

Wedding in Wisconsin
by Dan Fiorella

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WEDDING IN WISCONSIN

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FADE IN:

EXT. LOMBARDI INN -- NIGHT

Conveniently located across the street from Bayside's only mall, the Inn pretty much defines Bayside Wisconsin's downtown area.

The completely adequate multi-storied building stands in sharp contrast to the bleak, flat-landic, small town around it. It's connected by a skyway to the mall across the main road.

A police car leaves the parking lot, as another flicks off its roof lights and follows.

As the dreary drizzle further soaks the grounds, the Inn beckons...

INT. LOMBARDI LOBBY -- CONTINUOUS

Large atrium lobby with skylight at top. Rooms on the balconies rise above the lobby/courtyard. A large, beautiful fountain dominates the lobby. It appears someone has muddied the water with cake frosting.

The MANAGER is in the process of yelling at his STAFF, gesturing toward the banquet hall entrance. A woman, EMILY MEADOWS, dressed in an absurd pink gown, is being tended to by her disheveled husband, CARL.

What's been going on here, anyway?

INT. LARGE BANQUET HALL -- CONTINUOUS

The banquet hall of the Lombardi Inn. Tables are over-turned. Food is thrown about. Much cheese is in evidence. The room is in tatters.

LOU CRISTELLO, young, perpetually irked, Italian-American (non-guido variety), stands amongst the ruins. He is wearing the stained remains of a pink tuxedo. This is his Narrator image.

NARRATOR LOU

Well, look who's here. You missed it. It was something else. There was shouting and yelling and physical violence. Infidelity, blood-shed and poor manners. Not for nothing, it was some wedding. I don't know what happened.

(MORE)

NARRATOR LOU (CONT'D)

I'm pretty certain it wasn't planned, though now it all seems inevitable. Lord knows it started innocently enough with those three words which should have set alarms ringing for all of us.

CLAIRE (V.O.)

It'll be fun.

NARRATOR LOU

But maybe we should start at the beginning. It all started at another wedding at another time. It was a joyous affair. A happier time. Certainly with a better grade of best man. It was my best friend Dave's wedding. A wedding what was a wedding. Back in the days before... ..the crisis.

He pulls out a remote control and shrugs.

NARRATOR LOU (CONT'D)

They had it video taped.

He hits the remote. Video images come up.

INT. CHURCH -- DAY

David and Mary's wedding day. DAVID BONO is young, bespectacled, slight-of-build, reasonable-looking, non-yuppie type. His best man and best friend, Lou, is standing with him that the altar, before a full church. David looks nervous. Suddenly bright lights come on, blinding them and washing out the picture.

The light clicks off.

CAMERA MAN (O.S.)

Hey, guys, it's not a picture, It's video. Do something.

They feebly wave. Lou tries to straighten David's tie. David slaps him away.

A moment later, David tries to straighten Lou's cummerbund. They wave again.

Camera swings around to show GUESTS. Wedding March begins.

Everyone stands. The MAID OF HONOR, FLOWER GIRL and RING BEARER proceed up the aisle. MARY, the glowing, wholesome, nice Italian girl, comes up the aisle with her FATHER.

Series of cuts and dissolves showing:

PRIEST leading them through the vows:

Mary and David kissing; Greeting the Guests on the reception line at the church's entrance.

EXT. CHURCH -- DAY

Still on video: The couple steps out of church. The Guests throw rice at them. David gets it full in the face.

Mary and David get into a waiting limo with Lou and the rest of wedding party. David spits out some rice.

EXT. RECEPTION HALL -- DAY

Video: Limo pulls up, David and Mary get out. David is still spitting out rice.

INT. RECEPTION HALL -- DAY

Guests are seated. The D.J. is announcing as he plays music.

Ring Bearer and Flower Girl are introduced and enter room.

Then Lou and Maid of Honor. Then the big intro -- David and Mary. Everyone applauds.

MORE DISSOLVES AND CUTS:

David and Mary dance, then Lou and Maid of Honor, then Flower Girl tries to dance with Ring Bearer, but he runs off, crying. D.J. signals everyone to dance and all the Guests crowd onto the dance floor, eventually squeezing Mary and David off.

Lou is called up to make the toast. He goes to the D.J.'s stand and takes the mike.

LOU

To two great people, may your life
be like a loaf of Italian bread;
long and full of dough!

Everyone laughs and drinks.

INT. DAIS -- LATER

Video continues: The bridal party as seated at dais.

Lou's wife, an earthy, fun-loving Italian-American girl, CLAIRE, joins them at the dais.

CLAIRE

You guys sure know how to throw a
wedding.

DAVID

And you guys know how to threw the rice.

He picks a few more pieces out of his hair.

MARY

Wait'll you see the next one!

Lou has some food on his face.

CLAIRE

Hand me your oo-ban, please.

Lou hands her his cloth napkin and she wipes his face, finishing with a kiss.

The Guests clink their glasses with forks. David and Mary have to kiss. A cheer rings out. Lou laughs, then is suddenly struck in terror by something he sees.

LOU

What is that?

DAVID

What?

LOU

That! That! You didn't---

MARY

Now what?

DAVID

Oh. Ah, yeah, I did.

Guests all clink their glasses. Mary and David kiss to applause.

LOU

You invited Anderson?

MARY

Bill Anderson? Yes.

DAVID

I had to.

LOU

You had to? You're under orders?

DAVID

Geez, Lou. We've known him since grammar school. And he did save my life.

LOU
Guilt. It's a terrible thing to
waste...

BILL ANDERSON approaches. He's actually a good-looking guy,
but not the most socially acclimated person.

LOU (CONT'D)
How long before he brings it up?

BILL
Hey, guys. Good to see you. Some
shingdig here. Love it. Congrats.

MARY
Thanks.

BILL
Good thing I saved your life that
time, or you couldn't get married...

Lou clicks an imaginary stopwatch.

BILL (CONT'D)
Claire! Lou, you dog. How's it going?

LOU
It was going quite nicely, thank
you. What have you been up to?

Bill hands them a sheet of paper.

DAVID
What's that?

BILL
My resume.

MARY
(whispering to David)
He couldn't just say "Nothing much?"

DAVID
He's a literal-kind of guy.

Glasses clink so Mary and David lean in to kiss. Bill comes
up and hugs them by their necks.

BILL
Man, I am so happy for you two. You
guys are the best.

MARY
Thank you.

DAVID
Down, boy, down.

BILL
I gotta tell you something. I just
have to tell you. I wasn't sure I
was going to, but now I have to.
This is the perfect time.

DAVID
What is it, Bill?

BILL
Well, I met this girl---

DAVID
Good for you. Good for you.

LOU
That makes two now, right?

Claire gives Lou a smack.

BILL
Oh, you guys. I'm getting married!

DAVID
Married?

MARY
Congratulations.

CLAIRE
That's great, Bill.

LOU
Married?

BILL
Yeah. I met this girl, Courtney and
it just happened. Anyway, we've set
the date.

MARY
When?

BILL
Next April.

CLAIRE
Where's it gonna be?

BILL
Her family's paying for the wedding,
so they want it there.

MARY
Where's there?

BILL
The Midwest. Bayside, Wisconsin.

LOU
You're marrying a cheese-er?

BILL
They prefer "cheese-head." That's where her family's from. I met her on my last business trip there. And I'm here to ask you to come.

DAVID
You mean you didn't come to wish us well?

LOU
I'm not sure---

BILL
Oh, you have to come! You're in the wedding party!

LOU
The wedding party?

DAVID
That's quite an honor.

BILL
Oh, here's your wedding gift. So you coming?

Bill hands them an envelope Mary puts it in her cloth money satchel.

MARY
Of course we're coming. Wouldn't miss it.

DAVID
We wouldn't?

CLAIRE
Sure. It'll be fun.

Title comes up flashing "Warning, warning."

BILL
We can make a weekend of it. It'll be like old times.

LOU
Does it have to be?

Glasses clink again. David doesn't react Mary gives him a little shove. They kiss. But David looks worried.

INT. RECEPTION HALL -- LATER

More video of the party, more dancing.

Mary tosses her bouquet to girl guests.

David tosses garter to male guests.

Bride and Groom cut cake, shoving big pieces into each other's mouth.

Guests line up to present David and Mary with their gifts (i.e. money and card in envelope). Mary puts it in her cloth money satchel.

The Guests receive in return a wedding favor, a little ceramic bell with bride and groom's name and wedding date.

Claire holds it up to the camera.

Suddenly, the screen is filled with the logo for the video company, "Video Valentines, We Make Memories Happen."

Static appears.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

INT. HONEYMOON SUITE -- NIGHT

Dave and Mary are in their pajamas, sitting on the bed. The bed is covered with envelopes, cards and money, as Mary lists each gift amount and name while Dave sorts.

MARY

So, we're going to Wisconsin.
Apparently.

INTER-CUT:

INT. LOU & CLAIRE'S BEDROOM -- NIGHT

Comfortable, young, middle class furnishings, not long from the catalogue. Lou and Claire ready themselves for bed.

CLAIRE

Is there's problem? You're in the
wedding party. That's quite an honor.

LOU

Honor-schmoner, it's a ploy.

CLAIRE

A ploy? Bill has a ploy? What's that
mean?

LOU

He just wants to make sure I show up. So he doesn't just invite me, he drafts me into service.

DAVID

We were friends with Bill. But we weren't, like, best friends.

MARY

And?

DAVID

And nothing. We hung out together. We stayed in touch. I get a card for the holidays.

LOU

He's a loner. He hung with us. We only tolerated him because he tried so hard and was pathetic.

CLAIRE

Oh, a pity friend.

LOU

Yes, yes! Exactly. I mean, you be nice to a guy and this is how he repays you; by asking you to be in his wedding party.

CLAIRE

The bastard.

MARY

Then why do you stay friends with him?

DAVID

High school was a time of peer pressure and cliques. All of us who didn't belong to one banded together forming an anti-clique. I guess we're still kind of clinging to each other. Besides, he's usually far away, so it seemed safe.

CLAIRE

I'm sure Bill has lots of other friends he could ask.

LOU

Not likely.

DAVID

As far as I know, we were his only friends. Lou and I were pretty aware of our social shortcomings. He wasn't. So we would stay with him. That and the fact that he did save my life.

MARY

Yeah, what exactly is that about? You keep alluding to it but I don't understand it.

DAVID

It was the summer we graduated from high school. We chipped in for a house down on the Jersey shore---

WE FLASHBACK TO:

EXT. JERSEY SHORE -- DAY

It's a beautiful day at the beach.

David, Lou and Bill, younger by ten years, are on a blanket, laying on their backs. Lou lays, eyes closed. Dave reads his book. An alarm clock is beside Dave.

NARRATOR LOU (V.O.)

Sorry about this, having a flashback within a flashback. It was unavoidable.

The alarm rings.

DAVID

Okay. On three. One, two, three.

They flip over onto their stomachs. Bill then sits up.

BILL

Did you catch all the action around here? It's babe-city. Look at all these females.

DAVID & LOU

Yeah, yeah. Right.

BILL

Come on, guys. You'll miss out. Let's go trolling.

DAVID

Gee, I don't know, Bill. I'm really not in the mood for rejection.

LOU

I thought we came here to forget our troubles.

BILL

Nah, we are here to get into trouble!..

David and Lou can't help but share a look and roll their eyes.

BILL (CONT'D)

And I'm going for it. Ha. I got one...

The others sit up. Bill motions to the FEMALE LIFEGUARD, a goddess in spandex. To her chair is attached a phone. David and Lou have their doubts.

BILL (CONT'D)

Now watch this as I establish eye contact...

He takes off his sunglasses and stares at the Lifeguard.

BILL (CONT'D)

(aside to boys)

Ah, success. Our eyes have met. I give a little smile. Not too much. A nod. Yes. Now observe.

Bill gets up and strolls over to the station. David picks up two tubes of tan lotion and uses them as binoculars. They watch Bill approach the Lifeguard and speak.

DAVID

--Crikey! As the male approaches the female of the speices, notice how it puffs out his chest. Let's have a gander--

LOU

Dave, we can't go on like this. He's driving me crazy.

DAVID

I know, I know. But he's just...I don't know, insecure, uncertain---

LOU

Clueless, He annoys you. He annoys me. I don't know how I got talked into spending part of my summer with him. We must act now!

Bill returns.

DAVID

So?

BILL

I asked her if I could use her phone.

LOU

What?

BILL

Yeah. She's got a phone there. I told her I had to make a call and asked her if I could use her phone.

DAVID

And?

BILL

She said the phone was only for official use. I told her it was only a local call. Hey, N.B.D. No big deal. Well, now that I'm up, I'm gonna go cruising the shoreline. Wanna come?

DAVID

We pass.

BILL

Your loss.

Bill strolls off down the beach. David and Lou watch.

LOU

We have to tell him.

DAVID

I don't know. I've never broken up with a friend before. How do you do it? What do we say? I mean it's not like we can say, "but we can still be friends" because that kind of defeats the purpose. I don't know.

LOU

Do you want to be hanging around with him all your life? You want him at your wedding or something?

DAVID

No way.

LOU

Then let's do it. Do it now. Quick and clean. We tell him we can't be friends any more.

They see Bill wading with a pretty girl, CINDY. Lou and David get up and head out.

EXT. IN THE OCEAN -- DAY

Bill is trying to talk up Cindy as they wade.

BILL

Yeah, so I try to get down here a couple of times a summer.

CINDY

Oh, really? You have a house here?

BILL

Oh, but of course.

Lou and David enter the water and walk out. Lou steps on something, and stops to check his foot, David keeps walking.

Suddenly, he drops below the surface. He comes up and is smacked in the back of the head by a frisbee. He sinks back under.

LOU

Oh my God! Dave! Dave! He fell off the sand bar.

Bill sees and leaps into action, swimming and getting David before anyone else can react. He drags David to shore.

EXT. BEACH -- MOMENTS LATER

Bill drags David up onto the sand. David is starting to move. Bill pushes him down and starts administering mouth-to-mouth. David tries to push him off. Lou catches up. The Attractive Lifeguard arrives. Bill waves her off.

BILL

It's okay. I got him. I got him. You okay?

DAVID

Yeah, yeah. You could let her have a turn, you know.

BILL

Wow. I, like, really saved your life, huh?

LOU

So, you gonna tell him?

David shoots Lou a squinty-eyed stare.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. HONEYMOON SUITE -- NIGHT

Back to Mary and David, all comfy in bed.

MARY

He really saved your life.

DAVID

By all accounts. Though, the lifeguard did mention later that she had been distracted because she had to fix her phone. Seems Bill had fiddled with it---

MARY

Well, I'm glad you were saved, no matter who did it.

