INT. TOM’S FLAT— EVENING

TOM, 24 sits down at his desk and opens a bottle of beer.

He is an average guy, reasonably good looking. He is very modest and dresses casually.

He switches on his computer and brings up a word document.

He starts typing.

TOM (V.O.)
This is a story about two people.
It’s about broken hearts and undiscovered love. When a person is dumped they believe that they will never find someone else. That life ends and they will never be happy again. But love appears in the most surprising ways and when you least expect it. Our hearts may break, but like everything it can still be mended, you just need to be hopeful and patient. The story begins one cold January night...

EXT. JESSICA’S FLAT— NIGHT

A flash sports car is parked outside, lights on, engine running.

JESSICA, 23 steps outside the front door and walks over to the car.

She is an average girl, attractive, but shy and naive. She is stylishly dressed ready for a night out.

Jessica opens the passenger side door of the car and climbs in.

INT. TRAVIS’ CAR— NIGHT

She closes the door and kisses the driver, her boyfriend TRAVIS’ 23.

He is good looking and sharply dressed with his designer stubble and jewellery.

Jessica smiles.
JESSICA
Hello sexy!

Travis forces a smile back.

TRAVIS
Hey.

He starts the car.

Jessica puts on her seat belt as they drive off.

EXT. CAROLINE’S HOUSE- NIGHT

Tom walks up the garden path to the front door of the house carrying a bottle of wine.

He rings the doorbell and waits excitedly.

CAROLINE, 24 answers the door and forces a smile as Tom holds up the bottle of wine.

She is attractive, but plays down her looks. Very mature for her age. She is straight talking and humourless.

TOM
Hey there gorgeous.

CAROLINE
Hey. Come in.

Caroline steps aside to allow Tom to enter, closing the door behind him.

INT. RESTAURANT- NIGHT

A classy, sophisticated restaurant, traditionally decorated with expensive artwork and ornaments.

Jessica and Travis are escorted to their table by the waiter. They sit down and make themselves comfortable. The waiter hands them each a menu.

WAITER
Can I get you any drinks?

Travis looks at the waiter nervously.

TRAVIS
Uh, just a glass of water for me please.
Jessica frowns at Travis then turns to the waiter.

JESSICA
I’ll have a glass of white wine please.

WAITER
Of course.

The waiter walks away. Jessica turns to Travis and leans over a little.

JESSICA
Is everything okay?

Travis looks at her with worried eyes.

INT. LIVING ROOM, CAROLINE’S HOUSE- NIGHT

Caroline’s living room is very dull and plain. Cream walls and wooden furniture.

Tom sits relaxed on the couch. Caroline enters the room. Tom moves to make room next to him. Caroline sits down on the other chair. He frowns at her.

TOM
What’s wrong?

Caroline looks up at him with worried eyes.

INT. RESTAURANT- NIGHT

Travis tries to prepare himself shifting in his seat breathing heavily.

JESSICA
Travis, what’s going on?

TRAVIS
Okay, I was going to wait until after the meal to say this, but I actually feel guilty dragging this out.

Jessica cracks a smile.

JESSICA
Oh my God. Are you going to say what I think you’re going to say?
TRAVIS
I think we should break up.

Jessica’s smile disappears as quickly as it appeared.

JESSICA
What?

TRAVIS
I guess this has been a long time coming, it’s been on my mind for a while now. I just think it’s the best thing to do for both of us.

JESSICA
I...

TRAVIS
Look it’s not you, it’s me. I just feel I can do better.

Jessica is speechless.

INT. LIVING ROOM, CAROLINE’S HOUSE- NIGHT

Caroline leans forward in her chair.

CAROLINE
I think we should break up, Tom.

TOM
Why?

CAROLINE
Because you’re not the same man I fell in love with. Over the past few months you’ve changed and I’m not sure I know you anymore.

TOM
How have I changed?

Caroline thinks for a moment.

CAROLINE
I don’t know.

TOM
(Sarcastically)
Oh, well that’s helpful.
CAROLINE
Look I know this isn’t what you want to hear right now, but in a few weeks time you’ll realise it was the right decision.

TOM
And what if I don’t?

Caroline has no answer for him.

INT. RESTAURANT- NIGHT

Jessica is starting to well up tears running down her face. Travis has apologetic eyes, but is determined to stay strong.

JESSICA
Please don’t do this. Please. Whatever you want I’ll do. I’ll change, be whoever you want me to be.

TRAVIS
That’s selfish of me to change you. You’re a wonderful person...

JESSICA
But not good enough for you?

TRAVIS
That’s not what I meant.

JESSICA
I’ve done so much for you. Sacrificed so much. I thought we were something special. We’d built something strong together and this is how you end it.

TRAVIS
Please try and keep it down this is a respectable place.

JESSICA
Then why did you bring me here to do this?

INT. LIVING ROOM, CAROLINE’S HOUSE- NIGHT

Tom is down on his knees in front of Caroline holding her hands.
TOM
Please Caroline you don’t have to
do this. Just give me one more
chance I can change. I can be that
guy again. I know why things have
become different, but it can go
back to how it was. How it was when
we first met, I promise.

CAROLINE
I know you’re willing to do
anything Tom, but I just don’t
think it’s worth trying. We’ve
become different people.

TOM
No we haven’t, that’s crazy. Why
are you saying this?

CAROLINE
Maybe if you had realised sooner it
would be okay now, but this has
been like this for a while now.

TOM
Then why didn’t you say anything?

CAROLINE
I thought it was just a phase,
maybe you weren’t yourself. Then I
realised you weren’t going to
change. Besides I shouldn’t have to
tell you what to do all the time.

TOM
I know that, but it helps.

INT. RESTAURANT- NIGHT
Jessica grabs travis’ hands and pulls them close to her.

JESSICA
I love you. Please.

TRAVIS
I’m sorry. I don’t love you.

He pulls his hands away from her. The waiter approaches the
table.

WAITER
Are you ready for me to take your
order?
Jessica bursts out crying and jumps up from her seat. She rushes to the door.

Travis looks at the waiter.

TRAVIS
She just received some bad news.

INT. LIVING ROOM, CAROLINE’S HOUSE—NIGHT

Tom is sat on the floor in front of Caroline. He hangs his head staring at the carpet.

CAROLINE
Maybe you should leave.

Tom looks up at Caroline.

CAROLINE (CONT’D)
Please.

Tom pulls himself to his feet and heads to the door. He stops and takes one last look at Caroline. He turns back and heads out the door.

EXT. RESTAURANT—NIGHT

Jessica stands outside the restaurant crying.

EXT. CAROLINE’S HOUSE—NIGHT

Tom stands outside Caroline’s house upset. He looks up at the night sky and takes a deep breath.

INT. LIVING ROOM, JESSICA’S FLAT—DAY

Jessica’s living room is very girly with cushions and candles scattered around.

Jessica sits on the couch tears in her eyes holding a tissue to her nose. Her mother, JUDY, 45 sits next to her rubbing Jessica’s back softly.

JUDY
Come on Jess, there’s no need to be like this. I know it hurts, but you just need to be strong. You’ve got your whole life ahead of you. You’ll meet someone else.
JESSICA
I don’t want to meet someone else.

JUDY
Believe me, we’ve all been through it before. We all think that’s it, the love of our life gone forever, but then you meet someone new and you forget all about that person.

JESSICA
I can’t forget about him though. He was my life. I don’t know what I’m going to do without him.

JUDY
Don’t talk like that Jessica. You have your friends and family to support you. We’re not going anywhere.

Jessica starts to cry again. Judy wraps her arms around her and holds her tight.

JUDY (CONT’D)
Oh come here.

Judy rocks Jessica side to side to calm her down. She then pulls away to look Jessica in the eyes.

JUDY (CONT’D)
Listen, why don’t you go down to Brighton and stay with your uncle for a few days. Get away from it all. It’ll do you some good.

JESSICA
I don’t think so. Besides Travis might call.

Judy sighs.

JUDY
And what if he doesn’t? I’m not trying to upset you more Jess, but it’s best if you just forget about him for now. Remove all hope. That way if he does call, great, but if he doesn’t at least you won’t be disappointed. If you get away from here you also avoid the risk of running into him and making things worse.
JESSICA
No I'm fine. I'd rather stay at home.

JUDY
Okay. Well I'd better be going home you're father will be wondering where his dinner is.

JESSICA
Okay.

JUDY
Why don't you join us? It'll be nice us having dinner together again.

JESSICA
No thank you. I think I'd like to be alone right now.

Judy stands up and smiles at jess.

JUDY
Jessica?

JESSICA
Yes mum.

JUDY
I know you're upset and you want Travis back, but please don't get too needy. You're better than that.

Jessica struggles a smile.

Judy leaves. Jessica wipes her eyes with the tissue. She looks over at her phone and picks it up.

She dials and holds the phone to her ear. Travis' answer machine can be heard. She stands up and starts pacing up and down the room waiting for the beep.

JESSICA
Hi Travis, it's Jessica. I'm in hell right now. I can't do anything. Please can we just talk through, work something out. I know you still love me, I could see it in your eyes. I know you think you're doing the right thing, but I know you'll regret this.

(MORE)
JESSICA (CONT'D)
Please I'm begging you, I'll do anything just give me another chance. Call me when you get this message.

Jessica hangs up and puts the phone down. She sits down on the couch and puts her face in her hands.

INT. PUB- DAY

The pub is quiet with only a few people spread around. Tom sits at a small table with his friend, SCOTT, 24. Scott is very rough looking with tired eyes and messy hair. They sit opposite each other each with a beer. Scott is halfway through his, Tom hasn’t touched his beer.

Tom stares into space, while Scott does all the talking.

SCOTT
Women are more trouble than their worth mate. I’ll be honest you’re lucky you got out of there before it got too serious. The positive we have to take from this, is there are plenty more fish in the sea. Caroline was not the only babe. I mean yeah she had a great arse and her rack wasn’t bad, but she was a seven out of ten at the best of times. You my dear depressed friend could easily get an eight or nine.

Scott takes a swig of his beer.

SCOTT (CONT'D)
I once went out with this bird and she was perfection. I mean that’s what I thought at the time. I was like ‘this girl is the one I want to be with for the rest of my life’ she was fit, she was funny, intelligent. She knew when world war 2 occurred, but my point is after she ripped out my fucking heart, stamped on it, put it through a paper shredder, dipped it in acid, set it on fire and threw it out the window, I met someone else who was just as good if not better.

