

HOW I MET YOUR MOTHER

"New Beginnings"

Season 2 Episode 23

By

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FADE IN:

ACT ONE

INT. 2029 LIVING ROOM - EVENING

TITLE CARD: 2029, Ted's Living Room.

PENNY and LUKE are seen sitting on the big, brown leather couch. They look at the camera and listen to the narrator.

NARRATOR (O.S.)  
Kids, I'm going to tell you about  
the time I went to California.

PENNY  
You went to California?

LUKE  
Yeah, since when do you leave New  
York?

NARRATOR (O.S.)  
I do. Your Uncle Barney, Marshall  
Lily, and I all made a promise to  
take time off from our lives and do  
something together.

PENNY  
What does this have to do with  
meeting mom?

NARRATOR (O.S.)  
I'll get to it.

LUKE  
We don't have all day, dad.

NARRATOR (O.S.)  
Alright, so it all started at  
MacLaren's...

The kids roll their eyes and screen transitions to a wide shot of the bar.

INT. MACLAREN'S PUB - PRESENT DAY 2006

MacLaren's is quiet with the faint clink of glasses from behind the bar.

(CONTINUED)

TED, MARSHALL, and LILY are sitting at their usual green upholstered booth. Each one holding a beer in their hand, the gang is talking.

TED

Are you guys excited for your second honeymoon? I can't believe you're going to California.

LILY

Yeah! I can't wait to be drinking wine, eatin' cheese, and doing other stuff. Right Marshmallow?

She makes a suggestive face at Marshall. They kiss each other from across the table.

LILY

It'll be much more mature than our first honeymoon. That was just hunting for the Loch Ness Monster.

MARSHALL

(defensively)

Lily... her name is Nessie.

Marshall slumps back in the booth.

LILY

We got a room a the Wine Country Inn in Santa Barbara. Apparently it's the next Napa Valley.

MARSHALL (CONTD)

What are you and Barney gonna do?

Ted sighs and looks down at his beer.

TED

I don't know, I already took the time off from work to relax. After your wedding, I don't think I should see anyone. Right when I thought I found "the one", she went off to Argentina.

LILY

So she wasn't the one Ted, there's another woman somewhere out there in New York. Big deal.

MARSHALL  
Yeah, maybe you'll find her this week or something.

The camera shows the entrance to the bar and we see Barney walking in.

BARNEY  
Guys, you, me, California.  
Tomorrow! It's gonna be Legen- wait for it-DARY!

He is holding up a paper proving he won a couple's trip for two in California.

TITLE SEQUENCE

INT. MACLAREN'S PUB

BARNEY  
Two tickets to Santa Barbara Ted!  
It's practically the next Napa Valley, but closer to the real Valley girls.

TED  
Barney, how did you get tickets to California?

MARSHALL  
Yeah this can't be legal.

BARNEY  
Well Theodore...

INT. BARNEY'S OFFICE

We see a golf ball as it rolls towards a coffee cup and lands in the mug. We see Barney in his office playing putt-putt. His "Awesome" poster sits behind him on the wall. His office phone rings.

BARNEY  
Barney Stinson!

BARNEY (V.O.)  
After you said "I do" to my wingmanship, I thought we should go anywhere but here, and entered us in a couple's trip to California, to getcha back out there.

He holds the phone to his ear and keeps a straight face. He slams down the phone and runs out of his office to get to the bar.

INT. MACLAREN'S PUB

BARNEY

*And, since you already took the time off from work, you can't say no.*

TED

I want to relax and be by myself Barney, not go on a couple's wine trip.

BARNEY

Come on, this is a free ticket to women and booze. What more could you want?

TED

Is that all it is?

BARNEY

Yes, and Valley girls are the next best thing, Ted. And one thing I need to knock off my list.

Barney looks at Ted with puppy dog eyes.

BARNEY (CONT'D)

Pretty please Ted?

TED

Okay fine Barney, I'll go with you.

Barney pulls two avocado's out of his pocket and gives one to Ted. He tries to give Ted a high five and smash them together.

