

FROZEN IN LOVE

Story by

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ACT ONE

FADE IN:

1 INT. MARY'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - DAY 1

As the OPENING CREDITS roll, we meet MARY CARTWRIGHT (30s), bookishly cute in a friendly librarian kind of way. She is as buttoned down as her apartment where there is a place for everything and everything is in its place. She is not fussy or priggish, just a woman who likes things to be "just so." After making sure the kitchen is tidy, she gets bundled up in a hat, gloves, coat, and scarf and leaves the apartment.

2 EXT. MARY'S APARTMENT - DAY 2

We see Mary coming down the steps from her upstairs apartment and out into the chilly Denver, Colorado air. She takes a moment to appreciate her charming, suburban neighborhood and then walks the ten feet or so to the front door of the "On the Same Page Bookstore," which is directly under her apartment. Next to the door is a stack of newspapers. She picks them up, uses a key to open the door, and goes inside.

3 INT. BOOKSTORE - DAY 3

The store is just as organized as her apartment, a charming space with shelves holding new fiction and non-fiction books organized in fun themes ("Heroic Women without Capes," "Aigh! Dragons!"), plus a small newsstand with papers and magazines. The centerpiece is a fireplace with two wing-backed chairs next to it facing several other chairs. A sign says "JOIN US FOR THE ON THE SAME PAGE BOOK CHATS - EVERY THURSDAY AT 7PM." Mary turns on the lights.

4 INT. BOOKSTORE - LATER 4

Later in the day, Mary's brother TYLER CARTWRIGHT (MID 20s, probably spent more time playing sports than studying) is at the counter and there is one solitary CUSTOMER looking at travel books - a colorful tome about Bali. Mary approaches.

MARY

Are you thinking of a trip to Bali?

CUSTOMER

Dreaming about it, maybe.

MARY

Well, go in the spring before the high season starts. It's less busy and the weather is gorgeous.

CUSTOMER

Have you been?

MARY

Me? No. But I've read that book from cover to cover. It's almost like I've been there.

Mary picks up another book about Australia.

MARY (CONT'D)

And while you're in the area, you know Australia is not too far away. It's so beautiful. It would be a shame to miss it.

CUSTOMER

You went to Australia?

MARY

No, just another great book.

Mary smiles confidently.

5

INT. BOOKSTORE - NIGHT

5

That evening, Tyler and Mary settle into the wing-back chairs by the fireplace. There are a handful of BOOK CHAT MEMBERS seated in the chairs.

TYLER

Okay, so I think we know everyone but for the record, I'm Tyler and this is my sister Mary and we're here for Book Chat. Mary... what are we chatting about tonight?

When Mary talks she is a little reticent, halting - nowhere near as outgoing as her brother.

MARY

(holds up book)  
"The Great Gatsby" by F. Scott Fitzgerald. This is one of my favorite books...

TYLER

You say that every week.

MARY  
 (laughs)  
 Well, what can I say? I have a lot  
 of favorite books.

She looks around the store lovingly, as if the volumes on the shelves were her own children.

MARY (CONT'D)  
 The whole world is here.

Tyler takes a beat and then turns back to the gathering.

TYLER  
 Okay. So who wants to go first?  
 (points)  
 Ira. What did you think?

As Tyler and the book club member start to talk, Mary listens intently, smiling and nodding, but not really engaging in the way that the gregarious Tyler does.

6 INT. BOOKSTORE - LATER 6

At the end of the night Mary gets bundled up in her hat, gloves, coat, and scarf, turns off the lights, and leaves.

7 EXT. MARY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT 7

She walks the ten feet to the door to her apartment and looks around her neighborhood with a smile. This is a woman who is content with the way things are and as the OPENING CREDITS END, she goes inside.

8 EXT. BOOKSTORE - DAY 8

Establishing shot of the bookstore.

9 INT. BOOKSTORE - DAY 9

It's a new day and Mary is back behind the counter, drinking coffee out of a big mug that says "On the Same Page Bookstore," as Tyler comes in tossing a football in the air. Mary scowls and reaches out to grab it from him.

TYLER  
 Hey, give it back.

MARY  
 This is not a gym.

TYLER

You don't play football in a gym.

MARY

You don't play it in a bookstore either. I thought you had your study group today.

TYLER

I did. We quizzed each other while we were tossing the ball around.

MARY

Tyler, I love that you decided to go to business school but you have to take this...

TYLER

(overlaps)

...seriously, I know. I am.

MARY

(holds up the ball)

This does not look serious.

TYLER

(joking)

Only because you've never seen my touchdown dance. I could demonstrate.

MARY

(smiles)

I'm good, thanks.

TYLER

(goes to computer)

Did you run the year end reports?

MARY

I did. It's not bad...

TYLER

(eyes wide)

Mary, one of the first things we learned in business school is that numbers in red are not good.

MARY

This is always a slow time. It'll pick up.

TYLER

Have you talked to Mom and Dad?

MARY

No, and we're not going to. They retired. This is our problem now.

TYLER

Then we really need to talk about modernizing the store.

MARY

We have a website. We have a Facebook page.

TYLER

So, we're competitive with ten years ago. What about the interactive stations where people can get more information while they read or an app?

MARY

On the Same Page has been here for forty years because we're traditional. A place where you can pick up a book and have a conversation with another human being about it. We're not a virtual reality arcade gaming...

TYLER

You have no idea what you're saying, do you?

MARY

No, but the point is that we have survived by being who we are, not trying to be something we're not.

TYLER

What about the anniversary party?

MARY

I'm going Downtown today to see Janet Dunleavy, that old friend from college that I told you about?

TYLER

The one that runs the big PR firm?

MARY

She offered to help us.

TYLER

(teasing)

She must be a big deal if you're going all the way Downtown. That's quite an adventure for you.

MARY

Is this the part where you're taking things seriously?

Tyler smiles and starts to walk away but notices the front page of the newspaper. He picks it up and we see a picture of hockey player ADAM CLAYBORN appearing to be arguing with a referee. The headline says "CHIEFS RILE REF; CLAYBORN BOOTED!"

TYLER

Oh, man. He did it again.

MARY

Who did what?

TYLER

Adam Clayborn. The Denver Chiefs hockey player. He got into it with a referee and they booted him from the game.

MARY

Hockey. That's the one with the orange ball that you bounce up and down, right?

TYLER

Sometimes I really can't tell when you're joking.

MARY

I know what hockey is. I just don't care about some guy on cleats getting kicked out of a silly game.

TYLER

Skates. Hockey is on skates.

MARY

(beat)

I know. Go away.

Tyler laughs and drops the paper on the rack. We focus on the photo of Adam.

10

INT. CHUCK'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

10

Tight on ADAM CLAYBORN (30s), handsomely scruffy, asleep on a couch in the comfortable living room of Chuck Foreman's house. His slumber is interrupted by BRANDON FOREMAN (4) who basically jumps on his head with glee.

BRANDON

Uncle Adam!!

ADAM

Whoa! Hey, Brandon. Good morning!

BRANDON

Can we play monster?

ADAM

(laughs)

Sure!

Adam sits up and looks at Brandon stone-faced for a moment then makes a scary face, turns his hands into "claws," and makes a monster noise. Delighted, Brandon laughs and screams and runs out of the room just as CHUCK FOREMAN (30s, athletic hockey player type), enters.

CHUCK

(to Adam)

It's a little early for monster isn't it?

ADAM

It is never too early for games that amuse four-year-olds.

CHUCK

Or the grown-ups who act like them?

ADAM

It is too early for a lecture.

CHUCK

Well, then maybe you should've slept at your place instead of crashing on my couch.

ADAM

The press was camped out at my place. I wasn't in the mood.

CHUCK

Erica has been calling you all morning and when she couldn't find you, she started calling me.



ADAM

Did you tell her I was here?

CHUCK

No, but I think she knew. She's got, like, powers or something.

ADAM

Chuck, she's the president of a hockey team, not a wizard.

CHUCK

She's really mad at you.

ADAM

Erica is always mad at me.

CHUCK

Because you keep causing trouble and costing us games!

ADAM

No, it's because we dated years ago and she hasn't gotten over the fact that I broke up with her.

CHUCK

(sits on couch)

I'm pretty sure it's the whole losing part. This is the third time this season.

ADAM

Chuck, when we were on the team in Texas we were the wild ones! What happened to you?

CHUCK

I got traded to Denver. I met Shelly, got married, had a kid. I grew up. You should try it.

ADAM

What? And lose my childlike sense of wonder?

CHUCK

Look, I'm the one who convinced Erica to bring you here and she only did it because I promised her that you had changed. They kicked you off the Texas team because of stuff like this. And Seattle and New Jersey and...

ADAM

New Jersey was not my fault. The guy on the other team started it.

CHUCK

According to you, the guy on the other team *always* starts it. Adam, if Erica drops you from the team...

ADAM

She's not going to drop me.

Adam's phone buzzes again. The caller ID says it's Erica.

CHUCK

Okay... then answer the phone.

Adam watches it ring and lets it go to voice mail. It says he has 23 messages.

ADAM

I need coffee first.

Chuck shrugs and gets up leaving Adam to stare at his phone.

11

EXT. DENVER SUBURBAN STREET - DAY

11

Adam, shivering in a too-light jacket and wearing sunglasses against the snow glare is walking down the street. He looks around at the stores and shops, none of which are coffee places, until he sees the On the Same Page bookstore across the street.

ADAM

(disdain)

Bookstore coffee.

He shrugs and heads toward the store.

12

INT. BOOKSTORE - DAY

12

Mary is arranging books on a display in the otherwise empty store when Adam comes in. He is unkempt and unshaven so she has a moment of "who is this guy?" but then she puts on her best customer service smile.

MARY

Hi, can I help you?

ADAM

Coffee. Black.

MARY

We don't have coffee.

Adam looks at Mary's coffee cup sitting on the counter then looks back at her.

MARY (CONT'D)

Oh, no, that's...

ADAM

I'll take whatever you've got. Except none of that weird flavored stuff. If I wanted hazelnuts in my coffee, I'd go to... wherever hazelnuts are from.

MARY

Oh, well, that's interesting!  
(gets a book from a shelf)  
They used to think they came from Damascus but then they found evidence that points to Scotland almost nine-thousand years ago...

ADAM

Can I just get my coffee?

MARY

We don't have coffee!

ADAM

Oh, okay, I get it. I have to buy a book to get a cup of coffee?

MARY

No, you have to buy a book because it's a bookstore.

ADAM

Look, fine... Here...

He grabs a random book off a shelf and holds it out to her. She takes the book. It's about quilt making.

MARY

Quilt making?

ADAM

(dryly)  
You got a problem with that?

MARY

(rings up book)  
Nope. That'll be \$16.49.

Adam scrounges through his pants pockets and comes up with a crumpled twenty dollar bill. He hands it to her.

ADAM  
Now can I get the coffee?

MARY  
(speaks slowly)  
We... don't... have... coffee.

ADAM  
This is a bookstore! All  
bookstores have coffee!

MARY  
No, they don't. This one doesn't.

ADAM  
Then why did I just buy that book?

MARY  
Because you need a hobby?

ADAM  
I *need* a cup of coffee.

MARY  
And we're right back where we  
started.

He pushes the book on the counter toward her.

ADAM  
I want my money back.

She points at a sign on the wall saying "All Sales Final - No Returns." She pushes the book back toward him.

ADAM (CONT'D)  
You don't take returns?

MARY  
People read books and then bring  
them back expecting a refund.

ADAM  
I just bought it sixty seconds ago!

MARY  
That's our policy. No exceptions.

ADAM  
Look, I...

His phone rings. He looks at it and once again it is Erica. He starts to ignore it but then sees the newspaper with the "CLAYBORN BOOTED" headline and it freaks him out a little.

ADAM (CONT'D)  
 (shakes his head)  
 Great.  
 (to Mary)  
 You know what? Never mind. I'll go find a real bookstore somewhere.

He turns and heads toward the door.

MARY  
 Uh, sir?

He stops and looks back at her. She is holding out the book.

MARY (CONT'D)  
 Aren't you forgetting something?

He scowls but then goes back and takes the book from her, tucks it under his arm, and marches out with his head high.

MARY (CONT'D)  
 (shakes her head)  
 Arrogant...

She returns to her display.

13 EXT. BOOKSTORE - DAY 13

Adam comes out of the bookstore and shakes his head.

ADAM  
 Uptight...

He walks off in search of coffee.

14 EXT. DENVER OFFICE BUILDING - DAY 14

Establishing shot of the office building that is the home of Dunleavy and Associates Public Relations.

15 INT. JANET'S OFFICE - DAY 15

The door opens into a large, fancy, corner office as JANET DUNLEAVY (30s, always polished but take-no-prisoners personality) walks in with her arm around Mary.

JANET

It is so good to see you! We live in the same city. Why don't we see each other more?

MARY

I don't get Downtown very often...  
(takes in the office)  
Wow! This is your office? It's bigger than my apartment.

Janet guides her to a guest chair while she goes behind the desk and sits.

JANET

Public relations is all about creating the right image. I deal with CEOs and celebrities and sports team and this is the kind of image they want to see. Makes them feel like they are getting their money's worth.

MARY

I can't thank you enough for agreeing to help me out.

JANET

Stop. You helped me get through finals in college so I owe you a lot more than some free PR advice.

Mary looks at the pictures on the wall behind Janet's desk - they are all of her with people in glamorous places, including one of her in Paris.

MARY

Oh, Paris. I've always wanted to go. I've read so many books on it.

