

Relationship-ology

A romantic-comedy in Two Acts

Written

by

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Based on the screenplay, *Unbreak My Heart*

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## THE CHARACTERS

**Megan** - a lively, lovely, opinionated, 30-something with Down syndrome who lives with her brother, Mike. Loves her boyfriend, Ben, and likes to confer with her BFF, Laura, on most everything.

**Ben** - a warm, and witty young 30-something with Down syndrome. Two things Ben really loves in this world besides his mom: Star Wars and Megan.

**Laura** - a quirky and highly-intelligent 30-something on the spectrum. Megan's BFF who offers advice, which is sometimes questionable, but always entertaining.

**Miguel** - a 30-something Hispanic gay man who is a loyal, caring friend who has yet to learn to love himself.

**Billie** - a high achiever, woman of color. Billie is fierce—full stop. Her falling for Mike seems an unlikely pairing and mystery to many.

**Mike** - an unexceptional, 30-something typical dude with macho-schtick and sarcasm, but is really an exceptionally, nice guy. Megan's brother and Billie's fiancée.

**Cal** - a good-hearted, good-natured eligible bachelor, currently dating a woman most men would kill for, but is haunted by the one that got away.

**Brooke** - a complicated woman that presents well, but is a 30-something that's lived her life not letting anyone get too close, except her BFF's since grade school, Ceryl and Billie.

**Ceryl** - an unapologetically and unforgettably edgy, 30-something badass with attitude for days. She may be hilarious, but is also sadly, self-destructive.

## THE SCENE

Act One and Two both take place in NYC apartment living rooms.

## ACT ONE

Day. A NYC apartment living room, Ben and Megan sit snuggled on a couch, while Laura sits propped in an arm chair. They are watching *The Voice*, on TV. A voice-over is heard before the action begins.

CAL (V/O)

I've heard it said that life is not measured by the number of breaths we take, but by the number of moments that take our breath away. And those moments, what are they made of? Friends, family, lovers. Heart songs. Heartbreak? Is it fate, destiny, or mere coincidence, that brings two people together? In a world churning as a sea of moments, how do we find that moment where we meet the one? That one person that can so completely bring us joy, or so completely break us. Do you believe in love? Soulmates? How do you live your moments? Fearfully? Or, fearlessly? I never thought about any of these things... until she walked away.

LAURA

Nick Jonas is one sexy Homo Sapien.

MEGAN

He is, girl.

BEN

You're sexy, baby. My hot babe.

MEGAN

Hey! I don't like that.

BEN

Honey, it's a compliment. Like - damn! Right, Laura? You know. Like - daaaamn!

*Laura shrugs. Megan pulls away from Ben.*

MEGAN

Language, Ben.

BEN

Sorry.

MEGAN

And, I know what you're thinking, Ben.

BEN

What? We're just watching TV, honey. Right, Laura?

LAURA

Don't ask me, Ben.

MEGAN

Yeah. Don't ask her. Ask me.

BEN

Uh. Honey, I just said a compliment. You're a beautiful woman, and I'm your man. It's normal.

MEGAN

What's normal?

*Ben looks to Laura for help.*

LAURA

Are you looking to me as the definition of normal, Ben? Or, for a definition of normal?

BEN

Um.

MEGAN

Ben. Just say it. You want sex.

BEN

What?! *(Ben laughs and looks from Megan to Laura.)* This is a prank. *(No response.)* A trick question?

*Ben tries to take Megan's hand, she refuses.*

BEN

Oh, shit. *(Megan gives him a look.)* I mean, shoot. Honey, listen. I've never said anything about sex to you. Did Mike say something?

MEGAN

Why would Mike say something?

BEN

Um-

MEGAN

Oh my god. Did you talk to my brother about sex?!

BEN

No. I mean I only said-

MEGAN

Oh my god. Laura, can you believe he talked to Mike?

LAURA

*(Disapprovingly.)* Oh, Ben.

BEN

No wait. It's not like that. Cal said-

MEGAN

Oh my god! You talked to Cal, too?!

LAURA

Oh, Ben.

BEN

No. No. It's not like that. We were talking about sex-

MEGAN

*(To Laura:)* See. *(To Ben:)* Why were you talking about sex with my brother and Cal?

BEN

No. It wasn't about you-

*Ben stops as both Megan and Laura react.*

LAURA

Oh, Ben.

BEN

No. That didn't... It's not how it sounds.

MEGAN

Ben, I love you, but I don't like this pressure.

BEN

What pressure? There's no pressure, honey. We're just watching TV.

MEGAN

I'm going to my room. Don't follow me.

*Megan exits. Ben looks at Laura.*

BEN

I'm following her.

LAURA

It's your life.

*Ben exits. A cellphone rings to Sam Smith, "Unholy" ringtone. Laura starts digging around the couch to find the phone. She finds and answers it.*

*Miguel is heard V/O (or can be on-stage as an insert).*

LAURA

Hello.

MIGUEL

This isn't my Megan.

LAURA

No. This is Laura. Still not yours. Hi, Miguel.

MIGUEL

Hi, Laura. Where's Megan?

LAURA

In her bedroom. (Silence.)

MIGUEL

Can I talk to her?

LAURA

Now's probably not a good time.

MIGUEL

Is she OK?

LAURA

Physically, yes. Emotionally, questionable at the mo'.

MIGUEL

Then now is probably a very good time for me to speak with her. (*Silence.*) Can you put her on, please?

LAURA

How about I leave a message?

MIGUEL

How about you put her on? (*Silence.*) Laura, I'm her best friend. I'm returning her call. Please put her on.

LAURA

Not to be overly technical or pull rank, Miguel, but I think we qualify as equals in the BF department. I know you've known her since high school, but she and I have formed a significantly close and reciprocal friendship bond based on trust and transparency these past 3 years. So, trust me when I tell you now is not a good time. She's talking with Ben. They're arguing about sex.

MIGUEL

Sex?

LAURA

Yes. Although, arguing might be an imprecise word choice. Passionately discussing perspective differences on the topic would perhaps more accurately represent the current conversation being had.

MIGUEL

Uh. Fine. Just tell her I returned her call - please.

*Laura pulls the phone away and looks at it.*

LAURA

Wait. What? Sorry someone keeps trying to beep in. Can you repeat that please?

MIGUEL

Just have Megan return my call. Please.

LAURA

Got it. But in full transparency, she was calling you because I told her to. I said we should get a male perspective on the topic of sexual relations. And you are a male Homo sapien, albeit a homosexual one, but I'm confident sexual orientation is irrelevant in this equation. Our question is not one about the mechanics of sex or even attractability, but rather the psychological underpinnings. Setting aside the purely raw, animal instinct of it all, when is it OK to have sex?

MIGUEL

Wow. Uh, well, Laura. That's kind of a lot to process, and I'm currently sitting at a crowded coffee house with a friend and...

LAURA

And?

MIGUEL

And what?

LAURA

You said and. I just want to know when is it OK?

MIGUEL

To have sex?

LAURA

Yes.

MIGUEL

Whenever you can. (*He laughs.*) I'm totally kidding. That's not my answer - for you. I'm not sure I'm the best person to ask or that now is the best time. It's a rather involved question. Don't you agree?

LAURA

No. Now is a fine time as the old adage goes - there's no time like the present. And, I'm seeking a male perspective, which you possess.