

The Mulligan Marriage

A Feature-Length Screenplay

By Richard Medugno

Based on his original stage play

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FADE IN:

EXT. A LUXURY CONDO COMPLEX – DAY (ESTABLISHING)

We see an upscale condominium complex in the hills above San Diego's Ocean Beach neighborhood. It's late afternoon and the sun is starting to set in the Pacific.

INT. ROGER'S CONDO – HOME OFFICE

In a circa 2011 home office with a desktop computer, printer, and a "May 2011" calendar on the wall. ROGER, a middle-aged, single man is dressed California-casually in tropical short-sleeve shirt, cargo shorts, white crew socks, and running shoes. His hair is short and graying. His face is clean shaven and tan.

Though he's healthy, Roger's best days physically are in the distant past. He's accepted that and is comfortable in his skin—not trying to appear younger than he is. He wears no jewelry beyond an unimpressive Timex watch.

Roger is seated in front of his PC. He is online, checking out middle-aged women profiles on Match.com. He is clicking through them quickly but stops on a profile of a woman named "Caroline." He studies her face for a moment and shrugs, then nods his head. He's thinking, "She's kinda hot." He clicks on her profile page.

EXT. A CLASSIC CALIFORNIA RANCH HOUSE (ESTABLISHING) – DAY

The house is in Point Loma, an upper middle-class neighborhood in San Diego that's on the east-facing hills that overlook the bay. On a quiet street, the house's yard and foliage are well-kept. It's late afternoon. There's a nice view of the city's skyscrapers across the bay.

INT. ANITA'S HOME RECORDING STUDIO

ANITA is an attractive middle-aged woman in blue jeans, a pink sweatshirt, and her bare feet with red painted toenails. She has a cute face and her shoulder-length, streaked blond hair is pulled back into a ponytail.

A fit, sporty-type who plays tennis once a week, Anita has a tan and toned body. She doesn't wear a lot of jewelry or makeup.

Anita sits in front of a professional recording studio microphone. She is reading from a commercial script and speaking in a clear, professional voice-over way.

ANITA

"Come into Welch Motors and drive away with a deal!"

A phone in the distance rings. Anita sighs and hits the stop record button.

INT. ANITA'S KITCHEN

Anita gently swivels on a bar stool at the breakfast bar while speaking on her home phone. She is obviously flirting with someone on the other end. She's giggling a bit more than you'd expect for a woman over fifty.

ANITA

Oh, you're so funny...Oooo-kay, I gotta go and finish your commercial now... Yes! I'll see you on Saturday...Can't wait. Bye, Burt!

Anita presses the "off" button on her phone and sighs. She puts the cordless phone back in its cradle.

ANITA

(mocking herself)
"Oh, you're so funny...Oooo-kay. Can't wait. Bye Burt!" Ugh. Sound like a teenager again.

She shakes her head, sighs again and jumps off the stool.

INT. AT THE TOP OF A SHORT FLIGHT OF STAIRS

Anita jogs up to the top of a short flight of stairs. There is an ugly, too fluffy throw rug next to a small table with a vase of fake flowers on it.

Next to flowers is a small, framed photo of Anita 15 years ago posing with her family (Roger and two kids, a boy and a girl) in front of the San Diego Zoo entrance. She pauses in front of the table when she sees the picture. She picks up the frame and studies herself and then Roger and the kids for a moment. She makes a wistful, "oh-those-were-the-days" face. As she prepares to put it down, she sees a dust outline on the table where the frame was sitting.

ANITA

So dusty...

Anita dashes down the hall off screen.

INSERT – PHOTO

We focus in on the family photo as we hear Anita rummaging around in an unseen closet.

BACK TO SCENE

As she hurries back into view, Anita has a rag in one hand and a spray can of furniture polish in the other.

Just as she reaches the small table, her feet get tangled up in the ugly rug that slides with her as she loses her balance. She releases the items in her hands, and as they fly away, she falls down the stairs.

Anita screams in fear as she tumbles and lands on the tiled floor at the bottom of the stairs with a thump, her head cracking into the base of the bannister. She groans and then goes silent.

EXT. ANITA'S HOUSE – DAY

KEVIN, a gangly young man (twenty-something) with a scruffy beard, drives up in an older compact car. He parks in the driveway and jumps out of his car with his ratty backpack. He is dressed for a SoCal spring day in polo shirt, blue jeans, and sneakers. He goes to the front door and unlocks it with his key. He steps inside and disappears from our view.

KEVIN(O.S.)
Mom?! Oh, shit!

INT. AT THE BOTTOM OF THE STAIRS IN ANITA'S HOME

Anita is unconscious and lying face down on the tiled floor. There is a bit of blood visible on her face and on the floor.

EXT. ANITA'S HOUSE – DAY

Minutes later an ambulance with siren and flashing red lights pull up in front of the house.

INT. ROGER'S CONDO LIVING ROOM - DAY

A couple of days later, in the afternoon, Roger is seated on a couch in his sparsely "male-decorated" living room, drinking sodas with Kevin. Roger has his feet up on the coffee table. Kevin is a lot less relaxed than his father.

KEVIN
She's really confused about things. She thinks Bush is still president!

ROGER
Oh, God, no.

KEVIN
You should go see her.

ROGER
I already did. The whole night.

KEVIN
Yeah, but she's wondering why you're not there now.

ROGER
Where's her boyfriend? What's-his-name? Car salesman?

KEVIN

Burt Welch.

ROGER

Yes! Burp Belch.

KEVIN

Dad, don't call him that.

ROGER

Wouldn't it be funny if he worked
for the gas company?

KEVIN

Okay. Yeah, hilarious. We didn't
tell him.

ROGER

Why not?

KEVIN

Because he's a big dork.

ROGER

Then why can't I call him a Burp
Belch?!

KEVIN

Because it's not funny! It's just
immature. And it's—

ROGER

Sophomoric.

KEVIN

Yeah. Right.

Roger gets up and goes into the kitchen. Kevin follows him.

INT. ROGER'S CONDO - THE KITCHEN

Rogers cleans up as Kevin follows him around.

ROGER

Your mother always had a thing for dorks.

KEVIN

Married you.

ROGER

Exactly my point.

Kevin is getting frustrated because they're off topic.

KEVIN

Whatever, Dad! It's not cool-

ROGER

Okay, Kevin, relax. Don't take everything so seriously.

KEVIN

It's a serious time. Mom's in the hospital and you're making stupid dad jokes.

ROGER

I will go see her again. Soon. But I can't go now. I have plans tonight.

KEVIN

You can change your plans.

ROGER

I can, but I don't want to.

KEVIN

So you're telling me your social life is more important than seeing your wife in the hospital.

ROGER

Ex-wife.

KEVIN

Whatever. So you won't change your plans?

Roger shakes his head. Kevin slams an open drawer shut.

ROGER

Kevin, calm down. I will go see your mother. I just can't go tonight.

KEVIN

She keeps asking for you, Dad.

ROGER

Really?

KEVIN

Constantly.

Roger looks at Kevin, sighs, and drops his head.

EXT. THE HOSPITAL – NIGHT

An establishing shot of a well-lighted, modern hospital.

INT. A HOSPITAL ROOM – NIGHT

Anita is lying in a bed with a bandaged head. There are a few flower arrangements scattered about the room and some "Get Well" cards and balloons.

AMANDA, Anita's 21-year-old daughter, is the spitting image of her mom. A senior in college, she wears an "UC Irvine" sweatshirt, tight jeans, and sandals. She sits in a chair near her mother's bed. She checks the phone in her big purse that hangs off one shoulder.

AMANDA

I need to go soon.

ANITA

Please wait until your father comes to take me home.

AMANDA

Mom, I don't think he's going to take you home. You have to stay

AMANDA (CONT'D)
here awhile longer and get better.

ANITA
Mandy, I can't get over how mature
you seem. You don't even look like
a teenager anymore.

AMANDA
Well, I'm not. I'm twenty-one.

ANITA
(laughing)
No you're not! You just turned
seventeen.

AMANDA
Okay, Mom, whatever.

ANITA
Amanda, why am I here?

AMANDA
I told you, you fell down the
stairs and banged your head.

ANITA
I did?

AMANDA
Yes. At home.

ANITA
It wasn't a car accident?

AMANDA
Nope. Kevin found you on the floor
in a puddle of blood.

ANITA
Oh, so that's why my head hurts.

AMANDA
Yup. And that's why you have a big
ole bandage.

ANITA

I need to be more careful. I bet your father is really upset.

AMANDA

Ah, yeah, he was.

ANITA

Amanda, do you know where my rings are? They took my rings off.

AMANDA

No, Mom, you took them off a few years ago.

ANITA

I did not.

AMANDA

Yes, you did.

ANITA

Why on earth would I do that?

AMANDA

Because you aren't married anymore.

ANITA

What?!

AMANDA

Yeah, you and Dad got divorced a few years ago.

ANITA

That's ridiculous. We did not.

AMANDA

I'm sorry, Mom, but it's true.

ANITA

Okay, Mandy, stop. That's not funny.

AMANDA

Mom, when you cracked your head,
you lost some memory. The doctor
called it retrograde amnesia. But
don't worry, she thinks when the
swelling goes down in your brain,
it should come back to you.

ANITA

I have amnesia?

AMANDA

Yes.

ANITA

And I'm divorced?

AMANDA

Yes.

ANITA

I don't believe it.

AMANDA

You don't have to believe it now.
Just...Just get some rest, Mom.

ANITA

We can't be divorced! Mandy,
please go get your father. I need
to see him.

Amanda stands up, impatient with the conversation.

AMANDA

Kevin went to get Dad, but I don't
think he is going to come.

ANITA

Where is he?

AMANDA

In O.B.

ANITA

At the beach?

AMANDA

Yeah. He's got a condo there.

ANITA

We have a condo in Ocean Beach?

Anita really likes the idea of having a condo at the beach.

AMANDA

No. He has a condo. He bought it after the divorce.

ANITA

All right, Amanda, that's enough. When your father gets here, I'm going to tell him how you've been teasing me...

Amanda goes to her mother and begins to caress her arm.

AMANDA

Okay, Mom. I'm sorry. Just forget about everything—I mean, just focus on getting well and healing. We'll sort everything out later.

NURSE TIFFONY blows into the room like a summer breeze. She is a vivacious African-American woman with an unmatched bedside manner.

TIFFONY

Hello! How's milady doing this evening?

ANITA

I'm fine.

TIFFONY

I'm sure that's what all the men say 'bout you. "Mmmm. She's fine!" Haha. Here's your meds.

Tiffany hands Anita her a small cup of pills.

TIFFONY (CONT'D)

Just let me check your numbers...

While Tiffany looks at the monitors attached to Anita and records their output, Anita takes her pills.

ANITA

Tiffany, do you know what happened to my rings?

TIFFONY

No, milady, I sure don't. I don't think you came to the hospital with them on.

ANITA

Well, of course, I did. I never take them off.

TIFFONY

I tell you what, I'll go check in the E.R. See if they have any rings.

ANITA

Oh, please, do. They're very special to me...

TIFFONY

I know, dear. Now, don't worry about them. We need you just to worry 'bout gettin' better so you can get well, feel swell, and get the hell out of here.

AMANDA

Sounds like good advice.

TIFFONY

Oh, it is. Trust me, young lady, you wanna get out of a hospital as soon as possible. Now, I'm goin' down to check with E.R.

ANITA

Thank you, Tiffany!

Amanda follows Tiffany out of the room into the hallway.

INT. THE HOSPITAL CORRIDOR - NIGHT

Amanda walking to the nurses station with Tiffany.

AMANDA

So you know there's no missing rings.

TIFFONY

I know, darlin', I know. But no reason to upset her now.

INT. THE HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT

Anita is still in a bed, when Amanda walks back in and sits on the edge of the bed.

ANITA

She's great, isn't she?

AMANDA

Yeah, she is.

Kevin leading Roger into the room.

KEVIN

Knock-Knock! Look who's here.

ANITA

Ah...my two favorite guys!

ROGER

Hi, Anita. How are you?

ANITA

Better now that you're here. Where have you been?

ROGER

I was here two nights ago. Don't you remember?

