

Love in the Spotlight

Written by
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1 EXT. TOWN OF MYRTLE GARDENS MAIN STREET 1

The Camera sweeps through the quaint, yet vibrant main street of Myrtle Gardens, FL. The gentle breeze blowing through the tree lined streets. Shoppers walk and neighbors laugh with each other. There is a friendly bustle that only can be found in a town where everyone knows everyone. *

The camera stops on what was once the crown jewel of the town. The Embassy Theatre. We see the exterior of the theater, a faint memory of the glory it once held. The camera zooms in to the marquee "Happy Retirement ADRIAN BAKER." It pans down to a plaque that reads "EMBASSY THEATRE. WHERE MOVIE STARS ARE BORN" There, a photo of our hero, KATE WARNER, hangs. *

FADES TO:

2 INT. KATE'S HOME HOLLYWOOD, CA - DAY 2

The same photo in KATE'S home office. The camera zooms out to see the room is sunny, bright, and stylish, just like KATE, 30's, beauty, brains, and talent all wrapped up with kindness and warmth. She sits on her settee with a script, computer open, and phone by her side. *

KATE'S phone buzzes. She picks it up without looking as she is reading furiously. *

KATE
(answers the phone)
I really want to say yes, but this ending, this screenplay, just isn't right. *

LILY
Well, knowing you, you already know what you're looking for.

KATE
Oh my gosh! Lily! I thought you were Jacob.

LILY
Your tall, successful, and handsome movie exec? I get that *all* the time.

KATE laughs. *

KATE

I mean, I did make you rehearse opposite me in countless shows. Remember when I made you play everyone *OTHER* than Juliet so I could perfect my death scene?

*
*

LILY

Among *sooooo* many others. I've probably been your leading man more than anyone else. But, what are best friends for if not total humiliation?

KATE

That's what I've always said.

LILY

So...I have some news.

KATE

Is it that Jimmy finally asked you out?

LILY

What? No! Why is that *always* the first thing you guess?

KATE

Because someday I'll be right. He's been in love with you for years.

LILY

Ok, well, we can discuss that another time, because we *allwwwayyyys* do. *Anyway*, I wasn't sure if the Myrtle Gardens gossip made it to you, but ADRIAN is retiring.

*

KATE

(sadly) Yeah, Mom mentioned that.

LILY

Well, the town is throwing him a big send off.

KATE

Is he leaving town?

LILY

No, but you know this place, any chance to throw a party.

KATE

You mean any chance for my Mom to throw a party?

LILY

Of course, I do. Anyway, I think she didn't want to bother you about all of it because you just got back from filming...but it's *this* weekend.

KATE

Like...in 2 days this weekend?

LILY

Mmmhmmmm.

KATE

Well...

*

KATE opens her calendar.

*

KATE (CONT'D)

Jacob and I don't have anything scheduled, and it might give me some time to find a *good* script in peace. Everything I have read so far has been so blah. Just completely wrong. It's my first time producing. Everything has to be just right.

*

*

LILY

Well, there's nowhere more peaceful than Myrtle Gardens.

KATE

(laughing) There is so much truth in that statement. Jacob and I are having dinner tonight.

LILY

Maybe you'll finally convince him to come and see where you grew up.

KATE

Maybe. I'll call you tomorrow and let you know?

LILY
Sounds like a plan.

KATE
Talk soon.

LILY
Mwah.

KATE hangs up the phone goes back to her script. Just as she picks it up, her phone buzzes. She looks at it. A text from JACOB. She reads "*Virgo Rising. 7 pm.*"

KATE texts back: "*See you then. Love you.*" No response.

CUT TO:

3 INT. EMBASSY THEATRE - DAY

3

The camera pans from the back of the theatre to reveal a shell of a set on the stage for the upcoming tribute to ADRIAN. The ghost light is on the stage. The camera moves through the space. The outline of someone at the director's table can be seen. This is NICK, 30's handsome, smart, the best friend everyone wants. He is surrounded by scripts, fabric samples, gels, but he is only focused on the computer. The screen is full of graphs, numbers, and budgets.

ADRIAN BAKER, 60's, fabulous and eccentric, waltzes in the theatre full of flair and pizzazz that only he possesses.

ADRIAN
(playfully) *THIS* does not look like a rehearsal for my send off extravaganza.

NICK
That's because *THIS*...

NICK gestures at his desk.

NICK (CONT'D) (CONT'D)
...is what will hopefully keep this place running after you've extravagantly retired. Emphasis on hopefully.

ADRIAN
If anyone can bring this beautiful girl back to her former glory, it is you Nicholas.

NICK

Right now, I just have to focus on
keeping the doors open.

ADRIAN

I'm so sorry for leaving you with
this burden.

NICK stops what he is doing and looks at ADRIAN

NICK

It's not a burden! It's a legacy.
And I am honored to be entrusted
with it. This is just a little
speed bump along the way, that's
all.

ADRIAN

You are a sweet young man. Utterly
full of it, but sweet nonetheless.
I'll leave you to it.

NICK

ADRIAN, can you meet me tomorrow
at Town Hall for the hearing about
the theatre? I think having you
there may help sway the council.

ADRIAN

As you wish.

NICK gets back to work.

FADE OUT

4 INT. VIRGO RISING RESTAURANT - NIGHT

4

The camera finds the candle on the table and pans up to see
KATE waiting alone at the table. We see the surrounding
tables noticing who she is. She tries to hide her face. JACOB
MILLS, 40's, very handsome, rich, a little stuffy, enters.

JACOB

Kate!

KATE looks up. The patrons at surrounding tables get out
their phones take pictures and video of KATE.

KATE

Jacob. Hi.

They embrace.

KATE (CONT'D)

Um, can we maybe go somewhere a little more private. Everyone is noticing that I'm here.

JACOB

You're a movie star, Kate. It comes with the territory, you know that.

KATE

And you know I am beyond flattered, I just like to be as private as possible.

JACOB

Well, seeing you out and about will help with the box office of your newest venture.

KATE

With my handsome beau and movie exec making it all happen?

JACOB

(Pause) Have you signed off on that script yet? My boss is on my back.

KATE

No. Actually, I wanted to talk to you about that. I'm not really sure about the ending, in fact the whole screenplay doesn't feel right..

JACOB

I'm sure it's fine, Kate. As soon as you sign off we can get this moving.

KATE

It's just that if I am producing a project, I really want it to be something special, and I just don't think it is.

JACOB

Kate. This writer has given the studio their last 5 blockbusters. It's fine. Just sign off on it, and let's move on to the next.

*
*

KATE

This is a big deal for me. You know I want to be more than just an actor. It's a delicate decision and I want to treat it that way.

JACOB

Just. Sign it. Ok? Trust me.

KATE

I, (beat) okay. *

JACOB

Great. There is something else important that I want to talk to you about.

KATE

Actually, I needed to talk to you too. Not a huge deal, but, I thought, maybe this time..

JACOB

I think I should go first.

KATE

Oh. Sure. Sorry. Go ahead.

JACOB

Kate, we have been seeing each other for a while now. And I really feel that we are at a turning point. Both professionally and personally.

KATE

Jacob..I don't think we are ready//

JACOB (CONT'D)

I've been offered promotion to senior executive and I need to focus on my career if I want to be President before I'm 45..// *

KATE (CONT'D)

//...to take that step together...I love you but...//

JACOB (CONT'D)

//I think we need to break up// *

KATE (CONT'D)

(she blinks) What? *

FAN GIRL

Hi, Ms. Warner, I'm so sorry to bother you, but could I have your autograph?

KATE
 (completely robotic) Huh? Yeah. Of course. Thank you so much for watching. Your support keeps me going. There you go.

FAN GIRL
 Oh wow! Kylee is never gonna believe this!

FAN GIRL leaves, ecstatic.

KATE
 (stares blankly) I...

JACOB
 Kate. I *am* sorry. You know how terrific I think you are.

KATE looks around and see the patrons. They gawk at her. Film her. Snap her picture.

KATE
 I do. I know. I just...(overwhelmed)
 I need to go.

KATE gets up from the table. She begins to walk away. She turns back.

KATE (CONT'D)
 Tell your boss, thank you for the opportunity, but I can't sign off until I find the right script.

JACOB
 Kate, we are all counting on this.

KATE
 Then tell them I will bring a story to them. The ones they gave me aren't good enough for me to put my name on. But I *will* find something that is. I promise. Um, (beat) Bye? I guess.

KATE puts on her sunglasses and walks away. JACOB begins to say something, but his phone rings. He answers.

JACOB
 Yes sir. What can I do for you...

FADE OUT:

5 INT. KATE'S HOUSE HOLLYWOOD, CA - NIGHT 5 *

KATE walks in, takes off her sunglasses, coat, and locks her door. She walks to her computer, turns it on and books a ticket to Myrtle Gardens. She picks up her phone and dials. *

KATE
(on phone) Mom? Get my room ready,
I'm coming home.

KATE TO LILY(VIA TEXT) *

*Hey Lil. I won't be calling
tomorrow, but I'll be seeing you
TTYL.*

KATE goes to her bedroom. She grabs a box from the highest shelf in her closet. Inside are some of her most treasured memories. Ticket stubs, newspaper clippings, memorabilia, all from The Embassy Theatre. She smiles. *

She stops on a program from a One-Act play. She looks at the names on the front cover. Directed by KATE WARNER. Written by NICK KRUGER. A picture falls out. She and NICK, her best friend in college, laughing. She remembers. *

She picks up her phone and looks up NICK'S number. She contemplates. She dials. She hangs up. She shakes her head and puts the program back in the box. *

CUT TO:

6 INT EMBASSY THEATRE - NIGHT 6

NICK is in the theatre working. His phone lights up for a second. He picks it up too late. He sees the name, KATIE WARNER and the caller ID picture, the same picture KATE was just looking at. He thinks about calling back, but doesn't. *

NICK
(to himself) Butt dial. *

NICK takes a picture of KATE from his director's binder and sits it by the light for inspiration. He continues to work. *

CUT TO:

7 INT. KATE'S HOME HOLLYWOOD, CA - NIGHT 7

KATE puts the box back on her shelf, but keeps the picture of she and NICK out. She goes to her bed and lies down, looks at the pic and smiles. *

FADE OUT:

8 INT. EMBASSY THEATRE - MORNING 8

NICK is asleep at the table, a mess of papers surrounding him. ADRIAN enters. *

ADRIAN *

My boy, are you ready to dazzle the board?

NICK *

(waking up) What...ADRIAN, what are you...? Oh shoot! What time is it?

ADRIAN *

Time to make our way to Town Hall. *

NICK

I fell asleep. *I fell asleep?! I don't have everything prepared...*

ADRIAN *

Well you have me. We have you. And that, my boy, will have to be enough. Let's go.

NICK *

I...Ok. Let's go.

NICK grabs his laptop and they are out the door.

FADE TO:

9 EXT. KATE'S CHILDHOOD HOME - MORNING 9

KATE gets out of her car. LILY, 30's, spunky and fun with a winning smile and a twinkle in her eye, sits on the porch waiting for KATE. *

KATE

Lil?!

LILY

There she *is*...Miss Hollywood.

KATE takes off her sunglasses, because here, she is just KATE.

*
*

LILY (CONT'D)
I've missed you.

*
*

KATE
I've missed you too. So much.

LILY runs down the stairs to embrace her best friend..

*

KATE (CONT'D)
What are you doing here? Where's Mom?

*

LILY
Oh, she stopped by the boutique and asked if I would come and meet you...she wanted to be at Town Hall for the hearing about the theatre. So I closed up and came on over.

KATE
What hearing? About the Embassy?

LILY
Yeah. There was maybe more to me calling than just the retirement party.

KATE
There always is.

LILY
It's for good reason!

KATE
What's going on?

LILY
The theatre is in trouble.

KATE
(beat) What kind of trouble?

LILY
Real trouble. It's not making the money it used to. People have moved out of town and as much as ADRIAN has tried, there just isn't as much of an audience anymore.

*

KATE
Oh.

LILY

I thought maybe you could help?

KATE

Me? How?

LILY

Kate. YOU'RE Kate Warner. THE Kate Warner. If you care about something, everyone does. Especially people in your own hometown. I thought maybe if you came back and showed your support...it might make a difference.

*

KATE

Why didn't mom tell me?

LILY

I think she knew you were stressed about producing your first project...she didn't want to bother you. She's stubborn. Like her daughter.

KATE

Well...with ADRIAN retiring...if we save the Embassy, who is going to run it?

*

LILY

Ah...the other reason your Mom probably didn't tell you about all of this. The new Artistic Director...is Nick.

KATE

Nick? *Nick* Nick?(pause) I thought he was still in New York?

