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Thursday, Feb. 23, 2006, 1:03 PM Pacific

THE WEEKEND Co-Exec Producer/Writer: Ed Roe

Pilot Producer: Adam Tudhope

1/2 hour pilot (single camera) Director: TDB

CBS Paramount Network Television

Casting Directors: Gillian O'Neill, Jeanie Bacharach
UNION

Start Date: o/a March 28

Start Date: o/a March 28 Location: Los Angeles

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800 S. MAIN ST., 2ND FLOOR

BURBANK, CA 91520

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ED SULLIVAN THEATRE OFFICE BLDG.

1697 BROADWAY, SUITE #902

NEW YORK, NY 10019

***PLEASE NOTE WE WILL ONLY BE TAKING PITCHES ON WEDNESDAY EVENINGS FROM 5:30-9:30 PM.

Please submit all ethnicities.

[KEVIN] Late 20s, he's a waiter who is terrific with his customers. Cute, but not a lady killer (think Jack Black), he is a bit hapless where women are concerned. He lives for the weekends when he hits the town with his best friends and roommates, Miles and Julian. Having come from a blue-collar family, where he is a bit of a fish out of water in LA, he's trying to fit in the glamorous LA nightlife. He takes life in stride, and has an enormous appetite for adventure. He falls hard for Amanda, a veterinarian he meets at work, and he convinces Julian to lend him his pet cat so that he can "consult" with Amanda at her office. However, Kevin's interest in Amanda is somewhat sullied when he learns that she is yet another of Julian's many female conquests. Kevin insists that Julian ask Amanda out to prove that she's not still interested in him -- an experiment that goes badly awry...SERIES REGULAR (1)

[MILES] Late 20s. Attractive. He's an attorney, who is intelligent, neurotic, asthmatic, and indecisive. He is also best friends and roommates with Kevin and Julian. Currently, Miles is in a bit of a quandary. He moved to LA for his "health", but the true reason was to escape the clutches of his girlfriend of 5 years, Debbie. She decides to follow Miles to LA and has issued the dread marriage ultimatum, and although Miles doesn't want to lose her, he also isn't ready to give up the bachelor lifestyle he enjoys with his buddies. So, he compromises and gets engaged -- hoping to buy himself a bit more time before he has to face adult responsibilities...SERIES REGULAR (2)

[JULIAN] Late 20s. He's a tall, handsome, masculine, stoic fashion photographer. He is a California golden boy who is absolutely catnip to women, who follow him, fawn on him and just generally make themselves available to him in droves. Having come from a faded Hollywood family, Julian escapes to the solitude of the ocean and his friends. Undemonstrative and calm, Julian is more reserved than his antic buddies and roommates, Miles and Kevin. Beneath his kind, gentle exterior is a hanging sadness. When Kevin falls for a veterinarian, he soon learns that she's yet another of Julian's many conquests, and he decides to try a little experiment to make sure the woman is over Julian -- not a wise move, as it turns out...SERIES REGULAR (2)

[DEBBIE] Miles's girlfriend, she's an early 30s, attractive old East Coast princess who changes designer clothes and styles every few hours, it seems. While she may at first appear to be touchy-feely and sensitive, those who really know her recognize her to be controlling and manipulative. After Miles moves to LA, she decides to follow him to pursue her life long dream of becoming an actress. After dating Miles for almost five years, Debbie issues an ultimatum. She's ready to go down the aisle, and if Miles doesn't accommodate her, their relationship is over...SERIES REGULAR (15)

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[CHARLOTTE] Early 30s. Debbie's best friend, she's a stern, severe, and militant woman who never misses an opportunity to give Debbie advice about how best to control her boyfriend, Miles. Of course, Miles is extremely uncomfortable whenever he's around Charlotte -- for good reason - and his nickname for her is Ripley, in reference to the Alien movies...1 speech & 1 line, 2 scenes SERIES REGULAR (15)

STORY LINE: KEVIN, MILES and JULIAN, three best friends and roommates who work in vastly different fields, put aside all their professional concerns when the weekend -- and freedom -- finally arrives. That's their time to party hearty and live in the moment -- but the fact that Miles's longtime girlfriend DEBBIE is hawking him to marry her is putting a crimp in their bachelor lifestyle...

THE WEEKEND

"THE PUDDYCAT"

TEASER

1 <u>INT. RESTAURANT - EVENING (FRIDAY)</u> (Kevin)

1

CHYRON: 'FRIDAY'

EXPERTLY BALANCING FIVE PLATES OF FOOD, KEVIN (29) GLIDES OVER TO TABLE 15 AND SERVES A FAMILY OF FOUR.

KEVIN

Chef's salad for the young lady;

AS HE SLIDES A DISH IN FRONT OF THE DAUGHTER, SHE SMILES.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

Halibut steak for her twin sister;

AS HE SLIDES A DISH IN FRONT OF THE MOTHER, SHE MOUTHS 'OH, STOP IT' AT THE GENTLE FLATTERY.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

And a double cheeseburger for the man

of the house.

THE SON BEAMS PROUDLY, HIS FATHER RUFFLES HIS HAIR AND WINKS AT KEVIN. KEVIN IS A GREAT WAITER.

2 <u>INT. MILES' OFFICE - EVENING (FRIDAY)</u>
 (Miles)

2

2.

MEANWHILE, DOWNTOWN, MILES (29) - A BRIGHT, NEUROTIC LAWYER - IS ON THE PHONE IN HIS GLASS-WALLED OFFICE IN THE MIDDLE OF A SKYSCRAPER.

MILES

I agree. It's important to get these things right. The sub-clause to the sub-clause should be a sub-clause in its own right; otherwise it might get confusing.

AS HE SAYS THIS, MILES MIMES PLACING A GUN IN HIS MOUTH.

3 <u>INT. PHOTOGRAPHIC STUDIO - EVENING (FRIDAY)</u> (Julian)

3

JULIAN (29) - TALL AND HANDSOME - IS TAKING HEAD SHOTS FOR A MODEL. ALTHOUGH SHE'S DOING HER BEST TO LOOK COMPLETELY GORGEOUS, HE IS NOTHING BUT PROFESSIONAL WITH HER.

JULIAN

Down a bit. Lose the pout. Nice.

JULIAN TAKES THE SHOT.

