

Lay it Down

Screenplay by B.J. Smith

Over black we see:

"To love is to suffer. To avoid suffering, one must not love; but then one suffers from not loving. Therefore, to love is to suffer, not to love is to suffer, to suffer is to suffer. To be happy is to love; to be happy is to suffer, but suffering makes one unhappy; therefore to be unhappy one must love or love to suffer or suffer from too much happiness." - Love and Death

EXT. Curbside in suburban PA- Night

A young man sits on a curbside in front of an unknown apartment complex. It is an absolute downpour in the late hours of the night/ early morning. The man sits in an almost daze, completely soaked, but yet unaffected. He speaks to the audience:

COLE

Love makes you do crazy things-or so we're told by countless romantic comedies. My name is Cole Levonworth, and I am in the middle of a crazy thing. I have a nice job, good friends, and a nice little routine going for me. Then she came into my life and made me feel such soaring highs and such bottomless lows, that sometimes, I feel like a pregnant woman going through an endless string of mood swings; and quite frankly, I'm sick of being jerked around. The she in question is Jolene Madison. I believe that through life, you meet people who completely change the course of your life and set you on the path to who you will eventually become. She, along with my best friend Jase, are definetly two of those people. So, by the end of this night, or the middle of the morning, or hopefully soon, I will either be the happiest man on Earth or broken into a trillion tiny un-repairable pieces. I'm laying it down, getting rid of the feelings of loneliness and solidarity.

(MORE)

COLE (cont'd)

I'm reaching for that kind of love  
that makes you suicidal yet  
stronger at the same time. I'm  
putting my balls on the line here,  
and finally reaching for happiness.  
After all, when you think about it,  
no one can give you happiness; you  
have to want it, and you have to  
reach out for it. It's weird when  
you think about it- how afraid of  
happiness people are. I mean  
subconsciously. If happiness means  
changing the routine, or going out  
on the limb for something, or  
putting yourself on the line to be  
totally made or totally broken,  
most would stay with their  
loneliness or misery. Well, it took  
awhile to get to, but it's love,  
and I'm in it.

OPEN CREDIT SEQUENCE-

Credits play to the Early November- "All We Ever Needed"

INT. The Movie Shack- Day

A small movie store in southwestern PA. COLE works here with  
his friends JAYSON, a lead singer of a local band, SHATTER  
STAR and GWYN, JAYSON's girlfriend.

COLE

(walking into work)  
Hello Gwyn.

GWYN

(manning the register)  
Mornin' Cole.

COLE

Jase around?

GWYN

In the back.

Cole walks to the stock room of the movie store to see Jayson  
laying down on a stack of unopened boxes. He looks hopeless.

COLE

What are you doing back here Jase?

JASE

It's over with Gwyn...

COLE  
WHAT?! Why?

JASE  
She never said. She just mentioned  
that she wanted to be single.

COLE  
Wow. I think I need to sit down.

JASE  
Yep. Feeling a bit light-headed?

COLE  
Yeah.

JASE  
Me too.

COLE  
Are you ok?

JASE  
Not really. I loved that girl.

Long silence.

JASE  
...and to give me some vague reason  
like she did; she owes me an  
explanation. I gave her 2 years of  
my life!

COLE  
Yeah, definetly.

JASE  
Ugh, and she's working today;  
standing out there like nothing  
happened.

COLE  
Why don't you go home Jase. I don't  
think you should be here today.

JASE  
You sure?

COLE  
It's no problem.

JASE  
Alright. Thanks bro.

COLE  
Go home. Don't do anything stupid  
or irrational.

JASE  
I'll try not to.

Jase turns away.

COLE  
Hey Jase! I wish there was  
something I could say to make you  
feel better. I dunno, I don't think  
I really can. She doesn't deserve  
you man.

JASE  
Thanks.

Jase grabs his coat and leaves. Cole walks back into the  
store.

CUSTOMER  
I need a good date movie.

COLE  
Date movie as in romantic comedy or  
date movie as in "scare the crap  
out of her so she'll sit real close  
to you?"

CUSTOMER  
Um, I think the second one would be  
good.

COLE  
Thought so. If you wanna go classic  
horror, I'd say The Howling, Evil  
Dead, or Fright Night. More modern,  
go with Gigli.

CUSTOMER  
Gigli? The Affleck flick? That guy  
can't act to save his life.

COLE  
Hey! Watch your mouth. No one will  
disgrace King Affleck in this  
business establishment. Affleck is  
the greatest actor of our time.  
Anyway, I was just saying Gigli as  
a joke. Here, get Fright Night. You  
won't be disappointed.

(MORE)

COLE (cont'd)

You can't go wrong with Vamps. She won't let go of you the whole night.

CUSTOMER

Thanks man.

GWYN

I assume Jayson told you the whole story.

COLE

That would be why I sent him home. And what's with you? How can you just stand there?

GWYN

It's what I'm paid to do.

COLE

How can you be so calm about this? Why did you do it?

GWYN

I just wanted to be single.

COLE

Bull. There's gotta be some bigger reason. Did you cheat on him?

GWYN

No I didn't cheat on him. Lemme ask you something. How many people have you dated longer than a year?

COLE

One. Alyssa.

GWYN

And how did you feel about her?

COLE

You know I loved her. What are you getting at?

GWYN

Well, didn't you ever get scared that maybe you're missing out on so much by staying with that one person?

COLE

You broke up with Jase to whore yourself around?

GWYN

No idiot. I love Jayson. I broke up with him to experience life by myself. Single. And if it's meant to be, we'll be together. If not, then its better that we not waste anymore time than we already have.

CUSTOMER

Hey! What's that flick with Affleck and J. Lo?

COLE

Gigli.

CUSTOMER

No. The good one.

COLE

Jersey Girl. Off to your right. Well, don't you think you should tell Jase about this?

GWYN

We've talked about this numerous times. He just doesn't want face reality.

COLE

Or maybe you don't.

GWYN

Meaning?

COLE

Gwyn, could you ring up this fine customer up. He would like his copy of Jersey Girl.

Over black we see:

"There are millions of people in this world, but in the end, it all comes down to one" - Crazy/Beautiful

EXT. Curbside in suburban PA- Night

We return to Cole sitting on the curb soaking wet.

COLE

It's now midnight. Where could she be? I know actually where she is- Noah's house. God, that guy doesn't know what he has.

(MORE)

COLE (cont'd)

He has someone so magnificent to call his own, someone to call him every night and ask how his day was; someone to brag about him to her friends; someone to bring him soup on a cold, rainy day when he is at home sick. What I would do for that- anything. Anything for her.

INT. The Movie Shack-Night

We go back to the MOVIE SHACK later that night. The final customers are on their way out and only Cole and Gwyn are left closing. A cell phone rings...

COLE (ON PHONE)

Yo.

JASE

Hey man. You wanna hit the bar tonight?

COLE

Uh, sure. If it will get your mind off of things.

JASE

Yeah. I gotta get out of this apartment. I'm slowly going crazy.

COLE

Ok. Well, we'll be done closing in about an hour. Meet you there?

JASE

We?

COLE

Yeah. Gwyn is still here.

JASE

Oh.

COLE

Are you ok man?

JASE

Not really, but I'll get plastered tonight and forget about it all.

COLE

Alright. If you say so. I'll catch ya in a few.

JASE  
Alright, later man.

COLE  
Later.

GWYN  
Jayson?

COLE  
That obvious?

GWYN  
I realize Jayson is your best friend and all, but I think you're failing to see this from my perspective.

COLE  
Well, enlighten me.

GWYN  
I didn't want to hurt him. That's the last thing I would want to do. I do still love him.

COLE  
Then why break up with him?

GWYN  
Maybe I love him too much.

COLE  
I'm failing to see the problem here.

GWYN  
How can we both be sure that we're absolutely right for each other if that's all we've ever experienced? I mean, this was the first really serious relationship for both of us. And there's not much doubt in my mind that I will be with Jase for the rest of my life, but what if it isn't meant to be? What if we're too blind to see it now and we get married, and God forbid, in 5 years we hate each other? Ya know? I just feel like this is the right thing right now.

COLE

I'm not here to preach to either of you. My opinion differs from yours, but it's not to say that I'm right. I'm not blaming either one of you for anything. You are both my friends, and I care about you both. I just want to see you both happy.

GWYN

I appreciate the concern, I really do. But don't worry about it too much. Life has a way of working itself out.

EXT. The Cactus Lounge- Night

The establishing shot of The CACTUS LOUNGE. Cole drives up to meet Jase.

INT. The Cactus Lounge- Night

The inside of the lounge is your typical country side bar, with plenty of college age kids, television sets playing all around, and a few pool tables off to the side. A COCKY KID is hustling one of the tables, clearing house along with the other kid's tuition money.

COLE

I'm gonna go hit the tables.

JASE

Alright. I'll be over here drinking till I pass out.

COLE

Take it easy man. I'll be right over her if you need me.

BARTENDER

What can I get for ya?

JASE

Everything behind this counter.

COCKY KID

Who wants to give me some more money?

COLE

I'm up for a round.

COCKY KID  
Alright, 20 bucks ahead.

COLE  
Wow. Um, expensive, but-ok.

COCKY KID  
You could just give me the money  
and spare the technicality of  
actually playing.

COLE  
I think I'll just take my chances  
on the table.

COCKY KID  
Alright, your choice.

Cole proceeds to completely demolish the kid in the game. He  
now owns the table.

COLE  
Who's up?

A beautiful 20-something GIRL walks up to the table.

COLE  
Wanna game?

GIRL  
What are the stakes?

COLE  
Well, if I win, my name is Cole by  
the way, you gotta buy me a drink.

GIRL  
Ok Cole. And if you lose?

COLE  
I'll buy you a drink.

GIRL  
But I already got a drink.

COLE  
It's ok, you're not going to win.

GIRL  
(smiling) Oh, is that so? Ok, game.  
The name is Jo.

COLE  
Jo? Is that short for something?

JO  
Jolene, really. Just Jo.

COLE  
Wow. What a pretty name just Jo.

JO  
Are you trying to hit on me Cole?

COLE  
Nope, just trying to soften your soon-to-be loss.

JO  
You're awfully cocky. I mean, you've never even seen me play before.

COLE  
It's like my dad used to say, I'm not cocky, just confident.

JO  
Used to say?

COLE  
Yeah, my dad passed away early last year.

JO  
Oh, I'm sorry.

COLE  
No, don't be. You didn't have anything to do with it...or did you?

JO  
Not that I know of. Let's talk about something a bit more comfortable.

COLE  
Ok, are you here with anyone?

JO  
Do you mean do I have a boyfriend?

COLE  
That too.

JO

Well, yes I have a boyfriend if you can call him that. And, yes, I am here with some of my girlfriends. Can't let a pretty girl like me be alone in a bar like this.

COLE

(laughing) Apparently not.

JO

What about you?

COLE

I'm here with my friend Jase. See him over there?

JO

Wow. He looks plastered.

COLE

He is, with good reason to be.

JO

Girl problems?

COLE

Aren't they always?

JO

Usually. So what's the story?

COLE

Well, his girlfriend of 2 year broke up with him last night over no apparent reason; at least to him. She tried explaining it to me, but hasn't felt justified letting him in on it yet.

JO

She sounds like a real winner. Have you let him in on it yet?

COLE

I thought I'd wait till he's a little more competent. She was feeding me these lines about not knowing what, or for that matter, who is out there.

(MORE)

COLE (cont'd)

If they're to just stay together  
and not experience life at all, how  
can they be sure they are really  
right for each other?

JO

Sounds sensible.

COLE

I don't buy it. I think she's just  
afraid.

JO

Why can't you buy that?

COLE

I feel that if you are lucky enough  
to experience a love like they  
have, something that deep, it  
doesn't matter what else is out  
there. Ya know? You got each other,  
you were lucky enough to find each  
other, why question something like  
that. There's obviously something  
bigger bringing you together, maybe  
that the way it's supposed to be.

JO

A.K.A. God?

COLE

In my estimation.

JO

Really, I never expected to hear a  
sermon in a bar.

COLE

Oh, I'm not preaching. That's the  
last thing you'll get out of me,  
I'm just giving my opinion.

JO

Ok, don't get huffy preacher man.

COLE

Your opinion?

JO

If it's meant to happen, it will.

COLE

See, I get the reasoning behind that, it's just that why take the chance? You gotta try a little bit; can't expect everything to happen all by itself and not put forth any effort.

Cole sinks the 8 ball.

JO

That's game. I guess you are that good.

COLE

What can I say? I'm gifted.

JO

At hustling young innocent girls?

COLE

Gotta get by somehow. I'll take guys money too. I'm an equal opportunist.

JO

You're like a bi-hustler.

COLE

Rack them up. I'll give ya double or nothing.

JO

Looking for 2 drinks?

COLE

Just enjoying the pleasure of your company.

JO

Ok. So, you got a job?

COLE

Of course. Why wouldn't I?

JO

Well, an unsavory fella like you, in a bar hustling people for drinks—sounds like you've taken a few trips to the unemployment line.

COLE

Nope, I do this for fun. I actually work at the Movie Shack. It's a movie store down towards Pleasant Hills.