LILY

He was. Until his mom got sick. He came back here to take care of her and then just stayed.

KATE

Oh. Right. I knew that. I knew that.

LILY

It happened right when your career took off. He probably didn't tell

(MORE)

LILY (CONT'D)

you because he didn't want to burden you.

KATE

Sure. I mean, he knows it wouldn't have been a burden. (pause) I just...I should have come back. You know? I always said he's the friend that would do anything for me, and, then when it really counted, I didn't do anything for him.

*

LILY

And what am I?

KATE

You know what I mean.

LILY

I'll allow it. But only because of jetlag. Are you gonna be ok if you run into him?

KATE

It's Myrtle Gardens, Lily, you mean when. When I run into him.

LILY

I was trying to be optimistic.

KATE

Yeah. I'll be fine. It will be good to see him, actually. I'd like to apologize in person.

LILY

For missing the funeral?

KATE

Yeah. And just...life. It kind of got away from me for a while.

LILY

Is he still the one?

KATE

The one? No...I..wait what do you mean?

LILY

The one that could have been?

KATE
(Confused) I...

LILY
What am I saying!? You're dating a
hot Network Exec now. Jason?
Right? *

KATE
Jacob, actually. And not anymore.
In fact, he dumped me just
yesterday.

LILY
He dumped...you?

KATE
Yeah. Totally off script, right?

LILY
I'll say. Are you okay?

KATE
Actually, yes. Much better than
expected. I mean, since the
tabloids picked it up this
morning.

KATE shows LILY her phone with an article and video about the *
breakup. *

LILY
Yikes. *

KATE
You saw it already didn't you?

LILY
I'm sorry I brought it up. I
didn't mean to upset you all over
again.

KATE
Does everyone know?

LILY
What...no... (beat) absolutely they
do. Yep.

KATE
Great.

LILY

But hey, after tomorrow the entire town will be talking about Adrian and his retirement, and you know how he loves the attention.

*

KATE

I do. I can't believe we might lose the theatre.

LILY

I know. C'mon Let's get you unpacked and get you to the Embassy. Your mom is going to meet you there after the hearing.

KATE

Just like old times

LILY

You know nothing changes around here.

KATE

There's some comfort in that.

LILY smiles and helps KATE take her things inside. The door closes behind them.

CUT TO:

10

EXT TOWN HALL - DAY

10

The doors swing open and out walks NICK, ADRIAN, followed by CAROL WARNER, 50's bright and warm. CAROL breaks off to talk with a small group. ADRIAN and NICK continue on.

*

*

NICK

Four days?! Four DAYS?! I can't raise \$100,000 in four days.

*

*

ADRIAN

But the good news is they do want the theatre to succeed.

*

NICK

I don't feel like having to raise \$100,000 in four days inspires much confidence in the art. Or me.

*

ADRIAN

I mean they didn't just throw it out the window entirely. They are

*

(MORE)

ADRIAN (CONT'D)
giving you and the theatre a
chance.

NICK
Yes. A chance to fail.

ADRIAN *
You've never failed at anything
you've set your mind to.

NICK
I wish that were true.

CAROL catches up to them.

CAROL *
Nick. ADRIAN. I am so sorry for
how that went in there. The
Embassy has been put before the
city council before, but I've
never seen this.

NICK
Well, it's never been this bad off
before either. We've been in the
red for over seven years. They
have every right to ask us to pull
ourselves out before they release
the funding.

ADRIAN *
And we will.

NICK *
I appreciate your optimism ADRIAN,
but I'm not so sure.

CAROL
Well, let's look at what we *can*
do. We can make this retirement
tribute unforgettable. I have to
run home and grab some costumes.
I'll drop them by and then you can
put me to work.

NICK
I can use all the help I can get.

ADRIAN *
(to CAROL) I'll help you with the
costumes

CAROL
Ah. Wonderful. Thanks.

ADRIAN
(shrugs) It makes me feel useful.

*

NICK
I'm heading to the theatre now.
I'll see you in a few.

CAROL and ADRIAN head to CAROL'S car. NICK begins his walk to the theatre.

*

FADE TO:

11 EXT MAIN STREET - AFTERNOON 11

KATE and LILY walk toward the Theatre. JIMMY, 30's, shy, artsy, and loveable, walks out of the coffee shop.

*

*

JIMMY
Oh hi, Lily. (pause) Oh my goodness. Kate. Hi! I didn't realize it was you.

KATE
That is actually very refreshing.
Hi Jimmy.

*

KATE sneaks a look at Lily. Lily clocks it.

*

LILY
Hi Jimmy. What's up?

JIMMY
Actually I was heading to the store to see you...I mean...to see if you maybe needed a little afternoon pick me up.

JIMMY hands her the coffee.

JIMMY (CONT'D)
A little coffee with your cream and sugar. Just the way you like it.

*

LILY
Thanks Jimmy. That's really sweet of you. Hey, Kate, do you mind if we stop by the store quickly? I closed up pretty fast and just want to check on things.

KATE

Wait. No one's at the store at all? Lily! Go. I'll be fine. Mom's meeting me at the Embassy. It'll be nice to see the old place and soak it in on my own anyway.

LILY

You're sure?

KATE

100 percent. Go.

LILY

Ok. I'll call you later.

JIMMY

(to LILY) I'll walk you there, if that's alright? *

KATE looks at LILY and gives her a knowing look. *

LILY

Sure. That would be nice. Thanks.

LILY and KATE exchange looks. LILY mouths "stop it" to KATE. JIMMY is enthralled. JIMMY and LILY walk off and KATE walks toward the theatre. *

CUT TO:

12 EXT EMBASSY THEATRE - AFTERNOON

12

KATE walks to the Theatre doors. She smiles as she sees the plaque in her honor on the door. She takes a selfie with it. As she takes her phone from her bag, JACOB'S name and photo pop up on the caller ID. KATE ignores the call and takes the selfie. *

She opens the doors to the theatre and walks inside.

CUT TO:

13 INT EMBASSY THEATRE - MOMENTS LATER

13 *

KATE walks down the aisle of the theatre and takes in the sights and smells. *

KATE makes her way to the stage. The ghostlight is all that illuminates the house. She walks slowly around. Touching costumes, set pieces, and finally stands in the center of the *

stage and looks out at the audience. Her home. She begins to hum happily. *

NICK arrives at the theatre. He hears something. He quietly opens the door to the auditorium and his breath is taken away. He walks toward the stage, but is still in the dark. *

NICK
"Constant as the northern star".

KATE
(startled) I'm so sorry, I didn't know anyone was here...

KATE grabs her bag to go. *

KATE (CONT'D) (CONT'D) *
I'm meeting my mom and (beat) *
Nick? Is that you?

NICK
Last time I checked.

KATE
Well, your comebacks are as snappy as ever.

NICK
I had to be ready in case you came home. Looks like it paid off.

KATE
Ha! I couldn't miss Adrian's retirement. Is he here? *

NICK
He will be. He and your mom went to grab the costumes.

KATE
As "constant as the northern star".

NICK
Not quite. A few things have changed.

KATE
Yeah. A few things. *

NICK
It's good to see you Katie.

KATE
It's just Kate now.

NICK
Not to me.

KATE
(she smiles). You're the only one
I ever let get away with calling
me Katie. It's good to see you
too, Nick.

*

They look at each other for a brief moment, that seems to
encapsulate a lifetime. Then a loud slam as the door opens to
reveal ADRIAN.

*

ADRIAN
Darlings!

*

NICK
He always did know how to make an
entrance.

ADRIAN
Katie Warner! Darling, how are
you?

*

NICK
I thought I was the only one you
allowed to call you that?

KATE
Adrian doesn't count. Besides, he
usually calls me...

*

ADRIAN
My Beatrice. You look beautiful.

*

CAROL walks in with an arm full of costumes.

*

CAROL
Now that is a memory. What a
beautiful show.

NICK
(to KATE) You were wonderful.

KATE
So were you. You should have been
onstage more often.

ADRIAN
I agree. A breathtaking Benedict.

*

KATE

Who is nothing without his
Beatrice.

ADRIAN

"There was a star danced, and
under that, you were born." Much
Ado, Act 4 Scene 1

KATE

Hi Adrian.

KATE and ADRAIN hug. CAROL hangs costumes up on the stage.

CAROL

Isn't that the show where you fell
in the middle of your monologue?

NICK

(he laughs) I forgot about that.

KATE

As well you should have.

CAROL

Hi Honey.

CAROL rushes down, arms now free to hug her daughter.

KATE

Hi Mom (they hug) So good to see
you. I missed you.

ADRIAN

I suppose you have been apprised
on the details of our little
drama?

KATE

Yeah. Lily filled me in. Mom, why
didn't you tell me? I would have
come sooner. I can donate...

ADRIAN

No. I will not take a hand out.

CAROL

(To Kate) I know you would have,
honey. That's why I didn't say
anything. I know how stressed you
are about producing your first
project.

KATE

Some things are more important.

ADRIAN

Well, I'm just thrilled that you are here now. Celebrations can commence!

KATE

I'd like to help if I can. Nick? Adrian? Is there anything I can do?

NICK

Yes. You can go and enjoy some much-needed time with your family. Take this guy with you (*points to ADRIAN*) so I can get some work done.

KATE looks at him suspiciously. She takes a deep breath.

KATE

Mom?

CAROL

I think that is the perfect idea. Nick, you won't join us?

NICK

I really have to get some work done, but thank you.

KATE

I'll see you around?

NICK

In this town? I think it's a guarantee.

KATE smiles as she, CAROL, and ADRIAN exit. NICK watches them all go, sits at his desk, gently touches the picture of he and KATE, and gets to work.

CUT TO:

14

INT. KATE'S CHILDHOOD HOME - EVENING

14

KATE, LILY, CAROL, and ADRIAN are all gathered in the kitchen. They drink wine, snack on what will eventually be the meal, and laugh. There is a familiarity in the air that you can only get at home.

KATE

I remember the first day I met you
Adrian. I was SO nervous.

*

ADRIAN

Why?

*

KATE

I had always dreamed of becoming
an actor, but I didn't really know
what that meant.

CAROL

(To ADRIAN) That's true. Ever
since she was three and I told her
that superheroes were just people
pretending to be superheroes

*

KATE

And I said then *THAT'S* what I want
to be.

*

LILY

I remember you being a wreck
before you left school to meet
him...a "real actor"

KATE

Yeah! Because he *was* a REAL actor.
I had never met someone who had
really done it before. (to ADRIAN)
You had been to New York. You had
been on Broadway! Who was I?

*

ADRIAN

The sweetest, most ambitious,
sparkling 16 year old I had ever
met. That's who.

*

KATE

You're just saying that because we
are birthday twins

ADRIAN

Therefore, it is like looking in a
mirror. (Beat) But truly. I knew
right away we would be great
friends.

*

KATE

And I knew my life had changed for
good.

CAROL

Well, you were only 16.

LILY

And you thought tight rolled jeans were "haute couture".

KATE

Uh, they came back, didn't they?

LILY

Unfortunately.

KATE

Anyway, I'm glad I can be here.

ADRIAN

Me too, my Beatrice. *

CAROL

I just wish we could do more to ensure your legacy survives.

ADRIAN

We are doing everything we can. That's why I appointed Nick to take over. Other than Kate here, he's the only one I know who loves the theatre as much as me AND could handle the pressure. *

CAROL

If only we could get more support from the board, or even some more volunteers. I feel like I'm an island most days.

KATE

Mom, you've been running that volunteer board for as long as I can remember. What happened?

CAROL

It just fizzled. People moved away and no one moved in. The town is fading. The Embassy is all we have left when it comes to any type of cultural enrichment.

LILY

You know, I read about this tiny town up north that's entire main street was revitalized by a theatre. It brought in tourism,

(MORE)

LILY (CONT'D)
revenue, new businesses. What if
we did something like that here?

CAROL
How?

LILY
We could implore someone with a
lot of sway to work with her
"would have been" flame, you
know...(looks at KATE) had she not
run off to become a famous movie
star.

KATE
Subtle.

LILY
Subtlety *IS* my super power. *

KATE
I'm more than happy to help. I
just don't know how.

ADRIAN *
Creativity...and perseverance. *

CAROL *
If anyone can help, I know it's *
you. But right now...let's just all *
relax and eat. It's been too long.

They all head to the table for dinner.

KATE
(changing the subject) Oh, Lily.
How was your walk with Jimmy?

LILY
Really? That's you want to talk
about?

KATE
Yes. Yes it is.

They all sit and begin to dig into the meal. *

FADE TO:

15

INT. KATE'S CHILDHOOD BEDROOM - MORNING

15

KATE wakes up and looks around her room. She smiles and takes *
it in for a moment. She grabs her phone. Four missed calls *

from JACOB, even more texts. She places it down, ignoring him.

