

SPEAKERS CORNER: THE MOVIE

by

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FADE IN:

EXT. QUEEN STREET WEST - MORNING

The morning rush is in full swing along Queen Street West, a trendy section of Toronto, home to chi-chi restaurants, funky clothing stores, second-hand bookstores, and a popular coffee bar called The Java Lounge.

INT. THE JAVA LOUNGE - MORNING

In front of a blackboard that reads "A day without coffee is like television without cable," a pair of hands expertly prepares various lattes, cappuccinos, and espressos that are quickly scooped up by other, more desperate, hands.

People exit with their coffees through one door while those in search of their caffeine fix still enter through the other door. It's a system that works until...

EXT. THE JAVA LOUNGE - CONTINUING

...SAMANTHA (Sam) HARRIS, 22, a smouldering beauty, tries to enter the out door with an oversized backpack and guitar case at the same time as boy-next-door SCOTT HOGAN, 21, exits with two cups of takeout coffee, one in each hand.

With her head down, she murmurs an apology to no one in particular and moves to the other line as

MONTAGE - SCOTT'S PREVIOUS SIGHTINGS OF SAM

Scott flashes on previous sightings of Sam: Laughing and tossing her hair at The Java Lounge; walking along the street with her guitar; entering a dance club called Insomniacs, etc.

BACK TO SCENE

If Sam were to notice, she'd see he's utterly smitten with her, a fact clearly evident to the bike courier behind him.

BIKE COURIER

It blows, doesn't it? When they don't even know you're alive! It's all in the eyes, you know. They're the window to the heart.

Scott watches Sam go to the counter, then turns and hands one of the coffees to JIMMY, 40s, a grizzled-looking panhandler who works this section of sidewalk.

SCOTT

Here you go, Jimmy.

JIMMY

Thanks. You're not from here, are you?

SCOTT

As a matter-of-fact, I am. Why?

JIMMY

No reason. Just figured all the nice people were from somewhere else is all. Have a good day.

SCOTT

You, too.

As Scott leaves, Sam appears and hands Jimmy some change.

SAM

Here, Jimmy.

JIMMY

Thanks. You from Toronto?

SAM

Yeah. Why?

JIMMY

No reason. I guess everybody's gotta be from somewhere.

INT. SEXCAPADES. BATHROOM - DAY

Scott studies his face in the mirror as JORDAN, 20s, exuding confidence from every pore, enters, and goes to a urinal.

SCOTT

Do you think the eyes are a window to your heart?

Jordan looks at Scott over his shoulder as he pees.

JORDAN

No. They're a window to your soul.

Jordan zips up, goes to the sink, and washes his hands.

JORDAN (cont'd)

You saw her again, didn't you? And I bet you didn't even try to talk to her.

SCOTT

These things take time.

JORDAN

The Hundred Years War took time. This is only a battle.

(more)

JORDAN (cont'd)
 Not even, since you have yet to
 launch an offensive.

INT. SEXCAPADES. SHOWROOM - CONTINUING

Scott follows Jordan into the Sexcapades' showroom, a store dedicated to all things sexual.

JORDAN
 If you don't talk to her, Scott, you
 can't fight with her and if you
 don't fight with her you can't have
 makeup sex. Is that what you want,
 to never have makeup sex?

Jordan sees an attractive man staring at a display of condoms.

JORDAN (cont'd)
 You have to go after what you want
 in life.

Jordan approaches the man, his smile growing with each step.

INT. INSOMNIACS NIGHTCLUB - EVENING

Scott is drinking beer with Jordan and ALEX, 21, a mix of GQ looks and goofy charm, in a sparsely-filled nightclub.

ALEX
 This is lame, Scott, even for you.
 I don't know why we let you talk us
 into coming here.

JORDAN
 Because he saw her come in here once.

ALEX
 Well, she isn't here now so why --

Scott perks up when he sees Sam enter and go to the bar.

SCOTT
 You two go if you want. I think
 I'll stay for a bit.

ALEX
 You're kidding!

Jordan points to Sam and mouths the words: That's her.

ALEX (cont'd)
 Fine, whatever. Just don't do
 anything we wouldn't do.

JORDAN

This is Scott we're talking about.
I don't think we have to worry.

As they exit, Sam goes to the dance floor with her beer and begins dancing by herself.

When she sees Scott watching, she motions for him to join her and, once he realizes she means him, he does.

SAM

You look familiar.

SCOTT

We go to the same coffee shop. The
Java Lounge?

SAM

I guess that's why then. Would you
like to dance?

SCOTT

I'm not very good, I'm afraid.

Scott starts to move tentatively in time to the music.

SAM

You just need to loosen up a bit.
What are you drinking?

SCOTT

Canadian. I'm drinking Canadian.

Sam launches into the beer's now infamous commercial.

SAM

If I'd wanted water --

SAM/SCOTT

I would have asked for water.

Scott relaxes a little as Sam holds up her beer and two fingers to a passing waiter to indicate another round, only to stiffen again when she starts dirty dancing with him.

SAM

(BEAT) Sorry. You don't mind, do
you?

As he tries without success to get her to look into his eyes, the window to his soul:

SCOTT

Mind? No, I don't mind.

INT. SAM'S APARTMENT BUILDING. HALLWAY - NIGHT

Sam drunkenly fumbles with Scott's belt as he keeps trying to get her to look into his eyes.

SAM

I just love dancing, don't you?

But she closes her eyes and kisses him instead.

SAM (cont'd)

You know you have very soft lips.

Continuing to fumble with his belt, she opens her eyes again.

SAM (cont'd)

This does undo, doesn't it?

ANGRY NEIGHBOUR (O.S.)

Hey! People are trying to sleep!

SCOTT

Maybe we should go inside?

SAM

(too loud still)

Good idea.

(softly now)

I mean, good idea.

INT. SAM'S APARTMENT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUING

Still making out, Sam and Scott fall into Sam's living room.

SCOTT

I just want you to know I don't usually do this....

SAM

What?...You're not a....?

A beat.

SCOTT

Virgin?...No. God, no!

SAM

Then what's the problem?

SCOTT

There's no problem.

SAM

Good! The bedroom's this way.

Sam takes Scott's hand, absently hitting 'PLAY' on her CD player as she leads him to the bedroom.

When music blasts out of it, she turns it off again, shushing it as she does.

INT. SAM'S APARTMENT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Sam pushes Scott onto the bed, removing his clothes at the same time as she removes her own.

SAM
Not there. Here.

She repositions his hands on her body, clearly knowing what she wants.

SCOTT
How's that?

SAM
Better.

After rolling around on the bed for a few moments, they fall onto the floor, landing one on top of the other, with a thud.

SAM (O.S.)
Are you okay?

SCOTT (O.S.)
Yes. It's all good.

INT. SAM'S APARTMENT. BEDROOM - MORNING

Scott wakes, sees Sam sleeping next to him, and smiles.

He starts to touch her hair, then withdraws his hand as he...

INT. SAM'S APARTMENT. BEDROOM - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

...relives dirty dancing with Sam on the dance floor.

BACK TO SCENE

With an even bigger smile now, he slips on his boxers, finds a frilly robe hooked to the back of the door, and puts it on, too.

INT. SAM'S APARTMENT. HALLWAY - MORNING

Scott exits to the hall and opens the first door he comes to, disappointed it's a closet.

He opens the next door, relieved to find it's a bathroom.

INT. SAM'S APARTMENT. BATHROOM - CONTINUING

Scott surveys the contents of Sam's vanity as if each item is a clue to the woman herself.

He closes the door, smiling again as his image appears in the mirror, then turns to leave.

Almost as an afterthought, he turns back, puts the toilet seat up, and pees.

INT. SAM'S APARTMENT. BEDROOM - CONTINUING

Sam stirs to the sound of Scott peeing.

INT. SAM'S APARTMENT. HALLWAY/BATHROOM - CONTINUING

Scott exits to the hallway, then doubles-back into the bathroom and puts the toilet seat down again.

INT. SAM'S APARTMENT. LIVING ROOM - MORNING

In the light of day, Scott takes in the beginnings of a makeshift home recording studio -- keyboards, speakers, mixing board, etc., then her collection of photographs.

His face unwittingly mirrors the expressions of the people in them until he comes to the last one, a picture of Sam with a prom date which he perfunctorily lays face down.

INT. SAM'S APARTMENT. KITCHEN - MORNING

Scott whistles absently as he finds a jar of instant coffee in the refrigerator.

INT. SAM'S APARTMENT. BEDROOM - CONTINUING

Sam stirs now to the sound of Scott's whistling.

INT. SAM'S APARTMENT. KITCHEN - MORNING

Scott catches himself whistling and stops as he sees a list of names and phone numbers on a bulletin board on the wall.

He adds his name and number to it, then writes down Sam's number on a slip of paper he finds in his pocket as

INT. SAM'S APARTMENT. BEDROOM - CONTINUING

Sam wakes with a start to the sound of the whistling kettle.

She looks at the other side of the bed, relieved to find it empty, then reacts to an empty condom wrapper on the floor as Scott enters with two mugs of coffee.

SCOTT

Good morning. I hope you don't mind, but I borrowed your robe.

Scott sets the mugs down, returns the robe to the back of the door, then climbs back into bed and hands her one of the mugs.

SCOTT (cont'd)

I couldn't help noticing all your equipment and stuff. You must be pretty serious.

SAM

I am. Look....

SCOTT

Scott. Hogan. And you're....

SAM

Samantha...Sam...Harris. About last night, Scott. I'm not sure what happened exactly --

SCOTT

A little dancing, a little drinking.

SCOTT

Maybe more than a little --

SAM

I think you should go.

SCOTT

But what about last night? 'Cause last night was amazing. It was --

SAM

Please, Scott, don't.

Scott gets out of bed and starts to dress.

SCOTT

Fine, but you're the one who asked me to dance, you know. And not just dance dance, but DANCE. You also invited me to your apartment, you kissed me first --

SAM

And now I'm asking you to leave. Why is this a problem?

SCOTT

Is it something I did? If it's something I didn't do, I'd be happy to try again....Sorry.

(more)

SCOTT (cont'd)

I tend to ramble when I'm nervous or about to lose the best thing that's ever happened to me.

SAM

It's not you, Scott. I'm sure you're a very nice guy.

SCOTT

I am. Even my friends think so. Of course, they wouldn't be my friends if they didn't. I don't suppose I could have a keepsake of our --

SAM

Date? This wasn't a date, Scott.

SCOTT

So that means I can't....

SAM

Yes.

SCOTT

I can?

SAM

No.

Scott nods, starts for the door, then turns around again.

SCOTT

My shoes. I'm probably gonna need 'em.

Scott steps into his shoes and, as he reaches down to tie his laces, stuffs Sam's panties into one of his pant legs.

He stands, goes to the door, then turns back to face Sam.

SCOTT (cont'd)

Can I ask you a question? What's up with the instant coffee? I mean, you know what good coffee tastes like.

SAM

I guess some things can't be explained.

Scott nods again, then exits.

Sam waits for the front door to close, then throws the covers over her head.

INT. SAM'S APARTMENT. HALLWAY - DAY

Scott retrieves Sam's panties from his pant leg and, with a satisfied look on his face, stuffs them into his pocket.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Scott crosses the street, then stops to look up at Sam's window, half expecting her to be waiting to wave him back.

When she isn't, he trudges forlornly along the street, then reappears walking in the opposite direction.

EXT. SPEAKERS CORNER BOOTH - DAY

Scott walks by the Speakers Corner booth, doubles-back, and enters.

INT. SPEAKERS CORNER BOOTH - CONTINUING

Scott sits in an interactive video booth where people speak their minds, all for the price of a dollar.

SCOTT

(into camera)

Hi! I'm Scott. I don't really know why I'm here....That's not true. I'm here because I met a woman last night. And not just any woman, but the woman I know in my heart I was born to love. I think I may have even fallen in love last night. I say I think because I've never been in love before, not that I know of anyway....Sorry, I'm rambling. Anyway, I guess I just wanted to share the news with someone so thanks, thanks for listening.

INT. SCOTT'S APARTMENT - DAY

Scott checks his machine for messages.

When there aren't any, he flops onto the sofa, pulls Sam's panties from his pocket and breathes in her scent as he...

INT. SAM'S APARTMENT. BEDROOM - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

...relives their lovemaking session, ending with their unceremonious fall onto the floor.

INT. SCOTT'S APARTMENT - DAY

Scott stares at Sam's number, then at the phone.

He grabs the phone finally, takes a deep breath, and dials.

INT. SAM'S APARTMENT. KITCHEN/HALL/BEDROOM - CONTINUING

As Sam makes herself another cup of coffee, she sees Scott's name and number on her bulletin board.

She crosses them out, grabs her coffee, and exits to the bedroom as the phone rings.

SAM

Hello?

INTERCUT Scott on the phone.

SCOTT

Hi, Sam, it's me, Scott. I just wanted to thank you, you know, for last night. And about this morning, I'm sorry if I --

SAM

There's nothing to be sorry about, Scott. These things happen sometimes and we just have to move on so thanks for calling, okay?

