

# Angel in my Heart

ANGEL IN MY HEART  
a musical romance

The set is divided into two parts: one part suggests the men's departments at various expensive New York department stores; the other area represents a copywriter's office at a fragrance company, with ergonomic chair, desk and computer. Other settings are suggested throughout.

ACT ONE - Scene i -

THE MEN'S DEPARTMENT OF BERGDORF GOODMAN'S.

BRIAN HAYES, early 30's and immaculately handsome, is trying on a designer sport jacket when BERNIE LICHTENBERG, same age, enters in a frazzle.

BERNIE

[recitative: I know I'm late...]

I KNOW, I KNOW! I'M LATE,  
BUT YOU CAN THANK YOUR LUCKY STARS I'M HERE AT ALL.  
I BARELY MADE IT THROUGH THE FRAGRANCE DEPARTMENT.  
WHAT D'YA CALLIT —

the pretty people with the samples ...

BRIAN

ATTACK MODELS.  
STINK BOMBERS...

BERNIE

YEH. THEM.  
THEY'RE ON THE RAMPAGE —

I've been spritzed by Ralph, Calvin and three Europeans I've never heard of. If I put my wrist too near my nose, I'll pass out from the fumes.

BRIAN

So don't sniff your wrist.

BERNIE

AND ALL THOSE "CHAYAS" PUSHING AND SHOVING,  
FIGHTING OVER THE CASHMERE SWEATERS.  
WHO KNEW YOU COULD GET BLACK AND BLUE FROM CASHMERE?

I had to threaten a lawsuit to get at the beige crew neck I had my eye on. You'd think people would be more civilized at Bergdorf's.

BRIAN

SOMETIMES YOU'VE GOTTA BE AGGRESSIVE  
AND GO AFTER WHAT YOU WANT.  
THAT'S THE EXCITEMENT OF SHOPPING:  
THE THRILL OF THE HUNT.

BERNIE

Yeh, yeh, yeh — some thrill. I could understand if there were a clearance, maybe. But who fights over 10% off? It's degrading.

BRIAN

Oh ... my ... GOD!

BERNIE

What?

BRIAN

Look at the price of this jacket!

ARMANI.

I SHOULD HAVE FIGURED.

I SEEM TO HAVE THIS FATAL ATTRACTION TO THE ITALIANS.

BERNIE

I wonder which costs more -- buying the clothes or dating the men.

BRIAN

You tell me. You seem to be in the Italian of the month club.

BERNIE

Be nice, or I'll bring up a few of your exes.

BRIAN (trying on a jacket)

IF YOU REALLY WANT TO LOSE YOUR HEART TO AN ITALIAN,  
CHECK OUT THIS ONE.

[end recitative]

What do you think?

BERNIE (trying on another)

The price doesn't fit. How about this one? Too loud?

BRIAN

How can gray be loud?

BERNIE

WHAT D'YA CALLIT —

the contrast stripe.

BRIAN

Pardon while I get out my sunglasses.

BERNIE

There's nothing wrong with conservative good taste.

BRIAN

What do you think I am? A Republican?

BERNIE

Don't start with the Republican-bashing. Dan Quayle is the first cute guy we're had in office since JFK.

BRIAN

Dan Quayle is no John Kennedy, to quote Lloyd Bentsen. And there's nothing cute about stupidity.

BERNIE

Then explain why we keep cruising those twinkies at Boy Bar.... Speaking of which, did anything happen when I left the other night?

BRIAN

I don't go home with strangers.

BERNIE (half looking at jackets, after a pause)

You don't go home with anyone. Not since Jay.

BRIAN

Poor Jay.

BERNIE

[TRACK 1: So Tell Me...]

So ...

BRIAN

So what?

BERNIE

SO TELL ME,  
WHAT D'YA CALLIT --

BRIAN

WHAT?

BERNIE

THE WEEK ...

BRIAN

WHAT ABOUT IT?

BERNIE

NOW DON'T BE EVASIVE.

BRIAN

DON'T CARRY ON ...

BERNIE

COME ON AND TELL ME THE NEWS.

BRIAN

I WISH THAT I HAD THE PHYSIQUE  
FOR THIS JACKET.

BERNIE  
AT LEAST YOU DON'T HAVE TWENTY POUNDS TO LOSE.  
FORGET THE JACKET AND TELL ME THE NEWS!

BRIAN  
IT'S NOTHING IMPORTANT.

BERNIE  
SO TELL ME ALREADY.

BRIAN  
SO HOW DO YOU LIKE THE FIT?

BERNIE  
I'M HAVING THE FIT!  
SO TELL ME ALREADY!

BRIAN  
JUST PROMISE ME  
NO THIRD DEGREE.

BERNIE  
COME ON, COME OUT WITH IT!

BRIAN  
I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU THINK ...

BERNIE  
WHY DO YOU THINK I DRAG YOU HERE ON SATURDAY?

BRIAN  
FEEL THE MATERIAL.

BERNIE  
CERTAINLY IT ISN'T JUST TO SHOP.

BRIAN  
LOOK AT THE CUT.

BERNIE  
IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE A TALK TO ME  
AND TELL ME WHAT'S-THE-MATTER DAY.

BRIAN  
NOTHING'S THE MATTER.

BERNIE  
I DON'T COME HERE ON SHABBAS  
SO BERGDORF'S CAN ROB US.

BRIAN  
SHOULD WE CHECK OUT THE SLACKS  
AT SAKS?

BRIAN, STOP! BERNIE

What's the matter? BRIAN

You're not so chatty. What gives? BERNIE

Just tired, I guess. BRIAN

Late night? You met someone? BERNIE

Not for lack of trying. BRIAN

Trying? Did that include striking up a conversation maybe? BERNIE

You know how tongue-tied I get in bars. BRIAN

I keep telling you: if you don't talk, you don't meet. You're not fooling me. I've known you too long. There's something on your mind. So... BERNIE

So what? BRIAN

SO TELL ME,  
WHAT D'YA CALLIT -- BERNIE

WHAT? BRIAN

THE NEWS? BERNIE

DOUBLEBREASTED. BRIAN

ENOUGH WITH THE JACKET. BERNIE

AND PURE WOOL. BRIAN

THERE'S SOMETHING DOING WITH YOU. BERNIE

Still holding the tie tightly, as if he were going to strangle  
BRIAN with it.

Try this tie with the jacket -- I think you need a little something around your neck.

Looks like it might be tight. BRIAN

Not as tight as your Protestant lip. BERNIE

I'm not Protestant. BRIAN

You might as well be. Out with it. Now. BERNIE

OKAY, OKAY. BRIAN (slight pause)

REMEMBER THE JOB THAT MIGHT COME THROUGH?

So?? BERNIE

I JUST HAD MY SECOND INTERVIEW! BRIAN

BRIAN, YOU'RE KIDDING!  
SO WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME? BERNIE

I WANTED SOME TIME TO THINK. BRIAN

SO WHAT'S THERE TO THINK?  
IT'S WHAT YOU'VE BEEN WANTING. BERNIE

IT'S PREMATURE.  
I'M NOT QUITE SURE. BRIAN

YOU SHOULD BE TICKLED PINK! BERNIE

I'M REALLY NOT SO SURE ... BRIAN

NOT EVERYONE I KNOW IS SO EMPLOYABLE. BERNIE

DON'T BE RIDICULOUS. BRIAN

ADVERTISING HAS BEEN YOUR LUCKY BREAK. BERNIE

OR A MISTAKE. BRIAN

LATELY I'VE THOUGHT  
I OUGHT TO LOOK FOR SOMETHING MORE ENJOYABLE.

BRIAN, BRIAN! BERNIE

IF IT WEREN'T FOR THE SAL'RY,  
I'D WORK IN A GALL'RY. BRIAN

BRIAN, FOR HEAVEN SAKE! BERNIE

WON'T YOU TELL ME ABOUT THE JOB ALREADY.  
IS IT ON STAFF, AND IS IT STEADY?  
IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU SHOWED AMBITION.  
SO TELL ME -- WHAT'S THE POSITION?

YOU MEAN THE TITLE? BRIAN  
ART DIRECTOR OF THE FRAGRANCE DIVISION.

IT COMES WITH A TITLE? BERNIE

THE TITLE IS VITAL... BRIAN

SO WHAT'S THE DECISION? BERNIE  
YOU'VE WANTED TO BE AN ART DIRECTOR  
FOR I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG.  
SO NU -- IS SOMETHING WRONG?

WELL ... THE PAY'S NOT TERRIFIC. BRIAN

BUT WHAT ABOUT BENEFITS? BERNIE

GOOD HEALTH INSURANCE ... BRIAN

YOU'LL GO TO MY DOCTOR. BERNIE

AND TWO WEEKS VACATION ... BRIAN

WE'LL GO TO BERMUDA. BERNIE

THE JOB HAS ITS GOOD POINTS. BRIAN

OF COURSE THEN YOU'RE TAKING IT. BERNIE

WELL, MAYBE. BRIAN

MAYBE? JUST MAYBE?  
SO NU? WHAT'S THE MATTER? BERNIE

I'VE WANTED TO LEAVE --  
NOT CLIMB UP THE LADDER. BRIAN

FOR EIGHT YEARS I'VE HEARD THIS. BERNIE

YOU'VE KNOWN ME JUST SIX. BRIAN

DON'T BE A PAIN.  
YOU LOVE TO COMPLAIN.  
IT'S HOW YOU GET YOUR KICKS --  
TORTURING YOUR FRIENDS WITH "MAYBE'S". BERNIE

BRIAN  
OKAY, I ADMIT IT - THE JOB HAS ITS GOOD POINTS.  
BUT NOT WHAT YOU'RE THINKING.

BERNIE	BRIAN
HOW DO YOU KNOW WHAT I'M THINKING?	MAYBE I'LL TELL YOU...
DON'T BE SUCH A WITHHOLDING SLOB.	BERNIE, I'M TELLING YOU
SO TELL ME ONCE AND FOR ALL --	THERE'S MORE TO IT
ARE YOU TAKING THE STINKING JOB?	THAN A JOB.

[end song]

BRIAN  
They asked me to start a week from Monday.

So? BERNIE

So what? BRIAN

BERNIE [Track 2 starts with this dialogue]  
So how do you feel? Are you excited? Do you get free perfume, and can you get me some for mummy?

BRIAN  
Orthodox women are allowed to wear perfume?

BERNIE  
As long as it doesn't smell like bacon. Forget the perfume. I want to know about you and the job.

BRIAN  
I've told you already.

BERNIE  
You told me there's more to it. What did you mean?

BRIAN  
You know, I'm really tempted by this Armani. What do you think? Good first impression on the first day of work?

BERNIE (suspicious)  
Depends on who you want to impress. There's something you're not telling me. You know what you're doing — you're withholding. That's what my therapist says it's called. With-hold-ing. You're not supposed to withhold from me — that's something you do with a lover. I'm your best friend. You're supposed to open up and talk to a best friend.

BRIAN  
Now, you're not going to get all judgmental on me...

BERNIE  
Withholding!

BRIAN  
Okay, okay ...

(TRACK 2: What an Opportunity!)

IT'S WHAT I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR  
ALL OF THESE YEARS --  
WHAT AN OPPORTUNITY!  
JUST WHEN I THOUGHT ABOUT CHANGING CAREERS,  
HERE'S A CHANCE TO SHINE.

I'VE DONE MY LAST PASTE-UP --  
NOW I CAN DESIGN.  
I'M OUT OF THE BULLPEN --  
AND ON TWENTY-NINE  
IN AN OFFICE THAT'S MINE.  
NOW ISN'T THAT FINE?

WITH A WINDOW

BERNIE

THAT'S NICE, BRIAN.

BRIAN

NO, TWO...

BRIAN

VERY NICE.

BRIAN

AND A FAB-FAB-FABULOUS VIEW.  
AND BEST OF ALL ...

BERNIE

YOU MEAN THERE'S MORE?

BRIAN

BEST OF ALL ...

BERNIE

THERE'S SOMETHING MORE?

BERNIE

BEST OF ALL:

BERNIE

SO TELL ME ALREADY!

BRIAN

THE COPYWRITER'S A CUTIE --

BERNIE

OY!

BRIAN

THAT'S WHAT I CALL A PERK!

BERNIE

OY, VEY!

BRIAN

WORKING TOGETHER IS GONNA BE COZY.  
YOU DON'T SUPPOSE HE  
ISN'T -- WELL, YOU KNOW.

BERNIE

ONE THING I DO KNOW:  
BRIAN FORGET IT!  
YOU'LL ONLY REGRET IT!  
THIS CAN'T POSSIBLY WORK!  
Down boy! You don't date the people you work with.

BRIAN

Hey, in this day and age, it's safer than dating a stranger.

BERNIE

Didn't you learn your lesson with Harold?

BRIAN

Harold was a four-year degree program.

BERNIE

Remember how you dreaded going to work 'cause you didn't want to run into him?

BRIAN

I wasn't dating Harold.

BERNIE

No. You were living together. Much better.

BRIAN

I dreaded going to work because he was a control freak. And crazy.

