

Five Foot Six and a Half Inch

If it's better than good then what was wrong with good?

Gerald Williams

A full-length play

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Characters

Felicia: Mid twenties. Blue Collar. Married to Nick.

Nick: Mid twenties. Blue Collar. Married to Felicia.

Taylor: Mid twenties. Long time friend of Felicia. Independent hair dresser.

Glen: Mid twenties. Long time friend of Nick. Nick's Supervisor at work.

Maureen: 50+. Felicia's mother. Strong-willed. Business woman.

Setting. Felicia and Nick's apartment. Inner city. Nice second hand look. Sofa, coffee table.

Time: 1984.

Staging: Three doors. Bedroom. Bathroom and Front door.

Synopsis

Felicia and Nick are a happy, mid twenties, married couple. They work enough to get by, they party and hang with their friends Taylor and Glen. Everything in life is good. Then Nick finds out he's a half-inch taller than he'd thought and questions who he is. He makes changes resulting in Felicia examining her own life.

This is the story of the messy transition from youth to adulthood. We think we are adults, then life changes and there are ripples when we thought everything was settled.

ACT 1 SC 1

NICK, FELICIA and TAYLOR enter.
Taylor stumbles to the sofa.

TAYLOR

(Drunk) That bastard thinks I'm gonna wait'll he knows what he's gonna do and not with kissin' any skanky whatsit who flashes her panties in the no way that's gonna-

FELICIA

Taylor babe you wanna glass a water huh? Babe? You gotta have water.

Nick goes to the fridge.

NICK

Want a beer?

Taylor sits up suddenly

TAYLOR

Yes, goddamit, a beer. Celebrating being single. Free spirit. Yeah!

FELICIA

(To Nick) I'll drink from yours, I had my limit.

NICK

No one's counting you know.

FELICIA

Party night's a six beers, and-

TAYLOR

Three shotsa tequila...

NICK

...unless it's a birthday.

Nick and Taylor laugh, then Taylor burps.

FELICIA

You gonna be okay babe? You want I should get the bucket? Nick maybe get the bucket.

Nick grabs a wastebasket and puts
it by the sofa.

TAYLOR

I don't need it, don't need. Just need a man can be good...
(she begins to cry).

Nick heads to the bedroom.

NICK

I got a game tomorrow.

TAYLOR

Nick no...I'm sorry...Nick, stay. Please.

NICK

Glen's gonna get here early.

TAYLOR

I love you Nick. I want a dependable. Men aren't dependable. Sorry
Felicia hon, but I'm gonna take Nick from ya.

FELICIA

Sure honey you can have him.

TAYLOR

(Crying) You guys're so good. So jealous, but I'm not skanky
and won't steal your man. Not skanky.

FELICIA

You'll find a guy Taylor, babe, you're a good catch, ain't
she a good catch Nick?

NICK

For sure. Any guy'd be lucky.

TAYLOR

I love you guys s'much. (Cries followed by dry heave, and
falling off the sofa on the floor) Gotta pee.

She stumbles to the bathroom. Nick
heads to the bedroom.

FELICIA

Come sit for a minute.

NICK

I gotta sleep.

FELICIA

Things ok with you?

NICK

Yeah, I just gotta get up early.

FELICIA

You are a good catch you know.

Nick sits beside Felicia. They
kiss.

NICK

Best things in life are free and me.

FELICIA

Idiot. When I say I love you, you say I love you, too, When I
say you're a good catch, you say "you're a good catch too
Felicia."

NICK

You're a good catch too Felicia.

They laugh.

NICK

You always got your rules.

FELICIA

Rules make life fair.

NICK

But, I didn't catch you, I rescued you from Mr. Monroe the
geography teacher.

FELICIA

Oh shut up.

NICK

Am I a better kisser than him?

FELICIA

It wasn't a date, and I never kissed him.

NICK

But you kiss me.

FELICIA

I heard he's got himself a camper and is driving around the country.

NICK

Going to a lot of high school graduations on the hunt for his next wife.

FELICIA

He's just a criminal waiting for the right cell.

Sound of Taylor puking in the bathroom.

FELICIA

She's gonna try and kiss you, you know.

NICK

Lucky me.

FELICIA

You ok with her? It's ok she's staying over?

NICK

Of course, it's Saturday.

FELICIA

That guy she was with was a jerk.

NICK

Just her type.

FELICIA

Hey c'mon, it's been a good night, stay happy.

NICK

Sorry. I'm tired.

FELICIA

You sure everything's ok? You been getting ticked off a lot lately.

NICK

Everything's good. (Lightening the mood) Maybe I'm just getting old.

FELICIA

(Laughing) Not too old to be a daddy one day.

NICK

Come to bed and we can aim for a kid right now.

FELICIA

I want our kid to be made romantic, not drunk and horny.

Nick kisses her tenderly.

NICK

Drunk, horny can't be romantic?

Sound of toilet flushing.

FELICIA

It's Saturday, I gotta have my girl-time with Taylor.

NICK

(Laughing) Rules?

FELICIA

I follow rules, it's what makes us good.

Taylor opens the bathroom door.

TAYLOR

I peed a lot.

NICK

I'm going to bed.

As Nick heads to the bedroom Taylor tries to kiss him, which he turns into a hug, squeezing her.

TAYLOR

N'stop, oh, that's, (dry heave)

NICK

G'night Taylor. (He kisses her cheek and she flops on the sofa) (to Felicia) Sleep good babe (he walks to the bedroom) and (to Taylor) don't puke on the couch. (He exits)

TAYLOR

You're so lucky...Why is you so lucky and I got nothin'? I want a cute little package like him. (Yelling) You're a cute 'lil package Nick baby!

FELICIA

Hey c'mon babe, you'll feel better in the morning...

TAYLOR

No more jerks. Not dating jerks, no more jerks!

FELICIA

Don't sleep with them on the first date, you know, do something different.

TAYLOR

And check if they're married, too, I gotta check if they're married.

FELICIA

There ya go.

TAYLOR

Excons? - OK! On parole? No way!

FELICIA

They always get sent back.

TAYLOR

Somethin' else...?

FELICIA

Kids?

TAYLOR

You're right! No dating kids! When did I...?

FELICIA

Dating guys with kids, ya idiot, you don't wanna date guys with kids.

TAYLOR

Right, right. I was like a friggin' baby-sitter or whatever. Diapers! Ecchh, ecch...(Suddenly turns into dry heaves, which she holds in.)

Felicia gets up to get her a glass of water.

FELICIA

We should make a list..

Felicia bring a pencil and pad and water from the kitchen.

FELICIA

And that one who lived with his mother.

TAYLOR

He was so soft and gentle...

FELICIA

You can't remember his name.

TAYLOR

Soft like pudding.

FELICIA

Remember his clothes?

TAYLOR

(Remembering) He wore his mothers clothes.

FELICIA

You always said, he dresses so nice.

TAYLOR

Those dresses looked so good on him.

FELICIA

He was fun to go shopping with.

TAYLOR

He opened a lingerie store.

FELICIA

We should call him.

TAYLOR

Always had the fanciest undies.

FELICIA

At least he didn't steal cash from your till.

TAYLOR

(Wistfully) Oh, Alfred. The worst one's got the fanciest names. I like a fancy name.

FELICIA

Wasn't fun when they cut off your electricity, water and heat.

TAYLOR

The police were real good though. Violated his parole, sorry Alfred, no pass go, no collect two hundred dollars.

FELICIA

Probably dating some dude name Hank.

TAYLOR

Oh, the gay one's are the best ones.

FELICIA

I sure liked Barry and Bob.

TAYLOR

Barry took me to that fancy place that burned down and Bob was our waiter - they got love at first sight (Cries)

FELICIA

What's the matter?

TAYLOR

The guys I date, date better guys than me.

FELICIA

(Comforting) Hey there. Maybe it's time we got some sleep? Tomorrow you can start looking for a new guy.

TAYLOR

(Whimpering) OK.

FELICIA

Sound OK?

Felicia pulls blanket hanging from
the back of the couch over Taylor.

TAYLOR

OK.

FELICIA

Everything'll be OK.

TAYLOR

OK.

FELICIA

If you gotta puke hit the bucket OK?

TAYLOR

Ok.

FELICIA

Good night babe.

TAYLOR

I love you Felicia, I really really love you you know.

FELICIA

Me too babe.

Felicia exits. Taylor dry heaves.
Lights down.

ACT 1, SC 2 SUNDAY MORNING

Early the next morning. Taylor
asleep on the sofa. A loud knocking
on the door. Taylor falls out of
the sofa and goes to open the door.
She looks a wreck.

TAYLOR

(Yelling) Shut the eff up already can't ya? (Quietly) Geez
people are sleeping. Why you gotta be making a racket?

Taylor opens the door. GLEN enters, dressed in a well put together baseball outfit. She heads back to the sofa.

GLEN

Pretty-lady. How're you doing this fine Sunday morning.

TAYLOR

Cheerful? It's too early for cheerful.

Glen looks into the bedroom.

GLEN

(Bellowing) Rise and shine so you can be on time! C'mon lazy head, game starts in an hour and you'll complain for three innings if you don't grab a coffee.

FELICIA (OFFSTAGE)

Nick get your ass outta bed 'cause he ain't gonna shut it till you do.

GLEN

Thank you Felicia. Such a supportive wife.

FELICIA (OFFSTAGE)

Shut up Glen!

TAYLOR

You out drinking with us last night?

GLEN

You cried on me.

TAYLOR

Oh. (Pause) Did I mess you up?

GLEN

Not a problem.

TAYLOR

(Trying to remember) There's something else...didn't come here....but there's something....

GLEN

The proper amount of sleep is necessary to function at peak performance.

TAYLOR

(Realizing) At the club! Your skank-girlfriend was kissing my boyfriend in the club.

GLEN

She wasn't my girlfriend. It was out first date.

TAYLOR

Oh my god we both got dumped by two shits.

GLEN

Optimism turns frowns upside down. I'd say we both got lucky getting rid of those losers.

TAYLOR

(She makes room on the sofa) Nick's probably gonna take a while, so you come rest up before you gotta use all your muscles.

Glen sits.

TAYLOR

You're like a friend of Nick's or something right.

GLEN

Glen. Taylor, nice to meet you, again. He works for me.

Nick enters gets juice from the fridge. He is casually dressed for baseball. He carries a bat, a glove and a bag of baseballs.

NICK

You're so full of crapola. Don't listen to him Taylor.

TAYLOR

He don't work for you?

There is a knock on the door, followed by a middle-aged woman entering. We hear her before we see her.

MAUREEN

Nick I got some trouble with a tenant. You need to fix it.

NICK

(Calling to Felicia off stage) Hon your mom's here.

MAUREEN

I don't want to wait cause I got bills and the little rat's been threatening to not pay rent till it's fixed.

TAYLOR

Hey Maureen you wanna keep it down. I think I got the flu.

MAUREEN

Did the flu came in a bottle and taste like kahlua? And Glen, nice boy, I'm betting it wasn't you put that little bit a puke on her dress; move away from her in your nice uniform, keep it clean for the boys you play with.

Taylor rubs the front of her dress
with the blanket, and gets up.

NICK

Nice Maureen, real nice.

TAYLOR

I look a mess I bet.

GLEN

You look fine.

MAUREEN

Such a nice boy to lie to her like that.

GLEN

Nice to see you so cheerful this morning Maureen.

TAYLOR

Felicia I'm coming in to borrow some clothes.

Taylor exits.

NICK

(To Glen) You ready to go?

MAUREEN

Go? I just got here. You gotta fix the problem.

NICK

Mrs. Softish?

MAUREEN

Always trying to weasel out of doing what's right, three days late with the rent. Three days!

NICK

It ain't gonna break you.

MAUREEN

I got bills Nick, if the tenants don't pay, what do I do? I could move in with you and Felicia, but you two are a mess. I'd try being homeless but I wouldn't know where to live.

NICK

What's the problem this time.

