

LOST AND FOUND

“Pilot”

Written by

Marisa Coughlan

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ACT ONE

INT. HAROLD'S OFFICE - DAY

CLOSE ON JO HAUSER, A LOVABLE TRAIN WRECK, BEAMING WITH EXCITEMENT.

JO

Happy Anniversary!!! One year, I can
hardly believe it. It's
been...magical.

REVEAL THAT SHE IS HOLDING A SMALL CUPCAKE WITH A LIT CANDLE IN IT. PULL BACK TO REVEAL HAROLD, HER SHRINK, WITH AN ABSOLUTE DEADPAN STARE ON HIS FACE. HE IS EXHAUSTED BY HER.

JO (CONT'D)

Blow it out!

HE RESENTFULLY BLOWS IT OUT.

JO (CONT'D)

We've been through so much, Harold, so
many ups and downs, twists and turns,
and the breakthroughs...(SUPER
DRAMATIC) God, the breakthroughs...

HAROLD

Again, I don't consider us deciding on
the color of your low-lights a
breakthrough.

JO

The implications of that decision were
enormous. Speaking of which...(SHE
LOOKS AT HIM, COY) I've had another
breakthrough. A big one.

HAROLD LOOKS AT HER, DUBIOUS. SHE'S STILL BEAMING.

JO (CONT'D)

You know how you're always going on that I'm never "self-reflective", and how I've never been "comfortable in my own skin" and -- how do you put it? I never get tired of hearing you say it...

HOWARD

I believe you use men and alcohol as crutches in order to avoid your real feelings and continually deny yourself an opportunity to grow.

JO

Yes, exactly! So, I've been doing a lot of thinking and you're right! I finally get it. I haven't been comfortable in my own skin. I do need a major change. I finally understand what you've been getting at all this time!! So...(A LONG BEAT, SHE GRINS)
I'm gonna get a boob job.

SHE IS THRILLED WITH THIS ANNOUNCEMENT.

JO (CONT'D)

I've always felt they were a little on the small side, so I'm gonna make a major change -- still deciding how major, I want you to take a look at the various cup sizes and see what you think, but I feel great about this. I think we've made some real progress.

SHE TAKES A HUGE CELEBRATORY BITE OF THE CUPCAKE. HAROLD JUST STARES AT HER.

HAROLD

I don't think we can see each other anymore.

JO

(HER MOUTH FULL OF CUPCAKE) What?

HAROLD

I can't treat you anymore.

JO

I don't understand. It's our one year anniversary.

HAROLD

And as meaningful as that is to me, I can't do this. I feel we've hit a wall and that someone else may be able to help you more successfully.

A LONG BEAT.

JO

You're breaking up with me?!

HAROLD

I wouldn't categorize it as that, but
I--

JO

All the time I've invested in this
relationship and you just...dump me,
out of nowhere? On our anniversary?!

HAROLD

Jo --

JO

Wait, lemme guess, it's not me, it's
you?

HAROLD

No, it's you.

JO

Yeah, exactly, and you probably wanna
"stay friends??"

HAROLD

I don't want to be your friend.

JO

Well, no thanks, okay? I've got plenty
of friends, not looking for anymore --

HAROLD

Jolene, please, stop. (BEAT)

I think we've both said enough.

(MORE)

HAROLD (CONT'D)

Now, I hope that you can go forward
and really...look inward, deal with
these emotions. Stop using sex and
alcohol to numb the pain. I know you
can do it.

JO

Yes, Harold, I can. (A BEAT, PROUD)
And I will.

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. JO'S HALLWAY - NIGHT

JO, WASTED, MAULS A RANDOM GUY IN HER HALLWAY. BETWEEN
KISSES SHE STOPS AND TALKS.

JO

I don't normally do this.

THEY KISS FOR A BEAT.

JO (CONT'D)

That's a lie, I do normally do this.

KISSING.

JO (CONT'D)

I don't normally lie.

KISSING.

JO (CONT'D)

That's a lie, I do normally lie.

KISSING. SHE STOPS, LOOKS AT HIM.

JO (CONT'D)

I'm not even really attracted to you.

A BEAT, HE WAITS FOR IT.

JO (CONT'D)

That part was true. (BEAT) It's just
-- I'm drunk, and lonely. I'd say two
thirds drunk, one third lonely --
(BEAT) Maybe an eighth desperate, but -

RANDOM GUY

However the math works out --

HE GOES IN FOR MORE, SHE STOPS HIM.

JO

And also, I got dumped today. By my
therapist! Did you even know they
could do that? I mean if I had known
he could do that, I would have been
applying "The Rules" from the
beginning.

RANDOM GUY

Right...

JO

I'm a Rules girl!

RANDOM GUY

Like telling me you're a lying slut
who's not attracted to me.

JO

Well, I only did that because I'm
really not attracted to you. (SHE
LOOKS HIM UP AND DOWN) Okay, let's do
this.

