about you do it now.

MINNIE

You really think I'm that evil? To drag you up here and not follow through?

BEN

When I was 8 you put me up for adoption because I wouldn't floss.

MINNIE

That's a common parenting technique.

BEN

Yeah most parents don't actually go through with it. I spent 3 weeks with the Lopez family in South Baltimore.

MINNIE

And look at your gorgeous teeth today.

The door swings open to reveal DOCTOR BLACK (50s/Male. All smiles. Loves his job.)

DOCTOR BLACK

Hello Ms Becker! I'm Dr. Black.

MINNIE

Please call me Minnie.

DOCTOR BLACK

And who are you, handsome?

BEN

Ben. I'm her grandson.

They shake hands then Black looks to the stool Ben's sitting in.

DOCTOR BLACK

That's my chair.

Ben sours at Doctor Black's still all smiles attitude before forfeiting the chair to find a new spot against the wall.

DOCTOR BLACK (CONT'D)

So we're ready to take the leap into the afterlife?

MINNIE

Yes, Doctor.

DOCTOR BLACK

Great. Well you've made my job very easy. From here, I write the prescription then you just come right back in 30 days with the release letter and we're good to go.

MINNIE

Great.

BEN

I'm sorry, 30 days?

DOCTOR BLACK

Oh and he, or a relative, will need to sign that release.

BEN

Right. I know that but- wait what do you mean in 30 days?

DOCTOR BLACK

D.C. law requires a 30 day waiting period in between the consultation and the procedure. This is just a consultation.

BEN

(to Minnie)

Did you know this?

MINNIE

I'm pretty sure I told you that.

BEN

Um. Pretty sure you didn't.

(to Black)

No no. I'm getting married- this- there has to be a way around that. Maybe there's like a suicide express option or something?

DOCTOR BLACK

I can't fudge the law. I'm just shocked that-

Black continues to smile.

BEN

Shocked that what?! Will you wipe that fucking smile off your face!?

MINNIE

Benjamin, relax.

BEN

You relax!

DOCTOR BLACK

Why don't I give you guys a minute.

BEN

Yeah why don't you. We'll be in here smiling away! All smiles!

Black exits.

BEN (CONT'D)
Are you shitting me?

MINNIE
Calm down.

BEN
You knew about this.

MINNIE
Do you think I wanted to spend my
last days in hell's waiting room?

BEN
We had a deal.

MINNIE
We still do.

Ben stares down Minnie - is she saying what I think she is?

BEN
You're not staying with me and
Mary.

MINNIE
The home was covered by insurance,
once I've checked out you can't
check back in.

BEN
This was not part of the deal.

MINNIE
Fine. I'm sure the Boys and Girls
club could use a donation. They'd
probably even name a basketball
court after me.

Ben takes a deep breath-

BEN
You're a sick old woman.
(shouting)
Hey Smiley?!

Doctor Black pops back in.

BEN (CONT'D)
What's the soonest date you have?

INT. BEN AND MARY'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - LATER

Ben and Mary speak in the living room.

MARY

What do you mean she's coming to live with us?

BEN

I wasn't going to just stick her back in the nursing home. She's only got 30 days to live, Mary.

MARY

I just feel like this is something we probably should have talked about.

BEN

We're talking right now. This is it. We're doing it.

MARY

When's the appointment?

BEN

August 8th...

MARY

August 8th as in the day of our wedding?

BEN

Yes.

MARY

Is she coming?

BEN

God no.

Mary takes it all in, trying to be a good partner.

MARY

Ok. Should we pick her up or something? How does this work?

BEN

Oh, she's outside.

Ben turns to the door.

MARY
Wait, what?

HARD CUT TO:

EXT. MILLER HOUSEHOLD - FRONT DOOR

Ben, Mary and Minnie stand waiting for the door to open. Ben looks miserable, Mary is putting on a brave face, and Minnie... is just coasting.

The door rips open - it's Hank (w/ two sleeping babies strapped on).

MARY
Hello, Hank.

HANK
Heyooooo. Oh check this out.

Hank balances a beer on a baby's sleeping head.

WANDA (O.S.)
Hank don't do that with the beer bottle.

HANK
I didn't! But they said they really wanna see it.

Hank walks off with Mary. Ben smiles to Minnie who just gives him a look like "seriously?"

BEN
The Millers are very conservative. So don't mention the suicide or the-budget stuff.

Minnie just smiles and heads in.

INT. MILLER HOUSEHOLD - DINING ROOM - LATER

We're at dinner - same setup as last night plus one added 70-year-old bonus.

GEORGE
It's such a pleasure to finally meet you, Minnie. Thank you for joining us.

MINNIE

Oh no problem. It's George, right?
I understand you and my Benjamin
have become quite close.

George eyes Minnie, wondering if she knows. But before either can speak, Leo slams his plastic plate on the table over and over. It's aggressive.

HANK

Does anyone know how to fix this?!

WANDA

Leo, control yourself.

Hank rips the plate out of Leo's hands.

WANDA (CONT'D)

So Minnie I assume you'll be
joining us on walkthrough tomorrow?

BEN

No. Minnie has a lot of knitting to
get done. Right? Maybe catch some
Antiques Roadshow.

MINNIE

I would love to come. Thank you.

MARY

It's a beautiful church.

MINNIE

Oh, it's at a church?

WANDA

Where else would one get married?

MINNIE

...Preferably somewhere an altar
boy hasn't had his holes blessed.

George and Wanda freeze. Hank chokes on his beer.

BEN

Ooohkay.

WANDA

Henry.

HANK

Did you hear that?

WANDA

It's a traditional wedding in a traditional venue.

MINNIE

Well from what Benjamin tells me, there's nothing traditional about it.

Minnie and George lock eyes again, George realizing that she does know. Ben almost chokes.

WANDA

Excuse me?

BEN

She means because- and I was going to say this tonight. Thanks for ruining the surprise... Mary and I wanted to pitch in on some of the final payments.

MARY/WANDA

What?

GEORGE

That's great, Ben but you really don't have to-

MARY

Yeah, Ben what are you talking about?

BEN

I didn't tell you? Yeah I got a um- a nice little bonus and-

GEORGE

That may be, but we can't just let you pay for your own wedding.

George and Ben lock eyes - the dance has commenced.

BEN

I insist.

GEORGE

Well if you insist, we'd be honored.

Aaand it's over.

MINNIE

Well that was easy.

WANDA

George.

GEORGE

Wanda. The man insisted.

MINNIE

What was it you said you do for work, George?

GEORGE

I'm retired. Spend most of my time on the golf course these days.

MINNIE

I hear it can get pretty expensive out there.

George shoots a quick look at Ben who avoids eye contact.

GEORGE

It can be. Rising greens fees, expensive equipment, then of course you've gotta be careful who you decide to go toe-to-toe with. There are some sharks out there for sure.

Horns. Locked.

MINNIE

Is that right? I know if someone tried to take advantage of me I wouldn't be so pleased about it. Especially if someone were to take advantage of say... my grandson.

GEORGE

Oh don't worry. We're looking after him just fine.

MINNIE

That's quite a comfort, George thank you.

George sits back, thinking he's won this subtextual standoff. But Minnie narrows in her response, growing in the intensity of every word as we pull in closer and closer on them both.

MINNIE (CONT'D)

But I'm watching as well. And I always will be. And someday when I move on to another place, I would still be watching.

(MORE)

MINNIE (CONT'D)

And at that time, if someone did try to take advantage of my Benjamin again, I would dig myself out from the grave in which I'm buried, and with the rotten bones of my lifeless carcass I will *fuck you raw*.

Everyone is speechless while George (broken) and Minnie (smoke wafting from her intellectual gun) are locked on each other. Wanda seems unphased. Minnie gives a pointed smile.

MINNIE (CONT'D)

Know what I mean?

WANDA

We'll have to find a nice place by the bar to seat you for the wedding.

MINNIE

I won't be attending.

WANDA

And why is that?

BEN

Don't.

MINNIE

I'll be killing myself in a month.

Wanda spits up her wine. George chokes on salad. Hank spits up beer directly onto Leo's face who immediately starts crying.

MARY

Jesus, Hank.

MINNIE

But don't worry. I'll be helping out with the last little... loose ends. Seems like there might be a few more than I thought.

Minnie eyes Ben who avoids eye contact. Leo continues to cry.

MARY

Hank! Take him to the sink and clean him off.

HANK

OK!

Hank takes Leo out of his high chair but he squirms like crazy and Hank lowers him to the floor, where he crawls off into the unknown.

WANDA

Benjamin I think your grandmother has had enough wine for tonight.

MINNIE

Wow you really are a tight ass.

WANDA

Please watch your language around my mother.

Minnie looks to the urn atop the mantle.

MINNIE

She's dead.

BEN

Ok.

HANK

Leo?

BEN

What are you doing?

MINNIE

What?

HANK

Ok. Code blue Leo is somewhere under the table.

MARY

Ben could we chat outside?

MINNIE

Yes Benjamin, could we?

WANDA

I'm finished.

HANK

Ok CODE RED - LEO!!??

Wanda pushes her chair out. Mary drops her napkin down, then makes for the door, pissed. Ben shoots a look to Minnie before chasing-

BEN

Mary, wait-

But as Ben rushes after her, he trips over Hank's leg, bumping the URN--

It begins to teeter and totter-- all eyes on it in slow motion as it--

Begins to fall- careening towards the ground only for it to-
BOUNCE OFF THE FLOOR.

What?