JO

Oh. And what might you do at this establishment?

COLE

I actually own it.

JO

How old are you?

COLE

21. You?

JO

A year younger than me and you own your own store? How'd you manage that?

COLE

It was my fathers. I took over when he died.

JO

And his wife didn't have any say in this?

COLE

My mom? My mom ran off when I was a wee lad.

JO

Wow. My foot seems to be permanetly lodged in my mouth tonight.

COLE

It's ok. The wounds have healed. Tell me your story.

JO

My story? Not much to tell I guess. I'm in my last year of college, looking to go to grad school for business next year. I've had a boyfriend for 5 years, good friends all my life, decent parents, and good company at a small townie bar.

COLE  
5 years? Engaged?

JO  
No way. I would never marry that  
guy.

COLE  
Ok, now I'm confused. You've been  
with this guy for 5 years and you  
see no future with him? Isn't that  
just like...wasting your time?

JO  
I love him. I guess I've just grown  
comfortable. I don't want to leave  
him, but I'm not going to be with  
him forever. I get to wake up to a  
guy who loves me in the morning, so  
I'm happy. Besides, what's with  
this constant rat-race to the altar  
nowadays?

COLE  
No offense, but how are you happy?

JO  
He's a good guy. He loves me.  
What's there not to be happy about?

COLE  
You love him?

JO  
Sure.

COLE  
(not buying it)  
I see.

JO  
This is pretty heavy conversation  
for someone I just met Preacher-  
man.

COLE  
When you find that one guy, it's  
gonna hit you hard- I can tell.

JO  
What's that mean?

Jo sinks the 8 ball early.

COLE  
Oh, look at that. I win again.

JO  
What will it be?

COLE  
Uh, I'll take one Coke. We'll call  
the first game a warm-up.

JO  
One Jack and Coke coming up.

COLE  
Uh Jo, I'll have a Coke minus the  
Jack.

JO  
You come to a bar and get Coke?

COLE  
Yep. I don't drink alcohol.

JO  
And you're at a bar why?

COLE  
To meet interesting people- and  
drive Jase home.

JO  
Whatever you say preacher man.

Cole walks over to the bar to check up on Jase.

COLE  
How ya doing man?

JASE  
Girls suck. All I need is my buddy  
and my band. Here's the list of my  
top 5 friends...

COLE  
Ok, let's not go overboard. He's  
plastered.

JO  
Here's your Jack and Coke, hold the  
Jack.

COLE  
Thank you. Jo, this is Jase. Jase,  
Jo.

JO  
Nice to meet you.

JASE  
Yep.

JO  
Hey Cole, I got to get going now,  
the girlies are hitting another  
bar. Nice talking with you.

COLE  
Likewise. Be careful going home.

JO  
Will do. Maybe I'll catch you  
sometime.

COLE  
What? No number?

JO  
Sure I have a number. Who knows,  
maybe I'll give it to you someday.  
Hope you feel better Jase.

Jo exits the bar.

JASE  
What kind of name is Jo for a girl?

COLE  
Short for Jolene. That is one  
interesting girl.

JASE  
Someone's in love.

COLE  
Ok, you've definitely had too much  
to drink. Let's get going.

INT. Cole and Jase's apartment- Morning

The alarm goes off showing 12 p.m. Cole wakes up and heads  
for the shower. Jase is inside the tub sleeping in an awkward  
position, after experiencing a rough night.

COLE

Jase? Jase, wake up.

Cole taps Jase in the face trying to wake him up.

JASE

Huh? Why am I in the tub?

COLE

I was going to ask you the same thing.

JASE

God, I think my head is going to explode.

COLE

Yeah, I bet that is one serious hangover.

JASE

How many drinks did I have last night?

COLE

I'm not sure. I was playing pool with a lovely young lady.

JASE

You met someone at the bar?

COLE

Wow. You must've been drunk. I introduced you to her.

JASE

Ugh, did Gwyn call at all?

COLE

I'm not sure, get out of the tub and check the machine.

Jase heads toward the answering machine. Nothing.

JASE

God. What did I do to deserve this?

COLE

Nothing. You don't deserve this.

JASE

Then why is she doing it?

COLE  
I wish I had an answer for you.

JASE  
Did you talk to her at all at work  
yesterday?

COLE  
Yeah, a little bit.

JASE  
...and?

COLE  
The typical "if it's meant to be"  
excuse. She doesn't know how you  
two can be right for each other  
unless you know what else is out  
there.

JASE  
I don't want what else is out  
there.

COLE  
Maybe you should try to talk to  
her. I gotta get ready.

JASE  
Where are you going?

COLE  
I'm meeting Ally for lunch.

JASE  
Alright, I'm going back to bed. I  
might call Gwyn after that.

COLE  
Alright man.

Long pause.

COLE  
Hey. Things are going to work out,  
okay?

JASE  
I hope so.

COLE  
I know so.

EXT. Sidewalks of Pittsburgh- Day

Cole is shown walking the sidewalks of Pittsburgh on a beautiful day to meet ALLY for lunch. Ally is a nice girl, you're typical "girl next door." She has a beauty and natural charm that makes her appealing to most people. She is awaiting Cole's arrival in a booth of a small café.

ALLY  
Hey handsome.

COLE  
Hello dear.

ALLY  
Good to see you again.

COLE  
Likewise. It's been awhile.

ALLY  
3 months.

COLE  
How is that internship going?

ALLY  
It's okay. You're basic donuts and coffee internship. I do get to do the occasional small write up on the last page of the magazine. It gets me by.

COLE  
Well, whatever you gotta do I guess.

ALLY  
How's life at the store?

COLE  
Things are going okay I guess. As long as people keeping buying the movies, I'll be fine.

ALLY  
You're dad would be really proud.

COLE  
Well, I could never run it as smoothly as he did, but I'm trying.

Waitress enters.

WAITRESS  
What can I get for you two?

ALLY  
I'll take the chicken salad.

WAITRESS  
...and to drink?

ALLY  
Coke.

COLE  
I'll have the chicken fingers with  
a Coke.

WAITRESS  
Alright, I'll get these to you as  
soon as possible.

ALLY  
Thank you.

Exit waitress.

ALLY  
You and those chicken fingers.  
Always ordering the same thing, no  
matter where you are.

COLE  
Hey, I know what I like.

ALLY  
So picky.

COLE  
What great topics of conversation  
you brought with you.

ALLY  
Shut up. How's the gang?

COLE  
Gwyn broke up with Jase.

ALLY  
Gwyn dumped Jase? Why?

COLE  
Who knows? I tried talking to her  
about it, but she seems unsure  
herself.

(MORE)

COLE (cont'd)

She basically said how can they be right for each other without experiencing what else there is out there.

ALLY

Well, that kind of makes sense.

COLE

No. If you are lucky enough to find that one perfect person, why not just take comfort in knowing that you were one of the select few to find true happiness in another person so early in life? Why would you risk something happening?

ALLY

Well, maybe the relationship isn't strong enough to survive if they're afraid of something happening.

COLE

Maybe. I have faith that they'll end up together though.

ALLY

Cole, the perpetual optimist.

COLE

Ally, the perpetual pessimist.

ALLY

Ally, the realist.

COLE

There's nothing wrong with being a dreamer.

ALLY

What about you?

COLE

What about me?

ALLY

You finally move past Alyssa and get a girl? After all, it's been a year and a half.

COLE

No one serious. I don't know, it tore me up when Alyssa left and I don't know if I can go through that again.

ALLY

Well, not everyone is out to hurt you.

COLE

Yeah, it's just the females that are out for blood.

ALLY

How sweet of you.

INT. The apartment- Day

Jase, still in his pajamas, lays on the couch with phone in hand. He thinks about what to say, mouthing words at some points. He places his hands on his head, obviously distraught and hurt. Jase looks at the phone, thinks for a second with tears forming in his eyes, and begins dialing.

FADE OUT.

INT. Small Pittsburgh café- Day

Time has obviously passed, Cole and Ally have already eaten their food and talked for awhile.

COLE

Well, I gotta get going Al. They're expecting me at the store.

ALLY

Well, this has been nice. I'll give you a call a little later?

Cole puts money on the table.

COLE

Sounds good. Catch ya later hun.

Exit Cole and Ally.

FADE OUT.

INT. The Movie Shack- Day

Cole arrives at the store mid-way through the day. Gwyn is managing the register as usual, and another young worker, MATTY, is stocking.

GWYN

Hi Cole.

COLE

Call him.

GWYN

He called me earlier.

COLE

Good.

GWYN

Don't you wanna know how it went?

COLE

Minor details. Atleast you two are talking.

Cole walks to the back room.

MATTY

Hey, I heard about Gwyn and Jase.

COLE

Hello Matty. Sucks, doesn't it?

MATTY

Yep. How's he handling it?

COLE

Well, as good as one could handle it under the circumstances I guess.

MATTY

Gwyn doesn't seem overly concerned.

COLE

She still loves him Matt.

MATTY

She tell you this?

COLE

No, but they're meant for each other.

MATTY

How can you be so sure?

COLE  
I guess I have an abundance of  
faith in them.

MATTY  
What if this doesn't turn out good?

COLE  
Well, keep the faith brother.

Cole walks back into the store followed by Matty, when he runs into a familiar face.

JO  
Hey, who runs this heap?

COLE  
(face is illuminated by a huge  
smile) Back to bust my balls some  
more?

JO  
I usually wait till after a few  
dates for that.

COLE  
Can I help you with something?

JO  
Sure, you can take me out.

COLE  
Now?

JO  
That's the plan.

COLE  
I can't just leave the store now. I  
just got here.

JO  
Sure you can. This strapping young  
fellow can handle it.

COLE  
Hey Matty, lock up tonight, will  
ya?

Cole throws him a set of keys.

MATTY

Hey, I'm supposed to get off in an hour.

COLE

Ah...help yourself to some cash out of the register.

MATTY

Really?

COLE

No. But thanks man.

Cole exits the store with Jo by his side.

OVER BLACK WE SEE:

"Poetry, beauty, romance, love: these are what we stay alive for." -Dead Poet's Society

EXT. PITTSBURGH- DAY

Cole and Jo are walking the sidewalks of downtown Pittsburgh.

JO

So I just went nuts and started hitting him.

COLE

You beat up your boyfriend?

JO

He deserved it. Next time he'll be seeing my size 9 heel racing towards his face.

COLE

Wow. Remind me never to make you mad. Better watch out of this Noah guy can file for spousal abuse.

JO

We're never going to be married. He will never be my spouse. He just makes me angry sometimes, and he needs put in his place.

COLE

Yeah. I suppose I know how that is.

JO

Well Cole. Been hit with a shoe in your day?

COLE

Yeah.

JO

What was the lovely ladies name?

COLE

That would be Alyssa. We would go through those fights, especially after the first 9 months.

JO

Really? What caused them?

COLE

I guess it was a combination of jealousy and instigation.

JO

Lemme guess. She would flirt with other guys to try and make you jealous.

COLE

You're good. I still don't know why she did it though. Maybe she liked the extra attention; but towards the end, she became so cold- almost unfeeling. I remember just yelling and screaming at each other some nights, and not even remembering what the fight was about.

JO

And?

COLE

And after a year, I broke it off. The fights and the jealousy, it just got too big for both of us.

JO

This is fun. Talking about past relationships.

COLE

Well, technically Jo, I'm the only one talking about past relationships. What about you?

JO

To tell the truth, I can't really remember many relationships before I started dating Noah.

COLE

He's that good to make you forget about them?

JO

No, it's just been that long. I do remember one guy I dated a while back; he turned gay a few months after we broke up.

COLE

You have that effect on people?

JO

Yeah, I guess. I can see a gay version of Noah right now. He'd definitely be the butch.

COLE

What about you two? You've openly said that there's no future there.

JO

There isn't. I guess it's just too hard to leave him. After such a long time, you kinda get--

COLE

Comfortable.

JO

Exactly.

COLE

You know they say that you should move on whenever you get comfortable.

JO

Are you trying to hit on me Mr. Preacher man?

COLE

Hit on you? I believe that is what you do to people.

JO  
Who are "they" anyway? "They" say  
an awful lot, don't they?

COLE  
Yes they do.

JO  
You ever notice that people have  
all the advice in the world for  
you, as long as they don't have to  
apply it to their own life. If the  
situation doesn't involve them, all  
of a sudden they're Dr. Phil; but  
God forbid they take they're own  
advice. "They" should just shut up  
and live their life, and let other  
people live their own.

COLE  
Good advice.

JO  
Shut up smart mouth.

COLE  
So, you came and got me out of work  
for this little pseudo-date, what  
would you like to do?

JO  
Hey! There's Eides!

COLE  
Hold on. You like comic books?

JO  
Not really, but I kinda pegged you  
for the kind of dork that does.

COLE  
Well for that, I'm going to have to  
drag you in the store.

INT. EIDES COMIC BOOK SHOP- DAY.

Cole and Jo head into Eides, a two-floor comic book shop in  
Pittsburgh.

JO  
Wow. This must be like heaven for  
you.

COLE  
Oh! Daredevil!

Cole grabs a hold of Jo's hand and drags her off to the trade paperback section of the store. He picks up a hard cover edition of Daredevil.

