

Spring 5-8-2014

# Three Bad Days

Carrie Baker Gutenberg

Loyola Marymount University, gutenbergc@gamil.com

Follow this and additional works at: <http://digitalcommons.lmu.edu/etd>

---

## Recommended Citation

Gutenberg, Carrie Baker, "Three Bad Days" (2014). *LMU/LLS Theses and Dissertations*. Paper 47.

This Thesis is brought to you for free and open access by Digital Commons at Loyola Marymount University and Loyola Law School. It has been accepted for inclusion in LMU/LLS Theses and Dissertations by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons at Loyola Marymount University and Loyola Law School. For more information, please contact [digitalcommons@lmu.edu](mailto:digitalcommons@lmu.edu).

Three Bad Days

By

Carrie Gutenberg

A thesis presented to the

Faculty of the Department of  
Feature Film Screenwriting  
Loyola Marymount University

In partial fulfillment of the  
Requirements for the Degree  
Master of Arts in Feature Film Screenwriting

May 8, 2014

## APPROVAL TO ADVANCE TO CANDIDACY

The following student has met all the criteria to advance to candidacy  
for an M.F.A. in Fine Arts with an emphasis in Screenwriting

Student: Carrie Gutenberg Date: 12/9/13

Committee Co Chair (690): *John Hope* Date: 12/9/2013

Committee Co Chair (691): *Becky* Date: 5/8/14

Advanced Screenplay Project Title:

Three Bad Days

Criteria for advancement to candidacy:

Student has demonstrated sufficient ability and knowledge to complete the thesis project.

Approved to Candidacy

Not Approved to Candidacy

Comments:

## ADVANCED SCREENPLAY PROJECT APPROVAL

The Advanced Screenplay Project submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Fine Arts in Screenwriting submitted by the candidate fulfils the requirements and standards set forth in the University Bulletin by the Division.

Screenplay Title: Three Bad Days

Student: Carrie Gutenberg Date: 12/9/13

Committee Co Chair: SCWR 690 Karol Hoeffner

Signed: [Signature] Date: 12/9/2013

Committee Co Chair: SCWR 691 BETH SERUW.

Signed: [Signature] Date: 5/8/14

Graduate Director: Kennedy Wheatley

Signed: Kennedy Wheatley Date: 5/8/14

Dean: Stephen Utko

Signed: [Signature] Date: 5/8/14

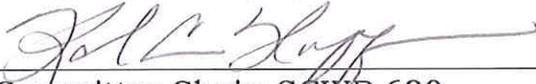
This feature length screenplay written by

Carrie Gutenberg

---

under the guidance of a faculty committee from the School of Film & Television at Loyola Marymount University, and approved by the members of the committee, has been presented to and accepted by the Graduate School in partial fulfillment of the thesis requirements for the degree of Master of Fine Arts in Screenwriting.

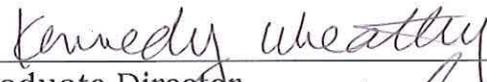
Advanced Screenplay Project Committee:

  
\_\_\_\_\_

Committee Chair: SCWR 690

  
\_\_\_\_\_

Committee Member: SCWR 691

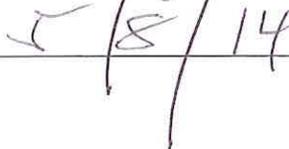
  
\_\_\_\_\_

Graduate Director

  
\_\_\_\_\_

Dean, School of Film & Television

Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_

Three Bad Days

---

A Screenplay

Presented to

The Faculty of the School of Film & Television,  
Loyola Marymount University of Los Angeles, California

---

In Partial Fulfillment

Of the Requirements for the Degree

Master of Fine Arts

---

By

Carrie Gutenberg

---

THREE BAD DAYS

Written by

Carrie Gutenberg

Carrie Gutenberg  
19088 Brasilia Drive  
Porter Ranch, CA. 91326  
Gutenbergcb@gmail.com  
818.426.9078  
Student ID: 984674572

FADE IN:

INT. JAIL CELL - NIGHT

A spacious cell filled with a dozen HARDENED CRIMINALS that all stare at one thing:

Nestled in between two Burly Men, sits CORD, early 30's.

Her broken hand rests on her lap.

A two inch, cut slides down her cheek and a missing eyebrow that has been replaced with a "Harry Potter-esque" squiggly line decorate her face.

A POLICE OFFICER marches down the hallway.

He approaches the cell, yanks his keys from his belt.

POLICE OFFICER  
Cordelia Meyers?

Cord shrinks into the Burly Men.

Police Officer inserts the key.

POLICE OFFICER  
I can see you.

Cord hooks both of her hands through the two Burly Men's arms, holds on for dear life.

They attempt to shake her off but the girl's got a grip.

CORD  
I'm not going back out there.

POLICE OFFICER  
I'm not going to ask again.

The Burly Men, aware that he means business, simultaneously rise, pull Cord to her feet.

From behind them Cord's outfit pops out: it becomes clear that she wears a magnificent wedding gown.

CUT TO:

SUPERIMPOSE:

THREE DAYS EARLIER

EXT. TWIN BEAN CAFE - DAY

Gloom hangs over the bustling city of San Francisco.

A much more put together Cord, sits alone at a table outside of the cafe.

Two coffee mugs rest on the table.

Cord looks to her watch, pulls a small, orange notebook out of her purse, jots something in it.

RICHARD, (30's) rushes up, jumps into the empty seat across from Cord.

He goes for the mug.

RICHARD

I'm sorry.

Richard pulls out a thermometer, temps his coffee.

CORD

I didn't know you liked your coffee cold.

Richard frowns the moment he sees the temperature.

RICHARD

You know how Monday mornings can be at the Health Department.

CORD

Out of the last four weeks you're averaging nine minutes late.

RICHARD

You know I can't control health department emergencies. We take rats very seriously.

CORD

Do you know what I could do with nine extra minutes?

She answers before he can speak.

CORD

Organize my to do list, change four light bulbs, watch two TED talks, and research new lactose free creamer.

RICHARD

After thirty years shouldn't you have your lactose intolerance under control?

Cord waits for Richard to catch on.

RICHARD

I know your time is valuable. Did you find a creamer?

CORD

I'm still calculating my options.

Cord leans across the table.

CORD

Even people who run late get hello kisses.

Cord kisses Richard. Her annoyance disappears.

Richard pulls out the same small, orange notebook that Cord has, along with a pen.

Cord lifts the coffee mug with her left hand, takes a huge gulp.

Richard frowns.

RICHARD

Where's your ring?

Cord peers at her naked left hand, unsure. She flips through her notebook to buy her time.

RICHARD

Cord?

CORD

It's getting cleaned.

RICHARD

I'm beginning to feel like that ring has spent more time with the jeweler than on your finger.

CORD

We've been engaged for eight months and it's been to the jeweler for a total time of two weeks and three days.

RICHARD

Actuaries are harder to argue with than lawyers.

Cord smiles proudly.

RICHARD

Make sure you have it for dinner with my parents tonight.

CORD

Speaking of, I'll meet you at the restaurant at seven.

They both make a mark in their notebooks.

CORD

I'm picking Lucy up today after my last appointment at the office. We'll meet you at the florist to confirm the flowers and then we have a final cake tasting at five.

She looks up at Richard who's staring down at the notebook.

RICHARD

I have two restaurant tours I can't reschedule. Can Lucy be my stand in?

CORD

I was planning on the two of you having some time to bond.

RICHARD

I have a lifetime to bond with her.

CORD

You guys have spent a grand total of three hours together. I'd at least like her to have something memorable to say in the speech.

RICHARD

I talked to Mike. He won't curse, tell embarrassing stories, and he'll keep it under two minutes and forty-five seconds.

Cord crosses it off her list. Her phone beeps.

CORD  
I have to go. Anything else?

RICHARD  
Please don't forget your ring.

Cord stands, drapes her purse over her shoulder, plants a kiss on his cheek.

CORD  
You called the plumber, right?

RICHARD  
Kissing me reminds you of the plumber?

CORD  
(deadpan)  
Yes, when he comes over we make sweet, passionate love while we talk about snaking drains and how much the toilet can swallow in one flush.

RICHARD  
So he's the one who's been getting laid lately?

CORD  
That's not funny. You try planning the wedding of your dreams.

EXT. LARGE BUILDING - DAY

Cord walks into the tall glass building.

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

Cord stands in front of a long, mahogany table.

A large projection screen hangs behind her, displays different variations of charts - pie chart, bar chart, line chart, flow chart etc..

At the very opposite end an ELDERLY COUPLE share the head of the table, tightly hold hands.

Both of their mouths gape open.

CORD

No matter which way you look at it,  
if you both live until you are  
ninety-six, you will be bankrupt by  
ninety-three unless you sell,  
"Nailed Nail Polishes."

ELDERLY HUSBAND

I don't think I'll live that long.

Elderly Wife hits him.

ELDERLY HUSBAND

Especially with that abuse.

ELDERLY WIFE

What are the chances we'll live  
until ninety-six?

CORD

I'm glad you asked.

Cord hits a button, the charts change, same type of charts,  
different data.

CORD

After both of your physicals and  
blood work, I've come to the  
conclusion that your average life  
span will be ninety-nine point  
three.

Off blank looks...

CORD

Basically, Deborah, you will live  
until you are ninety-nine years and  
eleven months and Howard, you are  
kicking the bucket at ninety-eight  
years and nine months.

ELDERLY HUSBAND

This is a lot to think about.

ELDERLY HUSBAND

You're a scary woman.

CORD

It's the job.

ELDERLY HUSBAND

We need some time to discuss our  
options.

Cord moves towards them. She leans on the table.

CORD  
There isn't a risk on this planet  
that's worth not knowing the  
outcome.

ELDERLY HUSBAND  
What if you're wrong and we get  
lucky?

CORD  
Luck's the one thing I'm never  
wrong about. I don't believe in it.

Beat.

CORD  
I'm getting married on Thursday so  
I'll need an answer.

ELDERLY WIFE  
Who gets married on a Thursday?

CORD  
In my research, I discovered that  
things are the least likely to go  
wrong when not married on a weekend  
day.

The Elderly Wife puts her hand on Cord's.

ELDERLY WIFE  
I hope you leave the charts behind  
for your honeymoon.

The Elderly Husband and Elderly Wife both look at each other.

ELDERLY HUSBAND  
We appreciate all you've done but  
our instinct's to hold on for a  
little while longer.

CORD  
There's a reason instinct isn't  
taken seriously as a sixth sense.

EXT. AIRPORT - DAY

Cord pulls up to the crowded San Francisco International  
Airport.

CORD

Of course she couldn't fly in on a Tuesday.

Cord makes her way through the traffic.

CORD

Traffic's out of your control.

Cord pulls over to the curb. She presses a button on the her steering wheel. Her bluetooth rings.

LUCY (V.O.)

Heyyy! You've reached Lucy!  
Voicemail's so nineteen-ninety-nine. Please hang up and send me a text, preferably with a naughty picture attached!

