

BETTER HALF

written by

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COLD OPEN

EXT. TAB AND ANDY'S BUILDING - NIGHT

A taxi stops outside an apartment building. TABBY and ANDY COLEMAN get out. Mid-late twenties, perfectly suited. They're dressed up as if coming back from dinner.

TABBY

How are you online so much but you don't know celebrity gossip?

ANDY

I told you, the only website I go to now is that one that tells you random things to have for dinner.

TABBY

Well it's not that hard. Affleck and J-Lo are back together, and everyone's trying to pretend they don't care. But we do. A lot.

ANDY

Bad enough we get a new Batman every three years, now we're rebooting relationships?

TABBY

It's the law of nostalgic entropy. As attention spans get shorter, the rate of circular culture trends increases.

ANDY

And you're basing this whole theory on one celebrity relationship?

TABBY

Not just that, but yes, most of my scientific hypotheses centre around where Ben Affleck puts his dink.

ANDY

Ugh, I hate that word. Dink. It's like you and 'moist'.

TABBY

Don't.

(gags)

Don't even say that word.

They head inside.

INT. TAB AND ANDY'S BUILDING - NIGHT

Tab and Andy walk up to their apartment.

ANDY

Hey. Can we talk serious for a moment?

(walking along)

I know when we got married it was kind of a rush-job.

TABBY

Immigration problems will do that.

ANDY

I know, but, here's the thing. I'm glad we did it. And it's not because you watch old movies with me, or because you like hand-jobs more than actual sex.

TABBY

It's weird that you find that sexy.

ANDY

It's a little weird that your hand is a better lay than your vagina.

TABBY

Can we please get to the point?

They arrive outside their apartment door.

ANDY

I just want to say thank you. For this past year, even though things have been a little weird lately--

TABBY

Yeah, about that. I think I need to tell you something--

ANDY

Tabby, please! I'm trying to say that no matter what happens, I want to make this marriage work. That I will always want to make this marriage work.

Tabby smiles sadly. Andy pulls out keys and opens the door.

ANDY (cont'd)

Now what did you want to say?

INT. TAB AND ANDY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Inside, the apartment is dark. Tabby heads in first, but doesn't turn on the light. Andy follows, taking off a coat.

TABBY

I mean, it's sort of the same thing, only... not.

ANDY

This should be our anniversary tradition! We tell each other difficult truths. Like, how, okay, how I sometimes will spank it to that pictures of you from Halloween when you dressed up as Hitler.

TABBY

Charlie Chaplain.

ANDY

Or that time I was going down on you and you called me 'little girl'? That was kind of hot.

TABBY

Maybe this isn't a good time.

ANDY

There is nothing you can't tell me.

TABBY

I'm a lesbian.

Andy stops in the dim light from the hallway.

TABBY (cont'd)

I like girls. They make me... moist.
(gags)

Andy turns on the lights, and reveals that THE APARTMENT IS FULL OF PEOPLE - FRIENDS AND FAMILY. A BANNER READS "HAPPY 1ST ANNIVERSARY TABBY AND ANDY!!"

All the friends are standing in awkward, stunned silence. Their friend CELINE (28) has a party hat on.

CELINE

Surprise!

The rest of the crowd tries to join in with the faking a surprise party. It doesn't go well. Tabby just stares.

END OF COLD OPEN

ACT ONE

EXT. LOCAL 510 - DAY

Outside the local bar. It's a bit hipstery, but they play good music. Lotta wood and old incandescent light bulbs.

INT. LOCAL 510 - DAY

Inside the bar, Tabby and Andy sit with Celine (bold, brassy, fourth-wave feminist) and BENJI (lawyer, elfish, bow ties when possible). Tabby and Andy think they have something to celebrate. Benji and Celine think they're insane.

BENJI

What do you mean you're going to "stick it out?"

TABBY

We're sticking it out. I'm a lesbian, but we stay together and I keep living in Canada.

CELINE

Sweetie, I get that you're in a messed up place, but that's crazy.

ANDY

It makes perfect sense. We talked about it, a lot. We still love each other and Tabby doesn't want to move back to America.

TABBY

I don't. It's awful. There's no poutine, everyone has a gun, and women have less rights than farm equipment.

ANDY

And I don't want to pay rent by myself. I'd have to get a job.

BENJI

You're at your job now.

