

ALLERGIC TO LOVE

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FADE IN.

INT. DR. HOOEY'S OFFICE - DAY

Dr. Hooley (50s, male, black, thick Jamaican accent) is standing in front of his Harvard Medical School Diploma. He shines the degree with the cuff of his jacket. Andy (mid-30s, black, boyishly handsome) is sitting at a chessboard contemplating his next move.

ANDY

I don't know why, but I can't move on doc. I mean it's been a whole ninety-three days since she ripped out my heart, but I would still take her back if she walked in through that door right now.

The office door opens, Andy screams. The RECEPTIONIST comes in waters the plants and then leaves.

DR. HOOEY

Well, that's always awkward as hell.

Dr. Hooley takes notes.

ANDY

And- And just about every woman I meet, I instantly commit to.

DR. HOOEY

Every woman?

AVERY

I asked my mail carrier to marry me yesterday, she said no, thank God. I think I'm searching for the one so I don't have time to think about Radha, it is exhausting. I'm pretty messed up right, Doc?

Andy moves a chess piece.

DR. HOOEY

Why don't you just stop dating the cold turkey?

ANDY

I said I was worn out not insane, I love women, and I'm so tired of being alone.

DR. HOOEY

Great song

(sings)

*I'm so tired of being alone I'm so
tired of on-my-own*

Won't you help me girl

Just as soon as you can...

(off look)

Well, if I've said it once, I've
said it more than once. Clearly,
you're not ready for a new woman in
your life. Have you been doing the
exercises I recommended?

ANDY

You mean visualizing myself without
Ra- Ra- No.

Dr. Hooley studies the chessboard.

DR. HOOEY

It was a very traumatic event,
Andy. She did make a complete ass
of you for the whole world to see.
Boy, that was some spread in the
Times, eh?

ANDY

Gee, thanks doc I feel so much
better. I mean really, how much do
I owe you for this great counseling
session?

Dr. Hooley makes a move on the chessboard.

DR. HOOEY

Walk me through it again.

ANDY

Walk? I'd rather run.

TITLE: NINETY-THREE DAYS EARLIER

INT. CHURCH - DAY

Beautiful South-Asian/Catholic ceremony. Andy is standing at
the altar smiling. MICHAEL (mid-30s, black) and DANI (mid-
30s, female, white) are standing beside Andy, they are his
best people. The ORGANIST plays the wedding march. EVERYONE
stands. Andy is beaming.

ANDY (V.O.)
She was the woman of my dreams.

EXT. CHURCH - DAY

RADHA (30s, south Asian, beautiful) runs out of the church and down the steps in full ceremonial attire, she's crying.

INT. CHURCH - DAY

The MAID OF HONOR scurries down the aisle. She whispers in the organist's ear, he slams down the keys.

ORGANIST
Get the fuck out!

Andy's smile grows tight. The Maid of Honor walks to the microphone she can barely make eye contact with Andy.

MAID OF HONOR
(clears throat)
Um, well, I'm sure you're all wondering about- about the delay.

DANI
(through clenched teeth)
Holy crap, I knew it, didn't I warn him?
(whispers to Andy)
I told you so!

Michael pokes Dani with his elbow.

MAID OF HONOR
The- the wedding has been called off. Radha has- has changed her mind. S- sorry and thanks for coming.

SHOT: STUNNED AUDIENCE MOUTHS AGAPE

MAID OF HONOR
Um, refreshments are in the lobby.

Andy's tight smile is frozen to his face.

BACK TO SCENE

INT. DR. HOOEY'S OFFICE - DAY

Dr. Hooley stops writing, thinks for a moment, and then writes feverishly.

DR. HOOEY

How are you so sure she cheated on you?

ANDY

It was obvious Doc, my sleep number had changed.

DR. HOOEY

Sleep number?

ANDY

Yeah, she has a Sleep Number bed. I'm a 39 and about a month before we were supposed to get married my side of the bed changed to a 50. A 50? Do you have any idea how firm a 50 is? It's like sleeping on a concrete slab!

DR. HOOEY

Well, the easy solution would be for me to tell you the solution but instead, why don't you tell me what you think you should do.

ANDY

Like a self-diagnosis? I know I need to stop dating for a while and probably work on myself, you know, blah, blah, blah, insert psycho-babble here, but I enjoy women. I love everything about them and more importantly, I don't want to be alone.

DR. HOOEY

(sings)

*I'm so tired of being alone I'm so
tired of on-my-own
Won't you help me girl
Just as soon as you can...
Well, in Jamaica, we have a saying.*

ANDY

Which is?

DR. HOOEY

If puss and dog can get together,
why can't we love one another?

ANDY

What?! I feel as though I'm
spiraling out of control, how do I
start to, you know, get my
confidence back?

DR. HOOEY

You can start by paying the
receptionist on your way out, pah-
rum-pum.

Dr. Hooey goes into a full-on drum solo, head-banging
included. Andy gives him a dirty look.

DR. HOOEY (CONT'D)

Just a little psychiatrist's humor.
You know I have an idea, pretend
that you're gay, problem solved.

ANDY

And I'm going to pretend that I
didn't just hear you.

DR. HOOEY

You could pretend to be a priest.

ANDY

I don't know what rock you've been
living under, but priests can get
married and even have sex nowadays.

DR. HOOEY

Wait a minute, wait a minute,
that's it!! How about pretending to
be married?

