

(Steven moves to pick up his satchel. He then moves back to the door.) I've got to stop leaving those lying around. Are you coming, Dad? We don't want to be late.

Whit: I'm coming.

(Nobody moves.)

Steven: Well? (Pause.) What's going on?

START →

Nikki: Your father just asked me to marry him.

Steven: What?

Nikki: He said 'You wanna get married?'

Steven: You wanna get married?

Nikki: Yes.

Steven: ~~Boy, Dad, if you want to land the big fish, you've gotta do better than that.~~

~~Whit: I've never done it before!~~

→

Steven: (To Nikki.) And what did you say?

Nikki: I'm thinking about it.

Steven: No kidding?

Nikki: No kidding.

Steven: (He yells out the door.) Erica!!!

~~Erica: (Off) What??!!~~

Steven: Come in here!!

~~Erica: (Off) What??!!~~

Steven: Come in here!!

~~Erica: (Off.) What for?!~~

CONT! →

Steven: Dad just asked Nikki to marry him!!!?

Erica: (Off.) Holy shit!

(Erica rushes in.)

Erica: Are you serious?

Steven: Yeah. He said 'You wanna get married?'

Erica: What?

Whit: ~~I've never done it before. I'm sorry!~~

→ Erica: And what did Nikki say?

Steven: ~~She's thinking about it.~~

Erica: Well, I don't blame her. I wouldn't say yes right away either if someone asked me like that.

Whit: You two aren't helping.

Steven: Dad, we've got to get going. Move this along.

Whit: Well, tell her. (Points at Nikki.) She's the one we're waiting for.

Steven: ~~Nikki, we're going to be late for our flight. Please.~~

→ Nikki: ...No.

Whit: No?

Nikki: No. I'm not going to rush into this.

Whit: You're not going to rush into it. So, that's not a no to the proposal. It's a no to rushing your answer.

Nikki: Right.

Whit: ~~(To Steven and Erica.) Did you hear that? She didn't say no. That's encouraging. That's very encouraging.~~

Erica: ~~Dad, stop it. You're embarrassing yourself.~~

→ Whit: (To Nikki.) What's the problem, Nikki? Why are you being so stubborn?

Nikki: I'm not being stubborn, Whit. I just honestly don't know. I thought I knew what I wanted. I thought we could just live together and everything would be fine. But there is so much more to think about. And now that the question is right there in front of me—now that you've put it out there in your own awkward way...well, I'm a little undecided.

Whit: And I'm a little nervous.

~~Erica: And I'm a little teapot short and stout. Can we get going please?~~

Whit: Nikki, I have to go.

Nikki: I know.

Whit: But, I don't want to leave until I get an answer. Yes or no. I don't want to be driving all the way to the airport wondering what's going to happen to us when I should be concentrating on saying a tearful goodbye to my children as they return to their dreary lives in La Belle Province.

Steven: Dreary?

~~Erica: My life's not dreary.~~

→ Nikki: I thought you didn't want to get married.

Whit: I don't. Not really.

Nikki: Then why are you asking me to marry you?

Whit: Because you want it. And if you want it, then that's more important than any misgivings I might have.

Steven: That's a good answer.

~~Erica: That's a very good answer. Way to go, Dad.~~

Nikki: That is a good answer.

Whit: It's the truth. And it's just a piece of paper. It doesn't mean anything anyway. So, why not get married?

~~Erica:~~

~~Steven: tog. Oh!~~

Steven: ~~So close.~~

Whit: ~~What's wrong?~~



Erica: Dad, you had her. She was weakening.

Steven: And then you had to say something so...so Whit-like.

Nikki: No. That didn't ruin it.

Erica: It didn't?

Nikki: No. In fact, that's the man I love.

Erica: That man?

Nikki: That man. Warts and all. He's honest. He loves openly and without an agenda other than to love. And what you see on the surface of the man, is what the man is underneath.

Steven: In other words, no depth.

Nikki: No. In other words, no deception. No falsehoods. He is what he appears to be. He just has to have some of the rough edges sanded down. And I think I can do that.

Whit: Oh. So, you want to change me?

~~Erica: Yes.~~

~~Steven: Without question.~~

~~Erica: Totally.~~



Nikki: No. No, I don't want to change you, Whit. I just want to improve on the beautiful man who's already in there.

Whit: ....All right. I guess we could all use some improvement. And does that mean that I get to improve on the beautiful woman who is already in you?

Nikki: Don't be ridiculous.

~~Whit: Sounds like a fair deal.~~

~~Steven: Dad, we really have to go.~~