

JONI GOES POSTAL

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FADE IN:

1

EXT. STREET - DAY

1

Neat houses on postage-stamp-sized lots. A few businesses and stores scattered between them.

JONI SULLIVAN (34), pretty but not beautiful, bounces along the sidewalk. She is dressed in a letter carrier uniform, a mail bag slung over her shoulder.

She delivers mail. Racing from house to house. An excited, almost frenetic energy about her.

She reaches a cross street. Half way down the block, a liquor store.

Joni veers off her route, sprinting towards the liquor store. She rushes inside.

MOMENTS LATER:

Joni emerges, carrying two bottles of wine. She stuffs them into her postal bag, on top of the mail.

Joni hurries back to the street she was delivering on.

Two JEHOVAH WITNESSES stride down a driveway. The SHORT JEHOVAH WITNESS holds out a brochure.

JONI

No thanks.

She brushes by. The wine bottles jostle and clink as she goes. The Jehovah Witnesses frown.

One races after Joni, stuffing a brochure into Joni's bag.

JEHOVAH WITNESS

You might need it.

JONI

I'm fine -

She scurries on. Delivers to a few more houses. Darts into a fancy Thai restaurant.

MOMENTS LATER:

Joni hurries out of the restaurant. Juggling multiple containers of steaming hot food. She struggles to stuff them into her bag.

A Jack Russell dog approaches. Stands in front of Joni, blocking her way.

Joni reaches into her pocket and takes out a dog biscuit.

JONI (CONT'D)  
Here you go, Sport.

The dog ignores the biscuit. Barks at Joni's steaming bag.

Joni tries to step around the dog. The dog growls.

JONI (CONT'D)  
Good boy.

The dog grabs her pant leg. Tugs at it, with clenched teeth.

JONI (CONT'D)  
Shit.

She takes a noodle out of the Thai box. Tosses it across the sidewalk. The dog doesn't let go.

JONI (CONT'D)  
Okay, here. Fine.

She puts one of the containers down on the ground.

The dog tears into the container of Thai food instead.

Joni bolts down the street.

She reaches a mom-and-pop convenience store. Darts inside.

THROUGH WINDOW....

An elderly VENDOR, dressed in overalls and an apron.

Joni selects a bouquet of daffodils from a display in front of the till. She hands the owner his mail, and a five dollar bill.

She comes out, rearranging her bag. Struggling to fit the daffodils in so they won't get squashed.

A MAN brushes past, jostling her. Knocking petals off of the daffodils. They scatter about her, floating to the ground.

JONI (CONT'D)  
Hey - !

The Man ignores Joni. Continues on.

Joni looks at the wrecked flowers. Scowls as she stuffs them into a trash can.

She ducks back into the mom-and-pop store.

LATER:

Joni emerges, carrying the new bunch of daffodils.

She races up a long driveway to a house. Delivers the last of her mail.

She glances at her watch. A huge sigh of relief.

JONI (CONT'D)  
Right on time!

2 INT. JONI'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM -NIGHT 2

Joni, now dressed in a sexy full-length slip, lights a candle on the dresser.

She moves it back and forth, examining the way the light falls on the bed. Finds the perfect location.

A BUZZ.

Joni puts the matches in the top dresser drawer. Races out of the room.

3 INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS 3

Joni presses the intercom buzzer beside the door.

JONI  
Richard???

RICHARD (O.S.)  
I forgot my key.

JONI  
Oh! Come on in!

Joni buzzes him in. She waits anxiously. Doing an impatient dance. Felix the cat rubs against her leg.

The door opens. RICHARD FOXHALL (38), tall, good looking, with a tinge of a British accent, slumps inside. Plops his carry-on bag on the floor.

Joni throws her arms around him. Kissing him.

JONI (CONT'D)  
Welcome home.

Richard pulls away.

RICHARD  
My suitcase... Hi Felix.

He rubs Felix's back. Retreats into the hallway. Pulls a waiting suitcase inside.

RICHARD (CONT'D)  
God. I'm beat.

JONI  
(flirtatious)  
Let's go and lie down.

RICHARD  
Not now. God, the flight was terrible.

JONI  
How about a massage?

RICHARD  
Joni, I just got in the door.

JONI  
Oh, right. You must be starving. I bought Thai.

RICHARD  
(beat)  
No. It's not that -

He starts to tell her something. Joni doesn't notice.

JONI  
Richard... I haven't seen you for two weeks. Come on...

She takes his hand and pulls him into the bedroom.

EXT. LIVING ROOM - LATER

Daffodils on the table. Photographs everywhere: Joni and Richard at the beach. Beside a Christmas tree several years ago.

Felix on the sofa, playing with his favorite toy.

From the bedroom, the sound of Joni's MOANS and SIGHS.

4

INT. JONI'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

4

Joni, on a mission to arouse Richard. She fondles him. Climbs on top. Rubs against him. Really getting into it.

Richard... not so much.

JONI

What's the matter?

Richard hesitates. As if deciding something.

JONI (CONT'D)

Are you okay?

She looks down at him. Loving. Concerned.

RICHARD

It's nothing. Just jet lag.

Joni kisses Richard's forehead. Rolls off of him. Lays by his side.

JONI

It must have been difficult.

RICHARD

(too quickly)

What was?

JONI

The funeral.

RICHARD

It was. Aunt Gwen - she was my favorite aunt.

JONI

I wish I could've gone with you.

RICHARD

England's a long way to travel.

JONI

And my job. I mean, I could have asked for time off -

RICHARD

It was sudden. And you've used up all your overtime.

A long beat.

RICHARD (CONT'D)  
Oh. I almost forgot. I brought  
something back for you.

JONI  
You did?

Richard gets up. Pads out of the room.

JONI (CONT'D)  
It was great of you to think about  
me. You didn't have to.

Richard returns, carrying a shopping bag.

Joni reads the logo on the bag.

JONI (CONT'D)  
The Duty Free Shop? You bought me  
something from the Duty Free  
Shop???

RICHARD  
I didn't have much time.

JONI  
No. Sorry. It's just - thank you.  
It's fine.

RICHARD  
Things were so hectic. The funeral.  
The estate. It was a real mess.

JONI  
I appreciate it. I really do.

Richard pulls out a bottle of sherry.

RICHARD  
Your favorite kind.

JONI  
(less than enthusiastic)  
Great.

RICHARD  
Let's have a "tipple".

He goes into the kitchen to get glasses. A disappointed Joni  
watches him go.

JONI  
(to herself)  
Welcome home.



She lies back on the bed and stares up at the fan. Whir.  
Whir...