BARNEY

Avocado five!

Ted declines and Barney is left holding his avocado in the air.

FADE OUT:

INT. AIRPORT - NEXT DAY

Ted is seen grabbing his boots off of the belt, a TSA worker laughs at them. He rushes off to Marshall and Lily walking with their bags out of security. Barney, wearing a nice suit, is standing there waiting for everyone. Ted wearing a casual button up is sitting down putting his shoes back on.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

So kids, we went to the airport the next morning and got on a plane to California.

BARNEY

Haven't you traveled before? First rule is always wear a suit. Why are you wearing boots to an airport?

TED

It's not 1978 anymore Barney.  
You're supposed to wear your  
heaviest stuff so your suitcase is  
light.

As Barney rolls his eyes, Marshall and Lily walk up. Lily has her neck pillow around her neck and a huge purse.

LILY

Sorry Marshall had to have his bag checked. Didn't you pack any luggage Barney?

BARNEY

The barnacle has his own personal item don't you worry.

Lily gives him a look of disgust. Ted stands up and adjusts his backpack.

MARSHALL

Why the boots Ted?

TED

Let's just get to the gate.

The screen transitions to the gang boarding the flight.

INT. AIRPLANE

The gang is walking down the aisle, holding their bags in front of them.

Barney takes the aisle seat with Ted in the middle. Marshall and Lily are across the aisle, with Marshall at the window. Barney stares down the aisle at the flight attendant.

BARNEY  
Mile high club here I come.

Ted has a look of disgust, but isn't surprised. Barney moves back into his seat.

TED  
I thought you did that already?

BARNEY  
Not with a flight attendant.

Ted rolls his eyes while we see Barney scheming.

TED  
So what are we doing?

BARNEY  
We have a wine tasting tomorrow, which we can skip. Wine is gross. Then, we go on a nature walk and learn how to build a "loving relationship!"

TED  
Barney, I'm not ready to meet anyone new. I just want to sit and relax this weekend.

BARNEY  
This weekend isn't about relaxation, it's about getting that Canadian loonie out of your brain. This is a fresh start.

BARNEY (CONT'D)  
I call it, "the movie producer". We start as producers looking for two hot women to star in our upcoming film. We'll screen them for the role and never see them again.

Barney motions his hands across the horizon. Ted is unenthusiastic.

INT. AIRPLANE - LATER

The flight attendant is walking down the aisle with the drink cart and makes eye contact with Barney.

FLIGHT ATTENDANT  
What will it be today sir?

BARNEY  
Scotch.

There is clearly something between the two.

FLIGHT ATTENDANT  
Would you like peanuts with that?

Barney goes wide eyed as she hands him his drink.

BARNEY  
Sure.

FLIGHT ATTENDANT  
They're in the back.

Barney collects himself, throws back his scotch and follows after her as she moves towards the back of the plane.

MARSHALL  
It's not fair Barney gets to join  
the mile high club. Why don't we do  
that again?

LILY  
Because we already did that on our  
first honeymoon. This honeymoon is  
all about maturing as a couple. We  
can have a fresh start with no  
creature hunting.

MARSHALL  
(suggestively)  
Yeah we did.

LILY  
I'm serious, we are married now, we  
should be more like adults.

MARSHALL  
But that's not fun, we can't become  
like all the other couples out  
there. We have all of our lives to  
be boring.

(CONTINUED)

LILY

Then what should we do?

MARSHALL

I have some ideas.

Barney comes back to his seat and sits down.

BARNEY

Alright Ted, your turn!

TED

No, I'm not doing that on a plane.  
We're almost there.

BARNEY

I'm going to get you to open up  
this week Ted, I can feel it.

INT. WINE COUNTRY INN - LATER

The screen wipes from the airplane to the gang with all of  
their luggage in the lobby. Barney walks up to the front  
desk.

DESK CLERK

Hi can I have a last name?

BARNEY

Stinson.

DESK CLERK

Okay... the honeymoon suite for  
Barney?As Barney takes the keys, we see Ted waiting with Marshall  
and Lily.

TED

I didn't know you guys would be at  
the same hotel.

LILY

(angrily)

I didn't either.

Lily is looking at Barney, not happy having to honeymoon  
with him around.

MARSHALL

Lily pad, it's okay we can be  
mature and spend time without him.  
We'll be fine.

(CONTINUED)

Barney walks up to the gang.

BARNEY  
To the honeymoon suite Theodore!

Marshall holds Lily's shoulders and turns her towards the stairs to leave.

CUT TO:

INT. HONEYMOON SUITE - CONTINUOUS

They door opens to reveal Ted and Barney in the doorway, Ted looking surprised. The room is large and nicely decorated with a bed and a sofa.

BARNEY  
Ah! Dibs on the bed.

INT. MARSHALL AND LILY'S HOTEL ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Marshall and Lily walk into their room. They set their luggage on the mattress and start to unpack. Marshall opens his suitcase and pulls out a baseball bat.

LILY  
Why did you bring a baseball bat?

MARSHALL  
You never know when you need it.

LILY  
Is that why you had to get your bag checked?

MARSHALL  
No, I brought some "sandwiches".

Marshall holds up a plastic bag revealing 2 sandwiches. The sandwiches are actually joints. Lily and Marshall laugh.

LILY  
Where are we going to eat those?  
Are we going in the woods or  
something?

MARSHALL  
I told you I had ideas.

Lily looks at the rest of his suitcase and notices camping gear.

(CONTINUED)

LILY

Marshall, why did you bring so much camping gear? Are you hunting Big Foot or something?

Lily laughs and immediately stops and looks at Marshall and starts to get mad.

LILY (CONTD)

You're not hunting Big Foot are you?

Marshall stops and sheepishly looks at Lily.

DISSOLVE TO:

ACT TWO

INT. HOTEL BAR - NEXT DAY

Ted and Barney are at a fancy hotel bar, drinks in their hands. Barney is talking to a blonde woman.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Kids, I didn't know if this couples weekend with your Uncle Barney would have me forget about Aunt Robin or not, but for a night it did.

BARNEY

Like a fine bottle of wine, I'd like to lay you sideways.

The woman rolls her eyes and walks off. Barney walks over to Ted who is enjoying his drink.

BARNEY (CONTD)

Ted! They aren't bitin'. These California women are harder to catch.

TED

Why don't we just enjoy being in California?

BARNEY

That's what the guided nature walk is for. I don't know why you can't stick to the plan.

(CONTINUED)

TED

We don't always have to be trying  
to sleep with someone Barney.

BARNEY

I won this contest fair and square,  
we are not skipping out. This  
weekend is for you, not me.

TED

Fine. We'll do it your way. But  
sleeping with someone is not what I  
had planned.

BARNEY

You plan everything, every last  
detail. I told you I'm going to get  
you to loosen up, just you wait.

TED

I don't plan everything!

BARNEY

When did you want to go to the  
lobby by?

TED

Well we have to be with the group  
at 2, so 1:30.

Barney gives Ted a look as to say, my point exactly.

BARNEY (CONTD)

Come on, Robin is off in Argentina.  
She is not thinking about lonely  
little Ted. So I'd like to play a  
little game I'd like to call,  
Haaaave ya met Ted?

Barney turns and taps on a woman's shoulder.

BARNEY

Have you met Ted?

Ted shyly smiles and waves to the woman.

EXT. HOTEL BREAKFAST BAR

Marshall and Lily are seen eating breakfast. Lily is still  
mad at Marshall from the night before.

(CONTINUED)

LILY

I thought we were going to have a nice romantic second honeymoon.

MARSHALL

We still can Lily! We don't have to be so grown up about it. We can still go on a romantic hike and eat those "sandwiches". You can enjoy the view and I can look for Big Foot.

LILY

Big Foot is states away, I don't think he is in California.

MARSHALL

He has big feet, I think he can walk. Come on.

LILY

We can just start with the hike for now.

MARSHALL

Alright let's go! There's a good trail right by the inn.

