

How I Met Your Mother

"Lucky Line"

by
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COLD OPEN

EXT. NEW YORK CITY - DAY

Aerial view of the city.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Kids, the fall of 2011 was an exciting time.

INT. MARSHALL AND LILY'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Marshall wakes up alone in his suit on the bed. Lily enters holding a pregnancy test.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Your Uncle Marshall and Aunt Lily were pregnant.

MARSHALL

Lily, it's miracle! I didn't get sick!

LILY

I know, baby. I'm pregnant.

They embrace.

EXT. SIDEWALK - AFTERNOON

Barney talks to Nora after running into her on the street for the first time since standing her up.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Your Uncle Barney had recently realized he was in love with not one but two different women.

BARNEY

I'll call you. You look beautiful, by the way. And here I thought it was too late for sundresses.

NORA

It's never too late, Barney.

BARNEY

Challenge accepted.

Pull back to reveal Robin looking at Barney, a revelation of her feelings for Barney evident on her face.

INT. WORLDWIDE NEWS - DAY

Robin is introduced by Anna on her first day at Worldwide News.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Aunt Robin finally started working for Worldwide News, a legitimate news organization, and was taking her career to the next level.

Anna introduces Robin to the new "Hardfire" host, Sandy Rivers.

ANNA

Sandy, this is--

SANDY

Robin!

ANNA

You two know each other.

SANDY

Know each other? We've had sex!

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Ok, so it was a first step at least.

INT. TED'S APARTMENT - AFTERNOON

Ted sits on the couch. His cell phone rings.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

As for me, well, I was about to get a call that would change my life forever.

TED

(into phone)

Teddy Westside.

WOMAN (O.S.)

Hi. This is...Vicky.

TED

Hi...Vicky.

WOMAN (O.S.)

Teddy Westside, what's the dirtiest thing you would do to me?

END OF COLD OPEN

ACT ONEINT. MACLAREN'S - NIGHT

Lily, Marshall, and Robin sit in the booth. Ted and Barney enter.

TED

(to Barney)

I'm just saying that if I had to, I could satisfy these women over the phone.

ROBIN

No, you couldn't.

LILY

What women?

TED

I started getting calls for some 900 number called "Lucky Line". It's like a sex chat line that women call for...oral pleasure.

Barney's hand is already raised. He's nodding and waiting for a high-five with a huge grin.

TED (CONT'D)

(to Barney)

No.

Barney puts his hand back down, dejected.

TED (CONT'D)

Apparently, I have the same number but with the local area code.

LILY

And your plan is to please these women, orally--

Barney starts to raise his hand again for a high-five.

LILY (CONT'D)

(to Barney)

No.

Barney puts his arm back down, again dejected.

LILY (CONT'D)

--instead of just changing your number?

TED

Why should I have to change MY number?
It has sentimental value. I've had the
same number for 10 years!

CUT TO:

INT. CELL PHONE STORE - DAY - TEN YEARS EARLIER

Young Ted and Marshall hold oversized cell phones from a decade ago, blown away by the technology. An enthusiastic SALESPERSON helps Ted pick his phone number.

SALESPERSON

And what do you want as your prefix?
You can do 564, 876, 420--

Ted and Marshall burst into giggles.

TED AND MARSHALL

Four-twenty!

BACK TO:

INT. MACLAREN'S - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Ted and Marshall high-five. Barney puts his hand up hoping to get one as well but does not.

BARNEY

Ok. Fine, Ted. Just remember, this is
for your own good.

TED

What, are you--

BARNEY

(To Marshall)
Your Honor.
(To Robin and Lily)
Ladies of the Jury--

TED

This isn't a courtroom, Barney.

MARSHALL

I'll allow it. Continue.

BARNEY

We are gathered here today--

TED

Not a church either.

BARNEY

--on behalf of my future client, Jane Doe McLonely-Parts, and her insatiable libido.

ROBIN

Nice.

BARNEY.

The prosecution will prove, with decisive testimony from the defendant himself, that Ted Mosby is not manly enough to satisfy her, orally, or with any body part otherwise.

TED

Objection. I call Robin Scherbatsky to the stand.

Robin stays silent, Buries her face in her scotch.

MARSHALL

Overruled. Prosecutor, your witness.

BARNEY

Miss Scherbatsky...Nice.

Barney puts up a hand and she quickly returns the high-five he's been seeking.