DAVID

So, do I have anyone to thank for your being here?

MARY

No. I managed not to do stupid, dangerous things.

DAVID

Oh.

EXT. BONO APARTMENT -- NIGHT

It's a side-door apartment of a private residence. Mary opens the door, holding a large shirt box. She opens it, takes out a door mat that reads "The Bonos" and places it in front of the door.

INT. BONO BEDROOM -- NIGHT

David and Mary are still organizing their lives in their first apartment together; A lovely bed set is in place, but they are using boxes as night stands, and other crates abound. David and Mary are sleeping.

Clock reads 12:30. Narrator Lou, in tux, steps into the foreground.

NARRATOR LOU

(whispering)

Well, a few weeks went by and there was no more talk of any wedding. Not for nothing, Bill had done this a couple of times. Working for this insurance company, you know, he was constantly getting transferred to different sites. And in every town, the minute he dated a girl a second

(MORE)

NARRATOR LOU (CONT'D)
 time, he was talking marriage. So,
 what with one thing and another, we
 pretty much forgot about the whole
 thing.

Phone rings, Narrator Lou tip-toes out. David groggily reaches out for phone, hitting into the boxes, and they all fall over. As he falls out of bed trying to reach for the phone, Mary wakes up.

DAVID
 Hello?

INTERCUT:

INT. ANDERSON APARTMENT -- NIGHT

A lame-ish bachelor pad. Bill is on phone, seated next to COURTNEY BLAINE, an attractive, aloof, Midwestern princess. At the moment she looks pretty annoyed.

BILL
 Hi, Dave, it's Bill!

DAVID
 (still groggy)
 Bill who?

MARY
 Who is it?

DAVID
 Some bill.

MARY
 Tell them the check's in the mail.

BILL
 Dave, it's me, Bill Anderson, the
 future groom. Did I wake you?

DAVID
 Bill? What time is it?

BILL
 It's eleven-thirty. What are you
 doing in bed already!

DAVID
 It's twelve-thirty here, Bill.

BILL
 Oh, I always forget whether it's an
 hour earlier or later.

DAVID
Mary didn't feel well, so we turned
in early. What's up?

BILL
I wanted you to say hello to Courtney.
Here, Courtney, say hello.

Bill attempts to hand the phone to Courtney. She's not
thrilled and won't take it. Finally he holds it up to her
mouth.

COURTNEY
Hello, Davey.

DAVID
Hello...

Bill takes phone back.

DAVID (CONT'D)
Davey?

BILL
Isn't she great?

DAVID
It's hard to tell long distance,
Bill. Maybe if this was a local
call---

BILL
You're still coming, right?

DAVID
Yeah, Bill, I guess.

BILL
I got a travel agent who can set up
the whole package. Just send me a
check for six hundred dollars.

DAVID
Six hundred dollars?

MARY
Six hundred dollars? What bill is
that?

BILL
Round trip airfare, hotel, meals.

DAVID
Does that include your wedding gift?

BILL
No, you nut. Ha-ha-ha.

DAVID

Right.

BILL

You got my address?

DAVID

Someplace, I'm sure.

BILL

Okay, great. I gotta call Louie now.
Catch you later.

Bill hangs up.

DAVID

No, Bill, don't call---

David hangs up.

MARY

What was that?

DAVID

Don't worry. Bill has it all under
control.

MARY

Is that good?

DAVID

Too early to tell. Davey? Where'd
she get that?

They lay down back to sleep. Phone rings. David answers it.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Hello?

INTERCUT:

INT. CRISTILLO BEDROOM -- NIGHT

Lou and Claire in bed. Lou is on phone.

LOU

That idiot just called me up six
hundred dollars worth.

MARY

Who is it?

DAVID

(to Mary)
Louie.
(on phone)
He already hit us up.

LOU

He told me he called you first. He said you said it was great.

DAVID

I didn't say---

LOU

And where does she get off calling me Louie? He hasn't changed. He's starting to make me crazy again.

DAVID

Go back to sleep.

LOU

I'll go, but he'll probably haunt me in my dreams.

INT. LIVING ROOM -- DAY

David and Lou are attempting to bring a sofa through the front door.

NARRATOR LOU (V.O.)

I figured Bill's plan was to call us at odd hours when our resistance was low and our guard was down, so we could get sucked into anything lame-brain thing Bill thought up. We all vowed never to sleep again until after the wedding, to avoid his little trap. Those sleepless nights had consequences of their own.

Mary comes out of the bathroom, holding a home pregnancy test. It's pink. She shows it to Dave, who is shocked and drops his end of the sofa. He manages to hug Mary, while Lou is forced to climb over the wedged sofa to congratulate a happy Mary and a stunned David.

NARRATOR LOU (V.O.) (CONT'D)

So in eight months time, there were to be two blessed events.

INT. NURSERY -- DAY

David is seated in the middle of a new nursery. Cartoon characters enliven the walls. Cute lamps and furniture. He's shot through the bars of the crib, to give him that prisoner look.

There's a car horn outside. A door opens. A shadow looms large behind David.

MARY

It's time, David...

A very pregnant Mary eases into the room.

MARY (CONT'D)

Lou and Claire are here. You okay?

DAVID

Just thinking if there's anything you, er, we forgot. This room should be ready at least. Right?

MARY

It's fine.

DAVID

I'm not sure about this trip.

MARY

Come on.

She pulls him out.

EXT. BONO HOUSE -- MORNING

Crack of dawn.

David is led out by Mary. Claire waits in front of the house while Lou takes their luggage out of his car.

Narrator Lou is seated in the background.

NARRATOR LOU

Nothing much happened in the months that followed. Bill was taking care of everything. We just had to show up.

CLAIRE

What time is the van coming?

LOU

There it is.

DAVID

The van?

LOU

No, the sun. I knew it would be up soon.

DAVID

The van shoulda been here.

CLAIRE

How you feeling?

MARY

Pretty good.

DAVID

Forget it, guys. I'm not going.

MARY

You have to go.

DAVID

I can't leave you like this.

MARY

Like what? I'm pregnant, not terminal. I can still take you, you know.

CLAIRE

Are you going to be all right?

MARY

Yeah, don't worry. My mom's staying with me. You all go. I'll be fine. Go, enjoy.

DAVID

How can I have a good time with you here, all pregnant and everything? I don't like this.

LOU

Don't sweat it. It's not like we're going to have a good time.

DAVID

No?

CLAIRE

Ma-rone, will you lighten up?

LOU

I'll go. I'll drink his liquor. I'll eat his food. But I won't have a good time and you can't make me.

DAVID

I'm staying.

MARY

You're going. You made a promise.

DAVID

What about you?

MARY

I'll keep my legs crossed 'til you get back.

LOU

I see the van.

An airport livery van pulls up. Good-byes are exchanged.

David, Lou and Claire load luggage in van, get in and drive off. Mary waves them on.

INT. VAN -- DAY

They're driving along the highway. David is staring out window.

EXT. NEWARK AIRPORT -- DAY

The trio unload luggage. The van drives off.

CLAIRE

(suddenly)

Oh, my pocketbook! I left it in the van! Ah, stu-nod!

DAVID

The tickets!

Automatically, David runs after the van. The van stops short, David runs smack into the back of it. The VAN DRIVER gets out, carrying Claire's pocketbook. He gives it to Claire, gets back in and drives off, leaving a stunned David standing there. Lou walks over.

LOU

You okay?

DAVID

Did you get the number of that truck?

LOU

Yeah. It's four.

DAVID

Thanks.

LOU

Come on, Wisconsin awaits.

David tenderly feels his nose as Lou leads him back to the luggage and into the airport.

INT. TICKET COUNTER -- DAY

The trio approach the airline counter and present their tickets. The COUNTER GIRL looks at them, shakes her head and points off in another direction.

INT. ANOTHER TICKET COUNTER -- MOMENTS LATER

ANOTHER COUNTER GIRL looks at their tickets, shaking her head, She points them off to another sea.

INT. THIRD TICKET COUNTER -- MOMENTS LATER

They approach the counter, COUNTER MAN just waves them to pass by.

INT. NORTHERN TICKET COUNTER -- MOMENTS LATER

The trio come to an unattractive and non-prosperous looking counter. They present tickets to the Northern GIRL, who looks really surprised that someone actually bought tickets.

As they wait in line, we see TRUCKERS loading on a large number of overnight delivery packages and some small barnyard animals. David thinks this is unusual but isn't sure.

Other PASSENGERS with luggage drift into the waiting area. PILOT enters with a bullhorn and makes his boarding announcement. He starts to leave, pauses, pats his jacket, finds his keys and continues. Everyone boards the plane.

INSERT SFX

A map shows the flight stopping in Pittsburgh, Cleveland, Chicago, Milwaukee and Greenbay, Wisconsin.

INT. PLANE CABIN -- DAY

Lou, Claire and David are seated in the rumble seat set-up at the front of the cabin. David can only stare out the window.

LOU

The next time we land, I'm getting off no matter where we are.

CLAIRE

Honey, have I mentioned lately how annoying you are?

LOU

Not lately.

CLAIRE

Remind me later to.

LOU

No prob.

CLAIRE

I'm going to the bathroom. Anyone need anything?...

They both look at her.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

Oh, what? I can't make a joke? You two have a monopoly on droll?

They laugh and shake their heads as she slides out.

LOU

Okay, Mr. Happypus, what's eating you?

DAVID

Oh, look, that cloud looks like a cotton ball.

LOU

Dave, what's wrong?

DAVID

What?

LOU

You sitting here like you're trying to set the Guinness Record for glum.

DAVID

I don't know. I should be happy right?

LOU

You're about to have a child, your going far away for what could conceivably be a fun weekend. Mary's fine and you know it. Yeah, happy's a viable choice.

DAVID

I know...it's just---

LOU

Just what?

DAVID

I'm going to be a father, Lou.

LOU

This is true.

DAVID

I mean, getting married wasn't a big deal, really. We were together all the time anyway, we just got to stay together when we said good-night. But, a baby.

LOU

It's a whole new ball game.

DAVID

I'll say.

LOU
Having a baby around is awesome.

DAVID
You've never had a baby.

LOU
No. But I used to be one and I remember.

Claire returns.

CLAIRE
What'd I miss?

LOU
Nothing much. David's got the pre-dad jitters.

CLAIRE
Oh, that's sweet.

She pinches his cheek as he bravely smiles.

The plane flies on.

EXT. AIRPORT RUNWAY -- DAY

Small functional airport of the city of Bayside, WI. The plane taxis in. The gangplank is brought to the plane door.

EXT. AIRPORT WAITING AREA -- DAY

RON MATTHEWS, a driver, stands by his small hotel shuttle car courtesy the Lombardi Inn of Bayside. The window of the car rolls down. It's Narrator Lou.

NARRATOR LOU
What Bill had neglected to tell us was that we were arriving with some additional luggage. Apparently the good people of Wisconsin have certain preconceived notions of New Yorkers...

EXT. RUNWAY -- DAY

As the trio exit from the plane, they are dreamed as mobsters and a hooker.

NARRATOR LOU
To be fair, we did have our own views of Wisconsin.

The group's pov of airport Matthews is dressed like a farmer standing by a tractor. SEVERAL PEOPLE walk around in gingham dresses and overalls leading cows on rope.

EXT. AIRPORT TERMINAL -- DAY

The trio meet up with Matthews the driver, as do a group of PROFESSIONAL BOWLER-TYPES ahead of them.

MATTHEWS

Hya! You good people headed for Bayside?

DAVID

Yes, sir.

MATTHEWS

Mighty popular today.

CLAIRE

Are we all going to fit in there?

MATTHEWS

Nope, don't think so. Stay here, please.

Matthews steps out to the road leading from the airport. He pulls out a badge and stops a car. HANK, the driver, is happy to help.

MATTHEWS (CONT'D)

Excuse me, Ron Matthews, with the Chamber of Commerce, we have to commandeer your vehicle in the name of tourism.

HANK

You bet.

EXT. ROAD -- DAY

The two cars motor toward Bayside. The bowlers are in the shuttle car with Matthews. Lou, Claire and David follow in Hank's car.

INT. HANK'S CAR -- DAY

Lou and Claire are in the backseat. David in front with Hank.

DAVID

Thank you again. This was very nice of you.

HANK

You bet. Like to help out the chamber commerce any chance I get, know what I mean? Fine folk. Done a lot for the community. Why, I'd take a bullet for any one of them.

DAVID
Yeah. Well, thanks.

HANK
Are you going to be around long?

LOU
Just the weekend.

CLAIRE
We're attending a wedding.

HANK
Oh, really? Whose?

CLAIRE
I don't think you'd know the groom.
The bride's name is Courtney Meadows.

HANK
Meadows, Meadows. Would they be the
same Meadows who run the bowling
alley outside town? Fine family.

DAVID
We really don't know. Their daughter
works in Chicago.

HANK
That's some town, Chicago.

DAVID
So I hear. We're from New York,
though.

CLAIRE
That's right.

HANK
I knew a fellow from New York. We
were in the army together. Great
guy. Great guy. Let's see, his name
was...Steve. Do you know him?

LOU
I don't think so.

DAVID
I know a guy Stan.

HANK
No, it's Steve. Tall guy. Brown hair.
Great guy.

LOU
No, I think I would have remembered
him. But then, hey, it's a big city.

HANK
Might too big, if you ask me.

DAVID
Yeah, well, kinda big.

HANK
(suddenly intense)
No. I said too big.

Lou and Claire lean far back in their seats. David squeezes as far right as he can.

EXT. ROAD -- DAY

They pass the obligatory sign reading "Welcome to Bayside."

EXT. LOMBARDI INN -- DAY

It's the Lombardi Inn, in all it's pre-wedding glory. They pull up to the hotel. A sign out front welcomes the Midwest Bowling Tournament. Everyone unloads their stuff and enters the hotel lobby.

INT. HOTEL LOBBY -- DAY

It's the spacious lobby from the opening, only now pristine and inviting. The travelers are impressed.

CLAIRE
This is very nice.

LOU
And no livestock.

DAVID
We must be in the wrong hotel.

LOU
Maybe the wrong state.

They go to front desk. A beautiful Woman passes by. David's gaze follows her. He walks into the front desk. They check in and head up to their room.

INT. 7TH FLOOR HALLWAY -- DAY

The walkway overlooks the atrium. The BELLBOY leads them to room 719 and lets them in.

INT. ROOM 719 LIVINGROOM -- CONTINUOUS

Large two room suite: T.V., sofa, couch, a small wet bar with a phone on it. Glass doors out to small balcony with a view of the mall. They tip the Bellboy, who leaves.

