

LOVEWAYS

screenplay by

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OPENING CREDITS on a black screen. We HEAR PEOPLE CHATTING and the SOUND of NATURE.

FADE IN:

EXT. USA, WESTCHESTER COUNTY, KORUGREEN, SULLIVAN'S HOUSE, BACKYARD - MIDDAY

It is a classic and popular Colonial style house. The home's façade is enhanced by multiple, symmetrically placed windows, double-hung with multiple panes and columns. The garden has a large grassy area surrounded by flowers and some trees. It is all situated by a small lake.

There are a couple of Happy Birthday banners around the garden. Some of them include the number 30 and some of them the name Olivia. There are colourful balloons hanging all over the trees, some of them have already fallen off.

There are about 30 people of all ages. Children running around and having fun. JOHN (64), a grey/dark-haired man is preparing a barbecue, dressed with an apron. A brown-haired woman, BARBARA (61), approaches him with a plate of corn and fresh vegetables. She puts it on the side table where many large plates with steaks and burgers are resting.

JOHN

Where's Olivia? I'd like to start.

BARBARA

She's changing. Her dress with the cross-eyed rock star penguin was way too short. Apparently, living in New York City hasn't changed her bad fashion style.

JOHN

I like my little girl in every dress.

Barbara sighs.

JOHN (CONT'D)

It reminds me of her 18th birthday when Jeff surprised her with that rock band. She was so happy then.

BARBARA

Yes, I couldn't believe how many people we fitted into our garden.

JOHN

Is he coming this afternoon?

BARBARA

Lord, no! He's a blabbermouth and would just tell Olivia about our secret little coffee meetups.

JOHN

How is he?

BARBARA

Well, you promised me thirty years ago you would reduce your business tours around the world! What happened to that?

JOHN

Barbara darling, haven't you noticed I've been retired for two months now?

BARBARA

Aw, Jeff always wanted to see you as well.

JOHN

I'll see him soon, okay?

John rubs Barbara's back. She smiles and kisses him on the cheek.

BARBARA

I'll get Olivia.

INT. SULLIVAN'S HOUSE, UPSTAIRS, OLIVIA'S BEDROOM - LATER

OLIVIA (30) is trying to do up the zip on the back of her dress. She struggles to get it done. Olivia wears a long summer dress that fits her body beautifully. She is an attractive woman with long brown hair with caramel highlights. Her layered cut isn't quite styled and just falls around her shoulders.

The room looks like a teenager's room which has never changed since the young lady moved out. There are some old antique advertising signs mixed with rock band posters on the walls. The closet doors are half closed. Part of a wedding dress sticks out.

One window is half open. It leads to the backyard. There is INDISTINCT CHATTER and a LOUD CONVERSATION between a group of people.

LUCY (O.S.)
Okay, listen to this. Why did God
create a man first?

LINA (O.S.)
Because he was practising?

Olivia smiles. She finishes getting dressed and goes towards the window. She sees LUCY (29), LINA (29), JANINA (31), KEVIN (32) and CARL (30) standing right below.

Lucy wears a business suit. Lina and Janina are dressed with long dresses. Carl and Kevin are dressed casually with jeans, shirt and jacket, but the latter wears designer clothes. Kevin is a tall, thin man. He has blond, shoulder length hair with blue eyes and wears glasses with fancy black frames.

LUCY
Well, almost. C'mon guys, you
should know.

KEVIN
Because the first creation is
always the best one.

OLIVIA
Right.

Olivia goes towards a big, rectangular vintage mirror. She checks herself out in her dress.

LUCY (O.S.)
Ha! Because God wanted to start
with something simple.

Olivia chuckles. She runs her hands gently around her curves and straightens her dress.

CARL (O.S.)
Well, I think, he put all his
efforts into the first version of a
human being. He created the best
and then, he created the second
model as an afterthought. He just
used what was left, a bit of
anything.

The men laugh. Olivia rolls her eyes. She speaks over Lucy's speech.

OLIVIA
(sarcastically)
Sure, you're all Adonis' with big
sticks and stones.

Olivia looks at a small, white plastic Apollo Belvedere statue, resting on her desk. The Greek God is standing on a base with the title: THE GOD OF ART.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)
(to universe)
Am I right?
(pauses)
Oh, point taken.

LUCY (O.S.)
... needed a better more efficient
model. So, that's why we're two
different species.

OLIVIA
Yep.

There is a loud KNOCK on the door.

BARBARA (O.S.)
Hon, are you there?

OLIVIA
Yes, come in.

The door opens and Barbara comes in.

BARBARA
You look great. You bought this
dress with Jenny in Puerto Rico,
didn't you?

Olivia nods when she looks at her appearance again.

BARBARA (CONT'D)
I can barely tell you're 30 now.

Olivia sighs. Barbara looks at the bedside table with three drawers in a vertical position. She goes towards it and opens the first drawer, looks into it and closes it.

OLIVIA
What are you doing?

Barbara opens the middle one and sees many different articles, obviously cut out of various magazines and newspapers. Barbara takes a couple of them in her hand and holds them out to Olivia.

INSERT: Dating Guide 2014 - How to meet your husband -
Internet-Dating - Marriage in your 30's - Family Decline! The
Findings of Social Science.

BARBARA

Well, do these articles mean anything to you? Did you ever read them? It's important.

OLIVIA

Really? Now?

BARBARA

I only want the best for you, honey. Love is important in every women's life. Look at me and your father. Wouldn't you want...

OLIVIA

Mom, stop it!

Olivia turns around, takes the articles and puts them back into the open drawer. She CLOSES it with a LOUD SOUND.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

You were lucky to find dad, and anyway, I don't need any advice on how to find a husband.

BARBARA

Oh yeah, prince charming on the grey horse who saves you from all the pain in the world. Why does one necessarily need a soulmate in life?

Olivia does not react. She goes towards the window and closes it.

BARBARA (CONT'D)

Oh honey, you really should give up this childish idea and face reality. You're 30 now, some women have frozen their eggs by then.

OLIVIA

Mom, prince charming died a long time ago.

BARBARA

Dear Lord, one guy cheated on you and that's it?

