

## The Fundraiser

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FADE IN:

EXT. ENGLAND - CARL'S HOUSE - DAY

Posh mansion. Porsche on the drive. Lawn well maintained.

RYAN JACOBSON (late 30s, slightly overweight, unfit, wears a tie) stands on the doorstep with his girlfriend FRANKIE (late 30s). Frankie knocks on the door. Ryan appears worried and can't seem to stay still.

FRANKIE

Calm down honey it'll be fine.

RYAN

No it won't. Sunday dinner with your Dad is never fine.

FRANKIE

Just relax and don't do anything stupid.

The front door opens. Frankie's Dad, CARL (early 60s), welcomes the pair of them into the house.

INT. CARL'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM

Big and grand with expensive ornaments and a large family portrait.

As well as Ryan, Frankie and Carl, also present is Frankie's Mam (LEANNE - early 60s), her sister and her husband (AMY and MARK - late 20s) and her brother MARTY (20). All eat desserts.

Ryan picks up his glass of red wine but accidentally drops it, spilling the entire contents over the table. Everybody jumps backwards, as the drink begins to trickle over the table and onto their legs.

Ryan desperately tries to dry the table using a napkin, but it's not enough and he starts using the tie that he wears.

RYAN

Sh... Sugar. Sorry.

LEANNE

Don't worry Ryan it'll dry. Marty go and get a cloth from the kitchen please.

Marty reluctantly leaves the room. Frankie encouragingly smiles at Ryan. Carl looks disapprovingly towards Ryan. Carl grimaces as he mops up a drop of wine from his chair before sitting back down on it.

CARL

So Ryan, have you got yourself a decent job yet?

FRANKIE

(annoyed)

Dad!

RYAN

It's okay darling.

FRANKIE

Ryan has just got a promotion actually, haven't you sweetie?

RYAN

Yep. Supervisor now.

CARL

(sarcastic)

Richard Branson watch out.

Ryan glances up to a big framed picture on the wall of Carl collecting a business man of the year award.

RYAN

Well the job isn't the best in the world but it pays the bills.

CARL

(under his breathe)

More like I pay the bills.

LATER

The dishes are all removed and Carl pours everyone a glass of Champagne.

CARL

This is a 1970 three-hundred-pounds bottle of Champagne everyone so enjoy. And try not to spill this one eh Ryan!

MARTY

What's the occasion Dad?

RYAN

Actually Marty I'd like to make a  
toast if that's okay Carl?

Carl raises a glass to his other daughter Amy.

CARL

You can make the second toast if  
you must, but firstly Marty this  
toast is to your sister and her  
successful husband Mark.

MARK

Thanks Carl.

AMY

Thanks Daddy.

CARL

You know Mark. Lawyers are always  
welcome in this household. I  
honestly could not have hand picked  
a better partner for my  
daughter. Hey Frankie it's a shame  
things didn't work out with that  
pilot guy. What was he called  
again?

FRANKIE

(annoyed)

Dad!

LEANNE

Charles wasn't it? Yes he was nice.

FRANKIE

He was also boring. Not like Ryan  
who makes me happy.

CARL

Anyway, Ryan, you wanted to make a  
toast? Come on, we're all ears.

Ryan stands up from his chair and kneels on the floor next  
to Frankie and pulls a ring out of his pocket. He is  
excited, but shakes with nerves.

RYAN

Well it's not so much as a toast,  
but more a proposal. Frankie,  
honey, I love you so much and I  
want to spend the rest of my life  
with you. Will you marry me?

Carl is shocked. Everyone else is excited, especially Frankie.

FRANKIE

Oh my God Ryan. Yes of course I'll marry you. Ah I love you too.

All get up to congratulate the couple. Carl at first sits down, head in his hands. Eventually he gets up and gives a very quick and weak handshake to Ryan, muttering congratulations. Carl quickly changes the subject.

CARL

I was actually gonna wait till later, but I suppose now is as good a time as ever. Follow me Frankie. I've something to show you in the garage. You too Ryan.

EXT. CARL'S HOUSE - DRIVEWAY

Carl is very pleased with himself.

CARL

Well?

FRANKIE

Well what?

RYAN

Your Dad has a new car Frankie. A Bentley Carl, very nice.

CARL

Thanks. The price wasn't nice let me tell you.

FRANKIE

What are you showing me for?

CARL

Because it's yours now.

FRANKIE

(excited)

You've bought me a car? You haven't. Have you? Honest?

CARL

What? Can I not treat my daughter?

FRANKIE

Ah thanks Daddy.

Frankie hugs Carl. Carl looks at Ryan's very small car that is parked on the street.

CARL

Better than Ryan's shopping trolley eh?

RYAN

It gets me from A-B. And the car emissions are great.

No one listens to Ryan, as Frankie dives into the car.

INT./EXT. CAR - STREETS - NIGHT - MOVING

Frankie applies lipstick, as she drives her Bentley, concentrating on looking at herself in the rear view mirror and not on the road ahead. She crashes straight into the back of another car.

INT. RYAN'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Ryan watches television. Frankie enters crying.

FRANKIE

Oh God Ryan I've crashed the car.

RYAN

What! You okay? How did it happen?

FRANKIE

Dad's gonna kill me. I hate being a disappointment to him.

Ryan consoles and comforts Frankie.

INT. RYAN'S HOUSE - GARAGE - DAY

Ryan tries to repair a plug. The garage door is open. Carl enters. He is not happy.

CARL

What the hell is that big dint in the front of the car?

RYAN  
It's errr. It's...

Frankie enters. Runs to her Dad crying.

FRANKIE  
I'm so sorry Dad, I crashed the car.

CARL  
What? God are you okay? What happened?

FRANKIE  
A rabbit kinda ran out in front of me and I just screamed and served. I'm so sorry Daddy.

CARL  
Well I can't say I'm overly happy that you've crashed the car Frankie.

Carl puts his hand on Frankie's cheek.

CARL  
But how can I stay mad at this face forever.

RYAN  
Actually it was me Carl. I crashed the car.

CARL  
(furious)  
What.

FRANKIE  
Sweetie what you doing?

RYAN  
Don't worry Frankie. It's nice of you to try and take the wrap for me, but hands up Carl. It was my fault. Sorry.

CARL  
(sarcastically claps)  
Well done Ryan. One week to crash a two-hundred-fifty-K Bentley. That must be a record. I can't believe how incompetent you are. Do you realise how much that car cost me?

RYAN

Err... Two-hundred-fifty-thousand-pounds?

CARL  
(shouting)

Two-hundred-fifty-thousand-pounds. And you just crash it like that. And for a stupid rabbit.

FRANKIE

Dad, it was me. It wasn't Ryan. He's just trying to take the blame.

CARL

Wow this is unbelievable. You crash the car Ryan, and then you try and get Frankie to take the fall. Frankie it's commendable that you're trying to take the blame honey.

The house phone rings. Frankie heads inside to answer it.

RYAN  
Sorry Carl. It was an accident.

CARL

You're just one big walking accident.

Ryan bites his tongue but clenches his fists tight in anger.

CARL  
And just for the record. You don't have my permission to marry my daughter. Not that tradition crossed your mind though.

RYAN  
Sorry Carl. Please may I have your permission to marry Frankie?

CARL  
No.

RYAN  
No?

CARL

No. I don't want Frankie marrying a waster. Someone who's achieved nothing.

Carl grabs the plug that Ryan was trying to fix, and begins to fix it himself.

CARL

Someone who is manly.

RYAN

(determined)

Okay, I'll prove it.

CARL

How?

RYAN

I don't know. I'll do a 10k run.

CARL

A 10k run? I could run that backwards and I'm 66. I tell you what, why don't you complete an Iron Man sports challenge. Then you can have my permission.

RYAN

Okay, deal. What exactly is it?

CARL

A two-mile swim, a hundred-mile cycle and a twenty-six mile run.

Ryan gulps. Carl hands him back the plug.

CARL

Right I'm off. Oh and Ryan. Try not to crash the car this week please.

Once alone, Ryan sticks his middle finger up behind Carl's back and smashes the plug off the floor before stamping on it. But he hurts his foot in the process and is in agony.

EXT. RYAN'S STREET - DAY

Ryan leaves his front door and jogs to the end of his street. He is shattered and bends over taking deep breathes. He looks back towards his house. He walks, and then limps, back to his house.

EXT. CARL'S HOUSE - NIGHT

It's Christmas Day. All of the houses in the street glitter with lights and decorations. It begins to snow.

INT. CARL'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM

Carl, Leanne, Frankie, Ryan, Amy, Mark and Marty are all present, exchanging gifts. A Christmas tree is in the room. Carl opens a gift from Mark. He loves it.

CARL

Wow a new golf putter. Thanks  
Mark, that's great.

FRANKIE

Daddy, open Ryan's present.

Carl opens up the gift to reveal an expensive looking bottle of Brandy. Ryan seems proud of himself for the selection. Carl immediately puts it to one side, and picks up his putter and begins to practice putt.

LEANNE

Does anyone want a drink?

CARL

I'll have my favourite please.  
(looks at Ryan)  
Whiskey.

Ryan shakes his head to himself in disgust and glares towards Carl who continues to putt an imaginary golf ball.

LATER

LEANNE

What did your Mam and Dad think of the news Ryan?

RYAN

They're really happy and excited.

CARL

Well I suppose it'll be left to me to pay for the wedding then eh!

RYAN

(snaps)

It's not always about money you know Carl.

CARL

Oh check out Mr Grumpy there. What's rattled your cage? It's meant to be Christmas. Frankie I'd love to pay for the wedding. You're my little Princess.

Frankie smiles at her Dad.

RYAN

Actually Carl, thanks for the offer but it's okay. I'm gonna pay for the wedding myself.

Carl almost chokes on his drink.

FRANKIE

Ryan don't be silly. Mam and Dad will pay. Won't you?

CARL

Well if Ryan is insisting?

RYAN

I am.

CARL

In that case I accept your offer.

INT. RYAN'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Frankie and Ryan eat breakfast.

FRANKIE

Hun I'm honestly not that bothered about a big and grand wedding. I'd rather it was small and low key.

RYAN

No way. We're having big and grand.

FRANKIE

But that's expensive.

RYAN

Don't worry about the money.

FRANKIE

Okay, but only if you're sure. And I'm paying for the honeymoon. No debate.

EXT. LEE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

LEE and CLAIRE (both late 30s) open their front door to Ryan and Frankie. They all kiss/shake hands.

INT. LEE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM

Lee and Ryan sit on the sofas in the living room. Claire and Frankie are not present.

RYAN

So... How do you fancy being by  
best man?

LEE

I'd be delighted dude. God I still  
can't believe you're actually  
engaged.

RYAN

Tell me about it. Feels totally  
surreal.

Ryan yawns, his eyes look red.

LEE

Is this what engagement has done to  
you?

RYAN

Sort of. I've told Frankie's Dad  
that I'd pay for the wedding  
myself. So I'm doing all of the  
over time that I can get. Worked  
about 60 hours last week.

Lee jumps up to shut the door and to double check the women are not listening in. He acts very suspiciously.

LEE

Anyway. I hope this doesn't affect  
Friday night boys' night mind.

RYAN

Don't worry buddy. I don't think a  
ring, or a marriage certificate,  
will change that.

