

Stuck With You

an original script
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FADE IN:

The sound of RUNNING WATER, possibly a fountain or a creek.

As the black gradually becomes lighter, it turns into a bright, deep and beautiful blue.

Gradually it becomes clear that this is a midwestern sky in the summer. Simply magnificent. The color is so intense it almost seems unreal.

EXT. DEVILS BATHTUB, SPEARFISH CANYON -- DAY

A creek flows through a canyon.

WILL and STACY, both are twenty years old and athletic. They carefully step on rocks as they cross the creek. Will crosses first with Stacy close behind.

As soon as Will reaches the other side he turns and extends a hand to her. She takes his hand even though she doesn't need it for the last step across. She could make it up a mountain without help---but she thinks his gesture is sweet, almost chivalrous.

Will smiles nervously as she takes his hand. He knows she doesn't need his help but this time is different. He has something planned and he wants to make sure it goes right.

The two continue to hike along the Devils Bathtub trail. The walls along the creek are unlike anywhere else, appearing uniquely eroded as though they had been sculpted. They admire the scenery as they hike.

STACY

This is amazing! I can't believe
I've never been here.

WILL

It's one of the best kept secrets of
the Black Hills.

STACY

After a year of dating I would have
thought you would have brought me
here sooner.

(jokingly)

What other secrets are you keeping
from me?

Will hesitates for a moment, almost as though he was about to say something but stops.

STACY (CONT'D)

Have you been taking other girls
here?

WILL
 (regaining composure)
 No. You're the only girl for me.

They travel a few more feet and they come to an opening. This is where Devils Bathtub gets its name. It's an unbelievably clear pool of water nestled into some of the most picturesque rock formations imaginable.

Stacy is awed by the beauty of it.

STACY
 Wow! This is incredible!

Will turns toward her, then drops down on one knee and takes her left hand.

WILL
 (intensely)
 It's not nearly as incredible as you are.

STACY
 You're sweet, and silly. This,
 (gesturing around)
 is spectacular!

Will hesitates for the slightest moment, then opens up his other hand to show an engagement ring.

WILL
 I'd rather look at you every morning
 for the rest of my life and be blind
 to the rest of the world.
 (he pauses)
 Will you marry me?

Stacy is surprised and overwhelmed. Her thoughts race quickly as she tries to think about the rest of her life with Will. Gradually, her surprised look is replaced by a smile that grows brighter as each thought reaches her mind.

STACY
 (grinning widely)
 Yes!!!

Will slips the ring onto her finger. He stands up and they embrace and kiss passionately but...

They lose their footing and both of them fall into the ice cold water of Devils Bathtub.

They SCREAM and YELL because the water is so cold!

EXT. CANYON LAKE PARK - DAY

A picturesque city park with a lake and people enjoying a beautiful day.

YOUNG CHILDREN SCREAM with delight as they squirt each other with water guns. Nearby, a fairly large group of people gather. Most people are dressed business casual, though some are dressed casually. MUSIC plays from a boom box---perhaps some classic rock like Chris Rea's "The Road to Hell."

Will and Stacy sit on top of a picnic table surrounded by gifts. DAVE, early twenties and athletic talks with them.

DAVE

Hey, make sure you don't disappear on me. When Mike tied the knot he became a ghost.

WILL

Don't worry, you'll see me at work and I'll come around to haunt you.

Dave looks at Stacy for support.

STACY

(smiling)

Don't worry, Dave. I'll let him off his leash once in a while.

DAVE

Good.

He gives Will a fist bump and walks off.

Will and Stacy appear very happy and comfortable together.

WILL

What are you thinking?

STACY

(smiles)

I'm thinking---this is almost over.

They kiss.

STACY (CONT'D)

(quietly to Will)

I told you this was a good idea. Look at all the stuff we got.

WILL

Yeah, okay, I didn't expect people to give good gifts for an engagement party.

STACY
Surprised you?

WILL
Yeah.

He turns and picks up two identical boxes from the picnic bench behind him.

WILL (CONT'D)
I didn't think we'd end up with his
and hers juicers.

STACY
You can't expect all gifts to be
good. Some people are regifting.

There's a quiet moment. Will looks off at a couple of people talking and appearing to have fun.

WILL
(in reference to them)
Seems your parents adjusted to you
moving in with me.

STACY
My dad actually seems excited about
it in some weird way. I didn't think
he would.

Will sees a MAN in his mid to late forties who looks rough around the edges and a little tipsy. He comes toward them with a sloppily wrapped present. It's thin and rectangular---perhaps it's a serving platter in a box.

WILL
(whispers to Stacy)
My Uncle Ed. He's a little odd.

UNCLE ED
Hey, Willie, taking the plunge. Make
sure you hold your nose.

Uncle Ed pinches his nose and holds his breath like he's going under water.

WILL
Yeah.
(pauses)
Uncle Ed, this is Stacy.

Stacy extends a hand to shake, unsure of what to do with Uncle Ed.

Uncle Ed takes her hand.

UNCLE ED
(forward)
You want to dance?

He pulls her hand behind his back and gives her a hug. Stacy is uncomfortable but tries to look natural. She laughs nervously as Uncle Ed pulls away after the hug.

UNCLE ED (CONT'D)
(to Will)
Looks like you did real good.

Will smiles. He wishes Uncle Ed would go away.

WILL
I know I did. I'm very lucky.

Uncle Ed winks and nods at Will.

Stacy smiles a slightly strained smile.

UNCLE ED
You been staying out of trouble,
right?

Will seems a little more uncomfortable with the question.

WILL
Oh yeah. Always.

Uncle Ed shakes a warning finger at Will.

UNCLE ED
Not always, I mean you...

Stacy watches, wondering what Uncle Ed is referring to or if he's just crazy.

WILL
(interrupting quickly)
So what did you get us?

UNCLE ED
I'm not tellin'. You gotta open it
up.

Uncle Ed grins, making both of them uneasy. Will cautiously starts tearing the wrapping paper.

Wrapping paper is pulled back to reveal...

A Monopoly game.

STACY
Uhm. Thank you.

WILL
Yeah. Thanks Uncle Ed.

UNCLE ED
I figure it's always good to play
games. Have fun.

Will has a sense of relief.

WILL
Yeah.

UNCLE ED
Hey, the get out of jail free cards
can come in handy---in case you ever
need one.

He play punches Will in the shoulder.

UNCLE ED (CONT'D)
See you around.

Uncle Ed walks off.

Stacy turns to Will and looks him in the eyes.

STACY
Will, when we have kids, please tell
me you aren't going to want him to
be a godparent.

WILL
You kidding? It scares me that he's
from the same gene pool as me.

STACY
Guess he's from the shallow end of
the pool.

They laugh, then hug and kiss.

A little distance away, a MYSTERY MAN who doesn't seem to be
involved with the party watches Will and Stacy with a critical
eye.

EXT. CANDLEWOOD APARTMENTS -- DAY

An older but mint condition dark blue Ford Mustang pulls up
to a slightly older but well kept apartment complex. Will
and Stacy get out and grab some boxes from the trunk.

JESSICA, a six-year old girl, plays outside and sees them
grabbing boxes and carrying them toward the apartment.

JESSICA
(to Stacy)
You gonna live here with Will?

Stacy smiles at the girl.

STACY

Yes, I'm gonna live here with Will.

JESSICA

For how long?

STACY

Probably a while. At least until we buy a house.

JESSICA

You gettin' married?

STACY

Yes, we are.

WILL

(gesturing)

Jessica, this is Stacy. She's the girl I'm marrying.

Jessica smiles broadly. She approves.

INT. WILL'S APARTMENT - DAY

Will and Stacy are carrying boxes into a small kitchen. Other boxes are lying around.

Will puts a box down on the counter.

Stacy puts her box down and then opens it and starts pulling out some dishes and putting them in a closet. She continues to put things away, trying to create order amidst the chaos.

STACY

Now I just have to unpack all this.

Will walks up behind her and puts his hands around her waist.

WILL

You could take a little break.

Will kisses her neck.

The doorbell BUZZES.

Will rolls his eyes at the interruption.

Stacy pulls away a bit, but playfully.

STACY

I'll get the door.

Stacy heads to the door and opens it. AMANDA, 20's and bubbly stands at the door holding a small potted rose plant.

STACY (CONT'D)

Hey!

They hug warmly.

AMANDA

Hey, you! I wanted to stop by, see your new place and give you a house warming gift.

STACY

You didn't have to do that.

They walk inside. They are very comfortable with each other.

AMANDA

(smiling)

I know. It was cheap---I just wanted to use it as an excuse to snoop.

(pauses)

I wasn't interrupting anything, was I?

Stacy looks at Will quickly.

STACY

No!

(pauses)

Not really.

WILL

Hi, Amanda.

Amanda smiles. She's comfortable with Will.

AMANDA

Hi.

Will heads over to the fridge.

WILL

You want something to drink?

AMANDA

No thanks. I really just wanted to drop off the plant, see how you guys are getting settled and then get out of your hair.

(pauses)

It looks like you're getting settled well, so I'm gonna head out.

STACY

You just got here.

Amanda looks at both Will and Stacy---there's a chemistry between them that she senses.

AMANDA

Come on, you guys don't really want me hanging out with you on your first day in your place.

Stacy looks at her in disbelief.

AMANDA (CONT'D)

Okay, I'm busted. Jeff's in from Minneapolis. I promised I'd meet him for dinner.

Stacy shakes her head.

STACY

Bad idea.

AMANDA

I know. Not everyone can have what you two have.

Amanda spins around on her heels looking at the apartment.

AMANDA (CONT'D)

Besides, now I've seen your place.

She smiles and heads toward the door.

AMANDA (CONT'D)

Catch you later!

WILL

See ya!

Amanda opens the door and steps out and looks back in.

AMANDA

Call me tomorrow.

STACY

I will, girl.

Amanda leaves.

Will and Stacy look at each other.

STACY (CONT'D)

(a little excited)

Hey, that was our first visitor in our place.

Will strolls up to Stacy and puts his hands on her waist.

WILL

Of course I've been living here and you've visited.

STACY

But I mean as a couple---our place.

WILL

I know. I like it.

(pauses)

Wanna sit outside and have some ice tea?

STACY

Sure.

Will goes to the refrigerator to get the ice tea.

WILL

By the way, I plugged in your phone.
The battery was dead---again.

STACY

(smiling)

I don't worry about it because I
know you'll take care of it.

WILL

But now I don't have to charge it in
my car.

Stacy puts a coffee maker next to a smaller coffee maker on the counter. Meanwhile Will starts pouring the ice tea into two glasses.

STACY

We don't need two coffee makers.

WILL

Mine was here first.

STACY

Yeah, but yours is only a four cup.

(pauses)

And you don't want to see me without
any coffee in the morning.

WILL

(smiling)

I get your point.

Stacy puts the smaller coffee maker into the box the other one came out of. She quickly writes "donations" on the box.

EXT. CANDLEWOOD APARTMENTS -- DAY

Will and Stacy sit in cheap plastic chairs drinking their iced tea. They look off toward the hills. It's actually quite serene.

STACY

(excitedly)

I was thinking about our wedding date. We should move it up. Let's get married this summer.

She takes a sip of her ice tea. Will shrugs his shoulders and seems mostly okay with the idea but he doesn't say anything.

STACY (CONT'D)

I was doing some research and it would be cheaper to go to Italy during the summer.

Will suddenly looks more concerned. He takes a gulp of his iced tea.

WILL

Why do we want to mess with the date? We already set it for our anniversary. I'm fine with waiting.

(pauses)

Didn't you already order the invitations?

Stacy smiles slyly.

STACY

Yes, I did.

(pauses, smiling)

But, they said we can still make changes until they print them. My mom keeps reminding me that we're already

(she puts her fingers up as quotation marks)

"living in sin."

(she pauses)

We're gonna get married anyway. Why not do it sooner?

Will hesitates as he tries to find the right words to say.

WILL

Why *not* wait? You plan on leaving me before then?

STACY

No! I want to be your wife. I don't want to wait.

Stacy puts her hand on Will's thigh reassuringly.

WILL

Good.

(MORE)

WILL (CONT'D)

(pauses)

If we got married at the end of the summer we wouldn't even be able to drink at our own wedding.

STACY

(baffled)

You don't drink.

WILL

So. It'd be nice to have the option.

(pauses)

Let me think about it a little more.

STACY

But only 'till Friday. That's when they're printing the invites.

(pauses)

You still wanna be my husband?

WILL

Of course! There's no one I'd rather spend the rest of my life with.

They embrace and kiss.

STACY

You should get your passport this week so we're ready to travel.

Will smiles, possibly a little strained.

EXT. FEDERAL BUILDING -- DAY

Will walks into a large building. The sign in front simply says "Federal Building."

INT. FEDERAL BUILDING -- CONTINUOUS

As Will walks through security, there is a list of services available that includes such things as passports, federal court and federal probation.

INT. FEDERAL BUILDING -- DAY

Will exits an elevator and walks in a direction without hesitation.

INT. FEDERAL BUILDING, FEDERAL PROBATION OFFICE -- DAY

Will enters an office and sees the receptionist. She looks up and sees him.

RECEPTIONIST

Have a seat. Craig is with someone right now. He'll be with you shortly.

Will takes a seat in the relatively small office waiting area. A young NATIVE AMERICAN MALE with quite a few tattoos is waiting as well.

A moment later the receptionist's phone buzzes.

RECEPTIONIST (CONT'D)
 (into phone)
 Yes. I'll send him back.

She hangs up the phone and addresses Will.

RECEPTIONIST (CONT'D)
 You can go back now.

Will gets up and starts walking. He looks uneasy.

INT. CRAIG'S OFFICE -- DAY

CRAIG is an athletic man in his forties. He finishes some paperwork at his desk. He is the same person who was watching Will and Stacy's engagement party from afar.

Will walks in and has a seat in a fairly uncomfortable chair. Meanwhile Craig leans back in his chair. He is an imposing figure and not one to be trifled with.

CRAIG
 Glad to see you didn't invite any of your old buddies from Montrose to your engagement party.

WILL
 Yeah, I saw you scoping things out.

CRAIG
 Just want you to stay out of trouble.

WILL
 I know. Nine more months.

CRAIG
 She doesn't know about your record, does she?

Will hesitates for a moment. He looks down. He has remorse but doesn't see a better way to handle it.

WILL
 No. I want to leave my past behind.

Craig makes a note on his paperwork.

CRAIG
 Stayin' out of trouble will help.

WILL

I have been.

Craig looks at Will critically.

CRAIG

There's been a few burglaries
downtown. You wouldn't know anything
about that, would you?

Will is exasperated.

WILL

No. I'm a law abiding citizen.

CRAIG

If I remember correctly, you were
charged with burglary as a minor
when you lived in Montrose.

WILL

(definite)

It's not me. I'm staying out of
trouble.

CRAIG

I heard you got her a pretty nice
rock for an engagement ring. You
have a receipt for it?

Will controls himself but it's a struggle.

WILL

I can bring it in if you'd like.
Otherwise you can check with Barclay
Jewelers---that's where I bought it.

Craig makes another note on his paperwork.

CRAIG

When's your wedding date?

WILL

Next May. The seventh.

Craig makes another note on his paperwork. Will looks like
he wants to say something. Craig knows him better than Will
thinks he does.

CRAIG

What is it?

WILL

Stacy wants to get married the end
of the summer, then go to Italy for
our honeymoon.

Craig shakes his head no.

CRAIG

No, can do. You can get married but you're not leaving South Dakota--- let alone the country.

(he pauses)

She pregnant?

WILL

(slightly offended)

No. She's a virgin.

CRAIG

And you live together?

WILL

Yeah.

CRAIG

Is that part of moving the date up?

Will shrugs noncommittally.

CRAIG (CONT'D)

Guess it's irrelevant. You can get married but you can't leave the state until after you're off probation.

WILL

We'd only be gone two weeks. Can't you let me go and just extend my probation time?

CRAIG

No.

Will frowns that he has so little control over his life.

CRAIG (CONT'D)

I'll see you next week.

