

# **Will You Marry Me?**

A Comedy In one act

By

**Deborah A. Hodge**

## **Will You Marry Me**

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by Deborah A. Hodge

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# Characters

**Alexandra Simpson** is a young, attractive woman in her mid twenties, who works as a software designer for Compuware. She is devoted to her career. She is so devoted in fact that she has failed to pursue a personal life. After a disastrous engagement to Duncan McMasters, she dated no one until she briefly became involved with a co-worker named Ethan Harper, but that relationship ended when she caught him with J.J., her cousin.

**Janis (“J.J.”) Jamison** is a young, attractive professional in her mid-twenties, who works for Procter and Jones Advertizing Agency. However, unlike Alex, she has pursued a career and a personal life. She is a party girl, who has dated many men, but none whom she had considered seriously as a husband, until she began dating Ethan. When Ethan fell in love with Alex, J.J. purposefully wrecked their relationship.

**Ethan Harper** is a young professional in his late twenties and works with Alex. He is good looking, charming, and very much in love with Alex. He has been working hard to try to convince Alex that J.J. means nothing to him. However, Alex refuses to believe him.

**Lacy Stannic** is a co-worker of Alex and Ethan and has been Alex’s best friend since second grade. She is in her mid-twenties and is very attractive.

**Beth Collins** is J.J.’s best friend and co-worker. She is in her mid twenties and is very attractive.

**Emily Jackson** is a beautiful young woman in her mid-twenties. She is Ethan Harper’s online dating match through eCouples.com. She is extremely jealous of Alex and Ethan.

**Daniel Stanton** is a co-worker of Alex, Lacy and Ethan’s. He is also Ethan’s good friend. He is in his late twenties. He is average looking and is attracted to Lacy, but Lacy is not attracted to him.

**Duncan McMasters** is Alex’s good looking, charming, “snake in the grass”, ex-fiancée. He becomes an employee at Procter and Jones, the company where J.J. works.

**Trish** is a young woman in her twenties who is Alex’s secretary/assistant and a friend and neighbor of Beth Collins.

**Mr. (Ms.) Jones** is an interchangeable part. Jones is J.J.’s boss and can be a man or a woman. Jones is probably a person in the late 40’s to early 50’s.

**Drew (Dana)** is an interchangeable part. Drew (Dana) is Alex, Ethan, Lacy and Daniel’s boss and can be either a man or woman, who is probably in the later 40’s to early 50’s.

**Ross** is an executive in his mid thirties. He is a womanizer and Ethan is trying to win his account for CompuServe.

**Tommy Turner** is a good-looking jeweler in his thirties. He is one of J.J.'s generous suitors and a perspective husband.

**Billy Bob Stewart** is a not so good-looking, uneducated, "good old boy" farmer in his late twenties. He was a match for Alex on eCouples.com.

**Clark Kent** is a clean cut, good looking, "All American boy" in his late twenties. He is also a match for Alex on eCouples.com. He looks normal, but he is not. He thinks he is Superman.

**Crawford Standish** is between seventy-five and eight years old. He has placed his profile on eCouples.com and a picture of himself when he was about forty. Although he has been married for sixty years, he decides to look for a younger woman. He becomes an eCouples.com match for Alex.

**Margie Standish** is Crawford's wife of sixty years. She is the same age as he. She finds Alex's profile picture, name and address, and she shows up at Alex's office at the same time as her husband Crawford. She is looking for the home wrecker who is trying to steal her husband.

**Mr. (Ms.) Greyton** is an interchangeable part and is a lawyer who represents Alex and J.J.'s Uncle Tony. Greyton is a "no nonsense" lawyer of about the mid to late forties.

**Justin** is J.J.'s coworker at the advertising agency and an admirer of J.J..

**Katie (or Kurt)** is J.J.'s secretary/assistant at the advertising agency.

**Security Guards** are needed for the scene involving Clark Kent. You may use two or three males or two males and one female. Their job will be to remove "Superman".

# Scene 1

Setting: Compuware: A Computer Software Company in any major city, USA.

Alex's office—

Alex's office has a table desk with the usual office accessories and a laptop. There is also a file cabinet, a bookshelf, with various books, personal pictures and other personal items of decoration. The office is decorated with pictures on the wall, a mirror and plants. There is also a chair located against the back wall, a chair by her desk and a small couch along the common wall with J.J.'s office.

As the scene begins, Alexandra enters with her friend Lacy. Alex has a brief case, a purse, a newspaper, and a cup of coffee. Lacy follows her with a cup of coffee in her hand.

LACY: The lawyer told you what?

ALEX: He said that in order to inherit Uncle Tony's money I had to be married within a month to a man my uncle approved of.

LACY: That's so 19<sup>th</sup> century. How old is your Uncle Tony?

ALEX: I do not know. All I know is that I owe him a lot. He took care of me after my parents died.

LACY: Why in the world would he put such a weird stipulation on the inheritance?

ALEX: I guess because he loved being married and he wants that for me too.

LACY: Well, requiring it in a will won't make it so.

ALEX: I know, but I think Uncle Tony thinks so, and there is more.

LACY: There's more?

(A beautiful young woman enters the office without knocking or being announced. She interrupts Alex and Lacy. When the young woman enters the office, she stops and looks around as if she is seeking someone or something that is not there. This young woman is Emily, Ethan's on-line girl friend. She is very jealous of Alex. She has decided to meet her and confront Alex about Ethan's interest in her. Alex is turned toward Lacy and does not see her enter. Lacy makes Alex aware of the young woman's presence.)

ALEX: (to the young woman) Could I help you?

EMILY: (Very sweetly) I'm looking for Ethan Harper.

ALEX: He's probably in his office.

EMILY: (pretends confusion) Oh, but I thought this was his office.

ALEX: No, it's down the hall, second door on the right, past the elevator.

EMILY: (pretends embarrassment) I see. I'm sorry for the mistake. I thought Ethan said turn left when I got off the elevator, but he must have said turn right.

ALEX: (reassuringly) There's no need to apologize. It's very easy to get confused around here.

LACY: (Curious about who this woman is) I don't mean to pry, but are you one of Ethan's clients?

EMILY: (Very pointedly to both women, because she does not know for sure which one is Alex) No, I'm just a friend, (with emphasis) a very good friend. (Alex looks at Lacy and rolls her eyes.)

LACY: (Realizing who she probably is) I bet your name is Emily.

EMILY: (with surprise) That's right. How did you know?

LACY: I've heard Ethan speak of you.

EMILY: (fishing for information) I hope it was something good.

LACY: Of course it was.

EMILY: (relieved) Great. I'm glad I've made a good impression.

LACY: I'm sorry. I didn't introduce myself. I'm Lacy Stannic.

EMILY: (Very pleasantly) Nice to meet you, Lacy.

(Lacy looks at Alex and waits for Alex to introduce herself. Alex is looking down at the file on her desk. When she doesn't introduce herself, Lacy introduces her to Emily.)

LACY: And, this is Alex Simpson.

EMILY: (With a noticeable change in tone, Emily steps toward Alex in a confrontational manner and speaks with great irritation.) So, you're Alex Simpson. I've wanted to meet you.

ALEX: (responds in kind) Have you?

EMILY: (with continued irritation and confrontation) I have.

ALEX: (responds in kind) And, why would that be?

EMILY: (jealously) Because Ethan speaks of you quite often.

ALEX: (Realizing she is Ethan's new girlfriend) And, how do you know Ethan?

EMILY: (Very strongly) We're dating.

ALEX: (Realizing Emily is jealous of her and trying not to sound jealous of Emily) How nice for you! (Alex turns away from Emily's confrontation.)

EMILY: (Very irritated and jealous, Emily grabs Alex's shoulder and turns her around so they will be face to face.) It would be, except he spends so much time talking about you.

ALEX (with thinly veiled jealousy and anger) I'm sorry, but I've never heard him speak of you at all.

EMILY: (Irritated at the way Alex answered) Is that so?

ALEX: (Triumphantly calm because she realizes she has struck a nerve with Emily) I'm afraid it is. (Alex sits down.)

LACY: (Afraid that the two women are about to come to blows, Lacy tries to defuse the situation by stepping between the two women and turns toward Emily.) Emily, would you like me to show you exactly where Ethan's office is?

EMILY: (very irritated, but trying to sound very calm and matter of fact) No thank you. (with emphasis on Alex's name) I'm sure with Alex's excellent directions that I can find it myself.

