

How I Met Your Mother
"The Most Awesome Game"

by

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and

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COLD OPEN

INT. MCCLARAN'S

(CANDICE, CARL, BARNEY)

CANDICE, A BUSTY YOUNG WOMAN WEARING A GOLD CROSS NECKLACE TALKS TO CARL, THE BARTENDER.

CANDICE
(to bartender)
--All I'm saying is that it's been hard to meet anybody in the city that respects the Lord like I do.

CARL
(barely paying attention)
Uh huh. Yeah. Sure.

CANDICE
A simple guy, who loves going to church, wants to settle down, raise a family. Where would I ever find a guy like that?

ON THAT NOTE, BARNEY ENTERS THE BAR, WEARING A PURE WHITE SUIT AND TIE. HE STARES AT HER INTENTLY -- NOT LEERING, JUST CURIOUS.

CANDICE (CONT'D)
(confused)
Really?

BARNEY LOOKS AROUND BEHIND HIM, WONDERING WHO SHE'S TALKING TO.

CANDICE (CONT'D)
(to bartender)
Do you get people like that in here often?

CARL
(looking around)
Is that guy with the drunk cats back?

CANDICE
No, no. The guy (she nods to her left) with the crazy suit and weird stare.

CARL LOOKS AT BARNEY, AND DOESN'T SEEM TO SEE HIM. HE STARES AT CANDICE WITH BLANK CONFUSION.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CARL
Sweetie, maybe you should lay off
the holy wine.

CANDICE
You seriously don't see a guy
sitting next to me.

CARL
I seriously think you need your
head examined.

BARNEY
(slowly)
Praise Be! You can see me?

COMING THROUGH THE DOOR WE SEE TED, MARSHALL AND LILY. THEY
ALL WALK PAST BARNEY, IGNORING HIM.

CANDICE
(grabbing Ted by the
jacket)
You see him right?

TED
Who?

CANDICE
White suit guy!

TED LAUGHS, AS IF HE'S LAUGHING WITH HER, THEN QUICKLY WALKS
AWAY, SMILE FADING INTO COMPLETE DISDAIN.

BARNEY
You may be wondering why no one can
see me. The reason is, only the
truly righteous can see Angels.

CANDICE TAKES A BIG GULP OF HER MARTINI.

BARNEY (CONT'D)
Mary Magdalene had the same
reaction. Sad what happened to her.
She had a great pair.

BARNEY TAKES CANDICE'S HAND, STARING INTO HER EYES.

SHE NODS.

BARNEY (CONT'D)
We should talk this over. You may
be the next divine womb.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

CANDICE
Divine womb?

BARNEY
(breaking character
slightly)
Did you not read the Bible? There's
a whole part about some chick
getting the heavenly touch in
her...divinity.

CANDICE
I'll grab my coat.

BARNEY
I'll meet you outside, I just need
to mark that table (he points to
Ted, Marshall and Lily) for
imminent death.

CANDICE
Oh, ok.

SHE EXITS.

CARL
20 bucks.

BARNEY PULLS OUT HIS WALLET AND SLAPS A BILL INTO HIS HANDS.
FROM ACROSS THE ROOM, TED GIVES HIM A RELUCTANT THUMBS UP.

BARNEY GENUFLECTS AND EXITS.

CREDITS

ACT ONE

INT. 2030 LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

(NARRATOR, DAUGHTER, SON)

FUTURE TED'S CHILDREN SIT ON THE COUCH.

NARRATOR (O.S.)
Kids, there's something you need to
understand about your Uncle Barney
and Aunt Robin. As most people get
older they begin to see boredom as
a good thing.

CUT TO:

EXT. FARMER'S MARKET - DAY

(NARRATOR, MARSHALL, LILY)

MARSHALL IS PROUDLY HOLDING UP A TINY BASKET OF STRAWBERRIES, LILY IS CLAPPING HER HANDS WITH EXCITEMENT.

NARRATOR (V.O.)
Farmer's Market on Sunday--

CUT TO:

INT. TED'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

(NARRATOR, TED)

TED, WEARING RED SILK PAJAMAS, IS SMOKING AN OLD MAN PIPE AND READING LOVE IN THE TIME OF CHOLERA IN FRONT OF THE FIREPLACE, LOOKING THOUGHTFUL AND SELF SATISFIED.

NARRATOR (V.O.)
--a good book in front of the fire--

CUT TO:

INT. TED'S APARTMENT - ANOTHER NIGHT

(NARRATOR TED, MARSHALL, LILY)

TED, MARSHALL AND LILY SITTING ON THE COUCH IN TED'S LIVING ROOM, MUNCHING ON POPCORN, TOTALLY ZOMBIFIED.

NARRATOR (V.O.)
--the occasional movie--

MARSHALL YELPS IN TERROR. LILY COMFORTS HIM.

CUT TO:

SNAPSHOT OF LILY AND MARSHALL STANDING IN A MONSOON. THE GRINNING MARSHALL IS GIVING AN EXCITED THUMBS UP, WHILE LILY LOOKS AT HIM WITH A SIDEWAYS DEATH GLARE.

NARRATOR (V.O.)
--and maybe even a vacation
somewhere semi-exotic every year or
two. That's all most older people
need to be content.

CUT TO:

INT. 2030 LIVING ROOM - EVENING

(SON, NARRATOR, DAUGHTER)

SON

Well, that's depressing.

NARRATOR (O.S.)

It's just a part of life. But people like Barney and Robin? For them, a boring life is worse than death. So, they fight against it, kicking and screaming.

