

HENRY

by
Noons

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Characters:

Henry - our hero - he is about to turn forty the next day. He's a strange one, gives off the air of the odd. Wears a beard, in many ways he's a fatter, shorter 21st century version of Elwood Dowd from Harvey. A possible case of arrested development, he really doesn't want to hurt anybody. He's on a path of discovery as much as anyone else. And he was adopted.

Lizzy - his girlfriend - mid 30s - Henry's long suffering girlfriend. They live together. She's anticipating a marriage proposal someday here soon. She's tough, definitely wears the pants in this relationship. She is an estate lawyer at a big firm. They met when Henry was a temp at her firm.

Alan - his brother - mid 30s - Henry's younger brother. Gay but not flamboyant, he seems like a pretty normal, solid guy. Definitely the rock of the family, has none of the histrionics of Henry. But also looks out for Henry. He's a success in advertising, he's a project manager, organizing photo shoots. Works a lot but also likes to have fun. He's the golden boy to Henry's ugly duckling. Good looking, in good shape, he's a real prize.

Joe - his best friend - late 30s - Henry's buddy since college. Joe works in Finance, he's a Vice President. He and Jess had their first child, Madison, a year ago and it is still all encompassing, terrifying, and fun. Oddly, all the things Joe was taught to believe in: get a good job, get married, have a kid, buy a house, etc, are starting to lose value to him. He definitely sees the world going to hell in a handbasket quickly. He's also sure he's going to get fired soon or he's going to have to quit, which drives Jess crazy of course.

Jessica - Joe's wife - early 30s - Perky, sweet on the outside but a bitchy streak underneath. She does not work, she's a stay at home Mom but still has help (nanny, maid) that Joe reluctantly pays for. She wants the best of everything for her little family. Especially Madison.

Ben - Alan's boyfriend - late 20s - Flamboyant, fun, always there with a quick remark. Can be snarky, can also be flat out funny, and is also very smart even if he does hide it most of the time. Highly sexual, obviously. He and Alan actually work together really well. Much better than either of these straight couples. For money, Ben is an actor, singer, dancer, MC, DJ, host, writer, fashionista, all the look-at-me stuff. Which means he's also a fantastic mooch.

Setting:

The Apartment of Lizzy and Henry. Just left of center: a couch with a coffee table, chairs left and right of it. Right, the kitchen with an island countertop, short end towards audience. Up right is the front door. Back left is the short hallway leading to the unseen bedroom and bathroom. Windows left.

SCENE 1.

Lights up. Lizzy and Jessica prepare for a small party. They prep some food (appetizer-types) and clean up a little bit.

JESS

This is going to be the best little party. I can just tell.

LIZZY

I hope so.

JESS

It's so nice to get out of the house and have a real adult evening.

LIZZY

Madison is a cutie patootie.

JESS

Yeah...But she can be a handful. That girl can cry and cry.

LIZZY

She is a baby.

JESS

I know! But Good Lord, the pipes on her, maybe it's a sign. Maybe she's going to be a singer.

LIZZY

Could be.

JESS

I totally see it. She's kind of already got a sort-of Diva quality about her.

LIZZY

Oh yeah?

JESS

Absolutely. She acts like it's all fun and innocent but she knows exactly what she's doing. I can just tell. There's a look in her eye.

LIZZY

She's a little devil.

Jess turns and slowly takes offense to
that comment.

JESS

She's not a devil.

LIZZY

No, I didn't mean--Of course not.

JESS

She's a little Angel.

LIZZY

You're right. You're absolutely right: she's a little Angel.
A big Angel.

JESS

My Angel.

LIZZY

That's right. And Joe's.

JESS

Phhhhh.

LIZZY

Speaking of which, how long does it take to get wine and
beer?

JESS

I don't know. Where's the closest store?

LIZZY

Prospect, right around the corner.

JESS

Ohhhhhhh. Then I don't know.

LIZZY

(under her breath)

Henry probably sent him to Shawn's.

JESS

What's that?

LIZZY

Nothing.

JESS

So how do you think he's going to do this?

LIZZY

Who?

JESS

Henry.

LIZZY

The pigs in a blanket?

JESS

No. You. He's gonna ask you to marry him.

LIZZY

I don't know. You think so? Why do you think so?

JESS

He invited us all over--

LIZZY

I invited you all over.

JESS

Oh. Well, but, he sent out that email saying he had an announcement he wanted to make.

LIZZY

Hold on. Back up. What email?

JESS

The one...we all...got. That I guess you didn't get.

LIZZY

No. Can I see it?

JESS

(tiny pause)

Sure.

Jess flips through her Iphone, then she hands it to Lizzy. Lizzy reads the email.

LIZZY

(reads the first line)

"I have an important announcement I would like to make..." An announcement? It is his birthday tomorrow.

Lizzy continues reading, mouths the words to herself.

JESS

Right. But that's not an announcement. I figured--

LIZZY

Holy Shit.

JESS

What?

LIZZY

Holy Shit!

JESS

Yeah. So, you think--

LIZZY

You think he's going to ask me?

JESS

That's what I thought.

LIZZY

Well, it's about time.

JESS

Exactly. You two have been together now how long?

LIZZY

Too long.

JESS

That's right. It has been too long. You guys started dating I think before me and Joe.

LIZZY

It was a couple of months After you and Joe.

JESS

So it's been--

LIZZY

Six years, four months, and twenty-two days.

JESS

It's time.

LIZZY

He has been acting kind of weird lately.

JESS

Oh?

LIZZY

He's been nervous. Well, more nervous than usual. And he's been getting these headaches.

JESS

Sounds like a marriage proposal to me!

They sit in silence.

LIZZY

Does Joe know anything?

JESS

No, Henry hasn't mentioned any details. Unless Joe's lying to me.

LIZZY

Right...

JESS

But Joe wouldn't lie to me. (Her face says: would he?)

Pause. Quiet. They think. Well, Lizzy thinks. Jess eyes Lizzy thinking.

LIZZY

Wine?

JESS

Sure.

Lizzy jumps down from off her perch on a stool.

LIZZY

Shit! We don't have any. That's where Joe is.

JESS

(shakes her fist in mock-rage)

Joe!

LIZZY

How about shots?

Lizzy crosses left.

JESS

(Ew face)

No, I don't--

LIZZY

(checking)

What have we got? Bourbon...vodka...Tequila. Perfect.

Lizzy pours two small shots of tequila in juice glasses.

JESS

I could do a little tequila, I guess.

LIZZY

(pauses)

You got it, Missy. All right. (raises her glass) To you, Jess,

JESS

Ohhhh.

LIZZY

For sharing this information with me. And to Henry for...well, we'll see.

They clink glasses together and down the shots. Lizzy winces big time. Jess, for all of her delicacy and apprehensive ways, is barely bothered by the shot, it could've been a glass of warm milk.

LIZZY

I wonder what this ring is gonna be.

JESS

Maybe it's a family heirloom. (she pronounces it hair-loom)

LIZZY

You mean like my Grandma Izzy's broach?

JESS

Yeah.

LIZZY

Could be. I'll bet you Alan helped him pick it out.

JESS

I would hope so. They have such good taste.

LIZZY

Who?

JESS

The Gays.

LIZZY

Oh, yeah. Right.

JESS

Where is Alan?

LIZZY

He'll be here. He said he would.

JESS

I really like him.

LIZZY

Yeah...

JESS

He's so smart and charming and handsome and--

LIZZY

Fit.

JESS

Yeah. He's like the perfect man.

LIZZY

He is.

JESS

And he doesn't act gay.

LIZZY

No.

JESS

He just acts like...

LIZZY

Anybody.

JESS

Totally.

Pause.

LIZZY

Sorry. I'm kind of in shock.

JESS

It's okay. It's understandable.

LIZZY

It's been so long--it makes sense. I guess it all caught me by surprise because I've been focused on Henry's fortieth.

JESS

Oh, God.

LIZZY

What?

JESS

I probably wasn't supposed to tell you! This is probably supposed to be a surprise! Oh, no--

LIZZY

It's fine, I'm sure--

JESS

I always do this! No, I'm sure. It's meant to be a Surprise.
I'm so stupid!

LIZZY

Hey, it's okay. Look, I'll act surprised. I can still act surprised. See: (she does a face that goes from normal to surprised)

JESS

Yeah?

LIZZY

Sure! Try me.

JESS

(unsure)

Okay. Uh, Lizzy, uh, Elisabeth: I have an announcement, a question to ask: will you marry me?

And Lizzy's face goes from Confused to over-the-top Surprised. Jess laughs.

LIZZY

Was that good or what?!

She does the face again. Jess laughs.

LIZZY

I could do this all day.

She does it again. Jess is now more at ease.

JESS

Okay. But you have to promise me you'll do that face.

LIZZY

I promise.

Enter Joe through the front door.

JOE

(he's joking)

I come bearing Bartles and Jaymes and Zima!

LIZZY

Nice one.

JESS

(misses the joke)

What?

JOE

We're gonna get blasted like a bunch of fifteen year olds out back of a Dennys. I don't know what that means.

LIZZY

Me neither.

Joe pulls bottles out of his bags.

JOE

Madame, I believe you requested a nice Riesling.

LIZZY

I believe I did.

JOE

(he messes up his pronunciation
on purpose)

I present to you: Donnhoff Kreuznacher Krotenpfalz Spatlese.
Two thousand six.

LIZZY

(pets his head)

That'll do, Pig. That'll do.

JESS

I love Babe!

JOE

Honey, I got you your favorite Chardonnay and a very solid Merlot. At least that's what the guy said.

JESS

Oh, good.

JOE

And your Voss.

JESS

(to Lizzy)

It's all I drink.

JOE

That's true.

LIZZY

What is it?

JESS

It's the most delicious sparkling--(she twists off the top
and the bottle half explodes) Ahhhhhhhhh!

Joe laughs.

JESS

Huh-ney!

JOE

Sorry. Here. Give me that.

Lizzy hands Jess a dish towel.

JOE

(grabs a new bottle of Voss and
starts to march off left)

I'll go open this one in the shower.

JESS

What?

JOE

Nothing. I'm kidding. (he heads for the kitchen sink)

LIZZY

Where'd Henry send you?

JOE

Uh, we got separated.

LIZZY

Where'd he go?

JOE

He went to find some beer for us men. Real beer. Like a
Rolling Rock or Milwaukee's Best.

LIZZY

Un hun.

JOE

I'm sure he'll be right back.

LIZZY

Right.

JOE

(changing the subject)

Ooo! Shrimp Cocktail!

LIZZY

They're especially for you, Joe.