ANITA

No, I don't.

ROGER

You took quite a spill.

ANITA

Yes, Mandy was just reminding me of what happened. I'm so clumsy, but you know that. Remember that time when I fell and busted my two front teeth on the sidewalk?

ROGER

On the ice in Toronto.

ANITA

You laughed at me.

AMANDA

Dad!

ROGER

I didn't laugh at her falling. I just laughed because she looked so funny afterwards. Like a hillbilly when she smiled.

ANITA

I was so mad at you.

ROGER

Yes, I know. I shouldn't have laughed...But you can never forget all the "terrible" things I did to you, can you, Anita?

KEVIN

(sotto voce)

Dad...

ANITA

Oh, I don't blame you. I'm sure I looked pretty silly.

ROGER

(to Kevin)

You said she was having memory issues.

ANITA

Nope.

AMANDA

Ah, yes, Mom, you kinda got a gap.

ANITA

No, I don't.

KEVIN

Yes, you do, Mom.

AMANDA

Four years.

ANITA

Really?

AMANDA

Mom, what year is it?

ANITA

You keep asking me that and I keep telling you it's 2007. But I just can't remember what month it is.

AMANDA

No, Mom, it's May 16, 2011.

ANITA

No! Is it? Really? Roger?

ROGER

Yes, Anita, it is.

ANITA

So I was in a coma for four years?

KEVIN

No, Mom, You just can't remember the last four years...But you will. Probably. Eventually.

ANITA

I feel like you're all playing a joke on me.

ROGER

No, Anita, we're not teasing you.

ANITA

(getting emotional)

Well, what happened in those four years?

Roger, Amanda, and Kevin all look to each other to see who will speak.

ANITA (CONT'D)

What?!

Amanda pulls her mother back into her bed and pillows.

AMANDA

Mom, you should just lay back and rest. You're getting upset.

ANITA

Of course I'm upset when everyone tells me I forgot four years and no one will tell about what I'm missing.

KEVIN

Mom, we'll tell you later...You'll probably start to remember soon.

ANITA

I hope so.

Amanda's stomach grumbles and she grabs it dramatically.

AMANDA

Did you hear that? I really gotta get something to eat.

Amanda starts for the door and Roger starts to follow her.

ROGER

All right, let me take you out to get a bite.

ANITA

No, Roger, you just got here. Let Kevin go with Mandy.

ROGER

Yeah. Sure. Do you need guys some money?

KEVIN

No, we're good.

AMANDA

Seriously, dude, you're turning down cash?

KEVIN

Shut up. Okay, Mom, we'll be back in a little while.

Kevin and Amanda wave.

AMANDA

Back soon.

Amanda and Kevin leave the room. Roger just stands looking at Anita, not sure what to say or do.

ANITA

Why are you just standing there?
Do I look that bad?

ROGER

No, you look fine, except for that gigantic bandage on your noggin.

ANITA

Is that a new shirt?

ROGER

Ah, no. Not really.

ANITA

I've never seen it before. Come here and let me feel it. It looks like it's silk...Not your style.

Roger moves closer to Anita but keeps his distance as if she has a virus he could catch.

ANITA

Why are you being so distant,
Roger? You can touch me. It won't
hurt. I'm on painkillers. C'mon,
give me a hug and a kiss.

ROGER

Ah. I'm sorry, Anita. I don't...

ANITA

Roger, please, come closer.

Roger goes to her and kisses her forehead ever-so-lightly.
Anita takes his hands in hers and kisses them.

ANITA

Oh, baby, I'm so glad you're all
right. I thought you were dead. I
thought we were in car accident.
C'mon, lie down with me.

ROGER

There's not enough room.

ANITA

I'll make room. Climb in.

Anita moves to one side and throws off a sheet.
Roger kicks off his shoes and climbs in gingerly, trying
not to knock any instruments or wires or attachments to
Anita. She snuggles into him.

ANITA

Ah, it feels good to have you
close to me.

Roger pulls Anita back to lie against him as they are
seated, propped up in the hospital bed.

ROGER

How's that?

ANITA

Good...Hmmm...I'm sleepy...

ROGER

(softly)

Then go to sleep.

She closes her eyes and smiles, feeling at peace. He is wide awake and looks concerned. Tiffany pops in and mouths "She asleep?" He nods. She gives him a thumbs up and goes.

INT. THE HOSPITAL CAFETERIA - NIGHT

Amanda and Kevin are eating off plates on trays at a table.

AMANDA

Don't you think it's weird that Mom doesn't remember anything from the past four years?

KEVIN

Super weird.

AMANDA

I didn't realize the brain worked that way. You know, like you could just go in and pull out a whole section of your life. Like yearbooks off a shelf.

KEVIN

I don't think it's like that. But I don't know. I'm not a brain surgeon.

Putting down her fork to punctuate her sarcasm.

AMANDA

You're not?!

KEVIN

Shut up. I'm really worried...

AMANDA

The doctors said she'll be fine.

KEVIN

They said they *think* she'll be fine, but there's no guarantees. She might have permanent memory loss.

AMANDA

Yeah, okay, so what's the worst thing that could happen if she doesn't get back all her memories?

KEVIN

I don't know...

AMANDA

It's not like the last four years were great times.

KEVIN

Yeah, well, our whole lives changed in the past four years.

AMANDA

She might not mind forgetting them.

KEVIN

But she thinks they're still married.

AMANDA

So. We'll just tell her the truth and she'll deal with it.

KEVIN

But if she doesn't get her memory back, she's gonna have to go through the divorce trauma again.

AMANDA

Oh. Okay. Well, now, yes, that's really gonna suck.

KEVIN

Exactly.

INT. THE HOSPITAL HALLWAY - NIGHT

Amanda and Kevin are walking back to Anita's room.

AMANDA

Maybe they won't...

KEVIN

Maybe they won't what?

AMANDA

Maybe they won't get divorced this time.

KEVIN

But they are divorced.

Amanda stops walking and faces Kevin.

AMANDA

Yeah, but maybe they'll stay together. Maybe this is a second chance and they'll do things differently. Maybe Dad will 'cause he remembers the mistakes he made.

KEVIN

Mandy, you're in fantasyland. First, Dad doesn't think he made any mistakes. And second, they're never going to stay together. They've moved on. So just give up on that dream!

AMANDA

You don't know, Kevin, maybe it will all work out. I think they still love each other and—

KEVIN

And it's not going to happen.

Kevin walks away and Amanda remaining in place.

AMANDA

Fantasyland's a nice place!

INT. THE HOSPITAL WAITING AREA - NIGHT

Amanda and Kevin are seated next to each other. They speak with hushed voices because there are a few people nearby.

AMANDA

Ever think about why they broke up?

KEVIN

Not really. They grew apart, blah, blah, blah. Just like everyone else's stupid parents.

AMANDA

But there must have been specific things that happened.

KEVIN

Yeah, there were a ton of things.

AMANDA

But now, as far as Mom's concerned, none of them did.

KEVIN

Not everything happened after 2007. Some shit happened before..

Kevin gets up and motions for Amanda to move next to a big fish tank that's far away from others in the waiting area.

AMANDA

What was the last thing to happen before they broke up—?

KEVIN

Hell if I know.

AMANDA

Well, whatever it was, now it didn't happen.

KEVIN

Yeah, but it did. And when Mom starts remembering, then your

KEVIN (CONT'D)

little-sandcastle-fairy-tale-happy-ending is gonna get smashed by a tsunami. Her memories are going to come rushing back into her head and you'll be devastated.

AMANDA

No, I won't. But maybe it won't be a "tsunami" of memories. Maybe if they come back it will be just a trickle, a little at a time, and maybe they won't ruin everything. You know, because maybe Mom and Dad will be in love again.

Kevin snorts at the ridiculous idea.

KEVIN

Yeah, right.

AMANDA

Or maybe those four years won't come back at all.

KEVIN

(sing-songy)

Maybe, maybe, maybe. Mandy baby,

AMANDA

Shut up. It could happen.

KEVIN

You've seen too many romantic movies. This is real life, dude. Things like that don't happen in real life. They are *not* going to get back together.

Amanda looks deeply disappointed.

EXT. THE OCEAN BEACH PIER – DAY

It's around noon. Roger and Amanda strolling on the pier as people around them fish. Near the pier, surfers ride waves.

AMANDA

Just say maybe. Please? Please,
Dad! Please?!

ROGER

No. No, no, no. No.

AMANDA

Okay, good. I'll take that as a
"maybe."

ROGER

(laughs)
You're something else.

AMANDA

Rumor has it that I take after my
father.

ROGER

Oh, well, then you have my deepest
sympathies.

AMANDA

You're not such a bad guy.

ROGER

Tell that to your mother.

AMANDA

She doesn't think that.

ROGER

Maybe she doesn't think that now,
but B.C.—before concussion—if you
listened to her, you'd think I was
the second coming of Charles
Manson. I'm such a bad guy..

AMANDA

Feels like you're fishing for
compliments.

ROGER

Good one. Don't take the bait.

AMANDA

Believe it or not, Mom's never said a negative thing about you.

ROGER

I don't believe it.

AMANDA

To us, at least. Seriously. She doesn't talk smack about you.

Roger and Amanda walk a bit in silence, admiring the views.

AMANDA

Dad, why did you and Mom break up?

ROGER

You know why.

AMANDA

No, I don't. Honestly.

ROGER

Your mother didn't tell you that it was all my fault...

AMANDA

No. Of course not. She said it was nobody's fault. You both just grew apart.

ROGER

And she just stopped trying.

AMANDA

She stopped trying?

ROGER

Yes. She gave up. Two people can't stay married if one of them just gives up. (beat) Hungry for some Mexican?

AMANDA

Of course!

EXT. THE PATIO OF A MEXICAN RESTAURANT – DAY

Amanda and Roger are eating fish tacos, chips, and salsa at a small table for lunch. They have glasses of soda and water with lemon wedges perched on the rims. Piped in Mariachi music is heard.

AMANDA

Why did Mom give up?

ROGER

'Cause she's a quitter.

AMANDA

No, she's not, Dad. She wouldn't just quit for no reason.

ROGER

There was no big "reason." Nothing happened, really. There was just a bunch of wedges issues.

AMANDA

What issues?

ROGER

Listen to me, when you get married and after the honeymoon phase, you have to be realistic and expect that there will be wedge issues that you have work at to resolve. To get over. To stick together. You can't just stop trying..

AMANDA

So you didn't really just grow apart. You were wedged apart.

ROGER

Yeah, yeah, that's a better way of describing it.

AMANDA

So if we remove the wedges, you could come back together.

ROGER

I don't think so, hon'. After all this time, if you remove a wedge, there's still going to be big space there. A void. It's warped.

AMANDA

But over time, the space could close up, right? Or be pushed back together now that nothing's blocking it, right?

ROGER

It's possible, but, Amanda—

AMANDA

So now that Mom doesn't remember anything from the last four years, how many of those wedges are gone?

ROGER

Oh, God, I don't know. That's impossible to answer. Listen, hon, I don't want to think about all the wedges...We're way past the point of no return.

AMANDA

But the point of no return just got moved back four years. Dad, don't you see it? You're getting a second chance. You can go back in time and start fresh and all these wedges or whatever are gone.

Amanda grabs a lemon wedge off her glass and throws it up in the air. It lands in Roger's water glass.

ROGER

Good shot! Did you mean to do that?

AMANDA

Don't change the subject.

ROGER

Mandy, she could wake up at any time and remember everything.

AMANDA

Or she could never get back all her memories, so why not take a chance? Take a shot!

ROGER

I'm sorry, honey, but you can't just push us back together—

AMANDA

Your relationship with Mom is not broken, it's just got a few wedge issues. That's all.

ROGER

Okay, maybe some issues are gone for her now but for me they're all still there.

AMANDA

Just forgive and forget.

Roger bites into a tortilla chip and it breaks into pieces, and a couple fall onto his plate. He shakes his head "no."

ROGER

Not that easy.

AMANDA

All right, Dad, then what are you going to do?

ROGER

Nothing.

AMANDA

You have to do something. Mom thinks you're still married.

A beat. Roger silently looking off.

AMANDA

What are you thinking about?

