

a million little things

"pilot"

written by

dj nash

ABC

Kapital Entertainment

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COLD OPEN

Over black, we see the following quote:

*"Friendship isn't a big thing...
It's a million little things."*

INT. UPSCALE HIGH-RISE REAL ESTATE OFFICE - DAY (D1)

CHYRON: JON

TIGHT ON: a framed PHOTO on a desk - JON with his beautiful wife DELILAH and their kids, SOPHIE (15) and DANIEL (10), who are even more handsome than their parents, if that's possible.

The camera PANS to ANOTHER PHOTO - FOUR FRIENDS AT A BRUINS GAME (the real Bruins, the Boston Bruins). Jon is with EDDIE, GARY and ROME. Their seats are amazing and their smiles are huge. They're hanging out shoulder-to-shoulder, the way guys do.

As we pan the photos, we hear the following:

JON (O.S.)
I'm not asking you to give me the lease for free. Yes, that would be ridiculous. I'm telling you to over-charge me for the rest of the building and look the other way on the rent for that space.

An EMPTY DRY CLEANING BOX lands on the desk. PULL OUT to find JON (40s) as charismatic as he is competent. On his cellphone, standing in what has to be the nicest corner office on the Boston Waterfront complete with it's own balcony, he buttons his fresh shirt with the same attention to detail Jon approaches everything in life.

JON (CONT'D)
(on phone)
You can't or you won't?

As he ties a Full Windsor with impressive precision, he gives a playful wink to his assistant, ASHLEY, who has just brought him a fresh cup of coffee.

JON (CONT'D)
(covering the phone)
Thanks, Ash. I had you work late last night, take a long lunch.
(into phone, without missing a beat)
Because if you can't, Alan, I want to speak to the person who can. And if you won't, then we need to spend our time talking about why you won't.

Ashley smiles at Jon's favorite go-to move. As she exits, Jon removes two cufflinks with his initials from a small jewelry box.

JON (CONT'D)

Look, I always say, "Everything happens for a reason..."

He slips on his suit jacket, grabs a BLUE ENVELOPE from his desk and steps onto the balcony to take in his view.

JON (CONT'D)

There's something I need to get to, so I have exactly five more minutes to spend on this. But just so we're clear, at the end of this call, we will either have a deal, or we will never have a deal.

Jon smiles as he hears the flustered reaction. Some might argue he owns this town. Everyone would agree he owns this call.

INT. EDDIE & KATHERINE'S BEDROOM - DAY (D1)

A duplex in Charlestown, a blue-collar suburb of Boston. A much more modest life.

EDDIE (30s), the coolest dad in the carpool line, stands in front of his His & Her closet, on the phone. He frantically takes clothes-- still on hangers-- and stuffs them into a suitcase. Next to it is a guitar case. This guy is outta here.

CHYRON: EDDIE

EDDIE

(into phone)

...No, today's the day. I can't do this any more. And I want to be with you. Katherine'll be at the office 'til she picks Caleb up from school. Which means that, in exactly five hours and twelve minutes, she's gonna come home and want to get take-out Thai food. Again. I'm from Pougkeepsie. My people weren't bred to eat this much Panang Curry.

As he listens, his expression becomes serious.

EDDIE (CONT'D)

I don't know what I'm going to tell Caleb. Maybe that Daddy needs to be happy. I mean, don't I deserve to be--

Just then, from the foyer, we hear:

KATHERINE (O.S.)

Eddie?!

EDDIE

Shit.

(calling out, covering)

In here!

Eddie steels himself. He thought he would come to this moment, but apparently the moment has come to him.

EXT. EDDIE AND KATHERINE'S FOYER - SAME (D1)

Eddie's wife, KATHERINE (30s) crosses towards the bedroom.

KATHERINE

I forgot my damn briefcase. Didn't you notice I left it?

INT. EDDIE & KATHERINE'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS (D1)

As she enters, we see that Eddie... HAS PUT EVERYTHING BACK. The suitcase is gone, the clothes hung up. No longer on the phone, Eddie sits on the bed, casually tuning his guitar.

EDDIE

(a little too enthusiastic)

Hey you! This is a fun surprise.

KATHERINE

(grabbing briefcase)

It's right in front of you. Great, I just lost an hour out of my day. Now I'm not gonna have time to pick up Caleb. You'll have to get him.

She grabs her phone from her briefcase and checks her email.

EDDIE

Oh. I'm teaching a guitar lesson at noon, and then I was going to--

KATHERINE

(re: email)

Unbelievable. She didn't file the motion like I told her to. Idiots. They're all idiots.

(looking up)

So you got Caleb?

EDDIE

...Sure.

(then)

(MORE)

EDDIE (CONT'D)

Hey, for dinner, I was thinking I'd pull out the pasta machine and make some handmade linguini.

KATHERINE

(crossing out)

Let's just order Thai food.

EDDIE

(fuck it)

Love it!

INT. MASS GENERAL - EXAM ROOM - DAY (D1)

A doctor's office. Gary (late 30s) sits on exam paper in boxers, shirtless. His arms are folded, self-consciously covering TWO SCARS on either side of his chest.

CHYRON: GARY

As he waits for the doctor, he looks around, perturbed by what he sees - a MEDICAL POSTER of the inside cross-section of a woman's body with the headline: "Understanding Breast Cancer." Another poster, also featuring a drawing of a shirtless woman, shows how to give a self-breast exam.

He notices that everything in this damn room is geared towards women, branded with that fucking iconic pink ribbon. The DOCTOR enters, holding an x-ray up to the light.

DOCTOR

Sorry to keep you waiting, Gary.
(with no affect)
Just wanted to review your CAT scan.

GARY

Your poker face is impressive, Doc.
Annoying as shit, but impressive.

DOCTOR

Hilarious.
(still with no affect)
It confirms what I suspected--

The doctor's phone vibrates. He answers it, holding up a "one minute" finger.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)

Dr. Martin... What? No! No, balsamic vinaigrette... Yes, they do. I get salad there three times a week. It's right next to the edamame... Well, are you looking at the edamame?

He rolls his eyes to Gary, looking for sympathy he's never going to get.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)

Now turn your head fifteen degrees to the right. That brownish liquid next to the edamame, that's--

GARY

Sorry to interrupt what sounds like a super important salad conversation, but quick question: Is my cancer back?!

INT. ROME & REGINA'S HOUSE - DAY (D1)

A pristine brownstone on Beacon Hill. No child has even been here. As the CAMERA PANS, CNN plays on an impressive TV mounted above the fireplace.

REPORTER ON TV

...And so more than three years after the crisis began, the class action lawsuit is once again making water in Flint, Michigan front page news...

CHYRON: ROME

The camera lands on ROME (late 20s). Distraught, he signs a note he's written on YELLOW LEGAL PAPER and recaps the pen. He opens several prescription bottles. As he pours the assorted pills onto the counter, we realize what this is. He takes a deep breath as he decides if he's really going through with this. He is.

Rome takes a glass from the shelf. As he opens the fridge, on the door we see an adorable SELFIE of him and his wife REGINA taken as they picnicked on Boston Commons. Unlike Eddie and Katherine, Rome and Regina truly love each other.

He grabs the Brita and pours. But the Brita is empty. He fills his glass with water from the faucet. Who cares about tap water when you're about to--

REPORTER ON TV (CONT'D)

...For months, Flint residents were unaware that water from their own faucet was silently killing them.

Shit. He pours out the water and fills the Brita. But the water drips so slowly. The filter hasn't been changed in forever. Big exhale. Shit like this is exactly why he needs to kill himself.

While he waits, he swallows the first pill without water. His PHONE RINGS. He looks at the Caller ID. It's Gary, the guy with cancer. He hits decline.

He pours the tiny bit of water that has filtered through and downs the second pill. His phone rings again. Gary. Decline.

Fuck it. He shuts off the TV and fills his glass with tap water. As he tosses a dozen pills in his mouth, his phone rings again. Gary. Losing this test of endurance, he hits speaker.

Through a mouth full of pulls, he impatiently says:

ROME

What?!

INT. MASS GENERAL - EXAM ROOM - INTERCUT (D1)

Gary's still on the exam table, still shirtless, but now alone.

GARY

(into phone)

You're not going to believe this...

As he speaks, we...

INT. JON'S OFFICE BALCONY - FLASHBACK - A FEW MINUTES AGO (D1)

WE HEAR NO SOUND IN THIS SCENE. Jon presses "end" on his call with a proud smile. Clearly, he got the deal point he wanted.

As Jon takes in his view, the CAMERA PANS from the balcony into his office where, unbeknownst to him, Ashley returns with his mail. Her face drops like she's seen a ghost. We see, but can't hear Ashley shout: "Nooooo!"

The CAMERA PANS back to Jon... BUT HE'S NO LONGER THERE.

GARY (O.S.)

Jon just killed himself.

The sound kicks in just in time for us to hear the unmistakable thud from 23 floors down. Followed by a car alarm going off. Ashley rushes to the rail.

INT. ROME & REGINA'S HOUSE - SAME (D1)

Stunned, Rome takes this in for a beat... and then spits out the dozen pills.

