

ELLEN

"The Fix-up"

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
September 21, 1994

September 22, 1994

"The Fix-up"
(#C320)

CAST LIST

ELLEN ELLEN DEGENERES
ADAM ARYE GROSS
PAIGE JOELY FISHER
JOE DAVE HIGGINS
LOIS ALICE HIRSON
DOUG BRADLEY WHITFORD

MAN JIM JACKMAN
DETECTIVE #1 STEPHEN JAMES CARVER
DETECTIVE #2 GARRET DAVIS

September 22, 1994

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SET LIST

COLD OPENING (1) - INT. ELEVATOR - DAY (PREVIOUSLY SHOT)

ACT ONE

SCENE A (2) - INT. BUY THE BOOK - DAY (DAY 1)

SCENE B (7) - INT. APARTMENT - THAT EVENING *

SCENE C (15) - EXT./INT. COFFEE SHOP - THE NEXT NIGHT (DAY 2) *

SCENE CC (17a) - INT. COFFEE SHOP - LATER THAT NIGHT *

SCENE D (18) - INT. APARTMENT - THE NEXT DAY (DAY 3) *

SCENE DD (19a) - INT. APARTMENT - DAY - FOUR DAYS LATER (DAY 4) *

ACT TWO

SCENE E (20) - INT. APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

SCENE H (24) - INT. ELLEN'S OFFICE - DAY - A FEW DAYS LATER (DAY 5) *

SCENE J (27-29) - INT./EXT. COFFEE SHOP - A FEW NIGHTS LATER (DAY 6) *

SCENE K (33) - INT. APARTMENT - THE NEXT NIGHT (DAY 7)

SCENE M (40) - INT. BUY THE BOOK - ANOTHER DAY (DAY 8)

RESHOOT "SO FUNNY" TAG (42) - INT. BUY THE BOOK/ELLEN'S OFFICE - DAY

TAG (44) - TBA

SFX

PHONE RINGS (10, 13, 22)

"The Fix-up"
(#C320)

SHORT RUNDOWN

COLD OPENING *** PREVIOUSLY SHOT INT. ELEVATOR - DAY (Ellen, Security Guard (V.O.), Extra)	(1)			
	<u>ACT ONE</u>			
SCENE A INT. BUY THE BOOK - DAY (DAY 1) (Ellen, Joe, Lois, Extras)	(2)			
SCENE B INT. APARTMENT - THAT EVENING (Ellen, Adam, Paige)	(7)			
SCENE C EXT./INT. COFFEE SHOP - THE NEXT NIGHT (DAY 2) (Ellen, Paige, Doug, Man, Extras)	(15)			
SCENE CC INT. COFFEE SHOP - LATER THAT NIGHT (Ellen, Paige, Doug, Man, Extras)	(17a)			
SCENE D INT. APARTMENT - THE NEXT DAY (DAY 3) (Ellen, Paige)	(18)			
SCENE DD INT. APARTMENT - DAY - FOUR DAYS LATER (DAY 4) (Ellen, Paige)	(19a)			
	<u>ACT TWO</u>			
SCENE E INT. APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS (Ellen, Adam, Paige)	(20)			
SCENE H - INT. ELLEN'S OFFICE - DAY - A FEW DAYS LATER (DAY 5) (Ellen, Lois)	(24)			
SCENE J INT. COFFEE SHOP - A FEW NIGHTS LATER (DAY 6) (Ellen, Paige, Doug, Extras)	(27-29)			
SCENE K INT. APARTMENT - THE NEXT NIGHT (DAY 7) (Ellen, Adam, Paige, Doug, Detective #1, Detective #2)	(33)			
SCENE M INT. BUY THE BOOK - ANOTHER DAY (DAY 8) (Ellen, Joe, Lois, Doug, Extras)	(40)			
"SO FUNNY" TAG RESHOOT INT. BUY THE BOOK/ELLEN'S OFFICE - DAY (Ellen, Joe)	(42)			
TAG TBA	(44)			

COLD OPENING

NOTE: THIS COLD OPENING HAS ALREADY BEEN SHOT

FADE IN:

INT. ELEVATOR - DAY
(Ellen, Security (V.O.), Extra)

ELLEN IS ON AN ELEVATOR WITH ANOTHER PASSENGER.

