

Cut for Sandy and Jill *A Case for Marriage*

(Phone sounds, text message. JILL grabs her phone, jumps off the sofa and moves away from Sandy while she reads her message)

JILL

(enthusiastically) Yes! They did it! I can't believe it!

SANDY

Well, it's great news. I kind of expected it ... but it's great news.

JILL

So (smiling eagerly), what about it?

SANDY

What about what?

JILL

Us, silly. Let's get married!

SANDY

Uh, now?

JILL

Not right now. But – oh Sandy! – we could even do it tomorrow! The courthouse will be open first thing!

SANDY

I bet they'll be swamped.

JILL

Sure! My god, I never, ever thought this day would come!

SANDY

Neither did I.

JILL

(Still happy, but feeling a touch of uneasiness). So, what do you say? I didn't want to bring it up before –

SANDY  
Before?

JILL  
Last year. When that judge in Detroit – said the Michigan law against same sex marriage was unconstitutional.

SANDY  
You've been thinking getting married since then?

JILL  
Well, yeah.

SANDY  
You never said anything. I mean, you didn't ask me --

JILL  
But – you were just as excited about the decision as I was!

SANDY  
Sure! It was an important step to where we are now. Everyone should be able to marry the person they love.

JILL  
But – wasn't it personal, too?

SANDY  
Um ...not in an immediate sense. And you didn't say anything, so I figured ...

JILL  
I wanted to wait until I was sure we could do it. I didn't want to get married then have some court say we weren't. Besides, that was over a year ago.

SANDY

Wow.

JILL

Yeah. I figured you were probably waiting too. Shit.

SANDY

Oh, sweetie, I'm sorry. I just –

JILL

It never even crossed your mind, did it?

SANDY

I –

JILL

Oh my god -- it didn't.

SANDY

I'm sorry – we've never discussed ...

JILL

Discussed? What do we need to discuss?

SANDY

Stop it, please. This isn't about you.

JILL

Not about me? You don't want to marry me, and it's not about me?

SANDY

No. Oh shit. Jill, I love you, OK? It's – I –

JILL

You what?

SANDY

What's the rush? I don't know if I'm ready for another marriage.

JILL

Well, thanks for letting me know. Did you have to wait four years? Did you need a roommate that bad?

SANDY

That's not fair. I mean, why would I spend time planning something I couldn't legally do?

JILL

Because I thought about it. Because it's what people do when they want to be together.

SANDY

It's what some people do.

JILL

OK. Fine. It's what people who want to be with each other for always do. It's what people who are committed to each other do. Look at Ann and Kate – they've been married for years!

SANDY

But a marriage license doesn't guarantee anything. I thought I'd be married forever, and now I've been divorced for seven years.

JILL

That's a terrible example. Of course your marriage ended. He was straight; you're not.

SANDY

OK, OK ... but I wouldn't have stayed in that relationship as long as I did, if I hadn't been married.

JILL

So, you don't want to get married again because you're afraid of making a commitment?

SANDY

No, no ... I'm saying I want to be with someone because I love them, not because divorce is hard.

JILL

OK. Maybe. But I want something more than being a girlfriend. I want everyone to know how important you are to me, and that I'm important to you. Getting married. It's – a statement.

SANDY

Agreed.

JILL

And you can't make that statement about me?

SANDY

I don't know.

JILL

Shit.

SANDY

That came out wrong. I mean, it's a statement about who you are and what you want.

JILL

I know who I am. And what I want. I want you.

SANDY

I want you. But – I don't know if I want to make that statement about who I am ...I need more time.

JILL

(Incredulously) More time?

SANDY

Yes. Jesus, Jill! Seven years ago, I was a middle-class, suburban mom. Now, I'm with you, and – it was good, and I'm glad I'm not that suburban mom, but it hasn't been easy.

JILL

Being with me isn't easy?

SANDY

No. I mean – damn this is hard. Being with you is the good part. Being someone new, that has been hard.

JILL

Being someone new?

SANDY

Don't be naïve. My whole world changed. I have different friends, a different job, a different home. I'm not part of ... of the mainstream.

JILL

The mainstream?

SANDY

We're on the fringe ... and I kind of miss being mainstream.

JILL

You miss it? You were miserable.

SANDY

Not always. You don't want to hear it, but I liked a lot of it. Being accepted.

JILL

That is such bull shit. You weren't accepted. The suburban mom was accepted, but that wasn't you!

SANDY

I liked fitting in. Everyone approved of my relationship. Being conventional can be nice.

JILL

You wanted to be conventional? You think I didn't? You know, I used to read those stupid romance

novels when I was a kid. And I wanted that – love, and family and having people practically applaud me if I had a serious relationship. But that didn't happen. Because I never hid who I was. And the best I ever did was a “partner” – and no one in my family took any of my partnerships seriously. And, now, finally, I can have a conventional happy ending, and can get married to the person I love most – but she doesn't want me.

SANDY

I—I – I'm not saying that. Please. I want more time. Is that so hard? The Supreme Court decision isn't going to go away. Can you just let me wrap my head around this? (trying to explain) Getting married to you would ... cut me off from who I used to be forever.

JILL

Fine. Fine. I get it. You're keeping one foot in the closet. You're embarrassed, or ashamed, or I don't know, but you sure as hell don't love me like I love you.

SANDY

That's not fair. I've been living with you for years. I'm not ashamed of you.

JILL

Then maybe you're ashamed of yourself.

SANDY

I don't know. I didn't think so.

JILL

Forget it. Just forget everything. And you know what? You can take this (she reaches under the sofa cushion and brings out a jewelry box) – and shove it up your ass. I sure as hell don't need it.

(JILL flings the jewelry box across the room and storms out.  
There is the sound of doors slamming)