

"Intercepting Love"

Written By:

Robyn Brown-Postell

rbpostell@gmail.com

832-444-9592

WGA #1895135

Copyright(c) 2017 This screenplay may not be used or reproduced for any purpose including educational purposes without the expressed written permission of the author.

FADE IN:

INT. SOPHIE'S APARTMENT - ATLANTA, MID MORNING

It's a beautiful summer morning as the sun streams into a modest apartment's window to land on Sophie's sleeping face.

Sophie, a pretty, early 30-something, wakes and stretches lazily in her bed. She gives herself her daily mantra.

SOPHIE

Today is going to be better than
yesterday. Today is going to be
better than yesterday.

She gets up and while brushing her teeth she looks over her motivational sayings posted around on her mirror (i.e. "Pleasure in the job puts perfection in the work"- Aristotle, "Virtue is its own reward" and "Don't you ever let a soul in the world tell you that you can't be exactly who you are" - Lady Gaga and "Do or do Not, there is no try" - Yoda).

She goes to her kitchen (bright with eclectic decoration), makes her morning coffee and turns on the news via her tablet.

Her cell phone rings. She looks at it and sees it's her bank calling on the caller ID. She swipes *Ignore*.

SOPHIE

(To herself) Gotta remember to
move some money around today.

She turns back to the news on her tablet and sees local pro football player Anthony Bergeron onscreen promoting his charity basketball game.

Sophie looks away to pour milk in her coffee and misses the face of Anthony's date, a blonde bombshell of a model, Rosie.

Sophie turns back to the screen to see the back of Anthony with his arm around the back of the tall skinny blonde, both waving to crowds of screaming fans.

ANNOUNCER

(v.o.) One of our favorite local pro footballers, Anthony Bergeron, is gearing up for his fourth annual charity festival. After an amazing first year that earned over 2 million dollars for his children's charity, Bergeron has just about doubled that each year since. Great to see him breaking records on and off the field.

SOPHIE

Hello, handsome! Not hard to help him...

Sophie sets down her coffee and gets dressed in her cute, comfy-style of a patterned tunic with slim jeans that tuck into her worn boots.

EXT. SOPHIE'S BROWNSTONE APARTMENT FRONT STEPS - MID MORNING

As Sophie is leaving her apartment, ready to go to work, she notices her elderly neighbor Mrs. Roberts trying to pull out her trash cans to the curb.

SOPHIE

Mrs. Roberts, I got it.

Sophie pulls the cans out for Mrs. Roberts.

MRS. ROBERTS

Thank you, Sweetie. Have a great day at work!

SOPHIE

Gonna try, Mrs. Roberts!

Sophie starts walking to her car, a few years' old non-descript sedan, as her phone beeps for a text.

She looks at her screen and it shows "Micheline: Got a surprise for you! Hurry up and get in here!"

She unlocks her car, loads in her laptop, tablet and purse then goes around to driver's side.

Sophie types back "Stop being so bossy, Boss."

As she starts up her car, her phone dings again. She picks it to see another message from Micheline: "Not bossy. I sometimes make suggestions without options..."

SOPHIE

(To herself) More like all the times.

Sophie laughs to herself and gets driving to work.

INT. ONLINE MAGAZINE OFFICE - LATE MORNING

Sophie walks into her office, an online magazine with lots of laid back, hip, young writers and office assistants who greet her warmly. She is obviously a favorite in the office, waving or saying hi to everyone she comes across.

Sophie casually walks to the back corner office and greets the gate keeper.

RECEPTIONIST

She's been waiting for you all morning.

SOPHIE

You know patience is a virtue.

RECEPTIONIST

You know she has very few virtues...

SOPHIE

Yes, and I like her anyway.

Sophie walks into her boss Micheline's office. It's a large corner office with an amazing view of the city. The décor is fashionable, cutting edge and chic - similar to how Micheline is dressed.

Micheline is busy at her desk on her computer, but her head pops up as soon as Sophie walks in.

MICHELINE

You should get up when the rest of the workforce does! I have a surprise for you and have been dying to tell you *all* morning!

She stands, quickly goes around her desk to excitedly hug Sophie. They sit on her couch.

SOPHIE

Micheline, writers can write any time, any where. We are not part of the proletariat like you.

MICHELINE

No one is like me. Still, don't be a diva. You're just not a morning person. It's the only not-perfect thing about you.

SOPHIE

Ugg, mornings... Without caffeine my life would be empty.

MICHELINE

Addict. Anyway, my surprise is that you will not believe who read your article about little league sports and concussions?!

SOPHIE

Who?

MICHELINE

This is no fun if you're not going to even guess.

SOPHIE

Your great aunt Franny? Your neighbor's golden doodle?

MICHELINE

Ok, you give up. It's Anthony Bergeron!!

SOPHIE

Mr. Hunky Football that's all over the news with his charity events right now? It's not even football season yet and it feels like he's in my Twitter feed all day long.

MICHELINE

Yes, and you should follow his Instagram account, too - yummy! The owner of the football team read your article and wants you to ghost write the autobiography of his hottest asset right now.

Sophie pulls out her phone to open Instagram and starts looking at a few very sexy model shots of Anthony.

SOPHIE

This guy (pointing to her phone) wants me - an online blogger, albeit a very prolific and veracious online blogger - to ghostwrite a whole book?!

MICHELINE

Yes! The owner, Rick Dugan, raved about your article to Anthony. Then to his agent, who sent over a deal late last night. They want the book released before the end of the football season. It's going to be a tight schedule --

SOPHIE

You realize my longest piece ever was under 3,000 words? Now they want a book... A whole book...

Sophie starts to stand and leave, dismissing the whole thing.

Micheline pulls her back down to the couch.

MICHELINE

Easy peasy. It's mostly fluff background on a pop culture icon. How hard can it be for someone with your talents? I think you text me about 3,000 words a day.

SOPHIE

How many words are we talking... 50,000?!

MICHELINE

Give or take. I know you can do it. This is the biggest opportunity to come across my desk for you, and both of us will look amazing for it! Oh yeah, pre-season training camp starts in two weeks so that's about all the time you have to ask him everything you need.

SOPHIE

Now? I have to start right now? I need time to research, to outline, to... 50,000 words...

Micheline stands and starts pushing Sophie out of her office.

MICHELINE

Just research his Instagram feed... They are giving you unlimited access to him all this week. Then next week you go with Anthony to his hometown - some middle of nowhere, Idaho - so he can go to his grandmother's birthday party and be back in time for pre-season to start. You'll get to meet his family! Let me know if he has any brothers...

Sophie gives Micheline a bewildered look with big doe eyes.

MICHELINE

But first, you have to go through all of Anthony's accommodations.

Micheline picks up a thick three-ring binder and shoves it in Sophie's arms.

MICHELINE

Then you need to plug into his schedule which usually starts every morning at 5am. I'll email you what contact info I have for his agent and manager.

SOPHIE

5am!? I can't do this. (She looks at the binder) Wha-?

Sophie tries to hand back the thick binder but Micheline won't take it.

MICHELINE

Just be at the stadium tomorrow. Be your usual, awesome, intuitive self and hit us a home run.

SOPHIE

This is football...

MICHELINE

Then go tackle this assignment.

Micheline pushes Sophie out the office door and closes it.

Sophie stands there looking at Micheline's Receptionist with shell shocked eyes.

CUT TO:

EXT. PRO FOOTBALL STADIUM - EARLY MORNING

Sophie drives through the guard stand at the stadium's VIP entrance and pulls up to the valet parking stand.

INT. STADIUM

After the valet takes her car, she walks apprehensively into the VIP lobby of the stadium and heads for the elevator.

A tall skinny blonde (Rosie) is heading towards the elevator as well. She's dressed in a sexy, sharp, pencil skirt with high heels that click loudly on the floor announcing her presence with confidence.

Self-conscious, Sophie stares down at her comfy boots and pants, then follows the blonde into the elevator and looks at all the floor buttons.

Rosie, the tall skinny blonde who stands a head taller than Sophie, smiles, then presses floor 5. She hovers over the buttons again.

ROSIE

Which floor?

SOPHIE

I'm looking for the GM's office...

ROSIE

You want the 8th floor.

SOPHIE

Thanks.

Rosie smiles nicely and presses the 8th floor button for Sophie.

ROSIE

Are you going to see the GM?

SOPHIE

Yeah...

ROSIE

Don't worry. He won't put you on the O-line. You don't look like you eat nails for breakfast.

SOPHIE

(Self-deprecatingly) Yeah, I've been trying to cut back on my metal intake lately.

Rosie gives a polite but controlled laugh.

The elevator stops on the 5th floor. Rosie starts to exit and turns back to Sophie.

ROSIE

FYI, don't drink any coffee up there that doesn't come in a nationally-recognized branded cup.

SOPHIE

I could use some though.

ROSIE

Trust me, you'd get better tasting caffeine from the gas station down the street...

SOPHIE

(Laughing) Um, ok. Thanks.

Rosie smiles and heads down the hallway as the elevator door closes for Sophie to continue to the 8th floor.

SOPHIE

(To herself) I wonder if there are any good quotes about chewing nails...?

INT. STADIUM 8TH FL GM OFFICES - EARLY MORNING

Sophie finds the GM's office with a sweet old lady as his gate keeper.

MS JUNE

Morning.

SOPHIE

Yes it is.

MS JUNE

Excuse me?

SOPHIE

Sorry, uh, I'm here to meet-

MS JUNE

Oh Yes, I know. Follow me.

Ms June shuffles to the large, grand conference room. She opens the blinds to reveal a stunning view of the main field.

MS JUNE

He will be with you shortly.

SOPHIE

Anthony?

MS JUNE

Oh no. His agent handles everything before Tony even gets here. Can I get you a coffee?

SOPHIE

Um, no. Thanks. I'm good.

As Ms June leaves her alone, Sophie pulls out her phone and texts Micheline "I am here. Suffering from serious caffeine withdrawal."

Micheline texts back "Play me" with an mpeg of a coffee grinder. It sounds and Sophie smiles.

