

Operation Nicky McNickerson

by

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January 27, 2019

INT. - JIMMY AND IZZY'S APARTMENT - SATURDAY MORNING

JIMMY, about thirty years old, is an ex-Air Force officer, having graduated ROTC with an engineering degree. IZZY, Jimmy's wife, also about thirty years old and very stunning, is a Ph.D. student and has been working on her dissertation. It's late spring at their apartment in Penn's Landing, Philadelphia.

Jimmy is in the living room packing his paintball equipment into bags and OPIE, their female Rottweiler, is watching him. Izzy walks into the room and sees what he's doing.

IZZY

Where in the world do you think
you're going?

JIMMY

Where does it look like?
Paintballing with the guys.

IZZY

Even though we've been going to
counseling for, oh I don't know,
the past six Saturdays?

JIMMY

Correct me if I'm wrong, but I
believe you told our counselor to
go fuck himself last week.

IZZY

I tell you to go fuck yourself all
the time, yet I'm still with you,
Jimmy.

JIMMY

And maybe that's why you never
listen to me, Izzy. So why the
hell would I want to see a
counselor you also don't want to
listen to? Why don't we just look
for someone new next week?

IZZY

You better not miss this session.

Jimmy looks up, rolls his eyes, and continues packing.

IZZY

(continuing)

If you walk out that door to go
paintballing with those douchebag
friends of yours, I'm not going to
be here when you get back.

JIMMY

Good. Go out with your own
friends. Have a few drinks. God
knows you could use it.

IZZY

No, I mean I'm going to be *gone*
gone.

JIMMY

Is that a threat?

IZZY

No. It's a promise.

JIMMY

Well I can promise that I don't
give in to threats just to let
someone have their way all because
they can't get why I don't want to
see a counselor who has to fuck
himself!

IZZY

I swear, Jimmy. Everything. Gone.

Jimmy looks at Opie and realizes something. Then he looks at Izzy as if to say 'don't you dare.'

JIMMY

I'm taking Opie with me. Just
in case.

IZZY

In case of what? I'm serious,
Jimmy. If you leave, it's over.
We're done.

JIMMY

Then make sure you take the pictures of you off the wall so I don't have to see them when I get back.

EXT. - IN FRONT OF NICK'S ROWHOME - A LITTLE LATER

The beginning of the song "Perry Mason" by Ozzy Osbourne starts playing in a Jeep Wrangler heading down the road in Brewerytown, Philadelphia. It stops in front of a rowhome. The license plate says "JIMMYAF". There are also stickers on the trunk of the U.S. Air Force and of his college. He turns up the song and lays on the horn.

NICK, about thirty years old, Italian, and a combat medic, is Jimmy's friend from college. He comes out of his rowhome wearing a shirt with their college on it. They are on their way to paintball. Jimmy keeps honking even after seeing Nick. Opie is in the backseat.

EXT./INT. - IN JIMMY'S SUV - CONTINUOUS

JIMMY

(shouts as Nick's approaching the Jeep)
Nicky McNickersooon!!!

NICK

(gets in the Jeep)
Jesus, Jimmy. Calm down.
(looks to the backseat)
You brought Opie?

JIMMY

Of course I brought Opie.

NICK

(Nick pets Opie)

Hey sweetie.

JIMMY

Nick.
(looks serious)
I need to shoot something today.

NICK

We should've just gone to a shooting range then.

JIMMY

Something that's living. I need to inflict some pain.

NICK

(realizes)

This about Izzy?

JIMMY

You goddamn right it's about Izzy.

NICK

What was it over this time?

JIMMY

Not what was it over. It *is* over.

NICK

I thought you were still going to counseling.

JIMMY

After she told the counselor to go fuck himself last week?

NICK

She seriously did that?

JIMMY

I just can't take her anymore. She bitches at me all the time. She doesn't appreciate anything I do. And the sex isn't even good anymore. I told you all she does is starfish now.

NICK

You're definitely through trying to work things out?

JIMMY

What I gotta work out is this angst. Then I'm gonna go to the bar and celebrate and it's gonna be the best goddamn thing that's ever happened to me since marrying that girl. You're lucky you didn't get married before you were deployed.

NICK

That had nothing to do with luck. Why don't we just go straight to the bar? I'm down for some day-drinking.

JIMMY

Because I need to shoot some people first. Weren't you listening?

NICK

You can't listen to animosity.

JIMMY

You'd feel that way, too, if you supported your wife through a fucking Ph.D. only to have it all go to shit. Who paid our rent for the past five years? Who paid for trips and everything else while she was taking her sweet time writing her dissertation?

NICK

She's almost done though.

JIMMY

Not until the end of the year. Then she's gonna get some cush job making six figures. But will that figure into the divorce? Of course not. It's only my shit that will. All my savings. My 401k. My military medical pension. Even the home I bought while I was
(more)

JIMMY (cont'd)
stationed in Ohio. It's all gonna
get chopped in half.

NICK
Then make it work until she
graduates. Problem solved.

JIMMY
She's the one that's moving out.
Not me. I just don't want to lose
half my shit.

NICK
So instead you're going to lose
your shit on the paintball field.

JIMMY
Lose half my shit, I lose my shit.
It balances out.

NICK
You're anything but balanced.

JIMMY
I'm fucking cray-zeee.

Jimmy turns up the chorus to "Perry Mason."

JIMMY
(continuing)
Yaaaaaaaah.

EXT. - DIRT PARKING LOT AT PAINTBALL FIELD - A LITTLE LATER

Nick and Jimmy get out of the Jeep and go to the trunk. Jimmy's friends, MOUSE and LAZ, will enter. Mouse, mid-twenties, is wearing a camo t-shirt, camo cargo shorts, and a camo bandana. He clearly does not work out. Laz, a big black man in his late twenties, is wearing a sleeveless shirt and clearly does work out. Both have camo paint on and are equipped with automatic paintball guns.

JIMMY
I got our shit in the trunk.

NICK

What do you mean our shit?

Jimmy opens the trunk to reveal a whole stockpile of guns, masks, clothing, etc.

JIMMY

Here.

Jimmy hands Nick a gun.

NICK

You own your own paintball guns.

JIMMY

(looks incredulous)

Of course I do. Have you really never been paintballing with me? I keep forgetting you were a medic. Too bad they don't let you save people on the paintball field. But check out these jaws.

Jimmy opens up a case.

JIMMY

(continuing)

Grenades, bitch! Here, put this shit on.

Jimmy grabs some camouflage attire and hands it to Nick.

NICK

You can't be fucking serious.

JIMMY

Notice it's authentic? Fuckers won't even see us. We'll sneak up on them and then BLAM! - lose our shit.

NICK

My shit is just fine.

JIMMY

That's the worst mentality you can possibly have. Put it on, then we'll apply.

NICK

Apply?

JIMMY

Camo paint.

NICK

I'm not wearing make-up.

JIMMY

It's not makeup. It's camo paint. Invisibility paint. We're going to be one with nature. Then ...

NICK

Then ...

JIMMY

BLAM! - lose our shit.

Jimmy looks over to see Mouse and Laz walking up.

JIMMY

Coming prepared, fellas. I like it. Check out the stockpile.

Jimmy shows Mouse and Laz the stockpile in his trunk.

MOUSE

Oh fuck yes! Grenades!
(starts grabbing them,
looks at Laz)
Laz, grenades!

LAZ

You know you're still going to have to actually move, Mouse.

MOUSE

And what are you gonna do when I nail you from fifty yards away, Laz? Come choke me out?

LAZ

We're gonna be on the same team,
dumb ass.

MOUSE

And your point is?

LAZ

If you hit me with one of those,
I'll choke you out with my dick.

MOUSE

You work that out to?

JIMMY

He probably attaches little
fishing weights to it. Kegel
exercises for men.

NICK

When I hold this gun, man it makes
me want to talk about my dick.

LAZ

Dicks, guns, it's all the same
thing.

MOUSE

Vaginas and grenades.

NICK

That doesn't even make sense.

JIMMY

Jump on that grenade! Jump on that
vagina!

EXT. - PAINTBALL FIELD - A LITTLE LATER

Jimmy, Mouse, Laz, and Nick stand with Team Red as the REFEREE addresses the players on both Team Red and Team Blue. Jimmy, Mouse, Laz, and Nick look gung-ho while the other participants are ragtag. STEVIE, on Team Blue, is a twelve-year-old boy who looks like this is his first time.

REFEREE

Now before we get started, I need to lay out some of the ground rules.

JIMMY

There are no rules in war.

REFEREE

Interesting point. So the first rule: This is NOT war. We are out here to have fun.

STEVIE

Does it hurt when you get hit?

JIMMY

Are you on Team Red?

Stevie shakes his head.

JIMMY

(continuing)

Then it's going to hurt, little man. It's going to hurt a lot.

(points to Nick)

You're going to need medic Nick here after I'm through with you.

REFEREE

Nobody's going to be hurting anybody. If you fire on someone after they're hit, you're banned from the game.

Referee notices Opie pacing back and forth behind Jimmy.

REFEREE

(continuing, to Jimmy)

Is that your dog?

JIMMY

Her name's Opie.

REFEREE

You can't bring her onto the field with you.

JIMMY

What are you, inhuman? I'd never
put her in harm's way.

(bends down, pets Opie,
and uses dog voice)

Would I, Opster? No, I wouldn't
let that awful woman take you
away.

EXT. - PAINTBALL FIELD - MINUTES LATER

Team Red and Team Blue are on opposing sides of the paintball field. Team Red has a bunker, where its flag is located. Team Blue has a tower, where its flag is located. Jimmy, Mouse, Laz, and Nick (all on Team Red) are spaced out along the bunker, crouching in preparation for the start of the game. Jimmy starts using hand signals, first to Laz, then to Mouse. Then when he uses them to Nick, Nick shrugs because he doesn't understand them. Jimmy repeats them, and Nick shrugs. Jimmy does them a third time, emphatically.

NICK

(shouts in clear
articulation)

I don't know what those mean.

Jimmy puts his finger up to his mouth to say, 'be quiet.' Nick rolls his eyes.

EXT. - PAINTBALL FIELD - CONTINUOUS

The game gets underway, and Jimmy, Laz, and Mouse move fast. Nick trails behind, watching them curiously as if they're taking it way too seriously. Toward the end of the battle, he sees Stevie up in the tower, protecting the flag and shooting down without realizing that Jimmy has snuck behind the tower and is aiming his gun up at Stevie's back.

JIMMY

(to Stevie)

Time for the hurt, little man!

Nick fires his gun and hits Jimmy.

JIMMY
(continuing)
What the ... ?
(looks down at the
paint, then up to see
Nick)
You just fuckin' hit me!

NICK
Medics carry firearm, too, you
idiot.

JIMMY
And they also get shot!

Jimmy raises his gun and starts firing at Nick, pelting him several times. Nick fires back, but isn't accurate. The Referee charges in and blows his whistle until both stop.

REFEREE
(running toward them)
You're gone. Get off the field.

JIMMY
You heard him, Nick. Get off the
field.

REFEREE
(to Jimmy)
I'm talking to you. I clearly
stated that it's against the rules
to fire on others after you've
been hit.

JIMMY
But he fired on me! His own
teammate! What's the meaning of
all this you don't have battle
buddies you can depend on?

NICK
This isn't a real battle. It's
make-believe.

REFEREE
(to Nick)
You're gone, too.

NICK

For what?

REFEREE

Are you kidding me? You just hit
your own player on purpose.

NICK

Fuck this game. It's all pretend
anyway.

JIMMY

This is horseshit. Absolute
horseshit.

INT. - JIMMY'S JEEP - A LITTLE LATER

Nick is clearly hurting from the paintball shots he took. He raises his shirt, exposing several welts. Jimmy is still annoyed that Nick messed up the day, but there's also a part of him that doesn't care because he just wants to go drinking.

JIMMY

Well, you can at least make it up
to me by getting hammered tonight.

NICK

There's no fucking way I'm coming
out. You see these welts?

JIMMY

You'll be fine. Just put a cold
beer on them. And once you're
drunk you won't even feel them.
Besides, we gotta celebrate. Izzy
already texted me a picture. She's
moved her shit out.

(hands Nick his phone with a
picture of an emptier
apartment and a message from
Izzy that says "Have a nice
life")

There's only one way to celebrate
this kind of freedom - a bachelor
party!

NICK

Bachelor parties aren't like
birthdays. You only get one.

JIMMY

Not for me, they aren't.

NICK

Well I'm going to have to miss
this one. I'll come to your third.

