

Flower Duet
an operatic play in eight scenes

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

Stephanie
Max
Maddie
Sandy
Daisy

SETTING

Stephanie and Max's home, Maddie and Sandy's home, a bar, and Max's studio

TIME

The present, Scenes 1-5
Two years in the future, Scene 6
Many years in the past, Scene 7
Many years in the future, Scene 8

NOTES

Most stage directions have been omitted, including entrances and exits. Although an initial reading may make this somewhat confusing, my intention is to liberate the scenes from any directorial or dictatorial sensibility I would otherwise impose.

The title and song, *Flower Duet* is from the opera *Lakmé* by Léo Delibes to a French libretto by Edmond Gondinet and Philippe Gille.

Please consider the musical possibilities with this play. The original production included a live pianist who underscored Scenes 5 and 7 with music from composers including Wagner, Puccini, Verdi, Mozart, Bizet and Dvorak. The final scene was underscored with *Song to the Moon* from *Rusalka* by Dvorak.

You're off key
STEPHANIE

How was church
MAX

Oh it was I ended up not going I ended up driving around I
think the clutch is going
STEPHANIE

Hand me that try this wait it's hot
MAX

Good
STEPHANIE

I know it's good how good
MAX

Kind of peppery
STEPHANIE

It's pepper steak *steak au poivre* I'm sauteing some mushrooms
MAX

I hate mushrooms
STEPHANIE

For your dad
MAX

He hates pepper the clutch is going
STEPHANIE

You mean the Volvo
MAX

Either that or the emergency is sticking again
STEPHANIE

He hates pepper
MAX

Have you ever seen him use pepper
STEPHANIE

I don't know
MAX

STEPHANIE

It's been kind of a rough morning

MAX

Sorry about your dad

STEPHANIE

I just didn't sleep well last night

MAX

Sorry

STEPHANIE

You know they're tearing down that barn the eight sided barn on Pinter's Hill

MAX

They're not tearing it down exactly

STEPHANIE

There are men there and they're tearing it down

MAX

They're deconstructing it it's going to Massachusetts somewhere it was in the paper a historical society bought it turns out the builder was a Minute Man or something of that nature

STEPHANIE

All the same it's coming down

MAX

You were driving up Pinter's Hill this morning

STEPHANIE

That was one of the places I went I actually stopped by Sandy and Maddie's thought maybe I could get a cup of coffee

MAX

How are they doing

STEPHANIE

Maddie had gone to church so Sandy and I had some coffee things are a little rough at the moment

MAX

Why is that

STEPHANIE

You know Maddie never really recovered from her miscarriage I think they might be drifting apart

MAX

What about Daisy

STEPHANIE

I'd rather work on a quilt

MAX

Do you want to invite someone over I've got all this food

STEPHANIE

I don't know anyone who likes pepper steak

MAX

Fine

STEPHANIE

I'm just in a bad mood can you take the car in tomorrow

MAX

I can't tomorrow I'm working at home all day I've got to organize the photos

STEPHANIE

Why don't you do it today

MAX

Because it's Sunday I can't work every day

STEPHANIE

I just thought since you had time on your hands it's good I was wrong about the pepper

MAX

Do you want something to drink

STEPHANIE

Stop taking care of me

MAX

Pardon

STEPHANIE

There's something I need to tell you

MAX

Jesus

STEPHANIE

Jesus what

MAX

Jesus there's something I need to tell you

STEPHANIE

Why do you always expect the worst

MAX

So what do you need to tell me

STEPHANIE

It's not the worst thing that could happen although it's not great something happened with Sandy

MAX

You what

STEPHANIE

This morning

MAX

Okay

STEPHANIE

I wouldn't have if Maddie had been home but she was gone so it just happened I didn't plan it you're going to

MAX

Jesus

STEPHANIE

Let me see it I'll get some balm we don't have any balm does it hurt

MAX

So what happened

STEPHANIE

Nothing we were fooling around laughing and then the next thing I know we were kissing I went up there to drop off the sheet music and

MAX

And then you what

STEPHANIE

I told you were started kissing and then we stopped and then he wanted to show me the upstairs you know how Maddie never lets anyone up there I've always wanted to see the upstairs it's a very interesting house and I don't know what Maddie goes on about it's neat as a pin Maddie came back to the house Daisy ran inside to get her stuffed whatever and I think she I don't know I think she knew I was there in the bedroom Sandy told her it was you up there

MAX

In the bedroom

STEPHANIE

In the basement he said you were down there looking at the furnace I don't know why he even said anything he could have just said Daisy look who's here but for some reason he panicked and

MAX

Great

STEPHANIE

It's just what he said it was the first thing that came to mind

MAX

So Maddie didn't come in

STEPHANIE

No

MAX

Then what did you do

STEPHANIE

I we had some coffee

MAX

We never agreed on Sandy

STEPHANIE

Okay so what should we do make a list

MAX

You think you're the only one who has fooled around with him on a Sunday morning when his wife is at church

STEPHANIE

It turns out he has a big crush on me I had no idea

MAX

Jesus here we go

STEPHANIE

I had no idea he poured his heart out to me I never realized how unhappy he is he's having a very rough time he hates Vermont and Maddie won't even consider moving anywhere else she won't even talk about it don't be a smart ass and it was your idea

MAX

My idea

STEPHANIE

You said when it felt right if it felt right

MAX

It is something we talk about something we plan

STEPHANIE

What about Montreal

MAX

We were together that was different and anyway I don't remember making any agreement about Sandy

STEPHANIE

So I didn't plan it and nothing happened and he's funny

MAX

Funny

STEPHANIE

He makes me laugh

MAX

What does he tell you jokes

STEPHANIE

Yes he does he tells jokes

MAX

I've never heard him tell a joke

STEPHANIE

You just don't get the jokes

MAX

Well guess I'm the joke

STEPHANIE

Stop

MAX

You don't want a dog I don't want a dog you want to live in Vermont we live in Vermont

STEPHANIE

My father lives here

MAX

I know and I invited him for lunch

STEPHANIE

I made a mistake look there's really no harm done but if anything should come up about the furnace in front of Maddie sometime in the future I need you to say something

MAX

You want me to lie

Yeah is that so hard
STEPHANIE

I don't lie
MAX

Max
STEPHANIE

All right I'm a furnace fixer
MAX

Thank you
STEPHANIE

But it better never happen again
MAX

Ooh jealous
STEPHANIE

I'm not jealous I don't believe in jealousy I do believe
however in trust
MAX

We'll eat steak I love pepper I don't know why I said that
love it
STEPHANIE

You know all you have to do is say the word
MAX

That's what we can't agree on the word how's your hand
STEPHANIE

Hurts
MAX

Is that better
STEPHANIE

SCENE 2 THE MAGIC FLUTE

I'm sorry about that
MADDIE

It's fine
STEPHANIE

I don't know what's going on with her
MADDIE

A-T-T-E-N-T-I-O-N
STEPHANIE

MADDIE

She get's plenty of attention

STEPHANIE

I just mean when I'm here

MADDIE

Normally she doesn't even want any she's very independent

STEPHANIE

Smart too

MADDIE

Well yes how's that

STEPHANIE

Wet

MADDIE

I'm really sorry

STEPHANIE

Don't worry about it I kind of admire her I mean she doesn't like me and she doesn't hide it it's healthy

MADDIE

It doesn't win you any friends

STEPHANIE

She's four

MADDIE

These flowers are gorgeous

STEPHANIE

They'll only last a day or so it's funny they can stand a storm or even survive freezing temperatures but take them out of their element and they die in a day

MADDIE

Beautiful I think I'll put in a wild flower garden in the fall oh no

STEPHANIE

It'll dry I can print some more off I transposed your part it was a little high for you

MADDIE

What

STEPHANIE

You're more of an alto

MADDIE

I'm an honest to god mezzo

STEPHANIE

Sorry

MADDIE

You're not the only one who sang professionally

STEPHANIE

I never sang professionally I'll change it back

MADDIE

I can sustain an A sharp

STEPHANIE

Oh okay it was just something you said at rehearsal that you were more comfortable a bit lower

MADDIE

That's because I hadn't been practicing

STEPHANIE

When do you want to practice

MADDIE

Well soon

STEPHANIE

Can get together on Saturday do you want to have dinner Max is cooking again

MADDIE

What's he cooking

STEPHANIE

French I guess it's French lots of butter

MADDIE

That's French but practice first then we can drink wine

STEPHANIE

Mais oui do you think you should get a baby sitter

MADDIE

Mais oui thanks for dropping this off you really didn't need to come all the way up here

STEPHANIE

Hey it's a gorgeous day you're so lucky to live in the country I hope Daisy feels better what is it

MADDIE

I don't know

STEPHANIE

Come on

MADDIE

I'm just so worried I mean she's so strange she can be very sweet but mostly she's just very strange

STEPHANIE

Often only children are precocious

MADDIE

She stares at me sometimes and then I realize she's not staring at me at all she's just staring in my direction

STEPHANIE

What do you think it means

MADDIE

That's just it I don't think it means anything anything that I can relate to I don't even know what I'm saying what do you do when you don't when you're uncomfortable with your own daughter it's not that I don't like her it's just that I don't understand her Sandy says I make her nervous but really it's the other way around do you know what I mean

STEPHANIE

You are a little um like jumpy

MADDIE

Jumpy

STEPHANIE

Just an observation it's not a bad thing quick movements you move quickly

MADDIE

Do I make you nervous

STEPHANIE

I wouldn't say nervous I would say off balance it can be a good thing you keep people alert

MADDIE

Is that what people say

STEPHANIE

People don't say anything

MADDIE

Of course they do they say all kinds of things

STEPHANIE

I've never heard anyone say a word about you being jumpy

Then what MADDIE

Very nice and a lovely home and pretty STEPHANIE

Bullshit MADDIE

You are nice STEPHANIE

Yes but they don't say that I mean what's to say if someone is nice that's not very interesting interesting is she looks hung over or her husband is rude or she thinks she's better than everyone or they think she's had work done MADDIE

