

1 **CHRIS:** You just can't give anything different a chance, can
 2 you? No, your attitude has always been, "my way or the
 3 highway."
 4 **CARRIE:** What do you call your attitude? I didn't hear you
 5 offering to compromise way back when.
 6 **CHRIS:** There can be no compromises in my career.
 7 **CARRIE:** Your whole *career*, if that's what you want to call
 8 it, has been a compromise. Sharon, he's perfect for you,
 9 one of the biggest losers in the room.
 10 **SHARON:** God, you can say the cruelest things.
 11 **CARRIE:** Truth can often be seen as cruel. *(She exits,*
 12 *slamming the door.)*

Disputes

Cast: Willow, Alan, Cherish

Setting: At night, outside a home where a party is going on.

1 *(WILLOW enters, angry and upset. ALAN is close behind.)*
 2 **ALAN:** Willow, come back. Come on, you don't want to drive
 3 home, you're too upset.
 4 **WILLOW:** You think I'm going to stay here and be
 5 humiliated, think again.
 6 **ALAN:** Give me the keys.
 7 **WILLOW:** No way.
 8 **ALAN:** Give me the keys to the car. You are not driving
 9 home in your condition.
 10 **WILLOW:** What condition?
 11 **ALAN:** You are emotionally out of control.
 12 **WILLOW:** Am I? Am I!? I wonder why. Get out of my way.
 13 **ALAN:** Give me the keys!
 14 **WILLOW:** I'll give you something, all right. *(She goes to slap*
 15 *him, which he dodges and then grabs her arm.) Let go of*
 16 *me! I said let go of me!!! (She struggles.)*
 17 **ALAN:** I will when you calm down. Now stop!
 18 **WILLOW:** *(They struggle for a moment, then she quiets.) OK,*
 19 *OK. I'm calm. You can let go.*
 20 **ALAN:** You're sure.
 21 **WILLOW:** Yes, I'm sure. I'm fine, really I am. I was being a
 22 little crazy. Let go of me and I will be fine. Really.
 23 **ALAN:** OK. *(He lets go of her.)*
 24 **WILLOW:** *(She immediately lands a punch.) Keep away from*
 25 *me you two-timing, low-life worm.*
 26 **ALAN:** What are you talking about?
 27 **WILLOW:** You think I didn't see you kissing Tiffany?
 28 **ALAN:** That was nothing! Nothing! She was showing me
 29 this new kissing thing ...

1 WILLOW: Am I stupid? Do I look like a fool to you? You were
 2 kissing Tiffany, you were kissing Gina, and I saw you
 3 follow Cherish into Mike's room!
 4 ALAN: No! Tiffany was showing me how to blow kiss and I
 5 was comparing it to Gina's lipping. It was comparison
 6 kissing, that's all.
 7 WILLOW: So, explain you and Cherish Fox, you miserable
 8 excuse for a male.
 9 ALAN: What?! We were just talking.
 10 WILLOW: Oh, is that what it's called now? Do you think I'm
 11 a fool? Do you think I didn't know that you two have
 12 been sneaking around behind my back for weeks?
 13 ALAN: Lies. Who told you these lies?
 14 WILLOW: Only everybody at school. Not to mention
 15 everyone at this party. It's a sad day when I am an
 16 object of pity to Chuck Thornton.
 17 ALAN: Since when do you listen to idle gossip?
 18 WILLOW: Since I've seen it with my own eyes. I saw you two
 19 go into Mike's room tonight at the party.
 20 ALAN: You have no idea what you're talking about. Cherish
 21 and I are friends, we were talking. Can't I have any
 22 female friends?
 23 WILLOW: You don't kiss friends, you hush puppy, crybaby
 24 jerk. I will not be disgraced by you. Get away from me.
 25 ALAN: Is that what you want? Fine. Just remember, you're
 26 the one who drove me away. This isn't my choice. I'm
 27 the wronged one here. You have wounded me deeply.
 28 WILLOW: Don't make me hurt you!
 29 ALAN: You've already hurt me. Profoundly.
 30 WILLOW: Just leave, get out. *(He exits.)* What a pig. *(She*
 31 *paces for a moment then sits in misery.)* What a pig.
 32 CHERISH: Alan? Are you out ... oh, Willow.
 33 WILLOW: *(Without any friendliness)* Hey Cherish.
 34 CHERISH: I didn't know you'd be out here.
 35 WILLOW: *(Composing herself)* Looking for Alan? He just left.