Marshall excitedly stands up and walks away.

LILY

Marshall! I didn't finish my food!

Lily grabs a piece of bacon and gets up to follow Marshall.

INT. HOTEL BAR

We see Ted still talking to the same woman.

TED

(Jokingly)

Yeah, people say I'm a barrel of fun.

The woman is clearly not interested and walks off. Barney sees her leave and walks up to Ted.

BARNEY

This isn't working.

(CONTINUED)

TED (CONTD)  
All my pick up lines suck. That  
woman couldn't even pretend to  
laugh. Let's just get to the lobby.

Ted starts walking and Barney follows.

INT. HOTEL LOBBY

We see five other couples and a trail guide waiting in the lobby. Barney and Ted stand on the edge of the crowd.

BARNEY  
Ted I think it's time we bring out  
"The movie producer". As soon as  
women hear you're filming a movie,  
they can't help themselves.

TED  
That can't work.

BARNEY  
Of course it will, people come to  
California to be discovered. The  
first hint of fame and they come  
running. Watch this.

Barney walks over to two women, PAIGE and HANNA, just outside their group.

BARNEY  
Hi, My name is Mark and I'm filming  
a movie here in California and am  
looking for a lead. Are you  
interested?

PAIGE  
Oh my gosh! Um, I'm Paige, this is  
Hanna.

BARNEY  
Well hello...come with me.

The trail guide gets everyone's attention. Barney looks at Ted to follow along as he brings the two women over.

TRAIL GUIDE  
Okay everyone, we are about to  
leave. Make sure you have  
everything you need and let's go.  
We have a nice trail for you folks  
today.

(CONTINUED)

Barney, Ted, Hanna, and Paige are standing together.

BARNEY

This is my colleague, Ryan. We are on a location scout for our next film.

HANNA

I'm Hanna. What movie is it?

BARNEY

That is confidential, we're still in the planning phase. But, we are going on this nature walk to see a possible spot.

TOUR GUIDE

Alright everyone, let's go!

Barney and Ted walk with the two women and keep talking with them.

EXT. NATURE WALK TRAIL - DAY

Lily and Marshall are seen starting their hike. Marshall has on a large backpack with the baseball bat sticking out of it. Lily is carrying a tent.

MARSHALL

See? isn't this nice?

Lily is panting, trying to carry the tent and keep up.

LILY

Can we take a break?

MARSHALL

No, We aren't there yet.

LILY

Where are we going?

MARSHALL

Don't worry Lil, we will be there in no time.

LILY

You better be leading us on an actual trail.

(CONTINUED)

MARSHALL  
I am, I know exactly where we are.

LILY  
I hope so. We are newly married, we  
should know how to follow a trail.  
Carry this tent would ya?

Lily gives the tent to Marshall and they keep walking.

EXT. NATURE WALK TRAIL - DAY

Barney, Ted, Paige, and Hanna are walking in a group. They  
are trailing behind the rest of the tour group. The trail is  
the same as Marshall and Lily's.

PAIGE  
So when do you guys start filming?

TED  
We haven't planned that yet. We're  
still in the beginning phases.

BARNEY  
Yeah, this is a very independent  
project.

HANNA  
What have you done before? Anything  
we know?

TED  
Yeah that one with Brad Pitt that  
just came out.

PAIGE  
You made that one?

BARNEY  
Yeah we've worked with some pretty  
big names and did some dangerous  
stunts.

TED  
So where are you ladies from?

HANNA  
I'm from Burbank in the valley, and  
Paige is from Long Beach.

Barney's face lights up. The group continues to walk.

(CONTINUED)

TED

What are you doing in Santa  
Barbara?

PAIGE

Hanna just got dumped, so I thought  
we could use a girls weekend.

BARNEY

Dumped you say? That's too bad.

Barney elbows Ted as if to say, Jackpot.

CUT TO:

EXT. NATURE WALK TRAIL - A BIT LATER

Marshall and Lily come up on an overlook. Marshall proudly stands to look out at the scenery. Lily comes up behind him and slams the tent down.