(MORE)
So while at the moment you are mourning the loss of love, when a door closes a window opens. Someone will enter your life and make you forget all about that bitch.

TOM
Don’t call her a bitch.

SCOTT
Sorry slip of the tongue.

Scott thinks for a moment.

SCOTT (CONT’D)
But she is. You have to hate her. She broke your heart. If she can do that to you she obviously didn’t care that much about you. In which case she’ll get what’s coming to her. In my experience in situations like this the dumpee usually ends up finding someone pretty quickly and the dumper struggles and therefore becomes jealous. I don’t want to get your hopes up though, that’s just what I’ve observed. And the sooner you do meet someone the sooner you’ll forget about her and move on. You should come out on the town get back in the game. Absorb the freedom to look at women again. Just start sowing some seeds. Sex with strange women is the perfect cure for a broken heart, even if it is with a prostitute.

Scott downs the last of his beer.

SCOTT (CONT’D)
You want another one?

Scott looks at the full bottle.

SCOTT (CONT’D)
I’ll take that as a no.

Scott stands up and heads for the bar. Tom sighs. He stands up and leaves the pub. Scott walks back to the table with another beer. He notices Tom not there and looks around.

SCOTT (CONT’D)
Tom?
EXT. CAROLINE’S HOUSE—DAY

Tom approaches the front door and posts a letter through the letter box. He looks up at the house then turns and walks away.

INT. LIVING ROOM, JESSICA’S FLAT—EVENING

Jessica arrives home from work wearing her nurse’s uniform. She puts her back and keys down on the table and heads through into the kitchen.

INT. KITCHEN, JESSICA’S FLAT—EVENING

She opens the freezer and takes out a meal for one. She puts it in the microwave and switches it on. She goes through to the living room.

INT. LIVING ROOM, JESSICA’S FLAT—EVENING

She approaches a small unit that holds the phone and checks her message count, ‘zero’. Upset she turns and heads back into the kitchen.

INT. KITCHEN, JESSICA’S FLAT—EVENING

She opens a cupboard and takes out a plate. She then takes a fork from a draw. The microwave finishes and Jessica opens the door. She takes out the meal and places it on the plate. She places the plate down on the table and sits down to eat.

She looks at the food and uses her fork to move it around. She stops puts the fork down and pushes the plate away. She takes a deep breath. Then breaks down in tears.

INT. CAROLINE’S HOUSE—EVENING

Caroline enters through the front door and spots the letter on the floor. She picks it up and looks at it.

INT. LIVING ROOM, CAROLINE’S HOUSE—EVENING

Caroline sits down on the couch and opens the letter she begins reading it in her head.
TOM (V.O.)
Dear Caroline, I understand how you must feel right now and a part of me understands why you did what you did, but I know you still love me and still want to be with me I could see it in your eyes before I left. I know what happened between us, how we grew apart because I changed, but I became who I am now to ensure we would last and you would be happy. I can now see changing myself made things worse and I know I can be the man you fell in love with again, if you give me a second chance. Everywhere I look I see your name and everything reminds me of you, I believe that’s fate telling me we’re meant to be together and that I should not give up on you. I keep remembering the times we spent together. The day we met we bumped into each other in the corridor and I knew then you were the one. I’m writing this letter because I feel it’s the best way for me to express myself. I just hope when you read it you realise what you’ve done and come running to me. Please Caroline, give me a second chance. I know you won’t regret it. Yours forever, Tom.

Caroline takes a deep breath. She folds up the letter and places it back in the envelope. She chucks it onto the coffee table and picks up the remote. She switches on the television and ignores the letter.

INT. LIVING ROOM, TOM’S FLAT- EVENING

Tom’s apartment is very messy with books and papers spread out on tables and the floor. There are posters on the walls and shelves of DVDs.

Tom sits at a desk in front of his computer. On the screen he has a blank page. He sits staring at it, his fingers poised over the keyboard.

He sits there for a few seconds motionless. He moves a finger and presses a key. Then immediately deletes it. He looks around the room for inspiration, then back at the screen.
He sighs and drops his head banging it on the desk.

INT. LIVING ROOM, JESSICA’S FLAT- EVENING

Jessica sits on the couch watching television. She is wearing pyjamas and a dressing gown.

The phone rings and she hastily answers it.

JESSICA
Hello?

The voice on the other end is STACEY, 20, Jessica’s sister.

STACEY
(Voice)
Hey jess, it’s Stacey. Me and the girls are going out for a few drinks. I was wondering if you wanted to join us.

JESSICA
Um no I can’t I’ve got things to do.

STACEY
(Voice)
Are you sure? It might cheer you up. It’ll do you some good to go out.

JESSICA
No really I can’t. Thanks though.

STACEY
(Voice)
Okay. Well maybe I'll come round soon and we can spend some time together?

JESSICA
Yeah okay. Bye then.

Jessica hangs up the phone and puts it down. She lies down the couch and sighs.

INT. LIVING ROOM, TOM’S FLAT- EVENING

Tom sits on the couch watching a video on the television. The video shows him and Caroline in the park on a bright sunny day hugging and kissing.
A tear runs down his face. He wipes it away and picks up the remote he pauses the screen on him and Caroline kissing.

INT. BEDROOM, JESSICA’S FLAT- EVENING

Jessica lays in bed eyes wide open staring up at the ceiling. She tries closing her eyes, but soon opens them again. She pulls back the covers and sits up. She switches on the bedside lamp.

She grabs her clothes and starts getting dressed.

INT. LIVING ROOM, TOM’S FLAT- EVENING

Tom lies on the couch watching television. He has the remote held out at arms length and is just flicking through the channels not stopping. He finally decides to switch it off. He sits up and looks around the flat. He looks over at the phone.

He picks it up and is about to dial, but stops. He puts the phone down and looks away.

After a few seconds he turns and picks up the phone, he quickly dials and holds the phone to his ear waiting.

Caroline answers on the other end.

CAROLINE
Hello?

TOM
Hey, it’s me.

CAROLINE
Tom, please stop calling. You can’t keep doing this, you’re just making it worse for yourself.

TOM
I just want to know if you got my letter?

CAROLINE
Yes I got it (pause) it doesn’t change anything though. I’m sorry.

Caroline hangs up. Tom puts the phone down upset. He looks around his quiet flat.

He stands and grabs his jacket then goes out the door.
INT. PUB– NIGHT

The pub is busy with people drinking and talking.

Tom enters the pub and approaches the bar. Jessica is sitting at the bar staring at her drink, a vodka lemonade.

Tom orders a beer and looks over at Jessica. The barman places the drink on the bar.

Tom lifts up his drink.

**TOM**
Here’s to love. It’s sweet seduction and painful abandonment.

Jessica looks over at him. She raises her glass.

**JESSICA**
I’ll drink to that.

They both take a swig of their drinks.

**TOM**
It seems we all get hurt sooner or later.

**JESSICA**
Some of us very recently.

**TOM**
I’ll drink to that.

Tom takes another swig of his drink.

**JESSICA**
Really? When were you?

**TOM**
Two days ago. You?

**JESSICA**
Same.

**TOM**
You’re kidding?

**JESSICA**
I wish I was.

**TOM**
I guess we’re in the same boat.

Jessica cracks a smile.
JESSICA
I guess so.

ONE HOUR LATER

INT. PUB- NIGHT

Tom and Jessica are sitting at a table opposite each other. Empty glasses and beer bottles cover the table.

TOM
I wouldn’t say I was unlucky in love, just crap at it.

JESSICA
You’re not the only one. (Pause) So how did she do it?

TOM
Oh she kept it simple. I went round hers with a bottle of expensive wine and she tells me she thinks we should break up.

JESSICA
At least it wasn’t done in front of a hundred fellow diners.

TOM
He did it in public?

JESSICA
Yeah. He breaks up with me in one of the fanciest restaurants in town and then has the cheek to tell me to calm down because I’m making a scene.

TOM
Jesus!

JESSICA
So you never saw it coming?

TOM
No, well I don’t know. She says it was a long time coming. I guess I can understand why.

JESSICA
Go on.
TOM
You really want to know?

JESSICA
Hey you’re making me feel better about my situation.

Tom smiles.

TOM
I've always had issues with girlfriends. I like having a girlfriend, but I never really knew what to do, so I'd neglect them, they'd end it and I'd realise what I'd lost. When I met Caroline I knew I couldn’t let it happen again so I had to change who I was to make sure I didn’t fuck up again. That didn’t help though because I became too clingy and smothered her.

JESSICA
I see and so she broke up with you because you’d changed?

TOM
Yeah, that’s irony for you. (Pause) What about you did you see it coming?

JESSICA
No, not at all. It was completely left field. We’d been friends since school. We did the whole friends with benefits thing. A year ago we decided maybe we should give it a go as a relationship. I guess I took it more seriously than he did.

TOM
So what did he say?

JESSICA
He said he thought he could do better.

Tom is shocked.

TOM
He said those exact words.
JESSICA
No shit.

TOM
Ouch!

JESSICA
Yeah.

TOM
Did you get the dreaded line?

JESSICA
I hope we can be friends?

TOM
That’s the one.

JESSICA
Up until that point you feel you can talk them around, but as soon as that line is said you know there’s nothing more you can say.

TOM
You find you’re repeating yourself and only making things worse.

They both take a swig of their drinks.

TOM (CONT’D)
How are you coping?

Jessica looks at the empty glasses. Tom smiles.

TOM (CONT’D)
Stupid question.

Jessica smiles back.

JESSICA
I don’t know what to do with myself. I try to take my mind off of it, but whatever I decide to do I can’t concentrate.

TOM
Can’t sleep, can’t eat, can’t work.

JESSICA
It seems everything I do, or anywhere I go there’s a memory waiting for me. It’s driving me crazy.

(MORE)
I just wish I could wipe my memory because I know it will help, yet on the other hand they are good memories.

TOM
I keep wishing I could go back. Remembering good times and thinking I'd do anything to be there right now. Maybe if I'd done this, or done that things would be different.

JESSICA
What about friends or family? How are they helping?

TOM
Yeah I've got them to lean on, but I don't like to because I know what they're going to say.

JESSICA
Plenty more fish in the sea?

TOM
Yes exactly. That does my head in. What's with this negative attitude?