5 INT. MAIN SORTATION PLANT - NIGHT 5

A mechanical Whir. Millions of letters travel down conveyor belts.

They pass through sortation machines. Are slotted and sorted and placed into trays.

POSTAL WORKERS move about on automatic pilot. Placing the trays on dollies.

Moving the dollies outside onto...

6 EXT. MAIN SORTATION PLANT - NIGHT 6

A loading dock. A row of Postal trucks, being loaded up with mail.

Follow one truck as it leaves the dock...

7 EXT. CITY STREETS - NIGHT 7

The truck winds down empty streets. Reaches...

8 EXT. POSTAL STATION - NIGHT 8

A long, low concrete building with a sign that says POSTAL STATION G.

The truck parks outside.

WORKERS unload mail and wheel it inside.

9 EXT. POSTAL STATION - DAY 9

The first rays of sunlight.

Joni hurries across the parking lot, dressed in her uniform. Frantic. Dark circles under her eyes.

10 INT. POSTAL STATION - DAY 10

A large concrete space with grey walls. Florescent lights glare overhead.

Joni glances at her watch. 7:00. She glances at the wall clock: 7:03.

JONI

Shit.

She punches in. Ducks past on office that says SUPERVISOR.

Through the Supervisor's:

ANDY CHAN (55) small and wiry, a perpetual strained smile on his face, shoots her a glare.

Joni gives a tentative little wave.

Andy turns his glare back to the victim in the desk across, unseen by Joni.

She makes a beeline for the...

LUNCH ROOM:

Joni heads straight for the coffee machine. A sign on it says DO NOT HIT OR KICK.

She plunks quarters into the machine. Presses a button. It doesn't work.

She pushes again. Harder this time.

WALLY (30), a hunky co-worker, ambles by. Bangs the machine with his fist. Coffee starts to flow.

11 INT. POSTAL STATION - LATER

11

Joni comes out of the lunch room, coffee in hand.

She passes BEN (50s), an oversized postal worker with perpetually flushed cheeks, as he limps out of the supervisor's office. Andy shouts after him.

ANDY

No disability this time, either!

Ben mutters under his breath. Limps away.

Joni heads for the centre of the room. About fifty LETTER CARRIERS mill about. Gathering trays of mail.

She joins the fray. Picks up a tray of mail marked ROUTE 48.

She makes her way past row upon row of desks, each set in front of a six-foot vertical sortation case.

Past Ben's case, where he sits dejectedly. Staring off into space.

Joni reaches her sortation case. ROUTE 48

WALLY

I souped up my postal truck. I cut  
12 minutes off my route.

TINA (25), fit, feisty and fine, rolls her yes.

WALLY (CONT'D)

What?

TINA

Do chicks really fall for that sort  
of thing?

Joni pushes her way between them. Plops her coffee and mail  
on her desk.

She looks at her sortation case, which has a series of slots  
marked with street addresses.

JONI

(to herself)

It's gonna be one of those days.

She lets out a long, slow sigh. Starts to sort.

12 EXT. OUTDOOR RESTAURANT - DAY

12

A take-out Mexican food truck. Beside it, a picnic table  
covered with a plastic clothe.

Joni sits at the table, across from -

Across from her SIERRA (30), her unpretentious, eccentric -  
and determinedly single - best friend.

Sierra eats noisily, slurping her burrito with gusto. Joni  
picks at her food.

SIERRA

So there's this improv theatre  
thing. It's a bunch of guys, and  
the audience gives them props, and  
they make it up as they go along.  
Last night there was a toy gun and  
a g-string, and - get this - a  
parrot.

JONI

A parrot?

SIERRA

Someone actually smuggled their pet  
parrot in.

It ended up flying and squawking  
and shitting all over the place.

She laughs heartily. Joni smiles.

SIERRA (CONT'D)  
I got some free tickets for  
tonight. You want to go?

JONI  
I can't.

SIERRA  
(pointed)  
Oh right. He's back.

JONI  
He just got in last night.

SIERRA  
Uh huh.

Sierra stares evenly into Joni's eyes.

SIERRA (CONT'D)  
So how was the reunion?

JONI  
(overly enthusiastic)  
Great!

SIERRA  
Yeah. Right.

JONI  
It was.

SIERRA  
Then what's with the half-eaten  
quesadilla? You love those things.

Joni hesitates.

JONI  
He was tired. He brought me back  
some sherry.

SIERRA  
(sarcastic)  
How romantic.

JONI  
(defensive)  
It's an English thing. It was very  
sweet.

SIERRA  
Whatever. At least you got some  
writing done while he was gone.

\*

Joni gives a weak smile.

SIERRA (CONT'D)  
So when am I going to read it?

JONI  
It's not ready yet.

SIERRA  
As in...?

JONI  
It needs a bit more work.

SIERRA  
God, Joni. You didn't get anything  
done, did you?

JONI  
Okay. I didn't write. Is that what  
you wanted to hear? I couldn't  
concentrate.

SIERRA  
You just pined away, didn't you?

JONI  
I missed him.

SIERRA  
God, Joni. You're so good at it...  
You should really give it a shot.  
(off Joni's look)  
Never mind. I'll shut up.

She starts to take another bite of burrito. Puts it down.

SIERRA (CONT'D)  
That's why the only man in my life  
is Fredrico.

JONI  
I thought you were going to give it  
a rest.

SIERRA  
I'm just saying -

JONI  
Fredrico is a vibrator.

SIERRA  
Exactly. Life is simpler that way.  
Wipe him off afterwards. Change his  
batteries every few months...

JONI  
That's pathetic. You know that,  
don't you?

SIERRA  
It's practical. ...No drama. No  
emotional turmoil.

JONI  
What about companionship?

Sierra grins. Makes a noise like a vibrator.

JONI (CONT'D)  
Love?

Sierra's noise gets louder. LOUDER.

Joni looks around. Embarrassed.

JONI (CONT'D)  
Shhh!

Sierra quiets down. She looks at Joni, as one would look at a  
child who doesn't understand the world.

SIERRA  
Love is highly over-rated.

JONI  
How would you know, if you never  
give it a try?

SIERRA  
(louder)  
BZZZZZZ!

13 INT. JONI'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

13

Joni and Richard, on the sofa, watching TV. Felix curled up  
on Joni's knee.

NARRATOR (V.O.)  
Bald eagles mate for life.

ON TV: A nature documentary. Footage of the mating ritual of bald eagles.

NaRRATOR (V.O.)  
Spring is the time of courtship for these amazing creatures. Theirs is a beautiful, exquisite display.

JONI  
Look at that.