COLE  
This is the best comic book on the market.

JO  
Daredevil? This was a movie.

COLE  
It was a comic first. It was also a great movie.

JO  
Never seen it.

COLE  
You lead such a sheltered life.

JO  
That's the first time I've ever been accused of that.

COLE  
Daredevil isn't your normal superhero. He started out normal as most, but was blinded in an accident when he was a kid. However, by being blinded, something happened that increased all of his other senses to a super sensitive level. For instance, his sense of sound is so strong that it gives off this "radar" of sorts, almost enabling him to have a form of vision. Combine that with tons of training, you got the man without fear.

JO  
Cool--

COLE  
Wait. There's more. Not only is he a superhero, but he's a lawyer by day. This is the cool part. When in court, he can tell whether someone is being honest or not.

JO

How?

COLE

His sense of hearing. You know how when you lie, your heart starts racing a bit?

JO

Ohhhh. So lemme guess- if he doesn't get justice in court, he gets it at night.

COLE

Precisely!

Pulls out a copy of the trade paperback Daredevil: Guardian Devil.

COLE

Now this is the Guardian Devil story arc of D.D. that Kevin Smith wrote.

JO

Who's that?

COLE

The guy who wrote and directed Clerks, Mallrats, Chasing Amy, Dogma, Jay and Silent Bob Strike Back, and Jersey Girl.

JO

Never seen any of them.

COLE

WHAT!? This guy is awesome. I've been throwing around the idea of writing a script because of this guy.

JO

You wanna write a movie?

COLE

Just an idea. Something to fill those long lonely nights.

JO

That would be really cool. You could write it about me!

COLE  
Wow! There's a great idea!

JO  
Really?

COLE  
No.

JO  
(playfully punches his  
arm) Shut up! I'd go see  
that movie.

COLE  
How humble of you.

JO  
Ok, let's get out here before I end  
up like you.

COLE  
You could only strive to be half as  
great as I.

FADE OUT.

INT. CAR- NIGHT

Jase is barreling through the bare Perryopolis streets to get to the Movie Shack in his car. It is a clear black night, with a dampness in the air.

JASE  
What am I doing? What am I doing?  
What am I doing? This is insane.  
She doesn't want you anymore. Wait,  
yes she does, she just doesn't know  
it. Just take her out somewhere.  
She can do that. She owes you at  
least that. Get some answers. Ok,  
quit talking to yourself.

Jase pulls into the Movie Shack parking lot just as Gwyn and Matty are locking up and leaving. Jase rolls down the passenger side window to talk to her, as Matty gets in his car and pulls out.

GWYN  
What do you want?

JASE  
Get in.

GWYN  
Why?

JASE  
We need to talk.

GWYN  
It's done Jase. Just accept it.

JASE  
Get in. We'll go get some ice  
cream.

GWYN  
No Jayson.

JASE  
Come on. It won't be long.

GWYN  
Goodbye.

Gwyn walks over to her car and turns on the engine. She goes to pull out but Jase jumps in front of the car.

GWYN  
(from inside the car)  
What are you doing?

JASE  
(yelling, his voice  
cracking with a mixture  
of sadness, hopelessness,  
and most of all,  
desperation)  
You're not leaving! You owe me some  
answers! I gave you 2 years of my  
life, and all I'm asking for now is  
a couple minutes!

GWYN  
Jayson, get out of my way. You're  
going to get hit.

JASE  
You know what? Run me over because  
you can't possible hurt me anymore  
than you already have.

Jase lays down on the ground directly in front of the tires. Gwyn gets out of the car and slams the door.

GWYN

Get up. Let's go. You're such a drama queen.

They get in the car and drive off.

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. COLE'S CAR- NIGHT

JO

Well, here we are. We should do this again sometime.

COLE

That would be nice.

JO

Alright, I'll come pull you out of work some random day so you can take me out again.

COLE

Sounds good dear.

JO

Catch ya later Preach.

Jo exits car.

COLE

Quit calling me that.

INT. GWYN'S CAR- NIGHT

It is now pouring down rain heavily.

JASE

Where are we headed?

GWYN

We're going to go get something to eat.

Long pause.

JASE

Why?

GYWN

Because I'm hungry.

JASE

No, why did you break up with me?

GYWN

We've been over this about a dozen times.

JASE

Do you love me?

GYWN

Jase-

JASE

Do you love me?

Gwyn stops the car, not even out of sight of the Movie shack.

GYWN

Yes Jayson, I still love you.

JASE

Then why?

GYWN

Jayson- we date for two years. Those were the best two years of my life. There's not much doubt in my mind that we'll be back together, and there's not much doubt in my mind that we'll end up married someday with two beautiful children and a dog, living out on the country side. But how can I be sure of these things? I can't. What if there's someone else out there that I'm meant to be with?

JASE

What if I am?

GYWN

If it's meant to be, it will be. If not, then there's someone out there better for you than me.

JASE

I don't want anyone else.

GYWN

Jase-

JASE

No! Let me tell you what I think. The two years with you were the greatest in my life. I can't remember a time with you where I wasn't happy; even through the bad parts, I always had a smile; even if I didn't show it, because in the back of my mind, I knew that you loved me and that I loved you and that we were together. That's all that mattered to me. I think that you are relying on fate entirely too much. Fate, or destiny, or God, or whatever you want to call it brought us together. Two entirely different people, two separate paths, with one chance meeting. What are the odds that two people, so perfect for each other, meet in the exact spot at the exact time, and some force of nature causing them to speak to each other? What are the odds that something like that can happen again? I found love on that perfect day at that perfect moment in time, and I knew that we'd be together forever. Then for some reason you did this. You are testing our relationship off of one thought; one little bit of fear in the back of your mind. You know that I'm the one, and for some reason it scares you. You've never had any other serious relationship other than this one, and you're afraid of what you may be missing out on. Well you know what, you and I, we're lucky ones. We never had to experience a failed relationship, because we found each other. God intervened and brought us together. And here you are, trusting fate to bring us back together after you tear us apart. Fate can only bring you so far, then you have to do the rest.

(MORE)

JASE (cont'd)

You have to trust what you feel and take a risk. Now you deny that you've found someone else, but I don't believe you. Everything I just said, you already knew all of that. So I'm done playing games. You know how I feel, and I'll be waiting for you. Call me whenever you're ready to come home.

*The Starting Line- Hold On* plays softly in the background. Jase exits the car and walks back to the store, where his car is parked.

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. COLE AND JASE'S APARTMENT- NIGHT

Cole pulls his car into the lot of his apartment complex late at night. It is raining, but an overall peaceful night. He enters his apartment, sits down on the couch, and dials the telephone.

COLE

Hey, Matty?

MATTY

Yes?

COLE

Cole.

MATTY

Hey. How's it going?

COLE

Good man. I just wanted to call and thank you for staying late for me.

MATTY

Not a problem.

COLE

Yeah, well, I appreciate it. I'm going to mail a little bit of extra money your way.

MATTY

Hey man. Don't worry about it. It's been a slow month at the store, I don't need the money right now. You can send it to me when things pick up. How'd your date go?

COLE  
Oh, it's not a date.

MATTY  
Well how'd your non-date go?

COLE  
It was fun. We hit Eides.

MATTY  
You took a girl on a date to a comic book shop?

COLE  
It wasn't a date, and she wanted to go in.

MATTY  
A girl willing going into a comic book shop? Marry her.

COLE  
(laughs) Yeah, she's certainly different.

MATTY  
Dude, this girl sounds awesome. Do you think there's something there?

COLE  
Between us? I doubt it. I'm not ready for something like that. I'm not even over Alyssa. She has a boyfriend too.

MATTY  
Boyfriend eh?

COLE  
Yeah, for like 5 years.

MATTY  
Wow. Well, good luck there.

COLE  
With what? I'm not going after her.

Jase walks into the apartment.

MATTY  
Whatever you say man.

COLE

Hey Matty, I gotta go now. You work tomorrow?

MATTY

Nope. Friday.

COLE

Alright, I'll see ya then. Thanks again man.

MATTY

No problem.

Hang up.

COLE

Where you been? You're soaked.

JASE

I was out with Gwyn.

COLE

Really??? Give me some details.

JASE

I basically spilled it all and told her to call me when she's done playing games.

COLE

Wow.

JASE

I know. What a stupid move.

COLE

Huh? Hey man, that took balls to do. Why would it be a stupid move?

JASE

What if she doesn't call, ever?  
What if I've lost her?

COLE

She'll call man. She loves you and yours are meant to be together.

JASE

I hope your right.

COLE

Keep the faith.

JASE  
Easier said than done.

COLE  
I know. But everything will work out.

JASE  
I gotta work with her tomorrow too, this is going to be hell.

COLE  
Be strong man. Don't let her see you hurt.

JASE  
It isn't blatantly obvious?

COLE  
Well, yes, but she's hurting too.

JASE  
I don't know man, I just don't want to think about it right now. I got work early and I'm hitting the sack.

COLE  
Alright. Goodnight.

Jase starts to walk away.

COLE (CONT'D)  
Jase. Everything *will* be alright.

JASE  
I hope so. Goodnight.

Cole collapses on the couch, grabs his hair with both hands and sighs.

COLE  
I called her "dear".

FADE TO BLACK.

OVER BLACK WE SEE:

"I love you so much it hurts." -Fools Rush In

EXT. CURBSIDE IN SUBURBAN P.A.- NIGHT

We re-join Cole in the rain, drenched, still waiting in the middle of a "crazy thing."

COLE

There it is. Jayson's lowest point. Sure it took guts to just put it all out on the table like he did, but it was tearing him up inside and it was easy to tell. Jase though, he's stronger than most people. He would never claim that there's any truth in this statement, but in my opinion, he could leave Gwyn and still survive. He loves that girl more than anything, and he'd do anything for her, but he could survive. A piece of him would die along with the relationship, but eventually, he could move on to the girl he'd love second best. Gwyn, on the other hand; she needs Jase. She doesn't realize it yet, but she needs him. They're a perfect fit; which is why I'm so sure that they'll be back together. I wish I could be that certain of what's in store for me. I wish I could be as strong as Jase, but truth be told, I'm more like Gwyn. 12:30- no one here yet.

INT. THE MOVIE SHACK- DAY

It is now the next morning. Gwyn is manning the register as usual, Cole is going through inventory, scanning down the racks of movies, and Jase is just walking into the store. He looks down, but not out.

GWYN

Hi Jayson.

JASE

(he cracks a half smile)

Hi Gwyn.

He continues through the store into the back where he grabs his Movie Shack work shirt, puts it on, then goes back onto the floor to Cole.

COLE  
Sleep well?

JASE  
Maybe a half hour the entire night.

COLE  
You look like you're doing pretty well, all things considered.

JASE  
Just trying to be strong.

COLE  
That's what I like to hear. You know I'm here if--

JASE  
I know. How's things with that girl?

COLE  
Jo?

JASE  
The one from the bar.

COLE  
Yeah, that's her. She's...interesting.

JASE  
Is she a prospect?

COLE  
For a girlfriend? No, no. After Alyssa...

JASE  
Alyssa? Still stuck on her?

COLE  
Not stuck. Just not over yet.

JASE  
It's been awhile Cole. Maybe this girl is good for you. Although I'm in no position to talk. I'll never get over my girl.

COLE  
You won't need to. She'll come back.

JASE

I hope so.

COLE

Keep the faith.

JASE

Hey, did you see wrestling the other night?

COLE

Yeah. Things are going downhill on both brands.

JASE

Yeah. They should hire us as writers. We could come up with some awesome story lines.

COLE

Tell me about it.

JASE

Well, I'm gonna head back and get the shippers of the new releases ready for the display.

COLE

Alright man.

Cole works his way back towards the front of the store where Gwyn is.

GWYN

How is he?

COLE

Strong.

GWYN

Stubborn.

COLE

In love.

GWYN

I suppose you heard about last night?

COLE

Yes, but lets save that for later. This store's starting to seem like a W.B. show.

GWYN  
Hey, at least it's not U.P.N.

COLE  
(laughs)  
Good point.

INT. JOLENE'S CAR- DAY

Jolene is driving through Perryopolis, belting out Madonna lyrics off tune when her cell phone rings. She turns off the music and answers...

JO  
(on cell)  
Hello?

YOUNG LADY  
Hey Jojo.

JO  
Hi Laurel. What are you up to?

LAUREL  
Not too much. I just wanted to see if you wanted to come grab a bite with us at the Olive Garden.

JO  
Uh, sorry. I'm headed to Noah's right now.

LAUREL  
Why don't you bring him along?

JO  
I don't think he'll take too well to hanging out with a bunch of girls.

LAUREL  
I'm bringing Steve. Jackie's bringing her man. It's not just the girls.

JO  
Alright. That sounds good. Maybe I can make Noah buy me a lunch for a change.

LAUREL

He has a job doesn't he? Why is he always broke?

JO

Bar, slots.

LAUREL

Yuck. Maybe it's time you kick him to the curb.

JO

I don't know. It would be too hard. Although, I have been out with this really nice guy.

LAUREL

Just nice?

JO

Yeah. It's kinda refreshing ya know? He's just a really nice, sweet, funny guy. No ulterior motives.