FLASHBACK TO:

INT. BAR - DAY

(NARRATOR, BARNEY, ROBIN)

BARNEY IS IN A FAT SUIT, ROBIN IS LOOKING HORRIBLY FRAZZLED, APPEARING AS THEY DID IN "THE ROUGH PATCH". BARNEY IS ANGRILY EATING RIBS, ROBIN IS GLANCING AT BARNEY WITH DISGUST, SIPPING VODKA TONIC.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

But back in the Fall of 2009, a few month into Barney and Robin's relationship, boredom began to creep in.

CUT TO:

INT. 2030 LIVING ROOM - EVENING

(DAUGHTER, NARRATOR, SON)

DAUGHTER

You told us this story already. Aunt Lily gets a storm trooper and some Canadian actor to break them up, right? And that crazy girl?

NARRATOR (O.S.)

Meg. That's right.

DAUGHTER

And then they broke up anyway. 'Cause they were unhappy.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

NARRATOR (O.S.)

Right again. But as it turned out, they didn't just come to that realization as easily as they initially wanted us to believe.

INT. BAR - EVENING

(NARRATOR, ROBIN, JOE, MARSHALL, TED, LILY, BARNEY)

TED, MARSHALL, LILY AND BARNEY ARE SITTING AT THEIR BOOTH, DRINKING BEER AND TALKING.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

In Spring of 2010, about six months after she and Barney had broken up, your Aunt Robin began to see a guy named Joe.

ROBIN WALKS IN, ARM AND ARM WITH JOE, A BURLY MAN IN HIS MID-THIRTIES WHO IS SOMEWHAT HANDSOME. ROBIN IS EXCITED, AND THEY ARE BOTH HAPPY AS THEY APPROACH THE BOOTH.

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

We liked Joe. Joe was boring. Joe was nice. Joe would always buy the first round, leave big tips, and never stuck around long enough to become annoying.

ROBIN

Hey guys, I want you to meet Joe. Joe? These are my friends.

JOE

Nice ta meetchya.

BRIEF HELLOS ALL AROUND, BARNEY REMAINS SILENT, WITH A BEMUSED EXPRESSION.

JOE (CONT'D)

Bad news is: we only have time for a round. Good news is: I'm buyin'!

MARSHALL

(to Robin)

Why can't your show have news this good?

JOE WALKS OFF TOWARD THE BAR. ROBIN SITS DOWN AT THE BOOTH.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ROBIN

(sarcastically)

Obviously you didn't see Gino the man who's convinced that the ghost of his dead spider monkey follows him around.

MARSHALL

(sincerely)

Robin, the ONE time I might be interested in a segment, and you leave me hanging.

ROBIN

Not really, apparently 'Popcicle' was flinging something otherwordly at me the whole time.

TED

So, Joe?

ROBIN

Yeah.

TED

(teasing)

I think you like him. You're gonna buy him some soda pop and put a baby in him.

ROBIN

Maybe not in that order, but yes. (getting VERY Canadian) He's even taking me to see some major Ranger versus Maple Leaf body checking tonight.

THE GANG ALL STARE AT EACH OTHER.

MARSHALL

Your turn, Lily.

LILY

(speaking slowly in mock Canadian)

Um, Is this a Mouny or Moose related thing?

ROBIN

(annoyed)

Hockey.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

THE GANG BREAKS INTO A FIT OF "OH!"'S. JOE COMES BACK WITH A PITCHER OF BEER. HE SETS IT DOWN AND PUT OUT HIS HAND, INTRODUCING HIMSELF PERSONALLY TO EACH PERSON.

ITS WEIRDNESS IS NOT UNNOTICED.

JOE
(to Ted)
Hi, I'm Joe.

TED
Ted.

JOE
Cool, (to Lily) Hi, I'm Joe.

LILY
Lily.

JOE
Cool, (to Marshall) Hi, I'm--

MARSHALL
(interrupting)
I'm Marshall, you're Joe, I get
that.

JOE
Cool,--

JOE TURNS TO BARNEY, WHO'S BEEN MYSTERIOUSLY QUIET THE ENTIRE TIME.

JOE (CONT'D)
I'm Joe--

THE SCENE FREEZE-FRAMES.

NARRATOR (V.O.)
Thing about Joe was that he was the first guy Robin had really dated since Barney. So when she first brought him around, we nodded, smiled, and pretended to care about what he was saying, while we were all really just watching Barney like a ticking time bomb.

THE SCENE RESUMES, BARNEY SHAKES JOE'S HAND.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

BARNEY

Pleased to meet you Joe, I'm
Barney.

JOE

Cool.

JOE LOOKS AT HIS WATCH. THEY'RE LATE.

MARSHALL

The bad news is: you have to go
now.

JOE

But the good news is: you get to
keep the beer.

NO ONE THINKS THIS JOKE IS FUNNY BUT MARSHALL. HE PRACTICALLY
SQUEALS IN DELIGHT.

ROBIN

See ya, guys.

ROBIN AND JOE EXIT. MARSHALL POURS HIMSELF A GLASS OF BEER
HAPPILY. EVERYONE ELSE SIMPLY STARES AT BARNEY.

MARSHALL

I like that guy.

LILY

Marshall, my little college
freshman, you just like it when
people buy you liquor.

BARNEY

(noticing the staring)
What?

TED

You played it pretty cool.

BARNEY

Ted Mosby, what are you talking
about?

TED

With Robin's new guy, that was
pretty cool.

LILY

Yeah, Barney. Are you sure you're
not covering some rage?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

BARNEY

Huh? No.

TED

When Robin and I broke up, I was cool too. I didn't even cry into my pillow for weeks, or anything.

HE PLACES A HAND OF COMFORT ON BARNEY'S SHOULDER.

TED (CONT'D)

Let it all out, buddy.

BARNEY

Pfft. You guys are being immature. Now if you'll excuse me, I see a girl that needs to work out some Daddy issues with yours truly.

