

## Thirty Something

Episodic 1987

Hope and Michael are a married couple in their thirties, living in Philadelphia, and struggling with everyday adult angst. Michael runs an ad agency with his friend Elliot, whose marriage to Nancy is beginning to show the cracks of age, as is the friendship between Hope and her best friend Ellyn. Michael's best friend, Gary, on the other hand, is trying to get on with his womanising life, and get over the mutually-destructive affair he had with Michael's cousin, Melissa. It all sounds like just another soap, but is given a unique atmosphere by the production team (the Bedford Falls company, also responsible for 'My So Called Life') whose intelligent scripts, believable characters and frequent dips into the slightly surreal world of the character's minds places the series as one of the highlights of the late 1980s. *Written by [Spiral Lobster](mailto:discordia@tanagra.demon.co.uk)*  
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THIRTY SOMETHING

SHE

This is stupid, I'm going home. I just can't do it. Everything about it is wrong.

HE

You mean you want to keep the baby?

SHE

Yes. It's just that I've always put things off. And I can't keep putting this off--I think I'm going crazy. I can't keep making assumptions about the future.

HE

No, you can't.

SHE

But I thought you wanted me to have the abortion.

HE

I thought you wanted to have it.

SHE

But when I told you I was pregnant...

HE

The first thing you told me was that you were going to have an abortion.

SHE

And you said it was okay with you.

HE

Because I thought it was okay with you.

SHE

You didn't want to?

HE

I don't know, I never even had a chance to think. All this talk about your baby--like it was some kind of immaculate conception. You know, I was there too. I was in the room. Believe it or not, this means something to me.

SHE

I thought the idea of a baby scared you to death.

HE

I'm not afraid of the baby, I'm afraid of you.

SHE

Me?

HE

Yeah, you. Every time we try to have a serious discussion, you get real defensive and start jumping all over me. And I'm sick of it.

SHE

I jump on you?

HE

Yes. Whenever I try to help you, whenever I reach out to you, you jump on me. Why are you so damned defensive?

SHE

Stop attacking me.

HE

I'm not attacking you, I'm trying to reach you. What are you afraid of-- nuclear war or something?

SHE

Maybe I am. And maybe I'm afraid of toxic waste, and polluted water. And terrorists and the ozone layer, and all those other wonderful things to bring up a baby in. It's the future, Gary. The future scares me.