Andy takes his pawn and double jumps Dr. Hooey's knight and
rook. They've been playing checkers with the chess pieces.

ANDY

Now you're talking doc, that, that
just might work, while providing me
with a false sense of security,
king me!

DR. HOOEY

Rassclaat!

INT. NYC DINER - DAY

Andy, Michael, and Dani are having lunch.

DANI

You gonna eat those?

(she pulls a tomato off of
Michael's burger)

(to Andy)

How can wearing a fake wedding band
solve your problems with women?

ANDY

It'll take me off the market long
enough to get my head straight.
Can't you see I'm traumatized?

He wolfs down his fries.

MICHAEL

Well, take it from me, there are a
lot of women who seek out married
men, like missiles. I ask you,
where were these women when I was
single? Now that I've got Karen
they're slipping me phone numbers
left and right. This one chick
offered to do me in the bathroom of
Nobu. Man, if I knew for sure, for
sure, that Karen wouldn't bury her
foot in my ass, I maybe, quite
possibly would-

ANDY

How would she know?

MICHAEL

Oh, trust me she'd know. We'd be at
home watching a movie one night and
then all of a sudden, boom, foot in
ass.

DANI

She's got you trained well.

Tosses a french fry at Michael, he catches it in his mouth.

MICHAEL

Next show's at five.

DANI

(to Andy)

Here's an idea, why don't you show some self-control? You know, grow some balls.

ANDY

Why don't you show me how since you have elephantiasis of the nuts besides, self-control would be easy enough if we were talking about one or two women, but I'm not, I'm talking onslaught.

DANI

Onslaught?

ANDY

Yes onslaught, I can't help myself and don't pretend like you didn't try to get you some of this.

MICHAEL

Wait a minute what?

ANDY

Yup, we almost-

DANI

Listen, let's not get ahead of ourselves. I was drunk and I thought you were the busboy.

MICHAEL

Wait a minute, you two-

DANI

In his dreams.

ANDY

Yup, we were this close. I had to pry her off of my sexy body.

MICHAEL

Now here's a scenario, what if you meet the next Mrs. Edwards during this exercise in futility?

ANDY

What are the chances of that happening? Besides, Dr. Hooey is pretty adamant that-

DANI

Dr. Hooey? Like you're full of hooey?

ANDY

He's Jamaican, I think Hooey is Gaelic, you know, colonization, yadda, yadda, yadda. Listen, he went to Harvard so that's good enough for me.

DANI

I can not wait for this to backfire so that I can be first in line to tell you I told you so, again.

ANDY

It won't backfire. What could go wrong?

MICHAEL

Where's the ring?

ANDY

Well, therein lies the rub. I'm pretty sure that I'm allergic to my wedding band. Look, I even broke out in big ole hives all over my stomach.

He pulls up his sweater to show his splotchy skin.

DANI

I actually have a life to get back to.

(to Michael)

Give him your ring? Problem solved.

MICHAEL

Three words, foot in ass.

DANI

Isn't Karen out of town for like two weeks?

ANDY

That's okay, I'll get an exorcist to work on the one I got.

(to Michael)

Although yours probably has some healing properties.

DANI

Let's get this shit show on the road.

(to Michael)

Hand it over.

Michael reluctantly takes off his ring, he looks at it before handing it to Andy.

MICHAEL

Healing properties my left nut. Do you have any idea how much trouble I will be in if Karen finds out I've taken this off?

ANDY

I promise to guard it with my life.

Michael hesitates, but then takes his wedding band off. Andy tries to put it on but it's too small. Dani scoops up some butter, takes Andy's hand, and massages his ring finger.

ANDY (CONT'D)

How about you and me finish what we started, you know for old time's sake.

MICHAEL

Aw c'mon, you know I have acid reflux.

DANI

Let me think about it? Nope, I'm good, really, really good.

The ring slips onto his finger.

MICHAEL

If that ring comes off, your bloody mangled stump of a finger better be attached to it.

INT. MARSHALL HOME - CHAPPAQUA, NY - DAY

The Marshall's live a couple doors down from former President, Bill Clinton and Former Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton. AVERY MARSHALL (black, mid-thirties, classy round the way girl) is at her childhood home, she walks up to the door carrying a covered baking tray. Just as she's going to open the door her mother, WANDA MARSHALL (60s, black, ageless beauty) opens the door.

WANDA
Hey baby, always right on time.

Avery holds up the tray of food.

AVERY
Mini quiches Ayesha Curry has this
really great recipe.

Avery's niece, RASHEEDA (XXXX) and nephew MARQUIS (XXXX) run over and reach for a mini quiche. Wanda swats their hands away.

WANDA
Don't want you to ruin your
appetite.
(under breath)
Or digestive systems.

LEIGH MARSHALL (XXXX, Avery's older sister) walks over and takes the tray from Avery.

LEIGH
Hello, Miss Avery, still trying to
poison us I see.

AVERY
You stay with the jokes.

Leigh walks away, the front door opens, it hits Avery.

AVERY (CONT'D)
Ow.

JAMES (XXXX, Avery's Ex, and childhood sweetheart) enters, there's still a connection, maybe.

AVERY (CONT'D)
Um, excuse you- James, I didn't
know you were going to be here?

WANDA
I think I hear someone thinking
about calling me in the kitchen,
coming!

Wanda walks off.

JAMES
Yeah, your mom invited me.

WANDA
Of course she did.