4 <u>INT. RESTAURANT - EVENING (FRIDAY)</u> (Manager, Kevin)

4

HAVING DELIVERED HIS FINAL ORDER OF THE DAY, KEVIN UNDOES HIS TOP BUTTON AND REMOVES HIS APRON WITH A CONTENTED SIGH. JUST AS HE LOOKS SET TO GO, HOWEVER, HIS MANAGER CORNERS HIM.

MANAGER

Kevin! Jacob's got a callback. I need you to take his shift!

KEVIN

I'm afraid that's impossible.

5 <u>INT. MILES' OFFICE - EVENING (FRIDAY)</u> (Miles)

5

5

6

5 CONTINUED:

MILES HANGS UP THE PHONE, QUICKLY REARRANGES HIS STATIONERY SO THAT IT'S SYMMETRICAL ON HIS DESK TOP AND GETS TO HIS FEET.

JUST AS HE PUTS ON HIS SUIT JACKET, HOWEVER, HE CATCHES SIGHT OF HIS BOSS MAKING HER WAY OVER.

WITH NO TIME TO SPARE, MILES DROPS DOWN TO THE FLOOR AND HIDES BENEATH HIS DESK.

6 <u>INT. PHOTOGRAPHIC STUDIO - EVENING (FRIDAY)</u> (Model, Julian)

AS JULIAN DISASSEMBLES HIS CAMERA, THE MODEL APPROACHES HIM.

MODEL

(suggestive)

I really enjoyed last night.

JULIAN

Me too.

A BEAT.

MODEL

(spelling it out)

I haven't got to be anywhere, if you

want to take some more...

JULIAN LOOKS AT HER. SHE REALLY IS GORGEOUS.

JULTAN

I'd love to. But I can't.

MODEL

Why not?

7 <u>INT. RESTAURANT - EVENING (FRIDAY)</u> (Kevin, Manager)

WE REJOIN KEVIN MIDWAY THROUGH HIS EXCUSE.

(CONTINUED)

7

KEVIN

...it's like this tingling sensation down my arms. The doctor's aren't sure what it is exactly, just some kind of non-specific localized muscular atrophy.

MANAGER (completely sold)

That's awful.

KEVIN SHRUGS PHILOSOPHICALLY, AND THEN SMILES.

KEVIN

See ya Monday.

8 <u>INT. MILES' OFFICE - EVENING (FRIDAY)</u>

MILES IS STILL HIDING UNDERNEATH HIS DESK AS HIS BOSS PICKS UP THE PHONE AND MAKES A CALL. AS SHE DRONES ON, MILES STARTS TENTATIVELY CRAWLING OUT OF THE OFFICE.

BOSS

Hey, it's Amy. Has Miles left?
We've just received a mark-up from the other side...

9 <u>INT. PHOTOGRAPHIC STUDIO - EVENING (FRIDAY)</u> (Julian)

9

8

HAVING GIVEN HER QUESTION A LONG HARD THINK, JULIAN SIMPLY SHRUGS.

JULIAN

Because. It's the weekend.

CUT TO:

OPENING CREDITS

ACT ONE

10 <u>INT. BAR - NIGHT (FRIDAY)</u> (Miles, Kevin, Julian)

10

A LOUD, JAM-PACKED BAR ON A FRIDAY EVENING. JULIAN, KEVIN AND MILES STAND IN A HUDDLE BY A BAR. MILES LOOKS AT HIS WATCH, DRAINS HIS DRINK AND PICKS UP HIS JACKET OFF THE BACK OF A CHAIR.

MILES

I think I'd better head off.

KEVIN

What? You can't go! (despair)

We never, ever, ever get to hang out any more.

MILES

According to Debbie, if you live with your girlfriend and you want to do something in the evening that doesn't involve her, you have to give at least twenty four hours warning.

KEVIN

(to Julian)

Is this true?

JULIAN

No. It's just something girls say because they know men can't plan. And anyway: technically, you don't live with Debbie, you live with me.

MILES

Debbie doesn't see it that way. I sleep there, I do my laundry there.

Recently she even let me have my own bedside drawer.

JULIAN

Never accept the bedside drawer.

MILES

I had to store my earplugs somewhere.

She snores like a rhino.

KEVIN

Come on, man! Just disobey her. Just this once. For me.

MILES

Look, I had a tough week and I just want to unwind; which means not provoking my girlfriend.

JULIAN SHAKES HIS HEAD.

JULIAN

Standing up to a woman is the only way to earn their respect.

SUDDENLY SOMETHING CATCHES KEVIN'S EYE. HE SLAPS JULIAN.

KEVIN

(conspiratorial)

Check it out.

JULIAN GLANCES OVER. A GORGEOUS BRUNETTE HAS ARRIVED AT THE FAR END OF THE BAR.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

Go and talk to her. Quickly. Before someone else does.

Nah.

KEVIN

JULIAN

Such a loser.

MILES

Maybe you're right. Maybe it's time I stopped being such a hen-pecked shell of a man.

KEVIN AND JULIAN TURN BACK TO MILES.

KEVIN

Wear the pants, buddy.

MILES

You know what? I'm going to put my foot down. I'm going to stand up to my girlfriend.

MILES CASTS HIS JACKET DRAMATICALLY BACK DOWN.

JULIAN

Good for you.

KEVIN

Way to go!

MILES READJUSTS HIS JACKET SO AS NOT TO CREASE IT.

MILES

Three more beers coming up.

MILES STRIDES CONFIDENTLY OFF IN THE DIRECTION OF THE BAR. KEVIN AND JULIAN WATCH HIM FONDLY FOR A SECOND.

KEVIN

He's dead, right?

JULIAN

Yup.

11 <u>INT. JULIAN AND MILES' APARTMENT - DAY (SATURDAY)</u> (Kevin, Girl, Julian, Miles)

11

CHYRON: 'SATURDAY'

AS A HUNGOVER MILES MUNCHES WEARILY ON CEREAL, JULIAN SHARES A LONG, LINGERING KISS WITH A GIRL. KEVIN ENTERS.

KEVIN

I need to borrow some eggs, some

bacon, some bread, three pancakes-

KEVIN FREEZES AS HE SEES THE GIRL. HER AND JULIAN SEPARATE.

GIRL

It was nice to meet you.

AS KEVIN REALIZES THAT IT'S THE BRUNETTE FROM THE BAR, HIS JAW DROPS.

