

THE TAGALONG

Written by

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FADE IN:

INT. DORM ROOM, ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY - NIGHT

SUPER: "2005, ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY"

JO BALDWIN, a short, cherub-faced young lady of 22, studies with her best friend, NOAH RYAN, a handsome, charming gentleman, also 22. Jo sits at Noah's desk, taking the studying way more seriously than Noah, who lays in his bed. It's as if there are almost in two different worlds.

NOAH

...and she told me that she just needed help dismantling her TV stand. And when I walked into the room, she was naked.

JO

Tell me you didn't.

NOAH

I didn't want to be rude.

JO

I can't believe you came out of your lovely mother.

NOAH

We should be out right now taking shots of tequila and making bad decisions.

JO

Don't you think I would rather be watching the Cardinals-Cubs game? But this Art History final ain't gonna study itself.

NOAH

Come on Jo...let's end our run here at ASU with some a big old bang.

JO

(straight faced)  
Bang.

NOAH

Have I told you lately that you're real funny?

JO

Why don't you tell me three techniques that define Impressionism?

NOAH

1. The play of natural light is emphasized. 2. Colors are applied side-by-side with as little mixing as possible. 3. Short, thick strokes of paint quickly capture the essence of the subject, rather than its details.

JO

UGH. How do you always land on your feet?

NOAH

You mean like a cat? Meow.

JO

I'm gonna miss you.

NOAH

(Emotions? NO!)

Do you know what's crazy? Biggie Smalls died ten years ago.

JO

An "I miss you too" would have been a little more apropos.

NOAH

Hear me out. Wouldn't a greeting card with a cartoon of Biggie that says "Biggie Thanks" be hilarious?

JO

You know I want to strangle you, but not before I give you this.

Jo reaches in to her bag and pulls out a box. She sits with Noah on the bed.

NOAH

What is that? Are you proposing to me?

JO

Noah, can you just shut your trap for once?

Noah respectfully nods.

JO (CONT'D)  
 (she gets a little teary)  
 You mean a lot to me and I just  
 can't believe we'll be on opposite  
 ends of the country and I just want  
 you know that because of you, I  
 have been changed for good.

Jo hands Noah the box.

NOAH  
 You've got to stop listening to  
*Wicked*.

JO  
 (wiping away her tears)  
 Will you just open the damn thing?

Noah opens the box to find a beautiful watch. He turns it  
 over. The engraving it reads, "FRIENDS 'TIL THE END OF TIME.  
 N & J." Noah is visibly moved, but keeps it wrangled in.

NOAH  
 Thank you.

JO  
 I don't want you wasting one of  
 those New York minutes.

NOAH  
 Can you believe I'm moving to New  
 York City? It's gonna be crazy...  
 I'm probably going to get wrapped  
 up in sex, drugs and alcohol. Party  
 too hard. BAM! Dead of a heart  
 attack way too young. But then  
 thousands will mourn...

JO  
 Why would you say that?

He looks at her blankly.

JO (CONT'D)  
 My dad, Noah?

Nothing from Noah.

JO (CONT'D)  
 Had a heart attack.

NOAH  
 You're too sensitive.

JO  
And you're a dick.

She gets up and begins to pack up.

NOAH  
C'mon Jo. I love it.

He pulls her back on to the bed.

NOAH (CONT'D)  
Relax, ok? Nothing is going to happen to me and there are planes that take people from LA to New York and New York to LA. This is the beginning of our lives! Not the end.

He pokes her.

JO  
You're right.

He begins to poke her repeatedly.

NOAH  
Are you sure you're fine? Huh? Huh?

Jo pokes/tickles back.

JO  
Two can play at this game.

They begin to tickle each other, wrestle, horseplay. Jo winds up pinning him. There is a beat. Their eyes lock. He flips her over, so that he is in the dominant position. He kisses her. He takes off his shirt and then hers. They continue to make out passionately. Noah moves to undo his pants and reaches for a condom from his night stand.

NOAH  
Are you sure?

JO  
Yes.

He continues and the two friends have sex.

INT. DORM ROOM, ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY - MORNING

Jo and Noah are dead asleep. The alarm goes off. Jo wakes up. Noah hits snooze. Jo looks at her watch...

JO

Shit!

Noah wakes up. Jo leaps out of bed, frantically gathering her things.

JO (CONT'D)

Shit. Shit. Shit.

NOAH

What are you shitting about?

JO

The final is in...13 minutes!

NOAH

Plenty of time.

JO

No it's not!

NOAH

Three minutes to get dressed, comb my hair, and brush my teeth. Four, if I floss. Another minute for the shoes. Two minutes to get my shit together. That leaves what? 6 whole minutes to get to class.

JO

Across campus?! Ugh. I don't even have time to change my underwear.

She is packed up.

JO (CONT'D)

Are you coming?

NOAH

I'll be right behind you.

Jo flies out the door.

JO (O.S.)

Hi Kevin. By Kevin.

KEVIN RICHARDSON, Noah's other best friend walks in.

KEVIN

Dude, get your shit and let's go.

NOAH

I'm coming.

Noah begins to throw on clothes. Kevin spots a condom wrapper on the ground.

KEVIN  
Wait, did you and Jo...?

NOAH  
We did.

KEVIN  
Are you two like a thing now?

NOAH  
It meant nothing.

KEVIN  
Does she know that?

NOAH  
Yeah.

KEVIN  
Are you sure? You know she has a thing for you.

NOAH  
No she doesn't. Does she?

KEVIN  
Men and women can't be friends.  
Haven't you've ever seen *When Harry Met Sally*?

NOAH  
Nah. I'm sure it's fine.

EXT. ART HISTORY LECTURE HALL, ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY -  
MOMENTS LATER

Jo runs up to the classroom door, where her other best friend, ANNIE WILLIS, is waiting.

ANNIE  
Where have you been? I went to meet you for coffee and you weren't-

JO  
(she can't hold it in)  
Noah and I had sex.

ANNIE  
When?

JO  
Last night.

ANNIE  
What?

JO  
It was hot.

ANNIE  
I can't even fucking believe it.

JO  
Annie - you know how long I've been  
wanting this.

ANNIE  
You think this means that you two  
are like a thing now?

JO  
I think so-

Before Jo can finish her thought, Kevin walks up. Noah is trailing behind.

KEVIN  
Hey babe.

Annie plants a smooch on Kevin that only gets slightly out of control. Jo rolls her eyes.

NOAH  
Get a room.

JO  
Hey.

Jo goes to give Noah a kiss, but he backs away quickly.

NOAH  
(looking down at his feet)  
Hi.

You can take juice and make popsicles with how cold it is between them. Kevin and Annie break their lips apart.

KEVIN  
Let's do this!

He high fives Noah and walks hand-in-hand with Annie into the classroom. Noah stares at Jo, speechless.



JO  
I'm going to find a seat.

She enters the classroom. Noah has proverbial shit all over his face.

INT. ART HISTORY LECTURE HALL, ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY -  
LATER

Jo finishes her final and races out of class. Noah watches her leave. He isn't done. He doesn't care. He rushes out.

INT. HALLWAY, ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY - CONTINUOUS

Noah rushes to catch Jo.

NOAH  
Jo! Wait up.

She speeds up. He breaks out into a sprint and catches her.

NOAH (CONT'D)  
Are we ok?

JO  
Everything is fine.

NOAH  
Last night was fun. Like really.  
Wow...Jo, I didn't know you had it  
in you.

There is a pause where Jo stares at him "What the fuck does that mean?".

NOAH (CONT'D)  
But I can't be tied down right now.  
And you and me - we're just  
friends.

JO  
Not anymore.

Jo tries to step around him, but he stops her yet again.

NOAH  
C'mon. I know you feel like we'll  
never see each other again, but  
there's MySpace and this.

Noah holds up his sweet Nokia phone. There is a silence.

JO

Bye Noah.

Jo walks away and Noah is left alone. He shouts in one last attempt to make her smile.

NOAH

I did say I wanted to go out on a  
"Bang"!

He tries to muster up laughter as he watches her until she is out of sight.

## ROLL CREDITS

AS THE OPENING CREDITS ROLL, WE FADE OUT FROM THE ASU CAMPUS INTO A SERIES OF PHOTOS OF NOAH AND JO LEADING THEIR SEPARATE LIVES OVER THE LAST DOZEN OR SO YEARS. NOAH IN NEW YORK, DATING LOADS OF WOMEN, POSING WITH CLEVER, HIPSTER GREETING CARDS THAT HE HAS WRITTEN. JO IS IN LOS ANGELES, COVERING SPORTS GAMES, PENNING SPORTS ARTICLES. EVENTUALLY, WE LAND IN LOS ANGELES, PRESENT DAY. THE PALMS TREES, BEACH, HOLLYWOOD... ALL THAT CRAP YOU THINK OF WHEN YOU THINK OF LOS ANGELES.

CUT TO:

INT. SCARECROW &amp; BEAR OFFICES, LOS ANGELES - DAY

SUPER: "2018, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA"

Noah, now 35, is getting acquainted with his new office in Los Angeles from his new boss, TODD.

TODD

I gotta say, I was a little surprised when we finally got you to sign the dotted line. What made you change your mind?

NOAH

I was bored with New York and thought, why not take the leap to sunny Los Angeles.

TODD

Very cool bro. Scarecrow & Bear- A Lifestyle Brand could not be more thrilled to have THE Noah Ryan.... I mean you're the guy who thought up the thank you card with Biggie on the front. Inspired.

JULIE FAY approaches.

JULIE

Sorry to interrupt. Todd, are you joining the 11am conference call with Urban?

TODD

You can handle it on your own. I want to make sure Noah gets everything he needs. By the way, Julie, this is Noah Ryan, our new Creative Director, and Noah this is Julie Fay, Vice President of Sales.

Julie and Noah shake hands.

JULIE

Nice to meet you. We've all heard wonderful things.

NOAH

Same here.

TODD

Julie here drove up sales 150% last quarter.

NOAH

Impressive, but I'm not surprised. A Master's from Harvard Business, and a feature in the Forbes 30 Under 30 issue....

JULIE

(She is charmed)  
Someone did their homework.

Todd's phone rings.

TODD

Sorry, I gotta get this. Julie, can you show Noah to his office?

She nods as Todd walks away.

JULIE

So, Noah, what brings you to LA?

NOAH

My mom.

JULIE

Your mom?

NOAH

She isn't getting any younger. She recently moved to Pasadena. And I couldn't bear the thought of her becoming the little old lady from Pasadena.

Julie giggles.

NOAH (CONT'D)

No, but really. She's the best.

JULIE

That's incredibly sweet.

NOAH

She raised me as a single mother. It's the least I can do.

They arrive at Noah's office that has a beautiful view.

JULIE

Not bad, huh?

NOAH

(staring at Julie, not the view)

Incredible.

She blushes.

JULIE

I should run. I've got that call.

NOAH

Thank you for your help, Julie. I'm looking forward to working with you.

JULIE

Likewise. Let me know if you need anything.

She gives a smile to Noah that screams "I am down to f\*&\$."

NOAH

I think I'm gonna like LA.

INT. SCARECROW & BEAR, NOAH'S OFFICE, LOS ANGELES - LITTLE LATER

Noah is on his cell phone, dilly dallying around with his computer; the kind of futzing you do when start a new job.

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. ANNIE AND KEVIN'S HOME, KITCHEN - SAME

Kevin is cleaning the kitchen. His phone rings.

KEVIN

Dude!!

NOAH

Bro!!

KEVIN

How are you?

NOAH

Already have a few dates lined up, but nothing tonight. Let's grab a beer.

KEVIN

Oh man. Annie and I have our engagement party tonight.

NOAH

Oh yah. I think I saw that on Facebook.

CLOSE IN ON NOAH'S COMPUTER: Kevin's Facebook page. His status reads "Stoked for our super rad engagement party tonight!"

NOAH (CONT'D)

Another time then.

KEVIN

You should totally come tonight!

NOAH

I wouldn't want to impose.

KEVIN

Seriously. I was going to invite you, but wasn't sure when you were-

NOAH

You twisted my arm.

