

MARRY ME PITCH

INT. AUDREY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Nick and Audrey (a 30 year old couple) come down the hall and into her apartment. They just got back from an anniversary trip. They've been dating for 7 years.

AUDREY

Wow. What a great trip! I can't believe we've been dating for 7 years.

NICK

Yep, pretty incredible.

AUDREY

7 years of dating. And I'm 32 years old. 32. Treinta dos, senior.

NICK

Uh huh. Welp, I'm gonna go to bed, babe.

AUDREY

Wait, but - Um, are you sure there's nothing else you wanna chit chat about? I could make us some tea, or pop open a bottle of champagne?

NICK

Uch, I hate champagne. No thanks, babe. Good night.

He kisses her on the cheek and heads for the bedroom. She shakes her head, annoyed. She had obviously been waiting for a proposal. For at least five years. She goes toward the kitchen to make some tea, but finally just snaps:

AUDREY

Fuck it! Fuck this shit! I can't believe you didn't fucking propose to me! There I said it! I said what everyone else is thinking! Except you you fucking dick fuck!

Behind her, we see Nick get down on one knee and pull out an engagement ring. However, Audrey doesn't see him as she just continues to angrily open and close cabinets like girls love to do.

AUDREY (CONT'D)
This is fucking bullshit!

NICK
Audrey, turn around.

AUDREY
God, and you know me Nick, I'm not one of those girls that always whines about getting married and stuff, but if I wanna have a kid that's not retarded, I better get to stepping. And FYI, I know they always talk about a girl's eggs getting too old, but I've been reading some pretty convincing articles recently that are saying some very damning things about old sperm too. So, look out!

NICK
Whoa, my sperms are fresh. I've got like baby sperm. Just to clarify, I meant the baby version of sperms. Not the sperm of a baby. Which seems inappropriate. And frankly impossible.
(regroups)
Whatever. Babe, just turn around.

AUDREY
No I will not turn around. You don't get to tell me what to do. I'll shuffle around this whole fucking apartment without turning around. I played JV basketball, I can go all night!

NICK
Well, you're really gonna need to get a lot lower if you wanna effectively defend against the drive--

AUDREY
I know what this is about. It's your fucking mom, isn't it. She doesn't like me.

NICK
No, babe, c'mon.

AUDREY
Well guess what? I don't like her!

NICK
YOU SHUT YOUR MOUTH WHEN YOU'RE
TALKING ABOUT MY MOTHER!

AUDREY
SHE'S THE MOST NEGATIVE PERSON ON
THE PLANET.

NICK
HEY, MY MOM'S BEEN THROUGH A LOT!

AUDREY
OF FRIENDS! SHE'S BEEN THROUGH A
LOT OF FRIENDS CAUSE SHE'S A BITCH!

NICK
GODDAMNIT AUDREY JUST TURN THE FUCK
AROUND!

AUDREY
WHAT?!

Audrey turns around to see...Nick on one knee. Beat.

AUDREY (CONT'D)
...yes?

NICK
Uch, yes Audrey, will you marry me?

AUDREY
I would like that very much, thank
you.

Audrey shrugs guiltily as she tip toes over, and gives him a cautious 'I'm sorry' slash 'Do you still love me?' type kiss.

NICK
(sighs, then)
Okay, everybody. Come on out.

Nick's Mom and all their friends come out from everywhere. They were there to surprise her after the proposal.

TITLE: MARRY ME

Basically, I wanna do a show about a couple. There'll be other characters of course, but the poster is Nick and Audrey. I feel like there hasn't been a modern take on a "Mad About You" type show in a long time and there definitely isn't one on TV right now. It's "Annie Hall" meets "When Harry Met Sally" meets "The Canyons" (that Lindsay Lohan softcore porn she did with the guy who had anal sex with Farrah Abraham). Moving stuff.

Anyway, what's interesting about this to me, is that a serious relationship - getting engaged, being married etc. - is really, at it's core, about getting to know another person as well as you know yourself. But, more unfortunately than that, it's really about letting another person get to know you that intimately as well. It's all the shit about yourself that you've worked so hard to hide from the world. But now one very special person, gets to see it all. It's terrifying and usually pretty ugly and very weird.

It's Nick discovering that Audrey still sucks her thumb. Not just when she's tired, but when she's sad. Which is even stranger. He'd actually prefer she'd just fucking cry. It's food poisoning, it's getting caught masturbating to an US Weekly cover of that surfer girl who got her arm bitten off by a shark. It's three hour conversations about 'Do you think that guy at dinner liked me or was he pissed when I said that thing about hating "Almost Famous" I mean how was I supposed to know he went to Hebrew School with Patrick Fugit? What kind of Jewish name is Fugit?' 'It's okay, he liked you, Nick.'

