

# Manhattan Script

*"Chapter one. "*

*"He adored New York City.*

*He idolised it all out of proportion. "*

*Uh, no. Make that "He romanticised it  
all out of proportion. "*

*"To him,*

*no matter what the season was,*

*this was still a town  
that existed in black and white*

*and pulsated to the great tunes  
of George Gershwin. "*

*Uh... no. Let me start this over.*

*"Chapter one. "*

*"He was too romantic about Manhattan,  
as he was about everything else. "*

*"He thrived on the hustle, bustle  
of the crowds and the traffic. "*

*"To him, New York  
meant beautiful women*

*and street-smart guys  
who seemed to know all the angles. "*

*Ah, corny. Too corny  
for a man of my taste.*

*Let me... try and make it more profound.*

*"Chapter one. He adored New York City. "*

*"To him, it was a metaphor  
for the decay of contemporary culture. "*

*"The same lack of integrity to cause so  
many people to take the easy way out...*

*... was rapidly turning the town  
of his dreams..."*

*No, it's gonna be too preachy. I mean,  
face it, I wanna sell some books here.*

*"Chapter one. He adored New York City,*

*although to him it was a metaphor  
for the decay of contemporary culture. "*

*"How hard it was to exist in a society  
desensitised by drugs, loud music,*

*television, crime, garbage..."*

*Too angry. I don't wanna be angry.*

*"Chapter one. "*

*"He was as tough and romantic  
as the city he loved. "*

*"Behind his black-rimmed glasses was  
the coiled sexual power of a jungle cat. "*

*I love this.*

*"New York was his town  
and it always would be. "*

I think the essence of art is to provide  
a kind of working-through situation,

so that you can get in touch  
with feelings you didn't know you had.

Talent is luck.

The important thing in life is courage.

- They've had this argument for years.
- Listen to this example.

If the four of us are walking home over  
the bridge and a person was drowning,

would we have the nerve...

Would one of us have the nerve  
to dive into the icy water and save them?

It's a key question.

I, of course, can't swim,  
so I never have to face it.

Oh... God.

Which of us?

- You want a little more?

- No.

Mm. Oh, man. That is so great.

You don't smoke.

I know I don't smoke. I don't inhale  
because it gives you cancer, but

I look so incredibly handsome  
with a cigarette that I can't *not* hold one.

You like the way I look?

Provocative.

- I'm getting through to you?

- Yup. You have to excuse me a sec.

Jesus, she's gorgeous.

But she's .

I'm and she's .

I'm... I'm older than her father.

Can you believe that?

I'm dating a girl



wherein I can beat up her father.

That's the first time  
that ever occurred in my life.

- He's drunk.
- You're drunk. You should never drink.

Did I tell you... that my ex-wife...

- Who, Tina?
- My second ex-wife

is writing a book about  
our marriage and the break-up.

- That's really tacky.
- It's really depressing, you know.

She's gonna give all those details out,  
all my little idiosyncrasies,

and my quirks and mannerisms, and...

Not that I have  
anything to hide because, you know...

But there are a few disgusting  
little moments that I regret.

It's just gossip.  
Gossip is the new pornography.

- You should never let me drink.
- I know.

You should never let *yourself* drink.

We oughta go

cos I've got an exam tomorrow.

Oh, do you? The kid's gotta get up...

She's got homework.

I'm dating a girl who does homework.

What is it? What's the matter with you?

You... you... Where are you now?

Your mind is like a million miles away.

I have something I wanna say.

I, uh, I just didn't know  
quite how to... get into it.

Um, I, uh...

About seven or eight weeks ago  
I went to this dinner party

and I met a woman there.

And...

- And I've got kind of involved with her.
- You're kidding?

It started out very casually.  
I mean, we had lunch a couple of times.

And now it's, you know, it's getting out of hand and I don't know what to do about it.

I mean, I'm... It's scary.

Well, who is she? What are the details?

Well, she's a journalist.

She's very...

- Is she married, too?

- No, no.

She's very beautiful.

She's very kind of  
nervous, high-strung, illusive.

Great. It sounds wonderful.

Oh, she *is* wonderful.  
I mean, she's on my mind all the time.

What are you telling me? That your  
marriage is... I mean, how serious is it?

I don't know, but it's pretty serious.

- But you haven't said anything to Emily?  
- No! God, no.

It's amazing. I'm stunned  
because, of all the people I know,

I always thought for sure that you  
and Emily had one of the best marriages.

We do! I mean, I love her.

- But you're seeing...

- I know it.

But in all the years  
that we've been married

I've had, what... one or two  
very minor things with other women.

I mean, very... I hate the whole idea. I hate  
myself when I'm doing this sort of thing.

But this is just, you know...

This is not like that.

It's terrible. Listen,  
you shouldn't ask me for advice.

When it comes to relationships, I'm the  
winner of the August Strindberg Award.

Well, I don't think        is too young.  
Beside that, she's a bright girl.

You'll get no argument from me.  
I think she's terrific.

He could do a lot worse.  
He *has* done a lot worse.



I just think he's wasting his life.

He writes that crap for television.

Yale, have you ever thought  
any more about having kids?

Oh, my God. Kids.

Listen, I've gotta get this book finished.

It's never gonna get done.

I've gotta get the money  
to get this magazine started, huh?

Kids...

We always talk about moving to  
Connecticut. You could do it there.

- Connecticut.

- Yeah.

I can't go to Connecticut. It's not practical.

All my stuff's here.

My work's here.

It's just the wrong time.

What about Isaac?

We can't abandon him, you know?

He can't function anywhere  
other than New York, you know that.

Very Freudian.

- Are you writing a book on our marriage?
- Leave me alone.

- Are you writing about our break-up?
- We've said all that needs to be said.

I know you are because  
I have a friend at Random House.

- I'm free to do as I please.
- Yeah, but this affects me.

So you're gonna tell everybody

everything? Our life, our sexual life?

Do you spy on me?

No. I was at a party and a guy said  
he read an advance chapter

of a book my wife was writing,  
and it was hot stuff. He said that!

- I spilled wine on my pants.

- I don't care to discuss it.

- You won't discuss it. How's Willie?

- Fine.

Well, give me some details. Does he  
play baseball? Wear dresses? What?

He doesn't wear dresses. You'll find out  
the details when it's your turn to see him.

Don't write this book.  
It's a humiliating experience.

It's an honest account of our break-up.

Jesus, everybody that knows us  
is gonna know everything.

Look at you. You're so threatened.

I'm not threatened because I was not  
the immoral, psychotic, promiscuous one.

I hope I didn't leave out anything.

Are you telling me that... that... that I'm...  
that you had three affairs before me?

That's really hard to believe.  
It's mind-boggling.

When I was your age, I was still being  
tucked in by my grandparents.

Well, they were really immature boys.  
They were nothing like you.

No? What does that mean?

Well, I told you before.  
I think I'm in love with you.

Hey, don't get carried away, OK?

This is... This is a terrific thing

- Move over-you know.

And we're having a great time, but you're  
a kid and I never want you to forget that.

You're gonna meet  
a lot of terrific men in your life

and, you know, I want you to enjoy me.

My wry sense of humour  
and astonishing sexual technique,

but never forget that you've...  
you've got your whole life ahead of you.

Don't you have any feelings for me?

How can you ask that?  
I've got nothing but feelings for you,

but you don't wanna get hung up  
with one person at your age.

It's... charming, you know.

Erotic. No question about that.

As long as the cops don't burst in, I think  
we're gonna break a couple of records.



But you can't, uh, you can't...

It's not a good thing.

You should think of me sort of  
as a detour on the highway of life.

- So get dressed because you gotta go.

- Don't you want me to stay over?

I don't want you to get in the habit

because first you stay one night, then  
two nights, and then you're living here.

- That doesn't sound too bad.

- It's not a great idea.

You won't like it, believe me.

I'm tough to get along with.

Tomorrow we'll go to the cinema and I'll  
show you the Veronica Lake movie. OK?

