

THE MARVELOUS MRS. MAISEL - MIDGE AND BENJAMIN

INT. DINER - DAY

MIDGE has been eating with fellow comics when BENJAMIN, her ex-boyfriend, arrives unexpectedly to confront her.

MIDGE

Hi. How are you?

BENJAMIN

That's funny.

MIDGE

No, I mean—

BENJAMIN

Don't worry about the small talk.
This won't take long.

MIDGE

It wasn't small—

BENJAMIN

I let you off easy, didn't I?

MIDGE

I...

BENJAMIN

You sent me a Dear John letter -
un-proofed, by the way - and I
didn't chase you down, I didn't
call you, I didn't show up at your
door demanding an explanation, did
I?

MIDGE

No.

BENJAMIN

That's right, no. I let you slink
off into the night, like a goddamn
Damon Runyon character. I figured
if that's the way you wanted it, I
wasn't gonna beg you for an
explanation - an explanation I was
absolutely entitled to, by the
way.

MIDGE

Yes. You were. I am so sorry.

BENJAMIN

I handled the whole thing with dignity, grace. I handled it all very calmly, I handle things very calmly. I don't get mad. I can't get mad. When you're really tall, you can't get mad. You can't pace around and wave your arms in the air and raise your voice, because people get scared. See? Look around. See? That's what people look like when you're really tall, and really mad. I look like an angry building! So I stay calm.. all the goddamn time. But this time... oooh... this time you have pushed me too far.

MIDGE

What did I do? I mean, besides—

BENJAMIN

I work in a hospital, Miriam. I perform surgery. I hold really sharp tools that I cut people open with. And if I cut them open incorrectly, they tend to die. And that's where you chose to send your mother to fix me up with another girl?

MIDGE

What?

BENJAMIN

Are you insane?

MIDGE

Benjamin, I swear, I had no idea she was gonna do that.

BENJAMIN

Bullshit, Miriam. You feel guilty. So you decided to get me settled so you don't have to feel bad anymore. Well fuck that. You don't get a say in what happens to me. You feel like a louse? Too bad. Live with it.

MIDGE

Benjamin, please, can we just sit and talk? Please?

They sit at an available table.

MIDGE

Thank you.

She waits for BENJAMIN to speak.

BENJAMIN

Oh, you're going to have to start.

MIDGE

Right. Sorry. Benjamin, I owe you the biggest apology in the world. I am totally and completely ashamed of myself.

BENJAMIN

I never pegged you for a coward. That letter, that was a coward's move.

MIDGE

I know it was.

BENJAMIN

I don't understand what happened.

MIDGE

I explained it all in the letter.

BENJAMIN

I stopped reading the letter after the words "I can't marry you."

MIDGE

Oh.

BENJAMIN

That kind of gave the end away.

MIDGE

You know it's funny, I... can stand onstage and say all sorts of uncomfortable, embarrassing, personal things. But the thought of standing in front of you, telling you... I just... couldn't. So I wrote a letter. Like a coward. But you have to understand, when I accepted your proposal, I was fed up with stand-up. I was thinking of quitting. I thought maybe comedy was just a phase, and I could get married, and hop down to the Gaslight once or twice a week, do a set, like a bowling league with better shoes. I thought maybe that could be enough. And then Shy Baldwin called... and a lightning

MIDGE (CONT'D)

bolt went through me. I just...
knew. This was it... for the rest of
my life. No turning back. And I
knew that would be a problem.

BENJAMIN

How?

MIDGE

How what?

BENJAMIN

How did you know it was going to
be a problem?

MIDGE

Oh, Benjamin, come on.

BENJAMIN

Come on, what?

MIDGE

I talk about my life on stage. My
whole life. I talk about my
parents, and my children, and my
relationships, and my failures,
and everyone else's failures, and
my girdle and my sex life.

BENJAMIN

I have seen you on stage.

MIDGE

Twice. You've seen me twice. It
would be different if we were
married. It would be constant. You
wouldn't be able to handle it.

BENJAMIN

Oh really?

MIDGE

My stand-up was the reason that
Joel and I—

BENJAMIN

I am not Joel.

MIDGE

I know.

BENJAMIN

I got two feet on the guy alone.

MIDGE

You are both men.

BENJAMIN

What the hell does that mean?

MIDGE

Proud men. Strong men.

BENJAMIN

Did you ask? Did you ever say,
"Hey, Benjamin, if I constantly
talk about you onstage, is that a
problem?"

MIDGE

No, I didn't.

BENJAMIN

That's right. You didn't even give
me a chance. You left me out of
the equation altogether.

MIDGE

I would have been on the road. We
would have been separated a lot.

BENJAMIN

And the coming back together would
have been sensational.

He gets up to leave.

MIDGE

Please don't go.

BENJAMIN

You broke my heart, Miriam.

(Beat)

Do not send your mother again.

(Beat)

You never even got to see the
ring. It was spectacular, by the
way.

He leaves.

MIDGE

(To herself)

I have no doubt.