LILY

That looks nice. Are you ready to  
build this tent yet?

MARSHALL

Yeah, let's do it. This spot is  
perfect.

LILY

Perfect for what?

Marshall brings out a bottle of wine and some cheese and crackers from his backpack.

MARSHALL

I thought we could have a picnic. I  
know you think we are out here for  
Big Foot, but we can still have a  
mature meal.

LILY

Awe, Marshmallow.

Lily and Marshall kiss.

LILY (CONTD)

I know it's hard to be more mature,  
but as a newly married couple we  
should be more grown up. It's nice  
to not do something so crazy all  
the time.

(CONTINUED)

MARSHALL

Yeah it is kind of nice, just you, me, and some cheese.

Lily sees that Marshall tried and can tell he wants to do something more fun.

LILY

Do you wanna open those sandwiches now?

MARSHALL

Oh yeah!

Marshall shuffles through his bag and pulls out the plastic bag. He takes them out and laughs.

MARSHALL (CONTD)

I know this is legal here, but I'm biased towards New York Deli.

LILY

Well then let's go!

EXT. NATURE WALK TRAIL - LATER

The group is coming to a stop on the side of the trail. The group stops in front of the tour guide. Barney, Ted and the two women catch up and stand in the back.

TOUR GUIDE

Okay everyone, gather around. We will be doing a group exercise.

Barney stands across from Hanna and Ted pairs up with Paige.

TOUR GUIDE

Okay so what we will be doing is The Human Spring. You start standing close together touching only each others' hands. Then, you take a step back and lean forwards, pushing back against only your hands to return to a standing position.

The tour guide moves his hands. We see multiple couples getting farther apart. Barney gets it immediately while Ted has trouble getting the hang of it.

(CONTINUED)

TED  
Why is this so hard?

The tour guide walks around looking at everyone. He fixes Ted's posture.

BARNEY  
Come on Ted, keep up. You're making us look not awesome!

HANNA  
Who's Ted?

TOUR GUIDE  
Alright everyone that looks good!  
Now we are going to tell our partner something no one else knows.

BARNEY  
Uh, no one. Ted is his second name.

PAIGE  
I don't think so.

Paige walks away right as Ted leans in. Ted falls to the ground and gets covered in mud, leaves stick to his legs.

TED  
Barney! I knew this wouldn't work. Every time we go somewhere we have to put on some charade. I know I need to forget about Robin, but that was a year of my life! I thought we were going to spend the rest of our lives together. It's gonna take more time to get back on my feet than a weekend.

BARNEY  
I was only trying to help you forget about her for just a few days.

TED  
Maybe I can't!

Ted starts walking back onto the trail.

BARNEY  
Where are you going?

TED  
I'm going back to find Marshall and  
Lily.

The tour guide and crowd of couples stand there in silence.

TOUR GUIDE  
(To Barney)  
So how can I help your  
relationship?

We see Ted walking angrily off the path leaving his footprints in the dirt. He starts wander in the woods. It is getting darker out so he doesn't know which way to turn.

### ACT THREE

EXT. NATURE WALK TRAIL - EVENING

We see Lily and Marshall who are drunk on wine and high. They are sitting by their half set up tent, trying to figure out where the poles go.

LILY  
Where does this one go?

MARSHALL  
I don't know have you tried next to  
that one?

Lily tosses the pole on top of the tent.

MARSHALL  
That works!

Lily starts clapping.

MARSHALL (CONTD)  
Ya know this hike isn't so bad. We  
have wine, and some sandwiches.

LILY  
I know you wanted to look for Big  
Foot Marshall. I'm sorry you didn't  
get to.

MARSHALL  
I guess I just wanted to do one  
last thing for myself; that if I  
could just do this one thing, I  
would be ready to be an adult.

Marshall tosses another tent pole.

(CONTINUED)

MARSHALL (CONTD)

Marriage has real jobs and kids and everything. I wanted to do something before I had to grow up.