BERNIE

Mazel tov. You have a track record for picking winners. You don't know anything about this copywriter.

BRIAN

I know one thing.

BERNIE

What's that?

BRIAN

HE'S WHAT I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR  
ALL OF THESE YEARS --  
WHAT AN OPPORTUNITY!

BERNIE

DON'T YOU JUST HATE WHEN A  
FRIEND INTERFERES?  
HERE'S THE BOTTOM LINE:

YOU'RE LOOKING FOR TROUBLE --  
SO WHERE IS YOUR SENSE?

BRIAN

I'M LOOKING FOR ROMANCE.

BERNIE

BUT AT WHAT EXPENSE?

BRIAN

IT'S GOING TO BE JUST FINE!  
HE'S COPY, I'M ART.

BERNIE

NOT SMART, BRIAN.

I CAN'T WAIT TO START!

BRIAN

THAT'S JUST NOT SMART, BRIAN!

BERNIE

HEY, CAN'T YOU SEE

BRIAN

YES, I CAN SEE...

BERNIE

CAN'T YOU SEE...

BRIAN

OH, I CAN SEE..

BERNIE

IT'S MEANT TO BE!

BRIAN

BERNIE  
It's meant to be another one of your emotional disasters!

BRIAN  
I'm willing to risk it. Bring it on!

THE COPYWRITER'S A CUTIE --  
HE'S SOMETHING OUT OF A DREAM.  
THINK OF US MATING  
MY ART WITH HIS COPY.

BERNIE  
BRIAN, JUST STOP -- HE  
MAY BE ATTACHED.

BRIAN  
DON'T BE A DOWNER.  
OUR TALENTS ARE MATCHED --  
WE'LL MAKE A PERFECT TEAM!

BERNIE  
I THINK I'LL SCREAM.

BRIAN  
YOU SHOULD SEE HIM SLOUCHING IN HIS CHAIR...  
WITH THIS SOULFUL STARE.  
YOU SHOULD SEE HIM!

BERNIE  
HOW ABOUT THE WAY THE FELLA DRESSED?

BRIAN

HIS HAIR WAS SWEETLY MESSED.  
YOU SHOULD SEE HIM!

BERNIE

I'M TALKING ABOUT HIS CLOTHES, BRIAN.  
DON'T YOU REMEMBER THOSE, BRIAN?

BRIAN

I didn't really notice.

BERNIE

I THOUGHT YOU ONLY CHASED  
THE KIND OF MEN WHO HAVE EXPENSIVE TASTE  
IN CLOTHING.

BRIAN

I don't think this one's much of a dresser, really.

BERNIE

A nice appearance is very important in the business world.

BRIAN

Not as important as the way his hair kind of flops down to brush the top of his glasses. Like a sweet little kid.

BERNIE

I'M SURE HE WRITES TERRIFIC COPY,  
BUT HE SOUNDS A LITTLE SLOPPY.

BRIAN

Bernie, I think this guy's really the one.

BERNIE

YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW HIM!

BRIAN

JUST CALL IT AN INSTINCT.

BERNIE

I'M CALLING A DOCTOR --  
YOU'RE GETTING DELIRIOUS.

BRIAN

HE'S SO HUGGABLE  
THERE AT HIS I.B.M.  
LOOKING SO --  
WELL, I DON'T KNOW --  
LOOKING SO SERIOUS!

BERNIE

He sounds moody. Could be manic-depressive.

BRIAN

There's just something about him. The first time I laid eyes on him, I felt like I wanted to take care of him. That's not like me. Where'd that come from?

BERNIE

You want to take care, do what any self-respecting gay man would do: get yourself a poodle.

BRIAN

Bernie, you said it yourself: my life is run by "maybe's". I go to those noisy, crowded, stupid bars with you, Kevin and Bobby every week, and I look around, and I think "Maybe that one" or "Maybe that one." And the biggest maybe of all: maybe some day I'll have someone, anyone in my life.

BERNIE

You met the guy once. Maybe you should have your head examined!

BRIAN

You're right. I know it sounds crazy. But I can't stop thinking about him.

THE COPYWRITER'S AN ANGEL –

I SAW A LIGHT IN HIS EYES.

WHAT A SURPRISE TO BE SUDDENLY SMITTEN.

OTHERS HAVE WRITTEN

OF LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT,

AND I KNOW IT SOUNDS TRITE,

BUT I'M SIGHING LOVESICK SIGHS!

BERNIE

WORKING AND DATING –

IT JUST ISN'T PROPER.

AND WHAT IF IT TURNS OUT

HE ISN'T A SHOPPER?

BRIAN (stopped for a moment)

SOMETIMES A GUY'S GOTTA DO MORE THAN SHOP.

MAYBE MY PLAN'S A BIT OVER THE TOP.

I KNOW IT SOUNDS NUTS BUT I'M NOT GONNA STOP

UNTIL I SEE

IF THIS IS FINALLY –

IF HE COULD BE

MY BIG OPPORTUNITY!

[end song]

BERNIE

So you're taking it?

BRIAN (uncertain for a moment)

Title, benefits, cutie and all.

BERNIE

I meant the jacket.

LIGHTS OUT ON BERGDORF'S.

Scene ii –

THE COPYWRITER'S OFFICE. THE FOLLOWING MONDAY MORNING.

KEITH BARTON, late 30's, is sitting at his desk trying to get some writing done. He's dressed somewhat casually -- sport shirt and tie, no jacket. Maybe even jeans.

[TRACK 3: Still on My Mind]

KEITH (reading his work out loud)

"Come sense the excitement in the air: a sumptuous, rich bouquet of tuberose, jasmine and spicy pink carnation ..."

He crosses something out, and tries again.

"A beautiful, bountiful bouquet of tuberose, jasmine ..."

He cringes, then tries again.

"A delicate, delicious bouquet, the essence of femininity, redolent of floral seductiveness ... " Damn! I don't know which stinks worse -- this perfume, or my ad copy.

MONDAY MORNING --  
TIME TO START A BRAND NEW WEEK.  
SURE GOT MY WORK CUT OUT FOR ME.  
OPEN NOTEBOOK --  
FEEL THE BRAIN BEGIN TO CREAK.  
WHERE IS THE OLD CREATIVITY?

GOT SOMETHING LIKE THREE ADS TO WRITE --  
THERE'S A SCHEDULE TO FOLLOW,  
AND I'M ONLY TWO DAYS BEHIND.

IT SEEMS LIKE WHATEVER I WRITE,  
THE WORDS JUST RING HOLLOW.  
MICHAEL, YOU'RE STILL ON MY MIND.

One year, Michael. Okay, eleven months and sixteen days. But who's counting? And today would have been our fifth anniversary, if only you could have hung in there. Hard to believe you're gone. God, it hurts. Well, this is just stupid. They don't pay me to sit around dwelling on the past. I've got work to do.

TYPE A SENTENCE --  
SEEMS THE THOUGHT'S A LITTLE LOOSE.  
LOOKS LIKE I'VE JUST RUN OUT OF WIT.  
FEELING LONELY --  
OR IS IT ONLY AN EXCUSE?  
WHY CAN'T I JUST GET ON WITH IT?

IT'S HARD TO GET BACK IN THE STREAM --  
NOTHING SEEMS TOO EXCITING  
SITTING HERE IN THE OLD DAILY GRIND.  
I WISH I COULD PICK UP SOME STEAM  
AND JUST TURN ON THE WRITING.  
MICHAEL, YOU'RE STILL ON MY MIND.

THIS WRITER'S BLOCK IS REALLY FOR THE BIRDS --  
I'VE NEVER BEEN AT SUCH A LOSS FOR WORDS.  
MICHAEL, YOU'RE STILL  
SO STILL ... ON MY MIND.

You fought so hard, sweetie, I really believed you were going to prove all those stupid doctors wrong. I wanted the world to believe in something more than blood tests and IV drips. And now I've got to convince myself that writing pretty copy about perfume matters a damn. I wish you were here right now. That way I wouldn't be talking to myself and thinking how weird I've gotten since you left.

MICHAEL enters quietly, gently. KEITH does not see him.  
He stands upstage of KEITH.

MICHAEL  
[TRACK 4: Dear One]

DEAR ONE,  
I'M HERE BESIDE YOU.  
DEAR ONE,  
I'M JUST A THOUGHT AWAY.  
DEAR ONE,  
I'D LIKE TO GUIDE YOU  
TO A BRAND NEW DAY.

MICHAEL  
DEAR ONE,  
JUST SENSE THE SPIRIT.

DEAR ONE,  
IT'S SOMETHING YOU MUST KNOW.

DEAR ONE,  
YOU MUSTN'T FEAR IT  
ISN'T REALLY SO.  
IN SPITE OF ALL THE DOUBT,  
IN SPITE OF ALL THE FEAR,  
IN SPITE OF ALL APPEARANCES --  
DEAR ONE, I AM HERE.

DEAR ONE ...

DEAR ONE ...

MICHAEL  
JUST CLOSE YOUR EYES,  
AND SEARCH INSIDE  
FOR THE TRUTH YOU KNOW.  
LET GO,  
LET GO.

KEITH  
MICHAEL,  
IT'S HARD TO CONCENTRATE.

MICHAEL,  
IT'S HARD TO KNOW  
WHAT TO SAY.  
MICHAEL,  
YOU SEEM SO FAR AWAY.  
SO FAR...  
MICHAEL ...  
MICHAEL ...

I CAN'T SEEM TO WRITE THIS AD, MICHAEL.

I HATE IT, TO BE PERFECTLY BLUNT.  
I DON'T MEAN TO BE SO SAD, MICHAEL.  
I KNOW THAT ISN'T WHAT YOU WANT.

KEITH (closing eyes)  
I'LL CLOSE MY EYES  
I'LL SEARCH INSIDE  
FOR THE TRUTH I KNOW.  
LET GO,  
LET GO.

[end song]

MICHAEL drifts gently upstage, yet still in view. He gestures towards the office door, and there is a sudden knock. BRIAN peeks his head in, breaking the mood. He is immaculately dressed and groomed, in a gorgeous grey designer suit. He's very upbeat and animated.

BRIAN

Knock, knock! Anybody home? Hi, I'm your new neighbor.

KEITH

I beg your pardon?

BRIAN

I'm the friendly art director who just moved in next door. Sort of a corporate Ethel Mertz.

KEITH

Lucy's not in right now.

BRIAN

Sorry if I woke you. Those morning snoozes are real helpful, aren't they?

KEITH

I was meditating.

BRIAN

You a Buddhist, or something?

KEITH

I just like to get centered now and then.

BRIAN

We art directors kind of prefer to be flush left.

KEITH

Oh great -- a witty art director.

BRIAN

Is that allowed?

KEITH

The office protocol is to let the writer make the clever remarks.

BRIAN

You could draw amusing layouts, and I wouldn't say boo.

KEITH

Thanks. I can't draw.

BRIAN (pause)

Well... boo. (pause) I'm Brian. Brian Hayes.

KEITH

Yeah. I know.

BRIAN

What else do you know?

KEITH

I'm told you spent the last five years in the bullpen doing pasteups for the international division. You were given a chance to do some package design work for John Rocco, impressed him enough that as soon as your company bought my company, and the art director spot opened up, they transferred you over here.

BRIAN (aside)

[song: Is He? – not on CD]

HE KNOWS ABOUT ME.  
IT'S SURPRISING THAT HE KNOWS SO MUCH ABOUT ME.  
WHY'D HE TAKE THE TIME  
TO FIND OUT WHO I AM?  
IS THERE POSSIBLY A CHANCE  
HE REALLY GIVES A DAMN?  
OR AM I MAKING FAR TOO MUCH OF WHAT HE SAID?  
THE QUESTION'S SPINNING 'ROUND MY HEAD.  
THE POSSIBILITY HAS MADE ME KIND OF DIZZY.  
I'VE GOT TO FIND OUT —  
YOU KNOW: IS HE?

KEITH

Vivian told me your whole story the day she hired you.

BRIAN

I'm not sure Vivian knows my whole story.

KEITH

Well, she gushed and bubbled about you being an eligible young bachelor ...

BRIAN

Well, I am definitely single.

KEITH

Very well-groomed ...

BRIAN

I sound like a racehorse.

KEITH

Yeah. And she predicted that all the pretty young fillies would be galloping to meet you.

BRIAN

Oh... Well, enough about me. I don't know a thing about you.

KEITH

Sorry. I'm Keith Barton.

BRIAN

And you're my copywriter. Right? Lucky me!

KEITH

Copy director. And I'm not up for adoption, as far as I know.

BRIAN

Sorry. I just meant we'd be working together. I mean... we will be working closely together, right?

KEITH (suddenly alarmed, aside)

COULD HE BE FLIRTING?

WE'VE HARDLY MET, AND YET I'LL BET

THE GUY IS FLIRTING.

IT'S IMPOSSIBLE – JUST SEE THE WAY WE'RE DRESSED:

HE'S IMMACULATE, AND I DON'T REALLY LOOK MY BEST.