GIRL (CONT'D)

(to Kevin)

Hey.

KEVIN WATCHES MESMERIZED AS THE GIRL EXITS. ONLY ONCE SHE HAS GONE, DOES HE TURNS SLOWLY BACK.

KEVIN

-and a pan.

JULIAN NODS. FROM THE ASSURANCE WITH WHICH KEVIN STARTS OPENING DRAWERS AND ASSEMBLING THE RAW MATERIALS FOR BREAKFAST, WE UNDERSTAND HE KNOWS HIS WAY AROUND THIS KITCHEN.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

Oh, by the way, what's wrong with your

cat?

JULIAN

What do you mean?

KEVIN

I don't know. She just doesn't look so

well.

THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT KEVIN'S MANNER WHICH TELLS US HE'S UP TO SOMETHING.

JULIAN

In what way?

KEVIN

(shrugs)

It was probably nothing. She was just

carrying her paw a little.
 (mimes badly-injured cat)

You know, like she'd been severely

injured or something.

JULIAN

(Worried)

Really?

KEVIN

I'm probably just being over-

protective.

JULIAN HURRIES OUT INTO THE BACK YARD.

MILES

You met a vet, right?

KEVIN

(clearly has)

Shhh!

KEVIN AND MILES FOLLOW JULIAN OUTSIDE.

RESET TO:

12

12 <u>EXT. JULIAN AND MILES' BACK YARD - DAY (SATURDAY)</u> (Julian, Kevin, Miles)

JULIAN

Molly! Molly!

KEVIN JOINS HIM IN THE SEARCH.

KEVIN

Hey, Catface! Come to Kevvy wevvy.

JULIAN

Don't call her catface!

KEVIN

What? It's a term of affection.

JULIAN

It sounds like twatface.

KEVIN

So? She's a cat. As long as I use my puddycat voice, she won't make the connection.

MOLLY APPEARS. JULIAN CROUCHES DOWN AND HOLDS OUT HIS HAND.

JULIAN

(gentle)

Let me have a look at you.

MILES AND KEVIN WATCH ON IMPRESSED AS MOLLY STARTS PURRING AND MEANDERS HER WAY OVER TO JULIAN.

MILES

Is it just me, or is that how he talks to girls?

JULIAN LIFTS MOLLY UP AND RUBS HIS CHEEK AGAINST HERS.

JULIAN

Where did you say she was hurt?

KEVIN TAKES MOLLY OFF OF JULIAN. IMMEDIATELY THE CAT GROWLS AND STARTS WRIGGLING IN AN EFFORT TO FREE HERSELF.

KEVIN

You see how she tenses up when I lift her.

JULIAN TAKES MOLLY BACK.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

Why is it that cats don't like me?

MILES

For the same reason women don't. You try too hard.

JULIAN HAS FINISHED HIS EXAMINATION.

JULIAN

She looks fine to me.

KEVIN

I still think we should get her checked out. For peace of mind. If you like, I'll arrange the whole thing.

KEVIN'S GONE TOO FAR WITH THIS, AND JULIAN WISES UP TO HIM.

JULIAN

Did he meet a vet?

MILES

(between mouthfuls)

Uh-huh.

JULIAN SHAKES HIS HEAD, AND RETURNS INSIDE WITH MOLLY. KEVIN SCOWLS AT MILES BEFORE FOLLOWING JULIAN BACK INSIDE.

13 <u>INT. JULIAN AND MILES' APARTMENT - DAY (DAY 2)</u> (Kevin, Julian, Miles)

13

KEVIN

(quickly)

Alright! I admit. I met this girl yesterday, turns out she's a vet, I remembered that Molly hadn't had a check up in years...

JULIAN

Fourteen months.

MILES

I get my brain and testicles scanned every six months as a matter of routine.

KEVIN

So I figured I'd just take her down to the pet hospital for a once over.

JULIAN

Not a chance.

A BEAT. KEVIN COMES CLEAN.

KEVIN

Alright! I confess. There's nothing wrong with Molly.

JULIAN

I know.

KEVIN

I was making it up.

JULIAN

I know.

KEVIN

But the fact is I'm in love. I was the moment our eyes met across a crowded room and she asked for the check.

(MORE)

13

13 CONTINUED:

KEVIN (CONT'D)

And even though we only spoke for a few minutes, and most of that was about whether or not she'd had the chocolate sponge cake, I think there's a strong possibility she's the woman I spend the rest of my life with.

JULIAN

No.

KEVIN

Why not?

JULIAN

Because A) Molly doesn't like going to the vet; B) I don't like taking her; and C) THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH HER! SUDDENLY MOLLY STARTS COUGHING.

KEVIN

I'll get the cage.

JULIAN SIGHS RELUCTANTLY. WHAT CHOICE DOES HE HAVE?

JULIAN

(to Miles)

You coming?

MILES

Nah. I should probably go and spend some time with Debbie.

CUT TO:

14 <u>INT. DEBBIE'S APARTMENT - DAY (SATURDAY)</u> (Charlotte, Miles, Debbie)

14

DEBBIE (33) - A WELL-MANICURED, EAST-COAST PRINCESS, CLAD IN A JUICY COUTURE TRACKSUIT (EVERY DAY HER STYLE VARIES) - IS SITTING ON THE SOFA HAVING A HEART TO HEART WITH HER MILITANT BEST FRIEND, CHARLOTTE.

CHARLOTTE

I just think it's about time he

appreciated what a fantastic,

intelligent, motivational-

MILES STROLLS IN.

MILES

Morning-

THE SECOND HE SETS EYES ON CHARLOTTE, MILES FREEZES. WE SEE THE CONFIDENCE DRAIN OUT OF HIM.

MILES (CONT'D)

Oh, hey Charlotte. What's up?

CHARLOTTE STANDS UP, LOOKS DEBBIE IN THE EYES, AND NODS.

CHARLOTTE

Be strong!

WITH THAT CHARLOTTE GETS UP, WALKS PAST MILES AND GOES.

MILES

Good to see ya.

SUDDENLY UNEASY, MILES SITS DOWN BESIDE DEBBIE.

MILES (CONT'D)

Charlotte's great, isn't she. I really

like her. A lot. What did you talk

about?

DEBBIE

Just, you know, how one minute you're young and single, and the next...