SHE STUMBLES THROUGH HER PURSE, LOOKING FOR HER KEYS.

JO (CONT'D)

Uggh, where are my keys, this always
happens!

SHE TRIES TO OPEN THE DOOR WITHOUT THE KEY, THROWING HER
WHOLE BODY WEIGHT AGAINST IT VERY DRAMATICALLY. SHE LOOKS AT
HIM, DEADPAN.

JO (CONT'D)

Screw it.

THEY START MAKING OUT AGAIN AND SLIDE OUT OF FRAME, IN THE
HALLWAY.

INT. JO'S HALLWAY - MORNING

JO LIES IN THE HALLWAY, COVERED BY HER PASHMINA. SHE'S
DRESSED, BUT IT'S MESSY. SHE OPENS ONE EYE TO FIND RAJ, EAST
INDIAN, MID-FORTIES, STANDING OVER HER. RAJ IS JO'S CLOSEST
CONFIDANTE AND THE SUPER OF HER BUILDING.

JO

(IN PAIN) Oh, God.

RAJ

Here.

HE HOLDS OUT SOME ADVIL AND A WATER.

RAJ (CONT'D)

So???? (SUPER EXCITED) How'd it go
with the therapist?!?

JO

He broke up with me.

SHE SITS UP, TAKES THE ADVIL.

RAJ

Well, we knew that was coming.

JO

We did?!

RAJ

Your therapist hates you, even I know that.

JO

He does?!

A BEAT. SHE LOOKS AROUND.

JO (CONT'D)

Where did Bill go?

RAJ

I think his name was John.

JO

He just left? (BEAT) Is that any way to treat a lady?

SHE STANDS, IMBALANCED, HER DISHEVELED HAIR EVERYWHERE, HER SHIRT HALF OFF, MASCARA SMEARED UNDER HER EYES.

JO (CONT'D)

I think I might puke.

RAJ

Let's go, Princess, before anybody else sees you.

JO

He left me curled up in a ball in the hallway? Who does that?

RAJ

Every guy you go out with. I don't know why you keep asking.

JO

I just don't get it, Raj. (STOPS, SUPER
 DRAMATIC) Where have all the heroes
 gone?

JUST THEN THE DOOR OPENS AND MAX JOHNSON, JO'S NEIGHBOR,
 STANDS IN FRONT OF THEM, WEARING AN ILL-FITTING SUPERMAN
 OUTFIT. HE TAKES JO IN.

MAX

Morning. (TRYING TO BE POSITIVE) How
 was your date?

THIRTIES, MAX IS A LITTLE NEBBISH BUT OVERALL PRETTY DAMN
 CUTE. HE IS ALWAYS IN A SUPERHERO OUTFIT.

JO

Do not judge me, not in those tights.
 (A LITTLE SHEEPISH) I didn't sleep
 with him.

MAX

I know.

RAJ

We all know.

RAJ UNLOCKS JO'S DOOR, TRIES TO HELP HER IN, JUST AS MAX'S
 PHONE RINGS. HE HAS THE SUPERMAN THEME SONG AS A RING.

JO

Seriously?

MAX

I like to commit. (BEAT) Well, I have
 my son this weekend, so maybe we'll
 see you around.

JO

How's the divorce going?

MAX

Great, lots of fun, thanks for asking.
You ever get a chance to go through
one, do not pass it up.

JO LOOKS HIM UP AND DOWN, TAKING IN THE OUTFIT.

JO

You ever wear normal clothes, or
should we just get used to the whole
superhero motif?

MAX

I'd get used to it, at least until I
put my son through college.

RAJ

That's a lot of birthday parties.

MAX

Yeah. Unless the Wonder Twins can
activate a trust fund, I'm screwed.

INT. FINN MCCOOL'S BAR - LATER

JO ENTERS, STILL LOOKING A LITTLE WORSE FOR THE WEAR. SHE
GOES TO THE BAR AND SITS, WAITING FOR A DRINK. FRANK THOMAS,
THIRTIES, WASHES GLASSES BEHIND THE BAR. A REAL GUYS GUY,
HE'S HANDSOME, OBSESSED WITH SPORTS AND CRAZY WOMEN, AND
SECRETLY INTRIGUED BY JO'S ANTICS.

FRANK

Congratulations!!! How'd it go with
the therapist? Impressed with the
breakthrough?

JO

(DEPRESSED) He broke up with me.

FRANK

Can he even do that?

JO

That's what I said!

ROSIE MANCINI, A VERY CURVY ITALIAN WAITRESS, ENTERS FROM THE KITCHEN.

ROSIE

Mazel!!! I've been thinking of you all day, kvelling with pride. How'd it go with the therapist?!

JO

(LOSING IT) He broke up with me!!

ROSIE

Oy vey. What is he, meshuggeneh?

JO

Okay, Yentl, what's up with the Yiddish?

