

o r d i n a r y j o e

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INT. SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY - CARRIER DOME - DAY

The massive indoor arena is filled with thousands of GRADUATING SENIORS, wearing excited faces and creatively adorned caps and gowns. PARENTS beam with tear-rimmed eyes.

JENNY BANKS (22), class valedictorian with the gold cords and medals to underscore her bad-assery, stands confidently at the podium. A banner reads **"CLASS OF 2010"** --

JENNY

...It is my honor to introduce our 2010 commencement speaker, who walked across this very stage six short years ago... The youngest mayor in the history of Syracuse and a role model to us all... please join me in welcoming Robert William Kelley.

BOBBY KELLEY takes the podium to polite applause. Only 27, but already has that Beto/Buttigieg charm on lockdown.

BOBBY

...Just Bobby. Please. I've actually dreamed of this moment all my life, getting in front of a packed Carrier Dome... but in the dream I was in a basketball uniform and shooting a game winning three pointer. Jim Boeheim made sure that never happened.

The crowd laughs, everyone including legendary coach JIM BOEHEIM himself. Well, everyone except for...

JOE KIMBROUGH (22), radiates thoughtfulness, an art-school sensitivity, and an incredible awkwardness as he makes his way down the rows of already seated graduates, entering late and mortified that he's making a bit of a scene.

JOE

(quietly)
Is this the K's?

ANNOYED 'P' STUDENT

Powell. You're way up there, dude.

Joe continues wandering as the speech continues...

BOBBY

So I remember how scared I was sitting where you're sitting now. How there were so many paths laid out before me, and how paralyzed I felt. Which path was I supposed to take?

Joe approaches several more rows, getting annoyed head shakes--

JOE
K's? K's? K's?

AMY
...Yeah, Kim.

JOE
Thank God. Kimbrough. I'm there.

Joe slides into the empty seat beside AMY KIM (22), a welcoming smile in stark contrast to everyone else.

JOE (CONT'D)
(self-deprecating)
...So I majored in punctuality. You?

AMY
At the moment, I think I majored in anxiety. Minored in freaking out.

A shared smile as we go... BACK ON STAGE:

BOBBY
...I remember wishing that real life had a list of prerequisite courses, like college, spelling out which way to go--

Amy looks at Bobby Kelley, impressed.

AMY
...This guy's good.
(notices Joe's distress)
You okay?

JOE
I mean... I have no idea what I'm going to do with my life and I'm wearing an orange dress, so...

AMY
What makes someone late for their own graduation? Not judging, just curious.

JOE
My Uncle Frank wanted to give me something. Turned into a whole thing--

AMY
What is it?

Joe opens the small box he's been carrying to reveal an old, NYPD badge, its surface scratched and frayed at the edges.

JOE

Told him he could have just given it to me after. But Uncle Frank... he insisted my dad had to be with me. *'When I walk across.'*

AMY

Was your dad...?

JOE

...North Tower.

Amy puts a hand on Joe's arm, a sweet and gentle yet powerful gesture for two people who were strangers moments ago.

AMY

Seems like a sweet gift.

JOE

Yeah, seems like. But it's really a guilt trip. He's a cop, too. And my granddad. So he kind of wants me in the family business. But I majored in music. Dreams of being the next Billy Joel and all that. My Uncle thinks it's ridiculous. Maybe he's right...

AMY

...If it's any consolation, my life's a mess, too. Poli-sci major, dreams of running for office one day.... I was supposed to move to DC with my boyfriend, had a job lined up as a Congressional aide... but it turns out we have different definitions of the word monogamy, so...

JOE

So you're not going to move to DC?

AMY

We were supposed to get an apartment together.

JOE

Get your own apartment.

AMY

Honestly, I don't know if I can even be in the same city with him.

JOE
Don't let some idiot guy ruin your dreams.

AMY
Don't let your Uncle ruin yours.

JOE
Okay, deal.

AMY
Really?
(off his look)
...Deal.

Joe smiles. Amy smiles back. They shake on it. A true connection. BACK ON STAGE:

BOBBY
...And after you throw those caps in the air, the decisions you make - big life decisions like which career to pursue, whether to get married, have kids... or just little decisions about whether or not to take a moment to be kind, whether or not to push yourself to work harder - they all add up, one by one, to determine the person you will ultimately become.

As Joe and Amy share a look, each seemingly having made their first big life decision... WE SLAM CUT TO:

CAPS ARE TOSSED INTO THE AIR

Joe and Amy share nervous, excited looks...

AMY
Well... good luck with your Uncle.

JOE
Good luck with DC. You're going, right?

AMY
Right... I think so. It's Amy, by the way.

JOE
Joe. Bye, Amy.

AMY
Bye, Joe.

A surprisingly weighty moment as they tear themselves away from each other and head off in their separate directions...

EXT. SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY - SHAW QUADRANGLE - DAY

Joe wanders through the crowd of GRADUATES and FAMILIES, finally spotting his UNCLE FRANK (late 40s) and his mother GWEN (early 40s). Joe hesitates. Then hears...

JENNY (O.S.)

Don't go over there.

He turns to see Jenny, class valedictorian, as she leans in and bumps his shoulder. They are obviously close.

JOE

Yeah, sneak me out the back. You were great up there by the way.

JENNY

Stop changing the subject, I'm serious.

JOE

My family's taking me to dinner.

JENNY

Blow it off.

JOE

My Uncle will literally shoot me. They drove all the way up--

JENNY

A few hours in the car doesn't buy Uncle Frank the right to tell you grad school's a waste of money. It's freaking Julliard! You're like my super hero for getting in there!

JOE

Settle down.

JENNY

My parents are renting me a place at the shore for the weekend. Graduation present is a graduation blowout... and you are coming.

JOE

I don't know if I can, I might be taking the police exam on Monday.

JENNY

You are not doing that.

JOE
I'm glad you can see the future.

JENNY
Joe. That's insane. *You're an artist.*

Suddenly, they both hear a chant..."JEN-NY! JEN-NY! JEN-NY!"

JOE
Go. Give the people what they want.

JENNY
Please come to the beach? I really want to talk...

JOE
(torn, but finally...)
...I really should do the dinner.
I'll text you after.

JENNY
Your loyalty to your family is very sweet. And very frustrating.

She reaches out and touches Joe's face affectionately, then heads off towards her group of chanting friends. As Joe watches Jenny walk away, he's joined by his friend ERIC PAYNE (22) who silently puts an arm around his shoulder...

ERIC
Please tell me that you're going to the beach with Jenny Banks.
(off Joe's hesitation)
This isn't even a decision!

JOE
It's... complicated.

ERIC
It's *simple*. Jenny is objectively the hottest girl I've ever seen. The smartest girl here, as tangibly measured by our university--

JOE
You're ridiculous. She's my best friend. I don't want to risk losing that--

ERIC
I thought *I* was.

JOE
No, Eric. You're like, a distant second.

ERIC
Deeply offended. Seriously, if a
girl like that even glanced my
direction--

JOE
There's a first for everything.

Just then, Amy walks by with her family. Amy spots Joe and
gives an excited wave. Joe waves back, pleased, like the two
of them share some kind of secret. Eric notices, stunned...

ERIC
...Who the hell is that?

JOE
I don't know. Just met her.

ERIC
You don't *know*?

JOE
We sat together in the thing. Her
name's Amy.

ERIC
Are you kidding me right now? I saw
that giggly wave.

JOE
It wasn't *giggly*, what does that
even mean?

ERIC
Did you ask her out?

JOE
What? No--

ERIC
Why not? You've got some kind of
magic mojo working right now and you
need to take advantage--

JOE
Didn't really seem appropriate, we
were kind of... graduating.

ERIC
So go right now. Walk over there and
ask her out--

JOE
Her parents are standing right there--

ERIC
 So? If you don't go ask her out, I
 will.
 (off Joe's look)
 You're passing. She's fair game--

JOE
 Don't be an ass--

ERIC
 Joe. This is important. As your second
 best friend, I'm telling you, you
 can't live your life like this.
 Letting opportunities walk right by.
 Letting life just happen to you.
 You're gonna look back one day and
 regret all the things you *should*
have done. The chances you missed.
 And Amy might be one of them. Her or
 Jenny. I'm serious.

Joe hesitates. And that's all Eric can take--

ERIC (CONT'D)
 Okay. I'm going.

As Eric begins to walk away, Joe's eyes land on Amy... then
 he turns and catches sight of Jenny with her friends, waving
 him over. His eyes finally land on his mother and Uncle Frank,
 heading towards him... *A triple fork in the road.*

Joe seems to make a decision... he starts to take a step...
 but suddenly, without warning we... **CUT TO BLACK. SILENCE.**

After a beat, a SONG STARTS TO PLAY.

A TITLE CARD APPEARS: **TEN YEARS LATER.** And we come up on...

JOE'S FACE. Eyes closed as he plays an acoustic guitar. He's
 now 32, his hair is tousled and he has a casual beard.