JOE

Really? (he pops one in his mouth)

LIZZY

No.

Lizzy is peeling off the wrapping on the Riesling. Then she immediately goes to work with the corkscrew.

JOE

(jumping in)

Whoa. Hey, let me do that.

LIZZY

It's all right. I got it.

JOE

No, come on.

JESS

Lizzy, let Joe.

LIZZY

It's fine.

She screws and screws and then pulls and pulls and: Pop! No problem.

JOE

Good job.

LIZZY

Thank you very much.

Joe, standing over the sink, slowly unscrews the top off the new bottle of Voss. There is an anticlimactic Fiss and then it's open. He pours the sparkling water into a glass.

JESS

My hero.

JOE

That's what I'm here for.

LIZZY

Here, Jess. Try some of this.

Lizzy pours a glass of the Riesling.

JESS

Oh, okay. Is this the Chardonnay?

LIZZY

No, it's the Riesling. It's not as expensive but I think you'll like it. Be right back.

Jess sips the wine. Lizzy exits left.

JOE

(to Jess)

It's like twenty-five a bottle versus sixty.

JESS

Honey, we can't serve a twenty dollar wine at a dinner party, everybody'll know.

Joe walks away, he finds this reasoning ridiculous, stupid, and disgusting.

JOE

Is it better?

JESS

That's not the point.

JOE

Which tastes better, to you?

Pause.

JESS

My Chardonnay.

Joe crosses and sits down on the couch. Jess remembers, goes over to him, sits next to him and quietly, secretly,

JESS

Honey. Honey, honey, honey,

JOE

Yes, dear?

JESS

Do you think it's a surprise? What did Henry tell you?

JOE

He didn't tell me anything. Although he is acting kinda weird. Weirder than usual at least.

JESS

He didn't say what the announcement is?

JOE

No.

JESS

Honey.

JOE

He didn't. I swear. It's gotta be that. I mean, what else could it be? We're all gathered here for his fortieth, it's the only thing that makes any sense.

Small silence.

JESS

He didn't say Anything?

JOE

I swear to God, No.

Jess eyes him. She slowly scooches away from him to the other end of the couch.

JESS

You two are up to something.

JOE

Okay. If you say so. I look forward to it. Whatever I'm up to.

Lizzy returns.

JOE

Where are we going to dinner, Lizzy?

JESS

That's all you think about, your stomach.

LIZZY

Yayo.

JOE

I like that place. It's old school.

LIZZY

It's Henry's favorite. He likes to talk Spanish with the waiters.

JESS

That's that really old place, right?

LIZZY

Yeah.

JOE

It's an Institution. They don't make 'em like Yayo anymore.

JESS

Maybe there's a reason for that.

JOE

You just don't like Chorizo.

JESS

What's Chorizo?

LIZZY

Sausages.

JESS

Oh. No, I don't.

JOE

And that's fine. I'm sure they'll have a nice side salad for you.

LIZZY

Where the hell is Henry? Joe, where did he go?

JOE

He said he was going to Norberto's.

JESS

What's that?

LIZZY

The local Bodega.

JOE

Maybe he ran into somebody he knew.

LIZZY

(not convinced)

Right.

JESS

(from on the couch)

Lizzy, I love these pillows.

LIZZY

(her mind elsewhere)

Thanks.

JOE

How's everything at the big old Firm?

LIZZY

What?

JOE

How's it going at work?

LIZZY

Oh, yeah. Fine. James Bingham the third died so that's good.

JOE

Well, I don't know if it's good.

LIZZY

No. You know what I mean.

JOE

No, I know--

LIZZY

It's good for us. It's a big estate to divide up.

JESS

Who's James Bingham the third?

JOE

He started Bingham Capital. And he was the Treasury Secretary under--

LIZZY

(making it simple for Jess)

He's worth about four billion dollars.

JESS

Oh.

JOE

Any sordid details we don't know about?

LIZZY

Well, he did like to strangle Dachsunds.

JESS

What?!

JOE

She's kidding. (small pause) Right?

LIZZY

(small pause for effect)

Yeah, he was pretty boring. It seems the only thing that gave him joy in life was making money.

JOE

Really?

LIZZY

That's what everyone has said. The family. Friends. He was a man driven for cash.

JOE

Well, it's a different generation.

LIZZY

Yes it is.

JOE

What was he like eighty-five?

LIZZY

Eighty-eight.

JESS

What did he die from?

LIZZY

He was old.

Jess's face says, "Oh." Silence.

JESS

(breaks it, stands and crosses
to the right side of the
kitchen island)

Did we tell you we're moving?

LIZZY

No.

JOE

Well--

LIZZY

Where to?

JESS

Either Morristown or Millburn.

JOE

Maybe Morristown. Or maybe we'll stay put too. It's all up in
the air right now.

JESS

We're not "staying put."

JOE

Who knows, honey.

JESS

(to Lizzy)

We need more space.

JOE

We've got two bedrooms. What's wrong with Park Slope? I like
Park Slope. You already got me out of Manhattan.

JESS

I didn't "Get" you anywhere. We need a home, with a yard, and space.

JOE

We're right next to the Park!

JESS

That's not the same thing!

Pause.

LIZZY

I like Millburn.

JESS

It's really pretty. And safe.

JOE

Yeah, you see a lot of Pimps and Rapists in Park Slope.

JESS

Honey!

JOE

What?

JESS

There's a line.

JOE

(waves her off, aggravated,
gets up and crosses left to
pour himself a drink)

Ahhhhh.

JESS

(turning angry)

Don't you Dare--

Enter Henry through the front door.
Jess sees his face as he pokes through
the door.

JESS

(sweet)

Henry!

HENRY

(sing songy)

Hell-o.

LIZZY

What took you so long? Where did you--

HENRY

For you, my dear, (he reveals a bouquet of flowers from behind his back)

LIZZY

Oh. (she takes them)

HENRY

You are wonderful. And I love you very much.

JESS

(claps)

Ooo, they're beautiful. I can't remember the last time I got flowers.

Joe rolls his eyes.

LIZZY

They're lovely.

Lizzy kisses Henry.

HENRY

Good. I'm glad you like them. Where's Alan?

LIZZY

He's not here yet.

HENRY

They always have to be fashionably late.

JESS

Who?

HENRY

The gays. I come bearing presents! More than just flowers for me-lady.

JOE

Is it the head of Alfredo Garcia?

JESS

What?

HENRY

(laughs)

No.

JESS

Who is that?

JOE

Nobody. Forget about it.

HENRY

For little Miss Madison I've got (from out of a bag he pulls a pink stuffed animal) a Lady Bug!

JESS

Oh, that is adorable.

HENRY

She is a princess and she only deserves to be treated like one.

JOE

Good job. Making me look bad.

HENRY

Well, I don't have to do much to do that.

JOE

I set that up perfectly.

HENRY

Don't worry. The love's about to change: here we go. For you and me. Later.

Henry hands Joe two cigar tubes.

JOE

Ah, nice.

HENRY

You're a real friend--

JESS

Henry!

HENRY

(to Jess) What? (to Joe) A true friend--

JESS

How could you?

HENRY

What?

JESS

He can't smell like smoke in front of the baby.

HENRY

No. We're gonna smoke them here. Tonight.

Joe sniffs a cigar tube.

JESS

It doesn't matter. It gets on...Everything.

JOE

Don't worry about it, Henry. It's a good idea. I haven't smoked a cigar in years.

LIZZY

(jumping in)

After they smoke you can rub my flowers all over Joe.

JOE

There you go!

Jess remains unconvinced.

HENRY

(he feels around in his pants pocket)

I wish Alan was here...Oh well. Come on. Let's all gather together.

Joe slides the cigar tubes into his shirt pocket.

JOE

Henry, you want a beer?

HENRY

No, I'm good right now, thanks. Why don't we all just grab a seat.

Henry puts Jess and Joe on the couch, Lizzy in a chair. Jess shares a look with Lizzy. Joe brings over the shrimp cocktail that he nibbles on. The Lady Bug hangs out on the couch.

HENRY

I'm really glad you guys are here. Should I wait for Alan--

JESS

No!

LIZZY

No--

HENRY

Okay. Yeah. You're right. So....beautiful day today, wasn't it? All right. Let's...I've been thinking long and hard about how to do this, and I really didn't want to wait until my birthday but, hey, here we are! I always procrastinate until the last minute so why should this be any different.

But forty is a big deal and forty has gotten me thinking: about what's important, about what matters, about where we come from, and where we're going...Now, Jess and Joe: you two are two of my oldest friends. Joe, I've known you since freshman year in Healy when our rooms were right next to each other.

JOE

Ah, college. Those were the days. Lazing on the quad. Beer pong. Reading actual physical books. God, I'm old.

HENRY

I've known you for half of my life, so I wanted you to be here for this because, I guess what I'm trying to say is, you're important to me.

JOE

Right back at you, buddy.

HENRY

And Jess: you too. Aside from saving Joe from his miserable lonely lawyerly existence--

JOE

I'm not a lawyer.

HENRY

Same thing.

LIZZY

Hey!

HENRY

I don't mean any offense by it. I'm surrounded by lawyers. And people who are Practically lawyers. And people who Should be lawyers. What I'm trying to say is: Jess, I am glad you're here.

JESS

And I am happy to be here, Henry.

HENRY

Which brings us to you, my dear.

LIZZY

(she plays with this word)

Meeeeee?

HENRY

Yes. You. You and I, Miss Elisabeth, have been together for quite a while now--

JESS

Six years, four months, and twenty-two days.

HENRY

(surprised, he turns and looks
at Jess, then continues)

Yes. That could definitely be right. And throughout all of that time we have been building towards something. We've been growing together and basically now, sharing a life together, which is what makes this so hard. You mean more to me than anyone. And no matter what happens, I want you to know that. You have been kind to me, cared for me, supported me, loved me. And I have tried in my way to do all of those things for you. But now it is time, it is finally time, for me to reveal myself, the real me, the true me, because my time here is short, very very short, I think. And I want you all to know that I love you very much, especially you, Lizzy--God! Why is this so hard?

LIZZY

It's okay, Henry.

JESS

It's okay.

JOE

Yeah, man.

HENRY

Thank you. I want to be honest and I want to be true, it's just not easy for me. It's downright terrifying.

LIZZY

It's all right.

JESS

Yeah.

HENRY

But it is something I have to do. Tomorrow is my fortieth, now is the time. Now is the only time, the best time--

LIZZY

Yes--

HENRY

I have to do this, I have to get this off of my chest, I have to express myself, and not be embarrassed, and not be worried because it's all gonna work itself out. We're all gonna be just fine. Joe, Jess, Lizzy. Sweet sweet Lizzy, there is no one else in the world I would rather say this to.