They look over to the bar, where no one is working and a line of people are waiting for drinks. Andy has a bar towel over his shoulder.

ANDY

I know that.
(to the line-up)
Be right there, kay?

BENJI

It doesn't matter why you're doing it, you just can't. Tabby's immigration status depends on her being your wife. She only gets to stay here if you're legitimately married.

TABBY

That stuff is just fine print. It doesn't matter.

BENJI

As your lawyer, I am obligated to tell you that the fine print always matters.

(beat)

Not to mention the fact that you are committing fraud against the Canadian government.

ANDY

It's not a big deal. It's not like she's saying American football is better than Canadian football or something.

BENJI

It's not!

CELINE

The field is bigger for one.

BENJI

And the ball too. Plus three downs.

TABBY

Guys! Hey, Hey! We can all agree that Canadian football is better.

ANDY

It really is.

TABBY

Which is why I want to stay. So Andy and me will *pretend* to be married, do our own thing, and the government doesn't have to know .

Andy's CELL PHONE RINGS, he answers it - getting up and walking away.

ANDY

This is Andy...

Celine and Benji and Tabby keep talking.

CELINE

So since you're a lesbian do you like, only want girls, or is it like me being gluten intolerant? Like, I know wheat is bad for me, but sometimes I also just want to shove a pretzel in my mouth.

TABBY

I don't want to put anyone's pretzel in my mouth.

BENJI

I know we're pretending pretzels are penises, but I do want a pretzel.

(beat)

Oh! And some bubble-tea, you guys remember bubble tea? I think it's coming back.

Andy comes back looking worried.

TABBY

What's up?

ANDY

Right, you know how I said the government won't find out about our marriage being fake?

TABBY

Yeah.

ANDY

Well that was the government, and they want to come to our apartment and make sure that our marriage isn't fake.

Tabby is suddenly dismayed. Celine looks concerned.

TABBY

Well... shit.

Benji tries to look sad as well, but then a WAITER delivers him a hot baked pretzel. Benji lights up.

BENJI
 (calling to the
 waiter)
 Aw, thanks Travis!
 (grabs the pretzel)
 I love Travis.

EXT. TAB AND ANDY'S BUILDING - DAY

Outside the apartment building.

INT. TAB AND ANDY'S APARTMENT - DAY

Inside the apartment, Andy is shaving in the kitchen while Tabby paints her toenails.

ANDY
 So what do we do then?

Tabby is also on her laptop. She browses the internet.

TABBY
 Okay, I'm looking at the immigration
 site, and basically the law says that
 we have to be in a committed,
romantic marriage - AND live
 together - for two years.

ANDY
 How romantic? Like Sleepless in
 Seattle, or You've Got Mail?
 (beat)
 We could maybe do Turner and Hooch.
 But I get to be Hooch.

TABBY
 It also says if a Canadian citizen
 willfully misrepresents the nature of
 their relationship then you go to
 jail for fraud.

ANDY
 Let me get this straight. We both lie
 to the government about you being a
 lesbian, but the punishment is that I
 go to prison and you have to just go
 to America?!

TABBY
 Pretty much.

ANDY
Seems about even.

Tabby laughs, Andy gets a high-five.

ANDY (cont'd)
I'm kidding. Americans are good people.

TABBY
Yeah, we're okay.

ANDY
So what do we do about this immigration guy coming over?

TABBY
(reluctant)
We could just tell the truth.

ANDY
But then you'd have to go home.

TABBY
But, this is kinda my fault.
(beat)
Look, when we got married, I made a promise to you and I can't keep it. There should be some kind of punishment for that.

ANDY
It's not your fault. Some people are gay. So what if it took you a while to work it out, or you spent a year absolutely repulsed by my penis--

TABBY
Honestly they're just weird.

ANDY
Point is, we didn't get married for sex. We got married because you're the only one I know who doesn't make me feel like an idiot most of the time. And I don't want to lose that just because we can't make out.

TABBY
So... I mean, you'd risk jail just to keep me in the country?

ANDY

Dude, you're my wife. My totally platonic, super lesbian, awesome wife. And no immigration agent is going to mess that up.

TABBY

Okay. So all we have to do is trick one guy into thinking we're a boring married couple.

ANDY

Right. How do we do that?

TABBY

We should go talk to most boring married couple we know.

