

YOURS...FOREVER

Written by

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FADE IN:

FLASHBACK

EXT. PARK - DAY (1993)

Seven year old best friends GINA and TRACY swing side by side on a warm fall day, while other children are nearby playing in a sandbox. GINA is dressed in floral embellished jeans with a pink cardigan, while TRACY sports a plain yellow long sleeve dress and white tights.

GINA (V.O.)

From the first time that Tracy and her family moved next door, I knew we'd be best friends. I always looked up to Tracy and thought there was special about her. Maybe it was her golden locks, her infectious smile, or

A SLIGHTLY OLDER BOY sneaks up behind Gina while she and Tracy swing higher and higher. He grabs the METAL CHAINS of Gina's swing and pushes her to the ground. As Gina lay helplessly in the SAND, Tracy jumps off her swing. The young boy laughs. Tracy confronts the boy with a stare, and with the strength of an adult twice her size, KNOCKS the boy to the ground.

GINA (V.O.)

The simple fact that Tracy never took crap from anyone!

INT. HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA - AFTERNOON (2001)

GINA (V.O.)

I gotta hand it to Tracy, she always seemed to be at the right place at the right time.

An awkward looking GINA (braces and glasses) and punk looking TRACY (purple lipstick and spiky hair) carry their lunch trays in the cafeteria. As they pass a TABLE OF CHEERLEADERS, Gina is tripped by the HEAD CHEERLEADER sitting at the farthest end of the bench. Gina drops her tray. The cheerleaders laugh and whisper to one another. Tracy looks at an embarrassed Gina, takes her MILK CARTON and pours it directly over the Head Cheerleader's long, straight blonde hair.

GINA (V.O.)
Yes, I could always count on Tracy
to defend my honour in the most
tactful way.

While Gina and Tracy walk away in triumph, they are
confronted by their grey suited PRINCIPAL, who has his hands
on his hips.

PRINCIPAL
Miss Martuzzi, Miss Hall, I expect
you both in my office after last
period.

GINA (V.O.)
And yes, sometimes her actions got
me in a bit of hot water too. She
was the reason why I failed my
driving exam the first time out.

INT. INSIDE DRIVER'S ED CAR - AFTERNOON (2003)

Gina, no longer sporting glasses and braces sits nervously in
the driver's seat of the driver's exam car while post-punk
natural blonde hair Tracy sits directly behind her. The
BALDING DRIVING EXAM OFFICIAL writes notes on his clip board
as Gina approaches a busy intersection.

DRIVING EXAM OFFICIAL
Now Miss Martuzzi, I want you to
take a left turn once the
intersection becomes clear.

TRACY
You gotta be kidding! It's 4 p.m.
on a Friday afternoon, there's no
way anyone will let her get
through.

Tracy extends her arm, pointing towards the right.

TRACY (CONT'D)
Gina, take a right turn here once
the light turns yellow, then go
into the shopping mall lot so you
can get back out and head in the
right direction.

The Driving Exam Official turns around, lowers his THICK
PRESCRIPTION GLASSES and stares at Tracy. Gina looks at Tracy
through the rear view mirror.

DRIVING EXAM OFFICIAL
 And what type of manoeuver would that be, Miss Hall? I asked Miss Martuzzi to make a left turn, you want her to go right. Please do not comment, let alone instruct her to turn on a yellow light.

GINA
 Okay, guys, can you stop, I'm already nervous to begin with.

Gina looks to her left to see if any cars are coming. Since there are no cars in view, she proceeds to turn left just as a car approaching from the right strikes the right rear of the car. Tracy leans forward, her head in between that of Gina and the Driving Exam Official.

TRACY
 See, I told you she should have turned right.

INT. USED BREW CAFE/BOOKSTORE - AFTERNOON (PRESENT DAY)

GINA (V.O.)
 I knew I could always rely on Tracy to get me out of a jam without asking. Then again, when I actually did ask her to help me out, well, let's just say that's where this story begins.

Twenty-five year old co-workers Gina and Tracy are working at the local USED BREW CAFE/BOOKSTORE. Blondie's "Dreaming" can be heard from the speakers throughout the DIMLY LIT store. The bookshelves are stacked primarily with SOFT COVER ROMANCE NOVELS. Gina stands behind the counter making herself a cappuccino. Tracy sits on a nearby table, smirking as she reads out loud the pages from a book called PASSION GLORY.

TRACY
 Mindy nervously laid her well defined breasts on Craig's muscular hairless chest.

The sound of the frother gets slightly louder.

TRACY (CONT'D)

As she leaned forward to kiss his forehead, Mindy is suddenly taken aback as Craig thrusts towards her and parts Mindy's lips with his tongue.

Gina looks up from the frother and smiles. Tracy closes the book and places it back on the dusty shelf. She jumps off the table and skips towards the counter.

TRACY (CONT'D)

Do you believe that people actually read that crap?

GINA

What, romance novels? It's just something to fantasize about.

TRACY

You call it romance, I call it desperate lonely women who get wet panties thinking of making it with a brain-dead muscle man with a blonde mullet.

GINA

Sounds like your ex, minus the penis.

TRACY

Hey, Francesca was hot. And yeah, she did work out a lot and kind of had long hair and short bangs.

Gina sits at the table next to the cappuccino machine. Tracy pulls up a seat across from her.

GINA

See, you agree that I was right. Frankie looked like some steroid freak with 70's hair.

TRACY

Hey, it wasn't her looks I was doing.

GINA

Spare me the details.

Gina turns around to take a NEWSPAPER from the rack on the side of the counter. Tracy leans back in her chair and places her hands behind her head.

TRACY

So, what's on for this weekend?

GINA

Anything but clubbing! I'm so not in the mood of having my ass grabbed at while having "I can do you for 48 hours" whispered in my ear.

TRACY

Hey, I'm still jealous that girl asked you that. Why can't that happen to me?

GINA

Because I'm just so cute and irresistible.

TRACY

No it's because they smell pussy-virgin from across a room.

GINA

That's disgusting!

Tracy sits forward. Gina shakes her head in disapproval. Gina comes across an ad for a PSYCHIC CONVENTION that weekend. She turns the paper around to show it to Tracy, who looks at it and chuckles.

TRACY

You are going to deny me the opportunity of finding the girl of my dreams to have some gypsy woman tell me my fortune. Oh wait, maybe she'll see my future and I'll be married to some Neanderthal and porking out the whole starting lineup for the Yankees.

GINA

Come on, it'll be fun. Hey, we've done what you wanted the last two Saturdays, now it's my turn to choose.

Reluctantly, yet to the delight of Gina, Tracy nods her head in approval. The front door opens. Gina's slightly older brother ANTHONY enters. Anthony smiles at his sister as he removes his SUNGLASSES and YANKEES BASEBALL CAP.

TRACY

Hey stud.

ANTHONY

Hello ladies.

Anthony stands next to Gina. He leans towards her and kisses her on the cheek.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)

So how is the world of romance and coffee today?

TRACY

Slow. And your lovely sister is forcing me to do something I don't want to do on Saturday.

ANTHONY

What, wear a dress?

TRACY

No, that would be more along the lines of your Saturday night.

GINA

Boy, you would think the two of you are related. Sorry, I take that back. You guys did date once upon a time ago, so that sounds kind of creepy.

TRACY

And thanks to that experience, I have forever thrown myself in the arms of loving woman.

ANTHONY

It's because you couldn't handle a man like me.

GINA

Okay, the two of you seriously need therapy. Look Anthony, Tracy and I are going to the Psychic Convention on Saturday, it's gonna be so cool, I can't wait.

ANTHONY

Pay me instead, I can tell you your future. You are going to be a miserable old hag when you get old. Not that you're not one already.

GINA

Anthony, your wit, why it just makes me cry sometimes. No wonder you turned my best friend gay. Tracy, I truly understand your pain.

TRACY

High give, baby!

Tracy extends her hand towards Gina to high five each other. Anthony rolls his eyes.

ANTHONY

Whatever. Oh yeah, Gina, mom says don't be late again for supper.

GINA

Tracy's closing tonight, so I'll be on time.

ANTHONY

Okay, later "girlfriends".

Anthony leaves the store. Gina take her apron off and places it on the counter. Tracy goes behind Gina and shakes her head.

TRACY

Your brother. What was I thinking?

GINA

That's just it, you weren't. Okay, gotta get going before Ma has a fit again. Talk to you later.

TRACY

Later "girlfriend".

INT. MARTUZZI KITCHEN - EVENING

In the Martuzzi kitchen, mother and daughter ASSUNTA and NIKKI sit at a LONG TABLE preparing supper. A knock is heard at the back door. Gina enters the kitchen. She kisses Assunta and sits next to her.

ASSUNTA

(in a thick Italian accent)

So you see Nicoli, you have to take the bracirole tightly in your hand or else it's gonna make a mess everywhere.

Gina and Nikki look at each other and burst out laughing.

ASSUNTA (CONT'D)

What are you both laughing at?
What's so funny? No capice. What,
you don't like my cooking? You see
Gina, you have to learn like your
sister here or you're never gonna
get married.

NIKKI

Yeah, Gina, listen to our mother
when she tells you how to get a
firm grip of a braciolo.

ASSUNTA

See, good advice. Gracia, Nicoli.

Gina and Nikki look at each other once again and smile
silently without offending Assunta this time.

GINA

Yeah, Nikki, you would know all
about big bracioles.

ASSUNTA

No, no, no, you can't have them too
big, or they won't be tender when
you put them in your mouth.

NIKKI

I am so not walking into that one.

GINA

Hey Nikki, what are you doing this
Saturday night? Wanna come with me
and Tracy to the psychic expo?

ASSUNTA

Ah Dio mio, you into that black
magic? No, you don't go. Look what
happened to my poor sister Theresa,
all her husbands, they die.

NIKKI

Ma, uncle Joe died in a car
accident, and the last one, well
let's just say he was like 100
years old and Tia Theresa is in her
forties. Besides, what does that
have to do with Saturday night and
where Gina's going?

ASSUNTA

Your aunt one day, she went to see that gypsy Christina to ask her to help with finding a boyfriend. That Christina, she's a Sicilian, and you don't ask them to tell you the future.

GINA

I thought you were good friends with Tia Christi?

ASSUNTA

No we not, and she's no your Tia. So, she tells my sister Theresa to go out with her cousin Pino, and ever since she broke up with him, Theresa have no luck with men.

NIKKI

Okay, wasn't she like 15 years old at the time? And how does getting your fortune read have to do with this story?

ASSUNTA

No, even worse, Christina put lo malocchio on Theresa instead.

NIKKI

And that's why Christina is a gypsy?

ASSUNTA

Exactly!

INT. DINING ROOM - EVENING

Father and son ANTONIO and Anthony sit next to each other at the dining room table. Antonio turns the pages of the local Italian Community newspaper. Anthony nervously looks at his father.

ANTHONY

So Pa, you think you could lend me a few bucks until I get paid again?

Antonio puts his newspaper down and looks at his son. Anthony bows his head down, avoiding Antonio's stare.

ANTONIO

Give you money, don't you kids work?

ANTHONY

Yeah, but business is slow. There's something I gotta do, and I need a few dollars and I'll be okay.

ANTONIO

You no get Anna pregnant and you know, need to fix it?

ANTHONY

No, no, oh my God, no.

Antonio takes a few bills from his wallet.

ANTONIO

Okay then, why didn't you tell me? There, now just don't tell your mother, she no understand.

Anthony studies the bills, and realizes it's merely sixty five dollars.

ANTHONY

Eh, dad, thanks. But I need more than this.

The ladies enter the dining room, each holding a variety of plated dishes for tonight's supper. They place the plates on the table and sit down. Assunta puts her hand out as Antonio gives her his plate.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)

It's okay, never mind.

Assunta stops pouring pasta in Antonio's plate and looks at Anthony.

ASSUNTA

It's okay about what?

ANTONIO

Nothing, nothing. Me I'm hungry. Can I have my plate?

ASSUNTA

You can when you tell me what Anthony is talking about.

ANTONIO

Assu, you have the ears of an elephant.

ASSUNTA
Who you calling an elephant, you bacala?

GINA
Welcome to married life, Nikki.

ASSUNTA
You watch your mouth. I don't see you bring no husband home.

GINA
That's because you scare them all away.

ANTONIO
No talking back to your mother, show her respect.

ASSUNTA
Mi amore.

Assunta leans over to kiss Antonio on the lips

ASSUNTA (CONT'D)
You see, this is love. After all these years, you still kiss at the table.

Assunta looks at Anthony.

ASSUNTA (CONT'D)
So what did you tell your father?

ANTONIO
He needed money, so I give him ten dollars.

ASSUNTA
Ah, always with the money. When are you gonna stop Anto and make him work for it?

ANTHONY
Ma, I have a job.

ASSUNTA
Yeah, but what you do with all that money? You spend it all on Anna, that gold digger.

ANTONIO
He wanted money to go to the movies.

NIKKI
 Movies, right. Hey, I hear there's
 a good one playing at the
 Paramount, it's a football movie.

