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The Prenuptial
(an excerpt)

Lester M. Wolfson 2nd Place Drama

FADE IN:

EXT. CHURCH – DAY

In an over head, long shot a group of PEOPLE are congregating. It is a beautiful May day. From far away one can see that a wedding is about to take place. The church bells begin to RING and the people begin to line up in groups of two. The couples walk into the building. A CHATTER of excitement can be heard.

INT. CHURCH – DAY

Many people are filing into individual pews. CHATTER can be heard as people from each side of the family introduce themselves to the other side of the family. The pews are decorated with blue and silver ribbon. The traditional wedding song begins to PLAY. This causes the individuals to hurry to their seats. A great HUSH can be heard. The wedding party begins to walk down the isle two by two.

INT. CHURCH – DAY

KRISTI, twenty-eight years old, is standing across from her boyfriend BRANDON. In a close up shot Kristi is looking at Brandon intently. No SOUND can be heard. The PREACHER is mouthing wedding vows. The shot reverses to a close-up of Brandon who is sweating and is wide eyed. The SOUND comes back on just as the Preacher is finishing the vows.

PREACHER
(continuation from silent vows)
So long at you both shall live.

KRISTI
(loudly)
I do.

In a moments notice the camera switches from a close-up of Kristi to reveal the entire CROWD. The real BRIDE and GROOM can be seen standing next to the Preacher. Everyone is looking at Kristi with wide eyes and mouth. A GASP can be heard from this crowd. Kristi looks down, and tries to avoid any eye contact with anyone, especially the bride. Realizing she cannot hide she waves slightly as a MURMUR

B

That would be her

The Bride turns

B

(con)

Branden is looking at Kristi and is

INT. RECEPTION HALL – NIGHT

Kristi is at a table with her head down. A SOUND of a farewell can be heard as the bride and groom are exiting the reception.

Kristi raises her head enough to take a finishing of her drink and reaches for another drink. Brandon catches her

BRANDON
You've had enough

KRISTI
I'll tell you why

Kristi jerks away violently. Brandon looks behind his back. Brandon

BRANDON
Look what

Kristi looks at the bouquet

BRANDON
(con)
Stacy thought

KRISTI
My third one this damn thing.

Kristi puts her head down in her arm
PEOPLE are congregating. It is seen to a wedding is about to begin and the people begin to line into the building. A CHATTER of pews. CHATTER can be heard as they introduce themselves to the other guests who are seated with blue and silver ribbon. The wedding party is playing. This causes the individual to illustrate. The wedding party can be heard. The wedding party is playing.

Brandon is looking at Kristi and is very red in the face. Kristi looks up at Brandon. Kristi is also red and the face as if she is trying not to cry.

INT. RECEPTION HALL - NIGHT

Kristi is at a table with her head down. Her face is dug into her arms. The sound of a farewell can be heard from the crowd. In the background the bride and groom are exiting the reception hall.

Kristi raises her head enough to take another drink of her champagne. She finishes off this drink and reaches to the WAITER standing next to her for another drink. Brandon catches her arm.

BRANDON
You’ve had enough to drink.

KIRSTI
I’ll tell you when I’ve had enough.

Kristi jerks away violently. Brandon pulls his hand off her shoulder. A bouquet is behind his back. Brandon tries to give her the flowers.

BRANDON
Look what I brought you.

Kristi looks at the bouquet and then grabs another drink.

BRANDON
(continuing)
Stacy thought you should have it.

Kristi looks at the bouquet and throws it behind her.

KIRSTI
My third one this year. It doesn’t mean a damn thing. I’ll rot, just like me.

Kristi puts her head down in her arms again. Brandon looks confused, but
tries to comfort her. Kristi pushes Brandon off of her, gets up, and walks out of the hall. Everyone is looking at her as she walks by.

**KRISTI**
(drunkenly)
(to onlookers)
What the hell are you looking at?

**EXT. PARKING LOT – NIGHT**

Brandon runs up to Kristi who is trying to leave. He grabs the keys out of her hand.