KEVIN

It'll be great to have the whole gang back together.

NOAH

Whole gang?

KEVIN

Shit. Jo's gonna be there tonight.

CLOSE IN ON NOAH'S COMPUTER: It is Jo's Facebook page. There is a picture of her, Annie, and Kevin. The status reads: "Can't wait to celebrate these two FINALLY getting engaged. #itsaboutdamntime #threemuskateters #happinessisthis"

NOAH

Oh. Her.

KEVIN

She hates your guts, dude.

NOAH

I'll say something cute. She'll be fine.

KEVIN

Still full of yourself.

NOAH

Hrm. Could I bring a date?

END INTERCUT.

INT. LOS ANGELES TIMES, JO'S OFFICE - SAME

Jo's office is covered with a few awards, including "Sports Journalist of the Year". She has articles pinned up of columns that she has written. She has a framed St. Louis Rams jersey hung in her office. There is even a framed picture of her and LeBron James together. Jo herself sits in her chair, behind her desk, looking out the window.

JO

(singing quietly to herself, Katy Perry's "Roar")

(MORE)

JO (CONT'D)  
 YOU HELD ME DOWN, BUT I GOT UP/  
 GET READY 'CAUSE I'VE HAD ENOUGH/  
 I SEE IT ALL, I SEE IT NOW/  
 I GOT THE EYE OF THE TIGER, A  
 FIGHTER/  
 DANCING THROUGH THE FIRE/  
 'CAUSE I AM THE CHAMPION, AN YOU'RE  
 GONNA HEAR ME ROAR/  
 LOUDER, LOUDER THAN A LION-

Annie walks in with newspaper in hand, scaring Jo.

ANNIE  
 (reading from the paper)  
 "Frankly, Tom Brady is lucky that  
 Giselle shares a bed with him. In  
 short, his balls needed to be  
 deflated."

JO  
 Can you tell? I'm not a fan of Tom  
 Brady.

ANNIE  
 Brutal. Rumor has it that Brady is  
 crying on his bathroom floor.

JO  
 I really love Giselle though.

ANNIE  
 Are you excited for the engagement  
 party?

JO  
 Is that tonight?

She smirks.

ANNIE  
 Shut up. I've been waiting for this  
 for 15 years. Fifteen years.

JO  
 For your engagement party?

ANNIE  
 The wedding. But the engagement  
 party falls under the wedding  
 umbrella.

JO

I can already foresee us shopping for wedding underwear and hearing, "I've been waiting for this moment for fifteen years..."

ANNIE

I'm taking your snark as excitement. Moving on. Can you bring a few extra bottles of champagne?

JO

It would be my honor as Maid of Honor. I just thought of that. Just now. Clever huh?

ANNIE

Oh and Noah will be there. So don't forget it starts at 7, but you should be there around 6:45. Unless the champagne isn't chilled, then you should-

JO

(as if she was punched in the face)  
Whoa Whoa Whoa. Noah? Ryan?

ANNIE

I know! Kevin just texted me. Won't it be fun to have the whole gang back together?

JO

Remember how he shit all over our friendship in college?

ANNIE

Girl, it was over ten years ago. You knew exactly who Noah was when you let his peen inside you. Maybe it's time to let it go.

JO

I've let it go. I could care less about what he does.

ANNIE

Is that why you follow him on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and LinkedIn?



JO

You know what? It doesn't matter. I am your Maid of Honor and best friend. Therefore, I will suck. It. Up.

ANNIE

Thank you.

Annie kisses her on the forehead.

JO

Do I look okay?

She looks like she's been working all day: small stain on her shirt, hair flat, mascara under the eyes.

ANNIE

You always look beautiful to me.

JO

That's woman talk for "You look like shit."

ANNIE

6:45pm. With champagne. Don't be late.

Annie exits. Jo looks at her watch. It reads 4:53pm.

JO

Plenty of time.

Jo runs out of her office.

A WOMAN WHO WANTS TO LOOK GOOD BECAUSE SHE IS GOING TO SEE AN OLD FLAME - MONTAGE

- A) Jo runs into a store for a new outfit.
- B) Jo goes to DryBar for a blow out.
- C) Jo speeds into Sephora to get her make-up done.
- D) Jo drives past BevMo. Shit! She has to bring champagne.
- E) Jo sprints through BevMo.

END MONTAGE.

INT. ANNIE AND KEVIN'S HOME, KITCHEN - EVENING

Jo comes rushing in and immediately starts unpacking. Annie is making drinks for people.

ANNIE

Where have you been?

JO

I know you said 6:45 but I got stuck at work and then there was a line a BevMo and traffic, but at least I'm here before Noah.

Noah appears in the kitchen doorway.

NOAH

Nope. He was here at 7pm. On the dot.

Jo freezes as she looks up. She locks eyes with him.

ANNIE

I'll leave you two alone.

Annie backs out of the kitchen with drinks in hand.

NOAH

Jo Baldwin. It looks like you are about 40 New York Minutes late.

He is wearing the watch she gave him all those years ago. Jo notices and can't help but smile a little. Damn. He's good.

JO

I'm only twenty minutes late.

NOAH

New York minutes are twice as long.

JO

Then wouldn't that me only ten New York minutes late?

NOAH

Now, I'm just confused.

JO

Me too.

NOAH

Kevin was right.

JO

About what?

NOAH  
You still hate my guts.

JO  
No.

Noah looks at her, "C'mon..."

JO (CONT'D)  
Only a little.

NOAH  
You aren't still stuck on that one-night stand thing are you?

JO  
You were such a cocksucker about it.

NOAH  
I think you were the cocksucker that night.

JO  
(sarcastic as sarcastic  
can be)  
Clever.

NOAH  
To clarify. You're not over it?

JO  
You know what will make me over it?

NOAH  
Do tell.

JO  
An apology.

Noah looks her in the eye.

NOAH  
I am sincerely sorry, Josephine Grace Baldwin. For giving you the best night of your life and then leaving you wanting more-

Jo turns and begins to walk away.

NOAH (CONT'D)  
Jo-

Jo stops. Turns back to Noah.

JO  
You had me with that whole watch  
bit.

She smiles.

NOAH  
Truce?

JO  
You really fucked our friendship,  
you know that right?

NOAH  
I fucked-up. Royally. I'm sorry.

She sticks her hand out and they shake.

JO  
Truce.

NOAH  
Now, I need to introduce you to my  
date.

JO  
Of course, here a whole 26 hours  
and you've met someone.

Noah takes Jo by the hand and into the living room.

INT. ANNIE AND KEVIN'S HOME, LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The party is commencing as Noah weaves around the PARTY GOERS with Jo in tow. They approach a PETITE WOMAN from behind. Noah taps her on the shoulder.

NOAH  
Look who it is.

GERTIE RYAN, turns around. She's in her mid-sixties and sprightly.

JO  
Oh my God, Mrs. Ryan. You look  
amazing. Haven't aged a bit.

Jo and Gertie embrace.

GERTIE  
Call me Gertie. Mrs. Ryan makes me  
feel old.

JO

What are you doing here?

GERTIE

(she indicates Noah)

I wanted to be closer to this one.  
Plus, if you can believe it,  
Phoenix is only getting hotter.  
Damn global warming.

(sarcastically)

Yeah, Trump...it's something the  
Chinese made up.

Jo laughs.

GERTIE (CONT'D)

It's good to see you. Now tell me  
everything. I love opening the  
paper up and seeing your name in  
print. Are you dating anyone?

JO

Oh God no. I mean not seriously  
dating anyone.

GERTIE

Did you hear that Noah, she isn't  
dating anyone?

NOAH

Not happening.

JO

Yeah, no offense Mrs... Gertie, but  
I don't think I'm your son's type.

GERTIE

True - you aren't some young  
airhead.

Jo and Gertie laugh.

JO

I always did like you.

NOAH

I'm getting another drink. Anyone  
want anything?

JO

I'm good thanks.

GERTIE

No thank you.

The two continue to jabber, while Noah walks away smiling.

INT. ANNIE AND KEVIN'S HOME, KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Noah enters as Annie is cutting lemons and limes for drinks.

ANNIE  
What do you need, sir?

NOAH  
Just another beer.

ANNIE  
They're in the fridge.

Noah grabs another. He looks out the kitchen door and catches a glimpse of Jo.

ANNIE (CONT'D)  
She's a real ball buster now.

NOAH  
Jo?

ANNIE  
Who else? They say she's the perfect combination of Nora Ephron and Dave Anderson.

NOAH  
She's always been a great writer.

ANNIE  
She has a gorgeous apartment. A collection of designer shoes that Anna Wintour would kill for. And her dating life- she can't fight the men off fast enough.

NOAH  
What you're getting at?

ANNIE  
She's a strong, kick-ass woman. And if you fuck with her ever again, I will murder you.

Annie flashes her knife.

NOAH  
Kevin is one lucky guy.

Annie crosses to Noah and he knows that she won't hurt him, will she?

ANNIE

It's good to have you back.

INT. ANNIE AND KEVIN'S HOME, KITCHEN - LATER

The party has dwindled down, and the four friends are left, along with Gertie. They shoot the shit.

GERTIE

I better get going. I'm too old for this shit.

JO

Someone wash that mouth out with soap.

Gertie starts to give hugs and such.

KEVIN

Mrs. R, it is so good to have you around.

GERTIE

It's good to see you kids. You're gonna keep me young.

NOAH

Are you sure you'll get home ok?

GERTIE

I'll be fine, son.

NOAH

Text me when you get in.

GERTIE

Will do. Bye y'all.

ALL

Bye/Love you/Etc.

Gertie exits.

ANNIE

I love your mom. She took such good care of us in college.

KEVIN

Thanksgiving at her house was dope.

NOAH  
I cannot believe you still  
"dope"...

ANNIE  
Hey! That's my fiance you're  
talking about.

Annie and Kevin kiss. Jo and Noah awkwardly look at each other.

NOAH  
And that's my exit cue.

JO  
Yep, time to go.

ANNIE  
You guys! C'mon!

JO  
(to Noah)  
Did you drive?

NOAH  
Nope. Lyft. You?

JO  
Same. Where you headed?

NOAH  
Los Feliz.

JO  
Silver Lake. Wanna split one?

NOAH  
Perfect.

JO  
I'll get it.

Jo is quick on her phone.

JO (CONT'D)  
Ok, it will be here in two. We  
gotta to go.  
(to Annie)  
Give me a hug.

Jo and Annie hug.

NOAH  
Wanna watch the ASU game tomorrow?



KEVIN

How about noon? The bar on the corner has great wings.

ANNIE

They have hot waitresses.

JO

Alan is pulling up right now in a black Prius.

NOAH

Hasta manana.

INT. LYFT ON THE EMPTY STREETS OF LOS ANGELES - A LITTLE LATER

Jo and Noah are laughing hysterically.

JO

...I can't believe that you actually shit your pants on the subway.

The dust settles on the laughter. There is that brief moment of silence.

NOAH

Can I tell you something?

JO

Please tell me you peed yourself in a cab.

He takes her hand.

NOAH

I'm sorry that I hurt you. Even more sorry that we lost a dozen years of friendship because I was a dick.

JO

Look who has turned into a big pile of mush. What have you done with Noah Ryan?

NOAH

He's here. Just older and wiser.

The Lyft stops.

JO  
This is me.

NOAH  
Thanks for the ride.

JO  
Anytime.

She gets out of the car, but before she can shut the door.

JO (CONT'D)  
I've missed you too.

Jo smiles and shuts the Lyft door.

NOAH  
I knew she'd come around.

JO AND NOAH ARE FRIENDS AGAIN MONTAGE

A) INT. STAPLES CENTER - EVENING

Noah and Jo watch a Lakers game. Drinking beers, laughing, and having a grand 'ole time.

B) INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Noah and Jo are at an Italian restaurant laughing. A violinist comes up and starts to play. They indicate that they are not together, but the violinist doesn't get the hint. Noah finally kind of shoos him away.

C) INT. NOAH'S APARTMENT - DAY

Noah and Jo argue about how to put together an IKEA bookshelf.

