

ELLEN

"The Dentist"

Written by
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Directed by
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PLEASE NOTE: THIS IS NOT A COMPLETE SCRIPT

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FINAL DRAFT
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"The Dentist"
(#C315)

CAST LIST

ELLEN	ELLEN DEGENERES
ADAM	ARYE GROSS
PAIGE	JOELY FISHER
JOE	DAVE HIGGINS
JOANNA	ANDREA PARKER
DAVE	HARLEY VENTON
WAITRESS	BLAIRE BARON
SARAH	MARTHA THOMPSON
ROMANTIC GUY	BRIAN McGOVERN *
PRETTY GIRL	ALICIA ANNE *
DR. GARBER	ROBERT GRANT *

August 11, 1994

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SET LIST

COLD OPENING (1) - INT. APARTMENT - MORNING (DAY 1)

ACT ONE

SCENE A (2) - INT. POOL HALL - NIGHT (NIGHT 2)

SCENE B (9) - INT. DENTIST'S OFFICE - THE NEXT DAY (DAY 3)

SCENE C (12) - INT. BUY THE BOOK - A FEW DAYS LATER (DAY 4)

ACT TWO

SCENE D (20) - INT. APARTMENT - A FEW DAYS LATER (DAY 5)

SCENE E (25) - INT. DENTIST'S OFFICE - LATER

SCENE H (29) - INT. POOL HALL - THAT NIGHT

SCENE HH (33A) - INT. APARTMENT - LATER

SCENE J (34) - INT. DENTIST'S OFFICE - A WEEK LATER (DAY 6)

SCENE K (37) - INT. BUY THE BOOK - LATER THAT DAY

TAG 1 (43) - *** SCENE DELETED ***

TAG 2 (44) - INT. POOL HALL - ANOTHER NIGHT (NIGHT 7)

SFX

A LOUD WHIRRING (1)
FAINT TV SOUNDS (24)
DENTIST'S DRILL (36)

August 11, 1994

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SHORT RUNDOWN

COLD OPENING INT. APARTMENT - MORNING (DAY 1) (Ellen, Adam)	(1)			
<u>ACT ONE</u>				
SCENE A INT. POOL HALL - NIGHT (NIGHT 2) (Ellen, Adam, Paige, Joanna, Waitress, Extras)	(2)			
SCENE B INT. DENTIST'S OFFICE - THE NEXT DAY (DAY 3) (Ellen, Dave, Sarah)	(9)			
SCENE C INT. BUY THE BOOK - A FEW DAYS LATER (DAY 4) (Ellen, Adam, Paige, Joe, Joanna, Extras)	(12)			
<u>ACT TWO</u>				
SCENE D INT. APARTMENT - A FEW DAYS LATER (DAY 5) (Ellen, Adam, Paige)	(20)			
SCENE E INT. DENTIST'S OFFICE - LATER (Ellen, Dave, Sarah)	(25)			
SCENE H INT. POOL HALL - THAT NIGHT (Adam, Waitress, Pretty Girl, Romantic Guy, Extras)	(29)			
SCENE HH INT. APARTMENT - LATER (Ellen, Adam, Paige)	(33A)			
SCENE J INT. DENTIST'S OFFICE - A WEEK LATER (DAY 6) (Ellen, Dave, Sarah)	(34)			
SCENE K INT. BUY THE BOOK - LATER THAT DAY (Ellen, Adam, Joe, Joanna, Extras)	(37)			
TAG 1 *** THIS SCENE HAS BEEN DELETED ***				
TAG 2 INT. POOL HALL - ANOTHER NIGHT (NIGHT 7) (Ellen, Adam, Paige, Extras)	(44)			

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COLD OPENING

FADE IN:

INT. APARTMENT - MORNING (DAY 1)
(Ellen, Adam)

ELLEN STANDS AT THE ISLAND WORKING AN ELECTRIC JUICER. A SMALL PILE OF ALREADY-SQUEEZED ORANGE HALVES IS ON THE COUNTER. ELLEN REALLY LEANS INTO ANOTHER ORANGE ON THE JUICER.

SEX: A LOUD WHIRRING

SHE DISCARDS THE ORANGE HALF AND MOPS HER BROW. SHE PULLS OUT THE JUICE TRAY AND POURS IT INTO A GLASS, PRODUCING ONLY AN INCH OF JUICE. SHE SIGHS AND, WITH DETERMINATION, SLICES ANOTHER ORANGE AND BEGINS JUICING AGAIN.