JANET

(laughs)  
You were always talking about all the places you had read about that you were going to go to. How many have you knocked off your list?

MARY

(beat)  
Oh, you know. I went a few places after college but then I got busy, helping my dad out with the store.

JANET

And now you run it. That's great.

MARY

It's not much but...

JANET

But that's why you came to see me.  
So, let's talk ideas.

(pulls out a file)

I had my staff do some research and  
where I would love to start is  
getting On the Same Page more  
integrated into the community.

MARY

We've been there for forty years.  
We're kind of a fixture.

JANET

Sure, but these days it's about  
more than just longevity. You have  
to connect with people.

MARY

Okay. How?

Janet opens the file.

JANET

Well, your neighborhood has a kid's  
hockey league. You could sponsor a  
team. Or you could do more  
advertising with nearby businesses.  
And the fortieth anniversary. I  
want a big party for that. Maybe a  
winter festival type of thing. Get  
the whole neighborhood to come out  
and celebrate.

MARY

All of that costs money.

JANET

You know the old saying. You have  
to spend money to make money.

MARY

Yeah, but you have to *have* money to  
spend money. I mean, we'd love to  
do this kind of stuff but...

JANET

Things are that tight, huh?

MARY  
 (familiar mantra)  
 It's a slow time. It'll pick up.

JANET  
 Mary, nobody comes to see me when things are going great. They come to see me when things are broken. I'm a "fixer." I can fix this.

MARY  
 How?

JANET  
 (smiles)  
 Truth? I have no idea. But I am convinced that the right idea will present itself and when it does, we're going to be ready. Deal?

MARY  
 (smiles)  
 Deal

They shake on it and Mary seems to feel a little better.

16 EXT. HOCKEY ARENA - DAY 16

Establishing shot of a hockey arena, home to the Denver Chiefs team.

17 INT. HOCKEY ARENA - ERICA'S OFFICE - DAY 17

Adam is sitting in a guest chair facing a desk in a well-appointed office filled with Denver Chiefs ephemera including framed jerseys, trophies, sticks and more. His boss, ERICA PICKETT (30s) walks in as finely tailored, direct, and purposeful as she always is. She glances at him on her way to her seat behind the desk.

ERICA  
 Did you forget how to answer a phone?

ADAM  
 Erica...

ERICA  
 No, no. Adam, this is the part where I talk and you listen.



ADAM  
(tries to be funny)  
Reminds me of when we dated.

Erica gives him a look that could freeze water and the smile slips off of his face.

ERICA  
Ten game suspension.

ADAM  
Erica, come on!

ERICA  
This is your third time you've been kicked off the ice this season! This one cost us the game.

ADAM  
The ref totally missed Jack being boarded. It's like he was blind!

ERICA  
It's not your job to tell the ref what he missed. It's your job to stay out of trouble and win games.

ADAM  
(sighs)  
I'm sorry, okay?

ERICA  
No, Adam, it's not okay. The owner of the team is...

ADAM  
Your father. Talk to him!

ERICA  
I did talk to him. He's the one who talked me out of firing you.

ADAM  
(tries a different angle)  
Erica... are you sure there's not some lingering, you know, anger about me breaking up with you?

ERICA  
First of all, I broke up with you.

ADAM  
No, you didn't.

ERICA

And second of all, that was five years ago and I promise I'm over it. I never would've brought you on the team if I wasn't over it.

ADAM

Okay, but what would you have had to be "over it" about if you broke up with me?

ERICA

Adam, I don't like being this tense person. I really don't, but you just bring it out in me, so from this point forward I'm going to add one game to the suspension for everything you say that makes me mad. I figure another ten minutes and you'll be out the rest of the season.

ADAM

Okay, okay. Just tell me what I need to do to fix this.

ERICA

I'm glad you asked.  
(hands him a card)  
Call our PR person. While you're suspended you're going to work with her to repair your image.

ADAM

There's nothing wrong with my image.

ERICA

Eleven games.

ADAM

Erica!

ERICA

Adam, we strive to have a positive image in the community and with our fans. This is our image...

She holds up a newspaper story about hockey players visiting sick kids in the hospital.

ERICA (CONT'D)

This is yours.

She holds up the newspaper we saw earlier and then moves them up and down as if weighing on a scale.

ADAM

(nods)  
Okay. I'll call...  
(looks at the card)  
Janet Dunleavy tomorrow.

ERICA

Today.

Adam nods and gets up to leave.

ERICA (CONT'D)

And Adam, please just do whatever she says. Don't argue with her, don't think you have better ideas. Just grow up and basically, don't be you.

ADAM

(tight smile)  
Got it.  
(can't resist)  
But just one more thing... I broke up with you.

ERICA

Twelve games!

ADAM

Totally worth it.

He leaves and Erica seethes.

18 EXT. PAUL & KATE'S HOUSE - NIGHT 18

Establishing shot of Mary's parents, Paul and Kate Cartwright's house, a modest and homey Midwest classic.

19 INT. PAUL & KATE'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM - NIGHT 19

Mary and Tyler are seated at the dining table with their parents PAUL (60s, traditional and a lot like Mary) and KATE (60s, salt-of-the-earth and more like Tyler).

MARY

You guys are thinking about going on a cruise this summer?

PAUL

Your mother is thinking about it.  
I'm thinking about whether or not I  
want to think about it.

KATE

Sweetheart, we're retired now.  
These are the kinds of adventures  
we should be having.

PAUL

Kate, it's a Caribbean cruise.  
It's all-you-can-eat-buffets not  
wrestling crocodiles in the Amazon.

KATE

(smiles)

I'm just saying that we should be  
taking advantage of the fact that  
we don't have to worry about the  
store anymore. Mary and Tyler have  
that handled now.

PAUL

(to Mary)

How is business going?

KATE

Paul...

PAUL

I'm just asking!

MARY

Everything is going great, Dad.

Tyler glances at Mary and gives her a "tell them" kind of  
encouragement. Mary shakes her head a firm "no!"

KATE

Tyler, how is school?

TYLER

(thinks on his feet)

Well, I'm having a little problem.

PAUL

What is it?

TYLER

Uh... there's this one class and  
it's not really... going great.  
It's like a balance sheet where  
everything is red.

Mary gives Tyler a "stop it" type of glance. He ignores her.

PAUL

Well, son, have you worked hard at it? Done all of your reading?

TYLER

Very hard. And yes, I read everything. Obsessively.

Mary shakes her head.

PAUL

Have you asked for help?

TYLER

Not really.

MARY

(offended)

That's not true.

(catches herself)

He's... gone to advisors. He just hasn't been able to, you know, figure out what to do yet.

KATE

You do whatever you have to do.

PAUL

Your mom is right, Tyler. If these advisors are giving you advice then you should listen to it. Even if it means doing things that are outside of your comfort zone.

KATE

Like going on a cruise?

PAUL

(smiles)

And that, right there kids, is why I married your mother.

Everyone smiles and laughs but we can see that Mary has taken the comments from her parents to heart.

21 INT. JANET'S OFFICE - DAY

21

Adam is sitting in a guest chair while Janet goes through a thick file at her desk. She makes a few "huh" and "mmm" type of noises as she reads.

ADAM

I feel like I'm waiting for the principal to put me in detention.

JANET

(close file)  
It's not that bad.

ADAM

That's what I tried to tell Erica.

JANET

Oh, don't get me wrong. It's bad. But we can repair this. We just need to find a way to make people like you.

ADAM

People like me.

JANET

Oh, no, they don't. I had my team do a flash poll last night after Erica called me and, well, the results weren't good.

She hands him a piece of paper. He looks at it, horrified.

JANET (CONT'D)

Telemarketers have higher likability scores than you do.

ADAM

That's... disturbing.

JANET

But, the good news is that people want to like you. They love the idea of second chances and they're open to giving you one.

ADAM

How?

JANET

Well, one strategy that I've used in the past is sort of a buddy system.

(MORE)

JANET (CONT'D)

We pair you with a respected member of the community. Someone who can balance things out.

ADAM

According to this, mold has a higher score than I do. Who would want to be paired with me?

JANET

You'd be surprised. We get you involved in local activities. Maybe do some volunteer work. It gives good PR to both you and whoever we put you with.

ADAM

Did you have someone in mind?

JANET

Not yet, but...

The phone on her desk buzzes.

JANET (CONT'D)

Sorry. Hold on.

(answers the phone)

Hi. Mary Cartwright is here?

(smiles)

Send her in.

She hangs up the phone and goes to the door, opens it, and greets Mary.

JANET (CONT'D)

Mary!

MARY

Hi. I'm sorry to drop by unannounced. I just wanted to tell you I'm ready to do whatever it takes to make this work.

JANET

Excellent, because I know just what to do. I want to put you with one of my other clients and you can solve each others' problems.

MARY

Really? Who?

Janet leads Mary into the room as Adam stands to meet her.

JANET  
Mary Cartwright. Adam Clayborn.

The two of them smile and start to shake hands until they recognize each other. The handshake turns into pointing.

MARY  
You!

ADAM  
You!

They both look at Janet.

MARY  
No! ADAM (CONT'D)  
No!

QUICK CUT TO:

22 INT. JANET'S OFFICE - CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY 22

Mary is sitting in a conference room, her arms folded across her chest, as Janet stands and tries her case.

JANET  
The hockey team will pay for everything. We can put together a big to-do for the fortieth anniversary of the store and he can host it or sign jerseys or something.

MARY  
Why would I want my bookstore associated with him?

QUICK CUT TO:

23 INT. JANET'S OFFICE - DAY 23

Adam is standing by the windows, Janet behind him imploring.

JANET  
We can sponsor a junior hockey team. You can coach it! You and cute kids. This is the kind of immediate boost of good will you need to get back on the team.



ADAM  
 Why would I want to be partnered  
 with an uptight librarian?

QUICK CUT TO:

24 INT. JANET'S OFFICE - CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY 24  
 Back with Mary and Janet.

JANET  
 Because when it works - when we  
 take the uncouth hockey player and  
 turn him into a cultured book lover  
 who helps the community - you are  
 going to get credit for that. It's  
 like you're Henry Higgins to his  
 Eliza Doolittle. It's the second  
 chance you need to reinvent the  
 bookstore.

This appeals to her literary sensibilities.

25 INT. JANET'S OFFICE - DAY 25  
 Adam and Janet.

JANET  
 Because you can be the hero that  
 rescues the beloved neighborhood  
 institution. It's like you're  
 Superman and she's Lois Lane.

This appeals to his macho pride.

26 INT. JANET'S OFFICE - CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY 26  
 One last time with Mary and Janet.

JANET  
 Besides, if things are as bad as  
 you say, you need a fresh start.  
 You need to do something big to  
 save the bookstore.

Mary looks at Janet.

27 INT. JANET'S OFFICE - DAY 27  
 Adam and Janet.

JANET

Besides, you need a new beginning.  
This could be your last chance to  
save your career.

Adam looks at Janet.

28

INT. JANET'S OFFICE - DAY

28

Mary and Adam face one another with Janet standing next to them. They eye each other for a moment and then she reluctantly reaches out her hand. He does the same and they shake on it.

JANET

I love it when a plan comes  
together!

Janet puts her arms around both of them and looks thrilled.  
Mary and Adam don't.

**END ACT ONE**

ACT TWO

29 EXT. BOOKSTORE - DAY 29

Establishing shot of the bookstore.

30 INT. BOOKSTORE - DAY 30

Mary is behind the counter when Tyler comes in wearing a Chiefs jersey. Mary looks at him witheringly.

TYLER

You wanted to work with him.

MARY

I did not! It's going to be a disaster.

Janet and Adam walk in just in time to hear that.

JANET

Good morning.

(to Tyler)

Hi, Janet Dunleavy.

TYLER

Hey, I'm Mary's brother Tyler.  
It's so great to meet you, Adam.  
I'm a huge fan.

ADAM

Thanks.

(it hits him - smiles)

Wait... Mary... Tyler... there's gotta be "more" to that story.

MARY

(annoyed already)

Our mother loves the show.

ADAM

Could be worse. You could be called Joannie and Chachi.

Mary looks like she's ready to pounce but Janet intervenes.

JANET

Okay, why don't we get down to it?

They all sit in the chairs near the fireplace.

JANET (CONT'D)

So, first up, great news: I got a permit to do a winterfest party out in front of the bookstore for the fortieth anniversary, which is our big chance to reach a lot of people all at once. It's in four weeks.

MARY

Four weeks? Is that enough time to put everything together?

JANET

That's why we're here. We can brainstorm ideas. We need a big one - a "Showcase Idea." Anybody?

ADAM

How about, like, food trucks. Maybe one that serves coffee?

MARY

How's that quilt coming?

ADAM

I'm just saying I've never seen a bookstore that didn't have coffee.

MARY

Visit a lot of them, do you?

ADAM

(offended)  
You don't know me.

MARY

What's the last book you read? And Sports Illustrated is not a book.

JANET

(intervenes again)  
Okay, we're going to put a pin in that. Why don't we talk about the junior hockey team. We'll have a photographer come and get Adam coaching the kids and at the game.

MARY

He's going to coach... kids?

ADAM

Hey! I'm great with kids.

MARY

Well, sure. Because you basically are one.

ADAM

You know, I'm here to help you.

MARY

You need me more than I need you.

ADAM

What's that? I couldn't hear you over the racket all the customers in your store are making.

As they spar, Janet leans over to Tyler.

JANET

(to Tyler)

I think this is going well.

Tyler nods, at least entertained by the show.