LEE

Have you heard what you've just  
said? Marriage changes everything  
pal. And not for the better. For  
the worse. Trust me.

INT. LEE'S HOUSE - KITCHEN

All four eat at the kitchen table.

CLAIRe

I'm so happy for the pair of you.

LEE

Yeah and listen Ryan, I tell this to everyone. Marriage is the best thing you'll ever do in life!

Ryan backs up the statement but knows it's a lie.

RYAN

Yeah.... You've always said marriage is the best thing you've ever done.

CLAIRe

(to Frankie)

Ah he's a right sweetie at times is my husband.

LEE

So Ryan. We need to think about the most important part of your wedding.

CLAIRe

(interrupting)

The Ceremony?

LEE

No!

FRANKIE

The venue?

LEE

No... The stag do.

Lee and Ryan high-five, Claire and Frankie both tut.

RYAN

Definitely pal. What you thinking?

LEE

I was thinking.....Wait for it....  
Vegas. Boooooom!!!

Lee and Ryan high-five again. Both are very excited.

RYAN  
I'll second that. Great idea.

CLAIRES  
Not gonna happen Hun.

LEE  
What are you talking about? It's my best friend's stag do.

CLAIRES  
Yes and he can go to Vegas, but you won't be going with him.

Lee and Ryan become frustrated and disappointed.

LEE  
Of course I am, I'm the best man.

FRANKIE  
It's okay Claire, Ryan won't be going to Vegas either.

RYAN  
What? Why not?

FRANKIE  
You lot in Vegas? I don't think so. You're not going. End of.

Both Lee and Ryan start to sulk.

INT. SWEET/CHOCOLATE MAKING FACTORY FLOOR - DAY

Ryan is at work dressed in high vis, a helmet and overlooking approx 30 staff. He is tired and drinks red bull.

INT. RYAN'S GARAGE - DAY

Ryan attempts press ups. He can't get passed five. He is disappointed with himself, as he looks down at his belly and at how overweight he has become.

EXT. COUNTRY ESTATE - DAY

Frankie drags Ryan around a Country Estate. She appears to ask many questions to the wedding coordinator and makes notes. Ryan is tired and not paying much attention.

INT. SWEET/CHOCOLATE MAKING FACTORY FLOOR - DAY

A staff member of Ryan's team approaches Ryan.

BARRY

Boss, is it okay if I have my break  
early?

RYAN

Yeah no problem.

LATER

Ryan is asleep at work. A machine gets jammed as a consequence and sets an alarm off, waking him up, and ensuring that his manager rushes down.

MANAGER

What the hell has happened here?

RYAN

I.. Err. I don't know. It was  
working one minute, and then not  
the next.

MANAGER

These machines don't just stop  
working like that. Where is  
Barry? He was supposed to working  
here wasn't he?

Ryan doesn't want to drop Barry in it.

RYAN

Err. Not sure.

MANAGER

(angry)

Find him!

LATER

Barry leaves the managers office in tears. The manager knocks on the window and signals to Ryan to come in.

INT. MANAGERS OFFICE

MANAGER

Hi Ryan, come in. Take a seat.

RYAN

Thanks. What's up with Barry?

MANAGER

I've had to sack him. He shouldn't have left his station early.

Ryan feels awful. He bites his lips.

MANAGER

So I need you to recruit someone else okay?

RYAN

Errr. Look, I'm sorry. This isn't right. I told Barry that he could have his lunch early.

MANAGER

What? Well who was looking after the machine?

RYAN

I was. But I must have dropped off to sleep. Only for a second I swear. It's the overtime, the wedding, and all of the exercise I have to do. It's killing me. I promise it won't happen again.

MANAGER

You're right about that. Get your stuff. You're sacked.

RYAN

But I need this job. Please Brian.

MANAGER

Too late.

RYAN

What am I meant to say to Frankie now? Do I still get 40% off all the sweets and chocolate.

MANAGER

Oh yeah that reminds me. I need your loyalty card back.

INT. BIG BREAK POOL BAR - NIGHT

Ryan sits at the bar staring at a bottle of beer. He takes a sip. He is drunk. Lee arrives.

LEE

Hey, how long have you been here for?

RYAN

Since I was sacked this morning.

LEE

You've been sacked? I told you not to pinch all those sweets mate.

RYAN

No it wasn't that. I kinda fell asleep.

LEE

What? I bet Frankie loved that?

RYAN

She doesn't know.

LEE

You haven't told her yet?

RYAN

How the hell am I meant to tell her Lee?

LEE

Come on it can't be that bad?

RYAN

It is. Trust me. I can't tell her. I just can't. And I definitely can't tell her dad.

LEE

Mate, you're burning the candle at both ends. Why don't you knock the Iron Man on the head.

RYAN

(defensive)

No way. I can do it. Besides, I wouldn't wanna give precious Carl the satisfaction. I just need to work out how to fund the wedding.

LEE

Well I suppose there's one thing we could do to raise some cash.

RYAN

Really? What is it?

LEE

You probably wouldn't be up for it.

RYAN

I would. I'm desperate.

LEE

Well this stupid triathlon you're doing. A man I work with did it last year. He raised over three-thousand-pounds for charity.

RYAN

So?

LEE

So... What say you and me also do the Iron man and "raise money for charity".

Ryan is confused. Lee is surprised that Ryan doesn't understand what he is saying.

LEE

We'll tell people we're doing it for charity, but we'll keep the money ourselves... For the wedding.

RYAN

We can't do that. Isn't that illegal or something?

LEE

It's either that or you come clean.

RYAN

It still feels dodgy and even if we did keep the money, your mate only managed three-thousand-quid.

LEE

Yeah but that was just through work. I'll put it on Facebook. We'll easily hit the target.

Ryan is apprehensive.

RYAN

Errrrmmmm. I'm not sure.

LEE

Well just tell Frankie and her Dad then.

RYAN

You really gonna do it with me?

LEE

Of course. It's what friendship is all about isn't it?

Ryan is pleased.

LEE

This can be your stag do mate.

INT. RYAN'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - MORNING

Ryan is fast asleep when Frankie shakes him to wake him up.

FRANKIE

Ryan honey wake up. You've slept in. Your alarm mustn't have worked.

Ryan yawns and stretches out his arms.

RYAN

What do ya mean?

FRANKIE

It's 7am. You'll be late for work.

Ryan turns his nose up at being forced to get up and pretend to go to work.

INT. RYAN'S HOUSE - HALLWAY

Ryan is being forced out of the front door by Frankie.

FRANKIE

Come on get moving. You can't afford to lose this job.

RYAN

I know!

FRANKIE

And tonight I'm going to cook you  
your favourite meal.

RYAN

Really? Why?

FRANKIE

Cos I love you.

Ryan kisses Frankie goodbye, goes outside and hides in the garden until Frankie leaves. He then goes back into the house and straight back up the stairs.

INT. RYAN'S HOUSE - BEDROOM

Ryan is in bed. The bedroom clock shows the time is noon. Ryan slowly stirs from a sleep and gets out of the bed.

INT. RYAN'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM

Ryan plays the X Box, he can't stop looking at the laptop next to him. Eventually he caves in. He switches on the laptop, closes the curtains and gets some tissues.

EXT. ENTRANCE OF A BAR - NIGHT

Several couples enter a bar. A "Congratulations Frankie & Ryan" banner is displayed.

INT. CORNER OF A BAR

Inside it is busy and loud. Ryan walks across to three men who stand in a circle chatting - Lee, CHRISTIAN (late 30s unfit), and ALEX (late 30s, overweight and asthmatic). Lee raises a bottle of beer.

LEE

I'd like to make a toast in  
commiseration to my dear friend of  
over thirty years for ruining his  
life. To Ryan Jacobson everyone.

All laugh, including Ryan.

CHRISTIAN

I second that. I had thirty  
amazing years. Then I got married  
and have had seven years of grief.

RYAN

I know what you're trying to do  
boys but it won't work. Anyway  
marriage won't change anything.  
Plus I wear the trousers in this  
household.

ALEX

So first things first. Where and  
when is the stag do?

CHRISTIAN

Vegas? Please let's do Vegas?

RYAN

Sorry boys. Not allowed.

CHRISTIAN

Not allowed?

LEE

Nope not allowed.

CHRISTIAN

(looks at Ryan)

I thought you said you wear the  
trousers in your household. You  
need to put your foot down.

Lee shouts and waves across Christian's wife Jenny.

LEE

Jenny... Can I bother you for a  
second?

Jenny joins the group.

JENNY

Hi boys, I hope Christian is  
behaving himself.

(looks at Christian)

Don't drink too many bottles of  
beer luv. You know what happened  
last time!

Lee laughs and is inquisitive.

LEE

What happened last time?

JENNY

He was sick out of the window and  
all over the car because he  
couldn't make it to the bathroom.

All laugh, Christian is embarrassed.

CHRISTIAN

God Jenny, what have I told you  
about embarrassing me in front of  
my friends?

LEE

Anyway, Jenny, I wanted you to be  
the first to know that the stag do  
will be a weekend in Vegas.

JENNY

That's good. Christian won't be  
there though.

CHRISTIAN

What do ya mean?

JENNY

Sorry, was I not clear  
darling? There's NO way in the  
world you're going on a stag party  
to Vegas gambling and watching  
strippers.

CHRISTIAN

But...

LEE

(interrupting, laughing)  
I knew he wouldn't be allowed.

JENNY

I can't believe Claire is letting  
you go Lee.

LEE

Oh she's not. I'd never be allowed  
to go to Vegas. Not even if it was  
just me and her!

CHRISTIAN

(turns to Jenny)

Right you can go now.

LEE

We're only talking about football  
anyway.

JENNY

Well I'm definitely leaving  
now. Don't forget to take it easy  
on the beers Christian sweetie.

Jenny leaves.

LEE

The footy line never fails to work!!

CRAIG (40, chain smoker) joins the group of Alex, Christian, Ryan and Lee.

ALEX

(to Craig)

Jeez dude no guessing where you've been the last ten minutes. You stink of smoke.

Craig tries hard to think of a comeback.

CRAIG

Yeah well... You stink of... Cheap aftershave.

RYAN

(laughing)

No that's Lee's Cologne.

LEE

Hey this aftershave is the daddy boys. It's called breadcrumbs... The birds love it!

All laugh.

ALEX

So seriously gentleman. What we doing then? This is big news. You're the last one of us to get married Ryan. This could be our last ever stag do.

CHRISTIAN

He's right Ryan. This is our last chance for freedom. We need to make sure it's epic.

LEE

Don't worry it'll be epic. We're going to do an Iron Man and make it the best stag do ever. Just think, we'll be in folklore for ever.

CRAIG

What exactly does that consist of?

LEE

A full Iron Man is just a 2 mile swim, a 110 mile bike ride and then a marathon to finish!

CHRISTIAN

Fuck that.

ALEX

No way. Best stag party ever? You mean the saddest.

LEE

Come on lads it'll be brilliant.

CRAIG

Is this a wind up? Some kind of sick joke? I'll pass.

ALEX

Agreed. Worst idea ever.

RYAN

Quick change the subject.

Frankie joins the group.

FRANKIE

This looks very suspicious. Is everyone having a good night?