GEORGE

Hah. Got that after Hank showed me that Meet the Parents movie. Biometric Ceramic. It'd take a Mack Truck to smash that thing open.

HANK

Leo!

Leo has emerged from under the table and is now holding the urn. Everyone's eyes are glued to him.

HANK (CONT'D)

Nobody move.

WANDA

Hank. Get that from him before he-

Hank takes one step and-

Leo VIOLENTLY SHAKES THE URN, THE TOP FLIES OFF AND ASHES FILL THE ROOM.

Leo ceases, and everyone is frozen, but we can barely see them through the haze and we--

EXT. CARDINAL FRANCIS LAW PARISH - FRONT STEPS - NEXT MORNING

Mary and Wanda stand in front of the huge white church while Ben and Minnie talk in the car.

MARY

You didn't have to speak to her like that either.

WANDA

It'll take weeks to get your Mimoo out of that carpet.

MARY

It's only a month.

ANGLE ON - Ben and Minnie inside the car.

MINNIE

Remind me why we're at a church?

BEN

WE are at a church because I am getting married here in a month and YOU are going to shut your mouth and pray to whoever you pray to that he gives me the strength to not drown you in the bird bath.

Minnie looks at the bird bath.

MINNIE

(leaning in)

I am here because I am *paying*. And if you thought I was going to just write you a check and disappear then this is going to be a very rough 30 days.

Minnie walks off.

BEN

29.

INT. CARDINAL FRANCIS LAW PARISH - MAIN CHURCH AREA

The crew takes in the main church area - glistening wooden pews, big beautiful columns, perfectly stained glass allowing light to shine in perfectly and illuminate the crucifix above the altar.

MARY

It's a beautiful church, Mom.

WANDA

Every woman in our family has been married in this church.

They share a smile.

WANDA (CONT'D)

And now, so shall you.

A priest, FATHER JOHNSON (60s) comes out from a confessional booth.

FATHER JOHNSON

Millers! And Mary. Are we ready for this beautiful occasion?

BEN

Oh she's just marrying me, Father.
It's not that beautiful.

Everyone but Minnie laughs.

MINNIE

(to Ben)
Who are you?

FJ hugs Wanda, Mary and Ben. He shakes hands with Minnie who sizes him up.

BEN

This is my grandmother, Minnie.
She's just tagging along. Shall we
um-

MINNIE

He's Jewish. You can't marry a Jew
in a Catholic church.

MARY

Father Johnson has been working
with Ben over the last few months.

Minnie eyes Ben.

BEN

It's really not a big deal. People
switch all the time.

MINNIE

It's a religion, not a pair of
shants.

BEN

How are you giving me religious
advice?

WANDA

We'd feel more comfortable with Ben
as a practicing Catholic. Also this
way Mary can be married in a
church.

MINNIE

Who gives a shit? Get married on a
goddamn beach with a Justice of the
Peace. I got my certificate online,
I could marry you and that plant
right now.

BEN

Also the fee is a fraction of what it would be at any other venue.

MINNIE

See! He's *so* Jewish!

WANDA

She won't be present for the ceremony, Father.

BEN

Yes, thank God.

MINNIE

Do you even know who your new God is?

All eyes on Ben.

BEN

Of course... The father and son and you know... the um- the ghost- of Christmas past.

WANDA

...He'll be ready on the day of the wedding.

MARY

It's the father, the son and the holy ghost, Ben.

WANDA

The holy trinity. Not one but three coeternal consubstantial persons.

MINNIE

He still doesn't understand.

FATHER JOHNSON

They're all one being, Ben. You remember from our class last week.

BEN

Right. Yeah I got it.

MINNIE

Explain it.

Ben's the kid in class who didn't read the textbook.

WANDA

Mary, I thought you said he's been training.

MINNIE

Whose choice was this church?

BEN

It's confusing! How can one thing live in 3 things. I didn't think it was gonna be this hard. I thought I was just gonna learn how to apologize and move on and you know... accept Jesus as my lord and savior.

Ben...bows? Mary raises her eyebrows in shock.

FATHER JOHNSON

If this isn't something you're dedicating to then-

MARY

What? No no he's fine.

WANDA

Father, we have a long standing relationship with this Parish.

MINNIE

Benjamin also just threatened to drown me in the bird bath.

BEN

Shut the fuck up!

There's a silence and an awkward look from FJ. Mary wants to rip Ben's head off.

FATHER JOHNSON

We do have a long waiting list for-dedicated members.

MARY

Father. Please.

FATHER JOHNSON

Perhaps another venue would be best.

A shocked beat.

WANDA

I'll be in the car.

Wanda exits first, followed by Mary, followed by Ben who eyes Minnie on the way out.

CUT TO:

INT. BEN AND MARY'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - THAT NIGHT

Ben and Mary have a hushed discussion in the kitchen.

BEN
I'm really sorry.

MARY
Thank God the Vineyard was still available. We need to leave by 8am tomorrow and...

BEN
I know.

MARY
She's just-

BEN
I will handle this.

Mary feigns a wishful but doubting smile when- Minnie enters and they disengage. Mary breezes past her.

MARY
Night, Minnie.

Minnie feigns the same smile.

MINNIE
So we found a Vineyard? When's the tour?

BEN
You think you're coming?

MINNIE
We need a venue, Benjamin.

BEN
Because you lost it.

MINNIE
I lost it? You've been praying to a Charles Dickens character.

A beat.

BEN
What are you doing?

MINNIE
I'm having tea.

Minnie grabs the kettle, but it's empty. She replaces it back on the stove.

BEN
You embarrassed me.

MINNIE
Do you know how many toy stores I had to drag you out of, because you decided to throw a tantrum?

Minnie marches out.

MINNIE (CONT'D)
Throw some more water on. It's empty.

Ben, alone now grabs the kettle, filling it up with water. Then on the shelf he spots a bottle-- SLEEP-AID XXTRA.

Ben cracks open the bottle, breaking more than a few capsules into the kettle before putting it back on the stove.

CUT TO:

EST. HIGHWAY OUTSIDE MARYLAND - THE NEXT MORNING

We're settled in the dying fescue of a highway an hour outside Baltimore.

There's not much around except for this highway and the WHITE MERCEDES approaching our view. It slows, then turns onto a dirt road which we can now see leads through vineyard, up to a red barn. A sign reads:

"CROSSROAD VINEYARD - Est. 2007."

EXT. CROSSROAD VINEYARD / INT. WANDA'S MERCEDES

Wanda (driving) Mary and Ben roll up the dirt road towards the barn.

MARY
That's too bad Minnie didn't want to come.

BEN

Yeah she caught some terrible stomach bug. You know old people - they get sick all the time. I told her to just sleep it off.

WANDA

I'm sure we'll be just fine without her.

We roll to a stop. The crew exits the car to:

EXT. CROSSROAD VINEYARD - CONTINUOUS

We park in front of the barn to take a look at the expansive vineyard. Grapes are almost fully grown ready to be picked.

MARY

This is beautiful.

WANDA

The church was beautiful.

BEN

Again, I'm really sorry about that. I still intend on finishing the program with Father Johnson.

WANDA

We'll be lucky be allowed back in for Sunday Mass.

MARY

We got really lucky here. They have a slot on August 8th so we could keep everything right how it is. We'd just have to alter the flower wall and make some menu adjustments but otherwise-- everything should stay on track.

A Vineyard hand/Tour Guide approaches us. BRANDON (20s/plaid shirt, boots, Carthartt overalls).

BRANDON

Are you the Beckers?

WANDA

Only one of us.

MARY

Are you, Brandon?

Ben and Mary smile at one another. They hold hands. But as soon as the nice moment arrived, it is gone.

We hear the roar of an engine burning up the dirt driveway. When it comes into focus, we realize it's a YELLOW CAB hauling ass.

BRANDON
Someone's in a hurry.

BEN
Ssshit.

The cab stops right next to us - out steps Minnie.

MINNIE
Good morning everyone! Apologies
for the delay.

WANDA
Feeling better?

Minnie eyes Ben.

MINNIE
Oh, so much better.

The TAXI DRIVER rolls down the window.

TAXI DRIVER
That'll be 125.80.

BEN
Did you take a cab all the way from
Baltimore?

MINNIE
Missed my ride.

A Ben and Minnie stand off.

MINNIE (CONT'D)
Well? Pay the man. Mr big salesman
with the big bonus.

Ben drags himself to the cab, handing over a credit card.

MARY
So glad you could join us, Minnie.

MINNIE
Oh how could I miss out on the 8th
wonder of the world... Northern
Maryland's wine country.

Ben returns as the cab rolls off.

BRANDON
Shall we start the tour?

Brandon takes us to the edge of the parking area where we overlook the big illustrious vineyard.

MINNIE
What kind of grapes are you growing here?

WANDA
Wine.

MINNIE
Which type.

BRANDON
We grow mainly Merlot here but a decent amount of Pinot as well.

MARY
Amazing.

MINNIE
Isn't harvesting season for a Merlot, August in this region?

BRANDON
Yes that's correct.

MINNIE
And do you hand-pick or machine roll?

BRANDON
...we machine roll.

WANDA
Thinking about throwing yourself in?

BEN
How about we chat this over inside with some wine?

MINNIE
Why? This is a waste of time.

MARY
What's the problem?

WANDA

Where to start?

MINNIE

The problem is that while your ceremony is happening in a few weeks, there will be big huge grape harvesters rolling in the background, and if they're not the dust will have barely settled from the harvesters having to work overtime the days leading up to the ceremony. Isn't that right, Brandon?