LIZZY

Yes?!

HENRY

I am...an alien.

LIZZY

What?

JESS

Henry, stop messing around.

JOE

(to Jess)

That's kind of funny.

JESS

Shhhhhhhhhh.

LIZZY

Ask me, Henry. It's okay.

HENRY

I'm an Alien. Whew. That is a load off my mind.

LIZZY

This isn't funny.

JESS

Yeah, this is your engagement, now drop to one knee and pop the question. Even Joe did it.

JOE

(his mouth full of shrimp)

It's true. I did.

HENRY

(drops to one knee, holds
Lizzy's hand, looks up at her)

I'm sorry.

A moment: Henry and Lizzy look at each other. She slowly realizes he's not kidding. Lizzy pulls her hand away from Henry.

JESS

Come on, Henry. Quit it.

LIZZY

He wants to be a child. That's fine. He wants to be a baby about asking me to marry him - instead of being a man - You're just gonna joke it away, right, Hen? Joke it all away.

HENRY

Lizzy, I'm not joking.

Lizzy stares at him, shakes her head.

LIZZY

Fine. Be a baby. Fine by me. (with derision) Forty years old?
Forty is the new twenty.

JESS

I think you mean thirty.

HENRY

Lizzy, I'm not kidding around. Come on, you know me.

LIZZY

That's right. And that's why for the life of me I can't understand why you would treat me like this. Something--especially something you know is this important to me.

HENRY

Lizzy, I'm not trying to hurt you. I'm just trying to be open and honest. To share. You're always telling me to share more. Well, here it is! The Mother of all shares! I....am....an Alien!

Quiet. Henry and Lizzy look at each other. Jess and Joe look at Henry and Lizzy. Finally, Lizzy is disgusted and heads for the bathroom.

LIZZY

Excuse me, I have to go to the bathroom. (directed about Henry) Unlike some of us, I don't wear diapers.

Exit Lizzy to the bathroom.

HENRY

(louder)

You're really not taking this the way I thought you would!
(he turns to Jess and Joe) What about you guys? Anything?

JESS

Henry, would you just ask her to marry you.

JOE

Yeah, come on, man. This isn't as funny as I think you thought it would be.

HENRY

I'm not screwing around! I'm telling the truth. You guys should be much more freaked out by this than you are. I'm an alien. That's my big announcement. That's what I've been holding in. Not the wedding engagement.

JESS

Henry, it's not funny!

HENRY

I'm not trying to be funny!

JOE

So you're an alien, from outer space?

HENRY

Yes!

Pause.

JOE

(casual, offhand)

All right. I'll go with it.

HENRY

Thank you!

JESS

You two are unbelievable.

JOE

What?

HENRY

Come on, Jess. You believe me, right?

Re-enter Lizzy, angry.

LIZZY

You know what, Henry? This is not supposed to happen. You're supposed to ask me to marry you - we've been together--

JESS

Six years, four months, and twenty-two days--

LIZZY

You're supposed to get down on one knee and take my hand and open a little case and show me a big fucking Ring! And ask for my hand in wedded bliss! And I'm supposed to say Yes! And then we kiss and we hug and (points to Jess & Joe) you guys clap and everybody's Happy! That's how it's supposed to work!

Enter Alan, he opens the front door as he knocks. Of course, he and Ben couldn't be any more light and carefree.

ALAN

Hello? Hello? (he sees Henry, starts singing) Happy Birthday to you,

Enter Ben from behind Alan, he carries a huge beautiful bouquet of flowers that makes Henry's look like a ten dollar special. Alan has an expensive bottle of red wine in his hands.

ALAN & BEN

(singing)

Happy Birthday to you! Happy Birthday, dear Henry! Happy Birthday--

BEN

(singing, hits a high note, loud)

ALAN

(not a singer, normal note)

To You.

And Ben grabs Henry, twirls, then dips himself into Henry's arms. It's over-the-top. And Henry has never met Ben before.

BEN

What did we missssssssssss?

ALAN

(to Henry)

What's up?

JOE

He's an alien.

HENRY

I'm an alien.

ALAN

You Are a weirdo. Happy Birthday, big brother.

Alan hugs Henry.

HENRY

Thanks.

ALAN

Lizzy, good to see you.

Alan goes and kisses her.

LIZZY

(regrouping)

You too, Alan. It's always good to see You. (directed at Henry)

ALAN

(sensing tension)

O-kay. Hey-ya, Jess.

Alan goes over and kisses her.

JESS

Nice to see you, Alan. (she feels his suit lapel) What is this, Michael Kors?

BEN

It's Ozwald Boateng. I picked it out for him.

ALAN

Yes. And then I bought it as a present for myself from Ben.

BEN

It's the thought that counts.

ALAN

That's very true. Hey, Joe.

An awkward fast hug between Alan and Joe.

JOE

Hey, Alan.

ALAN

Joe, Jess, this is Ben. Ben, Lizzy, Henry obviously, Joe and Jess.

BEN

Hello, hello, hello, bonjour.

JESS

(holds up a plate of hors d'oeuvres)

Bon appetit?

BEN

(to Jess)

Ooo, I like you. We're gonna be sisters.

JESS

Okay?

BEN

These, my dear, are for you.

Ben hands Lizzy the big bouquet of flowers.

LIZZY

Thank you. That's very sweet.

Alan hands Henry the bottle of red wine.

ALAN

(to Henry)

I've been saving this bottle especially for your birthday. Look at the label.

HENRY

(reads, mispronounces it)

Les Forts De Latour?

ALAN

No, not the name. The year.

HENRY

Nineteen seventy-two (whatever measures out to forty years). So?

ALAN

That's the year you were born.

HENRY

Yeah. Does that make the wine taste better?

ALAN

No. What I'm saying--(stops himself, laughs) You were born that year--

HENRY

Right.

ALAN

This is an expensive bottle of wine from the year you're born.

HENRY

I get that.

ALAN

Do you?

HENRY

(matter of factly)

Yes. The wine will taste better to me because we're exactly the same age.

ALAN

(small pause, then he just goes
with it)

Sure. Absolutely. That's totally what I was thinking.

HENRY

(hugs Alan)

It's a very Thoughtful gift. But you know I really don't
drink wine. (he smiles at Alan and walks away from him)

ALAN

(to all)

Does anyone have a corkscrew?

LIZZY

Here.

She hands the corkscrew to him. Alan
immediately begins opening the bottle.

LIZZY

You know we've already got some--

Pop! Alan has opened the bottle.

HENRY

So, Alan, now that you and Ben are here--and it's very nice
to meet you--

BEN

(to Alan)

Your brother's a hoot.

ALAN

(ie: unfortunately)

Yeah.

HENRY

I feel like I should get on with this so we can all embrace
it, take it all in, and then find a way to move on.

LIZZY

What are you talking about?

HENRY

Lizzy, I love you more than anyone in this universe has ever
loved another person--no, wait, I love you more than anyone
in any universe has ever loved another person--no, I love you
more than any being has ever loved another being in any
universe or anything else that might be like a universe but
is beyond our comprehension with our simple human brains. So,
any--

ALAN

Henry?

HENRY

(turns to him)

Yes, Alan?

ALAN

What are you doing?

HENRY

Trying to explain my love and how it has no bounds for this female human being.

ALAN

Come here.

Alan pulls Henry away from everyone else.

ALAN

I know you might have planned this in your head this way, and you thought it was working in there, 'cause I get what you're trying to do with the endless love thing, but it's not working.

HENRY

I simply want you all to know, and especially Lizzy--

ALAN

Yeah, we get it. Now take a deep breath, get down on one knee and ask her to marry you. She's going to say yes.

HENRY

Alan, I can't marry her. That's what I'm trying to explain. I'm an alien.

ALAN

Come again?

HENRY

I'm not from here.

ALAN

Riiiiight...

HENRY

But I had to tell all of you.

ALAN

Un hun.

HENRY

Listen, everybody, I know you were all expecting me to ask Lizzy to marry me. After the announcement email I sent out I can now see how that might've been misconstrued. My bad. But I feel like I have to get this off my chest. It's too important. Hello, my name is Henry and I'm an alien.

BEN

(like in an AA meeting)

Hi, Henry!

LIZZY

I don't know why you continue to play this game. It's just not nice--

HENRY

Lizzy--

LIZZY

If you're really scared or this immature I thought you would at least have the decency to come and talk to me. But going down this road? Putting on this bizarre act? What am I supposed to do? What are we supposed to do with this information?

HENRY

I don't know.

Small silence.

JOE

All right, hold it, hold it, hold it. Are you telling me you actually think you're an alien?

HENRY

Absolutely.

ALAN

Did you guys all take mushrooms before we got here?

BEN

And do you have any more?

JOE

Can I ask Why you think you're an alien?

HENRY

It's something I believe in my gut and in my bones and in my heart. And I got an email.

JOE

A what?

ALAN

An email?

HENRY

Yeah.

ALAN

All right! That's enough! Come on! Henry, this joke, I know you thought it was gonna be funny but it's not so drop it and let's move on.

HENRY

It's not a joke, Alan.

JOE

Hen, come here for a second. (puts his arm around Henry, guides him down left, Joe gives a nod to Alan) We'll be right back, talk amongst yourselves.

BEN

Happily. This is fun. (Lizzy shoots him a look) I like your hair. (Ben takes a drink of wine)

JOE

What's the plan here?

HENRY

Plan? I don't really think I have a plan. It was more like: confess, see what happens.

JOE

Yeah, that's not working.

HENRY

Well, I realize it's confusing. I'd be confused too.

JOE

I'm talking about the proposal. What are you talking about?

HENRY

(ie: the elephant in the room)

Uh, being an alien?

JOE

Yeah, you've gotta let that go. It was fun for a little bit but now it's simply looking childish. So what's your new plan gonna be?

HENRY

(thinks, then:)

I got nothing.

JOE

Why not try the classic - I did this - we all do this: one knee, take her hand, tell her you love her, blah blah blah, you can't live without her, blah blah blah, she's everything you've ever wanted in a woman, she's your best friend, blah blah blah, look into her eyes: Lizzy, will you marry me? She says yes, she cries, you hug, you kiss, peace out. It's so easy a monkey could do it. For all we know monkeys probably do do it. Who the hell knows? What do you say?

HENRY

Joe, I'm an alien, not a monkey.

Pause. Joe stares at Henry. Joe gave it his all. Joe claps his hands.

JOE

All right. That's it. I'm out. I tried. (he moves back to the kitchen area) I tried reasoning. Explaining. Giving detailed instructions on the best way to do it. Fool proof. But no, that's it.