He begins to sing - quiet and soulful, a genuine friendliness
 in his voice - a smile on his face - giving off a very Ed
 Sheeran/Roger Hodgson vibe...

JOE
 (singing)
The roads all diverged...

And suddenly we hear a crowd CHEER. Reveal we are:

EXT. JONES BEACH SEASIDE AMPHITHEATER - NIGHT

And 15,000 adoring fans sing every word right along with Joe--

JOE
 (singing)
*Every which way. But only one
 traveler. Only one gaze. No second
 guessing. Don't get a few tries.
 Have to play this one forward.
 Wherever it lies--*

Joe is lost in the music. Until suddenly CLACK! CLACK! CLACK!
Hailstones begin to fall from the sky, pelting the audience.

JOE (CONT'D)
 (talks into mic)
 Some kind of weather event intruding
 here. What do you think, should we
 sing and dance our way through it?

The crowd ROARS. Nobody is going anywhere, they just seem to embrace the poetry of the moment. As the tiny hailstones pile up on the stage, Joe looks to the side stage and locks eyes with his wife...

AMY KIM! She wears fashionable clothes, expensive jewelry. Success fits her well. As Amy takes out her phone and starts filming - mouthing the words "This. Is. Incredible."

And as Joe resumes singing, suddenly we... **CUT TO BLACK AGAIN.**

The song echoes quietly. Suddenly, somebody whistles a similar tune. Slightly off. And we come up on...

INT. LENOX HILL HOSPITAL - EMERGENCY ROOM - NIGHT

JOE, also 32, but now clean-shaven, and with a less stylish haircut. He's wearing green hospital scrubs and whistling as he speed walks through the ER, past the patients in the waiting area and out the door. He places a FaceTime call...

EXT. LENOX HILL HOSPITAL - AMBULANCE BAY - NIGHT

The face of a 9-year-old boy, CHRISTOPHER, appears on Joe's phone. He shares Joe's kind, curious eyes...

JOE
 Hey, buddy... Just wanted to say
 goodnight. Why aren't you in bed?

CHRISTOPHER
 Me and mom are binging 90 Day Fiance.

JOE
 Just don't let her keep you up too
 late, she's not the one who has to
 wake you up in the morning.

CHRISTOPHER
Want to say goodnight to her?

Suddenly the view on the phone swings and we catch sight of Joe's wife... JENNY BANKS. The decade has been rough on her.

JOE
(perfunctory)
Goodnight.

JENNY
(a bit cold)
Night. And don't forget our appointment tomorrow.

CHRISTOPHER
(reappears on phone)
That's it?

JOE
Love you, bud. I gotta go--

Suddenly, it starts to HAIL. An ambulance drives into the bay, SIRENS ON... And as Joe stares out at the hailstorm, fascinated, we... **CUT TO BLACK ONCE MORE. Then SMASH CUT TO:**

EXT. BROOKLYN - QUEENSBRIDGE PARK - NIGHT

JOE, also 32, but now in a police uniform. He looks a bit street-hardened, has a tight haircut and a neatly trimmed mustache. Joe whistles quietly as he walks around the perimeter of a political rally, keeping his eyes on the CROWD of a several hundred.

A BANNER reading "Kelley for Congress" flutters above the stage as the Queensboro Bridge looms behind it.

Joe's phone RINGS. The caller says ERIC. Joe sighs, then...

COP JOE
(picks up phone)
I'm working.

ERIC (V.O.)
Guess who RSVP'd.

COP JOE
Dude, I'm working.

INT. ERIC'S BROWNSTONE - NIGHT

Eric, now 32, wearing a NY ISLANDERS Barzal jersey puts Chinese take-out on the table as he talks. INTERCUT:

ERIC
Jenny. Banks. She's fully coming to the reunion.

COP JOE
I'm hanging up now.

ERIC
What're you, taking down a drug ring? Give me two minutes--

COP JOE
Crowd control at a political rally. It's actually the guy who spoke at our graduation--

ERIC
I don't even remember who spoke at our graduation... other than Jenny Banks. Because she was valedictorian. And your girlfriend--

COP JOE
She wasn't my girlfriend.

ERIC
Friends with benefits, whatever you were. She's coming, which means you're coming.

COP JOE
You're worse than my mom.

ERIC
Joe, listen. You need to get out there.

JOE
What are you talking about? I am out there. I date all the time.

ERIC
Yeah, and then break up all the time. And you coming out to dinner with me and Mallory? *She thinks it's getting a little... weird...* that you're with a different girl practically every time. And anyway, you must be at least curious about Jenny. She's not on facebook or insta, the girl ghosted all of us.

Cop Joe spots a guy near the back of the crowd in an ARMY JACKET giving off serious Travis Bickle vibes. As the man's hand goes inside his jacket, it suddenly begins to HAIL.

COP JOE
Eric, I gotta go. For real.

As Cop Joe hangs up and moves towards the suspicious guy...

EXT. JONES BEACH SEASIDE AMPHITHEATER - NIGHT

Music Joe still plays the same song, but stops singing the lyrics and talks into the microphone...

MUSIC JOE
I'm not sure if this will work, but
I feel like if you all light up your
phones, it might do something magical.

In an instant, there's a sea of glowing iPhone lights. They sparkle and dazzle off the falling hailstones. It's surreal.

MUSIC JOE (CONT'D)
I was right.

The crowd ROARS.

MUSIC JOE (CONT'D)
This place is special to me. It's
where my dad brought me to my very
first concert.

More ROARS of a approval. As the music continues...

MUSIC JOE (CONT'D)
He was a great dad. And I hope I can
be a great dad someday, too.

Joe turns to the side stage, beaming at his wife Amy...

MUSIC JOE (CONT'D)
I wrote this song for the most amazing
woman in the world. My wife Amy.
She's here tonight. Maybe you all
can help me serenade her?

Amy blushes, embarrassed but exhilarated. We might notice a
"Bobby Kelley for Congress" pin on her blazer.

AMY
You're crazy!

And as Joe launches back into the lyrics, the entire audience singing with deep feeling...

MUSIC JOE/AUDIENCE
*Which way do I go, which path do I
take...*

EXT. BROOKLYN - QUEENSBRIDGE PARK - NIGHT

The song continues over as **Cop Joe** (mustache) makes his way closer to the sketchy guy in the back... Suddenly, he sees the guy pull a gun out of his jacket--

COP JOE

Drop it!

Surprised, the gunman turns his weapon towards Joe... but Joe is faster and FIRES two quick shots first! People SCREAM and scatter. Panic.

Joe runs through the chaos and towards the gunman, tackling him to the ground. Joe manages to disarm the guy, cuffing him... And as Joe rolls the guy over, he recoils a bit as he sees blood spreading across the guy's shirt. As Joe radios for help...

MUSIC JOE (V.O.)

*I cannot see clear, still decisions
to make...*

INT. LENOX HILL HOSPITAL - CAFETERIA - NIGHT

Nurse Joe eats alone, interrupted by DR. BRENT BANKS...

BANKS

Shooting victim incoming. Finish that.

Joe takes a final bite and he's on the move...

MUSIC JOE (V.O.)

*Am I on the right road - yellow leaves
obscuring my view...*

EXT. JONES BEACH SEASIDE AMPHITHEATER - NIGHT

Music Joe finishes the song with a surprising amount of emotion, surprising even for him...

MUSIC JOE/AUDIENCE

*But I know it's okay if it leads me
to you. I will never regret if it
brings me to you. I want only that
road that will bring me to you.*

Joe walks off stage. As he embraces Amy, we CUT TO BLACK...

END OF TEASER

ACT ONEINT. LENOX HILL HOSPITAL - EMERGENCY ROOM - NIGHT

The double-doors to the ambulance bay burst open as two EMT's push a gurney carrying the GUNMAN from the Bobby Kelley rally into the E.R.

Cop Joe, his uniform now splattered with blood, runs alongside, a troubled look on his face. As an E.R. NURSE races over to help...

E.R. NURSE
How many injured?

COP JOE
Just him.

SMASH CUT TO:

LENOX HILL HOSPITAL - EMERGENCY ROOM - PARALLEL TIME

The same double doors burst open, to the same emergency room, and the same two EMT's wheel in the gurney...

Only this time, it's a WOUNDED BOBBY KELLEY who's laying on the gurney, and a different NYPD COP named MARQUIS (who we'll meet again later) running alongside.

Nurse Joe, the on-duty E.R. Nurse, is now the nurse who races over to help.

NURSE JOE
(to NYPD officer)
How many injured?

MARQUIS
Just him. Shooter disappeared into the crowd.

NURSE JOE
(to EMT)
What do we got?

EMT
Thirty-seven year old male, single
GSW above the clavicle, through and
through, bleeding's under control.
We stabilized him--

Nurse Joe immediately applies hemostatic gauze to the wound when suddenly alarms *start blaring!* Joe scans Bobby's vitals: *BP dropping, heart rate dropping, body temp dropping--*

NURSE JOE
No you didn't. Vitals are tanking,
he's going into shock.
(to the EMT)
Any other entry wounds?