SCOTT

Please, Sam, don't hang --

Scott reacts to hearing the dial tone.

When the phone rings again, Sam lets her machine answer as she climbs into bed.

SAM'S VOICE ON MACHINE

Leave a message and I'll call you back. Thanks!

SCOTT (O.S.)

Sam, I hope you're listening because I think this could be the start of something. I mean, it isn't every-day you meet someone you like... well, maybe it is for you, but it isn't for me and --

Scott reacts to getting cut off by Sam's answering machine in mid-sentence.

EXT. STREET - EVENING

Scott approaches Sam's apartment with a bag of groceries, a box of chocolates, and a bottle of wine.

INT. SAM'S APARTMENT. BATHROOM - EVENING

Sam thinks she hears a knock on the door while in the shower.
She turns the water off to listen and hears it again.

SAM
He would be early.

INT. SAM'S APARTMENT. LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Sam flings open the door wearing only a towel.

SAM
You're earl...Scott! What are you --

SCOTT
I thought I'd make you dinner.
'Cause I know if we just spent some
time together....Do you always
answer the door like that?

SAM
I'm sorry, Scott, but I'm....

SCOTT
What? Going out? Like on a date out?

SAM
Yes, Scott, sort of...not really....
Why am I explaining this to you? I'm
going out, okay?

SCOTT
I know, I could cook for both of
you. There's more than enough food
and I promise I won't try to poison
him. It is a him, isn't it?

SAM
Yes, Scott, it's a him. I'm sorry,
but I can't do this. You shouldn't
have come here.

As Sam closes the door, Scott realizes he's holding the wine,
groceries, and chocolates still and moves to knock again.

He stops himself and starts down the hall, then doubles-back
and sets everything in front of Sam's neighbour's door.

Finally, he takes back the wine, knocks, and exits.

An elderly woman opens the door, checks the empty hallway,
then scoops everything up and disappears inside.

EXT. SAM'S APARTMENT BUILDING - EVENING

Scott exits as a man approaches with a bottle of champagne and, thinking he may be Sam's date, gives him the once over.

The man checks his fly, realizes it's zipped, and looks at Scott suspiciously.

SCOTT

Three C?

MAN

Two A.

SCOTT

Have fun.

INT. VIDEO ARCADE - EVENING

Scott takes his frustration out on a video game, the bottle of wine rattling precariously on the machine as he plays.

INT. SPEAKERS CORNER BOOTH - EVENING

SCOTT

Hi! I'm the guy who thought he was in love yesterday. Well, I still think I'm in love. Unfortunately, I seem to be the only one. I guess this is how you women feel when you meet a guy you think is great until he doesn't call the next day. But I am a great guy, or at least a good guy and even a good guy deserves a chance, doesn't he? Anyway, thanks again for listening.

When the screen goes blank, Scott plugs in another dollar.

SCOTT (cont'd)

Me, again. I didn't wanna leave you with the wrong impression. I didn't want you to think I don't think she's not great still because I do. She's great. I guess I'm just not the one for her. And for the record, if this is love, it's not like I thought it'd be. To be honest, it kinda sucks.

INT. SCOTT'S APARTMENT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Scott drinks the last of the wine while staring at the phone.

INT. SCOTT'S APARTMENT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Unable to sleep, Scott tosses Sam's panties into the air and lets them free-fall onto his face as he...

INT. SAM'S APARTMENT. BEDROOM - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

...strains to bring the now-blurred image of he and Sam having sex into focus.

BACK TO SCENE

Scott strains too hard and, falling onto the floor, ad-libs an 'ouch.'

INT. DEPARTMENT STORE. PERFUME COUNTER - DAY

Scott and Jordan take turns sniffing perfume samplers.

JORDAN

What about this one?

Scott sniffs it, shakes his head 'no,' then sniffs another.

SCOTT

It might be this one.

INT. SAM'S APARTMENT. BEDROOM - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

The image of Scott and Sam making love is crystal clear now.

BACK TO SCENE

SCOTT

It's this one.

JORDAN

So let me see if I've got this straight. You're buying perfume for a woman who won't have anything to do with you?

INT. SPEAKERS CORNER BOOTH - DAY

MIDDLE-AGED WOMAN

I'd like to say a few words to Scott, the young man who had the one-night stand with the woman who won't have anything to do with him now.

INT. SCOTT'S APARTMENT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUING

Scott watches Speakers Corner, a television show that airs excerpts from the Speakers Corner booth.

WOMAN (ON TV)

You seem like a nice young man.

SCOTT

I am nice.

WOMAN (ON TV)

But what were you thinking? Don't you know one-night stands aren't safe?

SCOTT

We used protection.

WOMAN (ON TV)

I hope you used protection.

A tough-looking, leather-clad BIKER appears on the screen.

MAN (ON TV)

Yo, dude, the one-night stand guy. You got what we all want. A little somethin' somethin' with no strings attached so stop sweatin' the other stuff because it's just...other stuff. Be happy, man.

SCOTT

But I want the other stuff.

ELDERLY MALE VIEWER (ON TV)

I don't mean to be impolite here, but she's what we used to call in my day a (beep) tease, a (beep) wrangler, a (beep) bunny....

IRATE FEMALE VIEWER (ON TV)

Haven't we put up with this double standard long enough? When a man has a one-night stand, he's a Don Juan. When a woman has one, she's....No, I'm not even gonna go there. Just keep in mind who these so-called Don Juans are having their one-night stands with. It ain't themselves!

INT. SPEAKERS CORNER BOOTH - DAY

In improvised segments, real Speakers Corner viewers share their own one-night stand experiences.

EXT. QUEEN STREET WEST - MORNING

The morning rush is in full swing again as...

INT. THE JAVA LOUNGE - MORNING

...KYLE makes coffees in front of the blackboard that reads "A day without coffee is like a Porche without gas."

EXT. THE JAVA LOUNGE - DAY

Scott exits with his customary two cups of coffees as Sam tries to enter the out door with her backpack and guitar case.

SCOTT

One of those mornings, huh?

They stand uncomfortably for a moment.

SCOTT (cont'd)

Well, take care of yourself.

SAM

You, too.

He watches Sam go to the counter, then approaches Jimmy and hands him one of the coffees.

SCOTT

Here ya go, Jimmy.

JIMMY

You okay? You look worse than I do.

SCOTT

I'm fine. Thanks for asking.

INT. VIDEO BOOTH - DAY

SCOTT

I saw her again. And again, all these feelings came flooding over me.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Sam exits The Java Lounge and hands Jimmy some change.

SCOTT (V.O.)

The racing heart. The weak knees.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Sam sings and plays guitar on a corner for change.

SCOTT (V.O.)

The sweaty palms. They're the worst.

Sam counts her change, packs up, and starts down the street.

SCOTT (cont'd; V.O.)
 She's like...a drug. Not that I
 know much about drugs, because I
 don't, but whenever I'm around her,
 I can't think straight....

INT. SAM'S APARTMENT BUILDING. LOBBY - DAY

Sam empties her mailbox, disappointed to find several
 unopened demo tapes marked "Return to Sender."

SCOTT (V.O.)
 ...and when I'm not around her, I
 can't think of anything but her.

INT. SPEAKERS CORNER BOOTH - CONTINUING

SCOTT
 Is that love?

INT. SPEAKERS CORNER BOOTH - DAY

Speakers Corner viewers talk about the delirious, delightful,
 sensual, soul-wrenching yet impossible emotion that is love.

INT. SAM'S APARTMENT. LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Sam stuffs more tapes into mailers as there's a knock on the
 door.

She opens it to find a DELIVERY MAN holding a bouquet of
 flowers.

SAM
 Scott, Scott, Scott. Don't you know
 you're wasting your time and money?
 (off his look)
 Sorry.

DELIVERY MAN
 I just need you to sign here.

Sam signs the man's delivery sheet and he turns to leave.

SAM
 Wait!

Sam grabs some money and tips the man, then AD-LIBS a 'thank
 you' as she closes the door.

She whacks the flowers around a bit, then throws them into
 the garbage as there's another knock at the door.

Sam opens it to find the man standing in the doorway again.

DELIVERY MAN

This is embarrassing. The flowers
are for Four C. I'm really sorry.

SAM

Just a sec.

Sam retrieves the disheveled flowers from the garbage.

SAM (cont'd)

I'm sorry, too.

INT. SEXCAPADES. SHOWROOM - DAY

Jordan hands a bag to CUSTOMER #1, inconspicuous behind a
pair of sunglasses, as Scott reads a book of poetry.

JORDAN

For the best results, we suggest you
learn to use it by yourself before
introducing it to a partner.
(BEAT) Oh, and it's name is Ted.

CUSTOMER #1 (FEMALE)

Really?

SCOTT

He's kidding. You can call it
whatever you want.

They watch the woman exit.

SCOTT (cont'd)

At least someone gets it.

JORDAN

Gets what? Who?

SCOTT

The poets. Listen to this.

(reading aloud)

"What chord did she pluck in my soul
that girl with the golden necklace
& ivory breasts
whose body ignited the river:
she who rose like the moon
from her bathing &
brushed back the ebony hair
that fell to her waist
& walked off
into the twilight dark --
O my soul,
What chord did she pluck
that I am still trembling."

Jordan holds up a gay porn video from a nearby display rack.

JORDAN

This is all the poetry I need. And why are you reading that stuff anyway? From what you've told me, your precious Sam would just as soon the video.

Scott opens his mouth to object, then thinks better of it.

JORDAN (cont'd)

It's certainly not going to help you understand her if that's what you're thinking and, if that's what you're thinking, what are you thinking? You'd be better off reading Cosmo.

INT. GROCERY STORE - EVENING

Scott passes a rack of magazines while grocery shopping, then doubles-back to a display copy of Cosmo and stares at it for a moment.

He grabs it finally and leaves, then reappears and grabs several more women's magazines.

INT. SPEAKERS CORNER BOOTH - EVENING

SCOTT

Why does love have to be so complicated? Why can't it just be simple? Boy meets girl, boy gets girl, boy and girl live happily ever after.

Scott holds up some of the magazine up to the camera.

SCOTT (cont'd)

Maybe because of magazines like these! They say they have all the answers, but they don't. Nobody does. They don't even know what questions to ask.

EXT. STORE - CONTINUING

Sam walks by a bank of television sets in a store window, oblivious to the sight of Scott holding up the magazines on Speakers Corner, the TV show.

INT. GYM - CONTINUING

People watch Scott on television as they work out.

SCOTT (ON TV)
 Do they really think articles like
 "What His Sleeping Position
 Reveals?" or "Why Guys Cheat On Hot
 Women" help?

INT. BAR - CONTINUING

Men watch Scott on television as they drink beer.

SCOTT (ON TV)
 All they do is fill people's heads
 with unreasonable expectations and
 unattainable goals because what the
 magazines really want is for you to
 feel bad enough about yourself to
 think you'll feel better if you buy
 them. Don't believe it, people.

INT. HOUSE - CONTINUING

A family eats dinner while watching Scott on television.

SCOTT (ON TV)
 Don't buy the magazines, not if you
 want to be happy. Not that not
 buying the magazines will make you
 happy, of course, but it's a start.
 Oh, and by the way, I sleep in a lot
 of different positions, at least I
 did before I met her. Now I can't
 seem to sleep at all. Is that love?

INT. POOL HALL - EVENING

Alex raises his arms in triumph when Jordan sewers the white
 ball in a game of pool as Scott looks on.

ALEX
 Yes! Respect must be paid.
 (to Scott)
 Okay, loverboy, it's your turn to
 lose, something you seem to be
 getting quite good at.

Jordan racks the balls.

SCOTT
 Very funny.

ALEX
 I don't know about very. Are you
 sure she's worth all the suffering
 you're putting yourself through?

SCOTT

I'm sure.

ALEX

Alrighty then. Far be it from me to
shit on true love, especially when
true love will do it for me.

JORDAN

Maybe she didn't like the sex?

SCOTT

She liked the sex. Okay?

JORDAN

All I'm saying is maybe she didn't.
How d'ya know?

ALEX

He's right. It's not like you have
all that much to compare it to.
She's been round the block....

JORDAN

...you've been around the corner.

SCOTT

She liked the sex, okay? Besides,
not everything in life is about sex.

INT. SCOTT'S APARTMENT. LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Alex and Jordan take seats in front of a blank chart on which
they've written their names as Scott looks on again.

ALEX

It's always about sex, Scott. How
can it not be when we're hard-wired
to think about it every nine seconds
or so?

JORDAN

Gay...straight...bi. Doesn't matter.

ALEX

Especially bi.
(off their looks)
I'm guessing.

JORDAN

The point is sex rules the world.

ALEX

It's a scientific fact.

JORDAN

And we're going to prove it to you.

Jordan and Alex close their eyes, then after about nine seconds, open them again, check their watches, and put a checkmark under their names.

JORDAN (cont'd)

See? You can't argue with science.

ALEX

Which means, my friend, either you're lying or you're a freak of nature.