ALEX

Great thanks.

CHRISTIAN

Super party Frankie.

FRANKIE

Careful on those bottles Christian, Jenny has told me about your last experience.

Frankie puts her arms around Ryan.

FRANKIE

So what are you boys talking about?

Ryan very quickly responds, almost shouting.

RYAN

Football.

FRANKIE

Mmm, in that case I'll leave you's to it. Don't be too long though honey, this is meant to be our engagement party, not a boys night out. And there's a few people I want you to meet.

RYAN

Okay sweetie pee, I'll just finish this bottle.

They kiss and Frankie leaves to head across to the buffet.

LEE

"Okay Sweetie Pee". Have I just heard that correct?

RYAN

Yeah yeah whatever.

CRAIG

If you're not even allowed to talk to your pals at your own engagement party, no wonder you're not allowed a proper stag do.

INT. BAR - BUFFET

Frankie and Claire select items of food.

CLAIRe

So I hear Ryan is paying for the wedding himself?

FRANKIE

Yeah. He's so stubborn at times. But he's had a new super duper pay rise at work. I'm so proud of him.

INT. CORNER OF A BAR - LATER

Ryan's Dad (MR J - bald, 60s) walks across to the boys (Alex, Christian, Craig, Ryan and Lee).

MR J

Hello boys. How's everyone doing?

RYAN

Great Dad.

LEE

Great Mr J. Just discussing your son's stag do.

MR J

Ah I remember my bachelor party. Well before you punks were born. 1970. Vegas. Now that was a stag do. So what are you lot arranging? I suppose if your best man is Lee, then it's probably a loser night out?

All laugh.

LEE

Very funny Mr Jacobson. Actually we're talking about doing something totally unique and that will test our spirits. We're going to do an Iron Man triathlon.

MR J

I was right then. A loser do.

RYAN

It does sound alright actually Dad. Something to train for. Fancy it?

MR J

No thanks. I'm busy washing my hair every night until the wedding, unless visiting the strippers is part of your training.

EXT. BAR

Carl finishing smoking a cigar and extinguishes it on the floor. He is depressed and reluctantly re-enters the bar.

INT. CORNER OF A BAR

Carl comes across as Mr J leaves to get served at the bar.

RYAN

Hi Carl, these are my mates. Boys this is Frankie's Dad.

CARL

Hi lads, everyone having a good night? Make sure you's all drink as much as you want. It's all paid for. By me.

LEE

Thanks Carl. We're just talking about Ryan's stag do. We're all doing the Iron Man. You know, the one that Ryan is doing.

Carl laughs and looks at Ryan in disgust.

CARL

An Iron Man? Is Ryan really going to do it then? I thought he was just trying to make me laugh. Ryan you're probably better just watching. I mean you can't even tie your own shoe laces, let alone compete in a triathlon.

Ryan becomes annoyed and defensive and snaps.

RYAN

We've a deal Carl. Remember?

CARL

(enjoys criticising Ryan)

Oh I remember. Don't worry a deal is a deal but look at you. You must be at least two stone overweight.

RYAN

Well why don't you do it with us then Carl? Show me how it's done.

CARL

You know my heart can't even manage a game of Domino's Ryan. I have to admit though this has made my day. Tell you what Ryan let's increase the antes eh. If you can beat all of your friends here you can have my permission to marry Frankie.

Ryan is annoyed and slams his bottle of beer onto the table.

CARL

You not able to take the challenge?

RYAN

(angry/defensive)

No I'll take it.

ALEX

Think you'll find none of us are  
doing it though remember.

CHRISTIAN

Yeah I'm not wasting my time doing  
a stupid Iron Man.

CARL

Well how about this then. I'll  
personally give anyone here who  
beats Ryan  
five-thousand-pounds. And Ryan if  
you're the fastest you can marry  
Frankie.

ALEX

Wow five-grand.

LEE

That's very generous  
Carl. five-big-ones. Thanks mate.

CARL

Well it's only money isn't it. I  
tell you now though it won't be  
Ryan.

Ryan is on the verge of exploding.

LEE

Oh yeah!! This shit is on.

Carl walks away. Ryan mimes the words "Fuck off" behind his back. Mr J re-appears out of no where.

MR J

Okay okay, I'll take part it in  
then.

ALEX

Yeah me too.

CHRISTIAN

Yeah this Iron Man Event doesn't  
sound that bad an idea to be  
honest.

CRAIG

It kinda has a ring to it.

RYAN

Listen boys I know you'll all be letting me win, so I really appreciate that.

All shake their heads in objection.

MR J

Sorry son. I've golf fees to pay.

Ryan turns to Lee.

RYAN

You'll let me win won't you?

LEE

Claire wants to renovate the spare bedroom, so I kinda need the cash.

Ryan's Mam comes across.

MRS JACOBSON

Ooo look at all these fine gentlemen. What are you all talking about?

CHRISTIAN

(winks to the men)

Footy.

MRS JACOBSON

Ah excellent I love football. Who do you think will win the league?

INT. RYAN'S HOUSE - KITCHEN TABLE - NIGHT

Ryan, Lee, Alex, Christian, Craig, Mr J and Marty play cards, drink beer and laugh. Christian looks at his cards.

CHRISTIAN

I'll stick. Wow this is great gentleman. I can't believe our wives really think we're having a meeting to plan our training routine.

MARTY

God you lot act as if you never go out. Do ya need permission or something?

Silence for a few seconds. All look at each other.

LEE

Listen spotty boy. We can go out whenever we want. We just choose not to.

MARTY

So I was right. You need permission.

LEE

Who the hell has invited this twelve-year old? Have you ever been with a girl before? And I don't just mean holding hands.

MARTY

At least I can see my cock fat boy.

LEE

Yeah well... At least Ryan won't be having sex with my sister later. Dirty all night sex.

RYAN

Mate.

LEE

Sorry I'm just trying to wind up your future brother in-law.

RYAN

No that part doesn't bother me. I'm almost married now aren't I. I'm lucky if I even have sex once a week.

All laugh.

LEE

Not me. I'm machine. Usually five times a night.

CHRISTIAN

Bollocks.

RYAN

Anyway, look Lee I've promised Frankie we'll look after her little brother, so play nicely. And yes Marty, we do need permission. So that's why this very moment in time is sheer bliss.

Ryan leans back in his chair and drinks some more beer clearly very happy.

MR J

I don't know what you boys are all talking about. When I was your age me and my pals went out all of the time. We didn't need permission.

RYAN

Dad, I was with you when you asked Mam if you could even come tonight.

MR J

(snaps)

I said when I was your age, not now!

INT. RYAN'S HOUSE - DAY

Frankie shows Ryan a wedding cake on her laptop.

FRANKIE

Ah honey come and look at this wedding cake.

Ryan walks across. But he is not that bothered.

RYAN

Yeah it's okay.

FRANKIE

Just okay? Darling it's gorgeous. That's our cake. We must have it.

RYAN

How much is it?

FRANKIE

£1000.

RYAN

(gobsmacked)

What! For a cake?

FRANKIE

Ah but Ryan it's a lovely cake.

RYAN

But it's only a cake. We can't spend £1000 on a cake.

FRANKIE

Well... I could always ask my Dad  
to pay for it. You don't have to  
pay for everything you know honey.

RYAN

(defensive)

No don't you dare Frankie. I've  
said I'd pay for everything and I  
will. So book the cake.

Frankie looks concerned as Ryan walks away.

INT. WEDDING SHOP - DAY

Frankie is wedding dress shopping with her sister and Mam. Frankie looks at a specific dress.

FRANKIE

Ah this dress is lush.

AMY

Ah it's beautiful Frankie.

LEANNE

It's stunning. Try it on.

Frankie is really excited as she goes to try it on. As she comes out wearing it, all three cry with happiness. Frankie nods. She knows this is the one.

SHOP ASSISTANT

That looks wonderful. You really  
suit it. And it's on special offer  
as well.

Frankie thinks that is fate and smiles at her Mam.

SHOP ASSISTANT

It should be five-thousand-pounds  
but it's only three-thousand.

LEANNE

Wow that's cheap.

Frankie is disappointed.

LEANNE

What's wrong honey.

FRANKIE

I don't like it.

LEANNE

But you've just said you loved it. It looks great.

FRANKIE

It makes me look fat. Anyway I prefer that one over there.

LEANNE

That isn't your dream dress though.

Frankie picks up the alternative dress and holds it up.

FRANKIE

It is. And look it's only five-hundred-pounds.

LEANNE

But Frankie...

FRANKIE

Mam I don't care if I wear a black bin bag so look as I marry Ryan.

Leanne and Amy both smile.

AMY

Ah that's so sweet.

LEANNE

That's love for you. It has that affect.

All three giggle.

FRANKIE

God I can't wait to become Mrs Jacobson.

EXT. BUS STOP - DAY

Ryan, Mr J and Alex all wait at a bus stop for a bike ride. None have a helmet, all wear  $\frac{3}{4}$  length shorts and all have bikes that look at least ten years old.

Christian comes screeching around the corner on a £7,000 carbon fibre racing bike, wearing clip on shoes, full Lycra gear, gloves, shades and an aero-dynamic helmet. Ryan begins to stretch off.

RYAN

God you look a right clip pal.

CHRISTIAN

This is what the professionals  
wear.

MR J

You can talk Ryan, what are you  
doing? You're embarrassing  
yourself.

RYAN

It's called stretching Dad. You'd  
do well to do it yourself. Trust  
me.

MR J

It's only a five mile bike ride  
son. I've ridden the entire length  
of the UK before.

RYAN

(not impressed)

I know, you've told me that like a  
million times before. But that was  
about thirty years ago!

Marty turns up on a BMX bike. All laugh.

RYAN

And I thought my bike was  
bad. Crikey I haven't seen a BMX  
bike since I was about ten years  
old.

MARTY

This is the only bike I could find.

The rest of the group turn up, with a mixture of decent and  
poor quality bikes between them.

LEE

Alright losers, how's everyone  
feeling for day one of this epic  
training encounter?

Lee notices Marty's bike and laughs.

LEE

What in the name of God is that  
pile of shite? Tell you what why  
don't we give you a head start?

MARTY

I don't think I need a head start  
to beat a bunch of forty year  
old's.

LEE

Late 30s actually.

They all begin cycling.

EXT. BIKE RACE - STREETS - MOVING

As the race progresses, Craig cycles and smokes at the same time. Alex comes to a hill and has to get off and push it up.

Marty easily crosses the line first as winner. Everyone else, except for Mr J, eventually complete it, exhausted.

RYAN

Hey boys, where's my Dad?

All of the men are in silence staring down the finishing strip into the distance, but there is no sign of him. They wait a few moments. Ryan jumps in his car.

EXT. BUS STOP

Ryan returns with his dad. The bike is in the boot.

LEE

Welcome back Mr J. Was a five mile  
ride too much for you?

Mr J is in agony getting out of the car.

MR J

God my arse is killing me. Now I  
know how you must feel all of the  
time Lee.

ALEX

I think we all have a long way to  
go with our training.

All of the men walk like John Wayne back to their respective cars. Lee grabs Ryan for a private word, as everyone else enter their cars and drive off. Lee gets his camera out.

LEE

Here smile for the camera dude.

RYAN

What you doing?

