

How I Met Your Mother

“Last, Last Forever”

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ACT 1

INT. "THE BOOTH", MCLAREN, MIDDAY.
(LILY, MARSHALL, ROBIN, BARNEY)

THREE FRIENDS ARE SITTING AT THEIR REGULAR SPOT IN THEIR FAVOURITE PUB. THEY TALK ABOUT SOME RANDOM STUFF AS A FOURTH FRIEND COMES IN. BARNEY LOOKS CONFUSED AND CARRIES THREE SUITS WITH HIM. HE DUMPS THE SUITS ON THE TABLE AS HE JUMPS INTO THE BOOTH NEXT TO ROBIN.

MARSHALL

What has gotten into you?!

ROBIN

Not me lately!

EVERYBODY LAUGHS BUT BARNEY. ROBIN HIGH FIVES MARSHALL.

BARNEY

Marshall (IRRITATED, LOOKS AT MARSHALL), Robin (STILL IRRITATED, LOOKS AT ROBIN), Lily (HAPPY VOICE, LOOKS AT LILY'S BOOBS), have I ever told you the story of how Ted's and Tracy's marriage should have ended?

LILY

Barney! Not cool!

MARSHALL

Yes, it's too soon. Tracy has only been gone for a few months now. Ted hasn't even been back to McLaren's yet.

BARNEY

I know, I know, but it's the final rule of the Bro Code (OPENS BRO CODE AND SHOWS PAGE) : when a bro's wife dies, you do everything in your power to make his life less miserable, even if you need to create an alternative universe where the death of a certain character didn't happen.

EVERYBODY IS QUIET FOR A WHILE, ROBIN AND BARNEY HAVE A QUICK, BUT MEANINGFUL LOOK AT EACH OTHER

LILY

Barney, it's... it's time to move on. We can't bring Tracy back, all we can do is be here for Ted... he needs us.

BARNEY BURRIES HIS FACE IN THE BRO CODE. MARSHALL QUICKLY TOUCHES HER ARM AND NODDS INTO BARNEYS DIRECTION.

LILY

(SIGHS) Allright Barney, what do we have to do?

BARNEY

(SMILING AGAIN) First, we have to Suit Up! EVERYBODY SIGHS BUT CONTINUES TO DO WHAT BARNEY WANTS. BARNEY PULLS OUT THE PLAYBOOK AND OPENS IT ON THE LAST PAGE) The Last Play (WIPES AWAY A FAKE TEAR, ROBIN FROWNS AT HIM), the "Happily Ever After". It's gonna be Legen... wait for it...

PLAY MONTAGE

(TED, TRACY, BARNEY)

CHEESY OLD MUSIC STARTS PLAYING. BLACK AND WHITE, DUMB MOVIE. ON SCREEN TEXT: "The Happily Ever After". BARNEY FINDS A WAY TO TRAVEL BACK IN TIME. ON SCREEN TEXT: "Something witty, depending on how he travels back in time, do you guys have any ideas? I thought of a Doctor Who reference here, but I don't know if there are any phonecells nearby?". FINDS A CURE FOR CANCER AND GIVES IT TO TRACY WHO'S LAYING ON A HOSPITAL BED WITH TED BESIDES HER. ON SCREEN TEXT: "I Have Found The Cure or something like that" TRACY MIRACULOUSLY WAKES UP IMMEDIATELY AND TED THANKS BARNEY A THOUSAND TIMES ON SCREEN TEXT: "You're my BEST FRIEND, Barney". SCENE ENDS WITH TED AND BARNEY WALKING OFF IN THE SUNSET TOGETHER. TEXT ON SCREEN: "The End."

INT. "THE BOOTH", MCLAREN, MIDDAY.

(LILY, MARSHALL, ROBIN, BARNEY)

BARNEY

...dary! Legendary!

LILY

(BREAKING AN AWFUL SILENCE) Oh sweetie, you can't travel back in time... No one can!