INT. SPEAKERS CORNER BOOTH - DAY

SCOTT

Okay, it's partly about the sex because...well...I'm a guy and the sex was incredible. But it's not just about the sex, not that you can believe everything guys say about sex because...well...we're guys.... But it's not just about the sex. Really.

INT. SPEAKERS CORNER BOOTH - DAY

In improvised segments, viewers share their views about sex.

EXT. QUEEN STREET WEST - MORNING

The early morning rush hour is in full swing again.

INT. THE JAVA LOUNGE - MORNING

In front of the blackboard that reads "A day without coffee is like sex without foreplay," Kyle prepares the morning coffees as Scott, looking haggard, appears, followed closely by Sam.

SCOTT

We've gotta stop meeting like this.

SAM

I don't suppose you have time to talk. Do you? Have time to talk?

SCOTT

Are you kidding?

SAM

No, I think we should talk.

Scott follows Sam to a booth as TONY, a waiter, appears to take their order.

SAM (cont'd)

I'll just have my usual, Tony....Oh, and could you make it to go? I know, the booths are for real customers, but we won't be long, I promise.

SCOTT

I'll have the usual, too. My usual. To go.

As Tony exits, Scott turns to see a couple obviously in love at the next table, then turns back to Sam.

SCOTT (cont'd)

You look good.

SAM

You don't.

SCOTT

I've been better. Except for now, this is good. So how's the music career coming?

SAM

Fine. I guess the best thing is to just come right out and say this since we obviously both like The Java Lounge --

SCOTT

They do have the best coffee.

SAM

Which is why I think we should take turns --

SCOTT

Take turns?

SAM

You know, come on different days.

SCOTT

Different days.

SAM

Yes, Scott, and please stop repeating everything I say. I really think it's for the best.

SCOTT

For the....

He smiles apologetically as Tony returns with one coffee for Sam and two for Scott.

As he leaves again, Sam stands and sets the money for her coffee on the table.

SAM

So why don't I come Mondays,
Wednesdays, and Fridays and you come
Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays?
Okay? Good.

Sam exits before Scott has time to register what she's said.

When he does, he jumps up from the booth and follows, then doubles-back and sets the money for his coffees on the table, too.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Sam hands Jimmy some change as Scott rushes to catch up.

SAM

Here, Jimmy.

SCOTT

Please, Sam, wait.

Scott hands one of his two coffees to Jimmy.

SCOTT (cont'd)

Here you go, Jimmy.
(BEAT) You two know each other?

SAM

Would you excuse us for a sec, Jimmy?
(taking Scott aside)
Why are you crushing like this,
Scott?

SCOTT

Crushing?

SAM

You think you love me, but you
don't. You don't even know me.
Have you ever even been in love?
(off his look)
I didn't think so, so it's perfectly
understandable that you might
confuse what happened between us.

SCOTT

I was just gonna ask about Sunday.
If you're coming Mondays, Wednes-
days, and Fridays and I'm coming
Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays,
who's gonna come on Sunday?

SAM

You, Scott, you can come on Sunday.

Sam waves to Jimmy.

SAM (cont'd)

See ya, Jimmy.

Scott watches helplessly as Sam turns and walks away.

INT. SPEAKERS CORNER BOOTH - DAY

SCOTT

You must be getting sick of me. I'm
getting sick of me, but now she
thinks I'm confusing sex with love
and that we should go to the Lounge
on separate days. Is that fair?

INT. SPEAKERS CORNER BOOTH - DAY

Viewers talk about how men and women view love and sex
differently.

INT. SCOTT'S APARTMENT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUING

As they watch Speakers Corner, Alex takes a toke on a joint,
then hands it to Jordan who does the same.

He, in turn, offers it to Scott who shakes his head 'no.'

FEMALE VIEWER (ON TV)

Whoever said love was fair? Or life,
for that matter. If it was, every-
one would have girls as nice as
these.

The woman lifts her T-shirt and exposes her breasts.

FEMALE VIEWER (cont'd; ON TV)

But they don't because life isn't
fair so deal with it.

SCOTT

All I did was fall in love. I never
expected this.

ALEX

Who would?

INT. SCOTT'S APARTMENT. LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Scott mutters aloud to himself while holding the phone.

SCOTT

Hi, Sam, it's Scott. I just wanna say that if you ever wanna switch days, you know, for The Java Lounge, it wouldn't be a problem....Hi, Sam, it's Scott, I just wanna say...I....

INT. SAM'S APARTMENT. BATHROOM - CONTINUING

Sam is soaking in a bath when the phone rings three times.

On the last ring, she dunks herself under the water.

INT. SCOTT'S APARTMENT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUING

Scott continues muttering to himself.

SCOTT

I just want you to love me, Sam.
Why can't you just love me?

Scott lets out a primal scream as he dials a number.

SCOTT (cont'd)

Hi! I'd like to order a pizza.

INT. SAM'S APARTMENT. LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Sam hits the 'PLAY' button on her answering machine.

RACHEL'S VOICE ON MACHINE

Hi, Sam, it's Rachel. Did you see happen to see Speakers Corner tonight? The sweetest guy was on. Anyway, give me a call.

MOTHER'S VOICE ON MACHINE

It's Mom, Sam, just calling to see how you are. Make sure you call back collect, okay, honey? Love you!

After the third message, clearly a wrong number since it's in Chinese, Sam picks up the phone and dials a number.

INT. SCOTT'S APARTMENT. LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Scott opens his door to find a PIZZA DELIVERY BOY, 17.

PIZZA DELIVERY BOY
Medium pepperoni, no anchovies?

SCOTT
That's me.

Scott hands him some money and takes the pizza in return.

PIZZA DELIVERY BOY
Hey, aren't you that guy from
Speakers Corner? You are, aren't
you? Everybody's talkin' 'bout you,
man.

SCOTT
Who's everybody?

PIZZA DELIVERY BOY
You know, people. Good luck with
the chick thing.

SCOTT
Thanks.

Scott closes the door.

SCOTT (cont'd)
I seem to need it.

INT. SPEAKERS CORNER BOOTH - EVENING

PIZZA DELIVERY BOY
Hi! I just delivered a pizza to the
guy who's all twisted up over the
chick. Medium pepperoni, no
anchovies. I just wanna say to the
chick if you're watching that he
seems like a nice guy so maybe you
should think about giving him a
ride. And to anyone else who's
watching, if you're lookin' for good
pizza...

He points to the brand name on his jacket and smiles.

PIZZA DELIVERY BOY (cont'd)
...I'm your guy.

INT. SAM'S APARTMENT. LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Sam is working on a song when there's a knock at the door.

She continues humming it as she grabs some money and answers
to find Scott's pizza delivery boy with a pizza.

PIZZA DELIVERY BOY
Medium pepperoni, no anchovies?

SAM
That's me.

PIZZA DELIVERY BOY
It's our most popular pie tonight.

SAM
I'm not the only one who thinks anchovies are over-rated, huh?

Sam hands him money in exchange for the pizza.

PIZZA DELIVERY BOY
No, that guy on Speakers Corner thinks so, too. By the way, that thing you were humming on the way to the door? It sounds good.

SAM
Hopefully, it'll be coming to a radio near you...sometime in this lifetime.

PIZZA DELIVERY BOY
I'll be listening for it....

SAM
Sam. Harris.

PIZZA DELIVERY BOY
Enjoy your pizza, Sam Harris.

INT. SCOTT'S APARTMENT. LIVING ROOM - EVENING

The pizza box lies empty on the coffee table, next to the video "What Women Want," as Scott underlines passages in a Harlequin novel like he's studying for an exam.

INT. SAM'S APARTMENT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUING

Sam works on her song, the half-eaten pizza beside her.

INT. SCOTT'S LIVING ROOM/SAM'S BEDROOM - EVENING

INTERCUT Scott and Sam channel-surfing respectively, each stopping on the same programs at the same time.

INT. SCOTT'S APARTMENT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Scott tries to fall asleep in various positions: On his side; his back; full fetal; and, face down.

Finally, he grabs the copy of Cosmo, flips to the article on sleeping positions, then moves into each position in turn as he reads aloud what each one means:

SCOTT

(side)

Mild-mannered, rational, a giving lover.

(back)

Confident, open to new challenges both in and out of bed.

(fetal)

Vulnerable and sensitive.

(facedown)

Passionate, full of energy.

Scott tosses the magazine aside, rolls onto his back, and smiles.

SCOTT (cont'd)

Open to new challenges. In and out of bed.

INT. SAM'S APARTMENT. BEDROOM/LIVING ROOM - CONTINUING

Sam also works her way through the various sleep positions.

Finally, she goes to the living room, mutes the keyboards with a set of headphones, and resumes working on the song.

INT. SAM'S APARTMENT. KITCHEN - MORNING

Sam checks the calendar on which she's marked her days for The Java Lounge, disappointed this isn't one of them.

INT. SCOTT'S APARTMENT - DAY

Looking even more haggard now, Scott checks his calendar to see it is his day for The Java Lounge.

SCOTT

Tuesday. Samless Tuesday. No Sam Tuesday.

INT. THE JAVA LOUNGE COFFEE SHOP - DAY

With the blackboard behind the counter reading "A day without coffee is like Regis without Kelly," Scott joins a parade of other coffee enthusiasts as they enter while

EXT. COFFEE SHOP - CONTINUING

Sam stands in front of a generic coffee shop with a dubious look on her face.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Jimmy takes the cup of coffee Scott hands him.

JIMMY

Maybe you should see a doctor? It's not good to go without sleep too long.

SCOTT

I'll think about, Jimmy. Thanks.

INT. GENERIC COFFEE SHOP - CONTINUING

Sam approaches an indifferent-looking SERVER at the counter.

SAM

I'll have my usual, please. Sorry, I'll have a Mocha Frappaccino.

SERVER

We don't serve Frappaccinos here.

SAM

Okay, I'll have a Grande then.

SERVER

We have small, medium, and large.

SAM

Fine. I'll have a large. With shavings.

SERVER

We only have sprinkles. Maybe you should try The Java Lounge down the street? I think they have what you want.

INT. SEXCAPADES - DAY

Jordan hands CUSTOMER #2 a bag as Scott enters.

JORDAN

You shouldn't feel embarrassed. Less than half of all women reach orgasm from intercourse alone.

The woman exits.

SCOTT

You won't rest till you make straight men redundant, will you? One vibrator at a time.

He hands Jordan a piece of paper.

SCOTT (cont'd)
Here, read this.

JORDAN
What is it?

SCOTT
It's a poem.

JORDAN
I can see it's a poem.

Jordan quickly reads the poem, then hands it back.

JORDAN (cont'd)
It's nice.

SCOTT
Nice?

JORDAN
Sweet.

SCOTT
Sweet?

JORDAN
Yes, Scott, it's nice and sweet.
But again, I'd have to go with the
porn.

INT. SPEAKERS CORNER BOOTH - DAY

Viewers share stories about how they wooed their mates.

INT. SCOTT'S APARTMENT. LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Scott opens the door to find the same delivery boy as before.

PIZZA DELIVERY BOY
You must really like the pizza?

SCOTT
Every time I get an urge to call
her, I call you instead.

PIZZA DELIVERY BOY
It could get expensive.

SCOTT
It already has.

Scott opens his door wider to reveal several empty pizza boxes piled in a corner.

INT. SCOTT'S APARTMENT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Unable to sleep, Scott plays free-fall with Sam's panties again.

INT. SCOTT'S APARTMENT. BEDROOM - MORNING

Scott is wide awake still when his alarm clock rings.

INT. SAM'S APARTMENT. KITCHEN - MORNING

Sam checks her calendar, happy it's her day for The Java Lounge.

INT. SCOTT'S APARTMENT - CONTINUING

Scott checks his calendar and realizes it's not his day for The Java Lounge.

INT. SAM'S APARTMENT. BEDROOM - CONTINUING

Sam opens her underwear drawer and realizes she's missing a pair of panties.

EXT. THE JAVA LOUNGE COFFEE SHOP - MORNING

The blackboard reads "A day without coffee is like macaroni without cheese" as Sam enters, her joy evident by the way she enters through the right door for a change.

EXT. STREET - MORNING

Sam exits The Java Lounge and hands Jimmy some spare change.

INT. GENERIC COFFEE SHOP - DAY

With the same dubious look on his face Sam had sported earlier, Scott enters the same generic coffee shop.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Scott offers Jimmy a generic cup of coffee.

Jimmy, in turn, holds up a cup of coffee from The Java Lounge, prompting Scott to shrug, turn, and walk away.

INT. SPEAKERS CORNER BOOTH - DAY

SCOTT

We've been going to The Java Lounge on different days for a week now. Which means I haven't seen her for a week and when you're in love a week can be an eternity. But that must mean it's love and not just sex, right? Still, I have discovered two things. Not all coffee is created equal and too much pizza sucks almost as much as love does.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Scott sees Sam walking ahead of him and follows.

When he sees her rip a flyer off a pole, he looks around for another one -- advertising an Open Mike night at a local club -- and rips it down, too.

EXT. NIGHTCLUB - EVENING

Sam approaches the nightclub with her guitar, stops to take a breath, then enters.