LACY: (Still trying to bridge the gap) It was very nice to meet you Emily.

EMILY: (Very politely) You too Lacy. (She looks toward Alex and trying not to sound irritated, but does.) You too Alex.

ALEX: (sarcastically) Oh, you too Emily. (Emily turns and leaves. After she leaves, Lacy confronts Alex about what just happened.)

LACY: (Shocked by Alex's lack of civility toward Emily) What is up with you?

ALEX: (Trying to cover up) What?

LACY: I've never seen you be so rude.

ALEX: I wasn't being rude.

LACY: If that wasn't being rude, what was it?

ALEX: (still trying to cover up her true feelings) I don't know. I guess, this thing with Uncle Tony has stressed me more than I realized.

LACY: So that's all that was.

ALEX: Yeah, that's all that was. (changing the subject) I was about to tell you the rest of Uncle Tony's stipulation.

LACY: Well, tell.

ALEX: You know that J.J. and I have been so competitive all of our lives.

LACY: Yeah.

ALEX: He made this a competition between cousin, J.J. and me.

LACY: A competition? (Alex nods “yes”)--- between J.J. and you?

ALEX: Yeah. If Uncle Tony likes her husband better, she gets the money. If he likes mine, better I get the money.

LACY: That’s crazy.

ALEX: Yeah, but that’s the way it is.

LACY: That’s a lot to ask just to inherit a little money.

ALEX: Yeah, it is. I’m not sure I want the \$20 million that badly.

LACY: (in shock) \$20 million! (Alex shakes her head affirmatively) So whom are you going to marry?

ALEX: I’m not so sure that I’m going to marry anyone.

LACY: Are you crazy?

ALEX: I thought you thought the whole thing was so 19<sup>th</sup> century.

LACY: That was before I found out that there were twenty million reasons to do it.

ALEX: (shocked by Lacy’s attitude toward marriage for money) Lacy!

LACY: (in defense of her attitude) What? I’ve never had the opportunity to be the best friend of a **generous** multimillionaire.

ALEX: Get real Lacy; we are talking marriage. Besides, I want to get married for love not money.

LACY: Look, Alex, get married now for money, but you don’t have to stay married to the guy.

ALEX: (in disbelief) I cannot believe that you said that.

LACY: Why not? It’s the practical thing to do. Marry for money now. Marry for love later.

ALEX: Lacy, get real, who do I know that would marry me...(Lacy cuts her off before she can finish.)

LACY: Good point!

ALEX: Ha! Ha! You didn’t let me finish. Who do I know that would want to marry me in a month? I haven’t really dated anyone since Duncan.

LACY: That is a good point!

ALEX: I can’t see me finding Mr. Right in less than a month, and I sure can’t see myself getting down on one knee to pop the question to a man that I’ve known for less than a month.

LACY: I'd pay to see that!

ALEX: Well, before you can see that, you have to help me find someone because I don't have a clue how to find Mr. Right in that short a period.

LACY: Remember, Alex we don't have to find Mr. Right. We just have to find Mr. Right now. (Alex shakes her head in disbelief and before she can say anything, Lacy continues.) Keep saying to yourself, I don't have to stay married to him. I just have to marry him to get the money.

ALEX: I don't want to marry just anybody.

LACY: Good point!

ALEX: So, what do we do?

LACY: (Perplexed) Yeah, so what do we do? (Both try to think of a solution. Lacy comes up with the solution and excitedly shares it.) I have it! (Alex looks at her with anticipation.) We work for a computer software company, right.

ALEX: Yeah...so

LACY: So, we use the computer to come up with a list of perspective husbands.

ALEX: (not too thrilled with Lacy's solution) You mean use a computer dating service?

LACY: Yes, many people do it nowadays.

ALEX: (shaking her head in disbelief) I never thought I'd stoop to use a computer dating service.

LACY: Well, you have to get married in less than a month and I'm reasonably sure there's no such thing as a computer marrying service.

ALEX: Okay...okay. I get it. Therefore, if I'm going to do this, I want a reliable, reputable one for serious minded people.

LACY: We need one that has an excellent record of putting the right people together in a hurry.

ALEX: (skeptically) And, that one would be?

LACY: I don't know. I need to do some research (pause) or I could just go ask Ethan.

ALEX: Ethan!

LACY: Yes, Ethan.

ALEX: Why Ethan?

LACY: Because he developed the software used by a number of the dating services, and he became his own guinea pig as he was developing it.

ALEX: Huh?

LACY: He tried the software himself. (As she points to the door, reminding Alex of Emily's visit) That's how he met Emily.

ALEX: (sarcastically) Really!

LACY: Yeah.

ALEX: Lacy, I don't want Ethan in on this.

LACY: Why not? I'm sure that he would be a big help.

ALEX: I don't want him knowing my business.

LACY: Okay! I'll just ask him nonchalantly, sort of a harmless, desperate inquiry.

ALEX: I'm not sure that will work with Ethan. He'll want to know why you're asking, and He knows that **you** don't need a dating service.

LACY: I'll tell him that I'm asking for a friend.

ALEX: What if he thinks that friend is me?

LACY: Get real! He'd never think that you wanted a dating service. He knows that **you** are **too career oriented**.

ALEX: I just don't want him to consider the possibility that you're asking for me.

LACY: And, why not?

ALEX: (adamantly) I told you. I don't want him knowing my business.

LACY: (compliantly) Okay, okay. I'll make up a lie that even Ethan will believe.

ALEX: It had better be believable. I do not want him knowing my business.

LACY: What's up with you two?

ALEX: Nothing's up with us.

LACY: I'm not so sure about that. He's the only guy I know who seems to **get** to you.

ALEX: He doesn't **get** to me. He just makes me mad with his "I'm God's gift to women attitude."

LACY: You have to admit he is very cute.

ALEX: (With a frown) Just go do your research, but be very careful about what you say.

(As Lacy rises to go do her research and Alex rises to go to the file cabinet, Ethan enters the office. He has a file in his hand and is followed by Daniel, his best friend and an associate at the office. As if she is ignoring his entrance, Alex continues toward the filing cabinet, opens a drawer and looks for a file. Ethan responds by joining her at the filing cabinet.)

ETHAN: (with much exuberance) Hello, lovely ladies.

LACY: (With a genuine smile and enthusiasm, responds to Ethan's greeting.) Hello, there.

DANIEL: (He likes Lacy, but the feeling is not reciprocated.) Hey Lacy.

LACY: (Barely responding, she grunts) Hey.

ETHAN: (pointedly to Alex, because she is ignoring him) Did Miss Alexandra Simpson get up on the wrong side of the bed this morning?

ALEX: (with firmness) No, she did not.

ETHAN: (trying to get a rise out of her) So she is just naturally rude.

ALEX: (very firm and a little irritated) No, she is not. She's just busy.

LACY: (interrupting) Before I start speaking of myself in the third person, I'll go my office and get busy.

DANIEL: (with eagerness) I'll walk you to your office.

LACY: (sarcastically) Oh no please. I'd hate to be an imposition.

DANIEL: (taking her by the arm and speaking with sincerity and affection) I can assure you that it's no imposition. It would be my pleasure.

LACY: (to Daniel with sarcasm as they leave.) Oh, mine too. (energetically to Ethan) See you later handsome and please tell Alexandra Simpson that I'll see her later. (They both acknowledge her goodbye. Finally, Alex and Ethan are the only two left in the office.)

ALEX: (with much irritation) What do you want Ethan?

ETHAN: (flippantly) I want you sweetheart.

ALEX: (with even more irritation) I'm not going to flirt or play games with you Ethan. I'm serious. What do you want?

ETHAN: (without flippancy) How do you know I'm not being serious?

ALEX: (with thinly veiled anger) I'm not at all amused. What do you want Ethan?

ETHAN: I wanted to bring you the Ross file and catch you up on the details.

(Alex speaks throughout the rest of the scene with an irritated tone.)

ALEX: The Ross file? Why would I want the Ross file that's your account?

ETHAN: Not any more. It's now our account. Drew assigned it to both of us this morning.

ALEX: Why to both of us?

ETHAN: Evidently, he thinks we are a good team.

ALEX: He thinks that because.

ETHAN: Because of the work that we did on the Edwards account and because I wasn't making much progress with Ross by myself.

ALEX: And, why was that?

ETHAN: I'm not sure, but Drew thinks he might respond better to you.

ALEX: Why me?