**BRANDON**
Just where are you going?

**KRISTI**
Home. Without you!

**BRANDON**
And where did you expect me to stay?

**KRISTI**
Wherever six year bachelors go when they don't want to get married.

**BRANDON**
This is not fair.

**KRISTI**
How is this fair to me? God damn you.

**BRANDON**
You can't just force me.

**KRISTI**
No, I never thought I'd have to force you. For some reason I thought you loved me and would want to be with only me.

Kristi stops and looks at Brandon. Brandon is red faced and lost for words.

**KRISTI**
(continuing)
Instead I got a slob, who I get to play maid for, while I hope he decides to finally grace me by actually committing to a life with me.

Kristi walks away from Brandon.

**INT. CHURCH – DAY**

The church is decorated and prepared cloudy and dream like. Kristi is walking the wedding march. Brandon is at the end of the aisle looking at the bride and groom. Kristi is standing in a dark, empty church and lifts up her veil to reveal a much older woman.

Kristi looks straight at the camera and says:

**KRISTI**
I know you're out there.

**INT. BEDROOM – DAY**

Kristi wakes up with a SCREAM. She checks her real youthful and tight skin. She knows Brandon did not come home. She lies down. The phone starts RING. Kristi MOANS and pulls the sheet over her head. She puts the phone back and continues to RING and the answering machine comes on. Kristi pulls the sheet from over her head.

**KRISTI**
Do you want to break my heart that way?

Kristi jumps out of the bed and rushes to the phone.

**KRISTI**
(con't)
Fine, I am.

Kristi jumps out of the bed and rushes to the phone.
Kristi walks away from Brandon.

INT. CHRUCH – DAY

The church is decorated and prepared for a wedding. The church is very cloudy and dream-like. Kristi is walking down the aisle to the traditional wedding march. Brandon is at then end of the isle waiting for Kristi. Everyone is looking at the bride and groom. Suddenly Brandon disappears and Kristi is standing in a dark, empty church. She is alone. She sits in the pew and lifts up her veil to reveal a much older Kristi.

Kristi looks straight at the camera and talks.

KRISTI
Wanna get married, honey?

INT. BEDROOM – DAY

Kristi wakes up with a SCREAM. She reaches up to touch her face, to reveal her real youthful and tight skin. She looks next to her in bed to see that Brandon did not come home. She lies back down. The phone begins to RING. Kristi MOANS and pulls the covers over her head. The phone continues to RING and the answering machine picks up. Kristi’s MOM can be HEARD on the answering machine.

MOM
I know you’re there. Pick up.

Kristi rolls over in bed.

KRISTI
I don’t wanna.

MOM
Do you want to break your poor mother’s heart? Pick up.

Kristi pulls the sheet from over her head and considers picking up the phone.

MOM
Fine, I am coming over.

Kristi jumps out of the bed and rushes for the phone. Kristi’s mom can no longer be heard through the answering machine. Kristi begins her routine.
of answering her mother's predicted questioning.

Yes, the wedding was nice. No, Brandon did not spontaneously propose to me. I caught the bouquet. Actually it was handed to me. I am still single, pathetic and a day older. Anything else?

Thank you for tuning into my pitiable life. You can now return to your regular program.

Kristi hangs up the phone. She lies back in bed with the telephone in her hand. Kristi digs her face into the pillow and SCREAMS. The phone begins to RING again. Kristi violently answers it.

KOHSTI
What now?

Kristi realizes it's not her mom on the phone, but Brandon.

KOHSTI
I thought you were...never mind. What do you want?
(pause)
How do you expect me to be after six years?
(pause)
I love you too, but I am starting to wonder if that's enough.
(pause)
Okay, I'll be there tonight, but I am not promising that you will be coming back home.