D) INT. BAR - NIGHT

Noah is talking to a WOMAN at a bar, while Jo stares at her phone. Noah gives Jo a kiss on the cheek, and leaves with the WOMAN.

E) INT. MOVIE THEATRE - NIGHT

Noah has popcorn in hand and is waiting for Jo. His phone goes off. It is a text from Jo, "Sorry. Can't make it. HOT Tinder date! Wish me luck."

END MONTAGE.

INT. LOS ANGELES TIMES BUILDING, JO'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Jo is at her office working late. She stares at a blank computer screen. There is a CHIME. Jo reaches for her phone. It's a text message.

"NOAH: Just got done with a date. Let's get some food."

Jo sighs.

"JO: Can't. Gotta meet a deadline. I'm almost there."

Jo takes a picture of her blank screen, sends to Noah. Oh and as an add-on:

"JO: And I'M STARVING."

She decides to give the writing a go. She talks as she types.

JO

"With a headline like 'The Raiders Raid Las Vegas', I have only one question: what is the over/under on the number of STDs that plague the team this season." Nope. Cannot write that. Shit.

Her phone CHIMES again.

"NOAH: You've got loads of time. How about sushi?"

JO (CONT'D)

Ughhhh.

Jo stands up and begins milling as she texts.

"JO: I don't have loads of time. This article is due on my boss's desk by 9am. It is lam!!!"

Almost an immediate response.

"NOAH: People don't care what you think anyway. Burgers?"

JO (CONT'D)

Idiot.

Her phone rings.

JO (CONT'D)

What?

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. NOAH'S APARTMENT, BEDROOM - SAME

Noah is in bed, shirtless, talking on the phone.

NOAH

You've got to stop freaking out. This can't be the first time you've had writer's block. In fact, it isn't. I've witnessed the Jo Baldwin full meltdown before.

JO

Why did I call you again?

NOAH

I called you.

JO.

Oh. Well, why did you call me then?

NOAH

For encouragement. Support.

JO

You're doing a terrible job.

NOAH

If I was there, I grab you by the shoulders and tell you to put your big girl pants on. You are the best damn sports columnist out there. Stop crying and do your job.

Jo's office phone RINGS.

JO

Hold on. It's security.

Jo picks up.

JO (CONT'D)

Hi Al...Huh?...I didn't order anything...I'm starving so I'll take it...Send it up and if you don't hear from me in like 30 minutes, check on me. Maybe it was poisoned. Brady is still pretty pissed....Thanks.

She hangs up and is back to Noah. Meanwhile, she pulls out her purse.

JO (CONT'D)

I don't even remember what we were arguing about.

NOAH

I was telling you to stop whining.

JO

Ugh. You're one to talk... "Card sales are only up by 15%. One of my 1000 designs got shot down. I cracked my iPhone..."

NOAH

Those are real problems.

A DELIVERY GUY knocks on her window. She opens the door and mouths "Thanks." She tries to pay.

DELIVERY GUY

(whispering)

It's taken care of.

JO

They sound like problems of the privileged.

She opens the bag and takes out a large carton of delicious looking french fries.

JO (CONT'D)

Ok. This is weird.

NOAH

Did someone randomly send you your favorite french fries from your favorite greasy diner?

JO

(smiling)

Thank you.

NOAH

I know how hangry you get. And I know you're too lazy to go across the street and get them.

JO

Thank you.

NOAH  
No problem. Now go get 'em tiger.

Jo hangs up.

END INTERCUT.

INT. NOAH'S APARTMENT, KITCHEN - MORNING

Noah sits at his kitchen table, drinking coffee and reading the LA Times. Jo barges in.

JO  
Hey!

NOAH  
(scared shitless)  
Jesus! Jo! How did you get in here?

JO  
I used my key. I texted you,  
telling you that I was coming over.

Noah picks up his phone and sees the text.

NOAH  
You sure did.

JO  
Really?

NOAH  
Why are you here?

JO  
Guess who scored two tickets to the  
ESPY Awards and access to the VIP  
After-Party?

Jo flashes two VIP passes.

NOAH  
Please tell me that you're taking  
me. Please, please, please.

JO  
Dance.

NOAH  
What?

JO  
Dance for the tickets. Dance  
monkey, dance!

Noah busts out into ridiculous dance moves, including the Carlton. SCARLET, mid-twenties, walks in. She is mortified.

JO (CONT'D)  
Oh, hi! I'm Jo.

SCARLET  
Hi. Scarlet. I'm sorry who are you?

JO  
Me? Oh, I'm Noah's cousin.  
(she starts to  
overexplain)  
I don't live here. I mean  
obviously, I don't live in this  
apartment. But I don't live in LA.  
I drove in from the OC. Because my  
mother is sick. Very sick. My mom  
is Noah's aunt and I came here to  
tell him. That she is getting  
better. And so that's why he was  
dancing. And I could not be  
happier. That my mom - his aunt -  
will not be dying today and that-

Noah can't take it.

NOAH  
Thanks cuz. Scarlet, ya know I  
should tend to these family  
matters.

SCARLET  
Oh, of course. Bye, Jo. And, you-

Scarlet tries to kiss him on the lips, but he turns his head, so that it lands on the cheek.

SCARLET (CONT'D)  
I really did love that Mike Tyson  
birthday card you thought of. Pure  
genius.

JO  
Bye now.

Scarlet exits.

JO (CONT'D)  
She looked a little young.

NOAH

Intern.

Jo gives a look of disgust.

NOAH (CONT'D)

She's one of the older ones.

Jo picks up Noah's newspaper and hits him on the head with it like he's dog.

INT. SWANKY LA RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Jo and Noah are at the after-party, having a drink at the bar.

NOAH

I'm just saying that Michael Jordan will always be the top athlete of all time. He set the bar high, and face it, no one has ever or will ever reach it.

JO

No way. LeBron. It's about LeBron. And he's a better actor.

NOAH

I will fight you on this until the day I die.

JO

Can we at least agree that Serena Williams is a badass?

NOAH

Agreed. Serena Williams is a badass.

JO

I'll drink to that.

They cheers.

JO (CONT'D)

We've got to settle down.

NOAH

Weird. Where did that come from?

JO

I've just been thinking about it lately.

(MORE)



JO (CONT'D)

At this rate, we are just going to be old, single, and alone, but with each other.

NOAH

That wouldn't be that bad.

JO

Please. I would end up murdering you.

NOAH

You're so violent. Okay. How about I marry her?

He points to a TALL BRUNETTE in a cheetah - print dress.

JO

God. Noah. No. How about-

Jo scans the room and spots AUGUST FOX, an attractive, young actor.

JO (CONT'D)

Shit, there's August Fox.

NOAH

Who?

JO

He's a hot young actor that has been all over our entertainment pages.

NOAH

Go talk to him.

JO

(laughs)

He's like twenty-five.

NOAH

You were just complaining about being single.

JO

I wasn't complaining, I-

NOAH

Yes you were. Now... Carpe Diem.

JO

I got this.

NOAH  
You got this.

Jo walks towards August.

NOAH (CONT'D)  
She doesn't got this.

Noah watches from a distance. She introduces herself. She must say something funny, because August laughs. August and Jo seem to have a spark. Noah finishes his drink.

NOAH (CONT'D)  
Can I have another please?

August and Jo are laughing. August sweeps her hair back and whispers something in her ear. Jo glances at Noah and smiles big.

NOAH (CONT'D)  
Shit. That's my cue.

He rushes over to August and Jo. He puts his arm around Jo.

NOAH (CONT'D)  
Is everything okay-

JO  
August, this is my *friend*, Noah.  
Noah, this is August.

AUGUST  
Nice to meet you, bro.

NOAH  
Hey.

Noah still has his arm around her.

AUGUST  
So look, I'm headed to another party in WeHo.  
(he stares directly at Jo)  
Do you wanna join?

JO  
Yeah. That sounds-

NOAH  
I would love to go.

JO  
But he can't. You have that thing.  
Early tomorrow morning.

NOAH  
What thing?

JO  
You know, that prostate doctor  
thing.

She gives him that "YOU AREN'T COMING BECAUSE I WANT TO BE ALONE WITH THIS GUY" look.

NOAH  
Oh yah. That prostate doctor thing.  
But you two have fun.

AUGUST  
Hold up, I gotta Snap this shiz.

Noah literally snaps. August pulls out his phone.

AUGUST (CONT'D)  
Get in with me.

August pulls Jo into his selfie. They look like kittens.

AUGUST (CONT'D)  
Aren't we two cute kittens?

He takes the Snapchat photo.

NOAH  
I don't know what just happened.

Jo shrugs "Me either."

AUGUST  
Let's roll.

He takes Jo's hand. Jo mouths "Thank you" to Noah.

AUGUST (CONT'D)  
See ya.

Jo and August are out. Noah is left alone. He looks around and once again sees the Tall Brunette in the cheetah dress, whose name is LIZ. He approaches her.

NOAH  
Hi. I jut had to say... you're the most beautiful woman I've ever seen. If you want, I'll be over there. If not, that's fine, but I would've kicked myself if I hadn't at least talked to you.

He walks back over to the bar. After a few beats, the Tall Brunette touches his shoulder.

INT. JO'S APARTMENT, BEDROOM - EARLY HOURS OF THE MORN

Jo rolls off of August panting. He's panting too. They just ya know...did it.

JO  
(still panting)  
I'm going to go get some water. You want anything?

AUGUST  
(trying to slow down his breathing)  
Water. I need to hydrate for the next round.

He kisses her deeply and passionately. Jo then wraps herself in a sheet, slyly grabs her cell phone, and exits the bedroom.

INT. JO'S APARTMENT, KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

She grabs two bottles of water from the fridge and sets them gently on the counter. She stares at her cell phone and the stares back at the bedroom, trying to make a decision. She finally decides to dial.

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. NOAH'S APARTMENT, BEDROOM - SAME

Noah is in bed making out with Liz. His phone RINGS. It's Jo.

NOAH  
I'm, sorry. I gotta get this.

He answers it as he scurries to his bathroom.

NOAH (CONT'D)  
Hold on.

Liz looks like a mix between shocked and irritated.

INT. NOAH'S APARTMENT, BATHROOM - SAME

NOAH  
Is everything okay?

JO  
(in a whisper)  
Yeah. Why?

NOAH  
It is 3am and you're calling me.  
People call at 3am when they're in  
trouble.

JO  
Or drunk.

NOAH  
That too. Why are you whispering?

JO  
August is here.

NOAH  
Oh.

JO  
We just ya know...

NOAH  
(eyeroll)  
Yeah. I know.

JO  
He did this thing where he lifted  
me up and-

LIZ (O.S.)  
Is everything ok in there?

NOAH  
I'll be right there!

JO  
Who's that?

NOAH  
I brought her home from the bar.

JO  
Which one?

NOAH  
The brunette.

JO  
You're going to have to be more  
specific.

NOAH  
The one in the cheetah dress.

JO  
Ughh. That one? She was so...so...

NOAH  
I really have to go.

JO  
Trashy.

NOAH  
Goodbye.

END INTERCUT.

Noah hangs up the phone.

LIZ (O.S.)  
Are you sure you're ok?

Noah stares in the mirror pensively, "Why am I bothered?".

NOAH  
I'm coming right now. To make you  
come.

Noah's face, "HUH?" Beat.

NOAH (CONT'D)  
What's wrong with me?

INT. LOS ANGELES TIMES BUILDING, JO'S OFFICE - DAY

Jo types on her computer. She looks up at the picture of her and August which now adorns her desk and smiles. Her boss, BARRY RINK, comes in. He is Lou Grant-ish.

BARRY  
You look...perky.

JO  
Is perky bad?

BARRY  
It doesn't suit you.

JO  
You always keep me grounded. What  
can I do for you, Barry?

BARRY

I want to talk to you about something.

JO

I know I was harsh on Tom Brady again, but-

BARRY

(unphased)

I'm not talking about that. Everyone in the world hates Brady, unless you live in Boston. It was that "Feminism on the Field" piece you wrote. It was really good.

JO

What?

BARRY

Not just good, it was great.

JO

Did Barry Rink just compliment me?

