

THE RELATIONSHIP CARD

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INT. KITCHEN - DAY

KATE, mid 20's, sips from her coffee as JIM, 30's, enters yawning.

JIM
Morning.

KATE
Morning. Hey, can you clean the bathroom today? You said you'd do that last weekend, remember?

JIM
Oh, yeah. Look it's my day off. Can I get to it later?

KATE
That's what you said last week.

JIM
I just want to ease into my day, come on. Can't I wipe the toilet down in a few hours?

KATE
No! We agreed. I keep up my end of the deal.

A long moment between them.

JIM
Let's try the old "relationship card".

Jim pulls out a card with the stripe on the back like a credit card.

JIM (CONT'D)
I'm so glad you put that big ol' sexy brain of yours to work on this. Once your patent on this "relationship card" comes through, we'll be rich.

Jim swipes the card through the machine on the kitchen counter. It beeps and says "DECLINED" in the blue blocked letters.

JIM (CONT'D)
Huh. It doesn't seem to be working.

It beeps a few more times.

KATE

Yes it does.

JIM

Then why isn't my transaction going through?

KATE

Because you're over drawn.

JIM

That's not possible.

KATE

Last night you used it to go to the game with your buddies and to get out of going to dinner with my parents.

Kate uses her hands and brings up a kind of virtual spreadsheet over the counter to show Jim his "account information".

JIM

Yeah, and that should balance out with me buying the groceries for the last month.

His account information is in RED and hers is in BLUE letters and graphics.

KATE

But I've made the mortgage payments for the last three months.

JIM

What about me taking you out to dinner on weekends?

KATE

Ah, that's not covered in the "Terms of Service" contract you signed when we agreed to use the cards. You said that "date nights" were still your little gift to me and we agreed to exempt that from the accounting.

A graphic of the lengthy terms of service with a zoom in on his signature and date at the bottom get highlighted.

JIM
I got it. This doesn't account for
the fact that I got my friend to
fix the dry wall in the garage.

KATE
I paid for it.

JIM
Argh! Okay okay, let me see. What
about the HDTV?

KATE
What about it?

JIM
I bought that for us.

KATE
"Us"?

She stares him down.

JIM
Okay, I bought that for me, but you
still watch TV on it. That has to
count for something.

KATE
Fine, we can subtract few number of
hours I spend watching TV versus
the colossal amount of time wasted
with reality shows that you do and
we'll pro rate the ratio.

The graphic will be a pie chart with a small sliver
representing Kate's TV watching.

Jim chews his fingernail.

JIM
I paid the electric bill, the phone
bill, and gas bill for June, July,
and August and you never paid me
back.

KATE
And I paid your car payments for
September and December.

The chart clearly shows a higher dollar amount for Kate.

JIM
I've got it. One of the most
important factors in my favor is
not being accounted for.

Jim raises up a calendar with several (seventeen to be exact)
days highlighted.

KATE
What's this?

JIM
These are the dates we've had sex
in the last month.

KATE
And why is this supposed to go in
YOUR plus column?

JIM
Because I do it for you.

KATE
Oh please.

JIM
Add this to my plus column.

KATE
I'm afraid I can't do that.

Kate overlays her own calendar (blue) over top of his (red -
making a purple calendar) with only 2 days highlighted.

JIM
What's this?

KATE
The only 2 times last month I've
had an orgasm.

CUT TO:

INT. BATHROOM - DAY

Jim is on his hands and knees scrubbing a toilet with a rag.