31

INT. HOCKEY ARENA - ERICA'S OFFICE - DAY

31

Erica is working, Chuck is seated tossing a hockey puck in the air, and Adam paces and fumes.

ADAM

You don't understand. She's impossible!

ERICA

Oh, I understand impossible, Adam.

ADAM

You mean me? No. She's worse. She thinks she knows everything. She always has to be right.

CHUCK

(smiling)

So you have a lot in common?

ADAM

(to Chuck)

Why are you here?

CHUCK

Moral support.

ADAM  
 (shakes his head)  
 We can still get out of this.

ERICA  
 You say that like you have some  
 sort of choice in the matter.

ADAM  
 (defiant)  
 I could quit.

Erica and Chuck look at him, giving him a "really?" stare.

ADAM (CONT'D)  
 (beat - sighs)  
 You two are enjoying this aren't  
 you?

ERICA  
 Oh, yes.

CHUCK  
 Absolutely.

\*

Erica returns to the computer and Chuck tosses the puck.

Adam shakes his head.

32

EXT. BOOKSTORE - DAY

32

Mary and Tyler are outside the store putting up a couple of posters advertising the junior hockey tournament this weekend at a local outdoor ice rink and the bookstore and Adam's participation.

MARY  
 This is a terrible idea.

TYLER  
 Mary, this is exactly the kind of  
 PR stunt the bookstore needs. It's  
 going to be amazing!

MARY  
 We can still back out.

TYLER  
 I'm putting up posters.

MARY  
 You haven't finished yet. It's not  
 too late!

TYLER  
 (finishes poster)  
 Sorry, no turning back now.

Tyler walks away and Mary looks at the poster. She starts to reach for a pin but then Tyler calls out...

TYLER (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
 I'll just put it back up again.

Mary sighs and walks away, leaving the poster.

33 EXT. ICE RINK - DAY

33

An outdoor ice rink in a bucolic, snow covered scene is where we find the On the Same Page Bookstore junior hockey team - a cute group of tween-age boys and girls - along with a few parents and a photographer who is snapping shots of the group.

34 EXT. ICE RINK - PARKING AREA - DAY

34

Mary is off to the side of the ice rink where several cars are parked, looking at her watch impatiently when a boy, NOAH (12, earnest) comes up to her.

NOAH  
 Are we starting soon?

MARY  
 Yes. We're just waiting for...  
 (puts on a smile)  
 ...the coach.

NOAH  
 Adam Clabyorn, right? It's cool  
 the way he keeps getting kicked out  
 of games.

MARY  
 No! Noah, it is not. Being a  
 troublemaker is not cool.

A pickup truck pulls into the lot quickly and parks nearby. Adam gets out and rushes up to Mary and Noah.

MARY (CONT'D)  
 You're late.

ADAM  
 I know, sorry. I'm not used to...

MARY  
Traffic?

ADAM  
Morning.

MARY  
(points at Noah)  
Tell Noah.

ADAM  
Tell him what?

MARY  
Tell him that arguing with referees  
and getting in trouble isn't cool.

ADAM  
Definitely not cool. Although...

Mary covers Noah's ears.

MARY  
What are you doing?!

ADAM  
I was just going to explain that  
sometimes when a ref makes a bad  
call you can't just say nothing.  
For instance, this one time in  
Albuquerque...

MARY  
No! You don't tell 12-year-olds  
about what happened in Albuquerque.

ADAM  
You don't even know what happened.

MARY  
If you were involved, it couldn't  
have been good. Listen, for some  
reason that is beyond my  
comprehension, you are a role model  
to these kids. Be a good one!  
Repeat after me: trouble is bad.

She takes her hands off of Noah's ears.

ADAM  
Trouble is bad.

Mary gently pushes Noah toward the other kids by the lake.



MARY

Noah, please go tell the others  
we'll be there in a minute.

Noah walks off to join the other kids.

MARY (CONT'D)

This is going to end badly.

ADAM

Okay, no matter what we may think  
of each other, I hope we can agree  
that the most important thing is  
the team and making sure they have  
a good time. So maybe we call a  
truce until after practice?

MARY

(beat - nods)

Agreed.

ADAM

Great. And in the spirit of our  
newfound cooperation, can you go  
fetch me a cup of coffee? Thanks.

He walks off to greet the kids while Mary stands there,  
trying not to lose her mind in front of everyone.

35

EXT. ICE RINK - DAY

35

Adam comes up to the kids and Mary is not far behind him.

ADAM

Hi, everyone! I'm Adam Clayborn...

Mary rushes up to join them.

MARY

And I'm Mary Cartwright.

ADAM

I'm going to be your coach.

MARY

And I'm sponsoring the team. Well,  
the On the Same Page bookstore is.

ADAM

Actually the Denver Chiefs are  
paying for everything. Any Chiefs  
fans out there?

The kids all raise their hands and smile.

MARY

And who likes to read?

The hands stay raised but the smiles get a little confused.

ADAM

Hey, reading and learning is important, and you have to keep your mind sharp in a game like hockey. It's not just physical.

Mary looks at Adam, a bit surprised to hear this from him, as the kids now raise their hands more confidently.

ADAM (CONT'D)

Okay, so who is playing what position?

MARY

Shouldn't you have them introduce themselves first?

ADAM

That's what I was just doing.

MARY

You asked what they do on the team. You didn't ask about them. Their names; what they want to be when they grow up; their favorite book.

ADAM

This is a hockey team, not first day at camp.

The kids and the adults are starting to exchange nervous glances. The photographer isn't sure what to do.

MARY

(incredulous)

Okay, so we'll just call them all by their playing places?

ADAM

Playing places?

MARY

So this one will be the...

ADAM  
 (his turn to be smug)  
 Please, I can't wait to hear you  
 name off the "playing places" on a  
 hockey team.

MARY  
 (struggles; light bulb!)  
 Goalie! Goalie! That's one.  
 (to the kids)  
 Who's the goalie?

One of the kids raises a hand very reluctantly. She reaches over and high-fives the kid.

MARY (CONT'D)  
 Yes, goalie!

She turns back to point at Adam and what she's really saying to him is something you can't say in Hallmark movies.

MARY (CONT'D)  
 Goalie.

He can't help but smile at her brio, but can't let her win.

ADAM  
 Name another.

MARY  
 (beat)  
 I think I made my point.

ADAM  
 I think you made mine.  
 (to the team)  
 Okay, back to the game.

Adam walks over to join the team leaving Mary feeling more than a little left out. She doesn't like it.

After turning the sign to CLOSED, Mary hurries over to a set of shelves and starts going through the titles, these related to various sports. She finally finds what she is looking for: "On Ice: The Complete History of Hockey."

She takes it back to the counter, sits down, takes out a note pad and pen, and opens the book, attacking it like she is cramming for the biggest final of her life.

37

EXT. ICE RINK - DAY

37

The rink now has a lot more people around it, all there for what a sign is advertising as the "Denver Junior Hockey League Tournament." Spectators (including Tyler, Paul, and Kate) are around the ice, all bundled up against the cold. Janet is nearby talking to a few reporters and photographers. There are two teams waiting to take the ice including the bookstore's team, which is crowded around Adam and Mary.

ADAM

Any last questions?

Noah raises his hand. Adam points at him.

ADAM (CONT'D)

Noah.

NOAH

What happened in Albuquerque?

Mary looks at Adam with a death glare. Adam shakes his head.

ADAM

Later. Okay! You guys are going to crush it out there, right?

The kids cheer.

MARY

But respectfully, right? Hockey has a rich history. In fact, it dates back to the 1300s and...

ADAM

You're kidding, right?

MARY

No. They need historical context. Just because Jessie is the center forward and Noah is right defense and they're both working to get the puck into the crease, it doesn't mean they have to be savages.

ADAM

The crease? How do you... ohhh! You read a book about hockey.

MARY

(evasive)

What makes you think that?

ADAM

Because the other day all you knew  
was goalie!

MARY

Maybe I didn't want to show off.

ADAM

No, look, I think it's cute. But  
why don't you stick to your books  
and leave the important stuff to  
me. You know, like winning games?

MARY

Winning isn't everything.

ADAM

Yes, it is! That's why they call  
it a competitive sport. If there  
wasn't a winner it would just be  
people hitting a piece of rubber  
around with a stick.

MARY

Did you know that the original  
hockey pucks were made of wood?

ADAM

Stop it!

Adam walks off and Mary follows him.

38

EXT. ICE RINK - DAY

38

We get some good views of the hockey tournament, with the kids playing, the parents and spectators cheering on, and Adam on the sidelines cheering or getting frustrated with Mary watching him for her cues as to what is going on. At one point their team scores a goal and they both cheer and high five each other, then realize that they have just had a moment of connection and quickly go back to their distrust of one another. Moments later, something happens on the ice.

ADAM

What? Come on! Hey Ref, you can't  
give him a penalty for that.

MARY

What's going on?

ADAM

We got a penalty and it's totally  
bogus. Ref! Hey, Ref!!

MARY

I don't think you should be...

ADAM

Let me handle this.

MARY

It's my team, I should handle it.

ADAM

Handle what? You don't even know  
what's going on!

In the middle of this the Ref comes skating over and the three of them descend into impossible to understand arguing.

Janet heads over to intervene but can't stop them before a photographer steps up and takes a picture.

39

INT. BOOKSTORE - DAY

39

Adam, Mary, and Tyler are all present as Janet tosses a newspaper on the counter. The photo is of Adam, Mary, and the Ref yelling at each other under a headline: "CLAYBORN'S CHAOS CONTINUES; BOOKSTORE BOSS GOES BONKERS!"

JANET

Not exactly what I had in mind.

Everyone looks less than thrilled.

**END ACT TWO**

ACT THREE

40 EXT. BOOKSTORE - DAY 40

Establishing shot of the bookstore.

41 INT. BOOKSTORE - DAY 41

Mary, Adam, Janet, and Tyler are in the Book Chat area.

MARY

Look at this! I look bonkers!

ADAM

What about me? I want to rescue my career not drive it off a cliff.

JANET

Guys, relax. We can fix this.

ADAM

Well, I hope so because my entire life is in your hands right now.

MARY

Mine, too.

JANET

See? There. Now you have something in common.

Mary and Adam realize that they are in the same boat.

ADAM

(extends hand)

Truce? For real this time?

MARY

(shakes hand)

Truce. But I'm still not getting you a cup of coffee.

JANET

Wonderful! Things are looking up already. So... we've got three weeks until the 40th anniversary winter party and we still need that "Showcase Idea."

ADAM

How do I fit into this?

JANET

Master of ceremonies, sign autographs, kiss babies, whatever it takes. It's what I want you to do at the book fair this weekend.

MARY

Wait. MABS? You got us into DABS?

ADAM

DABS? What is DABS?

MARY

The Denver Association of Book Sellers! It's only the biggest book related event in the state. I couldn't afford to go this year!

JANET

The team can. It's all done. You've got a booth right up front.

MARY

I can't believe this! Thank you!

JANET

You're welcome. Now, since there's nothing to "host" per se, we need a good reason for Adam to be there.

TYLER

We could bring a bunch of books about hockey.

JANET

Great idea! Mary, do you know any good hockey books?

ADAM

Yeah, Mary. Do you?

Mary and Adam exchange a look, the truce shaky at best.

42

EXT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

42

Establishing shot of a cute cafe in Denver.

43

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

43

Mary and her mom Kate are having dinner at a cute cafe.



MARY

You ran the bookstore for forty years without a problem. I have it for less than a year and now it's a dumpster fire.

KATE

It's one picture in the newspaper. It's more like a smoldering trash can. Besides, when we first opened the store we thought it would go under a dozen times.

MARY

You never told me that.

KATE

Because it was ours to worry about, not yours.

MARY

But now it is mine. And I don't know how to do that and babysit Adam at the same time.

KATE

We chatted a bit at the hockey tournament. He seems nice.

MARY

No, he's not. He's juvenile and reckless and...

(sees Kate smiling)

What are you smiling at?

KATE

Shakespeare. A little quote about doth protesting too much?

MARY

(aghast)

What? No! Not even a little bit. Besides, I read that he's a love 'em and leave 'em type.

KATE

(another smile)

You read up on his love life?

MARY

(defensive)

Stop smiling like that!

But Kate just goes on smiling, much to Mary's consternation.

44 EXT. BOOKSTORE - DAY

44

Mary comes out of the front door of her building and heads toward the shop but stops suddenly. Parked in front is a food truck selling coffee, advertising "BUY A BOOK, GET A FREE CUP OF COFFEE." Her jaw drops and she storms over to it, approaching the VENDOR who is readying it for customers.

MARY

Excuse me. What is this!?

VENDOR

(confused)

What is... uh... it's a truck?

MARY

I see that. Why is it parked in front of my store with that sign?

VENDOR

Oh, you must be Mary. Adam said you might be a little high strung.

MARY

I am not high...

(deep breath)

Look whatever this is costing, I can't afford it.

VENDOR

Adam took care of it.

MARY

(both furious and moved)

What? He...

VENDOR

Are you opening soon? Because I got three people waiting who want to get a book and their free cup.

Mary looks and sees three people standing nearby, looking a bit impatient over the wait. Mary is stunned by this. She rushes over to the front door of the store to let them in.

45 INT. BOOKSTORE - LATER

45

The store is closed and Mary and Adam are putting books into boxes for the book fair.

MARY

So... thank you... For helping get stuff ready for the book fair.

ADAM

I'm suspended, remember? I didn't have anything better to do tonight.

MARY

And also... for the coffee truck.  
(grudgingly)  
We actually sold a lot of books.

ADAM

(smug)  
Really?

