

M/F

"About to be Judged"

ACT ONE

SCENE A

INT. PARISH HALL - LATER THAT NIGHT (NIGHT 1)
(Reverend Meadows, Max, Teddie, Couples Extras)

MAX is talking to REVEREND MEADOWS, an elderly minister.
Other COUPLES mill about, signing name tags, fixing coffee,
etc.

REVEREND MEADOWS

Mr. Ryan, we really must begin soon.

Any sign of your fiancée yet?

MAX

I don't know what could have happened.

She's usually so... Oh, I can't lie

in here. She's always late.

TEDDIE ENTERS and crosses to Max. They kiss.

MAX (CONT'D)

START →

You made it. I was starting to get
worried.

TEDDIE

Traffic was horrible. You know, if
they really want to draw people back
to the church, they can start by
giving us our own commuter lane.

(MORE)

TEDDIE (CONT'D)

Instead of a diamond, we could have a
cross.

Teddie and Max cross to a table, pick up a folder with
handouts, and find a pair of empty seats.

TEDDIE (CONT'D)

So, are you nervous?

MAX

About what?

TEDDIE

This. The marriage class. We're
about to be judged, Max. By god. Are
you prepared to be judged? And in
that shirt?

Max looks at his shirt, unsure of himself.

MAX

I... guess so. I'd like to think god
could overlook the shirt.

TEDDIE

They're going to be asking us all of
these personal questions about each
other. I wish we'd studied or
something.

MAX

Studied?

TEDDIE

You know, gone over our answers in
advance. Quizzed each other...

(MORE)

TEDDIE (CONT'D)

Worked out signals. One tap true, two taps false.

She taps the desk with a pencil as if to demonstrate.

MAX

First of all, this isn't a test. And even if it were, (TEASING) "Cheaters never win, and winners never cheat."

TEDDIE

(QUICKLY) Okay, that's your favorite phrase. If they ask us, that's your favorite phrase.

END →

Max gives her a comforting smile as the other couples settle into their chairs. Reverend Meadows steps forward and begins the class.

REVEREND MEADOWS

Hello, everyone. I'm Reverend Meadows...

TEDDIE

(LOUDLY) Hi, Reverend Meadows...

REVEREND MEADOWS

Yes, if you're looking for the AA Meeting, it's at the end of the hall. This, of course, is the pre-marriage workshop.

Teddie gives Max a sheepish look.

REVEREND MEADOWS (CONT'D)

The purpose of this class isn't to scare you.

(MORE)