

22 CONTINUED:

22

JULIA

Yeah. She's happy and you're -- what are you, Charlie?

CHARLIE

I told you. I don't -- I have no idea.

He really is in limbo. Julia eyes him, then --

JULIA

Well... if it helps, I mean -- it kinda makes sense if you're upset. 'cause let's be honest here -- you guys went through, like, major trauma together, only now it looks like everything you had suddenly means, like -- nothing -- and she's already moved on and married to this really great pediatric neurosurgeon so... I mean, I can see how that might upset you --

CHARLIE

You had to throw in pediatric neurosurgeon.

Julia shrugs as she slaps labels onto postcards.

JULIA

But you know what? Not to sound cold or anything but -- whatever you're feeling or going through or whatever? You kinda have to get over it. 'cause you don't have a choice anymore. She's married now and that's --
(then, the simple truth)
That's kinda like, it.

Charlie stops what he's doing. Takes that in.

CUT TO:

Start
→ 23 INT. GRIFFIN'S MOTORCYCLE SHOP - DAY

23

Reed organizes the "small parts" bins -- a huge, tedious, job. Claudia appears, holding something behind her back.

CLAUDIA

(perky)

Hel-lo.

(CONTINUED)

23 CONTINUED:

23

REED
(the opposite of perky)
Oh. Hey. These nuts are driving me nuts.

CLAUDIA
You okay? What's the matter...?

REED
It's not gonna work out, Claudia.

CLAUDIA
Excuse me...?

REED
The age difference thing. It's just...
it's too much.

CLAUDIA
(starting to panic)
But, but, but -- wait a minute. You
don't -- how do you know that unless
you give it a shot? I mean --

REED
I gave it a shot.

CLAUDIA
No you didn't.

REED
Claudia...
(she waits, then)
I called, okay...?

CLAUDIA
You... did?

REED
Last night, and --

CLAUDIA
Wait wait wait. Did I miss something
here because -- ?

REED
No, I just -- I called and I asked her
out and, I mean, she was nice and all
but -- she turned me down.

Beat. Who's more devastated here?

CLAUDIA
Oh.

(CONTINUED)

23 CONTINUED: (2)

23

REED

And you wanna know why? 'Cause she doesn't date older guys. How's that for, like, totally unfair?

CLAUDIA

(completely destroyed)
She's an idiot.

REED

And the worst part? It's like, I never even dated her, right? But I still feel totally bummed. S'at stupid?

CLAUDIA

No, no... I think I know how you feel.
(then, humiliated)
Anyway... I can't really hang out today... I gotta go... do stuff, so...

REED

That's cool.

With a last look, she hurries out, drops the gift. Before she can scramble to pick it up, he beats her to it.

REED

What's this?

CLAUDIA

(takes it, uncomfortable)
Oh, um...

Whereupon Griffin comes out of his office, with the motor, heading for the door. Claudia spots him.

CLAUDIA

... it's Griffin's birthday.
(hands Griffin the gift)
Happy Birthday.

And she hurries out of there. Griffin is clueless.

REED

Happy birthday, man.

CUT TO:

24 EXT. BAILEY'S APARTMENT BUILDING - COURTYARD - DAY

24

The rain has stopped. Bailey comes out of his apartment, spots Annie sitting, forlorn, in the swing.

(CONTINUED)