

"HOLIDAY HOOKUP"

by

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FADE IN:

EXT. HEAVEN - DAY

A SIGN in a cloud: EARTH TROOP.

BARRACKS.

INSIDE one barracks, PRIVATE HERKIMER of Earth Troop rests his sore wings in holy water. Other soldier-angels in his platoon lounge around the barracks as well.

ANGEL #1

Hey Herk, looks like you're enjoying Thanksgiving.

HERKIMER

I need a holiday from the human's holidays. My wings are worn to a frazzle!

ANGEL #1

You poor thing. This ain't Basic Training anymore, Private. This here's real combat.

HERKIMER

Thanksgiving is good. The humans don't get into so much trouble. I'm going to enjoy some time off.

ANGEL #2

Don't get too used to it, rookie. Any of us could be sent back at any time. That's combat for ya.

A glowing figure appears at the end of the barracks. It's the ARCHANGEL GABRIEL, Earth Troop's commanding general. The platoon sergeant, LOU MINESCENT, scrambles to his feet.

LOU

Barracks, atten...shun!

The angels scramble to attention. Lou salutes General Gabriel.

LOU

Sir, First Platoon is ready for inspection.

GABRIEL

At ease, Sergeant Minescent.
At ease, troops. This isn't
an inspection...I'm here to
select an angel for an
important assignment.

The angels go "at-ease." Gabriel floats down the barracks, looking at each soldier. Lou follows. Finally, Gabriel stops at Herkimer, the last angel in the barracks.

GABRIEL

(to LOU)

Sergeant, is this your lowest-ranking troop?

LOU

Yes, sir. Private Herkimer's pretty much fresh out of basic training. He's only had a couple of easy assignments so far.

Gabriel notices the singes on Herk's wings.

GABRIEL

Easy, eh? Then where'd you get these singes on your wings, soldier?

HERK

(Sheepishly)

I guess I'm not battle-hardened yet, sir.

GABRIEL

Well, you will be. Headquarters has a special assignment for you.

LOU

Private Herkimer, sir? Are you sure? He's as green as spring apples.

GABRIEL

That's just what we need. This assignment should go to a more proven veteran, but a higher-ranking angel would get noticed by the Army of Darkness. A new recruit can slip in under their radar.

(To HERK)
This mission comes all the way
from the top, son. Are you up
for it?

HERK
(Gulps)
I'll do my best, sir.

GABRIEL
That's what I like to hear.

HERK
Sir, yes sir!

GABRIEL
Your mission is to bring two
people together for the
holidays. It sounds easy, but
The Top Brass has plans for
them they can't disclose at
this time. Just get them
together, and further orders
will follow. This assignment
will last through the humans'
holiday season.

HERK
(Less eagerly)
Yes sir.

GABRIEL
Private Herkimer, if you do a
good job, there's corporal's
stripes in it for you.

HERK
Thank you, sir.

GABRIEL
The mission starts
immediately. Prepare to ship
out.

Gabriel salutes, and Lou and Herk salute back.
Gabriel vanishes from sight. The angels in the
barracks relax.

ANGEL #2
Off for the holidays, eh,
Herk? Told ya not to get used
to it! Heh, heh!

HERK

Yeah? Well, we'll see who's laughing when I come back with corporal's stripes. Heh, heh!

ANGEL #1
Just don't singe your wings,
Herky-boy.

Herk tosses a pillow at them. They duck.

HERK
See ya next year,
y'knuckleheads.

He raises his wings and disappears.

INT. A RANCH - THANKSGIVING DAY

The JONES' ranch east of Denver.

MATTHEW JONES, the father, is a leathery rancher, conservative Christian, and set in his ways. He's standing at the head of the table.

PRISCILLA JONES, the mother, is a leathery ranch wife, not as conservative as her husband, and doesn't put up with any guff. She's seated at the foot of the table.

JORDAN, their only son, is a young doctor, Dockers-casual, and fairly good-looking. He's seated at the side of the table.

Also seated at the side of the table is TRAVIS, Jordan's best friend.

Matthew carves the turkey.

MATTHEW
That's some bird, eh? Home-grown.

JORDAN
Looks great, dad. And delicious, mom.

Matthew fills plates and passes them around. The others fill their plates with the traditional Thanksgiving fare.

MATTHEW
Well, the cattle take most of my time, but this time of year a few farm animals are worth it for occasions like this.

But I tell you, sometimes this ranch is almost too much work for just the both of us.

Matthew is miffed that Jordan doesn't want to continue the family's ranching tradition. He's needling Jordan.

JORDAN
It's a lot of hours...Almost as much as residency.

MATTHEW
More, mister wise-guy doctor. This ranch is 24/7.

JORDAN
Yeah, I know, dad. I put in a lot of hours here too in my day, remember?

Jordan feels like he's put in his time at the ranch and earned his escape.

PRISCILLA
Well, I guess if you can't run a ranch, running an operating room is the next best thing. Congratulations on becoming a full-fledged surgeon, son.

Priscilla is playing mediator and peace-maker.

She lifts her wine glass, and they all toast.

MATTHEW
Congratulations, son. And don't worry about the ranch, we'll manage somehow. If I can ever find any ranch hands.

(To Travis)
So Travis, how the land development business? Still busting up lots of ranch land?

Still curmudgeonly, Matthew is looking for another city slicker to needle.

JORDAN
Dad, Travis isn't a developer. He's a civil engineer. And, (eyebrows raised) my best friend.

MATTHEW

Well, you work for land developers, don't you?

TRAVIS

I design the infrastructure, sir. You know, the roads and bridges, the water and the sewer, that sort of thing.

MATTHEW

Well, it's still *for* developers. In my opinion, that's the main problem with Colorado today...Too much land being divided up. Why, where's the food going to come from in a few generations?

TRAVIS

Well sir, people have to have a place to live. Besides, I consider myself a green engineer.

JORDAN

(Smirking)

You sure looked green last night, after tying one on.

TRAVIS

Wise guy. You know what I mean.

MATTHEW

Well *I* don't. I don't put "engineer" and "green" in the same sentence. Sounds like an oxymoron to me.

TRAVIS

I only take projects I believe in. Ones with lots of open space.

MATTHEW

A ranch has lots of open space.

PRISCILLA

Dear, he's civil, I'm not sure you're being so. It's Thanksgiving, leave Jordan's friend alone.

MATTHEW

In a minute, this here is an important discussion. OK, Mister civil engineer, here's a question for you: Ever see land "un-divided?" United? It's always divided, isn't it?

TRAVIS

Actually, sir, I see it all the time. I do it, in fact.

MATTHEW

How's that?

TRAVIS

Open space. Conservation easements. Wildlife refuges. My company takes lots of smaller parcels, puts them together for conservation purposes. All the time.

JORDAN

That's right, dad. Jordan's company did the foothills backdrop open space. That's why you don't see homes all up and down the foothills from here.

MATTHEW

Well, that's fine for the mountains. They get everything. How about some open space out east here?

TRAVIS

We've done plenty. Rocky Mountain Arsenal's now a wildlife refuge. And soon we'll be starting on the old Air Force Bombing Range.

MATTHEW

OK, OK. You're alright then, Travis. But those developers? Take 'em all, and march 'em across that bombing range. Before you remove the bombs.

TRAVIS

(Laughing)
I'll see what I can do, sir.

PRISCILLA

Looks like everybody's about
due for seconds. Just help
yourselves.

So Jordan, since you're going
to have a life of your own
again, what are you going to
do with all that time?

Priscilla wants Jordan to settle down with a good woman.

JORDAN

Yeah, from 80 hours a week to
60'ish, and still some on-
call. Woohoo.

Get out some, for sure. I may
even have time to date. What
a concept.

MATTHEW

There are lots of godly women
at the Limon Community Church.
You know what it says in the
Bible: "Be not yoked together
with unbelievers."

JORDAN

(Thinking)

Ewww, Dad...Please, I'm eating!

Jordan and Travis look at each other and wince.

(After a short pause)

I guess the yoke's on me.

MATTHEW

(Waving his fork)

Don't you blaspheme the Word
of God in here, mister. Not
in this household. We take
Scripture seriously here.

JORDAN

Sorry, dad...Not funny, I guess.

PRISCILLA

I'm sure there are some
believers in Denver. Nice
girls.

JORDAN

With any luck, maybe I'll have

someone to bring home for
Christmas.

PRISCILLA

Don't forget to pray, dear.
Remember, God has someone just
right for each of us. An Eve
for every Adam, if you will.