INT. HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE BLACK HILLS -- DAY

Will and Stacy are in a room with lots of cats and kitten's in cages. A couple of young kids have vests on that say "volunteer." One is a A YOUNG BOY who holds a tabby kitten. The other is a PRETEEN GIRL who holds a black cat. She puts the cat back into a cage and washes her hands.

Will and Stacy are scoping out the kittens.

STACY

Oh, they're all so cute!

Will looks into a cage with a siamese kitten.

WILL
What about this one?

Stacy turns toward Will and the kitten.

STACY
He's really cute.
(she turns to the
Humane Society
Volunteer)
Can we take him out?

PRETEEN GIRL
(excited and eager)
I can take her out for you!

She opens the cage and takes out the kitten. She hands the kitten to Stacy, who cuddles it.

STACY
Is it a girl?

PRETEEN GIRL
(smiling)
Yeah. Her name is Camille.

Will puts his face up to the kitten's face. She sniffs then licks his nose. He laughs.

WILL
I think she's a keeper. What do you think?

STACY
Definitely.

INT. WILL'S APARTMENT - DAY

Will and Stacy lounge on their living room floor while the kitten plays. They pull string and roll a ball throughout the following.

While Stacy gives less attention to the kitten and more to the conversation, Will gives less attention to the conversation and more to the kitten as he tries to distract Stacy.

STACY
So, what do you think of moving up our wedding date?

WILL
(referring to the kitten)
How could you just leave her?

STACY

I could have Amanda or Cameron look in on her while we're gone. It would only be a couple of weeks.

WILL

(a little jealous)
Have another guy check on my cat?

STACY

Come on, Cameron's just a friend.
(pauses)
He's gay---just not out of the closet.
Besides, I'd be with you.

Will hesitates, thinking of an answer.

WILL

What if we went somewhere close by?
Maybe a honeymoon in the Black Hills?

Stacy looks confused and then disappointed as she thinks about his suggestion.

WILL (CONT'D)

We could book a bed and breakfast,
do a cave tour, do some hiking.
Things like that.

Stacy shakes her head.

STACY

We can do that anytime. I want my
honeymoon to be special.

WILL

But you'd be with me. Wouldn't that
make it special enough?

STACY

You don't get it. When a girl decides
to get married she's already got
some ideas in her head.

(pauses)

Do you know how long I've wanted to
go to Italy?

WILL

A while.

STACY

Yeah, since I was ten. My parents
went and loved it, but I couldn't
go. I stayed with my grandparents
instead.

(MORE)

STACY (CONT'D)

(pauses)

It's not about you, it's about us.
It's about starting out on the right
foot.

Will tries to change the direction of the discussion.

WILL

You want Camille to start off on the
right paw.

(pauses)

We could just wait. It's less than
a year away.

(to Camille)

You would miss us, wouldn't you?

Stacy stops Will from playing with the kitten. She looks him
in the eyes intensely.

STACY

I want to spend the rest of my life
with you. I want to do it right and
I don't want to put it off.

Will looks a little like a deer in the headlights.

WILL

It's just...

He trails off.

STACY

It's just what?

Will is struggling now. He's no longer focused on the kitten
but is focused on Stacy.

WILL

Uhm, there's something I need to
tell you.

Stacy looks concerned. She hasn't seen Will look like this.
He seems nervous. She's nervous now too.

STACY

What is it?

Will rubs the back of his neck as he looks away for a moment.

STACY (CONT'D)

(a little impatient)

What?

WILL

No, it's nothing.

STACY

It doesn't seem like it's nothing.
What is it?

This is a critical decision for him. He's ready to tell her about his past.

WILL

I...I...I love Italian food.

STACY

That's good, so do I.
(pauses perplexed)
Was that what you were going to tell me?

WILL

(quickly)
Yes. That's it. I worry I might put on some weight and you might not love me.

STACY

(smiles, relieved)
I'll always love you, you goofball!

Will smiles.

WILL

(changes the subject)
You wanna go to a movie tonight?
"The Road Out" is playing at the Elks.

Stacy feels that maybe she's been a little hard on Will. She smiles naturally.

STACY

Sure. Let's.

EXT. ELKS THEATER -- NIGHT

Will and Stacy walk toward an older movie theater in the downtown section of Rapid City. It's a historic theater that has been restored. It's both quaint and nostalgic.

INT. ELKS THEATER, TICKET AREA -- NIGHT

Will and Stacy are at the front of a short line where a teenage ticket taker sits in a nostalgic uniform.

WILL

(handing over cash)
Two for "The Road Out."

The ticket person tears the tickets and hands the stubs to Will.

TICKET TAKER
 (gesturing)
 Upstairs in the screening room.

INT. ELKS THEATER, ENTRY HALLWAY -- NIGHT

Looking up from the bottom it appears to be a nearly endless staircase.

Will and Stacy walk up a long flight of stairs that appears to be four stories, oddly all in one direction---no switch backs, but it has a couple of small landings.

To the right of one of the highest landings is a slightly recessed door.

Will and Stacy continue past the landing toward the top to the screening room entrance.

INT. ELKS THEATER, MOVIE SEATING AREA -- NIGHT

Light from a movie flickers on Will and Stacy as they sit cuddled up with popcorn in the small theater. There are only a few other patrons in the movie theater as this is a discount theater.

In the background, DIALOGUE of a romantic comedy is heard.

Will and Stacy enjoy the movie together while snacking on popcorn and drinking sodas.

INT. ELKS THEATER, MOVIE SEATING AREA -- NIGHT

It's later, the popcorn is nearly gone and the credits are rolling. The last of the patrons head for the exit but Will and Stacy stay, watching the credits.

STACY
 Think there'll be anything at the
 end?

WILL
 Doubt it, but you never know.

He leans over and gives her a kiss. The credits finally end and they get up and start heading for the exit.

WILL (CONT'D)
 Good flick.

Stacy hugs him as they walk out.

INT. ELKS THEATER, LOBBY AREA -- NIGHT

Will and Stacy are heading out of the theater. They both say "GOOD NIGHT" to two of the theater staff in the lobby.

One person is a SHIFT SUPERVISOR and the other is CUSTODIAL STAFF. The custodial staff person barely acknowledges them, then the SUPERVISOR uses sign language. The custodial staff person nods and smiles.

EXT. ATHLETIC CLUB -- DAY

A fitness center located at the edge of town. Judging by the cars in the parking lot it appears to be a higher end fitness center.

INT. ATHLETIC CLUB -- DAY

Will coaches an OVERWEIGHT MAN in his thirties on the proper technique for lifting on a circuit.

WILL

Exhale when you lift. Go ahead.

The man tries to do as he's told. He's breaking a sweat even though he's not working out hard. He struggles to lift the bar even though there's only one plate on the stack.

Will looks across the gym toward an aerobics room with windows.

Will's POV: Stacy bounces and shouts out instructions as she teaches an aerobics class to a dozen people.

Will smiles to himself.

He returns his attention to the overweight man and tries to encourage him.

WILL (CONT'D)

You're doing great, Al. Keep it up!

INT. ATHLETIC CLUB, SALES OFFICE -- DAY

Al, the overweight man, sits in a comfortable chair in an office. He's still sweating from exerting himself. Will looks cool and comfortable as he sits on a stool across from Al with a bottle of water. Will goes into "sales" mode.

WILL

Al, you are an animal!

Al smiles pridefully.

WILL (CONT'D)

If you keep this up you'll be rock solid by fall.

Al thinks about this. He looks at his obese body.

AL
 (uncertain)
 By fall?

Will looks at Al again. He sees that there's a lot of fat to get rid of to get to "rock solid." Will realizes that he stretched the possibilities bit too far.

WILL
 (not as certain)
 Maybe by winter...or spring.

There's a knock at the door.

WILL (CONT'D)
 Come in!

As the door opens he turns to Al.

WILL (CONT'D)
 When I was young I was a heavy kid.

Stacy stands in the doorway.

STACY
 Excuse me. Will, can I grab you for a second?

WILL
 Al, back in a second.

Will gets up and steps outside the office with Stacy for a moment. He closes the door behind him.

INT. ATHLETIC CLUB -- CONTINUOUS

They speak quietly enough so Al won't hear.

STACY
 (surprised)
 You were a fat kid?

Will feels like he's been busted.

WILL
 Not fat. I was a little overweight when I was eleven or twelve.

Stacy looks relieved.

STACY
 You're not gonna balloon out after we get married, are you?

WILL
 No!
 (MORE)

WILL (CONT'D)

(pauses)

What do you need?

STACY

I'm gonna get changed and head out.

WILL

Where're you goin'?

STACY

To Piedmont with Cameron. I wanna do a painting of White Gates. The light should be good for it.

Will shrugs. He's not thrilled that she's going with Cameron, even if he is gay.

WILL

Hey, I can go with you tomorrow.

Stacy knows he's jealous of Cameron.

STACY

Tomorrow it's supposed to be cloudy, so that won't work.

(pauses)

I've told you a hundred times, there's nothing to worry about---Cameron's gay.

Will isn't as certain but he plays it cool.

A very tall and model-attractive twenty-something year-old WOMAN comes over to get Will's attention.

Stacy sees her coming and seems very territorial of Will but she tries not to let it show.

STACY (CONT'D)

Hi Cindy.

CINDY

(to Stacy)

Hi.

(flirtatiously to Will)

Excuse me, Will.

Will is aware of the uncomfortable dynamics. He smiles and focuses on what is needed.

CINDY (CONT'D)

There's a pin stuck in one of the racks. Can you help me with that?

WILL
Sure, I'll be over there in a minute.

CINDY
Thanks.

Cindy struts off, moving slowly enough to emphasize her figure. Will glances in her direction for a moment, nothing serious though. Stacy catches his glance.

STACY
I don't like her.

WILL
I know. Don't worry, I'm marrying you.

Stacy smiles at the thought.

STACY
Okay. I'll see you later.

They kiss briefly. Stacy walks off while Will longingly looks after her, smiling.

Stacy turns back to look at him and sees he's already looking at her. She smiles back at him.

Will notices Dave sauntering past him.

WILL
(loud enough to get
Dave's attention)
Hey, can you help Cindy? She has a
pin stuck in the rack.

Dave grins.

DAVE
My pleasure.

Will goes back inside the office.

INT. ATHLETIC CLUB, SALES OFFICE -- CONTINUOUS

WILL
So, what do you think? Ready to
join up?

Al still looks exhausted but he's bought into the dream of getting in shape.

AL
Yeah, I'm ready to rock.

EXT. WILL'S APARTMENT - DAY

Stacy hurriedly walks out the door carrying a paint box. She walks toward a new Hummer. Cameron, early twenties, handsome, and possibly a little too neat, sits behind the wheel with the window down.

STACY
Sorry I was running late.

CAMERON
(teasingly)
You're always worth the wait.

Stacy rolls her eyes at his corny comment as she walks around to get in the vehicle.

INT. HUMMER -- DAY

The Hummer cruises down the highway with some music playing in the background. The vehicle slows down and turns onto a gravel road off the highway.

Cameron and Stacy are very comfortable with each other.

CAMERON
You sure about getting married?

Stacy's a bit exasperated by the question.

STACY
Yes, I'm sure.

CAMERON
I mean, how well do you really know him?

STACY
I've been dating him for over a year.

Cameron seems a bit hesitant. He has something he wants to say or ask and doesn't seem to know how to do it.

CAMERON
We all have dark secrets, right?

STACY
Some of us just have secrets. They're not all dark.

Cameron hesitates again and collects his thoughts.

CAMERON
Take us for example. How much does Will know about our past?

STACY

He knows what I think he needs to know. That we're friends.

EXT. WHITE GATES -- DAY

The Hummer pulls to the side of the road and stops in a beautiful area. A creek with steam rising from it flows nearby. Some cliffs that seem nearly white are lit up by the sun and look spectacular.

Cameron and Stacy get out of the Hummer. Stacy carries her paint box. He carries a lap top.

CAMERON

So he really doesn't know anything about our past?

Stacy seems a little annoyed at the discussion. She wants to keep their past in the past.

STACY

No.

She stops and looks Cameron in the eyes.

STACY (CONT'D)

He doesn't need to know because it's in the past and that's where it's staying. I'm engaged.

Cameron smiles at her warmly.

CAMERON

That's fine.

Stacy sits on the ground and starts opening her paint box, preparing to paint.

CAMERON (CONT'D)

I was thinking you still could come with me to Italy next weekend.

(pauses)

Just as friends. Separate rooms.

Stacy knows it's impossible.

STACY

You know I'd love to go, but I'm not going with you when I'm engaged.

Cameron acknowledges her response.

Stacy starts sketching on the canvas.

STACY (CONT'D)

(thinking out loud)

You know, it's odd, Will seems reluctant to change our wedding date if we go to Italy. I don't get it. It seems he'll move up our date if we honeymoon in the Hills but not if we go to Italy. It's weird.

Cameron opens up his computer and starts it up.

CAMERON

Maybe he hasn't told you everything about his past.

Stacy starts laughing.

STACY

Okay, what do you want to tell me? I know there's something you want to say.

Cameron tries to play it cool. Maybe she knows what he knows and doesn't care. Maybe she doesn't know.

CAMERON

Has he shared any dark secrets with you?

Stacy rolls her eyes and sighs.

STACY

No, he hasn't shared any deep, dark secrets. I told you, not everyone has dark secrets they hide.

(pauses)

I know his family was pretty dysfunctional---but whose family isn't? He already warned me about them but I wouldn't call that a dark secret.

Cameron now is really intrigued.

CAMERON

You really don't know, do you?

STACY

Cameron, what are you getting at?

Cameron's eyes go wide. He now knows she doesn't have a clue.

CAMERON

He didn't tell you about his legal history?

STACY
What are you talking about?

CAMERON
(incredulous)
Wow. You really don't know. You mean he asks you to marry him, you say "yes" and you didn't even Google him?

He now has Stacy's full attention.

STACY
(concerned)
What? What is it?

CAMERON
He was charged with a felony.

STACY
What?

CAMERON
A felony.

STACY
I heard that! What was he charged with?

CAMERON
(matter of fact)
Attempted murder.

STACY
(in denial)
That can't be right. No way.

CAMERON
Google him.

Stacy doesn't believe this is possible.

INT. HUMMER -- DAY

They are now in the Hummer and moving.

Stacy has a nervous energy about her. She's both angry and upset. Her dream world has just been blown apart.

She's looking at her cell phone, reading something.

STACY
I can't believe this.

CAMERON
Second page Google search. Not stuff that's hidden.

STACY

So, how long have you known?

CAMERON

Since Tuesday.

STACY

What?! You knew he was a killer and didn't tell me for nearly a week!?!

CAMERON

I thought you knew!

STACY

No, I didn't know! You think I'd marry a killer?

CAMERON

No, I wouldn't, but maybe you'd make an exception for attempted murder.

(speaking generally)

You never really know a person.

There's an awkward silence for a moment as Stacy silently steams. She begins talking to herself.

STACY

He ruined my life! I'm gonna kill him.

(pauses)

No. That's too good for him. Torture, that's better.

Stacy pauses for moment, thinking.

STACY (CONT'D)

Long, drawn out torture. That's the answer.

Cameron realizes he is seeing a side of Stacy he never knew existed.

CAMERON

(glancing at her critically)

I guess you never really know what a person is capable of.

EXT. CANDLEWOOD APARTMENTS -- DAY

Cameron's Hummer pulls up to the apartment.

INT. HUMMER -- DAY

As the Hummer comes to a stop, Stacy looks outside at the apartment.

STACY
He's still at work. Good.

CAMERON
When's he coming back?

STACY
I don't know and I don't care. I
just want to get my stuff out of
there.

Stacy gets out in a hurry.

EXT. CANDLEWOOD APARTMENTS -- DAY

It's a little later, the sun is lower in the sky and shadows are longer. Stacy and Cameron have been moving things out.

Jessica, the girl next door is outside watching Stacy and Cameron removing items from the apartment quickly.

JESSICA
Whatcha doin'?

Stacy doesn't have time for this. She's a bit frantic about getting everything out before Will gets home.

STACY
I'm moving out.

Jessica seems confused.

JESSICA
You and Will got a house already?

Stacy heaves a clumsily packed box into the back of the Hummer.

STACY
No.