Cord takes a deep breath.

CORD

Lucy, it's your sister, here in the midst of what appears to be the day everyone chose to visit San Francisco.

Cord hits the "End Call" button.

A KNOCK on her window startles her.

A POLICE WOMAN stands inches away from her car.

She rolls down her window.

POLICE WOMAN

You need to move.

CORD

I'm waiting for my sister to land.

POLICE WOMAN

So is everyone else.

CORD

Where am I supposed to go?

POLICE WOMAN

You drive around like all the others.

CORD

Have you ever wondered how much you could lower the risk of injuries and accidents if you just built convenient lots across from each terminal for the people picking up their loved ones?

POLICE WOMAN

Nope. Get moving.

Cord tries an innocent look on the Police Woman.

CORD

It's my wedding in three days and I haven't seen my sister in over a year. She will be out any minute. Can you make this one exception?

POLICE WOMAN

Unless you want to be in jail on your wedding day, you best do another lap.

Cord rolls up her window.

CORD

Someone didn't have their morning coffee.

Her phone rings.

CORD

Lucy, where are you? They're kicking me from the curb.

RUBY (V.O.)

Who's kicking you to the curb?

CORD

Hi Mom.

Cord merges into the traffic, drives around the airport.

RUBY (V.O.)

Where are you?

CORD

Waiting for Lucy. Story of my life.

RUBY (V.O.)

Don't start in on her already.

CORD  
I timed this perfectly.

RUBY (V.O.)  
Maybe she checked her bags.

CORD  
Stop making excuses for her.

RUBY  
All of the wedding favors arrived.

CORD  
I will come over tomorrow at two  
p.m. to help put them together.

Cord pulls up to the terminal again.

RUBY (V.O.)  
Give Lucy a big kiss for me.

Cord hits end. She looks around for Lucy amongst the crowd of TRAVELERS.

The Police Woman spots her, starts her approach.

Before she arrives at Cord's car, Cord spots the ever so radiant LUCY (late 20's) as she bounces out of the terminal doors, waves both her arms at Cord.

Cord jumps out of her car. Points to Lucy.

The Police Woman backs off.

Lucy leaps into Cord's arms.

LUCY  
Bonjour, ma belle jeune mariée!

Cord attempts to return the affection but it comes off awkwardly.

CORD  
You speak French?

LUCY  
Pierre taught me!

Lucy signals over to the terminal doors. A handsome PIERRE (40's) marches over to them. He carries two large duffel bags, drags two large suitcases, and pushes one in front of him.

CORD  
Of course you found someone to  
carry your luggage.

Lucy grins from ear to ear.

LUCY  
This is Pierre.

CORD  
Hi, Pierre.

PIERRE  
Hot dog meet me.

LUCY  
I tried to teach him some English  
on the flight.

CORD  
Of course you met him on the plane.

LUCY  
Can we give him a ride? After all,  
you wouldn't let me take a cab so  
how can we let this sweet,  
innocent, man risk the dangers of  
cabbies in good, old San Fran?

Cord sighs, pops her trunk.

LUCY  
Thank you, thank you! I owe you!

EXT./INT. CORD'S CAR - DAY

Driving across the Bay Bridge.

Pierre sits in the front. He's snapping pictures of  
everything.

Lucy, in the back middle seat, leans forward.

LUCY  
Whatever you need me for, I am  
here.

Lucy wraps her arms around Cord's neck.

LUCY  
I can't believe it's happening!  
You've been dreaming about this day  
your entire life.

CORD  
I. Can't. Breathe.

Lucy releases her grip.

CORD  
I plan on having the perfect  
wedding.

LUCY  
And you will.

PIERRE  
Marry me?

Lucy pats Pierre on the shoulder.

LUCY  
No, Pierre. We talked about this.

EXT. FOREVER FLOWER SHOP - DAY

Gorgeous bouquets of flowers, range in sizes from small to  
extravagant, surround the front of the glamorous store.

Buckets of lilies line both sides of the pathway.

Down the alley way we see an ambulance but neither Cord nor  
Lucy pay it any attention.

INT. FOREVER FLOWER SHOP - DAY

Flowers by themselves, in bouquets, in patterns, in designs,  
all fill the shop.

AMY (The Florist) sits on the check-out counter. An EMT, with  
his back to Cord and Lucy, bandages up both of her hands.

Cord races over to her.

CORD  
Amy, what happened?

EMT  
You're going to need stitches.

Cord stops, speechless. The EMT whips around.

CORD (CONT'D)  
Felix?

FELIX  
Cord?

LUCY

Whoa.

FELIX (the EMT, 30's), and Cord stare at each other.

AMY

You know each other?

Cord opens her mouth to speak, a small SQUEAK escapes.

FELIX

Sort of.

LUCY

You dated for four years.

AMY

You haven't told me!

FELIX

It wasn't worth talking about.

Cord looks down. Ouch.

FELIX

I mean, it never came up.

CORD

I'm a little confused.

FELIX

Amy's my current girlfriend.

AMY

Current girlfriend? Nice.

(to Felix:)

Cord is my current client. I was doing the flowers for her wedding.

FELIX

You're getting married?

CORD

What do you mean, "was?"

Amy holds up her hands.

AMY

My electronic cutting sheers backfired on me.

CORD

You have other employees.

AMY  
Yeah, on the weekends but you're  
getting married on a Thursday.

CORD  
This isn't happening.

Cord's breath heavies.

LUCY  
Are you okay?

CORD  
I need some fresh air.

Felix holds up an oxygen mask.

Cord turns away from them, closes her eyes.

LUCY  
We should leave.

FELIX  
Congratulations. I know this is all  
you've ever wanted.

EXT. FOREVER FLOWERS - DAY

Cord bursts out of the flower shop. Lucy follows closely  
behind her.

CORD  
Can you believe him? The nerve! The  
attitude!

LUCY  
The arms.

CORD  
Lucy, focus!

LUCY  
I think you're overreacting.

Cord takes off down the sidewalk. Lucy catches up to her.

CORD  
Overreacting. Hmphhh. Over. Re.  
Acting!?

Lucy spins Cord around.

LUCY  
You need to calm down.

Cord squeezes her eyes shut.

CORD  
This isn't happening. I'm in a bad dream. It'll be over and I'll be safely in my closet when I open my eyes.

Cord flashes her eyes open. All she sees is Lucy staring back at her.

CORD  
Ugh.

LUCY  
Sorry, this is real.

Cord's anger turns into sadness.

They both end up on a bench.

CORD  
I've done everything I can to avoid him for the past two years. Everything. I changed my routine, where I take my laundry, where I get my coffee, my dentist, gastroenterologist, even my foot masseuse.

LUCY  
You guys had some weird couple activities.

Cord buries her face in her hands.

CORD  
The last thing I needed right now was to see Felix.

LUCY  
Did you catch the look on his face when the florist told him you were getting married?

CORD  
It looked like relief.

LUCY  
It looked like regret.

CORD

I can't, this stuff can't happen.  
Felix, the flowers, nothing else  
can go wrong.

LUCY

Nothing's really gone wrong.  
They're are a million flower shops  
in the city.

CORD

I miscalculated something.

Lucy grabs Cord's hands.

LUCY

When are you going to realize that  
sometimes things happen that are  
out of your control and it's okay  
because that's the way life goes?

Cord pulls her orange notebook out of her purse. A small,  
multi-folded piece of paper slips out.

Cord unfolds it into it's natural, paper-sized form.

CORD

If we can keep on schedule I will  
solve the flower problem tonight.

Lucy waves her hand in front of Cord's eyes.

LUCY

Hello! We were just having a  
meltdown.

Cord looks Lucy straight in the eyes.

CORD

I can control this.

LUCY

I have an idea.

CORD

I'm not interested.

LUCY

I've been interning for a fortune  
teller.

Cord whips her head in Lucy's direction.

CORD

What happened to being a trampoline instructor?

LUCY

Fell through.

(beat)

Anyway, I've learned a few things. We could do a spell or a charm. Better yet, a wish would do the trick.

Not amused, Cord stares at Lucy.

CORD

I thought you said you wanted to help.

LUCY

This could really work. I'm pretty good.

CORD

Grow up, Lucy. That stuff isn't real.

Cord's phone beeps. She looks at it.

CORD

I forgot about the appointment at the bakery!

Cord types furiously.

LUCY

I'm sure they can reschedule.

Her phone beeps again.

CORD

Crisis averted. They can see me tomorrow morning at eight a.m.

LUCY

It's only cake.

Cord gives her a death stare.

CORD

Do you take any of this seriously?

LUCY

Please don't break out in hives again. You know they freak me out.

EXT. CORD'S PARENTS HOUSE - NIGHT

Modest, two story home in a neighborhood that has block parties, backyard barbecues, and weekend garage sales.

Cord drags Lucy's luggage up the brick steps.

Behind her, Lucy saunters up the steps, carries only her purse.

Before they even reach the door RUBY (50's colorful clothing) and LENNON (50's) burst out of the house, arms wide open.

They completely bypass Cord, drown Lucy in hugs and kisses.

RUBY  
My baby girl.

LENNON  
It's so good to have you home,  
Pinky.

Lennon winks at Cord.

LENNON  
And The Brain. We missed you too.

CORD  
I hate that nickname.

Lucy soaks up the attention while Cord continues on into the house, struggles not to fall over.

INT. CORD'S PARENTS HOUSE - NIGHT

Cord drops the bags and suitcases in the entryway.

Ruby, Lennon, and Lucy come in behind. Ruby rubs Cord's back.

RUBY  
Stay for a drink.

Cord looks at her watch.

CORD  
One drink, mom.

Lennon abandons Lucy and puts his arm around Cord as they all disappear, as one unit, into the family room.

INT. FAMILY ROOM - CORD'S PARENTS HOUSE - NIGHT

A large table in the corner is covered with lavender candles.

Ruby, Lennon, and Lucy sit together on the couch talking a mile a minute.

Cord sits alone in the large arm chair, silent.

She takes the last sip of her drink while simultaneously standing.

CORD  
I'm going to go.

The chatter doesn't stop.

Much louder this time...

CORD  
BYE!

They all look at her.

RUBY  
I didn't realize you're still here.

LENNON  
You've been so quiet.

LUCY  
She's had a bad day.

Ruby stands, approaches Cord with a sympathetic look.

RUBY  
Why didn't you say something?

CORD  
I didn't want to ruin the fun.

LENNON  
You know we haven't seen Lucy in over a year. We see you every other day.

CORD  
Thanks, Dad.

RUBY  
Talk to us. What's going on?

LUCY  
We ran into Felix today.

Lennon pops out of his seat. Both Ruby and he grin from ear to ear.

RUBY  
Oh, honey, that's wonderful!

LENNON  
Did he ask about me?

CORD  
No, Dad. He was too busy being rude to me.

RUBY  
How did he look?

LUCY  
He was not rude.

LENNON  
Felix should come by the house!

CORD  
He had all kinds of insults.

