

Start
-D

B (cont'd) Was our old answer.

HENRY You met in Miss Ramirez' class. ESL. Third grade. You forgot your lunch. She shared hers. You brought extra the next day to pay her back. Your idea. You were the only two students to move up to English-speaking classes that next year. Both your favorite color's blue. Cobalt. Teal. And the best pizza in town was Joe's.
Is.
Joe's.

What else should I know?
As your witness?

B (quiet love) thank you

HENRY First "date"?

G Well we've known each other forever so. It's hard to really pinpoint // exactly—

HENRY (to B) Is that how she's gonna respond? (to G) Is that how you're gonna respond?
First date.

G The movies. Two-for-one Tuesday.

HENRY Which was when.

G '98. Let's say—

HENRY When exactly.

G Summer. Junior high.

HENRY What's each other's shoe size.

B Both of us? Fuck—8? 6? G Like, *current* shoe—9? 10!

HENRY (to G, a brag) He's a 12.
Brand of shampoo, both of you, go.

B Um... G I...can check.

HENRY Deodorant.

B Really? G Old Spice?

HENRY Brand of toothpaste.

B Wouldn't we use G We can just make a list of

the same // one?

this stuff.

HENRY Yes, Love, ideally, that's what you'd both answer.
What's your favorite aspect of your partner.

G His kindness.

B

Her—...yeah.

HENRY When did you decide to get married?

G High school.

B

Right after high school.
Not long after.

HENRY Who proposed *to whom*.

B I did.

G He did. My last day in town.

HENRY Where. How.

B At the bus stop.

G He waited with me at the bus.

B Her last day in town.

G I didn't wanna go.

B My mom left a ring.
I carried it around for days cuz I knew she was leavin for school.

G You did?

B In my pocket. I safety-pinned it inside my pocket so it wouldn't fall out.
I carried it for days.

G He proposed at the bus.

B Her last day in town.

G I didn't wanna go.

B My mom left a ring.

G (*genuine*) I didn't wanna go.

B I carried it around for days cuz I knew she was leaving.

G He was always there when I needed him.

END

B She was—
She was always there.
When I needed her.

G (*genuine*) ... What did you do while she was away?

B I worked.
Saved.

G Wasn't much money to visit. But we talked all the time.

B A lot of the time, yeah. We'd talk.

G I sent postcards.

B She sent postcards.

G And books.

B Thank you.

G From my classes. Yer welcome.
She'd call. At night.
Every night.
Before she went to bed, she'd call.

B I took the bus up to Boston once. To see her.

G ...He took the bus up to—

B But she didn't see *me*.

...
...

I took a bus.

The T.

And I walked to her campus to find her.

I snuck into a class. I smelled the books. I sat on leather. I watched the people. I felt the life. Someone let me in a door. Thought I was a student. Just forgot my ID. They let me in. Didn't think twice, they let me in. I listened to lectures. I raised my hand. I answered a question. About a book I'd read. Coincidence, I'd read that book. I got it right. The question. Very right. Made people wonder who I was, who's this guy, people wondered who I was. I found the dining hall. Someone swiped me in. Forgot my ID, I said, so they let me in. Didn't think twice. I ate the food. I went for seconds. I ate dessert. I touched the stone. I

6-B-Henry

HENRY Baby, do you want *years* // of this?

B I never *wanted* any of this. I never wanted to *have to* do any of this. For this to be my only option—

Start G Tell me about his body, Henry. // In case they ask.

B No.

G (*cont'd*) Anything distinct I should know? Any scars, // bruises—

B No, we're done for the night.

G (*cont'd*) Anything like that? Scars? Bruises? You know he called me that night—

HENRY Okay.

G (*cont'd*) Middle of the night, cold as hell he said—He called me from a payphone and said someone had kicked him out // without his shoes.

HENRY I didn't *kick him out*—

G (*cont'd*) He was walkin around Newark at night in the cold without his shoes—

HENRY We had a fight. B I left.

G And you kick him out without his shoes? It's his apartment.

B He didn't—// I just—

G (*cont'd*) You called me! He // called me!

B I called you Yeah I called but you weren't here. You stayed in Boston.

G I told you to go to my mom's.

B I wasn't gonna go to yer mom's in the middle of the night.

G You coulda come to Boston.

B I had no shoes!

G What did you do that night?

