

"UNDECIDED"

by

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FADE IN:

INT. LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Leanne, 35, sits on the couch next to her boyfriend Bob, 38. Both are dressed for a special occasion. On the coffee table is a bottle of champagne and two filled glasses. The couple raises their glasses for a toast.

BOB

This is a special night. It's been five years since our first date. I've been thinking a lot about us and how far we've come in our relationship. And I think it's time we take it to the next step.

Bob puts down his glass and pulls a small ring box out of the pocket of his sports jacket.

BOB

Leanne, will you...

Bob opens the box revealing a diamond ring inside.

BOB

...Marry me?

Leanne is stunned. She stares at the box and at Bob, trying to find the words to say.

V.O. LEANNE

Every girl dreams of the day her man proposes to her...

LEANNE

I need some time to think.

V.O. LEANNE

Or at least some.

Bob closes the ring box.

INT. RESTAURANT - AFTERNOON

Leanne sits opposite her two friends, Maura and Katherine, at a restaurant table. The three are having lunch and discussing Leanne's proposal.

MAURA

So, you said no?

LEANNE

I didn't say no. I didn't say yes either. Just said I needed more time.

KATHERINE

I wouldn't keep him waiting too long.
Otherwise you'll end up single.

MAURA

Hey, if Bob's not the right one, then
I'm sure there are still plenty of guys
out there.

KATHERINE

When you're thirty-five, they're either
already married or single because no
else wanted them. And who wants to get
stuck with the leftovers?

LEANNE

So, are you saying I should just settle?

MAURA

Or you could just be single.

KATHERINE

But do you really want to end up a
little old lady, living all alone with
five cats? I mean, at least when you're
married, you'll never have to be alone.

V.O. LEANNE

Have I really reached the point where
it's either get married now or be alone
forever? If I say yes to Bob now will it
be because I really want to? Or am I
afraid of being alone?

INT. LIVING ROOM - AFTERNOON

Leanne is sitting on the couch having tea with her mother.

MOTHER

So, how are things going with you and
Bob?

LEANNE

Fine thanks.

MOTHER

Oh, that's good. I'm just hoping one day
you'll give me some good news.

LEANNE

What do you mean?

MOTHER

Well, you two have been together for
quite some time now. I'm surprised

there's been no talk of getting married.

LEANNE

We talked a little bit, but nothing's decided.

MOTHER

Leanne, I did not get married until I was twenty-one and did not start having children until I was twenty-two. Now, at your age you really need to start thinking about these things. Your clock is ticking and pretty soon it's going to be too late.

LEANNE

But I'm not even sure if I want kids.

MOTHER

Leanne, every woman wants to be a mother. It's her biological instinct.

V.O. LEANNE

If I say yes, will it be because I truly desire to create a life with Bob? Or would I just be doing it to please my mother?

INT. CAR - EVENING

Leanne and Bob drive to a family dinner at Leanne's parents' house.

EXT. PARENT'S HOUSE - EVENING

Leanne and Bob stand on the outside steps to the front door of the house. Leanne rings the doorbell. Leanne's father opens the door and greets.

FATHER

Leanne! Bob! Good to see you!

LEANNE

Hi, Dad.

BOB

How are you doing?

INT. DINING ROOM - EVENING

Leanne and Bob are gathered at the dinner table with Leanne's parents, Marsha, and Ted, Marsha is Leanne's older sister and Ted is Marsha's husband.

MOTHER

So, Marsha, I was hoping to see my

granddaughters tonight. Where are they?

MARSHA

At a sleepover.

MOTHER

Too bad they had to miss this nice meal.

BOB

Yeah, this is delicious.

MOTHER

Oh aren't you sweet, Dear.

FATHER

So Ted, have you signed the papers yet?

TED

Yes, we are officially homeowners.

Everyone at the table congratulates Ted and Marsha.

MOTHER

Well, that is wonderful!

TED

Thanks. Unfortunately, with this new mortgage we're going to have to be more frugal. That means less eating out, less shopping. Maybe even less trips to the nails salon.

MARSHA

Or how about no more going out with the guys and wasting money on beer?

TED

Honey, me and the guys only get together once a month. That's it! Once a month! Besides couldn't you just buy a bottle of nail polish and do them yourself?

MARSHA

It's not the same. And I don't like you trying to control my spending.

TED

I'm just trying to show you how to be more frugal.

MARSHA

I have just as much right to treat myself as you do! And I can't believe you're giving me this lecture in front of our family!

MOTHER

Who would like more wine?

EXT. FRONT DOOR STEPS - EVENING

Leanne and Marsha sit outside on the front door steps.

LEANNE

You okay?

MARSHA

Yeah, he can be a real jerk. I feel like all we do is fight.

LEANNE

I hope Bob and I never get like that.

MARSHA

Don't get married then. Some days I wonder why I did.

LEANNE

Well, why did you then?

MARSHA

Because it was the thing to do. I didn't want to end up alone and I wanted a family. I was afraid if I didn't do it right away I never would. But you know, when I look back, I think of all the things I could've done if I didn't get married.

LEANNE

Such as?

MARSHA

I could've had a master's degree by now, paid for by my company. But I gave that up when I cut my hours in half after I had Emily. Once you get married, your life is longer about you. You want to travel? Forget it.

Marsha stands up to go back inside the house. She pauses and looks back at Leanne.

MARSHA

So, my advice to you is this. If you're thinking of getting married, don't do it because everyone says you should. Only do it if in your heart you truly want to.

Marsha goes back inside, leaving Leanne alone to think.

V.O. LEANNE

Turns out, I didn't need time to think but time to feel. In the end, my heart told me not settle down at a time I'm not ready to. Sure, I may be getting older. And I may never have a chance like this again. But I shouldn't make that my only reasons for getting married. And yeah, it may be scary starting over single, but you don't get much out of life by playing it safe either. And you certainly don't get to pursue your hearts desires.

Leanne hugs Bob and watches as he walks out the door. In her living room, she sits at her computer desk and books a trip to Europe. Leanne packs her suitcase in her room and walks out of her house.

FADE OUT:

THE END