NARRATOR (V.O.)  
The male and female eagles climb to dizzying heights. Then they lock talons and free fall towards the earth. It is the most spectacular mating ritual of all.

She nestles closer to Richard.

Richard pulls away a bit. Joni glances at him. Confused. Hurt.

14 INT. POSTAL STATION - BEN'S CASE - DAY

14

Joni watches as...

Ben, one arm in a sling, jostles two trays of mail. Plops them on his desk. Letters spills everywhere.

She rushes over.

JONI  
Here. I'll get it...

BEN  
Really?

JONI  
Sure. No problem.

Joni gathers up mail. She places the letters in a pile, pretending to be nonchalant. Scanning the addresses.

She doesn't find what she needs.

JONI (CONT'D)  
I can give you a hand.

Ben looks at his arm in a sling.

BEN  
Is that a joke?

JONI  
No, I mean... I'll help you sort.

BEN  
(surprised)  
Thanks!

Joni examines the case. Finds the address she needs. 4321 Grandview Way. It's on the other side of Ben.

JONI  
I'll sort over here.

She awkwardly manoeuvres her way around Ben. Almost bumping his arm.

She positions herself in front of the address. Grabs a handful of mail. Starts to sort.

Ben makes a minimal effort. Placing letters in slots nearest to him. He hands her an envelope.

BEN  
Your side.

Joni looks at the address. Disappointed. Puts it into the case.

Ben hands her another letter.

BEN (CONT'D)  
Your boyfriend's office.

Joni grabs the letter. Looks at it. A credit card bill.

She sighs, placing it in the slot.

She picks up another stack of mail. Continues to sort.

BEN (CONT'D)  
Another one from him. A post card.

Joni snatches the post card. Stares at it.

CLOSE UP OF POST CARD: A nude painting. Two people intertwined.

BEN (CONT'D)  
Where's that from?



JONI  
 (shaking)  
 ... an art gallery in London.

She turns it over.

INSERT CARD: HI RICHARD. NICE SEEING YOU. REMEMBER THIS?  
 xoxoxo DAWNA.

Joni looks as if she is going to be ill.

BEN  
 Are you okay?

JONI  
 I'm fine.

Ben doesn't believe her.

JONI (CONT'D)  
 Your car. In the parking lot. You  
 left the lights on. Sorry - I just  
 remembered now.

BEN  
 Oh. Okay.

Ben strides towards the door.

JONI  
 Your sore foot.

BEN  
 Gottcha!

He hobbles away in fake-limp mode.

Joni hesitates a moment. She pockets the card.

15

INT. JONI'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - EVENING

15

Joni sits on the edge of the bed, staring at the post card.

JONI (V.O.)  
 You're not going to see her, are  
 you?

RICHARD (V.O.)  
 Joni. Honest. It's all in the past.

JONI (V.O.)  
 I know. It's just -

RICHARD (V.O.)  
Joni. It's you I love.

The sound of the door opening. Joni frantically glances around. Not knowing what to do.

She pulls open the top dresser drawer - the one with the matches. Stuffs the post card into it.

RICHARD (O.S.)  
I'm home.

Joni takes a deep breath. Heads into the...

HALLWAY:

JONI  
How was work?

RICHARD  
A lot of catching up to do. Sorry  
I'm late.  
(off Joni's look)  
What's up?

JONI  
Nothing. We're having dinner at my  
mother's tomorrow. Don't forget.

Joni watches as Richard takes off his coat and hangs it up.

JONI (CONT'D)  
... I was thinking... you never  
told me much about your trip.

RICHARD  
Other than the funeral, there's  
nothing to tell.

JONI  
You never got a chance to do any  
visiting while you were there?

RICHARD  
I saw lots of relatives at the  
funeral. Why?

JONI  
I was just wondering.

Her lower lip trembles. Tears well up in her eyes.

RICHARD  
What's the matter?

JONI  
(lying)  
My period's coming on.

RICHARD  
Oh.  
(attempting a joke)  
I thought it was the prospect of  
dinner at your mom's.

Joni gives a feeble laugh.

Richard heads for his spot on the sofa.

16 EXT. FOXHALL ENTERPRISES - DAY 16

A small warehouse with an office attached.

17 INT. FOXHALL ENTERPRISES - MAIN ROOM - DAY 17

A mail-order business. Trophies line the walls.

Richard packs trophies into boxes for shipping. GAVIN (20s),  
his assistant, helps.

Gavin hands Richard an invoice.

GAVIN  
There's a mistake with the address.  
That's not a correct postal code.

Richard looks at it. Frowns. He heads into...

18 INT. FOXHALL ENTERPRISES - RICHARD'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS 18

A small, crowded office. Piles of paper everywhere.

Richard plops down in front of the computer screen. Pulls up  
the order.

His SKYPE dings. Richard answers.

ON SCREEN: DAWNA (36), lithe and beautiful. Long red hair;  
haunting eyes.

RICHARD  
(surprised)  
Hi.

He glances around, guiltily.

DAWNA  
I missed you.

RICHARD  
I know. I was going to call.

Gavin taps on the open door.

RICHARD (CONT'D)  
Just a second.

GAVIN  
No problem.

DAWNA  
Okay.

A flustered Richard tries to figure out how to go back to the computer screen with the postal codes.

He grabs a piece of paper and writes down the code. Jumps up, rushes over, and gives it to Gavin.

RICHARD  
I'll be out in a minute.

GAVIN  
Okay...?

He gives Richard a "What the hell is going on?" look. Leaves  
Richard races back to his desk. Plunks himself down.

DING. His Skype. He answers.

DAWNA  
You hung up.

RICHARD  
Sorry about that.

DAWNA  
Is everything all right?

RICHARD  
I'm in the middle of a big order.

DAWNA  
I mean - between us.

RICHARD  
I've been thinking of you a lot.

DAWNA  
It was good to see you, after all these years.

RICHARD  
Like nothing changed.

DAWNA

Except for my tattoo, that is.

She rolls up her sleeve. Shows him a tattoo. A heart, with an R + D inside of it.

Richard balks.

RICHARD

Dawna, it's complicated.

DAWNA

It always is with you.

RICHARD

I mean -

DAWNA

I'm outta here. I just called to see what you thought of the post card.

RICHARD

Post card????

DAWNA

You didn't get it? It should have been there by now.

RICHARD

(panicked)

Where did you send it.

DAWNA

Relax, Don Juan. I sent it to your office, not to your apartment. God you have a shit load of shit to work out.

She hangs up.

A flustered Richard stares at the screen for a moment.

He rummages through the stacks of papers on his desk. Looking for the post card. Hoping it is there.

