

Two and a Half Men

"Can I Put It Under My Pillow For the Finger Fairy?"

by
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COLD OPEN - BAR

FADE IN:

INT. BAR - NIGHT (DAY 1)

(Charlie, Alan, Interested Woman, Tracy)

CHARLIE IS AT HIS USUAL HAUNT... AND AT HIS USUAL GAME,
LEANING IN ON AN INTERESTED WOMAN.

CHARLIE

So why don't we close your tab, take a
little ride, put the top down... and
then see about yours?

INTERESTED WOMAN

Where's your brother gonna sit?

CHARLIE

The bus.

SHE SMILES AND MOVES OFF. ALAN COMES BACK WITH BEERS.

ALAN

Hey, they're doing karaoke. Wanna
duet "Endless Love"?

CHARLIE

Nah, I'm trying keep a low profile.
Got an ex around.

ALAN

Little clingy?

CHARLIE

Last time I saw her, she was picking
out dishware.

ALAN HANDS HIM A BEER. CHARLIE NOTICES HE'S WEARING A WEDDING RING.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

You are NOT wearing your wedding ring.

ALAN

You think it clashes with my shirt?

CHARLIE

I think it clashes with your divorce!

ALAN

Hey, if I have a nice accessory, I'm going to wear it out. OK, I've got a reason. But you're going to think it's stupid.

CHARLIE

Stupider than wearing a wedding ring to a singles' bar?

ALAN

No, see, that's the thing. I've been hearing... Some women think married guys are sexy.

CHARLIE

OK, that is stupider.

ALAN

I'm serious. Some girls actually fantasize about being with a married guy. The commitment and stability of it all.

CHARLIE

OK, first, "stability" is a bit of a reach for you. And second, are you crazy? A girl's not going to hook up with a married guy! It's sleazy. I think you're wearing that ring because you're still hung up on Judith.

ALAN

I am not. I don't have to wear it.
(SLIPS THE RING OFF) It's just nice to have a little confidence boost once in a while.

CHARLIE

There are pills for that. And anything associated with Judith should induce gagging, not confidence.

ALAN

Right, I know, you hate her.

CHARLIE

I don't hate her. I just hate what she turned you into. (THEN) OK, I hate her a little bit.

ALAN

Fine, but remember that someday you're going to be just like me.

CHARLIE

Oh, God no. When are you going to learn, Alan? Marriage isn't for everybody. And a lame scheme like pretending you're married isn't going to get you laid. (TAKES THE RING) I'm setting you free.

ALAN

Lame scheme? It's better than you constantly lying to get into girls' pants. Or out of them. You cast your smooth lines and half the time end up with a girl circling like a pilot fish.

CHARLIE

I don't lie to women!

TRACY (O.S.)

Chaaaarlieeee!

CHARLIE

Uh-oh.

HE SLIPS ALAN'S RING ONTO HIS FINGER. TRACY, A HIGH-STRUNG LITTLE SPARKPLUG, COMES UP.

TRACY

Charlie, you haven't called me! If it's about your dishes, we can talk! It's just that French Vanilla Porcelain is so much nicer than Stoneware.

CHARLIE SHOTS ALAN A LOOK.

CHARLIE
Tracy, I'm sorry... I'm afraid I've
got bad news.

HE HOLDS UP HIS FINGER. TRACY STARES, BURSTS INTO TEARS.

TRACY
You told me my eyes were like
diamonds!

SHE DOUSES CHARLIE WITH A GLASS OF WATER AND RUNS OFF,
SOBBING.

CHARLIE
French Vanilla Porcelain after one
cheesy line about her eyes... Trouble
guaranteed.

CHARLIE TUGS ON THE RING ON HIS FINGER. IT'S STUCK. HIS
EYES WIDEN.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
Uh-oh...

THE INTERESTED WOMAN FROM BEFORE RETURNS, SEES THE RING, AND
DOUSES CHARLIE WITH ANOTHER GLASS OF WATER. CHARLIE HOLDS UP
THE RING TO ALAN.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
See!?

CUT TO:

MAIN TITLES

ACT ONESCENE AFADE IN:INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY (DAY 2)

(Charlie, Alan, Jake, Rose, Berta)

CHARLIE SITS IN A CHAIR AS ALAN AND BERTA TRY TO GET THE RING OFF HIS FINGER. NEAR THEM LIES AN ARRAY OF CLEANING AGENTS AND OTHER BOTTLES... THE PROJECT HAS GOTTEN A BIT MESSY.