I GUESS IT CERTAINLY IS FLATT'RING IN A WAY...

BUT WHY WOULD HE ASSUME I'M GAY?

I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M FEELING CLUELESS AND GEE WHIZ-Y.

I THINK HE'S FLIRTING ... BUT IS HE?

BRIAN

Were you serious about all that meditation stuff?

KEITH

Yep, and I'm practically a semi-vegetarian. I mean, I do eat fish a few times a week, but no lower chakra red meat or chicken. Not quite ready for the rigors of macrobiotic, but I do stay6 away from sugar and dairy, and absolutely no alcohol or caffeine.

BRIAN

I guess your life's an open cookbook. Anything else you'd like to confess?

KEITH

I collect crystals, believe in reincarnation, and I read books on spirituality. Oh, and I talk to angels.

BRIAN

What do you do for fun?

KEITH

Tell people what I'm into, and watch their reactions.

BRIAN (aside)

HE'S INTO ANGELS –

IT'S SO NEW AGE TO MEET SOMEONE INTO ANGELS.

BUT IT DOESN'T TELL ME

WHAT I NEED TO KNOW.

CAN HE SING THE SCORE

TO EVERY JERRY HERMAN SHOW?

THE WAY HE DRESSES ISN'T SUCH A HOPEFUL SIGN –

WHERE'S PERRY, RALPH OR CALVIN KLEIN?

AND WHY'S HE SITTING THERE PRETENDING HE'S SO BUSY?

I'VE GOT TO FIND OUT –

YOU KNOW: IS HE?

So what's that you're working on?

KEITH

Scent strip and ad for a new perfume.

BRIAN

In English, I hope.

KEITH

It's fragrance. I might toss in a little French, but yeah, mostly English. Why?

BRIAN

Five years in international. Remember? It'll be nice to work in a language I actually speak. More or less.

KEITH

You seem like someone who'd be right at home in International. You've got the suit for it.

BRIAN

I dress Italian. I don't speak it. And was that a compliment?

KEITH

If you want it to be.

BRIAN

Thanks.

KEITH

You're welcome.

BOTH (awkward pause)

FIRST MEETINGS ARE ALWAYS SO AWKWARD —  
YOU NEVER KNOW HOW MUCH OR WHAT TO SAY.  
I'VE NEVER BEEN GOOD AT FIRST MEETINGS —  
I HATE THE DECEIT —  
THE DISCRETE LITTLE SOCIAL GAMES WE HAVE TO PLAY!

BRIAN (picking up a book from KEITH's desk)

So what's this you're reading?

KEITH

The plays of Henrik Ibsen.

BRIAN

The funny little guy from Laugh-In wrote plays?

KEITH

Not Henry Gibson. Hen-rik IB-sen. "A Doll's House." "Hedda Gabler." The father of contemporary drama. Norwegian.

BRIAN

You read Norwegian? Sounds like you'd fit in better in International than I ever did.

KEITH

Trust me - it's a translation. He's my favorite playwright. In English. I kind of model my own playwriting after him.

BRIAN (aside)

HE'S INTO IBSEN —  
THAT'S REALLY SWELL, NOW TELL ME  
WHO THE HELL IS IBSEN?

KEITH (aside)

THERE'S SOMETHING IN HIS EYES  
WHEN HE LOOKS AT ME ...

THIS ISN'T LOOKING GOOD.  
I MAY NOT HAVE A PRAYER,

THERE'S SOMETHING IN HIS TONE —  
COULD IT POSSIBLY BE ...

UNLESS OF COURSE HE'S ALSO INTO  
MERMAN AND CHER.

BRIAN (wide-eyed)

So you're a playwright.

KEITH

When I'm not waxing poetic about perfume.

BRIAN

I love theater. Although I've got to admit, I'm a little more into opera. And musicals. Don't tell anyone, but I've always dreamed of writing a musical. Is that crazy? I was thinking about setting *La Boheme* in the contemporary West Village drug scene. What do you think?

KEITH

I'm not much into opera, I'm ashamed to admit. I know I'm a philistine, but I fall asleep right after the overture.

BRIAN

You can't be a philistine — you're a playwright. That's so cool. I don't suppose a serious playwright would ever consider writing a musical, huh?

KEITH

Actually I've written a few musicals. It's really the great American art form.

BOTH

My favorite is *Gypsy*.

KEITH

Only the most perfect musical ever written.

BRIAN

Should have been Merman's Tony. Unbelievable that she never won.

KEITH

Come on. She must have won. We're talking Merman.

BRIAN

Mary Martin stole it right out from under her. Like they say: you can't beat a nun.

COULD I MAKE MY MEANING PLAINER  
IF I MENTIONED GLORIA GAYNOR?  
COULD HIS INTERESTS BE MORE "PHANTOM" AND "LES MIZ-Y"?

KEITH

IS HE KIDDING? IS HE FLIRTING?  
AND THAT ISSUE THAT WE'RE SKIRTING  
MAKES THIS CONVERSATION SOMEWHAT LESS THAN FIZZY...

BRIAN

I'VE GOT TO FIND OUT:  
YOU KNOW: IS HE?

KEITH

I THINK HE'S FLIRTING,  
BUT IS HE?

[end song]

There is an awkward pause. Then MICHAEL makes a sweeping gesture towards BRIAN.

BRIAN (genuinely)

[recitative: How do you meditate?]

HOW DO YOU MEDITATE?

KEITH

YOU JUST GET QUIET,  
LET GO OF THE CHATTER IN YOUR HEAD,  
AND TAKE A LOOK INSIDE TO SEE WHAT'S REALLY GOING ON.

BRIAN

WELL, FORGET THAT ONE.  
I DON'T THINK I COULD SIT STILL LONG ENOUGH.  
MAYBE YOU COULD TEACH ME THE DIET STUFF.

We could start by having a semi-vegetarian not quite macrobiotic lunch together.

KEITH

Oh. Well, yeah. That would be fine.

BRIAN

What time do you usually go out?

KEITH

It varies. I'm not much for schedules. I eat lunch when I remember to. I guess around twelve-thirty.

BRIAN

Good. I'll stop by at twelve twenty-nine.

KEITH

I ... I wasn't planning ... today ...

BRIAN

Aren't you going to welcome me here with a first day get-to-know-you meatless lunch?

KEITH

Well ... sure.

BRIAN

Great. I'll see you then.

He starts to leave, then turns back.

By the way, did anybody ever tell you -- you've got great lips.

He bolts out the office door, and MICHAEL disappears upstage, with a smile.

KEITH (flustered)

What was that?

[TRACK 5: You Know What he Looks Like?]

ART DIRECTORS  
COME IN MANY SIZES AND STYLES:  
YOUNG ONES AND OLD ONES,  
WARM ONES AND COLD ONES,  
SHORT ONES AND SHY ONES,  
GIRL ONES AND GUY ONES.  
THERE MUST BE HUNDREDS OF TYPES  
IN THE PERSONNEL FILES.

ART DIRECTORS  
COME IN MANY STYLES AND SIZES:  
TASTEFUL OR TRASHY,  
FRUMPY OR FLASHY,  
MELLOW OR HARRIED,  
SINGLE OR MARRIED ...  
GOOD ONES AND GREAT ONES,  
AND EVEN SOME STRAIGHT ONES.  
WITH SO MANY HUNDREDS OF TYPES,  
YOU EXPECT SOME SURPRISES.

He forces himself to sit down at the desk and write.

Well, this is ridiculous. I've got ad copy to write. Scent strips, sell sheets, direct mailers. Focus, focus!  
Where do I start?

After a moment, he gives up with a sigh.

HE'S MUCH TOO HANDSOME --  
YOU KNOW THE KIND OF FACE:  
EV'RY FEATURE PERFECT,  
EV'RY HAIR IN PLACE.  
MUCH TOO WASPY,

LIKE SOME MOVIE IDOL'S DOUBLE.  
YOU KNOW WHAT HE LOOKS LIKE?  
HE LOOKS LIKE TROUBLE!

HE'S MUCH TOO STYLISH --  
TOO GQ MAGAZINE.  
MANICURED AND LAUNDERED  
AND SO SQUEAKY CLEAN.  
NOT A BLEMISH,  
NOT A SINGLE SIGN OF STUBBLE.  
YOU KNOW WHAT I'M SAYING?  
HE LOOKS LIKE TROUBLE!

WHAT'S GOING ON, MICHAEL?  
THIS CAN'T POSSIBLY WORK.  
WHAT IF IT SHOULD TURN OUT THAT HE'S  
JUST A SMOOTH-TALKING TEASE --  
SO DISTRACTING THAT I'M ACTING LIKE A JERK.

I'LL BET HE'S BITCHY --  
THE KIND YOU HEAR IN BARS.  
SNAPPY SENSE OF HUMOR  
THAT LEAVES TINY SCARS.  
SO CONCEITED  
THAT I HATE TO BURST HIS BUBBLE --  
IF HE'S GOT IDEAS,  
WE'RE BOTH IN TROUBLE.

He sits down to write once again.

“Tuberose, jasmine, spicy pink carnation. Surrender to the excitement in the air.”

WHAT'S GOING ON, MICHAEL?  
IS THIS PART OF THE PLAN?  
SUDDENLY THIS LIFE ON MY OWN  
IS DESCENDED UPON  
BY A DANGEROUSLY ELIGIBLE MAN.  
A PRETTY FACE, MICHAEL,  
CAN'T TAKE YOUR PLACE, MICHAEL.  
I GUESS NOTHING CAN.

HE'S QUITE A HANDFUL --  
A DIZZY DYNAMO.  
SOMETHING UNEXPECTED  
IN MY STATUS QUO.  
IT'S UPSETTING,  
AND I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO.

LIFE'S A CRAZY CYCLE!  
HAVE I MENTIONED, MICHAEL:  
HE LOOKS LIKE TROUBLE --  
AND HE LOOKS AN AWFUL LOT  
LIKE YOU!

LIGHTS OUT ON THE OFFICE.

Scene iii -

THE LEATHER ACCESSORIES DEPARTMENT AT SAKS FIFTH AVENUE. TWO WEEKS LATER.

BRIAN and BERNIE are looking at belts and wallets.  
BERNIE (half looking, after a pause)

[reprise: So Tell Me...]

So ...

BRIAN

So what?

BERNIE

SO TELL ME —  
WHAT D'YA CALL IT?

BRIAN

WHAT?

BERNIE

THE JOB?

BRIAN

WHAT ABOUT IT?

BERNIE

SO YOU AND THE CUTIE —

BRIAN

HE'S REALLY SOMETHING.

BERNIE

IS SOMETHING STARTING TO CLICK?

BRIAN

HIS FAVORITE HOBBY  
IS TALKING TO ANGELS.

BERNIE

YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING — THAT'S QUITE A TRICK.  
SO WHAT DO YOU THINK, IS IT JUST A SHTICK?

I hope he's not one of those New Age spiritual fanatics. I can't deal with all those ridiculous dietary restrictions and those meshuga beliefs.

BRIAN

This from a gay Orthodox Jew who keeps kosher?

BERNIE

ENOUGH ABOUT KOSHER.  
SO WHAT ABOUT DATING?

BRIAN  
HE'S PLAYING IT KIND OF COOL.

BERNIE  
SO MAYBE HE'S TAKEN.

BRIAN  
I KNOW THAT HE'S SINGLE.

BERNIE  
SO WHAT'S YOUR GRIPE?  
YOU'RE NOT HIS TYPE.

BRIAN  
NOW BERNIE, DON'T BE CRUEL.

He may keep saying "no, no, no," but there's "yes, yes, yes" in his eyes.

BERNIE  
Where do you think you're working — in a Joan Crawford movie?

BRIAN  
I'm tired of the bar scene and the games, Bernie. I'm too old for it. Guys flirting just so they can hook you like a fish, then once you show a little interest they cut you loose.

BERNIE  
Much better to go after someone who shows absolutely no interest.

BRIAN  
At least I know this one's honest. He's not playing me. And he's got a real job. Not another out of work actor, thank God. I guess it's my time to flirt and pursue.

BERNIE  
You better watch it or you're gonna get hit with a sexual harassment suit.

BRIAN  
Sexual harassment? Don't be ridiculous. That's an insensitive straight guy thing. Oh, my God ... you don't think...? No, he's the insensitive one — he doesn't realize how good I'd be for him!

BERNIE  
Yeah, yeah yeah ... some people just don't know what's good for them.

BRIAN  
Well damn it, Bernie, I'm never going to see the other side of thirty again. It's now or never.

[song: I'm Gonna Make It Happen — not on demo]

I'VE SPENT TOO MANY NIGHTS  
STARING OUT MY WINDOW  
WOND'RING IF I'LL ALWAYS BE ALONE.  
TOO MANY LONELY, LONELY NIGHTS  
FOLDING DOWN THE BEDSPREAD  
THINKING OF THE LOVE I'VE NEVER KNOWN.

I KNOW IT ISN'T GONNA HAPPEN  
LEANING 'GAINST A WALL  
POSING IN THE BACKGROUND IN SOME NOISY, SMOKY BAR.  
NO, IT ISN'T GONNA HAPPEN  
STROLLING HOME AT THREE A.M.  
RESOLUTELY WISHING ON A STAR.