DISSOLVE TO:

ELLEN, DRENCHED IN SWEAT, IS STILL JUICING. THE COUNTER TOP IS COVERED WITH SQUEEZED ORANGE HALVES. SHE FINISHES THE LAST ORANGE, ADDS IT TO THE PILE, AND, AGAIN, PULLS OUT THE TRAY. THIS TIME SHE FILLS THE GLASS TO THE TOP.

ELLEN SCOOPS ALL THE ORANGES INTO A GARBAGE BAG, HOISTS IT OVER HER SHOULDER LIKE SANTA CLAUS, AND CARRIES IT OUT TO THE HALLWAY.

JUST THEN, ADAM, LOOKING SLEEPY, ENTERS FROM THE BEDROOM. HE SPOTS THE ORANGE JUICE.

ADAM

(BRIGHTLY) Hey, orange juice...

HE PICKS UP THE GLASS, DRINKS IT ALL DOWN, AND EXITS. ELLEN RE-ENTERS AND SPOTS THE EMPTY GLASS. AS ELLEN SCREAMS, WE:

FADE OUT.

END OF COLD OPEN

ACT ONE

A

FADE IN:

INT. POOL HALL - NIGHT (NIGHT 2)
(Ellen, Adam, Paige, Joanna, Waitress, Extras)

ELLEN, PAIGE, ADAM, AND JOANNA, HIS PLEASANT AND ATTRACTIVE GIRLFRIEND OF THE LAST FEW WEEKS, ARE SHOOTING POOL. ADAM HAS HIS ARM AROUND JOANNA.

ELLEN

(TO JOANNA) So I figured, I have next to no money in the bank, zero credit, and three-thousand dollars left on a college loan. I know! What I should really do is buy a bookstore.

JOANNA

Well, you always said you were going to be your own boss someday.

ELLEN

And now I am. I'm also my own employee. You should see me suck up to myself. Something to see.

PAIGE

Ellen, you're up.

ELLEN

All right, step aside.

SHE TAKES AIM AT THE CUE BALL.

ADAM

Gotta call your shot.

ELLEN

Okay. I'll call it "Mayhem on
Felt."

ELLEN LINES UP AND LASHES OUT WITH HER CUE. THE BALLS GO
EVERYWHERE. ELLEN WATCHES AND ROOTS FOR SOMETHING TO DROP.
NOTHING DOES.

ELLEN (CONT'D)

Perfect.

JOANNA

(LAUGHS) How about another round
of beers?

THEY AD-LIB AGREEMENT. JOANNA KISSES ADAM. *

PAIGE *

Eewww, someone's kissing Adam.

JOANNA EXITS. *

PAIGE (CONT'D) *

Seriously, you guys seem really
great together.

ADAM

Thank you.

ELLEN

Isn't there someone else you should
be thanking?

ADAM

Yes, Ellen. Thanks. Thanks again.
For the millionth time, thank you
for setting us up.

ELLEN

Oh, please. There's nothing more
satisfying than bringing people
together. If only the whole world
could follow my example. Instead
of man making war against his
fellow man, he'd fix up his fellow
man with a lonely fellow man
friend. The whole Middle East
would be one big mixer.

A WAITRESS APPROACHES THE TABLE.

WAITRESS

(TO ADAM) Hey, cutie. Can I get
you anything?

ADAM

Thanks, my girlfriend just went up
to the bar.

WAITRESS

(MOCK-CRUSHED) Girlfriend? How
come the good ones are always
taken?

THE WAITRESS LEAVES.

ELLEN *

That waitress was flirting with
you.

ADAM

Really? Nah.

PAIGE *

She was. You know, it's weird, but
I've noticed that lately you're...
almost... attractive.

ADAM *

(BEAMING) Really? Almost
attractive? Wow. *

ELLEN

Adam, the reason you're almost
attractive lately is because you're
happier and more confident. And
the reason you're happier and more
confident is because you're dating
Joanna. And the reason you're
dating Joanna...?

ELLEN INDICATES HERSELF.

ADAM

Thank you, Ellen.

ELLEN

Stop it.

JOANNA RETURNS WITH THE BEERS; THEY ALL GRAB ONE.

JOANNA

Sorry that took so long. Did you
miss me?

ADAM

Terribly.

ELLEN

Rack 'em up, Paige. Seven more
wins and we're even.

ELLEN STRUGGLES WITH HER TWIST-OFF BEER BOTTLE. IT'S TOO
SLIPPERY TO OPEN, SO SHE TRIES TO USE HER TEETH. THIS IS A
MISTAKE.

ELLEN (CONT'D)

Ow!!