BRANDON

We can reschedule the harvest.

MINNIE

For a cost I assume....

BRANDON

Well, yes.

WANDA

How much could it possibly be?

MINNIE

Oh what a surprise. Mrs Pearl Necklace has no concept of money.

WANDA

You know what? I've had enough of your schtick.

MINNIE

Tell us Brandon, how much would it be to push the harvest?

BRANDON

Well we'd need to buy out half the crop for loss of product. We usually pull in about 40 thousand on a good-

BEN

Holy shit.

MINNIE

(to Wanda)

Just wine though, right?

(to all)

Why did you think the space is available?

Mary and Wanda head back to the Mercedes. Minnie hangs back for a moment with Ben.

MINNIE (CONT'D)

Next time you want to slip
something in my tea, make sure it
kills me.

Ben bites his tongue. Minnie moves to the Mercedes, opening the door.

WANDA (O.S.)

Oh she's riding with us, then.
Wonderful.

MINNIE

Benjamin, why don't you let us gals
ride alone on the way back. We've
got a lot to catch up on.

BEN

How will I get home?

Minnie hops in the car, making eye contact with Ben as she slams the door shut.

MINNIE

Call a cab.

INT. RETIRED MINDS - FRONT DESK

Ben trudges up the stairs, passing the front desk... to no sound.

He stops to look back and the front desk is just completely barren. No cutout. No nothing. Could this be the day that-?

INT. RETIRED MINDS - SALES BAY - CONTINUOUS

Everyone is huddled around listening to one guy speak. We'll call him BOSS because well...he's the new boss. He wears a LIFECO polo shirt with a little "Brelly" pin on it.

BOSS

So by the end of the day someone
will be coming around to meet with
each of you, but in the meantime,
just grab some coffee and relax.

Boss' SECOND HAND MAN (smiling earnestly) hands out a stack of pamphlets to pass around.

Ben, worried, settles in next to Alyssa.

BEN
What's going on?

ALYSSA
Lifeco bought us out.

BEN
Layoffs?

ALYSSA
Worse.

A pile of packets make it to us. On the front:

"LET'S CHAT - A STARTER GUIDE"

Clipped to it also is a little BRELLY KEYCHAIN. Darren appears.

DARREN
They're turning us all into
chatroom operators.
(shouting)
This is bullshit, sir. I've been
working here since 2008.

BOB
You haven't sold a policy since
2009.

DARREN
Fuck you, Bob.

BEN
This is a good thing. We get to
keep our jobs.

DARREN
Yeah with no commission. It's a
demotion and a pay decrease.

SECOND HAND MAN
You're more than welcome to seek
other employment. But should you
quit, you will not be offered
severance.

DARREN
Fuck this, man.

Ben clicks his little umbrella thing-

BRELLY

Hey heyyy, how can I keep you dry
today?

Darren HUCKS his across the room at the wall and marches out.
It hits the wall and-

BRELLY (CONT'D)

Hey heyyy, how can I keep you dry
today?

Bob follows suit. Ben watches them one-by-one walk out, all
chucking their keychains off the wall, each firing up to form
a haunting digital symphony of Brellies. Each echoing over
the other.

BRELLY (CONT'D)

Hey heyyy how can I keep you
dry today??-----

BRELLY (CONT'D)

-----Hey heyyy how can I keep *
you dry today?? *

We hold on Ben as he clutches the keychain. Alyssa matches.

ALYSSA

Yeah. Me too.

They're the only two left. Second Hand Man comes over,
placing a hand on Ben's shoulder.

SECOND HAND MAN

You're going to LOVE the
(hashtag)chatlife.

Ben exhales as we-

CUT TO:

INT. MILLER HOUSHOLD - LIVING ROOM - SAME TIME

Mary and Wanda make phone calls from the dining room table
which has been moved aside for a man in a HAZMAT SUIT, who is
running a commercial grade hand vacuum across the ashy carpet
with precision.

MARY

(into phone)
Ok, well thanks anyway.
(hanging up)
Everything is booked.

WANDA

This wouldn't be a problem if it weren't for her.

(to the HAZMAT)

Be careful!

Hazmat shrugs and then vacuums... more carefully?

MARY

You don't think I know that?

WANDA

Well you're certainly not doing anything about it.

MARY

You're right. I want my wedding to fall apart three weeks before it happens.

George pops his head through the door. He's dressed in full golf attire.

GEORGE

Ok ladies, I'm off to the links.

Mary looks out the window and-

MARY

It's raining.

George hesitates and then-

GEORGE

Gotta want it, Mary.

George smiles then exits.

MARY

Why don't we just have the wedding here? In the back yard?

WANDA

Do you care at all what people think?

MARY

It was just a suggestion.

Wanda thinks and then-

WANDA

We need a professional.

Hazmat finds something clanking around in the dust buster - it's a quarter. He places it in his little Hazmat pocket and continues sucking as we-

CUT TO:

INT. MILLER HOUSEHOLD - LIVINGROOM - THE NEXT DAY

Ben, Mary, and Wanda face our POV from the living room couch. Each hiding their own shade of misery.

WANDA

What we need is someone who can put together a nice, clean, classy ceremony.

MARY

On a deadline. We're booked in for August 8th and well... we don't want our guests to have to rearrange schedules, rebook the florist and whatnot.

WE'LL CUT BETWEEN MULTIPLE WEDDING PLANNER INTERVIEWS:

The first is WEDDING PLANNER 1 (30s) with her hair pulled back tightly into a power-bun - black clothing (designer), chic square glasses (designer) and a dead soul (custom).

WEDDING PLANNER 1

You're in good hands. I don't take vacations. I have never been sick, and the last risk I took was buying mid-level coverage for the insurance on my entire upper body.

BEN

And your rate?

WITH PLANNER 2 (40s) - All white clothing. Poppy and very put-together with a \$300 haircut.

WEDDING PLANNER 2

I'm on the higher end but worth every penny you'll spend. I just did a wedding for the Governor's daughter a few weeks ago. It was on the 7 o'clock news.

WANDA

Weren't you on the cover of the Knot magazine?

WITH PLANNER 3 (early 30s) - Drop dead gorgeous. Red blouse. She's probably given dozens of commencement speeches on the "power of will."

WEDDING PLANNER 3

Yes! The editor is a close personal friend of mine - I set her up with her husband.

MARY

We have been obsessing over that March issue with the flower wall.

With 1:

WEDDING PLANNER 1

So have you got a-

A small object bounces off of her forehead. When it settles on the ground, we see it was an M&M candy...

That's when we reveal who just threw it: Minnie, who's seated next to Ben. They all try to just ignore her at this point.

WEDDING PLANNER 1 (CONT'D)

Did you just throw an M&M candy at me?

MINNIE

I don't think so.

She's eating a handful of M&Ms.

WANDA

Will you put those down please?

MINNIE

Why's that?

BEN

Please just go on.

BACK WITH 2:

WEDDING PLANNER 2

I start with materials. The foundation of any wedding is the tableclo-

MINNIE

Have you ever been with a woman?

Minnie smiles at her. Planner 2 just looks uncomfortable.

BEN

Ok. What are you doing?

MINNIE

Because you just kinda look like that type is all I'm saying.

ON 3:

WEDDING PLANNER 3

I don't think you're one to be doling out fashion advice.

MINNIE

Well no, but that doesn't mean the blouse doesn't look awful. I mean are you trying to fuck the groom or-

EVERYONE

Woooah/ooookay/Jesus

MINNIE

What? It's a logical concern.

On 2:

WEDDING PLANNER 2

My past relationships are none of your business and I'll have you know I'm happily married to my husband of 6 years.

MINNIE

So never??? Not even in college?

On 1:

WEDDING PLANNER 1

Where was I?

Doink - another M&M bounces right off her glasses.

WEDDING PLANNER 1 (CONT'D)

Ok that could have taken my eye out! Do you have any idea what these eyes are worth?

MINNIE

Let's find out.

On 2:

WEDDING PLANNER 2

I have not been with a woman!!

MINNIE

Well don't take it as such an
insult, jeez.

On 3:

WEDDING PLANNER 3

He's not exactly my type.

BEN

I'm right here.

MINNIE

Are you calling my grandson ugly?

MARY

Can we get back on topic?

MINNIE

Now you've offended the bride too.

On 2:

WEDDING PLANNER 2

I get plenty of... you know what,
thank you very much.

WANDA

That is enough of this!

MINNIE

Oh look you have a partner. Wanda,
when was the last time you got
laid?

Planner 2 storms out.

WEDDING PLANNER 3

Good luck finding *any* vendors. I
know everyone within a 100 mile
radius!

MINNIE

A 100 mile radius? It must just be
an old hanging curtain down there,
huh?

There goes planner 3.

WEDDING PLANNER 1

Good day.

BEN
Please, wait.

WE SETTLE DOWN INTO:

INT. MILLER HOUSEHOLD - LIVING ROOM - LATER

The whole crew is exhausted.

BEN
So um- I'm sorry what'd you say
your name is again?

We turn to reveal a young lady named AMY (20s). The only thing more frazzled than her hair are her clothes, makeup and general appearance.

AMY
It's Amy. From The Little Lady.

MARY
Is that the charity downtown?

AMY
There are women there *named*
Charity.

BEN
It's a strip joint.
(off of looks)
I think.

AMY
I just do the events and publicity.

WANDA
Mhm thank you for coming in.

Amy deflates but-

MINNIE
I like her.

Amy smiles.