ALAN

Maybe if we mix the soap and WD-40 together.

BERTA

I think that's how you make a pipe bomb.

BERTA TUCKS CHARLIE'S ARM UNDER HERS AND YANKS, HARD. THE RING DOESN'T BUDGE.

CHARLIE

Ow! Go easy, Berta.

BERTA

Been waitin' years to hear you say that, stud.

ALAN

Mom always said you had the fat fingers in the family.

CHARLIE

I've got a fat finger for you...

BERTA
We've tried soap, Crisco, window
cleaner, preparation H... that thing's
really on there.

ALAN
Why do you have preparation H?

BERTA
If I told you, you'd have to add vomit
to that list.

CHARLIE
Too late.

JAKE ENTERS WITH HIS BACKPACK, HOLDING AN ENVELOPE.

JAKE
Is Uncle Charlie still stuck in that
ring?

ALAN
I'm afraid so. Is that your progress
report? (TAKES IT)

CHARLIE
It's on so tight it's making my head
hurt.

BERTA
That's the hangover.

CHARLIE
I was trying to thin my blood.

ALAN
Jake, you're getting a D in math?

JAKE

What can I say? My teacher's an ogre.

CHARLIE

Relax Alan, it's just a progress
report.

ALAN

Yeah, well apparently he's not making
much. Jake, this is unacceptable.
First thing Monday I want to you march
in there and ask your teacher how you
can improve your grade.

JAKE

But she's an ogre!

CHARLIE

He raises a valid point.

ALAN

Otherwise, I'm going to do it.

JAKE

If you wanna get clubbed and have your
bones eaten, be my guest.

HE GOES INTO THE KITCHEN. ROSE ENTERS, FROM THE PORCH. SEES
THE RING.

ROSE

Charlie! After all we've been
through?

ALAN

Rose, it's my ring.

ROSE
You got married to Alan? (THEN) How
was your first night together? Little
awkward?

BERTA
Heard 'em tittering like school girls
all morning.

ALAN
It's my old wedding ring. Charlie got
it stuck on his finger trying to ward
off an ex.

CHARLIE
I had to! Have you ever seen a woman
stick like that?

A MOMENT. THEY LOOK AT ROSE. SHE'S OBLIVIOUS, LOOKING AT
THE RING.

ROSE
I heard if you take four aspirin, wrap
your finger super tight with dental
floss, and then hold it above your
head for an hour, all the blood drains
out and you can slip off the ring.

CHARLIE
What are the chances my finger turns
black and falls off?

ROSE
Couldn't be more than seventy, eighty
percent.

BERTA

You might just have to lose the
finger, Charlie. It's not so bad. My
uncle Gus only had four fingers and he
was still a hit with the ladies. He
said it was just like bowling. (SHE
MIMES A FOUR-FINGER BOWLING MOVE)

CHARLIE

I'm not losing my finger, Berta.

BERTA

A nickel for every time I've heard
that...

SHE PICKS UP HER LAUNDRY BASKET AND HEADS OUT, PASSING JAKE,
RETURNING FROM THE KITCHEN WITH CONDIMENTS.

JAKE

Uncle Charlie's losing his finger?
Will it grow back?

ALAN

Sure, Jake. That's man's natural
defense against wily predators like
the Chinese Finger Trap.

JAKE

Can I put it under my pillow for the
finger-fairy?

CHARLIE

I guess the only option is to cut it
off. My neighbor's a jeweler; he can
probably come over and do it.

ALAN
No way. It'll ruin it.

CHARLIE
Ruin IT? Do you have any idea what
this is going to do to my game?

ALAN
Your game caused this mess in the
first place. You'll just have to
leave it on through our wine-tasting
party tonight.

CHARLIE
That's tonight? There are going to be
women here!

ALAN
Maybe you should have thought of that
before you got married at a bar.

CHARLIE
You have to cancel it. I can't be
seen like this.

ALAN
I can't cancel it. Just hide your
hand.

CHARLIE
Hide it? What am I supposed to say,
that I lost my hand in 'Nam, in a
lemur-biting incident?

ROSE
No, don't use that. It's like the
oldest line in the book.

ALAN
We've been planning this for weeks.
Mom's already agreed to take Jake.