OLIVIA

He wasn't just one random guy who cheated on me and destroyed all my dreams in one fell swoop.

(MORE)

OLIVIA (CONT'D)
He was my best friend since
kindergarten, the person I trusted
the most in life.

Barbara frowns.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)
Please, Mom, I'm quite capable of
living on my own and besides, I
like my life and this has nothing
to do with Jeff but with a good
jo...

BARBARA
You're too sensitive and choosy
when it comes to men. Look at your
cousin Bella, -

Olivia sighs.

BARBARA (CONT'D)
- she found a lovely husband and
Kristina, isn't her -

Olivia's mobile rings.

BARBARA (CONT'D)
- little girl just gorgeous.

Olivia takes her mobile and looks at the screen.

OLIVIA
It's Mr. Chapman.

BARBARA
Your boss?

Olivia nods. Barbara turns around and leaves the bedroom.

BARBARA (CONT'D)
Don't be long, hon. People are
waiting downstairs for you.

Olivia answers the phone with a formal voice.

OLIVIA
Hello Mr. Chapman.

INT. UK, LONDON, CHAPMAN'S OFFICE, OPEN PLAN OFFICE,
RECEPTION - LATE AFTERNOON

ALI (26) is looking for something behind the reception desk
right opposite the entrance door.

The whole office is an open plan office with many office desks, one after the other in pairs facing each other. There are giant advertising images all over the walls. The office is deserted.

Ali is a beautiful looking woman who wears far too much make up. She has long, dyed blond hair and bright pink nail varnish. Her clothes are trendy and brightly coloured.

DANIEL (34) opens the entrance door and walks into the office. Daniel is tall, handsome and has brown curly hair.

Ali spots him and flirts.

ALI
Hey Daniel, what are you doing here
at the weekend?

Daniel walks straight to the lift. He presses the UP button.

DANIEL
I can't remember anything at the
moment, and I forgot to prepare the
computer in room 211. Anyway, what
are you doing here at the weekend?

ALI
I forgot my nail varnish.

DANIEL
Oh, well I forgot my left from my
right.

Daniel smiles and enters the lift.

ALI
Daniel, wait.

He holds the doors so that they cannot close. Ali runs towards him.

ALI (CONT'D)
I haven't had lunch today. Do you
fancy a snack at my fave bar?

DANIEL
Sorry, I'm going to meet Courtney
later.

She sighs with a soft disappointment as he takes his hands off the lift doors. The doors close.

INT. USA, SULLIVAN'S HOUSE, OLIVIA'S BEDROOM - MIDDAY

Olivia finishes the phone call and glances at Apollo with a big smile on her face.

OLIVIA
(to universe)
How do you pull your strings like that? I thought, Michela and Angelo would be the lucky ones.

Her phone rings again. Olivia answers.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)
(into phone)
Jenny, you won't believe what just happened?

JENNY (O.S.)
Feliz cumpleaños, guapa.

OLIVIA
(into phone)
Thank you, listen. My boss just called me and offered me that position I applied for three months ago.

EXT. UK, LONDON, MOOR STREET - LATE AFTERNOON

JENNY (31) strides along MOOR STREET while she is on the phone to Olivia. She has shoulder-length, wavy, dark hair with a violet tone and wears a combination of classic and alternative clothes. The only make-up she uses is a coral red lipstick.

JENNY
(into phone)
The one in London?

OLIVIA (O.S.)
Yes, I will lead the whole juice campaign from Marc de Marques, so called MarquJs drinks. It's nearly as big as Coca-Cola.

JENNY
(into phone)
Caramba, well done. Does it mean you'll leave New York to work in London?

OLIVIA (O.S.)
Yes, but only for as long as the
project lasts, it starts very soon.

JENNY
(into phone)
Now I feel much better I can't be
at your party to comfort you.

OLIVIA (O.S.)
Comfort me?

Jenny is passing an office building with a brown wooden,
double-swing door with a sign above it: SEVEN MOOR STREET.
Daniel is leaving the office. She spots him.

JENNY
(into phone)
Korugreen is a small town. Being 30
and single makes you an easy
target. What does that mean?

He passes Jenny. She looks at him with a seductive smile. He
does not react.

OLIVIA (O.S.)
Many letters of sympathy, right,
why aren't you here?

Jenny turns around and looks at his silhouette going the
other way.

JENNY
(into phone)
Guapo.

OLIVIA (O.S.)
What?

JENNY
(into phone)
I thought about a good excuse to
shut up these depressing people.

OLIVIA (O.S.)
Thanks but there's no reason to
point out my single life.

JENNY
(into phone)
Poppycock, you tell them, you're
still enjoying life with a
veritable men mingle-mangle, way
more tasty than chewing the same
bubblegum over and over again.

INTERCUT:

Olivia laughs.

JENNY (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Yeah, statistics say that a
fulfilled sexual life dwindles
after marriage.

JENNY (O.S.) (CONT'D)
They'll be jealous.

BARBARA (O.S.)
(shouting up the stairs)
Olivia, hon. Please come
down, the guest are waiting.

OLIVIA
(into phone)
Sorry, moms calling. I need to go
to my party.

INTERCUT:

JENNY
(into phone)
Keep it in mind and be careful
about your choice of words. These
small town people will dig into
your personal life as if they need
new drugs to survive the next
month.

Jenny leaves MOOR STREET and stops in front of a coffee shop:
RICKS COFFEE HOUSE.

OLIVIA (O.S.)
I will.

Jenny finishes her call and goes into the coffee shop. MR.
O'DONNELL (52) is sitting at a round table. He sees Jenny and
waves at her.

The overweight, balding man with dark blond hair is wearing a
hunter-green, well-cut three-piece suit and button-down shirt
with no tie. On a chair next to him rests a hunter-green
fedora hat. An umbrella with a black and hunter-green check
pattern is hanging from the back of the chair. It has a
cherry-wood handle with a silver collar.

EXT. USA, SULLIVAN'S HOUSE, BACKYARD - EARLY AFTERNOON

The party is in full swing. Olivia talks to the group of people who she was listening to previously. Janina has her left hand in the middle of the group and is looking proudly at her wedding ring.