IT'S TIME TO GRAB THE RING,  
IT'S TIME TO TAKE A SHOT.  
IF I'M EVER GONNA GET IT,  
GOTTA GIVE IT ALL I GOT!  
NEVER THOUGHT I'D BE THE TYPE TO RUN IN HOT PURSUIT,  
BUT DAMN, HE'S CUTE!

BERNIE

What are you so desperate about? You're not so alone, Brian. You've got friends who care about you.

BRIAN

I'VE GOT TERRIFIC FRIENDS--  
NO NEED TO REMIND ME.  
STILL, ONE SPECIAL SOMEONE IS THE DREAM.  
I'VE SPENT SO MANY, MANY YEARS  
THINKING THAT HE'LL FIND ME.  
TIME TO TRY A MORE PRO-ACTIVE SCHEME.  
OH NO, IT ISN'T GONNA HAPPEN  
WAITING FOR THAT CALL  
FROM SOME GUY WHO SCRIBBLED DOWN MY NUMBER ON A CARD.  
AND IT ISN'T GONNA HAPPEN  
BEING WHO I USED TO BE,  
NON-CHALANTLY KEEPING UP MY GUARD.

IT'S TIME TO CUT THE CRAP,  
IT'S TIME TO SHIFT THE GEAR.  
IF I'M EVER GONNA GET HIM,  
GOTTA LET HIM KNOW I'M HERE!  
NEVER THOUGHT AGGRESSIVE WOULD REMOTELY BE MY STYLE,  
BUT THEN I SAW HIS SMILE!

Lights fade slightly on BRIAN and BERNIE, and come up  
on KEITH and MICHAEL walking along a street together.  
This is a flashback, MICHAEL is alive and wearing street  
clothes.

MICHAEL

You have a great smile.

KEITH

Yuk. My eyes wrinkle up, and I look like a withered old man.

MICHAEL

They don't wrinkle, they twinkle. And you don't look old at all. When you cruised me, I thought you were  
near my age. Never thought you were so much older.

KEITH

So much indeed. Eight years. "You are old, Father William, the young man said..."

MICHAEL

Don't be stupid. And anyway, I don't like guys my own age. They don't know much.

KEITH (pause)

You didn't say much about the movie.

MICHAEL

Made me think.

KEITH

Guess it was a strange choice for a first date. But I heard Jessica Lange was amazing, and I've been dying to see it.

MICHAEL

She gave a good performance. Very real.

KEITH

Didn't exactly set the tone for a romantic evening, though. Sorry about that. Frances Farmer was a pretty fucked up lady. Can't imagine being inside her head.

MICHAEL

I can. She's like my mom.

KEITH

What do you mean?

MICHAEL

My mom's schizophrenic.

KEITH

Lots of people think their parents are crazy.

MICHAEL

My mother covers all our windows with aluminum foil so the controllers can't get at her thoughts. And she won't use the central heating in her house because she thinks aliens can transmit through the vents. Schizophrenic with paranoid delusions.

KEITH

Oh Jesus, and I dragged you to see *Frances*.

MICHAEL

It was good. I'm glad we saw it. It was a perfect choice.

KEITH

I'm glad you finally agreed to go out with me.

MICHAEL

I'm glad you persisted.

KEITH

So... shall we go back to my place, or yours? Or is that too 70's of me?

MICHAEL

Not tonight, Keith. Let's take it down a notch. We've got lots of time ahead of us. And honestly, I've got to get up early for work.

KEITH (disappointed)

OK. I'll make like the heterosexuals and wait.

Lights out on KEITH and MICHAEL, back up on BRIAN and BERNIE.

BRIAN

SO WHAT'S THE WORST THING THAT COULD HAPPEN?  
ANOTHER REJECTION?  
I GUESS THERE COULD BE DISAPPOINTMENT IN STORE.  
BUT THINK OF HUGHIE, THINK OF JAY,  
AND ALL THE FRIENDS WHO'VE PASSED AWAY--  
LIFE IS SHORTER THAN WE EVER REALIZED BEFORE.

NO, NOTHING'S EVER GONNA HAPPEN  
IF I NEVER TRY--  
THIS ONE ISN'T GONNA GET AWAY WITHOUT A FIGHT!  
THIS TIME I'VE GOT TO MAKE IT HAPPEN--  
MAYBE I'M COMPLETELY WRONG,  
BUT EVERYTHING TELLS ME THIS ONE'S RIGHT.

IT'S TIME TO MAKE THE MOVE,  
IT'S TIME TO TAKE THE CHANCE.  
IF I'M EVER GONNA WIN HIM,  
GOTTA SPIN HIM IN THE DANCE.

NO, IT'S NEVER GONNA HAPPEN  
KEEPING SILENT AS A MIME!  
IS WANTING TO BE NEAR HIM  
REALLY SUCH AN AWFUL CRIME?  
I CAN'T WAKE UP TOMORROW  
ALL ALONE AND PAST MY PRIME--  
I'VE GOT TO MAKE IT HAPPEN...  
I'M GONNA MAKE IT HAPPEN THIS TIME!

BERNIE

Nice. Very nice. Let's all curl up and die because we haven't found some impossible ideal of a perfect relationship. You're obsessing, Brian. It's not healthy.

BRIAN

No, wasting your breath on friends who don't understand you -- that's not healthy!

BERNIE

Oh, I understand you all right. I've seen your closets.

BRIAN

What's that supposed to mean?

BERNIE

Everything in clear plastic boxes, stacked neatly, organized by color. A little obsessive.

BRIAN

It makes it easy to find things.

BERNIE

It's the way you expect relationships to be – all neat, everything exactly where you want it. I've got news for you, Brian. You won't like relationships. They're messy.

BRIAN

I'll deal with it. I'll welcome it. Bring on the mess. I want to be in love.

BERNIE

Very nice. Ever since Harold introduced you to opera, you turn your life into one.

BRIAN

Now there's something wrong with opera?

BERNIE

Who spends Thanksgiving alone seeing *Tosca* at the Met? No wonder you're depressed.

BRIAN

I wish my life were as big and beautiful as an opera. I'd like to feel those emotions, underscored with throbbing violins.

BERNIE

Yeah, it's all very pretty. Everybody dies.

BRIAN

Everybody loves. Everybody feels. And they sing about it. My family never even talks about our feelings.

BERNIE

That's how God intended it. Keep the emotions on stage where they belong. Don't drag them into your life.

BRIAN

Great. A Jew is telling a WASP not to be emotional. Isn't that one of the signs of the coming apocalypse?

BERNIE

Stop trying to be miserable, that's all I'm saying.

BRIAN (pause)

I think I need to look at a few shirts. Alone.

He starts to go, feels bad and turns back.

If you want me, I'll be checking out the Perry Ellis broadcloths.

He goes off, leaving BERNIE alone.

BERNIE

Brian, Brian, Brian ...

[TRACK 6: Why Not Me?]

YOU OUGHTA DATE SOMEONE  
WHO LIKES WHAT YOU LIKE—  
SOMEONE TO SHARE A SHOPPING SPREE.  
YOU'VE GOT AN EYE  
FOR A REALLY GOOD BUY,  
SO WHY NOT ME?  
(I'M SUCH A VALUE!)

YOU'RE PHYSIC'LY ACTIVE—  
YOU SWIM AND YOU BIKE.  
I'D RATHER SURF ... ON MY T. V.  
BUT I CAN BE SPRY...  
ON THE COUCH WHERE I LIE.  
OH, WHY NOT ME?

IT'S TIME YOU DATED SOMEONE MORE SUBSTANTIAL.  
DON'T BE DISTRACTED BY ANOTHER MOOCHER.  
I GUARANTEE FINANCIAL SOLVENCY  
IS WAITING IN MY FUTURE!

THE GUYS WHO WEAR LEATHER  
CAN HANG AT THE SPIKE  
FLAUNTING THEIR MASCULINITY.  
YOU WANT A GUY  
IN A JACKET AND TIE,  
SO WHY NOT ME?  
(SO WHO NEEDS MACHO?)

WHY RISK IT WITH SOMEONE  
WHO COMES DOWN THE PIKE?  
YOU AND I HAVE SUCH HISTORY.  
WHY BOTHER TO MOVE  
INTO SOME OTHER GROOVE  
WHEN YOU'VE GOT ME?

I UNDERSTAND THE IDEA'S KIND OF NEWISH,  
BUT AREN'T YOU SICK OF DATING BUMS AND LOUSES?  
BESIDES YOU KNOW THAT JEWISH  
MEN MAKE PERFECT SPOUSES.

THO' NOW I'M IN LAW SCHOOL,  
I MINORED IN PSYCH.  
IT DOESN'T TAKE A SHRINK TO SEE  
YOU NEED A GUY,  
SO I'M HERE TO APPLY.

AN ORTHODOX JEW MAY BE AN UNORTHODOX CHOICE.  
COULD A GENTILE LIKE YOU GET USED TO THE WH-I-I-I-I-I-I-INE IN MY VOICE?

WHY DO ORTHODOX JEWS FIND GENTILES SO YUMMY?  
AND HOW WILL I EVER EXPLAIN YOU TO MUMMY?

SO MAYBE YOU'LL TELL ME  
TO GO TAKE A HIKE,  
EVEN THO' THIS ADVICE IS FREE.  
SHOULD I BE MORE DISCRETE?  
AM I SILLY AND SWEET  
AND SHY? NOT ME!  
BUT IF YOU WANT A GUY  
WHO CAN MAKE THE TIME FLY...  
MAYBE YOU COULD GIVE ME A TRY.

Six years of waiting for you to take the hint. I'm not going to let you throw away what we almost have.

OH, BRIAN, BRIAN,  
WHY NOT ME?

LIGHTS OUT ON SAKS.

Scene iv -

KEITH'S OFFICE. MONDAY MORNING, TWO WEEKS LATER.

KEITH is typing at his desk, BRIAN has a sketch pad. As usual, KEITH is dressed in jeans, BRIAN is in his grey suit. They are both staring at a lineup of umbrellas.

KEITH

Another umbrella gift with purchase? Didn't we just do an umbrella like last month?

BRIAN

That's the fragrance industry, land of endless gift-with-purchase umbrellas and cosmetic clutches.

KEITH

And I'm supposed to come up with another round of clever names. I'm running low on ideas. I reached the top of my game with "Raining Beauty". Oh, and "Weathering Heights".

BRIAN

Oh, you're good. The best thing my last copywriter came up with was "Umbrella Special." I'm just glad to be working on a new brand. And with a really good writer.

KEITH

Flattery will get you everywhere.

BRIAN

Will it get me dinner and a show tonight?

KEITH (pause)

Believe me, I'm grateful for your friendship. You're a really nice guy. And a real catch. For someone.

BRIAN

So catch me.

KEITH

Let's stick to meatless lunches for now.

BRIAN

Well, can't friends go out together after work? A movie? Maybe see what's up at TKTS?

KEITH

What time's the marketing meeting?

BRIAN

Two o'clock is "show time!" That's when Vivian gets to do her creative song and dance for the powers that be. "Another opening, another show..."

KEITH

That's it. A perfect umbrella name: "Grand Opening." You can show it with flashy marquee lights, or in a spotlight, or something theatrical. What do you think?

BRIAN

I think I would love your grand opening.

KEITH (ignoring him)

Okay. Let's move on to the purchase with purchase.

BRIAN

Three products in a cosmetic clutch.

KEITH

Two are bath products, right? Let's see. We've done "Bathing Beauty" ...

BRIAN

To death.

KEITH

How about "Clean Break"?

BRIAN

How about something more romantic, like "Fantasy Touches"? Or "Fragrant Embraces?"

KEITH (ignoring the implications)

Hey, it's good for travel, right? How about "Clutch and Go"?

BRIAN

How about just plain "Take Me, I'm Yours"?

KEITH

How about "Cold Shower"?

MICHAEL drifts in upstage, his arms outspread.

BRIAN

How about going out with me tonight?

KEITH

Brian, I already told you — I'm just not in the market.

BRIAN

Who said anything about a market? I'm not produce. I just thought we could go out, see a show, have dinner, get to know each other.

KEITH

I think they call it dating. I don't date people I work with.

BRIAN

Why?

KEITH

What do you mean why? Haven't you read the company handbook?

BRIAN

There's a company handbook? There's nothing really in it about not dating, is there?

KEITH

There should be.

BRIAN

What's so wrong with dating someone you work with? It's so convenient.

KEITH

Until it gets so awkward. You sleep together, it doesn't work out, you still have to face each other every day knowing a lot more about each other than you ever needed to.

BRIAN

How do you know all this? Have you ever dated someone you worked with?

KEITH

You don't have to drive a car off a cliff to know it's not such a great idea.

BRIAN

I'm a very good driver.

KEITH

I know. You're already driving me crazy.

BRIAN

I like you, Keith. Is that allowed?

KEITH (firmly)

Sit down, Brian. We've got to talk.