HE LOOKS TO JAKE, WHO'S BEEN PUTTING CHOCOLATE SAUCE ON
CHARLIE'S HAND. HE'S MOVING TO PEANUT BUTTER.

ALAN (CONT'D)
Jake, how is that helping?

JAKE
Helping?

HE ADDS SOME SPRINKLES. ROSE HELPS.

ALAN
You know how much rings cost, Charlie.

CHARLIE
Fine. But you owe me. You better at
least act like a bachelor tonight, if
I have to be the pathetic married
brother.

ROSE
And Alan, you can always borrow
Charlie's and my promise ring, if your
finger gets lonely. I know mine does.

SHE TAKES A RING OFF HER OWN FINGER AND GIVES IT TO ALAN.

CHARLIE
Rose, uh... we never had promise
rings.

ROSE
YOU didn't.

OFF CHARLIE'S REACTION, WE

DISSOLVE TO:

SCENE BINT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT (DAY 2)

(Charlie, Alan, Kelsey, Jenn, Extras)

CHARLIE AND ALAN'S DINNER PARTY. PEOPLE MILL ABOUT AS ALAN CHATS WITH KELSEY, A BUBBLY BLONDE WHO'S A BIT TOO INTO ALAN'S STORY.

ALAN

So when I finally get back to my office, my receptionist says "It's not just a few adjustments, Alan - there are people ALIGNING up around the block!

KELSEY LAUGHS WAY TOO LOUDLY AT THIS.

KELSEY

That is such a funny story, Alan. You are soooo funny.

ALAN

(LAUGHING) Thanks! I know.

CHARLIE, HIS HAND IN HIS SLEEVE AND AN ANNOYED LOOK ON HIS FACE, TAPS ALAN'S SHOULDER.

CHARLIE

Can I borrow you for a sec, funny man?

ALAN

Just a second Kelsey.

CHARLIE PULLS HIM ASIDE.

CHARLIE

It's not working.

ALAN

I don't know what you're talking about, I think Kelsey's really into me! I gotta admit you were right about the bachelor thing, Charlie -- I haven't felt this free of Judith in a long time.

CHARLIE

Can you please stop mentioning her? And I'm not talking about you, I'm talking about me. My finger's starting to itch, I can't hold a plate...

HE REVEALS HIS HAND - IT'S CRUDELY COVERED IN GLUEY NEWSPAPER.

CHARLIE

...And did we have to use paper mache?

ALAN

I don't have casting material just lying around, Charlie. I'm a chiropractor, not an orthopedist.

KELSEY BUDGES IN BETWEEN THEM.

KELSEY

You must be Alan's brother! I'm Kelsey!

CHARLIE AWKWARDLY WAVES HIS PLASTERED BLOB.

KELSEY (CONT'D)

What happened to your hand?

CHARLIE GLARES AT ALAN.

ALAN
He... uh... lost it in 'Nam. Lemur-
biting incident.

CHARLIE WACKS HIM WITH THE CAST.

ALAN (CONT'D)
You'll have to forgive Charlie, he's
been a bit cranky since the lemur.

JENN, A STUNNING BRUNETTE, COMES UP NEXT TO KELSEY.

KELSEY
Maybe this will cheer him up. This is
my close, AVAILABLE friend, Jenn.

Jenn smiles. Charlie is impressed.

CHARLIE
It's helping.

ALAN
Hey, Jenn, wanna hear a chiropractor
joke? What goes snap, crackle, plop?

CHARLIE STARTS TO LEAD JENN AWAY...

ALAN (CONT'D)
A spinal adjustment on the john!

HE AND KELSEY LAUGH HYSTERICALLY AT THIS.

CHARLIE
We'll be right back.

ALAN
Ah! BACK!

THEY LAUGH AGAIN. CHARLIE MAKES A GUN-TO-THE-HEAD GESTURE
WITH HIS PLASTERED HAND.

JENN
You're Charlie?

CHARLIE
Yeah, yeah, sorry about my brother.
He's been a little... He's an idiot.
So how come I haven't seen you before?

JENN
I work a lot.

CHARLIE
Lucky for your work. Excuse me if
this seems forward, but you really are
the most beautiful woman at this
party.

JENN
And you really are a flatterer.

CHARLIE
Has anyone ever told you your eyes are
like sparkling pearls?