JANINA

I married Richard two years ago,
we've got one child and one is on
the way. You can't see it -

Janina strokes her tummy with her right hand. Olivia holds back while the others are showing their excitement.

JANINA (CONT'D)

- because I'm only in the ninth
week.

Kevin takes the hand of Janina to have a closer look at the ring.

KEVIN

Well, I've never seen such a nice
ring.

Janina smiles brightly. Kevin looks at Olivia for her approval. She nods while taking a sip of her lemonade.

JANINA

My husband wants us to move back to
Korugreen because of all the air
pollution in New York City. He
claims it's too unhealthy for our
children to grow up with this smog,
but I enjoy living there so much.
All the nice coffee shops, the
theatres, the galleries, oh,
there's so much to love about New
York.

OLIVIA

So, stay there!

JANINA

He has given me the choice of
having a second child or staying in
the city and he is serious.

OLIVIA

That's blackmail.

JANINA
What's going on in your life?

OLIVIA
I just got a really good position
at Chapman London and I'm looking
forward to...

Lina interrupts Olivia while putting her hand with an
engagement ring on it into the middle of the group.

LINA
(overly excited)
Bert asked me to marry him,
yesterday.
(to Olivia)
The guy everyone wanted in High
School, one class above us. Who
would've thought he was my soul
mate back then?

Olivia shrugs and sips her drink again.

LUCY
We all know him. Well done, and I
have some news as well. Mac asked
me to go with him to Michigan and I
agreed. I'm sure it won't be long
before he'll ask me as well.

OLIVIA
Don't you all have a job or
something else to talk about, other
than marriage and having children?

Lucy, Lina and Janina scowl at her in lack of understanding.
Kevin stifles a laugh.

LUCY
Guess who'll get married as well?

OLIVIA
I give up.

LUCY
Jeff Anderson.

Olivia's eyes widen and her cheeks flush slightly.

CARL
(to Olivia)
Is that the Jeff, you were engaged
to?

Olivia nods.

LUCY

It is and who do you think he'll marry?

OLIVIA

I don't know. You want to tell me anyway, so, just go for it.

KEVIN

Solah.

Olivia looks surprised at Kevin.

CARL

Good Lord, so he'll marry the girl who he cheated on you with. Sorry, Olive. You were such a nice couple, but this son of a bi...

OLIVIA

I'm fine. Actually, I'm happy for him.

LINA

Who would've thought, he would betray you three days before you were about to get married?

OLIVIA

Indeed, who would've thought?

LINA

Do you still have your lovely wedding dress?

OLIVIA

Do you want it?

Lina smiles brightly.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

You can have it.

Olivia turns around and leaves.

LINA

Thank you!

(whispers to Lucy)

I heard her mom wanted to give it away years ago but Olivia insisted on keeping it.

Olivia steps back to the group.

OLIVIA

I only kept it because it was quite expensive. A bit of graffiti on it, and I could've worn it to the Venice Carnival. I always wanted to go there.

Lina nods in disbelief.

CARL

Sure, Olive, that would be fun.

Olivia nods and leaves the group. They immediately start whispering to each other.

INT. UK, LONDON, RICKS COFFEE SHOP - EARLY EVENING

There are lots of papers lying on the table in front of Jenny and Mr. O'Donnell. On the top, there are different book covers. All of them have the same book title: "The Spirits of the World".

JENNY

I would prefer that lovely picture from my cousin in Las Mareas at her fiesta de quinceañera.

MR. O'DONNELL

I couldn't disagree more. It deviates from your central theme rather than provide variation to it.

At the table behind Jenny a conversation gets louder. It is Daniel with COURTNEY (33). She looks nice, well dressed and has long, dark blond hair.

JENNY

I don't understand, to me it shows beautifully -

Jenny (CONT'D)

- a cultural rite which includes a higher spiritual meaning.

COURTNEY

(to Daniel)

We had such a nice time together -

Mr. O'Donnell squints. He wants to answer but hesitates. He is distracted by the conversation at Daniel's table.

COURTNEY

- but I can't carry on with it.

Jenny follows Mr. O'Donnell's eyes, turns around and sees the back view of Daniel.

DANIEL

A month ago, we were planning when
to have children and suddenly
everything changed?

Courtney has tears in her eyes. He tries to take her hand.
She pulls it away. Jenny turns back to Mr. O'Donnell.

JENNY

Here comes the speech.

Jenny and Mr. O'Donnell listen to the conversation.

COURTNEY

You're the best person I know but I
just fell out of love with you.

DANIEL

Tell me this is a joke.

Courtney shakes her head.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

What has gotten into you?

MR. O'DONNELL

(to Jenny)

The spirit of life, well, it's
annoying when people can't mind
their business in a private place.
Anyway, I think the image of the
mystical Temple of Tibet represents
the topic of the book more
precisely.

He searches for the book cover with the Tibetan Temple in
between all the papers.

JENNY

(to Mr. O'Donnell)

I disagree, and I'm the
author.

COURTNEY

(to Daniel)

I'm so caught up in work
lately. You know, things have
changed but we didn't.

DANIEL

So, it's not an affair but you love
him?

COURTNEY

(stutters)

Why, why would you think I am, I mean?

Mr. O'Donnell finds the book cover and puts it above all the others, putting his finger down on top.

MR. O'DONNELL

(to Jenny)

And I'm your boss.

DANIEL

(to Courtney)

It all makes sense now. Do you really love an old, married man with four children?

Jenny widens her eyes at Mr. O'Donnell who gets up. He places money down on the table and puts his hat on while Courtney is mumbling some scarcely audible words.

JENNY

The discussion is not over!

MR. O'DONNELL

I'm afraid, the decision is made.
Enjoy the rest of the weekend.

Jenny exhales while Mr. O'Donnell is leaving the coffee shop. He uses his umbrella as a walking stick. Courtney gets up, avoiding Daniel's eyes.

COURTNEY

Don't call me again!

Courtney leaves the coffee shop in a hurry. Jenny observes her while Daniel stays at the table. He lowers his head, exhaling while his body posture loosens.

JENNY

(to herself)

Super, Mars must be retrograde.