LEE

This is a perfect photo for your fundraising campaign. Looks like you're training hard.

Ryan straddles the bike.

RYAN

Great idea. How's this look?

LEE

Perfect.

Ryan tries four or five different poses on the bike. Lee constantly takes pictures, one after another.

LEE

Yeah baby, work that camera baby.

Ryan goes a step too far and tries a sexy pose. Lee is disgusted and puts his camera away. Ryan is embarrassed.

LEE

Too far pal. Too far.

RYAN

Sorry I got carried away.

LEE

We need to make you into a family man. In fact that's an idea. We need to get some photos with my kids. Pretend they're yours.

RYAN

Really?

Lee thinks he is onto a real winner of an idea.

LEE

Yeah that would be ideal. One of them can even be ill. Cancer or something. You'll have loads of women sponsoring you then.

RYAN

Yeah you're right. Maybe I'll afford this wedding after all.

LEE

We still need to complete the event though, so let's up the training.

INT. LEE'S CAR - NIGHT - MOVING

Marty, Ryan, Lee, Christian and Alex are all in the car heading to the gym. Lee drives.

RYAN

I don't think I've been to the gym in about ten years.

LEE

You can tell.

RYAN

I bet I'm still fitter than you.

LEE

How much?

MARTY

God I hope I'm not this petty when I'm in my forties as well.

LEE

Late thirties school boy. At least when you get to our age you might have actually been laid.

MARTY

Yeah and I may not be obese.

LEE

Well I might not have ran in about five years, but it's just like riding a bike isn't it. I remember at school when I used to win sports day every year.

RYAN

No you didn't.

LEE

Yeah I did.

RYAN

What sports day event did you win. It certainly wasn't the hundred-metres or the Cross Country.

LEE

(defensive)

I didn't say it was them.

CHRISTIAN

What then?

LEE

The egg and Spoon race.

ALEX

Christ. That will put you in good stead for the Iron Man.

LEE

How fast do the treadmills go?

MARTY

Level 20 I think.

LEE

Mmm. Not sure that will be fast enough to be honest.

They arrive at the gym and Lee pinches a car parking space from an old woman who was about to park.

INT. GYM

The five lads strut out of the changing room. Ryan points to Marty's vest which is a picture of a muscular arm tensing and says 'which way to the beach.'

RYAN

What the hell is that?

MARTY

Cool isn't it. Got it off Amazon. Anyway what are them on your arms?

RYAN

Wristbands bro. Got to look the part. You have to admit they do look pretty good.

They all walk into the cardio room. The gym is empty. The men walk past ten spare treadmills to the other side of the room so that they can be behind a fit girl who is on the cross trainer, enabling them to perv on her arse.

ALEX

Good spot everyone.

RYAN

Level ten to start with boys? Just to loosely get into it?

LEE

Yeah, lets build up slowly. We don't want to be running level twenty straight away and give others a complex. They'll think we're Olympians.

The treadmills are at speed ten. Two attractive women walk in front of the men. All five of them move their heads left to right as they walk past.

Lee presses the stop button on the treadmill. He is dripping with sweat and exhausted. The clock shows five minutes! Ryan also presses stop.

LEE

I'm totally wrecked.

RYAN

Me too.

MARTY

You lot are so old. This is easy. In fact I'm turning my speed up.

RYAN

Come on Lee let's hit the weights. At least we don't need stamina there.

As they leave, Lee pulls the emergency stop button from Marty's treadmill to stop it instantly and to annoy him.

INT. GYM - WEIGHTS ROOM

Ryan is on a weights machine and struggles to lift a set. Lee points across to a good looking girl.

LEE

What machine do ya reckon I should go on to impress that fit woman over there?

RYAN

The cash machine outside mate. Jeez. Either this is really heavy or I'm really weak.

Ryan finishes on the machine. After making sure no one is looking, he puts extra weights on before getting off.

INT. LEE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Lee takes a photo of Ryan with Lee's two children.

LEE

Come on look sad.

RYAN

Okay, how's this?

LEE

Not you mate. Connor remember what I told you earlier. Pretend to be sad. Like you wanna be sick. And Uncle Ryan will buy you a new toy.

RYAN

Will I?

LEE

Relax. We'll take it out of the sponsorship money. You have to speculate to accumulate don't you.

CONNOR

Daddy, why am I sad for?

LEE

Because I say so.

CONNOR

I'm going to ask Mam.

LEE

(angry)

Now listen here you little brat. You say anything to Mam about this and you really will be sad.

INT. SHOP - DAY

Frankie and Claire are bridesmaid dress shopping. Claire holds a dress up to her body.

CLAIRe

What about this one Frankie?

FRANKIE

Maybe. Maybe. Not too sure on the colour though.

CLAIRe

I bet Ryan and Lee don't consider the colour scheme when picking their suits.

FRANKIE

Honey. You really think I'd let them pick their own suits?

Both laugh.

CLAIRe

Mind Frankie, I just wanted to say that I've known Ryan a long time. He's a good boy with a good heart. And I know he adores you.

FRANKIE

Ah thanks Claire. All my life I've been able to have anything I wanted. Car, house, a pony, an education. Literally anything I wanted. But all I've ever wanted is Ryan Jacobson.

CLAIRe

Ah that's nice.

FRANKIE

Although he does do my head in most of the time.

Both laugh.

MONTAGE - VARIOUS

A) EXT. PARK - DAY - All of the group run together. They all run slowly and need to keep stopping.

B) EXT. ROAD - NIGHT - Christian runs alone, struggling.

- C) INT. POOL - DAY - Lee and Marty swim. Breaststroke only.  
D) INT. GYM - DAY - Craig is on the exercise bike. Sweating  
E) EXT. CAR PARK - DAY - Ryan and Christian struggle to walk  
as they head to their cars.

END OF MONTAGE

INT. LEE'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - MORNING

Lee wakes up in agony next to Claire. Back and legs sore.

LEE

God I'm in agony. Sheer pain  
Claire. You've no idea of the pain  
I'm in.

CLAIRe

Excuse me, was it you that gave  
birth to our two children?

LEE

Like I said you have no idea. I  
don't think I can walk. My  
back. My legs. I'm gonna to have  
to phone in sick for work.

CLAIRe

You're wasting a day's holiday?

LEE

No of course not. I said I'm  
phoning in sick. Not wasting my  
leave allocation.

Lee phones work and pretends to cough.

LEE

Yeah I'm not well. What's wrong  
with me? Err... I have the shits.  
Yeah it's bad. Actually I have to  
go to the bathroom now. Sorry.

INT. SWIMMING POOL - DAY

Ryan and Lee swim side by side in an indoor pool.

LEE

We need to crank up this  
fundraising activity dude. Do  
other stuff than just the Iron Man.

RYAN

Still no money on Facebook?

LEE

Only a grand. We need to do more.

RYAN

What are ya thinking?

LEE

You have to remember the end  
picture here Ryan.

RYAN

Yeah okay go on.

LEE

You need to visualise Frankie  
walking down the aisle in her dream  
dress looking stunning and everyone  
thinking you're the hero for paying  
for it all.

RYAN

Yeah I know.

LEE

So you have to imagine Frankie's  
face if it's a cheap wedding.

RYAN

(penny drops)

Okay. What do I have to do then?

LEE

Just pose for a calendar that's  
all.

RYAN

That doesn't sound too bad I  
suppose.

LEE

(mumbles)

Gay calendar.

RYAN

What was that?

LEE

It's for a gay calendar.

RYAN

What! Is this a joke?

LEE

No, it's legit. A workmate needs men to pose naked for a charity calendar. We've agreed that some of the money can go to our special charity.

RYAN

So you doing it also then?

LEE

Come on Ryan, I'm a teacher, I can't be doing things like this.

RYAN

Wait a minute, did you say naked?

INT. CHRISTIAN'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Jenny comes home from work and enters the living room. Christian has placed a new cross trainer right in the middle of the living room and is working out. Jenny is furious.

INT. MR J'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Mr J makes a call on his mobile phone. Although he is alone, he is discreet on the phone.

MR J

Oh hello there. I wonder if you can help. I'm just inquiring as to whether you can fit electric motors onto a bike.... No a cycle bike not a motor bike.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Frankie comes home from work and notices Ryan sitting on the sofa playing on the X-box. Last night's dishes are still in the sink and have not been washed. She is furious.

FRANKIE

For heavens sake Ryan why the hell haven't you done the dishes?

RYAN

Err... I only got back from work  
ten minutes ago.

FRANKIE

Enough time to go onto your stupid  
X box thingy though eh?

RYAN

God what is your problem. I've had  
a tough day at work you know.

FRANKIE

So have I Ryan. But I don't come  
home and play about like I'm a  
teenager. I've clothes to wash and  
iron and I bet you haven't even  
started on the dinner yet.

RYAN

I was just about to.

INT. RYAN'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS ACTION

Frankie enters the kitchen alone, opens the kitchen  
cupboards and begins to cry to herself.

MONTAGE - VARIOUS

A) EXT. PARKS - DAY - All of the men run quite fast and  
appear in good shape/fitness.

B) EXT. ROADS - DAY - Ryan and Christian finish a  
run. Ryan's watch says "20 miles." They high-five.

C) EXT. ROADS - NIGHT - Marty ties the laces of his brand  
new running trainers and sprints off.

D) EXT. ROADS - DAY - Lee cleans his bike.

E) INT. GYM - DAY - Craig pedals furiously on the exercise  
bike.

F) INT. POOL - DAY - Ryan and Lee swim front crawl fast.

G) INT. MARTY'S GARAGE - NIGHT - Marty presses play on his  
stereo system and Rocky comes on as he does press-ups.

H) INT. LEE'S GARAGE - NIGHT - Lee works out on his cross  
trainer listening to Adele.

END OF MONTAGE

INT. SUPERMARKET - DAY

Ryan and Lee are in separate aisle's bagging shoppers groceries. They wear "Charity workers at work" t-shirts.

SHOPPER (ELDERLY)  
(to Ryan)  
Thank you young kind Sir.

The shopper puts a ten-pence coin into their bucket.

RYAN  
Ten-pence? Ten-pence? I've just packed your bags.

As Lee packs a bag, a innocent and sweet young cub scout asks the shopper for donations.

CUB SCOUT  
Hello Ma'am, do you have any spare money for my Cub Scouts. We're trying to rebuild the community room because of a fire.

SHOPPER TWO  
Ah that's so nice. Yeah I'll be glad to donate.

LEE  
Woah wait a minute. I've packed a bag, what has this kid done?

Shopper two is confused. Lee tries to rectify the situation.

LEE  
Look, it's okay you can donate to us both, but ensure we get more. Okay luv. There you go, your bags are all packed.

EXT. SUPERMARKET

Ryan and Lee walk out of the store.

RYAN  
(sarcastic)  
Well that was worth it. Three hours hard work for a pittance.

LEE

We need another plan. How's your mother's cooking?

RYAN

Yeah it's good.

LEE

Thought so. So's mine. All Mam's are good at cooks. It's a fact. Well except for Claire. She's useless. Anyway, they also love cooking. Baking more specifically. So let's get them to bake as many cakes as possible and then we can sell them.

RYAN

I like it. Plus I can get her to pay for the ingredients herself.