Sophie responds with a text saying "I would rather give up on love than coffee."

Micheline texts "Don't ever do that!" with an exploding heart emoji. Sophie makes a disapproving face and puts her phone away.

Sophie turns to take in the view over the football field.

Sophie's P.O.V. sees a group of the teammates on the field below speaking with the head coaches.

Sophie zeroes in on Anthony in the group down on the field and notices the nice, tall skinny blonde from the elevator has her arms wrapped all around him. The blonde turns to leave him so he gives her an affectionate kiss on the cheek.

Sophie focuses on Anthony and studies him quietly. She takes out her notepad and starts taking notes, looking at Anthony and writing some more.

Zev bursts into the room and startles Sophie.

Sophie turns away from the window just in time to see Zev coming at her with his hand out.

ZEV

So you're the writer, Sophie
LaFitte.

He takes her hand and shakes it vigorously for 3 seconds then lets her go.

She takes in Zev who wears a fashionable suit, has a flashy watch, trendy shoes and slicked back hair with sculpted facial hair. His nails are even buffed.

Zev motions for her to sit down at the large conference table in the cushy chairs.

She takes the closest one to where she is standing and Zev sits right next her.

Zev dives right in, like a speeding train.

ZEV

I'm Zev Sloan, Anthony's agent and personal manager. Happy to meet you. We are so excited to have you here and are looking forward to a successful and prosperous endeavor. Your writing is engaging, insightful, and provocative. We can't wait to get started. I hope you had a chance to look over Anthony's accommodations and schedule? He has only 2 weeks before pre-season training gets in full swing and we need to maximize every waking minute. So we have to squeeze your interviewing time in between every thing else. Speaking of waking, we usually hit the ground running every day at 5am. But you can start with us tomorrow at my morning huddle at 8am. I have a satellite office set up here at the stadium, on the 5th floor. Any questions?

Zev finally takes a breath, stands and looks at Sophie.

SOPHIE

When am I actually meeting the subject of the book? (wry laugh)

ZEV

(A bit patronizing) You have a great sense of humor. I am sure we will see that come out in your writing.

Zev pulls her up to shake her hand 3 precise shakes again, then turns to leave.

ZEV

So excited to get started. See
you tomorrow morning.

Zev quickly turns and walks away down the hall.

Sophie, still a little stunned, walks back to the GM's
office to look for Ms June.

SOPHIE

Hello?

She doesn't see Ms June by her desk so she takes a few
steps into the GM's main office to see if the elderly lady
is in there and just didn't hear her call out.

As Sophie turns to go back out she sees a coffeemaker with
a very dried up and ancient-looking coffee pot next to a
jar of instant coffee. She smiles to herself.

Leaving the GM's office, she stops when she notices a
picture on his desk. She picks it up to examine it closer.

SOPHIE

(Her eyes go big) Ohhhhhh!

CUT TO:

INT. RESTAURANT / BAR - THAT NIGHT

That night in a crowded restaurant Sophie is waiting at a
table, checking her phone and sipping a drink when
Micheline comes in. Micheline gives her a quick hug before
sitting down.

Micheline waves at a waiter to order a drink.

MICHELINE

Martini, please. Dry. (Turning
back to Sophie) So? Is Super
Stud as cute in person as he is
on TV or Instagram?

SOPHIE

I wouldn't know. I never met him!

MICHELINE

You were there. He was there.

SOPHIE

I was there but I might as well have been on another planet. I did meet his agent, who is a real piece of work by the way. ...I can't work with that guy.

MICHELINE

Yes, you can. You have to. This isn't only a big payday for both of us. It's an opportunity for you to finally get the recognition your talent deserves. You get this book released and you can have your pick of assignments at my publishing house.

SOPHIE

I can't work like this. If I can't get past the agent...

MICHELINE

You can't back out, you took the hefty advance already.

SOPHIE

No. No, I didn't.

MICHELINE

Yes. Yes, you did. I direct deposited it for you after the contract was accepted.

SOPHIE

Oh, that must be why my bank was calling. Why did you do that?!

MICHELINE

If I didn't, as your publisher, we wouldn't have gotten our cut. The check is cashed. Now you owe all of us a manuscript unless you have a really good reason not to. Preferably one that would hold up in court...

SOPHIE

So no pressure, huh?

MICHELINE

You need to put all that out of your head and concentrate on the work.

SOPHIE

I cannot write this book for all the wrong reasons.

MICHELINE

Well, you may have to remind yourself of the right reasons. Besides the fact that a contract has been executed with money exchanged, don't you want to be rid of your student loan debt and get a car that isn't as old as Facebook?

SOPHIE

Yes, I would. And, hey, my car is not that bad...

MICHELINE

Well, for now, do your job. You know I got your back, right? And I know you got this.

SOPHIE

If you say so.

MICHELINE

I do say so. And I'm not bossy,
I just know what you should be
doing. Like *all* the time. Here's
to you.

Micheline raises her drink the waiter just set down. She and Sophie toast and laugh together.

CUT TO:

INT. SOPHIE'S APARTMENT - EARLY MORNING

Sophie's alarm goes off.

SOPHIE

(Groggily) Today is going to be
better than... Just one snooze...

She presses snooze and goes back to sleep for a little bit.

The alarm goes off again. She gets up slowly.

CUT TO:

INT. ZEV'S STADIUM OFFICE - 8AM THE NEXT MORNING

Sophie, still not fully awake, is in the stadium elevator balancing a large coffee, her notepad, her laptop bag, her purse and her phone as she exits onto the 5th floor into a cacophony that assaults her senses and makes her wince at all the activity in such a small space.

Zev's "remote" office is full of busy workers moving, talking, calling, printing, organizing, supervising everything on phones, tablets, laptops and anything else wireless.

ZEV'S RECEPTIONIST

Good morning! You must be the writer. Come on in to the bull pen. Zev is about to do his morning address to the troops.

Sophie just nods and follows the young hip and energetic receptionist to the bull pen where Zev is standing up like a Lord amongst all his lowly serfs.

ZEV

Good morning, my Gen Z-ers!
Spring training starts in 2 weeks. The countdown is on!

Zev laughs, a few office workers give curtsey laughs with him.

ZEV (CONT'D)

Margot, your team needs to update Anthony's schedule for the week and loop in marketing so we don't overlap interview times again. Phil, I am still looking for the final cereal box design to approve. Jazz, I have several edits for the latest press release. And oh yeah, this is the writer for the book, Sophie LaFitte.

Zev pauses to point to Sophie who is standing in the corner.

The whole room turns their eyes on her as she is still juggling her bags and trying not to spill her coffee.

She looks up and smiles awkwardly at the whole room staring at her.

Zev takes her elbow and quickly guides her down the hall.

ZEV

Anthony is in my office, waiting
to meet you.

SOPHIE

I was here yesterday...

ZEV

(To an assistant) Did you get
Anthony his morning smoothie
with the right power shots this
time? He needs his kale!

ASSISTANT

Yes, sir!

Zev ushers Sophie into his office, right up to the couch
where Anthony is casually sitting and waiting, relaxed.

ZEV

Sorry to keep you waiting,
Anthony. I finally located the
writer (*Sophie starts to
object*). This is Sophie. You two
get started. I have to go - I am
triple booked for meetings.

Zev goes out as fast as he came in.

Anthony stands up which changes Sophie's position from
looking down to looking up.

Sophie and Anthony look at each other, doing a 1-second
size up of each other.

Surprising Sophie, Anthony sticks his hand out and smiles
warmly.

ANTHONY

Hi, I'm Tony.

SOPHIE

Sophie LaFitte.

They shake hands. Anthony actually gives a warm, confident shake and looks at her eyes (very unlike Zev's impersonal three pumps and done).

ANTHONY

I am really excited to meet you.

SOPHIE

I am excited to meet you too,
Anthony.

ANTHONY

Please, my friends call me Tony.

SOPHIE

Ok, Tony.

Tony sets the untouched green smoothie down.

ANTHONY

Want to get out of here and get
some real lunch?

SOPHIE

Um, it's like barely 9am.

ANTHONY

When you start your day as early
as I do, you get hungry for an
early lunch.

SOPHIE

Uh, ok.

ANTHONY

Great. C'mon. I know how to
sneak out of here.

Anthony looks both ways into the hall out of Zev's office, then motions for Sophie to follow him to a back corner door marked "Stairs" when the coast is clear.

INT. STADIUM PARKING LOT - MID MORNING

They quickly go down the back stairwell and pop out in the parking garage.

In the parking garage Anthony leads her to an old, vintage lime green, Ford truck.

ANTHONY

Hop in. I know a great place where the owner lets me eat early and in peace.

SOPHIE

You do this often?

ANTHONY

I do this whenever I can. With my schedule, I would go crazy if I didn't take any me-time. I'd rather be hanging out with friends and family, given the choice though.

SOPHIE

Me, too.

Anthony starts the truck and drives out of the VIP stadium parking.

The guard in the guard shack waves him out.

CUT TO:

EXT. BBQ JOINT, BACK DOOR - MID MORNING

Sophie and Anthony knock at the back door of the BBQ joint.

A big gruff guy in a cook's attire opens the door.

COOKIE

Hi Tony!

ANTHONY

Hi Cookie. This is Sophie.

COOKIE

C'mon in. Your table is always ready.

INT. BBQ JOINT

Cookie leads them through the kitchen to a private dining area near the back of the empty restaurant.

ANTHONY

Thanks, Cookie. You're the best.

COOKIE

No, you are, kid.

Cookie leaves them to sit.

Sophie picks up a menu.

ANTHONY

Don't bother. Cookie just brings me his daily special and, trust me, it's always amazing.

SOPHIE

If you say so. Trust little, trust big, right? But I need caffeine, if I can order a soda?

She pulls out her phone app to record, her notepad and a pencil.

ANTHONY

Sure. If you don't mind, I'd like to keep this place out of the book though.

SOPHIE

Ok. But, why?

ANTHONY

I trade some PR for Cookie when he wants it and in return he gives me peace and quiet to eat the best BBQ in town.