CUT TO:

INT. BAR - ANOTHER NIGHT

(NARRATOR, ROBIN, BARNEY, TED, LILY, MARSHALL,)

LILY, MARSHALL, TED AND BARNEY ARE SITTING AT THEIR USUAL BOOTH AT MCCLARAN'S. TED IS SHOWING AN EXCITED MARSHALL A VINTAGE STAR WARS "RETURN OF THE JEDI" LUNCHBOX.

BARNEY SIPS ON SCOTCH.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Barney was over Robin. Barney was cool. Barney couldn't care less. (beat) Or, so we thought.

LILY

You guys are so lame.

BARNEY

Yeah, totally.

MARSHALL

Dude, this is a vintage Boba Fett Return of the Jedi Lunch box. Virtually priceless.

BARNEY

Lame. Now, maybe if it was Empire Strikes Back Boba Fett, not that "I get easily sucker punched in the head and fall into a lame pit in

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BARNEY (CONT'D)
the first half hour" Boba Fett you
worship.

MARSHALL
(to Ted)
That is kinda lame, Ted.

TED PLACES DOWN THE LUNCHBOX. THE MAGIC IS GONE.

TED
(to Barney)
Why do you have to ruin everything?

ROBIN RUNS INTO THE BAR EXCITEDLY.

ROBIN
He's taking me up to Canada! We're
gonna go moose hunting with my dad!
It's a total surprised, Joe called
him up, and they arranged
everything. Can you believe it?

IN A FEAT OF UNNATURAL STRENGTH, BARNEY GRABS THE LUNCHBOX
AND CRUSHES IT. HE THEN GENTLY PLACES IT ON THE TABLE IN
FRONT OF TED.

TED
What the hell was that?

BARNEY
Got the shakes. I...quit drinking.

ROBIN
Barney, you're drinking scotch.

BARNEY
It's...apple juice. (off her look)
Scotch flavored ginger ale? I
dunno, quitting is hard! Whatever,
tonight is going to be, (he looks
again at Robin and gets flustered)
wait for...stuff. Legen-ugh, I
gotta get outta here.

BARNEY LEAVES ABRUPTLY, EXITING THROUGH THE BACK ENTRANCE OF
THE BAR AND INTO THE ALLEY.

CUT TO:

EXT. BAR - ALLEY - NIGHT

(TED, BARNEY)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BARNEY IS STANDING UP AGAINST A WALL, UPSET. TED COMES OUT OF THE BACK DOOR.

TED
What's going on?

BARNEY QUICKLY WIPES HIS EYES, STARTLED.

BARNEY
Y-yeah! Nothing. I'm good. Perfect, even.

TED
(beat) Are you crying?

BARNEY
Pfft, no. I was, us, working out.

TED
(incredulous)
And your eyes were sweating?

BARNEY
Face workouts. You think these cheekbones just happen? Ted, please.

TED
You aren't over Robin, are you?

BARNEY
I--

TED
I knew it! I knew you couldn't have gotten over Robin so easily.

BARNEY
I am!

TED
Please, nobody gets over a girl that quickly -- especially not Robin Scherbatsky. I would know!

BARNEY IS SILENT.

TED (CONT'D)
But, dude, it's been sixth months, hasn't it?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

BARNEY

Six months, three weeks and -- I mean, I dunno. Whatever. Who cares?

TED

Uh-huh, sure. But I thought you guys were cool as friends? You made each other miserable when you were together, and you've hooked up with like a dozen--

BARNEY

--thirty-seven--

TED

--thirty-seven girls since you and Robin broke up. And she doesn't seem to care.

BARNEY

Oh, nice Ted. Now I feel much better.

TED

Just be straight with me.

BARNEY

I need a drink, that's what's going on.

TED

And whatdya know, we're ten steps away from a bar! I think it's destiny. Want to go back in?

BARNEY

No! I don't want to go back in there. Not yet. Ted, do you still have that twenty-nine year old bottle of Dalwhinnie Scotch I gave you on your birthday?

TED

Yeah, but I was sort of saving that for a special--

BARNEY

Perfect!

CUT TO:

INT. BAR - NIGHT

(LILY, ROBIN, MARSHALL, WENDY THE WAITRESS, ANGELIQUE)

ROBIN, MARSHALL AND LILY SIT IN THEIR USUAL BOOTH REELING OVER BARNEY'S ABRUPT EXIT.

LILY
I wonder what finally broke the camel's back.

ROBIN
You don't think this had to do with me, do you?

MARSHALL
Oh no, its not like you've left a trail of pathetic, effeminate men's broken hearts around New York, or anything.

LILY
Marshall, too resent-y.

MARSHALL
It was going to happen sooner or later. When you date one person in the group, that's understandable-- but when it's two, then people know you're just a great, big--

WENDY THE WAITRESS DROPS OFF A MARTINI TO THE TABLE.

WENDY
From the young lady in the blue dress.

ROBIN, MARSHALL AND LILY ALL LOOK UP CONSPICUOUSLY AT ANGELIQUE, AN ATTRACTIVE WOMAN SITTING AT THE BAR. SHE GIVES A FLIRTACIOUS WAVE BUT IS INTERRUPTED BY A MAN SITTING NEXT TO HER.

MARSHALL
(shrugs)
Whatever, free drink.

LILY
Oh HALE no.

LILY YANKS OFF HER EARRINGS AND BEGINS TO STAND UP--BUT ROBIN GRABS HER SHOULD FORCING HER DOWN.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ROBIN

Lily, I don't think this is what you think it is.

LILY

Some bi-atch trying to steal my vanilla thunder?

ROBIN

I think she wants to steal both of your vanilla thunders.

LILY

Huh? And also what? (realizing) Oh.