MUSIC CUE: ELEVATOR VERSION OF "RESPECT"

ELLEN IS QUIETLY GROOVING TO THE MUSIC. THE ELEVATOR STOPS, THE DOORS OPEN, AND THE PASSENGER GETS OFF. WHEN THE DOORS CLOSE, ELLEN BEGINS SINGING AND DANCING WITH THE FREEDOM AND ABANDON ONE RESERVES FOR TIMES WHEN ONE IS SURE THAT ONE IS COMPLETELY ALONE. SHE TWISTS AND DOES A BIG FINISH JUMP. SUDDENLY THE MUSIC IS CUT OFF BY THE P.A. SYSTEM.

MUSIC CUE: MUSIC OUT

SECURITY (V.O.)

Excuse me, ma'am, this is security.

Please refrain from jumping in the
elevator. Thank you.

ELLEN'S BODY AND FACE FREEZE IN EMBARRASSMENT.

FADE OUT.

END OF COLD OPENING

ACT ONE

A

FADE IN:

INT. BUY THE BOOK - DAY (DAY 1)
(Ellen, Joe, Lois, Extras)

ELLEN IS SITTING WITH HER MOTHER, LOIS.

LOIS

Well, you'll be glad to hear your
father finally got that mole
removed.

ELLEN

Whew! That is good news.

JOE APPROACHES WITH A POT OF COFFEE.

JOE

Would your sister like more coffee,
Ellen?

ELLEN

(FLATLY) Joe, this isn't my
sister.

JOE

You're kidding. I didn't know you
had a daughter.

ELLEN

This is my mother.

JOE

Yeah, right. (TO LOIS) Shouldn't
you be in school, young lady?

HE MOVES OFF.

LOIS

So are you seeing anyone these
days?

ELLEN

No one special.

LOIS

What happened to that Chris fellow?

ELLEN

That was three years ago.

LOIS

I liked him.

ELLEN

I know you did. But we broke up.
He moved to Chicago and married
someone named Sandy.

LOIS

Are they getting along?

ELLEN

Mom, I think it's time to give up
on Chris.

LOIS

I just worry about you.

ELLEN

You don't have to.

LOIS

Ellen, you're not immortal. Your looks are going to go just like everyone else's. Already there are signs.

ELLEN

Signs? What signs?

LOIS

Your hips are widening.

ELLEN

They are not.

LOIS

You're reaching that age. I remember when mine started.

ELLEN

I exercise every day.

LOIS

So did I. And I ate like a bird. They kept right on widening. Slow but sure, like glaciers.

ELLEN

Mom!

LOIS

I just want you to be happy.

ELLEN

It's possible to be happy without a man.

LOIS

Must you joke about everything?

(THEN) Oh, guess who I saw yesterday?

ELLEN

Sigfried and Roy. (ALARMED) Oh my
God, I must joke about everything.

LOIS

Wanda Henderson.

ELLEN

From when we lived in New Orleans?
What's she doing in L.A.?

LOIS

She and her husband moved into our
complex. And you know who dropped
by? Her son, Doug. You remember him.

ELLEN

Hooch-yeah.

LOIS

Why do you say it like that? He
was a very nice boy.

ELLEN

Weird Doug? Mom, you know how at
school there's always that one
strange kid that eats bugs and
talks to himself and everyone kind
of avoids?

LOIS

Yes...

ELLEN

Well, that kid thought Doug was a
freak.

LOIS

I gave him your number.

ELLEN

You what? You had no right. I
cannot believe you're doing this
again. I do not want you setting
me up on any more blind dates.
They never work out.

LOIS

You had a nice time with that Mitch
Verdugo.

ELLEN

Mom, he stole from me.

LOIS

You had no proof.

AS ELLEN THROWS UP HER HANDS, WE:

DISSOLVE TO:

B

INT. APARTMENT -- THAT EVENING
(Ellen, Adam, Paige)

ADAM IS IN THE KITCHEN PICKING THROUGH THE MAIL. ELLEN ENTERS IN A PAIR OF SWEATS, CARRYING SEVERAL LARGE PLASTIC BAGS OF RECYCLABLE ITEMS.

ADAM

(RE: ELLEN) Hey, Santa brought
trash this year.

ELLEN

It's not trash, it's recycling.

ADAM

(SNIFFS) Smells like trash.

ELLEN

My recycling program is not going
exactly as planned. The neighbors
seem to think it means dumping
their empties on our doorstep.

ADAM

(INDICATING ONE OF THE BAGS) Wow,
somebody sure can put away the
scotch.

ELLEN

Yeah, that's Jeff in 3B.

ADAM

How can anyone drink that much and
still hold down a job?

ELLEN

It's no big deal. These days those
big planes practically fly
themselves.

ADAM HAS OPENED A LETTER. HE READS IT.

