

Pop That Question  
(pilot spec)

Written By

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## TEASER

## ANNOUNCER

Tonight on our program we'll help Bryan and Stephi craft and pull off a unique wedding proposal in the hopes that their partners will say yes, when they Pop That Question.

## SHOW TITLES

The opening titles would include clips from the show intercut with famous YouTube proposals.

## HOST INTRODUCTION

The Host of the show walks into the frame and starts to give her opening monologue as she continues walking down a busy city street.

## HOST

Hello, this week we are in Austin Texas, the live music capital of the world, and in a program first, we are going to take over a karaoke bar and help a young woman propose to her boyfriend in a full blown musical number.

We're also going to help a young man recreate the magical moment he says, they fell in love... I can't wait for you to see that one.

## INT. STUDIO

Standard interview scene, Stephi talks to the host who is just off screen.

## STEPHI

My boyfriend and I actually met in college, but we didn't start dating until years later. I was in the architecture program and had no free time and he was the star of the theater department getting the leads in all the plays.

A few years after college, a mutual friend invited me out to see a local play that he was in and it sounds silly to say that I fell in

(MORE)

STEPHI (CONT'D)

love with him that night, but I kinda did...

We didn't even speak that night, but I kept thinking about him and a few months later my firm decided to do a TV spot and I volunteered to head it up. I hired him as the spokesperson, and we've been together ever since.

INT. STUDIO

BRYAN in the studio being interviewed by the host.

BRYAN

Casey and I have been together for six years. We've had a great, uncomplicated, relationship.

We started out as friends, then we became friends with benefits, then we were living together.

HOST (O.C.)

Have you two talked a lot about marriage?

BRYAN

Not at all, in fact it hasn't come up. She's not the kind of girl to pressure you for a ring. We have a very comfortable relationship, and there's really no reason to complicated it.

HOST (O.C.)

Right... So why the change? It sound's like you have a pretty good thing going, why the proposal? Why now?

BRYAN

Well... We very recently found out that we are pregnant. We are going to have a baby, and... It's time.

ANNOUNCER

After the break we'll learn what Bryan and Stephi have in mind for their proposals, and our team will figure out a plan to get it done.

[COMMERCIAL BREAK]

EXT. SIDEWALK CAFE

STEPHI and the HOST are discussing her proposal.

HOST

OK Stephi, we're here because you want to propose to your boyfriend, and you would like our help. Do you have a specific idea in mind?

STEPHI

(nervous)

I do... (awkward pause)

HOST

Well, you do have the 'I Do' part down, but let's not get ahead of ourselves. I know from our earlier conversations that you really want to take a risk with this proposal. Anytime you put yourself out there, there is going to be risk, of course, but you really want to get out of your comfort zone, is that right?

STEPHI

(a little more relaxed)

Yes, you see my boyfriend is an actor, and he has a lot of friends that are performers.

I have a lot of respect for what they do... The idea of getting up in front of an audience scares the crap out of me.

Once a week, we all get together and go to a local bar that does a karaoke night. It's not with a cheesy karaoke machine, they have a live band that can play any song. Every week they all take turns going up and singing songs while sit quietly in the back.

I would love to conquer my fear of performing in public... of being the center of attention, and show

(MORE)

STEPHI (CONT'D)

my boyfriend how much I willing to do to prove my love to him. I want to sing... I want to sing my proposal.

INT. STUDIO

BRYAN is discussing his girlfriend with the host.

HOST

Do you have a specific proposal in mind?

BRYAN

Not really, I was kind of hoping that you could help with that?

HOST

Sure, tell me a little about her? When did you know that she was the one?

BRYAN

Well, we had been living together for about a year, and we decided to go to a state park outside of town to see a meteor shower.

We got there just at dusk and decided to hike up to the top of a nearby hill, so we grabbed a blanket and started off.

We were on the trail about five minutes when we started to see it. First it was just a flash out of the corner of my eye, then I recognized the blinking...

Lightning bugs...

It went from a handful in front of us, to being surrounded by literally hundreds of them. It was this magical moment, walking through a sea of flickering lights.

