

You Again

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FADE IN:

INT. VIDEO BOOTH - TIME CAPSULE FOOTAGE (2001)

MARNI OLSEN (16) sits in a dark VIDEO BOOTH against a black backdrop. She has frizzy hair, shiny braces and thick, Coke bottle glasses. Someday she'll be attractive, but for now she is the definition of awkward.

She speaks to an UNSEEN INTERVIEWER. A TIME STAMP at the bottom of the frame reads, "**RIDGEFIELD HIGH SCHOOL - VIDEO TIME CAPSULE - 4/27/2001.**"

16 YEAR-OLD MARNI
My name? Right. It's, um, Marni Olsen.
I'm a junior at Ridgefield High. Hi.

She WAVES. Then, to the Interviewer:

16 YEAR-OLD MARNI (CONT'D)
So, this is going to be buried for
like, fifty years, right? And you just
want me to tell you what life is like
for high school students in 2001?
(then)
Life is hard.

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY (FLASHBACK)

CLOSE ON Marni, stiff as a board. She appears to "surf" atop a crowded hallway. Students stare as she floats by.

16 YEAR-OLD MARNI (V.O.)
You ever have one of those days when
you feel cursed? Like nothing is going
your way? That's what high school has
been like for me.

WIDEN TO REVEAL she's being carried by a group of attractive BITCHY GIRLS. Obviously the popular crowd.

16 YEAR-OLD MARNI (V.O) (CONT'D)
Every day.

INT. CAFETERIA - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Marni walks through the cafeteria carrying her lunch tray. She passes the "A" TABLE, staring with envy.

16 YEAR-OLD MARNI (V.O.)
I come from a small town. And in a
school as small as mine there's always
one person who stands out from the
rest. One person so famous they out-
shine all others.

Marni locks eyes with a BITCHY GIRL, who gives her an EVIL LOOK, making it clear she's in the wrong section. Marni is terrified, but somehow can't look away and...

...WHAM! She plows right into a CUTE FOOTBALL JOCK! Food everywhere. Students LAUGH and POINT. Marni is horrified.

16 YEAR-OLD MARNI (V.O.) (CONT'D)
In my class, I was that person.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL QUAD - DAY (FLASHBACK)

DANCE TEAM TRYOUTS. Marni and the Bitchy Girls strut their stuff, hoping to get tapped for the squad. All the girls dance in perfect sync, except Marni. She's awful.

16 YEAR-OLD MARNI (V.O.)
I read somewhere that who you are in high school determines who you'll be for the rest of your life.

Marni, distracted by the same CUTE FOOTBALL JOCK, makes a wrong turn and CRASHES into the GIRL NEXT TO HER. WHAP! She takes a HIGH KICK in the face.

16 YEAR-OLD MARNI (V.O.) (CONT'D)
I seriously hope that's not the case.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Marni walks down the hall. She catches her REFLECTION on the glass of a TROPHY CASE. She now has a BLACK EYE.

16 YEAR-OLD MARNI (V.O.)
Because the thought of this stretching out over my entire life really scares me.

(then)
At first I thought it was genetic...

We notice a BANNER inside the trophy case reads, "RIDGEFIELD ROYALTY." We PAN ACROSS A PHOTO GALLERY of PAST HOMECOMING QUEENS, until we stop on a PHOTO of a beautiful, 18-YEAR-OLD GIRL in a tiara. This is TEEN GAIL, Marni's mom 30 years ago. She is flanked by her homecoming court.

16 YEAR-OLD MARNI (V.O.) (CONT'D)
But just look at my Mom...

INT. KITCHEN - DAY (1986)

GAIL, now a MOM, dressed in a TROOP LEADER UNIFORM, multi-tasks with a phone under her chin, a BABY in her arms, and dinner on the stove. KIDS and DOGS run wildly through the scene, but Gail doesn't flinch. This is one stay-at-home mom who has it all under control.

16 YEAR-OLD MARNI (V.O.)
There's nothing she can't do. When I grow up, I want to be just like her.

BACK TO MARNI IN THE HIGH SCHOOL HALLWAY (FLASHBACK)

Marni continues down the hall, past another TROPHY CASE, this one devoted to ATHLETIC GREATNESS.

16 YEAR-OLD MARNI (V.O.)
And my brother Wade is, like, amazing.

INSIDE THE CASE: We ZOOM IN on a picture of a VARSITY FOOTBALL PLAYER (WADE, 18) catching a pass mid-air. HOLD ON THE IMAGE OF WADE as it COMES TO LIFE and we are...

EXT. FOOTBALL STADIUM - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

...right in the middle of the STATE CHAMPIONSHIP GAME! Wade effortlessly CATCHES the ball and tucks it under his arm, heading down the sideline for the END ZONE.

16 YEAR-OLD MARNI (V.O.)
He's the greatest. At everything.

The crowd GOES WILD! CHEERLEADERS CHEER! The school MASCOT, wearing a giant GATOR SUIT jumps up and down so wildly that it accidentally bumps into the Cheerleaders.

BITCHY GIRL
Outta my way!

The Cheerleader SHOVES the Mascot, who stumbles onto the field, and into the path of an oncoming DEFENDER. BAM!! The GATOR HEAD flies into the air revealing MARNI inside the costume.

Flat on her back, she can barely see Wade running the ball in for the winning TOUCHDOWN. The crowd CHEERS! Marni stares up from the ground and notices her image displayed on the JUMBOTRON. She wants to die. Her attention is turned to the Bitchy Girls, who sing Queen's "*We Are The Champions*" as they walk off the field.

BITCHY GIRLS
"We are the champions, my friend. And we'll keep on fighting, 'till the end...."

Marni locks eyes with one of the Bitchy Girls, whose eyes NARROW. It's clear they are singing this song to Marni.

BITCHY GIRLS (CONT'D)
"No time for losers, 'cause we are the champions. Of the world."

Suddenly, a hand reaches into frame to help a teary-eyed Marni up. It's Wade.

16 YEAR-OLD MARNI (V.O.)
Wade always picks me up when I get down. He was the one who told me...

INT. TREEHOUSE - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

Wade and Marni sit in an old-fashioned TREEHOUSE.

WADE

Someday you'll put all this behind you
and you'll start to see all the great
things about yourself that I see.

Marni considers...

16 YEAR-OLD MARNI (V.O.)

I hope Wade's right. But if I'm gonna
see anything great about myself, I'm
gonna have to look at myself through
new eyes...

INT. EYE DOCTOR'S OFFICE - DAY (FLASH-FORWARD)

We find Marni being fitted for CONTACT LENSES. Bye bye
Coke bottle glasses.

16 YEAR-OLD MARNI (V.O.)

And once I've changed the way I see
myself...

INT. HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM - DAY (FLASH-FORWARD)

Marni, in her GRADUATION CAP AND GOWN, collects her
DIPLOMA. Her family CLAPS furiously in the audience.

16 YEAR-OLD MARNI (V.O.)

I think this small town girl will be
ready for a change of scenery.

Instead of returning to her seat, she walks up the aisle
towards the EXIT. Gail and the rest of Marni's family
exchange confused looks. Wade, on the aisle, WINKS at
Marni and hands her an ENVELOPE. Inside is A PLANE TICKET
TO NYC. Marni BEAMS.

CUT TO:

PRESENT DAY MARNI

Staring right at us. Only this Marni (now 24) is more
confident, more poised. Braces and frizzy hair long gone.
She holds up a picture of her 16 year-old self, in all
her frizzy-haired, brace-faced and bad-skinned glory.

MARNI

I've kept this picture to remind
myself of how far I've come since
those horrible days. Because if it
weren't for the determination of the
girl in this photo...

(holding out photo)

...the woman in front of you would not
be standing here today...

WIDEN TO REVEAL she speaks to a group of NEW RECRUITS.

MARNI (CONT'D)

Working for one of the top PR Firms in New York. Telling a group of aspiring publicists about the days when I was the poster child for the geek squad.

Everyone LAUGHS.

MARNI (CONT'D)

My Mom always taught me that everyone deserves a second chance. And I'm living proof that she was right. I think that's why I got into PR in the first place, because second chances are what we give our clients every day. So if you guys take one thing from my experiences, it's that the negative situations we encounter are only temporary. We can't control the things that happen to us, but we can control the way we react to them. And that is what Public Relations is all about.

The room fills with applause as Marni smiles.

INT. AIRPLANE - DAY

Marni sits in her seat, talking on her cell phone as passengers settle in around her.

MARNI

...just leave those contracts on my desk. I'll sign them Monday. And remember, no calls. For the next four days I am on vacation. My brother is getting married and I don't want any drama this weekend.

Marni's PHONE BEEPS. She looks at the CALLER ID: "MOM"

MARNI (CONT'D)

I've gotta jump. I'll see you Monday.
(clicking over)
Hi Mom! I'm on the plane! This is so exciting. Is Wade freaking out?

GAIL (O.S.)

Are you kidding? He's happier than ever. Leave it to your brother to pull off a whirlwind romance.

MARNI

I still can't believe I haven't met Joanna yet. Wade said she was in the class above me, but I don't remember a Joanna Goldman. And it wasn't like it was a huge school or anything.

GAIL (O.S.)
 Oh, that's probably because in high school she didn't go by Joanna. She went by JJ.

JJ? This gets Marni's attention.

MARNI
 JJ?

A Flight Attendant taps Marni on the shoulder and gestures for her to TURN OFF her phone.

GAIL (O.S.)
 It's a nickname. But she doesn't use it much anymore.

FLIGHT ATTENDANT
 Ma'am. Please. The phone.

Marni gives her the "just a minute" finger.

MARNI
 Well, I didn't know a JJ Goldman either, so...

GAIL (O.S.)
 Actually, Goldman was her mother's maiden name. She took it after her Mom died. At Ridgefield she went by a different name... Let me think....

Uh-oh. Marni sinks into her seat.

GAIL (O.S.)(CONT'D)
 Oh, what was it...

Marni begins to sweat. Then offers, weakly...

MARNI
Freeman?

GAIL (O.S.)
 Yes! That's it.

Marni dies a little. The blood drains from her face.

SMASH CUT TO:

A RAPID-FIRE MONTAGE

As familiar painful IMAGES flash through Marni's brain...

(1) SCHOOL HALLWAY: Marni is carried above the heads of the Bitchy Girls. We ZOOM in on the girl at the front, obviously the ring leader. It's JJ FREEMAN.

(2) CAFETERIA: Marni with her lunch tray. She locks eyes with a Bitchy Girl. Yep, JJ FREEMAN. She crashes into the cute football jock. Food everywhere.

(3) STATE CHAMPIONSHIP GAME: Marni CHEERS in her GATOR suit. She crashes into... JJ FREEMAN. JJ shoves her onto the field, where she gets nailed by the DEFENDER.

BACK TO PRESENT

Marni LOSES IT.

MARNI

Noooooooooooooooooooooooooo!!!!!!!!!!

Everyone in the cabin turns to look at her. Marni gets up and pushes by the Flight Attendant.

FLIGHT ATTENDANT

Ma'am! Please return to your seat.
We're about to take off.

MARNI

Not with me you're not...

Marni accosts the PASSENGER in the EMERGENCY AISLE.

MARNI (CONT'D)

(re: emergency door)
Hi. Could you open that door for me?
Give it a crank.

PASSENGER

I can't do that.

MARNI

Then you shouldn't be sitting there!
It's like the first thing they ask!

The Flight Attendant pulls Marni aside.

FLIGHT ATTENDANT

Miss, these doors are to be used for
emergencies only.

MARNI

I'm sorry, did you miss the scream?
This is an emergency. My brother is
marrying JJ Freeman. The girl who
single-handedly ruined my young adult
life. So if you don't mind, back off!

As Marni pushes past the Flight Attendant, she is stopped by a BURLY SKY MARSHAL.

SKY MARSHAL

Do we have a problem here?

INT. AIRPLANE GALLEY - LATER

Marni sits in the JUMP SEAT next to the SKY MARSHAL. Her hands are bound by ZIP-TIE HANDCUFFS. She struggles to sip from a JUICE BOX.

MARNI

So, years later, that video of the Ridgefield Mascot getting plowed is still in the YouTube top 100. I stopped counting after a million hits.

Marni sucks down her juice box. The now-consoling Sky Marshal hands her another, puts the straw in for her.

SKY MARSHAL

Nobody told you he was marrying the same girl?

MARNI

Wade was a senior when I was a freshman. He probably didn't know who JJ was. I can't blame him for not keeping track of his little sister's high school soap opera.

SKY MARSHAL

What about your parents?

MARNI

They know I had a hard time, but they have no idea what I actually went through.

(then)

I can't believe this is happening! I mean, she's the reason I left Ridgefield in the first place!

She nervously bites her nails.

SKY MARSHAL

Marni, a bully is like a terrorist. An *emotional* terrorist. You can't let them get the upper hand. The most important thing you can do in this situation is to stay calm and show JJ that you are in control now.

MARNI

(processing)

Right. I'm in control...

SKY MARSHAL

But I don't know what you're so worried about. High school was a long time ago. This could all turn out to be nothing.

A beat. Marni considers: *It was a long time ago.*

MARNI

Maybe you're right. Maybe I am overreacting. Things have changed since high school. I've changed. And, I mean, JJ's gotta feel bad about the way she treated me, right?

The Sky Marshal nods confidently.

MARNI (CONT'D)
 Maybe it's time I closed the door on
 high school once and for all.

SMASH CUT TO:

A CAR TRUNK SLAMMING SHUT

WIDEN TO REVEAL Marni and her mom, GAIL, in the AIRPORT PARKING LOT, loading Marni's BAGS into a hybrid SUV. GAIL is 50 and fine with it. A beauty in the most natural way, she celebrates her laugh lines and the memories that created them. Marni's brother BEN (11) sits in the back seat, drinking a COKE. Marni notices Gail's JEANS.

MARNI
 Are those AG jeans? Mom, when did you
 become so *hip*?

Gail self-consciously pulls up the waistband of her new low-rise jeans. They get into the car.

INT. CAR - CONTINUOUS

GAIL
 Do they look ridiculous? They're too
 low, right?

MARNI
 They're not too low. They look great.

BEN
 I saw your butt crack when you sat
 down.

GAIL
 That's it. I'm taking them back. I
 told Joanna, I'm 50 years old, I have
 no business wearing low-cut jeans
 anymore, but she made me buy them.

MARNI
 You went shopping with Joanna?

BEN
 (rolling his eyes)
 We do everything with Joanna.

Marni ponders this, not sure how she feels.

GAIL
 Honey, is everything okay?

MARNI
 Yeah, why?

GAIL

Well, when we were on the phone earlier, you seemed a little upset when we started talking about Joanna.

MARNI

(laughs it off)

Me? Upset? Don't be ridiculous.

GAIL

Marni, the way you screamed, I thought your plane had been hijacked.

(then)

I promise, once you get to know her, you're going to love Joanna.

MARNI

Well Mom, that's the thing. Joanna and I did know each other in high school. And the truth is, it wasn't pretty.

Gail's face falls, pondering the implications of this.

MARNI (CONT'D)

Don't freak out. I wasn't even going to bring it up. But I did a lot of thinking on the plane and I'm not the same girl I was back at Ridgefield and I can't imagine Joanna is, either. So as far as I am concerned, this weekend is about Wade and Joanna's future, not my past.

Marni smiles confidently.

GAIL

I am so glad to hear you say that, because with everything we have to deal with in the next 72 hours, we really don't have time for any drama.

(to Ben)

That means you too, Mister. I want you on your best behavior, starting tonight. Joanna's aunt is coming for dinner and we only get one chance to make a good impression. You get me?

Ben finishes his Coke and replies in a deep BURP voice.

BEN

YES.

Marni can't help but laugh. Gail frowns and gives Marni a "don't encourage him" look. The car phone RINGS. Gail answers. It's Gail's husband, STAN. He sounds panicked.

STAN (O.S.)

Gail, we have a problem.

GAIL

Stan, maybe you'd like to say hello to your daughter?

STAN

Hi honey!

(back to business)

Gail, the wedding planner called. That tropical storm in the gulf grounded all the flights. The lobsters we ordered for the rehearsal dinner aren't coming. What do we do?!

Gail doesn't flinch. In a calm, soothing tone...

GAIL

Stan, this is not a problem. Global warming? Poverty? Those are problems. Tell Monique not to panic. I'll call her later. We'll deal with it.

They AD-LIB good-byes. Stan hangs up.

GAIL (CONT'D)

Who needs lobster? I have all my kids home and we're having a wedding. Nothing is going to ruin this weekend.

Gail smiles at Marni. They are both optimistic.

INT. MARNI'S BEDROOM - DAY

Marni lugs her suitcase into her bedroom, which features lots of pink and TWIN BEDS. She's confused to find FOUR HUGE SUITCASES piled onto one of the beds. Gail ENTERS.

GAIL

Sorry, honey. Full house this weekend. You and Joanna are sharing a room.

Marni puts her game face on.

MARNI

Fun. It'll be like the slumber party we never had.

Gail EXITS. Marni surveys her old room. She pulls a YEARBOOK from a shelf. We see pictures of JJ Freeman and her numerous accomplishments: Homecoming Queen, Prom Queen, etc.

WADE (O.S.)

Look who finally made it!

Marni turns to find WADE (28), standing right behind her.

MARNI

Wade!

They embrace, then transition into an elaborate HANDSHAKE that has obviously been mastered over many years.

MARNI (CONT'D)

It's so good to see you.