MAUREEN

Always causing trouble, and you'd think -

NICK

Maureen! We're heading out, so...?

MAUREEN

Says her hot water's not working. Gonna call the city. Like I got money for a new hot water heater.

GLEN

You could always evict.

MAUREEN

Evict? What are you Attila the Hun with a gun? She's been a tenant for years.

GLEN

Eviction notices can be served on tenants after five days of non-payment of rent.

MAUREEN

You're a lawyer now? I thought you worked at the plant with Nick? Nick doesn't he work at the plant with you?

NICK

He's a big shot now. Out of the warehouse and in the office.
Even wears a tie to work.

MAUREEN

Good for you Glen. Making something of yourself. Nicky pay
attention, you should do something like that.

NICK

I am where I am.

GLEN

I couldn't do my job without him Maureen. Without him the
warehouse would be a mess.

MAUREEN

He's sharp I'll give him that, you're sharp.

NICK

Sharp enough to fix the problem with Mrs. Softish. What's her
number.

Maureen hands Nick a little black
book and he telephones.

During the phone call Taylor comes
out of the bedroom wearing sweat
pants and a T-shirt and heads to
the bathroom. Shortly after Felicia
comes out of the bedroom, a blanket
covering her shoulders, she gets
juice and sits on the sofa.

NICK

(Into the phone) Mrs. Softish, this is Nick. Maureen's son-in-
law//Yep, little guy with the big smile// Yep//Anyways,
Maureen says//Yeah, she said//Yeah, she said//Yeah//Yeah//she
said//Yeah(To the room) She likes that new TV show with the
old lady detective(back into the mouthpiece)....

MAUREEN

I told her about that show, she'll watch garbage all day
unless I tell her.

NICK

Thanks//what time do you use the hot water in the morning?//Uh-huh//tomorrow morning turn the hot water on at 9:30, could you be a sweetheart and do that for me?//And Maureen'll get a new hot water heater by the end of the year(Maureen looks shocked)//promise me, don't turn on the hot water till 9:30 every morning//that's real sweet of you but I'm already married//happily, yep//You take care now. Bye. (To Maureen) Done.

MAUREEN

You paying for a new heater?

NICK

You gotta treat people right.

MAUREEN

I treat people right.

NICK

Uh-huh.

GLEN

What did you do?

NICK

Simple, "supervisor". It's an old building downtown. Most of the tenants are yuppies and head to work early.

Taylor comes from toilet, an envelope in hand. Sits beside Felicia. Tosses envelope on the coffee table.

GLEN

So?

NICK

So they shower early, using all the hot water. She's retired, got no reason to get cleaned up early -

MAUREEN

She waits, the hot water heater'll be filled again. (To Glen) this boy is a genius. Fel, you married a genius. Why are you still working at the factory?

I keep telling you, you're a genius, go out and be a tycoon or a wall street wolf and eat sheep. You should be eating sheep.

GLEN

Don't be putting ideas into his head. Best guy I've got working for me.

NICK

For you?

FELICIA

Get out of here so I can get back to sleep.

TAYLOR

I'm hungry.

Glen sees the envelope.

GLEN

This letter's from the company.

NICK

I guess.

GLEN

It's your medical.

MAUREEN

A medical?

FELICIA

It came the other day.

GLEN

You have to sign it and give it to Personnel.

MAUREEN

You better not be dying, you know what funerals cost?

TAYLOR

It was behind the toilet.

FELICIA

Of course he's healthy.

GLEN

Personnel needs to have it.

NICK

What were you doing behind the toilet?

TAYLOR

Shut up.

NICK

You hand it in for me tomorrow.

Glen opens the envelope.

GLEN

You gotta sign it first. Personnel wants to know you personally agreed to share confidential medical information with them.

FELICIA

What happens if he doesn't sign it?

MAUREEN

A lawyer, he's a lawyer. Did you got to Law school? I love that TV show, the one with the lawyer.

GLEN

They fire him.

TAYLOR

The cute one? With the blond hair.

FELICIA

Sign it.

Glen hands the letter to Nick

MAUREEN

Him? He looks like a child. The bald one with the mole. Very distinguished.

NICK

Where do I sign?

FELICIA

(Proffering a pencil) Here.

GLEN

You got to use a pen, it's a legal document.

TAYLOR

He does sound like a lawyer.

MAUREEN

(Hopefully) He could lose some hair.

FELICIA

There's a pen over there.

NICK

(Quietly) Oh my god.

FELICIA

Maureen grab a pen from the drawer.

MAUREEN

(Searching through her handbag) I got a pen in my bag. I'm an adult. I carry a pen.

NICK

This is...

FELICIA

Carrying a pen doesn't mean you're an adult.

TAYLOR

I could start carrying a pen.

GLEN

A pen is an instrument of business, while a pencil is-

NICK

OH MY GOD!.

Everyone stops.

NICK

(Quietly) Oh my god.

FELICIA

Nick, babe. What?. (PAUSE.) (Felicia stands and joins Nick)
Nick, you're kinda freaking us out, here, so?

Nick hands her the form and points.

FELICIA

You're blood type? What's wrong with your blood type?

TAYLOR

Maybe I'm his blood type?

MAUREEN

You keep your blood to yourself girlie. Felicia is his blood type. Been his blood type since high school.

NICK

Not my blood type. My height. It says here I'm five six....and a half.

Stunned silence.

TAYLOR

And a half a what?

NICK

I'm five foot six. I've always been five six. Been five six since that day I was born.

MAUREEN

Must've been a tall baby.

NICK

Not five six and a half. Five six, exactly.

GLEN

Medical reports are official records made by doctors so they're accurate.

MAUREEN

The lawyer says's it's made by a doctor and you gotta believe doctors otherwise people'd be dying all over the place.

NICK

My whole life I'm five foot six.

MAUREEN

I used to be five eight. At night I'm lucky if I'm five three.

NICK

I'm not five foot six.

TAYLOR

Neither am I.

GLEN

(To Taylor) Me too.

FELICIA

You're gettin kinda worked up.

NICK

Five six. That's short. Average height is five six and a half to five ten. I'm short. Everyone tells me I'm short. Now I'm not? I'm suddenly average?

TAYLOR

I'll always think of you as short if you like.

NICK

Glen we were fourteen when you suddenly grew taller than me, and then whammo, I'm your short friend, not your friend, your short friend. Felicia when we started going out we were the same height, then you became five seven.

FELICIA

That wasn't my fault.

NICK

I'm your short boyfriend. The guy who's girlfriend has to wear flats to the prom cause he's short. Now I'm not short. Since I was a kid I've been short and now because of a medical that was sitting behind a toilet I'm not short. I'm average.

TAYLOR

Wow. I want to be average.

MAUREEN

Don't worry honey. One day you'll get there.

GLEN

Nice speech Nick, but we've got a game to get to, so sign it and let's go play ball.

FELICIA

You gonna come for dinner tonight Glen?

GLEN

Thanks Fel but got to be fresh for work tomorrow. New owners arrive first thing in the a.m. Got to be ready for what's coming.

NICK

(Adamant. Not moving. Staring at the letter) I changed. I knew something was wrong, and here it is. I changed.

GLEN

Life is about change buddy. Change your attitude change your life. That's how I got my promotion.

MAUREEN

Such a good attitude. If I wasn't so negative I'm positive I could have that attitude.

TAYLOR

I change boyfriends all the time.

GLEN

Change is good. The new owners of the company are bringing in a whole playbook of new ideas. Change for the better.

MAUREEN

Change-shmange. Keep your nose clean and put it on a grindstone.

FELICIA

What?

TAYLOR

Nick you didn't change at work like Glen did so maybe that made you taller.

NICK

What?

MAUREEN

I went through "the change" - there was nothing natural about it, let me tell you, but I don't want to talk about it.

TAYLOR

For a change.

FELICIA

(Fake serious) You're all missing Nick's point. He's saying now he knows he's five six and a half other things gotta change too right hon?

NICK

Yeah. Something, yeah.

FELICIA

Like he needs longer pants.

MAUREEN

Can reach the top shelf by himself.

TAYLOR

Maybe a new girlfriend.

FELICIA

(Warningly) Tay.

GLEN

Go from shortstop to first base.

NICK

I quit.

GLEN

I'm just kidding.

FELICIA

We're joking, pick up your little bat grab your balls and go play with your friends.

NICK

I quit my job.

FELICIA

Ok sure.

NICK

(to Glen) I quit. You can tell the bosses tomorrow, cause I'm not going to work.

TAYLOR

Is he serious?

MAUREEN

What are you gonna do?

NICK

It's 1984, the world is changing and I'm going to change with it.

GLEN

Can you change and still play ball?

FELICIA

Go play with your friends, you can quit your job later.

NICK

(to Glen) C'mon. I need coffee.

MAUREEN

Buy it at Mr. Sakamoto's and tell him I say hello.

NICK

Think about this Fel because I'm serious.

MAUREEN

Of course you are, now run along before my daughter changes her husband.

FELICIA

He's not serious. No way he's serious.

ACT 1, SC 3 MONDAY MORNING.

Felicia comes out of the bathroom half wearing her work clothes. Nick enters through the bedroom and is wearing a dress shirt, suit jacket, and throws a tie on the arm of the sofa and holds a newspaper. He is ready to job-hunt.

FELICIA

You're wearing your Halloween suit.

NICK

What time you leaving for work?

FELICIA

Let's see? I didn't quit my job. It's Monday. My shift at the library starts at 10 o'clock as usual. Look at that, the whole world didn't change because you want to take a day off.

NICK

I told Glen to tell the bosses that I quit.

FELICIA

You went and got a paper?

NICK

You were in the shower

FELICIA

You're never here when I'm getting ready for work.

NICK

Worried I'm gonna steal something?

FELICIA

See anything good?

NICK

Only you babe.

BEAT

FELICIA

We got enough for a month or so, just so you know; rent, food, whatever. Mom will cut us some slack on the rent if we need it, but I don't want to be asking her for handouts.

NICK

Look at this one, (reading) "Accounts manager for start up. Enthusiasm over experience".

FELICIA

Yeah.

NICK

And this one: "Manager for fast-paced well-known fast food franchise outlet. Confident, decision-maker. Salary based on experience."

FELICIA

You don't got any experience.

NICK

Read between the lines. Right off, Experience. Check. I've got a lot of experience eating at fast food places. Salary based on experience, so my salary'll be low to start with so that makes me more attractive. Check. Decision-maker: who decides things better than anyone we know? Me. Check.

FELICIA

Yeah.

NICK

My pay'll be a little lower than what I got from the plant, but it'll go up.

FELICIA

Yeah.

NICK

Fel I can feel this. It's my time. A chance to change our life. Get out there, move past the neighborhood, up the ladder, you know, go somewhere.

FELICIA

Yeah.

NICK

I mean look at Glen. We come from the same place but he makes more money than me now, and he doesn't even have a girlfriend, and I'm married already. Christ he even has a car, drives to work and I still take the bus.

FELICIA

Lots of people take the bus.

NICK

Shitty people.

FELICIA

I ride the bus.

NICK

Fel, honey, I'm doing this for us, making a life better and bigger, getting ready for having a kid, standing taller in the world.

FELICIA

I support you ok?

NICK

Thanks babe.

FELICIA

And I think I understand what's going on.

NICK

I love you Fel.

FELICIA

You're having your mid-life crisis at twenty-six.

NICK

That's not a thing. Is that a thing?

FELICIA

It's a thing. Lots of people walking around flush with money, so lots of guys like you dreaming of striking it rich. Buying a car you don't need. Thinking that money's going to buy you happiness.

NICK

I'm not doing that.

FELICIA

Oh yeah? You want more right? Now that you're taller you want to walk taller than you did yesterday right?

NICK

Yeah.

FELICIA

I tell you what we have is the best you can hope for. Your job pays good, you're home by 5:30 everyday, and we got good medical for when we start having kids. We got it good.

NICK

Lots of people got good jobs.

