

NICOLE

Hey.

CHARLIE

Where's Henry?

NICOLE

He's with Cassie and her kids at
Laser Tag.

CHARLIE

Oh, I'm going to have to leave
a day early to go to New York
on the 22nd so I was wondering
if I could take Henry that Friday--

NICOLE

The 22nd? So, that's the 21st?
We have plans actually. We're
going to this thing at LACMA
with the cousins--

CHARLIE

But could you change it so I
can take him--

NICOLE

It's only that night. He's
looking forward to it.

CHARLIE

Really?

NICOLE

It's my night, Charlie, we negotiated it.

CHARLIE

OK. Fine.

NICOLE

I mean... what?

CHARLIE

No, I'm just asking you to be flexible--

NICOLE

I AM flexible.

CHARLIE

It's not only this one night, but fine...

NICOLE

Do you understand why I want to stay in LA?

CHARLIE

No. I don't understand it.

NICOLE

You don't remember promising that we could do time out here?

CHARLIE

We discussed things. We were married, we said things. We talked about moving to Europe, about getting a sideboard or what do you call it, a *credenza*, to fill that empty space behind the couch. We never did any of it.

NICOLE

And you turned down that residency (project) at the *Geffen* that would have brought us here and--

CHARLIE

It wasn't something I wanted.
We had a great theater company and
a great life where we were.

NICOLE

You call that a great life.

CHARLIE

You know what I mean.

NICOLE

Me discovering you're fucking Mary Ann—

CHARLIE

I don't mean we had a great marriage. I mean,
life in Brooklyn... Professionally. I don't
know. Honestly I never considered anything
different.

NICOLE

Well, that's the problem isn't it? I was your
wife, you should have considered my happiness
too.

CHARLIE

Life with you was JOYLESS.

NICOLE

So you had to fuck someone else?
How could you?

CHARLIE

You shouldn't be upset that I fucked her, you
should be upset that I had a laugh with her.

NICOLE

Do you love her?

CHARLIE

No! But she didn't hate me.
You hated me.

NICOLE

You hated ME.
You fucked someone we worked with.

CHARLIE

You stopped having sex with me in the last year.
I never cheated on you.

NICOLE

That was cheating on me.

CHARLIE

But there's so much I could have
done. I was a director in my 20's
who came from nothing and was
suddenly on the cover of fucking
Time Out New York. I was hot
shit--and I wanted to fuck
EVERYBODY and I didn't. And I
loved you and didn't want to lose
you...and I'm in my twenties and I
didn't want to lose that too. And
you wanted SO much so fast...I
didn't even want to get married...
and fuck it, there's so much I DIDN'T do.

NICOLE

I can't believe I have to know you
FOREVER!

CHARLIE

You're fucking insane! —
And you're fucking winning.

NICOLE

Are you kidding? I wanted to be
married. I'd ALREADY LOST. --
You didn't love me as much as I
loved you.

CHARLIE

What does that have to do with LA?
What?

NICOLE

You're so merged with your
own selfishness that you
don't even identify it as
selfishness anymore. YOU'RE
SUCH A DICK.

CHARLIE

Every day I wake up an hope
you're dead-- Dead like If I
could guarantee Henry would be
OK, I'd hope you get an illness
and then get hit by a car and DIE.

NICOLE

I know.

CHARLIE

I'm sorry.

NICOLE

Me too.