JENN
You have a wedding ring on under
there, don't you.

CHARLIE
(BEAT) I like my question better.

JENN
I'm an orthopedist, Charlie. And
that's paper mache.

CHARLIE
Alright, I've never been to 'Nam. But
it actually isn't my ring.

JENN
Right. Then whose is it?

CHARLIE
It's...

HE LOOKS OVER TO ALAN, UNINHIBITEDLY CHATTING IT UP WITH
KELSEY. DECIDES NOT TO SAY IT.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
...a loaner.

JENN
Uh-huh. I'm a smart girl, Charlie,
not just another bimbo you invite over
when your wife's out of town.

CHARLIE SHRUGS, AND GIVES UP.

CHARLIE
Alright, well, at least I don't have
to smell rotten newspaper anymore.

WITH THAT, HE CRACKS OPEN THE CAST ON A NEARBY TABLE,
STARTLING SOMEONE. CHARLIE HOLDS UP HIS RING.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
Like it? I think it sets off my eyes.

DISSOLVE TO:

SCENE C

INT. ALAN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT (DAY 2)
(Alan, Kelsey)

KELSEY PULLS ALAN INTO THE BEDROOM.

KELSEY
It's soooo nice of your brother to
distract Jenn. Too bad he's married.

ALAN
What?

KELSEY
Oh c'mon. That lemur thing is like
the oldest line in the book. (LAUGHS)

SHE SITS ON THE BED, PATS THE SPOT NEXT TO HER. ALAN
NERVOUSLY JOINS HER.

KELSEY (CONT'D)
I could never get married. I hate the
whole idea of it.

ALAN
I guess it's not for everyone.

KELSEY
I think only weak people ever get
married, to fill in parts of
themselves that are missing.
Besides... (MOVES CLOSER) the bachelor
life is so much sexier.

SHE TAKES HIS HAND. ALAN GULPS, AND NODS.

KELSEY (CONT'D)

You haven't ever been married, have
you Alan?

ALAN

A bachelor like me? Don't be silly.

(LOOKS INTO HER EYES) Has anyone ever
told you your eyes are like...

(SEARCHING) marbles?

KELSEY

What?

ALAN

I dunno.

HE KISSES HER. CLUMSILY, BUT SHE'S INTO IT. THEY FALL OFF
THE BED.

DISSOLVE TO:

SCENE D

EXT. FRONT PORCH - NIGHT (DAY 2)
(Charlie, Jenn)

CHARLIE SITS ON THE BALCONY, HAVING LONG GIVEN UP HOPE OF SCORING TONIGHT. JENN STANDS NEARBY.

JENN

So what's it like being married?

CHARLIE

To tell you the truth, I hardly even notice it. (TAKES A BIG DRINK OF WINE) It was nice of you to stay, even though "I'm married."

JENN

That's OK, I'm doing it for Kelsey. Seems like she and your brother are really hitting it off.

CHARLIE

At least one of us is getting somewhere... (THEN) I've got a confession to make, Jenn. I still find you paralyzingly attractive.

JENN

That's a little brazen for a married guy, don't you think?

CHARLIE SHRUGS, TAKES ANOTHER DRINK. JENN SITS DOWN NEXT TO HIM.

JENN (CONT'D)

But now I have a confession to make.

(PUTS HER ARMS AROUND HIM) I've kind
of always had this fantasy about
married men.

SHE KISSES HIM. CHARLIE IS CAUGHT OFF GUARD. SHE WITHDRAWS.

JENN (CONT'D)

So what's your wife's name?

CHARLIE

Uhh... (THINKING FAST) Judith?

(INSTANTLY REGRETS IT) Oh, God no...

BUT JENN KISSES HIM AGAIN, SHUTTING HIM UP.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWOSCENE EFADE IN:INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY (DAY 3)

(Charlie, Alan, Jake, Evelyn, Rose)

THE NEXT MORNING - THE LIVING ROOM IS MODERATELY TRASHED FROM THE PARTY. CHARLIE, STILL WEARING THE WEDDING RING, GLOOMILY WANDERS AROUND FINDING WOUNDED SOLDIERS AND DRINKING THEM. ALAN COMES IN, IN HIS PAJAMAS. THEY LOOK AT EACH OTHER.

ALAN

Well?

CHARLIE

Well?

ALAN

I can't believe how well that worked!