They think for a moment and then--

ANDY

Kevelyn!

TABBY

Kevelyn!

CUT TO:

EXT. KEVELYN'S HOUSE - DAY

Tabby and Andy ring the doorbell on a nice home. The door opens and KEVIN BAKER (34) stands in a blue shirt and khakis. Kevin is sort of a guy's-guy, business-y and so forth.

ANDY

Kevin! We need your help.

TABBY

We need to be a married couple.

Behind Kevin, his wife EVELYN BAKER (30) - brunette, wearing a blue shirt and khakis - looks around the corner.

EVELYN

Boo-bear? Who is it?

Andy rolls his eyes, while Tabby mimes jerking off.

KEVIN

It's Tab and Andy.

INT. KEVELYN'S HOUSE - DAY

Seated in Kevelyn's suburban living room. Tabby and Andy sip from cups of coffee.

ANDY
We need your help.

TABBY
It's life or death.

Kevin and Evelyn, both in matching outfits (always in matching outfits), sit close together and look worried.

KEVIN
It can't be as bad as all that.

ANDY
It's worse.
(big breath)
Tabby's gay, and we need to be married. Like you.

To their credit, Kevelyn hardly blink.

EVELYN
You're already married.

KEVIN
Wait, did you say gay?

TABBY
Omigod! Yes, pay attention. I'm a lesbian, but we have to fool the immigration people into thinking we're a hetero couple.

EVELYN
Sorry, like a real lesbian?

TABBY
Yes, Evelyn! What are you not getting about this?

EVELYN
All of it. How did this happen?

ANDY
Well, if you were at our surprise anniversary party you'd know.

KEVIN
I told you we had an emergency.

ANDY

You told me Evelyn was on Satan's rag.

TABBY

It's not that complicated. I was raised super Catholic and subconsciously I pursued a quote-unquote normal lifestyle, sexually speaking, as a way to suppress my attraction to women - but as soon as I got away from the influence of my parents and America's puritanical obsession with religious conformity, I began to accept my true nature.

Tabby and Andy stare at Kevelyn. Andy opens his palms.

ANDY

Pshyah! Obviously.

KEVIN

What does that have to do with us?

ANDY

Oh, well for her to stay in Canada, we have to convince the immigration inspector that we're boring married people. So we want you to tell us how to do that.

Kevelyn looks confused.

EVELYN

We're not boring.

(beat)

Are we?

CUT TO:

INT. KEVELYN'S KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

Evelyn is making a salad. The rest watch her.

EVELYN

Then you just add some tomatoes and that's it. I like to wait until I'm going to serve it before dressing. Usually go with a vinaigrette.

TABBY

Huh. And that's a salad. Okay, what else do married people do?

INT. KEVELYN'S BEDROOM/BATHROOM - DAY

Tabby sits on the toilet peeing. The door is open. Andy stands in the attached bedroom awkwardly.

ANDY
And she just leaves the door open?
While she pees?

Kevin nods. He's standing aside so he can't see Tabby.

ANDY (cont'd)
Why?

KEVIN
I have no idea.

INT. KEVELYN'S TV ROOM - DAY

Kevin has the TV on, Evelyn says his name...

EVELYN
Kevin. Kevin. Boo-bear? Honey? Kevin!
Kev? Kevin? Kevin.
(beat)
Kevin! Kevin! Sweetie? Kevin. Kev?

She looks over to Tabby.

TABBY
So he can't hear you?

EVELYN
No, he can hear me.

INT. KEVELYN'S HOUSE - DAY

Tabby and Andy and Kevin and Evelyn are back seated in the living room. It's almost as if they didn't really move.

ANDY
Okay, but what about romance? Do
married people have sex?

KEVIN
I mean, not unless we have to.

Kevin laughs. And then a phone alarm goes off.

EVELYN
 Speak of the devil! I'm ovulating!
 (to Kevin)
 Meet me upstairs?

She gets up and hurries out. Andy looks to Kevin.

ANDY
 Are you trying to get pregnant?

Evelyn yells from upstairs.

EVELYN (O.S.)
 Kevin! Sperm! Let's go!

Kevin sighs and gets up.

KEVIN
 She's pretty into motherhood.

EVELYN (O.S.)
 Bring the lube!

KEVIN (O.S.)
 Of course I'm bringing the lube! I
 always bring the lube! Because your
 vagina is cartoon ghost town!

