

Something's gotta give (2003)

Harry Sanborn (Jack Nicholson) is a wealthy New York businessman who has had a habit of dating women under 30 for 40 years. When he and his latest conquest, Marin Barry (Amanda Peet), drive to her mother's Hamptons beach house on the coast, his life turns upside down.

Expecting to be alone, Harry and Marin are surprised by Marin's mother, successful playwright Erica Barry (Diane Keaton), and her sister Zoe (Frances McDormand). After an awkward dinner, the night turns disastrous when during foreplay with Marin Harry has a heart attack and is rushed to a hospital. The handsome young doctor, Julian Mercer (Keanu Reeves), tells Harry to stay in the area for a few days, and so Harry ends up staying with Erica. Their differing personalities initially make for awkward living arrangements, until the two begin to get to know each other.

Soon, the two have fallen in love but live very different lifestyles: Erica's determined to be single and independent, and Harry constantly desires new women and experiences. Also, Harry is dating Marin and Julian has fallen for Erica, which leaves the two struggling to deal with their current relationships with others, but also work on their own. Marin soon breaks up with Harry after she suspects that he's in love with her mother. The break up is not out of anger, but rather she wants her mother to be able to have a relationship with him and for her own life to move on. Harry and Erica spend more time together and the relationship they have with each other gets even more serious. Harry's improving health means that he no longer has to stay with Erica, and in a very awkward decision, he heads home.

Meanwhile, Marin receives news that her father, Erica's ex-husband, is getting remarried. Although Erica is unaffected by the news, Marin is devastated. She pressures her mother into going to dinner with her to meet her father's new fiancée. At dinner, Erica is the life of the party until she sees Harry at another table with another woman and is crushed because she realizes that she still loves him. Harry spots Erica and tries to convince her that the woman was just a friend and that they weren't in a relationship. In the argument that follows, Harry suffers from what he believes is another heart attack and is rushed to the hospital where he is told that it is only a panic attack but he must rest.

Erica also goes back home and breaks down into tears. Although she is heartbroken, she figures that the events that are happening in her own life would be great to use in a play, and thus starts to write a play on the whole experience. While at lunch with a friend, presumably an actress, Harry hears her ramble about a new play that she is auditioning for and starts to summarize it while explaining how funny it is. Harry nearly chokes when he realizes the play is about him and rushes to the stage where it is being rehearsed, and sees Erica. They don't manage to heal the wounds that have been made and Erica tells Harry to get on with life.

The story then opens up six months later in Paris where Erica is spending her birthday with her new boyfriend, Julian, whom she met when Harry had his first episode. Harry shows up to the restaurant where she is eating because of an agreement they made earlier, that they'd spend their birthdays (Erica in January, Harry in February) together in Paris. Harry and Erica are extremely happy to see each other and once again realize how much they love each other. Erica's boyfriend interrupts when he enters the restaurant a little late. They never have time to really tell each other their true feelings until hours after the dinner.

Cast

Jack Nicholson	as	Harry Sanborn
Diane Keaton	as	Erica Barry
Keanu Reeves	as	Julian Mercer
Amanda Peet	as	Marin Klein
Frances McDormand	as	Zoe
Jon Favreau	as	Leo
Paul Michael Glaser	as	Dave Klein
Rachel Ticotin	as	Dr. Martinez
KaDee Strickland	as	Kristen
Peter Spears	as	Danny Benjamin

Memorable quotes (with notes on difficult vocabulary)

Zoe: Come on, this is really fascinating, what's going on at this table.

Marin: Zoe teaches women's studies at Columbia.

Harry: Ok, so this is gonna hurt.

Zoe: No. Let's take you and Erica.

Erika: Zoe...

Zoe: **You've been around the block** a few times. Am I right? What are you around 60? 63. Fantastic! Never married, which as we know, if you were a woman, would be a **curse**. You'd be an old maid, a **spinster**. Blah, blah, blah. So instead of pitying you, they write articles about you. Celebrate your never marrying. You're **elusive** and ungettable, a real **catch**. Then, there's my gorgeous sister here.

Erika: No, wait what?

Zoe: Listen this is interesting. Look at her. She is so **accomplished**. The most successful female playwright since who? Lillian Hellmann? She's over 50, divorced, and she **sits in** night after night after night because the available guys her age want something – forgive me for saying this – they want something that looks like Marin. So the whole over-50 dating scene is **geared** towards men **leaving** older women **out**. And as a result, the women become more and more productive and therefore, more and more interesting. Which, in turn, makes them even less desirable because as we all know, men – especially older men – are threatened and definitely afraid of productive and interesting women. It is just so clear! Single older women as a demographic are about as fucked a group as can ever exist.

To have been around the block: non essere più di primo pelo; **curse:** maledizione, disgrazia; **spinster:** zitella; **elusive:** sfuggente; **catch:** (qui) buon partito; **accomplished:** realizzata; **to sit in:** restare a casa; **geared towards:** (qui) orientata verso; **to leave out:** escludere.

Dave: Okay, I'm **getting out of your hair**. So you're not ready to show me any new pages?

