

Untitled Rob Greenberg Project

by

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August 8, 2012

COLD OPEN

INT. MUSTANG CONVERTIBLE - DAY

A ruggedly HANDSOME GUY, 30-ish, drives rapidly.

NARRATOR

There are defining moments in life  
that change everything.

EXT. RESIDENTIAL STREET - CONTINUOUS

The car whips around the corner, speeding down the block.

EXT. SUBURBAN HOUSE - DAY

It pulls up to the curb. He hops out, and RINGS THE DOORBELL.

WOMAN'S VOICE

If you're looking for Sara...

It's the NEIGHBOR, pushing a stroller down the sidewalk.

NEIGHBOR (CONT'D)

She's getting married today.

HANDSOME GUY

(frantic)

Where? Do you know where? I'm,  
uh... supposed to... read a poem.

NEIGHBOR

First Presbyterian on Riverside.  
You better hurry.

He dashes back to his car.

EXT. VENTURA BLVD - DAY

The Mustang weaves in and out, passing cars.

INT. MUSTANG CONVERTIBLE - CONTINUOUS

He drives like a Nascar champ, until --

EXT. VENTURA BLVD - CONTINUOUS

Road construction. Traffic comes to a standstill.

INT. MUSTANG CONVERTIBLE - CONTINUOUS

He pounds the dashboard in frustration, then pulls the car onto the shoulder.

EXT. VENTURA BLVD - CONTINUOUS

He jumps out and starts running along the side of the road. He hops the fence, blazing a short-cut --

EXT. PARK - DAY

He dashes across the grass, through a touch football game.

EXT. ALLEY - DAY

He sprints by the trash bags and dumpsters.

EXT. FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - DAY

He darts up the stairs two at a time and --

INT. FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - CONTINUOUS

Bursts in! The BRIDE and GROOM stand at the altar.

MINISTER

...to be your lawfully wedded husband...

HANDSOME GUY

Don't marry him! I love you, Sara!

The bride, SARA, stands there, confused and scared.

She looks back at the groom... then yanks off her veil and dashes down the aisle. The CAMERA FOLLOWS the exhilarated couple running out into the beautiful fall day. But then --

The CAMERA WHIPS back to the jilted GROOM. Meet CARTER, 28, handsome, charming, funny and... shell-shocked.

NARRATOR (AKA CARTER'S V.O.)

This was my defining moment.

MINISTER

Oy.

END OF COLD OPEN

ACT ONE

INT. FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - CONTINUOUS

As we were. Carter stands at the altar, devastated.

CARTER (V.O.)  
Losing love is like coming to terms  
with death. You have to go through  
the five stages of grief.

INT. BALLROOM, STAGE - DAY

The worst WEDDING RECEPTION of all time. A SMATTERING OF GUESTS mingle awkwardly. Carter swigs a champagne bottle, yammering into the mic.

CARTER  
She just got cold feet! She'll be  
back any minute! Let's party!

CARTER (V.O.)  
Denial.

INT. BALLROOM, DANCE FLOOR - TWENTY MINUTES LATER

Carter screams, as he SMASHES the wedding cake with a chair.

CARTER (V.O.)  
Anger. Next comes bargaining.

EXT. STREET - TWO DAYS LATER

He walks down the sidewalk, on his cell, leaving a message.

CARTER  
I'll take cooking classes with you.  
I'll totally wear the V-neck  
sweater you bought me. I'll never  
again ask you to do that thing in  
bed you don't want to do. Unless  
you want to spice things up, then  
I'm willing to discuss it.

INT. CARTER'S CHILDHOOD BEDROOM - ONE WEEK LATER

It hasn't been redecorated since he was sixteen. He sits on his old bed, comatose.

CARTER (V.O.)  
Then depression.

His MOM enters, handing him a glass of juice.

CARTER'S MOM  
It's so nice to have a man around  
the house again.

Carter's DAD pokes his head in.

CARTER'S DAD  
Tell your mother I can hear her.

CARTER (V.O.)  
I had to find someplace else to  
live.

MATCH CUT TO:

Carter in the EXACT SAME POSITION. Only this time PULL BACK  
TO REVEAL he is now...