LUCY  
Felix still loves her.

The room instantly silences. Ruby and Lennon look from Lucy to Cord and back again.

RUBY  
I don't doubt it. Our Cord's unforgettable.

Ruby lovingly puts her hand on Cord's cheek.

CORD  
I really need to get going.

RUBY  
Is she doing that thing where she pretends not to care?

LUCY  
All day long.

CORD  
It's because I don't.

Cord kisses her mother on the cheek.

CORD  
Thanks for the drink.

Cord grabs her purse, moves towards the front door.

Lennon yells after her.

LENNON

Do you think if I gave him a call,  
he would want to hang out?

LUCY

Dad, not now.

The front door slams shut.

EXT. SCICCOSO RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Cord approaches a spectacular brown door, occupied only by a friendly DOORMAN (70's).

She peers down at her left hand, the naked ring finger,  
shoves her hand into her jacket pocket.

The restaurant door is opened for her.

INT. SCICCOSO RESTAURANT - NIGHT

ELIZABETH (60's) and MARTIN (60's) sit across from Richard  
and Cord in the midst of a very exclusive, quiet restaurant.

A handful of PATRONS occupy the other tables.

Empty glasses of water and folded napkins rest on the table.

CORD

Dinner was wonderful. Thank you  
again.

MARTIN

You're welcome. I hope your hand  
heals in time for the wedding.

Cord raises her left hand, still buried inside of her pocket.

CORD

It'll be fine.

ELIZABETH

Your sister should be less clumsy  
in the coming days.

CORD

She felt terrible about the entire  
thing.

RICHARD

I don't understand how she ripped your nail off with a shovel.

CORD

It's worse than it sounds. Really. I promise.

Elizabeth gently nudges Martin.

MARTIN

We have a surprise!

Martin pulls an envelope out of his pocket, hands it to Richard.

ELIZABETH

Open it.

Richard carefully opens the envelope. He pulls out the folded piece of paper.

RICHARD

You didn't?

ELIZABETH

We did!

MARTIN

We did indeed!

CORD

What did they do?

RICHARD

They paid for our honeymoon!

Cord's face goes from stressed to happy in an instant.

She leans over to look at the paper but only sees a big letter "G."

CORD

Mr. and Mrs. Peterson, that's incredible!

ELIZABETH

We hope you enjoy every moment of it.

RICHARD

I've always dreamed of doing this.

CORD  
I've never been out of the country.

Martin, Elizabeth, and Richard laugh.

MARTIN  
You sure are a funny one.

ELIZABETH  
I would hardly call it out of the country.

CORD  
I think any way you look at it,  
it's out of the country.

ELIZABETH  
Your parents didn't travel with you  
much when you were young?

CORD  
No, we did stuff. But nothing like  
Germany.

Martin, Elizabeth, and Richard all look at one another  
confused.

CORD  
Isn't that where we're going?

RICHARD  
Hardly!

Richard beams, spreads the entire paper open. It's a brochure  
for:

The Garlic Festival in Gilroy, California

CORD  
What's that?

RICHARD  
My dream since I was a little boy!

CORD  
You dreamt of going to a garlic  
festival?

Richard shakes his head YES.

ELIZABETH  
He used to put garlic on  
everything.

MARTIN

Until the ladies started complaining, if you know what I mean.

CORD

I thought we agreed to go to Europe.

RICHARD

You know how I feel about long flights.

CORD

I assess danger for a living. You know the odds of being in a plane crash!

RICHARD

The wedding's your dream. This is mine.

Cord's hands fly in the air (her left hand evacuates her pocket).

CORD

I'm not going to some stinky festival to celebrate our marriage!

Martin, Elizabeth, and Richard freeze. They all look to her hand. It's completely fine.

ELIZABETH

Where's your engagement ring?

CORD

I was out of line. I've had a long day.

RICHARD

Yeah, Cord. Where is your ring?

CORD

Still at the jewelers. I lost track of time and...

Richard pulls a box out of his pocket, opens it, sets it on the table.

The ring sparkles.

RICHARD

I was waiting until after dinner but I found this in the coffee jar.

Cord pauses, slides the ring on her finger.

CORD  
I can explain that.

RICHARD  
Please do.

Making it up as she goes...

CORD  
Supposedly, the week before your wedding you're supposed to put your ring in ground coffee. It brings good energy to your marriage.

RICHARD  
Since when do you believe in nonsense like that?

CORD  
I don't. I mean, I just want Thursday to be perfect so I'm willing to do anything.

She wins. Elizabeth, Martin, and Richard all soften their faces, as much as it's possible.

CORD  
And I do love garlic. I'm sure it will be a pungent experience.

EXT. SCICCOSO RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Martin and Elizabeth wave goodbye as they get into their car.

The VALET pulls Richard's car forward.

A cab pulls up behind Richard's, HONKS. Lucy sticks her head out the window.

LUCY  
I'm kidnapping you!

CORD  
Not in a cab!

LUCY  
Hi Richard! I'm stealing your bride-to-be and no one can stop me.

Richard looks to Cord, nods.

RICHARD

Go.

Cord kisses his cheek.

INT. CAB - NIGHT

The cab pulls up in front of a nicely lit bar.

Cord looks out the window, relieved that they are safe.

CORD

Why does this place look so familiar?

LUCY

Because it is! It used to be The Royals Bar.

Cord's face loses color.

CORD

I'm not going in there.

LUCY

Yes you are.

CORD

Of all the bars in this city you pick this one?

LUCY

We used to have so much fun here!

CORD

You know what this place was to Felix and me.

LUCY

You have a thousand different memories with Felix in this city. Starting now we are going to stop letting that dictate how you live your life.

Cord gives Lucy a dirty look.

LUCY

One drink. The girls are waiting for you.

CORD

You rounded up my bridesmaids?

LUCY  
 Surprise! It's your bachelorette  
 party!

Lucy jumps out of the car, pulls Cord along with her.

EXT. SINO BAR - NIGHT

Outdoor bar decorated in lights, china balls.

Tables, both tall and short, fill the space, a dance floor  
 off to the side all occupied with drunk, fun PEOPLE.

A live band and a fully stocked bar complete the look.

Cord, Lucy, and five other women - ANDREA, NATALIE, DINA,  
 PAIGE, and SUSIE(20's/30's) all mingle around a pub table.

All of them are done up head to toe in plastic penis and  
 nipple necklaces, rings, bracelets, fake tattoos, and penis  
 straws in their drinks.

Cord, along with all the above mentioned, sports a bright,  
 white veil decorated with... you guessed it... a whole lot of  
 plastic penis.

Over in the corner by the live band, Felix turns around at  
 the commotion, spots Cord.

AT THE TABLE

A tap on her shoulder, Cord turns around face to face with  
 Felix. He holds two shots in his hands.

FELIX  
 Still think plugging your ear  
 reduces the burn?

Cord plugs the her ear, throws the shot back. Felix smiles at  
 her.

The BAND MEMBERS start to play.

FELIX  
 Two times in one day. What are the  
 odds?

Felix and Lucy wink at each other.

CORD  
 One in a million.

Felix laughs.

CORD  
No, really. It's like one in nine  
hundred, ninety eight thousand,  
two.

The music picks up.

FELIX  
Dance with me?

CORD  
What are you doing here?

FELIX  
Having drinks.

CORD  
I meant talking to me.

FELIX  
One dance?

CORD  
Where's Amy?

FELIX  
Sleeping off the pain pills.

CORD  
Shouldn't you be home with her?

FELIX  
We don't live together.

CORD  
I see you're still making excuses  
instead of admitting you don't want  
to do something.

FELIX  
That's not fair.

CORD  
Well, you said hello. Thanks for  
the shot.

Cord turns from Felix.

FELIX  
What did I do now?

CORD

I haven't seen you in two years and the first time I do you manage to chalk up our relationship as something not worth bringing up.

FELIX

You know I didn't mean that.

CORD

Then what did you mean?

FELIX

Amy and I haven't even been dating that long. We haven't had that talk yet and the reason you haven't seen me in two years is because of you, not me.

Lucy pops her head in the middle of their conversation.

LUCY

How's it going?

FELIX

I was just about to leave.

CORD

Me too.

With that, they both storm off in different directions, leave Lucy alone.

LUCY

And I'm just going to go get another drink.

EXT. SINO BAR - NIGHT

The fog has moved in.

Cord mopes on the curb, sober enough to be realistic, drunk enough to be emotional. Lucy joins her.

Cord looks up at her, a few unfallen tears fill her eyes.

CORD

I can't have anymore days like this.

Lucy holds her sister, as best as her drunk self can.

LUCY  
You can't put that pressure on  
yourself, Cord. Life isn't perfect.

CORD  
I just want to make it to Thursday.

LUCY  
Then make the wish. What do you  
have to lose?

Cord shakes her head.

LUCY  
If it works you get the perfect  
wedding and if it doesn't work,  
then you get to say you told me so.

CORD  
You really believe in this stuff?

LUCY  
It's never hurt anyone to.

Lucy searches through her purse. She takes a used tissue,  
bright orange lipstick, and a pack of matches out of her  
purse

She hands the tissue and lipstick to Cord.

LUCY  
Write down your wish.

Cord writes, "Perfect Wedding Day."

Lucy swipes a match, hands it to Cord. She lights the tissue  
on fire.

Rain drops fall, melt away the ashes in the gutter. Don't  
worry - it's biodegradable tissue.

EXT. CORD AND RICHARD'S HOUSE - DAY

Track homes. Uniform trees. Identical mailboxes.

INT. BEDROOM - CORD AND RICHARD'S HOUSE - DAY

Cord is sprawled out across the queen size bed.

Richard tiptoes into the room, sets a large tray of food on  
the night stand.

He pulls the curtains open, lets the sun bathe Cord's face.  
She scrunches her eyes. Blinks them open.

CORD  
It's so bright.

Cord flies up into a seated position.

CORD  
What time is it?

Richard sits on the bed beside her.

RICHARD  
It's ten!

CORD  
Oh fuck! The Bakery. My cake!

Richard's caught off guard. Cord grabs her phone, types.

RICHARD  
You never curse.

She touches her temple.

CORD  
What happened to me?

RICHARD  
Lucy and tequila, is my educated  
guess.

He hands Cord a cup of coffee.

RICHARD  
That's what you get for mid-week  
drinking.

She looks over at the tray of food.

CORD  
Why aren't you at work?

RICHARD  
I took the rest of the week off to  
be with you.

CORD  
You haven't missed a day of work in  
years and you made me breakfast?

RICHARD

In bed.

Richard feeds her a big bite of food.

CORD

Are you dying? You never let me eat  
in bed.

RICHARD

You said you wanted perfect.

Cord looks around. A beautiful day, Richard smiling, a tray  
full of yummy breakfast, a fresh cup of coffee.

CORD

Perfect is perfect.

Cord sips her coffee. She immediately YELPS, spits it all  
over her breakfast. Richard jumps back.

CORD

That's hot!