ROGER

It's a *muy loco* situation...

AMANDA

Si, senor. But when life gives you
lemon wedges, make lemon wedgeade.

Roger groans. Amanda takes another lemon wedge and squeezes it in her father's general direction. Roger throws up his hand to block the juice. They laugh.

INT. ANITA'S HOSPITAL ROOM – NIGHT

Anita is asleep but wakes from a bad dream. She opens her eyes and rises up on her elbows to see where she's at. She groans and falls back down when she realizes she's still in the hospital. She begins to cry. Tiffany is walking by the open door and when she hears Anita weeping, she comes into the room.

TIFFONY

Hey, there, my darlin'. What's
going on? Are you hurtin'?

ANITA

Yes...

TIFFONY

What's the problem?

ANITA

I'm alone.

TIFFONY

No, you're not. I'm here. What can
I do for you?

ANITA

I miss my family...

Anita starts to cry again. Tiffany caresses her arms and shoulders.

TIFFONY

Ah, milady...hush now, hush now.
You're gonna be all right. Just
get some rest. Go back to sleep.

ANITA

I don't like being alone. I want
my old life back.

TIFFONY

I know. I know. Sleep now. I
promise everythin' will be
brighter in the mornin'. Every day
can be a fresh start.

INT. ROGER'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

On a coffee table, a couple of shoe boxes marked "Anita" are stuffed with envelopes, letters, and notes. Roger is sitting, shifting through the papers, and reading.

INSERT – LOVE NOTE

Written in purple on flowery stationary: "Hey, Rog! Thanks for the beautiful flowers. Can't wait to see you again. Love always, Anita XOXO"

BACK TO SCENE

Rogers sighs, folds the note, and puts it down. He opens up another envelope and out tumble a few photos, some are Polaroids. He picks them up and studies each. He smiles at the memories and even laughs at one. After a moment, he falls back into his couch, exhausted by the trip down memory lane.

INT. ANITA'S HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Kevin is helping his mother eat her lunch. She offers him Jello in a sealed plastic cup.

ANITA

Do you want this, Kev?

KEVIN

No, thanks. How's the head today?

ANITA

Good. Swelling's down.

KEVIN

What year is it?

ANITA

2007, wait, er, no! 2011?

KEVIN

Yeah. I guess that's progress. So, I got good news and bad news. Good news is I got a job at the same place Chris works at in La Jolla.

ANITA

Great! I know Chris, right?

KEVIN

Yeah, he's my friend, Mom. I've known for like three years.

ANITA

Tall and thin?

KEVIN

Yes! So your memory is coming back.

ANITA

Maybe. He's a Hispanic kid, right?

Kevin shakes his head.

ANITA

Oh. I guess I don't remember him.

KEVIN

So I start on Monday.

ANITA

Great. Congratulations!

KEVIN

Thanks. Bad news is I'm not going to be able to take care of you when you come home.

ANITA

Your father and your sister will look after me.

KEVIN

No, Mom, Mandy's gone back to school. You know that. You said goodbye to her last night.

ANITA

Of course. We can talk about it when your father gets here.

KEVIN

I don't know, Mom, he didn't say he was coming today.

ANITA

He didn't have to say. He's always been there for me. And I've always been there for him. It's what we do. It's what our family does.

KEVIN

But Mom, we're not a family anymore.

ANITA

Don't say that! Of course we are. We'll always be a family, no matter what happens.

KEVIN

I know you don't remember what's happened the last four years, but I have to tell you, it's not been great. Things are pretty different now.

ANITA

Families go through good and bad

ANITA (CONT'D)
times. It's kind of like a rubber
band.

Anita grabs a rubber band off her tray and demonstrates the
elasticity.

ANITA (CONT'D)
It stretches then comes back
together and then it stretches
again and then comes back together
again. It will always come back
together.

Anita playfully shoots the rubber at Kevin, hitting him in
the chest. He grabs it and pulls it apart until it breaks.

KEVIN
But, Mom, it broke.

ANITA
I don't believe that. I can't
believe that.

KEVIN
All right. You don't have to...Just
try to accept that things aren't
the same as before your accident.

ANITA
Whatever happened, can be fixed.

BURT WELCH, a pudgy, balding, middle-aged man in a sports
coat and tie, appears in the doorway with a bouquet of
flowers in a vase. Burt is a friendly and jolly good
fellow. He raps on the door with a musical flair.

BURT
(almost singing)
Hello, Anita!

ANITA
Hi. Er. Hi, there!

BURT
Hello, Kevin.

KEVIN

Hey, Burt.

Burt puts the flowers on Anita's nightstand.

ANITA

Are those for me?

BURT

Sure are!

ANITA

Thank you. (beat) Do I know you?

Burt bursts out laughing convinced that the question is a little tease. Anita looks confused to Kevin.

BURT

Well, I would have come sooner but nobody called me to tell me about your accident. (to Kevin) Had to hear it through the grapevine...

KEVIN

Sorry, man. Lots going on...

BURT

No prob-lem-o. So how are you feeling, my dear?

ANITA

Better. Thank you. Didn't we buy a car from you?

Burt laughs again convinced that Anita is playing with him.

BURT

Yup. You sure did. Five years ago, I think. That's when we first met.

ANITA

Oh. Ok. Well, thank you for stopping by.

Burt moves to sit on the bed.

BURT
Can I sit here?

Burt prepares to sit down.

ANITA
Ah, no, I'm still kind of sore...

Burt makes a clumsy move to keep standing.

BURT
Okay! (beat) So you had a little
spill on the stairs.

ANITA
Sure did.

Roger appears in the doorway with a small bouquet of
flowers, significantly smaller than Burt's bouquet.

ROGER
Good morning!

KEVIN
Dad!

ANITA
Good morning, Roger!

ROGER
Got quite a crowd in here.

ANITA
Are those for me?

ROGER
Yup, but I see you already have
some fresh ones.

BURT
They're from me.

Burt smiles smugly, satisfied that his flowers are much
bigger than Rogers, and extends a hand to shake to Roger.

BURT (CON'T)

Burt Welch. Welch Motors.

ROGER

Roger. Nice to see you again,
(overly-emphasizing the "T") Burt.

The men shake hands. Then Roger holds up the flowers.

ROGER

So where should I put these?

ANITA

First, let me smell them. Hmmm,
carnations. My favorite. Kev, can
you move Burt's flowers over with
the others.

Kevin moves Burt's flowers to a windowsill and Anita places
Roger's flowers where Burt's were.

ANITA (CONT'D)

Have a seat, Rog.

Roger sits where Burt wanted to sit.

ANITA (CONT'D)

So Burt, I don't think our family
needs another car, right now. Do
we?

ROGER

I do not.

KEVIN

No, we don't. Burt, maybe we should
have a chat outside...

BURT

Oh. Okay. I'll see you later,
Anita.

ANITA

O-kay. Bye. Thank you. Bye.

Kevin ushers Burt out of the room.

INT. THE HOSPITAL HALLWAY NEAR THE ELEVATORS - DAY

Burt and Kevin are waiting for the elevator doors to open.

BURT

So she really doesn't remember me?

KEVIN

Well, she remembers you sold us a car...five years ago.

BURT

Wow. This is so weird. I felt we were really going somewhere and now she doesn't remember me. Wow. Do the doctors think she'll get her memory back?

Kevin shrugs.

BURT (CONT'D)

Wow. So we'd have to start from scratch with each other?

KEVIN

Yeah. I guess.

The elevator arrives and the doors opens. Burt steps in.

BURT

Will you call me if anything changes?

KEVIN

Sure thing, Burp—I mean, Burt.

The elevator door shuts as Burt's face shows annoyance.

INT. ANITA'S HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Anita is smiling in bed. Roger is sitting on the bed. Kevin stands above his parents.

KEVIN

So, Dad, we have a problem. Now, that I have a job, I can't look after Mom when she comes home from the hospital.

ROGER

Oh.

ANITA

That's not a problem, is it, Roger? You can look after me for a few days, can't you?

ROGER

Ah, sure.

KEVIN

"Sure?!"

ROGER

Yeah. Not a problem.

ANITA

Wonderful.

KEVIN

"Not a problem?!"

ROGER

Nope. I can work out of my home office and look after your mother at the same time.

ANITA

Of course, you can. You know me, I'm low-maintenance.

Long pause as Kevin and Roger exchange looks.

ANITA (CONT'D)

That was supposed to be a joke.

The men burst out laughing.

KEVIN

Good one, Mom...You still got it.

Tiffany walks in full of energy.

TIFFONY

Wow! Sounds like y'all are having a part-tay in here.

ANITA

We are.

TIFFONY

So milady must be feeling better.

ANITA

Yes, much better.

TIFFONY

I told you, didn't I? Okay, hon', let me check your numbers...You know the drill. Excuse me, gentlemen...

As Tiffany attends to Anita, Kevin and Roger step out.

INT. THE HOSPITAL CORRIDOR - DAY

Kevin and Roger stand outside of Anita's room.

KEVIN

So Dad, why the change of heart?

ROGER

We're still family. And Mandy...

KEVIN

Daddy's little girl strikes again.

ROGER

You think she's got me wrapped around her little finger?

KEVIN

(dripping sarcasm)
Oh, no. Not at all.

INT. ANITA'S HOSPITAL ROOM – DAY

Tiffany unwraps the large bandage and cotton on Anita's head and replaces it with a smaller one.

ANITA

Tiffany, I think I'm going to check out of here today.

TIFFONY

That's what I hear. That's good news. I'm gonna miss you, but glad you're gettin' the hell outta here.

ANITA

I'm going to miss you too.

TIFFONY

Who's gonna look after you when you get home?

ANITA

My husband. I mean, my ex-husband. (laughs) I keep forgetting what he is to me now.

TIFFONY

Well, you are one lucky lady if you get a man to look after you. Most men don't want anything to do with nursing anybody...

ANITA

This one's different.

TIFFONY

Must be...must be...Better hold on to him or I'll take him! Best of luck to you. And please be a stranger. I don't wanna see you back in here!

Tiffany blows Anita a big kiss and departs.

EXT. IN FRONT OF ROGER'S CONDO – DAY

Roger drives up in his sports car with Anita in the passenger seat. He parks in the driveway. He jumps out of the car and goes to open the door for Anita.

Anita gets out of the car gingerly. She stands and admires the surroundings and the view of the ocean. Roger unlocks and opens the front door to the condo. Then he comes to Anita and admires the view with her for a moment or two.

ANITA

Did you rent this place just for us?

ROGER

Bought it. Just for me. Ready?

Roger scoops Anita into his arms and carries her up a couple of steps and inside through the condo's front door.

ANITA

I can't believe your carrying me over the threshold. It's like we're newlyweds again.

INT. ROGER'S CONDO LIVING ROOM – DAY

Roger carries Anita through the doorway. He kicks the door shut behind them.

ANITA

Wow. Nice, Roger. Reminds me of that honeymoon place in Santa Barbara. Remember?

ROGER

Yup.

ANITA

I'm a lot heavier now.

ROGER

Aren't we all? So where do you want to be?

ANITA

Maybe ten pounds off would be ideal.

ROGER

No, where do you want me to put you down?

ANITA

(laughing)

What are my choices?

Roger is starting to feel the strain of carrying Anita as he pivots between showing her the bedroom and the couch.

ROGER

The guest bed's in there or the couch out here. Please decide quickly.

ANITA

Couch.

He sets her down as gently as he can but also as quickly as he can. Then he collapses on the floor next to her.

ROGER

Phew! Man, I'm out of shape...

ANITA

You're still my big, strong guy...Make a muscle.

Roger flexes his biceps. Anita squeezes one of his biceps.

ANITA

Still hard as a rock.

Roger knocks on his own head.

ROGER

So's the noggin.

ANITA

Yes. So this is where you get all your work done now?

ROGER

Yeah. I pretty much live here.

ANITA

You should have let me help you decorate.

ROGER

You should have offered.

ANITA

Okay, well, when I'm back on my feet again, I'll help you spruce up the place.

ROGER

So, can I get you something to drink? You need to take some meds right now, don't you?

ANITA

Yes. I should...My head's starting to throb a bit.