OK. Veronica Lake's  
the pin-up with the red hair?

No, that's Rita Hayworth.  
Do we have to go over this all the time?

- Rita who?

- Rita Hayworth. Are you joking with me?

Course I'm joking! You think I'm unaware  
of any event pre-Paul McCartney.

- I find these photographs interesting.
- Yes, so do I.

- Do you ever use the camera I got you?
- Oh, yeah, I use it all the time.

I was taking pictures in our drama class.  
It's fun, really neat.

You know you sound like  
the mouse in *Tom And Jerry*.

Are you kidding me?

- You should talk! You've a whiny voice!
- You sound like the mouse.

Well, thanks.

I know, I'm a whiner.

- What are you doing here?

- Hi.

- How long have you been here?

- We were talking about you.

That's hilarious. Wh... What... Were you walking around behind us or what?

- How are you? Hi.

- Good. That's funny. We were talking...

We're gonna go to the Shakespeare In The Park thing.

Oh, yeah, right. I wanna do that.

Oh, this is my friend.

Mary Wilke, Isaac Davis and Tracy.

- How do you do?

- Hi. Nice to meet you.

You, too.

- Hello.

- Hi.

We were downstairs.

We saw the photography exhibition.

- Absolutely incredible.

- It's really good.

Really?

- The photographs downstairs?

- Yes.

- Great. Absolutely great. Did you?

- No, I really felt it was very derivative.

To me it looked like it was straight out of  
Diane Arbus, but it had none of the wit.

Well, we didn't like it  
as much as the Plexiglas sculpture.

You liked the Plexiglas?

- You didn't like the Plexiglas either?

- Ah, that's interesting. Nah, no...

It was a lot better than  
that... that steel cube. Did you see it?

- Oh, yeah. That was the worst.

- Now that was brilliant to me.

- The cube was brilliant?

- Yes.

To me it was very textural.

You know what I mean?

It was perfectly integrated and it had a...  
a marvellous kind of negative capability.

The rest of the stuff was bullshit.

- You wanna see the Sol Lewitt?
- Sure. That'd be fun.

You wanna see that?

He opens at the Modern soon. I was gonna do a piece on Sol for *Insights*.

Do you know that magazine?  
It's a little magazine.

They're such schmucks up there.  
Really mired in Thirties radicalism.

- What do you do, Tracy?
- I go to high school.



Oh, really. Really. Somewhere Nabokov  
is smiling, if you know what I mean.

LeWitt is overrated. In fact,  
he may be a candidate for the academy.

Right!

Mary and I have invented the Academy  
of the Overrated for such notables as

- Gustav Mahler,
- Isak Dinesen and Carl Jung.
  
- Scott Fitzgerald.
- Lenny Bruce. Can't forget him, can we?

- How about Norman Mailer?
- I think those people are all terrific.

- Who was that guy you had?
- I didn't. It was yours. Heinrich B?l.

- Overrated?
- Don't wanna leave out Heinrich.

Gee, what about Mozart?

You guys don't wanna leave out Mozart.

- Well, how about Vincent Van *Goch*?
- She said "*Van Goch*"?!

- Or Ingmar Bergman?
- You'll get in trouble.

Bergman? Bergman's the only genius  
in cinema today, I think.

He's a big Bergman fan.

God, you're so the opposite.  
You write that fabulous television show.

It's so funny and  
his view is so Scandinavian.

It's bleak, my God.  
I mean, all that Kierkegaard, right?

Real adolescent, fashionable pessimism.  
I mean, the silence. God's silence.

OK, OK, OK. I mean, I loved it when I was

at Radcliffe, but, all right, you outgrow it.

Get her away from me. I don't think  
I can take too much more of her.

- She's really a cr...

- No. Don't you guys see?

It is the dignifying of one's  
psychological and sexual hang-ups

by attaching them to these  
grandiose, philosophical issues?

- Here we are.

- Listen, it was very nice meeting you.

It was a pleasure

and a sincere sensation,

but we have to go.

We gotta do some shopping. I forgot.

Hey, listen, I don't even  
wanna have this conversation.

I'm just from Philadelphia, you know.  
I mean, we believe in God so... OK?

What the hell does that mean?  
What do you mean?

- Well, that...

- "I'm from Philadelphia. I believe in God."

Does this make any sense to you?

What a creep. Could you believe her?

- I mean, she was really...

- She seemed nervous.

Nervous? She was overbearing. She was,  
you know, terrible! She was all cerebral.

Where the hell does a little Radcliffe  
tootsie come off rating Scott Fitzgerald,

- Gustav Mahler and Heinrich B?l?

- Why are you getting so mad?

Because I don't like that  
pseudo-intellectual garbage.

"Van Goch!" Did you hear that? She said  
Van Goch. Like an Arab she spoke.

One more remark about Bergman, and I'd  
have knocked her other contact lens out.

- Is she Yale's mistress?
- That will never cease to mystify me.

I mean, he's got a wonderful wife  
and he prefers to... to diddle this yo-yo.

But he was always a sucker  
for those kind of women.

The kind that would involve him  
in discussions of existential reality.

They probably sit on the floor  
with wine and cheese,

and mispronounce  
"allegorical" and "didacticism".

I get the feeling that Yale really likes her.

Well, I don't believe  
in extramarital relationships.

I think people should mate for life  
like pigeons or Catholics.

I don't know. Maybe people weren't  
meant to have one deep relationship.

Maybe we're meant to have a series



of relationships of different lengths.

- That's gone out of date.
- Don't tell me what's gone out of date.

You're . You were brought up  
on drugs and television and the pill.

I... I was World War II.  
I was in the trenches.

- You were eight in World War II.
- Right. I was never in the trenches.

I was caught right in the middle.  
It was a very tough position.

Get the groceries, will you?

Good morning and welcome to

*Human Beings Wow!*

We're talking this evening with Gregory  
and Caroline Payne Whitney Smith,

close friends of the Carter family.

We're normal people.

Just like you, we're in debt.

Except that Mrs Payne Whitney Smith  
is a catatonic.

Well, we don't consider her  
a catatonic, just quiet.

Jesus, this is the worst.

This is really embarrassing to me.

- I mean, I... This is so antiseptic...

- No, wrong. That's very chancy material.

- How do you see this as chancy?

- Who fights more with the censor?

What has the censor got to do with it?

There's no substance to the comedy.

- You don't find this insightful?

- Worse than not insightful. It's not funny.

- There's not a legitimate laugh.

- That's funny.

- Look at the audience.
- You're going by audience reaction?

This is an audience raised on TV.

Their standards have been lowered  
over the years.

They watch their sets and the gamma  
rays eat the white cells of their brains out.

- I quit. I can't write this any more.
- Relax. Take a lude.

I don't want a lude. All you do is drop  
ludes, then Percodans and angel dust.

Naturally, it seems funny.

Anything would if you're...

You should abandon the show  
and open a pharmaceutical house. I quit.

Ike, you're being silly.

*We've talked to them about that.*

- *Don't break her neck.*

- *I won't. That's fine.*

What did I do? I made a terrible mistake.

- It's the first smart thing you've done.

- I've screwed myself up completely.

For about       seconds I was a big hero,  
and now it's directly to unemployment.

If you need money, I'll take care of it.

That's not the point.  
I got enough for a year.

If I live like Mahatma Gandhi, I'm fine.

My accountant says I did this  
at a very bad time. My stocks are down.

I'm cash poor or something.  
I got no cash flow.

I'm not liquid, something's not flowing.  
They got a language all their own.

We discussed this. It's difficult  
to live here without a big income.

Yeah, plus I got two alimonies and  
child support. You know, I gotta cut down.

I'll have to give up my apartment.

I'm not gonna be able to  
play tennis, pick checks up at dinner,

or take the Southampton house.

Plus I'll probably have to give  
my parents less money. It'll kill my father.

He's not gonna be able to get  
as good a seat in the synagogue.

He'll be in the back, away from God,  
far from the action.