WANDA
Absolutely not.

AMY
I'll do it for almost nothing since
it's my first wedding.

MINNIE (CONT'D)
I'll be outside.

Minnie moves to the exit.

WANDA
Good.

MINNIE (O.S.)
Oh shove it up your ass, Wanda.

Mary gives Ben a look.

MARY
Handle this.

BEN
Yep. On it.

AMY
Do I get a deposit of some kind?

BEN
Gimme just one sec, Amy.

Ben rushes out.

EXT. THE MILLER HOUSEHOLD - DRIVEWAY

Minnie exits the house in a huff, followed closely by Ben.

BEN
Really?

MINNIE
Really what? She's the right woman
for the job. I don't care what
Wanda thinks. Or Mary for that
matter.

BEN
There wasn't another way you
could've made that clear?

MINNIE
Excuse me. I'm the only one
actually helping here and you're
upset with *me*?

BEN
Wanda is 2 seconds away from
kicking me out of my own wedding.

MINNIE
It's not Wanda's wedding.

Ben laughs.

MINNIE (CONT'D)
Is this a joke to you?

BEN
The fact that you're giving out parenting advice, is kind of a joke, yeah.

MINNIE
I can't care about the wellbeing of my grandson?

BEN
My wellbeing? Anytime it snowed you made me walk home from school.

MINNIE
To learn a valuable lesson.

BEN
What lesson? That 10-year-olds can get frostbite?

MINNIE
Is that what this is about? How I treated you growing up? I'm sorry. I'm sorry I didn't kiss your boobies and rub you down with baby oil every night.

BEN
What?

MINNIE
Maybe you didn't like the way I raised you, but I raised you. And I certainly didn't raise you to be this...pussy.

BEN
I am not a- pussy.

Minnie pushes him on the shoulder. Hard.

BEN (CONT'D)
Hey.

Minnie pushes him again. He stumbles back.

BEN (CONT'D)

Stop that!

MINNIE

You used to be something. Someone. Do you even remember the funeral? You held on so tight to that little car. You had attitude.

BEN

I also had nightmares...forever.

MINNIE

You need to step up and take control of your life. You're allowing yourself to be bullied by a couple cul de sac WASPS and it's no surprise you can't see it with your AND Mary's head so far up Wanda's ass.

BEN

Watch it.

MINNIE

You watch it. You've got a shit job and a make-believe life, but that's not even the problem. Wanda's got a \$600 coat and a 2 million dollar home and George is still taking golf lessons twice a week, and you're telling me they're going broke?

Ben chews on that.

MINNIE (CONT'D)

Everything I do is for you. Not for some reputation, or some Christian standard or some fucking golf lessons. Something is going on with that family, and I want to know what.

Ben lets this sink in. It's the closest thing to affection he's ever received from her.

BEN

Ok, then tell me what to do.

Minnie stiffens.

MINNIE

Grow a pair. And stick with me,
kid.

CUT TO:

INT. BEN AND MARY'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - LATER

Ben sits alone in bed while Mary is in the bathroom.

MARY (O.S.)

She's ruining the whole thing, Ben.

BEN

I know.

Mary exits the bathroom and climbs into bed.

BEN (CONT'D)

She did have a point though on the
planner.

MARY

What?

BEN

It was a totally wrong one though.

Mary looks at him, unsure what he's thinking...

BEN (CONT'D)

I just- She'll be gone soon. We've
only got like what? 20 days left?

MARY

Twenty days and we don't have a
venue. Who knows what she'll do to
the florist. Or the caterer. What
are we going to tell our guests if
we have to push? My mother will
flip.

Ben holds a beat. We see it. Mary sees it. But we don't say
anything. Ben has a guardian angel now.

Mary rolls over and clicks off the light.

We slowly pull through the door to see:

Minnie standing outside with her tea. She's heard the whole
thing.

We keep our eyes on her. Unsure of exactly what she's thinking...she heads to bed.

We prelap - KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK

CUT TO:

EXT. MILLER HOUSEHOLD - THE NEXT DAY

Minnie is the one doing the knocking. But to no answer. In the driveway she takes in the Mustang, and shakes her head. Next to it is another car which we don't recognize...

She KNOCKs again.

Still no answer. Minnie cautiously turns the knob to find-
It's unlocked?

INT. MILLER HOUSEHOLD - CONTINUOUS

Minnie pokes her head in.

MINNIE

Hello?

The house seems to be empty. Interesting...

She takes in the place, being alone in the lion's den... noting the pictures on the wall- the expensive china in the armoire an then-

Dirty shoes?

A shirt on the bannister...?

And then we hear it.

The sound that could only be made from a bag of flesh slamming against another bag of flesh...

Minnie looks up the stairs...someone in this house be fuckin.

She steps slowly, careful not to make a peep.

INT. MILLER HOUSEHOLD - UPSTAIRS

Minnie finds herself atop the stairs. The sound having grown louder with every step. She finds the source:

A bedroom door. We hear groaning and VICIOUS POUNDING AND MOANING as she makes her way to the door-

Placing her hand on the knob-

Turning it-

Pushing open the door to see:

INT. MILLER HOUSEHOLD - BEDROOM

GEORGE - TAKING IT FROM BEHIND FROM ANOTHER MAN!!

Minnie: WHAT. THE. FUCK.

MAN

Woah!

GEORGE

MINNIE?!

Minnie scoops her jaw from the floor to say-

MINNIE

Get out.

Man and George aren't sure which she's-

MINNIE (CONT'D)

Pitcher. Out. Catcher you stay.

The Man pulls up his golf slacks, pulling on his polo to slither out the door.

Leaving George. Minnie gestures for him to take a seat on the bed while she stands in front of him. He's naked and vulnerable.

She holds a beat.

GEORGE

I can explain.

MINNIE

Shut your mouth.

He does. She holds another beat.

GEORGE

Please don't tell Mary.

MINNIE

Mary? What about your wife?

George drops his head.

GEORGE

You don't know what I go through in this house.

MINNIE

Apparently dick.

(then)

I'm going to ask you a few questions and you are going to be VERY honest with me. Is that clear?

GEORGE

Yes ma'am.

MINNIE

You're broke.

GEORGE

Yes.

MINNIE

That wasn't a question. Does Wanda know that?

GEORGE

Sort of.

MINNIE

Does she know Ben is paying for the wedding?

GEORGE

No.

MINNIE

But she knows about...this?

GEORGE

Sort of.

MINNIE

One more sort of and I'm going to seal your asshole shut with a burning fire poke.

GEORGE

Wanda knows as much as she can discern. She's never looked at a bill and well- she's never seen me do anything. She just- brushes it all under the rug.

MINNIE

Ok...?

George rubs his forehead.

GEORGE

But she's not going to take it lightly when I ask her for a divorce.

MINNIE

(realizing)

And you don't want to lose half of nothing.

Off his look, Minnie sets her jaw.

MINNIE (CONT'D)

So you forced Ben to pay for the wedding.

GEORGE

I'm sorry.

Minnie tosses him a shirt, then moves to the door.

GEORGE (CONT'D)

Please don't tell anyone.

MINNIE

I'm not going to. You are.

Minnie gives him a look then strides out.

INT. MILLER HOUSEHOLD - FRONT HALLWAY

Minnie comes down the stairs to see Hank has just arrived home. He's struggling with Jay who is going ballistic.

HANK

You're never like this!

Minnie spots a toy in Hank's bag. She pulls it out and hands it to Jay who immediately calms down. And so does Hank.

MINNIE

The key is distraction.

HANK

I can't do this.

MINNIE

Parents make mistakes, Henry.
 (thinking)
 The sooner you realize that, the
 better off you'll be.

Minnie places a hand on his shoulder. Hank slightly recoils. She smiles. Then he smiles. Minnie walks out.

Hank looks down on his two pleasant and beautiful babies in their car seats. Smiling.

CUT TO:

INT. RETIRED MINDS - BEN'S CUBICLE

The once, dead office is in the process of being revamped. Maintenance workers install brand new fluorescent lights, and painters put the finishing touches on a fresh coat of dark red paint--

Another one rips the wax paper away to reveal a HUGE BRELLY DECAL on the wall, just smiling away...right in our faces.

Ben squeezes his LITTLE BLUE STRESS BALL, probably fantasizing about ripping the decal right off as we hear-

BLIP- BLIP- BLIP-

Ben realizes that the blips are little chat rooms going off. He types away as Alyssa wheels over on her desk chair.

ALYSSA

I can't take this anymore man.

BEN

I know, but...I need this job.

ALYSSA

For what?

BEN

For the wedding.

ALYSSA

I thought you said Minnie was paying for that?

Ben squeezes his stress ball. They spot Second Hand Man having just opened a cardboard box.

Revealing a big PLUSH BRELLY COSTUME. Holy shit.

Alyssa and Ben both see it. Second Hand Man starts making his way over to us.

ALYSSA (CONT'D)
No fucking way, man.

He arrives.

SECOND HAND MAN
Hhhhey team.

It's literally just the three of them in this office, and the maintenance workers. Then SHM spots something-

Ben's little stress ball. But he lets it slide.

SECOND HAND MAN (CONT'D)
Cool mascot huh?
(nothing)
So as you know we're a little short
staffed at the moment and-

ALYSSA
I'm not wearing that.

SECOND HAND MAN
Oh yeah, no we wouldn't ask the one-
um-

Alyssa raises her eyebrows.

SECOND HAND MAN (CONT'D)
Ben. How would you like to step up?
Take the initiative?!