MAIN TITLES: A MILLION LITTLE THINGS

ACT ONE

INT. THE BOSTON GARDEN - ROME'S PHONE POV - NIGHT (FB1)

Note: This scene will be shot both from Rome's phone's POV and conventionally and we will intercut judicially.

CELLPHONE VIDEO FOOTAGE. Mid-game. Rome holds his phone out to take a SELFIE of Gary, Eddie and himself, all in Bruins gear, sitting in their seats. The AISLE SEAT next to Gary is empty.

Rome lines up the shot, unaware the phone is actually on video and recording, thus providing us with this footage.

Rome's a bit distracted 'cause the Bruins just scored a goal. Sirens, lights and Boston cockiness fill The Garden.

EDDIE

Way to go, Pastrnák!

GARY

(high-fiving Eddie)

They're back in it! Never count my Bruins out!

(then)

Forget what I said about them sucking.

ROME

Guys, let's get a photo. Do yourself a favor, Ed, and hide that ridiculous necklace.

Defiant, Ed adjusts his LEATHER STRAP NECKLACE so the YIN YANG CHARM is even more prominent.

GARY

(to Eddie, re: Rome)

Should we pretend we're eating pizza, like we're in one of his Little Cesar commercials?

Gary and Ed mime pulling a long piece of cheese from a slice.

ROME

Hey, directing those is harder than it looks. That crap coagulates in like two seconds.

Eddie and Gary laugh. Rome does too. They live for this.

EDDIE

Damn it. I can't believe Jon is missing this.

JON (O.S.)

Saw it. And watch your potty mouth,
sunshine. You're a lady. Love the
necklace, by the way.

ROME TILTS HIS PHONE UP, revealing Jon carrying a pile of
hotdogs and a drink carrier. Eddie now self-consciously tucks
his necklace into his shirt.

As Jon takes his AISLE SEAT, we realize this footage is from
before he died, A WEEK AGO, the last game they went to together.

JON (CONT'D)

Pastrnák is on fire.

(to Gary)

Mr. Actuary, do the math. What's his
life worth?

Gary scribbles down some numbers on the back of a napkin.

GARY

He's just making rookie salary now,
but he's only twenty-one. If he plays
'til he's thirty-five-- barring any
permanent injuries, reasonable
endorsement deals-- I'd say seventy-
five mill. Forty-eight present value.

EDDIE

Point is, don't hit him with your car.

ROME

Guys, I just want one photo of us from
opening night. Any way we can--

JON

(handing a beer to Rome)

Beer for Little Cesar.

(handing one to Gary)

One for no-tits-McGee.

Eddie laughs.

JON (CONT'D)

(handing soda to Eddie)

And a ginger ale for our stay-at-home
mom.

Now Gary laughs. Jon picks up a MINIATURE HOCKEY STICK from
his seat.

JON (CONT'D)

What the hell is this, another charm
for your necklace?

EDDIE

I promised Caleb I would bring him something back from the game.

JON

Wow. You are a better dad than me.

(to Gary, re: Eddie)

Hey, while you're valuing lives, what's Mr. Mom's life worth?

GARY

Ooo, that is a tough one. Let's see. Was lead singer in a prominent local band less than a decade ago--

EDDIE

(pointing to far end of arena)
--opened for Kings of Leon right there--

GARY/ROME/JON

(pointing to far end of arena)
--for Kings of Leon--

Eddie folds his arms. Okay, he may have mentioned this before.

GARY (CONT'D)

But you were too drunk that night to remember it or the lyrics to your biggest song. Been a stay-at-home dad--

EDDIE

--who teaches guitar lessons--

GARY/ROME/JON

--teaches guitar lessons--

EDDIE

(laughing)
You all suck.
(then, to Jon)
And you still owe me for Sophie's lesson this week.

Gary writes a big "1" and "4" on a napkin and holds it up.

GARY

Fourteen dollars, eight present value.

EDDIE

(getting a text)
Point is: hit me with your car.

Eddie and the guys all laugh, as Eddie checks his phone.

GARY

Is that another text from Katherine wondering when you're getting home to clean the bolts on her neck?

Eddie nods. We can see on his face, she has broken him.

JON

Buddy, just move out.

ROME

Guys. One photo. Opening night. The four of us. Work with me.

Still standing, Jon uses the height difference to put his groin in Eddie's face.

GARY

Yes, by all means, let's commemorate these incredible friendships.

Jon takes his seat next to Eddie, leaning in, dead serious.

JON

Ed, if money is the reason you're staying, I'll write you a check tonight. Life is too short. Just be happy.

The camera captures Eddie looking at Jon, conflicted, but appreciative of this very generous and obviously sincere offer.

GARY (O.S.)

Hey, big-shot director, you're on video.

ROME (O.S.)

Dammit.

The camera STOPS, freezing on JON'S FACE that has just said, "Just be happy." We are now in...

INT. ROME & REGINA'S BROWNSTONE - BACK TO PRESENT - DAY (D2)

The FROZEN FRAME. PULL OUT to reveal it's on a computer monitor. Rome sits at the keyboard, flanked by Gary and Eddie. Eddie looks at the screen, still taking in this advice.

There is a hushed intense moment of silence as they take in the friend that they miss so deeply. Finally:

GARY

That was four days ago. How does this happen?

They continue to stare at the screen, looking for an answer.

ROME

It still doesn't make sense to me. He's supposed to be here.

EDDIE

Yeah. Knowing some guy he'll call who can fix all this.

REGINA (O.S.)

I'm going to church Sunday..

They turn and see REGINA (late 20s), Rome's wife, loving, yet one of the guys. She's in a chef's apron, carrying THREE BEERS and a SODA.

REGINA (CONT'D)

...'cause Jesus is gonna have to explain this one to me.

She hands the soda to Eddie and a beer to Gary and Rome. She stands frozen, realizing she accidentally brought an extra beer.

REGINA (CONT'D)

(tearing up)
I'm so sorry.

Rome gives her a loving squeeze. This is their new reality.

GARY

(softening the blow)
It's okay. I'll have his.

She smiles and hands Gary the beer. As she grabs a plate of appetizers, we see a kitchen filled with food she's been prepping.

REGINA

How's the video coming along?

ROME

Good. I'm not sure a clip of Jon encouraging Eddie to leave Katherine is right for the funeral.

GARY

(to Eddie)
Unless tomorrow, we're burying your marriage as well.

(then)
Sorry.
(then)
For the joke about the funeral. I have no problem taking a shot at your marriage.

EDDIE

Noted.

REGINA

(to Eddie, re: his marriage)
Hey, you do what you need to do.

Eddie smiles, appreciative.

REGINA (CONT'D)

But I think I speak for all of us when
I say we're glad you decided to divorce
yourself from that douche neck.

A much needed laugh. Eddie feels his neck, surprised his
necklace is gone.

EDDIE

Yeah.

Gary has crossed to the kitchen island, peeled back the saran
wrap and is going to town on appetizers.

GARY

Regina, these are amazing. What is
this pork?
(trying another)
No, veal.
(just one more)
Nope. Pork.

ROME

Hey G, stop. Those are for after the
funeral.

EDDIE

For the guests capable of actually
expressing emotion.

REGINA

After what Gary had to do, he can have
as many as he wants.
(to Gary, sympathetic)
I can't imagine having to tell her.

FLASHBACK TO:

EXT. JON & DELILAH'S DRIVEWAY - MOS FLASHBACK POP (FB1)

Gary stands in the driveway as DELILAH (30s)-- stunning and
poised as always-- pulls up in her SUV. She gets out with a
Starbucks, pleasantly surprised to see Gary.

She looks around for Jon who she assumes is with him. Her
smile vanishes as she senses Gary's rare serious tone. We see
(but don't hear) him convey the news. Delilah collapses into
Gary's arms, dropping her latte. It falls to the ground.

INT. ROME & REGINA'S BROWNSTONE - WHERE WE LEFT THEM (D2)

Back with the group, Gary, once again, masks his emotion.

GARY

By the way, if delivering horrific news is on your bucket list, take it off. Not as great as you'd think.

INT. JON & DELILAH'S WALK-IN CLOSET - SAME (D2)

Like everything in Jon's life, his house is first class. Delilah grabs a black dress. As she turns, she stops short at the sight of Jon's suits hanging neatly in a row. Among them is an empty hanger-- the last suit he wore. She becomes filled with emotion, sorrow coupled with rage. She refuses to give in to this, steels herself and exits.

INT. JON & DELILAH'S MASTER BEDROOM SUITE - CONTINUOUS

DANIEL, not your typical ten year old boy, debates between two ties, holding each one up to a suit laid out on the bed.

DANIEL

Stripes, no question.

SOPHIE (15) more punk than in the picture we saw on her dad's desk, sits on the floor, playing guitar. Delilah enters having regained her composure, determined to be strong for her kids.

DELILAH

Where are my sunglasses?

As she searches, we see her notice that Sophie hasn't laid out her clothes. We also see her decide not to engage.

DANIEL

(arranging his pocket square)
Why are we riding in a limo?

DELILAH

Sophie, sweetie, I just need to know that you know what you're wearing tomorrow.

(to Daniel)

Because, honey. I want the three of us to be together. Soph? Should I pick something for you?