EXT. OAKWOOD APARTMENTS, POOL - DAY

...sitting on a lounge chair, poolside.

CARTER (V.O.)  
The brochure says it "quality,  
furnished, short-term housing."  
After being here a few weeks, I'd  
say it's more like a way station  
for guys who just got divorced, or  
dumped, or are otherwise incapable  
of buying their own furniture.

The CAMERA WHIPS to --

A 50-year-old, floating on a raft, listening to his iPod.

This is FRANK RUSSO, a college drop-out who built, ran and is  
now semi-retired from a clothing manufacturing company.

CARTER (V.O.)  
Frank Russo. After sixteen years of  
marriage, he and his wife had grown  
apart.

INT. BUNGALOW, KITCHEN - FLASHBACK - DAY

A pretty woman, 50-ish, throws a COFFEE POT at Frank. Ouch!

CARTER (V.O.)  
But then Frank found true happiness  
with...

INT. CHURCH - FLASHBACK - DAY

Frank lifts the wedding veil of his new 40-ish wife.

CARTER (V.O.)  
Lauren.

He lifts another veil. This one is 30-ish.

CARTER (V.O.)  
Then Stacy.

He lifts another veil. 20-ish.

CARTER (V.O.)  
Then Jessica.

EXT. THE OAKWOOD, POOL - BACK TO PRESENT

On Frank floating by, a satisfied grin on his face.

CARTER (V.O.)  
After his fourth divorce, Frank  
vowed the next time he found true  
happiness, he was just going to  
sleep with it for a few weeks.

The CAMERA WHIPS to --

A 34-year-old guy under an umbrella, doing a crossword  
puzzle.

This is GIL BROOKS, a nice, sweet guy, who owns a Spa and  
Pool equipment store.

CARTER (V.O.)  
Gil Brooks. Separated.

INT. RANCH HOUSE BEDROOM - FLASHBACK - DAY

A woman lies naked under a sheet. GIL hurries in, taking off  
his clothes and joins her in bed.

HIM  
The kid's napping, we have twenty  
minutes.

HER  
Not now. I had pizza for lunch.

HIM  
Come on, we haven't had sex in weeks.

HER  
No, I'm bloated.

HIM  
We can do it from the side. I'll do all the work.

HER  
I don't want you to touch me.

As the mood continues to sour, GIL'S WIFE enters.

GIL'S WIFE  
Oh, my God!

CARTER (V.O.)  
Gil got caught having the World's Worst Affair.

EXT. THE OAKWOOD, POOL - BACK TO PRESENT

On Gil, erasing a wrong answer.

CARTER (V.O.)  
He moved here temporarily until he can convince his wife to take him back. That was a year and a half ago.

The CAMERA WHIPS to --

A SEXY, BIKINI-CLAD WOMAN sunbathing.

CARTER (V.O.)  
I don't know the first thing about her. I'm depressed, not dead.

The CAMERA WHIPS to --

A 38-year-old guy wearing a bathrobe and yelling into a bluetooth cell phone hooked to his ear.

This is STUART STEGEMAN, a feisty, Republican-leaning, Yale-educated doctor, with a booming OB-GYN practice.

STUART  
She gave me chlamydia once, see if she wants half of that back!

CARTER (V.O.)  
Dr. Stuart Stegeman.

INT. CHURCH - FLASHBACK - DAY

An elaborate black-tie wedding. A beaming STUART stands at the altar with his beautiful bride.

CARTER (V.O.)  
Stuart was madly in love with a young divorce attorney.

INT. LEGAL OFFICE - FLASHBACK - DAY

Stuart, flanked by his lawyer, sits across from his estranged wife.

CARTER (V.O.)  
...who, it turns out, was very good at her job.

Stuart writes a hefty check, hands it to his ex.

EXT. WOODS - FLASHBACK - DAY

A hippy-dippy wedding. A beaming Stuart stands at the altar with his new yogi bride.

CARTER (V.O.)  
Next time, Stuart fell for a more spiritual woman. Who unfortunately developed a taste for the material world...

INT. LEGAL OFFICE - FLASHBACK - DAY

Stuart, again flanked by his attorney, sits across from his second estranged wife.