Who do they say that about STEPHANIE

No one just examples of what people say petty things they say Terry is a social climber MADDIE

Oh that's the truth STEPHANIE

So what do they say about me MADDIE

I just told you nothing STEPHANIE

Nothing MADDIE

Nothing STEPHANIE

So I'm what nothing MADDIE

What do they say about me STEPHANIE

I don't know no one talks to me MADDIE

They told you that Terry was a social climber STEPHANIE

MADDIE

They didn't exactly tell me I was just there and they were talking I would never have said a thing like that I think she's nice

STEPHANIE

That's because you're someone she is climbing on

MADDIE

Me

STEPHANIE

You and your money and your connections

MADDIE

What connections

STEPHANIE

The Kennedy thing

MADDIE

Oh god that's hardly a connection

STEPHANIE

She's counting on an invitation

MADDIE

What

STEPHANIE

To your reunion

MADDIE

She thinks I'm going to invite her

STEPHANIE

She's got it worked out she said she's going to ask you to drive down together maybe stay in a hotel while she does some kind of business and that you'll invite her rather than leave her in the hotel room

MADDIE

She actually said that

STEPHANIE

More or less

MADDIE

I can't bring her to the reunion

STEPHANIE

Well she's got it worked out

MADDIE

How is it you know everything

STEPHANIE

I don't know everything

MADDIE

You've always got information of some kind

STEPHANIE

People tell me things

MADDIE

No one tells me anything

STEPHANIE

Well I'm telling you

MADDIE

Now I'll have to invite her

STEPHANIE

What

MADDIE

I will she'll be determined and so I might as well just ask her

STEPHANIE

You're kidding

MADDIE

It's awkward I hate awkward I think Daisy's she's in the hall
Daisy Daisy are you out of your room Daisy answer me can you
go and see her

STEPHANIE

Me

MADDIE

She'll argue with me and I've I've got a headache

STEPHANIE

She threw her glass at me

MADDIE

And she's sorry I'm going to call Sandy he's going to have to
come home I can't have her acting up like this Daisy I can
hear you now go on tell her

STEPHANIE

Daisy go back to your room she's staring at me

MADDIE

Stop staring and go back to your room can you just stay until Sandy comes when she's peculiar like this I can't really it just happens once in a while I think she's got she's very bright the doctor said she might be gifted but she refuses to really talk to him some children are just like this they're difficult and we all have to be tolerant not indulgent just see it through and now he's not answering he does that he ignores my calls maybe if you called he would consider it rude to ignore your calls but he just ignores mine so would you and ask him to come home tell him you have to leave and I'm having a headache and Daisy is acting peculiar

STEPHANIE

It's going straight to voice mail

MADDIE

See what I mean

STEPHANIE

He's got it turned off

MADDIE

See what I mean Max wouldn't do that

STEPHANIE

No Max wouldn't do that

MADDIE

He's there here he's present

STEPHANIE

He's not perfect

MADDIE

Of course not yes he is

STEPHANIE

Hah

MADDIE

Hah you don't know hah when you see it Max is a dream he cooks he cleans he listens he listens to me

STEPHANIE

I listen

MADDIE

But you don't cook

STEPHANIE

Or clean

MADDIE

I thought maybe if we had another baby there would be a distribution of some sort the energy the family energy wouldn't be so concentrated on it's just the three of us and it feels very concentrated you never thought you would have kids

STEPHANIE

I raised my stepbrothers that was enough

MADDIE

It's not what everyone thinks at least it's not what I thought and we went through hell literally hell and back to have her and then but she she really can't help it she's only four and a beauty she looks like my sister I know I'm pretty but I don't have the features that she does it doesn't hurt to be beautiful does it it's an asset in this world and Sandy is having an affair

STEPHANIE

How do you with who

MADDIE

Someone he keeps disappearing and fixing his hair he watches himself in the mirror you know sort of congratulating himself I can't stand adulterers it's really immature

STEPHANIE

Where does he disappear to

MADDIE

He goes into town and then comes back a couple hours later he goes for a movie he refuses to get Netflix and he says he talks to people

STEPHANIE

I think you're jumping to conclusions

MADDIE

You do

STEPHANIE

Yes I mean Netflix

MADDIE

It's the little things it's always the little things

STEPHANIE

No I think it's the big things you have this house

MADDIE

What are the signs then

I don't know fighting

STEPHANIE

We fight all the time

MADDIE

Okay we fight all the time too how's your sex life

STEPHANIE

How's your sex life

MADDIE

Max isn't having an affair and he smokes too much pot

STEPHANIE

Daisy asked him if he loved anyone else

MADDIE

What did he say

STEPHANIE

What do you think he said

MADDIE

I have no idea

STEPHANIE

He said there are many kinds of love and it's all right to love different people because there can't be too much love in the world

MADDIE

That sounds

STEPHANIE

Like bull shit if there's so much love in the world how come I don't get any

MADDIE

I love you

STEPHANIE

You're not my type

MADDIE

Why don't you see a therapist

STEPHANIE

We did see one they flirted

MADDIE

Okay how about activities things you can do together swimming

STEPHANIE

MADDIE

Daisy's afraid of the water

STEPHANIE

Bicycling

MADDIE

Hah Sandy tries to run them over

STEPHANIE

How about skiing I mean alone just the two of you

MADDIE

Oh god we tried that he just leaves me he goes Olympic jumping down the moguls and there I am stranded on an ice mound I had to take off my skis and walk down

STEPHANIE

I'm making some tea

MADDIE

YOU GO BACK IN THERE YOU GO BACK IN THERE RIGHT NOW she didn't hear me do you think she heard me

STEPHANIE

What are you wearing to the wedding

MADDIE

I'm a bridesmaid the question is what are you wearing to the wedding

STEPHANIE

Oh I don't know

MADDIE

You look good in everything

STEPHANIE

Of course I look good in everything I was paid to look good in everything what are your dresses like

MADDIE

Awful

STEPHANIE

Of course they're awful

MADDIE

No I mean really awful floral jasmine and roses

STEPHANIE

You're kidding

Well the song
MADDIE

She designed her bridesmaid dresses around the song
STEPHANIE

Jasmine and roses
MADDIE

What is that white and pink
STEPHANIE

And little green leaves
MADDIE

I hate pink and I can't wear white
STEPHANIE

You can wear white Allison isn't wearing white she's wearing
yellow how about blue
MADDIE

I was thinking I would wear something that kind of blended
with you
STEPHANIE

How about a kimono
MADDIE

Very funny
STEPHANIE

It's only one song
MADDIE

I have a green dress
STEPHANIE

What shade
MADDIE

I don't know kind of olivey
STEPHANIE

Won't go
MADDIE

Then how about white
STEPHANIE

White's fine
MADDIE

MADDIE

What's the first note

STEPHANIE

HMMMMMMMM

STEPHANIE/MADDIE

HMMMMMMMM

Sous le dôme épais
 Où le blanc jasmin
 À la rose s'assemble
 Sur la rive en fleurs,
 Riant au matin
 Viens, descendons ensemble.
 Doucement glissons de son flot charmant
 Suivons le courant fuyant

Dans l'onde frémissante
 D'une main nonchalante
 Viens, gagnons le bord,
 Où la source dort et
 L'oiseau, l'oiseau chante.

Sous le dôme épais
 Où le blanc jasmin,
 Ah! descendons
 Ensemble!

MADDIE

I'll work on it before Saturday

STEPHANIE

I do love jasmine tea

MADDIE

Mm

SCENE 3 MARRIAGE OF FIGARO

SANDY

Mostly it's been going down lot of people are pretty unhappy about that a lot of my friends are unhappy about that but tell you the truth I'm making a killing I went out on a limb chose ten people told me were hot and sold them all short so while everybody else is complaining I'm getting rich

MAX

Try this no go on

SANDY

Jesus well at least on paper hopefully it will keep going you know those fools that believe in buy and hold they're just riding a roller coaster up and down and up and down they just end up getting off exactly where they got on except most of them aren't even smart enough to do that and sell when they're behind not even realizing that it's just going to go back to where they started

MAX

Am I right

SANDY

I'm basically a contrarian my friends are always telling me about the hottest new thing and I just pretty much ignore them you're right what is that

MAX

Do you taste it

SANDY

Sometimes they get lucky but more often they just end up down the toilet like everybody else who heard the hot tip what is it

MAX

You'll probably never guess

SANDY

I'll probably never guess I don't cook last week my friend Joe you don't know him told me about this start up company hot right and I swear I read in the paper just yesterday that they declared Chapter 11 I don't know if it was the same company but knowing Joe and the way he chooses stocks I wouldn't be surprised

MAX

Fennel

SANDY

Fennel

MAX

Fennel seed

SANDY

Fennel seed

MAX

This is what it looks like

SANDY

That's the flavor

Fennel

MAX

SANDY

I don't think I've ever had it

MAX

It's used in Mediterranean dishes a lot

SANDY

Is that what we're having

MAX

It's good for your eyesight fennel is

SANDY

Really

MAX

It's used in Chinese medicine snakes will eat fennel after they shed their skins

SANDY

Really

MAX

It's been noted it helps restore their eyesight

SANDY

How do they know that

MAX

Who

SANDY

Whoever scientists

MAX

Pliny the Elder was the first one to document it

SANDY

Pliny

MAX

You ever heard of him

SANDY

I think so

MAX

Who was he

SANDY

This guy who wrote about fennel

MAX

He noted that snakes eat fennel seeds after they shed their skins try one

SANDY

How did he know it helped their eyesight

MAX

Experiments there are no accidents in the wild animals have very refined instincts reptiles especially they're pure instinct