ROGER

Okay, I'll be right back.

Roger leaves her alone in the living room as she sizes up the place.

ANITA

You have a real bachelor's pad.

ROGER(O.S.)

Yeah. Just the way I like it.

ANITA

There aren't any pictures of us.

Roger returning with a glass of water.

ROGER

Nope.

ANITA

Thanks.

Anita takes the glass of water with both her hands, briefly covers his hand with both her hands for an awkward moment.

ANITA

Sorry.

She takes her pill and swallows a swig of water.

ANITA

This is probably going to knock me out.

ROGER

Good. You need to rest...and I need to work.

ANITA

What do I do for work now? Am I still doing voice over work?

ROGER

Yes, I think so. I heard one of your commercials on the radio the other day.

ANITA

Oh, good. It's strange. I feel like I've been kidnapped, drugged, and taken to a stranger's place.

ROGER

Yeah, it must feel very weird..

ANITA

But it's not scary, because I know you. You're my loving husband. Right? We're not really divorced, are we?

ROGER

We are. I'm sorry. (beat) You need some pillows...

Roger goes to guest bedroom.

ANITA

Hmmm. I'm sorry I still can't believe that. So Roger, I need you to start filling me in on the four years I can't remember.

Roger returning with pillows.

ROGER

I'm sure it will all come back to you soon, when the swelling in your head goes down...

ANITA

But what if the memories don't come back after the swelling goes down?

ROGER

We'll have to deal with it then.

ANITA

Four years is a long time. A lot can happen in that amount of time.

ROGER

Yup. A lot did.

ANITA

Okay, I'm going to put my head down. I feel really tired.

ROGER

Do you want to go into the bedroom? I think I have one more lift in me.

ANITA

No. Hmmm-mmmm fine here. I want to be close to you. Rog, tell me a little bedtime story. Tell me about the time when we first met.

ROGER

You don't remember that?

ANITA

Of course, I remember...I just love the way you tell the story...The way you used to tell it...

ROGER

Anita, I really need to get to—

ANITA

Oh, c'mon, only a few minutes... Remind me how you fell in love with me. I'll get you started. You were in grad school and I was in my junior year and one spring evening we were walking across campus from the same parking lot to the Humanities lecture hall to hear...Who?

ROGER

You don't remember?

ANITA

Of course, I remember...I want you to pick the story up from there.

ROGER

I was walking behind you and you turned around and said...

EXT. A COLLEGE CAMPUS IN THE 1980s – NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

YOUNG ROGER in a sweatshirt that has "UCSD" printed on the front, blue jeans, and running shoes is walking on a path through a lawn towards a lecture hall.

Suddenly, YOUNG ANITA appears on the path ahead. She is wearing a tight, white sweater, blue jeans, and heels, with a book backpack slung over her shoulder. Her hair is long and beautiful. She stops and turns to face him.

YOUNG ANITA

Are you following me?

YOUNG ROGER

If you're going to the John Irving reading, then yes, I am.

YOUNG ANITA

Okay. Cool. Let's sit together.

YOUNG ROGER

Ah, yeah. Sure. Absolutely.

YOUNG ANITA

I'm Anita. I'm a Drama major...

Young Roger and Young Anita have immediately chemistry as they walk the path side-by-side and up the stairs into the lecture hall.

INT. ROGER'S CONDO – LIVING ROOM

Roger is sitting on the arm of the couch next to Anita. She is dissatisfied with his lack of enthusiasm.

ANITA

Hmmm, you used to tell that story with a bit more detail and a lot more passion.

ROGER

Sorry, Charlie.

ANITA

It's okay. I'm really tired. Come give me a kiss so I can sleep...

After the briefest hesitation, Roger goes to Anita and kisses her on the forehead. She moves her face and kisses him on the lips. He pulls back abruptly.

ROGER

Go to sleep.

ANITA

(sleepily)
You seem really different, Roger.

ROGER

I guess I am.

Anita's eyes are now closed and she's nearly asleep. He grabs a blanket off a nearby chair and drapes it over Anita. He is gentle and slow, taking care to cover all but her head.

ANITA

Thanks, hon'.

He stands straight, looks at her, and shakes his head.

INT. ROGER'S HOME OFFICE – DAY

A little while later, at his computer, Roger checks to see that Anita is still asleep on the couch. When he is sure, he opens up his Match.com profile. He clicks on his "inbox" on the app and we see Caroline's picture pop up. Roger looks at it for a second. He looks again to be sure Anita hasn't stirred. Then he begins typing a response to a Caroline message.

INSERT – VIEW OF EMAIL ON COMPUTER

Roger types, "Hi, Caroline! Sorry for the delay..."

EXT. IN FRONT OF COFFEE PLACE IN LIBERTY STATION – NIGHT

It's just after dusk. Through the place's big windows, we see a number of patrons inside enjoying a hot drink.

INT. A COFFEE PLACE IN LIBERTY STATION – NIGHT

CAROLINE, an all-business-woman type, is sitting with her coffee and impatiently checking her watch. Roger, dressed up a bit, rushes in and scans the room. When he finds her among many others sitting at tables, he rushes over.

ROGER

Caroline?

CAROLINE

Roger, I presume.

ROGER

Yes. Nice to meet you.

They awkwardly shake hands. Rogers sits down.

CAROLINE

Nice to meet you too...finally.

ROGER

Sorry, I'm late.

CAROLINE

At least you made it this time.

ROGER

Yes. Can I get you something?

Caroline raising her coffee cup as if to toast to him.

CAROLINE

No thanks, I'm good.

ROGER

I'm so sorry I had to cancel last week. It really was a family emergency.

CAROLINE

I'm sure it was...

There's an awkward moment.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

So is everything all right with your family now?

ROGER

Yeah. Ah. Sort of.

CAROLINE

Oh. Was it one of your kids?

ROGER

No. No. Someone else.

Long, awkward moment.

CAROLINE

So are you going to get something?

ROGER

I was but I don't want to leave
you...

CAROLINE

Oh, I don't be silly. Go get
yourself something, because I'm
not going to share mine with you.
I don't know you well enough yet.

ROGER

(forced laugh)

Not a problem, I actually don't
need any caffeine right now. I'm
plenty excited to see you. (pause)
So. I like your shirt, er, blouse.

CAROLINE

Thank you.

Long awkward pause.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

So everything is all right with
"someone" now?

ROGER

Yeah, well, ah, I know you're not
supposed to talk about your ex on
the first meeting, but she was the
"family emergency."

CAROLINE

Oh, really? What happened?

ROGER

She fell down a flight of stairs
and split her head open.

CAROLINE

Oh, my God. I'm sorry.

ROGER

Yeah, so, ah, I had to go see her in the hospital. She was asking for me...and my kids...well, you know, even though we're divorced, you have to be there for the mother of your kids, don't you?

CAROLINE

Absolutely. Understood. Is she all right now?

ROGER

Physically, yes, she's almost back to normal.

CAROLINE

But mentally?

ROGER

She has some memory loss. Four years.

CAROLINE

Oh, really? Exactly four years?

ROGER

Give or take. She still thinks Bush is president.

CAROLINE

Oh, God help us!

ROGER

Yeah! I know. But the biggest problem is she thinks we're still married.

CAROLINE

Really?!

ROGER

We've been divorced three years now.

CAROLINE

And you straighten her out.

ROGER

Well, the kids and I tried to tell her...But, she doesn't really believe us and she gets upset...

CAROLINE

Oh, poor thing.

ROGER.

We're just not talking about it now. The doctor is confident that soon she'll regain her memory when the swelling goes down. All her memories.

CAROLINE

How strange...

ROGER

I know. It's very odd. But enough about the ex...

CAROLINE

Wait. So isn't she wondering where you are now?

Roger squirms a bit as it's starting to feel like an interrogation.

ROGER

No. I just told her I was going to meet with a new friend.

CAROLINE

Did you tell her a female friend?

ROGER

No. But when she needs to know more, I'll tell her. Don't worry.

CAROLINE

Oh, I'm not worried. I'm just fascinated by the situation.

ROGER

Yeah, it's pretty crazy.

CAROLINE

It's kind of like you're cheating on your ex-wife. Ha.

Roger shrugs and forces another laugh.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

So Roger, can we be really painfully honest with each other right now?

ROGER

Yeah. I guess so.

CAROLINE

Okay. I'm not feeling any real chemistry or za-za or what-ever-you-want-to-call-it between us.

Roger leans back, thinks about protesting, and then resigned, shrugs.

ROGER

Oh-kay. Wow, I really struck out with you, didn't I?

CAROLINE

Don't look at it that way...We just didn't click. No big deal. We were not meant to be.

EXT. FRONT OF THE COFFEE PLACE AT LIBERTY STATION - NIGHT

Roger and Caroline stand facing each other under a light in the courtyard.

ROGER

Well, thanks for meeting me—

CAROLINE

Let's go for a walk.

ROGER

Okay, but I thought–

CAROLINE

What are you going to do if your
ex-wife doesn't regain her memory?
Are you going to go through the
whole break up process again?

They start to walk along that pathway lighted by street
lamps inside the Liberty Station complex.

ROGER

Good question. I don't know.

CAROLINE

Oh, are you thinking you might not
break up?

ROGER

I guess it could be a second
chance.

CAROLINE

Yes. A do-over. A mulligan. A
real-life mulligan.

Caroline stops and practices her golf swing and pantomimes
hitting and watching a great shot down the fairway. Roger
is wondering what the hell she's doing and has a bemused
look on his face.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

You don't play golf.

Rogers shakes his head.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

We're definitely not compatible.

ROGER

Yeah...so do you like dating?

CAROLINE

Nope. Hate it.

ROGER

Me too. We have that in common!

CAROLINE

Well, looks like you might not have to do it anymore, if you play it right.

ROGER

Yeah. Maybe I should...

CAROLINE

Why not? What's the worst that could happen?

ROGER

Well, I could get emotionally invested again. Be back in love with her and then one day she wakes up and remembers the last four years. And then she'd want to be divorced again and I'd have to go through the whole separation process again.

CAROLINE

Ah, I see. Yes. That would be bad.

ROGER

Or as my daughter says, "That would totally suck, dude."

Caroline stops walking in front of a rose garden as does Roger and they are face to face.

CAROLINE

But if I did work out...If you did make your second shot work, it could be very nice.

ROGER

Yes. It could indeed.

The start to walk again and are silent for a few moments.

CAROLINE

So besides the possibility of some big emotional pain, what's holding you back?

ROGER

I don't think I can forgive her.

CAROLINE

Well, if you can't forgive, you might as well forget about ever having a healthy relationship again—with anyone.

ROGER

True.

Caroline stops walking in front of plaque and a battery of big guns from an old battleship on display. Roger also stops and they are face-to-face again.

CAROLINE

Roger, the big question is: Can you forgive yourself?

ROGER

Forgive myself for what?

CAROLINE

Whatever you did to screw up your marriage.

ROGER

I didn't do anything. Honestly. It was all her.

CAROLINE

Really? All her? Well, okay, good luck with that. I gotta go. Bye.

Caroline starts to walk away, leaving Roger stunned and confused.

ROGER

(weakly)

Bye.

Caroline stops, does an about-face, and comes back to him.

CAROLINE

Can I give you some advice?

ROGER

Can I refuse?

CAROLINE

No. Your problem is you want to win, even if you lose everything.

ROGER

I don't think you know me well enough to say that.

CAROLINE

Believe me, I know you. I was married to someone just like you.

Rogers frowns as Caroline marches off, muttering.

CAROLINE

Jackass. I'm a damn magnet for jackasses.

INT. ROGER'S CONDO LIVING ROOM – NIGHT

The room is dark except for one lamp on an end table. Anita is curled up in the couch with a blanket around her. She's fast asleep. There's a folded newspaper and a pen sitting on the coffee table in front of her.

We hear the front door is unlocked and Roger comes in quietly. He sees Anita undisturbed by his entrance and he's heart melts a bit. He quietly puts his keys on the counter and takes off his coat, tossing it into a chair.

He approaches Anita and prepares to switch off the lamp. Then he sees the newspaper on the coffee table and a half completed "Jumble."