SHM checks the stress ball again, which Ben squeezes, HARD.

SECOND HAND MAN (CONT'D)
Hey what's that little thing you
have-?

BEN
I'm not wearing that.

SECOND HAND MAN
Yikes. Looks like it's a Retired
Minds stress ball.

BEN
You can't even read the logo.

SECOND HAND MAN
Then how did I know it was Retired
Minds?

BEN
It's blue.

SECOND HAND MAN
Why don't I just grab it-

SHM reaches for the ball. Ben pulls it back.

BEN
No. It's mine.

A tense beat. SHM drops the costume.

SECOND HAND MAN
Wear the mascot and you can keep
it.

A would-you-rather from hell.

ALYSSA
Just give it to him, man.

BEN
(gripping the ball)
I'm not wearing that.

Ben doesn't flinch. In fact...he narrows. As does SHM.

SHM reaches for the ball. Ben pulls it back. SHM reaches again- this time more aggressive. Ben grips down on it even harder and it turns into a full-on wrestling match.

Two grown men in work attire fighting over a little foam ball like two kindergartners fighting over the last twix bar.

SHM gets the upper hand, pressing Ben's face to the Brelly mascot, ripping the ball away! SHM tosses it up in his hand, with a smile on his face.

SECOND HAND MAN
Now you're doing both.

Ben wipes his face off then runs and spears him, freeing the ball!

Ben scoops it up then takes a bite out of the ball, and spits the chunk of foam into SHM's face. Alyssa's jaw ROCKETS through the floor.

BEN
I quit.

Ben marches out. Alyssa takes a beat, rolls her jaw back up and then follows him out.

CUT TO:

INT. BEN AND MARY'S HOUSE - LATER

Ben walks in, to find Minnie watching TV. She takes one look at his smile and-

MINNIE
What did you just do?

BEN
I quit my job.

Minnie stands.

MINNIE
Why in God's name did you do that?!

Ben is caught off guard.

BEN
You told me to take control of my life!

MINNIE
That doesn't mean quit your job!
You find another job and THEN you quit your job!

MARY (O.S.)
Ben?

BEN
What do I tell Mary?

MINNIE
You do NOT tell Mary.

BEN
She's going to know something is up. I'm home early.

MINNIE
Then you LIE!

Mary starts down the stairs.

MINNIE (CONT'D)

I have an appointment today at
Catonesville and Pierce. You said
you would come. You forgot.

BEN

The casket place?

Mary arrives.

MARY

How was work?

Ben hesitates and then-

BEN

So good.

MARY

You're home early.

BEN

So are you.

MARY

I took the day off to meet with the
florist. Do you want to come?

Ben freezes.

MINNIE

He can't.

BEN

Right. I told Minnie I'd hit the
casket place with her.

Ben looks to Minnie who looks to Mary who looks back to Ben.

BEN (CONT'D)

Unless you need me at the florist.

MARY

No. You guys go. It's fine.

Mary smiles shallowly before heading out the door.

Off Minnie's smile we-

CUT TO:

EST. SEASON'S BLOOM FLOWER SHOP - LATER

An upscale chic flower shop in the city.

INT. SEASON'S BLOOM FLOWER SHOP

Mary, Wanda and Amy peruse the isles of the flower shop.

MARY

I don't know he's just acting weird. And distant.

WANDA

It's her, Mary.

MARY

She'll be gone in a couple weeks.

WANDA

You'll be gone in a couple weeks.

MARY

I really don't need a lecture from you right now.

WANDA

Well then find another gear.

MARY

Excuse me?

WANDA

Do you think your father and I just wake up thrilled with one another? Do you think happy marriages grow on trees? No. Because marriage isn't a honeymoon, it's a battleground.

Wanda looks around.

WANDA (CONT'D)

You've been compromising left and right on everything. The church. The vineyard. The stripper wedding planner.

AMY

Um. Hi?

WANDA

You have a responsibility to get this wedding back on track.

MARY

It's not your wedding.

WANDA

In a second it's not going to be yours either. It'll be hers. You are the woman. You hold the power. YOU want her out. YOU can push her out. Because every day you let him and more specifically HER push you around is a day closer to- very bad things.

We hold on Mary...as she actually thinks this over.

CUT TO:

EXT. CATONESVILLE AND PIERCE - SAME TIME

Ben and Minnie exit the Prius to take in the old-timey casket shop. A classy black and white sign reads: "CATONESVILLE AND PIERCE."

INT. CATONESVILLE AND PIERCE - LATER

Marble. Leather. Caskets. If Frank Sinatra were a casket shop, we'd be inside it...or him, right now. An older man in a suit greets us. His name is LEON.

LEON

Can I help you?

MINNIE

I'm Minnie Becker. 3pm.

LEON

It's a pleasure to meet you. Right this way.

INT. CATONESVILLE AND PIERCE - SHOW ROOM

Leon leads us around a well-lit show room. Caskets are all over the place and the entire back wall is GLASS. Through it, we overlook the Chesapeake bay from a brick landing area.

LEON

And on the form it had the member listed as blank. Do you mind my asking who the casket will be for?

MINNIE
It'll be for me.

LEON
I see. I'm sorry to hear that.

MINNIE
Don't be. It was my choice. Well,
and his.

Minnie looks to Ben - practically asking him to join in-
Ben places a soft hand on Minnie's shoulder.

BEN
At a certain point you have to
wonder- how many wet sheets is
enough you know?

Leon laughs, trying to be in on the joke. But they're
deadpan.

MINNIE
Are there any caskets with trap
doors?

BEN
Great call.

LEON
I'm sorry. I don't understand.

BEN
Well you know how you always see
those documentaries about the
scratch marks on the roof of the
caskets? It'd be nice if there was
a little trap door that would
release some sort of toxin to knock
her right back out.

MINNIE
I'm very claustrophobic.

LEON
(smiling)
Perhaps an axe could swing down.

Ben and Minnie just stare at him.

BEN
That's really fucked up, man.

LEON

How about you just wave me down if you have any questions.

Leon walks off leaving Ben and Minnie to almost smile at one another.

BEN

Would you ever date someone else?

MINNIE

Like who?

BEN

I don't know. He seems nice.

Minnie looks to Leon who lifts his head from a computer to smile.

MINNIE

(digressing)

Why don't you tell me why you quit.

BEN

RM was bought out by a huge digital company. They wanted to turn all the salesmen into chatroom drones.

MINNIE

What's a chatroom?

BEN

Are you familiar with the internet?

MINNIE

I taught you how to hold a spoon, you little shit.

BEN

It felt great. And- yeah.

A beat. Minnie looks into him-

MINNIE

I bet it did.

BEN

I just have no idea what I'm gonna tell Mary.

Minnie shifts her gaze out the window to a small terrace overlooking the Chesapeake Bay.

MINNIE
Let's get some air.

Minnie pushes through the glass door and we find ourselves-

EXT. CATONESVILLE AND PIERCE - BACK TERRACE

There's a light breeze blowing across the bay. Ben and Minnie chat on a brick terrace.

They watch the passing boats. Minnie looks to him.

BEN
Despite all this it's actually been nice having someone on my side.
(Minnie smiles)
For once.
(it fades.)

MINNIE
I've made a lot of mistakes, Ben.

Ben matches her eye contact - almost an apology. Ben doesn't quite budge. But he accepts it.

If this were another movie they'd be holding hands. But it's not. And they aren't.

MINNIE (CONT'D)
I was married before your grandfather, you know.

BEN
What? To who?

MINNIE
It's whom.

BEN
What?

MINNIE
It's whom not-

BEN
Will you just speak please?

MINNIE
His name was Joseph. We met in Boston. He was a young musician and we were always on the road. It was exactly what I thought I wanted.
(MORE)

MINNIE (CONT'D)

Except one day I'm sitting on this beach in Bali, most beautiful place in the world, and Joe brings me a beer. In the years we'd been dating, he never noticed that I don't drink beer. Because I'd buried that little fact along with dozens of other things we'd never talked about.

Minnie and Ben share a look.

BEN

So Mary and I have a few secrets.

MINNIE

Ben.

BEN

I love her. I don't care what you say. Nothing you can ever do or say will convince me otherwise.

MINNIE

When you marry someone you marry their family.

BEN

I know that.

MINNIE

That family is toxic.

BEN

And mine is suicidal.

MINNIE

When you get married you have to be prepared to push everything aside and give everything you have to your partner. You have to put them above everything you've ever cared for. Even family.

BEN

I know that.

MINNIE

Is that something you're prepared to do?

Off Ben's look of uncertainty-

MINNIE (CONT'D)
I'm thinking of moving my
appointment a couple days.

BEN
Why?

MINNIE
I've waited 10 years to see you
again and now I have you and- well-

BEN
You don't have to do this you know.

MINNIE
My life is done, Ben.
(a beat.)
Seeing you get married would be a
nice little send off.

Ben thinks it over and then-

BEN
We don't even have a venue.

Minnie breaks eye contact.

MINNIE
I could move some cash around.

Ben and Minnie share a look as we-

EXT. CROSSROAD VINEYARD - LATER

Mary and Wanda exit the Mercedes to find Ben and Minnie
waiting in the parking lot.

WANDA
What are we doing here?

MARY
Yeah, Ben I thought we agreed this
place didn't work?

BEN
It didn't. Buuuut - we booked it.

MARY
Ben we can't afford it.

BEN
Yes we can.

MARY

How?

BEN

We just can.

MARY

Did you stumble upon a bag of gold coins that I don't know about?