We looked at each other with these goofy grins on our faces... That was the moment...

INT. STUDIO

STEPHI and the HOST are talking about the plan.

HOST

OK Stephi, I'll be honest with you, this one scares me a little. Normally we set the stage and all the person has to do is make the proposal. We can bring some people in to work with you to craft a performance, but in the end it's all going to be on you. Do you think you are going to be up to it?

STEPHI

...yes. It scares me, but this is really important.

HOST

Good, because we have a lot of work between now and then. I've got appointments for you with a song writer to help you craft the proposal, a vocal coach to help you get the most out of your natural talents, and we are going to enlist some of your friends in the actual performance. Are you ready to get started?

STEPHI

I am. Let's do it!

INT. STUDIO

The HOST and BRYAN are discussion the plan.

HOST

OK Bryan, I've been talking with my team, and I think we've come up with something pretty special.

We are going to recreate that magical moment you two shared through the help of a little newfangled technology and then add a special message at the end.

Are you ready to see what we have planned?

BRYAN

Yes ma'am.

HOST

Great, let me introduce you to Keith. He is going to lead our technical team.

KEITH

Hi Brian. We were all really charmed by the story you told us about the time you and your girlfriend found yourself walking through a field of fireflies. We decided to recreate it in a special way. Imagine you and your girlfriend walking through a park at dusk, and just as you described it, fireflies appear blinking all around you. As you walk past you stop and turn back to look at them and you both see that the fireflies have spelled out 'Marry Me' in the sky.

BRYAN

(Smiling, a little confused)

Whoa... How is that even possible?

KEITH

Well, I won't go into all the details now, but I will say that we've found the world's foremost firefly trainer to help us out.

BRYAN

Really?

KEITH

No. I'm just messing with you. Actually we are going to use these little guys to simulate the fireflies (KEITH produces a small object about the size of Half Dollar with a blinking LED sticking out of it.) We're going to make a couple hundred of these little guys and you are going to help. Are you ready to get started?

BRYAN

I sure am.



HOST

Okay Stephi, today we have a vocal coach and a choreographer here to work with you. They are just going to do some initial work and see what natural ability you have. They will help us come up with the best number. Are you ready to get started?

STEPHI

Let's go!

HOST

The HOST speaks directly to the camera while a montage of clips from the rehearsal plays behind her.

OK, so Stephi does not have much for us to work with, but that's OK. We'll surround her with a couple of professionals, and as long as she shows up and sings from the heart, she'll be fine.

INT. WORKSHOP

HOST

OK Brian, Keith and his team are busy building some faux fireflies. How's it going guys?

KEITH

It's going well. Brian brought a few friends to help out, and we're making good progress.

HOST

Great could you give us a little more information about how these things work?

KEITH

Sure. This is all off-the-shelf technology. The heart of it is this little programmable computer chip which is the brains. It's powered by this a little watch battery.

It's not very powerful, but we do not need them to run very long.

(MORE)

KEITH (CONT'D)

Then the magic comes from a simple LED light. That's the hardware, and I wrote a custom piece of software that tells the hardware what to do. It works like this (he pulls out a Key FOB.) When I Press the switch once, they go into a random blinking mode. When I press it again, they go solid. And when I press it a third time they turn off and reset.

HOST

Very cool. OK, we'll let you get back to work.

[COMMERCIAL BREAK]

EXT. SIDEWALK CAFE

HOST

We're in Austin, Texas today and we've got a special treat for you. Stephi contacted us to help her propose to her actor boyfriend, and when we can, we like to get footage of the partner. We decided to set up a fake audition and invite him in. What we learned was very interesting. We're not going to play the actual audition, just excerpts of the interview afterwards, but I will say that we were all impressed by his audition, he was really good.

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM

BOYFRIEND sits at a conference table in a nondescript office. The INTERVIEWER will be asking questions from off screen.

INTERVIEWER (O.S.)

Ok. Thanks for coming in today. We really liked you're reading and we are interested in putting you in a lead role, but I'd like to know a little bit about you... You could probably tell from the sides that this is a fairly intense drama about a married couple. Are you married?