ROSIE

I've been practicing. I signed up for J-Date, I'm gonna snag myself a nice Jew.

FRANK

Oh boy.

ROSIE

(INSTANTLY SUPER ITALIAN) What? Like I
wanna be with some goombah from Long
Island with a pizza place and a couple
a dead bodies in the freezer?
Fuggedaboutit.

JO

Keep practicing.

LEO HUNTINGTON, A MIDWESTERN LOOKING YOUNG MAN, ENTERS AND
HEADS TO THE BAR. HE HOLDS A GIANT MAP OF NYC, MOST OF IT
CROSSED OUT WITH A BLACK SHARPIE.

LEO

Excuse me, do any of you --

JO TALKS RIGHT OVER HIM.

JO

Whatever, I'm getting the boobs
anyway. I mean, he's a terrible
therapist. Always telling me I have a
drinking problem, which is ridiculous,
and harping on my occasional flings --

FRANK AND ROSIE LOOK AT HER.

JO (CONT'D)

What? They are occasional...(BEAT) I
don't know, maybe something is wrong
with me.

(MORE)

JO (CONT'D)

I mean, I slept in my hallway again last night with some random guy, I'm hung over, stuck in a dead-end job and now I can't even stay in a relationship with my shrink.

LEO

Excuse me, I don't mean to interrupt, but --

JO

But you are, and these people are listening to a very interesting story, so please. (BACK TO THEM) Anyway, the worst part is, that baseball player I saw last week? Well, it is definitely a rash.

SHE MAKES A FACE AND POINTS DOWN. YIKES. THE KID, LEO, LOOKS AT HER.

LEO

Poison ivy?

JO

Sure kid, whatever helps you sleep at night. (BEAT) God, what does a girl have to do to get a drink around here?

FRANK

Get your ass off the stool and make one. Your shift started an hour ago.

JO WALKS BEHIND THE BAR, SULKING LIKE A TEENAGER.

JO

(TO LEO) Okay. You can talk now.

LEO

Thanks. Ummm, I think I'm in the
right place...

HE LOOKS AT HIS MAP, TRYING TO READ THROUGH THE SHARPIE.

FRANK

What happened to your map?

LEO

Oh, my mom and dad are a little
nervous about me being here, so they
made a map of the areas that seemed
safe...they visited the Big Apple in
1988 so --

FRANK

That would make them an authority.

FRANK TAKES A LOOK AT THE MAP, WHICH HAS ONE TINY SQUARE INCH
THAT ISN'T COVERED IN SHARPIE.

FRANK (CONT'D)

Looks like you're about a block out of
the safe zone here...

LEO

(PANICS) I am??

FRANK

It's okay, we've got snipers on the
roof watching out.

LEO

(RELIEVED) Okay, cool. (BEAT) So, ahh,
I'm here because -- this is a long
shot, but do any of you know someone
by the name of Jolene Hauser?

JO IS MIXING HERSELF A DRINK, NOT REALLY PAYING ATTENTION.

JO

Who wants to know?

LEO

I do, but the information I have is
from ten years ago, so -- I thought
I'd ask around, see if anyone
remembers her?

JO

I'm sorry, who are you?

LEO

Well, I just moved to the Big Apple --

JO

Call it the Big Apple one more time
and I bring down the snipers.

LEO

Okay...(A LITTLE NERVOUS) I just --
started school last week and thought I
might look her up, see if maybe I
could talk to her.

JO STARTS SIPPING ON THE BLOODY MARY SHE JUST MADE HERSELF.

JO

Regarding?

LEO

It's a -- personal matter.

JO

(SUDDENLY SUPER EXCITED) Ohmygod, are you from America's Got Talent? You saw my video -- I knew I'd be the only one who could do that upside down.

LEO

Uhhh, no. My name is Leo Huntington and I'm --

CRASH!!! JO DROPS THE BLOODY MARY. SHE STARES, FROZEN.

LEO (CONT'D)

Are you okay?

JO

What? Fine. Yes.

SHE STARTS CLEANING UP THE DRINK, NOT LOOKING AT HIM.

LEO

So, do any of you --

JO

No. Somebody must have made some kind of mistake.

LEO

(DEFLATED) Well, if any of you know where she went, or what she's doing --

JO BRISKLY WALKS HIM TO THE DOOR.

JO

We don't know who she is, or where she is, alright? So...(PUSHING HIM OUT THE DOOR) best of luck to you.

HE STOPS AND TURNS, LOOKS STRAIGHT AT HER.

LEO

You really haven't ever heard of a Jolene Hauser?

SHE SWALLOWS HARD.

JO

Nope.

LEO

(BUMMED, HE STARTS TO GO) Okay, well, thanks anyway.

JO

Wait! (HE STOPS) Give me your number, just in case.

LEO

(SCRIBBLING IT DOWN) Thanks, I appreciate it.

