

FADE IN:

EXT. BROOKLYN, NYC - MORNING - MURRAY HILL

Quiet street populated by classic row houses. Moderate greenery.

INT. ZOE'S APARTMENT - SAME

CAMERA PANS small, cozy New York apartment. A half-dressed mannequin in one corner of the room and a stack of fashion magazines called "Style Fashion" in another --

A HEAP of clothes surrounds a small, vintage luggage case resting on the bed --

CLOSE ON an invitation, white and baby blue - "You're invited to Matthew and Janice's Wedding."

CAMERA PANS the bureau, stacked with a few books, make-up utensils, and other sewing paraphernalia --

From back on, a BLONDE WOMAN, standing bareback, slips on black blouse.

An independent fashion designer with a touch of grunge, the beautiful **ZOE FAULKNER (24, blonde, sleek)** stands in front of the mirror, looking at her reflection --

She raises a marijuana 'joint' to her mouth, taking a puff. The camera REVEALS a small tribal tattoo on her inner wrist.

ZOE
(releasing smoke)
Congratulation... yeah, I mean it.
(a beat)
Congrats.

She sighs.

INT. CODY'S APARTMENT - SAME

A small studio apartment a double rectangular window --

CLOSE ON Matthew and Janice's wedding invitation.

CODY SANDUSKY, (24, cute, shaggy hairstyle, dark eyes) holds the invitation while petting a gray kitten --

Cody places the kitten near a bowl of cat food -- he stoops next to the kitten, petting it while it eats.

EXT. BROOKLYN, NYC - SAME - MURRAY HILL

Cody unlocks his beige 2014 Honda Sudan and gets in. He takes a deep breathe.

CODY
(to himself)
One Mississippi. Two Mississippi.

CAMERA ON a black clothing bag and a guitar CASE on the back seat.

CODY (O.C.) (CONT'D)
Three Mississippi.

EXT. BROOKLYN, NY - SAME - MURRAY HILL

Cody drives his car pass a few PEDESTRIANS.

EXT. RECEPTION HALL - LATE AFTERNOON

A tall, cathedral-style, stone building.

INT. RECEPTION HALL - SAME

A large room with decorated round tables. Black/white and baby blue wedding theme. Very classy décor, which include paper machete ceiling balloons and table flowers. It's a wedding rehearsal.

Zoe, holding the small gift box, walks over to front of the room where **JANICE WATERS (25, African-American)** talks with the SOUND EQUIPMENT GUY. She's regal and gorgeous but plastic.

JANICE
Can we place the speakers in each of the four corners of the room but be sure to suspend from the ceiling, make it less of an eyesore.

The Guy nods as a HAND touches Janice's shoulders. Janice turns around to face Zoe.

ZOE
Hey.

JANICE
Whoa! Wow. Zoe, oh my God... you're here?

ZOE
 (smiling)
 Yeah.

The two awkwardly hug. Janice's ring is in view.

JANICE
 Wow, I can't believe it's you. It's
 been like three years.

ZOE
 Well, we always promised we would
 come to the other's wedding, right?

JANICE
 Definitely. Yeah.

ZOE
 Uhm...

Zoe reaches in her purse and pull out a small, blue gift box.
 She hands it to Janice.

ZOE (CONT'D)
 This is for you.

JANICE
 Thank you, Zo-

Janice places the box to her ears and shakes it up.

JANICE (CONT'D)
 What is it?

ZOE
 Open it.

Janice opens the box and pulls out a folded page.

ZOE (CONT'D)
 I hope you like.

Janice unfolds the paper, looking at a torn magazine page -
 it's a picture of a beautiful black and white dress --

JANICE
 For me?

ZOE
 Yeah, I'll have it finished in a
 month or two.

JANICE
 It's beautiful.
 (a beat)
 I missed you.

LATER

FRIENDS and FAMILY sit in their assigned seats. It's a group of about fifty people. The dapper PARENTS (late 50s) of the bride and groom-to-be sit together at a table.