*
*

She gets out of bed and heads to her vanity. The room is just as she left it. She looks at the pictures in her vanity mirror. Takes a second. Then smells coffee and her mom's famous blueberry waffles - aka Blue-ffles. Smiles and heads downstairs.

*
*
*

KATE

I smell coffee.

CAROL

And my famous blue-ffles. I know how much you love them.

KATE

Only the way you make them...//with love//

CAROL (CONT'D)

// With love// And plenty of blueberries.

*

KATE pours coffee and sits at the counter as CAROL makes food.

KATE (CONT'D)

It's just me and you now. Mom, tell me. How much trouble is the theatre in?

CAROL

A lot. Adrian has been relying on government funding to subsidize the low ticket sales for about 7 years. It caught up to him.

*

KATE

Is no one going anymore?

CAROL

Not really. Just us blue haired old ladies.

KATE

Mom, you're not old.

CAROL

Well...I don't have blue hair yet anyway.

KATE

What's going to happen?

CAROL

The council said they would match the \$100,000 needed for the season

(MORE)

CAROL (CONT'D)

if Nick could come up with it. But they have been in the red for so many years. No amount of bake sales or small musical revues can make up the difference.

KATE

What about a fundraiser? Or gala?

CAROL

He only has four days.

KATE

Four days?

CAROL

I guess, three now, technically.

KATE

What happened to the season opener? Wasn't that always a huge money maker?

CAROL

There was no audience. So ADRIAN had to cut it to save money. I'm basically the only volunteer left now. There just doesn't seem to be an interest anymore. The town is more interested in staying home and streaming from the couch.

KATE

I hate that I have a part in that.

CAROL

Hey. No. You left with goals and grabbed every single one of them. Never be sorry for that.

KATE

I just wish there was something I could do.

CAROL

Well, drink some of that magic bean juice, have a few blue-ffles, and perhaps you'll be inspired.

KATE

If anything can do it, your blue-ffles can.

CAROL smiles. She serves KATE some waffles and looks to the mantle. A picture of the family sits there. The camera closes in on KATE'S dad LEVI.

CAROL

Your dad would be so proud of you. I mean, I am, of course. But you did what he always wanted to do.

KATE

Every show I've ever done, every award ceremony I go to...I still think I see his silhouette standing in the back of the house watching. He never did sit in the audience.

CAROL

He was too nervous for you. Plus, I think that was his way of being fully present for you. He could take it all in. Just watching you all by himself.

KATE

I really hate that he never got to see me on the big screen. See that I really made it. I miss him.

CAROL

Me too honey. Me too. But he's smiling down. And maybe he even left all of his pride for you behind with me, because I can't begin to put into words how proud you make me.

KATE

My biggest fan.

CAROL

Always and forever.

KATE smiles and takes a sip of her coffee.

KATE

Do you think that maybe, it's more of a lack of interest in the Embassy that's keeping people from coming?

CAROL

How do you mean?

KATE

Like, take me for example. I'll always love going to shows. Musicals. Shakespeare, obviously. Shaw. Contemporary. I love it all. But, not everyone grew up with you and Dad.

CAROL

I feel for them.

KATE

(laughing) As do I. But, what I mean is...what if we could make going to see a show as fun and exciting as trailers make movies? You know? Make people see that it *IS* worth getting off the couch, getting out of the house. To see something they can't see anywhere else. To experience it.

CAROL

Ok. How?

KATE

We need to go viral. *

CAROL *

Viral? *

KATE

Yeah. Get the word out. Bring the community into the theatre's world without them having to leave their couch. We could pull back the curtain and let them in, they would fall in love with it just like we did. *

CAROL

I don't understand a word of what you are saying, but anything is worth a shot. *

KATE

Lily has done some amazing things for the boutique online. I know she would help. And Jimmy! He's a photographer. We could ask him to take care of the visual side of it.

CAROL

Plus he would do it just to be near Lily. Has he asked her out yet?

*
*

KATE

That's a project for another time.

They laugh together.

KATE (CONT'D) (CONT'D)

Do you think Nick would go for it?

*
*

CAROL

For you? Yes.

KATE

For the theatre.

CAROL

For both.

KATE

Well, then. Convince Nick. I guess I have my agenda for the day.

*

CAROL

He's an adjunct professor at the college now. You could try to catch him there.

KATE

He is? I bet he's a great teacher.

CAROL

The students love him. Last year, he was nominated for Professor of the Year.

KATE

I can't believe I didn't know that.

CAROL

Well, time to see him in action. Now scoot. I have costumes to make and you have a theatre to save.

KATE

Right. Guess I never did give up that superhero dream. Thanks for breakfast, Mom.

CAROL

Anytime. Coffee to go?

KATE

Yeah. Thanks. And one for Nick. Black. One Sugar. I'll buy his attention.

KATE goes upstairs to get ready.

CAROL

Oh sweetie. His attention for you has always been free of charge.

CUT TO :

16

INT. TITIAN UNIVERSITY HALL - MORNING

16

KATE walks down the hall with two coffees in hand. A few students notice her. *

She walks to the lecture hall and sneaks in the back. NICK teaches a small group of 10 students. *

NICK

That leads us to want and need. *

NICK writes on the board *

*

NICK (CONT'D) *

What does the hero think they want and do they proactively pursue it? What do they need, and how does it relate to their flaw or problem? How are they ultimately bound to change? *

KATE

The object of the hero's pursuit, is what they desire. But what turns out to be the true solution to their flaw or problem is something else. It's their need.

NICK

And it's their need that ends up
changing their life.

KATE and NICK look at each other for a moment.

NICK (CONT'D)

Everyone. May I introduce Kate
Warner.

*
*
*

The class take out their phones and chatter in KATE'S
presence.

*
*

KATE

Hi. I'm so sorry to interrupt your
session. I'll just wait...

NICK

It's no problem. We were just
finishing up. (To class) I want an
outline of your characters along
with their wants and needs by
Friday.

COLIN

Mr. K? Can we all get a selfie
with Kate?

*

NICK

That is up to her.

KATE

(playfully) Only if "Mr. K" agrees
to be in it as well.

*

NICK

Done.

The class surrounds KATE and NICK snaps a selfie of them all.

NICK (CONT'D) (CONT'D)

I will see you all next week.
Upload those homework assignments
by end of day Friday. And I will
see you all at the retirement
party Sunday.

*

The class files out. Several students stop and say hello to
KATE as she makes her way to NICK. She hands him the coffee.

*

KATE

Black. One sugar.

NICK
You remember.

KATE
We had enough late night
rehearsals that I know *your* wants
and needs better than my own.

NICK takes the coffee.

NICK
So, what's up?

KATE
Right to it, huh? I've missed
dealing with direct, honest people
Ok. I want to help save the
theatre

NICK
It's fine Katie. I'm handling it. *

KATE
I know you are. But I still want
to help. You know how much that
place means to me.

NICK
(playfully) I *do* know, but you
have more important movie star
things to do.

KATE
Nothing is more important than
family. And this place. The
people. You. It's home. It's my
family. I...haven't been the best at
showing that, but it's the truth.

NICK is silent for a moment.

KATE (CONT'D) (CONT'D) *
Listen. I owe you an apology. I *
should have been here when your
mom got sick. You were there for
me when my dad passed, and I...

NICK
It's fine. You were busy,
Katie. You called. I understood.

KATE
But I shouldn't have been busy.
You would never have been too busy
(MORE)

KATE (CONT'D)

for me. You weren't ever too busy for me.

NICK

We lost touch. It happens to everyone.

KATE

But not to us. It shouldn't have happened to us. And I regret it.

NICK

Katie, look. I get it. You were always ambitious. I always knew you would make it...you had more drive than anyone in this town. Definitely more than me. Mom got sick and I made that a reason to give up.

KATE

Nick. It was your mother.

NICK

Yeah, but I could have gone back to New York. I used it as an excuse to stay where it was safe. I've made my peace with it. But...I need to prove to myself that I can still do something important and this, saving the Embassy, is important.

KATE

I agree. It *is* important. And I'm saying you don't have to do it alone.

NICK

(playfully) You know, you can't just swoop in and save the day and then leave. (serious) And, I told you I won't take a handout. The Embassy needs to survive on its own, and I have to figure that out.

KATE

I know. I'm not trying to swoop in. I want it to survive on its own as much as you do. I wouldn't be where I am without that place,

(MORE)

KATE (CONT'D)
 or without ADRIAN. (pause) Or
 without you. *

NICK
 (pause) I'll think about it.

KATE
 You will. Really? Or you're just
 saying that to get me to stop
 talking like when I would give you
 ideas for your scripts?

NICK
 I. Will. Think about it.

KATE
 Ok. Yes. Good. I'll take it.

KATE smiles and begins to leave. She turns back.

KATE(CONT'D) (CONT'D) *
 Ok, but before you have a chance
 to change your mind, can we maybe
 have dinner and spitball a little?
 I mean, I do have some ideas, but
 I won't overstep. (pause) We were
 always a great team.

NICK
 I have a feeling we still are.

KATE smiles. NICK returns the sentiment.

NICK (CONT'D) *
 Vera's Diner at 6?

KATE
 Or I can get takeout and bring it
 to you.

NICK
 You know what? You're the movie
 star. Yes, dinner on you. Meet you
 at the Embassy at 6.

KATE
 It's a date.

KATE leaves. *

NICK
(hopeful) It's a date.

FADE TO :

17 EXT. MAIN STREET - EVENING 17

The day dims and the streetlights begin to illuminate. The *
quaint town is beautiful in the evening. *

KATE walks to the theater with a ridiculous amount of food in *
her hands. LILY and JIMMY walk together in the distance. They *
see KATE and run to her to help open the door. *

LILY
Finally off the Hollywood diet,
huh?

LILY and JIMMY take some food and relieve KATE. *

KATE
There is some food I can only get
here, and I am making the most of
it.

LILY
Likely story.

KATE
Fine. I'm actually helping Nick
with something.

LILY
Ooooooooooo...

KATE
Wow. Really? We are just...

LILY
No need to explain. I approve.

KATE
(looking to Jimmy), and what are
you two up to?

LILY
Nothing, He was just making sure I *
got home ok. *

KATE
(mimicking) Ooooooooooo...

LILY

Touché.

*

JIMMY laughs quietly and gives KATE a smile. KATE'S phone buzzes. JACOB. She ignores it.

LILY (CONT'D)

Jacob?

*

KATE

You know me too well.

JIMMY

Jacob?

LILY

Kate's movie exec ex- boyfriend

KATE

Ex. *EX* boyfriend. And exec. Yes.
Both

LILY

I said Ex. I'll say it first next
time. What does he want?

KATE

Probably my signature on a
contract to produce this script
that I don't want my name anywhere
near.

LILY

What are you going to do? Didn't
you already sign a contract?

KATE

Yes, to produce. That's not the
issue. The problem is I still
haven't found the right screenplay
and now I just...I have more
important things to worry about.

LILY

Like dinner. With Nick.

KATE

And saving the theatre.

JIMMY

Which I think is only fair that we
leave you to.

*

JIMMY opens the door for KATE and she starts in.

*

KATE(CONT'D) *
Thanks for the help. Have fun...

LILY
Mmmhmm. You too.

LILY and JIMMY hand KATE the food. LILY turns to look at KATE *
one more time as they walk off. She smiles and mouths "call *
me".

18 INT. EMBASSY THEATRE - EVENING 18

NICK sits at his directors table with papers strewn about. He *
is deep in thought.

KATE walks in, food piled high.

KATE
Delivery!

NICK looks up and sees her struggle. *

NICK
Geez! Did you buy one of
everything?

KATE
How dare you. No. Just multiples
of everything...that I can only get
here.

NICK
Your appetite hasn't changed

KATE
Not when the paparazzi aren't
watching. I plan on enjoying every
last bite of this.

NICK
Let me help. *

NICK begins to help her carry everything. *

KATE
I've got it.

NICK
No, I know you've got it, but let
me help.

KATE
It's fine, I'm fine.

KATE in fact, was not fine. She starts to lose her balance. *
NICK grabs her...she holds on to some food. He got a bit, the *
rest hits the floor. They both laugh. *

NICK
Are you ok? *

KATE
That depends. Did the subs make
it?

NICK
(Smiles and holds up a bag) I know
what's important.

KATE
(laughs) Break 'em open. I've been
craving these since...well, it never
stops.

NICK clears a spot on the table and begins to clean up the
food massacre.

KATE (CONT'D) *
Actually. Could we have one of our
Center Stage picnics? You remember
those?

NICK
How could I ever forget?

KATE
Some of my favorite memories.

NICK
Mine too.

NICK and KATE grab the food and take it to the stage and hop
up.