ADAM

Oh, my God. "Cosmopolitan"
magazine wants to print one of my
pictures!

ELLEN

Really? Adam, that's great!

ELLEN MOVES OVER TO HIM.

ADAM

I entered this contest they held
for photos depicting "The Women of
L.A.." Let's see... (READING)
"Our editors consider you one of
the finest up-and-coming female
photographers..." Uh-oh.

ELLEN

(TAKING LETTER FROM HIM) You
entered a contest for women?

ADAM

I thought it was for pictures of
women, not by women. It was an
honest mistake.

ELLEN

Oh, come on. (RE: ENVELOPE) "A.
Green." You didn't enter under
your full name. Very clever.

ADAM

That's how I'm known
professionally.

ELLEN

By who? A. Imaginary Friend?

ADAM

Fine. Make fun. My first shot at
national exposure dashed. That is
amusing.

HE LAUGHS A BITTER, MOCKING LAUGH.

ELLEN

I'm sorry, Adam. I guess you'll
have to withdraw.

ADAM

Maybe not. All they know is my
first initial. I could tell them
my name is Annabelle.

ELLEN

No, you couldn't.

ADAM

Why not? I took a good picture.
Why should I, once again, be
discriminated against just because
I'm a man?

ELLEN

Because it would make you a lying,
self-serving lowlife. I will not
let you do this.

ADAM

It's a picture of you.

ELLEN

(EXCITED) I'm going to be in
"Cosmo?"

ADAM

Maybe not. After all, I don't want
to be a lying, self-serving low-
life.

ELLEN

Did I call you that? I meant
scamp.

SFX: PHONE RINGS

ADAM GOES TO ANSWER IT.

ELLEN (CONT'D)

No! Don't answer it. It could be
Doug. My mother said he was going
to call me today.

ADAM

So, I can't answer my phone again?
Ever?

ELLEN

Just let the machine get it.

THE PHONE STOPS RINGING.

ADAM

Oh, great. They hung up. That
could have been the most important
phone call of my life. It could
have been a job. It could have
been the President. It could have
been a woman. (OFF HER LOOK)
Well, okay, but it could have been
the President.

PAIGE ENTERS. THEY ADLIB GREETINGS.

PAIGE

So I see Jeff's still putting away
the scotch. How does he keep a
job?

ADAM

Oh, these days those big planes
practically fly themselves.

PAIGE LAUGHS.

ELLEN

That's my joke.

ELLEN (CONT'D)

(HUSKY VOICED) Hello... (REACTS,
THEN) Hi, Doug. No, I had a frog
in my throat... It's just an
expression. Me? Oh, you know.
Keeping busy. Self defense
classes. Shooting range. That
sort of thing... Dinner? Uh,
sure. Friday sounds great. How
about we meet, oh... let's say at
the police station... That's a
mighty strange laugh you have
there, Doug.

AND ON HER UNSETTLED LOOK, WE:

DISSOLVE TO:

MAN

Pictures of me.

ELLEN LOOKS AT THEM.

ELLEN

(REACTING IN HORROR) They
certainly are. You're not Doug,
are you?

MAN

Not really.

ELLEN GETS UP FROM THE TABLE. JUST THEN, A GOOD-LOOKING MAN,
DOUG, ENTERS FROM THE BACK AND SPOTS ELLEN.

DOUG

Ellen?

ELLEN

(SURPRISED AND PLEASED) Doug?

DOUG

Who's your friend?

ELLEN

Oh, he's not my friend.

MAN

(HURT) Ellen!

ELLEN

I just met him. I'm just with him.
Not with him. I thought he was you.

DOUG

You thought this was me?

MAN

Hey...

ELLEN

It was just a big mistake. And
boy, am I glad. Why don't you grab
us a table? (SOTTO) I think I'm
going to go wash up.

AS ELLEN CROSSES OFF, WE:

DISSOLVE TO:

PAIGE

Ellen, I'm supposed to go to this
new club tonight. Could I borrow
your bomber jacket?

ELLEN

No way. You'd lose it.

PAIGE

That is not true.

ELLEN

You are constantly losing things.
Why don't you wear the suede jacket
you just bought?

PAIGE

It's... temporarily missing.
(THEN) So, did Weird Doug call?

ELLEN

Not yet. He's probably still
figuring out where to stash my
body.

PAIGE

Just because he was weird as a kid
doesn't mean he's weird now.

