

Popular: Summer School  
"Second Guesses, Second Chances,  
Second Thoughts"  
by  
The Wild Pikachu

POPULAR: SUMMER SCHOOL

SECOND GUESSES, SECOND CHANCES, SECOND THOUGHTS

TEASER

FADE IN:

MONTAGE

Brooke in Physical Therapy: having her leg worked on by Dr. De Wolf; laboriously doing sit-ups with Harrison supporting her; while flailing away, accidentally smacking Harrison in the side of the head (and looking extremely apologetic afterwards); suffering through the parallel bars until finally, with slow, excruciating steps, she makes it to the end, practically falling into Harrison's arms.

FADE TO:

INT. SAM AND BROOKE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Darkness.

ANGLE: SAM'S DESK

As the tiny desk lamp comes on, and a dictionary on the desk is rifled through.

HARRISON (O.S.)

D, d, d... Here it is:  
debauchery. D-E-B-A-U-C-H-E-R-Y.  
Noun. Excessive indulgence in  
sensual pleasures.

SAM (O.S.)

Harrison, put the dictionary away  
and come back to bed.

HARRISON (O.S.)

Hmm. Debauch. Verb. To seduce  
or corrupt morally.

(curiously)

Do you feel debauched?

SAM (O.S.)

That's not the word I was thinking  
of, no.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HARRISON (O.S.)  
It seems to fit, though.

SAM (O.S.)  
Harrison, if you make me get out  
from under these covers, it's not  
gonna be pretty.

HARRISON (O.S.)  
That's what you think.

SAM (O.S.)  
Har har. You remember what I did  
to Mitch McCloskey back in sixth  
grade?

HARRISON (O.S.)  
That's not funny, Sam.

SAM (O.S.)  
Well, come back to bed, then.

HARRISON (O.S.)  
I'm not sure I want to, now.

SAM (O.S.)  
Harrison...!

The light goes out.

HARRISON (O.S.)  
Mitch McCloskey, huh? I shoulda  
figured you had a thing for him.

From the darkness comes the sound of Harrison jumping on the  
bed, while Sam dissolves into a fit of giggles.

WHITE OUT.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

EST. THE HOSPITAL - MORNING

The start of another summer day.

CUT TO:

INT. BROOKE'S HOSPITAL ROOM

Sam walks in on a scene that might better fit the psychedelic '60s: soft, strangely hued violet and red lights fill the room, and on her bed, Brooke is in something that more-or-less approximates a lotus position, eyes closed, hands clasped in front of her.

SAM

Brooke?

BROOKE

(opens her eyes)

Hey, Sam.

Sam walks over and picks up one of the sources of the strange light, which turns out to be a tiny lamp. She turns it over and around, examining it.

SAM

What's all this?

BROOKE

They're supposed to be votive candles. But, the hospital wasn't too big on the idea of candles, so Jane brought these over before she and Dad left.

SAM

These look familiar somehow.

BROOKE

She said something about old Halloween decorations?

SAM

Oh...right.

Brooke turns on the overhead light, which instantly washes away all of the color.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BROOKE  
So, where's Harrison?

SAM  
He's still—I mean, I'm sure he's  
still sleeping.

BROOKE  
Yeah, he does seem to be dragging  
lately.  
(beat)  
Speaking of... You know, when Dad  
and Jane get home, they're going  
to know you did something.

SAM  
What—what's that supposed to  
mean?

BROOKE  
(laughing)  
Sam, if you glowed any more, you'd  
need your own sunblock.  
(considers)  
I didn't glow when I did it with  
Harrison. I don't think.

SAM  
I don't think I was glowing the  
first few times we did it either.  
Not that it was horrible or  
anything.

BROOKE  
The first few—Sam? How many  
times have you and Harrison done  
it?

SAM  
Ah...well...

BROOKE  
Sam...?

SAM  
You know that box...in Mom and  
Mike's bedroom?

BROOKE  
The box of condoms they showed you  
to freak you out so you wouldn't  
do what you've been doing...yeah?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

SAM  
(sheepishly)  
Well...we kinda, uh...had to,  
um...buy a new box.

BROOKE  
Sam...!

SAM  
...twice.

BROOKE  
Sam!!!

SAM  
(throwing up her hands)  
I know! It's like, I don't know  
what it is... It's, all this has  
been pent up inside me and...  
well, now...

BROOKE  
(holds up a hand)  
Hold on—if there's a line in here  
about floodgates opening, I don't  
want to hear it.

SAM  
(grins)  
I just mean, I can't keep my hands  
off of him!

BROOKE  
(giggling)  
Well, obviously!  
(suspiciously)  
Has he been sleeping over?

SAM  
Ah...

BROOKE  
He has, hasn't he?!

SAM  
Kinda, yeah...

BROOKE  
No wonder he's been yawning  
through my sessions—you've been  
wearing him out at night!  
(rolling her eyes)  
Great—my sister's a nympho.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

SAM  
 (giggles)  
 You know what? I don't care.  
 (curiously)  
 How many times did you and  
 Harrison do it, anyway?

Before Brooke can answer, Sam holds up a hand to stop her.

SAM (CONT'D)  
 No, wait, that's totally rude of  
 me. Never mind.

BROOKE  
 No, it's okay. We only did it the  
 one time. I mean, it just kinda,  
 happened, and after...it was a  
 little awkward.  
 (beat)  
 Not that it was horrible, or  
 anything.

As Brooke and Sam start giggling again, Harrison walks in.

HARRISON  
 Morning, ladies.

The girls try, not too successfully, to straighten out their  
 faces.

BROOKE  
 (innocently)  
 Morning, Harrison.

SAM  
 Hey.

Harrison pulls up short, examining them suspiciously.

HARRISON  
 What?

Brooke and Sam exchange glances, grins still tugging at  
 corners of their mouths.