ROBIN

Indeed, it's scientifically impossible

BARNEY

Canada is scientifically impossible. (SELF-FIVES)

MARSHALL

It's true Barney, there is no Last Play, but I wished there was. I mean I would do so many things different if we could travel back in time. I would have married Lily way earlier (HOLDS HER HAND) and never let her go to San Francisco.

LILY

I would have never left for San Francisco...

BARNEY

I would have spend more time with Ted in these awful few months. Been more of a friend to him. Be a best friend to him.

EVERYBODY LOOKS AT ROBIN. SHE REMAINS SILENT AND LOOKS AWAY.

LILY

What would you have done different Robin?

ROBIN

(SIGHS AND LOOKS AT BARNEY). I would have made more time to be with you. We could have made it work.

ROBIN SMILES AT BARNEY AND HE CAREFULLY SMILES BACK, JUST A LITTLE. AWKWARD SILENCE.

MARSHALL

You know what we should do? I was watching some episodes of Friends the other day, and I thought: our lives would be awesome for TV. We should create a TV show, sell it to some producers – I bet Barney probably knows some (BARNEY NODDS) and then we can have the Happily Ever After we have always wanted!

LILY

That's crazy Marshall, that's just crazy

LILY

Guys, would you tell Marshall that this is just crazy?

LILY

Guys?!

BARNEY

I do know some TV producers

ROBIN

And we have been through a crazy lot of adventures that would be awesome on TV...

MARSHALL

If we just could find a good story arch...

BARNEY SITS UP ENTHUSIASTICALLY.

BARNEY

What about: How I Met My Brother? I sounds nice ay? It could be the story of a fit, handsome, young New Yorker, who meets his black brother from another father and team up... no suit up to be the best laser tag team the US of A have ever seen.

ROBIN

Barney, that didn't actually happen

BARNEY

Oh yea? I bet you want to do a stupid documentary on a foolish Canadian flop-star turning to sell her soul to big news companies that compromise your journalistic integrity ha?!

ROBIN GIVES BARNEY THE STINK EYE.

ROBIN

Of course not, I would tell the story of our wedding. That was a crazy weekend.

BARNEY

We should call it: "Weekend at Barneys" (LOOKING EXTREMELY HAPPY)

ROBIN

We won't call it "Weekend at Barneys" (BARNEY LOOKS EXTREMELY SAD)

LILY

What about the story of how Marshall and I met? How our relationship grew over the years, all the stuff that we've been through?

BARNEY

PRETENDING TO PUKE: I thought you didn't like this idea.

LILY

Well no, but if you're serious than I think we should tell a story that's worth telling.

MARSHALL

How about Ted?

BARNEY

What about Ted?

MARSHALL

He has a good story. With his stupid quest for true love, his stupid architecture career and his stupid hair.

LILY

Then you could give him the happy ending you wanted him to have Barney.

BARNEY

Yes! Yes! I could...

CAMERA SOOMS IN ON BARNEY'S "I'VE GOT A – TERRIBLY BAD – IDEA"- FACE.

INT. "THE BOOTH". MCLAREN.

(TED, BARNEY)

"HOW I MET YOUR MOTHER" INTRO STARTS PLAYING. THE TITLE OF THIS EPISODE COMES INTO PICTURE: "The Happily Ever After". OLD TED AND BARNEY ARE SITTING IN THE BOOTH, SIPPING SOME FINE ASS WHISKY.

BARNEY

So, old friend, how's life treating ya?

TED

I've been married for twenty years now, have a beautiful daughter and a handsome son, and the third is on it's way! How do you think life is treating me?

BARNEY

RAISES AN EYEBROW. It's terrible.

TED

Hell yes, it's terrible! I should've listened to you, my dearest friend! You warned me on the first day we met!

BARNEY

You're kidding right?

TED

Yes, I am. Honestly Barney, I am happier than I have been in my whole life. Tracy is the best, the children are doing great, this truly is Happily Ever After. What about you?

BARNEY

LOOKING AT ROBIN OVER AT THE BAR, HE SMILES AS THE CAMERA FADES TO BLACK. Happily Ever After.