1 CHERISH: Oh. Well, I was uh ... see ya.
 2 WILLOW: If you are having a hard time finding him, look
 3 for the biggest crowd of females. He will no doubt be on
 4 the fringes of them, testing out one tired, insincere line
 5 after another.
 6 CHERISH: He wouldn't do that.
 7 WILLOW: Hey, some people collect stamps. Alan collects
 8 broken hearts. He just added mine.
 9 CHERISH: That's not true. You know he loves you.
 10 WILLOW: To quote an old song, "When he's not with the
 11 one he loves, he loves the one he's with."
 12 CHERISH: That's not very nice.
 13 WILLOW: Well, neither is he.
 14 CHERISH: I think he is.
 15 WILLOW: Then, by all means, you're welcome to him.
 16 CHERISH: What? Why, we're just friends.
 17 WILLOW: Don't insult me with such obvious lies, OK? I saw
 18 you two going into the back room.
 19 CHERISH: *(Caught)* Oh. Well, it's your fault. It's clear you
 20 have no idea how to treat your man. So what's he to do
 21 but turn to someone like me?
 22 WILLOW: Someone like you?
 23 CHERISH: Someone who thinks he's adorable, and sweet,
 24 and cuddly and in need of a lot of caring.
 25 WILLOW: Sort of like a small mongrel dog. Apt description.
 26 CHERISH: I can take care of him way better than you can.
 27 WILLOW: You want him, you can have him.
 28 CHERISH: I can? He's mine?
 29 WILLOW: We just broke up, for the millionth and final
 30 time. It's over for good.
 31 CHERISH: You're sure you don't want him and he's mine?
 32 WILLOW: Yep. You win the big booby prize.
 33 CHERISH: Just like that? You don't want to fight for him?
 34 WILLOW: I think I've given up just about enough of my
 35 dignity for Alan Cuthbert. Enjoy, have fun, godspeed.

1 CHERISH: Gee, thanks. *(She goes off excitedly.)*
 2 WILLOW: *(Exhausted)* Oh wow. *(She looks up at the moon.)*
 3 So, Mr. Moon, we're alone again. Are you the only male
 4 in the world that can be counted on? Even you are in
 5 the habit of fading away on me every twenty-eight days.
 6 Can't count on any of you ...
 7 ALAN: Willow, what exactly did you tell Cherish?
 8 WILLOW: Exactly? Word for word?
 9 ALAN: What did you tell her?
 10 WILLOW: To be honest, it wasn't a conversation that I will
 11 go home and enter in my journal.
 12 ALAN: She said you said that I'm hers now.
 13 WILLOW: And that should impact my life in what way?
 14 ALAN: I couldn't believe it. She came up to me and
 15 announced that I belonged to her. She said you gave me
 16 to her.
 17 WILLOW: Yeah. I said that we broke up, we were through,
 18 and that she could have you.
 19 ALAN: Have me? Like I was some personal possession of
 20 yours?
 21 WILLOW: I told her if she wanted you, she could have you.
 22 What's the big deal?
 23 ALAN: So, you gave me away.
 24 WILLOW: Like a stick of gum at the bottom of my purse.
 25 ALAN: Just like that?
 26 WILLOW: Essentially. It's not like you really care, is it?
 27 ALAN: Why should I care? You obviously don't.
 28 WILLOW: I think you know I cared. Past tense. It's over, and
 29 now Cherish can have her little plaything.
 30 ALAN: Is that all I am to you, some plaything?
 31 CHERISH: *(Entering)* Alan, where'd you go?
 32 WILLOW: It's not all you *are*, it's all you *were*.
 33 CHERISH: Alan! I'm calling you.
 34 ALAN: I'm out here. I needed some air. *(To Willow)* We little
 35 playthings do need to breathe, you know.

