

SERIES OF PHOTOS OF 27-YEAR-OLD TED, HANDSOME AND OPTIMISTIC:
 TED HANGING OUT AT A BAR, TED ON A CONSTRUCTION SITE HOLDING
 BLUEPRINTS, TED IN CENTRAL PARK, TED IN HIS APARTMENT WITH
 MARSHALL, HIS BOYISH, MIDWESTERN BEST FRIEND.

NARRATOR (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 It was way back in 2005. I was single,
 I had a full head of hair, my career
 as an architect was taking off, and I
 lived in New York City with Marshall,
 my best friend from college. Life was
 good, until one brisk October night,
 when Uncle Marshall screwed the whole
 thing up.

INT. TED AND MARSHALL'S APARTMENT - NIGHT
 (MARSHALL, TED, NARRATOR)

A 20-SOMETHING BACHELOR APARTMENT THAT, TONIGHT, HAS BEEN
 SPRUCED UP A BIT. MARSHALL, ON BENDED KNEE, NERVOUSLY
 PRESENTS TED WITH A DIAMOND RING.

MARSHALL
 Will you marry me?

TED
 Perfect! And then she says yes, you're
 engaged, you pop the champagne, drink
 a toast, have sex on the kitchen
 floor. (BEAT, THINKS) Don't have sex
 on our kitchen floor.

MARSHALL
 Got it. Geez, I'm so nervous. My
 stomach's going crazy.

TED
It's not cancer.

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MARSHALL
Who said cancer?

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TED
You were about to.

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MARSHALL
It could be cancer! I've got all these
symptoms, I've been peeing like crazy,
my mouth is dry, she's gonna say no!

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TED
All right, c'mere, bring it in.

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TED GIVES HIM A HUG.

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MARSHALL
Thanks for helping me plan this out,
Ted.

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TED
Dude, it's you and Lily! I've been
there for all the big moments of you
and Lily. The night you met, your
first date...other first things.

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MARSHALL
I'm sorry. We thought you were asleep.

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TED
It's physics, Marshall. If the bottom
bunk moves, the top bunk moves too.

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(MORE)

TED (CONT'D)

But that was nine years ago, the
nightmares have almost stopped. (BEAT)
And you're getting engaged. Tonight.

MARSHALL

Yeah. What are you doing tonight?

TED THINKS. FREEZE FRAME.

NARRATOR

What was I doing? Here Uncle Marshall
was taking the biggest step of his
life, and me? I'm calling up this guy.

CUT TO:

INT. BARNEY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT
(BARNEY, NARRATOR, TED)

SPLIT-SCREEN BETWEEN TED AND BARNEY (32, DEVILISH, LIVES ON
STEAKS AND CIGARS). BARNEY'S CELL PHONE RINGS. HE SEES WHO IT
IS, AND ANSWERS.

BARNEY

Hey, so you know how I've always had a
thing for half-Asian girls?

FREEZE FRAME ON BARNEY.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Your Uncle Barney.

UNFREEZE.

BARNEY

Well, I have a new favorite: Lebanese
girls. Lebanese girls are the new half-
Asians.