INSERT – ON THE NEWSPAPER

We see the word puzzle of mixed up letters: "RAGAMIRE" printed and Anita's handwritten "MARRIAGE." "LODOPE" is written and Anita's handwritten "POODLE." "ZUDZARB" is printed and Anita's handwritten "BUZZARD." "PUDSIT" is printed but Anita has left the answer blank.

BACK TO SCENE

Roger quietly picks up the newspaper and pen. He studies it for a second. Then looks at Anita's peaceful pretty face and smiles.

**INT. YOUNG ROGER'S AND YOUNG ANITA'S OLD APARTMENT – DAY
(FLASHBACK)**

Young Anita and Young Roger are sitting closely together on a ratty, pink polka-dotted love seat. Young Roger is holding the newspaper and pen.

YOUNG ANITA

That's two for me and one for you.

YOUNG ROGER

I know the score.

YOUNG ANITA

I just want to be sure, so you
don't conveniently forget...

YOUNG ROGER

I don't–

Young Anita grabs the newspaper and pen and quickly writes the answer to a "Jumble" clue. Then toss the paper and pen back to Young Roger.

YOUNG ANITA

Ha! Got it! I win. Pig!

YOUNG ROGER

Wait...

Young Roger is checking Young Anita's work as she begins to dance around the room shouting.

YOUNG ANITA

You're the Jumble pig! You're the
Jumble pig! You're the Jumble pig!

YOUNG ROGER

You got lucky.

YOUNG ANITA

No. I'm smart and good at the
Jumble. And you're a Jumble pig!

Young Roger gets up angry and marches out of the room.
Young Anita is surprised and then confused by his reaction.

YOUNG ANITA

Ah, Rog...Don't be a bad sport.

INT. ROGER'S CONDO LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Roger is working on the Jumble while Anita continues to
sleep.

INSERT – ON THE NEWSPAPER

Roger writes in "STUPID" next to "PUDSIT."

BACK TO SCENE

Roger raises his arms in victory. He tosses the paper
and pen down on the coffee table. Then he sits down on
the couch and whispers to Anita.

ROGER

Hey, wake up, Jumble pig.

Anita wakes with a smile.

ANITA

(sleepily)

Hi, Stupid.

Rogers laughs.

ROGER

Oh, wow. You left that one for me,
didn't you?

Anita nods, yawns, and stretches.

ROGER (CONT'D)

You still love playing with me.

ANITA

It was too easy for me. How's your
new friend?

ROGER

Fine.

ANITA

Gonna get together with him again?

ROGER

Nope.

ANITA

Why not?

ROGER

Not compatible. (beat) Anita, I'm
sorry.

ANITA

About what?

ROGER

About everything.

ANITA

Ok. What's everything?

ROGER

For being a jackass.

ANITA

Hmmm. Ok. Apology accepted.

She kisses his forehead.

ANITA (CONT'D)

Hey, when are we going to make love again?

ROGER

I don't know. I'm not into taking advantage of chicks with head injuries.

He kisses her bandaged forehead, then gets up and walks away.

ANITA

My, how you've changed.

ROGER

(laughing)
Good night.

EXT. ON THE BEACH AT THE SEA WALL – DAY

A few days later, Anita is walking along the top of the small sea wall as Roger walks beside her in the sand prepared to catch her if she loses her balance and falls.

Anita is barefoot holding her sandals in one hand. Roger has his shoes off too, holding them in one hand. Anita jumps off the wall into the sand next to Roger.

ANITA

I feel like my old self again.

ROGER

Oh. So you can remember some stuff now?

ANITA

Like what? What am I supposed to remember that I don't know?

ROGER

Like who's president now.

ANITA

Not Bush?

ROGER

Yes. Obama.

ANITA

Oh, who?!

Roger laughs.

EXT. AT THE BEACH – ON THE SHORELINE – DAY

Roger and Anita are running in and out with the waves. Then Anita grabs hold of Roger's hand and they walk on through the ankle-deep sea water.

After a moment or two, Roger release Anita's hand and runs out of the water and to the dry sand. She starts to follow him. He stops to kick an abandoned sandcastle, destroying it. She kicks it too. They both laugh.

INT. ROGER'S CONDO LIVING ROOM – DAY

In the afternoon, Roger and Kevin are watching a baseball game on TV. Kevin mutes the audio and turns to his father.

ROGER

How is your new job going?

KEVIN

Not bad. It's a little difficult sometimes but it's fun sometimes, too.

INT. ROGER'S GUEST BATHROOM – DAY

Anita is at the vanity, running some water and washing her face. Looking for a wash cloth she opens a drawer and discovers a box of condoms. She picks up the box, thinks for a moment, then looks into the mirror and recalls.

INT. A BEDROOM IN THEIR OLD HOUSE – DAY (FLASHBACK)

Young Anita is in old clothes dusting and cleaning the room. She picks up a small wastebasket and prepares to dump its contents into a plastic garbage bag.

When Young Anita spies something inside it, she stops and picks out a bunch of torn paper scrapes. On the bed, she reassembles the paper pieces together.

Young Anita is sickened when she reads the note.

INSERT – PIECED-TOGETHER NOTE

“I’d give up everything just to make love to her just once.”

BACK TO SCENE

She runs into the bathroom and throws up into the toilet.

INT. YOUNG ROGER’S OFFICE – DAY (FLASHBACK)

Young Roger is sitting at his desk having a very friendly and animated conversation with a standing CARRIE CARTRIDGE. She is a pretty young woman who is smartly dressed in business attire. She looks the “opposite” of Anita.

Young Anita appears behind Young Roger. She is obviously distressed. Carrie looks behind Young Roger and smiles at Young Anita, who does not smile back.

CARRIE

Hi, there.

YOUNG ANITA

Hi.

Young Roger turns around and surprised to see Young Anita.

YOUNG ROGER

Anita! What are you—?

YOUNG ANITA

We need to talk.

CARRIE

Ok, I'll see later, Roger. Bye.

YOUNG ANITA

(without warmth)

Bye.

Young Anita and Young Roger just stare at each other for a moment or two. Then Young Anita turns and leaves in a rush. Young Roger jumps up and follows her out of the office.

INT. ROGER'S CONDO LIVING ROOM - DAY

Roger and Kevin are still chatting about the new job with the TV still on mute.

ROGER

So you think you'll stick with it for awhile.

KEVIN

Yeah, I think so.

Roger nods and smiles, pleasantly surprised.

ROGER

Kev, I'm really proud of you.

KEVIN

Why?

ROGER

You've overcome a lot and you're not giving up..

Anita walks in with the box of condoms.

ANITA

Hey, Roger, I just found these.

The men turn to look at Anita, then turn quickly back to the TV.

KEVIN
(sotto voce)
Ut oh. Busted.

Anita grabs the remote and turns the TV off.

ANITA
(to Roger)
Why do you have condoms?

KEVIN
I should go.

ANITA
Yes, I think so.

Kevin leaves quickly.

ANITA (CONT'D)
Have a good day, Kev.

KEVIN (O.S.)
Thanks, Mom! Bye.

ANITA
So?

ROGER
So what?

ANITA
Why do you need these?

ROGER
(sighing)
I guess I don't.

ANITA
Then why do you have them?

ROGER
Wishful thinking.

ANITA
What does that mean?

ROGER

It means I have them just in case a naked porn star shows up at my door one night with a pepperoni pizza.

ANITA

What?! I don't understand.

ROGER

Anita...There's nothing to understand. It's just an unopened box of condoms.

Roger takes the box of condoms from her and walks into the master bathroom. Anita follows him into the bathroom.

INT. ROGER'S MASTER BATHROOM - DAY

Roger opens a cupboard under the sink, tosses the box of condoms under the sink, and shuts the cupboard door.

ANITA

But we haven't needed these since your vasectomy.

ROGER

How are you feeling today?

ANITA

I WAS feeling good. I WAS feeling so much better until I found those. Why are you trying to change the subject? Why are you afraid to have unprotected sex with me? Are you having sex with someone else?

Roger is looking at Anita via the mirror.

ROGER

No. Not currently. Okay, I guess it's time we had a serious talk about the past four years.

Anita is looking at Roger via mirror.

ANITA

Yes, I really want to know your views of what happened.

INT. ROGER'S MASTER BEDROOM - DAY

Roger comes into the master bedroom followed by Anita. He sits on the end of his queen-size bed. She stands.

ROGER

Sit please.

Anita sits on the bed cattycorner to him.

ROGER (CONT'D)

Anita, we are divorced. We really are no longer husband and wife. I can show you the final divorce papers from three years ago.

ANITA

Okay, I believe you, Roger. But what happened? How did our marriage, our family, our whole lives fall apart?

ROGER

You know better than I do why you'd rather be single than married to me.

ANITA

I never wanted to be single. Again.

Roger stands up and goes to the window to shut the blinds.

ROGER

Well, if that's true, then you didn't work very hard to stay married. That's all I can say.

Rogers pulls string connected to the blinds and they snap shut, throwing shade across her face.

ANITA

You're saying it was all my fault
we're divorced.

Anita stands up and confronts him.

ROGER

(angrily)

Yes, though you would never admit
it. The Queen of Passive-Aggressive
would never say she wanted a
divorce. She'd just make her
husband's life a living hell until
he had to leave. Until he had to be
the "bad" guy.

ANITA

Roger, you're so angry with me...

ROGER

Of course, I am.

ANITA

But what did I do? I don't know...I
can't remember what I did...Tell me
what I did so I can apologize and we
can...

ROGER

And we can what?

ANITA

Be a couple again. Be happy. Again.

ROGER

Ugh. Anita...

ANITA

Why not? Can't you forgive me for
whatever I did?

ROGER

Honestly, I don't know, if I can.

ANITA

Oh my God. What did I do?!

ROGER

I don't want to rehash this, Anita.

ANITA

(teary)

I'm so sorry. Whatever I did, Roger,
I'm so sorry.

ROGER

This is ridiculous, Anita. You can't
apologize for something you can't
remember. It's just an empty
gesture.

Roger storms out of the room. Anita follows him out.

INT. ROGER'S KITCHEN - DAY

Roger is rifling through multiple cupboards. Anita stands
in the doorway.

ANITA

Roger, what are you looking for?

ROGER

Peanut butter! I don't know!
(quietly) You don't understand how
hard this is going to be for me.
It's going to be like reliving a
nightmare.

ANITA

I can't believe I did something so
terrible...

ROGER

Anita, you...You didn't do just one
thing. It was a series. The whole
marriage unraveling was a series of
steps...missteps. A series of bad and
ugly events. A series of bad
decisions were made...

ANITA

What bad decisions?

ROGER

Well, the baddest, I mean, the worst decision that you made was to stop trying. You gave up. You quit.

ANITA

That's it?! That's all?

ROGER

Yes. That's everything. In a nut shell.

ANITA

And you didn't quit?

ROGER

No. I didn't. I never gave up. I wanted to stay together. Work things out. I never stopped fighting for us, and our family.

ANITA

Well, you must have stopped. You must have quit too, because we're apparently divorced now.

Furious, Roger rushes toward her. Anita turns away to shield herself. He grabs her shoulders and turns her back to face him.

ROGER

I was exhausted and defeated and broken. I couldn't take it anymore.

ANITA

Roger, you're scaring me..

He releases his hold on her.

ROGER

It was the worst time of my life and now, fuck-all if you're not going to make me go through it all over again!!!

He kicks the trashcan and it and its contents go flying into the living room. There's a long pause.

ANITA

You hate me. That's what different about you now. Deep down. I see it now. You've been trying to hide it. I can see it. It's not just anger. It's hatred.

ROGER

I don't hate you...now. I did, but now...

ANITA

But now what?

ROGER

I'm over it.

ANITA

You're not. If you were, you wouldn't be kicking trashcans.

Anita goes into the living room.

INT. ROGER'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Anita is picking up the trash that was inside the can. Roger joins her in the task.

ROGER

I'm just so frustrated with this situation...Stop, goddamn it. Let me clean up after myself.

After retrieving the trashcan, he shoos her away.

ROGER (CONT'D)

Go. Please.

Long pause between them as he finishes picking up trash, and she tries to make sense of it all. Anita takes a deep breath and dives in again, calmly from a different angle.

