

REV 3/21/11

ACT ONE

SCENE A

VANESSA
(6 pages)

FADE IN:

INT. KITCHEN - MORNING (DAY ONE)

(Paul, Vanessa, Kristin)

PAUL, WALKS GINGERLY OVER TO WHERE HIS WIFE, VANESSA, MID-40S, COOKS EGGS. HE GIVES HER A KISS.

PAUL

My back's killing me. I think our mattress is too hard.

VANESSA

Really, Outdoor Man? You sleep on rocks in Tanzania but your latex foam hypo-allergenic mattress isn't up to Goldilocks's standards?

PAUL SHRUGS, NOTICES THE EGGS.

PAUL

I could eat a horse. Which, by the way, I did in Bolivia once. It's even worse than it sounds. So much tail.

VANESSA

Why can't you have normal stories? And stay away from my eggs. This is your breakfast.

VANESSA HANDS PAUL A BOWL OF OATMEAL.

PAUL

Seriously, oatmeal and blueberries?
What did I do?

1/16

Wrote Jack Burditt / Tim Allen Pilot

START

VANESSA

How are you complaining? You were just bragging you ate a horse.

PAUL

Out of necessity. Oatmeal is not a necessity when I'm looking at eggs.

VANESSA

You need to eat healthier.

PAUL

You know, men used to eat meat three meals a day and wash it down with beef broth.

VANESSA

Didn't they all die at age forty?

PAUL

Yeah. Of happiness.

VANESSA

Here's the thing: Women outlive men --
VANESSA MOUTHS PAUL'S NEXT LINE AS HE SAYS IT.

PAUL

Sure, it's our only way out.

VANESSA

-- plus you're older than me to begin with. So the only thing I can control is to make sure you're eating right when you're home.

2/6

PAUL

(TOUCHED) Aw, you're worried I might die.

VANESSA

No, I'm worried you won't die, that you'll just depreciate until you're bed-ridden and, trust me, I'm not wiping you. "In sickness or in health"? Please. We both know those vows were bunk, except for that part where you have to honor and obey me and never say I look fat and not complain if my mother wants to come live with us.

PAUL

I really should have paid more attention to those vows.

VANESSA

Even though I don't need a man to take care of me, I like the way you take care of me, you know how to fix all the things you break and you don't complain when I ask you to buy tampons or wine coolers, but you can't take care of me if you're laid up all day ringing a bell every time you want soup --

PAUL

(EXCITED) We have soup?

3/6

VANESSA

-- so eat your damn oatmeal and
blueberries, and do an hour of cardio
four times a week, or else.

PAUL

Or else what? I'm screwed?

VANESSA

No, that only happens if you eat your
oatmeal?

VANESSA SMILES AND KISSES PAUL.

VANESSA (CONT'D)

How are there eggs in your mouth?

PAUL

I guess this is what I get for living
with nothing but women. No offense.

VANESSA

You can't say something offensive and
then add "no offense".

PAUL

When did that become a rule?

VANESSA

It's common sense. Anyone with a half
a brain knows that. No offense.

VANESSA SMILES SWEETLY.

// CUT TO:

4/6

ACT THREE

T

EXT. BACKYARD - EVENING (DAY 4)

(Tim, Vanessa, Howie, Gordon, Ed, Nikki, Jason, Dog)

A BARBECUE IS TAKING PLACE. VANESSA IS CHARGING OVER, NOT LOOKING HAPPY.

VANESSA

Did you quit your job?

TIM

What? Where would you get such an idea?

VANESSA STEPS ASIDE. TIM SEES THAT ED AND NIKKI HAVE COME TO THE PARTY.

VANESSA

Were you ever going to tell me? Or are you like those weird Japanese businessmen who pretend they have a job but hang out in the park every day?

TIM

I didn't quit my job. I just needed a break for a couple days to clear my head. I'm going back. Nothing to worry about.

VANESSA

I'm not worried.

TIM

Good.

5/6

VANESSA

I'm furious.

TIM

Do you want some wine?

VANESSA

No! (THEN) Yes. (THEN) No, you're trying to distract me and it's not going to -- (LOOKING AROUND) Where is my wine? I just had it.

TIM

I'll go get it.

VANESSA

No, we're talking about this. (THEN) I get you wanting to take a break. It happens to everyone, even Superman. I'm mad because you had a bad week at work and you didn't even tell me.

TIM

Because you were having such a good week. I didn't want to ruin it.

VANESSA

That's what marriage is.

TIM

Really?

VANESSA

I don't know. After twenty-five years I'm still hazy on the whole thing.

6/6

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CUT TO: