

Married to Marriage

By

Jennifer L. Giraldo

Cast of Characters

Andy:

a man

Kim:

a woman

Scene

A Room

Time

Night

Scene 1

*Lights up on KIM and ANDY reading separately on the couch. ANDY is holding a notebook with a pen and KIM is reading a fashion magazine. ANDY speaks with his head down.*

ANDY

Marry me?

*KIM turns the page. ANDY finds his words. He changes tones several times still speaking with his head down.*

ANDY

Will...you marry me? Make me the luckiest person  
I...no, no. Say I do. Share your life with me. Marry  
me, dammit!

KIM

No.

ANDY

No?

KIM

Why?

ANDY

Why not?

KIM

It doesn't work.

ANDY

This is news to me. It could work.

KIM

Show me.

ANDY

What?

KIM

Show me how this is playing out in your head.

ANDY

I don't have to prove anything to you.

*Silence.*

(CONTINUED)

ANDY

I'm not playing your little game, Kim.

*Silence. ANDY flips back a few pages and reads.*

ANDY

Andrea and Dick meet in line at the grocery store, both purchasing oatmeal. Realizing that they are a rare breed, they date for eight months and fall in love. One day, Andrea puts an engagement ring in Dick's oatmeal and proposes. Everything works out for the couple, my book gets published, and you apologize for doubting my writing again.

KIM

What's this one called?

ANDY

Kim Apologizes for Doubting my Writing Again

KIM

I think I know how this one ends.

*KIM goes to put her magazine away.*

ANDY

That's where I need help.

KIM

You sure do.

ANDY

You can't see yourself proposing to me?

KIM

You're putting a lot of pressure on me, coming up with endings in your novels and in your life.

ANDY

I'll call you out on that one. Marriage is actually the beginning.

KIM

Maybe in the worlds you create. In the "novel" I just read, the protagonist had to learn 15 Ways to Keep Her Partner Satisfied.

ANDY

Marriage isn't about satisfaction. My parents taught me that.

KIM

If marriage is only the beginning, how is it that all of your novels end in a wedding?

ANDY

I let my readers create their own closure. I allow people to picture love as it lives forever.

KIM

Why can't these two just continue their lives as they are? They seem happy with each other and their oatmeal. What does marriage change?

ANDY

It changes the whole...because you get to...a wedding, Kim! You get a wedding!

KIM

Sounds like this beginning you speak of is romanticized. Everyday isn't going to be a fairytale wedding. There are the raw essentials that make a person, like what I look like when I wake up or how I look in these sweatpants.

ANDY

What's wrong with your sweatpants?

KIM

They're sweatpants, Andy! The women I read about wear make-up and heels and silk to bed!

*KIM returns to the couch.*

ANDY

You can wear your heels to bed. I actually might enjoy-

KIM

Those aren't real women. Everything I read about, everything I watch, and everything sold in stores is a highly idealized mold of what society thinks a woman should look like at the time. Then consumers are forced to follow suit. I can't allow you to marry your couple again. I'm not standing by while you add to society's nonsense parade. It's encouraging a norm that not everyone needs to follow.

ANDY

I'm not asking for your opinion anymore.

KIM

I mean, why wear a ring? Why place arbitrary meaning on a piece of scrap metal?

ANDY

Now what's your problem with rings?

KIM

How much time do you have?

ANDY

I'm not going to play your little game. You always do this.

KIM

It's ridiculous to pay exorbitant amounts of money on a ring to prove love. It sets expectations and debts higher. There is absolutely no more meaning to a piece of metal around my finger than there is a rubber ring around my hair.

ANDY

It's a symbol.

KIM

Why use symbols?

ANDY

We make them meaningful within their own contexts. Your hair tie does mean something. It represents something in the context of this very situation. It means you are washing your face before bed.

KIM

I'm not intentionally-

ANDY

It represents how glorious you look with your hair away from your face with no make-up on at all.

KIM

You see, why do I have to wear make-up in the first place?

ANDY

You are as beautiful as you are obstinate. I bet you couldn't bare to be married, even for one day. You've created your own ideas of it and you won't even give it a try. Just like sushi.

KIM

You wouldn't dare.

ANDY

Marry me.

(CONTINUED)

KIM

You don't have the guts.