MARSHALL

(while sipping drink)

Hawt. (off Lily's look) Hau-tingly INAPPROPRIATE.

LILY

(considering)

Wow, that's actually...interesting.

MARSHALL

Can I change my vote back?

LILY

I haven't decided yet.

ROBIN

This kind of stuff happens all the time. A young attractive lonely woman goes out to a bar by herself, just so she can feel the warmth of a couple truly in love.

MARSHALL

Wow, Robin. (beat) That was WAY specific. Helpful, but jeez, get some more dogs, or something.

CUT TO:

INT. TED'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

(BARNEY, TED)

WITH A SHAKEY HAND, BARNEY IS SIPPING SCOTCH FROM A ROCKS GLASS. HE IS SITTING ON THE COUCH, LOOKING MISERABLE. TED SITS ON THE SOFA CHAIR, FACING HIM.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HE ALSO HAS A GLASS OF SCOTCH, FROM THE BOTTLE OF DALWHINNIE SITTING ON THE COFFEE TABLE.

BARNEY

Ted...can you keep a secret?

TED

Ummmm...

BARNEY

Swear Ted! Swear on your life, or something more important. Swear on your nerdy architecture books.

TED

Alright, alright.

BARNEY

Remember when Robin and I broke up?

TED

How could I forget? You guys were total hideous bizarro versions of yourselves.

FLASHBACK TO:

INT. DINER - NIGHT

(BARNEY, ROBIN)

BARNEY IS SITTING ACROSS A TABLE FROM ROBIN, WEARING HIS FAT SUIT AS SEEN IN "THE ROUGH PATCH". ROBIN IS ALSO LOOKING OVER THE TOP FRAZZLED AND HAGGARD, AS SHE WAS IN "THE ROUGH PATCH".

BARNEY (V.O.)

Oh, come on Ted, stop exaggerating.

CUT TO:

THE SAME SCENE, ALTHOUGH ROBIN AND BARNEY LOOK MUCH MORE NORMAL. A LITTLE ROUGH AROUND THE EDGES, AND ABSOLUTELY MISERABLE, BUT NEITHER FAT NOR HAGGARD.

CUT TO:

INT. TED'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

(BARNEY, TED)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BARNEY

Maybe my shirt wasn't freshly pressed, and maybe I had gone thirty-six hours without shaving, but Ted, and I say this with love, me at my worst absolutely wretched still looks better than you at your best. I mean, Ted! My handkerchief collection costs more than our entire wardrobe!

TED

And, that's a good thing?

BARNEY

No, Ted. Your lack of fashion sense is sad. Very, very sad.

TED

So, you and Robin.

BARNEY

When Robin and I broke up--it didn't quite happen like we told you. That night, after I gave you my entire porn collection to stop Robin's nagging?

FLASHBACK TO:

INT. BARNEY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

BARNEY IS LYING NEXT TO ROBIN IN BED, ASLEEP. HE IS TOSSING AND TURNING, OBVIOUSLY IN THE THROES OF A NIGHTMARE.

BARNEY (V.O.)

A fever fell upon me.

BARNEY WAKES UP SCREAMING, AND THEN RUNS AROUND HIS APARTMENT, IGNORING THE STARTLED AND SCARED ROBIN, WHO CALLS AFTER HIM.

HE DASHES MADLY FROM ONE POINT TO ANOTHER IN HIS ONCE LOVED BACHELOR PAD, REALIZING THAT IT IS NO LONGER HIS HOME. IT IS NOW SUPER CANADIAN!

WHERE ONCE HIS STORMTROOPER HAD BEEN, THERE IS NOW A MANNEQUIN IN A HOCKEY OUTFIT. WHERE ONCE HIS PORN COLLECTION HAD BEEN, ROBIN'S MASSIVE GUN COLLECTION HAS TAKEN UP RESIDENCE, BATHED IN RED LIGHT AND FUNKY MUSIC.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HE RUNS INTO THE BATHROOM, HOLDING UP THE TWO TOOTHBRUSHES AND SCREAMING.

FINALLY, HE RUNS BACK INTO THE BEDROOM, AND COUNTS 6 PILLOWS ON THE BED, HIS HORROR GROWING WITH EVERYONE.

BARNEY (CONT'D)
NOOOOOOO!

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. BARNEY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

(BARNEY, ROBIN)

ROBIN
Barney, I thought we'd give each other a little bit of warning before we played "night stalker". I mean, after the hockey stick in the 'Barnacles' incident...

BARNEY
Robin, I'm not happy.

ROBIN
I know, me neither.

BARNEY
But I don't want this to go away. Mostly cause it's awesome. But we need to do something.

ROBIN
Like what? Break up?

BARNEY
No, we need (beat) A PLAN!

CUT TO:

INT. TED'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

(BARNEY, TED)

BARNEY
It was horrible Ted, by the end of our relationship, we, we (sobs) we were only having sex two or three times a--

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TED
Week? Yeah, that happens.

BARNEY
A day, Ted! A DAY!

TED
Wait--What? Isn't there bruising,
at that point?

BARNEY
Ted, haven't you ever built up a
tolerance? Like getting callouses
on your fingers after you've played
guitar for a while?

TED
(disgusted)
Oh--jeez--ew. When things were good
between you and Robin, how many
times...did you two...?

BARNEY
Ted, do you remember last summer,
before you guys knew we were
hooking up, how oddly powerful
Robin and I had become?

CUT TO:

INT. TED'S APARTMENT - DAY

(TED, MARSHALL, LILY, BARNEY, ROBIN)

TED, MARSHALL AND LILY ARE ALL SITTING ON THE COUCH. BARNEY
KNOCKS ON THE DOOR, AND ON THE THIRD KNOCK, THE DOOR FALLS
DOWN, FLAT, REVEALING A SHOCKED BARNEY AND ROBIN.

