

Paperwork

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CAST

LAWYER 1

LAWYER 2

YOUNG ANDIE

YOUNG DEVYN

OLD ANDIE

OLD DEVYN

SILHOUETTES (2-4 PEOPLE)

Lights up.

Possible light plays with each lawyer's office speaking, or lights always on both offices.

A lawyer's office. Two lawyers sit at each table, one stage left, one stage right. Two couples enter from stage right and stage left. They sit facing full-back, facing each lawyer.

LAWYER 1/LAWYER 2: So, what brings you in today?

YOUNG ANDIE: A marriage

OLD ANDIE: A divorce

YOUNG DEVYN: You can't just ask for marriage, you need the paperwork

OLD DEVYN: You can't just ask for a divorce, you need the paperwork

LAWYER 1: Ah how lovely! How long have you been together?

YOUNG ANDIE: Well we've been dating for 4 years, but now engaged for a year and a half

YOUNG DEVYN: And we finally decided to say screw it and tie the knot! I love you yesterday my sunshine.

YOUNG ANDIE: I love you today and tomorrow!

YOUNG DEVYN: And I'll love you forever

OLD ANDIE: 17 years married? Maybe 18 and a half, I always forget that engagement year.

OLD DEVYN: Wouldn't it be so nice if you could remember an anniversary for once? Some wife you turned out to be.

OLD ANDIE: Oh don't you start, at least I can remember to put on a nice outfit before going to a lawyer's office

OLD DEVYN: At least I can remember to shower and at least look like I am happy to be here.

OLD ANDIE: Oh sunshine, I am more than happy to be here.

LAWYER 2: No need to fret, we can start a file today. But there are a lot of questions I need to ask you first.

LAWYER 1: So there is no confusion going forward, and we can all be on the same page.

Sounds good to all?

YOUNG/OLD ANDIE AND DEVYN nod in agreement

LAWYER 1: So, starting, do you have any children? Or well, plan to have children?

OLD DEVYN: We have three. Rebecca, our oldest. She's currently a senior in high school and planning to go to UNC next fall to study education. Oh, we are so proud of her. Rachel, our middle child, is in between activities, but she's finding herself. then Parker, our youngest, who is really into basketball, can shoot a hoop like no other! They're 17, 15, and 12.

As OLD DEVYN lists their names, the three children appear in silhouette, appear between the two desks, each presenting as their individuals

OLD ANDIE: His name is Robbie, please stop using Rachel. It has been over a year now since he came out to us. You need to let it go and move on. We have one daughter and two sons. And you wonder why he barely speaks to you anymore!

Rachel removes from the scene, and enters Robbie, taking Rachel's place in the children's silhouette

YOUNG DEVYN: Well we are hoping to have at least 2 or 3. Don't say anything, but I am hoping the first one is a girl! Our little family. We can all get matching shirts with our last names. Even though I would love to have a little guy to run around with, I want all girls. See them grow up, teach them how a man should treat them, all of those good things. Being a classic dad to my daughters is all I have ever wanted. I mean, besides my beautiful wife, and a million dollars!

YOUNG ANDIE: But...no matter who they turn out to be, we will love them anyway. I want to do all the cheesy family activities, road trips, family Christmas cards, all of it. We will love them as they are, and who they decide to be, sunshine.

Three Children exit

LAWYER 2: Well custody may be a bit tricky then. But we can come back to that as I know it is a sensitive topic, and I need some more information first. I am under the impression that you still live together. In a house? Some kind of condo? Perhaps a boathouse?

YOUNG ANDIE: Currently we are in the process of getting our first house. I am a teacher, yes? But I have been picking up extra shifts tutoring and working our after-school daycare programs to make an extra few bucks! Devyn has been working more at his tech company. I'll be honest, I don't know where he goes every day, or what he does, which does worry me. Sometimes I'll call the office and he won't be in, but I imagine that he's on some tech business. But, it sure does bring home the bacon!

OLD ANDIE: I'm in the house. With my kids. On the property under my name.

OLD DEVYN: First of all, it is our house and our kids. I am staying at an apartment with a friend since as the fighting got worse, she kicked me out, but she still has my favorite limited edition Karate Kid II VHS.

OLD ANDIE: Some friend she is, and you are not getting that VHS back, not until I get my golden garden gnome back! You know how much I love that thing!

OLD DEVYN: I bought it for you as a gift! Me! I bought it! Mine! M-I-N-E!

OLD ANDIE: Do you not understand what a gift is? You gave it away! As a present! For me! Just wait till I sell your VHS! Ooooooo, isn't it signed as well? That'll make really good money to buy me more gnomes.

LAWYER 2: Okay I don't give a shit about any garden gnomes! Now relax or I'll keep you two married by law!

OLD ANDIE/DEVYN settle down, as we cut back to the past

LAWYER 1: Ah yes friends, carrying on. Back to business. Name changes? Devyn, do you want Andie to take your last name which is...Bonner (boner)?

YOUNG DEVYN: It's pronounced 'Boo-ner!' But yes, I do want Andie, my little sunshine, to take my last name. I want us to be the Bonners.