Sophie continues to strum, lost in her own world. Her father dying doesn't change the fact that she's a teenager. Fine, Delilah will pick. Delilah starts to head out of the room.

SOPHIE

I want to play a song for him at the service.

Delilah turns back. Sophie softens.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)

I mean, if that's okay.

Delilah stops everything, crosses over, and kneels in front of her daughter.

DELILAH

He would love that.

They look at each other and, just for a second, Sophie stops being a teenage daughter.

DANIEL

Um, Mom...

She looks and sees Daniel pointing to her neckline. Tucked into her shirt are her sunglasses. She hugs Daniel. Tightly.

INT. ROME & REGINA'S BROWNSTONE - SAME (D2)

Back with the group, Regina closely studies the image of Jon, as if trying to read his mind.

REGINA

Why? Why did he do it?

She looks to Gary and Eddie, it's clear they have no idea. As she turns, we see what she doesn't: Rome-- very shaken up, not surprising given everything he's going through.

GARY

When I spoke to Ashley, she said up until then...

As Gary continues, we...

FLASHBACK TO:

INT. JON'S OFFICE - MOS - FLASHBACK - DAY (FB-1)

No sound. Just Gary talking.

POLICE OFFICERS secure the area. Through tears, Ashley recounts what happened for a DETECTIVE. She indicates where she was standing, gesturing with her arms to where Jon was. As she makes a hand motion simulating Jon jumping, she breaks down.

GARY (O.S.)

...it was a normal day at the office. He wasn't upset. She said he was joking with her.

INT. ROME & REGINA'S HOUSE - WHERE WE LEFT THEM (D1)

They all try to process this.

EDDIE

How do we know he didn't just fall?

GARY

Because he's not four.

Eddie looks at Gary, as if to say "not now."

REGINA

How could he not leave a note?

We see Rome's reaction. For different reasons, he was thinking the same thing.

FLASHBACK TO:

INT. ASHLEY'S OUTER OFFICE - FLASHBACK - DAY (FB-1)

The detective helps Ashley to her chair. As he turns around to get her some water, she notices her desk drawer is open.

REGINA (O.S.)

But then again, what could Jon possibly say in a note that would explain any of this?

Ashley surreptitiously closes the drawer, but not before we see the BLUE ENVELOPE Jon had with him when he stepped onto the balcony. On the front reads, "Delilah." It's been opened.

As she exhales and takes the cup from the detective, we...

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. CHURCH REC HALL - SAME (N2)

A SUPPORT GROUP is in session. We PAN across TWELVE WOMEN, sitting in a circle, finally landing on Gary who listens, sympathetically, to a woman, LUPE, sharing, a bit emotional.

LUPE

...And so I always find a reason for Ruben and I to have the lights off. He thinks I'm really into candles. I'm just not ready for him to see me like this.

Understanding nods from all the women. And Gary. He whispers to an OLDER WOMAN next to him.

GARY

I like candles. I like pillows. Sue me.

She smiles. The LEADER gives Lupe a comforting look.

LEADER

Thanks, Lupe. What all of us here share in common is an incredible relief to be in remission. That said, each of us takes on life after breast cancer in a different way. You have to find the way that works for you. Sounds like you're doing that.

Lupe hears this and nods. So does Gary. The leader turns to MAGGIE (30s), attractive and fun.

LEADER (CONT'D)

Maggie, did you maybe want to introduce yourself?

Maggie steels herself, very aware of Gary's presence.

MAGGIE

Sure. Okay. My name is Maggie...

ALL

Hi, Maggie.

MAGGIE

...and I-- Hi, everyone. Honestly, Old Me never would have come to a group like this. But after this last year...

Sympathetic smiles. Gary leans in, interested in her story.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

I'm at a place where I-- Excuse me...
(re: Gary)
Why is he here?

Everyone tenses up. This question has come up before.

GARY

Men get breast cancer too. It may be
only 1% of us, but it's all of me.
Believe me, I would have preferred
ball cancer.

(to older woman cringing)

Sorry, Joan.

(to Maggie)

And in case you're wondering, the boys
are fine.

(not done yet)

Also, I promise, I only ate one donut.

The others suppress their laughs. Maggie feels horrible,
immediately looking at Gary in a different way. She offers a
sympathetic (potentially flirtatious) smile. He smiles back.
He knows exactly what he's doing.

INT. EDDIE & KATHERINE'S KITCHEN - SAME (N2)

As Eddie sits at the table working on the eulogy, his son,
CALEB (6) runs around the room with his X-WING FIGHTER.

CALEB

R2, I am circling Dagobah, but I see
no sign of the one they call Yoda.

Eddie looks and realizes his son is waiting for him. He smiles.

EDDIE

Oh, hey, pal--

CALEB

(correcting him)

Dad.

EDDIE

(as Yoda)

Hear you, I do. But work, I must.

(dropping voice)

Pal, I gotta finish this eu-- speech.

Katherine who has just returned home has heard this.

KATHERINE

Caleb, sweetie, Daddy needs to do
something really important. That's why
Mommy came home early.

Eddie looks to Katherine, appreciative of the support.

EDDIE

Yea! Mommy's home just in time to help
save the Rebel Alliance.

CALEB

I want Daddy!

Caleb storms off, we see this gut punch hit Katherine, a rare moment of vulnerability for her. Eddie tries to comfort her.

EDDIE

It's just--
(as Yoda)
These voices, I do.
(then)
He'll be fine in ten seconds, he just
needs to--

KATHERINE

(hurt)
I don't know why you're doing the
eulogy anyway. Everyone knows Gary's
the funny one.

She crosses after Caleb. Eddie lets out a Yoda sigh.

INT. ROME & REGINA'S BEDROOM/BATHROOM - LATER (N2)

Rome sits in bed on his laptop, editing the video for Jon's service. From the bathroom, we see Regina flossing.

REGINA

(calling over)
Hey, babe. I got information on Kona.
For the dates I can get off from the
restaurant, the only rooms they had
available are oceanfront. It's a bit
pricey, but with you directing those
pizza spots, we can afford it.

He exhales deeply. She sees his response in the mirror.

REGINA (CONT'D)

Rome, just because you're having
success in commercials, doesn't mean
you're not gonna make your movie.

ROME

(flatly)
Yeah.

As Regina washes her face, Rome pulls up that clip from the guys' last Bruins game. He fast forwards to the end, where we hear Jon say to Eddie:

JON (ON THE VIDEO)
Life is too short. Just be happy.

Regina looks up, thinking that was Rome talking.

REGINA
What?

ROME
(covering, feigning upbeat)
I said let's book it!

INT. JON & DELILAH'S HOUSE - SAME

We PAN the front room. A tablecloth covers the dining room table, serving platters have been put out - all ready for tomorrow's reception. As we continue to PAN, in the foyer, Sophie's guitar and amp sit, packed and ready. Despite what this family is going through, Delilah, as always, is on top of it all.

We hear something. As the camera PANS, we find Delilah sitting on the foot of the stairs, sobbing. These two bottom steps are the only place in her life she could take a moment for herself. A beat, then from upstairs, we hear:

DANIEL (O.S.)
Mom, I can't find my dress socks.

DELILAH
Coming, sweetie.

She immediately snaps back into warrior mode and heads upstairs.

INT. CHURCH REC HALL - SAME (N2)

The support group has ended. A cleaning woman vacuums as another stacks chairs. Over the vacuum, we hear the faint sound of a WOMAN MOANING with pleasure coming from the MEN'S ROOM.

INT. MEN'S BATHROOM - SAME (N2)

Gary and Maggie go at it. Turns out, the men's bathroom at a breast cancer support group is Gary's version of Fonzie's office. His pants are halfway down, her skirt is hiked up. With her sitting on the sink, she's exactly at his waist level. Something he probably determined before tonight.

As they continue, he unbuttons her blouse. She's a bit hesitant. He stops. They look at each other. He gets it. She reaches back and unhooks her bra.

MAGGIE

Obviously, my boobs are fake.

GARY

Obviously, I'm okay with that.

Feeling at ease, Maggie kisses Gary passionately. She reaches for him, lifting up his shirt. Gently, he stops her and pulls his shirt back down. It's Gary who is not ready to be that vulnerable. She kisses him even more intensely.

ROME & REGINA'S BEDROOM - SAME (N2)

Regina has joined Rome in bed. They snuggle up together as they watch a VIDEO Rome has edited.

CLIP 1: Halloween 2012. All eight of them, Katherine included, impressively dressed up as different Scrabble letters. Jon takes the lead, moving them into the correct order. It's clear he's the mastermind behind these costumes. They jumble until they form "I-R-E-G-N-A-N-T."

JON

Okay, Katherine. Hit it.

Katherine, who is the "I" turns sideways, causing her VERY PREGNANT BELLY to turn the "I" into a "P" spelling "Pregnant." Katherine laughs, thrilled to be a part of this group.

ANGLE ON: Rome and Regina in bed, watching.

ROME

Where did that woman go?

REGINA

It's why we are never having kids.

ROME

Never.

REGINA

Oh, wait, what about--

ROME

(pointing to screen)
Saved the best for last.