BOYFRIEND

No sir.

INTERVIEWER

Have you ever been married?

BOYFRIEND

No, but I am in a long term relationship?

INTERVIEWER

OK, have you been through a rough period?

BOYFRIEND

Yes... Well, I mean... Sort of...

INTERVIEWER

I understand that this is personal stuff and you don't need to go into specifics, what I'm really trying to get to is, have you been in a relationship that's been tested? Because that's what this piece is all about.

BOYFRIEND

Well, I'll be honest with you, I love my girlfriend. I love her. I can't see myself with anyone else... But the thing is... She called me to offer me a commercial gig, and it was during that job that we started dating... But what she didn't know when she called me, and she still doesn't know, is that when I picked up the phone that day, I was in the middle of packing to leave town. I was moving to L.A. I almost turned down that job... And don't get me wrong, my girlfriend has been good for me in so many ways, and i do love her... But... I'm an actor. And I love acting too... And when you find a profession that you love, you want to see how far it will take you... And I can't do that here.

INTERVIEWER

Right. I understand, you are clearly talented and part of you is

(MORE)

INTERVIEWER (CONT'D)

wondering where you would be if you hadn't taken that job.

BOYFRIEND

Yes... And it's not like I regret what I have... And it's not like someone said, "choose, you can have love or a successful career." I did what I did, and I found love, but there were no guarantees if I had taken that other route.

INTERVIEWER

Yeah, you put your dream on hold for love. Which is fine as long as the love survives, but most relationships don't work out, and if that happens you'll have nothing. What are you going to do?

BOYFRIEND

(long pause. Smiles.)

Well, I'm going to get this job.

EXT. SIDEWALK CAFE

HOST

That was very interesting. Unfortunately, he is not going to get that job. The real question is, when he is presented with the opportunity, when his girlfriend pops the question, will he go all in for love? We'll find out when we return.

[COMMERCIAL BREAK]

EXT. KARAOKE BAR

The HOST outside a karaoke bar in a strip mall.

HOST

We are outside a karaoke bar in Austin, Texas. Tonight Stephi is going to propose to her boyfriend. What she doesn't know, but we do is that he is having second thoughts about the relationship because it is keeping him from his dream of being a successful actor. Let's see what happens.

INT. KARAOKE BAR

Karaoke night is in full swing, there is a live band on stage accompanying a rousing rendition of the Joan Jett song, 'I love rock-n-roll'. The scene begins as the song is ending and MC comes back on stage.

KARAOKE MC

OK, next up, we have a request for a song from someone who is a regular here, but she's never been up here to sing. She's a bit of a wall flower, but see if we can coax her up here. What do you say Stephi, how about you singing a song for us?

The crowd starts shouting, "Stephi! Stephi!". STEPHI gets up and makes her way to the stage, leaving her surprised and amused BOYFRIEND in the audience.

STEPHI

I want to dedicate this to my boyfriend. He's been wanting me to do this for a while and I've been so afraid, but here I am! I love you baby!

The live band starts playing "I honestly love you" by Olivia Newton John. It's a sappy song, but not vocally challenging.

STEPHI (CONT'D)

(Singing)

Maybe we hang around here a little more than we should, we both know you've got somewhere else to go... But I've got something to tell you, that I never thought I would... I love you, I honestly love you.

The band continues playing and they are joined by two backup singers from the audience, but STEPHI stops singing and talks directly to her boyfriend.

STEPHI (CONT'D)

Baby, I do love you, and sometimes you have to take risks to keep that love strong. Part of me fell in love with you the first time I saw you act. You were amazing! There is a light in your eyes when you

(MORE)

STEPHI (CONT'D)

are performing that I love to see,  
but I haven't seen it much lately.  
You've out-grown this town, and I  
feel like I'm holding you back.

The BOYFRIEND looking a little conflicted, but shaking his head 'no'.

STEPHI (CONT'D)

I need to ask you a question... I  
quit my job today, because I got  
another one in Los Angeles. Baby,  
will you pack up everything you  
own, and leave all the wonderful  
friends that we have here, and move  
with me to the land of uncertainty?  
Will you?

