

# **THE PINK WEDGE**

Jane Miller

## **Characters**

Anthony  
Emma  
Chris  
Diane

Jane Miller

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**CHRIS, DIANE AND ANTHONY ARE SITTING AROUND A COFFEE TABLE  
PLAYING TRIVIAL PURSUIT**

*EMMA ENTERS CARRYING A PLATE OF BISCUITS*

**EMMA:** Can I get anything else for anyone?

**ANTHONY:** Em...Sit down...We need to keep the game moving. We need a wedge. Can't win Trivial Pursuit without a wedge.

**EMMA:** We really like Trivial Pursuit. Anthony likes to play a couple of times a week.

**CHRIS:** One wedge? I don't know what game you're playing...Don't you need six.

**ANTHONY:** It only takes one to get you on a roll. Your turn.

*DIANE ROLLS THE DICE*

**DIANE:** Six. Roll again. (ROLLS THE DICE) Pink.

**CHRIS:** We can go for a pink wedge....Go on. Pink.

**DIANE:** Alright. Alright.

**ANTHONY:** Okay. Pink wedge. Who played Jim in 1955's Rebel Without a Cause?

**CHRIS:** James Dean.

**DIANE:** Are we playing as a team or what?

**CHRIS:** No point stuffing around if I know it.

**ANTHONY:** It's right. You lucky bastard. I bet you've never seen a James Dean movie in your life.

**CHRIS:** I have, as it happens. I've seen that one.

**DIANE:** You have not.

**CHRIS:** Yes, I have.

**DIANE:** No, you haven't.

**CHRIS:** I have.

**DIANE:** You've got it mixed up with something else.

**CHRIS:** I haven't.

**EMMA:** I get films mixed up all of the time....Don't I Anthony?

**CHRIS:** I'm not mixed up. I've seen it.

**DIANE:** Alright. When?

**CHRIS:** I don't know. Years ago.

**DIANE:** Not with me. Definitely not with me.

**CHRIS:** I saw it years ago.

**DIANE:** Who with?

**ANTHONY:** An old girlfriend.

**EMMA:** Anthony.

**DIANE:** None of his old girlfriends can follow anything longer than a commercial.

**CHRIS:** Very bloody funny. It was on television.

**DIANE:** What's it about?

**CHRIS:** I don't know. Who gives a rat's what it's about anyway?

**DIANE:** That just proves it. You're such a liar.

**CHRIS:** Proves what?

**DIANE:** That you haven't seen it and you're just talking crap. As usual.

**EMMA:** Coffee for anyone? More coffee....

**CHRIS:** It was about a guy named Jim-

**DIANE:** That could be any one of a hundred films.

**CHRIS:** Yes maybe it could. But it happens to be Rebel Without a frigging Cause.

**DIANE:** Who was in it?

**CHRIS:** James Dean.

**DIANE:** And?

**CHRIS:** How do I know?

**DIANE:** Don't lie. Chris. You haven't seen it.

**CHRIS:** I have....Thurston Howell from Gilligan's Island was the father. The millionaire.....

**EMMA:** Natalie Wood was in it. I think...But I could be wrong....

**CHRIS:** I'm telling you... I've seen it.

**DIANE:** Fine. I stand corrected. You've seen it. It's fine.

**CHRIS:** We need one of those movie guides....I 'm going to prove this....

**DIANE:** Don't be such a turd.....

**CHRIS:** No...I'll prove it to you. Thurston Howell was in that movie.

**DIANE:** I couldn't care less about Thurston Howell.

**EMMA:** I think we have the Leonard Maltin book.....

**ANTHONY:** I'll get it....

*ANTHONY GETS UP AND GOES TO LOOK FOR THE BOOK*

**CHRIS:** You're a ball breaker...

**DIANE:** And you're a lying shit.....

**EMMA:** Tea...I have green tea if anyone...Or Chai? What about Chai? It's like a frothy tea...Like a cappuccino...But with tea....