MOMENTS LATER

Scott appears outside the nightclub as well.

INT. NIGHTCLUB - CONTINUING

The club is bustling as Sam approaches the bouncer who, in turn, points to the MANAGER.

SAM

Hi, I'm here for the Open Mike night.

The manager sizes her up with one look.

MANAGER

The bathrooms are downstairs if you need to throw up. There's a change room if you need to warm up. And we start right on time. Any questions?

(off her look again)

Good. Now try not to look so scared, you'll chase away the customers.

EXT. NIGHTCLUB - EVENING

Scott walks around the building to an open window.

He looks around and sees two empty garbage cans nearby.

INT. NIGHTCLUB - EVENING

A MALE SINGER sings onstage as the manager approaches Sam as she nervously clutches her guitar.

MANAGER

You're up next.

Sam smiles nervously.

EXT. NIGHTCLUB - EVENING

As the singer finishes his song, Scott climbs up on the now over-turned garbage cans, precariously balancing his weight on them as he strains to hear what's going on inside.

MANAGER (O.S.)

That was great, Jason, thank you.
Up next we have Sam Harris, another first-timer tonight, so please give her a warm welcome.

INT. NIGHTCLUB - CONTINUING

Sam approaches the microphone to a smattering of applause, adjusts the mike stand, and strikes her first guitar chord.

EXT. NIGHTCLUB - CONTINUING

Scott hangs on every note of Sam's musical intro, anxious to hear her sing for the first time.

As the verse is about to begin, however, the building is pitched into total darkness.

MANAGER (O.S.)

If everyone could please remain seated, I'm sure the power will come back on in just a minute.

Instead, the customers spill out into the street in a frenzy, causing Scott to lose his balance and crash to the ground.

INT. SEXCAPADES - DAY

Jordan hands a bag to CUSTOMER #3.

JORDAN

Rule #1 is --

CUSTOMER #3 (MALE)

I know. Stop if he says stop.

JORDAN
Don't worry. You'll be fine.

CUSTOMER #3 (MALE)
Thanks.

The customer #3 exits as Scott enters with one arm in a sling.

JORDAN
Don't tell me! You fell in love
again.

SCOTT
A wedding. A couple of kids.
Thirty or forty years together. Is
that too much to ask?

INT. SPEAKERS CORNER BOOTH - DAY

Alex and Jordan record a message together.

JORDAN
He's not the same Scott anymore.

ALEX
He doesn't even think it's not about
the sex. That's crazy. It's....

JORDAN
Pathetic. But that's what happens
when you let a girl --

ALEX
Woman.

JORDAN
What?

ALEX
She's a woman. I don't think she'd
appreciate being called a girl.

JORDAN
That doesn't change the fact he's
fallen into this black hole. He's
lost in the abyss of love. It's sad.

Alex nods in agreement as they stand to exit the booth.

JORDAN (cont'd)
(to Alex)
You were just sucking up with that
'she's not a girl, she's a woman'
comment, weren't you?

INT. SCOTT'S APARTMENT. LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Scott, Alex, and Jordan watch Speakers Corner on television.

SCOTT
The abyss of love?

ALEX
You're missing the point. The part
about being lost? And you haven't
even mentioned how good we looked
on TV...
(high-fiving Jordan)
...'cause we looked good.

INT. SAM'S APARTMENT. LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Sam checks her mail and reacts to receiving more rejected
demo tapes.

LATER

Sam works on a song at the keyboards, clearly frustrated,
then gives up finally, grabs her purse, and exits.

EXT. INSOMNIACS NIGHTCLUB - EVENING

Scott and Jordan are in the midst of a heated discussion.

JORDAN
You're seriously deranged, you know.

SCOTT
I know. I just want you to go in
and see if she's there.

JORDAN
Then what? See if she asks me to
dance? See if she wants to take me
home and fuck my brains out?

SCOTT
No. I just wanna know if that's
what she wants.

JORDAN
Why don't you ask Alex?
(off his look)
Because he'd let her. You really
need to get some sleep, you know.
And you're gonna owe me.

SCOTT
I know.

EXT. INSOMNIACS NIGHTCLUB - CONTINUING

Scott steps into the shadows when the door opens, then into the light again when he sees it's Jordan who exits.

SCOTT

She wasn't in there?

JORDAN

No, she was. And she's a really good dancer, but I guess you know that already. She said I was a good dancer, too, but then she has this theory that gay men are naturally good dancers because, well, they're gay.

SCOTT

You told her you were gay?

JORDAN

No, Scott, she told me. You seem to think she doesn't know what she wants, but she seems to know what she doesn't want and maybe she just doesn't want you. I'm sorry, but I think you should stop crushing on her.

SCOTT

When exactly did crushing become a word?

JORDAN

It isn't a word. But it is a state of mind and I don't wanna see you lose yours. Now I'm going home and if you're smart you will, too.

Jordan exits, leaving Scott with a 'what-do-I-do-now' look.

He leaves, then doubles-back as Sam exits on the arm of a good-looking guy named BRUCE.

From a distance, he follows them along the street as he...

INT. INSOMNIACS NIGHTCLUB - EVENING - FLASHBACK

...relives dirty dancing with Sam.

EXT. SAM'S APARTMENT - EVENING

As Sam and Bruce enter the lobby of her apartment building, Scott stops across the street and...

INT. SAM'S APARTMENT. HALLWAY - EVENING - FLASHBACK

...relives he and Sam kissing while she fumbles with his belt buckle.

INT. SCOTT'S APARTMENT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Scott plays free-fall with Sam's panties in bed and....

INT. SAM'S APARTMENT. BEDROOM - EVENING - FLASHBACK

...relives he and Sam making love.

INT. SAM'S APARTMENT. BEDROOM - THE NEXT MORNING

Sam stirs in bed as Bruce quietly dresses.

BRUCE

Sorry. I didn't mean to wake you.
I'm just gonna go.

Bruce exits and, at the sound of the front door closing, Sam smiles, rolls over, and goes back to sleep.

EXT. SAM'S APARTMENT BUILDING/STREET - MORNING

Scott nonchalantly approaches Bruce as he exits.

SCOTT

Excuse me, but don't I know you?

BRUCE

I don't think so, no.

SCOTT

Really, because you look familiar.
Do you live in the neighbourhood?
Where'd you go to high school?...I
know, Insomniacs, right? You're not
hungry, by any chance, are you,
because I just happen to be on my
way to The Java Lounge which has the
best food in the area and the
coffee's fairly traded, you know, if
that's an issue....

BRUCE

Actually, I am hungry.

SCOTT

Great! I'm Scott, by the way.

BRUCE

Bruce.

SCOTT
Nice to meet you, Bruce.

INT. THE JAVA LOUNGE - DAY

Scott and Bruce are seated at an out-of-the-way table with Bruce partially-hidden behind a leafy plant.

SCOTT
So do you go to Insomniacs often?

BRUCE
Just when I want to get laid. I mean, you go there, you must know.

SCOTT
And did you....?

BRUCE
I'll say. And she came on to me, I didn't have to do a thing.

INT. SAM'S APARTMENT. KITCHEN - DAY

Sam checks her calendar, disappointed it's not her day for The Java Lounge.

EXT. THE JAVA LOUNGE - DAY

Sam peers through the window for signs of Scott.

INT. THE JAVA LOUNGE - CONTINUING

The blackboard now reads "A day without coffee is like Martin without Lewis, Burton without Taylor, feng without shui" as Sam slinks up to the counter and Kyle.

SAM
Hi, Kyle. Can I have my usual?

KYLE
If I didn't know better, I might think you've been cheating on me.

SAM
It's a long story.

Sam pays for her coffee and turns for the door, then sees Scott, realizes he's seen her, and approaches begrudgingly.

SAM (cont'd)
I know it's not my day, but I had a craving and you know what it's like when you get used to something and --

SCOTT

It gets taken away from you? And you don't have a say in the matter?

SAM

It's not the same thing, Scott.

SCOTT

Isn't it?

SAM

No. It's --

Sam sees Bruce seated behind the leafy plant finally.

SAM (cont'd)

(to Bruce)

What are you doing here? With him?

(to Scott)

Can I speak to you? Outside?

EXT. STREET - DAY

Sam turns to face Scott as he follows her outside.

SAM

What is your problem, Scott? You can't keep crushing --

SCOTT

Crushing?

SAM

Yes! What would you call it when you get your gay friend...sorry, that's probably not PC. Your friend who happens to be gay to spy on me? We had one night --

SCOTT

It was a great night.

SAM

It was sex.

Two TEENAGE GIRLS recognize Scott as they walk by.

TEENAGE GIRL

Hey, you're that guy!

(indicating Sam)

Is that her?

Sam is too worked up to notice Scott nod to the teens as they leave.

SAM

Maybe it was even great sex, I don't remember. But that's all it was.

SCOTT

How do you know? How do you know I'm not the one if you don't give us a chance?

He turns to a MIDDLE-AGED WOMAN as she approaches.

SCOTT (cont'd)

Excuse me, but would you date me if I were, say, ten years older?

MIDDLE-AGED WOMAN

I would, yes.

SCOTT

You would? Thank you.

The woman exits as Scott turns back to Sam.

SCOTT (cont'd)

She'd date me.

A beat, as Sam screams in frustration.

SAM

Why can't you be more like Bruce? Or like any other guy I've ever met for that matter?

SCOTT

One date. That's all I'm asking for.

SAM

You're asking for a lot. This date, it wouldn't include sex, would it? Because we both know what that does to you.

SCOTT

Does that mean....? Are you serious?

SAM

God help me.

Scott does an impromptu victory dance on the sidewalk.

SCOTT

Yes! She said she'd go out with me. Sam is going to go out with me.

INT. SPEAKERS CORNER BOOTH - DAY

SCOTT

She said she'd go out with me. Let this be a listen to all you kids out there. Dreams really can come true.

INT. SPEAKERS CORNER BOOTH - DAY

Viewers share their own first date stories.

EXT. SAM'S APARTMENT - EVENING

All dressed up, Sam exits to find a tuxedo-clad Scott holding a red rose and standing next to a white stretch limousine.

SCOTT

You look beautiful.

SAM

I hope you have a job to pay for all this.

INT. RESTAURANT - EVENING

Scott holds Sam's chair for her in an elegant restaurant.

SAM

So do you? Have a job? To pay for all this?

SCOTT

I do. Although I may have to give up my dream of retiring early.

LATER

A violinist plays for them at their table.

LATER

As Scott leads Sam to the dance floor, their conversation mimics in reverse the first time they danced together.

SAM

I'm not very good at this kind of dancing, I'm afraid.

SCOTT

You just need to loosen up a bit.
(pulling her into
slow dance position)
I just love dancing. Don't you?

EXT. RESTAURANT - EVENING

Scott and Sam exit to the waiting limousine where he gives her one final twirl on the sidewalk.

SCOTT

This is about the best date I've ever had. No, it is. It may even be the best date in the history of dating and the best part is it's not over yet.

SAM

It isn't?

The limousine driver hands Scott a blindfold.

SCOTT

No, but the next part's a surprise. You don't mind, do you?

INT. LIMOUSINE (MOVING) - EVENING

Scott and Sam quietly ride in the back of the limousine.

When it stops, a look of trepidation crosses her face.

EXT. RECORDING STUDIO - EVENING

Scott helps Sam who is blindfolded still out of the limousine.

SCOTT

Watch your step because I didn't budget for a lawsuit.

INT. RECORDING STUDIO - CONTINUING

Scott leads Sam into the studio.

SCOTT

You can take the blindfold off now.

Sam reacts to being in a state-of-the-art recording studio.

SCOTT (cont'd)

I couldn't let the date end without hearing you sing.

SAM

I hate to disappoint you, but it's not the same without....

A group of musicians enter the studio with their instruments while a recording engineer enters the sound booth.

SAM (cont'd)
...the music. But I need my....

Scott hands Sam her guitar.

SCOTT
I bribed your landlord. Anything
else?

LATER

Sam listens in awe from the recording booth as the musicians lay down the music tracks under the engineer's supervision.

ENGINEER
Okay, guys, I think that'll do it.
Thank you all very much.

The musicians file out of the studio, giving 'thumbs up' signs to Sam who mouths a 'thank you' in return.

ENGINEER (cont'd)
We just need the vocals now. Ready?

SAM
I guess so.

Sam enters the studio and puts on a pair of headphones.

ENGINEER
Give me a sign when you're ready.

SAM
I'm ready.

Sam tries to relax as the engineer starts the playback.

As the music intro ends, she sings a few bars, then stops.

SAM (cont'd)
Sorry. Can I start again?

ENGINEER
We'll take it from the top.

The engineer hits playback and Sam sings again, this time with all the talent Scott always knew she possessed.

LATER

They listen to the finished song in the recording booth.

ENGINEER (cont'd)
I'd say you nailed it.

SCOTT
You definitely nailed it.

SAM
I don't know what to say. I've
never recorded in a real studio
before.
(to engineer)
Thank you.