WADE

Tell me about it. You believe I'm doing this? I didn't think I'd ever get married. I guess people can change, huh?

MARNI

I'm counting on it.

WADE

You're going to love Joanna, Marni. She's been so anxious to see you. C'mon, she's in the kitchen...

He grabs her, pulls her towards the door. She pulls away.

MARNI

Give me two seconds?

INT. BATHROOM - A MINUTE LATER

Marni stands in front of the mirror, staring intently.

MARNI

High school was a long time ago. You've got nothing to be afraid of.

SMASH CUT TO:

A RAZOR-SHARP KITCHEN KNIFE

As it comes down onto a CUTTING BOARD hard and fast. WHACK! It cleaves an unsuspecting tomato in half with one stroke. WIDEN TO REVEAL that we are...

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Gail stands at the kitchen island watching JOANNA GOLDMAN (25), aka JJ Freeman, dicing a tomato with the knife. She's a vision of perfection. A refined woman oozing with self confidence.

JOANNA

Then you simply finish it like this.

She's carved the tomato into a DECORATIVE FLOWER DESIGN.

GAIL

How beautiful, Joanna.

JOANNA

It's nothing compared to this beautiful spread. I can't believe you made all this food. You're amazing.

REVEAL ten impressive platters of food on the counter.

GAIL

Well, I didn't know what kind of food
your aunt liked, so I just made a
little of everything. It was nothing.

Just then, Wade enters with Marni in tow...

WADE

Look who I found...

Joanna and Marni make eye contact. After a long beat...

JOANNA

(emotional)

Marni.

(then)

Marni. Marni. Marni.

Are those tears in Joanna's eyes?

JOANNA (CONT'D)

Oh, Marni. I've waited so long for
this moment and *finally* it's here.

MARNI

You waited so long?

JOANNA

There's just so much to say.

MARNI

I know. Believe me, I know.

JOANNA

But first, let me say...

Could this be it? The big apology?

JOANNA (CONT'D)

...how...

Wait for it... Wait for it...

JOANNA (CONT'D)

...nice it is to finally meet you.

Marni's JAW DROPS. *Say what?*

MARNI

Excuse me?

JOANNA

Wade's told me so much about you, but
now here you are. In the flesh.

MARNI

But--

JOANNA

I can't wait to spend the next four days learning all about my new sister.

Joanna EMBRACES Marni, who is too stunned to hug back.

INT. DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Everyone files into the dining room and finds a seat at the table. Marni, who's already seated, watches Joanna like a hawk, still in disbelief. Ben moves to sit next to Wade, but...

WADE

Hey man, you mind scooting down one so Joanna can sit here?

Disappointed, Ben moves to the next seat as Joanna sits beside Wade. Gail brings out the final tray of food.

GAIL

Joanna, are you sure we shouldn't wait for your aunt?

JOANNA

Don't worry about Aunt Mona. Her plane was delayed, no telling when she'll get in. She can fend for herself.

Gail proceeds to BLINDFOLD Stan, acting as if this is a common occurrence.

MARNI

Um... what's up with the blindfold?

GAIL

Ever since Wade made your father Best Man he's been under a lot of pressure. *Self imposed pressure.*

STAN

Hey, I don't want to get up there and look fat in front of all those people. So I started this new diet. Most people don't realize when they're full, they need an empty plate to tell them. But when you wear a blindfold, you rely on your stomach. So you eat less. I've already lost eight pounds for the wedding!

BEN

(to Marni)

It's so embarrassing when we go out.

JOANNA

Well I think it's a very smart way to stay fit.

Ben cuts his eyes at Joanna: *kiss-ass.*

STAN

Who said that?

BEN

Who do you think?

The family digs into the meal. Stan stabs away at his food with a fork, missing his plate entirely. He actually spears the potato on Ben's plate. Gail steers Stan's hand back to his own plate.

MARNI

So, how'd you two meet?

JOANNA

We were at this cute little karaoke bar at the beach. Wade was on stage doing his best Captain & Tennille...

WADE

Definitely not my finest hour...

JOANNA

Yeah, it was a little embarrassing. But he was so cute I just had to save him, so I jumped on stage and we sang it together.

WADE

And she's been saving me ever since.

Joanna lets out a big "Awwwww" and they melt into a kiss. Ben ROLLS HIS EYES.

GAIL

I still can't believe that in a little town like Ridgefield, you two could grow up five minutes away from each other but not cross paths until now. Isn't life funny?

MARNI

Hilarious. Joanna, I still can't believe our paths haven't crossed until now. I mean, talk about funny.

JOANNA

(laughing)

I know, right?

The girls hold a stare just long enough to make it slightly uncomfortable. But then, cheerful as ever...

JOANNA (CONT'D)

Marni, I can't wait to hear what you've been doing the last few years.

Marni grins. Time to shine.

MARNI

Oh. Well, after I graduated from NYU, I started working at RMK, the biggest PR Firm in New York. We represent A-list celebrities, rock bands, athletes, designers, you name it.

JOANNA

Wow. I can't believe you get to interact with real celebrities. That's so exciting!

Marni couldn't feel more pleased with herself.

MARNI

Yes, well. You know how it is.

JOANNA

Well, not me. But my Aunt Mona does. She lives in New York, too. She knows tons of fancy people.

Marni's cell phone RINGS. She answers.

BEN

No fair. How come Marni gets to use her cell phone at the table?

GAIL

We do have a new rule, honey...

Marni covers the phone with her hand.

MARNI

Really? 'Cause I've got 150 lobsters sitting on the tarmac at JFK. But if you don't want 'em, I can totally hang up--

GAIL

What?! NO! Don't hang up!

As Marni finishes up her call, everyone exchanges impressed looks. Marni hangs up.

MARNI

Done. They'll be delivered to the club first thing tomorrow.

GAIL

How did you do that?!

MARNI

A client owed me. It was nothing.

JOANNA

Nothing? You're amazing!

MARNI

Enough about me. I want to hear what Joanna's been up to since graduation?

JOANNA

My life is pretty dull by comparison.

MARNI

I'm sure your life is very exciting. I want to hear all about it.

JOANNA

Okay. But I promise you it's not nearly as glamorous as yours.

(then)

After my mom died, I took a hard look at my life and what I was doing with it. I wasn't happy with my choices. So I enrolled in nursing school and focused all my energy into helping those who are less fortunate.

Marni can't believe what she's hearing.

JOANNA (CONT'D)

I realized that there was an entire world of people in need. So I started the *Ridgefield County Meals On Wheels* program right after graduation. That turned out to be such a rewarding experience, I felt I had to do more. And since I've always loved children, I came up with this idea to help cultivate the self-esteem of underprivileged kids through music education....

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. DINING ROOM - 20 MINUTES LATER

Marni, completely dumbstruck, listens to Joanna's seemingly never-ending recap of the last four years.

JOANNA

...after only three months of working as an entry-level RN, they promoted me to Head Clinical Nurse. But since my volunteer work was keeping me super busy, I had to adjust my priorities. 'Cause let's be honest, you can only run a suicide hotline for so long before it starts to take its toll.

BEN

(bored to tears)

Do you still have that number?

Marni stifles a laugh. Gail shakes her head disapprovingly at Ben.

JOANNA

Oh gosh, I've been talking about myself way too much, haven't I?

MARNI

No, no... I had no idea you were such a giver.

WADE

I'm so proud of her.

Wade leans in to KISS Joanna. Marni can't take it.

MARNI

Excuse me, I'm going to get a refill.

She exits to the kitchen.

INT. KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

Marni grabs a drink out of the fridge. She watches Joanna through the doorway laughing along with her family. Joanna's really at home here. Marni slams the fridge door... REVEALING GAIL standing right there.

MARNI

Jeez! You scared me!

GAIL

So? What do you think? Joanna's great, right?

MARNI

Yeah. Almost too good to be true.

GAIL

So, what's wrong?

MARNI

I just think it's kind of weird Joanna doesn't remember me. I mean, Ridgefield wasn't that big.

GAIL

It's not so weird. I don't remember half the people I went to school with.

MARNI

That was like a million years ago. I knew you wouldn't understand.

GAIL

First of all, it was half a million years ago, and B) What don't I understand?

MARNI

Everyone loved you, Mom. You were the Prom Queen.

(MORE)

MARNI (CONT'D)

The captain of the cheerleading squad.
You have no idea what I went through
in high school.

Gail eyes her.

GAIL

Wanna bet? Honey, trust me, no one
gets through high school unscathed.

MARNI

You never told me you had problems in
high school.

GAIL

It was a long time ago. I got over it.
What's past is past, Marni.

(then)

If things didn't end well with Joanna,
here's your chance to make it right.
Remember, everyone deserves...

MARNI

...a second chance. I know.

SFX: DING-DONG! They hear the doorbell. Gail LIGHTS UP.

GAIL

That must be Aunt Mona!

INT. FOYER - MOMENTS LATER

Marni follows Gail into the foyer, where Stan and Wade
have already answered the door to greet their guest.

Joanna stands in the doorway, wrapped in a hug with AUNT
MONA, whose BACK IS TO US. But even from this angle we
can tell she is impeccably groomed, a true Fashionista,
her accessories alone cost more than Gail's car.

AUNT MONA

Look at you! I just can't believe my
little JJ is getting married!

Joanna sees Gail and Marni approaching.

JOANNA

Aunt Mona, I want you to meet Wade's
sister, Marni...

Mona TURNS SLOWLY. We get the full picture: smooth skin,
perfect make-up. Flawless from her head to her Manolos.
Is she 30? 50? Don't bother asking. She'll never tell.

JOANNA (CONT'D)

...and his mom--

AUNT MONA

Gail?

Clearly Aunt Mona knows Gail. And as we PUSH IN CLOSE ON GAIL'S FACE, it's clear that she knows Aunt Mona, too.

GAIL
(OH. MY. GOD.)
Ramona?

JOANNA
Wait. You two know each other?

Gail's mind starts reeling as painful memories come flooding back...

FLASHBACK - PROM NIGHT (1976)

MUSIC CUE: Heart's "*Barracuda*." Teens mingle by a pool. We find TEEN GAIL (18), wearing a halter neck maxi-dress, her hair feathered with Farrah-like precision, gazing into the eyes of her HANDSOME DATE...

...suddenly, a much less attractive RAMONA (18) flies into frame. She PUSHES Gail into the DEEP END OF THE POOL! As Gail breaks the surface, we see a look of TOTAL HORROR on her face.

BACK TO PRESENT DAY

Gail steadies herself against the wall.

GAIL
I... don't believe it.

Ramona embraces Gail, AIR-KISSING each cheek.

RAMONA
How long has it been?
(playful)
Actually, don't tell or I'll kill you.

GAIL
(nervous)
Who can remember?

FLASHBACK - PROM NIGHT (1976)

We're in Gail's "CARRIE"-like memory of her teen-self in the pool, soaked to the bone, dress completely ruined. Classmates stare at their beloved Prom Queen, their JAWS DROPPED.

BACK TO PRESENT DAY

Ramona turns to Marni.

RAMONA
You must be Marni. You are definitely your mother's daughter.

Again with the AIR-KISSES.

RAMONA (CONT'D)

(turns to Ben)
And aren't you handsome? Just like
your father.

Ramona cups Ben's face in her hands. Ben squirms.

RAMONA (CONT'D)

You have a beautiful family, Gail.

Gail studies Ramona. *Is she for real?*

MARNI

How do you guys know each other?

GAIL

We went to high school together. You
look great, Ramona.

RAMONA

(keep it coming)
Oh, stop...

GAIL

(looking closer)
No, really. It's amazing. You haven't
aged one bit.

Ramona backs up, not wanting to ruin the illusion.

JOANNA

This is so incredible! It's like we're
already family!

STAN

Let's not just stand here. Come on in!

Ramona follows Stan and the kids to the dining room. Gail
stands there, frozen. She puts on her best game face.

GAIL

(to herself)
Everyone deserves a second chance. You
can do this.

INT. DINING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Ramona has joined the family at the dinner table.

RAMONA

I'm so sorry I'm late, I had to close
up the house and then there was
traffic all the way to Geneva and...

WADE

You have a house in Switzerland?
Joanna never told me that.

RAMONA

It's nothing. Just eight bedrooms. But you are all welcome to use it anytime. Maybe Christmas? We can take the jet!

BEN

You have your own plane?

She winks at Ben.

RAMONA

It'll be *my own* as soon as the divorce settles.

(to the adults)

We're in our 14th month of litigation. Twice as long as we were married.

GAIL

I'm sorry. That must be so hard.

RAMONA

Oh, no. It'll be worth every penny.

Not exactly what Gail meant. Ramona's phone RINGS.

RAMONA (CONT'D)

Excuse me. This is the wedding coordinator.

Ramona answers her phone.

RAMONA (CONT'D)

Hi Monique. No, I don't see why you couldn't land a helicopter on the beach. I agree, it's a great get-away vehicle. But I don't think we should tie cans to it. See you tomorrow.

Ramona hangs up the phone.

GAIL

A helicopter?

RAMONA

She wanted a hot air balloon, but we couldn't get the permits in time. We were so lucky to get Monique. She's booked through 2012. But as luck would have it the Prince of Mahrain was mauled by a tiger on safari so she had a last minute opening!

Gail smiles, not sure how to respond. Marni breaks the awkward tension.

MARNI

I love your dress, Ramona. It's Carmen Marc Valvo, right?

Gail looks around, confused.

GAIL
Carmen, who? I don't know that one.

RAMONA
I'm impressed, Marni. Valvo has such a wonderful aesthetic, doesn't he? I absolutely live in his clothes.

Gail takes in her own aesthetic. Not so wonderful. Ramona addresses Gail's kids.

RAMONA (CONT'D)
Your Mom probably hasn't told you this, but back in school, she was quite the little superstar.

MARNI
Oh, we know.

GAIL
I'd hardly say I was a superstar.

RAMONA
Don't be modest, Gail. Everyone loved you.
(to the kids)
All the girls wanted to be just like your Mom.

Marni smiles. She knows the feeling.

RAMONA (CONT'D)
She was the best. At everything.
(playful)
It drove some of us so crazy we just wanted to smack her!

GAIL
Well, that was a long time ago.

RAMONA
Sitting here with you now it feels like it was just yesterday...

Ramona and Gail smile "warmly" at each other.

INT. FOYER - LATER

Gail and Stan escort Ramona to the front door. Marni crosses through with some dishes.

MARNI
Bye Ramona, see you tomorrow!

RAMONA
Yes! We'll do some career strategizing!

Marni LIGHTS UP as she exits to the kitchen.

RAMONA (CONT'D)

I can't tell you all how happy I am to be here. JJ's my only family now. It means the world to me to be able to share in the joy of this wedding with all of you.

Ramona's eyes start to WELL UP with tears.

RAMONA (CONT'D)

I'm sorry. I'm much more emotional than I thought I'd be. I just can't believe I am standing here with *Gail Reynolds* after all these years. It's bringing back so many memories!

Gail can't help but notice how much Ramona has changed. She begins to relax. Squeezes Ramona's hand.

GAIL

I'm happy we have this chance to re-connect too, Ramona. We have a lot to catch up on.

(then)

Hey, what are you doing tomorrow? If you're free I'd love to take you to brunch.

RAMONA

I would love that.

Off Ramona, all smiles.

INT. HALLWAY - A MINUTE LATER

Gail AD-LIBS good-byes as she closes the door.

STAN

Wow. Small world. She seems great.

GAIL

(uncertain)

She does, doesn't she?

STAN

You sound surprised. You two were friends, right?

GAIL

Good friends. Until our senior Prom when she freaked out on me and decided she never wanted to speak to me again. I'm still confused about what happened...

MARNI (PRE-LAP)

You're confused?

INT. FAMILY ROOM - LATER THAT NIGHT

Marni poses the question to Ben, who watches TV.

MARNI

How do you think I feel?
 (insecure)
 Was I that forgettable in high school?
 Is it possible she really doesn't
 remember me?

BEN

Dude, you always say you wish you
 could forget high school, so why do
 you even care?

MARNI

Because she's the reason I want to
 forget it!
 (frustrated)
All I wanted was an apology.

BEN

Sorry.

MARNI

Not from you, Benny.

BEN

Oh. Sorry.
 (catches himself)
 I mean... Nevermind.

MARNI

(giving up)
 Oh, what difference does it make? I
 guess I should be commending her for
 turning her life around. Maybe Mom's
 right. Maybe I just need to drop this
 and move on.

BEN

Probably a good idea. I mean, you are
 roommates now.

Off Marni, forcing a smile.

INT. MARNI'S BEDROOM - LATER

Marni is now dressed for bed. She unpacks her suitcase.
 Joanna ENTERS and takes a seat on one of the twin beds.

JOANNA

Hey Roomie. Sorry about you having to
 share your room. Wade and I thought it
 would be easier to stay here this
 weekend than to drive in and out of
 the city.

MARNI

It's fine. Don't worry about it.

JOANNA

Wade said you wouldn't mind sleeping on the couch, but I just couldn't kick you out of your own bed!

MARNI

Actually, that is my bed.

Marni smiles and points to the bed Joanna is sitting on.

JOANNA

Oh. I'm sorry. Do you want to trade?

MARNI

No. It's cool.

Marni carries several HANGING CLOTHES over to the closet. She opens the door to find the closet it COMPLETELY FULL.

JOANNA

Gosh, you must think I am totally trying to take over here. Let me make some room for you.

Joanna creates a small opening for Marni. Marni smiles as she struggles to load her clothes into the tight space.