RICHARD

Coffee generally is, unless you're  
among the population of weirdos who  
drink it iced.

Cord pokes at her tongue to regain feeling.

RICHARD

It can't be that hot, I brewed it  
over an hour ago.

Richard takes the cup, sips it. Goes down smooth.

RICHARD

That water filter was a worthy  
purchase.

Cord grabs the mug, sips it. Spits it out, this time on  
Richard.

RICHARD

Seriously, Cord! What's wrong with  
you?

CORD

This is on hundred, ninety-two  
degrees.

Richard takes the mug, gulps it down.

RICHARD

I think you're crazy.

Angry, Cord grabs the coffee, takes another big sip.

Burns again, she spits it out, Richard jumps out of the way, knocks the tray of food over.

The bed's covered in coffee, eggs, and ketchup.

RICHARD

This is why I don't let you eat in bed!

Richard storms out of the room.

INT. BATHROOM - CORD AND RICHARD'S HOUSE - DAY

Cord sits on the toilet (gracefully).

Below the porcelain, out of her line of sight, a small puddle of water has formed, continues to grow from the dripping pipe.

Cord flushes.

She turns the shower on, drops her towel, gets in.

Almost immediately she screams, jumps out, trips over the side, falls to her knees.

Richard runs into the bathroom holding a thermometer.

RICHARD

What's wrong?

Cord gets up, uses the shower curtain to cover her body. She shivers.

CORD

The the waaaatteerrrrr isss free... freezzzzing.

Cord picks the towel off the ground, wraps herself. She notices the thermometer.

CORD

You insist on taking the temperature of every piece of food in this house. What about the water heater?

RICHARD  
Are you getting your period? You're  
always sensitive to temperature  
when you're on it.

Richard grabs the door handle.

RICHARD  
I'll give you a few minutes.

She turns on the sink, pulls her toothbrush and toothpaste  
out of the drawer.

Cord puts the toothbrush in her mouth, immediately spits and  
gags.

She violently rinses her mouth out with water.

Cord flips over the toothpaste tube. It's "ICEY-HOT."

She turns to walk out of the bathroom, stubs her toe on the  
doorway, hops to...

INT. BEDROOM - CORD AND RICHARD'S HOUSE - DAY

Her bed.

She collapses on top of it, rubbing her toe.

Cord peers over at the clock:

10:10am.

Richard stands in the doorway, fiddles with his thermometer.

RICHARD  
Not your morning?

Cord glares at Richard, throws the quilt over her head.

RICHARD  
We're going to be late.

Lucy pops her head in.

LUCY  
Late for what?

She pushes past Richard.

LUCY  
Is she still wallowing?

RICHARD  
Why was she wallowing?

Lucy rips the quilt off Cord, takes her towel with it.

Cord unsuccessfully covers herself.

LUCY  
Oh come on, we've all seen you  
naked. Why are your lips swollen?

RICHARD  
We've got a meeting with the  
caterer in twenty minutes.

LUCY  
I'm starved!

Cord gets up, goes through the motions of getting dressed.

LUCY  
Can I invite Pierre?

RICHARD  
Who's Pierre?

LUCY  
He's got luscious lips.

EXT. VIBRAZIONE CAFE - DAY

Cord, Richard, Lucy, and Pierre enter the fancy restaurant.

INT. VIBRAZIONE CAFE - DAY

Hustle and bustle of a busy lunch rush.

Cord, Richard, Lucy and Pierre sit at a quaint table.

CORD  
Lucy, you have to taste the food  
first to make sure it isn't too  
hot. My sensitivity to temperature  
is on high alert today.

A HOT WAITER approaches the table.

HOT WAITER  
Chef Mona will be out shortly to  
discuss your choices.

A SNOOTY WOMAN flags Hot Waiter down. He leaves.

LUCY  
Richard, how do you know Chef Mona?

RICHARD  
We used to work at the health  
department together.

LUCY  
That has to be the most boring job  
in the world. I bet you're glad you  
got out.

CORD  
He still works there.

LUCY  
I meant routine not boring.

RICHARD  
And what do you do, Lucy?

LUCY  
I do a lot of things.

CORD  
And people.

ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE RESTAURANT:

CHEF MONA (tall, sleek, seductive) crosses over the large  
room, towards them.

Behind her, a team of WAITERS carry full trays.

CORD  
Is that Chef Mona?

Richard's face lights up.

PIERRE  
What a sex kitten.

LUCY  
Now you remember the English I  
taught you?

Pierre smiles, proud.

Chef Mona arrives, all of their mouths agape.

The Waiters serve the food.

Richard greets her.

RICHARD

Chef Mona, thank you so much for doing this.

CHEF MONA

My pleasure. I know you will enjoy the selection of handmade quiches.

LUCY

Isn't all quiche handmade?

Richard kicks Lucy under the table.

Chef Mona notices Cord's expression: disdain.

CHEF MONA

Do you not care for my food?

CORD

I thought we decided on the vegetable tarts?

CHEF MONA

Tarts are unacceptable for your wedding.

CORD

I'm lactose intolerant. You did this on purpose.

RICHARD

Cord...

CHEF MONA

I take my craft very seriously.

CORD

You've always had a thing for Richard. This is your payback for him turning you down when you asked him out.

Cord's voice is raised.

LUCY

You've got some fire in you today.

RICHARD

You're out of line.

CHEF MONA

Is that what he told you? That he turned me down?

CORD

I concluded it on my own. You're not his type.

CHEF MONA

I do not have to stand here and take these absurd accusations.

RICHARD

Chef Mona, I apologize on behalf of Cord. Her period has made her unusually rude today.

Cord fumes.

CORD

I am not on my period!!

The entire restaurant freezes, all eyes on her.

CHEF MONA

You deserve tarts at your wedding.

Chef Mona storms off.

Pierre and Lucy are speechless.

RICHARD

Because of you, we just lost the best caterer in town. Do you know how many favors I had to call in to get her to take us?

He slams his napkin down on the table.

RICHARD

You better fix this.

Richard races off after Chef Mona.

LUCY

He's really moody.

CORD

He's only like this thirty-seven percent of the time.

EXT. WAX ON/WAX OFF SALON - DAY

PEOPLE move in and out of the busy salon.

INT. WAX ON/WAX OFF SALON - DAY

Cord and Lucy sit in the waiting chairs, flip through magazines.

A door opens and a MAN runs out of the room crying.

A LARGE RUSSIAN LADY follows behind him, stops in front of Cord and Lucy.

LARGE RUSSIAN LADY  
That will teach him not to cheat on me.

She looks at the girls.

LARGE RUSSIAN LADY  
Which one of you is next?

Cord and Lucy are terrified.

LUCY  
Bride goes first.

Lucy points to Cord.

INT. WAXING ROOM - DAY

Cord lays on the bed. The large Russian Lady stirs the wax.

LARGE RUSSIAN LADY  
Man thinks he can cheat and not get caught. I use special wax for him.

CORD  
That special wax?

LARGE RUSSIAN LADY  
Different.

She grabs her magnifying glasses, inspects Cord's face, shakes her head in dismay.

CORD  
I only need a little trim. My natural shape is good.

The Large Russian Lady twirls the wax on the end of her wooden stick.

LARGE RUSSIAN LADY  
He thinks small, blonde girl make him happy.

CORD

You don't even really need to use wax. You could just pluck a few hairs.

The Large Russian Lady approaches Cord's eyebrow.

LARGE RUSSIAN LADY

Let's see how she feels when she tries to find his balls.

CORD

On second thought, I'm fine.

Cord lifts herself up but the Large Russian Lady shoves her back down.

CORD

That hurt.

LARGE RUSSIAN LADY

I give him all of me and what does he do?

The Large Russian Lady applies the wax but when she moves away she drips wax across Cord's entire eyebrow.

LARGE RUSSIAN LADY

He give me crabs!

She smooths the cloth over the wax.

CORD

This doesn't feel right.

LARGE RUSSIAN LADY

That's what I say to him and you know what he tells me?

CORD

It feels too sticky.

LARGE RUSSIAN LADY

How did you know?

The Large Russian Lady rips the cloth off.

Cord flies upright, screams in pain, hits her head on a light above her.

She frantically feels around for her eyebrow.

LARGE RUSSIAN LADY

Oh no.

CORD  
No. No. No. No.

The large Russian Lady slams Cord back on the table.

LARGE RUSSIAN LADY  
Don't worry. I fix.

She picks up a tattooing needle.

INT. WAX ON/WAX OFF SALON - DAY

Lucy stands.

LUCY  
Should we go in there?

A STONED RECEPTIONIST shrugs her shoulders.

Lucy knocks on the door.

LUCY  
Cord?

The door opens. Cord steps out.

Cord's eyebrow is now replaced by a brown, squiggly, Harry Potter-Style lightening bolt tattoo.

Lucy covers her mouth.

Behind her the Large Russian Lady shakes her head.

LARGE RUSSIAN LADY  
I little shaky from antibiotics.

EXT. WAX ON/WAX OFF SALON - DAY

Cord runs out of the salon. She looks back for Lucy, not paying attention to the sidewalk, as a BIKE MESSENGER rides through, crashes right into Cord.

They both fly.

Once they land...

BIKE MESSENGER  
What the hell!

CORD  
You're the one illegally on the sidewalk!

Cord looks down at her hand:

A large gash is in the center of her palm.

Blood pours out of it. Lucy runs out of the salon, helps Cord to her feet.

The Bike Messenger crawls to his bike.

Lucy gets on her phone.

LUCY  
It's Lucy. It's an emergency.

She hangs up.

LUCY  
An ambulance is on its way.

CORD  
My hand!

LUCY  
At least you don't have a  
concussion like that guy.

The Bike Messenger collapses as Lucy points to him.

CORD  
What is happening?!

EXT. WAX ON/WAX OFF SALON - LATER

The ambulance pulls up.

MIKE (EMT) jumps out, tends to the Bike Messenger.

A small CROWD has formed.

The driver gets out of the other side, walks around the van.

Cord's eyes lock with Felix's, he races over to her.

FELIX  
What happened?

He stares at her face.

FELIX  
How did--

Felix rubs his eyebrow.

CORD  
Is it really noticeable?

Felix doesn't know how to answer, she understands his silence. Tears form in her eyes.

FELIX  
Lord Voldemort would never notice it.

Cord holds up her bloodied hand. He opens his bag, cleans the wound.

She winces.

FELIX  
Luckily, you don't need stitches.

Lucy hangs up her phone, approaches them.

LUCY  
I canceled your dress fitting. She said you can come Thursday morning. I'm calling mom.

Lucy parades off.

CORD  
Why are you here?

FELIX  
It's my job.

CORD  
Lucy has you on speed dial now?

FELIX  
Lucy and I have always stayed in touch.

CORD  
What?

FELIX  
Cord, you left me. Your family didn't.

Felix looks up at her.

CORD  
I can't believe they hid it from me.

FELIX  
I don't think they hid it, you just  
never asked.

CORD  
And you asked about me?