FELICIA

Maybe. But people with good jobs don't walk away from them. You started at the factory when you were in high school so you've been there a long time, so you've got seniority, so you're going to be ok for the future

NICK

I'm not talking about the future, I'm talking about now.

FELICIA

Me too. And right now we got a sweet life and we got a sweet future. We're even gonna get a pension when you're retired and we're too old to have sex.

NICK

No one ever gets that old.

FELICIA

Babe, I'm just saying, this is the dream Nick and we've already found it.

NICK

Felicia, you don't get -

There is a knock at the door.

Felicia moves towards it.

FELICIA

Maybe I don't - but I gotta get to work.

Glen enters.

GLEN

Hey Felicia. You not working today?

FELICIA

I retire tomorrow. Today it's his turn.

NICK

What time you getting home?

FELICIA

4 same as usual. Not 4 and a half.

GLEN

Good one Fel.

FELICIA

Mom's coming over for dinner and bringing meat, so you're barbecuing.

She kisses Nick on the cheek and exits.

FELICIA

Later Glen.

GLEN

Have a wonderful day.

NICK

You sound like she's a customer.

GLEN

When did good manners become a bad habit?

NICK

Why aren't you working?

GLEN

I am working. I told the new bosses about you being the go to warehouse guy and they told me to get right over here.

NICK

Different bosses same plant. I'm not interested.

GLEN

You don't get it. These guys are for real business types. We get to work this morning and most of the management is gone.

NICK

Gone where?

GLEN

Gone. They got canned over the weekend. They're saying "laid off" like it's only temporary, but everyone knows. Even my boss, Anderchuck, his office was totally empty.

NICK

He's been there like 30 years.

GLEN

They offered him a wad of cash instead of having to wait around for pension cheque every month and he headed straight out to Arizona to buy a trailer.

NICK

Must be nice.

GLEN

It's a new world man and either you step up or you're out. They're talking about stock options and 41k's or something. These guys mean business. The new boss said it's time to cut the fat and let the dogs fight over the bones.

NICK

What the hell does that mean?

GLEN

It means it's 1984, it's morning in America and business woke up with a boner that's what it means.

NICK

You sound like you're full of shit as usual.

GLEN

Well, I know this, I'm your supervisor so you gotta start showing me more respect.

NICK

You were my supervisor, and I'm trying to look for a job man, so, if you're here to give me a hand, that's great, if you're just here to tell me old man Anderchuck got the can, then, thanks and have a nice day.

GLEN

That's what I'm trying to tell you, the bosses said you still work there. They interviewed everybody, and I told them about you and they said to tell you to come back and even gave me an extra copy of the book they were handing out to everyone.

Glen hands Nick a book

NICK

(Reads the title) The one minute manager? 'Cause that's about how long managers work in a day?

GLEN

And you should see how they dress. Slick. Like they're James Bond.

NICK

Sounds like an oil spill. I still quit.

GLEN

That's what I'm telling you. They want you back and they told me to tell you your pay goes up 2.1%. Nick, man, it's an opportunity.

NICK

I'm not coming back.

GLEN

But what about your job?

NICK

I don't have a job.

GLEN

But I just told ya you do.

NICK

I don't.

GLEN

You do.

NICK

I don't.

GLEN

But you do.

NICK

But I don't

GLEN

But you do.

NICK

Does this go on for much longer.

GLEN

It's negotiating.

NICK

We're acting like kids.

GLEN

That's how you know you're negotiating.

NICK

Your job is stupid-easy.

GLEN

You don't see the world properly.

NICK

But I do.

GLEN

You don't.

NICK

I do.

GLEN

You don't.

Nick starts laughing.

GLEN

Whatever. You want to change your life and here I'm offering you a step up into how the business world really works and you don't get it.

NICK

But I do.

GLEN

Go ahead and laugh, but the new bosses put me on a new negotiations committee to negotiate terms with our suppliers.

NICK

You'll do a good job of fetching coffee and serving donuts.

GLEN

I'm part of decision making now.

NICK

That's crappola. What Do you know about suppliers?

GLEN

We're changing things cause of just-in-time.

NICK

Who's Justin Time and what's he got to do with our suppliers?

GLEN

It's not a person you dufus it's a business idea about making other folks pay your bills for you.

NICK

So you don't know what it means.

GLEN

It's got to do with when our suppliers are shipping and our warehouse and, like that.

NICK

Oh yeah and what's Justin Time going to do about that?

GLEN

The bosses said the negotiation committee will hold negotiations with our suppliers to negotiate with suppliers.

NICK

Negotiate what? And are you going to talk to the drivers?

GLEN

See, that right there is why I'm on the negotiating committee and you're sitting here in your Halloween suit looking for work. Drivers don't make decisions.

NICK

Remember when that flippin' rock garden got put in cause the owners brother-in-law opened a garden centre?

GLEN

One hand washes another. That's business.

NICK

Well, you got me because I thought business was about making money, not being stupid.

GLEN

I'm talking about a real problem and you're 'deflecting the meaningful core of this conversation'.

NICK

You talk like a douche.

GLEN

It means you're talking B.S., I'm talking about suppliers and your talking about gardening.

NICK

The rock garden made the entrance to the loading bay smaller. More narrow.

GLEN

So?

NICK

Two trucks can't move in and out at the same time. They were getting behind on all their deliveries because of bottle-necks. I talked to the drivers and made a schedule.

GLEN

That for real?

NICK

Yep.

GLEN

How do you know?

NICK

'Cause I don't manage people, I talk to them.

GLEN

As long as you're wasting your time talking to delivery drivers you'll never be a good manager.

Nick gets up and starts to gather
his things to leave.

NICK

(Mocking) If there's nothing further you'd like to discuss, my secretary's indicating I've got a full schedule.

GLEN

You coming to work tomorrow?

NICK

If I get a job offer today, I'll be at work tomorrow.

GLEN

I'll tell the bosses.

NICK

Do that.

They leave together.

ACT I SC 4 MONDAY EVENING

Felicia and Maureen enter with groceries. They prepare dinner while the scene plays out.

FELICIA

You bought pricey wine again!

MAUREEN

Three dollars and 69 cents is not pricey.

FELICIA

You're showing off.

MAUREEN

Why do I need to show off for?

FELICIA

Every time you go into Mr. Sakamoto's store you gotta show off buying his pricey wine; no one likes wine.

MAUREEN

He sells it so it must be good.

FELICIA

He's married.

MAUREEN

He's not married. They're living in sin. She's gonna die soon, and he'll be free.

FELICIA

She's not gonna die.

MAUREEN

She'll die. She's filled with so much hate she'll choke on it or he'll come to his senses and put a pillow over her face when she's asleep.

FELICIA

How romantic, falling for a guy who'd murder his wife.

MAUREEN

Not all his wives, just that one. His first wife, bless her heart, she died too young. Thank god they only had Barry, such a good boy, not a daughter thank god, a daughter without a mother becomes a lesbian, or moves to Idaho and marries a hermit.

FELICIA

I knew Barry in school, he was normal.

MAUREEN

Normal for a boy and normal for a girl is different. You need lessons in sex?

FELICIA

Why can't you just dry up like old ladies are supposed to.

MAUREEN

Dry up? Huh. Wait'll you've gone through the change - the fire may be out, but there's plenty a coal for stoking.

FELICIA

Oh not today.

MAUREEN

Your father, he was a good lover. Haven't found a man yet who can stick the key in the ignition like that one.

FELICIA

Shut up please.

MAUREEN

Most men are selfish, so if you find a man who doesn't mind sharing the driving, you know you're going to arrive at your destination.

FELICIA

Please stop.

MAUREEN

Remember this Felicia, once a man finds the right buttons on the elevator you stay till you get to your floor.

FELICIA

This is actually painful to hear.

MAUREEN

It's good advice. I want you to be happy.

FELICIA

Mothers do not talk like this.

MAUREEN

Mothers talk like this. Daughters don't talk like this. Nick, he's a good lover?

FELICIA

I'm not talking to you about my love life.

MAUREEN

When you were in high school I thought for sure you were gonna make me a grandmother before you graduated.

FELICIA

Uh huh.

MAUREEN

I worried he was gonna break his neck sneaking out your window every morning.

FELICIA

Uh huh.

MAUREEN

I told your father I was having an affair to explain why all our condoms were disappearing so quick.

FELICIA

Uh huh.

Nick enters. Newspaper is sticking out of his pocket.

He throws the jacket on the sofa.
Newspaper on the table.

NICK

Hey.

MAUREEN

Such a good looking boy.

FELICIA

Thank Christ.

NICK

What's up?

MAUREEN

Felicia and I are having a mother-daughter bonding.

Nick kisses Felicia.

NICK

She talking about sex again?

FELICIA

Uh-huh.

NICK

Hers or ours.

FELICIA

Started with hers, moved on to ours.

NICK

Maureen every time you talk sex with her, she shuts me out for a week, so if you ever want a grandkid you gotta cut it.

MAUREEN

(Jokingly) Felicia you're husband is telling me you're having difficulties in the bedroom, want mama to buy you a book or an accessory or something sweetie?

FELICIA

My god.

NICK

Sorry babe.

MAUREEN

Why are you wearing your halloween suit?

NICK

It's not a halloween suit, it's a suit, this is how you dress when you look for work.

MAUREEN

(Realizing) You quit your job!

NICK

I said so yesterday.

MAUREEN

I thought you were joking.

NICK

Well. I wasn't.

BEAT

MAUREEN

Want wine?

FELICIA

(To Maureen) Do you want wine?

NICK

Mr. Sakamoto kill his wife yet? (Opens the fridge, grabs a beer and hands one to Maureen.)

MAUREEN

It's not his wife, they're living in sin, and you want me to ask him if he'll give you a job stocking shelves?

Nick is about to respond, but
Felicia cuts him off.

FELICIA

Go get changed. You're barbecuing.

NICK

Right.

Nick goes to the bedroom.

FELICIA

Don't make fun of him.

MAUREEN

He really quit?

FELICIA

I guess.

MAUREEN

Did he really look for work today?

FELICIA

He said he would. Glen came by when I was leaving.

MAUREEN

You can't let him sit around all day.

FELICIA

(Snappish) Nobody's letting nobody do nothing...He needs time OK.

MAUREEN

When your father stopped working it nearly drove me around the bend.

FELICIA

He retired.

MAUREEN

Same thing. Sitting around the house all day criticizing everything I did. I would've begun hating him if he hadn't died, and that would've been awful.

FELICIA

He'll figure it out.

MAUREEN

You two got a good thing, kids'll be next, and outta work husbands aren't a smart plan.

FELICIA

Butt out.

MAUREEN

I'm not putting my nose in, but a man needs to work.

FELICIA

A woman does too. Everyone knows it was you who made your apartment business a success. Pa's name was there, but we both know really who made it work.

MAUREEN

Disrespecting your father? The world is falling apart.

FELICIA

It's not about what a man's gotta do, or a woman's gotta do or B.S. like that. We've been together since high school and always done things together so just put a sock in it and we'll handle it together.

Nick comes in dressed casually.

NICK

Bbq's good to go whenever you say.

FELICIA

What did Glen want today?

NICK

He was just being an errand boy for the bosses and wanted to see what freedom looks like.

MAUREEN

He's a nice boy.

NICK

When does 26 stop being a boy and be a man?

MAUREEN

After I die.

FELICIA

(Hopeful tone) Next week?

MAUREEN

You were looking for a job today?

NICK

A couple of interviews yeah.

FELICIA

Great.

NICK

Yeah.

MAUREEN

So you got a job yet?

NICK

It takes time. A guys gotta lay a foundation for success.

Maureen looks at the newspaper Nick
put down when he came in.

MAUREEN

You went to these?

NICK

Yeah.

MAUREEN

Do you know what an accounts manager is?

NICK

I do now.

MAUREEN

You circled managers only. You've never been a manager.

NICK

I'm manager material.

MAUREEN

You got training? Where did you get training all of a sudden?
Fel did he go to Harvard manager school for business and you
didn't tell me?