THE DOOR SHUTS AND JO STANDS THERE, IN SHOCK, PROCESSING.

FRANK

(WALKING BY) What was that all about?

HE KEEPS WALKING AND JO STANDS THERE, ALONE. A BEAT.

JO

I think that was my son...

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. JO'S HALLWAY - MORNING

JO LIES IN THE HALLWAY, MOANING. COVERED IN A DIFFERENT PASHMINA, SHE'S MISERABLE.

JO

Uggghhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh...

A BEAT.

JO (CONT'D)

Uggghhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh...

RAJ COMES AROUND THE CORNER, SPOTS HER. SHE LOOKS EVEN WORSE THAN YESTERDAY.

RAJ

My mother-in-law said you came by.

JO SITS UP, HER DISHEVELED HAIR IN HER FACE.

RAJ (CONT'D)

Thirteen times.

INT. JO'S APARTMENT - MOMENTS LATER

RAJ SITS ON THE COUCH, JO POURS HERSELF A DRINK, GATHERING COURAGE.

JO

Okay, listen, you know I tell you everything, right?

RAJ

(UNENTHUSED) Uh-huh.

JO

Well, I realized there was one thing I sort of forgot to tell you, that's kind of a big deal and I'm gonna tell you now, but you have to remain calm and tell me that everything's gonna be okay even if you don't really mean it, okay?

RAJ

You did kill that hot dog vendor.

JO

Someone came by the bar today, looking for me. His name is Leo. Leo Huntington.

JO'S BARELY KEEPING IT TOGETHER.

JO (CONT'D)

He's 18, he just moved here to go to college, he's sweet and amazing and...

DEEP BREATH.

JO (CONT'D)

My son.

RAJ STARES AT HER, NOT REACTING.

JO (CONT'D)

Well?! Aren't you gonna say something?

A LONG BEAT.

RAJ

How?

JO

Well, when a man and a woman --

RAJ

No, I don't mean how, I mean... how.

JO

I don't know! I was sixteen, madly in love with Arnie Angeloni and it turns out "pull and pray" is not an effective method of birth control.

RAJ

Arnie Angeloni?

JO

Shut up.

SHE LOOKS AT HIM, HONEST FOR THE FIRST TIME.

JO (CONT'D)

I've never told anyone.

A BEAT.

RAJ

How'd he find you?

JO

I don't know, all I know is he's not gonna be thrilled about a slightly drunk and occasionally slutty cocktail waitress.

RAJ

Occasionally?

JO

Shut up.

JO COLLAPSES INTO A CHAIR.

JO (CONT'D)

What do I do?

RAJ

Well, how did you leave it?

JO

I said I'd never heard of myself and
shoved him out the door.

RAJ

You need to tell him the truth.

JO

The truth sucks. Better if he thinks
he has some fabulous mother who left
her waitressing job ten years ago and
did something with her life.

RAJ

You have his number?

JO

Maybe.

RAJ

He deserves to know who his mother is.

JO

No way.

RAJ

C'mon, we'll get you something
respectable to wear, invite him over --

JO

No way!

RAJ

If you do it your therapist might take
you back.

JO

(SUDDENLY UPBEAT) You think?

INT. DEPARTMENT STORE - DAY

JO AND RAJ PERUSE A DEPARTMENT STORE.

JO

Shopping was a good idea. I feel
better already.

RAJ GETS A TEXT, READS IT, ANNOYED.

RAJ

More Dulcolax...(BEAT, DISGUSTED) If I
killed my mother-in-law would you help
me hide her body?

JO

(THINKS ABOUT IT) Depends if I get to
keep her jewelry.

RAJ

How did this happen? How could my wife just die on me, and leave me to care for my evil, balding, toothless mother-in-law?

JO

She didn't die, she left you.

RAJ

In my mind she died. A terrible, gruesome, eaten by wild boars after starving in the desert for 2 weeks kind of death. Go with it.

JO

Right. (BEAT) Okay, I need something that says "stable" and "loving" and "mature"...(SPOTTING SOMETHING)
Ohmygosh how amazing would this shirt look with my new boobs?

RAJ

Focus.

JO

Right.

RAJ

Don't worry. We'll find the perfect "I'm your long lost mother outfit"...

THEY WALK, CHECKING OUT VARIOUS DRESSES.

JO

(STARTING TO PANIC) He's coming at six...What if he doesn't like me? He could be painfully disappointed. I mean, he's expecting a grown-up, who can hold onto a real job, or a relationship, or at least a therapist who she pays to listen to her.

THEY KEEP WALKING.

JO (CONT'D)

Let's practice. I'll tell you that I'm your mother and you react, okay?
(DRAMATIC) Raj, I am so proud of you, of who you've become and I want you to know that I...am your mother.

RAJ

Crap. (BEAT) You? Seriously?

JO

You're supposed to be happy!

RAJ

Why would I be happy? You're a promiscuous alcoholic!

