

SCENE 4

The same room CALLUM got ready in. RICHARD is trying to make a tie out of the two ones that have been shorn in half. ANNELI walks in to find him.

ANNELI

There you are!

RICHARD

And here you are. We really need to stop meeting-

ANNELI

Yeah, no time for the cute flirting right now.

RICHARD

Oh.

ANNELI

Later.

RICHARD

Really?

ANNELI

Can you just focus on something else for a minute?

RICHARD

I can, I just don't want to.

ANNELI

I need you to do me a favour.

RICHARD

What kind of favour?

ANNELI

Only a small one.

RICHARD

There's nothing small about this-no, right, sorry. We're focussing. Your stress horn is wearing off on me. What do you need?

ANNELI

I want you to throw the rings away. Like, down a drain or something.

RICHARD

(sarcastically) Oh, yeah, sure, no problem.

ANNELI

I'm not joking, Richard!

RICHARD

You know there's no way I'm doing that, right? That's crazy talk. They're really expensive and they're pretty essential for the whole wedding thing that we're doing now!

ANNELI

Yeah, don't you think I know that? You don't need to mansplain to me what a wedding ring is to me, Richard.

RICHARD

I wasn't man-

ANNELI

We can discuss the ins and outs of misguided male authority later. Right now I just need you to say 'Yes Anneli, whatever you want Anneli, let me flush the rings down the toilet for you Anneli'. Except don't do it down the toilet, they would be way too easy to get back.

RICHARD

Why would I do that?

ANNELI

(trying to convey the orgasm innuendo)

Because you want me to...laugh at your speech, instead of pretending to laugh.

RICHARD

Wait. You can choose which one?

ANNELI

Depends how hard I can be bothered to make you work.

RICHARD

I'm a really hard worker. No, no! Stop distracting me, you siren! Why would I throw the rings away? Everything is fine now.

ANNELI

But it's not though, is it? All that stuff that happened earlier, that hasn't just suddenly not happened. They still both decided for a good chunk of the day that they didn't actually want to get married.

RICHARD

Yeah, but then they realised they were just being idiots.

ANNELI

Which part? Which bit was them being idiots?

RICHARD

I don't want to have to mansplain this to you, but the bit where they decided they didn't want to get married. I mean, I get a cold sweat just from choosing something from a menu, so I can't imagine how nerve-racking it must be to fully commit your life to someone else's.

ANNELI

Not a fan of commitment, are you?

RICHARD

Uh, no. That's not what I said.

ANNELI

It's been noted.

RICHARD

Shit. But that's irrelevant right now. Right now I'm saying that they had a moment of doubt and now they're back on track.

ANNELI

I'm not so sure. The fact that Maria had gotten as far as she did without turning back speaks volumes. Like, she was fine. She'd cancelled her own wedding and she was fine!

RICHARD

Look. Anneli. I know it may seem like I'm only here, talking with you so that I can get my mits on your fine fine curves-

ANNELI

That's such a weird way of putting it.

RICHARD

But I do actually like you. And, I can see you're struggling. I don't know if you have some kind of horrible wedding-related trauma, beyond what you've had to deal with today – which is a lot, by the way, but. They've made their decision. They're adults and it's up to them to make their own mistakes. I think you need to have a shot of something strong and let go. Have a bit of faith. Trust in them.

ANNELI

That just feels too hard.

RICHARD

Why?

ANNELI

(beat.) I don't want to see her in pain, and I'm scared that this will end in tears. Tears that I'll have to wipe up because she's my best friend and I love her. You know she had a go at me earlier, about trying to make today about me, and I'm still here, trying to save her!

RICHARD

She's lucky to have you.

ANNELI

Yeah, but I'm lucky to have her too. She's seen me through my own fair share of shit. Or carried my own fair share of shit, I should say.

RICHARD

She's carried your shit?

ANNELI

No, not literally.

RICHARD

Okay, I was going to say. I thought Callum and I were close, but I've never carried his shit. Oh wait. No, wait. Have I?

ANNELI

No judgement here. Sometimes you got to do what you got to do.

RICHARD looks at his watch.

RICHARD

And you know what we've got to do? We've got to go.

ANNELI

Yeah, I know.

RICHARD

Hey, Ann.

ANNELI

Yeah?

RICHARD

How about we go and watch two people we bloody adore, create some kind of eternal bond in front of all their friends and family? And we'll try to enjoy it and maybe we'll even shed a little tear, because actually, it's all a little bit beautiful. How does that sound?

ANNELI

Yeah. Okay. I guess we could try.

RICHARD holds out his hand and ANNELI takes it, and they exit.

BLACK OUT.