CUT TO:

INT. TED'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN -DAY

(TED, ROBIN)

ROBIN IS OPENING A BEER.

TED
That's not twist off.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ROBIN GIVES IT A TUG AND THE WHOLE NECK OF THE BEER BREAKS OFF.

CUT TO:

INT. TED'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

(BARNEY, TED)

TED
(remembering)
Yeah, that was weird.

BARNEY
Imagine going to the gym for 80% of your waking hours. Only instead of going to the gym, we were going through three bed frames a week.(grins) What up? Broken-bed high five!

BARNEY HOLDS UP HIS HAND, MOVING IT BACK AND FORTH AS HE IMITATES THE SOUND OF A CREAKING BED. WHEN TED RELUCTANTLY HIGH FIVES HIM, BARNEY MAKES THE CRASHING SOUND OF A BED BREAKING, AND LAUGHS. TED WIPES HIS HAND ON HIS PANTS, A LITTLE BIT DISGUSTED.

TED
Okay, I get it. Please continue with the story.

BARNEY
First off! We had to convincingly appear to break up. We had to fool you guys into thinking it was over.

TED
What?

BARNEY
Don't look so indignant, Ted Evelyn-

TED
--That's not my middle name--

BARNEY
--Mosby. Things were great before then, and Robin and I? We were happy. Life was exciting, dangerous, new. And yes, we were in a relationship, no label needed.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BARNEY (CONT'D)
But the big bad daters, so
determined to add to that stupid
future front porch of yours--

EXT. DISTANT FUTURE FRONT PORCH - DAY

(MARSHALL, BARNEY, LILY, TED, ROBIN)

MARSHALL, LILY, ROBIN AND BARNEY ARE SITTING ON THEIR DREAM
FRONT PORCH, PLAYING GIN RUMMY, GRAY HAired, OLD AND HAPPY.

MARSHALL
Guys, isn't marriage awesome?

BARNEY SLAPS DOWN CARDS ON THE TABLE.

BARNEY
GIN RUMMY! I WIN!

BARNEY AND ROBIN HUG EACH OTHER INTENTLY AS LILY AND MARSHALL
LOOK ON HORRIFIED.

INT. TED'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

(TED, BARNEY)

TED
That's ridiculous.

BARNEY
Yeah, dude. Being old and married
is just as awesome as a coed
with high self esteem.

TED
No, I mean about you beating
Marshall at Gin Rummy, whatever
that is.

BARNEY
Ted--please. If I ever end up
married and playing old people
games, nobody wins. And when you
guys outed us? That's when Robin
and I began to lose that
special...something. With a label
upon us, so began the steady
decline into misery, aka normal
relationships.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BARNEY (CONT'D)
Over the next few weeks, we began
to put on a show when we were
around you guys.

FLASHBACK TO:

INT. BAR - NIGHT

(BARNEY, ROBIN, TED, LILY, MARSHALL)

LOOKING AS THEY DID IN "THE ROUGH PATCH", BARNEY AND ROBIN
SIT AT A BOOTH WITH TED, MARSHALL AND LILY.

TED, MARSHALL AND LILY GET UP, LEAVING THE TWO BEHIND. BEFORE
HE LEAVES, TED GIVES BARNEY A REASSURING PAT ON THE SHOULDER.

WHEN THEY LEAVE, BARNEY AND ROBIN, NOW LOOKING LIKE
THEMSELEVES, GIVE EACH OTHER A HIGH FIVE.

CUT TO:

INT. TED'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

(TED, BARNEY)

BARNEY

Defying physics we attempted to
smother our hotness under a greasy
layer of lies and the occasional
BBQ stain.

TED

Seriously?

BARNEY

As operation pretend to be more
miserable than we actually are went
on a for a few more weeks to build
up to a convincing fake break up so
we could go back to the awesome way
things used to be commenced--

TED

A shorter operation name probably
would have made it go quicker.

BARNEY

--we began to address and
tackle the Relationshipocalypse
2009!

CUT TO:

INT. MARSHALL AND LILY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

(MARSHALL, ANGELIQUE, LILY)

MARSHALL WALKS INTO HIS APARTMENT FROM WORK. HE SNIFFS THE AIR.

MARSHALL
Aw honey, you made me Brinner and
it's not even my birthday.

ANGLE ON:

ANGELIQUE SLOW MOTION FLIPPING PANCAKES IN LINGERIE.

ANGLE ON:

MARSHALL'S HORRIFIED FACE.

MARSHALL
Where's my wife?

LILY COMES OUT OF THE BEDROOM DRESSED CONSERVATIVELY.

LILY
I want to know what the hell is
going on here, Marshall. This
scantily clad woman is in our
place, making pancakes. (beat) And
she didn't even bring any syrup.

ANGLE ON:

LILY'S HAND PULLING SYRUP FROM A COUCH CUSHION. SLOW REVEAL:
LILY IN FULL ON SEX BOMB MODE. SHE'S WEARING LINGERIE AND HER
HAIR IS BLOWING IN HE WIND.

SHE BEGINS POURING SYRUP INTO HER MOUTH, THEN ANGELIQUE'S--

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. BAR - NIGHT

(LILY, MARSHALL, ROBIN)

LILY
Are you having the Menage Crepe
fantasy again?

MARSHALL
(ashamed)
Pancakes, actually.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LILY
Marshall, come on--(she turns
around toward the bar) she's not
even that--

ANGLE ON:

ANGELIQUE, IN THE SAME LINGERIE, POURING SYRUP INTO HER
MOUTH.

LILY
--hot. (almost to self) Blueberry
syrup?

