

NEVERMIND NIRVANA

"Pilot"

by

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ACT ONE
SCENE A

INT. RAJU'S CAR - EVENING
(Sonny, Raju, Perry)

SONNY MATTOO (IN THE PASSENGER SEAT), 31, HIS BROTHER RAJU (DRIVING), 29, BOTH AMERICANS OF EAST-INDIAN DESCENT, AND THEIR FRIEND PERRY (IN THE BACK SEAT), 29. THE CAR PULLS UP IN FRONT OF SONNY'S HOUSE. RAJU KILLS THE ENGINE.

RAJU
Well, thanks for the bachelor party
last night, Sonny. Vegas was fun.

SONNY
Sure. Sorry about the strippers.

PERRY
(BITTER) There weren't any strippers.

SONNY
Yeah, sorry about that. I had it all
lined up, but ma called and killed it.

RAJU NODS KNOWINGLY. PERRY SHAKES HIS HEAD, DISAPPOINTED.

RAJU
We did enough. We ate giant steaks,
we went to the car museum, we saw
Celine Dion. What else is there?

PERRY
(BITTER) Strippers.

RAJU
Come on, it was fun. We drank like
elephants, we gambled, we got massages.

PERRY
With male massage therapists. (TO
SONNY) You couldn't book females?

SONNY
I did. (BEAT, ASHAMED) Ma called the
spa and changed it to men.

AGAIN, RAJU NODS KNOWINGLY.

PERRY
(MUTTERS) Like a bachelorette party.
Surprised we didn't get pedicures.

RAJU
Hey Sonny? (LONG BEAT) You think I
should do this thing tomorrow?

SONNY
What, get married? Oh absolutely.
(THEN) This is the right move. (THEN)
And you like Priyanka, don't you?

RAJU
Yeah. She's nice.

SONNY
So there you go.

RAJU
Priyanka just seems a little... square.

SONNY
Raju, you're a dentist. Plus she's
nice. You just said it yourself. Nice
is like ninety percent of the equation.

PERRY
But it's nuts. An arranged marriage?
How can he marry a girl he doesn't
know? It's insane.

SONNY
He knows her. They had dinner how
many times?

RAJU
Sixteen times.

SONNY
Sixteen times. That's not nothing.

RAJU
And Ma likes her. (SWALLOWS) So
that's good.

PERRY
But did he ever (MAKES ODD GESTURES
INDICATING SEX)...kick the tires? No.

RAJU
(SAD) She wants to wait.

PERRY
(SHAKES HIS HEAD) Insane.

SONNY GETS OUT OF THE CAR, SHUTS THE DOOR, LEANS IN.

SONNY
Listen, relax. It's probably normal
to get the yips before your wedding.

PERRY
We still got time for strippers. Come
on, I know a place by the airport.

SONNY
(WARNS) No strippers. Ma was very clear.

PERRY
Who cares what your ma said? Let's go.

SONNY
 Raju, you're a grown man. You're getting
 married tomorrow. You can't listen to
 Perry anymore. He's an imbecile. (TO
 PERRY) I mean that affectionately.

PERRY
 He has to listen to me, I'm his partner.
 And I say this party ain't over yet!

RAJU PUTS HER IN GEAR. SONNY STEPS BACK FROM THE CAR.

SONNY
 Ma finds out, you're a dead man.
 We're both dead men.

RAJU AND PERRY DRIVE OFF.

SONNY (CONT'D)
 (CALLING OUT) Dead men!

SONNY TURNS AND HEADS TO HIS FRONT DOOR AS WE...

RESET TO:

INT. SONNY & ELIZABETH'S HOUSE - EVENING
 (Sonny, Elizabeth, Sarita, Arjun, Govind Singh)

SONNY ENTERS, SETS DOWN HIS BAG.

SONNY
 Elizabeth? Honey? I'm home.

ELIZABETH VAN PELT, 29, ENTERS FROM THE HALL WEARING A (VERY
 TANGLED AND INELEGANT) SARI. SHE'S NOT HAPPY ABOUT IT.

ELIZABETH
 How do they even put on these things?

SONNY
 What are you doing? What is that?

ELIZABETH
 It's a sari, obviously. (FUSSES WITH
 IT) They're diabolical.

SONNY
 Why are you wearing a sari?

AS HE TRIES TO HELP HER OUT OF THE TANGLED SARI CLOTH, SHE
ROTATES SEVERAL TIMES, TWIRLING HERSELF FREE OF IT:

ELIZABETH
 (DEFLATED, TWIRLING) I want to make a
 good impression on your parents.

SONNY
 Relax. Just be yourself.

ELIZABETH
 (TWIRLING) Sonny, the only time I met
 them I spilled wine all over your
 mother, so I need to make up for that.

SONNY
 It was a year ago. It was an accident.
 Nobody remembers.

ELIZABETH
 (INSECURE) Plus your brother's getting
 married tomorrow and we live together and
 we're not married. (DONE TWIRLING) And
 I'm not Indian.

SONNY
 Wait. (BEAT) You're not Indian?

ELIZABETH
 Pretty sure, yeah.

SONNY
Honey, I told you. They don't care
that you're not Indian. (UNDER HIS
BREATH) As far as you know.

ELIZABETH
(KISSES HIM) How was the bachelor
party? How's Raju? Is he nervous?

SONNY
Little bit. (WAVES IT AWAY) He'll be fine.

ELIZABETH
And did you give any more thought to
your... decision?

SONNY
Yes, and I've made up my mind. I'm
not going to be a doctor.

ELIZABETH
You know, it takes a certain courage
to go all the way through med school
and then quit.

SONNY
I really feel like it's the right
thing for me, though. Honestly, have
I ever seemed to enjoy it?

ELIZABETH
No, but I just thought that was your way.

SONNY

My way? My whole life so far has been about fulfilling my parents' idea of who I should be. But that's over now.

ELIZABETH

Honey, if you don't want to be a doctor, don't be a doctor. You're smart, you're young, cute. (KISSES HIM) I have faith that you'll figure it out.

SONNY

(TOUCHED) Thank you.

ELIZABETH

(BEAT) I'm giving you a year.

SONNY

Understood.

ELIZABETH

Are you excited to tell your parents?

SONNY

(BEAT, INCREDULOUS) Excited?