EMT
Just the one --

NURSE JOE
Doesn't make sense.
(then)
You check his groin, under his arms...
easy to forget --

EMT
Yeah... *sure*.

That's not good enough. So Nurse Joe hops on top of the still moving gurney, straddling Bobby Kelley, palpating his chest, his extremities, searching for --

NURSE JOE
--Second entry wound, right armpit;
bullet must've nicked the axillary
artery--

EMT
Christ, sorry. Can you clamp it?

NURSE JOE
If I can reach it--

Nurse Joe shoves a gloved finger into the wound, blood spurting out as he searches for the bleeder. *Bobby Kelley groans in pain*.

NURSE JOE (CONT'D)
Hang in there --

Nurse Joe uses his fingers to literally clamp the artery shut. Bobby Kelley screams in pain. The EMT gives him a look--

NURSE JOE (CONT'D)
Pain never killed anyone.

EMT
BP's coming back up.

NURSE JOE
You're gonna be okay.

Nurse Joe allows himself a small smile as the EMT's continue to push the gurney into the Operating Room, where the Head

of Surgery, Doctor Brent Banks (late 50's, who we'll later learn is Jenny's Dad) and a trauma team are waiting...

SMASH CUT TO:

LENNOX HILL HOSPITAL - EMERGENCY ROOM - PARALLEL TIME

The EMT's race the gurney carrying the injured Gunman towards the O.R., where a trauma team is waiting.

Cop Joe (mustache) takes a step back and watches as the gurney is wheeled into surgery, his emotions swirling. After a moment, the O.R. doors swing back open and the EMT re-emerges--

EMT

Here, when we cut off the guy's jacket
in the bus, this fell out--

The EMT hands Cop Joe the shooter's cellphone.

COP JOE

Thank you. Any wallet, ID--?

EMT

That was it.

The EMT starts to move off, but --

COP JOE

Hey.
(the EMT turns)
Think he'll survive?

The EMT shrugs. OFF Joe...

INT. NYPD POLICE PRECINCT - LOCKER ROOM - NIGHT

Cop Joe takes off his bloodstained shirt. He reaches into his locker and takes out... *his late father's police badge that was gifted to him at graduation.*

He sits on the bench, turning his father's badge over and over his hands. After a beat, a hand lands on his shoulder...

UNCLE FRANK (O.S.)

Your dad would be proud.

Cop Joe looks up to see his Uncle Frank (10-years older than when we last saw him) wearing a rumpled suit, and an NYPD badge clipped to his belt. NYPD Detective, first-grade.

COP JOE

Thanks. EMT's found this on the
shooter.

Cop Joe holds out the Gunman's cellphone, which is now in an evidence bag. His hands are clearly shaking. Uncle Frank takes the phone, then sits beside him and puts a comforting arm on Joe's shoulder.

UNCLE FRANK
The shooter's out of surgery--

COP JOE
So he's gonna be okay?

UNCLE FRANK
He's in ICU, but he'll live.
(off Joe's reaction)
Some guys get lucky and never take their gun out of the holster their entire career. You fire on somebody for the first time, it's a big deal. I get it. Everybody does. *But you did the right thing.*

Just then, a group of NYPD OFFICERS come in and start celebrating as soon as they see Joe...

OFFICER #1
There he is!

OFFICER #2
New York City's Finest, finest!

OFFICER #3
This man is not paying for any of his drinks tonight--

Cop Joe manages a smile as his brothers in blue surround him. Uncle Frank gives a proud nod as he heads out.

INT. FERTILITY CLINIC - EXAM ROOM - DAY

START ON **Music Joe**, holding Amy's hand nervously as a FERTILITY DOCTOR applies some gel to Amy's belly. A ghostly image appears on the ultrasound screen. After a beat...

FERTILITY DOCTOR
Well look at that. A gestational sac. Congratulations, guys--

Music Joe and Amy share a smile, her eyes watering. The doctor continues to glide the ultrasound wand over Amy's mid-section.

FERTILITY DOCTOR (CONT'D)
Actually... There's a second sac.

MUSIC JOE
Is that...*good?*

FERTILITY DOCTOR
Well, you might need a bigger car.
(off their looks)
It's twins.

MUSIC JOE
Are you sure, because last time--

FERTILITY DOCTOR
Joe, I can't promise anything. But I
know how long you've been trying,
and this ultrasound looks better
than anything we've seen before.

Amy uses her sleeve to wipe away some tears.

AMY
I thought maybe I was... *broken*.

MUSIC JOE
We're going to have a baby, baby.

Amy smiles through her tears.

AMY
Two babies.

MUSIC JOE
I love you so much!

The doctor hands them a print-out of the scan. It's just a small, black dot, but Joe has to fight to hold back the emotions. Being a dad means everything to him...

INT. NURSE JOE'S APARTMENT - DAWN

Nurse Joe enters the quiet apartment, the first hints of daylight giving the room a soft glow. He tiptoes in and peeks into his son's bedroom. He immediately hears a whisper...

CHRISTOPHER
Hey, dad.

NURSE JOE
You're awake?

CHRISTOPHER
Want to play?

Nurse Joe smiles, then enters and surprisingly lifts his son out of bed... which seems totally normal to Christopher. Nurse Joe carries him like a bride over the threshold, then places him gently into his power wheelchair.

IN THE LIVING ROOM

Nurse Joe scoots the piano bench way over to one side. Christopher rolls into the open spot in his wheelchair. They share a look. Then Nurse Joe begins to play *New York State of Mind* by Billy Joel. Christopher joins in... It's not perfect, but it's bouncy and fun.

NURSE JOE
Good! Nailed that chord change --

Their smiles are growing, and they both begin to sing until...

JENNY (O.S.)
Really you guys sound amazing, but
it's not even six--

The music stops. They turn to see a barely awake Jenny.

NURSE JOE
He made me.

JENNY
Going back to sleep.

NURSE JOE
Got it.
(to Christopher)
Can you think of anything quieter we
can do?

CHRISTOPHER
You see that hail last night?

NURSE JOE
Manual chair?

EXT. NURSE JOE'S APARTMENT BUILDING - MORNING

Nurse Joe pushes Christopher in his manual chair through various puddles, maximizing splashes and skid outs. Both are getting soaked and delighted...

INT. THERAPIST'S OFFICE - DAY

Nurse Joe and his wife Jenny sit on a couch across from their COUPLES THERAPIST (50's). They're in mid-session. And neither one of them looks happy.

THERAPIST
...Have you considered changing your
schedule so you and Jenny could spend
more time together?

NURSE JOE
I can't.
(MORE)

NURSE JOE (CONT'D)
I work the nightshift so I can help
Chris during the day, while Jenny
works--

JENNY
That's an excuse. My dad offered to
pay for help --

NURSE JOE
I can't take his hand-outs.

JENNY
It's not a hand-out! It's for his
grandson--

NURSE JOE
Look, the way I was raised... it's
just how I feel.

JENNY
This is so... *This just isn't working.*
I think maybe it's time...

But Jenny stops herself and averts her gaze.

THERAPIST
Jenny, continue that thought. How do
you feel? Right now --

Jenny sighs, this is clearly very hard for her to say...

JENNY
I feel like... I'm sorry Joe, but...
I feel like...*we need some time apart.*
Maybe with some distance we can
rediscover what we've lost--

This hits Nurse Joe like a freight train.

NURSE JOE
Wait... You want to... *get separated?*

JENNY
No... I just... I don't like that
word. But we do need time apart--

NURSE JOE
That's called getting *separated*.
Sorry you don't like the word.

JENNY
Call it whatever you want, I just...
I don't know *how we got here*. We
(MORE)

JENNY (CONT'D)

used to be *best friends*... and now I feel like we're... roommates... who barely see each other. I know you're unhappy, too... with parts of our relationship... but we can't fix it if you won't talk about it...

THERAPIST

Are there things you're unhappy with, Joe?

NURSE JOE

No, what's to be unhappy about? She's great. Everyone knows Jenny's great, she's a great mother to our son--

JENNY

See? This is exactly what I'm saying--

NURSE JOE

And I have to be honest, I feel like I'm a pretty good father. And I have to wonder if you thought about what this would do to Chris?

JENNY

That's *all I've thought about*. I'm worried about what *staying together* is doing Chris. Look what happened last night. All he wanted on that phone call was to hear us say we love each other. He told me after. And we just... don't say it anymore. Why not, Joe?

OFF Joe, as he struggles to come up with an answer...

EXT. BROOKLYN - QUEENSBRIDGE PARK - DAY

Music Joe plays a few chords of an original song on his acoustic. Reveal he's standing on a nearly empty stage as WORKERS hang a "Kelley for Congress" banner behind him. It's a sound check for a political rally that will take place sometime soon. Amy approaches and Music Joe stops playing...

