

## SCENE THREE

ALLEN and MICHELLE

*A bedroom*

*They are in their early twenties. They live together.  
MICHELLE comes raging through the front door.  
She slams and locks it.*

MICHELLE. I want to thank you for the most embarrassing night of my life! Thank you very much! For the most awful, horrible, nightmare evening I have ever spent!

ALLEN. *(Outside the door)* I was wondering if I could come in.

*(MICHELLE throws a shoe at the door.)*

ALLEN. Is that a no?

MICHELLE. I don't want to see you, I don't want to talk to you, I don't want to know you. Why should I let you in?

ALLEN. Because it's my apartment.

MICHELLE. Not good enough.

ALLEN. No? Alright. Open up or you will be denied my reassuring masculinity to snuggle up to and protect you from the creature that hides under the bed.

*(She stares out.)*

I'll be gone when he gets you in the middle of the night, Michelle. I won't be able to save you because the door is locked.

*(She starts to peek under the bed, but thinks better of it.)*

Okay, I'm going. Here's the elevator, I'm going. I'm in

the elevator and the doors are closing. That's all the creature wants to hear, boy. You're his now. I'm on the elevator going down. Goodbye Michelle. Goodbye creature.

*(MICHELLE is sitting on the bed, growing a little nervous.)*

I'm in the lobby.

*(She smiles and relaxes.)*

Look. It's late. I'm tired. I want to get out of these clothes. STELLA! Hey, STELLA!

*(He pounds on the door. She opens it and lets him in. He is wearing a tuxedo.)*

I don't know what you're so upset about a bunch of flowers. *(He undresses)*

MICHELLE. It wasn't just a bunch of flowers. It was the bridal bouquet and she threw it to me because I was the only single girl at the wedding.

ALLEN. Everybody knows we live together.

MICHELLE. As if it's not bad enough being the only unmarried girl with all my friends telling me about their successful husbands, you have to totally humiliate me —

ALLEN. It was a reflex action. I saw the flowers coming, I reached out and grabbed them.

MICHELLE. *(Head in hand)* Humiliated.

ALLEN. Because I caught the bridal bouquet?

MICHELLE. Because you threw it back!

ALLEN. What'd you want me to do, wear it?

MICHELLE. You could have given it to me. It would have been a lovely gesture.

ALLEN. Oh. Like that lovely gesture you gestured me in front of everybody. The paramedics are still working on the grandmothers.

MICHELLE. *(Laughs in spite of herself)* You deserved it. *(Softly)* Allen, don't you know about the bridal bouquet?

ALLEN. Tell me.

MICHELLE. Whoever catches it is the next girl to be married.

ALLEN. You are the next girl to be married.

MICHELLE. I am?

ALLEN. You were the only single girl at the wedding.  
(*He jumps into bed. MICHELLE stands frustrated.*)

Look. I told you I was two years away from marriage.

MICHELLE. You told me that two years ago.

ALLEN. And it's as true today as it was then.

MICHELLE. (*Undressing*) Allen. Sit up and get serious or I'm walking out of here and you'll never see me again!

ALLEN. It's two in the morning. You walk out on the street looking like that, I want ten percent of whatever you make.

MICHELLE. That's gross!

ALLEN. Gross, net, I don't care.

(*She jumps on top of him and wrestles him to the bed.*)

MICHELLE. You know, you get a whole new perspective on a person up here.

ALLEN. Be gentle with me.

MICHELLE. That's the seduction for tonight? Where's your sexy look?

ALLEN. What sexy look?

MICHELLE. The one where your eyes get wide and your nose closes up and your mouth hangs open.

ALLEN. My nose closes up?

MICHELLE. When's the last time you had to ask me to make love?

ALLEN. Never. You always know.

MICHELLE. I know the nose. My obligation.

ALLEN. You make love to me because you're obligated?

MICHELLE. I didn't mean that. What's the matter with you?

ALLEN. This relationship goes deeper than sex, Michelle.