BEN

Will you just relax? We're good. We got the venue! Same date and everything. But that's not even the best part.

MARY

Ben.

BEN

Minnie is going to move her appointment and she's going to come.

Wanda laughs.

BEN (CONT'D)

We'll put the flower wall over there- which we'll book.

MARY

Ben.

BEN

We'll have to make some set up adjustments but I figured-

MARY

BEN!

(off his silence)

What are you doing?

BEN

What? This is what you wanted.

MARY

I do- but.

A beat.

MINNIE

But she doesn't want it with me.

Mary bites her tongue.

BEN

What?

A beat.

MARY

You should have called me.

BEN

Called you? This is- wait- this is about Minnie coming to the wedding?

WANDA

She's not coming to our wedding.

MINNIE

What do you mean *our* wedding?

WANDA

I mean *our* family's wedding. So far as I'm concerned the dead are not part of anyone's family.

MINNIE

Tell that to your carpet.

MARY

This is a big move, Ben.

MINNIE

It's ok. I'll keep my appointment and you can have your-

BEN

No. You're coming. Mary. What the fuck?

MARY

I'm done being pushed around by you, Ben.

BEN

YOU'RE being pushed around? I'm trying to get my grandmother at my wedding who BY THE WAY is PAYING FOR IT and-

MARY

What?

A beat. Ben thinks about it and makes the call-

BEN

2 weeks ago your dad cornered me and told me if I couldn't pay for the wedding then there wasn't going to be one.

MARY

Is that true, mom?

WANDA

I don't know anything about that.

MINNIE

Maybe if you talked to your husband more, these problems wouldn't come up.

WANDA

Excuse me?

MINNIE

Oh nothing. I just always knew you were a little anal, but apparently George is too.

Wanda gasps.

MARY

You told me you got a bonus.

BEN

Yeah, well I quit.

MARY

When?!

BEN

Recently.

MARY

I bet Minnie knew that though didn't she?

BEN

Oh I'm sorry am I not allowed to talk to my grandmother?

MARY

You're supposed to want to talk to me, asshole! Not your grandmother who IS TEARING YOUR WEDDING APART and driving a wedge in between us and my family.

BEN
Your toxic family.

A beat.

MARY
What?

BEN
I said your family is fucking TOXIC. I'm reeaally sorry that you've felt a little pressure from my little old grandmother but guess what - I've been getting that shit for YEARS from your family and now you have a little taste- and that sucks but guess what? She's coming to my wedding or there isn't going to be one.

MARY
You know what? Fine. Have a great time with your grandmother. I don't give a shit. I am DONE being treated like this.

Mary walks off to the Mercedes, followed by Wanda.

Mary hops in the Mercedes. Wanda follows.

A car rolls up just as the Mercedes pulls out. Out steps:

AMY
Sorry! I had to drop off some heels for Charity. Am I too late?

Minnie and Ben take a silent beat.

BEN
No. You're right on time.

CUT TO:

EXT. MILLER HOUSHOLD - ESTABLISHING - THAT NIGHT

A household ready to explode.

INT. MILLER HOUSEHOLD - DINING ROOM

Mary, Hank, George and Wanda have a very silent dinner. Both babies are cool as a cucumber, distracted by toys while Hank spoons peas into their mouths simultaneously.

HANK

So just so I'm clear...Is the wedding happening or not?

GEORGE

It's 3 days away, Hank.

HANK

Damn, I was really looking forward to putting those little tuxes on the twins.

GEORGE

We were all looking forward to that.

WANDA

I'll send out an email blast, to tell people to cancel their flights. Going to cost a fortune but...

MARY

Ben said that you forced him into paying for the wedding.

George scans the room.

GEORGE

It sounds like Ben found himself in a corner and tried to talk his way out of it.

Wanda laughs. George checks it.

WANDA

She knew, George.

MARY

She knew what?

A beat.

GEORGE

I told you we needed to talk.

WANDA

And I told you to handle it.

GEORGE

You didn't know what IT was.

WANDA
This is not dinner table
discussion.

MARY
What is going on?

WANDA
Mary, eat your dinner.

GEORGE
I'm having an affair.

HANK/MARY
Woahh. / Holy shit.

Wanda is about to leap across the table.

GEORGE
With Brandt.

HANK
Brandt, the *male* Head Pro, Brandt?

MARY
Dad are you-

WANDA
It doesn't matter.

George's look says it all. He takes a deep breath and then
reluctantly let's the words fall out of his mouth-

GEORGE
I want a divorce, Wanda.

Silence.

WANDA
Too bad.

Another tense beat. Wanda isn't really surprised. She's been
pushing this day down the road for years.

GEORGE
Yes, Mary. I forced Ben into paying
for the wedding. Your mother and I
are a little tight on cash right
now.

WANDA
Maybe we wouldn't be if your father
would sell that TACKY car in the
driveway.

GEORGE

That *muscle* car is a member of this family.

WANDA

No. It's not.

It all hits Mary. Shit.

MARY

Ben was getting the money from Minnie because-
(realizing)
This family is toxic.

WANDA

This family is fine. We're going to move on, piece this together and everything will be fine.

MARY

Stop, Mom.

WANDA

Stop what?

HANK

You're freaking out.

WANDA

I'm freaking out? Did I freak out when I found your father's crusty golf pants? Or when Hank was thrown out of his own house? I'm the only one holding this family together.

GEORGE

You're a monster.

WANDA

You're a dick.

A beat. And then Mary stands, marching out.

WANDA (CONT'D)

Where are you going?

Mary says nothing, she just continues out- leaving behind the rubble of a once perfect family.

EST. SUNNY ACRES NURSING HOME - ESTABLISHING

Old folks drag themselves around from tennis to bingo.

INT. SUNNY ACRES NURSING HOME - COMMON AREA - NEXT MORNING

Residents are huddled around the Risk board. Ben is playing while Minnie works on a puzzle, not too far away.

DALE

I appreciate your concern, son but for now... I'm going to need you to get the hell off my island.

Dale flicks Ben's last remaining piece off the island of Congo.

DALE (CONT'D)

Where shall I invade next?

BEN

Which side of that beach in Normandy did you say you were on?

Ben stands and moves to another table where Minnie sits.

MINNIE

He's a moron. Don't think anything of it.

BEN

Yeah. Hey, I got you something. Was gonna wait until after but... well yeah-

Ben disappears for a moment, then comes back to the table with a box. It's wrapped in a brown paper bag, but not in a cool way... like a 6-year-old did it.

BEN (CONT'D)

Not a whole lot of materials around here.

Minnie nods and opens it.

When she pulls away the tissue paper, we see that it's a pink and green silk scarf. She smiles to Ben.

Minnie reaches to the bottom and pulls out a card-

MINNIE

(reading)

Certificate of authenticity. Used by Steven Tyler, August 8th, 1975 at the Boston Garden.

BEN

This is not an admission of guilt.

Minnie's "I fucking knew it" look fades away into:

MINNIE
Where did you find this?

BEN
Put it on.

She does. Ben smiles. Minnie smiles.

BEN (CONT'D)
You look great.

Ben smiles. Minnie's fades.

MINNIE
I'm sorry about your wedding.

BEN
I know.
(a beat.)
But hey, at least you don't have to
kill yourself anymore.

Ben cleans up the wrapping paper but Minnie looks dead at him.

MINNIE
I'm still going through with it,
Ben.

BEN
What do you mean?

MINNIE
I'm still going through with the
procedure.

BEN
I thought you moved it?

MINNIE
I would've, to make the wedding...
which is no longer happening.

BEN
I wonder why that is.

MINNIE
How about you check your tone.

BEN
You're the reason the wedding isn't
happening!

MINNIE
And I'd do it all over again.

A beat.

BEN
What did you just say?

MINNIE
I said you're welcome.

BEN
You did this on purpose?

People have started to notice the commotion.

MINNIE
I did you a favor.

BEN
By tearing my life apart weeks
before my wedding?!

MINNIE
What life? You had a shit job, with
a worse relationship and a mountain
of debt. But now look where you
are. You're exactly where you
belong.

BEN
Where? In a nursing home playing
Risk?!

DALE
Getting your ass kicked in Risk!

BEN
SHUT UP, DALE.

MINNIE
You weren't ready for that life.

A beat. As it all makes sense to Ben.

BEN
You're not ready.

Minnie thinks about responding but-

BEN (CONT'D)
You just wanted to take me down a
peg on your way out.

MINNIE

Everything I do, I do for you!

BEN

You mean like killing yourself?

We sit in this tense moment. Two rocks, petrified by years of turmoil, stuck between each other... Unable to speak the truth.

BEN (CONT'D)

You don't care about me. You don't care about Mary, or the wedding, or my job. You're just an old woman who destroyed my life because you don't have one.

A beat. Minnie narrows in to make sure he hears every goddamn word of what she's about to say.

MINNIE

I didn't make you quit your job. I didn't make you lie to your fiancée and I certainly didn't make you call off the wedding. I told you to be ready to push everything aside for her and you weren't. You couldn't even push me aside.

(a beat.)

I didn't destroy your life. You did.

Ben strides to a nearby table to grab a blank pad of paper.

MINNIE (CONT'D)

You need me.

Ben scribbles something on the bottom and then slides it over.

BEN

I don't need you. I never did.

We see the pad- a blank page with his signature on the bottom. A literal death stroke.

BEN (CONT'D)

Stay out of my fucking life.

Ben marches out.

We're left with Minnie who's left looking at the signature, then up to see the door swing behind Ben.