ELIZABETH

I just meant you'll finally be able to be honest about who you are.

SONNY

(TAPS HEAD) Honey, think. No one thinks anymore. If I tell my parents now, they will drop dead. Which kind of puts a damper on the wedding, no?

(MORE)

SONNY (CONT'D)
 They need happy news first, to offset
 the sad and horrible news later.

ELIZABETH
 You're their son. They'll love you no
 matter what you decide to do.

SONNY
 (MATTER OF FACT) That's not true.

THE DOORBELL RINGS.

ELIZABETH
 That's probably them.

SONNY
 (WORRIED) That's probably them who?

ELIZABETH
 Your parents. They called when they
 landed and said they'd be stopping by.

SONNY
 And you said yes? I'm not ready.

ELIZABETH
 What was I supposed to say?

SONNY
 Don't say anything about anything. Or
 their deaths will be on your head.

(STOPS, TURNS) Oh! And remember last
 time when I said you should touch
 their feet as a sign of respect?

ELIZABETH
 Your mom said it wasn't necessary.

SONNY
 She was lying. She's a liar. She
 loves that stuff.

THE DOORBELL RINGS AGAIN.

SONNY OPENS THE FRONT DOOR AND IN WALKS HIS FATHER, DR. ARJUN MATTOO, AN INDIAN WALTER MATTHAU, AND HIS MOM, DR. SARITA MATTOO, SMALL IN STATURE, BUT IN CHARGE.

THEIR SERVANT, GOVIND SINGH, 80'S, HAULS IN TWO SUITCASES, EXITS.

SARITA HOLDS SONNY'S FACE, LOOKS HIM IN THE EYE.

SARITA
 (STERN) Did you misbehave in Las
 Vegas? I am your mother. Do not lie
 to me.

SONNY
 We went to the car museum, ma.

SARITA
 (SQUEEZES HIS CHEEK) Such a good boy.

ARJUN WALKS UP TO ELIZABETH AND TAKES HOLD OF HER ELBOW.

ARJUN
 Hello. We have met once before. I'm
 Sonny's father, Dr. Arjun Mattoo.

ELIZABETH
 I remember you, of course. So good to
 see you again.

SONNY
 Personal space, pop. We talked about this.
 Thirteen to fifteen inches.

ARJUN

We had dinner together when you and Sonny were visiting Philadelphia.

ELIZABETH

Yes. I spilled wine.

ARJUN

You may or may not have spilled wine, I don't remember, because my wife was not angry. (THEN) It's fine by me that you're not Indian.

SARITA WEDGES HERSELF BETWEEN ARJUN AND ELIZABETH.

SARITA

I'm Sonny's mother. We met last year.

SONNY

You're my parents. She remembers you.

ELIZABETH

(TO SARITA) It's a pleasure having you here Dr. Mattoo. (AWKWARDLY TURNS TO ARJUN) And... Dr. Mattoo.

ARJUN

She is the famous Dr. Mattoo. I am just Dr. Mattoo. I'm content to be simple. Unlike some people.

SARITA

Always making trouble. So I am admired. Who cares? We should focus on the joyous occasion of Raju's wedding.

ARJUN
And what a happy day it will be!

SONNY
Well, life has its ups and downs, pop.
One minute it's all perfect and the
next minute your expectations are
shattered in pieces on the ground.

AN AWKWARD SILENCE, THEN:

SONNY (CONT'D)
But yes, a happy, happy, happy day.

ELIZABETH
(TO SARITA) I'm still so sorry I ruined
your beautiful sari last time we met.

SARITA
Don't be sorry. It was an accident.

ELIZABETH
Well I am. Truly. Sorry. About the
sari. (THEN) And now I'm sorry I keep
using the word sari. (BEAT) Sorry.

AT A LOSS, ELIZABETH LOOKS TO SONNY, MOUTHS "HELP ME."

SONNY
(SHRUGS, SOTTO) Maybe try the feet?

ELIZABETH MOVES TO TOUCH SARITA'S FEET. SARITA STOPS HER.

SARITA
(PLEASED) You don't have to touch my
feet, *beta*.

GOVIND SINGH BRINGS IN MORE BAGS, THEN EXITS.

SONNY

Um, what's up with all the bags, folks?

SARITA

I need everything in those suitcases.

This is a wedding, not a square dance.

SONNY

I meant what happened with your hotel?

ARJUN

We have cancelled the hotel.

SONNY

No, Pop, we discussed this. You'd be more comfortable in a hotel.

ARJUN

We will stay with you. (TAKES SONNY'S ELBOW) And we are giving serious consideration to relocating here.

SONNY

No. Here? No! Why?

ARJUN

Why not? Our sons are settled here. And there will be babies coming soon.

SARITA

You would send your own mother to sleep in a hotel? Shame on you!

SONNY

But we only have the one bathroom.

ARJUN

We don't need the bathroom.

SONNY
(DEADPAN, TO ELIZABETH) They don't
need the bathroom. (THEN) Where's
Govind Singh supposed to sleep?

ARJUN
Don't worry about Govind Singh. Do
you have a garage?

SONNY
Yeah...

ARJUN
Then don't worry about Govind Singh.

ELIZABETH
(TO SONNY, SOTTO) Who is Govind Singh?

SONNY
He's their... servant.

ELIZABETH
I see. (BEAT) Like a personal assistant?

SONNY
No. More, like a servant.

SONNY FOLLOWS HIS PARENTS DOWN THE HALL AS WE...

CUT TO:

SCENE BINT. SONNY & ELIZABETH'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

(Elizabeth, Sonny, Sarita, Arjun, Raju, Perry)

ELIZABETH GETS READY FOR BED. SONNY ENTERS, EXHAUSTED, SIGHS.

ELIZABETH

You'll feel better if you tell them.
Have courage. Have faith they'll be
okay. (BEAT) Do you have faith and
courage?

SONNY

Not really, no. And I'm not afraid of
them, I respect them. Look, I'm going
to tell them, just not... yet. It'll
ruin the wedding.

SARITA ENTERS WITHOUT KNOCKING. ELIZABETH RESUMES CLEANING.

SARITA

Sunil, are you okay? I heard yelling.

SONNY

Ma, no one was yelling. (THEN) And this
is our personal, private bedroom, so---

SARITA

(SOTTO, TO SONNY) Why don't you marry
her? You have been together two years.
Think of her reputation! (THEN) You
know we are sending Raju and his bride
to Hawaii for a honeymoon.