JORDAN

I'm not looking for anything
serious right now, mom. Just
a holiday hookup.

MATTHEW

Hookup? Don't you go having
any of that there casual sex,
boy!

PRISCILLA

That's dangerous, you know,
dear?

JORDAN

Hooking up doesn't mean sex,
mom, dad. It just means
getting together, casually.

Matthew still scowls.

PRISCILLA

Well, you never know, you just
never know, dear. Would you
like some cranberry sauce?

HERKIMER takes notes in a corner.

EXT. A NICE BRICK HOME - NIGHT

The SILVERMAN'S home, an upscale brick Tudor in
Denver.

THANKSGIVING DAY

The father, MORTIMER (MORTY) SILVERMAN carves the
turkey. He's an older middle-aged Jewish man sporting
a yarmulke. He's conservative, but not overly so.

The mother, SHARON, is an older middle-aged Jewish
woman.

JENNIFER, is their 30-something daughter. She's
neatly attired in a business suit.

Cousins, aunts, uncles, nephews, and nieces surround the table. EZRA is a precocious eight year-old nephew, wearing a yarmulke. AUNT GERTRUDE is a plump Jewish lady in 80's expanding-waistline clothing.

Jennifer's best friend, JUDY STEIN, is a fashionista, and always dresses provocatively, even at Thanksgiving.

MORTY carves the turkey, and passes the plates around.

JENNIFER

Gorgeous turkey, mom.
Everything's so festive...I
think Thanksgiving's one of my
favorite holidays.

EZRA

I don't understand how come we
celebrate a Christian holiday.

MORTY

It's not only Christians who
give thanks...We Jews do, too,
Ezra. So we've adopted this
holiday. What's the matter,
you don't like turkey?

EZRA

I like it fine, but in school
they said this Thanksgiving
was created by the Puritans,
who were Christians.

JUDY

Yeah, and they wore funny
hats.

Judy and Jennifer look around at the mens' yarmulkes around the table, and giggle.

MORTY

Hey, these hats aren't funny,
young woman...They're our
covering.

SHARON

All right, all right Morty,
don't get started. Ezra, the
Puritans were very strict
Christians. Because of that,
and their funny hats, they had
to run from other Christians,
in England.

MORTY

Oy, we like that! When Christians persecute Christians, they don't have time to persecute us. I've been laughed at for my yarmulke since I was Ezra's age.

EZRA

I hate when that happens.

JENNIFER

Dad! You're going to twist the boy in strange ways.

MORTY

Me twist him? He needs to know about being persecuted, it'll prepare him. From schoolyard bullies to holocausts, he needs to be prepared.

JENNIFER

No wonder he doesn't like Thanksgiving. Let me handle this. Ezra, it's true we Jews have been persecuted down through history, sometimes by Christians. But not all Christians. So when other cultures do something that's in line with ours, we can adopt it as our own. Like Thanksgiving. It doesn't mean you're a Christian, it means you're giving thanks.

EZRA

OK. Today I'm thankful for turkey, and cranberry sauce, and mashed potatoes, and gravy...

SHARON

(Laughing)

OK, little Mister Glutton, we get the idea.

GERTRUDE

(To JENNIFER)

So, Miss Financial Analyst...
How's the world of high

finance? Still working too hard?

Gertrude is the family matchmaker. She's sure Jennifer works too hard, and needs a good Jewish man to settle down with.

JENNIFER
Guilty as charged. Sometimes I think I'll just move in to the office permanently.

GERTRUDE
(Shaking a spoon at her)
You're too busy. Another year without a fella. You'd better watch out, or you'll end up a spinster like me. You need a man in your life.

JENNIFER
Spoken like the family matchmaker, Aunt Gertrude. I don't need a man, but I'd sure like one. I do have a New Year's resolution to find more balance in my life. Maybe next year I'll have time to date.

GERTRUDE
You'd better move it up to the Jewish New Year. Let me find you a good Jewish boy. For you, since you're family, not even my usual matchmaking fee!

JENNIFER
I would like a companion for the holidays. But I can't wait for a matchmaker...I'm going to try an internet dating service.

GERTRUDE
(Alarmed)
What?! You can't mean it!

Gertrude gasps and fans herself with her handkerchief.

JENNIFER
Uh oh.

PRISCILLA
Now look what you've done,

Jennifer. And her with high blood pressure. You're going to be the death of her!

JENNIFER

I'm sorry, Aunt Gertrude. But I really do think I can handle my own social life. After all, I'm 32 years old.

EZRA

That's old!

JENNIFER

(Tossing her napkin at him)
Stinker!

GERTRUDE

He's right. You're too old to be single any more. You need to find your forever fella. And he needs to be a good Jewish boy.

JENNIFER

32's not that old anymore, Gertrude. I'll find my forever fella in time. But for the holidays, I'm just in the market for a "holiday hookup."

GERTRUDE

(Gasping)
What?! You young people today!

JENNIFER

(Laughing)
It's not what you think, everyone. "Hookup" meets, "meet up." So a "holiday hookup" is someone to go out and do things with over the holidays.

JUDY

(Suggestively)
I know what kind of hookup I'd like.

Judy likes being ribald, and isn't afraid to show it.

JENNIFER

Thanks a pantload for helping my cause, Judy. Seriously, everyone...I'll be fine. I'm a big girl.

Jennifer looks at Judy, then makes a noose gesture with her hands, to signify she's just hung herself in the family's eyes. Judy laughs.

Herk makes notes in a corner.

INT. A CITY APARTMENT - NIGHT

Jordan's apartment, a man cave. Jordan and Travis watch TV. Jordan turns off the TV with the remote.

Herkimer takes notes in a corner.

JORDAN
Rockies win again. I'm loving it!

They high five.

TRAVIS
Totally! OK, dude, to the dating sites...We've got to find your holiday hookup

JORDAN
Lead on, guiding light

They move to Jordan's PC.

Travis leans over Dan's keyboard. He types in a Web address.

TRAVIS
Let me show you how it's done, doctor...Voila! Babe-O-Rama!

JORDAN
Yeah, sure. What kinds of losers use these things? People who can't get a date.

TRAVIS
Easy there, Casanova. You'd have to include yourself in that list, wouldn't you?

Jordan looks, and points at the screen.

JORDAN
Whoa! You can search by

location. And body type, and income...

TRAVIS

And 23 different criteria on this particular site. Find a girl to just your specifications!

JORDAN

I wonder if they deliver?

TRAVIS

Almost. But you've got to do some romancing, Don Juan. Look, you write a profile, post a picture if you want to, then chat if they want to.

JORDAN

Think they'd believe it if I put a picture of Tom Cruise with my profile?

TRAVIS

Might be a dead giveaway. Besides, there are lots of liars on here, so be careful not to be one of them.

JORDAN

Look...there are 25 pages of matches in this area, 8 to a page!

TRAVIS

A regular bootie call, amigo. What'd I tell you?

JORDAN

Man, this could be overwhelming. I'd better narrow it down.

TRAVIS

Happy hunting, Tarzan.

JORDAN

Me Tarzan, they Jane.

TRAVIS

I gotta run. Let me know how it goes.

Travis leaves. Jordan types and reads away. Multiple

profiles of women fade in and out across the screen as he types and looks.

JORDAN

Wow, Travis is right...This is a regular bootie call. Let's see, what works for me? How about just searching "holiday hookup?" Ahhh...Hello, Ladies!

INT. A CITY APARTMENT - NIGHT.

Jennifer's apartment.

Jennifer and Judy are seated at a laptop, searching an internet dating website. Herk watches, unseen, behind them.

JUDY

So that's RSVP.com? Good grief, look at all those matches...50 pages of them!

JENNIFER

Yeah, I'd better tighten my criteria.

JUDY

So many men, so little time, that's my motto.

JENNIFER

I'll let you have my castoffs. After I warn them to eat their oysters.

JUDY

Hey! Well, maybe that's not such a bad idea.

(Laughs)

OK, back to the men.

They pour over the selections. While Herk watches, Sergeant Lou Minescent appears next to him.

The girls continue to point and giggle under faded light.

LOU

So how's it going, Private Herkimer?

HERK

Not so hot, Sarge. I've scoped out the families, and Jennifer and Jordan look worlds apart. With this internet dating, it could be years before they meet.

LOU

The "Angel's Rules of Engagement" do apply to this mission, Herk. You know the drill: An angel may not "possess" a human. He can only put them in situations to exaggerate their *own* personalities and characters.