Jess crosses the room dramatically to Henry.

JOE

What are you...Where are you...Honey?

Once Jess gets to Henry, as Henry turns and faces her, Jess immediately slaps him across the face with her right hand. It wasn't that hard but Henry cowers.

HENRY

Ow! Jesus.

JESS

Hurts, right?

HENRY

Yeah.

JESS

But you know what hurts more?

HENRY

No.

JESS

This.

Jess punches Henry in the gut with her left hand. Down goes Henry.

BEN

Whoa.

JOE

Honey?

JESS

Let me tell you a little something, Henry. A little something about a little code us ladies have. We might bicker about boys. We might fight about shoes. And we might secretly be jealous of each other's hair, but once you cross one of us in a way that has anything to do with our happily wedded bliss, well, we will come after you like a Teletubbie on crystal meth!

ALAN

Jesus.

JOE

Uh, honey?

BEN

You go, girl!

JESS

Now you have taken what should have been a perfectly good and true marriage proposal and turned it into a tragedyation for all the world to see!

ALAN

What is she talking about?

JOE

I have no idea. (louder) Love you, Honey!

JESS

Love you too, dear! Now, Henry:

HENRY

Yes?

JESS

Little man, little fat man, hairy man, hairy fat man, hairy little fat man,

HENRY

(genuinely scared)

Yes?

JESS

Are you going to stop being an idiot and go ask (she points to Lizzy) this beautiful intelligent soulful Woman over there to marry you?!

HENRY

I would.

JESS

You would?!

HENRY

I would but I can't.

JESS

And why the hell not?!

HENRY

'Cause I'm not gonna be here tomorrow.

JESS

Oh, yeah? Well, where are you going that's so important?

HENRY

I don't know exactly.

JESS

Well, what do you know, exactly?!

HENRY

I know my name's Henry! And I know that I AM an alien! And I know that you've taken a self-defense class at one point!

Jess's rage passes and she walks away from Henry.

HENRY

Sorry.

Silence. Pause. Finally,

LIZZY

Why?

HENRY

Why what?

LIZZY

Why do you think you're an alien? Explain it to me.

HENRY

Will there be no hitting?

LIZZY

(arms crossed)

I can't guarantee that...Yes.

Henry picks himself up. Henry is downstage left, everyone else is near the kitchen. Lizzy stands upstage by the front door.

BEN

Who made these sausage thingies?

LIZZY

He did.

HENRY

(raising his hand)

The pigs in a blanket, I did.

BEN

They're really delicious.

ALAN

Babe,

BEN

What?

LIZZY

Tell me. Explain it to me. So I can understand.

HENRY

I wasn't trying to make all of you angry. Honestly. This isn't easy for me either. I know how crazy it sounds. I'm aware it's ridiculous, and you probably think I should be committed. But that's not the reason I decided to tell you. I decided to tell you because I'm sick of holding it inside. It's something I believe with my entire core and if you don't, that's fine. But I couldn't leave and not say something. (he looks to Alan) I guess I just wasn't raised that way.

ALAN

Henry, you're not an Alien because you were adopted.

HENRY

No, of course not. And I'm not saying all adopted kids are aliens. I mean, come on. That's crazy! (pause) But that's where it all started: the questioning, the wondering. Who am I? Where did I come from? In my case, and Joe, I don't know if you know this: I was simply left in the lobby of Saint Mary's Hospital. No one knows who my Mother and Father were. Luckily for me, (to Alan) Mom and Dad couldn't have any kids, at least that's what the doctors told them, so they adopted me. Then two years later: Whoa! What's this?! Alan here comes along. Surprised the hell out of them.

LIZZY

But why do you think you're an alien? And this better not be a prank or I'm gonna kill you.

HENRY

It's not. I promise. I might be putting out some wild ideas but I'm not trying to be cruel...I've just always felt...different.

BEN

Well, me too, darling, but that doesn't mean I'm from outer space. Unless you count Uranus.

ALAN

Really? You're going there?

BEN

They're all straight. I'm not gonna use my A material.

HENRY

He has a point.

BEN

I'll give you a point. (to Alan) Sorry. Continue, space man. I'm switching to White. White, anyone?

JESS

Yes, please. The Chardonnay.

A small annoyed look from Lizzy re: Jess.

ALAN

I'm good.

BEN

Smart girl. Lizzy?

LIZZY

Sure. (she moves over to the kitchen to get wine) The Riesling.

BEN

Jo Jo?

JOE

I think I need a whiskey. (he crosses left to the liquor)

HENRY

I got it, Joe.

JOE

Thanks.

Joe goes and plops into the couch.
Henry moves left to the liquor and
pours two Maker's Mark's rocks.

ALAN

(crosses to chairs)

Feeling like you're an outsider doesn't make you an alien.

HENRY

No. It's hard to explain.

ALAN

Try me.

BEN

(from kitchen, fast)

Yes, please.

ALAN

Can it.

HENRY

All right. Joe,

Henry hands a Maker's to Joe.

JOE

Henry,

HENRY

Is there anything, anything at all in your life that you were completely sure of, absolutely sure of, you just knew it inside of you but there was no real concrete evidence to support it? Anything at all?

Joe thinks.

JOE

You mean aside from my love for Madison? 'Cause, I mean, I guess that's a given.

JESS

Did I hear Madison?

HENRY

Yes, that's your daughter. Of course you're going to love her.

JESS

What are you talking about that involves Madison?

HENRY

It doesn't involve Madison. She's out. I'm trying to see--

JESS
(offended)
Why's she out?

HENRY
What?

JOE
No, Honey, it's not a big deal--

JESS
What, our little girl isn't good enough for you, Henry? Is that it?

HENRY
What? No. That's not the point I was trying to make. Jesus.

JOE
God! I believe in God! There! How's that?

HENRY
That's exactly what I'm talking about!

JESS
(to Alan)
I'm confused.

ALAN
My plan is to get a nice buzz going.

JESS
Good idea, I'll join you.

They clink wine glasses.

HENRY
You believe in God but do you have any real actual proof that there is a God?

ALAN
Well, of course not, Henry. But what does that matter?

HENRY
It matters because you believe in something based on really...nothing!

ALAN
That's not true. It's not nothing. It's all about a question of existence. Where do we all come from? And some folks choose to believe in a higher power. God.

HENRY
But where is the proof?

LIZZY

Where's the proof you're an alien?

HENRY

Exactly! Thank you.

LIZZY

Uh, you're welcome?

JOE

Yeah, Henry, where'd this whole alien thing come from?

HENRY

A ha! I'm glad you asked that question.

JOE

(raises his hand)

Thanks, everybody, I'll be here all night.

JESS

(misses joke)

Where else would you be?

Ben and Alan exchange a look.

BEN

You'd be surprised, my dear.

JESS

What?

ALAN

(to Jess)

Nothing.

By now everyone is center. Joe: couch. Jess: chair right. Alan: arm of chair right. Lizzy: arm of couch right. Ben: stool right. Henry: stands left.

HENRY

Strange occurrences have been occurring (catches himself) to me lately, and it has been a slow build for longer than I can remember. Starting with the fact that I'm an orphan and the whole concept of feeling different, being different.

LIZZY

That's all fine and dandy but that doesn't make you an alien-- I can't believe I'm even having this conversation right now-- Why couldn't you just ask me to marry you like a normal person?!

Lizzy crosses to behind the couch.

HENRY

I think you've answered your own question.

LIZZY

I'm going to hit you so hard your head's gonna look like
a... (reaching for a simile) deflated soccer ball.

BEN

(gets up, goes over and grabs
her)

Let's just sit down here for a minute and calmly discuss all
of this. After all, remember, Lizzy, this could be worse.

Lizzy sits on the couch, Ben on the
armrest slightly above her.

LIZZY

How's that?

BEN

He could be gay?

HENRY

I'm not gay.

BEN

No, you're definitely not.

JOE

He could be a gay alien. A gaylien.

BEN

I like that, Jo Jo.

JOE

I shoulda been a comedian.

BEN

What are you?

JOE

You need some Eastern European risk management assessment?

BEN

I don't know what that is.

JOE

I'm your man.

ALAN

(looks to Henry, playing along)
Have you been in contact with the mothership?

BEN

Why is it always mothership and there's never a fathership?

JESS

(matter of fact)

'Cause smaller ships come out of the mothership like babies.

BEN

(wasn't expecting a literal
response)

Right...

ALAN

What are the strange things?

HENRY

Right! I'm glad you asked. The first one is these headaches.

LIZZY

Oh, come on!

HENRY

What? It's true. You know I've been getting headaches. It's nothing to laugh at. They're terrible.

LIZZY

The doctor said your headaches were from staring at a computer screen all day and not wearing your glasses enough--

HENRY

Yes. But then why have they been getting worse?

LIZZY

Uh, maybe because you still refuse to wear your glasses and you--

HENRY

Not true.

LIZZY

What?

HENRY

I said, not true. Negativo. I went to the optometrist three weeks ago, got a new prescription, new lenses put in these babies and still terrible mind-numbing headaches. They've only gotten worse.

LIZZY

Then it's stress.

HENRY

What do I have to be stressed about?

LIZZY

I don't know. Life, Death. Your impending engagement maybe.

HENRY

No, but my headaches have been getting worse.

JESS

Did you try Excedrin?

JOE

Whiskey helps. (he takes a sip)

HENRY

No, yes, none of that stuff helps.

ALAN

What else have you got, Henry? 'Cause I get headaches too.

BEN

Yes, but you have me--

ALAN

(blowing thru it)

They're a pretty common human phenomenon.

HENRY

Not the ones I get. It feels like someone is slowly jamming a gigantic thumbtack into my forehead.

JOE

Egh.

Jess gives a grossed out face too.

JOE

And with that I'm off to use the facilities.

JESS

Joe!

JOE

What?

JESS

You don't have to announce to everybody you're going to (motions pee).

JOE

We all do it, Jess. Just 'cause you don't seem to anymore, don't take it out on me. (he goes)

JESS

What's that supposed to mean?

JOE
(turns back)
I'm human.

JESS
Just 'cause your human doesn't mean you have to act like an animal.

JOE
(waves her off as he goes)
Ahh. (turns back) Oh, Henry, don't go anywhere. Don't beam up 'til I get back.

HENRY
I don't really think it works that way--

JOE
(as he exits)
Everybody does it. Birds do it. Bees do it. Even fishies in the seas do it--(he's gone, left)

BEN
(re: the lyrics)
That's not right.

Jess is visibly annoyed and embarrassed by Joe.