NICK

I got 9 years working at the plant.

MAUREEN

Right, and you never made manager. Glen. He's a manager.

NICK

Supervisor.

MAUREEN

And you're a helluva lot smarter than him, I know.

NICK

Big deal.

MAUREEN

No one's gonna hire you without experience.

NICK

I got experience.

MAUREEN

Not for these jobs.

FELICIA

Back off ma.

NICK

Even managers at fast food places need a junior college diploma or certificate or something nowadays.

FELICIA

Yeah?

NICK

What do they need college for? College really got classes on how to fill ketchup bottles and mop up puke on a Saturday night.

FELICIA

Keep trying babe. Something'll come your way.

NICK

It don't make no sense. I'm good with people. I practically ran that warehouse. My skills aren't easy to see, people only know how good I am once they see me.

FELICIA

Maybe that's what was good about the plant. People know you, so maybe you can talk to Glen about becoming a supervisor.

NICK

I don't want to live that way anymore.

FELICIA

Live that way? What way? With a paycheck?

NICK

What's that mean?

FELICIA

Nothing - I'm sayin'-

MAUREEN

Meat's ready to go on the grill. If you leave it too long one of the neighborhood kids'll steal the bbq. Damn kids'll steal anything that's not nailed down.

NICK

It's chained on the fire escape.

MAUREEN

Fire escape seems like the place to lose a fire on a bbq.

NICK

You're not funny.

He takes the meat and leaves.

FELICIA

Don't bug him tonight.

MAUREEN

I want him to do good.

FELICIA

He quit his job because of that darn medical he had to get for a job he doesn't have anymore and I want him to be happy, and he's not and I just don't know.

MAUREEN

It's only been one day.

FELICIA

I gotta be patient.

MAUREEN

He's a smart boy.

FELICIA

I gotta support him, you know.

MAUREEN

You chose good when you chose him.

FELICIA

I guess the beach this year ain't gonna happen.

MAUREEN

You got time.

Nick enters.

NICK

I need the lifter. I can't flip 'em.

MAUREEN

You need a college degree.

NICK

To flip the meat?

MAUREEN

To find a new job.

NICK

The meat'll cook too much on one side.

MAUREEN

I'll pay for your education if you work for me. I've been needing someone to help out for a while, so maybe this is a good sign.

NICK

What?

MAUREEN

You're my daughters husband, you're going to be the father of my grandchildren, a boy and a girl, the girl you'll name after me the boy's name I don't care as long as it's not one of those new age kooky ones like Batman, or Justin.

FELICIA

What?

MAUREEN

You want a better life I need help running the business. Everyone's happy.

NICK
No.

MAUREEN
What?

FELICIA
(To Maureen) What?

NICK
I'm not taking handouts.

FELICIA
(To Nick) What?

MAUREEN
It's not a handout, I don't give handouts to family, it's a business offer.

NICK
I can do this myself, or I'm not doing it at all.

MAUREEN
What?

FELICIA
What?

NICK
Here it is.

He finds the flipper and exits.

FELICIA
What did you just do?

MAUREEN
He can do it himself?

FELICIA
(Becoming angry) What did you just do?

MAUREEN
I'm trying to help.

FELICIA
You told me I had to push him to get to work, and you're telling him he can go to school?

MAUREEN

The way things are maybe having an education to get ahead is a good thing.

FELICIA

You want me to be married to a student? I got to act like a mother to him? My husband can't go out to play because he has to finish his homework?

MAUREEN

He's smart. He'll be successful no matter what.

FELICIA

So why do you gotta go and offer him help like that? I never got to go to college because I got married and now he'd be in school till he's like thirty. What kinda mental problems you gotta have to be in school till you're thirty?

MAUREEN

Time's are changing and you saw those help wanted ads. It's like suddenly everybody needs mr-college-graduate.

FELICIA

He can get a job without college.

MAUREEN

The boy wants to change. What's wrong with me offering to help out.

Nick enters with meat on a platter.

NICK

Meats done.

Silence.

NICK

You guys are quiet?

MAUREEN

We're saying a lot, you're just not listening right.

NICK

Fel? You ok?

BEAT

MAUREEN

I'm going to...(she doesn't know what to do)have a bath?

Maureen exits to bathroom.

FELICIA

You'd really go to school?

NICK

I don't know. Maybe. (Invitingly) Student life? We could make out under the bleachers, go to prom again.

FELICIA

You hated school.

NICK

I only graduated because you did most of my work.

FELICIA

I don't know what she's thinking.

NICK

She's trying to help, you know. And, you know, if I can work for her and go to school, maybe that'd be ok.

FELICIA

And what am I supposed to do? Go full time at the library while you get to play at being a college-boy.

NICK

I'm not going to play anything, she's just talking. Why are you so bugged

FELICIA

Just...I don't know.

NICK

You're bugged 'cause she offered to help me?

FELICIA

Me? Yesterday we were...us. Then you up and quit your job, and today mom's offering you going to college, and I'm wondering where this 'Nick' all of a sudden came from. Like yesterday you were you, and we were 'us' and we were gonna be 'us' forever and next week was easy to see, and everything was good and now it's about you.

NICK

Everything's gonna be better.

FELICIA

Better? Better than good? What was wrong with good, I liked good, I was happy with good, lots of people around the world'd be real happy with good and don't need better so why's good not good enough and you gotta have better?

NICK

I need...I mean...I want...I don't know There's more, just more.

FELICIA

More? More than me?

NICK

C'mon, I love you, I don't mean that. You remember when we were kids and I skipped school to go to the plant and ask for a job?

FELICIA

Yeah.

NICK

You asked why I did it, and I didn't know.

FELICIA

But we're not kids anymore.

NICK

Right but the inside's the same. I knew then that just being a high school kid wasn't enough, I wanted more, and I knew I could get it. And admit it, we had tons of money then, right, we ruled our senior year.

FELICIA

We did.

NICK

I want that again. I want to give you everything.

FELICIA

I have everything already babe.

BEAT

NICK

I don't.

Felicia doesn't move.

NICK

I'm gonna go for a walk.

FELICIA

Ok.

NICK

I love you Fel.

FELICIA

I know you do.

Nick exits. Felicia stays seated,
not moving. Maureen pokes her head
out of the bathroom.

MAUREEN

He gone?

FELICIA

Went for a walk.

MAUREEN

(Incredulous) A walk?

FELICIA

Yep.

MAUREEN

My god he's turning into a girl.

Felicia heads to her bedroom.

FELICIA

You should go home ma.

MAUREEN

You alright?

FELICIA

I'm kinda tired.

MAUREEN

What about dinner?

FELICIA

I'll do something about it tomorrow.

Felicia exits to bedroom.

Maureen picks up the meat and drops it into a bag. And picks up her wine, reconsiders and puts it down, grabs a few beers and exits.

ACT I SC 5 FRIDAY NIGHT

Felicia and Taylor enter with pizza and beers.

TAYLOR

TGI friggin Friday!

FELICIA

Weeks are gettin' longer and weekends -

TAYLOR

Gettin' drunker.

FELICIA

Since when did you only drink on weekends?

TAYLOR

I'm not like you girl. I am a small business owner which means twenty forty seventy, no rest, every day's a working day.

FELICIA

Every day's a weekend for you too.

TAYLOR

I worked every day this week and I got a full schedule tomorrow and Sunday too.

FELICIA

Makin' up for last weekend when you didn't get your head outta the toilet till dinner.

TAYLOR

Good thing I got myself a loyal clientele.

FELICIA

You're the cheapest hairdresser on the block.

TAYLOR

Beautician! And Nail Salon Specialist.

FELICIA

You lose any customers 'cause of missing last Sunday?

TAYLOR

Do the same thing I always do.

FELICIA

Tell 'em your mother took sick and give 'em a discount.

TAYLOR

A successful business model is a model of a successful business.

FELICIA

Have you been talking to Glen?

TAYLOR

What? No. But you know, thinking outside the box is good leverage to maximize my empowerment core efficiencies.

FELICIA

You have no idea what he's talking about do you?

TAYLOR

So what? He doesn't have to understand what he's saying to sound smart.

FELICIA

He's kind of nerdy.

TAYLOR

He's just real concerned about making something of himself.

FELICIA

You're not getting serious about him are you?

TAYLOR

I don't know. He's nice. Why not? The guys I date never open the door for me. And if they've got a car it's probably stolen or their mom's, or stolen by their mom.

FELICIA

I don't know Tay. You got a good thing going. No responsibilities. Free to do what you want when you want.

TAYLOR

Me? You mean you.

FELICIA

No girl, you. I got Nick to worry about and take care of.

TAYLOR

And you don't have to worry about money 'cause Nick gets it.

FELICIA

I work.

TAYLOR

But you always said the job at the library is only till you have a kid.

FELICIA

Being a mom will be a full time job.

TAYLOR

Yeah, but you'll need Nick bringing home a pay cheque and benefits.

FELICIA

That's not...we are a team. We each have different responsibilities and that's how we build a life together.

TAYLOR

Sorry Fel, I didn't mean anything by it.

FELICIA

Marriage is a partnership.

TAYLOR

Nick's a good guy, he'll come through. He'll take care of you.

Knock on the door

FELICIA

We take care of each other.

Knock on the door

TAYLOR

Oh yeah, right, of course.

Knock on the door

FELICIA

(Yelling) Come in.

Glen enters.

TAYLOR

Oh.

GLEN

Ladies. You're each looking more beautiful than the last time we met.

FELICIA

Hey Glen.

TAYLOR

Wow, you are fulla shit.

GLEN

We need to discuss your greeting and salutation skills

TAYLOR

He looks good in a suit doesn't he? His necktie's not even clip on.

FELICIA

How do you know that?

GLEN

Don't dress for the job you've got, dress for the job you want.

FELICIA

How does she know about your necktie?

TAYLOR

I.

FELICIA

Oh my god.

TAYLOR

We've talked on the phone a few times.

GLEN

Everyday.

FELICIA

You talked about his necktie?

TAYLOR

It just kinda came up.

GLEN

Consenting adults can talk about men's apparel.

TAYLOR

Everything is on the table and honesty is the best policy.

GLEN

Optimism over pessimism!

TAYLOR

Hang in there kitty cat!

Taylor and Glen share a private
joke laugh.

FELICIA

Oh geez.

GLEN

You've got a really great attitude Taylor.

TAYLOR

Us small business owners have got to be leaders of the
community.

GLEN

What you put into something comes back tenfold.

TAYLOR

So smart. Felicia you didn't tell me Glen was so smart. I didn't know you were so smart. He's so smart, and Nick's boss too right, makes total sense now.

GLEN

No longer. He's a free man. But other guys call me boss.

TAYLOR

So fancy.

FELICIA

So you came by to see Taylor, not Nick?

GLEN

Nick?

FELICIA

Nick. The free man. Your old friend.

TAYLOR

Yeah. Nick's great.

GLEN

Nick. Right, yeah great.

FELICIA

God you two.

GLEN

Sorry. Nick. Is he home? I've got money for him.

FELICIA

He's out looking for work.

TAYLOR

You delivering his paycheck? You are so professional.

GLEN

No, they'll mail that, this is special, a bonus, and I wanted to deliver it personally.

TAYLOR

That's nice eh Felicia, personal service, very considerate.

FELICIA

Oh geez.

Glen pulls out an envelope.

GLEN

Nick gave me an idea when I was here the other day and the bosses gave me a bonus for him.

She looks in the envelope.

FELICIA

A hundred bucks!

TAYLOR

Real money!

GLEN

The company's really generous. Everyone likes Nick and is real sorry he declined the offer.

FELICIA

What offer?

GLEN

His job? I offered him his job back. You know when I came by on Monday.

FELICIA

I did not know.

TAYLOR

Wow.

GLEN

The guys got principles. You've got to respect that.

FELICIA

What did he say?

GLEN

He respectfully declined.

FELICIA

Is it too late?

GLEN

To come back? I guess I could negotiate with the bosses on his behalf.

