

## Melinda and Melinda

Sy (Wallace Shawn) is enjoying dinner in Franch restaurant with some friends when they begin debating the nature of the tragic and the humorous. Sy, observing that a very fine line separates the two, decides to demonstrate this notion by showing how the same essential story can be either funny or sad depending on the way certain elements are handled; for the rest of the film, we jump back and forth between two versions of the story of Melinda (Radha Mitchell), a young woman with some serious problems in her life. In the tragic version, Melinda crashes a dinner party thrown by old friends Laurel (Chloë Sevigny) and Lee (Jonny Lee Miller). When she arrives, Melinda is distraught and under the influence of pills and alcohol, much to the annoyance of Lee, an actor hoping to impress a producer who is one of his guests. After a bad breakup with her husband, Melinda lost custody of her children and came to New York City, where she became involved with Ellis Moonsong (Chiwetel Ejiofor), a handsome and well-mannered composer whose promises to her proved to be worthless. Meanwhile, on the funny side of town, Melinda shows up dazed and confused at the home of Susan (Amanda Peet) and Hobie (Will Ferrell), who are in the midst of a dinner party. Learning about the sad state of Melinda's love life after divorcing her husband and losing custody of her children, Susan decides to play Cupid and fix her friend up with a well-to-do dentist. However, neither Susan nor Melinda are aware that there is another man deeply interested in the troubled divorcée...

## Cast

Radha Mitchell	as	Melinda
Chloë Sevigny	as	Laurel
Jonny Lee Miller	as	Lee
Will Ferrell	as	Hobie
Amanda Peet	as	Susan
Chiwetel Ejiofor	as	Ellis
Wallace Shawn	as	Sy
Josh Brolin	as	Greg
Vinessa Shaw	as	Stacey
Steve Carell	as	Walt
Arija Bareikis	as	Sally
Matt Servitto	as	Jack
Zak Orth	as	Peter
Brooke Smith	as	Cassie
Daniel Sunjata	as	Billy
Larry Pine	as	Max
Andy Borowitz	as	Doug

## Memorable quotes (with notes on difficult vocabulary)

Susan: I wish we could **afford** a place in the Hamptons. Everybody who's anybody has one.

Hobie: Yeah, but if you're somebody who's nobody, it's no fun to be around anybody who's everybody.

**To afford:** permittersi

Melinda: Why do things that start off so promisingly always have a way of ending up in the **dump**?

Ellis: Not for everyone.

**Dump:** scarica; **To end up in the dump:** (qui) andare a finire male/andare storto

Melinda: Well, for anybody with any imagination. You know, life is **manageable** enough if you keep your hopes modest. The minute you allow yourself sweet dreams you run the risk of them **crashing down**.

**Manageable:** gestibile/affrontabile; **To crash down:** (qui) distruggersi/dissolversi

Greg: What do you do for exercise?

Hobie: **Tiddly winks**. And an occasional anxiety attack.

Walt: Maybe you should go back to your **shrink**...discuss it.

Hobie: He just recommended Prozac. I think he has **stock** in the company, honestly.

**Tiddly winks:** il gioco della pulce; **Shrink:** strizzacervelli; **Stock:** (qui) azioni

Melinda: You're the piano player.

Ellis: Not any more. **I'm on a break**. A mysterious stranger has, uh, temporarily **taken over**, and I must say she plays beautifully. Hey, are your eyes **misting over**?

Melinda: The song... it's meaningful to me. It was playing the night I met someone.

Ellis: So, are they tears of sorrow or tears of joy?

Melinda: Well, aren't they the same tears?

Ellis: Yeah.

**To be on a break:** prendersi una pausa; **To take over:** (qui) prendere il posto di qualcuno/sostituire; **To mist over:** inumidirsi; **Are your eyes misting over?:** hai gli occhi lucidi?

Hobie: They still talk about my portrayal of King Lear. I played it **with a limp**.

**With a limp:** zoppicando

Susan: Isn't he charming, and don't tell me he's not gorgeous!

Hobie: If you like perfect **features**.

**Features:** (qui) lineamenti/fattezze

Sources: [http://www.fandango.com/melindaandmelinda\\_85917/plotsummary](http://www.fandango.com/melindaandmelinda_85917/plotsummary)  
<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0378947/quotes?ref=ttpl ql trv 4>