LILY

Oh, sweetie. We can still do things, look at us now. You took us on a hike and had a picnic. That's pretty mature.

MARSHALL

Yeah, I guess I just don't want to be so serious yet.

LILY

We could go back to the hotel room and do some not so serious stuff.

Marshall gets more excited. The two throw the tent in a bag and gather their stuff. Marshall and Lily start walking back to the hotel.

EXT. NATURE WALK TRAIL - NIGHT

Ted is still wandering in the woods. He is tired and starts to trip on his laces. Ted falls and breaks a few sticks. He is hunched over, trying to get back off the ground.

TED

Come onnn!!!

He shakes his fists in frustration.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Now kids, at this point, Marshall and Lily were on their way back to the hotel, Barney was still chasing women, and me? Well I was lost in the woods.

EXT. NATURE WALK TRAIL - NIGHT

Marshall and Lily are walking, giggling to themselves. It is now dark out.

MARSHALL

Do you see these footprints? They are huge.

(CONTINUED)

LILY  
Yeah those are giant!

They both laugh it off. Marshall's face turns from laughing to serious.

MARSHALL  
Wait stop do you hear that?

LILY  
Hear what?

MARSHALL  
Sounds like something breaking, and that wasn't us.

LILY  
Marshall we're pretty high, on a pretty empty stomach. You're hearing things.

MARSHALL  
No I'm serious.

Marshall digs in his bag and pulls out night vision goggles. He puts them on.

LILY  
What else is in your bag?

Marshall's POV - through night vision goggles.

Ted is seen covered in mud and leaves, struggling to get off the ground. He is hunched over and shakes his fists as he stands up. Marshall is hallucinating and mistakes Ted for Big Foot.

Marshall lowers the goggles from his eyes. His mouth hanging open.

MARSHALL  
Lil, I-I think we just found Big Foot.

Lily takes the goggles and looks through them herself. She lowers them and looks at Marshall wide-eyed.

LILY  
We have to go catch him!

The two run towards Ted.

EXT. NATURE WALK TRAIL - NIGHT

Ted is back off the ground, walking towards the path.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Kids, your Uncle Marshall was pretty full on sandwiches at this point, and was gonna stop at nothing until he got Big Foot.

Ted puts his hands on his knees to catch his breath.

EXT. NATURE WALK TRAIL - NIGHT

Marshall and Lily are crouched behind a bush watching Ted. They see he has stopped.

LILY

You gotta get him now before he starts moving.

MARSHALL

Lily, I've waited almost 30 years for this moment.

LILY

Marshall, NOW!

At the same time as Ted starts to walk again, Marshall jumps out of the bushes with his baseball bat running towards Ted and hits him.

MARSHALL

AHHHHH!!

TED

AHHHHH!!

The bat strikes Ted in the stomach and he immediately is on the ground, passed out from the pain. Marshall hovers over Ted's body to get a better look. Lily comes out and stands behind Marshall.

MARSHALL

Mmm, He looks smaller than I thought.

Marshall shines a flashlight on Ted's face.

LILY

Is that Ted?

(CONTINUED)

MARSHALL

Oh my god! Ted has been Big Foot  
this whole time?

LILY

No Marshall! We hit Ted, not Big  
Foot. We have to get him back to  
the hotel.

MARSHALL

How do we do that? I can't carry  
him that far.

They look at each other and then look at the tent.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - LATER

Ted is in bed asleep. From Ted's POV - his eyes open and we focus on Marshall and Lily looking at Ted.

LILY

He's waking up.

We are no longer in Ted's POV.

MARSHALL

Oh my gosh, He's alive!

TED

W-Why does my body hurt so much?  
How did I get back here?

LILY

Hi Ted, how ya feelin'?

MARSHALL

We can tell you everything.

EXT. EDGE OF WOODS - FLASHBACK

Marshall and Lily are holding both corners of the tent. Ted is seen laying on the tent, being dragged towards the hotel. Lily looks at Marshall.

LILY

Okay I think we have to get Ted off  
the tent or else it looks like we  
killed him.