CLIP 2: Halloween 2017. Rome dressed as a slice of tomato, Regina is lettuce, Eddie is the top bun, Gary is the bottom. They all stand there, like they're taking five. Delilah, dressed as a slice of cheese, looks at her watch.

DELILAH

Sorry, guys.

GARY

(teasing)

Yeah, we totally blame you.

Eddie folds a slice of pickle costume. Katherine's.

EDDIE

(re: Katherine)

Mine's not even coming.

ANGLE ON: Regina who looks at Rome.

ROME

I'll edit that part out.

A second later, Jon, dressed as the meat patty, enters.

JON

Sorry, had to take that.

REGINA

Did you close the deal?

JON

(of course)

What am I, just a hunk of meat to you?

EDDIE

Medium-Well done!

The rest of them playfully boo Eddie's pun.

ROME (O.S.)

Here's the best part.

Unlike a few years earlier, the friends effortlessly fall into place, forming a cheeseburger.

ANGLE ON: Rome and Regina watching nostalgically.

ROME (CONT'D)

We were nothing without that meat.

They both laugh at Rome's joke, but then quickly realize how meaningful what he said is.

REGINA

Do you think Delilah-- I mean, did she have any idea her husband was even thinking about doing this?

Her words obviously strike a chord with Rome. He closes his laptop. He needs to tell his wife the truth. He turns to her.

ROME

Regina... The thing is, Gina. I...

She sees her husband is troubled by something and sits up.

REGINA

What?

(more concerned)

What is it?

ROME

I-- I don't think she had any idea.

She nods in agreement and snuggles back into her husband.

REGINA

Thank god, we're not like that.

We see Rome desperate to tell his wife the truth. But unable.

And we...

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

INT. FIRST METHODIST CHURCH - THE NEXT MORNING (D3)

Eddie stands at the lectern in front of the crowd. The place is packed. He looks out and sees:

--Jon's assistant, Ashley, already in tears.

--Regina and Rome, arms lovingly around each other.

--Delilah, in between Sophie and Danny. She does her best to mat down Danny's cowlick. She looks up, sees Eddie and smiles, appreciative he's doing the eulogy. A tear falls from her eye.

EDDIE

(as if just to Delilah)

The thing is, Jon would want us to be laughing. Seriously, if he were here he'd be yelling at me to open with a joke.

(as Jon)

"Buddy, make 'em laugh. They'll let their guard down and then boom, you own 'em."

Delilah smiles, Eddie's right. Eddie looks around for a beat.

EDDIE (CONT'D)

I keep waiting 'cause it feels weird starting without him here. Part of me keeps expecting that at any moment Jon's going to hang up that god-awful Blackberry he refused to get rid of, and come barreling through those doors...

(gesturing to the doors)

...telling us about some huge deal he just closed.

As if on cue, the BIG CHURCH DOORS OPEN. Freaked out, everyone turns to see... Gary. He's brought a date. Maggie. Everyone who knows him laughs. He does his best to casually find a seat. Maggie follows. The priest shoots him a judge-y look.

EDDIE (CONT'D)

(to the heavens)

There's your laugh, buddy. That's perfect.

(feeling more comfortable)

Jon always said, "everything happens for a reason." He refused to believe in coincidence. Even how we met. People always assume Jon, Gary, Rome and I went to college together.

(MORE)

EDDIE (CONT'D)

And Jon was always quick to say, "You think these douchebags could get into Harvard?"

Laughs from the crowd, especially our gang.

EDDIE (CONT'D)

The real way we met was so random. We were all on an elevator... that got stuck. There are two kinds of people on an elevator, people who don't talk to strangers. And Jon. He started talking. And talking. He got really deep at some points. But then he found out we were all Bruins fans. Even Rome.

Rome smiles, raising a hand to the crowd, as if to say, "That's right. I'm the Black guy who is a hockey fan."

EDDIE (CONT'D)

By the time the Boston Fire Department pried open those doors, Jon had convinced us to go in on season tickets. Forty-one home games a year. Well, that was ten years ago. It should be noted that Jon refused to collect so much as a penny from any of us for the tickets.

The other three guys smile and nod. That's true.

EDDIE (CONT'D)

It should also be noted that Jon kept a running tally of exactly what we "owed" him, reminding us any chance he got.

The other three guys laugh and nod. That's totally true.

EDDIE (CONT'D)

Over these last ten years, we've been through a lot together: One Stanley Cup...

The true Boston fans in the crowd clap.

EDDIE (CONT'D)

That's right. Roughly 1,100 pretzels. At least 3,800 beers. One fight with a Maple Leaf defenseman. Relax it was mostly through the glass. And in hindsight, throwing something into the penalty box was both childish and a waste of twelve dollar nachos.

The crowd enjoys a much-needed laugh.

EDDIE (CONT'D)

In that decade, our friendship has moved outside The Garden. A couple of us had kids.

He gestures to Daniel. He looks out at Katherine, who smiles.

EDDIE (CONT'D)

A couple of us got married.

He looks to Rome and Regina, who hug a little harder.

EDDIE (CONT'D)

And one of us got sober.

He raises his hand, owning it, the way Rome did a moment ago.

EDDIE (CONT'D)

Thanks in part to the Maple Leaf nacho incident. Jon was the one who pulled me aside right after Caleb was born and said I needed to stop drinking. Maybe Jon was right, maybe everything does happen for a reason. I haven't had a drink in almost seven years because that random guy I spent two and a half hours on an elevator with was there for me.

(to casket, welling up)

And it absolutely kills me that I wasn't there for you, buddy. You say everything happens for a reason... but I can't find a reason for this.

Eddie breaks down. The priest awkwardly comforts him.

EDDIE (CONT'D)

(to priest, sotto)

Sorry about saying douchebag.

Katherine looks around, uncomfortable with how much he has shared. There's not a dry eye in the house. Except Gary. Who stoically hands Maggie a tissue. The priest signals to someone and an ELECTRIC GUITAR and an AMP are wheeled out.

PRIEST

And now Jon's daughter, Sophie--

GARY

Oh, dear God.

PRIEST

--would like to play one of her dad's favorite songs.

Eddie gathers himself and crosses to Sophie, expertly tuning her guitar and setting her up. Gary whispers in Maggie's ear:

GARY

If she plays anything by Bruno Mars,
I'm burning this place down.

Maggie laughs. The priest looks over to Gary. Sophie straps on her guitar, taking the stage like she's at The Palladium. She starts to play Tracy Chapman's "Change."

SOPHIE

IF YOU KNEW THAT YOU WOULD DIE TODAY/
IF YOU SAW THE FACE OF GOD AND LOVE,
WOULD YOU CHANGE? WOULD YOU CHANGE?

She's impressive. Maggie wipes a tear and whispers to Gary.

MAGGIE

How are you not crying? I didn't even
know him and I'm crying.

GARY

I was just thinking the same thing.

She laughs again. The priest shoots Gary another look. Again, Gary whispers in Maggie's ear:

GARY (CONT'D)

Like it's my fault he took a vow of
celibacy.

Which just makes Maggie laugh once more.

EXT. STREET - LATER (D3)

An AERIAL SHOT of the FUNERAL PROCESSION leaving the cemetery, a series of QUICK POPS...

THE LIMO - SAME (D3)

Delilah with her kids. Sophie's guitar case is with them. Delilah smiles at her daughter, proud. We PAN LEFT to...

EDDIE'S MINIVAN - SAME (D3)

Katherine drives, Eddie sits shotgun. He makes sure her eyes are on the road and quickly sends a text. Given his secrecy, no doubt it's to the woman he's having an affair with.

KATHERINE

He loved you guys.

Startled, Eddie looks up, quickly pockets his phone. He nods. She starts to laugh. He looks over.

KATHERINE (CONT'D)

That night my water broke.

EDDIE

(laughing too)

He had that car four days.

This loss is so huge, it even brings these two together.

KATHERINE

What a waste.

Again, Eddie nods in agreement, until:

KATHERINE (CONT'D)

I mean, how much were all those flowers? They're just going to die. Why don't people buy plants--

EDDIE

(dam breaking)

Not today!

She looks over, shocked by his rare tone.

EDDIE (CONT'D)

Please.

He holds his ground, not breaking eye contact. She turns and looks back at the road. We PAN left, to...

ROME'S TESLA - SAME (D3)

Rome and Regina ride in silence for a beat.

REGINA

What are you thinking about?

ROME

Everything.

She reaches out and squeezes his earlobe-- a sweet moment.

REGINA

What do you think Eddie and Katherine are talking about?

ROME

(putting on a brave face)

First of all, I don't think he's talking.

They share a laugh.

ROME (CONT'D)

The real question is what do you think Gary and Girlfriend #147 are talking about?

REGINA

Love. Babies. If Adele is gonna tour again.

As they laugh, we PAN LEFT to find...

GARY'S 2006 AUDI TT - SAME (D3)

The car is a mess - dirty laundry and old take-out containers have been thrown in the back seat. It's a college dorm room on wheels. As Gary drives, Maggie opens the glove compartment and starts riffling through. He looks over, intrigued.

GARY

So you're just doing that?

MAGGIE

Well you're not talking.