AMY

Sounds great. Bobby just showed up. Okay if he comes up to say hi?

MUSIC JOE

Does he know?

AMY

About...?

MUSIC JOE
Being pregnant--

AMY
Joe. No. The last thing he needs to think about right now is that his campaign manager might need maternity leave right when the election happens--

MUSIC JOE
Just need to know who we're telling.

AMY
Nobody, okay? Including your mom. At least until we're out of the first trimester.

BOBBY (O.S.)
There he is!

They both turn to see Bobby Kelley approaching...

MUSIC JOE
Hey, Bobby. Sorry I wasn't available to do this last night--

BOBBY
Are you kidding? I'll shift any of my rallies a few days if you'll come play at them.

Amy smiles. Suddenly, Bobby drops his water bottle...

BOBBY (CONT'D)
Whoa. A little intimidated around rock stars. Can you tell? See you at the rally. And seriously, thank you--

Bobby snatches up the water bottle and heads off. Amy smiles at Music Joe, then playfully strums his guitar. OFF Joe...

INT. DINER - DAY

Cop Joe sits in a booth drinking a coffee. Uncle Frank approaches and sits across from him...

COP JOE
You got motive yet?

UNCLE FRANK
Yeah, the guy's a looney toon. Check out the pictures on the phone you recovered...

Uncle Frank hands the shooter's cellphone over to Joe, who begins to scroll through. He sees several "surveillance" type photos of Bobby Kelley from various events...

UNCLE FRANK (CONT'D)

So we got a request. This Congressman
you saved?

COP JOE

He's only a candidate.

(then)

The guy was stalking Bobby Kelley
for months, look at the dates on the
pictures--

UNCLE FRANK

This *candidate* you saved set up some
interview on TV and wants you to go
with him. He's going to make it about
gun control and mental health. Wants
the "cop hero" to legitimize his
whatever--

COP JOE

Politics isn't really my thing.
Neither is TV.

(swipes more pics,
then)

You should show these to Bobby Kelley,
maybe he remembers the guy hanging
around. And if anyone else was with
him--

UNCLE FRANK

Like what, like you think it's an
alt-right group or something? Not
just a lone shooter?

COP JOE

Worth running it down, right?

As Cop Joe continues flipping through the pictures.

UNCLE FRANK

Could be good for you, this TV thing.
The higher-ups who hand out Detective
shields, they're impressed with stuff
like that.

COP JOE

They're more impressed if I'm on
television than the work I do on the
ground?

UNCLE FRANK

They are when it's The Today Show.

Cop Joe reacts.

COP JOE

You serious?

UNCLE FRANK

Do this. It's good for you, okay?
And you can show the pictures to
Bobby Kelley yourself. When you do
this TV interview together. First
crack at investigative work. Guy's a
future Congressman, right? This could
turn into a really big deal for you.

Joe suddenly stops on one of the pictures, and his expression
changes. *Like he's just seen a ghost.* SLOWLY PUSH IN ON JOE...

COP JOE

Yeah, alright. Maybe it could.

REVEAL the picture Joe stopped on: a photo of Bobby Kelley
walking down a quiet, NYC sidewalk, with...

AMY KIM, the woman Joe sat next to at graduation 10 years
ago! She wears her hair pulled back, a decidedly different
look than Music Joe's wife. As Cop Joe pinch-zooms, Amy's
face filling the frame...

CUT TO BLACK.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWOEXT. BROOKLYN - QUEENSBRIDGE PARK - NIGHT

A shaky phone cam captures Bobby Kelley's speech interrupted by GUNSHOTS. Panic. People running. Then Cop Joe tackling the gunman in the chaos.

HODA KOTB (O.S.)
And that was the moment.

INT. TODAY SHOW SET - DAY

Cop Joe sits in full uniform, looking a bit uncomfortable across from HODA KOTB and a perfectly healthy Bobby Kelley in front of several cameras, and bright studio lights.

BOBBY
That was the moment that saved my
life. I'm here talking to you because
of a heroic decision made by this
man right here.

HODA KOTB
Officer Joe Kimbrough.

INT. GWEN KIMBROUGH'S APARTMENT - MORNING

Joe's mother GWEN KIMBROUGH watches TV in her low rent apartment. She shrieks in delight at her son's face on the television. *On her morning show!*

HODA KOTB
(on the television)
And I understand your father was a
true hero, too. So you come by it
honestly...

INT. TODAY SHOW SET - DAY

Cop Joe squirms at the comparison to his true hero.

COP JOE
Yeah, well, I wouldn't put myself on
that level. Just... happy I helped.

HODA KOTB
Amazing story, really. You never
know, right? How you're going to
respond until you're in the moment.
And we're all certainly glad you
were there in that exact moment.
We'll be back...

Hoda holds her smile. Several beats. Then...

COP JOE
Is that it? Are we like...?

PRODUCERS approach and whisk Hoda off to another set. Bobby Kelley stands to leave...

BOBBY
You were great. Thanks for doing this--

COP JOE
Hey, before you go... as part of the investigation into the assailant, I needed to show you some photos.

Cop Joe hands the shooter's phone to Bobby Kelley.

COP JOE (CONT'D)
Apparently he's been stalking you for months. You remember seeing him at these events? And if he was alone?

BOBBY
(a bit alarmed)
Why, you think this guy might have been working with someone?

COP JOE
Most likely a loner, but... we have to take all angles into consideration. Make sure we keep you safe.

Cop Joe pulls out a picture of the shooter. Bobby Kelley stares at it, but not coming up with anything...

COP JOE (CONT'D)
There's a woman in a lot of the photos. She work for you?

BOBBY
That's Amy Kim. She's my assistant--

COP JOE
Maybe she watched the crowds more intently, not distracted with making big speeches and all that. She come here with you today?

BOBBY
No, she's setting up a DC trip. She should be back in the office tomorrow I think.

COP JOE
Thanks. I'll come by.

INT. GWEN KIMBROUGH'S COBBLE HILL DUPLEX - DAY

Music Joe enters his mother GWEN's stunning Brooklyn duplex, gigantically more upscale than the apartment we just saw. Joe has flowers in hand...

GWEN
What are these for?

MUSIC JOE
Read the card --

Gwen looks at Music Joe suspiciously. Then she pulls the card out of the bouquet... reads it... and suddenly *gasps*--

MUSIC JOE (CONT'D)
Are you happy? *Grandma*? I can't tell.

Gwen's eyes tear up. She punches Music Joe playfully.

MUSIC JOE (CONT'D)
I'm not supposed to tell you, cause Amy's superstitious--

GWEN
Tell me what?

MUSIC JOE
Thank you... We don't know yet, boy or girl... but there's two... so could be one of each. But, um...
(serious)
I wanted to check with you... if it's okay if I name the baby after dad... or if that would be... I don't know... too weird for you.

GWEN
Are you kidding? He'd be so honored...

Gwen embraces her son. He tries to hold emotions in check--

MUSIC JOE
Good. Christopher, then. Or Christina, I guess. Depending. Either way, Chris.

As Music Joe looks over at a picture of his late father, wearing his dress NYPD uniform, hanging on the wall...

INT. MUSIC JOE'S GREENWICH STREET PENTHOUSE - DAY

Music Joe sits by the floor-to-ceiling window with a view of the Hudson, strumming his acoustic guitar. Writing his ideas down on paper. Trying a new progression. Suddenly, Amy enters, wrapping up a call, moving full speed...

MUSIC JOE
Hey, what are you doing home?

AMY
Trying to manage a crisis... Concert's off. Entire rally is off. The whole campaign might be off--

Amy collapses onto the couch. Music Joe approaches...

MUSIC JOE
Slow down... What's going on? What crisis-- ?

AMY
(gathers herself)
Remember when Bobby dropped his water bottle? Apparently that's been happening a lot.

MUSIC JOE
I don't understand -- *what has?*

AMY
He's been having these... hand tremors. At first he thought it was just stress. Then they moved to his jaw. And anyway, he finally went to the doctor and... his neurologist says early-onset Parkinson's.

MUSIC JOE
Whoa--

AMY
Yeah. So he just tells me this morning. And that he's leaning towards ending the campaign. I'm sorry, I've got a million phone calls to make, we have to figure out our messaging, get out ahead before--

MUSIC JOE
Hey.

AMY
What?

MUSIC JOE
Stop for a second, okay? You take care of you.

Music Joe puts a loving hand on Amy's belly.

AMY

...Yeah.

INT. BAR - NIGHT

Cop Joe enters the crowded cop bar. MARQUIS spots him and approaches (*the same NYPD cop who brought the injured Bobby Kelley into the E.R. in the Nurse Joe world.*)

MARQUIS

Whoa, it's the Queensbridge Caped Crusader! TV star, look everybody!

A big cheer, hugs and back slaps...

COP JOE

Alright, alright. Settle down.

MARQUIS

You gonna play tonight or you gotta go be on CNN or Jimmy Fallon or whatever?