FELICIA

That'd be good, Glen, I'd sure appreciate that.

GLEN

Not sure they'd go for the raise though.

FELICIA

What raise?

GLEN

Sort of weakens his position you know with him 'asking' to come back.

FELICIA

They offered him a raise?

GLEN

Yeah a salary-bump if he came back. I explained everything to him on Monday

TAYLOR

Turning down a raise? I thought you were worried about money?

FELICIA

He said no?

Nick enters.

NICK

Hey! Friday night beer and pizza.

FELICIA

Glen offered you your job back?

NICK

Welcome home.

FELICIA

You didn't take it.

NICK

I told you what I'm doing.

FELICIA

What is that exactly? Looking for work everyday, when you've got a job waiting for you.

NICK

I'm changing my life, I told you I got something better inside me.

FELICIA

I don't care what you've got inside you, what's outside you was your job and a pay bump?

NICK

(To Glen) Glad you could stop by man.

TAYLOR

Don't go blaming him. He delivered your bonus.

NICK

What bonus?

FELICIA

A hundred dollars. (Hands Nick the money.)

TAYLOR

For your idea. Glen said it's for - what's it for?

NICK

A hundred bucks?

GLEN

About fixing the delivery thing, with the drivers. I took it to the bosses. Wanted to show they appreciate you.

NICK

(To Felicia) See, I got ideas worth money.

FELICIA

A regular paycheck is better than a hundred bucks

GLEN

The idea's going to save the company a lot of money Fel.

TAYLOR

Lucky that Glen could see your idea was worth passing along.

GLEN

A good manager knows when to reward employees.

NICK

I'm not an employee.

TAYLOR

Did you get a bonus too Glen?

BEAT

NICK

Did you?

GLEN

I evaluated the idea as being worthy of consideration.

NICK

Did you tell them it was my idea?

GLEN

You don't work there.

NICK

You told them it was your idea.

GLEN

I'm on the negotiating committee.

NICK

How much you get?

GLEN

I'll take the hundred back if you don't want it.

FELICIA

We're keeping it.

GLEN

Good thinking Fel.

NICK

You're giving me a hundred, so you feel guilty that you took credit for my idea, that means you kept at least a hundred. Right? They gave you two hundred.

GLEN

Religion, politics and financial information are not appropriate conversations among friends.

NICK

You can be a cheap bastard, so I'm betting you got more than that. Not 500?

Pause

NICK

More than 500. Geez, they gave you more than 500 bucks for my idea.

GLEN

It's going to save a lot of money, and my personal finances are none of your business.

NICK

You're right. It's going to save a lot of money. And time. I bet your negotiating committee bull crapola got tossed on the scrap heap now too, so no more time-wasting on that. They want to impress everybody that there's money for the right people. (Pause) They gave you a thousand didn't you?

TAYLOR

Wow. Being smart really pays.

GLEN

(Defeated) Buddy, c'mon.

NICK

That how you got to be supervisor? Taking other people's ideas and passing them off as your own.

FELICIA

Relax would ya.

TAYLOR

Calm down guys have some pizza.

GLEN

I know how to talk to bosses and I know how to treat people.

NICK

People maybe, but not friends.

GLEN

You're outta line buddy.

TAYLOR

My beers gettin warm.

NICK

Oh yeah, what're you gonna do? Huh? See anything here you can steal to make yourself look good? Nobody's ideas you can steal here, huh.

FELICIA

Calm down would you.

GLEN

You want to change? Maybe it's time you change and act like a grown up, instead of a kid. You want to get ahead in this world well it takes more than everyone liking you and showing off how smart you are. It's 1984 buddy and the world is changing and what companies want nowadays is loyalty. They're starting to offer a lot and they want a lot in return. Company men who follow the rules and don't quit just because they got a feeling. If you want to win then you've got to play for the right team, and these new bosses are winners. And if you're not a winner, then buddy, that makes you a prime-time los-

Nick punches Glen. Taylor and Felicia scream. General mayhem. Taylor helps Glen up and stays with him.

GLEN

I'm going.

NICK

They fill Anderchuck's position yet?

GLEN

What are you talking about?

TAYLOR

I'm gonna head out Fel.

NICK

Whoever gets that job'll be your new boss right?

FELICIA

Want to take pizza?

GLEN

So what?

TAYLOR

We're good.

NICK

Monday morning I'll be there.

GLEN

The offer's off the table. You're old job's not available.

NICK

I don't want my old job. I'm gonna apply for a new job. To be your boss.

FELICIA

Oh geez.

ACT I SC 6 MONDAY LATE AFTERNOON

Nick is seated and Taylor is giving him a manicure.

TAYLOR

Interview went good then?

NICK

Better than good. Things are going to happen.

TAYLOR

You got a good chance then?

NICK

I showed them what I can do and they listened.

TAYLOR

Good for you babe.

NICK

You shoulda seen Glen when I walked out of the interview.

TAYLOR

He was there?

NICK

Sitting outside the office like a dog waiting for his master.

TAYLOR

(Sadly) Did he have puppy-dog eyes?

NICK

No, he looked...are my nails good?

TAYLOR

Do you want your feet done?

NICK

My feet?

TAYLOR

Toes are part of your feet.

NICK

You cut people's toenails? That's disgusting!

TAYLOR

It's not disgusting and lots of people like to look nice.

NICK

A hair cut is looking nice. What kind of pervo cares about toes.

TAYLOR

Want me to tell Felicia you said that?

NICK

What are you talking about?

TAYLOR

(Teasing) I heard some little pervo likes kissing her toes to make her laugh.

NICK

(Embarrassed) Girls make up the dumbest stuff.

TAYLOR

Putting a blueberry between each toe and sucking them out one at a time.

NICK

(Embarrassed) Would you shut up please.

TAYLOR

And maybe last Christmas someone got his own toes painted red and green maybe.

NICK

Do girls tell each other everything?

TAYLOR

Only the important stuff. I bet Glen has nice toes. He looks clean all over.

NICK

I'm telling you Tay, you could do better than that rat.

TAYLOR

You're a customer so I ain't sayin' nothing.

NICK

Customer? I thought this was free.

TAYLOR

It was. (*It isn't anymore.*)

Felicia comes in after work. Kisses Nick.

FELICIA

Hey babe, what you guys up to?

NICK

How was work?

TAYLOR

Nick's fancy now, might even get his toes done.

NICK

Fel do you have to tell her everything?

FELICIA

Just the important stuff.

TAYLOR

Told you.

FELICIA

You get an interview?

NICK

They saw me right away. I've got a good feeling about this.

FELICIA

And they told you you gotta get your nails done or they wouldn't hire you?

Taylor laughs

NICK

I'll tell you who wasn't laughing when I saw him; Glen.

TAYLOR

Oh.

FELICIA

You weren't a creep to him were you?

NICK

I didn't do anything to him.

FELICIA

He's doesn't deserve to be treated bad.

NICK

And why do you go and defend him like that? You should be sticking up for me.

FELICIA

He's our friend, I'm not defending him, he's your friend.

NICK

And your my wife, so I should be more important than him.

FELICIA

Being your wife doesn't mean I've lost my brains same as you being my husband doesn't make you a genius.

TAYLOR

Be nice to Glen.

FELICIA

And why you want to go and be Glen's boss all of a sudden doesn't seem right.

NICK

It's OK for him to be my boss? Is that right?

TAYLOR

He looks like a boss.

NICK

You mean 'cause he's taller than me.

TAYLOR

Everyone's taller than you.

FELICIA

That's not what she means.

TAYLOR

Presidents are always tall.

FELICIA

Geez.

TAYLOR

And priests. You never see short priests, except that preacher guy on TV is short, but he's got big hair so I guess that makes sense.

NICK

Sometimes you're an idiot.

TAYLOR

Well, this manicure just cost you double and sorry Fel, but I'm not touching his toes.

FELICIA

Why are you getting a manicure? You already had the interview. Who's going to see it.

NICK

Those guys in the interview, they all looked good. Real clean. Glen was right, if you want to be management you've got to look like it.

FELICIA

You really think you're gonna get into management?

Telephone rings. Nick bounds out of his chair to answer it. Felicia and Taylor look on expectantly.

NICK

Hello?//Yes this is me//I understand//Yes sir...ok, Ron// I understand, Ron//OK//I understand.//Thank you, Ron.//I understand.

TAYLOR

He understands a lot don't he.

Felicia shushes her and Nick scowls.

NICK

Thanks for calling me personally, Ron.

He hangs up. Expectant pause.

FELICIA

Just tell us already!

NICK

That was Ron.

TAYLOR

What did they say?

NICK

Tomorrow morning at 8. They want to discuss my future role with the company.

TAYLOR

You got the job?

NICK

I got it, but it isn't a job.

FELICIA

What are you talking about? They either hired you or they didn't.

TAYLOR

Oh no. They didn't fire you did they?

NICK

What? No they didn't - Sometimes I think you're living in a different time zone.

TAYLOR

So, tell us already. What happened?

NICK

I'm going to be a consultant.

FELICIA

You mean like for people with mental problems?

NICK

Counsellor, that's a counsellor, I'm going to be a consultant. I'll get a contract to run their warehouse, then I'm the boss. Shipping, inventory management, I'm the boss of everything.

FELICIA

So do they pay you? I don't get it.

NICK

They going to talk me through everything tomorrow, but the number they're talking about is way more than I made as a worker drone. This is the start of something big.

Kisses and hugs all around.

FELICIA

Well, that's wonderful.

TAYLOR

Congratulations.

Nick goes to the fridge and pulls out a brown bag and pulls a bottle of champagne out of it.

FELICIA

I'll call ma, she'll be glad to know no one's going to college. (Seeing the champagne) What's that?

Nick is opening the bottle of champagne.

NICK

Champagne!

TAYLOR

Fancy on a Monday!

NICK

Time to celebrate!

FELICIA

You got it before you got the job.

NICK

I had a good feeling.

FELICIA

How much did it cost?

NICK

Who cares? I got the job!

The champagne pops and Nick begins to pour.

TAYLOR

Oooh... make mine super fancy and put it in orange juice!

NICK

For celebrations you drink it straight up.

Felicia picks up the bag and looks for the receipt.

FELICIA

You spent our money on that when you didn't have a job?

NICK

But I got a job now.

TAYLOR

(Drinking her champagne) Tastes better with OJ.

FELICIA

(Looking at the receipt) This was almost a hundred bucks.

NICK

Sure, my bonus money.

FELICIA

Your bonus money?

NICK

We're celebrating.

FELICIA

We don't like champagne.

Taylor gets a beer from the fridge.

NICK

You wanted me to get a job, I got a job.

FELICIA

Did you buy a car too?

NICK

You're joking now, but just wait, this is what our future will look like.

FELICIA

Spending everything we have on something we don't need doesn't seem like much of a future.

Taylor pours some of her beer into
the cup of champagne.

NICK

It's attitude. Buying this shows that I believe I'm a winner and I need to start acting like a winner if I'm going to be a winner.

FELICIA

When have we ever been losers?

Taylor drinks her champagne-beer
cocktail coughs it up into the
glass.

NICK

(To Taylor) You want to cut it out.

TAYLOR

You're not fighting with me.

NICK

(To Taylor) Do you always gotta act like a child?

FELICIA

Nick.

TAYLOR

I'm enjoying myself.

FELICIA

How's it taste?

TAYLOR

Beers better without it.

NICK

That's what I'm talking about. I'm trying to do something,
you know, trying to make stuff nice, and I'm surrounded by
airheads.

BEAT

NICK

C'mon, I got a new job. Why aren't you happy for me? I'm
making our life better

FELICIA

I don't want you to make our life better. I want us to make
it better.

NICK

I'm gonna have to ask you every time I get a chance at
something? Ask your permission for everything I've gotta do?

FELICIA

I'm not saying that.

NICK

I'm not a kid, and you're not my mom.

FELICIA

I want a husband not a boss.