JESSICA
I know. Rather than saying 'you'll be fine, you'll get over them', I want to hear 'if you want them fight for them and don't give up'

TOM
I know, a little encouragement wouldn't go a miss. They're pretty much telling you to give up.

JESSICA
There is a part of me though that isn't sure.

TOM
What do you mean?

JESSICA
I've always been a strong believer in fate. If it's meant to be it's meant to be. Maybe this happened for a reason.
TOM
But you still love him?

JESSICA
Yeah, I still love him. (Pause)
Don’t take this the wrong way, but it’s nice to meet someone who’s hurting as much as me.

TOM
I second that.

Tom takes a swig of his drink.

TOM (CONT’D)
I read somewhere statistically you get your heart broken seven times before you meet the one.

JESSICA
That’s not good. I can’t deal with this another six times.

TOM
Well it’s just a statistic. Most of those are wrong, right?

JESSICA
Yeah, I hope. I just want to win him back.

TOM
I know how you feel. I’d do anything. Literally anything.

JESSICA
Murder?

TOM
I know you’re joking, and it sounds crazy, but I think I would kill for her.

JESSICA
Really?

TOM
Well wouldn’t you?

JESSICA
Well...
TOM
Say if someone was trying to kill him.

JESSICA
Oh well if you put it like that then of course.

TOM
Love sure is a bitch. (Pause) You can’t hate him can you?

JESSICA
I wouldn’t know how to. Does that sound pathetic?

TOM
Not at all.

They sit in silence for a while thinking.

TOM (CONT’D)
There must be something we can say. Like a magic sentence that just flicks a switch in their head and everything is okay again.

JESSICA
Life just isn’t that simple. I’ll tell you what though I’m pretty certain if he saw me with another guy he would get so jealous. He’d realise what he’d given up and want me back.

TOM
Yeah I think Caroline would feel the same. She’d hate it. The only problem is who do you get to play that part. You can’t ask a friend because chances are you’re ex will know them and won’t care. And yet you can’t ask a stranger because they’ll think you’re crazy.

JESSICA
So I would need someone he didn’t know, but who understood the situation and would want to help.

Tom and Jessica look at each other.
TOM
And who would benefit from it as well.

They both smile at each other.

EXT. PUB- NIGHT
Jessica and Tom exit the pub and walk together.

TOM
So we’re actually going to do this?

JESSICA
It’s perfect. We both benefit from this. We go out, our exes see us assume we’re dating each other, both become insanely jealous and want us back.

TOM
Okay well we’re going to need to some recon work first find out where each of them will be so we can make sure we’re there.

JESSICA
That’s no problem, I can do that.

TOM
We also need to come up with some rules.

JESSICA
Rules?

TOM
It needs to look authentic, but how far are we willing to go?

JESSICA
Oh I shouldn’t think too far. All they need to see is us together and I think they’ll get the idea, but we will need a back story in case they ask.

TOM
We met in the pub. Started talking realised we had a lot in common and decided to go out, simple.
JESSICA
Okay, great. I’m really excited, I think this will work.

TOM
Hope springs eternal.

JESSICA
So I’ll call you, let you know when and where.

TOM
Great I can’t wait.

They turn to go their separate ways. Jessica stops and turns back.

JESSICA
I’m Jessica by the way.

Tom stops and turns around.

TOM
Tom.

JESSICA
See you soon Tom.

TOM
Bye Jessica.

The continue walking both smiling to themselves.

INT. LOBBY, TRAVIS’ APARTMENT BLOCK- DAY

Jessica walks through the stylish lobby to the caretaker’s room. She knocks on the door.

The CARETAKER answers. He is a middle aged man, a kind face with soft eyes behind thick rimmed glasses.

CARETAKER
Oh, hello Jessica.

JESSICA
Hello. I need to get something out of Travis’, but he’s at work do you think you could...?

The caretaker smiles.

CARETAKER
I’ll get my keys.
Jessica smiles.

EXT. CAROLINE’S HOUSE—DAY

Tom walks up to the door and takes out a spare key from underneath a plant pot. He looks around then enters the house.

INT. TRAVIS’ APARTMENT—DAY

Travis’ apartment is a bachelor pad. Modern furniture and artwork unique in every way. Framed records on the walls and a music recording system set up in one corner.

Jessica enters and looks around. She smiles to herself as memories come flooding back. She walks around reminding herself of all the ornaments and pictures she used to see.

INT. KITCHEN, CAROLINE’S HOUSE—DAY

Tom is straight to work in the kitchen looking on a notice board and in draws. He comes across a calendar on the wall. Friday’s date has ‘Julie’s Hen Party, Hardy’s Nightclub, 8pm’

Tom smiles to himself. His phone rings. He answers it.

TOM

Hello?

INT. TRAVIS’ APARTMENT—DAY

Jessica stands by a computer desk holding open a filofax.

JESSICA

Hey, it’s Jessica. Travis will be at the Solar bar Saturday night to meet a client.

INT. CAROLINE’S HOUSE—DAY

Tom walks away from the calendar toward the stairs.

TOM

That’s great. Caroline’s going to be at a hen party tomorrow night.

JESSICA

Perfect. I guess I’ll see you tomorrow then.
TOM
I guess so. Bye.

JESSICA
Bye.

Tom hangs up.

INT. TRAVIS’ APARTMENT– DAY
Jessica hangs up and turns around to find Travis standing behind her.

JESSICA
Hey.

TRAVIS
What are you doing here?

JESSICA
I just came by to collect a few things while you were at work.

TRAVIS
Oh okay. Well I just came back to get this.

Travis reaches behind Jessica and picks up his filofax. She smiles sweetly at him.

TRAVIS (CONT’D)
Make sure you lock the door before you leave.

JESSICA
Sure.

Travis smiles then leaves. Jessica takes a deep breath her heart racing.

INT. BEDROOM, CAROLINE’S HOUSE– DAY
Tom is upstairs looking around Caroline’s room. He hears the front door open downstairs. Tom freezes. He peers out the door and watches Caroline shut the front door and walk through to the kitchen.

He slips out the bedroom and slowly makes his way down the stairs being careful not to make a sound.

He reaches the bottom and looks back toward the kitchen to make sure Caroline cannot see him.
As he turns back he knocks an ornament from a unit next to him. He quickly reacts catching the ornament before it hits the floor.

He gently places it back then quietly opens the front door. Tom slips out.

EXT. CAROLINE’S HOUSE—DAY

Tom closes the door and places the key under the plant pot. He sneaks off down the road.

Caroline watches him walk away through the living room window confused.

INT. BEDROOM, TOM’S FLAT—EVENING

Tom stands in front of the mirror dressed to impress in a shirt and trousers. He tidies his collar and smiles at his reflection.

    TOM
    This is going to work.

He grabs his jacket and heads for the door.

INT. HALLWAY, JESSICA’S BLOCK OF FLATS—EVENING

Tom stands outside Jessica’s door waiting. Jessica answers the door looking stunning in a black dress. Tom is speechless for a second.

    JESSICA
    Hello. What do you think?

    TOM
    Wow. You look amazing.

    JESSICA
    Good enough?

    TOM
    More than. This will make Caroline jealous. And if it doesn’t nothing will.

Jessica smiles.

    JESSICA
    Thank you.
Jessica picks up her purse and steps outside.

EXT. HARDY’S NIGHTCLUB- NIGHT

Tom and Jessica arrive at the nightclub arm in arm. Tom stops pulling Jessica back.

JESSICA
Something wrong?

TOM
Just a little bit nervous.

JESSICA
Don’t worry about it.

TOM
It’s just I haven’t seen her in a while and...

JESSICA
Look, we’re in this together. No matter what happens I’m going to be here. Just try to relax, this is going to work. I’ll make sure it does.

Tom takes a deep breath.

TOM
You’re right. Let’s do this.

They enter the nightclub.

INT. HARDY’S NIGHTCLUB- NIGHT

The nightclub is crowded with people. The music plays loudly, the bright colourful lights darting around the room.

Tom and Jessica stand in the middle looking around. Tom spots Caroline standing at the bar and points her out to Jessica.

Tom says something in Jessica’s ear and she nods. He then walks up to the bar by himself.

Tom squeezes his way toward the bar next to Caroline. She is turned away from him more focused on the barman.

Tom sticks out his elbow and nudges Caroline in the side. Caroline turns around.
CAROLINE
Excuse me? (Pause) Tom?

TOM
Hey. What are you doing here?

CAROLINE
It’s Julie’s hen party.

TOM
Oh great.

CAROLINE
Who are you here with?

Tom leans in closer.

TOM
Sorry what?

CAROLINE
Who are you here with?

Tom makes a subtle gesture with his hand low by his side
beckoning Jessica over.

TOM
Who am I here with? I’m here
with...

Jessica wraps her arms around Tom.

JESSICA
Hey sexy. You got those drinks yet?

TOM
Uh not yet no.

Caroline looks at Jessica confused.

TOM (CONT’D)
Uh this is who I’m here with.
Caroline this is Jessica.

Jessica turns to Caroline.

TOM (CONT’D)
Jessica this is my ex-girlfriend
Caroline.

JESSICA
Well hello. I guess I should thank you.
CAROLINE
For what?

JESSICA
For letting me have him. Your loss was my gain.

CAROLINE
I see. So when did you two meet?

TOM
A few days ago. Down the pub.

CAROLINE
Really?

JESSICA
Yeah, we saw each other and it was love at first sight. We got chatting and realised we had so much in common.

CAROLINE (TO TOM)
Well I’m glad you met someone.

TOM
So am I. I thought I would never be happy again, but when I saw this one I couldn’t believe my luck.

JESSICA
Me neither. I don’t think I’ve ever seen anyone so sexy.

Jessica rubs her hands over Tom’s chest.

Tom laughs.

Caroline forces a smile.

TOM
What about you are you seeing anyone?

CAROLINE
No, I’m just trying to concentrate on work right now.

TOM
Oh well I’m sure you’ll find someone.

CAROLINE
Yeah.
Caroline turns toward the bar.

CAROLINE (CONT’D)
Oh the service in here is terrible.

TOM
Yeah.

JESSICA
You know what forget the drinks. I want to dance.

TOM
Okay.

JESSICA
It was nice meeting you Caroline.

CAROLINE
Likewise.

Jessica walks off to the dance floor.

TOM
It was nice seeing you.

CAROLINE
Yeah.

Jessica comes back and grabs Tom’s hand dragging him over to the dance floor. Caroline watches them dance for a moment laughing at each other. She turns back to the bar.

