

Alternate Proposal

by
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PREVIEW SCRIPT

For the full script, or production/rights inquiries, contact doug@brookwrite.com

(A table for two in a nice, not outrageously fancy restaurant. **CELIA** and **TOM** are seated. **CELIA** has a look of utter amazement on her face, very much like she's just been proposed to. Coincidentally, she was.)

CELIA

I don't know what to say.

TOM

I had the same problem myself. But you're the lucky one. I had to come up with something original that no one's ever said before. You have the same two choices that every woman gets. Yes or no. That should make it easier.

CELIA

What if I say something else?

TOM

That depends. Would you?

CELIA

That depends.

TOM

On what?

CELIA

How long I can keep a turkey in suspense.

TOM

Are you calling me a turkey, or the proposal itself?

CELIA

Well, the proposal has a lot going for it.

TOM

Are you talking about how I proposed or the package that comes with the proposal?

CELIA

The proposal itself. I'm not talking about your package.

TOM

We'll save that for dessert.

CELIA

Sexual innuendo mixed into a proposal is minus five points.

TOM

Five points out of how many?

CELIA

I haven't decided yet.

TOM

So what else do you have to say?

CELIA

Oh. Well, back to the proposal, itself. It was good. Very good. But I have to tell you, and I hope you don't get insulted by this, I cannot believe you did it just sitting there.

TOM

It would have been better if I was sitting two tables away?

CELIA

What's your napkin laying on?

TOM

(Looks.) The floor. Excuse me.

(**TOM** picks up his napkin.)

CELIA

What's your napkin laying on now?

TOM

My lap. You wanted to be sitting in my lap when I proposed? You didn't want me in your lap...

CELIA

What state are you from?

TOM

Alabama. You know that.

CELIA

And you came from there with a banjo on...

TOM

My knee! Of course! I'm sorry. That was pretty obvious, wasn't it?

CELIA

Just a bit.

TOM

I really didn't know you liked banjos that much.

CELIA

Oh, I do. They make good blunt instruments when swung at head level.

TOM

Good reason to be down on one knee.

CELIA

Yes, it would have been. And you weren't on one knee at the crucial moment because...?

TOM

I didn't want to draw undue attention. Everybody would have been watching us, talking about us. Talking about themselves when they were in this situation...

CELIA

Talking too much, like you are right now. I doubt they've ever been in this situation. You're a bit too unique. But let me ask you this. Why do bride's maids always get crappy dresses?

TOM

The groom's cousin, the tailor, cuts a deal to unload some crappy prom dresses?

CELIA

Bridesmaids must look formal yet terrible to ensure that the bride stands out as the most beautiful woman in the world. The bride is the center of attention.

TOM

Right. What about the groom?

CELIA

Whatever.

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