

NOWADAYS.

SCENE 1

INT.DAY.TV STUDIO.

CHERI, an attractive woman in her 40s is sitting in front of the mirror observing the make up artist watchfully. There are loads of people coming in & going out of the makeup room. But CHERI doesn't seem to notice any of them.

SCENE 2

INT.DAY.STUDIO.

CHERI walks onto the stage.
The audience applauds her but she doesn't hear any of that. The big TV lights almost blind her.
The talk show host introduces CHERI to the audience. However once again CHERI doesn't hear even one word coming out of the host's mouth.
CHERI keeps playing with the little gold cross necklace she wears around her neck.

TALK HOST

(Bringing CHERI back to reality.)

Cheri, would you mind telling us a little bit more about your book & your life?

CHERI looks at the talk host, and with a little bit of hesitation in her voice, she starts.

1984 FLASHBACKS

SCENE 3

INT.BAR.EVENING.

CHERI is out at the bar with her girlfriends. They are talking, drinking & having a good time.
BARRY, a handsome dark-haired man, keeps looking in her direction.

BLACKOUT

BARRY is talking to CHERI. There is a sparkle between the two of them.

CUT TO

BARRY grabs CHERI's waist (Like they used to do in the old Hollywood movies.) and kisses her passionately. CHERI's small daughter LAURA observes the two of them.

SCENE 4

INT. IN FRONT OF THE CHURCH. DAY.

CHERI & BARRY are walking out of the church. Their friends & family are throwing rice at them.

SCENE 5

INT. CHERI'S SALON/WORK. DAY.

CHERI is working.

BLACKOUT AFTERNOON

CHERI is working.

BLACKOUT EVENING

CHERI is working.

SCENE 6

INT. SHOP. EVENING.

CHERI is doing the grocery shopping.

SCENE 7

INT. KITCHEN. EVENING.

CHERI is making the supper.

SCENE 8

INT. LIVING ROOM. EVENING.

BARRY is watching sports on TV & drinking beer. LAURA is playing on the floor. From time to time he looks at her.

SCENE 9

INT. DINING ROOM. EVENING.

The whole family is sitting at the table eating. They all hold hands & say a silent prayer before eating. After the prayer, BARRY starts his dinner with a beer.

SCENE 10

INT.DINING ROOM.EVENING.

CHERI is tidying up after the dinner. LAURA is helping out a little bit.

BARRY is already gone watching the TV.

SCENE 11

INT.LAUNDRY ROOM.EVENING.

CHERI is folding up the laundry.

CHERI'S VO.

I became disillusioned with my husband reasonably soon. I was the one doing all the work around the house & I still had my business to run.

(Pause)

He was in the Navy, and the military had a paid allowance for the work I was doing but..

SCENE 12

INT.BAR.DAY.

BARRY is drinking in a bar.

SCENE 13

INT.CHERI'S SALON/WORK.DAY.

CHERI is working.

SCENE 14

INT.KITCHEN.EVENING.

CHERI is making dinner when BARRY comes to the kitchen and pushes her violently. She bangs her head on the cupboard door, and her forehead starts bleeding. When BARRY leaves the kitchen with another beer, CHERI breaks down crying.

SCENE 15

INT.LIVING ROOM.NIGHT.

BARRY is staying up late drinking beer & watching porn.

SCENE 16

INT. LIVING ROOM. DAY.

CHERI walks into the living room holding a tape in her hand.

CHERI

Barry, this is what you are like when you drink. This is how you treat me.

She puts the recorder on the table and presses the play button.

BARRY hears CHERI'S voice saying the time and date. Then he hears himself yelling. He can't recognise his voice at first.

BARRY

G. D., don't walk away from me, I am talking to you.

(Pause)

Don't turn your back on me you bitch. I need another f-in' beer.

(Pause)

This doesn't have a fucking tab on the top.

SCENE 17

INT. KITCHEN. EVENING.

The clock shows 9.00 pm when BARRY starts yelling, swearing, and trying to start a fight with CHERI.

CHERI

Turn the can the other way, Barry. You have it upside down.

BARRY

Wow, that was pressuuuurized too fuckin' much. Those G.D. fuckin' idiots don't know how to pack the G.D. beer. Hey, did you cook me any fucking dinner tonight?

CHERI

Yes Barry, you had dinner tonight. Are you hungry? Do you want me to fix you something to eat?

BARRY

Hell, yes, you bitch. It would be fucking nice of you to fix me dinner.

BARRY presses the stop button on the recorder; without looking at CHERI, he leaves the living room.

SCENE 19

INT. DINING ROOM. EVENING.

BARRY is having dinner with CHERI & LAURA without drinking beer.

CHERI'S VO.

For the next several months Barry cut back on his drinking. He acted as if he wanted to make our marriage work. However, as it happens with addicts, his enthusiasm didn't last long and on one Saturday afternoon.

SCENE 20

INT. KITCHEN. DAY.

CHERI is feeding the dogs in the kitchen.

LAURA is watching BARRY wobble around the dining room while making his way to the kitchen. At some point he rips open his button shirt, the buttons go flying in every direction.

LAURA and CHERI can't contain their laughter. Since LAURA is nearer to him, he turns and punches her in the belly. She drops to her knees. All laughing ceases at once.

CHERI picks up LAURA, who is only ten years old. Then she calls the police.

SCENE 21
INT.LIVING ROOM.DAY.

The police officer watches BARRY gathering his items.
LAURA is cuddling to CHERI.

COCOA, FLORIDA 1989

SCENE 22
INT.FACILITY.DAY.

BARRY is at the facility for addicted people.

SCENE 23
INT.CHERI'S WORK. DAY.

CHERI is at work when she receives a phone call from the police.

POLICE OFFICER
Barry is out.

CHERI
Oh no! He wasn't in there for
seventy-two hours like he was
supposed to be. This isn't
enough time for him to even
calm down. He will be furious!

POLICE OFFICER
I'm so sorry, but there is
nothing else we can do.
(Pause)
Give us a call if he gets
violent again.

CHERI
Ok.
(Pause)
Thank you, I guess
(Pause)
Will do.

SCENE 24
INT.LIVING ROOM.LATE AFTERNOON.

BARRY is collecting the rest of his stuff while CHERI &
LAURA watch him.

SCENE 25

INT. BARRY'S MOTHER HOUSE. LIVING ROOM. DAY.

BARRIE'S MOTHER is drinking beer & watching TV. BARRY is sitting on the sofa doing precisely the same.

SCENE 26

INT. BAR. EVENING.

BARRY is drinking, smoking pot & trying to pick up girls. He doesn't wear his wedding ring.

SCENE 27

INT. LIVING ROOM. MORNING.

CHERI is heading for the front door when the phone rings. She quickly goes back to pick it up.

JOAN

(BARRY'S stepmother)

Cheri, your husband, has been in an accident. You can't tell anyone that I have called you. I would be in big trouble. Gary has hidden Barry in some place because he could be arrested for leaving the scene. I don't know where he is or even whether he is hurt or not. I have to go. Take care.

CHERI slowly hangs up the phone. After the initial shock, she continues on her way to the church.

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