MARY

Yes, really. It was a good idea.

ADAM

Maybe a "Showcase Idea?"

MARY

Don't push it.

ADAM

(smiles)  
If I don't get back on the team, I can help you run this place.

MARY

(shakes her head, smiling)  
What are you going to do? I mean, after you're done with hockey.

ADAM

I don't know. I haven't really thought about it too much.

MARY

How can you not think about the future? Don't you plan for it?

ADAM

I'm more of a "live in the moment" kind of guy.

MARY

I've had a plan since I was five years old. It involved becoming Joan of Arc, but...

ADAM

See, that's what I mean. People make plans and things get in the way. Then they have to throw it all out and start a new plan.

MARY

Yeah, but at least they have one.  
Otherwise you're just... wandering.

ADAM

Some of the world's greatest  
discoveries have been made by  
people who were just wandering.

MARY

Name one.

ADAM

Okay. The chocolate chip cookie.

Mary raises an eyebrow.

ADAM (CONT'D)

Some chef was trying to make  
chocolate cookies and didn't have  
the right kind so she put chocolate  
chunks in the batter thinking it  
would mix and it didn't and that  
became the chocolate chip cookie.

MARY

That can't be true.

Mary goes to a shelf of books about cooking, pulls one down,  
and thumbs through it.

MARY (CONT'D)

I'm sure I would've...  
(finds something)  
Ruth Wakefield, 1938. I'll be  
darned. How did you know that?

ADAM

I read... things other than Sports  
Illustrated.

MARY

What's your favorite book?

ADAM

(shrugs)  
I don't know.

MARY

What do you mean you don't know?

ADAM

(a discovery of sorts)  
Nobody has ever asked me that.

MARY

Well, I'm asking now. There must be some book that you read at some point in your life that left a lasting impression.

ADAM

(considers)

*The Adventures of Tom Sawyer.*

MARY

Really?

ADAM

I read it when I was a kid. I haven't thought about it in years.

MARY

What did you like about it?

ADAM

Him and Huck Finn are always out exploring and getting into trouble and I always... I guess I just liked the idea of it.

MARY

It is a great book. One of my favorites, too. Although the Book Chat audience tells me I have too many favorites.

ADAM

That doesn't surprise me.

MARY

We're doing *War of the Worlds* this week.

ADAM

They made the Tom Cruise movie into a book?

(off her horrified look)

I'm kidding!

Mary shakes her head and grabs a copy of it from a stack.

MARY

Here. In case you want to join us.

ADAM

(surprised)

You'd want to hear what I have to say about a book?

MARY

I want to hear what anyone has to say about a book.

This means something to Adam.

ADAM

(takes the book)

I don't know if I'll have time. I still have a couple of chapters of that quilting book to go and I have to see how it ends.

Mary laughs, surprising them, and they go back to work.

46

EXT. CONFERENCE CENTER - DAY

46

Establishing shot of the conference center/hotel where they are hosting the "DENVER ASSOCIATION OF BOOK SELLERS WINTER BOOK FAIR."

47

INT. CONFERENCE CENTER - CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

47

Mary, Adam, and Tyler are in the On the Same Page booth at the book fair, which is filled with books and people. Adam is laughing and smiling and having a good time autographing copies of the hockey book while Mary and Tyler are helping other customers. Janet comes up to Mary and pulls her aside.

JANET

I thought you guys called a truce?

MARY

We did.

JANET

Then why are you over here and he's over there?

MARY

Because this is the kind of truce that works better with a demilitarized zone between us.

JANET

This isn't going to work at all if the press doesn't see the two of you together. We need a picture.

Janet pulls Mary over to Adam just as a photographer steps up to the booth.

JANET (CONT'D)

Adam. Picture time.

ADAM

Uh, can it wait? I was just talking to a couple of fans, here.

The fans in question? Two very pretty young women in Denver Chiefs jerseys. Mary rolls her eyes.

JANET

Adam. Eyes on the prize.

ADAM

(to the women)

Sorry, ladies. Duty calls.

He stands and Janet arranges Adam's arm around Mary, then goes to talk to the photographer. Mary, annoyed, makes a noise like "Pffh."

ADAM (CONT'D)

What?

MARY

Fans. Please.

ADAM

What? They were fans!

MARY

They were groupies.

ADAM

Why? Just because they were pretty? Pretty young women can't be hockey fans?

MARY

I didn't say that. I just doubt you would have been paying as much attention to them if they weren't young and pretty.

ADAM

That's not true. All people who love hockey are equal in my book.

MARY

Do you even believe the things that come out of your mouth?

JANET

Guys, over here.

Adam turns them toward the camera, which puts him out in front a bit. Mary sees this and jockeys for a better position, which causes Adam to jockey back.

ADAM

What are you doing?

MARY

You're trying to be front and center. This isn't just about you.

ADAM

I am not! I was making sure the camera saw both of us.

MARY

Yeah, standing in your shadow.

ADAM

Oh, come on. Fine. Here.

He gently pushes her in front of him.

ADAM (CONT'D)

Happy?

MARY

No! Now it looks like you're looming over me.

They start to maneuver around each other, each trying to find a better position, while they banter back and forth. During this, the photographer takes a picture.

48

EXT. BOOKSTORE - DAY

48

TIGHT on a stack of bundled newspapers as it lands on the doorstep of On the Same Page. The picture on the cover is of Mary and Adam at the book fair verbally sparring again and the headline says "ADAM AND MARY AT IT AGAIN."

**END ACT THREE**



ACT FOUR

49 EXT. GROCERY STORE - DAY 49

Establishing shot of Denver grocery store.

50 INT. GROCERY STORE - CHECK OUT AREA - DAY 50

Mary and Adam are standing by an empty grocery cart near the front of the typical suburban market with Janet next to them. A small gaggle of reporters and photographers is nearby as are a few spectators.

JANET

Okay. What are we here to do?

ADAM

Get supplies for a local food bank.

JANET

And what are we NOT here to do?

MARY

Argue.

JANET

Or?

ADAM

Throw food at each another.

JANET

Or?

MARY

Do anything that is going to make us, and by extension you, look bad.

JANET

Very good. Are you guys ready?

They both nod reluctantly.

JANET (CONT'D)

(deep breath)

Here we go. Smile!

Janet goes to the reporters and photographers as Adam and Mary paste big smiles on their faces and start wheeling the cart down one of the aisles.

51

INT. GROCERY STORE - AISLE ONE - DAY

51

Mary and Adam wheel the cart down an aisle, pulling things off the shelves and putting them in the cart. The gaggle is following at a bit of a distance so they can't hear what is being said. Adam puts a bag of potato chips in the cart.

MARY

Potato chips?

ADAM

(sighs)

What's wrong with potato chips?

MARY

This is for a food drive not a bunch of guys watching a hockey game in someone's man cave.

ADAM

You are such a snob.

MARY

I am not a snob!

Janet clears her throat loudly in the background. Mary and Adam smile broadly and keep them there throughout.

ADAM

You think that just because you read everything that you're smarter and better than everyone.

MARY

No, you think that because I read that I'm some sort of snob. This is your bias.

ADAM

Well, your bias is that you think that people who play hockey are out-of-control crazy people.

MARY

I don't think that about all people who play hockey.

(off his look)

Hey, you're the one who keeps getting kicked out of games.

That shuts Adam up for a second as they go around a corner.

52

INT. GROCERY STORE - AISLE TWO - DAY

52

Mary and Adam come down another aisle.

MARY

Why do you get into so much trouble?

ADAM

I don't go out and randomly start arguing with people.

MARY

Oh, so "he started it" is your defense?

ADAM

Kind of. The thing with the ref at the last game? One of the other players boarded a guy on my team.

MARY

Boarded?

ADAM

Pushed him into a wall. And the ref didn't see it. So, I went to tell him and it kind of escalated from there.

MARY

You were defending your teammate?

ADAM

(shrugs)

You can do whatever to me. I don't care. I can take it. But you don't mess with my teammates or my friends or people I care about.

This makes Mary smile - genuinely this time.

MARY

That's actually pretty nice.

ADAM

I have my moments.

(beat)

And you may be right.

MARY

About?

ADAM  
I can be a bit... defensive...  
around really smart people.

MARY  
I'm not that smart...

ADAM  
Oh, I wasn't talking about you.

Adam smiles and Mary laughs as they go around a corner.

53

INT. GROCERY STORE - PRODUCE DEPARTMENT - DAY

53

Mary and Adam come into the produce department and Noah comes running up to them, excited.

NOAH  
Hi Adam! Hi, Ms. Cartwright.

MARY  
Hi, Noah. What are you doing here?

NOAH  
Grocery shopping with my mom.

He points and we see a woman nearby who doesn't look at all happy. Adam and Mary wave and the woman just nods with a very minimal, very tight smile.

ADAM  
She doesn't look happy.

NOAH  
Oh, yeah, she thinks its you guys's  
fault that we lost the tournament.

ADAM  
(shrugs)  
She probably has a point.

MARY  
Just remember, Noah, winning isn't  
everything.

NOAH  
Adam said that winning is the best.

ADAM  
Now, I don't know that I used those  
exact words.

NOAH  
You said only losers...

ADAM  
Okay, Noah, it was great seeing  
you. Tell your mom I'll pay for  
therapy.

He gently pushes Noah toward his Mom and he looks at Mary.

ADAM (CONT'D)  
Kids love me.  
(shrugs)  
Parents...

This makes Mary laugh and he does, too, as they lean into one another a bit. A FLASH like the bulb of a camera going off captures the moment.

54 EXT. HOCKEY ARENA - DAY 54

Establishing shot of the hockey arena.

55 INT. HOCKEY ARENA - ERICA'S OFFICE - DAY 55

Erica is at her desk when Chuck walks in.

CHUCK  
Hey. Got your message. What's  
going on?

ERICA  
Have you heard from Adam? He was  
doing that grocery store thing  
today and I was expecting some sort  
of disaster.

CHUCK  
(laughs)  
No. It went fine. In fact, did  
you see this?

He walks over to show her a news story on his phone about Adam and Mary laughing at the grocery store. The headline reads: "ADAM AND MARY: ARE THEY AN ITEM?"

ERICA  
Oh... okay. I can live with that.

CHUCK  
It doesn't bother you?

ERICA  
Why would it bother me?

CHUCK  
Because you and Adam were...

ERICA  
I broke up with him!

CHUCK  
(oops)  
Okay.... Uh... I should go...

Chuck exits quickly and Erica sits there for a moment.

ERICA  
(to no one)  
Bother me. That's ridiculous.

She sits there for another moment and then turns to her computer. She pulls up the page with the article. It seems like it bothers her a bit.

56

INT. BOOKSTORE - DAY

56

The same photo and story is open on the newspaper spread on the counter of the bookstore. Tyler and Janet are looking at it while Mary finishes with a customer buying a cookbook - there are definitely more people in the store.

MARY  
(to customer)  
No, I don't know what Adam's favorite meal is but I'm sure you'll find something great in this book. Lots of good recipes.

The customer smiles, takes the book, and leaves. Mary turns to Janet and Tyler and the paper.

MARY (CONT'D)  
You have to make them retract this.

JANET  
Why?

MARY  
Because we're not an "item!"

JANET

It doesn't say you are. It asks a question, which allows them to get away with just about anything. "Mary and Adam: Bank Robbers?"

MARY

I don't want people thinking this about us. About me!

JANET

The important thing is that they're thinking of you.

TYLER

She's right. Look at all of these customers. We've had more people in the store today than we've had in months.

MARY

But some of them aren't buying anything, they just want to know if I'm dating Adam. And, like, his favorite color. How would I know?

JANET

Mary, you just have to believe in the plan. I'm looking for another good thing to put the two of you on but in the meantime, we're working on the big anniversary party. That'll be what really turns things around.

(glances at watch)

I have to go. Call you later.

TYLER

Thanks, Janet.

Janet rushes out of the store while Mary turns to look at the paper once again, a bit glumly.

TYLER (CONT'D)

I'm very proud of you, you know.

MARY

Me? Why?

TYLER

You're trying new things. Opening up to new ideas. Exploring the possibilities of...

MARY  
 (knows her brother)  
 What do you want?

TYLER  
 I want to record tonight's Book  
 Chat as a podcast.

MARY  
 You know I don't like talking in  
 front of a lot of people.

TYLER  
 It's not like you're going to see  
 them. And we can edit out the  
 parts where you embarrass the  
 family and bring about the  
 ruination of the store.

Mary smiles, thinks about it for a moment, and then nods.  
 Tyler smiles and hugs her.

57

INT. BOOKSTORE - NIGHT

57

Mary and Tyler settle down into Book Chat chairs with a copy  
 of "War of the Worlds" and a microphone on a table between  
 them. There are a few extra people but still a small crowd.

TYLER  
 Hi everyone, welcome to the On the  
 Same Page Book Chat. We're  
 recording a podcast, so use the  
 microphone if you want to say  
 something. Mary, over to you...

MARY  
 (nervous)  
 Right... uh... okay...

TYLER  
 (rescuing her)  
 What book are we doing this week?

MARY  
 Right... uh, "War of the Worlds" by  
 H.G. Wells.

The door opens and Adam comes in, carrying the copy of the  
 book that Mary gave him. Mary is surprised, perhaps  
 pleasantly for a change. He sits in the Book Chat area.

ADAM  
 Sorry I'm late.



TYLER  
Mary? You were saying?

MARY  
Uh... It's H.G. Wells, "War of the  
Worlds," which most people  
associate with the famous 1938  
radio drama by Orson Welles...