MICHELLE. (*Evenly*) I don't need the reassurance.

ALLEN. Fine. I'll just go to sleep then. Because we are beyond sex.

MICHELLE. I don't want to be beyond sex.

ALLEN. Because anybody else, seeing the way you look, would never be able to contain his nose. But I can. So, no sex.

MICHELLE. Because you love me?

ALLEN. Yes.

MICHELLE. Well, I love you too. (*She moves to his legs and kisses him from his ankles all the way up to his lips. She looks at ALLEN.*) Goodnight.

(*She goes to sleep. ALLEN is left staring out front. He feels his nose.*)

ALLEN. (*Very nasal*) Michelle?

MICHELLE. (*Giggles*) What?

ALLEN. (*His nose closed up*) I can't breathe.

(*They jump all over each other.*)

Good kiss. (*Takes happy inventory*) Good bed. Good room. You know what they've got outside here? Loneliness. Lots of people walking around, very lonely. But, in this room is harmony, contentment, love —

MICHELLE. Marry me.

ALLEN. Death, desolation, despair.

MICHELLE. Is it me? If it's me I want to talk. I want to talk anyway!

ALLEN. (*Jumps out of bed. Paces*) I know! I know! You're right. Okay? You're right. We've lived together long enough to know what we want and know it right now!

MICHELLE. And?

ALLEN. Give me one day.

(*MICHELLE sighs.*)

One day of absolute dedication to finding out what we want.

MICHELLE. WE want? I'm sure!

ALLEN. Of what? That you want to be married or that you want to be married to me?

MICHELLE. (*Stopped. Looks at him*) What?

ALLEN. All you say is that you want to be married, but is that all you want? Yes, good, marriage. For what? Security? Family? For you? Or do you want to be married to me?

MICHELLE. These are the questions we should be answering together.

ALLEN. We can't.

MICHELLE. Why not?

ALLEN. Because I've lived with myself longer than I've lived with you. So, you say live together forever and that's a proposal I have to consider. (*Lightly*) But I am flattered and thank you so much.

MICHELLE. (*Has had enough*) You can take your time.

(*She opens drawers.*)

ALLEN. (*Alarmed*) What are you doing? It's too late at night for affirmative action.

MICHELLE. (*Dressing*) There's nothing more I can offer you. I moved in with you because I love you. I believe I will go on loving you so I talk about a future together. But, you're taking up too much of my future asking questions and why is it whenever I'm certain you try to confuse me?

ALLEN. Ohhh, now you're making sense, huh? You want to be dressed and make sense and I'll be listening in my underwear and that's supposed to make us even? Fine. (*Pause, then he tries to undress her*) Don't you dare get dressed on me!

(*She slugs him. He flies onto the bed. She starts for the door.*)

If I was an insecure person, I'd be getting nervous now. MICHELLE. And you're not supposed to catch the flowers. I am. They're for me.

ALLEN. (*Bolts upright*) But I'm not nervous! You know why? Because I know you too well, vixen! You think you'll leave? No, no, no, no, no. I don't think so. (*They look each other in the eye.*)

I don't think you have it in you to open the door. (*She opens the door. He jumps over the bed and shuts it.*)

Alright, I'm wrong.

MICHELLE. You're the first person I've ever had real feelings for, Allen. You're my first everything.

ALLEN. (*Reflexively*) You too. (*Sincerely*) You too.

MICHELLE. Then let it be love! If we don't make it, it's something else. It can be love or it can be something else. Why do you have to think?

ALLEN. I know you have an idea of what you want. All I want to know is if you're more in love with the idea than you are with me.

MICHELLE. Maybe you shouldn't have said that.

ALLEN. Why not?

MICHELLE. Because now you've got me thinking, too.

(*She leaves. ALLEN looks, disbelievingly at the door. He turns and faces out.*)

ALLEN. I really showed her.

FADEOUT

SCENE FOUR

HOWARD, GRACE, MICHELLE

*Their living room*