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 definitely 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)
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, definately.

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

I'll try not to.

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.

Thanks.

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

I need a good date movie.

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?"

Um, I think the second one would be good.

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

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

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 it's 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 permanently 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)
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.
Who are “they” anyway? “They” say
an awful lot, don’t they?

Yes they do.

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.

Good advice.

Shut up smart mouth.

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

Hey! There’s Eides!

Hold on. You like comic books?

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

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

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

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.
How?

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

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

Precisely!

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

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

Who’s that?

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

Never seen any of them.

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

You wanna write a movie?

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

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 possibly 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?

GYWN
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 sucha 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, yous 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.
Something wrong?

No, not really?

Are you jealous?

A little. A bit more confused though.

Why’s that? He is my boyfriend.

You claim to not really feel much towards him.

So?

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

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

Silence.

Are you ok?

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

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

What are you up to?

Just headed home.

You look beautiful.

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.

Can I help you?

Oh, Cole, this is Noah.

Cole looks shocked and a little heartbroken.

Oh, hey.

Ready?

Yeah. I’ll see you guys later.

Bye Jo.

See ya later.

Jo and Noah exit.

Are you ok?
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)
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)
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 and 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 PERRYPOLIS- 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 completly 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 alseep 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)
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 youns 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.

Coles 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.
See ya Cole, bye Jase!

Are you going to be ok man?

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

Maybe she came back for a reason.

I was starting to do so good.

Hey! You’re going to be ok.

I know.

Ok, I’m heading home.

I’m going to drive around for a little while.

You sure you’re ok?

I’ll be alright. Just gotta think.

Jase, please don’t do anything stupid.

I’m stable man, I just need to think.

Ok, I’ll catch ya later.

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)
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 (cont'd)
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 you 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.