SOPHIE

"The best"?

ANTHONY

Strive for the best, be the best. It's my mind set.

SOPHIE

Sounds a little cliché.

ANTHONY

I guess it would be if you didn't follow it every day. I wouldn't be where I am now if I didn't. Everyone can be exceptional. It's the ones that practice it consistently who rise to the top.

SOPHIE

Being consistent isn't easy. I feel like I try but... (Picking up her pencil and notepad) But we're here to talk about you. So what attracted you to pro football? Why do you do what you do?

ANTHONY

I like making a difference. When I was younger it was obvious about my size. It wasn't easy having size 13 feet in 5th grade. Now, combined with my years of training, my size helps make a difference on the field. And when I am successful on the field, my charity benefits.

SOPHIE

Is one necessarily dependant on the other?

Cookie sets down the food, a big plate of ribs, two small bowls of slaw and slices of pecan pies. Anthony and Sophie say thanks.

Anthony takes a beat before going back to answer her question.

ANTHONY

I sure hope not. My professional football career has a time limit but community service I can do my whole life.

SOPHIE

I guess if you are going to devote so much time to something, it better be a worthwhile endeavor right?

ANTHONY

Exactly.

They eat a bit then get back to conversing.

ANTHONY

So why do you do what you do?

SOPHIE

(Laughing) Who's interviewing
whom here?

ANTHONY

What did you say earlier, trust
little trust big?

SOPHIE

I guess for this to work we need
to trust each other.

ANTHONY

Goes both ways right?

SOPHIE

Yes. Well, I started writing in
high school which led to a few
guest columns for the local
paper. As a teen, I got a taste
of what it felt like to inform
and change minds. It gets -

Anthony's cell phone rings. He picks it up and looks at it.

ANTHONY

(To Sophie) I have to take this,
it's home. (Into phone) Hi, Mom.
Yes, I will be there next week.
It's in pen on my schedule and
short of a natural disaster I
would never miss grandma's
birthday. (Pause) Love you too.
Bye.

SOPHIE

Excited to go home to Idaho next
week?

ANTHONY

Very. My family is awesome and I
love hanging with them.

SOPHIE

So who all am I meeting there
next week?

ANTHONY

There's my mom, the cornerstone
of our family..

INT. STADIUM - THAT AFTERNOON

Sophie is juggling her laptop, purse, phone etc as she is
lost in the empty basement hallways of the stadium.

Frustrated, she keeps looking at her phone and the hallway
markings to figure out where she needs to go in the bowels
of the huge stadium.

Thinking she found the right door, she hikes her purse and
laptop bag on her shoulder, switches her coffee to her
other hand which is also holding her phone so she can open
the door with a free hand.

She turns the handle and barges into the room, finding
herself standing at the front of a large theatre-style room
that has the coach addressing the whole team and coaching
staff.

COACH

And there she is now. Everyone,
this is the writer Sophie
LaFitte that will be shadowing
Tony here for the next week or
so. Please give her whatever she
needs.

As she looks up, the entire room of over 100 men turn to
look at her.

As all eyes are on her, she gives a nervous wave with her
coffee in her hand.

SOPHIE

(To the crowd) Uh, hi... (Mumbling to herself) Arrggg, two times in the same day...!

INT. HER APARTMENT BEDROOM - 430AM THE NEXT MORNING

As her alarm goes off in the dark, she groggily reaches over to turn it off and sit up.

She goes through her usual morning routine with coffee and news on her tablet.

SOPHIE

(To herself) There isn't even any new news at this hour!

She turns off her tablet and puts it in her bag, ready to get out the door.

INT. STADIUM GYM - 6AM

Sophie is standing on the side of the workout gym observing and taking notes while Anthony and his teammates go about their regular workout routine.

She occasionally sips from her coffee and wiggles her nose as sweaty, stinky men go by.

Zev sidles up to her and leans into her space.

ZEV

So, what do you think of our war machine?

SOPHIE

Impressive. I guess all this is what it takes to win games and make the money, huh?

ZEV

To be the best it does. We could go into more details if you like over dinner?

SOPHIE

Thanks, but I think I should stay with my subject as much as possible.

ZEV

I could have dinner brought in for us?

SOPHIE

No, really, I think I need to stay on task here if I am going to make my deadline.

ZEV

Well, I am sure I could help you with that deadline...

SOPHIE

Really, no, thank you.

Anthony and the team take a break. Anthony starts walking toward Sophie and Zev.

ZEV

Well, I can't stay anyway. I have to meet my horse trainer.

Zev pats Anthony on the back and walks away.

ANTHONY

I don't think he has a horse...

Sophie and Anthony share a smile.

INT. STADIUM CASUAL MEETING ROOM - 11AM

Sophie is interviewing some of Anthony's teammates. They take turns being recorded by her as she takes some notes.

FOOTBALL PLAYER 1

He loves the game and you can see it in his commitment to us, to the team.

FOOTBALL PLAYER 2

I don't really know him. I play offense.

FOOTBALL PLAYER 3

I know guys who played with him in college and they were always impressed with his skills.

FOOTBALL PLAYER 4

(Looking around) Do I have to do this?

FOOTBALL PLAYER 5

(Chokes up) He always answers the phone when it's his momma calling...

FOOTBALL PLAYER 6

Love that dude!

FOOTBALL PLAYER 7

I know he eats a lot. I know he works out a lot. Always here later than everyone else and that's after starting earlier than anyone else. He is always an inspiration to the whole team, dedicating extra time to help the newbies.

Sophie follows and records Football Player 7 as he talks into her phone.

She is busy taking notes and working her MP3 recorder on her phone that she doesn't realize she followed Football Player 7 into the Locker Room while the team is showering and changing.

She looks up, surprised at all the half dressed men.

Anthony, wrapped in a towel from the waist down, sees her and quickly goes to her. He covers her embarrassed eyes and walks her back out.

CUT TO:

INT. STADIUM CASUAL MEETING ROOM - 4PM

Sophie is waiting in the hallway, going through her recordings on her phone with her ear buds.

She is holding a new team fan shirt over her arm.

Anthony comes up to her and taps her on the shoulder. She looks up, unaware anyone was near.

SOPHIE

Oh, hey, Tony. Ok, what's next?

ANTHONY

You up for more?

SOPHIE

No, to be honest I am really wiped out.

ANTHONY

Me, too. Now we do an early dinner and bed, so we can do it again tomorrow. I mean, not us to bed. I mean, I am going to sleep after dinner.

SOPHIE

How do you do this day in and day out? It's only day one and I am exhausted just watching you.

ANTHONY

It's what you do when you want to be the best. Every day. All the time. I'm sure you have a process you follow to do your job well?

SOPHIE

I'll probably spend some time reviewing my notes before I fall into my bed, like a petrified log.

ANTHONY

See, you get it. You're tired but you still have drive. Here's my cell so we can coordinate for tomorrow morning. (Hands her a card) Just promise me you won't give it to the tabloids, stalker fans or the IRS?

SOPHIE

I think if the Dunwoody Little League Commissioner can trust me with his cell number than I think some jock can trust me too.

ANTHONY

"Some jock"? Thanks a lot.

Laughing, they part for the evening to head to their cars.

CUT TO:

EXT. SOPHIE'S APARTMENT - 5AM

Sophie gets a text from Anthony that says he is there and waiting for her out front.

Sophie exits her brownstone to find Anthony waiting for her with 2 coffees and a limo.

Sophie laughs at the nice surprise.

SOPHIE

Wow! I am impressed!

ANTHONY

You like the limo?

SOPHIE

No, the coffee. It's like you read my mind!

ANTHONY

It's not hard when I don't think you spend even 5 minutes without something caffeinated in your hand.

SOPHIE

If I could take it intravenously I would.

ANTHONY

I believe you would. Not sure how you sleep...

SOPHIE

So what am I gearing up for today?

ANTHONY

I have a fan signing event today. These are my favorite. It's a few hours away so we have lots of time to talk there and back, hence the limo so we can work.

SOPHIE

Great - let's get on the road.

She takes the coffee, sips and smiles.

Anthony's cell phone rings. He looks at it but doesn't answer.

They get in the limo and go.

CUT TO:

INT. SPORTING GOODS STORE SIGNING EVENT - 10AM

Sophie observes Anthony as he interacts with his fans all day.

Sophie sees how the fans love Anthony and how sweet he is with the fans. Anthony signs everything the kids put in front of him from posters, to footballs, to shirts, to toys. Anthony shakes every hand put to him.

Anthony goes to the special needs fan in the wheel chair so the boy doesn't have to go up the dais.

Anthony talks slowly and loudly to the hard of hearing older fan.

He talks patiently to the special needs girl in the walker. And hugs her carefully.

Sophie smiles as she watches how the fans love him and how he loves the fans.

Anthony looks at her and smiles, very happy with his day.

CUT TO:

EXT. SOPHIE'S BROWNSTONE - 5AM

Sophie leaves her brownstone and smiles as she sees Anthony waiting in front of a limo, holding 2 coffees again. She gets in the limo.

SOPHIE

Hi, Tony!

ANTHONY

I thought you could use reinforcement before the breakfast meeting with the team investors. Also known as, "an hour of your life you will never get back."

SOPHIE

(Takes the coffee) Oh, you know me so well.

ANTHONY

It's only been a few days, but ok.

SOPHIE

I was talking to the coffee.

Anthony laughs.

INT. LIMO - 530AM

As the limo makes its way through the traffic in the morning darkness, it comes to a sudden halt.

ANTHONY

I wonder what's going on so early?

DRIVER

Not sure, sir. I'll get out and check. People are putting their cars in park - this can't be good.

Driver exits the limo.

He returns rather quickly and out of breath.

DRIVER

Guys! Come help! There was a bus accident!

Without hesitating, Anthony gets out and lends a hand help Sophie out.

EXT. CITY STREET - 530AM

They rush to help with the chaotic crash scene.

Anthony and Sophie work well together to offload the crash victims and get them to medical attention.

He extricates the victims from the bus, lowers them down to the street then she guides them to the EMTs.