ANTHONY
 Shut up, Nikki.

ANTONIO
 Hey, don't talk to your sister like
 that. You never disrespect a woman.

ANTHONY
 She's no woman, she's my sister.

Much to Anthony's surprise and Nikki's amusement, Antonio
 gives Anthony a swift smack to the back of his head.

ASSUNTA
 And she's gonna get married soon. I
 am so blessed.

Assunta does the sign of the cross as she looks towards the
 ceiling.

ASSUNTA (CONT'D)
 And to think I'm gonna be a
 grandmother at such a young age.

In sychronized fashion, both Antonio and Anthony spit out
 their water while Gina looks in shock at her sister Nikki.

ANTONIO
 Santa Lucia, when did this happen?

GINA
 Uh, yeah?

NIKKI
 Guys, Ma means after I get married.

ASSUNTA
 Yes, she work on bambinos after she
 get married.

NIKKI
 Besides, who says I wanna be a mom
 right away?

ASSUNTA
 Don't talk like that, me, I had you
 nine months after I get married.

NIKKI

Okay, but that's you Ma. For now, no, I want to live my life before I have kids.

ASSUNTA

These girls, all they want to do is marry and, you know, do what you do when you get married. But kids, no, they no ready to have, but they want to still practice to make.

GINA

Being married is one thing, having kids is another. Besides, you can have one without the other. You don't have to get married to have kids.

ASSUNTA

Don't talk like that, only putanas talk like that.

GINA

Good luck, Nikki, you're so gonna need it.

ANTONIO

And yeah, ma bella Gina, why you no have a boyfriend?

ANTHONY

Because she's so busy with her career.

GINA

Hey, I'd rather work serving the public at a legitimate establishment. What's the name of that company you work for again?

ANTONIO

Okay, okay, enough, mangiare already, it's getting cold.

The family resume their eating. Anthony's cell phone rings. He takes it from his pocket, looks at the number, and leaves the table.

INT. LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Anthony sits down on the sofa in the living room.

ANTHONY

Okay, I'm working on it.

Anthony pauses as he listens carefully to what is being said on the phone.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)

Come on, you know I'm good for it. Don't give me that. What do I have to do to buy me more time?

ANTONIO (V.O.)

Off the phone, come eat.

ANTHONY

Okay, okay, if that's what it takes to buy me more time, consider it done.

Anthony hangs up his cell phone, places it back in his pocket, and returns to the dining room.

INT. NIKKI'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Gina and Nikki are lay on the DOUBLE BED in Nikki's bedroom. All the walls are white except where the headboard is, which is painted in a deep burgundy color. Hanging from the open closet door is Nikki's SALMON COLORED DRESS she wore at her engagement. Gina looks at the dress while Nikki flips through some Bridal magazines.

GINA

So, are you nervous yet?

NIKKI

No, not really. I mean, yeah, Ma can be over the top sometimes and I can only imagine how emotional she'll be, especially in church. I'm just taking it all in stride.

GINA

No, I mean the whole giving it up to be with only one person.

NIKKI

Well, I've had my share of relationships. I never expected to fall in love with Christian, he's been my best friend since High School.

GINA

Yeah, that's true.

NIKKI

Sometimes when you least expect it, love is right there in front of your eyes, but you just don't know it.

GINA

Wow, did you read that one off a bumper sticker?

NIKKI

Smart ass. Come on, seriously, ask me when I was 17 what I thought of Christian and I'd say he's a great friend who I can count on for anything. When it started getting serious with Joey and then he broke my heart, who was there to put it back together again? Christian.

GINA

Yeah, but you know he was crushing on you since you guys first met. I can so relate to that, crushing on someone when you just meet them.

NIKKI

See, that's just it, the beauty of having someone that adores you. We both dated other people along the way, but somehow could never really be far apart for a long time from each other.

GINA

Well I better find my adorer soon before Ma sets me up with one of her church friend's sons again.

NIKKI

Oh my God I still can't get over that alter boy Guido, what a fricken pervert.

GINA

Yeah, who'da thought you could do that with a host.

NIKKI

Don't worry, it'll happen for you one day too.

GINA
Yeah, but when?

NIKKI
You just can't drive yourself nuts
looking for it because it'll happen
when you least expect it.

INT. GINA'S BEDROOM - MORNING

It's 7:20am and the sun shines ever so slightly into Gina's bedroom. As Gina lay sleeping in her bed, she is awoken by her CELL PHONE RINGING. Gina looks at the call display, surprised to see that it is Tracy calling so early. Gina answers her cell phone.

GINA
Since when did you become my wake
up call? It's not even 7:30 yet.

TRACY'S VOICE (ON PHONE)
Yeah I know, so I'm guessing you
didn't hear or you'd be the one
calling first.

GINA
Hear what?

TRACY'S VOICE (ON PHONE)
Okay, now when you find out, don't
tell anyone I told you first. I
don't want people to think I'm a
ficcanaso or something.

GINA
Oh I love it when you talk dirty to
me first thing in the morning.

TRACY'S VOICE (ON PHONE)
You're such a loser. Anyways, I
heard that your darling brother
owes money again.

GINA
And tell me something that I don't
know.

TRACY
Yeah, but word out there is that
they're getting fed up of his
paying skills.

GINA

We all knew that day would come.

TRACY

So now not only did Domenic come up with a plan to give your brother extra time to get the money but also to help his nephew, Marco.

GINA'S VOICE (ON PHONE)

Okay, the suspense is killing me and I haven't had a coffee yet. What did my lovely brother do to himself this time?

TRACY

It's more like what his lovely sister has to do, and that's to start going out with Marco.

GINA

WHAT?

TRACY'S VOICE (ON PHONE)

Shut up, someone's gonna hear you scream.

GINA

Tell me this is a joke.

TRACY'S VOICE (ON PHONE)

I wish I could, but apparently Domenic told Anthony last night.

GINA

That's why during supper yesterday he took a phone call in the living room and when he came back, you can tell he was disturbed.

TRACY

Hey, your brother has always been disturbed.

GINA'S VOICE (ON PHONE)

Great, like I need your comedy right now.

TRACY

Sorry, I just wanted to give you the heads up so that in case he says something before we go to work, at least you'll be prepared.

GINA'S VOICE (ON PHONE)

Naw, I should be the one to apologize for jumping down your throat. I just can't believe my brother, he always gets into trouble and pulls crap like this.

TRACY

Difference is, this time you're part of the plan.

GINA

Yeah, now I just have to figure out how to get out of this one. I already lived dating a mob son once, never again.

INT. PSYCHIC CONVENTION CENTRE - EVENING

Gina and Tracy look at various PSYCHIC THEMED BOOTHS and CORPORATE ENDORSEMENTS as they walk through the BRIGHTLY LIT COLORFUL CONVENTION CENTRE.

TRACY

So, see any booths you want to visit yet?

GINA

I don't know, this is kind of not what I was expecting.

TRACY

You mean Corporate America is not part of the Psychic Alliance?

GINA

I guess I watch too many movies. You know, the lady in the turban with the crystal ball? If I didn't know better, I'd think this was some sort of Porno Convention, check it out, there's even a booth for Hooters.

TRACY

Hey, I'm actually starting to like this convention after all.

GINA

You would, wouldn't you.

TRACY

Yeah, so much potential. A little slice of titty-heaven, no?

GINA

Good thing I know you so well, or I may actually think you're being serious.

TRACY

Yeah, you're right. Porno is so overrated. But strip clubs, now that's more what I'm talking about.

Gina and Tracy notice tucked away in a corner a quaint PURPLE DRAPED BOOTH with the sign MADAME ZAZOU hanging on top the draped rod.

GINA

Now that's more like it, very authentic looking.

TRACY

Ya think? It looks more like a fancy bathroom to me.

Gina gives Tracy a serious stare, yet wanting to laugh at the same time.

TRACY (CONT'D)

Okay, okay, go get your palm read or play cards or whatever it is you have to do. Me, I think I'll check out what Corporate America has to offer.

GINA

Okay, see you in a few. Make sure your cell phone is on in case I loose you to the Hooters girls or something.

TRACY

That would be Divine Intervention!

Gina watches Tracy go down the path they just came from. She takes a deep breath before entering the booth.

Gina draws back the curtains and walks inside a small area with a round table and two chairs. The only light emitted is from the BRIGHT CRYSTAL BALL that almost seems to be glowing on the table.

MADAME ZAZOU (V.O.)
(in a thick Hungarian
accent)
You come here wanting knowledge, my
child?

Madame Zazou emerges from the curtains directly in front of
Gina. She is an ELDERLY LADY DRESSED IN PURPLE with a DARK
TURBAN that barely covers her BLACK SHINY HAIR.

MADAME ZAZOU
Sit, my child.

GINA
Good evening, Madame Zazou.

MADAME ZAZOU
Good evening to you, Gina. You are
a polite child.

GINA
Wow, you're good, you already know
my name.

MADAME ZAZOU
(chuckling)
My vision is what is good. I see
your name tag on your blouse.

GINA
Oh sorry, my bad, I guess. How much
for a reading?

MADAME ZAZOU
Since the Prophets are good
tonight, this one will be no
charge.

GINA
Hey, that's great you made a few
bucks. The cafe was slow tonight,
guess all the customers were here.

MADAME ZAZOU
My child, the Prophets are the
Spirits that control the Universe.
You are confused with the Profits
that is every second booth here.

GINA
Okay, now I'm really starting to
look like an ass.

MADAME ZAZOU

So Gina, tell me what seems to be troubling you?

GINA

Nothing, really. I have a pretty good life, home is great, work is fine, I'm not missing anything, really.

MADAME ZAZOU

But how about love?

Gina bows her head and looks at the table.

GINA

You sound like my mom. I've dated a few guys, but it never lasted. I don't know if it was me or them.

MADAME ZAZOU

Your mother is a wise woman. That, and the fact that most people come here asking for love, well it's almost a given.

Gina lifts her head and looks at Madame Zazou.

GINA

So tell me what you see. Can I tell my mom to stop worrying and that I'll find someone without her butting in or scaring them away?

MADAME ZAZOU

You see, that is the trouble, we are always seeking. Whether it's the answer to a crossword puzzle, or the winning lottery numbers, we are always trying to find something. You don't always have to go find what you seek, it is sometimes a presence that is not to be found because it is there all along.

GINA

Boy, now you kind of sound like my sister. So what you're saying is that love is a gift?

MADAME ZAZOU

No, that would be a "present", not a "presence".

Gina's cell phone rings. Gina takes her cell phone from her purse and sees Tracy's name on the call display.

GINA
Sorry, I should have turned that off.

MADAME ZAZOU
It is fine, Gina. I have already told you what you have come searching for.

GINA
Okay then, thank you Madame Zazou.

MADAME ZAZOU
You don't sound certain.

GINA
Yeah, I'm okay, I heard what you said.

MADAME ZAZOU
Hearing is one thing, believing is another.

GINA
I believe you. Thank you once again. Are you sure I don't owe you anything for your time?

Gina gets up. Madame Zazou analyzes Gina's face for a sign of belief.

MADAME ZAZOU
No it is fine, have a pleasant rest of the evening.

Gina politely nods her head and leaves. Gina calls Tracy on her cell phone to find out where she is.

INT. FOOD COURT - A FEW MOMENTS LATER

Gina meets up with Tracy near a Taco Bell. Gina enthusiastically sits across from Tracy, who is concentrating on not dropping cheese on herself as it drips off a nacho.

GINA
I'm telling you, I'm a believer.

TRACY
Oh so you saw the light then?

GINA

Well, it was kind of weird at the beginning, and she had one hell of a thick accent. And she did talk in riddles, but I guess it's all up to me.

TRACY

You mean it cost you like fifty bucks for you to realize it's up to you?

GINA

You're so stupid sometimes. First of all, she didn't even charge me.

TRACY

For real?

GINA

Yeah, and then she made me realize that I control my destiny, and not to worry so much.

TRACY

She didn't charge you? Where can I sign up.

GINA

That's all you heard, that it was free.

TRACY

Yeah, yeah, yeah, and that wait for life to happen or something. C'mon, I wanna see what she has to tell me. Want my nachos?

GINA

No, I want your reaction to Madame Zazou.

Gina and Tracy leave the food court and head in the direction of Madame Zazou. Much to the delight of Tracy, they pass the HOOTER'S booth, and suddenly end at what they believe to be where Madame Zazou's booth is.

TRACY

Okay, wasn't it just here?

GINA

Yes, it was. What the heck? I know we didn't pass it.

TRACY
Oh I know it was here, I just followed the Hooter's pointing me in the right direction.

INT. MARTUZZI DINING ROOM - EVENING

Gina and Tracy sit at the table in the dining room.

TRACY
It's still bothering you?

GINA
What is?

TRACY
The disappearing booth, the voodoo.

GINA
Hey, I'm not crazy, you saw it too.

TRACY
Okay, I know, but it is kind of funny.

GINA
And pray tell what do you find so amusing?

TRACY
That Madame Zazou told you this whole thing about seeking, and poof, you can't even find her booth.

