

MALE OR FEMALE 35-45

INT. FANCY RESTAURANT - NIGHT

KAREN and JOHN sit at quiet table in the back. They are already half-way through their meals.

KAREN

Thank you for this. I'm having a great time.

JOHN

Me, too. I'm the luckiest guy in town. I got a hot date with America's sweetheart.

KAREN

(irritated)  
Don't say that.

JOHN

(sweetly)  
Can we not have a fight, please? I don't wanna end up on the cover of some magazine again.

KAREN

I was hoping you didn't see that.

JOHN

Amy brought it home from school.

KAREN

Oh my God.

JOHN

She's fine. She gets it. She thinks it's hysterical, actually.

KAREN

She's amazing. I wanna be just like her when I grow up.

John smiles, nods.

JOHN

They're good kids. They're getting so big.

KAREN

Right?

JOHN

I love being home with the girls.  
But they're both in school full-  
time now, so I was thinking...  
maybe its time for me to go back to  
writing.

Karen stops eating.

KAREN

(carefully)

John, I'm about to be busier than  
ever. This is not the time for you  
to re-start your journalism  
career...

JOHN

I stopped writing just as I was  
really starting to get work -

KAREN

That was ten years ago, John.

JOHN

So what? So I have to pound the  
pavement for a while.

KAREN

We have everything we'll ever need.  
We've got plenty of money -

JOHN

It's not about money. God, Karen.  
I just -

KAREN

What more could you possibly want?

JOHN

Look, I wanna be the evolved,  
sensitive, you know, man of the new  
millennium. I want to not be  
defined by my career or ambition or  
whatever. But the truth is, I'm  
tired of being the wife.

KAREN

(softly)

I didn't decide this alone, John.

(MORE)

KAREN (CONT'D)

We both agreed this would be best  
for the family.

JOHN

Fine, yeah, we agreed - a long time  
ago.

KAREN

You think I like getting up at four  
a.m. and sticking my face in a sink  
full of ice every morning? You  
think I like being cheerful and  
chipper 365 days a year? You think  
I like being famous?

JOHN

Yeah, I do. And that's okay,  
you're allowed to like it. But I'd  
like to be known for something  
other than being your husband.

KAREN

John, your timing, really bad -

JOHN

I don't care. I've made up my  
mind. I get to have a life, too.

KAREN

Are you saying you want me to give  
up the show? That ship has sailed.

JOHN

No, I'm saying you have to try  
harder. You need to make it work.  
You wanna be a media superstar,  
fine, but you've also got to be a  
wife and a mother. It's not just  
about you anymore.

(then)

I miss you, Karen. How did we end  
up like this?

Karen takes a deep breath. Ouch.