So the show would follow this couple from the proposal in the pilot to their wedding in the season 1 finale. Assuming you guys are cool ordering 24 right now. Sort of a deal breaker for old DC. But don't worry, the show won't be serialized at all, it's just a loose framework, and a good story generator when we want it. Most episodes, the impending wedding won't even be mentioned. But I think having it there keeps the audience invested in the couple's future. I really want people to love them and care where they're going.

They would also move in together in the pilot (which I think is a great comedic engine to trigger all the intimate type of discoveries I just talked about - You remember the whole thing about jerking off to the one armed very religious girl, right? It was all I had. And I find her courage sexy).

Um, the other thing that is cool for me with this idea, and please don't tell anyone cause it's sorta supposed to be a surprise, but I'm pretty sure I'm about to be living this show as I write it. Which is interesting. And more profitable for me personally than seeing a shrink.

MORE ABOUT OUR COUPLE

I think Nick and Audrey are that couple that are super different and that's why it works. But people in the outside world are kinda surprised they're still together. Like when Nick sits down with his friends to tell them he's proposing:

NICK (CONT'D)

So listen, guys, I need to talk to you about Audrey.

FRIEND

Oh man, I'm sorry. You're breaking up? Hey, none of us here would ever say they didn't see it coming. We applaud your courage.

NICK

Uh, no. I'm gonna propose.

FRIEND

Smart. Smart. Go the other way with it. Everyone thinks the right move is to end things forever, so you head fake that, then actually go with the proposal. It takes courage, and we applaud you.

Other things about them. Um, Audrey has two gay dads, KEVIN and KEVIN. They named her after Audrey from Little Shop of Horrors. When she wants to fuck with Nick, she always says:

AUDREY

You know what they say, a girl always marries her dad. I wonder which of my gay dads you remind me of the most.

I think we've seen the gay couple a lot now, but we haven't seen the grown up child of the gay couple yet.

And Nick, on the other hand, was raised by a divorced mom. So you've got a guy that didn't really have a dad, and a girl that had two, but didn't have a mom. They have trouble relating to each other. Audrey and his mom butt heads a lot.

AUDREY (CONT'D)

I'm sorry, I didn't have a mom, okay? I'm the product of an egg from a lesbian my dads no longer speak to, and a sorta soft serve swirl of their semen.

Sorry for all the jizz jokes. I don't really have an excuse, except to say the show won't be noticeably jizz heavy.

The show will stick mostly with our couple and their friends, but in the episodes where the parents do show up, I think it's a funny juxtaposition between the happily married gay couple and the slightly bitter divorced mom. Especially as they try to plan a wedding together.

What else? Audrey's very emotional, has a therapist, sees an astrologer, does hot yoga etc. She's a real searcher. Whereas Nick is a classic 'I'm fine' guy. Until he explodes. Just for the record, that was not a jizz joke. Nick always makes fun of Audrey's shit like the therapist, buuuut, whenever he's having an issue with his mom, or at work or whatever, he's always like, "Hey Aud, why don't you just run my little thing by Dr. Myers next time you two chat? Really see if she can unpack what I'm feeling." Audrey's like "I'm not doing therapy for you by proxy." I actually do this with my girlfriend.

Anyway, they might seem super different on the surface (likes, dislikes, favorite Justin Bieber causes of death, etc.), but they're actually very similar at their core. Which I think is a trait of most good couples. Cause, not that I know shit about shit, but real love seems like it's not about *what* you like, it's more about *how* you like it. For instance, Audrey *loves* musical theater just as rabidly as Nick *hates* people who use the joke structure "something called, it wants its something back". They both have that same passion, it's just for completely different shit. A lot of times all they agree on is how much they fucking hate each other right now. But they love that. They love that they're the only two still up at 3 am arguing over whether Ben Roethlisberger or Kobe Bryant is more likely to have raped his accuser. They're super competitive with each other, but fiercely loyal first. Also, they're both hot enough to be on TV, so they're very attracted to one another. Now, if we really want to get laughs, we could just have the hundreds of girls I've disappointed over the last 25 years come and listen to this little Learning Annex level lecture on love I just gave so assuredly. They might question my teaching credentials. I'm a piece of shit.