INT. - RULLOFFS - THAT NIGHT

Jimmy is at Rulloffs Bar with Laz, Mouse, and a couple of other friends. Jimmy is a regular. Rulloffs isn't a dive, but isn't chic, either. It has a long wooden bar in the center that wraps all the way around. It also has an outdoor patio area out front where patrons can go out to drink and smoke. JEFFE (pronounced HEFF-AY) is the bartender that Jimmy knows well. Jeffe is in his forties.

A bachelorette party walks in. They're wearing penis paraphernalia and "Hello, My Name Is" stickers. GIA, early to mid-twenties, is the bride. AMBER, twenty-three, is one of her friends.

JIMMY

To being a bachelor once again!

LAZ

To being a bachelor even when
you're not a bachelor!

JIMMY

To throwing the starfishes back in
the sea!

MOUSE

To...

(sees bachelorette party
walk in)

... the sea always being full of
other fish.

JIMMY

Let's go fishing for an easy catch then.

(shouts to the girls)

Girls! Hey girls! How about a shot for your bachelorette party and my bachelor party.

(to bartender)

Jeffe! A round of fireball on my tab!

(hands out shots)

Let's toast to the beautiful bride. Here's to you ...

(reads her name tag)

Gia. And here's to me.

Friends for life we'll always be. But if we should ever disagree. Fuck you, here's to me.

Everyone takes the shot. Jimmy puts his shot glass on the bar, and Amber does the same beside him.

AMBER

Some heartfelt sentiment you just shared.

JIMMY

In honor of my bachelor party.

AMBER

I guess you won't be able to give that toast much longer.

Jimmy looks at her, confused.

AMBER

(continuing)

Cause you're getting married. Which means no more 'here's to me.'

JIMMY

Oh I'm not getting married. Thank God.

AMBER

What, you're going to leave her
stranded at the altar?

JIMMY

That's what I should've done. I'm
getting divorced.

AMBER

I'm sorry to hear that.
(realizes)
You're celebrating your divorce?

JIMMY

If you were married to my wife,
you'd be celebrating it, too.

AMBER

Good thing I'm not into women.

JIMMY

It's a good thing I am ...
(looks at her name tag)
... Amber. I'm Jimmy.

AMBER

And I'm not some divorcee's
rebound.

JIMMY

Actually, I'm your rebound.

AMBER

Is that so? From what?

JIMMY

From every guy you've ever been
with.

AMBER

That's a lot of Philly sausage.

JIMMY

You visit that often?

AMBER

Oh I live here. My place is a few blocks away.

JIMMY

A few blocks away? And we've never met?

AMBER

Maybe cause you were married. Besides, I've only been here a year since I graduated. I'm getting my Master's.

JIMMY

(points to penis paraphernalia)

You studied anatomy?

AMBER

Close. Linguistics.

JIMMY

So you speak any other languages?

AMBER

Fluent in five.

JIMMY

Like?

AMBER

Je t'aiderai à te remettre en selle si tu me laisses m'amuser avec toi jusqu'à mon départ à l'étranger.

("I'll be your rebound if you'll be my toy before I go live abroad.")

JIMMY

No idea what that means.

(moves closer)

How about you give me some private lessons?

Nick enters the bar. He has visible welts on his arms. He walks up to Jimmy and Amber.

JIMMY

Nicky McNickerson! I knew you wouldn't miss my bachelor party.

NICK

And what a surprise.

(looks at Amber)

You're talking to a girl with a penis on her head.

AMBER

(looks at Nick's arms)

Better than hickeys on your arm.

NICK

They're not hickeys.

JIMMY

Nick would know, he's a combat medic.

NICK

It doesn't take a medic to know what getting shot by a paintball does to you.

AMBER

You're a medic?

NICK

Was. I'm training to become an EMT now.

AMBER

I should introduce you to my cousin, Ryan. She's moving here in a couple months to work at Jefferson. She's a nurse practitioner.

JIMMY

You should introduce Nick to her and every other girl you know. He hasn't dated anyone in years.

NICK
That's not true.

JIMMY
Yeah, it is.
(to Amber)
Ever since he broke up with his
girl before deploying because he
"wasn't in love."

AMBER
That's ... kind of ... sweet.

NICK
Honest, maybe. Definitely not
sweet though. God I need some
fresh air.
(to Jimmy)
Can I have a cig?

JIMMY
I'll come out.

AMBER
Medics smoke?

NICK
You'd be surprised.

JIMMY
(to Amber)
You'll be here when I get back,
right?

AMBER
Yesli povezeti.
(Russian for "If you're
lucky")

JIMMY
Sexiest 'yes' ever.

EXT. - RULLOFFS PATIO - MINUTES LATER

Nick and Jimmy are on Rulloff's patio and light cigarettes.

JIMMY

She just graduated with a major in linguistics. Knows FIVE different languages.

NICK

Which makes her how old?

JIMMY

Young enough for me, old enough to see.

NICK

You're unreal. The same day that Izzy left. I mean, really?

JIMMY

Hey, she's the one who moved out. Not me.

NICK

Still. How do you move on so fast?

JIMMY

Why are you against this? That girl just said she has a cousin.

NICK

Many people do.

JIMMY

Who she wants to introduce you to. And she's a nurse.

NICK

So?

JIMMY

So you could get her to where her nurse's outfit when you hook up with her!

NICK

Maybe you should get your new girl to dress up like a nurse.

JIMMY

And speak to me in different languages. A French nurse. A Spanish nurse. An Italian nurse. Oh man, I gotta go.

NICK

Good luck, Hemingway.

INT. - JIMMY'S APARTMENT - MORNING

Amber is leaves Jimmy's apartment in the morning. Jimmy's up, but stays in bed.

INT. - APARTMENT BUILDING LOBBY - MINUTES LATER

The elevator opens to the lobby and Amber walks out as Izzy walks in. They say a casual, pleasant hello to each other.

INT. - JIMMY'S APARTMENT - MINUTES LATER

Jimmy's in bed and hears the door open. Izzy walks into the apartment. Opie runs up to her.

JIMMY

(yells)

Miss me so soon?

IZZY

(yells back)

Don't flatter yourself. I'm not about to move all my stuff back in after moving it out.

Jimmy pops out of bed and goes into the living room.

JIMMY

What are you doing here?

IZZY

I came to get Opie for the hike today. You remember the hike that we were supposed to go on with Rob and Jess?

JIMMY

You can't just barge in here whenever you want. I'm gonna keep the door locked from now on.

IZZY

(holds up her keys)
I still have my key, Jimmy.

JIMMY

Then enjoy that until I have the locks changed.

IZZY

Someone has to take Opie for a walk during the day. Something you haven't had to think about for the past three years.

JIMMY

You're not coming here every day.

IZZY

She's my dog, too. Just because she's staying here doesn't mean I don't get to see her.

JIMMY

(looks at Opie beside Izzy, feels for her)

But you can't just come and go when you please. If you're stopping by off-hours, you have to text me first.

IZZY

Why? Cause I'm going to run into your new girlfriend?

JIMMY

(thinks she knows)

My new girlfriend?

IZZY

Yeah, the poor girl who's
going to get suckered into
putting up with your shit.

Jimmy feels more relaxed, yet still apprehensive.

EXT./INT. - NICK'S ROWHOME - MORNING

Jimmy is holding a six-pack of beer. He bangs on Nick's door until Nick opens.

JIMMY

I'm totally fucked.

NICK

Shouldn't you be hungover right
now?

JIMMY

Not if I keep the high going.
Here.

Jimmy walks into Nick's place to the kitchen. He sets the beer down, gets two out, and opens them. He tries to hand one to Nick.

NICK

It's ten in the morning.

JIMMY

(ignores him, putting
the beer on the counter)

Izzy almost met her.

NICK

Her? You mean the one who speaks
ten languages? After I left last
night? Rulloffs is kind of Izzy's
bar, too, though.

JIMMY

Worse. This morning. She came to
the apartment after Amber left.

NICK

You brought that girl back? You've gotta be fucking kidding me.

JIMMY

I didn't even bang her yet.

NICK

(saying wistfully)

She must be the one.

JIMMY

Just imagine banging a girl who has five languages to choose from in bed. So hot.

(drifts off, comes back to)

But what happens when Izzy finds out? I mean, she almost found out this morning.

NICK

Why is she showing up the morning after moving out in the first place?

JIMMY

(air quotes)

"To spend the day with Opie." Which is bullshit. I know she was checking up on me. And she's gonna keep on doing it. Then one of the times, she's gonna show up when Amber or some other chick is still there. Or she's gonna see us at Rulloffs. Or one of the Rulloffs regulars is gonna tell her.

(realizes)

That's why she showed up this morning! Someone probably ratted me out. Great, now she's really gonna fuck me in the divorce.

NICK

What proof does she have? She didn't catch you in the act. Just don't hook up with anybody until the divorce is finalized.

JIMMY

You know that's not possible.
I gotta have my release. I get all
backed up if I don't.

NICK

Who says she's not going to hook
up with anyone? A girl can get
backed up, too, you know.

JIMMY

If she does, there's no way I'd
know it.

NICK

Maybe you should plant a camera in
her room. Or hire a private
investigator.

JIMMY

Come on, man. You're my friend.
You're supposed to dig me out of
my trench.

NICK

People are pulled out of trenches.
Not dug out of them.

JIMMY

Then pull me out of this goddamn
trench!

NICK

I told you not to do anything with
this girl in the first place. I
said, 'Hey Jimmy! Don't jump
inside that fucking trench!'

JIMMY

If you saw her trench, you'd jump
in it, too.

NICK

Maybe you really should hire a
private investigator to see what
Izzy doing. That way you can know
if someone is fucking her.

JIMMY

Unless ...

(realizes)

... unless I know someone is fucking
her.

NICK

That's what I said.

JIMMY

No, listen to me. There's no way I
can know if someone is fucking
Izzy. But I can know someone who
is fucking Izzy.

(looks to Nick)

You need to fuck Izzy!

NICK

Absolutely not.

JIMMY

She always liked you.

NICK

Why don't you ask Laz? Or Mouse?

JIMMY

You know she hates all my friends.
You're the only one she ever
liked. You're the only one who
could do this. It's the perfect
mission for you. Operation Nicky
McNickerson.

NICK

Sorry, but you need to find
someone else to head this mission.

JIMMY

There isn't anyone else. Just ...
all I'm saying is think about it.

NICK

And all I'm saying is no.

JIMMY

Think about it?

NICK
No.

JIMMY
Think about it?

NICK
NO.

Jimmy gets out his phone and types on it. Nick's phone chimes and he looks at it. It's a naked picture of Izzy.

NICK
Really.

JIMMY
Now you'll be thinking about it.

INT. - NICK'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Nick is sitting on his back patio, playing guitar, when Jimmy texts him. [Note: Text messages are in italics.]

JIMMY (TEXT)
Good news. Amber's cousin moved here early and she wants to meet you. You around Thursday? I'll set it up. Something low-key.

NICK (TEXT)
Yeah, I'm around. Do I get to see a picture first?

JIMMY (TEXT)
Don't you have faith in me?

EXT. - PHILLY DIVE BAR - NIGHT

Nick walks up to the dive bar where he's supposed to meet Ryan. He stands outside and stares at the shittiness of it and shakes his head.

INT. - PHILLY DIVE BAR - CONTINUOUS

Nick walks in. The bar isn't that big and he quickly sees Izzy sitting at it, who then sees him.

IZZY

Nick?

NICK

(taken aback)

Izzy.

IZZY

Fancy seeing you about town.
What are you doing here? I'm
supposed to meet Jimmy.

NICK

Jimmy told me to come here.

IZZY

Really? Why would he ...
(thinks)
... so now he's trying to be sweet
by letting us still be friends?
(considers it)
That is kind of sweet, I guess.

NICK

(more to himself)

I can't believe he did this.

IZZY

Why not? Even I can admit that
he's got some good bones in his
body. Not the one he thinks is
good, but ... let's have a drink.

NICK

One. I can do one drink.

IZZY

God, don't make me feel like I'm
twisting your arm.
(looks around dive bar)
Can we at least go somewhere
respectable?

Nick is reluctant but relents and holds out his arm. Izzy hooks her arm under Nick's and they walk out of bar.

INT. - REASONABLY NICE PHILLY BAR - MINUTES LATER

Nick and Izzy sit down on bar stools.

IZZY

God it's so nice to be out with a guy who will go somewhere that makes cocktails. You know how old that gets? I should've waited to see if that part would change before I married him.