COP JOE

Didn't somebody say I wouldn't have to pay for drinks tonight?

MARQUIS

I'll start a collection. Hey! The esteemed Joe Kimbrough will play a song for us if we get his drinks... Who's gonna throw in -- ?

All the cops hold out cash. Marquis circles the bar, grabbing it all up.

COP JOE

Could maybe squeeze in a tune--

Cop Joe sits at the piano. And as he begins to play Billy Joel's *Piano Man*, it becomes clear that the musical talent hasn't left him--

COP JOE (CONT'D)

(singing)

"Oh, la la la, di di da... La la, di da da... da dum --"

The few dozen off-duty cops begin to gather. For Joe, it's as good as playing a sports stadium -- *this surrogate family is his life.*

COP JOE (CONT'D)

(singing)

*"And the waitress is practicing
politics, as the businessmen slowly
get stoned --"*

Marquis takes a seat next to Cop Joe and begins to sing along. Soon, all the cops in the joint are joining in, the place festive... as Cop Joe belts out the final verse...

COP JOE (CONT'D)

(singing, intense)

*"Yes they're sharing a drink they
call loneliness, but it's better
than drinking alone."*

A bartender brings over a couple of fresh mugs of beer just as Joe finishes the song with a flourish --

COP JOE (CONT'D)

*"Sing us a song you're the piano
man, sing us a song tonight. Well
we're all in the mood for a melody,
and you got us feeling alright--"*

Marquis raises his beer for a toast. A dozen others join in --

MARQUIS

To loneliness!

COP JOE

Loneliness.

INT. LENOX HILL HOSPITAL - PATIENT ROOM - NIGHT

Nurse Joe checks in on the sleeping patient, shooting victim Bobby Kelly. Bobby's wife NINA and his six-year-old son JUSTIN are both asleep in visitor chairs. As Nurse Joe begins changing the IV bag...

JUSTIN (O.S.)

Is my dad gonna be okay?

NURSE JOE

(quietly)

Not only is he gonna be okay, I'm
pretty sure he'll be going home
tomorrow.

JUSTIN

Are you the one who saved him?

NURSE JOE

I... I helped.

JUSTIN

Thank you.

Nurse Joe smiles. Then writes the vitals in the chart and heads out...

INT. NURSE JOE'S APARTMENT - MORNING

Nurse Joe enters just as Jenny is getting ready to leave for work, their usual morning "fly-by" routine.

JENNY

Hey.

NURSE JOE

Look.

Nurse Joe holds up his phone. It shows his old buddy Eric's instagram feed: an old college picture Joe, Jen, and Eric. The caption reads: "Having dinner with these weirdos tonight."

NURSE JOE (CONT'D)

He tagged me. I totally forgot--

JENNY

Oh, right --

NURSE JOE

-- Haven't seen him since his wedding, but... I should probably just cancel, right?

JENNY

Let's do it. We can be civil. They flew in from Virginia for the reunion, right? It'll be fine.

NURSE JOE

You sure?

Jenny nods. Then, speaking quietly...

JENNY

Listen, I... I need you to talk to Christopher. *Today.*

(off his look)

He wouldn't go to sleep again last night, he was all upset. He asked me if we're getting a divorce.

NURSE JOE

...What did you tell him?

JENNY

I said we weren't.

Nurse Joe takes that in, unsure what it means...

NURSE JOE
...Because you're thinking... we
definitely aren't? Or...?

JENNY
I don't know, Joe. I'm figuring it
out. We both are. But we agreed to
time apart, right?

NURSE JOE
How did he even know to ask--? We
never fight in front of him.

JENNY
Kids see everything. Just... talk to
him. *Please.*

Nurse Joe nods. Jenny nods back, grateful...

INT. NURSE JOE'S APARTMENT - CHRISTOPHER'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Nurse Joe enters to find Chris in bed, wide awake. [Note:
we'll feature various homemade DIY assistance devices that
Nurse Joe has made for his special needs son.]

NURSE JOE
Hey. Want to play?

CHRIS
Not really.

Nurse Joe lifts his son out of bed and carries him to his
wheelchair. As Chris turns it on and begins to drive towards
his bathroom, Nurse Joe steps in front of him...

NURSE JOE
Can we talk for a sec? ...I hear
you're upset about me and mom?

CHRIS
...I guess.

NURSE JOE
Listen. Your mom and I... we've been
having some disagreements. That's
true. But that doesn't mean we don't
love each other.

CHRIS
Then why don't you ever say it?

NURSE JOE
What?

CHRIS

I love you. You tell me every day
but you never tell her. And she never
tells you.

Nurse Joe kneels down in front of Chris, takes his hand.

NURSE JOE

You're right. And I don't know. Don't
really have a good answer, other
than we should. Tell each other.

(off Chris' look)

...Here's the thing. Sometimes, when
adults aren't getting along, they
need time away from each other. Like,
when two kids are fighting at school
and the teacher gives them a time-
out. And after some time, they become
friends again. So your mom and I, we
decided that I'm going to take a
time out. I'll be sleeping somewhere
else for awhile.

CHRIS

So... you'll just be gone?

NURSE JOE

Whoa, whoa, whoa. I will never be
gone. I'm not going anywhere.

CHRIS

You just said--

NURSE JOE

This is important. You are the best
thing in my entire world. My greatest
accomplishment in life is being your
dad. So I'm never giving that up,
okay? I promise I'll still come over
every single morning after work, and
we'll still play the piano together,
and I'm gonna walk you to school
like I always do. You are *not* losing
your dad. I promise.

Chris nods, but he's shaken. Nurse Joe embraces his son...
REVEAL Jenny watching from the doorway, her heart breaking...

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREEINT. GWEN KIMBROUGH'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Cop Joe KNOCKS as he enters his mother's apartment to find his mother Gwen and Uncle Frank cooking together in the kitchen.

Joe heads in and grabs plates from the cupboard to set the table, clearly a practiced routine. But his mother intercepts him and hugs him deeply.

COP JOE
Ma, I'm fine.

GWEN
I don't like guns. And I don't like shooting. I'm just glad you're okay, okay?

COP JOE
I was never in danger, I promise.

GWEN
Your father promised the same thing.

Joe locks eyes with Uncle Frank. A silent moment between them as Uncle Frank's eyes plead with Joe not to respond to that. Joe finishes the hug, kisses his mother on the forehead and goes to set the table.

INT. GWEN KIMBROUGH'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

LATER. Cop Joe, Uncle Frank, and Gwen are now eating dinner.

GWEN
So what was she like, Hoda Kolb?

COP JOE
I don't know. Nice.

GWEN
That's it? That's all I get? You know she wrote six books. And adopted two babies, a woman her age.

COP JOE
Somehow that never came up.

Suddenly, there's a KNOCK at the door.

COP JOE (CONT'D)
I'll get it.

GWEN
(calls out)
It's open!

COP JOE
You don't even see who it is?

GWEN
What, I got two cops here.

The door opens to reveal Cop Joe's best friend Eric, carrying a small box of baked goods...

ERIC
Hey, TV star. My street cred just went up with my wife, my best friend's a hero. Didn't stop her from going on her girls-night, so that leaves me unfed. And everybody knows Friday night is lasagna night at Gwen Kimbrough's house--

GWEN
Get a plate, I'm not getting up.

As Eric heads into the kitchen to get a plate...

ERIC
Did Joe tell you about our ten year reunion tomorrow night?

GWEN
No he did not. *Joe*?

COP JOE
Nothing to tell, ma. I wasn't planning on going.

ERIC
But you are now, right? You've got to. You'll be the celebrity of the whole class.

COP JOE
Great, I can sign autographs.

GWEN
Maybe Jenny will be there, you guys were so good together in college.

ERIC
Jenny is going to be there. I'm one of the organizers, I have the RSVPs.

GWEN

Joe--

COP JOE

What? Jenny's probably married with kids for all I know.

GWEN

Well that would make sense. Because that's what people do when they're already in their 30s.

COP JOE

Mom, I'm on bumble okay?

GWEN

Tick, tock... all I'm saying.

COP JOE

Men don't have biological clocks, ma. Uncle Frank, a little help?

UNCLE FRANK

I was married and had your cousin Sara when I was 28. Sorry.

COP JOE

(to Eric)

Hey, you remember that girl Amy? That I sat next to at graduation?

ERIC

Yeah, the one you *didn't* ask out.

COP JOE

She RSVP?

ERIC

I could find out. Why? You want to ask her out now? Might be a little late--

COP JOE

I'm just curious. That's all.

GWEN

Oh my God. There's hope yet.

Joe smiles. As they all resume eating...

INT. RIVOLI RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Nurse Joe (clean shaven) approaches the hostess stand with his wife Jenny, the tension between them is palpable.

NURSE JOE

So what are the rules here? We tell
them we're getting separated? We
pretend everything's fine?

JENNY

Our private life is private.