ADAM  
Oh and also...

TYLER  
(points at microphone)  
And say your name.

ADAM  
(picks up microphone)  
Adam Clayborn. And I was going to  
mention the Tom Cruise movie.

TYLER  
I loved that movie.

ADAM  
Right?!

TYLER  
Adam, what did you think of the  
book?

ADAM  
I thought it was great.

TYLER  
Good. But, what about the themes?  
What was H.G. Wells commenting on?

ADAM  
Alien invasions are bad?

Everyone chuckles appreciatively.

TYLER  
Okay, that's a good point...

MARY  
But what about issues of  
colonialism? The British Empire  
was making big moves at the time...

Tyler is surprised that Mary has jumped in like this.

ADAM

Fine, but sometimes an alien is just an alien.

MARY

So we shouldn't look for deeper themes in novels?

ADAM

I'm not saying that. But you also don't want to over-think things. It's a story about two sides in a battle for Earth. It's like an intergalactic hockey game.

Another chuckle from the group.

MARY

The aliens are using heat rays to decimate entire towns! Now, I've read a lot about hockey, and I didn't see an equivalent.

An appreciative chuckle from the group.

ADAM

You've never taken a puck to the face.

This gets a full on laugh including one from Mary.

MARY

Fair enough. But let's dig a little deeper...

ADAM

It doesn't get deeper than the basic urge to survive.

We PULL BACK as the two of them talk about the book in a different kind of back and forth than we've seen them. This is more good-natured - a healthy debate instead of trading insults. The audience watches, rapt and obviously enjoying the conversation between the two of them.

**END ACT FOUR**

**ACT FIVE**

58 EXT. BOOKSTORE - NIGHT 58

Establishing shot of the bookstore.

59 INT. BOOKSTORE - NIGHT 59

Mary and Tyler are cleaning up after the Book Chat, preparing the store to close. Adam is hanging out nearby.

ADAM

I still say that you're missing the point I was trying to make.

MARY

Adam, let it go.

ADAM

Okay. But next week when we do "Dracula," I'm not backing down.

MARY

That was you backing down?

ADAM

Compared to how most of my disagreements with people end?

TYLER

I thought it was great. Mary, I don't think you've ever talked that much in a book chat before. The two of you are perfect together.

Mary and Adam both smile at each other then look away.

MARY

Tyler, we're late for dinner.

ADAM

Oh, I was going to ask you guys if you wanted to go grab something.

MARY

Weekly dinner at my parents' house.

TYLER

(to Adam)

You're welcome to come.

ADAM

Oh, I don't know...

MARY

Yeah, you know it's just usually the four of us. Family thing.

TYLER

They'd love it. Dad is a big hockey fan and Mom loves to cook. It's perfect. Come on.

Tyler heads for the door while Mary and Adam glance at each other. She shrugs and does an "after you" gesture and they both follow Tyler, both looking a little unsure about this but also a little intrigued at the prospect.

60 EXT. PAUL & KATE'S HOUSE - NIGHT 60

Establishing shot of Mary's parents' house.

61 INT. PAUL & KATE'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM - NIGHT 61

Mary, Adam, Tyler, Paul, and Kate are gathered at the dining table and we join them mid-meal and mid-conversation.

TYLER

The two of them were fantastic. You're going to love the podcast.

KATE

I think it's great that you're trying new things at the store. Isn't that wonderful, Paul?

PAUL

There's something to be said about tried and true.

MARY

Well... maybe there's room for both. I was thinking we could add a refreshment station where people can get a water or... coffee.

She tries not to look at Adam, who smiles a little.

KATE

That sounds wonderful.

TYLER

That sounds unbelievable. You want to do new things?

MARY

I'm open to new ideas.

Paul, Kate, and Tyler all turn to their food, keeping their mouths shut. Mary puts down her fork.

MARY (CONT'D)

I am!

Everyone laughs, including Adam who is enjoying this.

KATE

You've been very quiet, Adam.

ADAM

I'm just enjoying this. It's like watching a really good play.

KATE

Your family dinners weren't like this when you were growing up?

ADAM

(casual - no big deal)

No. I grew up in the foster care system so I was always bouncing from place to place.

MARY

I didn't know that.

ADAM

It wasn't a big deal. There was a family that was really into hockey so ultimately it was a good thing.

PAUL

You should be very proud of what you've accomplished, Adam.

Adam looks up at Paul, unexpectedly moved by that statement, but he shrugs that off, too.

ADAM

What I'd really be proud of is finishing more of these potatoes.

The food gets passed and the conversation picks back up again, while Mary casts a glance at Adam that indicates a piece of the puzzle of this guy has fallen into place.

62

INT. PAUL &amp; KATE'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

62

Paul, Adam, and Tyler are doing dishes and cleaning up.

PAUL

How are things going with the team?

ADAM

I'm still on the team so I'm taking that as a victory.

PAUL

And your partnership with Mary?

ADAM

(beat - faux smile)

Great. Just peachy.

Paul and Tyler both laugh. Adam is embarrassed.

TYLER

It's okay, Adam. I love her but it can be frustrating when you're dealing with a person who can always find a book to prove she's right and you're wrong.

ADAM

Yes! What is up with the books?

TYLER

Ask my Dad. There's a picture of her in a crib holding a copy of "Little Women."

PAUL

I read everything and that acorn didn't fall far from this tree.

TYLER

This acorn, on the other hand, has a hard time sitting still long enough to read. But Mary... She's smarter than, like, everyone.

PAUL

You're both very special.

TYLER

My father, the diplomat. See, I think this is why she never had a serious relationship. None of them could live up to the heroes in her books.

ADAM  
 (a bit of macho pride)  
 So she needs a hero?

TYLER  
 No. She just needs someone who can  
 keep up with her. Challenge her.  
 Not be driven crazy by her.

Tyler exits into the dining room.

ADAM  
 So, how did you pull dish duty?

PAUL  
 Kate makes it, I clean it up. I  
 believe they call it teamwork in  
 your profession.

ADAM  
 I haven't always been great at  
 that, but I'm trying.

PAUL  
 Good to hear. I know Mary will  
 appreciate that as well.

ADAM  
 She's a tough one, your daughter.

PAUL  
 Yes, she is. But sometimes the  
 toughest nuts to crack are the best  
 ones to have.

ADAM  
 Is there anything you don't have a  
 wise saying for?

PAUL  
 Oh, none of them are mine. Like I  
 said, I read a lot and so I just  
 steal all the good stuff.

Adam laughs and the two of them continue on the dishes.

Establishing shot of the book store.

64

INT. BOOKSTORE - DAY

64

Mary and Janet are having lunch at the counter - there are a number of customers in the store browsing.

JANET

You invited him home for dinner?

MARY

Tyler invited him. But it wound up being... kind of okay.

JANET

That's high praise coming from you. You're starting to like him.

MARY

I am not. Or at least not in the way the local paper is inferring.

JANET

I didn't mean that way. But you're spending a lot of time together.

MARY

Making each other nuts.

JANET

Some might call that passion.

MARY

Others would call it mortal combat.

JANET

I think you're good for each other and I'm not just talking about from a PR perspective.

MARY

Janet, no. This is only about the bookstore for me. I mean, I'm happy that sales are up but it's nowhere near what it needs to be, yet.

JANET

Patience, my friend. You just need to spend some more time with Adam and everything will work out.

MARY

You really think that's going to save the bookstore?



JANET  
 (sly smile)  
 Oh. We're talking about the store?

Mary shakes her head and goes to help a customer.

65

EXT. ICE RINK - DAY

65

Adam and Chuck are doing some practice runs with the junior hockey team - some are racing back and forth on the ice and others are practicing their shots. Noah fires a good slapshot.

ADAM  
 Nice job, Noah! Up high.  
 (high fives Noah)  
 A little more practice and you'll be ready for the big leagues.

NOAH  
 I told my mom that I want to be a hockey player like you.

ADAM  
 Yeah? What did she say?

NOAH  
 Nothing. She just closed her eyes and put her hand on her face.

Does a "face palm." Adam tries not to laugh.

ADAM  
 Okay. What about your dad?

NOAH  
 (shrugs)  
 He moved to California.

ADAM  
 (beat)  
 Well, I think it's great that you want to be a hockey player but maybe you should tell your mom that you want to be like Wayne Gretzky.

NOAH  
 Who?

Adam does his own face palm.

NOAH (CONT'D)  
 Why does everyone keep doing that?

Noah shrugs and skates away.

66

EXT. ICE RINK - PARKING AREA - DAY

66

Adam and Chuck are walking to their vehicles after practice.

ADAM

Thanks for helping today.

CHUCK

Sure. But where was everyone?  
Mary, the photographers.

ADAM

This is off the books. It's a good  
group of kids. I like helping out  
so I've been doing some extra  
coaching here and there.

CHUCK

That's very...

ADAM

Grown up of me? I have my moments.

CHUCK

Well, we need to get you back with  
the Chiefs. We haven't been able  
to get it together since you left.

ADAM

You've won three of the five games.

CHUCK

But we should've won all five. Are  
things with Mary getting better?

ADAM

She's not that bad I guess.

CHUCK

For you, that means you like her.

ADAM

It does not.

CHUCK

Hey, from what you've told me I  
think she's exactly what you need.  
Someone who stands up to you.

ADAM

I don't think that's what I need,  
but even if I did, she has made it  
pretty clear that she wants nothing  
to do with me or my world.

CHUCK

Have you shown her your world?

Adam considers this idea.

67 EXT. SPORTS BAR - NIGHT 67

Establishing shot of a sports bar.

68 INT. SPORTS BAR - NIGHT 68

A typical sports bar with customers watching the hockey game on TV. Adam and Mary are in the midst of it, him with a beer and her with a glass of wine. Adam and the rest of the crowd react negatively to something that happens in the game.

MARY

What happened?

ADAM

The other team scored.

MARY

The puck is so small. They should  
make it bigger so you can see it  
better on TV.

ADAM

(smiles)

I'll take your suggestions to the  
league.

(beat)

Thanks for coming with me tonight.  
I know this isn't your cup of tea.

MARY

(shrugs)

You came to my parents' house,  
which couldn't have been your cup  
of tea. Turnabout is fair play.

ADAM

I liked your folks. They were...

Distracted by something in the game.

ADAM (CONT'D)

No! You're breaking my heart here.

Mary watches him watching the game for a moment.

MARY

You really miss it don't you?

ADAM

I really do. It's my whole life.  
Is that stupid?

MARY

No. Getting kicked out of your  
life may have been...

ADAM

(laughs)  
Good point. I suppose I should  
learn something from all this.

MARY

Like what?

ADAM

Can I get back to you on that?

The customers groan again and Mary and Adam look at the TV.

MARY

What I have learned is that I don't  
understand the appeal of this game.

ADAM

I think you'd love it if you knew  
it better. Like from something  
other than a book about it.

MARY

And how am I going to do that?

Adam thinks... Then smiles.

69

EXT. HOCKEY ARENA - NIGHT

69

Establishing shot of the hockey arena.

70

INT. HOCKEY ARENA - RINK - NIGHT

70

Adam, with two hockey sticks, is on the ice next to the pucks lined up to shoot into the goal. He is looking off to the side, smiling. We don't see Mary at first.

ADAM

You're the one who said you were open to new ideas.

MARY (O.S.)

This isn't what I had in mind.

ADAM

Would you just try it, please?

There is a pause and then Mary skates unsteadily into the shot wearing as much protective gear as she can handle. She uses Adam as a method of stopping.

ADAM (CONT'D)

Okay. We'll need to work on your stopping skills, but not bad.

MARY

I skated ten feet. It's a little early for "not bad." What if I fall down? A lot?

ADAM

You're wearing enough protective gear to cushion a fall from space. Besides it doesn't matter how many times you fall down, it only matters how many times you get back up again.

MARY

(looks at him, impressed)  
Did you steal that from my dad?

ADAM

No. That one's mine. Come on.  
(hands her a stick)  
Now, you want to hold it with this hand at the very top and your other hand about elbow's distance further down the stick. Like this.  
(guides her)  
Good. Now, turn your body so the puck is at about two o'clock.

Again, he guides her to the correct position.

MARY

Like this?

ADAM

Exactly. Now, you want to swing the stick back... not too far.  
(MORE)

ADAM (CONT'D)

And then forward and be sure to hit the ice before you hit the puck.

MARY

Before?

ADAM

Yes, otherwise you won't get the full power of the swing. Try it?

MARY

(deep breath)

Okay.

She does as she has been instructed and connects with the puck but it goes way off to the side.

MARY (CONT'D)

(excited)

I hit it! I hit it!

ADAM

Nice job. Now you want to hit it in the direction you want it to actually go. Which is that way.

MARY

Can I please just savor this small victory first?

ADAM

(smiles)

Yes, you may.

MARY

I hit it! I hit the puck!!

She jumps up a little bit in excitement and starts to fall but Adam catches her, the two of them laughing.

71

INT. HOCKEY ARENA - SEATING - NIGHT

71

Erica walks into the seating area of the hockey rink, just far enough to see Adam and Mary laughing and having fun on the ice. She doesn't appear exactly unhappy about what she is seeing but she isn't happy either - conflicted, perhaps.

**END ACT FIVE**

**ACT SIX**

72 EXT. BOOKSTORE - DAY 72

Establishing shot of the bookstore.

73 INT. BOOKSTORE - DAY 73

Mary is helping customers then comes over to join Janet, Tyler, and Adam in the Book Chat area.

JANET

I had a fun idea for the anniversary. What about doing a live version of the podcast?