The engineer winks at Scott, then quietly exits as Sam sidles
up to Scott and kisses him.

SAM (cont'd)
And thank you.

SCOTT
It was nothing really. The studio
belongs to my father's brother's
wife's nephew's something or other.

SAM
You're lying. I can't believe you
rented a studio just to hear me
sing. It must have cost a fortune.

SCOTT
At least the power didn't go out.
(off her look)
I was outside, listening at the
window....You really are talented,
you know.

SAM
You're sorta special yourself.

Sam starts to undo his belt.

SCOTT
What about the no-sex rule?

SAM
I'm willing to make an exception.
Aren't you?
(off his look)
Don't you ever do something for the
sake of doing it? Fine!

Sam takes a step back and shakes Scott's hand.

SAM (cont'd)
Why don't we just shake hands then?
I really did have a nice time.

SCOTT

But?

SAM

But nothing, Scott. We agreed to one date. If you thought it would change my mind, I'm sorry, but I don't have time for a boyfriend --

SCOTT

No, you're right. I'd be a horrible boyfriend anyway. Always asking about your day, looking for new ways to make you happy. Besides, you have your music --

SAM

That's right. Making music's all I've ever wanted. But do you know how hard it is to make a living at it, unless you win one of those contests? So I live in a shitty apartment and send out tapes even though I know no one's going to listen to them and yes, sometimes I even go dancing to let off a little steam and if, in the process, I hurt you or led you on in any way, I'm sorry. I should never have danced with you or kissed you or slept with you so there, I hope you're happy now!...Well? Say something.

SCOTT

So this is what happy feels like.

Scott turns to collect his jacket, then turns back to find Sam has left.

He exits, too, then returns and grabs Sam's demo tape.

EXT. STREET - EVENING

Scott exits to the street and the waiting limousine.

LIMO DRIVER

I offered her a drive, sir, but she said she preferred to walk. And if I may say, I don't think there would be any benefit in pressing the point.

EXT. STREET - EVENING

Sam walks home as...

INT. MOVING LIMOUSINE - CONTINUING

...Scott, wearing the blindfold now, and the limo driver listen to Sam's demo tape as they drive.

EXT. SPEAKERS CORNER BOOTH - NIGHT

The limousine pulls to a stop in front of the Speakers Corner booth, idles for a moment, then drives away again.

INT. LIMOUSINE - NIGHT

As the limo pulls to a stop in front of Scott's building, the driver hands Sam's demo tape to Scott.

LIMO DRIVER

Good luck, sir.

SCOTT

Thanks. And if I ever go on another date and need a limo, you're my man.

MONTAGE - SCOTT AND SAM TRYING TO GET ON WITH THEIR LIVES

-- Scott and Sam check their respective calendars to see if it's their day for The Java Lounge;

-- Sam starts to enter the generic coffee shop, thinks better of it, and walks on;

-- Scott enters The Java Lounge with an expectant look, then exits with a disappointed one and hands Jimmy his coffee;

-- Sam sings for change on a street corner;

-- Scott takes a pizza from the delivery boy at the door;

-- Scott and Sam reach for their phones simultaneously, stop themselves, then dial, only to get busy signals.

INT. SAM'S APARTMENT. BATHROOM - EVENING

Sam is soaking in the tub when the phone rings twice in a row.

INT. SAM'S APARTMENT. LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Wrapped in just a towel, Sam plays back her messages.

SCOTT'S VOICE ON MACHINE

Hi, Sam, it's just me. I found a great new coffee shop so you don't have to worry about...you know. You'll be able to have your usual everyday again.

MALE VOICE ON MACHINE
 I'm calling from Mystery Records for
 Sam Harris. We'll be in town for
 auditions on the 18th so call us if
 you'd like to make an appointment.
 555-4636.

Surprised, Sam replays the message.

INT. SPEAKERS CORNER BOOTH - DAY

VIEWER #1 (MALE)
 Scott, man, you've got us by the
 short and curlies here.

VIEWER #2 (FEMALE)
 You talk about what's fair, Scott,
 but you're not fair. We invested in
 you and you let us down when it
 counts.

INT. SCOTT'S APARTMENT - DAY

Scott watches Speakers Corner with a guilty look on his face.

VIEWER #3 (MALE; ON TV)
 We all wanna know what happened on
 the date, Scott. No, we deserve to
 know. You owe us.

INT. SPEAKERS CORNER BOOTH - DAY

SCOTT
 You're right, I haven't been fair
 and I'd like to apologize. You've
 always been there for me. Anyway,
 the date was...spectacular. It was
 everything a date should be. Until
 the end, that is, when she said
 there wouldn't be another one. I
 guess that's why people hate dating
 so much. They're like job
 interviews and chances are pretty
 good you're not going to get the job.

INT. SPEAKERS CORNER BOOTH - DAY

Viewers share their own dating horror stories, ending with
 several female viewers who offer to date Scott themselves.

INT. SEXCAPADES - DAY

Alex is in the middle of telling Jordan a joke when Scott
 enters from the back room, carrying new inventory.

ALEX

So he hands the redneck a box of condoms and says "That'll be 4.99 with tax." "Tacks," the redneck says. "You mean they don't stay on by themselves?"

JORDAN

Heard it.

SCOTT

We've heard them all.

ALEX

One of the perks of the job, huh? So what are you gonna do?

SCOTT

About what?

ALEX

About what? About all the women who want to date you.

SCOTT

Haven't you heard? I've officially retired from dating.

ALEX

You're kidding? You're not kidding. You should be kidding because even you, my friend, will eventually get tired of playing chopsticks...flying solo...pulling the goalie.

JORDAN

Take it from someone who knows.

SCOTT

Whatever.

Scott exits to the back room again.

JORDAN

He's not even in a relationship and he's whipped.

Alex picks up an oversized dildo.

ALEX

It's because of these. He's spending so much time around them he's forgotten what the real ones are for.

INT. SPEAKERS CORNER BOOTH - DAY

ALEX

(into camera)

So we're inviting anyone who would like to meet Scott in person to come to The Java Lounge this Saturday evening from seven to nine.

JORDAN

Straight women, especially. But if you're not straight and not a woman, I'll be there too.

ALEX

(to Jordan)

We're doing this for Scott, remember?

JORDAN

At least one of us should get lucky.

ALEX

Good point.

(back to camera)

I'll be there, too, and I'm straight. You know, FYI.

JORDAN

So we'll see you at The Java Lounge this Saturday from seven to nine.

ALEX

And it's a secret so don't tell --

The screen goes blank as Alex and Jordan get timed out.

ALEX (cont'd)

Scott. You think anyone will show?

JORDAN

The question is, will Scott show?

INT. SCOTT'S APARTMENT - EVENING

Scott opens the door and Alex and Jordan enter, all dressed up.

SCOTT

What happened to you two?

ALEX

We felt like dressing up for a change. After all, clothes make the man. Or in your case, the virgin.

SCOTT
I'm not a virgin.

ALEX
You may as well be.

JORDAN
Yeah. Tell us again why you didn't
let her do you?

SCOTT
You want me to change, I'll change.
Starting with the subject.

As Scott exits to his bedroom, Jordan calls after him.

JORDAN
You might wanna take a shower, too.

ALEX
'Cause you never know when you might
meet someone.

EXT. THE JAVA LOUNGE - EVENING

Alex and Jordan lead Scott toward The Java Lounge.

SCOTT
I thought we were going to play pool.

ALEX
We are, right after we have a cup of
Joe. Main meal of the day, remember?

JORDAN
Did you know coffee cuts the risk of
type-2 diabetes, Parkinson's disease
and colon cancer?

ALEX
It also cures headaches and prevents
cavities. What's your problem
tonight?

SCOTT
I can't quite put my finger on it,
but I'm sure there is one.
(waving to Jimmy)
Hey, Jimmy.

JIMMY
Have fun tonight.

Alex and Jordan hustle Scott into The Java Lounge.

INT. THE JAVA LOUNGE - EVENING

As they enter, Alex and Jordan turn Scott away from the blackboard which reads "A day without coffee is like Scott without Sam," and toward a table with a reserved sign on it.

JORDAN

Look, they even saved us a booth.

They lead Scott to the table now as Tony appears and removes the sign.

TONY

You wouldn't believe the calls we've been getting.

(to Scott)

So what'll it be? Your usual, for old times' sake?

Scott nods and Tony looks at Alex.

ALEX

What kind of coffees do you have?

TONY

Colombian Light, Dark, and Medium. Decaffeinated, Cappuccino, Mochaccino. Caffe Lattes, Cafe --

ALEX

I'll have the first one.

TONY

And you?

JORDAN

Do you have tea?

TONY

Orange Pekoe, Earl Gray, Darjeeling, Chamomile....Shall I go on, or do you just want the first one, too?

JORDAN

Surprise me!

Tony leaves to fill their order as women of every age and description begin arriving alone, in pairs, and in groups.

SCOTT

Okay, what's going on?

ALEX

What d'ya mean?

SCOTT
Which word didn't you understand?

ALEX
Okay, okay. We thought we'd help you out a little.

SCOTT
Help me out?

JORDAN
With your fans.

SCOTT
My fans?

ALEX
Your fans, Scott. You know, except for one-night stands, you have an annoying habit of repeating things.

SCOTT
(to Jordan)
Your turn.

JORDAN
It's simple. You wouldn't go to the fans so we brought them to you. Kind of like speed dating.

SCOTT
Speed dat -- ?

ALEX
I'd work on that if I were you.

SCOTT
Well, you're not me and I'm outta --

Jordan lays his hand on Scott's arm.

JORDAN
You owe me.

WOMAN (O.S.)
There he is.

A group of women, young and old, quickly surround Scott, forcing Alex and Jordan to squeeze their way through them.

ALEX
Ladies, please...I mean please... enjoy the dating stylings of the Java Lounge's very own Scott Hogan.

EXT. THE JAVA LOUNGE - EVENING

Sam stops to sneeze and blow her nose in front of The Java Lounge, then approaches Jimmy and hands him some spare change.

JIMMY

Thanks. Sounds like you got yourself a cold.

SAM

Yeah, and just when I finally get an audition. Take care, Jimmy.

JIMMY

You, too.

Sam exits as Jimmy shakes his head in the direction of The Java Lounge as women continue to arrive.

INT. THE JAVA LOUNGE - EVENING

As the women compete for Scott's attention, all he hears is a series of disparate voices reverberating in his head.

WOMEN'S VOICES

I wonder if he likes tattoos and piercings. He's a lot cuter in person. I hope he likes children.

Alex and Jordan jump up on a makeshift stage finally.

ALEX

I'm sorry, ladies, but we're gonna have to pry Scott away from you so we can get this party started.

Women paw Scott as he makes his way to the stage, including one who shoves a cell phone in his face.

WOMAN #3

Would you say hello to my mother? She wanted to come tonight, but she's having her gallbladder out in the morning.

Scott takes the phone and AD-LIBS a 'hello' into it as another woman playfully cups her hand over his balls.

SCOTT

Did you just...? Never mind. I don't wanna know.

Scott hands the phone back and goes to the stage.

ALEX

Here he is, ladies. He's 5'8," 190 lbs, and cute as a button. What's more, he's not only not afraid of commitment, he's in favor of it, and he has all his own teeth.

(to Scott)

Show 'em your teeth.

Scott smiles begrudgingly.

ALEX (cont'd)

The booty's not bad either.

(to Scott)

Show 'em your ass.

Jordan turns Scott around.

ALEX (cont'd)

It's not as good as mine, of course, but it'll do, right, ladies? And last but not least, he has big hands and you know what that means. He has a big...heart, one we're going to let you get to know a little better by letting you ask a few questions so who wants to go first?

As several women raise their arms, Alex points to one.

ANGIE

Hi, Scott, I'm Angie. I'd like to know what your sign is.

ALEX

Come on, ladies, haven't we gotten beyond that question yet?

Alex points to another woman with her hand up.

ALEX (cont'd)

Yes, you.

MIA

I'm Mia. What is your sign?

ALEX

I guess not.

(to Scott)

Well?

SCOTT

I'm a Capricorn.

Alex points to another woman.

CARLA

What's the most romantic thing
you've ever done for a woman?

SCOTT

The most romantic thing? That'd
probably be offering to cook for --

Scott stops just short of mentioning Sam's name.

SCOTT (cont'd)

...a girl I liked and her date.

Alex whispers something into Scott's ear.

SCOTT (cont'd)

Sorry. Woman and her date. It was
probably one of the more stupid
things, too.

A ripple of laughter spreads through the crowd as Alex points
to another woman.

TRUDY

What's your favorite body part?

SCOTT

Uh, that would have to be the eyes.
They're the window to your soul.

Several women nod appreciatively as Alex points to another
woman.

SARAH

Do you wear boxers or briefs?

ALEX

Finally, an important question. In
fact, if you can guess what all
three of us are wearing tonight you
can have a kiss from the man of your
choice. How's that sound?

Sarah points to Jordan, Scott, and Alex in turn.

SARAH

Uh! Briefs, boxers, briefs?

The guys share a look, then shake their heads 'no.'