DAVID

See, things are looking up.

Claire and Lou go to check the view while David goes into the next room.

INT. HOTEL BATHROOM -- CONTINUOUS

David visits the bathroom. As he lifts the seat he realizes the shower's running. He pulls back the shower curtain.

Shades of Psycho (in reverse)! He's terrified by what he sees.

A big, wet, bulky guy (BERNARD) in a shower cap, holding a back scrubber. He's surprised and starts flailing with the brush. David beats a hasty retreat.

INT. ROOM 719 LIVINGROOM -- CONTINUOUS

David rushes in screaming.

DAVID

There's somebody in here! There's somebody in here!

LOU

What?

Just then, ALICE MONTEFULLO, a sweetly attractive amiable-type comes out brandishing a travel iron.

ALICE

Bernie! Help! There's somebody in here!

Bernie Stencil, fresh from the shower, enters, now wrapped in a towel and waving his back scrubber.

BERNIE

Who the hell are you? What are you doing in our room?

CLAIRE

The hotel said it was our room!

Claire holds out a cardkey. Alice pulls out her cardkey.

LOU

Well, there's a total surprise. Somebody made a mistake. We're here for a wedding.

ALICE

Us, too.

DAVID
Not Bill Anderson.

BERNIE
You know Needle-nose?

LOU
Needle-nose? I'll have to remember
that one. I'm calling the desk.

Lou goes to the phone.

CLAIRE
I'm Claire and that bundle of raw
nerves is my husband, Lou.

DAVID
And me, I'm David Bono.

BERNIE
Oh, you're that guy he saved.

DAVID
You know about that?

BERNIE
I'm Bernie Stencil. This is my
significant other, Alice.

ALICE
Hi.

DAVID
Know Bill long?

BERNIE
I shared a dorm with doofus in
college. Four years. Four long years.

CLAIRE
You didn't get along?

BERNIE
We often clashed, yes.

CLAIRE
Why are you here?

BERNIE
I owe him money. You?

DAVID
Guilt.

LOU

(off phone)

That imbecile! The reservations are all screwed up. We're all here! I will kill him.

BERNIE

Get in line. That pimple-nosed goon.

(to ALICE)

Get me my pants, huh?

Alice hurries into the bedroom to get some pants. Bernie puts them on under his towel.

DAVID

Calm down, guys. It's some sort of oversight in the confusion of the wedding.

He takes the phone from Lou.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Maybe they booked them under Bill's name---

(on phone)

Is there anything booked under the name of Bill Anderson? Oh. What else is available? Yes, I noticed the signs for the Bowlers convention. But there must be...I mean...nothing? There are that many bowlers, huh?

(hangs up)

We're sharing.

LOU

May I have the envelope for the wedding gift?...

Claire fishes out the envelope and card and hands it to Lou. He removes a bill and pockets it.

LOU (CONT'D)

There'll be a penalty charge for this.

DAVID

Lou, you can't do that. It's not his fault.

LOU

Watch me.

DAVID

It's only for one night. Basically we'll just be here to sleep tonight and change clothes, right?

BERNIE

You can flip to see who gets the couch.

Bernie and Alice go back into the bedroom. David goes to make call.

DAVID

Hello? Mary?

INTERCUT:

INT. BONO HOME -- DAY

Mary is in the kitchen simmering some sauce and putting containers of it in the freezer.

MARY

Hi, honey! You get there okay?

DAVID

Well, we made it. How are you?

MARY

Okay. I feel good. My mother just ran to the store.

DAVID

Don't let her get too far.

MARY

She's on a beeper, Dave.

DAVID

Ha-ha. No, really, is she?

MARY

David.

Bernie, now attired, and Alice re-join them. There's a knock at the door, Bernie answers it. It's Bill. With him is ANDY MEADOWS, a clean cut and polite teenager.

BILL

Hey, Barnyard! It's me!

LOU

Barnyard?

BERNIE

Look, everyone, it's silly putty head!

BILL

Ha-ha! Dave! Lou! Claire! Alice!

LOU & DAVID

Bill.

BILL

What are you all doing up here?
You're supposed to be on the second
floor with the rest of us.

LOU

You tell us, Bill.

BILL

What do you mean?

LOU

We were all booked into the stateroom
scene from "A Night at the Opera."

DAVID

(to phone)

Oh, Mary, Bill just showed up. I
gotta go. I love you. I'll call later.
Bye.

BILL

I don't know what happened. I'll
have to talk to the travel agent.

BERNIE

You do that. When can you see her?

BILL

Tomorrow, I guess. She'll be at the
wedding.

LOU

You mean we haven't been getting
jerked around by some thoughtless
stranger but by a good friend of
yours?

BILL

Guys, this is Andy. He's Courtney's
brother.

LOU

And what has he come to do to us?

David nudges Lou.

ANDY

Glad to make your acquaintance.

CLAIRE

When do we get to meet Courtney?

BILL
 Soon enough. She's downstairs. Taking
 care of some business.

INT. HOTEL ROOM -- CONTINUOUS

Courtney's receiving family and friends, toasting with
 champagne.

INT. ROOM 719 LIVINGROOM -- CONTINUOUS

BILL
 So, guys, you ready?

BERNIE
 Ready for what?

BILL
 Have to go get our tuxes.

DAVID
 We just got here, Bill. We haven't
 even unpacked yet.

LOU
 I'm hungry. Let's eat lunch first at
 least.

BILL
 We have to hurry. The place closes
 at noon. Then we'll get some lunch.
 My treat.

CLAIRE
 The tux rental closes on noon on a
 Saturday? Isn't the weekend normally
 a big tux rental time?

BILL
 Go figure. Ready to roll?

ALICE
 We'll unpack, you go on.

DAVID
 Leave my stuff. I'll do it when we
 get back.

CLAIRE
 It's taken care of, Dave. Go.

DAVID
 Thanks.

The men exit, leaving Alice and Claire to take in the
 situation.

CLAIRE
So, let's talk men.

EXT. TUXEDO RENTAL STORE -- DAY

Car pulls up in front of a small store. They go in, passing a sign on the door reading "No charge cards."

BILL
I gotta pick up my father-in-law's tux, too.

DAVID
Why? Where's he?

BILL
Home, having lunch.

LOU
Well, there's a novel concept.
Lunch at lunch time. What strange customs these people have.

INT. TUXEDO STORE -- DAY

Bill and Andy at counter. Suddenly the curtains on the three dressing rooms are snapped opened. Bernie, David and Lou step out wearing pink tuxedos.

BERNIE
What is this crap?

BILL
How do they fit?

BERNIE
What is this crap?

BILL
What?

DAVID
Pink, Bill? Pink tuxedos?

BILL
They're not pink. They're salmon.

LOU
They're pink.

BILL
No, really. They're salmon.

BERNIE
I don't care if they swim upstream and spawn. I'm not wearing this.

BILL
You gotta, Bernie.

DAVID
Bill, why this color? Why?

BILL
So you'll match the girls.

BERNIE
That's not a reason.

DAVID
Were they out of other normal colors?

LOU
Like, oh, say, black.

BILL
They're part of the overall color scheme of the weddings. You have to wear them or you'll clash.

BERNIE
You wanna see clashing? Watch my fist clash with your face.

ANDY
My mom picked them out.

BERNIE
You let his mother pick the tuxes?

BILL
She had to take care of a lot of small details. We live in Chicago. I couldn't be here for everything. She was doing us a big favor.

LOU
What color is your tux?

BILL
Black. But I'm not in the wedding party.

BERNIE
You're a jerk.

BILL
Oh, you guys. Come on, let's get back to the hotel.

LOU
Lunch. You're buying us lunch. Remember?

BILL

Oh, right.

A little later, they emerge from the fitting rooms in their own clothes. Bill is still at the counter. He walks over to the guys.

BILL (CONT'D)

Can I borrow some money?

BERNIE

For what?

BILL

To pay for the tuxes. They don't take credit cards here.

DAVID

That would explain the "No charge card" sign in the window.

BILL

I don't have enough to pay for three tuxedos.

LOU

Three?

BILL

I'm paying for Andy's, too.

LOU

Why didn't you know about the credit cards?

BILL

I never noticed the sign.

LOU

I'm from out of state and I noticed the sign.

BILL

I'm from out of state, too.

BERNIE

Yeah. But you're a jerk.

David and Bernie each put up some money while Lou chips in with some cash from the wedding gift envelope. They leave.

INT. BURGER WORLD -- DAY

Bernie, Bill, Andy and Lou are seated at a booth. David is getting his order from the Cashier, a very attractive young lady. David lingers a bit, then he joins the group.

DAVID

I've never seen so many different kinds of cheeseburgers featured.

BERNIE

Nice restaurant, Bill. I love the McAmbiance.

ANDY

You know you get a free hot apple pie with the Kids Meal?

BILL

Hey, nothing's too good for my pals.

LOU

Apparently nothing's too bad either.

BILL

I promise I'll make it up to you.

LOU

Fine. Next time you get married, lunch is on you.

DAVID

You going to eat that pickle?

LOU

It's yours.

DAVID

All right then, where did you meet this Courtney character, if in fact she exists?

BILL

We met in Chicago. There's this bar near where I work--

INT. BAR -- NIGHT

BILL'S FLASHBACK:

Room filled with PEOPLE having a good time. Flashing lights and loud music. A line of PEOPLE enter, including Bill and his slick, good-looking friend, ED. The BOUNCER allows everyone in, but stops Bill and proofs him. Bill shows him his license, then enters, shrugging.

He meets up with Ed at the bar. Across from them are Courtney and her foxy friend, GRACE.

BILL (V.O.)

Real swinging after-work place.
Babes as far as the eye can see.

(MORE)

BILL (V.O.) (CONT'D)

And me and my friend Ed (you'll meet him later), we're eyeing everyone up. So we're sitting there, hoisting a few brewskis and we notice these girls staring at us...

Ed and Grace are locked in an intense, passion-filled gaze.

Bill keeps trying to get Ed's attention. Courtney seems out-of-place and uncomfortable with Grace ignoring her.

BILL (CONT'D)

So, we make eye contact with these two: Courtney and her friend Grace, who you'll meet later. She's the maid of honor. Okay, so, like they're making these bedroom eyes...

Bill shrugs and waves to Courtney who shrugs and waves back.

Ed signals for Grace to join them. As Grace starts over, Ed secures an empty table. Courtney and Bill follow.

BILL (CONT'D)

So we latch onto these two chicks and they're really coming on to us...

Ed and Grace wordlessly gaze at each other. They join hands, then grab and start kissing.

BILL (CONT'D)

They were hot. So like this goes on at the bar for awhile, then we decide to reel them in and bring'em home...

Grace and Ed are still at it.

Courtney finishes her drink. Bill offers to get her another. Courtney declines the offer, indicating she'll get her own. Bill insists, as does Courtney. Eventually, they both wind up going to the bar. While they're away, Ed and Grace get up and leave, still embracing.

ANOTHER COUPLE sit at the table.

Bill and Courtney return and sit at the table. The other couple glares at them until Bill and Courtney realize that Ed and Grace are gone. They get up and wander back to the bar.

Awkwardly at first, they actually get into a conversation.

BILL (CONT'D)

Wasn't long after that I got what I wanted from her.

LOU (V.O.)

Car fare?

Flashback dissipates.

INT. BURGER WORLD -- DAY

Everyone, except Dave, is finishing up.

DAVID

And when was this?

BILL

Oh, geez, about a year ago.

LOU

That means you just met her before
Dave's wedding?

BILL

That's right.

DAVID

And you were already talking marriage?

BILL

Yup.

BERNIE

Are you for real, paste head?

DAVID

(to Bernie)

You gonna finish those fries?

Bernie passes them over.

BILL

It happens. Didn't you ever hear of
love at first sight?

BERNIE

Not if they get a good look. So how
hard up is this girl?

BILL

(nodding toward Andy)

Barnyard!

BERNIE

Sorry. Let me re-phrase the question:
Is this girl hard-up or what?

BILL

She's a great girl.

BERNIE
With no standards.

DAVID
Does this cole slaw belong to anyone?

ANDY
Wow, you guys from New York are real
pistols!

BERNIE
I'm from Philadelphia.

ANDY
My dad says it's all the same thing.

DAVID
Can we get back now? I'd really like
to wash up and change.

BILL
We'd better get moving. We still
have to go to the church and then to
Courtney's mom's for the rehearsal
party.

They get up. David grabs the last fry and his shake and
follows.

INT. ROOM 719 LIVINGROOM -- DAY

Claire and Alice are changed and unpacking.

ALICE
I was a little surprised when Bill
asked Bernie to be in the wedding
party. He hadn't talk to him in a
year. Then he calls Bernie late one
night announces he's in the wedding
party.

The phone rings. Claire gets it.

CLAIRE
That's Bill's M.O. Hello?

INTERCUT:

INT. LOBBY PHONE BOOTH -- DAY

It's an irked Courtney dropping the dime.

COURTNEY
Is Bill there?

CLAIRE
Whom may I say is calling?

COURTNEY

Is he there?

CLAIRE

No, he isn't.

COURTNEY

He's supposed to be at the welcoming reception for all the guests. Where is he?

CLAIRE

Did you try Courtney Meadow's room?

COURTNEY

This is Courtney!

CLAIRE

Oh. Hi, Courtney. I'm Claire, Lou's wife and one of your guests.

COURTNEY

So, where is he?

CLAIRE

Last I heard, they were out getting the tuxedos.

EXT. ROAD -- DAY

Bernie, David, Lou and Bill push the car while Andy steers. They come to a brand name service station.

DAVID

At last.

BILL

No, not her. Mr. Meadows only uses Mobil. It's just a little further down.

Annoyed beyond belief, they push on. Literally.

INT. ROOM 719 LIVINGROOM -- DAY

Bernie, David and Lou enter, carrying the tuxes, looking worn and sweaty. The girls are seated on the couch.

DAVID

What are you doing here?

ALICE

Where else are we supposed to be?

LOU

Bill said Courtney was having everyone down to the second floor for drinks.

ALICE
We weren't invited.

DAVID
Maybe she didn't realize we checked in.

CLAIRE
Oh, she knows we're here.

BERNIE
Typical. We have to get ready for the wedding rehearsal now.

ALICE
We know. So what happened?

BERNIE
Bill's a jerk.

LOU
That's a given. They should be working around that by now. Everybody knows Bill is where brain cells go to vacation.

EXT. CHURCH -- DAY

Our Lady of Victory, Victory, Victory. Bill pulls up with Courtney, Andy and Grace. The hotel car pulls up and the couples and David get out.