LAUREL

You sure it's just not an act?

JO

No. I can tell. He's not just trying to get into my pants.

LAUREL

Sounds like the perfect guy.

JO

Maybe. Oh well, I'm at Noah's. I'll see you in...

LAUREL

We're gonna meet at 2.

JO

I'll see you in an hour then.

LAUREL

Alright. See ya Jojo.

JO

Bye Laur.

INT. THE MOVIE SHACK- DAY

Cole and Gwyn are manning the only two registers side by side in the store. A decent sized rush of people have just come through.

COLE

It's been awhile since I seen a rush that big.

GWYN

It's Thursday. Thursday's are boring since "Friends" went off. I guess people need the movies for tonight.

COLE

I had a guy check out Bio-dome, but he had it sandwiched between Schindler's List and Citizen Kane.

GWYN

"Old guy" came in again today.

COLE

He got Annie?

GWYN

Every Thursday. He rents Annie, brings it back the next day, then starts the process over again.

COLE

I liked Annie. It made me feel good. I guess old people like that feeling old movies give you.

GWYN

Don't you think he should get something different? I mean, there's thousands of excellent movies out there, but he wouldn't know it, cuz he sticks with the same flick.

COLE

He knows what he likes, and it makes him feel good. That's all that matters.

GWYN

But it seems like such a waste. All those movies, and he'll never see them.

COLE

It doesn't matter. He found the perfect movie for him, and he enjoys watching it for one reason or another. Nevermind all the others, they have fans. They all have at least one person who loves the flick like "Old guy" loves Annie- even Bio-Dome.

GWYN

Real life problems reflected in movie rentals.

COLE

I was wondering if you'd catch on.

GWYN

Could you be more obvious?

COLE

I seriously didn't mean for it to go there. I was just defending "Old guy's" love of Annie. We don't have to talk about it if you don't want to.

GWYN

Come over my house after work. We'll talk.

COLE

You don't have to include me in this if you're not comfortable. I mean, yours are both my friends, I just wanna see everyone happy.

GWYN

I know. You're a good friend. We'll talk.

COLE

Sounds good. I think you can handle it up here now, I'm gonna go fill my order.

GWYN

Have fun.

COLE  
The fun never stops here.

GWYN  
Well, we are in a sit-com.

COLE  
...or a really cheesy soap opera.

INT. THE MOVIE SHACK STOCK ROOM- DAY

Cole goes back into the stock room of the store and pulls out his cell phone. He dials a number. The phone rings three times, then a message...

JO  
Hey, this is Jo. Leave a message  
and I'll get back to you, if I like  
you and I feel like it.

Cole hangs up the cell. Enter Jase.

JASE  
I put up the new release shippers.  
I'm gonna go ahead and get started  
on this month's display, did you  
have something in mind?

COLE  
Um, how about an Affleck display?

JASE  
You and your incessant love of Ben  
Affleck. Armageddon, Pearl Harbor,  
Paycheck, Changing Lanes, and  
Daredevil. The action-packed  
Affleck!

COLE  
Sounds good.

JASE  
Movie poster?

COLE  
Paycheck?

JASE  
Sounds good.

COLE

Also, but "Affleck is King" above the display. That's for all the haters.

JASE

Whatever you say Cole.

Phone rings. Cole goes into the office and answers.

COLE

Hello. The Movie Shack. How can I help you?

ALLY

Hey Cole. Do you have that one movie with that one guy in it?

COLE

Hey Ally. What's up?

ALLY

Well, I got sent home early, so I was wondering if you wanted to come over and watch the game with me.

COLE

I'd love to, but I can't.

ALLY

Busy?

COLE

Not really. Jase and Gwyn are both working today, and it's really Dawson's Creek over here, so I'm afraid to leave them alone.

ALLY

Ahhh. I completely understand. Wanna catch up after work?

COLE

Sure. Whatcha got in mind?

ALLY

I'm not sure.

COLE

Well, I do own a movie store. Wanna come over my place afterward and watch a flick?

ALLY  
Subjecting me to another Affleck  
film festival?

COLE  
No, not tonight. Whatcha in the  
mood for?

ALLY  
I feel like laughing.

COLE  
Affleck is funny...

ALLY  
So it Will Ferrel. Let's go ahead  
with him.

COLE  
I can deal with that.

ALLY  
Alright punkin, see ya then.

COLE  
Later on Al.

Cole hangs up the phone and walks back into the store.

JASE  
Cole, come here.

COLE  
Yeah?

JASE  
Look at this invoice. The  
distribution center billed us for  
three cases of MGM releases that I  
can't account for.

COLE  
They're not in the back.

JASE  
I've looked everywhere.

COLE  
Alright. Go ahead and call them and  
get them to credit us for the screw  
up.

JASE

Will do.

Jase walks to the backroom while Cole makes his way up to the register.

COLE

Busy?

GWYN

Not really. One of the smelliest, dirtiest, most unkempt guys I've ever met came in and rented Steel Magnolias.

COLE

Wow, that's rich.

GWYN

Yeah, it was pretty funny.

COLE

Hey, could you go get the invoices out of the back for me. I'll stay up here and watch the register.

GWYN

Sure. They're on your desk?

COLE

Yep. Thanks.

Gwyn walks to the back and runs into Jase making his way out of Cole's office. They go back and forth trying to pass each other, then Jase heads for the store once again.

GWYN

(back turned)

For what it's worth, I'm sorry.

JASE

Don't say that.

GWYN

Why?

JASE

'Cuz that implies that it's over.

FADE OUT.

INT. THE MOVIE SHACK- NIGHT

The doors are locked, all customers are out, along with the lights. One tiny light remains on in the back of Cole's office. He's in there, going over orders and shuffling through papers. Jase walks in.

JASE  
Gwyn still around?

COLE  
Nope, just left about 10 minutes ago.

JASE  
Oh.

COLE  
Was is hard?

JASE  
Insanely. I can't stand this. I just wanna grab hold of her and not let go, ever. I just want things like they used to be.

COLE  
Keep the faith brother.

JASE  
I don't know man, I don't think she's coming back.

COLE  
You remember at Wrestlemania 21 in the "money in the bank" six-man ladder match when Christian was climbing the ladder, going for the title, but he was too beaten and battered to get all the way up?

JASE  
Yeah?

COLE  
Well, Tyson Tomko, his friend, his bodyguard came in and hoisted him up and climbed the ladder with Christian sitting on his shoulders.

JASE  
What's your point?

COLE

If you can't keep the faith, I'll keep it for you.

JASE

I appreciate that man, but could you have found a better example than Tomko. He's an awful wrestler.

COLE

Well, I like to think that was his shining moment.

JASE

They didn't even win.

COLE

Where they failed, we'll succeed.

JASE

I hope your right. I'm gonna head home.

COLE

Ally is coming by, wanna watch some flicks with us?

JASE

I think I'll pass. I'll probably just go to sleep and try to forget everything.

COLE

Alright. Later on man.

INT. THE CACTUS LOUNGE- NIGHT

Gwyn is in the bar, drinking, obviously not all that happy. A guy scopes her out from afar, then makes his approach.

FADE OUT.

INT. COLE AND JASE'S APARTMENT- NIGHT

Cole is sitting on the couch, watching t.v. when Ally knocks at his door. He answers.

ALLY

I brought Goobers!

COLE  
Sweet. I brought movies. Come on  
in.

ALLY  
Which movies?

COLE  
Well, I opted to mix it up a bit.  
Movies that make me happy, with one  
Will Ferrel movie. We got Garden  
State, Wonder Boys, Love, Actually,  
and Anchorman.

ALLY  
Garden State! I LOVE this movie. We  
gotta watch this first.

COLE  
Sounds good. Pop it in.

INT. COLE AND JASE'S APARTMENT- NIGHT

Jase is laying on his bed, staring at the ceiling, not quite  
asleep, but sort of in a daze. He lies motionless for  
seconds, seeming like an eternity.

EXT. NOAH'S APARTMENT- NIGHT

Jo and Noah are entering his apartment, Noah's back turned,  
leaving the audience still unable to see his face. Jo is  
hanging all over him, as they stumble through the threshold.

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. COLE AND JASE'S APARTMENT- NIGHT

Cole is slouched down on the couch with his arm around Ally,  
and her head on his chest. After seconds of silence, they  
both laugh hysterically at the movie.

ALLY  
This is nice.

COLE  
Yes it is.

ALLY  
I need a boyfriend.

COLE

I hear ya. I mean, I need a girlfriend, not a boyfriend.

ALLY

How about if we're both 35 and still unmarried, we'll marry each other; sound good?

COLE

Like a safety net?

ALLY

Sort of.

COLE

Yeah. That would be nice.

Moments pass.

ALLY

I wanna have 3 kids.

COLE

Really? I only want 2.

Moments pass.

COLE

We'll compromise. 2 and a half.

ALLY

Half?

COLE

Yep.

Moments pass and then they both laugh hysterically at the movie again.

Over black we see:

"Your heart is free, have the courage to follow it." - Braveheart

Alarm clock goes off displaying the time 8:45.

INT. NOAH'S APARTMENT- DAY

Jo is awake, getting dressed. Noah is still asleep, face down in his pillow.

INT. GWYN'S APARTMENT- DAY

The guy from the bar who was shown approaching Gwyn is sitting across from her at a kitchen table, both smiling and drinking orange juice.

EXT. THE MOVIE SHACK- DAY

Matty is shown unlocking the doors to the store, opening for the day.

INT. COLE AND JASE'S APARTMENT- DAY

Cole wakes up with Ally's head still resting on his chest, who is also sleeping. She wakes her up.

COLE  
Owww! My neck.

ALLY  
Oh man. I'm late.

COLE  
How late?

ALLY  
Well, not really late, but I will be if I don't get running.

Kisses Cole on the cheek.

ALLY  
Thanks babe. I'll give you a call.

COLE  
Alright. Be careful.

Exit Ally.

Cole walks around the apartment, looking in the fridge, and drinks some orange juice out of the carton. He then goes to wake up Jase only to find that Jase isn't there. Cole picks up the phone and dials...

COLE  
Hey man. Where you at?

JASE

I headed over my brothers place.  
The bands is going to practice for  
a bit. Try to get my head away from  
things.

COLE

Sounds good. Write me a song.

JASE

No.

COLE

Alright man. Catch ya later.

JASE

Later.

Cole hangs up and starts to walk away. He then glances back at the phone and picks it up again. He dials...

INT. JOLENE'S APARTMENT- DAY

The shower is running and Noah is still in bed. Jo's phone goes off, and Noah answers.

NOAH

Hello?

INT. COLE AND JASE'S APARTMENT- DAY

Cole has a surprised look on his face. Noah answers "hello?" once more, and Cole hangs up the phone. He leans against the wall for a second, and then goes to get ready for work.

INT. JASE'S PARENTS HOUSE- DAY

The band, named "Shatter Star", is set up in a garage. There is a drummer, bassist, Jase's brother the guitarist, and Jase the singer. Everything is silent until Jase belts out, "Are you happy? Are you happy?", followed by rock cords. They play their song, "Paradise Has Crashed."

INT. THE MOVIE SHACK- DAY

Cole walks into the shack where Matty is seated behind the desk, feet propped up, reading an Entertainment Weekly.

COLE

Busy eh?

MATTY

Good read on the breakup of  
Miramax.

COLE

Yeah, Disney sucks.

MATTY

Something wrong?

COLE

No. What do you mean?

MATTY

You don't seem yourself.

COLE

I had an odd dream.

MATTY

Care to share?

COLE

Care to share some wisdom?

MATTY

If I can. Shoot.

COLE

I had a dream about Jolene last  
night.

MATTY

See, I knew you loved her.

COLE

In the dream, we were in the  
pouring rain, completely soaked. We  
were standing close, and she told  
me she broke up with her boyfriend.  
Then I kissed her. No just a kiss,  
but like this full body embrace  
with this soft but firm, hard but  
gentle, aggressive but sweet kiss.

MATTY

Uh huh.

COLE

Then when we were finished, she told me I was a bad kisser.

MATTY

Ouch. Getting burned in your own fantasy.

COLE

Not a fantasy. A dream. I had no control of what was going on. But the thing is, it didn't hurt that she said that. It was like, well, we've got a lot of time to practice now that you broke up with your idiot boyfriend.

MATTY

Interesting.

COLE

I mean, I obviously like the girl, but I can count on one hand the times I've been out with her. I shouldn't be having dreams about her already, at least none like that.

MATTY

Maybe it's a subconscious thing.

COLE

I find myself calling her. I tried last night and got her voicemail. Then I tried again this morning, and a guy answered.

MATTY

Boyfriend?

COLE

Probably.

MATTY

And?

COLE

I hung up.

MATTY

You didn't want to talk to her.

COLE

It's wasn't that, I just got really angry. Angry that he answered her phone.

MATTY

Well, it's her boyfriend.

COLE

I know. I don't know. This whole thing is stupid. It's probably nothing.

MATTY

You never know. Best to forget about it I guess, just let things work themselves out.

COLE

I guess so.

MATTY

What's that phrase you're always spouting off? Keep the faith?