CUT TO:

INT. JO'S APARTMENT - DAY

JO STANDS IN HER LIVING ROOM -- HAIR BLOWN OUT STRAIGHT, A CLASSIC CARDIGAN OVER A NICE OXFORD. SHE LOOKS ALMOST ELEGANT. SHE SITS ON THE COUCH, THEN STANDS, SITS, THEN STANDS. THIS CONTINUES UNTIL THE BELL RINGS AND SHE PRACTICALLY JUMPS OUT OF HER SKIN. DEEP BREATH, SHE OPENS THE DOOR.

JO

(WEIRDLY) Leo, welcome.

SHE WAVES HIM IN VERY DRAMATICALLY.

JO (CONT'D)

Gosh, look at you -- blue eyes, nice
straight nose, small pores.

LEO

(UNSURE HOW TO RESPOND) Thanks. (BEAT)

How's that rash?

JO

Poison ivy, all cleared up.

LEO STANDS THERE, AWKWARD FOR A BEAT. JO IS NERVOUS.

LEO

So, you remembered something about
Jolene?

JO

I did, yes. (NERVOUS) But let's not
rush into it. Tell me about yourself.
You're so -- grown up. You said you
just moved here?

LEO

Yep, just moved here from Minnesota,
English lit major at NYU.

JO

That's amazing! (SHE BEAMS AT HIM)

C'mere, gimme a hug.

SHE HUGS HIM, FOR A WHILE. THEN BEAMS AT HIM AGAIN.

JO (CONT'D)

Go on.

LEO

Uhh, well, I really want to be a writer someday, like Jack Kerouac or something. Mainly because I'm horrible at sports and was never picked for any teams so I spent a lot of time journaling... by myself.

JO

That's amazing! Gimme a hug.

SHE HUGS HIM AGAIN, EVEN LONGER.

JO (CONT'D)

(STILL IN HUG) Go on.

LEO TRIES TO CASUALLY TALK ABOUT HIS LIFE AS SHE HUGS HIM INDEFINITELY.

LEO

Okay. So...I was home schooled by my parents until I was fourteen, which is why I've never really dated or anything, gotta work on that.

JO PULLS OUT OF THE HUG, DRAMATIC AND EMOTIONAL.

JO

Don't you ever settle, you hear me?

LEO

(FREAKED OUT) Yep.

A BEAT.

LEO (CONT'D)

So, I should have just said this the other day, but I'm looking for Jolene because, according to the records, she's my biological mother. I've waited my whole life to meet her.

A BEAT.

LEO (CONT'D)

I always felt like she would help me make sense out of a lot of things, ya know? (BEAT) I think she's probably pretty -- amazing.

JO SHIFTS UNEASILY.

JO

Uh-huh...Well, I do know something about your mother. A lot of things. And the reason why I know a lot about your mother is because I... am...

JO LOOKS AT HIM. LEO HANGS ON HER EVERY WORD, WAITING TO HEAR ABOUT HIS MOTHER.

JO (CONT'D)

...a dear, dear friend of hers.

MAX

You are?!

JO

She's an amazing woman.

LEO

She is?

JO

Amazing.

LEO

I knew it. Tell me everything.

JO

(STRUGGLING TO MAKE THIS UP) Well, I know she would love to meet you, but she's doing...volunteer work.

LEO

Where?

JO

Far, far, from here. (BEAT) In the Ukraine.

LEO

What's she doing there?

JO

Um, well, she's saving refugees...Ethiopian refugees.

LEO

But those places aren't anywhere near each other.

A BEAT. THIS IS NEWS TO JO.

JO

She's that amazing.

LEO

Wow. Can I ask you -- did she ever mention me?

(MORE)

LEO (CONT'D)

I mean, she probably didn't, but I have to ask. I always wondered what she thought, if she ever thought about me.

JO LOOKS AT HIM, THIS SWEET BOY THAT SHE HAS MISSED SO MUCH.

JO

She did. In fact, a day didn't go by that she didn't think about you, and miss you, and wonder if she did the right thing. (BEAT, SHE BEAMS AT HIM)
C'mere. Gimme a hug.

OFF LEO, BEING SQUEEZED, WE:

CUT TO:

INT. FINN MCCOOL'S IRISH BAR - THE NEXT DAY

FRANK, RAJ AND JO STAND AT THE BAR.

FRANK

So...you blatantly lied.

JO

Noooo, I stretched the truth for the benefit of the greater good.

RAJ

You lied. And you made me buy you an outfit.

JO

I do feel guilty about the outfit.
(BEAT) Nahh, that's another lie.

A BEAT.

JO (CONT'D)

Where's Rosie? I haven't told her about any of this yet. I'll see what she thinks.

RAJ

Rosie, the ideal moral compass.

BEAT. JO PULLS THREE SIZES OF BOOB OUT OF HER BAG.

JO

In the meantime, these are the various sizes, I'm letting everyone vote.