(looking at CD case)

And I'm just trying to figure out who you really are. Because "guy with breast cancer" seems to be the least surprising thing about you.

She pulls out a CHARLESTON CHEW that has been in that glove compartment for more than a few hot days.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

Bullseye. These are my favorite.

She rips into it and takes a huge bite.

GARY

I wouldn't eat that. I don't even know where it came from.

She pulls out a single tampon and holds it up.

MAGGIE

(through a mouthful of candy)

How 'bout this? Any idea where this came from?

He shrugs. Water off a duck's back. She can't help but laugh.

INT. JON & DELILAH'S HOUSE - LATER (D3)

An impressive colonial home in Brookline, a wealthy suburb of Boston. The post-service luncheon. Regina has made all the food and the place looks great. Delilah hugs Ashley who cries.

ASHLEY

I'm so sorry.

DELILAH

Thanks, Ashley. You've been amazing through all of this.

These words weigh on Ashley.

ASHLEY

It just that I-- I'm so sorry.

Distraught, Ashley quickly moves on.

Maggie gives Gary space to greet Delilah. Delilah looks over to Maggie and waves and then turns to Gary and playfully shakes her head, of course he brought a date. Gary shrugs.

Gary takes both of Delilah's hands in his and looks into her eyes, a surprisingly serious move for him.

GARY

Just to be clear... I don't want to be here.

She smiles at his joke, just what she needed. They hug.

DELILAH

I'll try not to get Starbucks on you this time.

GARY

It was really, really hot.

He realizes others are waiting, so he starts to move on, leaning in to whisper one last thing in her ear.

GARY (CONT'D)

For the record, you're stronger than all of us combined.

Moments like that are why we excuse every other single thing Gary does. As he walks away, he passes Regina.

GARY (CONT'D)

Where's Rome? Did you get stood up? Oh, that stings.

REGINA

He forgot something in the car.
(then, re: Delilah)
And don't hit on her. She's been through enough already.

GARY

You are so jealous.

(kidding)

But seriously, you think I got a shot there?

Totally inappropriate. The way only great friends can be.

INT. ROME'S TESLA/EXT. STREET - SAME (D3)

Rome sits in the driver's seat, staring blankly ahead, watching guests enter the house. This could have been his funeral.

Eddie taps on the window.

EDDIE

Hey, Ro, you coming?

ROME

(on a dime, feigning upbeat)

Totally.

Rome quickly snaps to, grabs his sunglasses and gets out.

ROME (CONT'D)

I just forgot these.

EDDIE

Smart. Their living room gets very sunny.

He walks with Eddie and Katherine, who are oblivious to what we just witnessed.

KATHERINE

Heard about the new campaign.
Congrats. That's amazing.

Rome does his best to mask his lack of excitement.

ROME

Yeah. Thanks. How's your work?

KATHERINE

Crazy. As usual. I'm just rushing in to give D a quick hug. I didn't realize this would be an all-day thing.

Rome looks at Eddie and smiles at her choice of words. Eddie shakes his head. I know.

INT. JON & DELILAH'S HOUSE - LATER (D3)

As Katherine talks to Delilah, Rome and Eddie cross with food over to Regina and Gary. Behind them at the buffet table, Maggie fixes herself a plate.

ROME

Just confirming you brought a date to our friend's funeral.

GARY

It was the morning, I wanted to buy her breakfast, we ran out of time.

REGINA

So I made her breakfast?

They all casually rotate to get a better look at Maggie.

EDDIE

How'd you meet this one?

ROME

Ten bucks says his breast cancer support group.

(to Gary)

And if I'm right, you're gross.

Gary helps himself to some capers off of Eddie's plate.

GARY

Bingo.

Eddie looks at Maggie again.

EDDIE

I thought Rebecca had red hair.

GARY

Rebecca does have red hair.

(licking his fingers clean)

That's Maggie.

REGINA

So what, you're just working your way around the circle?

Maggie joins them.

GARY

Everyone this is Maggie. Maggie this is Rome, Regina and--

MAGGIE

Eddie. Beautiful eulogy.

GARY

(re: Maggie)

Made this one cry.

REGINA

Are we sure that's why she was crying?

The rest of them laugh. Rome turns to Maggie.

ROME

Just so you're not left out, a long time ago, these two went on a date--

REGINA

--One. Horrendous. Date.

MAGGIE

You say it was bad, but did it end with him taking you to a funeral?

Beat. Did she really just say that. Then:

REGINA

(to Gary)

I love her so much!

INT. JON & DELILAH'S HOUSE - LATER (D3)

Regina and Maggie sit chatting. Eddie, Gary and Rome are at the buffet. They watch Delilah work her way around the room.

ROME

I'm gonna go say hi. When I called before, she had so much family over.

Rome crosses to Delilah. As Gary and Maggie wave to each other from across the room, Gary turns to Eddie.

GARY

What do you think? Not bad, right?

EDDIE

It's like you date different women from the same police lineup.

ANGLE ON: Rome and Delilah.

ROME

And obviously, if you need anything. From any of us. Except Katherine.

DELILAH

(smiles, then)

She does the best she can.

ROME

Does she?

A much-needed laugh for both of them. Beat.

DELILAH

You okay?

ROME

I'm going to say yes only because I can't have you taking care of me at your husband's funeral.

DELILAH

That's fair.

ROME

So I'll call you--

DELILAH

-first thing tomorrow morning.

They laugh again.

INT. JON & DELILAH'S HOUSE - A LITTLE WHILE LATER (D3)

Regina, Maggie, Gary, Eddie and Rome sit on the couch talking. The conversation has gotten more serious.

EDDIE

I just-- Why didn't he get help?

ROME

Maybe it's something he couldn't explain, because he doesn't understand it himself.

(correcting)

Didn't understand it.

REGINA

Yeah. To a lot of people, it's still taboo. Especially in the Black community.

Rome fidgets and forces a smile. The friends sit there, none of them knowing what the answer is.

MAGGIE

Maybe he just lost sight of the horizon.

They turn to Maggie.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

I was watching this documentary on JFK Jr. Remember when his plane went down?

EDDIE

July 16th. 1999.
(off their look)
It's my birthday.

GARY

Your birthday is the 12th. And you are the only grown man ever to exist who celebrates his birthday for a whole week.

REGINA

(to Maggie)

...Please continue.

MAGGIE

Kennedy was with his wife and her sister. They were going to see family. His life seemed perfect.

REGINA

Because it was.

MAGGIE

Kennedy was a novice pilot. And he was flying at night. And then the clouds came in. His instruments were telling him which way was up, but he didn't trust them. The truth was right in front of him and he couldn't see it. He lost sight of the horizon and he nose-dived. And by the time he realized what was happening, it was too late. He couldn't pull up.

GARY

What does that have to do with--

MAGGIE

That's depression.

We see this hit them all. Rome gives the subtlest of nods. Yes.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

Now maybe he wasn't depressed. Maybe something else was going on. People keep secrets from their closest friends and family. And sometimes you don't even know they have these secrets until an event like this happens.

They take this in for a beat, then:

GARY

You'll have to excuse Maggie. During her free time, she fancies herself an armchair psychologist.

MAGGIE

True. But during the day I'm a clinical therapist at Beth Israel, specializing in depression.

Gary does a half-laugh, thinking she's kidding, but then catches himself.

REGINA

Tell me you knew the occupation of your funeral plus-1.

Gary shrugs. They all laugh.

EXT. JON & DELILAH'S HOUSE - FRONT STEPS - LATER (D3)

The rest of the guests have left. Arm in arm with Regina, Delilah walks the gang out.

EDDIE

Let us know if there's anything you need.

DELILAH

Thanks, guys.

REGINA

We're here for you, D.

GARY

(teasing)
She says as we're leaving.

Seizing the chance to catch her alone, Rome approaches Maggie.

ROME

Hey, can I get your card?

MAGGIE

Ah... sure.

ROME

That stuff you were saying about losing sight of the horizon...

As she pulls a card from her purse, Gary catches the handoff.

GARY

Whoa, dude! Just because I dated your wife.

(committing to the bit)
You know what? Have at it.

Gary laughs. The rest of the group joins them. Rome is caught.

ROME

(covering)

That movie I want to make has a therapist in it and I was going to ask Maggie some questions.

MAGGIE

And then hit on me, right?

ROME

Totally.

DELILAH

(re: Maggie)

Have we addressed how much we love this woman?

EDDIE / GARY / REGINA

Indeed. / They have. / I want her card.

Just then, the ALARM on Rome's phone goes off. Then Gary's. Then Eddie's. They each quickly pull them out.

DELILAH

(realizing)

There's a Bruins game tonight, isn't there?

GARY

(for Maggie's benefit)

Jon hated waiting for us.

ROME

Made us set an alarm on our phones.

EDDIE

He said he paid for the tickets, the least we could do is show up on time.

They silence their alarms for what they all realize is the last time. A beat, then:

DELILAH

You guys should go.

Eddie and Rome look at each other-- Should we?

GARY

We can't go.

REGINA

Well, check out who decided to suddenly act like a human.

GARY
(taking a bow)
Tada.
(then)
Also, the tickets are in Jon's office.