Courtney and Mr. O'Donnell share a glance on the pavement. Their glances rest for a moment in each others eyes, hers teary and passionate, his with a knowing calmness. They part ways.

EXT. USA, SULLIVAN'S HOUSE, BACKYARD - AFTERNOON

INSERT: HAPPY BIRTHDAY OLIVIA written across a CAKE.

As the candles are blown out, a WIDER ANGLE reveals Olivia surrounded by guests. They start singing Happy Birthday. Olivia wears a king shaped birthday crown.

The song stops and John raises his voice above everyone else.

JOHN

Happy Birthday, my little girl. You
have no idea how much you have lit
up my life since you were born. On
a very sunny and warm March day
in...

Barbara cuts him off.

BARBARA

John, please. 29 times was enough.
Everyone already knows how she
looked when she was born, her first
word -

JOHN

- February 1989,
Daddy -

BARBARA

(speaks quickly)
- her first candy, her first step,
her first boyfriend, but
(slows down)
it would be nice if she had one to
introduce to us now.

Some guests are laughing. Olivia twists her mouth into a side placement. John gives Olivia a kiss on the cheek.

JOHN

Don't worry, honey, he'll find you
one day.

John raises his glass.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Happy Birthday.

GUESTS

(mixed up)
Happy Birthday, Olivia.

Everyone takes a sip from their drinks.

KEVIN

And a toast to Olivia and her new
job at Chapman's London.

Olivia smiles. Some guests raise their glasses but they get interrupted by Barbara and put their glasses down again.

BARBARA
What about London?

OLIVIA
Chapman asked me to take over a very good position there.

BARBARA
Dear God, England! Where men have undeveloped hearts! Honey, you shouldn't be thinking about your career more than a man, who'll make you happy.

OLIVIA
Mom, don't you know men suffer from more complex problems these days?

BARBARA
How long will you stay there?

KEVIN
No worries, Mrs. Sullivan, I'll keep an eye on her.

BARBARA
You'll go with her?

KEVIN
Yes, I'll be supporting the team in all financial matters.

BARBARA
That's good.

John takes Barbara's hand gently when he blinks at Olivia with his right eye. He draws Barbara's arm into his arm and goes towards the lake.

AT THE LAKE - MOMENTS LATER

JOHN
Oh, darling, give our girl a little peace. She just got an excellent job offer. You should be proud instead of...

Barbara stops abruptly and cuts him off.

BARBARA

I've tried almost everything possible, cut out all kinds of articles about how to find a husband. I wrote down affirmations for her like "I am a man magnet!" I set up meetings with nice young sons from the whole town. What more can I do?

JOHN

Look at our beautiful and smart daughter. You did very well, but you have to let go. She will make her own path in life.

BARBARA

Make her own path? It's easy for you to talk. While you were representing people for their human rights, I raised our daughter all on my own and now, I'm about to lose her to a cold and wet island, miles away.

John puts his arms around Barbara's shoulders. She leans her head on his chest.

JOHN

You're not alone. I won't leave New York State again without you by my side.

She smiles, looks at him and they kiss.

BACKYARD - EVENING

There are only a few guests left. Lucy, Lina and Carl standing in front of a big tree, close to the BBQ. They are enjoying themselves.

Olivia is sitting with Kevin on a garden swing. They are drinking wine. The sound of the song "DEVIL GOT MY WOMAN" from Skip James (1931) is coming from the house.

KEVIN

Your father's record collection is extensive, what a rare gem this is, I love it.

OLIVIA

Yes, me too. The plucky strum of the guitar draws me in, what can compare to this?

Lucy, Lina and Carl are laughing loudly. Olivia looks at them.

KEVIN

I heard them talking about you.

OLIVIA

I don't care.

KEVIN

The poor girl, after 30, it'll be hard for her to find a decent husband and sh...

OLIVIA

They'd even marry their cousins so they weren't still single when they turn 30.

KEVIN

Hey, I'm just the messenger. I don't believe in monogamy anyway!

OLIVIA

Jeff and Solah will exchange their vows at the ceremony of the 300th anniversary celebration of Korugreen this year and I promised Father Gordon I would be there.

KEVIN

(mockingly)

Does anyone in this room object to this man becoming the husband of Solah? I do, I do, yes, I do!

Olivia frowns at him when Lucy, Lina and Carl are coming towards them.

LUCY

Hey you guys. What's up?

KEVIN

Just relaxing.

CARL

You look so sad, Olive.

OLIVIA

I'm happy as a clam at high tide.
Why should I?

LUCY

C'mon, we all know how much you still suffer and now, he'll marry her of all people.

OLIVIA

I'm not suffering.

LINA

You have our sympathy but you need
to open your eyes.

CARL

Don't push her, she's still in love with him and I totally understand. He looks gorgeous.

LINA

It's been five years?!

OLIVIA

I am not!

Carl wants to say more but Olivia interrupts him.

OLIVIA

Am I a part of this conversation?

CARL

It's your day, of course!

OLIVIA

Okay, please listen to me
carefully. I'm not in love with
Jeff. I'm happy for his luck.

LINA

If it's so, why aren't you dating again?

OLIVIA

Well... I do.

LUCY

You do? Who?

(quickly)

What's his name? How old? Where's he from? What's he doing? Any photos?

T.TNA

And where is he?

OLIVIA
(hesitatingly)
He's at home.

LINA
Where's home?

Olivia looks at Kevin with her eyes wide open.

OLIVIA
London?

KEVIN
Yeah, London. You met him at this
meeting there... our new project.

Olivia nods.

LINA
Oh, you have to bring him to our
anniversary festival in October.

Olivia struggles to smile at Lina when Lucy smiles wryly.

LUCY
That will be fun. We're looking
forward to meeting him.
(to Lina and Carl)
Okay guys, I need to leave. Do you
still want a ride?

Lina and Carl nod. Everyone says goodbye and hug each other.

CARL
(whispers into Olivia's
ear)
Don't worry, I'm still searching
for my other half as well.

OLIVIA
You'll find him.

CARL
So will you.