CHARLIE

Speak for yourself.

ALAN

I thought she was into married guys.

CHARLIE

She is. She's also into keeping them up all night asking about their wives, instead of hooking up. Almost almost almost... "So where'd you lovebirds meet?"

ALAN

You mean I got further than you for once?

CHARLIE

Like I said, I set you free. Now the
curse is on MY head.

ALAN

Well, I owe you. (RELUCTANTLY) I
suppose you still wanna cut the ring
off.

CHARLIE

No, I've gotta keep it, now. They're
coming over for dinner tonight.

ALAN

They're coming over again?

CHARLIE

I've gotta prove I'm not losing it!
If I'm married, and I can't even bag a
chick who's into married guys? I'm
toast.

ALAN

But you're not married.

CHARLIE

I don't have time for details! Sunk
costs like that...

ALAN

Why, what did you tell her about your
wife?

CHARLIE

Don't ask.

EVELYN BARGES IN WITH JAKE, WHO IMMEDIATELY HEADS FOR THE GARAGE. EVELYN HEADS FOR CHARLIE.

EVELYN

Charlie, why am I hearing things about you with a wedding ring? Why wasn't I invited? Did you marry a hooker or something?

CHARLIE

The fact that you'd ask that second question... answers the first.

ALAN

It's my ring, ma. Charlie got it stuck on his finger trying to ward off a clingy ex.

EVELYN

Was she a hooker?

CHARLIE

See, this is why we like having you around so much.

HE PASSES EVELYN TO ALAN.

EVELYN

So it's yours? Why are you still wearing that ring around?

ALAN

I wasn't, I just had it once.

EVELYN

Once is too many. Get over it! How do you expect Jake to be a man if you keep acting like such a wimp?

ALAN

It's always great to see you, mom. Thanks for bringing my son back without any visible teeth marks.

ALAN GUIDES EVELYN BACK OUTSIDE, HER QUICK CIRCUIT OF THE LIVING ROOM NOW COMPLETE. CHARLIE SLAMS THE DOOR.

ALAN (CONT'D)

Wow, we're good today.

CHARLIE FINDS HALF A GLASS OF WINE AND DOWNS IT.

ALAN (CONT'D)

Hey, can we talk about this? Those girls can't come over again tonight.

CHARLIE

Why not?

ALAN

Jake's gonna be here.

CHARLIE

Send him with mom again. (OFF ALAN'S LOOK) Give him twenty bucks and send him with a homeless person. What's the big deal?

ALAN

I don't think we should keep up this ruse. I kind of said some things last night that weren't totally true.

CHARLIE

You? You weren't the one with the piñata on his hand half the night!

ALAN

You were right before about lame schemes. I lied, and somebody could get hurt. I don't want Jake involved in our being dishonest.

CHARLIE

Plus you already got laid.

ALAN

Plus I already got laid.

CHARLIE

Send him with... (WINCES) Judith.

ALAN

Weekends are the only time I have with him! Also... there's something else. I, uh, noticed a change in Kelsey once I slept with her.

CHARLIE

Little clingy?

ALAN

She was fixing up my room when I woke up.

CHARLIE

Jenn won't come without her.

ALAN

She was painting.

CHARLIE

Sounds like a real grenade. But you gotta play along, Alan. You step on a land-mine like her at dinner and it'll take us all out.

ALAN

But-

CHARLIE

Hey. Two of my fingers are still glued together from your "cast".

JAKE ENTERS WITH SOMETHING BEHIND HIS BACK.

JAKE

Hey, I thought of a new way of getting that ring off. (REVEALS A SET OF BOLT CUTTERS)

ALAN

Why don't you just take him off at the shoulder?

JAKE
Can I put it under my pillow for the
arm-fairy?

CHARLIE
Sorry, buddy. I have to keep the ring
on now.

ALAN
Charlie...

JAKE
Why?

CHARLIE
How do you feel about me pretending to
be your dad tonight?

ALAN
Charlie!

CHARLIE
Two fingers, Alan.

JAKE
If you're gonna be my dad, will you
buy me stuff?

CHARLIE
No.

JAKE
Can I stay up late?

CHARLIE
No.

JAKE
Gee, you're just like him.

ALAN SIGHS, TAKES JAKE BY THE SHOULDER.

ALAN
Jake, you know how you're always
supposed to tell the truth, no matter
what?