INT. TAB AND ANDY'S APARTMENT - DAY

Tabby and Andy arrive back home, exhausted and demoralized.

TABBY
 Well that was a complete waste of
 time.

ANDY
 I didn't hear you coming up with any
 ideas.

TABBY
 No need to get snotty.

ANDY
 In fact, the only idea you've had in
 the last few weeks was to tell me
 you're a lesbian, and I'm starting to
 question whether or not that was such
 a great move.

TABBY

I didn't want to tell you at all! I was just going to cheat on you for five years until you finally got tired of hand-jobs and porn.

ANDY

You know I would never get tired of hand-jobs and porn.

TABBY

Which is why I had to tell you! Look, like it or not, this is happening okay? It's real, and if you want out then you better say something soon because once we lie, once we say that yes we're still happily married, then we're in it for the long haul.

ANDY

What do you even want, Tabby? You lure me off the internet, you trick me into proposing to you...

TABBY

Trick you?

ANDY

Yes! You were all, oh wouldn't it be funny if we got married, and I was like, yeah that'd be hilarious!

TABBY

Well, you have to admit, it's pretty funny.

ANDY

How?! You never wanted any of this. I could have just left you there with your parents and repressed sexual urges and all those posters of Reese Witherspoon on your wall--

(beat)

Oh kay, now I can see the signs.

TABBY

At some level you must have known, and you liked it. You've always been the martyr, Andy - and this was your biggest cross.

ANDY

Our whole marriage is a lie!

TABBY

Well at least I know who I am!

ANDY

And just who the hell is that?!

THE DOORBELL RINGS. Both of them look over suddenly.

CUT TO:

INT. TAB AND ANDY'S APARTMENT - MOMENTS LATER

Tabby and Andy open the door and find WILL CLARKSON (45):
agent for Citizenship and Immigration Canada.

Will Clarkson is a somewhat nerdy guy, like a background
extra from Mad Men, but probably he has a moustache.

CLARKSON

Will Clarkson. I'm from Customs and
Immigration Canada.

(holds up ID)

I'd like to talk about your marriage.

ANDY

Did you hear us fighting just now?

CLARKSON

Yes, I did.

ANDY

Good, because we weren't.

Tabby looks at Andy, then at Clarkson. She shakes her head.

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO**INT. TAB AND ANDY'S BATHROOM - DAY**

Tabby pulls Andy into the bathroom and shuts the door. They are freaking out.

ANDY

Okay, what do we do?

TABBY

Why are you asking me?!

ANDY

Because! There's an immigration inspector right outside this door, and we have to convince him that we're a happily married couple!

Andy opens the door. Clarkson, the immigration guy, is standing awkwardly close to the bathroom door.

CLARKSON

I'm not sure why you asked me to stand right here.

Andy shuts the door on him again.

TABBY

Okay, don't panic. We can do this.

ANDY

How? Tabby, I can't go to jail, I've seen Orange Is the New Black, I'd never make it!

TABBY

We just have to act like we find each other sexually attractive.

ANDY

Okay, I can do that. I still think you're hot.

TABBY

Right, and I can imagine that you're Natalie Portman.

She looks at Andy intently. Smiles.

ANDY

Oh my God, is THAT what it's like when you're turned on?

TABBY

Shut up. Just remember - we really want to bang each other.

ANDY

And I'm Natalie Portman. From which movie?

TABBY

Mr. Magorium's Wonder Emporium. Don't judge me! Are you ready?

They take a deep breath. Nod. They're ready. Tabby opens the door, and Clarkson is still there.

TABBY (cont'd)

Do you mind? We're having a private conversation.

INT. TAB AND ANDY'S APARTMENT - DAY

Tabby and Andy are on their sofa, making out hard-core.

ANDY

Oh Tabby...

TABBY

Oh Black Swan...

They finish kissing and then look back at Clarkson.

ANDY

Yeah, so it's like that, only sometimes I wear one of those cardboard crowns from Burger King.

CLARKSON

I only asked for your names.

TABBY

Right. Of course.

ANDY

We're just too much in love to not make out all the time. I mean, would you look at her rack?

TABBY

Ha! And his... testicles!

She reaches down and grabs his crotch. It's weird.

ANDY

She can't get enough of them! They
make her moist.

Tabby looks away and gags.