NICK

It's not like you had time. A lot of couples get married before deployment.

IZZY

You didn't.

NICK

That's not the same. I wasn't in love.

IZZY

Sometimes I wonder if we were. Or if we were just young and really horny for each other. We should've waited before tying knot.

NICK

Yeah, well war has a way of rushing things. Same thing happened in World War II.

IZZY

I think our situation was a little different than World War II. If anything, it became World War II.

NICK

Which would make you ...

IZZY

You know I'm not as bossy as Hitler.

NICK

I don't think anyone is as bossy as Hitler. Maybe you were both on the same side, you just didn't like each other. Like the U.S. and Russia. Allies by default.

IZZY

Which makes our divorce the Cold War? Sounds about right.

NICK

At least divorce is an option these days.

IZZY

And now I'm liberated.
(smiles at Nick)

NICK

And now I gotta go liberate myself in bathroom.

INT. - BAR BATHROOM - MINUTES LATER

Nick goes to the bathroom and calls Jimmy, who is listening to loud rock music. Jimmy screams over top of it.

JIMMY

Nicky McNickerson! How's your date going!

NICK

You scheming motherfucker.

JIMMY

(lowers music)

Oh come on. Tell me you're not having a good time.

NICK

That's not the point.

JIMMY

You're right. The point is, you should be having an even better time, if you know what I mean.

NICK

You're so twisted. Like, your mind, there's something wrong with it.

JIMMY

I'm not the one who should be twisted. Now go buy yourself another drink. And one for her, too.

NICK

On your tab. You're paying me back for this.

JIMMY

That's the only way I'd ever buy her another drink. But fine by me. Whatever I can do to aid Operation Nicky McNickerson!

Nick hangs up the phone.

INT. - REASONABLY NICE PHILLY BAR - MINUTES LATER

When Nick walks out of the bar, Izzy has four shots waiting.

NICK

Don't tell me those are for us.

IZZY

Sure they are. Sambuca.

NICK

Sam-what?

IZZY

Come on, Nick, I thought you were Italian. It's a liqueur, not even a real shot. Which means we can each take two.

(holds up one shot)

One for the future of your love life.

(holds up other shot)

And one for mine.

The scenes fast-forward through Izzy and Nick talking, taking the other shots, toasting beers, and laughing. Their gestures get more and more animated, and Izzy playfully touches Nick while they're chatting. There's a moment when Izzy's eyes linger on Nick without him noticing. It's clear that she's got more in mind.

EXT. - OUTSIDE THE BAR - LATER THAT NIGHT

Nick and Izzy stumble out of the bar, clearly a little drunk. It's dark out by this time. They're walking down the sidewalk when Izzy stops and turns to Nick.

IZZY

Can I ask you a question? How does someone like you stay single?

NICK

Because I broke up with the one who'd marry me.

IZZY

Oh please. That was, what, five years ago?

NICK

Just haven't found the right person. Maybe part of being good at being married is being good about not being married. Waiting for the right person to come along.

IZZY

And I didn't.

NICK

That's not what I said. You're putting words in my mouth.

IZZY

I hope you find her, Nick.
(moves closer)
But until you do ...

Izzy pushes up against Nick and kisses him.

NICK

You know this is a bad idea.

IZZY

If you think Jimmy cares, trust
me, he doesn't.

NICK

That's not entirely true.

IZZY

Oh please. He'd probably high-five
you.

Nick gives a slight laugh.

IZZY

(continuing)

And in the morning, we can pretend
like it never happened.

(whispers in Nick's ear)

You can even tell him I said
thanks for setting us up.

(kisses Nick in the ear)

INT. - IZZY'S APARTMENT - EARLY MORNING

Nick and Izzy wake up in bed. Nick is clearly hungover
while Izzy is in a good mood.

NICK

How you feeling?

IZZY

Good. You?

NICK

Fucking rough.

IZZY

For future reference, that's not
what a girl wants to hear the
morning after.

NICK

You were the one who wanted get
those licorice shots.

IZZY

Liqueur, not licorice. And I've got no qualms about it.

NICK

So last night ...

IZZY

Was just about a couple friends having some fun. It's like you said, being good at being married is being good at not being married. And I need to get back to me. Finish my degree. Get a good job. Start anew.

(gives a coy look)

But if you ever happen to find yourself in the neighborhood and you'd like to have some more fun ...

NICK

(concedes)

I did have fun last night.

IZZY

Me, too.

NICK

I'll not call you later.

IZZY

And I'll not pick up.

EXT. - CITIZEN'S BANK BALLPARK - MIDDAY

Nick meets Jimmy outside the stadium. Nick is wearing a "Schmidt Happens" t-shirt and Jimmy is wearing a "My Money's on Charlie Hustle" t-shirt. Jimmy is wearing a Phillies cap backwards. Jimmy gives Nick a ticket, and they start walking in the stadium.

NICK

How much I owe you?

JIMMY

Nein. That's German for nothing.
Consider this the benefit that one
of us is an injured vet: free
ticks.

NICK

I'm glad your linguistic love life
is so prosperous these days.

JIMMY

Yours will be, too. Amber's
serious about setting you up with
her cousin, you know. She's just
not here yet.

Nick

You owe me for the other night.

JIMMY

How is the old battle ax, by the
way.

NICK

Better than you can imagine.

EXT. - CITIZEN'S BANK BALLPARK - A LITTLE LATER

Nick and Jimmy are at their seats, beers in hand.

JIMMY

Got some great news from my lawyer
yesterday. Izzy wants to speed up
the process. She requested to move
it up to early fall.

Nick looks directly at him.

JIMMY

(continues)

So maybe I can imagine why she's
so much better.

NICK

She probably just wants to get it
over with. The sooner the better.

JIMMY

Or maybe ... because Operation Nicky
McNickerson is Mission Completed!

All the fans stand and cheer because the Phillies are taking the field. Nick and Jimmy slowly follow.

NICK

I never said that.

JIMMY

So it's true! You should've called me right after you came. Or while you came!

(hugs Nick, spills beer)

NICK

This is why I wasn't going to tell you.

JIMMY

Why not? This is such a load off my mind. Your load in my wife is a load off my mind.

NICK

Because here you go spouting jokes about it.

JIMMY

Oh this calls for a little more than jokes. This calls for another bachelor party! I'm officially free from getting fucked in my divorce!

INT. - RULLOFFS - LATER THAT NIGHT

Jimmy and Nick go straight to Rulloffs right after the baseball game. Laz, Mouse, and Amber are there.

JIMMY

Jeffe, ten shots of fireball!

Jimmy ecstatically passes out the shots. He hands a couple to some strangers walking by.

JIMMY
(continuing)
To Nick!
(raises his shot glass)
I guess I'll have to freestyle
this toast ... because I just gotta
boast ... cheers to Nick my friend
the most ... who plowed my wife ...
from coast to coast!

They all take the shot. Nick gives a look before taking the shot as if to say that he doesn't think this is a particularly celebratory shot. Jimmy looks to Nick after the shot.

JIMMY
(continuing)
You know, it's too bad your dick
isn't bigger than mine. Izzy could
use some loosening up.

NICK
That's why I used my arm.

JIMMY
Still not bigger than this.
(puts his hand over his
crotch)
Ten inches. Around.
(creates circles with
index finger over his
crotch)

AMBER
(leans toward Nick, as
if confiding)
It's not that big.

NICK
And it's not that big of a deal.

AMBER
Va bene, Nick. I'm not judging.

NICK
You know I'm Italian, right?

AMBER

E questa è la ragione che l'ho
detto in italiano.

(And that's the reason I said
it in Italian.)

NICK

Not that Italian.

Jimmy comes over and gives Amber and Nick each a beer.

JIMMY

So now that you got my wife out of
the way, you still need to meet
Ryan.

NICK

(sarcastic)

That's exactly what I need.

AMBER

She'll be here in a couple weeks.

JIMMY

For real this time.

(to Amber)

Show him a picture.

AMBER

You still haven't seen one?
Then you've been missing out.

Amber takes out her phone to find a photo.

NICK

You realize I just had sex with
his wife, right?

AMBER

I said I wasn't judging, didn't I?
After all, I am kind of his
mistress.

Amber holds up her phone. It's a picture of Ryan in a
Seahawks jersey at a game.

AMBER
(continuing)
Am I right or am I right?

NICK
Oh she is really cute.

JIMMY
See? And she's coming from
Seattle, which means she's chill
like you.

AMBER
And Ryan doesn't know anyone
besides me. You can show her
around the city.

JIMMY
How perfect is that?
(leans toward Nick)
And imagine her in her work
outfit. If only she could speak
other languages.

NICK
How old is she?

AMBER
Twenty-eight. So she needs someone
a little more mature than ...

Nick and Amber look over and Mouse and Laz are seeing who
can drink a pitcher of beer faster.

AMBER
(continuing)
No pressure. I won't even tell her
about it.

EXT. - IN FRONT OF RYAN'S APARTMENT BUILDING - WEEKS LATER

Nick walks up to a U-Haul truck. Jimmy's in the back. Big
furniture surrounds him and a few small boxes are at the
edge of the truck. RYAN, late twenties, is Amber's cousin
from Seattle. Her apartment building is near Thomas
Jefferson University Hospital. She and Amber are inside the
building.

JIMMY

Nicky McNickerson, you're here! We saved the heavy stuff for you.

Ryan comes outside.

RYAN

I hope he's not talking about me.

JIMMY

Ryan, meet Nick. Nick, Ryan.

NICK

I know. I've seen pictures.

RYAN

You stalked me?

NICK

On Facebook. Then on Instagram. Then I read all of your past tweets. But don't worry, I stopped way before it got creepy.

JIMMY

He's already beat it to your Facebook photos.

Amber comes outside.

AMBER

That's gross, Jimmy.

RYAN

You did? To which photos?

NICK

The recent ones were okay, but I really liked the ones going back to when you were much younger.

RYAN

That's kind of concerning. My face looked pretty gnarly during those awkward years.

JIMMY

And look at her now. She grew out
of her ugly duckling phase just
fine.

RYAN

All sweaty, too. Just the way I
wanted to meet a cute boy like
you.

(cups her mouth)

I creped on your pics, too.

NICK

(turns to Amber)

I thought you weren't gonna tell
her about me!

AMBER

Nick, do we need to work on your
ability to understand how girls
operate?

JIMMY

Now it's time to understand how
guys operate. Nick, get up here
and give me some muscle.

INT. - DIRTY FRANK'S - NIGHT

Nick, Jimmy, Amber, and Ryan walk into Dirty Frank's for beers after unloading all of Ryan's stuff. They're still wearing the same clothes. Dirty Frank's is a cash-only dive bar a few blocks from Ryan's place.

NICK

(scanning the bar)

Feel more comfortable now?

RYAN

Seattle does have a lot of dive
bars.

NICK

I meant feeling free to be sweaty.
We're in a place called Dirty
Franks.

RYAN

We're both sweaty now, so I think it equals out.

JIMMY

You know what else Seattle has a lot of? Seahawks fans.

NICK

Which is gonna get me in trouble.

RYAN

How would that get you in trouble?

NICK

Cause some guy is gonna get pissed off that you're rooting for another team. He's gonna say something douchy. And then I'm gonna confront him. And then he's gonna kick the shit out of me.

JIMMY

And then I'm gonna kick the shit out of him.

NICK

And then Jimmy's gonna kick the shit out of him.

RYAN

Aren't you all fans of the same team? Why would you beat each other up?

NICK

You've got a lot to learn about this city.

JIMMY

But you're in luck. Because Nicky McNickerson here is the best damn tour guide Philly has to offer.

RYAN

What's all this Nicky McNickerson
stuff about?

NICK

Jimmy lives in a world of his own
vernacular.

(holds his hand to his
chest)

So as Philly's number one tour
guide ...

(holds his arm out to
escort)

To the first stop.

Ryan gives him a curious look, smiles, and takes his arm.
They go up to the bar and the BARTENDER.

RYAN

Wow. Quite the tour guide you are.

NICK

Hold onto those assessments, Nurse
Ryan. You're about to learn what
the city-wide special is.

RYAN

The city what?

NICK

City-wide special. Just call it
'The Special' for short. They'll
know what you mean.

(to Bartender)

Can I get two specials?

The bartender puts two specials (each a shot of whiskey and
a can of PBR) on the bar. Nick picks up the whiskey shot
and hands it to Ryan. Then he does the same with the PBR.

NICK

(continuing)

A shot of whiskey and a PBR for
three bucks. It's the cheap way to
get drunk.

