

SCENE ONE.

49.

Meg (65) is sitting at the kitchen table. Jerry (75) hands her an envelope.

JERRY

Happy anniversary!

MEG

You remembered!

JERRY

Of course I remembered.

MEG

I didn't. Well, I did and then I forgot. Happy anniversary! I feel bad for not getting you a present.

JERRY

You didn't have to. I wasn't expecting it.

MEG

That's sad.

JERRY

It's not sad.

MEG

Then what is it?

JERRY

It's fine. Open it.

MEG

I didn't think we were going to last.

JERRY

Just open it.

MEG

Who would have known? I meet you when I'm six and you're sixteen. You took my sister to the prom! Forty years later, we're celebrating seventeen years!

JERRY

If I said I always fancied you, that would be gross.

MEG

Yeah. You don't need to say that.

JERRY

Thank goodness all I did with your sister was kiss her!

MEG

You don't need to say that either.

JERRY

But I did think you were cute when I met you. Not sexually. You were six. Just cute.

MEG

I thought you were cute too. I thought -- when I'm older, I'm going to marry you.

JERRY

You told me already. You tell me that every week... at least.

MEG

I still can't believe it! It's amazing how you can think something when you're six and then it happens. Later. Much later. If we had married when we were both younger, it would be celebrating more years together!

JERRY

Seventeen is good. Open it.

MEG

I don't want to.

JERRY

Why not?

MEG

What if I'm disappointed?

JERRY

Then you'll be disappointed.

MEG

I'm usually disappointed by your presents.

JERRY

Then how disappointed could you really be?

MEG

But I hope every time -- I hope he gives some something I'll like.

JERRY

And I still keep trying.

MEG

While I don't even bother.

JERRY

I'm used to it. That's what I get for marrying someone a decade younger.

MEG

And for kissing my sister.

JERRY

She was a good kisser.

MEG

I don't need to picture it!

JERRY

She wasn't.

MEG

Then why would you say she was?

JERRY

If you're not going to like my present... Will you open it already?

MEG

Now, I'm worried.

JERRY

What makes you worried?

MEG

We've been staying home together together -- maybe you're sick of me now and inside are divorce papers.

JERRY

I don't think lawyers are open now.

MEG

Lawyers are always open.

JERRY

It's not divorce papers. I promise.

MEG

What if it's a list of regrets -- of all the things we couldn't do together because we met again later in life?

JERRY

I never wanted kids.

MEG

I did.

JERRY

Well, get over it.

MEG

Who's going to care for us now - once we get too old to take care of ourselves?

JERRY

We'll always take care of ourselves. At least now, no kid will be throwing us into long term care. We have each other.

MEG

Men don't live as long as women.

JERRY

My family has better genes. We'll die together. I've already planned it out.

MEG

Like a murder suicide?

JERRY

Maybe not something that dramatic. Will you just open the gift?

Meg opens up the envelope. It's a piece of paper. She unfolds the piece of paper and holds it to Jerry.

MEG

A letter?

JERRY

We're on a budget. It's not a big anniversary anyway. Just seventeen years.

She reads from it.

MEG

"Dear Meg, What makes me happy about you is that I can receive an anonymous gift of a shower curtain in the mail" -- it wasn't the mail.

JERRY

It doesn't change the story.

MEG

"And I know it's from you because a week earlier you saw me eye it in the store window. Or that on our first date, I can buy you a pack of gum and that you go to pieces because it's the same gum your grandfather used to buy you." (beat) He never bought me gum.

JERRY

What are you talking about? Trident blue. I remember.

MEG

That's the gum, but my grandfather didn't buy it for me.

JERRY

Well, you still went to pieces when I got it for you.

MEG

Yes, because you bought me my favorite gum when I asked you to and I didn't have to tell you what flavor. You just knew. I didn't have to ask twice.

JERRY

Keep reading.

MEG

"That we can fight to near death, and then in the middle, break into laughter, knowing how ridiculous we sound." (beat) There's a lot of extra commas in that sentence.

JERRY

Grammar's never been my strong point.

MEG

You could have proof read. "It's about arriving in Rome on New Year's Eve without a reservation, and having to stay in a closet (literally) and it being the most romantic night we ever had... (aside from Saratoga.)" (beat) Saratoga was fun, but I don't remember Rome being romantic. I remember it being fun!

You make me happy when we can go see a play together and in the middle, look at each other and know exactly what we're thinking about it. Happiness is about accompanying you on all your crazy adventures, and accepting that some might be memorable and other duds, but we still chalk it up to an "experiences." Some? That's not true.

JERRY

I was trying to be humorous.

MEG

I'm not laughing. Neither are you.

Jerry takes the letter from Meg.

JERRY

Let me finish. "It's being with you for nineteen years and still not getting sick of you..."

MEG

You've said you're sick of me.

JERRY

"And knowing I can say that and you know exactly what I mean... and that you are not laughing about it." Laugh.

MEG

Ha ha.

JERRY

"And that next week, or next month or some time in the future, I'll get mad at you, and you will remind me of all the positive things I've said about you. Love, Jerry." Like the present?

MEG

Well, it's better than mine.

BLACKOUT.