Regina elbows Gary.

DELILAH
Go get them. Go to the game. You know
Jon wouldn't want those tickets going
to waste.

The guys look at each other and nod. That is what Jon would want.

DELILAH (CONT'D)
(to Regina and Maggie)
And you two. Stay and help me finish off
the food. And by food, I mean, the wine.

REGINA
I'm in!

MAGGIE
Love it!

INT. JON'S OFFICES - ASHLEY'S OUTER OFFICE - LATER (N3)

Still in suits, the guys are with Ashley, who stands next to her desk. The office is empty, except for Ashley who, even after her boss's death, diligently carries on. Eddie is taking the lead.

EDDIE
...And so anyway, we just-- we wanted to
be in his space for a little while.
Get some closure. Let the reality of
what happened sink--

ASHLEY
You need the tickets.

GARY
(not breaking stride)
Yep.

As he beelines to Jon's office, Ashley smiles at Gary. He turns back to get one last look at her. As they enter...

INT. JON'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS (N3)

...Rome whispers in Gary's ear.

ROME
Shut it down. Jon specifically said
don't have sex with her.

GARY
And we're sure he was talking to me?

They both laugh until they look up and see something:

POLICE TAPE blocks off the balcony. It's ominous. We see them take this in, frozen. It makes Jon's death real in a way that the casket and the funeral didn't.

Ashley walks in. They look up at her, with a deeper appreciation of what she has been through. They now genuinely take in Jon's space. They gather around his desk, which remains untouched. On it, they see:

Jon's empty dry cleaning box, still there from before. The empty cufflink case, still open. Jon's shirt hanging on the back of his chair. They witness this life interrupted.

ROME
(almost to himself)
He dressed up for it.

They stand there, stunned. Like everything in his life, Jon meticulously planned this. Eddie turns to Ashley who is clearly still very shaken up.

EDDIE
Do you have any idea why he did this?

ASHLEY
(defensive)
What do you mean?

EDDIE
No, I'm sorry. I just thought-- You know, you were with him all day.

ASHLEY
I didn't know him like you guys did.

Eddie and Rome nod. Makes sense. Gary looks at Ashley, clocking her response.

Rome picks up the picture of Jon with Delilah and the kids, again experiencing up close the pain he almost caused.

GARY
(re: photo)
He loved them. I mean, he could have been home more, but he loved them.

As he sets down the photo, Gary sees Jon's Blackberry. He picks it up. He tries to unlock it, but you need a password. He holds the phone out to Ashley. She hesitates.

ASHLEY
(quietly)
He's still my boss.

GARY
(turning his head, dead serious)
I won't look. Put in the code.

He's not asking her, he's telling her. She nods and complies.

GARY (CONT'D)
Well see, there are some things you
know that we don't.

She glances over to Gary who breaks their gaze only so that he can go through the phone. Still protective of Jon, Ashley watches over Gary's shoulder as he navigates to the call log.

ASHLEY
He was on that business call for a
long time.

GARY
(reading)
Forty-six minutes, ten seconds.

ROME
I'll bet he closed the deal, though.

ASHLEY
(proud)
He did, actually.

GARY
(noticing something on phone)
But that wasn't the last call he made.

ASHLEY
Yeah, it was. When I came in to give
him his mail, he was just ending the
call. He had his victory face.

GARY
He made a call right after that.

Surprised, they all look to Gary.

GARY (CONT'D)
To you.

Gary turns to Eddie. And we...

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

INT. JON'S OFFICE - WHERE WE LEFT THEM (N3)

Gary, Eddie, Rome and Ashley stand there, stunned.

GARY

(to Eddie)

12:27. Jon made a call to your cell phone.

Eddie looks at Jon's phone.

EDDIE

He-- He must have gone to voicemail.
(trying to remember)

Yeah, noon Mondays, I teach a guitar lesson to this kid Talbot during his lunch hour. I turn my phone off. It rang during a recital once. I yelled at the parents. Which was fantastic when it turned out to be my phone.

(taking this in)

He tried to call me.

GARY

Did-- Did he leave a message?

EDDIE

The only voicemail I got was from you. Saying he'd...

We see Eddie racked with guilt. Could he have done something?

GARY

You can't do what you're doing right now.

EDDIE

But maybe I could have--

GARY

Don't.

It's clear Gary has also been beating himself up with all of the "what if's."

GARY (CONT'D)

(to Ashley)

We need to get to the game.

Anticipating like the good assistant she is, before he finishes his sentence, she's already halfway to Jon's desk drawer.

ASHLEY

I'll get the tickets.

EXT. JON & DELILAH'S PATIO - SAME (N3)

The women sit in front of a fire pit, drinking wine and eating appetizers.

REGINA

...I just like to give him crap. The date wasn't that bad. Gary loved it. He got laid.

Maggie and Delilah look up, surprised by this new information.

REGINA (CONT'D)

Her name was Veronica, I believe. Our waitress. Gary forgot his wallet. And he stayed behind to "settle up."

They share a laugh.

REGINA (CONT'D)

And that date led to me meeting Rome. And Gary needing a shot of penicillin.
(laughs, then)
Seriously, Gary is an amazing friend. Underneath that hot mess is--

MAGGIE

--a lukewarm mess?

They laugh again.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

I never would have thought a guy like Gary would be the first man to truly understand what I'm going through.

A beat.

DELILAH

Were you scared?

Maggie doesn't look up. She just nods.

DELILAH (CONT'D)

I see that in Gary. He tries to hide it. Even though he's in remission, it's like he's afraid--

MAGGIE

--it's gonna come back.

REGINA

Is it the same for you?

Maggie hesitates, then:

MAGGIE

As much as I can be similar to Gary.

They laugh.

INT. CHEEVERS - LATER (N3)

A bar near the Garden (named for the greatest Bruins goalie ever). The guys sit at the bar. A bartender pours two tequila shots and guns some Sprite into a third glass for Eddie. Gary is uncharacteristically full of emotion.

ROME

(raising a glass)

To Jon.

EDDIE

(raising his soda)

And to the tradition he started all those years ago on that elevator.

GARY

I'm not drinking to that.

(off their looks)

I spend forty hours a week valuing people's lives for insurance companies. Our time together isn't worth shit.

EDDIE

Dude.

Whoa.

ROME

Gary grabs a bar napkin and starts jotting down numbers.

GARY (CONT'D)

Do the math. The average hockey game lasts two hours and nineteen minutes, times forty-one home games a year. For ten years.

Gary tosses down his napkin. On it is his calculation with "949" circled at the bottom.

GARY (CONT'D)

I sat next to Jon for almost nine hundred and fifty hours and I didn't even know he was depressed. Did you?

Their silence says it all. They didn't.

GARY (CONT'D)

The fact is we don't really talk.

EDDIE

Yeah, we do.

GARY

No, Ed, we don't. The last time we really talked about something deep was on that elevator. We were more honest with each other before we became friends. Now, we just sit shoulder-to-shoulder the way guys do-- hell, we're doing it right now, but we don't really know each other.

We see on Rome and Ed's face - they're both keeping secrets.

GARY (CONT'D)

You probably don't even know what color my eyes are.

(lifting shot glass)

You know what, I'll drink. I'll drink to whatever we thought this was.

Gary downs his shot, throws a twenty on the bar and crosses out. Rome follows, calling after him.

ROME

I think I liked you more with cancer.

GARY

(calling back)

Me too!

As Eddie gets up, his phone rings. He looks at the Caller ID and checks to make sure the guys have left. He has a nervous energy that tells us it's the woman he's having an affair with.

EDDIE

Hey. It's so good to hear your voice. I left you a ton of messages.

(beat)

Yeah, it's been a crazy couple of days. I need to see you. I'm gonna come by after the game. No, I'm gonna--
(seeing Rome circling back)

I gotta go.

He ends the call abruptly.

ROME

You coming?

EDDIE

Yep.

As Eddie sets down his glass, Gary's words still echo in his head. He exhales and crosses out, clearly feeling the weight of this secret he's keeping from his friends.

EXT. JON & DELILAH'S PATIO - LATER (N3)

As Delilah exits from the house, opening another bottle of wine, Maggie downs another leftover appetizer.

MAGGIE

Regina, even cold these things are delicious.

DELILAH

Gina's the best. Thanks again for making all the food.

REGINA

I didn't do it for you.

Maggie looks up, surprised by the comment, but Delilah knows what she means.

REGINA (CONT'D)

No one was more supportive of my cooking than he was.

Delilah smiles.

MAGGIE

Do you have your own place?

REGINA

I did. I opened a restaurant with this other chef-- It must have been seven years ago now.

DELILAH

Before, we all met.

REGINA

I put everything I had into that place. Worked seven days a week. Poured all of my life savings, borrowed a ton.

DELILAH

(to Maggie)

The reviews were amazing. Everyone loved the food.

REGINA

But the lease was crazy expensive. We rented way too big a place. We didn't know what we were doing. One of the first times I saw Jon, was when he helped me get out of the lease. I barely knew him. He was doing it more as a favor to Rome. Anyway, to thank him, I made dinner for everyone one night.

MAGGIE

Wait, there was a clip of that in the video Rome showed at the church today.