LEE

I was also thinking. We should start going round all of the local businesses. Try and get some sponsorship.

INT. SCHOOL CLASSROOM - DAY.

Lee teaches his class of thirteen year old's. There are thirty students in the class. Lee puts a photo onto the screen of Ryan looking very tired following a run.

LEE

Okay everyone. This is my friend Ryan. And soon he will become a legend. He will be completing an Iron Man triathlon for charity. How impressive is that?

PUPIL 1

Why are you telling us for?

LEE

Because I want you all to dig deep into your pockets to help sponsor my buddy.

PUPIL 2

But Sir....

LEE  
Who wants homework?

The students grumble.

LEE  
Well dig deep then. I want at least thirty-quid in total from this class or its extra homework.

EXT. DOORSTEP OF A HOUSE - NIGHT

Ryan and Lee canvass on people's doorsteps. Ryan presses the door bell. A male (50) answers the door.

HOUSE OWNER  
(sarcastic)  
Great, another load of crap political statements.

LEE  
No Sir we're not Politicians.

HOUSE OWNER  
What then? You aren't those religious people are you?

RYAN  
No we aren't them either. We're actually just after some sponsorship money.

HOUSE OWNER  
For what?

LEE  
We're both doing an Iron Man Triathlon.

The House owner slams the door shut in their face.

INT. FLOWER SHOP - DAY

Frankie is with Leanne and Carl at a flower shop. She keeps checking her watch. She looks to the shop assistant.

FRANKIE  
I'm so sorry about this.

SHOP ASSISTANT

I don't want to rush you but I need  
to shut the shop up soon.

Frankie checks her phone. Carl is not impressed.

INT. RYAN'S HOUSE - HALLWAY - DAY

Ryan enters his front door, dripping with sweat, having just completed a run. Frankie is in the hallway as he enters.

RYAN

Hi babe.

FRANKIE

Oh you remember who I am do you?

RYAN

What do ya mean?

FRANKIE

You never seem to spend any time  
with me Ryan.

RYAN

Hey I've just ran a marathon. Me a  
marathon. Can you believe it. I'm  
so happy.

FRANKIE

We were meant to be selecting the  
flowers tonight remember?

RYAN

Oh shit.

FRANKIE

Maybe Dad was right.

RYAN

What do you mean your dad was  
right? What has he said now?

FRANKIE

Nothing it doesn't matter.

RYAN

Yeah it does. I'm sick of your Dad  
putting me down all of the time.

FRANKIE

(shouting)

No he doesn't. It's just in your stupid head.

RYAN

(shouting back)

Well well. There you go. My stupid head because I don't have any qualifications.

FRANKIE

(getting upset)

I never said that.

RYAN

You didn't need to. Sorry I'm not super rich like you.

FRANKIE

This argument has nothing to do with money. It's because you aren't showing any interest in our wedding. You're just obsessed with doing your stupid event thing.

RYAN

Well pardon me for doing something really challenging. And the ironic thing is I'm doing it for us.

FRANKIE

Yeah well don't bother.

Frankie storms off in tears. Ryan suddenly realises he is tired from his run and has to sit down.

INT. PHOTO STUDIO - DAY

Ryan gets his photo taken. He is naked but holds a pineapple to cover his private parts. Lee laughs. Ryan is not happy.

INT. RYAN'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - DAY

Frankie is very excited as it's her hen weekend. She packs her bag and holds up a red and blue dress to Ryan.

FRANKIE

Which one do you prefer Hun?

RYAN

I don't get it. Why do ya need a party dress for a spa weekend?

FRANKIE

Err... Because... I just do. Nothing wrong with looking nice is there? I'm only planning on having the one Hen Party!

RYAN

I suppose not. Just seems daft.

Frankie again holds up the dresses.

FRANKIE

So which one then?

RYAN

Errm. Either.

FRANKIE

Yeah but which one.

RYAN

They're both nice babe. Either one is fine.

FRANKIE

Chooooooose one please!

RYAN

Red.

FRANKIE

Mmm.

Frankie puts the blue dress into the bag.

RYAN

So what exactly will you be doing at this spa place?

FRANKIE

Just chilling and relaxing. Lots of pampering.

INT. LEE'S HOUSE - HALLWAY - DAY

Lee puts his tie on at the mirror, as Claire places her suitcase at the door.

CLAIRe

Now when you finish work tonight  
don't forget you're to get the kids  
from my Mam's.

LEE

I won't.

CLAIRe

None of your rubbish training  
activities this weekend. And don't  
dare pass the kids off with our  
parents.

INT. RYAN'S HOUSE - FRONT DOOR - NIGHT

Ryan opens his front door to Lee who is with his two young children.

RYAN

Hello mate. And hello you two  
cheeky monkeys.

LEE

Alright. Hope you don't mind me  
bringing them.

RYAN

No of course not. Come in.

INT. RYAN'S HOUSE - KITCHEN

Christian and Marty have arrived and the four of them play tennis doubles on the Wii. The two kids colour at the table.

CHRISTIAN

I don't know about you lot, but  
this is great. I wish our wives  
would go away more often.

Lee furiously tries to serve.

LEE

Absolutely. She can stay all week  
as far as I'm concerned. And this  
is great exercise training.

RYAN

This is the first time I've really been apart from Frankie. I kinda miss her.

Everyone stops playing simultaneously and stare at Ryan.

RYAN

What??

LEE

Well I for one would much rather be here with you lot, playing a good old game of tennis, than being dragged around the shops, or being forced to do DIY that doesn't even need doing.

CHRISTIAN

Have you heard from Frankie yet Ryan? Did they get there okay?

Ryan presses pause and pulls out his phone to read a text.

RYAN

Yeah, she messaged me just before. "Hi Hun. This place is unreal. So tranquil and relaxing. We're just about to go for a nice walk."

The group laugh.

LEE

Walk! This has to be the most boring hen party on the planet. I mean who the hell goes for a spa weekend for a hen party?

RYAN

I couldn't agree more!

MARTY

Spa weekend? Who said they went there?

LEE

What you talking about now virgin?

MARTY

Why do ya keep saying they've gone away for a spa weekend?

LEE

Err. Because they have. It's not rocket science to understand.

MARTY

They haven't gone away for a relaxing spa weekend you idiots.

RYAN

What you talking about?

MARTY

They've gone to Vegas.

RYAN

That's rubbish.

MARTY

No it's not. My dad dropped them off at the airport today. He paid for them all to go.

LEE

Stop winding us up Marty. It's not funny.

MARTY

I'm being serious.

RYAN

You are, aren't you?

MARTY

Yes. I promise you all. They've definitely gone to Vegas for Frankie's Hen Party.

All of the men, except Marty, are furious.

CHRISTIAN

The little bitches.

RYAN

No wonder Frankie took her favorite dress with her.

Lee smashes his controller onto the floor. Ryan runs and punches a cushion from the sofa.

CHRISTIAN

I can't believe it. They're allowed to go to Vegas and we aren't?

LEE

Exactly. They're snakes.

RYAN

Poisonous ones.

MARTY

I don't get why you lot are getting so worked up for, you still have the rest of the day and night together.

LEE

Marty is right. We're going out tonight. And getting really drunk.

Lee's children have stopped drawing and cry and stare at the men.

LEE

Kids, your staying at Granddad's tonight.

CHRISTIAN

Next game the winner?

The group re-start their game of tennis. Lee stares at his controller and presses all of the buttons.

LEE

Hey, my controller doesn't seem to be working.

INT. BAR - NIGHT

The group all sit at a bar downing a shot each.

LEE

God that was strong. Right, tonight I'm putting 100 man points out there for grabs.

CRAIG

100 man points. Wow that's never happened.

RYAN

This sounds interesting. Go on.

LEE

Whoever gets the most phone numbers from women gets the points.

RYAN

Yeah I think I'll pass on this one.

LEE

(shocked, annoyed)

What? Why you getting all anal on us for?

RYAN

It just doesn't seem right. I'm marrying Frankie soon. I can hardly start asking another woman for her number. Plus I'm hopeless at chatting women up.

LEE

This is the same woman who's in Vegas right now. And it's hardly as if you're going to do anything other than get her number.

RYAN

Okay, Okay, if it gets you off my back I'll get one number. And that's it. One!

Lee points to a blond girl.

LEE

Okay. What about her over there?

RYAN

Not really my type.

LEE

You don't get it do you? You're not sleeping with her. You don't have to like her. It's just the number ya need.

Ryan approaches the blond girl and attempts a posh voice.

RYAN

Well hello there sexy.

BLOND GIRL

Hi.

RYAN

Hi... Hi..

BLOND GIRL  
Are you retarded or something?

RYAN  
(nervous laughing)  
Good one. No. I've just become  
single again. And a bit out of  
touch.

BLOND GIRL  
Ah poor you, what happened?

Ryan tries to think of a lie and cringes after he speaks.

RYAN  
She left me for my best  
pal. Bitch.

BLOND GIRL  
Ah what a total bitch. I'm Lucy by  
the way.

RYAN  
I'm Ryan.

BLOND GIRL  
Nice to meet you. Look it's a bit  
loud and hot in here. You fancy  
going outside for some fresh air?

RYAN  
Yeah sure.

Ryan and the Blond girl walk outside.

EXT. CAR PARK

The blond girl goes straight to her car and opens the door.

BLOND GIRL  
So. You fancy coming straight back  
to mine? I've this thing for men  
on the rebound. It turns me on.

RYAN  
Errr. Wow. Errr.

BLOND GIRL  
Well? Don't ya wanna make that  
bitch jealous. She deserves it.

The blond girl goes to kiss Ryan. He kisses back for a  
second and then pulls away.

RYAN

I'm sorry. I can't do  
this. You're really good looking  
but that bitch is the love of my  
life.

The blond girl gets into her car.

BLOND GIRL

Whatever loser, you're weird. I'm  
out of here.

As she drives off, Ryan shouts.

RYAN

Hey, I don't suppose you fancy  
sponsoring me do you?

Mr J comes outside.

MR J

You okay son?

RYAN

Yeah I am. I've just realised how  
lucky I am to have Frankie. I love  
her so much Dad.

MR J

I know you do Ryan. She's a nice  
girl. And she's lucky to have  
you. You've turned into a great  
man Ryan. I'm so proud of you son.

RYAN

Thanks Dad. I just hope I can be  
half as good of a father to my  
children as you've been to me.

Both smile.

INT. BAR

Back inside the bar, Lee gets up from his seat.

LEE

Make way for the professionals!

Lee dances when a woman walks past. Lee pretends to lasso a rope around the woman's neck and then pretends to pull her in towards him. The woman pulls out an imaginary pair of scissors and cuts the rope, shakes her head and walks off.

Marty kisses a girl. And then another. Lee is jealous.

INT. RYAN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Ryan tidy's and cleans the whole house. He applies for new jobs. All of the dishes are done. He puts his running gear on and leaves a note for Frankie on the kitchen table, along with some flowers before leaving.

Frankie enters. Sees the flowers and note and smiles.

INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT

Frankie showers. Ryan enters the bathroom having returned from his run.

RYAN

Hi.

FRANKIE

Hi babe. Thanks for tea.

RYAN

You're welcome.

Frankie pulls back the shower curtain.