19

INT. FOXHALL ENTERPRISES - MAIN ROOM - CONTINUOUS

19

Ben pads into the warehouse. Hands mail to Gavin.

Richard races into the warehouse, just as Ben leaves.

RICHARD  
 (to Gavin)  
 Any postcards?

Gavin scans the pile.

GAVIN  
 Bill... Bill... 2-for-1 at  
 Staples... Nope.

RICHARD  
 You're sure?

A worried look on Richard's face.

GAVIN  
 They call it snail mail for a  
 reason.

20 EXT. FRANCIS' HOUSE - NIGHT 20

A two-story brick house.

21 INT. FRANCIS' HOUSE - DINING ROOM - NIGHT 21

A small dining room. Cramped but not cozy. Knickknacks everywhere.

Joni and Richard sit on one side of the table. Eating pot roast, mashed potatoes, peas. An obvious tension between them.

On the other side, Joni's younger sister, KAREN (25), texts.

Next to Karen, her husband TED (27), quiet and reserved. He nods attentively at Karen. Smiles at her every word.

At the head of the table, FRANCIS (60), their frazzled mother.

FRANCIS  
 Are you sure the roast beef is done  
 enough?

KAREN  
 It's fine. Just like Ted likes it.

She tousles Ted's hair. He beams.

JONI  
 Richard likes it too.

She reaches out to tousle Richard's hair. He grimaces.

Karen's cell phone buzzes. A text.

KAREN  
(reading)  
Congratulations to the best couple  
on the planet.

A confused look on Joni's face.

FRANCIS  
(to Joni)  
They've been married six months.

JONI  
(sarcastic)  
Oh. How could I have forgotten.

KAREN  
Exactly! We posted it on Facebook.

JONI  
Richard and I having an anniversary  
too. It will have been together  
three years tomorrow.

KAREN  
Joni. "Being together" hardly  
counts.

Joni fume. Stabs at her meat with a steak knife.

FRANCIS  
So. Who wants more gravy?

KAREN  
Ted does.

Karen takes the gravy boat. Serves Ted. He smiles.

KAREN (CONT'D)  
Pass the potatoes.

Joni reaches for them. Heaps some on Richard's plate first.

RICHARD  
I don't want -

JONI  
(tightly)  
Just a few.

She doles them out. A huge heap.

RICHARD  
I'm good. Really.

JONI  
You're welcome.

She passes them to Karen. Karen dishes the last of the mashed potatoes onto Ted's plate.

FRANCIS  
Are we going to need more? I have some boiled.

KAREN  
We're fine. At least Ted and I are.

She glances at Joni and Richard. Gives an "innocent" smile.

Another text. Karen reads it.

KAREN (CONT'D)  
Oh! Do you want to know what Aunt Jenny says?

JONI  
Not really.

KAREN  
You know, marriage is great. You should try it.

Richard squirms. An uncomfortable expression on his face.

FRANCIS  
(mistaking Richard's expression)  
Oh. Is there too much garlic?

RICHARD  
No. It's... Uh...

KAREN  
I don't think I told you this.  
About how Ted proposed.

JONI  
Actually. You did.

KAREN  
(ignoring this)  
We'd only been seeing each other two weeks. But Ted said - from the moment he met me, he knew I was the one.



But he didn't know I felt the same way. You should have seen him. He was so nervous. It was cute. He had a shot of whisky before he asked. Then he planned this elaborate scheme. He proposed while we were bungy jumping. It gives new meaning to "taking the plunge".

Another text. Reads.

KAREN (CONT'D)

"I look at you and see the rest of my life in front of your eyes."  
It's a quote. From Unknown. Isn't it sweet?

Joni grabs the potato bowl.

JONI

Maybe we do need some more.

She stomps towards the kitchen.

FRANCIS

You'll have to mash -

22 INT. FRANCIS' HOUSE/ KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS 22

Joni grabs a pot with boiled potatoes on the counter.

She picks up a masher on the counter. She mashes with all her might.

23 EXT. STREET - NIGHT 23

Joni and Richard walk home.

JONI

Well, that was awkward.

RICHARD

They got engaged after two weeks...

JONI

When do you think is a reasonable time?

(off Richard's look)

Never mind. I just meant -

RICHARD

I guess... if you know you've met the right one.

(beat)

I've been thinking about us a lot lately.

JONI

You have?

RICHARD

Three years is a really long time.

Joni looks up at Richard. Hope in her eyes.

24

INT. JONI'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN - DAY

24

Joni, wearing an apron, ices a heart-shaped cake. She talks on the phone. Felix at her feet.

JONI

... He's been thinking about us a lot. That's what he said.... I don't know, I have a feeling... I know you don't believe in love, but this is it!

She hangs up. Puts her finger in the icing bowl and scoops up a huge dollop of vanilla frosted cream. She pops it in her mouth, smiling happily.

25

INT. JONI'S APARTMENT - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

25

The apartment, now decorated with streamers and a homemade "Happy Anniversary" sign.

The dining table set with candles, wine glasses, a half-finished bottle of wine. The remains of a gourmet feast.

Joni and Richard at the table, drinking wine. Laughing. Joni in a sexy black dress. Uncomfortable shoes. Richard wears a sweat shirt and jeans.

RICHARD

I know I've been aloof.

JONI

That's okay.

He points to a heart-shaped necklace around Joni's neck.

RICHARD

That necklace. I gave it to you when we first met.

JONI  
I thought it was appropriate.

Richard doesn't get it.

RICHARD  
More wine?

JONI  
Sure.

Richard reaches for the bottle of wine. Pours the remainder into their glasses.

JONI (CONT'D)  
There's another bottle in the fridge. I'll go get it. Don't go away!

She scampers into the kitchen.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Joni takes another bottle of wine out of the fridge. Looks at the label, approvingly. A logo of a gold ring.

She heads into the bathroom..

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The candle fizzles. Richard reaches for the pack of matches on the table. One left.

He lights the candle. It sparkles for a moment; then goes out.

INT. JONI'S APARTMENT - BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Joni smoothes her hair. Smells her armpit.

RICHARD (O.S.)  
.... matches.

JONI  
What?

RICHARD  
I'll get the ones in the bedroom  
....

JONI  
Matches?  
(sudden realization)  
No! Wait.

She dashes out of the bathroom.

Races into...

26

INT. JONI'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

26

Richard opens the dresser drawer. Reaches inside.

Joni rushes in just as...

Richard turns to face her. The post card in his hand.

JONI  
(innocently)  
What's that?

Richard scowls.

JONI (CONT'D)  
It's nothing. Really. Let's put it  
away.