HERK

Yes, and give them spiritual insight. And plant a thought or two now and again.

LOU

You're forgetting one weapon at your disposal---the interface of spirit and energy.

HERK

How can that help? They're humans, not robots.

LOU

Yes, but what are they using for their search?

HERK

The laptop! Of course!

LOU

(Laughing)

Give 'em heaven, Private!
This ought to be fun to watch.

JUDY

Look at this goyboy hunk,
Jennifer: "Sven"...Be still, my
beating heart!

JENNIFER

Pretty boys aren't my cuppa
tea, girlfriend, but you can
have him.

JUDY
Step aside. Get ready for one
steamy email, you gorgeous
Norse god.

Judy types out an email.

JENNIFER
(Reading)
Woohoo! That ought to light
his fire.

JUDY
"Send." Get ready for one hot
holiday, Sven-boy.

JENNIFER
You're incorrigible. OK, on
with my search. Next 10
matches.

Jennifer works the mouse. Herk fans a wing, and the
page with Jordan's picture and profile comes up. She
clicks on someone else's picture, though.

JENNIFER
This one looks interesting.

HERK
No, no! Not that one! This
one!

He fans his wing again. Jennifer's cursor moves from
her choice to Jordan. Jennifer looks at her mouse
quizzically.

JENNIFER
Hey! What's wrong with this
thing?

JUDY
Hold on, girlfriend. Your
slip may be serendipitous.
Look, a doctor, and not bad-
looking, either. And you have
to like his headline: "Doctor
Seeks Holiday Hookup."

JENNIFER
Perfect.

Herk pumps his fist.

Lou gives him a thumb's up sign.

JENNIFER

OK, I'll add him to my favorites. Jordan, eh? Well, Doctor Jordan, I'd like to be in your operating room.

JUDY

Ah, a comment worthy of me. Want me to write the email?

Herk and Lou wave their hands and shake their heads, "NO!"

JENNIFER

That's OK, I'll do my own operating on Doctor Jordan.

JUDY

Make it good. If he's a doctor, I bet he gets gazillions of contacts.

JENNIFER

I'm not doing bad, myself. But I don't need gazillions. I'll see how it goes with the top three.

JUDY

Let me know if you hear back from Sven. I need a toy for Chanukah.

JENNIFER

Well, we'll see what our electronic Aunt Gertrude brings you. Have you been a good girl?

JUDY

(Angelically)
Of course...A little angel.

JENNIFER

(Laughing)
Your nose just grew an inch. There, I'm done. "Send."

HERK

Well, that went well. Thanks for the help, Sarge.

LOU

You did great, Herk. But

Jordan's only in the top three. And he's got two other coffee hookups, too. You'd better make sure the other two dates are a disaster.

HERK
(Grabbing his head)
Yikes, that's right! Oh no!
Hey, Sarge...

Herk turns, but Lou disappears.

HERK
(Rubbing his hands together)
Oh well, I like playing the
imp on occasion.

EXT. A COFFEE HOUSE - DAY.

Jordan sits at the outside patio. He's reading the paper, waiting for his first internet date. His date, SALLY, an average-looking, 30-something lady, flits around frantically, but calms herself and brushes out her skirt before she rounds the corner from the inside of the coffeehouse.

SALLY
(Holding out her hand)
You must be Jordan, "Doctor
Seeks Holiday Hookup?" You
look like your picture. What
are the chances, on RSVP?

JORDAN
And you must be Sally,
"Sleepless in Denver?" You
look like your picture, too.
I'm pleased to meet you.

They shake hands, and SALLY sits in the chair opposite Jordan.

Herk appears in the seat between them.

SALLY
How is it a doctor's alone for
the holidays?

JORDAN
I just finished my residency.
The hours are so ungodly I
didn't have time to date. I
wouldn't wish that on any

woman. I've got a little more time now that I'm an MD.

SALLY

So, you're looking for a holiday hookup? Nothing more serious?

JORDAN

More serious would be fine, if it happens. But for now, I'm just looking for some company for the holidays. You know the drill...Take it slow.

SALLY

Sounds good to me.

(Thinking)

So does, "more serious."
Let's see, what did he say?

Herk waves his wing in her direction.

Oh yes, he wants a good conversationalist.

JORDAN

So, do you have family in Denver?

Herk waves his wing in her direction again.

SALLY

Not too much, just one sister, really, who I followed out here from Iowa. My family was originally from Holland, and they came over in 1868, and settled near Ames. They were farmers for generations. I never knew my great-grandparents, my first recollection was of my grandmother and her apple pies. She used to bake apple pies every Sunday afternoon...

Jordan's eyes glaze over as Sally intones on.

LATER

SALLY still drones on about her family. JORDAN sneaks a look at his watch.

SALLY

...And then I have a second cousin once removed in Englewood. So, that's a little bit about my family. How about yours?

JORDAN

My parents run a ranch out near Limon.

SALLY

A ranch...That sounds so romantic. I just love cows and horses. Back in Iowa, my folks had several horses. My first one was a Shetland pony that they got me for my 5th birthday. I loved that pony..

Jordan's eyes glaze over again. Sally's mouth moves, but he can't hear a word.

Jordan reaches for his cellphone and sets it off. He looks at the screen.

JORDAN

Uh oh, gotta go. Looks like I'm needed in the OR.

SALLY

I hate cellphones. But for a doctor, I understand. They have to be able to reach you.

JORDAN

Yeah, you can't always plan surgeries. Emergencies come up. Well, nice meeting you.

Jordan stands and offers Sally his hand. She shakes it. Jordan reaches for his wallet.

SALLY

Nice meeting you, too.

JORDAN

Here, let me get this. I insist.

Jordan puts some money on the table, then beats a hasty retreat. He puffs his cheeks out in relief. Sally looks bummed.

Herk wipes his brow, lets loose a sigh of relief, then

disappears.

INT. THE SAME DENVER COFFEE SHOP - DAY

Jennifer waits at a table, and JOE, her first internet date, approaches her. Joe is an average height 40-something, overweight and balding.

JOE
Hello, I'm Joe, from RSVP.
You know, "Rugged Guy For
You?"

JENNIFER
(Incredulous)
You're "Rugged Guy?"

JOE
In the flesh. May I sit down?

JENNIFER
You don't look anything like
your picture.

JOE
Well, that picture's five
years old. But I'm told I
look younger than may age all
the time, so I thought that
would be OK.

JENNIFER
And your age is?

JOE
Let's just say 40-something.

Jennifer's eyes bug out.

JENNIFER
(Incredulous)
Let's just say you lied about
your age by 10 years? And
your weight, too?

Jennifer is getting mad.

JOE
(Patting his gut)
Always in great shape, and I'm
still the same great guy,
though there's more of me to
love now. Hey, it's the
internet...Everybody lies!

JENNIFER
(Getting angry)
Not everybody. I didn't lie
when I said I wanted someone
in my own age range.

JOE
Age is just a number. I
didn't want any 30-something's
missing out.

JENNIFER
(Getting angrier)
What you're missing is
honesty.

She rises to leave.

JENNIFER
You're also going to miss out
on this 30-something. I'm
sorry Joe, it's not about the
weight, or the age. It's
about lying. I can't tolerate
lying.

JOE
Even a white lie? A fib?

JENNIFER
(Flustered)
Ugh!

Jennifer wheels around and exits, stage left.

Joe shrugs, then waves at a cute girl at another
table.

INT. AN URBAN BAR - Night

A Denver bar. Jordan enters the bar, looks around,
and sees his next internet date, KELLI. Kelli's a
stunning 30-something brunette.

JORDAN
(To himself)
Whoa! Things are looking up!

(To Kelli)
Hi, I'm Jordan, "Doctor Seeks
Holiday Hookup." You must be,
"Stunner Seeks Extraordinary?"

KELLI

I am, also known as Kelli. I got started without you. I hope you don't mind.

JORDAN

Not at all. What're you drinking?

KELLI

My usual, a margarita. Look at the size of these drinks they serve here!

JORDAN

Looks like you've made a pretty good start.

KELLI

Yes, I have. Happy hour waits for no man.

She slugs down most of the rest of her margarita.

KELLI

You'd better order if you want to keep up.

JORDAN

I'm on call. I'll have stick to water.

KELLI

Bummer. These are good and I hate to drink alone.

She finishes her margarita and flags the waiter for another one.

JORDAN

So Kelli, your profile says you like warm sandy beaches, and the ocean.

KELLI

That's right, I do.