SANDY

They eat their young in most cases

MAX

I think that's a myth otherwise many species would become extinct

SANDY

Good point

MADDIE

Hey

SANDY

Hey you two about done

MADDIE

Need a drink

MAX

You sound terrific

MADDIE

Oh thanks

MAX

You want to taste this

MADDIE

What oh mm mm what is that fennel

MAX

Yes

MADDIE

I love fennel

SANDY

It's good for your eyesight

MADDIE

Really

How's Daisy
 MAX
 Daisy's great four is a great age
 SANDY
 What time does she go to sleep
 MAX
 Seven thirty eight
 SANDY
 Seven thirty eight
 MAX
 Yeah
 SANDY
 You know it makes a lot of sense most of the year we really
 should go to sleep when it gets dark I think electricity is
 screwing up our brains what time does she get up
 MAX
 Daisy six
 SANDY
 See
 MAX
 See what
 SANDY
 That's around sunrise she's in tune with mother nature what
 about you what time do you go to bed
 MAX
 Um midnight or so
 SANDY
 And sleep till
 MAX
 Uh seven seven thirty
 SANDY
 You should try turning in earlier see what happens
 MAX
 I know what will happen I'll lie there awake
 SANDY
 Ever have trouble with insomnia
 MAX

No SANDY
 Hm lucky MAX
 If I do I take Tylenol PM SANDY
 Oh you do have trouble sleeping at night MAX
 No but if I do I take Tylenol PM SANDY
 What kinds of things keep you awake at night what kind of things prey on your mind MAX
 Uh sometimes work SANDY
 Ever do anything you regret sometimes I can't sleep because I regret something MAX
 I'm too young to have any regrets SANDY
 Uh huh MAX
 So what time are we going to eat HEY STEPHANIE SANDY
 I heard a good joke the other day MAX
 Okay SANDY
 Actually I didn't hear it I read it MAX
 Okay SANDY
 Woman is in a doctor's office asking for birth control and he's says we're all out but I do have this pair of Birkenstocks MAX
 Yeah SANDY

MAX

Birkenstocks aren't sexy

SANDY

You mean the shoes

MAX

They're not sexy

SANDY

Stephanie all the girls wear Birkenstocks that company has made a fortune

STEPHANIE

Hey

SANDY

You guys about done

MAX

Sandy and I were just telling jokes

STEPHANIE

Max doesn't know any jokes we're going to give you a concert
(speaks while the others
continue)

"Hello yeah we're practicing right now we're both yeah why no I do but why what if you just had the English in the program because we learned it in French that's the way it what if we can't do we use music stands no I don't either no one really cares about the words anyway they don't make sense in any language it's the music anyway Holly and Alan you know them she works for whatshisname over at the yeah up over the bank Maria sang it last summer at their re-commitment ceremony everyone loved it I don't really want to well I'll ask Maddie if she'll do it I'll do it yes it will I doubt anyone's ever heard it okay better than that Celine Dion thing you wanted okay no it's okay I won't she's fine 'you fine Maddie' she's fine okay tomorrow I'll okay yes no all right by" Jesus Christ I'm going to kill her

SANDY

We're about to eat

MAX

More wine

SANDY

So how's the job search

MAX

Freelancing is hell how's your business

SANDY

Oh you know someone always needs a lawyer

MADDIE

He's putting the screws to someone right now that's what you said you said you were putting the screws to

SANDY

I'm not putting the

MADDIE

He's working for the mob

SANDY

Jesus

MADDIE

Tony someone from New York he's a mobster

SANDY

He's a contractor

MADDIE

See

SANDY

He's Puerto Rican from Ohio originally Ohio he's bidding on repaving a section of I-87 from Glens Falls to Albany how is that putting the screws to anyone

MADDIE

You said it you said Tony was underbidding and then burying the language about add-ons

STEPHANIE

Max it's freezing in here

MAX

So turn up the thermostat but it's all legal

SANDY

Legal of course it's legal the problem with most people and they can't help it is that they don't know the laws they don't know what they're entitled to it's the same with contracts it's about protecting yourself if everything always went well if there were no conflicts we wouldn't need them

MAX

What lawyers

SANDY

Contracts and yeah I guess

MAX

Job security that's what you've got no worries

SANDY

What do you mean no worried

MAX

I mean you've got a job stable second oldest profession am I right Maddie it could be worse

STEPHANIE

IT'S NOT COMING ON

MADDIE

GET MAX HE'S THE FURNACE EXPERT

SANDY

I didn't say I had it bad I said you said I don't have any worries

STEPHANIE

MAX THE FURNACE ISN'T COMING ON

MAX

Oh why don't I fix the furnace I took that course just remembered Sandy want to lend a hand

SANDY

Afraid I wouldn't be much help

STEPHANIE

SHOULD WE CALL SOMEONE

MAX

Yeah what do you worry about GET SOME KINDLING

SANDY

I worry about lots of things

STEPHANIE

WHERE IS IT

MAX

Yeah like what IN THE GARAGE

SANDY

I worry about my daughter

SANDY

Yeah

MAX

In what way

SANDY

In what way

MAX

I mean anything specific there's some in the garage

SANDY

Just the usual pedophiles nasty teachers mean kids accidents

MAX

She's a terrific kid

SANDY

Thank you

MAX

No I mean really terrific we had a great conversation about arthropods she wanted to know what happens to their skin when they grow and I explained

SANDY

Uh huh

MAX

You know what happens

SANDY

I

MAX

They molt just ask Daisy

MADDIE

Where do you want this

SANDY

I know they molt

MADDIE

I'm not learning it in English this is just like her she's changed everything at least five or six times

MAX

Ah there it is feel it Stephanie the heat's back on saved

MADDIE

Do you know the bridal party has lines we have to say from the opera at first she wanted us to do the entire first act like anyone wants to sit through that she spends two weeks in India and it takes over her entire life and she was auditing at the time her company sent her over there to audit one of their factories and she acts like she's Mother Theresa

MAX

So you're learning it in Indian

STEPHANIE/MADDIE

French

STEPHANIE

It's in French it's an aria French now she wants English

MADDIE

It is prettier in English

STEPHANIE

I don't care and anyway you can translate French but for me it's a lot of work

MADDIE

I'm just saying and so what we can learn under the dense canopy where the white jasmine blends with the rose on the flowering bank

MAX

It's her wedding

MADDIE

Have you called Ginger

SANDY

We called when we got here

MADDIE

I know but that was an hour ago

SANDY

Okay so call her

MADDIE

I'd rather you did

SANDY

Okay I'll call her

MADDIE

Daisy should be in bed by now make sure she's in bed

MAX

Can you set the table

MADDIE

Pour me one of those wow that smells good

MAX

If you would toss that

MADDIE

Sandy and I never have people over we just go out if I could cook like this

MAX

You can cook like this there's nothing to it

MADDIE

I can't follow directions that's the problem what is this wine

MAX

Cab Shiraz blend but good

MADDIE

Divine

STEPHANIE

You can cook you made cheesecake

MADDIE

One thing I think it's because I have attention whatisitcalled

STEPHANIE

Jumpy

MADDIE

Attention jumpy it comes from alcoholism my parents both of them were then they quit and it was worse when they drank they at least left me alone they overcompensated talk about jumpy

MAX

Careful

MADDIE

Careful what

MAX

Your glass is already full

MADDIE

You think I drink too much

MAX

I'm just saying you're about to spill

MADDIE

Okay I won't drink

STEPHANIE

Max can you just shut up once in a while Maddie you don't drink too much

MADDIE

Maybe I do I'll ask Sandy maybe he knows Sandy

SANDY

Everyone's asleep

MADDIE

Who's everyone's asleep is Ginger asleep

SANDY

I mean Daisy by everyone

MADDIE

What time did she go to sleep

SANDY

I don't know fifteen minutes ago

MADDIE

Do I drink too much

SANDY

I don't know sometimes sometimes I drink too much

MADDIE

After tonight I'm quitting

SANDY

What I mean is that sometimes you drink more than at other times and the next day you say I wish I hadn't drank so much no big deal

MADDIE

Why is everyone staring at me

STEPHANIE

I'm staring at that bouillabaisse I'm starving

SANDY

Here let me get that ladies

STEPHANIE

A gentleman

SANDY

I grew up with sisters my mother trained me so they would know what to expect on a date

MADDIE

Your mother trained you

SANDY

It's called manners thanks I don't usually add pepper

MAX

Pepper improves digestion

SANDY

My digestion works just fine

MAX

Just a grind or two

SANDY

God damn it I don't want any more pepper

MAX

Whoa sorry

MADDIE

I'd love some

SANDY

Can I eat

STEPHANIE

I am so tired of your internet research bullshit

MADDIE

Max this salad is divine how's your father Stephanie how's Fred

STEPHANIE

My father oh

MADDIE

Are they still breeding those dogs

MAX

Pugs

MADDIE

With the faces

STEPHANIE

He hates them it's his wife's thing

MAX

They just got another bitch he told me what that's what you say a female dog is a bitch

STEPHANIE

I don't like that word

MAX

Justin's wife had a baby Stephanie's stepbrother Justin

MADDIE

You didn't tell me that oh your father must be ecstatic he made such a fuss over Daisy when he met her

STEPHANIE

Now he's a fucking grandfather

SANDY

Pass me the bread

STEPHANIE

Max can you get a knife

MAX

Just rip it apart Sandy can do it with his great big strong hands can't you Sandy

MAX

So how's the song

MADDIE

It's too high

SCENE 4 LA TRAVIATA

MAX

Don't throw that away

STEPHANIE

What

MAX

I'm sending those home to Daisy

STEPHANIE

You're sending these

MAX

She'll be very interested in looking at them

STEPHANIE

This is disgusting you are not sending that you're going to give her nightmares

MAX

I think she's going to be a scientist

STEPHANIE

Jesus

SANDY

She thinks another fifteen minutes

STEPHANIE

Did she keep the Advil down

SANDY

The second time I think it's just a reaction she's on this new antidepressant

MAX

What's it called

SANDY

What

MAX

The name

SANDY

I don't know something with a pan at the end

MAX

Lorazepan

SANDY

Maybe

MAX

Because that's a tranquilizer

SANDY

Yeah maybe that's it

MAX

And you're not supposed to drink with it where's the bottle

STEPHANIE

FIND HER A CLEAN SHIRT

SANDY

I DON'T KNOW IN HER PURSE

STEPHANIE

He can't stand it when he feeds people and they throw up all over themselves do you want to call Ginger