ALAN
(gets up)
I need some more wine.

BEN
(an apology of sorts)
I got it.

ALAN
It's all right. I'll get it. Jess, more(rrrr), what are you drinking?

JESS
(thinking, her mind still with Joe)
The...

BEN
She's having the Chardonnay.

ALAN
Lizzy?

LIZZY
(straight)
Long Island Iced Tea.

Henry is surprised. Alan looks around at the countertop.

ALAN

Uh...

LIZZY

Don't worry about it, Alan, I got it. (she crosses left, pushes Henry's chest casually, not angry) Out of my way, Mork.

Lizzy heads to the liquor, pours herself a double vodka neat. She holds it up, pauses a moment.

HENRY

Uh, (holds up a finger as if to say, hold on)

And Lizzy throws her head back and downs it in one swallow. Then she winces and sighs slowly. Then she rights herself, grabs some icecubes, throws them into her glass. Pause. Silence. The tinkling of ice. Lizzy starts pouring.

HENRY

I have to say, you're all taking this news pretty well.

Lizzy stops mid-pour and holds the horizontal bottle in the air, turns her head, and looks at Henry like he's crazy/an idiot. Jess shoots Henry some daggers. Alan's face says, "Really?" And Ben,

BEN

(like a robot)

We humans are a race known for our primitive abilities to roll with it.

Henry crosses behind the couch.

ALAN

What is that you're doing?

BEN

I have no idea.

ALAN

We're humans, not robots.

BEN

Yeah, I know.

HENRY

It just doesn't make any sense.

BEN

Yeah, thanks, I got it.

HENRY

Humans are flesh and blood, robots are made out of--

BEN

Yeah, I heard you. I messed it up! Thanks. I'm aware.

HENRY

Okay.

Henry ends up on the stool right. Ben is at the countertop on the left side, Alan is center right. Jess moves to the couch. Lizzy sits in the chair left.

JESS

So, Henry,

HENRY

Yes, Jess?

JESS

When exactly is it that you decided you were an alien?

HENRY

Um...it's been a, it's been a process. Different points have led me here.

JESS

Such as?

HENRY

Well, let's see...

JESS

'Cause you can't just say you're an alien, you've gotta prove that you're an alien, and you know what, I might as well just tell you this now: I don't believe in aliens. There. How do you like them apples, Buster? I don't believe in aliens and that way you can't be an alien, so, why don't you just go back to being Henry. Henry, the human and ask Lizzy to marry you, and get married and have kids and move to the suburbs and be Happy?!

Joe has returned, stands left between the chair and couch, Jess sees him and bursts into tears.

JOE

Honey, what is it?

Jess gets up and blows past Joe.

JESS

(still crying)

You should be nice to me. Just because you don't want nice things... (she turns and runs to the bedroom, distraught)

JOE

(dumbfounded)

What...

LIZZY

(stands)

If you men really are from Mars and we women really are from Venus, (points at Henry) I'm stealing your spaceship and travelling to Venus and warning all of the women there: Stay Here! Don't Leave! Be Lesbians! Forever!!

And Lizzy exits to go check on Jess.

JOE

(turns to the guys)

I like nice things. What was that all about?

HENRY

She doesn't believe in aliens, I'll tell you that much.

JOE

Who?

HENRY

Your wife.

JOE

(genuinely surprised)

She doesn't believe in aliens?

HENRY

Nope. She made that crystal clear.

BEN

Women, can't live with 'em...don't live with 'em.

ALAN

Is everything all right with...what's your little girl's name again?

JOE

Madison.

HENRY

Madison.

ALAN

That's right. Madison. Maddie.

JOE

Oh, no, we don't call her Maddie. Ever. Why, what would be wrong with her?

ALAN

No, nothing. I didn't mean to scare you. I'm just trying to figure out Jess's condition. You know, emotionally, mentally.

JOE

Well, lately she's been kind of a bitch on wheels. (he takes a drink)

BEN

I like you, Joe. You just cut to the chase.

ALAN

Hey, I could say the same thing about you some times.

BEN

Moi? Never. I'm a beacon of level headed honesty.

ALAN

Oh, yeah? What about Jesse?

BEN

(turns vicious, he's having fun with it)

That little twink should be buried alive in his own vomit.

HENRY

Whoa.

JOE

Yikes.

ALAN

As I was saying, is everything all right at home, Joe?

JOE

Yeah, we're fine. The baby's healthy. The nannie's good. Job's all right. Looking at houses,

HENRY

You hate your job.

JOE

Yeah, but it's good. I'm good at it. A lot of guys got let go and I'm still around. Which is good.

ALAN

It is good.

JOE

Yeah, it's a good thing. (to Henry) What?!

HENRY

I didn't say anything.

JOE

No, but you were gonna. And by the way, now that the women folk are out of here what's with all of this alien business?

HENRY

What do you mean?

JOE

Come on. This is a cruel Prank.

HENRY

It's not a Prank.

ALAN

What do you mean? What are you talking about?

Henry simply looks at Alan.

JOE

So I'm supposed to believe you're an alien, that's basically what it is.

HENRY

I think so.

ALAN

Hold it, hold it. Back up. Where did this whole... (he motions circular) idea come from?

HENRY

It's been a process.

ALAN

A process.

HENRY

Yes. A process of discovery.

ALAN

Okay.

HENRY

Well, first there's my background which we talked about. Feeling different. The headaches I've been getting--

ALAN

Yeah, yeah, that's all fine. What else? Concrete.

HENRY

I'm getting to that, Alan. If you'll let me finish.

ALAN

Go for it.

BEN

(to Joe)

I love a brotherly fight. I had three older brothers. It was like a gladiator battle with noogies and wet willys.

JOE

That sounds really--

BEN

(cuts him off)

Shut up.

HENRY

There have been a lot of weird coincidences piling up. Things that force you to examine what they mean. Stuff beyond mere chance--

ALAN

Such as?

HENRY

Well, if you're gonna just patronize me, I won't tell you--

ALAN

I'm not making fun--

HENRY

Your tone definitely felt like you're just humoring me.

ALAN

No, I'm not. I'm dead serious. Tell me what's been happening.

JOE

I wanna know.

Henry takes all of them in a minute: he eyes each one of them suspiciously.

HENRY

All right...First off: we have this man, Ed, he's the local homeless guy in our neighborhood. He's always out here hanging out.

He's a veteran, he's seen a lot of terrible things in his life but he's a nice enough guy, a little bit out there but for the most part he's harmless and just looking for a few bucks to buy a cup of coffee or a sandwich. Everyone in the neighborhood knows him--

ALAN

Henry, where is this going?

HENRY

Now this man, Ed. Ed, our local homelessman, he insists for some strange reason, every time we see each other he calls me the "Scout." "Man, you're just here checking things out." That's what he says, what he's been saying for months and months. Any time I see him he looks me in the eye and he says, "Man, you're a scout, checking things out."

ALAN

That doesn't mean--

HENRY

Let me finish, Alan! Jesus. You need to hear the whole story.

ALAN

Fine.

HENRY

"You're a scout, checking things out." For the longest time, I had no idea what that meant. I thought it was just Ed being Ed, ya know.

JOE

Maybe a little too much sauce. (he mimes drinking)

BEN

Speaking of which. Do you mind? (he holds up a small joint)

HENRY

No, go ahead. (he points left) Use the window. (back to his story) No, that's not it. I've never seen Ed drink. All he buys is coffee. There's no brown paper bag.

ALAN

Maybe he's got mental issues.

HENRY

Well, of course he's got mental issues but that's not the point.

ALAN

What is the point? (Henry shoots him a look) No, I'm serious.

HENRY

The point is he looks me in the eye and he says this with such conviction, "You're a scout--"

JOE

Maybe he thinks you're a scout, like in the army. What do they call it?

ALAN

A forward observer.

JOE

Right. Maybe he was a scout himself, a forward observer. Or you remind him of a friend of his.

HENRY

No, no, no. Ed was a Petty Officer in the Navy. I suppose I could remind him of a friend, sure. But that's not the look in his eyes when he says it. It's of something beyond, something greater, something far far away.

ALAN

I think you might be reading too much into this.

BEN

(holds up the joint)

Anybody want some?

ALAN

No.

JOE

I'm good. I'll stick with (holds up his beer).

HENRY

All right. Okay. Fine, Alan. But there's more. Our mail!

Enter Lizzy.

HENRY

Lizzy! Our mail! You know what I'm talking about. She knows what I'm talking about!

Henry waits for her to respond. Ben holds up the joint. Lizzy turns and goes to Ben.

LIZZY

Yes, please.

HENRY

Here's the deal: lately we have been getting an inordinately large number of pieces of mail addressed to "Resident." And it's been getting higher and higher each week.

Just this past week, do you know how many pieces of mail we got addressed to "Resident?"

Henry looks around the room.

ALAN

No idea.

JOE

Forty-seven!

BEN

Sixty-nine?

Ben and Lizzy laugh.

HENRY

Real mature. No. Thirty-three! Thirty-three pieces of mail in one week addressed to "Resident." (Pause) And in the weeks before leading up to that it was twenty-six, nineteen, twelve, and then five, five, five. Different degrees of seven. And I'll bet you next week will be forty which coincides with...

Henry waits for it. He looks to Alan and Joe. They say nothing. He looks to Lizzy and Ben. They say nothing. Henry is excited. Finally,

JOE

Your Birthda--

HENRY

My Birthday! My Fortieth Birthday. Exactly!

ALAN

Henry, that is a massive stretch.

HENRY

All right. Hold on a minute. Hold on.

ALAN

(laughs)

None of this is helping your case. And quite honestly, Henry, I'm over this stunt. 'Cause I know you're waiting to get us all riled up which you love to do--

HENRY

Alan, I'm not, I swear--

ALAN

And then you're gonna pull the rug right out from under us. And we're all gonna feel stupid 'cause you'll get us all so wound up we may even start to believe you but at the end of the day it's just a childish game played to amuse--

HENRY

Dogs! What about Dogs?!

Everyone looks at each other: What?

ALAN

Okay?

Enter Jess.

JOE

(whimsical)

I'd like to get a little dachsund actually.

JESS

A dachsund? Who has dachsunds?

JOE

I don't know--Hey, Honey, are you all right?

JESS

(composed)

I'm fine. And we're not getting a dachsund.

JOE

Okay.

HENRY

Dogs have never liked me. In my entire life--and you know this, Alan. Lizzy, you too. Think about it, any dog I have ever come across, at a party, out on the street, somebody's house: what do they do? Immediately start barking, right at me. Doesn't matter if it's a Golden Retriever, a Poodle, a Chihuahua or a Dachsund (points to Joe) they want nothing to do with me. It's as if dogs sense something is off about me, something is not quite right--to put it bluntly: Dogs don't like me.

