

CHARLIE

I swear to god Homer that giant buck crashing through the picture window scariest thing you ever saw I never seen such a mess a broken glass and there's this huge deer thrashing around trapped in the living room, hooves flaying flyin glass. Lila screaming her head off. Ronnie throws open the front door and shoots off a couple rounds a buckshot, just missed my ass second one went right through the living room ceiling, took out the fan. I never seen such a mess. (beat) An poor Lila, first time at my house there she is an the whole town shows up.

Just wished I'd had time to get my pants on before the fire department came screeching into the yard sirens blaring.

Wasn't funny Homer. When I heard Ronnie coming we jumped up off the sofa but - for some reason - I had a bad feeling - felt something was coming - I just grabbed Lila threw her to the floor and fell on top just as that dear came crashing through - hooves flaying Ronnie shooting flyin glass ceiling falling down.

Laid there a minute just being glad to be alive. Then Lila sat up and started laughing- the most beautiful sound in the world - laughing the whole time she's picking pieces of ceiling fan out of her hair. We both got laughing so hard couldn't even stand up.

MARY

Oh really? None of my business really well isn't that interesting. I've got twenty two pounds of little Vienna sausages marinating in barbecue sauce, two hundred cream cheese an maraschino cherry sandwiches stacked up on the back porch, with the crust cut off cause that's the only way you'll eat em. I got a pig fat enough ta win six county fairs cram jam stuffed into that oven, a refrigerator full a soupy jello salads, everybody in god's heaven calling bringing casseroles and god knows what else; a church full a flowers, minister in his robes, your father leaving mayonnaise all over the house and you're telling me it's none of my business?!

Cinderella's got nothing on me. And I'd just like you to tell me - I'd like to know how many more times do you think I can let out the seams on that wedding dress? With all the angels singing in heaven there still won't be enough hail marys to help zip you inta that frou-froued pieced together piece a-

There is a lot of things nobody has thought about but me! I refuse to be thinking about anything else but getting this wedding done, I'm waiting for the I do so I can say I did. Time I had a little fun.

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You listen and listen good. I don't care what you do tomorrow by gawd. I don't care what you do tomorrow or the day after or the day after that but right now you're gonna get inta that wedding dress. We're not calling this thing off now, and you can spit and fume but the bottom line you know and I know you love Charlie and he loves you. An there is no marriage made in heaven, they're all made right here on earth outta laughter, blood, sweat and tears. And there's no way around it, the two of you have a baby coming into this world. Somebody handed you a blessing. This point you owe that baby the love and name of his father ~ and you owe me this wedding!

LENA

(Sits down, puts head between her legs) Oh my gawd! I'm feeling faint. Imagine me being maid a honor an Homer the best man walking down the aisle together. If you'd just asked me! Imagine. *(Starts pacing excitedly. Fixing her hair)* You think he'll show Mary? Oh my gawd, wouldn't that be fun an me all in my party dress an all. *(Rummaging in purse for lipstick)* I could use a little lift in my life. It isn't easy gettin' older, an here we are with a wedding and - weddings make me awful weepy. *(Putting on lipstick)* Yes, well. Homer always been real fond a fire engine red. Head a the volunteer fire department and all.

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I can't believe I'm telling you this. I never told anybody this. Well one night we met at our rendezvous *(painting Lila's fingernails)* His skiff, loveliest little boat, built it all by himself. We were snuggled in enjoying each others company and nature's natural undulations, if you know what I mean. 'Cept Homer kinda lost control and .. *(beat)* in nautical terms? He unexpectedly "came about." I was... surprised, but it was fine with me! See, that's the part he didn't understand. He thought he'd done something I didn't want him to do, But I did want him to - not that quick mind you but - next thing I knew he lit out an never'd much talk to me again. Felt so 'shamed I guess, I don't know. Any ways he never called me again.

LILA

See?! Listen to what you just said - now, cause I look like this everybody says I'm forcing him to marry me! Well I'm not! Charlie's gotta wanna marry me cause he wants to marry me. And that's that, and I don't care about anybody or anything else and what anybody says about anything. I don't care! Right Ronnie?