THERE'S A LONG PAUSE.

MILES

Although, she's still single.

DEBBIE

It's funny how when you're young, you have all these plans, and then... my parents were married and had two kids at my age.

MILES

Yeah, but who wants to be married?

DEBBIE

I do.

MILES

Yeah, I mean, so do I. Eventually.

DEBBIE

Not eventually. Now.

MILES SUDDENLY REALIZES THAT HE'S HAVING 'THE' CONVERSATION.

MILES

You wanna go shopping?

DEBBIE

Miles, we've been going out for five years.

MILES

Four and a half.

DEBBIE

We live together.

MILES

Technically, I pay rent at Julian's.

DEBBIE

We're as good as married.

MILES

So what's the problem?

DEBBIE

I want to get married.

MILES

So do I. Eventually.

DEBBIE

But I don't want to force you.

MILES

And I don't want to be forced.

DEBBIE

But that doesn't mean I don't want to

force you to make a decision.

MILES

Just like that?

DEBBIE

You've had five years.

MILES

Not officially I haven't. This is the first anyone's said about making a decision. As far as I knew, we were just going out. Although, now that I know that, officially, I'm supposed to be making a decision, I can start working on one. I just need a little time.

DEBBIE

How long do you need?

MILES

Six months. A year tops.

DEBBIE

You've got till the end of the weekend.

15 <u>INT. PET HOSPITAL - DAY (SATURDAY)</u> (Kevin, Julian, Amanda)

15

KEVIN AND JULIAN (CARRYING MOLLY IN A CAGE) COME TENTATIVELY INTO THE RECEPTION AREA OF THIS PLUSH PET HOSPITAL. KEVIN PICKS UP SOME FREE SAMPLES OF VITAMINS OF THE RECEPTION DESK.

KEVIN

Wow. This is nicer than where I go to the doctor!

JULIAN

How come I didn't know about this place?

KEVIN

It used to be over on 3rd, but they relocated.

AT THE MENTION OF '3RD STREET', JULIAN LOOKS SUDDENLY UNEASY.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

Now, put the cage down and get out -

it's far too soon in our relationship

for her to meet a genuinely attractive

man.

AS JULIAN SETS THE CAGE DOWN, HE GLANCES NERVOUSLY AT A SET OF CERTIFICATES ON THE WALL.

JULIAN

Amanda McCandless?

KEVIN

Don't even think about it. She's mine.

AS HE HEARS APPROACHING FOOTSTEPS, KEVIN USHERS JULIAN OUT. HE BARELY HAS TIME TO LEAN CASUALLY AGAINST THE RECEPTION DESK, BEFORE AMANDA ARRIVES FROM THE BACK.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

(cool)

Hey! Remember me.

AMANDA

(uneasy)

The waiter guy, right?

KEVIN

You said to bring my cat in.

ONCE SHE REGISTERS THAT HE HAS ACTUALLY GOT A PET, HER COLD DEMEANOR MELTS.

AMANDA

This is going to sound terrible, but I thought you were just making it up.

KEVIN

Who would do such a thing?

AMANDA

(modest)

Believe it or not, there <u>are</u> men desperate enough to pretend they've got pets just to get a girl's number.

KEVIN

You've got to be so careful these days.

(making the 'L' sign on his forehead)

Losers.

AMANDA LAUGHS. MIRACULOUSLY HIS CHARM IS STARTING TO WORK.

AMANDA

What's her name?

KEVIN

(mischievous)

Catface.

AMANDA

Catface?

KEVIN

You've got to say it in your puddycat voice though.

(MORE)

15

15 CONTINUED:

KEVIN (CONT'D)

(puddycat voice)

Catface.

AMANDA

That's so cute.

KEVIN

Guilty as charged.

AMANDA LAUGHS. THIS IS GOING WELL FOR KEVIN.

AMANDA

So what exactly's wrong with her?

KEVIN

It's hard to say. Not a specific thing so much. It's just...

AS KEVIN REACHES FOR THE CAGE, MOLLY GROWLS BELLIGERENTLY.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

For instance, she gets quite angry

whenever I go near her.

WHEN KEVIN ACTUALLY TOUCHES THE CAGE, MOLLY HISSES.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

Almost as if she doesn't really like

me.

WHEN AMANDA TOUCHES THE CAGE AND OPENS THE DOOR, SHE ENCOUNTERS NO SUCH HOSTILITY.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

And yet, when it comes to complete strangers, she seems fine.

AS AMANDA PULLS MOLLY FROM THE CAGE:

AMANDA

When we're in pain, we tend to lash out at those closest to us.

KEVIN

You're starting to sound like my exgirlfriend.

AMANDA LAUGHS. THEY MAKE EYE CONTACT FOR MOMENT. FIREWORKS.

AMANDA

(to Molly in puddycat voice)

Hello Catface. Aren't you a lovely

girl! Yes you are! Yes you are!
 (to KEVIN)

She's lovely.

KEVIN

(looking at Amanda)

She certainly is.

AMANDA SETS MOLLY BACK DOWN IN THE CAGE.

AMANDA

I'd like to keep her in overnight, if that's okay. Just to run a few tests.

KEVIN GLANCES UNEASILY BACK AT JULIAN, WHO CAN BE SEEN THROUGH THE WINDOW HOVERING OUTSIDE.

KEVIN

You're not going to operate or remove anything, though, right?

AMANDA

The most we'll do is X-ray her. You can pick her up tomorrow lunchtime.

KEVIN

Say, we could grab a bite to eat. Just to celebrate her being well and all.

AMANDA SMILES. SHE'S CHARMED.

AMANDA

Sure. Why not?

KEVIN

Sunday lunch it is.

AMANDA PICKS UP THE CAGE, AND OPENS THE DOOR BACK IN TO THE HOSPITAL.

AMANDA

If you could fill these forms out, I'll go and get her settled in.

KEVIN

See ya Molly!

AT THE MENTION OF MOLLY'S REAL NAME, AMANDA TURNS WHITE.

AMANDA

Molly?

KEVIN

What?

AMANDA

You just called her Molly.

KEVIN

Why would I have called her Molly? Her name's Catface.

16

15 CONTINUED: 15

AMANDA

I don't know.

KEVIN

You must have misheard.

AS AMANDA EXITS WITH MOLLY, SHE SEEMS SUDDENLY UNEASY.