Zoe walks pass a few round tables, looking at seating name tags.

She approaches a table, spotting her name. Her chair is positioned next to Cody, who fidgets with his name tag. He notices her tribal tattoo as she sits next to him.

CODY
 (waving)
 I'm Cody.

ZOE
 I'm Zoe.

A beat.

CODY
 So, how do you know the engaged couple?

ZOE
 We went to Columbia together. I was actually the bride-to-be's roommate. We fought over hot water privileges.

CODY
 Cool... or hot, I guess.

ZOE
 How about you?

CODY
 Well, Matthew and I interned at the same law firm a few years back. I lasted about a month... I just, uhm, wasn't made of the legal armor and steel... not like him anyway.

ZOE
 (smiling)
 Some people are made out of softer things, so I get it --

CODY
 (smiling)
 Yeah... I guess you're right --

SOUND of a men CLEARING their throat in a microphone.

MATTHEW PEARCE (25, preppy, blonde-haired) holds up glass of alcohol while on the mic. He looks at the WEDDING PARTY, an group of upper middle class people, polished and prim.

MATTHEW
 Thank you all for showing up to
 this pre-wedding reception.

Matthew eyes a few STRAGGLERS who take their assigned seats, then looks at the group in general.

MATTHEW (CONT'D)
 I know you all are wondering about
 the glass. It's not what you think.
 Just water, I promise... mixed with
 all kinds of defiled liquids...

Janice joins Zoe and Cody's table. Two other COUPLES sit with them, including **TOM MALLORAY (27, tall, dark-hair)** and **CARRIE "RED" TODD (25, red-head)**.

MATTHEW (CONT'D)
 I guess I'm really up here to make
 a toast to my fiancée who's the
 love of life.

Janice holds her hands to her chest, proud and smiling.

JANICE
 Awwwww, babe.

MATTHEW
 In a few days, we're getting
 married and we're show each other
 and the world just how much we
 mean to each other.
 (pointing to Janice)
 Baby, you're the reason I get up in
 morning and also the reason I've
 agreed to a stuffy nine to five,
 office job.

Members of the audience laugh.

MATTHEW (CONT'D)
 Hold on, hold on. Janice, you're my
 sun by day and my moon by night.
 (MORE)

MATTHEW (CONT'D)

Thank you for understanding me and all my faults. Thank you for loving me in spite of it all.

Matthew's eyes fall on Zoe. He clears his throat again, a little thrown off.

MATTHEW (CONT'D)

(raising his glass)

And I... uh... I want to thank everyone else for supporting us in our fucking sappy ass love story.

(to his mother)

Sorry for the language, Mom.
Feeling a little buzzed.

Guests raise their glasses, some chuckling, some shaking their heads, some clapping, some drinking.

Sitting at Zoe's table, the maid of honor, **ANNA (23, curly-haired African American, slightly rotund)**, claps loudly:

ANNA

(shouting)

Whooo! Alright, Matthew! Whooo! Now let's get drunk --

EXT. RECEPTION HALL - NIGHT

Zoe stands outside alone, holding a glass of wine while looking at the night sky. Without saying a word, SOMEONE stands next to her on the stairs. It's Matthew.

MATTHEW

Hey...I wasn't sure you would make it.

ZOE

I did. I'm here. Finally, right?

MATTHEW

(smiling)

Yeah.

(a beat)

Can you believe all of this? I mean... how things they turned out?

ZOE

Yeah, it seemed inevitable.

MATTHEW

(hesitating)

Well uhm...

ZOE
Congratulations... I mean it. You
 deserve her. I mean it.

A beat.

ZOE (CONT'D)
 I better get back --

Zoe walks toward the side door as Matthew spins around, a
 curious look on his face.

INT. RECEPTION HALL - CONTINUOUS - BAR AREA

Cody stands at the bar counter chatting with groomsman **GREG
 FORRUM (25, muscular)**, soon taking notice of Matthew who
 approaches while quickly gesturing to the bartender --

Cody walks over to Matthew, who retrieves a glass of alcohol
 from the Bartender.