The BOYFRIEND, tears running down his face, says, 'yes!'.  
The crowd cheers. STEPHI motions to him to join her on stage  
and the band cranks up the chorus again. She starts singing.

STEPHI (CONT'D)

(SINGING)

I love you, I honestly love you.

STEPHI kisses the BOYFRIEND deeply and then motions to the  
band to stop playing.

STEPHI

I have another question I want to  
ask.

STEPHI gets down on one knee, and the crowd starts to react.

STEPHI

Will you marry me?

The crowd gets very quiet.

BOYFRIEND

(smiling)

Of course I'll marry you.

The crowd erupts with applause. STEPHI jumps into the  
BOYFRIEND's arms.

INT. BACK OF KARAOKE BAR

The HOST is in the back of the club making her final  
comments on the proposal, the couple still on stage in the  
background.

HOST

Well, that went better than expected, although she had us scared there for a minute. I have a feeling that this one is going to last. Now let's check in on Bryan's proposal.

EXT. PARK - DUSK

The sun is starting to set and KEITH and the team are finishing the technical prep for the proposal.

KEITH

We are putting the final touches on preparation for tonight's firefly proposal. Bryan told us that they were walking through the woods one night when they were dating and they found themselves surrounded by hundreds of twinkling fireflies. We are going to recreate that moment with a little bit technology and then add special twist at the end for the proposal. (KEITH begins walking as he talks) We walked Bryan through the rehearsal last night, and his part is pretty straight forward, he is going to take her for a walk after dinner down this path. As he get to right about here, the electronic fireflies we created will slowly start to come on. As they continue down the path, more will come on, surrounding them in all directions, and they will pass through the field of fireflies until they reach this point, where he will pop the question. With a little luck, and a lot of preparation, they are going to have a very memorable night.

[COMMERCIAL BREAK]

EXT. PARK - EVENING

Shot from a considerable distance away, we see BRYAN and his GIRLFRIEND park their car and begin walking down the path. BRYAN is wearing a body microphone and we can here their

conversation.

BRYAN

Man, I am feeling stuffed. It will feel good to walk off that big meal. How are you feeling?

GIRLFRIEND

Not much like walking.

BRYAN

It's a nice night, not too hot... A nice breeze. (he reaches out and grabs her hand) Don't you think it's nice?

GIRLFRIEND

Yeah... nice.

They continue walking down the trail a few moments until BRYAN spots a single firefly blinking.

BRYAN

Hey look, a lightning bug! That's cool, I haven't seen one in a while. Oh look, (pointing to the opposite side of the trail) another one.

GIRLFRIEND

There's one over there too.

They continue walking, and more come on.

BRYAN

This is amazing?

GIRLFRIEND

This is just like the time in River Bend park.

BRYAN

Yeah, I remember that.

They continue walking, marveling at the sight around them, and as they approach the mark, BRYAN drops behind her and puts his hands on her shoulders. He stops her as they reach the mark.

BRYAN

Hold on a second. (she starts to turn around) No, wait. Keep facing that way.



GIRLFRIEND

Why?

BRYAN

You'll see, one second.

BRYAN starts fumbling around for the ring as the camera cuts to a wide shot of her, and the audience can see that the blinking lights are spelling out, 'Marry Me'. BRYAN gets down on one knee and extends the ring.

BRYAN

Ok, turn around.

The camera cut to a medium shot, framed to catch her reaction. She seems a little lost, first looking down at him, then up to the twinkling proposal in front of her.

GIRLFRIEND

What is this?

BRYAN

You would make me the happiest man-

GIRLFRIEND

How did you do this?

BRYAN

It's a long story, but what I need to ask you is-

GIRLFRIEND

Bryan...

BRYAN

-will you marry me?

GIRLFRIEND

...no Bryan, no... How did you do all of this?

BRYAN

(scrambling to his feet)

I love you baby, I will always love you... It's the right time, (looking around nervously, remembering that he is on camera) Please, be my wife.

GIRLFRIEND

...Oh Bryan... No. I don't want to marry you.