INT. CHURCH -- DAY

Elegant old Lutheran church. The REV. BERKLEY is waiting along with ELLEN, SUSAN, KAREN and ROBIN, Courtney's pretty bridesmaids. Ed is also waiting. Bill, et. al. enter. Ed and Grace scowl at each other once they see each other.

BILL
Hi, everyone. We're here.

COURTNEY
They can see that.

REV. BERKLEY
You're late. Please, let's get started. We must rehearse.

DAVID
I just had a shiver run down my spine. Anyone else?

Lou raises hand. Bernie chuckles. Everyone is herded to the back of the church by Berkley.

REV. BERKLEY

Okay, everyone, let's couple off.
Find your partners. Please don't
dawdle. Groom, best man come forward,
please.

Courtney indicates Claire and Alice to Bill. Bill turns to them.

BILL

Er, you girls can watch from the
pews.

ALICE

Okay.

CLAIRE

I want an aisle seat.

They go up and sit.

BILL

Okay, Lou, your partner is Ellen.
David, you're with Susan. Barnyard,
you're with Karen. Andy-Robin.

GIRLS

Hi.

BERNIE

Hello.

DAVID

(sing-song)
Hello.

LOU

(sing-song)
Hello.

DAVID & LOU

(ala 3 Stooges)
Hello.

SUSAN

Oh, a coupla of wise guys, eh?

Girls giggle. Bernie looks annoyed. Courtney shoots Bill a disapproving look. But David and Lou are delighted with the response. David does a little Curly bark.

REV. BERKLEY

Please, people please, can we get on
with it? Courtney, dear, you stay
back. Bill you and the best man --
Ed, is it? -- get up on the altar.

(MORE)

REV. BERKLEY (CONT'D)

Maids, you in back with Courtney.
All right, now, as the march begins,
each usher comes up front. Five paces
apart. That's almost a bar of music.
Let's try it.

Bernie, David, Lou share an uncertain glance.

Berkley starts humming. Lou starts up, looking very
uncomfortable. David starts after him followed by Bernie,
then Andy.

They reach the altar.

REV. BERKLEY (CONT'D)

All right, let's see some smiles.
Happy faces! Keep in time to the
music. Tempo, tempo! As you reach
the top of the aisle, fan out and
form a semi-circle in the right...

Berkley is pacing up and down the aisle directing the ushers.
He gets them forming a semi-circle at the right side of the
altar. Bill and Ed stand at the altar, watching. Each usher
(except Andy) glares at Bill as they each come up. Berkley
dashes down the aisle to the girls.

REV. BERKLEY (CONT'D)

All right, there'll be a pause in
the music. Tres dramatic. I'll nod,
then you'll come up with your father,
surrounded by your adoring bride's
maids. We might be able to get some
rose petals to toss. We'll see. All
right, you go...

Girls start up.

REV. BERKLEY (CONT'D)

Smile, remember, this is the happiest
day of your life. Happy faces. Tempo,
girls, tempo. With the music.

DAVID

(to Lou)

I don't know how the wedding's going
to go, but we can open on Broadway
in a week.

The scene take on the feel of a 1930's Hollywood musical as
the rehearsal drags on: overhead shots, ushers and maids
forming geometric shapes with arms and legs akimbo, as Berkley
hustles them up and down, posing them, marching them and
parading them up and down. David and Lou do some 60's song
group-style moves. Barnyard and Karen seem comfortable
together.

David and Susan seem mighty comfortable as they sit in a pew waiting. She laughs and puts a hand on his thigh.

INT. CHURCH -- LATER

There's a break in the action.

Claire and Alice are nodding off in the pew.

The ushers are frazzled.

Grace and Ed are still giving each other death stares.

Courtney and the Maids are standing in the background, talking with Berkley.

DAVID

Should your marriage last as long as the rehearsal.

BILL

Come on, guys, we have to be at my in-laws at six.

BERNIE

Don't tell us.

LOU

Yeah, talk to Tommy Tune over there.

BILL

It would go much faster if you got into the spirit of the thing.

LOU

Bill, we're in the wedding party. We're not auditioning for "The Lion King." Not for nothing, but at my wedding, the ushers and maids just marched up the aisle ahead of the bride and sat. And at the end, they got up and marched to the back of the church, stood there with us and let people tell them how good they looked.

DAVID

That's right. Me, too. You were there, Bill. It wasn't a big to-do.

BERNIE

What's with all the posing and posturing? Give us a break, will you?

LOU

Yeah, talk to the priest.

BILL

We have to do it like this.

BERNIE

Why, did Courtney's mom pick the preacher, too?

DAVID

It's not an unreasonable request, Bill. The simpler everything is--

LOU

--The less chance of screwing up and really embarrassing you.

BERNIE

Do it.

Bill walks over to Berkley. They go to the side and talk.

Rev. Berkley stamps his foot and leaves in a huff. Bill comes back.

BILL

He'll think about it.

Courtney and her maids approach the ushers. Without acknowledging anyone, Courtney pulls Bill to the side.

LOU

(aside to David)

Hey, wasn't that the bride?

DAVID

I heard she might be here.

COURTNEY

What was that all about?

BILL

Some suggestions about the ceremony.

Claire and Alice join the group.

CLAIRE

What's the delay?

LOU

Don't ask.

COURTNEY

(calling over)

Is everyone ready to go over to my mother's?

There's general agreement on this one.

BILL

Follow me.

Courtney steps ahead of Bill and leads the way out. The others follow.

EXT. MOTHER'S HOUSE -- DUSK

The cars are parked and everyone heads in. The group hangs back.

BERNIE

Pink. I'm not lying. Pink tuxedos.

CLAIRE

He can't be serious.

DAVID

Deadly serious.

They enter the house.

LOU

How did they ever come up with a color like that?

INT. LIVINGROOM -- DUSK

The house is all done, though tastefully, in pink. The same shade as the tuxes.

LOU

Oh.

LOLLIPOP, a poodle with pink ribbons in its hair, runs up and jumps on David.

DAVID

Nice doggie. Nice. Down, Cujo.

Emily and Carl Meadows, Courtney's parents (who were seen disheveled in the opening but are now quite sheveled), are putting the finishing touches on the buffet, a selection of cheese from around the state. Earl has a camera and snaps off a couple of shots. They then greet their visitors.

EMILY

Hello! How is everyone? You must be Bill's New York friends.

LOU

Guilty.

DAVID

Yes, we are.

BERNIE
I'm his Philly friend from college.

EMILY
You must be Barnyard.

BERNIE
I must be. This is my, er, girlfriend,
Alice.

LOU
I'm Lou, this is my wife, Claire.
And that's David as the Beaver.

EMILY
Oh yes, the young man William saved.
Carl, welcome our guests. Get some
nice shots.

CARL
You bet. Welcome, everyone.

He snaps a picture.

EMILY
Show them where the food is, Carl.

CARL
You bet. This way, food's out.

EMILY
Tell them to enjoy it.

CARL
You bet. Enjoy.

They head for the buffet, featuring a large football-shaped
wheel of cheese. Carl snaps a picture, Ed and Grace saunter
up, glaring still.

LOU
Nice place you have here.

EMILY
Why, thank you so much.

LOU
You like pink, don't you Mrs.
Meadows?

EMILY
Simply adore it.

Bill, David, Alice and Ed are talking.

BILL
David, this is my friend, Ed. My
best man. I told you about him.

DAVID
You were with Bill when he met
Courtney. The one who got Grace.

Ed grimaces and returns to the drinks.

BILL
We work together.

DAVID
I see.

BILL
Too bad Mary couldn't be here. When
is she due?

DAVID
Couple of weeks.

ALICE
Having children is amazing.

DAVID
It's a major trip, that's for sure.
And all the stuff you have to learn.
Like, did you know that "The Alphabet
Song" is really "Twinkle, Twinkle,
Little Star?"

ALICE
I had no idea.

DAVID
And that Barney character ripped off
"This Old Man" for his "I Love You."

Alice giggles.

BILL
Ah, no.

DAVID
It's true. And I used to think Oskosh
B'gosh was a Jewish temple, you know,
B'nai B'gosh.

Courtney is off to the side, feeding cheese to the poodle.

Carl is taking snap shots and orders from Emily.

Bernie wanders over to Karen while Alice is with Claire.

BERNIE
So, we're going to be partners.

KAREN
Seems that way.

BERNIE
You're a friend of Courtney's?

KAREN
Yes.

BERNIE
I thought so. Bill doesn't meet good looking girls like you.

KAREN
Thank you.

BERNIE
So, you live around here?

KAREN
No. I'm from Chicago. But I come up here with Courtney a lot.

BERNIE
Then you know all the hot spots.

KAREN
There aren't any.

BERNIE
I figured as much. I guess we're on our own then.

KAREN
I guess so.

Alice winds up with Claire and Lou.

CLAIRE
Excuse me, but has anyone here actually been introduced to Courtney?

LOU
No, now that you mention it.

ALICE
I haven't.

LOU
Shouldn't we have been greeted by her and thanked profusely for coming?

CLAIRE
That would have been nice.

ALICE

Yeah.

CLAIRE

What's her problem then?

Bill and David continue talking.

DAVID

Yeah, then the doctor swings the wand around and you can see the little heart beating away...

David takes out his wallet.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Here, he printed out a copy of the sonogram. That's the head there, where he drew the little happy face.

BILL

Oh.

DAVID

And I'm going to have to start caring for that in a few weeks. So, when are your folks due here?

BILL

Ah, well, er, they might not be coming.

DAVID

What?

BILL

I don't know if they're coming.

DAVID

Excuse me a moment, won't you?...

David hurries over to Lou, Claire and Alice.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Bill's parents aren't coming.

CLAIRE

What?

LOU

Whatta ya mean? We showed up but they didn't?

ALICE

That's terrible.

DAVID

That must be why he was so anxious to have us here.

LOU

Sure, he needed somebody to sit on his side of the church. I feel like a pawn in some kind of interstate game of show and tell.

DAVID

It's kinda sad, actually.

CLAIRE

Go find out why.

David and Lou join Bill who is now talking to Grace.

BILL

Oh, Dave, Lou, this is Courtney's friend, Grace. They practically grew up together. In fact, they share an apartment in Chicago.

DAVID

So you met Bill and Ed that first fateful night...

Grace makes a spitting motion at the floor and walks away.

DAVID (CONT'D)

This may be a wild guess, but have Grace and Ed had a falling out since that night?

BILL

Aah, yes. It started the next morning when they woke up on the shore of Lake Superior wearing nothing but bowling shoes.

LOU

Yo, Billy boy, what's this crap---

DAVID

(interrupting)

So, Bill, tell us, why aren't you sure if your parents are coming?

BILL

Well, you see, it's because I'm not really sure they know.

Alice joins Karen and Bernie.

LOU
They don't know you're getting
married? Why the hell---

DAVID
(interrupting)
Why wouldn't they know, Bill?

BILL
I didn't tell them.

DAVID
Ah, I see . And if I may ask, why
didn't you tell them?

BILL
We had a big blow-out last time I
was home. They said some things about
Courtney---

DAVID
About Courtney? When did they meet
Courtney?

BILL
Oh, what, five months ago, when I
visited them.

DAVID
You were home five months ago? You
never said anything. Why didn't you
call?

BILL
I was only home for two weeks.

DAVID
Two weeks and you couldn't visit
once?

BILL
Well, we were busy---

LOU
--Alienating your parents---

BILL
That takes a lot more time than you'd
think.

ALICE
Bernie.

BERNIE
Oh, hi, Alice. Karen, this is my,
er, date, Alice.

KAREN

Hi.

BERNIE

Karen works with Courtney. She likes skiing, volley ball, club dancing. Her turn-offs are smoking, tattoos and acne.

ALICE

Hello.

BERNIE

Karen's going to be my partner.

ALICE

For the wedding.

KAREN

It'll be fun.

BERNIE

It certainly has my hopes up for the weekend.

Courtney and her friends are standing, giggling. Carl continues snapping pictures. David, Lou and Bernie wind up at the food talking.

LOU

I say we kill him.

DAVID

Oh, you always say that.

LOU

He's done some major league stupid things, but this takes the cake.

DAVID

Maybe the folks oppose the marriage and Bill is defying them and marrying his true love.

BERNIE

Maybe he's a jerk.

LOU

Nah, they met the girl and sized up the situation faster than we did.

Bill joins them.

BILL

Something the matter, guys?

LOU
The matter? What could be the matter?

BILL
You're not mingling.

BERNIE
Mingling?

BILL
You guys are awfully quiet. You're not ranking on me like the old days.

BERNIE
What makes you say that, chili-brain?

DAVID
We thought it would be in proper taste to attempt to make a good impression in front of all these complete and total strangers.

BILL
It's not like you guys. You can rank on me.

LOU
Why, don't these people think much of you either?

BILL
There, that's more like it.

He leaves.

BERNIE
I'll say one thing, this girl Courtney's got some hot-looking friends.

LOU
Doesn't do us much good.

David guilty looks up from his plate of food.

BERNIE
Speak for yourself.

EXT. MEADOW'S HOME -- NIGHT

People are leaving the house. The Meadows say good night to all. Bill stops the troupe before they get to the car.

BILL
So, guys, we going out? I know a great place.

CLAIRE

Sure.

ALICE

For a little while.

Bill looks stricken.

BILL

Dave, Lou, Barnyard, can I talk to you?

They go off in a huddle. There is some agitated arm waving as the girls look on. They then rejoin the girls, as Bill gets the car.

LOU

You can't come.

CLAIRE

What?

DAVID

He wants a bachelor party.

ALICE

A bachelor party?

CLAIRE

Marone! Is he for real?

DAVID

He wants us to drop you off at the hotel then take him to a bar he knows.

BERNIE

Are there bars In Wisconsin?

LOU

Sure, where do you think the people go to drink to forget that they're in Wisconsin?

Narrator Lou steps out.

NARRATOR LOU

Apologies to the Badger State. We were pretty ticked off by now and said a lot of things that we really didn't mean. It seemed like a very nice state. I mean certainly better than Michigan, where my brother went once and got his jaw broken by his old girlfriend's ex-boyfriend...

INSERT - SCHOOL ROOM MAP

He pulls down a map which obliterates the scene behind him.

NARRATOR LOU (CONT'D)

Wisconsin, our 30th state, is 54,426 square miles with a population of 4,775,000--give or take a heifer. Called American's Dairyland by people who should know better, it has supplied the nation with 23 billion pounds of milk. Other cheesey exports include one-third of the country's cheese, one quarter of its butter and Senator Joseph McCarthy. The name Wisconsin is an old Indian word meaning either "gathering of waters," or "wild rice country," or "what is that I stepped in?" Numbered among its famous citizens are the political LaFollette family, Frank Lloyd Wright, the Fonzy and the real-life Norman Bates.