Carl and Olivia exchange a warm smile. He turns around and
leaves with Lina and Lucy. Olivia sighs and sits down.

OLIVIA
These nosy people are a real pain
in the ass. I wish they'd focus on
their own lives and let me off the
hook.

KEVIN

Yeah, what's wrong with you? You've a boyfriend in London. It's rather funny, don't you think?

OLIVIA

Not at all.

KEVIN

You should find someone soon though.

OLIVIA

Yeah, they won't let me go with a flimsy excuse, again.

KEVIN

No, well, yes but I mean, it's a matter of common knowledge that after 35 a woman is more likely to be killed by a terrorist than get married.

OLIVIA

Well, Mr. Ladykiller, how can I get one?

KEVIN

Normally, I'd say just be open and let the spirit flow but in your case, go see a shrink.

OLIVIA

Ha, ha! I like my independent life just as you do.

INT. UK, HEATHROW AIRPORT, ARRIVALS GATE - MORNING

A crowd of people wait for travelers to come through the arrivals door. Jenny is standing in the second row of people and is focusing intensely on the people arriving. Suddenly she sees Olivia coming through the door and waves at her. She spots Jenny immediately and greets her with a big smile.

Jenny pushes past a man in front of her to clear her way through to Olivia. The stranger swears at her but Jenny does not care. She meets Olivia and gives her a big hug. Jenny takes one bag from Olivia. They go towards the exit.

JENNY

I'm so happy to have you here now.
I nearly died without a good friend
in this town, *mi amiga*.

OLIVIA
We've plenty of time now.

Jenny smiles at her while Daniel is running through the exit door with a baggage trolley. He does not see Olivia early enough to stop before he runs her over. She falls to the floor. Her head bangs against the trolley.

DANIEL
I'm sorry, I looked the wrong way.
Are you okay?

Olivia cannot react quickly. She rubs her head and blinks. Jenny does not recognize Daniel.

JENNY
What the hell were you doing?

He wants to help Olivia get up but Jenny pushes him away.

JENNY (CONT'D)
Tonto, look at her.

Olivia is getting up with Jenny's help.

OLIVIA
I'm fine.

DANIEL
Are you sure? I really need to...

OLIVIA
I'm sure. I'm totally fine.

DANIEL
Good, then I'll leave you?

She nods. He leaves in a hurry.

JENNY
Are you really okay?

OLIVIA
Yes, I am.

EXT. CAR PARK - MOMENTS LATER

JENNY
That was an unusual start to your stay in London?

OLIVIA

Yeah, I seem to have landed with a bump.

They are walking towards a classic red Mini.

JENNY

Maybe it's a bad omen for your stay in London?

OLIVIA

There's no such thing as an omen.

JENNY

Poppycrack, but we can change that by clearing your aura. Working on your spiritual hygiene will be good for your love life as well.

Jenny opens the back door and tries hard to get the luggage into the small space. Olivia opens the passenger door but has problems with it. The car is obviously not kept in good condition.

JENNY (CONT'D)

Are you still up to finding that guy for the anniversary festival?

OLIVIA

I have no choice. I don't want Jackass to think I'm still heartbroken about him.

JENNY

Madre mia, there are lots of men out there who are worth being loved and they won't betray you like Jeff did.

OLIVIA

Sure, Mom.

Jenny is still trying to push the bags into the boot.

JENNY

Don't mom me! First, I'm not acting like a lunatic when it comes down to finding a husband for you. And second, I'll support you in any case, even if I don't agree with it.

(muttering)

Softly pushing you in the right direction.

(MORE)

JENNY (CONT'D)
(loudly)
Mierda!

OLIVIA
Shall I help you?

JENNY
We can put the small bag onto the
back seat.

Olivia takes the small bag from Jenny and puts it on the very messy back seat, which is full of clothes, old bottles and crushed biscuits.

CAR PARK - MOMENTS LATER

Jenny starts the car. The engine is sputtering. Jenny pushes on the accelerator. She speeds around the corner and leaves the parking area with a LOUD SOUND.

INT. PRIMROSE HILL, MARYLEBONE STATION, CONCOURSE - EARLY MORNING

The concourse is crowded with busy people. Olivia is standing in front of a London Tube Map and studies it. She can hardly read the map because there are many red heart-shaped stickers stuck to the glass in front of it. A man in blue overalls is removing one sticker after the other.

MAN
(murmuring to himself)
Young lovers, stations of love,
beats me, any ways but love ways.

EXT. SOHO, MOOR STREET - LATER

The sun is still rising. A few rays from the morning sun are shining through the gaps between the houses. Olivia hurries down the street. She sees a well-preserved Georgian building with four storeys on the corner. She stands still for a moment and looks at it.

On the ground floor, there is a restaurant with a sign above the entrance door: THE SPICE OF LIFE. At the right side, there is a black board with an image of two fish intertwined above the writing: Great fresh food served with our big range of McMullen beers.

OLIVIA
(to universe)
The Spice of Life, that beats the
bad omen, huh?

She is walking along MOOR STREET and stops at the brown double-swing doors. The same doors Daniel left previously. She presses a button on the intercom system.

ALI (O.S.)
Hello, Chapman's.

OLIVIA
Hello, I'm Olivia Sullivan.

There is a buzzing noise at the door. Olivia steps in.

INT. CHAPMAN'S OFFICE, 2nd FLOOR, OLIVIA'S OFFICE - MORNING

Olivia is in a small room with a window. The door is closed. She looks around and puts her bag on the desk. Then, she sits down and breathes deeply. She rearranges her desk quickly, putting some items into an empty drawer to have more space.

There is a KNOCK at the door.

OLIVIA
Come in.

Ali enters the room.

ALI
Are you okay?

OLIVIA
I am, thank you.

ALI
Well, the rooms on the second floor
are the best ones, except Chapman's
ones on the third floor.

Ali giggles. Olivia smiles politely.

ALI (CONT'D)
Can I show you around?

OLIVIA
Yes, please.

ALI
Let's go to the third floor first.

INT. 3rd FLOOR, LIFT - MOMENTS LATER

The lift doors open, they walk out into an outer office with a kitchenette on the right. This room leads into the conference room, separated by double doors. The doors and the wall are big glass panels which reveal a large open space behind them.