RAJ

It's like Goldilocks and the three tits.

FRANK

My last girlfriend had these... But then I dumped her and she got revenge with these... And then we hooked up in Vegas and she had these...She was like Mr. Potato Head, but with boobs.

THE DOOR OPENS AND LEO ENTERS, TAKES A DEEP BREATH.

LEO

God, I love the Big Apple.

JO

Leo. What are you doing here?

SHE WALKS HIS WAY, EAGER TO SEE HIM.

JO (CONT'D)

Look at you, walking all the way here
by yourself. C'mere, gimme a hug...

SHE TRIES TO HUG HIM BUT HE DODGES IT.

LEO

I think I have a bruise from
yesterday's hugs, so--

JO

Okay. (GOES FOR THE CHEEKS) Then I'll
just pinch your little cheeks, you are
so cute...

A BEAT. JO REALIZES SHE'S GUSHING.

JO (CONT'D)

We're ordering pizza from the best
pizza place in town, you want some?

LEO

Sure, can't pass that up.

JO

Hey, everybody? Let me formally
introduce you -- this is Leo. (PROUD)
You're looking at the next Jack
Kerouac or Charles Bukowski -

LEO

Yep, gonna write about drunken nights
and sordid women.

FRANK

Let's drink to that! What'll you have?

LEO

Shirley Temple. (BEAT, TO JO) Listen, I just want to thank you for telling me so much about my mom. I thought a lot about it last night and I'm so proud of her, of all that she's doing with the refugees, and of course the honorary Nobel prize she received from Dr. Phil...

JO

It's pretty special stuff.

LEO

So, I wrote her a letter and I thought maybe you could send it along to her? It would mean a lot to me.

LEO HANDS HER AN ENORMOUSLY THICK ENVELOPE. SHE LOOKS AT IT, GUILTY.

JO

Sure. Wow...lots to say.

LEO

Yeah, lots to say.

JO

Listen, (GUILTY) before we get any further, I should probably tell you something.

(MORE)

JO (CONT'D)

Something I should have just said from
the beginning... (she looks at him)

Man, this is hard...

ROSIE COMES IN FROM THE KITCHEN, WEARING A SEXY BLACK DRESS
AND A YARMULKE ON HER HEAD.

ROSIE

There you are!

JO

Not now Rosie. (TO LEO) Okay, I'm
just gonna say it --

ROSIE

No, I need you, this is--

JO TRIES TO SHOO HER AWAY.

JO

Rosie, I said not now --

ROSIE

JOLENE HAUSER!!! Look at me! This is
important!!!

JO AND LEO LOOK AT HER.

ROSIE (CONT'D)

How do I look? I'm going to temple
for the first time. (THRILLED) Isn't
the little hat so cute? Frank says
only the men wear them, but Frank's no
Jew.

LEO

I'm sorry, what did you just call her?

ROSIE LOOKS AT LEO, THEN AT JO, WHO LOOKS PISSED.

LEO (CONT'D)

What did she just call you? I thought
you said your name was Oprah?

JO LOOKS AT HIM, THE GUILT WRITTEN ALL OVER HER FACE.

JO

(QUICK ON HER FEET) I was just gonna
tell you, I promise! I said "I should
have told you this from the
beginning." You heard that, right?

LEO

So, everything you said yesterday is a
lie? My mom isn't this amazing woman
who's off saving Ethiopian refugees?

JO

I...like Ethiopians...

LEO

You -- are my mother??

ROSIE

(LOOKS TO HEAVENS) Oy gevalt.

JO LOOKS NAKED, A DEER CAUGHT IN HEADLIGHTS.

JO

I was gonna tell you yesterday, I
promise, but you seemed so excited, I
just got scared. I thought it might
be better to tell you what you wanted
to hear.

LEO

I wanted to hear the truth! Not some load of crap about Oprah and Dr. Phil.

JO

Can we just -- forget all that? I'll tell you everything about me, we'll start over.

LEO

I mean, you have a rash! (HE POINTS DOWN) And I know it's not Poison Ivy!

LEO PACES, PROCESSING.

LEO (CONT'D)

I don't know, I spent a lot of time dreaming up what my mom would be like, everything from a crack whore on the streets to some corporate tycoon...but you are...

JO

A step up from crack whore?

LEO

You invented this woman who actually sounded really great, and now I have to let go of the whole idea of her and get used to the idea of you -- so forgive me, but I think I might need a minute.

LEO WALKS OUT OF THE BAR. ALL EYES TURN TO JO, HOLDING HIS LETTER, ALONE.

JO

That went well.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREEINT. JO'S APARTMENT - MOMENTS LATER

JO SITS ON HER COUCH, HOLDING LEO'S LETTER. A KNOCK AT THE DOOR, MAX PEEKS HIS HEAD IN.

MAX

(AS HE ENTERS) When you weren't in the hallway this morning I started to worry.