FELIX  
Every time.

CORD  
And how does Amy feel about all of  
this?

FELIX  
She had some questions.

CORD  
How did you manage to sum up four  
years?

FELIX  
I'm not sure I ever could.

Felix finishes wrapping her hand, stares at her.

FELIX  
Nice ring.

Felix returns to his ambulance as Lucy approaches.

LUCY  
That looked intense.

Cord gazes up at Lucy.

LUCY  
You're kind of a mess.

Lucy helps Cord to her feet.

CORD  
Today isn't real.

Mike has the Bike Messenger loaded on the gurney.

Felix helps Mike load the Bike Messenger into the back of the  
ambulance.

INT. CORD'S PARENTS HOUSE - DAY

Ruby looks down at Cord's hand, then up at her eyebrow.

RUBY

Well, that's a stroke of bad luck.

Lucy sits at the dining room table covering the top of each candle with a sparkling silver cloth that reads:

"A Perfect Match"

She ties a ribbon around the rim, glues a matchbox to the side.

Ruby joins Lucy at the table to assist her. Cord sinks into a chair beside them.

RUBY

Why's she in a mood?

LUCY

We saw Felix again.

Ruby beams.

RUBY

Tell me everything.

Lennon pops his head around the corner.

LENNON

How's my big guy doing?

LUCY

Not now, dad.

CORD

Apparently the three of you still keep in touch with him.

Caught. An overlap of excuses.

LENNON

He's my favorite.

RUBY

He's part of our family.

LUCY

Felix is my only platonic, male friend.

Lennon spots Cord's eyebrow.

LENNON

Is this a new trend?

CORD

Don't change the subject.

RUBY  
She's having an off day.

Ruby lights incense, waves it in front of Cord's face. She coughs.

Lennon passes by them on his way to the kitchen.

CORD  
Not how I thought my wish would pan out.

Lucy glances over to Cord - "oh shit."

RUBY  
You're what?

CORD  
What's that look mean?

LUCY  
I don't have a look.

CORD  
Lucy, I know your looks. That was a look.

RUBY  
What did you wish for?

CORD  
Nothing, it doesn't matter. Lucy, the look?

LUCY  
Maybe we did it wrong.

RUBY  
Did what wrong?

LUCY  
Technically it's supposed to be done on a piece of paper, with a pencil and a candle.

CORD  
You didn't follow the rules? Everything has rules!

LUCY  
They've never mattered before.

RUBY  
Would someone tell me what the hell  
is going on?

CORD  
I wished for the perfect wedding.

Ruby bursts out laughing.

CORD  
I'm leaving.

Cord moves towards the front door.

RUBY  
That's the last thing you would  
ever do.

Cord faces her mother, takes a deep breath.

CORD  
You're right. I'm being ridiculous.  
I don't believe in that nonsense.

INT. CORD AND RICHARD'S HOUSE - DAY

Cord quietly enters the house. Richard wanders into the room,  
thermometer in hand.

They stare at each other.

RICHARD  
About done checking the food.

CORD  
I'm going to take a long bath.

RICHARD  
What happened to your hand?

CORD  
Long story.

Richard sees her face.

RICHARD  
Whoa. Your face.

Cord touches her eyebrow.

CORD  
I don't feel like talking about it.

RICHARD  
Did you apologize to Chef Mona?

Cord closes her eyes.

CORD  
I promise I will tomorrow. For now  
can you let me be. As you can see,  
it's been a challenging day.

RICHARD  
Cord, this is serious.

CORD  
I DON'T CARE!

Cord huffs and puffs up the stairs.

INT. BATHROOM - CORD AND RICHARD'S HOUSE - DAY

Bath water runs, only an inch fills the tub.

Cord sits on the toilet, swings her legs back and forth.

The puddle that was beneath the toilet has grown, the pipe  
gives off more liquid.

Cord finishes, stands, buttons her pants.

She reaches over to flush, doesn't notice the leaking pipe.

Cord flushes.

The pipe that drips EXPLODES, causes everything that was  
flushed to spray across the entire bathroom, covers Cord.

INT. CORD AND RICHARD'S HOUSE - DAY

Still in the same spot as before, Richard sits on the couch.

Liquid drips from the ceiling, lands on his shoulder.

He peers up. The white ceiling has a huge, yellowish, water  
stain.

RICHARD  
Shit. The plumber.

He ascends the stairs.

RICHARD  
Cord?!

INT. BEDROOM - CORD AND RICHARD'S HOUSE - DAY

Cord hovers in the doorway of the bathroom, covered head to toe in all things flushed down those pipes throughout the years.

Her mouth hangs open.

Richard holds up his cell phone.

RICHARD

So, I'm giving the plumber a call.

If Cord was a dragon, Richard would be on fire.

Richard covers his nose, moves away from her.

INT. BATHROOM - CORD AND RICHARD'S HOUSE - DAY

Cord reaches into the shower, the bath water not any fuller and no longer running, nothing comes out.

She looks back at Richard who's on the phone in the bedroom.

INT. BEDROOM - CORD AND RICHARD'S HOUSE - DAY

Cord rocks in a chair, stares at nothing, a towel wrapped around her soiled clothing. Her hair now dry but not clean.

Richard and a PLUMBER walk out of the bathroom.

PLUMBER

Three to six weeks.

Cord flies out of her seat.

CORD

Three to six weeks what?

PLUMBER

Until your plumbing is back up.  
Turns out this place needs all new piping.

The fury all but steams out of Cord's ears.

Through gritted teeth...

CORD

Where are we supposed to stay for the time being?

PLUMBER

I heard you're the one with the magic flushing finger. Be careful with that thing.

The Plumber saunters back into the bathroom.

CORD

Take me to my parents house. Now.

EXT. CORD'S PARENTS HOUSE - DAY

Cord stands at the front door, next to Richard. They knock.

Lennon opens the door.

LENNON

Cord, Richard, we weren't expect...  
What's that smell?

Cord barges past Richard. Ruby's still at the table working on the wedding favors.

RUBY

What's going on, honey?

Ruby covers her nose.

Cord disappears down the hallway. A door slams shut.

Richard awkwardly looks back and forth between Ruby and Lennon.

RICHARD

We have some plumbing issues.

INT. CORD'S PARENTS HOUSE - NIGHT

All cleaned up except her attitude, Cord sits at the dinner table next to Richard.

Lucy, Ruby, and Lennon fill the rest of the table.

LUCY

I've never seen someone look as bad as they smell.

CORD

I could kill Richard for not calling the plumber when I asked.

LENNON

You guys are welcome to stay here  
for as long as you need.

RICHARD

We appreciate that but I'll check  
us into the hotel a night early  
tomorrow.

LENNON

So Felix, how has work been?

Cord chokes on her food. The table falls silent.

LENNON

I'm sorry, Richard. That name has  
been floating around our house the  
past few days.

Richard looks to Cord.

RICHARD

Who's Felix?

RUBY

Cord's ex-boyfriend.

LENNON

The one and only. I mean, not the  
only, there's obviously you.

LUCY

Dad.

RICHARD

Ex-boyfriend?

RUBY

Cord ran into him.

LENNON

Three times.

RUBY

Well, really only once. The other  
two times Lucy invited him.

CORD

Mom.

RICHARD

Invited him where?

RUBY  
To Cord's bachelorette party.

Richard turns to Lucy, annoyed.

CORD  
Richard, it's not how it sounds.

His eyebrows lift, await explanation.

CORD  
I did run into him and he's dating  
our former florist. What are the  
odds?

RICHARD  
You tell me.

Richard rises, pushes his chair from the table, exits the  
room.

CORD  
I can't believe any of you right  
now!

RUBY  
What did we do?

LUCY  
You ratted me out!

CORD  
He has every right to be upset.

LENNON  
I think he's overreacting.

LUCY  
He doesn't even know who Felix is.

RUBY  
He could be a one night stand for  
all he knows.

LENNON  
Don't disrespect the memory of  
Felix like that.

CORD  
I need to check on Richard.

Cord walks out.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CORD'S PARENTS HOUSE - NIGHT

Cord spots Richard in the backyard, moves in his direction, misjudges the sliding glass door, thinks it's open, smashes into it at full force, causes the glass to shatter.

She stops, startled.

Ruby, Lennon and Lucy run in from the other room.

LENNON  
Cord, are you okay?

RUBY  
My break away glass!

Cord turns around, faces them, blood spews out of the side of her face.

CORD  
My face! Is it okay?

She raises her hands to explore, Lucy grabs them before they touch anything.

LUCY  
How about we sit down?

INT. CORD'S PARENTS HOUSE - NIGHT

Cord sits on the couch next to Richard, her facial laceration held together with medical glue.

Ruby sweeps up glass shards.

Lennon is across from them, ecstatic.

LENNON  
I didn't know who else to call.

CORD  
Anyone else.

Felix and Lucy enter from the kitchen.

LUCY  
Can we get you anything else?

FELIX  
I'm okay. Thank you.

Felix gives Cord's face a once over.

FELIX

Are you sure you don't want to come back to the hospital with me for stitches?

RICHARD

We'll take care of it.

FELIX

The glue will hold for a few days but I wouldn't wait to long and don't get the glue wet for twenty-four hours.

Richard stands, holds out his hand.

RICHARD

Thank you, Felix.

A brief, polite handshake is exchanged.

LENNON

I'll walk you out, son.

Lennon wraps his arm around Felix's shoulder.

Cord carefully buries her face in her hands.

Lennon and Felix disappear down the entryway.

CORD

Richard, I'm really sorry. About everything.

RICHARD

We'll talk about this later. I'm checking into the hotel. Are you coming?

CORD

It's already late. Why don't we stay here?

RICHARD

Are you coming or not?

Ruby and Lucy, both look away, uncomfortable.

Cord stands.

CORD

I'll be out in a minute.

Richard leaves.

CORD  
Lucy, what the hell's going on?

LUCY  
Well, your fiance seems pretty  
irritated and Felix--

CORD  
I mean with all of this.

Cord points to her face, holds up her hand.

LUCY  
Clumsiness?

CORD  
Lucy!

LUCY  
Okay, clearly you're having a bout  
of bad luck.

CORD  
You made me wish for the perfect  
wedding day. This is not what I had  
in mind.

LUCY  
I thought you don't believe in that  
stuff.

CORD  
Twenty-four hours ago I was sitting  
on a curb crying about an ex-  
boyfriend. I now have a mutilated  
face, an eyebrow that's going to  
take years to grow back, a sliced  
open hand, and a fiance whose  
panties are in such a twist they've  
disappeared up his ass!

Ruby and Lucy's mouths hang open.

Cord's eyes are slightly crazy, even twitching a bit.

She storms out.

RUBY  
Felix really gets to her.

LUCY  
It could be that you and dad  
outspokenly prefer him to Richard.

RUBY

Richard has never tried to warm up  
to us the way Felix did.

LUCY

This is about Cord.

EXT. MARMALADE HOTEL - NIGHT

Cute, boutique hotel.