MARY

Live? In front of people?

TYLER

We do it in front of people now.

MARY

Like ten people maybe. We'll have a lot more than that at the party.

JANET

You'll be fine. Oh, and I saw this and want you two to do it.

She has a flyer: "DENVER ANNUAL WINTER BOX RACE: THIS WEEKEND!"

MARY

A box race? How is decorating a big box and sliding down a big hill going to help us?

JANET

It'll show you're an active member of the community.

MARY

Sounds dangerous.

ADAM

Sounds like fun to me.

MARY

Says the guy that runs around the ice on sharp metal shoes slamming into people a lot.

ADAM

This is your view of hockey? Even after you scored your own goal the other night?

MARY

It's hardly the same thing!

They walk off, bantering.

74

EXT. PARKING LOT - DAY

74

Mary and Adam are in a parking lot near the bookstore looking at a big cardboard box. They are silent for a few moments.

MARY

It shouldn't be this hard to come up with a theme.

ADAM

It has to be amazing. I want to win this thing.

MARY

You're obsessed with winning.

ADAM

Please. You're the most competitive person I've ever met.

MARY

I am not competitive.  
(beat - off his look)  
Okay, fine, but not about winning.  
I just like being...

ADAM

The smartest person in the room?

MARY

Are you calling me a snob again?

ADAM

No. Most of the time you probably are the smartest person in the room. That's not being a snob, that's just being right.

MARY

Sometimes being right comes at the expense of being liked.



ADAM

I'm familiar with not being liked.

MARY

Oh, come on, people *like* you.  
You've got fans and friends... and  
relationships...

ADAM

Not ones that lasted.

MARY

You don't strike me as the settling  
down type.

ADAM

(shrugs)

I don't know. I guess if I find  
the right person...

MARY

Ah. The elusive "right person."

ADAM

No luck in finding yours either,  
huh?

MARY

Have you ever read a good book that  
you don't ever want to end? I just  
haven't met a person yet that made  
me feel the same way.

ADAM

There's nothing wrong with waiting  
for the right book to come along.  
At least I don't think so.

The look at each other, unsure what to do with this  
conversation. Mary blinks first.

MARY

Yeah, but you get hit in the head a  
lot so can we trust your opinion?

He laughs and shakes his head.

ADAM

So, Ms. Competitive, what are we  
going to do to win this adventure?

MARY

Adventure... Tom Sawyer...

MARY (CONT'D) ADAM  
 A raft! A raft!  
 They shake hands on their genius idea.

75

EXT. SLEDDING HILL - DAY

75

A crowd of people is milling about at the top of a nicely sloped hill, where we see the various entries into the Box Sled Race. Mary, Adam, Janet, and a photographer are walking along the line and they are impressive - a school bus, a shark, a boat, an airplane.

JANET  
 These sleds are incredible! And yours is...  
 (sees their sled)  
 Nice.  
 (quick pivot)  
 This is a pretty steep hill. Mary, you're sure you're up for this?

MARY  
 I'm trying not to think about it.

ADAM  
 It's a cardboard box on a snow covered hill. If we fall off, I think we will survive it.

MARY  
 (suddenly panicked)  
 You think we'll fall off?

JANET  
 And on that happy note, we're going to the bottom of the hill where we can get the best shots.

MARY  
 Tyler is down there somewhere.

ADAM  
 So is my buddy Chuck and his family.

JANET  
 I'll look for them.

Janet waves and walks off. Mary and Adam go to their sled to move it to the starting line.

76

EXT. SLEDDING HILL - STARTING LINE - DAY

76

Mary and Adam stand by their sled. Mary looks scared.

ADAM

You know we don't have to do this  
if you're scared.

MARY

I'm not scared.  
(beat)  
Okay, I'm a little scared.

ADAM

Think about something else.

MARY

We're at the top of a big hill.  
What else should I think about?

ADAM

Think about... the future.

MARY

The future?

ADAM

Yeah. You're the one who has all  
the plans. What are they?

MARY

Well... I want to make the  
bookstore a success, of course.  
And I want to travel. I've always  
wanted to go to Paris. Or Bali.

ADAM

I miss being on the road. I'm not  
good with being in one place for  
too long.

MARY

Is that why you've changed teams so  
many times. You wanted to be  
somewhere else?

ADAM

That and the fact that the people  
who owned the teams wanted me to be  
somewhere else. Chicken. Egg.

MARY

Maybe you broke up with them before  
they could break up with you?

ADAM

(hmmm)

Maybe.

(beat)

So, what else is in your future?  
Marriage, children, white picket  
fence? The whole ball of wax?

MARY

Pretty much.

(beat)

What about you?

ADAM

I live for the moment, remember?

MARY

Oh, come on. You can't tell me you  
never think about stuff like this.

ADAM

(shrugs)

Okay, sometimes. I think about  
what it would be like to have a  
son... or a daughter... that I  
could teach how to skate. Make  
sure they have a good home... a  
good family. Be a good dad.

MARY

I think you'll be a great dad.

ADAM

You think so?

MARY

Yeah. You're basically a big kid  
so he'll have someone to play with.

ADAM

(laughs)

See? You were almost nice to me.

Noah comes running up to them.

NOAH

Hey, Adam, I'm getting good at that  
shot you showed me at practice.

ADAM

That's great. I'm looking forward  
to seeing it.

MARY  
Practice?

ADAM  
(no big deal)  
Oh, yeah. I've been helping out a  
little with the team.

NOAH  
He's been helping a lot with the  
team. I think we might win the  
next game.

Mary is impressed by Adam in this moment.

NOAH (CONT'D)  
Cool sled!

ADAM  
Thanks, Noah. Where's yours?

NOAH  
(bummed)  
Oh, I'm not doing it this year.  
Mom didn't have time to make one.

Adam looks at Mary and Mary smiles in encouragement.

ADAM  
Hey, Noah... Mary is a little  
scared about riding down the hill.

MARY  
It's a big hill!

ADAM  
Maybe you could ride with us? Help  
Mary not be so scared?

NOAH  
Really?! That would be awesome!

MARY  
We'd have to check with your mom.

NOAH  
Come on! She's right over here!

Noah pulls Adam away and he glances back over his shoulder at  
Mary, smiling. Mary smiles back.

77

EXT. FIELD - DAY

77

Janet, Tyler, Chuck, Chuck's son Brandon (who is playing in the snow), Chuck's wife Shelly, the photographer, and others are gathered at the bottom of the hill. They hear a horn and the crowd cheers.

CHUCK

Hey. They're starting.  
(to Shelly)  
Honey, get Brandon.

Shelly gets Brandon and points at the race.

BRANDON

Hi, Uncle Adam!!!

JANET

Which one are they?

TYLER

Over there on the end. They're going! Go! Go, Mary!

CHUCK

Who's that on the sled with them?

JANET

I don't know. But they're ahead!  
They're winning! They're... Uh-oh.

TYLER

What are they doing?

CHUCK

Should they be going backwards?

TYLER

I don't think so.

JANET

Oh! They just took out the shark!

CHUCK

Look out! Here comes the bus!

They react as they watch a crash and then start running.

78 EXT. SNOWBANK - DAY

78

The remains of the raft are scattered around a snowbank where Mary and Adam are lying, basically in one another's arms, Noah nearby, all laughing their heads off. Janet, Tyler, and Chuck run up.

JANET

Are you guys okay?

ADAM

We're fine.

MARY

I want to do it again!

NOAH

Me, too!

She struggles up out of the snowbank and grabs Adam and Noah's hands. They take off running back toward the hill while Janet, Tyler, and Chuck watch, amazed.

79 EXT. MARY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

79

Adam walks Mary up to the sidewalk facing door of her apartment building. They are still laughing and more than a little disheveled from their adventure.

MARY

You know, I think we did Tom and Huck proud today.

ADAM

So do I.

They have reached the door.

MARY

I had fun. And Noah did, too.  
That was a very nice thing you did.

ADAM

(shrugs)

I know what it's like to not have a dad around to sled down hills with.

There is a moment of silence between them as they look at each other. Adam breaks first.

ADAM (CONT'D)

(beat)

Well... I better call a cab.

MARY  
Okay. Good night.

ADAM  
Good night.

She smiles again and then unlocks the door to go inside.  
Adam waits a moment and starts walking.

80

EXT. DENVER STREET - NIGHT

80

Adam is walking down the street, lost in thought, happily reviewing his good day. He pulls out his phone and starts to dial but then hears a voice.

ERICA (O.S.)  
Need a lift?

He looks and sees Erica standing by her very nice car.

ADAM  
What are you doing here?

ERICA  
Looking for you.

ADAM  
What did I do this time?

ERICA  
I haven't seen you on the ice in a few days. Even though you're suspended you should be practicing.

ADAM  
I know. I just got busy with the whole image rehab thing.

ERICA  
Janet sent me pictures of the box race. You shouldn't be doing stuff like that. If you get injured...

ADAM  
I take worse hits than that getting out of bed in the morning.

ERICA  
Still.  
(beat)  
It looked like you were having a good time.



ADAM  
(smiles)  
We were. That's okay, right?

ERICA  
Of course it's okay.

ADAM  
Because I really am trying, Erica.

ERICA  
I know. And I appreciate it.  
You're taking this seriously. It  
looks good on you.

ADAM  
It looks weird on me.

ERICA  
It makes me wonder if things might  
have turned out differently for us.

ADAM  
You mean if I had taken things more  
seriously back then?

ERICA  
And I had taken things less  
seriously?

ADAM  
So in other words, would we have  
worked if we were totally different  
people?

ERICA  
Something like that, yeah.

ADAM  
I don't know. Maybe.

ERICA  
Is that something we should think  
more about?

ADAM  
(beat)  
I don't think that's a good idea.

ERICA  
Because of Mary?

ADAM

(beat)

No... because of me. I'm trying to be a better guy for a lot of reasons but one of them is so my boss doesn't fire me. I think dating her would be a really good way to blow all that up.

ERICA

(smiles)

Yeah. You're probably right.

(beat)

Maybe we can revisit the idea in the future.

ADAM

(shrugs)

Hey, if they can have flying cars in the future, then just about anything is possible.

ERICA

(smiles - nods)

Hug it out?

He nods and they embrace.

81

INT. MARY'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

81

Mary comes into her living room, all smiles. She goes to the window and looks outside just in time to see Adam and Erica hugging. The smile falls from her face quickly.

**END ACT SIX**

ACT SEVEN

82 EXT. BOOKSTORE - DAY 82

Establishing shot of the bookstore.

83 INT. BOOKSTORE - DAY 83

Mary, Adam, Tyler, and Janet are all in their usual places in the Book Chat area of the bookstore. Janet is all smiles as she holds a folder full of press clippings.

JANET

I am a genius.

ADAM

If you do say so yourself.

JANET

(waves folder)

Well, just look at all the good press you two have gotten. People are starting to love you. Mary, aren't you starting to love him?

Mary, who hadn't been paying attention, misses the point.

MARY

What? No. What do you mean?

JANET

I mean, we wanted to improve Adam's image and get more business for the bookstore and we're doing both.

ADAM

Even Erica is coming around. I may get the suspension lifted.

JANET

That's amazing. Mary, isn't that amazing?

MARY

What? No.

TYLER

Adam getting his job back is not amazing?

MARY

Oh, yeah. No, that's great.

TYLER

What is up with you today?

Mary sneaks a glance at Adam.

MARY

Nothing. Listen, I think it's great that this is working for him but we have a long way to go on the bookstore.

ADAM

Business is up, isn't it?

TYLER

Yes, but... not by a lot.

MARY

Not by enough.

JANET

Well, that's why we're making the fortieth anniversary party on Saturday such a blow out. We're talking the live podcast, games, food... We still could use a "Showcase Idea," but I think it's going to be a huge success.

TYLER

But aren't we worried about it just being temporary? We could sell a lot of books that night but how do we make sure it lasts?

JANET

Sales aren't the only thing we're going for. You want to build your customer base - mailing list sign-ups, podcast downloads, social media hits - hashtag OTSP40!

Mary looks at them like they are speaking Mandarin.

TYLER

OTSP40 - On the Same Page fortieth.

MARY

Ah. It all sounds great but...

JANET

But what?

MARY

I was up late last night...  
 (glance at Adam)  
 Couldn't sleep. I was going over  
 the numbers and if this doesn't  
 work... if the party isn't a "huge  
 success"... we're going to have to  
 close the store.

Adam is shocked - it is the first time he has heard that  
 things are that bad.

84

EXT. DENVER SUBURBAN STREET - DAY

84

Mary and Adam are outside on the street, putting up flyers  
 advertising the 40th Anniversary Winter Party on telephone  
 poles and the like with a staple gun. They are silent at  
 first.

ADAM

So how come you didn't tell me how  
 bad things are at the bookstore?

MARY

(shrugs)  
 You had your own problems. I  
 didn't think you'd care.

ADAM

Of course I care. I mean... we're  
 in this together, aren't we?

MARY

Tyler is the only other person who  
 really knows. I haven't even told  
 my folks yet. It's embarrassing.

ADAM

Come on. A couple of days ago you  
 were flinging yourself down a hill  
 screaming "I'm the Snow Queen, Fear  
 Me!" The Snow Queen doesn't get  
 embarrassed.

MARY

(smiles)  
 Yeah, well, she's kind of elusive.  
 Not always there when you need her.

ADAM

Look, we're going to figure this  
 out. Making the anniversary party  
 is our number one mission.

MARY

What about getting you back on the team?

ADAM

That'll happen. I'm not worried anymore. Erica is coming around.