Have you said anything to Tracy?

What is it... I gotta get out of that situation.  
She's a young girl. What am I...? I'm...

You know, it's ridiculous. I mean, I...

What happens if the year goes by  
and my book doesn't come out?

Your book is gonna come out.  
Your book is gonna be wonderful.



The worst thing that can happen is  
you'll learn something about yourself.

Listen, I'm really proud of you.  
I mean, this is a very good move.

This is a wonderful turnout.

The Museum of Modern Art  
has been very generous.

And the proof of the strength  
of the Equal Rights Amendment

is that so many of you who would  
never do it before put on black tie tonight.

We love you for it.

We need you and you've come through.

And now no more talk. Enjoy yourselves.

Hi. What are you doing here?

Congratulations on your book.

It was terrific.

- Oh, thanks.

- Absolutely terrific.

- Listen, I'd like you to meet Isaac Davis.

- Hi, how do you do? Isaac Davis.

- Isaac, hello. Hi.

- Wh-what are you doing here?

Well, of course I'm here.

What a funny coincidence.

Excuse me, Isaac Davis. We met before.

- I'm sorry.

- No, no, it's all right.

I heard you... quit your job.

Yeah. A real self-destructive impulse.

I wanna write a book, so I...

Has anybody read that Nazis are gonna  
march in New Jersey, you know?

We should go there,  
get some guys together.

Get some bricks and baseball bats  
and explain things to 'em.

There was this devastating  
satirical piece on that in the *Times*.

Well, a satirical piece in the *Times* is  
one thing, but bricks get right to the point.

But biting satire  
is better than physical force.

No, physical force is better with Nazis.  
It's hard to satirise a guy with shiny boots.

- Well, you get emotional, but...

- We were talking about orgasms.

- Oh, no, please!

- Really? I'm sorry. I didn't...

I'm from Philadelphia.

We never talk about such things in public.

You said that before.

I don't know what it meant then either.

I'm just about to direct a film...

of my own script.

The premise is this guy screws so great...

- *Screws* so great?

- Screws so great

that when he brings a woman to orgasm,  
she's so fulfilled that she dies.

Now this one, excuse me,  
finds this hostile.

It's worse than hostile.  
It's aggressive-homicidal.

You have to forgive Dennis.  
He's Harvard direct to Beverly Hills.

It's... Theodor Reik  
with a touch of Charles Manson.

I finally had an orgasm and my doctor

told me it was the wrong kind.

Did you have the wrong kind?

I've never had the wrong kind. Ever.

My worst one was right on the money.

- Good night. It was nice to meet you.

- Same here.

Bye-bye.

Oh, gee!

It's an interesting group of people.

Like the cast of a Fellini movie.

They're such fun, such wonderful people,  
and Helen is a good friend.

She's a brilliant woman. She's a genius.

I met her through  
my ex-husband Jeremiah.

How come you guys got divorced?

I never...

What do you mean

"How come we got divorced?"

What kind of a question is that?

I hardly know you.

- You don't have to tell me if you don't...



- Well, we had problems. We fought a lot.

I was tired of submerging my identity to  
a brilliant, dominating man. He's a genius.

He was a genius, Helen's a genius, Dennis  
is a genius. You know a lot of geniuses.

You should meet some stupid people.

You could learn something.

Well, why'd you get a divorce?

Why? I got a divorce because my ex-wife  
left me for another woman.

Really?

- God, that must have been demoralising.
- I took it well under the circumstances.

- Phew-wee.
- I tried to run 'em both over with a car.

That's incredible sexual humiliation.

It's enough to turn you off women  
and it accounts for the little girl.

Hey, the little girl is fine.  
Jesus, she's... What's with the little girl?

Oh, sure. I understand, believe me.  
years old, no possible threat at all.

She's . She's gonna be eight...

Sometimes you have a losing personality.

I'm honest. I say what's on my mind  
and if you can't take it, then fuck off.

I like the way you express yourself, too.  
Pithy, yet degenerate.

- You get many dates? I don't think so.

- No, I do. I actually do.

I never thought I was very pretty.

Oh, what is pretty anyway? I hate being  
pretty. It's all so subjective anyway.

The brightest men just drop dead  
in front of a beautiful face.

When you climb into the sack,  
if you're a bit giving, they're so grateful.

Yeah, I know I am.

- D'you have kids?

- Yeah.

He's being raised by two women.

I think it works. They made some studies,

I read in a psychoanalytic quarterly.

You don't need a male.

Two mothers are fine.

Really? Because I feel  
very few people survive one mother.

Listen, I gotta get my dog. Wanna wait?  
I gotta walk it. Are you in rush?

- Oh, no, sure. What kind of dog you got?
- The worst.

It's a dachshund.  
You know, it's a penis substitute for me.

Oh, I would have thought then  
in your case a Great Dane.

- So, you serious with Yale or what?
- Serious?

Well, he's married.

Uh, I don't know. I guess  
I should straighten my life out, huh?

Donny my analyst always tells me...

- You call your analyst Donny?
- Yeah. I call him Donny!

I call mine Dr Chomsky, you know.  
He hits me with a ruler.

Donny...? That's first name.

Donny says I get involved in situations  
and that it's deliberate,

especially with my ex-husband Jeremiah.

I was his student and...

- Really? You married your teacher?

- Yeah, of course.

That's very...

- He failed me and I fell in love with him.

- Oh, that's perfect.

I was sleeping with him

and he had the nerve to give me an F.

- Really?

- Yeah, really.

Not even an Incomplete, right?

Just a straight F?

You got a good sense of humour.

Hey, thanks! I don't need you  
to tell me that, you know.

I've been making good money off it for  
years, till I quit my job to write this book.

Now I'm very, very nervous about it,  
you know, but...

D'you wanna...?

Oh, you don't have to pay.



- Oh, that's OK.

- I'm serious! Wanna walk by the river?

- You know the time?

- What do you mean?

If I don't get at least        hours,

I'm a basket case.

I'd like to hear about your book.

I really would. I'm quite a good editor.

Yeah?

Well, my book is about

decaying values. It's about...

See, years ago I wrote a short story about  
my mother called *The Castrating Zionist*

and I wanna expand it into a novel.  
I could talk about my book all night.

Isn't it beautiful out?

Yeah, it's really so pretty  
when the light starts to come up.

I know. I love it.

Boy, this is really a great city.  
I don't care what anybody says.

It's really a knockout, you know.

I think I better head back. I've got an  
appointment with Yale for lunch later on.

Mm, hi.

No, no. No, I'm awake.

Jesus, what are you...

What are you doing? It's . . . .

Oh, yeah.

Really?

You did? At the museum?

Yeah, well, she's very active  
in the feminist movement.

So you're gonna go  
apartment hunting with Tracy?

Yeah, well, you should be able  
to find something. It's Isaac.

Yeah, I don't think you'll have any trouble.

I knew you'd... see she's a terrific  
woman, if you spent some time with her.

You still feel the same way about her?  
Cos you hadn't mentioned it in a while.

So you... Yeah.

Yeah... right. I know.

She's great, I know. Great.

So... No, I gotta go apartment hunting  
today. I have to get something cheaper.

I can't keep living where I do.

It's just...

- Isaac's terrific, isn't he?

- Yeah.

Said he had a great time with you.

Really? That's good cos I always think  
he's uncomfortable around me.

Oh, come on.

- I missed you so much.
- Yale, this is ridiculous. You're married.

Listen to me. I'm beginning  
to sound like one of those women.

It sounds terrible. I hate it.

- Why don't I just move out?
- No! I don't wanna break up a marriage.

Besides, I'm not looking for any  
big involvement here. It's just... I don't...

It's crazy. It's crazy. I think about you  
when you're not around.

- What do you want me to do?

- Nothing. I don't know.

I just guess I should be seeing  
someone who's not married.

- You're so beautiful. You make me crazy.

- Oh, Yale, please stop it.

We're in Bloomingdale's  
and someone's gonna see us.

Did I tell you I may have  
an interview with Borges?