SONNY

That's very nice of you, but we---

SARITA
All expenses paid. A junior suite,
ocean view. It will cost them nothing.

SONNY
You're trying to bribe us into getting
married?

SARITA
(TO ELIZABETH) I would happily send
you and Sonny to Hawaii. Have you
been there? Very nice.

SONNY
Ma, you can't just make everyone do
what you want them to.

SARITA
Should I die without grandchildren?
Would that make you happy?

SONNY
No, it would not make me happy.

SARITA
(SOTTO, TO SONNY) If it does not work
between you two, I have a dozen nice girls
you can meet. Indian girls, doctors.

SONNY
Go to sleep, please.

SARITA
Understood. (WINKS) Let me know.

SARITA EXITS. ELIZABETH WAITS A MOMENT BEFORE SHE SPEAKS.

ELIZABETH

They're such sweet people. I don't see why you can't be honest with them.

SONNY

You know, I've always loved your optimism. Your innocent, silly, childish and simpleminded notions that we should all just be straightforward and open, and things will work out.

ELIZABETH

I think that's true, yes.

SONNY

(AS IF TO A CHILD) You're adorable.

ELIZABETH

You owe it to yourself to--- (AVERTS HER EYES, SOTTO) Okay, wow.

ARJUN ENTERS WEARING JUST HIS UNDERWEAR, SCRATCHES HIS BELLY.

ARJUN

So? Big day tomorrow?

SONNY

Maybe you should put something on.

ARJUN

Govind is still unpacking my clothes. I'm not nude, you know. (TO ELIZABETH) In India there is a favorable bias toward the elders. Here, not so much.

SONNY

So... How's Philadelphia? Same?

ARJUN
Well, the Sixers are choking.

SONNY
(HERDS HIM OUT) I haven't been following.

ARJUN
Things haven't really been right since
Dr. J became too old to play properly.

SONNY
That was many, many years ago.

ARJUN
He's not really a doctor, you know.
(CONSPIRATORIALLY) It's a nickname.

SONNY
Well. It's late, so...

ARJUN
So... do you two like this Priyanka?

SONNY
She seems nice, yes.

ELIZABETH
(NODS) Very nice.

ARJUN (CONT'D)
Very nice girl. Very nice family. We
had difficulty finding a doctor wife
for Raju, because he is... you know.

SONNY
Not smart?

ARJUN SHRUGS. SONNY HAS HERDED HIM OUT INTO THE DOORWAY.

SONNY (CONT'D)
You should sleep, pop.

ARJUN
Ever listen to this Howard Stern fellow?

SONNY
(SLOWLY SHUTS THE DOOR) Sometimes, why?

ARJUN
Seems like a gimmick.

SONNY
(WE'RE DONE HERE) Okay. Goodnight.

SONNY SHUTS THE DOOR, TURNS TO ELIZABETH, APOLOGETICALLY.

ELIZABETH
Sonny, you'll drive yourself crazy
until they know.

SONNY
Let's just get through the wedding.
Okay? Please. I have a plan here.
And it's working. Everything in its
time. Step one: Raju gets legally
married to Priyanka, which gives my
parents a reason to live. Step two: I
write them a letter explaining that
I'm not going to be a doctor. Step
three: we move to Korea. Step four: I
mail the letter from Korea. This is
an airtight plan, baby. Airtight.

WE HEAR A TAPPING AT THE WINDOW. SONNY CROSSES, OPENS THE
CURTAIN. IT'S RAJU, WHO WAVES. BEHIND HIM IS PERRY.

SONNY (CONT'D)
(OPENS WINDOW) What are you doing here?

RAJU CLIMBS IN, FOLLOWED BY PERRY.

RAJU
"What are you doing here" is not a nice way to greet people.

ELIZABETH
Why didn't you come in the front door?

RAJU
(DUH) Because I don't want my mom to see me. Anyway, no cause for alarm, but I'm not going through with the wedding. I was wondering if you'd tell mom and dad.

PERRY
We thought you being the older son, it should come from you.

RAJU
(MANIC) Also, I'm pretty sure I'm going to Nicaragua for a while.

ELIZABETH TURNS TO SONNY.

ELIZABETH
(THUMBS UP) Airtight.

RAJU
They need dentists down there, right?
(BEAT, URGENT) Right?

SONNY HANGS HIS HEAD IN FRUSTRATION AS WE...

SNAP TO BLACK.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO
SCENE C

INT. SONNY & ELIZABETH'S BEDROOM - NIGHT
(Sonny, Elizabeth, Raju, Perry)

SCENE CONTINUES AS BEFORE.

SONNY
Listen, you're getting married.

RAJU
I'm not getting married.

PERRY
It's true, he's not.

SONNY
(TO PERRY) You need to shut your pie hole,
(TO RAJU) ...and you need to calm down.

RAJU
I am calm. I'm not getting married.

SONNY
The wedding is tomorrow, you idiot.

RAJU
All the more reason! It's not too late.

SONNY
We're too far along. You have to get
married. Ma and Pop are moving here to
take care of your babies.

RAJU
(ALARMED) I'm not getting married.
Come on! Ma more or less arranged a
wife for me.

(MORE)

RAJU (CONT'D)
Four months ago Candy and I break up and
like that I'm marrying an OB/GYN from
New Jersey? Really?

SONNY
First of all, Candy worked in a liquor
store. Her name was Candy. Ma would
never have let that happen. Never.

PERRY
Plus he has never (MAKES ODD GESTURES
INDICATING SEX)... kicked the tires.

SONNY
(NO FAITH IN IT) Lots of girls wait
with the guy they're marrying. It's
not like she's a virgin.

PERRY
No, she's a fake virgin.

SONNY
(TO PERRY) And in our culture, sometimes
the parents help choose for you. You
don't understand. You're not Indian.

PERRY
You're not Indian! You're from
Philadelphia.

SONNY
(TO RAJU) Look at it this way: Mom
helped you. She introduced you to a
nice, Indian doctor girl. Who doesn't
sell liquor. It's a good system.

RAJU
 But... if it's such a good system,
 what about you and Elizabeth?

SONNY
 (BEAT) For me, it's not a good system.
 But for you, whose picker is broken---

RAJU
 My picker is fine!