Ali points at the kitchenette.

ALI

There are all kinds of teas, but the fridge is really tiny. Everyone fights for a wee place, but I'm warning you now, it's kind of an open buffet. No one really cares whose food it is and they just eat what they like.

CONFERENCE ROOM

Ali opens the door and allows Olivia to go into the room first.

There are many different sized, colourful advertising images on the walls. A blank flip chart is standing on the back corner across the door and an oval wooden conference table is resting by the windows.

OLIVIA

Thank you.

ALI

This is our conference room. You'll be working here most of the time to talk about your ideas with your team, who are all waiting downstairs for you.

Ali points to a wooden door at the back.

ALI (CONT'D)

That door leads to Chapman's office but it's closed. Only he and I've a key but I'm only allowed to use it should a fire start mysteriously.

Ali giggles.

INT. 1st FLOOR, LIFT - LATER

The lift doors open. Olivia and Ali leave the lift and go towards the reception desk.

OPEN PLAN OFFICE

ALI
I'll call Michela Myers. Her office
is right opposite yours.

Most of the employees are looking at Olivia. Some are busy on the phone or at their computer. Kevin is sitting on a desk and spots Olivia. He is getting up and coming towards her.

KEVIN
Hey, Olivia, how was your flight?

OLIVIA
Good. I missed you there.

KEVIN
Chapman sent me over two days
earlier to get the first things
done. It's about the meeting with
Marques tomorrow. Did you get the
details about it?

OLIVIA
Tomorrow! No, I didn't.

STELLA (38), a brown-haired woman with a short pixie cut hairstyle approaches. She wears a dark grey pant suit with a white T-shirt with the black writing on it "I'm a London girl".

STELLA
Hello Olivia, nice to meet you.

OLIVIA
You too.

STELLA
I'm Stella, your assistant.
Anything you need, don't hesitate
to ask me, except about finances.

KEVIN
And that would be me.

Stella and Kevin share a smile.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

I suggest we have a meeting tonight. Till then, you can read through all the important details.

STELLA

Great idea.

(to Olivia)

I'll give you all the information about Marques I have, and his assistant sent me an e-mail yesterday. I'll forward it to you.

OLIVIA

Okay, thank you.

Stella goes to her desk and collects some papers. Ali approaches with some documents. She gives them to Olivia.

ALI

Michela and Angelo will meet you in your office later and here's a list with all the important contact numbers.

Stella appears with her hands full of papers when Ali points at the first name on a list of names: "Daniel Fraser".

ALI (CONT'D)

Daniel is the head of IT. If you need any help with your computer, call him. The IT department is one entrance door along from ours but if you have any questions, just call him and he'll help.

(whispers to Stella)

I heard he's single again.

STELLA

He is, and he wants to stay this way for a while.

ALI

I'll change his mind.

Stella shakes her head slightly.

OLIVIA

(to Ali)

Is my computer alright? How do I log onto it? Do I need a password?

Ali looks at Stella searching for help.

STELLA

Daniel should've left all the information on your desk. Just try the computer and if nothing works, call him.

INT. OLIVIA'S OFFICE - EARLY AFTERNOON

Olivia is sitting in front of her computer and trying to log in. It does not work. She gets frustrated. A piece of paper is lying in front of her which includes a user name and a password. She tries again with one finger tip but it does not work. She looks on the list of numbers and dials a number from it. She pushes the BUTTON LOUDSPEAKER. We HEAR a RINGING TONE.

DANIEL (O.S.)

Daniel.

There are lots of voices in the background.

OLIVIA

(into phone)

Hello, I'm Olivia Sullivan.

DANIEL (O.S.)

From Spain, no, sorry, New York?

OLIVIA

(into phone)

Yes, listen. I really need to get into my computer but something's wrong. The password or I don't know, could you just talk me through it?

DANIEL (O.S.)

I'm sorry, I'm with a client and we have a computer crisis right now. It's a really bad time, maybe tomorrow?

OLIVIA

(into phone)

Oh, okay, well, who else could help me then?

DANIEL (O.S.)

My colleague has a bad cold and our new team member is in training today.

OLIVIA
(into phone)
Are you telling me, you're the only
one available in your office but
you're fully occupied with a
computer crisis?

DANIEL (O.S.)
It's your first day, right?

OLIVIA
(into phone - annoyed)
Does that make any difference?

DANIEL (O.S.)
Okay, I'll do my best, but I won't
be there before six o'clock.

Olivia lets her head fall down on the desk in despair.

OLIVIA
(into phone)
Well, I'll be in the meeting by
then, but I assume you've access to
my room?

DANIEL (O.S.)
Yes. It'll be done before you
return.

OLIVIA
(into phone)
Thank you.

Olivia ends the call and looks for a piece of blank paper.
She finds one in a drawer, takes it and starts drawing the
outline of a bottle shape.

INT. PRIMROSE HILL, JENNY'S FLAT, OLIVIA'S HOME, LIVING ROOM -
NIGHT

Olivia and Jenny are sitting on a big, red three seater sofa
with a small coffee table in front of a TV. They are drinking
wine.

The big, square room has one entrance door and four others
that lead into the kitchen, the bathroom and two bedrooms.
There is a desk right behind the sofa. Olivia's Apollo statue
is now resting next to an outdated computer. In one corner
near the desk, there is a flip chart with drawings on it.
Papers spill onto the desk and floor.

JENNY

I hope you like your little room?

OLIVIA

I do. I hope you don't mind me making all this mess in your living room.

JENNY

What mess? My kitchen and bathroom were never that clean and my plants seem really happy now.

Olivia smiles.

JENNY (CONT'D)

You look tired.

OLIVIA

Well, after meeting with our client, I realized that my first impression about Marques and his wish to improve his corporate image were mostly wrong. Actually, he wants to change his whole public appearance. My team and I have to start on a totally different level, at the basic grounding point.

JENNY

Which is?

OLIVIA

A new corporate design.

JENNY

So, all these happy smiling bottles won't be used?

OLIVIA

Probably, I can use them at a later point.

Jenny nods and sips her wine.