B I went to a diner and waited til the Kmart opened, bought some shoes, and went to work. I just—I needed to talk that night. To someone. To you. We had a // fight—

HENRY We had a fight and now we're fine people fight. But do you know what he did when you backed out? I couldn't get him to eat. Shower. He wouldn't leave the bed for a fuckin week.

G I got nervous.

HENRY No you became aware of what this really is. This isn't some game, some fuckin fantasy. This shit is for real.

G Then why the fuck did I not even know about you til a fuckin month ago—?

HENRY Prob'ly cuz he knew it'd go THIS well.

G *(cont'd)* First time I ever heard your damn name was over sobbing on a payphone! I got nervous cuz who the fuck was fuckin Henry—

HENRY I am.

G *(cont'd)* —and would *he* risk a quarter-mill and 5 years in jail?

HENRY I *am*.

G Not like I am. You could deny. You could say you didn't know. You could step away.

HENRY I haven't.

G *(cont'd)* You don't have to risk a quarter-mill // and 5 years in jail—

HENRY I would if I could.

G *(cont'd)*—just to help somebody.

HENRY You'd be getting paid.

G Would you risk all that just to help someone?

HENRY Yes.

G Okay so you go marry someone.

HENRY I don't— // What— B What?!

G *(cont'd)* If it's so easy then *you* go marry // someone and help her—

HENRY *(cont'd)* What are you even—This isn't a *trade*.

G Then you can't know how scary this is. You can't tell me shit about this.

B He's not marrying anybody.

HENRY Unless it's you.

G WHICH YOU NEVER WILL. YOU WILL NEVER DO THAT. YOU WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO EVER LEGALLY DO THAT IN THIS COUNTRY. IT'S 2000 FUCKIN 6 ALMOST 7 IN A FEW FUCKIN DAYS SO IF IT HASN'T HAPPENED NOW IT NEVER FUCKIN WILL. YOU WON'T EVER, EVER MARRY HIM.

...
...
...

HENRY Well.
Neither will you.

G I'm helping.

HENRY You seem to want love so fuckin bad, you'd settle for it fake.

G ...

HENRY The only reason someone takes someone's fuckin shoes is so they stay. I didn't want him goin out in the middle of the night in fuckin November. You think I wanted that? I went out to look for him. All night. While *you* stayed in Boston. I knew. I suspected. But he said no. She's not like that. I knew but he kept saying She's not like that. And so we had a fight. We had a fight that night—about *you*. And then you backed out. And you proved me right. I wish you coulda seen what that did to him, your backing out, cuz then you'd never put him through that again. You wanna help? You're here to help? Yeah? Up to what point?

G ...

HENRY (*to B*) Do we have to do this? Is all this worth it?

B (*lost*) I've been hiding and lying for the past 13 years of my For every For just basic human Because I didn't get some Some paper means I cannot be a full person here. I have had to hide who I am at every fuckin turn of my life—

HENRY I know that.

B —I've been lying so long I'm not even sure what's real.

HENRY Then maybe you should question a couple things in your life.

G Yeah maybe you should question a really major thing in yer life. If you don't know what's real.

B ...

If you'll like, have me.

...

B I'll make you a key.

G So I'll contribute.
That way, you won't hafta do this completely alone.
And you can finish school.

...

B You sure?

G Make me a key.

...

...

B Yeah.

Yeah okay.

Yeah maybe I can do this—Yeah.

G And you can rent out the extra room!

B What room?

G For extra money. You can rent out the extra room in this apartment!

B ...

G When she. Eventually.

B ...

G Sorry.

Start

B Yer leaving?

G My mom 'n I!

B Where?

G Schuyler Ave! Like right on the border! Close!

B How did she—?

G She got naturalized!

B What?

G She's a citizen now! She was takin all the tests, secret! She got a naturalization certificate, a restraining order, and a fuckin *moving company*, all secret! We're gonna, when he leaves for work, we're gonna pack up all our shit and *GO*.

B When?

G Tomorrow morning. Today! In a few hours! TODAY! Movin guys are comin soon as he's gone then we gotta pack up everything we can and haul that shit out fast. We gotta be outta there by 4, when he's back from work. Back to an empty fuckin apartment!

She had this shit planned for months. (*proud*) Fuckin, *months!*

I can't believe it. We're finally leaving! And I don't even hafta switch schools!

B (*something off*) That's great.

G I know!

B Congratulations.
To yer mom.

G We're both moving!

B On becoming a citizen.

G Oh and I'm one too!

B What?

G She snuck me in right under the deadline.

B What do you—?