CLARKSON

These are just basic questions, so if
you could calm down--

TABBY

We've got nothing to hide.

CLARKSON

So, where did you meet?

ANDY

An internet message board for people
who are sexually confused.

CLARKSON

Um, and why were you there?

ANDY

Because sex is super confusing.

(Tabby nods)

Have you ever tried it?

CLARKSON

Yes...

ANDY

Me too. Bring it in.

Andy goes for a fist bump and reluctantly gets one.

ANDY (cont'd)

Pound.

CUT TO:

INT. TAB AND ANDY'S APARTMENT - MOMENTS LATER

A QUICK-FIRE QUESTION MONTAGE:

Clarkson asks Andy and Tabby some relationship questions,
which they answer terribly.

CLARKSON

Tell me about your first date?

TABBY

We had sex in the bathroom of a Thai restaurant.

ANDY

She was drunk.

TABBY

I was nervous.

ANDY

That's what I meant. She was nervous.
(makes drinky motion)

And another...

CLARKSON

What annoys you about your spouse?

ANDY

That I love her too much?

TABBY

Yeah, I love him too much. And he clips his toenails in the sink.

ANDY

Her boob-sweat is, like, medically concerning

TABBY

He starts every text message with 'Hi, this is Andy, your husband.'

ANDY

She wanted us to audition for The Amazing Race.

TABBY

He leaves the toilet seat up.

ANDY

We BOTH do that!

And another...

CLARKSON

Are you happily married?

Tabby and Andy smile. They hold hands.

TABBY

We're like newly weds, every day.
It's a fairy-tale.

ANDY

One of the good ones, not like she's going to end up inside a wolf, or sliced open by a demon step-mother.

TABBY

Point is, this marriage is super real and we are committed to being together forever, no matter what.

ANDY

Even if one of us was gay and decided to tell me on our anniversary in front of my parents and that guy I'm trying to make my new best friend.

TABBY

Danny.

ANDY

That's right. Danny. He's awesome.

Tabby gets up.

TABBY

Now, if you'll excuse me, I have to go powder my nose.

Tabby heads back into the bathroom and leaves the door open. She can barely be seen pulling her pants down and peeing. There's not a lot of sound, but it's uncomfortable.

Clarkson is very unnerved.

ANDY

Marriage. Am I right? I'm right.

Tabby starts humming.

INT. TAB AND ANDY'S BUILDING - DAY

Clarkson comes out of the apartment writing on a clipboard.

ANDY

Well, thanks for coming.

TABBY

Yes, we really should get together socially some time.

CLARKSON

I don't think that'll be necessary.

Andy smiles.

ANDY
You mean that's it? We passed?

TABBY
I knew we would!

Clarkson tears a page from the clipboard and hands it to Andy. Andy takes it with a smile.

ANDY
Thanks very much.

CLARKSON
Mister and Missus Coleman, it's my duty to inform you that you are being placed under investigation for enacting a fraudulent marriage. This notice requires you to appear in person at the CIC offices tomorrow for an evaluation with a supervisor, who will then determine your status, or recommend charges.
(beat)
Have a nice day.

Tabby and Andy just stare, gobsmacked. Clarkson waits, but seeing no movement or reaction he eventually just walks away.

INT. LOCAL 510 - NIGHT

Back at the bar, Tabby and Andy drink with Benji and Celine trying to work out what to do next. They're not happy.

Benji looks over paperwork and shakes his head.

BENJI
It doesn't look good you guys.

TABBY
What does that mean?

BENJI
It means you're screwed. If you fail this interview, that's it, married or not - you get deported and Andy gets charged with fraud.

ANDY

I don't get how this is fraud. All I did was lie to a government agent and pretend to be something I'm-- Wait, I see it now.

CELINE

It's just a little setback.

TABBY

No. It's over. I'll have to go back to Boston. Better put my accent on.

(loosens up)

Hey Mahk! Your cah looks wicked retahded! Go Pats! Go Sox!

BENJI

Ew! Stop that!

CELINE

That can't be how people talk.

Tabby slumps back.

ANDY

It's unfair. No one should have to use that accent their whole life.

BENJI

Guys! You have to take this seriously! If you blow this, it's over. Your cookie crumbles.

(then)

Great. Now I want a cookie.

ANDY

Benji's right. We're screwed. Might as well accept it.