ELLEN

Yes, Paige, a childhood of wedgies,
arson, and bug-eating almost always
leads to a normal adulthood. I
hate it when my mother does this.
She fixes me up with a weirdo, and
no matter how bad the date is, the
guy always calls me for a second
one.

C

EXT./INT. COFFEE SHOP - THE NEXT NIGHT (DAY 2)
(Ellen, Paige, Doug, Man, Extras)

A NONDESCRIPT COFFEE SHOP. ELLEN AND PAIGE ARE OUTSIDE THE DOOR.

PAIGE

(RE: COFFEE SHOP) This is where
he's taking you? Swanky.

ELLEN

And me without my pearls.
Apparently, he comes here a lot.
So, you know the drill?

PAIGE

Yeah. I'll come back and bail you
out. You just tell me when.

ELLEN

Well, (CHECKING WATCH) it's 7:00
now. I really should spend some
time with him. Why don't we say...
7:05. (OFF PAIGE'S STARE) Okay,
7:30.

PAIGE

Great. (LOOKING AROUND) Now what
should I do for a half an hour?

ELLEN

(POINTING) Well, there's a pawn
shop. You could get a jump on your
Christmas shopping.

(MORE)

ELLEN (CONT'D)

I don't want to drop any hints, but
I'm hoping this is the year I get
that switchblade.

PAIGE SMILES AND CROSSES AWAY.

RESET TO:

INT. COFFEE SHOP - CONTINUOUS

ELLEN ENTERS. SHE LOOKS AROUND FOR SINGLE MEN SITTING ALONE.
SHE NOTICES A MAN SITTING AT A TABLE -- A SCRUFFY-LOOKING LOSER.
SHE CRINGES AND APPROACHES HIM.

ELLEN

Doug?

MAN

Hi!

ELLEN BLANCHES, THEN PASTES ON WHAT SMILE SHE CAN MANAGE.

ELLEN

I'm Ellen. Sorry I'm late. The
traffic.

MAN

That's all right.

SHE SITS DOWN WITH HIM. THERE IS AN IMMEDIATE LULL.

ELLEN

Nice place.

THERE IS ANOTHER AWKWARD BEAT. THE MAN TAKES SOME POLAROID'S OUT
OF HIS POCKET AND HANDS THEM TO HER.

MAN

Look.

ELLEN

(TAKING THEM) What are these?

ACT TWO

D

FADE IN:

INT. APARTMENT - THE NEXT DAY (DAY 4)
(Ellen, Paige)

ELLEN IS AGAIN SORTING THE RECYCLING AS PAIGE KNOCKS AND ENTERS.

PAIGE

Ellen, remember when I told you I was over losing things? I was wrong.

ELLEN

Oh, no. You lost my jacket?

PAIGE

Yes. But it gets worse. The jacket was in the trunk of my boss' BMW. I took it to be detailed, and when I came back to the place for it, it had been stolen. I lost a car, Ellen. A fifty-thousand dollar car.

ELLEN

That may be a personal best. Did you tell your boss?

PAIGE

Yeah. This was weird. He didn't care. In fact, he seemed downright pleased with me.

ELLEN

Wow. If you could find a way to
misplace his house, you'd be
looking at a promotion.

PAIGE

Hey, what was going on last night?
Why didn't you want the bail-out?

ELLEN

Couldn't you see? Doug wasn't
weird at all. He was cute, sweet
and funny. We had a great time.

PAIGE

So, he didn't eat a single bug all
night long?

ELLEN

Nope. He's been off the bugs for
twenty years.

PAIGE

Are you going to see him again?

ELLEN

I sure am. Paige, for the first
time in my life, I'm looking
forward to the follow-up call from
a blind date.

PAIGE

Incredible.

DISSOLVE TO:

DD

INT. APARTMENT - DAY - FOUR DAYS LATER (DAY 4)
(Ellen, Paige)

ELLEN AND PAIGE ARE IN THE EXACT SAME POSITION, BUT IN DIFFERENT CLOTHES.

PAIGE

It's only been four days. He still
might call.

ELLEN

No, Paige. It's time for me to
face facts. When something is this
obvious, you just have to accept
it. Clearly... Doug has been
kidnapped and can't get to a phone.

OFF PAIGE'S LOOK, ELLEN SADLY PUTS HER HEAD DOWN ON THE COUNTER,
AND WE:

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

CC

INT. COFFEE SHOP - LATER THAT NIGHT
(Ellen, Paige, Doug, Extras)

ELLEN AND DOUG ARE EATING AT A TABLE, LAUGHING AND HAVING A GREAT TIME.

ELLEN

...but my worst blind date ever
would have to be the "rooskie" guy.