FRANKIE

And for the flowers. I'm sorry for all of the arguing recently. I guess I'm turning into bridezilla!

RYAN

(under his breathe)

You can say that again.

RYAN (CONT.)

I'm the sorry one. I need to start putting my fiance first for a change.

FRANKIE

Oh I like this new Ryan.

Ryan leaves. Frankie gets out of the shower, and notices Ryan has marked a heart symbol onto the steamed mirror using his fingers. Frankie smiles.

INT. GYM - SPINNING CLASS - NIGHT

The men participate in a spinning class.

INT. GYM - AEROBICS - NIGHT

The men participate in an aerobics class. The seven of them are the only men there, along with about forty women. A random girl smiles at Mr J, he smiles back.

MR J  
Told you boys, didn't I!

CHRISTIAN  
You're the man Mr J.

MR J  
You just wait until we hit Pilates tomorrow.

INT. GYM BAR - NIGHT

The men drink coke. Lee and Alex sit next to each other and conspire in secrecy. Lee texts on his phone.

LEE  
Check this out. I'm going to wipe that grin off Marty's face.

ALEX  
Why what ya gonna to do?

Lee begins to write a message.

LEE  
Well Marty doesn't know my number. So I'm going to text him pretending to be a woman that he met the other night.

ALEX  
That's brilliant. He did think he was Casanova didn't he?

LEE  
Exactly. The little shit deserves it. How does this sound?

Lee shows Alex the proposed response. Alex laughs.

ALEX  
Don't forget to add a kiss.

Marty's phone beeps and whilst no one else pays any attention to Marty, and continue their conversations, Alex and Lee eagerly watch Marty as he reads the text to himself and then talks to the group.

MARTY  
Well boys, Marty the stud strikes again. Just got a text from a girl I met in the club on Saturday.

Alex and Lee struggle to contain their laughter.

RYAN  
Nice one. Was she fit?

MARTY  
Yeah really fit.

LEE  
Fit eh? You not going to describe her to us then?

MARTY  
Just... Well... Really good looking. And has good taste in men of course.

ALEX  
Ya not going to reply then?

LEE  
Yeah, I wouldn't keep her hanging on.

MARTY  
Really? You not think it's too soon to text back. I don't wanna be too keen do I?

RYAN  
I'd wait until tomorrow Marty.

LEE  
No don't listen to Ryan. He's clueless. Text her back now. What happens if she met another man that night and he texts back first.

Marty types a text and presses send. Alex and Lee chuckle at the response and Lee starts to reply. Marty receives the text and spits out the drink from within his mouth with sheer shock. It immediately gets everyone's attention.

MARTY

Oh my God dudes. She wants to meet up on Monday and go to hers!

LEE

Wow she sounds like a right goer. You're finally going to lose your virginity.

MARTY

Get lost mate I'm more experienced than you are. She does sound like a goer though doesn't she?

ALEX

Definitely. I don't know how you do it. You'll have to teach us.

MARTY

Sorry boys, you can't teach this talent.

EXT. BIKE RIDE - ROADS - DAY - MOVING

All seven men cycle on the roads. They all wear matching t-shirts. "Ryan's stag do - we are Iron Men."

Seven other cyclists (aged between 25-40) wizz past the men, sarcastically laughing.

RANDOM CYCLIST ONE

This has to be the worst cycling group I've ever seen. Certainly the slowest.

LEE

What's your problem dick head?

RANDOM CYCLIST ONE

You. You're my problem. You and your retarded friends cycling on our roads.

CHRISTIAN

You mean the Government's roads?

RANDOM CYCLIST ONE  
Nar, our roads. And losers like  
you shouldn't be here.

MR J  
Why are you here for then?

RANDOM CYCLIST ONE  
Oh everyone likes to be a funny man  
don't they. Is this OAP day out  
then is it?

RYAN  
Mate do me a favour. Get lost you  
ugly man.

RANDOM CYCLIST TWO  
Ugly. You seen the mug shot on  
those t-shirts. Now that's ugly.

MARTY  
Hey he's marrying my sister.

RANDOM CYCLIST ONE  
Unlucky. Bet she's a right fatty  
is she?

MARTY  
Why don't you come here and say  
that to my face.

Random cyclist one is about to get off his bike. Marty  
worries and quickly tightens his helmet.

LEE  
Tell you what. How about a race  
instead? Us seven versus you  
seven.

RANDOM CYCLIST TWO  
You're funny my friend. What do ya  
think boys?

The rival cyclists all laugh.

RANDOM CYCLIST TWO  
Game on mate.

LEE  
It's race on. And I ain't your  
mate.

The 14 cyclists begin their race. They all cycle as fast as they can but within 10 seconds they reach a set of traffic lights and have to stop.

When the race restarts they all soon get stuck behind a tractor and are unable to overtake.

Eventually the tractor turns left and allows the cyclists to increase their speed. Lee pulls some pins out of his pocket. He speaks to Ryan.

LEE

This will teach them.

Lee drops the pins on the floor. Ryan and Lee laugh and high-five. They turn their heads and watch in horror as Christian cycles straight through it and punctures his tyres.

LEE

Oh shit.

Random cyclist one notices Lee's team have a cyclist down.

RANDOM CYCLIST ONE

Unlucky losers.

The rival cyclists all disappear into the distance. The seven men in Lee's group have all stopped. Mr J is totally out of breath.

MR J

Christian you idiot we'd have beat them there.

LEE

Mr J is right Christian. You fool.

EXT. PARK BENCH - DAY

Ryan and Lee finish jogging and feel in good shape. Lee receives a text.

LEE

I've just had a text from Christian telling us to check out the Facebook page.

RYAN

Why what does it say?

LEE

Just checking it now. Oh my God  
you're not going to believe this.

RYAN

What?

LEE

We're millionaires.

RYAN

No way. Give it here.

LEE

We're rich.

Ryan grabs the phone.

RYAN

Wow I can't believe  
it. One-Million-pounds.

LEE

God mate. This is the best day of  
my life. I told you it was a good  
idea.

RYAN

Well at least now I can pay for the  
wedding.

LEE

And the rest. We're rich  
pal. Five-hundred-gees each.

RYAN

We can't keep all that.

LEE

What do ya mean? Of course we can.

RYAN

We only agreed the wedding. That's  
all.

LEE

Nar I don't think so.

RYAN

(gets angry)

We're using fifteen-thousand-pounds  
and that's it.

LEE  
More for me then.

Ryan and Lee begin pushing each other.

RYAN  
No way.

LEE  
Yes way.

Ryan and Lee scrap for a few seconds then they go their separate ways.

EXT. BIKE RIDE - ROADS - DAY - MOVING

Christian, Lee, Alex and Ryan all cycle together. Alex looks at Lee and then to Ryan.

ALEX  
God I don't know what's wrong with you two but sort it out.

LEE  
I've nothing to say to him.

RYAN  
Well that makes two of us then.

CHRISTIAN  
Jesus you two are acting like kids. You're meant to be best friends.

LEE  
Yeah well he started it.

RYAN  
No you did!

ALEX  
Hey by the way well done on getting a million quid of donations.

CHRISTIAN  
Wow that's amazing. What charity are you doing it for?

Ryan and Lee look at each other but no one says a word.

ALEX

Well? Which one.

RYAN

Err. The Children's Hospital.

CHRISTIAN

Nice one boys. Great choice.

LEE

Hey lads what time is it?

CHRISTIAN

Almost 6pm. Why?

LEE

I think a diversion is  
needed. Follow me.

EXT. CHURCH

The men stare and laugh at a distance at Marty who awaits his date.

INT. COFFEE HOUSE - DAY

Ryan, Marty, Lee and Alex are all in the coffee house following a swim.

ALEX

Good swim that boys.

MARTY

My mouth is full of lake water. I  
need a coffee ASAP.

ALEX

(to Ryan and Lee)

Are you two still not  
speaking? What the hell is going  
on?

LEE

Just drop it.

ALEX

Must be serious.

RYAN

Lee's right, drop it Alex.

LEE  
So I'm right for once eh?

RYAN  
Tell you what why don't I drop you instead.

Lee stands up and gets aggressive.

LEE  
Come on then why don't you?

Ryan jumps up to retaliate.

RYAN  
Come on then.

Alex separates them.

A young boy (aged about six) runs up and hugs Ryan giving him a handmade card. Ryan is surprised and confused.

RYAN  
Woah who are you?

The child's mother comes across.

MOTHER  
I'm sorry. You're Ryan yeah?

RYAN  
Yeah how did ya know that?

MOTHER  
(crying)  
I just wanted to say thank you. I've seen your Facebook page and all the money you've raised for the hospital. Thanks to you my little man can have the treatment that he needs to stay alive.

RYAN  
Wow. I don't know what to say.  
(to the little lad)  
What's ya name?

BILLY  
Billy.

RYAN  
You make this card all by yourself Billy?

BILLY  
Yes. It's for you and Lee. You're  
my heroes.

Lee and Ryan both look teary and smile at each other.

LEE  
Thanks Billy. I hope you get  
better soon.

MOTHER  
No thank you. Both of you.

The Mother and Billy leave.

LEE  
(to Ryan)  
Wow. Okay, you're right. The  
money goes to the Childrens'  
Hospital.

RYAN  
Deal.

INT. RYAN'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Frankie and Ryan have breakfast.

FRANKIE  
Ryan don't forget we're sampling  
the wedding menu's at noon  
today. I'll see you there. Please  
don't be late.

RYAN  
Okay don't worry.  
(checks watch)  
I might just go for a quick bike  
ride.

EXT. ROADS - DAY

Ryan cycles by himself, when he notices he has a puncture.

RYAN  
No. Please no. Don't do this to  
me.

Ryan checks his pockets. His phone is missing. So is his  
puncture repair kit. He throws his bike onto the floor.

INT. RESTAURANT - DAY

Frankie tastes the food by herself. She is annoyed and even abrupt with the waiter. She is disappointed.

INT. GYM LOCKERS - NIGHT

Ryan, Lee and Marty get changed after a gym session. Ryan tenses his muscles in the mirror.

RYAN

Good gym session boys. I'm feeling mighty fine now.

LEE

Well why don't ya tense ya muscles then. See if you've any now.

RYAN

(confused)

But I am....

LEE

Right well I'm off.

RYAN

I better go now as well. If I'm late again tonight, I really am in for it with Frankie.

MARTY

Actually Ryan can I have a quick word with you please.

Lee leaves.

RYAN

What's up.

Marty starts crying.

RYAN

Jeez mate what's wrong?

MARTY

All of the lads think I'm a pulling machine.

RYAN

You are mate. I'm jealous.

MARTY

That's the thing mate. I'm not. It's just an act. Sure I've kissed girls. But I kinda haven't. You know. Got to the end base.

RYAN

Oh right. Well... Don't worry mate. You will one day. It's not a race.

MARTY

I thought I was on last night. Had a few dates with this girl I really like.

RYAN

Yeah...

MARTY

And we went back to hers. She's gorgeous Ryan. Beautiful.

RYAN

So what's the problem?

MARTY

Mr King Kong wouldn't appear.

RYAN

Who the fuck is King Kong?

Marty makes sure no one is looking.

MARTY

My penis mate.

RYAN

Why the hell is it called King Kong?

MARTY

Everyone gives their knob a nickname.