Other things: Audrey has a tiny, extremely old dog named Duffy that she rescued. He's basically the sickest dog on the planet that's still able to breathe. He's blind and deaf, takes heart pills, and skin pills, and eye drops and ear drops, and coughs up phlegm through the entire night, every fucking night.

And of course, Nick didn't grow up with pets at all. And is an OCD clean freak. So it's very hard for him to be cool with the fact that because of some new leg issue, Duffy now has to piss and shit on a pad in the dining room. They're literally living in a dog's toilet.

A lot of times, they'll be having a pretty serious conversation, and Duffy'll just trot in and take a piss or shit on the pad. Which makes Nick literally dry heave. When they have to take Duffy to the vet, which is always in the middle of the night, it's a funny conversation:

VET

Well, he's very old. So, we're gonna have to--

NICK

Put him down? Damn. Damn, damn, damn.

VET

No, I was gonna say, keep him overnight.

NICK

Oh. Totally. Thank god. He has risen.

The cost of the dog is insane too. It's Audrey's biggest yearly expense by far. More than her rent or car or anything combined. When Nick and Aud meet her ACCOUNTANT to combine their finances, the Accountant puts the situation with Duffy very simply:

ACCOUNTANT

I've got three words for you, Audrey: do not resuscitate.

But, of course, if it ever looks like Duffy is actually gonna die, Nick bursts into tears. He loves the Duff Man. And don't worry, that dog will outlive us all.

Now, even though Nick and Audrey love each other, a relationship is tough. And the engagement year is known as being way harder even than the first year of marriage. Probably cause you're combining your lives and families and finances, plus you've got the stress of planning a wedding, and then on top of all that, there's the coming to terms with such a major life change, and the doubts that go with that.

Like, I love the idea that even in the pilot, when they move in together, and they're unpacking for the first time, having a glass of wine, toasting, super excited. Everything's great at first. But then as they really get into the details, the excitement slowly turns to fear. Like in the closet:

AUDREY

Okay, cool, so you need to hang your stuff up, of course, so I guess I'll just move a few of my things out of this side of the closet and...throw them out forever? What is the plan, per se, for all these blouses, long term?

NICK

Babe, don't freak out. We can get a storage unit for all the things that we each loved when we were single that we never get to do again I'm gonna take a bath.

AUDREY

I'm going for a run!

NICK

You're in flip flops and it's midnight!

AUDREY

You don't own me! Kunta Kinte!

Audrey sprints out of the apartment! I have more bits, but I'm really getting sick of my voice. Even though they do say that TV is all about voice.

LET'S TALK BRIEFLY ABOUT THE FRIENDS:

Nick's best friend is a balding guy named **TODD**. Picture a 30 year old George Costanza.

Todd was the first one of their friends to get married, he married his college sweetheart, **MARIE**, when they were 20, and now...he's the first one to get divorced. He currently resides in an Oakwoods style gentlemen's hotel, as he tries to ease back into the single life. He is very ill-equipped to say the least. Picture what would happen if a 30 year old Phil Dunphy (minus the kids) was suddenly single again. A total house cat thrust back out into the wild.

I think it'll be funny to watch him go to bars full of 21 year olds, and try to hit on girls for the first time in ten years. By doing his horrible Borat impression. What else? He has to go to the gym for the first time ever, and try to shed ten years of relationship weight. He pores over the Facebook pages of the younger kids in his office to try to learn the current lingo and also figure out what music is popular now, he only listens to Springsteen of course. He opens a twitter account that ends up mostly just being things he intended to privately text to people. He even tries abbreviating words cause he saw it once on Happy Endings. Unfortunately he watched it online, so now I'm sitting here begging like a piece of shit.

Todd's been in a relationship for so long, that when he finally does get a girl home, he's like:

TODD

God, I wanna make love to you so bad right now. Let's make love. I'm gonna make love to you hard.

GIRL

Please say 'have sex', or even 'fuck' would be less creepy.

TODD

Oh, sorry, Marie would only let me call it 'make love'. Or 'sticky boo boo', which I assume wouldn't have played any better.

Todd's big thing though, is that he's bummed that Nick is getting engaged right when Todd's getting divorced. They've never actually been single at the same time cause Todd was married throughout his 20's.

TODD (CONT'D)

God, I'm finally single, and ready to go out tangin' with you, and you're getting engaged? This sucks. I missed all the prime tangin' years, cause I married Marie, god rest her soul--

NICK

She's not dead. She's living.

TODD

Living with Barry from Barry's bootcamp.

NICK

Wow, really? Good for her.