MARY

You and her are... getting along?

ADAM

Sort of. Let's just say I don't feel like I need to check her hands for weapons when we meet anymore.

MARY

Do you check my hands?

ADAM

Constantly. I'm a little worried about that staple gun.

MARY

(smiles)  
You should be.

ADAM

We're going to figure it out. Why don't you and I go to dinner tonight? We'll try to come up with that "Showcase Idea" and talk about the live podcast... you're not still nervous about that, are you?

MARY

Getting up in front of hundreds of people? I can't imagine why I would be. The only thing that makes it okay is that you and Tyler will be up there with me.

ADAM

Well, we just need to find a way to bring out that Snow Queen. I promise, we'll come up with something brilliant.

MARY

(reluctant smile)  
Okay. Yeah, that would be great.

ADAM

Good. Oh, just one thing though.  
Leave the staple gun at home.

She laughs and shakes her head as they continue down the street.

85 EXT. HOCKEY ARENA - NIGHT

85

Establishing shot of the hockey arena.

86 INT. HOCKEY ARENA - RINK - NIGHT

86

Adam and Chuck are on the ice, practicing shots.

CHUCK

So you're going to dinner with her?  
I thought you didn't like her.

ADAM

I don't not like her. She just  
makes me crazy sometimes.

CHUCK

(rolls eyes)  
Here we go.

ADAM

What?

CHUCK

That's even worse than "she's not  
that bad." I've heard you say  
those exact words before. What  
usually comes next is a completely  
unhealthy relationship with someone  
who is absolutely not right for you  
that ends with yelling and tears.

ADAM

That's not true.

CHUCK

(ticks off on fingers)  
Debra. That girl in San Antonio  
that tried to run you over with her  
truck?

ADAM

Suzanne.

CHUCK  
Suzanne, yes.

They don't notice Erica coming into the stands behind them.

ADAM  
Okay, but maybe I've changed.  
You're the one who was telling me  
to grow up.

CHUCK  
Yeah, but it doesn't happen  
overnight. I mean, unless she's  
your soulmate or something and  
she's performed a miracle.

ADAM  
(beat)  
It's just a dinner. We're just  
going to talk about the anniversary  
party. All totally innocent.

CHUCK  
I've heard that before, too.

Chuck turns around and sees Erica.

CHUCK (CONT'D)  
Erica...

ADAM  
Erica was different...

CHUCK  
No...  
(turns Adam around)  
Erica.

Adam looks and sees Erica.

ERICA  
Adam. Can I see you in my office?

ADAM  
(looks at watch)  
Now? I've got a dinner meeting...

ERICA  
It needs to be right now. It's  
important.

ADAM  
Okay. Let me make a quick call.



Erica turns and goes back up the stands toward her office. Adam pulls out his phone and glances at Chuck who has a worried look on his face.

ADAM (CONT'D)  
I'm sure it's fine.

He dials the phone.

87 EXT. MARY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT 87

Establishing shot of Mary's apartment.

88 INT. MARY'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT 88

Mary is wearing a nice dress, looking at herself in the mirror with a smile, anticipating the dinner with Adam. Her phone rings. She answers.

MARY  
Hello?

We begin INTERCUTTING between her and Adam in the rink.

ADAM  
Mary, hi. It's Adam.

MARY  
Hi. Are you on your way?

ADAM  
Actually, no. I just got called into a meeting with Erica.

MARY  
Erica? Is everything okay?

ADAM  
I don't know. She said it was important but I don't know how long it's going to take so I didn't want to leave you hanging.

MARY  
Got it. I understand. We can do it another night.

ADAM  
We don't have to cancel, just...

MARY  
 (fake casual)  
 Adam, it's okay. Not a big deal.

ADAM  
 Well... okay. I'm really sorry.  
 We'll talk tomorrow?

MARY  
 Of course. Bye.

She disconnects the call and sits, obviously disappointed.

89

INT. HOCKEY ARENA - ERICA'S OFFICE - NIGHT

89

Erica is at her desk as Adam settles into a guest chair.

ADAM  
 What's going on?

ERICA  
 I wanted to talk to you about  
 getting you back on the team.

ADAM  
 Really?

ERICA  
 Really.

ADAM  
 Erica, that's amazing. Fantastic,  
 thank you!

ERICA  
 Well, don't get too excited yet.  
 There are a few conditions.

ADAM  
 Name them.

ERICA  
 It's probationary. One wrong step  
 and you serve out the rest of your  
 suspension.

ADAM  
 Got it. Walking the straight and  
 narrow. It's a deal.

ERICA  
 And we're throwing a party for our  
 VIP ticket holders.  
 (MORE)

ERICA (CONT'D)

The press will be there. So will my father. You're going to get up in front of all of those people and apologize for your behavior.

ADAM

Easy. Sorry I'm a jerk. Done.

ERICA

This is serious, Adam. You need to eat a little crow and then we'll get you back on the team.

ADAM

I can do that. I'll take it very seriously, I promise. When is it?

ERICA

Saturday.

ADAM

Wait. This Saturday? I can't. That's the night of the bookstore's fortieth anniversary.

ERICA

It is? Well, you'll just have to miss it.

ADAM

I can't! I'm emceeding the auction, I'm signing autographs, I'm doing a live book chat with Mary.

ERICA

Adam... which is more important to you, this bookstore or your career?

Adam doesn't have an immediate response to that.

ERICA (CONT'D)

I'll see you Saturday.

Adam nods, stands, and exits without another word. Erica waits a moment and then moves a few papers on her desk. Underneath them is one of the flyers for the bookstore's 40th Anniversary. She looks a little guilty for what she has done, but only a little.

**END ACT SEVEN**

ACT EIGHT

90 EXT. PAUL & KATE'S HOUSE - NIGHT 90

Establishing shot of Mary's parents' house.

91 INT. PAUL & KATE'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM - NIGHT 91

The weekly dinner is in swing but the conversation is at a serious ebb, the four of them eating in silence. Kate looks at Paul and encourages him to do something about it.

PAUL

So, Mary... we're really looking forward to the big party on Saturday. It should be great for the store.

MARY

(tries to smile)  
I hope so.

Another silence.

PAUL

Okay, Mary, what is going on?

MARY

What do you mean?

KATE

Sweetheart, you haven't said ten words since we sat down. You usually say ten words before you finish getting through the door.

MARY

I've just got a lot on my mind, that's all. Everything is fine.

PAUL

(turns to Tyler)  
Okay, Tyler, spill.

TYLER

No! Don't drag me into this.

PAUL

It's a family dinner, you were dragged into it when you were born.

Tyler looks at Mary imploringly. She finally sighs.

MARY

Okay, look... there's a lot riding on the anniversary party. If it doesn't work... I'm going to have to close the store.

Paul reaches over to put his hand on hers.

PAUL

Mary, this is not your fault. The store was struggling when we retired. We actually considered closing it instead of saddling you with the responsibility.

KATE

We knew this day would come at some point.

MARY

Well, I didn't! On the Same Page is more than just a responsibility, it's... it's our family.

PAUL

No, honey... our family is right here. And we're going to be here whether the bookstore is or not.

MARY

You're not mad at me?

KATE

Mad? Sweetie, we could never be mad at you.

MARY

(relieved)

Well... we're not done trying yet. The party still might work.

PAUL

And Adam is helping out, right?

MARY

(beat)

I don't want to have to count on him.

Paul and Kate exchange a glance - there is obviously more to this than just their respective PR problems.

92 EXT. BOOKSTORE - DAY 92

Establishing shot of the bookstore.

93 INT. BOOKSTORE - DAY 93

Paul is putting some books on a shelf when Adam comes in. Paul sees him and smiles broadly.

PAUL

Adam! What are you doing here?

ADAM

I was looking for Mary. I tried to call her but...

PAUL

She went to city hall to pick up the permits for the winterfest party tomorrow night. The term shindig has been bandied about.

ADAM

By who?

PAUL

By me of course.

ADAM

(laughs)

Well, if you see her, will you tell her I really need to talk to her?

PAUL

Sure.

Adam heads for the door but Paul stops him.

PAUL (CONT'D)

You've come a long way, you know.

ADAM

(stops - turns back)

How so?

PAUL

You faced a lot of challenges in your life and have turned out to be a good man.

ADAM

I'm not always a good man.

PAUL  
Nobody is always. I mean, I'm  
pretty good and even I don't  
achieve always.

Adam smiles at that.

PAUL (CONT'D)  
But I've seen you trying. That's  
what counts.

ADAM  
What if I try and fail?

PAUL  
Look, the old Adam never would've  
made it this far. And he wouldn't  
have had the impact that you've had  
on the people around you.

ADAM  
I've had an impact?

PAUL  
This bookstore is her entire world.  
Has been ever since she was a kid.  
And sometimes she forgets there's a  
whole other world out there. The  
last few weeks she's been out,  
having fun, taking chances...

ADAM  
Yeah, but, a lot of the stuff we  
did was because Janet told us, too.

PAUL  
And you had no choice in the  
matter? Adam... Mary never would  
have done all that if she didn't  
want to. And she certainly never  
would have done them alone.

ADAM  
(smiles)  
The Snow Queen.

PAUL  
What?

ADAM  
Never mind.

PAUL

You have made an impact, son.  
Whether you intended to or not.

ADAM

You're pretty good with the  
impacts, yourself.

PAUL

Yeah, and I do it without a helmet.

Paul gets back to work and Adam smiles, looking around the bookstore and really appreciating everything that has happened here in the last few weeks. He reaches a decision and heads toward the door.

94 EXT. HOCKEY ARENA - DAY 94

Establishing shot of the hockey arena.

95 INT. HOCKEY ARENA - RINK - DAY 95

Erica is seated in the stands watching guys practice on the ice when Adam comes down to sit next to her.

ADAM

Hey. Do you have a minute?

ERICA

Sure. What's up?

ADAM

I can't go to the VIP party.

ERICA

Adam, you have to. I've already told people you're going to be there. I told my father.

ADAM

I know and I'm sorry. But I made a commitment to be at the bookstore event. And believe it or not people are actually counting on me being there. Which is weird, I know, people putting their faith in me.

ERICA

People. Like Mary?



ADAM  
It's... it's not just her.

ERICA  
But it is her at least in part?

ADAM  
(beat)  
Yes. I think it is.

ERICA  
Well... I appreciate you coming to me with this and I truly respect you wanting to do the right thing. But it's too late. You need to be at the VIP party.

ADAM  
Can't I just go back on suspension? I deserve it.

ERICA  
I had to convince my father that this was a good idea and if you back out now he won't take it well. This could end with you getting dropped and if it does, no other team is going to touch you.

ADAM  
Is that a threat?

ERICA  
No, Adam! I'm not some cartoon villain twisting a moustache.

ADAM  
You do wear a lot of black.

ERICA  
It's one of the team colors!  
Listen, I'm just telling you how it is. Regardless of what we were or are or could be, if you don't come to the party, I'm not going to be able to save you.

She gets up and walks away, leaving Adam to think about what she said. He watches practice for a minute and then looks off to the side where people are setting up a booth for a charity food drive - a sign says "Bring in a can of food, get a discount off Denver Chiefs tickets!"

We can almost see the light bulb going off. He pulls out his phone and dials.

ADAM

Janet? It's Adam. You were looking for a "Showcase Idea" for the anniversary party? I think I may have one.

He smiles.

96

EXT. BOOKSTORE - NIGHT

96

Mary is just coming out of the bookstore, locking up for the night, when Erica comes up to her.

ERICA

Hi, Mary?

MARY

Yes. Oh, hi...

ERICA

We haven't had a chance to meet. I'm Erica Pickett of the Chiefs.

MARY

Of course, hi. Mary Cartwright. Uh, do you want to come in? Or I live just upstairs.

ERICA

This will only take a minute. I wanted to talk to you about Adam. He has an opportunity to get back on the team but he's... conflicted.

MARY

About what?

ERICA

The bookstore  
(beat)  
You.

MARY

Me? I don't understand.

ERICA

This opportunity is tomorrow night.

MARY

Oh.

ERICA

Listen, the team will make it up to you. We'll still send all the memorabilia and we're paying for everything.

MARY

(beat)

That's very generous. Thank you.

ERICA

Of course. I just need Adam to understand that this is in his best interest. I would hate to see his career suffer because of...

MARY

Because of me.

Erica doesn't respond to that.

MARY (CONT'D)

Thank you for coming to talk to me.

ERICA

I trust you'll do what needs to be done?

MARY

Yes. I'll take care of it.

Erica nods and walks away. Mary watches her go for a moment and then turns around and goes back into the bookstore.

97 INT. BOOKSTORE - NIGHT 97

Mary comes into the bookstore and turns on a low light. She takes a moment and looks around - relishing it, cherishing it. A determined smile takes over as she makes the decision on what she has to do.

98 EXT. HOCKEY ARENA - NIGHT 98

Establishing shot of the hockey arena.

99 INT. HOCKEY ARENA - RINK - NIGHT 99

Adam is in the stands as Mary comes into the aisle above him. She looks at him for a moment, her expression one of affection tinged with sadness. She puts on her game face and goes down the aisle to sit next to him.

MARY  
(points onto ice)  
He's not getting enough contact  
with the ice when he swings.

ADAM  
(smiles)  
Oh, now you're a hockey expert.

MARY  
I think I bring a fresh, academic  
perspective, yes.

ADAM  
Because what you want when you've  
got a bunch of huge guys coming at  
you is an academic perspective.

MARY  
I'm sure that there's room for more  
than "must hit with stick now."

