

# Something Blue

a film by Sean Gannon

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## Synopsis *(complete story, includes spoilers)*

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The film, shot in amateur documentary style, opens with a hidden-camera shot of Michael O'Connell leading his girlfriend Jackie to a park bench. He proposes to her and she accepts.

Michael shows her the footage and they are both thrilled that this special moment was caught on tape. They recall that when they were introduced, at a friend's party, it was also caught on camera, by sheer coincidence, in the background of a shot.

Michael has an idea: have a friend videotape all the important moments along the way to their wedding—the first time their families meet, the engagement party, planning sessions and shopping, etc.—to be edited into a fun little video to show at the rehearsal dinner, and to include on the tape of their wedding. They are a loving couple and very well suited to each other.

When their families first meet for dinner, her parents are very warm and congenial, but Michael's brother and sister are crass and his domineering mother is standoffish to Jackie. At the engagement party, where this behavior continues, a microphone picks up Jackie confiding to a friend that she's irked by his family. But Jackie excuses it to the fact that they're still grieving over Michael's father, who died shortly before she met him, and other issues (religious differences, she doesn't binge drink like they do, etc.) and she believes that once they have time to adjust to her, the sniping comments will stop and she'll be welcomed into the family.

But the slights continue and intensify. Finally, Jackie can no longer keep up appearances for the camera and asks that they turn it off. Michael insists that these difficult moments should also be caught on tape, since their love for each other can weather any storm, and it would be nice for their kids to see this one day. When Jackie confides that his family doesn't seem to like her, he thinks she's overreacting, pointing out that they joke at each other's expense all the time—and besides, what is there not to like about her?

When Jackie's girlfriend Sara flies in for a visit and fitting, she gets a taste of Michael's family and questions Jackie about what she's enduring—and whether Michael is doing anything to stop it. She points out that you don't just marry a person, you marry the family, and that unless she's willing to accept a lifetime of disrespect, it needs to be addressed immediately.

Finally, Jackie can stand no more and she tells Michael he has to rein them in. He goes to confront them but suffers a barrage of verbal abuse—they say he hasn't been the same since meeting Jackie, she thinks she's too good for them, he never spends time with his family anymore and they say his father is spinning in his grave for settling for her. His objections are roundly ignored and he returns to her, feebly trying to mask his defeat. She despairs when she sees he doesn't have the strength to stand up to them.

When Jackie finally starts to stand up to them on her own, Michael discourages her—it is the beginning of the end. Jackie had always envisioned the happiest day of her life would be the first time she saw herself in her wedding gown. But when she finally sees herself wearing it at the final fitting, she bursts into tears and soon calls off the wedding.

The last we see of them, Michael retreats to his isolated family farm; Sara flies in and rents Jackie a party suite for all her friends to imbibe and share their love and support for her.