ANITA

Roger, why do you think I didn't want to stay married to you?

ROGER

Hell if I know! (acidly) I'm sure you thought that life without me would be so much better.

ANITA

Please, Roger, I must have had good reasons for not wanting to be married any longer. There had to be more to it than that.

ROBERT

Anita, I was a good husband and father. But you wanted a yes man, too. Someone who would always agree with you.

ANITA

Well, what did we disagree about?

ROGER

(laughs)

Seriously? We could be here all night...the kids, you going back to school, work, our socializing...

ANITA

That's doesn't seem like enough-

ROGER

And sex. You didn't want to sleep in the same bed or even the same room. You only wanted to have sex once a month, if that.

ANITA

We lost intimacy.

ROGER

Yup. But that's just part of it. You did so many things to-

ANITA

What about you?! You weren't totally innocent. I do remember you're the one who had an affair.

ROGER

I did not have an affair.

Roger picks up the trashcan and goes into the garage. Anita follows him.

INT. ROGER'S GARAGE - DAY

Roger bursts through the doorway and maneuvers around his car that's parked in the garage. Anita follows him. After he dumps the trash into a bigger bin in the corner, he turns to face her. He's stuck between her, the closed garage door, the car, and the bigger garbage bins.

ANITA

Carrie Cartridge.

ROGER

Oh, God, Anita. We settled that years ago. Carrie and I did not have an affair. She was a nice woman, but nothing ever happened.

ANITA

But you wanted to screw her.

ROGER

Of course, I did. I want to sleep with half the women I see out in public every day. My God, you're over 50-years-old, don't you understand men yet? That's how we are. We want to have sex with every single person we find attractive. That doesn't mean we do. It's just a Pavlovian response to stimuli. See nice ass, see dick go up. For God's sake, I can't believe I have to tell you this.

ANITA

It was different with Carrie.

ROGER

She was a friend. There was a lot of things about her that...

ANITA

That what? That I didn't have?

ROGER

Yes.

ANITA

Like what? Big boobs?

ROGER

No.

ANITA

Then what?

ROGER

Anita, this is a ridiculous conversation. I haven't seen or even thought about Carrie Cartridge in decades.

ANITA

But Roger, if we ended up divorced, I think it started with her.

ROGER

That's nonsense. You were jealous of her, but you got over it years ago.

ANITA

Maybe I didn't.

ROGER

I never touched her. Excuse me.

Roger slides past Anita and heads back to the doorway into his place. She follows him again.

INT. ROGER'S KITCHEN - DAY

Roger puts the trash pail down and gets out a plastic bag to line its insides.

ANITA

You didn't have to touch her. You had an emotional affair with her.

ROGER

I don't know what that means.

ANITA

It means that for a long time she was always on your mind. She was someone you dreamed about.

Roger stops and turns to face Anita.

ROGER

She was a good friend. A work friend. I'm not going to apologize for that. It was a business relationship. I did nothing wrong. Remember, you were very insecure then. I don't know why you refuse to believe me when I tell you nothing happened.

ANITA

You forget, I read what you wrote.

ROGER

What are you talking about?

INT. ROGER'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Roger and Anita are both seated on the couch and after a long quiet moment or two, she speaks.

ANITA

We were only married two years. I was pregnant with Kevin and I find that note. Imagine my heartbreak.

ROGER

I'm sorry you saw that note.

EXT. ROGER'S BALCONY – DAY

It's dusk and Roger is leaning on the balcony rail looking out at the distant sea. Anita walks out on the balcony and stands next to Roger. For a moment, they admire the sunset together.

ROGER

I remember coming home one day and you asked me if I was having an affair. I told you no. And that was that. It was just you being pregnant and crazy with hormones.

ANITA

You laughed at me. I was pretty sensitive and insecure then. But I wasn't crazy, Roger. You were in love with her. It broke my heart.

ROGER

I was young. I was just feeling overwhelmed at being married and becoming a father. I was just fantasizing about still being single and...It was nothing. Really. I wrote that note just to get it out of my system.

ANITA

You had other emotional affairs.

ROGER

I'm not even going to argue that. Having crushes on people is just normal. The thing you're not recalling is that in our last few years I tried to do nice things for you and with you. And you never acknowledged my efforts. Prime example: five years ago, I gave you that trip to Catalina...

ANITA
I thanked you for that...I
think...Didn't I?

Roger looks at her skeptically, studying her face.

ROGER
Seriously?

EXT. AVALON HOTEL BALCONY – DAY (FLASHBACK)

Roger and Anita are standing on a balcony admiring a nice view of Avalon Harbor on Santa Catalina Island. The way they are standing mirrors how they are standing on Roger's balcony. It's five years earlier.

ROGER(V.O.)
It was supposed to be a romantic
getaway, but you refused to have sex
with me, before, during, or after.

Roger puts his arms around Anita. He kisses her lightly on the neck. She doesn't respond. He kisses her on the lips. She breaks free of his embrace and goes inside. Roger looks confused and then hurt.

ROGER(V.O.)
You were playing some kind of game.
You won, but that's when you lost
me. When I look back, I see that as
the final straw. Then I realized
there was nothing I could do to make
you happy.

EXT. ROGER'S BALCONY – DAY

Roger and Anita are now facing each other.

ANITA
I don't remember it that way...

ROGER
How do you remember it?

ANITA

I was nice to you.

ROGER

Yeah, but you gave me mixed signals the whole time. And no sex.

ANITA

I wasn't in the mood.

ROGER

Whatever. I was a good husband.

ANITA

Roger, the last four years, did I ever say you were a bad husband?

ROGER

No. You didn't say it in so many words. But your actions told me.

ANITA

Well, I must have become a horrible person then...

ROGER

No. But you stopped being my wife—my lover—my friend. You just didn't want to be with me.

ANITA

Really?

ROGER

Yes, really.

Roger walks through the sliding glass doorway back into his condo. Anita follows.

INT. ROGER'S KITCHEN – DAY

A few moments later, Roger is pouring ice water into two glasses as he speaks. Anita stands deep in thought, listening and processing his words.

ROGER

You know, some of these issues started ten years ago, but you're acting like you have no idea what I'm talking about.

ANITA

(over-reacts)

I'm not acting!

ROGER

Okay. But for some reason you're pretending like things didn't happen.

Roger hands Anita a glass of ice water.

ANITA

Thanks. None of this seems real. None of this seems like such a big deal that we couldn't overcome it if we just talked and..

ROGER

I love how reasonable you seem to be now...You don't know how hard I tried to get you to believe that we could overcome anything.

ANITA

Then why couldn't we?

ROGER

I don't know. You have to ask yourself when you remember what happened. But I will say this...This always worried me about you, you like to over-react. Making mountains out of mole hills.

ANITA

That's not true.

ROGER

Oh, yes, it is.

ANITA

Give me one example.

ROGER

One that you can remember? How about all the over-reactions when we were first married?

ANITA

You're going to have to be more specific. I don't remember anything from twenty-five years ago that I over-reacted on. Maybe my amnesia's getting worse—

ROGER

Do you remember Santa Barbara?

ANITA

Our honeymoon?

EXT. A PARK IN SANTA BARBARA – DAY (FLASHBACK)

Young Roger and Young Anita are seated on a park bench near Mission Santa Barbara enjoying the Summer day in casual clothes.

An OLD HISPANIC MAN pushing an ice cream cart and ringing a bell stops in front of them. The old man points to a picture of popsicles on his cart. Young Roger turns to Young Anita who smiles and nods. Young Roger turns back to the old man and signals for two. He stands and produces a few bills from his wallet. Then he trades the bills for two popsicles from the old man.

ROGER(V.O.)

We were having the best time in Santa Barbara...

The old man pockets the cash and moves off with his cart, ringing his bell. Young Roger gives Young Anita a popsicle. They both have a difficult time removing the paper wrap around the popsicle.

YOUNG ANITA

Wow. These are really cold!

YOUNG ROGER

I know!

Young Anita gives the paper from her popsicle to Young Roger who balls it together with the paper from his. He gets up to throw the paper ball into the nearest trash can. Young Anita starts to lick her popsicle. Immediately she realizes she's made a terrible mistake. The popsicle has fused with her tongue.

As Young Roger returns to the bench, Young Anita is trying to yank the popsicle out of her mouth. With horror, she looks up at Young Roger.

YOUNG ANITA

It tuck! It tuck!

Young Roger busts a gut laughing.

YOUNG ANITA

(angry, tearing up)
Nah 'unny! 'urts!

YOUNG ROGER

(still giggling)
Sorry, it's hilarious!

Young Anita finally pulls the popsicle from her tongue and then throws it at Young Rogers.

YOUNG ANITA

You jerk!

YOUNG ROGER

Mmmm, 'orry.

Young Roger bursts out laughing again.

INT. – ROGER'S LIVING ROOM – DAY

Moments later, Roger and Anita are seated across from each other with their feet up on coffee table between them.

ANITA

We all have different pain thresholds.

ROGER

Obviously. But that ruined our honeymoon. The horrible thing I did to you...Laughing at you while you were in popsicle pain.

ANITA

Well, you were very insensitive, Roger. You must admit that—

ROGER

Oh, Christ! We are not going debate that again. God, you never get over things. You hang on to hurts and slights forever. You never forget.

ANITA

You never apologized.

ROGER

I didn't apologize because I thought it was ridiculous that you should be mad at me! If I did something that silly or stupid, I'd expect you to laugh. I'd want you to laugh at me.

ANITA

I'm not you.

ROGER

And I'm not you. I don't apologize for doing nothing wrong.

ANITA

I would have apologized even if I wasn't really sorry.

ROGER

That's insincere.

ANITA

So you haven't changed at all.

ROGER

Why do you expect me to change?

Anita stands up, frustrated with him.

ANITA

We should go to a counselor. I mean, we should have gone to a counselor.

Anita takes her water glass into the kitchen.

ROGER

(calling out to her)

We did. It was a waste of time and money. First session the guy says, "You should have come to see me a year ago." Like we had a frickin' time machine we could jump into. What an asshole.

Anita returns from the kitchen.

ANITA

Maybe we should see a different counselor now and talk about things that I don't remember. To help me deal with the "four missing years."

ROGER

Probably not a bad idea—for you.

ANITA

So you won't come with me?

ROGER

Why would I need to go? I've got too many memories. I'm trying to forget the last four years.

Roger laughs to himself as he gets the irony.

EXT. SAN DIEGO'S EMBARCADERO – NIGHT

Roger and Anita are walking along promenade next to where the old sailing ship the Star of India is tied up.

ANITA

If we went to a counselor together, we could talk about fixing our relationship.

ROGER

Our relationship?! We don't have one. It's wrecked, Anita. Beyond salvaging. That's what I'm trying to tell you. We're done. We're going different directions now.

ANITA

But maybe if we go to a counselor together we could have a second chance. It's like having that time machine. You know, maybe we could talk about the issues and take a different course. You know, make different choices. Wouldn't you want to make some different decisions?

A beat.

ROGER

Yes. But...

ANITA

It could be a fresh start. A new adventure. A new journey for us.

ROGER

I don't know. I think I want to but...

ANITA

But what? What do you want, Roger?

ROGER

I want to start over...But I don't think I can.

ANITA

Why not try?

ROGER

Because I don't want to risk going through all that hell again. No, Anita, I can't do it.

ANITA

You won't.

ROGER

All right, I won't. I will not.

ANITA

Even though we'll always be tied together through our kids? Even though it would be good for them if we were together again?

ROGER

They're adults. They'll survive...

EXT. THE EMBARCADERO NEAR THE USS MIDWAY – NIGHT

Roger and Anita walk in Tuna Harbor Park with the great aircraft carrier in the background.

ROGER

Anita, please try to look at it from my position. What's going to happen when your memories come flying back into your head? You're going to hate me again.

ANITA

I won't. Because I could never hate you. I've always loved you. I love you now.

ROGER

But I can't believe that. And I don't want to take the chance that one day you're going to wake up and remember that you don't.

ANITA

So you don't want to take a chance
on us?

ROGER

Anita...

ANITA

Don't you love me?

ROGER

I did.