CODY
 Matthew?

Matthew, sipping on his drink, turns to hug Cody.

MATTHEW
 Sandusky! Glad you came!

CODY
 (smiling)
 I kind of have to. I'm a groomsman,
 remember?

MATTHEW
 You're right. Fuck, yeah! Whooo!
 You ready to turn this party up
 then?

CODY
 I don't know, man.

MATTHEW
 Don't be shy, you twat. Come on--

Tom approaches, wrapping his arms around Matthew.

MATTHEW (CONT'D)
 Tom, my man, can we get this party
 started?

TOM
 Always --

Tom looks at Cody and then Matthew.

MATTHEW
Fuck, yeah!

Matthew finishes his glass, passing it to Cody.

MATTHEW (CONT'D)
Let's fucking get drunk --

At the other end of the bar, The BRIDESMAID GROUP, including Zoe and Janie, retrieve vodka shots from the BARTENDER --

Everyone holds a shot glass. Janice points to the red-head Carrie.

JANICE
So everyone, that's Carrie, but she goes by Red-

Red gives a half-wave to the ladies --

JANICE (CONT'D)
You all should know my loud-talking cousin, Anna, by now--

Anna smirks while pointing to herself --

ANNA
That's not really true.

JANICE
(hugging Zoe)
And this is Zoe, a close friend from college --

ZOE
Hi everyone --

The Bridesmaids, in unison --

BRIDESMAIDS
Hey, Zoe --

Anna raises her shot glass and makes a toast to Janice, who gives a wry smile.

ANNA
Ladies, I just want to say something before we imbibe.
(clearing her throat)
Here's to Janice who is so beautiful and fortunate to have found the love of her life.
(MORE)

ANNA (CONT'D)

Or rather, the man she loves to hate, but what do I know? Hey... but for real, here's to the last few night of true happiness before a lifetime of fucking bore.

JANICE

Anna?

ANNA

I'm kidding, babe. Calm down.

JANICE

Very funny but no offense taken since you're fucking drunk --

Anna holds up her glass --

ANNA

Yo, we shotting or what?

Anna shots hers, soon scowling at the taste --

ANNA (CONT'D)

(re: shot)

Oh, fuck.

Zoe chuckles as Janice takes her hand. The two shot while exchanging a look --

EXT. NEW YORK MANSION - EVENING

An English-styled New York mansion sitting on large estate. SOUND OF ELECTRONIC-INFUSED RAP MUSIC, which underscores SLOW MOTION MONTAGE.

MONTAGE:

INT. NEW YORK MANSION - SAME - LIVING ROOM

Anna raises a bottle of Greygoose in the air, pumping it like a weight --

KITCHEN

Matthew fills two shot glasses with vodka -- passing one to Greg -- they both shot --

FIRST FLOOR HALL

Janice grabs a wine glass from a PASSING tray -- A WAITER, carrying the tray, walks pass a TALKING couple -- moves toward an open room --

LIVING ROOM

The waiter moves into the living area - it's a dance party --

Anna and Janice dance to the music. A dance party of the of about twenty people has formed.

Two guys dance together, ONE of them pulling in the OTHER closer --

END OF MONTAGE and RAP SONG

LIVING ROOM

New rap song PLAYS. Cody swallows hard, unsure how to navigate the jungle of party people. He walks toward the hall.

Meanwhile Matthew joins Anna and Janice, grabbing on Janice's waist, pulling her to him for a kiss.

LIBRARY

Dance music is muted. Cody enters the room, closing the door. He leans on the door. A little out of breath, he rubs his head and closes his eyes, whispering the "Mississippi count" to himself.

ZOE (O.S.)

Hey.

He opens his eyes, seeing Zoe, who stands in front of a bookcase, holding a wine glass.

ZOE (CONT'D)

You okay?

CODY

I... um... I'm just taking a moment.

ZOE

Then you came to the right place.

(smiling)

I don't really function at these things either.