**DIANE:** Don't think I've forgotten about last weekend. You haven't heard the last of it. Not by a long shot.

**CHRIS:** Oh Christ...Not this again. You're paranoid....And crazy.

**DIANE:** Am I? How can I believe anything you say?

**CHRIS:** You are. You don't hear Emma carrying on about it. And Anthony was with me. All the way. Right Em?

**EMMA:** When? What are we talking about?

**DIANE:** I can't control how Emma reacts to Anthony's stupidity....He probably hasn't made the career out of lying that you have.

**EMMA:** React? To what?

*ANTHONY RETURNS CARRYING THE "LEONARD MALTIN" BOOK. HE GIVES IT TO CHRIS*

**ANTHONY:** Here's the book....

**EMMA:** What happened last weekend?

**ANTHONY:** Nothing. I was working. Remember...I had to work

**EMMA:** Chris just said-

**DIANE:** Emma, you look up the film. I trust you.

*DIANE SNATCHES THE BOOK FROM CHRIS AND HANDS IT TO EMMA.*

**EMMA:** Here it is. Rebel Without a Cause – 1955 film starring James Dean, Natalie Wood, Sal Mineo-

**CHRIS:** And...

**EMMA:** And Jim Backus, Corey Allen.

**CHRIS:** What about Thurston Howell?

**DIANE:** He was an actor. There's no real person called Thurston Howell. Thurston Howell was a character. On a TV show. You pickle.

**CHRIS:** So what's his name?

**ANTHONY:** It's obviously Jim whatever his name is

**EMMA:** Jim Backus

**CHRIS:** It's got to be Jim Backus. Thurston Howell wouldn't have a name like Corey.

**DIANE:** You're an idiot. There is no question I married a complete bloody idiot. People tried to tell me. My mother, your mother-

**CHRIS:** Now just hang on. Don't bring my mother into this....My mother wouldn't have said anything about me to you.

**DIANE:** You'd be surprised.

**CHRIS:** There's no way....I know my mother.

**DIANE:** She warned me-

**EMMA:** Anthony. What happened? Last weekend?

**ANTHONY:** Emma.... Why don't we have some more coffee?

**EMMA:** I think we've had enough coffee.

**CHRIS:** What's she supposed to have said?

**DIANE:** I can't break that confidence.

**CHRIS:** Some days I think it would be easier to just put my balls in a vice-

**DIANE:** Don't think that some days, that isn't my biggest fantasy.... When I think of who I could have married-

**CHRIS:** That is such bullshit.

**DIANE:** You'd be surprised.

**CHRIS:** And one day - probably at my funeral - all of these frigging surprises are going to be revealed.

**DIANE:** Your funeral couldn't come soon enough you asshole.....

**CHRIS:** And you-

**DIANE:** Say it...Go on say it....It's the last thing you'll ever say to me but-

**CHRIS:** I'll say it...Don't worry about that-

**DIANE:** I want you to...I'm waiting for you to just say it-

**EMMA:** Oh my Gosh! Is that the time?..... It's really late.

**CHRIS:** Hey...It's eleven o'clock.

**DIANE:** We should go. You know I have an early start tomorrow....

**CHRIS:** Looks like we're off.

*DIANE AND CHRIS START TO GET THEIR STUFF TOGETHER*

**DIANE:** Sorry to leave the game-

**EMMA:** Let's just call it quits and say you won.

**DIANE:** We had a great time. We have to do it again. It was so much fun.

**CHRIS:** We'll let you win next time...

*DIANE AND CHRIS START TO LEAVE*

**DIANE:** Next week? Definite?

**ANTHONY:** Well, yeah-

**EMMA:** Maybe. We'll see.

**ANTHONY:** I'll see you out.

*GOODBYES ARE EXCHANGED AND ANTHONY, DIANE AND CHRIS EXIT. EMMA STARTS TO CLEAN UP AND PAUSES FOR A MOMENT SITTING DOWN. ANTHONY RETURNS*

**ANTHONY:** Jesus. That's a lesson.....When you compare us to them.....

**EMMA:** What?

**ANTHONY:** We never fight. Their marriage is a nightmare and we're practically a perfect couple. If I said something like that.....Like I'd seen Rebel Without a Cause.....