CARTER (V.O.)  
She hired the most ruthless lawyer she could find.

Stuart's FIRST EX-WIFE enters, and joins her new client. Stuart lowers his head in despair.

CARTER (V.O.)  
But Stuart was smarter this time...

EXT. THE OAKWOOD, POOL - BACK TO PRESENT

Stuart stands, getting ready to take a swim.

CARTER (V.O.)

He can afford a big house in Bel Air but he's living here, hiding his assets until a settlement is reached.

He removes his robe, revealing a skimpy speedo.

CARTER (V.O.)

Unfortunately, not all his assets.

As he dives into the water, the CAMERA TILTS with him, lingering on the AGITATED WATER. After a beat --

WE PULL OUT of the water, to a view of all four guys sitting in the JACUZZI.

CARTER (V.O.)

Here's the thing. It's never easy opening up. But since these guys have all been through horrible break-ups, I felt comfortable. I felt like I could tell them how much I still miss Sara.

STUART

She's a whore.

FRANK

Listen closely. Craig's list.  
Keyword: Asians.

CARTER

I'm not ready to start dating.

FRANK

Who said anything about dating?

CARTER

You guys don't understand. It's not that easy for me. Sara's the only woman I've ever been with.

GIL

Really?

STUART

That's impossible.

FRANK  
I'm offended by it.

CARTER  
I fell in love with her the first  
week of college. What was I  
supposed to do?

GIL  
Junior year abroad? A semester at  
sea?

FRANK  
No, no. This is a blessing. She did  
you a favor. We're taking you under  
our wing.

STUART  
We did the same thing for Gil.

GIL  
I was here before you.

STUART  
But you didn't use the time well.

FRANK  
Carter, look around you. You don't  
know it yet, but you're living in  
paradise.

CARTER  
This is paradise? It's temporary  
housing.

FRANK  
Temporary housing with a great gym.  
Indoor parking. Two Starbucks and a  
Coffee Bean in walking distance.  
And this is Hollywood. Actresses  
come through here all the time.  
Enter Frank stage left. Then  
upstage, downstage and backstage,  
if she'll let me.  
(sheepish smile)  
And one did, last week, right here  
in this jacuzzi.

Off looks of horror...

INT. THE OAKWOOD, REC ROOM - NIGHT

The guys shoot pool.

STUART

The point is, nobody knows more about break-ups than we do. Between the three of us, we have seven failed marriages.

GIL

Six. Any day now, Claire's going to forgive me and we're --

STUART

Yeah, yeah, you're going to renew your vows in Maui. Tell you what, I'll pay for the whole thing 'cause it's never going to happen.

GIL

(playful)

You're no longer invited.

FRANK

Carter, come on, we're taking you out for drinks.

STUART

(re Carter's argyle V-neck)

But don't wear that sweater. We might go someplace from the present.

CARTER

What's wrong with this sweater?

Sara bought me this sweater.

(proud)

It's reversible.

GIL

Much like her love for you. Up high, fellas. That was good, right?

(beat)

Come on, give me some love. I really need it.

Stuart reluctantly high-fives him.

GIL (CONT'D)

Okay, you're back on the guest list. Let's get out of here.

CARTER

I just need a second to change.

Carter takes off the sweater, turns it inside out, puts it back on.

INT. CASA VEGA - NIGHT

The guys sit at a table, drinking cocktails.

CARTER

So last night I went on her  
facebook page...

FRANK

Why? Why would you do that?

GIL

Guaranteed tears.

STUART

So you could look at her with that  
douchebag trainer she left you for?  
Let me guess. A lot of pictures of  
him shirtless on the beach.

CARTER

No. He's mostly doing yard work.

GIL

Handy. Woman go nuts for that.

FRANK

There's more than a few pictures of  
me shirtless on facebook.

CARTER

I shouldn't've have looked. I just  
have too much time on my hands. I  
don't even have a job anymore -- I  
was working for her dad.

STUART

He fired you?! This is a family of  
animals.

CARTER

No, he was totally cool about it. I  
quit. Believe it or not, marketing  
industrial paint is even more  
boring than it sounds.

FRANK

So what are you going to do?  
World's your oyster.