LIZZY

Dogs don't like you because you're a weirdo, not because you're an alien.

HENRY

No, I disagree. Dogs have a sense, they have a sixth sense, they can tell about these things.

LIZZY

These are the same creatures who greet each other by sniffing each other's butts, and you're going to tell me that they are able to somehow discern that you are from another planet?

HENRY

It's one more reason--

LIZZY

Dogs? Who chase squirrels. Who think a squeaky toy is God. Who eat their own feces--

Collective "Ewww".

LIZZY

Sorry. Dogs?

HENRY

You have to admit, it's strange.

LIZZY

Maybe the dog community, the dog world just figured out a little sooner than the rest of us that you're a Wacko! (she hits Henry but she's not really into it) You're Nuts! You're Crazy! You're a lunatic,

Alan pulls her away which is easy and she allows. She is more distraught than angry. And a little stoned.

ALAN

All right! All right! That's enough! That's good! Thank you!

LIZZY

Ya Cuckoo Nut Platter!

BEN

Mmm, that sounds delicious.

ALAN

I think we've all had enough: okay, look: you got us. Okay? It was a good one.

JOE

One of your best. Right up there with your Antonio Banderas Halloween.

ALAN

See. Even Joe's admitting and he never does. But now it's time--

BEN

Wait. What was that?

HENRY

It was totally different--

JOE

He dressed up like Antonio Banderas and you spoke only sexy Spanish for what?

LIZZY

(tired)

Three days.

JOE

Three days, yeah. I have to admit it was pretty awesome.

JESS

(blurts it out, it's been a slow boil)

You suck, Henry! You suck! You really suck! You really really suck! Suuuuuuck!!

Pause. All turn and look at her.

ALAN

All right. Thanks, Jess. I think that sums it up...quite...

Seated on the couch, Jess puts up her hand, as Lizzy walks by behind the couch they high five.

BEN

Well, I for one, Henry, think it was a great show. The commitment it takes, you just went for it. That's never easy. I remember back when I played Tony Kirby in You Can't Take It With You for the Gallery Players in Kansas City, Missouri--

HENRY

(quietly)

I got an email.

BEN

(keeps talking about himself)

I actually so submerged myself in the role that--

HENRY

I Got An Email! I Got An Email!

Everyone freezes, turns and looks at Henry.

HENRY

I got this email three days ago. Here's what it says, the final whatever. Here:

(reading off his phone)

You're turning forty, what do you know,

You're turning forty, it's time to go
Back to a place far far away
So get prepared for your big day
It will all happen...on...your...Birth...day.

Henry stops and looks at them. His face says, "Well..."

ALAN

Who sent you that?

HENRY

It's from some address I've never seen before.

ALAN

Can I see it?

Henry hands over his phone to Alan.

LIZZY

What is it?

ALAN

I don't know. It's just some gibberish scrambled together.

HENRY

(to himself, feeling better
about himself)

Exactly.

Henry sits on the couch arm.

LIZZY

Can I see?

Alan hands Henry's phone to Lizzy.

JOE

So who's it from?

ALAN

I don't know.

HENRY

I have no idea.

BEN

All so mysterious.

Lizzy passes Henry's phone to Joe.

JOE

This could be from...

LIZZY

Anybody.

JOE

Exactly. It's probably from like a birthday cake company--

LIZZY

Or Hallmark.

ALAN

Or FTD.

BEN

Or Manhunt.

JOE

It's cryptic and then on your birthday I'm sure they send you another email selling--

LIZZY

Life Insurance.

BEN

Or Car parts.

JESS

Or College Savings Plans.

JOE

(a small strange look toward
Jess)

Yeah. It's simply a weird email.

ALAN

Don't read anything in to it. We all get weird emails all the time.

HENRY

(can't believe it, he's really
getting more and more
exasperated)

Why do you all just dismiss me out of hand?! Why won't you believe me? I realize it sounds crazy. I know it takes real faith, real belief to go out on this ledge with me...But to just (he throws his hand like he's tossing something aside)

LIZZY

You can't just say you're an Alien. You have to really prove it.

HENRY

That's what I'm trying to do.

LIZZY

Well, then you're failing miserably.

HENRY

I wish you guys would all at least give it a chance.

ALAN

Listen to yourself! You actually think just because you say you're an Alien and you have shown--proved--not even coincidences, just weird stuff that happens to you: dogs and emails and Homeless Joe, that we're gonna jump on this bandwagon--

BEN

Hell No.

ALAN

Hell No. Now here's the way I look at this: maybe you're crazy, I don't think you're crazy. Maybe you're right. Sure that's an option. A preposterous option. But still an option nonetheless. Or maybe, and this is more likely: you're scared, for whatever reason, to ask this beautiful woman to marry you--which, by the way, you'd be lucky to have and now, sure, you're my brother but if she dumps your ass out on the street later tonight I wouldn't blame her, in fact, I'd help her.

LIZZY

("raise the roof" hands)

Woop Woop--

JOE

(feels bad for Henry)

Well, now, Alan, hold on--

ALAN

Because this is all gonna turn out to be some stupid sick drawn out Practical Joke that you're playing on all of us to see how far you can get us to go. How far out there until we actually Believe that you're an Alien. And then, Phhhhh. You're gonna pull the rug right out from under us. But may I caution you here, brother. You may find that after that fall, all the king's horses and all the king's men can't put humpty dumpty back together again.

LIZZY

(to Ben)

Did he just call me Humpty Dumpty?

BEN

Only in the nicest way possible, I'm sure.

HENRY

(stands, really beside himself
and having a hard time
expressing himself)

Look, I'm not trying (stops himself, starts again) I'm not
trying--This isn't some Ruse...I'm just...I'm just trying to
get you guys to understand. That's all. Before I go.

JOE

Where are you going?

HENRY

(turns and looks at Joe)

I don't know.

JOE

Why is it on your fortieth birthday?

HENRY

I don't know that either.

ALAN

You don't know much.

HENRY

No, I guess not.

JESS

Do you have any special powers?

HENRY

Special powers?

JESS

Yeah, like you can read people's minds or fly--what's he
doing?

Henry closes his eyes, holds out his
hand, appears in deep concentration.

JESS

Joe, what's he doing?

JOE

I don't know.

LIZZY

Henry, come on, knock it off.

ALAN

(scolding)

Henry,

JOE

Is he actually gonna...

Henry opens his eyes.

HENRY

No, Jess, I don't have any special powers.

JESS

What was that?

HENRY

I was trying to make the couch levitate.

Jess, a knee-jerk reaction, jumps up from off the couch.

JESS

What?!

JOE

Honey, it's all right.

Joe puts his hand on Jess's arm. She sits back down on the couch.

HENRY

Or catch on fire.

JESS

What?!

Knee-jerk, she stands.

HENRY

That didn't work either.

Jess sits back down.

HENRY

Obviously, Jess, I don't have any special powers.

JOE

You know you're a real piss poor Alien.

HENRY

I'm sorry.

JOE

A boring Alien. Frankly, I expected something more.

JESS

(misses it)

Honey, what are you talking about?

JOE

Nothing.

HENRY

All I wanted to do by telling you guys this was to cover my bases. To ensure that if something does happen tomorrow and I'm gone, for whatever reason, at least then you would know that it wasn't completely out of the blue and that I didn't (to Lizzy) run away, and that I'm not Crazy.

Silence. Pause. Finally,

JOE

Well, let's just say for argument's sake that you Are an alien--

JESS

Joe!

JOE

What? I'm saying hypothetically.

ALAN

All right. I'll play this game.

BEN

(claps)

Ooo, fun! I hope we all turn out to be aliens.

LIZZY

Where did You come from?

BEN

A magical place known as Fagotron.

ALAN

Jesus.

BEN

No, Fagotron.

JOE

If you were an alien, why would you not know?

JESS

Honey,

JOE

I know. Why wouldn't they tell you? Why would you be left so completely in the dark?

HENRY

It's a good question.

ALAN
(re: Henry)
Don't encourage him--

HENRY
I don't know. Maybe I'm a forward observer sent here to look around and then report.

JOE
(getting excited at the possibilities)
Maybe they don't tell you because it's easier to blend in if you don't know. You can't accidentally slip up.

HENRY
Could be.

ALAN
Joe, don't allow him the satisfaction of--

JOE
It's all right, Alan, I know. But I'm trying to understand the reasoning behind this. You say you're an alien. Fine. Your proof is flimsy. Okay. So you expect us all to just believe you based on what? Faith? Trust?

HENRY
I can't explain it. There's this feeling I have deep inside of me. Deep down to my core. That I am different. That I am special. That I am not from here.

LIZZY
That's a pretty big jump to make to go from, "I am special" to "I am an Alien!"

ALAN
Right. And everyone is not special, by the way. I know everybody's Mother tells them at some point that they're special, well, that's not true.

BEN
But I'm special.

LIZZY
And so am I.

JESS
Me too!

JOE
Well, I'm definitely not special.

JESS
Joe! How can you say that? You're special.

JOE

(laughs)

No I'm not. I'm a dime a dozen. I'm a VP. There's thousands of guys just like me, doing the same thing every day, thinking the same thoughts, eating the same sandwiches for lunch, taking the same train home in the evening. There is nothing special about anything that I do. We like to think so, but there really isn't.

JESS

What about Madison?

Joe pauses. Alan jumps in and saves him.

ALAN

She's special.

JOE

Yes, of course she's special.

LIZZY

(knee-jerk, under her breath
but too loud still)

She definitely has a special name.

JESS

Yes, she does have a special name. A beautiful name.

LIZZY

No, I know. You're right. I didn't mean it in any way.

JESS

Madison is a beautiful name.

JOE

Sure it is.

BEN

Absolutely.

LIZZY

All I'm saying is, it's not Sarah.

JESS

Of course it's not Sarah. How boring a name is Sarah? You know how many Sarahs there are in the world?

LIZZY

There's a lot of Jessicas too.

JESS

Yes. Yes there are. (to Joe). No, Honey, it's okay.
(returning to Lizzy) And I wanted (with emphasis) Madison to
be special and Madison is a special name.

HENRY

I thought we already concluded that she's not special.
Everybody can't be special.

JESS

What?! Henry! Take that back!

HENRY

What? Why? Look, Joe's right. I realize, buddy, you can't
join me on this side of the fence right now because you need
to keep your testicles intact, but none of us are special.
And I realize this is gonna sound arrogant and self-serving
but I will say that if I turn out to be an Alien...yeah, then
I'm special. Sorry. Alien equals special.