I told you that we met before. He seems  
to feel very comfortable around me.

- Let's go somewhere and make love.

- Not now! Not now, Jesus.

Anyway, you've got a writing class in  
an hour. Your students are gonna know.

You're gonna have  
this big grin on your face.

And I don't wanna go to your house cos I  
can't stand the dog and the phone ringing.

Can't you hold me? Does your love for me  
always have to express itself sexually?



What about other values like warmth  
and spiritual contact? Hotel, right?

Jesus, I'm a pushover!

Oh, hi, Isaac.

- Hi. Is Willie ready?

- Yeah. Come on in.

He'll be right down.

- How you been, lke?

- Good. How you been?

- I've been terrific.

- Yeah?

Yeah. Been getting a lot of work done.

Things are going really well.

- Want some coffee or something?

- Uh, no. How's Willie doing?

Willie's fine. He's beginning  
to show some real talent in drawing.

Where does he get that?

Cos you don't draw and I don't draw.

I draw.

Yeah, but there's no way that  
you could be the actual father.

I'm hoping you'll take Willie on the th  
cos Connie and I want to go to Barbados.

Are you still gonna write that stupid book?  
I mean, are you serious about that?

I'm very serious about it. It's an honest  
book. You have nothing to be ashamed of.

- Excuse me.
- Can I talk to you a minute? Excuse me.

Here's what I still don't understand.  
Where are you running?

I can't understand  
how you can prefer her to me.

- You can't understand?

- No.

You knew my history!

I know. My analyst warned me, but you  
were so beautiful I got another analyst.

- D'you think we can be ever just friends?

- You're putting in all the details?

No, not the part where  
you tried to run her over with the car.

Wha... I tried to run her over with a car?

What are you talking about?

It was late. You know I don't drive well.

It was raining. It was dark.

Why were you lurking outside the cabin?

I was spying on you guys cos I knew what was happening. You were falling in love.

So you felt you had to run her over with the car?

Do I look like that type of person?  
You know how slowly I was going?

Not slowly enough that you didn't rip the front porch off.

Get the kid. I can't... I can't have  
this argument every time I come over.

- You look funny in that jacket.

- I know.

I had hoped for something  
in the gabardine.

- So, do you miss me?

- Yeah. Do you miss me?

Of course I miss you. I love you. That's  
why I come and get you all the time.

- Why can't we have frankfurters?

- Because this is a Russian tearoom.

I mean, you wanna have a blintz or something. Frankfurter gives you cancer.

Besides, you see those two women here? They have very beautiful women here.

We could do well. I think we could have picked up these two, if you were quicker.

I'm serious.

I think the brunette liked you.

I think I should, uh...

No, I'll call him.

Hello, Yale? I'm sorry for calling.

Well, no, no, nothing's wrong. I...

Well, I just thought that it's Sunday out

and maybe if you could get away,  
we could go for a walk or...

Oh, that's right. You mentioned that.  
Well, OK, it was just a shot. Yeah. Yeah.

Well, I won't keep you. OK. Bye-bye.

Hello?

Oh, hi! Hi, how you doin'?



No, not at all. I was just sitting around  
looking through the magazine section.

Uh, no, no, I didn't read the piece  
on China's faceless masses.

I was checking out the lingerie ads.

Yeah, I can never get past them.  
They're really erotic.

You wanna go for a walk?

I don't know, I've gotta get out. I'm going  
stir-crazy and Yale's with Emily's parents.

It's such a beautiful Sunday.

It's an electrical storm.

You wanna wind up in an ashtray?

- It was such a beautiful day out.

- Yeah, wonderful.

I think the Chrysler Building blew up.

- Oh, no! Thunder scares me.

- It's not my favourite sound either.

D'you know every year one or two people  
get killed during a storm in Central Park?

Why don't I run up ahead  
and we'll talk later?

Jesus Christ, I'm soaking wet.

This is awful!

You look ridiculous! You know that?

Next time you want someone  
to walk with you, get somebody else.

I've never seen anybody  
react so strongly to a little bit of water.

It wasn't the water. It was the electricity.

I'll turn into a guy that sells  
comics outside Bloomingdale's.

What do you think?

You think I look terrible? How do I look?

- I can't see.

- You should see your face!

You look kinda nice, actually.

You're sort of pretty.

- I'm really annoyed with Yale.

- Why?

He was supposed to see me today

and then he couldn't.

And I had tickets to this Vivaldi concert.

He had to cancel on me, of course.

- That's what happens when...

- I know. You're having an affair.

- What a terrible way to put it.

- Hey, I didn't put it that way.

My husband, well, my ex-husband,  
had an affair when we were married.

- Really?

- Yeah. At least one that I know of.

And I never mentioned anything because  
I felt that I was deficient in some way.

That I was bad in bed, not bright enough,  
or physically unattractive.

- But in the end he was just a louse.

- Yeah, I know. An intellectual louse.

Oh, God, was he brilliant.

I was so crazy about him.

Really opened me up sexually.

Taught me everything.

Women found him devastating.

Oh, look. There's Saturn.

Saturn is the sixth planet from the sun.

How many of the satellites of Saturn

can you name?

There's Mimas, Titan, Dione.

Hyperion, of course.

I can't name any of 'em and fortunately  
they never come up in conversation.

Facts.

I got a million facts at my fingertips.

They mean nothing cos nothing worth  
knowing is understood with the mind.

Everything valuable enters  
through a different opening,

if you'll forgive the disgusting imagery.

I don't agree at all. Where would we be  
without rational thought?

You... you... you rely too much  
on your brain.

The brain is the most overrated organ.

I know. You probably think  
I'm too cerebral.

Well, you are, you know,  
kind of on the brainy side.

What's the difference what I think about  
you? God knows what you think of me.

You're fine. Are you kidding?



You do have a tendency to get  
a little hostile, but I find that attractive.

Oh, yeah? Well, I'm glad you do.

So, you think I have no feelings?  
Is that it?

Hey, wha... You're so sensitive, Jesus!  
I never said that.

I think you're... I think you're terrific.

Really, you know. I... I...  
You're very insecure.

I think you're wonderful, really.

What do you think?

It's probably stopped raining out.

You wanna grab a bite  
or something like that?

I gotta see somebody this evening.  
I don't know if it's a great idea.

Right. Well...  
So what about sometime next week?

I might give you a call,  
if you have any free time?

I'm... I'm not gonna have any free time  
cos... I don't think it's such a great idea.

I'm working on this book and it,  
you know, takes a lot of my energy up.

OK. OK.

Your parents were in a good mood.  
I almost had a good time.

- Who did you call after dinner?  
- Oh, uh, David Cohen.

He wants me to review the new book  
on Virginia Woolf.

Written another one, if you can believe it.

- Are you OK?

- Yeah, I'm fine. What do you mean?

- You seem sort of nervous.

- No, I'm not. I feel good.

- I was gonna ask you how you felt.

- No. I'm OK.

- You seemed strange at dinner.

- Ah, just more thoughts about kids.

Oh, come on.

Listen, I told Cohen I'd stop by and  
pick up the book. Is that OK with you?

Yeah.

It's not too crowded.

No, not bad for Sunday.

I thought it'd be jammed.

Gee, I'm glad you could get out tonight  
cos... I really did wanna see you a lot.

I like it when you get  
an uncontrollable urge.

Yeah, I know, it's my best feature.

My boyish impetuosity.

It's my... You look adorable.

So I have a chance to go to London,

study with the Academy  
of Music and Dramatic Arts.

- Really? When did this happen?
- The other day. Got a letter in the mail.

Well, that's great. That's terrific.

But I don't wanna go without you.

Hey, I can't go to London and study.

Especially Shakespeare.

You know, I don't look good in leotards.

- I'm serious.
- Of course you should go. It's great.

You'll have a great time.

It's a great town and you're a wonderful actress and it's a terrific place to study.

You'll be the toast of the town.

You'll have a good time, really.

- You shouldn't pass that...
- So what happens to us?