She reaches for the post card. Richard holds it out of reach.

RICHARD  
My post card.

JONI  
It's a funny story, really -

RICHARD  
You stole my post card!

JONI  
(losing it)  
Oh, for Christ's sake, Richard. Is  
that all you have to say? You said  
you weren't going to see her! You  
lied to me!

RICHARD  
She came to the funeral. She knew  
Aunt Gwen.

JONI  
Is that why you didn't want me to  
go?

Richard doesn't answer. Joni deflates.

JONI (CONT'D)  
What happened?

RICHARD  
We went to the art gallery.

JONI  
And...?

RICHARD  
We hugged...

JONI  
And ???

RICHARD  
We kissed...

JONI  
Did you sleep with her?

RICHARD  
(defensive)  
We didn't do anything to put you at  
risk medically.

JONI  
"You didn't do anything to put me  
at risk medically?" What is that  
supposed to mean?

RICHARD  
Well, technically speaking -

JONI  
Cut the crap, Richard! Did you fuck  
her or not????

Richard stares at Joni for a long moment. Then...

27 EXT. PARKING LOT OUTSIDE OF JONI'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS 27

A scream coming from Joni's window.

A PARKING ATTENDANT swivels around in his booth. Looks  
towards the apartment.

28 INT. JONI'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS 28

Joni slumps on the bed.

RICHARD  
You must have known. When you got  
the card.

JONI  
I was hoping it was a mistake.

RICHARD  
Maybe it was. I don't know.

JONI  
A mistake that you slept with her?  
Or a mistake that I found out?

Richard doesn't answer.

JONI (CONT'D)  
(beat)  
Do you love her?

RICHARD  
I don't know how I feel about  
anything, anymore.

JONI  
I know how I feel. I'm crazy about  
you. Head over heels. Nutso. All  
right? It's really not that  
complicated.

RICHARD  
Joni, it's not that I don't care. I  
do. It's just... I've been  
wondering, lately. Where my life is  
going. I feel stuck

JONI  
With me.

RICHARD  
You're set in your ways. You have  
your job. Your family. Your  
routine. I just don't know... if  
it's enough, anymore.

JONI  
Get out.

RICHARD  
Joni -

JONI  
Get out. Now.

RICHARD  
Dawna's in England. You're here.  
It's complicated.

JONI  
Will you please just leave????

29

JONI'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - LATER

29

Richard packs together an overflowing suitcase. He looks around the apartment. The photos. Books...

RICHARD

I don't have room. I'll have to leave the rest of my things for now.

Joni hands him the necklace.

RICHARD (CONT'D)

What's that for?

JONI

Maybe Dawna will want it.

RICHARD

Joni -

JONI

Just go.

Richard hesitates a moment. Leaves.

Joni heads back to the living room. Looks at the "Happy Anniversary" sign.

She goes over to it. Starts to take it down. It rips.

JONI (CONT'D)

Shit.

She rips it again. On purpose this time. Keeps ripping until it is in shreds.

Joni drains the wine from her glass. The glass starts to slip from her fingers. She catches it.

She looks at the glass. Beat.

She gingerly lets it all to the floor. It shatters, breaking into smithereens. A hint of a smile on Joni's face.

She downs the remains of Richard's wine. Hurls his glass against the wall.

She picks up the plates and dishes. Throws them across the room, smashing them.

Joni opens the kitchen cupboard. A coffee mug with RICHARD written on it stares down at her. She snatches the mug and smashes it on the floor.

She gets a platter. Looks at the mess on the floor. Beat.

Joni storms to the window. Opens it. Tosses the platter out like a frisbee.

Goes back to the kitchen cupboard. Rearms.

30 EXT. PARKING LOT OUTSIDE JONI'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS 30

Dishes fly out the window. Crash on the parking lot.

The Parking Attendant rushes out of the boot in time to see....

A tea pot, hurling through the air. A startled Attendant ducks for cover.

31 INT. JONI'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS 31

Joni holds a teacup in her hand, ready to fire.

GAS ATTENDANT (O.S.)  
(hollering)  
Lady! What the fuck are you doing?

A shocked look on Joni's face.

She slams The window shut. Shaking.

32 EXT. MOTEL - NIGHT 32

A crappy motel.

33 INT. MOTEL ROOM - NIGHT 33

Richard slumps on the bed. He pulls out his cell phone. Stares at it a long moment.

Richard starts to dial. Changes his mind.

34 INT. JONI'S APARTMENT - DINING ROOM - NIGHT 34

A total mess. Bits of paper and glass everywhere.

Joni, still wearing the sexy dress, sits on the floor with the bottle of wine. The half-eaten cake on her lap.

She alternately forks cake into her mouth and chugs wine straight from the bottle.

Felix patters over. He sits beside her, eyes fixed on her every move.



Joni dips her finger in the icing. Holds it out to Felix. He licks it off.

She gets up, unsteady on her feet, and weaves her way into the living room.

INT. JONI'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Joni crashes on the couch. She grabs the TV remote. Turns it on.

A catchy jingle from the television.

ON TV: A game show. A gorgeous, tanned MAN and a beautiful, svelte WOMAN (both 20's) sit side by side, holding hands.

The chipper voice of the HOST is heard.

HOST (O.S.)  
And when did you know it was true  
love?

WOMAN  
It was the first day we met.

MAN  
We met again, after a lot of  
years...

WOMAN  
And it was hot.

MAN  
Oh my God! It was hot.

The Man starts to perspire.

His face begins to morph. Change. Turning into... Richard.

Joni gasps.

ON TV: The camera pulls back, Behind the couple, to reveal a sign. THE NEWLY SCREWED GAME.

Joni stabs the buttons on the remote. Frantically changing the channel.

ON TV: A soap opera. A DOCTOR and NURSE in an operating theatre. A PATIENT lies on the table.

DOCTOR  
Open heart surgery is a very  
delicate procedure.

The Nurse hands the Doctor a needle. The Doctor pushes it away.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)  
For this operation, there will be  
no anesthetic.

He rips off his mask. It is Richard.

The Patient sits bolt upright. It is Joni.

Joni drops the remote on the floor. Badly shaken.

35

INT. JONI'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - MORNING

35

Joni tosses and turns. Writhes, as if having a sexual dream.

She rolls over and cuddles a pillow on the bed beside her.

She puts the pillow between her legs. Rubs her body up against it.

JONI  
(moaning)  
Richard...

She starts getting it on.

Felix leaps onto the bed. Onto Joni's face.

Joni wakes up with a start. Sits bolt upright. Sees at the pillow between her legs.

JONI (CONT'D)  
Yick!