JAKE
No.

ALAN
Well you are. Except, every once in a
while, you might owe someone a
favor... and returning that favor
might mean you have to tell a teeny,
tiny, harmless white lie.

JAKE
Did you guys murder somebody?

ALAN
You know, maybe it's just easier if
you spend the night with your mother.

JAKE SHRUGS AND STARTS TO LEAVE.

ALAN (CONT'D)
Hey, did you talk to your math
teacher?

JAKE
Yeah, she says I'm all caught up. She
just forgot to grade a bunch of my
assignments.

ALAN
What? No she didn't.

JAKE
Seriously. Forgetful AND ogre. I
almost feel bad for her.

HE LEAVES. ALAN WHIRLS ON CHARLIE.

ALAN
Do you see what's happening?

CHARLIE
He's becoming my son already.

ALAN
He's lying! Jake's starting to think
lying is OK!

CHARLIE
It's not?

ALAN
We've got to come clean on this.

ROSE COMES IN, VIA THE PORCH.

CHARLIE
Not until after tonight. You owe me,
remember?

ROSE
If you want, Charlie, I'll pretend to
be your wife.

ALAN
Rose, how did you know about the ruse?

ROSE
Ruse?

CHARLIE AND ALAN LOOK AT EACH OTHER, THEN GENTLY GUIDE ROSE
BACK OUT ONTO THE PORCH. CHARLIE CLOSES THE SCREEN DOOR
BEHIND HER AND SHUTS THE BLIND.

CHARLIE
OK, I guess we kind of are on fire
today.

DISSOLVE TO:

SCENE FINT. KITCHEN / LIVING ROOM - NIGHT (DAY 3)

(Charlie, Alan, Kelsey, Jenn)

THE FOUR SIT AROUND THE TABLE, CHARLIE AND JENN NEXT TO EACH OTHER, ALAN AND KELSEY AT THE WINGS. THEY EAT IN SILENCE FOR A SECOND, CHARLIE MAKING SEXY EYES AT JENN, WHO IGNORES HIM. KELSEY MAKES A GREAT EFFORT TO STRETCH HER LEG WAY UNDER THE TABLE TO FOOTsie WITH ALAN, WHO KEEPS MOVING BACK.

KELSEY

Looove you...

ALAN LOOKS HELPLESSLY AT CHARLIE, WHO SHRUGS AND THEN SNAKES HIS ARM AROUND JENN. ALAN TAKES A SIP OF WATER.

CHARLIE

So, Jenn, why don't we cap off that meal with a little... desert?

JENN

I'm trying to watch my figure.

CHARLIE

So am I. Then maybe a little... exercise.

JENN

Maybe. (SQUIRMS OUT OF HIS GRASP)
But first... your wife. Tell me a little more about Judith.

ALAN

(SPEWING WATER) What!?

But he's cut off as Kelsey's eager foot lands on his groin.

CHARLIE

Well, she's none too popular with the brother-in-law, I'll tell you that.

(MORE)

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
Truth be told, she's kind of a ball-
buster.

ALAN KICKS CHARLIE UNDER THE TABLE.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
What? She is.

JENN
That doesn't sound like the committed
guy I met yesterday.

KELSEY
Yeah, a marriage without true love.
Not like me and Alan.

ALAN CRINGES AS KELSEY CLIMBS INTO HIS LAP.

CHARLIE
I mean... she's a wonderful woman.

JENN
Yeah?

CHARLIE
Oh, yeah. She's... well-groomed.

ALAN
Kelsey, you're, uh... crushing me.

KELSEY
(LAUGHING) Oh don't worry, you'll get
used to it. (THEN, EERILY) Loooove
yooooou.

ALAN CLOSES HIS EYES.

SFX: PHONE RING. KELSEY GRABS IT BEFORE ANYONE ELSE CAN.

KELSEY (CONT'D)

Alan and Kelsey's place, who's this?

(LISTENS) Oh hi, Judith! We were just
talking about you!

CHARLIE GRABS THE PHONE AND SLAMS IT DOWN, AS ALAN JUMPS UP
AND PULLS CHARLIE INTO...

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

...JUST OUT OF EARSHOT OF THE KITCHEN.

ALAN

I can't do this anymore. I have to
get rid of this girl.

CHARLIE

She's nuts.

ALAN

I know!