BARNEY (CONT'D)

Now, Theodore Mosby, have you, or have you not, consumed more than half a bottle of Malibu Rum--

TED

Well, sure, in high scho--

BARNEY

--SINCE turning the legal drinking age.

They stare at Ted, hanging on the answer.

TED

I have but--

They burst into laughter.

TED (CONT'D)

--that doesn't count. It was the only thing in the apartment and we were running late for the Dave Matth...ews...concert.

They laugh harder. Marshall bangs an empty glass like a gavel.

MARSHALL

Order. Order in the court.

BARNEY

Your Honor, Motion to Lawyer.

MARSHALL

Motion granted.

BARNEY

Lawyered!

Ted gets up from the table.

TED

You know what? Fine. I'll change my awesome number. It was getting in the way of my work anyway.

LILY

Ya, it must be hard to order Dave Matthews tickets with all the sex line interruptions.

They Laugh. Ted stands there, taking it.

BARNEY

But he gets to hear his "Satellite" ringtone more often.

More laughter. The laughter begins to die.

TED

That's right, I love Dave Matthews. What else ya got?

BARNEY

Who's next? Robin!

ROBIN

He's got such...you know...crazy--

TED

She doesn't know who Dave Matthews is.

LILY

Ugh. Canadian.
(to Marshall)
Baby?

Marshall looks around, trying to be invisible, finally making eye contact with Ted.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Then Marshall and I had one of our telepathic conversations.

MARSHALL (V.O.)

Ted, please don't tell them who drank the other--

TED

(suddenly blurts)
Marshall drank the other half of the bottle!

Ted turns and quickly exits the bar.

MARSHALL

Ted, no!

LILY

Baby?

MARSHALL

Yes. I drank it. (pause) It was delicious.

LILY

Aww. My Marshmallow is just in touch with his sensitive side.

ROBIN

I think you mean his "California" side. Huh? Am I right?

LILY

You don't know what Malibu is either, do you?

BARNEY

Well, I'm gonna make sure Ted follows through while Marshall looks for his testicles. Lily, call me when you figure out who the father of the baby is. And Robin, be less Canadian.

Barney exits.

MARSHALL

Robin, you follow football, right?

ROBIN

Does a Newfie love to roll in the snow?

MARSHALL

Wow. Just, yes or no, Canuck.

ROBIN

(defeated)

Yes. Why?

MARSHALL

I need some help picking a winner this week for my pool. I'm freaking out.

Freeze frame on Marshall.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

I should back up for a minute here, kids.

CUT TO:

INT. BARNEY'S OFFICE - DAY - THREE WEEKS EARLIER

Barney stands in his office with a white board that has NFL team names and complex equations on it. He is surveying for meaningful patterns.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

You see, football had been locked out due to contract disputes after the Superbowl, and even though it all got figured out before the season began, people were overly excited for the new season.

Barney makes a call on his phone.

BARNEY

(into phone)

Marshall, there's a big survivor pool with some other guys from the office. You want in?

INT. MARSHALL AND LILY'S LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Marshall sits on the couch while Lily paints a teddy bear on a big canvas for the new baby's room.

MARSHALL

(into phone)

Barney, I already told you, I'm not going to kill anyone. I don't care what the prize is!

INT. BARNEY'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

BARNEY

(into phone)

No, this is a different thing. That survivor pool got shut down by Chinese Intelligence. This is for football. It's a hundred dollars a person. Every week you pick a team to win, but once you pick a team you can't use them again. The person that makes it the farthest without picking a loser wins.

INT. MARSHALL AND LILY'S LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

MARSHALL

(into phone)

I don't know, Barney. Money's pretty tight and--

INT. BARNEY'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

BARNEY

(into phone)

There's three thousand entries so far.

INT. MARSHALL AND LILY'S LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

MARSHALL

(into phone)

--it would not be with \$300,000. I'm in. Wait, this pool is legal, right?

BARNEY (V.O.)

(reassuring)

Absolutely.

EXT. NEW YORK ALLEY - CONTINUOUS

Barney is finishing up spraying the white board with lighter fluid and is trying to light it on fire.

BARNEY

(into phone)

Just don't trust anyone speaking Mandarin.

BACK TO:

INT. MACLAREN'S - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Marshall pulls out a disheveled stack of papers from a briefcase.

MARSHALL

I've been studying everything and still barely squeaked out wins these past two weeks.

LILY

Momma needs a winner, Robin. There's this great pair of boots--

Marshall gives her a look of disbelief.

LILY (CONT'D)

(laughing nervously)
--that our baby is going to look so cute in! Not for me. Duh.