ADAM

What's wrong?

ELLEN

(FEELING IN HER MOUTH) Oh, it's nothing. Just a little... okay, maybe not so little-- huge, really, chip off my tooth.

PAIGE

(LOOKING IN ELLEN'S MOUTH) Ellen, you need to see a dentist.

ELLEN

I don't have one.

PAIGE

Then I'll set you up with mine. He's great. And the best part is, he's cute.

ELLEN

(WITH FINGER IN HER MOUTH, PROBING TOOTH) Cute? Who cares if he's cute. I just want someone to fix my tooth. (BEAT) How cute?

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CUT TO:

B

INT. DENTIST'S OFFICE - THE NEXT DAY (DAY 3)
(Ellen, Dave, Sarah)

ELLEN IS RECLINED IN THE DENTIST'S CHAIR, TAKING IN HER SURROUNDINGS. SHE NOTICES THE BUTTONS ON THE CONSOLE IN FRONT OF THE CHAIR. SHE TRIES TO CONTROL HER CURIOSITY, BUT CAN'T RESIST FINALLY PUSHING ONE BUTTON, THEN PUSHING ALL THE BUTTONS. *

DAVE, THE DENTIST, AN AFFABLE AND HANDSOME, THIRTY-SOMETHING MAN, AND HIS HYGIENIST, SARAH ENTER. HE APPROACHES THE CHAIR AND EXTENDS HIS HAND. ELLEN IS STRICKEN BY HIS GOOD LOOKS. *

DAVE

Hi, Ellen? Dave Ellis.

ELLEN

Hi. Just Dave, huh? Not "Doctor" Ellis?

DAVE

No, no. I never went in for "Doctor." Too formal for me.

ELLEN

Well, I hope the actual study of dentistry wasn't too formal for you.

DAVE

Not to worry. (INDICATING DIPLOMA)

I got my degree.

ELLEN

Oh, I'm not worried. Paige told me you were a great dentist and also very... un-dentist-like.

DAVE

I'll take that as a compliment.

ELLEN

Whatever.

DAVE

Now, let's have a look at that tooth, shall we?

ELLEN FLASHES THE SORT OF DEMURE SMILE ONE MIGHT OFFER A PHOTOGRAPHER.

DAVE (CONT'D)

Very nice smile.

ELLEN

Thank you..

DAVE

But I'd like to see the chipped tooth; let's open wide.

ELLEN OPENS A BIT WIDER.

DAVE (CONT'D)

Really, really wide.

ELLEN OPENS HER MOUTH REALLY WIDE. DAVE PROBES IN HER MOUTH WITH AN INSTRUMENT.

DAVE (CONT'D)

Hmmm. Do you floss?

ELLEN

Oh, religiously. You know, on
Easter and Christmas. Yom Kippur,
Rosh--

DAVE DEFTLY CUTS HER OFF BY BEGINNING THE DENTAL EXAM.

DAVE

You have a little decay in there.
I'd like to do some x-rays. Then
I'll have to clean it out and put
on a crown. It'll probably take a
couple of visits.

ELLEN

Two visits? Whew, aren't we
rushing things a little, Dave?
Let's just try that first visit,
see how that goes, take it from
there.

A BEAT OF BEWILDERED SILENCE. DAVE SQUIRTS SOME WATER IN ELLEN'S
MOUTH.

DAVE

You can spit now.

ELLEN MODESTLY DECLINES, SHAKING HER HEAD AND SMILING POLITELY,
AS WE: *

DISSOLVE TO:

C

INT. BUY THE BOOK - A FEW DAYS LATER (DAY 4)
(Ellen, Adam, Paige, Joe, Joanna, Extras)

ELLEN IS AT HER COUNTER WITH PAIGE.

PAIGE

So, was that a cute dentist, or was
that a cute dentist?

ELLEN

Yes, Paige, he is now my cutest
health care provider.

PAIGE

So, are you going to ask him out?

ELLEN

No, of course not. (DISGUSTED) He
had his hands in my mouth.

PAIGE

So you've already broken the ice.
This'll be easy. Set up a late
afternoon appointment. Then
afterwards, you suggest going out
for a drink.

ELLEN

Great, my mouth will be numb, wine
will be dribbling down my chin.
It's a very good look for me.

PAIGE

Ellen, I have to go. But I'm
telling you, life is short. Carpe
dentist.

PAIGE EXITS.

ELLEN

"Seize the dentist"?

ADAM AND JOANNA ENTER. ADAM IS CARRYING SOME TRAVEL BROCHURES.
THEY AD-LIB HELLOS.

