

PLAYING BY HEART

Trent: Hi!

Meredith: Hi!

T: I made it, uh, casually attired. Yeah I know, flowers are a little much and I'm late. But only because I had second thoughts about the flowers and threw them away halfway down the block. Then I had third thoughts and went back and got them.

M: Well, I'm glad you did. Come in. Come in, come in, come in. I uh, hope you like Italian.

T: I hope you like merlot.

M: I, uh, its almost ready. Sorry it took me so long. I was on the phone with one of my sisters. The married one.

T: The one who's having an affair?

M: Yeah well, the one who's always having an affair.

T: Her husband doesn't suspect anything?

M: Her husband is sweet but a bit dim. He doesn't have much of an imagination.

T: The Chandler girls like their men with imaginations?

M: Yeah, it helps.

T: You know, I'm told I have a good imagination.

M: I don't want to have sex tonight.

(beat)

T: Okay....

M: I mean if that's why you think I invited you over here.

T: I invited myself over here.

M: Well, whatever, I mean I know it must be kind of unusual...

T: It's not unusual. I, I....

M: I'm sure that most women don't turn you down...

T: Meredith, can we talk about something else? Honestly, sex is the last thing on my mind right now. It's....

M: Okay, okay, okay... Want a taste? I mean, I'm sorry if I ruined your plans, that's all.

T: I didn't have any plans! I just think, you know, you've got a few too many rules working for you and way too many rules working against me. I really like you but this kinda thing is pissing me off.

M: Maybe this wasn't such a good idea.

T: I can't understand why you haven't had a relationship lately.

M: Really? Well, that doesn't take long does it?

T: What doesn't?

M: I mean, you turn a guy down and, wham, he just metamorphoses into an anger ball.

T: Anger ball.

M: See?

T: All I said is that I have a good imagination. I wasn't talking about sex!

M: Really?

T: I've had enough sex. Mostly with women I didn't like. And probably didn't like me. Call me nuts but I like you. And, yeah, if something happens between us, sex will probably enter into it but not until you break the brick wall down around yourself and certainly not tonight.

M: You finished?

T: Yeah.

M: I'll show you out.

T: What?

M: Look, this is exactly what I don't want.

T: Somebody being straight with you?

M: Yes! Yes! Yes! You know what Trent? I don't have the stamina for this. I don't.

T: Meredith, we haven't even started anything yet.

M: And you know what? We're not going to...because...let me just jump ahead to the inevitable, okay? We get together, you hurt me, it ends badly.

T: That's a really depressing way to look at a fledgling relationship.

M: Well, there's nothing fledgling about it. And honestly, that is the only viewpoint that I have.

T: I feel sorry for you, Meredith, because I didn't come over here to hurt you.