Well, you know, we'll always have Paris.

I'm kidding.

What kind of question is that?

You can't think of that now.

You won't take me seriously

just because I'm .

Yeah, exactly, because you're .

I mean, it's ridiculous.

You're now. When you're I'll be...

.

right. Thank you.

You know, it's absurd. You'll be  
at the height of your sexual powers.



Of course, I will too probably, but,

you know, I'm a late starter.

- Who ordered the plain pie?

- Me.

So you must be anchovies,  
sausage, mushrooms, peppers.

Forgot the coconut.

So what do you wanna do tonight? We'll  
go to the movies, I'll take you dancing...

- Anything?

- Absolutely anything.

OK, I know what we can do.

- Well, get the filthy look off your face.

- Shut up. It's not filthy.

This is so corny. I can't believe this.

Is this what you wanted to do?

I don't think it's corny.

I think it's fun!

It is fun, but I did this  
when I was a kid, you know.

Well, I've never done it. I think it's great.

On my prom night I went  
around this park five times, six times.

If I had been with a girl, this would  
have been an incredible experience.

Quit fighting it.  
You know you're crazy about me.

I am. You're... You're God's answer to Job.

You would have ended  
all argument between them.

He'd have said "I do a lot of terrible things  
but I can also make one of these."

And Job would've said "OK, you win."

Look, this is crazy. I just can't do this  
any more. It's really bullshit!

You're married and  
I expected to see you this weekend

and I sit around like I've nothing to do,  
so I called Isaac. We went for a walk.

- It was just lucky he was free.
- I know. I'm sorry.

Oh, it's not your fault.  
What the hell. It's a no-win situation.

It's just I'm beautiful and I'm bright

and I deserve better!

I know.

- What if I took some action?

- No!

I'm not a home wrecker.

I don't know how I got into this.

I guess we met at the wrong time.

It happens. Hello?

Oh, hi. Oh, hi, Harvey. How are you?

What?

Well... why don't you bring it by  
on Thursday and I'll read it then, OK?

Yeah, yeah, yeah, OK.

Right, I'll talk to you later. OK, bye-bye.

- What d'you want me to do?

- Waffles. Nothing. It's just...

Waffles! Will you stop that now?

We're just going noplacel. Excuse me.

Look, I know it's terrible. I'm at Sneedon's  
Landing with Emily and her parents

and I love her!

And I'm thinking about you all the time.

I don't wa... Christ. I don't wanna hear it.

I'm from Philadelphia.

My family's never had affairs.

My parents have been married      years.

Nobody cheats at all. Hello?

Oh, Donny. Hi! It's my analyst.

Hello.

No...

Well, I think that'd be impossible.

OK, well, probably later in the week.

OK, all right.

I'll get back to you. OK, bye.

Oh, man. Waffles!

Please, just don't. This is really  
a bad time... Waffles! ...a bad time for me.

I gotta think things through here.

- Obviously I shouldn't have come here.

- Well, no, probably not.

Listen to that! How am I gonna...?



What is that sound? Can you hear that?

Listen. Where's it coming from?

It's like somebody's playing the trumpet.

Or somebody sawing... Like a man  
sawing a trumpet in half. Right? Right?

- Let's fool around.

- You hear it?

It'll take your mind off it.

How many times a night...? How often  
can you make love in an evening?

- Well, a lot.

- Yeah, I can tell. A lot. That's...

Well, a lot is my favourite number.

Gee, really? Can you?

Let's do it some strange way  
you've always wanted to do,

but nobody would do with you.

I'm shocked. What kind of talk is that  
from a kid your age?

I'll get my scuba-diving equipment  
and really show you...

- Take me seriously!

- I do take you seriously, but...

Listen to this. Am I crazy? Wha...? Ah!

It's a rumbling. Listen to that goddamn...

Where the hell is that coming from?

- It's probably just the elevator shaft.

- It's not. It's coming from the walls.

Let's... Let's... Can we check into a hotel?

- Oh, you're crazy!

- I can't sleep here. I can't.

Where's the aspirin? What d'you do...

I can help you fix this place up,

if you give me a chance.

No, and I don't want you living here.

Tonight is a special occasion.

It's my first night in the apartment,

so I wanted to break in the place

and I was afraid to sleep alone.

Hey, what is this?

There's brown water!

- The pipes are rusty.

- What is this, Tracy?

- The pipes are rusty.

- Look at this. It's brown water.

I'm paying \$      a month.

I got rats with bongos and a frog.

And I got brown water here.

- Look. It's disgusting.

- What's gonna happen to us?

Listen. You keep ignoring me.

What's gonna happen with us?

What do you mean?

D'you have a good time with me?

- Aren't I a load of laughs and fun?

- Yes.

So, and that's it, and we have fun.

Then you're gonna go to London  
exactly as we discussed it.

You're gonna take advantage of that  
opportunity and study acting over there.

And you'll think of me always  
as a fond memory. It'll be nice.

You know we have to  
stop seeing each other?

Oh, yeah. Right, right.

I understand. I could tell by  
the sound of your voice over the phone.

Very authoritative, you know.

Like the Pope or the computer in .

It's not fair to you

and I don't know what I'm doing.

- Right.

- I mean... Come on, don't be angry.

You brought this up. You're not happy  
the way things are going.

I'm not angry. It's just I knew it was gonna  
end, but now it's happened I'm upset, OK?

Look, you don't wanna  
make a commitment.

And I don't wanna break up my marriage  
and then find out we're no good together.

I've gotta start thinking about Emily.

OK, you made your point very clear. I'm  
just glad one of us had the nerve to end it.

- Will you be all right?

- Yeah...

Of course I will. What d'you think  
I'm gonna do? Hang myself?

I'm a beautiful woman.

I'm young, highly intelligent.



I got everything going for me. The point...

The point is that... I don't know,  
I'm all fucked up. I'm just... Shit!

What am I doing in this relationship  
anyway? My phone never stops ringing.

I could go to bed with the entire faculty  
of MIT, if I wanted to. It's just...

I don't know. I'm wasting myself  
on a married man, so I don't know.

Listen, I think I'd better go now.

I just want you to have this.

- I got these tickets to see Rampal tonight.

- Oh, Mary. This is very hard on me, too.

Please! Just take them  
and go with your wife.

Mary, you love Rampal.  
Call somebody up. Take Isaac.

Fuck off, Yale!

I know you're gonna think the water's  
a little brown, but you can drink it.

Don't get thrown by this.

- I'm really sorry for bothering you.
- No problem.

- It's just... God, this is brown, isn't it?
- It is, but you get used to it after a while.

I didn't know who to call.

I don't think you should take Valium.  
It causes cancer.

- No. Half a Valium?
- Yeah, abdominal cancer, I think.

When did they find that out?

That's just my theory, but I think  
it's correct. I got tissues someplace.

- Well, I guess I deserve everything I get.
- Come on.

It's true. It's really true. I mean,  
I knew it couldn't possibly work out.

Yeah, you pick a married guy

and when it doesn't work out,  
it confirms your worst feelings.

What worst feelings?

You know. Your feelings about men  
and marriage and that nothing works.

Oh, please, don't psychoanalyse me.  
I pay a doctor for that.

Hey. You call that guy  
that you talk to a doctor?

You don't get suspicious when he calls  
you at am and weeps into the telephone?

So he's unorthodox.  
He's a highly qualified doctor.

He's done a great job on you. Your  
self-esteem is like a notch below Kafka's.

What is that noise?

Yeah. Incredible, isn't it? There's a guy  
upstairs. I don't know what the hell it is.

It's like he's up there strangling a parrot

or something. I can't stand it.

- How can you stand it? It's terrible.

- I know. I used to have a great apartment.

- Wanna go for a walk? It's quieter out.

- No, I think I'll just go home.

No, come on.

He led me on! That's the point of it.

Why am I reluctant to criticise him?

Relax. Yale would not do that.

He's not that kind of a guy.

Don't defend him.