SANDY

I'm sure she's asleep by now she's always asleep when we get home how's work going

STEPHANIE

Work is work we're launching two new flavors this month

SANDY

Anything good

STEPHANIE

Good of course it's good but I'm sworn to secrecy I can't even tell Max I'll just tell you this one thing

SANDY

Okay

STEPHANIE

Pumpkin

SANDY

Pumpkin ice cream

STEPHANIE

It was my idea

SANDY

Pumpkin

STEPHANIE

And pecan pie chocolate turkeys and wild flower honey

SANDY

Pilgrims

STEPHANIE

Pilgrims that would be awful you don't eat pilgrims

SANDY

How does it taste

STEPHANIE

Well you know it's pumpkin do you like pumpkin

SANDY

Love pumpkin how do you stay so skinny

STEPHANIE

By not eating ice cream

SANDY

But it's all around you how can you resist

STEPHANIE

Self control

SANDY

I don't have any

STEPHANIE

I noticed

SANDY

Pumpkin ice cream pumpkin that took balls

Nothing ventured
STEPHANIE

I'm going to New York
SANDY

Uh huh
STEPHANIE

Just for a couple days on business it would be nice to get
away wouldn't it
SANDY

I hope you have a wonderful time
STEPHANIE

No I mean the two of us a couple of days
SANDY

I can't just go to New York
STEPHANIE

Why not
SANDY

Because I'm working and it's just not that
STEPHANIE

What
SANDY

Stop it you know
STEPHANIE

Who else can I go to New York with
SANDY

Well your wife
STEPHANIE

She's got a doctor's appointment
SANDY

So go next week
STEPHANIE

I just thought a little dinner maybe a Broadway show *if ever
I would leave you*
SANDY

I happen to know you hate musicals
STEPHANIE

Maybe a little shopping

STEPHANIE

Shopping

SANDY

Don't girls like to shop

STEPHANIE

I shopped for the first twenty-five years of my life it gets old are you having an affair with someone

SANDY

What is this

STEPHANIE

I've heard things

SANDY

Really from who

STEPHANIE

It doesn't matter

SANDY

I think it does matter I'd like to know who did Maddie say something because that's the kind of thing Maddie would say she's a drama queen

STEPHANIE

Well she's your wife

SANDY

She is my wife

STEPHANIE

You're married

SANDY

Guilty I'm guilty I confess I am married I am married
Stephanie

STEPHANIE

Daisy threw her glass at me

SANDY

She's four

STEPHANIE

I just think that she the other day

SANDY

She's four for Christ's sake kids throw things when they're four you should see what she does to her mother

STEPHANIE

She's mad

SANDY

Of course she's mad she's mad at her mother we've got one kid and Maddie can't handle her I don't know what to do hire a nanny maybe what were you like when you were four

STEPHANIE

I don't know probably mad

SANDY

But cute

STEPHANIE

I was cute

SANDY

It wouldn't be in summer

STEPHANIE

Cut that out

SANDY

Seeing you in summer I never would go

STEPHANIE

Hey

SANDY

Da da da da da da

STEPHANIE

We're going to knock something over

SANDY

Da da da da da

STEPHANIE

You're crazy

SANDY

No never would I leave you

MADDIE

Aren't we adorable I'm supposed to be Salome

MAX

And she wants my head

MADDIE

You should see what they've got in their closet Sandy oh my god there is one little number that I think I think it's got your name on it kind of a what do you call it Max kind of an Adam and Eve thing

MAX

Clover leaf

MADDIE

But it's pink I love you in pink

STEPHANIE

You two are hilarious

SANDY

I think it's time we went home

MADDIE

Can you keep a secret I'm a little high Max said it would take the edge off I haven't gotten high Sandy gets high with what's his name Al the trust fund hippie

SANDY

Yes but I usually haven't thrown up all over myself

MADDIE

But I'm not allowed I must bear up

SANDY

Are you happy

STEPHANIE

Max likes everyone to be happy

MAX

We all have fun in our own way

MADDIE

I want to sing something

SANDY

Do not open that bottle

MADDIE

It's just for show it's part of my act okay give me a suggestion

SANDY

Can someone take that away

MAX

How about something from Cats

STEPHANIE

You hate Cats

MADDIE

Okay yes that song that signature song how does it go

MAX

The first word is memory

MADDIE

Oh yeah Stephanie give me a note

STEPHANIE

Maybe you should just

MADDIE

Give me the fucking note

STEPHANIE

Mmmm

MADDIE

Memory

SANDY

We told Ginger we'd be back by ten thirty

MADDIE

I'm having fun da da da da da da da

SANDY

You're making an ass of yourself

MADDIE

Okay I'm making an ass of myself so what once in a while I want to let loose let my hair down

SANDY

You let your hair down as you call it every time you get a chance

MADDIE

Sandy and I used to play didn't we Sandy once we went out and pretended we didn't know each other at one of those country bars Sandy wore a cowboy hat

SANDY

You are unbelievable it was my cousin's bar

MADDIE

Yeah but it was your hat

MADDIE

Memory da da da da da how's it go Max

MAX

(sings)

SANDY

God damn it Maddie we're going home now

MADDIE

I can't go home I can't leave Max we made a pact in there in the closet said we'd never be separated

SANDY

Maddie

MADDIE

I love him I do

SANDY

You love him

MADDIE

Stephanie I'm in love with your husband I'm leaving you Sandy I'm going to marry Max if he'll have me Stephanie you can live with us

SANDY

I'm tired it's late and Ginger is MADDIE

MADDIE

Why won't you play with me

SANDY

Because it isn't fun

MADDIE

FINE I'LL JUST GO THROW MYSELF OFF A CLIFF

STEPHANIE

Maddie come back here Max you couldn't resist

SANDY

You see

STEPHANIE

She's just a little

SANDY

That's what I have to deal with

STEPHANIE

Calm down

SANDY

That's why we don't have people over

STEPHANIE

Look it's only us MAX MAX DON'T LET HER GO OUTSIDE

MADDIE

(Sings)

STEPHANIE

PUT HER IN THE BATHTUB whenever anyone gets hysterical Max puts them in the bath I think she's under a lot of stress look she can stay here we'll bring her home in the morning it's okay really Max will love it they'll probably sit up all night and watch movies

SANDY

Come to New York with me

STEPHANIE

Go home we'll put her to bed and bring her in the morning mm mm

SANDY

Think about it

STEPHANIE

Okay I'll think about it

MAX

It's freezing outside

STEPHANIE

Is she

MAX

She's fine I told you that this morning it was going to freeze we had to bring in the mums

STEPHANIE

I don't remember

MAX

I was telling you I was watching the Weather Channel

STEPHANIE

That was yesterday

MAX

Yesterday it didn't freeze

STEPHANIE

You couldn't have been talking to me I left at seven thirty

MAX

I said bring in the mums it was before you left

STEPHANIE

I DIDN'T EVEN SEE YOU THIS MORNING I ONLY HEARD YOU YOU WERE
TALKING TO THAT GODDAMNED LOBSTER APOLOGIZING YOU DRIVE ME
CRAZY WHEN YOU APOLOGIZE TO THE SEAFOOD WHERE ARE YOU GOING

MAX

TO BRING IN THE MUMS

STEPHANIE

YOU CAN'T SAVE THE WORLD

MADDIE

Where's Sandy

STEPHANIE

He just left

MADDIE

Left like left left

STEPHANIE

Left left

MADDIE

He left

STEPHANIE

Gone

MADDIE

I'll be damned

STEPHANIE

I said you could stay over

MADDIE

I can't stay over Daisy

STEPHANIE

Daisy will be fine

MADDIE

She won't be fine she's not fine she's not fine at all

STEPHANIE

She's sleeping and in the morning

MADDIE

I'M TELLING YOU SHE'S NOT FINE AT ALL

STEPHANIE

Okay we'll drive you home MAX

MADDIE

We'd better make another date the song you know something I never told you I had a voice teacher and she said that I if I really worked I could I could have been an opera singer an honest to god mezzo

STEPHANIE

I think you have a beautiful

MADDIE

Just shut up I don't want to hear about it I just wanted someone to know

STEPHANIE

Right maybe early in the week I'm I might go away on business overnight why don't you write the words in English out we can practice on our own then get together again next weekend

MADDIE

You made this didn't you you know what I love about your quilts they're all over the house what is this one

STEPHANIE

My stepmother made that one

MADDIE

The evil queen

STEPHANIE

It's our wedding quilt

MADDIE

Oh my god and I'm dragging it

STEPHANIE

It's made out of Max's and my clothes believe me everything in it has been dragged somewhere

MADDIE

She made this out of your clothes

STEPHANIE

Kind of I don't know a collage of us

MADDIE

You're sewn together that's beautiful

STEPHANIE

It's just a quilt

MADDIE

No one ever sewed me a quilt

STEPHANIE

You don't have my stepmother Maddie wants to go home

MAX

You sure

STEPHANIE

She's worried about Daisy

MAX

What's the matter with Daisy

MADDIE

Daisy is seeing a neurologist next week her pediatrician referred her they squeezed her in it usually takes weeks

STEPHANIE

A neurologist

MADDIE

Her staring Dr. Cohen thinks it's neurological

MAX

What staring

STEPHANIE

She stares I've seen her

MAX

She's thinking

MADDIE

No she's blank she blanks out she's been blanking out for about six months

MAX

Six months

MADDIE

Or so

MAX

And you're just doing something about it now

MADDIE

I didn't know it was anything I don't know that it is anything I think I got used to it but we had her check up and she did it she's been to the doctor I don't know several times over the last nine months and she never did it before but this time she did and Sandy is going to New York you know I hate doctors "hello"

MAX

I'll go with you

MADDIE

You don't have to "no I'm still here"