CUT TO :

19 INT. EMBASSY THEATRE - EVENING

19

NICK and KATE are on the stage with a picnic of food laid out
in front of them. It's everything you would never think of a
"star" eating. Fries, pizza, subs. All the junk food.

KATE

Okay, but that wasn't TOTALLY my fault. The set wasn't marked. I couldn't see it in the dark.

*

NICK

And you ran right into it and broke your foot.

KATE

AND kept right on going.

NICK

The show must go on.

KATE

I didn't think I was going to be able to get my shoe off, my foot was so swollen.

NICK

And you wouldn't go to the doctor until the show closed.

KATE

The only thing they would have been able to do for it was put me in a boot. There are no understudies in college!

NICK

I don't know. Adrian would have been pretty flawless as Eliza.

*

KATE

(feigned realization) He did it on purpose.

NICK

Nah, he knew you too well. Now Celeste on the other hand...

KATE

Celeste! Do you remember when I was cast in the role she wanted?

KATE(CONT'D) (CONT'D)

She said she wanted to push me down the stairs.

*

*

*

NICK

Oh, I remember. She said it long after you'd left town, too.

KATE
Are you serious?

NICK
Yeah, we dated for a bit.

KATE
What?!

NICK
Well..small town. It didn't last long though. I think she thought I was in love with you.

KATE
You told her we never dated, right? That we were just friends?

NICK
Best friends. And yes. But she never believed me. For the best though. She never ate fries.

KATE
Well, that's just criminal.

NICK
She's married now. They live a few towns over.

KATE
Of course.

NICK
Yeah.

They are starting to finish up their food. *

KATE
(holding her stomach) Ugh...okay, I may have overdone it a bit.

NICK
You? Never.

KATE
(smiles) But I brought dessert. So...

NICK
So we brainstorm and continue.

KATE
Yes. *

NICK helps her from the stage. There is a moment when she lands, they look at each other for a second too long. Electricity. NICK leads her to the table.

*
*

NICK

So, what do you have to show me?

*
*

KATE

Right. Saving the theatre!

NICK

Ok Miss Warner. Dazzle me.

KATE

Oh...I didn't prepare a presentation or anything..

NICK

Katie. I'm teasing. What are you thinking?

KATE

Ok. So this last movie I did...

NICK

Dragon's Eye. Loved it. But, not as much as I *loved* Thorn Hill.

KATE

Thorn Hill!? You saw that?

NICK

Of course I saw it. I've seen everything you've ever done. Even before the world saw you as a movie star. You were always mine.

KATE

"Forever constant". (smiles) Well, with Dragon's Eye, we wanted to get people really involved...no...*invested* in it. So we started this campaign on Social Media. My page was used to promote interest. Everyone that followed me could see clips and teasers of behind the scenes content, scenes from the film that were cut, *but*, they had to subscribe to the film's fan page to see the full content.

*
*

NICK

But I'm not selling a multi-million dollar movie. Just a small town theater.

KATE

But that's so much more important than a multi-million dollar movie.

NICK

It doesn't feel like it lately.

KATE

And that is *exactly* what we are going to change.

NICK

Lead on MacDuff. *

KATE

Cute. A Scottish play reference while sitting in the very theatre we're trying to save. Brave man.

NICK

I know.

KATE

So, we get the community involved. Jimmy is a photographer. Lily has mastered social media and done some amazing things for the Boutique. She can lead the online charge. I'll share it on every platform. I have a lot of friends who love theatre as much as we do, and maybe we can even make some new lovers of the art. We will add

KATE(CONT'D) (CONT'D) *

A link to a donation page where people all over the world can donate to help. We can show everyone that this theatre was the heart of this town and can be again. Hopefully gain enough attention that we can get more butts in the seats, and more reserve in the bank. Who knows, maybe it will even become a tourist destination! *

NICK

Slow down there Macbeth. *

KATE
You didn't just say that name?!

*

NICK
I think we've had as much bad luck
as that superstition can divvy
out. I'll take my chances.

KATE
Suit yourself.

NICK
We just need to get out of the
red. (pause)It *is* intriguing,
though.

KATE
High Praise. So, I think we should
really focus on behind the scenes
content. People that have never
done what we do find it
fascinating. It intrigues them.
Maybe we can break it down a
little and make theatre not so
elitist and antiquated.

NICK
It's different, that's for sure.

KATE
So we take them backstage during
rehearsals, post videos and
pictures of the theater's history.
Rehearsals of Adrian's retirement
celebration. Anything and
everything we can find that makes
this place so special. Show them
its heart.

*

NICK hasn't taken his eyes off of KATE this entire time.

*

NICK
You think this could work.

KATE
I think we have to try. And if my
celebrity can help do some good
for the places and...people...that I
love the most...well, I mean, isn't
that the point?

NICK
 (mischievous) I think I have some
 very embarrassing rehearsal
 footage of you.

KATE
 And I would be furious with you if
 you didn't use it.

NICK
 Alright. I'm in. Let's go viral.

KATE
 But...after dessert.

NICK laughs and opens the dessert for KATE. They share it. *
 NICK looks at her adoringly. *

FADES TO:

20 INT. KATE'S CHILDHOOD HOME - MORNING 20

KATE, LILY, CAROL, ADRIAN, and JIMMY are around the kitchen *
 table. KATE fills them in on the plan as they drink coffee *
 and snack on pastries.

KATE
 Are you in?

ADRIAN *
 I have absolutely no idea how to
 use the social media, but yes.

KATE
 You just be yourself. Let us take
 care of you for a change.

CAROL
 That's what retirement is all
 about, after all.

ADRIAN *
 In that case, pass me another one
 of those delightful muffins

LILY passes ADRIAN a muffin. She moves to stand by JIMMY, who *
 acknowledges it and smiles.

LILY
 So, when are we starting this?

KATE
Tomorrow?

*

LILY
Like one sleep away, tomorrow?

*

KATE
That's the one.

JIMMY
I can come by the theater tomorrow
and grab some shots of rehearsal
if that works.

KATE
I'll ask Nick.

*

NICK
Ask Nick what?

NICK just walks in, because it's that kind of town.

CAROL
Good morning kiddo! Coffee?

NICK
Please.

JIMMY
Is it cool with you if I stop by
tomorrow to take some footage of
rehearsals?

NICK
So she got to all of you too?

JIMMY
Mostly the pastries and coffee
did.

NICK
The coffee trick again, huh?

KATE
I know my audience.

NICK
Mrs. W, you have that box of stuff
you called me about?

KATE
Umm...what box?

NICK/CAROL *
Nothing. *

KATE *
What box, *Mom*? *

CAROL
Just some knick-knacks from the theater's history. Some newspaper clippings. Videos. That kind of thing.

NICK
Basically anything and everything that could potentially embarrass you that I don't have already.

ADRIAN *
Perfection.

KATE
The support is uncanny.

LILY
Your idea.

KATE
(beat) My idea (smiles).

CAROL hands over the box. NICK takes out a very embarrassing picture on KATE.

NICK
Oh...now *this* one is going front and center.

KATE
I should have known better.

ALL
Yes/absolutely/of course you should have/etc.

NICK
I gotta get to class. See you tonight?

KATE/JIMMY
(excited) Yes.

KATE
(blushing) Oh, sorry, right.

NICK laughs at her embarrassment.

NICK
I will see you tonight.

NICK looks straight at KATE when he says this.

NICK (CONT'D)
Katie...

*

NICK heads out the door. EVERYONE turns to look at KATE.

LILY
Katie...(teasing)

KATE
(blushing) Come on. Let's get to
work.

THEY ALL continue to pick on her as they gather around the
table to talk strategy. KATE looks after NICK.

*

21 INT. JACOB'S OFFICE, HOLLYWOOD, CA - DAY

21

JACOB sits at his desk surrounded by work. He is frazzled.

*

His boss, VINCE SHRINER walks into his office. JACOB
straightens himself.

VINCE
Do you have the paperwork from
Kate Warner for me?

JACOB
Not yet, sir, of course, but I
should have it in a few days.

VINCE
Don't you mean to say you *will*
have it?

JACOB
Yes sir. She's out of town for
an...event, and I've had trouble
reaching her.

VINCE
Then call her Manager. That's what
they do. (beat) You know if you
can't get your own girlfriend to
sign a multi-million dollar deal,
I think this promotion may be too
much for you as well.

JACOB
No sir. It will be handled.

VINCE
Have the signed contracts and
script on my desk by Friday
morning, 9am. Sharp.

Before JACOB can respond, VINCE has left the room. JACOB
picks up his phone and dials KATE.

BEGIN INTERCUT

22 INT. KATE'S CHILDHOOD HOME - DAY 22

KATE and ALL work on the plan and snack. Her phone buzzes. *
LILY sees it.

LILY
Jacob? Kate, how many times has he
called?

KATE
A few.

LILY
Don't you think you should maybe
answer it? If only to ask him to
stop?

KATE
Later.

KATE picks up the phone and sends JACOB to voicemail.

23 INT. JACOB'S OFFICE, HOLLYWOOD, CA 23 *

JACOB, frustrated, ends the call and tries again.

24 INT. KATE'S CHILDHOOD HOME 24 *

KATE'S phone rings again. This time she ignores it and puts
it in her bag. Out of sight, out of mind.

END INTERCUT

25 INT. JACOB'S OFFICE, HOLLYWOOD, CA - MOMENTS LATER 25 *

JACOB leaves a voicemail

JACOB

Kate. Look, I get it, you're mad. I maybe didn't end things in the best way. But please, we still have to work together on this...and on many other projects, I hope. I need the signed contract and the approved script in my boss's hands by Friday morning or I lose that promotion. So. Call me. Please. You know how hard I've worked for this. We both have.

JACOB hangs up and calls to his assistant.

JACOB (CONT'D)

Hillary, I need a flight to whatever airport is closest to a place called Myrtle Gardens, FL ASAP.

FADE TO:

26 INT. KATE'S CHILDHOOD BEDROOM - EVENING 26 *

KATE is getting ready to meet NICK and fussing over what to wear. CAROL walks by and notices. *

CAROL

Nothing to wear?

KATE

I should have brought more with me, I guess.

CAROL

You're just heading to the theater, right? Won't loungewear do? *

KATE

I just...I want to look..

CAROL

(teasingly) Nice for Nick *

KATE

What? No! Nice for...working. For managing this project. This is serious. I need to be taken seriously.

CAROL

Honey, he's always taken you seriously.

KATE stops riffling through her clothes and looks at CAROL.
KATE sits in her bed, looking around, like when she was 18. *

KATE

Mom, why do I care all of the sudden? It's Nick! He doesn't care how I look.

CAROL

No he doesn't. He cares about how you feel. About what you think. About what you need. He cares about YOU. And you care about him.

KATE

Of course, I do. He's been my best friend forever.

CAROL

Oh sweetheart. Do you really think that's all it is?

KATE looks at CAROL confused. *

CAROL (CONT'D)

I mean, it might be worth looking at through a different lens. From a new angle. Is there anyone else who knows you better? Anyone else you have more in common with?

KATE

That may have been the case years ago, but we have grown so far apart over the years.

CAROL

Have you? Have you really?

KATE

I didn't even visit when his mom passed.

CAROL

Kate, you have to stop beating yourself up about that. Nick understood. We talked about it.

KATE

You and Nick?

CAROL

Yes. I still volunteer at the theater. I still live here. And Nick still comes over for all major holidays. Honestly, even more so after his mom passed.

CAROL sits next to her daughter. *

CAROL (CONT'D) *

Honey, when I met your father, I had no interest in him...romantically. I was seeing two other suitors at the time...

KATE

Mom!

CAROL

It was the 70s. And your father just felt too safe. I wanted excitement. I wanted to get out of here. So I kept my options open for someone that could make that happen.

KATE

You never told me that.

CAROL

Oh Kate, you aren't the only small town girl who had big dreams. Mine just changed. I fell in love with teaching art at the elementary school, and...I fell in love with your father. I guess I realized that that safe feeling wasn't safety. It was...well, he was, my home. Then we had you, and we became this beautiful family, and that became my new dream.

KATE

I love you so much, Mom.

CAROL

I love you too. And sweetheart, I know your career has been your all consuming priority, but you don't have to keep running away from love.

KATE

I'm not. I just have a very bad habit of picking the very wrong guy.

*
*
*

CAROL

Or a very good habit of choosing gentlemen that keep you at an arms length so you don't get too attached.

*
*
*

KATE looks at her mother. CAROL shrugs.

*

CAROL (CONT'D)

Like mother like daughter. But that all stopped for me when I met your dad. That feeling of safety. That comfort. That love. When you lean into it...it's more magical than any movie.

*

KATE

I just never really thought much about it. I just told myself that my career was more important. What if I find the one and then something happens...like with Dad.