Stacy tries to make it clear she doesn't want to talk to the girl but Jessica is young. She continues to try and figure out what is going on. It seems really strange to her.

EXT. ATHLETIC CLUB -- DAY

Will is leaving the club and heading to his car. He waves to someone else who is also leaving the club.

INT. FORD MUSTANG -- DAY

Will drives with a smile on his face. All is fine on this beautiful day.

WILL
 (to himself)
 I should surprise her tonight. Yeah,
 that's what I'll do.

EXT. CANDLEWOOD APARTMENTS -- DAY

Stacy and Cameron continue carrying items out in a hectic pace while Jessica watches.

JESSICA
 You need help?

STACY
 (abruptly)
 Thank you. No.

JESSICA
 You really seem to be in a hurry.

STACY
 I am.

She is passing Cameron.

STACY (CONT'D)
 (in a hushed and
 frustrated tone)
 If she asks me another question I
 think I'm gonna scream.

JESSICA
 (referring to Cameron)
 Who is he?

Stacy stops for a moment and tries to keep her composure and not scream. It looks like she's biting her tongue pretty hard.

STACY
 (sarcastically)
 He's a friend who doesn't have a
 felony record.

*

Stacy continues toward the apartment to grab more things.

JESSICA
 What's that?

Stacy ignores the question and heads inside the apartment.

EXT. FLORIST SHOP -- DAY

Will happily pulls up to a florist and gets out.

INT. CANDLEWOOD APARTMENTS -- DAY

Stacy grabs a few small items and a light from the bedroom. Camille, their Siamese kitten sits alertly on the bed watching her flurried movements. The kitten turns its head following her with its bright blue eyes as she hurriedly walks out of the room.

EXT. CANDLEWOOD APARTMENTS -- DAY

Stacy jogs as she carries a light out of the apartment while Jessica watches curiously.

JESSICA
(innocently)
What's a fell on me record?

STACY
(frustrated)
Felony. Not fell on me. It's when
someone commits a bad crime.

Stacy meanwhile continues on her mission while Cameron keeps loading the Hummer as well.

EXT. FLORIST SHOP -- DAY

Will exits the shop and returns to his Mustang with a dozen beautiful red roses. He grins to himself knowing that Stacy will be pleased by the gift.

EXT. CANDLEWOOD APARTMENTS -- DAY

The Hummer appears to be pretty much loaded up. Stacy looks at Cameron appreciatively.

STACY
Almost done. Just a couple more
boxes and Camille.

Cameron and Stacy head inside.

In the background Will's Mustang approaches.

INT. FORD MUSTANG -- DAY

Will cruises up to his apartment with a huge smile.

Will's POV: He sees Cameron's Hummer loaded up.

Will looks a little puzzled.

EXT. CANDLEWOOD APARTMENTS -- DAY

Will gets out of his car with a dozen roses in hand. He looks at Cameron's Hummer and realizes that it has Stacy's things inside.

JESSICA
 (smiling)
 Hi, Will!

WILL
 (bewildered)
 Hey, Jess. Do you know what's goin'
 on?

JESSICA
 (proudly)
 Yep. Stacy and the man without a
 (she hesitates on the
 next phrase)
 Felony record, are moving things
 out.

WILL
 (almost in a trance)
 Thanks.

Will slowly heads toward the apartment door. He's still in a daze given the surprise of the situation. He continues carrying the flowers but he looks like he's carrying them for a funeral procession.

Stacy and Cameron exit the apartment carrying items. Stacy carries the coffee maker.

WILL (CONT'D)
 What are you doing?

STACY
 Leaving.
 (angry---sounding
 scared)
 Stay away from me.

Stacy looks to Cameron for protection as though Will is suddenly a dangerous criminal---carrying a dozen roses.

STACY (CONT'D)
 I know about you! I can't believe
 you. Everything is a lie.

WILL
 Who told you---was it my probation
 officer?

Stacy's mouth hangs open in shock.

STACY
 Oh, you're on probation too! This
 is unbelievable!

Stacy takes off her engagement ring.

STACY (CONT'D)
 (throwing it at Will)
 You probably stole this! Stay away
 from me.

She briskly walks toward the Hummer.

WILL
 Let me explain!

Stacy stops in her tracks and turns on him.

STACY
 What---that you're on probation
 because you nearly killed someone
 and you didn't think that was
 important enough to share with someone
 you were going to marry!?!

Cameron decides to intervene. He doesn't want this breakup
 to be undone.

CAMERON
 Let's go, Stacy.

WILL
 That's *our* coffee maker. You made
 me get rid of mine.

She puts the coffee maker in the Hummer.

STACY
 It's mine. I don't care. That's
 your problem.
 (pauses)
 Go steal another one.

Stacy heads back toward the house.

CAMERON
 Let's just go.

WILL
 (picking up on
 something)
 "Let's"? What are you two a couple?

CAMERON
 No, but when I dated her I treated
 her well and didn't lie to her.

Will looks like he was just slapped in the face.

WILL
 (to Stacy)
 You dated him?!?
 (MORE)

WILL (CONT'D)

You told me you were only friends
and that he was gay.

Cameron looks at Stacy oddly---that's a surprise to him.

STACY

So. At least he isn't a criminal.

WILL

You lied to me this whole time?!?

(pauses)

Get out. Go.

(pauses, extending
the flowers)

And take your flowers with you.

CAMERON

Stacy, just leave.

Stacy is angry. She knows she's busted with her lies but she feels they are *nothing* in comparison to his.

STACY

I just need to get Camille.

Will is furious now. There is no way she's taking *his* kitten.

WILL

She's mine. She's staying here.

(as an afterthought)

Your mother is allergic anyway.

Will makes a jump in his head.

WILL (CONT'D)

She's definitely not going to live
with you and your boyfriend.

In the background, little Jessica continues to watch the exchange.

STACY

No, I'm staying with my parents---

(looks at Cameron to
make Will jealous)

For now.

CAMERON

(grabbing Stacy's arm)

Come on, let's go. You can get the
cat later.

WILL

Much later---like maybe in the next
life.

Cameron continues escorting Stacy to the vehicle. She climbs in.

INT. HUMMER -- DAY

Stacy turns to Cameron.

STACY

Did you hear that? "Maybe in the next life." He just threatened me. He's psycho.

Cameron tries to suppress a smile.

Will is fuming and Stacy would shoot him from the Hummer if she had a gun. As Cameron drives off, Stacy looks back at Will with an icy stare---which is met by an equally icy glare from Will. Bitterness at its worst.

EXT. CANDLEWOOD APARTMENTS -- DAY

Jessica has been watching this exchange but at her age she doesn't follow what's happening.

JESSICA

Will, are you gonna make up and then get married?

Will takes a deep breath before he answers her. He likes her and doesn't want to hurt her feelings but he feels like screaming.

WILL

No, Jess.
(pauses)
I believe Stacy is the anti-Christ.

Will quickly heads inside to avoid Jessica's next question.

INT. HUMMER -- DAY

Stacy seems lost in her thoughts for a moment. She's angry but has a moment where she feels a sense of loss and it shows on her face. She quickly buries the feelings.

STACY

Take me to my parent's house, please.

CAMERON

You could stay with me. Really it's no problem.

Stacy speaks quickly.

STACY

No, not right now. I want to go home.

She stares out the window looking lost in her emotions.

EXT. STACY'S HOUSE - DAY

The Hummer pulls up to Stacy's house. Stacy gets out and heads toward the front door.

Judy is Stacy's mother, 50's and caring. She steps out the front door and starts walking toward Stacy. They reach each other and hug for a long moment.

JUDY

You okay?

STACY

Yeah, mom. I'm okay now.

They slowly pull apart.

Judy suddenly seems a bit reserved. There's something she needs to say but doesn't know how to say it.

Stacy notices the awkwardness of her mother.

STACY (CONT'D)

Mom, don't worry. I'm not gonna go back to him. Not in this life.

Judy is still uncomfortable and searches for the right words.

JUDY

I know you won't.

(she pauses)

Some things are a little different since you left.

They head inside the house while Cameron grabs some items to bring inside.

INT. STACY'S HOUSE - DAY

The house is nicely furnished but fairly modest. Everything seems neat and organized.

Stacy turns to her mother.

STACY

(smiling)

I'm gonna go up and open the windows in my room. I know you always keep them closed.

Stacy bolts away running toward the familiar stairs of the house. She has a bounce in her step as she feels liberated and is getting a sense of normalcy by being back in the home she grew up in.

Though she hasn't been gone long, it's liberating for her to have some control of her life in this moment of stress.

JUDY
(calling after her)
Stacy!

Stacy bounds up the steps and out of view.

STACY O.C.
(shouting)
I'll be right down.

Cameron walks in carrying a box.

JUDY
(to Cameron)
Just put them all down over there,
(living room)
We'll take care of that later.

Stacy comes trudging down the steps. The bounce is gone from her step and she looks deeply troubled.

She looks at her mother, perplexed.

STACY
Mom, why are dad's things in my room?

Judy hesitates, it's awkward.

JUDY
I wanted to tell you but...

STACY
Tell me what?

JUDY
Your father and I are getting a
divorce.

Stacy has just been gut-punched. The stability she was so excited to return to is shattered.

STACY
What?!?

JUDY
Things haven't been good for a while.
We drifted apart but wanted to stay
together until you were out of the
house.
(pauses)
We didn't think you'd be back this
soon.

STACY

Where's dad?

JUDY

(with disdain)

Out of town. He says it's for business, but I don't know what kind of business.

Judy trails off.

Stacy wants to fix this.

STACY

What? Can't you two try counseling or something?

JUDY

We did. It didn't help.

This doesn't make sense to Stacy.

STACY

When did you go for counseling? I just moved out. I'm sure it takes more than a few sessions.

Judy pauses for a moment, collecting her thoughts.

JUDY

Do you remember when dad and I were taking that art class together and we had Aunt Jenny watch you after school a couple of times a week for a while?

This is totally unbelievable for Stacy.

STACY

(apprehensively)

Yeah, that was like in fifth grade.

(pauses, thinking)

I remember you said it was a progressive class and that's why you kept going.

JUDY

Are you sure you weren't in middle school?

STACY

I remember because I wanted to take an art class and you told me they did more art in middle school.

JUDY

Oh.

(pauses)

I guess it has been that long.

(pauses)

I mean it seems longer, but the years kind of blend together.

(pauses)

Anyway, that's when we went for counseling. I think it was almost a full year.

Stacy heads toward kitchen cabinet. She opens it and starts rummaging through it.

JUDY (CONT'D)

What are you looking for?

STACY

A butcher knife.

JUDY

(concerned)

Stacy, it's not that bad!

STACY

I'm kidding. I'm looking for Advil.

She finds them and takes a few out and starts filling a glass of water.

STACY (CONT'D)

What if I had never left?

Judy thinks for a moment.

JUDY

We would have done something eventually.

Stacy's belief in love is completely shattered.

INT. WILL'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Will looks intense. He speaks to someone off camera.

WILL

You know, you can't trust anyone. It doesn't matter how nice they are, you can't trust them.

(pauses)

Which reminds me. Never, ever, ever, go with a stranger. They may have treats or toys---don't trust them. Particularly, don't trust her.

(MORE)

WILL (CONT'D)

She's the anti-Christ and she probably
would just take you and treat you
like dirt.

Close up: His kitten, Camille, sits up straight and stares
at him with her big blue eyes. It seems she is listening
intently to what he is saying.

WILL (CONT'D)

Even if she brings out fresh tuna,
don't trust her. She'd probably
dump you at the shelter.

EXT. STACY'S HOUSE - DAY

The morning sunlight shines on Stacy's house.

INT. STACY'S HOUSE, KITCHEN -- DAY

Stacy pulls out her coffee maker from a box and sets it on
the counter. She's tired but she smiles slightly, proud
that she has broken free of a dangerous situation. It was a
close call.

She starts preparing to make her morning coffee. It's a bit
of a chore because she doesn't function well without her
coffee....but that will be taken care of.

EXT. WILL'S APARTMENT - DAY

The morning sun starts hitting Will's apartment building.

INT. WILL'S APARTMENT - DAY

Will trudges into the kitchen. He goes to the cupboard and
pulls out the container of Folgers from a cabinet along with
a filter.

Groggy, Will looks around the counter. The coffee maker is
gone.

WILL

(frustrated)

Crap!

INT. STACY'S HOUSE, KITCHEN -- DAY

She puts a filter in and then starts opening up the cabinets
looking for the coffee.

She starts looking more puzzled. She goes back into the
original cabinet that she started with, thinking she missed
something.

STACY
 (shouting urgently)
 Mom!

Stacy's mother walks into the kitchen quickly.

JUDY
 (a little worried)
 What is it, dear?

STACY
 Where's the coffee?

JUDY
 Is there any in the cabinet by the
 sink?

That's the cabinet Stacy checked twice.

STACY
 No.

JUDY
 Your father must have run out and
 didn't pick any up.
 (pauses)
 I don't drink coffee, so that's his
 problem now.

Stacy rolls her eyes, annoyed.

STACY
 Apparently mine too.

JUDY
 Sorry, dear.

INT. WILL'S APARTMENT - DAY

Will is talking on the phone.

WILL
 (into phone)
 Dave, I'm telling you, we're done.
 (pauses, then agitated)
 She lied to me about Cameron! All
 these times she'd go out with him
 and tell me that he's gay and I
 shouldn't worry---meanwhile he was
 an ex-boyfriend! Looks like they're
 together now. I want no part of
 her. Ever.
 (pauses)
 She better not go to work. I don't
 want to see her face.
 (pauses)
 I'm done with her.

INT. OFFICE -- DAY

A tired-looking Stacy sits in front of a desk. Across from her sits a MALE CLERK in his forties. A paper sits on the desk in front of her. She looks at it.

MALE CLERK

As you were co-habiting with him and engaged you pass the first test for a restraining order.

STACY

Can you use another word other than co-habiting? It sounds slimy.

The clerk smiles a forced smile.

MALE CLERK

I know this must be hard for you.

(pauses)

So, do you have documentation of physical abuse or specific dates?

STACY

(astounded)

I need specific dates?

Another forced smile by the clerk.

MALE CLERK

Approximate dates would be a good place to start.

STACY

He has a felony record! He threatened me!

The clerk doesn't seem overly excited.

MALE CLERK

Good. That helps your case.

(pauses)

When did you report the threat to the police?

STACY

I didn't. I was leaving the apartment.

MALE CLERK

After you left, when did you report it?

STACY

I didn't think about it. That's why I'm trying to get a restraining order! It just happened last night.

The male clerk takes a deep breath.

MALE CLERK

Can you tell me what happened?

Stacy feels a little better. She knows the clerk is listening to her.

STACY

I found out that he had nearly killed someone.

MALE CLERK

(astounded)

And you didn't call the police?

Stacy feels a little sheepish.

STACY

I think it was a few years ago.

(pauses)

That's why he's on probation.

The clerk furrows his brows. He's really not sure where she's headed with this.

MALE CLERK

I'm just trying to find out how that is related to your restraining order.

STACY

(yelling)

He has a history of violence! That's how!

MALE CLERK

(under his breath)

I wouldn't blame him.

Stacy thinks she heard him say what he said.

STACY

(accusingly)

What was that?

MALE CLERK

Shame on him.

Stacy feels better.

STACY

Yes. Thank you.

The clerk forces a smile again.

MALE CLERK

So how did he threaten you?

Stacy isn't sure how to tell him for the maximum effect.

STACY

As I was leaving his apartment he threatened to kill me.

MALE CLERK

Tell me what happened and what led up to it and exactly what he said.

The clerk is now taking notes. This is serious.

STACY

Well. Uhm, we have a kitten and uhm, I told him I was going to come back to get the kitten later. He said something like, "maybe in the next life."

MALE CLERK

Did he have a weapon?

STACY

(hesitant)

No.

MALE CLERK

Was he holding something that he could have used as a weapon?

STACY

(unsure)

Roses? They have thorns.

The clerk figures he should just move on.

MALE CLERK

Then what?

STACY

That's it.

The clerk furrows his brows again.

MALE CLERK

He said, "maybe in the next life" and that's his threat?

Stacy is squirming.

STACY

Uhm, yeah.

The clerk forces a smile.

MALE CLERK

Anything else?