MAX

Bullshit I'll go with you

STEPHANIE

Max is great with doctors he drives them crazy

MAX

You just have to ask the right questions what are they doing a CAT scan

MADDIE

"you're kidding wait a minute" an MRI there's the possibility of a brain tumor "if that's what you want then"

STEPHANIE

He didn't say that

MADDIE

"just a minute" why else would she stare it's like she disappears "Allison what"

STEPHANIE

I told you Max will take you

MAX

I'll take you

MADDIE

"I never said that Stephanie didn't"

STEPHANIE

What's she saying Max go warm up the car it's freezing out

MADDIE

That was Allison we're fired

STEPHANIE

We're what

MADDIE

Fired she hired two women from White River

STEPHANIE

She

MADDIE

Opera starlets interns at the Met she stumbled over them she said and thought it would be easier can you believe it we're fired after all that

STEPHANIE

Hired she hired

MADDIE

You know these people don't sing for free

STEPHANIE

How much

MADDIE

She said for their resumes but you know better I know better the nerve

STEPHANIE

I didn't even want to do it I didn't even want to go to her wedding her third wedding

MADDIE

Yeah well I'm a bridesmaid so I have to go

MAX

You ready

MADDIE

Yes thanks I mean thank you really for a lovely lovely that meal Max

MAX

Oh that reminds me for Daisy

MADDIE

She'll love them was that did I really you won't talk about me tomorrow will you

STEPHANIE

You were very cute

MADDIE

People may some things they may say nothing but no one would ever ever call me cute

MADDIE

(sings)

SCENE 5 TRISTAN AND ISOLDE

SANDY

That was not necessary

MADDIE

Don't tell me what's necessary

SANDY

You're drunk

MADDIE

I'm not drunk I'm furious

SANDY

Keep your voice down

MADDIE

Alright how's this I'm going to divorce you I'm going to call a lawyer in the morning someone you don't know

SANDY

Tomorrow's Sunday

MADDIE

SHUT UP

SANDY

Stop it just stop it you're irrational my god what do you think Ginger is thinking she'll never baby-sit again

MADDIE

Baby-sit you call that baby-sitting I'm calling her parents

SANDY

No you're not

MADDIE

Yes I am

SANDY

No you're not you're going to go upstairs to bed and in the morning we'll talk about this Maddie I think you are losing your I think you need to talk to someone you have been acting strange ever since I know losing the baby

MADDIE

Don't you talk to me about the baby

SANDY

That's it I can't talk to you about the baby I can't talk to you about how I feel I'm supposed to walk around on eggshells so I don't upset you meanwhile your daughter stares at us like we're ghosts

MADDIE

This is not about me this is about you and Ginger

SANDY

We had just found Daisy

MADDIE

Your shirt is off

SANDY

It had oil on it I told you I found her in the basement
behind the furnace

MADDIE

She doesn't have oil on her

SANDY

We cleaned her up

MADDIE

Show me show me how you cleaned her up

SANDY

Here it's her nightgown I rinsed it out it was in the
bathroom

MADDIE

I never knew Daisy to go in the basement she's scared of the
basement

SANDY

It's the second time I've found her down there I think I
think she gets confused and when she is in that state she's
been I think she goes down the stairs she must think she's
going from the upstairs her bedroom or something to find you
and she gets confused look I'm not going to New York next
week this really I guess I didn't really see it until now I
mean I was concerned of course I was concerned but the way
she looked at me she was so scared she was so lost I don't I
wish I knew what happened Ginger was watching television she
didn't hear her and my little daughter my little Daisy was
down there behind the furnace her big eyes staring that's the
only way I would have seen her is that she had her big eyes
open staring

MADDIE

Oh it's okay oh no it's all right I'm sorry what I should
never it's my fault Ginger poor Ginger I'll go there in the
morning what are we going to do

SANDY

We're taking Daisy to the doctor

MADDIE

Yes we are but what I mean

SANDY

And the rest will sort itself out I can't believe we waited
this long it's just that Daisy is so smart sometimes really
intelligent children are just you know kind of strange

MADDIE

She's not strange

SANDY

No she's not strange but different

MADDIE

She needs us

SANDY

I know

MADDIE

And I need you I need you so much I'm so afraid most of the time it's only when you're here and you're really here you know that I feel safe and then I think Daisy picks that up from me

SANDY

Sh sh it's not anyone's fault we're all just trying to make our way Daisy included you know the worst part is it doesn't get any easier but we have each other we love each other

MADDIE

I love you

SANDY

And the bright spots being close I'm sorry I'm so so sorry

MADDIE

If you were home more

SANDY

I know and I will be I promise

MADDIE

We don't need the money

SANDY

I was thinking of building something a barn maybe we could have some animals we have all this land I could take a leave in a couple of months I'll wait until spring is really here

MADDIE

Like in June maybe

SANDY

I was thinking maybe a horse or a pony I think Daisy would like that she loves animals

MADDIE

Maybe chickens we could have hens

SANDY

Fresh eggs

MADDIE

But we're not going to eat the chickens

SANDY

No of course not I'll take the summer off and see how it goes say April to September then part time after that

Max enters. Stephanie is dressed in a man's suit. She begins to make love to him.

MADDIE

Won't you miss it

SANDY

Really I can do most of my work from home if we do a little remodelling

MADDIE

You said we distract you

SANDY

But if we remodel close off the L and make a private entrance I still need privacy

MADDIE

So you mean you'd put a wall up where the living room connects to the hallway

STEPHANIE

What did I do

SANDY

Or an addition we could build an addition

MADDIE

The house is already so big

MAX

Nothing it's me

SANDY

But for my office

MADDIE

I thought you were taking the summer off

SANDY

I am but if I'm going to work part time

MADDIE

For part time you need an addition

STEPHANIE

I thought you liked it when I

MAX

Just stop okay

STEPHANIE

Dressed like this

SANDY

Jesus Maddie I'm trying here I'm trying to figure out how it might work

MADDIE

There are five bedrooms upstairs

SANDY

But I don't want to hear you and besides occasionally I have a meeting

MADDIE

The thought of workmen remember when we did the kitchen they were in the kitchen for six weeks

SANDY

But this won't be in your way it will be Jesus Maddie all right suppose we go to California and see my folks while they're working

MADDIE

We don't know about Daisy we don't know how she'll be they kept coming back they kept forgetting and the pantry still doesn't close right and I can't stay in a hotel for two weeks I can't eat out that long

SANDY

Okay

MADDIE

Okay what

SANDY

Okay whatever you want you tell me not tonight but tomorrow or in a day or a week you tell me what you want

MADDIE

What is that supposed to mean

STEPHANIE

Okay

MAX

I'm tired

STEPHANIE

I thought you liked this

MAX

I do I said I'm tired

STEPHANIE

Maddie okay

MAX

Fine

SANDY

Nothing just how it will work best for you for us maybe we should wait until after we see the neurologist

MADDIE

What are you saying

SANDY

Nothing I'm saying that we're tired but clearly we both are trying to find a solution to our problems

STEPHANIE

What the fuck Max talk to me

MAX

I don't really have anything to say

STEPHANIE

What's that supposed to mean

MAX

You know I moved here I tried it

MADDIE

What problems

SANDY

No problems just we need to spend more time together

MADDIE

I'll second that

SANDY

Come here can you come here ah let's go up

MADDIE

I'm going to get a few things ready for breakfast grind the coffee set the table

MAX

Because you wanted to be near your father so we're near your father we never see your father

STEPHANIE

It's that horrible wife of his

MAX

She's not horrible she's nice it's your goddamned father who's an asshole he could care less Stephanie I don't know what he was like when your mother was alive but if he's the reason I'm in Vermont then it's no reason at all when was the last time we saw him April

STEPHANIE

We talk

MAX

Yeah you could talk from New York or anywhere and speaking of New York Maddie told me you were going to New York

STEPHANIE

No she didn't I just said

MAX

She said you were going out of town

STEPHANIE

So so I go out of town

MAX

Cut the bullshit Stephanie

STEPHANIE

I'm going to Bennington all day

MAX

You're a liar you're lying that's the one thing I thought we had between us honesty

STEPHANIE

I don't think you really care about me or what I need I'm alone I'm all alone you're in your own world and you're perfectly fine well I need to be needed it's a goddamned circus all of this

MAX

Maddie thinks Sandy is having an affair

STEPHANIE

I know she thinks that because he won't get Netflix

MAX

No it's because he doesn't touch her but I noticed he doesn't have any trouble touching you

STEPHANIE

Oh come on

MAX

Are you

STEPHANIE

Are you kidding you've got a lot of nerve after what I put up with

MAX

Put up with

STEPHANIE

Montreal

MAX

That was the two of us

STEPHANIE

Oh really I counted four

MAX

What are you trying to say

STEPHANIE

I'm tired of trying to figure out how to keep up with you I I just want someone to lust after me you know my smell the way I look when I don't care it's humiliating okay okay I thought about it for one fleeting shining moment I thought it would be fun sometimes a girl needs a little fun but I wasn't I'm not it was stupid to even consider when on the other hand I can sit around and watch you smoke pot all week and play with your pictures

MAX

You don't have to sit around and watch me do anything I have a job offer in North Carolina I've thought about it and I'm going to take it institutional stuff not creative but the money's good and it will solve a lot of problems

STEPHANIE

And what about me

MAX

I don't know

STEPHANIE

You don't know

MAX

I'm leaving next Monday

STEPHANIE

You already bought your ticket

I'm driving
MAX

You've taken the job
STEPHANIE

More or less
MAX

Oh fuck you
STEPHANIE

Yeah well that doesn't look to be much of an option anymore
MAX

You don't care whether I sleep with Sandy you don't really care what I do you just don't want to miss out on the fun well guess what it was fun I had two orgasms real ones the kind that can happen between a man and a woman alone together no props no costumes my skin for some men that's enough
STEPHANIE