You guys all stick up for each other.

Yale has his problems as we all do.

I'm starting to sound like Rabbi Blitzstein.

Well, thanks for letting me come over.

I appreciate it. It's very nice of you.

Tracy and I are going out tonight,

if you wanna come along.

Oh, no, I'll be fine. I'll be OK.

- Yeah?

- Yeah.

- That's a healthy piece of towel paper.

- Oh, gee. God!

Well, goodbye. Thanks a lot.

*But my point is a cab driver  
doesn't make enough money...*

Oh, look at that... that guy's toupee.  
That's unbelievable.

That is hilarious. There's a... a...  
an inch of cheesecloth. You can see it.

I don't know why, you know,  
his loved ones don't tell him.

It's like the toupee dropped on his head  
from a window ledge as he was walking.



But look at his wife. Looks like her face  
has been lifted about        times.

I know. It's so plastic. It's so tight.

I hate that. I just hate that. I wish...

Why can't they just age naturally  
instead of putting all that junk on?

I know. Old faces are... are nice.

Yeah. They're great.

Hey, be careful. I think  
I got black bean sauce in the bed.

Oh, look. It's great.

The late show's a WC Fields film.

Oh, great. We gotta watch that.

Oh, God.

Boy, I really feel good, you know.

I got my life together finally.

Yeah?

You know, I just had to cut this thing off  
finally. I'm not the type for affairs.

- D'you ever hear from Mary, or see her?

- No. We just cut it off. It's easier that way.

She's terrific. She deserves more  
than a fling with a married guy.

- Yeah, she's screwed up, but great.
- Right up your alley. You oughta call her.

- I... I should call her?
- Yeah.

- Why should I call her?
- Because she likes you.

She told me she did.

- You're crazy.
- No. She said she finds you attractive.

- She said she found me attractive?

- Yeah.

- When was this?

- She said it when she first met you.

- I didn't know. I can't.

- Sorry about that.

I always think of you guys together.

I couldn't...

It's over. Unless you're serious  
about Tracy. Are you?

- No. Tracy's too young.

- Then call her up.

Listen, she's an unhappy person.

I mean, she needs something in her life.

- I think you guys would be good together.

- I could be a good influence on her.

I think that under my personal vibrations,

I could put her life in a kind of good order.

That's what you said about Jill, and she  
went from bisexuality to homosexuality.

Yeah, but I gave it

the old college try there for a while.

- Listen, you should call her up.

- No kidding. What did she say about me?

She said that she likes you very much.

She thinks you're smart.

- She thinks you're...

- Keep going. Don't stop.

- Attractive.

- Really? No kidding.

You see, to me a great movie  
is with WC Fields. That's what I like.

Or *Grand Illusion*. That's... I see that every  
time it's on television, if I'm aware of it.

So what you got to eat here? Nothing.

Oh, Jesus, what is this? You got a corned  
beef sandwich here from I think.

- Look at this. I mean...

- Yeah, I know, I know.

- I don't have time to cook.

- Corned beef should not be blue.

It's really terrible.

- Hey.

- What?

Come here.

What're you doing?

What am I doing? You have to ask?

I was kissing you flush on the mouth.

I... I cannot get my life  
in any kind of order. It's just...

- It's something I wanted to do for ages.
- Yeah, I know.

Do you? Cos I... I thought I was hiding it.  
I was trying to be real cool and casual.

I thought you wanted to kiss me  
at the planetarium.

- I did.
- I thought so.

But you were going out with Yale then and



I would never in a million years interfere...

Did you want me to kiss you?

I don't know what I wanted.

I was so angry at Yale that day.

But you were so sexy.

You were soaking wet from the rain

and I had a mad impulse

to throw you down on the lunar surface

and commit

interstellar perversion with you.

I can't go from relationship to

relationship. It's senseless. I can't do it.

Well, what... Are you still  
hung up on Yale? Is that the problem?

I've got too many problems.

I'm really not the person  
to get involved with. I'm trouble.

- Hey, honey, Trouble is my middle name.
- What are you saying?

Actually, my middle name is Mortimer.

I'm... I'm kidding.

My problem is I'm both attracted

and repelled by the male organ.

So it doesn't make for  
good relationships with men.

What about your relationships  
with women?

You never really told me much  
about your first wife.

My first wife was  
a kindergarten teacher, you know.

She got into drugs  
and she... moved to San Francisco.

Went into est, became a Moonie.

She's with  
the William Morris Agency now.

D'you like that?

This... this, I think, has a kind of  
wonderful otherness to it, you know.

- A marvellous negative capability.
- OK.

Kind of wonderful energy to it,  
don't you think?

I thought that wine  
was wonderful, didn't you think?

And it just made my face  
all flushed and hot.

Yeah. You look so beautiful  
I can hardly keep my eyes on the meter.

It's        bucks!

I know, but it was a great restaurant.  
Didn't you love it?

Yeah, I love seafood. Course I'm drunk.  
I don't know if you can tell or not.

Hey, you know, it was the only time  
in my life I ever had Chianti from Warsaw.

- Give me a kiss.

- OK.

What are you thinking?

I was thinking there must be  
something wrong with me

because I've never had a relationship

that's lasted longer than  
the one between Hitler and Eva Braun.

I think you're still drunk!

It's great. It's... it's...

I don't play the harmonica, but it's  
an incredible... harmonica is what it is.

Well, you said you wanted to learn.  
I'm trying to open up that side of you.

Tracy, you're throwing away  
an enormous amount of real affection

on the wrong person.

It's not wrong for me.

Listen, I don't... I don't think  
we should keep seeing each other.

Why not?

Because I think you're getting  
too hung up on me, you know?

"Hung up on me."

I'm starting to sound like you.

I'm not hung up on you.

I'm in love with you.

You can't be in love with me.

We've been over this.

You're a kid. You don't know what  
love means. I don't know what it means.

Nobody knows what the hell's going on.



We have laughs together.

I care about you.

Your concerns are my concerns.

We have great sex.

You... But you're        years old.

By the time you're  
you'll have a dozen relationships,

believe me,  
far more passionate than this one.

Well, don't you love me?

The truth is that I love somebody else.

You do?

Hey, come on... We... we...

This was supposed to be  
a temporary fling. You know that.

You met someone?

Don't stare at me with those big eyes.

You look like one of those barefoot kids  
from Bolivia who needs foster parents.

Have you been seeing someone?

No. Yes. Someone older.

I mean, y-y-you know, y-y-you know.

Not as old as I am,  
but in the same general ballpark as me.

Gee, now I don't feel so good.

It's not right. You shouldn't get hung...

I mean, you should open up your life.

You know, you've got to.

You state it like it's to my advantage,

when it's you that wants to get out of it.

Hey, don't be so precocious, OK?

I mean, don't be so smart.

I'm . My hair's falling out. I'm starting  
to lose some hearing in my right ear.

Is that what you want?

I can't believe that you met somebody  
that you like better than me.

Why should I feel guilty about this?

I've always encouraged you  
to go out with guys more your own age.

Kids from your class.

Billy and Biff and Scooter.

And, you know, little Tommy or Terry.

Hey, come on, don't cry.

Don't cry.

Come on, don't cry.

Tracy... Tracy, don't...

Come on. Don't cry, Tracy.

- Tracy...

- Just leave me alone.

Tracy, come on, don't...

Leave me alone.

- That was wonderful.

- I'll say.

- I love being in the country.

- It's very relaxing.

The mosquitoes have sucked all the blood  
out of my left leg. Apart from that...

- Doesn't it make you feel better?

- Yeah, you were dynamite,

except I felt for about  
two seconds you were faking.

- Not a lot.

- No.

Yes. When you dug your nails  
into my neck, you were a little...

Well, I guess I'm nervous around you.

- Still?

- Well, yeah.

- So crazy.

- Because I'd like everything to work out.

It will. You should leave everything to me.

I'll make everything happen.

D'you really promise?

Because I like you.

I feel good around you.

I don't blame you.