DOUG

I have no idea what that means.

ELLEN

(DEMONSTRATING) "Hey, Ellen, how
about a glass of wine-arooskie?"
"I'm going to have the steak-
arooskie." "After dinner, why
don't we take a stroll-arooskie?"
I wanted to push him in front of a
bus-arooskie.

THEY LAUGH.

DOUG

That really sounds like a long
night. Let's flag down a waitress.
I think it's time to ordereeno.

ELLEN

Aaah! Don't you start with me,
Doug.

THEY BOTH LAUGH.

ELLEN (CONT'D)

You know, you're a lot different
from the fifth grader I remember.

DOUG

Well, people change.

ELLEN

(PLEASED) They sure do. I never
thought I'd say this, but score one
for Mom.

THEY SHARE A MOMENT.

DOUG

Oh my God, I just remembered the
worst blind date of all. I went
out with a woman who went so far as
to arrange to have a friend call
the restaurant in the middle of
dinner and say her house was on
fire.

ELLEN

Really? How rude. Rude-arooskie.

DOUG

Can you believe that? If she
didn't want to go out with me, she
could have just said so. I mean,
we're all adults, right?

ELLEN LOOKS SICK. PAIGE ENTERS AND CROSSES TO THEIR TABLE IN A
PANIC.

PAIGE

Ellen, there you are. Thank God I found you. (TO DOUG) Sorry to interrupt. (TO ELLEN) You've got to come with me.

ELLEN

(BRIGHTLY) Oh, Paige, whatever it is, I'm sure it can wait.

PAIGE

No, it can't. It's an emergency. Adam fell off the roof.

DOUG

Who's Adam?

PAIGE

Her best friend. And roommate. Come on, Ellen, we'd better get to the hospital.

DOUG

If you need to go...

ELLEN

(WITH A GREAT DEAL OF MEANING)

Paige, are you sure he fell off the roof? Because maybe he didn't. And if he didn't, I wouldn't have to go to the hospital. I could stay here and continue to enjoy my date with Doug.

PAIGE

Ohh. You're right. Adam didn't
fall off the roof. He... fell off
the couch. Onto some pillows.
He's fine. I just thought you
should know. Bye.

PAIGE EXITS. ELLEN TURNS TO DOUG.

ELLEN

That's my friend, Paige. Boy, is
she funny. See, we've got this
kind of inside joke where she tries
to get me to go to the hospital and
I try to get her to go... to the
airport. She's up three to one.
But I've got a plan for this
weekend. Anyway...

ELLEN PICKS UP A BIG MENU AND HIDES BEHIND IT.

ELLEN (CONT'D)

We really should order.

DISSOLVE TO:

ACT TWO

E

FADE IN:

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

ELLEN AND PAIGE ARE AS WE LEFT THEM.

PAIGE

Come on, Ellen, maybe Doug's just
out of town.

ELLEN

I drove by his place last night.
He looked pretty in town through
the binoculars.

PAIGE

Shame on you.

ELLEN

I'm not taking this well, all
right? Every blind date calls,
except for the one I want to call.

ADAM ENTERS FROM THE BEDROOM.

ADAM

Ellen, I've been thinking it over
and I really need you to do this.

ELLEN

Forget it.

ADAM

What's the big deal? When "Cosmo"
calls, all you have to do is pose
as me.

ELLEN

Annabelle.

ADAM

Whatever. Please?

ELLEN

No. It's dishonest and I won't be
a party to it.

ADAM

Okay. I understand. You're a
woman of principles and I respect
that. (BEAT) Paige, what about
you?

PAIGE

Okay.

ADAM

Great. They're going to call any
minute, so let's practice. Why is
my work so rooted in my womanhood?

PAIGE

Because you're a woman?

ADAM

No. It's because I meditate on my feelings and moods until, in a rush of womanly inspiration, an image comes to me from my womb. And then, through photography, I give birth to it, clutch it to my bosom, and suckle it. Say that.

PAIGE

Without laughing?

ADAM

You're so coarse.

ELLEN

Adam, I think Paige knows more about how women talk than you do.

PAIGE PUTS HER BEER ON THE COFFEE TABLE.

ADAM

Use a coaster.

SFX: PHONE RINGS

ELLEN

That's Doug. He's escaped!

ELLEN RACES FOR THE PHONE BUT ADAM ANSWERS IT.

ADAM

Hello?... Yes, she is. Just a minute.

ELLEN BRIGHTENS. ADAM GIVES THE PHONE TO PAIGE.

