

FIVE FRIENDS

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INT. DRESSING ROOM - CHURCH - DAY

Four women -- CAROL-ANNE, DENISE, KATIE, and NANCY -- all in the early 30s, and dressed in dark blue bridesmaids dresses, stand like a firing squad.

JOSIE, the bride, also in her early 30s, has her hands on her hips, her shoulders cocked. She's pissed.

JOSIE

And what the fuck do you want me to do now?

The women don't have an answer.

JOSIE (CONT'D)

There are two hundred people out there in the church all waiting for me to walk down that god damn isle, and marry Mark.

CUT TO:

INT. CHURCH - DAY - CONTINUOUS

The church is full of people.

MARK, 30s, stands near the alter with FOUR GROOMSMEN.

He looks around, nervous.

He checks his watch.

CUT TO:

INT. DRESSING ROOM - CHURCH - DAY - CONTINUOUS

DENISE

It's just--

JOSIE

What, Denise? What do you want me to do?

KATIE

We wouldn't be doing this if--

JOSIE

Fuck.

CAROL-ANNE

Seriously. My truck is outside.

NANCY

All of this goes away. You say the word.

JOSIE

You couldn't have taken me aside, oh, I don't know... Three months ago?

DENISE

We didn't think you would listen.

JOSIE

You're right.

There is a tense silence. THEN--

CAROL-ANNE

Mark is a fucking prick. You know it. I know it. Everyone out there knows it.

JOSIE

Wow.

CAROL-ANNE

What? You want the sugar coated version?

DENISE

Carol-Anne is right.

JOSIE

Yeah, Mark's a screw up, in many, many, ways. But...

CAROL-ANNE

There are things you don't know.

JOSIE

And Ralph is a good judge of character? Please.

CAROL-ANNE

Not Ralph.

Josie goes to the mirror. She looks at the women in the reflection.

She adjusts her veil. She's holding it together.

JOSIE

I have to walk out there.

NANCY

You're going to suck it up? You're the dumbest smart person I know.

CAROL-ANNE

You can't marry that douchebag, Josie. I won't let you.

JOSIE

(anger)

That's rich.

(beat)

You won't let me?

DENISE

It won't last.

JOSIE

What lasts these days?

(beat)

I thought you guys were my friends.

NANCY

We are your friends but you're making a huge mistake.

Josie whips around. She leans casually with her back against the dressing table.

JOSIE

Alright.

(pointing her finger)

Which one of you will be the bad news bearer?

The all look at Josie.

JOSIE (CONT'D)

If you all feel so strongly about this, you should be the ones to tell everyone.

DENISE

This is your wed--

JOSIE

Precisely.

Awkward silence.

Josie senses victory. She moves over to the door.

JOSIE (CONT'D)
If you ladies care to be my
attendants, I'll be in the church.

CAROL-ANNE
I'll do it.

Stunned silence as everyone turns to Carol-Anne.

DENISE
Carol-Anne...

CAROL-ANNE
I'll do it.

JOSIE
You'd risk our friendship?

CAROL-ANNE
Yes.

JOSIE
Wow. Okay.

Katie, too eager to diffuse the conflict bursts out--

KATIE
Josie, he slept with your sister.

Josie is incredulous.

JOSIE
That's not true.

KATIE
She told me last night. We were in
the bathroom at rehearsal dinner,
and she was drunk--

A wave of sheer disappointment crosses Josie's face.

KATIE (CONT'D)
She was upset that she was shut out
of the wedding...

JOSIE
I don't want to hear anymore.

She backs up from the door ever so slightly.

She smooths out the layers of her bodice.

JOSIE (CONT'D)
So... Now what do I do?

DENISE
Don't marry him.

Josie sits down on a chair near the door.

JOSIE
But there's so many people.

NANCY
It's either your disappointment
against their's.

Carol-Anne checks her watch.

CAROL-ANNE
The minister is going to be back
here any second.

Josie thinks for a moment, plays with the lace on her dress.

JOSIE
I want to go.

CAROL-ANNE
Alright.

Josie picks herself up off the chair.

The women gather around her and they usher her through the
door to the outside.

EXT. CHURCH - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Carol-Anne opens the back door to her truck and Josie steps
up into it.

Nancy, Katie and Denise all get in.

Carol-Anne goes to the driver side, gets in the truck.

She pulls the truck out of the church yard.

Joise looks back at the church steps and all the cars in the
lot.

CUT TO:

INT. CHURCH - DAY - CONTINUOUS

The MINISTER motions to Mark, Mark walks over.

MINISTER
All ready?

MARK
Yeah. How are the girls?

MINISTER
I'm going to let them know we're
about to start.

Mark takes a handkerchief from his breast pocket and wipes
his brow.

MINISTER (CONT'D)
Nervous?

MARK
Yeah.

MINISTER
It's normal. This is a big day.

MARK
Yep.

MINISTER
Alright. Let's get this show on
the road.

The Minister walks to a small door, opens it and steps
inside.

CUT TO:

INT. DRESSING ROOM - CHURCH - DAY - CONTINUOUS

The room is empty. The Minister looks around.

MINISTER
Uh. Oh.

CUT TO:

EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Carol-Anne's truck speeds out of sight.

THE END