Erica: Dave...

Dave: I'm not putting any pressure on you. I'm just asking.

Marin: Dad! I didn't know you were here.

Dave: Just **on my way out** puppy.

Marin: I was gonna drive back to the city with Zoe, but I'd much rather go with you.

Dave: Actually, I have someone to meet before I go.

Erica: Wait. Wait, wait, wait, wait. You're leaving? Zoe's leaving? The entourage is leaving? I'm gonna be **stuck with** him, alone?

Marin: The hospital's sending over a nurse first thing in the morning.

Erica: In the morning? That's like 19 hours from now. Okay, I can **handle** this.

To get out of someone's hair: togliere il disturbo; **to be on one's way out:** stare per uscire; **to be stuck with someone:** dover sorbire la presenza di qualcuno; **to handle:** saper gestire, affrontare.

Harry: Ehi, what's up?

Erica: Okay, **here's the thing**. I really don't wanna play the part of the **uptight** nurse to a bad-boy patient. If you wanna have another heart attack, you go ahead, it's your life. But I have work to do and I don't have time to make another run to the hospital because you're filling your already **clogged** arteries with smoke. But more importantly...I'd rather not have my freshly painted house smell like a **pool hall**.

Here's the thing: le cose stanno così/la situazione è questa; **uptight:** rigida, severa; **clogged:** intasate, ostruite; **pool hall:** sala da biliardo.

Erica: I'm like the **dumb girl** that doesn't **get** it. I've never been the dumb girl before. It ain't so great.

Harry: Let's just calm down. I had these plans before I even met you. I mean, I do like seeing you. I do.

Erica: Yeah.

Harry: I'm always surprised by it.

Erica: Surprised by it? What was I thinking?

Harry: I have never lied to you. I have always told you some version of the truth.

Erica: The truth doesn't have versions, okay?

Harry: Will you **cut me a little slack**? My life has just been turned upside down.

Erica: Mine too!

Harry: Well, then let's just each **get our bearings**.

Erica: I don't want my bearings. I've had my bearings my whole goddamn life. I feel something with you that I never really knew existed. Do you know what that's like, after a 20-year marriage to feel something for another person that is so...? That... Oh, right. Right. Not your problem. God. Do you know that I've written this, but I never really got it? Do you know what this is?

Harry: No.

Erica: This is heartbreaking. How's that for **impervious**.

Harry: You're killing me.

Erica: I just wish that it had lasted more than a week.

Harry: Me too.

Erica: That is a terrible thing to say. You know, the life I had before you, I knew how to do that. I could do that forever. But now look at me. What am I gonna do? What am I gonna do with all this? Taxi?

Harry: Erica. Can you wait just a second? The truth is, I... I just... I don't know how to be a boyfriend.

Erica: That's what you have to say after all of this? That you don't know how to be a boyfriend?

Harry: That's not a small thing.

Erica: **Are we done?**

Harry: I don't know.

Erica: Oh, my God.

Dumb girl: stupida, scema, sciocca; **to get:** (qui) arrivarci, capire qualcosa; **to cut someone a little slack:** dare tregua a qualcuno; **to get one's bearings:** decidere cosa fare (della propria vita); **impervious:** distaccato, impenetrabile.

Marin: Are you crying?

Erica: Yeah. It's my new thing. I've gotten abnormally brilliant at it.

Marin: Why? What is it?

Erica: I'm in love. Ain't it great? Seems like I gotta learn how to do that... **love-them-and-leave-them stuff**, you know?

Marin: Oh mom, I hate this. Now do you get my theory about all this? You gotta self-protect.

Erica: You don't really **buy this stuff you say**, do you? You don't actually think that you can **outsmart** getting hurt?

Marin: I think it's worth trying.

Erica: Listen to me. You can't hide from love for the rest of your life because maybe it won't **work out...** maybe you'll become **unglued**? It's just not a way to live.

Marin: Are you telling me this is good? What's happened to you?

Erica: I think you should consider the possibility that you and I are more alike than you realize. I let someone in, and I had the time of my life.

Marin: I've never had the time of my life.

Erica: I know, baby. And I say this from the deepest part of my heart. What are you waiting for?

Love-them-and-leave-them stuff: tira e molla; **to buy stuff one says:** credere a ciò che uno dice; **to outsmart:** essere più furbo di, eludere; **to work out:** (qui) funzionare, andare bene; **to become unglued (AmE):** (qui) fallire.

Harry: I'm just moving into another phase with this thing. I'm **mad at** you.

Erica: I think I'm mad at you too.

Harry: Excellent because I don't like thinking about you so much and worrying about how you are and if I ruined your life.

Erica: You have worried about me?

Harry: Yes, honey. The **schmuck** who deserves to die worries about you. Sometimes worrying about you feels like a full-time job.

Erica: Well doll I'm doing just fine, so you don't have to **work that shift** anymore!

To be mad at someone: essere arrabbiati con qualcuno; **schmuck:** brutto; **to work a shift:** fare il turno. (Qui) non devi più occupartene.

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