*
*
*

CAROL

Honey. Even if I had known we weren't going to have our whole lives together, I wouldn't have given up one moment of it. What I had with your father...it was all worth it.

KATE

It was?

CAROL

It was.

KATE

Thanks mom.

CAROL walks to the door. KATE calls out.

*

KATE (CONT'D)

Mom?

CAROL

Yes hun?

KATE
What do I wear?

CAROL laughs, as does KATE and they hug. Then they start going through clothes together.

*
*

FADE TO:

27 EXT. EMBASSY THEATRE - EVENING 27
KATE walks up to the door to the theater. She takes a breath and opens the door. *

28 INT. EMBASSY THEATRE - MOMENTS LATER 28 *
KATE walks into the auditorium. JIMMY is already there with NICK taking photos. LILY is off to the side going through the old box of memorabilia from CAROL.

KATE tries to close the door quietly so as not to interrupt, but is not successful NICK turns and smiles at her.

Before he can say anything LILY is on her feet running to greet her.

LILY
Oh my gosh, you HAVE to see these photos. And programs. Ooooo, and costume designs from when the theatre was *founded*. It's so cool.

KATE
(laughing) Lead the way.

LILY drags KATE to her corner. NICK and KATE smile at each other across the room. KATE pulls out a video from the box. *

KATE (CONT'D) (CONT'D) *
What's this? B and B Sophomore *
Year?

NICK hears this and runs across the room to snatch it from her.

NICK
Nothing!

KATE
Nothing?

NICK
Nothing.

KATE and NICK look at each other. KATE is studying him. JIMMY looks at them both.

*
*

JIMMY

Okay. I think I have all I need of the empty theater. Now, we just need shots of the rehearsal.

NICK

Ugh, yeah. Everyone should start filing in...in about 15 minutes.

JIMMY

Anyone want a coffee? I could use a little jolt.

NICK

Sure, that would be great.

KATE

Yeah, thanks Jimmy.

LILY

Um, I'd love one. But I have a complicated order, so...I'll just walk with you. You'll need an extra set of hands to carry them back anyway.

JIMMY smiles. KATE nudges LILY. LILY mouths "Stop" and heads off with JIMMY.

KATE hops off the stage and crosses to NICK and they watch them go.

KATE

(teasing) Have fun.

LILY

(right back) You too.

NICK and KATE look at each other.

NICK

Help me put the rehearsal space together?

KATE

I thought you'd never ask.

KATE and NICK start moving set pieces and costumes. NICK *
looks at KATE. She doesn't see. KATE looks at NICK, but he *
misses it. *

CUT TO:

29 EXT. MAIN STREET - EVENING 29

LILY and JIMMY walk to the coffee shop. They wave to *
passersby. *

LILY
So, lots of work ahead of us, huh?

JIMMY
Yeah. But, so far, it's been fun.
I don't get to take pictures that
much any more. It was really nice
to be asked.

LILY
That's Kate. Always thinking of
everyone else.

JIMMY
Sure, but she didn't know I'm a
photographer until you told her.
So. Thank you. It means a lot to
me.

LILY
We should all get a chance to
explore the things we love.

JIMMY
What about you?

LILY
What do you mean? I run the shop.
It's great. I'm (beat) happy. *

JIMMY
You always wanted to go into
fashion design, didn't you?

LILY
Yeah, but that was just a silly
dream.

JIMMY
So was me being a photographer.
(beat) Plus, your best friend made
all of her dreams come true,

(MORE)

JIMMY (CONT'D)

didn't she? Doesn't that make it seem more...doable?

LILY

I don't know. She's just a lot braver than I am.

JIMMY

That's not what I see. (beat) It's never too late, you know?

A beat. LILY looks at JIMMY.

LILY

I'll think about it.

They continue to walk. JIMMY stops. LILY stops and turns to him. *

LILY (CONT'D) *

The coffee shop is (she points) that way. *

JIMMY *

I know. I just need a moment. *

LILY *

The walk too strenuous for you? *

JIMMY *

I was actually just taking a moment to take this in. *

LILY *

What? *

JIMMY *

Our first date? *

LILY *

Excuse me? *

JIMMY *

Yeah. I mean, it's just coffee... *

LILY *

Coffee for everyone. That we're bringing back to the theatre. It's not a date. *

JIMMY *

I guess you're right. *

LILY and JIMMY begin walking again. JIMMY Stops. *

JIMMY (CONT'D) *
Then maybe we should make it a *
date. *

LILY *
We have to get back. *

JIMMY *
But you aren't saying no? *

LILY studies him. After a beat. *

LILY *
I'm not saying no. *

JIMMY *
Awesome. (he smiles) I look *
forward to our official first *
date. Until then, coffee. (beat) *
For everyone. *

LILY *
Coffee. And maybe a scone for just *
you and me? *

JIMMY *
They won't miss us right away. *

They continue walking. The Coffee Shop is in sight *

LILY *
Besides, I will need to know why *
it took you so long to ask. *

JIMMY *
I just wanted it to be perfect. *

Their fingers brush against one another. Pull back as LILY *
takes JIMMY's hand. He smiles. She smiles. They walk into the *
Coffee Shop. *

CUT TO:

30

INT. EMBASSY THEATRE - EVENING

30

NICK and KATE move to the table, hands full of costumes, *
props, etc., and sit down. *

NICK

So, I didn't tell the cast you were going to be here. I didn't want to make them nervous.

KATE

I don't have to be here. I can go..

NICK

No, please stay. I want you here. Your eye would be greatly appreciated. Plus, you're the

NICK (CONT'D)

Mastermind behind this whole social promotion thing..

*
*

KATE

I *really* think it's gonna work, Nick.

NICK

I hope you're right

KATE

Aren't I always?

They laugh as KATE sees something on the desk that catches her eye. A screenplay. *Forever Constant*, written by NICK KRUGER.

KATE (CONT'D)

Is this a new one?

NICK

Yeah.

NICK gets to the screenplay before her and tucks it away.

NICK (CONT'D)

So new that it's in desperate need of polishing.

*

KATE

I'd love to read it. I'm trying to find a new screenplay to produce.

NICK

I may have heard that somewhere.

KATE

Mom?

NICK

And Adrian. He's so proud of you.
(beat). So am I.

*

KATE looks at Nick for a long moment. There is a moment of
electricity. Then -

*

*

JIMMY and LILY burst into the room, laughing, with coffee,
and still holding hands. KATE notices and gives LILY a look.
LILY, confident in her choice, smiles back.

*

KATE

So...the screenplay?

NICK

Rehearsal first.

KATE

Fair enough.

Behind JIMMY and LILY, the CAST enters. They file in loudly
and exuberantly.

*

JIMMY

Here ya go.

KATE

Thanks, Jimmy. So, are we ready
for this.

NICK

As ready as we will ever be.

The team gathers around the table as the cast files in. NICK
tries to quiet them the cast.

*

NICK (CONT'D)

Ok everyone. Let's start to get
focused and then let's get
rolling...(beat) Cast...please..

*

They see KATE walk out from behind NICK and they start to
simmer down.

*

NICK looks to her and smiles. She smiles back.

*

NICK (CONT'D)

Well, I guess the surprise is
ruined.

*

KATE

Sorry.

NICK

It's just as well. You've been the talk of rehearsals all week.

KATE

(to the cast) All good I hope.

NICK

So, we also have another surprise for you. Kate has offered to help get the word out about the Theatre. It's a small town, so I know you all heard that the council meeting didn't go as we'd hoped. So now we are looking for other ways to save this place. Kate, do you wanna explain?

*
*
*
*
*
*

KATE

Sure. Hey, first, thank you for letting me crash your rehearsal. Um, so, we are working on some behind the scenes stuff to celebrate the impact The Embassy has had, and continues to have on this community. With your blessing, we would love for all of you to be a part of it.

*

The cast is excited. Yeses, and woots all around. NICK is watching her intensely.

*
*

KATE(CONT'D) (CONT'D)

Lily and Jimmy will be helping. And I'm sure you will see my mom and ADRIAN around too.

*
*
*
*

NICK

Actually, I barred ADRIAN from rehearsals so he would be surprised.

*
*

KATE

Good idea! Thank you. So, not Adrian, but myself, Lily and Jimmy for sure. We will be doing pics, videos, interviews. And if you can think of anything else we may have missed, please, let us know.

*

KELSIE (CAST MEMBER)

Um..Miss Warner

KATE

Kate. Please

KELSIE (CAST MEMBER)

Ok. Kate. Um...are you going to be performing?

KATE

No..no, no, no,...this is Nick's show. I'm just going to be behind the scenes trying to get the word out.

KELSIE (CAST MEMBER)

(so nervous) It's just...

KATE

It's okay. What is it...

KATE looks at NICK for the answer.

*

NICK

(softly) Kelcie.

KATE

Kelcie. Go ahead.

KELSIE (CAST MEMBER)

If we want to be noticed we should do everything we can to get attention, right?

KATE

I...uh

KATE looks to NICK for the answer again.

*

NICK

Thank you, Kelsie.
We will think about it.

KATE

So, Lily here is going to start getting you all into costumes and Jimmy will be taking some fantastic photos of you in those costumes...We will start there, and then...

*

NICK

(jumping in) ...and then we will get this rehearsal started. Let's go.

NICK claps his hands and everyone gets to it.

31 INT. EMBASSY THEATER - MONTAGE 31

Montage of cast trying on costumes, rehearsing. JIMMY and LILY return with coffees in hand. They are styling and taking * pics. NICK and KATE are smiling and having a blast.

CUT TO:

32 EXT. MAIN STREET - NIGHT 32

We see a very nice car drive up. It parks along the street, near the coffee shop. JACOB emerges from the car, suit and all. He looks around for a moment. He spies the theater and heads that way.

CUT TO:

33 INT. EMBASSY THEATER - NIGHT 33

KATE, JACOB, LILY and JIMMY are still working with the cast. KATE sneaks away to the table and looks for NICK'S script while he is preoccupied. She pulls it out and starts to call for NICK when the door of the auditorium swings open.

JACOB

Kate! There you are. I've been calling you. *

EVERYONE turns around to see JACOB at the door. LILY knows immediately who it is and heads to KATE'S side.

LILY

I told you that you should have answered him.

KATE

Not. Helpful.

LILY

But accurate.

KATE glares at LILY. JACOB walks up to KATE. NICK sees this and heads toward KATE. *

JACOB

Kate, I really need to speak with you.

NICK

Hi, sorry, but who are you?

JACOB
 (extends hand to NICK) Jacob
 Miller. I'm with Kate.

NICK
 Oh?

KATE
 (flustered) Um...Nick, (to the
 cast) everyone, I'm so sorry. Will
 you excuse me for a minute? *

NICK
 Whatever you need..

KATE
 Jacob?

KATE gestures to JACOB and they start to the door that leads
 to the lobby. She grabs her bag and places the screenplay
 inside for safekeeping. JIMMY and LILY cross to NICK. *

LILY
 Wow, what a way to ruin a mood.

JIMMY
 You said it. (to NICK) You okay? *

NICK
 I'm fine. Why wouldn't I be? Let's
 get back to work.

They head back to the cast.

CUT TO:

34 INT. EMBASSY THEATER LOBBY - NIGHT

34

KATE leads JACOB into the lobby, out of the way, out of ear
 shot.

KATE
 What are you doing here?

JACOB
 I came to see you. I called, I
 texted, you didn't answer.

KATE
 Jacob. You broke up with me.
 Poorly. Publicly. You never once,
 in the 2 years we were together
 (MORE)

KATE (CONT'D)

wanted to come to Myrtle Gardens with me, so why are you here now?

JACOB

Kate, my boss came to see me today about the contract. The screenplay. You *have* to move on this. It's not just your reputation on the line. It's mine too. I could lose my promotion. They could pull you as producer.

KATE

I just haven't had time to find the right script.

JACOB

But you have time to play in this theatre?

KATE

Jacob, come on. That's not fair and you know it. You know how much this place means to me.

JACOB

And you know how much advancing my career means to me, and I thought it meant something to you too. Why isn't this more important to you?

KATE

It *is*. It's very important, Jacob. That's why I haven't made a decision, yet. It has to be right. I may not get another chance.

JACOB

Look. I know things didn't end very well with us, and that's on me. Truly. But I still want what's best for you. Becoming a producer is a big deal. And we both worked hard to get you this opportunity. It could be the first of many new things to come.

KATE

I know Jacob. I'm sorry. I'm just...I'm working on it. I really am.

JACOB

If you could work on it a bit faster, that would be great. I have to have it to my boss on first thing Friday.

KATE

Friday?! That's in two days.
That's Adrian's Retirement Gala.