BRIAN (sitting)

Uh-oh.

KEITH

[TRACK 7: There's Something About Me...]

THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT ME YOU SHOULD KNOW —

BRIAN  
I knew this was coming.

KEITH  
I GUESS I SHOULD TELL YOU.

BRIAN  
Okay, I'm listening.

KEITH  
THERE'S SOMEONE — SOMEONE I DON'T TALK ABOUT.  
HIS NAME WAS MICHAEL.

MICHAEL (coming closer)  
DEAR ONE ...  
DEAR ONE ...  
DEAR ONE ...  
FOR FIVE YEARS THERE WAS MICHAEL.  
IT'S ONE YEAR NOW ... I  
T'S TOO SOON AFTER MICHAEL!

BRIAN  
YOU NEED SOMEONE TO TAKE CARE OF YOU.  
IT'S NOT FAIR OF YOU  
TO CLOSE THE DOOR.  
I KNOW WE'VE ALL BEEN HURT BEFORE.  
BUT THAT WAS YESTERDAY.  
LET IT DRIFT AWAY.  
I'LL BE WITH YOU NOW. DEAR ONE ...

KEITH  
THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT THIS YOU DON'T KNOW.  
HAVEN'T YOU GUESSED IT?  
THERE'S SOMETHING ... SOMETHING I DON'T TALK ABOUT.  
TOO UNTHINKABLE.  
IT'S THE THING THAT I PRAYED  
WOULD NEVER HAPPEN TO ANYONE I KNOW,  
AND NOT TO MY BELOVED MICHAEL! DEAR ONE...

BRIAN  
I THOUGHT IT WAS SOMETHING LIKE THAT. I'M SORRY.

KEITH  
I get a call from him one day.

Lights change to indicate a flashback. MICHAEL steps into  
the scene as his living self.

MICHAEL  
Hi, hon. Good news. I just got back from the dentist.

KEITH  
I didn't know you were going to the dentist today. What's up? No cavities?

MICHAEL

Maybe I forgot to mention it. They found this funny growth on the roof of my mouth. The biopsy came back and it's nothing to worry about.

KEITH

Biopsy? You never told me.

MICHAEL

Guess I didn't want to worry you. It isn't life-threatening. I'm so relieved because it's just something they call KS.

KEITH (to BRIAN)

He sounded so upbeat and optimistic. KS. Kaposi's Sarcoma. He's just been diagnosed with AIDS, and he doesn't even know it. And I don't have the heart to tell him. (to MICHAEL) I'll cook us a nice dinner... to celebrate. And we'll go to a movie. (to BRIAN) I go to the kitchen so he can't see me shaking, I cook a dinner I can't even eat, my stomach's in such knots. He believes I have a stomach flu and he eats his entire dinner. And then I take him to a revival of *101 Dalmatians* hoping that Disney can make this all go away. He's such an innocent. It had to be Disney.

THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT THIS YOU DON'T KNOW —  
HOW COULD YOU KNOW?  
THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT THIS YOU DON'T KNOW —  
WHY SHOULD YOU KNOW ABOUT

TWO YEARS OF PRAYING  
AND STAYING THERE WITH HIM  
THROUGH EACH DIAGNOSIS.  
TWO YEARS OF HOPING  
AND COPING AND NURSING  
AND CURSING THE DOCTORS,  
THE HEAD-SCRATCHING DOCTORS.

BRIAN

I NEVER LIKED DOCTORS.

KEITH

TWO YEARS OF HEALING,  
AND FEELING THE STRAIN.  
TWO YEARS OF CARING  
AND SHARING THE PAIN.  
HOLDING HIM, HELPING HIM, SHIELDING HIM, FEEDING HIM,  
COAXING HIM, CLEANING HIM, CHANGING HIM, NEEDING HIM ...  
LOVING HIM,  
EV'RY MOMENT LOVING HIM.  
AND SOMEHOW BELIEVING  
THAT SOMEHOW THE LOVE  
WOULD KEEP HIM FROM LEAVING ...  
WOULD HOLD US TOGETHER ...  
BUT ONE DAY HE DRIFTS AWAY  
GENTLY AS A FEATHER.

BRIAN/MICHAEL

YOU COULD HAVE RUN AWAY,

TURNED YOUR BACK AND RUN AWAY.  
BUT YOU STAYED, YOU STAYED.

AND AFTER EVERYTHING THAT YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH,  
DON'T YOU THINK THAT YOU  
DESERVE SOMEONE?  
WHY NOT GO OUT AND HAVE SOME FUN?  
YOU'VE HAD THE TIME TO HEAL.  
NOW IT'S TIME TO FEEL.

YOU NEED SOMEONE TO LOOK AFTER YOU.  
HERE'S THE LAUGHTER YOU  
DESERVE AT LAST.  
JUST LOOK AROUND: THE CLOUDS HAVE PASSED.  
IT'S TIME TO LAUGH AGAIN.  
TIME TO TAKE A CHANCE.

BRIAN  
TIME TO LOVE AGAIN.

MICHAEL  
DEAR ONE ...

KEITH  
THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT ME  
YOU DON'T KNOW.

BRIAN

I KNOW EVERYTHING I NEED TO.

I'VE NEVER BEEN TESTED.

MICHAEL  
DEAR ONE ...

I THINK I'VE  
ANGELS WATCHING OVER ME.

BRIAN

SOMETHING INSIDE ME TELLS ME  
THAT YOU'RE PERFECTLY FINE.  
YOU'VE GOT TO BE FINE.  
SOMEONE WATCHES OVER YOU.  
MAYBE YOU COULD MAKE ME  
BELIEVE IN ANGELS.

THERE'S SO MUCH  
ABOUT ME YOU DON'T KNOW,  
BRIAN!

THE ONE THING ABOUT YOU  
THAT I KNOW IS THAT  
I LIKE EVERYTHING ABOUT YOU

THERE'S SO MUCH ABOUT ME  
YOU DON'T KNOW, BRIAN!

MICHAEL  
DEAR ONE ...

BRIAN  
THE ONE THING ABOUT YOU THAT I KNOW

BRIAN/MICHAEL  
IS THAT YOU'RE WONDERFUL,  
SWEET AND BRAVE AND

WONDERFUL,  
MY DEAR ONE.

WHAT DID YOU CALL ME?

DEAR ONE ...

HE USED TO CALL ME  
DEAR ONE.

DEAR ONE...

BRIAN

THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT ME YOU SHOULD KNOW:  
I WON'T LET YOU GO.

MICHAEL moves behind BRIAN and gently touches him, perhaps pushing him towards KEITH ever so slightly. He continues to prod him throughout this scene.

Have dinner with me.

KEITH

Brian ...

BRIAN

You're a sweet guy, Keith. And I understand you've suffered a great, great loss. But I don't think Michael wants you to be alone.

KEITH

I'm not alone, Brian. My heart is full every time I think of him.

MICHAEL

DEAR ONE ...

BRIAN

So keep him there. Forever, if you like. But leave a little room for the rest of us. You've got a big heart, Keith. I know there's room. Go out with me.

KEITH

Why have you fixated on me? Is this some sort of rescue mission? I don't need to be rescued.

BRIAN

Maybe I do. I'm tired of the bars and the games, standing there with a cigarette and a beer trying to out-pose and out-cool and out-drink the rest of the Boy Bar regulars. I want more conversation than my friends Bernie and Kevin hissing bitchy putdowns about the cute guys they can't have.

KEITH

You smoke?

BRIAN

Just socially, for God's sake.

KEITH

I never go out with smokers. I'm allergic. That's why I don't go to bars much.

BRIAN

I smoke three stupid cigarettes a day. I'll light up at the bar every now and then. And for some reason, I love a cigarette with my morning coffee. I can quit. And I don't want to go to bars either.

MICHAEL gives him a little push.

Have dinner with me.

KEITH

It's too soon ...

BRIAN

Am I so hard to be with? Is there something wrong with me?

KEITH

There's nothing wrong with you. You're perfect.

BRIAN

I think that's a compliment. Why does it sound so awful?

MICHAEL walks upstage, between KEITH and BRIAN and stretches out his arms trying to embrace them both.

KEITH

I can use a friend now. I'd be really grateful for your friendship. Just your friendship.

BRIAN (pause)

Another friend. Sure. That's a start. Okay. I guess.

BRIAN turns away from KEITH to hide his disappointment. KEITH tries to look busy at his desk, writing. MICHAEL tries to wave KEITH away from the desk, and get BRIAN to turn around, but can't manage to get through to either of them. He stands beside BRIAN and stares long and hard and gently at KEITH. After a moment, KEITH turns his head away from his work and looks in his direction. He is uncertain, confused. BRIAN looks different to him for that moment. MICHAEL smiles and waves his hands, and lights go out.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO – Scene i

We are exactly where we were at the end of Act One, in KEITH's office, just a few moments later. MICHAEL tries to turn BRIAN around and this time succeeds.

BRIAN (turning to KEITH, somewhat wryly)

Lucky me! I've got a friend! Yay!

KEITH

I'm sorry if it sounds like a consolation prize. I really value friendship and I don't offer it lightly.

BRIAN

Hey, I'll take it!

KEITH

Funny, I hadn't thought about it before, but I really do need a friend. And I'm kind of a loner, so that's saying a lot

BRIAN

So friend, what are you doing Saturday?

KEITH

What did you have in mind?

BRIAN

Come shopping with me. That should chase away the little gray cloud over your head.

KEITH

Grey cloud? Hey, I thought I was pretty chipper for someone in mourning.

BRIAN

Let's just say you're not as gay as you could be. Shopping's just what the doctor ordered. I meet Bernie every Saturday at a different department store, so we can keep on top of all the latest things we can't afford.

KEITH

Why aren't you guys dating?

BRIAN

You're allergic to smokers. I'm allergic to Republicans.

KEITH

Orthodox, gay and Republican? It's the self-loathing trifecta. I don't get it. How did you even wind up meeting?

BRIAN

My friend Hughie introduced us at the Roxy one fateful summer night. Hughie's the one who brought me into Bernie's whole catty crowd. Sometimes it gets a little exhausting, keeping up with the zingers. Hey, come out and play with us this weekend!

KEITH

Actually meet the Republican gay Orthodox Jew? I was beginning to think you made him up.

BRIAN

He says the same thing about you. I hate having two friends who think I'm delusional. Come shopping with us.

KEITH

He goes shopping on Shabbas?

BRIAN

He goes looking. He never buys, so he says it's okay.

KEITH

What is it with gay men and shopping anyway? I don't get it.

BRIAN

[song: Shopping for Something New – not on demo]

IT'S THE SAME GENE  
THAT DRIVES STRAIGHT MEN TO SPORTS.  
BUT GAYS AREN'T KEEN  
ON FOOTBALL FIELDS AND TENNIS COURTS.  
THINK OF A CHILD  
IN F.A.O. SCHWARTZ.  
AND YOU'LL GET WHY WE TREASURE  
ONE SINGULAR PLEASURE.

WHEN THE DAY'S A LITTLE GRAY  
AND THE WEEK HAS LEFT YOU BLUE,  
NOTHING MAKES YOU FEEL AS GAY  
AS SHOPPING FOR SOMETHING NEW!  
WHEN THE PACE BEGINS TO DRAG,  
THAT'S THE TIME TO TAKE THE CUE:  
GRAB YOURSELF A BERGDORF'S BAG –  
GO SHOPPING FIFTH AVENUE.

BRIAN breaks out of the scene in KEITH'S office, comes downstage and is now in a Fifth Avenue fantasy shopping world. BERNIE enters with shopping bags, and joins him.

BERNIE

SO WHAT THE HECK –  
YOUR HAIR'S A WRECK  
AND YOUR SKIN'S A LITTLE BLOTCHY.  
YOU'LL LOOK FINE,  
THE WORLD'S DIVINE  
IN A FLAWLESS NEW VERSACE.

BRIAN

Oh... my ...God! Check out the LaCoste counter.

BERNIE

I never buy LaCoste.

BRIAN

But you'd buy what's buyin'.

BERNIE

Good. You can check out his butt while he walks away.

BRIAN

And there he goes.

BRIAN/BERNIE

WHEN THE ATMOSPHERE TURNS COLD  
SNUBBED BY SOMEONE TWENTY-TWO,  
JUST FORGET YOU'RE GETTING OLD –  
GO SHOPPING FOR SOMETHING NEW!

BERNIE

WHEN YOUR CALM IS COMPROMISED  
'CAUSE THE CITY'S SUCH A ZOO...

BRIAN/BERNIE

NOTHING FEELS AS CIVILIZED  
AS SHOPPING FIFTH AVENUE.

BRIAN

WHEN TEARS ARE CLOSE,  
JUST GRAB A DOSE  
OF SOME GIORGIO ARMANI –  
IT'S A SURE  
ITALIAN CURE  
TO MAKE YOU FEEL DOWNRIGHT DON JUAN-Y!

BERNIE

NOTHING COULD BE FINER  
THAN A BARGAIN-PRICED DESIGNER.

BRIAN

Sell it, Bernie!