SONNY
 Your picker is fine? Candy had a tattoo
 on her ass that said "I LIKE BALLS."
 Why do I know this? She showed me.

PERRY
 (SOTTO) Showed me, too.

ELIZABETH
 (SOTTO) Me, too.

SONNY
 (POKES HIM) Broken picker. This the
 best option for someone like you.

RAJU
 (DEFENSIVE) I'm smart. I'm a dentist.

PERRY
Yeah.

RAJU
 You think because you're a medical
 doctor that you're so great? Just
 because you do every little thing they
 want, doesn't mean I have to.

SONNY

Well, you know. It's the least I can do for them. It's... my duty.

ELIZABETH

(TO SONNY) Does he not know?

SONNY

(GRITS TEETH) He doesn't need to know yet. There is a timetable at work here.

RAJU

Do I not know what?

ELIZABETH

Sonny isn't going to practice medicine.

RAJU

(FRIGHTENED LAUGH) Does ma know?

SONNY

Not yet. And you can't tell her.

RAJU

She's going to kill you. (A FANTASY)
There'll be a trial, and she'll go to jail, and they'll electrocute her...

SONNY

You are going to marry Priyanka.

RAJU

Oh... I get why you're so interested.
I become a doctor and marry an Indian girl, then you're off the hook on both.

ELIZABETH

(TO SONNY) He's not wrong.

SONNY
What I do, or don't do, is my
business. Plus you're not a doctor.

RAJU
(SORE SPOT) A dentist is a doctor.

PERRY
We're tooth doctors. (THEN) Bitch.

SONNY
Ma will drop dead. You want to kill
her? She's our mother.

RAJU
We'll see who makes mom drop dead,
okay, buddypal? We'll just see.

ELIZABETH
What is so bad about getting married?

PERRY
He barely knows her. Doesn't anyone
listen? People should listen to me.

ELIZABETH
But you two genuinely like each other, I
know that. When we all had dinner last
month you could tell how much you cared
for each other. (TO SONNY) Right?

SONNY
(ROTE) You have to have faith and courage.

RAJU
(BEAT) I'm better off in Nicaragua.

RAJU HEADS TO THE WINDOW, FOLLOWED BY PERRY.

ELIZABETH

Hold on, Raju. (ASIDE, TO SONNY) If he really doesn't want to get married, he shouldn't have to. Help him.

SONNY

I'm trying to. Honey, Raju marrying Priyanka is the best thing for him.

ELIZABETH

Raju marrying Priyanka is the best thing for you. You don't care about him.

SONNY

(BEAT) Correct. But if he doesn't do this tomorrow, the pressure will be on us. Me and you. Why don't we get married and have kids. Why am I not a doctor. Why are you not Indian. Are you ready for that? Because if he doesn't get married, it's coming. It is en route.

ELIZABETH THINKS FOR A MOMENT.

ELIZABETH

(TO RAJU, SWEET) Let's just all go talk to Priyanka, okay? Probably normal to get the yips before your wedding.

RAJU SHRUGS, CLIMBS OUT WINDOW, THEN PERRY, THEN SONNY, THEN ELIZABETH AS WE...

CUT TO:

SCENE DEXT. HOTEL LOBBY - NIGHT

(Sonny, Elizabeth, Raju, Priyanka)

SONNY, ELIZABETH, RAJU AND PERRY WAIT BY THE ELEVATORS.
PRIYANKA EMERGES FROM ONE, APPROACHING...

PRIYANKA

Everything okay?

RAJU HAS A SMILE FROZEN ON HIS FACE.

ELIZABETH

Raju came to us feeling anxious, and
so we thought we could talk to you.

PRIYANKA

Anxious?

SONNY

Well, maybe that's not the right word---

PERRY

You're actually not bad looking.

PRIYANKA

(TO ELIZABETH) This is Perry the
partner I've heard so much about?

(PERRY HALF BOWS) Terrific. (TO
RAJU) You want to back out?

ELIZABETH

You don't really want to back out, do
you, Raju?

RAJU SAYS NOTHING, GRINNING WITH FEAR AT PRIYANKA.

PRIYANKA

Well, that makes this much easier. I
was going to back out, too.

SONNY
What? No!

ELIZABETH
What?!

PRIYANKA (CONT'D)
I was going to call you today to say I
couldn't go through with it.

PERRY
(SHAKES HER HAND) Nice knowing you,
Priyanka. You're a cute girl. You'll
do fine. (TO RAJU) When you're
finished up here, I'll be in the bar.

PERRY GOES UP FOR A HIGH FIVE. RAJU DOES NOT. PERRY EXITS.

RAJU
(VISIBLY RELAXES) Well, that actually
makes me feel a lot better.

PRIYANKA
It was nothing against you, really.
You're nice, funny, smart, handsome.

RAJU
(MUCH BETTER) Well, I think I'm over
the worst of it now. This has been
good. Just knowing I'm not alone.

SONNY
Great.

RAJU
Maybe you are the girl for me.

ELIZABETH
(NODS REASSURINGLY) Yes. I think she
is, yes.

PRIYANKA

How can you say that? If I'm going to spend my life with someone, I want to make sure we click.

SONNY

You click. We all had Chinese food. We saw you click. (TO ELIZABETH) He gave her his spring roll. Didn't we see them click, honey? Raju doesn't share his food.

PRIYANKA

I meant click in all areas. (BEAT) One very important area in particular.

CONFUSION FOR A SECOND, THEN: "OHHS" AND "AHH"S ALL AROUND.

RAJU

I thought you wanted to wait.

PRIYANKA

(WAVES IT AWAY) I promised my mom. But, honestly, she can suck it.

RAJU

So, should we go up to your room, or...?

PRIYANKA

My parents are in the next room.

ELIZABETH

Damn.

SONNY

So we'll get you another room, our treat. I'll go to the front desk and---

PRIYANKA
They're all booked up here.

SONNY
(THINKING) Another hotel?

RAJU AND PRIYANKA ARE INCREASINGLY DISTRACTED BY THE POSSIBILITY OF FORBIDDEN SEX. SHE WHISPERS SOMETHING IN HIS EAR AND HIS EYES GO WIDE. HE LAUGHS, WHISPERS SOMETHING BACK.