Tabby suddenly bangs her hand on the table.

TABBY

Dammit! I ain't goin out like that!

BENJI

What do you mean?

TABBY

I mean, I'm not going to just sit here sulking like a little bitch.

ANDY

Yeah. Me neither!

TABBY

If this is my last night in Canada,
then we're gonna have a party.

ANDY

Yeah! There's no way I'm going to
jail sober. We need drinks!

Travis the waiter drops off drinks, and a cookie for Benji.

BENJI

Aw! Travis!

Travis leaves. Benji bites his cookie.

BENJI (cont'd)

I swear, he's an angel. An angel.

Andy raises his glass.

ANDY

Ladies and gentlemen, gays and
lesbians, here's to my wife and to
fraud and our green card marriage!

(beat)

To love!

BENJI

To love!

TABBY

Go Bruins!

They all clink glasses and drink them all in one go. We wait
for them all to finish. They're not very good at drinking
fast. It takes a long while. Then...

ANDY

Bar keep! Same again!

INT. LOCAL 510 - NIGHT

Over several shots and to some awesome MUSIC, the gang gets
very drunk.

At one point they're dancing. It's a great wild party.

They all do a round of shots.

CUT TO:

INT. LOCAL 510 - CONTINUOUS

From the bar's POV, the gang is acting like drunken idiots in a nearly empty bar. The music is WAY different and less awesome. They look like hot messes.

CUT TO:

INT. LOCAL 510 - CONTINUOUS

Back within the gang's "PARTY POV" everything is awesome again. Tabby laughs hard. Everything is fun and amazing.

Celine gets up on the table, but Travis pulls her down.

In a quiet moment, Tabby and Andy fall into the booth together. They look at each other, deeply stoned.

ANDY

Tabby...

TABBY

Yeah, Andy.

ANDY

I'm sorry I couldn't fix this.

TABBY

It's not your fault. It's me.

ANDY

Worst part is, I'm losing my best friend.

Tabby nods and pets his face awkwardly. Andy takes it.

TABBY

If I could only marry one man against my better judgement and then figure out I was gay and get deported from a country... I'm glad it was you.

ANDY

(emotional)

Shut up... just, shut up. You had me at hello. You had me at...

And then Tabby THROWS UP A LITTLE.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

EXT. GOVERNMENT BUILDING - DAY

Bright morning light outside a government building.

INT. IMMIGRATION OFFICE WAITING ROOM - DAY

In a stuffy, government waiting room, Andy and Tabby sit, devastatingly hung over, waiting for their interview.

ANDY

Ohhhh my head hurts.

TABBY

Why did we drink so much?

ANDY

Because, we were celebrating.

TABBY

Celebrating our failure.

ANDY

Hey, if we didn't celebrate failure we wouldn't celebrate anything.

Tabby looks around.

TABBY

Maybe it's not so bad. Maybe this is the office for totally legit marriages and they just do, like, random checks.

Andy looks as well.

ANDY

I don't think any of these people are legitimate.

In the waiting room are many MISMATCHED COUPLES. An OLD MAN and a YOUNG ASIAN WOMAN. A HOT RUSSIAN and a NERD. A PRINCESS LEIA and A TREKKIE. A MAGICIAN and A STUFFED ANIMAL. ETC.

TABBY

It's just not fair! We're not doing anything wrong. We're just not having sex. Why should that matter?

ANDY

It shouldn't! We laugh at the same things, we like the same foods, we hate the same people.

TABBY

We're perfect together.

(standing up)

You hear that, people?! We're perfect together! And if that's not love, then I don't know what is.

The weirdos watch her, unimpressed. Andy stands up with her.

ANDY

You know what? We should just tell them. Just say screw it and let the chips fall where they may.

TABBY

I always wanted to go down swinging.

ANDY

Then that's what we're gonna do.

A SECRETARY comes out of a door and looks out.

SECRETARY

Coleman?

Andy looks over.

ANDY

Fuck you lady. We're telling the truth!

Tabby looks as well and nods happily. The secretary looks at her clipboard and then back at the crowd.

SECRETARY

Is there a Coleman here?

TABBY

Yeah, that's us. Sorry.

They follow the secretary, a little sheepishly.

INT. GOVERNMENT HALLWAY - DAY

The secretary leaves Tabby and Andy in the hall outside a couple doors. Tabby takes a deep breath and looks to Andy.