JORDAN

What beaches are these? We're 1100 miles from the nearest ocean here in Denver. Yet two-thirds of the Denver women on RSVP say they like beaches. Why is that?

A waiter brings another margarita, and Kelly drinks deeply.

KELLI
(Getting tipsy)
Mmmm. Well, I can't shpeak
for anyone else, but I know
I'm happiesht on vacation.
When I get tired of being
landlocked, I've gotta dip my
toes in shome warm water.

She continues to drink as they talk.

JORDAN
Well, we're all about
mountains here. Do you ski or
board?

KELLI
Not me. I hate being cold.
Hiccup!

JORDAN
So you're a fish out of water?

KELLI
I guesh I am, buddy boy. I
shoullda never left San Diego.
But I'm eashy to pleashe...Jusht
take me on an ocean vacation
every month or sho, and I'm
fine.

She laughs, like a mule, and slides on her elbows
across the table. Jordan's eyes bug out.

KELLI
It'sh OK, you can afford it,
you're a doctor.

She laughs like a mule again. And again. She snorts
margarita out of her nose.

KELLI
Whoopsh, excushe me! I hate
when that happensh.

She laughs like a mule again.

JORDAN
I do, too.

He reaches for his cellphone.

JORDAN
Uh oh, looks like I'm needed.
I'm so sorry, but I have to
go.

KELLI
Aw, the party'sh jusht getting
shtarted. Shtay a while.

She holds up her empty margarita glass, and waves it
at the waiter.

JORDAN
Can I call you a cab?

KELLI
Yeah, I know, I'm a cab.

She laughs like a mule again and again.

KELLI
I crack myshelf up. Nah, I'll
be alright. I've got a few
more of theshe to finish
before taxi time.

JORDAN
OK, well it was nice meeting
you. Have a nice Christmas.

KELLI
Ho, ho, ho! G'bye.

She laughs like a mule again.

Jordan makes a hurried escape.

INT. AN URBAN BAR - NIGHT.

Another Denver bar.

Jennifer walks in the bar and spots her next internet
date, KEVIN. Kevin's an average-looking late 30-
something businessman in a suit.

JENNIFER
Hi, you must be Kevin, Mr.
"Seeking in Denver?"

KEVIN
And you must be Jennifer, Miss
"New Beginnings?"

JENNIFER

I am. Pleased to meet you.

KEVIN
The pleasure is all mine.

They shake hands. Kevin waves at a waiter. A waiter approaches the table.

KEVIN
I'll order. What'll you have?

JENNIFER
Scotch on the rocks.

KEVIN
Ah, a man's drink.

(To the waiter)
Two scotches on the rocks,
please.

KEVIN
So, what's a nice girl like
you doing on a truck stop like
RSVP?

JENNIFER
Well, it's like my member name
implies, I'm making new
beginnings. Work consumed me
for a while, so I'm trying to
make some "me" time. And some
"fella" time. There are men
at work, but I don't like to
mix business and pleasure.
Hence, RSVP.

KEVIN
Yes, your profile says you're
a financial analyst. Maybe I
can use your services some
day...I'm a banker.

But enough about work. What
kind of relationship are you
looking for?

JENNIFER
Just a holiday hookup, someone
to enjoy the season with. If
it turns out to be more than
that, fine. If not, fine.

KEVIN
Well, I'm looking for

something more serious than that. I'm looking to settle down with someone I can take care of.

JENNIFER

Eh?

KEVIN

Yep, I believe the man should be the provider.

JENNIFER

How quaint.

KEVIN

My forever girl's not going to have to worry her pretty little head about a thing, nor work a day in her life. Not if my financial plan works out.

JENNIFER

Am I supposed to be impressed?

She's getting piqued.

KEVIN

Maybe. Some women would like the sound of that.

JENNIFER

Well, to me it has as much appeal as, "barefoot and pregnant," or fingernails on a blackboard.

KEVIN

You're the independent type, aren't you?

JENNIFER

I didn't know people come in types. But I *am* sure the type of relationship you describe is not for me. I didn't get an MBA to sit around in anyone's home.

(PAUSE)

KEVIN

Honest enough.

He finishes his drink, then offers her a handshake.

KEVIN
No hard feelings?

JENNIFER
No hard feelings. At least
you're honest; that's a
refreshing improvement over my
last date.

She's relieved she's getting out.

They shake hands.

KEVIN
I'll get the tab. Have
yourself some nice holidays.
And good luck with your
search.

JENNIFER
You too.

She beats a hasty retreat.

EXT. A TOWNHOUSE - NIGHT.

Jennifer's townhouse steps.

Herk sits on the steps and Lou appears.

HERK
Hey, Sarge.

LOU
Hey, Herk. So how'd you make
out with the internet dates?

HERK
Piece o' cake. They did most
of the work themselves. They
were such bad matches I hardly
had to do a thing.

LOU
As it should be.

HERK
I almost lost her after her
second date, though. She
almost went back to her Aunt
Gertrude.

LOU
Oh, no.

HERK
Not to worry. I suggested to her friend, Judy, that she needed to fast track it with the doctor. They skipped the coffee/drinks thing, and went right to a real date.

LOU
Good work. Time's a-wastin'.

HERK
And since I scoped out her likes and dislikes, he scored big with his first date suggestion: Hockey tickets.

LOU
So tonight's the big night?

HERK
It is...The Av's versus the Redwings, the hottest rivalry in Denver. She was thrilled. He's picking her up right now.

LOU
Very good work.

The door swings open, right through the two angels. Jordan and Jennifer exit the townhouse.

JENNIFER
Av's tickets, I can't believe it. They're the hottest tickets in town.

JORDAN
I had to take someone's shift to get them. But the Redwings...It'll be worth it.

JENNIFER
Major points, Doctor Jones, major points.

JORDAN
Good. Shall we?

They walk to the car and drive off.

INT. AN URBAN SPORTS ARENA - NIGHT

The Pepsi Center in Denver, the Av's vs. Redwings game.

Jennifer and Jordan cheer and whoop it up.

INT. AN URBAN SPORTS ARENA - TWO NIGHTS LATER

The Pepsi Center, Denver.

Jennifer and Jordan yell their lungs out at the hockey game, and hug and kiss when the Av's score.

EXT. A CITY THEATRE COMPLEX - TWO NIGHTS LATER

The Denver Center For The Performing Arts.

Jordan and Jennifer exit a taxi, a walk with a theatre-going crowd toward the theaters. They're arm-in-arm. Jordan points to a banner announcing tonight's performance: "A Christmas Carol." Jordan hands two tickets to a ticket taker and they walk in.

INSIDE

Actors playing "The Christmas Carol."

LATER

Jordan and Jennifer exit the theatre, laughing and arm-in-arm. Children and families exit with them. White horse-drawn carriages are lined up at the curb.

JORDAN

Hey, that was sort of a family affair. Want to try something to put a more adult flair on the evening?

JENNIFER

Why sir, whatever do you have in mind?

She's not really concerned...She thought he'd never ask.

JORDAN

(Motioning his arm towards the carriage)
Your carriage, madame.

JENNIFER

Thankew, ever so much.

They're both ready for some romance.

The DRIVER, in a top hat and tux, opens the door. They they get in and get cozy in the back. The driver puts a blanket over them, closes the door, and down the street they go. Jennifer snuggles closely with Jordan, and kisses him for his thoughtfulness.

JENNIFER

Thanks so much for the play. I love "A Christmas Carol," even though I'm Jewish.

JORDAN

Jewish?

JENNIFER

You're surprised? I guess it doesn't show. Yes, I am. Is that a problem?

She's worried.

JORDAN

No, to my family it might be, but to me it's not. It's just that on your profile, you put, "Spiritual But Not Religious."

JENNIFER

Oh, that's right, I forgot! My friend Judy insisted I select that. She says it's code among my community for, "Not Orthodox." I guess you don't know the code. I'm so sorry I misled you.

JORDAN

(Chuckling)

Code, eh? Don't worry about it.

JENNIFER

I hate it when people lie in their profiles. And here I went and did it. They just didn't have a selection for, "Jewish, but not Orthodox."

JORDAN

Like I said, it's no problem. As long as you don't mind that I'm Christian.

JENNIFER
How Christian?

JORDAN
I believe, but I've been
pretty turned off by churches.
I like to say I'm
"dechurched"...They didn't have
that selection on RSVP.com,
either.

JENNIFER
May I borrow "dechurched?" I
only go to Temple on holy
days; a fact my father, who's
an elder at Temple Beth
Lechem, laments.