STACY

No. Not that I can think of. That's plenty, isn't it?

MALE CLERK

I don't think you have enough to grant a temporary restraining order.

(pauses)

I can put this on the docket. You'll need to present your case to the judge and he'll decide.

Stacy feels a little better. At least something is going to happen.

STACY

When is this?

The clerk looks at a calendar.

MALE CLERK

Thursday the 29th at 9AM.

Stacy feels like she has made some progress.

EXT. ATHLETIC CLUB -- DAY

Will's car pulls into the lot and parks. Bleary-eyed, Will gets out of the car carrying a cup of coffee.

Will scans the parking lot as he heads toward the building. All looks fine. He heads inside the building.

INT. ATHLETIC CLUB, WEIGHT ROOM -- DAY

Will and Dave prepare the club for the day, wiping down some of the exercise equipment.

DAVE

You're sure about this?

WILL

Absolutely.

Will pauses, wiping down a rack of weights.

WILL (CONT'D)

I still can't believe it. I come home from work with roses for her and she's movin' out with the help of an ex-boyfriend who she

(makes quotes with his fingers)

Claimed was a gay friend.

DAVE

Wow, that's got to spin your head.

WILL
I felt like I was gut punched.

Dave pauses for a moment.

DAVE
Guess if you would've told her you
were on probation she would've dropped
you fast.

Will gets a little defensive.

WILL
That's why I never told her. I knew
she wouldn't understand.

DAVE
Maybe she'll get past it.

WILL
Doesn't matter. I told you, I'm
done with her. I can't trust her.

The door DINGS as Stacy walks in. She avoids eye contact.

Will is visibly annoyed.

WILL (CONT'D)
(speaking more quietly)
Speak of the anti-Christ.
(pauses, annoyed)
She couldn't call in---of course
not!

Dave looks in Stacy's direction and then at Will.

DAVE
Just ignore her. Don't give her any
satisfaction that she's getting under
your skin.

Will is offended.

WILL
(scoffs)
What? I couldn't care less.

Stacy glances at Will but then tries to ignore him.

Stacy walks into an aerobic room. The room is open with
mirrors on one three walls and a glass wall on the back wall.
The glass wall allows Will and Stacy to be in different rooms
and still be within sight of each other.

INT. ATHLETIC CLUB, AEROBICS ROOM -- DAY

Stacy grabs a squirt bottle and a roll of paper towels. She starts to clean the mirrored wall so that her back is to Will.

She cleans as though she is angry.

STACY
(to herself)
He couldn't call in today. What a jerk.

Stacy shakes her head, frustrated and trying to clear out the cobwebs of what has happened.

She stops wiping for a moment as it appears she's struck by an idea.

She turns and starts walking briskly toward Will and Dave.

INT. ATHLETIC CLUB, WEIGHT ROOM -- DAY

Dave notices Stacy heading their way.

DAVE
Don't look now, but Stacy's headed over here.

Will seems to pick up some confidence.

WILL
She's probably coming over to apologize. I bet she already regrets it.
(pauses)
I'll let her grovel but it doesn't matter. I'm done with her.

Stacy enters the weight room and walks up to Will, but keeps a relatively safe distance.

Will tries to ignore her, almost trying to play it cool. He looks up at her slowly.

STACY
(slightly out of breath)
I don't want you talking to me. I put in for a restraining order against you.

Stacy turns and starts walking away. Will is caught completely off guard.

WILL
What?!

Stacy stops and turns around.

STACY

You heard me.

WILL

You come over here to tell me that you don't want me to talk to you. Did I miss something? Have I said anything to you since you left with your boyfriend?

Will pauses and there is a moment of silence.

WILL (CONT'D)

(answering his own question)

No, I haven't said anything to you. But you come over here to talk to me. I don't want to talk to you!

Stacy glares at him.

STACY

(punctuating each word)

Then shut up!

Stacy turns and struts away from Will. He's a little stunned by the exchange.

Stacy leaves the weight room.

Will laughs to himself.

WILL

(to Dave)

That is epic! I mean she goes out of her way to tell me not to talk to her.

Dave shakes his head.

DAVE

Wow. I can't believe you guys were gonna get married.

WILL

Don't remind me. It scares me just thinking about it.

EXT. BADLANDS NATIONAL PARK -- DAY

The Badlands are magnificent as the sun begins to set, lighting up the sky with color.

Stacy and Cameron hike along a trail.

STACY

Working with him is probably the most annoying thing ever.

(pauses)

I need to get another job.

CAMERON

You should. What is it, another year for your degree?

STACY

Hopefully.

Cameron smiles.

CAMERON

If I was sick there's no one else I'd want as my nurse.

Stacy playfully hits him.

STACY

That is so corny!

Cameron decides to take advantage of the playful moment.

CAMERON

Sorry, I couldn't resist. How 'bout I make it up to you by taking you to Italy next week? My treat.

Stacy is a little hesitant, but a little less conflicted.

STACY

You don't give up, do you?

CAMERON

Never.

(pauses)

Besides, it would give you a break from work and those other issues.

Stacy looks very uncertain about the idea.

CAMERON (CONT'D)

Just as friends.

STACY

When do you need to know?

CAMERON

If you have your passport, two hours before take off.

Stacy laughs a bit.

STACY

No, I'm serious.

Cameron stops walking and faces Stacy.

CAMERON

I'm serious too. You know the money isn't an issue for me. If you let me know sooner, that's great too. I think you need a break from everything back here. Him, your parents. Why not?

STACY

Thanks.

Stacy gives Cameron a platonic kiss on the cheek.

STACY (CONT'D)

Really. I'll think about it.

They turn and start walking. As Stacy looks away, Cameron grins with a sense of victory.

EXT. CANDLEWOOD APARTMENTS -- DAY

Will sits on the grass outside his apartment. Jessica kneels on the ground across from him. In between them in the grass is his kitten.

Will hands Jessica a pole with a feather to attached to it. They play with the kitten as they talk.

JESSICA

You gonna get back together with Stacy?

Will forces a smile.

WILL

No. Never.

Jessica is confused.

JESSICA

I thought you were in love?

Will tries to select his words carefully.

WILL

I thought I was too.

They both laugh as the kitten leaps in the air after the feather toy.

WILL (CONT'D)

Being a grown up is hard. Stay young.

JESSICA
But I like birthdays!

WILL
Okay, you can have birthdays but
don't grow up.

Jessica smiles at Will.

JESSICA
Deal.

There's another moment of silence as they watch Camille leap.

JESSICA (CONT'D)
You don't love her anymore?

Will stands up and changes the subject.

WILL
By the way, I picked up chocolate
chip cookies. Want some?

JESSICA
Yeah!

EXT. ATHLETIC CLUB -- DAY

Will and Stacy pull into the parking lot at the same time.
They glare at each other through their windows.

Will guns his Mustang and pulls into a parking space. Stacy
parks further away from him.

Will gets out quickly and heads toward the door to avoid any
contact with Stacy. Meanwhile Stacy takes her time, pausing
to look in her rear view mirror to fix her hair.

INT. ATHLETIC CLUB -- DAY

It's later in the day. The club is in full swing. People
are working out. Will stands at a front desk area with Dave.
Will's getting ready to leave---his shift is done.

DAVE
You have any plans later?

WILL
Not really. Maybe catch a movie or
something.

In the background Stacy starts heading toward the front desk.
She's at the end of her shift as well.

Cindy starts heading toward the front desk from a different
angle.

She reaches the front desk just ahead of Stacy.

CINDY
(flirting)
Hey, Will. How's it going?

Will sees Stacy approaching close behind her. He decides to go along with the flirting.

WILL
Great. You look fantastic as always.

Cindy blushes. She really has a crush on Will. Stacy looks like she could kill both of them out of point. Dave watches the situation unfold with trepidation.

WILL (CONT'D)
(to Cindy)
What are you doing this weekend?

CINDY
I'm not sure.

Stacy leans on the front desk between the two of them.

STACY
Dave, can you get me my keys?

Dave grabs her keys from a desk drawer and hands them to Stacy.

WILL
(to Cindy)
We could go for a hike.

Will is very conscious of Stacy's presence and her reactions. He's trying to make her as jealous as possible.

CINDY
Sure.

Stacy starts walking away, steaming.

WILL
(loud enough for Stacy
to hear)
Ever been to Devil's Bathtub?

CINDY
No, I haven't.

Stacy has had enough. She turns back to Will and Cindy.

STACY
(steaming)
Cindy.

CINDY
 (overly sweet)
 What?

Stacy shakes her head.

STACY
 Never mind. I don't care if you end
 up in a dumpster.

Stacy turns and walks out.

Dave shakes his head in disbelief.

EXT. ATHLETIC CLUB -- CONTINUOUS

Stacy walks briskly out of the building with her keys in hand.

She takes a direct route to her car, which leads her right past Will's mint condition Mustang.

As Stacy walks past the Mustang she leans her keys into the side of the dark car. The keys SCREECH as they scratch the paint, leaving several long streaks in the side of the car.

INT. ATHLETIC CLUB -- DAY

Cindy stands by Will. She's a bit bewildered.

CINDY
 What was *that* all about?

Will smiles politely.

WILL
 Sorry about that. Stacy's a bit
 psycho---must have missed her meds.
 (pauses)
 So, a hike work for you?

CINDY
 (a little unsure)
 Yeah, sure.

Cindy walks away from the front desk, leaving Will and Dave.

DAVE
 (mixed)
 Cindy? Really??

Will shrugs.

WILL
 I'm moving on. Getting back in the
 saddle.

DAVE
 But Cindy? I mean she's scorching
 hot but...

WILL
 Hey, I'm not looking to marry her.

DAVE
 You just always said she wasn't your
 type. Not smart enough.

WILL
 (accusingly)
 And you're saying that Stacy was my
 type?

DAVE
 No, I mean not now. I thought she
 was.
 (pauses)
 I mean you almost married her.

WILL
 Everyone makes mistakes.

Dave has an idea.

DAVE
 Hey, I get off in an hour. Wanna do
 something?

WILL
 Yeah, sure.

EXT. ATHLETIC CLUB -- DAY

Will heads out to his car. As he walks toward the car his
 eyes grow wide as he sees the long and deep scratches running
 the length of his car.

WILL
 (screams)
 Stacy!!! Ugh!!!

He angrily gets into his car and SLAMS the door. As the
 door slams the screen goes completely black.

CUT TO: A COMPLETELY BLACK SCREEN. THE SOUND OF A BOLT BEING
 PULLED.

P.O.V. OF STACY'S SMILING FACE WITH SIGHT CROSS HAIRS

BANG!!!

EXT. BLACK HILLS NATIONAL FOREST -- DAY

A tight shot as Will holds a rifle with a scope. He opens the bolt and ejects the spent cartridge. He quickly loads another round and looks into the sights.

WILL'S POV: Stacy has a frozen smile with a bullet hole in her forehead. He places the cross hairs over her nose.

BANG!

Will fires the rifle at a box 50 feet away with an 8x10 photo of Stacy taped to it. Dave stands by watching.

DAVE

Feel better?

Will grins as he ejects the spent cartridge and loads another.

WILL

Yep.

(pauses)

A few more rounds on this and I'll want another target.

Dave grabs a folder that's packed with photos of different sizes and starts going through it.

EXT. MAIN STREET SQUARE PARK -- DAY

Stacy sits at a table with Amanda drinking coffee. The park bustles with activity. Lighted fountains spray water into the air as kids play in them. This is a fun place to be.

AMANDA

You're sure about this?

STACY

Yeah, I'm sure. I've always wanted to go to Italy.

Amanda shoots Stacy a look. Amanda is very expressive when she speaks, punctuating things with hand gestures.

AMANDA

It sounds a little rash to me. You see Will hitting on someone and next thing your flying off to Italy with your ex.

(pauses)

Just seems you're a little out of balance.

Stacy is a little offended, but they've been friends for a long time.

STACY

That's not fair! Come on, do you remember what you did when Steve broke up with you?

Amanda is offended too.

AMANDA

You can't say that's the same thing! I was only sixteen!

There's a pause in their discussion.

STACY

This is Italy! I've always wanted to go. It's not like I don't like Cameron.

AMANDA

Like and love aren't the same things. You've always wanted to go to Italy with someone you love.

Stacy hesitates.

STACY

I could fall in love with Cameron. I could do worse. At least he's not a criminal.

AMANDA

Personally, I liked the criminal better. He really loved you.

Amanda tries to find the right words.

AMANDA (CONT'D)

I don't know. Will was just very real. Cameron always seems, I don't know, plastic.

STACY

Plastic?!?

AMANDA

Maybe because he reminds me of those Ken dolls. He's got all the toys to attract that bimbo, Barbie.

STACY

Are you calling me a bimbo?!

AMANDA

No! I'm calling him plastic. I just don't think he loves you. I think he looks at you as a conquest.

(MORE)

AMANDA (CONT'D)

(pauses)

Will loved you.

STACY

Not enough to tell me the truth.

(pauses)

I probably would have ended up as
one of those stories you read about.
"Woman murdered after she burns the
Thanksgiving turkey---news at eleven."
Or maybe they'd find me hacked to
pieces in a broken freezer, stored
so long they've liquefied.

Amanda cringes at the thought.

AMANDA

Ewww!!! Gross!!!

Amanda takes a swig of her coffee.

AMANDA (CONT'D)

Okay, go to Italy. I think liquefied
remains did it for me.

Stacy feels pleased that she has her best friend's blessing.

EXT. CANDLEWOOD APARTMENTS -- DAY

Will's car pulls up to his apartment.

Craig, his parole officer, stands leaning against a car---
waiting.

INT. MUSTANG -- DAY

Will sees Craig and suddenly remembers something.

WILL

Crap!

EXT. CANDLEWOOD APARTMENTS -- DAY

Will gets out of his car.

WILL

I'm sorry! I totally forgot!

Craig's eyes go wide and he gets very expressive in a
sarcastic way.

CRAIG

You forgot?! If you go to the store
and you're supposed to pick up milk
but you don't, you say you forgot.
No big deal. But...

Will is panicked. He's wanting to get out of this.

WILL
(stammering)
I...It's just...I'm...screwed.

Craig doesn't say anything for a moment, which makes Will even more concerned.

CRAIG
(accusingly)
Does your forgetting have anything to do with the burglaries downtown?

WILL
(definitive)
No! Absolutely not. I'm staying out of trouble.

CRAIG
No, you're not staying out of trouble. You could be spending the next month in jail. How would that be? Think your fiancée would approve?

Will is even more frustrated now.

WILL
I don't care what she thinks at this point.

Craig is surprised by Will's response.

CRAIG
Really? Should I bring you in now?

WILL
We broke up.

CRAIG
When did this happen?

WILL
A few days ago. It kind of threw me off.

CRAIG
And that's why you missed your appointment?

WILL
Yeah. I screwed up. Craig, I haven't missed an appointment in the last year.

CRAIG

Yeah, because you aren't supposed to miss any.

Will is almost pleading. He looks into Craig's eyes.

WILL

It won't happen again. I promise you, it won't.

Craig is sold.

CRAIG

I'm not gonna bring you in on this one. If you screw up again and miss, I don't care if your arm falls off and you miss our appointment because you're in the hospital getting it sewn back on---you'll be in jail. Got it?

WILL

Yeah, I've got it.

CRAIG

Keep your head on straight and your nose clean.

INT. STACY'S HOUSE, BEDROOM -- DAY

Stacy has a couple of suitcases on the bed and sorts through her clothing, debating what to bring.

She picks up a sexy negligee and considers it for a moment. She decides not to pack it.

She puts a pair of shorts in, then goes back to the negligee that she decided against. She picks it up.

STACY

(to herself)

It is Italy.

She smiles, then packs it in the suitcase.

EXT. STACY'S HOUSE - DAY

Stacy sits on a log bench rocker in the backyard of her house as the sun is going down in the sky. It's a beautiful sunset---bursting with red, gold and purple.

Her FATHER exits the back of the house and heads over to Stacy. He's got a friendly but worn face.

FATHER

Hey, how's my girl?

Stacy is pulled from her thoughts and turns toward her father. She's both happy to see him and yet conflicted and angry about her parents' marital situation.