BERNIE

Nah. I'd rather buy it!

BRIAN/BERNIE (big finale with high kicks)

MAYBE DATING WOULD BE NICE,  
BUT THERE'S JUST ONE BUGABOO:  
SEX NOW HAS AN AWFUL PRICE,  
SO SHOPPING WILL HAVE TO DO.

I LOVE TO BUY, AND BY AND LARGE  
THE FINEST STORES GIVE US A CHARGE.  
YOU NEVER KNOW JUST WHAT YOU'LL FIND  
OR WHO YOU'LL RUN INTO.  
WHEN YOUR SPIRITS ARE DROPPING,  
GO DEPARTMENT-STORE HOPPING.  
GRAB A FRIEND AND GO SHOPPING  
FOR SOMETHING NEW!

BERNIE dances off with arms full of shopping bags. BRIAN comes back into the scene with KEITH.

KEITH

Well, I'd love to meet Bernie, but I get a throbbing headache in department stores.

BRIAN

Are you sure you're gay?

KEITH

If I'm not, what am I doing here writing ad copy about lady's perfume? Which reminds me: I should be writing ad copy about lady's perfume.

BRIAN

Yeah, and I should be sketching some layouts for "Grand Opening". And we'll need sell sheet copy to route to marketing tomorrow. What about the cosmetic clutch?

KEITH

Let's call it "In Our Clutches" and do a visual about someone being trapped.

BRIAN

Ah, yes. Trapped in the men's department at Bloomingdale's! A Fate worse than disco. This Saturday at noon!

KEITH (rattled)

Bloomingdale's men's department?

BRIAN

Something wrong with Bloomie's?

KEITH

No... I just ... I used to work there.

BRIAN

In the men's department? My second home? And we never met? Impossible.

KEITH

No. I worked in advertising. The place just ... brings back memories.

BRIAN

Do you mind? I mean, we could shop Bendel's or Macy's, but Bloomie's has Ralph Lauren on sale.

KEITH

It's okay. I'll return to the scene of the crime.

BRIAN

Look for me at the Polo shirt counter. Saturday at noon. And I promise to bring you an aspirin. That should help your headache. And maybe you can help me with mine.

KEITH

Yours?

BRIAN

Yeah. It's called "Bernie." He can be a bit much. You've been warned. See you Saturday. (he exits)

KEITH

[song: I Just Don't Get It – not on demo]

I JUST DON'T GET IT –  
WHY'S HE SO PERSUASIVE?  
WHAT'S WITH THE SALES  
AT BLOOMINGDALE'S?  
AND WHY WAS I SO EVASIVE?

I should have just told him the truth.

I JUST DON'T GET IT –  
WHY ME? THIS IS CRAZY.  
WHAT DOES HE SEE  
WHEN HE LOOKS AT ME?  
HIS EYESIGHT'S A LITTLE BIT HAZY!

I'M NOT A GUY THAT HOTTIES CHASE.  
I'VE GOT AN ORDINARY FACE.  
AND THIS IS NOT THE TIME OR PLACE.  
I JUST DON'T GET IT.

ALTHOUGH IT'S NICE TO BE WANTED,  
THIS VERGES ON HUNTED.  
WELL, THE FELLOW CERTAINLY HAS GUTS.  
BUT HERE IN THE OFFICE? THIS IS NUTS!  
WHAT'S GOING ON, MICHAEL?  
IS THIS PART OF THE PLAN?

Scene iii - interlude

A spotlight comes up on MICHAEL.

MICHAEL

YOU COULD HAVE RUN AWAY \_  
TURNED YOUR BACK AND RUN AWAY.  
BUT YOU STAYED, YOU STAYED.

NOW YOU NEED SOMEONE WHO CAN CARE FOR YOU.  
I'M STILL THERE FOR YOU –  
BUT IN YOUR HEART.  
IT'S TIME TO START  
TO LOVE AGAIN.

Lights fade down on KEITH. MICHAEL walks downstage  
and "confides" in the audience.

[song: We Met at Bloomingdale's – not on demo]

WE MET AT BLOOMINGDALE'S –  
HE GAVE A FURTIVE GLANCE ACROSS  
AN AISLE OF POLO SHIRTS.  
I THOUGHT "I LIKE THE WAY HE FLIRTS."  
HE DISCRETELY WINKED AN EYE,

THIS EAGER, HORNY GUY  
AT BLOOMINGDALE'S.

THE CROWD AT BLOOMINGDALE'S  
WAS SO COMPLETELY UNAWARE –  
THEY INNOCENTLY SHOPPED  
NOT KNOWING TIME HAD SOMEHOW STOPPED,  
AS HE FLASHED A SEXY SMILE  
AND STROLLED ACROSS THE MENSWEAR AISLE...  
AND NOW I'M FROZEN TO THE SPOT  
BUT FEELING STRANGELY HOT  
AT BLOOMINGDALE'S!

HE ASKED ME WHAT I THOUGHT  
OF THE SELECTION.  
ALL I COULD THINK WAS  
“GLAD IT'S WINTER AND MY FULL LENGTH  
CASHMERE COAT IS HIDING MY  
UNCOMFORTABLE ERECTION!”

BUT WE GREW COMFORTABLE –  
AND THEN THE CONVERSATION FLOWED.  
HE PUT ME SO AT EASE,  
AS WARM AND NATURAL AS A BREEZE.  
SO ARTICULATE AND SMART  
AND SUCH AN OPEN, GENTLE HEART.  
SO WE CHATTED IN THE STORE,  
THEN WANDERED OUT THE DOOR.  
AND THEN WE TALKED SOME MORE,  
AND REALIZED WE'D FOUND  
EXACTLY WHAT WE WERE LOOKING FOR  
AT BLOOMINGDALE'S.

DEAR ONE ...

THAT WAS LONG ENOUGH AGO  
AND THOUGH I MISS YOU SO  
THE TIME IS OVERDUE –  
IT'S TIME FOR MEETING SOMEONE NEW  
AT BLOOMINGDALE'S.

Scene iii -

THE MEN'S FURNISHINGS DEPARTMENT AT BLOOMINGDALE'S, THE FOLLOWING SATURDAY.

BERNIE and BRIAN are sorting through a table of shirts.  
BRIAN is dressed very casual in uncharacteristically  
tight jeans and a sexy shirt.

[reprise: So Tell Me? – not on demo]

BERNIE

So?

So what? BRIAN

SO TELL ME  
WHAT D'YA CALL IT? BERNIE

WHAT? BRIAN

YOUR FRIEND? BERNIE

WHAT ABOUT HIM? BRIAN

YOU'RE FINALLY DATING? BERNIE

WELL, NOT YET... BRIAN

SO WHY'S HE TAKING IT SLOW? BERNIE

HE'S STILL GETTING OVER  
A LOVER NAME MICHAEL. BRIAN

SO SOMEONE LEFT –  
HE'S STILL BEREFT.  
YOU OUGHT TO LET HIM GO. BERNIE

The last thing in the world you want is to be a rebound boy friend.

He needs someone. BRIAN

He's still in love with someone else, and for all you know they'll get back together. Maybe it's time you just gave up on this one. BERNIE

He needs someone to help him put the pieces back together. BRIAN

People get over. BERNIE

It's not so simple. The guy's in mourning. BRIAN

DON'T WORRY – THE TRAUMA EVENTUALLY FADES. BERNIE

BRIAN  
Bernie, his lover died of AIDS.

BERNIE  
Oh shit! How long ago?

BRIAN  
I think it's like a year.

BERNIE  
And you want to go out with him? Are you crazy?

BRIAN  
What?

BERNIE  
Is he positive?

BRIAN  
He's ... never been tested.

BERNIE  
What!?

BRIAN  
But I know he's fine.

BERNIE  
Bull shit. You can't know.

BRIAN  
I know it in my heart. And it wouldn't change the way I feel about him. Nothing could.

BERNIE  
[song: Brian, Be Smart - not on demo]

BRIAN, BE SMART –  
DON'T PURSUE THIS.  
TURN AND WALK AWAY.  
BRIAN, BE SMART –  
YOU CAN'T DO THIS.  
LISTEN TO WHAT I SAY:

THIS ISN'T A GAME, BRIAN.  
THERE'S A LIFE AT STAKE: YOURS.  
OF COURSE IT'S A SHAME,  
BUT NOBODY'D BLAME YOU.  
SOME CHANCES YOU JUST DON'T TAKE.

BRIAN, BE SAFE.  
BRIAN, BE SMART.  
BRIAN, BE SENSIBLE.  
BRIAN, BELIEVE ME –  
WALKING AWAY

IS COMPLETELY DEFENSIBLE.

DON'T BE A FOOL.  
DON'T BE STUPID.  
HAND THAT ARROW  
BACK TO CUPID.

Don't bring this plague into our lives.

BRIAN

It is in our lives, Bernie. What about Jay? I dated him for six months. He's gone, but he'll always be part of my life.

BERNIE

You were careful. And you weren't even with him when he was sick.

BRIAN

I would have been, if he'd let me in and hadn't just disappeared into denial for a year. And what about Hughie? And Steve?

BERNIE

They weren't really part of our crowd.

BRIAN

I wouldn't even know you if it weren't for Hughie. And how many in "our crowd" are walking around with this time bomb inside? This is happening to all of us, whatever you'd like to think.

I'M NOT GOING TO RUN.  
I'M NOT GOING TO HIDE.  
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO SCARE ME  
AWAY FROM MY HEART.

BERNIE

Forget about your heart – think of your health! Why are you doing this to us?

BRIAN

To us?

BERNIE

BRIAN, I CARE!  
THINK OF THE RISK –  
BRIAN, BE SMART!

KEITH (comes rushing in)

Oh there you are! Am I late?

BRIAN

No, I think you're just in time.

KEITH does a double take when he sees how casually BRIAN is dressed, and possibly even checks out his buns without even meaning to.

KEITH

And you're just in ... jeans.

BRIAN

Yeah, the office suit is detachable from the Ken doll.

KEITH (trying to recover)

I know it's like a quarter past twelve, but I was in the wrong Ralph Lauren section. The guard directed me to the men's suits downstairs. I guess I forgot to specify accessories. Did I miss any really exciting purchases? I love to see other people spend money.

BERNIE

So you think maybe this is the sarcasm department?

BRIAN

You didn't miss a thing, Keith. This is my friend Bernie.

KEITH

Pleasure to meet you. Finally. I've heard a lot about you. Good Yom Tov.

BERNIE

You observe Shabbat?

KEITH

Well no, but I respect it.

BERNIE

Brian didn't mention. You Jewish?

KEITH

Yes. Bar Mitzvahed and everything.

BERNIE

Then respecting means observing. Your family never lit Sabbath candles on Friday night?

KEITH

I'm afraid our observance was kind of limited to Yom Kippur.

BERNIE

Then I guess you'd have a lot to atone for.

[song: Anybody Wanna Buy a Shirt? – not on demo]

IT'S NONE OF MY BUSINESS, BUT  
YOU SHOULD BE MORE OBSERVANT.  
THERE'S NO NEED TO KEEP KOSHER.

KEITH

I SEE.

BERNIE

THERE'S NO NEED TO BE FERVENT,  
LIKE ME.

BUT A LITTLE TRADITION WOULDN'T HURT  
NOW AND THEN.

KEITH

WELL, IT'S SURE NOT SO TRADITIONAL  
TO BE A JEW WHO'S INTO MEN.

BRIAN (awkwardly)

SPEAKING OF TRADITIONAL:  
POLO SHIRTS, HALF PRICE.  
PURE COTTON. VERY NICE.  
ANYONE WANT TO BUY A SHIRT?

KEITH

Geez, I haven't bought a piece of clothing in like two years.

BERNIE

So you're not very observant of fashion, either. You wear old clothes to work?

KEITH

I dress comfortably. And don't worry – I've got a nice suit for business meetings. I'm not a total fashion slouch. I used to be the fashion writer for Bonwit Teller.

BERNIE

A fashion writer? Bonwit's?

IT'S NONE OF MY BUSINESS, BUT  
FOR A PERSON IN FASHION  
YOU COULD DRESS MORE DESIGNER.

KEITH

I SHOULD?

BERNIE

LIKE FOR ME IT'S A PASSION.

KEITH

THAT'S GOOD.

BERNIE

DON'T YOU KNOW THAT APPEARANCE IS THE KEY  
TO SUCCESS?

KEITH

TELL ME WHAT GOOD ARE APPEARANCES  
WHEN YOUR MANNERS ARE A MESS?

BRIAN

SPEAKING OF APPEARANCES:  
PERRY ELLIS – NEXT WEEK  
HERE IN THE MEN'S BOUTIQUE.  
ANYONE WANT TO SEE PERRY?  
ANYONE WANT TO BUY A SHIRT?