RYAN
The cheap way to get me drunk.

Nick pulls out a ten dollar bill and puts it on the bar.

NICK
(to bartender)
For her drink. Keep it.
(to Ryan)
Now it's not cheap.

RYAN
Okay that was just stupid.

NICK
We both know it was quite clever.
(holds the shot up)
To continuing the tour.

They clink shot glasses and take the shot.

NICK
(continuing)
Oh and you should make sure you're
hungry when we go to our next
stop.

RYAN
Hungry for ...

NICK
You know what.

Ryan gives him a look as if he's making a sexual innuendo.

EXT. - RYAN'S ROWHOME - AFTERNOON

Nick pulls up in his car to Ryan's apartment, a small, brick building. Ryan is sitting on the front steps waiting for him. He gets out of the car as she comes to meet him.

NICK
(points to the house)
I don't get a tour?

RYAN

I believe you're supposed to be
the tour guide. Besides, my place
is a mess.

NICK

I know. I helped you move in.

RYAN

And how long do you plan to surf
on that one?

NICK

For as long as it takes to see
what your place looks like once
it's arranged.

Nick opens the passenger door. Ryan gets in the car. Nick goes around to the driver's side and gets in the car.

NICK

So you're hungry, right?

RYAN

Just like you requested. Where to?

NICK

You know where.

RYAN

No, I don't. You're the tour
guide, remember? And why are you
so weird about this whole being
hungry thing?

NICK

Cause you should be able to guess
where we're going. It'd be like
you taking me to the fish market
if we were in Seattle.

RYAN

The Italian Market!

NICK

That's not really Italian anymore.
Though I suppose you could say
where we're going is Italian.
Maybe even more than the market.

RYAN

What's more Italian than the
Italian Market?

NICK

These days? A lot of places.

INT. - NICK'S CAR - A FEW MINUTES LATER

Nick pulls up to Pat's & Geno's Cheesesteaks at 9th and Passyunk. He parks the car.

RYAN

Oh duh, cheesesteaks!
(as if confiding)
You know, I've never had a real
Philly cheesesteak before.

NICK

So you're saying ... and you can be
honest with me ... this is your
first time?

RYAN

It is.

NICK

Fair warning: it won't be gentle.

EXT. - CHEESESTEAK STANDS - A FEW MINUTES LATER

They get out of the car and walk up to the cheesesteak places.

NICK

So what do you think? Pat's or
Geno's?

RYAN

Which one's better?

NICK

Pat's cheesesteaks are longer, but
Geno's are wider.

Ryan gives him a look that she's not amused.

NICK

(continuing)

Pat's is considered better, but
Geno's is more famous.

RYAN

How bout one from each? Then I can
say I've tried both.

NICK

Two steaks for your first time?

RYAN

What can I say, I'm a lady.
By the way, you're good on the sex
jokes.

They get in line at Pat's and Ryan experiences the hectic
rush of ordering a cheesesteak. The CASHIER behind the
counter at Pat's asks her if she wants cheese whiz.

RYAN

(to Nick)

Cheese whiz?

NICK

It's ...

(thinking how to
describe it)

Kind of like fake cheese.

RYAN

Fake cheese? That's really a
thing?

A CUSTOMER, male with a potbelly, behind them in line gets
impatient.

CUSTOMER

Come on, sweetheart. We don't got
all day.

NICK
(to customer)
Slow up, buddy. She's trying to
decide if she wants cheese whiz.
(looks at Customer's
belly)
Which you obviously don't need.
(to Ryan)
But you should definitely try it.
It's a Philly thing.

RYAN
The way you talk to each other -
is that a Philly thing, too?

Nick shrugs and nods.

RYAN
(continuing)
And you call women 'sweetheart'?

NICK
You got a problem with that?
Sweetheart.

EXT. - CHEESESTEAK OUTDOOR TABLES - A LITTLE LATER

Nick and Ryan are sitting at the outdoor tables. It cycles through them chatting and doing impressions of some medical procedures to show that they're bonding over their shared background. Ryan finishes her cheesesteak, neatly folds the foil it was in, and dabs the sides of her mouth with a napkin.

RYAN
Well, this sweetheart is
satisfied. So where to next?

SMASH CUT:

EXT. - BENJAMIN FRANKLIN PARKWAY BY PHILADELPHIA ART MUSEUM
- A LITTLE LATER

Nick and Ryan stand at North 17th Street and Benjamin Franklin Parkway. Ryan looks down the Parkway, past all the flags (where Rocky ran), to see the Philadelphia Art Museum.

RYAN
The Art Museum!

NICK
Hitting all the landmarks just
like these postcards told me to.

Nick pulls out postcards.

RYAN
You're really working off
postcards?

NICK
Cliff Notes to a city.
(hands her postcards)
For you. I figured after you
visited some of these places,
you'd want some postcards to send
your friends in Seattle. Let them
know you're not forgetting them.

Ryan smiles and gives him a look.

NICK
(continuing)
What.

RYAN
That's really thoughtful.

Nick and Ryan have a moment where it looks like they're
going to kiss.

NICK
But first, over here.
(nods in the other
direction, where LOVE
Park is)

EXT. - LOVE PARK (LOVE STATUE) - MINUTES LATER

NICK
I figured since the sex jokes were
through, this is all that was
(more)

NICK (cont'd)
left. I'll take your picture and
you can send it to someone you
love.

Ryan smiles and looks at him.

NICK
(continuing)
Again. That look.

RYAN
Again because that's thoughtful.

NICK
Full disclosure, I'm plagiarizing
myself. I already did this when my
buddy visited from Boston. We took
a picture together and sent it to
his little girls.

RYAN
So this isn't your first time?

NICK
I thought we were done with the
sex jokes.

RYAN
You're done with them. I'm just
getting started.

EXT. - LOVE STATUE - MINUTES LATER

Nick and Ryan are in line to take a picture at the LOVE Statue. Wife LINDA and husband ED, both in their seventies, are in line behind them. Linda leans toward Nick and Ryan.

LINDA
Excuse me.

Nick and Ryan turn around.

LINDA
(continuing)
Could I trouble you to take our
picture after you take yours?

RYAN
Of course. We'd be happy to.

LINDA
(to Ed)
What a delight to have such an
adorable young couple take our
picture.

ED
You kids have a long way to go.

LINDA
Oh can it, Ed.
(swats him on the arm)
Don't you listen to him. He's
cherished each and every one of
our blessed years together.

NICK
How many would that be?

LINDA
Fifty-four as of today.

RYAN
It's your anniversary?! And you
came here to take a picture. Now
that's adorable.

ED
She drags me here every year.

LINDA
(points thumb at him)
Says the one who came up with the
tradition.

RYAN
That sounds like the kind of love
everyone is looking for.

NICK
You're up, Ry.

Nick motions to the LOVE statue. Ryan poses underneath it.
Nick takes her picture. Ryan motions for him to come in.

RYAN

We need one together to show Amber
and Jimmy.

Nick hands his phone to Linda, who takes the picture.

NICK

(to Linda and Ed)

Your turn.

Nick takes Linda's camera and turns to Ryan.

NICK

(continuing)

Want to do the honors?

Ryan takes the camera from Nick. Linda stands in front of Ed, and Ed puts his hands on the sides of Linda's arms.

RYAN

Oh that's so sweet!

She takes the picture, and Nick and Ryan say "Happy Anniversary!" and goodbye. They walk to the flag-lined street that leads to the Art Museum.

NICK

You know we're supposed to run down
this road like Rocky, right?

RYAN

Ready ... set ...

Ryan steals a quick kiss on the lips, then smiles.

RYAN

Go!

Ryan gets a head start running down the street to the museum, then Nick takes off. When he gets astride, they run apace. After about 400 meters, they slow down until they stop, out of breath.

NICK

Jesus that's farther than it
looks.

RYAN

You're not kidding.

NICK

Fuck it.

He takes Ryan's hand and they walk the Parkway. They walk up the stairs, and Ryan raises her victory fists just halfway, a half-hearted impression of Rocky, like "Yay." Nick stands in front of her and crosses his arms, waiting for her to stop.

RYAN

What, no making fun of Rocky in this city?

NICK

It's in very poor form.

RYAN

What's proper form then?

NICK

This.

Nick moves in and kisses her.

INT. - RYAN'S ROWHOME - MORNING

Nick and Ryan wake up next to each other. They nuzzle, canoodle, and peck.

NICK

Is there anything you need to do today?

RYAN

Just you.

NICK

You don't have anything around here you want help with? Will work for sex.

RYAN

That's not something I'm gonna make you work for. Obviously.

NICK

And after you cross me off your
to-do list?

RYAN

We'll just have to improvise.

NICK

How about breakfast? You know
what, we should go to Reading
Terminal.

RYAN

You want to do it and then go to a
bus station? Are you already
trying to get rid of me?

(poses with her elbow on
the bed, patronizing)

Tell me more.

NICK

It's a market, not a bus station.
A postcard we didn't visit.

RYAN

A market called a terminal is on a
postcard.

NICK

You remember Reading Railroad?
From Monopoly? Reading Terminal
was the railroad's main station,
and a market was built for it.
There's no trains going through
anymore, but the market's still
there.

RYAN

Is this your way of saying you
want to run a train into my
market?

NICK

(confused)

No. What? Is that a sex joke?

NICK/RYAN
(in unison)
No more sex jokes!

RYAN
Well, if it's good enough for one
side of a postcard, then it's good
enough for me.

NICK
(looks her up and down)
You know what's also good enough
for one side of a postcard?

RYAN
Yeah, it's a little too early to
be thinking about naked pictures
of me.

NICK
But it'd be such a popular
postcard. A site everyone should
visit.

RYAN
Too bad for them this site's
reserved for just one.

INT. - READING TERMINAL - LATER THAT MORNING

Nick and Ryan enter Reading Terminal. It's crowded and
bustling per usual on a Sunday Morning.

NICK
Welcome to your bus station.

Ryan's eyes widen. She takes it in.

RYAN
Well this looks fun.

They check out the stands.

RYAN
(continuing)
What do you think about ... fudge
for breakfast.

NICK

I like where your head's at.

RYAN

I'm just full of good head.

(turns, points at Nick)

No more sex jokes.

(turns back to the fudge
counter, taps her lips)

Now which kind to get ...

They peruse and sample some fudge from the FUDGE GUY. Izzy sees Nick and walks up to him and Ryan.

IZZY

Hey stranger!

NICK

(startled)

Izzy.

IZZY

How in the world have you been?

NICK

Um ...

(stifled)

... good. Things are good.

Izzy motions toward Ryan as if to say, "Aren't you going to introduce me?"

NICK

(continuing)

Oh, this is Ryan. She's my ...

(looks to Ryan)

... girlfriend.

IZZY

(puts her fists on her
hips, says cutely)You didn't tell me you've got a
lady in your life. Nice to meet
you, Ryan. I'm Izzy.

RYAN

Nice to meet you, too.

Izzy and Ryan shake hands.

NICK

(to Izzy)

She just moved to Philly so I'm showing her around.

IZZY

(to Ryan)

And you already snapped this guy up? Well then you're one lucky gal cause Nick here is one of the finest Philly has to offer.

(cups her mouth)

You better not let this one get away.

Nick rolls his eyes. Izzy looks at him.

IZZY

(continuing)

It's not like I'm telling her anything she hasn't already figured out.

NICK

(to Ryan)

This isn't staged, just so you know.

IZZY

We both know I wouldn't be good at acting. Anyway, I better skedaddle. It was nice meeting you, Ryan.

RYAN

Likewise.

IZZY

(to Nick)

We should get a drink sometime. You can catch me up on your prospering love life. I could use some tips.

Izzy walks away.

RYAN

So she seemed to be fond of you.

NICK

I swear I didn't stage that.

RYAN

Uh yeah, I could tell.

Nick looks at Ryan, confused.

RYAN

(continuing)

Am I the only one who noticed that awkwardness?

NICK

She's just an old friend.

Ryan looks at Nick dryly.

NICK

(continuing)

It was a long time ago. We're just friends, trust me.

(pauses)

You believe me, right?

RYAN

(laughs)

Relax. It's not like I don't have a few of those in my past as well.

NICK

How many is a few?

RYAN

I don't know. Kind of stopped counting at some point.

NICK

Funny.

RYAN

What can I say, I get really into my friends. In fact, I think you

(more)

RYAN (cont'd)
made the wrong move by calling me
your girlfriend. You should've
just kept me as a friend.

Nick is unsure if she minded the girlfriend label.