JOANNA (CONT'D)

Marni, I want you to know I understand how difficult this situation must be for you. I know how close you and Wade are. It must have been quite a shock to find out that he was getting married so quickly and to someone you've never even met!

And even though she promised to drop it...

MARNI

Okay, seriously, Joanna... You honestly don't remember me?

JOANNA

(innocently)
I'm sorry. High school's such a blur. And with all of my charity work and my responsibilities at the hospital, I'm lucky if I remember what I did last week. Please don't take it personally.

Marni nods and turns away. But IN THE MIRROR she can still see Joanna... and Joanna is smiling nervously. There's a KNOCK at the door...

MARNI

Give us a minute.

JOANNA

PLEASE COME IN!

Wade opens the door and ENTERS.

WADE
Hey, you two. I'm not interrupting any
pillow fights, am I?

Both girls smile sweetly.

WADE (CONT'D)
I just wanted to come tuck Joanna in
before she went to bed.

JOANNA
Aren't you the sweetest?

She gives Wade a big kiss. They keep kissing. An awkward
beat as Marni just stands there.

MARNI
I'll just give you two a minute...

Marni slowly backs out of the room and EXITS.

INT. FAMILY ROOM - LATER

Marni again joins Ben on the couch.

BEN
Thought you were going to bed?

MARNI
My room is a little crowded right now.
I'll just stay here for a little bit.

MATCH CUT TO:

INT. FAMILY ROOM - THE NEXT MORNING

Marni's in the same position as we left her, only now
she's dead asleep on the couch in the same clothes from
the night before. LAUGHTER comes from the other room,
stirring Marni awake. She drags herself off the couch,
clutching her now-sore back.

INT. LIVING ROOM - A SECOND LATER

Gail, Stan, Wade and Joanna look at old photo albums.
Even at 9:00 am Joanna looks perfect -- a total contrast
to Marni, who limps into the room looking like a hot
mess, with her crazy bed-head and runny eyeliner.

GAIL
What happened to you?

MARNI
I fell asleep on the couch. What are
you guys doing?

STAN
Looking at the family albums!

She now sees a stack of PHOTO ALBUMS on the coffee table. Wade points to a PICTURE.

WADE

Check it out, Marni. Fourth of July
when you got hit by that bottle
rocket!

Marni shudders at the memory. She squeezes in between Wade and Joanna on the couch.

MARNI

Excuse me, can you scoot a little that
way?

Joanna does. Marni smiles innocently. Joanna sees a photo and GASPS!

JOANNA

Ohmygosh, Mom, you were a Delta Gamma?

Marni grimaces. *Did she just call Gail Mom?*

GAIL

How did that get in here?

INSERT PHOTO: DELTA GAMMA BID-DAY (1977). Gail and her "sisters" decked out in their greek letters.

JOANNA

I don't believe this. I was a DG too!
Secret handshake!

They do the HANDSHAKE, giggling. Marni can't help but notice they're like perfect equals, accomplishment-wise.

JOANNA (CONT'D)

I guess we're sisters now, too!
(then)
Marni, now you...

Joanna holds her hand out to Marni. Marni doesn't move.

MARNI

I wasn't in that sorority.
(awkward beat)
Can we turn the page, please?

Marni jumps ahead in the album. Joanna stops her.

JOANNA

Look at that! I would remember this
from anywhere. It's Wade after he made
the winning touchdown at the State
Championship.

INSERT PHOTO: STATE CHAMPIONSHIP FOOTBALL GAME. Wade is carried by his teammates. In the b.g., we can barely make out Marni sprawled out on the field in her mascot outfit.

MARNI

So, you were at that game, Joanna?

JOANNA

Of course. It was only the most exciting game ever. You were so awesome that day, Wade.

MARNI

That's funny. I was at that game too. I can't believe you don't remember me.

Joanna just smiles: *Sorry.*

WADE

Come on. You have to remember the Ridgefield Gator getting clothes-lined when it stumbled out onto the field.

MARNI

Sure... *stumbled.*

WADE

That was Marni.

JOANNA

You're kidding.

MARNI

I wish. Being the mascot was a hard job. But I didn't complain.
(to Joanna, pointed)
Even when push came to shove.

Marni studies Joanna as she shifts uncomfortably in her chair. Ben ENTERS with a large BOX.

BEN

Mom, Fed Ex just delivered this for you. Who's *Ag Jean*?

Gail opens the box and pulls out a pile of AG JEANS.

GAIL

What is this?

MARNI

Well, yesterday you said you didn't like your new jeans. We rep AG, so I asked my friend at corporate to send you some different styles.

JOANNA

You don't like the jeans we bought?

But Gail doesn't hear her.

GAIL

Marni, thank you! I'm so excited! I'm going to go try these on right now.

(MORE)

GAIL (CONT'D)

You kids better get moving too. We've got a lot to do before our dance lesson!

MARNI

Dance lesson?

JOANNA

Monique says the wedding dance is a crucial part of the ceremony. We're all going!

GAIL

Wade, don't forget, I'm having brunch with Ramona so you need to pick-up Grandma.

(then)

She is so excited to see you, Marni.

JOANNA

She really is. It was all she could talk about the other day at the mall.

MARNI

You go shopping with our grandma?

JOANNA

All the time. Bunny and I are very close.

MARNI

"Bunny?"

JOANNA

That's what Grandpa used to call her. She never told you?

MARNI

Of course she did. I'm just surprised she told you.

JOANNA

Bunny and I talk about everything. I could listen to her stories all day.

MARNI

What stories? Half the time she can't remember what she ate for lunch.

Wade holds up his car keys.

WADE

Let's hit it, ladies.

MARNI

Can I at least take a shower?

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. WADE'S CAR - DAY (MOVING)

Marni sits in the back of Wade's BMW. She wears different clothes, but her HAIR AND MAKE-UP ARE STILL A MESS. She holds a small compact up to her face. From the front...

JOANNA

Oh, you look fine, Marni. Don't worry. You'll have time to wash up before my bridal shower this afternoon.

Joanna turns on the stereo. The Captain & Tenille's "Love Will Keep Us Together" plays on the radio.

JOANNA (CONT'D)

Honey! Our song! It's fate!

Joanna turns up the volume. Wade and Joanna go into performance mode -- singing into FAKE MICROPHONES and swaying in their seats. Total geeks, but truly in love.

WADE/JOANNA

"Love, Love will keep us together... Think of me babe whenever... Some sweet talking girl comes along singing a song... Don't mess around... You gotta be strong... Just Stop, 'cause I really love you..."

Marni rolls her eyes, she can't take any more...

WADE/JOANNA (CONT'D)

(still singing)

Stop--

MARNI

(top of her lungs)

STOP!

Startled, Wade SLAMS on the brakes. The car SCREECHES to a STOP. Wade and Joanna look back at Marni, concerned.

MARNI

(weakly)

Sorry. It was so loud. My ears hurt.

WADE

Great. Now my neck hurts. Thanks.

Wade pulls the car back onto the road. Awkward silence.

MARNI

So, Wade, how'd you pop the question?

JOANNA

He asked me in the treehouse.

MARNI

The treehouse? In our back yard?

WADE

It's my wedding gift to Joanna. I'm having it moved from Mom and Dad's house to our new home once it's built.

MARNI

But that's our treehouse, Wade. We helped dad build it from scratch. We started like six clubs in that thing.

WADE

Settle down, Marni. It's only a treehouse.

(then)

Hey, check it out. Ridgefield High in all its glory.

Wade points as they drive past their old HIGH SCHOOL.

MARNI

Sure brings back memories.

Marni studies Joanna. She stares straight ahead, silently bopping her head to the radio.

MARNI (CONT'D)

If I knew then what I know now, I think I would have done a lot of things differently.

Wade smiles and nods. Joanna doesn't flinch.

MARNI (CONT'D)

How about you, Joanna? Any regrets?

JOANNA

Well, actually...

Marni leans in...

JOANNA (CONT'D)

If I could go back and do it all over, I think I'd study blind literacy. I've so often wished I could read braille.

MARNI

If I could go back, I'd definitely have more boyfriends. You probably had lots of boyfriends, right Joanna?

JOANNA

(nervous)

I wouldn't say lots.

MARNI

I heard one of the cheerleaders had a different boyfriend at each school in the district. That way, she could get them to buy her expensive stuff without any of them knowing. And once she bled them dry, she'd move on to some other chump at another school.

(then)

(MORE)

MARNI (CONT'D)

Didn't you say you were a cheerleader,
Joanna?

WADE

What's your point, Marni?

MARNI

I figured if she was a cheerleader,
she might know who this gold-digger
with low self esteem was. I heard she
even dated the Wilson High Principal
for awhile.

JOANNA

(too quick)
She did not!
(gathers herself)
I mean, I never heard that. It was
probably a rumor.

Steamed, Joanna glances at Marni in the rearview mirror.
Marni couldn't be more smug.

JOANNA (CONT'D)

Do you guys mind if I change the
music?

Joanna flips through her IPOD and selects a song.

MUSIC CUE: Queen's "We Are The Champions." Marni's eyes
OPEN WIDE. Joanna stares straight ahead, swaying her head
to the music, silently mouthing the lyrics.

JOANNA (CONT'D)

I love this song. Don't you guys just
love this song?

Wade and Joanna sing.

WADE/JOANNA

*"We are the champions, my friends.
And we'll keep on fighting, 'till the
end."*

Joanna adjusts the mirror on her sun visor to check
Marni's reaction. The girls lock eyes. Joanna's eyes
NARROW. She folds up the mirror. IT'S ON!

EXT. GRANDMA BUNNY'S HOUSE - DAY

Marni, Wade and Joanna stand at Grandma's doorstep.
Joanna rings the DOORBELL. We can hear the doorbell muzak
version of "Do You Know The Way To San Jose."

JOANNA

Don't you just love that? I picked it
out for her a while back.

Marni glares at Joanna as she hits the doorbell again.
And again. There's no answer.

MARNI
Maybe she's not home.

JOANNA
I know she's home.

WADE
Maybe she forgot where the door is.

Marni and Wade stifle a laugh as they get a stern glare from Joanna. Suddenly, the PEEPHOLE opens up and a single, aged EYE looks out at them.

JOANNA
Bunny! Thank goodness! We were worried!

GRANDMA BUNNY
Joanna?

JOANNA
Yes, it's me.

GRANDMA BUNNY opens the door. Bunny has aged well, but is a little loopy. She smiles at Joanna, who hugs her.

WADE
Hi, Grandma.

GRANDMA BUNNY
Hello, handsome.

Wade hugs Bunny.

JOANNA
Bunny, look who's here. It's Marni.

GRANDMA BUNNY
A pleasure to meet you.

MARNI
No. Grandma. It's me, Marni. Your granddaughter.

Grandma looks at Marni, confused. She leans in to WHISPER something in Joanna's ear. Joanna giggles.

JOANNA
Not Barney. Marni. Gail's daughter?

Off Grandma, no idea who this girl is.

INT. GRANDMA BUNNY'S HOUSE - DAY

The four of them sit, having cheese and crackers. Joanna is (of course) right by Grandma's side, while Wade and Marni sit across from them. Marni sees her HIGH SCHOOL PHOTO on the mantle in all its acned, bad hair, and thick glasses glory. She notices Joanna giggle at it.

MARNI

Grandma, I wish you wouldn't keep that picture out. It's hideous.

GRANDMA BUNNY

Watch your tongue, dear. That's my granddaughter. We had to send her away.

MARNI

Nobody sent me away. I went to New York for college. Remember?

It finally clicks for Grandma.

GRANDMA BUNNY

Marni! What a wonderful surprise. I'm so glad you're here!

Grandma hugs Marni like she's just realized she was here. From the kitchen, we hear a tea kettle WHISTLES.

JOANNA

Tea's ready! Be right back.

Joanna leaps up and sees to the tea. Wade SNIFFS the air, grimaces. Something stinks. Marni smells it too. They look at each other, their eyes saying: "*It wasn't me.*" They look over at Grandma, sitting innocently on the couch. Could she be the culprit? Joanna reappears.

JOANNA (CONT'D)

Bunny, do you want lemon--
(the smell hits her)
Oh, wow...

Joanna looks to Wade and Marni, who shake their heads knowingly: "*It wasn't us.*" She then looks to Grandma.

JOANNA (CONT'D)

Uh, Bunny? Would you like me to take you to the bathroom?

GRANDMA BUNNY

That would be delightful.

Nice try, kiss-ass. Marni leaps to Grandma's side.

MARNI

That's okay Joanna. You've done enough. I'll take her.

JOANNA

Don't be silly. I'm happy to do it.

MARNI

(back off)
She's my grandma. I've got this.

JOANNA

Okay. Have fun. And don't be long.
Almost time for our dance lesson!

Satisfied, Marni escorts Grandma out of the room.

INT. BATHROOM - DAY

Marni gets Grandma into the bathroom but remains outside.

MARNI

Okay, Grandma. You're flying solo now.
Let me know when you're finished.

GRANDMA BUNNY

Thank you, Barney.

Marni closes the door, giving Grandma some privacy. Suddenly, Marni hears the horrific sounds of Grandma BLOWING MUD. She GAGS, about ready to puke. Mercifully, it's soon followed by a FLUSH. But then...

GRANDMA BUNNY (O.S.) (CONT'D)

(calling out)

Okay, dear. I'm ready for my wipe.

Marni goes white.

INT. RESTAURANT - LOUNGE - CONTINUOUS

CLOSE ON a hand WIPING down a counter. WIDEN TO REVEAL Gail at the bar, talking to a male BARTENDER. She's totally JACKED UP on caffeine.

GAIL

I can't believe Ramona stood me up. I actually thought she was happy to see me last night. I am so gullible.

BARTENDER

You don't know she stood you up. Maybe something happened?

GAIL

(almost hopeful)

You're right. Maybe she got into a car accident or--

(catching herself)

No. Trust me. She blew me off. It's not the first time.

BARTENDER

Girls can be so cruel.

GAIL

It's like, one day everything was fine and the next day she was out to get me. It just doesn't make sense! I'm a good person!

(MORE)

GAIL (CONT'D)

I'm on the boards of seven charities!
My carbon footprint is like *this*
big...

She holds up two fingers, less than an inch apart.

GAIL (CONT'D)

I am not going to let her do this to
me again. We're not teenagers anymore.
We're grown women. We can deal with
this in a mature and responsible way.

Off Gail, determined.

EXT. CITY STREET - LATER

We're outside the DANCE STUDIO. Wade helps Grandma Bunny
out of the car and into the studio. Marni, seeing her
opportunity, catches up to Joanna.

MARNI

I gotta give you credit. You've really
got the whole "*good girl*" routine
down, don't you?

JOANNA

(innocent)
Excuse me?

MARNI

You almost had me believing you didn't
remember me. But *We Are the Champions?*
You kinda showed your cards there, JJ.

Joanna shifts on her feet nervously.

JOANNA

Marni, we've been through this. High
school was a long time ago.

MARNI

You don't think I'll tell Wade, do
you?

JOANNA

Tell him what?

MARNI

That the sociopath who made my life a
living hell is actually his precious
bride-to-be--

Suddenly, from off-screen, WE HEAR...

TIM (O.S.)

Joanna? Is that you?

Marni stops, mid-rant, as they both turn to TIM (a Will
Forte type) walking towards them on the street. Tim is
wound so tight he could explode at any moment.

JOANNA

(rattled)

Tim. Wow. What a surprise. You're looking... well.

TIM

Actually, I'm sick as a dog. I was just at the pharmacy stocking up on flu medicine.

TIM (CONT'D)

But thank you for the compliment. Boy, I sure wasn't expecting to run into you.

(then)

You look great, Joanna. You changed your hair.

Joanna just smiles. There is an uncomfortable SILENCE as Tim gazes at Joanna. This is the definition of awkward. Wade returns, curious as to who their new friend is.

JOANNA

Um, Tim, this is Wade and Marni.

(to Wade)

Tim and I go way back.

Tim doesn't take his eyes off Joanna. Marni can't help but notice this is painful for Joanna.

JOANNA (CONT'D)

Will you excuse us for a minute?

Joanna leads Tim away for a private conversation.

WADE

Who's the stalker?

MARNI

Judging by the way he's looking at her, I'd say they were definitely involved.

WADE

I don't think so. She's never mentioned a guy named Tim.

MARNI

You obviously don't know women very well, bro. Kinda makes you wonder what other Tim's she has hiding in her closet?

WADE

Alright. What is it? You've been acting weird ever since you got here. Is it Joanna?

Just then...

JOANNA

Well, it's been great seeing you. But we should probably get going.

Tim trails Joanna back to Wade and Marni.

TIM

Wait. You wanna get together sometime? Maybe come by the house for a swim?

JOANNA

It's November.

TIM

Oh. Right. How about a movie?

JOANNA

(gently)
Tim, Wade and I are getting married.

TIM

(stunned)
Married? I...I had no idea.

JOANNA

This Saturday.

Tim wants to curl up and die. More awkward silence.

TIM

Well, I should probably get back to the office. But congratulations to both of you. Awesome news about the wedding!

(to Wade)
You've got yourself a terrific girl!

WADE

Thanks.

Tim unceremoniously walks away. We follow him for a moment, as he silently bursts into TEARS.

JOANNA

I'm sorry. That was awkward.

MARNI

Not at all.

WADE

Who was that?

JOANNA

We dated right after high school. It's a long story.

MARNI

I have time. You have time, Wade?

WADE

No, because we're already late.