YOUNG ANDIE: Yep, I am so cool with being Andie Harry Booner.

LAWYER 1: Wait a second...your middle name is Harry?

YOUNG ANDIE: My grandmother's first name was Harriett. She was very important to my father, and he was my favorite child. So when I popped out first, they didn't know if they were going to have more, so they gave me Andie, my mother's sister's name, and Harry, my dad's mother's name. Do I know why it is Harry and not Harriett? No. Did my parents ever consider what last names I could end up with? Nope!

YOUNG DEVYN: What's that supposed to mean babe? It's 'BOO-ner,' and people barely think it is boner. Every once in a blue moon! That shouldn't be something to worry about. Especially not when you're a teacher. They'll all think 'Oh! BOO-ner! Mrs. BOO-ner. What a cool name!'

OLD ANDIE: I would rather swallow glass than be Andie Harry Booner any longer. Do you know how many laughs I have gotten from students? Do you know how many jokes I have gotten from my parents since I changed my name? Do you know how many years I got birthday gifts from girlfriends, and co-workers, that were penis themed? Almost twenty years of that! On the last day of school last year, the senior prank was covering my car in tiny BOOners.

A silhouette goes by of a cardboard car covered in 'boners'.

Have fun.

OLD DEVYN: Oh c'mon it wasn't that terrible. That is a little funny that they did that. A good laugh before they graduate!

OLD ANDIE: This is the third year in a row I have gotten a flask as a gift that says “A. Harry Booner.” From the principal!

OLD DEVYN: Suits you right they gifted you a flask.

OLD ANDIE: Not now. Please not now.

LAWYER 2: So, if you both have, sort of suitable living environments, now comes the question of custody? We could make this easy for everyone and does a clean split?

OLD ANDIE: I want full custody

OLD DEVYN: With your drunk ass? You still smell like whiskey from over here! The last time I went to go drop off the kids from school, you could barely stand you were so drunk! I don't even know how you haven't gotten fired from your job! You work with kids every day and yet you smell like a pub!

LAWYER 2: Mrs. Booner-

OLD ANDIE: It's Ms. Fanny now.

LAWYER 2: Your maiden name is Fanny? A. Harry Fanny

OLD ANDIE: Yes, and?

LAWYER 2: ...If you want to fight for full custody, you need to be sober, no judge is going to give you three children if you're falling on your ass drunk at the age of 40.

OLD DEVYN: I would split custody. But I don't think Rachel wants to see me anyway.

OLD ANDIE: At least I can respect my child's wishes, and what they want to fucking go by!

OLD DEVYN: At least I can be sober for more than 48 hours

OLD ANDIE: At least I can keep it in my pants for the person I married, BONER.

LAWYER 2: Okay, relax you two, this isn't going to work if you cannot behave. And you wonder why your marriage did not work! Now, Ms. Fanny. Drinking. Would you care to speak about that? Is drinking the only issue present?

OLD ANDIE: Okay well it isn't an issue first of all. Second of all how dare you bring up my marriage that is so-

OLD DEVYN: *cutting her off* Sir, do you mind if I speak on this for a second? I cannot remember the last time she didn't smell like a goddamn bottle of Vodka. When we were younger, then maybe early twenties...

SHADOW FAMILY APPEARS

OLD DEVYN: We went to bars, and we partied. Had a great time. But it was her 24th birthday I first noticed the drinking. It wasn't even 10:00 pm and she was hammered already. Stumbling across the bar. I didn't overthink it, it was her birthday after all. Then I noticed the liquor cabinet becoming stocked, more people coming over to the house, and her going to Wine Nights with the girls. When we started having issues in our marriage, it was a lot worse. I feel bad for the kids. Rebecca, Rach...Robbie, and Parker, they've had to see so many terrible things at so young. She would be drunk almost every night, then she started getting into pills. Some guy at her work was the supplier, I don't even know what she was on. It took one of my fucking children to find her passed out on the couch. She had overdosed. I rushed home, and I thought my wife was dead. We went to the hospital then I took her to rehab. Told her she wasn't coming home until she was sober. This was about 6 months ago, I know she's clean from drugs, and I make her pee on a stick every week. Alcohol I can't speak for, I don't live at the house anymore but I know the kids keep her in check.

Possibly silhouette works with the drinking sequence

There is a long pause

LAWYER 1: Do you know something sweet? To lighten this already light mood? I remember my first home with my wife, she was such a silly goose. We even put up little signs that say "Meet the Dinkersteins!" It was a cute little cottage with a garden in the front yard...

As *LAWYER 1* blabs on, *LAWYER 2*, *OLD ANDIE/DEVYN* shoots *LAWYER 1* a death stare

LAWYER 1: Sorry, I get excited. Now, do either of you have a will? I know that's thinking ahead of time since you're both so young, but any will's across the board? Any will to live?

OLD DEVYN: I want her out of my will. Zip, nada, zero. She gets absolutely nothing. All of it can go to my kids. Split evenly between the three of them. They get everything. But you know what she gets? Nothing! Not my car, not anything from my man cave, not my special box.