INT. MARMALADE HOTEL - NIGHT

A welcoming lobby and a dimly lit restaurant off to the side.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - MARMALADE HOTEL - NIGHT

Richard has pulled everything out of the mini fridge - he  
temps each item.

RICHARD

I don't think you should get your  
face wet.

CORD

I don't care.

Cord lays on the bed, a cold washcloth covers her face.

CORD

I just need to sleep this day off.  
It's been a disaster.

RICHARD

As a result of your behavior.

CORD

Excuse me?

RICHARD

First you insult Chef Mona, then  
you go mess up your face, twice. To  
top it off, you have this  
mysterious ex-boyfriend that I've  
never heard of yet you've spent  
more time in the last two days with  
him than you have with me.

CORD

If you had called the plumber most  
of this wouldn't have happened.

RICHARD

So it's my fault you look like a disaster?

Cord flies up, the washcloth falls off.

CORD

A disaster?

She catches a glimpse of herself in the mirror. She really does look like a disaster.

Richard doesn't say anything.

CORD

What's this really about, Richard? Trust issues or the fact I won't look perfect on our wedding day?

RICHARD

Since my parents are paying for it, we owe it to them to make it the best.

CORD

We could of had it in my parents backyard. It's not my fault that wasn't good enough for them.

RICHARD

You're right. We do need to sleep this off. Separately.

Richard grabs his unpacked duffle bag.

RICHARD

If you decide to destroy anything else on your body, I'll be in another room.

CORD

Richard...

Richard slams the hotel door behind him.

Cord lays back down, covers her face with the washcloth.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - MARMALADE HOTEL - DAY

Sun peaks through a crack in the drapes.

Cord is passed out in the same position, with the washcloth on her face.

Her phone BEEPS incessantly.

She reaches for it, attempts to remove the washcloth, it's dried to her face, stuck on her stitches.

Cord peels the wash cloth off, fairly pain free, until it crosses over the stitches.

She SCREAMS.

Blood seeps through.

Cord's phone BEEPS again.

The washcloth hangs from her face.

ON HER PHONE:

Ten Missed Calls

Three Voice mails

On speaker, Cord presses play.

She listens as she rummages through her purse.

DJ SENOR (V.O.)

(yelling)

Hey yo, Cord. This is DJ Senor. I hope you can hear me. I have a crazy ear infection and can't hear anything. I'm sorry to do this but I have to cancel.

Ahha! Scissors. Cord pulls them out of her purse, then...

Cord's face drops.

CORD

This is a joke. It has to be.

The next voice mail plays.

DIEGO (V.O.)

Cord, it's Diego. I photographed a child's birthday party and now have pink eye. I know it's the day before your wedding but between the swelling and puss, I can't see shit. I'll get your in-laws their deposit back.

CORD

Wonderful. No pictures. At this point that may be a good thing.

Cord faces a mirror by the bed, she cuts along the washcloth.

PHILLIP (V.O.)

Cordelia, this is Phillip. I was informed that you no longer have a contract with Chef Mona. Since I would like to keep all of my body parts, I will not be able to bartend your wedding.

Cord almost has the washcloth perfectly cut around the stitches so all that remains is a long, thick, strip of cloth.

She carefully moves the scissors to cut the last piece of extra cloth when her phone BEEPS.

She looks down at the same time as she closes the scissors, her hair falls into the path of the scissors, she cuts the cloth, while also taking three inches from the side of her hair.

Cord picks up the long pieces of hair, looks into the mirror.

Her upper lip quivers, she's never seen herself with side bangs - on one side - going far past her ear.

A KNOCK at the door interrupts her pity party.

She opens the door to find Lucy, coffee in hand.

Lucy takes in the new additions to Cord's appearance.

LUCY

I can work with this.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - MARMALADE HOTEL - LATER

Lucy has Cord in a chair, she moves out of the way, reveals to us and Cord a hairstyle that somewhat repairs the damage, the washcloth has been trimmed down to a bare minimum, and a new eyebrow drawn in.

LUCY

So?

CORD

Richard was right. I look like a disaster.

LUCY  
He called you a disaster?

CORD  
I'm cursed and it's your fault.

LUCY  
How is it my fault?

CORD  
If I hadn't made that stupid wish,  
none of this would be happening. At  
the rate I'm going, I'll be dead by  
tomorrow. I have no DJ, no  
bartender, no photographer or  
florist. I barely have a fiance and  
I look like I'm guest starring on  
the first five minutes of CSI.

LUCY  
I've got an idea.

Lucy picks up her cell, dials a number.

CORD  
I swear to God, if you call Felix  
again, I'll take you down with me.

LUCY  
I'm not calling Felix.

Cord grabs the coffee cup, blows heavily into it, cautiously  
sips it.

LUCY  
Please pick up.

She covers the phone with her hand.

LUCY  
Damn. Voice mail.

Lucy steps into the bathroom.

LUCY  
(on the phone)  
Barbara, I need you. I preformed  
the wish spell--

She shuts the door.

Her muffled voice can be heard.

Cord stares into the mirror, defeated.

Lucy opens the bathroom door.

LUCY

I didn't think it would be healthy for you to hear what I said.

CORD

I'm not leaving this room ever again.

LUCY

First of all, that sounds expensive. Secondly, let's try and shift your karma. It's a little murky right now.

CORD

What do you mean?

LUCY

Maybe we can realign the universe into granting your wish instead of punishing you for making it.

CORD

Is that what's happening? I'm being punished.

LUCY

I'm not sure.

CORD

I hate the universe! What woman doesn't wish for the perfect wedding? Just because I did it on some stupid tissue, with prostitute colored lipstick doesn't mean I shouldn't have the only day I've ever dreamed of ruined! The universe can go fuck itself.

LUCY

I really like that lipstick color.

Cord's face is bright red. Anger, fury and the likes.

CORD

Then what do you recommend?

EXT. VIBRAZIONE CAFE - DAY

Cord and Lucy stare at the front door.

CORD  
No. Absolutely not. I'm not going  
in there.

LUCY  
You owe her an apology.

CORD  
We both know that's not true.

LUCY  
Do you want to fix three problems  
with one gesture?

CORD  
No.

Pause.

CORD  
Yes.

INT. KITCHEN - VIBRAZIONE CAFE - DAY

Cord and Lucy follow Chef Mona around the busy kitchen.

CHEF MONA  
I don't have time for your excuses.

CORD  
They're not excuses. Can't you see  
what I look like?

CHEF MONA  
Unfortunately, yes.

CORD  
Please give us another chance. It  
will mean the world to Richard.

CHEF MONA  
And what about you? You have no  
respect for my craft.

CORD  
That's not true.

CHEF MONA  
Are you calling me a liar?

Cord takes a deep breath.

She looks around the kitchen - fire, knives, glass.

CORD  
Could we step outside to talk?

Chef Mona steps away from them to drop something in the fryer.

CORD  
I don't feel safe back here.

Chef Mona returns, holds a very large knife, wags it in the air.

CHEF MONA  
I'll do it under three conditions.

Cord gulps.

CHEF MONA  
I'm tripling my fee.

CORD  
As you should.

CHEF MONA  
I will not clean anything up.

CORD  
You shouldn't lift a finger.

CHEF MONA  
And I'm using cheese.

CORD  
I don't need to eat at my wedding.

CHEF MONA  
Then we have a deal. Please leave my happy place.

LUCY  
This is you happy?

Cord nudges Lucy.

CORD  
Thank you very much.

They turn to leave.

CORD  
I can't believe I made it out of here without another serious injury.

The back door flies open, smashes Cord in the face.

Blood gushes out of her nose.

LUCY

You had to open your mouth!

Cord holds her nose, blood crawls through the cracks of her fingers.

Lucy grabs a dish towel for her.

CHEF MONA

You're dripping blood on my floor!  
Out!

EXT. VIBRAZIONE CAFE - DAY

Cord plugs her nose, the bleeding has subsided.

Lucy tosses the soaked towel into a trash can.

CORD

That clearly didn't work.

LUCY

What's a little blood loss when you now have your caterer and bartender back on board? Plus, Richard has to forgive you now.

CORD

That's it! I need to fix things with Richard.

Cord steps in the street to cross it, a car zooms by, nearly knocks her over.

She looks back to Lucy.

LUCY

That was your own fault. I know mom taught you to look both ways.

INT. PESTOS RESTAURANT - MARMALADE HOTEL - DAY

Scattered CROWD at an early happy hour.

Cord sits at a table in the corner.

Richard races in, joins her.

RICHARD  
Sorry I'm late.

CORD  
I'm used to it.

RICHARD  
What's on your face?

CORD  
What's not on my face?

RICHARD  
Good point. Thank you for fixing things with Chef Mona.

CORD  
How did you know?

RICHARD  
She said something about blood and cheese.

CORD  
I hope you're happy.

RICHARD  
I am.

Richard smiles, Cord doesn't return the gesture.

RICHARD  
Are you?

CORD  
I look like I just survived a knife fight with ninjas.

RICHARD  
Take it easy tonight. I'm sure by tomorrow you'll look better.

CORD  
And if I don't?

RICHARD  
We have the best photographer in town. He can photoshop.

Cord winces.

RICHARD  
We do have the best photographer in town, don't we?

Cord shakes her head.

RICHARD  
What did you do?

CORD  
Why does it have to be something  
that I did?

RICHARD  
Understandably, you're on edge but  
the attitude has got to stop.

He grabs her good hand.

RICHARD  
Your hands are so clammy.

Lucy speed walks into the restaurant.

LUCY  
I'm sorry to interrupt.

Richard and Cord stand.

RICHARD  
It will have to wait.

LUCY  
She's my sister. If I want to talk  
to her, I will.

CORD  
It's okay, Richard.

RICHARD  
Try to let her relax, Lucy. It's  
been a long few days for her.

LUCY  
You don't say?

RICHARD  
I'm going to visit with my  
Grandmother. I can't wait for you  
to meet her tomorrow. I'll check on  
you later.

Richard kisses Cord on the cheek, leaves.

LUCY  
We've got to hurry.

CORD

I really do need to rest and find a DJ before Richard figures out we don't have one.

LUCY

I'll make a play list. It'll be fine. This is way more important.

They both walk out, Cord forgets her purse at the table.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - MARMALADE HOTEL - NIGHT

Lucy flings open the room door.

Cord's mouth drops open.

CORD

What the hell did you do to my room?

Lucy's transformed the room into one big pile of luck and wish traditions.

She guides Cord carefully into the room where they walk under an overhang of cardboard boxes.

LUCY

Hold your breath and lift your arms.

CORD

Why?

LUCY

It's a tunnel.

Cord obeys.

Once through the boxes, Lucy abruptly stops.

LUCY

Oh! What's that?

CORD

What?

Lucy points to the ground.

A shiny penny, heads up, rests there.

LUCY

Find a penny, pick it up--

CORD  
Yeah, yeah.

Cord bends down, grabs the penny.

LUCY  
Over here.