He wraps his arm around Joanna -- almost protectively -- and leads her into the DANCE STUDIO.

INT. DANCE STUDIO - MOMENTS LATER

Gail, Stan, Ben and Bunny all wait in the studio for their lesson to begin. Wade and Joanna enter, followed by Marni, who approaches Gail.

GAIL

Hi. How was Grandma's?

MARNI

Once she figured out who I was it was okay. When did she get so old, Mom?

GAIL

Well, you haven't seen her in a year. She can be a bit distracted. But she's still in there. You just have to catch her at the right moment.

ANGLE ON GRANDMA BUNNY: In the corner talking to a PLANT.

MARNI

She sure wasn't distracted when it came to Joanna.

GAIL

Marni, stop. Your grandmother loves you very much. Please don't turn everything into a competition.

Suddenly, the door to the studio FLIES OPEN, revealing... Ramona. She's wearing a FUR COAT.

RAMONA

Hi everyone! Sorry I'm late.

Ramona sidles up to Gail.

RAMONA (CONT'D)

Hello, Gail. Isn't this fun? We haven't danced together since, gosh when was it... prom?

GAIL

Ramona, I waited at the restaurant for over an hour. What happened to you?

RAMONA

I'm sorry. Didn't you get my text? I had an emergency video conference. My guys in Tokyo have been screaming at me since the stock market opened. And *you know* how the Japanese can get...

Off Gail, no idea how the Japanese can get.

RAMONA (CONT'D)
Can we reschedule?

Gail sizes up Ramona, not sure she buys her story. But...

GAIL
Of course.

Ramona SMILES AND NODS, then checks out Gail's outfit.

RAMONA
Is that what you're wearing?

Gail looks down at her conservative dress, confused.

GAIL
Is there something wrong with it?

RAMONA
Of course not. It just looks like it
might be a little... restricting.

And with that, Ramona dramatically removes her fur, revealing a BARELY-THERE ENSEMBLE, straight out of DANCING WITH THE STARS. Her "dress" is covered with glitter and rhinestones. It's totally tacky, but she looks amazing. Gail is speechless.

Just then... the lights go out, plunging the entire studio into COMPLETE DARKNESS.

WADE
Great. Power failure.

Nope. A SIZZLING LATIN BEAT starts reverberating through the floorboards of the studio. The music BUILDS until a SINGLE SPOTLIGHT finds...

...MONIQUE LE FRIQUÉ (Le Freak-AY), our flamboyant wedding coordinator. She busts out all kinds of DANCE MOVES, making one hell of an entrance. She ends with a flourish, the music CUTS OUT, and the lights come up.

MONIQUE
Bonjour-hello everyone. My name is
Monique Le Friqué. And I am your
Wedding Extraordinator.

When she speaks, she slips into a THICK FRENCH ACCENT, but only for certain words.

MONIQUE (CONT'D)
You may ask yourselves, "What is a
Wedding Extraordinator?"
(like it's obvious)
That is simple, it is I, Monique Le
Friqué. Every wedding tells a story,
and I am the auteur.
(MORE)

MONIQUE (CONT'D)

I shall see to every detail, no matter how infinitesimal... infinitesimal... no matter how small. Think of me as the engine room of your Love Boat.

Our group exchanges looks, not sure what to make of her.

MONIQUE (CONT'D)

And our first port of call is a very crucial but often overlooked part of the celebration... *The wedding dance*. The wedding dance symbolizes the passion and romance Wade and Joanna feel for one another. So I, Monique Le Friqué, have choreographed a special routine for just this occasion.

(then)

But being a good dancer is not just about learning the steps. It's about getting inside the music! Feeling the rhythm in your bones! You have to give 100 percent -- like a dance tsunami crashing down on the Rhythm Nation!

Gail and Marni exchange a look, trying not to laugh. Joanna and Ramona have never been more focused.

MONIQUE (CONT'D)

I'd like to introduce my assistant for the day, the owner of this lovely studio, *Timothy*...

Tim enters the studio. *Yes, the Tim we just met*. Joanna's JAW DROPS. However, Marni's EYES LIGHT UP with the possibility that this might go *very badly*.

MONIQUE (CONT'D)

Timothy has graciously offered to help demonstrate some basic steps while I assist you all on the floor. But he will need a partner. Any volunteers?

MARNI

How 'bout it, Joanna?

Joanna cuts her eyes at Marni. But Ramona's hand shoots straight up in the air.

RAMONA

I will!

PRE-LAP: SAUCY LATIN SALSA MUSIC

TIME CUT TO:

INT. DANCE STUDIO - A MINUTE LATER

The couples have paired off: Gail/Stan, Tim/Ramona, Wade/Joanna and Ben/Grandma begin to dance.

Alas, Marni is the odd man out and dances alone. Monique paces like a warden on a cell block, looking for mistakes.

MONIQUE

Benjamin! Commit to the dance! You are a lion, not a kitty-cat! Focus on your partner! Eyes front!

Terrified, Ben stares straight ahead. But at his height, he's staring directly into Grandma's AMPLE CLEAVAGE.

BACK TO MARNI: As Wade and Joanna GLIDE by...

JOANNA

Sorry. We were expecting more people. Guess they couldn't get out of work.

MARNI

It's fine. Don't worry about it.

That's when the door to the studio OPENS and a good looking guy, CHARLIE (28), enters.

WADE

Charlie! You made it!

Wade and Joanna go to greet their friend.

WADE (CONT'D)

Marni! You remember Charlie, right?

Marni freezes. Her mind reels with IMAGES we've seen before, only this time we get more information...

FLASHBACK - HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA (1998)

Marni walking past the "A" table with her lunch tray. She locks eyes with JJ and then PLOWS into the CUTE FOOTBALL JOCK. This time, we see his face: it's YOUNG CHARLIE.

BACK TO PRESENT

MARNI

Uh, yeah. I remember Charlie.

Marni is shell-shocked. Totally unprepared to see her old crush. She whispers to Gail as she and Stan dance by...

MARNI (CONT'D)

Nobody told me Charlie was in the wedding! I would have showered.

GAIL

(duh?)

Charlie and Wade have been best friends since high school. *Of course* he's in the wedding.

Charlie and Wade approach Marni.

WADE

Perfect timing, man. You're going to dance with Marni.

Charlie extends a hand to Marni. She almost melts. He escorts her to the dance floor. Monique breezes by...

MONIQUE

And who is the dashing late arrival? I am already liking what I am seeing.

She's focused on his BUTT.

MONIQUE (CONT'D)

But not from you, Marni. Your Rumba has the style and grace of a Roomba.

ANGLE ON GAIL AND STAN DANCING NEAR RAMONA AND TIM: Gail can't help notice Ramona's well-toned figure.

GAIL

You've really managed to stay in great shape since high school, Ramona.

RAMONA

Well, you had kids, I had a pilates instructor.

Off Gail, not sure if that was an insult or not.

ANGLE ON MARNI AND CHARLIE: Marni struggles to keep her cool, counting her steps and trying not to be that 14-year-old dork again. Charlie gestures to Wade and Joanna.

CHARLIE

They make a great couple, don't they?

MARNI

(seriously?)

Uh, sure. Charlie, do you remember JJ-- sorry Joanna -- from High School?

CHARLIE

Nah, but I don't remember a lot of people from high school.

Marni nods, sadly.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

But I totally remember you.

Now she melts for sure. Bolstered by this she dances like she's never danced before, eager to show Joanna she's got moves. Joanna, not about to let Marni show her up, kicks her dance into high gear. Wade tries to keep up.

ANGLE ON STAN AND GAIL: Attempting to Samba.

MONIQUE

Stan, your legs are like two pogo sticks! I want you to bring the smooth and sexy. Like a snarling young tiger. I want to hear you ROAAAAR!

STAN

(getting into it)
ROAAAAAAR!!!!

Ramona watches Stan and Gail. So in love. She hates it.

RAMONA

Tim, why don't you let me drive for a while?

INT. DANCE STUDIO - MOMENTS LATER

NEEDLE DROP: "FINALLY" by Ce Ce Peniston (hip hop remix).

Ramona and Tim are totally showing off. Ramona with one eye on Gail, Tim with one eye on Joanna, both of them feeling like they have something to prove. Ramona gives Gail a cocky smile.

RAMONA

Don't try this at home kids. This one's just for professionals.

MONIQUE

Look at those hips of fury! Not even the Richter scale could measure those moves!

Gail stares at Ramona, who shakes her perfect butt as she UNDULATES around Tim. Despite her basically using Tim as a *stripper pole*, he just stares sadly Joanna, oblivious.

GAIL

Would you look at Ramona? I mean honestly, what is she trying to prove?

STAN

Well, if I had her body...

GAIL

You'd what?

STAN

I'd shut my mouth before the next stupid thing came out.

Now feeling competitive, Gail awkwardly begins to MIMIC Ramona's moves. She CIRCLES Stan repeatedly, shaking her own back yard. Stan busts out a few "moves" of his own. They look ridiculous.

STAN (CONT'D)

ROAAAARRRR!!!!

ANGLE ON GRANDMA BUNNY: Mimicking Gail's moves. She shakes her butt as she circles Ben. Ben is miserable.

MONIQUE

(re: Gail and Ramona)

Yes-yes-yes! This is what I am talking about. Passion! Determination! Like two lionesses fighting over dominion of the music!

Ramona breaks away from Tim and shimmies past Gail...

RAMONA

Careful. It's not good to over-exert yourself when you're not in optimum shape.

GAIL

No pain no gain, right?

Ramona gives her a TIGHT LITTLE SMILE and DANCES OFF. Gail's eyes NARROW. She "shortens" her shirt up to her mid-thigh by TUCKING IT INTO HER BELT. IT'S ON!

Gail pulls Stan out to the MIDDLE OF THE FLOOR, where all of the women square off. Each trying to outshine their respective nemesis in this IMPROMPTU DANCE OFF.

ANGLE ON RAMONA: Queen of the dance. Gail can't take it.

GAIL (CONT'D)

"Nobody puts baby in a corner."

(off Stan, confused)

You remember? Patrick Swayze?

He nods. Gail turns and strides away from him.

STAN

Wait? What *about* him?

But Gail's already at the opposite end of the room. She starts running towards Stan. *Yep... She's gonna do it: the lift from "Dirty Dancing."* Meanwhile...

ANGLE ON JOANNA: She eyes Marni dancing with Charlie. Unseen by Wade, she SLIPS OFF HER SHOE and KICKS IT ACROSS THE FLOOR towards Marni.

JOANNA

Oh! No! My shoe...

As the shoe SKITTERS ACROSS THE FLOOR towards Marni...

BACK TO STAN: Who is like a deer in headlights, not sure what he's supposed to be doing, as Gail runs towards him like a locomotive. Suddenly, Gail LEAPS INTO THE AIR, just like Jennifer Grey...

...and no one is more surprised than Stan, who completely chokes, as she essentially hits him with a FLYING TACKLE! They CRASH to the floor in a heap...

BACK TO MARNI: Just as Joanna's shoe slides right under Marni's heel! Marni TRIPS FORWARD and HEAD BUTTS CHARLIE!

CHARLIE

Ow!

Charlie LOSES HIS GRIP on Marni and she goes flying, LANDING ON HER BUTT right next to Gail and Stan who are now sprawled across the dance floor. It looks like a pileup on the freeway. Marni looks up at...

ANGLE ON CHARLIE: His lip is BLOODIED and SWOLLEN. Marni CRINGES, horrified.

ANGLE ON JOANNA: As Ramona joins her. Clearly the victors, they look down upon the humiliated Marni and Gail. Their faces show concern, *but is that a hint of satisfaction we see in their eyes?*

EXT. DANCE STUDIO - LATER

Stan and Wade help Gail as she LIMPS her way to the car.

STAN

What the heck was that?

GAIL

"Nobody puts baby in a corner." Dirty Dancing? C'mon Stan, everyone knows what that means!

STAN

I'm sorry. When you said "Patrick Swayze" I thought you meant the one where he played the ghost.

WADE

Is everything okay with you and Ramona, Mom? Seemed like you two were kinda going at it in there.

GAIL

Don't be ridiculous, Wade. Ramona and I were just having a little fun. We adore each other.

Stan and Wade exchange a look, not convinced.

INT. HOME OFFICE - LATER

We're CLOSE on a picture of 18 year-old Gail and Ramona. Happy. Smiling. Total BFF's. WIDEN TO REVEAL...

Gail, at her desk, looking through her old photo album. Picture after picture reveals Ramona and Gail in happier times. Finally, we land on the HOMECOMING PHOTO.

(This is the same photo Marni admired in the school hallway.) We see Gail in her crown, flanked by her court, but this time WE NOTICE RAMONA sitting right next to Gail. And in this photo Ramona looks pissed. Gail is surprised.

GAIL
Huh. That's weird.

MARNI (O.S.)
What's weird?

Startled, Gail looks up to find Marni in the doorway.

GAIL
Ramona looks so mad in this picture.
I've never noticed it before.

Marni looks at the picture. Then echoing Gail...

MARNI
What's past is past, right?
(then)
Have you seen Ben?

GAIL
He's playing outside.

As Marni turns to exit...

GAIL (CONT'D)
Marni, I appreciate you making an effort with Joanna. There are always going to be challenges in life, but growing up means learning to deal with those challenges in a mature way. You are doing that.

Marni smiles sweetly.

EXT. DRIVEWAY - A COUPLE MINUTES LATER

Marni paces. Ben practices on his skateboard.

MARNI
Come on, the old "accidental shoe kick?" *Please!*

BEN
So, I guess this means you didn't get your apology?

MARNI
Yeah. I don't think there's going to be any apology. But I was right, Ben. She remembers me. This is all a part of her little act. I can't believe they're all falling for it! I gave Wade way more credit than this!

(MORE)

MARNI (CONT'D)

She's got him totally brainwashed. Did you know he's not even eating carbs now?

BEN

At least he's not wearing a blindfold.

MARNI

But him giving her the treehouse as a wedding gift is like the icing on the cake.

BEN

What? He can't do that! That tree house is mine now.

Gail yells from an UPSTAIRS WINDOW.

GAIL (O.S.)

Ben, we need to leave for baseball. You ready?

BEN

But practice doesn't start for 45 minutes?

GAIL

I'm dropping you off early. Monique's got a million errands for me to run and I've got to get the seating chart over to Ramona's hotel.

BEN

I thought the whole point of having a Wedding Extraordinator was that she does everything for you?

GAIL

Huh. Good point.
(then)
Get in the car.

Gail disappears back inside.

MARNI

We've gotta do something, Benny. We've got 48 hours to save Wade from making the biggest mistake of his life. He has no idea what he's getting himself into. What she's capable of.

(then)

We have to tell him the truth. It's for his own good. I just need to get him alone for thirty-minutes.

BEN

Good luck. They're always together.

Marni smiles, wheels turning.

INT. OLSEN LIVING ROOM - DAY

Wade watches football. Joanna sits next to him, nibbling on BABY CARROTS. The phone RINGS. Wade answers.

WADE
Hello? One minute.

Wade hands the phone to Joanna.

WADE (CONT'D)
It's the florist.

EXT. TREE HOUSE - SAME TIME

Marni and Ben sit in the tree house. Ben holds her phone.

BEN
Why do I have to do this?

MARNI
Because her florist is a man. Oh, and by the way, he's French.

OFF a panicked Ben...

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. OLSEN LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Worried, Joanna grabs the phone from Wade.

JOANNA
This is Joanna.

BEN
(terrible accent)
Bonjour-Hello! This is Pierre, the flower guy!

JOANNA
Pierre? You sound different.

BEN (O.S)
No, no. Is me. Listen, Monique asked me to call about your flowers... there is... problem.

JOANNA
What kind of problem?

BEN
There was... accident.

JOANNA
What happened?

Ben freezes. He looks at Marni for answers. Gail HONKS THE CAR HORN from the driveway. Ben searches...

BEN

Uh... it was... car crash! Came right through window! You listen. Can hear car horn.

HONK! HONK!

JOANNA

Are you kidding me? But what about my flowers?

GAIL (O.S.)

Ben! Baseball! Let's go!

BEN

Uh... Zey are dead. Hurry, come quick!

Ben hangs up the phone quickly. Marni glares at him.

MARNI

What was that?

Just then we hear a car door SLAM in front of the house. Joanna SQUEALS down the street in her car. Ben beams.

BEN

That was awesome. Go!!

EXT. OLSEN RESIDENCE - DAY

Marni waits for Gail's car to pull out of the driveway, before dashing across the front yard. She goes to open the front door. It's locked. She KNOCKS. There's no answer. She rings the DOORBELL....nothing.

MARNI

Perfect.

Marni runs to....

THE SIDE OF THE HOUSE

She checks the side door. LOCKED. She peeks through a window and can barely make out Wade, lying on his back doing CRUNCHES, his IPOD on, as he watches the football game in the family room.

MARNI

Wade!

He can't hear a thing.

EXT. OLSEN BACKYARD - CONTINUOUS

Marni lets herself into the backyard through the gate. As she dashes across the yard... The SPRINKLERS GO OFF! Blinded by water, Marni trips on a SPRINKLER HEAD turning its gentle spray into a STRONG JET OF WATER that shoots directly into Joanna's OPEN BEDROOM WINDOW... the water hits Joanna's WEDDING DRESS, which hangs in the window!

MARNI

Oh, no... no, no, no....

Marni frantically tries to redirect the sprinkler away from the window, but it's no use. The spray is too strong. Her only choice is to block the stream with her body like a HUMAN SHIELD!