TABBY

You ready?

Andy looks down and takes her hand.

ANDY

Let's do this.

Andy then KICKS THE DOOR OPEN!

INT. CIC INTERVIEW ROOM - DAY

Inside the room, a stern looking MAN with an ID badge shuffles papers behind a table. He looks up.

ANDY

Are you the man?

THE MAN nods.

TABBY

Well check your lesson-hole, because we're not going anywhere!

The man looks confused. Andy and Tabby get confrontational.

ANDY

This is my wife. We met online, got married in a country you never heard of, I accidentally booked our honeymoon at a retirement community, and now she's a lesbian.

TABBY

That's right! I like girls. They smell nice!

ANDY

And yes, technically we're not in a traditional marriage, but we're sticking it out, you hear me?

TABBY

Girls are softer too, and I like boobs and I don't like back hair!

ANDY

And she's not going to America. And I'm not going to jail. Because this is our relationship - and no matter what you say, no matter what you think you know - it's a good one, and she deserves to be here, with me.

TABBY

Penises are weird, and they inflate like balloons, but with blood.

ANDY

And maybe we did lie, and maybe we tried to pretend to be something we're not, and one day this might all fall apart... but that's every marriage, and at least between now and then, I'm with my best friend, day and night.

(beat)

Metaphorically, because she moved into the guest room.

TABBY

I had to. Because he gets erections when he sleeps.

ANDY

(defiantly)

Yeah! Because I dream about what would happen if She-Ra and He-Man weren't brother and sister.

TABBY

So you stamp your forms if you have to. Send me back - but it won't be home. Because this is my home, and I'm not living a lie any more.

ANDY

We're not living a lie.

Tabby picks up some papers and throws them in the air.

TABBY

Boom.

The guy across the table just stares, almost blankly. And then the door behind them opens up, and CLARKSON, the CIC agent looks in, reading off a file.

CLARKSON

Okay, Mister Kazbekov, I've looked over your file and we're trying to find a translator, but--

Clarkson looks up to see Andy and Tabby standing and papers all over the place. Tabby and Andy look suddenly confused.

CLARKSON (cont'd)

What are you doing here?

ANDY
 (confused)
 We came for our interview. Is this...
 not the right room?

CLARKSON
 Marriage investigations are across
 the hall.

TABBY
 Then who's this guy?

The man across the table cocks his head.

CLARKSON
 This is Mister Kazbekov. We just got
 word that his family were all
 murdered trying to escape Chechnya.

ANDY
 He's not an immigration agent?

CLARKSON
 No. He can't even speak English. Not
 a single word.
 (slow and loud)
 Your family! They're all dead!
 (to Tabby)
 See? Nothing.
 (to the man)
 Your wife! Was dismembered!

ANDY
 Holy shit, dude.

Mr Kazbekov just smiles and holds up his papers.

CLARKSON
 I'm just waiting for a translator to
 call in so we can let him know.

TABBY
 Okay, I guess we'll just go across
 the hall. Sorry about... this.

ANDY
 Yeah.
 (loudly, to Kazbekov)
 Sorry! Welcome to Canada!

Tabby and Andy back toward the door and out of the room.

INT. GOVERNMENT HALLWAY - DAY

The door closes behind Tabby and Andy. They let out a breath. Then they hear a PHONE RING in the room they just left.

A door across the hall is labeled; "MARRIAGE INVESTIGATION."

ANDY

So I guess this is it. Again.

In the quiet of the hallway, MR KAZBEKOV is suddenly heard crying loudly the room they just left.

TABBY

I guess it is.

She looks to Andy. Andy reaches out and opens the door.

PRELAP: THE SOUND OF AIRPLANE LANDING.

FADE TO WHITE.

EXT. AIRPORT - 2 YEARS AGO - DAY

A SUDDENLY STARK AND RAW DOCUMENTARY FEEL TAKES OVER.

TITLE OVER: TWO AND A HALF YEARS AGO...

Andy stands nervously outside an airport. Something's different about him, he's more real... he's not in a sitcom.

INT. AIRPORT - 2 YEARS AGO - CONTINUOUS

Andy walks through the airport. It's a different world, crowded and real - and with fewer jokes.

CUT TO:

INT. AIRPORT - 2 YEARS AGO - MOMENTS LATER

Andy stands at the arrivals board looking for information.