MARSHALL

Robin, by the time our child goes to college it's going to cost a million dollars. Big Fudge needs to win this pool.

ROBIN

Wait, you're not talking about that survivor pool the mafia runs out of Jersey, are you?

MARSHALL

Mafia? Uh, no, Robin. I'm not in a football pool run by the mafia. It's just some guys from GNB.

LILY

But, baby, didn't you say there were like 10,000 people in it? It has to be more than just the guys from GNB.

Marshall is starting to look concerned.

ROBIN

I just submitted a story on this. Ya, it's the biggest pool of it's kind. Apparently, a couple years back some guy claimed the winnings on his taxes and now he's serving 20 years in prison for being part of an illegal interstate gambling operation.

Marshall gets up from the booth calmly.

LILY
Where are you going?

MARSHALL
(looking around suspiciously)
Oh, no where. I just have to go to the
bathroom.

Marshall suddenly scrambles to collect all of the papers,
stuffs them in his briefcase, and runs to the bathroom.

LILY
(off Robin's look)
He likes to read when he's in there.

END ACT ONE

ACT TWOINT. TED'S APARTMENT - DAY

Robin sits on the couch reading a magazine. Ted enters.

ROBIN
Hey, how did the number change go?

TED
Good, I just changed the last number
from a zero to a one to make it easy.

ROBIN
(chuckling)
That's funny. I do the same thing to
avoid getting calls from creepy guys I
meet at the bar.

Ted stops. He looks horrified.

TED
You don't think--

ROBIN
Wait, Ted, you don't use that--

TED
My one-off!

Freeze frame on Ted.

NARRATOR (V.O.)
Quick lesson, kids. The one-off
technique is invaluable when you're
too nice to tell someone you're not
interested in them.

CUT TO:

INT. MACLAREN'S - NIGHT

Robin sits at the bar sipping scotch while a LIBERAL PATRON wearing corduroy pants and flannel shirt with a ponytail hits on her.

NARRATOR (V.O.)
Your Aunt Robin was a pro.

LIBERAL PATRON
--and conservatives want us to think
they're being unfairly treated, while
sipping scotch and cleaning handguns
in their mansions.

Robin chokes on her scotch.

ROBIN
(coughing)
Handguns...yes.

She moves her purse off the bar and hides it behind her back.

LIBERAL PATRON
So can I call you sometime?

ROBIN
(fake enthusiasm)
Absolutely.

She writes down a number on a napkin and calmly hands it to Liberal Patron.

NARRATOR (V.O.)
The key is to only change the last digit to avoid making a mistake under pressure.

CUT TO:

INT. MACLAREN'S - NIGHT

Ted sits chatting with a BEAUTIFUL PATRON at the bar. He is wearing a corduroy sport coat and plaid shirt.

TED
Interestingly, the 1916 Zoning Resolution limited buildings to a percentage of the lot size, which I had to incorporate--

BEAUTIFUL PATRON
--when you designed your building!

TED
Exactly!

BEAUTIFUL PATRON
Wow. Well, I have to run.

She begins to leave.

TED
Wait, can I call you sometime?

BEAUTIFUL PATRON
Oh. Uh...ya...absolutely.

She hurriedly scribbles a number down on a napkin, gives it to Ted, and exits. He looks at the number.

TED

Hey! There's only six numbers!
(looking more closely)
Is that a "d"?

BACK TO:

INT. TED'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

ROBIN

Ted, I'm sure it'll be fine. When was the last time a girl even asked for your number?

TED

Thanks.

ROBIN

I'm just saying, everyone that got the one-off would have already tried it and realized it was fake. It's not like women would just keep calling you.

Barney bursts through the front door waving a perpetually ringing cell phone playing the refrain "Two Beavers Are Better Than One" as a ringtone.

BARNEY

Guys! Guys! I got a new cell phone number and now women just keep calling me!

TED

I thought you only used burners?

BARNEY

Wow, Ted, that really hurts. After all these years, you still don't read my blog.

The ringtone continues to play.

ROBIN

Will you please just answer it already?!

Barney answers.

BARNEY
 (into phone)
 Lucky Line. Go for Teddy Westside.

Ted looks back and forth between Barney and Robin in angry realization.

BARNEY (CONT'D)
 I'm the man for the job.
 (listening)
 Listen, I don't usually do this, but
 we could meet if you want.
 (listening)
 Be right there.

Barney hangs up the phone and turns, almost walking into Ted, who is glaring at him.