GINA
Only you would find humour in that, but I have to admit, it's a good one. Hey, you staying for supper? Ma's making lasagna.

TRACY
I'm here already, aren't I?

INT. MARTUZZI KITCHEN - EVENING

Anthony and Antonio enter the kitchen back door. Assunta and Nikki gather up the plates to bring in the dining room.

ASSUNTA

At least the men are here, where is Gina? Can she ever be on time to eat?

ANTHONY

You can always count on me to be here when it's suppertime!

INT. MARTUZZI DINING ROOM - EVENING

Anthony and Antonio enter the dining room and greet Gina and Tracy. A few seconds later Nikki enters holding a basket of bread and the diner plates.

NIKKI

Hey twerps.

Assunta enters the dining room holding a LARGE PAN OF LASAGNA with Italian flag print oven mitts.

ASSUNTA

Gina, I didn't hear you, how long you been here?

GINA

Long enough to hear you say I'm always late.

ASSUNTA

Ah that, it's not to make your brother feel bad. He late all the time.

ANTHONY

Hey!

GINA

Hey Ma, I asked Tracy to stay for supper.

ASSUNTA

Si, si, stai bonne. Anthony, give Tracy you plate and go get you another one in the kitchen.

ANTHONY

Why do I have to do that? It's my plate.

ASSUNTA

Be nice to the guest.

ANTHONY

What guest? All I see is Tracy.

Anthony hands Tracy his place.

TRACY

Why thanks, Anthony, you're such a gentleman. You'll make a great housewife one day.

ANTHONY

Better than the one you'll be.

Assunta starts putting lasagna on everyone's plate and handing it back to them. Anthony returns and hands his plate to Assunta.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)

So Ma, I think I found a good guy for Gina.

ASSUNTA

My prayers have been answered, thank you Saints. It's one of your friends?

ANTHONY

You don't know him, his name is Marco.

Gina and Tracy look at each other.

ASSUNTA

Is he a good boy?

ANTHONY

He's a great catch.

GINA

Excuse me, but don't I get a say in this?

ANTHONY

By the time you finally hook up, our parents are going to be in an old folks home.

ANTONIO

Who said anything about me going into a home?

ASSUNTA

Anto, mangiare, mangiare. So, when is the date?

GINA

There's going to be no date.

ANTHONY

Why not, you have no other fish in the sea anyways.

Gina looks at Tracy as if searching for an answer.

GINA

Well, there is some one, but it's hard to explain.

ANTHONY

Yeah, imaginary boyfriends are so hard to come by nowadays.

GINA

It's not that. But if you must know, I'm in love with Tracy.

The sound of forks dropping can be heard as everyone raises their heads.

TRACY

Huh?

NIKKI

What?

ANTONIO

Che? Comme?

ASSUNTA

Santa Lucia. Jesu Christi, it can't be.

GINA

Well, it is, and you all have to accept it.

ANTHONY

Oh come on, you expect us to believe that. You'll do anything not to help me out.

GINA

Help you out? Oh since when did this suddenly become about you?

NIKKI

Never mind that, I want to know when you two finally started getting it on.

ASSUNTA

My heart, she's a bleeding. Not possible, not in my house.

ANTONIO

Bah, well Tracy, she wear-a that baseball hat all the time.

TRACY

Excuse me, I'm in the room here. And what exactly is going on?

GINA

It's okay, baby, I'm happy the truth is out.

Gina places her hand on Tracy's lap and kisses Tracy on the lips.

ASSUNTA

Ah my eyes, they are burning. I cannot watch or I'm a going blind.

Assunta places her hand on her mouth. She gets up from her chair and goes towards the kitchen. Antonio follows directly behind her.

ANTONIO

Assu, mo venuta.

Assunta and Antonio leave the dining room. Anthony looks at Gina, who is caressing Tracy's hand. Tracy looks wide-eyed at Gina. Nikki stares at the new love birds.

ANTHONY

You're shitting me, right?

GINA

It's true, so just accept it.

ANTHONY

But G, I dated Tracy, isn't this like incest?

TRACY

Okay, on that note, I need fresh air.

Tracy gets up from her chair and looks at Gina.

TRACY (CONT'D)

Fix it.

Tracy leaves the dining room and goes out the front door.

ANTHONY

Listen, I don't care if the two of you are doing each other, you're going to go on a date with Marco like it or not. You owe me.

GINA

What the hell do I owe you? And if this is your way of buying time to pay off a gambling debt, then it's not my problem.

NIKKI

Wait, time out, you're in trouble again Anthony? But do you ever learn?

ANTHONY

Back off, Nikki, this has nothing to do with you.

NIKKI

Oh, yes it does if you're trying to mess up anyone else's life other than your own.

GINA

Okay, guys, I'm going to check on Tracy.

ANTHONY

Yeah, go check on your lesbian lover.

NIKKI

Shut up, Anthony. Why don't you do something useful for a change like check on Ma and Pa.

Anthony leaves the room and goes into the kitchen. Gina gets up from her chair. Nikki starts gathering the supper plates.

NIKKI (CONT'D)

Hey, let me know how Tracy is. And exactly when were you planning to tell me about the two of you?

GINA
We'll talk later, I'll be right
back.

EXT. FRONT PORCH - EVENING

Tracy looks at her feet as she SWINGS ON THE PORCH SWING SET. The front door opens and Gina steps outside. Tracy looks at her for a moment, then watches her feet sway.

GINA
Hey, can we talk?

TRACY
Talk? I think you said enough
already inside.

GINA
I'm sorry, I don't know what came
over me. I panicked and well, I
can't explain why I said what I
did, but I said it.

TRACY
Said it? Some crazy story that I'm
your lover and now your whole
family hates me?

GINA
They don't hate you.

TRACY
Trust me, they do. It's bad enough
that I am gay, and we never told
your parents, but for you to say
we're both gay and we're together,
that's pretty messed up in my
books.

The front door swings open. Nikki joins the girls on the porch.

NIKKI
I knew there was something off
about this.

GINA
Oh my God, you heard everything?

NIKKI
I didn't have to, I figured it was
someone's crazy idea.

Nikki sits on a small chair next to the swing set.

NIKKI (CONT'D)

I'm only surprised that you came up with it, Gina, it's more like something Tracy would scheme.

TRACY

Well she better unscheme it because it ain't gonna happen.

GINA

How are Ma and Pa?

NIKKI

They're both trying to figure it all out, but they'll live.

TRACY

I'm heading home, Gina, you better make this good.

GINA

I'm sorry, Tracy, I'll come up with something.

TRACY

Nikki, make sure she tells you first what she plans on doing before she actually does.

GINA

I'll call you later.

TRACY

Yeah. Bye Nikki.

NIKKI

Bye, Trace.

Tracy leaves and Nikki takes her place on the swing set next to Gina.

NIKKI (CONT'D)

So, are the two of you planning on having kids?

GINA

Nikki, please, I'm not in the mood for jokes.

NIKKI

Sorry, I couldn't resist. It's just that you've never done such an irrational thing like that. Of all of us, you're always the most level headed and well, predictable.

GINA

Well, I guess there's always a first time for everything.

INT. MARTUZZI DINING ROOM - EVENING

Anthony and his parents sit silently at the dining room table. Gina and Nikki enter the room.

ASSUNTA

Anto, I'm tired, let's go to bed.

GINA

Can we talk before you go to bed?

ASSUNTA

No, you think about your sins, then we talk.

GINA

But Ma.

ASSUNTA

No but Ma, okay. I don't want to talk, capice?

GINA

Okay, good night, I love you.

NIKKI

Buono notte.

ANTHONY

I'll follow you upstairs, just to make sure you don't faint on the way up.

NIKKI

Real encouraging, brother.

Anthony escorts his parents upstairs.

INT. GINA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Gina and Nikki lay on Gina's bed.

GINA

So, how do I get out of this mess? I mean, first telling Ma and Pa the truth that it was a lie, and then how do I get out of having to go on a date with Marco.

NIKKI

I think just play along, it'll be fun.

GINA

You're twisted, you know that. And what should I do next, see if Auntie Terry has any advice?

NIKKI

Yeah, I always wondered about those stories we've heard of Auntie Terry. It's not as if Ma ever speaks of them.

GINA

And it's like so what if she went to college, and she had a female roommate. It doesn't mean they slept together.

NIKKI

That's just those jealous family members who are so ugly and nasty compared to Auntie Terry.

A knock is heard at the bedroom door. Tracy slowly opens the door.

TRACY

Is it safe to come in?

Tracy enters and stands next to the bed. Nikki gets up and leans against the wall.

NIKKI

Do you want me to leave you guys alone?

GINA

Funny, real funny.

NIKKI

No, stupid, for you guys to talk.

TRACY

It's okay, stay. You know the truth anyways, and you can help.

Tracy lays on the bed next to Gina.

NIKKI

Go on.

TRACY

Well, after I swallowed the fact that I can no longer have your mom's home cooking again, I got to thinking about us and how I've always had your back.

GINA

It's okay, Tracy, I'm gonna come clean with the family.

TRACY

See, you don't have to, I'll play along for a while. And when the coast is clear, we can have this total dramatic break-up where you dump me and your mom will feel sorry for me, and then she'll start feeding me again.

GINA

So this all boils down to my mom's cooking?

TRACY

You got it.

NIKKI

I say play along, it'll be so much fun to see Anthony squirm for a while as he figures out how to get his sorry ass out of a sling.

GINA

No, it's too crazy, it'll never work.

Tracy gets up from the bed and stands next to Nikki.

TRACY

No, we can so do this. I've done some crazier things in my life and have gotten away with it.

Nikki nods her head.

TRACY (CONT'D)

It's not as if we have to sleep together, kiss on occasion, you know, to make it look real, but no getting it on.

NIKKI

Yeah, and I can be all convincing saying how the two of you make such a lovely couple.

TRACY

And that we are so in love with each other.

NIKKI

And that you'd make such beautiful babies.

GINA

Are the two of you listening to each other? Forget it, it's too much work, and ridiculous to begin with.

TRACY

See, it's just like you to not be open to anything.

NIKKI

Yes, that my sister, she can't handle new challenges.

TRACY

I know, I wish she'd be more like you, Nikki. So willing to do things, free minded to new adventures.

NIKKI

Willing to explore what life really has to offer.

Tracy looks at Nikki's chest.

TRACY

If you don't mind me saying, those are the greatest breasts that I've never seen.

GINA

And don't think you'll be getting a sneak peak of them now.

NIKKI

I'm sorry, Gina, we just got out of hand.

TRACY

Heck, I'm not sorry, I meant it.

GINA

So you really think we can pull this off? Not for long, but for a little while at least?

TRACY

I think we can manage. We have each others backs anyways.

NIKKI

Don't worry, little sister, it'll all work out fine.

INT. MARTUZZI DINING ROOM - THE NEXT MORNING

Anthony and his parents sit at the dining room table having breakfast. Gina and Nikki enter the dining room.

NIKKI

Good morning, everyone.

ASSUNTA

Good morning, ma bella Nicoli, you sleep well last night?

NIKKI

Ya Ma.

GINA

Me too Ma, in case you were wondering.

Assunta gets up and goes into the kitchen. Gina and Nikki take their seats at the table.

ANTONIO

Don't worry, you're mama, she's having a hard time, that's all.

GINA

But I didn't do anything wrong.

ANTHONY

No, you just broke our poor mother's heart and soul.

GINA
You're a fine one to talk, asshole.

ANTONIO
That's enough. I don't want us to
talk not nice, okay.

Assunta returns to the dining room with a plate and cup of coffee for Nikki.

ASSUNTA
Here ma bella.

GINA
Ma, can we talk or are you just
going to keep on ignoring me?

ASSUNTA
So Nicoli, we go get the final
fitting on you dress soon?

GINA
That's it, I'm outta here.

Gina gets up and goes into the living room. After a brief moment, Anthony decides to join his sister Gina.

INT. MARTUZZI LIVING ROOM - MORNING

Gina sits on the couch with her legs up and her hands underneath her chin. Anthony sits next to Gina.

ANTHONY
So, can I tell Marco you'll go out
with him on Thursday?

GINA
What part of no do you not
understand?

ANTHONY
Gina, let me level with you. I owe
money, big this time, and well if I
don't set you up with Domenic's
nephew, it's not going to be good
for me.

INT. GINA'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Gina enters her bedroom and sits on the bed. She takes her cell phone and calls Tracy.

GINA

Hey.

TRACY

Hey to you too. What's the 411 at your house?

GINA

My mom isn't exactly talking to me and my dad seems pretty cool about it. Anthony's begging me to go on a date with Marco.

TRACY

And?

GINA

I feel bad for Anthony, but he has to learn his lesson about gambling.

TRACY

Well if it takes us to fake date, then I'm in.

The door slightly opens. It's Assunta.

ASSUNTA

Gina, can I come in?

GINA

Hey, let me call you back.

Gina hangs up the phone. Assunta makes her way towards Gina's bed and sits beside her.

ASSUNTA

Gina, I know you're not seem right about life, but I'm your mamma and I love you.