JOE

I would agree with that.

JESS

You're just gonna let him insult our daughter like this?

JOE

Oh, come on, Honey, I love Madison, but it's a pretentious
name.

Jess's head is about to explode. Alan,
Lizzy, and Ben can't believe he walked
right into that and said something so
stupid.

JESS

(stands, calmly)

Madison is a beautiful name for a beautiful girl whose Father
just happens to be a Moron!!

Jess storms off left, then returns.

JESS

Oh, and Henry, you're not an Alien, you're just an Asshole!

Jess exits left.

LIZZY

(struggling with words, can't
believe what he just did, to
Joe)

What? Ugh...Er...Are you Insane?

JOE

I know! It just came out. I wasn't thinking.

ALAN

You can't ever...She's the Mother...Arrrhhh!!

JOE

I know! I know!

BEN

That said, it is a pretentious name.

LIZZY

Ben! I swear to God--

ALAN

Babe! Now is not the time--

HENRY

(calmly)

I think maybe the best way to look at this is that all children are special but then all adults are for the most part the same. Just different molds and types that you can't change even if you want to. We're all just types. Even you, Ben. You seem very original but there's hundreds, if not thousands, just like you spread out all over the country and all over the world.

BEN

You might be the only Special one here, Henry. But may I remind you special can also mean Retarded.

JOE

What do I do?

ALAN

Go after her!

LIZZY

(like a coach)

Get in there and I want to hear Specials, I want to hear Uniques, throw in an Extraordinary, a--

BEN

An Exceptional!

LIZZY

Right!

ALAN

Exquisite!

LIZZY

Yes, Exactly!

BEN

Precious!

LIZZY

Great!

ALAN

Elegant!

LIZZY

Fantastic!

JOE

Rare?

LIZZY

Sure!

HENRY

Out of this World.

Their four heads turn and look at Henry. A beat.

BEN

Come on, now Go!

ALAN

Go!

LIZZY

Get in there, boy! Let's move!

BEN

Make it happen!

ALAN

Up! Up! Positive!

LIZZY

Oh, Joe?

JOE

Yeah?

Joe is almost out the left corridor, he turns back. Lizzy grabs his head.

LIZZY

No matter what happens in there: tears, anger, I don't care if you get punched, kicked--

BEN

Slapped--

LIZZY

Slapped--

BEN

(to Alan, feels his look)

What?

LIZZY

Remember this one thing and don't you forget it.

JOE

Okay?

LIZZY

You are a Man, a living breathing virile Man, but you came out of a Woman. A crazy brilliant unpredictable Woman. And when all else fails remember this one thing: that that crazy genius fucked up Woman--

JOE

(hanging on her word)

Yes?

LIZZY

Is Always Right. Now go get 'em, Tiger!

Joe exits left. Lizzy washes her hands of her work.

BEN

(re: Lizzy's strength)

That even got me a little turned on.

LIZZY

Benji, wine me.

BEN

Yes, Ma'am.

Ben goes and pours her more Riesling.

ALAN

(to Henry)

How long do you plan on keeping this going?

HENRY

I'm not kidding, Alan.

ALAN

We're gonna have to have you committed. That's the only way. Is that what you want?

HENRY

Nobody's committing anybody.

LIZZY

Why start committing to something now. Whoa! Bam!

HENRY

It's not my--(stops himself) I realize You--(stops) You're all having--(stops)

LIZZY

What's that? I didn't hear you. I thought you were about to say, it's not my fault. Is that what you heard?

BEN

That's where I thought it was going.

LIZZY

Not your fault. Then whose fault is it?

HENRY

Nobodies.

LIZZY

No one. Nobodies fault. But that doesn't make any sense. Alan, how long have you two been together?

ALAN

What?

LIZZY

How long have you and Ben been an item?

ALAN

I don't see how that--

BEN

Sixty-seven days. Tomorrow will be sixty-eight, and you may get a special present if we make it through this night in one piece.

LIZZY

What's the present?

BEN

(to Lizzy)

I was thinking I was gonna let him buy himself a new tie from me because I'm kind of over that one.

ALAN

You just don't like normal ties.

BEN

(to Lizzy)

I don't like Boring ties.

LIZZY

So it's been about two months.

BEN

(dramatic)

Feels like two days.

ALAN

(under his breath)

Two years.

BEN

What was that? How dare you. Every day with me is a Gift.

ALAN

I'll take the tie.

BEN

(fake taken aback)

Those words are like daggers in my big beautiful heart.

ALAN

(to Lizzy)

It's been a couple months, yes. Why do you ask?

HENRY

Because we've been together for six years. That's why she asks!

LIZZY

Six years, four months, and twenty-two days!!

BEN

(under his breath, to Alan)

Thought I was the drama queen.

LIZZY

Zip it, Sister. Two months. Let me ask you a question, Alan.

ALAN

Yes.

LIZZY

Would it ever in a million years cross your mind to play a Prank, a long elaborate Trick, on the day you were going to ask for someone's hand in marriage? Could you ever be that cruel? That selfish? That--

HENRY

Mean--

LIZZY

Mean?

Henry and Lizzy look at each other.

HENRY & LIZZY

(at the same time)

Mean what you say and say what you mean.

Lizzy and Henry stare each other down.

BEN

(whispered to Alan)

What is happening? Is this some sort of straight people foreplay?

ALAN

(ignoring Ben)

Hey, guys...

Lizzy and Henry look at each other. It is the first time all night that they have really looked each other in the eyes for an extended period of time.

LIZZY

(stern)

Tell me it's a joke...and I might let you live.

Henry keeps looking at her.

LIZZY

Tell me that you're kidding around...that you love me...and I might let you keep your testicles.

BEN

(Ooo face)

You better fess up, Henry. Them's your balls.

Henry keeps looking at Lizzy.

LIZZY

Tell me...

Tell me...

HENRY

I wish I could...I'm not...

Lizzy slowly loses it, runs over and beats on Henry, his chest, etc. He doesn't fight back.

LIZZY

You Asshole! I hate you! I hate you so much! Why are you doing this?! Why?! Don't you care, at All?!

Alan moves in and pulls her away from Henry. Ben comforts Henry by putting his hands on Henry's shoulders.

HENRY

Lizzy, Lizzy, please,

ALAN

Come on, come on,

Alan sits Lizzy down on the couch.

ALAN

It's all right, Lizzy.

Alan goes over to Henry.

HENRY

Alan, I'm not trying t--

Alan slaps Henry hard across the face, much harder than anything Lizzy or Jess did to him.

ALAN

Snap out of it!

HENRY

Ow! Alan!

ALAN

This beautiful woman over here loves you, you idiot! Stop being a baby! Stop playing these foolish games and snap out of it! 'Cause Brother, you're never gonna find one better than her. She is the real deal. And I love her. I do. (really realizing it for the first time) I really love you, Lizzy.

LIZZY

I love you too, Alan.

BEN

(wiping away a tear)

I love both of you so much! (to Henry) You, you're on my shit list.

ALAN

Come on, Henry, please. Enough's enough. It's your birthday. This should be your engagement party. We should be celebrating. So, come on. End this whole charade right now. All will be forgiven. Come on, let's go.

Hold on Henry. Silence.

HENRY

Lizzy, you know how much I care about you. More than anyone. And I would never do anything to deliberately hurt you. I would like to marry you more than anything in the world. It's exactly what should happen. You and me together, supporting each other, caring for each other, loving each other. And I feel that with my whole being. I believe that. But there is something else I believe too and, hold on, let me finish. I believe that I'm an alien. I really do. And because I believe that there's no way you can accept me with that. Right? Why can't you just believe me? All I'm asking is that you all take a chance. Can you believe me? Can you?

LIZZY

I can't.

ALAN

You shouldn't have to. This joke's been taken far enough, Henry.

HENRY

(he loses it)

For The Last Time, Alan! I AM NOT JOKING! I'M AN ALIEN!! AND YOU SHOULD BELIEVE ME!!! YOU'RE MY BROTHER AND I LOVE YOU VERY MUCH BUT YOU'RE MAKING THIS WAY TOO DIFFICULT!

Enter Jess and Joe timidly, they have reconciled.

JOE

I think we're gonna go.

HENRY

(switches to light)

What about dinner at Yayo?

JOE

I think we're gonna take a raincheck on that. Right, Honey?

JESS

(to Henry)

You are a crazy deranged psychotic stupid dumb poop head. And you're probably on drugs. I'm sorry, Lizzy.

LIZZY

It's okay.

JOE

We'll just (he grabs the pink ladybug from off the couch) Thanks for...We'll see you...around. Or whenever. Whatever. You know what I mean.

JESS

(to Lizzy) Bye, Lizzy. (to Ben) It was nice meeting you. (to Alan) Bye, Alan, see you soon. (She notices the cigar tubes in Joe's shirt pocket. She snatches them) (to Henry) But not you. Ever! (She throws the cigar tubes at Henry) Psycho--

JOE

(fast)

Happy birthday--

Joe shuts the front door. Joe and Jess are gone.

ALAN

Nice job, Henry. Are you satisfied? Now that you've scared away your best friend and his sweet wife.

Henry picks up the cigars from off the floor.

LIZZY

She's kind of a superficial class-climbing bitch.

BEN

You're totally right. I didn't want to say that but I'm glad You did.

ALAN

So what are we supposed to do now?

HENRY

I'd still love to go to Yayo. Their chorizo is--

ALAN

We're not still going out to dinner, you moron! What are we going to do about you?

HENRY

You could believe me.

LIZZY

Ha!

BEN

I'm trying, Henry. Really, I am. I try to encourage all things original and unique.

HENRY

But?

BEN

I think you're (sing-songy) cuckoo. (he sees Lizzy's reaction) Or something was dropped on your head. Like a piano or an anvil. Did you fall down?

HENRY

No--

ALAN

How am I--

LIZZY

How are we--

ALAN

No, I'm sorry,

LIZZY

No,

ALAN

You go ahead.

LIZZY

How are we to accept that you're an alien? How? Explain to me how.

HENRY

I guess it comes down to faith. What do you believe inside. Are you capable of accepting this.

LIZZY

You mean, am I crazy?

HENRY

No. I mean how far are you willing to go? How far can you believe? I realize it's hard.

LIZZY

(sarcastic)

Oh, thanks.

ALAN

You're basically saying if we can accept things like Jesus or Santa Clause or God, why not this?

BEN

I don't believe in God.

ALAN

No?

HENRY

Do you believe in aliens?

BEN

Yes, I do. As self-centered as I am, I still think it doesn't all revolve around me. There must be something else out there.