ANDY

Just for tomorrow. Be my life-long partner just for tomorrow and I'll leave you alone forever.

KIM

Now you're sounding like my parents.

ANDY

I'm serious.

KIM

Me too. I'm not playing your little game.

*KIM reaches for the light.*

ANDY

Do it for me. Do it for my novel. Show me that it doesn't work.

KIM

It's not just a day. Novels, movies, and magazines only talk about days. It's a life-time commitment.

ANDY

Show me the way your marriage would be, sweatpants and all.

KIM

Alright, you're on. But if nothing feels different to you, then the wedding is off in your novel.

ANDY

Twist!

KIM

You only write about marriage. You've never experienced it. You wouldn't last one hour

ANDY

You know my reputation for lasting...It's impressive.

KIM

If we're going to do this, you're going to have to realize what it means to be married. In other words, nothing changes at all.

ANDY

And you have to be open to participating in a grand tradition.

KIM

Well, then we should probably recite our vows.

ANDY

Fine. You go first.

*KIM and ANDY take hands and face each other.*

KIM

I promise to keep in mind the best interest of this relationship for all of tomorrow and for the rest of my life as I normally would have in the past. I will also keep in mind that marriage is simply a label, and that I am not going to be any more or less committed to you than I was before.

ANDY

This ceremony is supposed to be the best day of our lives. Try to be more uplifting. Your parents are here for God's sake.

KIM

I promise to be as pragmatic as possible in regards to our love. I promise to wear an overly expensive ring because other people have to know that I am-

ANDY

Wonderful! I'll go. I promise to hold you and cherish you tomorrow. I promise to support you in everything, for what's best for you is best for us. You are my teammate, my best friend, and my co-author. Let's write this story together.

*KIM acts asleep by the time he stops speaking. KIM and ANDY exit to opposite sides of the stage, then return.*

*KIM and ANDY sit separately on the couch. Silence as KIM reads and ANDY writes.*

KIM

We have car payments due tomorrow. Want me to pay them?

ANDY

I have this month's.

KIM

I have to go into work a little early tomorrow. The good news is I can be home earlier for dinner. Anything you want in particular?

(CONTINUED)

ANDY

I like anything you make.

*ANDY looks at his watch.*

ANDY

...and we're divorced.

KIM

Did you get what you wanted?

ANDY

That depends, did you lose every sense of identity that made you an independent woman?

KIM

I actually felt strange.

ANDY

Strange?

KIM

I felt a part of something bigger than myself. I felt like I was finally in on some societal inside joke.

ANDY

So marriage is a joke now?

KIM

No, no. I just felt included. I liked it. It wasn't totally different, but I noticed a change in how I saw us. I felt like a team. I felt invested. I was on the phone with my brother in the living room and something about the way you looked at me.

ANDY

I always look at you.

KIM

Yes, but he was explaining how awful everything was with his marriage, and I looked at you smiling at me. I just knew that you...nevermind.

ANDY

What?

KIM

I could tell you weren't just looking at my make-up. You were looking at me, as a partner.

ANDY

I actually didn't find today any different than how we treat each other now. I even forgot a couple times

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ANDY (cont'd)  
about our whole deal. I guess you were right about  
nothing changing.

KIM  
Today was just the raw part of the marriage. We didn't  
have a big wedding or a huge online announcement. It  
wasn't marriage for the wrong reasons.

ANDY  
I think what we have works. You were right. Andrea and  
Dick are ideal; they're a made-up fairytale living in a  
world I created.

KIM  
Then let's create our own world.

ANDY  
What?

KIM  
Marry me.

ANDY  
I-

KIM  
Say I do. Make me the luckiest person. Share your life  
with me.

ANDY  
Will you wear your sweatpants and your natural beauty  
to bed?

KIM  
Yes.

ANDY  
Will you represent this relationship in the practical  
manner that you see fit?

KIM  
Always.

ANDY  
Then my answer is the same. I would marry you everyday,  
but I don't want marriage right now. I just want to  
share my life with you, no ideas or expectations  
attached.

*KIM and ANDY embrace. ANDY finishes writing as KIM  
goes to leave.*

KIM  
Writing the wedding scene?

ANDY  
Actually, I have a new ending in mind.

*Blackout.*

END