She gets up and gives her father a hug and a kiss.

FATHER (CONT'D)

(as they part)

I didn't expect to see you living back here.

Stacy feels wounded.

STACY

I didn't expect to see you and mom splitting up.

(pauses)

I didn't expect to see your stuff moved into my room.

(pauses)

I guess a lot of things didn't go as expected.

Her father feels defensive.

FATHER

Sweetie, these things happen. It's not something that either your mom or I wanted---it just happened.

STACY

(raising her voice)

And I find out like this?

FATHER

Does it really matter how you found out? It doesn't change anything.

Stacy rolls her eyes. She also knows her father has won their little argument.

Her father goes to sit down on the bench swing. He gestures to Stacy to join him. She does.

Her father puts his arm around her.

FATHER (CONT'D)

So, what happened with Will?

STACY

I already told mom. If you guys were talking you would know.

Her father looks her in the eyes.

FATHER

Did you know that your mom and I
still have something in common?

STACY

Yeah, what?

FATHER

You. Your mother told me already, I
just want to hear it from you.

Stacy reluctantly goes ahead.

STACY

I found out Will nearly killed someone
and he's on probation.

FATHER

You're sure about this?

STACY

Yeah, dad. Will thought it was his
probation officer who told me, and I
didn't even know he was on probation!

FATHER

And now you're going to Italy with
Cameron?

Stacy feels her father is being critical of her again.

STACY

(definitive)

Yes, I am. I've always wanted to
go. I like Cam a lot. He's a good
guy.

(pauses)

He doesn't have a felony record and
he's allowed to leave the country.

FATHER

What kind of expectations do you
think he'll have for you?

Stacy gets frustrated with this questioning.

STACY

None. Absolutely none. I've talked
to him about it.

FATHER

I just want you to be sure about
this. He comes from a wealthy family
that has gotten their way quite a
bit.

STACY
So. That's not him.

FATHER
Okay.

Stacy's father gets up to go inside.

FATHER (CONT'D)
I asked because you never told me or
your mom why you and Cameron broke
up.

STACY
I did too. Things just didn't work
out.

Her father shrugs his shoulders.

FATHER
I didn't think that was much of an
answer then, but you were younger.

Stacy gives her father a look that lets him know that he
isn't going to get any more details.

INT. CANDLEWOOD APARTMENTS -- NIGHT

Will sits at his kitchen table eating ice cream in a bowl.

WILL
This is great, how's yours?

His kitten sits on the table lapping up a bowl of milk with
a little vanilla ice cream in it. The kitten looks at him
with milk on her chin. Clearly she's enjoying it.

Will taps at his phone.

WILL (CONT'D)
(to kitten)
Let's see what's playing at the Elks
tonight.

Will taps away at his phone and scrolls down.

He sees something that he approves of.

WILL (CONT'D)
(to kitten)
I'm going to a movie. Think you can
stay out of trouble?

The kitten licks her chops and yawns.

EXT. STACY'S HOUSE -- NIGHT

Cameron's Hummer is parked out front of Stacy's house. She and Cameron talk outside. Stacy is excited about going to Italy and her excitement is infectious.

STACY

Other than my luggage and passport,
is there anything else I need?

CAMERON

That's it. If you forget anything
we'll pick it up over there, so don't
worry about it.

Stacy grins. She wants to be taken care of like that right now.

CAMERON (CONT'D)

How're your parents with this?

STACY

It's not their call so it doesn't
matter. They have their own problems
anyway.

CAMERON

I'm so glad you're coming. You're
gonna love it!

STACY

This is fantastic!

Cameron realizes he should head out while things are thing good.

CAMERON

Hey, I still have to go home and
pack.

He gives her a kiss on the cheek---but it seems to be something more than a platonic kiss.

Stacy doesn't seem to mind too much, though she notices the dynamic is a little different.

CAMERON (CONT'D)

I'll see you bright and early
tomorrow.

Cameron starts walking backwards toward his vehicle, keeping his attention focused on Stacy.

STACY

Don't be late!

CAMERON

Don't worry, I won't.

(pauses)

Make sure you're ready when I get here.

STACY

Don't worry, I will!

Cameron climbs into his Hummer and rides off.

INT. STACY'S HOUSE, KITCHEN -- NIGHT

Stacy sits using an iPad. She looks at movie listings. Her mother sits in the living room watching television.

Stacy puts her iPad down and starts heading toward the door.

STACY

I know I won't be able to sleep so I'm going to a movie.

JUDY

(oddly)

By yourself?

STACY

Yes, by myself.

JUDY

Wake me up in the morning before you go so I can say good-bye. I don't know if your father will be here, and I don't care.

STACY

(warning)

Mom!

Judy lets out a loud sigh.

JUDY

Yes, dear?

Stacy looks at her mother sternly.

STACY

Never mind. I'll see you in the morning.

Stacy grabs her purse and heads toward the door.

EXT. ELKS THEATER -- NIGHT

Will walks up to the historic theater in the city's downtown area. It's late and there isn't a crowd.

With posters outside showing the current movies including one called "One For the Road."

INT. ELKS THEATER, TICKET AREA -- NIGHT

Will walks up to a teenage ticket taker.

WILL
One for the road.

TICKET TAKER
How many?

Will wryly looks around. He clearly is the only one there.

WILL
I think we'll go with just one.

The ticket taker generates his ticket, tears it and gives him the stub.

TICKET TAKER
It's upstairs in the screening room.

WILL
Thanks.

Will walks toward the stairs.

EXT. ELKS THEATER -- NIGHT

Stacy walks up toward the theater from a different direction.

INT. ELKS THEATER, TICKET AREA -- NIGHT

STACY
Hi. One for the road, please.

TICKET TAKER
One?

Stacy suddenly feels out of place from the question.

STACY
Yes.

Stacy receives her stub from the ticket taker.

TICKET TAKER
Upstairs in the screening room.
Concessions up there will close in
about ten minutes. The main floor
concession will be open for another
hour.

STACY
Thanks.

Stacy heads toward the stairs.

INT. ELKS THEATER, STAIRWAY -- NIGHT

A view from the bottom of the stairs. The stairway is long, several flights of stairs all in a row. Will is near the top of the stairs.

Will reaches the top and enters the screening room theater concession area.

INT. ELKS THEATER, SCREENING ROOM CONCESSION AREA -- CONTINUOUS

Will looks at the small selection of candy and pulls out his wallet.

INT. ELKS THEATER, STAIRWAY -- NIGHT

Stacy begins the long trek up the stairs. It appears to be at least three floors.

INT. ELKS THEATER, SCREENING ROOM CONCESSION AREA -- NIGHT

Will looks at the limited options for snacks as though he was taking an important exam with a multiple choice question--- and he's not sure of the answer.

A pimply-faced kid is working the concessions. He looks to be only fourteen.

PIMPLY-FACED KID

There's more candy downstairs.

WILL

What would you go with---Junior Mints or a Kit Kat?

PIMPLY-FACED KID

Twix.

Will looks at the choices. Twix isn't even one of them. He looks at the kid.

WILL

You don't have Twix.

PIMPLY-FACED KID

Yeah, we do---downstairs.

Will takes a deep breath for patience.

WILL

A small popcorn and a Coke.

The kid gets to work on his order.

INT. ELKS THEATER, STAIRWAY -- NIGHT

Stacy is most of the way up the stairs. She passes a doorway on one of the small landings as she goes up. She smiles as she looks at an old poster for "Roman Holiday" with Audrey Hepburn.

INT. ELKS THEATER, SCREENING ROOM CONCESSION AREA -- NIGHT

The kid hands Will his soda and popcorn.

Will catches something out of the corner of his eye and turns just as Stacy walks in.

Stacy's POV: Will looking at her with his soda and popcorn in hand. His smile melts off his face.

Will's POV: Stacy's daydreaming smile dissolves quickly into a frown as she sees him.

WILL

(to Stacy)

There's another movie showing downstairs.

STACY

Good. Then go.

WILL

I came here to see this one.

(pauses)

And I got here first.

Stacy turns to leave---and Will's smile returns.

He thanks the kid.

INT. ELKS THEATER, STAIRWAY -- CONTINUOUS

Stacy is just outside the door and about to head down the three flights of stairs. Her POV shows the height and length of the stairs.

But she quickly turns and walks back into the concession area.

INT. ELKS THEATER, SCREENING ROOM CONCESSION AREA -- CONTINUOUS

As she walks in.

STACY

I have every right to be here. So you can go downstairs and watch whatever it is that's playing there.

WILL

Fat chance.

(pauses)

Gotta go. I don't want to miss the previews.

Will heads into the movie theater.

Stacy stands in the concession area with the pimply-faced kid looking at her.

PIMPLY-FACED KID

Do you want something?

STACY

A grenade.

The kid is confused.

PIMPLY-FACED KID

A what?

STACY

Never mind. Give me a large Diet Coke.

INT. ELKS THEATER, MOVIE SEATING AREA -- NIGHT

The theater is small---around eighty-five seats. Previews are playing already. Nearly all the seats are empty---except maybe a half dozen. Will sits in the center toward the front in almost the same spot that he and Stacy were in before when they were a couple.

Stacy instinctively heads toward the same area and then sees Will sitting there.

Stacy is boiling over. She lets out a very loud SIGH.

Will turns toward her.

WILL

(annoyed)

Do you mind?

STACY

Yes, I do. I wish you'd just drop dead.

(pauses)

Or better yet, I hope you rot in prison. That's where you belong.

Stacy turns and storms off. Will grins as he sneaks a glance at her leaving, but his grin vanishes when she takes a seat.

She's not quite in the furthest corner of the theater---but it's still not really far away.

The theater is too small to get any real distance. They have an unobstructed view of each other if they choose to look.

INT. ELKS THEATER, MOVIE SEATING AREA -- LATER

The sound of the movie plays in the background, with the lighting being altered as the movie plays.

Will's popcorn is nearly gone. He stretches and tries to take a casual peek at Stacy. She appears to be watching the movie intently. He turns back to the movie screen, feeling frustrated.

Stacy flips her hair away from her eyes and nonchalantly glances in Will's direction. He appears to be riveted to the movie screen. Stacy looks frustrated by his indifference.

Will looks at the movie screen. For a moment the movie is shown. It's a modern romantic comedy. Will appears to be in deep thought as he watches. The movie that's playing dissolves to...

INT. SOUTHERN PLANTATION MANSION, 1860'S -- DAY

We are suddenly in a scene from "Gone With the Wind" but Rhett Butler is Will and Scarlett O'Hara is Stacy.

Stacy runs down a staircase to Will.

STACY

(frantic)

Will! Will! Where shall I go?
What shall I do?!

(pauses)

I can't live without you!

Will stands just outside the front door of the mansion.

WILL

Frankly my dear, I don't give a damn.

(pauses)

I think there's some drain cleaner
under the sink. Drink a toast to
me.

Will walks off as Stacy looks crushed.

The scene dissolves back to...

INT. ELKS THEATER, MOVIE SEATING AREA -- CONTINUOUS

Will smiles to himself.

Stacy looks at Will smiling. She turns back to watch the movie. She suddenly looks intense.

The scene dissolves to...

INT. HOUSE, KITCHEN -- DAY

A modest house with an eat-in kitchen. Stacy sits at the table going through receipts and balancing a checkbook.

A short distance behind her is an open door leading to a dark area, presumably a basement.

Stacy turns and shouts toward the dark door.

STACY

Will, I know we needed a new shovel,
but why did you buy six bags of lye?

WILL O.C.

What, honey?

STACY

Why did you buy so much lye?

Stacy suddenly looks toward the door and then at the wooden floor leading to the door. It appears that there are very deep fingernail scratches in the floor leading toward the door.

WILL O.C.

I can't hear you. Can you come down
here and talk to me?

Stacy stands up and looks through the doorway into the basement. From her POV we see an ax gleaming in the light.

Will steps into the light. He holds the ax.

WILL

(sounding sinister)
Come on down. I won't hurt you...
(pauses)
Much.

Stacy turns and runs to the front door. She opens it and runs out.

EXT. HOUSE -- NIGHT

It's later and it appears to be a crime scene. A slew of police cars surround the home with their lights flashing.

A POLICE DETECTIVE speaks with Stacy.

POLICE DETECTIVE

Miss, you're very lucky. We're going
to continue investigating but we've
already found over a dozen bodies in
the basement.

Stacy appears faint. The detective helps steady her.

STACY

(in a daze)

Most nights he'd get up and say he
was going to have a midnight snack.
Then he'd go down in the basement.

(she trails off)

Probably was burying the bodies.

POLICE DETECTIVE

You're very lucky.

From the doorway of the house a police officer shouts out to the detective.

POLICE OFFICER

Detective, we just found a partially
eaten body part in the basement
freezer.

The detective acknowledges him.

POLICE DETECTIVE

It sounds like there was more to his
midnight snacks.

Stacy shudders.

STACY

I'm so scared!

POLICE DETECTIVE

Don't worry. We've got him locked
up and he'll be getting the chair.
He'll fry for this.

Stacy smiles.

And we dissolve to...

INT. ELKS THEATER, MOVIE SEATING AREA -- CONTINUOUS

Stacy smiling as she watches the movie.

Will glances at Stacy again as the movie credits start rolling
along with end credit MUSIC.

The other patrons get up and leave the theater---except for
Will and Stacy.

Stacy looks at Will to see if he plans on leaving but it
doesn't look like he's moving.

A short while later, Stacy gets up and walks to the back of
the theater---out of view of Will. She watches the end
credits from there.

Will glances back and it appears to him that Stacy has left the theater. He looks relieved and seems to relax.

He takes a sip of his now empty Coke.

As the last of the end credits roll, Will gets up from his seat.

Stacy watches the last of the credits from her hidden position. She then turns and walks to the bathroom a few steps behind her and disappears inside.

Will walks to the back of the theater, tosses out his garbage and then goes to the men's room.

INT. ELKS THEATER, MAIN FLOOR -- NIGHT

While in the lobby, a FEMALE MANAGER uses sign language to give instructions to a DEAF WORKER. He acknowledges in sign and with a head nod, then heads upstairs to the screening room.

INT. ELKS THEATER, BATHROOM AREA -- NIGHT

In the back of the screening room the bathroom doors face each other only a few feet apart. A short distance away is another door, presumably an exit.

Both doors open nearly simultaneously. Will and Stacy nearly bump into each other as they exit their respective bathrooms. Neither of them were expecting this and it shows in their body language and on their faces.

They both stop. They're alone and face to face with each other. For a moment neither one of them moves or says a word.

STACY
(with disdain)
You're still here?

Will smiles just to annoy her.

WILL
Absolutely.
(pauses)
Was your boyfriend busy tonight?

STACY
Yes, he's packing for Italy.

WILL
Smart move to leave the country.

STACY
At least he's allowed to leave.
(MORE)

STACY (CONT'D)

(pauses for effect)

I already packed. We leave in the morning.

This is a gut punch for Will. He really hates her now.

WILL

I always thought that you were lying about being a virgin.

Stacy is furious! She takes the lid off of her soda and douses Will with the substantial remains of her soda.

Will stands there dripping and fuming as Stacy smiles at the havoc she just wreaked.

STACY

Gotta go. Italy is calling me.

Stacy turns and heads toward the door behind them.

WILL

I think I'll visit with the manager.

Stacy has a hand on the door and turns back to Will.

STACY

About what?

WILL

(gesturing to clothes)

This.

STACY

It's not my fault you spilled your soda.

Stacy opens the door and walks through. It closes behind her.

Will storms after her. Opening the door she just went through.

WILL

Lie after lie. You are evil!

Will goes through the door and...

Steps into TOTAL DARKNESS. We can't see Will or Stacy.

WILL O.C.

Very funny. Turn the light back on.

STACY O.C.

I didn't turn it off, moron.

WILL O.C.
 There are stairs right around here.
 I'll try to find the light switch.

Suddenly there's the sound of THUMP, THUMP, THUMP, THUMP!

A light goes on.

INT. STAIRWELL - NIGHT

Will lies sprawled out at the bottom of a short staircase we haven't seen before. Stacy's finger is on the light switch.

Stacy turns to the door that they just came through and tries to open it. It's locked.