16 <u>INT. JULIAN AND MILES' APARTMENT - DAY (SATURDAY)</u> (Kevin, Julian, Miles)

KEVIN AND JULIAN ARRIVE BACK.

KEVIN

It was like the spirit of a young

Steve Guttenburg took possession of my
body for five minutes and produced a

lethal cocktail of wit and humility,

served up in a large glass of charm.

(registers Julian's silence)

Relax. Molly'll be fine. I've never seen a healthier-looking cat.

JULIAN

There's something I need to tell you.

KEVIN NOTICES MILES FORLORNLY SLUMPED OVER THE KITCHEN TABLE.

KEVIN

Miles? Are you okay? Has something happened?

MILES

This is all your fault. If you hadn't encouraged me to stand up to Debbie, I wouldn't be in this situation.

JULIAN

What situation?

MILES

I've got til midnight on Sunday to decide whether to marry her.

KEVIN AND JULIAN IMMEDIATELY UNDERSTAND AND SINK INTO THE SEATS BESIDE HIM.

JULIAN

You got the ultimatum, eh?

KEVIN

Bad luck.

MILES

Why is it that women need direction in relationships, whereas in every other area of life, they like to just dither about aimlessly? You know, like shopping and walking, and lovemaking...

JUTITAN

Look, we always knew this was going to happen, sooner or later. Just be grateful you had a good run.

MILES

You don't understand! I can't make decisions.

(MORE)

16

16 CONTINUED:

MILES (CONT'D)

My entire life can be characterized by an inability to choose between two alternatives. It's taken me twentynine years to decide between boxers and briefs, and you know what? I still vacillate.

JULIAN

You're not actually thinking of marrying her, are you?

MILES SHRUGS.

MILES

Maybe.

JULIAN

Look, Miles. You can't marry Debbie.

MILES

Why not?

JULIAN

Because you don't want to.

A BEAT. MILES CONSIDERS.

MILES

I have this recurring nightmare.

Debbie and I are in this church, we're standing at the altar, we're about to get married.

JULIAN

What happens?

MILES

(despair)

We get married.

KEVIN

I have exactly the same nightmare.

MILES

Really? Who do you marry in yours?

KEVIN

(gentle)

No, exactly the same.

MILES

(ignoring him)

My ideal relationship is the one I already have. Directionless and unstructured. Where all the boundaries are blurred, and no one really knows what's going on, or who's in charge. You know, like the judicial system.

KEVIN

If that's the case, then the decision's pretty straightforward.

MILES

It is?

KEVIN

I'd imagine marrying someone was hard enough when it was something you wanted to do.

MILES

But what if she breaks up with me?

JULIAN

She's not going to break up with you.

KEVIN

She's not?

JULIAN

She's got what every girl wants. A man with a job and no mind of his own. No way she's going to give that up without a fight. She's bluffing.

KEVIN

Of course!

JULIAN

She's thirty three, her best years are over, she's just trying to close the deal while she still can. You want my advice, you go right back in there, you tell her you'll propose when you're good and ready.

MILES

I call her bluff.

JULIAN

Exactly.

MILES GETS TO HIS FEET.

MILES

I like the sound of that.

JULIAN

I thought you might.

MILES STRIDES CONFIDENTLY OUT.

KEVIN

He's dead, right?

JULIAN

Yup.

KEVIN

So what were you going to tell me?

JULIAN

It's about Amanda.

KEVIN

You went out with her, didn't you?

JULIAN

I'm sorry.

ACT TWO

17 <u>INT. JULIAN AND MILES' APARTMENT - DAY (SATURDAY)</u> (Julian, Kevin)

17

AS BEFORE.

JULIAN

We dated like a year and a half ago, after she treated Molly for an eye infection.

KEVIN

Was it serious?

JULIAN

Nothing antibiotics couldn't clear up.

KEVIN

I meant the relationship!

JULIAN

We were more friends than anything.

KEVIN

So you didn't have sex with her?

JULIAN

No. Yes. Sometimes. Now and then.

KEVIN

Was it good?

JULIAN

Yes. No. It was alright. Sometimes.

KEVIN

How come you never introduced me?

JULIAN

It was that Christmas just after you broke up with Louise. I didn't want to rub your face in it.

KEVIN

I thought that's when you went out with, you know, that doctor girl... (tries to recall)

...who always used to just lie there, never initiating anything. What was that nickname we had for her?

JULIAN

(gentle)

Dr Dolittle.

KEVIN PUTS TWO AND TWO TOGETHER.

KEVIN

I'm going to call her up and cancel.

JULIAN

Why?

KEVIN

There's no point in me going out with her if you've already had sex with her.

JULIAN

If you're worried about my feelings...

KEVIN

It's her feelings I'm worried about.

If she's had sex with you, she's going to have really high standards. I'm almost guaranteed to be a disappointment.

JULIAN

That's always going to be a risk with any girl.

KEVIN

But you're my best friend. I'm not going to be able to stop you meeting for more than about six months, and when you do meet her, you'll ignite old feelings in her, and she'll suddenly realize how little she actually likes me.

JULIAN

Not necessarily.

KEVIN

You ignite old feelings in women you've never even met before, let alone the ones you've had sex with.

JULIAN

I'd be surprised if she even remembered who I was.

SUDDENLY JULIAN'S PHONE RINGS. KEVIN SNATCHES IT UP AND LOOKS AT THE DISPLAY.

KEVIN

She remembers alright.

KEVIN HANDS THE PHONE TO JULIAN. HE ANSWERS.

JULIAN

(into phone)

Hello?

(listens)

Amanda?

(listens)

Hey, how are you?
 (listens)

Black's a very common color.
 (listens)

Who would do such a thing? (listens)

I'll take a look and call you back.

Bye.

JULIAN HANGS UP AND TURNS TO KEVIN.

JULIAN (CONT'D)

Some guy came in with a cat who looked like Molly.

KEVIN SHAKES HIS HEAD. HE'S NOT VERY PLEASED.

KEVIN

She's not over you.

JULIAN

What?

KEVIN

If she was over you, she'd never have called you up under the spurious pretext that some random cat looks a tiny bit like Molly.

JULIAN

The cat IS Molly.

KEVIN

She can't possibly think that! She's trying to crowbar her way back into your life.