ETHAN: Because you are, smart, very professional and very attractive.

ALEX: (With irritation) So, Drew thinks Ross might respond better to a woman.

ETHAN: Well that's part of it.

ALEX: (Very irritated) What part of it? A small part, a large part, what part?

ETHAN: Okay, it's a large part. Ross is so preoccupied with his love life that I cannot keep his attention long enough to seal the deal.

ALEX: Oh, I see. I'm supposed to become his preoccupation so you can seal the deal.

ETHAN: Sort of.

ALEX: I don't remember my job description including using my feminine wiles to help seal a deal.

ETHAN: (with amusement) Using your feminine wiles. Did you actually say "feminine wiles"?

ALEX: Yes, I did. Isn't that what Drew wants?

ETHAN: Actually, he just wants you to help present our proposal from a woman's perspective. The fact that you are a very knowledgeable, attractive woman is a plus. **However**, it's completely up to you if you want to use your **feminine wiles** as part of the presentation. I'm quite sure Mr. Ross would be quite receptive.

ALEX: So, Drew chose me for my **knowledge and ability**, and not to be **bait** for Ross.

ETHAN: (Trying to reassure her) He doesn't want you do be bait. He thinks we make a good team. You use to think so too.

ALEX: That's before I caught you with J.J.

ETHAN: That's a very interesting response. I was talking about our work relationship but you made the leap to our personal relationship.

ALEX: We don't have a personal relationship...

ETHAN: It doesn't have to be that way.

ALEX: Yeah, it does.

ETHAN: Alex, I've tried to explain the whole J.J. thing, but you won't let me.

ALEX: I know what I saw.

ETHAN: No, you know, **what** you **think** you saw.

ALEX: I don't want to go there. Let's just concentrate on the Ross account.

ETHAN: You're the one that brought up J.J.. You must want to go there.

ALEX: Well, I don't.

ETHAN: (pleading) Alex, please I'd like to get things straightened out.

ALEX: If you need to straighten anything out, shouldn't it be with Emily. (Sounding jealous) By the way, I meet her today.

ETHAN: (Picking up on Alex's jealousy) Jealous, huh?

ALEX: Not at all.

ETHAN: Sounds like it me.

ALEX: (Firmly) I suggest you get your hearing checked. (They are interrupted by Drew's (Dana's) entrance.)

DREW (DANA): (Enters after a quick knock) Good you're both here. Ethan have you brought Alex up to speed on the Ross account?

ETHAN: I was just doing that.

DREW (DANA): Alex, I'm counting on you to help sell our proposal.

ALEX: I'll do my best.

DREW (DANA): I know you will. Ethan and you make a dynamite team.

ETHAN: That's what I told her.

DREW: (DANA): I have to go. I have a meeting. I just wanted to tell you that there

would be a sizeable bonus for both of you when you land Ross's \$20 million account.

ETHAN and ALEX: Thank you. (Drew (Dana) leaves.)

ALEX: (thinking aloud) The things I have to do for \$20 million dollars.

ETHAN: (Thinking Alex is talking about having to work with him, he is very hurt by her tone.) I know you don't really want to work with me.

ALEX: (Realizing how offended he sounded) I'm sorry. I wasn't aiming that comment toward you.

ETHAN: It sure sounded like it. (Realizing that he had left a folder in his office that they needed) I'm afraid I've forgotten one of the files you need. It's in my office. I'll be right back.

ALEX: That's all right. I'll go with you. We can go over it there.

## Scene Two

Procter and Jones Advertizing Agency where J.J. works.

J.J.'s office

J.J.'s office has a desk with the usual accessories. She can have a laptop on her desk or a desktop somewhere else in the office. Because she is an award-winning employee, her office is decorated to display her advertizing awards. She also has a small couch that fits back to back with the couch in Alex's office. She also has a chair beside her desk and an extra one located along the back wall of her office. Her office also has various floral arrangements given by her admirers. (As the scene begins, J.J. enters carrying her brief case and purse. Her best friend and co-worker, Beth Collins, is following her. She puts her stuff down and sits down at her desk. Beth sits on the couch.)

BETH: So your uncle said what!

J.J.: He said (Before she finishes her sentence, she is interrupted by a co-worker, a man who knocks and then, enters with a mocha latté in his hand.)

JUSTIN: (Very cheerfully to J.J.) Good morning, J.J.. I saw you come in and thought you might like to begin your morning with a mocha latte.

J.J.: (very impressed) How thoughtful.

JUSTIN: (very pleased with her response) Thanks.

BETH: (curious about Justin thoughtfulness) You just happened to have an extra mocha latte setting around.

JUSTIN: (explaining with honesty) Well, not exactly. When I saw J.J. get on the elevator, I stopped in the lobby and picked one up.

BETH: (dumbfounded) J.J.'s right. That is very thoughtful.

JUSTIN: (to J.J. with a smile.) I hope I got it right. You take yours with lots of foam, a shoot of milk and a dollop of whip cream on the top.

J.J.: (taking a drink, while Justin watches with interest.) It's great. Thanks again.

JUSTIN: J.J. I'll call you later about Saturday night.

BETH: (trying not to sound desperate, but does) If you can't get her, you can always try me.

JUSTIN: (trying to sound polite but comes off sarcastic.) Sure. I'll do that.

BETH: (Energetically as Justin is leaving) I like mocha latte too.

J.J.: (instructively) No, Beth no.

BETH: (defeated) Back to your uncle. He told you what?

J.J.: He said that if I wanted to inherit \$20 million I had to get married within a month.

BETH: Well, that should be easy for you. You have guys everywhere.

J.J.: Yeah, but only one I'd like to marry, and he won't give me the time of day.

BETH: You mean Ethan.

J.J.: (shaking her head affirmatively.) I mean Ethan.

BETH: Have you tried calling him again?

J.J.: Yes, but he won't even answer his phone. I even tried showing up unannounced at his apartment.

BETH: (Amazed) You did.

J.J.: Yeah, I did and it was a big mistake.

BETH: What happened?

J.J.: There was another woman there, and I looked like a fool mooning over a guy I can't have.

BETH: Was it Alex?

J.J.: (With a sigh) No, it wasn't Alex. I'm sure I nipped that in the bud. You should have seen her face when she caught Ethan with me. He didn't see her come in, but I did, and I grabbed him and kissed him right in front of her. (remembering) You should have seen her face.

BETH: Very jealous and mad huh?

J.J.: No, she was hurt, extremely hurt.

BETH: So she really liked Ethan a lot?

J.J.: Yeah, but I like him too. I wasn't about to let her have him. You know how competitive Alex and I have always been. She wanted him and I wanted him. Unfortunately for me, he wanted her.

BETH: (repeating to make sure she heard J.J. correctly) Ethan wanted her.

J.J.: Yeah, that's why he met me that day. He wanted to tell me that he was in love with Alex.

BETH: Ethan loves Alex.

J.J.: He did, but after she saw us together, she wouldn't have anything else to do with him, and he blames me for it.

BETH: It was your fault.

J.J.: I know, but I did not mean to spoil my chances with him, I just meant to get Alex out of the picture. I guess he really did love her.

Beth: Tough break.

J.J.: I guess he's over Alex now and has moved on to the woman in his apartment. I think her name was Emily.

BETH: So Ethan is not a possibility for a husband.

J.J.: Nope. (J.J.'s secretary Katie enters with a vase of beautiful roses.)

KATIE: These were just delivered for you Miss Jamison. (She sets the roses on J.J.'s desk.)

J.J.: Thank you. (Katie exits. J.J. opens the card.)

BETH: Wow, what beautiful roses, who sent them?

J.J.: A client

BETH: See, what I mean you have men all over the place.

J.J.: Yeah, but.

BETH: But, nothing. Anyone that you don't want I'll take. (Smelling the roses) How but the one that sent you these?

J.J.: Sure, if you don't care that he's married.

BETH: J.J. you date married men.

J.J.: No, I don't, but he keeps trying.

BETH: Well, we need to find you a husband so get out that little black book of yours. I know there are some likely candidates in there.

J.J.: Yeah, I guess.

BETH: What do you mean you guess? You have twenty million reasons to try to find someone. (J.J. has taken the black book from her purse and Beth takes it from her hand and begins to peruse the names.) Wow, you must have fifty names in here.

J.J.: Yep.

BETH: (Amazed) Look at all of these names. I never knew you dated this many guys. (Looking through the list of names). I don't see Ethan's name in here anywhere.