*
*

JACOB

Yeah. That's why I kept calling, That's why I am here. We've had months to do this, but the clock is up. It has to be on his desk by 9am. Sharp.

KATE

(trying to lighten the mood)
Well...at least with the time difference I have three extra hours. (Beat) OK. Look, I will get you a script and my contract in time. I promise.

*

JACOB

I'd like to look it over before I go.

KATE

So you're staying? Here? (beat)
That's fair, I guess. Alright. I have a line on a script that I think may be perfect. How's tomorrow morning? We can meet at the coffee shop.

JACOB

Okay. (beat) And Kate. Thank you. I mean it. I know I may have come off overbearing or unappreciative. But this is good. Very good. For both of us.

KATE

Thank you. And I know you helped make all this happen for me.

JACOB

I just got you in the door. You did the rest. You're so much more than a phenomenal actor. People see that. Now they will see even

(MORE)

JACOB (CONT'D)
 more. I'll meet you tomorrow
 morning.

KATE
 See you then.

JACOB begins to walk out. Then turns back. *

JACOB
 Is there a hotel...or...

KATE
 Yes Jacob, Myrtle Gardens has a
 hotel. Two blocks that way. (she
 points) *

JACOB nods and leaves. KATE takes a breath, preparing, and
 heads back in the theater.

LILY meets her as soon as she reenters. *

LILY
 Well, that was dramatic. Are you
 okay?

KATE
 I'm fine.

LILY
 Actually fine, or fine like you
 don't want to talk about it fine?

KATE
 The second one.

LILY
 But you should talk about it. And
 I'm here for you.

KATE
 (beat, then blurts it out) I have
 to have the signed contract and a
 final script to Jacob...or...well his
 boss Friday by 9am or the movie
 won't happen at all. Jacob will
 lose his promotion and I'll lose
 my only chance to be a producer.

LILY
 Wow. Definitely not actually fine.

KATE
 It will be. I think I found a
 script. Well, I haven't read it,
 (MORE)

KATE (CONT'D)
yet. I just have a really good
feeling about it.

LILY
Well what are you doing here then?
Go! We'll be fine without you for
a while. Go read, and edit, and
drink wine or whatever you
producers-types do.

KATE
I need to at least tell Nick, or
ask him about...

LILY
Whatever it is, sorry, but it can
wait. Just go. I'll let him know
you had to leave. He'll
understand.

KATE
You can be very demanding...and
persuasive.

LILY
It's why you love me. Go.

KATE tries to protest one more time but LILY shoos her out
the door. She turns to the cast and crew.

LILY (CONT'D)
Kate had to go. She'll be back
tomorrow.

NICK looks after Kate for a moment. Then back to work. *

FADE TO:

35 INT. KATE'S CHILDHOOD BEDROOM - NIGHT

35

KATE is on her bed, computer open next to her and NICK'S
screenplay is spread out around her. CAROL arrives in the
door with a cup of tea and knocks softly. *

CAROL
Hey sweetheart. I thought you
might like some tea.

KATE
Thanks Mom. That sounds great.
(she takes a sip) Mmmmm. I can
never make tea the way you do.
Cinnamon and nutmeg...and love.

CAROL

I didn't hear you come in.
What are you working on?

KATE

Sorry. I got home and came
straight up here. (beat) Jacob
showed up at the theatre today.

CAROL

Oh. That's...unexpected.

KATE

Not completely. I wasn't answering
his calls...or texts. I just didn't
want to face him, you know.

CAROL

You're still hurting, sweetie.

KATE

Not as much as I expected. Which
is partly why I didn't answer. I
felt like I owed it to him to be
more upset or something. But he
was right to break things off.
Maybe he didn't do it in the best
way, but we weren't a good fit.

CAROL

Hm. Well, then, why is he here?

KATE

His boss needs my signed contract
and screenplay selection by Friday
morning. And I haven't had luck
finding a screenplay that's just
right.

CAROL sees NICK'S name on the screenplay.

CAROL

What about this one?

KATE

This is the one I have a good
feeling about, but I haven't read
it. Yet.

CAROL

Why not?

KATE *
This is pretty huge. *

CAROL *
It's not always about a grand *
gesture. It's about the sentiment *
behind it. *

KATE *
Then what should I do? *

CAROL *
You are the only one that can *
figure that one out sweetheart. *
(kisses her on the forehead) I'll *
let you get back to work. *

KATE *
Thanks for the tea, Mom. *

CAROL *
It's nice to get to take care of *
you a little again. And honey? *

KATE *
Yeah? *

CAROL *
Stop thinking so much. Try leaning *
into those feelings that have made *
you so famous. *

KATE smiles as CAROL leaves. She looks at NICK'S screenplay, then to her phone. She checks for messages. Nothing. She looks at her last text to NICK *"Sorry I had to go. Please let me know when you are done rehearsal. I need to talk to you."* No response. She picks up his screenplay, sinks back into her pillow, tea in hand and starts to read.

CUT TO:

36 INT. KATE'S CHILDHOOD BEDROOM - MORNING 36 *

KATE is asleep in a very awkward position in top of her bedding. She fell asleep working. She wakes up with a start and looks at the clock. She has to get to the coffee shop to meet JACOB. She grabs her bag and picks up NICK'S script. She smiles and puts it in her bag. *

She checks her phone. Still nothing.

CUT TO:

37 EXT. KATE'S CHILDHOOD HOME - MORNING 37

She is rushing down the porch stairs, puts on her coat and *
flings the bag over her shoulder. She dials a number and puts *
the phone to her ear.

KATE

Nick, it's me. Please, call me
back. I really need to talk to
you. It's important...and time
sensitive...and good, I think. OK.
Call me.

KATE hangs up and heads on foot to the coffee shop.

CUT TO :

38 INT. EMBASSY THEATER - MORNING 38

NICK is there, bright and early, working on the set. Music is *
loud, so is the hammering. He doesn't hear his phone. He *
looks at it to see he missed a call from KATE. He ignores it. *

He takes the coffee mug for a drink. Empty. He heads out for *
more. *

CUT TO :

39 INT. COFFEE SHOP - MORNING 39

JACOB and KATE are seated at a table by the window. They chat *
and laugh together. NICK approaches the coffee shop and sees *
them in the window. He stops and frowns. He heads back to *
the theater.

Inside, the camera moves in to see JACOB and KATE discussing *
the screenplay.

JACOB

This is good, Kate. This is
really, *really* good. Brilliant,
even.

KATE

I'm so glad you think so too. *This*
is what I was looking for.

JACOB

Who wrote it? Someone we've
already worked with, I'm sure.

KATE

Actually, it's an unknown.

JACOB

That could be risky, Kate.

KATE

Well, I wasn't finding what I needed anywhere else. They were all missing something. Heart, I guess. Substance?

JACOB

Well, whatever was missing, I think you found it with...(looks at the cover page for the name) Nick Kruger. Wait. Didn't you know a Nick Kruger.

KATE

I know Nick Kruger. You just met Nick Kruger. He's my best friend from school. He runs the Embassy and teaches at the college now.

JACOB

Screenwriting?

KATE

Yep. Among other things.

JACOB

Well, if he has more scripts like this, there might be a career change in his future. (beat) I'm, flying out in a few hours. I will get you his contract by this evening. Get it signed along with yours and back to me by tomorrow morning.

*
*

KATE

Um..yeah, okay. I will. Thank you.

JACOB

Kate, you were right to be selective. *This* is the one. Congratulations. I think you and Nick will do great things together

KATE

Thanks, Jacob. And congrats to you too. I think we'll still make a pretty good team. Talk soon.

JACOB packs up and leaves quickly. KATE checks her phone again. Nothing. She packs up her things and sits for a bit, sipping her coffee. *

CUT TO :

40 EXT. EMBASSY THEATER - LATER MORNING 40 *

KATE arrives at the theater, bag on shoulder and two coffee cups in hand.

She enters, walks through the lobby and into the auditorium.

She sees NICK sitting at the table, no lights are on. NICK is watching a video on the projector. KATE walks in. *

KATE

Burning the midnight oil?

NICK quickly turns off the video.

NICK

I don't think that works when it's actual working hours.

KATE

Well, I brought you coffee anyway.

NICK

From Main Street?

KATE

Is there anywhere else?

NICK

Your Mom's is better.

KATE

My Mom's *is* better. But I was already at the café, so... *

NICK

I saw.

KATE

Were you there? I didn't see you.

NICK

Just walking by. I was going to the college to cancel the morning's class. I'm bartering that for their help with the final touches on the show.

KATE

Why didn't you come in and say hi?

NICK

You looked...engaged. Busy.

KATE

I would have officially introduced you to you Jacob.

NICK

It's fine. We met.

KATE

No, it's kind of a big deal. That's why I got here early! I wanted to tell you that he and I...

Just then, the doors to the auditorium fly open and NICK'S boisterous, excited students flood in. *

COLIN

Mr.. K! We are here to be your groundlings! *

MEREDITH

That's not what we are. That's a totally different thing. Do you even pay attention in class?

NICK

Sorry, Kate. We will pick this up later.

KATE

(to herself) Kate? (to NICK, disappointed) Yeah later. Okay.

NICK

Would you mind getting the lights for me?

KATE goes to the light board and turns on the lights. NICK takes his place at the front of the stage.

NICK (CONT'D)

I'm very glad to see I was able to bribe you all with pizza and a day off from class in exchange for your help.

COLIN

No pineapple on mine and you got a deal, Mr. K. *

NICK

No pineapple Colin, you got it. As you all know, I've been a little busy planning ADRIAN's retirement celebration and trying to keep this theater running. And, turns out, I just can't do it all by myself.

*

MEREDITH

We're here for you Mr. K!

*

NICK

I know you are, and I appreciate it. We have the cast in place, we just need some help backstage and front of house. Who can I count on?

EVERYONE enthusiastically raises their hands.

ALL

Yes, Heck yes, You got it, etc.

NICK

That's what I like to hear. Alright...Tom, Adam - you two are on running crew, you'll move set pieces and curtains. Jenna, Elise, and David - you are on costumes. Craig - props. Jessica and Jamal - I need you to run front of house - so tickets, programs, concessions. Kate's mom, Carol will be heading all of that up, so I 'll let her know you'll be in her charge.

COLIN

Hey. Miss Kate. My girl is in the cast and I heard you might perform? You know, that would get butts in the seats for sure.

KATE

I actually do have a little something planned.

NICK looks at her inquisitively.

COLIN

Score!

NICK

Colin, you are going to run lights
and sound

COLIN

YES! My dream!

NICK

I appreciate your enthusiasm. And
Meredith, you are going to be our
stage manager.

MEREDITH

Really?! Thank you, Mr. K. *

NICK

I trust you'll do a great job. You
all will. But today, we have some
prep work to do. Set painting,
hanging lights, getting costumes
organized. Can you all handle
that?

ALL

Yep, absolutely, you got it, etc.

NICK

Then let's get to it. To the
stage!

ALL

To the stage!

The class heads to the stage and begins dividing and
conquering. KATE approaches NICK.

KATE

You really are a stellar teacher.
Just like Dr. D. Remember when we
started that Stage Combat Club?
Dr. D was thrilled. I think he had
as much fun as we did. We loved
theatre so much...just every bit of
it.

NICK

I still do. It's not Hollywood,
but I'm content.

KATE

So do I. Still love theatre, I
mean.

NICK

Do you?

KATE

I'm here, aren't I?

NICK

You are. For now.

KATE

Ouch.

NICK

I'm sorry, that was harsh.

KATE

No, it's okay. That's fair. You have reason. (beat) Nick, are you really happy here?

NICK

I think being content most days is a pretty great life.

KATE

Yes, but happy. What would make you happy?

NICK looks at her for a long moment.

*

NICK

I am happy.

KATE

You said content. There's a difference.

NICK

Are you happy Kate?

KATE

Mostly. (beat) I think I rediscovered a few things about myself these last few days that might just make me completely happy. But you, Nick. Don't you miss writing?

NICK

No, not really. I mean I get to teach it, so...

KATE

It was your *life* when we were younger. You were always writing something.

NICK

I lost my inspiration... (he means her)

KATE

Did you?

KATE pulls his screenplay out of her bag.

NICK

Where did you get that?

NICK heads to his table and searches through papers. *

NICK (CONT'D) *

Did you just take it?

KATE

No...and yes. I mean I picked it up yesterday and wanted to talk to you about...

NICK

I asked you not too...

KATE

...I know, but Nick...

NICK

I asked you not to, and you took it anyway?

KATE

To help. Listen. Please. I tried to talk to you about it, like 3 times, But Lily pushed me out of the theatre yesterday and today the kids...

NICK

I guess you're used to just taking whatever you want.