RYAN
(continuing)
But it's okay. I already shifted
you over to the boyfriend zone,
anyway. While you were sleeping.

Nick smiles and kisses Ryan.

FUDGE GUY
So ... that's a yes for fudge?

INT. - JIMMY'S APARTMENT - DINNER TIME

Amber and Ryan are sitting at the countertop facing the kitchen, each drinking a glass of wine. Jimmy is in the kitchen cooking and giving scraps of food to Opie.

AMBER
So how's it been going with Nick?
You know you have to tell me
everything, right.

RYAN
I know it's only been a few weeks,
but I really, really -

Ryan flutters her hand.

AMBER
You've got the butterflies!

Ryan nods.

AMBER
(continuing)
I knew it! I just - didn't I tell
you Nick was the best?

Jimmy walks around, from out of the kitchen with plates of Chicken Marsala.

JIMMY

(to Ryan)

I think I was the one who told you
Nick was the man.

AMBER

Excusez-moi. I'm pretty sure that
I'm the one who had the idea of
setting them up.

Jimmy places the plates down on the table.

RYAN

(looks at the food)

Wow, Jimmy. I'm impressed.

JIMMY

What can I say? I'm a domesticated
beast.

Jimmy goes back into the kitchen to get garlic bread and Caesar salad. Amber and Ryan go to sit down, and on the way, Ryan starts looking at pictures Jimmy has on the wall. She sees a picture of Opie as a puppy, and Jimmy and Izzy are playing with her.

RYAN

Aww ... Opie's so cute in this one.

(looks closer)

Who is that?

JIMMY

Opie. When she was a puppy.

Ryan points to Izzy in the photo.

RYAN

No *that*. Who is *that*.

JIMMY

Oh her? That's the other bitch.
The one I no longer have to live
with.

RYAN

You're telling me this is your
wife?

JIMMY

I keep meaning to cut her out of
the photo, but that'd mean
snipping Opster's tail.

(bends down, pets Opie)

And I just can't bring myself to
do it, can I.

RYAN

Oh my God, Nick had sex with your
wife.

JIMMY

(stops petting Opie)

What?

RYAN

You heard me. Nick had sex with
your wife.

JIMMY

(looks to Amber, then
back to Ryan)

I mean, she's virtually my ex-
wife.

RYAN

So it's true.

JIMMY

It was completely consensual
though. I didn't mind one bit.

RYAN

I didn't even know you were
married to begin with.

(looks to Amber)

JIMMY

Technically separated.

RYAN

(to Jimmy)

You're not even divorced? And
you're fine with Nick having sex
with your wife?

JIMMY

Of course. It was my idea to begin with. I asked him to do it.

RYAN

You what!

JIMMY

Well if she found out about me and Amber, then she'd try to take even more in the divorce. So I unhatched this brilliant plan where if Nick fucked her, it all equaled out.

RYAN

So you gave your friends an open invitation to fuck your wife?

JIMMY

Just Nick. She hated every single one of my other friends.

RYAN

(to Amber)

And you knew about this?

AMBER

It's not like that. Listen-

RYAN

And you set me up with him?

AMBER

It's not exactly what Jimmy's making it out to be.

RYAN

What is it then? You know what? No. I'm good. I think I've heard all I need to hear.

Ryan gets up to leave. Looks to Amber.

RYAN

(continuing)

I can't believe you.

AMBER

Ry, wait.

RYAN

Sorry, Am. Guess I just lost my appetite. Imagine that.

Ryan walks out of Amber's apartment and slams the door. Amber gives Jimmy a look of disgust.

JIMMY

This makes no sense. How in the fucking world did she figure that out?

Amber leaves the room.

JIMMY

(looks down to Opie)
And it happened before they even met.

INT. - NICK'S ROWHOME - LATER THAT NIGHT

Nick is playing guitar and his phone keeps vibrating. It's Jimmy trying to reach him. He silences it. Ryan shows up at Nick's place, getting out of an Uber. She asks the Uber driver to wait and pays him to do so. She knocks on the door, and Nick answers.

NICK

Oh hey! What are you doing here?

RYAN

What, you weren't expecting me?

NICK

(a little confused)
No. It's a nice surprise though.

Ryan looks past Nick and into the apartment.

RYAN

There's nobody else here, is there?

NICK

Like who?

RYAN

Like maybe someone's wife.

NICK

What are you talking about?

Whose ...

(realizes she found out)

Oh fuck.

RYAN

Literally.

NICK

Jimmy told you?

RYAN

(shakes her head)

I saw her in a picture on his
wall.

NICK

It's not what you think.

RYAN

You had sex with his wife. So
please tell me what I'm supposed
to think other than how fucking
disgusting that is.

NICK

It's not that simple.

RYAN

Well it sounds pretty simple to
me. You. Jimmy's wife. You know
what, I think I'm good without any
more of your stupid little
postcard tours.

NICK

(sotto voce to himself)

But they're good tours.

(to Ryan)

Just listen. I ran into her—

RYAN

Don't tell me to listen. You're the one who should listen. You know, I thought we had something good. To be honest, I thought it might even be great. But having sex with ...

(she's ready to cry)

... is that who you are when no one's looking? But now I see. I see through you. Why would you ...

Ryan starts crying. She covers her mouth and shakes her head. She walks down the front steps and heads down the sidewalk. Nick runs after her.

NICK

Ryan, stop! Let me explain!

Nick grabs her arm. Ryan shakes it loose.

RYAN

Get the fuck off me!

(looks directly at him)

Get the fuck away from me, Nick.

You disgust me.

Nick recoils, astonished by the use of such strong words. Ryan turns to go to the Uber and Jimmy is standing there.

RYAN

(jumps back)

Holy shit.

JIMMY

Boo.

RYAN

I'll show you who the fucking ghost is.

Ryan goes to leave.

JIMMY

Just wait ... I can ...

(looks to Nick)

... we can explain.

RYAN

This conversation has nothing to do with you, Jimmy. Last time I checked, you weren't dating me. Or him.

NICK

What conversation was that? You didn't listen to a thing I have to say.

JIMMY

A one-sided affair? Is that how you break up with guys?

RYAN

No, Jimmy. This is how I break up with guys.

(leans to Jimmy)

Boo.

Ryan walks to her Uber and gets in.

JIMMY

Hey, wait! I can be nicer! A friendly ghost!

Ryan shuts the door. The Uber drives away. Jimmy and Nick are just standing there for a little while.

NICK

Nice fucking work, Casper.

JIMMY

Hey, I didn't make you to fuck her. You're the one who did it.

NICK

You know, you're right. You're absolutely right.

(turns to go into his house, then turns back)

How is it that you get away with everything, and the one time I ...

Nick shakes his head, goes into his house, and slams the door shut. Jimmy is just left standing there.

EXT. - VARIOUS SITES - OVER THE NEXT FEW DAYS

A montage appears of Nick at the places he and Ryan visited. He has a postcard for each of them and on each of them, he's writing what he loved about being at that specific place with Ryan.

INT. - RYAN'S APARTMENT - WEEKDAY EVENING A FEW DAYS LATER

Nick knocks on Ryan's apartment door. He's holding a bag with a cheesesteak in it.

RYAN

Who is it?

NICK

Delivery.

RYAN

I didn't order - Nick, is that you.

NICK

Please open the door.

RYAN

(standing on the other side of the door)

Is that a cheesesteak I smell? Are you seriously showing up at my doorstep with a fucking cheesesteak?

NICK

I thought we could talk.

RYAN

Over a cheesesteak? How thoughtful of you. Does it come with fake cheese?

NICK

It's not just any cheesesteak. Will you please open the door?

Ryan relents and opens the door.

RYAN

Sorry if I don't have much of an appetite for chopped beef.

NICK

Look, I came to take ownership for what I did. I know it seems a little sleazy, but—

RYAN

A little sleazy? You slept with someone's wife. And you conspired to do it.

NICK

But I didn't. I never conspired to do anything. It just kind of happened.

RYAN

This doesn't sound like someone taking ownership. It sounds like someone making shitty excuses.

NICK

I'm just trying to explain. Yes, I did it. And yes, I wish I hadn't. Not because I regret it but because I like you a lot, Ry. But I can't change anything in my past. Neither of us can. Can't we just go back to when we met and explore the city together, explore each other together and see where it goes? See where we go?

RYAN

(starting to tear up)

We ... we're not going anywhere, Nick. We're done exploring the city. We're done seeing where this goes.

NICK

But you obviously care. Tell me you don't care. Tell me you don't care and I'll leave.

RYAN

I ... I don't. Not enough. Don't
come back here.

Ryan closes the door. Nick backs away looking stunned. He drops the cheesesteak in the hallway and leaves. Ryan eventually opens the door and picks up the bag. It contains a cheesesteak with a note on it that says "Delessandro's - Where the best cheesesteak in Philadelphia actually is (and you won't find it on a postcard)". She feels hardness under the foil wrapped around the cheesesteak, unwraps it, and finds the postcards he wrote curled around it.

INT. - COFFEE SHOP - MORNING THAT NEXT WEEKEND

Amber and Ryan meet at a quaint little coffee shop. It's the first time they've seen each other since Ryan found out about Nick and Izzy.

AMBER

Hey, Ry.

RYAN

Hi.

AMBER

I guess the coffee's on me?

RYAN

Guess so.

They order some sort of specialty latte.

AMBER

I'll bring it over.

Amber brings the drinks to the table where Ryan's sitting and sits down. She takes a deep breath.

AMBER

(continuing)

I'm sorry I kept that from you.

RYAN

How about you're sorry you set me
up with him in the first place?

AMBER

He's a good guy, Ry.

RYAN

Yeah, really good guy who fucks ...

Ryan looks around and leans over the table, lowering her voice.

RYAN

(continuing)

Who sleeps with other men's wives.

AMBER

Jimmy and Izzy are separated.

RYAN

So that makes it alright? And what's even better is how you never told me that he's married to begin with.

AMBER

Because I knew you'd judge me. People don't always meet under picture perfect, cookie-cutter circumstances.

RYAN

And I don't know that? If I didn't, then I do now. So thanks for that.

AMBER

Look, I don't want to fight. I just wanted to say I'm sorry. But I'm not sorry that I set you up with him. He's a great guy. I know you saw it. He made you glow.

RYAN

It wasn't real.

AMBER

But it was. Give it another chance.

RYAN

Infidelity doesn't get a second chance.

(pauses to think)

Or reverse infidelity.

(pauses to think)

Whatever you call it, it doesn't get a second chance. Not with me it doesn't.

AMBER

I think this is different.

RYAN

You're twenty-three. Of course you think this is different. That's why you're fine dating a married man.

AMBER

See? This is why I didn't tell you.

RYAN

And here I thought you were supposed to be saying that you're sorry. Some apology.

Ryan gets up.

AMBER

Wait.

Amber reaches in her purse and pulls out an envelope.

AMBER

(continuing)

Here.

RYAN

What's this?

AMBER

My apology.

Ryan opens the envelope and pulls out a ticket to a Sarah McLachlan concert at the Mann Center in Philadelphia.

RYAN
Sarah?? No way!

AMBER
I've got the other.

RYAN
I thought she was sold out.

AMBER
Jimmy got them through some group
that supports wounded vets.
Apparently her concerts don't
attract much interest from them.
Go figure. But it's his way of
saying sorry, too.

RYAN
This still doesn't right things
though.

AMBER
I just want you to be happy, Ry.
That's all.

RYAN
I know.

INT. - JIMMY'S APARTMENT - AFTER COFFEE

Amber has keys now and unlocks Jimmy's door. Jimmy is
watching TV and turns it off right when she walks in. She's
clearly pissed.

JIMMY
How was coffee with Ryan?

AMBER
She's done with Nick. And still
upset with me. But the coffee
tasted good.

JIMMY
Did she at least like the ticket
to that concert?

AMBER

It helped.

JIMMY

I still don't get why she's so worked up over something that happened before they even met. It's not like he cheated on her. If you held me to my past ...

(thinks)

... actually, if you'd held me to my present there's no way we'd be together.

AMBER

You're telling me.

JIMMY

What does that mean?

Amber doesn't answer.

JIMMY

Tell me exactly what that means.

AMBER

The only reason I didn't hold you to your present was because I didn't want a future. I'm planning to live abroad next year. As you're well aware, I speak several languages.

JIMMY

So you've been using me?

AMBER

Until I started to really like you.

JIMMY

So you've been using me.

AMBER

Just like you used Nick. Now you know how it feels.

JIMMY

It's not like I don't want to fix this.