CUT TO:

INT. AIRPORT - 2 YEARS AGO - MOMENTS LATER

Andy sips a coffee nervously. He pulls out his phone, opens it up and finds an email and a PICTURE OF TABBY. He gets up, nearly bumps into someone - apologizes.

CUT TO:

INT. AIRPORT - 2 YEARS AGO - MOMENTS LATER

Andy stands at the international arrivals waiting impatiently. He watches as people come out of the doors. Everyone is kissing and hugging. It's like that bullshit at the beginning of "Love, Actually."

Andy checks his phone again, doesn't see a text. But when he looks up, his face changes.

Standing near the doors is Tabby.

Tabby smiles, also more real - less oblivious, more subdued.

Andy takes a step toward her. They meet, and in the hesitation between them... he puts out his hand.

TABBY
Handshake, really?

ANDY
I thought I should introduce myself
or... I don't know.

Tabby takes his hand. They can't stop looking at each other.

ANDY (cont'd)
You're real.

TABBY
I'm real.

And they hug, so hard. Andy feels her face against his, maybe tears, maybe sweat, maybe his, maybe hers... he kisses her cheek. She grips him tightly.

FADE TO WHITE.

INT. LOCAL 510 - NIGHT

Benji, Celine, Kevin and Evelyn all sit in a booth looking dejectedly at their drinks. Evelyn is sadly drinking beer.

BENJI
This place is depressing without Tab
and Andy.
(everyone agrees)
I just want to cry and eat a cupcake.

And then a voice reaches them.

ANDY (O.S.)
 Better cancel the pity party
 everybody...

They all look and find Andy and Tabby looking triumphant.

TABBY
 Surprise!

Celine smiles big.

CELINE
 You're back!

BENJI
 How did this happen?

Andy and Tabby join them, brandishing some papers.

ANDY
 We're conditionally approved!

Excited muttering ensues.

TABBY
 All we have to do is go back and
 check in every two months.

KEVIN
 So, wait, they didn't care that
 you're a lesbian?

TABBY
 Oh, no, they cared - but it turns out
 that so long as we live together and
 don't commit adultery, they're not
 allowed to kick me out for being gay.

ANDY
 It's a human rights violation!

KEVIN
 So, you legally have to live with
 someone who doesn't want to sleep
 with you, but you aren't allowed to
 make out with anyone else?

TABBY
 Yup.

KEVIN
 Won't that just make you miserable?

ANDY

Probably.

EVELYN

Sounds like marriage to me.

Kevin looks at Evelyn and she catches herself. Kevin smiles, they high-five. They actually have a sense of humour.

Andy looks back toward the bar.

ANDY

Bar keep! Another round!

Andy and Tabby are welcomed into the booth by their friends with warm conversation. Travis arrives with drinks for all, and a CUPCAKE for Benji.

BENJI

Aw, Travis! Thank you!

Travis goes away.

BENJI (cont'd)

I swear, he's the best.

CELINE

I think he has a crush on you.

BENJI

Oh, no, we made out yesterday.

CELINE

What?

BENJI

It was great. He's super sweet.

Andy and Tabby like being among their friends. They sit together and drink.

END OF ACT THREE

TAG**EXT. RILEY PARK - DAY**

In a nice park, Andy and Tabby sit on a bench eating some take-out hamburgers. Andy points out a girl.

ANDY
What about her?

Tabby looks at the girl. She has a nice dress on.

TABBY
Yep. For sure.

ANDY
What? Okay... her.

TABBY
Her too.

ANDY
How can all these women be lesbians?

TABBY
I don't know, they just are.

ANDY
And you swear gay-dar is a real thing.

TABBY
You've heard of it right?

ANDY
I've heard of a lot of dumb things.

A jogger named LIZ spots Andy and waves.

TABBY
Who's that?

ANDY
My ex-girlfriend. From before you.

TABBY
She's a lesbian for sure.

ANDY
What? Come on! Dammit.

Andy sighs and eats some fries.

ANDY (cont'd)
What about that one?

Tabby looks, steals some of his fries.

TABBY
Are you talking about the dog or the
girl?

ANDY
The girl!

TABBY
Oh, yeah, she is.

ANDY
But the dog isn't.

TABBY
No, the dog is too.

FADE OUT.