They help several people before getting back into his limo.

INT. LIMO - 630AM

The limo drives on as they brush themselves off and settle back into their seats.

SOPHIE

So is there anything you can't do?

ANTHONY

I'd love to cure cancer, create world peace... be able to dance without looking like an eel was just dropped down my pants.

SOPHIE

No, I'm serious! You have the Midas touch with everything.

ANTHONY

When I put my mind to it. But if you wouldn't mind, I'd prefer that stays out of the book.

SOPHIE

Why? Your fans would love to know how you helped those crash victims. It would do a lot for your brand.

ANTHONY

But that's exactly why. Those people we just helped are victims. They deserve their privacy.

SOPHIE

Somebody might have already recognized you... You are sorta famous and all that.

ANTHONY

It's still dark out so I doubt anybody got a good picture. And with you and my driver having signed NDA's I'm not too worried. I can leave those people to professional care and the rest of it to karma. Besides, we have a thrilling investors meeting to prep for. Ever watched paint dry?

CUT TO:

INT. MICHELINE'S OFFICE - 8AM

The publishing office is quiet except for the TV on in Micheline's office.

Micheline is distractedly watching while she sips her morning coffee and reads emails.

NEWS ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

And in other news from around the metro, if you were trying to make your way into work this morning via Interstate 20 you have a verified excuse for your boss. A wrong way driver caused two fatalities and sent more than a dozen people to Atlanta General. They are currently listed in stable condition. Passers-by helped more than 23 people safely off the bus.

Micheline gets a text notification on her cell phone. She picks it up and sees it's from Sophie. It reads "You will never guess how I spent my morning! On an unrelated note, when does my NDA with Anthony's agent end?"

Micheline texts back "I think he is going to be good for you."

To which Sophie texts "Oh he is too busy to still be friends after the book is done."

Micheline just smirks and sets her phone down.

CUT TO:

EXT. STADIUM FIELD - EARLY AFTERNOON

Anthony and Sophie are talking and laughing as they walk around the field.

She sips at a coke and listens to him talk.

Anthony sometimes points to places in the stadium and talks to Sophie about it.

Their body language (leaning into talk to each other, casually touching an arm, smiling at each other) shows they are obviously comfortable with each other and enjoying each other's company.

CUT TO:

INT. 8TH FL GRAND CONFERENCE ROOM - SAME AFTERNOON

Zev and Rosie are looking down at the field, watching Anthony and Sophie enjoy themselves.

Zev and Rosie have their arms crossed and sour faces.

ROSIE

Do we have a problem?

ZEV

I'll take care of it.

CUT TO:

INT. STADIUM WORKOUT ROOM - LATE AFTERNOON

Sophie is interviewing Anthony and taking notes while he works out.

He lifts weights and gets her to lift too. She tries lifting a fraction of what he does but needs his help to do it. He assists her a little too closely.

When he scrimmages in practice, she cheers enthusiastically for him from the stands.

He sits on the floor cross legged with closed eyes to meditate. She sits next to him trying to meditate as well but she keeps peeking out one eye at him. When she finally closes her eyes, he opens his and playfully pushes her over.

After meditation, Anthony stands and reaches down to help Sophie up. They touch hands and he pulls her up to him.

They start to have a deep moment but Zev enters interrupting them, harshly breaking the vibe.

ZEV

(Clapping) Let's go, Anthony.
It's about time to get ready for
the gala. (To Sophie
specifically) Move, move, move.

Anthony and Sophie pull apart. Sophie makes a face at Zev for directing her like a child but they start going.

ANTHONY

C'mon, Sophie. I'll give you a
ride home.

SOPHIE

(To Zev) We're going!

CUT TO:

INT. STADIUM VIP PARKING GARAGE - LATE AFTERNOON

Anthony directs Sophie to the old vintage Ford truck again.
They get in and drive out.

SOPHIE

This is your truck?

ANTHONY

Yes. What, did you think I stole
it when I drove it before? This
whole time you thought I was
what, a car thief?

SOPHIE

No one's perfect.

ANTHONY

This is my lucky charm.

SOPHIE

Not your girlfriend?

ANTHONY

(Ignoring her question) I have had this old girl since high school and my gramps had it before that. He and my dad helped me move to college in this truck. I got my first pro team call while sitting in this truck. I drove my stuff here from Idaho in this truck. I take care of it and it takes care of me.

SOPHIE

Now this is some good stuff that your fans will love to read about.

She pulls out her pens, notepad, phone.

CUT TO:

EXT. SOPHIE'S STREET - SAME EVENING

Anthony pulls up in front of Sophie's apartment.

Sophie puts away her pens, notepad, phone. She grabs her purse and starts to leave the car.

SOPHIE

Thanks for really opening up, Tony. I think I got some great stuff.

ANTHONY

I sort of feel like maybe I've given you too much but it's so easy to talk to you, Sophie. I am really trusting you to do this book, and me, right.

SOPHIE

I think we've gotten to know each other over the last few days. And as your friend, I appreciate that trust.

ANTHONY

Yeah, friends.

SOPHIE

(As she exits the truck) It's a nap for me then see you in a few hours for the gala, *pal*.

ANTHONY

Later... *pal*.

CUT TO:

INT. SOPHIE'S APARTMENT - LATER THAT EVENING

Sophie is in her bedroom frantically trying to figure out what to wear to the fancy gala. A variety of dresses are strewn about her bed.

She holds up 2 to her phone as she Facechats with Micheline.

MICHELINE

(V.O.) Didn't you try that one on already? Like three times...?

SOPHIE

I need to find the perfect dress.

MICHELINE

I think you need to stop thinking so hard and you just do you.

SOPHIE

I know this wouldn't be a first for you, but not all of us have been out for a star-studded night with tons of famous people.

MICHELINE

You might be headed for a celebrity charity event with a super cute and famous athlete, but you know what? You have been with him all week. You know some of his secrets. He knows you, you know him. You don't need to impress him. So don't lose your mind.

SOPHIE

Too late.

Sophie closes down the Facechat app and stares at her pile of clothes.

Then she looks at her inspirational quotes on her mirror.

SOPHIE

Thanks, Yoda.

CUT TO:

EXT. SOPHIE'S STREET - LATER THAT EVENING

The limo pulls up in front of Sophie's apartment.

Sophie exits the building wearing an outfit that fits her personality: fun dress in a bright blue color and pink chuck T's shoes.

MRS. ROBERTS

Oh dear! You look amazing!

SOPHIE

Thanks Mrs. Roberts, I needed that.

MRS. ROBERTS

We have been seeing that limo here a lot lately...

SOPHIE

Yes it's fun but don't get used to it.

Sophie heads to the limo and opens the car door, ready for a fun night.

Sophie comes up short when she sees inside Anthony and Rosie seated together. Rosie is dressed in a very sleek, very thin, very gold and very shiny, low cut dress with lots of hair and makeup going on and shoes that make anyone wonder how she walks in something that high.

Sophie turns to see Zev who pats the empty seat next to him for her to sit. Sophie reluctantly sits there as Zev commands the driver to go.

INT. LIMO - SAME EVENING

As the limo pulls away, Zev keeps up a vapid monologue while Sophie looks at Anthony then out the window.

ZEV

So when we get there, Anthony, make sure you are seen with Dugan in front of the step and repeat as soon as we get there. Don't let the reporters crowd you this time. Use your size and hold your elbows out slightly. Don't forget to favor your left side - it's your better side...

CUT TO:

INT. LIMO - SAME EVENING

A short time later the limo pulls up in front of the venue.

Anthony helps Rosie out of the limo. The flashbulbs start popping and the crowd goes wild as Rosie and Anthony pose as the perfect couple.

Sophie starts to get up to exit the limo but Zev pulls on her arm to hang back.

ZEV

This is a prime opportunity for Anthony and his brand. So could you hang back while the fans and reporters have access to him?

SOPHIE

(Taken aback slightly) Um, ok.

EXT. LIMO

They exit the limo and Zev guides / pushes her to the side as he steps into the limelight with Anthony and Rosie. He smiles and waves to the cameras.

Sophie hangs back and watches the crowd love Anthony. Anthony waves and genuinely smiles to his fans.

Sophie makes her way around the back of the crowd of reporters and fans to the door to the venue.

The bouncer checks her name on a list and lets her in.

INT. VENUE

Sophie finds an out of the way corner and pulls out her phone.

Sophie texts Micheline: "His agent is such a shell of a human being."

Micheline responds with: "How un-evolved is he?"

Sophie texts Micheline: "He gave me a piece of his mind and I was left holding a bag of rocks."

Micheline responds with a tongue sticking out emoji.

Sophie texts Micheline: "I cannot be trapped with him in a plane for 5 hours! Maybe I should just stay here and start writing when they all go to Idaho this weekend."

Micheline responds with: "Let me see what I can do about him. Everything else ok?"

Sophie responds with: "Nothing you can fix." Sophie looks across the room at Anthony smiling with Rosie (who is hanging all over him) and Zev.

CUT TO:

INT. VENUE - LATER THAT SAME EVENING

With the party in full swing, loud and busy, Anthony puts his phone away in his suit pocket, breaks through the crowd, searching for then spots Sophie.

He runs to her, grabs her hand and starts dragging her hurriedly out the door.

ANTHONY

We have to go!

Bewildered, Sophie runs to keep up with him out the front door.

SOPHIE

Tony! What's going on?

EXT. VENUE

Anthony pulls her outside and practically pushes her into the limo.

Obviously upset, Anthony is still nice to screaming fans and half-heartedly waves.

INT. LIMO

Anthony gets in the limo and sits next to Sophie.

ANTHONY

(To the driver) Let's go!

SOPHIE

Tony? What's going on?

ANTHONY

My grandma - (he chokes up) - my grandma had a heart attack!

SOPHIE

Oh Tony! I am so sorry!

Sophie hugs Anthony. They pull apart and she keeps soothing his hand between hers.

SOPHIE

What can I do?