COLE

Yep. KTF.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

Matty is still manning the register, now laying on top of the counter while Cole is putting movies back in their place.

MATTY

How's Jase been holding up?

COLE

I'm not sure. He's been keeping busy. He's practicing with the band today.

MATTY

Shatter Star? Are they any good?

COLE

Yeah. I really like them.

MATTY

What kind of music do they play?

COLE

Rock. It's not like soft rock, or hard rock either. It's sort of like rock from the mid-90s; back when music was good.

MATTY

You mean like Pearl Jam, Live, Bush, bands like that?

COLE

Sort of.

MATTY

That was a nice little period for rock.

COLE

Yeah, then the Spice Girls hit and everything went down the drain.

MATTY

Yes, the disease that is girly pop.

COLE

So how have things been for you Matty?

MATTY

What do you mean?

COLE

Anything interesting going on? How's life treating ya?

MATTY

Nothing overly interesting I guess. School, work, repeat.

COLE

No womens?

MATTY

Womens? No. Just waiting for a good girl to find me.

COLE

Sounds like a plan.

MATTY

Hey, did you get those invoices that I set on your desk?

COLE  
Nope. When'd you put them back  
there?

MATTY  
Maybe a day ago.

COLE  
Alright. I'll go check them out.

Exit Cole.

The bell above the door rings and standing in the threshold  
is Jolene.

JO  
Hi? Is Cole around?

MATTY  
Jo right?

JO  
Yes.

MATTY  
Heard a lot about you. He'll be  
back in a second. Just went to grab  
an invoice.

Cole reenters the room staring down at the invoice, then is  
shocked to see Jo when he looks up.

JO  
Hi Cole.

COLE  
Hey Jo.

Long pause.

MATTY  
Hey Matty.

COLE  
What are you doing here?

JO  
I came to see if you wanted to go  
out. My treat this time.

COLE  
I can't. I gotta work today, and I  
can't leave today.

MATTY

Go.

COLE

Huh?

MATTY

Get going. We've been slow all day.  
I can take care of the store.

COLE

You sure?

MATTY

If you're not out of here in 3  
seconds, I'm gonna let her take me  
out and you can watch the store.

COLE

Alright. Thanks man. I o-

MATTY

You always owe me.

Cole exits with Jo.

INT. JOLENE'S CAR. DAY

COLE

I tried getting a hold of you  
yesterday.

JO

Really? I must not have heard the  
phone.

COLE

No. Noah answered.

JO

Oh. Must've been when I was in the  
shower.

COLE

You was over his place?

JO

Uh, yeah.

COLE

Oh.

JO  
Something wrong?

COLE  
No, not really?

JO  
Are you jealous?

COLE  
A little. A bit more confused  
though.

JO  
Why's that? He is my boyfriend.

COLE  
You claim to not really feel much  
towards him.

JO  
So?

COLE  
Why waste your time with someone  
you're not all that into?

JO  
I've been with him for some time,  
and I'm comfortable with him. I've  
got a good thing going.

Silence.

JO  
Are you ok?

COLE  
I guess so.

Long pause. The opening chords of "Don't Stop Believin'" by Journey starts playing. Cole starts singing the opening lines "Just a small town girl, living in a lonely world..." Jo follows up with the second set of lines "Just a city boy, born and raised in south Detroit..." They look at each other smiling.

INT. THE MOVIE SHACK- DAY

Matty is laying down on the counter near the register.

INT. JOLENE'S CAR. DAY

Cole and Jo are belting out the course at the top of their lungs.

INT. THE MOVIE SHACK- DAY

Matty is falls off of the counter.

INT. JOLENE'S CAR. DAY

Jo pulls into a driveway.

JO  
Ok, get out.

COLE  
Where are we?

JO  
We're going to eat.

COLE  
But, this isn't a resturaunt.

JO  
I know, it's my place. I'm cooking.

COLE  
You're cooking for me?

JO  
Yeah, but only because it doesn't  
cost me anything.

FADE TO BLACK.

EXT. DOORSTEP TO JOLENE'S APARTMENT- NIGHT

Cole is preparing to leave, and Jo is seeing him out.

JO  
You know, I'm really tipsy right  
now. You could take advantage of me  
and I might not remember in the  
morning.

COLE

Yeah, lucky for us that I'm not that kind of person. Thanks for a wonderful evening Jo.

JO

Anytime babe.

COLE

Goodnight dear.

JO

Night sexy.

Cole walks towards his car with a HUGE smile on his face, and looks back at her and winks before he gets in and drives away.

INT. COLE'S CAR- NIGHT

Cole is in his car thinking to himself about what has just transpired.

COLE (V.O.)

What just happened? Cole, don't you do it- you're just asking to be hurt if you do. Cole, don't be an idiot man, she's got a boyfriend.

Long pause.

COLE (CONT'D)

She is so cool. You should just go for it. No, no, no. Don't be stupid. She's just a friend.

Long pause.

COLE (CONT'D)

I think I might go for it. I'm so stupid.

OVER BLACK WE SEE:

"She'll only break your heart, it's a fact. And even though I warn you, even though I guarantee you that the girl will only hurt you terribly, you'll still pursue her. Ain't love grand?" -Great Expectations

INT. COLE AND JASE'S APARTMENT- NIGHT

Jase is sitting on the couch, flipping through stations with a beer in his hand. This goes on for a few moments until Cole knocks at the door.

JASE  
Cole. Seems like forever.

COLE  
It does. What are you up to?

JASE  
Flipping through channels, drinking a beer.

COLE  
Jase, you hate beer.

JASE  
I know. Wanna sip?

COLE  
I think I'll pass.

JASE  
Where was you at? The store closed hours ago.

COLE  
Over Jo's.

JASE  
Well, at least one of us is getting some.

COLE  
Hardly. She cooked me dinner.

JASE  
She cooks? Marry her now!

COLE  
I didn't say she cooked well. She tried, that's all that matters.

JASE  
So you like her?

COLE  
Yeah, I like her, but after Alyssa- I just don't know.

JASE

Cole, Alyssa is WAAAY back in the day. Move on man.

COLE

I don't know. How was practice?

JASE

Typical run through. I've been avoiding writing lyrics for fear of writing a whiney emo song- just not my style.

COLE

Maybe it would be good for you to write something down.

JASE

No emo. If I'm going to write like that, I might as well just wear a tight red sweater vest over some wrinkly button up suit shirt, slick my hair all the way down and sit in a dark room whining about how life sucks.

COLE

Ok, ok. Don't write, just get better.

JASE

It's getting easier everyday.

COLE

Really?

JASE

The truth- not at all, but I'm trying to convince myself that it is.

COLE

You know what we could do?

They both look at each other, and simultaneously:

COLE AND JASE

Old wrestling tapes!

JASE

Sweet. I'll go get one.

COLE  
Grab Unforgiven 2001.

JASE  
Ah, Kurt Angle wins the title in  
Pittsburgh, and the Burgh  
celebrates their native winning the  
gold. Sounds good.

COLE  
Life should be more like wrestling.

The alarm clock shows 12:27, then jumps to 4:38. Jase and Cole are on the couch with Jase's head resting on Cole's shoulder, and Cole's head on top of his. Cole wakes up, looks over at Jase and chuckles, then goes back to his room to sleep.

INT. COLE AND JASE'S APARTMENT- DAY

The alarm clock sounds off and Cole wakes. He goes to wake up Jase on the couch who is already gone. Cole proceeds to get ready.

INT. THE MOVIE SHACK- DAY

Cole goes to unlock the door which is already open. He walks in and sees Jase.

COLE  
Hey.

JASE  
Oh, hey Cole.

COLE  
Is that the new display?

JASE  
Yeah, I figured I'd come early and  
get some things done. You know,  
kind of a thanks for not really  
bothering me to work lately, cuz of  
Gwyn and all.

COLE  
Thanks man. It looks good. I guess  
I'll just go and do the order then.

JASE  
Already done.

COLE  
Wow, really? What didn't you do?

JASE  
Um, I did it all.

COLE  
Well, what now?

They both look at each other and simultaneously:

COLE AND JASE  
Old wrestling tapes!

FADE OUT.

INT. GWYN'S CAR- DAY

Gwyn is driving along talking on her cell.

GWYN  
Alright. Hop in the shower, I'm on  
my way down now. Buh bye.

EXT. MOVIE SHACK PARKING LOT- DAY

Matty is shown leaving his car and walking into the Shack.

MATTY  
Is that Piper?

COLE  
The one and only.

JASE  
Hot rod!

MATTY  
Hey Jase! How's it going?

JASE  
Hmmm, getting there.

MATTY  
That's good man.

COLE  
Pull up a seat, this stuff is  
classic.

They continue to watch wrestling for moments.

JASE

All of life's problem should be solved in the ring.

COLE

I know man. I should be allowed to fight Noah in the ring, and if I win, he has to go away.

JASE

Who's Noah?

MATTY

Ah, that would be the lovely Jo's boyfriend.

JASE

Finally admitting that you like the girl?

MATTY

He's struggling.

COLE

Quit talking like I'm not sitting right here.

MATTY

He's getting moody.

JASE

He just needs some lovin'.

COLE

Trust me, I don't want to like her. There's probably not a single person around that could be worse for me, but I can't help it.

JASE

Isn't love wonderful?

COLE

Love?

MATTY

Ok, like.

COLE

I'm scared.

JASE

Why?

COLE

It might be more than "like." I  
might be falling.

JASE

Good luck.

COLE

I'm not sure if this is good or  
bad.

INT. RESTAURANT- DAY

Gwyn is sitting across from the same guy that was in her  
apartment. They are talking and obviously into each other.  
Sitting not too far away from them is Jo and Noah.

INT. THE MOVIE SHACK- NIGHT

Cole is standing at the register, eyes fixated on the t.v.  
wrestling while Matty and Jase are sitting down watching and  
they are now joined by a older male customer and his wife.

JASE

Bret! Don't let Hogan get in the  
ring, that's your title!

MATTY

Hulkamania is about to run wild on  
Yoko!

COLE

Hulkamaina blows.

OLD WRESTLING FAN

What? The Hulkster is immortal.

JASE

Yeah, no one could ever kick out of  
that amazing leg drop.

OLD WRESTLING FAN

Hulk is the reason wrestling is as  
big as it is now.

JASE

No disrespect to Hulk, he did his  
thing in the 80s...

COLE

He just can't really compare to a  
Shawn Michaels.

MATTY

Or Kurt Angle.

JASE

Let's not forget Bret.

WIFE OF OLD WRESTLING FAN

Can we leave, I just wanted to rent  
Sound of Music and get home.

OLD WRESTLING FAN

Five more minutes.

WIFE OF OLD WRESTLING FAN

You said that an hour ago.

OLD WRESTLING FAN

Wrestling today is too flashy. Most  
of these guys are too small to even  
be in the ring.

JASE

These smaller guys are the real  
wrestlers. They're the ones who  
make the clumsy fumbling big guys  
look good.

WIFE OF OLD WRESTLING FAN

Phil! Come on, we're leaving now!  
I'm not going to sit through  
another one of your pointless  
arguments.

OLD WRESTLING FAN

Looks like the misses is forcing  
me. I'll see you boys later.

COLE

Catch ya later Mr. Cox.

MATTY

This has been the easiest day here  
in a long time.

COLE

It's good to take days like this  
every once in awhile.

Jo enters the Shack.

COLE  
Look who it is.

JO  
Hey guys. Matty, Jase. Can I talk  
to you in back for a second.

COLE  
Sure.

They head to the back.

JASE  
Don't do anything I wouldn't do.

INT. THE MOVIE SHACK STOCK ROOM- NIGHT

JO  
I think I saw Gwyn at the  
restaurant.

COLE  
So?

JO  
She was with another guy.

COLE  
Really?

JO  
Yeah.

COLE  
What did he look like?

JO  
Kind of the opposite of Jase.

COLE  
I don't believe her.

JO  
Well, it's really none of my  
business, but I just thought you  
might want to know.

COLE  
Yeah, thanks. I don't think I'm  
going to tell Jase though.

JO  
That might be best, who knows how  
serious it is.

COLE  
What are you up to?

JO  
Just headed home.

COLE  
You look beautiful.

JO  
Thanks Cole. You look sexy as  
always.

Cole winks at her.

INT. THE MOVIE SHACK- NIGHT

They head out of the stock room back into the store. An  
unknown man is standing there waiting on them.

COLE  
Can I help you?

JO  
Oh, Cole, this is Noah.

Cole looks shocked and a little heartbroken.

COLE  
Oh, hey.

NOAH  
Ready?

JO  
Yeah. I'll see you guys later.

JASE  
Bye Jo.

MATTY  
See ya later.

Jo and Noah exit.

JASE  
Are you ok?

COLE  
I don't think so.

INT. THE MOVIE SHACK STOCK ROOM- NIGHT

Cole walks back to the stock room in a sort of daze. Jase and Matty follow. Cole is there walking with his head to the ground, then suddenly punches a box onto the ground.

MATTY  
Cole.

Cole looks up.

MATTY (CONT'D)  
You knew she had a boyfriend man.

COLE  
I know. It's just a lot different seeing him. I feel like I just got punched really hard in the chest.

JASE  
Sucks, doesn't it?

