

116.

EXT. RAY'S PLAYHOUSE -- NIGHT

Jerry sits finishing a phone call to an advertising account exec. He has come here, to Ray's playhouse for privacy.

JERRY

Tonight. Yeah, the red-eye, I'll
be in Arizona on Monday...

Jerry adlibs some salesmanship on Tidwell's behalf. Dorothy approaches. She gives him a few phone messages, sits down. Beat of silence. He sees a look on her face that is unfamiliar.

DOROTHY

It's my fault.

JERRY

What --

DOROTHY

It's not fair to you. This
whole --

JERRY

(instant crisis mode)
Tell me -- let me help --

DOROTHY

I took advantage of you and worst
of all, I'm not alone. I did this
with a kid. I was just on some
ride where I thought I was in love
enough for both of us. I did
this. And at least I can do

something about it now.

JERRY

(damage control)

Well -- I'm not the guy who's
going to run. I stick.

DOROTHY

I don't need you to "stick."

JERRY

You want...

DOROTHY

I don't know --

JERRY

(it slips out)

...my soul or something.

117.

DOROTHY

Why fucking not! I deserve it.

JERRY

(direct)

Dorothy -- what if I'm just not
built that way?

DOROTHY

I think we made a mistake here.

But now he can't stop.

JERRY

What if it's true? "Great at
friendship bad at intimacy." I

mean, come on. It's the theme of my bachelor film --

DOROTHY

I know. I watched it. I sort of know it by heart.

JERRY

(absorbs it)

I don't like to give up.

DOROTHY

Oh please. My need to make the best of things, and your need to be what, "responsible"... if one of us doesn't say something now we might lose ten years being polite about it. Why don't we call this next road trip what it is. A nice long break.

JERRY

What about Ray?

She notes the only real glimpse of ache, in that question.

DOROTHY

There's no question you'll be friends. Of course you'll be friends.

JERRY

So this break... is a break-up.

DOROTHY

Come on, Jerry. You know this isn't easy for me.

(more)

DOROTHY (cont'd)

I mean, on the surface, you'd
almost think everything was fine.

See, I've got this great guy who
loves my kid --

(resolute, no tears)

-- and he sure does like me a lot.

Jerry Maguire, a man who speaks for a living, has nothing to
say.

DOROTHY

(continuing)

I can't live that way. It's not
the way I'm "built."

He moves to embrace her. She pulls away first.

INT. RAY'S ROOM -- NIGHT

Jerry kisses sleepy Ray goodbye.

JERRY

Don't wake up...

And then faces the exotic fish who now resides on Ray's
table. He once lived in a tank the size of a Cadillac. The
fish now hangs in a too-small bowl, looking at him.

JERRY

(continuing;

defensive)

... it was just a Mission

Statement...

INT. AIRPORT -- DAY