

**DRAMEDY - MALE & FEMALE 35-50**

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Very busy, trendy. The place to see and be seen. Everyone stares at Pierce. Some bigwigs stop to say hi.

PIERCE (a famous movie star) sits at a table with MEG. Meg is girl-next-door attractive and when she smiles she lights up a room. Pierce speaks quietly to her to keep the smile going. She laughs.

MEG

Why did you bring me here?

PIERCE

I thought about Sizzler but I didn't want to impress you too much.

MEG

You only need to impress someone if you are on a date.

PIERCE

I know this isn't a date. Just two old friends hanging out.

MEG

Hanging out at a place where everyone can see them.

PIERCE

I like the food here.

Various people walk past and touch Pierce on the shoulder. He is totally focused on Meg.

MEG

He'll see it all over the papers.

PIERCE

So what? We're just having dinner together.

MEG

As long as you know that's all it is.

PIERCE

I know you're still married, if that's what you mean.

MEG

You know what I mean.

PIERCE

We're just friends. I get it, already. Let's have fun. Come with me to the awards thing tomorrow night.

MEG

It's not my fault, you know. He screwed it up.

PIERCE

I just want to be here for you. Help you through this. I thought you might want to stay in the guest house for awhile.

She looks at him contemplating.

PIERCE

Do you want to stay there?

Meg downs her glass of wine.

MEG

Okay. Yes.

Pierce puts his hand over his heart.

PIERCE

You want to live in the guest house?

MEG

No, I'll go to the Academy Awards with you. If you win, great. If you don't, we'll just get plowed.

Pierce refills her glass and they toast.

MEG (CONT'D)

But we're not a couple. If anyone asks, you make that clear.

PIERCE

I'm not going to pressure you. I  
just want you to keep an open mind.

MEG

My mind is so convoluted right now  
I think it's shut down.

PIERCE

Then stop analyzing all this and  
relax. You aren't doing anything  
wrong.

Pierce holds up his glass and they toast.