TODD

Well, not *the* Barry. A guy named Barry who works there. But he's in remarkable shape, man, which you know is very painful for me.

Todd always refers to Marie as if she passed away. When, in fact, she just fucked his rabbi. Which is confusing for him on a whole other level. **Mainly cause he didn't know they were allowed to fuck at all.** Anyway, even though Todd pretends to be excited to get back out there, we can tell he'd much rather just be curled up on the couch with a woman he loves, binge-watching Scandals, so they can clear enough DVR space in time to record other Shonda Rimes shows. That's oddly what he calls his 'perfect date night'.

I feel like this could be a fresh take on the whole single guy character that we've seen too much. This isn't just your standard late 20's single "bro" who wants to fuck chicks. It's your profoundly broken reluctantly single "bro"...who wants to gently make love to chicks. But it's not all sad. It's also a rebirth, an opportunity to go back in time and live the single years he never had. Could be funny. Assuming the punch-up goes well the weekend before we shoot the pilot.

Another friend is **KAY**. She's a complete fucking mess. Like a female Galifianakis. Picture Melissa McCarthy. Though don't fall in love with that, I don't think we can get her. Or Galifianakis. I don't feel like I've ever actually seen a girl play the total mess, slacker character that we see as a guy in so many shows. Kay's always between weird jobs, and balancing multiple relationships with strange older men, and older women too. But if you ask her if she's bisexual she just says she's, quote, "Not a political person." Which doesn't really make sense. What else? She believes the correct term is *statue* of limitations. And she'll fight anyone that says otherwise. Um, Audrey and Nick aren't really sure who's friend she is. They both sorta just remember her always being around.

The last two characters are a couple. Audrey's best friend, **DANNAH**, her name is Dannah. Not Danna, or Donna. Dannah. I can't even really pronounce it. You basically just have to do an impression of a girl from Long Island. Also, it's spelled like Dana. And her really handsome, but really stupid boyfriend **JAKE**.

Dannah is gorgeous, but very over-dramatically dark. Picture like a Lizzie Caplan type. Everything is usually going pretty great for her, but whenever you ask her how she's doing she has a way of making things sound terrible:

AUDREY

Dannah, how you doin'?

DANNAH

Uch, well, my boss bought me a night at the Four Seasons as a thank you for all my hard work cause I guess he thinks I'm the type of person that gets off on that sorta thing. And it was wonderful.

AUDREY

Okay...

She's the type that sorta just stumbles into good shit, but still acts miserable.

Her boyfriend, Jake, is an idiot. But the kind of idiot that wants to be smart and profound, so he's always talking about articles he read on the human brain and dumb shit like that. He reads the smartest articles in the dumbest magazines. Like how Maxim will sandwich a think piece about PTSD between two spreads of the hottest women of Cart Racing.

If you ask Jake what he does for a living, he says he's a professional athlete. He's a personal trainer. So I guess it's kinda true? He spent the last couple years trying to launch his own workout tape that he claimed was way better than P90X. He called it P91X. He got very sued. Jake is Todd's trainer. He's helping Todd get back in "walk to the bathroom after sex without making the girl second guess me" shape. Todd is torn about Jake. He wants to hate him cause he's the exact type of guy Marie left him for, but he also desperately wants to be his best friend.

Dannah makes fun of Jake mercilessly in front of him, rolls her eyes at almost everything he says. When people ask if they're getting serious, she says, "No way. We're just sleeping together." They've been sleeping together for four years. She actually does really love him. She's just a commitment phobe cause her folks have each been divorced twice. That idea came from a sequel I pitched Seth called 8 Christmases. He passed. Jake's super sweet and really into love in the way that only complete idiots can be. He proposes to April with big elaborate proposals every couple months, but she always says no. She's just not ready. She's not pumped Audrey's getting married cause it just highlights her own shit.

TONE:

I want to play everything real. And I wanna do true heart as well. This is the story of a love affair. But I don't want the heart to be melo-dramatic, I want it to be more true to life. Like how in real life, when someone dies, people tend to make jokes way more often than they break into perfectly written soliloquies. Subtle/uncomfortable/clumsy. I remember when my friend passed away, I had to give the eulogy in this huge synogogue, like four hundred people, and I got up there, with my eleven pages of stuff (yes, I know, I'm long winded, sorry), but when I opened my mouth to speak, I literally could not say a word. And I kept trying and trying but I was so choked up I just couldn't speak. For like ten minutes. And then I just said, "Jesus Christ". The rabbi gave me a not great look, I said, "Sorry, Rabbi", and people laughed. Anyway, that's sorta the model for the heart. All the heart will be played as if we're at a funeral. Anyway, the point is, no fucking John Mayer songs playing softly in the background.

