

ANNIE

It's a great party.

Helen turns and glides off into the crowd, a vision. Annie watches after her, stunned.

LILLIAN

She's great isn't she?

ANNIE

She's awesome.

INT. CLUB - LATER - NIGHT

Lillian's father, ED, finishes a speech.

ED

... and I really do look forward to having Doug as part of the family. So much that I think you two should just get married now. Save me a shitload of money.

(everyone LAUGHS)

People always laugh when I say that but I'm not joking. Anyway, thanks to all of you for coming. Here's to Doug and Lillian.

(everyone toasts)

All right, enough of me. Maid of honor, you're up. Annie.

Everyone claps, some whistles, as Annie nervously takes the mic from Ed, who sits down.

ANNIE

Um, hi everyone. I'm Annie Walker.

LILLIAN

Yay, Annie!

ANNIE

(laughs)

I actually don't want to go on with a long speech, so I'll just say this. I'm so happy to be a part of this celebration. You two deserve each other as well as a lifetime of happiness. So, cheers!

She raises her glass, people clap. Helen stands clapping and takes the mic from her. Annie looks a bit surprised. Helen gives her a smile motioning Annie to sit.

HELEN

Thanks Annie, that was so sweet. Lill, remember when the four of us spent that weekend in Miami, and the boys ended up working the whole time? You and I sat by the pool the whole time, drinking wine and eating that peanut brittle.

(laughs)

We got such a tummy ache! I will never forget all that we shared on that trip. I told you things I've never told anyone before. You made me realize I can trust people again. So let me just say, Lillian, you are my best friend.

Annie's mouth drops. People, including Lillian, are moved, sniffing. Helen wipes away a tear.

HELEN (CONT'D)

(composing herself)

And I'm so proud of you. Now, 'Dougly', sorry inside joke, you'd better not keep my Lill on a leash. I still need my drunken Saturday nights at Rockin' Sushi!

Helen winks. People applaud and LAUGH. She gets emotional again.

HELEN (CONT'D)

Everybody, raise your glasses to the couple of the decade: DOUG AND LILLIAN! Have a great night, dessert wine is out.

Everyone "Ahh's" and claps a little bit LOUDER. Without thinking, Annie stands up and takes the mic from Helen.

ANNIE

I just wanted to say really quick that you're SO special to me. One of the reasons is because I've known you my entire life and you've really helped shape who I am. I just want to thank you for carefully selecting me as your Maid of Honor. I know you had some other choices. You're like my sister and I love you. Well, that concludes the speeches for the night.

Annie sits down, keeping the mic. Helen reappears with her own WIRELESS MIC.

HELEN

Thank you, one last thing. It's rare to meet an adult you really connect with. That's you Lill. I went to Thailand recently with my husband Perry and there was a beautiful saying that I learned there. So, let me say ...

(speaks in Thai)

It means, "You are a part of me, a part that I could never live without. And I hope and I pray that I never have to."

(bowing)

Kap-hoon-kow.

The crowd quiets. Annie looks around the room and sees everyone is in awe.

HELEN (CONT'D)

That's it for tonight. Thank you all for coming, dessert wine is out. Consuelo?

People are crying and hugging. Annie pops back up.

ANNIE

Speaking of Consuelo, Lillian and I took Spanish together in school. And so I want to say to you and to everyone here...gracias para vivar en la casa. En la escuelas and el azul marcada. Tienes con vivir en las...forstuatsa, and gracias.

Helen instantly appears again with her mic.

HELEN

I feel so close to you and can trust you. You're my angel and soulmate. I feel I can communicate with you with simply a look.

Helen "looks" at Lillian.

HELEN (CONT'D)

Thank you for coming.

Helen has concluded the speeches, but Annie's back.

ANNIE

Lillian...

She stares at Lillian for a long, awkward beat.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

(suddenly singing)

*"Keep smilin'. Keep shinin'.  
Knowin' you can always count on me,  
for sure, that's what friends are  
for."*

Helen steps forward with her now louder mic and in a very loud R & B voice sings with Annie.

HELEN AND ANNIE

*"In good times, in bad times, I'll  
be on your side for ever moooooore.  
That's what friends are foor!!!"*

EXT. HUNT CLUB - NIGHT

Annie is waiting for her car with Lillian.

LILLIAN

(sarcastic)

Engagement parties rule. Made me  
feel awesome, like I could go out  
and catch another dude to marry.

ANNIE

So what's up with her anyway?  
Helen.

LILLIAN

What?

ANNIE

She's in your wedding and you've  
only know her eight months, right?

LILLIAN

Come on, get it out. Get it all  
out.

ANNIE

The whole...gown thing. It's just  
weird, right?

Annie laughs. Lillian smiles and shrugs.