What are you doing
SANDY

Nothing I was throwing these things away Max sent them they're disgusting
MADDIE

I'll be right up
MADDIE

No I mean in that what's in that
SANDY

I was thirsty
MADDIE

Are you drinking
SANDY

Diet Coke okay it's called a night cap I wanted a sip it's been a long day and I'm not quite unwound what are you doing anyway
MADDIE

I was going to put the recycling out what is this
SANDY

I don't need you checking on me do I check on you what you're doing every minute I could have just taken a pill and I thought no I don't want to do that I'll be groggy in the morning so sue me right that's a laugh
MADDIE

SANDY

You're what are you what is this

MADDIE

You have to go through everything that has been there forever

SANDY

I've had enough for one night I'm going up

MADDIE

I'M CALLING GINGER'S PARENTS IN THE MORNING

SANDY

GOOD CALL THEM

MADDIE

SHE'S SIXTEEN

SANDY

SEVENTEEN

MADDIE

Oh no sweetheart what are you doing out of bed Mommy's coming

STEPHANIE

Max Max I'm sorry would you please please Jesus

SCENE 6 LAKMÉ

STEPHANIE

Wow that's hot

MAX

Hold that

MADDIE

Grab it

STEPHANIE

Yeow

MADDIE

Get them all out

STEPHANIE

I'm doing

MAX

Here let me

STEPHANIE

Fine don't you have any tongs

There
MAX

Ooh this is going to be so good
MADDIE

I really hurt my finger
STEPHANIE

Put some butter on it here stick that in on both ends some salt
MADDIE

Oh yeah
MAX

Let me taste mm mm
STEPHANIE

Get your own
MAX

Mm mm
STEPHANIE

Oh god I've waited so long for this
MADDIE

Mm mm
MAX

I'm going to finish this and go get some more keep the water boiling how's your finger
MADDIE

Who cares
STEPHANIE

We'll never eat all this
MAX

You have to cook it as soon as you pick it so make room hand me that you want another glass
MADDIE

Half a glass
STEPHANIE

No thanks
MAX

I hardly did anything after Sandy planted this
MADDIE

MAX

God provides

MADDIE

But now I think I'm going to get serious about growing corn
I've got all this land

STEPHANIE

You're going to become a farmer

MADDIE

Daisy should have the opportunity to learn something about
where food comes from

STEPHANIE

That's what field trips are for

MAX

I think it's a grand idea

MADDIE

You do

MAX

You'll get all sorts of tax credits

MADDIE

I hadn't thought of that

MAX

The government is encouraging people to grow food how much
land were you thinking

MADDIE

I don't know twenty acres

STEPHANIE

Twenty acres

MAX

All you have to do is call the Department of Agriculture
they'll send someone up here straight away

MADDIE

Really

MAX

Howie and Bridget did that

STEPHANIE

They're actual farmers

MADDIE

I want to be an actual farmer who grows actual corn

What are you doing STEPHANIE

What are you doing MAX

She can't farm STEPHANIE

No but she can dream she can talk she can wonder MAX

She's drunk STEPHANIE

So stop drinking MAX

I just had a half STEPHANIE

It only encourages her MAX

I am not the problem turn the stove back up STEPHANIE

All right all right let's not fight MAX

Wow she looks like hell STEPHANIE

How's your dad MAX

Oh you know STEPHANIE

We could go and see him if you like MAX

I haven't seen him since the last time you were here he'll get the wrong idea it doesn't matter anyway STEPHANIE

Steph MAX

I can't where do you suppose I don't see her STEPHANIE

She's not MAX

MADDIE
 STEPHANIE
 I'll look around front
 MAX
 MADDIE MADDIE
 STEPHANIE
 She's sitting in the car
 MAX
 Jesus
 STEPHANIE
 I've got her keys she's just sitting there
 MAX
 Why would she sit in the car
 STEPHANIE
 I don't know maybe she lost something she'll be in
 MAX
 Go get her
 STEPHANIE
 Let her come here put that down and come here
 MAX
 There's that look
 STEPHANIE
 What look
 MAX
 The thing you do with your face
 STEPHANIE
 I'm not looking like anything
 MAX
 You make me cry MADDIE MADDIE COME IN HERE Max go get her
 MADDIE
 MAX
 Watch the it's about to boil over
 MADDIE
 Oh okay good splash splash
 MAX
 I could use a cup of coffee

MADDIE

Oh sorry only tea

MAX

Where do you

MADDIE

In that one jasmine maybe Earl Grey you two have to stop this nonsense going living in two places there is only one place on god's earth for lovers and that is here in the state of Vermont the Green Mountain State is for lovers Max I know you should go into business doing weddings remember Allison's wedding her nephew had to take the pictures she couldn't find anyone

STEPHANIE

Max hates weddings

MAX

No I don't I hate wedding receptions I love weddings

MADDIE

So how was it

STEPHANIE

Oh you know about what you'd expect

MADDIE

And Terry how did she look

MAX

Fat

STEPHANIE

Definitely fat

MAX

Dumpy and fat

MADDIE

Oh come on she weighs a hundred and twelve

MAX

All in her ass

STEPHANIE

Daisy on the other hand

MADDIE

Don't tell me I don't want to know Sandy picked her up around eight the groom's not supposed to see the bride on his wedding day but the ex-wife well

STEPHANIE

Got to be bad luck

MADDIE

And to think I took her to my reunion I should have poisoned her Stephanie how about some more wine

STEPHANIE

I'm good

MADDIE

You're both very nice people to come over here like this and eat corn with me on my husband's wedding day

MAX

Here's some tea

MADDIE

Look at this gorgeous thing she made what is this one this blue

STEPHANIE

I think I picked that material up in a thrift store in Boston

MADDIE

Oh I hate Boston so stuffy I don't hate Boston I just said I hate Boston Sandy hates Boston well guess what Sandy you might have divorced me but I JUST DIVORCED ALL YOUR STUPID IDEAS

STEPHANIE

And that flowered piece do you remember the dress I wore to Allison's wedding

MADDIE

That's it

STEPHANIE

That's a piece of it

MADDIE

You cut up that dress just to make this quilt

STEPHANIE

No I cut up the dress and then thought hey I can put it in the quilt

MAX

She cuts up everything

MADDIE

You just cut things up and put them back together just like that

MAX
Tell her about the kittens

STEPHANIE
Gerry had kittens

MADDIE
That tomcat you found

MAX
Geraldine now

STEPHANIE
He was pregnant she was pregnant I took him to the vet to get
spayed and he was already pregnant

MAX
Seven of them last night

MADDIE
Seven kittens Max hates cats

MAX
Hate cats love kittens

STEPHANIE
Max delivered them

MAX
Gerry was magnificent

MADDIE
What are you going to do with seven kittens

STEPHANIE
I figured you'd take one or two or three

MADDIE
Hah

MAX
Daisy would love a kitten

MADDIE
Yes she would

STEPHANIE
Then it's settled

MADDIE
Tell me about the ceremony did they swear to love each other
eternally and all that

STEPHANIE

It was the usual

MAX

I cried

STEPHANIE

It doesn't count he always cries it was ordinary they said the vows right out of the book and what are you telling her you cried you are an asshole

MAX

You're right I'm sorry I've been crying ever since Gerry had his kittens the miracle of life

MADDIE

What greater thing is there for two human souls than to feel that they are joined together to strengthen each other in all labor, to minister to each other in all sorrow, to share with each other in all gladness, to be one with each other in the silent unspoken memories? George Eliot I found it in Daisy's backpack she had copied it please tell me she didn't read it

STEPHANIE

No one didn't read it

MADDIE

Promise

STEPHANIE

Promise

MAX

Sandy read it

MADDIE

Stephanie you've really got to quit fibbing you think you're sparing me but really you're a terrible liar

STEPHANIE

Please don't drink any more

MADDIE

Oh phooey okay here's my big news I'm going into rehab in three days three days from now I'll be in nonalcoholic incarceration I'm expected to drink myself into oblivion beforehand I went to an AA meeting and I heard all about it god it was awful those people so sincere I hope I don't turn out like that

MAX

Maddie that's

MADDIE

Don't say it don't congratulate me I'm doing it for Daisy and don't tell me to do it for myself because I can't I tried that I tried it every day for the last two years

MAX

Daisy is a good reason

MADDIE

How did she look in her flower girl dress

MAX

Beautiful

MADDIE

I didn't want to see her in it

STEPHANIE

It was yellow bright bright yellow sleeveless and silk daisies sewn all around the hem the neckline and she carried a bouquet oh Max it's still in the car it's for you she said to give it to her mother she said it right in front of Terry and Max took pictures I'll email them to you so you can see so you don't have to suffer a monotonous obsession

MADDIE

Okay okay

MAX

Now you've done it

STEPHANIE

I don't care I gave up a Klezmer band for this and I could be home with the kittens

MAX

They are very very cute

STEPHANIE

They're not cute yet but they're going to be I'll send you pictures when their eyes are open

MAX

When will that be

STEPHANIE

A few weeks someone told me I never had kittens before

MAX

It's a big responsibility

STEPHANIE

Gerry's a natural he ate every one of the placentas and licked those babies to life I wouldn't have had the sense to do that if I was a cat

MAX

I don't believe that

STEPHANIE

Well believe it it came as an absolute shock

MAX

But I would have been there to tell you I would have coached you

STEPHANIE

Tomcats are conveniently out tomcatting when the going gets rough don't do that and stop looking like that you can't pull this two days before we're signing the papers and then you fly back to North Carolina

MAX

Actually I'm heading to New York

STEPHANIE

Oh

MAX

An ad agency I've got an interview remember Gary

STEPHANIE

I remember Gary

MAX

He recommended me and it's tempting

STEPHANIE

So is it definite

MAX

No but

STEPHANIE

But it probably is

MAX

If I say yes for some reason they want me

STEPHANIE

Of course they want you because you're good you're very very good I ought to know I practically made you famous

MAX

I was thinking maybe you could come with me

STEPHANIE

Why in the world would I do that

MAX

Because it would be fun

STEPHANIE

I've had enough fun anyway I've got the kittens to think of

MAX

Right

STEPHANIE

Say hi to Gary for me and anyway I'm seeing someone and we have plans for the middle of the week probably spill over into the weekend