ELLEN (CONT'D)

Hey, guys. How was the beach?

ADAM

Okay.

JOANNA

It was great. We ate lunch out on
the boardwalk. (TO JOE) Listen,
could I get some change for the
meter?

JOE

You gotta buy something.

JOANNA

Really? (THEN, TAKING OUT A
DOLLAR) Okay, I'll take a couple
of biscotti.

JOE

Comes to one dollar even.

ELLEN

He does that all the time.

ELLEN HANDS JOANNA SOME CHANGE.

JOANNA

Thanks, I'll be right back. Adam,
tell her about Santa Barbara.

JOANNA LEAVES.

ELLEN

You're going to Santa Barbara?

ADAM

I'm not going anywhere. Ellen, I'm going crazy. I can't take it another minute.

ELLEN

What?!

ADAM

I'm completely stifled. If it's not let's play pool, it's let's go to the beach, let's go to Santa Barbara for the weekend.

ELLEN

Well, clearly the woman is a sadist.

ADAM

I want to be free to pursue other options.

ELLEN

What options? Before Joanna, you spent your weekends sorting laundry.

ADAM

Not anymore. Like this woman at my photo lab. In five years, she's never given me the time of day. Until today.

ELLEN

What happened?

ADAM

Well... she gave me the time. But it was the way she said it. Like I have the time for you, but too bad you don't have the time for me because you're stuck in a relationship.

ELLEN

Are you sure it wasn't I have the time, but is it enough time to call the men with the big butterfly nets to haul you away? Why are you doing this?

ADAM

You wouldn't understand. It's a guy thing.

JOE STEPS IN.

JOE

Adam's right. It is, in fact, the most primal of guy things. Our survival instinct dictates that we find as many mates as possible to insure the propagation of our genes.

ADAM

That's exactly it. I want to propagate my genes.

JOE

Of course you do. We still possess the primitive instincts of our hunter-gatherer ancestors. It's virtually impossible to remain monogamous.

ADAM

So you think I should break up with Joanna?

JOE

Joanna? The one that just left? What are you, an idiot?! She's gorgeous! Marry her! Marry her, then stay with her until you die!

JOE MOVES OFF.

ELLEN

You heard him.

ADAM

But I want to hunt and gather. You know, play the field. You said yourself, I'm more attractive lately.

ELLEN

I told you, that's because of Joanna. Before her, you never got dates.

ADAM

I admit, I've had a couple of dry spells.

ELLEN

Decades. They're called decades. Adam, seriously, don't do this. She's a good friend of mine and she's great for you.

ADAM

No. I want out, and the only way to deal with this problem is to face it head on. (SPOTTING JOANNA) Oh, God, here she comes. I've got to figure out what to say.

ADAM RACES OFF TO ELLEN'S OFFICE AS JOANNA ENTERS THE BOOKSTORE. SHE CROSSES TO JOIN ELLEN.

JOANNA

Hey. Where's Adam?

ELLEN

Adam? Well, right now, the bathroom, but next time, who knows? You know that guy, so darn flighty, here one minute, gone the next. Not the most dependable character. Not exactly a sure thing.

JOANNA

What do you mean?

ELLEN

Well, remember when I first set you up with Adam and I warned you about him?

JOANNA

Warned me? You said he was fun.

ELLEN

Oh, no... You didn't think I meant "fun" as in, "happy-go-lucky" or "enjoys life?" I meant "FUN." You know, the acronym F - U - N... as in... (SEARCHING) "Flaky"... "Unreliable"... "No-gooder."

JOANNA

What are you talking about?

ELLEN

Joanna, you're a wonderful woman, and any sane man would be thrilled to be with you. The key word being sane.

ADAM COMES OUT OF THE OFFICE.

ELLEN (CONT'D)

(SPOTTING ADAM) Well, I'll leave you two alone.

ELLEN CROSSES TO JOE'S COUNTER, LEAVING A BEWILDERED JOANNA. ADAM APPROACHES HER.

ANGLE ON: ELLEN, WINCING AS SHE WATCHES ADAM AND JOANNA, WAITING FOR THE BOMB TO DROP.

JOANNA AND ADAM SIT AT A NEARBY TABLE. ADAM GINGERLY BEGINS SPEAKING TO HER.

ELLEN (CONT'D)

Look at him, Joe. Look what he's doing.

JOE

He's not going to break up with her. In this world, he does not break up with her. He would have to be the dumbest man alive.

JOANNA ANGRILY STORMS OUT.