Joni hurls the pillow against the wall.

She crawls out of bed. She pads out of the room. Into the...

LIVING ROOM:

She steps on a shard of glass.

JONI (CONT'D)  
Fuck.

She looks down at her foot. It is bleeding.

JONI (CONT'D)  
Double fuck.

Hobbles into the...

## BATHROOM:

Joni plops down on the toilet. Puts a band-aid on her toe.

She looks up at a hook on the back of the door. A male bathrobe hanging there.

A pained look in her eyes. She fights back the tears, willing herself not to cry.

36 EXT. POSTAL STATION - DAY 36

Dark. Rain drizzles down.

A bedraggled Joni hobbles towards the building.

She reaches the door. Takes a deep breath. Goes inside.

37 INT. POSTAL STATION - CONTINUOUS 37

Joni punches in. Wally passes by. Does a double take.

WALLY

A hard night last night?

Andy comes out of his office. Sees Joni limping.

ANDY

No disability for you either.

JONI

(to herself)

Give me a break.

She hobbles towards the lunch room.

ANDY

Okay. Listen up, everyone. Floor meeting in five minutes.

## LUNCH ROOM:

Joni feeds the coffee machine. She pushes a button. It doesn't work.

She bangs the machine with her fist, much like Wally did. Still nothing.

She kicks the machine.

Coffee starts to flow. She heaves a sigh of relief.

Joni's cup fills up. Then overflows.

She presses the STOP button. The coffee keeps pouring.

Joni presses one button after another.

JONI

Shit!

She bangs and kicks the machine. The coffee keeps flowing.  
Out of her cup. Onto the floor.

38 INT. POSTAL STATION - LATER

38

A floor meeting. Andy glares out at the group of posties gathered round. Ben, leaning against his case, looking dizzy. Wally, elbowing Tina. Joni, coffee splattered all over her shirt.

ANDY

Flyers must be delivered on time.

He addresses the room with messiah-like fervor.

ANDY (CONT'D)

Monday flyers must be delivered  
Monday. Tuesday flyers delivered on  
Tuesday. No exceptions. I don't  
care if the customer doesn't get  
any other mail that day. I don't  
care if you have to climb twenty  
seven steps. We must obey the  
postal code. We must follow the  
rules. We must remain sharp! Sharp!  
Sharp!

39 EXT. STREET - DAY

39

The light drizzle continues. Joni hobbles along her route.  
Struggling to deliver the mail.

A brick house. A Man opens the door.

MAN

You're late.

He snatches the mail from Joni's hand. Slams the door.

Joni continues on.

She bends down to put the mail through a slot.

A sullen TEENAGER yanks open the door. Joni propels forward.  
Almost falls, face first, into the house.

The Teen scowls. Rifles through the mail. Trusts a letter back at her.

TEENAGER

Wrong address. It's for that house.  
No wonder only old foggies use mail  
anymore.

He points in the direction she just came.

Joni heads back to the previous house. Across the grass.

OLD WOMAN (O.S.)

You!

Joni looks up. A crotchety OLD WOMAN in the previous house peers out of the window.

OLD WOMAN (CONT'D)

Stay off of my lawn!

40 EXT. STREET - DAY

40

Wally, in his postal truck, zooms up to...

A YOUNG WOMAN (19), in a short raincoat and high heels, on her cell phone.

WALLY

Where are you going? Do you need a  
ride?

YOUNG WOMAN

(disgusted)

Please. Tell me you didn't just say  
that.

41 EXT. STREET - DAY

41

The light drizzle turns to rain. Joni ducks into a drug store.

EXT. STREET - MOMENTS LATER

Joni comes out of the drug store with a small plastic bag. She empties the contents into her postal sac. Puts the bag over her head, trying to keep dry.

Wally zooms past in his postal truck, oblivious. Careening through a puddle. Muddy water sprays up like a geyser.

Drenching Joni.

42 INT. GIFT SHOP - DAY

42

Sierra works behind the counter.

Joni, soaking wet, rushes in, still dressed in her postal uniform and carrying her mail bag.

SIERRA

Joni?

She sees the distraught look on Joni's face. Takes her arm. Leads her to a back room.

SIERRA (CONT'D)

Come on.

43 INT. GIFT SHOP - BACK ROOM - DAY

43

A small back room. Joni and Sierra sit at a small table, drinking tea.

JONI

He said he didn't do anything to put me at risk medically.

SIERRA

What the fuck does that mean?

JONI

That's what I wanted to know.

SIERRA

I mean, really. That is wrong. On so many levels.

A stream of water runs down Joni's cheek. Sierra hands her a towel. Joni wipes it away.

JONI

I feel like such a fool.

SIERRA

It's not your fault.

JONI

I made the reservation. I drove him to the airport. I even made him a care package to take on the plane!

SIERRA

A care package?

JONI  
Cookies and things.  
(beat)  
How could it have gone so wrong?

She looks at Sierra. Searching for answers.

SIERRA  
This really isn't my area of  
expertise.

Joni stares into her cup.

JONI  
I'm 34 years old. I feel like my  
life is over.

SIERRA  
It's not.

JONI  
I was certain he was the one.

SIERRA  
That sucks.

JONI  
Maybe she's prettier than me.

SIERRA  
Don't go there.

JONI  
(suddenly hopeful)  
He said that maybe he made a  
mistake.

SIERRA  
Joni...! He's a Dick Head. That's  
what he is.

JONI  
It can't work out with Dawna. She's  
in another country.

SIERRA  
He cheated on you. Are you  
listening to yourself?

JONI  
But what if - ?

SIERRA

Joni, stop it! You did the right thing!

JONI

This isn't how it was supposed to turn out.

44 INT. JONI'S APARTMENT BUILDING - ELEVATOR - DAY

44

Joni waits for the elevator.

The doors open. She gets in. Presses "7".

Just as the doors are about to close, a middle-aged, pinch-faced WOMAN hurries in. Presses "6".

WOMAN

Did you hear that awful ruckus last night?

JONI

No.

WOMAN

Some lunatic on the floor above...

She notices the number Joni pressed.

WOMAN (CONT'D)

Which way does your apartment face?

JONI

The other way.

WOMAN

Which other way???

JONI

The way the dishes went out.

WOMAN

I didn't say there was dishes...

The Woman stares at Joni suspiciously. Backs away, as if Joni were crazy.

Ding. The door opens.

The Woman scurries out of the elevator.



45

INT. JONI'S APARTMENT - BATHROOM - DAY

45

Joni empties the contents of her mail sac onto the counter. A box of hair color. A face mask. Cellulite cream.