NICK

Grow up Fel, this is how grown ups act. They take responsibility, take action. They don't sit around dreaming, they make things happen.

FELICIA

I need to...not talk with you for a while. (To Taylor) Let's go grab a beer?

Felicia exits and Nick calls after her. Taylor picks up the bottle of champagne and takes a swallow.

NICK

You don't gotta leave. C'mon. We can order in. Get your mom over. Let's celebrate.

Taylor burps.

TAYLOR

Be nice to Glen.

Taylor hands the bottle to Nick and exits. Nick takes a swallow of the champagne, doesn't like it. Opens a beer and sits on the sofa.

NICK

(Toasts himself) Congratulations buddy.

INTERMISSION

ACT II SC 1 MONDAY 10:30PM

The apartment has a champagne bottle and a large quantity of beer cans strewn about. Maureen enters curious who's home.

MAUREEN

Nick?

The sound of vomiting is heard from
the bathroom. She sits and pokes
through what's on the coffee table.

MAUREEN

Champagne and beer only mix on the way out.

NICK

Hey Mo.

MAUREEN

Sounds like you cleaned out your pipes nice and good.

NICK

I've kinda had a shitty day.

MAUREEN

You're going to be the boss of the warehouse I heard.

NICK

Moving up in the world.

MAUREEN

And Felicia's boss too I hear.

NICK

She's pissed.

MAUREEN

Champagne. Did you at least buy it from Mr. Sakamoto?

NICK

Went to the discount place. Mr. Sakamoto overcharges for
everything.

MAUREEN

Doesn't matter how much it costs if you're just going to toss
it into the toilet.

NICK

Felicia call you?

MAUREEN

She came by.

NICK

Oh no.

MAUREEN

No drinking, just tea and talking

NICK

She eat cake?

MAUREEN

Not a bite.

NICK

She is super pissed.

MAUREEN

She doesn't understand what you're doing.

NICK

She's not listening.

MAUREEN

Do you understand what you're doing?

NICK

People change.

MAUREEN

What you're trying to do, I can respect that. But you and Felicia got something, and you're treating it like it's nothin'.

NICK

I love her.

MAUREEN

Who do you love more?

NICK

(Puzzled) I don't -

MAUREEN

Her or you? You love her or you more?

He doesn't answer.

MAUREEN

Right now it looks like the only person you care about is yourself.

NICK

I need her.

MAUREEN

What you need today, you may not need tomorrow. You think you wanting to change is the only time this has happened in history? People change. The boy you were at 15 hanging around my house all the time, waiting to be invited to stay for supper, that's not you now and you know what I say to that? Good riddance. Who wants a 26 year old man to be acting like a 15 year old boy? No one. You're changing. Good for you. Two things you got to remember; first, you change and so does everyone else. And that's all I got to say.

NICK

You said there were two things.

MAUREEN

Yeah?

NICK

Yeah. You said there's two things I gotta remember, and then you only told me that everyone else changes.

MAUREEN

I did?

NICK

Yeah, you just said it. So what's the other thing?

Maureen laughs.

NICK

You're not funny old woman.

Felicia enters. Goes into the bedroom.

MAUREEN

You gotta be flexible, let people be who they are. You're not the king of the world.

NICK

I got it.

MAUREEN

The other thing is easy. How much change do you want? You change your shoes cause you don't want to wear sneakers any more, fine, but does it mean you have to change your shirt too? You want to change a little, or you want to change a lot. How much change is the change you really want?

NICK

I'm still thinking things through.

MAUREEN

Yeah you are. But changes have a funny way of getting away from us.

Maureen gives Nick a key.

NICK

What's this?

MAUREEN

Key to my place.

NICK

I don't need it.

MAUREEN

I'm old I don't need to make sense to make sense.

Felicia comes out in pajamas,
wrapped in a blanket and sits on
the sofa.

FELICIA

Hey.

NICK

Hey.

Maureen gets up to exit.

MAUREEN

I got to get home. A woman on the streets so late, it's not safe.

NICK

Not safe for you or for everyone else?

MAUREEN

Don't make jokes. Men are only funny when women are talking about them.

Maureen exits.

NICK

Want a beer?

FELICIA

(No) That's alright.

NICK

I'm sorry.

FELICIA

Me too.

NICK

I love you Felicia.

FELICIA

I love you too.

Nick leans over and kisses Felicia gently. She kisses him back. He proceeded intent upon things developing. She pulls back. They stare at each other.

FELICIA

You gotta get some sleep for your big consultant meeting tomorrow.

NICK

It's been a long day.

FELICIA

You think you could find somewhere else to sleep for a while?

NICK

(Looks confused)

FELICIA

We need some time you know. I talked to ma. She said after work tomorrow you could go to her place.

NICK

What are you talking about?

FELICIA

You need time. Your new job. You got a lot going on in your head right now and you need time.

NICK

What's going on?

FELICIA

We're fighting, and that isn't a good time figure things out.

NICK

We don't need to fight.

FELICIA

You're gonna be getting more responsibility, and ma's house, it's a lot closer to the plant, and she said consultants need a business license and she can help you with stuff like that.

NICK

You don't want me?

FELICIA

You need space. You're looking for new stuff, and I want to give you space. Time to figure out what you want. I'm not going anywhere.

NICK

I can't believe you'd do this to me. I'm trying to make our life better and you're kicking me out.

FELICIA

I'm tired. Staying at mom's is not kicking you out. You can come back anytime.

NICK

You're right you're tired. Let's go to bed.

FELICIA

I'm gonna sleep here tonight

Felicia pulls the blanket around herself and lies on the sofa. Nick looks lost, like he wants to fight. He looks disgusted then heads for the bedroom.

NICK

I'm leaving early so you don't gotta to get up and see me off.

Nick exits. Felicia cries.

ACT II SC 2 SATURDAY NIGHT

The apartment is empty and a knocking on the door.

MAUREEN (OFFSTAGE)

(Yelling so Felicia can hear) I know you're there so open up or I'll break down the door, and won't buy you a new one!

TAYLOR (OFFSTAGE)

You don't got a key?

MAUREEN (OFFSTAGE)

'Course I got a key, I'm her mother, why wouldn't I have a key?

TAYLOR (OFFSTAGE)

Use your key!

MAUREEN (OFFSTAGE)

She should open the door. (Yelling so Felicia can hear) She's got two legs and I'm betting they're still working so she should open the door when her mother comes to visit.

TAYLOR (OFFSTAGE)

I'll use my key.

MAUREEN (OFFSTAGE)

You got a key?

TAYLOR (OFFSTAGE)

'Course I got a key. (Yelling so Felicia can hear) I'm her best friend ain't I?

MAUREEN (OFFSTAGE)

Why do you want me to use my key if you got a key? You gotta stop drinking the nail polish remover.

TAYLOR (OFFSTAGE)

I never drank nail polish remover!

Felicia comes out of her bedroom
wearing pajamas with a blanket
wrapped around her.

FELICIA

I'm coming, so shut up.

She let's them in. Taylor is
dressed in aerobic-style clothing.
Felicia heads to the sofa and
covers her head with a blanket

MAUREEN

It smell's in here like you've got rabies.

FELICIA

What?

MAUREEN

It's only been a week and already you smell like someone with no family who only eats strawberry ice cream and makes friends with cockroaches.

TAYLOR

She's your daughter. Be nice.

MAUREEN

Last week she was my daughter. Nick's been living with me for one week and my daughter is turning into a blanket.

Taylor looks in the fridge.

TAYLOR

Oh my god there's no beer.

MAUREEN

Her husband works everyday, wears neckties and comes home smiling like his brain's fallen into his expresto coffee and he's too happy to notice.

TAYLOR

What coffee?

MAUREEN

Espresso. It's Italian and means fast coffee because regular coffee's too slow.

TAYLOR

Is it any good?

MAUREEN

It comes in little cups and costs two dollars. It's for people who don't like money or coffee.

TAYLOR

I should go get beer.

MAUREEN

You go get beer. And you (*she kicks the sofa*) it's Saturday night, get up and go drink your dignity away with this one.

FELICIA

I want to be left alone.

MAUREEN

This one calls me frantic because she's getting drunk at a bar and you're not answering your phone. You two aren't drinking on a Saturday night, means you must be dead, so I came to see if there's anything I want to take.

TAYLOR

We always go out Saturday night.

FELICIA

Go out with Glen.

TAYLOR

You're more fun. And I went out with him last night.

MAUREEN

And he cooked you breakfast I bet.

TAYLOR

You got a dirty mind for such an old lady.

MAUREEN

I bet he's a tea drinker.

TAYLOR

He says coffee causes cancer of the heart. And when he makes an omelet he only uses the white part of the egg cause he says it's healthy. He says a healthy mind can't live in a dirty body.

MAUREEN

What's he say about your dirty mind?

TAYLOR

He's different, you know. Sweet.

MAUREEN

(Accusation) You like him.

TAYLOR

He's got rules about stuff.

MAUREEN

When to get up, when to go to bed, when to pee sitting down.

TAYLOR

He says, be positive even in the face of negative.

FELICIA

Don't listen to her. You guys are getting serious?

TAYLOR

I guess. He bought me these tights.

MAUREEN

You wear those outside? You can see you where dreams end and reality begins.

FELICIA

They're real popular now.

TAYLOR

I can feel the breeze on my happies.

MAUREEN

(To Felicia) Her happies?

FELICIA

From when we were kids.

MAUREEN

Do you do this robotics stuff?

TAYLOR

Aerobics! Glen got us a couples-membership at the health club. I'm taking a beginner class.

FELICIA

You're officially a couple now?

BEAT

TAYLOR

I don't know. Maybe. I think so. But I feel sorry for him.

FELICIA

Why would you feel sorry for him?

BEAT

FELICIA

How's Glen doing with Nick being the warehouse boss?

TAYLOR

Glen says growing pains in business is normal, so he's not worried, but, Glen is Nick's company liaison guy, which means he has to talk to him a lot.

FELICIA

Is that bad?

MAUREEN

You haven't seen Nick?

FELICIA

I haven't called him, he hasn't called me.

MAUREEN

You can't sit at home and do nothing. You don't know what you want, but sitting at home doing nothing ain't a life.

TAYLOR

You could come to the health club with me.

FELICIA

You really go to a gym?

TAYLOR

It's a health club and they've got a real nice cafe that sells juice. I met a bunch of new girls there and they're becoming clients. The girls all say I'm "authentic".

FELICIA

What does that mean?

TAYLOR

I don't know.

MAUREEN

You told Nick you needed time to think.

FELICIA

He needs the time to think.

TAYLOR

Guys don't think.

FELICIA

I'm tired.

MAUREEN

You're pouting.

FELICIA

I'm not pouting.

MAUREEN

When she was a girl and didn't get what she wanted. Pout, pout, pout. Wah! Wah! Wah! Felicia's not getting what she wants so she sits in her room and pouts. It worked on your father, but it doesn't work on me, so get your tukas into those sausage pants this moron wears and get yourself to some robotics classes!

TAYLOR

Aerobics.

FELICIA

You can sit here all night, but I'm going back to bed.

Felicia returns to her bedroom.

MAUREEN

(Yelling after Felicia) You can't figure out your life when you're hiding under a blanket. You hear. There's a lot of life out there. Hello? (pause) Mr. Sakamoto is throwing a funeral tomorrow for that woman and you're coming with me.

TAYLOR

His wife died?

MAUREEN

It wasn't his wife, they were just living in sin.

TAYLOR

How'd she die?

MAUREEN

She started taking robotics class at a health club and had a heart attack 'cause her headband too tight. (Yelling to Felicia) I'll be by at 11, so be ready, you hear. (pause. To Taylor) Well?

TAYLOR

You ever try aerobics?

MAUREEN

You're kidding?

TAYLOR

It makes me feel like a cat.

MAUREEN

You need a drink. Show me the bars where the slutty boys go these days.

Maureen starts to push her out the door.

TAYLOR

I don't know any bars like that?

MAUREEN

I do.

They exit

ACT II SC 3 SUNDAY NOON.