As he steps off, he raises the map, revealing:

INT. CLUB LOMBARDI -- NIGHT

A crowded, noisy bar done in a football motif with a small lighted dance floor. Old 70's disco music plays. Ed, Andy, Bernie, Lou, David and Bill are cramped into a booth.

BILL

(looking around)

It doesn't get any better than this.

LOU

It doesn't? Now I'm depressed.

BILL

Boy, this sure brings back the memories, don't it?

Narrator Lou pokes his head in.

NARRATOR LOU

At this point, I'm really not sure if I should tell you what happened here, or tell you about some of Bill's alleged high school memories. We'll try to combine them into some kind of bizarre, wide-screen, sensaround, 3-D mosaic collage of bad times.

He ducks out.

LOU

The memories come flooding back. Us guys sitting behind a bottle of beer staring at everyone else having a good time.

DAVID

Boy, were we losers. I hated those times. Hanging out at dives, like we were actually going to meet anyone decent there.

LOU

It was awful. Why did we keep going?

They both stare at Bill.

DAVID & LOU

Right.

Ed is now locked in on a GIRL across the bar, and she returns the gaze.

LOU

So, Barnyard, was Bill as much fun in college as he was in civilian life?

BERNIE

Wild man Bilbo? Oh, what a party kamakazi.

BILL

Hey, I just made eye contact.

DAVID

So, close your eyes.

LOU

You still doing that?

BILL

Oh, she is cute.

DAVID

So? You're getting married tomorrow.

LOU

(indicating Andy)
Besides--

Bill reacts.

INT. ROOM 719 LIVINGROOM -- NIGHT

Alice and Claire sit and flip through the available TV channels.

CLAIRE
I'm sitting here getting moos-sahed.

ALICE
What's that?

CLAIRE
I'm getting lazy, zoning out, mushy.

ALICE
Oh, logey. Me, too. Let's do something.

CLAIRE
Like?

ALICE
Shop?

CLAIRE
Good. Shop for what?

ALICE
What do they have in Wisconsin?

CLAIRE
Cheese. They have cheese.

ALICE
Let's shop for cheese.

CLAIRE
Great.
(beat)
Wow. I'm more bored than I thought...

She goes to the phone.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)
Yes, hello. My companion and I would like to shop for some cheese. Might you recommend a retailer of such? I see. Thank you.

ALICE
That was pretty slick.

CLAIRE
That was my professional telephone voice.

ALICE
So, where's the cheese?

CLAIRE
The hotel cheese shop in the lobby.

They must pause to consider this. They must.

CLAIRE & ALICE

Let's do it.

INT. CLUB LOMBARDI -- NIGHT

Bill fishes around in his pockets and gives Andy some quarters.

BILL

Andy, go hit the video games.

ANDY

Thanks.

Andy leaves.

LOU

What are you doing?

BILL

Hey, it's my last night to howl, right, guys?

DAVID

Howl? As I recall, it was usually more of a whine than an actual howl.

Bill gets up. Ed slips away unnoticed.

BILL

Watch my dust. Pay attention, Barnyard.

Bill saunters over to a group of girls, DEBBIE, BETTY, SALLY and KIM.

LOU

So, what's the deal. Why's he always calling you Barnyard?

BERNIE

That's what he called me in college. I was an agriculture major. The pinhead thought it was funny.

LOU

He would.

DAVID

Your college major was agriculture.

LOU

Lots of call for that in Philadelphia?

BERNIE

I'm a government inspector. I check the stuff out before it hits the supermarket shelves. Pays not so hot, but the graft is outta sight.

Bill returns with his new lady friends.

BILL

Hey, guys, meet Debbie, Betty, Sally and Kim.

DAVID

Hi.

BILL

We're all from out of town.

LOU

That's right.

BILL

Looking for a good time.

DEBBIE

Oh, you're from New York.

DAVID

Howcha know that?

SALLY

Your accents.

DAVID

(exaggerating)
Yo, wot accent?

BILL

Come on, girls, sit, enjoy.

KIM

So, what brings you to Bayside?

DAVID

Bill here is--

Bill jabs him with his elbow.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Ow. The cheese. We're here for the cheese.

BILL

Yeah. We hear you have quite a bit of it here.

BETTY

Oh, yes, we have loads of it.

LOU

Know of any good cheese hang-outs?

BETTY

Let's see, there's this one place on Maple Street. Very good.

(she writes on napkin)

Here's the address. Their cheese stands alone.

LOU

Thanks.

An old disco standard comes on.

BILL

Anyone here care to dance?

David raises his hand. Bill slaps it down. Debbie gets up and dances with Bill.

LOU

Where's Ed?

They look over and see Ed in a passionate embrace with the Girl.

BERNIE

So, Kim, lived here long?

KIM

All my life.

BERNIE

So, you know all the hot spots in town.

KIM

You're in them.

SALLY

(to David)

Say, you've got gorgeous eyes.

DAVID

Oh, er, thanks. They're my mother's. I have to return them when we get home.

SALLY

And a sense of humor! I like a sense of humor in my men. A good laugh is like a good orgasm.

David does a spit take.

BETTY

(to Lou)

--Twenty three billion pounds of milk. Wisconsin also produces one third of the country's cheese and one quarter of its butter.

LOU

Uh-huh.

INT. LOBBY CHEESE SHOP -- NIGHT

The shop is awash in cheese and cheese products. Claire and Alice enter. The CLERK comes out.

CLERK

Good evening. How may I help you?

CLAIRE

We're looking for some cheese.

ALICE

Yes, cheese.

CLERK

I see. Any particular type?

CLAIRE

Now I have an oo-lee.

ALICE

What?

CLAIRE

A craving. How about some nice mutz-a-rel?

CLERK

What kind?

CLAIRE

Mutz-a-rel.

CLERK

Mutzarel? I don't believe I know that kind.

CLAIRE

You don't know mutzarel? The cheese you put on pizza.

ALICE

String cheese!

CLERK
Ah, mozzarella!

CLAIRE
Yes.

CLERK
No, I'm, sorry. We don't have that.

CLAIRE
Okay. How about some par-ma-shon?

CLERK
Excuse me?

CLAIRE
Par-ma-shon. The kind you sprinkle
on spaghetti?

ALICE
Oh, grated cheese!

CLERK
Ah, parmesan. No sorry.

CLAIRE
Any rig-got?

CLERK
I beg your pardon?

CLAIRE
Rig-got! Er, ricotta cheese.

ALICE
Oh, cottage cheese.

CLAIRE
Not cottage cheese.

CLERK
Ricotta?

CLAIRE
Yea.

CLERK
No.

Claire's head sinks. Alice pats her on the back.

INT. CLUB LOMBARDI -- NIGHT

Bill's drunk now and dancing with Sally, Betty and Debbie.

Bernie and Kim are gone. Lou and David sit and observe.

LOU

I hate this.

DAVID

Bill seems to be having fun.

LOU

What's the point? He's getting married tomorrow. What's the point of hitting on chicks if you're getting married?

DAVID

I'm not sure, but I've heard stories.

LOU

Stories.

DAVID

Really intense stories. You know, how you can just get lost in the passion of the moment. The absolute freedom of allowing a chance encounter turn into so much more. The unencumbered release of yourself.

LOU

Oh. Those stories. I'm going to guess that you've thought about this some.

DAVID

Only recently. All my life, Lou, I've been the good boy, the proper young man. Follow the rules, respect my elders, eat all my vegetables. I followed the golden rule. I trusted my church and faith. And what has it gotten me?

LOU

A beautiful wife and a new baby.

DAVID

Besides that. I was always so good, I missed out on all the fun.

LOU

We never had fun. There was no fun. We hung out.

DAVID

Even hanging out, what was I? I was always the designated driver. I've been life's designated driver.

LOU

Those days are gone, Dave.

DAVID

Bernie and Bill seemed to have managed
a revival.

LOU

On a technicality. They're not
married.

David can only ponder this as he takes another sip of beer.

Bill comes back to the booth with Sally, Debbie and Betty.

DEBBIE

Bill's a fun guy.

DAVID

That's why we call him Fun Bill.

SALLY

Are you sure you don't want to dance,
Davey?

DAVID

No, thanks. I have this condition.

SALLY

What?

DAVID

I'm married.

SALLY

Oh, thank God. I thought you were
going to say you were gay.

DEBBIE

My glass is empty.

BILL

My get! Come on, Lou.

LOU

No, thanks, I've had my fill.

Bill tugs at Lou until he gets up.

EXT. BAR -- CONTINUOUS

Bill and Lou reach the bar. Bill orders a round. Behind Bill
is a stool which Lou pulls over to sit down.

BILL

You know, Lou--

Bill goes to sit and drops to the floor, flat on his back.

LOU
Bill, Bill, you okay?

BILL
Hey, Lou, I can see up everyone's
dress.

LOU
Will you get up, please?

BILL
Party!

Lou gets Bill up.

LOU
Fine, Bill. Are you bachelor-ed out
yet? Can we go?

BILL
I'm getting married, you know. For
the rest of my life.

LOU
Well, yeah. That's the premise.

BILL
Were you nervous at your wedding,
Lou?

LOU
Everyone was nervous at my wedding.

BILL
I'm scared.

LOU
And well you should be.

BILL
I don't know if I want to get married.

LOU
Bill, you've threatened to marry
every girl you've ever dated. You
kept telling us how you were going
to be the first to get married.

BILL
Yeah, I did, didn't I?

LOU
Yup. And then you managed to turn
each girl off.

BILL

I'm kind of self-destructive like that. Why do I do that? I actually loved all those girls. Then I drive them away. Why?

LOU

That's easy. Fear of death.

BILL

What?

LOU

Fear of death. Look at it. You grow up, get married, have kids and die. If you don't get married, you live forever.

BILL

Is that what it is?

LOU

'Natch.

BILL

Wow. You're good. I don't know why you're wasting you're time in the service industry.

NARRATOR LOU (V.O.)

What I didn't realize was that I was talking to Bill but I was talking about Dave.

INT. BAR ROOM BOOTH -- CONTINUOUS

Back at the table, David, Sally, Debbie and Betty talk.

DEBBIE

But there are a lot of gay people in New York, aren't there?

DAVID

Yes.

DEBBIE

Did you ever see any?

DAVID

Yes.

SALLY

Any cute ones?

DAVID

Well...huh?

SALLY
Any as cute as you?

DAVID
It's hard to say. I'm biased.

SALLY
I could take a poll.

DAVID
You probably could.

BETTY
How long are you staying in America's
Dairyland?

DAVID
Just the weekend.

BETTY
Because there are many interesting
places to see---

SALLY
My place, for starters.

NARRATOR LOU (O.S.)
Psst, psst...

At the next booth is Narrator Lou.

NARRATOR LOU (CONT'D)
Boy, you mid-westerners are sure
outgoing. So annoyed was I with
Bill and our little outing I didn't
even notice my best friend's whiney
little cry for help. He was a man on
a fence and he was starting to list.

Lou and Bill rejoin David and the girls.

BILL
Having some fun now, huh?

LOU
Scads.

BETTY
It's getting late, girls.

SALLY
Don't be a party pooper. I'm still
trying to score here.

BETTY
Come on. We do have Court's wedding
tomorrow.

David and Lou suffer from sudden realization.

BILL
Hey, what a coincidence---

David covers Bill's mouth with his watch hand, then feigns looking at the watch.

DAVID
Whoa, look at that time! Late, late,
late!

LOU
Girls, it's been real.

They put money on table and prepare to leave.

DAVID
We really must flea now. Er, fly
now.

LOU
This should cover everything.

They get up, dragging Bill with them.

LOU (CONT'D)
Bernie? Where's Barnyard?

Andy comes over.

ANDY
What's up?

DAVID
As if on cue. Here, Andy, you get to
take big brother-in-law home. We'll
see you guys tomorrow. 'Night, now.

ANDY
Wicked. Good night.

BILL
(singing)
Good night ladies---

Andy escorts Bill out.

INT. BAR ROOM -- MOMENTS LATER

David and Lou roam the bar. They pass Ed and Girl still at it. They find Bernie and Kim meeting in a back booth.

DAVID
Yo, Barnyard.

BERNIE

Hello, boys.

DAVID

We have to go now.

BERNIE

Says you.

LOU

The girls here have a wedding to attend tomorrow. They must rest up for it.

BERNIE

So what?

(suddenly)

Oooh. Yea, of course. Well, I'd better let you go now.

DAVID

Literally.

KIM

'Night, Barney. Will I see you again?

DAVID

Sooner than you know.

They hustle out. Sally is waiting for David and puts a napkin in his shirt pocket and mimes the international sign for "call me."

EXT. STREET -- NIGHT

The three are walking back to the hotel, trying to keep warm in their light spring clothes.

DAVID

Boy, these Wisconsin spring evenings sure are invigorating.

LOU

If you don't freeze to death first.

BERNIE

Why did you give the car away?

DAVID

It was Bill's car. I'm sorry, I just thought it was important to get him out quick. It isn't that far a walk.

LOU

Not if you have a car.

BERNIE

God, it's colder than a naked Eskimo
maiden's--

DAVID

Thank you, Al Roaker. No need to get
graphic.

LOU

But it is.

DAVID

Maybe we'll have a white wedding---

LOU

Just like the ones we used to know--

DAVID & LOU

(singing)

Where the tree tops glisten---

INT. ROOM 719 LIVINGROOM -- NIGHT

The two girls, in pajamas and robes, are asleep in the sofa-
bed, T.V. on. The boys walk in.

LOU

Oh, how cute.

BERNIE

Fric and Frac-ette.

David steps over, grabs his camera and takes a picture. The
flash wakes the girls.

LOU

Good morning.

CLAIRE

Hi. And how was your bachelor party?

ALICE

Yes. Did you have a good time?

DAVID

No, it was awful.

CLAIRE

Good.

LOU

How are you guys?

CLAIRE

Mensa-menz.

BERNIE

Let's pack it in. Big day tomorrow.

Claire and Alice get out of sofa and head into the bedroom.

Bernie and Lou follow them.

CLAIRE

Sorry, Dave, you lost the flip.

DAVID

Typical.

David takes out his suitcase, gets pajamas, robe and toiletries. David goes to the phone and dials, changing while he talks.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Hello? Mary? It's me. Did I wake you?

INTERCUT:

INT. BONO BEDROOM -- NIGHT

Mary is in bed, book on lap, talking on phone.