OLD ANDIE: Oh my god.

LAWYER 2: Out of pure curiosity, May I ask what's in the box?

Could have fun with silhouettes here

OLD DEVYN: Oh it's just some old childhood memories. A signed baseball card from Derek Jeter, jewelry from my mother, a pair of hulk hands, a fake Rolex, the world's largest gummy bear, and a few old photos of my childhood best friends. The 5 amigos we'd call each other. Hannah, Jason, Patrick, and Lily.

OLD DEVYN speaks of his childhood friends, and they appear in the same shadows the children appeared in, but *LILY* is more noticeable than the rest

OLD DEVYN: Some pals they were. They have been with me the whole ride. We even all went to the same university! She... They are just so special. They were all there sending me off when I went on my first work trip a few years back. Unlike some people.

OLD ANDIE: I should have left you the minute you returned from that trip. The second you left, I had a gut feeling that what was going to happen.

YOUNG ANDIE looks over at OLD ANDIE, OLD ANDIE cannot make eye contact

OLD ANDIE: Actually, I really should have known even before that first work trip.

OLD DEVYN friends fade away besides LILY. A shadow figure representing DEVYN enters the scene. He walks in holding a bouquet full of lilies.

LAWYER 2: Again, out of curiosity, and case-building purposes, May I ask what happened?

OLD ANDIE: Oh of course. I'm surprised you haven't heard about it already. He has been cheating on me for years with Lily. I should have known better. No one just happens to start a garden of specifically one flower. All those late nights you would come home smelling fruitier than when you kissed me goodbye that same morning. You always spent like oak wood, then sometimes like me, that same sweet candy perfume I always wore. Then you started smelling fruity. The first time I saw you out together I almost lost my mind.

SHADOW LILY/DEVYN and a *SHADOW ANDIE* appear to start to act out *OLD ANDIE'S* words

OLD ANDIE: It was about a year ago now. I happened to go to the next town over, starting to research and look for clothes for Robbie. I came across the ice cream shop we went to on our first date. I remember it so vividly. I was walking by and peeked in the window to see if it still looked the same. In the back corner, I saw you two together. Laughing, giggling, you were wearing that smile I hadn't seen since our last child was born. You were having chocolate ice cream. You have hated chocolate ice cream since the first day I met you. I knew it was you because I called you, and you sent me to voicemail. It was like I had just gotten shot. She booped your nose with ice cream and you pulled her in by the chin and kissed her. That is how you kissed me on our wedding day, the same way you kissed her. You looked so happy. The little light I had left for you, is completely gone. The rain had come back. And I, have never felt so terrible and so sick to my stomach so quickly.

The SHADOW characters fade off stage, and YOUNG ANDIE is still starring at OLD ANDIE, starting to tear up

YOUNG DEVYN: Babe? Sunshine, are you okay?

YOUNG ANDIE snaps back into young reality

YOUNG ANDIE: Oh, so sorry, I zoned out for a minute there. Sorry sunshine, and Mr. Dinkerstien.

LAWYER 1: No worries at all my dear! Now, this is something I like to ask all of my couples looking to get married. I am going to give each of you a piece of paper. I want you to both take a few moments, and write down why you want to marry the other person. I find it very intimate, and a practice round for your vows.

LAWYER 2: So, before we finalize some of these things, I am going to ask each of you one last question, are you positive you want this divorce? Because once you both agree, there is no going back without a lot more money lost, and a lot of time you both don't want to waste. Yeah? Are you both positive?

OLD ANDIE/DEVYN look at each other

YOUNG DEVYN: I'll never forget the day I first laid eyes on you.

Silhouettes appear, I am imagining a wedding, then the two fade away, get creative!

YOUNG DEVYN: My sophomore year of college, you for some reason sat next to me in our Russian literature class and you never stopped talking since, and I've loved every minute of it. Your hair was tied back into a tight ponytail, and you had these big clunky glasses that you still wear when you're reading at night. You were wearing this royal purple color, your eyes were such a vibrant green. I remember the color of your lipstick, what necklace you wore, every little detail. Everything. You are the reason I live and breathe. I like to think our souls have become

intertwined, as we have finally found each other like we were always supposed to. To quote F Scott Fitzgerald, You are the finest, loveliest, tenderest, and most beautiful person I have ever known and even that is an understatement. You are my love, my light. I cannot wait to spend the rest of my life with you, my sunshine.

OLD DEVYN: *tearing up*, Yes, I want the divorce.

YOUNG ANDIE: My darling, my sunshine. Oh, how I've loved every second with you. Since you've come into my life, everything has changed. You've made the rain go away, and you, my sunshine, have appeared. You weren't at all what I was expecting I will be honest. When I first saw you, I didn't expect to fall in love with you. But our love, me falling for you, the life we've created together is the single greatest thing I have done. Maybe the greatest thing I'll do in my life. And I, am forever grateful. For us, for you, for our future. I love you yesterday,

YOUNG DEVYN: I love you today and tomorrow.

YOUNG ANDIE: And I'll love you forever.

OLD ANDIE: Yes.

Blackout

End of Show.

