

PRINCESS. IN REVERSE.

Pilot Episode

"I Am Not Meg Ryan!"

Written by

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ACT ONE

EXT. LOS ANGELES - DAY

Perfect sunny day. We float over the city, spying favorite landmarks: Farmer's Market, CBS Television City, the Beverly Center. In the background we hear pop music from 1998 -- because that's what year this is. And we hear something else: a woman, crying. Actually, blubbering.

We move closer to a luxury condo building in Beverly Hills. The blubbering grows louder and starts resembling words.

INT. LISA'S CONDO - BEDROOM - WALK-IN CLOSET - DAY

LISA FINEBERG COOK, 29, sweet-faced, fit, (with a passing resemblance to Meg Ryan), dressed classy casual, wipes away tears. We can't see who she's talking to.

LISA

I am so going to miss you guys.
You've been with me through
everything.

She looks to her left, offers a frown-smile.

LISA (CONT'D)

Remember that night at the Roxy? We
looked so incredibly hot, we should
have been on that stage.

She looks to her right, nods sadly.

LISA (CONT'D)

And I'll never forget when we
walked into Libby Portman's
wedding. Everyone was looking at
us. Well, you, at least.

(leaning in)

Although, what did we get dressed
up for anyway? Everyone knew that
guy she married was a schmuck. I
tried telling her, but would she
listen?

STACEY (O.S.)

LISA!

Lisa spins around to see STACEY BENNETT, 30, her best friend. Stacey doesn't look particularly happy. That's because Lisa has been talking to the slinky dress and strappy sandals she's holding.

LISA
What?

STACEY
The airport?!

LISA
I have to say goodbye to all my
friends.

BEHIND LISA: dresses, shoes, hats, coats -- all designer
fare, displayed and lit as if in a show window.

STACEY
Fine. You stay in your closet, and
I'll go to LAX to tell your new
husband to fly to Japan alone and
honeymoon by himself.

LISA
I already told you, Daniel has to
start work right away. So the
honeymoon will have to wait.

Stacey looks at her watch, shakes her head.

STACEY
And wait.

Lisa stares sadly at her dress and sandals. Stacey boldly
steps in front of her, takes the dress and sandals from Lisa
and puts them back.

STACEY (CONT'D)
C'mon, honey. You can do it. Baby
steps.

Stacey guides a resistant Lisa into

INT. LISA'S CONDO - BEDROOM - DAY (CONTINUOUS)

Luxurious. A family of four could live here comfortably --
for years. Two HUGE suitcases are by the side of the bed.

LISA
(off the suitcase)
Maybe I could slip my winter coat
from Neiman's in here? What if they
don't have winter coats in Nagoya?

Lisa turns back to the closet. Stacey grabs her.

STACEY

What if they don't have air
conditioners in Nagoya? You gonna
pack one of those, too? Let's go!

Stacey picks up one of the suitcases, struggles to lift it.

STACEY (CONT'D)

Jesus! What the hell did you put in
here?

LISA

Well, I had to pack at least ten
pairs of --

STACEY

Never mind!
(to herself)
Oy veyzmir!

She exits, huffing and puffing.

Lisa glances about her princess-esque bedroom.

LISA

(to her bed)
Goodbye six-hundred and fifty
thread-count sheets. Goodbye
Scandia comforter. Goodbye --

STACEY (O.C.)

LISA!

LISA

All right, already. I'm coming!
(fondly, to bed)
We sure came a few times, didn't
we?

Lisa grabs her suitcase. Struggles to pick it up.

LISA (CONT'D)

Ohmigod, this is so heavy! What the
hell did I put in here?

She drags the suitcase toward the open bedroom door.

EXT. LA CIENEGA BOULEVARD - DAY

Cars move down La Cienega Boulevard, among them a new silver
BMW. We move in closer.

EXT./INT. STACEY'S BMW - DAY (TRAVELING)

Stacey drives, Lisa stares out the window. Both of them sullen. Then, suddenly, Stacey turns to Lisa.