J.J.: No, he's special. Those are guys I dated for fun, nothing serious.

BETH: (Continuing to inspect the book.) Fun, huh? There's something I'd like to know.

J.J.: Okay, shoot.

BETH: Some of the names have stars by them.

J.J.: That's right.

BETH: Some have one star, some have two, a few have three and one guy has five.

J.J.: (Smiling): Uh, huh.

BETH: What do the stars mean?

J.J.: If I told you, I'd have to kill you.

BETH: (Excited expression on her face) Wow, that means it must be something good.

J.J.: (Smiling) It might be.

BETH: Something really, good?

J.J.: Privileged information.

BETH: (Unbelief) You're not going to tell me, are you?

J.J.: No, I am not.

BETH: That's wrong! That is so wrong! I'd tell you.

J.J.: Well, I'm not telling you. Now, would you like to help me choose some candidates or not?

BETH: Yes, I want to help.

J.J.: Okay let's get started.

BETH: Okay, but I could help you make wiser choices if I knew what the stars meant.

J.J.: Give it up.

BETH: (Suddenly discovering some information in the back of the little black book.) I may not know what the stars mean, but you have some amazing stuff in the back. I can't believe that you kept all of these notes on your dates. You know everything about these guys except their mother's maiden name.

J.J.: (Shaking her head in agreement.) I thought it might come in handy.

BETH: How so?

J.J.: I found out very early that the best way to keep a man happy is to keep him talking about what he's most interested in, and that is usually himself. He's happy and I'm happy because he likes me and can't seem to do enough for me.

BETH: I see. It says here that Philip Barrett is a mechanic.

J.J.: (Remembering Philip) Yep, free tires, tire rotation, oil changes and detailing.

BETH: No, free gas,

J.J.: Oh, yeah. I forgot about the free gas.

BETH: I don't see you married to a mechanic no matter how much free gas.

J.J.: (Shaking her head in agreement while looking over Beth's shoulder at the book.) Tommy Turner is a jeweler.

BETH: A jeweler.....now we're talking. What did you get from him?

J.J.: Diamond necklaces, bracelet, Rolex watch.

BETH: (interrupting) what no diamond ring?

J.J.: He offered. I told him that I'd rather have an emerald ring.

BETH: Hurray, for Tommy. He's a definite candidate. (J.J. agrees. Beth writes down his name.)

J.J.: (Looking at the book and pointing at a name) Jordan Jefferson

BETH: (continuing where J.J. left off) Oooh, he's a banker. What did he do for you?

J.J.: Free checking and five thousand dollar line of credit that I don't have to be in a hurry to pay back.

BETH: Wow, he's definitely a candidate.

BETH: Can you come up with anyone off the top of your head?

J.J.: Robert Wilbanks.

BETH: What is his occupation?

J.J.: He's a police officer.

BETH: A husband who's a police officer. Would your uncle go for that?

J.J.: (With a look of very fond remembrance) I'm not sure, but I might, especially if it's Robert.

BETH: Let me guess he's a **four star man**.

J.J.: (Holding up five fingers) He's a **five**.

BETH: So Robert is a **definite** candidate. (J.J. shakes her head affirmatively. Beth writes down his name.) That makes three. How many do you think we need to start with?

J.J.: I think three will be enough to start with.

BETH: (Looking back through the book) Yeah, you have candidates with impressive occupations and comparing the stars by their names, you have two threes and a five.

J.J. : ( Nodding). Yep! Let's go get you a mocha latte before we implement our second phase.

Curtain closes or black out

## Scene Three

Alex's office

As the scene begins, Alex is at her desk reading over the Ross files. Lacy enters waving a piece of paper in her hand.

LACY: (excitedly) Okay, I've done the research. Ethan recommended eCouples.com.

ALEX: (sarcastically) eCouples.com, how original.

LACY: It may not be original, but according to Ethan, it's effective.

ALEX: (very sarcastically) Of course, that's how he met Emily.

LACY: If I didn't know better, I say that you sounded jealous.

ALEX: (emphatically) Yeah, but you know better.

LACY: (only half believing her) Yeah, I know better.

ALEX: You're sure he didn't suspect you were asking for me.

LACY: ( with pretend seriousness) Of course not. I told him I was asking for my mother.

ALEX: For your mother!

LACY: (matter of factly) Yeah, she's getting kind of tired of my dad.

ALEX: (shocked) Lacy, you didn't.

LACY: Of course, I didn't. I'm just messing with you. I told you that I'd be discreet and I was. Let's get started.

ALEX: Lacy, I need to familiarize myself with the Ross account.

LACY: (insistently) No, you need to find a husband. Let Ethan take care of the account and you just ride shotgun.

ALEX: I don't know.

LACY: Well, I do. Move over and let me at the computer. (She types eCouples.com and begins to read as the website comes up.) Okay here we go. (Reading the screen) For only an initial fee of \$37.99 and \$ 9.95 per month, we'll match you with the person of your dreams based on 90 points of compatibility resulting from the entries that you make on your personal profile.

ALEX: (skeptically) Wow, 90% compatibility.

LACY: That's what it says. Now, give me your credit card. (Alex gets her credit card from her purse and Lacy says the information aloud as she types it in. When she finishes she hits the enter key. The personal profile page appears.) Here we go.

ALEX: (with great reluctance) I really don't know about this.

LACY: Well, I do. (Alex watches as Lacy is typing the information. Lacy says all the information aloud as she types.) Simpson, Alexandra Kay. Address 1629 Lauderdale Date of birth. 8/30/(whatever year will make her be twenty-five), Occupation: Computer software designer. Educational level. Masters. Hobbies. (Lacy looks at Alex and waits for an answer.)

ALEX: Let me see. When I'm not working I like to curl up with a good book.

LACY: (in disbelief). Girl, you couldn't date much if you wanted to.

ALEX: I couldn't.

LACY: No, you couldn't. Men aren't attracted to workaholic women who in their spare time curl up with a good book.

ALEX: They're not.

LACY: (emphatically) No, they are not.

ALEX: So what do we do?

LACY: (emphatically) We lie; that's what we do. (She thinks for a moment and begins to type.) Hobbies: scuba diving, sky diving, surfing and long rides on a Harley. (Alex's mouth flies open at the magnitude of the lies. Reading the next category, Lacy continues.) Personal philosophy of life. (She pauses and looks toward Alex for an answer.)

ALEX: (confidently) That's easy. Always strive to be the best person that you can be. Treat others as you wish to be treated, and work hard because hard work pays off. (Lacy gives her the look that lets her know her philosophy of life is not acceptable for the profile. Alex responds with a sigh.) Okay, so lie.

LACY: (Pauses to think and then types) Squeeze every drop of fun that you can from life. (Lacy reads the next category) Next, if you could imagine yourself in your perfect place where would that be? (She looks at Alex and Alex begins to answer, but Lacy interrupts.) I know in a chair with a good book. (Alex nods her head. Lacy pauses thinks and begins to type.) My perfect place is a tropical island, walking on a moonlit beach in the edge of the ocean, holding hands with the man of my dreams. (Alex cannot believe the lies that LACY is concocting.) How would you describe yourself? (Lacy looks at Alex and Alex acquiesces to Lacy. Lacy thinks and begins to type.) Fun loving, vivacious, intelligent, interested in people and adventure. (Alex shakes her head in amazement. ) How would others describe you? (Lacy answers this question without consulting Alex.) Outgoing, spontaneous, fun loving and sexy. (Alex shakes her head in disapproval.) Describe the person of your dreams. (Lacy looks at Alex for this answer.)

ALEX: Oh, so you're going to let me do this one.

LACY: (with complete honesty) I'm not sure. I haven't heard your answer yet.

ALEX: (shaking her head in disbelief, pauses and answers.) The person of my dreams. Let's see...I want a man who is intelligent, well educated, a professional, nice looking, not self-absorbed, respectful of others, not afraid to be himself, and not afraid of commitment.

LACY: (typing her own version of Alex's answer.) That's not bad, but I'd better tweak it a little. (Alex watches as Lacy types her own version of the answer.)

ALEX: (frustrated) With this profile, how in the world am I going to find a man I am truly compatible with?

LACY: You may not, but you'll end up with good-looking, fun loving guys who are ready to have a good time.

ALEX: That's what I'm afraid of.

LACY: (trying to reassure her) Look Alex, you need to find a presentable guy that your uncle will approve of and you need to do it quickly. It's sort of, like when you go fishing. If you're going to catch anything worth keeping, you have to use the right kind of bait. We're just using juicy attractive bait.