JORDAN
Beth Lechem? Is that like
Bethlehem?

JENNIFER
The same. In Hebrew it means,
"House of Bread."

JORDAN
Too funny.

JENNIFER
I'm not an unbeliever. I
think Jesus is pretty groovy,
it's just his fan club that
worries me.

JORDAN
(Laughing)
I like it! My turn to borrow
your expression. I also like,
"Lord Jesus, save me from your
followers." I saw that on a
bumper sticker once.

JENNIFER
(Hugging him)
Yes, save me...except from
you, Doctor Jones, I hope?

JORDAN
Except from me.

Herkimer appears. He waves his wings.

They kiss.

Herkimer walks alongside them.

JENNIFER
I hope you're not upset that I fibbed.

JORDAN
Me? No. Besides, you know what they say about Jewish girls...

JENNIFER
(Eying him askance)
What?

JORDAN
Ummm...They give the best...ummm...

JENNIFER
(Lifting an eyebrow)
Yes?

JORDAN
(Laughing)
...dates.

JENNIFER
(Slugging him)
I know what you meant to say, you creep!

JORDAN
(Rubbing his arm)
Ow!

Neither of them is really upset, and they like the suggestive way the conversation is going.

Jennifer returns to snuggle position.

JENNIFER
(Smiling coyly)
It's true, you know.

Jordan laughs, and they kiss again.

JENNIFER
(Sighing)
But you give pretty good date yourself, for a doctor.

They turn onto Larimer Street, a downtown Denver trendy shop-lined street decorated for the holidays.

Lights festoon all the trees.

JENNIFER
(Pointing)
Oh look...How beautiful!

JORDAN
It sure is. They do a good
job on Larimer Street at
Christmas. Or, over the
holidays. Sorry.

JENNIFER
No problem. It's so romantic.

Herkimer waves his wings at them.

JENNIFER
They should move Valentine's
Day to December.

JORDAN
Hold on! I'm sure we have
quite enough holidays this
time of year. We need one in
February.

JENNIFER
Stick in the mud! I give the
best dates, remember? And I
say we need a touch of
Valentine's Day.

Herkimer waves his wings at them again.

She kisses him, deeply.

JORDAN
You've convinced me. You give
the best kisses, that's for
sure.

They kiss deeply again.

EXT. A SMALL DELI - DAY

The Starr Market, a Jewish deli, on a residential
street in Denver.

Jordan and Jennifer enter. They look over items on
the menu for lunch.

Jennifer sees Aunt Gertrude. She waves.

JENNIFER
(To Jordan, aside & whispering)
Uh oh. This could be trouble.

She's really worried Aunt Gertrude will embarrass her.

JORDAN
(Aside & whispering)
How so?

JENNIFER
(Aside & whispering)
That's my Aunt Gertrude, the family matchmaker. She almost fainted when she heard I was internet dating.

JORDAN
(Aside & whispering)
Uh oh is right.

Now he's worried, too.

JENNIFER
(Aside & whispering)
Well, let's face the music.

They walk over to Gertrude's table.

JENNIFER
Hello, Aunt Gertrude. What a pleasant surprise!

GERTRUDE
Hello, dear. Pleasant, indeed.

Gertrude holds a grudge at being snubbed.

They kiss on the cheeks.

JENNIFER
Aunt Gertrude, this is my friend, Jordan Jones.

GERTRUDE
(Coldly)
Hello, Jordan. Jennifer's told me nothing about you.

JORDAN
Hello, Aunt Gertrude. Or should I just call you Gertrude?

GERTRUDE
(Coldly)
Aunt Gertrude will do just
fine, seeing as you're
Jennifer's...How shall I say?
Escort.

(PAUSE)

And what do you do...Jordan?

Herkimer appears. He waves a wing.

JENNIFER
Jordan's a doctor, at
Children's Hospital.

GERTRUDE
(Enthusiastically)
A doctor? And at Children's
Hospital?

She's being won over.

She offers Jordan her hand. They shake.

GERTRUDE
(To Jennifer)
Well, why didn't you say so,
my dear?

JENNIFER
So a doctor's alright?

GERTRUDE
(Enthusiastically)
Well, of course. At least, if
you have to date a goyboy.

Jennifer looks at her disapprovingly.

GERTRUDE
Goys can be alright.
Especially doctors. And such
a good Jewish name, Jordan.
Just like the river.

JORDAN
Just like the river. Well,
I'm happy to meet you, too,
Aunt Gertrude.

GERTRUDE

(Enthusiastically)
Gertrude, you can call me
Gertrude.

JORDAN
Gertrude. Could we join you
for lunch?

GERTRUDE
(Enthusiastically)
Oh, I'd love it! Try the
matza kugel, it's to die for.

JORDAN
Matza kugel it is.

(To Jennifer)
You too?

JENNIFER
Perfect. And a diet drink.

JORDAN
Could I get you anything,
Gertrude, while I'm up?

GERTRUDE
Not a thing, I'm all set.

JORDAN
Alright, then, I'll be right
back.

He goes to the deli lunch line.

GERTRUDE
(To Jennifer, aside)
Such a nice boy!

INT. A CITY HOSPITAL - DAY

Children's Hospital, where Jordan is on duty. He's at
the Nurse's Station when Jennifer walks in. NURSE
RATCHITT and NURSE CRABTREE are on duty.

The nurses don't know Jordan's been dating.

JORDAN
Hey, glad you could make it!

JENNIFER
Hospital food for lunch? I
wouldn't miss it.

They kiss.

JORDAN
Jennifer, this is Nurse
Ratchitt, and this is Nurse
Crabtree.

JENNIFER
Nice to meet you.

JORDAN
I'm going to lunch, if you
don't need anything else right
now.

NURSE RATCHITT
You go on, you two lovebirds.

JORDAN
(Mocks feigned disapproval)
I'll be back at one.

NURSE CRABTREE
Don't hurry on our account.

Jordan and Jennifer leave. The Nurses make "Woo!"
faces at each other.

JORDAN
(To Jennifer)
Can I give you a tour before
we go?

JENNIFER
I'd love one.

They walk down the hall. Jordan points at a door.

JORDAN
That's the Eating Disorder
Unit. We won't go in, because
they're at session.

JENNIFER
Eating disorders? Among
children?

JORDAN
Oh yes, you'd be surprised how
young they start. But we
treat them right up through
their teen years.

JENNIFER

Amazing.

JORDAN
Here's the transplant unit.
This is where I spend a lot of
my time.

They enter. They walk down the halls. Children, all
bald, wave. They wave back.

JORDAN
I've got someone I want you to
meet.

JENNIFER
OK.

They enter a room. There's a 15-year old boy in a
bed. He's playing a video game.

JORDAN
Hello, Adam.

ADAM
(Enthusiastically)
Hello, Doctor Jones!

They hug.

JORDAN
Adam, this is my friend,
Jennifer.

ADAM
(Enthusiastically)
Hello, Jennifer!

They shake hands.

JENNIFER
I'm his special friend. I'm
sure you'll be seeing a lot
more of me around here.

ADAM
I hope so. Especially around
Christmas.

JORDAN
Adam's an orphan. He really
loves visitors.

JENNIFER
Then I'll make a special
effort to come see you, lots,

Adam.

ADAM
That'd be great!

Adam and Jennifer hug.

JORDAN
We're going to lunch right
now, Adam. See you later.

JENNIFER
How about if I come back after
lunch, and you can show me how
to play that video game?

ADAM
Cool!

JENNIFER
It's a deal, then.

Adam and Jennifer hug again.

Jordan and Jennifer leave.

In the hall, they continue speaking on their way to the
Cafeteria.

JENNIFER
What's Adam got?

JORDAN
Acute juvenile diabetes. He
needs a kidney and pancreas
transplant, or he'll die.
We're just hoping he makes it
to Christmas.

(PAUSE)

JENNIFER
You do good work here. My
work seems so...paltry, compared
to this.

JORDAN
Oh, the world needs financial
analysts...so people will make
money, so they can contribute
to us.

JENNIFER
Well, I'm going to start. And
I'm going to start

volunteering as a visitor. I need something like this in my life.

She's impressed by his altruism, and beginning to see him as more than a holiday hookup.

JORDAN
See, you're not the evilest financial analyst in the world.

She punches him in the arm, then takes his arm warmly as they enter the cafeteria.

INT. CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL - DAY

Jennifer walks down the Transplant Unit hall and enters Adam's room.

JENNIFER
Hello? May I come in?

ADAM
Jennifer, hi! I'm about to beat the third level.