STACEY
I'm sorry I yelled at you.

LISA
I'm sorry I took so long.

They look at each other, fighting back tears.

STACEY
I'm gonna miss you so much!

LISA (CONT'D)
I'm gonna miss you so much!

They move through traffic, wiping tears away.

LISA (CONT'D)
Maybe this is all happening too fast. I mean, Daniel and I just got married six days ago!

STACEY
You're already questioning? You are embarking on the adventure of a lifetime with your hot new husband -- unlike me, who's stuck here with a lying, cheating bastard!

LISA
Stacey. You are not stuck. You're one of the most successful divorce lawyers in Beverly Hills.

STACEY
And yet I forgot to have Bobby sign a pre-nup when I married him.

LISA
You're also one of the stupidest divorce lawyers in Beverly Hills.

STACEY
Shut up!

LISA
You shut up!

They throw each other mock-angry stares.

STACEY
Shut the fuck up!

LISA (CONT'D)
Shut the fuck up!

They try to stare each other down, then burst into laughter.
 Lisa looks out the window as the shops blur by.

LISA (CONT'D)
 I'm gonna miss all this.

STACEY
 What... the traffic?

LISA
 No. Yes. All of it. You. My family.
 My business. Giving it all up...
 for love.
 (self-mocking)
 I'm such a cliché.

STACEY
 Really? 'Cause I'd change places
 with you in a heartbeat.

LISA
 (chastened)
 I really do love him.

STACEY
 See? You're doing the right thing.
 And you can start a new interior
 decorating business over there. I
 mean, you love Japanese design.

LISA
 I do. But I wasn't really planning
 on working there. I was thinking
 more the supportive wife role, you
 know -- being the perfect hostess,
 throwing amazing parties.

STACEY
 I'll miss your amazing parties.

They look at each other. Start tearing up again.

STACEY (CONT'D)
 Well, you'll only be gone for two
 years.

LISA
 It'll go by in a flash. We'll be
 back at the Four Seasons, Martina
 will be massaging our feet with
 peppermint oil...

STACEY

I'll be fatter, you'll be worldly -
-

LISA

Monique will be doing our nails --

STACEY

I'll be divorced, you'll be
pregnant...

Lisa whirls toward Stacey.

LISA

Have you been talking to my mother?

INT. LAX - DAY

A SMALL GROUP is gathered at the last checkpoint before passenger departure. Stacey and VARIOUS RELATIVES surround Lisa, her husband DANIEL, 32, a young, hotter version of Al Pacino, and Lisa's no-nonsense mother RUTH FINEBERG, 50s.

RUTH

... and all I said to Stacey was
that you might have a surprise for
us in a year...
(hopeful)
... or maybe less.

LISA

You're right, Mom. I might become a
missionary. In fact, that's the
first thing I'm going to do in
Nagoya.
(sexy look to Daniel)
Find a "missionary position."

RUTH

(not laughing)
Very funny.

Daniel fights a smile.

DANIEL

Actually, it was funny.

Lisa kisses him. Smiles.

LISA

I knew there was a reason I married
you.

Lisa looks out at the group that surrounds her. Tears up.

LISA (CONT'D)
Well, I guess it's that time.

As Daniel exchanges hugs with Stacey and the relatives, Lisa turns to Ruth. Both have tears in their eyes.

LISA (CONT'D)
I'm doing the right thing, right?

RUTH
Lisa, you're a grown woman now.

LISA
That doesn't answer the question.

Ruth gives her a loving look.

RUTH
I'd be doing the same thing if I were you.

Lisa's face lights up.

RUTH (CONT'D)
Although... I do have my concerns.

LISA
What? Mom. Tell me. I'm about to get on the plane.

RUTH
What if they don't have decent deli in Nagoya?

Lisa's face falls.

LISA
Ohmigod, what if they don't?

INT. AIRPLANE - DAY (AIRBORNE)

Lisa and Daniel sit side by side somewhere in Economy. Lisa has the window seat. They're both obviously in love.

LISA
You know, I've never flown Economy before.