SAM  
 (shaking her head)  
 Nothing.

BROOKE  
 Nothing.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

HARRISON  
Okay, what's going on?

BROOKE  
We were just...talking.

SAM  
Yeah.

Harrison studies them for a moment; then his mouth drops and he backs up a step.

HARRISON  
Oh, no. No, no, no, no, no.

SAM  
What?

HARRISON  
If you two are gonna start comparing notes, I am moving to Siberia. My fragile teenage male ego can't stand that kind of pressure.

BROOKE  
(laughing)  
Relax. Sam hasn't spilled any juicy details.

SAM  
Yet.

HARRISON  
(groaning)  
This is gonna be a nightmare, isn't it?

SAM  
Come on, Harrison. It's not like I'm writing a column for the paper.

HARRISON  
(warily)  
That's a joke, right?

SAM  
Yes, it's a joke! Lighten up!  
Jeez...

Harrison is spared any further embarrassment by the appearance of Dr. De Wolf.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

DE WOLF  
Good Morning, Brooke...Harrison.

BROOKE  
(gesturing)  
This is my sister, Sam.

Dr. De Wolf leans across the bed and shakes Sam's hand.

BROOKE (CONT'D)  
Is there something wrong, Doctor?  
Did our session switch to morning?

DE WOLF  
(reassuringly)  
No, nothing's wrong, Brooke.  
You've made remarkable progress.  
In fact, you've done so well that  
I've spoken to your other doctors,  
and recommended that your  
treatment be switched to three  
times a week, on an outpatient  
basis.

SAM  
Outpatient, as in, she gets to go  
home?

DE WOLF  
(smiling)  
As in, she gets to go home.  
Probably tomorrow. We want to run  
a few more tests, just to be on  
the safe side.

Sam leans over and hugs Brooke, who is a bit stunned.

BROOKE  
Oh my God...thank you, Doctor.  
Really, I...wow! I'm going home!

DE WOLF  
Now, remember, you still have a  
lot of work to do.

BROOKE  
(soberly)  
I understand.

DE WOLF  
I wish all my patients turned out  
as well as you have, Brooke.  
(beat)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (6)

DE WOLF (CONT'D)

Well, we won't have another session before you're discharged, but I'll check in on you tomorrow before you go.

BROOKE

Thank you so much, Doctor.

As Dr. De Wolf leaves, Sam and Harrison give Brooke a group hug.

BROOKE (CONT'D)

(laughing)

Okay, okay, you're smothering me.

Sam and Harrison break away, and Brooke brushes her hair back.

BROOKE (CONT'D)

Of course, you realize that having me home might cramp your style...

Harrison glares at Sam accusingly.

HARRISON

Sam!

SAM

(defensively)

I didn't say anything! Well, not much...

BROOKE

Okay, you know what? You guys need to go out and do something fun—and I don't mean something horizontal.

(beat)

Or, you know, not horizontal, depending...

HARRISON

SAM!

Sam throws her hands up.

SAM

I swear, I did not tell her about that!

BROOKE

What?? Did I guess something?  
What?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (7)

Sam points a finger at Brooke.

SAM  
Forget it!

BROOKE  
(grinning)  
Oh, I have got to get this out of  
you.

HARRISON  
Oh, God...

SAM  
No way—in fact, just to make sure  
I don't spill any beans, we're  
leaving right now.

Sam gets up and starts to walk out.

SAM (CONT'D)  
Harrison?

HARRISON  
Oh—yeah, right...coming.

Harrison gets up and follows Sam, leaving Brooke chuckling.  
Before he gets out the door, though, a thought strikes her.

BROOKE  
Hey—Harrison?

HARRISON  
(turning)  
Yeah?

BROOKE  
You know the arcade room at the  
bowling alley?

HARRISON  
Ceasar's? Yeah.

BROOKE  
Do they have an air hockey table?

HARRISON  
(frowning)  
I dunno... They mighta used to.  
Why?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (8)

BROOKE  
(shaking her head)  
No reason. Just wondering.  
(waving)  
Go on.

CUT TO:

INT. HOTEL ATRIUM

In the large open space a good-sized crowd is milling about; on an easel is a large sign proclaiming, "NUTRI-DIET PRESENTS: WEIGHT AND SELF-ESTEEM". Along one wall, lines snake away from registration tables. Just coming to the head of one of those lines is Carmen, who steps up to one of the tables.

CARMEN  
Carmen Ferrera?

The person sitting behind the table flips through a clipboard, and finally checks off a line. From a box she pulls a tag with Carmen's name on it, and a thick packet of materials, and hands them up to her.

REGISTRAR  
Here you go.

CARMEN  
Thanks.

Carmen turns away from the registration area, puts her tag on, and takes a long look around the atrium, deciding where to go first.

CUT TO:

EXT. THE HOSPITAL - LATER

Harrison and Sam are having a mild argument as they walk out the front door.

SAM  
...come on, Harrison, it's not  
like I told her...it's not like I  
told her anything!

HARRISON  
But you're going to. That's what  
counts.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SAM

No, I'm not. I swear— Besides, what about you? Don't tell me you aren't going to be bragging about your exploits in the locker room when school starts.

HARRISON

(wounded)

Sam, what do you take me for?

SAM

I dunno...a guy?

HARRISON

Well, some guys might do that...

I'M not going to.

(beat)

Unless you want me to...

Sam's answer is to shove him off the sidewalk and into the bushes, and walk off.

HARRISON (CONT'D)

Hey!! Is that a no?

Sam's cellphone rings; she stops to dig it out and answer it, allowing Harrison to run and catch up to her.

SAM

(into the phone)

Hello?

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. THE LAB

JOSH

Sam? It's Josh. Hey—have you seen Lily lately?

SAM

Not for a few days.

(accusingly)

Josh, you said you would make some time!