BARNEY (CONT'D)
 (startled)
 Ahhh!

TED
 You convinced me to switch phone
 numbers so you could steal it?!

CUT TO:

INT. CELL PHONE STORE - DAY

Ted is getting his number changed by the same Salesperson he had 10 years earlier, who now looks beat down and disheveled, all enthusiasm long gone.

In the background, Barney stands with a fake mustache, sunglasses, and a bowler hat, listening while pretending to look at phones on the wall.

TED
 Interestingly, the 1916 Zoning Resol--

The Salesperson hands Ted his phone.

SALESPERSON
 Your building. I get it. Here.

TED
 Oh. Ok. Thanks.

Ted Exits. Barney breaks for the Salesperson the second Ted is gone.

BARNEY

I want a phone with the number that
guy just got rid of.

SALESPERSON

That's against store policy. We don't
release old numbers for a month.

BARNEY

I'll give you a hundred dollars.

SALESPERSON

(coming to life)
Do you want the "Hello Kitty" case
with it?

Barney dials on his current phone and puts it to his ear.

BARNEY

(while dialing)
My friend, it's going to be legen--
wait for it--

The stores phone rings. The salesperson answers.

SALESPERSON

(into phone)
Hello?

BARNEY

(into phone)
--DARY! Legendary! And, yes, I'll take
the case.

BACK TO:

INT. TED'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Barney hands Ted the "Hello Kitty" case.

BARNEY

(waits)
Your welcome...? Look, Ted, I did you
a favor. There's no way you could deal
with this kind of call volume. Now you
can enjoy your usual quiet time, since
women won't be calling you anymore.

Barney's phone rings again.

BARNEY (CONT'D)

See?!
(answering)
Lucky Line. Go for Teddy Westside.

Barney exits.

NARRATOR (V.O.)
And then it happened.

Ted's phone rings to the tune of "Let's Go to the Mall." He looks at the number and then at Robin, horrified.

TED
(panicking)
I don't recognize the number!

ROBIN
So ignore it. They'll leave a message.

TED
Well, that seems rude.

The ringtone continues to play.

ROBIN
Then answer it! Or silence it!

TED
Okay!
(answering, into phone)
Hello?

INT. UNKNOWN LOCATION - CONTINUOUS

ECU of Marshall's mouth.

MARSHALL
(calmly)
Ted.

INT. TED'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

TED
Marshall? How'd you get this number?
Wait, what number are you calling
from?

INT. UNKNOWN LOCATION - CONTINUOUS

ECU now of Marshall's entire face. He is wearing big, dark SUNGLASSES with a BASEBALL CAP pulled low over his shades and is using a WIRED HEADSET.

MARSHALL
Don't worry about that, Ted. It's
untraceable. I'm on burners
now...playa.

INT. TED'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Ted Hears a loudspeaker voice in the background on Marshall's end.

TED

What was that? Are you at the airport?

INT. AIRPORT BAGGAGE CLAIM - CONTINUOUS

Pull back to reveal Marshall sitting at airport baggage claim.

MARSHALL

Listen to me very carefully, Ted. I think I'm being followed.

END ACT TWO

ACT THREEINT. AIRPORT BAGGAGE CLAIM - LATER

Marshall sits on a bench beside travellers waiting for their luggage, his sketchy disguise having the opposite of its intended effect. Suddenly Barney walks past talking on his phone.

BARNEY
(into phone)
Perfect. Baggage claim. One hour.

Barney hangs up the phone.

MARSHALL
Barney?

BARNEY
(panicking)
He's got plastic explosives in his shoe!

Marshall removes the glasses and hat.

MARSHALL
Barney! It's me!

BARNEY
Geez, Marshall! Word of advice: If you're gonna sneak up on people at the airport try not to look like you're hiding box cutters. What are you doing here, anyway?

FREEZE FRAME ON MARSHALL.

NARRATOR (V.O.)
What was Marshall doing at the airport?

CUT TO:

INT. MARSHALL'S CAR - EARLIER

Marshall gleefully bobs his head to music while driving. He pulls up to a stoplight. His phone rings.

NARRATOR (V.O.)
After Robin told your Uncle Marshall the survivor pool was a federal crime, he began to notice all the little things he did that were illegal.

Marshall looks at the phone's screen and answers.

MARSHALL
 (into phone)
 Hey, Lily.

LILY (V.O.)
 Hey, baby, what are you doing?