REGINA

(nods, then)

And because of Jon, I'm not giving up. I mean, I'm still a chef in somebody else's restaurant. But I'm gonna open up my own place again some day. And this time, I'm gonna do it right.

Delilah has listened to the whole story and smiles.

DELILAH

Grab your coats.

MAGGIE

I'm so glad you said that, it's freezing out here.

DELILAH

No. We're taking a road trip. I need to show you something.

REGINA

(through a laugh)

Now? What is it?

DELILAH

It's the last thing Jon did before he died.

Regina and Maggie look at each other. Then immediately get up and follow Delilah.

And we...

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

INT. BOSTON GARDEN - SECURITY ENTRANCE - SAME (N3)

Tickets in hand, Gary and Rome stand in line to go through security. Eddie catches up.

EDDIE

Look, Gary, I know you like to go dark, but I need this to not be as horrible as it is. Because I keep thinking that maybe I could have done something.

Gary lifts his arms to be wanded by a SECURITY GUARD.

GARY

Like what, Ed? Like if you had hugged him one more time, he'd still be alive?
(passing through security)
Are your hugs that magical? Who the hell are you?

Eddie lifts his arms up to be wanded.

EDDIE

Apparently someone who's more in touch with his emotions than you are.

Everyone within earshot is now staring at them. Then:

SECURITY GUARD

(to Rome)
Enjoy the game.

ROME

Thanks. Should be a good one.

INT. BOSTON GARDEN - ESCALATORS - MOMENTS LATER (N3)

The three ride up the escalator. It's still tense.

EDDIE

Maybe Jon dying is a wake-up call. It's like he always said, "Everything happens for a reason."

GARY

Are you kidding me?! So what, our friend dies, but if we live better lives, then he didn't die in vain?!

EDDIE

Maybe.

(needing it to be true)

Yes.

GARY

Well, I have news for you, Ed. We're not gonna live any differently.

(turning to Rome)

You hate your fucking job, but you're not going to quit because "directing" those asinine pizza commercials pays too much.

(turning back to Eddie)

And you hate your fucking wife, but you can't leave her because your non-existent job doesn't pay anything at all. People always say they're going to live differently. And we will. For exactly two weeks. And then we'll be back to doing the same shit we always do.

Gary steps off the escalator, leaving them to lick their wounds.

EDDIE

(blurting out)

I'm in love with someone!

Even Ed is surprised by this admission. Gary and Rome turn around.

EDDIE (CONT'D)

And I didn't tell you. But if Jon's death has taught us anything, it's that we need to stop with the secrets and start being honest with ourselves. And each other.

He stands there in silence for a beat.

ROME

Who is she?

EDDIE

She's the mom of one of my students. We didn't mean for it to happen. But-- I love her. She believes in me. And I'm gonna leave Katherine. I just need to make sure Caleb's okay.

INT. DELILAH'S SUV - SAME (N3)

Delilah drives, Regina sits shotgun, Maggie leans in from the back seat. Delilah, laser-focused on a mission, speeds up to make the light. Cars that have the green light start to go.

REGINA

Careful, careful, careful, careful!

DELILAH

It was yellow. Ish.

Maggie looks to Regina, is she okay? Regina nods.

REGINA

Sweetie, where are we going?

DELILAH

Ashley told me that the last thing Jon did was close a huge real estate deal.

REGINA

(with a smile)

Of course.

DELILAH

I want you to see it.

Delilah's tires screech as she takes a quick right turn.

INT. BOSTON GARDEN - TOP OF SECTION 1 - SAME (N3)

Now in the arena, Gary, followed by Eddie and Rome, walks down the steps toward their seats.

GARY

Look, I'm glad you're getting out of a marriage that was more toxic than anything I've ever had in my body. And if you want to credit ending something that should have ended two years ago to our friend jumping off a concrete diving board then--

EDDIE

It's not just that. I haven't had a drink in seven years because that same friend stepped onto that elevat-

GARY

Enough with the stupid elevator crap. News flash, Eddie, if I hadn't become friends with the three of you, you know what I would have done? Become friends with three other schmucks. Look around, there are a lot of Bruins fans here.

A drunk FAN passing by overhears this.

FAN

Dude! This is our year!

The fan forces a high-five on Gary and stumbles off.

GARY

Okay, so maybe I wouldn't be friends
with just anyone.

Gary continues walking to their seats. Eddie and Rome follow.

EDDIE

How does the guy who beat cancer not
see that maybe there's a reason things
happen?

Eddie has touched the third rail.

GARY

First of all, God didn't cure my
cancer, science did. And second, it's
not that I don't have cancer. It's that
I don't have cancer right now. That all-
clear screening I got this week, just
gives me permission to hold my breath
for another three months. So it turns
out, I might still get ball cancer!

Finally at their row, Rome and Eddie take their seats. But not
Gary. He's frozen looking at something. We see what it is:

THE AISLE SEAT. The one we saw in the flashback. Only now,
Jon isn't in it. It's empty.

GARY (CONT'D)

(almost to himself)

Damn it, Jon. You had everything.

Starting to come apart, Gary turns to Eddie.

GARY (CONT'D)

"Everything happens for a reason"?!
Really, Ed?! Tell me one good thing to
come from this. One thing!

An intense moment as Gary and Eddie stare each other down.
Eddie has no answer.

But then... Rome, looking straight ahead, speaks:

ROME

When you called to tell me about Jon...
I was about to kill myself...
Technically, I had already started...
If you hadn't called to tell me about
Jon, I'd be dead now.

Rome starts to cry, relieved to have finally told his friends.

Again, Eddie and Gary look at each other. Now, it's not a stare down. It's "What the fuck?" "What do we say?" "What do we do?"

With nothing to say, Gary does the only thing he can do. He puts his arm around Rome and gives his friend a hug. Rome cries harder. So Gary just squeezes harder.

ROME (CONT'D)

I know it's ridiculous, because I have a great life and I'm married to the most amazing person ever. But sometimes-- I feel so hopeless-- It's like I can't breathe. Only I am breathing. And I think, maybe if I stopped, it wouldn't hurt so much.

As Rome cries, Gary turns to Eddie. He offers a look: "I'm sorry." Eddie is right there with his look: "You simply don't have to say anything." Gary gives Rome another squeeze.

Still looking straight ahead, Rome says:

ROME (CONT'D)

For the record, Gary... your eyes are blue. And they're magnificent.

As the guys share a laugh, we see that even though he's gone, their friend has given them the kick in the pants they needed.

EXT. DOWNTOWN STREET - SAME (N3)

The women get out of Delilah's SUV. She walks them across the street to a beautiful old building with historic Boston charm.

REGINA

Wait, this is it? Jon's last deal was for the old Kodak building?

Delilah smiles and nods as they approach. Regina's excitement has them stepping up their pace.

REGINA (CONT'D)

This place is incredible.
(to Maggie)

And on part of the bottom floor, there's this great commercial kitchen space.

DELILAH

Yes, there is. The perfect size.
(turning to Regina)

That's why Jon fought so hard to get it.

Regina looks to Delilah.

DELILAH (CONT'D)

Gina's is opening spring of 2019.

We see this land on Regina. She looks at Delilah. Really?!
Delilah nods.

REGINA

This was his last deal? For me? Why?

DELILAH

He'd been working on it for months. He
didn't even mention it to Rome. He
wanted to surprise you.

The two friends start to cry. This was obviously always
supposed to be an emotional moment. But now it carries so
much more weight. Even Maggie can't help but well up.

REGINA

But I-- I can't afford this space.

DELILAH

(laughs, then)

Trust me. With the lease Jon got you,
you can.

As they laugh/cry, we...

INT. BOSTON GARDEN - MOS - LATER (N3)

Back with the guys. We hear no sound, just a COVER VERSION of
Tracy Chapman's "Change." A man is singing and it's
beautiful. This whole scene is shot from behind the guys,
giving them privacy. We just watch them together-- laughing,
loving, trying to move on.

This time it's Gary who extends his arm and gets a SELFIE of
them, sitting shoulder-to-shoulder, different in so many ways
from the photo they tried to take at last week's game. Apparently
tonight has made Gary see the value of their time together.

Gary snaps the photo. As he puts away his phone, careful to
not be detected, Eddie reaches for his and texts...

EXT. UNDISCLOSED LOCATION - SAME (N3)

The song continues. CLOSE ON a cell phone as the text comes
in. A woman's hands looks at Eddie's text: "Delayed here.
I'll explain later. I love you. E"

As she lowers her phone, for the first time, we see her face
and we discover what Gary, Rome, Regina, Maggie and Katherine
don't know-- that THE WOMAN EDDIE HAS BEEN HAVING AN AFFAIR
WITH IS DELILAH.

She exhales deeply and covers with that Jackie O resilience we have witnessed the whole episode, but now we realize there is so much more going on. It seems each of these friends is carrying secrets that need to be shared.

As we CUT WIDE, we see where she is - inside the commercial kitchen space that will soon be Regina's new restaurant. It needs work, but it's the perfect size for success.

MAGGIE

To Gina's.

Maggie has poured wine into three glasses.

REGINA

(grabbing a glass)
How did--?