ALEX

Sorry. Anyone else like to try?

Alex points to another attractive woman.

ALEX (cont'd)
How about you?

WOMAN
Boxers, briefs, briefs?

They shake their heads 'no' again as a male voice calls out.

TONY (O.S.)
Boxers, briefs, commando.

ALEX
I think we just turned into the
Jerry Springer show.
(to Jordan and Scott)
Well, guys?

JORDAN
Boxers.

SCOTT
Briefs.

Alex, in turn, peeks down his pants and AD-LIBS an 'Oops,' prompting the women to shout 'Show us.'

Begrudgingly, the men turn their backs and drop their pants, then turn back around as they pull them up.

ALEX
So who gets the lucky kiss?

A beat, as Tony and Jordan share a look, then Tony indicates the woman standing next to him.

TONY
My sister.

Tony looks disappointed while Scott and Alex look relieved.

ALEX
Well, then, get on up here.

The women roar their encouragement as Tony's sister goes to the stage and gives Scott a tearful kiss.

EXT. STREET - EVENING

Scott approaches Jimmy and gives him a coffee.

SCOTT
Here you go, Jimmy.

JIMMY
What women will do, huh?

SCOTT
Tell me about it.

JIMMY
You just missed seeing Sam.

SCOTT
Sam was here?

JIMMY
She has a cold. Probably one of those bugs that's goin' around.

SCOTT
She has a cold?

JIMMY
And an audition?

SCOTT
Sam has an audition?

INT. SAM'S APARTMENT BUILDING. HALLWAY - DAY

Scott knocks, holding magazines, a bag of groceries, and a coffee maker.

INT. SAM'S APARTMENT. VARIOUS ROOMS - CONTINUING

Sam is in bed, clearly under the weather.

SAM
Go away.

When the knocking continues, she goes to the door.

SAM (cont'd)
I said go....What are you doing here?

SCOTT
I heard you were sick.

SAM
From who?

SCOTT
Jimmy. Are you going to let me in?
I brought magazines?

As Sam lets him enter, he hands her the magazines.

SCOTT (cont'd)
 Although, for the life of me, I
 don't know why you bother with them.

SAM
 It's like the instant coffee. Not
 everything can be explained.

SCOTT
 Speaking of which, I brought you a
 coffee maker.

SAM
 To make up for the panties?

Scott looks around the messy apartment.

SCOTT
 I see you're not a multitasker.

SAM
 If you've come to criticize, you can
 just turn around and leave.

Sam blows her nose unceremoniously into a kleenex.

SAM (cont'd)
 Besides, I thought you had a job.

SCOTT
 It's Sunday. Now what are you
 taking for your cold?

SAM
 Obviously nothing that works and I
 have an audition to get ready for,
 the biggest audition of my life....
 What am I saying? My life is over.

SCOTT
 With a little rest, your life will
 be just like it was before.
 Assuming that's what you want.

INT. SAM'S APARTMENT. BEDROOM - CONTINUING

Scott leads Sam to her bed and tucks her in.

SAM
 I need to focus --

SCOTT
 On getting better. So who's the
 audition with?

SAM

Mystery Records. But how can I sing
when I can barely talk?

Scott grabs a thermometer and sticks it into Sam's mouth.

SCOTT

You shouldn't be talking.

Sam does keep talking however, albeit, unintelligibly.

SCOTT (cont'd)

Fine. Talk if you must, but I can't
understand a word you're saying.

Sam continues to mumble.

SCOTT (cont'd)

Not a word.

Scott removes the thermometer and checks her temperature.

SCOTT (cont'd)

If this were a test, you'd be an A
student.

INT. SAM'S APARTMENT. VARIOUS ROOMS - DAY

Sam sits up in bed as Scott enters with soup, juice, and
vitamins on a tray.

After she takes the pills, he starts feeding her the soup,
but she balks after a couple spoonfuls.

SCOTT

Is it too hot?

SAM

No. What kind of soup is this?

SCOTT

Chicken. Oh, God! You're a
vegetarian! And I would know that,
too, if we were one of those old-
fashioned couples who went out to
dinner before we had sex.

SAM

I'm not a vegetarian. It just
doesn't taste like any kind of
chicken soup I've ever had before.

SCOTT

You've probably never had home-made.

SAM
You made this?

SCOTT
That's usually what home-made means.

SAM
It's good.

LATER

Sam wakes and goes to the living room, surprised it's clean and tidy now.

She looks to the kitchen and sees Scott washing the floor, then goes back to bed without a word.

LATER

Scott looks in on Sam and sees she's sleeping soundly.

He looks around for something to write on, checks his pockets finally, and finds the poem he wrote.

He writes a note on the back of it, tacks it to the fridge, and leaves.

LATER

Again, Sam wakes up and goes to the living room, disappointed now when she doesn't see Scott.

She goes to the kitchen and finds the note that reads "Be back to make dinner. Go back to bed." And she does.

INT. SPEAKERS CORNER BOOTH - DAY

SCOTT
I'd like to thank everyone who showed up at The Java Lounge last night and, just so you know, it wasn't my idea. But I guess we're all looking for that happy ending and I hope some of us find it.

Scott starts to exit, then sits back down as if settling in for the duration.

SCOTT (cont'd)
But what do you do if....?

INT. SCOTT'S APARTMENT - DAY

Scott enters and checks his machine for messages.

AUTOMATED VOICE
You have seventeen new messages.

Scott listens to the first message.

ANGIE'S VOICE ON MACHINE
Hi, Scott, it's Angie.

He skips to the next message.

MIA'S VOICE ON MACHINE
Hi, Scott, it's Mia --

He skips through more messages to find they're all from women.

INT. SEXCAPADES - DAY

Jordan hands a bag to Customer #4.

JORDAN
I think you'll be happy with this one, especially since you travel a lot because it won't set off the metal detectors at the airport.

As the woman exits, Scott enters.

JORDAN (cont'd)
You could have told me, you know!

SCOTT
Told you what?

JORDAN
That you're gay. I can't believe I couldn't tell.

JORDAN	SCOTT
That's the only thing that explains the deer in the headlights look on your face all Saturday night. And where'd you disappear to?	I'm not gay. You hear me? Not gay.

SCOTT
I couldn't take it anymore.

JORDAN
We're just trying to help, you know.

SCOTT
If you really wanna help, you can cover for me this afternoon.

JORDAN

Why? Do you have a date? Let me guess. Mia!...Angie?...Sarah!

SCOTT

Sam, and it's not a date.

JORDAN

You mean Sam Sam?

SCOTT

She's sick.

JORDAN

And you're what, Florence Nightingale all of a sudden? I have news for you, Scott. Florence didn't get a lot of action --

SCOTT

Are you going to cover for me or not?...I know, I'm going to owe you.

INT. SAM'S APARTMENT. BEDROOM - EVENING

Sam stirs at the sound of a key in the lock.

INT. SAM'S APARTMENT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUING

Scott enters with more groceries and a Mocha Frappuccino.

SCOTT

Don't be afraid. It's just me.

INT. SAM'S APARTMENT. BEDROOM - CONTINUING

Sam sits up in bed.

SAM

Good, because I think I'm all out of pepper spray.

Scott appears and hands her the coffee.

SCOTT

I thought this might cheer you up.

SAM

Thank you.

SCOTT

And I borrowed your key. I didn't think you'd mind. You don't, do you?
(more)

SCOTT (cont'd)
(off her look)
Good. Are you hungry?

SAM
Starving.

SCOTT
You must be getting better then.

Sam sneezes, then blows her nose again.

SCOTT (cont'd)
Or not.

SAM
No, I am. Thanks to you.

SCOTT
Dinner won't be long.

INT. SAM'S APARTMENT. KITCHEN - EVENING

Scott is busily cooking dinner as

INT. SAM'S APARTMENT. BEDROOM/BATHROOM - CONTINUING

Sam shuffles from the bedroom to the bathroom and, leaving the door open, proceeds to pee.

INT. SAM'S APARTMENT. KITCHEN - CONTINUING

Scott reacts to Sam having left the door open as she appears.

SAM
It smells good.
(off his look)
What?

SCOTT
Nothing.

Sam realizes he noticed she left the bathroom door open.

SAM
It just means I'm comfortable around you.

SCOTT
That's nice.

SAM
Don't make more of it than there is.

SCOTT
I won't. I brought some videos for
later.

He holds up the Judy Garland version of A Star Is Born.

SCOTT (cont'd)
Esther Blodgett or....

He holds up the Barbra Streisand version.

SCOTT (cont'd)
Esther Hoffman?

SAM
You're gay, aren't you?

SCOTT
The guy at the video store picked
them. He said you'd love them.
Don't you love them?

SAM
I'm sure I would. If I had a VCR.

INT. SAM'S APARTMENT BUILDING. HALLWAY - EVENING

Scott knocks on Sam's neighbour's door, holding a plate of
food.

INT. SAM'S APARTMENT. BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Scott enters with a VCR tucked under his arm.

LATER

Laying in bed together, Scott and Sam watch the Judy Garland
version of A Star Is Born.

LATER

Scott and Sam watch the Streisand version of A Star Is Born.

LATER

As the movie ends, Scott looks over at Sam who's fallen
asleep.

He turns the TV off, tucks her in, and leaves.

LATER

Sam wakes with a start, a little disappointed not to see
Scott laying next to her anymore.

INT. SCOTT'S APARTMENT - EVENING

Once again, Scott checks his answering machine for messages.

AUTOMATED VOICE

You have twelve new messages.

Scott erases the messages without even listening to them.

INT. SCOTT'S APARTMENT - LATER

Scott opens the door to find Jordan and Alex standing resolutely in the hallway.

JORDAN

Payback's a bitch, ain't it?

Scott begrudgingly steps aside to let them enter.

ALEX

And we're not leaving till you agree to go out with at least some of the women from Saturday night because you owe it to them, Scott, after pouring your heart out the way you did on Speakers Corner.

JORDAN

More importantly, you owe it to us because how are we supposed to go out and get laid knowing you're home alone? Pining.

ALEX

What kind of friends would we be?

JORDAN

We'd be horny friends and, trust me, you don't want that so, as your boss, I'm giving you three days off with pay in exchange for going out on six dates.

Alex holds up the sheaf of papers in his hand.

ALEX

We're even gonna help you choose.

INT. THE JAVA LOUNGE - DAY

The blackboard reads "A day without coffee is like Toronto without the Maple Leafs" as Date #1 approaches Scott in his usual booth, gives him a passionate kiss, then sits down.

DATE #1

I always like to get the first kiss
out of the way early.

SCOTT

How was it?

DATE #1

Good. You have very soft lips.

INT. SCOTT'S APARTMENT - DAY

Scott marks an 'X' on a chart to show he's completed one date.

INT. SPEAKERS CORNER BOOTH - DAY

SCOTT

Men aren't good daters. Let's face
it, you can't be yourself on a date.
At least men can't because everyone
knows women hold all the power on a
date.

INT. THE JAVA LOUNGE - EVENING

The blackboard reads "A day without coffee is like cats
without dogs" as DATE #2 joins Scott in his usual booth.

DATE #2

I hope I'm not too late.

SCOTT

No, you're right on time. Unless,
of course, we were supposed to meet
for lunch in which case we're both
late.

DATE #2

You're not one of those guys who
turns everything into a joke, are
you? Oh, and you should know I
practice abstinence.

SCOTT

Abstinence.

DATE #2

I don't believe in sex before
marriage. I hope that's not going
to be a problem.

INT. SCOTT'S APARTMENT - EVENING

Scott marks a second 'X' on his chart.

INT. SAM'S APARTMENT. BATHROOM - EVENING

The phone, resting on the closed lid of the toilet, rings as Sam soaks in the bathtub.

SAM

Hello?

SCOTT (O.S.)

It's me. You okay? You sound a little weird.

SAM

Of course, I sound weird. I'm sick. And I'm taking a bath.

SCOTT (O.S.)

Really? What are you wearing?

INT. SAM'S KITCHEN/SCOTT'S KITCHEN - CONTINUING

INTERCUT Sam and Scott on the phone still as they each pour a cup of coffee made with their identical coffee makers.

SAM

No, it does, it makes good coffee.

SCOTT

Good. So they dip the molds into 70° liquid latex, bake them at 240° F, dip them again, bake them again, and that's how they're made.

SAM

You seem to know a lot about them.

SCOTT

Our motto is the condom you choose is as important as the partner.

SAM

I still can't believe you work in a sex store. You seem too...I don't know...nice.

SCOTT

Nice people need sex, too. It's what keeps them nice.

INT. THE JAVA LOUNGE - DAY

The blackboard reads "A day without coffee is like a day without sunshine."

INT. SCOTT'S APARTMENT - DAY

Scott marks a third 'X' on his chart.

INT. THE JAVA LOUNGE - DAY

The blackboard reads "A day without coffee is like James Bond without Sean Connery."

INT. SCOTT'S APARTMENT - DAY

Scott marks a fourth 'X' on his chart.