ADAM  
You're impossible.

MARY  
You're intractable.

They sit in companionable silence for a moment, smiles on  
their faces.

MARY (CONT'D)  
You have to do your event tomorrow.

ADAM  
How did you...  
(realizes)  
Erica.

MARY  
It's your career. It's what you've  
been doing all this for.

ADAM  
But I'm all over the advertising  
for the event. I'm the emcee, I'm  
signing autographs, I'm doing the  
Book Chat. If I don't show...

MARY  
Oh, now you're so important that it  
can't work without you?

ADAM

I know what you're doing. You're trying to get me mad so I'll walk away from the anniversary party.

They sit there again for a moment.

MARY

Adam, you can't turn down an opportunity to get back on the team. To get back on the road. Because that's where this whole thing leads one way or another. And, yes, the event might not work without you, but that's okay. It's time for me to succeed or fail on my own.

ADAM

But you shouldn't have to. I got suspended because I wasn't a good team player. But you and I are a team, too, aren't we?

MARY

Yes. But part of being a good team player is knowing when to let the other guy take the shot. You have to take your shot, Adam.

Mary leans over, kisses him on the cheek, and leaves quickly, trying to fight back tears. He remains seated, stunned by what has just happened.

**END ACT EIGHT**

ACT NINE

100 EXT. BOOKSTORE - NIGHT

100

The street in front of the bookstore has been transformed into a winter festival with food trucks offering toasty book-themed treats ("Crime and Punish-Mint Chip Brownies," "Count of Monte Cristo Sandwiches," etc.), wintery and literature themed games and activities ("Snowman Building," "Lord of the Ring Toss"), a booth with Denver Chiefs memorabilia, and more. There's a small stage in front of the store with a couple of chairs, a fake fireplace, and a sign that says "On the Same Page 40th Anniversary! Live Book Chat Tonight!"

A good crowd has turned out to enjoy the activities, many of whom are going in and out of the bookstore.

101 INT. BOOKSTORE - NIGHT

101

The store is abuzz with activity. Paul is behind the counter ringing up customers while Tyler assists people at a computer station under a sign that reads "Share Your Must-Read List." There are a few other new things including a kids' reading corner where Kate is reading a story to a group of children, a photo booth where people can take and share a picture of themselves with their favorite books, and a table with coffee and baked goods for sale.

Mary is just finishing helping a customer with a book when Janet comes up and taps her on the shoulder.

JANET

So?

MARY

(all smiles)

This is incredible. Look at all these people! We've sold more books tonight than we have in the last six months.

JANET

But even more important, you're building a customer base. Between the "Must-Read" list and the photo booth shares and the podcast downloads... Mary, here's a statement I never thought I'd say, but you're trending on social media.

MARY  
Hashtag OPS... No, that's not it...  
PTS... No...

JANET  
(laughs)  
Close enough.

Janet gives Mary a high five.

JANET (CONT'D)  
I just wish we had time to take  
Adam off the posters.

MARY  
I know. I've had a dozen people  
tell me they can't wait to hear our  
live chat. I didn't have the heart  
to tell them he's not coming.

JANET  
They're going to suspect something  
when you start chatting and he's  
not chatting back. I can handle  
it, you know. It's my job to spin  
things.

MARY  
That's okay. I need to handle this  
one on my own.

JANET  
Okay.

Noah and his mother walk up to Mary holding an older book.

NOAH  
Hey, Ms. Cartwright. Where's Adam?

MARY  
Oh... Um... You know, it turns out  
that Adam isn't going to be able to  
make it tonight.

Noah is obviously very disappointed.

JANET  
But hey... why don't I take a  
picture of the two of you to send  
to him. I bet he'd love it!

NOAH  
Okay.

Noah and Mary pose for the photo.

NOAH (CONT'D)

Where do I drop off my old book?

MARY

Oh, it's right outside. You'll get a coupon you can bring back in here for your twenty percent off.

NOAH

Great. Thanks

He goes back outside with his Mom.

MARY

Ouch.

JANET

I know.

MARY

But I do love the book exchange idea. Bring in one for the library and get a discount on a new book for yourself? Now, that is a "Showcase Idea."

JANET

I wish I could take credit, but it wasn't mine. That was Adam's.

Janet pats Mary on the shoulder and goes to get back to work. Mary smiles when she understands that Adam came up with a great Showcase Idea. Another customer comes up to her and she goes to help them.

102 EXT. HOCKEY ARENA - NIGHT 102

Establishing shot of the hockey arena.

103 INT. HOCKEY ARENA - RINK - NIGHT 103

An area next to the ice rink has been transformed into an event space with Chiefs' themed decor, high-top tables, a bar, servers who pass hors d'oeuvres, and a small dais with a podium and microphone. Well-dressed folks mingle and chat and among them are Adam and Chuck who shake hands with well-wishers that then walk away.



ADAM

Am I still smiling? I can't feel  
my face anymore.

CHUCK

You're doing fine. No trace of the  
Adam that argues with referees.

ADAM

I hope he's gone for good.

Erica comes to join them.

ERICA

I hope so, too. I'm getting  
positive feedback. My father is  
pleased.

They look over where a stone-faced older man is holding court  
with several of the party attendees. He raises a glass  
toward Adam, Erica, and Chuck with something resembling a  
smile and they acknowledge with their own glass raise.

ADAM

That's how your father looks when  
he's pleased?

ERICA

Yeah. It made report card time  
very confusing when I was a kid.

CHUCK

(pats them on shoulders)  
You guys have fun with that.

He escapes while he can. Adam gets a text on his phone and  
he sees the picture of Mary and Noah. He smiles as Erica  
turns back to him.

ERICA

Thank you for being here. I know  
it wasn't an easy choice.

ADAM

You have to know when to take your  
shot, right?

ERICA

And listen, we'll make sure that  
the bookstore is taken care of. I  
hated to put this event the same  
night as their party but...

ADAM

Wait... You scheduled this opposite the party on purpose?

ERICA

(oops)  
Well, yes, but...

ADAM

Why would you do that? Do you know how important this was to Mary? How important it was to me?

ERICA

Yes, I do. And that's exactly why I did it. Adam, you were supposed to be learning how important the team was to you.

ADAM

Erica, that's not fair.

ERICA

Adam, I saw you making positive changes. But I need you to direct that toward the team not toward some bookstore, or more to the point, a bookstore owner.

ADAM

(carefully)  
Erica, we talked about you and me.

ERICA

(shakes her head)  
Look, I'll admit... seeing how she could have an impact on you in ways that I couldn't... that's a little bit of a hit to the ego. But in the end I don't care how you got here I just care that you're here.

Adam has to think about that for a moment.

ERICA (CONT'D)

I have to go give my rah rah speech and introduce you. We're good?

ADAM

(beat)  
Yeah. We're good.

Erica heads toward the dais while Adam looks at the picture on his phone again.

104 EXT. BOOKSTORE - NIGHT

104

Mary, Janet, Tyler, Paul, and Kate are all gathered near the Book Chat stage outside. Mary looks a little nervous.

JANET

(to Mary)

We're going to start the Chat shortly. Are you sure you don't want me to handle the Adam thing?

MARY

I'm sure.

Janet nods and walks away. Paul, Kate, and Tyler gather closer to her.

PAUL

Are you okay?

MARY

I am.

KATE

Because it's okay to be nervous.

MARY

Oh, I am. But... I don't know. It's a good nervous. Like I kind of can't wait to get up there. And I think...

(to Tyler)

I'm going to do this one myself.

TYLER

(smiles)

Who are you and what have you done with my sister?

PAUL

I'll tell you who she is. She's someone who should be very proud of what she has accomplished.

MARY

Yeah, On the Same Page just might make it after all.

PAUL

I'm not talking about the store.

Paul puts his arm around Mary and pulls her tight.

MARY  
Thanks, Dad.

She smiles, appreciating the sentiment.

105 INT. HOCKEY ARENA - RINK - NIGHT 105

Erica is at the microphone wrapping up her speech. There is a round of applause.

ERICA  
Now... I want to introduce one of our best players... and certainly one of our most "colorful." But he's worked hard over the last month and I think you have seen the results of that in the press. I personally have seen how he has changed for the better. Ladies and gentlemen, Adam Clayborn.

Everyone applauds as Adam gets up to the dais. He shakes hands with Erica and then faces the crowd.

106 EXT. BOOKSTORE - NIGHT 106

Janet is up on the stage at the microphone.

JANET  
Thank you everyone for coming out to support the fortieth anniversary of the On the Same Page Bookstore.  
(applause)  
I am thrilled to introduce one of the owners and the driving force behind why we're all here tonight, Mary Cartwright.

More applause as Mary gets up to the microphone.

107 INT. HOCKEY ARENA - RINK - NIGHT 107

Adam starts his speech.

ADAM  
Thank you. There are a bunch of things I'm sorry about. My past behavior is one. It affected the team and my friendships with people and I'm doing my best to fix that.

108 EXT. BOOKSTORE - NIGHT 108

Mary is in mid-speech.

MARY

On the Same Page has been here for forty years but tonight I know that being a part of a community... being a part of a team... is about more than just being present.

109 INT. HOCKEY ARENA - RINK - NIGHT 109

Adam continues.

ADAM

I'm proud of our team and I'm proud to be a member of it. I think I forgot, for awhile, what real teamwork looked like.

110 EXT. BOOKSTORE - NIGHT 110

Mary continues.

MARY

I always say that the entire world is in that bookstore and I think that I sometimes forgot that the entire world is out here, too.

111 INT. HOCKEY ARENA - RINK - NIGHT 111

Adam continues.

ADAM

Erica said that she thinks I have changed for the better. I hope that's true. I think it is. Because now I understand what's really important.

112 EXT. BOOKSTORE - NIGHT 112

Mary continues.

MARY

It's an amazing world, filled with imagination and adventure and we should all experience it...

(MORE)

MARY (CONT'D)

Whether it's close to home or in far away places. I'm thinking about going to Bali.

She smiles.

113 INT. HOCKEY ARENA - RINK - NIGHT

113

Adam continues.

ADAM

Because the other big thing I'm sorry for is that I've realized what's really important... right now in this moment... is not in this room.

Adam leaves the dais.

114 EXT. BOOKSTORE - NIGHT

114

Mary continues.

MARY

I've been having close-to-home adventures. They haven't all gone well. But someone once told me that it doesn't matter how many times you fall down, it only matters how many times you get back up again.

115 INT. HOCKEY ARENA - RINK - NIGHT

115

Adam is coming down off the dais when Erica approaches.

ERICA

If you leave I don't know if my father is going to forgive you.

ADAM

If I don't leave I'm never going to forgive myself.

ERICA

You're risking your entire career.

ADAM

Well, I hope that I'll be able to prove to some other team that I am that better person I've been trying to be. That is, if I can't convince you first.

Erica pauses for a moment.

ERICA

(sighs)

Let's talk about it on Monday. You're going to be late...

He smiles and starts to leave, then comes back to her.

ADAM

For the record? You broke up with me.

ERICA

(finally!)

Thank you!

They share a moment of "we'll be okay" and he rushes off.

116

EXT. BOOKSTORE - NIGHT

116

Mary is wrapping up her speech.

MARY

And so, it's in that spirit of adventure, that I want to kick off our Book Chat for tonight. I made a last minute change to the book we're going to talk about.

She takes the microphone and goes to sit in one of the two chairs by the fake fireplace. She reaches down to pick up a book, which she holds up.

MARY (CONT'D)

Is there anyone out there who has read "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer?"

There is quite a bit of applause.

MARY (CONT'D)

Wonderful. I'm so happy to hear it. Because this really is one of my favorite books.

Adam steps up on to the stage with a microphone of his own.

ADAM

You say that about every book.

Mary is shocked to see him there - the audience applauds enthusiastically as he sits in the other chair opposite her.

MARY

What are you doing here?

ADAM

(shrugs)

Just came to chat about a book.

MARY

But what about getting back on the team?

ADAM

I think it's going to be okay. And if it isn't, maybe it's time I started to think about what's next. Apparently I come up with incredible business ideas.

MARY

(smiles)

Oh, really?

ADAM

Yes, I'm quite good. Most of this party here tonight was my idea.

The audience is eating this up.

MARY

Well, sure. I mean, I would've done it, but I was busy becoming a hockey expert.

ADAM

Considering going professional?

MARY

I could. I've learned all the places, now. Considering opening your own business?

ADAM

I was thinking a coffee shop.



MARY

Maybe we should just talk about the book.

ADAM

That would be great... because this is a book that I don't want to end.

MARY

Me either.

ADAM

But there's one more thing we need to do first.

MARY

What's that?

He leans in and she does, too, and they kiss with the frame of the faux fireplace behind them. The audience goes wild.

We PULL BACK on them, the colorful banners and lights of the street festival providing a warm glow on their kiss.

TITLE CARD: 10 MONTHS LATER

117 EXT. BOOKSTORE - DAY

117

As happy music plays, we see that it's a chilly November day and there is a line of people out the door at the bookstore. A banner has been added to the On the Same Page sign reading "HOME OF THE ON THE SAME PAGE BOOK CHAT, THE MOST DOWNLOADED BOOK CLUB PODCAST."

118 INT. BOOKSTORE - DAY

118

Inside the bookstore it's standing room only as Mary and Adam (wearing a Denver Chiefs' jersey) sit in chairs by the fireplace obviously deeply engaged in an animated conversation about a book, their healthy sense of banter still in place.

She shakes her head and he laughs, leans in, and they kiss one more time.

FADE TO BLACK

THE END