INT. OLSEN LIVING ROOM - SAME TIME

As Wade does his crunches, WE CAN SEE Marni through the window getting PELTED by the sprinkler. It looks painful.

EXT. BACKYARD - SAME TIME

Marni reaches for anything to block her body from getting battered by the spray. But every time she steps even an inch away, Joanna's DRESS GETS BLASTED with water. She's trapped. Finally, after what seems like an eternity, the sprinklers TURN OFF. Marni looks up to see Joanna's wedding dress, SOAKED on a hanger.

MARNI

Great.

INT. OLSEN RESIDENCE - DAY

A battered and drenched Marni enters the family room.

WADE

What happened to you?

MARNI

Funny you should ask. It's kind of a long story. Eight years to be exact. Can we talk?

WADE

Can it wait? Joanna's gonna be back soon and I wanted to sneak in a run.

MARNI

Great! I'll join you.

WADE

(laughing)
You?

MARNI

Why is that so funny?

WADE

When we signed up for that charity 5K you hitched a ride to the finish line.

MARNI

How many times do I have to tell you?
I had a rock in my shoe!

WADE

Okay. But I'm warning you, I'm training for a Triathlon. Five miles okay?

MARNI

(cocky)
Just try and keep up.

INT. FANCY HOTEL - DAY

Gail LIMPS through the lobby, carrying a LARGE SEATING CHART. She hardly blends in with the wealthy hotel patrons in their Chanel and Louis Vuitton.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - DAY

Ramona paces around her LUXURIOUS SUITE on the phone. She's emotional, clearly off her game.

RAMONA

...but Michael, I know we can work this out.

Suddenly, there's a knock at the door.

RAMONA (CONT'D)

Can you hold on a second?

She covers the phone and opens the door. Gail stands there smiling, holding out the seating chart.

GAIL

Hi. Sorry to stop by unannounced. Monique asked me to get this to you. She needs a finalized seating chart by the end of the day.

(then)

Also, I was hoping we could talk?

RAMONA

Oh. Sure.

Ramona reluctantly, motions her in.

RAMONA (CONT'D)

This is kind of an important call. Can you give me a minute?

INT. BATHROOM - A MINUTE LATER

Gail washes her hands at the sink and notices a pair of HUGE DIAMOND EARRINGS on the counter. They probably cost more than Marni's college education. Gail cannot resist the urge to try the earrings on...

...she holds an earring up to her ear but, because her hands are wet and slippery, she drops one earring into the sink, where it slides down the drain! She panics!

She tries to squeeze her fingers down into the drain to retrieve the earring. No luck. She looks for anything to reach into the drain. There's nothing. She's screwed!

Gail uses the counter for support as she lowers her stiff and achy body onto the floor. Suffering through her pain, she contorts her body into a ball and tries to squeeze under the sink to reach the drain pipe. Suddenly, from outside the door...

RAMONA (O.S.)
What are you doing?

Gail freezes. Then weakly...

GAIL
One second...

INT. HOTEL ROOM - CONTINUOUS

But Ramona was not speaking to Gail. She is still on the phone. She paces out of the room.

RAMONA
Please, can't we just have this conversation when we're face to face?

INT. BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Gail's legs are now twisted around the toilet, as she frantically tries to unscrew the U-shaped TRAP from the drain pipe. She turns the gasket with all her might. OWWWWW!! Her back kills. Finally the seal loosens -- and the trap comes off. But the WATER COMES WITH IT, SPRAYING HER IN THE FACE as the earring drops to the floor.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - A COUPLE MINUTES LATER

Gail, now walking with a serious LIMP, exits the bathroom. Even with her wet hair slicked back, she tries to act as if everything is perfectly normal. She hears Ramona still on the phone. She's sounds totally defeated.

RAMONA (O.S.)
Well, if that's how you feel, then I guess there's nothing left to say. I'm sorry too.

CLICK. Gail can see Ramona through the door. She stands before a mirror, wiping away her tears. Gail approaches.

GAIL
Ramona? Is everything okay?

For the briefest second, Ramona looks as if she might fall apart. But then...

RAMONA
I'm fine. My allergies are going crazy. Must be the gardens.

Gail knows she's lying.

RAMONA (CONT'D)
What happened to you? Did you take a
shower or something?

GAIL
(deer in headlights)
Uh, your sink had a little leak. I
tried to fix it, but...

Ramona doesn't care. She's on to the next thing...

RAMONA
You wanted to talk about something?

GAIL
Yes. I did. I do. But if this is a bad
time...

RAMONA
I told you. Everything's fine.

Gail steadies herself. *Showtime.*

GAIL
Okay. Ramona, I'm a big believer in
closure. And I just want you to know
that whatever it is that happened
between us in the past is *in the past*.
As far as I am concerned those days
are over.

RAMONA
(gently)
I appreciate that, but I'm running a
Fortune 500 company here. I don't have
time to worry about things that
happened *30 years ago*.

GAIL
Actually, Ramona... What *did* happen 30
years ago? Was it something I did?

RAMONA
Gail, I've moved on. Don't you think
it's time you did the same?

Gail nods, now feeling a little foolish. The hotel phone
RINGS. Ramona moves to grab it.

RAMONA (CONT'D)
Can you excuse me for one second?
(into phone)
Hello? Yes, Brad. I have those figures
right here. Go ahead, conference Marco
in...

Ramona indicates, *"This could take a while. Sorry."* Gail waves and nods, *"I'll let myself out."* Ramona disappears into the bedroom. As Gail walks to the door she notices some ALUMINUM CANS in a small WASTE BASKET. She shakes her head in disapproval...

GAIL
Earth First, Ramona...

She plucks the ALUMINUM CANS from the basket and throws them in her purse. She EXITS.

EXT. PARK - RUNNING TRAIL - DAY

Marni is DRENCHED in sweat and barely able to pick her feet up as she lags behind Wade. He makes a U-turn, circling back around to keep pace with Marni.

WADE
How you holding up?

MARNI
(gasping for air)
Tortoise and the hare, bro. I'm just pacing myself.

Marni struggles for a breath.

MARNI (CONT'D)
I'm really glad we're doing this.
There's something I've been wanting to talk to you about. It's about Joanna--

WADE
Isn't she amazing? She's not like anybody else I've ever met. She's the most honest, caring, and loyal person I've ever known.
(then)
And she totally digs you, by the way. She can't stop talking about how psyched she is to have you as a sister.

MARNI
Wade, there's something I think you should know before you get married. After all, Joanna's not just marrying you, she's marrying all of us.

She catches her breath and gauges his reaction. Wade slows down. He suddenly gets serious.

WADE
Marni, I think I know what you're about to say and I want you to know, I'm really glad you brought it up. I'm surprised you took this long.

MARNI

Really?

WADE

I hope you know I couldn't marry Joanna unless I knew I had your blessing.

MARNI

Really? That's great.

WADE

Marrying Joanna is the most important thing I'll ever do. And I couldn't do it without knowing I had your support.

MARNI

In that case--

WADE

I can't tell you how much it means to me to know you love her as much as I do.

(then)

Thanks, sis. You're the best.

Her face falls. *What just happened?* Wade checks his watch.

WADE (CONT'D)

I gotta get back. Joanna's going to kill me. Mind if I speed ahead?

Marni's nods, *speechless*. Wade takes off down the path, leaving her alone. She stops, buckles over, hands on the knees. She looks around. Nothing but trees.

MARNI

Where am I?

EXT. WOODS - MOMENTS LATER

Marni cuts through the woods. She's WHACKED in the face by a series of low branches and bushes.

MARNI

Oww! Darn it! Where is the trail??

She tries to fend off the branches, but her MOMENTUM carries her downhill rather quickly. She's in an unintentional SPRINT now.

MARNI (CONT'D)

Ow! Cramp! Cramp! Cramp!

Her foot SNAGS on a large root, sending her flying through the air like Superman...

INT. OLSEN KITCHEN - DAY

Gail grabs a box from the PANTRY. She closes the pantry door... REVEALING SOME SORT OF SWAMP MONSTER CLAWING AT THE KITCHEN WINDOW! Gail SCREAMS! Then she realizes this monster looks a lot like...

GAIL

Marni?

Yep, it's Marni. Caked in mud. Twigs and branches stick out from her rat's nest of hair.

MARNI

(through the window)

Mommy.

INT. OLSEN RESIDENCE - MOMENTS LATER

Gail helps a battered and itchy Marni into the family room, placing her on the couch. Wade and Ben ENTER.

BEN

What happened to you?

MARNI

I took a shortcut.

WADE

Through the Congo?

MARNI

I'm fine.

GAIL

No she's not. The bad news is I think she pulled a muscle in her leg. The good news is she can't feel it because of all the ant bites.

Joanna barges through the front door.

JOANNA

You guys will not believe what just happened. I think my florist has completely lost his mind!

Joanna notices Marni for the first time.

JOANNA (CONT'D)

What happened?!

MARNI

It's only a cramp.

GAIL

And a few thousand ant bites. She fell into a fire ant colony.

Wade helps Marni to the couch. Joanna goes into full nurse mode, looking Marni over carefully.

JOANNA
 (dead serious)
 With this many bites, she could go
 into anaphylactic shock.

GAIL
 You're the nurse, Joanna. What should
 we do?

All eyes turn to Joanna.

JOANNA
 We need Crisco. Stat.

OFF Marni's concerned look....

INT. OLSEN RESIDENCE - A BIT LATER

Marni's covered head-to-toe in THICK LARD. She looks like a HUMAN BIRTHDAY CAKE.

JOANNA (CONT'D)
 The Crisco will keep the swelling
 down.
 (to Gail)
 Did you say she hurt her leg?

Gail nods.

MARNI
 It's fine. Really, Joanna. You've done
 more than enough.

JOANNA
 If it's a muscle strain, I can help
 work it out.

MARNI
 Let's just wait until Dad gets off his
 shift.

GAIL
 Marni, Joanna wants to help. Don't be
 so stubborn.

JOANNA
 After all we can't have you limping
 around my bridal shower this
 afternoon!

Marni sucks it up and plays nice. She sticks her bum leg out. Joanna grabs Marni's leg and starts MASSAGING it.

MARNI
 Ouch! Take it easy!

GAIL

Marni! Where are your manners?

JOANNA

Don't worry, it's only a reflex. A response to the pain. I know she doesn't mean it. Right, Marni?

Joanna looks at Marni innocently. And even underneath all that Crisco, we can see Marni's eyes turn to SLITS.

MARNI

(teeth clenched)

Right, Joanna.

Joanna continues to aggressively work out the cramp as Marni writhes in pain.

JOANNA

It's really tight in there.

MARNI

Ow! Are you sure you know what you're doing?

JOANNA

Marni, I'm a professional. Trust me. I do this with all my patients.

Joanna DIGS into her leg for the last time... Marni KICKS Joanna in the stomach, sending her sprawling onto her ass in the middle of floor. All eyes on Marni.

MARNI

Reflex?

INT. CAR - DAY (MOVING) - LATER

Gail drives with Marni to the bridal shower. Marni, in the passenger seat, wears her old COKE BOTTLE GLASSES and has several red ANT BITES -- which look like ACNE -- on her face. Gail looks at her watch, she's frustrated.

GAIL

I can't believe we're going to be late to Joanna's shower. I'm the mother of the groom. How is that going to look?

MARNI

Not nearly as bad as me in these stupid glasses. I can't believe you are making me wear these!

GAIL

Well, we can't fish your contacts out of that ant bed, so I just thought it would be nice if you could see.

MARNI

I'm walking into a firing squad, Mom. What would be nice is if I could have a blindfold. Too bad Dad's not coming to this thing.

Marni holds a compact mirror up to her face and frantically applies concealer to her bites.

MARNI (CONT'D)

Look at me! These ant bites look like zits. I'm sixteen again! It's like nothing has changed since high school. Those girls are going to eat me alive!

GAIL

Stop being so dramatic. Joanna's friends are lovely. I'm sure by the end of this party you'll all be good friends and live happily ever after.

MARNI

Fairy tales end happily ever after. High school was a horror movie. This weekend is the sequel.

Gail eyes Marni.

GAIL

You know honey, it's times like these--

MARNI

You can't help yourself, can you? You can't *not* offer up some little self-help nugget that's supposed to magically fix every situation.

GAIL

Someday you'll appreciate my wisdom.

MARNI

And maybe someday you'll appreciate your wisdom.

Gail gives her a look: *Huh?*

MARNI (CONT'D)

Oh, *please*, Mom. There's obviously something going down between you and Ramona. You looked like you wanted to rip her face off at that dance lesson yesterday. So, preach to me all you want about *letting go* and *being the bigger person* but maybe you need to start taking your own advice?

Gail considers Marni's words as the car rolls to a STOP at a RED LIGHT. That's when Gail notices...

...Ramona in her Porsche in the lane next to them. Ramona and Gail LOCK EYES. Ramona throws her the tiniest smile before REVVING her engine. We HEAR Heart's "Barracuda" on the radio. Gail smirks, turning it up.

GAIL

Honey, it's not easy being a mom. There's no rule book. Every day you just have to trust your instincts and hope that not doing something to screw up your kids. *It's a lot of pressure.*

Gail's eyes dart from the red light back to Ramona. She gives Ramona a smile of her own: *You wanna go?* Ramona's REVVING ENGINE is her answer.

GAIL (CONT'D)

I feel a profound sense of responsibility....

CLOSE ON: Gail's RIGHT FOOT, near the gas pedal. She furtively SLIPS OFF HER SHOE. *Can't race in heels.*

GAIL (CONT'D)

...because I know that everything I do will have a lasting effect on your life.

Marni thinks her mother's looking her square in the eye, but she's looking past her, at Ramona. The two drivers stare each other down like street racers at Thunder Road.

GAIL (CONT'D)

That's why I want you know that what I'm about to do is very, very wrong.

Marni looks at her, confused. The light TURNS GREEN! And Gail GUNS IT! "Barracuda" becomes our sound-track as Gail tears off in a cloud of SMOKE and BURNING RUBBER. Marni's about to pee her pants.

MARNI

Mom, what are you doing?!

GAIL

I told you. I hate being late.

Gail HAULS ASS down the street, leaving Ramona way back in her REAR VIEW MIRROR. She BANGS HER FIST triumphantly on the steering wheel.

GAIL (CONT'D)

YES! YES! YES!

PRE-LAP: A POLICE SIREN.

SMASH CUT TO:

EXT. CAR - DAY - MOMENTS LATER

A poker-faced COP stands at Gail's window, writing up a ticket. Marni just SHAKES HER HEAD in disbelief.

COP
Ma'am, do you know how fast you were going?

GAIL
I'm sorry, officer. I don't know what came over me. I never do this kind of thing. I'm usually a very safe driver.

Unimpressed, the cop hands her a ticket and walks away...

INT. COUNTRY CLUB - MOMENTS LATER

Gail and Marni ENTER an OCEAN-THEMED bridal shower, already in progress. The room has been transformed into an underwater fantasy complete with blue twinkle lights and walls draped in blue fabric to resemble water.

Suddenly, a sickly, foghorn-like sound fills the room. Everyone turns towards the SIDE DOOR to see... an ATTENDANT blowing a CONCH SHELL as MONIQUE LE FRIQUÉ enters through a THICK SEA OF BUBBLES...

MONIQUE
Bonjour-hello everyone. Welcome to Joanna's bridal shower. Since Wade and Joanna's romance blossomed at the beach, it's only fitting that we begin their wedding story in a sea of romance.

She does that Vanna White "all this can be yours" arm gesture and then glides into the party. The CAMERA FOLLOWS her and picks up...

...MARNI, her ant bites mostly concealed, and Joanna, who talk to the now-grown BITCHY GIRLS from high school.

JOANNA
Girls, say hi to Wade's sister Marni.

BITCHY GIRLS
Hi, Marni.

The girls wear Stepford smiles and slightly different versions of the same perfect outfit.

JOANNA
Marni lives in New York now.

TAYLOR, a real know-it-all...

TAYLOR

I hear the crime in the city has really risen in the last few years. Shame.

MARNI

Well, I have a doorman. He makes me feel very safe.

KENDALL, huge at 7 months pregnant...

KENDALL

Oh, does that mean there isn't anyone special in your life?

MARNI

No. But I'm not really looking--

The Bitchy Girls let out a collective GASP. This is clearly the saddest thing they've ever heard.

TAYLOR

Aww, you must be so lonely.

MARNI

Not really. I'm pretty busy with--

Kendall rubs her baby bump and offers Marni a sad smile.

KENDALL

Guess that means you don't have any little ones yet.

MARNI

Uh, no.

They SIGH. This is the second saddest thing.

TAYLOR

Don't worry. If you can't find a husband, I know a doctor in Newport who is on the cutting edge of geriatric reproduction.

(whispering)

I know a good dermatologist in New York too, if you want to try and get that acne under control.

Marni is in hell. Monique approaches. She holds a decorative basket full of LARGE CONCH SHELLS.

MONIQUE

Girls, please take a conch so you can hear the sounds of Wade and Joanna's love. There is one for each of you.

The girls each take one. Kendall holds it up to her ear.

KENDALL

Ohmygosh! There's music!

MONIQUE

But of course there is. Each one has an iPod Nano inside, filled with a special playlist to commemorate Wade and Joanna's wedding.

Marni takes a conch and shakes it.

MARNI

Awesome! How do we get the iPod out?

Monique STARES DAGGERS at Marni.

MONIQUE

It does not come out. It was meant to be enjoyed inside the shell. The acoustics are better than any headphone commercially available.