He leans in to her, sensually.

DANIEL

You are going to have experiences
with me that will blow your mind.

LISA

(off her small seat)
So far, this isn't one of them.

He gives her a smoldering hot kiss.

LISA (CONT'D)

Okay, the jury is still out.

He gives her a sexy smile, puts on an eye-mask and quickly
falls asleep.

LISA (CONT'D)

Wait a minute. Is that all?

Daniel is already snoring.

LISA (CONT'D)

Huh. I guess it is.

Lisa picks up her Condé Nast magazine, featuring Japan on the
cover, and flips through it.

ON MAGAZINE PAGES: Stunning images of Mt. Fuji, high-end
ryokans, Tokyo Tower, models clad in Yohji Yamamoto fashions.

Lisa's eyes light up with delight. She closes them for a
second, a smile of pure joy on her face.

START LISA'S IMAGINATION:

SERIES OF SHOTS

-Lisa and Daniel walking among temples in Kyoto.

-Lisa and Daniel skiing in Nagano.

-Lisa, shopping at Takashimaya, surrounded by a group of cute
female shop assistants who all hold her multiple purchases.

-Lisa, in a breathtaking kimono, opening sliding shoji
screens to reveal a zen-like garden with elegant bonsai
trees. Daniel, wearing a traditional kimono for men, slips
into view and puts his arms around her. They gaze out at
their garden, the happiest people on earth.

-Lisa and Daniel, hosting a party for rich, young expats in
their ultra-modern Japanese apartment.

-Quick views of all the modern appliances, including the washlet toilet -- which Lisa attempts to demonstrate by pushing buttons. None of them work... until a big squirt of water hits her in the face.

END LISA'S IMAGINATION

Lisa jolts awake.

STEWARDESS (V.O.)
Ladies and gentlemen, we have
arrived in Nagoya, Japan. We wish
you a pleasant stay.

Lisa turns to see Daniel looking at her, smiling.

LISA
Wow, I passed out, I guess. I was
having some wild dreams.

DANIEL
You don't know what wild is until
we do it on a futon.

LISA
Wait... how many other girls have
you tricked into coming all the way
to Nagoya just so you could have
sex on a futon?

DANIEL
Just one. And get this... she
actually married me!

He kisses her. She swoons.

INT. NAGOYA AIRPORT - ARRIVALS AREA - DAY

Lisa and Daniel, suitcases in tow, exit customs, exhausted. They quickly see three stone-faced JAPANESE MEN, 40s, in dark suits, huddled together, holding up a sign: MR. DANIEL COOK

LISA
(to Daniel)
Wait. Shouldn't that say "Mr. *and*
Mrs."?

DANIEL
It should... but let's just put on
our best smiles for now.

They head to the group of men. Daniel smiles broadly.

DANIEL (CONT'D)
Gentlemen! We're so sorry for the
delay. See, my wife --

LISA
(to the Japanese Men)
Wouldn't you know it, there was
some weird thing about my visa.
They kept us waiting for two hours!
Can you believe it? Anyway, hi! I'm
Daniel's wife, Lisa.

She offers her brightest smile. They remain expressionless.

JAPANESE MAN #1
(to Daniel, heavy Japanese
accent)
Cook-san. Please hurry. Taxi
outside.

The Japanese Men exit the building.

Daniel and Lisa exchange a worried glance.

EXT. NAGOYA AIRPORT - GROUND TRANSPORTATION - DAY

Late afternoon. The sun still blazes in the sky.

The Japanese Men gather around several taxis as Lisa and
Daniel, hauling their suitcases, exit the airport... and BAM!

Lisa stops, sweat already pouring down her face.

LISA
Oh my God!

DANIEL
What now?

LISA
What is this... a hundred and
fifty-two degrees in the shade?

DANIEL
It's... a little warm.

LISA
A "little warm"? I'm *schvitzing*
already!
(to the Japanese Men)
Is it always this crazy hot?

Japanese Man #1 motions Lisa and Daniel over to the taxis.