As they reach the BLONDE HOSTESS...

NURSE JOE

Hi, Joe and Jenny Kimbrough. We're
supposed to meet our friends--

BLONDE HOSTESS

They're already seated. Follow me?

WITH Nurse Joe and Jenny as they follow the Hostess into the
dining area. We then PAN BACK to the restaurant door which
opens and...

Music Joe (beard) and Amy (fashionable) walk in together. In
this world, the same Blonde Hostess is *still waiting there*
to greet them. And she beams at the sight of Music Joe - a
celebrity in her midst.

MUSIC JOE

Hi, we're meeting a friend. Eric
Payne.

BLONDE HOSTESS

(star-struck)

He's uh... yeah. Payne. With the
high chair. I didn't know... I mean.
He's already at the table. This way?

Music Joe and Amy follow her into...

THE DINING ROOM

Where Eric sits waiting, beside his 8-month-old toddler SHIANA
in a high chair. Eric stands to greet them. Handshakes and
hugs. Music Joe turns to the baby...

MUSIC JOE

Hey, you. How beautiful are you?

BLONDE HOSTESS

(interrupts)

I'm sorry. I just have to tell you,
I was at the Jones Beach show. In
the hail? It was the most amazing
experience of my life--

MUSIC JOE
Oh, thank you.

BLONDE HOSTESS
Can I get a selfie? I'm not supposed
to do this, I'm mortified at myself,
I'm sorry.

MUSIC JOE
It's fine.

The Blonde Hostess curls herself up against Music Joe and
snaps a selfie as Amy looks on awkwardly. The Blonde Hostess
heads off, beaming, slightly embarrassed. Music Joe finally
sits as Eric looks up at him with deep admiration...

ERIC
Wow. Rough life.

SMASH CUT TO:

DINING ROOM - PARALLEL TIME

As Nurse Joe and Jenny sit across from Eric and as we PAN
across the table, REVEAL that Eric's wife is... AMY KIM! In
this world, Amy wears conservative business attire, has her
hair pulled back, and has very little make-up.

NURSE JOE
Hey, guys. Sorry we're late--

ERIC
No worries. We've just been sitting
here drinking.

AMY
Actually, Eric's been drinking --

ERIC
I'm celebrating!
(off their looks)
Amy just passed her real estate exam.
So if you guys are in the market for
a new place in Virginia--

JENNY
Congratulations, that's so exciting.

AMY
Thank you.

NURSE JOE
Didn't you want to go into politics
or something?

AMY
Yeah. Wow, good memory --

NURSE JOE
What happened?

AMY
Life kind of happened, I guess --

ERIC
Hey, are you still playing music?

Nurse Joe's about to answer, but Jenny jumps in.

JENNY
Joe's very involved with our son--

AMY
I think that's great.

ERIC
Me, too... I just thought you always
loved music.

AMY
How old is he now? Your son?

JENNY
He just turned nine --

AMY
Wow. How great is it? Being parents?

ERIC
Amy, come on. What are you doing?

AMY
What-- ?

ERIC
Just... *let it go*.

AMY
Let what go?

ERIC
I know what you're doing, I'm not an
idiot.
(off her look)
Can we just order? I'm starving--

Eric angrily grabs the menu as Amy averts her gaze, the
tension between them palpable. Nurse Joe and Jenny exchange
a look. *What's going on?*

MUSIC JOE'S TABLE - PARALLEL TIME

Eric pleads with Music Joe (beard), Amy growing increasingly uncomfortable at the man's desperation...

ERIC

...Maybe just three songs. Two. Come on you have to at least do *The Road to You*. It'll make everyone so happy--

MUSIC JOE

I don't want to be... 'Rock Star Joe' at the reunion. I just want to be... Ordinary Joe. Enjoy the night with my wife. Meeting her old college friends. Her meeting mine.

Eric's toddler fusses. Music Joe turns to the baby...

MUSIC JOE (CONT'D)

Can I hold her?

ERIC

She'll be fine, but --

Music Joe scoops the baby out of her high chair, calming her... Amy watches him, future dad. Then...

AMY

I'm gonna go to the ladies real quick.

As she heads off, Eric offers to take the baby back but Music Joe shakes him off...

ERIC

...Do you want me to beg? I'll do... I'll do whatever.

MUSIC JOE

What is this? What's going on here?

ERIC

I just... I must be the worst event organizer on the planet. The one guy who *actually* has a friend who is a successful recording artist, who's going to be there anyway, but still can't lock him down as a musical guest.

MUSIC JOE

Did you promise people?

ERIC

I wouldn't say 'promise'--

MUSIC JOE

Eric.

ERIC

I'm one of the organizers. I may have convinced some people to come by saying you might play.

MUSIC JOE

So this is about... me helping you get laid?

ERIC

I could be a hero here. Come on.

(then)

You don't know what it's like out there. Trying to meet a woman when you're a divorced guy with a kid. You don't know. Because you're literally living the dream. You have everything. And the only reason you do... is because I convinced you to get Amy's phone number 10 years ago.

MUSIC JOE

Wow, you're taking credit... *for my whole life?*

(off Eric's shrug)

...One song.

ERIC

Really?

MUSIC JOE

Road to You. That's it.

ERIC

I'm sure I can't afford your day rate, but I *can* pay --

MUSIC JOE

You can get the check for dinner.

AMY (O.S.)

(grave)

Joe?

Music Joe and the baby both look up. His face falls when he sees that his wife Amy has returned from the restroom with a solemn look on her face and her hand on her stomach.

AMY (CONT'D)

We have to go. Now.

INT. FERTILITY CLINIC - WAITING ROOM - NIGHT

Music Joe sits in the waiting room. He anxiously taps his foot and checks his iPhone, averting the glances coming his way. *This wait is killing him.* Finally, a NURSE comes out--

FERTILITY NURSE
Mister Kimbrough?

INT. FERTILITY CLINIC - EXAM ROOM - NIGHT

Music Joe enters to find Amy sitting on an exam table, still wearing a green patient gown. She just looks at him and shakes her head. **Music Joe** deflates.

AMY
...I'm sorry.

MUSIC JOE
Come here.

Music Joe embraces her. Tight.

AMY
I *am* broken.

MUSIC JOE
...You're not. You're perfect.

As he pulls her into his chest and kisses her on top of her head. OFF **Music Joe**, his eyes welling up...

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOURINT. BOBBY KELLEY CAMPAIGN HEADQUARTERS - DAY

Cop Joe enters the buzzing campaign HQ, a small smile when he finally spots AMY KIM (hip, grungy thrift shop clothing).

COP JOE
Excuse me, Ms. Kim?

Amy looks up, a bit startled by the police uniform.

AMY
...Oh. Hi. Bobby told me the police
might want to talk to me.

COP JOE
Nothing big, hopefully. It's just
that there were some pictures
recovered from the shooter's phone.

Joe holds out the phone with the surveillance pics of her and Bobby, but Amy studies his face...

AMY
I'm sorry, this is weird, but... I
know I just saw you on TV, with Bobby,
but the whole time I was like... *is*
it possible we've met before...?

Cop Joe smiles, then --

COP JOE
I think maybe. You went to Syracuse,
right? We sat next to each other...
at our graduation.

AMY
I knew it!

COP JOE
Yeah, Joe...

AMY
I know. *I remember!*

COP JOE
You do?

AMY
I *totally* do. I've thought about
that moment. Over the years... I've
thought about *you!*

COP JOE

Hey, um... any chance you're going to the reunion?

AMY

Oh, I don't know. Not too psyched about meeting everyone's spouse and answering a million questions about, "*Why aren't you married yet?*"

COP JOE

Yeah. I can relate. Believe me. Hey, I'll make you a deal. I'll go if you go?

AMY

...Okay, deal.

They share a smile, a tenuous, sweet connection re-established after all these years...

INT. NURSE JOE'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Nurse Joe is trying to find something to wear to the reunion, made harder by the fact that some of his clothes are already packed in moving boxes. As his wife Jenny enters --

NURSE JOE

I found an apartment.
(she doesn't respond)
One of the maternity nurses is going to Seattle for a year and needs to sublet. It's only a few blocks away... but it won't be available until next month.

JENNY

I'm glad it's nearby. For Christopher.

NURSE JOE

Okay. Good.

They continue to get ready in silence. Nurse Joe rifles through his closet, getting frustrated --

NURSE JOE (CONT'D)

Damn it.
(off Jenny)
I packed my ties in one of these stupid boxes.

Nurse Joe sits down onto the bed.

JENNY

So you're going to throw a tantrum?

NURSE JOE

I'm just... Not really in the mood to be social with a bunch of people from our distant past. *'Oh my God, you guys were so great together in college - I can't believe you got married!'* What am I supposed to tell them?

JENNY

You say yes, we did. Then move on.

NURSE JOE

Okay, then my friends from the music department ask me about Julliard--

JENNY

And you tell them you went to nursing school instead--

NURSE JOE

How will that even make sense to anyone?