TAYLOR

So, we're supposed to walk around wearing a giant shell on our head?

Monique nods, yes. Just then, Grandma Bunny BE-BOPS by, wearing a conch on the side of her head. Marni sees Ramona across the room and quickly makes her escape.

OVER BY THE GIFT TABLE

Gail arranges gifts. She sees Marni and Ramona approaching, chatting it up like old friends.

RAMONA

Hi Gail. Sorry about that speeding ticket. I thought you saw the cop. He was trailing us for like three blocks.

GAIL

Yeah, well...

Determined to stay positive and reconnect...

GAIL (CONT'D)

Love that dress, Ramona. Lemme guess, Volvo, right?

RAMONA

A Volvo is a car. This is a *Valvo*.

Marni winces at the gaffe. Gail tries to laugh it off.

MARNI

Guess what, Mom... Ramona invited me to fly back to NY with her on her jet! And when we get back, she's getting me a meeting with Zac Posen!

RAMONA

I helped Zac finance his first line.
He's been looking for a new flack.

GAIL

Wow. That's great. Who's Zac Posen?

MARNI

Mom, you're hilarious! I'll go get us
all drinks!

Marni wanders off.

GAIL

It's so sweet of you to give Marni
career advice.

RAMONA

She's a great kid. Besides, we working
girls have to stick together!

Ramona notices SOMEONE across the room.

RAMONA (CONT'D)

Is that... Julie Levin? And Maureen
Jarus? Didn't anyone leave this town?

GAIL

You'd be surprised how many people
stayed. It's nice. All our kids grew
up together and now they're friends.

(then)

So, you never had any kids?

RAMONA

(wistful)

Kind of hard to have a family when
you're never in the same time zone for
more than two weeks at a time. That's
why JJ's so precious to me. She's the
closest I'll come to being a mom.

GAIL

Well, it must be exciting to have such
a high-powered career. I'd love to
hear more about your job.

RAMONA

Believe me, there are plenty of days I
wish I could be in your shoes.

GAIL

(flattered)

Really?

RAMONA

Sure. To not have a care in the world.
It must be wonderful.

Gail smiles, awkwardly. That's when...

MONIQUE (O.S.)
Gather round, everyone! It's time for
Joanna to open her gifts!

INT. COUNTRY CLUB - MOMENTS LATER

Joanna opens the last of her gifts. She is flanked by
Ramona and Gail. She holds up a PINK BLENDER.

JOANNA
Thanks, Mrs. Levin. I love it!

Gail hands Joanna a large box.

GAIL
Here, Joanna. This one's from me.

Joanna unwraps the box and pulls out a large PADDED SCRAP
BOOK. Very homemade. Very ornate. Joanna is touched.

JOANNA
I can't believe you did this. This is
incredible. It must have taken you
forever to put together.

Gail beams, proudly. *It did.* Joanna flips the pages.

JOANNA (CONT'D)
Ohmygosh, it's Wade's first tooth! And
a lock of his hair from his first
haircut! And, look, his first pair of
big boy underwear! How cute are these?

Joanna holds the book up for everyone to see. Everyone
laughs. Joanna's eyes WELL. Gail is touched.

JOANNA (CONT'D)
Thank you so much.

GAIL
I hope you like it. I just wanted to
share some of my most precious
memories of my baby boy with my new
daughter.

Marni's JAW DROPS. *Did she say "daughter?"*

JOANNA
I love it more than anything.
(to the group)
Do I have the best new Mom or what?

Mom? Now Ramona's eyes NARROW.

RAMONA
Okay, my turn!

Ramona shoves a small wrapped box into Joanna's hands.

RAMONA (CONT'D)

Love you, baby.

Joanna unwraps the box. She GASPS!

JOANNA

Is this what I think it is?

She holds up a CAR KEY! Ramona smiles and nods.

JOANNA (CONT'D)

(screaming)

A RANGE ROVER!!! AAAhhhhhhhhhhhhhh!!!

Joanna and her friends SCREAM as they JUMP UP AND DOWN! Ramona, pleased with herself, turns to Gail, who can barely look her in the eye.

RAMONA

Not as special as used underwear, but I think she liked it.

GAIL

(annoyed)

That was very generous, Ramona.

RAMONA

That was nothing. Wait until you see the wedding gift.

Ramona goes to give Joanna a HUG. Marni approaches Gail.

MARNI

Isn't Ramona the greatest? It's like I have a real mentor now. Don't you love her boots? She always looks perfect. I wonder if she has a stylist...

Gail rolls her eyes as Marni drones on and on. Monique APPROACHES wearing a GOLD LAMÉ CHEF'S HAT and APRON.

MONIQUE

Attencion, ladies, attencion! I have a special surprise. Please gather 'round.

Everyone gathers around Monique.

MONIQUE (CONT'D)

It is a magical moment when a bride first lays eyes on her groom. So as a special treat, I have recreated Joanna's first memory of her beloved... in cake.

The ATTENDANT wheels out a LIFE-SIZED CAKE OF WADE, depicted singing into a MICROPHONE (as he was when Joanna first saw him doing karaoke). It's like a frosting-covered American Idol. Scary real. Like Madame-Tussauds-real. The girls are aghast. Monique whips out a KNIFE.

MONIQUE (CONT'D)

Joanna, would you like to cut the first piece?

JOANNA

Oh, you go ahead. I wouldn't feel right about stabbing my future husband.

Monique then CHOPS OFF Cake-Wade's hand to reveal RED VELVET CAKE inside, resembling blood. GASPS all around.

MONIQUE

Who wants the first piece?

The girls look at each other, horrified.

INT. COUNTRY CLUB - A MINUTE LATER

Marni, carrying a piece of Cake-Wade's FACE, searches for a place to sit at one of the tables around the room. She finds an open seat...

TAYLOR

Sorry. This seat's taken.

She moves to another open chair...

KENDALL

Saved.

Marni may as well be in the school cafeteria again. Finally, she finds an open seat next to Grandma.

GRANDMA BUNNY

Hello, I'm Bunny. What's your name?

MARNI

Grandma. It's me, Marni.

(then)

The one you had to send away.

GRANDMA BUNNY

Oh, Marni! That's right. Sorry, dear. Don't ever get old.

Joanna taps on a wine glass to get the crowd's attention.

JOANNA

Ladies, I'd like to make a toast. To my handful of closest friends, thank you for giving me a heart full of joy. It is my honor to have you standing by my side this weekend. Here's just a small token of my appreciation.

Joanna picks up a stack of BOXES and delivers them around the room. She approaches Marni, whispers into her ear.

JOANNA (CONT'D)

I picked yours out special, Marni.
Hope you like it.

Joanna smiles and quickly walks away. Marni unwraps the box to find... MONOGRAMMED STATIONERY. Unfortunately for Marni, her initials spell out: "MOO."

GRANDMA BUNNY

I told your mother "Olivia" was a terrible middle name. She wouldn't listen.

MARNI

(tearing up)
Does it ever get easier, Grandma?

GRANDMA BUNNY

What dear?

MARNI

Everything. This. Life.

(then)

In high school these girls wouldn't talk to me because I was a loser. But here I am, six years later, I did something with my life, but in this dumb small town, I still don't fit in.

GRANDMA BUNNY

Marni, don't let the way those girls treated you in high school bring you down.

Marni looks at Grandma with genuine surprise.

MARNI

You remember?

GRANDMA BUNNY

Who could forget? Those girls were terrible to you. Especially that JJ. She's lucky she didn't show her face around here.

Marni realizes Grandma has no idea that Joanna IS JJ.

GRANDMA BUNNY (CONT'D)

I always wanted to do something to fix it, but it wasn't my place. We are our experiences, Marni. That terrible time made you the strong girl you are today.

(then)

Those girls don't have the power to make you feel bad anymore, Marni. So don't you give it to them.

MARNI
 (suddenly empowered)
 You're right, Grandma. Those girls
 don't have that power anymore.

And just like that...

GRANDMA BUNNY
 What power is that dear?

Grandma is gone. Marni sighs.

MARNI
 Nevermind. I'll be right back.

GRANDMA BUNNY
 (yelling after her)
 If you see my granddaughter, tell her
 I need to go to the bathroom!

As Marni makes her escape...

MARNI
 Will do!

INT. BATHROOM - DAY

Marni enters the bathroom to find Joanna, alone, fixing her make-up in the mirror.

JOANNA
 Hey, sis. Isn't this a blast?

MARNI
 Look, I've had about enough of the
 games. You can make this real easy on
 yourself. All you have to do is
 apologize. Apologize for all the stuff
 you did to me in high school and for
 all the stuff you're doing now. You do
 that, and I'll keep my mouth shut
 about all of it.

Joanna applies her lipstick with precision.

JOANNA
 And what exactly do you think you
 could say that I'd be so afraid of?

MARNI
 Oh, please. You're afraid of what Wade
 will do when he finds out what you did
 to me then, and what you're doing to
 me now.

JOANNA
 What I'm doing to you? You started
 this. You've been pushing my buttons
 ever since you came home.

MARNI

I think I had a pretty darn good reason to be a little peeved. I could have told Wade, but I didn't for his sake.

JOANNA

This has nothing to do with Wade.

MARNI

Then I'm going to tell him.

Joanna turns to Marni. They stand nose to nose. As Joanna speaks, she takes SEVERAL AGGRESSIVE STEPS FORWARD, forcing Marni into the STALL behind her.

JOANNA

I'd think carefully before I did anything crazy, Sis. Who do you honestly think Wade will believe?

Backed into the empty stall, Marni finds herself right back where she was in high school. Only this time, she's not backing down so easily.

MARNI

No. You are not gonna do this to me again. I am not that same little four-eyed, acne covered girl I was in school.

JOANNA

(smirks)
Looked in a mirror lately?

Off Marni, livid...

INT. MARNI'S ROOM - DAY

Marni ENTERS to find a livid Wade sitting on her bed.

MARNI

What are you doing?

WADE

Waiting for you. Joanna called and told me everything. I'm shocked.

MARNI

I didn't know how to tell you.

WADE

Marni, I can't believe how mean you've been to her.

MARNI

Excuse me?

WADE

And the day before her wedding? That's messed up.

Marni reels. This can't be happening.

MARNI

Wade, you've got it all wrong...

WADE

You mean, you didn't pick a fight with my fiancé in the bathroom at her own bridal shower?

MARNI

No. I mean yes, but she started it.

WADE

She said you'd say that. What were you thinking?

MARNI

Wait. She's turning it all around.

WADE

So you didn't point the sprinklers into your room yesterday and drench her wedding dress?

MARNI

It was one sprinkler. But it was an accident!

Wade studies Marni.

WADE

I think I know what this is about. You think I'll bail on you once I marry Joanna.

Marni can't believe this is happening. She's about to protest, when...

WADE (CONT'D)

Stop worrying. You're not losing a brother. You're gaining a sister. Someone I'm crazy for. So please, can you put whatever issues you have with Joanna behind you, so we can try and make this a nice wedding?

Marni stands there speechless, ready to scream. But instead she sucks it up, quietly nodding: "yes." Wade gives her a hug.

WADE (CONT'D)

You're the best. I always know I can count on you.

Wade EXITS. Marni catches her reflection in a nearby mirror. She scowls at herself, totally frustrated.

MATCH CUT TO:

INT. MASTER BEDROOM - LATER

Gail, scowling at her reflection in a mirror as she examines her figure in a conservative, body-swallowing dress. She puts her hands on either side of her face and pulls, doing that instant face lift thing all women do. She SIGHS.

GAIL

Get it together, babe. You are not gonna let some over-botoxed, wannabe prom queen get the best of you.

Suddenly, Stan appears in the mirror behind her.

STAN

Nice. Is that what you're wearing to the rehearsal dinner tonight?

There is a strange pause before she answers.

GAIL

I don't know. I'm not sure I love it. I think I might go shopping.

Stan registers there is something odd here.

STAN

Everything okay?

GAIL

Yeah. I'm fine.

STAN

I know you don't think I pick up on these kinds of things, but I know you better than you think. I can tell when something is bothering you.

(off Gail, listening)

Ramona's pretty impressive, huh? All those fancy sports cars, big mansions and private planes.

(then)

Of course, I like a car I fit my family in, and I bet a fourteen-room mansion must feel really... empty. And the private jet...

GAIL

What about the private jet?

STAN

Sorry. That'd be pretty cool.

They share a laugh.

GAIL

Did you know she runs a billion dollar corporation? I mean, it's amazing what she's accomplished.

STAN

Well, you've accomplished a lot too. You've made everyone in this house who they are today.

Gail smiles.

GAIL

Thanks honey. But you don't have to worry about me. I'll be fine. I think the stress of the wedding is just getting to me. I'm sure by Sunday, I'll be good as new. A whole-new me.

STAN

Well, I kinda like the *old* you.

Stan kisses her on the forehead and EXITS. Gail looks back in the mirror, obviously still insecure.

EXT. RIDGEFIELD HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

Marni and Ben sit in a car outside the old high school.

BEN

What are we doing here?

MARNI

I gotta admit, the first few rounds went to Joanna. She's played some good hands. And you know what? I'm glad. Just makes me realize we've gotta take our game to a whole other level.

(off Ben, confused)

Wade may not believe his own sister, but he'll have a hard time not believing his own eyes.

(then)

Grab the shovel.

Marni EXITS the car. Ben grabs a shovel from the backseat and follows her to the back of the school.

INT. DEPARTMENT STORE - LATER THAT DAY

Gail browses an upscale department store. She sees a prominent display for Ramona's favorite designer CARMEN MARC VALVO. She flips through several dresses. A salesgirl approaches.

SALESGIRL

Can I help you with anything?

Gail smiles and nods, a look of desperation on her face.

INT. OLSEN RESIDENCE - FOYER - NIGHT

Stan, Ben and Marni wait at the bottom of the stairs, dressed for the rehearsal dinner. Marni whispers to Ben.

MARNI

You got the "package?"

Ben NODS.

STAN

Gail! Come on! We're going to be late!

Gail appears at the top of the stairs wearing a new glittery dress. Her hair and make-up are flawless. She looks H-O-T. Ben and Marni's JAWS DROP. Stan looks her up and down...

STAN (CONT'D)

ROAAAAAAAAR!!!

OFF Gail, feeling like a million bucks.

EXT. COUNTRY CLUB - LATER THAT NIGHT

Cars pull into the valet of an upscale country club.

INT. COUNTRY CLUB - NIGHT

Rehearsal dinner. GUESTS start to arrive. Wade and Joanna mingle in the crowd. Gail and Stan stand near the front door greeting guests. Suddenly, Ramona appears in the doorway...

...wearing the EXACT SAME DRESS AS GAIL! Of course, Ramona's dress has been tailored to reveal maximum skin. She looks like a SUPERMODEL. Gail's face falls.

RAMONA

My, this is embarrassing.

(then, playful)

Quick, somebody call US Weekly. Let's find out *Who Wore It Best?*

No need. Gail knows. Dejected, she walks away. Our camera stays on her as she moves off. Wade catches up to her.

WADE

Mom, what is going on with you?

GAIL

What do you mean?

WADE

Joanna said you had some weird obsession with her aunt. She said you went to her hotel room and tried on her jewelry and *stole her garbage?*

(MORE)

WADE (CONT'D)

I told her she was wrong, but look at you. Now you're wearing the same dress!?

Gail can't believe this. She's kinda starting to lose it.

GAIL

Okay, first of all, I did not know Ramona was wearing this dress. And 2: her jewelry was out on the counter. I was just admiring it. And C) I did not steal her garbage. I was *recycling!* We all have to do our part, Wade! One person can make a difference!

(collects herself)

Now, are we finished here? I have a party to host.

INT. COUNTRY CLUB - LATER

Marni stands at the bar. She sees Wade and Joanna approaching from across the room. Joanna looks mad.

JOANNA

Excuse me, what is HE doing here?

Joanna points to TIM who stands near the back, sneezing. He wipes his hand on a TABLECLOTH.

MARNI

Look, I hope you guys don't mind me inviting Tim.

JOANNA

Well, I sorta do--

MARNI

It's so hard coming to these things alone.

WADE

Marni, you should have cleared this.

MARNI

Joanna said she and Tim were never serious, I just figured you guys wouldn't mind.

Joanna's suspicious.

MARNI (CONT'D)

But I should've asked first. I'm sorry. I'll ask Tim to leave. I don't have a problem being the only single girl here. I'm used to it.

Head low, she walks away.

WADE

Marni, wait. I'm okay with Tim staying
if Joanna doesn't mind.

(to Joanna)

She is alone.

Joanna considers, unsure.

JOANNA

Whatever.

INT. COUNTRY CLUB - LATER

Everyone has taken their seats for dinner. Marni and Tim
sit by Gail and Stan.

MARNI

Dinner looks great, Mom.

Just then, the lights go out, plunging the entire room
INTO COMPLETE DARKNESS.

GAIL

Oh, great. What now?

Yep. You guessed it. From over the P.A. SYSTEM...

MONIQUE

Bonjour-hello, everyone...

A SINGLE-SPOT LIGHT finds MONIQUE LE FRIQUÉ standing atop
the Bride and Groom's table. Wade and Joanna are as
surprised as anyone to see her standing above them. She
wears a loose fitting dress and addresses the crowd.