JULIAN

You always do this. You manufacture something to go wrong with a relationship before it even starts.

KEVIN

You really think she's over you?

JULIAN

Without a doubt.

KEVIN

And you don't think she'd go back out with you if she had the chance?

JULIAN

Definitely not.

KEVIN PICKS UP JULIAN'S PHONE AND DROPS IT INTO HIS LAP.

KEVIN

Alright then, ask her out. Call her back, go down to the hospital, make sure Molly isn't Molly, ask her if she wants to go to lunch with you Sunday.

JULIAN

I don't want to go to lunch with her.

KEVIN

She doesn't want to go to lunch with you.

JULIAN

So what's the point?

KEVIN

To make sure she's over you.

JULIAN

She is over me.

KEVIN

Then she'll say no.

JULIAN

That's a bit cruel, isn't it?

KEVIN

It's only cruel if she's not over you.

JULIAN

What if she isn't?

KEVIN

I thought she was.

JULIAN

There's always a tiny chance she might not be.

KEVIN

Even if there's a tiny chance, I'm not going out with her.

JULIAN

No, I'm not doing it.

KEVIN

Either you get yourself down there and ask her out, or I call her up and cancel my lunch.

JULIAN

No.

KEVIN TRIES ANOTHER TACK.

KEVIN

(melodramatic)

Fine. So be it. It's over.

(MORE)

17

17 CONTINUED:

KEVIN (CONT'D)

Even though this is the first time

I've come even close to liking

someone, since that fateful day when

my girlfriend announced she wanted to

see other people, and more

specifically one of the valets at

Barneys; even though I'm always doing

little things for you, that often go

unappreciated, like, you know...

(struggles)

...accompanying you to Lakers games

when you've got a spare ticket, or...

JULIAN WAITS FOR KEVIN TO THINK OF SOMETHING ELSE.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

...occasionally letting you win at oneon-one just so you don't feel humiliated.

JULIAN LOOKS PUZZLED.

JULTAN

Basketball?

KEVTN

Swing ball. I'll just throw it all away because my best friend can't be bothered to help in my hour of need.

JULIAN SIGHS AND PICKS UP THE PHONE.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

Thank you.

18 <u>INT. THE BAR - DAY (SATURDAY)</u> (Miles, Debbie)

18

MILES AND DEBBIE ARE SITTING TENTATIVELY OPPOSITE EACH OTHER FOR A SUMMIT. DEBBIE IS WEARING A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT OUTFIT TO THE ONE EARLIER. MILES IS BEING STRONG.

MILES

I love you Debbie. I love living with you, although technically, I know, I live with Julian; but the fact is, I'm twenty nine, and I have no idea what I want to do, or who I am, or where I'm going and really, if you look under the surface, my life is a formless mess. So I think the worst thing for me to do would be for me to marry you.

DEBBIE

Thank you for being honest.

MILES

I am being honest.

DEBBIE

And I love you too.

MILES

I know you do.

DEBBIE

But I want to be married, and I want to be with someone who wants to marry me. Which is why we're breaking up.

MILES

We are?

DEBBIE

Yes.

MILES

When?

DEBBIE

Now.

MILES

Here?

DEBBIE

Unless you'd like to go somewhere else.

19 <u>INT. PET HOSPITAL - EVENING (SATURDAY)</u> (Julian, Amanda)

19

BACK IN THE RECEPTION AREA OF THE PET HOSPITAL, JULIAN IS GIVING MOLLY THE ONCE OVER.

JULIAN

She does look a lot like Molly.

AS JULIAN STROKES HER UNDERNEATH THE CHIN, MOLLY PURRS FURIOUSLY.

AMANDA

Look how she's purring. It's like she already knows you.

JULIAN

What did you say her name was?

AMANDA

Catface.

JULIAN

(cold)

Catface?

JULIAN TURNS BACK AND GLANCES OUT THROUGH THE WINDOW, TO WHERE KEVIN WAITS OUTSIDE, HIS FACE PRESSED UP TO THE GLASS.

AMANDA

You have to say it in your puddycat voice. Catface.

JULIAN

(reluctant)

Hello Catface.

AMANDA

(fond)

You always were great with cats. It's what made me realize you were capable of love. Just not with me.

A BEAT. JULIAN HANDS MOLLY BACK.

JULIAN

I've never seen this cat before in my life.

AMANDA

I just thought I should double check.

You know, in case...

JULIAN GLANCES BACK AT KEVIN. KEVIN GESTURES FOR HIM TO HURRY THINGS UP.

JULIAN

There are a lot of wackos out there.

AMANDA

This guy was nice.

JULIAN

You like him, right?

AMANDA

(laughing)

That's so typical of me. The moment I meet a guy I actually like, I freak out. Can you believe I actually entertained the idea that he'd stolen a cat just to ask me out!

JULIAN

That is a bit extreme.

AMANDA

Thanks for coming in.

JULIAN GLANCES OVER AT THE WINDOW. KEVIN IS GESTURING WILDLY, URGING HIM TO ASK HER OUT.

JULIAN

It was good to see you.

AMANDA

You too.

JULIAN

(tentative)

You don't wanna grab a bite to eat, do

you? Tomorrow lunch, maybe.

AMANDA

I can't. Sorry.

JULIAN

(relief)

Okay.

JULIAN TURNS TO LEAVE, BUT AMANDA IS NOT FINISHED.

AMANDA

What would be the point?

JULIAN

Just to, I don't know, catch up.

AMANDA

What for?

JULIAN

No, you're right. I'm sorry. Forget

about it.

AMANDA STARES AT JULIAN IN SILENCE FOR A WHILE. JULIAN IS UNNERVED AND SHIFTS UNEASILY. WHEN AMANDA SPEAKS AGAIN, SHE DOES SO WITH A CALM RAGE.

AMANDA

Who the hell do you think you are?

JULIAN

I-

AMANDA

You can't just waltz back in here, fourteen months after you break my heart, just when I'm finally piecing it back together...

JULIAN

I should go.

AMANDA

(hysterical laughing)

I mean, Jesus! The day I finally meet someone, someone who doesn't remind me of you; you just show up!!!

JULTAN

You called me.

AMANDA

(not listening)

Do men like you have some kind of alarm system that goes off whenever someone you hurt threatens to be happy!

JULIAN

Calm down, please!

AMANDA

Don't tell me to calm down!