Felicia and Glen come to Felicia's apartment carrying bags of groceries. They put things away while they talk.

GLEN

She's went to Mr. Sakamoto's wife's funeral?

TAYLOR

Maureen said it would cheer her up. And she wasn't Mr. Sakamoto's wife, they were just living in sin.

GLEN

Felicia can't do her own shopping?

MAUREEN

This is Maureen's way of giving her a kick in the pants.

GLEN

She's a powerful woman.

TAYLOR

Smart too. Figures Felicia'll feel better with beer and other necessities in her fridge.

GLEN

Is she doing ok?

TAYLOR

Why do men have to be so selfish?

GLEN

I don't want to be selfish with you.

TAYLOR

You're different.

GLEN

Is that a good thing?

TAYLOR

I'm worried that if we get real serious you're going to change like Nick and stop being nice.

GLEN

I'm not like Nick. I've got a steady job and I'm moving up. I like my life nice and even.

TAYLOR

Me too. That's what I want. I thought Nick and Fel were the perfect couple and now they're having trouble and it makes me wonder if anybody can make it.

GLEN

I don't have so much experience, you know, with relationships and stuff, but I know I admire you. You're strong and can handle yourself, and don't depend on anyone.

TAYLOR

I want to depend on you.

They kiss.

GLEN

Maybe we should-

TAYLOR

My house is closest.

They leave hurriedly.

ACT II SC 4 3 WEEKS LATER. SATURDAY NIGHT.

Felicia is doing aerobics wearing
her perfect 1984 outfit and
ignoring the knocking on the door.

NICK (OFFSTAGE)

(Yelling) Felicia! It's Nick! I want to talk to you! Could you open the door, please, Maureen took my key. Felicia!

Felicia comes to an end in her
routine. Breathes and goes and
let's Nick in.

FELICIA

I was exercising.

NICK

Cool, it's - what're you wearing?

FELICIA

It's aerobics clothes.

NICK

Looks good.

Nick goes to the fridge.

NICK

There's no beer.

FELICIA

I know.

NICK

I can go get some.

FELICIA

There's some whole grain shake?

Nick pulls a jug of grey liquid out
and sniffs it?

NICK

Shakes are good. (but this isn't)

FELICIA

Lots of fibre and protein.

NICK

It's grey.

FELICIA

Healthy mind, healthy body.

Nick puts the liquid back in the
fridge.

NICK

You sound like Glen.

FELICIA

I got a class to get to.

NICK

It's 2 o'clock on Saturday? You're going to school?

FELICIA

Health club. A total-fitness workout.

BEAT

NICK

Cool.

FELICIA

Are you here to get something? You didn't take much when you left

NICK

I came to see you.

FELICIA

Uh huh.

NICK

Are you mad at me?

FELICIA

No.

NICK

You didn't call. (Pause) It's been a month.

FELICIA

The phone number didn't change.

NICK

I love you.

FELICIA

Yeah, me too.

He reaches for her hand and she
lets him hold it.

NICK

I miss you.

FELICIA

It's the first time I've lived on my own.

NICK

Me too.

FELICIA

You live with Mom.

NICK

Yeah, but, it's not home. I'm like renting a room from her.

FELICIA

You paying her rent?

NICK

No...a little, I figured, you know for utilities and stuff.
(Pause) It's not a lot.

FELICIA

You should pay your way.

NICK

Yeah.

Pause

NICK

Maureen's saying you haven't been going out much.

FELICIA

Just doing my thing.

NICK

You ok?

FELICIA

How do I look?

NICK

Good. Healthy. Very good.

Pause.

FELICIA

I really got to get going to my class, you know, sorry, but...

NICK

I miss you Fel. (Pause) I woke up this morning and it's like I was looking for you all night, and it...I was lonely.

Nick takes her other hand and pulls in for a hug. She allows herself to be hugged.

NICK

I got you a present.

Nick pulls a bag from his pocket. Hands it to her. She opens it during the following. It is a chunky bracelet with a name engraved on it.

NICK

I wanted to give you something for us, you know, so you know I'm still thinking about us, and I want us to stay together, like we always were. I was lying in bed and I was thinking about you, and I knew what I wanted to give you, this, it's like a symbol of how much I love you, you know, like my brain was saying 'this is important Nick, get to the jewelry store and make this happen so she knows how much you love her, how important she is to me'.

FELICIA

It's gold.

NICK

Ten karat, baby.

FELICIA

That's expensive.

NICK

Nothings too good for you. And I got it on lay-away, and I'll get it paid off in three months, but see, this is important, and spending money on something important is different, it's like an investment in us, like the money is for us.

FELICIA

It says "nick".

NICK

I love you baby.

FELICIA

You like your job?

NICK

People respect me. (He kisses her) And if they don't I kick their ass. (He kisses her)

FELICIA

Big shot, huh?

NICK

The biggest. (He kisses her) Glen calls me Mr. Lee. (He kisses her)

FELICIA

Yeah.

NICK

We're going to get to the top of the shit heap. (He kisses her)

FELICIA

You happy?

NICK

What? (He kisses her)

FELICIA

Happy? Are you happy?

NICK

(He stops kissing her and looks at her) Want me to play with your toes?

Felicia pulls away.

FELICIA

I gotta go.

NICK

Oh c'mon, what?

FELICIA

I got a class.

NICK

You're my wife. I got you a bracelet.

FELICIA

You wanted to change.

NICK

I changed for us. You don't understand the business world, you've got to change or you get sucked down. I changed so I can bring us into the real world.

FELICIA

You changed for you, not us.

NICK

What're you talking about. We been changing since forever. We used to go party every night, then only Saturdays, we used to have sex everyday, and then like, not, then all of a sudden money's tight because we have to save for the kid. Christ we don't even know for sure we're going to have a kid, but we got to stop enjoying life because we might have a kid.

FELICIA

We used to talk about the future, then you started making your own plans and expecting me to shut up and follow. Just shut the eff up and follow.

Nick is shocked by her use of
expletive.

NICK

You never talk like that.

FELICIA

Maybe I'm changing.

NICK

I came here 'cause I want us to be together.

FELICIA

You came here 'cause you're horny, not 'cause you want to be together. You want to have sex and feel like everything's all right and it's not, and it's not because you left me, before you moved over to moms, you left me, before you even found out about being taller by a half an inch, you left me. You were so ready to walk out that door when you got that medical report it was like a bullet just waiting to explode, no warning, no build up, just some lame ass excuse that you wanted to change, and you did, you did change, and you know what happened, you changed and that made me change, and my change means me not being interested in Saturday afternoon sex anymore cause I'd rather go do a workout at the health club, and if you don't like my change then you can take your hard-on and give it a bracelet with your name on it.

NICK

I'm sorry.

FELICIA

Me too.

Nick exits.

FELICIA

But I know why I'm sorry, and you don't.

ACT II SC 5 SATURDAY NIGHT.

Felicia is doing an aerobics exercise watching a video and the sound is audible. She is wearing an aerobics outfit. She is wearing headphones with a walkman. Strenuous exercise. There is a knocking on the door.

MAUREEN (OFFSTAGE)

Is this a magic door? We can hear her, but she can't hear us?

GLEN (OFFSTAGE)

(Yelling so Felicia can hear) Felicia! Open the door please or we will be forced to notify the custodian.

TAYLOR (OFFSTAGE)

Shut up Glen.

MAUREEN (OFFSTAGE)

You sound like a couple.

GLEN (OFFSTAGE)

(Yelling so Felicia can hear) Felicia! Open this door immediately. That's an order!. (To Taylor) You have a key?

They enter while talking. Felicia doesn't see them.

TAYLOR

Of course I've got a key. She's my friend.

GLEN

Why didn't you use it when we got here.

TAYLOR

You don't just bust in on a woman.

MAUREEN

She might have been copulating with a lover.

TAYLOR

Is sex all you oldies ever think about?

GLEN

(To Maureen) She's married.

TAYLOR

What's she got headphones on for?

MAUREEN

She's losing her mind.

Taylor looks in the fridge.

GLEN

She's got headphones and the tv on?

MAUREEN

Women can think of two things at once. That's why men think we're such good listeners.

TAYLOR

Oh my god Nick was right. No beer. Christ she's even got celery, and, yep, no cheese spread, celery and no cheese spread. This is serious.

GLEN

Felicia, plea-

Glen taps Felicia on the shoulder.
In surprise she turns and punches
him knocking him flat

TAYLOR

MAUREEN

Hey!

Don't break him.

GLEN

Ow.

FELICIA

You scared me.

GLEN

Sorry.

TAYLOR

Don't surprise a woman like that.

FELICIA

Sorry Glen.

GLEN

I'm sorry.

MAUREEN

You coulda broken him.

FELICIA

Why didn't you knock?

TAYLOR

You're wearing headphones and got your video playing.

GLEN

Are you doing Karate?

FELICIA

You know it?

TAYLOR

Course we know it. The Emerald Dragon's got an all you can eat buffet every Tuesday.

GLEN

It's a martial art.

MAUREEN

Oh good, you're becoming a fighter. Will you be shaving your head? Very ladylike.

FELICIA

Uh, you should talk.

MAUREEN

I'm ladylike. I carry a handbag, like the queen of England. Very ladylike.

FELICIA

What are you all doing here?

GLEN

An intervention.

TAYLOR

We came here to save you.

GLEN

You went to extreme aerobics this afternoon?

FELICIA

Nick told you?

TAYLOR

He's worried. Everyone is.

MAUREEN

Stop making an ass outta yourself.

Felicia moves to the fridge.

FELICIA

Anyone want some whole grain shake?

MAUREEN

It smells like cats making babies with raccoons.

GLEN

You use bran and cottage cheese?

FELICIA

And tofu to help with the taste.

Felicia pulls out celery stocks and
adds tofu onto a piece.

TAYLOR

No. No one is having a shake. We are here to put some sense
into you. What the hell is that?

FELICIA

Tofu.

MAUREEN

You eat that and I'll kill myself then kill all of you. Stop
this nonsense right now, and go get drunk with your friends.

GLEN

Maureen we agreed we'd do this respectfully.

MAUREEN

Another word and I'll have Felicia punch you again. (To
Felicia) And you. Nick came home and couldn't stop talking
about you, and this thing you're turning into, these super
hero clothes and going to healthy club classes on a Saturday!

FELICIA

I take care of myself. Like Glen. You understand right Glen.

GLEN

Yeah, but...Saturday night?

FELICIA

I have different priorities now.

MAUREEN

(To Taylor) When was the last time you got drunk together?

TAYLOR

It's been more'n a month.

MAUREEN

Tonight, you drink till you shame me or I am not your mother.

TAYLOR

We're worried what you're doing with your life.

MAUREEN

Not drinking? Why would you do that to me at my time of life?
Are you trying to kill me with worry.

TAYLOR

I haven't puked in weeks.

MAUREEN

You're gonna get ulcers you keep this up. Ulcers become the
cancer, you father died of the cancer.

GLEN

I thought he had a heart attack.

MAUREEN

The heart was attacked by the cancer.

FELICIA

I'm living healthy, that's all

MAUREEN

It's only healthy if it's happy. Did you know these two are
engaged?

FELICIA

What? When?

GLEN

We're working on a date.

TAYLOR

Wednesday. I called a couple of times.

FELICIA

I didn't call you back.

TAYLOR

I got some wedding magazines.

FELICIA

Ah...

TAYLOR

I wanted to make a scrap book like we always talked about, you know, cut out pictures and stuff.

FELICIA

...A wedding dream book.

TAYLOR

I bought glue and scissors, and a scrapbook with a unicorn on the front.

Taylor begins to cry. Glen hugs her.

GLEN

There, there sweet T, you're big G's here.

MAUREEN

You're best friend's been engaged and you didn't know. They got stupid nicknames now and you didn't know. You lady got a problem.

FELICIA

I'm changing.

MAUREEN

You're hiding.

Felicia begins to cry. Taylor cries more.