BARRY

Look, I just came in here to tell you that we have our eye on you for the Sports Deputy Editor.

JO

Are you serious?

BARRY

Do I ever joke?

JO

Good point.  
(beat as it sets in)  
Thank you.

BARRY

Don't thank me yet.

JO

(sarcastically)

You're such a softie.

BARRY

Also, I got my wife and I tickets to that romcom, "The Tagalong", but she's got shingles.

JO

I don't know what I'm more disturbed by- the fact that your wife has shingles or that you just used the term "romcom"?

BARRY

Do you want them or not?

JO

Sure. Maybe I can write up something about gender complacency: how I, as woman, am supposed to buy into these anti-feminist romantic comedies instead of stay home to watch the Blues annihilate the Kings.

BARRY

Blues annihilate the Kings? Ha. In you dreams. Enjoy.

Barry walks out. Jo waits until he is out of sight.

JO

Bam!

Jo happy dances. She picks up her phone.

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. NOAH'S OFFICE - SAME

Noah answers his phone.

NOAH

What did August do this time?

JO

Guess who may be the next Sports Deputy Editor of the Los Angeles Times?

NOAH

That guy you hate who loves the Cubbies.

JO

Me, you son of a bitch.



NOAH  
(sincere)  
Congratulations. For real. I'm  
proud of you.

JO  
Thank you. Always means a lot  
coming from you. I know feelings  
don't come easy to you.

NOAH  
Hey, I just wrote a "romance card"  
that says "You're the one I text  
when I'm drunk". That's digging  
deep.

JO  
What are you doing tonight?

NOAH  
Probably washing my hair.

JO  
How about dinner and then going to  
see this stupid romcom with me?

NOAH  
Me?

JO  
Yes, you. I know I've been MIA  
lately, so let me treat you to  
dinner and a movie.

NOAH  
Is it really a romcom?

JO  
Yes. Gross. But we can make fun of  
it together! I've already got the  
tickets.

NOAH  
I'll get the Red Vines.

JO  
Thank you. How about Messhall? Say  
7:30? The tickets are for 9pm just  
down the street.

NOAH  
Perfect.

JO  
Bye.

NOAH  
Bye.

They hang up.

END INTERCUT.

INT. MESSHALL - NIGHT

Jo and Noah dine together.

JO  
...and I just would like my best friend to get to know my boyfriend.

NOAH  
Do you know how insane work has been? I can't turn out product fast enough for Urban Outfitters and-

JO  
August just bought the sickest suede jacket from there. You wouldn't think anyone could wear an orange suede jacket, but he can.

NOAH  
Did you just say "sickest"?

JO  
It's something August says all the time. How about you? Any special women in your life?

NOAH  
A lot of relationships that last approximately one night.

JO  
I want to slap you-

Jo grabs Noah's hand. She looks him in the eye.

JO (CONT'D)  
-because you're worth so much more than you give yourself credit.

Noah looks at Jo's hand on his. It is like a jolt of electricity goes through his body. He flails his hand out from under hers and knocks over her wine glass.

NOAH

Fuck.

Jo can't help but laugh. Noah bends down and tries to clean it up with his napkin. A WAITRESS comes over.

JO

Sorry - my friend's a bit of a klutz.

WAITRESS

I'll get someone to clean that up.  
Should I get you another glass?

NOAH

(from under the booth)  
Yes, please.

JO

(re: cleaning)  
You don't have to do that.

NOAH

(still from under the booth)  
I know. I just feel bad.

August walks up out of nowhere.

JO

Babe! What are you doing here?

August hears this from under the booth.

NOAH

What the f-

Noah goes to stand and smacks his head on the table.

NOAH (CONT'D)

Fuck.

JO

Shit, are you ok?

NOAH

Fine.

Noah stands, face to face with August. They shake hands.

NOAH (CONT'D)

Good to see ya, buddy.

AUGUST

Same.

August snuggles up next to Jo in the booth.

NOAH

So what brings you here?

August flashes Jo's Instagram post of Jo and Noah tagged at the restaurant.

AUGUST

I saw this and thought I'd drop by to say what's up.

JO

Ah, my two favorite men.

August kisses her cheek.

NOAH

So how's the whole acting thing?

AUGUST

No complaints. Just signed on a for a Darren Aronofsky flick called "Father". I think it's the sequel to "Mother".

The Waitress brings the wine.

NOAH

Thank you.

WAITRESS

I'll leave you with the dessert menu.

NOAH

Do you ever find the acting thing unfulfilling?

AUGUST

It can be. But every Saturday, I go to a homeless shelter and read to the kids. That really gives me life, ya know?

NOAH

(genuine, but surprised that he is genuine)  
That's actually pretty awesome.

JO  
I told you he's pretty great.

The Waitress comes back.

WAITRESS  
Can I get y'all some dessert?

NOAH  
I'll just stick with this.

He indicates the wine. August looks at the menu.

AUGUST  
We'll take the strawberry  
shortcake.

NOAH  
Jo's allergic to  
strawberries.

JO  
I'm allergic to strawberries.

AUGUST  
We're fine then.

NOAH  
We'll just take the check. We've  
got to be going, anyway.

AUGUST  
Me too. I've got a friend in this  
sick sketch show tonight.

JO  
Is that tonight? You've been raving  
about it for weeks.

AUGUST  
You should come. I hate not having  
you by my side.

JO  
You're sweet, you know that?

AUGUST  
So you'll come? Both of you.

NOAH  
I can't deal with improv. Sorry,  
buddy.

JO  
I would love to go babe, but I  
promised Noah a night out.

NOAH  
Go.

JO  
What?

NOAH  
I'll take a raincheck.

JO  
Noah, that's really sweet, but-

AUGUST  
Babe, we better bounce.

NOAH  
You better get bouncing.

August stands. Jo reluctantly scoots out of the booth. She pulls the tickets out of her purse.

JO  
I'm sorry that I stuck you with tickets to "The Tagalong".

She hands the tickets over.

NOAH  
I always have date on call.

AUGUST  
Good to see you, Noah.

NOAH  
Yep. Same.

JO  
(to Noah)  
Thank you.

She kisses him on the cheek.

JO (CONT'D)  
Love ya.

And then, as if in one fell swoop, Jo and August are out. Noah stares. The Waitress brings the check and snaps him out of it.

NOAH  
Here.

Noah pulls his credit card of his wallet and pays. Tickets for "The Tagalong" stare at him in the face. He dials.

NOAH (CONT'D)  
Hey, wanna see a movie?

INT. MOVIE THEATRE, LOBBY - A LITTLE LATER

Noah stands in the lobby with two tickets in hand. Kevin walks up.

KEVIN  
What are we seeing?

NOAH  
"The Tagalong".

KEVIN  
Yes! I've been wanting to see this.  
You know I love romcoms.

NOAH  
I know. I know.

KEVIN  
Why do you have these? Did Noah  
Ryan get stood up?

NOAH  
Kinda. I was supposed to go with  
Jo, but August had this thing.  
Popcorn?

Kevin nods and they get in the concessions line.

NOAH (CONT'D)  
Ya know what I hate the most about  
August? It's that I can't hate him.

KEVIN  
He's pretty great.

NOAH  
The thing is that he's not right  
for her. She needs someone who  
challenges her, someone she can  
banter with, someone she can be  
herself with. She needs someone who  
can tell her to stop crying and  
pull up her big girl pants. She is  
undoubtedly the most amazing woman  
I've ever known. She is-

GERTIE (O.S.)  
It sounds like you're the right guy  
for her.

Noah and Kevin turnaround.

NOAH  
Mom?

Noah embraces his mother.

KEVIN  
Mrs. R!

NOAH  
What are you doing here?

GERTIE  
It's a movie theatre. I'm seeing a  
movie.

KEVIN  
Which one?

GERTIE  
"Fast and Furious 13".

They look at her, "Really?"

GERTIE (CONT'D)  
What? I'm a sucker for Vin Diesel.  
Now what are you gonna do about Jo?

NOAH  
What about her?

KEVIN  
Your mom's totally right. You love  
Jo.

NOAH  
You two are insane. She's stubborn.  
She's antagonistic. She's got that  
laugh that I can't get out of my  
ears. And that smile- it's  
blinding. And she does that thing  
where she brushes her hair back  
when she gets nervous. She's-

Noah is disarmed and stunned.

NOAH (CONT'D)  
Holy. Fuck.

They have reached the front of the line. The MOVIE CASHIER  
could not hate their job more.



MOVIE CASHIER

What can I get you?

KEVIN

Two large popcorns, one large Dr. Pepper, one large Coke. Two hot dogs. An order of nachos. A package of Reeses' Pieces and a pack of Red Vines.

MOVIE CASHIER

Butter on the popcorn?

KEVIN

Yes, please. Mrs. R - do you want anything?

GERTIE

I'll wait for my friend.

MOVIE CASHIER

Your total comes to \$87.75.

KEVIN

Noah, you did ask me to the movie. You should be a gentleman and pay.

NOAH

Yeah. Sure.

Noah pays. The Movie Cashier hands everything over.

GERTIE

There he is. I should get going.

Gertie waves to an OLDER GENT.

KEVIN

Get it, Mrs. R.

GERTIE

Thank you, Kevin. And Noah - good luck.

She kisses her son's cheek.

GERTIE (CONT'D)

Have a good night, boys.

Kevin and Noah walk away.

KEVIN

Dude, what are you gonna do now?

NOAH  
I don't know.

INT. MOVIE THEATRE - A LITTLE LATER

Kevin and Noah watch the fictional romcom, "The Tagalong". The film seems to mirror Noah's situation, only the girl is the one pining for the guy. #GenderRoleReversal

KEVIN  
(whisper)  
Doesn't this seem familiar?

NOAH  
(whisper)  
Shut it.

INTERCUT WITH:

ON SCREEN - INT. BAR - "THE TAGALONG"

SALLY and JUNE are sitting at a bar. Sally is the Noah in this situation, and that would make June, Kevin. Got it?

SALLY  
The thing is Mary's not right for him. He needs someone who challenges him, someone he can banter with, someone he can be himself with. He needs someone who can tell him to stop whining and pull up his big boy pants.

JUNE  
Girl, I think you love this guy.

Kevin and Noah look at each other. They continue to whisper.

KEVIN  
This is freaky.

NOAH  
It's a little weird.

KEVIN  
Dude, you should just tell her that you love her.

JUNE  
Girl, you should just tell him that you love him.

NOAH  
THAT NEVER WORKS.

SALLY  
THAT NEVER WORKS.

KEVIN

Maybe you should take some notes.

JUNE

Okay Sally, you have to hear me out. You can't let them be alone. Like ever. You have to tagalong.

KEVIN

Bam! Movie title.

JUNE

I have three rules for you to follow Mary, and I'm sure you'll get Jared back in no time.

NOAH.

Genius. This is genius.

JUNE

First rule: Always invite yourself along. Duh.

INT. HOTEL BALLROOM - DAY

Noah walks up to a table where a few GUESTS are sitting. There are place cards for him, August, and Jo. August and Jo's are next to each other, and he switches his and August's. Jo and August walk up hand in hand.

JO

Hey there friend!

AUGUST

My man!

August does the handshake-dude-hug-thing.

AUGUST (CONT'D)

Glad to see you.

NOAH

I wouldn't want to miss the LA Times awards luncheon.

JO

I was surprised when Barry said I could bring another guest.

NOAH

I e-mailed him, asking if I could come. I knew you'd want me here.

JO  
You're such an-

NOAH  
-an amazing friend?

JO  
Something like that.

Jo laughs as she sits down, and as August goes to sit-

NOAH  
Oh, I think this is my seat.

Jo looks, and there is a GUEST sitting to her other side.

JO  
There has to be a mistake.

NOAH  
No, this looks like my seat. See?

He holds up the place card.

NOAH (CONT'D)  
August, it looks like you are next  
to me.

JO  
Certainly you can switch.

AUGUST  
Babe, it's cool. Noah doesn't get  
to hang with you. All day.  
Everyday. Like I do.

August kisses her forehead and takes a seat next to Noah.

JO  
(to Noah)  
Isn't he the best?