JULIAN

This kind of thing is exactly why we broke up in the first place.

AMANDA (CONT'D)

(screaming now)

GET OUT OF HERE YOU MONSTER!!!

JULIAN HURRIES OUTSIDE AS AMANDA STARTS THROWING PET FOOD SAMPLES AND VITAMIN BOTTLES AT HIM.

20 <u>EXT. PET HOSPITAL - EVENING (SATURDAY)</u> (Kevin, Julian)

20

KEVIN WATCHES, STUNNED BY THE FEROCITY OF AMANDA'S REACTION, AS JULIAN HURRIES INTO HIS CAR. KEVIN CLIMBS IN BESIDE HIM.

KEVIN

(knows full well)

How did it go?

JULIAN

She said no.

KEVIN

Really? Oh, I'm sorry.

JULIAN

I knew she'd say no.

KEVIN

Yes, you did. You did say that. Even

so, thank you.

JULIAN

Don't mention it.

21 <u>INT. SPORTS BAR - NIGHT (SATURDAY)</u> (Kevin, Julian)

21

AS MILES AND JULIAN PLAY POOL IN SOLEMN SILENCE, KEVIN CAN'T STOP RELIVING THE MOMENT. AS JULIAN LINES UP HIS SHOT:

KEVIN

Because that can't have been easy, getting blown out of the water like that. Me, I'm used to rejection, but this must be a whole new experience for you.

JULIAN MISSES HIS SHOT. HE HANDS THE CUE TO MILES.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

Losing out to your best friend, and in such humiliating circumstances.

JULIAN

(annoyed)

It was nothing really.

22 <u>INT. BAR - NIGHT (SATURDAY)</u> (Kevin, Julian)

22

KEVIN, JULIAN AND MILES SIT AT A TABLE WITH THREE GIRLS. WHILE MILES AND JULIAN SIP THEIR DRINKS IN SILENCE, KEVIN REGALES ALL THREE GIRLS.

KEVIN

It wasn't just no. It was 'no way, not in a million years, get out of my life loser.' I don't think I've ever seen a girl as angry as that in my life.

THE GIRLS ARE IMPRESSED. JULIAN ISN'T.

JULIAN

You're welcome.

23 <u>INT. JULIAN AND MILES' APARTMENT - NIGHT (SATURDAY)</u> (Kevin)

23

IT'S LATE AT NIGHT NOW. JULIAN AND MILES SIT SLOUCHED IN THE SOFA WATCHING ICE HOCKEY. KEVIN DRINKS FROM A MUG.

KEVIN

No, you're right, I shouldn't gloat. I appreciate what you did, and out of respect for you, I'm not going to go on about how great I feel. I'm just going to sit here, I'm not even going to grin.

KEVIN REACHES AROUND THE SOFA, AND PICKS UP THE BOTTLE OF CHAMPAGNE HE'S BEEN DRINKING. HE POURS HIMSELF ANOTHER MUGFUL.

DISSOLVE TO:

24 <u>INT. DINER - DAY (SUNDAY)</u> (Kevin, Julian, Miles) 24

CHYRON: 'SUNDAY'

AS THEY DO EVERY SUNDAY, KEVIN AND JULIAN EAT BREAKFAST AT THIS CHEAP AND CHEERFUL DINER. KEVIN EATS A LARGE FRUIT PLATTER, JULIAN A BOWL OF OATMEAL.

KEVIN

Can you believe how much watermelon there is in this fruit platter?

JULIAN

What's wrong with watermelon?

KEVIN

It's like ninety nine percent water!
It's a complete waste of space!

JULIAN

I'll have it if you want.

JULIAN REACHES FOR THE WATERMELON, KEVIN BATS HIS HAND AWAY.

MILES ARRIVES AND SITS DOWN BESIDE THEM. HE CLEARLY HASN'T SLEPT AND THERE'S A LOOK OF MADNESS ABOUT HIM.

KEVIN

You okay?

MILES

I hardly slept. There's like this huge space in the bed.

KEVIN

(gentle)

There would be. She's a big girl.

JULIAN

What you're going through, it's only to be expected. It's like you just got out of prison. You're going to need time to readjust to the real world.

MILES

(wired)

But what if I'm not cut out for the real world? What if I'm one of those repeat offenders who can't cope unless they're locked up?

MILES GETS OUT A CRUMPLED BIT OF PAPER AND UNFOLDS IT.

MILES (CONT'D)

I drew up a list of all the pros and cons of marrying Debbie.

(MORE)

24

24 CONTINUED:

MILES (CONT'D)

I came up with loads of things: her looks, her taste in fabric, the way she dances.

KEVIN

Was there anything in the pros column?

MILES

(increasingly manic)

And I was thinking, you know; just because I don't want to grow up and settle down, just 'cos I want to cling on to this state of suspended adolescence as long as I possibly can, doesn't mean that I want to be on my own. And that's when I realized, maybe there's another way out of this.

JULIAN

Miles, you don't want to get married.

MILES LEANS IN AND LOWERS HIS VOICE. THIS, WE UNDERSTAND, IS HIS BIG IDEA.

MILES

I'm not talking about getting married,
I'm talking about getting engaged.

JULIAN

It's the same thing.

MILES

No. It's not. Marriage is a legally binding contract.

(MORE)

24

24 CONTINUED:

MILES (CONT'D)

But engagement is really only an option to enter into a contract.

JULIAN

And they said romance was dead.

MILES

When you get engaged, the only thing you're really committing to, is making a decision. All you're really doing is extending your ultimatum. I get engaged, I buy myself as much as another six months to decide.

Technically, I don't have to actually reach a decision until the moment she walks down the aisle.

MILES OPENS THE FLOOR TO QUESTIONS.

KEVIN

Genius.

MILES

Really?

KEVIN

Nope.

25 <u>INT. PET HOSPITAL - DAY (SUNDAY)</u> (Kevin, Amanda)

25

KEVIN - DRESSED SMARTLY FOR HIS DATE - ARRIVES TO FIND AMANDA - STILL IN HOSPITAL SCRUBS.

KEVIN

Hey, what's up?

AMANDA

I've got some bad news.

KEVIN

Is it about lunch?

AMANDA

(formal)

It's Catface. There was a complication. With her heart - possibly a heartworm, possibly cardiomyopathy, it's hard to say without further investigation - coupled with the stress of being separated from her owner - triggered a thromboembolism, and, well... we call it Feline Sudden Death Syndrome.