JENNIFER
Third level? That's great! What's the game?

ADAM
"Sly Cooper." See, Sly Cooper's this secret agent raccoon, and he's gotta catch Clockwerk, the evil owl.

"Game Over" music plays.

Oh, rats! They got me! Wanna play?

JENNIFER
I'd love to. How do I work this thing?

ADAM
OK, this button is run, this one is jump, this one is...

INT. THE SILVERMAN'S HOUSE - DAY

The family gathers for Chanukah. Jordan is invited, as is Judy Stein.

Jordan knocks at the door. Judy is already inside.

Herkimer watches the proceedings from a corner.

Morty opens the door.

MORTY

Jordan, glad you could make it! Welcome to our Chanukah dinner!

JORDAN

Thanks for having me, Mister Silverman.

MORTY

Morty, call me Morty. C'mon in.

Jordan enters. He takes off his coat and hangs it in the hall.

MORTY

Jennifer's in the living room, or helping in the kitchen. Go on in.

JORDAN

Thanks.

Judy approaches him in the living room. She's interested in meeting Jennifer's holiday hookup, to see how she did.

JUDY

You must be Jennifer's RSVP.com date. I'm her friend, Judy Stein.

JORDAN

Nice to meet you. I'm Jordan.

They shake hands.

JUDY

So, is this your first Chanukah?

JORDAN

It is, indeed. I'm a little nervous.

JUDY
Don't worry, it won't hurt a
bit. Doctors say that a lot,
don't they?

JORDAN
(Laughing)
I guess we do.

JUDY
Here, this will help.

She pours him a glass of wine. She lifts her glass in
a toast.

JUDY
Lo Ch'aim.

JORDAN
Lo Ch'aim?

JUDY
"To Life." You'll hear that a
lot tonight.

JORDAN
Lo Ch'aim, then. To life.

They clink glasses and toast.

Jennifer sees them from the kitchen and approaches
them. She sneaks up on Jordan from behind.

JENNIFER
Boo!

(To Judy)

Hey, what are you trying to
do, steal my holiday hookup?

She's not really concerned, Judy is a good friend.

JUDY
You can't blame a girl for
trying. Especially since you
didn't hook me up with Sven.

JORDAN
Sven?

JENNIFER
Your online competition. Plan
B.

JORDAN
I was Plan A? I'll take that
as a compliment.

JUDY
You should...Sven was a
hunkmeister.

JENNIFER
If he looked like his picture.

JUDY
If. I'm still trying to find
out.

JENNIFER
Well, good luck, girlfriend.
Just keep your claws out of
Plan A.

JUDY
Don't worry, girlfriend. I
know the rules.

JORDAN
Nice to meet you, Judy.

JUDY
You too, Plan A Jordan.

JENNIFER
C'mon, I'll introduce you to
some more people.

Jordan and Jennifer walk towards the kitchen.

JUDY
(Whispering, to Jennifer)
Of course, if you want a
threesome...

JENNIFER
(Whispering, to Judy)
You! The things you say
sometimes!

Judy laughs and fills up her wine glass.

We see Morty standing at the Menorah, which is on an
exterior window sill. Everyone else is gathered
around in the living room.

Morty lights the first Menorah candle.

MORTY

Blessed are You, LORD, our
God, King of the universe, Who
has sanctified us with His
commandments and commanded us
to light the holiday candles.

Jennifer smiles at Jordan.

MORTY

At the dedication of our
temple, the oil did not run
out for eight days. Even so,
our Jewish faith will never
run out.

But our stomachs will...Let's
eat!

The family and guests laugh and applaud. They sit
down to dinner.

SHARON

So Jordan, I understand you're
not Jewish...I hope our big fat
Jewish family doesn't scare
you too much.

JORDAN

No, I'm not Jewish, but my
grandfather liberated the
concentration camps in World
War Two. Besides, I like big
families. I feel a lot of
love.

GERTRUDE

Those are good answers, they
get you points. Did you know
Jordan is a doctor? A surgeon
at Children's Hospital, no
less.

The family is warming up to Jordan.

SHARON

That must be wonderful work.

JENNIFER

And challenging. Before I
went there, I didn't know
there were so many children in
need. And that's just in our
town.

MORTY

I understand you've been
volunteering.

JENNIFER

Yes I have, as a visitor. I
love it. There's one boy in
particular, Adam, that I've
grown close to.

MORTY

What's he got?

JENNIFER

Acute juvenile diabetes. He's
waiting for a kidney and
pancreas donor.

SHARON

There has to be a perfect
right? To harvest their
kidney and pancreas.

JENNIFER

(PAUSES)

That's right. He might not
make it to New Year's
otherwise.

GERTRUDE

Oy, that's a tough one...over
Chanukah no less, someone has
to go under the knife. Oy!

SHARON

That's a tough one, for sure.
I wonder what our rabbi would
say?

MORTY

We'll have to ask him. But in
the meantime, my advice is,
don't get too close. You may
get your heart broken if you
get too close.

JORDAN

That's the tough one for me..
The kids who don't make it.

JENNIFER

(PAUSES)

I can't help myself. It just

doesn't seem right. Kids
shouldn't have to die,
especially over the holidays.
Adults maybe, kids no.

Jennifer tousles Ezra's head.

EZRA
Well, if I get sick, I want Jordan to take care of
me.

MORTY
Here, here! Lo ch'aim!

They all raise their glasses and toast Jordan.

INT. AN INTERSTATE HIGHWAY - DAY

Interstate I-70 east of Denver. We see a car driving
east, with Denver and the mountains in the west.

The car turns in to the Jones' ranch house in Limon,
Colorado, east of Denver.

Jennifer & Jordan get out. They carry Christmas
presents. Travis gets out with them, also carrying
presents.

Jennifer steps in some cow manure. Her heels are a
mess. Jennifer tries to clean some manure off her
shoes with a Kleenex, but only succeeds in getting it
on her hands. She wipes her face and gets some on
there.

JENNIFER
Eeew! Gross!

Jennifer tries to clean some manure off her shoes
with a Kleenex, but only succeeds in getting it on
her hands. She wipes her face and gets some on
there.

JORDAN
(Laughing)
Welcome to ranching. C'mon.

He opens the door.

JORDAN
(Shouting)
Hey, everybody! Merry Christmas!

MATTHEW
(Booming)

Hey, buddy boy! Merry Christmas.

Matthew gives Jordan a big hug. He offers his hand to Jennifer. Embarrassed, she shows him her manure-covered hand.

MATTHEW
(Booming)
Haw, haw! Welcome to
ranching, city slicker!

Priscilla hustles up. She pops Matthew on the arm with a dishrag.

PRISCILLA
Why Matthew, you leave the
poor girl alone! You must be
Jennifer...Welcome to The Bar
None.

JENNIFER
Thank you, Mrs. Jones.

PRISCILLA
And welcome to ranching.

JENNIFER
I've heard that three times
now.

PRISCILLA
Well let's get you cleaned up
proper. Come on, dear. We've
got some hand cleaner in the
mud room.

They depart.

They return. The others are gathered in the living room, near the Christmas tree.

JENNIFER
(Aside, to Jordan)
Well, now I smell like hand
cleaner.

JORDAN
Welcome to...

JENNIFER
Say that again, and you'll get
a shiner for Christmas.

Jordan laughs.

PRISCILLA
(Shouting, from the kitchen)
OK, everybody. Dinner is
served!

Everyone is seated for the traditional turkey dinner.
Matthew begins carving.

MATTHEW
I'm glad you could come,
Jennifer, despite the rather
rude introduction to ranching.
You too, Travis. Jennifer,
what do you do there in the
big city?

JENNIFER
I'm a financial analyst.

MATTHEW
Ever plan anything with
ranches? Seems like all the
family ranches are getting
gobbled up by the big
corporations.

Matthew likes needling city slickers.

JENNIFER
I'm afraid that's not my
specialty, sir.

MATTHEW
Then there's the city slickers
who want to take away our
guns. Why, you can't run a
ranch without guns. We got
coyotes, we got prairie dogs...
Why, they even want to bring
back wolves!

PRISCILLA
Matthew, don't lump Priscilla
in with every cause that comes
out of Denver.

JENNIFER
Actually, I'm a pretty good
shot myself.

She's trying to win him over by finding some point of agreement.

MATTHEW
Really? What do you shoot?

JENNIFER

Handguns. The Raven 25's my
purse pistol of choice. They
call it, "The Ghetto Blaster."