CARTER

I don't know. I've always wanted to  
coach basketball, but Sara really  
hated the idea.

GIL

Well, now you're a free man. You can do anything you want. I mean, Claire never let me wear Crocs.

(re his foot)

Now, I wear 'em all the time.

CARTER

Crocs with socks?

GIL

My toes get cold.

CARTER

Then wear sneakers.

GIL

My feet sweat.

CARTER

I don't know how she let you get away.

GIL

Great. Even the new guy's picking on me.

FRANK

(to Carter)

Love it! You're coming out of your shell, my friend!

A pretty, 40-year old walks by.

STUART

(to Frank)

Here we go. What do you think?

FRANK

Pass. Too much Botox. I can't even tell how old she is.

CARTER

I can tell she's younger than you.

FRANK

You can go back in your shell now.

STUART

(to Carter)

Look, you want to coach basketball? I know the principal over at Taft.

CARTER  
You'd put a call in for me?

STUART  
I delivered all three of his  
homely, chubby girls. They're like  
family. Done.

FRANK  
Okay, enough chitchat, time to get  
young Carter back on the horse.  
(to Carter, re: women)  
See anything you like?

CARTER  
Um... I don't know. She's pretty  
cute, I guess.

Carter indicates an ATTRACTIVE WOMAN across the bar. Frank  
looks over -- ooh, not up to his standards.

FRANK  
Her? No, you're right, crawl before  
you walk. Go.

CARTER  
Nah, I don't have the stomach for  
another rejection right now.

FRANK  
It's a numbers game. You ask a  
hundred women to have sex. You get  
slapped ninety-nine times, one says  
yes. Dare to be great.

CARTER  
I'm not going to ask her to have  
sex with me.

FRANK  
Fine. One will bake muffins with  
you. Now go.

Carter gathers his courage, stands, walks across the bar,  
cautiously approaches the woman, smiles, then...

...walks right around her, and heads back to the guys.

STUART  
Wow. Okay. We've got some work in  
front of us.

INT. SHARK LOUNGE - NIGHT

CARTER (V.O.)

The next night, the we went out  
again.

With the guys encouraging him from a nearby booth, Carter scans the crowd. A CUTE BRUNETTE approaches him.

CUTE BRUNETTE

Hi.

CARTER

Hi... I'm Carter.

CUTE BRUNETTE

Gaby. Um... can I get you a drink?

CARTER

Yeah, I'd like that. How about a  
Rolling Rock?

CUTE BRUNETTE

Be right back.

She heads over to the bar. Carter smugly turns to the guys.

CARTER

See that? A pretty girl's getting  
me a drink.

GIL

She's the waitress.

STUART

But good eye contact. We're making  
progress.

ACROSS THE BAR, Carter notices Frank with his arm around an adorably pretty 24-year-old.

CARTER

We've been here twenty minutes. How  
does he get a girl like that to  
even give him the time of day?

GIL

Charm. Confidence. And she's his  
daughter.

STUART

Frank won't let us near her.

Frank and JULIE step up.

JULIE

Hi guys.

GIL/STUART

Hey, Julie./How are you doing?

JULIE

Good. Good...

(then)

I'm sorry, I'm so bad with names.

FRANK

Gil, Stuart, and this is the new guy, Carter. His bride just dumped him at the altar.

CARTER

Do you have to lead with that?

GIL

It's really your defining characteristic right now.

JULIE

Ooh. Awful. You okay?

STUART

See? You're getting sympathy. We're going to be able to work with this.

JULIE

Totally. You're going to clean up.

FRANK

So what are you doing here?

JULIE

Went to the Clippers game with some friends from work, then decided to grab a beer at what I thought was a cool place until I ran into my dad.

FRANK

Are these girlfriends from work?

JULIE

Yes.

(knowing her dad)

And no.

(then)

I should get back. See you.

She kisses her dad on the cheek, then heads over to her friends. The guys watch her go, all clearly a little smitten.

FRANK  
(to Stuart)  
No.  
(to Gil)  
No.  
(to Carter)  
No... Maybe... No.

INT. GIL'S CAR - NIGHT

Gil drives the guys home -- all eating fast food burgers.