JONI  
(to herself)  
I'll show you, Dick Head.

She strips down to her bra and panties.

She opens the box of hair color. Pulls out a timer. Sets it.

Puts on rubber gloves.

46

INT. JONI'S APARTMENT - BATHROOM - LATER

46

The timer TICKS. Joni's hair IS piled high on top of her head, covered with gobs of dye.

Hair color is spattered all over the place. On the sink. The mirror. The walls.

She examines her body in the mirror. Frowns.

Her stomach appears totally distended. The cellulite on her thighs takes on monstrous proportions.

Joni grabs the tube of cellulite cream. Yanks off the top. It is green.

She slathers the entire tube of cream over her stomach and thighs.

She looks at her face in the mirror. Dark circles. Puffy cheeks...

She examines every inch of it. Focuses on every imperfection. Each blemish appears huge and hideous.

Joni grabs the box marked FACIAL MASK. Tears it open. Pulls out a jar of cream.

She tosses the box on the floor, without noticing...

CLOSE UP ON BOX: WARNING. MAY CAUSE ALLERGIC REACTIONS.

She smears the bright blue cream over her face and neck.

She grabs a pair of tweezers. Starts plucking her eyebrows.

The phone RINGS. She races into the bedroom.

JONI (O.S.)  
I just wanted to ask you... what do  
you think...?

47 INT. JONI'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - LATER

47

Joni sprawls on the bed, her hair is still piled on top of her head, the blue mask still on her face.

A large bag of taco chips and a squeeze bottle of processed cheese beside her.

Joni talks on the telephone.

JONI  
Uh huh... Uh huh...

She squeezes processed cheese on a chip. Pops it in her mouth.

JONI (CONT'D)  
...Immature...

On her lap, a pad of paper.

CLOSE UP OF PAD OF PAPER:

Several columns with headings such as Immature, Selfish, Jerk, Prick. Under each column is a tally.

She puts a check mark under Immature.

48 INT. JONI'S APARTMENT - BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

48

The empty bathroom. The timer ticks down to zero.

INT. JONI'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

JONI  
(talking on phone)  
Selfish.

She puts a check mark under "selfish".

JONI (CONT'D)  
Okay. Anything else?  
(beat)  
An asshole...

She looks at the list. There is no column for asshole. She creates one.

Joni hangs up. She dials a different number.

JONI (CONT'D)  
(on phone)  
Hello... Susan Whittaker? Suzy? You  
probably don't remember me. We were  
in cub scouts together one year...  
Hello? HELLO?

She tosses the phone on her bed. Beat.

She takes the squeeze bottle of cheese. Leans back on her  
pillow. Squeezes the cheese directly into her mouth.

50 INT. POSTAL STATION - MORNING

50

The place is deserted.

Joni, wearing a toque, creeps inside. Her hair - now brass  
colored and overly-processed - sticks out at odd angles from  
under the hat. Her eyebrows - thin and uneven. A red rash  
spreads across her face.

Joni glances at the clock. 6:15 a.m.

She tiptoes across the floor. The sound of footsteps.

Joni ducks behind a large container of mail.

A CLEANING LADY pushes a broom down the aisle.

Joni waits until the Cleaning Lady passes. She creeps across  
the floor, to Ben's case.

She looks at Richard's work address. 127 Larch. Pulls out the  
mail.

51 INT. POSTAL STATION - DAY

51

Joni hunches over her desk. Richard's mail is spread out in  
front of her.

She picks up a phone bill. She opens it, careful not to rip  
the envelope.

She scans the list of phone calls. Several, to the same  
number in England.

Wally and Tina approach.

WALLY (O.S.)  
I'm gonna get some new shock  
absorbers.

TINA (O.S.)  
For what? Never mind... I don't  
want to know.

Joni panics. Quickly copies the phone number onto a piece of paper. Shoves it in her pocket.

Tina and Wally arrive. See Joni's toque and blotchy hair. Wally does a double-take. Tina giggles.

TINA (CONT'D)  
Talk about needing shock absorbers.

Joni glares.

Tina goes to her case. Wally carefully sidesteps around Joni to get to his station. They start to sort.

Joni stuffs the bill back in the envelope. Reseals it. The envelope wrinkles and tears.

JONI  
Shit.

Wally and Tina glance at her out of the corner of their eyes.

Joni innocently "drops" the letter on the floor. Steps on it with her shoe, leaving a mark.

She picks up the letter. Takes a rubber stamp from her desk and stamps the letter.

CLOSE UP OF STAMP: WAS RECEIVED IN DAMAGED CONDITION. NOT THE POST OFFICE'S FAULT.

She stands up, knocking her stool to the ground.

She uprights the stool. Tina and Wally stare.

JONI (CONT'D)  
Don't you have anything better to  
do?

She gathers up Richard's mail. Storms off.

Slips the mail back in Ben's case, just as...

Ben comes up, rubbing his forehead, a look of panic on his face.

BEN  
What does a brain tumor feel  
like...?

He stops when he sees Joni's mottled complexion.

An awkward silence.

A flustered Joni rushes away, into...

52 INT. POSTAL STATION - WASHROOM - DAY

52

Joni, in a bathroom stall, staring at the piece of paper with Dawna's phone number on it.

She takes out her cell phone. Dials..

DAWNA'S ANSWERING MACHINE (V.O.)  
Looks like I've gone away. But I'll  
be back again today. Leave your  
name and number and the time. Shit!  
I know that doesn't rhyme!

Joni makes a "gagging" gesture. Hangs up.

She takes a deep breath. Dials again.

DAWNA (V.O.)  
Looks like you've got me this time.

JONI  
(blurting out)  
Richard's a two-timing asshole, he  
cheated on his taxes, and he has  
athlete's foot. Feet. Both of them.

DAWNA (V.O.)  
Who is this?

No answer.

DAWNA (V.O.)  
Joni?

She hangs up. Stares at the cell phone. Shaking.

53 INT. FRANCIS' HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

53

Francis bustles around the kitchen. Fretting.

Karen and Ted sit at the table. Nervous. Excited.

FRANCIS  
I hope everyone likes ham.

KAREN  
With pineapple?

FRANCIS  
Of course. You're favourite.

KAREN  
It's Ted's favourite, as well!

She squeezes Ted's hand.

The sound of the door opening...

FRANCIS  
(calling out)  
Joni, can Richard eat pineapple  
with that ulcer of his? I can cook  
you some pasta instead -

Joni plods into the kitchen. Flops on a chair.

FRANCIS (CONT'D)  
Where's Richard?

JONI  
He's not coming.

FRANCIS  
Is everything all right?