IT'S AWKWARD FOR ELIZABETH AND SONNY, WHO STEP A FEW FEET AWAY AND PRETEND NOT TO NOTICE.

ELIZABETH
So what do we do here?

SONNY
I don't know. (THINKS) Car?

ELIZABETH
(EWW) Really?

SONNY
Honey, we need to make sure this happens tomorrow. Two people getting married, they want to be able to (MAKES PERRY-LIKE ODD SEX GESTURES)... kick the tires.

ELIZABETH
Fine.

SONNY
(TO RAJU) Guys? (TOSSES HIS KEYS)
We'll get a cab home. Maybe get us some gas when you're through.

RAJU AND PRIYANKA, HAND IN HAND, MAKE FOR THE VALET AS WE...

CUT TO:

SCENE E

INT. SONNY & ELIZABETH'S HOUSE, KITCHEN - MORNING
(Sarita, Elizabeth, Arjun, Raju, Sonny)

SARITA COOKS. SONNY, ELIZABETH, AND ARJUN SIT AT THE TABLE
BEING FED. SARITA SCRUTINIZES ELIZABETH'S PLATE.

SARITA

What is the matter, *beta*? Not hungry?

ARJUN

She doesn't like Indian food, so why
force her!

SARITA

Nobody is forcing!

ELIZABETH

It's not--- I'm just little nauseous.

SARITA

If you are nauseous, I have just the
thing. My special mango pickle.

SARITA PLACES A BOWL OF OILY, ORANGE PICKLE IN FRONT OF HER.

ARJUN

(SOTTO) You do not want it, trust me.

ELIZABETH

This is going to taste like mangoes?

SONNY

(SOTTO) It's going to taste like feet.

ELIZABETH

So... where's Govind Singh?

ARJUN

Govind Singh is a servant. In India,
servants do not eat with us.

SONNY
We're not in India, pop.

ARJUN
But he does not know this.

RAJU AND PRIYANKA ENTER, AD LIB "GOOD MORNINGS" ETC.

ARJUN (CONT'D)
The happy couple on their wedding day!

PRIYANKA KNEELS, TOUCHES SARITA'S FEET. SARITA IS PLEASED.

SARITA
(HAPPY) Your groom fetched you? I
have those earrings for you, *beta*. I
purchased them when Raju was a baby.

ARJUN
(TO ELIZABETH) She has saris and
jewelry for Sonny's wife, too. Just
in case that sweetens the deal.

PRIYANKA SITS NEXT TO RAJU. THEY SMILE SHYLY AT EACH OTHER.

SONNY
I'm assuming the issues are resolved.
(OFF RAJU'S BLANK STARE) The issues.

RAJU
Oh, right. The issues. It's all
good, homes.

SARITA
Are your clothes all ready, Raju?

RAJU
I don't know, ma. I think I've changed
my mind about the Indian wedding outfit.

ARJUN

It will break your mother's heart if you do not wear the *achkan* and the *paggadi*. This woman who cooks for you. Who wiped your bottom and washed your---

RAJU

Fine, I'll wear the *achkan*.

ARJUN

And the *paggadi*.

RAJU

It'll look ridiculous, pop.

ARJUN

What will look ridiculous is an *achkan* without a *paggadi*! (BARKS) Go put it on!

RAJU EXITS. SARITA GIVES PRIYANKA A PLATE OF FOOD.

SARITA

Here *beta*, eat.

PRIYANKA

Oh, no, thank you, I already had breakfast at the hotel.

SARITA

It is a big day for you. Eat. For me.

A BRIEF, POLITE STANDOFF, THEN:

PRIYANKA

Well, maybe just a little bit.

(DUTIFULLY EATS, THEN) Delicious.

Better than my mom's.

IMMENSELY PLEASED, SARITA LOOKS TO ELIZABETH.

SARITA
Eat mango pickle. You will feel better.

SONNY
Ma, stop controlling. (TO ELIZABETH)
You don't have to if want to.

RAJU ENTERS, WEARING A *PAGGADI* (A RED, TURBAN-LIKE HAT) AND AN *ACHKAN* (A WHITE INDIAN SILK SUIT, NEHRU COLLAR, ETC.).

ARJUN
(MISTY) Brings back happy memories.

SONNY
(INDIAN ACCENT) Such happy memories!

ARJUN
You are required to wear a *paggadi*, too.

PRIYANKA
(RE: RAJU) Doesn't he look handsome?

SARITA
(ARM AROUND PRIYANKA, TO RAJU) Such a
nice girl we found for you.

ELIZABETH SNIFFS SOME MANGO PICKLE, BOLTS FROM THE ROOM.

ARJUN
(TO SARITA) Your mango pickle... is
tearing this family apart!

SONNY MOVES TO FOLLOW, BUT PRIYANKA GOES INSTEAD AS WE...

CUT TO:

SCENE H

INT. SONNY & ELIZABETH'S BATHROOM - MOMENTS LATER
(Elizabeth, Priyanka)

ELIZABETH FINISHES THROWING UP. PRIYANKA ENTERS, WETS A WASHCLOTH AND HANDS IT TO HER, GENTLY RUBS HER BACK.

PRIYANKA

The mango pickle is an acquired taste.

(THEN) I've personally never acquired it. With my mom's mango pickle I usually spit into the napkin when she's not looking. (BEAT) Sometimes I'll put it in my pocket. (THEN) You okay?

ELIZABETH

I'm fine. (THEN) How are you is the more important question? Big day today.

PRIYANKA

Hey, thanks for everything last night.

ELIZABETH

Any time.

PRIYANKA

I wish I still had sex in cars. Remember that? (SIGHS) College.

ELIZABETH

Happy to help.

PRIYANKA

That back seat is cramped. But I'm very flexible. And turns out Raju is a hard little worker, so---

ELIZABETH
 (INTERRUPTS) So, what are we?
 Sisters-in-law?

PRIYANKA
 (HUGS HER) Sisters.

ELIZABETH
 It's nice to have a friend, you know.
 One that's not one of... them.
 Someone I can talk to, someone---

PRIYANKA
 Okay, sweetie? You're going to need
 to brush your teeth.

ELIZABETH NODS, GETS OUT HER TOOTHBRUSH, STARTS BRUSHING AS
 SHE BUSILY TIDIES UP THE COUNTER.