CARTER  
This. This is what I've been missing. I was in a relationship for so long, going to dinner parties and farmer's markets, I lost touch with my guy friends. Sara and I never went out Saturday night because we woke up early Sunday to buy organic produce. Now who the hell knows what I'm putting in my stomach.

FRANK  
(mouth full)  
Food of the Gods!

GIL  
Just keep it off the upholstery.

CARTER  
I forgot how much I love all this. Going to bars, eating burgers in the middle of the night. I'm just going to say it. I love you guys. I know you think I'm drunk, and I am, but I do. I love you guys. Can I say that?

STUART  
No. I'm not comfortable with that.

FRANK  
Oh, loosen up. We're men and we love each other. Celebrate it.

Yelling out the window:

GIL  
We love each other!

STUART  
Next time I'm taking my own car.

INT. THE AMAZON - THE NEXT NIGHT

Carter, Stuart and Gil check out the action.

CARTER (V.O.)  
The following night, we were right  
back out there.

CARTER  
I think I'm finally ready to meet  
someone.

Frank approaches with two ASIAN WOMEN -- a tipsy, attractive  
fifty-year-old, and an even tipsier twenty-six-year-old.

FRANK  
Carter, there you are. This is May  
and her daughter, Jill.

As they ad-lib hellos, Frank WHISPERS in Carter's ear.

FRANK (CONT'D)  
She's a sure thing. You can thank  
me later.  
(then, loud again)  
Come on, let's let these two get to  
know each other.

Frank grabs Jill, the younger woman, by the hand and  
disappears into the crowd. May turns to Carter:

MAY  
I can teach you things.

As Carter ponders this...

INT. THE OAKWOOD, POOL - DAY

Carter sits at a table drinking coffee and reading the paper.  
Gil, Frank and Stuart approach.

FRANK  
How did it go with Crouching Tiger?  
She beat you up pretty good?

CARTER  
Nah, couldn't go there.

FRANK

What? Why not?

CARTER

Don't get me wrong, she was kind of hot in a weird sort of way. And we had a few drinks... it just made me miss Sara.

STUART

We've already got a Gil. We don't need another Gil.

GIL

Actually, when I move back in with Claire, you might.

STUART

Oh, my god, get him away from me.

FRANK

(to Carter)

I am deeply, deeply disappointed.

CARTER

I'm sorry, but going home with a middle-aged stranger is not the answer to my problems.

FRANK

It could take your mind off them for a little while.

CARTER

Is everything about sex with you?

FRANK

I also enjoy a nice steak.

CARTER

Look, you don't get it. I lost everything. I was crazy about Sara; we just bought a house; we were going to have kids. I had a life. And now I'm in temporary housing in the Sherman Oaks.

FRANK

You know what I think? I think you're a little scared. I don't blame you. You've had one girlfriend, one job you hate, never lived on your own...

STUART

Yeah, I wouldn't be so quick to call that "a life."

CARTER

I don't want to talk about this. You wouldn't understand. Our situations are different.

STUART

What's that supposed to mean?

CARTER

Nothing. I shouldn't have said anything.

STUART

No. Tell me. I'd like to know.

GIL

I don't think I need him to elaborate.

CARTER

It's just that... I know I can fall in love again. But you guys, I'm not so sure. You're all a little stuck.

STUART

I'm not stuck.

CARTER

Come on, Stuart, you're so angry you can't move on. Gil, you're obviously holding on to something that's not there anymore.

GIL

I told you I didn't need to hear this.

CARTER

And Frank, really? Do you honestly think you'll have a meaningful relationship with some random twenty-five year old you meet at a Jamba Juice?

FRANK

Is she Asian?

STUART

Let's get out of here. We've obviously been wasting our time.

CARTER

I'll save you the trouble. I'm going to the hot tub.

GIL

We were going to go to the hot tub.

CARTER

Fine. I'll go watch the game.

GIL

After the hot tub, we were going to go to watch the game.

CARTER

Ping-pong? Were you planning on playing ping-pong?

GIL/FRANK/STUART

I don't think so./No./Go ahead.

CARTER

Good. See you.

Carter leaves.

GIL

Damn. Now I feel like playing ping-pong.