Will looks to be in some pain as he gets up slowly.

WILL
 (sarcastic)
 Don't worry, I'm okay.

Stacy is pulling on the handle and shaking it. No luck. She starts BANGING on the door.

STACY
 Hate to break it to you, I wasn't worried.

Stacy POUNDS on the door.

STACY (CONT'D)
 (shouting at the door)
 Hello!!!
 (she pounds again)
 Someone!!! Open this door!!!

Will leans against a wall and looks up the stairs at Stacy POUNDING on the door.

Will reaches into his soaked pocket and pulls out his soda-soaked cell phone. He opens it up. It's not working. He's angry.

WILL
 You ruined my phone with your little temper tantrum!

Stacy pauses her pounding to look at Will.

STACY
 (sarcastic)
 Really?

She couldn't care less about his cell phone. She turns away, ignoring him, and resumes POUNDING on the door.

STACY (CONT'D)

(shouting)

Help! Help! I'm trapped in here
with a dangerous criminal!! Get me
outta here!!

Will looks like he wants to explode.

He tries to regain his composure by talking himself through
the situation.

WILL

(to himself)

Okay, I fell down the stairs.

(pauses)

I could have hit my head. Maybe I'm
unconscious now and this isn't
happening. Yeah, that sounds good.

STACY

Get me outta here!!! Help!!!

Will rethinks this again.

WILL

No. I think I fell, hit my head,
and died. Now

(shouts)

I'm in hell!!!

STACY

(pounding)

Help!!! Hello!!! Someone? Anyone?

Stacy stops pounding for a moment and puts her ear to the
door and listens.

She hears the SOUND OF A VACUUM running not too far away.

She starts POUNDING as hard as she can.

STACY (CONT'D)

Hello!!! Help!!! I'm stuck in
here!!! Help!!!

The VACUUM SOUND is getting louder. Will can hear it and
goes up the stairs. He starts POUNDING on the door too.

Stacy turns and scowls at him.

WILL

They've got to hear us now.

The VACUUM is really loud now. It sounds like it's just on
the other side of the door.

Both Will and Stacy are POUNDING as hard as they can and YELLING at the same time!

The VACUUM SOUND gets closer.

The light from the vacuum sends light under the door!

STACY
Help!!! I'm in here!!!

WILL
Hey!!! Get us out!!!

The sound of the VACUUM starts fading away.

INT. ELKS THEATER, MOVIE SEATING AREA -- NIGHT

The DEAF employee vacuums while Will and Stacy's POUNDING on the door and their SHOUTS can be heard.

DEAF employee's POV: Total silence as he watches the vacuum move across the carpet. Complete silence.

Back to the employee vacuuming and the frantic pounding and yelling.

INT. STAIRWELL - NIGHT

Will and Stacy continue POUNDING and yelling. Suddenly they hear the sound of the VACUUM SHUTTING OFF.

STACY
It stopped.
(yelling)
Hey! I'm in here! The door by the
bathroom. I'm stuck and can't get
out! Help!

Will glares at Stacy.

WILL
(emphasizing "we")
We're stuck and we can't get out!
If you can at least let me out, you
can leave her in here!

Stacy looks like she wants to push Will down the stairs.

They both POUND on the door some more. Nothing. No one comes. They hear a DOOR CLOSE from inside the movie theater. The person must have left.

STACY
I can't believe they just left!

Will struggles to ask for Stacy's help. This is hard for him.

WILL

As you destroyed my cell phone, you think you might be able to call the theater?

Stacy gets all excited by the idea. There's hope.

She takes out her cell phone. Its off. She turns it on. She looks worried.

She works frantically to get the number from her contacts and places the call. She breathes a small sigh of relief as she places the phone to her ear.

STACY

It's ringing.

The call is picked up.

STACY (CONT'D)

Hey! Don't close up, we're..

She trails off as we hear through the phone.

PHONE

(recorded voice)

Now playing at the Elks Theater, on the main screen we have...

The phone dies.

STACY

Crap.

WILL

What?

STACY

Nothing.

Will is frustrated with her already.

WILL

What!?

STACY

My phone died.

WILL

Your phone died?! Did they at least hear you?

Stacy bites her lip.

STACY

It was the recording.

(MORE)

STACY (CONT'D)

It was about to tell me what was playing when it died.

Stacy tries to turn the phone on again and it shuts down almost immediately.

Will is searching for words and decides to just let his anger flow out.

WILL

You'd think just once you'd charge your phone. You know, I used to think it was kind of cute that you'd forget to charge your phone and it would be dying. Now I realize it's just plain stupid!

Stacy takes it as though he just called *her stupid*.

STACY

You should talk. How stupid can you be to almost kill someone?! We have laws against that---but most people aren't stupid enough to do it. But you are!

Will wants to say something but realizes that it will only make things worse than they already are. He starts to say something and doesn't get more than a syllable out of his mouth. Then he shuts his mouth.

He turns and starts walking down the stairs.

STACY (CONT'D)

Truth hurts, doesn't it?

Will stops and turns back to her.

WILL

No. It's your voice that hurts. It's like finger nails on a blackboard. I have to get out of here.

STACY

And I don't? I have a plane to catch in the morning.

WILL

Yeah, and I've got to meet with my P.O. in the morning.

STACY

Oh, that's right. I didn't even know that about you.

Will forces a smile.

WILL

You stay here and wait for the next showing tomorrow night. But I'm looking for a way out.

Stacy hadn't really thought that they could be stuck there for 24 hours.

STACY

Someone has to come.

She regrets saying it because she immediately sees the flaw in her logic.

WILL

Really? If anyone comes in they'll be working in the main office---two stories below us and I have my doubts they'd be working in the morning.

(pauses)

But you go ahead. Wait for the next showing.

Will turns and walks down the stairs.

Stacy knows he's right and she'll be stuck there if she doesn't try to get out. She reluctantly follows Will down the stairs.

STACY

(warning)

Don't you try anything!

Will is baffled.

WILL

What?

STACY

I'm warning you not to touch me.

Will stops walking.

WILL

First of all, I don't want to touch you. I want nothing to do with you. As a matter of fact, I'd rather be stuck with anyone else in the world instead of you. That includes the worst, most psychotic, smelly, pig farmer who may be on the other side of the world. I'd rather be stuck with him than stuck with you!

(MORE)

WILL (CONT'D)

(pauses, rambles
quickly)

So, what exactly are the consequences if I was to touch you? Are you gonna scream? Too late! You've done that and it didn't help. So don't flatter yourself. I don't want to be here with you.

Stacy takes a moment. She'd love to be able to insult him back. She takes her time.

STACY

I wish you were with the smelly, psycho pig farmer too. Then you'd be on the other side of the world.

They walk down to the bottom of the stairs. There the hallway turns at an angle and heads into darkness.

WILL

There's got to be a light switch around...

The darkness is suddenly lit up. Stacy stands by the light switch. Stacy rolls her eyes.

STACY

It's not rocket science.

WILL

Good. Then you shouldn't be too proud of yourself for finding it.

They walk further down the hallway. There are doors to offices and...

STACY

An elevator! Oh, thank God!

Stacy excitedly presses the button.

Nothing happens.

She presses it again, and again. Nothing.

STACY (CONT'D)

Crap!

They both look at the closed elevator.

Will moves to the nearest office door and tries to open it. It's locked.

No lights, no sounds, but the elevator door opens very slowly. It's an old building and it's an old elevator.

STACY (CONT'D)

(shrieks)

YES!!!

Stacy springs into the elevator. Will moves quickly to get in too, causing Stacy's joyous grin to falter.

She presses the button for the first floor. Nothing happens.

WILL

What is this, an elevator on Valium?

They wait and watch.

Stacy starts TAPPING her foot impatiently.

WILL (CONT'D)

Maybe they have an override on it so it can't go to the ground floor.

STACY

Why would they possibly do that?

Will takes a few seconds to think of an answer.

WILL

(light-hearted)

To make sure anyone who gets stuck in this building can't get out.

Stacy almost smiles.

WILL (CONT'D)

We could try going up.

Stacy thinks it's a dumb idea.

STACY

Why?

WILL

There could be access to a stairwell that could get us out.

Stacy shrugs. They don't have much to lose.

She pushes a button for the third floor. Nothing happens.

They both look impatient.

STACY

This is stupid. I don't think...

The elevator door starts to close slowly.

WILL

You were saying?

There's a JOLT and the elevator starts moving. They move to opposite sides of the small elevator.

The elevator stops with a JOLT.

WILL (CONT'D)
They don't make them like they used to.

They wait again. Nothing happens.

STACY
(impatiently)
Come on!

Nothing.

Will stands in front of the door.

WILL
(gesturing)
Open sesame!

As though it's on cue, the door slowly opens. Stacy hides her smirk from Will.

STACY
Lucky guess.

They exit the elevator and step into darkness. Only the light from the elevator is on the floor.

WILL
We need to find the light switch.

The elevator closes faster than it has before, leaving them in darkness. They can only be seen as dim figures in the dark.

WILL (CONT'D)
Figures.

STACY
The only time that it moves fast.

WILL
Okay. You check that wall for a light switch and I'll check this one.

STACY
Which wall are you on?

Stacy SCREAMS!

STACY (CONT'D)
My finger isn't a light switch!

WILL
I realize that now.

STACY
Why don't you check the other wall.

WILL
Fine.

SOUNDS OF HANDS SLIDING AGAINST A WALL.

WILL (CONT'D)
I think I've got something.
There's a quarter-second of light and then darkness again.

STACY
I just flicked a switch over here.

WILL
I'm gonna flick mine again.

Suddenly there is light in the hallway. Both Will and Stacy have a sense of relief.

STACY
Okay, now what?

WILL
We look for a staircase.

Will points to a door with an "exit" sign above it.

WILL (CONT'D)
There!

They both run down the hallway to the door.

Will pulls on it. It's locked. He shakes the door. No good.

A small sign on the door states, "This door must remain unlocked during business hours."

STACY
This door must remain unlocked during business hours. A lot of good it does now!

Will kicks the door out of frustration. Stacy is disgusted with Will's action.

STACY (CONT'D)
And like, that helps?

Will is about to say something and appears animated but chooses to bite his tongue and walk away. He starts pacing the hallway, trying to get some distance from Stacy.

Stacy sits down with her back against the wall. She can't believe that she is stuck here with him.

Will is halfway down the hallway when he decides to sit down as well. He sits leaning up against the opposite wall. They are about ten yards apart.

They glance at each other and then look away disgusted as soon as they make eye contact.

A series of cuts shows time elapsing. Both of them try to ignore the other and at the same time trying to get more comfortable.

Finally, Will gets up. He walks to the far end of the hallway and starts trying to open up the doors that line the hallway.

Stacy believes Will is just wasting his time and she shoots him a look expressing her contempt.

Will tries each door, pulling on it several times before moving on to the next door. He gradually makes his way back toward Stacy with each failed attempt.

Will pulls on another door handle. Nothing. It's locked.

He moves across the hall to the next door. He pulls on it. Nothing. He jiggles it like all the others. A small piece of wood falls to the floor and it opens!

Will stares in amazement. He steps inside the room.

Stacy can't help herself. She has to go see what Will has found.

INT. LOST ROOM -- NIGHT

Will turns on the light and looks at the fairly large and dusty room with cobwebs. It looks like enough stuff to fill an entire apartment crammed into the small room. Boxes fill the corners. Some old furniture is strewn about.

The room clearly hasn't been opened in decades.

Stacy comes in behind him.

STACY
How'd you get in?

WILL
I jiggled the handle and I think the wood around the latch broke.

Stacy turns and walks out of the room without really looking.

STACY

Breaking and entering. You go right ahead. I'm sure you're good at that too.

Will turns to Stacy.

WILL

I did not intentionally break the door.

Will picks up the broken piece of wood from the floor.

WILL (CONT'D)

(handing it to her)

Here. Look at it. It's been broken. That's not a new break.

Stacy glances at the piece of wood. She doesn't really care about it.

WILL (CONT'D)

I'm at least gonna take a look around in here.

STACY

See if there's anything worth stealing?

WILL

I don't know if you realized this but

(yells)

We are stuck here! We could find the Hope diamond in here and we still wouldn't be able to get out.

Will goes back inside the room.

WILL (CONT'D)

(amazed)

This looks like a time capsule.

Stacy stands in the hallway with her hands on her hips. She doesn't want to go into the room, but again, she is curious. Resigned, she slowly walks in.

For a moment Stacy scans the room and sees for herself what it looks like.

STACY

This is freaky.

(pauses)

There might be a dead body in here.

WILL

I'm sure you'll blame me for it---
even if it happened before I was
born.

Stacy starts looking at things on the other side of the room
from where Will stands.

Stacy picks up what appears to be an old record album. She
blows the dust off it.

STACY

You probably committed the murder in
a past life. That's why you broke
the door to get in.

Stacy looks at the record she holds. It reads "Glenn Miller -
In the Mood." She examines it.

STACY (CONT'D)

(almost to herself)

Wow. This record is ancient.
Nineteen-forty.

On the other side of the room Will finds something behind a
box. He flips a couple of latches. He lifts the lid. Inside
there is a record player. It's an old portable unit.

WILL

I think I found what looks sort of
like a record player.

Will starts looking for a plug to the unit.

Stacy is interested and looks over at what Will is holding.

WILL (CONT'D)

I can't find the plug.

STACY

Maybe it's not supposed to have one.

WILL

(sarcastic)

You think it's solar?

Stacy walks over by Will. She looks and sees something in
the box. She reaches for it and pulls out what appears to
be a small hand crank.

STACY

No, moron.

WILL

(handing it to her)

Here. You take it. You're the
ancient record player expert.

Stacy takes it and moves it to an open spot on the floor in the middle of the room. She examines the record player and figures out where the crank goes. SNAP! It locks in place.

Stacy then takes the record out of the cover and carefully places it on the record player. She looks smugly at Will. She's never seen one of these but she's smart enough to figure it out without his help.

Stacy starts turning the crank while Will watches. She keeps turning it, then stops. Nothing.

She starts looking for a switch to start it. There isn't one.

Will moves over to her, grabs the crank and starts turning it clockwise. The record starts spinning.

WILL (CONT'D)

It helps if you turn it in the right direction.

Will carefully lowers the needle to the edge of the spinning record.

Glenn Miller's cheery and upbeat big band "In The Mood" starts playing through the record player.

It doesn't fit the mood of the moment for them, but it's interesting enough for them to allow it to continue playing in the background while they explore the other items in the room.

Will finds a box with an old baseball mitt. He tries it on and pounds it a few times. Dust flies out of it.

Stacy finds a box with old "Life" magazines. She flips through them. Katherine Hepburn smiles on one cover. She flips through several more with war themes.

STACY

Weird. World War two.

She's interested in the magazines but wants to see what other treasures are hidden in the room.

Will finds a box of clothing. He pulls out a shirt and looks at it. Nothing too interesting.

He moves on to another box. More clothing. He's disappointed.

Stacy looks in a box with clothing. She pulls out a dress and opens it up. Even though it is wrinkled from being packed for so long it still is elegant.

Will glances over. The dress looks like it might fit her but he then glances away.

Stacy looks in the box for more clothing and starts to pull out another dress but then she realizes that it has been used to wrap up something. She peels back the dress to find a neat and carefully preserved stack of letters with their envelopes.

Stacy unties the yellow ribbon that holds them together.

She takes a letter out, opens it and starts reading it to herself. As she reads it she appears more interested. Will notices.

WILL

What did you find?

Stacy doesn't respond. She's engrossed and doesn't even hear Will.

WILL (CONT'D)

(louder)

What are you reading?

Stacy doesn't like the interruption.

STACY

(sarcastic)

It's a letter.

Will walks over to Stacy.

WILL

Looks like you have a bunch. Let me see one.

Stacy holds up the letter, displaying it.

STACY

See.

WILL

You know what I mean.

STACY

I found the letters so I'm going to read them.

WILL

I found the room that the letters are in.

(reminding her)

You didn't even want to come in here.

STACY

Fine. You can have this one when
I'm done with it.

Stacy goes back to reading the letter.

Will ignores her and takes a letter out of the box and starts
reading it. Stacy barely notices.

As Will reads the letter...