Gina hugs Assunta by grabbing her mom's waist.

GINA

I love you too, Ma.

ASSUNTA

So you can date who you want, but not on the same night.

GINA

What?

ASSUNTA

Anthony, he tell me he gonna help you out. He say you gonna go out with Marco this week, I think Thursday, so make sure you no have date with Tracy that night. Ah, my dear Anthony, he say he gonna help you from gay.

GINA

He said what?

ASSUNTA

It's okay, bella. Just make sure you wear a pretty dress for Marco.

Assunta kisses Gina's head and gets up from the bed. Nikki enters the room just as Assunta is leaving. She sits next to Gina on the bed.

NIKKI

So I take it all is well on the homofront?

GINA

Do you know what Asshole did?

NIKKI

And you so didn't see that coming? You're so naive sometimes.

GINA

Why didn't you warn me?

NIKKI

And when was I going to do just that? You know Anthony and his twisted little mind.

GINA

Oh well, I guess I just have to tell my girlfriend I have a date on Thursday.

NIKKI

Wait, you're going on a date with Marco?

GINA

Well Anthony didn't exactly give me a chance to fix things up.

NIKKI

But this would have been your opportunity to get out of it.

GINA

I know, I know. How did one little lie becomes such a mess?

INT. MARTUZZI LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Gina and Nikki sit on the LARGE COUCH in the living room watching television as Assunta is KNITTING WHILE SEATED ON A SMALL CHAIR in the corner nearby. The doorbell rings. When Gina gets up to answer it, she is quickly motioned to sit down by Assunta, who goes to answer the door.

NIKKI

That must be your date.

Assunta is greeted at the door by a handsome late twenties gentleman named MARCO.

ASSUNTA

Hi, Marco?

MARCO

Comme stai, Signora Martuzzi.

ASSUNTA

Bene, bene, grazie. Come inside.

Assunta and Marco enter the living room. Gina and Nikki are still sitting on the sofa.

ASSUNTA (CONT'D)

This is my soon to be married angel Nicolina.

Nikki stands up and shakes hands with Marco.

NIKKI

Hi Marco. You can call me Nikki.

MARCO

Hi Nikki, nice meeting you.

ASSUNTA

And this one, she is your date, Gina.

NIKKI

MA!

Gina gets up from the sofa. Marco walks towards her and shakes her hand.

ASSUNTA

Come, sit down a few minutes before you go out.

Gina and Nikki sit on either end of the couch as Marco sits in between the two of them. Assunta returns to her corner chair.

GINA

So, you're Domenic's nephew?

MARCO

Yeah, my uncle is a great guy. Before you wonder, no, I'm not part of the family business, I actually own a dog grooming boutique.

ASSUNTA

You like animals? Gina, she was never good with pets. All the fish, they die.

NIKKI

That's because Anthony thought it would fun to slip some poison in the tank.

GINA

You wanna go now?

MARCO

Sure. It was nice meeting you Signora Martuzzi, Nikki.

NIKKI

Same here, Marco.

ASSUNTA

Nice to meet you. Have a good date.

Gina and Marco leave the living room and go outside.

INT. ITALIAN RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Gina and Marco sit in a cozy Italian restaurant. The walls are lined with PICTURES OF ITALY as each ROUND TABLE is covered by a RED AND WHITE CHECKERED TABLECLOTH AND A DIM CANDLE. A HALF EATEN LARGE PIZZA is on their table as well as a BOTTLE OF CIANTI that is almost finished.

MARCO

And that's where I get the name
Marco from.

Gina politely laughs as she bows her head towards her plate.

MARCO (CONT'D)

So, how come a pretty girl like you
doesn't have a boyfriend?

GINA

Guys still use that line?

MARCO

It never gets old. And your brother
told me anyways.

GINA

Told you what?

MARCO

That you and your best friend are
dating.

GINA

He what!

MARCO

It's okay, I'm cool with that.

GINA

Well, it's really complicated. You
can't even imagine.

MARCO

Being Italian and not dating one,
oh yeah, I so know about that. I
once went out with this sweet
Jewish girl, and well, let's just
say they did everything to try to
have her stop wearing a Star of
David. Never mind how many times
there was a prociutto sandwich on
the table waiting for her.

GINA

Religion is one thing, sexual
orientation, well, that's a harder
pill to swallow.

MARCO

As hard as not wanting to be part
of the family business?

GINA

Well if you put it that way, I don't know which is the lesser of two evils.

Marco laughs at Gina's remark, to which Gina shyly blushes.

MARCO

Hey, I'm really happy you agreed to go out with me.

GINA

Really?

MARCO

Yeah. I know it's not going to go anywhere, but my family is so happy knowing that I'm out on a date with an Italian girl. It'll keep them off my back for a while.

GINA

I'm glad too, you know, being here with you Marco. You're not at all what I expected.

MARCO

That's because my shirt is buttoned or else you'd be so impressed by my gold chains and hairy chest. Wanna see?

Marco pretends to open his shirt buttons.

GINA

It's okay, spare me the details.

As Gina laughs at Marco's gesture, her cell phone rings. Gina takes the phone from her purse and see that it's Tracy phone number.

GINA (CONT'D)

Sorry, I have to take this call.

Gina answers the phone.

GINA (CONT'D)

Hey.

TRACY

So how's the date, girlfriend?

GINA

It's going good, Marco is a sweetheart.

TRACY

Not a minginone? I'm so disappointed. Anyways, just wanted to say hey, and if it's not too late, call me later.

GINA

I will. Love you.

TRACY

You are really taking this seriously. Anyways, love you back.

Gina closes the phone and puts it back in her purse. She looks at Marco, and blushes.

MARCO

I take it that was your girlfriend?

GINA

Yeah, it was Tracy.

MARCO

And she's okay about tonight?

GINA

She knows I'm doing this for my brother. You know, Tracy dated my brother. We think that's how she ended up gay.

MARCO

You're a great sister. But a word of advice, you're brother has to get his act together.

GINA

I know, Nikki knows, but he just doesn't want to know. Plus, it would kill my parents if they knew Anthony's bad habit.

MARCO

I understand, but maybe your parents knowing will be the only way that Anthony will stop his crazy gambling streak.

GINA
But it'll be up to Anthony to do
so. There's no way I'm getting
involved.

Marco raises his glass of wine.

MARCO
To old Italian family values.

Gina raises her glass of wine.

GINA
Cheers to that.

INT. GINA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Gina returns home from her date with Marco and sits on her
bed. She picks up her cell phone to call Tracy.

GINA
Hey, am I calling too late?

TRACY'S VOICE (ON PHONE)
No, not at all. How was it?

GINA
Marco is a really sweet guy. Not at
all arrogant or a show off. He even
owns a dog grooming business.

TRACY
Oh my God, he's gay.

GINA'S VOICE (ON PHONE)
Shut up.

TRACY
Excuse me, but what 20 something
Italian boy would own a dog
grooming shop and not be gay?

GINA'S VOICE (ON PHONE)
You think? No, he can't be, he
dated girls. He even told me about
this Jewish girl he went out with.

TRACY
There, even more gay. An Italian
dating a Jew, that says it all.

GINA
Sometimes I wonder where you come
up with these philosophies. Doesn't
matter, I don't want to know.

Tracy laughs.

GINA (CONT'D)
Before I forget, you coming over
for supper tomorrow night?

TRACY
No way. Last time I recall I was
there for the "Last Supper".

GINA'S VOICE (ON PHONE)
I told you, she's okay with it.
Plus we do have to keep up
appearances.

TRACY
Okay, fine, do I have to bring
flowers?

GINA'S VOICE (ON PHONE)
Why, who died?

TRACY
Well look who's a comedian tonight,
I like this side of you.

GINA
You'd be surprised just what lies
beneath.

TRACY'S VOICE (ON PHONE)
You so drank tonight.

GINA
Just some vino.

TRACY'S VOICE (ON PHONE)
Well me likey, vino do my
girlfriend good.

GINA
Okay, it's getting late, and this
is getting strange.

TRACY
Great, just when the conversation
is getting good, you bail. Okay,
we'll take this up again tomorrow.

GINA
Good night, lover.

TRACY
Nite, babes.

INT. MARTUZZI KITCHEN - EVENING

Assunta, Gina, and Nikki are all in the kitchen preparing supper. Assunta stands by the stove and stirs A POT OF TOMATO SAUCE. Nikki sits at the table PREPARING THE SALAD. As Gina is CUTTING A FRESH LOAF OF CRUSTY ITALIAN BREAD, her cell phone rings. She picks it up and answers it.

GINA
Hello?

MARCO'S VOICE (ON PHONE)
Hey gorgeous, how are you?

GINA
I'm good, and you?

MARCO'S VOICE (ON PHONE)
Fine, thanks. I just wanted to thank you again for last night, I really enjoyed myself.

GINA
Yeah, so did I.

MARCO'S VOICE (ON PHONE)
I was wondering, you know, to keep up appearances, if you'd like to go catch a movie next week? No pressure, just to keep our families off our case.

GINA
Sounds good to me.

MARCO'S VOICE (ON PHONE)
Great, we'll be in touch. Good night.

GINA
Bye.

Gina hangs up the phone. Assunta puts down her spoon and walks towards the table. She pulls back a chair and sits directly in front of Gina.

NIKKI
Who was that?

GINA
It was Marco.

ASSUNTA
Ah, Marco, how is he?

GINA
He's fine, Ma.

NIKKI
What did he want?

GINA
He wanted to thank me for last night, and wanted to know if I would go see a movie with him next week.

ASSUNTA
So you go on another date?

GINA
Maybe.

NIKKI
And what about Tracy?

ASSUNTA
When you go to movies?

GINA
We didn't say when yet.

The doorbell rings.

NIKKI
That must be Tracy. Are you going to answer that, sis?

ASSUNTA
It's okay, the men in the other room, they can answer. So tell me more about what Marco say?

NIKKI
I think it's rude of you not answering the door, Gina.

The doorbell rings again, twice this time.

ASSUNTA

Those men, they deaf in the other room.

Gina gets up.

GINA

It's okay, I'll get it.

Gina leaves the room to answer the front door.

ASSUNTA

Hey, she go out with Marco, it's a good thing.

NIKKI

But Gina's with Tracy.

ASSUNTA

Ah those things, what Oprah say, they a phase.

NIKKI

Just like not being with an Italian?

ASSUNTA

We start that again.

NIKKI

No, I'm just saying that not accepting of who someone loves is ignorance.

Gina and Tracy enter the kitchen, holding hands. Gina gives Tracy a peck on the lips as Assunta watches from the corner of her eye. Tracy holds a beautiful BOUQUET OF FLOWERS.

TRACY

Hey Nikki. Buona sera, Signora Martuzzi.

ASSUNTA

Since-a when you so formal? Why the flowers, someone die?

TRACY

I brought them for you, signora.

ASSUNTA

Ah, so I guess I die.

NIKKI

Ma! That was very sweet of Tracy.

ASSUNTA
Eh flowers, they like life, they
live, they die.

Antonio and Anthony enter the kitchen.

ANTONIO
So, we eat or what?

ASSUNTA
Aspettare, aspettare, mo venuta.
Girls, take the plates into the
dining room.

The men exit the kitchen. Assunta gives the sauce a final
stir before she CLOSES THE STOVE. Nikki leans towards Gina.

NIKKI
What's up with you?

GINA
Nothing.

NIKKI
Well for someone playing a game,
you're sure not good at it.

ASSUNTA
What you girls talking about?

NIKKI
Nothing, ma, just planning my
bachelorette party that I am
expecting I will have, right Gina?

ASSUNTA
Why you need that, no good, no good
those things.

Nikki goes to the stove with a piece of bread and dips it in
the sauce.

ASSUNTA (CONT'D)
Hey, no do that, you have to try on
your dress tomorrow.

GINA
Yeah, you don't want to have to
take it out an inch or two.

NIKKI
Like that's gonna happen.

ASSUNTA

Okay, okay, no fight, time to eat.

The Martuzzi women carry the plates of food into the dining room. Tracy follows holding the dinner plates.

INT. DINING ROOM - EVENING

The Martuzzi family and Tracy sit around the dining room table enjoying Assunta's lasagna.

ANTHONY

So Tracy, did you hear Marco and Gina went on a date.

TRACY

I know, and your point is?

ANTHONY

Does it make you, jealous?

TRACY

Why would I be jealous?

Gina kicks Tracy under the table to remind her of their assumed dating.

ANTHONY

Well you are dating Gina, right?

TRACY

And wasn't the date with Marco just a favour for you?

ASSUNTA

What you talk a favour, Marco like Gina.

ANTONIO

So this dating, who date who?

GINA

Pa!

ANTONIO

Hey, I'm an old man, I get confused much, I dunno.

GINA

So Nikki, what time do we have to go for the dress fit?

ASSUNTA

It's at eleven, and don't be late.

NIKKI

Yeah, so G, you go with Ma and I'll meet you there with Chris' mom.

GINA

Okay, Ma, be ready by 10:30.

ASSUNTA

Why? The lady, she no know how to drive?