JOE (CONT'D)

(EYES POPPING) Wow!

ADAM EXHALES IN RELIEF. ON ELLEN'S LOOK OF DISGUST, WE:

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

D

FADE IN:

INT. APARTMENT - A FEW DAYS LATER (DAY 5)
(Ellen, Adam, Paige)

ELLEN SITS ON THE COUCH. PAIGE STARES INTO HER MOUTH. ADAM, FEELING FOOTLOOSE AND FANCY FREE, IS LOOKING THROUGH HIS ADDRESS BOOK.

ELLEN

(TO PAIGE) How do they look?

ADAM

What are you doing?

ELLEN

(TO ADAM) Is your name Paige?

ADAM

You didn't say Paige.

ELLEN

Yes, I did.

ADAM

Oh, no, you did not.

ELLEN

I believe I did.

ADAM

Perhaps you intended to.

ELLEN

At any rate, "Paige" was implied.

ADAM

The implication was lost on me.

ELLEN

I'm sure it was not lost on Paige.

PAIGE

I thought you two weren't speaking to each other. You notice I said that kind of hopefully.

ELLEN

You're right. We're not. Where were we?

PAIGE

Your teeth look great. What are you wearing?

ADAM

Where is she going?

ELLEN

(TO PAIGE) I'm wearing this.

ADAM

I thought you were going to the dentist.

ELLEN

I am going to the dentist.

PAIGE

Okay, lean back.

ELLEN LEANS BACK AS IF IN A DENTAL CHAIR.

PAIGE (CONT'D)

Open.

ELLEN OPENS HER MOUTH WIDE.

PAIGE (CONT'D) *

I like it. The jacket picks up the pink in your gums.

ADAM

So, you have a date with your dentist?

ELLEN

No, I have an appointment with my dentist.

PAIGE

The last appointment of the day, which could easily lead to a date. I'm going to drop her off, she'll need a ride home, presumably Dr. Dave has a car... Do we have to spell it out for you?

ADAM *

(TO ELLEN) And you think this will work?

ELLEN

Of course not. But the point is, I am single, and I don't have a steady relationship, so I'm willing to try idiotic schemes like this. If I had a steady relationship, I wouldn't need to. I would be lucky.

PAIGE

And happy.

ELLEN

And not stupid.

ADAM

Stupid is your opinion.

PAIGE

Stupid is everyone's opinion. I've
got three words for you, Adam:
Fear of intimacy.

ADAM

Oh, please. I have three words for
you. (BEAT, THINKING) I don't
know what they are right now, but
you're wrong, Paige. Wait, there's
three: You're wrong, Paige. I can
be as intimate as the next guy.
And I have a feeling something
great may be coming my way.

ELLEN

(HANDING HIM THE REMOTE) I think
it's called "JEOPARDY!". Enjoy.

ELLEN AND PAIGE EXIT. ADAM SAUNTERS AROUND THE APARTMENT FOR A
BEAT, MAKING UP A LITTLE SONG TO HIMSELF. HE SINGS QUIETLY AT
FIRST, THEN WITH RISING INTENSITY.

ADAM

I'M FREE GUY - SWINGIN' ADAM GREEN...

WAITING FOR HIS... SPECIAL QUEEN...

HE HAS DIALED THE PHONE.

ADAM (CONT'D)

(CONFIDENTLY) Hello? Audrey?...

Hi, it's Adam... Yeah, I left you
four or five messages about going
out tonight. I guess you didn't
get them... (LAUGHS TOO HARD)

Well, it was just a guess. So you
want to?.... Oh. Okay. Bye.

A BEAT. ADAM FLOPS ON THE COUCH, GRABS THE REMOTE AND TURNS ON
THE TELEVISION.

SFX: FAINT TV SOUNDS

ADAM WATCHES FOR A BEAT.

ADAM (CONT'D)

What is Belgian Congo?

AND WE:

DISSOLVE TO:

E

INT. DENTIST'S OFFICE - LATER
(Ellen, Dave, Sarah)

ELLEN IS BACK ONCE AGAIN IN THE DENTIST'S CHAIR. SARAH FASTENS A BIB ON HER. DAVE CONSULTS ELLEN'S X-RAYS, OFF TO THE SIDE.

ELLEN

(RE: BABY PHOTO) That baby has some big ears. (RE: BIB) You know, I don't think this'll be necessary. Unless you're planning on serving lobster.

SARAH

It's just to protect your clothes; we think you'll be more comfortable in it.

ELLEN

(STRUGGLING WITH SARAH) No, really, I'd prefer not to wear it.