They stop walking next to the huge "Unconditional
Surrender" statue, which is based on the iconic V-J Day
photo in Times Square of a uniformed sailor kissing a
uniformed nurse.

ANITA

Do you think you could love me
again?

ROGER

No...well, I don't know, maybe...

ANITA

I'm going to take that as a yes.

Roger laughs.

ROGER

I love you because you're the
mother of my children, because we
have a history, but it's not the
same kind of love of lovers—of
husbands and wives.

ANITA

I think we could learn to
romantically love each other
again.

ROGER

Anita, so much has happened...

ANITA

You're afraid. I'm afraid too. But I am more afraid we're going to miss this second chance...Roger, honey, let's stop fighting and remember our wedding vows.

Roger starts to walk away. Anita grabs his arm and pulls him back.

ANITA (CONT'D)

Stay with me, Roger...I remember them. Do you?

INT. A CHURCH – DAY (FLASHBACK)

Young Roger in black tux and Young Anita in white wedding gown stand facing each other in the front of the church as guests look on.

YOUNG ANITA

On the day that we meet I knew we were meant to be together.

YOUNG ROGER

I will always be with you: sometimes leading, sometimes at your side, and sometimes following.

EXT. THE EMBARCADERO NEAR THE STATUE – NIGHT

Roger and Anita are standing facing each other, mirroring their wedding ceremony.

ANITA

Will you follow me on this one?

A beat.

ROGER

I don't know if I can.

ANITA

But can you try?

Roger exhales deeply, closes his eyes for a second, then looks at Anita and nods.

ROGER
I surrender.

Anita smiles. Roger bends back and replicates the position of the nurse in the statue. Anita replicates the position of the sailor, taking him in her arms, ready to kiss him on the lips.

ANITA
Unconditionally?!

ROGER
Hell, n—

Before, Roger can get “no” out, Anita kisses him.

MONTAGE – VARIOUS SAN DIEGO LOCATIONS

INT. ROGER’S KITCHEN

Roger and Anita are happily preparing a meal together. She’s mixing something in a bowl and he is chopping up vegetables.

EXT. BALBOA PARK – DAY

Anita and Roger are walking through a garden that’s in full bloom, beneath the California tower. Anita stops to admire a rose bush. She inhales deeply. Roger looks at her and smiles. She smiles back.

EXT. BALI HAI RESTAURANT BALCONY ON SHELTER ISLAND – NIGHT

Anita and Roger sit at a table on the balcony that overlooks San Diego Bay with the downtown skyline on the horizon. They are enjoying a meal. Anita offers Roger a bite of her entrée. She leans across the table and feeds him with her fork. He consumes it and nods approvingly.

EXT. ON THE FERRY TO CORONADO ISLAND – DAY

Roger is seated on a bench at the front of the boat while Anita stands, enjoying the view and the wind in her face. Then she drops her hands to side, looks straight ahead, leans forward, and pretends to be a nautical figurehead. Rogers jumps up and hugs her from behind to prevent falling forward. Anita laughs and turns around to face him. She kisses him and hugs him back.

INT. IN THE AUDIENCE AT THE OLD GLOBE THEATRE

Roger and Anita are dressed up and seated in the balcony. It's the curtain call. As actors take their bows, everyone is applauding—some more enthusiastic than others. As the curtain comes down and people get up and start to leave, Anita turns to Roger signals a thumbs up and then a thumbs down. Roger makes a face and signals with a waving-palm down "so-so." Anita laughs and kisses him. They get up with Roger leading the way out. Roger reaches back and takes Anita's hand. They walk out holding hands.

END OF MONTAGE

EXT. ANITA'S HOME – DAY

Kevin, Roger, and Amanda are carrying boxes of books and files from Roger's car into Anita's house.

INT. ANITA'S LIVING ROOM

Kevin stands holding a box as Roger unpacks a box on the sofa.

KEVIN

You want these downstairs?

ROGER

Yes, please. Hey, Anita?

ANITA(O.S.)

Coming.

Kevin takes the box downstairs as Anita comes in from the kitchen.

ANITA

Is that the last of it?

ROGER

No. That easy chair you've always hated is still in the van and there's seven more boxes in the condo. Then we'll be done.

ANITA

Can you have lunch before you go back?

ROGER

Of course. Come here. Look at this this...

Roger holds up a framed photo of themselves when they were quite young, before they had children.

INSERT – PHOTO OF YOUNG ROGER AND YOUNG ANITA

ANITA

Aaaaaah. We were so young...

Anita and Roger embrace and kiss. Amanda and Kevin emerge from downstairs. They stop and for a moment admire their parents. They exchange a look and then sneak up on their parents.

KEVIN

Ahem.

AMANDA

Hey! What's going on here?

Roger and Anita jump apart.

ANITA

Nothing.

Roger picks up a box and heads to the stairs. Amanda and then Kevin playfully block Roger's way into the room.

ROGER

C'mon, guys, this is getting heavy.

KEVIN

Quick grab his wallet.

AMANDA

Here let me lighten your load, old man.

Amanda lifts the wallet out of Roger's back pocket. Kevin moves out of Roger's way. Roger disappears downstairs. Amanda tosses the wallet to Kevin. Kevin brandishes the wallet.

KEVIN

Who wants to go shopping?

AMANDA

I do! I do!

ANITA

Give me that wallet.

Anita goes to grab the wallet from Kevin. He deftly tosses it to Amanda. A game of keep-away ensues, as Roger returns from downstairs.

ROGER

Hey, that's my wallet!

AMANDA

Duh!

Amanda taunts her father, shaking his wallet in front of his face. Roger goes for it, but before he can grab it, Amanda throws the wallet towards Kevin.

Anita springs like a cat and intercepts the wallet before Kevin can get his paws on it.

KEVIN

Whoa!

AMANDA

Nice move, Mom.

ANITA

Here you are, my darling.

Anita hands the wallet back to Roger.

ROGER

Thank you, my dear.

ANITA

You're welcome.

They kiss for an extended period of time.

AMANDA

Gaah, what's with all the kissy-kissy stuff?!

KEVIN

That's what they do now. It's been going on for weeks.

AMANDA

You might have to get the hose.

The smoke alarm goes off in the kitchen.

AMANDA

(yelling)

Oh, my God, you guys set off the fire alarm!

INT. ANITA'S KITCHEN - DAY

The whole family is waving dish towels to clear some smoke away from the smoke detector on the ceiling that's beeping. Roger opens a sliding door to the outside.

ANITA

Stupid toaster oven.

Alarm beeping stops.

AMANDA

Finally!

Roger unplugs the toaster oven and tosses into the trashcan.

ROGER

We can use mine now.

KEVIN

Wow, Dad, you're a man of action.

ANITA

He sure is.

KEVIN & AMANDA

(lasciviously)

Ooooooooooh.

ANITA

Ok, everybody out! Lunch will be ready in a few minutes.

Roger puts his arms around the shoulders of Kevin and Amanda, and then headlocks as he leads them out into the living room together.

INT. ANITA'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Roger, Amanda, and Kevin are sprawled across the living room furniture.

AMANDA

So, Dad, what's the deal with all the PDA?

ROGER

What's the deal with all the what?

AMANDA

Public. Displays. Of Affection. I've only been home a few hours and there's all this hugging and kissing...

KEVIN

And more.

AMANDA

More than hugging and kissing?!

ROGER

No!

KEVIN

Yes!

ROGER

When?

KEVIN

Last night, when you were
"helping" Mom out of the car.

ROGER

You saw that?

KEVIN

Everyone in the whole parking lot
saw it.

Roger cringes, a bit embarrassed.

ROGER

Oh. I guess I'm not as smooth as I
used to be.

KEVIN

You're probably out of practice.

AMANDA

So what happened?

ROGER

I was helping your mother out of
the car and my hand accidentally—

KEVIN

He grabbed her ass.

AMANDA

No!

KEVIN

Yes!

AMANDA

Oh, my God, Dad! That's so uncool.

ROGER

It was an accident.

KEVIN

Yeah, right.

ANITA(O.S.)

You know, I can hear everything you're saying out there. Please change the subject.

ROGER

You're absolutely right, Anita. Okay, let's get off your mom's ass.

KEVIN

Practice what you preach, Dude.

AMANDA

Haha! That's so rude.

KEVIN

(insincerely)

Oh, sorry.

AMANDA

Dad, I really do want to know why you and mom are all lovely-dovey again. So what happened?

ROGER

Nothing. We just talked. A lot. And we started doing things. Together.

AMANDA

So she still doesn't know you're divorced?

ROGER

Yes. She does. I told her some of the things that happened. I'm not sure that she really believes that they happened. But she knows.

AMANDA

So are you going to get married again?

ROGER

Well, I don't think we need to rush to do that. We're going to just go on and see how it works out.

AMANDA

You're wearing your wedding ring again!

ROGER

I got tired of your mother asking about it. So I dug it out of my dresser and put it on. She's convinced that one of the nurses at the hospital stole her engagement ring and wedding band.

KEVIN

Yeah. She wanted to file a report with them and start a whole investigation—

ANITA(O.S.)

Lunch is on the table.

Kevin and Amanda jump up and dash into the dining room.

INT. ANITA'S DINING ROOM - DAY

Kevin sits in his spot and Amanda sits in hers. They start digging into the food spread that's been laid out nicely on the table.

AMANDA

Home cooking! Dude, I'm so sick of dorm food..

INT. ANITA'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Anita comes from the kitchen to intercept Roger before he goes into the dining room.

ANITA

(Sotto voce)

Who wants to start an investigation?

ROGER

Apparently, you do.

ANITA

I do? Why would I want to start an investigation?

ROGER

With the hospital for your missing rings.

ANITA

Oh, no, not now. I remembered where I put them. Look...

She raises her left hand and models them.

ROGER

Lovely.

Roger kisses her hand and inspects the rings. Then a thought occurs to him.

ROGER

Anita?

ANITA

Yes?

ROGER

You remembered where you put them?

ANITA

Yes, I put them in my special
drawer...

ROGER

What "special drawer"?

ANITA

C'mon, let's have lunch. There's a
BLT with your name on it..

Anita starts for the dining room.

ROGER

Anita?

ANITA

Yes.

ROGER

You remember where you put them?

ANITA

Yes. I put them in a small box and
hid them at the back of my drawer.

ROGER

But you remembered?

ANITA

Yes.

ROGER

So does that mean you have some
memories from the last four years
back?

ANITA

I don't know...

ROGER

But you took your rings off when
we got divorced, right?

A beat. She's caught.

ANITA

Yes, I guess I did..

ROGER

So that means you have some
memories of the last four years.

Anita shrugs.

ANITA

Well, I guess I do.

ROGER

How much do you remember now?

ANITA

I don't know. Some. I guess.

ROGER

Well, you remember where you hid
your rings. What else do you
remember?

ANITA

How much we love each other..

ROGER

When did you start to remember
again?

ANITA

Recently.

Anita moving away from him towards the dining room.

ROGER

Anita?

ANITA

Why are you interrogating me?

ROGER

Because I would like to know. I'm feeling a little strange because... When did you amnesia go away?

ANITA

I don't remember. I have amnesia about my amnesia. Haha.

ROGER

Anita, this isn't funny to me.

ANITA

Roger...

ROGER

When?!

ANITA

In the hospital.

ROGER

In the hospital?!

ANITA

Yes.

ROGER

So this whole time since you've been out of the hospital, you've been faking it.

ANITA

No, no. I had some memories come back, but not everything..

ROGER

How much do you remember about the last four years?

ANITA

A lot, now, I guess.

ROGER

Oh my God! You've been leading me on—I can't believe it. Wow.

Roger applauds sarcastically.

ROGER (CONT'D)

The actress in her finest role.
You've taken passive-aggressive to
a whole new level, Anita.

ANITA

What are you talking about?

ROGER

When were you going to tell me?

ANITA

Tell you what?

ROGER

You were waiting until I was
totally back in love with you and
then you were going drop the bomb
on me.

ANITA

No, Roger, it wasn't like that. I-
I-I-I'm sorry. I should have told
you sooner. I should have—

ROGER

I should have known...I should
have known! Jesus Christ...I
should've know, you would...Damn it!