JENNY

Because we were becoming parents.

NURSE JOE

But it doesn't even make sense to me--
(off her look)

I'm sorry but... I thought I was going to be a musician... or a cop. And now I'm a nurse. I mean, there's nothing wrong with it, but it was never even on my list--

JENNY

So what? My "ten-year plan" was to be partner in a big, fancy law firm. And I'm scraping by as a *paralegal* who worries every day if I can keep up with our son's medical bills --

NURSE JOE

At least you're working in your chosen field.

JENNY

Really? You could've chosen to do whatever you wanted, Joe --

NURSE JOE

How is that realistic? I needed to support us.

(MORE)

NURSE JOE (CONT'D)
 Your dad said 'become a nurse, I'll
 hire you' -- so I became a nurse. *I*
didn't get to choose, I didn't choose
 any of this --

Jenny is completely stunned, she finally says quietly...

JENNY
 So you feel *trapped*? Like I pulled
 you into some life you never wanted?

Nurse Joe stares at himself in the mirror, hesitating just
 long enough for Jenny to know the answer. She leaves the
 room, devastated.

NURSE JOE
 Jenny, I'm not saying that --

But she's gone. OFF Nurse Joe, staring in the mirror...

INT. MUSIC JOE'S PENTHOUSE APARTMENT - NIGHT

Music Joe smiles big as he opens a jewelry box to reveal a
 stunning diamond necklace. Amy beams...

AMY
 Joe, what did you do?

MUSIC JOE
 For tonight. You deserve it.

Joe drapes the diamond necklace around her.

AMY
 Maybe I can wear it when I'm sworn
 in...

MUSIC JOE
 What?

AMY
 Bobby stopped by while you were out.
 He's officially dropping out of the
 race... and... *he asked me to take*
his place on the ballot. He said I
 was the most qualified person he
 knew.

MUSIC JOE
What'd you tell him?

AMY
 I said yes.

MUSIC JOE

Oh.

Joe looks gut-punched.

AMY

What do you mean? I kinda hoped you'd be more excited.

MUSIC JOE

No, I am. It's just... does that mean we're gonna stop *trying*?

AMY

I hadn't really thought about that--

MUSIC JOE

Maybe you should.

AMY

Joe... it's always been my dream to run for office. You know that.

MUSIC JOE

It's always been my dream to be a dad--

AMY

I know... I just...

MUSIC JOE

Have other priorities right now. But how long do we have to press pause?

AMY

I don't know, Joe. What if we aren't meant to have kids? If it ends up being just you and me? Are you gonna be okay with that?

Finally forced to confront the question he's been avoiding, Music Joe hesitates a beat too long. Amy heads off...

MUSIC JOE

Where are you going? We have to get ready for the reunion --

AMY

Go without me.

With that, she leaves. OFF Music Joe, emotions swirling...

CUT TO BLACK.

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVEINT. SKY ROOM - NIGHT

START ON a banner which reads: *Welcome Class of 2010!* WIDEN to reveal the Sky Room, an indoor/outdoor club with incredible NYC skyline views. The place is PACKED. Music plays...

Nurse Joe (clean shaven) enters with his wife Jenny. He takes it all in. Looks at her. But she doesn't look back. Instead she spots her friends and a chant breaks out..."JENNY! JENNY! JENNY!" She smiles...

NURSE JOE

Go. Give the people what they want.

Nurse Joe watches as Jenny heads off towards her large group of friends... And as Nurse Joe heads towards the bar, we hold on the door until...

Music Joe (beard) enters alone, a baseball hat pulled low. People immediately notice. Cellphones come out, flashes going off. Music Joe forces a smile. Suddenly, an amped Eric approaches and puts an arm around Music Joe...

ERIC

Jenny's here! You want to talk to her before you go up?

MUSIC JOE

I'd rather just get this over with.

ERIC

Cool. We got everything set up the way your manager requested--

(then)

Hey, is Amy okay? That seemed bad the other night--

MUSIC JOE

Yeah, she's fine. Migraine. She's not coming...

As Eric pulls Music Joe in the party, we hold on the door...

Cop Joe (mustache) arrives and eagerly scans the crowd for any sign of Amy. Doesn't see her. Disappointed, he heads in as we begin to hear the strumming of an acoustic guitar...

A SMALL STAGE - PARALLEL TIME

Music Joe tunes an acoustic guitar. People begin to gather eagerly.

MUSIC JOE (CONT'D)
 (into mic)
Bust 'em up, rough 'em up, go S.U.!

The crowd roars back, *Go 'Cuse!* Music Joe smiles as he begins to strum the opening chords of one of his early hits.

MUSIC JOE (CONT'D)
 So you guys have probably only heard this song on the piano, but little known fact, I actually wrote it on guitar my junior year on The Kissing Bench.
 (the crowd cheers)
 Now who wants to take a trip back to those days, when life was filled with... *endless possibilities?*

The crowd is totally with him. Music Joe looks out and sees his old friend Jenny. Music Joe smiles. Then he starts to play... As the crowd CHEERS--

DESERTED PIANO - PARALLEL TIME

Cop Joe wanders over to a deserted piano and stares down at it, drink in his hand. He hits a few keys, and we hear a hint of *the same tune Music Joe is playing...*

But here, there's no crowd, no fanfare. Cop Joe still manages a small smile... He looks back towards the entrance...

ERIC (O.S.)
 Dude, you came!

Eric embraces Cop Joe from behind...

ERIC (CONT'D)
 Let me take you over by Caroline, Angela, and Allison, they all saw you on TV--

Suddenly, Cop Joe reacts as he sees Amy Kim (hip, grungy version) entering...

COP JOE
 I'll catch up with you later.

As Cop Joe tears himself away and heads towards Amy...

AT AN OTHERWISE EMPTY TABLE - PARALLEL TIME

Nurse Joe watches his wife Jenny mingle, happy and popular like she used to be. He takes a big pull from his beer, considers walking over to her, but decides not to...

EXT. SKY ROOM - BALCONY - NIGHT

Nurse Joe walks along the railing, where to his surprise, he runs into Eric's wife Amy (the real estate agent)... who is also alone...

AMY

Hey.

NURSE JOE

Hey. Why aren't you inside?

AMY

Eric's in there flirting with some girls from his econ class. It's embarrassing and I couldn't watch. Why aren't you?

Nurse Joe shrugs. Takes a sip of his beer.

NURSE JOE

Jenny and I are kind of... better *apart* from each other right now.

AMY

You seemed okay at dinner--

NURSE JOE

She'll be happy to hear you bought the charade.

AMY

Oh. Sorry. Well... Eric and I are having issues, too... obviously. I guess we're not quite as good at charades.

They share a small smile, then --

NURSE JOE

What's going on?

AMY

Four unsuccessful rounds of IVF basically wiped us out. Financially. *Emotionally...* and we sort of... *lost who we were...*

NURSE JOE

I'm sorry... It's like this whole reunion... is some horrifying reminder... *that things never work out the way you expect.*

AMY
I'll drink to that.

As Amy downs some of her drink...

NURSE JOE
Sometimes I think about some of the choices I've made... the choices I make every day... and the ones I *didn't* make. *And I wonder...* I mean, if I could only see the way things would have been... the way some other life path would look... God, that would be great, wouldn't it?

AMY
But we only get the one, right? I mean, I did the whole "*what if*" thing when Eric and I couldn't get pregnant. *And I drove myself crazy...* so I stopped... I just *decided* the best way forward is to try and make *this life* the best it can possibly be...

These words seem to land with Joe. *Change him somehow* as he looks back and sees his wife Jenny inside, smiling. *Sparkling.*

NURSE JOE
You know, I'm sorry but... I think I'm gonna head back inside now. I should go talk to my wife.

AMY
...Good luck.

As Nurse Joe heads back inside...

AT THE NAME TAG TABLE - PARALLEL TIME

Cop Joe catches up to Amy as she puts on her name tag...

COP JOE
Hey. You came.

AMY
We had a deal, right?

COP JOE
Yeah, well. We had a deal ten years ago. I wasn't supposed to let my uncle talk me into being a cop. You see how that worked out.

Amy smiles. Then...

AMY
You come by yourself?

COP JOE
Just me. What about you?

AMY
Yeah. I mean, the guy I was kind of seeing... there's no way he'd come to something like this.

COP JOE
Sounds like a jerk.

AMY
Actually, yeah. He kinda is. And he's also married, so...

COP JOE
Oh, so he's a *real* jerk.

AMY
Yeah. And I'm an idiot. I have sort of a bad track record with relationships. My ex-husband--

COP JOE
You were married?

AMY
Long time ago.

COP JOE
Was he another jerk?

AMY
I tried to convince myself he was the love of my life... rationalized away all of his faults... but when we found out I couldn't get pregnant... he basically bailed out.

Joe softens, vulnerable...

COP JOE
...Would it be totally crazy if I... asked you to dance?