INT. HARDY’S NIGHTCLUB- NIGHT

Tom and Jessica sit in a booth snuggling up to each other. Across the room Caroline sits with her friends at a table, however she keeps glancing over at Tom and Jessica.

TOM
Do you think it worked?

JESSICA
Of course it did. She must have looked over at us about twenty times now.

TOM
Thank you.

JESSICA
You’re welcome. So how did you two end up together in the first place?
TOM
We met at university. I was doing an English degree she was doing law. We bumped into each other in the corridor one day. We got chatting, she asked me to help her with one of her dissertations and the rest is history.

JESSICA
So what is it about her that makes you go on fighting?

TOM
You really want to know?

JESSICA
Yeah.

TOM
Why?

JESSICA
Because I’m a nosy bitch. Now come on spill.

TOM
Uh she’s smart, funny, kind...

JESSICA
No I don’t want the textbook answer. I want to hear it from the heart.

TOM
Okay. She made me feel ten feet tall. Like I was the only guy in the world. When she smiled I couldn’t help, but smile myself. If she was happy I was happy. We had a kind of connection. She came into my world and made such a dent in it, and now she’s not here to fill it.

Jessica smiles at him.

TOM (CONT’D)
What? You think I sound like a arse don’t you?
JESSICA
No it’s not that. It’s just I could see in your eyes how much you love her. It’s sweet. Now pretend to whisper something in my ear.

TOM
Why?

JESSICA
Just do it.

Tom leans in close to Jessica’s ear. She bursts out laughing. Caroline looks over.

TOM
You really know what you’re doing don’t you?

JESSICA
Let’s just say I know how women think. And if I’m right she now thinks you said something funny about her.

TOM
Wait, that’s not good.

JESSICA
Trust me. She’s going to be so curious as to what you just said she won’t be able to stop thinking about you.

TOM
Really?

JESSICA
Yes. And then she’ll realise she doesn’t want to be on the receiving end, she wants to be the ear you whisper into.

Tom smiles.

JESSICA (CONT’D)
Now come on.

TOM
We’re going?

JESSICA
Of course.
TOM
But she’s still here.

JESSICA
You have to leave first.

TOM
Why?

JESSICA
So she can watch you leave.

TOM
Oh.

JESSICA
And also I need to be up early for work.

Tom laughs.

The two of them head for the door. Caroline watches them. Tom is about to turn his head.

JESSICA (CONT’D)
Don’t look back.

He quickly twists his head back and they leave the nightclub.

EXT. JESSICA’S FLAT- NIGHT

They reach the main door of Jessica’s building and stop.

JESSICA
Well I had a very nice night. The best I’ve had in a while actually.

TOM
Me too. (Pause) Thank you.

JESSICA
You can thank me tomorrow by returning the favour.

TOM
Absolutely.

JESSICA
Good. (Pause) Night.

TOM
Night.
Jessica enters her building. Tom smiles to himself as he walks home.

INT. BEDROOM, TOM’S FLAT—MORNING

Tom lies asleep in bed. His alarm wakes him up. He switches it off and grins as he stretches.

INT. KITCHEN, TOM’S FLAT—MORNING

Tom is cooking bacon and sausages singing along to the radio.

INT. LIVING ROOM, TOM’S FLAT—MORNING

Tom sits on the couch eating his breakfast reading the newspaper.

INT. LIVING ROOM, TOM’S FLAT—DAY

Tom sits at his laptop writing furiously.

INT. LIVING ROOM, TOM’S FLAT—DAY

Tom sits watching television laughing out loud.

INT. JESSICA’S FLAT—DAY

Jessica enters her flat carrying shopping bags. She dumps her handbag on the couch and heads into the bedroom.

INT. BEDROOM, JESSICA’S FLAT—DAY

Jessica places the bags on the bed and takes out a long red dress. She holds it up to her body and looks at herself in the mirror. She smiles.

STACEY (O.S.)

Very nice.

Jessica nearly jumps out of her skin. She turns around to see her sister, STACEY, 26 standing by the bedroom door.

JESSICA

Jesus, you nearly gave me a heart attack.
STACEY

Sorry.

JESSICA

How did you get in?

Stacey dangles a key from her finger.

STACEY

Spare key.

JESSICA

What are you doing here?

STACEY

I just came to see how my big sis was. I haven’t heard from you in a while.

JESSICA

I’m fine.

STACEY

Okay. So what’s the new dress for?

Jessica folds the dress and puts it back in the bag.

JESSICA

I’m going out tonight.

STACEY

Really? Who with?

JESSICA

A friend.

STACEY

And is this ‘friend’ a guy.

JESSICA

If you must know, yes.

STACEY

That’s good. I’m glad you’re moving on.

JESSICA

Not quite.

STACEY

What do you mean?

JESSICA

Okay.
Jessica sits down on the bed and takes a deep breath.

    JESSICA (CONT’D)
    You can’t tell anyone about this, especially mum.

    STACEY
    What’s going on?

Stacey sits down next to Jessica.

    JESSICA
    I met this guy a couple of nights ago. He’d been dumped by his girlfriend around the same time Travis broke up with me. Anyway we came up with this idea that if we pretended dating in front of Travis and his ex then they would get jealous and want us back.

Stacey looks at Jessica confused.

    STACEY
    That has got to be the most ridiculous idea I have ever heard.

    JESSICA
    What?

    STACEY
    Are you serious? You’re pretending to date someone to get Travis back? That’s never going to work Jess.

    JESSICA
    No, but it is. We went out last night and his ex was so jealous.

    STACEY
    Please don’t go through with this.

    JESSICA
    Why not?

    STACEY
    Because it’s only going to make things harder for you. If you build up your hopes and it doesn’t work it’s going to kill you. You need to forget about Travis.

    JESSICA
    I can’t.
STACEY
But doing something like this is not the way.

JESSICA
I thought you were my sister. Why can’t you just support me?

STACEY
I will support you in whatever you do, but I don’t want to see you get hurt anymore.

JESSICA
I’m not going to. I know what I’m doing.

STACEY
Okay, if you want to go through with this then that’s your decision, but I’ve warned you and that’s all I can do.

JESSICA
Thank you.

STACEY
I just hope for your sake it does work.

Jessica smiles.

STACEY (CONT’D)
Come here.

They hug.

INT. SOLAR BAR- NIGHT

The bar is filled with people. Music plays in the background. Jessica sits at a table with a drink.

Tom enters the bar out of breath. Jessica waves him over and he approaches.

TOM
Hey. Sorry I’m late.

JESSICA
It’s okay.

Tom sits down opposite her.
TOM
I just got off the phone to
Caroline. She called me.

Jessica is excited.

JESSICA
Really?

Tom nods smiling.

JESSICA (CONT’D)
What did she want?

TOM
Well she just wanted to call to say
how happy she is I’ve found someone
and that maybe we should all go out
for a drink sometime.

JESSICA
Oh my God she is so jealous.

TOM
That’s what I thought, but I needed
confirmation.

JESSICA
Trust me, the fact that she phoned
you is good enough.

TOM
I can’t believe this is actually
working. Anyway is he here?

Jessica points to Travis standing by the bar deep in
conversation with a young man. They are both dressed smart
casual in suits.

Tom looks over.

JESSICA
He’s the one in the grey suit.

TOM
Wow, very classy.

Jessica smiles.

JESSICA
That’s one of the reasons I love
him so much, the way he dresses is
always perfect.
TOM
What does he do?

JESSICA
He’s a music producer.

Tom is impressed.

TOM

JESSICA
Well he’s kind of stuck in the independent underground scene, but he’s trying to get mainstream he just needs to find the right act.

TOM
And you say the other guy’s a possible candidate?

JESSICA
Yeah.

TOM
Maybe I should get his autograph now just in case.

Jessica laughs.

TOM (CONT’D)
Has he seen you yet?

JESSICA
Not yet no.

TOM
So what is it about him?

JESSICA
Excuse me?

TOM
Well you asked me last night.

JESSICA
You want to know?

TOM
Not really, but I thought it only polite to ask.

Tom smiles.
JESSICA
Okay. He’s charming and very romantic. He made me feel so special. He would have done anything for me, even if it meant sacrificing something. We just clicked. It seemed like we were made for each other.

TOM
I’m sure he thinks that too. He just needs to realise what he’s given up to see it.

JESSICA
Yeah.

TOM
So what can we do to get him to look over here?

JESSICA
I have no idea.

TOM
Well we could call his name, throw something at him or go over to him.

JESSICA
No I don’t want to go over to him.

TOM
Why not?

JESSICA
I can’t.

TOM
(Dryly)
Okay. Well I guess we’ll just wait until something gives him the urge to look over here.

JESSICA
Okay.

Tom looks at her surprised she didn’t notice his tone.

TOM
Well then I think I’ll get a drink.

Tom stands.
INT. SOLAR BAR- NIGHT

Tom and Jessica are still sitting at the table. Jessica has her eyes fixed on Travis. Tom is looking very bored.

Suddenly Travis looks around the room and spots Jessica. She perks up and smiles at him. Travis smiles back and waves. He then turns back to the man he’s talking to.

JESSICA
He looked.

TOM
He did?

JESSICA
Yeah.

TOM
What did he do?

JESSICA
He just smiled and waved.

TOM
That doesn’t sound good.

JESSICA
Maybe he thinks we’re just friends. Kiss me.

TOM
I beg your pardon?

JESSICA
Kiss me.

TOM
Um. I don’t know isn’t that crossing a line?

JESSICA
He’s not going to believe we’re together if we don’t do something extreme.

TOM
I don’t think we need to.

JESSICA
Please. You know I’d do it for you. Besides it’s just a kiss it doesn’t mean anything.
Tom leans in and kisses Jessica. Tom pulls back and looks over at Travis. Jessica is frozen.

**TOM (CONT’D)**
No he wasn’t even looking.

**JESSICA (DAYDREAMING)**
Kiss me again.

**TOM**
But he’s still not looking.

Jessica remembers where she is.

**JESSICA**
What?

**TOM**
He’s not looking there’s no point.

**JESSICA**
Right. Will you excuse me for a minute?

**TOM**
Sure.

Jessica grabs her handbag and stands up. Tom watches her walks to the toilets and enter.

**INT. TOILETS, SOLAR BAR- NIGHT**

Jessica stands in front of the mirror placing her handbag by the sink. She looks at her reflection and thinks for a moment. She laughs to herself.