ALEX: But, sometimes you catch the wrong kind of fish.

LACY: That's when you don't keep it. You throw it back.

ALEX: What if you catch a shark?

LACY: You run.....fast.

ALEX: (very skeptical) I don't know about this.

LACY: Trust me. It will be fine.

ALEX: It had better be.

LACY: (looking at the screen) There's one more thing we need to do.

ALEX: What's that?

LACY: We need to scan your picture into the profile.

ALEX: (very skeptical) Where does it say that?

LACY: (points to the place on the screen) Right there.

ALEX: (adamantly) Wait a minute. It says you can place your picture with the profile if you choose to and, I don't choose to.

LACY: ( with complete honesty) Alex, once these guys meet you, your looks are about the only true thing you've got going for you.

ALEX: (with a heavy, reluctant sigh.) I don't know about this.

LACY: I do. Let's go.

ALEX: (confused) Where are we going?

LACY: (Grabbing Alex's purse and arm, they exit with Lacy dragging a reluctant Alex out the door.) Glamour shots!

(Shortly after Alex and Lacy exit, Ethan and Daniel enter Alex's office. Ethan goes to Alex's desk to look for the Ross file. Daniel waits for him to find it.)

ETHAN: Just let me get the Ross file and we'll go to lunch. (He rummages through the pile of files on Alex's desk. He finds the piece of paper with eCouples.com on it.) Wonder what this is doing here?

DANIEL: What is it?

ETHAN: It's a piece of paper with the name of the online dating service I recommended to Lacy.

DANIEL: (bewildered) Lacy wanted a dating service.

ETHAN: I'm sure it wasn't for her.

DANIEL: I'm sure she doesn't need one.

ETHAN: She told me that it was for her cousin Sally, who had Bugs Bunny teeth and Mr. Magoo eyes.

DANIEL: I can't imagine that an attractive girl like Lacy would have a cousin who looks like that.

ETHAN: (skeptically) I'm not sure that she does.

DANIEL: Huh?

ETHAN: (explaining his skepticism) She and Alex were up to something when we came in here this morning and now, I find this on Alex's desk.

DANIEL: (confused) Okay Sherlock what does it all mean?

ETHAN: I suspect it means that Alex and Lacy are up to something and that it involves an online dating service. Do me a favor please check the hall to see if the coast is clear?

DANIEL: (Not catching on) Huh?

ETHAN: Check to see if either Alex or Lacy are in the hall. If not, stand guard and let me know if you see either of them coming towards the office.

DANIEL: Oh, I get it. (Daniel moves to the hallway, peeps around the corner, gives the okay sign, and begins guard duty. Ethan moves to Alex's computer and brings up her eCouples.com profile.)

ETHAN: (finding what he suspected) Just as I thought.

DANIEL: What did you find?

ETHAN: I found an eCouples profile for Alex.

DANIEL: (amazed) Really, I didn't think she was in to dating right now.

ETHAN: Me either. (with surprise as he reads her profile) Nor did I know all these things about her. I thought she was the kind of woman who in her spare time liked to curl up with a good book

DANIEL: (curious) What does the profile say? Can I see?

ETHAN: No, you just stand guard. I'll tell you about it later.

(While Ethan is reading Alex’s profile, the action shifts to J.J. and Beth as they enter J.J.’s office. Ethan continues reading Alex’s profile while Daniel continues being the lookout, as they give the scene to J.J. and Beth. As J.J. and Beth enter J.J.’s office, J.J. sits at her desk while Beth looks at the perspective husband candidates. J.J. stares at the phone and exhibits great reluctance to make the necessary calls. Beth decides to hand her the phone.)

BETH: (as she reaches for J.J.’s phone) Phase II is about to be implemented.

J.J.: (just as Beth pick up the phone, J.J. shouts very loudly) Wait!

BETH: (so startled that she drops the phone) What!

J.J.: I have an idea.

BETH: (with a hand on her heart and a little annoyed) You scared me to death.

J.J.: I want to try Ethan one more time. He’ll hang up if I call him, but he won’t hang up on you.

BETH: What am I going to say when he answers?

J.J.: Ask him if he still wants to own his own software business. Tell him you know someone who’d be willing to finance it. If he’s interested and I think he will be, hand me the phone. Use your cell phone to call so he won’t know it’s me

BETH: (Using her cell phone dials as J.J. tells the number. As she finishes dialing, Ethan’s cell phone rings. After looking at the caller I.D., Ethan answers.)

ETHAN: (After looking at the caller I.D., answers with a very business-like tone.)  
Ethan Harper

BETH: Mr. Harper, this is Beth Collins.

ETHAN: What can I do for you Ms. Collins?

BETH: Mr. Harper, it has come to my attention that you are interested in starting a software company. Is that correct?

ETHAN: (Cautiously) It might be.

BETH: What if I told you that I know someone who is interested in financing that endeavor?

ETHAN: I’d want to know who that was. (Beth hands the phone to J.J.)

J.J.: It’s me Ethan. (Ethan sighs heavily and starts to hang up.) Don’t hang up on me please! I’m serious about financing your company. (A young lady appears at the door and motions for Beth. After conferring with the young woman, Beth motions to J.J. that she has to leave and exits.)

ETHAN: (Angry but intrigued) And, just where would you get that kind of money?

J.J.: From my Uncle Tony.

ETHAN: Your Uncle Tony's just going to up and give you a million dollars.

J.J.: Not exactly.

ETHAN: (irritated) That's what I thought.

J.J.: There's a little catch.

ETHAN: (still irritated) A little catch, like what?

J.J.: I get the money if I marry someone Uncle Tony approves of.

ETHAN: (with irritation and understanding) I see. That's why you called. I've told you, I'm **not** interested in you.

J.J.: (pleading) Not even, if I gave you half of the money.

ETHAN: (emphatically) Not even then.

J.J.: (continuing to plead) We're talking ten million dollars. Your **share** would be **ten million** dollars. You could have your own company.

ETHAN: (very emphatically) Not interested.

J.J.: But...

ETHAN: (Coming to a sudden realization.) J.J., is Alex involved in this marriage for money thing?

J.J.: (playing dumb) Alex! What do you mean?

ETHAN: You know what I mean.

J.J.: (Reluctantly) Yeah, she's involved.

ETHAN: Thanks for the information. (He hangs up. J.J. looks at the phone. She can't believe that he hung up on her. Nor can she believe that all he wanted was to know about Alex's part in the whole thing. She sits dejectedly with her head in her hands. The action shifts back to Ethan and Daniel.) Now, this whole eCouples thing makes sense.

DANIEL: What are you talking about? What's up? (Ethan doesn't answer. he turns his attention back to Alex's computer, makes a few strokes on the keyboard, and presses enter.)

ETHAN: (After hitting certain keys on the laptop, he triumphantly proclaims.) That does it. Now you're under my control Alexandra Simpson.

DANIEL: (curious) Are you going to tell me what's going on?

ETHAN: (very please with himself) I just made it possible for me to manipulate the results for Alex's eCouples profile. I'll make sure that she gets results that she will never forget.

DANIEL: (confused) Why would you do that?

ETHAN: Because of something, that J.J. told me.

DANIEL: What did she tell you?

ETHAN: (as he puts things back as he had found them on Alex's desk) We'd better get out of here. Alex will probably be back any minute.

DANIEL: Aren't you going to let me in on what's going on?

ETHAN: (as he crosses to Daniel) I'll tell you on the way to my office. (After checking the hallway to make sure the coast is clear, they exit.)

(Once Daniel and Ethan exit, the action shifts back to J.J.'s office. J.J. has been sitting in dejection since Ethan hung up on her. Beth enters. When she sees J.J., she knows that the phone call did not go well.)

BETH: No, luck huh?

J.J. Absolutely none.

BETH: At least you gave it a shot.

J.J.: (dejectedly) Yeah. I did.

BETH: (picks up the phone again and hands it to J.J.) Well, we are back to phase II.

J.J.: (J.J. takes the phone and hangs it up.) Let's go to your office to complete phase II. I like your couch better and I need to relax before I call.

Curtain closes or black out.

## Scene Four

(The scene begins in Alex's office with Lacy sitting in front of the laptop and Alex looking very uncomfortable. Lacy is noticeably excited.)

LACY: In a matter of minutes, we should have a list of appropriate, marriageable men. Aren't you excited?