AMBER

So then fix it. If I'm important to you, then my cousin should be just as important.

JIMMY

If I fix it, would you stay?

AMBER

Maybe I'll stay yours and bug you to visit me in Madrid. But until this gets fixed, we're not even going to talk about that. And I'm only going to talk to you in English. Comprendes?

JIMMY

Beat a man when he's down.

AMBER

Beat him yourself.

INT. - JIMMY's PHONE - OVER THE NEXT WEEK

Jimmy keeps calling Nick, but Nick doesn't answer. Jimmy leaves successive messages, each one showing more concern.

JIMMY

Nicky Nickaaaay! What's up, homey. Just seeing if you wanna pound town some beers tonight. Give me a shout!

JIMMY

Brother man. I didn't hear back from you about pound town. What are you doing this weekend?

JIMMY

Hey, I haven't heard from you, brosef. Call me back.

JIMMY

Yo man. Will you just give me a call?

INT. - JIMMY'S APARTMENT - A FEW DAYS LATER

Jimmy and Amber are at his apartment. Jimmy is morose. He's sitting at the table, staring at a bottle of whiskey and drinking it neat out of a glass. Opie is lying at his feet. Amber comes out of the bedroom after having taken a shower.

AMBER

I'm surprised you didn't join me in there.

Jimmy doesn't respond. He keeps on staring.

AMBER

(continuing)

Jimmy?

JIMMY

Amber.

AMBER

What are you doing?

JIMMY

Staring at the bottom of a bottle.

AMBER

I'm sorry if I was a little too ... honest the other day.

JIMMY

I should've just said he and Izzy hooked up before I ever met her. That would've prevented this whole thing.

Amber approaches Jimmy in a seductive way.

AMBER

If you can believe it, you're the only part of this situation that makes dealing with it okay.

JIMMY
(ignores her advances)
Then help me make this right. Help
me get them back together.

AMBER
Let's work out a plan. But first I
think ...
(straddles)
... sollten wir ein bisschen
spielen!
("We should play a
bit!")

JIMMY
That sounds so aggressive.

AMBER
That's because I'm not asking. I'm
ordering.

Amber grabs Jimmy by the shirt and tugs him to the bedroom.

INT. - NICK'S ROWHOME - LATER THAT DAY

Jimmy shows up at Nick's apartment with a 30-pack of beer.
He knocks on the door, but nobody answers.

JIMMY
Nicky McNickerson ... come out, come
out wherever you are.
(looks through the
window)
Nick?
(knocks on the door)
Come on, Nick.

Jimmy walks around the block to the alley behind Nick's
rowhome. He walks up to Nick's fenced-in back patio. He
puts the beer case down and stands on top of the beer case
to peer over the wood fence and into the patio where he
sees Nick. Nick is ripping through cigarettes and there are
empty beers scattered by his feet. Nick sees Jimmy but is
too depressed to be surprised.

NICK
Congratulations. You found me.

JIMMY

Jesus Christ, Nick. You look like shit.

NICK

Like I care.

JIMMY

Yeah, but I care. That's why I'm here.

Jimmy climbs over the fence, sans beer.

JIMMY

(continuing)

I brought beer, but I guess you don't need it.

NICK

Maybe I do. Maybe I don't.

JIMMY

Look, if I'd known, I definitely would have cut Izzy out of that photo. Of all my friends, you deserve someone special. You know I know that.

NICK

It's like you said, I'm the one who did it. Not you.

JIMMY

If it wasn't for me, this wouldn't have happened. We're in this together.

NICK

So you're my battle buddy now? You remember all that crap you talked about being loyal to your battle buddies? On the paintball field? That was paintball. It was pretend. This is reality.

JIMMY

I don't care what it takes, I'm going to fix this.

NICK

It's fucking futile. She won't return any of my messages. I even stopped by her place, but she told me she doesn't care about me.

JIMMY

There's no way that's true. She wouldn't be reacting like this if she didn't care. I'm gonna help you get her back. I'm gonna help you hitch this bitch so hard that she won't be able to unfasten herself from you!

NICK

You might want to refer to her as something other than a bitch. Just a tip.

JIMMY

Ditch the bitch, hitch the bitch. Jimmy Ditch. Jimmy Hitch.

NICK

Jimmy Hitch? So you're Will Smith now?

JIMMY

Where else but in Philly? Only here, it's about grit. Sheer grit. Deployments come in all kinds, my friend. Iraq. Afghanistan.

(smiles coyly)

Operation Nicky McNickerson.

NICK

Please don't call it that.

JIMMY

If I make it happen, then I can call it whatever I want. You'll see ... you'll see ...

Jimmy jumps and grabs the top of the fence, hoisting himself up. He points to the sky.

JIMMY
(continuing)
Operation Nicky McNickerson
commences today!

NICK
No. No operation. No Nicky
McNickerson.

Jimmy jumps back over the fence, then beers start dropping into Nick's patio like grenades.

JIMMY
Take cover! It's Operation Nicky
McNickerson part deux!

EXT. - PHILADELPHIA SIDEWALK - AFTERNOON

Jimmy is kneeling on the sidewalk, unscrewing the air nozzle on a car tire and checking the air pressure with an electronic gauge. He then sticks a small rock in the nozzle and screws on the cap partway so that the tire starts draining. Then he goes down the street into a bar. Ryan gets to her car and finds the flat tire.

RYAN
Are you kidding me.

Ryan stands by the flat tire and calls Amber who is waiting at Jimmy's apartment to be picked up.

AMBER
Hey Ry.

RYAN
I'm gonna be a little late. I just
got to my car and my tire's flat.
So I called Triple A.

AMBER
Take your time. As long as you
don't mind if I make myself a
Bloody before you get here.

RYAN

Not as long as you have one
waiting for me.

They hang up. Then Amber calls Jimmy.

AMBER

Just talked to Ryan. Good job.
What's Nick's status?

JIMMY

He's on his way.

(phone text sounds)

Wait, he just texted me. Gotta go.

INT. - SOME PHILLY BAR - CONTINUOUS

Nick looks around the bar and doesn't see Jimmy. He takes out his phone and texts Jimmy. [Note: Text messages are in italics.]

NICK (TEXT)

I'm here. Where you at?

JIMMY (TEXT)

*Down the street at McGarry's Pub.
Come here instead.*

NICK (TEXT)

Thanks for the memo.

JIMMY (TEXT)

*Car bombs waiting! Operation Nicky
McNickerson!*

EXT. - PHILADELPHIA SIDEWALK - MINUTES LATER

Nick leaves the bar where he and Jimmy were supposed to meet and walks down the street toward McGarry's Pub. He comes across Ryan, who is waiting for Triple A.

NICK

Ryan.

RYAN

Oh. It's you.

NICK

Imagine that.

(looks at the tire)

That looks pretty flat.

RYAN

Probably cause it is.

NICK

You need help? I've changed quite
a few in my life.

RYAN

I'm sure you have.

Nick gives a look like 'what's that supposed to mean.'

RYAN

(continuing)

I'm fine. Triple A's sending
someone.

NICK

You sure? I don't mind.

RYAN

Positive. Thanks.

NICK

I'll wait with you if you want.

RYAN

And why would I want that?

NICK

Because I make good company?

RYAN

I'm good company by myself. But
thanks for the offer.

NICK

You sure?

RYAN

YES, I'M SURE! Why do you keep asking me if I'm sure? Like I don't know myself. I'm absolutely sure that I don't want company, much less yours.

NICK

Can I ask you a question? Why do you think I'm such a bad guy?

RYAN

When did I say that? I think you're a nice guy. The nicest, sweetest guy in the world. Now can you be the nicest, sweetest guy and leave me alone?

NICK

Wow. Okay.

He looks down at the tire again and notices the air cap not on completely. He bends down and undoes the cap and takes out the little rock. He holds it up to Ryan.

NICK

(continuing)

You got any enemies in town?

RYAN

How would I have enemies when I just moved here?

NICK

Here.

(hands air cap to Ryan)

Your tire's fine. All they need to do is fill it back up with air.

Nick walks away.

INT. - MCGARRY'S PUB - MINUTES LATER

Nick walks in and Jimmy is at the bar chatting animatedly with the bartender. Jimmy sees Nick.

JIMMY

Nicky McNickerson! What are you doing here so soon?

NICK

What are you talking about? It took like five minutes ...
(realizes)
It didn't work.

JIMMY

What didn't work?

NICK

I'm not a dolt, Jimmy. And really? A flat tire? That's the best you could come up with? Petty vandalism?

JIMMY

How's it vandalism? It's not like I slashed her tire. I just leaked the air. The old rock in the nozzle trick. Harmless.

NICK

And juvenile.

JIMMY

No harm, no foul. Just gotta go back to the drawing board and come up with something bigger.

(hands Nick one of the car bombs on the bar)

Here. A car bomb for the car idea that bombed. Now it's our turn.

NICK

Our turn for what?

JIMMY

To get bombed. You know, so we can build back up into stronger versions of ourselves.

NICK

Is that how it works?

JIMMY
Trust the process.

INT. - JIMMY'S APARTMENT - LATER THAT DAY

Jimmy returns to his apartment after drinking with Nick. Amber is there, reading a magazine on the couch.

JIMMY
It didn't work.

AMBER
I know. Ryan told me about it.

JIMMY
And Nick figured it out.

AMBER
What'd he say?

JIMMY
Well, he's not entirely against
our efforts.

AMBER
Then why don't we bring him in on
it.

JIMMY
I'll pretend to mug her and we'll
have Nick walk by and save her.

AMBER
She'll know it's you.

JIMMY
Then I'll wear a ski mask.

AMBER
In the summer?

JIMMY
I'll break into her apartment at
night.

AMBER

And Nick will just suddenly show up? At her apartment? In the middle of the night? That's not creepy.

JIMMY

What about tickets to an Eagles game? Aren't we playing the Seahawks in Week One? I can probably get them for free.

AMBER

To a game where she'll be rooting against the Eagles? Actually ... tickets aren't such a bad idea ... Sarah!

JIMMY

Sarah?

AMBER

The singer you got me and Ry tickets to see.

JIMMY

The dying dog lady? I thought you already told Ryan you were taking her.

AMBER

I did. And I gave her a ticket, but I kept the other one. What if I texted her during the day that I'm running behind at work and that I'll have to meet her at the show? I'll give my ticket to Nick so he shows up instead. There's no way she'd leave a Sarah concert.

JIMMY

Working things out at a concert filled with songs about dying dogs, and you're eighty-sixing my ideas?

AMBER

The dogs weren't dying. They just needed to be adopted.

JIMMY

Even better. Dogs who aren't dying but about to be killed.

(snaps fingers)

We should adopt a dog for them. Tell them that they need to save the dog together. If not, it'll get the gas.

AMBER

She'll leave the dog with him.

JIMMY

(goes to Opie)

Only Izzy could abandon something this cute.

AMBER

Except that she comes here every day during the week to take her for a walk.

JIMMY

Fine by me as long as I don't see her.

AMBER

And let's keep it that way.

INT. - AMBER'S OFFICE - DAY

Amber sends a text message to Ryan on the day of the Sarah McLachlan concert. Ryan reads the text message. [Note: Text messages are in italics.]

AMBER (TEXT)

Ugh. Something came up at work. Is it cool if I just meet you there?

RYAN (TEXT)

Of course! See you there, Am! I'm SO jazzed. (jazz hands emoticon)

INT. - THE MANN CENTER SEATING AREA - EVENING

At the Sarah McLachlan show, Ryan walks up the aisle stairs to see Nick already sitting in the seat beside hers. She stops cold.

RYAN

Really? I mean, *really*?

Ryan turns and starts walking back down the stairs. Nick gets up to go after her.

NICK

Ry ... Ry, wait.

INT. - THE MANN CENTER LOBBY - SECONDS LATER

Ryan turns around abruptly as Nick is catching up to her.

RYAN

You tricked me into coming to this show?

NICK

It wasn't my idea.

RYAN

Nothing's ever your idea!

NICK

Why won't you just talk to me.

RYAN

It's not like I'm refusing to talk to you. I just don't have anything to say.

NICK

You don't have to. Just let me explain.

RYAN

You already did before you dropped a fucking cheesesteak on my doorstep, remember?

NICK
(sotto voce)
But the postcards.
(to Ryan)
If you read the postcards then
you'd know how much I care about
you. And if I could undo what I
did, I would.

RYAN
But you can't. Once you fuck
someone, you can't unfuck them. And
when the person you fuck is
married, you can't unmarry them.