So your suit – who’s is it?  
BERNIE

It’s mine. I made the last payment two weeks ago.  
KEITH

Very funny. I mean who’s the label.  
BERNIE

Well, I’ve got an Armani that’s pretty dressy. So I usually wear my St. Laurent sport jacket.  
KEITH

Coior?  
BERNIE

Navy.  
KEITH

Very sensible.  
BERNIE

See Bernie? He can speak designer.  
BRIAN

Theoretically I know about clothing. I just don’t like to shop.  
KEITH

Oh great, the alcoholic wants to date the teetotaler.  
BERNIE

Alcoholic?  
KEITH

I think he’s being witty. Believe me – I’m not a drinker. I nurse a beer for an entire evening.  
BRIAN

I get giddy when I sniff a cork.  
KEITH

Lightweight – in so many ways.  
BERNIE (scrutinizing KEITH)

IT’S NONE OF MY BUSINESS, BUT  
YOU’RE A BIT ON THE THIN SIDE.

I’M WHAT?  
KEITH

SOMETIMES STRESS ON THE OUTSIDE  
BERNIE



HAVE YOU EVER BEEN TESTED?

KEITH  
THAT'S CERTAINLY BLUNT.

WELL THAT'S BEING UP FRONT!

BRIAN  
HEY, IT'S NONE OF HIS BUSINESS.  
IT'S STILL NONE OF HIS BUSINESS.

I'M IN PERFECT HEALTH  
AS FAR AS I KNOW.  
AN ANGEL IN MY HEART  
TELLS ME SO.

KEITH  
I'M GLAD YOU'RE SO CONCERNED ABOUT ME.  
HAPPY THAT YOU'VE LEARNED ABOUT ME?  
AND YES, I'M ALWAYS SAFE.  
SO STOP LOOKING AT ME AS IF I WERE TRAIFF.

BRIAN  
It's none of his business. Can we please talk about something else?

KEITH  
Brian, you brought me to meet your best friend. I value friends very highly. Including yours. Give us a chance to get to know each other.

BRIAN  
As long as there's no bloodshed in the Bloomingdale's men's department.

BERNIE  
Very nice.

KEITH  
We're fine. Give us a minute. Go look at underwear or something.

BRIAN  
I don't need underwear.

KEITH  
Go, Brian. Pretend to look at the dress shirts over there.

BRIAN  
I don't know about this.

BERNIE  
Go, Brian. Let me and the cutie talk a little.

KEITH  
Look, I know you're just being protective of your best friend. And that's really sweet. I'm not sure what he told you, but you've got the wrong idea. We're just friends. No dating, in spite of his best efforts. There's no risk here.

BERNIE  
Denial is a big risk.

KEITH  
What do you mean?

BERNIE  
How long were you and your lover together?

KEITH  
We almost made it to five years,

BERNIE  
I assume you were intimate.

KEITH  
We loved each other very much.

BERNIE  
Kiddo, you've been exposed to this plague. Maybe you really do believe in angels and white light and all that mishegas, but you'd better start putting your faith in doctors. Go get tested.

KEITH  
What for? There's nothing doctors can do for HIV. I watched Michael get sicker from the pills than from the disease.

BERNIE  
Five years you were with this guy. You need to know where you stand now.

KEITH  
No. I need to take scrupulous care of myself, and stay as healthy as possible for as long as possible. Doctors don't know a thing about that. And I need to stay confident about my well-being, and watch my diet and meditate and keep my life as joyful and stress-free as I can.

BERNIE  
So maybe you're fine. Get tested for your own peace of mind.

KEITH  
I think you want me to get tested for your peace of mind. And I will think about it.

BRIAN  
HEY, IT'S NONE OF HIS BUSINESS,  
AS I KEEP ON REPEATING.  
BUT  
SINCE WE'RE SPEAKING OF BUSINESS,

BERNIE/KEITH  
WHAT?

BRIAN  
THERE'S A COMPANY MEETING.

BERNIE  
Ay, gut!

BRIAN

WE'LL BE HEADING TO FLORIDA IN JUNE  
FOR A WEEK.

It's time for the annual pep talk to the sales force.

KEITH

You and Vivian are heading for Florida. The art department gets to decorate. I don't think the copywriter gets to go.

BRIAN

Well, I've got a little surprise for the copywriter. I wangled an invitation for you. I told Vivian I needed help setting up the merchandise displays. I suggested you. Is that allowed?

KEITH

You want me to help you set up? But I'm the word guy.

BRIAN

Do you think you'll mind a week's vacation in Marco Island?

KEITH

The company pays for it?

BRIAN

Every penny. Vivian was going to let you know officially on Monday.

KEITH

Wow! I've always wanted to go to one of those.

BERNIE

VERY NICE: FLORIDA.  
DELUXE HOTEL, OCEAN BREEZE,  
TROPICAL SUN, PALM TREES.  
THE PERFECT PLACE NOT TO DATE.  
DOES ANYBODY NEED TO BUY A BEACH TOWEL?  
SUNSCREEN? CONDOMS?

BRIAN/KEITH

IT'LL BE STRICTLY BUSINESS. YES,  
THIS IS STRICTLY PLATONIC.

BRIAN

UNLESS...

BERNIE

PLEASE DON'T GIVE ME THE BUSINESS.  
AND STOP ACTING MORONIC.  
THE TWO OF YOU IN FLORIDA  
FOR A WEEK?  
IT'S THE ULTIMATE SETTING  
FOR YOUR ROMANTIC HIDE AND SEEK.

BRIAN

Well, I hope I find what I'm looking for.

KEITH

SPEAKING OF FLORIDA:  
GOTTA GET SUMMER CLOTHES –  
MAYBE THIS, MAYBE THOSE.  
ANYONE WANNA GO SHOPPING?  
I THOUGHT WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE SHOPPING.

BRIAN

I KNOW WHAT I WANT!

BERNIE

BRIAN, DON'T FLIRT!

KEITH (desperately)

ANYONE WANNA BUY A SHIRT?

BLACKOUT

Scene iv -

INTERLUDE

Lights up on MICHAEL who walks downstage and  
"confides" in the audience.

[reprise: We Met at Bloomingdale's – not on demo]

WE MET AT BLOOMINGDALE'S –  
HE GAVE A FURTIVE GLANCE ACROSS  
AN AISLE OF POLO SHIRTS.  
I THOUGHT "I LIKE THE WAY HE FLIRTS."

With a wave of a hand, he brings in a window looking  
outside on a sunny sky.

HE DISCRETELY WINKED AN EYE,  
THIS EAGER, HORNY GUY  
AT BLOOMINGDALE'S.

He waves in a door frame.

THAT WAS LONG ENOUGH AGO  
AND THOUGH I MISS YOU SO  
THE TIME IS OVERDUE –  
IT'S TIME FOR MEETING SOMEONE NEW...

He waves in a big, plush king size bed.

Scene v -

A COMPANY SALES MEETING IN FLORIDA. KEITH'S ROOM AT THE HOTEL.

The room is dominated by a king size bed with a tropical bedspread and matching curtains. KEITH's suitcase is opened on the bed, and KEITH is starting to unpack. There is a knock at the door.

Oh, Lord!

KEITH

Anybody home? Knock, knock.

BRIAN (offstage knock)

Who's there?

KEITH (knowing full well)

Brian.

BRIAN

Brian who?

KEITH

Brian, who's going to be the best thing that ever happened to you, if you'll just let me in.

BRIAN

Go away. I'm unpacking.

KEITH

There's nowhere for me to go. I'm stuck in the room next to yours.

BRIAN

I can't believe you did this.

KEITH (opening the door)

What are you talking about?

BRIAN (barging in)

I go to check in, and what do you think the desk clerk tells me?

KEITH

That you're a cutie?

BRIAN

No, she says that you told her we were going to be working closely together on this sales meeting, and that we needed adjoining rooms.

KEITH

It makes sense, doesn't it? Think of all the time I'll save looking for you when I need you? Aren't you going to help me set up the meeting?

BRIAN

I'm a copywriter. What do I know about decorating a conference room?

KEITH

BRIAN

There's nothing to it. Hang posters, drape white tulle everywhere, stack products. And put pretty little flower arrangements everywhere.

KEITH

Actually, I'm not bad at arranging flowers.

BRIAN

Good. I really can use a helping hand. Vivian said I should put you to work.

KEITH

Oh my God! Does Vivian know you asked for adjoining rooms? I am mortified!

BRIAN

She's way too busy to notice what's going on with us. Don't worry. She doesn't have a clue. I think it's a life choice.

KEITH

Like persistence?

BRIAN

Well, that's a new one for me. I want you to know you're the first guy I've ever chased after.

KEITH

You're very good for a beginner. I'm really not used to this.

BRIAN

No one ever chased after you? I find that hard to believe.

KEITH

Believe it. I've always been the pursuer. Otherwise guys don't usually notice me.

BRIAN

Fools. Just look at that gorgeous view.

KEITH

Hey, it's just the pool. We didn't get oceanside.

BRIAN

That's not the view I was referring to.

[TRACK 8: I'm Gonna Find Out]

DON'T ACT LIKE YOU DON'T NOTICE ME NOTICING YOU –  
THERE'S NO USE PRETENDING.

KEITH

I've got to unpack, Brian. I just got off a plane ...

BRIAN

IT'S NOT AS IF IT'S COMING FROM OUT OF THE BLUE –  
YOU GOT THE MESSAGE I'VE BEEN SENDING.

KEITH

I'm a jet-lagged mess. How can you even think of flirting with me?

BRIAN

MAYBE I'M FLIRTING,  
BUT IT'S NO GAME.  
YOU KNOW THAT I'M HURTING—  
AND THAT YOU'RE THE ONE TO BLAME.

KEITH

Sorry.

BRIAN

LOVE DEALT ME THE CARDS,  
BUT I DON'T KNOW HOW TO PLAY IT.  
SOMETIMES YOU GOTTA GAMBLE,  
SO I'M JUST GONNA SAY IT:

KEITH (focused on unpacking)

Love? Oh, geez... we hardly know each other.

BRIAN

ARE YOUR LIPS AS SOFT AS THEY LOOK?

KEITH

What?

BRIAN

I'M GONNA FIND OUT, I'M GONNA FIND OUT!  
AND ARE YOUR KISSES THE KISSES I'VE BEEN DREAMING ABOUT?  
THIS TIME I'M GONNA FIND OUT.  
I'M ASKIN' ARE YOUR LIPS AS SOFT AS THEY LOOK?  
I'M GONNA FIND OUT, I'M GONNA FIND OUT.  
AND IS YOUR LOVIN' THE LOVIN' THAT CAN MAKE A GUY SHOUT?  
THIS TIME I'M GONNA FIND OUT!

KEITH

Brian, we've been through this a dozen times. You're a terrific guy, and very good looking. (suddenly noticing) Especially with that great tan. What a difference two days in the Florida sunshine can make.

BRIAN

YOU KNOW THAT YOU'VE BEEN THINKING THE VERY SAME THOUGHT—  
YOU FEEL THE ATTRACTION.

KEITH

Yes, you're attractive. I'm not blind. But I've told you before: I'm not ready to go out with anyone.

BRIAN

WHY STAND THERE IF YOU REALLY DON'T WANT TO GET CAUGHT?  
YOU KNOW I'M SPRINGIN' INTO ACTION.

He tries to take KEITH's hand, but KEITH slips away.

KEITH

Wanna see me in action? Take me down to the conference room and put me to work. I'll drape, I'll hang posters, I'll stack product...

BRIAN

TOO MANY CHANCES  
HAVE SLIPPED AWAY.  
TOO MANY ROMANCES  
NEVER SEE THE LIGHT OF DAY.  
I'VE WAITED SO LONG,  
AND NOW I CAN'T WAIT MUCH LONGER.  
IT'S TIME FOR ME TO COME ON  
JUST A LITTLE BIT STRONGER.

KEITH

Stronger? That's like Paul Lynd saying he's going come on gayer.

BRIAN

(walking seductively towards KEITH, who backs away)

ARE YOUR LIPS AS SOFT AS THEY LOOK?  
I'M GONNA FIND OUT, I'M GONNA FIND OUT!  
AND ARE YOUR KISSES THE KISSES I'VE BEEN DREAMING ABOUT?  
THIS TIME I'M GONNA FIND OUT.  
I'M ASKIN' ARE YOUR LIPS AS SOFT AS THEY LOOK?  
I'M GONNA FIND OUT, I'M GONNA FIND OUT.  
AND IS YOUR LOVIN' THE LOVIN' THAT CAN MAKE A GUY SHOUT?  
THIS TIME I'M GONNA FIND OUT!

KEITH

God, Florida is hot. I'm soaked.

BRIAN

So take your clothes off.

I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M MAKING THE MOVE—  
I'VE NEVER BEEN SO FORWARD BEFORE.  
MY LOVE LIFE HAS JUST GOT TO IMPROVE,  
AND YOU'RE THE IMPROVEMENT I'VE BEEN SEARCHING FOR.

I'M ASKIN' ARE YOUR LIPS AS SOFT AS THEY LOOK?  
I'M GONNA FIND OUT— I'M GONNA FIND OUT!  
YOU MIGHT AS WELL GIVE IN NOW, BE-CAUSE THERE ISN'T A DOUBT:  
I'M GONNA FIND OUT— I'M GONNA FIND OUT!  
I'M ASKIN' ARE YOUR LIPS AS SOFT AS THEY LOOK?  
I'M GONNA FIND OUT, I'M GONNA FIND OUT.  
AND IS YOUR LOVIN' THE LOVIN' THAT CAN MAKE A GUY SHOUT?  
I'M GONNA FIND OUT, I'M GONNA FIND OUT.