HE'S WEARING A WONDER WOMAN OUTFIT, COMPLETE WITH BODY SUIT, HEADBAND AND LASSO.

MAX (CONT'D)

One of the girls cancelled. I needed the money.

HE'S HOLDING A COFFEE AND A SMALL BAG.

MAX (CONT'D)

Brought you your favorite. (BEAT)
What, no date last night?

JO

No. Until I can find a nice guy, who's got his priorities straight and actually considers my needs, I'm done.

MAX BRINGS HER THE COFFEE, TAKES OUT THE MUFFIN, SETS IT UP ON A LITTLE NAPKIN FOR HER. STARTS PUTTING HER SWEETENERS IN THE COFFEE.

MAX

Can't imagine where you'll find a guy like that.

JO

I know! It's impossible. (DIRECTING HIM) One Sweet'N Low, one --

MAX

Sugar in the Raw, I know. (BEAT)
You okay?

JO

Yeah. (FAKING IT) I'm fine.

MAX LOOKS DOWN AT HIS GET-UP, PULLS ON HIS LASSO.

MAX

Don't make me use my truth lasso.
(QAARE:COSTUME) Yep, jokes don't take
the edge off the shame.

JO LOOKS AT HIM, TAKES IN THE OUTFIT, THE LENGTHS HE GOES TO TAKE CARE OF HIS SON.

JO

You must really love that kid.

MAX

(THINKS ABOUT IT, SMILES) I do. (BEAT)
Well, enjoy the coffee.

MAX HEADS OUT AND JO IS LEFT TO THINK ABOUT MAX, AND THE SACRIFICES HE HAS MADE. SHE STANDS AND AS SHE DOES, CATCHES HER OWN REFLECTION IN THE MIRROR. SHE STOPS, LOOKS AT HERSELF. FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER SHE ACTUALLY SEES HERSELF FOR WHO SHE REALLY IS. HER MISTAKES, HER FEARS, HER LIFE...

MAYBE THIS IS WHAT HAROLD WAS GETTING AT.

INT. OFFICE - DAY

TIGHT ON JO AS SHE TALKS. A LOT.

JO

So maybe naming myself Oprah was a bit much, but I couldn't think of anyone else and, I don't know, it just seemed right at the time. So now he's mad, understandably, and I just feel like it's all happened so fast I'm having trouble even processing it. Thank God you were willing to see me.

PULL BACK TO REVEAL SHE IS NAKED, AND A DOCTOR IS DRAWING ON HER CHEST.

DOCTOR

We'd go in here, insert the implants through a tiny incision...

JO

I mean, he should give me a second chance, don't you think? I'm amazing too, in my own way. Just because I'm not saving Ethiopians through an underground tunnel to the Ukraine doesn't mean I don't care about others.

THE DOCTOR LOOKS AT HIS CHART, TOTALLY OBLIVIOUS.

DOCTOR

I see we've set a date for the surgery.

JO

I guess I'm just not sure what to do.
I'm supposed to be the grown up, so
maybe I should call him and apologize
and try to make it right, but then I
think maybe it's just best to walk
away, ya know? I'm not what he had in
mind and we should just both cut our
losses --

THE DOCTOR LEAVES THE ROOM. JO DOESN'T EVEN NOTICE.

JO (CONT'D)

But I really like him. And Harold
always says I run away from my
problems --

HE COMES BACK IN, SHE'S STILL TALKING.

JO (CONT'D)

So, I'm turning it over to
you. If you say I should call
him, I will, I'm leaving it
up to you and your expertise,
I trust you.

DOCTOR

The only thing left to do is
get your blood work done so
I'm gonna send you to my
colleague, I've included his
number and --

DOCTOR

--you should call him in the morning.

JO

You think?

DOCTOR

You don't have a choice, you have to
do it.

A BEAT. SHE NODS AT HIM, KNOWINGLY.

JO

Thank you. Thank you for helping me
see what was so plainly the right
thing to do.

INT. JO'S APARTMENT - THE NEXT DAY

A KNOCK AT THE DOOR. A NERVOUS JO GOES TO OPEN IT AND WE
FIND LEO, ALSO LOOKING A BIT NERVOUS.

LEO

Oprah, lovely to see you.

JO

Hey, you're the one who bought it.

HE COMES IN, THEY LOOK AT EACH OTHER.

JO (CONT'D)

Stylish fanny pack.

LEO

(THINKS SHE MEANS IT) Thanks.

JO

Thanks for coming. I know you were
pretty pissed at me, so I appreciate
it.

LEO

Well, I could see you were going to keep calling well into my forties if I didn't pick up, so...

HE LOOKS AROUND, AWKWARD.

LEO (CONT'D)

Now that I know who you are, I'm kind of nervous.

JO

Tell me about it.

LEO

Look, I get why you made all that stuff up, I guess, and I'm sorry I reacted the way I did, I just didn't see...you coming.