ADAM (CONT'D)

It's for Annabelle.

ELLEN IS DISCOURAGED, AND WE:

DISSOLVE TO:

H

INT. ELLEN'S OFFICE - DAY - A FEW DAYS LATER (DAY 5)
(Ellen, Lois)

ELLEN IS WITH HER MOTHER.

ELLEN

So what's the deal? Did you talk
to Mrs. Henderson?

LOIS

I certainly did.

ELLEN

What did she say? Why didn't Doug
call? I thought we had a nice
time.

LOIS

That's not what I heard. Doug told
his mother that... (THIS IS
DIFFICULT) you seemed weird.

ELLEN

Weird?!

LOIS

Doug says that he found you with
some vagrant, buying pornographic
pictures.

ELLEN

What? I wasn't buying them. I
just looked at them.

LOIS

Ohh dear. When did this
fascination with pornography start?

ELLEN

Mom, I'm not fascinated with
pornography.

LOIS

And then apparently some crazy
friend of yours came in, babbling
about falling off the roof. *

ELLEN *

She didn't fall off the roof. Adam
fell off the roof.

LOIS *

Adam fell off the roof?!

ELLEN

No, Mom. This is just ridiculous.
I've got to straighten this out
with Doug.

LOIS

Oh, good. Because you should know,
Wanda Henderson talked to a lot of
the gals in the complex. They're
starting to call you... "Weird
Ellen."

ELLEN GOES PALE. AND WE:

DISSOLVE TO:

PAIGE

Why do parents think they're such great matchmakers, anyway? I mean, if they were so good at it, how come they spent their lives trapped in loveless marriages, screaming at each other night after night and then trying to blot out their pain with alcohol?

AN UNCOMFORTABLE BEAT.

ELLEN

Something you'd like to share with us, Paige?

PAIGE

(MEEKLY) No.

SFX: PHONE RINGS

ELLEN AND ADAM LOOK AT EACH OTHER.

ADAM

Either you answer it, or I will.

PAIGE

Maybe it's just an obscene caller.

ELLEN

My luck is nowhere near that good.

SHE VERY RELUCTANTLY ANSWERS THE PHONE.

J

INT. COFFEE SHOP - A FEW NIGHTS LATER (DAY 6)
(Ellen, Paige, Doug, Extras)

ELLEN AND PAIGE SIT AT A TABLE. THE WAITRESS BRINGS OVER TWO PLATES OF HORRIFYINGLY GREASY FOOD.

PAIGE

Do we have to eat here again?

ELLEN

We do if I want to run into Doug.
He comes here a lot.

PAIGE

Why? Does he have a cholesterol deficiency?

ELLEN

He says the place has character.

PAIGE

Yeah, I think I saw some character traps in the ladies room.

PAIGE PICKS UP HER GREASY GRILLED CHEESE SANDWICH.

ELLEN

Here, just wring it out into some napkins. It'll be fine.

PAIGE PUTS DOWN HER SANDWICH.

PAIGE

So, even if Doug comes in here, what are you going to say to him? He thinks you're weird.

ELLEN

That's exactly the point. I have been wrongly accused of weirdness, and I've got to clear my name. I'm like the "The Weird Fugitive."

PAIGE

Yes, you are. So, speaking of weird, it turns out my boss arranged to have his car stolen because he couldn't get out of his lease.

ELLEN

You're kidding. He used you to commit fraud?

PAIGE

(NODS) He better get me something really nice this Secretary's Day. I could be implicated in this whole thing. I need your advice.

ELLEN

All right. When you get to prison, don't just join the first gang that asks you. Be choosy. (THEN, NOTICING) Oh my God. It's him.

PAIGE

(TURNING) Doug?

ELLEN

Yes. Shoo. Get out of here.

We'll talk at home.

PAIGE

Okay. Good luck.

SHE EXITS. DOUG WALKS PAST.

ELLEN

Doug! What a complete and total coincidence.

DOUG

Ellen. What are you doing here?

ELLEN

Well, I was in the neighborhood, so I stopped in for a quick, greasy bite. You want to sit down?

DOUG

Actually, I'm with some friends.

ELLEN

(SINKING) Oh. Well, listen, it was great seeing you.

DOUG

You too.

HE BEGINS TO LEAVE. ELLEN IS ABOUT TO LET HIM, BUT AT THE LAST MINUTE WORKS UP SOME COURAGE.

ELLEN

Doug, can I ask you a question?

(NERVOUSLY) It's kind of a weird question, but... The other night, did you think I was weird? Ha! That sounded weird, didn't it?