COLE  
...and I shouldn't even feel like this. I told myself, not after Alyssa. No more.

JASE  
Hey man. Keep the faith. She likes you, I can tell.

COLE  
Gwyn is apparently with someone else.

Seemingly endless seconds pass

EXT. CURBSIDE IN SUBURBAN P.A.- NIGHT

We travel back to the present where Cole is about to explain.

COLE  
I don't know exactly why I told him. It still seems like a blur. Maybe I wanted to be honest, maybe I wanted to prepare him so he didn't feel the way I did in that moment.

(MORE)

COLE (cont'd)

I'm ashamed to say that maybe I wanted to bring him down to the level I had sunken to just a few moments earlier so I wasn't alone.

INT. THE MOVIE SHACK STOCK ROOM- NIGHT

MATTY

Hey guys. Look at me. Everything is going to be fine. Keep the faith.

JASE

(not really believing what he's saying) Yeah, Cole man, KTF. We're going to get through this and get our girls.

EXT. CURBSIDE IN SUBURBAN P.A.- NIGHT

COLE

I wanted to believe him so badly in that moment, but all had seemed lost. I went home early that night and tried to forget everything that just happened until my phone rang. It was Jo. She apologized and claimed that it wasn't her intentions to hurt me. It was then that I realized I was definitely in love with this girl. When everything can come crashing down and just one word from that certain person builds everything back up, stronger than ever. That's not a crush, and that's definitely not lust- that's love. And so it went on for another four months. I had some great times with her, but hidden in the back of my mind was the thought that no matter how much fun she had with me, she was still going home with him. That hurt me more than anything. Some major changes happened in that four months. Ally was given her own advice column at the paper after she was spotted by her boss constantly giving advice to co-workers at the copy machine. Maybe he liked her advice, maybe he just wanted to shut her up during work.

(MORE)

COLE (cont'd)

She doesn't dispense the advice in normal words, but writes them beautifully like poetry. It's almost...Shakespearian. She's helped a lot of people. The night at my apartment was the last night I actually seen her for the four months. We kept in touch by phone, and she was a consistent source of strength. Matty continued to be a great help in and out of the store. He's been a true friend. Gwyn quit her job at the store; she left on good terms, at least with me. We don't hear too much from her, just the occasional wave. Jase still hasn't moved on. He tried dating another girl briefly, but broke it off with her because he was still in love with Gwyn. Shatter Star started played a lot of shows. Jase still performs a song entitled "Constellations", a song he wrote for Gwyn while they were together. I wonder if I am the only one who notices the pain in his eyes when he sings it? The song that stood as a declaration of their love is now performed as a tribute to the memory of her; in honor of what once was and what will hopefully be again someday. I continued to keep the faith for him, even though my condition was worsening everyday. I wasn't sick or anything- well, I guess I kinda was, mentally. The depression came the moment I knew I was in love and she was with someone else. Unfortunately, the closest I could ever come to telling her how I felt was compliments of her beauty and how lucky I was to have her in my life. I told myself about how lucky I was to have her, but I couldn't help but want more. Undeterred, she remained with scumbag Noah. I now refer to him as scumbag Noah, not just Noah. Noah is now his last name, with scumbag becoming a permanent fixture for his first. Comfort had, and still remains my worst enemy. Her comfort.

(MORE)

COLE (cont'd)

Her comfort that stands in the way of my happiness. You ever hit that point in your life where it seems like the whole world has turned it's back on you, and even though you still have those closest to you, they seem...far away? You'd find me there. So, I leave you now four months later, in the midst of my depression.

OVER BLACK WE SEE:

"Love is a minefield, you take a step and get blown to pieces, put yourself back together again and stupidly take another step. I guess that's human nature, it hurts so much to be alone that we'd all rather blow-up than be single." - Love and Sex

INT. THE MOVIE SHACK- NIGHT

The store is bare. Cole is leaning on the counter at the register looking directly at a little girl. She is staring at him, both locked in a stare down for no apparent reason. Cole looks very down. They remain eye locked for moments until the girl's mom calls her. MYA, a new girl enters.

MYA

What you need to do is take the initiative. No more playing around. Go up to her, grab her, dip her, and kiss that girl.

COLE

...and then get slapped across the face.

MYA

That's romantic. I would love for a guy to do that to me.

COLE

It's so much more complicated than that Mya.

MYA

I know. That's why it's easy for me to give advice. The truth is I don't have to face this, you do. No matter what I say, it's impossible to tell what I would do if involved in the given situation.

(MORE)

MYA (cont'd)

I guess the only thing I can tell you that would have any bearing would be to feel out the situation, and don't be afraid. Trust your instincts.

COLE

I hate my life.

MYA

Quit being mopey. It's a beautiful night. Be happy.

COLE

I'm not going to be happy until I have her.

MYA

Good God man. You're alive. You have oxygen to breath in; you have clothes on your back; you have good friends who hate to see you like this; you have a nice apartment and not to mention- you own a movie store!

COLE

A movie store that's losing money.

MYA

You have so much.

COLE

...and I'd give it all back for her and not even think twice about it.

MYA

If it's meant to be, it'll happen.

COLE

I suppose.

MYA

Keep the faith, right?

COLE

That's the saying.

MYA

That's your saying.

COLE

Yeah?

MYA  
Well, follow it.

COLE  
I need Prozac.

MYA  
Cole!

COLE  
I know. I know. Let's just close  
up, I need some sleep.

FADE OUT.

INT. MYA'S ROOM- NIGHT

Mya picks up and dials a phone...

MATTY  
Hello?

MYA  
Matty?

MATTY  
Yeah.

MYA  
Hey! It's Mya.

MATTY  
How are you?

MYA  
Good.

MATTY  
What's up?

MYA  
We just closed up the store.

MATTY  
Already? That's like an hour and a  
half early.

MYA  
I'm worried about Cole.

MATTY  
The whole depression thing?

MYA

He seemed really bad tonight.

MATTY

Yeah, I know what he's going through.

MYA

Depression?

MATTY

Yep, been there.

MYA

Really?

MATTY

Yeah. Worst experience of my life.

MYA

What's it like?

MATTY

Everything just kinda seems...dark. There's not much happiness around and things seem hopeless.

MYA

All of this over a girl.

MATTY

Yeah. He's in love though.

MYA

Insanely.

MATTY

Is there really any other way to do it?

MYA

I'm afraid of what he might do.

MATTY

Listen Mya. Cole's the toughest guy I know. He's been through more than any other 22 year old I know, and has dealt with it all and succeeded gracefully. He's bound to have bad days, some worse than others, but he'll make it through.

MYA

What if he doesn't?

MATTY

He will. And I'd be willing to put my money on the fact that he'll walk through this fire, and in the end, he'll have the girl on his arm.

MYA

How can you be so sure?

MATTY

He may be in a dark place right now, but he still has faith.

MYA

You guys and your faith. What good is faith if you aren't willing to act on it?

MATTY

Exactly. He has the faith, and he'll get the second half soon enough. It's not something that can really be told, and there's nothing you can say that's really going to make a difference. He'll come around.

MYA

You're a hopeful bugger, aren't ya?

MATTY

Faith. It can move mountains.

MYA

I guess so.

MATTY

...and I don't think Jolene's that big, so everything is gonna be alright.

MYA

Thanks Matty.

MATTY

Not a problem.

MYA

What are you up to?

MATTY

Just catching up on some of my  
medical journals. You?

MYA

Painting my toenails. I feel so  
dumb now.

MATTY

Wanna go get some ice cream?

MYA

Sure.

MATTY

Ok, I'll be over in a few.

MYA

Thanks Matty.

MATTY

Mmm hmm.

Hang up.

MONTAGE

Jeff Buckley's "Hallelujah" plays.

EXT. DOORSTEP TO COLE'S APARTMENT- NIGHT

Cole is shown leaving his apartment to walk. He continues on  
walking, hands in his pocket, head towards the ground,  
looking somewhat lifeless.

INT. COLE AND JASE'S APARTMENT- NIGHT

Jase is laying on his bed, staring at a picture of him, Gwyn,  
Cole, and Matty that is sitting on his drawer. He looks  
outside and sees Cole.

EXT. ICE CREAM PARLOR- NIGHT

Matty and Mya are shown joking around, enjoying a frosty  
treat.

INT. UNKNOWN BAR- NIGHT

Jolene and Laurel are shown sitting in a booth with some unknown friends, sipping daiquiris and having a good time.

INT. DIRTBAG'S APARTMENT- NIGHT

Gwyn is laying in the arms of the guy she's with. The guy is asleep, but Gwyn is wide awake, looking worried or unsure.

INT. COLE AND JASE'S APARTMENT- NIGHT

Jase is shown staring with the same worried look as Gwyn. He kisses the picture and turns around to sleep.

INT. COLE AND JASE'S APARTMENT- NIGHT

Cole is shown wide awake in his bed, staring motionless at his ceiling. Several dissolve shots reveal him getting up, looking for food, flipping through channels, changing positions on the couch, and leaving the apartment again.

END MONTAGE.

EXT. STREETS OF PERRYOPOLIS- NIGHT

Cole, still wandering around outside, dials on his cell phone.

COLE  
(on phone)  
Ally?

ALLY  
Cole, it's three in the morning.

COLE  
I know. Sorry. I just needed  
someone to talk to.

ALLY  
Feeling down?

COLE  
Some days it's bad, and some day's  
it's good. But tonight is  
unbearable.

ALLY

Well, I'm awake now- let it all out.

COLE

Why me? I'm in love with someone who is in love with someone else, and I never wanted to be in love- not at all, not after Alyssa. This sucks. It's like everything seems so dark now. I'm so alone in this and there's no foreseeable end to it.

ALLY

Cole. You're not alone, and this darkness will pass but not until you let it.

COLE

What's that supposed to mean?

ALLY

You're wallowing.

COLE

Cuz everything's going wrong.

ALLY

No, nothing's going wrong, it just seems that way because you're wallowing.

COLE

Oh, I'm sorry. I forgot that Jo is really my girlfriend, scumbag is completely out of the picture, and Jase has his girl to boot.

ALLY

Cole, all of that happened when you were still okay.

COLE

I'm just so sick of this, why can't she see that we belong together.

ALLY

She will. Just give her a chance to see it. You're always on the down nowadays, no one can really see the real you.

COLE

I didn't ask for this. I'm miserable.

ALLY

No you didn't, but you got stuck with it. Now deal. Beat it! The Cole I know doesn't lay down for anybody; he doesn't quit; he fights, and he keeps the faith even when things seem impossible. You know why?

COLE

Why?

ALLY

Because he knows nothing is impossible.

Long pause.

ALLY

Fall asleep on me Cole?

COLE

I'm still here.

ALLY

Are you ok?

COLE

Why do I feel this way?

ALLY

Because sometimes bad things happen to good people. But it's always for a reason, something to make you stronger.

COLE

I don't feel so strong right now.

ALLY

Cole, if there was ever someone who could truly beat depression, it would be you. You're stronger than this and you underestimate the strength inside of you. You might not feel it so much right now, but it's there just the same. Do you think you could do something for me?

COLE

What?

ALLY

Get some sleep. Wake up, don't feel so sad. Try your hardest to be happy again. Don't worry so much about this girl, because she's into you. She wouldn't still be around if she wasn't. And Noah, don't worry about him either. I don't know him, but I do know you and I know that you deserve to be happy.

COLE

I'll try Al.

ALLY

Goodnight Cole.

COLE

Night.

Hang up.

EXT. CURBSIDE IN SUBURBAN P.A.- NIGHT

Cole, sitting in the rain is back to update. A car pulls into the driveway.

COLE

She's here.

Cole stands up and paces while the car pulls in a shuts off. He is tense and obviously deathly nervous.

COLE

(to himself)

You can do this. Lay it down. You can do this.

Jo walks out from the drivers side and Noah slowly appears from the passenger side. Time slows.

COLE

Oh God. He's here. I can't do this. How am I going to do this? Oh God, oh God, oh God. Wait. This is the guy standing in your way. The only thing blocking your way to happiness.

(MORE)

COLE (cont'd)  
This is why you're depressed. This  
is the guy who wants to take you  
out.

Jo and Noah approach.

JO  
Cole! You're soaked! What are you  
doing here.

NOAH  
What are you doing here Cole?

Cole closes his eyes and take a deep breath. He looks almost  
serene for a second, the nails that scumbag Noah with a  
crossover punch. Noah falls straight down.

JO  
Cole!!! What are you doing.

COLE  
Come here.

Cole brings Jo off to the side on the curb while Noah whinces  
in pain on the ground.

COLE  
Hi, um...I love you.

JO  
What?

COLE  
Very smooth. What I mean to say is,  
ah...well, just that. I love you.  
Since the day I met you in the  
Cactus to this very minute.

JO  
I don't know what to say.

COLE  
Don't say anything. I kinda have  
this speech planned.

JO  
Ok.

COLE  
I have been to hell and back over  
you and there's no way that you  
would even know it.