Amy smiles, offers her. As Cop Joe takes it and leads her out to the dance floor...

AT THE BAR - PARALLEL TIME

Nurse Joe enters from the balcony and spots his wife Jenny talking with friends.

He takes a pull from his beer, then walks right through the crowd and approaches Jenny.

NURSE JOE
Crazy idea. Let's dance.

JENNY
What? Why?

NURSE JOE
It's what we would have done. Ten years ago. And we would have had fun--

Jenny considers. Nurse Joe offers up his hand... She finally takes it, and they head out to the dance floor...

ON THE SMALL STAGE - PARALLEL TIME

Music Joe finishes up his song and the crowd *explodes!*

MUSIC JOE
(into mic)
Thank you, Class of 2010! Now if it's okay I'm gonna come down there and hang out with you guys, so good old recorded music will have to do.

Music Joe hops off the stage and spots Jenny, smiling and applauding him as he approaches. She ignores his handshake attempt and bumps Joe's shoulder like they used to do...

JENNY
Hey, Superstar!

MUSIC JOE
Jenny! I can't believe it's been ten years--

JENNY
And somehow you look... *younger*.

MUSIC JOE
Tons of plastic surgery.

JENNY
So cliché.

They share a big smile. Jenny embraces Music Joe. Perhaps a beat too long. Eric approaches. Music Joe pulls himself away.

MUSIC JOE
Really good to see you, Jenny. You two should talk, I've gotta get home anyway... Eric, you'll fill me in?

Music Joe starts to move away, but Jenny grabs him...

JENNY

Wait! I came all the way here to see you. I was hoping we could catch up?

MUSIC JOE

...Sure, yeah. Let's grab a drink--

They share a smile and head off to the bar. Eric watches them go, intrigued...

ON THE DANCE FLOOR - PARALLEL TIME

Cop Joe and Amy dance to a slow song. It's oddly intimate for two strangers.

AMY

I have a confession...

COP JOE

Yeah?

AMY

That deal we made? Ten years ago... I didn't stick to it either.

COP JOE

You didn't move to DC?

AMY

I did but... it was with that jerk who cheated on me. Who became the same jerk that I married. So... would have saved me a whole lot of time if I had listened to you.

COP JOE

The day we met? I told my friend Eric about you, right after. He told me to go over and ask you out.

AMY

Why didn't you?

COP JOE

I don't know. Guess I was nervous? I really wish I had.

AMY

I wish you had, too... *Maybe it's not too late.*

COP JOE

Yeah? You want to go out some time?

AMY
Maybe now? I'm already dressed...

Joe smiles. As they clasp hands and head for the exit...

FURTHER DOWN THE DANCE FLOOR - PARALLEL TIME

Nurse Joe slow-dances with his wife Jenny. It's still a bit cool between the two. Nurse Joe looks over and sees Amy joining her husband Eric... who introduces his wife to the girls from his econ class...

NURSE JOE
...I hate this.

JENNY
What--?

NURSE JOE
The whole point of these things is to bring back memories... but the memories I have... *we were best friends.*

Jenny looks up at him, surprised... touched.

JENNY
...*I miss that.*

NURSE JOE
I know. Me, too. *And it's my fault...* you were right... about everything... I do feel trapped sometimes... not by you... or our marriage... just by... *life.* I wanted to follow my music dreams... or honor my dad... And I didn't get to do those things. But I've got these other great things instead. *Our son.* Our little family. *You.* I guess I've always been afraid to talk to you about it... because I might hurt you... but then I stupidly did more damage by... *not talking.*

JENNY
There you are. *Finally.*

NURSE JOE
I'm sorry. I'm so sorry. I want to save this... *save us...*

JENNY
If you're not happy working nights... or working for my dad... or *being a*
(MORE)

JENNY (CONT'D)
*nurse... whatever it is... we'll
change it. I just... I just want my
best friend back.*

Nurse Joe looks at his wife, and in their eyes we see a flicker of what once was. He pulls her in closer, and she tenderly lays her head on his shoulder...

AT THE BAR - PARALLEL TIME

Music Joe shares a drink with his old friend Jenny...

JENNY
Is your wife here? I want to meet
her. You guys look so cute together
in all the magazines--

MUSIC JOE
We're sort of, uh... fighting right
now... to be honest. We're having...
trouble getting pregnant. And it's
pretty much the whole focus of our
lives right now.

JENNY
Oh. Magazines don't show that part.
You ever wonder what it would have
been like? If... we ended up together?

Music Joe doesn't know how to respond. Jenny laughs,
embarrassed...

JENNY (CONT'D)
Okay, I'm sorry, I made it awkward.
Sorry. I just... sometimes wonder.
That's all.

MUSIC JOE
Tell me about you... or which magazine
I can get that will tell me about
you--

JENNY
Well, I'm sure you already read *The
New England Bar Review*.

MUSIC JOE
Monthly subscriber.

They share a smile...

JENNY
I just made partner at my law firm--

MUSIC JOE
That's great, you hit your ten year plan.

JENNY
A year late, actually. Was supposed to make partner at 30.

MUSIC JOE
Loser. Where did you go wrong?

JENNY
Swore I'd never tell you. But I think it's finally time --

MUSIC JOE
...Tell me what?

JENNY
Well... Remember when I wanted you to come to the shore? After graduation? So we could talk?

MUSIC JOE
...Yeah?

JENNY
Well you didn't come.

MUSIC JOE
I was... I met Amy that weekend.

JENNY
Yeah, well... the thing I was going to tell you was... *I was pregnant.*

Music Joe reacts, stunned.

JENNY (CONT'D)
I know I said we weren't exclusive at the time, but... I kind of was. So it was yours.

MUSIC JOE
Oh my god...

JENNY
I'm sorry I left you out of it, but when you didn't show... I decided that weekend what I was going to do. We were kids. And I didn't want to... change the course of your life so...

MUSIC JOE
You... *I mean... what did you do?*

JENNY

I had the baby. That's why the ten year plan is off by one year. But... I put him up for adoption.

MUSIC JOE

Him? I have a son? I'm... a dad?

JENNY

Sort of. As much as I'm a mom. I got to hold him for 24 hours after he was born. Haven't seen him since.

MUSIC JOE

I want to meet him--

JENNY

It was a closed adoption. I don't know anything about the family he ended up with.

MUSIC JOE

But I *have to* meet him.

JENNY

Joe. I don't think it's even possible.
(then)
Please don't be mad at me. I thought it was the right decision at the time. And other than this moment right now, I try to never look back.

Joe can barely process - this is exactly his dream come true, but it's supposed to be with his wife Amy. OFF Music Joe, his world rocked to its core...

EXT. NYC STREET - NIGHT

Cop Joe and Amy head out of the building, but Joe suddenly stops as he spots something ahead. Like he's seen a ghost.

COP JOE

Oh my god...

REVEAL Joe's old college friend JENNY, who is standing at the valet next to her mini-van, just arriving.

JENNY

Hey, Joe.

COP JOE

Hey.

(then)

Amy, this is Jenny. Jenny was my best friend all through college --

AMY

Hi.

COP JOE

-- Until she kind of vanished on me.

JENNY

I know. I'm sorry.

COP JOE

What happened to you-- ?

JENNY

You know... *life happened.*

And then the valet opens the door to Jenny's minivan. A ramp automatically extends out, and Jenny's 9-year-old son CHRISTOPHER (the same child we've seen in the Nurse Joe story) rolls down the ramp in his power wheelchair.

JENNY (CONT'D)

This is my son. Christopher.

Cop Joe kneels down, shaking Chris' hand... *And having no idea that this is also his son...*

COP JOE

Hey, I'm Joe.

CHRISTOPHER

Nice to meet you.

Jenny watches, a mixture of emotion as Cop Joe shakes hands with briefly with Christopher...

JENNY

-- I'm sorry, were you guys just leaving?

COP JOE

Yeah... We were just... I'd love to get caught up, maybe get my email from Eric? He's still up there --

JENNY

-- Perfect. I'd love to catch up.

Cop Joe smiles then heads off with Amy. Jenny watches as Joe and Amy walk off into the night, their hands coming together in what looks like it could be the start of a beautiful friendship. As Jenny coaxes Christopher to follow...

INT. MUSIC JOE'S PENTHOUSE APARTMENT - NIGHT

Music Joe enters and finds a note on top of the piano from Amy... *"Staying at my mom's"* - he sits down and begins to play a melancholy tune... AND SUDDENLY WE SPLIT SCREEN --

EXT. DINER - NIGHT

Cop Joe and Amy smile and laugh across a small table, reconnecting...AND WE SPLIT SCREEN AGAIN - A TRIPTYCH...

INT. NURSE JOE'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Nurse Joe unpacks his boxes. Jenny embraces him. And they begin to kiss... AND OFF ALL THREE JOES, ALL THREE PATHS, SIDE BY SIDE BY SIDE... we **FADE OUT**.

END OF SHOW