The GIRLFRIEND starts walking back to the car, leaving BRYAN standing alone, shell shocked.

INT. STUDIO

The host is wrapping up the episode and introducing the final interviews.

HOST

Heartbreaking... Unfortunately, BRYAN chose not to join us for the final interviews, but his girlfriend Sharon did. We'll get her side of the story, and then end on a happy note when we catch up with Stephi and her fiancé to see how the move went and hear about their wedding plans.

INT. STUDIO

Sharon, the GIRLFRIEND is being interviewed.

HOST(O.S.)

Thanks for coming in. We appreciate you letting us use the footage of the proposal, and I know you wanted to give your side of the story.

GIRLFRIEND

Thank you.

HOST(O.S.)

When Bryan approached us, I'll be honest with you, I thought for sure that the proposal would go well, he was a good looking guy, with a great story, but when it came time for the proposal, you said a very clear 'No'. What was going through your mind on that night?

GIRLFRIEND

Not much really, I was kind of in shock, but I knew that I didn't want to marry him, I had decided that long ago.

HOST(O.S.)

Really? Why is that?

GIRLFRIEND

Look, Bryan is not a bad guy, but he is a mess. I mean, he's great at these big romantic gestures, but when it comes to the day to day requirements of life, he's unreliable and he can't be counted on. When we met in our twenties, that was fine, but to look ahead to a life together, 30, 40, 50 years of that? He's just not my idea of a partner. I should have broken it off sooner, but I didn't.

HOST(O.S.)

Are you two still together?

GIRLFRIEND

No, that night was pretty much the end of it.

HOST(O.S.)

Well, I'm sorry to hear that.

GIRLFRIEND

It's for the best... I truly believe that there is someone out there for everyone, and he couldn't find that person while he was with me.

INT. STUDIO

STEPHI and her man are sitting close together and holding hands. It is immediately clear that they are still in love.

HOST

You two make a very cute couple, have you set the date yet.

STEPHI

We have... But we couldn't wait, and drove to Vegas for a quickie wedding with a few friends.

HOST

Wow! That's exciting news. How are you finding married life?

BOYFRIEND

The move was stressful, but we are settling in.

HOST

And how is the acting going?

STEPHI

He booked his first national commercial!

HOST

Congratulations! You two are full of good news today. I wanted to ask you, as you look back on the proposal, what are your feelings about it now? You both seem happy about the outcome, but is there anything you would change?

STEPHI

No.

BOYFRIEND

I think the proposal was great, and it means so much to me, but I think I would have liked to ask the question.

HOST

That's interesting, how do you think you would have popped the question?

BOYFRIEND

Well, probably with a little less spectacle.

HOST

...but you are happy with the outcome, you're not having regrets?

BOYFRIEND

No, where we ended up is great... I guess I'm little old fashioned, I just always thought that I would go see her father and ask permission, then pick out the biggest ring I could afford, and do it right.

STEPHI

You know I didn't need all that, I have you and that's what's important to me.

BOYFRIEND

I know...

HOST

If I've learned one thing from doing this show, it's that everyone has an idea how they want to propose and how they want to be proposed to.

BOYFRIEND

Yes... And their wedding... We had a lot of fun in Vegas, but we just sort of rushed through it and it wasn't how I had figured my wedding day would go.

STEPHI

I'm sorry baby, I didn't realize that this was all that important to you.

HOST

Well, the important thing is that you found each other and you are building a life together, that's about all you can do.

BOYFRIEND

No, no it's not. I can do this too.

The BOYFRIEND gets down on one knee and pulls a ring from his pocket. STEPHI is surprised and delighted.

STEPHI

I can't believe this!

BOYFRIEND

Stephi Anne Murray, will you marry me... again?

STEPHI

Yes!

HOST

Well, I didn't see that coming... Three proposals in one show. Truly Amazing. I can't of a better way to end the show, so I'll close for now. Make sure to check us out on YouTube for extended edits and

(MORE)

HOST (CONT'D)  
behind the scenes footage of the  
proposals.

CREDITS

THE END.