JENNY

Any potential men at work?

OLIVIA

I've had no time for a closer look yet. However, it's tricky to use a colleague on purpose and then, dump him. It makes a bad working atmosphere.

JENNY

You still aren't thinking about finding one you may even love and have a real relationship with?

OLIVIA

Look, I know, I should want a real relationship at my age but I don't. All my dreams were crushed by reality and that's, well, call it fate, destiny, whatever you want.

JENNY

Amor fati.

OLIVIA

I'm not saying I love it.

JENNY

Oh, you do *guapa*, otherwise you wouldn't just take it, but start dreaming again. It's like falling off of a horse, you have to get back on.

OLIVIA

What about you? You're single, too.

JENNY

Buen punto, but I haven't met my twin flame yet and that's why, I enjoy life with a hand full of loverbugs.

OLIVIA

It sounds good to me.

JENNY

Yep, for now. Don't get me wrong, you should have fun but in addition, be open to the possibility of love.

Jenny smiles excitedly.

JENNY (CONT'D)

Especially this year. Anything can happen because Venus, the bringer of love has a strong influence on us the whole year round.

OLIVIA

I appreciate your concerns about my love life but I'm fine. I just need a man for this one purpose.

Jenny tilts her chin down and frowns.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

Okay, okay, I'll be open to it.

Jenny smiles again.

JENNY

Good for you. Well, how do we get you into the singles market?

OLIVIA

We could read all the dating guides from my mom.

JENNY

We could do that or we just do what everyone does in our new social age.

OLIVIA

Okay, what's that?

JENNY

These days, if you want to find a man, you need to update your dating profile rather than buy a new dress. I'm not sure what happened to our society that we can't meet naturally anymore but now, that's the way it is.

OLIVIA

Internet dating, well, -

Olivia groans.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

- it turns my stomach just thinking about it... On the other hand, it has a good side as well. It means, I don't need to waste my time in bars.

JENNY

Chévere, online dating it is. So, shall we set up an account for you?

Olivia scratches her head.

OLIVIA
It's perverse, but why not? A new
country, new experiences, the world
is my oyster, right?

INT. OLIVIA'S OFFICE - DAY

Olivia is working on the as yet unfinished corporate design on the flip chart. It shows the word "MarquJs". It has the vertical lines of the M forming bottle shapes which are slightly tilted at the top so that the M leans slightly to the left. The rest are small letters except the J.

She hears the CHIME of someone INSTANT MESSAGING HER. Olivia hurries to her computer. She sits down and reads it curiously. After a long moment, she looks back at the design.

OLIVIA
(muttering, to universe)
And here they come, what do you
think about Leo32?
(pause)
He could be perfect.

She reads his profile quickly and writes a short message. She raises an eyebrow and leans back.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)
I know I shouldn't play with a man
like this, but hiring is not really
an option, besides, he would need
to be an Oscar winner to face up to
my folks X-ray.

Olivia checks her watch. She places papers entitled "Marques Drinks - Marketing Research" into a file on her desk and leaves her office with it.

2nd FLOOR CORRIDOR - SECONDS LATER

Olivia walks down the corridor when she sees the back of a man at the lift.

Daniel goes into the lift, turns around and presses a button. She stops abruptly when she recognizes him as the stranger from the airport. She drops her documents. She kneels down to pick them up immediately.

Daniel looks at her but only sees the top of her head. He doesn't know who she is. He wants to help but the lift doors close. She looks up again and runs towards the lift.

She presses the UP button hastily but it takes a long while until it comes back up. The doors open and the lift is empty. She gets into it.

INT. RECEPTION - LATER

Olivia is standing in front of Ali's desk. She is waiting with impatience for her to end a personal telephone call. Ali puts the phone down.

OLIVIA

Ali, hey, mmhhh, I saw a man going into the lift. Five minutes ago, do you know who he is?

Ali thinks about it.

ALI

No, I've seen no one. Only... maybe... Mr. Higgins. His office is two doors further down from yours.

OLIVIA

He's the accounts manager, right?

Ali nods.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

Maybe I'll just introduce myself when he's back in his office.

ALI

Yes, do that, but he'll be out for the whole afternoon.

Ali turns around to be sure to tell a secret without anyone else hearing. She turns back to Olivia.

ALI (CONT'D)

I heard, he has a girlfriend. Some kind of an open relationship with his wife. Can you imagine being her? No offense, but I would kill the bastard.

OLIVIA

Hm, well, I guess, I'll see him on Monday then.

INT. OLIVIA'S HOME, LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Olivia sits in front of the computer at the desk. A MESSAGE arrives. It is from Leo32. It says: Hello Olivia. Saw U R online!

She answers: Hey Leo.

He writes: What R U doing this evening?

She answers: I'm at home, checking e-mails and you?

He writes: I'm still at work and thinking about you...

OLIVIA
Thinking of me, already? You don't
know a thing about me.

She writes: You work late for an Osteopath?

He writes: Yes, many clients only have time to see me after work. What about your commercials, anything I might've seen?

The SOUND of a LOCK OPENING can be heard.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)
Hey Jenny!

JENNY
Hey, how're you?

OLIVIA
Good, just chatting with Leo32. And
you?

She answers: Maybe the V&A Mall NY commercial last year. It's about a Christmas tree made with white and brown chocolate.

JENNY
Fine, exhausted though. The endless
talks with my boss bug me.

Jenny drops her coat on the sofa. She looks at the computer screen and reads the lines.

JENNY (CONT'D)
All about work. How boring is that?

Olivia writes: My friend arrived home. Can we chat later?

He answers: I hope it's not a secret boyfriend?

Olivia gives Jenny a funny look. Then another message arrives: Tomorrow?

She writes: Sounds good to me! Night!

He answers: Night night X

OLIVIA
Do you want a glass of wine?

Jenny nods. Olivia gets up and goes into the kitchen while Jenny is taking her place at the computer.

JENNY
Where's his profile?

OLIVIA (O.S.)
Whose?

JENNY
Leo32's... *Madre mia*, how many men have written to you already? You haven't even created your whole profile yet.