JOSH

I tried, really! There's just no time to make. I haven't even gone back to the motel the past few nights;

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JOSH (CONT'D)  
 there's a cot in the snack room  
 with my name on it. And I can't  
 even get Lily on the phone  
 now—all I've gotten the last  
 couple days is the machine. Look,  
 Cure the Bay is this weekend, and  
 I need to talk to her about it  
 before she comes up here.

SAM  
 (sighs)  
 All right, fine, I'll go check on  
 Lily and make sure she's all  
 right. But I'll be real happy  
 when you're back home.

JOSH  
 You're not the only one. Thanks,  
 Sam.

Sam puts the phone away.

HARRISON  
 What, Josh and Lily are still  
 having problems?

SAM  
 I don't know, I guess Josh's going  
 away to work wasn't a great idea  
 after all.

She glares at him.

SAM (CONT'D)  
You'd better not do that to me  
 when we're married.

Harrison gives her a very strange look.

SAM (CONT'D)  
 What??

He just shakes his head as they walk along.

CUT TO:

INT. HOTEL ATRIUM - LATER

The double doors to one of the auditoriums open, and people  
 spill out into the open area—including Carmen, who now has an  
 armful of literature.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Her nose buried in papers, trying to keep everything balanced, she winds up running smack into someone's sizable back. Tottering, she just manages to keep everything from flying into the air.

CARMEN

Oh, I'm sorry, I didn't see—

Then the other person turns—and turns out to be Sugar Daddy.

CARMEN (CONT'D)

—Sugar??

SUGAR

Hey, Carmen.

CARMEN

I didn't know you were here!

SUGAR

Yeah, I was over there—

(points)

—checking out what that nutrition guy was saying.

Carmen takes a step back and looks him over.

CARMEN

Hey, Sugar, you look good.

Sugar's eyes light up.

SUGAR

Ya think so? I was in this football camp all summer, man—bulking up, and no flab, either, all muscle. Only problem is, camp's over now, and I gotta find a way to keep off the old stuff your-face routine.

CARMEN

Oh, I know what you mean. I swore I would lose twenty pounds this summer, and I have—three times so far. It just gets really depressing.

SUGAR

Word. I know that track by heart.

Carmen points to her schedule.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

CARMEN

Hey, are you going to this one?

SUGAR

(looking)

"Fifty Ways to Leave Your Lunch"?

Yeah, I thought I would.

(beat)

Wanna come with?

CARMEN

(slightly giggly)

Sure!

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

EXT. JOSH AND LILY'S APARTMENT

Sam walks up to the front door and rings the bell. After a moment the door cracks open and Lily pokes her head out.

LILY  
Oh, hey, Sam.

SAM  
Lily? Something wrong?

LILY  
What—why?

SAM  
Well...you haven't invited me in.  
Something going on you don't want  
me to know about?

Lily sighs and opens the door. Sam steps through to find a living room that looks like a tornado hit it: furniture overturned and askew, various things smashed on the floor.

SAM (CONT'D)  
Did you get robbed?

LILY  
(annoyed)  
No, I did it.

SAM  
Oh...

Lily buries her face in her hands.

LILY  
I know, it's so unhealthy... I  
should be channeling my feelings.

Sam picks up a broken piece of something and examines it.

SAM  
Looks like you did a pretty good  
job of channeling—right into the  
furniture.

LILY  
You know what I mean!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SAM

Lily...I know you're upset, but, really, there's no reason. Josh is not cheating on you, your marriage is not in trouble—at least, nothing that a couple of nights alone won't fix.

For the first time a smile cracks Lily's face.

LILY

Yeah, it seems like you think sex is the answer to everything these days.

SAM

(grinning)

Shut up! It's bad enough I've got Brooke all over me; I don't need it from you, too.

LILY

(laughs)

Okay, okay...

They look over the wreckage of the room in silence.

SAM

I'm serious, though—what you and Josh need is some face-to-face time.

LILY

You know—I'm gonna do it.

SAM

What?

Lily walks over to a relatively undisturbed corner of the room where her computer sits. Lily bends over and starts tapping keys.

LILY

I'm gonna go up there. I'm gonna make him explain what's been going on. And don't try to talk me out of it, either. I'm supposed to go up there this weekend anyway—I might as well go early.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

SAM

Oh—no! I mean, I'm not. I totally agree, that's exactly what you should do.

Sam walks over to Lily's side.

SAM (CONT'D)

Here—

She takes the mouse and clicks here and there.

SAM (CONT'D)

When I went to San Francisco last year, I got a really cheap ticket price off this site.

LILY

So...you really think this is a good idea?

SAM

(nodding)

I think this is the best idea. Trust me.

CUT TO:

INT. HOTEL RESTAURANT - NOON

Sugar Daddy and Carmen are eating lunch.

CARMEN

(looking around)

You know, I thought the place would be emptier than this.

SUGAR

Bet no one's having pepperoni pizza.

CARMEN

Oh! Wasn't that the awful-est thing?!

SUGAR

I was really blown away by that professor, though. I mean, imagine—I've been eating the wrong stuff at the wrong time for years, and I never knew it!

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SUGAR (CONT'D)

Man, with his program, I am gonna be killer on the wrestling team this year.

CARMEN

You're going out for wrestling again?

SUGAR

After what happened last year, I got to, man. Gotta show 'em who's the lean, mean, wrestlin' machine.

CARMEN

(raising her glass)

The triumphant return of Sugar Daddy.

SUGAR

(clinking their glasses together)

Hey, I'll drink to that.

CARMEN

So, you going to anything this afternoon?

Sugar digs out his schedule and looks it over.

SUGAR

Ummmm, I dunno... You?

Carmen looks at her own copy of the schedule.

CARMEN

Uh...

CARMEN/SUGAR

(simultaneously)

"Exercising Without Exercising"!

SUGAR

(pointing)

Great minds...