RYAN

(surprised)

No they don't.

MARTY

Anyway. I couldn't get her up. I mean him up. God I'm so nervous. What's happening to me!

Ryan checks his watch.

RYAN

You just need to relax. And don't play with yourself for at least three days. Oh and have red bull.

MARTY

I'm a wreck mate.

Ryan checks his watch again.

RYAN

Maybe we could chat some more tomorrow?

MARTY

It'll be too late then. I'm seeing her again tonight. I don't know what I'll do if I can't perform this time. I might just kill myself.

Marty starts crying again.

RYAN

Come on then mate. Let's go for a pint.

INT. COFFEE HOUSE - NIGHT

Frankie drinks a coffee alone. She sips it and looks outside the window. It is raining heavily. Frankie looks miserable, as she stares at her engagement ring.

INT. RYAN'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Frankie eats ice cream straight out of the tub. She looks angry and stares at Ryan's phone that lies on the coffee table.

She hesitates but then picks it up and checks his messages. His inbox has messages from his mates only. No women. Frankie feels guilty for checking and puts the phone back down relieved.

INT. RYAN'S HOUSE - DAY

Lee knocks on the door. Ryan answers.

RYAN

Alright Lee. What's up?

LEE

Bad news I'm afraid. You're not gonna believe this.

RYAN

Sounds serious.

LEE

I've just been on Facebook.

RYAN

We got even more money raised?

LEE

No. But the reason we've already had such a large amount of donations is cos people want us to do it in fancy dress.

RYAN

What!?

LEE

Someone donated like fifty-grand and said it's only if we both do it in fancy dress. Then others followed saying the same thing. So unless we do it in fancy dress we wont hardly get any of the sponsorship.

RYAN

Damn. That means I'll have no chance of winning and getting Carl's permission.

LEE

Exactly! A costume will slow us right down.

RYAN

(disappointed)

We might not even finish the race at all.

LEE

Well it's a straight choice then Ryan. We either do it in fancy dress and raise money for charity but that means ya won't beat the lads and get Carl's approval. Or we can race normally and prove Carl wrong but we won't raise any money for charity.

RYAN

I don't know what to do. I really want to piss Carl off by finishing first amongst our group.

LEE

Well the event is tomorrow.

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Carl has arranged a pre-race meal for all of the contestants and their partners. They all sit around a long table. Carl is next to Ryan. No one else can hear. Carl is smug.

CARL

Remember Ryan, you need to beat your friends to get my permission.

RYAN

Yeah but it's the taking part that counts.

CARL

Nope it's the winning. I don't want Frankie marrying second best.

Ryan tries to respond, but Carl stands up to make a toast.

CARL

Here is to all the men taking part in the Iron Man tomorrow. And to Ryan for at least turning up.

RYAN

I'm sick of you putting me down Carl. I think you'll find I'm good shape. Great shape in fact.

FRANKIE

Honey!

CARL

Looks like I've hit a nerve. So  
are ya gonna win it then?

Ryan is annoyed and stands up.

RYAN

Yeah I am actually. I'm going to  
be the fastest one here and prove  
you wrong. You think I'm a right  
waste of space don't you. Well  
you're just a tosser who thinks he  
can talk down to people.

CARL

I beg your pardon.

FRANKIE

Ryan what the hell are you  
doing? You're embarrassing me.

RYAN

Well we couldn't have that could  
we. Spoilt Frankie being  
embarrassed.

Frankie gets up to leave.

FRANKIE

Fuck you.

CARL

(to Ryan)

You're a right arsehole. Safe to  
say the wedding looks off.

RYAN

You would love that wouldn't you?

CARL

Yeah I would actually. You're a a  
loser who causes damage.

RYAN

Oh you mean like crashing your  
Bentley, when actually it was  
Frankie.

FRANKIE

Ryan!

LEE

Calm down Ryan.

RYAN

Stuff that. I'm now going to make  
sure I finish first ahead of all  
you lot.

LEE

We're doing the race in fancy dress  
remember.

RYAN

I wanna finish first. I don't care  
about the charity money.

LEE

No you don't you're better than  
that.

RYAN

Get lost Lee. We cant all have  
super jobs like you, you know.

LEE

Least I have a job.

Frankie was literally about to leave the room. She stops.

FRANKIE

What was that Lee?

LEE

Ryan got sacked. And didn't have  
the bottle to tell ya.

RYAN

Thanks a lot pal.

CARL

Oh this just gets better.

FRANKIE

Is this is a joke? You've been  
sacked. Were you gonna tell me?

RYAN

I've tried but the moment wasn't  
right.

FRANKIE

When were you sacked?

RYAN  
Errr... Six months ago.

FRANKIE  
Six fucking months ago.

RYAN  
(to Lee)  
You prick.

FRANKIE  
No you're the prick.

Frankie storms out of the room. Carl follows.

RYAN  
(to Lee)  
Well thankfully this stupid Iron  
Man event will be finished  
tomorrow. And after the wedding,  
presuming that even still goes  
ahead, then I won't have to see you  
ever again.

LEE  
Why wait until the wedding?

CHRISTIAN  
Come on boys. Let's not fall out  
again.

RYAN  
Suits me. I wouldn't want you at  
the wedding anyway. What groom has  
a back stabber as a best man?

LEE  
Great. Sorted. I hope you have a  
nice day. Not that Frankie will be  
there. Oh and for the record.  
I'm not doing the race in fancy  
dress either. So I look forward to  
beating you and winning Carl's  
money.

INT. RYAN'S HOUSE - DAY

Ryan prepares his triathlon gear. He notices a photo of him and Frankie on the wall and he stops to stare. He then notices the card he was given by Billy, the young sick child. He picks it up and reads the card again.

"To Ryan and Lee, my super duper heroes. Thank you for doing your event. It means I might get to see Santa this year. And my Mam says if I'm a good boy I will get a new bike. I don't want anything other than to not be sick."

INT. LEE'S HOUSE - DAY

Lee gets his stuff ready. Claire comes across to give him a kiss.

LEE

What's that for?

CLAIRe

Cos I'm so proud of you honey. Raising all that money for charity. I've told everyone at work. They're so impressed. And I'm like hey that's my husband.

LEE

Yeah, but the thing is...

CLAIRe

No buts Lee. Take praise when it's deserved. You're my hero. And I'm sure I can show you how much tonight when you're back home.

LEE

Hey now you're talking.

EXT. IRON MAN CAR PARK AREA - DAY

Ryan pulls up in his car into the Iron Man car park which is very busy with cars, athletes and spectators.

Ryan gets his bike down from the bike rack and is approached by Marty, Mr J, Christian, Alex and Craig. Mr J holds a brand new bike.

CHRISTIAN

No Lee?

Ryan shrugs his shoulders.

CHRISTIAN

Last night was pretty rough.

Ryan sarcastically laughs.

MR J

Look son. Forget about last night for the time being. We've trained hard for this Iron Man. Make sure you give it your best shot. Oh and this is for you.

Mr J hands Ryan the new bike. Ryan is excited.

RYAN

Really? A new bike?

MR J

Yes son. I'm proud of you. All the training that you've put in. Oh and also you can beat me today. One less person for you to beat for Carl eh.

RYAN

Thanks. Not that it matters anyway. There won't be a wedding now. So there will be no permission needed from Carl.

MR J

Now you listen here son. You think me and your mother have survived thirty-five years of marriage without the odd argument. You and Frankie are meant to be together. The wedding will go ahead trust me.

CHRISTIAN

Yeah your Dad is right Ryan. And mate I'll let you win as well.

CRAIG

And me.

ALEX

And me.

All look at Marty. He is reluctant.

MARTY

Okay, if I have to.

All huddle.

RYAN

Thanks boys. This means a lot. Guess you know who ya true friends are in situations like this. But no thanks. I want you all to complete the race in as fast as a time as you can. You've all trained for this.

MR J

But...

RYAN

I'm touched. I really am. But we all need to do this ourselves. Don't worry about me. I'll be happy just to finish it.

Lee arrives and grunts at Ryan, who grunts back.

#### EXT. IRON MAN TRANSITION AREA

There is no sign of Lee or Ryan, but the rest are all dressed in their wetsuits ready to start the race. They all high-five one another and walk with all of the other contestants into the lake.

Approx five-hundred racers are all in the lake bobbing up and down.

The race starts. There is no way of knowing if Ryan and Lee were in fancy dress or not.

#### EXT. LAKE - MOVING

The contestants all swim. Mr J gets accidentally kicked in the face, knocking his goggles off. He grabs the leg of the person and then uses both of his hands to push the man's head under the water in a fit of rage.

Craig struggles and resorts to breaststroke. Alex swallows a mouthful of water and spits it out, coughing, almost sick.

#### EXT. IRON MAN TRANSITION AREA - MOVING

The swimmers all get out of the lake one by one in their wetsuits. There are a lot of spectators cheering on all of the contestants. Marty and Christian get out closely together. They are positioned about one-hundred.

More swimmers get out, again all in wetsuits, until Ryan suddenly appears. He is in a Batman outfit (no wetsuit) and as he gets out of the lake, he falls flat onto his face (NB: going from swimming to running makes all athletes do this).

Ryan is shortly followed by Lee who exits the lake in a Robin outfit. He also falls over.

EXT. IRON MAN CYCLING - ROADS - MOVING

The contestants all cycle. Hundreds of cyclists pass a certain point before Ryan and Lee reach it. They are now cycling next to each other.

LEE

I thought you weren't doing the race in fancy dress?

RYAN

Yeah well I thought you weren't?

LEE

I changed my mind.

RYAN

Me too. I looked at the card from Billy and it made me almost cry. So you know what. Carl can get stuffed. I'm doing this Iron Man not for him, and not to prove anything to Frankie. But I'm doing it for myself. To prove I can do anything I put my mind do. And not be a quitter. And of course to raise money for charity.

LEE

What about the wedding money though?

RYAN

Well Frankie didn't stay at ours last night so the wedding is probably off.

LEE

I'm sorry for blurting out that you lost your job.

RYAN

No I'm the sorry the one. I was a dick last night. I shouldn't have

(MORE)

RYAN (cont'd)  
kept this from Frankie. And I  
shouldn't have argued with  
you. I'm glad your next to me now  
and we're doing this together.

LEE

There's no where else I'd rather  
be.

RYAN

Look at us. We look a right pair  
of tools.

LEE

At least you're dressed as a  
superhero. I'm just a sidekick.

RYAN

How many miles is that now?

Lee looks at the pedometer on his bike.

LEE

About 30 miles. Good going.

RYAN

We friends again?

LEE

Friends.

RYAN

And if the wedding does still go  
ahead I'll still need a best man if  
you fancy it.

LEE

Of course. I finished my speech  
this morning.

RYAN

This morning? But I thought you  
weren't...

LEE

Come on we better get a move on.

EXT. ROADS

Marty fixes a puncture on his bike. One by one, Craig, Alex and then Christian ride past him. Marty appears to ask them all for help, but they all laugh and keep cycling.

EXT. IRON MAN CYCLING - ROADS

Further back are Ryan and Lee. They pull over and stop at an energy centre. Lee literally necks dozens of energy gels.

RYAN

What ya doing Lee?

LEE

Refueling dude.