MONIQUE (CONT'D)

I am Monique Le Friqué and I would
like to welcome you all to Wade and
Joanna's rehearsal dinner. Tomorrow
Wade and Joanna will pledge themselves
to each other. So tonight, I would
like to celebrate the journey that got
them here. I have taken the liberty of
exploring Wade and Joanna's family
trees, whose branches spread across
the globe. So now please join me as we
celebrate the myriad of wedding
traditions of their ancestors who came
before them.

ARABIC BELLY DANCE MUSIC reverberates through the hall as
Monique rips off her dress to reveal a BELLY DANCING
costume. She BACKWARD-SOMMERSAULTS off of the table,
landing off the floor like an Olympian.

Monique works her way around the dining room, UNDULATING
in time with the music as a roving spotlight follows her
around the room. Everyone in the room is AGHAST. Marni
looks to Gail.

MARNI

Did you know about this?

GAIL

She called me a couple of days ago asking about our family's heritage. I thought maybe she was incorporating it into the menu.

(then it hits her)

Oh no. Great Aunt Elsie was born in Africa.

SMASH CUT TO:

MONIQUE - NOW IN TRADITIONAL AFRICAN CAFTAN AND HEAD GEAR

She performs an authentic AFRICAN WEDDING DANCE with FLAMING SWORDS! Ben keeps the beat on an AFRICAN DJEMBE DRUM. Everyone stares, speechless, taking us into...

A RAPID FIRE MONTAGE OF CULTURAL WEDDING TRADITIONS

(1) In traditional SCOTTISH DRESS, (i.e. HIGHLAND KILT and SPORRAN), Monique marches around playing BAGPIPES.

(2) Squatting on the floor, covered in TRADITIONAL ABORIGINAL BODY PAINT, Monique plays a haunting melody on a DIDGERIDOO (a 10-foot long musical pipe).

(3) Now in a GERMAN BEER MAID costume, Monique SMASHES several of the country club's DISHES on the floor!

AT ONE OF THE TABLES: Stan leans over to Gail.

STAN

There goes our deposit.

The music ABRUPTLY STOPS. The LIGHTS COME BACK ON. Like four people CLAP. But from the look on Monique's face, you'd think she just got a STANDING-O at Carnegie Hall.

STAN gets up and TAPS his glass, trying to get everyone's attention back on the party.

STAN (CONT'D)

Hello, everyone. I'm Stan Olsen. Wade's father and Best Man. Thank you all for joining us. And how about that Monique Le Freak? Am I right?

ANGLE ON MONIQUE: Taking another bow.

STAN (CONT'D)

I'm not going to lie. I've practiced this speech a hundred times in the mirror. And on the drive here. But I realized all that panic was a waste of time. All I have to do is stand up here and speak from my heart.

(then)

(MORE)

STAN (CONT'D)

I love you son. You're everything one should want to be. Compassionate Caring. And most importantly, honest. To see that you found someone with all those same qualities, makes me the proudest man in this room.

(then)

And Joanna, while I'm technically the Best Man tomorrow, you should know that the real best man will be standing right next to you.

Wade and Joanna watch from the head table, touched. But it seems Stan's words have sunk in with Joanna even more.

STAN (CONT'D)

(raises glass)

To Wade and Joanna.

ANGLE ON WADE AND JOANNA: Joanna takes a deep breath.

JOANNA

Wade. I have to tell you something. I haven't been completely honest with you.

Wade senses this is serious. But before Joanna can continue, we hear another TAPPING of a glass.

KENDALL (O.S.)

Hi, I'm Kendall...

ANGLE ON KENDALL: Speaking into the microphone.

KENDALL (CONT'D)

...I've known Joanna since Pre-K, and trust me, she had to kiss a lot of frogs before she found Wade. Sorry, Tim. I didn't know you'd be here when I wrote this...

ANGLE ON TIM: Depressed beyond belief. He takes a SWIG from a BOTTLE of COUGH SYRUP.

INT. COUNTRY CLUB - A FEW SPEECHES LATER

Taylor stands at the podium now...

TAYLOR

...Joanna told me, before Wade, she never really knew what true love was...

ANGLE ON TIM: Ouch. His eyes WELL. He takes another SWIG.

ANGLE ON MARNI: STARING AT CHARLIE across the room. Just as Charlie GLANCES at her, she averts her gaze. She misses his SMILE and WAVE.

INT. COUNTRY CLUB - A FEW MORE SPEECHES LATER

Now it's Ramona's turn.

RAMONA

...and I'm so thrilled that we will all be joined together as one family for every holiday and birthday party for many years to come. Here's to many MANY years of happiness for all of us.

Ramona raises a glass, flashing a FAKEY SMILE at Gail, who is miserable beyond belief.

STAN (O.S.)

Is there anyone else who'd like to make a toast--

ANGLE ON TIM: Clamoring to his feet.

TIM

I would.

ANGLE ON JOANNA: Sinking in her chair.

JOANNA

Oh, no.

ANGLE ON TIM: As he grabs the microphone.

TIM

Hi. For those who don't know, I'm Tim.

Suddenly, an eight second COUGHING fit.

TIM (CONT'D)

Don't worry. I'm not contagious. I don't think.

He snags a glass of WATER from a passing WAITER and guzzles it down. Half of it ends up on his face.

TIM (CONT'D)

Tonight is a special occasion. Yes, indeed. It's a very special night because Joanna and I are finally attending a rehearsal dinner together.

ANGLE ON WADE AND JOANNA: Befuddled, Wade looks to Joanna who simply wants to die.

TIM (CONT'D)

Granted, I would've preferred it be our rehearsal dinner, but Joanna, I want you to know that after many, many hours of therapy...

WADE

I've heard enough. I'm shutting this guy down.

TIM

...I now understand why you didn't show up that night.

GASPS from the crowd. All eyes are on Tim.

WADE

(shocked)

You two were engaged!?

JOANNA

That was a different me. I can explain.

ANGLE ON MARNI: Also shocked. This is news to her. This is getting out of control, even for her.

MARNI

Okay, Tim. Wrap it up, buddy.

ANGLE ON TIM: Who is now CRYING, totally forgetting he's in front of fifty people. He speaks directly to Joanna.

TIM

I miss you Joanna. I miss you so much. I miss your voice. I miss the way you smell. I miss...

ANGLE ON WADE AND JOANNA:

JOANNA

I got cold feet. He totally flipped out. They had to send him to a home.

WADE

How could you not tell me this?

TIM

...I miss that sound you used to make when we snuggled.

(he starts bawling)

WHY JOANNA? WHY DID YOU HAVE TO LEAVE ME? WHHHYYYYYYYY!!!

Tim collapses, sobbing. Marni and Ben race to his side and carry him from the room. Gail quickly gets up and addresses the crowd.

GAIL

Thanks, Tim. What a lovely tribute.

ANGLE ON MARNI AND BEN: Standing near Tim, who is now curled up on a bench seat.

MARNI

This has gone way too far. I say we forget the video.

Ben nods. But then, from across the room....

MALE VOICE (O.S.)
 And now, a special video tribute to
 Joanna from the bridal party...

Ben and Marni share a look of panic.

ANGLE ON JOANNA AND WADE: who look bewildered.

JOANNA
 A video? Did you know about this?

WADE
 (still confused)
 Engaged? To that guy?

ON THE MONITOR

JOANNA "JJ" FREEMAN (17) in the same "Video Time Capsule"
 booth Marni was in at the beginning of the movie.

YOUNG JOANNA
 I'm JJ Freeman and I'm a senior at
 Ridgefield High. We're supposed to
 tell all you losers what life is like
 in 2001 so you can see how much things
 have changed...

BACK TO JOANNA AND WADE

JOANNA
 (stunned)
 How did they find this?

Marni and Ben race into the room. It's too late as the
 video plays on....

ON THE MONITOR

Young Joanna continues her interview to the camera.

YOUNG JOANNA
 So, you wanna know what it's like for
 a 17-year-old in high school?
 (then)
 Life is easy.

BACK TO JOANNA AND WADE

JOANNA
 This was supposed to be private. It
 was for the time capsule. They said no
 one would see it!

ON THE MONITOR

A football game. JJ waves her pom-poms and flashes her
 signature smile from the top of the "Cheer-a-mid."

YOUNG JOANNA

I mean, sure, you gotta work at it to be on top. But high school's not brain surgery. It's more like prison. And in this prison, I'm the warden, so it's my job to keep my inmates in line.

MONTAGE: JJ and the Bitchy Girls tormenting one innocent student after the next (Marni included). There's no denying it. JJ WAS EVIL.

YOUNG JOANNA (CONT'D)

You want my advice? Live like there are no rules. And if there are rules, make sure you're the one who makes 'em. And the one who breaks--

CLICK. The monitor SHUTS OFF abruptly. WIDEN TO REVEAL MARNI stands next to the TV with the plug in her hand.

DEAD SILENCE. Everyone STARES at Joanna, who's devastated. Tears roll down her cheeks. She looks around the room, then at Wade, who stares at her in disbelief.

JOANNA

Wade. Please. I was a stupid kid. You know that's not who I am anymore.

Wade gets up from the table.

WADE

I need some air.

He walks out the door. Joanna races after him. Marni could not feel any worse.

INT. COUNTRY CLUB - LATER

Party's over. Gail, Ben and Marni stand by the front door. Stan settles the BILL. Marni hangs up her PHONE.

GAIL

He's still not answering?

Marni shakes her head. Stan approaches.

STAN

What a mess. What in the world happened tonight?

GAIL

We should get home, see if Wade's there.

As they turn to exit, the Manager approaches with a DVD.

MANAGER

Wait, Miss, don't forget your DVD.

Gail turns to Marni, angry. Ben hides behind a PLANT.

GAIL

Your DVD?

Marni stands, frozen. Busted.

MARNI

Sorry. I just wanted Wade to know the truth. I was trying to protect him.

GAIL

Marni, how could you do this? After everything we talked about?

MARNI

I tried to put it behind me, Mom. I guess I just couldn't let go.

Gail understands Marni's words more than she knows.

GAIL

We'll talk about this at home. Go get your purse.

Marni exits, her head hung low.

STAN

Come on Ben, let's go get the car.

Stan and Ben exit. Gail takes a seat at the bar. Suddenly she hears CLAPPING. She turns to find Ramona standing behind her.

RAMONA

You must be very proud. Your daughter single-handedly ruined what should have been one of the greatest nights of Joanna's life. I guess she really does take after you.

Gail's blood boils. Nobody talks badly about her kid.

GAIL

Ramona, I'd like to speak with you privately. Will you join me outside?

INT. COUNTRY CLUB BATHROOM - NIGHT

Marni splashes water on her face. She hears CRYING in a stall behind her. She pushes a door open to find Joanna.

MARNI

Joanna?

JOANNA

Go away.

MARNI

Look, I'm really sorry. I--

JOANNA

You've got a lot of nerve, you know that? Coming in here and ruining a perfectly happy relationship.

MARNI

Wait, I've got a lot of nerve? You're the one who came in here pretending like nothing ever happened. Pretending you didn't know me.

JOANNA

And Tim? How did you know about that?

MARNI

I didn't know he'd flip out.

JOANNA

Please! It's why you invited him. But that video. Now that was genius. I underestimated you. I actually thought we could start over. But no. You were so completely stuck in the past. You couldn't let it go.

MARNI

Hey, all I wanted was an apology.

JOANNA

You ruined everything. Did you see the look on Wade's face? I bet he'll never speak to me again.

MARNI

You actually expect me to feel sorry for you? That's priceless.

Marni turns and leaves.

INT. COUNTRY CLUB HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Marni huffs down the hallway, Joanna right on her heels.

JOANNA

Don't you walk away from me!

MARNI

Do you have any idea what you did to me? How all those years of torment affected me? I couldn't walk into a public bathroom until two years ago. I still can't watch a football game without breaking into a sweat. You only have yourself to blame for everything that's happened here.

With that, Marni turns to leave. She crosses through...

INT. COUNTRY CLUB DINING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Marni finds her purse next to her chair. She bends over to pick it up. A LARGE PLATE just misses her head and SMASHES against the wall behind her. She turns to find... Joanna.

MARNI

Are you crazy?!

Joanna reaches for another PLATE and smiles darkly.

JOANNA

What do you think?

MARNI

I think my brother made the right call getting out when he did.

Joanna hurls the plate at Marni. Marni dodges it. CRASH! A near-miss.

MARNI (CONT'D)

Fine. You want to play dirty?

Marni grabs a DINNER PLATE. She flings it at Joanna. It SHATTERS against the wall.

MARNI (CONT'D)

Warm up.

Now it's on. Marni grabs a FRYING PAN from a nearby PASTA BAR. Joanna flings a PITCHER at her. Marni expertly WHACKS it away, shattering it into a million pieces.

MARNI (CONT'D)

Guess who got better at sports? Me!

Joanna lobs a BOWL. Marni SMACKS it!

MARNI (CONT'D)

For some reason I was always picked last. You know, after a while, that can really start to take a toll.

The girls stalk each other past a LARGE WINDOW, but they don't notice...

OUT THE WINDOW: GAIL CHASING RAMONA ACROSS THE BACK LAWN! Waving their arms wildly, the women RUN OUT OF VIEW.

BACK TO MARNI: She grabs a VASE FULL OF FLOWERS.

JOANNA

Marni, NO!

Joanna makes a move for Marni, backing her up against ANOTHER WINDOW. Marni SWINGS THE FLOWERS back and forth, keeping Joanna at bay. Again, they both DON'T NOTICE...

OUT THE WINDOW: GAIL AND RAMONA ARE NOW ROLLING AROUND ON THE BACK LAWN! Yep. It's a FULL-ON "DYNASTY"-STYLE CAT FIGHT!! As the women roll out of view....

JOANNA (CONT'D)

Please! That vase is a wedding present. It cost a fortune...

But Marni doesn't care. She throws the VASE at Joanna, dousing her in water and flowers. The vase SHATTERS.

MARNI

Whoopsy. Slipped.

JOANNA

Okay, that's it...

Joanna grabs a SOUP TUREEN, backing Marni into a CORNER.

MARNI

Why couldn't you have just been nicer to me? My entire life could have been so different!

(then)

For years I wondered what I did to deserve your abuse. What could I have done to avoid it? I always wished I was strong enough to stand up to you. But you know what I realized today? I didn't need to stand up to you, I only needed to stand up for myself. And you know what Joanna? I may not be saving the world, but I'm happy. So I'm not going to waste one more second worrying about you or the crappy things you did to me.

(then)

JJ Freeman... I AM DONE.

JOANNA

I'm not.

Joanna hurls the soup at Marni's head. Marni is completely showered in BROCCOLI SOUP.

JOANNA (CONT'D)

Now I'm done.

WADE (O.S.)

What is going on here?

Marni and Joanna turn to the doorway and find Wade.

WADE (CONT'D)

I came back to make sure you were okay. From the looks of it, I'd say you're more than capable of taking care of yourself.

JOANNA

Wade, it's not what it looks like.

The place is a war zone.

WADE

Really? 'Cause it looks like you were assaulting my sister with a soup tureen. But I guess it's a step up from a high school lunch tray.

JOANNA

Please, let me explain.

WADE

I think I've heard enough for one night. I can't believe I bought into the whole Meals-on-Wheels, Florence Nightingale act. I really thought I knew who you were.

JOANNA

Wade, you do know who I am.

WADE

Yeah. Now I do, "Warden". You're a bully. You're a liar. You're--

MARNI

An emotional terrorist!

Wade cuts Marni down with a look: *stay out of this.*

JOANNA

Wade, I never meant to hurt you. You have to believe that. I was always so happy that you fell in love with the person I am, that I was afraid that you wouldn't love me if you knew the person I was.

WADE

How do I know what to believe anymore?
(re: Marni)
From either for you. You're just as much to blame, Marni. Going behind my back. Helping to orchestrate this thing. How could you do that?

Marni hangs her head. Joanna approaches Wade.

JOANNA

I'm sorry, Wade. But it's all behind us now.

WADE

Behind us? I'm staring right at it! A relationship, not to mention a marriage, is supposed to be built on trust. How can I ever trust you again?

Wade EXITS.

JOANNA

Wait! Wade.

But he's gone. Joanna runs from the restaurant in tears. Marni's left alone. She slumps into a chair. Wondering how things got so completely off track. Stan and Ben enter and see Marni COVERED IN GREEN SOUP.

STAN

Lemme guess, blindfold diet right?
It's a little tricky in the beginning.
But you'll get the hang of it.

BEN

Where's Mom?

SMASH CUT TO:

A CHANEL BAG

swinging wildly in the night like a BALL-AND-CHAIN WEAPON from a kung fu movie. WIDEN TO REVEAL we are...

EXT. COUNTRY CLUB - NIGHT

Gail and Ramona square off on the back lawn. Ramona wields her purse with expert precision as they circle each other on the lawn. Their matching dresses are covered with grass stains. This is our version of the climactic battle in "Kill Bill," only with 50-year-olds using handbags as weapons.

RAMONA

Stay back! I'm warning you. I am not afraid to use this!

GAIL

Neither am I!

Gail SWINGS her purse at Ramona! Ramona SWINGS hers defensively, the two purses CLASHING like swords!

GAIL (CONT'D)

What is it? Just tell me what I did to make you treat me this way.

RAMONA

I don't know what you're talking about.

GAIL

Oh, come on. You've been playing me ever since you walked through my door. You big bully!

Gail PUSHES her. Ramona comes right back at her, and soon they're locked in a DEATH HUG, slapping at each other's backs. Over the following, they move closer and closer to the COUNTRY CLUB SWIMMING POOL in the distance.