ELIZABETH
 I don't know what came over me in
 there. I guess it's nerves, Sonny's
 parents being here, the wedding...

PRIYANKA
 Or maybe... ELIZABETH
 (STOPS BRUSHING) Or what.

PRIYANKA
 You're nauseous, you look terrific.
 You're cleaning stuff that's already
 clean. All big pregnancy indicators.
 This is my specialty, I know.

ELIZABETH
 I can't be pregnant. (BEAT) Sonny and
 I aren't married. His mom would freak.

PRIYANKA

Let me give you some free advice on how to survive among the Indians: lie. (THEN) Live your own life, but make sure you lie about it. Always.

ELIZABETH

But, I like to be honest with people.

PRIYANKA

Which is very sweet. But trust me, the Indian mother, the Indian mother-in-law? Vicious. Fearsome. A tiger. You need to outsmart them, and that means lying as often as possible in almost every situation. You suck up to them, you act dutiful, you make your father-in-law tea when he visits, you pretend you're a virgin.

ELIZABETH

Even after you're married?

PRIYANKA

(NODS) It's just easier.

ELIZABETH

Why can't I just be myself?

PRIYANKA

Sweetie, you just ate something called mango pickle for breakfast and there is an eighty-year-old brown servant man sleeping in your garage.

(MORE)

PRIYANKA (CONT'D)
 Which is the very tip of the iceberg
 for you. (BEAT) Now, just let me run
 out and get a pregnancy test. Back in
 ten minutes.

ELIZABETH
 Wait. (TAKES OUT AN EPT BOX) I bought
 one yesterday.

PRIYANKA
 Well? So pee on it.

ELIZABETH UNWRAPS IT, SITS ON THE TOILET AND CONCENTRATES.

ELIZABETH
 What if Sonny doesn't want a baby yet?
 He's going through a lot, lately.

PRIYANKA
 He loves you. Remember that. This is
 a beautiful, natural, joyful thing.
 (BEAT) That we have to strategize
 about.

ELIZABETH FINISHES PEEING, STANDS, LOOKS AT THE EPT. PRIYANKA
 PUTS HER ARM AROUND HER.

PRIYANKA (CONT'D)
 It's going to be okay. Either way.

SARITA (O.S.)
 Priyanka *beta*? I have earrings...

ELIZABETH TOSSES THE EPT TEST IN A CABINET.

PRIYANKA
 (CALLS OUT, CHEERFUL) Yes *Ma-ji*!
 Coming!

(MORE)

PRIYANKA (CONT'D)
(TO ELIZABETH, NOT CHEERFUL) This is my wedding day. Now, if you're pregnant? News like that is gonna throw things out of whack today. Not to mention the fire under my ass to have a kid gets way hotter --- thanks for that, by the way. So we need to control the information flow if we're going to survive. Radio silence, understand? Remember, lie lie lie.

ELIZABETH
But I should tell Sonny, though, right?

PRIYANKA
You can't tell anyone you're pregnant until this is all over and I'm wheels up on my plane to Hawaii. Sister or no sister, I will beat your ass if this gets out before that. Feel me? (THEN, CALLING OUT, CHEERFUL) Coming, ma!

ELIZABETH NODS. PRIYANKA SMILES SWEETLY THEN EXITS AS WE...

SNAP TO BLACK

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREESCENE JEXT. WEDDING BANQUET HALL - EVENING

(Sonny, Raju, Perry, Arjun, Govind Singh)

RAJU (IN FULL INDIAN WEDDING REGALIA) STANDS FACE TO FACE WITH A WHITE HORSE, THE REINS HELD BY GOVIND SINGH. RAJU AND THE HORSE CONSIDER EACH OTHER, DISTRUSTFULLY. A SMALL INDIAN-STYLE MARCHING BAND WAITS TO "PLAY THEM IN."

SONNY (WEARING A PAGGADI) AND PERRY (EATING A SAMOSA) ENTER FROM INSIDE.

SONNY

What is the hold up? Let's go. We got five hundred people out there waiting.

PERRY

Five hundred people you don't know.

RAJU

I can't do it.

PERRY

(SHRUGS) If you can't do it, you can't do it. Let's get outta here.

SONNY

No! I thought we settled this.

(SOTTO) You had sex in my car, man.

RAJU

I'm talking about the horse, man. I didn't know we were doing the horse.

SONNY

You have to do the horse. The horse is a key part of the whole deal.

SONNY LOOKS AT PERRY, WHO STOPS CHEWING, MOUTH FULL.

PERRY
Was I not supposed to eat yet?

RAJU
Look at it. It hates me.

SONNY LOOKS AT THE HORSE. IT DOESN'T HATE ANYONE.

SONNY
So, let's get this straight. You'll let ma pick your wife, you'll agree to have hundreds of complete strangers at your wedding, you'll put on... (RE: OUTFIT) that. But the horse is where you draw the line? It's a horse.

ARJUN ENTERS FROM INSIDE.

ARJUN
What is the commotion? Let's get the lead out, boys.

THE BOYS LOOK AT EACH OTHER --- "GET THE LEAD OUT"?

SONNY
He doesn't want to do the horse.

ARJUN
It is tradition that the groom enters on a white horse. (THEN) Also, I have already paid for the horse.

RAJU
I hate horses, pop. They bite.

ARJUN
I don't blame you *beta*, but it could be worse.

(MORE)

ARJUN (CONT'D)
 For my wedding, your mother's family
 made me enter on a white elephant.

(DISMISSIVE) But these are very status-
 conscious people.

PERRY
 The elephant is kind of showy. (OFF
 ARJUN'S GLARE) What.

ARJUN
 (TO SONNY) I do not like this fellow.

SONNY
 (SHRUGS) Neither do I.

SARITA POPS HER HEAD OUTSIDE.

SARITA
 Arjun-*ji*. Your cousin from Bangalore
 is drunk. Remove him, please. (THEN)
 Raju, get the lead out.

ARJUN GOES BACK INSIDE WITH HER.

SONNY
 They came here with their little
 Indian suitcases full of nothing, and
 worked and strived so we could have a
 good life here in America. You have an
obligation to them, okay?

RAJU
 What do you care about obligations?
 You just care about yourself.

SONNY

Get on the motherfucking horse and
let's do this thing. Seriously.

