

FADE IN:

EXT. BENBOW HIGH SCHOOL - FRONT LAWN - DAY (1985)

Graduation Day. Blue sky, green grass, white chairs full of proud Parents. PRINCIPAL MILLER finishes at the podium:

PRINCIPAL MILLER

...So I present to you, our newest alumni, the graduates of Benbow High's class of 1985.

The seventy-five fresh-faced GRADUATES shift their tassels, then join in the congratulatory cheer.

Delicately handsome JEREMY sweeps fellow graduate CAROLYN off the ground and twirls her in the air.

JEREMY

We did it, Carolyn, we're free! Free to be you, free to be me, free to be together all summer -- we're finally, fantastically free!

He sets her down and holds his arms out wide, fingers threaded together to make a large circle. Carolyn hesitates.

JEREMY (CONT'D)

Carolyn?

Carolyn ducks into his loop and loops her arms over his head so that she's inside his arm circle and he's inside hers.

JEREMY (CONT'D)

I love you so much. I was thinking if your parents are cool with it, we could head out to the lake this weekend.

CAROLYN

I can't, Jeremy, my aunt's in town.

JEREMY

So we can go next week. No biggee.
(then; sensing)
What? What's wrong?

CAROLYN

Jeremy...

JEREMY

Yes, love dollop?

CAROLYN

I took an internship in the city.

CAROLYN (CONT'D)

I'll be interning for a publishing house. It's a great opportunity.

JEREMY

San Francisco's five hours away, how will we see each other?

CAROLYN

Please don't make this any harder.

JEREMY

What're you saying? Make what harder?
(getting scared)
Carolyn?

CAROLYN

Jeremy...

JEREMY

You said you love me and I love you.

CAROLYN

I do love you --

JEREMY

-- And what we have is true love,
like Sean and Madonna, you said --

CAROLYN

-- I think it'd just be better for
both of us --

JEREMY

-- You can't take that for granted.
It's one in a million -- one in a
hundred million!

CAROLYN

We're going to fall in and out of love
with so many people, so many times --

JEREMY

What are you talking about?

CAROLYN

We're young with our whole futures in
front of us --

JEREMY

There is no future without you.

CAROLYN

The world's our oyster and now's the time for us to just dive in and swim the tides of life.

JEREMY

(eyes welling)

Sink, you mean, like a big rock --

CAROLYN

No, float like a big balloon --

JEREMY

-- You're so wrong! God, this can't be happening --

CAROLYN

-- Jeremy, no --

JEREMY

-- What're you doing? --

CAROLYN

-- I'm not --

JEREMY

-- This is death --

CAROLYN

-- Don't --

JEREMY

-- Where'd you get this? This isn't like you --

CAROLYN

-- Please --

JEREMY

-- What? Make ripping my heart out easy? There's only one true love, Carolyn, and you just threw it away.

Jeremy wrings himself free, stumbles into the staring crowd.

Carolyn's parents, GERALD and VIVIAN, approach, accompanied by fashionably dressed aunt NICOLE. Vivian throws an accusing look at her sister.

VIVIAN

What did you say to her?

Nicole places a reassuring hand on Carolyn's shoulder while Jeremy eyes daggers at --

Carolyn's smiling, hopeful face staring back. MATCH CUT TO:

INT. CAROLYN'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - DAY

Carolyn (age 38) slowly awakes, pats the far-side pillow to find only a long-stemmed red rose and folded red letter.

SUPER READS: Twenty years later

The years have been good to Carolyn, intelligent eyes accentuated by laugh lines. She sniffs the rose and reads the letter.

CAROLYN
"Carolyn, my darling..."

She wraps a robe over her red pajamas as Richard's warm, lilting VOICE takes over:

RICHARD (V.O.)
...On this day of Valentine, this
sovereign commemoration of lovers
embraced in gossamer glow, know that I
do not require a calendar to mark the
date of my affection...

IN THE KITCHENETTE

Carolyn shuffles in with her letter, switches on the coffee, puts a tray of muffins into the oven.

RICHARD (V.O.)
...No single day can contain its mass,
so complex is it in its intricate
magnitude that all the spirits in all
the heavens could not together unravel
its simple, humble declaration...

IN THE LIVING ROOM

Carolyn throws open the curtains of a large window looking out over San Francisco's Nob Hill, coastal fog thinning.

RICHARD (V.O.) (CONT'D)
I whispered it softly in your ear...

IN THE BATHROOM - A SERIES OF ANGLES

RICHARD (V.O.)
"Can you hear me?" I dared ask. Your
warm breath grazed my skin in tender
response...

Carolyn digs furiously in her ear with a Q-Tip --