GAIL (CONT'D)

You know, I was actually excited to see you this weekend. I didn't care what happened in high school. I thought, finally closure with my good old friend. But nooooo. You don't want closure. You just want to re-open old wounds and pour salt in them.

(then)

Oh, sorry. You cut out salt! You won't be happy until everybody is miserable!

Gail PUSHES Ramona off of her, not realizing they are at the EDGE OF THE SWIMMING POOL. Ramona teeters on the edge in her heels. She grabs Gail with one hand -- trying her hardest not to fall in.

Ramona's almost regained her footing when... SNAP! Her heel BREAKS OFF and... SPLASH! She falls backwards into the POOL -- but she takes Gail right along with her!

The women come up for air and start angrily splashing water at each other.

RAMONA

You wanna talk about miserable? Fine. Rich Phillips! You stole him away from me! Do you have any idea how that made me feel?

Gail is SHOCKED.

GAIL

Richard Phillips? That's what this is about? But... we only went to prom together. It was never serious.

RAMONA

I was in love with him!

(then)

Do you have any idea what it was like to be runner-up to you again and again and again?!

GAIL

(genuinely sorry)

Ramona. I had no idea. It was never a competition.

RAMONA

Of course it wasn't. You always won!

(then)

But I swore to myself on prom night that I would never let anyone make me feel the way you did.

(MORE)

RAMONA (CONT'D)

I would never be vulnerable. I would always be strong. And I guess it paid off.

GAIL

What are you talking about?

RAMONA

Admit it. It drives you crazy that I've done so well for myself.

Gail is speechless.

RAMONA (CONT'D)

That I look this good.

GAIL

This is absurd.

RAMONA

Come on. You're not even the slightest bit jealous?

GAIL

Ramona, I'm happy for you and all that you've achieved. But I think we have different definitions of success. My happiness isn't determined by my age or my looks or how much money I have in the bank. My children are my greatest accomplishment.

(then)

So, no. I'm sorry. I'm not jealous of you. I have a family who loves me and that is what makes me truly happy.

After a long beat, Ramona mutters...

RAMONA

Well. Happiness isn't everything.

GAIL

(rolls her eyes)

Oh, forget it. I give up.

Gail walk/swims towards the pool steps. As a very emotional Ramona screams after her, she stops.

RAMONA

I was so jealous. You were smart. You were pretty. Everyone wanted to be your friend. And then seeing you the other night, with your wonderful husband and beautiful children reminded me of how alone I am. My husband left me for somebody else. I don't have anyone...

(then)

(MORE)

RAMONA (CONT'D)

I thought if I could just make something of my life it would be enough. But look at me. I have everything money can buy and I'm miserable. You have nothing and you're happy. I can't win.

GAIL

I'm so sorry. I never meant to hurt you. I honestly didn't know.

RAMONA

I never told you. And that's my fault.

(then)

But... I guess I should probably thank you. If it weren't for you, I wouldn't have pushed myself so hard and I wouldn't be where I am today.

They look at each other. Drenched in their matching dresses. They burst into LAUGHTER.

RAMONA (CONT'D)

This is so ridiculous. What are we doing?

GAIL

I can't believe I got a makeover because of you.

RAMONA

Well, for what it's worth, I think you look great just the way you are.

GAIL

I think we both look pretty great.

They smile and then hug. Friends again, *at last*.

STAN (O.S.)

What the heck is going on out here?

Stan, Marni and Ben stand at the edge of the pool, confused. OFF Gail and Ramona, smiling awkwardly...

INT. OLSEN HOUSE - DINING ROOM - LATER

Stan sits at the dining room table. He speaks to an unseen person. He is not happy.

STAN

I am very disappointed with the behavior I saw tonight. Now, I don't try to pretend I have the slightest clue about how things work in the girl world. I'm just a dad. I keep my head down and I stay out of the way. But here's what I do know. A wedding is a time for a family to come together.

(MORE)

STAN (CONT'D)

But for whatever reason, this wedding is tearing our family apart. And I, for one, have had it. You are completely *out of control!*

REVERSE ANGLE ON GAIL AND MARNI: Sitting at the opposite end of the table, still in their soup-stained, pool-drenched outfits, looking like guilty teenagers.

MARNI
Joanna started it!

GAIL
Ramona started it!

INT. OLSEN HOUSE - FAMILY ROOM - LATER

Gail and Marni, now clean, lay on the couch.

GAIL

I can't believe my husband actually grounded me. This blows.

MARNI

I know. I haven't been grounded since junior year. At least this time he didn't take away the car.

GAIL

Hey, why didn't you ever tell me about what you went through in high school? I'm your Mom. I could have helped.

MARNI

I was embarrassed. My whole life I've wanted to be just like you. I didn't want you to know I was a total loser. I guess some things never change, huh?

GAIL

Marni, you are not a loser.

MARNI

How is it high school only lasts 734 days but the emotional scars last for the rest of your life?

GAIL

You listen to me. You are beautiful and smart and successful. You've already accomplished things in your life that I never will. You moved to a new city. You have an exciting career. So do yourself a favor: Stop worrying about wanting to be like me when you grow up. Because when I grow up I want to be like you.

MARNI

(eyes welling up)
Really?

GAIL

Really.

They HUG. Marni GRINS from ear to ear.

MARNI

What am I going to do about Wade, Mom?

Gail yawns, totally wiped out.

GAIL

Unfortunately, I think we're gonna have to let Wade and Joanna work through this one on their own.

Marni contemplates.

MARNI

No. I started this, I have to fix it. There's gotta be way to get this wedding back on track.

She turns to Gail, but she is ASLEEP. Marni BOLTS from the room.

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

Marni knocks on her bedroom door. No answer. She enters.

MARNI

Joanna?

The room is empty.

INT. OLSEN RESIDENCE - NIGHT

As Marni makes her way down the stairs she hears a weird SUCKING SOUND coming from the KITCHEN. Almost like one of those spit-sucker things the dentist uses. It grows LOUDER as Marni enters the dark kitchen.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

CLOSE ON MARNI: Her eyes wide with fear.

MARNI

Oh no.

WIDEN TO REVEAL Joanna on the floor, in front of the open refrigerator, surrounded by JUNK FOOD. She holds a can of CHOCOLATE REDDI WHIP in her hand. Her wedding dress is sprawled around her.

MARNI (CONT'D)

Joanna, no!! Put the whip cream down. It's full of carbs! It's not worth it.

Joanna looks up at her in a daze. She looks like hell. Her dress is covered with CHEETOS and... are those OREOS?

JOANNA

What difference does it make? IT'S NOT LIKE I'M GETTING MARRIED ANYMORE!

(then)

I'm an awful person.

MARNI

No, I'm the awful person. I ruined your rehearsal dinner. I ruined your wedding. I'm so ashamed. I really hope you can forgive me.

JOANNA

Marni. Stop apologizing. I deserved it. I deserve all of it.

Marni doesn't say anything. She sits down beside her, careful not to sit on the jar of PEANUT BUTTER.

JOANNA (CONT'D)

I've spent so many years trying to distance myself from the person I was back then. I changed my attitude. I changed my name. But it wasn't enough obviously. Because if I had really changed, then I would have been strong enough to apologize to you the moment you walked in the door.

Joanna takes a HUGE shot of CHOCOLATE REDDI WHIP into her mouth. Some of it DRIPS down her chin, threatening to drop onto her white dress. Marni watches, nervously.

JOANNA (CONT'D)

You were the only person who wouldn't let me forget. Seeing you made me feel 18 again. I guess I panicked. I just didn't want Wade to know how awful I was back then. But you have to believe me. It was never personal.

MARNI

It felt pretty personal to me.

The whip cream finally DROPS. Marni grabs it with a napkin just in time. She saves the dress. Sort of.

JOANNA

Look, I don't expect you to ever forgive me, but I do want you to know that I'm truly sorry.

At long last. There it is. Her apology.

MARNI

Excuse me? Could you say that one more time? A little slower?

Joanna knows Marni is relishing this, but is ready to take her long overdue medicine.

JOANNA

I'm sorry, Marni. About everything.

MARNI

Thanks, Joanna. I appreciate that.

They smile. But Joanna's smile quickly turns to anguished sobs. She shovels more Cheetos into her mouth.

JOANNA

I've made such a mess of things. Wade won't speak to me... I can't live without him! What am I going to do?

OFF Marni, determined.

EXT. PARK TRAIL - MORNING

Wade jogs. Out of nowhere comes Marni, running behind him. Her leg cramps. She FIGHTS on, refusing to give up.

MARNI

Whaa... Wa... De... Wa... Waaaddde!

WADE

Go away!

MARNI

I will run... until... I die.

Wade can tell she's not kidding.

EXT. PARK OVERLOOK - DAY

Wade and Marni sit on a bench overlooking the city. Wade is not happy.

WADE

Are you kidding me? Bringing that Tim guy was bad enough. But that video? How could you do that?

MARNI

I'm sorry. I just wanted you to know the truth before you married Joanna.

WADE

Well, you don't have to worry, I'm not marrying Joanna anymore.

MARNI

Twenty-four hours ago I would've been happy to hear you say that. But I realized today she's not the same person she was in high school. She loves you, dummy. And judging from the goofy, borderline embarrassing way you act around her, you love her, too. Nothing she did back then should change that.

(MORE)

MARNI (CONT'D)

(then)

I gave her a second chance. Maybe you should too? I mean, at least one of us should get a happy ending here.

After a beat, Wade softens with a smile.

INT. BEN'S BEDROOM - DAY

Marni and Ben regroup in Ben's room.

MARNI

So, I guess now we just have to wait and see what happens. I told Wade the truth and...

Ben looks out the window. His EYES BUG OUT.

BEN

Noooo!!

MARNI

What?

BEN

It's Wade and Joanna! They're in the tree house making out!

He points out the window.

MARNI

That's great.

BEN

No! You told me he was giving her the treehouse. It's my tree house. I didn't want her to have it, so I was gonna take it down. I loosened the bolts, but didn't get a chance to finish.

Ben and Marni SPRINT out of the room.

EXT. OLSEN BACKYARD - CONTINUOUS

Marni and Ben race outside, yelling up to the TREEHOUSE.

MARNI

Hey, guys! Um, can we talk to you? Down here. Like, now.

Wade sticks his head out of the treehouse.

WADE

Can it wait? We're kinda busy.

MARNI

But it's really important.

WADE

This is pretty important too. We'll be down in a minute.

BEN

You'll be down sooner than you think.

Suddenly, we hear a CRACKLING NOISE. The support beams of the treehouse start to BUCKLE. Marni and Ben cover their eyes. They can't watch. The treehouse CRASHES DOWN to the ground in a powerful THUD.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Wade and Joanna lie in SEPARATE BEDS. Wade has a BROKEN ARM and some cuts and bruises. Joanna has a BROKEN LEG and wears CAST UP TO HER WAIST. Marni, Ben, Gail, and Ramona all tend to them.

MARNI

I am so sorry, you two.

WADE

What are you sorry for? Mom said it was most likely termites. They've been meaning to get that tree looked at. It was bad timing, that's all.

BEN

Termites are the silent killer.

He shares a knowing look with Marni. STAN ENTERS in SCRUBS. He reads a medical chart.

RAMONA

How bad is it, Stan?

STAN

You two escaped the worst of it. Other than the broken bones, the x-rays look fine.

GAIL

Oh, thank goodness.

JOANNA

What about the wedding?

STAN

I'm sorry, kids. I think we're going to have to put the wedding on hold. Nobody is leaving this hospital today.

Saddened, Wade and Joanna hold hands from across the bed. Marni watches the affectionate couple. Surprisingly, she's not grossed out. Instead, she's energized.

INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY - A SECOND LATER

Marni dials her cell phone.

MARNI

Monique? Hi. It's Marni. About the wedding... Slight change of plan.

Monique lets out a BLOOD CURDLING SCREAM.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - LATER

Joanna sleeps. She's nudged awake.

JOANNA

What's going on?

Joanna looks up to find Marni, Kendall and Taylor dressed in BRIDESMAIDS DRESSES.

MARNI

So, you want to get married, or are you just going to sleep all day?

OFF Joanna, confused...

EXT. HOSPITAL ROOF - NIGHT

The ELEVATOR doors open to reveal Joanna and her Bridesmaids. Joanna wears her Cheeto stained WEDDING GOWN which has been awkwardly pinned around her BODY CAST. She HOBBLER out of the elevator on crutches, in awe over what Marni has done.

The roof of the hospital has been transformed into a magical setting. WHITE TWINKLE LIGHTS line the exterior. FLOWERS and BALLOONS that read "It's A Boy!" and "Get Well Soon!" are everywhere.

The CHAPEL ALTAR has been brought up and placed near the edge of the roof, overlooking the entire city. CHAIRS have been transferred to the roof for family, friends, nurses, surgeons and guests. Guests settle in.

JOANNA

You did all this?

MARNI

I know it's not the fairy tale wedding you'd planned, but hopefully --

Joanna sees Wade standing at the alter. She MELTS.

JOANNA

It's... perfect.

TAYLOR

Joanna, did you know Marni talked to Justin Timberlake once!? Why didn't you tell us she had such a cool job?

JOANNA

She is pretty cool.

The girls make their way down the aisle. Joanna accidentally TRIPS an elderly gentleman with her crutches. She then TAKES OUT a tall floral arrangement, but she has no idea. She is focused only Wade -- intoxicated by love.

EXT. HOSPITAL ROOF - MOMENTS LATER

Joanna and Wade stand at alter, flanked by their bridal party. Joanna notices Ben, standing at the end of a line of tall groomsmen, struggling to see the ceremony.

JOANNA

Hey, Ben...

She motions Ben to the front of the line. Ben SMILES and quickly takes his place, STANDING BETWEEN Wade and Joanna at the alter. Wade and Joanna share a look.

BEN

Relax, people. I'm kidding.

Ben winks at Wade as he moves to his other side. Everyone settles, waiting for the wedding to begin. Suddenly...

...MONIQUE LE FRIQUÉ marches down the aisle dressed in her interpretation of a Catholic Priest's garb.

MONIQUE

Bonjour-Hello, everyone.

Monique takes her place at the alter.

MONIQUE (CONT'D)

At long last, we are gathered here today to join Wade Olsen and Joanna Goldman in holy matrimony. As I've said before, every wedding tells a story. Yes, it is true that my version of this story was a wedding in three acts that culminated in a castle by the ocean, not on the set of "General Hospital."

(then)

But during my time as your Wedding Extraordinator, I have learned that it is not as important that your wedding is perfect for you, as it is that you are perfect for each other. So now, without further ado...

(then)

If there is anyone who finds just cause that these two should not be lawfully joined, speak now or forever hold your peace.

Suddenly, EVERYONE turns to look at Marni.

MARNI

What?

EXT. HOSPITAL ROOFTOP - LATER

A festive reception is underway. Music BLASTS from a BOOM BOX. Guests dance on the makeshift dance floor.

Wade and Joanna DANCE AWKWARDLY, navigating through casts and crutches, determined to enjoy their first few moments of marital bliss.

We FIND Ramona at the bar. Suddenly, Gail appears behind her with an attractive man. She taps her on the shoulder.

GAIL

Ramona, there's someone here who would like to see you.

Ramona turns to see the man with Gail. Her JAW DROPS. It's her old crush from High School!

RAMONA

Rich Phillips?

GAIL

Rich works at the hospital with Stan.

RICH

You look great, Ramona. You haven't changed a bit since high school.

RAMONA

(smiling at Gail)

Well, hopefully I've changed a *little*.

GAIL

I'll let you two catch up.

Gail exits, thrilled to finally have closure with Ramona. Suddenly, we hear Marni's voice thru the SPEAKERS.

MARNI

Um, excuse me, can I please have everyone's attention?

Everyone turns to find Marni standing in front of a makeshift stage.

MARNI (CONT'D)

Hi. I'm Marni. Sister of the groom. I struggled to come up with the perfect wedding gift for Wade and Joanna. I wanted it to be something special, something to commemorate their happy ending. And then it hit me-- what better way than to go back to their beginning. So, here to sing a song I think we can all appreciate...

Marni pulls back a make-shift curtain to reveal THE CAPTAIN & TENNILLE!

They begin to play and as the sounds of "Love Will Keep Us Together" fill the rooftop, Wade and Joanna join their guests on dance floor -- everyone singing and dancing and having a great time.

ANGLE ON MARNI: Off to the side, scanning the party. She watches Gail, still battered from the cat fight, DANCE AWKWARDLY with Stan. Suddenly, Marni notices...

...Charlie. Staring at her from across the party. He smiles and waves. She blushes, looking behind her. *Is he actually waving to her?* When she turns back around Charlie is standing right in front of her.

CHARLIE

You're a hard one to track down. I tried to talk to you at the rehearsal last night.

MARNI

Sorry. I kinda had my hands full. How's your lip?

CHARLIE

I think I'll live.

Determined to not be the dork again, Marni summons all of her courage...

MARNI

So, you wanna dance?

CHARLIE

(playful)
I don't know. You've got some pretty lethal moves.

MARNI

C'mon, everyone deserves a second chance.

Charlie smiles and follows Marni onto the dance floor. One step closer to their own happy ending.

We PAN around the rooftop as everyone busts out their signature moves from the dance off...

THE CAMERA FINDS Gail, Ramona, Marni and Joanna, who have all found their way to the CENTER OF THE DANCE FLOOR. The four women dance in a circle. All of them happy. All of them relaxed. And all of them just little bit better for having gone through this weekend... *Together.*

FADE OUT.