**JESSICA**
No.

She shakes her head and picks up her handbag. She walks to the door.

**INT. SOLAR BAR- NIGHT**

As Jessica exits the toilets she bumps into Travis.

**TRAVIS**
Hey.
JESSICA
Hi.

TRAVIS
How have you been?

JESSICA
Good, thanks.

TRAVIS
Great. I see you’re with someone.

JESSICA
Yeah we met a few days ago.

Travis smiles.

TRAVIS
I’m happy for you.

JESSICA
Really?

TRAVIS
Of course I am.

JESSICA
What about you are you seeing someone?

TRAVIS
Not yet no. I’m still looking.

JESSICA
Okay. I’d better be going.

TRAVIS
Okay.

Jessica walks away. Travis watches her leave then enters the men’s toilets.

Jessica walks over to Tom at the table.

JESSICA
Can we go please?

TOM
Why?

JESSICA
I just really want to go.
But...

Please.

Okay.

Tom stands up and follows Jessica out the door.

EXT. SOLAR BAR— NIGHT

Jessica storms up the path, Tom catches up and grabs her arm pulling her back.

TOM
Hey, what’s going on?

JESSICA
He doesn’t care.

What?

JESSICA
Travis. He doesn’t care.

TOM
Doesn’t care about what?

JESSICA
That I’m with someone.

TOM
What happened?

JESSICA
He said he was happy for me.

TOM
Well maybe he was just saying that. Putting on a brave face.

JESSICA
No I could see it in his eyes. He meant it. I don’t want to do this again.

TOM
What, wait, no. Come on. Don’t give up now.
JESSICA
There’s no point.

TOM
Yes there is. It just might take a bit longer. He just needs time to miss you then he’ll realise he made a mistake. You just need to stick it out.

JESSICA
I don’t know.

TOM
Please. Just a few more days and if still nothing we’ll stop. Please.

JESSICA
Okay.

TOM
Look, why don’t you come back to mine?

JESSICA
No I just want to be alone tonight.

TOM
Okay, but at least let me walk you home.

Tom holds out his hand. Jessica looks down at it and places her hand in his.

They start walking along the path.

INT. LIVING ROOM, JESSICA’S FLAT- MORNING

Jessica enters the living room in her dressing gown. She sits down on the couch and flicks on the television. On the television screen two people are kissing.

Jessica watches for a moment remembering the kiss with Tom the night before. She turns off the television and slumps her head back.

The phone rings. She answers it.

JESSICA
Hello?

TOM
Hey it’s Tom.
Jessica sits up.

JESSICA

Hi.

TOM

How are you feeling?

JESSICA

Um good I guess.

TOM

Okay. Did you get much sleep?

JESSICA

Well it’s twelve o’clock and I’ve only just got up.

TOM

I’ll take that as a no. Listen I need to get a few things in town. Fancy coming with me?

JESSICA

Yeah, sure. Just give me an hour to get ready.

TOM

See you soon.

JESSICA

Bye.

Jessica hangs up the phone and gets up.

INT. SHOP- DAY

Tom and Jessica are walking through a clothes shop. Tom is browsing at the different clothes whilst looking around every now and then. Jessica follows him.

JESSICA

So what exactly are you looking for, maybe I can help?

Tom doesn’t turn to look at her.

TOM

Uh, just some trousers, T-shirts...

JESSICA

Can you be a bit more specific?
Tom is still looking around the shop.

    TOM
    Yeah, blue trousers.

Jessica spots a pair of trousers.

    JESSICA
    Okay well how about...
    TOM
    There she is.

         JESSICA
         What?

Jessica looks in the same direction as Tom and sees Caroline not far from them browsing.

    JESSICA (CONT'D)
    Is this why you brought me here?
    TOM
    No.

Jessica gives him a stern look.

    TOM (CONT'D)
    Alright yeah, I knew she’d be here. I was going to tell you on the phone, but after last night I thought you wouldn’t want to come. I’m sorry.

    JESSICA
    It’s okay. You don’t have to apologise. It just would have been nice to know.

    TOM
    Look we don’t have to do anything if you don’t want to.

    JESSICA
    It’s fine. Come on.

Jessica takes Tom’s hand and they head over to Caroline.

They stop the other side of the clothes rack opposite Caroline.

Jessica picks up a top.
JESSICA (CONT’D)  
Do you think this would look good on me?

Caroline looks up and notices them.

CAROLINE  
Hello, again.

Tom looks at Caroline.

TOM  
Hey, small world.

CAROLINE  
It certainly is. Jessica.

JESSICA  
Hi.

CAROLINE  
I suppose it’s a stupid question me asking you what you’re doing here.

TOM  
Just a bit of shopping.

CAROLINE  
I thought you hated shopping? You never wanted to come with me.

TOM  
Well, I did, but lately I’ve developed a taste for it.

CAROLINE  
Really?

Tom smiles.

JESSICA  
He’s great a choosing clothes for me. I don’t think I’ve ever met a man with such a good eye for fashion.

Caroline forces a smile.

CAROLINE  
Interesting. I never saw you as a fashionista, Tom.
TOM
Me neither, but Jessie bought it out in me.

JESSICA
Tom mentioned going out for a drink sometime. Get to know each other.

CAROLINE
Yeah, I mean it was just an offer.

JESSICA
I think it would be nice.

CAROLINE
Good.

JESSICA
We’ll give you a call sometime when we’re not busy.

Jessica rubs her hand over Tom’s chest and giggles.

CAROLINE
Right well I need to pay for these. It was nice seeing you, again.

TOM
You too.

Caroline turns and walks away. Tom turns to Jessica smiling.

TOM (CONT’D)
You are so good at this. Even I can see how jealous she is.

Jessica sighs.

JESSICA
Yeah.

TOM
Right. Where’s Travis today?

JESSICA
What?

TOM
Where’s Travis?

JESSICA
Uh, I guess Sunday afternoon, he’s probably playing football. Why?
Because we’re going to make him so jealous he’ll fall to his knees and beg for you back.

Jessica smiles.

JESSICA
I don’t think so.

Tom leans in.

TOM
You see this face. This is my determined face.

He smiles.

Jessica laughs.

JESSICA
Okay.

Tom takes her hand and they head for the door.

JESSICA (CONT’D)
Oh just one thing.

TOM
Go on.

JESSICA
Don’t call me Jessie, again. I hate that.

Tom laughs.

TOM
No problem.

EXT. PARK- DAY

It is a warm sunny day at the park. Many people are out relaxing, walking dogs and kids playing. Travis and his group of friends are in football kits playing on a pitch.

Tom and Jessica are walking by holding hands. Jessica spots Travis.

TOM
Right, there he is.
JESSICA
He’s not going to see us.

TOM
Optimism! I know it’s in there somewhere.

Tom pokes Jessica’s chest.

TOM (CONT’D)
He’s pretty good. What position does he play?

JESSICA
In the middle.

Tom laughs.

TOM
Midfield?

JESSICA
Yeah, that’s it. I’ve never been that good with football. As far as I’m concerned it’s just hot guys in shorts and that’s all that matters to me. Come on, let’s just go.

TOM
Why?

JESSICA
Well this isn’t exactly the best place for this. He’s not going to see us, he’s too busy.

TOM
He will, just be patient.

Jessica sighs. She starts looking around the rest of the park at other couples holding hands and kissing.

Suddenly Tom places his hands gently on her cheeks and kisses her passionately. She kisses him back. Tom pulls away smiling at her.

JESSICA
Why did you do that?

TOM
He was looking over.

Jessica looks over at Travis. Travis is looking at her. He smiles and waves. She waves back.
TOM (CONT’D)
I told you.

Jessica smiles.

JESSICA
Thank you, but I really don’t think he cares.

TOM
Oh he cares.

JESSICA
You think?

TOM
I could see it in his eyes.

JESSICA
Really?

TOM
Most men will never admit or show when they are jealous. I can see he’s one of those men, but if you know what to look for, you can see it.

Travis jogs over toward them.

JESSICA
Oh God, he’s coming over.

TOM
It’ll be fine, just act confident.

Travis approaches them smiling.

TRAVIS
Hi Jess. What are you doing here?

JESSICA
We were just passing through.

TRAVIS
I see.

Tom holds out his hand.

TOM
Tom.

Travis shakes Tom’s hand.
TRAVIS
Travis.

JESSICA
Tom this is my ex, Travis.

TOM
Nice to meet you.

TRAVIS
Likewise. So where did you two meet?

JESSICA
We were both out one night and got chatting.

TRAVIS
Good.

TOM
You’re the music producer, right?

TRAVIS
That’s right. Are you a fan?

TOM
No Jessica, just mentioned it.

TRAVIS
Oh has she been telling you all about me then?

TOM
No just that.

TRAVIS
Okay.

Travis smiles.

TRAVIS (CONT’D)
Well I’d better be going. We should get together sometime.

JESSICA
Sure that sounds nice.

TRAVIS
It was a pleasure meeting you Tom.

TOM
Sure.
Travis turns and jogs back over to his football friends.

TOM (CONT’D)
He seems nice.

JESSICA
Did you have to act like an arsehole?

TOM
Yeah.

JESSICA
Why?

TOM
Because he can’t like me otherwise it would threaten the plan. If he hates me, he won’t like the fact you’re with me.

JESSICA
I guess that makes sense.

Tom nods and they start walking.

EXT. STREET- DAY
The two of them walk along a quiet street.

JESSICA
I guess it’s another night alone then. I hope there’s something good on telly.

TOM
Well, why don’t you come back to mine?

JESSICA
Excuse me?

TOM
Not like that. I just think it’s silly us spending our evenings alone when we could be keeping each other company.

JESSICA
I don’t know.
TOM
Come on. We’ll get some takeaway and a film on the way. What do you say?

JESSICA
Sounds like a plan.

Tom smiles.

INT. LIVING ROOM, TOM’S FLAT- EVENING

Tom and Jessica are sat laughing on the couch. A pizza box is open on the coffee table a slice remaining. Next to it are two wine glasses and a bottle of wine. On the television screen the credits of a film are rolling.

Tom had a bowl of popcorn on his lap.

Tom picks up the remote and switches off the television.

TOM
Enjoy that?

JESSICA
Well it made me forget about my situation for an hour and a half, so yeah, I did.

TOM
The magic of film.