INT. SPEAKERS CORNER BOOTH - DAY

SCOTT

You wanna know what dating's like?
It's like pulling a band-aid off a
cut slowly. It's like having a root
canal. No, you wanna know what it's
really like? It's like...

Scott strips down to his underwear.

SCOTT (cont'd)

...sitting around in your underwear
when everybody else is dressed.

INT. THE JAVA LOUNGE - EVENING

The blackboard reads "A day without coffee is like love without friendship" as DATE #5 pulls a ringing cell phone from her purse.

DATE #5

Sorry, I hate it, but I'd be lost
without it.

(into phone)

Hello?...No, I'm on a date....What's
it matter with who?....No, you're
not my boyfriend, you were my boy-
friend, there's a difference. Okay,
if you must know, it's with that guy
from Speakers Corner.... Yes, it is
so....Fine. Ya wanna talk to him?

She hands the phone to Scott.

DATE #5 (cont'd)

He wants to talk to you.

INT. SCOTT'S APARTMENT - EVENING

Scott marks a fifth 'X' on his chart.

SCOTT (V.O.)
 And the only thing worse than dating
 is blind dating.

INT. SPEAKERS CORNER BOOTH - DAY

Speakers Corner viewers talk about their own blind date experiences, both good and bad.

INT. SAM'S APARTMENT - DAY

Sam tries to sing at her keyboards, then goes to the phone and dials a number when her voice comes out raspy.

SAM
 Hi, this is Sam Harris. I have an
 audition on the 18th and I was
 wondering if there was any way I
 could reschedule....Really? Okay,
 thanks anyway.

INT. POOL HALL - EVENING

Scott, Alex, and Jordan shoot a game of pool.

JORDAN
 So you've had a few bad dates. Who
 hasn't?

ALEX
 He's right. Dating's like gambling,
 it's all about percentages. Maybe
 number six'll be the one.

INT. SAM'S APARTMENT/SCOTT'S APARTMENT - EVENING

INTERCUT Sam, blowing her nose periodically, and Scott on their respective beds while talking on the phone.

SAM
 So what'd you do today?

SCOTT
 Oh, you know....

SAM
 Did you go to the lounge?

SCOTT
 Uh. I did. Yeah.

SAM
 You did? Would you tell me about it?
 I really miss it.

SCOTT
What d'ya want to know?

SAM
I don't know. Did you eat or just
have coffee?

SCOTT
Uh! I ate.

SAM
You did? How are Tony and Kyle?

SCOTT
Fine. So where are you now?

SAM
On my bed.

Sam uses the last Kleenex in the box.

SCOTT
Hey! So am I!

SAM
Just a sec.

Sam puts the phone down and goes to the bathroom, then
reappears blowing her nose into some toilet paper as Scott
continues to talk.

SCOTT (O.S.)
We'd be all set if we were going to
have phone sex....Sam? Are you there?

She grabs the phone again as Scott appears on Speakers Corner.

SAM
I'm back.

Sam double-takes on his image and turns up the volume.

SCOTT (ON TV)
But what do you do if the
one you love doesn't love
you? And she's a song-
writer. Doesn't she need
something to write about?

SCOTT (O.S.)
You've probably actually
had phone sex....Have you?
Had phone sex?...Sam, you
still there?

SAM
Scott, you don't happen to watch
Speakers Corner, do you?

A worried look crosses Scott's face.

SCOTT (O.S.)
Speakers Corner?

SAM
You know. The show.

Scott fumbles for his remote, finds it, and turns on Speakers Corners as a MAN and WOMAN appear on the screen.

SAM (cont'd)
Well? Do you?

MALE (ON TV)
I want you to know this is because of you, Scott. And the woman who won't give you a chance.

The woman smiles, waves, and mouths the words 'Thank you' into the camera.

MALE (cont'd; ON TV)
You made me realize that I don't want to end up like you, Scott, going through life without the woman I love. Sorry, that didn't exactly come out right. Anyway, I guess we'll know in about thirty seconds if I'm gonna be like you or....

He drops to one knee and out of sight of the camera.

FEMALE (ON TV)
I don't think they can see you, sweetheart.

He repositions himself, moving back into view.

MALE (ON TV)
How's that?

FEMALE (ON TV)
I think they can see you now.

MALE (ON TV)
Okay, good, I guess this is it then. Sweetheart, will you marry me?

FEMALE (ON TV)
I will, yes.

They kiss.

SAM
Have you ever gone on the show?

SCOTT

Have I ever gone on the show?

SAM

You're repeating again, Scott. Let me put it another way. How could you, Scott? How could you go on Speakers Corner and talk about me?

Sam slams the phone in Scott's ear.

SCOTT

Shit.

He hits redial, frustrated when he gets a busy signal.

INT. SAM'S APARTMENT. VARIOUS ROOMS - EVENING

Sam starts coughing uncontrollably as the phone beeps off the hook in the background.

She starts to take some cough syrup, only to find the bottle is empty.

INT. SCOTT'S APARTMENT. KITCHEN/LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Scott dials Sam's number again and, again, gets a busy signal.

INT. SAM'S APARTMENT. LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Sam grabs her jacket and exits.

INT. SCOTT'S APARTMENT. LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Scott grabs his jacket and exits, too.

EXT. STREET - EVENING

Sam exits to the street just as it starts to rain.

INT. SAM'S APARTMENT BUILDING. HALLWAY - EVENING

Dripping from the rain, Scott knocks on Sam's door.

When she doesn't answer, he starts talking through the door.

SCOTT

I'm sorry, Sam. I'm not sure for what exactly because I'm not sure what I did that was so wrong. So I talked about you. When you care about someone, it's natural to want to talk about them.

(more)

SCOTT (cont'd)

Maybe not on television, but I never mentioned you by name, Sam, I'd never do that.

Sam's neighbour opens the door and peeks out.

They exchange a look, then she closes the door again.

SCOTT (cont'd)

And as far as what those people say, you can't take it personally because they don't know you, Sam. They're just talking about themselves and their experiences. Apparently, the course of true love is rarely smooth.

Scott listens at the door for sounds of movement, but all he hears is the beeping sound of the phone still off the hook.

INT. DRUG STORE - EVENING

Sam haphazardly pulls several cold remedies from the shelves, followed by several boxes of Kleenex.

EXT. DRUG STORE - EVENING

Sam exits with her purchases and walks in one direction, then reappears walking in the opposite direction.

INT. SPEAKERS CORNER BOOTH - EVENING

Sam inserts her money and begins recording a message.

SAM

I don't believe I'm doing this....
I'm....

Sam opens the box of kleenex and blows her nose.

SAM (cont'd)

Sorry. Where was I? Oh, right, I'm Sam. I'm the one Scott's been talking about. This is crazy. I should be at home, taking care of myself because I have a cold and an audition....But, instead, I'm sitting here, talking to....I don't know who I'm talking to. But whoever it is, you think you know me, but you don't. I just don't happen to have time for a relationship right now. Does that mean I can't ever have sex?

Sam blows her nose again.

SAM (cont'd)

And I know Scott's a nice guy. He may be the nicest guy I've ever met, but does that mean I'm supposed to forget about everything I've been working toward? I don't think so so I'd appreciate it if people would just mind their own business. There, I think that's all I have to say. I'm gonna go home now because I'm sick and I have an audition.

INT. SAM'S APARTMENT BUILDING. HALLWAY - CONTINUING

Scott begrudgingly leaves via the stairs at one end of the hallway as Sam appears up the stairs at the other end.

INT. SPEAKERS CORNER BOOTH - EVENING

SCOTT

Looks like I screwed up again so this'll be my last message on Speakers Corner because I think we should learn from our mistakes, even though we don't always know when we're making one. So thanks for everything and keep looking for that happy ending.

INT. SAM'S APARTMENT. BEDROOM - EVENING

Sam lays out the various cold remedies she purchases, takes a couple, then lays down in bed.

Moments later, she gets up, sets her alarm clock, and lays back down.

INT. SCOTT'S APARTMENT - EVENING

Looking depressed, Scott opens the door to find his usual pizza delivery boy.

PIZZA DELIVERY BOY

Still hung up, huh?

Scott nods as he wordlessly exchanges money for the pizza.

PIZZA DELIVERY BOY (cont'd)

Unrequited love sure ain't what it's cracked up to be.

Scott motions for him to keep the change.

PIZZA DELIVERY BOY (cont'd)
Thanks. In fact, it's not love at
all. Enjoy the pizza.

Scott nods again and closes the door.

INT. SAM'S APARTMENT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Sam gets up and takes more cough medicine.

INT. SCOTT'S APARTMENT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Scott watches Fatal Attraction on television.

INT. SAM'S APARTMENT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Unable to sleep, Sam listlessly does a magazine quiz, tosses
it aside, gets up, and takes more medicine.

INT. STREET - MORNING

Scott exits The Java Lounge with his usual two cups of
coffees and hands one to Jimmy.

SCOTT
Here you go, Jimmy.

JIMMY
Thanks. Sam's audition's today.

SCOTT
Is it?

JIMMY
You're not fooling anyone, you know.

SCOTT
No. I guess not. Have a good day.

JIMMY
You, too.

INT. SAM'S APARTMENT. BEDROOM - MORNING

Sam's alarm rings, but she sleeps right through it.

LATER

Sam slowly opens her eyes and looks at the clock.

She rolls over to go back to sleep, then looks at it again.

SAM
No! Shit! This can't be happening.

INT. HOTEL. LOBBY - DAY

Sam rushes up to the reception desk of a swanky hotel.

SAM

Hi! Could you tell me if a Mr....

She consults a piece of paper for the name.

SAM (cont'd)

...Nolan has checked out yet?

She types the name into her computer terminal.

RECEPTIONIST

Mr. Nolan checked out an hour ago.
Were you supposed to audition for
him today?

SAM

Yes. But I have a cold so I took
some over the counter cold medicine
which made me oversleep and now --

RECEPTIONIST

You've missed the biggest
opportunity of your life?

SAM

Yes. And who knows if I'll ever get
another one because they say you
only get chance?
(BEAT) I think I'm still sick so I'm
just gonna go now. Thank you.

As Sam turns to leave, another WOMAN rushes up to the desk.

WOMAN

Please tell me Mr. Nolan's still
here? Please!

EXT. STREET - DAY

Scott hands Jimmy a cup of coffee.

JIMMY

No sign of her yet.

Scott nods and exits.

INT. SAM'S APARTMENT - DAY

Fighting back tears, Sam enters, grabs up all the cold
medicines she bought, and throws them into the garbage.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Scott is about to enter Sexcapades when he sees a woman who looks like Sam from a distance and runs to catch up to her.

SCOTT

Sam!

Alison turns to look at Scott.

SCOTT (cont'd)

I'm sorry. I thought you were someone....I mean someone else. I'm....

ALISON

Sorry?

As he turns to leave, he catches something in her look.

SCOTT

I'm Scott, by the way.

ALISON

I'm Alison. Ali.

SCOTT

Nice to meet you, Ali. You wouldn't be hungry, by any chance, would you? 'Cause if you are, I know a place near here that has the best food in the neighbourhood. Maybe you've heard of it? The Java Lounge?

ALISON

No. Sorry.

SCOTT

Sorry you haven't heard of it? Or sorry you aren't hungry?

ALISON

I haven't heard of it.

SCOTT

So are you? Hungry?

EXT. STREET - DAY

Sam busks for change as people pass by, seemingly oblivious.

LATER

Sam counts her meagre earnings for the day.

EXT. STREET - EVENING

Sam approaches Jimmy, a forlorn look on her face.

SAM
Hey, Jimmy.

JIMMY
Hey, yourself. Feeling better?

Sam shrugs.

JIMMY (cont'd)
How'd the audition go?

SAM
I slept in.

JIMMY
Don't worry. I'm sure you'll get
'em next time.

INT. INSOMNIACS NIGHTCLUB - EVENING

Sam goes to the dance floor with a beer in hand and begins swaying in time to the music.

She looks around expectantly for a possible partner, but there aren't any in sight.

EXT. STREET - EVENING

Scott approaches Jimmy and, from their body language, it's obvious Jimmy tells him about Sam missing her audition.

INT. SCOTT'S APARTMENT - EVENING

Scott starts to add to his chart, pauses, then adds a checkmark to the five X's already present.

He goes to the radio and turns down the volume, then goes to the phone.

INT. SAM'S APARTMENT. VARIOUS ROOMS - CONTINUING

Sam turns on the TV and Speakers Corner, pleased at not seeing Scott on it.

She changes the channel, then returns to Speakers Corner to make sure Scott hasn't reappeared.

Finally, she turns the TV off and heads for the kitchen.

On the way, she absently turns her radio on.

RADIO HOST

Hello and welcome. You're on the air with Delilah.

SCOTT'S VOICE ON RADIO

Hi, Delilah.

Sam reappears and turns the radio off.

As she turns back toward the kitchen, Scott's voice registers, prompting her to turn the radio on again.

SCOTT'S VOICE ON RADIO (cont'd)

Scott, my name's Scott.

RADIO HOST

How can I help you this evening, Scott?

SCOTT'S VOICE ON RADIO

I was hoping you could play a song for someone.