SARAH

(CLIPPING THE BIB) I'd hate to spill on such a nice outfit. Are you going out someplace special after the visit?

SARAH CROSSES TO DAVE. ELLEN FRANTICALLY ADJUSTS THE BIB SO THAT IT'S HIDDEN WITHIN THE LAPELS OF HER OUTFIT AS SHE CHATTERS.

ELLEN

(RE: CLOTHES) Oh, no you mean,
'cause of this? Nah! This just
happened to be the only clean thing
left in my closet. (LOUDLY) No,
I've got no plans. After this
appointment, I'm wide open, all
night. Free as a bird. Free as a
bird without a ride home.

DAVE APPROACHES ELLEN.

DAVE

Okay, Sarah's going to give you a
little nitrous oxide. I'd like you
to take about ten deep breaths
through your nose, okay?

SARAH APPROACHES AND PLACES THE MASK OVER ELLEN'S NOSE. ELLEN
STARTS TAKING HER BREATHS.

ELLEN

This stuff doesn't work on me. I
tried it at a Grateful Dead concert
once. (OFF THEIR LOOKS) It was
okay. I was with my dentist.

DAVE

Just keep breathing.

SARAH

Are you from Los Angeles
originally, Ellen?

ELLEN

(BREATH) No. (BREATH) Louisiana.

SARAH

Oh, sure. French Quarter. Jazz.
Mardi Gras.

ELLEN

(BREATH) Things you see in New
Orleans!

SARAH

Isn't that your hometown, Dave?

DAVE

Born and raised.

ELLEN

(BREATH) Things you do as a child.
Things you do with your mother.
Things you do with a chicken.

DAVE

What do you know, Ellen? We're
both from the old bayou.

ELLEN, WHO HAS BEEN WHALING ON THE NITROUS OXIDE, HAS A SILLY
FAR-OFF LOOK TO HER. SHE SETTLES INTO A SLOW SOUTHERN DRAWL.

ELLEN

The old bayou. The old baa-youu.
Can I ba-you a drink, Dr. Dave?

DAVE

(TO SARAH) I think the nitrous may
be starting to work. You feel
relaxed, Ellen?

ELLEN

My stars, I feel downright tingly.

(BREATH) And my daddy won't be
home for hours. (RE: SARAH) Does
the little tooth fairy need to be
here?

DAVE

We're going to give you a little
novocaine, numb up your mouth a
little.

ELLEN

Why don't you numb it up with a
long, hard kiss, like a gentleman?

DAVE REACTS, AS WE:

DISSOLVE TO:

H

INT. POOL HALL - THAT NIGHT

(Adam, Waitress, Pretty Girl, Romantic Guy, Extras) *

ADAM SITS BY HIMSELF AT THE HIGH TABLE OVERLOOKING THE POOL AREA. *
THREE PRETTY YOUNG WOMEN PLAY POOL NEARBY. ONE PRETTY GIRL MAKES *
A SHOT AND WALKS PAST ADAM.

ADAM *

You guys playing eight ball? *

SHE IGNORES HIM. AFTER A BEAT. *

ADAM (CONT'D) *

Don't sink the white one.

AGAIN, SHE IGNORES HIM. *

ADAM (CONT'D) *

So, are you guys models? *

PRETTY GIRL *

(TO HER FRIENDS) Let's take that
table over there.

THEY MOVE OFF AS THE WAITRESS FROM EARLIER APPROACHES. *

ADAM *

(CALLING) I'll tell your waitress
you moved.

WAITRESS

(TO ADAM) Hey, you. What's up?

ADAM

Hey. Not a lot. Flying solo
tonight. I broke up with my
girlfriend.

WAITRESS

Oh, I'm sorry. She seemed so nice.
Pretty, too. So, what can I get
you?

ADAM

How about your phone number?

WAITRESS

Oh, that's original. Never heard
that one before. Could you hold
on? I've got to share that little
pearl with the other waitresses.

ADAM WATCHES THE WAITRESS LEAVE. HE LOOKS DEPRESSED. A ROMANTIC
COUPLE STROLLS BY. ADAM WATCHES THEM.

ROMANTIC GUY

(TO GIRL) Santa Barbara? That
sounds great, honey.

AS ADAM LOOKS CRUSHED, WE:

CUT TO:

HH

INT. APARTMENT - LATER
(Ellen, Adam, Paige)

PAIGE AND ELLEN ARE ON THE COUCH. ELLEN REGALES PAIGE WITH HER DENTIST STORY.