1 CHERISH: Willow said she doesn't want you anymore, and
 2 so I get you. Isn't this great? We don't have to sneak
 3 around anymore.
 4 WILLOW: Aha! So you were sneaking around.
 5 ALAN: No, no! We weren't. Cherish, it's sneaking around
 6 when I come over your house and we aren't seen in
 7 public.
 8 CHERISH: But you said that Willow would be mad if ...
 9 ALAN: Forget what I said.
 10 WILLOW: By all means, forget what Alan says, Cherish.
 11 Because his stories switch from one day to the other. I
 12 hope you two are very happy together.
 13 CHERISH: *(Grabbing his arm)* Alan, you're all mine.
 14 ALAN: Am I?
 15 CHERISH: Uh-huh. Willow said it was OK, didn't you
 16 Willow?
 17 WILLOW: You two have my blessing.
 18 ALAN: Did it ever occur to either of you that I am a human
 19 being? I am not some piece of property to be handed
 20 back and forth from one woman to another.
 21 WILLOW: What the heck? You've been passing yourself
 22 back and forth from one woman to another since you
 23 hit puberty. So, this time we cut out the middleman
 24 and handed you over.
 25 ALAN: Am I not human? Do I not get a choice?
 26 CHERISH: A choice? Why do you need a choice? You mean
 27 you don't want to be with me?
 28 ALAN: I'd like some say in it, you know.
 29 CHERISH: So, say.
 30 ALAN: I've got nothing to say now. I'm pretty upset.
 31 WILLOW: Oh, yeah, I just bet you are.
 32 ALAN: I am. You two have a lot of nerve treating me like I'm
 33 some sort of belonging, like a favorite purse or pair of
 34 shoes.
 35 WILLOW: Trust me, I wouldn't be giving up a favorite

1 purse or pair of shoes quite so easily. (*WILLOW and*
 2 *CHERISH share a girl giggle.*)
 3 ALAN: Laugh all you want, but I'm serious.
 4 WILLOW: Oh, are you? Is the big man serious? Have we
 5 hurt his wittle bitty feelings?
 6 ALAN: I thought you cared about me, about us. And you,
 7 Cherish, to take from Willow what she so obviously
 8 sees as her discards. What does that say for you?
 9 CHERISH: Discards? Like I get what she doesn't want?
 10 WILLOW: Well, that's what he is.
 11 ALAN: Am I? Are you sure?
 12 CHERISH: Wait a minute. Did you two break up or not?
 13 ALAN: Did we?
 14 WILLOW: I guess. I suppose. I ... well, uh ...
 15 ALAN: We always go through these little spats.
 16 CHERISH: Is he mine or not?
 17 WILLOW: Show the man some respect. He's not a toy.
 18 CHERISH: You just said you didn't want him.
 19 WILLOW: I don't, but ...
 20 CHERISH: Well, if you don't want him, I get him.
 21 WILLOW: Over my dead body.
 22 CHERISH: That can be arranged.
 23 ALAN: (*Obviously enjoying this*) Now girls ...
 24 CHERISH: You stay out of this ...
 25 WILLOW: Don't talk to him that way.
 26 CHERISH: Don't tell me how to talk to anyone. You threw
 27 that man away ...
 28 WILLOW: Threw him away? You practically ripped him out
 29 of my arms.
 30 CHERISH: Well, think again. Look at you, some sorry little
 31 skinny thing with no idea of how to hang on to any kind
 32 of real relationship ...
 33 WILLOW: How to hang on? What do you think I've been
 34 doing besides hanging on?
 35 CHERISH: Learn to love instead of cling!

1 WILLOW: (*Raising her hand in a stop sign fashion*) Talk to
 2 the hand. Talk to the hand!
 3 ALAN: Ladies, please. I can't stand here and watch this. (*He*
 4 *sits.*)
 5 WILLOW: You stay out of this. This is between me and this
 6 little tramp.
 7 CHERISH: Come on, Alan, you're mine now. We're leaving.
 8 ALAN: Is this what you really want, Willow? To see me walk
 9 off with another woman, especially Cherish?
 10 CHERISH: She said you're through ... What do you mean
 11 "especially Cherish?"
 12 ALAN: Not a thing. It's just that she's always been a little
 13 jealous of you.
 14 WILLOW: Jealous of Cherish Fox? I think not.
 15 ALAN: I remember you saying that she had to have had
 16 some kind of surgery to look that way.
 17 WILLOW: Well, look at the girl.
 18 CHERISH: Yeah, look. Pretty good, huh?
 19 WILLOW: Sweetheart, I've known you since seventh grade.
 20 You don't grow those over one summer without some
 21 sort of surgical expertise to help you along.
 22 ALAN: You're not going to let her get away with that, are
 23 you?
 24 CHERISH: I am not! Just because puberty has been unkind
 25 to you is no reason to take it out on others who have
 26 been dealt with much more generously.
 27 WILLOW: Listen, long and lean lasts a lot longer than short
 28 and full bodied. Take a look at the elephant that passes
 29 for your mother if you need convincing of that,
 30 Cherish. If that's your real name.
 31 CHERISH: What do you mean, if that's my real name?
 32 WILLOW: Come on, get real. What parent in their right
 33 mind would name a baby girl Cherish Fox? That name
 34 has a built in destiny.
 35 CHERISH: A built in destiny? What?