G Right under the wire. Cuz if yer under 18, if the kid's under 18 when the parent gets it, then it gets transferred to the kid. Automatic.

B So you didn't hafta pay none of those fees?

G Guess not!

B Or hafta take the test?

G Nope!

...

I'm sorry—

B You gonna need help?
With packing?

G We got the guys—

B I know but do you need more help?
You gotta pack up an entire apartment in how long?

G Yeah but it's during school.

B So how are you gonna—

G My mom's gonna call 'n say I'm sick.
She planned that shit too!

B So I'll say I'm sick.

G No but you'd hafta miss school.

...

B *(he did)* I didn't do the math anyway.

...

G Okay.

Okay! Tomorrow, then.

B You wanna crash here? Tonight?
One last time?

G Why one last time?

...

(And she realizes.)

B *(‘right,’ an end)* I'll make eggs.

————— A END

G And you can rent out the extra room!

G I can still turn back.

B It's gonna be great.

G I don't wanna go. I don't wanna // get on this bus.

B You'll be back soon.

G *(a threat, to someone offstage)* HEY MAN.

B He's just // It's okay

G *(a threat)* HEY.

B *(cont'd)* He's just gonna put em under // the bus.

G WHAT IF THEY FALL OUT.

B They won't.

G WHAT IF SOMEONE TAKES MY SHIT.

B I think you made it pretty clear to everyone on that bus they shouldn't.

G I don't like they took my bags.

B It's okay.

G *(cont'd)* I don't like any of this.

B Hey.

G *(cont'd)* I don't wanna—

B Hey.

END →

(He holds out a ring.

This is the only other time we see a physical object in this section.)

...
...
...

G ...where did you...

B My mom left it for me.
In case.

...

half years. And then—a letter.

G Stories were comin out every day, what could happen, if we were caught—Lady jailed 5 years, couple in Texas fined a quarter-mill—

B I was always up front about what you'd be risking.

G Yeah well it didn't sink in. It didn't sink in til it did.

B Three and a half // years—

G Last month. At 2 in the morning.
It didn't sink in how much I was risking
til you called me last month,
at 2 in the morning,
and were finally,
actually
Up Front.

I ignored the stories, the news, my feelings—any feelings I *coulda* had—for anyone else. I never even kissed anyone. For three and a half years. I wore the ring. And then you called. And it sunk in.

Cuz no.

You were not always up front.

About everything.

No.

...

You shoulda told me.

B I didn't tell anyone.

G Yeah but you should have told *me*.

B You knew. You always knew.

G // Yeah but—

B That that could happen, you knew.

G It wasn't supposed to.

B You never asked me not to.

G I didn't think I needed to! If it's a quarter-mill or jail!

B Well what did you expect—?

G For you to be smarter.

Start → 6

B No one knew.

G And not *that*.

B // What did you expect.

G Not a call like that—

B What did you *expect*.

G Nothing!

Congratulations.

*(She takes their ring from her pocket.
Leaves it—)*

I wish you both the best.

(—and moves to exit.)

B You can crash on the couch.

(She stops.)

If you have to.

Had to get a roommate so the other room's got—

G Shit sorry. I've been loud.

B No she's gone this week. Got family in Philly so she's there now. Through New Year's.
I just don't wanna go in her room while she's away.

G No problem.

B Trust, y'know. Cuz of trust.

G Yeah. Couch is fine.
Or I could—

B What.

G No yeah couch is fine.

B I'll get you sheets.

*(He does. She feels strange here for the first time.
He returns with sheets. She tries to change the temperature, lower the tension.)*

END →

G I didn't want free drinks.

B You seemed to.

G I wanted to see you.

B And you saw me. You saw the place. Like you wanted. You got everything you wanted—

G How's yer mom—

B You already asked me that. So I can walk you over to Penn and you can catch a cab—

(CRACK.)

(B turns back to see she's opened the wine.)

G It's a twist off.

(An irrevocably open bottle of wine between them.)

I didn't want any barriers and-or obstacles I'll grab glasses.

(She exits to the kitchen. Takes off her coat.)

He stands there, alone. Angry to be trapped.)

(G enters, with glasses, muscling an energy of Everything's Fine.)

G *(re-entering)* It's good to be back. This place. The fire escape. I missed this place—

B I think you need to go home.

...

G You called me down here.

B I called you last month. And you didn't come.

G You told me not to!

B *(just go)* It doesn't matter.

G *(cont'd)* When I called you back, you told me don't come.

B Well you had exams. So.