Other concertgoers look at them. Ryan and Nick step to the side to be more discreet.

NICK
It wasn't like that. She and Jimmy
were done. They were never getting
back together. Just because it
wasn't official doesn't mean-

RYAN
You could've waited until it was
official. Even then it would've
been sleazy.

(shakes her head)
I don't know, Nick. Maybe I just
have different standards than you.
I don't go around having sex with
my friend's husbands or ex-husbands
or whatever they are.

NICK
So all those times we had mean
nothing now? Your first
cheesesteak? LOVE Park? Half-assing
the stairs of the art museum? All
those memories are meaningless now?

RYAN
I'm seeing someone new, Nick.

NICK
(deflated)

Oh.

RYAN
I ... I'm going to leave.

NICK
No. No, it's okay. I'll leave. You
shouldn't have to miss the show on
my account.

Ryan watches Nick leave and throw the ticket in the trash. She looks conflicted. She still wants him in spite of how she's acting.

This leads to Ryan sitting at the concert, listening to Sarah McLachlan. The concert music continues as it segues to a montage of Ryan at the different places that she and Nick visited, reading the postcards he wrote to her. She sits before a cheesesteak that she doesn't eat, watches people get their photos taken at the LOVE Statue, and walks to the steps of the Art Museum, but doesn't go up them. She wanders through Reading Terminal, which is overwhelming. She gets jostled around and it makes her look out of sorts. Overall, she looks forlorn, and it's clear she misses him.

INT. - PHONE CONVERSATION - NIGHT

A few weeks later, Amber calls Ryan. It's clear that they've spoken since the Sarah McLachlan concert, but it's clear in their hesitant voices that things between them aren't completely settled.

RYAN
Hey Am.

AMBER
Hey Ry.

Silence.

AMBER
(continuing)
Still mad at me?

RYAN

Kind of. I mean, I'll get over it as long as you promise to stop. Besides, I know you have a birthday coming up.

AMBER

That's actually why I'm calling. We're going to Rulloffs on Saturday to celebrate. I'd love it if you came, but I wanted to let you know that Nick will be there. So I totally understand if you don't want to come. We can do something during the day, if you want.

RYAN

(pauses to contemplate)

No, it'll be alright. As long as I can bring the guy I'm dating.

AMBER

You're already seeing someone new?

RYAN

What do you mean, 'already'? It's not like Nick and I were anything for that long.

AMBER

No, I didn't mean ... so how'd you meet him?

RYAN

He works at Neighborhood books. It's a used book store on South Street.

AMBER

And he climbed out of novel for you?

RYAN

You can be happy for me, you know.

AMBER

You're right.

(sighs)

You're right. I'm sorry. Of course you can bring him. I'll make sure Nick's alright with it.

RYAN

I don't really care if he's alright with it.

AMBER

I meant I'll make sure he knows to expect it. So it's not a surprise or anything.

INT. - FANCY RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Jimmy and Amber go to a nice restaurant. Jimmy pulls out a chair for Amber, then sits down. A WAITER comes over.

WAITER

Welcome this evening. As you will see, we have an excellent selection-

JIMMY

(without looking,
points)

We'll just take this one.

WAITER

The Cabernet. A fine choice.

Waiter goes to get the bottle of wine.

JIMMY

"A fiiiine choice." Why do people talk like that? Just because this place is upscale?

AMBER

This is such a sweet idea, Jimmy.

JIMMY

It's your birthday. Besides, I can be really sweet sometimes. Please keep that in mind.

The waiter comes over with the bottle of wine and pours some for Amber. Amber tastes it.

AMBER

Good enough for me.

Waiter pours a glass for each. They raise their glasses.

AMBER

You know, these past couple months have been better than I ever expected. And I want to apologize for what I said. The night we met, I just didn't think this would go anywhere with you getting divorced and all.

They toast to her birthday and each take a drink of wine.

JIMMY

So ... funny that you should bring up my divorce.

AMBER

Okay ...

JIMMY

You're not going to like this. Actually, I don't even like it.

AMBER

You're still getting divorced, right? You didn't bring me here to tell me that Izzy wants to work things out, did you?

JIMMY

To an expensive restaurant? On your birthday? That makes about as much sense as actually getting back together with her.

AMBER

Maybe so I wouldn't make a scene,
I don't know.

JIMMY

What are you talking about? This
isn't about breaking up with you.
It's about Ryan.

AMBER

Well then spit it out.

JIMMY

I think you should have some more
wine first.

Jimmy picks up Amber's glass. She takes it and starts drinking a little. Then she starts to lower it and starts to say "I love you," but Jimmy tilts the foot of the glass higher to keep her drinking.

JIMMY

(continuing)

I think I have a plan.

Jimmy grabs the wine bottle and starts drinking straight from it.

INT. - IZZY's APARTMENT - WEEKDAY EVENING

Jimmy shows up at Izzy's new apartment. He knocks on the door and she opens it.

IZZY

Oh hell no.

Izzy goes to shut the door, but Jimmy wedges his foot in the door jam.

JIMMY

It's about Nick! Something
happened!

IZZY

Is he hurt?

JIMMY

Why would I come to you if he were
hurt? I'd drive him to the
hospital myself.

Izzy pushes Jimmy's leg back and shuts the door.

JIMMY

(continuing)

His heart! His heart is hurt!

IZZY

Since when do you care about other
people's hearts?

JIMMY

Just give me five minutes.

Izzy opens the door just to the point that her body fits
between the door and the frame.

JIMMY

(continuing)

Aren't you gonna let me in?

IZZY

You can explain from the hallway.

JIMMY

But my ankle hurts. You know it
still acts up when I stand for too
long.

IZZY

I thought you said five minutes.

They look at each other as if in a stalemate.

IZZY

(continuing)

Fine. Wait here.

Izzy brings a chair over and puts it out in the hallway.

JIMMY

Seriously?

IZZY

Seriously. Now why are you here.

Jimmy ignores sitting in the chair.

JIMMY

I know you fucked Nick.

IZZY

What do you care? You were already fucking someone else by then.

JIMMY

I knew you were tracking me! I knew that's why you showed up the morning after you moved out. Someone at Rulloffs told you, didn't they.

IZZY

What the fuck are you talking about? I didn't need someone to tell me. I know you, Jimmy.

JIMMY

And I know you, Izzy. That's why I told Nick to fuck you cause if you found out about me and Amber then you would've gone after even more than half in the divorce.

IZZY

Who's Amber?

JIMMY

The girl I'm fucking!

IZZY

How would I know that!

JIMMY

You just said you knew I was fucking someone else!

IZZY

Because I just assume you are. It doesn't take a detective to figure that out.

JIMMY

So Nick fucked you and didn't have to?

IZZY

God Jimmy, it's like we're on different fucking planets. Nick wanted to spend the night. Actually, if anything it was me who slept with him.

JIMMY

So you're saying he didn't convince you to fuck him.

IZZY

Convince me? I have no clue where you get these ideas from. It happened because I wanted it to. Are we done here?

JIMMY

I wish. You think I really want to be here?

IZZY

You know, Jimmy, you just have this ... lovely way about you. Thanks for coming. You can keep the chair.

Izzy goes to shut the door.

JIMMY

Wait!

IZZY

Goodbye, Jimmy!
(shuts door)

JIMMY

Nick got dumped cause of you!

IZZY

(opens door)

Nick was with his girlfriend then?
I didn't know that, if that's what
you mean.

JIMMY

That's because he didn't have one
when he fucked you.

IZZY

Can you please not put it like
that? It makes my insides curdle.
And how could Nick get dumped when
he didn't even have a girlfriend?

JIMMY

That's what I said! But when
Amber's cousin found out, she
didn't care that it happened
before they met.

IZZY

How did she ... wait ... is her name ...
Ryan?

JIMMY

You know her?

IZZY

Oh God, Jimmy. How did she find
out about me and Nick? Did Nick
tell her?

(realizes)

Or should I take one guess.

JIMMY

So she's met you before. This
explains everything. She saw you
in a picture in my apartment. The
one when Opie was a puppy.

IZZY

Don't tell me she thinks Nick
spent the night just to help you
out with whatever you thought you
needed help with.

JIMMY

I don't know what she thinks. I ...
I fucked up. I'm sorry to bring
you into this.

IZZY

Wait, what was that? Did you just
apologize?

Jimmy shrugs.

IZZY

(continuing)

Oh wow, you really do feel bad
about this. So Ryan thinks Nick
slept with me to help you out?

Jimmy nods.

IZZY

(continuing)

God, Jimmy, you're the worst.

JIMMY

Can you stop insulting me and help
me find a way to get them back
together?

IZZY

Now you're asking for me help. God
I love how upside down this is.
Fine. For Nick. Not for you.

JIMMY

Is this how you always treat
people when they apologize? No
wonder I never apologized before.

IZZY

Well until this gets figured out
for Nick, you're under apology
arrest.

JIMMY

Does the arrest involve handcuffs?

IZZY
In your fucking dreams, Jimmy.

INT. - RULLOFFS - NIGHT

Amber is celebrating her birthday at Rulloffs that weekend. Jimmy is there as are his friends, including Mouse and Laz. Nick is there, too. He looks a little nervous, half-laughing at their jokes, but not paying full attention to them. He sees Ryan come in, wearing a black spaghetti string top. She hugs Amber. Then he sees Ryan introduce her new guy, CARL, mid-twenties. His hair is slicked, and he is wearing a white undershirt and tight jeans. He looks like a character from *The Outsiders*. Nick waits until Carl has gone to the bar to get drinks before going over and talking to Ryan. When he approaches, Amber slides away from the two of them.

NICK
Hey Ry.

RYAN
Hey Nick. Hooked up with any wives lately?

NICK
Are you going to bring that up every time I see you?

RYAN
You're right. I'm sorry. It's so nice to see you!

NICK
You don't have to be patronizing, either. You can just act normal.

RYAN
Then I guess the normal thing would be to introduce you to Carl.
(looks over to Carl)

NICK
I can't believe that's your new guy.

RYAN

Believe what you want, I'm pretty sure Carl would never have sex with another man's wife.

NICK

(looks at her deeply)

Why are you treating me like this?

The question cuts Ryan, and she doesn't have an answer. She knows how she's being toward him, and now that it's out in the open, it hurts her to acknowledge it. She walks to Carl at the bar without responding.

EXT. - RULLOFFS PATIO - MINUTES LATER

Nick goes out to the patio, where Jimmy is smoking.

EXT. - RULLOFFS ENTRANCE - SIMULTANEOUS

Izzy is scrounging through her purse to show the bouncer her ID.

EXT. - RULLOFFS PATIO - CONTINUOUS

Nick and Jimmy are out on the patio, both looking at Carl, who is at the indoor bar.

NICK

I still can't believe she's dating someone new. And what's with the undershirt and slicked back hair? Is he trying to stay gold or something?

JIMMY

Stay gold? More like time travel back to the sixties. But don't worry, he's no match.

(looks off while exhaling his cigarette)

No fucking match.

NICK

No joke, he's probably got a switchblade on him. He'd slice me to shreds.

JIMMY
I'm not talking about you.

NICK
That's one thing I really don't
need - you taking a swing at the
guy she's ...

Izzy walks onto the patio and scours it for Nick and Jimmy.
Nick sees her.

NICK
(continuing)
Holy shit. It's Izzy.

JIMMY
(not surprised)
Yup.

NICK
Izz-ee. As in your wife.

JIMMY
I'm aware of being married to her.
She actually reminded me of it the
other day.

Izzy sees them and walks up to them.

IZZY
Jimmy.

JIMMY
Izzy.

IZZY
(touches Nick's arm)
Nick, how are you?

NICK
Confused.
(points from Izzy to
Jimmy and back)
Don't you guys hate each other?

IZZY
Oh don't worry, we still do.

JIMMY

Yeah, we've got no issue on that front.

NICK

Am I missing something then?

IZZY

Not some-thing. Some-one. I heard you're missing some-one.

NICK

You mean ...

(looks to the bar)

Yeah, looks like I fucked that one up.

IZZY

If anyone fucked it up, it was Jimmy

NICK

(to Jimmy)

You told her about this?

IZZY

He even apologized to me about it. Can you believe that? Seven years and it wasn't until after we decided to get divorced that he apologizes for something.

NICK

He only came up with the idea. I was the one okay doing it.

IZZY

Why does everyone except for me and Jimmy have a problem with what happened? Are you really sure this girl's worth it?

(to Jimmy)

Where is she?

JIMMY

Over there. In the black spaghetti string top.

