

STEVE
ALICE

"Not in Your League!"

A Day in the Life - "Pilot"

1/24/06

10.

STEVE

Sounds like a good time was had by all.

DANNY

(to Shelly)

Oh, by the way, my dad wants to read "Oh, the Places You'll Go!" by Dr. Seuss at some point during the ceremony, so just let me know when's good.

Danny smiles and goes over to the cabinet to get a bowl of cereal. Lorna comes over to Shelly.

LORNA

He could read it after the-

Unseen by Danny, Shelly gives Lorna a slight but meaningful negative shake of the head. Lorna clicks her pen closed.

STEVE

(to Alice)

Hey, you wanna take a little father-daughter walk?

EXT. BACKYARD - DAY

We MOVE THROUGH the beautiful wedding tent, as white tablecloths are being billowed onto tables, then out into the big grassy backyard, past the ceremony chairs, and we land on Alice and Steve, as they walk along.

ALICE

Oh my god, the tent is gorgeous! And those silver trees Mom put up -- this all must be so expensive.

STEVE

(trying to be ultra-casual)

Well, it is, it is. But, uh...you shouldn't, you know, go through with this just because of the money.

ALICE

(blinks, then)

What?

STEVE

I'm just saying you don't have to do this because you feel like you're in too deep. You can still get out of it. This can all go away.

(beat, smiles)

(MORE)

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START

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STEVE (CONT'D)
But if you want to do it, that's great too.

A bit shaken, Alice tries to process what's going on.

ALICE
Are you...are you saying you don't think I should marry Danny?

STEVE
(beat)
Do you think you should?

ALICE
Dad!

STEVE
Okay. Sit down.

She sits on a white chair in the front row. He sits across the aisle from her.

STEVE (CONT'D)
This is the only time you'll ever hear me say this, it's been eating away at me for months, and I know it's awful of me to tell you this today, but I feel like I need to put it out there. I think you're making a mistake.

A tentative LATINA WOMAN, wearing a pink smock and holding tweezers, approaches.

~~LUPE
(accented English)
I pluck birds?~~

~~STEVE
Not right now.~~

Lupe goes.

ALICE
(devastated)
I can't believe this. Are you seriously telling me this on my wedding day?

STEVE
Alice. You're my baby. I just want you to be happy. Danny's not in your league.
(then)
Whatever happened to that guy Roy, who was so good at math? I liked him.

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ALICE

Roy Fingerhut? I haven't seen him since elementary school! What do you want me to do, track him down and see if he wants to get married tonight?!

~~WORKER~~

Tim, grab this!

A white runner unspools between them, down the aisle, guided by two WORKERS. Steve glances over but tries to ignore it.

STEVE

I mean, Danny's a lot of fun, but there are realities in life -- and what does he do for a living? He's a camp counselor?

ALICE

I'm sorry we can't all be brain surgeons like you!

STEVE

I just wish he was somewhere in the vast middle ground between surgeon and bus song leader.

ALICE

And he's not just a counselor, he works for them year round. He plans reunions, he does the newsletter, he picks the play -- they did "Pippin" last summer, that was his idea. And maybe I'll be the one with the career. I work in fashion, you know.

STEVE

Honey, you intern in fashion, and I pay your rent.

ALICE

Interning is how you work your way up in this field! And I designed a hat that was in "In Style" Magazine! It was good! Several gay fashion professionals told me it was Kate Spade-ish!

STEVE

And I'm sure some day you're gonna blow the doors off the hat world, but again, what about him? He's got no real career, his family is crazy...

The worker passes by, scattering rose petals down the aisle.

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~~WORKER~~
(to Steve and Alice)
How's it going?

Steve gives the guy an up-nod, then turns back to Alice.

STEVE
...and what was it you told me -- he wants to walk down the aisle to the theme song from "What's Happening!"? A TV show? He's not an adult!

ALICE
Okay, first of all, "What's Happening!" was a great show! Do you even know the show?! Do you know anything about it?
(off Steve's blank stare)
I didn't think so. The point is, it was Danny's favorite show when he was little, it was very meaningful to him, and so he took its delightful theme song, and made it his theme song!

STEVE
See, most adults don't have theme songs.

ALICE
I can't believe we're having this conversation!
(then, with tears in her eyes)
Dad, you're the most important person in the world to me, and I've always listened to you about everything. But I love Danny. And I'm marrying him tonight whether you like it or not!

A long beat. Steve just sits there. Nods. Then...

STEVE
(brightly)
Okay! I'll go work on my toast.

Steve gets up and scurries back to the house. Alice is left sitting there, alone, trying to deal with the bomb he just dropped. From above, there's a CLAP OF THUNDER, and it starts to rain.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

"A Day in the Life"

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