Kristi hangs up the phone. She sees a picture on the night table of her and Brandon. He has his arms around her. The picture seems to be of a younger and happier couple. Kristi puts the picture on Brandon's pillow and lies next to it. The camera shows this in a long, overhead shot. The bed seems so empty without the real Brandon.

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

Kristi is sleeping when she is awaked up by someone KNOCKING. It is her best friend Stacy. Stacy lets herself in with a key.

STACY
(shouts)
Talked to your mom last night. Did you...
Kristi
(slightly)

No, Brandon did notice. No, Brandon did note to me. I caught the 4 handed to me. I am a day older. Anything

I scream. I am my pitiable life. You

in bed with the telephone in her

and SCREAMS. The phone begins it.

KRI

now?

phone, but Brandon.

KRI

ever mind. What do want?

me to be after six years?

starting to wonder if

night, but I am not

picture on the night table of her and

The picture seems to be of a younger

on Brandon’s pillow and lies

ing, overhead shot. The bed seems so

by someone KNOCKING. It is her

with a key.

STACY

last night. Did you

really try to kill the waiter?

KRI

(o.s.)

I really don’t want to start today like this.

Just go away.

Stacy makes it to Kristi’s room, but Kristi just pull the covers over her head.

STACY

Nice try, but I don’t think so. I have a man in his late twenties sleeping in my bed and it’s not my husband.

KRI

He’s not coming back.

STACY

Then I’m moving in.

KRI

What’s the difference? Another relationship with no future.

STACY

Lighten up, will you.

Kristi pulls the cover from over her head.

STACY

Things will get better. It’ll happen, just give it time.

KRI

How much time is enough? Ten years? or maybe we can just live together like this forever.

Stacy sits on the bed and nudges Kristi.

STACY

What are you so afraid of?

KRI

Losing. I’ve been in this for six years and I just want to know that my world is not going to fall from under me.
Stacy lays next to Kristi and gives her a hug.

STACY (sympathetic)
It's all a gamble. Sometimes it works and sometimes it doesn't. Look at your parents, they gamble about ten times a year.

KRISTI
That is exactly what I don't want.

STACY
Brandon loves you! Believe me. I got to hear about it all night. He's just scared. Marriage is a big step. The whole "till death do you part" creeps men out.

Kristi smiles.

STACY (continuing)
They might as well say "till old, ugly and sagging" - it's all the same.

(pause)
So, are you going to be sleeping with me or can Prince Noncommittal come home?

Kristi gets closer to Stacy and brings her foot to her face.

KRISTI
It depends on which one of you'll rub my feet. I've a terrible blister from wearing dress shoes at someone's wedding.

Stacy jumps away, pretending disgust. Kristi smells her foot and shrugs.

KRISTI
They're not that bad. They're actually kind of cute.

Kristi looks at her toes and wiggles them.

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Kristi has just walked in the restaurant, but Brandon is nowhere in sight. Finally she sees Brandon coming out of a room marked men's restroom. Brandon looks pale and like he's been sick. He walks up to Kristi and the same waiter leads them to a table. They sit down at the table and look at there menus. Brandon isn't concentrating on his menu, but is thoughtfully touching something in his jacket pocket.

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Brandon is holding Kristi's hand. He's looking at Brandon expectantly. Kristi notices the hot sauce and slams it up and walks away. Brandon looks at his pocket thoughtfully.

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

Kristi is in bed when the phone rings.

KRISTI
No, he doesn't.

Kristi hangs up the phone and lies back down in bed.

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Brandon again looks a little sick. Kristi turns the table cloth to the other side. They go to a table and sit down.

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Just as soon as they have sat down, Kristi yanks her arm out with Brandon. Brandon watches Kristi leave. He looks down at his jacket pocket and sighs.

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

Kristi is lying in bed. The phone rings.

KRISTI
She hangs up the phone.

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Kristi looks visually less enthusiastic and has on very casual clothing. The same course of action takes place. Brandon watches Kristi leave. He looks down at his jacket pocket and sighs.