CARMEN

(giggly)

Yeah...

CUT TO:

INT. BROOKE'S HOSPITAL ROOM

Brooke is sitting on the side of the bed, talking on the phone.

BROOKE

(into the phone)

No, Dad, you are not coming home a day early!... I will be fine for one day, don't worry... Yes, I know... I love you, too, Dad...  
Bye.

She leans over and hangs up the phone. Then, after a few moments' thought, she grips her tray table and slowly, laboriously gets to her feet, swaying slightly. Steadying herself, she starts to take tiny steps around the bed, holding onto the table. Behind her, unseen, Harrison appears in the doorway. She stumbles, and he rushes forward to catch her before she can fall.

BROOKE (CONT'D)

Harrison! You're doing that a lot lately...catching me, I mean.

HARRISON

I don't think you're supposed to be trying that by yourself yet.

Harrison helps Brooke up and back into bed.

BROOKE

I know... I just can't wait to get back to normal.

HARRISON

Yeah, I definitely remember that feeling.

BROOKE

(looking around)

Where's Sam?

HARRISON

Oh, she went to see Lily. I kinda...wanted to talk to you. Alone.

BROOKE

(rolls her eyes)

All right, all right, I promise—I won't try to worm any x-rated details out of Sam, okay?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HARRISON  
It's not that.

BROOKE  
(sobering)  
What is it?

Harrison sits down on the edge of the bed.

HARRISON  
Brooke, for the past few weeks  
you've been...well, you've been  
real supportive of me and Sam. In  
fact, you've been more than  
that...it seems like you've done  
everything you can to get us  
together.

BROOKE  
(shrugs)  
And?

Harrison takes a deep breath.

HARRISON  
If you don't mind...can I ask why?

BROOKE  
(smiles)  
Would you like it better if I were  
pouting and screaming and throwing  
things at you?

HARRISON  
No!  
(considers)  
Well, maybe a little.

BROOKE  
Harrison, it's okay. Really. I  
know how you feel, and I'll be  
okay with it.

HARRISON  
I dunno... You're just, you're  
being awfully...

BROOKE  
Mature?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

HARRISON  
(snaps his fingers)  
That's it—you're being way too  
mature about this.

Brooke giggles.

HARRISON (CONT'D)  
You know, it was kinda cool having  
two girls fight over me. Well...  
except for the part where you were  
both fighting with me.

Brooke lays her hand on his.

BROOKE  
If there were no Sam...if you  
didn't feel the way you do...I'd  
be all over you in a heartbeat.

HARRISON  
Well, that's something.

BROOKE  
Look, you and Sam have something  
really special, and I'm not going  
to be petty and vindictive and try  
to get in the way. Harrison, you  
are so lucky to have the person  
you love, love you back.

HARRISON  
(neutrally)  
Yeah.

BROOKE  
(concerned)  
What...? Oh my God, did I do  
something? I didn't mean to do  
anything...

HARRISON  
No, it's not... She just...said  
the weirdest thing this morning.

BROOKE  
What?

HARRISON  
Uh...never mind. It's not a big  
deal, I guess.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

BROOKE

You know what—you really oughta go and find her. Right now. Really, you don't have to babysit me on my last day before I leave.

HARRISON

I don't mind, you know...

Brooke pushes him off the bed.

BROOKE

Out!

HARRISON

Okay... See you later?

BROOKE

(grinning)

I'm sure. Now go, already. And stop worrying about me!

With a wave, Harrison backs out of the room. Once he's gone, the smile fades from Brooke's face, and she leans back, staring at the ceiling.

BROOKE (CONT'D)

(to herself)

Damn you, Nic. Love is not about popularity. I'll prove you wrong no matter what it takes.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

INT. BROOKE'S HOSPITAL ROOM - LATER

Lily is sitting by Brooke's bedside, showing her a small, smooth, translucent stone.

LILY  
All right, here's the meditation stone, and this is the book by Dr. Goulash.

Lily hands the stone and a small book to Brooke.

BROOKE  
(looking the stone over)  
Thanks... I hope this works.

LILY  
So, how's it coming? Harrison told me you've been having dreams?

BROOKE  
Have I—like, every night. I haven't been bothering Sam and Harrison with it lately, though.

LILY  
And you think these dreams are some kind of unconscious memory of a near-death experience?

BROOKE  
That I'm sure of, now.

LILY  
So what are these dreams like? I mean, what are they about?

BROOKE  
A lot of things—a lot of walking, a lot of empty space. Playing basketball.

LILY  
Basketball? I didn't know you played basketball, Brooke.

BROOKE  
I don't. So it must mean something, right?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LILY

I guess. I mean, I've always believed in the power of the subconscious.

BROOKE

Oh—you know who's in a lot of them? You remember Clarence?

LILY

Harrison's roommate when he was here with leukemia? The one who died?

BROOKE

Yeah. It's really weird. I only talked to him a few times here before he died—but he's all over my dreams. I don't know what that means.

LILY

Well, use the stone. It's always worked for me in the past.

BROOKE

Thanks.

Brooke puts the stone and book aside.

BROOKE (CONT'D)

Now...tell me about you and Josh.

LILY

(shrugs)

I don't know what there is to tell. I'm flying up there this afternoon to have it out with him.

BROOKE

Look, Sam told me a little bit about it. Lily, I am SURE he's not cheating on you.

LILY

I don't want to believe that either, but...I don't know, maybe what we have isn't what I thought. Maybe he's not really, truly in love with me after all. Maybe he's just had a "thing" for me.

Brooke shakes her head and looks intently at Lily.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

BROOKE

He never had a "thing" for you, Lily. I know what that looks like. It's not what's in him when he looks at you. Anyone could see that.

LILY

I used to think that too, but—

BROOKE

No buts. Look, I am the last person to be giving anyone romantic advice, but I know you can't solve anything by just shutting down and locking the people you love out. I've tried that. It didn't work.