MAGGIE

(re: her large purse)
I brought the wine. And the glasses.

REGINA

(to Delilah)
Love her.

Delilah, puts her phone away, smiles and grabs a glass. The three friends clink glasses and toast Regina's new beginning.

INT. ROME & REGINA'S HOUSE - LATE THAT NIGHT

Rome quietly enters. He sees Regina's purse. She's home. But he looks upstairs and sees the bedroom light is off.

He quietly crosses over to the kitchen bar and sits down at his computer. The pile of video tapes are still out from when he compiled the video for Jon's service. He looks for a tape. He can't find it. It must be here. It is. He puts it in the camera and hits play...

VIDEO CLIP: A black screen. The lens cap comes off, catching a tight shot of Jon, in a suit, sitting on the floor leaning against the wall in an undisclosed location.

ROME (O.S.)

Say that last part again.

JON

I was saying that as bad as this seems, I truly believe everything happens for a reason. The challenge in life is to find that reason...

We see Rome look at his computer, taking this in. He's clearly heard these words before, but now they have new meaning.

INT. 24-HOUR WALGREENS - SAME (N3)

The place is empty except for an older custodian mopping the floor. Gary enters and passes by looking for something. He spots it. He pulls an 8x10 frame from the shelf. Then two more.

EXT. JON & DELILAH'S HOUSE - SAME (N3)

TIGHT on the front door. The porch light comes on. Delilah, in a bathrobe, opens the door and is surprised to see Eddie on her front steps.

EDDIE

Hey...

She looks over her shoulder to make sure they're alone.

DELILAH

You can't be here. We can't do this.
Not now.

(off his look)

What if he knew about us? What if
that's why he did it?

Their biggest fear has finally been said out loud.

EDDIE

There's no way he--

DELILAH

Maybe that's why he tried to call you.

As she says this, we realize Eddie knew Jon had called.

FLASHBACK TO:

EXT. JON'S OFFICE BALCONY - FLASHBACK - (FB-D1)

NO SOUND. Except the sound of the guitar from the song.

Jon stands on the balcony, ending his business call. He scrolls through the favorites on his phone. He presses: Eddie. Very calmly, he puts the phone to his ear.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - SAME (FB-D1)

An elegant hotel room. Eddie and Delilah lie in bed, post coital. Eddie's phone rings. He looks at it. It's Jon.

DELILAH

You should answer it. Just so--

EDDIE

It's okay. I'll call him from the car
in five minutes.

EXT. JON & DELILAH'S HOUSE - WHERE WE LEFT THEM (N3)

Back with Eddie and Delilah.

EDDIE

He didn't know.

DELILAH

Maybe. But I know. I know what we were doing.

Just then, from inside the house:

SOPHIE (O.S.)

Mom?

EDDIE / DELILAH

Please.

Eddie looks at her. He's never needed anyone so much.

EDDIE

Tell me you don't love me and I'll leave right now.

She pauses just enough for him to know she does.

DELILAH

If you love me, you'll leave right now.

With that, she closes the door, leaving him standing there.

INT. UNDISCLOSED LOCATION - SEVERAL YEARS AGO - ROME'S FOOTAGE

The clip of Jon continues:

JON

Look, sometimes what happens is shitty. And you think, what good can possibly come from this?

INT. 24-HOUR WALGREENS - NIGHT (N3)

With three frames in hand, Gary passes the guy mopping and approaches the photo counter where a SALESWOMAN, late 30s, blue vest, puts photos in envelopes. Gary smiles at her. She smiles back.

INT. MAGGIE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT (N3)

Maggie comes in from a late night jog. Sweaty. Out of breath. Alive. She puts her keys down and checks her cell phone to see if she got an email from Gary. She has a missed call and a voicemail. She plays the message as she takes a drink of water.

VOICEMAIL

Maggie, it's Dr. Gordon. You missed your appointment today. If we're gonna beat this thing again, you have to stick to our chemo schedule. Call me first thing. I need to see you tomorrow.

We realize that, unlike Gary, Maggie's cancer has come back. When she said people have secrets that their friends don't know about, she was including herself.

INT. EDDIE & KATHERINE'S HOUSE - NIGHT (N3)

Eddie walks down the dark hallway. Everyone is asleep. From behind him, we see him set KATHERINE'S BRIEFCASE AT THE DOOR, a thoughtful gesture. On the table, we see Eddie's phone. On the display, it says: "1 NEW VOICEMAIL - JON." He picks up the phone and puts it in his pocket. He can't bring himself to listen to it.

As he turns around, we see he's holding a brown bag. He pulls out an UNOPENED FIFTH OF VODKA. Shit. He crosses to the cabinet to grab a glass. But as he does:

CALEB (O.S.)

Hi, Daddy.

Eddie turns and sees his son standing there in his pajamas, smiling up at him. Eddie tucks the bottle behind his back.

CALEB (CONT'D)

I just wanted to get this.

Caleb holds up the MINIATURE HOCKEY STICK Eddie bought him after last week's game. Everything does happen for a reason.

INT. 24-HOUR WALGREEN'S MEN'S ROOM - NIGHT (N3)

Gary and the saleswoman burst through the door, making out. He backs her up against the sink. It's on. As he goes to unhook her bra, he catches himself in the mirror. He stops.

He backs off her and straightens her shirt. And vest.

GARY

I'm sorry. I can't.

She nods. She gets it. It's okay.

INT. JON & DELILAH'S WALK-IN CLOSET - NIGHT (N3)

Delilah sits at her makeup mirror, taking off her earrings. As she opens her jewelry box, she sees something. It can't be. She looks over her shoulder to confirm she's alone and pulls out... EDDIE'S NECKLACE. We see it on her face. She's not the one who put it there. But who did? She breaks down.

INT. JON'S OFFICE - NIGHT (N3)

Ashley sits at Jon's desk, illuminated only by the light of his computer, the blue envelope next to her. She types "RUTLEDGE" in the search bar. Twelve files come up. She highlights them all. And hits delete.

INT. UNDISCLOSED LOCATION - SEVERAL YEARS AGO - ROME'S FOOTAGE

Back with Jon:

JON

But, as bad as things may seem, there is good.

(looking right to camera)

And you will find it.

Jon offers his trademark smile.

Rome zooms out, revealing Eddie and Gary sitting next to Jon. THEY'RE IN AN ELEVATOR. THIS IS THE DAY THEY MET.

MAN (O.S.)

Everyone back away from the door!

We're coming through!

The camera shakes as Rome scrambles to his feet. As a firefighter enters, the camera turns one last time back to Jon, who smiles, satisfied. On Jon's smile, we go to black.

INT. ROME & REGINA'S KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Rome stands there, taking this in with a peace we haven't seen from him so far. He closes his laptop and heads upstairs.

INT. MAGGIE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT (N3)

Maggie hears a knock at her door. She cautiously opens it to find... Gary standing there. She looks at him. What is he doing here? From behind his back, he presents her with a case of CHARLESTON CHEWS decorated with a RED DRUGSTORE BOW.

She smiles. He smiles back.

INT. ROME & REGINA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT (N3)

Rome quietly enters to find Regina lying with his back to him, asleep. He takes off his scarf and puts it in his jacket pocket. As he does, he feels something and pulls it out. It's two sheets of yellow legal paper-- his SUICIDE NOTE. What the hell did he almost do?!

He quickly stuffs it back in his pocket. Fully clothed, he gets into bed and spoons Regina, putting his arm around her. He exhales. And kisses the back of her neck.

Her hand moves ever-so-slightly and grabs his. He squeezes.

INT. EDDIE & KATHERINE'S GARAGE - NIGHT (N3)

The CAMERA PANS across the garage. As it passes the workbench, we see the bottle of vodka, unopened. It continues to pan, until we finally find Eddie sitting on an old couch, playing "Change" on his guitar. He's the one we've been hearing. And he's amazing.

EDDIE
...IF YOU SAW THE FACE OF GOD AND LOVE,
WOULD YOU CHANGE...

We see a different Eddie, determined to finally start living. Next to him, sits Caleb, nestled in the safety of his dad's arm. No matter what happens, these two men are there for each other.

EDDIE / CALEB
...WOULD YOU CHANGE...

Father and son look at each other and smile.

EXT. ROME AND REGINA'S TOWNHOUSE - NIGHT (N3)

Holding his phone, Rome opens the front door. He looks around. There's nobody there. As he looks at his phone, we see a text he got from Gary: "Look outside." He looks around again. Nothing.

As he starts to close the door, he looks down and sees something. He bends down and picks it up. He smiles.

It's a FRAMED PICTURE with Gary's trademark RED DRUGSTORE BOW.

It's the selfie Gary took earlier tonight - Rome, Eddie and Gary at the Bruins game, sitting shoulder-to-shoulder. Next to them is the empty seat. Rome finally got his picture.

EDDIE (O.S.)
...IF YOU KNEW THAT YOU WOULD DIE TODAY.
IF YOU SAW THE FACE OF GOD AND LOVE.
WOULD YOU CHANGE? WOULD YOU CHANGE?

Their faces say they're different now, forever changed by their friend. As we close in on the photo, we...

END OF SHOW