ROBIN
On pancakes? Pfft. Why don't you
just pour orange juice all over
your french toast.

MARSHALL
(disbelief)
You honestly think maple syrup on
pancakes is weird?

ROBIN
(condescending)
Americans never know where to put
your syrup.

LILY
(still staring at
Angelique)
Oh, really?

ROBIN
Everybody knows that pancakes
should only be dressed with sugar
and butter.

MARSHALL AND LILY SIMULTANEOUSLY BREAK THEIR GAZE AT
ANGELIQUE.

MARSHALL AND LILY
Really?

MARSHALL
Where will Canada's insanity end?

CUT TO:

INT. BARNEY'S APARTMENT

BARNEY'S APARTMENT POST-ROBIN, AND ALL CANADA-FIED -- SHOWN IN A FLASHING, BRUTAL MONTAGE MUCH IN THE WAY A CRIME SHOW MIGHT MONTAGE PHOTOS OF A HORRIFIC CRIME SCENE.

BARNEY (V.O.)

Robin never officially moved into my place, but day by day, she'd bring a little bit more of her things into my apartment. I let Robin come in and spread her disease of bad taste and Candadian-ness across my once beloved bachelor pad!

BARNEY FINISHES HIS GLASS IN ONE GO, AND REFILLS, SHAKEN.

TED

Did she put up that Neil Young poster with him eating Canadian bacon on a zamboni? That gave me some really weird nightmares.

BARNEY

--Robin moved back to her place, and I my own.

TED

I don't know Barney, living together has its advantages. You can get to know the person better, breakfast in bed...

BARNEY

(patiently)

No, Ted. Seeing and talking to one another every day kills relationships. Fact.

TED

I wish relationships didn't have that pesky talking to each other part.

BARNEY

Right? Imagine this Ted. Do you remember... Muffin Girl?

FLASHBACK TO:

BRIEF MONTAGE OF VICTORIA, THE BAKER TED DATED IN SEASON ONE.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

By Muffin Girl, he meant Victoria,
the one that got away--the girl who
almost caused you kids not to
exist.

INT. TED'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

(BARNEY, TED)

TED

Victoria. What about her?

BARNEY

Ted, imagine if when she had gone
off to Streudal School--

TED

--Culinary School-

BARNEY

In Switzerland--

TED

Germany.

BARNEY

You had just said "Babe, call me
when you get back. Till then? Mosby
OUT."

TED

Oh, as if she would--

BARNEY

Have changed anything? Ted, please.
You wouldn't have had to deal with
any of that long distance
relationship crap, or any of those
invisible long distance strings
that keep you from hooking up with
other chicks. You and Robin would
have hooked up way earlier than you
did, that relationship would have
played out in about a year, much as
it did, but then Muffin Girl comes
back Muffin Chef and actually calls
you this time, cause, you know, you
didn't try to cheat on her. Then
you and her would have lived

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BARNEY (CONT'D)
happily ever after, or whatever
little girl fantasy you have about
marriage.

TED IS SILENT.

BARNEY (CONT'D)
Yeah, das what I thought.

TED
Fine, maybe you're right. You and
Robin moved back to your own places-

BARNEY
But as for the next step? Well, it
wouldn't be executed so easily. I
am of course talking about
something so heinous, something so
tragic and pestilent, I cannot say
it out loud.

BARNEY SCRIBBLES IT DOWN QUICKLY.

TED
Death? Really?

BARNEY
Yes Ted, DEATH, (whispering sadly)
aka boring sex.

TED OPENS HIS MOUTH TO SAY SOMETHING, BUT BARNEY INTERRUPTS.

BARNEY (CONT'D)
I know, I know--bad sex is like bad
pizza. It's still pretty
good, right? Wrong! Sex should
always be--

TED
Legendary?

BARNEY
Awesome. I was going to say
awesome.

TED
My mistake.

BARNEY
If an Olympic track runner comes in
fourth place, does he think, eh, at
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

BARNEY (CONT'D)

least I got a good workout? Hell
No!

TED

I guess not...

BARNEY

Saying that bad sex is okay is like
saying that a priest who sells pot
and sleeps around with sexy chicks
is still a pretty good guy, since
he's a priest and all.

TED

I dunno, that sounds like a pretty
awesome priest to me.

BARNEY

(grinning)

I guess so, huh. (serious again)
But what I'm trying to say is that
sex needs to be--

TED

Awesome?

BARNEY

--slash mythical dash amazing and
oh yeah, PS LEGENDARY every time!

TED

Mythical and legendary are sort of
the same--

BARNEY

We needed to challenge each other!
Ted, I get it, you like boredom. I
get it, that's your thing.
Slothiness. But me and Robin? We're
sharks, not sloths. And do you know
what happens when a shark stops
swimming?

TED

They die--

BARNEY

They die Ted! They DIE!

FLASHBACK TO:

INT. BAR - ANOTHER NIGHT

(Barney, Robin)

BARNEY AND ROBIN SIT AT THE USUAL BOOTH AT MACCLARAN'S,
SUSPICIOUSLY SCOPING OUT THE BAR.

BARNEY (V.O.)

And so to stave off that which will
not be named, thus began the
Official Sex Olympics of 2009. A
set of challenges and seductions
greater than any seen since the
Fertility Danger Games of Ancient
Mesopotamia!

CUT TO:

INT. TED'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

(Barney, Ted)

TED

Fertility Danger Games? Your
subscription to National Geographic
is starting to damage your
judgement.

FLASHBACK TO:

INT. BAR - NIGHT

(Barney, Robin)

BARNEY (V.O.)

There was the "Thirsty Man Dash",
we'd order every beer on the menu--

BARNEY MAKES A GESTURE SIGNIFYING THAT HE WANTS EVERY BEER ON
THE MENU.