MAUREEN

God, give me adults.

Taylor leaves Glen and hugs Felicia. They cry louder.

Glen starts to cry.

MAUREEN

Don't you dare mister. Men only cry when they find Jesus or their team loses, so just suck those tears back into your head Big G.

Felicia and Taylor reduce their crying.

MAUREEN

(To Felicia) Nick? He works, he comes home, he works. What are you gonna do?

GLEN

He's actually pretty smart.

FELICIA

What am I supposed to do?

MAUREEN

You got trouble with your man, doesn't mean you hide. While you're trying to figure it out, you live. You got friends, you talk to them. You got your mother, you cry on my shoulder.

TAYLOR

(To Felicia) I cried on your shoulder a lot when I had trouble, and I could do it 'cause I love you.

FELICIA

I love you too.

TAYLOR

But love isn't just good times, you got problems and you're shutting me out, like you don't trust me, like our friendship is only for good times.

FELICIA

I wanted to be alone.

TAYLOR

We could be alone together.

FELICIA

I felt like I was growing up.

MAUREEN

Growing up doesn't mean pulling away from everything you know and love.

FELICIA

What do you want from me?

MAUREEN

I want you to be happy. Whatever that is, it's fine, but this isn't happy. Demons don't get exorcised at a health club.

TAYLOR

You were always there for me when I had troubles. The first thing I did when Glen asked me to marry him was call you, and you didn't call me back.

FELICIA

I miss you too.

TAYLOR

You and Nick got trouble and you left me. Not letting me help you's like saying our friendship doesn't mean anything to you.

FELICIA

I needed space. I guess I needed space so I can figure out what I want. I'm sorry Taylor, I should have talked to you. I knew I was cutting you off, and that was wrong. You gonna forgive me?

Taylor and Felicia hug and remain close.

TAYLOR

I couldn't get married without you being there, you're the most important person in the world to me.

GLEN

Sweet T hang on a sec-

Glen moves to hug Taylor, and Maureen stops him.

MAUREEN

Shut up Glen.

FELICIA

I'll be there every step of the way.

TAYLOR

You can walk me down the aisle like we used to practice.

MAUREEN

Glen get back in there to make sure you're still invited to the honeymoon.

Maureen ushers Glen towards Taylor who hugs Glen.

MAUREEN

So?

FELICIA

I'm going to be ok.

GLEN

Is there anything I can do?

TAYLOR

What're you talking about?

GLEN

You know, Felicia doesn't have a man around anymore, so you know, she might need something.

MAUREEN

The handsome one's are idiots.

TAYLOR

You gonna come over and open a jar of pickles or something.

FELICIA

Thanks Glen, but I think I'm ok.

MAUREEN

She kicked your ass, so maybe you want to come over and let her punch you again.

TAYLOR

What are you gonna do about Nick?

FELICIA

I don't know.

TAYLOR

You gonna get back with him?

FELICIA

Depends on what he's like. I know he's changing.

MAUREEN

Everyone changes.

TAYLOR

Doesn't mean you gotta drink a pukey-shake.

MAUREEN

I'll place an order with Mr. Sakamoto. His son Barry'll deliver some beer tomorrow, but don't tip him, they overcharge.

FELICIA

I'm not going to drink it.

GLEN

Nothin' wrong with a beer now then.

MAUREEN

Do I need to call a priest?

TAYLOR

You're not going to stick with that shake goop?

FELICIA

Yeah, that may not last.

TAYLOR

(Shudders) And the celery.

FELICIA

There's one new thing that I'm pretty sure I'm gonna stick with.

GLEN

Tofu?

FELICIA

I'm pregnant.

TAYLOR

No.

FELICIA

Yes.

MAUREEN

Did you see a doctor?

FELICIA

Friday.

GLEN

Is it Nick's?

TAYLOR

Don't you dare talk to my friend that way. You apologize right now for even thinking that Fel could be a skank, our friends are not skanks. I'm not going to be the aunt of a baby whose mother is no skank, so don't you dare say that.

GLEN

I just meant-

MAUREEN

Glen, go do something useful and go buy some beer. I'm gonna be a grandma! Oh my god, I'm gonna be a grandma.

TAYLOR

Does Nick know?

FELICIA

Nope.

MAUREEN

You going to tell him?

FELICIA

No, but you will.

GLEN

What are you going to do?

BEAT

FELICIA

I don't know.

MAUREEN

You need a man.

TAYLOR

No she doesn't. She needs friends and family, that's all she needs, and she's got that. If Nick wants to be part of it, he will be, but if he comes back just to be the father of my niece then she's going to have a lousy father and Fel's going to have a lousy husband and that's not gonna happen, and that's that Maureen so don't go encouraging Nick to rush over here till he's sure what she wants, and not because of what he wants.

BEAT

FELICIA

Thanks Tay.

TAYLOR

You're welcome.

FELICIA

You want some celery?

TAYLOR

I'd rather die.

ACT II SC 6 TWO MONTHS LATER

Maureen, Glen, Taylor and obviously pregnant Felicia are having dinner. It is Maureen Birthday. Maureen is opening a present Taylor handed her.

TAYLOR

Mr. Sakamoto gave it to me to bring over.

MAUREEN

Such a sweet man.

GLEN

How are things going with him.

MAUREEN

I cook dinner. We watch TV. One of us falls asleep. It's like being married.

FELICIA

What'd he get you?

MAUREEN

Wine! Three bottles. Red, white and rosy.

GLEN

They look expensive.

FELICIA

You don't like wine.

TAYLOR

Why doesn't he ever give you beer.

MAUREEN

But I do like Mr. Sakamoto.

TAYLOR

Or tequila.

GLEN

You're not drinking?

FELICIA

I can still enjoy Taylor when she's had a couple.

TAYLOR

A couple?

There is a knock on the door.

MAUREEN

That's Mr. Sakamoto. He said he'd get Barry to look after the store so he could drop by. Don't open it yet. How do I look?

FELICIA

You think he's going to propose.

TAYLOR

We could have a double wedding!

MAUREEN

Glen open the wine, I want him to think we're drinking it.

FELICIA

Oh boy.

MAUREEN

Ok! You may now open the door.

FELICIA

Yes your majesty.

Felicia opens the door with a bow.

FELICIA

Please enter our humble home.

Nick enters.

NICK

Thanks.

MAUREEN

(Disappointed) Nick.

NICK

Happy Birthday Maureen.

TAYLOR

Fel, look, Nick's here.

NICK

It's ok, me coming. (Pause) I got a present.

TAYLOR

Want some wine?

NICK

Thanks. Red?.

FELICIA

You drink wine?

NICK

Sometimes.

Nick gives Maureen a present.

MAUREEN

You coulda given it to me at home.

NICK

I won't stay.

FELICIA

You want something to eat?

NICK

Maybe a little.

GLEN

We should go.

NICK

Don't leave 'cause of me.

GLEN

Socializing with a consultant.

NICK

We're friends.

TAYLOR

Not the way friends act.

GLEN

Taylor. It's... (To Nick) you gotta do what you gotta do.

TAYLOR

He doesn't have to be a asshole all the time.

GLEN

Honey.

NICK

I've kinda been a jerk.

GLEN

Things are tough at work for you, I get that.

NICK

I'm sorry man.

GLEN

We're cool

NICK

You want to catch a beer sometime?

GLEN

We still need a short stop on Sunday.

NICK

I'm a little out of shape.

TAYLOR

They're making up? That took like two seconds and they're making up?

MAUREEN

(To Nick and Glen) Go ahead and kiss already. (To Nick) You gonna ask your wife about your baby or you here just to see Glen?

FELICIA

Ah, this is why you wanted your birthday dinner here and not at a restaurant.

MAUREEN

I mentioned we'd be here. You two don't talk. It's my birthday so I get what I want.

FELICIA

Everyday's your birthday.

NICK

(To Felicia) How are you?

FELICIA

Pregnant. That's why you're here right?

NICK

I want to be a father.

FELICIA

You're gonna be a father. Doesn't mean you're gonna be a dad.

MAUREEN

Be nice. Where did she learn to talk like that.

TAYLOR

Where I wonder?

NICK

I miss you. I miss us. And now that a kids on the way. My job, it's not everything. I took my time. I'm good now. I know what I want.

FELICIA

A kid?

NICK

We always talked about having one. Raising him.

Felicia, Taylor, Maureen and Glen
in unison.

Her.

NICK

Her.

GLEN

First one to be a dad.

TAYLOR

You gotta try harder big G.

GLEN

You complaining sweet T?

MAUREEN

Don't talk like that, the baby might hear you and never come out.

FELICIA

You came because you want us to be together?

NICK

Yeah, I do.

MAUREEN

Nice boy. He's always been a nice boy. Glen you can learn from this boy.

FELICIA

Thing is Ma, he's not a boy, he's a man. A man makes a decision and he lives with the consequences. Even if he doesn't like 'em he lives with 'em.

NICK

What're you saying?

FELICIA

You wanted to change and you went looking for it. The thing is, I changed too. First time in my life I've been on my own, and you know? I like it.

TAYLOR

Ooohh!

NICK

You don't want me back.

FELICIA

I didn't say that.

MAUREEN

Then what are you saying?

FELICIA

I'm saying you want back in my life, I gotta know I want you. When we're living together you drank beer and wore jeans. It's been a couple of months and now you drink wine and wear khaki pants like you're mister big shot. I don't know if I want that guy in my life.

NICK

But-

FELICIA

I'm not saying I don't want you, I'm saying I don't know if I want you. And I don't know means, I don't know. I'm willing to learn about you, and by the way, the last time you were with me, I wasn't pregnant and didn't do aerobics, and didn't eat celery, so maybe I'm not the kinda girl you really want in your life either. See what I'm saying? I'm not saying no, I'm saying you interested in me, then let's get to know each other.

NICK

Starting over.

FELICIA

Starting fresh.

Beat. Nick moves towards the door
and pauses.

NICK

Can I give you a call? Go out to dinner or something?

FELICIA

I still eat.

NICK

You're not a vegetarian are you?

FELICIA

I'm pregnant, not a hippie.

Nick exits.

TAYLOR

You gonna take him back?

FELICIA

The only thing I know for sure is I got good family and
friends and I'm having a baby.

ACT III SC 1. 18 MONTHS LATER

Nick is rocking a baby in his arms.
Singing a lullaby to her. He is
dressed in upscale casual clothing.
Felicia comes in quietly.

NICK

(Surprised) Hey?

FELICIA

How is she?

NICK

Golden.

FELICIA

She looks beautiful when you hold her.

NICK

We made something good.

FELICIA

We really did.

NICK

What are you doing here? Did you dump Barry already?

FELICIA

Soon as I get in the car the dufus tells me I need boots 'cause the B&B's got great trails. Like why didn't he tell me before?

NICK

You're gonna have a nice weekend.

FELICIA

I think he's gonna propose.

NICK

What are you thinking?

FELICIA

I'm not doing anything till I graduate, but, he and I'll be good together.

NICK

He's great with little Mo.

FELICIA

He wanted to bring her along this weekend.

NICK

I like babysitting her.

FELICIA

Since Mr. Sakamoto's moved in with mom she's suddenly ok with other people babysitting.

NICK

Does he have a first name?

FELICIA

Mom still calls him Mr. Sakamoto. Barry doesn't even call him dad, it's Mr. Sakamoto just like everybody else.

NICK

I hope you're all getting a family discount.

FELICIA

Full price. Barry said he even had to pay full price growing up.

NICK

It's nice you're happy.

She kisses his cheek.

FELICIA

I better get going, he's got a small bladder and if he comes up to pee, he'll start playing with little Mo and we'll never get out of here.

NICK

Oh, I meant to tell you. I got a medical for my new job.

FELICIA

Yeah?

NICK

Yeah.

FELICIA

Anything changed?

NICK

Nothing. I'm exactly as tall as I should be.

FELICIA

You always were, you just didn't know it.

NICK

You happy?

FELICIA

Yes. Aren't you?

End