Yeah, I mean... Yale was great, he was  
absolutely great, but he was married.

And Jeremiah, my ex-husband.

He was just this oversexed,  
brilliant kind of animal.



- Hey, what am I? Grandma Moses?
- Not at all. No, no, no.

- You're much different.
- Yeah?

Yes. You're someone  
I could imagine having children with.

- Really?
- Yeah.

Hit the lights. Go ahead. Turn 'em out.

We'll trade fours.

Well, we never see you any more.

Cos I'm working on my book.

I'm submerged.

- It's that girl. Serious, isn't it?

- Well, serious, you know.

When are we gonna get to meet her?

I'm sure Yale'd like to meet her.

We should go out sometime.

I don't understand. Why does he  
need a car? A sudden urge.

He just wants it.

What...? Is there nothing I can do

to dissuade you from this?

It's so crazy. They should ban all cars  
from Manhattan. I mean, this is crazy.

Listen, Emily wants to know  
why I never bring Mary around.

Why not bring Mary around?

- I don't know. Is it awkward for you?

- Are you kidding?

I spoke to her. It's no problem for her.

- Then why not?

- Well, you know.

Hey, don't get this thing. I hate cars.

It screws up the environment.

- This is a work of art.

- Yeah.

- Hi.

- Hi.

- This is Emily.

- Hello. Nice to meet you.

- This is Yale.

- Hi, Yale.

So, shall we go?

- Yeah, let's go.

- Sure.

Look at that.

That building is almost torn down.

Can't they have those things  
declared landmarks?

Yeah, I once tried to block demolition.

Getting some people to lay in front of a  
building, and a cop stepped on my hand.

The city's really changing.

I need something for round the house  
that doesn't make me look too Mexican.

Ugh, this is...

- Mary?

- Oh, my God. Jeremiah. Well...

Hi.

- Jeremiah, this is my friend Isaac Davis.

- Hi. Glad to meet you.

- God, this is incredible.

- Incredible.

I'm in town for a few days.

There's a symposium on semantics.

- Well...

- And you're looking so great. I just, uh...

- You. You're so thin. You lost weight.

- Well, I have an exercise machine.

Well, you really look good. Really good.

God. Well, I'm a bit late,  
but it's just so nice seeing you.

- It's great seeing you.

- I read an article by you

- On Brecht.

- Oh, shit! I know.

I always was a sucker  
for Germanic theatre.

- Well...

- God.

- OK. Well, God... OK. So long.

- Bye. Bye, Jeremiah.

Bye. Bye.

God, what a surprise.

I cannot get over it. My ex-husband.

And he really does look a lot thinner.

He looks great.

You certainly fooled me. I was shocked

cos that's not what I expected.



- What did you expect?

- I don't know. You had always led me to...

You said he was a ladies' man,  
that he opened you up sexually.

- So? So?

- Then this little homunculus, you know...

He's quite devastating.

Really?

Well, it's... it's amazing  
how subjective all that stuff is.

I don't know what you're...

- Boy, you're really typing away.

- Yeah, it's a cinch.

You still reviewing Tolstoy?

No, no, I finished that two days ago.

I'm on that novelisation.

What... what do you waste your time  
with a novelisation for?

Why? Because it's easy and it pays well.

It's like another contemporary American  
phenomenon that's truly moronic.

The novelisations of movies.

You're much too brilliant for that.

You should be doing other stuff.

- Like what?

- Fiction. I've seen your fiction. It's terrific.

Hello?

Mary, hi. It's Yale.

I was hoping you'd pick up.

Listen, could we meet for coffee?

Well, why? What is it?

Well, you know, I miss you.

I just thought maybe we could talk.

No, I don't think that would be possible.

I don't think that would be possible at all.

I'm sorry, I just, uh...

No, I... I'm sorry. I gotta go.

- Who was that?

- What?

Who was that on the phone just now?

- Uh, dance lessons.

- Dance lessons that was?!

Yeah. Do we want free dance lessons?

Right. They give you one free lesson,  
then they hook you for \$        worth.

Viking loved my book.

They loved the first four chapters

and, you know,

they were really complimentary.

Yale had read them

and thought they showed promise.

But Yale's family,

so of course he's encouraging.

But Viking will shell out the money.

Maybe it'll inspire Yale to finish his book.

He's been talking about it long enough.

Mary read the stuff and she was

laughing out loud. I respect her judgment.

- Although she's doing a think piece on...

- Hello?

Hey, where were you? You were

supposed to be home an hour ago.

- Uh... I bought the car.

- Oh, no. You did?

I know it's a meaningless extravagance,  
but I had to have it.

- That thing we saw?

- Yeah.

Did you hear Viking Press loved  
the first four chapters of lke's book?

- Great!

- They were real complimentary.

Next week I get the car  
and we'll celebrate.

- OK.

- In our new car.

Jesus, listen to this.

"Making love to this  
deeper, more masterful female

made me realise  
what an empty experience,

what a bizarre charade  
sex with my husband was."

Please. That is so nauseating. I...

Is this true? Did you make love  
with Jill and a woman?

She put that in?



Christ! She wanted to, I think.

I didn't wanna be a bad sport.

- Did you have a good time?

- No, I didn't.

Did you hear the one

where he tried to run her lover over?

- Oh, yeah.

- Whose side are you on?

I didn't try and run her over.

It was raining. The car lurched.

Jesus, now everybody in town

is gonna know all these details.

Everybody... All my friends and...

Listen. "He was given to  
fits of rage, Jewish, liberal paranoia,

male chauvinism,  
self-righteous misanthropy,

and nihilistic moods of despair."

"He had complaints about life,  
but never solutions."

"He longed to be an artist,  
but balked at the necessary sacrifices."

"In his most private moments,  
he spoke of his fear of death

which he elevated to tragic heights  
when, in fact, it was mere narcissism."

- I came here to strangle you.
- Nothing I wrote was untrue.

You make me out to be  
Lee Harvey Oswald!

It's an honest account.

- That I'm narcissistic?
- You're self-obsessed.

- Misanthropic and self-righteous?
- I wrote some nice things about you.

Like what? What?

You cry when you see  
*Gone With The Wind*.

What are you laughing about?

- You let her write that garbage?
- Wait. This is between you two.

D'you honestly think  
that I tried to run you over?

You just happened to hit the gas  
as I walked in front of the car.

- Did I do it on purpose?

- Well, what would Freud say?

That I really wanted to run her over.

That's why he was a genius.

Listen, I'm going upstairs.

I got work to do.

Don't forget that Willie's at ballet class.

Look, I better warn you.

I've had some interest in this book  
for a movie sale.

Anybody home?

Yeah? I got an unbelievable story  
to tell you. Absolutely incredible. You OK?

- Oh, yeah.

- Yeah?

Just let me get one glass of brown water  
cos I'm dying of thirst.

- Isaac, I wanna talk to you first.

- Mm-mm. So I go over to Jill's today

because I'm real annoyed over that junk  
she printed in the book. And...

Isaac, before you get wound up,  
there's something I wanna tell you.

- What's the matter? You look pale.

- Well...

Wh... What's the matter?

Hey, what... Is there something wrong?

What is it?

I think I'm still in love with Yale.

What?

You... Are you kidd...?

- You are?

- Yes.

Well, when did this happen? What...

Well, you are or you *think* you are?

I started seeing him again.

When? Since when?

Just since today. I mean,  
that's why I wanted to be open about it.

Jesus, I'm... I'm shocked.

I'm... I'm shocked. I'm surprised.

I think I've always been in love with him.



How does he feel about this?

Well...

He wants to move out of his place  
so that we can live together.

I'm stunned. I mean, I'm in a state of...

Somebody should  
throw a blanket over me. You know, I'm...

Well, you see, he called me several times  
in a very depressed state

and he still loves me.

This is shaping up like a Noel Coward  
play. Somebody should go make martinis.

I don't blame you  
for being furious with me.

I'm too stunned to be furious.

Well, then I wish you would. I wish you'd  
get angry so that we could have it out.