SONNY PUSHES RAJU TOWARD THE HORSE. RAJU BREAKS FREE,
SWATTING AT SONNY TO KEEP AWAY.

RAJU

It's a slave, do you realize that? It
has no choice in what happens to it.

PERRY

(RE: SAMOSA, SWEATING, COUGHING) Spicy.

RAJU

They put that metal thing in its mouth
and it'll just do whatever it's told.

SONNY

So you're saying if we put a metal
thing in your mouth you'll get on the
horse? Because I will find a metal
thing, brother. Ma's waiting.

ARJUN COMES BACK OUTSIDE, PINCHES RAJU'S CHEEK.

ARJUN

You are a good boy. (LOOKS AROUND,
SUSPICIOUS) I will deny having said
this, but do what makes you happy.

(THEN) When you are married you will
learn that this is a terrible mistake.

(THEN) Govind!

GOVIND GIVES THE NOD TO THE BAND WHO BEGIN TO PLAY RAJU IN,
AS ARJUN WALKS BACK IN, THEN RAJU AND SONNY AS WE...

CUT TO:

SCENE KINT. WEDDING BANQUET HALL - EVENING

(Sonny, Elizabeth, Sarita, Raju, Priyanka, Arjun, Perry, Govind Singh)

A SEA OF GUESTS IN CHAIRS FACING A RAISED WEDDING ALTAR, ADORNED WITH FLOWERS, ALONG WITH VARIOUS PLATES OF FRUIT, COCONUTS, STATUES, GARLANDS, ETC.

RAJU AND SONNY SIT AT THEIR PLACES ON THE ALTAR WITH THE REST OF THE FAMILY --- PRIYANKA AND HER PARENTS, AND ARJUN AND SARITA. ELIZABETH AND PERRY ARE ALSO ON THE ALTAR, OFF TO THE SIDE.

THE PUNDIT (HINDU PRIEST) OFFICIATES FROM CENTERSTAGE, RECITING AND CHANTING AND SINGING HIS PRAYERS IN SANSKRIT, HANDING RAJU AND PRIYANKA VARIOUS SUBSTANCES (RICE, GHEE, FLOWER PETALS, ETC.) TO THROW ONTO THE SMALL CEREMONIAL FIRE.

AS THE PRIEST CHANTS, SARITA GIVES RAJU THE STINK-EYE.

SARITA

(NOT EXACTLY SOTTO) For three thousand years we Mattoos have been married the same way.

RAJU

Ma, please.

SARITA

But you had to do it differently.

RAJU

(THROUGH CLENCHED TEETH) Ma.

THE PRIEST, STILL CHANTING LOOKS DISAPPROVINGLY AT THEM.

SARITA

So embarrassing.

THE PRIEST CHANTS AND SINGS, PUTS SOME RICE IN RAJU'S HAND, INDICATES HE SHOULD THROW IT IN THE FIRE, WHICH HE DOES.

SONNY

We're underway here, okay. Underway.

SARITA
But he just walked in.

SONNY
Ma, you got Raju in a turban, getting married to an Indian doctor girl, by a man who no one understands what he's saying. What more do you want?

SARITA
(SHAKES HER HEAD) They will be gossiping about this for years. The boy who did not arrive on a horse.

ARJUN PLACES A HAND ON SARITA TO CALM HER.

ARJUN
It's over now, Sarita. He is here.

RAJU
Let it go, ma.

PRIYANKA
People, people. Ceremony, reception, Hawaii. Could we focus here?

ARJUN
The bride has asked that we focus.

THE PRIEST, STILL CHANTING AND PRAYING, SEEMS TO AGREE. HE GOES ON FOR A FEW BEATS.

PERRY
(TO ELIZABETH) Kind of chatty, these Indian weddings, huh?

ELIZABETH NODS, LOOKS TO SONNY, WHO LOOKS BACK, SMILES.

PERRY (CONT'D)
Do we know what he's saying?

ELIZABETH
You're asking me?

SONNY LEANS OVER TO HIS FATHER.

SONNY
(SOTTO) What is he saying exactly?

ARJUN
I have no idea. But it is tradition,
so we listen.

PERRY
(TO ELIZABETH) You know, if it doesn't
work out with you and Sonny, maybe you
and I could hook up. You like beer?

ELIZABETH SHAKES HER HEAD. SARITA TURNS TO RAJU AGAIN.

SARITA
I suppose I can comfort myself that at
least I have one son who does what
little I ask of him.

SONNY
Leave me out of it.

SARITA
One son who cares, one who does not.

RAJU'S HAD IT.

RAJU
Cares? You want to know how much he
cares? Ask Sonny about his new life.
Go on. Ask him.

SONNY GESTURES BEHIND SARITA FOR RAJU TO SHUT THE FUCK UP.

SARITA
Sunil? What is your brother saying?

SONNY
We can talk after the ceremony.

PRIYANKA
Yes, whatever it is can wait. We're
halfway through here, right?

SHE LOOKS TO THE PRIEST (STILL CHANTING) FOR CONFIRMATION. HE
INDICATES THAT IT'S PERHAPS NOT QUITE HALFWAY.

PRIYANKA (CONT'D)
We're pretty far along, anyway.

SARITA
(WORRIED) Is something wrong, Sunil?
Nothing could be that bad that you
keep it from me. Unless... Are you a
gay? (TO ELIZABETH) Is he a gay?

ELIZABETH
Not from what I can tell, no.

PERRY
(SOTTO TO ELIZABETH) I don't know.
It was his idea to see Celine Dion.
I'm just saying.

AS THE CEREMONY CONTINUES AND THE PRIEST CHANTS, SARITA GETS
UP FROM NEXT TO RAJU, MOVES AND SQUEEZES IN NEXT TO SONNY.

SARITA
(HOLDS HIS FACE) Tell me. Do not lie.

RAJU
Yeah, tell her. Doctor Mattoo.

SONNY

It's not a big deal. (DEEP BREATH,
GATHERING COURAGE) I've decided I'm
not going to take the residency at
Jules Stein.

SARITA

You're changing specialties? At this
late date? Are you trying to kill me?

SONNY

No. I'm not going to practice medicine.
(SWALLOWS) At all. (TO ELIZABETH) Call
9-1-1. She's going down.

FOR A LONG BEAT, SARITA SITS FROZEN, A BLANK. THEN:

SARITA

You'll starve!