HENRY

Then why not accept me? How do you know I'm lying?

BEN

I don't, darling. But even if you are an alien, it doesn't really effect me (he takes a drink, realizes, to Lizzy, then Alan) I'm sorry. I didn't mean--

ALAN

It's okay.

BEN

Of course it effects me. (looking at Alan) I care very much about...Shit...I came here expecting a quiet little engagement party, not gods and aliens and--my mind wasn't prepared for this!

ALAN

It's all right.

BEN

I'm all for fun party games, Henry, but this is just ridiculous.

HENRY

Sorry.

LIZZY

(turns venomous)

Don't you apologize! You don't get to apologize! Ever!

HENRY

All right.

ALAN

Lizzy, hey. Lizzy, hey. Take it easy.

BEN

I'm gonna go for a walk. Lizzy, what do you say? You want to go for a walk with me? Get some air.

LIZZY

(stays focused on Henry)

Is that all it is, just a game to you? People's emotions? Life? How can you be so selfish?

HENRY

Lizzy--

LIZZY

You know what the Crazy thing is, Hen-ry? I was super excited for you to ask me to marry you. All the other bullshit stuff aside: money, jobs, friends, taxes, whatever.

I was excited for you to ask me, to want me. 'Cause I know you care about me--

HENRY

Lizzy--

LIZZY

You just go about it in strange ways sometimes. Well, this...This takes the cake. And if you think this is some sort of elaborate setup to make us stronger down the line, together. I'm telling you right now, you're wrong. Dead wrong. You can't undo this. (she hopes it to be, she'd still forgive him) You can't take this back. You've gone too far. You can't brush it off as a big dumb stupid...

Silence. Henry and Lizzy look at each other. Then Lizzy looks to her hands. Is Henry going to jump out of it and say he's only kidding?

HENRY

Do you believe in aliens? Do you believe there's life someplace else?

LIZZY

(wipes away tears)

Yes.

Silence.

HENRY

I'm not joking.

LIZZY

I gotta get out of here. I just have to go, somewhere, someplace, anywhere, but not...here.

BEN

Come on, I'll go with you.

LIZZY

(frazzled)

Okay. All right. Great. Thanks.

BEN

(to Alan)

I got it.

ALAN

(mouths: Thank you)

LIZZY

(at the front door, turns back)

Henry,

HENRY

Yes?

LIZZY

I believe...you screwed up something that was almost perfect. And you did it deliberately. That's not blind faith. That's not being a believer. That's just plain stupid.

Lizzy leaves with Ben following. Ben shuts the front door.

ALAN

You've gotta give me something here, brother. You've got to throw me a line. 'Cause right here, from my side of the room, I'm having a really hard time. (pause) Where do we go from here?

HENRY

I keep thinking back to that first year of college, freshman year, your freshman year. Do you know what I mean?

ALAN

Not really.

HENRY

It was right during Thanksgiving break, your Freshman year, my Senior year and we were both home.

ALAN

I remember.

HENRY

And I recall it all very vividly, and I'm sure you do too.

ALAN

Sure.

HENRY

It was later that night after everybody had gorged on turkey, watched some football, then went back for seconds, so everybody was passed out all around the house in varying degrees of turkey comas.

ALAN

Don't forget the stuffing.

HENRY

Delicious, always. You make a great stuffing.

ALAN

From scratch.

HENRY

I know! We were out on the back porch drinking some beers and smoking.

ALAN

God, remember when we used to smoke. We were so young.

HENRY

Yeah. And you told me you had something important to tell me. And then you told me. And do you remember what you said?

ALAN

Of course. I said, I know.

HENRY

And I, being your wiser older brother responded, "Well, how do you know? How can you know for sure?! How do you just know!?"

ALAN

And I told you everything has been leading up to this point and now I know and I feel much better that now I can share this and let you all...know.

Henry and Alan share a look.

HENRY

How does anyone know who they love? It just happens. (he snaps his fingers) You know. Sure, different signs lead up to it, different feelings, but at the end of the day, you just know. I know that there's a God. And I know that I love Lizzy. And I know that I'm not from here. These are things I know. In here.(he touches his chest) You can accept them. You can accept me, right here, for who I am, who I'm saying I am. Or, you might regret it.

Pause. Silence.

ALAN

(after thinking)

Last chance to pull out the rug.

HENRY

I don't even own a rug.

Alan looks around. Henry looks around.

ALAN

It's true, you don't. Why don't you have a rug in here? Why didn't Lizzy buy a rug?

HENRY

I don't know.

ALAN

It's a very important question, Henry. A rug in here could change this whole room. It could change the whole way we look at things.

HENRY

(he puts his hands in his pockets)

Or it might just look nice.

ALAN

That's also true.

Henry pulls his hands out and discovers a lottery ticket he bought for Alan from earlier at the bodega.

HENRY

Oh, right. You weren't here yet. I picked up a few little presents for everybody before you got here. Lizzy got the flowers (he points to the small bouquet), Joe got cigars, Madison got the ladybug, and I got this for you.

Henry hands it to Alan.

ALAN

(looks at it)

A lottery ticket?

HENRY

Yeah! You never know. You might get lucky. The numbers'll be tomorrow on my birthday so who knows.

ALAN

Okay. Thanks.

HENRY

Ya gotta be in it to win it, Bro!

ALAN

(not as enthused)

Right.

HENRY

Can we please still go to Yayo? I'm starving. This could be my last meal.

ALAN

I can't believe I'm considering this.

HENRY

Please!

ALAN

(mulls it over, then,)

Oh, what the hell. I have to eat at some point.

They quickly gather up jackets and
keys, etc and head for the door.

ALAN

So how do you think this works?

HENRY

What's that?

ALAN

Do you think they beam you up? Or come get you?

HENRY

Honestly I have no idea. But I'm excited, (Henry walks out
the open front door, then he turns back to Alan) and scared.

ALAN

(as he closes the door)

Me too.

The front door shuts. Blackout.

SCENE 2.

Lights up. The next morning. Alan has slept on the couch. He wakes up fast, looks around in a panic (perhaps he had a nightmare), realizes where he is, that everything is fine, sighs.

He gets up, walks over to the kitchen and makes coffee. He opens the refrigerator and pours himself a glass of Orange Juice and drinks.

Enter Henry from the bedroom. He is sleepy, dazed, he yawns.

ALAN

(sees Henry stagger in)

Good morning.

HENRY

Good morning.

Henry goes and sits on the couch, dead center.

ALAN

You're still here.

HENRY

I'm still here.

ALAN

You want some OJ? I'm making coffee.

HENRY

I want some OJ.

Alan pours Henry a glass of OJ.

ALAN

Happy birthday.

Henry accepts the glass and drinks.

ALAN

The big four o. And you're still here...So now that it seems you're not going anywhere, what is your plan with Lizzy? I would advise it's going to have to be something big. Because, brother, you really screwed things up royally last night.

HENRY

What would you do, brother?

Alan looks at him a moment. It was a strange usage of "brother".

ALAN

I would say it was all the fear of your fortieth birthday that got in the way. That you weren't thinking clearly. Which you obviously weren't. That you are an idiot. Grovel, beg, weep. Whatever it takes, Henry, that's what you've got to do, because she's a great girl and you have to make this right right now. Immediately. You have to ask her to marry you and you have to do it with complete honesty and vulnerability. And you have to let her know how much she means to you, that you can't live without her, it has to be from the heart and it was to work. Because, I'm telling you, if you don't fix this she's not coming back, she'll be gone--

Enter Lizzy through the front door.

ALAN

For good.

LIZZY

Good morning, Alan.

ALAN

Good morning, Lizzy.

HENRY

(under his breath)

Lizzy...

Henry puts his glass down on the coffee table, rises from the couch and walks around the right side of the couch, following Lizzy as she moves left.

LIZZY

I came to get some of my things--

They wind up left, in the open space between the couch and chair.

HENRY

(like flicking on a switch of emotion)

Oh, Lizzy! Oh, God! I'm forty years old today and I'm so full of fears! I wasn't thinking clearly at all last night. I'm an idiot. I'm down here grovelling at your feet! (Lizzy starts out surprised, then skeptical, then slowly...) I beg of you! Look at me, I'm weeping! Whatever it takes to win you back, I will do. You are Great and I want this to be right, right now. Lizzy, will you marry me? This is me being honest and vulnerable. You mean so much to me. I can't live without you! This is from my heart. It has to work.

Henry is down on the floor on his knees. Lizzy is coming around.

LIZZY

What about all that stuff last night?

HENRY

(thinks, then)

I really screwed things up royally last night.

LIZZY

You were an idiot.

HENRY

I was an Idiot!

Lizzy thinks.

LIZZY

You'll never pull that sort of stunt again?

HENRY

I will never pull that sort of stunt again.

Lizzy thinks.

LIZZY

Tell me you love me.

HENRY

I love you.

LIZZY

Tell me I'm beautiful.

HENRY

You're beautiful.

Lizzy thinks. Alan is starting to wonder...to himself...

LIZZY

Ask me again.

HENRY

Lizzy,

LIZZY

Elisabeth,

HENRY

Elisabeth, will you marry me?

She pauses, then...

LIZZY

Yes! Yes, I will marry you.

They kiss: Lizzy starts out leading it, then Henry becomes more forceful. They break from the kiss, then hug, then pull out of the hug and look at each other. Henry smiles sheepishly.

LIZZY

Where's the ring?

Henry doesn't have a ring. He looks to Alan, his face pleading for help.

HENRY

(to Alan)

Where's the ring?

Alan is stunned for a second, then he snaps out of it.

ALAN

(covering for Henry, pats down his pockets out of habit)

Oh, shit. You know what, Lizzy? I forgot it. This is totally my fault. It's at my place. I'm just...I'm gonna go get it... right...now.

Alan frantically throws on his shoes and jacket, etc.

LIZZY

It's okay.

ALAN

No, I'm gonna go and get it. The ring. Right...

LIZZY

(to Henry)

As long as I know how you really feel. That's all that matters to me.

Henry smiles at Lizzy. They move in and kiss. Alan is still wondering...

As he gathers up the last of his stuff, Alan watches Henry and Lizzy move to the couch and sit. They look at each other lovingly. Alan stops at the front door with it half open.

ALAN

Uh, Henry?

HENRY

(keeps his eyes locked with
Lizzy's)

Yes, Alan?

Alan almost asks a question but sees Lizzy's happy face and can't bring himself to.

ALAN

Nothing. I'll see you guys soon.

Alan is gone. He shuts the door.

HENRY

See you soon...

Lizzy and Henry kiss.

Slow Fade to Black.