END FLASHBACK

INT. HOTEL ROOM

Ted tries to get more comfortable in the bed.

LILY

Yeah, but don't worry Ted. We are taking care of you.

MARSHALL

We have food and more importantly some beer.

TED

Thanks guys, I've had a night. I think I might just go back to my room and sleep it off.

LILY

You sure? We're here if you want it.

Ted starts to get up from the bed and leaves.

INT. HOTEL HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Ted is walking down the hallway, holding his stomach. He gets to his door and sees that there is a sock on it. Ted walks in anyway to confront Barney.

TED

Barney!

BARNEY

(surprised)

Oh, hey Ryan.

Barney is clearly in bed with a girl, who is under the sheets.

TED

Hanna?

Ted closes the door and starts walking back to Marshall and Lily's room.

TED (CONTD)

How did that work?

INT. HOTEL HALLWAY

Ted knocks on the door. Marshall and Lily answer it.

TED

I'll take that beer now.

Marshall and Lily welcome him in. They offer him a beer.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

TED (CONTD)

What did you guys do today?

MARSHALL

Just went on a hike, had a picnic.

LILY

Yeah, very mature things.

TED

I can't believe you guys are on  
your second honeymoon, and I can't  
even get to one.

LILY

That's okay Ted. Commit to being  
Barney's wing man and you'll get  
there. Baby steps.

MARSHALL

Yeah enjoy doing crazy things  
before you have to grow up. The  
sandwiches and alcohol aren't that  
bad.

Marshall, Lily, and Ted are all sitting together laughing  
and drinking. Ted laughs and immediately winces from the  
pain.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

So kids, I spent that night in  
Marshall and Lily's room. Barney  
checked "Valley Girl" off his list.  
I got to relax the next few days  
before flying home.

INT. MACLAREN'S PUB - A FEW DAYS LATER

We see Marshall, Lily, and Ted slide into the usual green booth, drinks in their hands.

TED  
I can't believe we went to  
California.

MARSHALL  
I can't believe I thought you were  
Big Foot.

Ted smiles and looks down at his drink. Barney enters the bar and slides into the booth next to Ted.

BARNEY  
What are we talking about?

LILY  
Big Foot.

BARNEY  
Oh cool. Did I tell you guys I got  
a Valley Girl?

TED  
I can't believe that worked! That  
shouldn't have after I left  
considering you messed up so bad.

BARNEY  
I messed it up? Ted.

TED  
If I didn't leave, would it have  
worked?

BARNEY  
Fair. But after you left, the one  
took it pretty rough, but Hanna  
didn't care! She was too  
heartbroken over her ex and let me  
tell you, the "fix me I'm broken  
sex", hot.

TED  
Okay we get it. Anyways... thanks  
for taking care of me guys. I  
needed all of you guys whether I  
forgot about Robin or not. You guys  
are my best friends.

(CONTINUED)

LILY

Sorry we thought you were Big Foot,  
Ted.

Barney looks at Marshall curiously. Marshall looks guilty but nods yes.

TED

I'd like to make a toast. A toast to new beginnings. I think I'm ready to get back out there and find her.

LILY

Awe, proud of you Ted. To new beginnings.

MARSHALL

New beginnings.

BARNEY

I'm your best friend though, right Ted?

Ted laughs and holds his beer up.

BARNEY (CONTD)

Say I'm your best friend!

The gang holds up all of their drinks. The screen transitions to Penny and Luke.

INT. 2029 LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Penny and Luke are sitting on the brown couch, a fire in the fire place. They look towards the narrator confused.

PENNY

So did you meet mom that week?

NARRATOR (V.O.)

No... I didn't.

LUKE

That story didn't have anything to do with mom?

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Well no, but what is more important than friendship?

Both kids roll their eyes.

(CONTINUED)

LUKE

Yeah, Uncle Marshall thinking you  
were Big Foot was a real moment of  
friendship.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Hey, you never know.

PENNY

Can we go now dad?

NARRATOR (V.O.)

I'm nowhere near done yet.

FADE TO BLACK: