



## Sample Pages



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*Everett and Simon are on their honeymoon in Las Vegas. So are Adam and Vincent. Both couples are mismatched, unsuitable for each other in many ways. Things get complicated when Everett and Adam bump into each other and it turns out they were once a couple, too, mismatched and unsuitable in their own way.*

*A modern re-telling of a Noël Coward classic.*

**WHERE:** Las Vegas and Aspen

**WHEN:** The Present

**Dramatis Personae**

**EVERETT**, 45, good-looking, a former athlete, cynical, witty, literate. Newly married to Simon.

**LINCOLN**, 27, masculine, the bartender at the dance club, long and lean, with dark shoulder-length hair, a sharp wit and high moral standards. Also plays:

**LOUIS**, 30–35, Everett's housekeeper and cook when in Aspen. Effeminate, short-cropped bleached hair, maybe a goatee, always "on."

**SIMON**, 23, lean dancer's body, immature, a bit spoiled. Newly married to Everett.

**VINCENT**, 30, an actor who aged out of the juvenile roles and has found his niche doing cartoon voices. Emotional and mercurial. Wears his heart on his sleeve. Newly married to Adam.

**ADAM**, 59, good-hearted, attractive, blue-collar, not well-educated or well-read, both feet on the ground. Newly married to Vincent.

*(sample begins on p. 35 of script)*

VINCENT

Remember when I said you seemed wild tonight? I was wrong. You've gone way past wild. This is the most batshit crazy, off-the-wall, lunatic thing I've ever heard of.

ADAM

I'm just asking you to do me one tiny little favor! If we left now, we could be in Kauai in time for bacon and eggs on the lanai.

VINCENT

And if we hopped on a Viking Cruise ship we could be in Melbourne in a fortnight, but I'm not doing that, either.

ADAM

What's a fortnight?

VINCENT

Adam ...

ADAM

Hon, I beg of you. Just do this one thing for me, *please!* I'll be miserable if we stay here. Do you want me miserable on our honeymoon?

VINCENT

Of course not. But how come you never mentioned your sister before now?

ADAM

I forgot.

VINCENT

You forgot your sister had a heart attack and died at the roulette table in Monte Carlo?

ADAM

Well ... it was a long time ago. But when I saw all the slot machines, it came back to me in a flash.

VINCENT

*How* long ago?

ADAM

Oh, I was a little kid. No more than five or six. Or seven. Maybe eight. Possibly nine. I

can see her now, poor thing, sprawled out on the wheel, dead, that ridiculous expression on her face.

VINCENT

You went to Monte Carlo when you were nine?

ADAM

It was a family ... thing.

VINCENT

What was your sister's name.

ADAM

Hilda ... garde. Hildegarde.

VINCENT

Hildegarde Braverman. Nice name.

ADAM

And then having to fly her body back to Cleveland, sitting up with her all night in the baggage hold. It's the worst thing that's ever happened to me in my entire life.

VINCENT

I didn't even know you *had* a sister.

ADAM

I don't. Now.

VINCENT

How come you never talked about this before?

ADAM

You think I'm making this up.

VINCENT

I'll tell you one thing: don't ever become an actor.

ADAM

What do you mean?

VINCENT

You're the worst liar I've ever known.

ADAM

I ... [*HE is about to protest, then realizes better.*] Yeah, you're right.

VINCENT

You never had a sister, did you?

ADAM

Well ... I *was* kinda close to my cousin Shelley when we were little.

VINCENT

All right, Adam — spill it! Why do you want to leave here so desperately?

ADAM

O.K. I'll tell you the truth, but you have to promise not to flip out.

VINCENT

I promise I won't flip out.

ADAM

Swear to God?

VINCENT

No! Just tell me!

ADAM

[*A beat.*] He's here.

VINCENT

Who's here?

ADAM

Everett.

VINCENT

Everett. Everett your ex Everett?

ADAM

How many Everetts do you know?

VINCENT

None.

ADAM

Well, that'll change soon.

VINCENT

I doubt it. Vegas is a big place.

ADAM

No. He's here. In the club. I just saw him a few minutes ago.

VINCENT

Yeah? So? Who cares?

ADAM

Me! Me cares! How can I enjoy our honeymoon with my ex popping up all over the place?

VINCENT

Did *he* see *you*?

ADAM

Uh, no, he was ... running.

VINCENT

Why was he running?

ADAM

I think he was being chased.

VINCENT

By who?

ADAM

[*A beat.*] One of the cigarette girls?

VINCENT

O.K., so he's here. So what? I'm not afraid of him.

ADAM

Well, you oughta be. He's this great big, huge jock. Six-five, 240, 20-inch biceps ...

VINCENT

Really. How nice for him. Adam, I've seen pictures; I know what Everett looks like. And I'll be God damned if I'm going to let him spoil this honeymoon.

ADAM

Why not? He spoiled my first one.

VINCENT

I don't even believe he's here.

ADAM

Well he is. I saw him. Running.

VINCENT

You know what the odds are? It was probably just an optical illusion. These strobe lights can short-circuit your brain, you know? When we first walked in, I could have sworn I saw Bette Midler waving at me from one of the disco cages.

ADAM

It wasn't an illusion, it was him.

VINCENT

Well, I absolutely refuse to change our plans at the last minute because you think maybe you might have seen your ex. It's absurd. You have nothing to be afraid of, honey. If he bothers you in any way, I'll just deck him.

ADAM

Oh, perfect! That way we can all wind up on the cover of *In Touch Weekly*.

VINCENT

I refuse to talk about this anymore. We're not leaving. If I give in to you so early in our relationship, it'll poison our entire marriage.

ADAM

Where'd you get that from, Dear Prudence?

VINCENT

You've got yourself all worked up over a mirage caused by gay-bar lighting.

ADAM

Please. I'm begging you. Let's go to Hawaii.

VINCENT

No, Adam.

ADAM

Well then, I'm afraid we've come to a fork in the road, my love. We can either save our marriage right now, or end it almost before it begins. It's up to you.

VINCENT

I said "no" and I meant "no."

ADAM

All right. I guess I misjudged you, Vincent. I thought you were a kind, sympathetic, reasonable man. I can see now that deep down inside, you're ... nothing but a fascist.

VINCENT

Let's not resort to name-calling, please.

ADAM

Yeah. That's what you are: you're a modern-day Benito Mussolini.

VINCENT

Adam, what's gotten into you?

ADAM

Leave me alone! This was just a great big mistake.

VINCENT

I can't talk to you.

ADAM

Goodbye, Vincent.

VINCENT

All right. I am now very calmly going to walk next door and get our table. I will sit down, enjoy a nice glass of Chablis, and maybe even order an over-priced appetizer. When you've decided to calm down and behave like a normal, sane person, please feel free to join me.

ADAM

*[Flings himself into a chair.]* Just go, Vincent. Go.

VINCENT *sighs, exits stage left.*

*Back in the bar, SIMON re-enters from the men's room, now seemingly composed and resolved.*

SIMON

Everett.

EVERETT

Yes, Simon?

SIMON

I have something to say to you.

EVERETT

I'm all ears.

SIMON

Everett: I wish I had never met you. I wish we had never gotten married. I know now why Adam dumped you. I realize you can't help the way you are, but that doesn't mean I have to live with it. No — please let me finish. I am going across the street to have my dinner. You can do as you choose, as long as it doesn't involve joining me.

EVERETT

I hear the veal is excellent tonight.

SIMON

Good. I'll get the steak.

*SIMON exits down the stairs. A moment later, ADAM enters from the elevator.*

ADAM

Wow. You look happy.

EVERETT

Looks can be deceiving.

ADAM

No, I was kidding. I was being ... you know ... facetious.

EVERETT

Yes, Adam. I know. So was I.

ADAM

Oh. Sorry. *[Walks to EVERETT.]* This may be the worst day of my life.

EVERETT

Well, it's definitely the worst day of *mine*.

ADAM

This is not a competition, Ev.

EVERETT

Aren't you supposed to be on your honeymoon?

ADAM

Yes. Oh, my God. It's happening again. How is it possible that you can screw up *both* of my marriages?

EVERETT

I swear to God, A., if you start fighting with me, I'm going to pick you up and throw you over the balustrade.

ADAM

The what?

EVERETT

The balustrade. *The balustrade!*

ADAM

The balustrade?

EVERETT

Yes. The balustrade. This thing right here. This is a balustrade. Don't you know words?

ADAM

I know *this* word: I hate you like poison.

EVERETT

*You hate me?* How do you think I feel, you showing up on my honeymoon and making everyone miserable.

ADAM

What are you talking about? *You* showed up on *mine*!

EVERETT

Since that first moment 11 years ago when I was unlucky enough to lay eyes on you, my life has been nothing but one catastrophe after another.

ADAM

Oh, stop it.

EVERETT

We get a divorce but there's still no escape. Stop what?

ADAM

Being so God damn dramatic. When did *that* start?

EVERETT

I ... I have no idea. [*A beat.*] Am I?

ADAM

Yeah. A little. [*A beat.*] Everett — there's only one thing left for me to do.

EVERETT

*Now* who's being dramatic?

ADAM

No, not that. I mean get rip-roaring drunk tonight.

EVERETT

A fantastic idea! One of the great ideas in the history of humankind! Hey, Lincoln! Lincoln! [*Waves his arms wildly to get LINCOLN's attention.*]

LINCOLN

[*Puts down his iPad and takes the buds out of his ears.*] Yes sir?

EVERETT

Let's have a couple of cocktails over here, buddy. Strong ones.

LINCOLN

You bet.

EVERETT

I'll have a screwdriver and the gentleman here will have a passion fruit margarita, on the rocks, no salt.

LINCOLN

Coming right up. *[Goes back to the bar.]*

ADAM

You actually remember something about someone besides yourself. I'm impressed, Ev. You know, we tried this before, right?

EVERETT

What.

ADAM

Getting blitzed.

EVERETT

Oh yeah? How'd it work out?

ADAM

Not so much. You spent the night in jail and I wound up having to buy Tony a new juke box.

EVERETT

Oh, yeah. God, was he pissed. You should have made *me* pay for it.

ADAM

I tried.

EVERETT

What happened?

ADAM

You threw me over the balustrade.