JO

Nobody ever does.

LEO

I thought about what you said yesterday and, even though it wasn't the ideal way to handle it, you had your reasons and I can't really fault you for it. (BEAT) On the bright side, you've given me more material. I can start writing my memoir about how ultimately we all end up disappointed and alone.

AN AWKWARD PAUSE, THIS ISN'T GOING WELL.

JO

If that's the bright side, I have really screwed you up.

LEO

Yeah, that's what I was getting at.

(BEAT) Well, I should go. I guess I'll see you around.

JO

Yeah, I'll look for you in the safe zone.

SHE OPENS THE DOOR, HE BARELY HUGS HER AND TURNS TO GO.

LEO

Oh, I did actually have one question --

HE TURNS BACK TO HER BUT BEFORE HE CAN FINISH, SHE CUTS HIM OFF.

JO

You know what, Leo, whatever you want to ask me, ask me, okay? Because I can promise you, whatever it is, I have asked myself a million times over, and then some. Whatever it is, however awful it is, ask, because I guarantee I have punished myself more than anybody else ever could. And I've said so much worse to myself than you ever could.

A BEAT, LEO LOOKS AT HER, SURPRISED TO HEAR ALL OF THIS.

JO (CONT'D)

Every May 17th for 18 years I have woken up and thought wow, he's 8, or 9, or 14, or 15. What does he look like, how does he laugh, can he ride a bike, has he kissed a girl...and I HATE myself for not knowing the answers, for missing all of those moments. And I can sit here and blame my crazy parents or the fact that I was 16 and had no idea what I was doing, but the truth is...(FIGHTS BACK TEARS) I just didn't know how much it would hurt -- and how *terribly* I would miss you -- until it was too late. And you were theirs.

A BEAT.

LEO

I was just gonna ask you where you ordered that pizza from.

ANOTHER BEAT.

JO

Davani's. It's awesome.

JO LAUGHS, AND FOR THE FIRST TIME, HER SON LAUGHS WITH HER. THE REAL HER.

LEO

Oh, one more question.

HE TAKES OFF HIS SHOE AND SOCK, JO LOOKS.

LEO (CONT'D)

Do I have you to thank for this
snaggle toe?

JO

Ughh, that is disgusting.

JO WHIPS OFF HER OWN SOCK, HOLDS OUT HER FOOT.

JO (CONT'D)

And yes! You have me to thank.

THEY BOTH STARE AT THEIR WEIRDLY LONG SECOND TOES FOR A BEAT.

JO (CONT'D)

Okay, now sit down, I have SO many
questions to ask you.

LEO SITS, GETTING MORE USED TO THE IDEA. JO JUMPS ON THE
COUCH NEXT TO HIM.

JO (CONT'D)

Okay, well, for starters...

A LONG BEAT.

JO (CONT'D)

Do you think I should I get a boob
job?

LEO LAUGHS. JO LOOKS AT HIM EXPECTANTLY.

LEO

You're seriously asking me that?

JO

Yeah. Is that wrong?

END OF ACT THREE

TAGINT. DELI - DAY

HAROLD, THE THERAPIST, SITS AT A DINER, ALONE, PERUSING THE MENU. IN THE BACKGROUND WE SEE JO, STEALTH, MOVING SLOWLY BACK AND FORTH.

THE JAWS MUSIC PLAYS, UNTIL...

JO

Harold?

HAROLD LOOKS UP, ALMOST IMPERCEPTIBLY CRINGES.

HAROLD

Jolene.

JO

This is crazy! What are you doing here?

HAROLD

This is the deli in my building. I eat here every day.

JO

You do? How did I not know that?

HAROLD

You've found me here six times.

JO

Okay...creepy! Who's counting our run-ins??

SHE STANDS THERE, WAITING FOR AN INVITE...

JO (CONT'D)

You mind if I join you for a second?

HAROLD

Actually yes, I do.

JO SITS.

JO

Listen, I'm just gonna cut to the chase here. A couple of things have transpired and I think you're probably gonna want me back once you hear about them.

HAROLD

That's not how this works --

JO

I have a son. I gave him up when I was sixteen, he showed up at the bar, I lied to him, then I told him the truth and now we're in a healing and renewal phase.

HAROLD

We spent three sessions on whether to go auburn or strawberry and you never told me about your son?

JO

Which leads me to my next statement...
(beat)

You *may* have been right about a few things.

HAROLD STARES AT HER, EMOTIONLESS.

JO (CONT'D)

I avoided some feelings and you were right to point that out. I was running for so long I guess I didn't realize I was running anymore, trying to fill a void that no boob job would ever fill. So...(BEAT) I'm not getting the boob job. I called it off.

HAROLD

Good.

JO LOOKS PLEASED WITH HERSELF. AN UNEXPECTEDLY LONG BEAT.

JO

This is the part where you take me back.

FADE TO BLACK.

THE END