LILY

Sam thinks it's a good idea, too.

BROOKE

Well, she's smarter than I am in that department these days.

LILY

Oh, Brooke, I'm sorry...

BROOKE

No, no. You and everyone else can stop tiptoeing around the subject. Sam loves Harrison. Harrison loves Sam. End of story.

LILY

Still...I guess you aren't very used to this. Losing out, I mean.

BROOKE

(shakes her head)

I don't look at it like that at all. I didn't "lose" Harrison. It's not some competition between me and Sam. Love isn't a contest. Love is...love. You can't win it, or lose it. It just is. Or... isn't. If you don't have it, there's nothing you can do about it.

She leans over and gives Lily a significant look.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

BROOKE (CONT'D)

But if you do have it, it's the easiest thing in the world to hold onto. It doesn't go away—not even if it moves to Monterey for a couple months.

Lily shakes her head reflectively.

LILY

I'm kinda glad we aren't in opposing cliques anymore.

BROOKE

I'm kinda glad, too.  
(chuckles)  
I can't even imagine some of the things I did. I was so immature.

She lowers her eyes at Lily.

BROOKE (CONT'D)

You were always mature.

LILY

Ha! I remember some really stupid things...principled and politically correct, maybe, but really stupid.  
(shrugs)  
That's what growing up is all about, right?

BROOKE

I sure did that in a hurry.

LILY

Yeah, having your best friend run you over'll do that, I guess.

BROOKE

Ex-best friend. I think I've got better friends now.

LILY

(smiling)  
Yeah, you do.

Lily gets up.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

LILY (CONT'D)

Remember, read the book and use the stone. You'll find what you're looking for.

BROOKE

Thanks again. Hey, tell Josh he'd better clean up his act and remember that you're his wife...or else his ex-girlfriend'll come beat him up.

LILY

(laughs)

I'll tell him.

Lily leaves; after she's gone, Brooke settles back in bed and, after a moment, picks up the book and begins to read.

CUT TO:

EXT. A CITY STREET

Harrison is walking along, hands in his pockets, with Sam tagging along a half-step behind.

SAM

Uh, Harrison...

HARRISON

(distantly)

Hm?

SAM

(suggestively)

You know, with Brooke coming home tomorrow, and Mom and Mike coming home the day after...we really oughta do something.

HARRISON

Mm? Oh, I guess we should plan some kind of party. Maybe we should combine the two.

SAM

Okay, yeah, but that's not really what I was looking for... Are you coming over tonight?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HARRISON  
(distracted)  
Huh? Oh—yeah, sure.

Sam stops and runs her hands through her hair, aggravated.

SAM  
Okay, Harrison, just stop.

He turns and looks back at her.

HARRISON  
What?

SAM  
Look, obviously I've done something to make you mad, but I really have no idea what.

HARRISON  
I'm not...mad, Sam.

SAM  
Well, you're something. You're acting like you don't even know me.

She takes his hands.

SAM (CONT'D)  
Come on, Harrison. Please, don't do this to me. What is it?

HARRISON  
It's... I was just a little thrown this morning.

SAM  
(shakes her head)  
What? When?

HARRISON  
You said...something about...us being married...

Sam squeezes her eyes shut and rubs them.

SAM  
Oh, God... Okay, I totally did not mean that in any serious way. It was a stupid, silly thing to say, and I did not mean to freak you out. Forget I said it, okay?

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

SAM (CONT'D)  
Just completely delete it from  
your memory.

HARRISON  
You don't...I mean...

SAM  
No! Harrison, I'm seventeen, and,  
yes, I love you, but, no, I do not  
want to get married. Not for a  
long while. There's lots of  
things I want to do before I  
become Mrs...anybody.

She closes in, lays her arms on his shoulders and locks her  
hands together behind his neck.

SAM (CONT'D)  
Okay?

HARRISON  
Yeah. I guess...this just still  
seems...new...to me. You know,  
it's not like I have a lot of  
experience with this stuff.

Sam lays her head on his shoulder.

SAM  
Yeah...me either.

HARRISON  
Hey, at least you had a boyfriend  
before this.  
(beat)  
I'm just lucky I fell in love with  
an older and wiser woman.

Sam makes a face at him and swats him on the arm.

SAM  
Hey! I am, what, five months  
older than you? Let's not go  
there.

Grinning, Harrison puts his arm around Sam's shoulder as they  
head on down the street.

CUT TO:

EST. THE INSTITUTE - AFTERNOON

FADE TO:

INT. THE INSTITUTE'S LOBBY

Like many lobbies, this one has a security guard seated behind a wide, semi-circular desk. Lily walks through the front doors, looks around, and approaches the desk.

GUARD

Can I help you, Ma'am?

LILY

Yes, I'm looking for Josh Ford?  
He works here.

GUARD

And you are...?

LILY

Lily. Ford. I'm his wife.

GUARD

I'm sorry, Ma'am, but no visitors  
are allowed inside unless it's  
been cleared by the Director.

Just then Dr. Bennett walks through a side door, nose buried in a folder. She looks up and stops short when she sees Lily.

BENNETT

Hey, are...? You're Lily, right?  
Josh's wife?

LILY

(confused)  
Yes, but—

BENNETT

I've seen your picture. Oh...

She extends her hand.

BENNETT (CONT'D)

I'm Tina Bennett.

Lily's eyes widen in recognition as she shakes Dr. Bennett's hand.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LILY  
You're Dr. Bennett? Josh talks a lot about you.

BENNETT  
(laughs)  
Not nearly as much as he talks about you, I bet.  
(to the guard)  
Tom, can you get Mrs. Ford here a visitor's pass?

GUARD  
That's against policy, Ma'am.

BENNETT  
(insistently)  
Tom—please.