ANTHONY

I... We need to get to Idaho sooner than Friday. The pilot said he can have the plane ready by 5am and we could be there before lunch. I need to - (he chokes up again)

SOPHIE

It's ok, it's ok. We'll get there and help in any way we can.

ANTHONY

Thanks. I just can't think
straight right now.

They sit pensively holding hands as the limo drives on.

SOPHIE

Uh, what about Zev... and Rosie?

ANTHONY

Oh, Zev already said he would
stay at the party with Rosie.
They can cover it.

Sophie sits quietly with Anthony as the limo rolls on.

CUT TO:

EXT. PRIVATE ATLANTA AIRFIELD - DARK 5AM

Anthony's old truck pulls into the private airfield.

Sophie gets out of the passenger seat and apprehensively
looks at the private plane. Its passenger loading door is
open and a light is shining out into the dark airfield.

Anthony grabs his and her bags from the bed of his truck.
He heads for the plane at a fast pace.

Sophie slowly follows him.

Anthony turns around and stops to look at her.

ANTHONY

You ok, Soph?

SOPHIE

I, um, I am not really a fan of
flying.

ANTHONY

Now you tell me?

SOPHIE

I did a story on a plane
manufacturer once...

ANTHONY

You know that you are safer in
the sky than on the freeway,
right?

SOPHIE

My head may know that, but my
heart is running back to your
truck.

ANTHONY

C'mon. (He holds out his hand) I
got you. I would never let
anything happen to you. You
trust me, right?

SOPHIE

Yes... (She slowly reaches for his
hand)

Anthony has to almost pull her onto the plane. She trudges
up the stairs with him.

INT. PLANE - 5AM

Anthony puts the bags up and settles into his seat on the
plane next to Sophie who eyes the whole plane with
suspicion.

While the stewardess confirms flight details (time, meals,
etc) Sophie pulls out her phone and looks at Micheline's
last text of "Let me see what I can do about him."

SOPHIE

What about Zev and Rosie?

ANTHONY

Well, I had Zev stay home. I know no one likes him. You are like my family: they can't stand to be in the same room with him. Let's just say he's holding down the fort back here.

SOPHIE

Why do you keep him around then?

ANTHONY

He's the best at what he does.

SOPHIE

And you always strive for the best... So Rosie's...?

ANTHONY

Is what it is.

The stewardess interrupts to have them fasten their seat belts as the captain says they are ready to take off and turns the plane to the runway.

The roar of the engines and take off make it too loud to continue talking.

Sophie grips the arms of her seat, closes her eyes and grimaces. Anthony pats her on the arm.

INT. PLANE - 7AM

Anthony and Sophie continue working on the book while they fly to Idaho.

Sophie has her notepad and laptop out, with her phone app recording.

SOPHIE

So, Tony, you've told me your mom and dad, Loretta and Gary, are second generation potato farmers. And that the "up at dawn work ethic" is basically a Bergeron family motto. Do you remember your grandparents running the farm? And why don't you think you, nor your brother, went into the family business?

ANTHONY

The Bergerons came to the Northern US territory as trappers from Canada. My mom loves the genealogy stuff. But when my grandfather started a potato farm it gets kind of boring which is probably why my brother is a vet. Animals are way more fun than potatoes.

SOPHIE

So I guess your sister doesn't want to become a potato farmer in the 21st century either?

ANTHONY

She's getting her degree in mining and finding way more interesting stuff in the ground.

SOPHIE

Sounds like you are very proud of your family.

ANTHONY

And I miss them. A lot. I feel horrible about not being closer with grandma in the hospital now. If I lived closer...

Sophie rubs his arm in a reassuring manner.

He smiles at her. The moment stretches out to maybe be something more.

Sophie pulls her arm back.

SOPHIE

They know we're coming. It'll be
ok. I promise.

A quick jolt of turbulence surprises and shakes them.

Sophie's notepad slides off the tray to the floor.

Sophie grabs Anthony's arm and he grabs her leg.

CAPTAIN

(V.O. loudspeaker) Tony, just
wanted to let you know we are
coming into some bad weather
that is popping up in the
Midwest. I am going to divert to
avoid the storms which could add
another hour to our flight. In
the meantime, please make sure
your seatbelts are fastened.

Anthony and Sophie release their holds on each other to do their seat belts.

They continue to look at each other apprehensively as the plane maintains its bouncy trajectory through the skies.

After an uncomfortable minute and the turbulence doesn't stop, the Captain comes over the loudspeaker again.

CAPTAIN

(V.O.) Tony, sorry but the storm is too wide and unstable to go around. We're going to have to land and wait it out. I found an airfield in Nebraska that can take us. We can also refuel there.

ANTHONY

(Yelling to the cockpit) Thanks, Cap. (To Sophie) We'll be ok.

SOPHIE

If you say so.

ANTHONY

I got ya.

He holds her hand as the plane has a bumpy and rainy landing in Nebraska.

CUT TO:

EXT. WHITE CLOUD AIRFIELD - MID MORNING

Captain pulls the plane into a hangar as it continues with heavy rain outside.

Captain deplanes and heads towards the hangar office while the Stewardess unfastens her seat belt and starts picking up used cups, etc.

Anthony and Sophie wearily deplane, take in deep breaths and look about the airfield which is not far from a small town.

They see a sign that says "Welcome to White Cloud, Nebraska - The Popcorn Capital of the World."

ANTHONY

So we have that going for us.

Sophie playfully whacks his arm and rolls her eyes.

Captain returns to them waiting near the plane.

CAPTAIN

The office says we can stay here as long as we need. The storm system looks like it may take several hours to pass through radar. There are some shops and diners to check out on Main Street if you want?

ANTHONY

Thanks, Cap. Sophie, I want to call my mom. Then let's go find some of this world-class popcorn.

SOPHIE

After that ride, I would do anything to not get back on the plane for a while.

Anthony reaches for her and holds open his jacket to shield her from the rain as they walk behind the hangar towards the little town's Main St.

CUT TO:

INT. WHITE CLOUD DINER - MID MORNING

Anthony and Sophie are sitting at a table in the town's diner as it rains outside.

Anthony hangs up his cell phone and sets it down on the table.

ANTHONY

Mom says grandma is stable.

SOPHIE

Wonderful news!

ANTHONY

She's still in ICU though...

SOPHIE

I think it's wonderful how connected you are to your family.

ANTHONY

I owe my family everything. My mom and dad got me to all my practices, lots of extra hours. My grandparents helped pay for private coaches. My whole family has been so supportive. I wouldn't be where I am without them. I owe it to them to continue passing the good works forward.

The waitress comes to their table.

WAITRESS

What can I get you two for lunch? We are still serving breakfast if you would like. Our special today is inside out tacos.

ANTHONY

Sophie?

SOPHIE

I am game for the inside out tacos. And an unsweet tea, please.

ANTHONY

Make it two, please.

WAITRESS

You got it.

The waitress walks away as she scribbles on her order pad.

Anthony looks at Sophie pointedly, looks at the waitress and back to Sophie.

SOPHIE

What, Tony?

ANTHONY

Did you see that??

SOPHIE

We call those "waitresses".

ANTHONY

She didn't know who I was!

SOPHIE

So? She doesn't know who I am either.

ANTHONY

You don't have 20 million frustrated moms following everything you eat, wear and do on Instagram.

SOPHIE

I don't have a Zev to thank for that either.

ANTHONY

Yeah, I'm not missing him.

SOPHIE

Isn't this town adorable, with so much character? It's almost idyllic here.

The man sitting in the booth behind Sophie turns around to face them.

MAYOR

"Almost" idyllic? I think White Cloud is as close to Heaven as you can get without meeting your maker. Hi, I'm Mayor Rick of this little slice of perfection.

Mayor stands up to shake hands with Anthony and Sophie.

ANTHONY

I'm -

MAYOR

I know who you are. I thought you looked familiar when you walked in, but it took me a few minutes to believe that such a famous football star would grace our little diner. (Turning to Sophie) Miss, I'm Mayor Rick.

SOPHIE

Nice to meet you, Mayor. I'm Sophie.

MAYOR

I want to welcome you to the Popcorn Capital of the World.

ANTHONY

Thanks. We are enjoying being here, but would like to stay incognito. We're just waiting out the storm. We'll be on our way without causing any fuss.

MAYOR

I am happy to have you! I will keep your secret. But could I take a selfie with you and not post it until tomorrow?

ANTHONY

Sure. C'mon.

Mayor Rick sits down next to Anthony and snaps a quick picture.

MAYOR

Even posting this on the town's Facebook page, after you're gone, will still help our morale and our tourism.

ANTHONY

Huh?

MAYOR

We had a tornado touch down recently. You know that happens a bit when you're near the geographical center of the US. So we're having a community clean up tomorrow at the rec center which was hit the hardest. Afterwards, we celebrate our Founders' Day. That would be a great time to share with the townspeople that someone as famous as you came through here and maybe cares a little bit about us small town people in the flyover states.

ANTHONY

A rec center? For kids?

SOPHIE

Tony? (She raises her eyebrows conspiratorially at him)

ANTHONY

Are you thinking, what I'm -

SOPHIE

(To Mayor) You said the magic words.

MAYOR

What did I say?

ANTHONY

Mayor, could you and the town use some more helpers tomorrow?

MAYOR

You would do that?

SOPHIE

It would be hard to stop him.

ANTHONY

Us. You couldn't stop us.

MAYOR

You would be doing a huge favor in not only helping to clean up the storm damage but you would be raising the spirits of the kids who play there! It would mean the world to them to have such an inspirational athletic work alongside them.

ANTHONY

Count us in.

MAYOR

(To Anthony) Thank you! Lunch is on me! (To the waitress) Hey Bess, put their bill on my tab! (Back to Anthony and Sophie) We start at first light. See you then.

Mayor shakes their hands and leaves them to enjoy their meal.

CUT TO:

EXT. WHITE CLOUD DINER - MIDDAY

Anthony and Sophie, done with lunch, exit the diner and stand under its awning to assess the rain.

ANTHONY

I hope you don't mind I volunteered you.

SOPHIE

Not at all. Besides, I sort of figured from the look on your face.