PAIGE

So, when I said, "seize the dentist"...

ELLEN

With both hands. I'm so embarrassed. The worst thing is, I still have to go back for my crown.

PAIGE

I take it you never ended up asking him out.

ELLEN

I asked him to marry me, I suppose that counts.

ADAM ENTERS, LOOKING WEARY AND DISHEVELED. HIS JACKET IS STAINED.

ELLEN (CONT'D)

Well, look who's here. The man of many options.

ELLEN GETS UP AND CROSSES TO ADAM.

ELLEN (CONT'D)

Aren't you going to introduce us to your date? (TO IMAGINARY PERSON NEXT TO ADAM) Hi, I'm Ellen.

(MORE)

ELLEN (CONT'D)

And you must be... nobody! I've
seen you with Adam before. I think
you're perfect for him.

PAIGE

Give him lots of space.

ADAM

All right, I'm alone. (DEPRESSED)
I'm so alone.

ADAM CROSSES TO THE CHAIR AND FLOPS DOWN ON IT.

PAIGE

Struck out, huh?

ADAM

Aw, I quit trying three hours ago.
I've just been driving around
thinking about Joanna. Oh, Joanna.
My one shot at happiness and I
threw it away.

ELLEN

But you have your freedom.

ADAM

Freedom's for losers. I want the
iron shackles of a relationship.

ELLEN

What happened to Mr. Hunter-
Gatherer?

ADAM

Please. That was crap. Look at me. Do I look like a hunter?

PAIGE

You do wear that awful orange poncho sometimes.

ADAM

God, I want her back. How can I get her back?

ELLEN

You can't. You treated her like dirt.

ADAM

But I've grown. I've changed. Ellen, please. Can't you talk to her for me? She'll listen to you.

ELLEN

Forget it.

ADAM

Look at me. Tonight, I've been slapped in the face, I've had a drink thrown on me, I've been laughed at a half-dozen times. What does that say to you?

ELLEN

It's the weekend?

PAIGE LAUGHS. ADAM DOESN'T.

ELLEN (CONT'D)

I'm sorry. But how do I know you really want Joanna? Maybe you just don't want to be alone.

ADAM

No, that's not it. See, I understand now what I did wrong. It was the grass is always greener. When you're in a relationship, you want to be out. And when you're out, you want to be in.

ELLEN

Great. So, I'll get you back in this relationship and you'll just want to be single again.

ADAM

Uh-uh. Not this time. Because I'll never forget how awful and pathetic I feel right now. And if I ever do forget, you'll be there to tell me what a jerk I am.

PAIGE

Can that be my job?

ADAM

Ellen, you've got to trust me on this. Please. I really miss her.

ELLEN

(RELENTING) All right. You better
really mean it.

AS ADAM REACTS HAPPILY, WE:

DISSOLVE TO:

I

INT. DENTIST'S OFFICE - A WEEK LATER (DAY 6)
(Ellen, Dave, Dr. Garber)

ELLEN IS RECLINING IN THE DENTIST'S CHAIR, ANXIOUSLY AWAITING THE DENTIST. HER HANDS STRAY OVER TO THE RACK OF BUTTONS BUT SHE THINKS BETTER OF IT -- TAKES HER HAND BACK. DR. DAVE ENTERS.

ELLEN

(QUICKLY) About the last time,

Dave, I want to explain--

DAVE

(CUTTING HER OFF) Ellen, please...

I'm a dentist. These sorts of things happen all the time.

ELLEN

I'm so relieved to hear that.

DAVE

A female patient comes in here...

I don't know if it's the degree, the authority, the cut of my smock -- an attraction develops.

ELLEN

That's fine, but I want to explain.

I admit, I find you very attractive--

DAVE

Ellen, let's not go down that road again.

ELLEN

I swear it was the nitrous oxide talking.

DAVE

If it makes you feel better to think that, then fine. Look, I just don't feel comfortable being your dentist anymore.

ELLEN

What? But who's going to fix my tooth?

DAVE

If it's all the same to you, my colleague, Dr. Garber, will take over. He's very capable.

ELLEN

I guess that's probably for the best.

DAVE

I think so.

HE EXITS. AFTER A BEAT, DR. GARBER, THE MOST GLORIOUSLY HANDSOME DENTIST IN ALL THE WORLD, ENTERS.

DR. GARBER

Hello, Ellen. I'm Dr. Garber.

ELLEN

(GETTING UP OUT OF THE CHAIR) Oh,
for crying out loud...

AND AS SHE HEADS OUT...