GUARD  
Yes, Ma'am.

As the guard busies himself, Lily looks Dr. Bennett over unobtrusively. The guard hands Lily a pass and a clipboard.

GUARD (CONT'D)  
Could you sign in, please.

Lily scrawls her name on the clipboard and hands it back to the guard, and fixes the pass onto her blouse.

BENNETT  
Come on. I'll take you to Josh.

CUT TO:

INT. INSTITUTE CORRIDOR - MOMENTS LATER

BENNETT  
Sorry about that—we had some vandalism problems recently, and the place is on a security kick.

LILY  
Oh—I didn't know.

BENNETT  
(surprised)  
Really? Josh was instrumental in apprehending the vandals. Didn't he tell you?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LILY

No... He said there were problems, but...not really.

(beat)

We haven't been talking much at all lately.

BENNETT

I know. This time of year is just insane. Technically it's illegal, but we've been pulling eighteen hour shifts just to keep up.

That's why we hire interns in the first place—their families don't miss them when they disappear for a couple of weeks. We just don't get many with spouses, is all.

They turn a corner.

BENNETT (CONT'D)

I should warn you, you'll probably have to wake him up. Around this time, when people aren't working, they're usually sleeping.

CUT TO:

INT. THE INSTITUTE'S SNACK ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Dr. Bennett opens the door to the snack room and shows Lily in. Sure enough, Josh is curled up on a cot against the far wall, sound asleep.

BENNETT

(hushed)

I'll leave you two alone.

Dr. Bennett backs out. Lily walks over to Josh, and, looking down at him, can't resist smiling. Then she reaches down and taps his shoulder.

LILY

Josh? Jo-osh...

Josh stirs, groaning, and finally opens his eyes.

JOSH

(rubbing his eyes)

Honey? Am I home?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LILY  
No, baby, you're not home. I'm  
here.

Josh sits up groggily, and Lily sits down on the cot beside  
him.

JOSH  
But, what—what are you doing  
here?

LILY  
I got worried about you.

JOSH  
Aw, honey, I'm sorry. I've just  
been so busy...

LILY  
I know. I heard. It sounds like  
you've made a real impression  
here.

JOSH  
Yeah, it's not a bad job... Well,  
until a couple of weeks ago. Then  
all this work starting piling  
in...

He shakes his head to clear it, and when he looks over at  
Lily, a loopy grin covers his face.

JOSH (CONT'D)  
You came all the way up here just  
because you were worried about me?

Lily gets up and starts pacing nervously.

LILY  
I didn't just get worried. I  
got...mad, and...jealous.

JOSH  
Jealous? Of what?

She turns to face him.

LILY  
Josh, be absolutely straight with  
me, okay? Is there someone else?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

JOSH  
(shocked)  
What? Lily, you're not serious!  
How can you even ask something  
like that?!

LILY  
It's just—

Josh jumps up.

JOSH  
Hang on—stay right there!

Before Lily can say a word, Josh rushes out of the room, leaving her standing there open-mouthed.

CUT TO:

INT. THE LAB

Josh rushes in, heads straight for his table, and begins sifting hurriedly through the mounds of papers there. Frustrated, he bangs his hand on the table as Dr. Bennett comes in.

JOSH  
Dr. Bennett, do you remember—?

BENNETT  
(interrupting)  
They're in your locker.

JOSH  
Right. Thanks!

Dr. Bennett watches Josh run out, shaking her head in amusement.

CUT TO:

INT. THE INSTITUTE'S LOCKER ROOM

Josh heads pell-mell for one of the lockers, opens it, and pulls out a small box. Slamming the locker door shut, he runs out again.

CUT TO:

## INT. THE INSTITUTE'S SNACK ROOM

Lily is still standing, arms crossed, when Josh hurries back in. He takes her by the arm and leads her over to one of the circular tables, sitting her down and then sitting down himself across from her. He takes the box and sets it down between them.

JOSH

Before things got so crazy...I got this for you. I was going to come home to give it to you, but then I couldn't get any time off at all. But you're here now, so...

He opens the box and lifts out the sapphire ring. As Lily gapes at the sight, he takes her unresisting hand and slips the ring on her finger.

JOSH (CONT'D)

Whew—it fits.

He takes the gold band out box and puts it on his own finger.

JOSH (CONT'D)

I even got one for myself. Mine didn't cost anything, though.

LILY

Oh, my God... Josh, this is... oh my God. How...?

JOSH

Tina—Dr. Bennett—she helped. I got them from her uncle. Well, he's not really her uncle, just an old family friend. But I got them for way less than I woulda otherwise.

LILY

(shaking her head)

Wait...when did you do this?

JOSH

Oh, a couple weeks ago, right before everything got nuts. I didn't know your ring size, though, so I had to call Sam and get her to find out without you finding out what was going on. But the guy delivered it right here.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Lily looks skyward.

LILY  
That's what the message was  
about...

JOSH  
Message?

LILY  
(blushing)  
Huh? Oh...never mind. Josh, I  
can't believe you did this!

JOSH  
I knew you wouldn't want a  
diamond, so I got a sapphire. And  
it's not nearly as expensive as it  
looks, either.

LILY  
It's beautiful, Josh. It really  
is.

JOSH  
(hopeful)  
So...you're not worried anymore?

LILY  
(sighs)  
No, I'm not worried. Or mad, or  
jealous. I feel kinda like an  
idiot.

JOSH  
Well, you should. Lily, I can't  
believe you thought I was fooling  
around.

LILY  
I know...Sam kept telling me it  
was nothing. Baby, I'm sorry. I  
just go crazy when you're not  
around.

Josh leans over and is this close to kissing Lily when the  
door opens and Dr. Bennett walks in. Josh stands up  
hurriedly, with Lily getting up behind him.

JOSH  
Do you need me back there, Dr.  
Bennett?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Dr. Bennett puts her hands out in a calming motion.