NIKKI

No, I just don't want her coming alone, that's all.

ASSUNTA

Ah, you already pick sides.

NIKKI

I'm not taking sides. Geez, can't I do what I want for a change.

ASSUNTA

If it's to hurt your mama's feelings, then yes, you go with your new mother.

GINA

Ma, really, Nikki's just being polite.

ASSUNTA

And that's how it starts.

NIKKI

How what starts, Ma, tell me.

ASSUNTA

That you marry, then you forget about your mama and papa and put them in a home.

NIKKI

Oh my God, you're such a Drama Queen.

ASSUNTA

What do you mean by that, by queen?

NIKKI

I'm just saying that you always take a little thing and make it into something so big for nothing.

ANTONIO

Nicoli, watch the way you talk to your mother.

GINA

She's right, why is it that every little thing just can't be left alone?

ASSUNTA

You want me to start with you?

ANTONIO

Okay, that's enough. We have-a guest, let's just eat, okay.

NIKKI

I'm sorry, ma. If you prefer, I'll go with you.

ASSUNTA

No, it's okay, Gina gonna take me at 10:30.

EXT. FRONT PORCH - NIGHT

Gina and Tracy gaze at the STARRY SKY while sitting on the swing set on the front porch.

TRACY

So, you still want to play this little game of yours?

GINA

I got blind sided when Anthony told Ma that he set me up on a date with Marco.

TRACY

But that gave you the chance to put things back to normal.

GINA

You know how I feel about dating Italian guys, let alone mob connected ones.

TRACY

And?

GINA

And let's not even begin to talk about what my mother thinks about Nikki marrying a non Italian.

TRACY

So dating a girl is better? Listen, just because of that bad experience with Vince doesn't mean all Italian guys are like that.

GINA

Having some thugs burst into a restaurant while you're on a date isn't my idea of anything romantic.

TRACY

You have to look beyond what happened with your last boyfriend.

GINA

I know. Hey, thanks for everything. I owe you big time.

TRACY

It's okay. Me being your girlfriend is starting to grow on me.

GINA

Really, you're starting to like this then?

TRACY

For some inexplicable reason, yeah, this twisted game is fun.

GINA

Or is it the fact that you get to kiss me once in a while?

TRACY

Oh please, you are so not. Never mind.

GINA

So not what?

TRACY

Well, let's just say, you're okay for an amateur.

GINA

Amateur? Honey, you don't know what your missing.

TRACY

Excuse me, but how many girls have you kissed in your lifetime? And just what am I missing?

GINA

Yeah, what you're missing. I haven't delivered the real stuff yet.

TRACY

And what would that real stuff be?

Gina leans forward and kisses Tracy on the lips. Unlike the previous times, this kiss lingers on much longer. Gina holds the back of Tracy's head as if to keep her from pulling away. Gina slowly pulls her lips away from that of Tracy's and smiles.

GINA

You like what you're missing?

TRACY

Not what I expected, but much better than your brother.

GINA

Oh that is so wrong.

TRACY

But you gotta love me for my humor. Anyways, it's late, and you have to play dress up tomorrow.

GINA

Don't remind me. So, I'll pick you up at 10:30?

TRACY

What? Why do I have to be there and suffer too?

GINA

Because I need to be distracted from the drama that is my mother, plus Aunt Terry will be there too.

TRACY

Oh, Auntie Terry, I am so there.

GINA

Thought so.

Tracy holds Gina's hand as she gets up from the swing set.

TRACY

So, later, skater.

GINA

Bye.

Tracy kisses Gina's hand and walks down the front porch steps. Gina watches with a grin while Tracy skips down the driveway.

INT. - ROSA'S BRIDAL SHOP - MORNING

Assunta, Gina, and Tracy walk through Rosa's Bridal Shop. The shop is BRIGHTLY LIT with FORMAL BRIDAL WEAR delicately placed on SPACIOUS RACKS. Gina and Tracy snicker in amusement at the POSTERS on a wall DEPICTING BRIDAL FASHION THROUGHOUT THE DECADES, while Assunta searches the shop for a bridal consultant.

A ray of light gleams through the glass door as AUNT THERESA enters, sporting dark sunglasses that hide her freshly Botoxed face. Her modern fashion style is accentuated by her sensual body (not bad for a 40 year old). She removes her shades and sees her sister Assunta near the cash counter. Aunt Theresa walks towards the counter. Assunta turns around.

ASSUNTA

Mia sorella, comme stai?

AUNT THERESA

Fine, sis, how are you?

The sisters reunite with a hug. Gina and Tracy make their way towards the pair.

TRACY

Your aunt is one fine woman.

Aunt Theresa turns around as the girls get closer. She immediately gives Gina a hug and kisses Gina on her cheeks.

AUNT THERESA

Gina, my God, you get sexier every time I see you. Stop giving your Auntie competition, okay.

GINA
I can never compete with you,
Auntie Terry.

Gina grabs Tracy's hand and moves her towards Aunt Theresa.

GINA (CONT'D)
Auntie, you remember Tracy, right?

Aunt Theresa places her finger on her lips. She stares at Tracy. Tracy fidgets and lets go of Gina's hand.

AUNT THERESA
Of course, how can I forget Tracy.
How are you girl?

TRACY
Fine, Auntie Terry, how are you?

AUNT THERESA
Great.

Aunt Theresa stands in between Gina and Tracy. She places her arms on both their shoulders. An annoyed Assunta looks at them, and then leers towards the entrance.

ASSUNTA
Dio, where is the bride? Must be
her new mother making her late.

Aunt Theresa walks towards her sister and takes her by the arm.

AUNT THERESA
C'mon, sis, show me what you think
I should wear.

Nikki opens the front door allowing Christian's mother MARGARET to enter the shop first.

NIKKI
Auntie Terry, how are you?

Nikki and Aunt Theresa hug while Margaret politely nods at Gina and Tracy. Assunta, hiding behind a rack of clothes, is carefully studying the scene. Nikki introduces Margaret to Aunt Theresa. Aunt Theresa looks around the shop trying to find Assunta. She notices Assunta hiding behind the rack of clothes.

AUNT THERESA
Assunta, get you butt over here.
Quit spying on us already.

Assunta emerges from behind the rack and joins the group.

ASSUNTA
Hello Mrs. Taylor.

MARGARET
Good morning, Mrs. Martuzzi. How are you?

ASSUNTA
Fine, thanks.

NIKKI
Geez, the two of you are going to be family soon. Stop being so formal.

A middle aged BRIDAL CONSULTANT heads towards the group of ladies.

BRIDAL CONSULTANT
Okay, ladies, this way please.

Assunta, Margaret, and Nikki follow the Bridal Consultant. Tracy pulls Gina towards a display of garter belts.

TRACY
Boy your mom, she really. I mean.

GINA
That she doesn't approve of non-Italians? Oh yeah.

Aunt Theresa sneaks up behind the girls and GRABS A GARTER BELT from the display.

AUNT THERESA
Ah, she'll live. So what's wrong with a non-Italian you ask? My sister's thinking is so, let's just say it's like being in Italy surrounded by goats.

GINA
Yeah, mom can be old fashion at that.

AUNT THERESA
She'll get over it. As long as you're happy with who you're with, that's all that counts. Right, Gina?

Aunt Theresa stares at Tracy with a grin while she flings the garter at Gina.

ASSUNTA (V.O.)

Hey, what you do there, no time to play. Gina, come put on your dress.

INT. DRESSING ROOM - NOON

Gina and Nikki try on their dresses in a large room. The other ladies are impatiently waiting in a large circular area surrounded by MIRRORS with comfortable BEIGE COUCHES to sit on. Gina adjusts the front of her GOLDEN SATIN Maid of Honor dress while Nikki struggles with all the crinoline in her LAYERED VEIL.

GINA

Man, you really want me to be all tight or what?

NIKKI

Naw, just want you to look sexy. Well, not that sexy since all eyes will be upon me. Then again, who will be your date at my wedding?

GINA

My date? Tracy was invited since day one, that's a give in.

NIKKI

And Marco?

GINA

I never thought of that. Great, now I have to have two dates?

NIKKI

Well since Ma will be all upset that her favorite daughter is leaving the family home, then you must invite Marco. Or do you?

GINA

Well, I haven't gone on a second date yet, so technically I don't have to invite him.

NIKKI

Have you kissed yet?

GINA

Kissed who? What did you see?

NIKKI
 Why you getting all defensive?
 Spill it, what was I not supposed
 to see?

GINA
 Never mind.

ASSUNTA (V.O.)
 What's taking so long?

NIKKI
 (yelling)
 Almost ready, relax.

Gina grabs the REAR TRAIN of her dress and starts to exit the dressing room.

GINA
 Okay, done.

NIKKI
 Oh no you're not.

GINA
 Oh yes I am.

NIKKI
 So who have you kissed and how?

Tracy walks towards the dressing room to see what is taking the sisters so long. She knocks on the door. Nikki GRABS GINA'S ARM as Gina tries to open the door.

TRACY (V.O.)
 You guys okay? Your mom's having a
 cow.

Gina shakes her arm away from Nikki and opens the door.

GINA
 On my way.

As Gina leaves the dressing room, she comes within inches of Tracy's face. Nikki looks at the girls as she adjusts her veil one final time.

Gina and Nikki take their places on the SMALL PODIUMS in front of the ladies. Tracy follows behind and leans against the wall.

TWO BRIDAL CONSULTANTS, armed with pins and measuring tape, tend to Gina and Nikki. The boutique assistant manager LORETTA studies Gina and Nikki.

LORETTA

I see the adjustments are perfect.
How do the dresses feel, ladies?

GINA

A bit snug, but I'll breathe.

NIKKI

Perfect. I love it.

ASSUNTA

Nicoli, you think the top, she a
little small?

Nikki does a TWIRL on the podium to make sure her breasts
don't pop out. She looks at herself in the mirrors.

NIKKI

No Ma, everything is in place.

ASSUNTA

I dunno, I think you show too much.

AUNT THERESA

Assunta, give it up. Your girl has
the goods, why not show them off.

ASSUNTA

But she'll be in the House of God,
looking like that.

NIKKI

Looking like what, Ma?

ASSUNTA

You know, you show skin.

GINA

She looks great, Ma.

ASSUNTA

And you, you sure you want to wear
a dress?

GINA

What's that supposed to mean.

ASSUNTA

Why you bring that one in the
corner today?

Gina ignores her mother's remark. Nikki gets off the podium
and stands in front of Assunta.

NIKKI

Is it you getting married Ma? No.
It's me, and I look fine.

AUNT THERESA

Lighten up, Sis. What do you want
her to do, wear a sheet over her so
no one can see her?

Assunta takes a tissue from her purse and wipes the corner of
her eyes.

ASSUNTA

It's not that. It's just now I see
and I know I lose my daughter.

NIKKI

Ma, you'll always have me.

ASSUNTA

I know, I know, but you're the
first to go.

NIKKI

But Gina'll be there. And there's
always Anthony.

ASSUNTA

Once you marry, you no more come
over to see your mama. And who say
Gina stay. Maybe I no want her
there.

GINA

Nice touch, Ma.

Gina walks towards Tracy and holds her hand. Assunta
continues wiping her eyes. Nikki sits next to her.

NIKKI

I will, trust me, I'll always come
visit.

Assunta points at Margaret.

ASSUNTA

But you have her now.

Nikki turns and looks at Margaret. Nikki angrily looks at
Assunta.

NIKKI

There you go again. You always have
to be first, you know that.

MARGARET

Mrs. Martuzzi, our children will always have a place in our hearts for us even if we don't see them as often once they're married.

ASSUNTA

Not as often? You already steal my daughter?

AUNT THERESA

Dammit, Sue, you still play the drama card after all these years.

NIKKI

Gina, my advice, elope.

ASSUNTA

Yeah, she gonna have to do that anyways.

TRACY

And now it gets ugly.

Assunta turns around and stares directly at Tracy, who is still standing at a safe distance.

ASSUNTA

(angrily)

Who you call ugly?

GINA

Ma, she didn't call anyone ugly. Why do you always have to be this way?

ASSUNTA

What way? That I love my kids and they leave me.

Gina sits next to Assunta and grabs her hands.

GINA

We'll never leave you, Ma, trust me, we'll always be there.

NIKKI

Ma, no matter what, you'll always come first.

ASSUNTA

That's all I needed to hear, that you always count me first.

INT. MARTUZZI FRONT DOOR - EVENING

The doorbell rings. Gina answers the front door. She opens the door and greets Marco with a kiss on the cheek.

GINA
Hey, how are you?

MARCO
Fine, thanks, and you?

GINA
Ready to get out of here.

ASSUNTA (V.O.)
Is that Marco?

GINA
Yeah, Ma. Bye.

Gina grabs Marco's hand as she heads out the front door.

GINA (CONT'D)
Run while you still can.

EXT. DIMLY LIT PARK - NIGHT

Gina and Marco drink coffee while sitting in the park on a bench. Gina recounts to Marco the events of the recent dress fit.

MARCO
So, the dress fit was that bad?