MARSHALL
 (into phone)
 Just driving to--

Marshall turns his head to notice a police car at the light next to him. He slowly pulls the phone away from his ear, rolls down his window, and drops the phone onto the street.

CUT TO:

INT. MARSHALL AND LILY'S LIVING ROOM - LATER

Marshall sits with his computer by the window, bobbing his head to a song playing on the speakers. He dials a number on his new cell phone.

MARSHALL
 (into phone)
 Lily! I just downloaded a new album
 that you are gonna love!
 (listening)
 I know. I'm burning it for you right
 now--

Marshall's eyes get big. He slowly pulls the phone away from his ear, opens the window beside him, and drops the phone out. The disc ejects from the computer and he drops that out the window as well.

CUT TO:

EXT. NEW YORK STREET - LATER

Marshall walks down the street, bobbing his head, enjoying the sunshine. A SHADOWY FIGURE dressed in a TRENCH COAT steps out of an alley and blocks Marshall.

SHADOWY FIGURE
 Time to square up, you and I.

Marshall freezes and slowly removes this newest phone from his pocket. He suddenly throws it at the Shadowy Figure and runs away down the street, arms flailing.

BACK TO:

INT. AIRPORT BAGGAGE CLAIM - CONTINUOUS

Barney shakes his head at Marshall like he has lost his mind.

BARNEY

That's Raymond! He's in charge of collecting the money for the pool.

MARSHALL

Why was he dressed like a 1950s mobster?

BARNEY

What? Oh, the trench coat. He flashes in his spare time. Like a hobby.

Barney's phone rings.

BARNEY (CONT'D)

(into phone)

Lucky Line. Go for Teddy Westside.

INT. NORA'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Nora sits at her desk at Worldwide News.

NORA

(into phone)

Oh, I'm sorry...wait, Barney?

INT. AIRPORT BAGGAGE CLAIM - CONTINUOUS

INTERCUT AS NEEDED - BARNEY AND NORA ON PHONE

BARNEY

Nora! Were you just calling Ted?

NORA

Your number was disconnected. Robin told me to try Ted's number. What's Lucky Line?

BARNEY

It's...a gambling hot line. Ya, to help with people's addiction. I just sort of fell into it.

NORA

Well, that's very kind of you, Barney.

BARNEY

Could we meet? I'd really like to tell you how sorry I am.

NORA

I don't know Barney...

BARNEY

Please? Just one drink. MacLaren's in an hour?

NORA

Ok. One drink.

END INTERCUT

Barney hangs up the phone.

BARNEY

That was Nora. I gotta go, Marshall.

He starts to leave, then turns back.

BARNEY (CONT'D)

Oh, and lose the earpiece. You look like a drug dealer from 1999, post-pager, pre-bluetooth.

Barney turns to exit and almost runs into Ted again.

BARNEY (CONT'D)

Ah! Jesus, Ted! You're like a cobweb. Here, take the phone back!

Barney exits.

TED

Where's he going?

MARSHALL

Nora just called. He's going to meet up with her.

TED

Nora called Lucky Line?! I knew I shouldn't have changed my number. (pause) So why do you look like you're about to break bad. And what's with the earpiece?

MARSHALL

I don't know, Matt Damon always uses one for sketchy airport meetings--

TED

Train stations.

MARSHALL

Whatever. Plus, I've been going through a lot of phones lately and there's one of those prepaid phone kiosks over there.

Ted sits down next to Marshall.

MARSHALL (CONT'D)

I'm going to be a dad, Ted.

TED

(sarcastic)

Try not to sound so excited.

MARSHALL

You don't understand. What if I make a huge mistake and I'm not around? I miss my dad so much, and he was around for my whole life until now. I can't bear the thought of my child growing up without a father.

TED

You can't live like that, Marshall. You can eliminate certain risks, like maybe don't hang out at the airport dressed like an assassin--

MARSHALL

The earpiece is pretty cool, right?

TED

Totally. But if you never take any chances, how's that kid going to learn from his dad's mistakes?

Marshall considers this.

MARSHALL

Between you, me and Barney, we've probably made every mistake there is.

FREEZE FRAME ON MARSHALL

NARRATOR (V.O.)

He couldn't have been more wrong, but more on that in a second.

UNFREEZE

MARSHALL

You're going to be a really great dad someday, Ted.

Ted looks at both phones in his hands.

TED
(not so sure)
Someday.

Marshall pats Ted on the leg and stands.

MARSHALL
I better get home. Lily's probably
worried sick. She doesn't have my up-
to-date contact information.
(waves phone)
You coming?

