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CLARK

Okay. So... reschedule her.

MEGAN

I would but she seemed... stressed. I told her we might be able to make an exception this one time and... come to her?

MILES

You're not mean enough for reception.

CLARK

Where is it she'd like us to go?

6

INT. BRIDAL DRESS SHOP - DAY

6

MILES and CLARK are seated across from KAREN, pretty, 30's, stressed, and wearing a wedding dress.

Shot →

KAREN

I can't tell you how much I appreciate you meeting me here. I had everything arranged so I could come in, and then the dress came back and apparently the stress of the wedding has caused me to lose weight, sadly all in my breasts, so now I float in this thing like I'm being shot out of a white cannon, and my mom is currently trying to get the store to screw over some other bride and give us her dress.

CLARK

It's not a problem. This is my associate Miles. I'm afraid Ross, who scheduled your appointment... well, we're not sure where Ross is.

KAREN

That's okay. I just got his name from a friend of a friend, and honestly, at the moment I can't remember any of their names.

CLARK

How can we help you?

Karen's mother, GWEN, pokes her head around a corner.

GWEN

Karen, they're going to let you try on the other one.

KAREN

I'm not stealing someone's dress, mom.

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GWEN

It's not stealing. The store is--

KAREN

I'll give you the speech about right and wrong momentarily. Can you just give me a minute?

Gwen SIGHS, goes away. Karen turns back to them.

KAREN

I'd like you to help me go through with this.

CLARK

With...

KAREN

The wedding.

MILES

You... don't want to get married?

KAREN

Are you kidding? I totally want to get married. I'm one of those weird people who dressed up like a princess and got married to my stuffed animals when I was little. When Sean asked me I was so happy I cried for two minutes before I could actually say the word yes. But as it gets closer and there's all this... stuff swirling around, I started thinking things, like crazy things. Like maybe I'm too young to get married. Or maybe instead of Sean I should be marrying his best man. Or hey, maybe I'd make a better lesbian if I just gave it a shot.

CLARK

Karen, cold feet is a completely normal response to life changing--

KAREN

Cold feet. That's what everyone keeps saying. But I get cold feet about everything. I buy a pack of gum, I have second thoughts. And my second thoughts are always bad. My first instinct, that's solid, that where it's at, but I just can't seem to put my brain on mute after that and I end up ruining things. I talk myself out of them. I miss them. And I don't want to do that. Not with this.

CLARK

I'm just not sure how we could help.

KAREN

Well, I read this article that said there were these experiments where they, what do you call it, primed people in stressful situations to... like, tune out the negatives and see the positives.

MILES

Positive key stimuli focal priming.

KAREN

Yes! That sounds perfect! Do whatever that is! 'Focus' me on 'I do' not Bride Wars. 'Key whatever' me so I think about my fiance Sean instead of what color the band's lapels should be. Get me to just stop watching Runaway Bride.

CLARK

Karen, the thing is, we mostly do this to people who... well, don't know we're doing it.

KAREN

Then this one will be easy. We'll all be on the same team!

(sees his doubt)

Dr. Edwards, I know myself. When I was 8, I signed up for camp and then refused to go because I became convinced the place was haunted. But my dad carefully explained there were no ghosts, and then he dragged me, kicking and screaming, to camp. And I ended up having the best time and meeting people who've been my closest friends ever since. But if it were me, I'd never have gone. I'd have run to my closet and hid from things that weren't even there.

Suddenly Gwen pokes her head back around the corner. She's holding a dress.

GWEN

Karen. We need to go. Like, NOW.

As mom disappears again, Karen SIGHS and turns back to Clark.

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KAREN

Please, Dr. Edwards. Just help me make sure I get to camp.

END

Off Clark and Miles, considering--

7

EXT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY

7

Ross is waiting as Sam arrives.

SAM

Ross, what is going on? I'm gone for a couple hours and you leave twenty messages on--

ROSS

What are you doing to Miles?

SAM

(stunned)

What?

ROSS

You introduce him to this Oliver guy, then you warn him to watch out, get him worrying about Oliver but trusting you, and then you end up taking him down. You think I haven't seen this? You think I haven't done it?