DISSOLVE TO:

K

INT. BUY THE BOOK - LATER THAT DAY
(Ellen, Adam, Joe, Joanna, Extras)

ELLEN IS BEHIND THE COUNTER. ADAM AND JOANNA ENTER THE BOOKSTORE, LOOKING VERY MUCH THE COUPLE IN LOVE. THEY BOTH WEAR TYROLEAN CAPS MADE OUT OF FELT AND CARRY LARGE, PLASTIC BEER STEINS.

ELLEN

Yodel-ay-hee-who made you wear
those stupid hats?

JOANNA

(LAUGHS) We've just been to a
beer-tasting at this new brewery
downtown.

ELLEN

Well, it warms my heart to see the
happy couple back together again.

ADAM

Too bad you had to work. They
served this amazing bratwurst and
sauerkraut.

JOANNA

And there was a Bavarian folk band.

ELLEN

All right, stop it, now you're
making me jealous.

JOANNA

Only thing they didn't have?
Enough women's bathrooms. You'll
have to excuse me.

JOANNA PECKS ADAM ON THE CHEEK. THEY SMILE TO EACH OTHER AND SHE EXITS TO THE LOO. AS SOON AS SHE'S GONE, ADAM TURNS TO ELLEN, SUDDENLY MISERABLE.

ADAM

My God, you've got to help me. I'm suffocating.

ELLEN

What?

ADAM

It's happening again. I think I want out.

ELLEN

Oh, no you don't. You're ecstatic, remember? Joanna is with you. You're beside yourself with joy.

A PRETTY GIRL WALKS BY AND SMILES AT ADAM.

ADAM

Oh, God, she smiled at me. Hunt... gather...

ELLEN GRABS HIM.

ELLEN

This is where I'm supposed to remind you how lonely and pathetic you were the other night.

ADAM

Ancient history.

ELLEN

Adam, don't be a jerk. You promised me you wouldn't do this.

ADAM

I'm going to your office. I've got to figure out what I'm going to do.

ADAM RACES OVER TO ELLEN'S OFFICE. JOANNA EMERGES FROM THE BATHROOM AND CROSSES TO A SHAKEN ELLEN.

JOANNA

Hey, what happened to Adam?

ELLEN

Adam? Uh... Adam is, uh... Adam is... Joanna, I am so sorry to have to tell you this, but I have to tell you this. And it makes me so sorry. But it has to be told. And I guess I have to be the one to tell it to you. Which makes me so sor--

JOANNA

Ellen, just say it.

ELLEN

Adam is going to be "fun" again.

JOANNA

He's breaking up with me?

ELLEN

I'm sorry. Look, he's my best friend, but even I don't understand what he's doing.

JOANNA

I do not believe this. You told me he'd grown. You told me he'd changed.

ELLEN

He changed back.

JOANNA

So you talked me into going back to him just so he can dump me again? I don't know what kind of sick, twisted game you and Adam are playing, but I've had enough of both of you.

JOANNA STORMS OUT OF THE BOOKSTORE.

ELLEN

(ALMOST A WHISPER) Forgot your beer stein.

ADAM BURSTS OUT OF ELLEN'S OFFICE AND CROSSES TO HER TABLE.

ADAM

Ellen, I just had the most profound revelation. I was about to throw away my one chance at happiness in life. Again. What an ass I almost was.

ELLEN

But...

ADAM

Please, Ellen, don't defend me.

ELLEN

You know me too well.

ADAM

I was looking at myself in the mirror, and your words started ringing in my ears. "Lonely." "Pathetic." "Jerk." Ellen, thank you. Joanna's the most wonderful, kind, beautiful woman I know. And who am I? The luckiest guy on Earth, that's who.

ELLEN

Well, maybe not the luckiest.

ADAM

Where is she? Where is the woman I love?

ELLEN LOOKS AROUND A BEAT, THEN OPENS HER ARMS WIDE.

ELLEN

Right here!

ADAM REACTS, AND ON ELLEN'S FACE, WE:

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

TAG 1

FADE IN:

INT. POOL HALL - ANOTHER NIGHT (NIGHT 7)
(Ellen, Adam, Paige, Extras)

OMITTED

ELLEN

Emily.

PAIGE

Definitely Emily.

ELLEN

Charlotte was a bimbo.

ELLEN AND PAIGE DROP THE ACT, LAUGHING HARD. ADAM JOINS IN.

ELLEN (CONT'D)

Auuuuggghhh, I hate those
commercials.

ADAM

(CONFUSED) What commercials?

FADE OUT.

THE END