

SCENE 4

Back to CALLUM and CILLIAN, as before. As CILLIAN talks, he begins to cut the tie with the impossible knot from CALLUM's neck.

CALLUM

Be careful, I don't want to bleed all over my suit.

CILLIAN

Listen, Callum. Sometimes, instead of doing the right thing and listening to their heads, people go through with these things, and it'll eat away at you until you realise you've become old and grey and somehow you've wasted your entire life with the wrong person. And then it'll be too late.

CALLUM is now free. CILLIAN takes off his own tie and starts putting it on CALLUM.

CALLUM

Thanks. But how do you know if it's the wrong person?

CILLIAN

Is she really the right person?

CALLUM

I mean, she's not perfect, she's got her fair share of...quirks, but then, so does everyone.

CILLIAN

Yes, but are all those little, annoying habits going to get less annoying or are you going to end up getting so damned irritated by her chewing with her damned mouth hanging open all the goddamn time, like some kind of brain-dead sloth, that eventually you have to fight the urge to drive the butter knife directly into her gut!

As CILLIAN speaks he ties the tie in an aggressive fashion.

CALLUM

Maria doesn't chew with her mouth open, she's actually a very quiet eater.

CILLIAN

You know what I mean. There must be some things that she does that drive you crazy.

CALLUM

Nothing that isn't easily ignored. Like I said, everyone has habits.

CILLIAN

Not all habits are created equal.

CALLUM looks at himself in the mirror for a moment, adjusting his tie.

CALLUM

(beat.) She does leave her nail clippings in the sink when she's done cutting them. And sometimes they end up on the floor and I have to Hoover them up.

CILLIAN

Well, that's disgusting. I mean, that's basic hygiene.

CALLUM

And I keep asking her to stop but she doesn't.

CILLIAN

Exactly! If she can't do even that, then what hope is there? And that's what married life is; living with those kinds of habits every. Single. Day. Are you really willing to put up with cleaning up literal parts of her body for the rest of your life?

CALLUM sits down, overwhelmed.

CALLUM

I'm supposed to love her for everything that she is, but...she always tells me the endings of films whilst we're watching them and it drives me crazy, and she's always criticising my clothes. And I really, really can't stand it when she sings in the shower. She sounds so happy but I just hate it. I hate it! I don't think I'm supposed to hate the things that bring her happiness, dad!

As he speaks, CALLUM starts to re-tie the new tie that CILLIAN has put on him.

CILLIAN

You're telling me! Your mother used to spend two hours in Boots only looking at lipsticks, and there I am, standing around like a complete idiot thinking we were just grabbing some paracetamol and a meal deal. And then she would always pick the exact same colour! And it was always called something ridiculous like, prawn pink or naughty nude. What makes a colour naughty anyway? And don't get my started hair! All the hair, everywhere. Everywhere! The bath, the sink, the bed. The inside of my sock. Once I thought I saw a rat, jumped out of my skin, probably lost years off my life, only for her to come along, shrieking with laughter and telling me that it was actually an extension. I thought extensions were things you added onto your house, not piles of fake hair. Did you know that, Callum? And she kept trying to do a manicure on me, because apparently my hands are too rough, and I kept telling her to leave me alone and that I didn't want her putting all her weird creams all over my-

CALLUM

Alright, alright, dad. I get it.

CILLIAN

Sorry, it's just that woman really-

CALLUM

Yeah, I know, but if you could focus on the more pressing issue at hand here, I'd really appreciate it.

CILLIAN

Well, it seems to me like you've been listening to your heart and ignoring what your head has been telling you.

CALLUM

Dread! That's what I'm feeling right now!

CILLIAN

Well, I could have told you that.

CALLUM

Oh god, this isn't what's supposed to happen. We've both put so much time and effort into this. All of our friends are here. Grandma Pat is here. Oh god, what's she going to say when she finds out that I've...

CILLIAN

She's not even your grandmother.

CALLUM

Yeah, but still!

CALLUM has now repeated his earlier mistake and has created a knot that cannot be undone.

CILLIAN

When it isn't right, it isn't right. Good on you for being man enough to realise that, instead of condemning yourself to a lifetime of misery.

CALLUM

I just never imagined it going wrong.

CILLIAN begins to cut CALLUM out of the tie again. There is a knock at the door. RICHARD enters.

RICHARD

Hiya guys-

(spots the mangled tie)

Is that your tie?

CALLUM

No...

RICHARD

Groom's got to do what I groom's got to do, I guess. Just wanted to let you guys know that things are running a little bit late at the moment, so keep chilling and I'll let you know when we're ready for you. It's all looking great by the way! I think it's going to be a real corker!

CALLUM

Uh, Richard.

RICHARD

Yeah, buddy?

CALLUM

I've got some bad news...

RICHARD

Nothing we can't fix, I'm sure. Do you need a new tie? You can have mine.

RICHARD starts to take his tie off.