ALEX: Nervous is more like it.

LACY: Why are you nervous? It's not as if you are about to meet them face to face. You can see them, but they can't see you.

ALEX: (very uncomfortable) Yeah, but they can see that awful glamour shot that you made me take.

LACY: (trying to reassure her) It wasn't awful. It was just different.

ALEX: Yeah, it was different all right. I haven't worn my hair that poufy or that much make-up in my whole life and that dress

LACY: Remember, when you're fishing you need juicy bait.

ALEX: (extremely uncomfortable) I just don't like the whole fish analogy.

LACY: But, you do want results, don't you? You have twenty million reasons for wanting quick, reliable results.

ALEX: Yes, I want results, quick, reliable results.

LACY: So, are you ready for me to hit the button?

ALEX: (With a heavy sigh) I'm ready as I will ever be.

LACY: (Hitting the button) Here we go. (As the results are revealed, Lacy is very excited.) Hooray, you have four prospective matches.

ALEX: (Amazed) I do.

LACY: (Pleased) Yes, you do, and you'll never guess who one of them is.

ALEX: Who?

LACY: Ethan

ALEX: Ethan who?

LACY: Ethan Harper. According to this, you two are 98% compatible

ALEX: (with disbelief) I don't believe it.

LACY: (pointing to the screen) You can look for yourself. It's right here on the screen..... 98% compatibility.

ALEX: (very irritated) I don't care what it says on the screen. I wouldn't marry Ethan Harper if he were the last man on earth.

LACY: (confused) I don't get it. Most women would jump at the chance to marry Ethan. He's handsome, successful, and nice.

ALEX: Handsome and successful maybe, but not nice.

LACY: Do you know something that I don't know and if so would you like to share.

ALEX: I just know what I know.

LACY: And, that would be?

ALEX: I don't want to share.

LACY: Okay, Ethan is not a possibility, but we still have three others, Crawford Standish, Billy Bob Stewart and Clark Kent.

ALEX: (laughing) Clark Kent?

LACY: That's what it says.

ALEX: (jokingly) I wonder if he's "the Clark Kent."

LACY: That would be great, but I'm afraid that you're no "Lois Lane".

ALEX: Ha! Ha! Does he have a decent profile?

LACY: (a little surprised) Yeah, he does. As coincidence would have it, he's in journalism.

ALEX: (jokingly) Let me guess. He works for a great metropolitan newspaper.

LACY: No actually, he works for the Scranton Bugle.

ALEX: That's no Daily Planet.

LACY: And, I'm sure that he's no superman.

ALEX: (Moving toward the computer) What does he look like?

LACY: I'm afraid there's no picture.

ALEX: Who were the others?

LACY: Crawford Standish and Billy Bob Stewart

ALEX: Crawford Standish, that's an unusual name.

LACY: (agreeing) Yeah, it is, but he owns his own company, Acme Food Distributors.

ALEX: What does he look like?

LACY: He's not bad. Not good, but not bad.

ALEX: Let me see. (Looking at his picture.) I agree. He's not too bad. (She sits back down.)

LACY: (As she clicks on the next profile.) Billy Bob Stewart is in agribusiness.

ALEX: (having fun) With a name like that, he'd have to be.

LACY: Is agribusiness a bad thing?

ALEX: That depends.

LACY: On what?

ALEX: On what Billy Bob looks like and acts like?

LACY: I can't help you on the looks part. There's no picture.

ALEX: (worried) The fact that two of these guys have no picture worries me.

LACY: Why? If I had let you have your way, your profile would have had no picture.

ALEX: I guess you're right.

LACY: So whom do you want to meet first?

ALEX: (apathetically) I don't care.

LACY: Let's be scientific about it. Pick a number between one and (pauses as if she is thinking of what the other number should be and finally decides) uh, three.

ALEX: (amused by her choice of numbers) two

LACY: (pleased with Alex's choice) Billy Bob will be our very first interview.

ALEX: **Our** first interview?

LACY: Sure, we are in this thing together. Besides, I don't want you to chicken out and let J.J. have our money.

ALEX: **Our** money?

LACY: Sure, I deserve at least a finder's fee when you get the money.

ALEX: How much of a finder's fee?

LACY: Maybe, 10%.

ALEX: (shocked and amused) You want 2 million dollars!

LACY: That's the standard finder's fee, but I'll take whatever you give me. I know that you will be especially generous to your very best friend since the second grade.

ALEX: I'm not sure I'll be \$2 million generous.

LACY: Okay, I'll take a couple hundred thousand. (Alex gives her a frustrated look.) On the other hand, I'll take whatever you decided to give me. (Alex shakes her head. Lacy admits defeat.) Or nothing at all. Do you want me to call and sit up the interviews?

ALEX: Sure, you need to earn your finder's fee.

LACY: (Smiling broadly) Okay, Billy Bob's first. Who do you want to be second?

ALEX: Surprise me.

LACY: Do you want to have your initial meeting with them tomorrow?

ALEX: Sure, we don't have any time to waste.

LACY: Where do you want to meet them?

ALEX: Right here. That way I'll be available for anything that comes up with work.

(Ethan enters the office. Alex lowers the screen of the laptop. and motions for Lacy to go to her own office to begin setting up the interviews. Lacy is looking at Ethan and doesn't see her.)

ETHAN: Good morning ladies. Alex I thought we might be able to prep a little before we meet with Ross today.

ALEX: Sure. (to Lacy who is still crushing on Ethan.) Lacy why don't you go work on the project in your office while I meet with Ethan.

LACY: (as if she is coming out of a daze) Huh?

ALEX: (tapping on the laptop) That very important project that we were just discussing. Why don't you work on it in your own office?

LACY: (Catching on) Oh sure. (to Ethan) If you'll excuse me handsome, I'll go to my office and work on a very important project.

ETHAN: (Smiling broadly) Sure, beautiful. I'll see you later. (LACY exits.) Cute girl.

ALEX: You'd think anybody was cute if she drooled over you.

ETHAN: That's not true. I think you're cute and if you've ever drooled over me, I don't know about it.

ALEX: (Folding her arms in disapproval and frowning) I thought that you came in here to work.

ETHAN: I did.

ALEX: So let's get to work. (Alex picks up the Ross file. Ethan moves to where he is standing behind her, peering over her shoulder.)

ETHAN: I'm sure that you've had time to look over the proposal.

ALEX: Yes, I have.

ETHAN: Is there anything that you don't understand?

ALEX: (without irritation) No, it's a surprisingly, brilliant proposal. Ross would be foolish not to go for it.

ETHAN: (in disbelief) Wow, did you just say something nice about me?

ALEX: Don't sound so surprised. I've never had a problem with your work. It's you

I have a problem with. (Just as she finishes, the office phone buzzes.) Yes, Please bring him in. (to Ethan as she hangs up the phone.) Ross is here.

(They both rise to greet Mr. Ross, who enters with Alex's assistant. Trish. They move to greet Mr. Ross. Trish exits.)

ETHAN: (to Mr. Ross) Jerry Ross, I'd like to introduce Alexandra Simpson. Miss Simpson will be on our team.

MR. ROSS: (Who is a womanizer, reacts to Alex's attractiveness. He takes her by the hand and kisses her hand.) Nice to meet you Ms. Simpson. You can be on my team anytime. (Mr. Ross puts his arm around her as he is about to continue his conversation with Ethan. In reaction to Mr. Ross, Alex forces a smile and rolls her eyes at Ethan as Drew, the company boss, enters the office.)

DREW: (Advancing toward Ross to shake hands.) Jerry, I heard you were in here. I just wanted to pop in and say hello. (With Ross' arm still around Alex, they shake hands.) How are you doing?

ROSS: I'm great.

DREW: Have you played any golf lately?

ROSS: I played last weekend. I shot a 58.

DREW: We'll have to get together soon and play a few holes.

ROSS: Anytime.

DREW: (to ETHAN and ALEX) Why don't you have your meeting in the main conference room? Have your assistants bring in some refreshments.

ETHAN: Sure.

DREW: Jerry if you follow me, I'll show you to the conference room.

ROSS: (to Alex) I guess, I'll see in a minute beautiful.

ALEX: with a force smile and an effort to be polite) I guess so.

(Drew and Ross exit.)

ALEX: (looking at Ethan.) Wow!

ETHAN: Yeah!

(ALEX and ETHAN gather up the things they need for the meeting.)