MAX

Really

STEPHANIE

His name's Bill he's a dentist grew up in Jericho now lives in Montpelier divorced he's forty and he has twin boys who are sixteen years old he's Catholic of all things and actually very involved with his church but not conservative in the ways that count quite liberal in fact he sings in a rock band

MAX

Really

STEPHANIE

With other forty year olds it's quite a fun group in fact they have a gig

MAX

A gig

STEPHANIE

A gig they have a gig tomorrow night but I told him I wouldn't be able to make it

MAX

Just in case I want to know

STEPHANIE

I don't ask you it's your business

MAX

I didn't ask you either

STEPHANIE

No I volunteered and frankly I don't want to know what you're doing

I'm not doing anything

MAX

I don't care and I don't want to know

STEPHANIE

Nothing no one

MAX

La la la la la la la

STEPHANIE

I went out a couple of times there was this girl on Facebook
but it turned out

MAX

La la la la la la la

STEPHANIE

Cut it out and come with me

MAX

I told you I've got plans

STEPHANIE

Look fuck Frank

MAX

Bill

STEPHANIE

Fuck Bill and come to New York with me help me look for an
apartment

MAX

No

STEPHANIE

Yes

MAX

I've got kittens

STEPHANIE

You're coming

MAX

I said I've got goddamned kittens

STEPHANIE

You can bring the goddamned kittens

MAX

STEPHANIE

They're too young to fly

MAX

I mean when they're old enough bring them bring the entire family of cats to New York I'll find a cat friendly neighborhood what do I have to do

STEPHANIE

Nothing it's too late

MAX

Stephanie

STEPHANIE

Cut that out

MAX

Stephanie

STEPHANIE

I said stop it

MAX

Okay I'll stop it

STEPHANIE

Good

MAX

Okay

STEPHANIE

You can't just barge in here and ask me to go to New York

MAX

Okay I'm sorry I was wrong forget it

STEPHANIE

Six months

MAX

You wouldn't let me come and see you

STEPHANIE

Why the hell should I want to see you it's over and if it wasn't for the kittens I'd make you stay in a motel in fact I think I'll just go home I'll come back later and get you tell Maddie don't let her drive

MAX

I won't let her drive

STEPHANIE

You're just going to let me leave

MAX

Jesus

STEPHANIE

That's all one feeble attempt you really really make me mad

MAX

What do you want me to do

STEPHANIE

Convince me dammit throw me down the stairs stand on your head do something oh oh oh I'm I'm not because you keep making things worse you are the worst man I ever don't look at me like that that's the problem from the start the way you just look at me with those goddamned oh

MAX

These are my eyes

STEPHANIE

This is my heart

MAX

And we love each other isn't that the one thing

STEPHANIE

No yes yes we did but then you didn't you left

MAX

That we agreed that we would love each other

STEPHANIE

And what is love anyway it's just an emotion it's what you do it's what you do everyday that has to count

MAX

And I've kept my end up and you've look at me so have you so I don't want to hear another word about it that's final

MADDIE

Smile look it has a built in flash and everything what did I say

MAX

Nothing we were just talking wow that's quite a change

MADDIE

Oh it's this dress I only wore it that once did you know Allison's marriage has already hit the skids to think I paid two hundred dollars for this dress and she's in the skids it's because we didn't sing Steph we should have sung that was a mistake those opera starlets sent the wrong message I thought I actually thought I looked pretty in this dress

MAX

You do

MADDIE

I think New York is a great idea Max you'll be so much closer to Stephanie

MAX

Stephanie's coming too

STEPHANIE

We haven't agreed

MAX

We don't agree on anything that's why you're coming you can come and see us

MADDIE

Oh yeah

MAX

Bring Daisy

MADDIE

Oh oh yeah

MAX

We'll take her to the ballet all little girls should go to the ballet they should learn very young that it's possible to fly hey

MADDIE

She loves to dance she dances all over the house she's found a way to calm herself I should be so lucky all that's happened and Daisy has this zest I never had it my sister she so reminds me of Joy Joy my sister Joy will she survive me I think if I could just be taken apart and put back together you know the barn Pinter's Barn it got a new life in Massachusetts the Pinter's were just letting it fall apart and then voila it got a new life probably last a thousand years isn't it in some village now one of those villages where people reenact the past they tread with a light foot so things will last

STEPHANIE

Hey it's okay

MADDIE

I took her off her medication I don't care the doctors argue and fight no one can decide what's wrong with her well god damn it there's nothing wrong with her she's just Daisy the way God made her the whole world is falling apart and she's the only one with enough sense to make any real noise about it no pills no drugs no no no not with my child

MAX

Maddie why don't you come home with us tonight

STEPHANIE

Yes please sleep over at our house

MADDIE

A sleep over

STEPHANIE

A sleep over

MADDIE

I can't leave the corn and besides Daisy might come home she's supposed to stay at the hotel with Sandy's mother but I have a feeling I have an idea Max go home and check on the kittens I'll sleep in Daisy's room you two can have my room at the top of the stairs go right

STEPHANIE

You mean left

MADDIE

No we switched Daisy and I after Sandy left how did you when were you upstairs

STEPHANIE

I don't know once the day I brought the music over you asked me to check on Daisy

MADDIE

I don't remember that

STEPHANIE

The day she threw her glass at me

MADDIE

You didn't go upstairs not that day

STEPHANIE

Maddie I

MADDIE

She's smart my Daisy she sees everything I walk around in a fog I know I do I think those spells when she blanks out she's really really seeing deeply seeing is it a curse or a blessing to know the truth you know the day we got married Sandy wore a white tux he looked a little like that singer Pat Pat Boone he told me he was wearing a white suit and I thought oh how dashing and then there he was waiting for me and it wasn't quite the effect I think maybe only the bride should wear white what was your dress like Stephanie

MAX

It had beads

STEPHANIE

There were no beads

MAX

I remember beads

STEPHANIE

You don't remember anything

MAX

You wore a veil it had all these little pearls and I remember I lifted the veil and there you were and I thought who is this amazing woman where did she come from I almost fainted I was near death with happiness

MADDIE

You made a good choice Stephanie you could have had anyone a girl like you

MAX

Well it's funny isn't the whole isn't all of it just so damn funny sometimes

MADDIE

(Flower Duet melody)

La la la la lovely la la la la

STEPHANIE

La la la la la la la la la la la la

MADDIE

(speaks)

Under the dense canopy
Where the white jasmine
Blends with the rose
On the flowering bank
Laughing at the morning
Come, let us drift down together
Let us gently glide along
With the enchanting flow

(MORE)

MADDIE (cont'd)

Of the fleeing current
 On the rippling surface
 With a lazy hand
 Let us reach the shore
 Where the source sleeps
 And the bird sings
 Under the dense canopy
 Under the white jasmine
 Let us drift down together.

It really is much prettier in English

SCENE 7 LA BOHEME

MAX

That's it

SANDY

Are you

MADDIE

I'm Madeline

MAX

One more time

SANDY

Sandy here let me get that

MADDIE

Thank you wow it's cold out nice to

MAX

Open your mouth

MADDIE

Meet you don't worry I'll just hold it

MAX

Not so much

SANDY

Is this all right

MADDIE

Oh perfect

SANDY

Let me hang that up I've only been here once

MAX

Like you're about to smile

No it's fine MADDIE

Only you don't MAX

Yes it is but noisy SANDY

But I like that actually MADDIE

Really SANDY

That's better sly MAX

Well it's a thing a thing of mine MADDIE

But don't laugh MAX

I'm silence is sometimes MADDIE

Think bad thoughts MAX

Makes me nervous I talk a lot MADDIE

Dead kittens MAX

Afraid if I stop someone will leave MADDIE

I'm not leaving do you want a drink SANDY

What oh a wine something or other MADDIE

I'm hungry you hungry SANDY

Yes MADDIE

Yes that face keep it MAX

SANDY
Madeline do they call you Maddie excuse me could we get

MAX
Yeah baby

MADDIE
If they have Pinot Grigio I hate Maddie

SANDY
Two Pinot Grigios

MAX
The light is just

SANDY
What's Pinot Grigio

MADDIE
Italian white wine kind of sweet

MAX
Now take a handful of rose petals

SANDY
You look more like a Maddie soft sweet

MADDIE
We'll start with Madeline

SANDY
Maybe it will grow on you

MADDIE
Maybe

SANDY
This is mm tasty I'm spreading out spreading my wings trying something new

STEPHANIE
Ah

MAX
And let them kind of spill keep that face

SANDY
So Madeline Madeline

MADDIE
You're making fun of me

SANDY

Never I'm just trying to figure out what is really going on
in that head of yours

MADDIE

Nothing's going on I'm nothing

STEPHANIE

My back is killing me

MAX

Just one or two more

SANDY

A blank

MADDIE

Yes no I'm taking this in all of this

SANDY

Look at those look at them

MADDIE

What

SANDY

Bored see that couple over there do you see how bored they
look

MAX

That's it

MADDIE

I guess

SANDY

That will never be me I'll never be with someone who doesn't
make me want to fall into her get inside her skin someone I
want to discover and rediscover every day of my life you're
blushing