MARY

Dave? What's the matter?

DAVID

What isn't.

MARY

What?

DAVID

Never mind. I just got very lonesome. I guess I really miss you, is all. I miss you. I miss my life---

He discovers Sally's napkin in his pocket. It's got her phone number on it. He's distracted.

MARY

David? You there?

DAVID

Huh? Oh, yes, sorry.

MARY

Well, it's sweet of you. Are you having a good time at least?

DAVID

Er, no, no, I'm too busy keeping things in perspective to have fun.

MARY

What's that mean?

DAVID

I'll tell you all about it when I get home. How do you feel?

MARY

Bloated, but otherwise fine. I keep expecting Captain Ahab to show up at the front door, point to me and yell, "Ah-ha, I've found you."

DAVID

Just as well you stayed home. No sense in being bloated and miserable. But I wish you were here.

MARY

I wish you were here.

DAVID

Me, too.

MARY

So, what do you think of Melissa?

He's studying the napkin.

DAVID

Melissa? I don't know any Melissa.

MARY

The baby. What do you think of the name?

DAVID

Oh. Oh. Well, it's no Bertha but it could work.

MARY

I'm thinking Melissa or Andrew.

DAVID

Sure, depending on if it's a boy or girl. Andy and Mel. I like it.

MARY

I can't wait for the baby. It's going to be amazing.

DAVID

I'll bet. It's a whole new ball game now, isn't it?

MARY

Oh, it's the same game, only now it just got interesting.

DAVID

'Night, Mare. I love you.

MARY

I love you, too . Good night. Give everyone my best. And have some fun, Dave. It may be the last time you do for a long time.

David hangs up and sighs. He goes to the sofa bed and tries to get comfortable.

He looks at Sally's number on the napkin. He's tempted. He sits up. He lays down. He sits up, then lays down. His hand reaches out and gets the phone. He slowly starts dialing. It rings.

SALLY(O.S.)

Hello?

DAVID

Hello? Hello, Sally? It's David. We met earlier at the bar. With Fun Bill.

INTERCUT:

INT. CAR -- NIGHT

Sally is driving, talking on her cell phone.

SALLY

Oh, mama's eyes. Yeah, I remember. So what's up?

DAVID

Well, I was wondering---

SALLY

You struck me as a wonder-er.

DAVID

Well, maybe, if you're not busy---

Yelling is heard from the hotel atrium.

JACK(O.S.)

Cleats! Cleats! You there, buddy?

DAVID

Well, I mean, we really didn't get a chance to talk.

SALLY
I like talking. Too.

JACK
Yo, Cleats!! Jump to!

DAVID
So, so I was wondering---

SALLY
Still?

DAVID
Could you excuse me a second?

JACK
Hey, Cleats, you want some pizza?

CLEATS (O.S.)
What?

David is distracted by the shouting.

JACK
We're ordering pizza! Do you want some?

SALLY
You were saying?

CLEATS (O.S.)
You betcha! Save me a slice! I'll be right back!

DAVID
Well, I'm calling---

SALLY
Yes?

DAVID
Could you hold on a minute?

David gets up and opens door.

INT. BALCONY -- CONTINUOUS

Two doors over, JACK, a Midwestern bowling champ with his bowling trophy, is yelling from the balcony down to CLEATS, an alley ally, who is down in the hotel court yard/lobby.

Cleats has his camera.

There is a party going on in the room behind Jack.

JACK
All right but don't be long.

CLEATS

I just want to get a photograph of
the hotel at night!

JACK

You bet!

DAVID

What are you doing? We're trying to
sleep here!

JACK

We just won the tournament! We're
the Midwest champs!

DAVID

Good grief.

CLEATS

Hey, Jack, I'm out of film. Toss
down a roll.

JACK

All right.

DAVID

What is wrong with you people? It's
the middle of the night! Were you
raised in barn?

JACK

(quizzically)

Yes. Yes, I was. Why?

David rolls his eyes and goes back in his room.

EXT. ROOM 719 LIVINGROOM -- CONTINUOUS

David shuts the door and stands there a moment.

CLEATS

Who were you talking to?

JACK

Some stick-in-the-mud complaining
about the noise.

CLEATS

What?

JACK

Some guy complaining about the noise.

CLEATS

What noise?

JACK

I don't know.

David bangs his head against the door.

JACK (CONT'D)

Hey, stop that banging!

David gets back to the phone.

DAVID

I'm sorry. Look I was hoping...

Alice enters, in her robe.

DAVID (CONT'D)

I'm going to have to go. I'm sorry to bother you.

ALICE

Dave, what's all that noise? Who are you calling?

DAVID

I was just going to complain about the noise. I'm sorry, did I wake you?

ALICE

No, no, I was up. Bernie's tossing and turning in his sleep. He keeps kicking me and pulling the blankets off. I thought I'd get a drink.

She gets a drink from the wet bar. First a soda, then thinks better of it and has some liquor. David sits on the couch.

DAVID

You're welcome to the sofa bed. I can sleep on the couch.

ALICE

Oh, thank you, but no. I wouldn't want to put you out. Anyway, I'm supposed to get used to this, right? I mean that is the goal.

DAVID

I guess.

ALICE

How's your wife doing?

DAVID

Good, good.

ALICE

This is your first, right?

DAVID

Yes. Yes. Everything's cool so far, knock wood. Too bad she couldn't make it. You'd like her. She's the fun one in the family.

ALICE

You're fun, too.

DAVID

Thanks, but I don't feel fun. So what made you and Bernie come to this special level of Dante's Inferno? He didn't save Bernie's life or anything, did he?

Alice joins him on the couch.

ALICE

Actually, I kind of pushed Bernie to come.

DAVID

You didn't tell him it would be fun, did you?

ALICE

No. I just hinted it might be nice to attend.

DAVID

Why?

ALICE

It may be naive but I thought if we were around a wedding and some married couples, he might get some ideas.

DAVID

Oh, what, the commitment thing?

ALICE

We've been together three years. All his friends are single and still carousing.

DAVID

Not exactly good role models.

ALICE

No. I wish he would settle down. And settle down with me.

DAVID

Some people have more wild oats to sow than others.

ALICE

You and Lou got married. You have a family in the works.

DAVID

Me and Lou never had wild oats. More like cream of wheat.

ALICE

But you did it.

DAVID

Sure. But look where it got me. Sleeping alone on a sofa bed in Wisconsin.

ALICE

Bernie would never admit he'd miss me. I'm not even sure he wanted me to come.

DAVID

Oh...I'm sure he's, er, glad you came. He wouldn't know what to do with himself.

ALICE

Yes, he would.

(suddenly upset)

All my friends say I should dump him. I don't know. It's hopeless, isn't it?

David attempts to comfort her.

DAVID

Nothing's hopeless. Except, of course, Bill. All you can do is be the best you can be. He'll see it. It's hard to miss.

ALICE

Not everyone has as much consideration as you.

DAVID

I've been hoarding.

ALICE

(laughs)

I'm glad I didn't meet Mary. I'd just be jealous.

DAVID

Thanks. I've been of two minds about it myself. On one hand, I miss her. On the other hand, why should she have to suffer through this. On the other hand...

Alice dozes off on David's shoulder. David looks at her as if for the first time. He leans back and ponders.

INT. ROOM 719 HALLWAY -- DAY

Next morning. Alice, David, Lou and Claire are in line outside the bathroom. Alice knocks on the bathroom door.

ALICE

Bernie what's keeping you?

BERNIE (O.S.)

Stop rushing me. Geez, what are you, my wife or something?

Alice is pained by this remark. Lou and Claire glance away.

She lets it pass but shares a "don't I deserve better" look with David.

DAVID

So, campers, what are we going to do this morning? We have a chunk of day to kill. Didn't you want to score some cheese?

CLAIRE

Yeah. We tried but came up empty.

LOU

Funny you should mention that. I've got an address for a primo cheese store. We could take a run there.

CLAIRE

Then we could check out the mall next door.

Bernie steps out of bathroom.

ALICE

Bernie, we're going to the mall.

BERNIE

I pass. There's a good game on the tube.

He goes into bedroom. Alice is hurt but puts up a brave front.

ALICE

Oh. Okay. To the cheese.

EXT. CHEESE SHOP -- DAY

Lou, Claire, Alice and David approach the shop. The door's locked. They see a sign in the window: "Hedda's Cheese Shoppe. By appointment only."

DAVID

Must be good cheese.

CLAIRE

For the land of cheese, I seem to be having a hard time finding any.

ALICE

Let's check the mall.

LOU

I don't believe this. Who thinks up this stuff? Who comes up with these kind of things? Who's in charge around here?

DAVID

The head cheese?...

The girls groan. Lou walks away. The girls follow.

DAVID (CONT'D)

What? What's the matter?

INT. HOTEL LOBBY -- DAY

Bernie walks into the bar in hotel lobby. A few minutes later, Karen enters.

INT. LOMBARDI MALL -- DAY

A whirlwind tour as David, Lou, Claire and Alice make their way to various shops.

They find T-shirts reading "Wisconsin? Yeah, I was there,"

"Wisconsin Big wheel," with a picture of a cheese wheel, "Wisconsin: Gateway to Michigan" and "Wisconsin, the Badger State: Badgers? We don't need no stinkin' badgers!"

Dave and Alice talking and walking and enter a shop.

Suddenly, David rushes out, all embarrassed. It's a Victoria's Secret kind of store.

Lou presents Claire with a package of Velveeta cheese.

David comes out of a shop wearing an "I'm with Stupid" T-shirt, then Lou comes out wearing a shirt that says "No he's not."

They eat corn dogs and chocolate covered pretzels, with David and Alice sharing back and forth.

At the video arcade Lou and David compete at pinball.

Claire and Alice shop at the Cheese Boutique.

At the arcade, David shows Alice the finer points of pinball. For the most part, Alice should seem very comfortable with David. And visa versa.

INT. HOTEL LOBBY -- DAY

Bernie and Karen exit bar, tipsy and arm in arm, and head upstairs.

INT. ROOM 719 -- DAY

David, Lou, Claire and Alice noisily enter the room, laden with shopping bags, wearing T-shirts and singing "On Wisconsin" but just the words "on Wisconsin" over and over.

Bernie enters from bedroom in robe.

BERNIE

Oh, you're back.

DAVID

Yeah. The mall threw us out. Lou and Clair starting doing a kick line while I sang "New York, New York."

ALICE

Hi, babe. Why are you in a robe?

BERNIE

I decided to catch some sack time. Rest up for tonight.

CLAIRE

Yeah, we'd better get ready.

Alice and Claire exit to bedroom. Bernie then hustles Karen out of the bathroom. She is only partially dressed. She throws a wink to Lou and David and leaves. Bernie throws them a sly grin.

LOU

Do you think it's a good idea to be messing with the bridesmaid in our room?

BERNIE

Call of the wild, Bono. When the wild calls, I answer.

DAVID

Next time let your answering machine take the call.

BERNIE

Oh, please. Don't lay any of your married guilt trips on me. I'm not married. Hell, imagine what I could be getting if I came stag, like you.

He leaves. Lou glowers at David.

DAVID

What? He's not my friend. I didn't come stag on purpose. What?

Lou goes into bedroom.

INT. ROOM 719 BATHROOM -- DAY

David, Lou and Bernie are in the finishing stages of dressing for the wedding. Bernie is blow-drying his hair, Lou brushing his teeth and David as shaving, each jockeying for position in front of the mirror.

INT. ROOM 719 LIVINGROOM -- DAY

The three step out and pose in a their pink tuxes. Alice and Claire try to stifle laughs. Narrator Lou is out on the balcony.

EXT. BALCONY -- DAY

The wedding party hustles to get ready inside.

NARRATOR LOU

Back home we have a saying: outside New York you can't get good pizza or weddings. Yeah, yeah, chauvinistic, what can I tell you? Pizza Hut is not my idea of dining Italian. Everyone grows up with certain traditions and once you go lose the traditions, you can get very disoriented. After all, David, Bill and me, we all grew up together in the same neighborhoods so we all have the same concept of weddings. Which were very different from their concepts.

EXT. CHURCH -- DAY

People are arriving at church. David, Lou, Bernie are standing in front of church.

LOU
Where are the girls?

BERNIE
Turd-for-brains said some guy Bob was bringing them.

LOU
Bob? Bob? Who the hell is Bob? I didn't meet any Bob!

DAVID
Bill said he was a cousin. Flew in last night.

LOU
Flew in last night? Does he know the way? Has he ever been here before? Why did we leave our womenfolk behind?

DAVID
Calm down, Lou. It's okay.

LOU
Sure, you left your wife home. You'll get to see her again.

Ed pokes his head out, whistles and waves the boys in. They enter church.

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD -- DAY

Car is stopped along a side road. Cattle blocks its way.

INT. CAR -- DAY

Claire and Alice are seated in car with a nerdy looking BOB at the wheel.

CLAIRE
Bob, who are you really? Who sent you here?

ALICE
You know, I read somewhere that in Wisconsin there are more cows than people.

BOB
I heard that, too.

INT. CHURCH -- DAY

Pews are filling up. In the back, by the entrance, the bridal party waits. Ed and Grace still glare at each other.

Bernie and Karen keep eyeing each other. Rev. Berkley comes in. Bill is up on the altar, looking very uncomfortable.

REV. BERKLEY

All right, the bridal carpet is up front. So who will be unrolling it down the aisle?

COURTNEY

Let my brother and Cristillo do it.

Lou glares at her. She is not looking at him or the others. Lou is about to respond in a blunt manner when David wraps his hand around Lou's mouth.

Courtney's father, Carl, comes back to them. He is wearing a black tux and his camera.

CARL

Who's the first usher?...

Lou raises his hand as David releases him.

CARL (CONT'D)

And the third?

BERNIE

Yo...

Carl hands them each a set of keys.

BERNIE (CONT'D)

What's this?

CARL

It's to my car and my wife's. You'll be driving the bridal party back to the hotel.

LOU

Who will?

CARL

You two. Courtney and Bill, the best man and Grace in Courtney's car. You four in my car...

He indicates Lou, David, Susan and Ellen.

CARL (CONT'D)

And you four in my wife's...

He points to Robin, Andy, Karen and Bernie.

CARL (CONT'D)

Have fun now. See you later.

Carl leaves.

DAVID

I bet a limousine service would make a killing in this town.

BERNIE

Considering all you would need is a shiny new tractor with a trailer...

Bernie tosses the keys to Andy.

BERNIE (CONT'D)

Here, homeboy, it's your folks' car, you drive.

ANDY

All right! This'll be great practice for my driving test.