KEVIN

Is she okay?

AMANDA

She's dead, Kevin.

KEVIN

How dead?

AMANDA

Very dead.

KEVIN TAKES A MOMENT TO DIGEST THIS. TO AMANDA'S SURPRISE, HE SEEMS PRETTY PHILOSOPHICAL.

KEVIN

And that's the whole of the bad news?

AMANDA

Isn't that bad enough?

KEVIN

No, it's terrible. I'm devastated. We should go and commiserate over lunch.

AMANDA

I'm surprised you can even think of eating at a time like this.

KEVIN

I always eat when I'm depressed.

That's why I'm so fat.

AMANDA

(awkward)

It's just - I assumed you'd want to be
on your own, so I've agreed to make a
few house calls.

KEVIN REALIZES THAT SOMETHING'S CHANGED.

KEVIN

How about later in the week?

AMANDA

Kevin, I came out of a relationship fourteen months ago.

KEVIN

That's quite a long time.

AMANDA

I thought I was over it, but it turns

out I'm not. I'm sorry.

KEVIN LOOKS LIKE HE'S GOING TO CRY.

KEVIN

Cool.

AMANDA

Are you okay?

KEVIN

I'm just a bit upset about Catface.

Obviously.

AMANDA

It's never easy telling someone their cat's dead.

A BEAT. KEVIN LOOKS WORRIED AS HE REMEMBERS WHOSE CAT IT IS.

26 <u>INT. DEBBIE'S APARTMENT - DAY (SUNDAY)</u> (Miles, Debbie)

26

MILES ARRIVES TENTATIVELY TO FIND DEBBIE AND CHARLOTTE, IN EXACTLY THE SAME POSITIONS AS THEY WERE SATURDAY MORNING, IN DISCUSSION ON THE SOFA. DEBBIE IS WEARING A THIRD OUTFIT.

MILES

Can we talk?

CHARLOTTE LOOKS TO DEBBIE. DEBBIE NODS. CHARLOTTE GETS UP, AND MOVES OFF LIKE AN OBEDIENT LIEUTENANT. IT'S JUST MILES AND DEBBIE.

DEBBIE

What do you want, Miles?

MILES

Yesterday, when you told me you wanted to get married, it was like getting hit by a bus.

DEBBIE RAISES AN EYEBROW.

MILES (CONT'D)

But, now I've had a chance to think it through, I've realized that marriage isn't necessarily something to be terrified of. It's not like a jail sentence, or a terminal illness, it's something I might actually enjoy. And at the end of the day, if it doesn't work out, we can always get divorced.

27 <u>INT. JULIAN AND MILES' APARTMENT - DAY (SUNDAY)</u> (Kevin, Julian, Miles)

27

JULIAN IS INSTALLING A BRAND NEW CAT FLAP ON THE DOOR TO THE BACK YARD. KEVIN ARRIVES SHEEPISHLY, CARRYING AN URN IN HIS HANDS.

KEVIN

What are you doing?

JULIAN

Molly looked so upset earlier, I thought I'd treat her to a new cat flap.

JULIAN GETS TO HIS FEET TO ADMIRE HIS WORK.

JULIAN (CONT'D)

You think she'll fit?

KEVIN LOOKS DOWN AT THE URN.

KEVIN

I've got a feeling she might.

JULIAN

Who's the urn for?

KEVIN SMILES SHEEPISHLY, AND GENTLY ROTATES THE URN TOWARDS JULIAN, TO REVEAL THE NAME 'CATFACE' EMBOSSED ON ITS SIDE. JULIAN'S FACE DROPS.

JULIAN (CONT'D)

Catface?

SUDDENLY MILES BURSTS IN.

MILES

She'll think about it! She'll think

about it!

(picks up on the atmosphere)

Who died?

28 <u>INT. BAR - NIGHT (SUNDAY)</u> (Julian, Kevin, Miles) 28

ALTHOUGH WE'RE AT THE SAME BAR WHERE WE SPENT FRIDAY NIGHT, IT'S NOW VIRTUALLY EMPTY. THE MOOD IS FORLORN AS JULIAN, KEVIN AND MILES SIT AT THEIR USUAL TABLE, WITH CATFACE'S URN RESTING ON A FOURTH CHAIR.

JULIAN

I'm going to really miss her.

KEVIN

If it makes it any easier, Amanda said she would have died anyway.

(MORE)

28

28 CONTINUED:

KEVIN (CONT'D)

Even if, you know, we hadn't put her in a cage and called her catface.

JULIAN GLARES AT HIM. MILES, MEANWHILE, IS PREOCCUPIED BY HIS OWN PROBLEMS.

MILES

(shakes head)

It's not that I want to marry her.

It's just, I want her to want to marry

me. That was supposed to be the whole

dynamic between us. One way traffic.

KEVIN

You're still going out with her, right?

MILES

Yeah, I think so. I hope so.

KEVIN

So, technically, you're in exactly the same position as you were on Friday night. Your relationship has spent an entire weekend going absolutely nowhere.

MILES

(brightens)

I suppose.

JULIAN'S PHONE RINGS. HE PICKS IT UP, LOOKS, PUTS IT DOWN WITHOUT ANSWERING.

KEVIN

How many times has she called now?

JULIAN

Four or five.

KEVIN

She's pretty persistent.

JULIAN

You could say.

KEVIN

What? Is she...

JULIAN

Emotional.

KEVIN

Women are. Probably a good thing I

didn't get involved.

JULIAN

Probably.

A PAUSE.

KEVIN

(shakes head)

Another weekend.

MILES

When did taking it easy get so hard?

JULIAN

It's almost going to be a relief to get back to work tomorrow.

ALL THREE OF THEM CONSIDER.

KEVIN

Any plans for next weekend?

JULIAN

(casual)

Some model agency is having a pool party.

ALL THREE GRADUALLY PERK UP.

KEVIN

Beautiful.

MILES

Can I come?

KEVIN

Depends. Can you get permission?

MILES

(blasé)

Sure. As long as I don't mention the models. Or the pool. Or the fact that it's a party.

KEVIN

Can't wait.

JULIAN

Me neither.

THEY CHINK GLASSES.

FADE OUT:

END OF SHOW