DOUG

No...

ELLEN

Come on, Doug. Be honest with me. We're both grown-ups here. Your mom told my mom I was weird.

DOUG

(A BEAT, THEN) Well, there was that thing with the guy and the pictures, and then your friend who fell off the roof, or couch, or whatever... You have to admit, it did start to get a little strange.

ELLEN

You don't date much, do you, Doug? Look, I admit, I had my friend Paige come to bail me out.

(MORE)

ELLEN (CONT'D)

A single woman goes on a blind date
at a downtown diner... She's got
to take precautions. But if I'd
known how nice you were going to
be, I wouldn't have bothered. Now
I ask you, is that so weird?

DOUG

I guess not.

ELLEN

And to further convince you how
very very not-weird I am, how about
another date?

DOUG

I'd like that. How's dinner
tomorrow?

ELLEN

Great. I just have one request.

DOUG

What's that?

ELLEN

(BEGGING) Can we please not come
here?!

ON DOUG'S REACTION, WE:

DISSOLVE TO:

K

INT. APARTMENT - THE NEXT NIGHT (DAY 8)
(Ellen, Adam, Paige, Doug, Detective #1, Detective #2)

ELLEN ENTERS FROM THE BEDROOM WEARING HER RECYCLING PANTS. SHE
CROSSES TO THE FRONT DOOR AND OPENS IT TO FIND SEVERAL BAGS OF
BOTTLES AND CANS ON HER DOORSTEP. JUST THEN, PAIGE APPEARS AT
THE FRONT DOOR.

PAIGE

Hey. Is that what you're wearing
on your date?

ELLEN

Yes, Doug's taking me to this new
landfill that just opened up
downtown.

ELLEN PULLS THE BAG INSIDE. PAIGE FOLLOWS. ELLEN CROSSES TO THE
FRIDGE.

ELLEN (CONT'D)

Actually, he won't be here for an
hour. Beer?

PAIGE

No, thanks.

ELLEN TAKES ONE OUT OF THE REFRIGERATOR FOR HERSELF.

PAIGE (CONT'D)

Hey, great news! The police found
my boss' car. I'm driving it to
the insurance adjuster's now.

SHE WAVES THE KEYS FOR EMPHASIS, THEN PUTS THEM DOWN ON THE TABLE
BY THE DOOR.

ELLEN

(FEIGNING ENTHUSIASM) Whoo-hoo!

PAIGE

No, the great news is, your jacket was still in it.

ELLEN

Hey, that is great! So where is it?

PAIGE

Well, officially I think it's still considered evidence.

ELLEN

Evidence?

PAIGE

There was something in one of the pockets with your name on it, so now the police want to talk to you. I guess "great news" may have been overstating it.

ELLEN

You mean I'm a suspect?

PAIGE

No! No, no, no, no, no. Yes.

ELLEN

Paige!

PAIGE

Ellen, it's nothing. All you have to do is tell them the truth. You lent the jacket to me.

(MORE)

PAIGE (CONT'D)

There's nothing linking you to the car at all.

ELLEN

Well, okay. As long as I only have to tell the truth.

PAIGE

So, is Adam still here? I was supposed to meet him an hour ago. He said he needed me to pose as that Annabelle creature again -- in person this time.

ELLEN

I haven't seen him. Look, I'd better hop in the shower.

(BRIGHTLY) Doug is taking me to Patina tonight.

PAIGE

Ooh, fancy. I recommend the Montrachet Pouilly-fuisse.

ELLEN

What is that?

PAIGE

It's either a wine or a soup. But I hear it's good.

PAIGE EXITS. ELLEN STARTS TO THE BEDROOM, BUT SPOTS PAIGE'S BMW KEYS AND PICKS THEM UP. SHE CROSSES TO THE DOOR.

ELLEN

(CALLING) Paige, your keys--

SHE OPENS THE DOOR REVEALING DOUG.

DOUG

Ellen?

ELLEN

Doug! Hi! You're early.

DOUG

I'm sorry. I should have called,
but I got tickets to the Laker
game. If we hurry we can just make
it...

ELLEN

Great. Come on in. Sorry I'm
dressed like this, but I wasn't
expecting you for...

DOUG MOVES TOWARD HER, ACCIDENTALLY KICKING THE PLASTIC BAG. IT
TIPS OVER AND EMPTY BOTTLES SPILL OUT. HE LOOKS AT ELLEN.