GINA
It wasn't that bad. It's just that my mother, well, let's say that she always has to be the center of attention and feel like she's number one. Don't get me wrong, I love her to death, but she can drive anyone nuts at times.

MARCO
Hey, family can do that. But I think Italian families do it the best.

GINA
And most often.

MARCO

It's really great being here with you Gina. I mean it. I know you have Tracy, but it's cool being able to be friends with you and hang out like this.

GINA

I really like the time we talk or see each other too. Finally someone who can relate to crazy Italian families.

Much to Marco's surprise, Gina leans forward and kisses him on the lips.

MARCO

Whoa, where did that come from?

GINA

It just felt, I dunno, right?

MARCO

Would you mind if I kiss you back?

GINA

Not at all.

Marco leans towards Gina and kiss her on the lips, just as Tracy leaves a CONVENIENCE STORE located in front of the park. Tracy looks at Gina and Marco for a moment, then quickly gets in her car and races off.

INT. USED BREW CAFE/BOOKSTORE - NOON

Tracy stands behind the counter stocking coffee mugs on the shelf. The faint sound of the OVERHEAD BELL ON THE FRONT DOOR is heard as Gina enters.

GINA

Hey girl, what's up?

TRACY

Nothing much.

GINA

Okay, haven't had your morning coffee yet?

TRACY

I did, thanks.

GINA
I tried calling last night and got
your voice mail.

The entrance bell is heard again. Antonio and Assunta enter
the cafe and walk towards the counter.

ANTONIO
Bella, you make your papa a good
expresso?

GINA
Ma, Pa, what brings you to the
shop?

ANTONIO
Hi Tracy. Your mother, she want to
take a drive, then she want to take
a walk.

ASSUNTA
And your papa say he need a break,
so we here.

Tracy prepares the EXPRESSO MACHINE. Gina goes behind the
counter to assist her.

GINA
It's okay, baby, I'll do it.

Gina tries to kiss Tracy on the lips, but Tracy turns her
head and leaves the counter area.

TRACY
I'll give you some time with your
parents. It's my break anyways. Bye
Mister and Misses Martuzzi, was
very nice seeing you.

ANTONIO
Bye, Tracy.

Antonio nudges Assunta as he sits at the table next to the
counter.

ASSUNTA
Bye, Tracy.

The bell rings as Tracy leaves the shop.

GINA
Take a seat, Ma, can I get you
anything?

ASSUNTA

No, me I'm good.

Gina finishes Antonio's espresso. Assunta sits next to Antonio. Gina places the espresso cup in front of Antonio and sits facing her parents.

GINA

(suspiciously asking)

So, why are you guys really here?

Antonio and Assunta look at each other, then face Gina.

ANTONIO

Well, your mama, she was driving me nuts at home so we came here to find out.

GINA

To find out what?

ASSUNTA

Who you bring to your sister's wedding?

Gina sits up straight in her chair.

GINA

You came all the way here just to ask me that?

ASSUNTA

So, who you bring?

GINA

Well, Tracy was already invited, so she's coming for sure.

ASSUNTA

And Marco?

GINA

Marco, I don't know.

ASSUNTA

But you date him?

GINA

We went out a couple of times, and yeah, he's a really good friend and I like him.

ASSUNTA
So you start to like Marco and no
more like Tracy?

GINA
Me and Marco are just friends,
period.

ASSUNTA
Anyways, it no matter. I already
gave Anthony an invitation to give
to Marco.

GINA
You did what?

ANTONIO
Assu, you didn't tell me that.

ASSUNTA
It's done. He come, he no come, we
see.

The bell rings as a GROUP OF TEENAGERS enter the shop. Gina
gets up and looks at the group.

GINA
Ma, Pa, got some customers.

ANTONIO
It's okay, I finished my espresso.
We go now.

GINA
Okay, thanks. Hey, if you see Tracy
outside, can you tell her to come
in.

ANTONIO
Okay we do that. Bye, bella.

Antonio gives Gina a kiss on the cheek and places his cup on
the counter.

GINA
Bye Pa, see you later.

Assunta gets up and kisses Gina on the cheeks.

ASSUNTA
Ciao, bella.

Assunta and Antonio leave. Gina tends to the customers. Tracy
enters a few moments later.

GINA
Perfect timing, I need two lattes.

Tracy takes over the espresso machine while Gina rings in the sales on the cash register.

GINA (CONT'D)
Thanks.

TRACY
You're welcome.

Tracy finishes the orders and places the cups at the end of the counter. Tracy sits at the table next to the counter and takes a newspaper from the rack. Gina sits directly across from Tracy.

GINA
Is something bothering you?

TRACY
No.

GINA
Then why the silent act? You hardly said two words to me since I got here.

Tracy puts down the paper and looks directly at Gina.

TRACY
Okay, here's more than two words. Are you still playing your game or are done with it so I can get on with my life?

GINA
Where the hell is this coming from?

TRACY
I don't know. Maybe it's the fact that one minute you're all over me and the next you're on a date with Marco.

Before Gina has a chance to reply back, the bell is heard and the shop owner, MATT, enters. He walk towards the table that Tracy and Gina are sitting at.

MATT
Hello ladies, how's business?

TRACY

Hey Matt. I was just telling Gina how I'm not feeling too well and that I was going to ask if I can leave early today.

MATT

Not a problem, Tracy, I can cover your shift. Gina, I'll be in the back, just buzz me if it gets busy.

TRACY

Thanks, Matt. I'll just punch out and go.

Tracy goes to the EMPLOYEE EXIT at the back of the store. Matt grabs a newspaper from the rack.

GINA

Matt, give me a minute. I just have to go in back and give something to Tracy before she goes.

MATT

Okay, go ahead.

Gina quickly goes towards the employee exit to make sure she sees Tracy before she leaves.

INT. EMPLOYEE EXIT AREA - AFTERNOON

Tracy takes her purse out of her locker. Gina enters the employee exit area. It is a SMALL ROOM with a few lockers and a table and chair set as well as various boxes of coffee stacked along the floor.

Gina stands next to Tracy's locker. Tracy looks for her CAR KEYS in her PURSE.

GINA

You know, we are going to finish this conversation.

TRACY

It's over for me.

Tracy finds her keys and shakes them at Gina.

TRACY (CONT'D)

Gotta go.

GINA

Tracy, wait.

Tracy turns and heads towards the back exit. Gina watches as Tracy opens the door and leaves.

INT. MILANO'S SPORTS BAR - AFTERNOON

Marco and Anthony sit at the bar area of MILANO'S SPORTS BAR. Anthony hands Marco an envelope of money.

ANTHONY

Here you go. Hope your uncle is okay with this.

MARCO

I'm sure it'll be okay. Anthony, how serious are Gina and Tracy?

ANTHONY

I dunno. Why? Gina say anything?

MARCO

No. It's just that I don't know if she's agreeing to see me to calm my uncle down with you or if she actually likes me.

ANTHONY

If I know my sister well enough, who knows. Seriously, I never understood why she could never keep a boyfriend.

MARCO

So she's dated other guys too? Not just girls?

ANTHONY

Hey, as far as this whole weird her and Tracy, that's the first I've ever seen. She's always been into guys, I just don't get it.

MARCO

You think Gina likes me?

ANTHONY

I sure hope so. No way can she end up with Tracy.

MARCO

Gina told me you actually dated Tracy.

ANTHONY

What a mistake that was! Then again, I always thought Tracy kinda had a crush on my sister.

MARCO

For real?

ANTHONY

Yeah. I never thought my sister could ever have a crush back.

INT. CHROME BAR - NIGHT

Gina and Tracy sit at the main bar of CHROME BAR, the latest and hottest LESBIAN BAR in town. The club is filled mainly with SCANTILY CLAD TWENTY-SOMETHING WOMEN either drinking at the bar or grinding on the dancefloor.

TRACY

So, why did you bring me here?

GINA

Well, you told Matt yesterday that you weren't feeling well and you left work early. So I thought this would make you feel better.

TRACY

Well, maybe a few more rounds will do the trick.

TWO HOURS LATER, and A DOZEN EMPTY SHOOTER GLASSES are along the bar in front of Gina and Tracy. The girls raise another round of TEQUILA SHOTS and drink them quickly, followed by A SMALL GLASS OF CLAMATO JUICE.

TRACY (CONT'D)

Man, whoever came up with Tequila-Clamato shots should be shot themselves.

GINA

I know, it's like the Clamato covers the fact that you just downed a shot of tequila.

TRACY

Hey, thanks for tonight. I know I acted kind of dumb at work.

GINA

It's okay. So, you happy that I chose this place for our Saturday night out?

TRACY

You mean it wasn't me?

Gina and Tracy burst out laughing.

GINA

You are so wasted. You don't even remember it was my date night choice tonight.

TRACY

Naw, I just know it's our date night.

Tracy places her hand at the back of Gina's head and leans forward to kiss Gina. After a brief kiss on the lips, Gina pulls away and looks at Tracy. Gina smiles, and then returns a passionate kiss back at Tracy. The girls continue embracing, with Gina's hand at the back of Tracy's head and Tracy hands holding Gina's waist.

INT. GINA'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Gina, laying in her bed with her head covered by THE BED LINENS, recounts last night's events to Nikki.

GINA

And we just started making out.

NIKKI

What do you mean by making out?

Gina removes the covers from her head and looks at Nikki.

GINA

I mean making out. Like kissing. Really, really kissing.

NIKKI

Not like the stuff you guys have been doing in front of everyone?

GINA

No, I mean getting into it kissing.

NIKKI

Okay, then. So, did you like it?

GINA

Nikki!

Nikki laughs. Gina pulls the covers over her head.

NIKKI

I'm sorry, I couldn't help myself.

GINA

I'm so hungover.

Nikki pulls the covers from Gina's head.

NIKKI

Oh shut up, that's no excuse. Give me details.

GINA

What details, there are none.

NIKKI

I mean, did you like it or was it like "thank God I'm drunk because this is so not happening.?"

GINA

It's weird. I mean, yeah we drank. But kissing, it felt kind of good, in a weird sort of way.

NIKKI

Would you do it again?

GINA

No, I swear I'm never drinking again.

NIKKI

That's not what I meant.

GINA

I know. I just don't know how to answer that question.

Gina pulls the covers over her head once again.

INT. JELLO MARTINI BAR - NIGHT

Marco and Gina sit and listen to the LIVE LOCAL BAND playing at the QUAIN T RETRO THEMED JELLO MARTINI BAR.

MARCO

So I see that I'm invited to your sister's wedding.

GINA

Yeah, sorry about that. Ma got excited that we've been on a couple of dates.

Gina takes a sip of her martini.

MARCO

Understood. I know why your mom's pushing for it. I'm cool with not going.

GINA

No, sorry. It's just kind of weird how she did it, by having Anthony give you an invite. I don't mind you coming, that's if you'd like?

MARCO

But what about Tracy?

GINA

Yeah, she's like part of the family, so it's a give in that she's going. But I'd really like you to be there too. Unless you're not into the whole wedding scene?

MARCO

No, I don't mind at all, thanks. You think Tracy will have a problem with me being there?

GINA

She should be cool with it. I already told her how my mom slipped you an invitation. Plus, she'd like to meet you anyways.

MARCO

(smiling)

Really? Wow, she must be really special. I mean, knowing we've had a couple of dates and such.

Gina politely smiles at Marco.

MARCO (CONT'D)

Speaking of which, did you tell her about "the such"?

GINA
(blushing)
The topic never really came up.
Plus, it's not really bad, I mean,
you know, "the such".

MARCO
Shall we try "the such" again?

Gina smiles and leans towards Marco. Gina looks into Marco's eyes then kisses him on the lips.

INT. GINA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Gina, still fully dressed, sits on her bed thinking about her date with Marco. She GLANCES AT THE CLOCK, sees that it's only 11pm, and picks up her phone to call Tracy.

TRACY (ON PHONE)
Hey girlfriend, how was your date?

GINA
It was good. We went for sushi and spoke about Nikki's wedding.

TRACY (ON PHONE)
So tell me, is your brother's gambling debt paid off yet?

GINA
I don't know.

TRACY (ON PHONE)
But this whole keeping up appearances with Marco is to get Domenic off Anthony's back, right?

GINA
I guess.

TRACY
You're starting to like him?

GINA
Why do you say that?

TRACY
Because I know you well enough.

GINA (ON PHONE)
I told you, never again with a mobster's son.

TRACY
But this is a nephew.

GINA (ON PHONE)
Same family.

TRACY
Different relations. Doesn't
matter, you kissed him anyways.

GINA
Why do you say that?

TRACY
Because I know.

GINA
(angrily)
You spying on me?

TRACY
And so the plot thickens.

GINA
What's that supposed to mean? If
anything, I think you're enjoying
the game way more than me.

TRACY
What?

GINA
You heard me.

TRACY
If you wanna finish it off with me,
why don't you?

GINA
Maybe I will.

TRACY
Good.

GINA
It's late, I'm hanging up.

TRACY
Fine.