RYAN

Refueling? Don't have any more. You've had too many.

LEE

Of course I haven't. No such thing.

EXT. IRON MAN CYCLING - ROADS

One mile later, Ryan has stopped on his bike over-looking Lee who is off his bike being sick.

INT. CARL'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM - SIMULTANEOUS

Carl and Leanne are in the Dining room, looking on at Frankie packing a suit case in another room.

LEANNE

I hate seeing our Frankie so upset.

CARL

Well we both know who's to blame for that.

LEANNE

(snaps)

Yes. You!

CARL

Me? How me? You mean Ryan?

LEANNE

I've never seen Frankie as happy as I have this last year. Ryan does that. He makes our daughter happy. That should be enough for you. But oh no. Not for Carl. Only the best will do.

CARL

What's wrong with wanting the best.

LEANNE

Nothing honey, but Frankie has already found the best. Come on look at how miserable she is now.

Leanne leaves the room. Carl continues to look over at Frankie. He is sad. He looks at some framed photos on the wall of Ryan and Frankie on holiday together. They look happy. The penny drops with Carl.

EXT. IRON MAN CYCLING - ROADS - MOVING

Ryan and Lee stand as they cycle, working hard to reach the top of a hill. They aren't saying a word. They reach the top but their joy is short lived when they realise it is just a temporary flat before hitting another steep hill.

EXT. IRON MAN RUN - FIELD - MOVING

The majority of contestants are now onto the run stage of the Iron Man. Ryan and Lee also now jog, their costume capes swaying. Mr J struggles and walks, before finally going for a little lie down on the side of the road.

INT. CARL'S CAR - SIMULTANEOUS

Frankie places a suitcase in Carl's boot. She enters the car with Carl. Carl puts his seat belt on and turns on the ignition. He sighs before shaking his head.

CARL

I hate seeing you so upset Frankie.  
And it's kinda maybe my fault.

FRANKIE

What do ya mean?

CARL

You know I've always wanted the best for you.

FRANKIE

Dad what the hell have you done?

CARL

I made a deal with Ryan. I told him that if he beat all of his mates at the Iron Man then he could have my permission to marry you.

FRANKIE

(annoyed)

How dare you. You have no say on who I marry.

CARL

I know honey. I made a mistake.

FRANKIE

A mistake. Do you know how much sweat, tears and energy he has put into this Iron Man? I thought he was having a mid-life crisis or even a bloody affair, and the whole time he was trying to impress you.

CARL

It's worked. He's impressed me.

FRANKIE

Yeah so much so that we split up.

CARL

Now listen it's not my fault that he lost his job and didn't say anything.

FRANKIE

Of course it bloody is. He was running himself into the ground and he's scared of you. God I can't believe I've never seen it coming. He was right. You do always put him down.

CARL

I'm sorry. I guess it has taken me until now to realise that maybe he isn't that bad after all. If you're happy, then I'm happy.

FRANKIE  
Come on let's go...

EXT. IRON MAN - FINISH LINE

Contestants finish the race. Marty is the first of the group to finish. Christian, Alex and Craig also finish. All are shattered. Finally Ryan and Lee reach the finishing line.

Ryan falls over before the line. Lee picks him up. Then Lee falls over and Ryan picks him up.

They are both absolutely shattered. They put their arms around each other and are about to cross the line.

RYAN  
Wait. You go first Lee. Get five-grand off Carl. Though I doubt the offer is still on.

They both finish the race and collapse exhausted but delighted to have finished. Claire runs across to hug Lee.

CLAIRe  
I'm so proud Lee. Well done.

Lee struggles to speak and just nods. Ryan looks around and is disappointed.

RYAN  
I take it Frankie isn't here?

CLAIRe  
I'm so sorry Ryan. She's heading to the airport now. I think she said she was going to stay at her friends house in Paris for a bit.

RYAN  
What? She can't do that. Damn, I can't lose her. What time is her flight?

CLAIRe  
Soon I think.

RYAN  
I need you to take me to airport please Claire.

CLAIRe

(points)

Come on. I'm only parked over  
there.

LEE

Let's do it mate.

Ryan and Lee both try to get up but struggle and both end up crawling along the path to the car.

EXT. PARK - SIMULTANEOUS

Carl and Frankie arrive at a park. It is deserted, bar a woman walking her dog.

FRANKIE

Where is everyone? You sure this  
is the right place?

CARL

I think it is. I'm sure Marty said  
it was at Bolton Park.

Frankie checks her watch and is concerned. Carl winds down the window and shouts across to the woman walking the dog.

CARL

Excuse me is this Bolton Park?

DOG WALKER

Yeah it is.

CARL

We're looking for the  
triathlon. Has it finished?

DOG WALKER

Oh I think you want Bolton  
Lake. That's the other side of  
town.

Frankie is gutted. Carl is determined to get there. He aggressively turns the key and spins off very fast.

INT. AIRPORT - DAY

Ryan and Lee (still dressed as Batman and Robin) run into the airport. Everyone stops and stares. As they run towards the gates they are stopped by airport police. A passenger waiting nearby, starts to film it on his phone.

POLICEMAN  
Stop right there please.

RYAN  
I can't I need to get to the terminal.

POLICEMAN  
No you don't. You need to show me some ID.

RYAN  
I don't have any on me.

LEE  
Come on Officer. Just let us go through.

POLICEMAN  
Why are you dressed as Batman and Robin?

RYAN  
It's a long story.

POLICEMAN  
Good I like long stories.

RYAN  
Please I need to get through. You don't understand. I need to tell the woman that I love not to leave. She's my life. She is my soul mate. We're due to get married soon. I need to see her. To say sorry and that I love her. Please you have to let me through.

POLICEMAN  
Okay.

Ryan and Lee start to run. The policeman stops them again straight away.

POLICEMAN  
I'm only joking. You two aren't going anywhere. For all I know you could be a terrorist.

LEE  
Do we look like terrorists?

POLICEMAN  
You look like a lot of things.

RYAN  
Please I can't let her go. I love  
her. She can't leave.

POLICEMAN  
Yeah and she's probably Cat Women  
eh?

The police arrest Ryan and Lee and take them away. Ryan  
cries.

RYAN  
I've blown it Lee. I'm never going  
to see her ever again.

LEE  
This isn't the Notepad film Ryan.  
It's the 21st Century. Just ring  
her.

RYAN  
Good idea. Why the hell didn't we  
just do that straight away?

Ryan turns to the police officer.

RYAN  
Can I borrow your phone please  
officer.

The police officer looks skeptical.

LEE  
Come on mate.

RYAN  
Please.

The police officer reluctantly hands it to Ryan.

POLICEMAN  
Be quick.

Ryan gleefully grabs it and nods to the police officer. He  
then turns to Lee.

RYAN  
What's her number?

LEE  
How the hell am I meant to know  
that?

RYAN  
Damn, I don't know it.

LEE  
I have a plan.

INT. RYAN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Ryan looks at a picture of Frankie, when she suddenly comes through the door. Ryan is surprised to see her.

RYAN  
What are you doing back? I thought  
I'd lost you.

Frankie shows Ryan a You Tube video which was of Ryan in the airport telling the policeman how much he loves Frankie.

FRANKIE  
Lee sent me this link on You  
Tube. What the hell were you  
doing? And why the hell were you  
dressed as Batman?

RYAN  
Look I'm so sorry about last night.  
Okay so I lost my job and I should  
have told you, but I was too proud  
and I was too ashamed. And if I'm  
being honest I was scared that you  
would leave me. Why would you want  
to stay with someone who can't even  
hold down a factory job.

FRANKIE  
You know I'm not interested in  
money. If I was I'd still be  
dating my EX. But I'm not. I'm  
with you because I love you. And  
because you make me laugh.

RYAN  
Well you know what Frankie. Today  
I completed an Iron Man. Me, the  
most unfit man in Britain. Who'd  
have ever thought that? I only  
signed up to do it to get your  
Dad's permission, but I made over  
(MORE)

RYAN (cont'd)  
one-million-pounds for charity. I  
feel great that I've done all  
that. And I did it in fancy  
dress. I proved to not just your  
Dad, but to me, that I can do  
whatever I want. I just need to  
apply myself. But you know  
what. The only thing I want is  
you. I'm nothing without you. I  
love you. I need you. I miss  
you. I want to spend the rest of  
my life with you.

FRANKIE

Shut up and give me a kiss Ryan.

RYAN

So am I forgiven?

FRANKIE

In the words of Jerry Maguire, you  
had me at hello!

RYAN

Technically that wasn't Jerry  
Maguire. It was actually Renee  
Zellweger saying it to Tom Cruise,  
not the other way around.

FRANKIE

Shut up and kiss me.

The pair kiss.

RYAN

Shit, I don't have any money to pay  
for the wedding.

FRANKIE

It's okay I knew you would struggle  
so I paid for it out of my own  
savings account.

RYAN

What?

FRANKIE

Honey you needed to pay for the  
wedding ages ago. You can pay for  
the honeymoon.

## INT. WEDDING RECEPTION - DAY

Frankie is in her dress. Ryan and others are in their suits. The wedding party are at the top table. There are about eighty guests in the room. Carl finishes his speech.

CARL

So finally Ryan your effort in the Iron Man was excellent. I know how happy you make our Frankie. Welcome to the family son.

LATER

Ryan finishes his speech.

RYAN

Finally, I'd like to thank my best man Lee. I don't just have a best man stood next to me today. But my best friend. I love you pal.

All clap. Lee stands up and takes the microphone off Ryan.

LEE

I'll let you off because it's your wedding day and you're obviously emotional, but if you ever say something soppy like that to me ever again I'm going to delete you on Facebook. Hello everyone. It's an honour to be here in front of you all today. Especially as I didn't even think the bride would turn up. But before I begin I'd like to take this opportunity to remind Carl that he owes me, and several others, five-thousand-quid each.

Carl is gutted.

## EXT. RYAN'S HOUSE - DRIVEWAY - DAY

Ryan and Frankie get out of their taxi looking tanned. They collect their suitcases from the boot of the car. The taxi pulls off. Ryan puts his arm around his wife.

RYAN

I can't believe we're back already!

FRANKIE

I know. The fastest honeymoon ever.

Ryan sweeps up Frankie's legs so he carries her. She screams.

FRANKIE

Ryan what you doing?

Ryan walks towards the door carrying Frankie.

RYAN

Well Mrs Jacobson, I'm carrying you over the threshold.

FRANKIE

Ah you old romantic.

Ryan struggles to find his keys at the door and hold Frankie at the same time.

FRANKIE

Ah honey you can put me down if you want.

RYAN

Actually I will just put you down for a quick second.

INT. RYAN'S HOUSE - KITCHEN

Eventually the happy couple enter their house, and notice all of the presents and cards from the wedding. Ryan picks up a letter addressed to him, opens it and starts to smile.

RYAN

You know that gym you like on the High Street?

FRANKIE

Yeah.

RYAN

Well they've only gone and offered me a job as a personal trainer.

FRANKIE

Really? Wow that's great Hun.

RYAN

It says here they saw my Facebook page and were so impressed at how I managed to get into shape and complete the Iron Man.

There is a knock at the door. Ryan answers it. It is Billy on a new bike. He looks well. Ryan smiles.

THE END