TED
No, I'm gonna hang here for a minute.
There's something so hopeful about
people reuniting at the airport.

MARSHALL
You want the earpiece?

TED
Definitely.

CUT TO:

INT. MACLAREN'S - LATER

Barney enters. Nora is waiting for him at the bar.

NARRATOR (V.O.)
While Marshall was trying to limit his
mistakes, your uncle Barney was on a
mission to correct one of his own.

Barney approaches Nora. She smiles when she sees him.

BARNEY
Thanks for meeting me. I know I don't
deserve a second chance--

NORA
Barney. I miss you.

Barney kisses her.

WOMAN'S VOICE (O.S.)
Teddy Westside?!

Barney and Nora abruptly stop kissing. The woman's voice
belongs to AMY, a voluptuous blonde, who is standing next to
Barney, incredulous.

AMY

You said I was the only caller you
ever met up with!

NORA

What's going on, Barney?

Barney scrambles for an answer.

BARNEY

I can explain. Nora, this is Jennifer--

AMY

Amy.

BARNEY

--who I've been helping through her
addiction. She...rides...the horses.
Until she's spent. Her money!

AMY

Horses? More like a pony. Jerk.

Amy slaps Barney and leaves. Nora grabs her jacket and gets
up to leave.

NORA

(to herself)
Gambling hot line...

BARNEY

Wait, Nora. I made a mistake. That was
before you called!

She begins to exit.

BARNEY (CONT'D)

Here, I turn the other cheek. Slap
away.

She stops and looks at him.

NORA

What would it change? You'd probably
just hurt my hand, too.

Nora exits. Barney stands alone, devastated. He sits down at
the bar and signals for a drink.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Kids, if you only remember one thing I say, let it be this: Everyone makes mistakes.

CUT TO:

INT. MARSHALL AND LILY'S LIVING ROOM - LATER

Marshall sits with his laptop while Lily paints.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Mistakes can give you the strength to face your fears.

Marshall ejects a CD from his laptop and walks over to Lily to give the disc to her.

MARSHALL

Lily, I burned a CD for you. All the songs that remind me of my dad...and make me excited to be a dad.

LILY

This is one lucky baby.

They embrace.

CUT TO:

INT. TED'S APARTMENT - LATER

Robin sits on the couch with a BOTTLE of MALIBU RUM in her hand. She is listening to DAVE MATTHEWS BAND while drinking directly from the bottle.

Barney enters. His usual crisp suit is disheveled and he's dragging the jacket.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Or help you realize something you've always known.

Robin looks at Barney, embarrassed by the situation.

ROBIN

(holds out the bottle)
Want to have a drink with me?

Barney looks at her intently, his face warming up.

BARNEY

I'd love to.

He walks over, accepts the bottle, and sits beside her.

CUT TO:

INT. AIRPORT BAGGAGE CLAIM - LATER

Ted sits alone with the earpiece in, observing the people around him laughing and hugging.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

And sometimes, well, a mistake might just put you in the exact right spot at the exact right time.

An attractive woman, blonde, 30, approaches Ted.

ATTRACTIVE WOMAN

Mind if I sit down?

TED

Not at all. (pause) Come here often?

Ted grimaces at his own comment. She laughs.

ATTRACTIVE WOMAN

Actually, yes. I find it inspiring.

Ted is suddenly very interested.

ATTRACTIVE WOMAN (CONT'D)

Cool earpiece by the way. You look like Jason Bourne, except, you know, at an airport.

Ted is locked in.

TED

I'm Ted.

ATTRACTIVE WOMAN

I'm Vanessa. Really nice to meet you, Ted.

END ACT THREE

TAGINT. TED'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Robin and Barney are under the dining room table eating SANDWICHES and listening to DAVE MATTHEWS BAND. Robin sits while Barney lays with his head in her lap. An empty bottle of Malibu lays on it side next to them.

BARNEY

I'm under the table.

ROBIN

(with a mouthful of sandwich)
Check.

BARNEY

How come I'm not dreaming?

ROBIN

Maybe we need more ants marching.

BARNEY

Ants?! Where?!

Barney sits up quickly and hits his head on the table.

BARNEY (CONT'D)

Owww.

ROBIN

Oh! Are you alright?

He puts his head back down on Robin's lap. She rubs the spot on his head that hit the table, half-concerned and half-giggling.

BARNEY

Dave must eat a lot of really good sandwiches.

They both crack up at this.

END OF EPISODE