ALEX: Drew is extremely nervous about this account. Isn't he?

ETHAN: (As he's gathering up the files.) Yeah, he is.

ALEX: (As they finish gathering the files.) Let's go. I'll help you be brilliant. (They exit.)

( After Ethan and Alex exit, the action shifts to J.J.'s office. J.J. and Beth enter. J.J. sits at her desk and Beth sits on the couch.)

BETH: So who's coming first?

J.J.: Tommy Turner. He'll be here shortly.

BETH: Good you need to get a jump on Alex.

J.J.: Yeah, especially now that Ethan's in her corner.

BETH: Exactly. (J.J.'s boss interrupts them as he enters with a new employee.)

MR. JONES: Duncan McMasters may I introduce you to J.J. Jamison, our top employee at Procter and Jones Advertizing and Beth Collins who also works here. J.J., Beth, this is Mr. McMasters our newest employee and comes highly recommended.

DUNCAN: (With great charm) (to Beth) Miss Collins its nice to meet you. (to J.J.) It's very nice to see you Janis. It's been a long time.

J.J.: (without enthusiasm) Hello, Duncan.

MR. JONES: (surprised) So, you know each other.

DUNCAN: Yes, sir. I was once engaged to Janis' cousin, Alex.

MR. JONES(with concern) I see. Did the engagement end on a friendly basis?

J.J.: (before Duncan can answer) All I know is that it ended.

DUNCAN: (with charm) It ended friendly.

MR. JONES: (with relief) So there's nothing to keep you two from collaborating on projects?

(J.J. and DUNCAN look at each other and shrug their shoulders "no".)

MR. JONES: (with great relief) Fine. That's just fine. (Motioning toward the exit.) Duncan, if you'll follow me I'll finish your tour and you can get settled in your office.

DUNCAN: (with great charm) Well, J.J. I guess I'll see you later.

J.J. (acknowledging his statement) Yeah, I guess you will. (JONES and DUNCAN exit.)

BETH: (surprised) So that's Duncan.

J.J. Yep, that's Duncan.

BETH: He's cute, really cute.

J.J.: Maybe, on the outside, but that's as far as it goes.

BETH: (greatly surprised) Really! He seems quite charming.

J.J.: Yeah, he does, but he's not. He did Alex dirty. That's why she broke the engagement. She caught him with her maid of honor.

BETH: You told Mr. Jones that you could work with him.

J.J. (Clarifying) I can; after all, he's never done anything to me. (The secretary buzzes J.J.'s office.) Yes...Please show Mr. Turner in. (J. J. looks at Beth and goes toward the door to greet him.) .

BETH: (With great excitement follows J.J. and takes a position beside J.J.) Oh, boy. Let the games begin. (Tommy enters. Beth's eyes get big and her mouth flies open at the sight of this good looking, well dressed jeweler.)

J.J.: (As she and Tommy greeted each other with a hug.) Tommy, it's nice to see you, thank you for coming.

TOMMY: Yeah, it's nice to see you too.

(Beth's eyes are still big and mouth still open.)

J.J.: Tommy Turner, I'd like to introduce my friend and colleague, Beth Collins.

(Beth is oblivious to J.J.'s attempt to introduce her to Tommy. J.J. has to cajole her from her daze.)

J.J.: Beth....Beth....(She come out of her daze.)Beth, I'd like to introduce you to Tommy Turner.

BETH: (still drooling) Nice to meet you Mr. Three. I mean Mr. Turner.

J.J.: (to Tommy) I know you're wondering why I asked you to meet me at my office.

(Beth gets a chair and positions herself in the chair where J.J. and Tommy are standing. She seats herself so that she is between J.J. and Tommy. She has a bird's eye view of everything that is happening between them.)

TOMMY: Yes, but before we get into all of that, I'd like to give you this. (He pulls a necklace box from his jacket pocket , opens it and tries to present it to J.J.)

J.J.: (J.J. motions no .) Tommy, I wasn't expecting anything and I'm not sure I should accept.

BETH: (Stunned by the expensiveness of the necklace, Beth jerks it from Tommy's hand for a better look.) Nonsense, what's a gift between old friends?

TOMMY: (With a jerk, Tommy retrieves the necklace from Beth.) My thoughts exactly.

J.J.: (to Beth) Shouldn't you be running along to your office so Tommy and I can

talk privately.

BETH: (Looking dreamy eyed toward Tommy) Awww. Do I have too? Your office has a much better view than mine does.

J.J.: Yes, you have too.

BETH: (Reluctantly rising to leave, she touches Tommy's arm.) Nice to meet you Mr. Turner. Maybe, we will meet again. (Tommy acknowledges her goodbye. She reluctantly exits. J.J. invites Tommy to be seated. She pulls up the chair that Beth had so she can be close to Tommy.)

J.J.: (taking him by the hand) You know that I'm not one to beat around the bush.

TOMMY: (taking her other hand) That's one of the things I admire about you.

J.J.: (takes a quick breath) Tommy, how do you feel about marriage?

TOMMY: Marriage in general or some specific marriage?

J.J.: We're talking about a specific marriage, (pauses slightly, continues very measured) How would you feel ...about ....marrying..... me?

TOMMY: (whose expression has changed from delight to fright, lets go of her hand) J.J. you are a wonderful girl and would make some man a wonderful wife, but that man is **not** me.

J.J. (shocked) You mean you wouldn't even consider marrying me.

TOMMY: (coming up with the explanation as he speaks) I'm afraid marriage is not for me.... I am a free spirit.... I am a (spreads his arms in proclamation) ....bumblebee!

J.J.: (confused) A bumblebee!

TOMMY: (Proud of his explanation, he takes her by the hand.) Yes my love, a bumblebee. I must be free to fly from flower to flower and taste the sweet nectar of each one. (He raises her hand to kiss it and just as he gets it too his mouth, J.J. jerks it away, hitting him slightly in the mouth and nose.)

J.J. (angrily) Well, Mr. Bumblebee. You've had about all of the nectar from this flower that you're going to get.

TOMMY: (Protesting) But, J.J. we've had so much fun.

J.J.: (angrily while backing up) **Had** is the operative word. (Pointing to the door) Goodbye Tommy.

TOMMY: (continuing to protest, he moves toward JJ.) But, J.J. my little buttercup.

J.J.: (Pointing to the door, demandingly) I'm not your buttercup. Get out!

TOMMY: (trying to get back in her good graces, tries to take her hand) J.J.

J.J. (backing away) Tommy

TOMMY: (as he chases her) J.J

J.J. (screaming as she runs away and out the door) Tommy.

(Tommy exits chasing J.J.. After a brief moment, J.J., out of breath, comes back in, slams the door and holds it closed to make sure Tommy does not come back into the office. After she realizes he has gone, she sits down at her desk still reeling from the incident. Shortly thereafter, Beth, oblivious to what has happened, enters.)

BETH: So, how did it go with Mr. Three Stars?

J.J.: I must have been crazy that guy is a definite zero.

BETH: What happened?

J.J.: Let's just say he's not husband material. He's a bumblebee.

BETH: A bumblebee!

J.J.: Never mind.

BETH: Well, we've still have Jordan Jefferson and Robert Wilbanks to fall back on.

J.J. Yeah, we do.

BETH: Surely, one of them will be interested in marrying you.

J.J. (a little frustrated) Let's hope so. We don't have much time.

BETH: You don't think Alex has found someone already, do you?

J.J.: I don't know.

BETH: ( excitedly) Well, I know a way to find out.

J.J.: How?

BETH: My neighbor, Trish works for the same company Alex does. In fact, she is Alex's assistant. I'm sure that she'd know if Alex was engaged or seeing anyone. I'll call her. (Begins to look for her cell phone.)

J.J. (reinvigorated) A spy in the enemy camp that sounds great.

BETH: (remembering her cell phone was in her office.) Trish's number is in my phone and I left it in my office.

J.J.: Well, let's go to your office. There's no time to waste.

Curtain closes or Black out.

## Scene Five

(The action shifts to Alex's office. Alex and Beth are already on stage waiting for Billy Bob. Alex is standing in front of the mirror in her office. She is making a last minute check of her appearance before Billy Bob arrives.)

ALEX: (nervously) Are you sure, I look all right.

LACY: You look fine and you look nervous.

ALEX: I am nervous. Wouldn't you be?

LACY: Yeah, I guess, but I'd also be excited. You don't appear to be excited just nervous.