1 WILLOW: You have no choice but to be a stripper at some
 2 tacky little roadhouse on Interstate Five. It's your
 3 karma, your kismet, your fate.
 4 CHERISH: OK, Willow. Get a real name!
 5 WILLOW: My name has meaning! Strong, but yielding.
 6 CHERISH: I think your mom watched too many soaps
 7 while she was pregnant with you. Which would explain
 8 your need to over dramatize every situation like some
 9 really bad actor. You never let a moment go by without
 10 some huge reaction to it. You just have to be the center
 11 of everyone's attention, don't you?
 12 ALAN: Are you going to let her talk to you that way?
 13 WILLOW: I most certainly am not. I ... *(She looks at ALAN.)*
 14 CHERISH: I'm ready, come on. Well, what are you waiting
 15 for?
 16 WILLOW: Alan, you are loving this, aren't you?
 17 ALAN: I most certainly am not. I am shocked and appalled
 18 by your behavior, both of you. However, if you feel the
 19 need to have this ridiculous catfight, far be it from me
 20 to interfere.
 21 CHERISH: You know something? I think he wants us to
 22 fight over him.
 23 WILLOW: You're right, he does. Well, my dear boy, perhaps
 24 in another dimension, in another place and time.
 25 ALAN: You never loved me.
 26 WILLOW: Why? Because I won't get into some hair pulling
 27 girl fight with Cherish?
 28 ALAN: No, not because of that. Because love is trust, love is
 29 honesty and caring, love is believing in someone, love
 30 is ...
 31 WILLOW: Never having to say you're sorry? Excuse me, my
 32 friend, but bad movie dialogue is not my style. Listen,
 33 your definition of love is far different from mine. I will
 34 not be lied to, deceived or made a fool of by you ever
 35 again. *(To CHERISH)* Like I said, you want him, you can

1 have him.
 2 ALAN: Your loss, babe. Come on, Cherish. You know how to
 3 hang on to a man.
 4 CHERISH: You really wanted me to fight for you, didn't you?
 5 ALAN: Fight is such a strong word. What I wanted was to
 6 see who cared the most about me. Who would go that
 7 extra mile.
 8 CHERISH: Extra mile? You want me to go an extra mile?
 9 And what do I get in return for this mileage?
 10 ALAN: A man who will cherish you. Just like your name.
 11 CHERISH: Uh-huh. And how would you be doing that? The
 12 same way you "cherished" Willow? By sneaking around
 13 on me?
 14 WILLOW: You go, girl.
 15 ALAN: It was different with Willow. She didn't understand
 16 me the way you do.
 17 CHERISH: The way I do? You mean understanding how you
 18 play one woman off against another? How you toy with
 19 emotions like a cat with a bird? You know what I
 20 understand? I understand that you are a jerk.
 21 ALAN: So, what are you saying?
 22 WILLOW: I think she's saying she doesn't want you after all.
 23 CHERISH: That about sums it up.
 24 ALAN: Is that what it is? You don't want me? Either of you?
 25 *(They look at him blankly.)* Well, fine. There are plenty
 26 of others in that party that do. You two can just stay out
 27 here alone. *(He begins to exit.)*
 28 WILLOW: Alone? Oh, I don't think so. You know something,
 29 you are beginning to make even Chuck look pretty
 30 darn good.
 31 ALAN: *(Stopping)* That was low. *(He exits as the girls share an*
 32 *ironic laugh, exiting the opposite direction.)*
 33