ELLEN (CONT'D)

Those are my bottles. Well, not my
bottles. I don't drink. (NOTICES
BEER IN HER HAND) Much. See,
everybody brings their bottles to
me. Not as a gift or anything,
it's just that I'm nutty for
recycling. Well, not nutty. I'm
normal for recycling.

JUST THEN ADAM ENTERS, WEARING WOMEN'S PANTS, A STUFFED BLOUSE,
MAKE-UP, A WIG, AND WOMEN'S SHOES.

ELLEN (CONT'D)

Adam?

ADAM

Don't start with me, I'm in a mood.

(TO DOUG) Do I look like a woman
to you?

DOUG

(A LITTLE SPOOKED) Ah... sure.

ADAM

I think so, too. But not
"Cosmopolitan" magazine. No. To
them, I'm a sexist freak.

ELLEN

Doug, this is my roommate, Adam.
Adam, Doug.

ADAM

(OFFERING HAND, MANLY) How's it
going?

ADAM EXITS. DOUG LOOKS UNSETTLED.

DOUG

You know what, maybe tonight's a
bad night. Why don't you and uh...
your pal there take these tickets?

HE TAKES THEM FROM HIS POCKET.

ELLEN

Doug, wait. I know how strange all
this must look. But everything can
be explained. (LAUGHING) It's
actually a really amusing story.

THERE IS A KNOCK ON THE DOOR.

DETECTIVE #1 (O.S.)

Police. Open up.

ELLEN

And wait until you hear this one!

SHE OPENS THE DOOR. TWO DETECTIVES STAND THERE. *

ELLEN (CONT'D)

Can I help you, officers?

DETECTIVE #1

Are you Ellen Morgan?

ELLEN

Yes.

DETECTIVE #1

We'd like to question you in
connection with a stolen BMW.

ELLEN

A stolen BMW? (FOR DOUG'S BENEFIT)

I certainly don't know anything
about that. *

DETECTIVE #2 *

Just the same, can we come in?

ELLEN *

Whatever.

SHE MAKES A GESTURE TO DOUG AS IF TO COMMUNICATE, "WHAT A WACKY
WORLD WE LIVE IN." *

ELLEN (CONT'D) *

(TO DOUG) This will only be a
minute. Have a beer.

DETECTIVE #2 FINDS THE KEYS LEFT ON THE TABLE.

DETECTIVE #2

Ma'am, what do you know about these
BMW keys?

ELLEN

Ah...

DETECTIVE #1

I'm afraid we're going to have to
bring you in for questioning.

ADAM REENTERS FROM THE HALLWAY, HALF-UNDRESSED.

ADAM

Ellen, where do you keep the cold
cream?

DOUG

I'm outta here.

DOUG STARTS TOWARD THE DOOR.

ELLEN

Doug, wait. They'll grill me a few hours, we can still make the second half!

DOUG

This is all just too weird.

ELLEN

No, it can all be explained! I swear!

HE EXITS.

ELLEN (CONT'D)

Doug! Come back! I'm not weird!
I'm not weird!... Call me.

DISSOLVE TO:

M

INT. BUY THE BOOK - ANOTHER DAY (DAY 9)
(Ellen, Joe, Lois, Doug, Extras)

ELLEN, DOUG, AND LOIS SIT AT A TABLE. ELLEN AND DOUG SIT CLOSE TOGETHER AND ARE AFFECTIONATE. LOIS LOOKS ON FONDLY.

ELLEN

...so when I finally got through at the police station, I had to go back to the coffee shop and explain everything again.

DOUG

Yep. We've had a few bumps along the way, but now that we're together, it's all been worth it.

ELLEN

That's the greatest thing about Doug. He's so generous and forgiving. It seems no matter what I do, he understands. (PROUDLY)
You know, Mom, Doug is a very talented architect.

DOUG

Oh, come on, Ellen, your mom doesn't want to hear about that.

ELLEN

Of course she does. She wants to hear everything.

DOUG

Well, all right. Let me run to the
bathroom, and then we'll continue
this over lunch. My treat.

HE CROSSES AWAY. ELLEN AND LOIS SMILE AND WATCH HIM GO. THEN,
STILL SMILING, THEY TURN TO EACH OTHER.

LOIS

I don't like him.

AND, ON ELLEN'S REACTION, WE:

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

#C317 "SO FUNNY" TAG RESHOOT 9/21/94

43.
(TAG)

JOE NEARLY BUSTS A GUT.

JOE

Recession.

ELLEN

Joe, I'm going to have to cut your
pay.

JOE

(STOPS LAUGHING) I don't get it.

FADE OUT.

END OF SHOW