IZZY
(to Nick)
For the record, if this doesn't work, your open invitation still stands.

JIMMY
What open invitation?

NICK
If what doesn't work?

Izzy gives Jimmy a smirk.

IZZY
(to Nick)
Follow me.

Izzy heads toward the indoor bar. Nick looks at Jimmy.

JIMMY
Trust the process.

NICK
This was never part of the process.

INT. - RULLOFFS - MOMENTS LATER

Nick catches up to Izzy as she walks into the bar. Ryan is standing close to the bar with Carl.

IZZY
(turns to Nick)
Nick! I can't believe we ran into each other here! How have you been? How are things with the girl? What was her name?
(bumps into Ryan)
Oh sorry.
(does a double-take)
Oh hey, Nick's girlfriend! We met at Reading Terminal. Remind me your name. I'm so bad with them.

RYAN
Nick and I-

IZZY

Where are my manners. I'm Izzy.
And you're ... Ryan! That's it. It's
great to see you again, Ryan!

Izzy hugs Ryan, which Ryan isn't ready for.

RYAN

Nick didn't tell you? We're not
together anymore.

IZZY

What do you mean?
(looks to Nick)
You aren't?
(looks to both of them)
And you two are in the same bar?

NICK

Izzy, what the fuck are you doing.

CARL

(to Ryan and Nick)
You two are boyfriend and
girlfriend?

RYAN

Were boyfriend and girlfriend.

IZZY

Who are you?

CARL

(points to Ryan)
Her date.

IZZY

(as if interested)
So does that mean you're back on
the market, Nick?

NICK

(to Izzy)
You really are bad at acting.

RYAN
(to Izzy)
So you're Jimmy's ex-wife.

CARL
Who's Jimmy?

IZZY
(to Nick)
I'm trying to help you.

NICK
(to Ryan)
I have no idea what she's even
doing here.

CARL
Who's Jimmy?

RYAN
This is too much.

NICK
I didn't bring her. Jimmy must have
invited her.

CARL
WHO'S JIMMY?

RYAN
Amber's boyfriend!

CARL
Oh.
(thinks)
Who's Amber?

RYAN
(irritated)
Don't you know anything?

IZZY
(to Nick)
Good job ruining the plan.

NICK
You call this a plan?

RYAN
This is all too fucked up.

Ryan walks outside the bar.

IZZY
(to Nick and Carl)
Stay here.
(to Nick)
Especially you.

CARL
I'm so confused.

NICK
That makes two of us.
(looks to the bar)
You want a beer?

EXT. - SIDEWALK OUTSIDE RULLOFFS - MOMENTS LATER

Izzy catches up to Ryan, who is walking down the sidewalk.

IZZY
Can I ask you a question?

RYAN
What.

IZZY
What's your fucking problem?

RYAN
My problem? You know, I can kind
of see why Jimmy divorced you.
(turns and starts
walking)

IZZY
Why are you treating Nick that
way?

RYAN
(turns back around)
Well I know that you'd never treat
him like that.

IZZY

No, I wouldn't. I'd treat him like the girl he deserves.

RYAN

By having sex with him when you're married? Well, did you know that he had sex with you so Jimmy wouldn't lose more in the divorce if you found out about Amber?

IZZY

Ryan, look at me. Do you really think I was a chore? Do you think Nick didn't want to have sex with me?

Ryan gives her a look.

IZZY

(continuing)

Let's be honest, you would want to have sex with me if you were a guy. Now, I know, everyone thinks that woman fresh out of a relationship is vulnerable because she's just so in need of some validation. Ryan, let me ask you: Do I seem like that type of girl?

RYAN

No, you actually seem like a-

IZZY

That's cause I'M NOT, Ryan. Besides, I already knew that Jimmy was with that girl of his.

RYAN

You knew he was with my cousin?

IZZY

Sure, I did. My private investigator told me.

RYAN

This just gets more and more
twisted.

IZZY

And I told Jimmy that since he was
already fucking someone, I was
going to invite Nick out on a
date. You know, because it's a
free fucking world.

RYAN

But Jimmy told me that he set you
two up.

IZZY

Whatever he told you is just to
protect his stupid Jimmy ego. I
invited Nick out on a date - a
legitimate date - and he spent the
night. I even gave him an open
invitation to come back whenever
he wanted. No strings attached.
But he never came. Not even once.
That's how guilty he must've felt.
I mean, how often do guys get an
OPEN INVITATION from a girl like
me?

RYAN

You know, now I kind of get how
you and Jimmy were married.

IZZY

At least I make Jimmy feel guilty
about things he actually deserves
to feel guilty for.

RYAN

What's that supposed to mean?

IZZY

(calm and serious)

You're making a huge mistake.
Nick's one of the most genuine
guys I've ever met. That's the
whole reason I made a move on him
in first place.

Ryan cringes a bit.

IZZY

(continuing)

You have yourself one of the few
good ones. Don't let someone like
that slip through your fingers all
because he went on one date before
he even met you. Go talk to him
about it, and you'll find out what
I already know.

Ryan is clearly being persuaded and looks toward Carl.

RYAN

I brought another guy here.

IZZY

Johnny Rocket over there? Is he
seriously your rebound?

RYAN

He's not really a rebound. This is
the actually first time we've been
out. I hadn't even talked to him
until this morning.

IZZY

You brought him here to make Nick
jealous? God this is making me and
Jimmy seem normal.

RYAN

I really doubt that.

(looks to Carl)

So what do I do about him?

IZZY

Oh I wouldn't worry.
(undoes her bra and
takes it out from
underneath her shirt)
I'll make tonight worth his while.

RYAN

You're kidding me.

IZZY

Am I.

Izzy starts walking back into the bar, and Ryan follows.
Izzy turns to Ryan.

IZZY

Wait a sec.

Izzy goes to the bar and grabs a pen and writes something on a napkin before folding it up and handing it to Ryan.

IZZY

(continuing)

When you're finished talking to
Nick, read this and you'll get it.

Izzy approaches Carl as Ryan heads to the patio. Carl is holding an extra drink and notices Ryan going out there.

CARL

Ryan! I got you a-

Izzy, her nipples protruding through her top, walks over to Carl. Her bra is hanging off the tip of her finger.

IZZY

I don't think that drink's for her
anymore.

Carl is thunderstruck.

INT. - RULLOFFS PATIO - MOMENTS LATER

Ryan is walking toward Nick and Jimmy on the patio.

NICK
Here she comes.

Jimmy is looking into the bar, seeing Izzy holding out her bra as she talks to Carl.

JIMMY
Man, she can still be so fucking hot sometimes.

NICK
(follows Jimmy's gaze)
What the fuck is she doing?

Ryan walks up to Nick.

RYAN
I need to talk to you.

JIMMY
(still looking at Izzy)
I don't know, but I need a better angle.

Ryan looks confused, then looks back to Izzy.

RYAN
Oh God.

Jimmy, mesmerized, wanders off for a better view.

NICK
I know you don't want to hear it, but whatever this is, I had nothing to do with it.

RYAN
I brought that guy just to make you jealous.

NICK
You're dating the guy to make me jealous? That's kind of fucked up. Especially for him.

RYAN

I'm not dating him. I barely know him.

NICK

But at the concert you said you were seeing someone.

RYAN

I lied. I just wanted to make you feel bad. You know, I haven't been real nice to you lately.

NICK

I'm aware of that.

RYAN

Izzy told me the truth of what happened. I didn't know that she already knew about Amber. And that she actually asked you out. And that you—

NICK

Asked me out? She didn't ask me out.

RYAN

But that's what she said.

NICK

Well it's not true.

RYAN

Then what IS true?

NICK

Jimmy set it up. He told her that he needed to meet with her about the divorce and picked some bar for neutral ground. Then he told me that ...

(hesitates)

RYAN

Let me guess, that he needed to drink off his divorce.

NICK

(shakes his head)

That he was setting me up with
you, and I had to meet you at this
bar.

RYAN

That's ... even ... wow. This just
keeps getting more and more
fucked. I think I should go.

Ryan turns and starts walking away. She then remembers the napkin in her hand opens it. On it is written "He's even honest when he shouldn't be." Ryan stops, then turns around to Nick.

RYAN

You're so fucking stupid, you know
that?

NICK

Cause I just blew the last chance
I had?

RYAN

Because only someone that stupid
would be that honest.

Ryan kisses Nick deeply.

NICK

Now I'm confused.

Ryan gives Nick the napkin to read.

NICK

Who wrote this? Did Izzy
write this?

RYAN

I think it was part of her
plan.

NICK

I'm not sure she had a plan.
So this is yes to another
chance?

RYAN

I thought I already answered that.

Ryan kisses Nick again.

EXT. - RULLOFFS PATIO - CONTINUOUS

Amber approaches Jimmy, who is still watching what is unfolding between Izzy and Carl.

AMBER

Um ... I think you're looking in the wrong direction.

JIMMY

This is working out in a really weird way.

AMBER

No, it's actually working out just like you planned.

Amber turns him in the direction of Nick and Ryan. They see Nick and Ryan kissing.

JIMMY

Holy shit.

(looks to Amber)

Does this mean I can visit you in Madrid?

AMBER

I would've wanted you to visit no matter how this worked out. Porque me estoy enamorando de ti.

(Because I'm falling for you.)

JIMMY

Well that sounds awesome.

Amber looks at him with a coy expression because he doesn't understand.

EXT. - RULLOFFS PATIO - CONTINUOUS

Nick is with Ryan and looks to the inside bar.

NICK
Is Izzy hitting on your guy over
there?

RYAN
(gives a droll look)
Definitely not my guy. He never
was and he's never going to be.

NICK
Well that's not my girl. She never
was and she's never going to be.

RYAN
And I'm going to make sure of it.

Ryan kisses Nick, a long kiss. Nick again looks to the inside bar, and this time he sees that Carl and Izzy saw them kiss. Izzy immediately tugs Carl in for a hard kiss and then holds up a finger to Carl - give me a second - and comes out to Nick and Ryan on the patio.

IZZY
I'll do it, but I'm not giving him
an open invitation.

RYAN
I should go talk to him.
(to Nick)
And be honest.

IZZY
Oh I wouldn't worry about it. I
don't think he's about to pass up
this opportunity.
(nods at Nick)
But if you let this guy go again,
I'm gonna give Grease Lightning
back and set my sights on Nick.

NICK
Or maybe the three of us could set
our sights on each other?

RYAN
Not funny. Either of you.

Jimmy and Amber walk up.

JIMMY

Did someone say threesome? How
about a fivesome!

AMBER

(in a teasing way)

Or maybe a ménage à quatre without
you.

Ryan, Izzy, and Amber jokingly make a friendly agreement
and escort Nick away. It leaves Jimmy standing by himself.

JIMMY

Do I at least get to watch?

Ryan, Izzy, Amber, and Nick are walking away.

IZZY

(to Amber)

So you're the one who's crazy
enough to date him?

AMBER

And maybe one day I'll be
crazy enough to marry him.

IZZY

(looks at Amber)

Why is it you look so familiar?

(realizes, turns back to
Jimmy)

The night I moved out!

CREDITS

INT. - CONFERENCE ROOM - ONE MONTH LATER

Jimmy and Izzy meet to finalize their divorce. JIMMY'S
LAWYER, a middle-aged man, and IZZY'S LAWYER, a young
woman, are present to help decide how to divide everything.

JIMMY

You know what the best part about
today is?

IZZY

That we'll never have to see each other again.

JIMMY

That you can't take me for more than half.

IZZY

I told you I was never out to do that.

JIMMY

You can never be too sure.

(to his lawyer)

Isn't it convenient that she arranged for this right before she gets her doctorate and starts earning six figures that would figure into this settlement?

IZZY

That's right, Jimmy. Because I'm that manipulative. I manipulated our marriage into falling apart.

JIMMY

Let's not forget I'm the one who wanted to work this out.

IZZY

And what would there be to work out?

(to her lawyer)

Do you see anything that's even remotely resembling something that could work?

JIMMY

(to his lawyer)

I'm so glad she fucked my friend. Now she can't fuck me for fucking someone else.

JIMMY'S LAWYER

You didn't make me aware that she had intercourse with another man.

JIMMY

It was only after I fucked someone first. So that evened it up.

JIMMY'S LAWYER

Was this before you were officially separated?

JIMMY

If a picture of her shit out of my apartment makes it official, then yes.

JIMMY'S LAWYER

Well then it wouldn't affect this divorce regardless. That would only be the case if you had kids.

JIMMY

You mean ... Nick didn't have to fuck my wife for me?

END