

Barefoot in the Park

Corie ([Jane Fonda](#)), a free spirited young woman, and Paul Bratter ([Robert Redford](#)), an equally sensible man, are a recently married couple, who move into a fifth floor apartment in Greenwich Village (one of the ongoing jokes is the fact that everyone has to climb so many stairs to get to the apartment). Corie decorates the small, leaky apartment, turning it into a picturesque little home for the two. One of the many odd people living in the apartment building, the quirky Victor Velasco ([Charles Boyer](#)), befriends Corie, often even flirting with her. He lives in the attic of the building, once even climbing through the Bratters' apartment window to get to his. Victor helps Corie with the apartment, teaching her how to work the seemingly broken heating and plumbing.

Corie sets up a dinner date with herself, Paul, their new friend and neighbor Victor, and Corie's mother, Ethel Banks ([Mildred Natwick](#)) in a scheme to get Corie's mother to fall for Victor; Corie feels that her mother is lonely now that she lives alone and needs love. Victor takes them all to an [Albanian](#) restaurant on [Staten Island](#) where he knows the owner. There, the group drinks, and Corie and Victor get up to dance with the belly dancer, while Paul and Ethel watch in embarrassment and awe. Afterwards, Corie and Victor return to the apartment in high energy as Paul and Ethel drag themselves with fatigue. As Victor escorts Ethel outside, Corie and Paul begin an argument over their differences. Corie feels her adventurous spirit is not equal to Paul's cautious demeanor. One of the examples she gives is that he would not go barefoot in the park with her one evening. His excuse was that it was freezing. Corie says she will kick Paul out and get a big dog to protect her from him. Paul says maybe it will finally allow her to have someone who will go barefoot in the park with her. They eventually go to sleep, Corie in their tiny bedroom and Paul sleeping on the couch under a hole in the skylight on a snowy February night.

The next day, Paul comes home with a fever, but Corie still insists she wants a divorce. The two spend an awkward time together in their apartment before Corie kicks Paul out. She then gets a call from her aunt, saying that Ethel did not come home. Scared, Corie begins to panic, but eventually finds out that her mother was at Victor's apartment. Apparently, while Victor was escorting her to her home in New Jersey the night prior, Ethel slipped on some ice, and Victor took her back to his apartment where they spent the night. Strangely, Ethel was wearing nothing but her undergarments and Victor's Japanese kimono. Fearing for what seemed obvious, it turned out that Victor had Ethel's dress drycleaned.

Meanwhile, drunk, Paul skips work and sits in Washington Square Park. With her mother's advice, Corie goes out searching for Paul and finds him, drunk and running shoeless and barefoot through the park. The once cautious Paul is now a fun loving drunk while cautious Corie chases after him in order to get him to sober up. Eventually, Paul says it's his apartment too and he's going back home. Corie follows. Back at the apartment, Paul, still fairly drunk, climbs onto the roof of the apartment. Scared he might fall, Corie begs him to come down while speaking to him through the hole in the glass ceiling. He says he will only come down if she repeats after him. He wants her to admit that her husband is a crazy drunk, when a few nights before she scolded him for being so cautious and practical even when he is drunk. Meanwhile, realizing where he is, Paul becomes scared after almost falling off the building. Corie tries to climb up onto the roof to help him down but Paul does not want her to leave him. Corie asks Paul to sing an Albanian folk song they had heard at the restaurant that Victor has taken them to. While he sings, Corie climbs up to the roof to help him down. A crowd of onlookers starts to gather in the street, watching along, including Corie's mother, Ethel, and her new love, Victor. When Corie reaches Paul, they kiss and climb back down as the crowd cheers on.

Cast

[Robert Redford](#) as Paul Bratter
[Jane Fonda](#) as Corie Bratter
[Charles Boyer](#) as Victor Velasco
[Mildred Natwick](#) as Ethel Banks
[Herb Edelman](#) as Harry Pepper
[Mabel Albertson](#) as Harriet
[Ted Hartley](#) as Frank

Selected memorable quotes (with notes on difficult vocabulary)

[Corie Bratter](#): Paul, I think I'm gonna be a lousy wife. But don't be angry with me. I love you very much - and I'm very sexy!
lousy = pessimo, tremendo

[after five non-stop, newlywed nights in a hotel room, as a packed lift door opens, to her new husband]

[Corie Bratter](#): Thank you, Mr. Dooley. Next time you're in New York, just call me up.
newlywed = da appena sposato; **just call me up** = mi faccia pure uno squillo.

[Ethel](#): I had to park the car three blocks away. Then it started to rain so I ran the last two blocks. Then my heel got caught in a subway grating. When I pulled my foot out, I stepped in a puddle. Then a cab went by and splashed my stockings. If the hardware store downstairs was open, I was going to buy a knife and kill myself.

block = (qui) isolato; **heel** = tacco; **subway grating** = grata, griglia (che copre una delle aperture di ventilazione della metropolitana); **puddle** = pozzanghera; **hardware store** = negozio di ferramenta

[Ethel](#): *[to Corie, after just climbing up the stairs to Paul and Corie's top-floor apartment]* I remember when you were a little girl, you said you wanted to live on the moon... I thought you were kidding.

to be kidding = scherzare

[Paul Bratter](#): You don't just dive into a black salad. You have to play with it first!

to dive = immergersi, tuffarsi, buttarsi a capofitto

Sources:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barefoot_in_the_Park_%28film%29
<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0061385/>