

TWO RINGS

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EXT. CAFE TABLE- MIDDAY

MARCI sits alone at the table. A cup of coffee sits in front of the empty chair opposite of her.

ALICE
(sits down excitedly)
I'm gonna ask him.

MARCI
(chokes on water)
You're gonna what now?

ALICE
Marci, we've been dating for four
and a half years, living together
for three, I'm twenty six years
old, it seems like it's time
right? For, you know marriage?

MARCI
Okay...

ALICE
I'm gonna ask him

MARCI
Don't do that

ALICE
I'm gonna do it

MARCI
No!

ALICE
Why?

MARCI
Because that's not how it's done...

ALICE
Says who??

MARCI
History, ordained ministers,
anyone who's ever asked or been
asked.

ALICE
It's the 21st century. Screw
historical norms.

MARCI
Fine. When are you gonna ask?

EXT. BENCH- MIDDAY

EVAN
At the camping trip this weekend.

IAN
Camping? That is the most-

EXT. CAFE TABLE- MIDDAY

MARCI
Unromantic place imaginable.
Besides we're not even camping!
We're staying at a hotel.

EXT. BENCH- MIDDAY

EVAN
But at sunset the lake gets all
shiny and it sparkles and she'll
sparkle- and it'll be beautiful

IAN
Alright. Whatever you choose, I'll
help ya out, mate.
(pats his shoulder)

EXT. CAFE TABLE- MIDDAY

MARCI
Okay, so since you planned this
all out to happen in four days,
where's the ring?

ALICE
The ring-

IAN
The ring?

EVAN
The ring...

MARCI
Yeah the ring? (laughs) you can't
ask without the ring. Where ya
gonna get it?

Alice pulls out her phone and starts scrolling...

EXT. WALKING DOWN A STREET- MIDDAY

Even and Ian are walking into a building, and talking.

IAN

You think you're ready?

EVAN

As ever...

IAN

This weekend is gonna be so cute.
So perfect. I love romance!

EXT. CAFE TABLE- MIDDAY

ALICE

Okay, it should be here by friday.

MARCI

I can't believe you ordered it
online. (shakes her head, and
drinks coffee)

ALICE

I'm really gonna do it...

MARCI

Seems like it.

ALICE

I'm ready

MARCI

A bit too ready maybe?

ALICE

Gonna get the ring

MARCI

From a cardboard package

ALICE

Gonna get my man

MARCI

Mhmm.

ALICE

(stands on a chair for dramatic effect, as she speaks)
Gonna change gender norms for good!

MARCI
(stares up at her)
Yeah okay

INT. HOTEL BEDROOM

IAN
Alright it's game day, what's your plan?

EVAN
(leg bouncing up and down, chewing on lip)

IAN
Hello? Earth to Evan??

EVAN
Hmm?

IAN
What's the plan...?

EVAN
(Blows air through lips)

INT. DIFFERENT HOTEL BEDROOM

ALICE
Nonononononoooo tell me I didn't lose the damn ring!

MARCI
Where did you leave it?

ALICE
I wrapped it in tissue paper, and put it in here so he wouldn't see it-

MARCI
Why would you do that?

ALICE
Marci! Help me! Oh god, god no-ugh! Is this how men feel?

INT. HOTEL BEDROOM

EVAN

I don't know, I'm second guessing
my whole plan- like what if it
gets all cloudy and rainy and
there's no sunset- maybe it's not
that romantic of a spot- what if
there's a smell... like a really
weird sour smell?

IAN

Dude, relax. Breathe in, breathe out.

EVAN

(breathes, bounces in place for a second)
Nope not working!

IAN

What's wrong? Why are you so nervous?

EVAN

(sits, still panicking)

IAN

You love this woman right?

EVAN

(nods)

IAN

This isn't a spelling bee question
Evan, DO YOU LOVE HER?

EVAN

Yes! More than anything.

IAN

Do you trust her?

EVAN

I do.

IAN

Then trust that no matter what
happens today, no matter how it
smells, it will all work out

EVAN

(Nods, trying to breathe right)
Yeah. It doesn't have to be
perfect. All I need is me and her.
No need to freak.

IAN
And hey, if it's any
constellation: at least you didn't
lose the ring.

INT. HOTEL BEDROOM

ALICE
Where did it go!

MARCI
You're sure you put it in *that* bag?

ALICE
Yes! So why is it not there anymore?

MARCI
(Unzips Alice's purse, and sees the
ring sitting lovingly right on top.
She takes it out, holding it up, but
Alice is too busy digging and talking
to herself to notice. Marci cleans it
real quick, blowing on it, shining it
on her shirt)

ALICE
The one day I lost something it
had to be a ring. I've had such a
great track record. I never lost
my phone, my keys. Well I lost one
key but that's cause it fell off
and oh this can't be happening.
Ugh! Where is that stupid ring!?

MARCI
You mean this ring?

ALICE
(drops everything and rushes over)
Oh my god-

MARCI
It was in your purse. Sitting
quite lovely in fact. Perfectly
placed. Just waiting for-

ALICE
Thank you thank you thank you
thank god! Oh jeez
(slumps down on the bed)

MARCI

Now you just gotta keep track of
it for the next three hours.

ALICE
(melts off the edge)

MARCI
Look whatever happens, ring or no

MARCI and IAN
Everything will work out

Alice stares up at the sky in longing, in hope, this arc of nerves and doing something bigger than herself shifting. She knows what she wants, and is suddenly prepared, she's ready. She's been building herself up to this moment and only now is she truly ready for it.

INT. HOTEL BEDROOM

Evan stares at the ground, his breathing finally getting to normal pace, he stops ringing his hands. He nods to himself, sure of the coming future, and only now is he truly ready for the spotlight moment. He looks to his side.

INT. HOTEL BEDROOM

Alice looks to her side (insinuating they're looking at each other, even though in reality they're in different places)

INT. HOTEL BEDROOM

Evan stands.

EXT. BENCH OUTSIDE HOTEL

They both stroll into frame, looking slightly nervous, but comforted by the other's presence. They both stutter over unrecognizable words, laugh and reach into their back pocket. They notice the other's gestures, they make eye contact, laugh once in relief in irony, disbelief but most importantly, love.

Marci and Ian silently highfive as they watch this interaction from a distance.

THE END