ARJUN

You're trying to kill your mother?
Who cooks for you? Who washed you?

SARITA

You will have to live on the street,
eat garbage!

SONNY

I went to medical school to please
you and pop. Which is a bad reason.
I have to try to do something that I
like, that I want to do.

ARJUN

Which is what, buddyboy?

SONNY
(SHRUGS) Not sure yet.

THE PRIEST, EVER CHANTING, TIES A GARLAND OF FLOWERS AROUND RAJU AND PRIYANKA'S HANDS, JOINING THEM.

SARITA
Something is wrong. This is not like you. Did you take pot?

SONNY
I didn't take pot, ma.

SARITA
You are ruining your life! (TO ARJUN)
He is ruining his life!

ARJUN
Govind! (SHAKES HIS HEAD) We are definitely buying that condo. Your life is going way off track.

GOVIND SINGH ARRIVES, ARJUN BARKS AT HIM.

ARJUN (CONT'D)
Water!

GOVIND RETREATS IN SEARCH OF WATER.

RAJU
(PROUD) You've still got one son who's a doctor. That's gotta feel good, right?

ARJUN
You are not a doctor.

RAJU
I am a doctor!

SONNY
Nothing wrong with not being a doctor.

RAJU
I'm a doctor!

SONNY
Mom, it's my life.

SARITA
Who told you that? I gave birth to
you, you belong to me. And now your
children will have to beg for food!

SONNY LOOKS TO ELIZABETH FOR HELP.

ELIZABETH
(THUMBS UP) Airtight.

AT A LOSS, IMPULSIVELY, SONNY POINTS TO RAJU.

SONNY
Raju and Priyanka had sex! Pre-
maritally. How about that!?!

PRIYANKA GASPS. THE PRIEST KEEPS CHANTING. RAJU LOOKS AT
PRIYANKA'S FATHER, WHO DOES NOT SEEM HAPPY IN THE LEAST.

ARJUN
(HITS RAJU) What?! Is this true?

SONNY
In a car, by the way.

RAJU
(RE: SONNY) Sonny has pre-marital sex
all the time.

GOVIND ARRIVES WITH A GLASS OF WATER, WHICH ARJUN HANDS TO
HIS WIFE. SHE DRINKS, MOPPING HER BROW.

ARJUN

We will deal with Sunil, trust me.

We're talking about (POKES HIM) you.

Have you no shame? Did you go to see
the bride before it was allowed?

ALL EYES GO TO RAJU.

RAJU

(SWALLOWS) Yes.

FOR DEFILING THE PURITY OF THE BRIDE, A SCANDALIZED MURMUR
MOVES THROUGH THE CROWD. RAJU POINTS ACCUSINGLY AT PRIYANKA,
AWKWARD SINCE THEIR HANDS ARE JOINED BY THE GARLAND.

RAJU (CONT'D)

But it was her idea!

PRIYANKA

Raju!

RAJU

---I wanted to go over there and talk.

About my feelings. And she was the one

who insisted that we... (MAKES ODD

GESTURES INDICATING SEX) kick the tires.

NOW, ALL EYES GO TO PRIYANKA. SILENCE. MOUTH AGAPE, SHE CAN'T
REALLY SAY ANYTHING THAT WILL MAKE THIS BETTER. THEN:

PRIYANKA

(QUICKLY, POINTING) Elizabeth is

pregnant.

NOW ALL EYES GO TO ELIZABETH. THE CROWD SEEMS PLEASED.

SARITA

SONNY

(HOPEFUL, OVERJOYED) She is?! (HAPPY) You are?

A LONG BEAT. THE PRIEST EVEN STOPS HIS CHANTING. PERRY
UNCONSCIOUSLY SCOOTs AWAY FROM ELIZABETH.

ELIZABETH
I'm actually not. (THEN) I thought I
might be. But the test came back
negative.

RAJU
But pre-marital sex is my point.

THE CROWD LETS OUT AN AUDIBLE GROAN OF DISAPPOINTMENT.

SONNY
(DISAPPOINTED) Oh.

ELIZABETH IS CLEARLY NOT UNHAPPY THAT HE'S DISAPPOINTED.

ARJUN
Can we get this girl and boy married
now? Seeing as they have already (HITS
RAJU) consummated their relationship?

THE PRIEST RESUMES CHANTING, THE CEREMONY CONTINUES AS WE...

END OF ACT THREE

FADE OUT.

TAG

INT. WEDDING HALL - NIGHT (LATER)

(Sonny, Elizabeth, Arjun, Govind Singh)

THE RECEPTION IN FULL SWING. SONNY AND ELIZABETH AT A TABLE.

ELIZABETH

So, what do you think you'll do with
your life?

SONNY

I'll find something I love. (AN
EPIPHANY) Something I love. (KISSES
HER) Like you. (THEN) You sure
you're not pregnant?

ELIZABETH

The test comes in a convenient five
pack. So, yeah. (THEN) But it would
have been okay, right?

SONNY

You kidding? It would've been great.
(THEN) And it will be. One day.

ELIZABETH

(KISSES HIM) One day.

ARJUN CROSSES IN, A COCKTAIL IN HIS HAND. SARITA PASSES
WITHIN VIEW AND HE QUICKLY HANDS IT TO A WAITING GOVIND
SINGH, WHILE HE UNLOOSENS HIS COLLAR.

ARJUN

(MAKES SURE SARITA'S GONE) You made a
good decision.

SONNY

(WHAT?) What?

ARJUN

I didn't work all these years in America so my eldest son would be miserable in his career. You should be happy in life. That is my goal.

SONNY

But you called me an idiot.

ARJUN

For your mother's benefit. If I said that I agreed with you, there would be war. No man wants war with his wife. Remember this. You might have a wife one day. (WINKS AT ELIZABETH) Soon.

SONNY

Wow, pop. That means a lot to me.

ARJUN

You understand, publicly I must continue to condemn you.

ARJUN COLLECTS HIS COCKTAIL FROM GOVIND.

ARJUN (CONT'D)

If you don't want mango pickle, don't take it. Stand up to her!

ARJUN WALKS BACK INTO THE CROWDS, FOLLOWED BY GOVIND. SONNY AND ELIZABETH GET UP TO DANCE AS WE...

FADE OUT.

END OF SHOW