He lunges at KEITH, and takes him in his arms.

KEITH (resisting)

I don't believe this.

MICHAEL appears upstage and KEITH relaxes.

Oh Lord, I'm in trouble.

BRIAN (alarmed)

What's wrong?

KEITH

You feel right.

BRIAN

Is that allowed?

KEITH (relaxing into an embrace)

Okay. I surrender.

BLACKOUT

When the lights come back up, BRIAN and KEITH are in bed. KEITH is resting his head blissfully on BRIAN's shoulder. MICHAEL stands over them, arms outstretched.

KEITH

This is a fine mess you've gotten us into.

BRIAN

Are you okay?

KEITH

I'm ... amazing.

BRIAN

You certainly are.

KEITH

No. We're amazing. It's a shame about that bed in the room next door.

BRIAN

What about it?

KEITH

It's going to totally go to waste.

BRIAN

What do you mean?

KEITH

If you think I'm spending the night anywhere but right here with you, you'd better think again. I want to fall asleep in your arms tonight and every night. Is that allowed?

BRIAN

Wow! I thought I packed for the beach, but you're the one who brought the flip-flop.

KEITH

Be careful what you wish for.

BRIAN

I'm not complaining. I knew it all along. I was beginning to wonder if you'd ever figure it out.

KEITH

[TRACK 9: I'm So Glad You Were Right]

I NEVER KNEW  
THAT IT WAS YOU  
THAT I WAS THINKING OF  
WHEN I WISHED ON A STAR.  
I NEVER DREAMED --  
IT NEVER SEEMED  
THAT I COULD REALLY LOVE.  
SUDDENLY HERE YOU ARE.  
IN A WORLD THAT'S FULL OF SURPRISES,  
YOU'RE THE BEST THAT'S HAPPENED SO FAR.

BRIAN

You know, the company will let us extend our stay a few days. I was thinking we could bop on over to Disney World for the weekend.

KEITH

Who needs Disney World? I just found the best ride in Florida.

BRIAN (a tad embarrassed)

Now, now!

KEITH

TO TELL THE TRUTH  
I STAYED ALOOF  
AND THOUGHT THAT I WAS WISE --  
YOU SAW THROUGH ME SOMEHOW.  
I NEVER THOUGHT  
THAT I'D BE CAUGHT  
WITH MOONLIGHT IN MY EYES --  
TAKE A LOOK AT ME NOW!  
SWORE I'D GIVEN UP ON FOREVER --  
GUESS IT'S TIME TO MAKE A NEW VOW.

YOU WERE RIGHT -- I WAS WRONG.  
IT WAS YOU ALONG,  
AND YOU KNEW I WAS FOOLISH TO FIGHT.  
NOW IT ALL SEEMS SO STRANGE  
THAT THE WHOLE WORLD CAN CHANGE  
IN A NIGHT ...  
AND YOU SAID THAT IT MIGHT,  
AND I'M GLAD YOU WERE RIGHT.

BRIAN (getting up and starting to dress)

Well, now that I've proven my point, we really do need to get down to the conference room.

YOU NEVER GUESSED  
I'D BE THE BEST --

KEITH (getting up to dress)

I TOLD YOU I WAS SLOW.  
HOW COULD YOU BE SO SMART?  
UNTIL WE KISSED,  
I MUST HAVE MISSED  
YOUR MYSTIFYING GLOW.  
NOW I SEE WITH MY HEART.

BRIAN

Dear heart!

BOTH

AFTER YEARS OF LOVING AND LOSING,  
GUESS IT'S TIME TO MAKE A NEW START.

KEITH

YOU WERE RIGHT -- I WAS WRONG.  
IT WAS YOU ALL ALONG,  
AND YOU KNEW I WAS FOOLISH TO FIGHT.  
NOW IT ALL SEEMS SO STRANGE  
THAT THE WHOLE WORLD CAN CHANGE  
IN A NIGHT ...  
AND YOU SAID THAT IT MIGHT  
AND I'M GLAD YOU WERE RIGHT --  
YES, I'M GLAD I WAS RIGHT FOR YOU.  
AND I'M GLAD THAT I MADE IT THROUGH  
THE DARKNESS TO THE LIGHT.  
I'M SO GLAD YOU WERE RIGHT.

BRIAN and KEITH are now dressed. MICHAEL motions  
the bed and other set pieces to move off.

I GUESS I THOUGHT MY HEART  
WAS ALREADY TAKEN.  
TELL ME HOW COULD I POSSIBLY BE  
SO HAPPILY  
MISTAKEN?

YOU WERE RIGHT -- I WAS WRONG.  
NOW I'M SINGING THIS SONG,  
AND THOSE BUTTERFLIES BETTER TAKE FLIGHT.  
NOW YOU'VE WON -- SO HAVE I.  
LOVE'S BEGUN, AND THE SKY  
IS SO BRIGHT,  
AND WITH ALL OF MY MIGHT  
I'M SO GLAD YOU WERE RIGHT --

YES, I'M GLAD I WAS RIGHT FOR YOU.

AND I'M GLAD THAT WE MADE IT THROUGH  
THE DARKNESS TO THE LIGHT.  
YES, I'M GLAD YOU WERE RIGHT ...  
YES, I'M GLAD YOU WERE RIGHT ...  
I'M SO GLAD YOU WERE RIGHT!

BRIAN

Is it too soon to tell you that I love you?

KEITH

It's way too soon. And this is way too crazy. But I think maybe I love you too.

BRIAN

I've got something else I'd think I should tell you: I already booked a hotel in Orlando. Nothing fancy like this place. Bernie's flying down to meet me.

KEITH

So how's he going to feel about tagging along on our honeymoon?

SCENE v - DISNEY WORLD, A SUNNY SUMMER AFTERNOON, A FEW DAYS LATER

With just a change of lights, we are now in Disney World. A bright sunny afternoon on Main Street USA.

BERNIE (entering)

Glad I flew all the way down here so he can share a room with you, and I can tag along. Very nice, Brian.

BRIAN

I'm glad you came, Bernie. It wouldn't be as much fun without you.

BERNIE

I'll bet. (to KEITH) So who's this big blonde friend of yours that's joining us?

KEITH

My best buddy Wes. He moved to Fort Lauderdale a few years ago. Haven't seen him in a while, and he's driving in to meet up with us.

BERNIE

Very nice. So two of us can feel awkward around the lovebirds.

KEITH

I don't want you to feel awkward. You're an important part of Brian's life, and I don't want that to change. Look Bernie, no one could be more surprised about all this than I am. Really. It's kind of a miracle.

BERNIE

No, a miracle would be no line at Space Mountain. I'll meet you over there. (he exits)

KEITH

Poor Bernie.

BRIAN

Oh, he'll be okay.

KEITH

He's in love with you.

BRIAN

Nah. Not really. Maybe I'm his gentile fantasy. But we just don't fit. You and I do.

KEITH

How did you know? When did you know?

BRIAN

The first time I laid eyes on you.

KEITH

Love at first sight? Is something that corny really possible?

BRIAN

It is when you believe in angels. Or maybe opera.

KEITH

I'm always going to love Michael, you know.

BRIAN

That's one of the things I love most about you. So I guess I'm officially in my first ménage a trios.

KEITH

Your first? Really? What were you doing in the seventies?

BRIAN

Waiting for you, I guess.

[TRACK 10: Love Goes On – demo does not include dialogue interludes]

LOVE GOES ON, LOVE ALWAYS WINS.

WHEN YOU REACH AN ENDING,

AH, SOMETHING NEW BEGINS.

KEITH

LOVE GOES ON, LOVE NEVER DIES.

WHEN IT'S LEAST EXPECTED

WHAT A NICE SURPRISE!

MICHAEL

DEAR ONE ...

KEITH

Disney World. How perfect. Michael would love this.

BRIAN

I know.

KEITH

He was such a kid. An innocent. I've been playing grownup way too long. It's good to feel like a kid again. That's how Michael and I were, before AIDS.

BRIAN  
LIFE IS FULL OF PAIN AND LOSS.  
THE FACT IS HARDLY STRANGE OR NEW,  
BUT MAYBE WHAT YOU'VE LOST  
YOU'LL FIND AGAIN,  
IF YOU'LL JUST TAKE A CHANCE.

KEITH  
LIFE IS FULL OF LOSS.  
THE FACT IS HARDLY NEW,  
BUT MAYBE WHAT I'VE LOST  
I'LL FIND AGAIN,  
WITH YOU.

MICHAEL  
DEAR ONE ...

BRIAN  
LOVE GOES ON,  
GIVE LOVE A CHANCE.  
CAN'T YOU HEAR THE MUSIC?  
IT'S TIME TO JOIN THE DANCE.

KEITH  
LOVE GOES ON,  
LOVE'S ALWAYS THERE.  
TIME FOR ME TO RISK IT,  
TIME FOR ME TO CARE.

BERNIE is in a lonely dark spot at the side of the stage.  
Perhaps he sits on a bench staring into the distance.

BERNIE

YOU'RE LOOKIN' FOR SOMEONE,  
SO HOW ABOUT ME, BRIAN?

BRIAN  
LOVE GOES ON,  
LOVE NEVER DIES.  
CAN'T YOU SEE IT TWINKLE  
IN MY EYES?

KEITH  
LOVE GOES ON,  
LOVE NEVER DIES.  
SOMETHING SO FAMILIAR  
TWINKLES IN HIS EYES.

BERNIE  
LOVE GOES ON,  
SO TELL ME  
WHY NOT ME?  
YOU'RE LOOKIN' FOR SOMEONE.

MICHAEL  
LOVE GOES ON,  
LOVE GOES ON.  
DEAR  
ONE.

In a consciously stylized move, all four characters stand,  
face the audience and walk slowly downstage.

ALL

HEARTS CAN BREAK.  
SAD, BUT TRUE.  
STILL, LOVE IS ALWAYS  
WITH YOU.

BRIAN/KEITH  
DARKNESS FALLS,  
THEN COMES THE DAWN.  
SUDDENLY YOU SEE THE LIGHT  
YOU THOUGHT WAS GONE.

MICHAEL  
DARKNESS FALLS,  
THEN COMES THE DAWN.  
SUDDENLY YOU SEE THE LIGHT...

BERNIE/MICHAEL  
JUST SAVE A PLACE WITHIN YOUR HEART  
FOR ME.

LOVED ONES LEAVE.  
LOVED ONES DIE.  
YES, WE GRIEVE.  
YES, WE CRY.  
AHHH...

ALL

The four characters walk to separate spots on the stage, lost in their own separate thoughts.

KEITH  
THE KISS MAY BE A MEMORY.

MICHAEL  
DEAR ...

BRIAN  
THE CLEVER QUIPS.

BERNIE  
THE SHOPPING TRIPS...

BRIAN/BERNIE  
THE FUN.

ONE ...

KEITH  
THE SYMPATHETIC SHOULDER  
MAY BE GONE.

DEAR ...

BRIAN  
THE FUTURE PLANS...

BERNIE  
THE SUMMER TANS.

BRIAN/BERNIE  
THE SUN.

ONE ...

BUT THE LOVE GOES ON,  
AND LOVE GOES ON.  
AND LOVE GOES ON.  
AHHH,  
AHHH...

ALL

YOU'LL FEEL IT IN A MEMORY.

KEITH

MICHAEL

DEAR ...

BRIAN/BERNIE  
YOU SEE IT WHEN YOU LOOK INTO HIS EYE..

KEITH  
YOU KNOW IT IN THE INNOCENCE OF DAWN...

BRIAN/BERNIE

YOU FEEL IT LIKE AN ANGEL IN YOUR HEART.

ONE ...

KEITH and BRIAN come together and embrace. MICHAEL lightly touches them each on their hearts, and a glowing light surrounds them. BERNIE returns to his lonely place at the side of the stage. KEITH turns and looks at BERNIE. He calls over to him.

KEITH

Hey Bernie, what are you doing over there? i thought we were heading over to Space Mountain.

BRIAN

Come on, Bernie. Let's play!

ALL

AND LOVE GOES ON...  
AND LOVE GOES ON...  
AND LOVE GOES ON...  
AND LOVE GOES ON.

KEITH

Hey, there's my buddy Wes!

BERNIE

Where?

KEITH

Over by the fountain. The tall blonde guy with the mustache.

BERNIE

The goyishe one?

BRIAN

Hey, watch that! Some of your best friends are goys.

KEITH (waving)

Hey Wes, over here!

MICHAEL is behind BERNIE, his arms outspread, as if he is embracing him. He touches him near his heart, and a sudden warm glow covers BERNIE, who senses something and looks up bewildered. Disney World fireworks explode behind him.

MICHAEL (as he drifts offstage)

DEAR ONE.

CURTAIN