(MORE)

COLE (cont'd)

No other girl has made me reach such soaring highs and such painful lows as you have. Not even Alyssa, and I never thought that I could love anyone remotely as much as I did her. And now that I've met you and shared the time that I have with you it makes me question whether or not I was in love with Alyssa or not. Not because I don't know the feeling, but because what I feel for you is so much more than I've ever felt for any other human being. You are, quite simply, my reason. My reason for any thought, action, or decision. My reason for smiling. My reason for crying or building or creating. My reason for living...and still the only thing in my life that defies reason. You're on my mind night and day, you are my night and day. I'm not going to lie to you. The thought of being with you scares me to death. But being without you, that's impossible. And I wish I could pull an Affleck here and give you some great heartfelt monologue, and I'm trying my best to tell you exactly how I feel, but there aren't words. So the only thing I can do is tell you I love you over and over and hope that somehow I get through.

Noah blindsides Cole with a punch of his own. Cole hits the ground.

JO

Noah! Go home!

NOAH

I'm not leaving you here with him.

JO

I'm serious, go home!

NOAH

No. I'm not!

JO

You're on my property, I'm telling you to go home! I will call you later on.

NOAH  
You gotta be kidding me.

JO  
I'll call you later.

NOAH  
Fine! You can have him!

Noah kicks Cole.

JO  
Now!

Noah leaves and gets in his own car and speeds away. Jo attends to Cole.

JO  
Are you ok?

COLE  
Yeah, I showed him.

JO  
You're an idiot.

COLE  
I love you too.

Jo just looks at Cole.

COLE  
He interrupted my monologue, but I think I said everything that needs to be said.

JO  
What do you want me to say?

COLE  
Say you'll dump that loser and be with me.

JO  
It's not that easy.

COLE  
Yes it is! Why are you afraid of being happy?

JO  
5 years Cole! Can you even comprehend that?

COLE  
Do you love him?

Jo is silenced.

COLE  
Do you?

JO  
Not as much as I used to.

COLE  
Do you love me?

Jo is silenced yet again. Tears start to form.

JO  
I'm sorry Cole.

And with that, Jo walks away leaving Cole a broken man. Cole sits for a second almost dazed, and begins to walk away. After a little while, he begins to speak.

COLE  
I laid it down and it backfired. I feel awful, but I feel like I accomplished something.

Cole gets his cell phone and calls the apartment.

MATTY  
Hello?

COLE  
Matty? What are you still doing there.

MATTY  
I just decided to crash for the night. How'd it go.

COLE  
I crashed and burned. Could you come pick me up?

MATTY  
NO WAY MAN! I'm so sorry.

COLE  
Don't worry. I'll share the details in person. I walking down the interstate near Belle Vernon.

MATTY  
I'll be there.

COLE  
Thanks.

Hangs up phone.

COLE  
Oh yeah. The rest of the story.

INT. THE MOVIE SHACK- DAY

Jase is stocking while Mya is on register. Slow day, no customers in sight.

MYA  
How ya feeling Jase?

JASE  
Ok.

MYA  
Everything good?

JASE  
Uh, sure.

MYA  
Life treating you good?

JASE  
I guess so.

MYA  
Good friends. Good money.

JASE  
Uh huh.

MYA  
Good love life?

JASE  
Mya. Just ask whatever you want to ask.

MYA  
Do you still love her?

Long pause.

JASE

Yeah.

MYA

Aw, that's so sweet. When was the last time you seen her?

JASE

About 3 months ago.

MYA

You haven't said much about her lately.

JASE

I love her. If she's happy with whoever she's with, then I guess it's something I got to deal with.

MYA

Do you ever think about trying to get her back?

JASE

Every minute of everyday.

Jase goes back to the stock room, arms filled with boxes.  
Cole enters.

MYA

Hi Cole!

COLE

Hey Mya. How you doing?

MYA

Good! You?

COLE

...good.

JASE

Hey Cole. Have a good walk?

COLE

Last night? I wasn't really myself last night.

JASE

You haven't really been yourself for months now.

MYA  
Yeah Cole, it's scary.

COLE  
It's something I'm working on.

JASE  
Good to hear man.

COLE  
Ok, let's get this store fixed up.  
I want a new display.

JASE  
What's on the new display?

Pauses for a second.

COLE  
Affleck!

JASE  
I knew it was coming.

COLE  
Chasing Amy, Forces of Nature,  
Jersey Girl, Good Will Hunting, and  
Shakespeare in Love. The softer  
side of Affleck!

JASE  
(laughing)  
Sounds good man. Good to have you  
back Cole.

MYA  
Like Ben, eh?

COLE  
He's one of my heros.

MYA  
One of?

COLE  
He's in good company. Him, Kevin  
Smith, Zach Braff, and Shawn  
Michaels. I like to think that  
someday I'll be a mix of all of  
them.

MYA  
Someday?

COLE

Yeah, when I'm rich and famous.

MYA

How are you going to accomplish this?

COLE

I'm going to write a movie, and from there either film it on a low budget, or sell it to the Weinsteins.

MYA

Weinsteins?

COLE

Bob and Harvey. They're my ideal bosses.

MYA

You're not going to be your own boss?

COLE

Maybe after five box office shattering flicks, and an action figure of me.

MYA

You dream big.

COLE

What's the point of dreaming small?

MYA

I like this Cole.

Cole winks at her. A few customers come in and Cole heads for the back.

COLE

How am I doing?

JASE

What do you mean?

COLE

I'm trying hard. Real hard.

JASE

To be happy?

COLE

Yeah.

JASE

You're doing excellent. That's the Cole I know.

COLE

Two different Coles?

JASE

No. This Cole has always been there, he's just been a little more hidden lately.

FADE TO:

INT. GWYN'S APARTMENT- DAY

Gwyn is cleaning up her place when she finds a picture frame hidden behind heaps of items. It's the same picture of her, Jase, Cole, and Matty that Jase was staring at earlier. She smiles and sets the picture apart from everything else.

INT. THE MOVIE SHACK- EARLY EVENING

It's starting to get dark out, and everything is winding down for the day. Mya is checking out a few customers, Jase is stocking, and Cole is in the backroom. Jolene enters with someone seemingly behind her.

JO

Hey Jase.

JASE

Jo. How are you doing?

Jase glances up and does a double take now noticing scumbag Noah.

JO

Oh, this is Noah. I'm not sure yous have met.

NOAH

Hi.

Jase nods at him.

JO  
We need a movie. What do you recommend?

NOAH  
I left my wallet in the car, I'm going to go get it.

Exit scumbag Noah.

JO  
Is Cole around?

JASE  
He's in the back.

JO  
Oh. Tell him I said hi.

JASE  
You wanted a movie?

JO  
Yep.

JASE  
Well, right over her we have our features for this month.

JO  
Affleck. Who would've guessed?

Enter Cole.

COLE  
Too good to come say hi?

JO  
Hey Cole! How's it going?

COLE  
Good. Come here, no hug or anything?

NOAH  
Find something?

Cole turns around and is face to face, literally centimeters away from scumbag Noah. The face off is intense, neither one backing off or flinching. Scumbag Noah is obviously much bigger than Cole, but Cole's determination and resolve exudes him.

It is instantly apparent that both men want the same girl, and neither is willing to lose to the other. Jo grabs a random movie off of the Affleck display and breaks it up.

JO

Here. Let's get this one, it's really good.

They both go to the register where a very sympathetic Mya is waiting. Jo looks back at Cole and mouths the word "sorry" to him. Cole stands motionless, still shocked at what has transpired. They leave and Cole waves to Jo.

JASE

Are you ok man?

MYA

Cole, you are so much better than him.

COLE

(still a bit shocked)  
I know.

Long pause

COLE (CONT'D)

I can take him.

JASE

That's what I like to hear.

Cole's phone rings.

COLE

Hello?

ALLY

Cole! Hey, I got something for you.

COLE

She brought him in my store.

ALLY

What?

COLE

Jo brought scumbag in the store.

ALLY

Are you ok?

COLE

That's the thing. I think I'm ok.

ALLY

Here, in light of the conversation we had last night, I decided to drop the advice column for this week and write something else.

COLE

Why would you do that? That column helps people.

ALLY

I think people will get just as much help out of this. I wrote it for you, and I want you to listen to it carefully. Every word of it is heartfelt and true.

COLE

Ok.

ALLY

Our own mistakes are the ones we're least likely to forgive. In the same way that our own pain is the worst to draw in, our misgivings are the ugliest, the hardest to look upon, and the bitterest to swallow, the harshest on our tongue and our throat going down. A wrong step is almost impossible to retrace, the footprints that have been planted so difficult to erase. In a sense, we live in our memories. We fall into the past, even when we're walking in the present or dreaming of the future, as you are now. At some point, we realize it's inescapable in our state of mind, and maybe we fall to our knees in front of it or collapse beneath it, or perhaps we somehow (miraculously) fight our way through it, but it's there, whether behind or in front of us. So it's not a matter of forgetting because memories are inevitable, but of forgiving because the heart can mend, because we have the capacity to heal, because we can be unbroken even from the farthest and hardest of falls.

(MORE)

ALLY (cont'd)

It's reaching past the blackness that may have enveloped you at one time or is barely fading now and grasping a pinprick of light, something to keep hidden in your heart, to shine when the rainclouds cover the joy and nothing can be seen. It's falling to your lowest and dirtiest and darkest but still looking for something higher, still turning your eyes upward, still building a ladder. It's finding a hand to grasp and pulling up, rising above. It's faith, but something more than that. It's a trust so far beyond definition or dictation that we almost always fail to recognize it and far too often stumble through it without looking around for comfort because we're afraid of what else we'll find. It's scratching and crying and scrambling and suffering, but the whole while, knowing there's something better. It's making that something better into something attainable and reachable, something to hold close. It's finding and losing and taking back. It's loving despite circumstances, fighting despite the odds, believing despite the proof otherwise. It's living life instead of letting go.

Gwyn walks in while Ally continues to read. Jase can do nothing but stare.

ALLY (CONT'D)

And I know there's a hopeless aura about the world. I know you're tired of colliding with reality because it seems the only thing that can come from it is disappointment. I won't say it's easy. I won't lie because you've probably had too much of that in your life already. Everybody does. The truth is that there's a grief floating around that stings everyone at some point: a pain that's hard to fight because of its strength and your apparent weakness.

You've seen it, you've felt it, you've lived it., and you may have sunken down because of it. But here's the thing: you're more than you let yourself believe. You might forget that, but I'll remember. So there's nothing in between you and the difficult situations to comfort you immediately when you inevitably fall, that's true, but there's something in you that makes you stand again. It's an undeniable presence that fits perfectly inside of you, and it keeps you moving; it keeps your heart beating. It keeps you alive, and like you've said so many times, it keeps the faith. Cole, there's nothing to protect you from the hurt but the thought that something waits ahead for your eyes, your head, your heart, and mostly importantly, your life. So on today, what may prove to be the hardest of many, remember this: the faults that seem so evident to you in the darkest moments are more beautiful in my eyes than the feigned perfection that so many others flash about. They'll never meet honesty face-to-face or hold the truth in their hands, as you have done. You might stay in this feeling of hopelessness for (too) many moments, but if you ever start that terrifying descent towards nothingness, I'll pull you back up. If need be, I will keep the faith for you in the worst of it.

GWYN

Hi Jase.

CUT TO BLACK:

EXT. THE MOVIE SHACK- NIGHT

Cole locks up the store, and all three depart to their cars.

COLE

Goodnight Mya.

MYA  
See ya Cole, bye Jase!

COLE  
Are you going to be ok man?

JASE  
That's the first time in three months. I miss her so much.

COLE  
Maybe she came back for a reason.

JASE  
I was starting to do so good.

COLE  
Hey! You're going to be ok.

JASE  
I know.

COLE  
Ok, I'm heading home.

JASE  
I'm going to drive around for a little while.

COLE  
You sure you're ok?

JASE  
I'll be alright. Just gotta think.

COLE  
Jase, please don't do anything stupid.

JASE  
I'm stable man, I just need to think.

COLE  
Ok, I'll catch ya later.

JASE  
Bye.

Cole drives off while Jase leans on the hood of his car.

INT. COLE AND JASE'S APARTMENT- NIGHT

Matty is over and Cole is talking to him. Cole is sitting on the counter next to the phone, eating an apple while Matty is lounging on a chair.

COLE

...and all of a sudden, there he was. And the thing is, I didn't get mad, I didn't get depressed, I just felt--- strong. Like nothing was going to stop me from being with her, not even this big scumbag in front of me.

MATTY

Well that's good.

COLE

That's great. That's a huge step forward from where I was at.

MATTY

Way to go man. We all knew you had it in you. So what now?

COLE

I don't know. Can I actually do this thing?

MATTY

Are you scared?

COLE

Petrified.

MATTY

Cole, love is--- laying it all down. Giving up all your pride and dignity for something worth more pride than anything, and more dignity than you'd ever imagine. I mean, I've had some very minimal experience when it comes to love, but I can tell you with full certainty that the few times I've felt it, it was real.

COLE

So I'm actually going to do this.

MATTY

Yes you are.

COLE

What about scumbag?

MATTY

You care about his feelings?

COLE

Not at all.

MATTY

You're gonna do this.

COLE

I don't know if I can.

MATTY

You can.

COLE

How are you so sure?

MATTY

You love her.

COLE

I do.