OLDER MALE V.O.

Dear Michael and Mary. I hope this
letter finds you both doing well. I
was overjoyed to hear that you are
together again. From your letter I
can tell that it has been hard on
both of you to forgive each other
but I am grateful you are working
through this trial. Forgive as the
Lord forgave you. In time, I believe
that love can heal all wounds,
regardless how deep they may be.
Please keep me informed of your
progress toward healing. Faithfully
yours, Father Dave Santino.

Will puts that letter down and picks up another from the
stack. He sits on the floor near Stacy.

INT. LOST ROOM -- LATER

It's later and Will and Stacy appear to have gone through
the assortment of letters as they are opened and stacked.

Stacy looks in a nearby box. Nothing worth looking at. No
more letters.

STACY

I think that's it.

Will looks disappointed.

STACY (CONT'D)

I wonder what happened to them.

WILL

They're dead.

Stacy rolls her eyes.

STACY

I know that. I wonder what happened
to them before they died. There are
letters from him to her and letters
from her to him, and letters from
the priest.

WILL

Maybe they got divorced and that's why all this stuff is here.

STACY

Yeah, it sounded too good to be true.

A moment of silence as they think.

STACY (CONT'D)

Maybe a murder-suicide thing.

Will considers it a reasonable possibility.

WILL

Though they would have had to get together at some point, otherwise there would only be one set of letters.

STACY

Yeah. Just his or just hers.

Stacy pauses and thinks for a moment.

STACY (CONT'D)

Unless they got back together briefly.

WILL

(logically)

And then the murder-suicide thing happened.

Stacy nods slowly in agreement.

STACY

But. Maybe not.

Will is unsure as well.

They both start looking through the remaining boxes knowing that they've likely already found the best that there was to find.

Stacy picks up a book and opens it. She stops as her eyes grow wide.

She pulls out an envelope from the inside cover of the book. It appears to be unopened.

STACY (CONT'D)

Will, look!

Will comes over to see.

STACY (CONT'D)
 (perplexed)
 It's never been opened.

WILL
 What's the postmark say?

Stacy examines it carefully.

STACY
 June twelfth, nineteen-forty-four.
 Paris, France.

Stacy looks at the envelope and turns it over in her hands.
 It's definitely sealed, but her curiosity is overwhelming.

She hands it to Will.

STACY (CONT'D)
 You open it.

WILL
 No, you open it.

Stacy takes it back with an exasperated look. Fine.

She opens it up. She carefully takes out the contents---a letter.

WILL (CONT'D)
 You realize you just committed a felony?

Stacy knows this but didn't want to hear about it.

STACY
 It's not like I killed someone!

WILL
 Well, neither did I.

There's a moment of silence.

WILL (CONT'D)
 (quietly)
 I *almost* did.

Stacy looks nervous now.

WILL (CONT'D)
 Don't worry. You're not worth going to prison over.

Stacy opens the letter. They both start reading it.

MALE VOICE V.O.

My dearest love. I feel like my heart has been ripped from my body and my soul has been torn in half. Your letter reached me just today. I can only pray that the doctors are wrong about your illness, and yet I know you would not have written me about it if you didn't know what you were facing.

(pauses)

I will always love you, till death do us part, and even then, it will only be for a short while.

(pauses)

We are landing shortly and will be facing the enemy. I will fight with reckless abandon to help our country and with the knowledge that if I die, my death will allow us to see each other sooner.

(pauses)

Thank you for your forgiveness all those years ago. I thank God for each precious moment that he allowed me to spend with you. You are in my prayers every moment of my day. I look forward to embracing you in heaven.

(pauses)

Eternally yours, Michael.

Both Stacy and Will look misty-eyed after reading the letter. They feel as if they know the couple after reading about their courtship.

WILL

Some crimes are worth committing.

Stacy is still feeling the emotion of the letter.

STACY

I guess they really stuck it out.

WILL

That really is, 'till death do us part.

Something crosses Will's mind that bothers him.

WILL (CONT'D)

Why aren't there any other letters from him during the war?

Stacy thinks about this.

STACY

Maybe he had just gone over.

Will doesn't buy it.

WILL

No. This letter is late in the war.
He probably would have been there
for a while.

(pauses)

Maybe she hated him so much she burned
the letters?

Stacy scowls at Will.

STACY

No. She clearly wouldn't hate him
if he wrote letters to her like that.

There's a pause as they both think.

STACY (CONT'D)

Hey! Maybe she was ill and went to
the hospital.

WILL

(sarcastic)

Yeah. I'd guess that one too.

STACY

(ignoring him)

If she went to the hospital, she
probably would have taken what letters
she had from him with her.

Will tries to process this.

WILL

So, she's dying and goes to the
hospital and brings the letters he
wrote her?

STACY

Yes. Clearly they were in love.
She couldn't call him, he couldn't
text her, so the next best thing
would be to have his letters with
her.

Will sees the logic in this.

WILL

I could buy that.

(pauses)

Then when she died the letters
would...

STACY
 (finishing for him)
 ...Go to a family member or be tossed
 out by the hospital staff.

They both find it to be a plausible explanation. There's a moment when it seems like they are together and not at odds with each other. The moment feels oddly comfortable for them. Stacy works to re-establish their distance.

Stacy runs her fingers through her hair. She's getting tired.

STACY (CONT'D)
 I can't believe I'm not going to
 make it to Italy.
 (pauses)
 All my life, since I was in first
 grade I wanted to go to Italy.
 (pauses)
 I really need to get out of here.

WILL
 I'm supposed to meet with my P.O. in
 the morning.

Stacy's body language becomes more closed.

STACY
 Yeah? What happens if you don't?

WILL
 I'll got to jail. Maybe to prison.

STACY
 That's where killers belong.

Will looks at Stacy intently.

WILL
 I never killed anyone.

STACY
 (sarcastic)
 That's right. You said it was
attempted murder.
 (pauses)
 Think you'll do better next time?
 Maybe get the job done?

Will is seething.

WILL
 You have no idea how this has screwed
 up my life, do you?

STACY
 I know it screwed up mine.

WILL

No. You don't care. Why should I waste my time.

Will gets up. Stacy ignores his comment.

STACY

We should leave this room. Close it back up.

WILL

Yeah, let these memories rest in peace.

Stacy gets up. She carefully puts the letters back in the box, wrapping them with the ribbon while Will closes up the record player.

Will sees Stacy put the formerly unopened letter back in the book that she found it in.

Will walks over, opens the book and takes the letter out.

WILL (CONT'D)

(absolutely)

This belongs with the others.

Stacy's surprised by his insight and thought on it.

STACY

You're right, it does.

Will places the letter on top of the stack. They both walk toward the door, then turn to look at the room fondly before turning off the light.

Will picks up the broken piece of the door frame. He tries to get it to stay in place. Not much luck.

STACY (CONT'D)

What are you doing?

WILL

I thought it would be good if the door stays closed and locked.

He closes the door and pulls on it. Surprisingly, it stays locked.

STACY

That's weird.

Will thinks about it.

WILL

It can't be possible that it could have been open for all those years.

They both seem to want to ponder the mystery but escaping is now the priority.

Will looks back and forth down the hallway.

WILL (CONT'D)

There's no way out up here. Might as well go back down.

Stacy shrugs. There's nothing else to do.

They walk to the elevator. Will presses the button and the doors slowly open and they both go inside.

Will looks at the panel and goes to press a button. He hesitates above the "2" button and decides to try the first floor again. The light goes on!

STACY

(excited)

The light went on!

Will is just as surprised.

WILL

(no clue why)

Maybe it works from the third floor.

The elevator starts moving. Both Will and Stacy watch the floor lights with anticipation.

STACY

(coaxing)

Come on.

The second floor light comes on. The elevator stops with a sudden jerk.

WILL

(disappointed)

Figures.

Stacy looks deflated as well...

Then the elevator lurches again and starts moving!

STACY

It's going! It's going!

They wait impatiently, staring up at the lights on the elevator.

It slows down and then abruptly jerks to a final halt. Then the floor light changes to the first floor with a DING!

Another long pauses.

WILL

I hope it opens.

The old doors slowly start spreading apart.

They spring out into the dark hallway before the elevator changes its mind.

They both start feeling around for a light switch.

Stacy finds one and flicks the switch. The lights go on.

They both let their eyes adjust to the light and survey the area. Several glass doors and a few windows allow them to look into stores.

STACY

It's the main floor. There has to be a way out.

Will looks down the hallway.

WILL

(gesturing)

You check that end and I'll check this end.

They each walk in different directions. They both try every door adjacent to the hallway.

As Stacy reaches her end of the hallway at almost the same time as Will.

STACY

Anything on your end?

WILL

No. Nothing. They're all locked!

Stacy lets out a frustrated SCREAM and pulls her hair!

She heads back toward Will's end of the hallway.

Will looks through the glass door of a women's clothing store.

As Stacy approaches him, he seems to be deep in thought. Surveying the ceiling and then looking into the store.

STACY

There's nothing. We're stuck. This is so frustrating.

(pauses)

I can see the outside from here.

She looks at Will.

STACY (CONT'D)

So is that what prison is like?

WILL

Probably.

Stacy is confused.

STACY

You've been in prison, haven't you?

WILL

(exasperated)

No. I haven't been to prison.

(pauses)

I've been in jail.

Stacy rolls her eyes, very annoyed.

STACY

Same thing.

WILL

Not really.

STACY

Were you allowed to leave whenever you wanted?

WILL

(annoyed)

No.

STACY

Same thing.

WILL

(ignoring her)

Fine.

(pauses, points up)

Can you fit in there?

Will points to a duct cover on the ceiling that is hanging down slightly.

Stacy starts looking at it. She's not sure what he's thinking.

WILL (CONT'D)

If you can fit in there, you would only need to go to

(pointing through the glass)

There.

It's a span of about six to ten feet. The other duct cover is just inside the store. It doesn't look very far.

STACY
You think they connect?

WILL
Yes.

Stacy looks up again. The ceilings are high in the building.

STACY
Okay. How am I going to get up there?

A recliner sits in the hallway a short distance away. Will quickly goes off to get the chair. He drags it back over and puts it beneath the duct.

Stacy looks at it, skeptical.

She stands on the chair and stretches her arms toward the duct. She's still a good foot and a half short of being able to reach it.

STACY (CONT'D)
This isn't going to work.

Will looks at Stacy standing on the recliner. He has an idea and is about to say something and decides not to.

Stacy sees the changing expressions on his face.

STACY (CONT'D)
What?!?

WILL
Nothing.

STACY
(frustrated)
No, that was a 'nothing' look. You were thinking of something.

Will sighs, annoyed that Stacy has read him correctly. He also doesn't want to share his idea.

WILL
It's nothing. It was a stupid idea.

Stacy looks down at him from her position on the recliner.

STACY
I assume that if it's from you, it's a stupid idea. I'd just like to know how stupid it really is.

Will looks like he'd like to punch something right now.

WILL
 If someone else was here---other
 than me---they could give you a boost
 to get up there.

Stacy looks back and forth down the hallway.

STACY
 Guess what? There's no one else
 here!

WILL
 I am well aware of that fact.

Stacy thinks for a moment.

STACY
 That means you will need to give me
 a boost.

Will looks at her as if she is crazy.

WILL
 No thanks.

STACY
 I would like to get out of here.
 I'd really like to go to Italy. If
 I don't get out I'll miss my flight.
 (pauses)
 I can see the outside but I can't
 get there. This is our only option.

Will turns his back on Stacy for a moment.

STACY (CONT'D)
 I promise, I won't press charges.

Will hesitantly resigns himself to doing this. He needs to
 get out too.

WILL
 Okay.

Will steps up on the recliner. It is an awkward moment as
 they are both very close to each other and they need each
 other's help to make this work.

There's a natural chemistry that seems to happen as they get
 closer to each other. They are both aware of it and they
 seem more nervous being this close together.

They both stand on the cushion of the recliner. It isn't
 the most stable surface. They are both off balance and nearly
 fall into each other.

Stacy nervously braces for Will to touch her.

Will's hands are inches from Stacy's waist. He is hesitant to put his hands on her.

WILL (CONT'D)

I don't think this is going to work.

He pulls his hands away from her.

Stacy turns back to look at him.

STACY

I have my doubts on this too.
(accusing)
It's your idea.

Will wants to prove that this will work.

WILL

Get ready.

Stacy stiffens up.

Will puts his hands on her waist and begins lifting her.

STACY

I can't reach it.

WILL

I'm working on it.

Will tries to keep his balance as he lifts Stacy higher. She strains to reach the vent and falls just short.

STACY

A little higher.

He moves his head so that it is under her butt. He readjusts his hands so that they are touching her butt as he lifts her higher.

He struggles to maintain his balance.

Stacy reaches the vent and pulls on it. Dust comes out into her face and she drops the vent and starts falling backwards.

The vent hits Will and he loses his balance because Stacy is leaning back hard. He steps back on the cushion and the recliner begins to fall over!

They both fall as the recliner flips backwards.

Will instinctively tries to keep Stacy from getting hurt as they CRASH to the ground.

They are both a bit stunned from the unexpected fall, but neither are seriously hurt.

Lying on top of the flipped up recliner they are face to face and just inches apart. Will holds Stacy.

WILL
(tenderly)
You okay?

STACY
Yeah.

They start laughing.

STACY (CONT'D)
That was graceful!

WILL
Yeah, that was a fail!

Neither are moving to get up or separate.

They look into each others eyes as they both are smiling.

Will moves ever so slightly closer to Stacy. Their lips are only inches apart.

Their smiles fade as they look seriously at each other.

Stacy adjusts and moves ever so slightly closer to Will.

They both want to kiss and yet neither wants to be the one to make the first move.

Will finally does. He slowly moves his lips toward Stacy's. They kiss. It's brief but passionate. The chemistry is there.

WILL (CONT'D)
(jokingly)
I can't believe I fell for you.

STACY
(starts then trails
off)
I don't...I...

A flood of conflicting emotions hit her hard. She looks scared.

She knows she shut out this relationship and vowed she would never go back into it.

She turns off her emotions like a faucet. Stacy moves back from Will and stands up.

STACY (CONT'D)
(almost claustrophobic)
I need to get out of here.

Stacy takes a deep breath.

STACY (CONT'D)
Cameron is picking me up in a few
hours.

Will isn't sure what just happened. He slowly stands up. Emotionally he is reeling right now. Stacy hides her emotions well.

WILL
(emotionless)
Yeah, that's right. Italy.

STACY
(reminding herself)
Yeah, Italy.
(pauses)
I need to get out of here to get
there.

Will looks up at the heating vent then down at the recliner, then at the window to the store.

WILL
(the relationship)
You want out?

STACY
(the building)
Yeah.

Will is overwhelmed and unsure of what to do.

He takes his keys out of his pocket and puts the keys in between his fingers, making a fist.

Stacy watches him, unsure of what he is doing.

Will takes a step toward the glass and punches it! The glass SHATTERS!

Will's hand is cut and bleeding but he doesn't feel the pain. It is nothing by comparison to the emotional pain he's feeling now.

Stacy is shocked by what Will just did---and she' angry.

STACY (CONT'D)
Why did you do that!?!

WILL
(voice raised)
You wanted out. Now you can go to
Italy.

STACY

(angry)

I can't believe you just did that!
What if you get caught?

WILL

I don't care. I figure you'll report
me anyway.

Stacy realizes that she wouldn't report him. She doesn't
want him to get in trouble.

STACY

(concerned)

Look at your hand.

Her concern melts Will. His only concern is for Stacy to
get to where she wants to go. He kicks the glass that didn't
break so that Stacy can walk through the window more safely.

WILL

Trust me, I've had worse. Much worse.

Will walks through and looks back at Stacy who is standing
there, not moving.

WILL (CONT'D)

You need to go now. If the police
come you won't make your flight.

Stacy walks through the opening. But she is more concerned
about Will's gash right now.

STACY

You need to apply direct pressure to
that.

Stacy starts looking around for a cloth to use. She grabs a
new mini-dress that is hanging up in the store and is about
to use it on Will's cut.

WILL

No. Put that back.

Will uses his other hand to apply direct pressure to his
cut. It will likely need stitches.

Will moves toward the main door exit.