Jessica smiles. Tom winks.

She bursts out laughing.

Tom looks down at the bowl of popcorn.

TOM (CONT’D)
I know. Open wide.

JESSICA
Excuse me?

TOM
Open your mouth.

Jessica opens her mouth.

TOM (CONT’D)
Wider.

She does as he says.
Tom picks up a piece of popcorn and aims. Jessica closes her mouth.

JESSICA
You’re kidding right?

TOM
Open your mouth.

Jessica smiles then opens her mouth. Tom carefully aims and throws the popcorn. It hits Jessica on the cheek and bounces off. She laughs.

TOM (CONT’D)
Oh so close.

JESSICA
Try again.

Tom takes aim with another piece of popcorn then throws it. It lands square in Jessica’s mouth. She chews down on it giggling. Tom raises his arms in the air in triumph.

TOM
Goal!

Jessica grabs the bowl.

JESSICA
My go!

Tom opens his mouth. Jessica takes a piece of popcorn and aims. She throws it hitting Tom in the eye.

TOM
Hey!

Jessica laughs.

JESSICA
Sorry.

Tom smiles then opens his mouth again.

Jessica throws another piece of popcorn and misses by a long shot.

TOM
That wasn’t even close that time.

JESSICA
Keep quiet and open your mouth.
TOM
Come on this time.

Tom opens his mouth. Jessica takes aim very carefully. She launches the small piece of popcorn and it lands in Tom’s mouth.

JESSICA
Yeah!

Tom claps chewing down on the popcorn.

TOM
Well done.

Jessica starts laughing.

JESSICA
You know what. I think we should just forget our problems and get absolutely plastered.

TOM
You’ve read my mind. I’ll get another bottle of wine.

Tom stands and goes into the kitchen. Jessica stands and starts walking around the living room. She comes across a load of paper work and starts flicking through it. Tom returns from the kitchen with a bottle of wine.

JESSICA
What’s this?

TOM
That is rubbish.

JESSICA
Okay?

Tom sits down and opens the bottle of wine.

TOM
It’s a story I’m working on, but I haven’t been able to finish it and lately I’ve realised it’s a pile of crap.

Jessica is still flicking through the papers.

JESSICA
I’m sure it’s not. Artist’s are never completely happy with their work.
TOM
I wouldn’t exactly call myself an artist.

She stops on a page.

JESSICA
Is this a poem?

TOM
Uh yeah. Since the break up I’ve been writing a lot. I thought it would help.

JESSICA
Do you mind?

TOM
Go ahead.

Jessica takes the sheet of paper putting the rest of the pages back. She sits down next to Tom.

She reads the poem.

JESSICA
How to make me happy, how to make me cry, how to say hello, how to say goodbye, what I like to eat, what I like to drink, what I like to do, what I like to think, where I like to sing, where I like to talk, where I like to dance, where I like to walk. Only You Know.

TOM
It’s terrible isn’t it?

JESSICA
No.

TOM
It sounds like a child wrote it.

JESSICA
It’s sweet and meaningful.

TOM
You’re just being kind.

JESSICA
Honestly I’m not. Did she see this?
TOM
No, I didn’t think it was good enough.

JESSICA
I think she would appreciate the gesture.

TOM
Maybe.

She looks at the poem again.

JESSICA
Only you know. I like that line. It means so much in so few words.

Tom looks at Jessica surprised. She looks back at him and smiles.

JESSICA (CONT’D)
So how long have you been writing?

TOM
Since I was about seventeen.

JESSICA
So are you a writer by profession?

TOM
That’s what I like to think.

JESSICA
That’s cool.

TOM
Not everyone thinks that.

JESSICA
Like who?

TOM
Caroline’s dad. He’s one of these academic types who thinks everyone should have a nine to five job with a steady income. Luckily Caroline thought differently.

JESSICA
That’s good. I guess doing something like that you need a lot of support. A lot of people to believe in you.
TOM
That you do. What about you? What puts food on your table?

JESSICA
I’m a student nurse.

TOM
Really? I bet that has it’s peaks and troughs.

JESSICA
It certainly does. Although they train you to keep emotionally detached.

TOM
So do you have any funny stories?

JESSICA
Well there’s the regular strange objects that mysteriously found their way into someone’s rectum.

Tom laughs.

JESSICA (CONT’D)
But I think my favourite was the gentleman who accidentally overdosed on viagra and came in cause his erection hadn’t gone down after twenty four hours.

Tom laughs.

JESSICA (CONT’D)
The best part was to hide his problem from other people he’d cut a hole in a box and slipped his little man inside and held it as though he was just carrying the box.

Tom is still laughing.

TOM
Using his initiative. I like it.

JESSICA
Yeah, moments like that help, especially after all the agony and death you see.
TOM
It shows no matter what your problems in life just be grateful you’ve got your health.

Jessica nods in agreement.

TOM (CONT’D)
You know what? We’ve been doing this old school. We need to use the more advanced tools available to us.

JESSICA
Okay. In English please.

TOM
Facebook. I log into my account put that I’m in a relationship with you. You do the same with me. Travis and Caroline both see it.

JESSICA
Facebook?

TOM
Look everybody knows that Facebook is the gospel. Once you put something on there it means it’s official.

JESSICA
Okay.

TOM
I’ll get my computer.

Tom jumps up from his seat. Jessica sits thinking, she takes a sip of wine. Tom returns with his computer and sits down.

JESSICA
Can I ask you something?

TOM
Of course.

JESSICA
I know you really love Caroline and you want to be with her, but isn’t there a part of you that thinks maybe you breaking up happened for a reason and that you’re not meant to be with her?
TOM  
Uh, I don’t think so. I mean the  
reason we broke up was my fault so  
I don’t really see it as fate.  

JESSICA  
Okay.  

TOM  
Why is that how you feel?  

JESSICA  
No, I just wondered.  

Tom starts typing away.  

INT. LIVING ROOM, TOM’S FLAT— NIGHT  

Tom and Jessica are slumped down on the couch, three empty  
bottles of wine sit on the coffee table. Music is playing  
loudly.  

TOM  
No way this is definitely their  
best song, by a mile.  

JESSICA  
I disagree. I think this song is  
good but their newer stuff trumps  
it.  

TOM  
I remember dancing to this song at  
a nightclub and it helped me bag  
one of the hottest girls in the  
room.  

JESSICA  
Oh really?  

TOM  
Yes, really.  

JESSICA  
Prove it.  

TOM  
What?  

JESSICA  
Show me, stud. Show me how you  
bagged the hottest girl.
TOM
One of the hottest. She wasn’t the hottest.

JESSICA
So show me your moves.

TOM
Alright.

Tom stands and starts dancing pretty well. Jessica smiles.

TOM (CONT’D)
Are you laughing at me?

JESSICA
No I’m just surprised. You’re good.

TOM
Well don’t leave me lonesome girl.
Get up here.

Jessica stands and starts dancing with him. They take each others hand and start spinning around. The song stops playing and a slow song starts.

Jessica laughs.

Tom holds out his arms and they embrace dancing slowly. After a while they pull back and look at each other. They slowly lean in and kiss. They pull back and look deeply into each others eyes. They move in fast kissing passionately.

INT. BEDROOM, TOM’S FLAT- MORNING
Jessica wakes up naked in bed with Tom. She turns over and looks at him asleep. She smiles. Tom turns to face her and opens his eyes. He realises it’s Jessica and turns away.

TOM
Oh shit.

He looks under the covers.

TOM (CONT’D)
Did we?

JESSICA
Yeah.

TOM
Oh God. How much did we drink?
JESSICA
I can’t really remember.

TOM
Okay. Well we were drunk. This shouldn’t have happened we both realise that and we should never mention it again. Right?

JESSICA
Right. (PAUSE) I’d better be going.

Jessica grabs her top and climbs out of the bed. Tom covers his face with his hands.

EXT. STREET—DAY

Jessica walks along the street thinking. She stops and leans up against a wall. She bends over resting her head in her hands.

INT. HALLWAY, JESSICA’S BLOCK OF FLATS—DAY

Jessica walks down the hallway to her door. She finds Travis standing by her door waiting.

JESSICA
Hey.

Travis turns and smiles.

TRAVIS
Alright?

Jessica smiles.

JESSICA
Yeah. You?

TRAVIS
Yeah.

JESSICA
What are you doing here?

TRAVIS
Oh Uh. When you came by mine to pick up some stuff you forgot this.

Travis holds up a CD case.
TRAVIS (CONT’D)
I was passing so I thought I’d drop it by. I’m pretty sure it’s yours.

Jessica takes it from him.

JESSICA
Thanks.

TRAVIS
So how are you and Tom, is it, getting on?

Uh good thanks. Very good. Did you want to come in for a drink?

TRAVIS
Thanks, but I’ve got stuff to do. I’m already late for a meeting. Maybe another time.

JESSICA
Okay. Well you’re welcome anytime.

Travis smiles. He nods and walks away. Jessica watches him leave. She opens her front door and goes inside.

INT. JESSICA’S FLAT- DAY

Jessica closes the door behind her. She leans up against it and slides down to sit on the floor. She buries her head between her legs.

INT. TOM’S FLAT- DAY

There is a knock at the door. Tom answers it. Scott bursts into the room.

SCOTT
So where is she?

TOM
Who?

SCOTT
Who? This little lady you’ve been hiding from me. Jessica, is it?

TOM
How do you know about her?
SCOTT
Everybody knows, you put it on Facebook.

TOM
Oh yeah.

SCOTT
So why have we not been introduced? Is it me?

TOM
What? No, of course not.

SCOTT
So when can I meet her?

TOM
Look, it’s not what you think.

SCOTT
What do you mean?

TOM
We’re not really together.

SCOTT
So why did you say you were?

TOM
We’re faking a relationship to make Caroline and her ex jealous.

Scott frowns.

TOM (CONT’D)
So they would regret breaking up with us and want us back.

SCOTT
Okay, but you’re still having sex with her?

TOM
What?

Scott points into the bedroom, the duvet cover in a mess.

TOM (CONT’D)
I don’t know what you’re talking about.
SCOTT
Don’t lie to me, man. I know you had sex last night I can smell it on you.

TOM
What?

SCOTT
And it must have been with her. So what you’re saying is this is a fake relationship, but with benefits?

TOM
No it’s not like that. We were drunk, it shouldn’t have happened.

SCOTT
Yeah, right.

TOM
Yeah.