BENNETT

No, no, Josh...in fact, Rodriguez and Delany are going to cover your terminal, so you can take your wife and get out of here for the rest of the day.

JOSH

Really? Just like that?

BENNETT

(grinning)

No, you're going to owe them big time later on...but isn't it worth it?

Josh looks at Lily, puts his arm around her shoulder and gets a loopy grin himself.

JOSH

Yeah, it is.

BENNETT

So? Go on, get out of here... before some emergency crops up that we really can't spare you from.

Josh grabs Lily's hand and practically pulls her out of the room.

JOSH

Thanks, Dr. Bennett!

BENNETT

(calling after)

Nice meeting you, Lily!

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

EXT. HOTEL ENTRANCE - LATE AFTERNOON

Bunches of people are leaving the hotel at the end of the event; among them are Sugar Daddy and Carmen. They stop on the sidewalk outside, letting people flow around them.

CARMEN  
(awkwardly)  
So...I had a good time today.

SUGAR  
Yeah, me too. I mean, I wasn't really down with this whole weight thing at first, but...I don't know, it kinda helped having somebody you know there.

CARMEN  
Yeah, me too.

A long silence stretches between them.

CARMEN (CONT'D)  
So...

SUGAR  
You know...if you want...we could...

CARMEN  
Sure...

SUGAR  
I mean, not this, but... something...

CARMEN  
(laughs nervously)  
Yeah... I'd like that.

SUGAR  
Cool. So...um...

Carmen reaches into her purse, pulls out a slip a paper and a pen, and jots her phone number down on it.

CARMEN  
(handing the paper over)  
Here. You could call me.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Sugar Daddy looks the paper over and puts it in his pocket.

SUGAR  
Yeah... I'll definitely do that.

CARMEN  
Great. So...I'd better...

SUGAR  
Oh, yeah...

She starts backing away.

CARMEN  
So, I'll...talk to you.

SUGAR  
Yeah... I'll call.

CARMEN  
Okay...

Finally she turns and heads down the sidewalk, a grin spreading across her face.

CUT TO:

INT. JOSH'S MOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Josh and Lily are lying in bed.

JOSH  
So...you're not still jealous,  
right?

LILY  
(laughing)  
No... Can't you tell? It's a  
good thing I never met your Dr.  
Bennett before, though. I really  
would've been bouncing off the  
walls.

JOSH  
Huh?

LILY  
Come on, Josh! She's brilliant,  
she's gorgeous...

JOSH  
Um...I guess so.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LILY

Josh, I know you're not blind.  
She's a total knockout.

JOSH

Okay, yeah... But, you know, it's  
hard to think of her like that. I  
mean, she's my boss and all.

LILY

You were never tempted?

JOSH

Lily!

LILY

I'm kidding!

(beat)

Man, I wish I didn't have to go  
home.

JOSH

You know, Cure the Bay's this  
weekend. Maybe you could just  
stay til then.

LILY

I didn't pack that much.

JOSH

So, you can go shopping, right?

LILY

We can't spend all this money! We  
have to pay Sam back, and have  
some left over to keep up with the  
rent. And Cure the Bay's gonna  
cost a lot anyway.

Josh props himself up on one elbow.

JOSH

Oh, I was gonna tell you—it won't  
cost all that much. The Institute  
is one of the bigwigs there, and  
they're gonna send me, like,  
officially, and they're gonna pay  
for everything.

LILY

Josh! That's wonderful! How come  
they're doing that?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

JOSH

Oh...they just kinda like me now.

LILY

That Dr. Bennett said something about you catching some vandals? You never mentioned that to me.

JOSH

Well, I was gonna...but then I started working twenty-four-seven. Anyway, I was just doing my job.

LILY

Well, it must have been more than that. It sounds like they're treating you like a hero.

JOSH

Oh, that reminds me...Dr. Rutherford—he's the big boss—he invited us to dinner afterwards. So you have to get one of those fancy dresses.

(beat)

Hey, Lily?

LILY

Huh?

JOSH

What's going on with you and Mary Cherry? People keep mentioning her name, and then they won't talk about it.

LILY

Oh...it's nothing. It's over. I guess.

JOSH

(shaking his head)

What's over?

LILY

I just helped her out a couple jams, that's all.

JOSH

You and Mary Cherry... That's a weird picture.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

LILY  
I'll tell you my story if you tell  
me yours.

JOSH  
(settling in)  
Well, as soon as I got here, I  
could tell there were some people  
who didn't like me...

FADE TO:

EST. L.A. SKYLINE - MORNING

A typically smoggy morning.

CUT TO:

INT. MCQUEEN KITCHEN

Sam is fixing herself a bowl of cereal when Harrison comes  
down the stairs, limping and wincing.

SAM  
How's the knee?

He fixes a glare on her.

HARRISON  
You are a dangerous woman to be  
around, Sam.

SAM  
(shrugging)  
I'm sorry! It looked a lot more  
fun when I saw it on Cinemax.

HARRISON  
Sam...they were acting.

SAM  
(sighs)  
Can I at least tell Brooke not to  
try it on the dining room table?

Harrison painfully climbs up on the stool next to Sam.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HARRISON

When Brooke gets a new boyfriend,  
and if it looks like they might do  
something that dumb, then you can  
warn her. Just don't tell her how  
you know.

Sam giggles at that idea.

SAM

(grinning)  
Okay, I won't.

HARRISON

So, is everything ready?

SAM

(nods)  
I have the den all set up for  
Brooke to sleep in, so she won't  
have to climb the stairs.

Sam reaches down and puts her hand on Harrison's knee.

HARRISON

(wincing)  
Ow! Be careful!

SAM

Are you sure you don't want to see  
a doctor? We are going to the  
hospital, after all.

HARRISON

I think it's just bruised.