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

EXT. THE OAKWOOD, BASKETBALL COURT - DAY

Carter shoots hoops -- Swish, swish, swish.

CARTER (V.O.)

The next few days we all kind of  
kept to ourselves.

Gil approaches. The mood is a little awkward.

GIL

You're pretty good at that. Play  
college ball?

CARTER

Started for Northwestern all four  
years.

GIL

I was cut from my intramural team  
and replaced by a really good  
Vietnamese girl from the dental  
school. Really good. Triple threat.

CARTER

So I feel bad about the other day.

GIL

Don't sweat it. Those other two  
guys can be real jerks.

Carter laughs.

CARTER

Guess what? Stuart's friend called.  
I've got that coaching interview  
next week.

GIL

Wow. That's--

Carter tosses Gil the ball, which SMACKS him in the face.

GIL (CONT'D)

Ow!

CARTER

Sorry. You're worse than I thought.

GIL  
Look, I'm not here to play  
basketball...

During the following, Gil's nose STARTS TO BLEED.

GIL (CONT'D)  
After I messed up my marriage,  
which I regret every waking minute,  
I thought the best thing to do was  
give my wife lots of space, wait  
for her to forgive me and --  
(feels his nose)  
Were you going to tell me my nose  
is bleeding?

CARTER  
You were on a roll.

Gil tilts his head back and squeezes his nose.

GIL  
The thing is, I'm still waiting...  
Now I only see her when I pick up  
my daughter. If you really love  
Sara, don't sit around, doing  
nothing. That other guy made some  
big, grand gesture. Guess what?  
It's your turn -- Excuse me, I  
think I swallowed a little blood.

EXT. VICTORY BLVD. - DAY

The car weaves through traffic.

INT. VOLVO STATION WAGON - CONTINUOUS

Carter drives fast, a man on a mission --

EXT. GAS STATION - DAY

Carter fills the tank.

INT. VOLVO STATION WAGON - DAY

Carter drives fast again.

EXT. RESIDENTIAL STREET - DAY

The car pulls up in front of the house from the opening. With a head of steam, Carter marches up the path and bangs on the door. After a beat, Sara opens it.

SARA

Carter? What are you --

But he blows right past her...

INT. CARTER'S OLD HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

CARTER

I'm fighting for my woman. Where is he?

He kicks open the bedroom door, and --

INT. CARTER'S OLD HOUSE, BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

CARTER

You and me, jackass! Right now!

But the bed is empty. He checks the bathroom. Also empty.

SARA

He moved out a week ago.

Carter sits on the bed, relieved.

CARTER

Thank God -- he was big.

SARA

I can't believe you're here. I've been dying to call you but I was embarrassed. I'm so sorry. I panicked. You probably hate me and I don't blame you, but being away from you made me realize I never want to be away from you again.

Carter takes this all in. After a beat, he stands and... kisses her. It gets more and more passionate.

CARTER (V.O.)

I knew I wasn't like those other guys, who, at that moment...

EXT. THE OAKWOOD - NIGHT

Establishing.

CARTER (V.O.)  
 ...were back at the apartment  
 complex...

The CAMERA PUSHES into one of the windows to find...

INT. THE OAKWOOD, GIL'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

CARTER (V.O.)  
 Gil had a date with a lovely young  
 lady.

Gil plays checkers with his daughter, MAISIE. (NOTE: He hasn't completely moved in. The only homey additions to the standard set-up are photos of his family, including Claire.)

MAISIE  
 Dad, when are you going to start  
 dating again? Fiona's mom would  
 totally go out with you.

GIL  
 I'm not interested. Any day now,  
 your mother and I --

Gil stops. Takes a deep breath.

GIL (CONT'D)  
 You know what? Why not? Maybe I'll  
 ask her to have lunch with me.

MAISIE  
 Great. She's super nice and has  
 really big boobs.

GIL  
 Or maybe dinner.

INT. THE OAKWOOD, STUART'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

CARTER (V.O.)  
 Stuart was negotiating the terms of  
 his divorce.

He putts golf balls, talking on the phone. (NOTE: Stuart's place is much nicer than the others -- high-end electronics, art on the walls, expensive furniture, etc.)