MATTHEW

Haw, haw, whodathunkit? Hey,
Jordan, you'd better treat
this little lady right! She
might blow you away with that
ghetto blaster!

JORDAN

Whodathunkit, indeed?

EXT. A CHURCH - NIGHT

The Limon Community Church. It's decked out for
Christmas Eve service.

The Jones', Travis and Jennifer approach the church.
They greet a few people and are seated.

Herkimer is seated on the platform, in a corner.

Children come out dressed as shepherds and begin a
Christmas play.

CHILD 1

And there were shepherds
abiding in the fields nearby,
keeping watch over their
flocks by night.

CHILD 2

An angel of the Lord appeared
to them, and the glory of the
Lord shone around them, and
they were terrified.

CHILD 3

But the angel said to them,
"Do not be afraid. I bring
you good news of great joy
that will be for all the
people.

CHILD 4

Today in the town of David a
Savior has been born to you:
You will find a baby wrapped
in cloths and lying in a
manger.

CHILD 5

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and singing, "Glory to God and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests."

We see Herkimer smiling and preening.

The children go on with their play.

We see Jordan and Jennifer smile at each other.

INT. THE JONES'S HOUSE - NIGHT

It's late Christmas Eve. Everyone has gone to bed except Jordan and Jennifer. They sit in front of a fire.

Jennifer plays with some Christmas decorations.

JENNIFER

"on earth peace..."... How's that part go?

JORDAN

"..on whom his favor rests. "On earth peace to men on whom His favor rests."

JENNIFER

I wonder who that is. I wonder what "on whom His favor rests means." And how does that fit with, "shall be to all the people?"

JORDAN

My dad would say that means Christians. He's sure everyone else is going to hell.

JENNIFER

Do you believe that?

JORDAN

I think hell would be life without you.

Jennifer looks at him intently. They kiss lovingly.

JENNIFER

Thanks for saying that. Even though I'm going to hell.

JORDAN

I didn't say that. The verse says, "on whom His favor rests."

JENNIFER

Think that includes me?

JORDAN

I can't imagine how it wouldn't.

JENNIFER

Well, if it's any help, my family thinks I'm crazy for dating a goy. They think we're the chosen people.

JORDAN

Tit for tat, I suppose.

JENNIFER

I like what Tevya said in "Fiddler on the Roof": "I know we're the chosen people, but couldn't you choose someone else once in a while?"

JORDAN

(Laughs)

I got a lot out of your Chanukah celebration, especially the part about the lamp not running out of oil. Maybe as long as you've got oil, you're OK.

JENNIFER

I hope we can survive our families' spiritual pride.

JORDAN

Me too. Well, thanks for coming to Christmas.

JENNIFER

Thanks for coming to Chanukah. Hey, I've got an idea. Next year, let's not celebrate Christmas or Chanukah. Let's invite both our families to

"Chanumas!"

JORDAN (Cont'd)
Next year? This is supposed
to be a holiday hookup.

JENNIFER
Do you want it to be?

JORDAN
Not any more...Not any more.

They kiss.

JORDAN
Chanumas? I like it! It
celebrates what we have in
common: Faith and love.

JENNIFER
Love? You said love! That's
not supposed to happen!

(PAUSE)

They gaze in one another's eyes and then kiss, lovingly.

INT. ADAM'S ROOM IN CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL - DAY

Jennifer and Jordan knock.

JORDAN
Knock, knock.

ADAM
Who's there?

JORDAN
Your doctor.

ADAM
Your doctor, who? Hey, you're
a villain, aren't you?

JORDAN
You probably think so when I
stick needles in your arm.
But not today, we come bearing
gifts. May we come in?

ADAM
Jennifer, Jordan! Come in,

come in! Merry Christmas!

JENNIFER
Merry Christmas, Adam. Or as
we like to say, Merry
Chanumas. We brought you some
presents.

ADAM
Cool, thank you guys!

They hug.

JORDAN
Let's see what Santa brought.

ADAM
I think I know what this one
is...It feels like the size of a
video game.

JENNIFER
Go ahead and open it.

Adam rips the paper off, excitedly.

ADAM
"Sly Cooper 2 - The Band of
Thieves"...Thanks, you guys!

They kiss.

JENNIFER
We'll have many happy hours
playing this, right, Adam?

ADAM
If I get a kidney and pancreas
donor.

(Awkward pause)

JENNIFER
You will, Adam, I just know
you will. You have to
believe, right?

ADAM
I guess.

A CHAPLAIN knocks and enters.

ADAM
Oh hello, chaplain.

CHAPLAIN
Hello, Adam. Merry Christmas.

ADAM
Merry Christmas. This is Jennifer, Doctor Jordan's girlfriend. She visits me a lot. And she's pretty good at Sly Cooper.

CHAPLAIN
Merry Christmas, Jennifer.

JENNIFER
I'm Jewish, chaplain. But Jordan and I celebrate Chanumas.

CHAPLAIN
(Chuckling)
Well, Happy Chanumas to you both.

So, how are you feeling today, Adam?

ADAM
Earlier I was feeling kinda sick. But having Jordan and Jennifer visit helps.

CHAPLAIN
Well, I won't interfere with your visit long. Since it's Christmas, or Chanumas, would you like to pray?

ADAM
I guess.

He's morally conflicted.

CHAPLAIN
You guess? What's wrong, Adam?

ADAM
Well, it's like this. I want to pray for kidney and pancreas, but if I get it, that means somebody else has to die, right? And I don't know if I can pray if it means someone else has to die.

CHAPLAIN

I see. Well, Adam, look at it this way. No one has to die for you to live. People can live without a pancreas and only one kidney. But if someone does die, even over the holidays, it means that they have enough love to give the gift of life to others. Did you know that every organ donor saves the lives of seven others?

ADAM

(Thoughtfully, subdued)
Seven, wow.

CHAPLAIN

And one of them might as well be you. Now, would you like to pray?

ADAM

(Thoughtfully, subdued)
OK.

CHAPLAIN

Doctor Jones, Jennifer, would you like to join us?

They join hands.

Herkimer watches from a corner.

EXT. AN ICE RINK - NIGHT

The city's downtown ice-skating rink. It's decorated for the holidays. Carols play.

Jennifer and Jordan lace up their skates. They skate out onto the ice.

Jennifer is a beginning skater, and awkward. Jordan is better.

JENNIFER

Finally, an evening off for you.

JORDAN

It's been a busy season in the old O.R.

Jennifer slips. Jordan catches her.

JORDAN
Easy there, old girl. The
Emergency OR is busy enough.

JENNIFER
Old girl? I'll show you old
girl!

She skates away, proudly but awkwardly, slipping all the way.

Jordan leans on the rink sidewall. He watches her skate around the rink.

When she reaches him, he joins her again.

JORDAN
Impressive. But don't push
it, OK?

She sticks her tongue out at him. Then she holds him tighter as they skate together.

JENNIFER
I do like skating with you,
rather than apart.

JORDAN
Let's not be apart a lot, OK?

She smiles and nuzzles him. They kiss and skate off.

INT. THE ANGELS' BARRACKS - DAY

Angels lounge around. Herkimer enters.

ANGEL #1
Hey look, you guys. If it
ain't future corporal
Herkimer!

ANGEL #2
Hey Herk, you look pretty worn
out.

HERKIMER
Hello, knuckleheads. Yeah?
Well, some of us have to work
over the holidays.

ANGEL #1

(Mocking)
Boo hoo, poor you.

HERKIMER
Let's see how you bozos laugh
at my corporal's stripes.

ALL ANGELS
(Mock amazed)
Wooooo!

ANGEL #1
How's it going down there with
that holiday hookup, anyway,
Herk?

HERKIMER
Take a look, knuckleheads...

Herkimer waves a wing. A magical oval fuzzy-edged
mirror appears. It shows a...

MONTAGE of holiday scenes of Jennifer & Jordan.

A candlelight dinner.

The skating rink.

Jennifer playing video games with Adam.

A carriage ride.

The skating rink.

Jennifer playing video games with Adam.

Skiing.

END OF MONTAGE

General Gabriel appears in the barracks. Lou bolts to
attention.

LOU
Barracks, atten-shun!

The angels snap to attention.

GABRIEL
That's good work there,
Private.

HERK

Thank you, sir.

GABRIEL
But that's only half of your assignment. The second half is to find Adam a donor.

HERK
Sir, yessir!

GABRIEL
To do it, you're conferred certain creative powers.

General Gabriel wafts his wings over Herk.

HERK
Thank you, sir.