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Brandon touches his jacket pocket.
touching something in his jacket pocket.

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Brandon is holding Kristi's hand. He's looking at Kristi deeply and Kristi is looking at Brandon expectantly. Kristi yanks away her hand from Brandon. She takes the hot sauce and slams it on the other side of the table. Then she gets up and walks away. Brandon looks dumbfounded as Kristi leaves. He touches his pocket thoughtfully.

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

Kristi is in bed when the phone rings, she answers it.

KRISTI
No, he did not ask.

Kristi hangs up the phone and lies back down.

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Brandon again looks a little sick. Kristi has become more casual in her clothing. They go to a table and sit down.

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Just as soon as they have sat down, Kristi is getting up. Brandon tries to walk out with Kristi. Kristi yanks her arm away from Brandon and waves goodbye. Brandon watches Kristi leave. He looks down, touches his coat pocket that has a slight bulge and SIGHS.

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

Kristi is lying in bed. The phone rings and she answers it.

KRISTI
No.

She hangs up the phone.

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Kristi looks visually less enthusiastic about dinner. She looks a little disheveled and has on very casual clothing. Her makeup is badly applied. The same course of action takes place. Brandon sits down with Kristi. Kristi puts all the condiments on Brandon's side of the table.

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Brandon touches his jacket pocket. He's sweating. He touches Kristi's hand.
Brandon then points at Kristi's cutting knife. She tosses at him angrily and Brandon just barely escapes being stabbed by the knife. Kristi gets up and comes around the table to push Brandon back down in his seat.

INT. BEDROOM – DAY

Kristi is still in bed when the phone rings. The answering machine automatically picks up.

ANSWERING MACHINE
Hi, I am asleep right now. He did not ask me, so, you can stop calling, mother.

INT. RESTAURANT – NIGHT

Kristi shows up at the restaurant with the hair in a ponytail. She is wearing sweat pants and a t-shirt. Brandon looks pale, as usual, but seems more nervous than usual. He does not seem to notice Kristi's casualness. They are led to a table by a waiter that knows them and has served them the past three nights.

BRANDON
(strained)
You look...nice.

KRISTI
Sure. Look I only came tonight to tell you if you don't want to get married that's fine. It is obvious you don't want me.

BRANDON
But I do want you.

KRISTI
The whole moving in together was a mistake anyway.

BRANDON
I don't think so. Kristi continues to ignore his comments.

KRISTI
We can see each other, but until we know that both of us are ready...

Brandon touches his jacket pocket.

Brandon moves next to Kristi and gets out of his pocket. It is a jewelry box.

KRISTI
(crestfallen)
We can start all over.

Brandon grabs Kristi's hand. He leans in to talk and flames while talking she is handing her silverware.

KRISTI
Then, in a year we can...and...

Brandon pushes all the condiment off the side to that it'll face him only.

BRANDON
Kristi Elizabeth...I know there is no way you don't want to love me.

KRISTI
I was not sure about it. Brandon nods his head yes. Kristi grins. Brandon didn't think so. Kristi grinned...it might disappear.

KRISTI
Yes. Yes, I will...

The couple kisses and the waiter rolls to clap.
knife. She tosses at him angrily and
bed by the knife. Kristi gets up and
en back down in his seat.

The answering machine auto-
now. He did not ask me,
calling, mother.

She is wearing
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otice Kristi’s casualness. They are led
and has served them the past three

...nice.

KRISTI
same tonight to tell
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ous you don’t want

DON
want you.

KRISTI
her was a mistake anyway.

DON
ink so.
more his comments.

Kristi is not quite sure if she should believe him.

KRISTI
What?
(hesitates)
Really?

Brandon nods his head yes. Kristi grabs the ring, as if in a moment’s notice it might disappear.

KRISTI
Yes. Yes, I will marry you.

The couple kisses and the waiter rolls his eyes. The rest of the room begins
to clap.