SAM

Apparently you've seen and done it way too many times because you're acting totally paranoid. I'm not up to anything. Did he say I--

ROSS

He didn't have to. I've developed a pretty good radar for these things and I've learned to trust it.

SAM

And apparently you trust your radar more than you trust me.

A beat. Ross doesn't soften, just changes his approach.

ROSS

You're right. I've probably got it wrong. I'm probably seeing moves I would have made, imagining the rest.

SAM

You're not just imagining the rest, you're accusing me of it.

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ROSS

No. We can still do something, we can... we can go to the police.

SAM

And drag everyone in? Have you and Miles end up in some case against Vincent? Look him up, Ross. See what happens to those people. No way. I've done the math. I made this mess, I'm taking it with me. So, instead of debating, I thought maybe you'd take me to the airport.

ROSS

But there has to be some--

SAM

Ross, please. I've had to run lots of times. But what I've never gotten is a proper goodbye. I was hoping, just this once, it could be different.

OFF ROSS --

36

EXT. PARK - NIGHT

36

Clark gets out of his car, as nearby, Sean does the same. Karen sees Sean, starts moving toward him.

Start →

CLARK

Karen! Karen, can we just chat for a--

KAREN

(thrown)

Dr. Edwards?

Clark rushes to her, starts to walk her away from Sean.

CLARK

(to Sean)

We'll just be a minute.

KAREN

I don't understand. What--

CLARK

Karen, look I know that you might be feeling some very intense things at the moment, and I probably should have better prepared you for that. But I think before you go making radical, life altering decisions, we should at least sit down and talk through your feelings.

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KAREN

It's okay, Dr. Edwards. This is what I want. I've never been more sure of anything in my life.

Clark looks at her, worried.

CLARK

Are you sure? I'm not trying to force you one way or another, but I'm not sure just throwing off one guy to chase another is a healthy--

KAREN

Wait. What are you talking about?

CLARK

I... don't know. Isn't that why you... you said you needed to find Jeff and then no one could find the two of you and--

KAREN

You thought I was... with Jeff? Oh my God. That's hilarious. No. Jeff is Sean's best friend in the world, Dr. Edwards. I would never ask him to marry me without having Jeff there.

CLARK

Then... I'm confused.

KAREN

I thought this was your plan. That what you were doing was... I woke up with this just... certainty about what I was supposed to do. I thought that was the point.

CLARK

It was. I just can't figure out what you've actually decided.

KAREN

I'm getting married.

(beat)

Right now. In this park. I mean, assuming Sean says yes. See, that's what I realized. That what I always thought I wanted, the gown, and the music and the princess, that wasn't what I wanted anymore at all. When it got right down to it, what I wanted... was just him. And when I knew that, everything else was easy. Well, almost.

(MORE)

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KAREN (CONT'D)

I still had to get my mother, Jeff,
and some ordained guy from the
internet who said he was free in two
hours.

Sean's curiosity and slight fear finally bring him over.

SEAN

I'm sorry. Can someone please tell me
what the hell is going on?

Karen looks at Clark, then over at Sean.

KAREN

Honey, I was hoping I could interest
you in a slight change of plans.

Off Sean --

~~END~~

37

EXT. AIRPORT TERMINAL - NIGHT

37

Ross puts Sam's suitcase on the curb. The two of them
stand there, still, as people rush by.

SAM

He'll get an official looking letter
from the FBI explaining that Oliver
pulled out and disappeared, and that
his money was able to be returned and
protected with new authentication, and
while our investigation is ongoing,
it's still best if he not--

ROSS

Sam--

She shuts up. A long beat.

SAM

Sorry. I tried to think of the thing
that would take me the longest to say
so that maybe if I just kept talking,
I'd never have to go.

ROSS

Are you sure you want to do this?

38

EXT. PARK - NIGHT

38

Clark watches from a distance as --

Karen and Sean hold hands by a simple tree with a view
of Chicago lit against the sky. They're flanked by JEFF
and Gwen as a slightly strange looking OFFICIAN in
street clothes reads vows.

Fade the sound as -- Karen and Sean look at one another.

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