FLASHES TO:

BARNEY AND ROBIN SITTING AT A TABLE HOLDING AN OBSCENE NUMBER
OF EMPTY GLASSES. HE THEN NODS TO ROBIN AND THEY GO UPSTAIRS
TO HER PLACE.

FLASHES TO:

INT. TED'S APARTMENT - THAT NIGHT

BARNEY AND ROBIN RUN OUT OF THE BEDROOM AND STRAIGHT FOR THE BATHROOM. ROBIN BEATS HIM TO IT.

BARNEY (V.O.)
...and heh heh, do the deed before
we had to make an abrupt dash to
the bathroom.

TED
That's totally normal.

BARNEY
And then there was the "Dead Man's
Pole Vault".

FLASHBACK TO:

INT. BAR - NIGHT

(BARNEY, ROBIN)

ROBIN IS AGAIN SCOPING OUT THE BAR UNTIL SHE LANDS ON A BIG MUSCULAR GUY. SHE POINTS AND LAUGHS. BARNEY SHIVERS.

BARNEY (V.O.)
Robin would hit on the biggest
nastiest looking hombre and I'd
seduce her back.

FLASHES TO:

ROBIN IS TALKING TO THE GUY AND BARNEY ABRUPTLY GETS IN THE WAY. THE GUY GIVES BARNEY AN INSANELY ANGRY FACE RIGHT BEFORE-

-

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. TED'S APARTMENT -NIGHT

(BARNEY, TED)

TED
Where does the pole vault come in?

FLASHBACK TO:

INT. ROBIN'S BEDROOM

(ROBIN, BARNEY)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ROBIN AND BARNEY LAYING NAKED UNDER A BLANKET IN A VERY TRASHED LOOKING BEDROOM.

BARNEY (V.O.)
Less vault, more pole.

TED (V.O.)
Ewwwwww.

CUT TO:

INT. TED'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

(BARNEY, TED)

BARNEY
All seemed great, right? Until I did it--the mistake that brought down this whole Barney and Robin's almost fixed relationship house of cards.

TED
(musing)
I often wonder what would happen if you focused your sexual abilities into evil.

BARNEY
(ignoring)
It was a simple idea really. Robin and I would ban lame Bed and Breakfast couples' retreats in favor of more...colorful activities.

TED
I think you'd be like evil Batman. With themed vehicles and stuff.

BARNEY
What's the worst that could happen, right?

TED
Batman's already kind of evil looking anyways, with the creepy hood and all.

BARNEY STANDS UP AS IF SPEAKING TO LARGE CROWD.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BARNEY
I just couldn't let me and Robin go
out on a whimper Ted! NEVER!

CUT TO:

INT. BARNEY'S OFFICE - NIGHT

(BARNEY)

BARNEY SITS ALONE IN HIS OFFICE, IN THE DARK, READING
SOMETHING ON HIS COMPUTER. HE IS WILD EYED AND CRAZED,
CHUCKLING WITH A MAD GRIN.

BARNEY (V.O.)
Well, in my search for the perfect,
most awesome vacation I...found
something. Something mind blowing.

ON THE COMPUTER SCREEN: A WEB PAGE THAT SAYS "THE MOST
DANGEROUS GAME: BECOME THE HUNTED."

IN A FIT A EXCITEMENT, BARNEY KNOCKS DOWN EVERYTHING OFF HIS
DESK AND GRABS HIS FACE MANIACALLY.

BARNEY (CONT'D)
(madly)
Yes...YES! Sherbatsky, YOU SHALL
HAVE YOUR DAY!

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. TED'S APARTMENT -NIGHT

(BARNEY, TED)

BARNEY
(to Ted)
Dude, I would make an awesome
supervillian.

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE

EXT. NEW JERSEY WILDERNESS - DAY

(ROBIN, BARNEY)

BARNEY AND ROBIN ARE WALKING THROUGH A FOREST, WEARING CAMMO
AND BACKPACKS.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HE STOPS IN THE MIDDLE OF A CLEARING, PUTTING DOWN HIS BACKPACK. ROBIN IS EXCITED.

ROBIN

Barney, I'm so proud of you, going out into the wilderness with me. Getting all rough and tumble like one of those guys on the discovery channel.

BARNEY

(slightly whiny)

Robin, I told you, it really hurts my feelings when you use Man vs. Wild as a template for my manliness.

CLOSES HER EYES, BREATHES DEEPLY.

ROBIN

Mmmm, it's like being home again. I forgot what air smells like without cabs stinking it up at all times. Here, you need help setting up the tents?

BARNEY THROWS A BACKPACK ON THE GROUND LICKS HIS FINGER AND PUTS IT IN THE AIR.

BARNEY

Don't have any tents. Hmm, we should stay downwind.

ROBIN

What? What do you mean didn't bring the tents, I thought you said--

BARNEY

Robin, Robin, Robin, camping isn't the focus of this trip, its more like a by-product.

ROBIN

A BY-PRODUCT? A by-product of what?

BARNEY

(smiling)

Yeah, gonna make it harder for them to find us.

ROBIN

Excuse me?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

BARNEY

You how lame most couples' trips
are? All wine and cheese--

ROBIN

I like wine and cheese.

BARNEY

--Well, we have that. And also we
have three guys hunting us like
animals. Fun huh? Best
couple ever five!

HE RAISES HIS HAND. ROBIN IS BEYOND SHOCKED.

ROBIN

This is a joke, right? Say this is
a joke, Barney.

DISTANT VOICES CAN BE HEARD, AND BARKING DOGS. BARNEY LETS
OUT A LITTLE SHRIEK AND JUMPS INTO ROBINS ARMS.