KATE

(hurt) Nick? I did it to try to help you. To help you find your spark again. And yes, I needed a

(MORE)

KATE (CONT'D)
script. A great one. A perfect
one. And this...this is phenomenal.

NICK
So to you I'm just a means to an
end, Kate?

KATE looks at him, not knowing what to say. *

NICK (CONT'D)
I have work to do. Thanks for the
coffee.

KATE takes a breath and begins to leave. But she turns back. *

KATE
I wanted to produce it.
It's...special. It's real. It's
honest. Jacob and I met about it
this morning and he agreed. He
said it's the best thing he's read
in years, and he reads like 10
scripts a week. I thought you'd be
happy. Maybe even a little
forgiving. I guess I was wrong.
About (beat) everything. Good
luck. I'll stay out of your way.
Lily and Jimmy can handle all of
this without me.

KATE turns and leaves the theater. NICK looks after her not
knowing what to say. He looks back to his students just as
KATE looks back at him. She leaves. *

41 INT. EMBASSY THEATER LOBBY - MORNING 41

KATE hurriedly exits the theatre. ADRIAN comes in the doors. *

ADRIAN
My sweet girl. What ever is the
matter? *

KATE
I was just trying to help.

ADRIAN
Ah. Lover's quarrel? *

KATE
What are you...no. Nick and I just
had a fight.

ADRIAN

Yes my dear, that's what I said.

KATE looks at him bewildered.

ADRIAN (CONT'D)

Come with me. Tell me all about it.

ADRIAN leads her to his office. It is *full* of memories. Programs, pictures, of ADRIAN on Broadway, of he and KATE, of KATE and NICK. Her whole life in that little room.

ADRIAN (CONT'D)

Sit down. You want some coffee? Tea?

KATE

Thanks. I'm good

ADRIAN

Alright, but I'm making one for myself. It's no trouble.

KATE

Ok, then, thanks. (long sigh) It just got too messy, Adrian. I came back to help. To see you, Mom, and Lily, to celebrate, to support. Do whatever was needed, you know?

ADRIAN

And maybe to run away and hide a little?

KATE

It's infuriating how well you know me. Yeah. Maybe. A little. But not because of Jacob. I told Mom, I was actually more upset about the fact that I wasn't that upset about the breakup.

ADRIAN

Oh darling, been there.

ADRIAN sits down in his chair with his tea and hands KATE hers.

KATE

I want to do something more, you know? I did it. I made it happen. I made every goal I set for myself a reality. And now, I just want to

(MORE)

KATE (CONT'D)

do whatever I can to make it happen for the people I love.

ADRIAN

That sounds like you. My Beatrice.

*
*

KATE

And *that* is why choosing the right screenplay was so important. I wanted it to be written by someone that needed a shot. Someone who needed a break. Someone like I used to be. Then, I wanted to do the same thing with the theater. For Nick. He's worked so hard, and then his mom...he deserved...no, *deserves* that chance.

ADRIAN

You read his script, didn't you?

*

KATE

I did. Have you read it?

ADRIAN

No. I'm surprised he shared it with you. He's become so guarded about his work.

*

KATE

He...he didn't *exactly* share it.

ADRIAN

(beat) Ooohhhh. Well, this just got very interesting. Spill.

*

KATE

It was just a miscommunication...it's not that dramatic.

ADRIAN

Disappointing (he winks at her)
But continue.

*

KATE

I saw the script and wanted to talk to him about it *before* I read it...I had it in my hands when Jacob showed up, out of nowhere.

ADRIAN

Your ex big wig movie exec?

*

KATE
Yes, That's the one.

ADRIAN *
No wonder Nick has been so upset.

KATE
He's upset because I read his
screenplay without asking.

ADRIAN *
When did he learn you absconded
his screenplay? Because he's been
brooding since yesterday.

KATE
Just now.

ADRIAN *
Ah...alright then. He's *saying* he's
upset because you read his
screenplay without asking. (beat)
He's actually upset because of
Jacob.

KATE is very confused.

ADRIAN(CONT'D) (CONT'D) *
Months ago, when your Mom informed
us all of the new leading man in
your life, Nick was devastated.

KATE rolls her eyes. *

KATE *
Adrian. Devastated?

ADRIAN *
Devastated. (beat) I've never
known a time when Nick didn't love
you. And I am very observant.

KATE
And I love him. He's my best
friend..

ADRIAN *
Sweet girl, you know what I mean.
I think he just always felt the
two of you would end up together.
That somehow, he would make it to
LA, or, after he moved back here,
you would come home too. And when
(MORE)

ADRIAN (CONT'D)
 you showed up for this, in his
 mind, it was finally happening.

KATE
 My mom said the same thing. So did
 Lily...I just...he's *NICK*

ADRIAN *
 I know. You know you have always
 been exceedingly blind when it
 comes to things like this in your
 own life. Love is indeed blind, is
 it not?

KATE give him a look, but she knows he's right.

KATE *
 Why didn't he tell me? Why didn't
 you tell me?

ADRIAN *
 It is not my job, my dear, to sort
 out your love life. I can help you
 in many ways, but not all of them.

KATE
 Since when? You'll put your nose
 everywhere else.

ADRIAN *
 Correct. But your romantic
 liaisons are the one place my nose
 does not belong. Affairs of the
 heart (a la The King and I) et
 cetera, et cetera...

KATE *
 (chiming in) Et Cetera. (laughs in
 spite of herself) Ugh. What am I
 going to do, Adrian? This...this is
 a lot of information to process. *

ADRIAN *
 Process? Sweet girl, this may be
 the one time in your life when
 having total dominion over your
 emotions will not serve you. Don't
 analyze. Don't edit. Don't
 rehearse. Feel.

KATE
 I'm not very good at that. Feeling
 my own feelings.

ADRIAN

Yes. Good thing you love a challenge.

KATE

Good thing. (beat) I wouldn't have ignored him if I'd known. I would have told him (Beat) that he's my best friend.

ADRIAN

He's never held it against you. (beat) Now, on a lighter subject. What are you preparing for my grand exit from the *theatre*.

KATE looks at him. She gets up to go.

KATE

You'll just have to wait and see. And it *will* be worth the wait. I promise.

ADRIAN

Well then. Break a leg.

KATE

All of them.

KATE smiles and rushes out.

CUT TO:

42 INT. KATE'S CHILDHOOD HOME - EARLY AFTERNOON

42 *

KATE rushes in the door. CAROL is in the kitchen.

*

KATE

Mom, can you make me some of that magic tea and maybe some blue-ffles? I have work to do.

CAROL

Uh...yes. Everything alright?

KATE is up the stairs. From upstairs she responds.

*

KATE (VO)

Everything is perfect. Love you.

CAROL laughs at her daughter lovingly and starts making tea and her famous blue-ffles.

43 INT. KATE'S CHILDHOOD BEDROOM - EARLY AFTERNOON 43 *

KATE is intensely working on something. Papers are strewn about. She picks up her phone and texts LILY *

KATE (VIA TEXT) *
Hey, do you know when Nick will be *
away from the theatre today? *

LILY (VIA TEXT) *
I think he teaches at the college *
from 4-6. Why? *

KATE (VIA TEXT) *
Perfect. Meet me at the theater at *
4 then. Bring Jimmy and his *
camera. I have something I need *
your help with. *

LILY (VIA TEXT) *
You got it. *

KATE goes back to work.

44 INT. BOUTIQUE - EARLY AFTERNOON 44 *

LILY stands behind the counter at the Boutique. She puts down her phone after her text conversation with KATE. JIMMY takes pics of the displays and such in the shop. *

LILY *
So, you don't mind if we move our *
date this evening, right? *

JIMMY
 What are we doing?

LILY
 Helping Kate with something at the theater.

JIMMY
 Alright, but I have one condition.

LILY
 Oh. Demands. I see.

JIMMY
 Show her the dress you designed for her.

LILY
 Jimmy, she's too busy with every...

JIMMY

That's my condition. Or else you won't get these magic photo skills.

LILY

What if she doesn't like it? I don't want her to just humor me.

JIMMY

She's your best friend. Do you really think she would do that?

LILY

Yes.

JIMMY looks at her.

*

LILY (CONT'D) (CONT'D)

No.

*

JIMMY

Good. What time?

LILY

Four.

JIMMY

You got it. I'll pick us all something up at the diner.

LILY

Hey. (beat) Thank you. For being so great.

*

LILY comes around the counter and gives JIMMY a small kiss on the cheek.

*

JIMMY

As long as that's my payment, I'll take pictures for you for the rest of my life.

They smile at each other.

*

CUT TO EMBASSY
THEATER:

45 INT. EMBASSY THEATER - AFTERNOON

45

NICK is working with MEREDITH and COLIN. The rest of the students are file out. ADRIAN walks in.

*

NICK

So, Meredith calls go, and that's when you hit this button. Teamwork is key.

COLIN

No prob Mr. K. Hey, are we still having screenwriting class today? *

NICK

Yeah. I'll see you both over there. You have just enough time to grab a snack first.

MEREDITH

Cool. See you Mr. K. *

NICK

See you very soon.

ADRIAN walks up admiring the work *

NICK (CONT'D) *

Well, what do you think? I have been trying to keep it secret to surprise you, but I knew you'd sneak in here somehow.

ADRIAN *

Guilty. (beat) Nick, this is stunning.

NICK

The students worked very hard today. I think we are all set for tomorrow.

ADRIAN *

Nick, you worked very hard. You may have had some help in the implementation, but this is all you.

NICK, shrugs and smiles modestly. *

ADRIAN (CONT'D) *

I am so grateful to have you to take over. My legacy is now yours. *

NICK takes this in for a moment. *

NICK

Thank you, ADRIAN. You have no idea what that means to me. *

ADRIAN

I think I do. Because I know what
all of this means to me.

ADRIAN gives NICK a very fatherly pat on the shoulder and
heads back to his office.

ADRIAN (CONT'D)

Off to clean out the ole' office
space to make some room for you,
my protégé. You better get to your
class.

NICK

(looks at his watch) Oh, you're
right! See you later.

NICK grabs his stuff and heads out the door.

46 EXT. EMBASSY THEATER - AFTERNOON

NICK rushes out the door and literally runs into LILY and
JIMMY. This frazzles LILY.

NICK

Oh. I am so sorry. You ok?

LILY

Yeah I'm good. Where's the fire?

NICK

Running a little late for class.
You two here working on the
campaign?

LILY

Uh huh. Yes. Absolutely we are.

JIMMY

(Jumping in to save her) Sorry, we
should have texted first.

NICK

That's fine. We're a team. Just
lock up if I'm not here when you
leave. (beat) Is Kate coming?

LILY

I haven't heard from her today.

NICK

Oh. Alright. I'll see you both later then?

JIMMY

See you later.

LILY

Bye. (he leaves) That was close.

JIMMY

You're a horrible liar.

LILY

I take that as a compliment.

JIMMY

A compliment?

LILY

Sure. Now you know "I cannot tell a lie"...to you.

They smile at each other and then start inside. KATE rushes up to them.

LILY (CONT'D)

Hey. You just missed Nick.

KATE

I know. I was hiding around the corner.

JIMMY

What have I gotten myself into?

KATE

(laughs) Come on. We have work to do.

The camera follows them through the lobby.

LILY

So, what exactly are we doing?

KATE

Let's just get set up and I will explain everything.

They walk into the auditorium and they all stop in their tracks. The set, the lights, everything is stunning.

KATE (CONT'D)

Oh..Oh wow.

*

LILY
You said it.

JIMMY
I haven't been in many theaters in my life, but this is the most beautiful set up I have ever seen.

JIMMY walks off in awe to take photos. *

LILY
Okay, spill. Why all the secrecy?

KATE
I have a little something planned. For Adrians's retirement. *

LILY
I am so glad you decided to step back on that stage where you belong.

KATE
(smiles - then) It's not just for Adrian. It's for Nick too. He's pretty upset with me. *

LILY
Why?

KATE
Remember that screenplay I told you I found? It's Nick's and it's *unbelievable*. This is the one I've been looking for. I gave it to Jacob and we want to produce it. *

LILY
But that is *amazing* news. Why would Nick be upset? Because you didn't ask him first?

KATE
No, apparently, Jacob is the issue.

LILY
Oh, right. Because Jacob showed up and Nick is in love with you.

KATE
Does everyone think this except me? *

JIMMY continues taking photos as he chimes in with LILY

LILY/JIMMY

Yes.

KATE

Great. Wonderful. Well, I am hoping to fix this. *

LILY

You're going to tell him how you feel?! That you have loved him since college, but were too blind to know?! *

KATE

Does everyone think that too?

