

9

INT. CAR/EXT. BUFFALO - DAY

119

A quick sight-seeing MONTAGE. Wendy and Larry try to have fun at various sights. It's not easy. There's not much to see in Buffalo.

They drive to NIAGARA FALLS. They take pictures with a DISPOSABLE CAMERA. Marley hobbles along with them, trying the best she can to be a part of things. They play in the snow and throw snowballs at each other. Larry accidentally hits Wendy in the eye and she becomes angry at him.

12

EXT. NIAGARA FALLS DAYS INN - NIGHT

122

Larry's car is parked out front.

23

INT. NIAGARA FALLS DAYS INN - NIGHT

123

Larry and Wendy are making out. Genghis and Marley have found spots for themselves, far from the action. Wendy suddenly pulls away from Larry.

LARRY

What?

WENDY

I don't know... You killed my plant.

LARRY

No, I didn't.

WENDY

Well, it's not thriving. It was thriving when I left.

LARRY

I'm sorry.

She heaves an agitated sigh.

WENDY

It's not the plant. The plant is symbolic.

LARRY

Of what?

Wendy looks at him squarely.

START

WENDY

What do you think?

LARRY

I know this isn't perfect.

WENDY

Not perfect?! Larry, come on. I have an M.F.A., for christsakes! I mean, look at this. We're in a motel room in Buffalo. It's embarrassing. We're a cliché.

LARRY

What cliché?

WENDY

The mid-life crisis cliché.

LARRY

Whose?

WENDY

(is he that clueless?)

Yours. You're married. You're cheating. You're sleeping with a younger woman. Classic.

Trying to be gentle, but not entirely successful --

LARRY

Uh, Wendy. You're not exactly a younger woman.

WENDY

What's that supposed to mean?

LARRY

You're thirty-nine.

WENDY

You're fifty-two.

LARRY

So?

WENDY

So, that makes you older.

LARRY

Yeah, technically. But this is not exactly the paradigm of a prototypical winter/spring romance. Annie's forty-six.

Wendy looks at him.

LARRY (CONT'D)

I mean, you're not my little student.  
It's not like we've got "The Blue Angel"  
going on here.

The comment just lands there oddly. Wendy cocks her head to the side and makes an exaggerated expression of confusion.

LARRY (CONT'D)

(impatient)

The professor character in  
"The Blue Angel," the film.

WENDY

I know the movie, Larry.

LARRY

Yeah so, the poor slob has an affair with  
his student and his life is destroyed by  
it. Von Stroheim.

WENDY

Von Sternberg.

LARRY

Whatever. You know what I mean. Marlene  
Dietrich.

WENDY

She's not a student. She's a nightclub  
singer. But there is a Francine Prose  
novel by the same name that is about a  
professor-student relationship --

LARRY

Why do you do this?

WENDY

What?

LARRY

You do it all the time. And on top of  
it, you insult me by telling me I'm the  
one having a mid-life crisis here, when  
you're the one having an affair with a  
married guy instead of seeking real  
intimacy with someone who is available  
for a real commitment. And you know it's  
all about your father.

Wendy is stunned, but keeps going.

WENDY  
Hey, I'm just having a normal, healthy sex life here. I'm not betraying anyone.

LARRY  
Only yourself.

Socked in the stomach and winded --

WENDY  
You know, I can't even believe I put up with it actually. That I'm even participating is so...

Sad?  
LARRY

What?  
WENDY

Nothing.  
LARRY

← END

Wendy stares at Larry, her face tight. A far off RUMBLE can be heard getting louder and louder. It is the sound of Wendy's resentment growing.

124

EXT. VALLEY VIEW - NIGHT

124

The RUMBLE continues as Larry's car pulls up and the passenger door swings open. Angry and tear-streaked, Wendy removes her CAT CARRIER, LITTER BOX and FICUS TREE from his car.

Larry stands by helplessly as she collects everything into an awkward bundle and storms off into the facility.

LARRY  
(feebly)  
Wendy.

125

INT. LENNY'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

125

Wendy enters. Lenny watches a Jimmy Cagney movie, WHITE HEAT, on T.V. Jon sits in a chair using his laptop. The first thing Wendy notices is that the dreaded FLUORESCENT LIGHT above Lenny's bed is on. The lamp she bought sits on the night table, unlit.

WENDY  
Can we not use this horrible light, please? It's depressing.