BARNEY

This was a bad idea, wasn't it?

CUT TO:

INT. TED'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

(TED, BARNEY)

TED

Where in the world could you find
anyone crazy enough to hunt people
for sport? That's insane.

BARNEY

Rural New Jersey.

TED

Ohmygod, how did you survive?

CUT TO:

EXT. NEW JERSEY WILDERNESS - NIGHT

(ROBIN, BARNEY)

BARNEY IS HUDDLED AROUND A SMALL CAMPFIRE. ROBIN WALKS FROM
THE THICKET OF THE FOREST.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ROBIN
Please tell me you didn't build a
position giving away fire.

BARNEY
I didn't build a posi--

ROBIN
--Barney! We've got to get out
here, we--

SHE IS CUT SHORT BY A RUSTLING IN THE BUSHES.

ROBIN (CONT'D)
Barney, I don't want to alarm you
but--RUN!

THEY BOTH TAKE OFF INTO THE WOODS. AFTER A FEW STEPS, BARNEY
TRIPS OVER A BRANCH.

BARNEY
Just GO ON without me Sherbatsky!

ROBIN
(Shaking her head)
A hosier never leaves moose
wrangler BEHIND!

AND WITH THAT SHE DIPS HER HAND INTO THE MUD TO MAKE
MAKESHIFT TRIBAL MARKS ON HER FACE. BARNEY IS TRULY
TERRIFIED. SHE RUNS OFF SCREAMING INTO THE WOODS.

ROBINS BRUTAL VIOLENCE CAN BE HEARD OFF SCREEN, BUT ALL THAT
CAN BE SEEN IS BARNEY'S FACE SLOWLY TWISTING UP IN HORROR AS
HE WATCHES. WE HEAR A DULLED SHOT GO OFF. ROBIN YELLS.

CUT TO:

INT. TED'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

(TED, BARNEY)

TED
Did Robin murder them dead?

CUT TO:

EXT. NEW JERSEY WILDERNESS - NIGHT

(ROBIN, HUNTER, BARNEY)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TWO HUNTERS ARE LYING ON THE GROUND IN VARIOUS POSES OF PAINFUL UNCONSCIOUSNESS. ONE OF THEM IS SITTING UP, RUBBING HIS BRUISED HEAD. YIPPING DOGS CAN BE HEARD, RUNNING AWAY.

A FERAL ROBIN IS STANDING AMONGST THEM, HUNCHED OVER AND PANTING LIKE A MADWOMAN. SHE'S DIRTY, HER CLOTHES ARE RIPPED AND THERE IS A SINGLE YELLOW PAINT STAIN ON HER CHEST. SHE'S BEEN HIT BY A PAINTBALL GUN.

ROBIN
Paintball?

HUNTER
Jeez lady, you're a sore loser.
What the hell's your problem?

ROBIN
(slowly to Barney)
Paintball gun? Not real guns?

BARNEY
Wait! None of this was REAL? But--I mean--what? Of COURSE this isn't real! You thought I'd bring you out in to the wilderness so we could be hunted like animals? That's just CRAZY! I was just...playing along?

BARNEY LAUGHS CRAZILY, AND THEN COLLAPSES. ROBIN SIGHS, PULLING SOME DEBRIS FROM HER HAIR, AND WALKS AWAY.

CUT TO:

INT. TED'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

(BARNEY, TED)

BARNEY
And that was it. She said we were hazardous to each others' health.

TED GIVES BARNEY A COMFORTING PAT ON THE BACK.

TED
You went LARP'ing.

BARNEY
No, no Ted. Robin and I were doing a mock version of "The Most Dangerous-(quickly) Ohmygod, I was LARP'ing. (beat) Ted, I need Brosecrecy. Some Brodiscretion.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TED

Do you have a Brosaurus, or something?

BARNEY

Read my blog, Ted.

TED

So hearing about Robin going on that trip...?

BARNEY

Like opening up a very salted wound. Seeing Robin with that guy...And when I found out they were all couple-ly...It's just too hard to let it go. (beat) Wanna go back down and see if I can get someone to believe that I was supposed to be the sixth Beatle?

TED

Wouldn't that put you around sixty?

BARNEY

Ted, you're only as young as you feel. Unless she's thirty, in which case: Run, run for the hills.

INT. BAR - NIGHT

(ROBIN, BARNEY, LILY, MARSHALL, TED)

BARNEY AND TED WALK BACK INTO THE SLIGHTLY THINNED OUT BAR. ROBIN, WHO'S STANDING AT THE BAR WAITING FOR A DRINK, PULLS HIM ASIDE.

ROBIN

I'm not going to marry him. (beat)
I just kinda missed being one of those boring couples.

BARNEY

I know.

ROBIN

He's a little weird too, I mean, he's got a thing for porcelain dolls.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CATCHING ON, HE SMILES, AND PULLS OUT A PAD AND PAPER,
WRITING SOMETHING DOWN.

BARNEY
Porcelain doll lover? Didn't think
you would find that one. Guess
you're ahead.

ROBIN
You underestimated me.

BARNEY
(serious)
Game on, Sherbatsky.

END ACT THREE

TAG

INT. BAR - NIGHT

(MARSHALL, ROBIN, LILY, ANGELIQUE)

ANGELIQUE WALKS UP TO MARSHALL, LILY AND ROBIN. MARSHALL AND
LILY TRY (POORLY) TO MASK THEIR ANTICIPATION, ONLY TO HAVE
ANGELIQUE SLIDE HER NUMBER OVER TO ROBIN.

ON ANGELIQUE'S WAY OUT MARSHALL CALLS TO HER.

MARSHALL
Sugar and butter on pancakes, she
doesn't even know what true passion
is!

FADE TO BLACK