Long pause while he thinks.

COLE

I'm gonna do this!

MATTY

It's the only way. Lay it all down; pride, dignity, jealousy, anger, fear. You can't let anything stand in the way.

Jase barges through the door.

JASE

Did you ever just have that moment where it's just like "BAM!"? It kicks you right in the face. A moment of complete clarity- where everything is so clear; even the things that seemed so confusing before are just-- untangled.

(MORE)

JASE (cont'd)

There's a clear-cut answer to your problems, and you're just rejuvenated. You have a renewed purpose.

MATTY

Hey Jase.

JASE

It's like you meet this one perfect person, someone who compliments you so perfectly that it's just like an extension of yourself. You are never really yourself completely yourself unless you are with that person, and you'll do anything you have to do to keep that side of you safe and happy.

COLE

You mean Gwyn? Where are you going with this?

JASE

She is my other half! I have to be with her! Half of me has been dead for these last few months without her, and who was I kidding trying to be happy for her. Matty, why didn't you hit me when I fed people that crap!? I love her. I need her, I need to be with her, and I don't care how long it takes or how much I have to go through. I love her!

Matty gets a HUGE smile on his face, with Cole grinning along.

JASE

What's so funny?

COLE

Where have you been?

JASE

Around? Why?

COLE

You haven't answered your phone.

JASE

No, I turned it off. I didn't feel like talking.

Cole hits "play" on the answering machine.

GWYN

Hey guys. It was good seeing youns today. Sorry I couldn't stay longer. Um, Jase. I feel like an idiot saying this, uh, it was really nice seeing you again. Not that I would be an idiot for thinking it was nice to see you, but--- I mean, I saw you and these feelings I thought were gone came, like, rushing back. I saw a picture of us while I was cleaning today and I had to see you. Gimmie a call when you get this.

End message.

JASE

I gotta call her.

COLE

Wait.

Cole hits "play" again.

GWYN

Hey Jase, it's me again. I'm staying over my mothers tonight cuz my place is a wreck, plus she needed help with cookies or something. I know leaving you was a mistake and I put you through a lot, and I'm sorry. I really am. I need to see you soon cuz I think there might still be something there. Well, at least on my side. I'm going to go to the store tomorrow, and I don't know if you're working or not, or if you even want to see me; you might have someone new and you know, I'm happy for you. I really am. Maybe I wasn't the one-

End message.

JASE

Whoa. What happened?

COLE

Hold on.

Cole hits "play" again.

GWYN

Sorry. The machine cut me off.  
Lemme say this as quick as possible. Maybe I wasn't the one for you, maybe you have someone new and the last thing I want to do is screw that up for you; but, I mean, I think you're the one for me. I'm going to be at the store at eleven tomorrow, and I hope you're there, but if you're not, I completely understand. Um, see ya tomorrow--- hopefully.

End message.

Jase closes his eyes and gets a huge smile on his face, then falls backwards onto the couch.

MATTY

Congratulations man.

JASE

Well, there goes all hope for me sleeping tonight.

Cole heads for the door.

COLE

See ya guys later.

MATTY

Where are you going?

COLE

I gotta go rescue my girl.

MATTY

Already? I was talking about a gradual thing.

COLE

What better time than now? Wrap your head around this- I have the opportunity to end this tonight. Keep the faith man, look at Jase. We've both been kicked in the teeth tonight, but look now. Tonight could be the turning point.

JASE  
Go for it brother!

MATTY  
Hey man- you're the man. Good luck.

COLE  
This is crazy...

OVER BLACK WE SEE:

"Anything less than mad, passionate, extraordinary love is a waste of your time. There are too many mediocre things in life, and love shouldn't be one of them." -Dream for an Insomniac

EXT. COLE'S CAR- NIGHT

Cole is driving to Jolene's house, when rain starts pouring down out of nowhere. He drives for a distance and his car stops.

COLE  
Out of gas. Lovely.

INT. COLE AND JASE'S APARTMENT- NIGHT

Jase is lying on the couch while Matty is flipping through television channels.

MATTY  
I feel like I need someone to go after tonight. I'm feeling a bit left out.

Phone rings.

JASE  
Yeah.

MALE VOICE  
Jase, they want us to play the cafe tomorrow.

JASE  
The college one?

MALE VOICE  
Yeah. Tomorrow night, 9ish.

JASE  
Paying?

MALE VOICE  
Nope.

JASE  
Doesn't matter. Sounds good.

MALE VOICE  
What are you so happy about?

JASE  
I might be getting my girl back.

Matty is shown sitting on the couch watching t.v., smiling and shaking his head. Jase finishes up and hangs up the phone.

MATTY  
Playing tomorrow eh?

JASE  
Gonna be there?

MATTY  
Of course. I imagine Gwyn will be to?

JASE  
I'll invite her.

EXT. JOLENE'S APARTMENT- NIGHT

A taxi drops Cole off. He goes up to the doorstep, soaking wet with the rain unrelenting, knocking for Jo. No answer.

COLE  
Crap! Nothing. They must've been watching the movie over scumbag's place.

INT. COLE AND JASE'S APARTMENT- NIGHT

Matty and Jase are still relaxing when the phone rings. Jase answers.

JASE  
Yeah.

COLE

Jase! It's me.

JASE

Hey. Guess what? We got a show booked for tomorrow night.

COLE

That's nice. I'm stranded in the pouring rain.

JASE

What happened?

COLE

She's not home. Over scumbag's place.

JASE

They are? Well drive home, try again tomorrow.

COLE

No, I can't.

JASE

Why?

COLE

I lost my car somewhere on I-70. Ran out of gas.

JASE

Hold on, I'll come get you.

COLE

No! This is ending tonight. I'm going to wait.

JASE

Are you sure?

MATTY

What's going on?

JASE

Cole's going to wait in the rain til Jo gets home.

MATTY

She's not home?

JASE  
Apparently not.

COLE  
It doesn't matter. She has to come  
home sometime, and I'll be here.

JASE  
Ok man, if you say so. Good luck.

COLE  
Thanks. Later.

JASE  
Bye.

Hang up.

MATTY  
Finally starting to get it.

JASE  
Hey man. Where do you get all of  
this stuff from?

MATTY  
What stuff?

JASE  
All the advice. I mean, it's pretty  
good stuff.

MATTY  
Books, T.V., movies, and personal  
experience.

EXT. JOLENE'S APARTMENT- NIGHT

Cole sits down on a familiar curb. He looks at the audience.

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. COLE AND JASE'S APARTMENT- DAY

Jase is shown getting ready to go meet Gwyn. He looks in on  
Cole who is asleep with a black eye. He wakes up Matty who is  
out on the couch.

JASE  
Hey. What happened with Cole?

Matty shakes his head.

JASE

You gotta be kidding me?

MATTY

Cole had it right when he said she was comfortable.

JASE

What happened?

MATTY

He ended up waiting on her curb in the rain for about two and a half hours.

JASE

Really?

MATTY

Then when she finally pulled in, Noah was with her.

JASE

Oh God.

MATTY

...and Cole punched him.

JASE

Are you serious!?! That's great!

MATTY

Yeah, then he proceeded to do his thing until Noah got up and punched him, then kicked him. Then Jo made him go home, and Cole continued.

JASE

...and?

MATTY

No go man. She told him sorry then went in the house.

JASE

Is he ok?

MATTY

Surprisingly. He's a little broken, but I think he'll get through.

JASE

I wish there was something we could do.

MATTY

There's not. It's just something he has to deal with.

JASE

Yeah. I almost feel guilty going after Gwyn now. We were supposed to be happy together.

MATTY

Go get her. He would want you to.

JASE

I know.

MATTY

I'm gonna go open up the store. I don't think Cole needs to work today. I'm probably going to miss the show, so good luck. With Gwyn too.

JASE

Thanks man. I'll catch ya later.

Exit Jase.

INT. JOLENE'S APARTMENT- DAY

Jo is shown cleaning, her mind obviously on what transpired last night. She picks up the phone.

LAUREL

Hello?

JO

Hey Laurel. I need some help.

EXT. THE MOVIE SHACK- DAY

Jase pulls in the parking lot where Gwyn is waiting for him, leaning against her car. Jase gets out of his car and walks purposefully towards her.

OVER BLACK WE SEE:

"You know, the thing about romance is, people only get together right at the very end" -Love Actually

GWYN

Hi Jase. Listen, I've been working on what I'm going to say to begin to explain the things I put you through.

JASE

Stop. Do you love me?

GWYN

Yes.

JASE

No explanation necessary.

Jase pulls her towards him and they share a long hard kiss.

GWYN

Wow. Does this mean...?

JASE

You my girlfriend?

GWYN

Yes. You my boyfriend?

JASE

Always.

Gwyn laughs.

GWYN

This is great.

JASE

I got a show tonight. You need to be there.

GWYN

Of course I'll be there.

JASE

9 tonight at the Underground Cafe.

GWYN

Can't wait.

JASE

I wish I could stay and hang with you, but I told the guys I'd get to practice today. You wanna come with?

GWYN

That's ok. I have to help my mom with those cookies. I'll see you tonight?

JASE

Can't wait.

They kiss. Gwyn then gets in her car and drives away. Jase watches her drive away then jumps in the air in excitement. Gwyn backs up.

GWYN

It's been too long. I want to go with you.

Everyone is then shown in preparation of the big show.

EXT. JASE'S PARENTS HOUSE- DAY

The band is practicing getting ready for the show.

INT. THE MOVIE SHACK- DAY

Matty and Mya are shown working, Matty attending to customers while Mya is sweeping up the store.

INT. JOLENE'S APARTMENT- DAY

Jolene is shown sitting on her bed, staring at a picture of her and Noah on her bed stand.

INT. COLE AND JASE'S APARTMENT- DAY

Cole is shown still sleeping. The alarm clock shows 4:15, then 6:30, then 8:24. Then slowly wakes up and gets dressed and leaves.

EXT. THE UNDERGROUND CAFE- NIGHT

Jase and the others are setting up on the patio to begin performing. Jase's cell phone rings.

JASE  
Hello?

JO  
Jase.

JASE  
Who is this?

JO  
It's Jo. Where's Cole at?

JASE  
Why? Don't you think you did enough  
last night?

Jase and Jo continue to talk but the rest is inaudible.

EXT. THE MOVIE SHACK- NIGHT

Cole pulls into the Shack and enters.

INT. THE MOVIE SHACK- NIGHT

Matty and Mya are still there working.

COLE  
Come on. We're closing early.

MATTY  
Why?

COLE  
We're gonna go watch Shatter Star.

MYA  
Hey Cole. I just wanted you to know-

COLE  
I know. I'm fine. Let's just finish  
up these last customers and head on  
up.

EXT. THE UNDERGROUND CAFE- NIGHT

Shatter Star is shown playing "One Second." Cole is sitting looking a bit down, but still attentive. Matty and Mya are sitting with him.

EXT. THE UNDERGROUND CAFE- NIGHT

The band starts the opening chords to "Constellations" and Jase smiles and points to Gwyn.

JASE

I wrote this song for my girlfriend, right there. We've been through a lot and she knows I love her, which is why I can do this without fear of her getting mad. Even though this is her song, it's not for her tonight. I'm dedicating this song for my friend Cole, who's sitting right there. He's is the strongest person I know, and he's the reason why I'm as happy as I am right now. Keep the faith buddy. It could be sooner than you think.

Jase starts singing, and Jo appears in the back. Jase looks directly at Cole and points to the back. Cole sees her. He thinks to himself.

COLE

There she is. I can't do it again. Just leave her there like she did to you last night. Crap! This would be so much easier if I didn't love her so much. Look and see what your friends think.

He looks to Mya, who is all smiles from ear to ear. He looks at Matty who is a somewhat "I knew it" type smile fixed to his face.

MATTY

What are you looking at me for man, right there's your girl.

COLE

I don't know if I can.

MATTY

Don't give me that. Lay it down.

COLE

I already did.

MATTY

Do it again fool!

Cole thinks for a second, then gets up and goes to her.

JO  
I love you Cole.

COLE  
I know.

JO  
I broke up with Noah.

COLE  
Where do we go from here.

JO  
I'm going to make this easy for  
you.

COLE  
You are incapable of easy.

JO  
(smiles)  
I know.

She kisses Cole while the band continues to rock out.

THE END appears on screen.

END CREDIT SEQUENCE

INT. UNKNOWN ALLY- DAY

Cole and Jolene are sitting across from each other, while  
Jase and Gwyn are shown having a good time bowling.

COLE  
I love that.

JO  
What?

COLE  
That look you give me. You do it  
all the time.

JO  
In what way do I look at you?

COLE  
You give me this disgusted look all  
the time;

(MORE)

COLE (cont'd)

like if I was anyone other than me  
you'd haul off and hit me, but  
since I'm me, there's also a look  
of love and compassion thrown in.  
Then you follow it up with a soft  
little laugh and the most gorgeous  
smile I've ever seen. See, there it  
is. You are amused and charmed by  
me.

JO

You're too smart for your own good.

COLE

But I'm right, right?

JO

You are charming even when you  
don't mean to be.

COLE

I love you.

JO

I know.

COLE

You love me.

JO

I know.