NOAH  
(dryly)  
Yep. The best.

CUT TO:

ON SCREEN - INT. BAR - "THE TAGALONG"

June continues with her next rule of sorts.

JUNE

Rule two: Put space between your man and his new girl. Literally, put space between them.

CUT TO:

EXT. RED CARPET - NIGHT

August and Jo walk the red carpet of the Heisman Awards. Noah walks next to them. He steps in between the couple as they take photos. Then a PHOTOGRAPHER shouts.

PHOTOGRAPHER

Can we get just the couple please?

NOAH

Which couple?

PHOTOGRAPHER

Can someone get this guy outta here?

NOAH

Jesus, just joking buddy.

Noah steps aside. He watches as bulbs flash and the beautiful couple smile.

NOAH (CONT'D)

Can't compete.

He walks away.

PHOTOGRAPHER

Just one of August now please.

Jo looks at August. He lets go of her hand. She watches gloomily as bulbs flash. She turns to look for her friend.

JO

Noah?

Her eyes search the crowd frantically for him. He isn't there.

CUT TO:

ON SCREEN - INT. BAR - "THE TAGALONG"

June continues with her final arbitrary rule.

JUNE

Rule three: Be better at  
everything.

MARY

What does that even have to do with  
tagging along?

JUNE

Um. Constantly one-upping the ex or  
the ex's new girl is a basic  
relationship rule.

MARY

Noted.

CUT TO:

EXT. MINIATURE GOLF COURSE - EVENING

August and Jo are miniature golfing. And Noah. Jo steps up to  
the "tee".

JO

My goal this time is to get less  
than 15 strokes.

NOAH

(genuinely supportive)  
Take as many strokes as you need.

Jo giggles as August walks up behind her and puts his arms  
around her.

AUGUST

Yeah babe. Take as many strokes as  
you need.

He kisses her neck and she giggles.

NOAH

Get a room.

JO

Sorry.

August helps Jo with her swing.

AUGUST

Now you need to relax. And gently  
pull back and-

Jo hits the ball and manages to get it near the hole.

JO

I did!

AUGUST

Ya got it now, babe.

Jo goes to kiss him.

NOAH

My turn!

Noah takes his stance and puts. He misses the hole by about...a lot.

JO

Tough break there.

NOAH

Okay. Let's keep the sarcasm to a minimum. It's one of the trickiest holes on this course.

JO

You're the king of tricky holes.

NOAH

Cute.

JO

Babe, you're up.

AUGUST

I have to warn you. I haven't done this in years.

August steps up and swings. The ball weaves gracefully through the obstacles. And. Bam! Hole in one.

JO

Oh my fucking God. That was extraordinary.

She jumps on August.

NOAH

Sweet Jesus. That was awesome.  
Damn.

INT. JO'S APARTMENT, KITCHEN - EVENING

Noah is drinking a beer at her table.

JO (O.S.)  
 He should be arriving any minute.  
 Can you let him in when he gets  
 here?

NOAH  
 Happy to.

JO (O.S.)  
 Are you sure you don't wanna come?

NOAH  
 You know I hate Halloween.

JO (O.S.)  
 I know this is a crap day for you,  
 But maybe instead of Halloween  
 being the day your dad left, you  
 can turn it into the most best day  
 of year!

June from the movie rings in his ears.

JUNE (V.O.)  
 Always invite yourself along. Duh.

NOAH  
 You're right. This might be the  
 night to get me over my Halloween  
 hump.

JO (O.S.)  
 We both have such daddy issues:  
 Abandonment, commitment, intimacy-

NOAH  
 We do?

JO (O.S.)  
 Are you serious? The longest  
 relationship you've had was with  
 that flight attendant? And that's  
 because you never had to see her.

NOAH  
 I miss her layovers.

JO (O.S.)  
 And me. August and I have been  
 together for what - six months now?  
 So that's something.

Noah takes a loooooong sip of his beer.



NOAH

Wow. It's been that long, huh?

Jo's phone rings. It's clearly August. Noah can't help himself, he gets up and puts his ear to her bedroom door.

JO (O.S.)

Are you serious...but babe...we've been planning this...I'll look...I know you can't but...no....it's fine...Love you.

"Love you" are like daggers to Noah's heart. He scrambles back to his seat. Jo's bedroom door opens and she reveals herself dressed as a sexy Dorothy (not from the *Golden Girls* but from *The Wizard of Oz*). Noah spits out his beer because she looks hot AF.

NOAH

Is Josephine Grace Baldwin dressed as a "sexy Dorothy"?

JO

Shut up.

NOAH

Whoa. Are you ok?

JO

August is stuck on set and he was supposed to come to this party. We even have coordinating costumes.

NOAH

That sucks. But Annie and Kevin will be there. And-

Jo gives him sad eyes.

JO

Please go with me.

NOAH

(pretending to hesitate)  
Jo, you know I-

JO

Pretty please.

She is irresistible.

NOAH

You owe me. Big time.

INT. LOFT PARTY - A LITTLE LATER

Noah walks in as the Cowardly Lion and Jo as the sexy Dorothy. Kevin, dressed as a clown, sees them immediately. He walks up laughing.

KEVIN

I cannot believe that I am seeing  
Noah Ryan at a Halloween Party in a  
costume.

NOAH

Okay, chuckles.

KEVIN

(to Jo)  
Where's August?

JO

Stuck on set. I see Annie, I'm  
gonna go say hi.

Jo scurries away.

KEVIN

Dude, nice!

He high fives Noah.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

So, are you gonna make a big move  
tonight?

NOAH

Nothing's worked. That movie is  
garbage. I standing here in a LION  
COSTUME and all she cares about is  
the fact that August isn't here.

KEVIN

I'm sorry man.

NOAH

I waited too long. But ya know,  
he's a good guy. She's happy.

KEVIN

Why don't we get you a drink?

INT. LOFT PARTY - A LOT LATER

It's the end of the night. You know this time: It is either throw-up, hook-up, or go home. Kevin and Annie are long gone. Noah is talking to TINKERBELL.

NOAH

I'm just really close with my mom.  
In fact, my dad left us on  
Halloween.

TINKERBELL

You poor thing.

NOAH

It was tough, but we managed-

Jo catches his eye. Well, it's not so much Jo, as the tall BANANA that Noah notices. Jo looks drunk and this Banana has her cornered. Never trust a banana.

NOAH (CONT'D)

Would you excuse me?

Noah crosses to Jo and Banana.

JO

Noah!

She throws her arms around him.

JO (CONT'D)

Noah this is Jim. Jim, this is my  
best friend in the whole world,  
Noah.

BANANA

Tim.

NOAH

(he doesn't care)  
I think we should get going.

BANANA

(whispering, bro to bro)  
Bro, I'm gonna take her back to my  
place.

NOAH

Yeah. That's not happening. She's  
got a boyfriend.

JO

Who didn't show up tonight.

NOAH  
Not helping.

BANANA  
She's going with me.

He puts his arm out so that Jo can't maneuver past him.

NOAH  
I'm not sure you heard me. She  
doesn't want anything to do with  
your tiny banana.

Banana is heated now.

BANANA  
Look at the cowardly lion. Trying  
to grow some cowardly lion balls.

NOAH  
This is ridiculous. Jo, c'mon.

BANANA  
What are you, her dad?

Noah sticks out his hand. Banana shoves Noah hard enough that he hits the ground.

JO  
Noah!

Jo moves to Noah to help him.

NOAH  
Why don't you go find some peanut  
butter?!

Banana looks at him - very confused.

NOAH (CONT'D)  
Bananas and peanut butter? They are  
a beloved combination.

BANANA  
(to Jo)  
You're not that hot anyway.

Banana walks away.

NOAH  
(to Jo)  
You okay?

She shakes her head yes. Jo helps him up.

NOAH (CONT'D)  
Let's get outta here.

INT. JO'S APARTMENT - LATER

Noah and Jo enter the apartment. They're laughing.

JO  
Peanut butter and banana?

NOAH  
I am more of a lover, not a  
fighter.

Jo kisses him on the cheek.

JO  
Thank you.

NOAH  
For what?

JO  
Coming to my rescue. Always. It's  
why I love ya.

Noah is once again entranced, but stops himself.

NOAH  
That banana. He was a dick.

JO  
(guilty and tearing up)  
I hope you know I wasn't going home  
with him, I just was flirting and-

Noah hugs her.

NOAH  
He. Was. A. Dick. Ok?

JO  
Ok.

He lets go. There's that moment where you think that they  
just might K-I-S-S.

NOAH  
I should call a Lyft.

JO  
Would you mind staying here  
tonight? I just don't feel like  
being alone.

NOAH  
You know I love this couch.

Jo smiles.

JO  
Thanks.

NOAH  
No problem. G'night.

Jo goes to her bedroom. Noah falls to the couch.

NOAH (CONT'D)  
Rule four: Save the fucking day.

He smiles as he closes his eyes.

INT. JO'S APARTMENT - MORNING

Noah sleeps on the couch completely under a blanket. August tiptoes in with flowers in hand. He kneels down gently next to the couch and rubs Noah's back.

AUGUST  
I'm so sorry babe.

Noah pulls back the blanket, and he and August are face to face. August screams Noah screams. Jo comes running in.

AUGUST (CONT'D)  
(angry)  
What are you doing here?

JO  
I can explain. He took me to the  
party last night. We - I - drank  
too much and there was this piece  
of fruit and-

NOAH  
What Jo's trying to say is that I  
was too drunk to drive, so Jo  
brought me back here so that I  
could sleep it off.

A few beats go by where they all stare at each other. August then hugs Noah.

AUGUST

Thanks for not driving man. You're a responsible dude.

While Noah is in August's embrace, Jo mouths to Noah: "Thank you." He nods back.

INT. RAM'S GAME, SUITE - DAY

Jo and Annie are in a sweet suite at a Ram's game sipping cocktails. There are ROARS from the crowd.

JO

Nothing like being in a suite for the Rams-Bears game. God bless the perks of this job.

ANNIE

God bless all the champagne we can drink.

JO

Cheers to that!

They clink glasses.

ANNIE

So, you and August - totally in love, huh?

JO

Yeah. He's sweet and fun. And the sex. The sex.

ANNIE

How's Noah handling it?

JO

What does Noah have to do with it?

Jo's phone RINGS, but her ringtone is the *Lizzie McGuire* theme song.

ANNIE

What is that noise?

JO

August thought it would be cute if I had the *Lizzie McGuire* theme song as my ringtone.

She mutes it.

ANNIE  
What the fuck is a *Lizzie McGuire*?

JO  
Apparently, his favorite show as a kid?

ANNIE  
Remember, "You Can't do That On Television"?

JO  
That show was ahead of its time.

Jo's phone goes off with TEXT TONE.

ANNIE  
August?

JO  
(reading the text)  
"Babe, hurry home. There's a problem."

ANNIE  
You should go.

JO  
Let's have another drink. I'm sure it's nothing.

TEXT TONE again from Jo's phone.

JO (CONT'D)  
(reading)  
"There's smoke."

ANNIE  
Um, you should go.

JO  
Yeah, I should go.

Annie hugs her. Jo rushes away. Annie sips her champagne.

ANNIE  
I'm just gonna finish this glass.

Jo rushes away.

INT. KITCHEN, JO'S APARTMENT - LATER

Jo comes in frantically.



AUGUST  
Surprise! I'm making you dinner.

JO  
Aug, you can't say there is an  
emergency and then-

AUGUST  
I never said there was an emergency-

JO  
You said there was a-

AUGUST  
-a problem. And the problem was  
that I wasn't with you. And the  
smoke thing was real...at the time.

It's like you can't get mad at a sweet kid.

JO  
What are you making?

AUGUST  
Just a little pasta carbonara.

JO  
My favorite.

AUGUST  
I know.

Jo plops on the counter next to the stove. She munches on  
some bacon.

JO  
Where did you learn to cook?

AUGUST  
My mom's a chef.

JO  
I didn't know that.

AUGUST  
I can't wait for you to try her  
cooking. And she learned from my  
grandmother. So. It runs in the  
family.

JO  
You're lucky. My mother cannot  
cook.