STUART

No, I'm not giving her *BLEEP*. I don't care if we're in court for a thousand years. So tell my first stupid *BLEEPing* wife to tell my second stupid *BLEEPing* wife to --

Stuart stops. Takes a deep breath. Thinks.

STUART (CONT'D)

Okay. Let her have the Dodgers tickets.

(then)

But I'm not giving her the *BLEEPing* parking pass.

INT. THE OAKWOOD, FRANK'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

CARTER (V.O.)

And Frank was enjoying the company of a much younger woman.

Frank and Jill, the babe from the previous night, make-out on the couch. But then Frank stops, takes a deep breath.

FRANK

How old are you?

JILL

Twenty-six. Why?

Frank thinks. Is this really appropriate? After a beat:

FRANK

No reason.

Frank kisses her again, starting to unbutton her blouse.

INT. CARTER'S OLD HOUSE, BEDROOM - NIGHT

...Carter, smiling, and Sara lay in bed, post-coital.

CARTER

You know, later, we could spice things up and try that thing--

SARA

Not gonna happen.

CARTER (V.O.)

(happy)

My old life was back.

EXT. THE OAKWOOD, REC ROOM - DAY

Gil watches Stuart and Frank play Call Of Duty. On the couch next to Frank... JILL texts.

STUART  
Speak of the devil.

Carter, in the REVERSIBLE V-NECK SWEATER, and Sara approach.

CARTER  
Hey, guys. I want you to meet Sara.

They ad-lib hellos.

GIL  
So, things seem to be going well.

CARTER  
Yeah, we're back together.

GIL  
Awesome. No gifts, a simple thank you will do.

SARA  
We just came by to get his stuff.

CARTER  
We're talking about picking up where we left off. Sara spoke to the country club and we can get married as early as next month.

STUART  
Great. Maybe this time you'll make it all way through the ceremony.

FRANK  
They worked it out, Stu.  
(then)  
I'm happy for you. But I gotta be honest. Even though you said a lot of things you obviously wish you could take back... you're going to be missed around here, pal.

STUART  
Yeah, keep in touch. Let me know if you get that coaching job.

SARA  
(to Carter)  
What coaching job?

CARTER

Oh, I was waiting for the right time to tell you. There's a high school in Woodland Hills that's pretty interested in me. They almost made it to the play-offs last year. Lotta potential.

SARA

But you already have a job. My dad's dying to have you back. Actually, act surprised, you're getting a promotion -- V.P. of exterior paints and sealants.

CARTER

...um, that's nice of him, but coaching is something I've always dreamed of and --

(then)

You know what? Let's talk about this later.

STUART

No, no, I'm enjoying this.

CARTER

Actually, we have to get going.

SARA

We're meeting another couple at the farmer's market.

STUART

Ooh, don't want to be late for that. The white nectarines go fast.

Sara and Carter say goodbye and head off.

JILL

He's never going to call my mom, is he?

INT. THE OAKWOOD, FRANK'S APARTMENT - THREE WEEKS LATER

Stuart, wearing his bathrobe again, Frank and Gil, hang out drinking Starbucks coffee. Gil turns to Stuart.

GIL

For God's sake, there's a reason that thing comes with a belt.

STUART  
I'm getting ready to do some laps.

FRANK  
Speaking of which... Strip club?

STUART  
On Sunday morning? Really?

FRANK  
They started serving brunch. The blintzes aren't bad.

STUART  
No, how about a round of golf?

FRANK  
Alright, but we need a fourth.  
Should we call Carter? Haven't seen him in a while.

GIL  
He's not free. He's getting married today.

FRANK  
That's right. The ninth. Still a little miffed we weren't invited. But...  
(raising his coffee)  
To Carter. May he have a lifetime of happiness.

STUART/GIL  
To Carter.

But before they can clink --

GIL  
Who are we kidding? That is not a good match.

STUART  
Cheated on him once, she'll cheat on him again.

FRANK  
Poor guy will be back here in six months.

STUART  
You know what we need to do? We need to make a pact.

(MORE)

STUART (CONT'D)

Let's not let any of us get into another crappy marriage. And yes, I know Gil, yours isn't crappy, it's wonderful.