RADIO HOST

I can do that. Does this someone have a name?

SCOTT'S VOICE ON RADIO

Sam. She's probably not listening, but I have a feeling she could use a friend right now, but I did something stupid so I can't be with her to be that friend.

RADIO HOST

You sound like a very caring person, Scott. Do you have a song in mind?

SCOTT'S VOICE ON RADIO

I was hoping you could pick one.

RADIO HOST

I'd be happy to. If you're listening, Sam, this is for you.

As the song plays, Sam sees Scott's message from earlier posted on her bulletin board, takes it down and reads it.

Finally, she turns it over and sees Scott's poem on the back.

INT. SCOTT'S APARTMENT - CONTINUING

As the song plays, Scott has a lightbulb moment and retrieves the demo tape Sam recorded on their date.

INT. SPEAKERS CORNER BOOTH - DAY

SCOTT

I know I said I wasn't going to record any more messages, but this isn't really a message. I wanna play something for you.

Scott plays a bit of Sam's demo tape on the boombox.

SCOTT (cont'd)

It's good, isn't it? Of course, it's good, it's Sam. But it isn't enough to be good these days, people have to know you're good so that's why I'm here. I need your help.

INT. SEXCAPADES - DAY

Sam's demo plays as Jordan hands customer #5 a bag.

JORDAN

Just don't use it every time.

(off her look)

You'll get spoiled. Having said that, make sure you keep extra batteries on hand because this is one of those times you really don't want to be disappointed.

EXT. THE JAVA LOUNGE - DAY

Sam enters.

MOMENTS LATER

Sam exits with a quizzical look on her face, turns around, and enters again.

INT. THE JAVA LOUNGE - CONTINUING

The blackboard reads "A day without coffee is like love without desire as Sam reenters and hears her demo playing.

EXT. THE JAVA LOUNGE - CONTINUING

Sam exits again, then looks over to Jimmy and hears her demo playing on a boombox beside him.

INT. SAM'S APARTMENT - DAY

Sam goes to the bulletin board where she'd crossed out Scott's name and number previously and struggles to make it out.

She grabs the phone finally, thinks better of it, puts it down again and looks up the address in the phone book.

INT. SCOTT'S APARTMENT BUILDING. HALLWAY - EVENING

Sam knocks on Scott's door, then waits impatiently until he opens it, wearing only a towel.

SCOTT

I just jumped into the shower....Sam!

SAM

Do you always answer the door like that?

SCOTT

This is a....

SAM

Surprise?

SCOTT

Yes. Come in.

INT. SCOTT'S APARTMENT - CONTINUING

Sam enters and sees the table is set for a romantic dinner for two.

SAM

I'm interrupting. I'll just go and come back --

SCOTT

No. It's okay, I have some time.

Scott fastens the towel tighter around his waist.

SAM

I heard the demo. At the Java Lounge. Jimmy....

SCOTT

We thought we'd put the word out, you know, after the audition because you deserve to be heard, Sam. You really do.

SAM

A lot of people deserve to be heard, Scott. But it's not that simple, the music business doesn't work that way.

SCOTT
Maybe it should.

Sam knows he doesn't just mean the music business.

SAM
I should go. I just wanted to thank
you for...well...you know.

Sam opens the door, surprised to find Alison about to knock.

SCOTT
Ali. This is Sam.
(to Sam)
This is Alison.

Alison enters.

ALISON
I really like your demo. You have
a beautiful voice.

SAM
Thanks.

A beat, as everyone stands around uncomfortably.

SAM (cont'd)
I was just leaving so I'll just go.
Enjoy your dinner.

Sam exits.

A beat.

SCOTT
I'll be right back.

Scott exits to the hallway.

INT. SCOTT'S APARTMENT. HALLWAY - CONTINUING

Sam walks down the hall as Scott appears.

SCOTT
Sam, wait!

Sam turns to face him.

SAM
What?

Scott opens his mouth to speak, but nothing comes out.

SAM (cont'd)
 Please, Scott, don't. Don't make
 excuses or apologies or promises.
 Just go back inside and enjoy your
 dinner. She's seems...nice.

SCOTT
 She is.

SAM
 Good. Now go.

A beat.

SAM (cont'd)
 Go. Women don't like to be kept
 waiting.

Scott reluctantly turns and goes back into his apartment.

EXT. STREET - EVENING

Sam exits Scott's building and stops to take a breath.

INT. SAM'S APARTMENT - EVENING

Sam runs her fingers over her keyboards, then over Scott's
 poem lying on top of it.

She picks up the poem and reads it again, then sits at they
 keyboards and starts putting music to it.

After a couple false starts, she finds the right melody to go
 with the lyric and, slowly, it becomes a full-fledged song as

MONTAGE

-- Scott refills their wine glasses as he and Alison eat the
 dinner he's cooked;

-- Jimmy continues playing Sam's demo on the sidewalk as
 people walk by and give him change;

-- Sam takes a pizza from the pizza delivery boy at the door;

-- Jordan chats up Tony in The Java Lounge;

-- Alex plays pool with a young woman recognizable from the
 speed dating session;

-- a record executive seated at his desk with a TV tuned to
 Speakers Corner grabs his remote and turns up the volume as
 Scott continues playing Sam's demo while holding up a phone
 number.

Sam's performance of the song goes from rehearsal mode to performance mode as

MONTAGE

-- Sam records a CD in a recording studio;

-- Sam signs copies of her CD for a mob of fans in a music store;

-- Sam, a polished professional now, performs in concert, finishing the song to thunderous applause.

INSERT CARD: "ONE YEAR LATER"

INT. SPEAKERS CORNER BOOTH - DAY

Speakers address the camera in succession, alone except where noted.

SCOTT

Why do we pursue love the way we do?
For what? The pain? To defy the
odds? Still, when you meet the right
person you can tell...

(snapping his fingers)

...just like that.

CUT TO:

SAM

You can tell when someone's all
wrong for you. But you can be
wrong, too. You just don't know it
sometimes till it's too late.

CUT TO:

SCOTT

Now sex, sex can be explained. But
even when the sex is great, it
doesn't mean you're in love. But it
doesn't mean you aren't either.

CUT TO:

SAM

It's scary when someone loves you
with every ounce of their being. Or
even just thinks they do. It's a
lot to live up to.

CUT TO:

SCOTT

Sam and I will always be friends.

CUT TO:

SAM

I hope we'll always be friends.

SCOTT

But there are no guarantees in life.
For sure, there are no guarantees in
love.

CUT TO:

SAM

I guess only time will tell. That's
why you have to go with the moment.

CUT TO:

ALISON

I hope we'll always be friends. And
I hope I find someone someday who
loves me the way he seemed to love
her.

SCOTT

Some good things did come out of
being on Speakers Corner though.
For example, Sam got a recording
contract.

CUT TO:

SAM

I was able to put out a CD, thanks
to Scott and Speakers Corner. And
thanks to you.

CUT TO:

SCOTT

Another good thing is....

CUT TO:

Alex appears with the woman with whom he played pool.

ALEX

...I met the woman of my dreams on
Speakers Corner. Go figure.

CUT TO:

JORDAN
And I met the man of mine.

Tony joins Jordan in the booth.

JORDAN (cont'd)
Even though he snores.

TONY
Nobody's perfect. You're not
perfect, you know.

JORDAN
At least I don't snore.

TONY
You do other things in your sleep.
I don't wanna say what, but you do.

CUT TO:

SCOTT
And I bought The Java Lounge with
profits from the song Sam wrote from
the poem I wrote.

Jimmy appears onscreen, clean-shaven and nicely dressed.

JIMMY
Which is how I got to be a manager
at The Java Lounge. Now I have to
get my own coffee, but that's okay
because it's the best coffee in the
neighbourhood. Maybe the world.

CUT TO:

SAM
If I had to do it over, I would.
I'd do it exactly the same way.

The screen goes blank as Sam's recording time cuts out.

CUT TO:

SCOTT
I wouldn't have missed this journey
for the world.

Again, the screen goes blank as Scott's time cuts out.

EXT. THE JAVA LOUNGE - EVENING

People enter The Java Lounge, beneath a banner that reads -- UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT -- as a new panhandler works Jimmy's former turf.

INT. THE JAVA LOUNGE - CONTINUING

The blackboard reads "A day without coffee is like life without music" as the newly-renovated Java Lounge bustles with aspiring singers as well familiar faces like Jimmy, Tony, Kyle, Jordan and Alex.

Scott steps onto a makeshift stage with a microphone.

SCOTT

I'd like to welcome everyone to the first ever Open Mike Night here at The Java Lounge. It exists because we think you should be heard so let's get started with tonight's show by introducing --

Alex appears onstage, whispers something into Scott's ear, and takes the microphone from him.

ALEX

Hey, everybody. How's everybody doin' tonight?

A slight buzz permeates the room.

ALEX (cont'd)

I'm sorry, I can't hear you. I said how's everybody doin' tonight?

The buzz improves a little.

ALEX (cont'd)

Well, you're about to get a whole lot better because we have a surprise for you tonight.

(to Scott)

For you, too.

(to everybody)

So let's get things started by bringing out the one who really inspired Open Mike Night here at The Java Lounge, the one, the only, Mystery Records recording artist, Samantha Harris.

The crowd, especially Scott, looks surprised, then thrilled as Sam takes the stage with her guitar.

SAM

Thank you.

She smiles and waves at Scott, Jimmy, Tony, and Kyle, in turn.

SAM (cont'd)

So many familiar faces. This is nice.

Sam strums her guitar to make sure it's in tune.

SAM (cont'd)

Okay. Some of you may know that I'm on tour with my new CD at the moment and there's no place I would rather sing my new single for the first time than here. And I'd like to dedicate it to....

She looks at Scott, then at Kyle standing behind the counter.

SAM (cont'd)

Kyle, because he makes the best Mocha Frappaccino anywhere.

(to Kyle)

That's code for I'm hoping there'll be one waiting when I'm through.

He gives her a 'thumbs up' sign and starts to make it as she Sam launches into the song, mesmerizing everyone in the place.

LATER

The aspiring singers gather around Sam, hanging on her every word, as she answers their questions.

They disperse as Scott approaches Sam, gives her a big hug, then hands her a Mocha Frappaccino as Alex and Jordan watch.

SAM (cont'd)

Thanks.

She takes a sip, turns, and gives Kyle a 'thumbs up' sign.

SAM (cont'd)

I've missed this.

She indicates the room.

SAM (cont'd)

And this. I'm glad to see holding onto the past hasn't kept you from redecorating.

Sam waves at Jordan and Alex who are watching from across the room.

SCOTT

I can't believe they were able to pull this off. And you! Touring obviously agrees with you. Or maybe it's marriage that agrees with you.

SAM

It's funny what Vegas can make you do.

INT. SPEAKERS CORNER BOOTH - EVENING

Scott holds his one year old daughter in his arms.

SCOTT

Hi, this is Samantha. She's one.

CHILD

One.

SCOTT

That's right. One.

(into camera)

How could I have a daughter and not name her Sam? Who, by the way, I saw tonight for the first time in awhile since she's been on tour. And every time I see her, it's always the same, all the same feelings come flooding back. Is that love?

Scott holds his wedding band up to the camera.

SCOTT (cont'd)

I certainly hope so because we're married now. I guess it wasn't just...

He covers the child's ears.

SCOTT (cont'd)

...sex...

He removes his hands.

SCOTT (cont'd)

...after all. But as you can see, that's worked out pretty well.
(BEAT) It's funny what you can make in Vegas.

(more)

SCOTT (cont'd)
 (to child)
 You wanna say hi, Sam?

The child looks into the camera and waves.

CHILD
 Bye.

SCOTT
 I guess that's it then.

He looks to an unseen figure outside the booth.

SCOTT (cont'd)
 Did you want to say anything?

Sam pokes her head into the booth.

SAM
 I'd just like to say that sometimes
 love is like magazines and instant
 coffee, it can't always be explained.

SCOTT
 But you'll know it when you see it.
 Just look in the eyes.
 (as an afterthought)
 Oh, and one more thing. Be patient
 because it sometimes takes awhile.
 (to Sam)
 Okay, I think we're ready to go home.
 (to child)
 Someday you can come here by
 yourself and tell everyone what kind
 of parents we were.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

INT. SPEAKERS CORNER BOOTH - DAY

PIZZA DELIVERY BOY
 They were bound to get together
 sooner or later. They both like the
 same pizza -- medium pepperoni, no
 anchovies -- and pizza doesn't lie.
 And if you're lookin' for good
 pizza...

He points to the brand name on his jacket.

PIZZA DELIVERY BOY (cont'd)
...I'm your guy.

INT. SPEAKERS CORNER BOOTH - DAY

In improvised segments, viewers in long-term relationships share their secrets for staying together as we

FADE OUT:

THE END

NB: The improvised Speakers Corner segments should be filmed first to allow the script to be rewritten to reflect those selected for inclusion and will add five to seven minutes to the running time of the film.

In some cases, participants will be given specific topics and/or lines of dialogue to which to respond.