Lucy leads Cord over to the cozy, kitchen area.

LUCY  
Fancy that! It's a wishing well!

Cord looks into the sink. Lucy blocked the drain with one of her socks. Cloudy water sits at a standstill.

CORD  
Are you high?

LUCY  
No. Keep moving.

Cord tosses the penny into the sink.

They walk towards the balcony, Lucy stops, gazes down again. Small, white, rock-shaped items are scattered in a long line.

CORD  
What's that?

LUCY  
It's crack.

Cord doesn't get it.

LUCY  
Step on a crack, break your  
mother's back.  
(beat)  
I was pressed for time, I had to  
think quickly.

CORD  
So you bought drugs and put them in  
my hotel room?

LUCY  
Do you want to fix this or not?

Cord steps over the crack.

ON THE BALCONY

A basket full of willows rests in the night. Stars appear in the darkness.

LUCY  
I'll look for a shooting star. You  
blow all of these.

Cord takes the huge handful of willows, blows one by one.

Moments later:

LUCY  
There! Make a wish!

Cord looks up, silently wishes on the shooting star.

INSIDE THE HOTEL ROOM

Rabbits feet cover the bed.

Lucy lights a bunch of candles on a cake.

LUCY  
Lots of blowing tonight makes good  
practice for the honeymoon.

Cord's not amused.

LUCY  
We're almost done.

Cord blows out the candles, they both miss one candle in the back that knocks over, lands on the table, still lit.

LUCY  
Close your eyes.

Cord obeys.

Lucy takes tweezers to Cord's eyelashes, yanks one out.

Cord WAILS.

CORD  
Nothing else needs to happen to my  
face!

LUCY  
This was necessary. Blow, again.

Cord closes her eyes, blows the eyelash off of Lucy's finger.

CORD

Now will you tell me what this was  
all about?

The candle that fell over makes progress as it burns a hole  
through the wooden table. They don't see anything.

LUCY

I'm trying to realign your aura.

CORD

I don't even care what that means.  
Where's my phone?

They both circle the room with their eyes.

CORD

Of course, I left my purse at the  
restaurant. Am I free to go?

LUCY

No, but your attitude is.

Cord opens the room door, stomps away.

Lucy follows after her.

INT. HOTEL LOBBY - MARMALADE HOTEL - NIGHT

Cord huffs and puffs through the lobby. Lucy's a few feet  
behind her.

INT. PESTOS RESTAURANT - MARMALADE HOTEL - NIGHT

Cord bypasses the HOST.

She makes her way over to the corner she was sitting in  
earlier.

Cord sees an ELDERLY WOMAN riffling through her purse.

CORD

What do you think you're doing?

Elderly Woman ignores her.

Lucy reaches the table, out of breath.

LUCY

You walk really fast.

CORD  
Excuse me? That purse is mine.

Elderly Woman finally turns her eyes on Cord, flips her off.

LUCY  
Whoa.

CORD  
That's unnecessary.

LUCY  
Just give my sister her purse back  
and we'll call it a day.

Elderly Woman rises, covers the purse with her arms, attempts to squeeze through Cord and Lucy.

CORD  
I don't think so. Give me my purse.

Cord gets a grip on the bag, they struggle.

Restaurant PATRONS notice the fight.

The Host appears, holds an identical purse to the one they are fighting over.

Lucy spots it.

LUCY  
Uh, Cord.

CORD  
Not now, Lucy. Can't you see I'm  
busy?

They wrestle into the wall.

CORD  
I swear, if you don't give it to  
me...

The Elderly Woman spits on Cord.

Before Cord can really soak in what happened, she pulls her fist back, punches Elderly Woman straight in the nose.

Elderly Woman falls to the ground, bloody nose, amongst GASPS from Patrons.

Cord grabs her hand in pain, lets the purse fall.

Richard and his Parents race into the restaurant.

Richard dives to Elderly Woman's aid.

RICHARD

Oh my God! Grandma, what happened?

Cord and Lucy about die from shock.

CORD

Grandma?

LUCY

That's not good.

Richard, Elizabeth and Martin (Richard's parents) help her get into a seat. Her eye swollen, nose bloody.

RICHARD

Did you see what happened?

CORD

She tried to steal my purse.

Everyone looks to Cord, confused.

The Host approaches, hands Cord her real purse.

Cord looks at the bag on the ground.

CORD

Allegedly.

Cord holds her hand, winces.

RICHARD

You punched my Grandmother?

CORD

She spit on me.

Elizabeth and Martin stare at Cord.

CORD

I don't really know what to say right now.

RICHARD

An apology for starters.

ELIZABETH

What on Earth has happened to your face?

RICHARD

Mom, I was going to tell you.

MARTIN

We can't have you looking like this tomorrow.

Cord runs out of the restaurant, Lucy follows.

HOST

Would you like me to call the police?

RICHARD

That won't be necessary.

INT. HOTEL LOBBY - NIGHT

Cord and Lucy sit on bar stools, she nurses her wounds with a stiff drink, a bag of ice rests on her hand.

Felix enters, carries his bag towards them.

Cord turns to him, washcloth stuck to her stitches, the drawn in eyebrow now faded, a chunk of missing hair.

FELIX

Let's get you upstairs.

LUCY

I'll be up after I pay the tab.

Felix puts his arm around Cord, escorts her to the elevators.

He pushes the button.

FELIX

Not a bad right hook.

CORD

You saw her?

FELIX

She came into the ER as I was leaving.

CORD

How did Richard look?

FELIX

Like his ninety-something grandmother had just been punched by his fiance.

The elevator DINGS, doors open.

INT. ELEVATOR - NIGHT

They stand closer together than apart.

Felix presses the 5th floor button.

FELIX

Let me see that hand of yours.

Felix checks it out.

FELIX

It's broken.

CORD

Story of my life.

FELIX

The Cord I know doesn't sulk.

CORD

You don't know me anymore.

FELIX

Why did you call me then?

CORD

You're the first person I thought of.

Beat.

FELIX

Amy and I ended things.

Cord turns to Felix.

The elevator abruptly stops, lights go out.

CORD

I'm sorry.

Felix turns a flashlight on. He fiddles with the call button, it's not working.

FELIX

It wasn't meant to be.

CORD

I mean because you're probably going to die in this elevator with me.

FELIX

What?

CORD

Two days ago I made a wish for the perfect wedding and ever since, nothing has gone right.

FELIX

You don't believe in that crap.

CORD

I didn't, but now I'm living proof.

FELIX

Did you ever think that maybe you aren't meant to have the perfect wedding?

CORD

Just because you didn't want to marry me doesn't mean someone else doesn't want to.

FELIX

I never said I didn't want to marry you.

Cord scrunches her nose.

CORD

Do you smell that?

FELIX

It's not bullshit, Cord.

CORD

I'm serious.

Felix sniffs.

CORD

Smells like--

FELIX

Smoke.

CORD

Oh my God, we are going to die in here.

FELIX

Okay. Let's calm down. I'll get us out.

Felix bangs on the elevator doors.

He reaches into his bag.

CORD  
What are you doing?

FELIX  
Hold this.

He hands the flashlight to Cord.

Felix delivers a crowbar out of his bag.

He pulls the doors apart.

They're in between floors but he's able to lift Cord up and then himself.

INT. HALLWAY - MARMALADE HOTEL - NIGHT

The hallway's filled with smoke.

Felix grabs Cord's (somewhat) good hand, they run over to the stairs.

4th floor.

Disappear into the stairwell.

EXT. MARMALADE HOTEL - NIGHT

Fire Trucks everywhere.

FIREMEN move in and out of the hotel.

Flames are out, smoke's almost gone.

A generous CROWD of Passerby's and Hotel Guests has formed.

Cord has a blanket wrapped around her. Felix attends to Hotel Guests.

A FIREMAN exits the hotel, walks over to the HOTEL MANAGER.

FIREMAN  
We found the source of the fire.  
Room five thirty-three.

The Hotel Manager scrolls through an iPad.

Cord and Lucy's eyes pop open.

FIREMAN

Someone must of been celebrating a birthday, forgot to blow out a candle.

OFF TO THE SIDE

LUCY

You're blowing skills need work.

CORD

Holy shit. We're going to jail. I'm going to jail.

Cord hyperventilates.

LUCY

They don't know for sure if that's what started it.

AT FIRE TRUCK

FIREMAN

We know for sure that's what started it.

OFF TO THE SIDE

LUCY

The candle was supposed to be a sure thing.

The Hotel Manager looks over to Cord and Lucy, moves in their direction.

LUCY

We can explain everything.

CORD

It's my fault.

HOTEL MANAGER

Do you know a Richard Peterson? I saw you with him earlier.

LUCY

No.

CORD

Yes, he's my fiance.

HOTEL MANAGER

We're going to need to speak with him.

CORD

Sir, this was my fault. I must not have blown out all of the candles. Whatever damage there is, we'll cover it.

He sizes up Cord.

HOTEL MANAGER

Nonsense. I'll get more money from insurance. More importantly, I must inform you that we won't be able to hold your wedding here tomorrow.

All color drains from Cord's face.

She faints into Lucy's arms.

INT. BEDROOM - CORD'S PARENTS HOUSE - DAY

Lucy stands over Cord, pokes her.

Cord stirs, wakes up with some light in her eyes, remembers the events from the night before, the light disappears.

LUCY

Come on, it's time to get up. It's your wedding day!

Cord turns away from Lucy.

Lucy sits on the bed, next to Cord.

LUCY

You can't stay in bed forever.

CORD

I'm not having a wedding.

LUCY

Yes, you are. Mom and dad have been setting up all morning. Richard is being pleasant. Pierre is a DJ back home and agreed to help, and I'm done with my speech. Stop feeling badly for yourself and get out of bed.

Cord looks at Lucy, touched.

CORD

You did all of that for me?

LUCY  
Of course!

CORD  
I'm not even a good sister.

LUCY  
You're the best sister ever!

CORD  
I'm not a good anything.

LUCY  
You have one more second to wallow  
and then I'm dragging you out of  
this bed.

Cord lifts her hand, now in a cast.

CORD  
Where did this come from?

LUCY  
Felix helped me get you back to the  
house, he put a cast on your hand,  
and then when Richard found out  
about the fire, he was so worried  
you were dead that he forgot you  
decked his feisty, old Grandmother.

CORD  
What do you mean mom and dad have  
been setting up all day?

LUCY  
The wedding is going to be here  
now.

CORD  
What about Richard's parents?

LUCY  
They too were so worried that you  
had died, they're willing to do  
practically anything. Turns out  
almost dying in a fire gets you a  
lot of brownie points.

Cord offers a tiny laugh.

LUCY

That's the spirit. All you have to do is go get your wedding dress and then make it to the salon for hair and makeup.

CORD

What time is it?

LUCY

Eight in the morning. We need you back here by five.

CORD

I don't have any clothes.

LUCY

I've got you covered!

Lucy bends down, hugs Cord.

CORD

Have you been drinking?