Stacy follows him in a daze. She can't believe what has
happened in the last ten minutes.

They walk through the women's clothing store and head directly
to the front door. Will looks over and sees an alarm system
is flashing.

Will looks at the door and sees the sensor attached to the door.

He turns to Stacy.

WILL (CONT'D)

I'm going to open the door. It'll trip the alarm. Anywhere from twenty seconds to a minute after that the alarm is going to go off.

He looks at her more intensely.

WILL (CONT'D)

With all the break ins downtown the police are likely cruising in the area, so it won't take them long to get here.

(pauses)

Go directly to your car. Don't run, just walk like you did nothing wrong.

STACY

I didn't do anything wrong.

WILL

Sometimes it doesn't matter. Just do as I say and you'll be fine.

Stacy doesn't understand why Will is doing this.

Will turns to lock to open the door. He pushes it open. Stacy doesn't move.

WILL (CONT'D)

Get movin'.

Stacy slowly walks out the door.

STACY

Will?

WILL

Just do as I told you. Don't worry about me and don't look back.

(pauses)

Get going.

EXT. MAIN STREET SQUARE PARK -- NIGHT

The park is right across the street.

Stacy finally starts walking away. Will slowly closes the door. He tries to wipe his finger prints off but also realizes that his blood is there if they want it.

Will starts walking in the other direction from Stacy.

He makes it across the street to Main Street Square just as a police car drives past him.

He's in the clear.

The police car suddenly turns its lights on CHIRPS the SIREN and turns around quickly.

Stacy is a couple of hundred feet away. She turns back to look at Will.

Stacy's POV: A police officer thrusts his car door open and pulls out his gun.

POLICE OFFICER

(shouts)

Freeze!

(pauses)

Put your hands in the air!

Will complies.

Stacy takes a few steps toward Will, but she realizes there is nothing she can do.

She watches as Will is handcuffed and put into the police car. The door SLAMS SHUT.

EXT. STACY'S HOUSE -- NIGHT

Stacy opens her car door and steps out. She slowly walks up to her house and quietly slips inside.

INT. JAIL -- NIGHT

Will is being processed to go into a jail cell. His hand is bandaged and he wears bright orange prison scrubs. He slowly trudges in. The door slides and CLANKS shut behind him.

He lays down on the cot and stares up at the ceiling.

INT. STACY'S HOUSE, BEDROOM -- NIGHT

Stacy lays in her bed staring at the ceiling. She doesn't look like she will be able to sleep.

INT. STACY'S HOUSE -- DAY

It's early morning and Stacy's bags are at the front door. She's ready to go but she doesn't look very excited. She takes a deep breath, then opens the door.

EXT. STACY'S HOUSE -- DAY

Stacy steps out and brings her bags with her.

Cameron's Hummer pulls up to the curb.

She paints a smile on her face. It's not genuine but it's a smile.

Cameron hops out of his vehicle and bounds toward Stacy to help her with her bags even though she can easily handle them.

CAMERON

Good morning!

Stacy smiles as he takes her bags from her.

STACY

Good morning.

CAMERON

Sleep well?

STACY

(hesitant)

No. Too much excitement.

Cameron puts her luggage in the vehicle. Then opens her door for her.

CAMERON

Don't worry. You'll be able to sleep on the plane.

INT. HUMMER -- DAY

The Hummer cruises along. Stacy stares out the window. She's lost in her own thoughts. The RADIO broadcasts the news in the background.

CAMERON

(gesturing)

There's some coffee for you, if you like.

STACY

(still staring out window)

Yeah, thanks.

RADIO NEWS ANNOUNCER O.C.

Early this morning an arrest was made in the series of break-ins that have occurred in downtown Rapid City. The suspect...

Stacy is suddenly focused on the radio but Cameron changes the station.

INT. JAIL MEETING ROOM -- DAY

Will sits in a chair at a table. He doesn't look happy.

The door opens and his probation officer, Craig steps in carrying a file. He does not look happy either.

Will dreads seeing Craig under these circumstances.

CRAIG
I'm disappointed. This certainly
isn't how I wanted to start my day.

Craig sits down across the table from Will.

WILL
(worn down)
It's not what you think.

CRAIG
So we got the wrong guy? Wrong place,
wrong time? Just happened to be
downtown as a store is broken into?

Will runs his hand through his hair.

WILL
Yes, I was downtown. But I wasn't
breaking in.

Craig opens the folder.

CRAIG
(reading)
Interior window was broken. Blood
remnants indicate possible injury.
(looking up)
How is your hand doing? I heard you
needed stitches.

WILL
I got stuck inside the building.

Craig looks at him as though he can't be serious.

WILL (CONT'D)
I went out the wrong door after the
movie last night.

CRAIG
(sarcastic)
Really!?! How do you go out the
wrong door and end up breaking into
a store on accident?

Will understands his situation. There isn't much hope.

WILL
Forget it. You'd never believe me.
(MORE)

WILL (CONT'D)

(pauses)

Why would I want to break into a
women's clothing store?

Craig is surprised by this fact that doesn't add up.

CRAIG

I'm sure you had a reason. Maybe
you had someone lined up to buy some
high end women's clothes.

WILL

(intense)

I didn't take anything!

CRAIG

Not this time.

(pauses)

You probably realized you'd get blood
on the clothing and wouldn't be able
to sell it.

Will is mentally and physically exhausted.

WILL

(resigned)

Forget it.

Craig doesn't want to let this go. He feels there is more
to this than a simple break in.

CRAIG

I've got time.

(pauses)

You've got even more time, so you
might as well explain.

EXT. RAPID CITY REGIONAL AIRPORT -- DAY

It's a smaller airport that's surrounded by prairie.

The Hummer drives past the airport entrance sign.

INT. HUMMER -- DAY

Stacy looks like she's still in deep thought.

CAMERON

I'll let you out up front and then
I'll park the car.

Without looking at him.

STACY

Okay.

EXT. RAPID CITY REGIONAL AIRPORT -- DAY

The Hummer pulls up to the sidewalk near the entrance.

Cameron gets out and then Stacy. Cameron goes to get the luggage out from the back.

CAMERON

I'll park and be right back.

Stacy doesn't reply. She just stands there next to her luggage as he gets back in and pulls away.

A taxi pulls up and lets a couple out. Stacy watches them.

An unusual look crosses Stacy's face.

She picks up her bags and walks toward the taxi. She approaches the driver.

STACY

Can I get a ride to Rapid?

The driver is perplexed. It's the first flight of the day. He glances at his watch. No flights should have come in yet.

TAXI DRIVER

Yeah. Forget something?

STACY

No.

(pauses)

Yes! Do you have a pen?

Stacy throws her luggage in the trunk.

TAXI DRIVER

Yeah.

He pulls a pen out of his pocket and hands it to Stacy. Then he SLAMS the trunk.

STACY

And a piece of paper?

He opens his front door and pulls out a note pad and gives her a piece of paper. Stacy takes it and writes something on it.

The driver gets back in his taxi.

Stacy hops in the back seat of the taxi.

The taxi quickly pulls away from the curb.

A moment later the taxi SKIDS to a halt.

Stacy jumps out of the taxi and impales a one-word note onto Cameron's backpack. The note simply reads, "SORRY!"

Stacy hops back inside the taxi and it pulls away.

INT. JAIL MEETING ROOM -- DAY

Craig has just listened to Will explain what really happened.

CRAIG

So your alibi is your ex-fiancee who was trying to get a restraining order against you?

WILL

Yes. But she had nothing to do with any of the damage. That was my doing.

Craig is very skeptical.

CRAIG

And she just left the country this morning?

WILL

Yeah.

CRAIG

When is she coming back?

Will scratches his head.

WILL

I have no idea.

Craig can't believe the story.

CRAIG

I don't buy it. I think the police department surprised you.

(pauses)

Rapid P.D. will be here later. They'll want to ask you some questions. You probably should start thinking about where you were over the last two weeks since the burglaries started.

(pauses)

I'll give you an easy one. Where were you the night before last?

Will thinks for a moment.

WILL

I was home.

CRAIG

You have any witnesses who can testify to that?

Will wants to make things right but he doesn't know how. He knows they are looking at him as guilty and they'll make the evidence fit the crime. He's ready to give in.

WILL

Yeah.

Craig gets ready to write down a name.

CRAIG

Who?

WILL

Camille.

Craig writes that down.

CRAIG

What's her last name?

WILL

I don't know.

CRAIG

(he's getting angry)

Cut the crap! What's her last name?

WILL

(smart remark)

Camille the cat.

Craig hears "the cat" as a single last name.

CRAIG

(writing)

Thikat? How do you spell it?

Will smiles smugly.

WILL

T-H-E.

(pauses)

C-A-T. The cat.

Craig catches on.

CRAIG

Now you're being a smart ass. I'm sure you won't find it as funny over the next year.

Will knows he has nothing to lose.

WILL

I don't have an alibi---just my cat.
I know if you want to pin that on me
you will. Just because no one can
figure out who's doing it I'm an
easy target.

(he looks intensely
at Craig)

I'm not a criminal.

Craig sees that truth in his eyes.

CRAIG

I want to believe you. I really do.
(opening up)

I know you got a raw deal when you
were charged. I know you didn't
start that fight, but you finished
it.

(pauses)

You're lucky he didn't die. No one
cared that you were stepping into a
fight that wasn't yours. In a small
town, no---any town---you don't get
into a fight with the police chief's
son---even if he is picking on someone
with a disability.

Will is amazed. He never thought Craig cared about his past.

WILL

He was a bully and he needed a lesson,
and I got carried away.

(pauses)

I didn't think you cared.

CRAIG

Well I do. But it doesn't matter.

Craig gets up and leaves.

INT. TAXI -- DAY

Stacy disconnects a call on her cell phone.

STACY

Take me to the county jail.

TAXI DRIVER

(what the?)

The jail?

STACY

Yes. The jail.

The taxi driver shrugs.

EXT. JAIL -- DAY

The taxi pulls up to the jail and Stacy climbs out with her bags.

She runs up to the front door and goes in.

INT. JAIL -- DAY

Stacy is moving as fast as she can. She moves very quickly past the front desk and is oblivious of the sign that says "visitors must register at the front desk." Stacy goes through the metal detector gate, which promptly sounds an ALARM!

Stacy is no longer oblivious. She stops. A GUARD quickly comes out with his hand on his holstered gun. He doesn't see her as a threat but you never can tell.

GUARD

You can't go through here.

Stacy is totally flustered.

STACY

I'm sorry. I...I...didn't know.

GUARD

(gesturing)

Didn't you see the signs?

Stacy turns and looks at the now very obvious signs. She sees the front desk clerk looking back at her.

STACY

(embarrassed)

I wasn't paying attention.

GUARD

Just so you know, running into the jail with a backpack isn't a good idea.

A flustered Stacy makes her way to the front desk.

In the background, Craig is walking out past the metal detector.

JAIL CLERK

Can I help you?

STACY

Can I see Will Sabino? I think he's here.

Craig hears Will's name and turns and heads toward Stacy.

JAIL CLERK
Visiting hours aren't until eleven.

She gestures to a posted sign.

JAIL CLERK (CONT'D)
(kindly)
Are you able to read? Do you need
help with that?

Stacy takes a moment and then understands why she asks.

Craig is right behind her now.

STACY
Yes, I can read. I'm just...never
mind.

CRAIG
Looking for Will?

STACY
(surprised)
Yes.

CRAIG
You're Stacy, right?

STACY
Yes.

CRAIG
I need to speak to you.

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM -- DAY

Craig offers Stacy a seat. She sits down. She has no idea what he wants to talk to her about and she's a bit nervous.

CRAIG
Why did you want to see Will?

Stacy has a moment of confusion.

STACY
I don't know. I probably shouldn't
have come.

Craig gestures toward her bags.

CRAIG
You always carry this much stuff
around with you?

Stacy takes a deep breath.

STACY
 No. Actually I should be on a plane
 to Italy right now.

CRAIG
 Why aren't you?

Stacy is close to tears.

STACY
 Can I see Will?
 (pauses)
 Please.

CRAIG
 Is he the reason you're not on your
 way to Italy right now?

The tears are now coming. Stacy nods vigorously.

STACY
 (between her sobs)
 He broke that window for me! He
 knew he'd get in trouble for it.
 (pauses)
 I'm so confused!

Craig hands her a tissue. She dabs her eyes.

STACY (CONT'D)
 (astounded)
 You're his probation officer. I was
 gonna marry him and I didn't even
 know he was on probation and that he
 tried to kill someone!

Craig sees her struggling with her feelings.

CRAIG
 (doubting)
 He didn't tell you what happened,
 did he?

STACY
 (confused)
 No.

Craig looks around. The door is closed. No one is listening.

CRAIG
 This was when he lived east river in
 Montrose. He was sixteen and saw
 someone picking on a kid with a
 disability.
 (pauses)
 The kid was mildly retarded.
 (MORE)

CRAIG (CONT'D)

Most people don't know that, but I do because he was my sister's son. Will doesn't even know that.

(pauses)

Will stepped in and beat the other kid within an inch of his life.

STACY

(wrapping her mind around it)

Why didn't they go easier on him?

CRAIG

Normally, they would. He had a couple of burglary charges as a minor. Nothing too serious. One he stole candy from the high school. Nothing people get too worked up about. It had seemed like he had straightened himself out after those.

(pauses)

The problem was the kid he beat up was Montrose's chief of police's son. The police report reads different than reality.

Stacy is swimming in a sea of emotions.

CRAIG (CONT'D)

He still nearly killed someone. He had some other minor charges prior to that---nothing serious. But that's why he has a probation officer.

STACY

Did the chief's son recover?

CRAIG

Oh yeah. A year later he got married and moved to Texas. Now he's in prison for nearly killing her. Domestic violence. His father couldn't protect him from that one.

Stacy processes all this information. Reality is different than she ever would have thought.

STACY

(deep longing)

Can I see him?

Craig smiles. His day has improved vastly from where it started.

CRAIG

I can make that happen.

They get up and head toward the door.

CRAIG (CONT'D)

If you've got a little time, I can get him processed out. We don't have a reason to hold him now.

(pauses)

He's on the third floor.

INT. JAIL, HOLDING AREA -- DAY

Will is dressed in his regular clothes. Craig enters.

WILL

What happened? Did you catch the guy who's been doing the robberies?

CRAIG

No. Not yet.

He starts walking Will out with him.

CRAIG (CONT'D)

You'll have to pay for the damages to the window. But I believe your story.

The reach a door and a GUARD in sealed room starts pushing buttons. CLANKING sounds.

WILL

(in disbelief)

What, did you interrogate my cat?

Craig smiles.

CRAIG

No.

The door opens.

Will sees Stacy standing there. He's stunned. She's the last person he expected to see. Craig pats Will on the shoulder.

Will slowly walks toward Stacy.

INT. JAIL, BY ELEVATORS -- DAY

Stacy stands by the elevator. She's both nervous and excited as she sees Will coming through the door.

Stacy's POV: Will sees her and clearly is surprised.

He walks up to her and they are face to face.

WILL
Aren't you supposed to be on your
way to Italy?

Stacy grins at him.

STACY
No. I'm supposed to be with you.

They embrace and kiss. It's a passionate kiss. They both
get lost in each other for the moment.

Will feels overwhelmed. He's had an emotional roller coaster
ride today.

The elevator door opens and DINGS.

They both walk inside the elevator.

INT. ELEVATOR -- DAY

Will presses a button. The door closes as they hold hands
facing each other.

The elevator starts moving.

WILL
I'm sorry I didn't tell you
everything. I was a jerk. Can you
forgive me?

STACY
Yeah.
(pauses)
I wasn't honest with you either. I
was stupid. Can you forgive me?

WILL
Absolutely.

The elevator suddenly stops! The emergency lights go on.

They both look intently at each other.

WILL (CONT'D)
I thought I was gonna be stuck in
jail today.
(pauses)
Now I'm stuck here with you.

STACY
(smiling)
That's not so bad, is it?

WILL
There's nowhere I'd rather be.

STACY

Me too.

They passionately kiss again.

WILL

We could be stuck here for hours.

STACY

I hope so.

They kiss again.

Fade out.

THE END