INT. SANTA MARIA CATHOLIC CHURCH - NOON

The Martuzzi's and Taylor's are all gathered at SANTA MARIA CATHOLIC CHURCH for the rehearsal of Nikki and Christian's upcoming wedding. The fifty year old church is decorated with STAINED GLASS WINDOWS depicting the Ten Commandments, with various STATUES OF SAINTS near the altar.

Seventy year old FATHER ROMANO, the church's oldest pastor, stands at the altar with Nikki and her fiance CHRISTIAN. Gina and Anthony stand behind Nikki and Christian respectively.

FATHER ROMANO
(in a thick Italian
accent)

So, when I say to say vows, you say. Nicolina first say, then Christian say.

NIKKI
Do I have to say them now?

FATHER ROMANO
No, no, when you wanna get married, you say vows.

CHRISTIAN
Should we be holding hands when we say our vows?

FATHER ROMANO
Si, si, you take-a Nicolina's hand and you say vows.

Assunta proudly looks on and wipes a tear from the corner of her eye.

ASSUNTA
This is so beautiful. Mi bella figlia sposarsi.

AUNT THERESA
Speak English much?

ASSUNTA
That's because I still believe in where I came from.

AUNT THERESA
Sorry to burst your bubble, sis, but you weren't born in Italy.

ASSUNTA
Shh, they speak again.

Father Romano places his hands on Nikki and Christian's shoulder.

FATHER ROMANO
So, when-a you finish vows, I see
if anyone say no.

Father Romano looks at the group sitting along the front pew.

FATHER ROMANO (CONT'D)
So, you object?

ASSUNTA
(slightly sobbing)
No.

NIKKI
Ma, really, you're embarrassing me.

ASSUNTA
I can't help it, you get married.

NIKKI
Geez, and this is just the
rehearsal.

ASSUNTA
I know, I know, but it's beautiful.

A LOUD CREAK is heard as the front door of the church opens. Everyone looks towards the door as Marco enters the church.

NIKKI
What's Marco doing here?

GINA
One guess.

Assunta stands up and motions with her hand for Marco to come to the front of the church. Marco joins the others along the front pew. Assunta greets him with two kisses on the cheeks. Assunta motions Marco to sit between her and Antonio.

FATHER ROMANO
So, you object?

MARCO
Did I come in at a bad time?

GINA
(whispering to Nikki)
Timing couldn't be any worse.

FATHER ROMANO
So, we continue. Nobody object, you
put ring on fingers.

ANTHONY
I give the ring now?

FATHER ROMANO
No, no, not now. On wedding day. So
we all good, nobody objects?

Everyone on the front pew looks at Father Romano and answer
"NO" in unison.

EXT. SANTA MARIA CATHOLIC CHURCH - AFTERNOON

Marco and Gina stand at the front of the church doors while
the others slowly make their way down the CHURCH STAIRS.

MARCO
I really hope you don't mind that
I'm here.

GINA
It's fine. But how did you know?

Gina looks at Assunta.

GINA (CONT'D)
Never mind, I figured it out.

Marco and Gina continue talking. Tracy turns the corner and
looks at them.

GINA (CONT'D)
Shit.

MARCO
What's wrong?

GINA
It's Tracy.

Tracy joins Marco and Gina on the steps. She grabs Gina's
hand.

TRACY
Sorry I'm late, baby.

Gina shakes her hand away from Tracy's.

GINA
Tracy, I'd like you to meet Marco.
Marco, this is Tracy.

TRACY
Yeah, hi. Gina, we need to talk.

ASSUNTA
(yelling)
Hey, we go eat now.

TRACY
Yeah, hi to you too Assunta.

GINA
Tracy!

MARCO
Okay, this is getting awkward.

TRACY
So Gina, who's it going to be?

Gina looks at Marco, then at Tracy.

EXT. WISEMAN GALLERY - NIGHT

Gina and Marco are admiring the works of art as they walk through the WISEMAN GALLERY. The PALE WALLS are adorned with PAINTINGS FROM LOCAL ARTISTS as well as VARIOUS STATUES. They stop in front of a self-portrait titled "LONGING". The painting depicts a YOUNG FEMALE standing on a LIGHTHOUSE DECK staring at the MOONLIT DEEP BLUE WATERS BELOW.

MARCO
Think she's lost?

GINA
With a title like "Longing", she must be waiting for something, or someone.

MARCO
Wonder how long she's been there? I mean, waiting, you know.

GINA
I dunno. She looks kind of sad.

MARCO
You think she's sad because she's been there so long and thinks what she's waiting for won't come back?

GINA

I think so. And probably she knows she's wrong in what she did and it's too late to put things back to the way they were. And now she knows what she longs for and is not sure how to get it.

MARCO

Wow, you're really into this painting. Does it make you think of someone you know, who's confused with what she wants?

GINA

Marco, can we go somewhere and talk. There's something I need to tell you.

INT. CHROME BAR - NIGHT

Tracy and EX-GIRLFRIEND GABBY stand along the main bar at Chrome. Tracy delicately moves Gabby's LONG LIGHT BROWN HAIR away from her face and smiles. Gabby shyly smiles at Tracy and places her hands on Tracy's waist.

GABBY

I never thought you'd call me again, especially after how we left things.

TRACY

Yeah, I know.

Tracy leans forward and kisses Gabby on the lips.

GABBY

So, you really not dating Gina?

TRACY

Naw, it was all an act. Too long a story to get into. It doesn't matter anyways, I'm here with you, aren't I?

GABBY

And I couldn't be happier.

Gabby gives Tracy a big hug. Tracy closes her eyes and imagines hugging Gina instead.

EXT. WISEMAN GALLERY PARKING LOT - NIGHT

Marco and Gina lean against Marco's car in the GALLERY PARKING LOT. Gina has just confessed to Marco that she is not really dating Tracy and the reasons why the story became one lie after another.

MARCO

Wow, what can I say. Wow.

Tears are rolling down Gina's face.

GINA

I am so sorry Marco, for all of this. You shouldn't of even of had to go through any of it. I don't know what I can say to make it right or better, but I just couldn't go on being dishonest with you.

Marco moves away from the car, puts his hands in his pockets, and faces Gina.

MARCO

I was really starting to like you Gina. And I thought you were really liking me too.

GINA

I know, I know. I do like you, but not the way I like Tracy.

MARCO

But we kissed, I don't get it?

GINA

I didn't want to start liking you because, well, of the connection. Then I found out you're a really nice guy.

MARCO

But Tracy?

GINA

See, that's just it. She didn't mind playing along knowing it was to teach Anthony a lesson.

MARCO

Like a game?

GINA

Unfortunately at first, yes. I think the acting to her suddenly became real feelings towards me.

MARCO

Did she tell you that?

GINA

Not really. We've been getting into arguments lately about all of this. Then at church, with both of you there, I just couldn't deal when she asked.

MARCO

Have you spoken to her about it?

GINA

That's just it, she's been avoiding me. And the more she's not around, the more I see how much I miss her. That's when it hit me, how I really feel about her.

MARCO

Well, what can I say. I guess our date is over? Don't worry, even though I'm pissed, I'm not an asshole. I'll bring you back home.

GINA

Marco, what can I say. I am sorry. Truly sorry about all this.

EXT. GINA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Marco and Gina park in front of Gina's house. Gina looks at Marco before she opens the car door.

GINA

If only I could find the words.

MARCO

Never mind, you gotta go.

Gina gets out of the car. Marco speeds off. Gina takes her cell phone and calls Tracy. After two rings, Tracy answers the phone. Gina can barely hear her over the LOUD MUSIC in the background.

TRACY'S VOICE (ON PHONE)

Yeah?

GINA
Tracy, where are you?

TRACY'S VOICE (ON PHONE)
Out.

GINA
Okay, we need to talk.

TRACY'S VOICE (ON PHONE)
In the morning.

Gabby's giggle is heard along with the loud music.

GINA
Are you alone?

TRACY'S VOICE (ON PHONE)
Define alone.

Gabby's giggle now becomes a loud laugh. Tracy hangs up. Gina stares at her phone as she hears the THE LOUD HANG UP TONE.

INT. CHROME BAR - NIGHT

Gina enters Chrome bar and walks around in search of Tracy. She finds Tracy at the bar holding hands with Gabby. Tracy WHISPERS IN GABBY'S EAR. Gina approaches them.

GINA
Hey, we need to talk.

Tracy, still holding hands with Gabby, looks at Gina.

TRACY
Gina, you remember Gabby?

Gina looks at Gabby, then at Tracy.

GINA
Tracy, we have to talk. NOW.

TRACY
Can't you see I'm busy?

GINA
I don't care, we're gonna talk right here, right now.

TRACY
Tomorrow, okay.

Gabby caresses Tracy's face while Gina watches. Gina steps in between Gabby and Tracy, and faces Tracy.

GINA
Now I said.

GABBY
I am so not in the mood of drama tonight. Bye, Tracy.

Tracy leans around Gina and grabs Gabby's hand.

TRACY
Don't go, baby.

Gabby shakes her hand away from Tracy's grip, and leaves walking through the dance floor. Tracy looks at Gina in anger.

TRACY (CONT'D)
Happy now?

GINA
What's your problem?

TRACY
My problem? What's yours?

GINA
You know, you drive me nuts.

TRACY
I drive you nuts? You gotta be kidding. Who's the one kissing me then going on a date with some guy?

GINA
Look, about that, it's getting to me now.

Tracy takes a sip of her beer. She places the bottle back on the bar and touches her forehead. Tracy stares at Gina.

TRACY
What's getting to you? That you want to date Marco but want people to think you're dating me? Get me off this ride already.

Gina grabs Tracy face and kisses her passionately on the lips while the song "Touch Me" by Rui DaSilva plays in the background. Tracy grabs Gina's waist as the words "touch me in the morning, and last thing at night" are heard.

After over a minute of DESIROUS KISSING, Tracy pulls away from Gina and stares at her.

TRACY (CONT'D)
I can't do this.

Tracy grabs her purse from the bar and leaves quickly through the dance floor while Gina watches with watery eyes.

INT. GINA'S BEDROOM - THREE NIGHTS LATER

Gina hasn't heard from Tracy since that night at the bar, and is concerned since Nikki's wedding is two days away. Gina, lying on her bed, hugs her pillow. Nikki sits next to Gina and caressing her head.

GINA
I don't know, Nikki. She hasn't been at work, she's not answering my calls, and when I go over her mom says she's not home.

NIKKI
Did you tell her how you feel?

GINA
That's just it, I didn't. At the bar, I never really said anything, I just kissed her.

NIKKI
So she doesn't know that you really, really like her?

Gina rolls over and puts her pillow under her head.

GINA
No, she ran out before I had a chance to explain. And now, she won't even talk to me.

NIKKI
I knew all along.

GINA
Knew about what?

NIKKI
You two. I always felt there was a connection.

GINA
But how?

NIKKI

I guess because I've always had my admirer around and never knew it. And look what's happening in a few days.

Nikki's cell phone starts ringing in her bedroom.

NIKKI (CONT'D)

Crap, that must be Christian. I'll be right back.

Nikki quickly heads towards her bedroom to answer her cell phone. She glances at the CALL DISPLAY and answers her phone.

NIKKI (CONT'D)

Hey, how's it going?

Nikki listens attentively to the person speaking on the other end.

NIKKI (CONT'D)

Sure, I can meet you later.

Nikki glances at her bedroom door as she continues listening.

NIKKI (CONT'D)

Okay, I'll make sure of that. Let me just take care of something here first, and I'll see you in a bit.

INT. SANTA MARIA CATHOLIC CHURCH - NOON

The day has finally arrived, it's Nikki's wedding. Santa Maria Catholic Church is brightly decorated with WHITE GLADIOLUS along the aisles and at the alter. Wedding guests DRESSED IN FINE ATTIRE fill the pews, with more guests seen on the MARTUZZI SIDE of the Church.

ANXIOUS GROOM Christian stands at the alter dressed in BLACK TUXEDO WITH YELLOW ROSE IN HIS LAPEL, with Best Man Anthony standing next to him wearing a similar tuxedo.

Gina slowly makes her way down the aisle, dressed in a GOLD SATIN LONG DRESS with matching train and bouquet of white and yellow roses.

The WEDDING MARCH song is heard. The guests STAND UP and face the back of the church, where Nikki is standing with Antonio. Antonio proudly takes Nikki's arm and pats her hand.

ANTONIO

Ready, ma Bella?

NIKKI

I sure am. Love you, Pa.

ANTONIO

Love you too.

Nikki and Antonio walk slowly down the aisle. Assunta, in the front pew, starts wiping tears from her eyes. Aunt Theresa looks at Assunta and smiles as she rolls her eyes.

ASSUNTA

Mia sorella, mia figlia sposarsi.

AUNT THERESA

Sorry, I don't understand Italian.

ASSUNTA

Ma va. Wait, you almost make a me swear in the House of God.

AUNT THERESA

Did I? Well, too bad you didn't, it would of been fun.

ASSUNTA

I am so proud, so blessed.

AUNT THERESA

I just hope you can last without fainting or making a scene at church.