ANTHONY

I guess we need to go let Cap and Gwen know we're staying the night. And I need to call my parents.

SOPHIE

Yes, we should tell them.

They stand under the small awning and inch closer together, away from the rain.

Anthony reaches for her but is bumped by the door as a patron exits the diner and huddles under the small awning with them away from the rain.

PATRON

Sorry, man. Hey, aren't you the Atlanta cornerback?!

ANTHONY

Yes, I am.

PATRON

Can I get a quick selfie?

ANTHONY

Sure, man.

PATRON

Thanks!

The man takes a quick picture on his phone then runs out into the rain on his way.

SOPHIE

The anonymity doesn't last long,
does it?

ANTHONY

I have no right to complain, but
sometimes I wish things were
different. Let's go.

He holds out his jacket again to shield her from the rain as they make their way back to the hangar.

CUT TO:

EXT. WHITE CLOUD REC CENTER - THE NEXT MORNING

Anthony and Sophie are standing with a crowd of townsfolk who are in coveralls, jeans and gloves, and ready to work.

MAYOR

(Addressing crowd) Thank you all
so much for coming out and
helping to finish the cleanup of
our beloved rec center. We were
very disheartened when the
tornado all but completely
destroyed the place that not
only your kids come to play, but
we came to as kids, as well.

The crowd claps.

Sophie is standing in front of Anthony with her arms wrapped around herself to keep warm in the chilly morning.

Anthony leans down closely to her ear so she can hear him with the crowd and the Mayor talking.

ANTHONY

Are you cold?

SOPHIE

A little. Just waiting for the sun to come out.

Anthony sweetly rubs her upper arms to help keep her warm.

MAYOR

The big trash dumpster is in back. Watch where you step and let the fire marshal know you come across an unstable space that we haven't cleared yet. I would hate to have anyone miss the Founders' Dance tonight with an injury they got from helping here today.

Sophie turns close to Anthony's face to say thanks but before the moment can go any further the group breaks up, clapping, ready to work.

CUT TO:

INT. ZEV'S STADIUM OFFICE - SAME MORNING

Zev is in his office looking at a news site on his tablet when an assistant comes in with his coffee.

ASSISTANT

Here's your soy, no foam,
caramel macchiato, sir, with
extra caramel syrup.

Zev might be heard to grunt a thank you.

He continues reading the news and sees an article with the headline: "Handsome Hunk Helps with the Rec Restoration" above a picture of Anthony and Sophie. The picture looks like Anthony has his arms around Sophie (from when he was keeping her warm).

Zev spits out his soy, no foam caramel macchiato, with extra caramel syrup all over his desk.

ZEV

(Yelling) Get my travel agent on the phone, now! (To himself) I am going to take care of this once and for all. (Yelling again) And someone clean up this mess!

CUT TO:

EXT. WHITE CLOUD REC CENTER - LATER THAT DAY

Anthony and Sophie are working to clear a half-demolished room, picking up broken furniture, piling up fallen pieces of the walls, sweeping up debris, etc.

They stop to admire the record holders' plaque on the wall surrounded by pictures of the kids and their activities there.

ANTHONY

I loved youth sports. Every game was the Super Bowl. Every catch was the Immaculate Reception.

SOPHIE

A little different now with the money and the pressure as a pro?

ANTHONY

Eh, well I - Look out!

A broken ceiling fan dislodges itself above Sophie. Anthony uses his body to shield hers.

The fan blades, motor and light come crashing down near Anthony's leg as he saves Sophie.

SOPHIE

Ahh!

ANTHONY

You ok?

SOPHIE

Yes! Thanks to you. Are you ok?
Thank you! We have to tell the
fire marshal about this ceiling.

Sophie gives him a spontaneous hug of thanks and doesn't notice his slight wince.

Anthony gives her a one handed hug back while giving the broken fan on the floor the stink eye.

They walk out of the building dusting off their clothes and gloves.

Sophie walks to a table and gets a bottle of water, making small talk with the other volunteers.

Anthony stands to the side not really paying attention as some fans babble on to him about his career.

Anthony rubs his shoulder and winces again.

When Sophie looks over at him and points to water bottles, Anthony stops rubbing his arm and signals back, yes he wants a bottle of water.

She brings him a water bottle and he stops rubbing his arm.

CUT TO:

EXT. WHITE CLOUD HOTEL - LATER THAT DAY, EARLY EVENING

Sophie is in her hotel room with wet hair and a towel wrapped around her body.

As she is coming out of her bathroom her cell rings.

It's Micheline via Face Chat.

MICHELINE

So... how's Nebraska?

SOPHIE

How'd you know where I was?

MICHELINE

I saw some pix of you and Tony canoodling on a quaint street in the middle of nowhere. What did I miss?

SOPHIE

Well, we left the gala early when Tony got some bad news about his grandma. So we took off for Idaho a little early. We had to land in Nebraska and ended up helped to clean up after some storm damage.

MICHELINE

He took you instead of his girlfriend, Rosie?

SOPHIE

Well, she and Zev stayed at the charity thing to cover for him.

MICHELINE

So she's still in the picture?

SOPHIE

Oh, she in *all* the pictures. All 11 feet of her...

MICHELINE

(Laughing) She's not that tall!

SOPHIE

She's all that and a Gucci bag. And she's actually nice. I can see why Tony likes her.

MICHELINE

I don't think she can save bus crash victims or clear tornado ravaged areas in her decorative claws and sky scraper heels. Besides, you're there and she's not. Possession is nine tenths of the law.

SOPHIE

I don't have him. He's got a gorgeous girlfriend and I have to go. We are going to a Founders' Day parade and dance, and I am already dead on my feet. Bye, M!

Sophie closes down the app and finishes getting ready.

CUT TO:

EXT. WHITE CLOUD DINER - LATER THAT SAME EVENING

Sophie and Anthony are all cleaned up and looking nice.

The townspeople are lining the streets waiting for the parade to start.

Anthony clears the way for Sophie to walk down the sidewalk as they look for a good vantage point.

MAYOR

There you are, Tony! I would like to offer you up as Grand Marshal of the parade! Our community would love to show our appreciation for helping today.

ANTHONY

I would love to!

MAYOR

Both of you, follow me.

SOPHIE

Both of us?

MAYOR

You got in it up to your elbows
with the rest of us. Yes, you
two.

ANTHONY

Yes, c'mon Sophie!

The mayor leads them behind the diner where the parade floats are staging. He opens the door to a convertible and motions for them to sit on the top of the back seats.

MAYOR

All you have to do is wave.

SOPHIE

We can do that.

MAYOR

I lead off the parade, so I'll
see at the end at the VFW hall
for the dance. Have fun!

Anthony and Sophie wave him off.

They sit quietly watching all the parade organizing going on around them before their gazes stop on each other.

ANTHONY

You look great, by the way.

SOPHIE

Thanks. So do you. But then you
can make a tee shirt look
formal.

ANTHONY

(Dismissive) Eh, it's luck of
the gene pool lottery.

SOPHIE

Oh, it's starting. How is your beauty queen pageant wave? I bet Rosie is a pro at this?

ANTHONY

You don't need to be a pro to be good at waving.

The parade starts rolling out.

Their driver takes them onto Main St where they begin waving at all the townsfolk lining the streets.

Sophie doesn't notice that Anthony has not been using his left arm, at all. He only waves with his right arm.

She has a fun time sharing the limelight with him as he gives his genuine smile to the crowd.

Every now and then, Anthony rubs his sore arm without Sophie seeing.

CUT TO:

INT. WHITE CLOUD VFW HALL - THAT NIGHT

Sophie and Anthony walk into the hall to a roaring applause.

Anthony raises his good arm in a greeting to the crowd.

As the music begins, the crowd cheers for Anthony and his date to dance so he leads Sophie out onto the dance floor.

ANTHONY

May I have this dance?

SOPHIE

I would love to, thanks!

The music goes slow so Anthony wraps his right around her and holds out his left arm with a slight wince.

They talk while they dance as a way to fill the air between.

ANTHONY

Before you met me, did you ever think you'd eat an inside out taco in White Cloud, Nebraska?

SOPHIE

Before I met you, my longest piece of writing feels like a grocery list compared to what I have so far for your book.

ANTHONY

So the project is coming along well?

SOPHIE

Yes. I was very nervous about accepting such a large assignment.

ANTHONY

You were nervous? You never said anything before. I like how you can tell me now.

SOPHIE

You are supposed to be opening up to me.

ANTHONY

It's best when it's a two way street.

SOPHIE

I agree.

As his left arm is starting to throb, he moves it from the traditional outstretched hand holding her hand to give it a little sore stretch before settling it on her waist which moves his face closer to hers.

She moves both of her arms around his neck as they dance on.

Both of them start inching closer to each other.

Anthony's cell phone buzzes in his jacket pocket and since they are dancing so close to each other, it buzzes Sophie too.

SOPHIE

Oh!

She jumps back a little bit.

ANTHONY

Sorry, it could be about my
grandma.

Anthony answers the call and goes outside for some privacy.

Sophie goes to sit down by herself.

She takes out her cell phones and texts Micheline: "I can't do this any more."

Micheline texts back "Why?"

Before Sophie can answer, Anthony comes back in.

ANTHONY

Great news! They moved my
grandma out of ICU!

SOPHIE

(A little melancholy) I am so
happy to hear!

ANTHONY

Want to dance some more?

SOPHIE

(Dryly) I think you have some
fans that want to talk to you by
the punch bowl.

They spend the rest of the night talking and mingling with the locals.

Anthony is so happy about his grandma he doesn't notice Sophie's slight reserve from him.

Sophie is so despondent over having feelings for someone who is already taken, she doesn't notice Anthony favoring his left arm.

CUT TO:

EXT. WHITE CLOUD AIRFIELD - THE NEXT MORNING

Anthony carries their bags onto the plane as Sophie slowly brings up the rear.

Anthony stops to help Sophie on, but she gets on without any help from him.

Anthony looks questioningly at Sophie as he settles his bag but Sophie sits to fasten her seatbelt paying no attention to him.