AUGUST

What about your dad?

JO

He loved to cook when he was alive.

AUGUST

Sorry, babe. I totally forgot that he... wasn't with us.

JO

And you know, he is where I got my love of sports.

AUGUST

Really?

JO

We would watch every single Cardinals game, every Blues game, and once we got the Rams...never missed those games either. And when he had his heart attack and was in the hospital, I would put on the Cards game and-

AUGUST

I forgot to tell you that Tim Robbins is directing this edgy poker film and my agent got me an audition. Can you run the lines with me after dinner?

JO

Sure.

AUGUST

You're the best.

JO

I'm going to go shower.

AUGUST

Food'll be ready in about ten minutes.

Jo looks at him for the first time, disenchanted.

INT. LOS ANGELES TIMES BUILDING, CAFETERIA - DAY

Noah and Jo are having lunch together.

JO  
 ...and so apparently Charles  
 Barkley was having dinner with-

Barry, Jo's boss, is suddenly standing over them.

BARRY  
 Jo.

JO  
 Oh, hi Barry. Noah, I believe you  
 remember my boss, Barry.

NOAH  
 Good to see you, sir.

BARRY  
 I just wanted to stop by with some  
 good news. That article you pitched  
 on the fall of Aaron Hernandez has  
 landed you a feature spread in the  
 Sunday Sports section.

JO  
 Oh my God, really?

BARRY  
 That drive and keen eye for what to  
 look for in a story is exactly what  
 we are looking for in that editor  
 position.

JO  
 Thank you.

BARRY  
 I'll have my assistant e-mail you  
 the details. Good to see you, Nate.

NOAH  
 Actually, it's-

Barry is already gone.

NOAH (CONT'D)  
 Congratulations. Cheers!

He holds up his water.

JO  
 This is huge. A whole spread? It's  
 incredible. August is going to be  
 so proud!

Jo takes out her phone to text August.

NOAH

Did I tell you - I'm dating someone new?

Jo stops cold with texting.

JO

Noah, that's great. What's she like?

JUNE (V.O.)

Be better at everything.

NOAH

She's no hot young actor, but she's this amazing lawyer. She does a lot of pro-bono work with sexual assault victims and has made it her personal mission to ensure that every single sexual predator is brought to justice. I think Time Magazine said something like, "Erin Brockovich has nothing on Amelia Horowitz."

JO

Erin Brockovich isn't actually a lawyer.

NOAH

Look at us. Both dating. It's nice that we've both found someone.

JO

(not as happy seeming)  
Yeah. It's really wonderful. I'm going to get dessert. Want anything?

NOAH

Brownie. Just no-

JO

Nuts. I know. You hate nuts.

INT. GERTIE'S HOME, DINING ROOM - DAY

It is Thanksgiving Day (yum!). Gertie, Annie, Kevin, and a Noah are gathered, chatting, drinking, and munching. The DOORBELL rings.

NOAH  
That's gotta be Jo.

GERTIE  
I'll get it.

Gertie exits.

KEVIN  
So bro, what's the latest on the Jo front?

NOAH  
I'm seeing Amelia now.

KEVIN  
Yeah dude I know, but you can't give up-

The table catches Noah's eye.

NOAH  
Why are there place settings for six?

Gertie walks back in with Jo and August. Annie and Kevin warmly greet them, but Noah is taken aback and looks at Gertie, "What is he doing here?!"

ANNIE  
August, we didn't know you'd be here.

AUGUST  
I have to shoot tomorrow, so I couldn't head back home. Mrs. Ryan was nice enough to extend the invite.

NOAH  
(grin and bear it)  
That's my mom. She's the best.

Jo throws her arms around Noah. He melts into her.

JO  
It's good to spend another Thanksgiving in the Ryan home.

GERTIE  
Why doesn't everyone take a seat?

ANNIE

Mrs. R, that is one good looking turkey.

KEVIN

Can I get a breast?

ANNIE

You would.

Noah picks up the carving tools, but before he can make a cut:

GERTIE

I think you should say a few words, dear.

KEVIN

Speech!

NOAH

I was usually a little drunk when this part came around, but I guess I can give it a shot...

Noah gently sets the knife and fork down, and picks up his wine glass. He takes a deep breath.

NOAH (CONT'D)

First I'm grateful for seriously the best mom in the world. I'm grateful for this group of friends - Annie and Kevin who will be walking down the aisle in just a few short weeks. And my best friend back - for whom I am truly grateful that she's not only being back in my life, but that's she's so happy. And I'm grateful that August is also here. So everyone raise their glass.

Everyone takes their class.

NOAH (CONT'D)

To us.

ALL

To us.

They clink and cheers. But Jo stands and Jo kisses his cheek.

JO

You did good.

KEVIN  
Now let's eat!

INT. GERTIES HOME, FOYER - LATER

Annie, Kevin, August, Jo, Gertie, and Noah are gathered to say good-byes.

KEVIN  
Thank you Mrs. R.

ANNIE  
You saved us from having to deal with our families right before the wedding.

GERTIE  
You're always welcome here.

AUGUST  
Thank you Mrs. Ryan.

GERTIE  
I'm so thrilled that I finally got to meet the man who won over Jo. And you-

Gertie hugs Jo.

GERTIE (CONT'D)  
I love you, dear.

JO  
Thank you for everything.

NOAH  
(to August)  
Good to see you.

AUGUST  
You too, man.  
(to Jo )  
Babe, we better go.

JO  
(to Noah)  
Remember back in the day, how, by this time, we would be drunkenly shoving cold stuffing into our mouths with our bare hands?

NOAH  
Who says I won't do that once you  
leave?

Jo throws her arms around Noah again.

JO  
God, I love you.

NOAH  
I love you, too.

After their extended embrace, there is a moment where Jo and Noah lock eyes. Does she feel it too?

ANNIE  
Our Lyft is here.

NOAH  
See you all soon.

Annie, Kevin, August, and Jo are out. Noah shuts the door.

GERTIE  
She feels it too.

NOAH  
What?

GERTIE  
She loves you.

NOAH  
You're crazy.

GERTIE  
Son, I say this with all the love  
a mother has for her child. Grow a  
pair of balls and tell her how you  
feel.

NOAH  
Mom!

GERTIE  
Come help clean up.

Gertie is out. Noah takes a beat, and follows her.



INT. HOTEL BALLROOM - EVENING

Annie and Kevin's wedding day... The two sit at a sweetheart table at the front of the ballroom.

DJ

Now, I'd like to have the Maid of Honor come up, Josephine Baldwin.

Jo stands and takes the microphone. She has a piece of paper she reads from. The tears well up from the get go, and it increasingly gets worse throughout.

JO

It feels like we were just in college, and now here we are. Together celebrating the soulmates that we all know as Annie and Kevin. What has brought the two of you here, are the moments you've shared. Every moment. Big ones like saying "I love you" and getting engaged. But mostly a million little ones that have come in between the big moments. Falling asleep next to one another on the couch, brewing beer together, having a big glass of wine at the ready when you get home from work, binge-watching Netflix...

Jo's stops because she's so emotional. Noah can't stand it. He gets up. Stands next to her. Takes her paper.

NOAH

These everyday moments have fused together to make the two of you, one...Annie and Kevin. I know that you will always find in each other, the funniest of moments. And that the crux of your love is just being best friends.

Noah looks at her, and Jo grabs his hand.

JO

To Annie and Kevin.

INT. HOTEL BALLROOM - LITTLE LATER

Noah is sitting alone, sipping on a glass of wine. When someone taps him on the shoulder.

JO (O.S.)  
Wanna dance?

Noah smiles. Stands.

NOAH  
Bold move asking a boy to dance.

JO  
Funny, I don't see any boys here.

The friends slow dance.

JO (CONT'D)  
Thank you for saving me up there.

NOAH  
It was getting too painful to endure.

JO  
Are you ever serious?

NOAH  
When it counts.

Jo notices Noah's watch.

JO  
And do you ever take this watch off?

NOAH  
Nope.

JO  
Seriously?

NOAH  
I like having a little piece of you with me at all times.

JO  
You're always full of surprises,  
Noah Ryan.

There are a few beats of silence between them that are along that fine line of awkward and comfortable.

JO (CONT'D)  
No date tonight? Not even, um,  
what's her name - the Erin  
Brockovich one?

NOAH  
Amelia?

JO  
Amelia, yes.

NOAH  
Meh. It was a fleeting thing.

JO  
That's the commitment-phobe I know  
and love.

NOAH  
And things are still going well  
with August, I see.

She looks down and smirks.

NOAH (CONT'D)  
What?

JO  
What?

NOAH  
There's something you want to say.

JO  
How do you know that?

NOAH  
You are looking down and you have  
that ridiculous smirk on your face.

JO  
I hate that you know me so well.

NOAH  
'Fess up.

JO  
I think he's is the one.

Noah is caught off guard for a moment

NOAH  
Whoa. That's. It's great.

JO  
It feels so silly to say out loud.  
But I maybe see myself marry-

August walks up.

AUGUST  
May I cut in?

He swoops between Noah and Jo.

NOAH  
I'm just gonna go get some cake.

Noah walks away quickly. Jo watches him.

AUGUST  
You ok?

JO  
Me? Yeah. No. I mean yes. Sorry.  
Long day, ya know.

Her eyes are locked on Noah until he is out of sight.

INT. FOYER OF THE HOTEL BALLROOM - CONTINUOUS

Gertie finds Noah pacing back and forth.

GERTIE  
What are you doing out here?

NOAH  
I just can't be in there right now.

GERTIE  
What's wrong?

NOAH  
What's wrong? What's wrong?! The woman I am in love with just told me that her hot, young actor boyfriend is the "one". I hate feeling like this. And I've tried everything. But everyone loves the guy. Hell, I even love him. Jesus. I've tried, mom. I even followed the instructions of some stupid, fake ass romantic comedy to try to win her back.

GERTIE  
What are you talking about?

NOAH  
"The Tagalong". I used it as a guidebook and it all...all blew up in my face.

GERTIE

(she can't help but laugh)  
That movie is so stupid, which  
makes the whole thing even sweeter-

NOAH

This isn't funny.

GERTIE

I'm sorry.

NOAH

I just don't know what to do. I  
can't stop being in love with her.

GERTIE

I hate to sound like a broken  
record, but, just tell her. Have  
you tried that?

NOAH

You wouldn't understand.

GERTIE

You have to start facing your  
feelings. You have to be willing to  
open up and -

NOAH

If you know so much, how come you  
couldn't keep dad around?

GERTIE

Noah.

Gertie is speechless. Noah immediately regrets what is just  
said.

NOAH

Mom, I am so sorry. I am just-

GERTIE

Come find me when you want to start  
acting like a man.

Gertie goes back into the reception. Noah sinks down.

INT. HOTEL ELEVATOR - LATER

August and Jo are in the elevator, holding hands when Noah  
hops on in the last possible moment.

JUNE (V.O.)

Rule two: Put space between your man and his new girl. Literally, put space between them.

He can't help it, Noah steps between them.

JO

Well, look who it is. We thought you had picked up one of the servers and were in for the night.

NOAH

I just needed some fresh air.

JO

All the feelings just too much for you?

NOAH

(he's just pissy now)  
So when do you think we will be celebrating the two of you getting married?

AUGUST

(completely caught off-guard)  
What?

NOAH

Jo told me that she thinks you're the "one", so you better start thinking about rings, buddy.

To describe this beat as awkward would be an understatement.

The elevator door opens and they all get off.

INT. HOTEL HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Noah smugly walks away.

NOAH

Goodnight, you two.

JO

(to August)  
Go ahead. I'll be there in a minute.

August walks away. Jo speeds up to catch Noah and she grabs him by the arm.

JO (CONT'D)  
(disbelief)  
What was that?

NOAH  
What was what?

JO  
I told you that in confidence,  
Noah.

NOAH  
What?

JO  
That I thought August was the one.

NOAH  
(snaps back)  
You didn't make that very clear.

JO  
Shut up. You know that I hadn't  
told him that, yet.

NOAH  
Maybe you should've told him before  
you told me. And why did you even  
tell me?