OLIVIA (O.S.)
It's a hell of a read to get to know all the details about them. Otherwise, how do you choose the right one?

JENNY
You should fully exploit this marketplace and contact more than one anyway. Ah, found him. Nice pics, I like his dark hair. Uh, and listen to this,
(reads loud)
Doubt that the stars are fire,
Doubt that the sun doth move his aides,
Doubt truth to be a liar,
But never doubt I love.

OLIVIA (O.S.)
Yeah, Hamlet.

Olivia comes back with two glasses of red wine and puts them down on the table while sitting down next to Jenny.

JENNY
He seems to be a romantic.

OLIVIA
Whatever, I like his profile. He's educated -

INSERT SCREEN: There is a full web page of Leo32 with his pictures and basic details: Headline - Doubt that the stars are fire, Doubt that the sun doth move his aides, Doubt truth to be a liar, But never doubt I love. Born - 1983, Marital Status - Single, Has Children - No, Want Children - Not sure, Hair Color - Dark Brown, Height - 6'1, Religion - Not Important, Smokes - No, Dietary Preferences - No Restrictions, Star Sign - Pisces, Orientation - Straight, Eye Color - Brown, Body Type - Slim, Politics - Not Interested, Drinks - Social drinker.

JENNY (O.S.)

Cómo? Just because of his line from Shakespeare?

OLIVIA (O.S.)

- tall, handsome.

JENNY (O.S.)

Only if the picture's really him?

BACK TO OLIVIA AND JENNY

OLIVIA

Why should he put up a misleading picture if he wants to meet someone?

JENNY

Apparently, some guys use an old photo or lie about their body details. I guess, the fact is you'll only be able to find out in person. When do you meet him?

OLIVIA

I'm not sure yet.

JENNY

C'mon.

OLIVIA

Well, I could ask him.

INT. WATERLOO STATION, CLOCK - EARLY EVENING

It is a crowded place. Olivia is standing right under the clock. She is looking around for Leo. She sees many men with black coats who are obviously also waiting for someone else.

OLIVIA

(to herself)

Damned, why did he say black coat?

Some of the men are glancing awkwardly. One, who has been waiting a while is coming towards her.

STRANGER IN BLACK COAT
Are you Susi?

OLIVIA
No, I'm sorry.

STRANGER IN BLACK COAT
Are you looking for fun?

OLIVIA
Flattering but... no.

The stranger shrugs his shoulders and walks away. Then, he sees another woman waiting and goes towards her.

Olivia sees a man, LEO (36) standing a little bit further away. He stares at her. He waves at her awkwardly when she spots him. She waves back. Leo is shorter than mentioned in his profile and looks a bit scruffy.

EXT. YORK ROAD - LATER

Olivia and Leo are walking along a busy street near the London Eye.

SUPERIMPOSE: LEO À LA LEO32 - 36 YEARS OLD - OSTEOPATH -
LOVES THE IDEA OF A SERIOUS RELATIONSHIP - NOT SURE ABOUT
CHILDREN - LIKES TRAVELING

OLIVIA
Where are we going?

LEO
I'm just following you.

OLIVIA
So, tell me where you would like to go? You must have your little places to frequent around here.

LEO
Maybe, but you can pick the place. I'm the kind of guy who has seen it all, but you can choose.

OLIVIA
Seen it all, then take the lead, sir.

Olivia looks around and sees COUNTY HALL close by.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)
Have you been to Italy? Do you like
Italian food?

LEO
No, I haven't, but if you like it?
I'm not really interested in
different food. But we can try it,
sure.

OLIVIA
Well I do, so let's go. Why don't
you lead me there, and I'll follow
you!

INT. COUNTY HALL, LOCALE CUCINA ITALIANA - EVENING

Olivia and Leo are sitting at a table for two opposite each other. The table is next to the window. At the top of the windows hang purple blinds with the restaurant's name on it.

They are reading the menus. A good looking Italian waiter comes to their table. He has a strong Italian accent.

WAITER
Welcome to Locale. My name is
Francesco. Can I get you something
to drink?

Olivia looks up at the waiter with a friendly smile.

OLIVIA
Hello.

Olivia looks back at Leo. He shrugs. Leo continues reading the menu.

WAITER
Do you need a little time?

OLIVIA
(to Leo)
Do we?

Leo shrugs.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)
I'd like to have a glass of rose
wine, please.

LEO
Me too.

WAITER
I'll be right back.

Leo is still reading the menu but he consistently looks up at Olivia. She hastily looks back at the menu to avoid his gaze. Then, the waiter comes back with the drinks and puts them down gently.

WAITER (CONT'D)
Do you need more time?

Leo shrugs.

OLIVIA
A Margherita with olives, please.

LEO
Me too.

WAITER
Anything else?

Leo looks at her with his eyes wide open, mimicking the waiter's question to Olivia.

OLIVIA
No, thank you.

The waiter nods approvingly and goes back to the bar. There is an awkward silence between Olivia and Leo.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)
So, I know about your taste in literature, your job and your family but we never really talked about your leisure activities, did we?

LEO
We talked about Golf. I like it as well.

OLIVIA
Right, so, where do you usually play?

LEO
Ah, here and there, you know, just wherever I feel like it.

OLIVIA
Okay, what do you like about Golf?

LEO

The big green areas are really nice to me. The nature and everything around it. The different racquets -

Olivia straightens her back. She leans back and lets her hands fall in her lap. She plays with her fingers impatiently.

LEO (CONT'D)

- the tiny little balls in different colours. Actually I like everything about it. There are these small places in London where nature still exists.

She leans forward.

OLIVIA

Don't you use racquets for tennis?

He looks puzzled. She leans back and crosses her hands over her chest. He does not answer.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

It takes a long time to get food here. I wonder, if I should come back to this restaurant?

He shrugs. Right on cue, the waiter serves the Pizzas. Olivia smiles at the waiter.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

Thank you.

LEO

It looks mouth-watering.

OLIVIA

It does.

They start eating. Olivia sees Leo picking out the olives and putting them on the side. He doesn't even try one.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

Don't you like olives?

LEO

I usually do but these taste sweet.

Olivia rolls her eyes. She looks up.