EXT. SUNNY ACRES NURSING HOME / INT. BEN'S PRIUS

Ben gives his robe to a passing Old Timer then jumps into the Prius.

He takes a moment, knowing exactly where he needs to go before starting the car.

EXT. SUNNY ACRES NURSING HOME - DRIVEWAY

Ben speeds out the driveway before seeing an approaching WHITE MERCEDES.

As the cars pass one another we see the driver is-

BEN

Mary?

Ben slams on the brakes. Mary slams on the brakes. They both hop out of their cars. Taking a moment to look at one another.

MARY

Where are you going?

BEN

Where are you going?

MARY

I was going to collect my husband.

A beat.

MARY (CONT'D)

I was losing you, Ben. Every day I lost a little bit of you. Until you were gone. And I was alone.

(a beat.)

But I didn't realize that, for a long time you've been alone. I should have been in it with you and I'm sorry.

BEN

I'm sorry too. For- yeah, you know.

They walk towards each other and embrace.

BEN (CONT'D)

And I promise to never, ever lie to you again. I love you, Mary.

MARY

I love you.

They kiss.

BEN

And I want to marry you.

MARY

I want to marry you.

BEN

On Thursday. Just like we wanted.

MARY

Ben, we don't have a caterer. We don't have a florist. And we don't have money to pay them.

BEN

Did we tell people to cancel their flights yet?

MARY

(realizing)

And we have 85 people on their way expecting a wedding.

BEN

Then we'll make it work. We have a venue, right?

MARY

Yeah...

Ben shrugs. Mary holds for a beat and then smiles. He matches it and we see them truly communicating for the first time. They kiss and-

We're swept away in a quick montage, cutting between Ben and Minnie's new/old life:

INT. SUNNY ACRES NURSING HOME - MINNIE'S ROOM - DAY

Minnie takes a picture off the wall of a YOUNG BEN and Francis, packing it into a box with a POTTED PLANT--

Minnie spots a phone.

INT. SEASON'S BLOOM FLOWER SHOP - DAY

Ben and Mary admire a small flower arrangement. Ben pulls out his cell- no missed calls. No messages.

MARY (O.S.)
What do you think?

Ben shakes it off, returning to flower shopping.

BEN
How much are they?

FLORIST
We could pull this together for you
for--- 800?

Ben and Mary share a look.

MARY
We could sell the couch?

Ben laughs. As does Mary. Ben turns to the Florist.

BEN
We'll need them by Thursday.

The florist nods, scurrying off. Ben gives an upper-lip smile. Mary takes note.

EXT. SUNNY ACRES NURSING HOME - QUAD

Minnie sits alone at the same picnic table from earlier, admiring the flower bed.

She looks over to see a COUPLE visiting another RESIDENT to show off their newborn baby. It's a sweet moment, but Minnie looks away.

INT. DIANE'S CATERING - TASTING KITCHEN

Ben and Mary try various soups in a tasting kitchen. Mary sips one then hands it over to Ben who smiles.

BEN
The TV?

INT. SUNNY ACRES NURSING HOME - COMMON AREA

Minnie looks at her sad excuse for a meal. Stiff meatloaf and watery mashed potatoes. She pushes them away, then stands to leave the room.

INT. BEN AND MARY'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Mary writes out place cards for each guest while Ben reads names from a list - As they write out a place card, he crosses off a name.

BEN

Harry and Jenny Keller.

Mary scripts it out on a card then-

MARY

Ok, next?

Ben looks down to the guest list to see- "Minnie Becker."

Ben hovers over the name. Mary looks on... because she likely put her name on the list.

MARY (CONT'D)

You could at least call her.

BEN

You don't get it.

MARY

I don't get parental figures treating you like shit?

Ben almost chuckles.

BEN

She tore my entire life apart then tried to tell me she did it for my own good.

A beat.

MARY

Did she?

BEN

I don't need someone telling me what I need. I need you. And I have you. And I'm going to marry you tomorrow. I've made peace with everything else.

Ben crosses her name off the list and then stands where we see that the walls are devoid of whatever artwork or decor they previously had. The sofas are gone. The coffee tables are gone. Everything is gone.

Mary stands too.

MARY

And everything you haven't, we've already sold.

They laugh and then hug, arched over the hand-written place cards.

INT. SUNNY ACRES NURSING HOME - MINNIE'S ROOM

Minnie puts the final touches on her letter to feed into Ben's signature. She admires the letter for a moment, before signing her name right next to his.

Minnie flicks off the lights to her boxed up, packed away room, walking out with the pink and blue scarf coiffed around her neck.

EXT. CROSSROAD VINEYARD - DAY OF THE WEDDING

We're brought back to regular speed the black classic 1968 Ford Mustang pulls up the dirt driveway past signs that read "Ceremony of Mr. and Mrs. Ben Becker."

Amy opens the door as we see it's carrying:

George (smiling) and Wanda (her normal pissed).

AMY

Hello, Beckers.

They step out.

GEORGE

Amy do you know if Brandt has arrived yet?

WANDA

Your mister is not coming to this ceremony.

GEORGE

I have a plus one.

WANDA

I'm your plus one.

GEORGE

Sign the papers I'll tell him not
to come.

Wanda disgruntled, looks over to see an ICE SCULPTURE.

WANDA

Who is Lauren?!

The ice sculpture reads "HAPPY BRITHDAY, LAUREN."

AMY

Oh we got a great deal on that...
because of the typo.

Wanda emotionally vomits then marches off. Amy follows.

George hands his keys over to the VALET who just witnessed
the whole thing.

George hands the Valet his keys.

GEORGE

I see one scratch on this car and I
will mount you to the hood of it.
Comprende?

Valet nods. George looks through his pockets for-

GEORGE (CONT'D)

Little tight on cash at the moment
but I'll tell ya what. You take
good care of this car, I'll slip
you a cupcake from the buffet.

George walks off leaving a disappointed Valet.

INT. CROSSROADS VINEYARD - VINEYARD OVERLOOK

Guests take their seats in the white fold out chairs. The
dirt aisle is dusted with scant rose petals leading to the
makeshift altar which could easily be confused with a wood
shipping slat. Because it is a wood shipping slat.

It's a pretty decent effort...all things considered.

Atop the altar Ben stands with Hank (with the twins strapped
on), Alyssa (also wearing a tux) and-

Father Johnson, Bible in hand.

HANK

I thought you banished us to hell
or something?

FATHER JOHNSON

I'm here as a favor to your mother.

BEN

We really appreciate it, Father.

ALYSSA

Hey, where's your grandmomma?

A beat.

BEN

She's not coming.

FATHER JOHNSON

Thank the heavens.

Ben shakes it off... clearly not a joke he's ok with yet.

Amy cues a MAN sitting off to the side, who hits play on an iPhone.

Music hums through a few bluetooth speakers, cuing our semi-confused guests to stand. But we hold on Ben... who is caught somewhere else completely.

We hold on him a beat as-

Wanda enters through the doors, inching her way up the aisle. You can practically see her smile falling apart at the seams.

Then the music shifts, and from the shining, heavenly doorway, appears: Mary.

And holy bejesus she looks amazing.

She makes her way up the aisle and they can barely take their eyes off one another.

Ben and Mary stand opposite on the aisle. Exactly where they always wanted to be.

BEN

You look beautiful.

MARY

You too.

They smile. But for Ben... something still just isn't right.

FATHER JOHNSON
Please be seated.

The guests do as they're told.

George is joined by Brandt who has just arrived. Wanda spots it, rolling her eyes and setting her jaw.

FATHER JOHNSON (CONT'D)
We are gathered here today to celebrate love. Love- as it is found not only between Ben and Mary. But love that is exemplified by the presence of their friends and family here today.

Ben furrows his brow. He looks to the crowd- we know exactly what he's looking for... but she's not there.

MARY
Ben.

Ben looks back. There's something wrong. Of course...

Mary knows. She rubs his hand.

WANDA
Could you continue this after the ceremony??

BEN
(holding up a finger)
Can we just-

FJ stops. Everyone freezes. Shock. Ben looks to Mary.

BEN (CONT'D)
You're the most important thing to me, Mary. And I choose you every day for the rest of my life. But right now-

MARY
I know.

A smile.

And one from Ben. Before he steps off the altar to exchanged vows and hushed conversation.

WANDA
Where the hell are you going?

BEN
I'm going to get Minnie.

WANDA
Like hell you are! She made her choice. And you've made yours. And you cannot just leave her up there-

MARY
I'm going with you.

Mary steps down. More commotion.

WANDA
Mary.

MARY
(off Ben's look)
I'm choosing you too.

Wanda looks around, feeling the eyeballs narrowing in on her like a pack of pretentious pearl-donned wolves. She lowers her voice.

WANDA
Both of you get back on that altar.

Wanda grabs Mary's arm.

MARY
No.

WANDA
Mary, get the FUCK BACK ON THAT ALTAR BEFORE YOU FLUSH YOUR LIFE DOWN THE DRAIN!

Jaws. On. Floors. Mary rips her arm away and almost laughs. Realizing this has nothing to do with her.

GEORGE
See what I'm dealing with?

WANDA
You shut your fucking mouth, George!

Mary takes a moment to register her shock and disgust.

MARY
You wanna know why we're going?
(off her silence.)
Because everything she did, was for him.

Mary marches off, grabbing Ben by the hand as they hurry out.

BEN (O.S.)
We'll be right back!