SCOTT
Okay, if that’s what you say, but I will warn you although it’s a genius idea it will get complicated. We are all, but human.

TOM
It’s not like that.

SCOTT
Not now, no.

INT. JESSICA’S FLAT- EVENING

Jessica sits on the couch with a tub of ice cream watching television.

She looks over at the phone. She puts down the ice cream tub and picks up the phone dialling.

INT. TOM’S FLAT- EVENING

Tom is sat on the couch watching television. His phone starts ringing. He answers it.

TOM
Hello?
JESSICA
Hey, it’s me.

TOM
Hey. How you doing?

JESSICA
Not too bad. You?

TOM
Yeah fine.

JESSICA
What are you up to?

TOM
Just watching T.V. You?

JESSICA
Same. Don’t really have anything else to do.

TOM
No?

JESSICA
Do you fancy going out?

TOM
Why, where’s Travis tonight?

JESSICA
Oh no I meant just the two of us. You know hanging out.

TOM
I’d love to, but I’m expecting Caroline to call tonight. Sorry.

JESSICA
No, that’s okay. I understand.

TOM
In fact she might be trying to call right now, so I’d better go.

JESSICA
Yeah okay.

TOM
I’ll speak to you soon.

JESSICA
Yeah sure.
INT. JESSICA’S FLAT— EVENING
Jessica hangs up the phone and sighs.

INT. JESSICA’S FLAT— MORNING
Jessica lies asleep in bed. Her phone rings on the bedside table. She rolls over and grabs her phone, eyes still closed.

   JESSICA
   Hello?

   TOM
   Good morning.

Jessica opens her eyes and sits up.

   JESSICA
   Morning.

   TOM
   Caroline’s going to be at lunch with friends around one o’clock. I’ll come by yours about twelve thirty.

Jessica sighs.

   JESSICA
   I’m sorry, I can’t today I’ve got things to sort out.

   TOM
   It’s only for like ten minutes.

   JESSICA
   Well I’m not going to be around.

   TOM
   Okay. No problem. Another time. See you soon.

   JESSICA
   See you.
Jessica puts the phone down and lies back down. She rolls over pulling the covers over her.

EXT. PUB- DAY
Jessica walks across the pub forecourt and goes inside.

INT. PUB- DAY
Jessica looks around inside.

STACEY (O.S.)
Jess!

Jessica turns around to find Stacey sitting at a table behind her with a couple of drinks.

Jessica sits down.

STACEY (CONT’D)
I got you a drink.

JESSICA
Thanks.

STACEY
So what’s the problem? You sounded pretty upset on the phone.

JESSICA
I’ve made a big mistake.

STACEY
Why am I not surprised?

JESSICA
I don’t know why I’m coming to you because I know you’re just going to get all big headed and say I told you so.

STACEY
Is this about your ridiculous scheme to win back Travis?

Jessica nods.

STACEY (CONT’D)
What happened?
JESSICA
The guy I met, Tom. The man I’m pretending to date. (LONG PAUSE) I think I’m falling in love with him.

STACEY
Oh Jess.

JESSICA
I don’t know what to do.

STACEY
Have you told him?

JESSICA
Of course I haven’t.

STACEY
Why not?

JESSICA
Because he’s in love with his ex and it looks like he’s going to get back with her.

STACEY
And meanwhile you get your heart broken again.

JESSICA
I really didn’t see this coming. I can’t stop thinking about him.

STACEY
Well at least your over Travis.

Jessica frowns at Stacey.

STACEY (CONT’D)
Sorry. I’m just saying every cloud.

JESSICA
What do I do, Stace?

STACEY
Well if I were you I’d tell him.

JESSICA
But won’t that make things worse.
STACEY
Maybe, but if you try and bottle this up that could make things worse for you. And besides there’s a chance he feels the same way.

JESSICA
No I don’t think so. He’s hung up on his ex. I just wish I’d never started this whole thing. He’s still calling me asking me to play along with this stupid charade.

STACEY
Tell him, Jess. If he doesn’t feel the same way at least he’ll stop calling.

JESSICA
I don’t know if I want him to stop calling. If that’s the only way I can be with him then so be it.

STACEY
You can’t live like this, you know that more than anyone. Tell him how you feel and take it from there. And remember I’m always going to be here for you.

Jessica nods.

INT. JESSICA’S FLAT- DAY
Jessica enters her flat carrying shopping bags. She places them down on the dining table and walks over to her answer machine. She presses play and listens as she unpacks her bags. Tom’s voice comes through and Jessica pays attention.

TOM (VOICE)
Hey Jessica, it’s Tom. Caroline is out to dinner tonight so how do you fancy...

Jessica stops the message and deletes it.

INT. JESSICA’S FLAT- EVENING
Jessica sits watching television. The phone rings, but she ignores it. It goes straight to the answer machine. Tom’s voice again.
TOM (VOICE)
Jessica, Tom again. Give me a call when you get this message I know where Caroline will be tomorrow.

Jessica continues watching television unfazed.

INT. BEDROOM, TOM’S FLAT- MORNING
Jessica lies asleep in bed. Her mobile starts ringing on the bedside table. Jessica looks at the screen. ‘Tom Calling’ she puts it down and goes back to sleep.

EXT. STREET- DAY
Jessica is waiting at the bus stop. Her phone beeps. She looks at it to find she has a new message from Tom. It reads ‘Hey Give me a call’ she deletes the message and puts it away in her handbag.

INT. JESSICA’S FLAT- EVENING
Jessica sits at the dining table a plate of food in front of her. She plays around with it using her fork. The phone rings again, she ignores it. It goes to answer machine and once again Tom’s voice.

TOM (VOICE)
Hey, Jessica. I don’t know why you haven’t been answering the phone or getting back to me, but I’m getting worried.

Jessica looks over and smiles.

TOM (CONT’D)
Caroline hasn’t seen us in a while now and I don’t want to blow this, not now I’m so close.

The smile is wiped from Jessica’s face.

TOM (CONT’D)
Call me.

Jessica puts the fork down on the plate and pushes it away.
INT. JESSICA’S FLAT- EVENING

Jessica is asleep on the couch. There is a loud knocking on the door. She wakes up and gets up to answer it. She opens the door and Tom bursts in.

JESSICA
Tom? What are you doing here?

TOM
What’s going on? Why haven’t you been getting back to me?

JESSICA
I’m sorry. I’ve had stuff to do. I’ve been a bit busy lately.

TOM
Okay, it doesn’t matter. Caroline has invited us out for a drink tonight.

JESSICA
What? I can’t tonight.

TOM
Why?

JESSICA
I’m really not in the mood.

TOM
Please Jessica. I think this is it. I just need you to do this one last thing and then I’ve got her back.

Jessica sighs.

JESSICA
Okay.

TOM
Great.

JESSICA
Give me a minute to change.

EXT. PUB- EVENING

Tom and Jessica are walking toward the pub.
TOM
Okay. We’ll go in have say one
drink, then you should go to the
toilet and that will give me a
chance to talk to her alone.

JESSICA
Why don’t you just tell her we’ve
broken up and go in alone?

TOM
Too risky. I don’t want to lay down
my cards until I see hers.

JESSICA
Fine.

They enter the pub.

INT. PUB- NIGHT

Tom, Jessica and Caroline sit around a table laughing.
Jessica is clearly forcing her smile.

TOM
So how’s your studying going are
you a lawyer yet?

CAROLINE
Not quite, but I’m getting there.
It’s a lot harder than I thought,
but I’m determined.

TOM
Good.

Tom smiles. He nudges Jessica with his knee. She looks at him
then smiles at Caroline.

JESSICA
Excuse me. I’m just going to the
ladies’.

Jessica stands and walks away.

Tom is about to speak.

Caroline leans in.

CAROLINE
Okay, there’s no easy way to say
this so I’m just going to come out
with it.

(MORE)
I can’t bear to see you with her. I hate it. I miss you, Tom. I want you back.

TOM

Really?

CAROLINE

I didn’t think you were going to bring her tonight. I only invited you so I could tell you how I feel. I can see you’ve changed, you’re the man I fell in love with again and I want to give it another go.

TOM

Well, this is a surprise.

CAROLINE

I think I should go, but you know how I feel and you know where I am. Please think about it, Tom. I’ll be waiting.

TOM

Okay.

Caroline kisses him then leaves. He sits shocked for a while then smiles to himself.

INT. PUB- NIGHT

Tom is still sitting at the table alone. The barman rings the bell for last orders. Tom looks at his watch then at the door to the ladies’. He stands up and walks over.

He stands by the door and knocks.

TOM

Jessica? Are you okay?

There’s no reply. Tom looks around the pub is nearly empty. He pushes open the door and peers inside. He can hear sniffing coming from one of the cubicles. He enters.

INT. LADIES’ TOILETS, PUB- NIGHT

Tom walks over to the cubicle from which the noise is coming and knocks.

TOM

Jessica?
JESSICA
What?

TOM
Are you okay?

Jessica unlocks the door and steps out of the cubicle wiping her eyes.

JESSICA
I’m fine.

TOM
You don’t sound it.

Jessica looks at her reflection in the mirror.

JESSICA
Really. I’m fine.

TOM
I don’t believe you.

JESSICA
It doesn’t really matter what you believe though does it?

TOM
What’s that supposed to mean?

JESSICA
Just forget it.

Jessica goes to walk toward the door, but Tom grabs her arm and pulls her back.

TOM
You’ve been acting strange for a while now. What’s the problem?

JESSICA
I can’t tell you.

TOM
Why not? I thought we were friends.

JESSICA
Exactly.

TOM
Just tell me.

JESSICA
You really want to know?
Tom nods.

JESSICA (CONT’D)
Okay. (LONG PAUSE) I’m in love with you.

Tom laughs.

TOM
What?

Jessica isn’t amused. Tom realises this and looks at her surprised.

TOM (CONT’D)
You’re serious?

JESSICA
It’s not exactly something I would joke about.

TOM
You’re in love me? How? Why? Since when?

JESSICA
The past few days I realised I had strong feelings for you.

TOM
But you’re in love with Travis.

JESSICA
Not anymore. I guess I was just hanging on until I found someone new.

TOM
You can’t do this to me, Jessica. Not now.

JESSICA
I didn’t want to, but you forced me.

TOM
I’m in love with Caroline. She just told me she wants me back. I have a second chance with her.