LILY/JIMMY

Yes. *

KATE

(Beat) Actually, I was going to I want to perform something from his screenplay. I want to make a huge promotional push on my social media about it. Normally my team takes care of my PR, but I thought no one knows me better than you. (beat) Will you help me or not? *

LILY glances at JIMMY. He nods at her to go on - then a beat). *

LILY (CONT.)

Yes. On one condition. I need to ask you something. *

KATE

Anything. *

LILY

What do you plan on wearing to the big event? *

KATE

(suddenly horrified) Oh my goodness. I absolutely didn't even think of that. I have *nothing* with me that will work! *

LILY

Well, I might be able to help with that too. (beat to gather her courage) I designed something for you. But I need you to try it on so I can alter it.

*

LILY takes out a sketch pad from her bag and shows KATE.

*

KATE

(overwhelmed with pride) Oh Lily. This is extraordinary. You designed this for me? It's a masterpiece. I would be absolutely honored to wear it.

LILY

Really? You're not just saying that to humor me?

KATE

No! Lily, you know I've always thought you were extremely talented. But this...this is beyond. I will wear a Lily Monet original any and every time I get the chance.

LILY

I'll grab it. It's in the dressing room. I can alter it, you can rehearse, and Jimmy can document it all. Then we will post everything tonight...blocking Nick from seeing it, of course. Oh, and the donation page is up and running! All of the things are happening.

*

KATE

Let's get to work.

47 INT. EMBASSY THEATER - AFTERNOON

47

MONTAGE OF BEHIND THE SCENES

KATE tries on LILY's dress. They stand on stage as LILY alters it. JIMMY is photographing and KATE is running her lines.

The camera shows the dressing rooms, the costume racks and props waiting to be used. The posts on social media, the pictures, the live videos, all gathering people to the

*

*

theater and donation page. KATE, LILY and JIMMY laugh, as they continue to create. *

Cut away to posts and emails going out to everyone about what is happening with the Theatre. Live updates online from KATE talking about the donation page and the theatre. Showing her fans around the place she grew up. *

LILY pushes play on the video that NICK had in the projector and an old home video pops up. The one from earlier labeled "B and B Sophomore Year" and it plays in the background of KATE'S Live video. *

KATE stops what she's doing and watches. The camera pans from KATE to the video on the projector screen.

KATE

Is that?

LILY

It said "B and B Sophomore Year"

The video is of her onstage in the spotlight as Beatrice in *Much Ado*, Act 3, Scene 1 - when Beatrice confesses her love to Benedick. It is shot from the wings. A voice behind the camera speaks. NICK. *

V.O. ON VIDEO (NICK)

My love for you...as constant as the northern star... *

The ADRIAN'S voice, loud and clear *

ADRIAN (V.O.) *

My boy. You're on! *

ADRIAN rushes toward the camera. A jostling happens as the camera is transferred. NICK comes out from behind the camera and rushes onstage. *

NICK

(as Benedick) Lady Beatrice, have you wept all this while? *

ADRIAN fumbles with the camera and drops it. The camera stops. *

KATE is shocked. LILY is shocked. Even JIMMY has looked up from his camera. There are hearts and lovey-dovey comments all over KATE'S live feed, as she lowers her phone and stops the live stream. *

LILY

I'm not one to say I told you so,
but...we *all* told you so.

*

KATE

He always said that to me. "As
constant as the northern star." I
started saying it back. It was our
thing...I never understood. (beat) I
really *am* oblivious. *Forever*
Constant. His screenplay.
It's...it's me (beat) It's us.

*

*

LILY walks to her friend.

*

LILY

Now that you see what we have all
been seeing for years...

*

*

*

KATE looks at LILY with tears in her eyes.

*

KATE

I love him.

*

*

LILY and JIMMY smile.

*

LILY

This is like one of your movies in
real life!

*

*

*

KATE

Actually, it's going to be one of
Nick's movies in real life.

*

*

*

KATE runs to the table and grabs NICK'S script. She flips
through the pages and finds what she is looking for.

*

*

KATE (CONT'D)

In his script, there's this scene,
where the lead realizes her love
for her friend and she opens
herself up to him. So, if I make a
few tweaks...

*

*

*

*

*

*

KATE starts writing furiously.

*

LILY

You'll literally make Nick's dreams
come true. I. Am. Losing it.

*

*

*

KATE

I'm going to need you to hold it
together. Because I'm not sure if I

*

*

*

(MORE)

KATE (CONT'D)
can.

*
*

KATE stops and looks up at LILY.

*

KATE (CONT'D)
I'm taking this chance. What if he
doesn't return the sentiment?

*
*
*

LILY/JIMMY
He will.

*
*

KATE
Well, if not, the whole world is
going to witness my heart ache. So.
There's that. Yay.

*
*
*
*

LILY
Kate. He will.

*
*

LILY gives KATE a big hug.

*

KATE
Okay, I can't think about it or I
will chicken out. So. Big gesture.
Action.

*
*
*
*

A beat. Then, JIMMY crosses to them.

*

JIMMY
Hey Lily, I'm going to need some
help editing to get all this done
in time, can you come with me?

*
*

LILY
Uh...yeah. Kate. You gonna be ok?

KATE
(focused) Uh huh. Fine. Just
processing. Creating.

*
*

LILY and JIMMY start to leave.

KATE (CONT'D)
Can you get the lights?

LILY hits the lights and they go out. Just before they go out
we see KATE take her place Center Stage. Then, the lights go
out. All that illuminates is the ghost light and we see KATE
from the back looking out to the empty theatre, like when she
first arrived.

*

FADES INTO:

48 INT. EMBASSY THEATER - THE NEXT EVENING (FRIDAY) 48 *

KATE fades out on the stage as people begin to fill the seats. The Retirement Gala. *

The Audience is excited. The whole town is in attendance, but there are new faces too. Everyone is dressed to the nine's. The press files in. TV cameras. *

NICK stands in the back of the theatre, exactly where KATE'S dad used to, as it fills. CAROL walks in. She is wearing a beautiful gown.

NICK

Mrs. W. You look stunning. I haven't seen that dress since..

CAROL

Since Kate's first movie premiere. I only wear it for the most special of occasions.

NICK smiles.

NICK

Thank you. For everything.

CAROL

I see a lot of new faces out there.

NICK

A lot. I can't believe how many people showed up. I guess this project of Kate's really worked.

CAROL

Looks like it.

NICK

Carol. Is she coming? I haven't heard from her. I was pretty rude, and I've been trying to apologize.

CAROL

Yes. She'll be here. She's the guest of honor's date.

NICK

Of course, she is.

CAROL spots MEREDITH

CAROL

If you will excuse me for a moment. I need to have a word with your stage manager.

CAROL goes to MEREDITH and hands her a piece of paper. Explaining to her what is on it. CAROL exits to the LOBBY.

NICK

Meredith. *

NICK gestures for MEREDITH to come to him. *

What did Carol give you? *

MEREDITH

Uh. *(Beat)* It's a surprise. *

NICK

Well kid, you have to tell the director.

MEREDITH

Kate Warner is performing. It's the cue sheet for it. *(Pause)* Please don't tell anyone that I spoiled the surprise. *

NICK

I won't. I promise. May I see it?

MEREDITH

Oh no. I'm afraid it's showtime, which means it's *my* show now. You just relax and enjoy.

NICK

(laughs) I supposed I trained you well. Too well.

MEREDITH smiles and heads to COLIN to give him the updated cues. *

JIMMY is taking photos. LILY is talking with the crowd. She comes over to NICK

LILY

Ready?

NICK

As ready as I'll ever be.

LILY

I think you are going to be very pleased with how this night turns out.

NICK

I'm too nervous to believe you at this particular moment, but, I'm sure you're right.

LILY heads back to chat with others. Just then, KATE'S head peeks through the doors. She smiles and acknowledges NICK and gives him a thumbs up. Then JACOB comes through the door. KATE points to a seat up front reserved for him. NICK stops him. *

NICK (CONT'D)

Hi. I'm sorry, I didn't introduce myself the other day. I'm Nick Kruger. I'm the artistic director.

JACOB

Nick, hi. Jacob Mills. I have heard all about you.

NICK

I wasn't expecting you to be here.

JACOB

Kate talked me into it. Had to change my flight, and have a pretty rough conversation with my boss about a deadline. But she said it would be worth it. She's been right so far. *

NICK

She always is. I hope you enjoy it. *

JACOB

Thanks. I think I will. It's been a long time since I've been in a theater. I've missed the energy. You know, I used to be a rather good Stage Manager. Anyway, I'll see you after.

The house lights go out in the theater. Music begins to play and the stage lights come on. The spotlight shines to the back of the house and the doors open. ADRIAN and KATE walk in together. KATE is stunning in her LILY MONET original. ADRIAN is as dapper and eccentric as they come. NICK can't keep his eyes off of KATE. *

A few steps in, KATE let's ADRIAN take the rest of the walk
on his own. She moves toward NICK. *

The show begins. Musical numbers from ADRIAN'S past shows,
monologues, scenes. The sold-out crowd cheering. This all
plays in the background. KATE and NICK are the focus. *

KATE goes to NICK.

KATE
So. *(beat)* How does it feel? *

NICK
What?

KATE
Leading our good old Embassy into
a new era?

NICK
It's just a retirement party,
Kate.

KATE
Have you checked the donation page
in the last 10 minutes?

NICK
No.

KATE pulls up the page on her phone. NICK reacts. *

KATE
We surpassed the goal. *(beat)* You
did it Nick. The theater is going
to make it. It's gonna make it. *

NICK
When? How?

KATE
The town came through. And my
fans. Even Jacob donated.

NICK
(smiles) Apparently, he used to be
quite the stage manager. *(beat)*
Kate, listen, about last night.
I'm so sorry. I shouldn't have... *

KATE
Hold that thought, Nick. Please. I
have to *

KATE points toward the stage. *

NICK

Right, Jacob is waiting.

KATE

No. No Nick. He's here to see you, not me. About your screenplay. Jacob and I, we aren't a thing anymore. I'm sorry that you thought we were. But, he and I will still be working together...*hopefully* on *YOUR* movie. But right now, I have to go backstage. I'm almost on.

NICK looks after her. *

The stage lights fade down. COLIN turns on the spotlight and fixes it on KATE, Center Stage. *

KATE begins. She is only talking to NICK. *

KATE (CONT'D)

Our lives have been a series of missteps. Missed opportunities. Missed moments. And here we are again. Standing in this place that made us who we are. At a crossroads.

Camera pans to NICK. He smiles. He begins to mouth along with the words. *

KATE (CONT'D) *

I...I don't want another missed opportunity. Days of unanswered texts and voicemails to catch up on each other's lives. I want (breath) you. And me. And whatever that crazy life looks like for us. Maybe it's here, maybe it's in California. Maybe it's somewhere that is just our own. That only we know...that we haven't even found yet. I don't know. But I *do* know this. (beat) I see you. I see us. And in that, I found the missing piece of my happy.

During this speech, NICK is walking toward her, almost in a trance. LILY (who has been live-streaming on KATE'S page), JIMMY, CAROL, ADRIAN, watch. *

KATE(CONT'D) (CONT'D) *

I love you. So, if I haven't missed the moment...

NICK is on the stage in this moment. The crowd is hushed. The music stopped. We hear from the back.

COLIN *

Kiss her Mr. K!

The CROWD and CAST laughs and cheers.

KATE *

I'm sorry Nick. For everything, I'm so, sorry. The studio wants to make your screenplay into a movie. Jacob has a contract all ready for you to sign. He got us an extension till tomorrow. You can stay here and run the theater or come and be with me in LA, or I can come here, or... *

NICK *

Hey. It's my line now. (beat) I love you Katie. You are my inspiration. We'll figure out everything else. Together.

NICK looks deep into her eyes and KATE into his. They kiss. The audience jumps to their feet. LILY throws her arms up and drops the phone. She grabs it and JIMMY kisses her. ADRIAN looks around at it all. CAROL is seated beside him. *

ADRIAN *

The perfect ending.

CAROL *

No. Not an ending. A beginning. Their sequel.

ADRIAN looks at KATE and NICK who smile down at him and ADRIAN mouths "Thank you". *

KATE and NICK pull ADRIAN to the stage. Confetti and balloons rain down on him, and a sign that says "THANK YOU ADRIAN". The entire cast comes onstage. *

The crowd begins singing "For he's a Jolly Good Fellow". The camera zooms in on KATE and NICK, singing.

KATE
We saved it.

NICK
YOU saved it. And you saved me.
(beat) My northern star.

KATE
Forever constant.

They look at each other, the crowd, and back to each other.
They kiss again.

The camera zooms out on a full theatre. The audience is one
their feet. The lights begin to fade only KATE and NICK can
be seen. In LOVE IN THE SPOTLIGHT.

*
*

FADE TO BLACK:

THE END