ALEX: (nervously) How can I be excited about someone I've never met?

LACY: Just keep telling yourself that he's the ticket to \$20 million dollars.

ALEX: (amazed at Lacy's attitude) I never knew money meant so much to you.

LACY: Neither did I, but I've never been so close to the possibility of having money. (looking wishfully at Alex) Maybe, a lot of money.

ALEX: Maybe, you ought to be the one getting married.

LACY: Trust me, if it meant lots of money I would.

ALEX: I never knew you were so mercenary.

LACY: I'm not sure what that means.

ALEX: It means you'll do anything for money.

LACY; Yep, that about sums it up. (Alex's assistant buzzing in interrupts their conversation. Alex answers.)

ALEX: Yes, send Mr. Stewart in please. (Alex and Lacy move toward the door. As Alex approaches the door, it opens and Billy Bob enters. He is a rather large stereotypical very country farmer. He is wearing a John Deere cap, overalls, a white shirt with a very gaudy tie, a camouflage jacket, work boots and has a bouquet of flowers in his hand. He removes the cap as he sees Alex. Alex and Lacy are shocked at his appearance. Alex is so shocked her mouth flies open and she cannot speak. Lacy comes to her rescue. She moves to greet Mr. Stewart. Alex turns and sits down at her desk. She sits with her face in her hands.)

LACY: Mr. Stewart, I am Lacy Stannic and this is Alexandra Simpson.

BILLY BOB: (He politely acknowledges Lacy's introduction of herself.) Please to meetcha mum. (Billy Bob hurries toward Alex with the flowers and an eager greeting.) I woulda knowed Miss Simpson anywhere.

LACY: (mimicking Billy Bob) You woulda'?

BILLY BOB: (Paying no attention to Alex's semi-comatose state, he bends down to get a better view and smell her hair and then continues .) You bet. I got her picture taped to my dresser mirror at the foot of my bed. (He bends over to take another look at Alex.) I'da knowed her anywhere, even with that flat hair and pale complexion. (Directly to Alex) I kinda hoped you'd be wearing the dress. (Alex remains speechless.)

LACY: Miss Simpson is kinda working so she couldn't wear the dress.

BILLY BOB: (Catching on) Oh, I gets ya. That wild side o'her only comes out after work. (to Alex) Well, I can hardly wait. (Billy Bob tries to hand her the flowers.) These are for you darling. (Alex is still frozen and speechless. Billy Bob takes her hand and forces the flowers in them.) Hows about you come over to my place tonight after work? (With emphasis) Make sure you change into the dress. I'll have momma make us a nice fried chicken dinner and then I'll send her to the movies, and we can have us one of them adventures that you like.

LACY: (cutting him off at the pass) As you can tell Mr. Stewart, Miss Simpson isn't feeling well today, so tonight is not a possibility. She'll have to get back to you.

BILLY BOB: (to Alex) Oh, darling I'm real sorry you're not feeling well. I bet soma Momma's special elixir would fix you right up.

LACY: You are so thoughtful Mr. Stewart, but Miss Simpson has her own physician. (trying to hurry him out) I'm sorry that we have to cut your visit short, but as you can see Miss Simpson requires medical attention immediately.

BILLY BOB: (to ALEX) That's all right darling. You can call me when you feel better. I'll probably be in the field, but Momma's home all the time. You can leave a message, and I'll call you right back. (Lacy gathers him up and herds him out the door. As he leaves, he says one more goodbye. Alex doesn't move.) Bye darling. It's been real nice meetin ya. I'll be waitin fer ya call.

(As Lacy ushers him out and turns to walk toward Alex, Billy Bob sticks his head in the door.)

BILLY BOB: Oh, I forgot to tell ya. I gotta Harley. I can't wait for them long rides.

LACY: (Ushering him out again.) Goodbye, Mr. Stewart. (He's gone for good this time and Lacy hurries to Alex to bring her out of shock, she shakes her, and calls her name.) Alex! Alex! Snap out of it. The next one will be here in a little while.

(Just as Alex regains her composure, ETHAN and DANIEL enter. Alex is holding Billy Bob's bouquet of flowers.)

ETHAN: (with great interest) We're not trying to be nosy, but who was that guy who just left?

LACY: (thinking fast) He was Alex's gardener.

DANIEL: Alex has a gardener.

LACY: Sure, she does.

ETHAN: Why does Alex need a gardener? She doesn't have a garden of any type.

LACY: (trying to think how to answer) Uh?

ALEX: (Back to herself and irritated at Ethan's curiosity.) I'm thinking about getting one. Is that okay with you?

ETHAN: Perfectly.

DANIEL: It's about lunchtime. Would you ladies like to go to lunch with us? (Alex shakes her head no. While Lacy eagerly agrees.)

LACY: (As she takes Ethan by the arm) Sure, we would.

(Ethan and Lacy head toward the exit. Daniel motions to Alex to join them. Alex begins her walk to the door when the door opens and a man enters. It's Clark Kent. He has his hair slicked back, is wearing glasses and a trench coat to hide his superman costume. He looks normal, but shortly begins to exhibit head and eye movements and to make assertions that reveal that he is definitely not normal.)

CLARK: (Ethan and Lacy block his view of Alex so he speaks to them.) Hello, My name is Kent, Clark Kent. I'm looking for Alexandra Simpson.

(LACY and ALEX react because this is the next prospective husband and ETHAN and DANIEL are in the room. Not wanting to let the irony pass, Daniel speaks up.)

DANEIL: (in disbelief) Clark Kent.

CLARK: (with great exuberance) Yes, sir.

DANIEL: (with continued disbelief) Your name is really Clark Kent.

CLARK: (pauses and then responds with great seriousness and rapid eye movement) Yes, sir. That's what it says on my birth certificate.

DANIEL: (measured) And, you're looking for.... Alexandra Simpson?

CLARK: (with exuberance, rapid eye movement and quick head jerks that suggest that he is not normal) Yes, yes I am.

DANIEL: (Jokingly) Shouldn't you be looking for Lois Lane.

CLARK: (Very seriously, with head and eye movement that suggests, he is a little crazy.) I am, but my Lois Lane might be using the name Alexandra Simpson.

(ALEX intervenes as she moves toward Mr. Kent.): I'm Alexandra Simpson.

CLARK: (recognizing her and looking her over) Yes, you are. I'd recognize you anywhere. Your picture did not do you justice.

ETHAN: (Curiously) Picture?

ALEX (interrupting before Clark can answer and pointing to Daniel as she speaks to Ethan) Weren't you two about to go to lunch?

ETHAN: Yeah, we were, but this is more interesting. (getting in on the fun) Mr. Kent, are you a mild mannered reporter for a great metropolitan newspaper and would that newspaper be the Daily Planet?

CLARK: (Very seriously, with the head and eye movements again.) No, sir. I work for a small metropolitan newspaper named the Scranton Bugle.

ETHAN: (Looking at Alex) Oh, I see.

DANIEL: (continuing the fun) Mr. Kent, do you really need those glasses to see or are you trying to hide your real identify.

LACY: (trying to stop Ethan and Daniel) Of course, he doesn't. He's really a caped crusader in disguise.

CLARK: (calmly while walking toward Lacy) Who told you? (Lacy reacts with raised eyebrows and amazement. Clark reacts to her reaction with great indignation and seriousness, and pointing to Lacy continues loudly.) Who told you? (moves toward Alex) Lois, did you tell them? Did you betray your superman?

DANIEL: (Realizing there is a problem) Superman! Fellow do you really think you are superman?

CLARK: I do not **think** I am Superman. (Throwing off his glasses and pulling open his trench coat to reveal his Superman uniform.) I **know** I am Superman and I have come for my Lois Lane! (Clark rushes toward Alex.) Lois, I love you. Come fly with me and I'll build you a crystal palace somewhere to the North (He grabs Alex as if he is going to fly away with her. Alex screams as Ethan and Daniel come to her rescue while Lacy calls security. Ethan and Daniel wrestle Superman, who is much stronger than he appears. They finally free Alex just as security enters. Security takes control of Clark, who is still trying to fly and they take him away. Ethan, Daniel and Alex are somewhat out of breath from the whole episode.)

ETHAN: (Demandingly) Alex, what in the world is going on?

ALEX: Nothing's going on.

DANIEL: (to Alex) Who was Super Crazy Man and why was he looking for you?

ETHAN: There's something fishy going on here.

ALEX: Here we go again with the whole fish analogy.

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