LUCY

I think it's probably best I don't answer that.

INT. MARRIAGE MATERIAL - DAY

Cord twirls in her wedding dress.

PENNY stands next to her, unsure of what to say.

PENNY

You look--

CORD

I look like a mess.

PENNY

No, it's not that. Maybe you just need some blush.

CORD

I wish that was all I needed.

Cord stares in the mirror.

CORD

All I wanted was the perfect wedding day.

PENNY

I've been doing this for longer than I care to admit and trust me, I've never heard of any wedding being perfect.

CORD

I guess I'm just terrified that if today isn't perfect, my marriage won't be either.

PENNY

Have you ever seen a perfect marriage?

CORD

Only one.

Penny's impressed.

CORD

My parents.

PENNY

What do you think makes it perfect?

Cord ponders this.

Realization.

CORD

Their imperfections. They accept each other regardless.

PENNY

You're marrying your other half, right? You have nothing to worry about.

EXT./INT. MARRIAGE MATERIAL - DAY

Cord, now in a maxi dress, waves goodbye to Penny, her wedding dress draped over her "good" arm.

INT. SHOPPING MALL - DAY

PEOPLE roam in and out of stores.

Cord steps onto the escalator, it climbs. A satisfied smile on her face.

Her maxi dress drags on the ground, behind her.

She makes eye contact with a SECURITY GUARD that stands on the level above, smiles.

The part of her dress that drags gets caught in the side of the escalator.

It pulls down, Cord panics, almost at the top of the moving stairs.

The escalator eats a little more of the material.

She pulls on her maxi dress, no luck.

Cord reaches the last step of the escalator, which grabs the remaining material necessary to rip the dress completely off of Cord...

On the one day Cord didn't have any underwear or a bra to wear.

Cord stands there, completely naked.

A CROWD forms, points at her.

MOTHER'S cover their CHILDREN'S eyes.

TEEN BOYS take pictures.

OLD MEN have breathing problems.

Cord covers her breasts with her broken hand, lowers the wedding dress in front of her.

She looks around, unsure of what to do.

The Security Guard moves over to her.

CORD  
Please help me.

The Security Guard takes off his jacket, wraps it around her.

CORD  
Thank you so much.

He pulls handcuffs out of his pocket, slaps them on her wrists.

CORD  
Wait, what are these for?

SECURITY GUARD  
Ma'am, indecent exposure is an offense punishable by imprisonment.

CORD

It was an accident. My dress got caught in the escalator.

SECURITY GUARD

From where I was standing it looked like you ripped it off.

CORD

I would never do that.

SECURITY GUARD

That's what they all say.

He escorts Cord through the Crowd.

CORD

Who says that?

He turns to her.

SECURITY GUARD

Flashers.

INT. JAIL CELL - NIGHT

A spacious cell filled with a dozen HARDENED CRIMINALS that all stare at one thing:

Cord reluctantly makes her way to the bars.

The Police Officer slaps handcuffs on her.

A few of the Hardened Criminals sing "Here Comes the Bride," as she shuffles her feet out of the jail.

INT. JAIL - NIGHT

Cord, head down, enters the main room.

Police Officer removes her handcuffs.

CORD

Please don't make me go.

FELIX (O.S.)

Cord?

Cord turns, Felix waits at the front.

She runs into his arms.

CORD  
What are you doing here?

FELIX  
Apparently, I'm your emergency  
contact?

CORD  
I never changed it.

EXT. BACKYARD - CORD'S PARENTS HOUSE - NIGHT

A wedding fit for a magazine spread.

GUESTS fill the seats.

Richard walks around the buffet, takes the temperature of  
each food item.

Elizabeth and Martin sit patiently with a bandaged Grandma.

Lennon and Ruby look around uncomfortably.

Lucy races up to them.

LUCY  
Nothing.

RUBY  
Where could she be?

LENNON  
You told her what time to be back?

LUCY  
Yes.

Ruby and Lennon look at each other.

RUBY  
You think?

LENNON  
No. I don't know. Do you?

RUBY  
I don't know. She wouldn't.

LUCY  
Would you guys knock it off. She  
didn't run away with Felix.

Lucy's phone BEEPS.

RUBY  
Is it her?

LUCY  
It's Felix.

LENNON  
Is he coming here? I saved him a  
seat!

LUCY  
He says he's got Cord.

LENNON  
I knew it!

RUBY  
What's going on?

LUCY  
He said she'll explain everything  
and...

Lucy looks down at her parents.

LENNON  
What? What is it?

LUCY  
He said to stall.

Lennon and Ruby's face both sadden. The Wedding is still on.

INT. FELIX'S AMBULANCE - NIGHT

Felix and Cord drive along in silence.

CORD  
I was an asshole.

FELIX  
I'm sure everyone will be glad  
you're safe and forget all about  
the fact that you're an hour late  
to your wedding.

CORD  
I meant that to you. I don't  
deserve you. I didn't then and I  
don't now.

FELIX

That's not true. We had a lot of fun.

CORD

I put a lot of pressure on you to be something you aren't. Then you spend the last few days coming to my rescue and I've been nothing but an asshole.

They pull up in front of Cord's Parents home.

FELIX

I came to your rescue because that's what we used to do for each other. You only ever pushed me to be the best version, I just couldn't give you what you wanted.

Cord reaches for the door handle.

FELIX

What are you doing?

CORD

I'm going to get married.

Cord slides out - a big, white, dirty mess.

CORD

Thank you.

Cord races to the front door, Felix watches her until she disappears.

INT. CORD'S PARENTS HOUSE - NIGHT

Cord bursts through the front door.

Lucy immediately greets her, takes one look at her.

LUCY

Do I even want to know?

CORD

Where's Richard?

LUCY

Outside temp'ing the food.

Cord peers outside. A backyard full of loved ones and potential in-laws.

Her future husband worried about the temperature of the food rather than where she is...

CORD  
I cant go out there.

LUCY  
I'm not sure how much longer I can stall.

CORD  
Can you tell Richard to come inside?

LUCY  
But he can't see you.

CORD  
I'll hide in the shower. Tell him I need to talk to him.

INT. BATHROOM - CORD'S PARENTS HOUSE - NIGHT

Cord sits on the floor of the bathtub, the curtain closed.

Richard KNOCKS.

CORD  
It's open.

Richard pushes the door open, slides into the bathroom.

RICHARD  
Cord? What's going on?

CORD  
It's bad luck to see the bride before the wedding.

RICHARD  
Are you okay?

CORD  
Did you even know I was late?

RICHARD  
I figured it was payback.

CORD  
Were you worried?

RICHARD

Lucy seemed to have it under control.

Beat.

CORD

Why do you want to marry me?

RICHARD

Do we have to do this now? We only have a few hours before some of the food goes bad.

CORD

Yes.

Richard sits on the closed toilet seat.

RICHARD

I don't know. When you asked me to marry you, I figured you calculated the odds of my answer. Saying yes didn't feel wrong.

Cord flings the curtain open. Richard squeezes his eyes closed.

CORD

It's okay. You can open them. I'm not going to be a pleasant surprise anyway.

Richard opens his eyes, takes Cord's disastrous state in.

CORD

Did you ever think about asking me to marry you?

Richard lowers his head.

RICHARD

No.

They both take a deep breath.

RICHARD

I do love you, Cord. We had a pretty stable thing going. Up until the last three days.

CORD

Wouldn't you think that's the time I needed you most?

RICHARD

You always have everything planned and under control. Our entire relationship has been scheduled. I figured if you needed me, you would speak up.

CORD

You're right. I've spent so much time planning that I forgot about living.

Cord stands, Richard follows.

CORD

I'm sorry, Richard but I can't marry you.

Richard looks at her.

RICHARD

I know.

Cord takes her engagement ring off, hands it to Richard.

CORD

I wanted a perfect wedding because I was scared to not have a perfect marriage, when I should have been looking for someone who was happy with all the imperfection too.

Cord leans over to Richard, hugs him.

CORD

You're a good man, Richard.

INT. BEDROOM - CORD'S PARENTS HOUSE - DAY

The sun washes over Cord's face.

The dirt has been scrubbed off her skin, her stitches healing, a few hairs have grown in over her eyebrow, her hand in a softer cast, her hair has attempted to grow back.

Lucy barges into the room, bags in hand.

Cord sits up, Lucy joins her on the bed.

LUCY

You've been injury free for two weeks. I think it's safe to say the bad luck has passed.

CORD  
I think so too.

LUCY  
Then what's with the sulking?

Lucy picks Cord's phone up from the night stand.

LUCY  
Call him.

CORD  
I can't.

LUCY  
Fair warning, mom and dad haven't heard from him since the wedding and they're beginning to freak out. Are you prepared to deal with that?

CORD  
They'll be fine.

LUCY  
Will you be?

Cord climbs out of bed.

CORD  
What time's your flight?

LUCY  
In two hours. Want to drive me?

CORD  
Not on a Thursday. You can brave the cabs.

Cord teasingly hits Lucy.

LUCY  
By the way, Barbara, the fortune teller I intern for, finally got back to me. Apparently, she just figured out how to work her new phone.

CORD  
Isn't that something she should know how to do?

LUCY

Who knows. When she taught me how to do the wish, she never mentioned that for every wish there's a consequence.

CORD

But my wish didn't come true.

LUCY

I said the same thing. Barbara said but that you didn't wish for the perfect wedding with Richard. You just wished for the perfect wedding. Your wish can still come true.

Lucy wraps her arms around Cord.

LUCY

I love you, big sister.

CORD

I love you too.

EXT. SINO BAR - NIGHT

Cord stands by the bar, drink in hand, the CROWD moves to the music.

She spots Felix as he frantically searches through the sea of People.

Their eyes meet, instantly he's by her side.

FELIX

Are you okay? Where does it hurt?

Cord touches her chest, over her heart.

FELIX

Any pain in your arm, shortness of breath, are you light headed?

CORD

All of the above.

FELIX

We should get you to the hospital.

Cord grabs Felix's arm.

CORD  
I'm not sick, Felix.

FELIX  
But your text?

CORD  
I wasn't sure you'd come if it  
wasn't serious.

FELIX  
What are you talking about?

CORD  
I didn't get married.

Felix is caught off guard.

FELIX  
Why?

CORD  
Because he wasn't you.

FELIX  
Cord...

CORD  
I know. You never want to marry me  
but maybe that's not what it's  
about. Maybe being happy is more  
important.

FELIX  
It wasn't you that I never wanted  
to marry. It was the timing. I  
wasn't ready.

CORD  
Wasn't?

FELIX  
I mean, I'm not dying to walk down  
the aisle tomorrow but one day in  
the future It could be something I  
want. The odds look pretty good.

CORD  
Either way, I'll take those odds.

Felix kisses her.

CORD  
How about that dance?

FELIX

Not if you're still having bad  
luck.

CORD

Luck and I have a new  
understanding.

Felix smiles, teases her, she playfully hits his chest, yanks  
him onto the dance floor, their bodies move as one.

THE END