But we're left on Wanda. As she looks around to see:

Guests looking at her shamefully. George canoodling with Brandt. Hank, the single father, comforting his twins. And it all comes crashing down on her.

Father Johnson looks at Wanda with sheer disappointment. He steps down from the altar, closes his Bible and exits.

We pull away to see Wanda- atop the altar. Alone. Surrounded by the remnants of her perfect life.

EXT. CROSSROAD VINEYARD - VALET STAND

Ben and Mary rush frantically from the vineyard house.

BEN
Did you drive here?

MARY
I ubered.

BEN
Shhhhit me too.

They spot the Valet.

BEN (CONT'D)
We need a car.

VALET
Ticket stub?

BEN
We don't have one. We're the bride and groom we'll be right back if you'll just-

VALET
I can't just give you a car.

BEN
Dude. Please just help m-

MARY
Do we look like people you want to fuck with right now?
(MORE)

MARY (CONT'D)

I'm in a wedding gown outside of a wedding in the middle of August. So I'm going to stick out my hand and if there aren't keys in it in 10 seconds I'm going to rip your fucking head off. ONE-TWO-

Clink.

Mary relaxes. Ben looks shocked.

MARY (CONT'D)

Problem?

BEN

Nope.

Mary clicks the keys and -- blip blip-

The Mustang's lights fire up. It's parked right up front looking beautiful, muscular and now...unlocked.

BEN (CONT'D)

Party.

WE CUT BACK AND FORTH:

EXT. CROSSROAD VINEYARD - DRIVEWAY

Ben and Mary speed out the dirt driveway in the Mustang.

ANGLE ON: the Valet.

VALET

Fuck this job.

Valet unbuttons his vest and follows the Mustang out the driveway.

EXT. DOCTOR BLACK MEDICAL OFFICES - PARKING LOT

Minnie's yellow cab arrives out front of the office from earlier.

She steps out, taking a final glimpses around, before walking to the lifeless building.

INT. MUSTANG - SPEEDING - SAME TIME

Ben and Mary fly down the highway.

MARY

What if we don't make it?

BEN

We will. We have to. She tore my whole life apart just to teach me a lesson... and I just spat in her face.

MARY

We're going to make it, Ben.

They lock eyes. Mary smiles. Ben smiles. Mary checks her phone.

MARY (CONT'D)

Exit 85.

Ben kicks it into another gear as they go OFF ROAD to pass a couple trucks, barely swerving back onto the highway to dodge a sign reading:

"Welcome to Washington, D.C."

INT. DOCTOR BLACK MEDICAL OFFICES - WAITING ROOM

Minnie sits quietly in the beige waiting room, looking around to see all the other somber OLD FACES, weathered by their years of misfortune. She shares a look with an OLDER MAN. Then a nod.

A NURSE appears from an open door-

NURSE

Minnie Becker?

Minnie pops back into her body, then stands up to follow the nurse.

INT. MUSTANG - SPEEDING - SAME TIME

They fly by an exit sign reading "EXIT 85"

BEN (V.O.)

SHIT!

The Mustang screeches to a halt ON THE HIGHWAY then flies into reverse before course correcting to make the exit.

INT. DOCTOR BLACK MEDICAL OFFICES - EXAM ROOM

Minnie is seated on the same exam bed as Doctor Black wheels up from out of frame. He gives a bittersweet smile.

DOCTOR BLACK
Hey where's that grandson of yours today?

MINNIE
Getting married.

Doctor Black nods then places a calm hand on her arm before picking up his needle.

DOCTOR BLACK
You can relax.

She tries to. But as we look deep into her eyes we wonder if she really knows what she's doing.

EXT. DOCTOR BLACK MEDICAL OFFICES - SAME TIME

Ben and Mary screech up front. He slams the car in park and they rush out of the Mustang- Ben being careful to lend a hand to Mary as they disappear into the building.

INT. DOCTOR BLACK MEDICAL OFFICES - EXAM ROOM - SAME TIME

Black places the needle into the IV receptor.

Minnie closes her eyes and-

BEN (O.S.)
Stop!!

ON BEN:

As he and Mary burst through the door!

Doctor Black turns to reveal the PATIENT...is not Minnie.

DOCTOR BLACK
Oh hey fella!

BEN
Where is she?

DOCTOR BLACK
Who?

Off the Patient's blank face, Ben takes a deep breath. Shaking his head, refusing to believe what he knows to be true.

She's gone.

MARY

Ben. I'm- I'm sorry.

DOCTOR BLACK

Oh wait I remember you. It's um-

MINNIE (O.S.)

Ben?

Ben turns to see- Minnie. Holy shit. She's standing there in the door. Ben is shocked... but smiles.

BEN

Are you-? Why are you over-?

MINNIE

I just needed a moment.

(to Black)

I'm ready now, Doctor.

Minnie strides back in.

BEN

Wait a second!

She does. A few patients pop their heads over the divider from the waiting room to listen. Ben catches his breath.

BEN (CONT'D)

I just left my wedding to be here. And I have something to say to you. At least. I think I do. I know I do but- I don't know exactly how to say it. I wasn't really prepared for this.

MINNIE

(rolling up a sleeve)

Why don't you come back in 10 minutes.

BEN

My entire life I've hated you. I hated you when you took me in. I hated you from the moment I met you. Which I don't even remember- but I know I hated you.

MINNIE

Yes you've made that clear.

BEN

And then you showed up and you ripped my whole life apart. And I hated you even more. And then you told me about your last marriage... and how much you missed your husband...and how you waited 10 years to see me and-

Minnie is damn well listening now. As are some of the onlooking patients, who are likely in the same boat. All ready to leave relatives and loved ones behind.

BEN (CONT'D)

It all hit me. As I was standing on the altar, with the woman I loved, and all I could think about was what a huge mistake I made. Not in who I was marrying. But in who we were sharing it with. Because I realized that- all I wanted to tel you is-

Minnie and Ben narrow in on one another.

BEN (CONT'D)

how thankful I am to have you. And how how lucky I feel to have been raised, and destroyed by you in the same lifetime.

A bittersweet chuckle.

BEN (CONT'D)

But above all that I want to tell you, how much I'll miss you... if you go through with this.

A beat.

MINNIE

But you said it yourself...You don't need me.

Ben musters the words when-

MARY

We're your family.

We angle on Mary- standing right there in her wedding gown, on her wedding day-

MARY (CONT'D)

And you don't just let family go. I
need my family. I need you.

Mary grips Ben's hand. They smile at one another.

BEN

We both do.

Exchanged looks of sweetness amongst the patients.

BEN (CONT'D)

And I-
(a beat.)
I love you.

A tear rolls down Minnie's face. But she wipes it away, and
shakes her head-

MINNIE

I just- I don't think-

Ben rushes over to her, snuffing out her rebuttal in embrace.
Minnie hesitates for a moment, and then-

Her bag hits the floor. And her arms wrap around him too.

They hold each other. For the first time in a long time...
possibly ever.

MINNIE (CONT'D)

I love you too.

They release. Minnie looks to Mary.

Minnie hugs Mary. Wedding dress and all.

Minnie, Ben and Mary walk out, together.

The patients in the waiting room each share a look. Before
one-by-one they each file out. Doctor Black watches them go-

The patient in the chair rips the IV out of her arm, then
stands and follows suit.

Doctor Black...smiles as we.

CUT TO BLACK

But, Over credits, we find ourselves...

EXT. CROSSROADS VINEYARD - OVERLOOK / RECEPTION

The chairs have been spread out across the dirt around fold out tables with white table cloths. In the background a BAND sets up atop a stage by the dance floor.

We settle in with Wanda, George, Brandt, Hank and the twins all seated at one table. Wanda isn't hungry.

BRANDT

Good to see you, Wanda.

Wanda looks to him... ready to destroy.

WANDA

Ever had a 9iron shoved up your ass, Brandt?

BRANDT

...yes.

Wanda juts her jaw... and then laughs. The rest of the family slowly joins in.

ANGLE ON:

Mary and Ben are doing the obligatory wedding rounds, saying hello to guests when Minnie sidles up next to them.

BEN

Having fun?

MINNIE

Could be worse.

Minnie smiles then pulls out an envelope from her purse, handing it over to Mary.

MINNIE (CONT'D)

I got you a little wedding gift. I didn't have much time so-

MARY

You really didn't have to-
(opening it)
Oh my God.

Mary has flipped the envelope open to reveal:

A check for \$560,000 - made out to Ben and Mary Becker.

BEN

Wait. Were you just gonna not give this to me?

MINNIE

Is that what you're focused on?

BEN

Where did this come from?

MINNIE

From the life insurance policy on your grandfather. I think he'd want you to have it.

BEN

He was like 90 when he died. Who would authorize such a large policy for such an old guy?

MINNIE

Some company with a talking umbrella.

They share a smile, then we hear the strumming of a guitar. *The opening of which is more distinct than any riff in the history of mankind...* Ben and Mareh share a look.

MARY

Did we hire a band?

MINNIE

Well that's part 2 of my gift.

They turn to the stage to see *motherfucking Aerosmith*.

STEVEN TYLER

*Every time, I look in the mirror/
All these lines in my face gettin'
clearer.. Etc.*

MINNIE

I was married to the guitarist.

JOE PERRY looks over to Minnie and smiles.

BEN

Joe, from Boston was *Joe-fucking-Perry?*

Ben and Mary head to the dance floor. Minnie watches them and smiles. Then we hear a voice.

LEON (O.S.)

Thanks for the last minute invite.

Minnie turns to Leon. He smiles. She smiles. We smiles.