LOU

(to David)

I fly a thousand miles to chauffeur you around in some stranger's car?

DAVID

This'll look swell in your diary.

COURTNEY

Who's decorating the car?

The boys turn slowly to face her.

NARRATOR LOU (V.O.)

She spoke to us!

DAVID

What car? What decorating?

COURTNEY

My car. The bridal car. All the crepe paper and ribbons are here.

She points to box. The boys look at each other.

LOU

No. I'm unrolling the bridal carpet.

BERNIE

I don't do cars.

David turns to face Courtney.

NARRATOR LOU (V.O.)

Without Bill there as a go-between she was forced to deal with us directly. It didn't seem to thrill her. Nobody wanted to decorat a car, that's for sure, but if someone didn't do, there would probably be a scene, and it didn't seem like a good place for a scene. Naturally, David cracked.

DAVID

Er, I'll do it.

COURTNEY

Fine.

David grabs a box of paper goods and goes outside, shaking his head.

EXT. CHURCH -- DAY

David is wrapping crepe around a car antenna. It is the first car in a line of car parked on the curb in front of the church.

Bob and the girls pull up and get out. Claire has an instant camera. Alice has a regular camera.

ALICE

David!

DAVID

Where were you guys?

CLAIRE

Tell 'em, Bob.

BOB

I don't know.

DAVID

You must be Bill's cousin.

The church's organ gears up for the occasion. Bernie and Lou appear at door and call David. Bob heads in.

ALICE

What are you doing out here?

DAVID

I volunteered for crepe paper duty. This is the car they're going back to the reception in.

CLAIRE

No limo?

DAVID
 Why use a limo when everyone has
 perfectly good cars of their own?

ALICE
 You go, we'll finish.

CLAIRE
 We will?

DAVID
 You sure?

ALICE
 We've missed this much so far. Hurry.

DAVID
 Thanks.

David gives her a quick kiss and rushes off.

INT. CHURCH -- CONTINUOUS

David hustles in and trips over the end of the roll of the
 silk runner that now covers the aisle.

DAVID
 I see you did the runner. Good job,
 Cristillo.

LOU
 Thanks, Bono. You should get up now.
 It's time.

COURTNEY
 Please get yourselves together.
 This is a wedding.

Bridal party gets in line. Lou is about to lunge at Courtney,
 but David restrains him.

DAVID
 Now, now, she did say please.

EXT. CHURCH -- DAY

Girls have finished decorating the car. It is covered in
 crepe paper and has tin cans tied to the back and a "Just
 Married" sign. From the church they can hear the organ
 cranking out "The Wedding March."

ALICE
 How's that look?

CLAIRE
 Like something out of Norman Rockwell.
 (MORE)

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

If Norman were having an off day or something.

ALICE

Come on, we can still make it.

Girls hurry into the church.

INT. CHURCH -- DAY

The girls silently seat themselves in a rear pew. The bridal party proceeds to the altar. Bill looks incredibly nervous.

EXT. CHURCH STREET -- DAY

A few moments later, a MAN with groceries comes up to the decorated car. He looks at it, checks the license. He looks up and down the street. He peeks in window. Struggling with groceries, he opens door, shaking his head.

MAN

Damn vandals.

He puts his groceries in the car and drives off.

INT. CHURCH -- DAY

The bridal party is up on the altar, seated on the sides.

Courtney and Bill are exchanging vows.

There is a PHOTOGRAPHER and a VIDEO CAMERAMAN working the service, jockeying for position.

David looks back to see Claire and Alice. They smile back.

David winks, then crosses his eyes.

REV. BERKLEY

And do you, William Anderson---

VIDEOMAN

Excuse me, could you speak up? I'm not getting a sound reading.

REV. BERKLEY

(louder)

Do you, William Anderson---

VIDEOMAN

That's better, thank you.

REV. BERKLEY

Take Courtney Meadows as your wife, to have and to hold, in sickness and in health, until death do you part?

COURTNEY

He does...

Bernie, Lou and Dave all roll their eyes. Ed and Grace are still snarling at each other.

COURTNEY (CONT'D)

Oh, sorry, Lou tell him, dear.

BILL

Aah, yes, I do. Take her.

INT. CHURCH PEW -- CONTINUOUS

Alice leans over to Claire.

ALICE

So far this has not been the most positive of role models for Bernie.

CLAIRE

Nor for Western Civilization as we know it.

INT. CHURCH ALTAR -- CONTINUOUS

REV. BERKLEY

And do you, Courtney, take Bill as your husband, to love, honor and cherish so long as you both do live?

BILL

(smiling)
She does.

COURTNEY

(sharply)
Hush. I'll tell the man.

LOU

(aside to David)
I give up; why do I feel sorry for Bill?

DAVID

'Cause deep down you care for him?

LOU

(ponder)
Nope. What else?

REV. BERKLEY

---I now pronounce you man and wife.
You may now kiss the bride.

COURTNEY

Be careful of the fifty dollar make-over.

Bill pecks her on the cheek.

REV. BERKLEY

(to churchgoers)

Oh, yes, please don't throw rice out front. It's hard to clean, people slip, and it attracts birds. They eat it and explode. Congratulations.

Wedding March plays. The wedding party leaves the altar and proceeds down the aisle. Grace and Ed are now paired off.

They give each other short jabs to the body as they march down the aisle.

The guys see the girls from the bar -- Debbie, Betty, Sally and Kim. Kim is making eyes at Bernie, who winks back.

David and Lou reluctantly acknowledge them, even as Sally gives him a "shame, shame, shame" pouty look.

The party reaches Claire and Alice. David passes, winking.

Claire takes his picture with the Polaroid. Lou passes, winking. Claire takes his picture. Bernie passes, but he's too busy making time with Karen to notice. Claire takes his picture. When it comes out of the camera, Alice takes it and rips it up.

EXT. CHURCH -- DAY

Everyone is outside waiting for the couple.

Photographer exits church. People applaud, then realize it's only the photographer and groan in disappointment.

Videoman exits. They applaud again, then groan again.

PHOTOGRAPHER

Okay, when the couple comes out, wait five steps before you throw the rice.

REV. BERKLEY

No rice!

PHOTOGRAPHER

Oh, okay. Then mime throwing rice. I can air brush it in later. Come out, people.

Bridal party comes out, followed by bride and groom. They go by Courtney's car. The men exchange high fives. Claire and Alice come over.

CLAIRE

(to Lou)

You look so handsome.

They kiss. She then turns to David.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

And you do, too.

DAVID

Thank you.

BERNIE

So, how do I look?

ALICE

Shut up.

Courtney & Co. at her car, which was behind the car they decorated. David turns to Bill and Courtney.

DAVID

Well, guys, you did it. You're married. Together, joined forever, never to be put asunder. Congratulations.

COURTNEY

Why wasn't the car done?

DAVID

Beg pardon?

COURTNEY

The car is supposed to be all decorated with "Just Married" on it. What's the point of getting married if nobody knows?

DAVID

What? I decorated it. I did.

COURTNEY

I'm not riding in unmarked car.

David shrugs and looks at Claire. She shrugs back. They kind of look around, as if it's misplaced.

EMILY

Why don't you take some pictures here at the church? We'll get the car all spiffed up.

COURTNEY

Good enough. I did want to get some pictures with my sweetie...

Bill acts complimented. Courtney turns and whistles.

COURTNEY (CONT'D)

Lollipop!

Poodle comes running and jumps on Courtney, Bill tries to act like it's no big deal. Others roll their eyes. Bob walks over to the girls.

BOB

Okay, girls, I'm ready to drive you back.

ALICE

Oh, right, thanks, but no thanks.

CLAIRE

We'll be taking the subway back.

BOB

I don't think they have a subway here.

CLAIRE

We're willing to take that chance.

EXT. CHURCH GROUNDS -- DAY

Photographer takes a series of shots of the bridal party in different poses groupings and combinations, with Courtney and the dog always prominent.

EXT. STREET -- DAY

Shots of Courtney and Bill, Ed and Grace getting in Courtney's now-decorated car and driving off.

The Photographer leaves. The remaining party members to get in the other cars: Dave, Ellen, Susan in one car with Lou driving. Bernie, Karen, Robin in the other with Andy driving.

LOU

(to Andy)

You're in the lead.

DAVID

Wagons' ho!

They drive off.

EXT. ROAD -- DAY

Long stretch of road. The two cars are seen.

INT. CAR -- DAY

Lou and David are in front seat.

LOU
I can't believe this.

DAVID
The hard part's over. We're almost done. Now we party.

LOU
I'm starving.

DAVID
We'll be eating at the reception soon enough.

SUSAN
No, there's the cocktail hour first.

DAVID
So we'll nosh.

SUSAN
Nosh?

DAVID
Snack. Eat the hors d'oeuvres.

ELLEN
Just drinks. No food until dinner time.

DAVID
No food? Are they afraid it'll spoil our appetite?

LOU
Man, we skipped lunch to get here on time. When do we eat?

SUSAN
They serve dinner, oh, the cocktail hour ends at five thirty. Figure seven.

DAVID
Seven o'clock? P.M.?

LOU
I have to eat. I'll dissolve into a babbling fool if I don't.

DAVID
Well, let us know when, so we'll be able to tell.

LOU
Funny, Shecky.

DAVID
Look, we're saved!

EXT. BURGER CHAIN DRIVE THROUGH WINDOW -- DAY

Lou and David reach the window, take food and drive off.

INT. CAR -- DAY

They're back on road. Everyone's eating burgers, fries and shakes.

LOU
Wow. This in a really good cheese
burger.

SUSAN
Finest kind.

They drive past the Man with groceries, whose crepe-covered car is now on the shoulder of the road, A POLICEMAN is examining the Man's license. Lou and David schrunch down in their seats. They're soon clear.

DAVID
You gonna eat your fries?

EXT. LOMBARDI INN -- DAY

Cars pull into the parking lot.

INT. LOBBY -- DAY

The guests head for the banquet rooms.

INT. BANQUET HALL -- DAY

Large room set up for a large party. Motif is football & cheese. There's the dais for the wedding party opposite the bar. There is a long line at the bar.

The professional Wedding BAND is in the process of setting up before the dozen round tables set up. The dance floor is open and ready for action.

Dave, Lou and Bernie take it all in.

LOU
See them?

DAVID
No. Who are we looking for?

LOU
Claire and Alice!

DAVID
Gotcha.

LOU
I wonder where Bob brought them this
time?

BERNIE
Who wants drinks?

LOU
For now, until they start serving
the heavy drugs.

Freeze frame. Narrator Lou steps out.

NARRATOR LOU
This is a joke. Drug humor was very
popular at this time. My comment
does not in any way condone or promote
the use of addictive substances.
Except, of course, liquor, cigarettes
and colas. Just so you know.

Narrator Lou exits. Scene picks up as David, Lou and Bernie
take the drink orders from their partners and get in line.

DAVID
Maybe I should go upstairs to call
home.

LOU
Mary's fine. Relax.

As they get to the front of the line, they realize guests
have to pay for the drinks. There is a cash register at the
bar.

BERNIE
Oh, man, get bent. It's a cash bar.

LOU
What?

DAVID
I don't have any money. I left it
in the room.

LOU
Claire's got my cash, and God knows
where she is now.

ANDY

It's only the guests who pay. They just keep a tab for us, then my father pays for it at the end of the evening. Members of the wedding party don't pay.

LOU

That works out good, seeing how it's the wedding party that needs the drinks the most.

DAVID

But how will they know we're in the wedding party?...

They all stare at Dave, until he looks at himself and the pink tux.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Oh. Right. Sorry. Lost my head. Nuts, that means we have to leave these things on to get drinks.

Bernie takes off his tie and cummerbund and pushes up his jacket sleeves.

BERNIE

There. That's the best I can do on short notice and still be able to get my drinks.

They get drinks and take their seats at the dais. They serve the girls. Bill and Courtney enter the room and head for the dais.

LOU

Bill's here.

BERNIE

Whoa, big entrance.

DAVID

What happened to the big introduction? The "ladies and gentlemen, for the first time in public..." bit? Maybe getting married isn't a big deal around here.

LOU

So far it hasn't been.

Claire, Alice and Bob enter.

CLAIRE

You can open your eyes now, Bob. We're here.

They find their table, located near the band. Lou and David get up and have to drag Bernie away from Karen. They go over and greet the girls.

DAVID
Thanks for coming.

ALICE
We made it.

CLAIRE
Now I plan to drink to excess and have a good time.

DAVID
We'll get the drinks. If you go, you have to pay.

CLAIRE
I don't want to hear it.

DAVID
You, too, Bob. Whatcha want?

The three men then get the drinks. On line, they notice the band setting up, and there are two accordion players.

LOU
Count'em. Not one, but two accordions.

BERNIE
Midwest heavy metal.

DAVID
Must be a status symbol. I bet they play "Dueling Accordions."

BERNIE
Crap.

The Videoman is suddenly behind them. He has an old model camera on a rolling tripod. He pulls behind him a rolling stand holding a VCR and small TV, working as a monitor.

As David turns, Videoman switches on his camera lights, blinding everyone.

DAVID
Thank you...

The Videoman wheels his dolly and monitor and lights pass the group, tripping them up with his wires.

The Band starts to play.

DAVID (CONT'D)
 Ah, they begin. I have a system.
 You can tell how the wedding will be
 based on the first song the band
 plays.

The band plays the theme from "The Love Boat."

BERNIE
 What's the verdict, Boon?

DAVID
 We are so doomed.

INT. DAIS -- LATER

The first course is brought out. The Wedding Party all go to
 the dais to sit. Orange soup is served.

LOU
 Orange soup? What is this?

SUSAN
 Pumpkin soup.

DAVID
 Oh. I thought maybe they colorized
 the split pea.

David drops his spoon and grabs a bread stick instead.

It's later. David is away from the dais. The band's deep
 into some bland slow dance. Lou is now slightly drunk. He
 stands and faces the girls.

LOU
 I'm going up for a drink. Anyone
 want anything?

Some orders are given. Lou takes out a pad and pencil. He
 writes.

INT. TABLE -- CONTINUOUS

Claire and Alice are seated with some complete strangers.

Lou comes over.

LOU
 Anybody ready for another?

Lou takes some more orders. Dave passes by in the foreground,
 carrying a drink-laden tray, delivering them to another
 table, serving like a waiter. The band gears up into a polka.

INT. DAIS -- LATER

Later still: Bernie and Karen are playing footise under the table. Bernie looks around as David returns to dais.

BERNIE

So, what did they say?

DAVID

They don't know "Shout." They said they'll play something just as good.

BAND LEADER

Okay, people, by request, a little "Beer Barrel Polka."