GABRIEL
Now get going. You've got a boy to save.

HERK
Sir, yessir!

EXT. A CITY STREET - NIGHT

Jennifer drives down a Denver street. Her phone rings and she answers it.

JENNIFER
Hello? Oh, hi Jordan. What? He is? I'll be right there!

Worried, she speeds off.

INT. ADAM'S ROOM - NIGHT

Adam sleeps fitfully. He tosses and turns. His face is ashen.

Jordan and the nurses attend.

Jennifer bustles in.

JENNIFER
I came as soon as I got your call.

(Looking at Adam)
Oh, my goodness. He looks

terrible. The poor boy! Is he...?

JORDAN

Going to make it? Hard to say, isn't it? I'm afraid not, unless a miracle happens.

Jennifer sits on Adam's bed. She takes his hand and wipes his brow.

JENNIFER

I'm glad there were no deaths over the holidays, but poor Adam.

(PAUSE)

I don't need two kidneys. Take mine.

JORDAN

Do you know the chances of you being a match? Almost nil.

JENNIFER

Almost. But test me, I'm willing.

JORDAN

OK. Nurses, you know the drill, go ahead and draw her blood.

CRATCHIT

Yes, doctor. Let's go, Crabtree. Jennifer, when you're ready, last room on the right, down the hall.

The nurses leave. Herkimer appears. He wafts his wings over Jennifer.

JORDAN

I'm torn. I want a donor for Adam, but I don't want to operate on you.

JENNIFER

If I'm a match, you can, doctor, and you will.

(PAUSE)

JORDAN

Whew! OK, OK, let's go.

He takes her hand and they leave.

INT. THE HOSPITAL - NIGHT

Children's Hospital's EOR. Jordan, an ANESTHESIOLOGIST and a RESIDENT, SAM, a young doctor, scrub up.

Adam lies on an operating table. He's out from anesthetic.

Herkimer watches from a corner.

The nurses wheel in a draped body, a female form underneath the drape.

RATCHIT

She was a perfect match,
doctor. Adam got lucky.

JORDAN

And just in the nick of time.
How's Adam doing?

ANESTHESIOLOGIST

His vitals are low. You'd
better hurry.

Jordan pauses and takes a deep breath. The nurses look at him apprehensively.

RATCHIT

Are you going to be alright,
Doctor Jones?

JORDAN

(Deep breath)
I'll be fine. But Sam, keep
an eye on me, I've got a horse
in this race.

SAM

Will do, Jordan. But I know
you can do it.

JORDAN

OK, let's get the kidney first
and then the pancreas.

CRABTREE

Kidney first, absolutely,
doctor. Scalpel...

Jordan and the EOR team work feverishly. The clock shows 9.

Gabriel appears next to Herkimer. Herkimer snaps to attention.

HERK

Sir!

GABRIEL

As you were, Private. How's it going?

HERK

She was a perfect match, General, so the surgery's going well. But...

GABRIEL

But what, Private?

HERK

But why not just heal Adam? Why have them go through surgery at all?

GABRIEL

Because those were our orders, Private. You're not questioning headquarters, are you?

HERK

No, sir! I know what happens to angels who do that!

GABRIEL

You'd better. Listen, the Brass has its reasons. You just follow orders and you'll be all right.

HERK

Yes, sir.

GABRIEL

Keep an eye on Doctor Jones...He looks a little shaky.

HERK

Yes, sir, will do.

Herk turns around and Gabriel is gone.

FLASH FORWARD

The clock shows 12. Jordan puts Jennifer's kidney in a pan. He moves over to Adam.

JORDAN
OK, that's the kidney. I'll
put it in Adam. Sam, you get
the pancreas and close her up.

SAM
I'm on it, Jordan.

Herkimer waves his wings over Jordan and Jordan goes to work on Adam.

INT. CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL - DAY

The clocks shows 6.

Adam is wheeled out of the EOR and down the hall to his room. Herkimer walks behind the attending doctor and Jordan as an orderly wheels Adam.

Adam is placed in his bed. Nurses hook him up to IV drips.

INT. ADAM'S HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

A bright sunny day outside ADAM'S window. Jordan enters.

JORDAN
Well, you're making a
remarkable recovery, young
man. How's that for a
Chanumas present?

ADAM
Awesome...The best!

(Sad)
Well, it would be better if I
knew that my donor made it...

Jordan steps into the hallway. He wheels Jennifer in, in a wheelchair.

JENNIFER
That would be me.

ADAM
Jennifer! You?!

JENNIFER
None other, only a couple of
pounds lighter.

Jordan wheels Jennifer over to Adam. They clutch
hands, tearfully.

JORDAN
It's going to be quite a new
year for you, and a new life.
Did you get everything you
wanted for Chanumas?

ADAM
Almost...I didn't tell the
chaplain, but I prayed that if
I lived, I would get a forever
family.

JORDAN
If I told you that you got
that, too, would that be a
clean sweep for the holidays?

ADAM
Would it ever! But who?

JORDAN
Us, if you'll have us. It's
all approved, if you want it.

Adam clutches her hand, again, enthusiastically.

ADAM
You're the best! Of course
I'll have you. But don't you
have to be married?

JORDAN
We've got that solved...

Jennifer holds forth an engagement ring.

ADAM
Wow! You guys, you guys!

He gets out of his bed, gingerly.

JORDAN
Easy does it, Tiger...

He hugs them both.

ADAM
This is the best Chanumas

ever, now!

JENNIFER
Would you be our ring bearer?

ADAM
Would I?! You betcha!

Herkimer appears. He dances and pumps his fists in the air.

INT. A CHAPEL - NIGHT

A SIGN: CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL - CHAPEL

Jordan waits at the altar. A rabbi and a minister preside. The Silverman party is seated on one side, the Jones' on the other.

Herkimer watches from the altar.

GERTRUDE
(To Judy)
Well, it's not a synagogue...

SHARON
It's a synagogue every
Saturday and a church on
Sunday. You're just sore
because they didn't use your
services.

GERTRUDE
(Sulks)
Well...

Adam walks the aisle, slowly, bearing a pillow, with the wedding rings on it. He takes his station.

"Here Comes the Bride" plays. Everyone stands as a gorgeous Jennifer appears in the back.

GERTRUDE
(Misting up)
She is beautiful...

Tears fill eyes as she walks the aisle, accompanied by Mort and Sharon.

RABBI & MINISTER (UNISON)
Who gives this bride in
marriage?

MORT & SHARON (UNISON)

We do.

They take their respective places and Jennifer looks adoringly up at Jordan. People weep.

FADE FORWARD

RABBI & MINISTER (UNISON)

The rings, please.

Adam holds forth the rings. The rabbi secures Jennifer's and the minister Jordan's.

RABBI & MINISTER (UNISON)

These rings are symbols of the undying love that unites you.

They hand them to their respective congregants. Jennifer places hers on Jordan's ring finger.

JENNIFER

I had almost despaired of ever meeting a man as loving as you. But here you are, and I am changed forever.

(PAUSE)

With this ring, I thee wed.

She slips it on his finger. He slips her ring on her finger.

JORDAN

Many women profess love, but you live it.

Adam tears up.

(PAUSE)

With this ring, I thee wed.

RABBI & MINISTER (UNISON)

You may kiss.

They kiss, deeply and then face the congregation.

RABBI & MINISTER (UNISON)

We present to you Jordan and Jennifer Jones-Silverman.

The congregation applauds.

RABBI
Before they depart, we have
one other item of business.

MINISTER
The adoption papers, please.

Adam holds them forth. The minister takes them and
places them on the pulpit. He hands Jennifer a pen.

RABBI
Sign here and here.

They sign and then face the congregation again.

RABBI & MINISTER (UNISON)
We present to you the Jones-
Silvermans.

Adam WHOOPS! And then races and jumps down the aisle,
pumping his fists in joy. Jordan and Jennifer laugh
and cry.

"Ode to Joy" plays. The congregation stands as
Jordan and Jennifer walk towards the back. Herkimer
flies over them.

The CLOCK shows midnight.

OUTSIDE, the STAFF and AMBULATORY KIDS, FRIENDS and
FAMILY gather and throw rice. Room bound KIDS wave
out of windows. Jordan, Jennifer and Adam duck their
way through the rice.

IN THE SKY, fireworks EXPLODE. Herkimer ducks them.

EXT. HEAVEN - DAY

The barracks are in the background. The angels march
by as Gabriel pins corporal's stripes on Herkimer.

Herk winks.