G I told you I would though! I said fuck exams, soon as there's a bus, there's no bus outta Boston at 2 in the morning, what could I do—

Stark

B It doesn't matter—

G (*cont'd*) And then you said don't come—

B And you listened. So.

G I'm here. I'm here now.

B Well it was nice of you to stop by on your way to a future.

G ...

B Nice of you to make the time. The trip. The effort. Eventually. Nice to finally fuckin see you. You know they cost a *dollar*, some of these busses? From Boston. If you book early. Here. (*A dollar.*) Hope your next visit will be just as pleasant.

G Wanna practice?

...

B What.

G When did you meet?
What school?
What did the two of you have in common—?

B Why'd you back out.

Wanna start there?

How bout Why'd you back out, wanna start there?

G ...

B What.
Please.

Cuz all I got was a letter. After three years of waiting. Three and a half years of planning. Tellin me you changed yer mind.

G What if I changed it back?

B Just like that.

G I'm here.

B So am I. I've *been* here. For three and a half years, I've been *here* I felt like I had the key, a key, in my hands. I never felt that before in my entire life. I made plans. Schools. What schools I might—Doors opened up for me, everywhere, in my mind, the things I could imagine for myself. There were things I was finally able to really imagine for myself. I was gonna join the world I live in. The world *you* got to live in for three and a

END

B and Henry

Start →

B Well I wish a lotta shit.
I can't wait for something that might never happen.
I can't watch all my days disappear into a stupid under-the-table restaurant job on Ferry Street. I panic every time I jaywalk I'll get locked up in a fuckin detention center.

HENRY So don't jaywalk.

B I want to start my life. My life...I'm losing it.
She's goin back in a few days. Tonight might be my only chance—

HENRY Why don't we just ask one of *my* // friends—

B No one knows me like she does. No one else could do this.

HENRY We need to talk about—Just—// hold on.

B She'd be doin a huge thing for me. For us.

HENRY And when she backs out? I can't watch you go through that // again—

B I'll be fine.

HENRY You were not fine, baby, I was there. You barely left the bed for a week—This whole month, you've // been a ghost.

B I'll be fine.

HENRY (*cont'd*) Every time you don't pick up your phone, I think I'll find you // in the bathtub—or the closet—

B It's not a big deal if she crashes.

End →

HENRY To who it's not a big deal?

G (*returning*) I brought wine.

HENRY Oh are we // staying up?

B (*to Henry*) If that's okay?

G But you can go, Henry.
If yer tired.

HENRY No I'm awake.

G We were gonna practice a little. I dunno if he told you—

Henry, B and G

HENRY He told me, yeah, that you're re-considering.

G So you can go home.

...

HENRY Y'know what:

(WINE. Henry brought a bottle too. A nice one.)

Let's all have a glass. Get to know each other. You and I don't really, y'know, know everything there is to know about each other. We can talk about the honeymoon—

G Oh we talked about—

HENRY Since I'd be coming on the honeymoon.

(G looks at B.)

...

B ...I was gonna mention...

HENRY *(a bad joke)* I mean I gotta get something out of all this!

G You'd be getting a lot.

HENRY So would you. Did you decide on a number?

B Let's // start over.

G A what?

HENRY Your fee.

G For what.

HENRY Your services.

...

G I don't want money.

HENRY I think you will once you're outta that school 'n back in this world. It's not easy out here.

G I know. B She knows, Henry.

HENRY You'll be paying off that school a while.

start
→ A

G I'm on scholarship.

HENRY So was I. And then I graduated. You know it's not all scholarship right?

G What.

HENRY When they say you got an award, it's not necessarily a scholarship. Sometimes those awards are loans.

G *(had no idea)* ...yeah I know.

HENRY You might wanna look into that.
We insist. On paying you.
If you actually did this...we'd insist. Cuz it would be a lotta work. Lotta time.
Some money would be helpful along the way. Like if you need a hotel.

B *(can you not?)* okay

HENRY So no one ever loved you?

G Wow. B Okay. // Starting over.

HENRY *(cont'd)* You don't believe in love?

G I do.

HENRY You never wanted to get married?

G I *am* getting married.

HENRY I mean really.

G We would be. Really.

HENRY Not really, no. B I mean, not *really* really.

G I think we'd hafta do it pretty really.

HENRY Cuz of your mom?

G ...

HENRY Is that why you never wanted to get married—really? Never seen it go well?

END → G *(to B)* What else you tell him?

HENRY Did they love each other?

G Who.