

COUPLES

WRITTEN BY ALFRED WAYNE CARTER

INT. KITCHEN - MORNING

The kitchen is a bit of a mess. Plates are piled high on the counter and on the sink. Pots are stacked on the stove.

BILL, in his robe and still not quite awake, sits at the table where his "STAR TREK" MUG is waiting for him filled with tea. He delicately handles it like it was the Holy Ark of the Covenant. He looks at the window and listens to the sound of birds CHIRPING.

A pile of DISHES towering out of the sink suddenly CRASHES down and explodes across the kitchen floor with hell-born fury.

BILL leaps from his chair in surprise, lifting the table up with him and sending his beloved "STAR TREK" MUG into orbit. He throws his body across the table in a futile effort to catch its fall, but it drops past his outstretched fingertips and SHATTERS into the wreckage below.

FADE OUT

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

CHARACTER

Bill is in his mid-thirties. In this scene his hair is disheveled and his robe is the kind his wife has wanted to throw away for years. It's plaid, heavy, and slightly ragged. He's not fully awake.

LOCATION

The kitchen is fairly upscale. The kitchen table is round and about five feet in diameter. The newspaper and salt and pepper shakers are on the table. The layout of the kitchen is shown below.

ACTION

Bill is still not fully awake as he sits at the table. His hair is a mess and he's somewhat slumped over—obviously not a morning person.

Bill picks up his mug affectionately with both hands and holds it up by his face. While his eyes don't open much, he smiles in appreciation for his mug and for how this tea will make him feel in a moment.

Bill looks at the window toward where the birds are singing outside with a look of "where has the joy in my life gone?" When the dishes fall, his eyes snap wide open and he leaps into action. When he quickly stands up, his lap knocks the table up hard, throwing his mug forward in the air.

In slow motion, we see Bill from the opposite side of the table leaping towards us with a look of fear on his face as he reaches for his beloved mug. We see the mug barely miss his fingers in a close-up. From a high angle, looking straight down, the mug shatters on the floor spewing tea in every direction.

The last shot we see is from just above the table surface of Bill lying dejectedly across the table towards the camera.

EXPERIMENT BY DAN ANTKOWIAK