JO  
(concerned)  
What has gotten into you? You've  
been acting like a crazy person for  
months.

NOAH  
Because you've changed.

JO  
(she's is pissed now)  
That's a crock of shit. I think  
you're jealous.

NOAH  
Really? Jealous of what?

JO  
I think you're jealous that I've  
met someone. And you. You just keep  
fucking your way through Los  
Angeles. You are sad. And  
miserable. And you know what?  
You'll always be that way.

(MORE)

JO (CONT'D)  
You are incapable of love and  
happiness. You're pathetic.

Jo storms down the hallway. Noah follows.

NOAH  
Well, you know what? I think you  
are-

Jo opens her room door and slams it. Noah walks down the  
hallway to his room. He opens the door and glances down the  
hallway to Jo's room.

NOAH (CONT'D)  
Shit.

INT. NOAH'S HOTEL ROOM - MORNING

Noah stares at the ceiling.

NOAH  
Fuck.

He gets up and slips on his shoes and is out the door.

INT. JO AND AUGUST'S HOTEL ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Jo is wide awake when she hears KNOCKING. August stirs. She  
gets up quickly because she knows that it's Noah. She opens  
the door and steps out into the hallway.

EXT. JO AND AUGUST'S HOTEL ROOM - CONTINUOUS

NOAH  
Hi.

JO  
Hi.

There is a pause.

NOAH  
Jo, I'm sorry. My mom and I got  
into a fight, and-

JO  
I couldn't sleep last night. I was  
thinking about this and us-

NOAH  
Me too. Jo, you know that you mean-



JO  
I think that we need some time  
apart.

NOAH  
What?

JO  
We need to take some time away from  
one another. No texts, phone calls,  
nothing.

NOAH  
But, Jo-

JO  
I gotta go. Bye Noah.

She steps back inside.

INT. JO AND AUGUST'S HOTEL ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Jo gently shuts the door. Tears stream down her face.

AUGUST (O.S.)  
You ok babe?

JO  
(wiping the tears away)  
I'm fine. I'm gonna brush my teeth.

EXT. JO AND AUGUST'S HOTEL ROOM - SAME

Noah stares at the door.

NOAH  
Fuck.

THE "I MISS MY BEST FRIEND" - MONTAGE

A) Noah is out with a WOMAN IN A RED DRESS. Dessert arrives  
and he takes a bite, and spits it into his napkin because it  
has nuts.

B) Jo gets the ASU alumni newsletter and Noah is on the  
front.

C) Noah walks a REDHEAD to her door, and she clearly asks him  
in, but he stares at the watch Jo gave him. He walks away.

D) Jo orders fries to her office. She almost texts Noah.

END MONTAGE.

INT. NOAH'S OFFICE - DAY

Noah sits at his desk, doodling when Kevin walks in with some In N' Out in hand.

NOAH  
I thought I smelled that down the hallway.

KEVIN  
We all need a little In N' Out sometimes. Warms the soul.

They begin to chow down.

NOAH  
How's married life?

KEVIN  
Eh. Not really that different. Except now we have nice plates that we can't ever use.

NOAH  
And how's Jo?

KEVIN  
Do you really wanna know?

NOAH  
I asked, didn't I?

KEVIN  
They're moving in together.

NOAH  
That's really. Something.

Noah's cell phone RINGS. He looks. It's a number he doesn't recognize, so he ignores it.

KEVIN  
I'm sorry, dude.

NOAH  
I'd rather hear it from you.

KEVIN  
What exactly do you do all day?

Noah's work phone RINGS.

NOAH  
Come up with ideas for cards. Or  
mugs. Or what not. Manage people.  
Review work. Um-

Kevin doesn't get it.

NOAH (CONT'D)  
I'm like the Don Draper for  
greeting cards.

KEVIN  
(it lands)  
Gotcha.

Noah's cell RINGS again.

KEVIN (CONT'D)  
Someone really wants to talk to  
you.

Noah finally picks up.

NOAH  
Hello...yes this is Noah Ryan.  
What...when...Jesus...Yes...I'll be  
there right away.

KEVIN  
What is it?

NOAH  
It's my mom. She's in the hospital.  
I gotta go.

KEVIN  
Do you want me to come with you?

NOAH  
No. I'm sure it's fine.

Noah grabs his stuff and books it out the office.

INT. HOSPITAL WAITING ROOM - LITTLE LATER

Noah arrives at the hospital to find Jo already there. She  
has clearly been crying.

NOAH  
(shocked)  
What are you doing here?

JO  
 She had me listed as her secondary  
 contact.

Jo grabs him. They embrace for nearly an eternity. Tears  
 stream down Noah's face.

NOAH  
 You have no idea how glad I am to  
 see you.

JO  
 I'm so sorry for everything I said.  
 I was just so mad at you.

They finally stop hugging.

NOAH  
 Hey. Hey. It's fine. I'm sorry I  
 was an asshole. I deserved it. I  
 take all of my shit out on you. And  
 that isn't fair.

A NURSE comes out.

NURSE  
 Noah Ryan?

NOAH  
 That's me.

NURSE  
 Follow me.

Noah and Jo follow the nurse.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - LATER

Jo is sitting reading a magazine next to a sleeping Gertie in  
 a hospital bed. Gertie slowly opens her eyes.

GERTIE  
 Noah?

JO  
 No, Mrs. Ryan. It's me, Jo.

GERTIE  
 Call me, Gertie. How many times  
 must I say it?

JO  
(laughs through almost  
tears)  
Gertie, yes. Um, Noah went to go  
get some coffee. He should be back  
any minute now.

GERTIE  
I'm glad you're here.

JO  
And I'm glad you're ok. You gave us  
both quite the scare. I don't know  
what we would do without you,  
especially Noah.

GERTIE  
Well, he has you.

JO  
Yeah, but we both know that I make  
him crazy.

Gertie takes Jo's hand.

GERTIE  
He loves you more than anyone.

JO  
He's my best friend.

They have a moment. Noah enters.

NOAH  
Look who's finally awake.

He hugs his mother.

NOAH (CONT'D)  
How are you feeling? What do you  
need? We should tell the doctor  
you're awake.

GERTIE  
Calm down, son.

NOAH  
I'm glad you're ok. And I'm sorry  
for what I said the night of the  
wedding. Ask Jo, I was being a real  
dick to everyone.

Jo grabs her stuff.

JO

I can attest to that. And on that note, I should let you two be.

GERTIE

You don't have to rush out.

JO

I've got a deadline. Gertie-

Jo gives her a kiss on the cheek.

JO (CONT'D)

Don't scare us like that again.

She hugs Noah.

JO (CONT'D)

Let me know if you need anything.

NOAH

Thank you.

JO

Bye now.

Jo exits the room.

GERTIE

Noah, be a gentleman and walk her out.

NOAH

Mom.

GERTIE

Your mother is laying in a hospital bed. Humor her.

NOAH

Fine.

Noah follows after Jo.

INT. HOSPITAL WAITING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Noah is scurrying to catch up with Jo.

NOAH

Jo, wait up.

Jo turns around. Tears stream down her face.

NOAH (CONT'D)

She's ok.

JO

I know. Hospitals just remind me of my dad and the thought of something happening to her or you-

Noah pulls her into him.

NOAH

Everything is fine.

He wipes her tears and he finally does it. He kisses her deeply and Jo kisses back...Until she pulls away.

JO

What are you doing?

NOAH

I've been wanting to do that for a long time. I love you, Jo. I'm in love with you.

JO

Stop.

NOAH

I've realize that I could lose you-

JO

That's it. You don't want me. You just don't want to lose me.

NOAH

That's not true.

JO

You've never wanted me, Noah. You've always kept me just at arm's length. To be at your beck and call.

NOAH

Jo, I want you. It's always been you.

JO

That's a great line for a greeting card.

NOAH

Jo.

JO  
I'm with August. We're moving in together.

NOAH  
He isn't right for you.

JO  
And you are?

NOAH  
(as if it's the only thing  
in the world that makes  
sense)  
Yes.

Jo stares at him. She takes a deep breath.

JO  
I'm glad Gertie's ok.

Jo is out.

EXT. JO'S OFFICE - EVENING

As Jo and August get out of the Lyft, Jo pulls him into her and kisses him.

AUGUST  
I love you.

Jo pulls out a Tiffany's box from her purse.

JO  
I wanted to give you an early  
Christmas present.

AUGUST  
Babe. You shouldn't have.

JO  
I wanted to.

August opens the box to cufflinks with "AF" engraved on them.

AUGUST  
I love them. Thank you.

JO  
You're so welcome. Put them on.

Jo helps August with the cufflinks.



AUGUST

I don't have anything for you.

JO

I can think of a few things you can give me later.

She gives him a little smooch.

INT. LIVING ROOM, GERTIE'S HOUSE - SAME

Gertie is on her couch, while Noah frantically moves about helping make things comfortable for her

NOAH

Do you need more pillows?

GERTIE

This is just fine.

NOAH

Water? Ginger ale? Do you want some of that low cal ice cream? I can make you a sandwich. Or how about an apple? An apple a day, keeps the-

GERTIE

Noah. I'm fine.

NOAH

I just want to make sure you have everything you need.

GERTIE

Why don't you go home?

NOAH

I was gonna stay here a few days. To make sure everything is copacetic.

GERTIE

I just pulled a muscle in Zumba.

NOAH

We don't know that for sure.

GERTIE

We do. The scans showed nothing. Healthy has a horse.

NOAH

I'm staying. It's almost Christmas anyway.

GERTIE

Sounds like your heart is in far worse shape than mine.

NOAH

I don't know what you mean.

GERTIE

You can stay, but you have to calm the fuck down.

INT. JO'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

The office holiday party is in full swing. Jo is at the bar, alone. August is working the room. Annie and Kevin are there as well. Annie is showing some COLLEAGUES wedding photos on her phone.

ANNIE

The space was just to die for. I was skeptical because it was in hotel ballroom, but the lighting just made the whole thing. And don't you just love my dress, it was handmade-

Jo watches August. He has a group of men laughing hysterically. She sips her drink. She watches as Kevin swoops in, and takes August to a group of FEMALE COWORKERS to introduce him. They swoon. Jo moves in.

JO

What's going on?

AUGUST

Hey babe. I'm just telling them the story of my first big audition.

(he nearly turns his back completely to Jo)

So, after I trip and nearly fall on my face, I start reading. And then I realize that I'm reading the lines for the female role. Then they asked me my height and I blanked and-

Jo feels a hand on her shoulder. It's Barry, her boss.

BARRY  
Jo, a word?

JO  
Of course.

They step away from the party scene.

BARRY  
You got it.

JO  
Got what?

BARRY  
Congratulations, you are the new  
Sports Deputy Editor for the LA  
Times.

JO  
Oh my God. Barry.

She goes to hug Barry, but realizes that this is a terrible idea.

BARRY  
You'll start in the new year.

JO  
Thank you. You won't regret it.

BARRY  
Don't give me a reason to.

Barry gives her a pal punch on the shoulder and smiles to show he is proud. Then, he is swiftly off. Jo pulls out her phone. She goes to Noah's contact, but can't bring herself to call him.

Jo crosses over to August taps him on the shoulder.

AUGUST  
There you are.

JO  
Can I talk to you for a sec?

AUGUST  
Can you give me a minute? I'm in  
the middle of a series of IG  
stories for my fans.

JO  
Yeah, of course.

AUGUST

But, hey - can you grab me another  
drink?

Jo walks to the bar. She takes a beat. She moves towards the  
exit. Annie stops her.

ANNIE

Where do you think you're going?

JO

I don't feel well.

ANNIE

But I just heard the good news.

JO

What?

ANNIE

The promotion?

JO

Oh yeah. I'm thrilled.

ANNIE

I bet he was over-the-moon for you.

JO

Noah doesn't know yet.

ANNIE

I meant August.

JO

I should go.

ANNIE

Are you okay?

JO

I'll be fine. I think the booze and  
the excitement...

ANNIE

Are you sure?

JO

Yes. Love ya.

They hug and Jo is out.

INT. BEDROOM, JO'S APARTMENT - LATE NIGHT

August flips on the light. Jo sits up quickly.