Anthony tries to get Sophie to engage talking with him.

ANTHONY

That was a lot of fun.

SOPHIE

(Grunts agreement)

ANTHONY

It was really nice of the mayor to see us off with such a huge breakfast.

SOPHIE

(Grunts agreement again)

ANTHONY

Sophie, are you ok?

SOPHIE

Yes. Just tired. Lots of physical activity in the past few days and little sleep. And I have lots of work to do. Notes to sort.

ANTHONY

You want a coffee or something?

SOPHIE

Later.

Sophie pulls out her notes and pen, and starts working on the book.

Anthony looks at her while rubbing his arm. He stretches out, gets comfortable, gives Sophie one more side glance then puts on his ear buds and closes his eyes.

CUT TO:

EXT. PRIVATE IDAHO AIRFIELD - EARLY AFTERNOON

Sophie and Anthony have a calm landing in Idaho.

Anthony gathers all their bags and escorts her out of the plane after thanking the captain and stewardess.

Anthony's parents Loretta and Gary, his brother Jake and sister Keeley meet them with big hugs and lots of excited talking all at once.

Anthony's mom Loretta doesn't notice him wince when she hugs her boy.

His dad Gary shakes his hand and pats his shoulder.

GARY

Ok, son?

ANTHONY

Yeah. Yeah. Everybody this is Sophie, the writer of my biography.

LORETTA

We are so excited to have you visit, dear. And can't wait to read the book!

ANTHONY

Mom, you already know what's going to be in there - more than anyone.

LORETTA

I know, but I am hoping for some new twists and turns or a good cliff hanger!

JAKE

(To Sophie) Well, if you need some really entertaining and new information, Keeley and I have a lot we could say!

ANTHONY

Oh, no you don't! Dad, make them sign an NDA...

The family is obviously happy to see Anthony and are very welcoming to Sophie.

CUT TO:

EXT. BERGERON FARM, BACK PATIO - EVENING

Sophie and Anthony are sitting around a fire pit with the family.

They are all enjoying the mild weather, a few beers and the beautiful fire while they digest a big dinner.

LORETTA

Coffee, anyone? Sophie?

ANTHONY

Oh, you are singing her national anthem, Mom.

SOPHIE

Dinner was amazing, Mrs. Bergeron. But I think I am so full and tired that I am ready for bed. So, as much as it pains me to say the words out loud, no more caffeine today.

Anthony gives Sophie a small look of surprise.

LORETTA

Please, call me Loretta. I am glad you enjoyed it. We grow a lot of our own food. It's the potatoes and the cattle that are the real highlights, though. You should take some back with you.

ANTHONY

Mom, they sell potatoes and beef in Atlanta.

LORETTA

That may be true, but nothing beats our local produce and you know it.

ANTHONY

I totally agree. But enough about the fruits and vegetables. Tell me about the nuts!

Anthony casually rests his right arm on the back of Sophie's chair, obviously comfortable and secure.

LORETTA

Ok, so Percy and Daniella are getting married on the 15th but Elsie's baby shower is on the same day so the Women's Auxiliary has held three separate votes to figure out who should get the hall.

ANTHONY

You don't say...

GARY

Lor, hon, I think he can wait to hear how Ryan's mobile bar-b-q and llama grooming business is faring. What we want to know is, how is the book coming, Sophie?

KEELEY

Have you interviewed anybody famous for it?

ANTHONY

(Deadpan) Ha ha, Kee. So funny I forgot to laugh.

SOPHIE

Wow, you guys are, like, normal siblings. (Laughing)

JAKE

Our three-eyed brother will here in a sec.

ANTHONY

Don't mind them, Sophie. I'd love my family more if they were a little less annoying.

LORETTA

Jake - (she stands and kisses
Jake's head) - stop teasing your
little brother.

JAKE

Little?! Mom, have you looked at
him lately? He hasn't been
"little" since he was conceived.

Anthony reaches over to take Jake's half-eaten cookie out
of his hand. Keeley reaches around to take the cookie out
of Anthony's hand. While Anthony turns to complain to
Keeley, Jake reaches past Anthony to take his cookie back
from Keeley.

Loretta starts picking up a few empty beer bottles etc from
around the fire pit.

Gary stands and takes the trash from her.

GARY

I got it, Honey. You visit with
your baby boy.

ANTHONY

You guys know what I've been up
to. I want to hear about Ryan's
mobile llama bar-b-q business.

KEELEY

Ewwwww...

LORETTA

Ok, I'll start with the third
most talked about topic: they
want to put in a sixth stop
light! Near the bowling alley!
Do you have any idea what that
will do to traffic on Friday
nights?

ANTHONY

(To Sophie) See, this is what I miss...

SOPHIE

I can see why.

GARY

Lor, hon, I think we are boring poor Sophie. Look, her eyes are at half mast.

SOPHIE

No, no. I am really enjoying myself.

ANTHONY

You do seem more perked up.

SOPHIE

Hard not to enjoy myself with your family.

GARY

That mean you'll help us with chores tomorrow morning? We could always use another hand and can show you some of our beautiful land at the same time.

ANTHONY

Oh Soph, you would love it. The sun comes over the hills and makes the valley look like... like no place you have ever seen.

SOPHIE

Sure, as long as I can get some sleep after the long week we've had. Count me in.

GARY

Tony, get this girl to the guest room and get her some rest. We get up early here.

SOPHIE

So I hear...

Anthony stands and reaches down for Sophie. She takes his hand and follows him into the house.

INT. BERGERON HOUSE - EVENING

Sophie and Anthony walk hand in hand to the guest room.

They stop outside the door to talk. Their faces get closer to whisper in private.

ANTHONY

I am so happy you're here.

SOPHIE

You were right. Your family is a hoot. I am so glad to be here and meet them. I can incorporate some great first hand knowledge of them into the book.

ANTHONY

Sometimes I forget about the book when I'm with you.

SOPHIE

You shouldn't forget about things like that.

ANTHONY

Like merchandising my life, to make money?

SOPHIE

No. I'm talking about your commitments.

ANTHONY

I don't know that everything you commit to should be held in stone.

SOPHIE

You said consistency was how you made it to the top of your game. Well, you need to be consistent about your commitments, too.

ANTHONY

What if I don't want to?

SOPHIE

(Abruptly) Well, I won't be the one to make you break your commitments.

She turns, opens the door, enters the guest room and practically shuts the door in his face.

ANTHONY

(To himself as he walks away)
Man, is she passionate about writing this book.

Anthony walks to the kitchen and sees his dad doing the dishes.

GARY

Hi, squirt.

ANTHONY

Hey Dad. Do you have some time to talk career choices?

GARY

Always.

CUT TO:

INT. BERGERON GUEST ROOM - EVENING

Sophie shuts the door and sits on the bed, trying not to cry.

She picks up her cell and texts Micheline: "I am done interviewing him. I will not be a cheater's side game. So I need to be away from him and write the book before I lose all respect for him."

Micheline texts back immediately: "Hang tight tomorrow and I will arrange a commercial flight home for you. Whatever it takes, we will figure it out."

Sophie turns off her phone and sets it on the side table.

She gets ready for bed and shuts her eyes to shut everything out.

CUT TO:

INT. MICHELINE'S ATLANTA OFFICE - SAME EVENING

Micheline is at her desk and sets her cell down, having just texted with Sophie.

She pulls out a business card and dials the number on her desk phone.

The phone trills but is answered quickly.

ZEV

(V.O.) I knew it was only a matter of time before you were blowing up my number.

MICHELINE

We need to talk.

ZEV

(V.O.) Over drinks?

MICHELINE

Over the phone is fine.

ZEV

(V.O.) You sound like you have high cheek bones and a blinding smile.

MICHELINE

I could look like a troll. Maybe you like trolls. Your mom look like a troll?

ZEV

(V.O.) My mother is a knockout so I would be so lucky to meet someone like her. Shall I send a car for you?

CUT TO:

INT. BERGERON GUEST ROOM - THE NEXT MORNING, EARLY

Sophie's early alarm rings. She turns it off.

SOPHIE

(Talking to herself) Maybe coffee can help me lie to myself that today will be better than yesterday.

CUT TO:

INT. BERGERON KITCHEN - SAME MORNING

Sophie's at the kitchen table with the whole family eating at a big spread of breakfast (bacon, eggs, pancakes, etc).

Loretta sets a big mug of coffee down in front of Sophie.

LORETTA

Tony says you need this intravenously to survive.

SOPHIE

Bless you.

LORETTA

Sorry, I don't have any bigger mugs.

SOPHIE

(She sips) This is perfect. Besides, it's probably rude to drink from a bowl.

KEELEY

Not a morning person, huh?

SOPHIE

No. But after, what 10 days, with Tony, I might be getting a little acclimated to it. And now I know why he is used to getting up so early.

GARY

Only been together 10 days, huh?

SOPHIE

Just working on the book. That's all.

Anthony and his dad exchange an odd look. Then Gary and Loretta exchange a knowing look.

GARY

Keeley, let Sophie borrow a pair of your work boots. Let's get going guys. Sun's almost up.

The family gets up from the table and clears the breakfast mess.

Keeley hands Sophie a pair of work boots and they all head out the back door to the barn.

CUT TO:

EXT. BERGERON FARM - SAME MORNING

Sophie goes about the morning helping around the farm.

Sophie helps Jake look at the horses and administer some medicine.

Sophie helps Keeley roll out and set up the irrigation for the fields.

Sophie looks like she is enjoying the sun, the weather, the animals, the company and the work.

Sophie even shares a few happy smiles with Anthony as they help Gary work on a fence line. Anthony hides his sore arm from her while the work.

CUT TO:

INT. ATLANTA AIRPORT - SAME DAY

Micheline is checking her bags, ready for a flight.

After handing over her bags, ID and ticket, taking her ticket and ID back, she pulls out her cell phone.

She dials again, to no answer.

MICHELINE

C'mon, Soph! Pick up! (In the phone), Soph it's me. Call me back asap!