GIL

We have our issues.

FRANK

Here here. To good friends. And not letting them make a horrible mistake.

This time they clink.

INT. FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - DAY

As in the opening -- Carter and Sara stand at the altar.

MINISTER

...to be your lawfully wedded husband...

Just then -- there's a COMMOTION in the back of the room.

MALE VOICE

Don't do it!

MINISTER

(to Sara)

How many ex-boyfriends do you have?

But it's FRANK.

FRANK

I'm not here for her. I'm here for him.

MINISTER

(under his breath)

Ay yi yi.

Stuart and Gil rush in to find all the WEDDING GUESTS staring and muttering angrily. The guys talk sotto voce.

GIL

They're all looking at us.

STUART

I know, say something.

FRANK

I already did. You say something.

GIL

I told you we should have written  
stuff down.

Frank spots an ATTRACTIVE ASIAN wedding guest.

FRANK

Hi, Frank Russo.

GIL

(to Carter)

Look, I know we probably could have  
timed this better, and we haven't  
even known you that long, but... is  
this really what you want?

SARA

Carter, these guys are ruining our  
wedding.

CARTER

Maybe if you let me invite them  
instead of your weird cousins from  
Canada --

(to weird cousins)

Thanks for the killer maple syrup,  
by the way.

(back to Sara)

-- we wouldn't have this problem.

SARA

Are you taking their side?

CARTER

Of course not. And this obviously  
isn't the best way to do it, but  
they're just making sure I'm doing  
the right thing.

SARA

Do you have concerns?

CARTER

No, I don't have concerns.

MINISTER

I have concerns.

CARTER

It's just that -- and I've tried to  
tell you -- but what's wrong with  
the produce at Ralphs?

(MORE)

CARTER (CONT'D)

It's reasonably priced, it's open 24-hours, they have a great selection. Ralphp is America's supermarket.

SARA

Why are we talking about Ralphps?

CARTER

You're right, it's not about Ralphps. Forget Ralphps. If I'm being honest, I prefer Vons. It's... your obsession about things being reversible. Just once I'd like a green sweater and a blue sweater. Not a greenblue sweater. That's still not what I'm trying to say. It's me. I'm the thing that's not reversible. You can't take me off, turn me inside out and suddenly, I'm a industrial paint kind of guy. I'm not. I'm a basketball coach. And we're getting married. I need to know you're on my side.

SARA

What, you want a job where you can wear shorts to work? That's what this is all about.

CARTER

Did you not hear a word I said?

SARA

It's like you've been brainwashed by these... idiots you've known two months.

FRANK

Just so you know, the acoustics are really good in here.

CARTER

I've known you ten years, but they seem to get what's important to me.

SARA

This is ridiculous. Kick them out already. Do you really want to throw your life away?

After a long beat:

CARTER  
No, Sara. No, I don't.

EXT. FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - DAY

SLOW MOTION. Carter, with a big grin on his face, bursts out into the sunlight, followed by the guys.

CARTER (V.O.)  
In case you're keeping track. That  
look on my face is the last  
stage... acceptance.

GIL  
Why are we running?

STUART  
No idea.

EXT. THE OAKWOOD, POOL - DAY

Carter, Gil, Frank and Stuart recline on lounge chairs, checking out the ladies.

GIL  
Two o'clock. Red bathing suit.

The others sneak a peak.

CARTER  
The chubby guy with the hairy back?

GIL  
Okay, more like 2:30, quarter to 3.

Now they spot her.

FRANK  
Pass. Too young. Even I have  
scruples.

STUART  
Not pretty enough for you?

FRANK  
Not even for a weeknight.

Frank's daughter, Julie, approaches.

JULIE  
Hey guys.

They all say hi, still smitten, as Frank gathers his stuff.

JULIE (CONT'D)  
(she likes him)  
Carter, right?

CARTER  
(he likes her)  
Yeah. You remembered...

FRANK  
Ready to go eat?

JULIE  
Let's do it. See you around.

Frank and Julie head off. But then he turns back to Carter.

FRANK  
No.

Carter smiles. There's an upside to being single.

END OF SHOW

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