**EMMA:** I'd believe it. I'd never question it.

**ANTHONY:** See-

**EMMA:** Anthony. Let's keep playing.

**ANTHONY:** What?

**EMMA:** Let's keep playing. I know how you love Trivial Pursuit. Roll the dice.

**ANTHONY:** What? Why? Okay....  
(ANTHONY SITS DOWN AND ROLLS THE DICE) Green....  
Science and nature

**EMMA:** Ready for the question?  
What would you call someone whose husband told her he was working last Saturday and it turned out he'd been lying? What would you call her? An idiot? What would he be? A liar? Are they practically a perfect couple?

**ANTHONY:** Emma....That's not Science and Nature....Is it a multiple choice?

**EMMA:** Hypothetically.....For argument's sake. If a friend let it slip that you hadn't been working last Saturday ...That you'd lied....If I was the potential "idiot".....I'd know there must be a mistake.... Because you told me you were working and I believed you. I trust you.

**ANTHONY:** Emma – Anyone who'd tell you that could be just trying to get himself out of the shit with his own wife....

**EMMA:** Is that what happened?

**ANTHONY:** Isn't this a hypothetical?

**EMMA:** I hope it is but I think it's not.

**ANTHONY:** We just had a few drinks....No big deal....

**EMMA:** Wrong answer.

**ANTHONY:** Emma....

**EMMA:** You looked me in the eye and said you were working.

**ANTHONY:** A white lie...I know you like me to be at home on the weekend... with you...And it was just a few drinks with-

**EMMA:** How can I trust you? If I don't know when you are telling me the truth-

**ANTHONY:** Em...It was so minor. Miniscule. Tiny.

**EMMA:** How do I know if it's the first time? The first lie. Is it?

**ANTHONY:** The thing is...Emma... You'd never have known if someone hadn't opened his big fat mouth. If you want to be angry...Be angry at Chris. Yes. That's right...Be angry at Chris...

**EMMA:** Are you saying this is his fault?

**ANTHONY:** The proof's in the pudding. We never fight. Never. After one night with them....We're at each other's throats.

**EMMA:** Congratulations. That's what we won tonight – a big pink wedge. The wedge of wedges...I hope you're happy with it.

*(PAUSE)*

I hate Trivial Pursuit...Always have. I loathe it. Don't ever ask me to play again with you or your friends.... I don't care if I never see that board again...You can burn it for all I care.

*(THROWS THE WEDGES AT HIM AND EXITS)*

**ANTHONY:** *(CALLING AFTER HER. AS HE TALKS HE LOOKS ON THE FLOOR TRYING TO FIND THE WEDGES SHE THREW AT HIM.)*

Yes well....Don't worry.... I won't ask you to play with them.... Chris is nothing but a...a...big....frigging...Big mouth. I wouldn't put you through another evening with him.

His marriage is a shambles... And he just can't stand to see anyone else with a good marriage...Like our....Good marriage....

*(HE STARTS LOOKING AT THE QUESTIONS WHILE HE'S TALKING AND IS OBVIOUSLY ANSWERING THE QUESTIONS IN HIS HEAD.)*

Emma, you have my word .... Not only are we never playing with them again...I'll never play Trivial Pursuit again at all...Full stop....If that's what you want.... No more Trivial Pursuit...Ever.

If that would make you happy....Em...Would that make you happy?

*(PAUSE)*

You know what? I'm going to make the ultimate sacrifice....I'm going to take the game outside and put it straight in the bin....What do you think of that? That's how much I care Emma. Straight in the garbage. Never to be played again. What about that then?

*(AS ANTHONY IS TALKING HE FRANTICALLY FOLDS THE BOARD UP AND HIDES IT BEHND A CHAIR AND PULLS THE QUESTION CARDS OUT OF THE BOX AND STUFFS THEM IN HIS POCKETS)*

That's the sacrifice...I'm prepared to make. For you....My Trivial Pursuit set... That I got for my 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. .Given to me for my 18th birthday. By my dead grandmother. Straight into the garbage. *(HE PULLS OUT THE WEDGES AND STUFFS THEM INTO HIS SHIRT WITH THE DICE).*

Don't try and stop me Emma....Its all going straight in the bin... Because here is nothing more important to me in our marriage than....Truth, trust and honesty.

**LIGHTS DOWN**