CHARLIE

Which means she's gonna cause a huge
scene. I just need a little more
time.

ALAN

To describe Judith?

CHARLIE

Sorry, it was the first thing I could
think of. How do you think I feel?

ALAN

I never should have let you start
this.

CHARLIE
Then why didn't you let me cut the
ring off?

ALAN
I told you, it's expensive!

CHARLIE
Not on me, it's not!

ALAN
It's got... sentimental value.

CHARLIE
I knew that was it! This whole thing
never would have happened if you
weren't still carrying a "lonely
finger" for Judith.

ALAN
OK, maybe it's like the last vestige
of an important time in my life. But
now I've got another problem.

CHARLIE
You? At least your girl will give you
the time of day.

ALAN
At least yours will leave you alone.

CHARLIE
Don't women respect married guys?

ALAN

I told her no strings attached. She should know, she wanted a bachelor.

CHARLIE

I'm a responsible, stable guy. Why's my crotch a porcupine?

ALAN

You sleep with a girl once, and suddenly she's Saran wrap!

CHARLIE

And I'm stuck talking about Judith! Why can't I just get laid!?

ALAN

Why can't I just get rid of this psycho, clingy girl!?

HE STOPS, LOOKS AT CHARLIE. THE BROTHERS STARE AT EACH OTHER, REALIZING. THEY'VE BECOME EACH OTHER.

CHARLIE/ALAN

Oh, God no.

KELSEY COMES OUT, HOLDING A DISH.

KELSEY

Hey, are you really attached to stoneware?

ALAN LOOKS PLEADINGLY AT CHARLIE.

CHARLIE

OK, go.

ALAN TAKES KELSEY FIRMLY BY THE HAND AND LEADS HER OFF.

DISSOLVE TO:

SCENE G

INT. ALAN'S ROOM - A MOMENT LATER
(Alan, Kelsey)

ALAN PULLS KELSEY INTO THE ROOM.

ALAN
Kelsey, I'm sorry I lied, I've got to
be honest with you.

SHE JUMPS ON HIM AND WRAPS HER ARMS AND LEGS AROUND.

KELSEY
Weeeee! About what?

ALAN
Well, first of all, you're kind of
crazy.

KELSEY
(LAUGHS DISMISSIVELY) Loooove yooooou.

ALAN
Yeah, see, that's exactly what I mean.

HE SEES ROSE'S PROMISE RING ON THE DRESSER. WITH KELSEY
STILL CLINGING TO HIM AND GIGGLING, HE PICKS IT UP. PUTS HER
DOWN.

ALAN (CONT'D)
I owe you the truth. (HE PUTS THE
RING ON) I'm, uh... already married.

A LONG MOMENT. THEN KELSEY LAUGHS.

KELSEY
Nuh-uh! You're getting married to me,
silly!

ALAN

What! But what about all that stuff
you said before about hating marriage?

KELSEY

Oh, I just say that. It's what guys
want to hear.

ALAN

But... what about this ring?

KELSEY

Oh, you probably just borrowed your
brother's wedding ring or something.
Or else... (REALIZES, THEN) Oh, Alan,
you're proposing!!!

SHE SQUEALS AND JUMPS ONTO HIM AGAIN.

DISSOLVE TO:

SCENE H

INT. KITCHEN / LIVING ROOM - AT THE SAME TIME
(Charlie, Alan, Jake, Judith, Kelsey, Jenn)

CHARLIE RE-ENTERS THE KITCHEN TO FIND JENN LOOKING AT A PAPER
ON THE COUNTER...

CHARLIE

OK Jenn, are you into this or aren't
you-

JENN

You have a kid.

CHARLIE

I... what is that?

JENN

His progress report. Not a very good
one, by the way.

CHARLIE

He gets it from his mother.

JENN

Why didn't you tell me?

CHARLIE

(THINKS) I guess I didn't want to
involve him. There may be problems
with his parents' marriage, but I want
to keep Jake clear. After all, he's
the best thing to come out of it.

JENN

You really mean that.

CHARLIE
(THINKS ABOUT IT) Yeah. I do.

JENN HUGS HIM.

JENN
You really are married. For a minute
there I thought you might be lying to
me because I said I like married guys.

CHARLIE
Pbbt! Right.

SHE KISSES HIM. DEEPLY... THEN

JENN
I can't go through with it.

