

The Brothers McMullen

(Fox Searchlight, 1995)



Screenplay by Edward Burns

Directed by Edward Burns

Characters: ANN (Elizabeth P. McKay)

JACK (Jack Mulcahy)

NOTES: JACK, Barry and Patrick are first generation Irish brothers who grew up on Long Island, the sons of a “wife-beating, child-abusing alcoholic” and a long suffering mother. When their father dies, Mom buries him and quickly returns to Ireland to rejoin a long lost love. She leaves the house to the boys, saying, “Don’t make the same mistake I did!”—marrying the wrong person. Five years later, JACK is five years married to Molly and living in the family house on Long Island; Barry, a “lapsed Catholic” and problem drinker, has been through a recent break-up and moved back in; and Patrick, the youngest, has just graduated from college and is facing “real life” with all his decisions. He also has just moved back in. After a dinner party to celebrate Molly’s birthday, JACK drives one of the guests, ANN, back into Manhattan. She makes a proposition.

INTERIOR. JACK’S CAR—EVENING

JACK and ANN sit in the front seat. Neither one seems to be in any hurry to leave.

ANN: Thanks for driving me all the way into the city, Jack. I mean, you really didn’t have to do that.

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JACK: Hey, no problem. I mean, Barry and half a bottle of Irish whiskey is not my idea of safe driving.

ANN: So, other than cook cabbage and corned beef on his wife’s birthday, what does a high school basketball coach do with his spare time?

JACK: Oh . . . things like . . . play golf, fish, drink a lot of beers. But I’m actually taking a sports management course in NYU at the moment.

ANN: (*sarcastically*) Oh, very exciting . . . And . . . Molly, what does she do?

JACK: She teaches English at the high school.

ANN: She’s a teacher too . . . Really exciting. What, did you two meet at a PTA meeting or something?

JACK: No, it was . . . it was actually during cafeteria duty.

ANN: In the hot-lunch line, I hope.

JACK: Yeah, something like that.

ANN: Uh, I’ll . . . bet you were a big jock stud in high school, weren’t you? Running around in the backseat of your father’s Buick, breaking all the little girls’ hearts?

JACK: No, I’ve . . . I’ve always been pretty much a one-woman kind of guy.

ANN: That’s what my ex-husband said when I met him.

JACK: And he wasn’t?

ANN: No, he was . . . I just wasn’t a one-man kind of girl.

JACK: I don’t buy that. Your problem is that you just haven’t found the right man yet.

ANN: I’ve found plenty of them. My problem is that they all want to marry me. You know, if I was smart, I’d find myself a nice married man.

JACK: What good would that do you?

ANN: Because then there would be no question as to what either one of us wanted from the relationship . . . now, would there?

JACK knows where this is headed and doesn't appear all that comfortable. He takes a look at his watch.

ANN: Yeah, it's getting late.

JACK: Yeah.

ANN: Do you feel like coming up for a cup of coffee or something?

JACK: Oh... No, thanks, I should be getting back to the Island... traffic and stuff...

ANN: All right, some other time then.

JACK: Yeah, some other time.

ANN: Okay, some other time.

JACK: Okay.

ANN: Thanks for the ride, Jack.

ANN leans over and gives JACK a quick kiss.

ANN: Have a good night.

JACK: 'Bye.

STOP

The Brothers McMullen (2)

(Fox Searchlight, 1995)



Screenplay by Edward Burns

Directed by Edward Burns

Characters: BARRY (Ed Burns)

AUDREY (Maurine Bahus)

NOTES: BARRY has somewhat conquered his fear of intimacy long enough to move out of the house on Long Island (see notes for previous scene) and start a relationship with AUDREY. But when his budding career as a screenwriter/director starts to happen, he backs out of it. Marty is his agent. He has just called AUDREY's place looking for BARRY to tell him the good news about his film deal. BARRY shows up a few minutes later.

INTERIOR, AUDREY'S APARTMENT—DAY

BARRY enters AUDREY's apartment. She is just finishing packing her bags.

BARRY: What's going on with all these bags?

AUDREY: All your stuff's in the blue bag.

BARRY: What do you mean? You going someplace?

AUDREY: I'm moving out.

BARRY: What do you mean? Where are you going?

AUDREY: I'm going home to New Jersey to take care of my dad for a while.