She cozies up to him.

SAM

Maybe I should kiss it and make it  
feel better?

He takes her by the shoulders and holds her at arm's length.

HARRISON

Sam...take a cold shower.

Harrison slides off the stool and limps away, while Sam digs  
at her cereal, pouting.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

SAM  
Spoilsport.

CUT TO:

INT. BROOKE'S HOSPITAL ROOM - LATER

Brooke is sitting on the side of the bed again, this time dressed in street clothes. Harrison walks in and breaks into a grin.

HARRISON  
Wow, you look great.

BROOKE  
(suspiciously)  
I thought you told me one time I looked great in a hospital gown.

HARRISON  
Naw, I lied. You looked awful.

Brooke giggles.

HARRISON (CONT'D)  
So, ready to go home?

BROOKE  
(spreading her hands)  
Is now a good time?

HARRISON  
Sam's downstairs, making sure all the paperwork's taken care of.

BROOKE  
Yeah, and I think I have to get wheeled out of here, anyway.

HARRISON  
You don't really wanna walk, do you?

BROOKE  
Well, I want to, but...

HARRISON  
Don't worry. You will. Soon.

Harrison notices the meditation stone, which Brooke is continually turning over in her hand.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HARRISON (CONT'D)

What's that?

BROOKE

Lily gave it to me. It's for meditating. She thought it might help.

HARRISON

(making a face)

Are you still on that?

Brooke puts her hands on her hips.

BROOKE

Harrison, why are you so dead set against me trying to figure out what happened while I was in that coma? All you've done is try to discourage me.

HARRISON

I...I just don't know what good it's gonna do. What difference does it make now if anything happened?

BROOKE

(indignant)

Harrison! I almost died! Be a little more sensitive, will you?

HARRISON

I just mean, you're here now. It's done. You should just let it go.

BROOKE

God! What are you so afraid of?

HARRISON

Who—who says I'm afraid of anything?

BROOKE

(peering at him)

That's it, isn't it? You're afraid I'll find out something.

HARRISON

(harshly)

That's silly, Brooke. What could I possibly be afraid of?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

BROOKE

I don't know—you were in the hospital, too. Maybe it's just too close to home.

HARRISON

Okay, stop.

Brooke is struck by a thought, and her eyes widen.

BROOKE

Wait—that is it. It happened to you, too.

HARRISON

What?! You're just talking crazy now, Brooke.

But Brooke isn't listening to him; she's concentrating.

BROOKE

You...you were going to kill yourself.

HARRISON

(annoyed)

What—? What are you, Miss Cleo now?

BROOKE

Right after Clarence died, when they couldn't find you and you were on the roof—you were going to commit suicide.

HARRISON

(shaking his head)

Look, okay, maybe I went up there feeling sorry for myself, but that doesn't mean—

BROOKE

Clarence stopped you.

HARRISON

(incredulous)

Clarence was dead!

BROOKE

He came to you. Like...like a guide. Or an angel.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

Harrison, becoming more agitated by the second, starts pacing nervously.

HARRISON

Look, I don't know where you're getting this from—okay, I fell asleep, and I had a dream—

BROOKE

He showed you what the world would have been like if you'd never been born.

Harrison stops and rounds on her, gaping.

HARRISON

There is no way you could have known that!

BROOKE

Clarence told me. He said...he said you were his first assignment, and...what did he say...? The whole "It's a Wonderful Life" thing...it's corny but it works.

HARRISON

(pleading)

Brooke, I don't know what you're doing, but I want you to stop.

But by this time Brooke is zoned out again.

BROOKE

(awestruck)

I remember...everything makes sense now...I remember Clarence telling me...I was in between...I had to choose to live or die... And Mackenzie...I remember playing basketball with Mackenzie! When she's my age... Oh my God, I remember everything now! And... and...

A bit of the euphoria fades as she turns back to Harrison.

BROOKE (CONT'D)

You and Sam...it's going to work out fine with you two... I know. I saw.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

Harrison comes over and takes Brooke's hands in his.

HARRISON  
Brooke...I know it might seem like  
all these dreams fit together into  
some kind of story... But it's  
not real! They're just dreams!

BROOKE  
(tearing away)  
No! It was real!

He runs his hand through his hair, anguished.

HARRISON  
(turning away)  
Look, I know...

As he turns, Brooke reaches out and catches his arm.

BROOKE  
What?? What do you know?!

HARRISON  
I know...I know what it's like, to  
have a dream that seems so real,  
that you think it's actually  
happening.

BROOKE  
What do you mean?!

Harrison shakes his head.

BROOKE (CONT'D)  
Come on, Harrison! Tell me!

Harrison paces to the side of the room, gathering himself.

HARRISON  
When... Before you woke up...I  
was with you. I was...right  
there...by your side... It was  
late...I was tired...I must have  
fallen asleep...

Brooke shrugs helplessly.

HARRISON (CONT'D)  
(near tears)  
I had a dream... I dreamt...I  
dreamt that you were going away...  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

HARRISON (CONT'D)  
 you were...choosing...to go  
 away... There was this...  
 light...and you were walking into  
 it... And...I wanted to stop  
 you...I tried to stop you...but I  
 couldn't...I couldn't do  
 anything...

Harrison trails off, but Brooke, who has been staring off in the distance thinking, turns to look at him now in astonishment.

BROOKE  
 But you did.

HARRISON  
 (shaking his head)  
 No, Brooke...

BROOKE  
 (concentrating)  
 I remember... The light...white  
 light... I wanted to end it... I  
 was going to... And then—you  
 were there, and...

HARRISON  
 (teary)  
 Brooke, please...

BROOKE  
 ...and you said...you said...

She stops and looks up at him, her own eyes brimming with tears.

BROOKE (CONT'D)  
 ...you love me???

BLACK OUT.

END OF ACT FOUR

THE END