JESSICA
I’m not asking you to do something you don’t want to. I’m just telling you how I feel.
TOM
Well, you shouldn’t have.

JESSICA
I’m sorry I feel this way, but I can’t control it.

TOM
Then learn how.

JESSICA
What?

TOM
You know I really thought we could be good friends after this, but I guess not now.

JESSICA
Let’s just talk about this.

TOM
No, I can’t. I’m sorry. I have to go.

Tom heads for the door.

JESSICA
Tom, wait!

Tom leaves the room not looking back. The door swings closed behind him. Jessica turns to the sink and leans on it crying.

INT. TOM’S FLAT- NIGHT

Tom is pacing up and down the living room not sure what to do. The phone rings. He ignores it and it goes straight to the answer machine. Jessica’s voice comes through.

JESSICA (VOICE)
Tom, please we need to talk about this. I’m sorry. Please. Give me a call.

Tom shakes his head. He grabs his jacket and leaves the flat.

INT. JESSICA’S FLAT- NIGHT

Jessica puts the phone down and sits down on the couch crying.
EXT. CAROLINE’S HOUSE– NIGHT

Tom approaches the door and takes a deep breath. He knocks on the door and waits. Caroline opens the door.

    TOM
    Hey, me and Jessica broke up.

Caroline grabs his jacket collars and pulls him inside slamming the door shut behind him.

INT. CAROLINE’S HOUSE– NIGHT

Caroline pushes Tom up against the door and kisses him all over.

INT. BEDROOM, JESSICA’S FLAT– NIGHT

Jessica looks at herself in the mirror. She wipes the tears away from her eyes. She switches the light off.

INT. KITCHEN, CAROLINE’S HOUSE– MORNING

Tom sits at the dining table in just his underwear making notes on a pad. Caroline enters in her dressing gown smiling.

    CAROLINE
    Morning sexy.

    TOM
    Morning.

Caroline fills the kettle with water and switches it on.

    CAROLINE
    What are you doing?

    TOM
    Just making some notes for a story.

    CAROLINE
    You’re still writing then?

    TOM
    Yeah, why?

    CAROLINE
    Well, I know it’s your dream job, but it’s not like your very successful. Don’t you think you should be getting a proper job?
TOM
I thought you were okay with me doing this.

CAROLINE
I am. I mean it’s a good hobby, but it’s not great for making a living.

TOM
Oh, okay.

Caroline stands behind him and rubs her hands down his chest. She kisses the back of his neck.

CAROLINE
I’m sure my father could get you a job in his company.

TOM
That’s not really my sort of thing though.

CAROLINE
The money’s good.

Tom frowns.

INT. BEDROOM, JESSICA’S FLAT- MORNING

Jessica sits at a dresser in her dressing gown drying her hair in front of the mirror. She notices a postcard from Brighton stuck to the mirror. She switches off the hair dryer and takes off the postcard looking at it.

She stands up and pulls out a suitcase from under the bed. She places it on the bed and starts opening drawers gathering clothes and dumping them inside.

INT. CAROLINE’S HOUSE- DAY

Tom and Caroline are sat in the living room on different chairs. They are watching television. Tom is eating a bag of peanuts.

They sit silently for a while. Tom looks at the bag of peanuts and smiles.

TOM
Open your mouth.

CAROLINE
What?
TOM
Open your mouth.

CAROLINE
Why?

TOM
Just do it.

CAROLINE
Not until you tell me why.

TOM
I’m going to try and get a peanut in it.

CAROLINE
No.

TOM
Come on.

CAROLINE
No, it’s childish and dangerous. You’d be surprised at how many people choke on peanuts. Most likely from doing that.

TOM
Okay. I just thought it might be fun.

CAROLINE
Well you thought wrong.

Tom puts the peanut bag down. He looks around the room and notices on the bookshelf and book by an author called ‘Jessica Harris’. He looks away. A character on the television is called ‘Jessica’. Tom frowns and picks up a book on the coffee table reading the back.

It details a story about a character called Jessica.

He puts the book down and looks at the newspaper on the coffee table. A celebrity called ‘Jessica’ is on the front page.

Tom is deep in thought. His heart starts racing.

*FLASHBACK*
INT. HARDY’S NIGHTCLUB- NIGHT
Tom and Jessica are dancing together.

INT. SOLAR BAR- NIGHT
Tom and Jessica are sitting at the table talking.

EXT. PARK- DAY
Tom and Jessica are walking through the park.

INT. TOM’S FLAT- EVENING
Tom and Jessica are laughing together.

INT. TOM’S FLAT- EVENING
Tom and Jessica kiss.

*END FLASHBACK*

INT. CAROLINE’S HOUSE- DAY
Tom jumps up from his seat.

    CAROLINE
    Oh while you’re up put the kettle on.

    TOM
    No.

    CAROLINE
    What?

    TOM
    This isn’t right.

    CAROLINE
    What isn’t right?

    TOM
    This. You and me. We’re not supposed to be together.

    CAROLINE
    What are you saying?
TOM
It’s over.

CAROLINE
You’re dumping me?

TOM
You’re not right for me. You never were and that’s why I changed, but around her I could be myself. She’s who I’m supposed to be with.

CAROLINE
You’re talking about Jessica?

TOM
I’m sorry, I have to go.

CAROLINE
You can’t.

Tom opens the front door and steps out leaving Caroline sitting in shock. The door slams shut.

EXT. CAROLINE’S HOUSE- DAY
Tom steps out onto the path and starts running.

INT. JESSICA’S FLAT- DAY
There is a knock at the door. Jessica answers it. Stacey enters and hugs her.

EXT. STREET- DAY
Tom is running down a street. He crosses the road and is almost hit by a car.

INT. HALLWAY, JESSICA’S BLOCK OF FLATS- DAY
Tom runs down the hallway to Jessica’s front door and knocks on it furiously.

The door is answered by Stacey.

TOM
Who are you?

STACEY
Who are you?
TOM
I’m Tom. I thought Jessica lived here.

STACEY
She does, I’m her sister Stacey. So you’re Tom?

TOM
I need to speak to her.

STACEY
Well you can’t.

TOM
Please. This is very important. I really need to see her.

STACEY
Like I said you can’t.

TOM
Okay, she told you I’m an arsehole and she doesn’t want to see me, but she needs to know what I have to say.

STACEY
I’m not stopping you from seeing her. You can’t speak to her because she isn’t here.

TOM
Then where is she?

STACEY
On her way to Brighton.

TOM
What?

STACEY
She’s going there for a few weeks.

TOM
Oh shit.

STACEY
What is it you need to tell her?

TOM
I’ve been so stupid. I’m in love with her.
STACEY
You are?

TOM
Yeah. I don’t know why I didn’t realise it before. (PAUSE) I know, I’ll call her.

Tom takes out his phone and dials. A ringing comes from inside the flat. Stacey turns and they both look at Jessica’s phone sitting on the table.

STACEY
Look her train isn’t until one you might still be able to catch her.

TOM
You’re sure.

STACEY
Yeah, if you hurry.

TOM
Thank you.

Tom sprints down the hallway.

STACEY
You’re welcome.

EXT. STREET- DAY
Tom steps out onto the street, he starts running.

EXT. ALLEYWAY- DAY
He cuts through an alleyway. He checks his watch it’s quarter to one.

EXT. PARK- DAY
He sprints across the park.

INT. TRAIN STATION- DAY
Tom enters the busy train station and looks around. He checks the departures board. The one o’clock train to Brighton is on platform four.
He looks around for signs leading to platform four and starts running in that direction.

He reaches a security barrier and jumps over it. TWO POLICEMEN spot him and start chasing after him.

Tom weaves his way in and out of the crowd.

He reaches the platform where a train is waiting. The doors of the train close. Tom runs along the side of the train peering in through the windows looking for Jessica.

The two policeman are still chasing him.

Tom spots Jessica sitting in one of the carriages and bangs on the window.

    TOM
   Jessica! Jessica!

She turns around to look out the window and sees him.

    JESSICA
   Tom?

    TOM
   Don’t go. I need to tell you something.

    JESSICA
   I can’t hear you.

    TOM
   You need to get off the train.

    JESSICA
   I can’t hear you.

The train begins to pull away. Tom runs alongside it struggling to keep up.

He shouts.

    TOM
   I’m in love with you! I’m in love with you!

The train finally gets away from him and he slows his pace.

    TOM (CONT’D)
   I love you!
He stops running exhausted and watches as the train leaves. The two policeman catch up with him and tackles him to the ground.

INT. TRAIN- DAY

Jessica tries to look out the window. She grabs her bag and starts looking through it for her phone. She presses up against the window to watch as Tom is arrested.

INT. POLICE STATION- DAY

Tom sits handcuffed to a chair waiting. He hangs his head depressed.

A POLICEMAN walks approaches him.

    TOM
    Excuse me, how much longer am I going to be here? It’s already been two hours.

The policeman uncuffs him.

    POLICEMAN
    You’re free to go. However I will warn you not to do what you did again. We understand you had good intentions, but a stunt like that doesn’t always end well.

    TOM
    I’m sorry.

Tom leaves the police station.

EXT. STREET- DAY

Tom walks along the street depressed.

EXT. TOM’S FLAT- DAY

He reaches the main doors of the building to find Jessica sitting with her suitcase. He stops.

    JESSICA
    Hey.

She smiles.
TOM
Hey. How did you get here?

JESSICA
I got off at the next station and came back. So is it true?

Tom nods

TOM
Yeah.

Jessica smiles. She jumps up and wraps her arms around him kissing him.

JESSICA
What happened?

TOM
I don’t know. I was just going over the time we spent together in my head and it always felt right. I don’t know why I didn’t realise it sooner. I’m sorry.

JESSICA
I don’t care. I love you.

TOM
I love you.

They kiss again.

INT. TOM’S FLAT- EVENING

Back to the scene from the beginning. Tom is still sitting at his laptop writing.

TOM (V.O.)
And so from fake love grew true love. And happiness returned to both of their lives. The End.

Jessica comes out of the kitchen and walks over to Tom. She wraps her arms around him.

JESSICA
What are you writing?

TOM
Just a story I thought needed telling.
JESSICA
Are you coming to bed?

TOM
Yeah.

Tom stands and follows Jessica into the bedroom. We zoom in on the screen. The last line of the story reads ‘Tom and Jessica lived happily ever after’

Tom comes out of the bedroom and shuts the laptop.

FADE OUT