I don't get angry. I tend to internalise.

I can't express anger. That's one of the  
problems I have. I grow a tumour instead.

Well, I told you that I was trouble from the beginning, from when we started dating.

So what does your analyst say?

Donny's in a coma.

He had a very bad acid experience.

Oh, that's gr... That's great.

I mean, you know...

- I think you're making a big mistake here.

- Why?

Why? Because you... Why?

Because you're preferring Yale to me.

I know that sounds egotistical,

but... you know...

This guy's been married        years.

What do you think will happen?

He'll be away from her for a month,  
he'll go crazy.

And if he does commit to you, when  
you start to feel secure, you'll drop him.

I know it.

I give the whole thing... four weeks.

I can't plan that far in advance.

- You can't plan four weeks in advance?!

- No!

What kind of foresight is that?

Jesus. You know, I knew you were crazy  
when we started going out.

You always think that you're gonna be  
the one that makes 'em act different, but...

Isaac, I'm sorry.  
I really am. I'm really sorry.

Oh, well, I'm...

I'm sorr... Where are you going?

- I gotta get some air.

- Oh.

What are you doing here?

I spoke to Mary. Were you gonna tell me?

- I was, but... I'm trying to teach a class.

- So where can we go and talk?

- How'd you get past the security?

- I walked right past.

What are you telling me?

That you're gonna leave Emily

and run away with

the... the winner of the

Zelda Fitzgerald

Emotional Maturity Award?

Look, I love her.

- What kind of crazy friend are you?

- A good friend. I introduced you two.

- Why? What was the point?

- Cos I thought you liked her!

- I do! Now we both like her!

- Yeah, well, I liked her first.

"I liked her first."

What are you, six years old? Jesus!

Look, would I have encouraged you  
to take her out if I still liked her?

So you liked her? Now you don't like her?

It's early. You can change your mind  
one more time before dinner.

Don't get sarcastic about this.  
You think I like this?

How long were you gonna see her  
without telling me?

Don't turn this into  
one of your big moral issues.

You could've said, but you... All you had



to do was call me and talk to me.

I'm understanding. I'd have said no,  
but you'd have felt honest.

I wanted to tell you about it.  
I knew it would upset you. I...

We had a few innocent meetings.

A few? She said one. You guys should get  
your story straight. Don't you rehearse?

We met twice for coffee.

Hey, she doesn't drink coffee.

Did you meet for Sanka? That's not too  
romantic. A little on the geriatric side.

I'm not a saint, OK?

You're too easy on yourself.

Don't you see?

You're... You rationalise everything.

You're not honest with yourself.

You talk about you wanna write a book,  
but in the end you'd rather buy a Porsche.

You cheat a little bit on Emily  
and you play around the truth with me.

The next thing you know you're in front

of a Senate committee naming names.

You are so self-righteous.

I mean, we're just people. We're just  
human beings. You think you're God!

I gotta model myself after someone.

You just can't live the way you do.  
It's all so perfect.

Jesus, what are future generations  
gonna say about us? My God!

You know, someday  
we're gonna be like him.

And he was probably one of the beautiful  
people, dancing and playing tennis.

And now look. This is what happens to us.

You know, it's important  
to have some kind of personal integrity.

I'll be hanging in a classroom one day

and I wanna make sure when I thin out  
that I'm... well thought of.

Ike!

Isaac, where are you going?

No, I knew Yale had affairs.

But then, nothing's perfect.

Marriage is a... requires  
some minor compromises, I guess.

It's funny cos I'm just a non-compromiser.

I mean, I can't... I can't see that.

I think it's always a mistake to look the  
other way cos you pay for it in the end.

But then you saw what Jill  
wrote about me in that book.

I'm living in the past.

How about you? You seeing anybody?

Yeah. You know, I... I never had any  
problem meeting women. I mean, that's...

But I was thinking about this  
just about a week ago.

I think, and I know this sounds strange,  
but I think I really missed a good bet

when I let Tracy go.

- Remember Tracy?

- Yeah. I liked her.

Yeah. I was thinking about this  
at home last week

and I think, of all the women  
I've known over the last years,

when I actually am honest with myself,  
I think I had the most relaxed times

and, you know, the nicest times with her.

She was a terrific kid, but young, right?

So that's that.

Why don't you call her?

No, I would never do that.

I think I blew that one.

I kept her at a distance  
and I would never give her a chance.

And she was so sweet, you know.

She called me. She left a message  
with my service about a month ago

that I should watch *Grand Illusion*  
on television and I never returned her call.

Cos I, you know, I didn't wanna  
lead her on or anything.



She really cared about me and I...

You know I was a little pissed off at you.

Me?

I figured if you hadn't introduced Mary  
to Yale, this might never have happened.

An idea for a short story  
about, um, people in Manhattan

who are constantly creating

these real, unnecessary,  
neurotic problems for themselves

cos it keeps them from dealing with  
more unsolvable, terrifying problems

about... the universe.

Let's...

Well, it has to be optimistic.

Well, all right, why is life worth living?

That's a very good question.

Well, there are certain things, I guess,  
that make it worthwhile.

Like what?

OK... for me...

Ooh, I would say Groucho Marx,  
to name one thing.

And Willie Mays.

And... the second movement  
of the Jupiter Symphony.

And... Louis Armstrong's  
recording of *Potato Head Blues*.

Swedish movies, naturally.

*Sentimental Education* by Flaubert.

Marlon Brando, Frank Sinatra.

Those incredible  
apples and pears by C?anne.

The crabs at Sam Wo's.

Tracy's face.

Hi.

Hi.

I...

What are you doing here?

Well, I ran.

I tried to call you on the phone,  
but... it was busy

so I knew that was two hours' worth of...

So I couldn't get a taxi cab, so I ran.

Where you going?

London.

You're going to London now?

What d'you... What d'you mean? If I got  
over here two minutes later, you'd be...

...you'd be going to London?

Well, let me get right to the point then.

I don't think you oughta go.

I think I made a big mistake.  
and I would prefer it if you didn't go.

Oh, Isaac.

I mean it. I know it looks real bad now,  
but, uh, you know, it...

Are you seeing anybody?

Are you going with anybody?

No.

So... well...

D'you still love me,  
or has that worn off or what?

Jesus, you... pop up...

You don't call me  
and then you suddenly appear.

I mean... What happened

to that woman you met?

Well, I'll tell you,

I don't see her any more.

I made a mistake.

What d'you want me to say?

I don't think you oughta go to London.

Well, I have to go.

I mean, all the plans have been made,  
arrangements.

I mean, my parents are there now  
looking for a place for me to live.



Well...

Do you still love me or what?

Do you love me?

Well, yeah, that's what... Of course.

That's what this is all about, you know.

- Guess what? I turned        the other day.

- Did you?

I'm legal, but I'm still a kid.

You're not such a kid.        years old.

They could draft you.

In some countries you'd be...

- You look good.

- You really hurt me.

It was not on purpose, you know.

I mean, I...

You know, it was... I mean...

It was just the way

I was looking at things then.

Well, I'll be back in six months.

Six months! Are you kidding?

Six months you're gonna go for?

We've gone this long. I mean, what's  
six months if we still love each other?

Hey, don't be so mature, OK?

I mean, six months is a long time.

Six months!

You're gonna be in the thea... working  
in the theatre with actors and directors.

You know, you go to rehearsal  
and you hang out with those people.

You have lunch a lot and before you know  
it attachments form and... you know...

I mean, you don't wanna get into that...  
You'll change.

In six months you'll be  
a completely different person.

Well, don't you want me  
to have that experience?

I mean, a while ago  
you made such a convincing case.

Yeah, of course I do, but, you know...

I mean, I just don't want that thing  
about you that I like to change.

I've gotta make a plane.

Come on, you don't... Come on.

You don't... You don't have to go.

Why couldn't you have  
brought this up last week?

Six months isn't so long.

Not everybody gets corrupted.

You have to have a little faith in people.