CUT TO:

INT. BERGERON GUEST ROOM - SAME DAY

Sophie's phone rings and rings on the night stand.

CUT TO:

EXT. BERGERON FARM - SAME DAY

Gary finishes up the fence and thanks Anthony and Sophie for the help.

Sophie and Anthony are picking up the tools and fence supplies - again working well together.

SOPHIE

This is not easy stuff.

ANTHONY

So I bet you are ready for an early lunch, now, huh?

SOPHIE

I am ready for a week at the spa...

ANTHONY

That can be arranged. But first, lunch.

INT. BERGERON KITCHEN - SAME DAY

Sophie comes into the house.

Loretta is preparing lunch.

LORETTA

Go wash up, dear. Lunch is almost ready.

SOPHIE

Can I help...?

LORETTA

You have done so much already (she pointedly touches Sophie on the shoulder). Just go wash up and I'll have some cold tea waiting for you on the patio.

EXT. BERGERON PATIO - A FEW MINUTES LATER

Sophie sits on the patio with her tea, taking in the sun and studying Anthony as he walks up to the house from the barn.

KEELEY

Enjoying the project?

SOPHIE

(Caught looking at Anthony)
What? Oh yes. It's been a great project to work on. I think you and your family will appreciate the final book.

KEELEY

I am sure we will. Tone said you're a very good writer. He told mom all about your little league article and how well you captured the parents' angst over watching their little boys struggle on the field. And how you found the money connection between the manufacturer of the defective batting helmets and the coach of that one team.

SOPHIE

Tony actually read it?

KEELEY

Yes, he is a voracious reader, especially anything about kids and sports. Sometimes I think he would be much happier as a high school football coach. But then I see how talented he is and I know he is doing so much more for the world on and off the field.

Sophie looks surprised and eyes Anthony again, across the field.

KEELEY

(con't) And since he's never brought anyone back to the farm before, I am thinking this will be a very special book.

Keeley sits down and pours herself a glass of tea, knowing she just gave Sophie some surprising news.

SOPHIE

No one? Not Rosie or Zev?

KEELEY

Zev doesn't count and no, we never met Rosie. Not even when Tony flew us to Atlanta for Jake's birthday.

SOPHIE

I'm just writing his bio...

KEELEY

Sure.

Anthony steps up onto the patio and walks to the table.

ANTHONY

I need to wash my hands. (He pauses to look at Sophie and Keeley) What?

KEELEY

Nothin'.

Kelley and Sophie share a smile.

EXT. BERGERON PATIO - A LITTLE LATER

The family and Sophie are finishing up lunch.

LORETTA

Ok, Gary, I'm going to go check on your mom. The doctor was going to see her at 1pm and I want to talk to him.

GARY

Ok, hon. Give her our love and tell her we will be there to see her this evening if doc ok's it. We'll get all this (motions to the lunch table) cleared up. Then maybe take Sophie in the mule up to the lake.

SOPHIE

Mules?!

JAKE

(Good natured laughing at her misunderstanding) Not the animals.

ANTHONY

(Also laughing with them) The UTV. It's a very comfortable ride and a lot less fleas.

KEELEY

If you don't count the ones on the boys.

Everybody helps clean the table while the brothers give Keeley the "So funny we forgot to laugh" kind of teasing.

CUT TO:

EXT. BERGERON FARM - LATER THE SAME DAY

Gary drives the mule while Jake sits in the front passenger seat and Sophie and Anthony sit in the back seat.

The scenic drive is bumpy so Sophie and Anthony are constantly rocking into each other. Sophie is enjoying the fun ride and gorgeous vistas.

Gary comes to a stop next to a large, clear lake. It's beautiful with trees, vegetation, animals, etc.

All 4 get out of the mule and walk toward the shoreline.

GARY

This is our favorite lake. I asked Loretta to marry me on this spot. The same place my parents were married.

SOPHIE

Must have been so romantic? It's stunning!

Gary motions to Jake to give Anthony and Sophie some privacy.

Anthony steers Sophie a little closer to the water and the dock.

ANTHONY

We all learned to swim and fish here, too.

SOPHIE

I can see so many reasons why you miss home.

Anthony casually puts his good arm around Sophie and they enjoy the view.

They both speak at the same time.

Anthony and Sophie turn to each other.

ANTHONY

I want to -

SOPHIE

Do you -

ANTHONY

No, you go first.

SOPHIE

Did you really read my little league article?

ANTHONY

Yes. Why are you asking me that now?

SOPHIE

I saw the picture.

ANTHONY

What picture?

SOPHIE

The one of the same little league team I did my article about. On your general manager's desk.

ANTHONY

Yeah, that's his nephew's team that he sponsors. That's how I got to read the article and was really impressed with your style. He might have recommended I read it, but I suggested you for my book.

SOPHIE

So you really did like my article? And you weren't just giving me a line, like Zev?

ANTHONY

Yes, I think you are a great
writer. And, no, I am nothing
like Zev.

Anthony lifts his left arm to touch her face and winces.

SOPHIE

Tony, are you ok?

Anthony opens his mouth but grabs his left arm in pain.
Sophie helps ease him to sit on the dock bench.

SOPHIE

Tony? Tony? Gary! Something's
wrong with Tony!

Gary and Jake run to Tony on the ground. Jake checks
Anthony's vitals as he lays on the bench in pain.

GARY

Jake? What's wrong with him?

JAKE

We need to get him to a
hospital. Dad, call mom and tell
her we're coming while I call an
ambulance.

Sophie kneels on the ground to stroke Anthony's face.

CUT TO:

EXT. BERGERON FARM - LATER THE SAME DAY

Micheline pulls up to the farm in her rental car.

She knocks at the front door to no answer.

She goes around to the back patio and sees Zev sitting
there.

ZEV

See, you want me. No other woman has flown across the country to hunt me down.

MICHELINE

(Exasperated) Where is everyone?

CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL - THAT NIGHT

In the hallway, Loretta and Gary speak with Anthony's doctor. Sophie can see them as she sits next to Anthony laying unconscious in a hospital bed.

Sophie reaches out to touch his arm.

SOPHIE

Oh Tony... I can't apologize enough. If it weren't for me, you wouldn't be here. Unconscious, in a hospital bed, something terribly wrong with your arm. (She starts to choke up) I don't belong here, with you. I can't be the reason your relationship breaks up, your career falls apart and your family is mad at me. Although, I really like your family. I think I could fall in love with them, too.

Sophie stands to leave.

Anthony stirs and grabs her arm.

ANTHONY

(Weakly) Too? That usually means "in addition"... So you...?

SOPHIE

Tony, you're awake! Oh Tony, I am so sorry. It's all my fault...

ANTHONY

Actually, it's my fault.

SOPHIE

Wait, what? How?

ANTHONY

I should have told you earlier.

SOPHIE

Told me what? That you really did read my article. I believe you.

ANTHONY

I should have told you about Rosie.

SOPHIE

What about your girlfriend?

ANTHONY

She's not really my girlfriend.

SOPHIE

But you guys are always seen out and dating and... together. Oh no, are you married?

ANTHONY

No, I'm not. Rosie is Zev's cousin. We signed an NDA for her to pretend to be my girlfriend in public. It's made life a lot easier until you.

Anthony holds Sophie's hand.

SOPHIE

What?

ANTHONY

I have never kissed Rosie. In fact, Rosie is not the one I want to kiss.

Anthony pulls Sophie closer to him. They are about to kiss when his parents enter the room with the doctor.

Sophie sits up, still in shock over Anthony's revelation. But she does not let go of his hand.

DOCTOR

Hi Tony, I'm Dr Zambrano. I've had a chance to review your x-rays and can confirm you have a separated shoulder with some mild scrapes and bruising. It's bad enough that the ligaments holding your clavicle to your shoulder blade are torn. And, although it's not a career-ender, you will be out for the rest of this season.

SOPHIE

He saved my life for it.

ANTHONY

(Confused) How does that explain the pain in my leg?

DOCTOR

That pain, we found, is caused by DVT. Deep vein thrombosis.

SOPHIE

(Feeling awful) Oh no! Is that my fault, too?

DOCTOR

Not at all. DVT occurs when a blood clot forms in a deep vein. More than likely, for someone like Tony, who is used to rigorous exercise who then spends a long time sitting on an airplane like he has the past few days, it was exacerbated. Sophie, but for us looking at his arm and doing a full workup, we might not have found the DVT in time.

Sophie and Anthony exchange relieved looks.

DOCTOR

It could have caused a pulmonary embolism if left untreated. You actually saved him.

LORETTA

I think they saved each other.

Micheline and Zev show up at the door to Anthony's room.

Sophie excuses herself to go greet them in the hallway while the Doctor continues talking treatments with Anthony and his parents.

After quick hugs, Sophie and Micheline talk at the same time.

SOPHIE AND MICHELINE

Rosie is Zev's cousin!

ZEV

Nothing to shout about, ladies.

MICHELINE

(To Zev) You and your stupid ideas.

ZEV

(To Sophie) I am sorry I misled you. I really do think you are a great writer. I actually read your article on the plane ride up. Nothing better to do...

The Doctor, Loretta and Gary exit Anthony's room.

LORETTA

(To Sophie) Hon, he's asking for you. You should go back in. (To Zev in a monotone voice) Zev.

Sophie goes back in to the room and Anthony takes her hand.

CUT TO:

EXT. WHITE CLOUD REC CENTER - 3 MONTHS LATER

Mayor is standing in front of the rebuilt rec center that has a big ribbon around the front door.

Mayor takes a pair of big, decorative scissors over the ribbons and pauses for photo ops.

MAYOR

I want to thank this entire community for coming together and rebuilding such a special facility that we enjoyed when we were young, our kids currently enjoy and hopefully their kids will get to enjoy in the future. I especially want to thank the Anthony Bergeron Charities for financing the new building and expanding the program's offerings here with a full time staff and more sports equipment. Now where is Tony? He was just here a minute ago...?

As the Mayor searches his immediate vicinity, Anthony and Sophie are actually behind the building kissing.

THE END