Assunta leans towards Aunt Theresa and whispers in her ear.

ASSUNTA

I'll be fine. Anthony give me a shot of Sambuca before coming here.

AUNT THERESA

(surprised)

Why Sue, I'm so proud of you.

INT. BUFFET LA STRADA RECEPTION HALL - EVENING

After many speeches and plenty of food and alcohol, the guests are enjoying the lively band playing TRADITIONAL ITALIAN MUSIC. Christian dances with his mother Margaret, while Antonio slow dances with Nikki. Marco and Gina have a drink at the bar.

MARCO

So, you think Tracy won't show?

GINA

No. I haven't heard from her in a few days, and I probably won't ever.

Marco takes Gina's glass from her hands and places it on the bar.

MARCO

Don't say that. You guys have been friends way too long for you to never speak again.

GINA

If anyone can read Tracy, it's me. And right now she's being her stubborn self and trying to prove a point or something.

MARCO

I don't think she's trying to prove anything. I just think she isn't sure yet and doesn't know what she wants. She's probably not sure.

GINA

I really hope you're right. Thanks for being here, Marco. I know it wasn't fair what I put you through.

MARCO

Hey, your family kind of grew on me and I promised my uncle to keep a close watch on your brother.

GINA

Yeah, how's that going?

MARCO

Looks like he's finally cleaned up his act.

GINA

Let's hope he stays that way. Are you sure you don't mind being here?

MARCO

Not at all. It's a wedding, we're Italian, where else would anyone be? Plus, I think your Aunt has a thing for me.

GINA

Auntie Terry? Well, you wouldn't be the first.

Aunt Theresa joins Marco and Gina at the bar. She nearly spills her GLASS OF CHAMPAGNE as she stops in front of Gina.

AUNT THERESA

Hey kids, liven up. It's a wedding after all.

GINA

I know, Auntie T. I just have something on my mind.

AUNT THERESA

Hey handsome, mind giving me a moment with my niece?

MARCO

Sure, I'll go check out what kind of trouble Anthony is getting himself into. He barely made it out last time.

Marco leaves. Gina puts her hand to her forehead. Aunt Theresa adjusts the top of her low cut dress.

AUNT THERESA

Why so glum, kid?

GINA

Just something.

AUNT THERESA

Hey kitten, take it from me, it'll be alright.

Gina looks at her aunt with watery eyes.

GINA

It won't be okay. I haven't heard from her in days. And I don't know how to deal with it.

AUNT THERESA

Let me tell you a little story about love. Yeah, we all make mistakes in relationships. We hurt the ones we love, we love the ones we hurt, and our loved ones hurt us. It's just a crazy game we are a part of.

Aunt Theresa drinks her champagne.

AUNT THERESA (CONT'D)
But no matter what, love will
always find it's way back home.

GINA
I find it hard to believe.

AUNT THERESA
Well, I can tell you about what
happened to me in college. Now
that's one helluva story.

The music stops. Nikki walks onto the stage. The GUITARIST
hands Nikki a MICROPHONE as a spotlight shines on her.

NIKKI
So, are we all having a good time?

The guests erupt in whistles and cheers.

NIKKI (CONT'D)
Okay then, glad to hear. So, no,
I'm not going to do another speech.
I think we've heard plenty tonight.

The guests laugh politely.

NIKKI (CONT'D)
What I'd like to do is sing a
little something I wrote about
love.

The guests applaud in approval as Nikki starts to sing.

GINA
No story is going to help, Auntie
Terry. Thanks for trying to cheer
me up, but I just have to accept
it.

AUNT THERESA
Accept what?

GINA
Accept that who I really care for
and love and is always there for me
is no longer around.

AUNT THERESA
Bull.

GINA

What do you mean bull? Tracy hasn't called and she's not here at Nikki's wedding.

Nikki motions with her hand for the band to stop playing. The guests sigh in disappointment.

NIKKI

Hey, sorry about that. I know you were enjoying this song, but I have to say something. You see, the other night I got a call from someone who needed my help with some words. After hearing what they had to say, it inspired me to write the song I was just singing. But I can't do this song justice without my collaborator.

Nikki looks at the crowd, and then to the left of the stage.

NIKKI (CONT'D)

Okay, I see my partner. Come, let's make this a proper duet.

Tracy walks onto the stage towards Nikki. She is radiant in a SILKY LIGHT BLUE DRESS with her long blonde hair neatly pinned up. Gina watches in surprise as Aunt Theresa smiles. Nikki hugs Tracy and the guitarist hands Tracy a microphone.

NIKKI (CONT'D)

Everyone, my writing partner Tracy.

Tracy nods her head. The guests politely clap their hands. Tracy looks at the guests and immediately blushes when she makes eye contact with Gina.

TRACY

This one is for that special someone you can't let go.

Nikki and Tracy sing. Gina gets up and stands next to her parents, who are standing directly in front of the stage. Assunta hugs Gina and kisses her on the cheek as they listen to Nikki and Tracy sing.

SUPERIMPOSE - TWO YEARS LATER

INT. SANTA MARIA CATHOLIC CHURCH - TWO YEARS LATER

Almost two years have passed since Nikki's wedding and the Martuzzi's are gathered once again at Santa Maria Catholic Church for another joyous occasion. Handsome groom Marco stands at the alter dressed in a BLACK TUXEDO, with Best Man Anthony by his side. Right next to Anthony are Marco's two cousins, Mario and Luigi.

Facing the men are the members of the BRIDAL PARTY. The bride's face is covered by her VEIL, with Brides Maids Nikki and Tracy to her immediate left. Father Romano holds a BIBLE as he stands between the Bride and Groom.

FATHER ROMANO

If-a anybody see why these two no get married, speak now.

NIKKI

So, you gonna be the one?

TRACY

Why would I object?

NIKKI

I don't know, but maybe you think this is so wrong too?

TRACY

If you think it's so wrong, you say something.

FATHER ROMANO

Since no one say no, I now say you are man and wife. You may kiss-a the bride.

Marco lifts the veil to reveal his new wife, Aunt Theresa. Marco leans forward and passionately kisses Aunt Theresa on the lips. The guests applaud in delight and approval. Gina, who was standing behind Aunt Theresa, moves towards Nikki and Tracy.

GINA

So, which one of you wanted to object?

TRACY

It was her first.

NIKKI

You're so full of it, and you can't believe it either.

TRACY

Hey, ya forced me to say it.

Gina takes Tracy by the waist and kisses her on the cheek.

GINA

Aww, baby, is Nikki forcing you to say things? Shame on you, Nikki.

NIKKI

Like I wasn't the only one thinking how odd this is.

GINA

Hey, as long as they're happy, that's all that matters.

INT. BUFFET LA STRADA RECEPTION HALL - EVENING

The RECEPTION HALL is filled with guests dancing merrily on the dance floor or having a drink by the bar. Near the bar, Antonio and Assunta talk with Gina, who seems nervous yet anxious at the same time.

ASSUNTA

So, did you yet?

ANTONIO

Did you what?

GINA

Pa, I'm gonna ask Tracy to marry me.

ANTONIO

Marry?

GINA

Yeah, Pa, marry.

ASSUNTA

Antonio, what don't you understand? Gina is in love with Tracy and she's gonna ask her to marry her.

ANTONIO

I know...but marry?

Assunta hits Antonio with a swift backhand to the head.

ASSUNTA

Yeah, our little girl is gonna get married.

GINA

Listen, it's about 2 years now, and well, it's time to take it to the next level.

ASSUNTA

Where's the ring?

Gina lowers the front of her dress to reveal a small discrete pocket in the lining.

GINA

I had the seamstress sew it into the dress. See?

Assunta wipes a tear from her eye.

ASSUNTA

Mi bella Gina. I know I was no good at the start with all this, but I'm happy you happy.

GINA

Really?

Gina hugs her mother tightly and kisses her.

GINA (CONT'D)

I love you so much, Ma.

Tracy walks towards the small group.

TRACY

So, what are you guys talking about?

ANTONIO

Eh, you know, weddings.

ASSUNTA

Yes, weddings. Isn't it nice to see my sister Theresa finally get married again.

TRACY

Yeah, to Gina's ex.

GINA

Funny. Real funny.

TRACY

Seriously, it is kind of ironic. I mean, you know, you being Maid of Honour, giving your MILF aunt to Marco.

ANTONIO

MILF? Mais che-katzo?

Gina and Tracy turn to each other and snicker as Antonio looks on confused. Assunta grabs Antonio's arm and motions to leave.

ASSUNTA

Antonio, come on, let's get an expresso.

ANTONIO

Okay, okay. To celebrate weddings, no?

Antonio and Assunta head towards the bar. Gina looks at Tracy with a coy smile, to which Tracy becomes suspicious.

GINA

Boy, this has been quite a day. You know what would make it even better?

TRACY

No?

GINA

If another wedding would be announced.

TRACY

What, your brother is finally gonna marry that poutana Anna?

GINA

Nooooo.

Gina lowers the front of her dress to retrieve the ring.

GINA (CONT'D)

I was thinking more along the lines of us.

A petrified Tracy looks at a smiling Gina. Before Tracy can reply, Aunt Theresa joins them.

THERESA

C'mon, it's time to catch the bouquet.

GINA

Well?

TRACY

You heard your aunt, it's time to catch the bouquet!

Dejected, Gina heads towards the balcony overlooking the beach. Tracy and Aunt Theresa walk arm in arm to the stage. TRACY STRATEGICALLY PLACES HERSELF TO THE LEFT OF AUNT THERESA. They both wink at each other. Aunt Theresa turns around, tilts her head towards the left, and THROWS THE BOUQUET directly at Tracy.

Tracy looks around, but notices that Gina is nowhere to be found. She walks towards Gina's parents to ask of her whereabouts.

TRACY (CONT'D)

Hey, where's Gina?

ANTONIO

I dunno. Hey, is everything okay? You look scared. Did Gina say anything to you?

As Antonio finishes his sentence, Tracy notices Gina on the balcony and quickly leaves.

EXT. BALCONY OVERLOOKING BEACH - EVENING

Gina, gazing at the beach, wipes her teary eyes. Tracy with bouquet in hand walks slowly towards Gina. Tracy stands next to Gina and places her hand on Gina's shoulder.

TRACY

Hey, there you are.

Gina gazes at the water.

TRACY (CONT'D)

Look, I caught the bouquet!

GINA

Great. Congratulations.

TRACY

Why aren't you looking at me?

Tears start to swell in Gina's eyes. She turns to face Tracy.

GINA

Look at you? I don't even want to speak to you right about now.

(after a slight pause)

No, wait, I do have something to say. I know it's crazy, I mean, we've been best friends since we're six and then two years ago, well, I don't know how it happened, and it did, I had feelings for you. My life gets turned upside down, and I fall in love with you. We're here, at my aunt's happiest day...

TRACY

You mean third happiest day. It is her third wedding after all.

GINA

Don't make a joke of this. See, that's what it is to you, a joke, everything is a joke. Are we just a joke?

TRACY

No, we aren't, trust me. It's just that when you asked me, well, I was supposed to catch the bouquet. And you see, you messed it all up.

GINA

Catch the bouquet? I messed it all up? Are you for real? You mean I'm about to give my heart out to you forever and it got sidetracked by a bunch of lousy flowers?

Gina grabs the bouquet from Tracy's hands. She looks at the flowers and nods her head.

Tracy frightfully looks at the bouquet, then at Gina's angry face.

TRACY

Gina, no, don't do anything crazy with the bouquet.

GINA

Why, what would happen if I were to just throw this in the water?

TRACY

You wouldn't want to do that, trust me.

GINA

Why not? Just what would it mean if I were to do so?

TRACY

It would mean you wouldn't want to marry me.

GINA

Oh my God, you are so lame, Tracy!

Gina starts to dangle the flowers over the balcony. Tracy looks on in horror as she tries to assess how to save the flowers from falling over.

GINA (CONT'D)

Well, guess you have to go get it!

Tracy manages to lunge forward and grab the bouquet from Gina's hand. Tracy examines the flowers to ensure that her surprise for Gina is still intact.

TRACY

Okay, this is not how I expected this to be, but here goes.

Tracy pulls a SINGLE WHITE ROSE from the bouquet. As she removes the rose, a RIBBON is revealed with a SCROLL rolled up within a RING. Smiling, Tracy turns to a surprised Gina.

TRACY (CONT'D)

Gina, will you marry me?

Tracy hands the ring and scroll to Gina. Gina removes the ring and reads a small note stating "I've loved you forever, Gina, and want to be with you forever. Will you marry me?"

With tears rolling down her cheeks, Gina nods her head and lovingly looks at Tracy. Tracy takes the ring and places it on Gina's finger. The two girls kiss.

GINA

Yes, yes, I will be yours forever.

Gina takes the ring hidden from her dress. To Tracy's delight, Gina places the ring on Tracy's finger. A group of teenagers suddenly set off fireworks along the beach. The girls embrace once again.

GINA (CONT'D)

You know, if anyone wonders, I did
ask you first.

FADE OUT.