LOU

Practically identical.

DAVID

Separated at birth even. I'm sure things'll pick up once they do their Grateful Dead set.

INT. DANCE FLOOR -- LATER

Some Guests are dancing as Waiters bring out the next course.

INT. TABLE -- LATER

Bill and Courtney are by her parents' table.

INT. DAIS -- LATER

Bernie gets up mumbling something about a hockey game and leaves the hall. Kim and Sally come up to the dais to talk.

SALLY

Hi, Mama's eyes.

DAVID

Oh, hi there, Sally.

SALLY

Good memory. What else do you do well?

KIM

Is Barney around?

DAVID

I'm not sure---

SALLY

So you boys all know Courts. I wish you'd told us last night. We could

(MORE)

SALLY (CONT'D)
 have compared and contrasted. I
 believe we have some unfinished
 business.

DAVID
 It was an odd night.

LOU
 Dave!!

DAVID
 What?

LOU
 Come here!

DAVID
 Excuse me.

David goes over to Lou, who is cutting his meat. Lou is
 drunker now. Karen is now nowhere to be seen.

LOU
 You know, this stinks! Fly all the
 way out here and they serve us some
 road kill. Pumpkin soup? What the
 hell is that?

DAVID
 It is a choice menu.

LOU
 What choice?

DAVID
 You can eat it or not.

LOU
 Bill has really, really taken
 advantage of us this time. Really.

DAVID
 I'm going to sit with the girls,
 wanna come?

LOU
 Sure, sure, sure.

INT. TABLE -- CONTINUOUS

They make the way to the table with Alice, Claire, Bob and
 some empty chairs. Alice is drunk now.

ALICE
 Where's Bernie?

DAVID

He said he was going to catch the hockey game.

ALICE

Nice guy.

LOU

It stinks. Someone should tell Bill and his bitch, the ice princess, where to get off. Cristillo. Where does she get off calling me Cristillo? I oughta slug them both.

CLAIRE

What's with him?

DAVID

He's flexing his beer muscles. I saw him do this once before. We never did find his shoe.

ALICE

Why did I ever latch on to him? He's a lout. An overbearing, obnoxious jerk. Why can't I meet somebody like you, Davey?

DAVID

I dunno---

Carl Meadows comes over and snaps some pictures.

LOU

I'd like to talk to you about that bitch of yours---

CARL

Yes, Lollipop is a fine dog. Courtney loves her, doncha know? Having a good time?

DAVID

You bet.

Carl moves on.

LOU

Why the hell did you do that?

DAVID

What?

LOU

Lie to the man. You're having a terrible time. Tell him. No, not you, Mr. Everybody's Friend---

CLAIRE

Lou!

LOU

--- Dave Nice guy, can't say a bad word to anyone. Always concerned about everyone else's feelings. You just tell him everything's wonderful when, in fact, everything sucks.

DAVID

I was being ironic.

LOU

You were being a wuss.

Videoman shows up, blinding everyone with the lights.

VIDEOMAN

Would you like to say something to the happy couple?

LOU

Yeah, I got something to say---

CLAIRE

(pulling Lou down)

Sit down, now.

(to camera)

Good luck, Bill and Courtney.

ALICE

Many happy returns.

DAVID

Shalom. It's a wonderful bar mitzvah. Maztel Tov!

Videoman moves on.

LOU

Where is that S.O.B.?

Bill comes over.

BILL

Hi, guys.

LOU

Oh, so nice of you to visit.

BILL

I was talking to my friend the travel agent, and she doesn't know what happened about your hotel rooms. She thinks maybe it has something to do

(MORE)

BILL (CONT'D)

with Mary not coming. Something might have happened when she re-booked the trip.

LOU

Oh sure, that makes sense. Unbooking one pregnant female would certainly cause three different hotel rooms to be combined.

BILL

She said she would try to fix it.

DAVID

What's the point? We're leaving tonight.

BILL

You know, that's right. What was I thinking?

LOU

Beats me.

BILL

Catch you later.

He leaves.

ALICE

I don't feel so good.

CLAIRE

Do you want to go back to the room?

ALICE

I think so.

LOU

(standing)

What? And miss all the fun?

CLAIRE

Sit down, Lou.

LOU

Aren't I?

She pulls him down.

CLAIRE

Dave, why don't you help her back to the room?

LOU

Yeah, you're ever-so-helpful.

DAVID

Shut up, Lou.

David and Alice get up and she latches onto him. They head to the main entrance.

INT. ELEVATOR -- LATER

They go in. Alice leans against David. David pats her head.

ALICE

Don't mind Lou, he's just jealous of you.

DAVID

He's mad and drunk. He's never been a pleasant drunk. What are you gonna do?

ALICE

You're sweet, Davey.

DAVID

No, I'm nutrasweet, It's all done chemically.

ALICE

I really think you're cute.

DAVID

Thank you. You're nice, too.

ALICE

This is nice. I could stay right here.

DAVID

I wish we could just stop time for a while and stay in here. Away from everything and everyone...out there.

Alice leans across him and pulls on the stop button.

ALICE

Your wish is my command.

The elevator stops.

ALICE (CONT'D)

There. No more out there. Just in here.

DAVID

Thank you.

ALICE

You're welcome. Anything else while I'm in a wish-granting mood?

David and Alice kiss. Tentatively at first, then with more abandon. They slide, hitting into the stop button and restart the elevator. David feebly resists.

DAVID

Wait a second. This isn't right.

ALICE

Let me try it this way then.

She kisses him again. The elevator stops and the doors open.

David's eyes open and he sees himself kissing Karen in the hallway. His eyes open wide, then he squeezes them shut and looks again. It's Bernie. It's Bernie kissing and necking with Karen. Suddenly the realization of what he's doing hits home. He hits the "door close" button.

DAVID

We have to go back. We have to.

ALICE

What? What's wrong?

The doors shut before Bernie can see.

INT. LOBBY -- CONTINUOUS

Elevator opens. David hustles out with Alice.

DAVID

Alice, I'm so sorry. That was wrong.

ALICE

David calm down.

They go into the Ballroom.

INT. BANQUET ENTRANCE -- CONTINUOUS

DAVID

I can't calm down. I just cheated on my wife! My pregnant wife!

ALICE

I'm sorry. I shouldn't have done that. Can you forgive me? I'm so sorry.

DAVID

How can I forgive you. I let you...I was bad.

ALICE

You're not bad. You had a bad moment.
Don't let this end your life as you
know it.

DAVID

I love Mary. I love my baby. How
could I?

ALICE

Wait a second, how horrible was I?

DAVID

Not that...oh, that was a joke, right?
Aah, then the moment has passed,
hasn't it?

ALICE

It has.

DAVID

Well, just so you know, it was pretty
darn good. But let's forget all
about it.

ALICE

Let's.

They hug. Alice pecks him on the cheek.

ALICE (CONT'D)

They're right, all the good are taken.
I wouldn't distress you for anything.

Bernie opens the door and sees them. Karen is behind him.

BERNIE

Hey, Bono, what do you think you're
doing?

DAVID

Nothing, now.

BERNIE

You weasel! Who do you think you're
trying to put the moves on?

DAVID

No, Barnyard, wait!

Bernard punches David, who drops like a sack of mashed
potatoes. Alice starts hitting Bernard.

ALICE

Where the hell have you been?

BERNIE
I was watching a hockey game.

ALICE
Right.

KAREN
Well, it was on.

BERNIE
Quiet.

KAREN
Why are you so uptight about her? I thought she was only an old friend of the family.

ALICE
Old friend?

Claire comes over. Kim comes over. David staggers to his feet, Alice helping him up.

KIM
Hi, Barney.

KAREN
Barney?

CLAIRE
What's going on?

DAVID
Alice, I'm sorry. I didn't mean it.

ALICE
No, you did. Me, too. But--

DAVID
Exactly.

BERNIE
Do I have to knock you down again?

Alice goes to slug Bernie, misses and hits David. David now stumbles back and trips over some chairs.

Claire and Alice run over to him. Bernie follows. Lou suddenly realizes he's alone with Karen, and goes over to David. He and Alice help David up.

LOU
I saw it all, buddy. Want I should slug her for you?

ALICE
Oh, I'm sorry, Davey. Are you okay?

DAVID

Fine, fine.

LOU

Where's Bill? I'm gonna clean his clock.

CLAIRE

Oh, knock it off, Lou. You're not going to clean anybody's clock.

LOU

Well then, maybe I'll dust his watch.

ALICE

(to David)

My fault, Dave. I'm sorry.

DAVID

I'll live.

BERNIE

Just get away from her.

DAVID

Maybe not.

ALICE

Drop dead, Barnyard.

DAVID

Come on, people! Everyone just calm down. This is just a merry mix-up. Let's not all fly off the handle.

Bill comes over. Meanwhile, waiters wheel out the flaming wedding cake, a layer cake with sputtering sparklers stuck in it.

BILL

What's going on?

LOU

You've got a lot to answer for.

BILL

What?

DAVID

He's just drunk, Bill, ignore him.

BILL

Okay.

LOU

Don't you dare ignore me!

Courtney comes over.

COURTNEY
What's going on here?

DAVID
Where?

LOU
Ah, your highness.

COURTNEY
We're supposed to be cutting the
cake! It's poppy seed, you know.

LOU
Poppy seed cake? Pumpkin soup? What
is it with you people? Don't you get
real food around here?

COURTNEY
What's that mean?

DAVID
Hold it, everyone! Right now! This
is a wedding here, not some barroom.
This is a very special and solemn
occasion and we've all travelled
very far to be part of it. It's their
special day and we can't ruin it.

COURTNEY
That's right.

DAVID
And we did travel a long way. And
we've been subjected to every
inconvenience imaginable. We're tired
and we've made a lot of sacrifices
to be here and we're fed up with
being treated like sub-mutant step-
relations. This weekend is costing
us plenty and we're tired of jumping
through your hoops, like dragging us
to bachelor parties or making us
wear goofy tuxedos that Sherwin-
Williams threw up on.

BERNIE
Yeah.

BILL
That's no way to talk to me. I saved
your life!

DAVID

I know but does that mean I get stuck driving strangers' cars and eating pumpkin entrees?

LOU

Yeah.

BILL

But we had to do it that way -- it's the way they do things here.

DAVID

It's your wedding too, Bill! You have a say in it. You could have made provisions for us! We came a thousand miles to a strange land and strange customs and nobody, nobody, gave us a clue as to what gives out here.

LOU

That's right.

DAVID

Shut up, Lou. And what do I do? I abandon my wife and my soon-to-be offspring out of some twisted notion of friendship. So before anyone says anything else, I think apologies are owed all around right now. First and foremost. Then we can get back on the right track.

A Waiter enters with a note.

WAITER

Excuse me, Mr. Anderson, who is Dave Bono?

DAVID

That's me.

He hands note to David.

WAITER

It's a boy, sir.

DAVID

What's a boy?

WAITER

Your son.

DAVID

My what?...

He reads note.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Mary had a boy. She had the baby!
son. I have a son!

(suddenly)

And I missed the whole thing to attend
the wedding from Hell!

He lunges at Bill. They go back into the wedding cake.

Courtney starts hitting David with her bouquet. Lou holds Courtney back. Her parents come over and try to separate them.

Other guests gather. Alice finally slugs Bernie. Lou slugs Carl Meadows. A full-fledged fight breaks out with more and more people getting involved.

In one spot, a Guest is thrown onto a table. The table flips over, revealing Ed and Grace in a passionate embrace under it.

Lou is knocked into a corner. He takes the wedding card envelope out of his pocket, removes the last of the money and rips the card up.

David storms out, finished with it all.

DAVID (CONT'D)

I'm going...going to be with my
family.

Bernard grabs Bill, plops him on the wedding cake service and shoves him out the door.

INT. LOBBY -- NIGHT

The table with Bill aboard roll through the lobby, right pass David.

Bill crashes into the fountain and flips over. Bill is unconscious, under water beneath the table. David assesses the situation. Then he assesses it some more. Finally, he dashes over, jumps in, frees Bill and hauls him out. Members of the wedding come out into the lobby.

EMILY

Oh my heavens! He's trapped in the
bubbler!

DAVID

Bill. Bill? You alive or what?

Bill sputters to life.

BILL
What happened?

LOU
Davey boy just saved your life!

BILL
He did?

DAVID
I did? I did, didn't I?
(suddenly)
I saved your life! The curse is
lifted! The score is evened! I don't
have to repay you with the rest of
my life; the debt is paid in full!...

He releases Bill, who drops back into the fountain.

DAVID (CONT'D)
Have a nice life, Billy-boy! I've
got a family to raise!

INT. BANQUET HALL -- LATER

It's later now, with Lou now as we met him at the opening,
acting as narrator among the ruins of the reception hall.

LOU
Needless to say, the bride never cut
the cake. Though she did take it.
It was decided she couldn't be trusted
with the knife. The party pretty
much broke up after police arrived.
Nobody was seriously injured,
thankfully. A few people were rushed
to Lombardi Memorial Hospital for
observation and one guest was
suffering from an impacted figurine.
The little statue of the bride on
the cake was jammed up his nose. And
Courtney's dad did suffer from some
palpitations when he got the bar
tab. Anyway, Claire is back in the
room, trying to console Alice.
Bernie's running around the lobby
trying to gather up all the clothes
Alice threw out of the room. David's
at the desk checking us out. So,
while Bill and Courtney are off to
Aruba for their honeymoon, we're
looking to escape back to our lives.

INT. RENTAL HALL -- DAY

A couple of months later. It's baby Bono's Christening party.

Mary, David and son pose beside the sheet cake which reads "God Bless Andrew." Family members mingle and little kids run around. Table with cold cuts and rolls, and CD's play from a boom box.

David and Mary play peek-a-boo with the baby. Lou and Claire come up with a card, while Mary puts the baby in the stroller.

LOU

So, how you holding up?

MARY

Tired. But it's a good tired.

DAVID

It's no wedding in Wisconsin.

LOU

The new yardstick.

CLAIRE

No word from Bill?

DAVID

We got an unsigned thank-you card, postmarked Bayside. I assume it was them.

MARY

So, what exactly happened out there, anyway?

David looks at Lou.

LOU

Don't get me started. And how's the little diaper model?

DAVID

Better than okay. It's not about me anymore. This is now the center of my universe.

LOU

Must be something.

CLAIRE

You'll find out soon enough.

LOU

What do you mean?

Claire pats her tummy. Mary squeals with delight and hugs her. Lou looks terror-stricken. David puts his arm around him.

DAVID

Fear not, Lou. I'll share my wealth
of experience.

This frightens Lou further.

THE END