JO

Where have you been?

AUGUST

I went to an after party with Kevin and Annie. For being married, they still like to party hard. I sent you a text.

Jo looks at her phone. There is nothing.

JO

No you didn't.

August looks.

AUGUST

It must have not gone through. It was at this sick basement speakeasy. I'm sorry, babe.

August rolls down his sleeves and Jo notices the lack of cufflinks.

JO

Where are your cufflinks?

AUGUST

Oh shit. I must have left them on the bar. The bartender thought it was hilarious that my initials stand for "as fuck". Get it?

JO

This isn't. Um. This isn't right.

AUGUST

I promise I'll go back first thing in the morning for them.

JO

You lost the first Christmas present I gave you in a matter of hours-

AUGUST

Babe. I'm really sorry. I'll get them back tomorrow.

JO

Ugh.

AUGUST

You're so cute when you're angry.  
Now, come here.

August begins to kiss her neck. Jo stops him.

JO

We need to talk.

INT. LIVING ROOM, GERTIE'S HOME - SAME

Noah is sitting on the couch in sweatpants. Feet up on the coffee table, eating cereal and watching television. Gertie is dusting around him.

GERTIE

Move your feet, please.

Noah listens as he shovels cereal in his mouth. Gertie can't take it. She turns off the TV and rips the cereal bowl from his hands.

NOAH

What are you doing?

GERTIE

You are a grown ass man, and you need to start acting like one.

NOAH

Geeze, I'll go home, ok?

GERTIE

What you need to do is make things right with Jo.

NOAH

She has made is abundantly clear that she doesn't want to see me.

GERTIE

You two. Just alike. Moody. Emotional. Stubborn.

NOAH

I'm not stubborn.

Gertie looks at him, "Really?"

GERTIE

Make a Christmas peace offering.

NOAH

This isn't a freaking Hallmark movie.

GERTIE

Leave. Get out. Go see her. Go home. I don't care. I love you son, but you're driving me insane.

NOAH

Fine. You don't have HBO anyway.

Noah begins to exit.

GERTIE

I love you.

NOAH

Love you.

Noah is out.

INT. JO'S APARTMENT, BEDROOM - MORNING

Annie bursts in with coffee in hand. There is a suitcase on the bed. Jo comes out of the bathroom.

ANNIE

What the fuck happened?

JO

August and I broke up.

ANNIE

You said that on the phone. But when?

JO

After the holiday party.

ANNIE

You waited that long to tell me!

JO

I didn't want to make a fuss.

ANNIE

What did he do? I'm going to kill that son of a bitch.

JO

Calm down. I broke up with him.

ANNIE

Wait? What? Why? He was perfect.

JO

He's young. And he is at a place where he wants to put his career first. I don't blame him.

ANNIE

Are you ok?

JO

It sucks. Big time.

ANNIE

Hey, you should stay in town for Christmas. We can binge watch "The West Wing", eat peppermint bark and drink red wine.

JO

I think St. Louis will be good for me. See my mom. Drink some Bud Light. Clear my head.

ANNIE

Have you told Noah?

JO

He's the last person I want to know.

ANNIE

He loves you.

JO

Because he can't have me.

ANNIE

I think you aren't giving him enough credit.

Jo begins to gather her stuff.

JO

I gotta get going. LAX is going to be a nightmare.

ANNIE

If you need anything, I'm here for ya.



JO  
Thank you. Merry Christmas and give  
Kev a hug for me.

ANNIE  
Of course.

JO  
Can you lock up?

ANNIE  
No prob, bob.

JO  
You're the best. Love you.

ANNIE  
Love you.

Jo rushes out.

EXT. JO'S APARTMENT - A LITTLE LATER

Noah arrives at Jo's door.

NOAH  
(to himself)  
"I'm sorry. I truly just want you  
to be happy." Ugh. "I know it's  
Christmas, so I just wanted to say  
that I am sorry and-" Nope. Ugh. I  
should have just written this on  
poster board.

Noah takes a deep breath. He knocks. Annie opens the door.

INT. JO'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Noah barges in.

ANNIE  
Well, come on in.

NOAH  
What are you doing here?

ANNIE  
Jo has all of the Real Housewives  
of New York on her DVR and it is  
just nice to have some peace and-

NOAH  
Where's Jo?

ANNIE  
She left for St. Louis this morning. Wait, why are you here?

NOAH  
I wanted to tell her that I'm happy for her and August.

ANNIE  
They broke up.

NOAH  
What did he do? I'll kill him.

ANNIE  
Calm down, turbo. She broke up with him.

NOAH  
Why?

ANNIE  
She said he wasn't right for her.

NOAH  
She said that?

ANNIE  
Yes. Didn't I just say that she said that?

NOAH  
Annie, I love you. I have to go.

Noah runs.

ANNIE  
I hope they end up together. All this is making me tired.

Annie shuts the door.

INT. PLANE - LATER

Jo is on the plane, when "The Tagalong", the same fictional RomCom that Noah was taking pointers from, comes on the overhead screens.

JO  
 (to herself)  
 This is the in-flight movie?

Jo sips her wine. The TALL MALE PASSENGER is annoyed.

TALL MALE PASSENGER  
 I'm stuck in the middle seat  
 watching this garbage.

JO  
 It's the same garbage on the aisle,  
 my friend.

TALL MALE PASSENGER  
 Wanna switch?

JO  
 No.

INT. PLANE - A LITTLE LATER

Jo continues to watch. The "rules" of the movie begin.

INTERCUT WITH:

ON SCREEN - INT. RESTAURANT

Sally arrives at dinner where her crush, Jared and his girlfriend, Mary have also just arrived.

JUNE (V.O.)  
 First rule: Always invite yourself  
 along. Duh.

SALLY  
 Oh, I think this is my seat.

Jared looks, and there is a GUEST sitting to her other side.

JARED  
 There has to be a mistake.

SALLY  
 No, this looks like my seat. See?

She holds up the place card.

SALLY (CONT'D)  
 (to Mary)  
 Looks like you are next to me.

Sally sits happily between Jared and Mary.

JO  
Weird. So weird.

END INTERCUT.

INT. AIRPORT, LOS ANGELES - DAY

Noah is at the ticket counter.

NOAH  
One ticket to St. Louis please.

INT. PLANE - A LITTLE LATER

Yep, Jo is still watching.

JUNE (V.O.)  
Rule two: Put space between your  
man and his new girl. Literally,  
put space between them.

INTERCUT WITH:

ON SCREEN - INT. BANQUET HALL

It is a wedding scene. Jared and Mary are getting their  
pictures taken. Mary hops in.

PHOTOGRAPHER  
Can we get just the couple please?

SALLY  
Which couple?

PHOTOGRAPHER  
(to Sally)  
Hey, sweetheart, I think the  
bride's going to throw bouquet. Why  
don't you try to get catch it, huh?

JO  
Sexist.

Sally walks away as the photographer gets shots of Mary and  
Jared.

PHOTOGRAPHER  
How about one of just the Maid of  
Honor there, huh?

Mary lets go of Jared's hand. Jared looks around.

JARED

Sally?

JO

(it hits her like a ton of  
bricks)

Oh my God.

TALL MALE PASSENGER

Right? Jared is so oblivious that  
Sally is totally in love with him.  
Idiot.

JO

He was tagalong-ing me.

END INTERCUT.

INT. PLANE - LATER

Noah is on a plane now, and guess what he's watching?

JUNE (V.O.)

Um. Constantly one-upping the ex or  
the ex's new girl is a basic  
relationship rule.

INTERCUT WITH:

ON SCREEN - EXT. MOUNTAIN

Jared and Mary are rappelling down the side of a mountain. And  
Sally, who is way ahead of both of them.

SALLY

(to Jared and Mary)  
Tough break there.

JARED

Okay. Let's keep the sarcasm to a  
minimum. It's one of the trickiest  
mountains to navigate.

SALLY

I bet Mary there has turned a  
coupla of tricks.

JARED

Adorable.

NOAH  
(takes a deep breath)  
It's a sign.

END INTERCUT.

INT. PLANE - LATER

Jo is enthralled at this point.

ON SCREEN - INT. SALLY'S HOUSE

Sally walks into her kitchen and flips on the lights. Jared is there. He has baked her cupcakes.

SALLY  
What are you doing here?

JARED  
Remember the first time we met? It was your first birthday party. And I'll never forget the pink frosted cupcakes with hearts. And how you shoved one right into my face.

Sally giggles.

JARED (CONT'D)  
I knew then that I loved you. And I never stopped loving you. After all these years, you're it Sally Elaine Mae. You're the one.

Jared shoves a cupcake into her face and they kiss.

INT. PLANE - CONTINUOUS

Jo is crying. She turns to the Tall Male Passenger next to her, who is also crying.

JO  
I love him. I have to tell him.

INT. AIRPORT, ST. LOUIS - NIGHT

Noah and Jo run past each other without even realizing it.  
#Classic.

ON JO: Jo stops and looks behind her.

JO  
 Couldn't be.

Beat.

JO (CONT'D)  
 No.

Jo continues to run.

ON NOAH: Noah stops and looks behind him.

NOAH  
 No way.

He stares.

NOAH (CONT'D)  
 No.

He continues to run.

EXT. JO'S HOME IN ST. LOUIS - NIGHT

Snow covers the ground. A car pulls up, and Noah gets out. He's on the phone.

NOAH  
 The number is 5515 S. Oak,  
 right...Thanks Annie. Bye.

He hangs up. Noah walks up to the door and rings the doorbell. There is nothing. He tries again. Nothing. He tries to pound on the door. Nothing. Noah begins to peak through windows. The house is dark. He calls Jo.

JO (V.O.)  
 Hi. You've reached Josephine..

Noah hangs up and begins to throw a hissy fit in the front yard.

NOAH  
 Shit, shit, shit shit! Son of a  
 bitch. Fuckety fuck fuck!

He stomps around. Throws some snow about. A cop car pulls up, and stops in front of the yard. A POLICEMAN gets out of the car.

POLICEMAN  
 Everything okay here, son?

NOAH

Yes, Officer. I just was hoping to find someone.

POLICEMAN

And who is that?

NOAH

The person I thought I was meant to spend the rest of my life with.

POLICEMAN

I've been there. I once drove 20 hours straight to tell Kathy Crawford that I loved her.

NOAH

And what happened?

POLICEMAN

She had become a nun - Sister Kathy Crawford.

NOAH

Ha.

POLICEMAN

Hang in there son. If's it's meant to be, then it will be.

NOAH

Thank you, sir. And Merry Christmas.

The Policeman tips his hat, gets back in his car, and drives away. Noah falls back into the snow, staring up at the sky.

NOAH (CONT'D)

It's over.

INT. NOAH'S APARTMENT - LATER

Noah walks in. He looks pretty rough. And he looks defeated.

NOAH

I need a beer.

He walks into his kitchen.

INT. KITCHEN, NOAH'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

He flips on the light. Jo is there.



NOAH  
What are you doing here?

JO  
You've looked better.

NOAH  
It's been a day.

He notices a cake on the table.

NOAH (CONT'D)  
What's that?

JO  
I made it.

Noah looks at the cake. It isn't pretty, but it kinda looks like a watch face. In very primitive looking writing it says "IN LOVE 'TIL THE END OF TIME. N & J.

NOAH  
Are you tagalonging me?

JO  
Remember the last night we spent together? It was our last night of college. And I will never forget the look on your face when I gave you that watch.

NOAH  
I knew I loved you then. And Jo, I know I've-

JO  
Would you shut up? This is my big romantic gesture.

NOAH  
Sorry.

JO  
I knew then that I loved you. And I never stopped loving you. After all these years, you're it Noah Jonathan Ryan. You're the one.

Jo takes frosting on the cake and smears it on Noah's face. She kisses him deeply and Noah kisses her right back.

JO (CONT'D)  
Wait, I can't believe you tried to use "The Tagalong" on me.

NOAH

Well, in a round about way, it  
worked didn't it?

JO

Ugh. I guess it did.

They laugh and kiss.

AND THEY LIVED HAPPILY EVER AFTER