

## The very thought of you

Fed up with her dead-end job with a Minneapolis car rental agency, Martha quits, cashes her final paycheck, and uses the money to purchase an airline ticket to the least expensive international destination she can find - London. At the airport, she meets Daniel, a successful music label executive, who covertly arranges for her to be upgraded to First Class and seated next to him on the flight. When she sells the ticket to another passenger and Daniel finds his seatmate is an obnoxiously loud woman instead of the girl of his dreams, he moves back to the Economy section and takes the vacant seat next to Martha. Before landing in London, he offers her the use of a deluxe suite in a luxury hotel at his company's expense in exchange for a lunch date the following day.

Through a series of flashbacks and flashforwards, we learn Laurence, a former bridge champion who now teaches the game to wealthy women, went to the airport to pick up Daniel but missed him because the flight landed early. Instead, he literally runs into Martha, who hits him with a luggage cart while searching for the exit. She coerces him into taking her into the city and invites him to the suite for dinner. While she is in the bathroom, a bouquet of flowers from Daniel is delivered to the suite, and when Laurence sees the attached card, he departs without explanation.

The following day, Martha meets struggling actor Frank, who has fled an audition in a panic and has gone to the park to console himself with a pint of whiskey. Having heard about her from Daniel, he realizes who she is and calls Laurence to boast that he is about to make her his conquest. He takes her to a nearby art gallery. Martha slips away and heads for the exit, where she reunites with Laurence, who was looking for the pair. He invites her back to his flat, and she accepts.

Torn between loyalty to Daniel and love for Martha, Laurence seeks advice from Pederson, a neighbour he mistakenly believes is a psychiatrist, in the early morning hours. In the interim, Martha awakens and, seeing a photograph of the three friends, assumes she has been the target of an elaborate practical joke. To get even, she separately invites each of the men to meet her for breakfast, and when all three arrive, bearing floral arrangements of varying size, a brawl ensues.

## Cast

Monica Potter	as	Martha
Joseph Fiennes	as	Laurence
Tom Hollander	as	Daniel
Rufus Sewell	as	Frank
Ray Winstone	as	Pedersen

## Memorable quotes (with notes on difficult vocabulary)

Laurence: Of course I wasn't alright. I'd just been **knocked unconscious** and now an American, who'd never driven a **stick shift**, was driving my car down the wrong side of the road.

**To be knocked unconscious:** ricevere un pugno e svenire; **stick shift:** cambio manuale

Airport Information Clerk: I do this in the name of sports-watching, romantically-minded men; a **maligned**, misunderstood minority.

**Maligned:** diffamato/calunniato

Daniel: [of his professionally decorated flat] I have the home of a **widely-read, widely-travelled, deeply interesting man** with taste.

Martha: And that's not you.

Daniel: No.

Martha: [raising an eyebrow] Not even the interesting bit?

**Widely-read, widely-travelled, deeply interesting man:** un uomo amante della lettura, che ha viaggiato molto ed estremamente interessante

Daniel: Look I shouldn't be doing this, ok? But there's this hotel my company has an arrangement with and as a welcome to London and a **token of good will** I'd like you to stay there on your first night.

Martha: No, you know I can't accept that.

Daniel: What? What? **No strings**, no strings please...take it. And you have to join me for lunch tomorrow

Martha: That's the **catch**

**Token of good will:** a dimostrazione della mia buona volontà; **No strings:** senza impegno/vincoli; **Catch:** (qui): trucco/inganno

Martha: Don't **freeze** on me, don't freeze on me now please.

**To freeze:** (qui) bloccarsi

#### Sources

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Martha,\\_Meet\\_Frank,\\_Daniel\\_and\\_Laurence](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Martha,_Meet_Frank,_Daniel_and_Laurence)

[http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0120747/quotes?ref=ttfc\\_q1\\_trv\\_4](http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0120747/quotes?ref=ttfc_q1_trv_4)