From a story standpoint, I wanna do less broad stories than Happy Endings. Realer. And even though I just described to you a long list of what I'm sure will eventually be lovingly described by TV GUIDE as "mediocre characters", this is really a show about our couple. That's what I wanna write about now, cause, again between us, I'm about to propose. This show is my life now, versus when I pitched Happy Endings and I was just free to do whatever I want with my friends and sleep with random hostesses. But I'm 34 and I've hung on as long as I can. Even for L.A.

STORY IDEAS:

1. Not to start by pitching a bottle episode - although I am a very budget conscious producer (we were under all three years at Happy Endings) - but, I think it would be funny to do a whole episode of Nick and Audrey trying to put together their new Ikea bed...while they have a fight. Something very funny about them sitting in the living room, struggling to put this thing together while their fight escalates. Finally, as the fight really explodes, they actually finish getting the thing together...they pick it up and head toward the bedroom, but it won't fit through the door. So they destroy it. Just absolutely rip it and stomp it and hammer it to shreds. And, of course, that destruction is cathartic, and in that catharsis, they make up.

Meanwhile, the friends reluctantly try to help Todd get Marie back, even though they tell him she's a horrible human being. Nevertheless, Jake helps Todd get in shape, Dannah buys him new clothes, and Kay teaches him "The Game", although we quickly realize she hasn't read the book at all and is really just sorta clumsily combining Sun Tzu's "The Art of War" with most of Ryan Gosling's monologues from "Crazy, Stupid, Love". Miraculously, when Marie sees Todd, she says he looks great and that she's sorry and she really misses him. Of course once Todd can get her back, he doesn't want her anymore. He knows his friends were right, she's horrible. So, he gallantly...has sex with her one last time, and then leaves in the middle of the night.

2. The episode where Nick and Audrey combine their finances. Todd tells Nick he really needs to have the pre-nup talk.

TODD

Nick, you're an idea guy, okay?
And those ideas are gonna be worth
real money. You gotta protect
yourself against Audrey taking half
your stuff like my dead bitch wife.
RIP Marie Santos. May the angels
carry you home.

Todd gets Nick all riled up, so he goes home, sits Audrey down and tells her he needs her to sign a pre-nup. She immediately laughs so hard that she literally pees on the couch. After your standard pee pants act break, Audrey tells Nick she thinks a pre-nup's a good idea. She pulls over her computer and suggests they look at both their bank statements to establish what they're going into this marriage with. Nick looks at her computer and is immediately floored:

NICK

Um. Oof, that's - Jesus, how did you save that much?

AUDREY

Oh, no, that's my checking. This is my savings.

Nick looks at another number. Beat, then:

NICK

You know, when love is pure, as ours clearly is, who would deign to besmirch it with a business contract, nee, who would want to besmirch such a love as thus...?

The other thing that I think could be a really cool dynamic to explore with this show is that Audrey makes more money than Nick. That's very common now, and I think it brings up a lot of shit not just for the guy, but for the girl as well. For instance, I'm sure you're wondering how Nick wouldn't know that Audrey made so much more than him. Really smart note, guys. Well, awhile back, Dannah advised Audrey not to tell Nick about a series of raises she'd been getting over the years cause she said it'd, quote, "Make Nick feel like Jodie Foster's character in The Accused. You know, he would feel like a waitress. Emasculated." But, in the end, it's actually the fact that Audrey *thought* Nick would feel emasculated that really makes him feel emasculated. Yep, we're gonna deal with some real stuff on this show, guys. Gonna be like Newsroom.

3. We will also do general friends and family stories that aren't just about Nick and Audrey's sweet sweet love. Like when Audrey's dads decide to protest the Payless Shoe Store that fired Kay because they believe she was discriminated against for being bi-sexual. She was actually fired for living there. Or when Todd decides to become a life coach, even though he's an under-employed, 32 year old divorcee, in a month to month studio, whose most recent Google search history is "Miley Cyrus nip slip", "Billy Ray Cyrus dick slip", and "ways to make grilled cheese without a pan". Lives are ruined. Apartments are destroyed in horrific grilled cheese fires.

And I'm sure some other hilarious stuff will happen to Jake and Dannah too once we hire a bunch of writers!

In conclusion, I will suck your dick if you buy my show.