SHE TURNS AND HEADS INTO THE LIVING ROOM.

CHARLIE
What?

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

CHARLIE FOLLOWS HER INTO THE LIVING ROOM, FINALLY CATCHING
UP.

CHARLIE
What do you mean you can't go through
with it?

JENN
I lied. I've never actually done this
before. I guess it's something I
always fantasized about... But a girl
can't hook up with a married guy.
It's sleazy. I guess I just wanted to
hear what marriage was like.

CHARLIE

In that case, you should know that-

JENN

Now, it's almost like I can picture
them.

AS SHE SAYS THIS, JUDITH APPEARS IN THE DOORWAY WITH JAKE.
SHE'S NOT HAPPY.

JENN (CONT'D)

I can't bring any more turmoil to this
family.

CHARLIE

No, no! There's no turmoil. (HE GOES
TO JUDITH AND JAKE AND PUTS HIS ARM
AROUND THEM) See? Mom, Dad, kid...
one big, happy, stable family! Right,
son?

HE GRINS AWKWARDLY AT JAKE. JAKE STARES BACK.

JAKE

I thought I was cool with this, but
this is super weird.

HE LEAVES.

JUDITH

Charlie, what the hell are you doing?

JENN

You seem like a good guy, Charlie.
Too bad you're married. (TO JUDITH)
Mrs. Harper, I'm sorry. He's all
yours.

SHE LEAVES. JUDITH IS PERPLEXED. ALAN COMES OUT OF THE BACK, KELSEY CLINGING TO HIM.

JUDITH

Alan?

ALAN

Judith! For once, thank god you're here.

JUDITH

What's going on here? I'm with Jake for two hours, and all I'm hearing is about wedding rings being cut off and him getting stowed at your mother's house so you two can have dates?

KELSEY

Alan? What's she saying?

ALAN

Kelsey, this is Judith, my wife. Ex-wife. But I still wear the ring sometimes. Truth is, I don't think marriage is stupid. In fact, I was married for twelve years.

KELSEY

(BURSTING INTO TEARS) You lied to me!

You said my eyes were marbles!

SHE PUSHES PAST THEM AND RUNS OUT, CRYING. CHARLIE LOOKS AT ALAN.

CHARLIE

Marbles, Alan?

ALAN
Sorry. First thing I could think of.

JUDITH
You still wear your wedding ring?

ALAN
Every once in a while. You think it's
sweet?

JUDITH
I think it's weird! We're divorced,
Alan! And now it's stuck on Charlie's
finger? You better find a way to get
it off without ruining it. When you
sell it, I'm entitled to half.

ALAN
Half? You've got yours!

JUDITH
Are you kidding? I sold mine ages
ago.

SHE LEAVES. ALAN IS DEFEATED.

ALAN
Charlie, cut the ring off.

JAKE ENTERS, HOLDING THE BOLT CUTTERS.

JAKE
Somebody looking for me?

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

TAG

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY (DAY 5)
(Charlie, Alan, Jake, Jeweler)

CHARLIE'S NEIGHBOR, THE JEWELER, CUTS THE RING OFF CHARLIE'S FINGER. ALAN, WATCHING, STILL WEARS ROSE'S RING.

JEWELER
That should do it.

CHARLIE
Thanks neighbor. (LOOKS UP) I'm
free. (THEN) I feel like choirs
should be singing or something.

ALAN
No, just divorce attorneys.

THE JEWELER LEAVES. JAKE ENTERS, HANDS ALAN A PIECE OF PAPER.

ALAN (CONT'D)
What's this?

JAKE
My new progress report.

ALAN
You got a B in math.

JAKE
See, I told you she didn't have my
work entered.

ALAN
Not an A?

JAKE
What do you want from me? She's still
an ogre.

ALAN
You're right, I'm sorry. I'm proud of
you. And I apologize for all the lies
around here the last couple days.

JAKE
There were lies?

ALAN
No. No lies. But if there were, they
would have been wrong. Although I
must admit, Charlie, I guess I have a
new appreciation for the uninhibited
life of a bachelor.

HE GRABS ROSE'S RING, AND TRIES TO PULL IT OFF... AND IT'S
STUCK.

ALAN (CONT'D)
Uh-oh...

JAKE
(SIGHS, EXITING) I'll get the
chocolate sauce.

AND WE:

FADE OUT.

END OF SHOW