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Charlie....?(*Long awkward pause*) Well. Too bad you forgot to invite me to the party. Hello Homer.

I was hoping to see you at the wedding Charlie, didn't expect I'd have to come all the way down here since it's time to be up at the church! But, here it is! (*beat*) I been wanting to have a visit with you guys down here for a long time, seeing's how Charlie spends so much time here. 'Bout the only other place he ever goes, here an his boat.

I thought you were somebody different Charlie, somebody I could count on. I'm sick of this! I love you but there's a big difference between a boy and a man. A man decides to make a life for himself, a boy... just... just... guess I was wrong about you Charlie.

I used to picture us painting lobster buoys in the middle a winter with a fire burning an a baby cooing, planting flowers together in the spring. Pictured me going to sleep with you every night, smelling you against my pillow listening to you breathe - making love whenever I wanted. Kicking your sweet ass outta bed every morning and rubbing it to sleep every night. That's what I used to picture. (*beat*) What do you think about that Charlie? What do you think about that?

RONALDO

I been thinking 'bout something. *(excited, takes off suit jacket)* I been thinking about it and thinking about it, how Lila's gonna wanna live with Charlie 'probly.

Ya now that you mention it so I was thinking about your old boat shed an how I like it over there. *(Ronaldo hangs up jacket rolls up his sleeves to help with mower.)*

'Cause I like it so I been thinking about it and thinking you an me an Charlie could fix it up and fix it up till I have my own little house. My own TV even. And don't worry 'cause if Charlie needs me I'll be there in one second - so we don't have to worry about him cause I'd be right there if he needs me. Right Homer?

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Lila's feeling bad too cause I remember cause you can't get married without a groom an Lila's not even dressed and Lena's been looking an Mary's been looking for you cause she told me she needs a groom. I been helping em Charlie. I was even looking under the bushes and the bathtub. You been hiding Charlie?

So you still the groom Charlie? *(excited, pulls ring out)* I got the ring! Got it right here, cause I'm the best man. Charlie.

I got it all right Charlie! I got it right here! Maybe I should celebrate again huh Homer *(gets a Moxie out of cooler)* Far as I'm concerned me too special day huh Charlie. Whoops. Uh oh- *(drops ring in cooler.)* Whoops. Don't worry Charlie I'll find it.

HOMER

(holding the pin) Keeriistus-an-the-cherub-singing choirs Ronaldo that's amazing. *(looks at pin)* Might be the first miracle I was ever witness to. I don't even wanna know how you did that Ronnie I'd rather be in awe. Yup, well by christ-on-a-crakah it was. You got a way with machinery Ronnie got a way with it.

Sometimes you make me think-a-your father Ronnie, ya' he woulda been-right-up-n-down proud a you. You betcha. Yah-well in honor of your time saving ways an-your up-an-coming brothers imminent matrimonials *(opens cooler hands Ronnie a Moxie)* Let's have a toast here Ronnie.

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Already leading all our parades round-here Ronnie. We couldn't do without ya - *(Slugs whiskey)* Now you best get gone-an-go to that wedding. *(Ronnie starts to exit, gets an idea, takes off his tie, tries to hand it to Homer)*

Nope Ronnie you put that right back on. See I gotta sorta-wicked-hard-aversion to weddings, first and last wedding I went to was Ma and Pa's. Ya I was bout fifteen when they got around to tying the knot. Ya. They weren't never-known as-much-a ones for rushing inta' things. I was there handed 'em the ring thing. Ended up gettin-a rash, itched-on-it so hard nearly scraped twenty years off'n my life.

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No brainer question there Charlie cause first off that ain't me. An second I'm right here where I'm 'sposed to be and there ain't nobody looking for me, so right there's a big difference. Now third off I ain't getting married and I don't spose I ever will be sposed to be getting married seeing's how I never had nothing much to do with women. Don't care to neither.

(sighs uncomfortable) Only woman I was evah' round much was Ma but truth be told she was a hell of a lot closer to a man. Haul a boatload 'a traps fasta than the

three of us put together. Was a force of nature. After Pa died she took to wearing his boxers and smoking cigars. So like I said you might wanna ask somebody else.