MADDIE

Oh am not

SANDY

I haven't seen a girl blush

MAX

Okay

STEPHANIE

Thank god

SANDY
In since my sister walked in on me in the bathroom

MADDIE
So you have a sister

SANDY
Two sisters

STEPHANIE
So you think that will do

MAX
You make soap sexy baby

STEPHANIE
Soap is sexy baby

SANDY
And a brother

MADDIE
Really

SANDY
And two stepmothers

STEPHANIE
So you want to

MAX
What

STEPHANIE
I don't know do something

SANDY
My parents got divorced

STEPHANIE
Like maybe me

SANDY
And my father and mother remarried

MAX
You are crude

STEPHANIE
Oh come on

MAX
Natalie is more my taste

MADDIE
Why in case I don't work out

SANDY
No

MADDIE
I'm an only child

STEPHANIE
God this stuff is awful come here

SANDY
And your parents

MADDIE
Virginia in Richmond

SANDY
I love Virginia

MADDIE
Yes well

STEPHANIE
I'm going to start charging more

SANDY
You smell good

MADDIE
I smell good how can you tell

SANDY
It's wafting

MADDIE
It's wafting I don't think so

SANDY
It's like roses

MADDIE
It is it's Joy Joy that's essence of roses

STEPHANIE
Would you stop fussing and sit down

MAX
All right all right

SANDY
I thought roses were for old ladies but on you it's right
you're blushing

It's the wine MADDIE

I don't think so SANDY

This is really sweet SANDY

Do you want something else MADDIE

No you have one green eye and one blue eye SANDY

I do not MADDIE

You do it's really different lovely SANDY

They are both blue but in some lights MADDIE

Here put this on MAX

And if I wear eye shadow MADDIE

This STEPHANIE

It's sexy MAX

This STEPHANIE

But I do not have different colored eyes MADDIE

It's a sign of genius SANDY

Then definitely MADDIE

Let me MAX

You're kinky STEPHANIE

I'm an artiste
MAX

This could get very very fun
STEPHANIE

Sh
MAX

So what kind of law
MADDIE

Oh contracts mostly contracts that people want to get out of
SANDY

Oh I can't read a contract
MADDIE

That's why we get paid
SANDY

I see
MADDIE

You'd make a great dude
MAX

I'd
STEPHANIE

I mean it as a compliment it's sexy your body the way it
curves the hips
MAX

Do you handle divorces things like that
MADDIE

That's family law I work in corporate there's no money in
divorces
SANDY

Kind of Marlene Dietrich the eyes very very
MAX

Do you want another one
SANDY

Oh I never drink more than one
MADDIE

These little titties um
MAX

SANDY
So now the big question

MADDIE
What

SANDY
Do you want to see me again

MADDIE
Are you leaving

SANDY
No I hope not just why fool around we can talk another half hour and go our separate ways and I can tell you I'll call or we can shall we say put our cards on the table

MADDIE
I'm not following

SANDY
I like you

MADDIE
I like you

SANDY
Damn I hate it when Curtis is right

MADDIE
He said

SANDY
Madeline is gorgeous

MADDIE
Oh I'm not

SANDY
Gorgeous and she blushes

MADDIE
My sister if you had known her she died but she was really really beautiful she had this way about her confident you know she was very centered she certainly didn't blush you couldn't embarrass her

SANDY
Am I embarrassing you

MADDIE
No I it's a confidence thing

SANDY
How did she die

MADDIE
A terrible accident four years ago now my mother also the two
of them

SANDY
We don't have to talk about this

MADDIE
A drunk driver

SANDY
We'll talk about it oh on our fifth date

MADDIE
When will that be

SANDY
Um let's see today is the fifth no later than the 10th

MADDIE
Okay

SANDY
How's your new job

MADDIE
Oh I'm just answering the phone did Curtis tell you I left

SANDY
You told me on the phone

MADDIE
I did

SANDY
You said you had just come home from your new job

MADDIE
Well it's still a temp thing while I'm taking classes voice

SANDY
You sing like what

MADDIE
Anything romantic

SANDY
Like musicals

MADDIE
Oh my god do you like musicals

SANDY
Truth I okay how about a lie

MADDIE
You don't like musicals

SANDY
I just don't get them actors standing around talking and then
breaking into song I mean who does that

MADDIE
It's not real life

SANDY
Thank god

MADDIE
Hm

SANDY
But I could convert I think I just need the right girl to
experience them with

MADDIE
I suppose opera is out just kidding I can always find a
friend

SANDY
Okay so sing something

MADDIE
I'm not going to sing

SANDY
Come on what's your favorite musical

MADDIE
I don't know Camelot you hate it

SANDY
I yes but I have a good excuse my parents used to sing those
songs around the house it's was a Kennedy thing they were
crazy about the Kennedys so it's kind of off limits that one

MADDIE
Okay no Camelot

SANDY
What else do you like

MADDIE
I speak French

Tres bien SANDY

I mean I really speak French I majored in French MADDIE

Say something in French you probably hate it when people say that SANDY

No it's fine what do you want me to say MADDIE

I don't know I won't understand it anyway SANDY

So MADDIE

Tell me I'm the most fascinating guy you've ever met SANDY

Fascinating MADDIE

I'm is fascinating good SANDY

Not too fascinating MADDIE

Okay then how about SANDY

Speaks in French MADDIE

What was that SANDY

Ask me later MADDIE

Wow that's a record STEPHANIE

So do you like to ski SANDY

Ski MADDIE

I mean exciting STEPHANIE

SANDY

I love Vermont Stowe my buddies and I rent a condo there every winter

STEPHANIE

Hot very hot but

MAX

Do you want a drink

STEPHANIE

You are kinky

MAX

I'm not kinky what's kinky

MADDIE

I can ice skate I've never skied

STEPHANIE

THIS IS KINKY

MAX

So next time you dress me up

STEPHANIE

You're the artiste

MADDIE

Does water skiing count

SANDY

Definitely if I could make enough money I'd live up there it's a great place to raise kids Boston is I don't know there's a certain snobbery here it wears me out

MADDIE

You don't like your wine

SANDY

Oh it's sweet

MADDIE

I might as well

STEPHANIE

Thank you

SANDY

Excuse me I'll have a martini rocks

MADDIE

He wants a dirty martini

Yes I do SANDY

I'll have one too MADDIE

What happened to the only one SANDY

Only one of each MADDIE

I love it dirty STEPHANIE

I know MAX

I should use the MADDIE

Sure SANDY

What STEPHANIE

Nothing I MAX

What STEPHANIE

I what do you think about maybe moving in MAX

What with you and Gary STEPHANIE

Gary's moving out MAX

Uh huh STEPHANIE

Swear to god the first of the month MAX

And you want me to move in STEPHANIE

Til death do us part MAX

STEPHANIE

That's not the point that's not the point at all you are supposed to buy the most expensive ring you can't afford and then I go crazy and after a few days we go back and exchange it

MAX

Sorry

STEPHANIE

My first proposal and you mess it up

MAX

How many are you planning on

STEPHANIE

My stepmother was right my stepmother was right about you she said I might as well marry my brother as marry you there is no passion no mystery

MAX

No passion what was that

STEPHANIE

That was kinky now I know finally I know

MAX

Know what

STEPHANIE

Anyway we can't get married we can't ever get married we know each other too well the seven year itch is just two years away

MAX

Two years we were apart

STEPHANIE

It doesn't count we talked every day

MAX

Yeah you called every day

STEPHANIE

So I called see what I mean you didn't even take our separation seriously you took my calls we've been together five years unmarried statistically we don't stand a chance

MAX

What did you read that in Cosmo

STEPHANIE

Ben and Elizabeth

Ben died
 MAX
 Details so how many lovers did you have
 STEPHANIE
 What when
 MAX
 When we were
 STEPHANIE
 We don't tell remember
 MAX
 Brad Jamie Gary of course
 STEPHANIE
 Caroline Chelsea
 MAX
 You slept with Caroline
 STEPHANIE
 No you did
 MAX
 Where did you hear that
 STEPHANIE
 Some things are sacred
 MAX
 I didn't sleep with Caroline but I could have
 STEPHANIE
 I don't care
 MAX
 You don't care really you don't care then forget it where
 what are you stop it I'm sorry I'm sorry my shit I just
 wanted some romance you know like these rose petals wafting
 down
 STEPHANIE
 You don't let me even try
 MAX
 I'm a bitch
 STEPHANIE
 You are a bitch
 MAX

MADDIE

A broken pelvis I was in the back but the money it in some ways I'd like to give it away or just spend it it just sits there and I think about it my therapist said it should represent freedom but somehow it doesn't

MAX

Will you let me

STEPHANIE

All right I said all right

MADDIE

These statements come every month and I just think of I just think of them and I've stopped basically getting the mail

SANDY

You could have them sent to someone else a lawyer a banker accountant anybody

MADDIE

It's just too

SANDY

I know

MAX

Okay I know about the down on one knee bit

SANDY

I'm sorry

MADDIE

No it's good to talk about it wow this is you're the first person I've actually there is something you are very kind you have a kindness I can feel it thank you

STEPHANIE

You look like Prince Charming about to put a shoe on my foot

MAX

Look I'm trying here

STEPHANIE

Go on go on

SANDY

I hope I can be your friend maybe more but you know we could all use a friend right

MADDIE

I've never talked to anybody about this how can you put a price on someone's life it's surreal the lawyer gave us a check he was exuberant he said we had won we had won big

MAX

Stephanie you would make me the happiest man in the world

SANDY

Probably was thinking of his percentage

STEPHANIE

This is so immature

MAX

If you laugh I'm not going to do it

SANDY

Hey let me see those eyes let me see those blue green wonderful

MAX

Wait maybe I should go see your father first

STEPHANIE

Just do it

MAX

Okay Stephanie

SANDY

I really really appreciate your honesty it takes a lot of guts to open up to someone especially someone you just met

MAX

I know I don't deserve you you could have anybody a crowned prince an oil sheik

SANDY

You don't know me

STEPHANIE

Yes Max

SANDY

But I hope I get the chance I hope we get the chance to really get to

MAX

But if you give me a chance I promise to make you the happiest most satisfied woman in the world

MADDIE

That's what I said that's what I said I said I hope in French I said I hope oh maybe it's a sign do you think it could be a sign

MAX

Stephanie will you be my

STEPHANIE

Aah jesus christ you aah it's beautiful you're a horrible
horrible wonderful I love you I love you I love you I love
you I love you

SCENE 8 RUSALKA

Song to the Moon plays. Daisy dances a
ballet; it is her wedding day.
Stephanie and Maddie put on her wedding
gown. They fuss over her. The scents of
jasmine and roses wafting. THE END