There a distinct knock on the front door. Roger rushes open
the front door, revealing Burt, who's holding a giftwrapped
box of chocolates.

BURT

Hello. Hi, Anita!

ROGER

What are you doing here?

BURT

I was going to ask you the same
thing.

ROGER
(to Anita)
Is he in on this little charade of
yours too?

ANITA
No, Roger, you're totally—

ROGER
Guess what, Burp, she's all yours.

Roger dashes out the front door and past a confused Burt.
Anita goes to the doorway.

ANITA
Roger, don't go!

Burt steps in between Anita and Roger at the doorway. He
offers her the box of chocolates.

BURT
Remember me?

ANITA
Yes. Thanks.

Anita grabs the box and moves past Burt and does outside.

EXT. ANITA'S HOUSE - DAY

Roger hops into his car and drives off in anger as Anita
tries to get him to stay. Burt stands on the front porch
watching.

ANITA
Roger, please. Give me a chance to
explain...

Anita walks down the driveway and out to the curb, watching
Roger drive into the distance.

ANITA (CONT'D)
Dang it.

Anita kicks a nearby trash barrel. Burt joins her at the curb.

BURT
What was that all about?

Anita dumps the box of chocolates into the trash.

ANITA
We're through.

Anita walks past a deeply disappointed Burt into her house and slams the door.

INT. ANITA'S LIVING ROOM

Anita is sitting on the floor, back against the wall with her head in her hands. Amanda and Kevin come in from the dining room.

AMANDA
Mom...?

KEVIN
What's going on? Where's Dad?

Anita looks up to face them. Tears are rolling down her cheeks.

ANITA
I remember everything.

AMANDA
You do?

ANITA
I shouldn't have pretended...

KEVIN
What the hell happened, Mom?

ANITA
I should have told him...

AMANDA
When did you get your memory back?

ANITA

Before I left the hospital.

KEVIN

Jesus, mom...

AMANDA

So you've been punkin' us all this time?

She doesn't answer.

KEVIN

Why, Mom?

ANITA

I wanted a second chance.

INT. ROGER'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

A couple of hours later, Anita is sitting on one of the seven cartons in the center of the nearly empty room. The hated Lay-z-Boy chair sit unoccupied nearby. She is staring out the window.

Roger comes in through the front door.

ANITA

Hi.

ROGER

Why are you here?

ANITA

Why are you still here?

ROGER

This is where I live. I'm just missing a few items.

ANITA

You live with me now. Again. At our place.

ROGER

According to the divorce decree,
that house is all yours.

ANITA

But we bought it together.

ROGER

Really, Anita, why are you here?!

Anita stands up.

ANITA

To destroy that chair.

She goes to the ugly Lay-z-Boy and kicks it. Then turns to
face him.

ANITA (CONT'D)

And to bring you home.

ROGER

This is my home.

ANITA

Your home is with me.

ROGER

Ha, you're experiencing selective
amnesia again.

ANITA

Roger, I'm sorry. It was stupid of
me to pretend...But my intentions
were good. My methods were bad,
but my intentions were the best.

ROGER

Really? Your intentions were to
make me look and feel like an
absolute fool were good?

ANITA

You know those weren't my
intentions. You know me better
than that. Give me the benefit—

ROGER

I used to know you, Anita...But I don't know you now.

ANITA

My intentions were to reunite us and fix our broken family. Those are good intentions!

ROGER

You can't fix things with a lie. And you can't fix things that are broken beyond repair.

ANITA

We are not broken beyond repair. We are this close to being whole again. This close to being a family again.

ROGER

I'm this close to going insane!

Roger leaves her and goes into his kitchen. Anita follows him.

INT. ROGER'S KITCHEN

Roger is opening cupboards and then slamming them when he sees they are all empty. Anita looks at him bewildered.

ROGER

Damn it!

ANITA

What's the matter?

ROGER

I'm thirsty and you have all my glasses.

Roger turns on the sink faucet and cups his hands to create a bowl. He catches water in his hands and then slurps up a few ounces.

After a few more attempts to drink water this way, Roger turns off the faucet and grabs a paper towel roll to dry off.

ROGER

I'm sorry you had to see that.

ANITA

Me too. (laughs) Roger, honey, come home.

ROGER

How did you ever hatch this little plot of yours? Were the kids in on this too?

ANITA

No. No, of course not. When they found out, they were mad at me too. But when I explained to why I did it, and how I wanted to reunite our family, they understood. They forgave me. Roger, I need you to forgive me, too.

ROGER

Well, I would love to do that, Anita, but I can't do this again.

ANITA

I wasn't trying to fool you. I wasn't trying to do anything but be your wife again. That's all.

ROGER

Why? Because you've had a change of heart? Realized it's not so great being single?

ANITA

Because I love you. I miss you. I miss our family and all the good things and fun we had together. Don't you?

ROGER

Of course, I do. Why do you think I fought so hard to stay together? Remember?!

ANITA

I do. I know I was a little crazy back then. You know maybe it was a mid-life crisis. Maybe it was hormones. I just wasn't thinking clearly. I mean obviously. But we can get over this. I've admitted I made a big mistake. You made mistakes too-

ROGER

I was a good husband! And a good father, too.

ANITA

You were—you are!

ROGER

I need you to leave.

Roger storms out of the kitchen.

INT. AT ROGER'S FRONT DOOR

Roger is holding the door open and gesturing for Anita to depart. Anita stands looking at him and the door.

ANITA

You really want me to leave?

ROGER

You had it all, Anita. And then you trashed us. And now you think we can just turn back the clock and re-start like nothing happened.

ANITA

You really don't want to come home with me?

ROGER

I don't understand how you could pretend to have amnesia and then try to lure me back.

ANITA

Ok, here's what really happened: I really fell. But I only had amnesia for a day or two. I couldn't sort things all out. So when I finally did, I realized how alone I was. I was really sad that you weren't there with me.

ROGER

I was there!

ANITA

I know. I mean, I missed having you as my husband. I missed being your wife. I missed being a couple. I started thinking about how nice it would be to start over and be in love again...

ROGER

Anita, if you're not going to go, then I have to go.

Roger goes out the doorway. Anita grabs the door before it shuts between them.

ANITA

Roger, wait for me. I need to tell you more.

EXT. ROGER'S NEIGHBORHOOD – DAY (DUSK)

Roger is walking briskly down the sidewalk. Anita is doing everything in her power to keep up with him and jogging at times.

ANITA

I was sleeping a lot in the hospital and having weird dreams, but every time I woke up there was this one phrase going through my head over and over: "In the end, love wins." Isn't that weird?

ROGER

You were on powerful drugs.

ANITA

Yeah, maybe it was the meds. I don't know. But it was this recurring dream and at the end, just before I woke up, I heard: "In the end, love wins."

ROGER

I wish that was true.

ANITA

I think it is true. I know it is.

ROGER

I know better.

ANITA

Roger, you're the love of my life.

ROGER

It's too late for that-

ANITA

No, it's not. Roger...

Roger stops and faces her.

ROGER

Stop playing with my feelings.

ANITA

I'm not. I want us to be together again. I need you to forgive me and love me again.

ROGER

I can't. I'm sorry. I just can't
let you break my heart again.

ANITA

So you're saying love doesn't win?

Roger walks away. Anita watches him go.

EXT. ON THE BEACH – DAY

It's dusk. Roger is sitting on a sea wall, looking west as the sun sets into the sea. Anita arrives at the beach. She kicks off her sandals and begins walking through the sand towards the shoreline. She stops and turns back to face him.

ANITA

I'm sorry I put you through
hell...If I could take it all back,
I would. I wish the best...

Roger nods and drops his head looking at his feet. Anita turns and sadly returns walking towards the water.

ROGER

Me, too.

Anita stops and turns back to face him.

ANITA

What?

ROGER

Me too!

Anita smiles sadly, shrugs, and turns back to walk to the shoreline. Roger watches her walk away, silhouetted by the setting sun. It's a beautiful sight.

MONTAGE

EXT. COLLEGE CAMPUS – NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

On the night they met, Young Anita and Young Roger are happily walking side by side on their college campus.

INT. CHURCH – DAY (FLASHBACK)

On their wedding day, Young Anita and Young Roger are standing in the church and looking at each other, deeply in love.

EXT. MISSION SANTA BARBARA – DAY (FLASHBACK)

Young Anita and Young Roger are posing on the steps of Mission Santa Barbara as the Old Hispanic Man with the ice cream cart takes their picture with an old-style camera.

INT. HOSPITAL – DAY (FLASHBACK)

Young Anita is lying in bed, holding her newborn son. Young Roger is seated next to the bed with his head next to hers on the pillow.

EXT. SAN DIEGO ZOO – DAY (FLASHBACK)

Anita and Roger are with YOUNG KEVIN and YOUNG AMANDA in front of the gorilla enclosure. The family is waving at a stoic silverback gorilla.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM – NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

Roger is alone sitting in the room with Anita. Her head is heavily bandaged. She is unconscious and hooked up to a number of machines. The room is dark and it's late at night.

ROGER
(praying)
Please, God, don't take her. We
need more time...

END OF MONTAGE

EXT. ON THE BEACH - DAY

Roger nods his head repeatedly, then looks up and out to see the love of his life disappearing from his view.

ROGER

Ok. Ok. Ok.

Roger jumps off the wall and starts to jog through the sand towards Anita. When he's within earshot, he slows down to a fast walk.

ROGER

Anita! Anita!

Anita stops and turns to face him.

ANITA

Yes?

He stops a few feet from her.

ROGER

Yes.

ANITA

Yes, what?

ROGER

Yes to everything.

ANITA

I don't know what that means.

ROGER

It means I remember how much...I forgive you. Let's try again.

Anita smiles.

ROGER

But first...

ANITA

Anything.

ROGER

I need to clean the slate. I need to apologize. And I need you to forgive me too.

Roger falls to his knees in the sand and takes her hands.

ROGER

I made so many mistakes. If we're going to try again, I need you to know I'm so sorry for all the things I did wrong. And for not apologizing for them. I'm sorry I hurt you. I'm sorry I had emotional affairs. I am sorry I wasn't there for you when you needed my support. (emotionally) I'm sorry I hated you...Please forgive me.

Anita falls to her knees in the sand. They look into each other eyes.

ANITA

Ok, stupid.

He laughs.

ROGER

Thank you.

They embrace.

INT. ANITA'S DINING ROOM – A FEW WEEKS LATER

Roger, Anita, Kevin, and Amanda are sitting at a dining room table in Anita's house, finishing a big meal.

KEVIN

Great meal, Mom.

ANITA

I'm glad you enjoyed it, Kev.

KEVIN

What's for dessert?

ANITA

Ask your father.

ROGER

Yup. I got it covered...

Roger gives Anita a kiss before he dashes into the kitchen.

AMANDA

Wow! He's like a change man.

ANITA

He's the man I married...again.

KEVIN

Mom, I hate to say it, but I think cracking your head was the best thing that ever happened to our family.

AMANDA

Dude! So rude.

ANITA

And true.

KEVIN

I like us being a family again.

ANITA

I do too.

Roger dashes back in, brandishing a box of frozen treats.

ROGER

Who's ready for Popsicles?!

ANITA

Oh my God!

AMANDA

Seriously, Dad?

KEVIN

I want one.

ROGER

That's my boy!

Roger breaks a Popsicle in half and hands one stick to Kevin and one to Amanda.

AMANDA

No thanks.

ROGER

C'mon, everyone has to have one.
It's a new, old family tradition,
right, hon'?

ANITA

Ah, yes!

Roger breaks another Popsicle in half and hands one stick to Anita.

ROGER

Now, let's all put them in our
mouths and let it stick to our
tongues and then tell each other
how we feel about each other.

AMANDA

What?! That's insane!

ROGER

I'll start.

Roger sticks the Popsicle in his mouth then begins to mumble.

ROGER

Ah rove ooh all!

They all laugh and follow Roger's lead.

KEVIN

Ah rove ooh, Ma. Ah rove ooh, Da.
Ah rove ooh, Manda.

ANITA

Ah rove ooh all, too!

AMANDA

Dis ish sue stupiaah!

They continue to crack up.

FADE OUT.