Joni shrugs.

FRANCIS (CONT'D)  
(lying)  
I like your hair. Is it the new  
style?

JONI  
Yeah. Right. Just like when I was  
little and got that awful perm, you  
wouldn't tell me the truth. You  
just kept saying you liked my hair.  
I looked like shit then. I look  
like shit now!

FRANCIS  
Honey, what's wrong?

JONI  
Nothing. I'm fine.

FRANCIS  
Come on. You can tell me.

JONI  
It's just that -

KAREN  
(blurting out)  
- I'm pregnant!!!

Francis spins away from Joni. Looks at Karen.

FRANCIS  
What did you say?

KAREN  
I'm pregnant! Ted and I are going  
to have a baby.

Joni looks at Karen in shock. Francis squeals.

FRANCIS  
Oh, honey! I am so happy!

She jumps up from the table. Races over to give Karen and Ted  
a big hug.

FRANCIS (CONT'D)  
I'm going to be a grandmother. And  
you..

She goes to the other side of the table. Hugs Joni.

FRANCIS (CONT'D)  
You're going to be an aunt.

JONI  
(bitter)  
Yippee!

FRANCIS  
I feel like I'm going to cry.

JONI  
Me too.

FRANCIS  
(to Joni)  
Are you sure you're okay?  
You look a little woozy.

JONI  
It's from the excitement.

Francis grabs Karen and Ted's hand.

FRANCIS  
We're pregnant.

The three of them hug. Joni looks on. Totally left out.

54 INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE OF JONI'S APARTMENT - NIGHT 54

Joni slumps along the hallway towards her apartment, fumbling with her keys.

A RUCKUS, coming from inside her apartment.

Joni tiptoes up to the apartment. Peeks through the keyhole.

She unlocks the door. Throws it open.

55 INT. JONI'S APARTMENT - NIGHT 55

Joni stops short in her tracks.

Richard storms about the apartment. Tossing clothes and books into cardboard boxes. Angry as hell.

He looks up when Joni enters. Glares at her.

RICHARD

I can't believe you phoned Dawna!

JONI

Oh please.

RICHARD

You snoop in my mail. You steal my post card. And look at the mess.

He points to the chaotic mix of broken glass and pieces of the Welcome Home sign.

JONI

I'm redecorating. It's the "dumped by an immature asshole" look.

RICHARD

That's not funny.

JONI

I didn't snoop in your mail.

RICHARD

No? Then how did you get Dawna's number?

JONI

...I googled it.

Richard stares at Joni, not knowing whether to believe her or not.



RICHARD  
I got a phone bill that was all  
ripped and torn - what the hell  
happened to your hair?

Joni starts to say something.

RICHARD (CONT'D)  
Never mind.

He storms into the bedroom. Returns, carrying an entire  
dresser drawer. Dumps it into one of the boxes.

He spies a broken coffee mug on the floor. Picks it up.

RICHARD (CONT'D)  
My favorite mug? I won it bowling!

He shakes his head. Puts it in the box.

Richard piles the boxes one on top of the other. Picks them  
up.

RICHARD (CONT'D)  
Joni, get a grip.

He storms out.

Joni stares at the closed door. Felix rubs against her leg.

She wanders through the apartment. Taking in the blank spaces  
on the bookshelf. The empty dresser drawer.

The sound of the door opening. Richard storms back inside.

JONI  
Did you forget something?

Richard goes to the hall cupboard. Takes out a cat crate.

JONI (CONT'D)  
Oh no you don't.

RICHARD  
He's my cat.

JONI  
Who feeds him? Empties his litter  
box? Who took him to the vet when  
he had a fur ball?

RICHARD  
I paid the bill.

JONI  
Who shampooed him when he had flea  
cuz your allergic to them?

Richard opens the cat crate.

RICHARD  
Come on, Felix.

JONI  
Felix, don't.

Richard pulls a package of kitty snacks out of his pocket.

JONI (CONT'D)  
That's unfair.

Richard drops one inside the crate.

JONI (CONT'D)  
Cheater!

Felix races for the treat. Into the crate. Richard closes the door.

He carries Felix outside.

Joni stares at the closed door. Devastated. Alone.

JONI (CONT'D)  
Fuck you, Richard Foxhall!

INT. JONI'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Joni marches through the living room. Picking up bits of the Welcome Home sign. Shards of glass.

56 INT. JONI'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - LATER

56

Joni scrubs as if her life depended on it. Scrubbing away the anger and pain.

INT. JONI'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - LATER

Joni puts the empty dresser drawer back in place.

She looks around her now-sparkling-clean apartment.

She falls on the bed, exhausted.

57 INT. BOOKSTORE - DAY

57

Joni browses the aisles. She pulls books off the shelves. *Codependent No More. Getting Over a Break Up. Living Your Own Best Life.*

She picks another book as an afterthought. *Writing from the Heart.* Adds it to the pile.

58 EXT. BOOK STORE - DAY

58

Joni comes out of the bookstore, almost bumping into Sierra who is race-walking along the side walk. Joni's stash of books fall to the ground.

Sierra bends down to help Joni pick them up. She glances at the titles.

SIERRA

What did you do? Buy the entire self-help section?

JONI

I'm getting over Richard! Getting on with my life!

SIERRA

Good for you!

They high-five.

SIERRA (CONT'D)

If you want to meet any of Frederico's relatives...

JONI

Sierra!

SIERRA

I'm just saying...

She winks.

SIERRA (CONT'D)

I'm covering a shift; gotta go. Hey, the improv. Let's do it. Next weekend. You on?

JONI

Sure.

She hurries away.

59 EXT. POSTAL STATION - DAY

59

Tina, Wally, Ben, and a few other "Posties" come out of the station, wearing sweat shirts and jeans. Their uniforms tucked into their postal bags.

Joni trails behind them, wearing her uniform.

WALLY

You should have seen me, man.  
Knocked off another 4 minutes  
today.

Tina rolls her eyes.

BEN

Friday! You know what that means -

WALLY/TINA/OTHER POSTIES

The Blue Moon!

They head towards the parking lot, ignoring Jon.

Joni hesitates a moment. Follows them.

60 EXT. THE BLUE MOON PUB - DAY

60

A local bar with peeling paint and a clapboard sign.

61 INT. THE BLUE MOON PUB - CONTINUOUS

61

LOUD MUSIC plays. Tina and Ben dance. Wally sits with a pitcher of beer and a heaping plate of chicken wings.

Joni enters and looks around, still wearing her postal uniform. A surprised Wally waves her over.

WALLY

(over the music)

How come you're not racing off to  
meet that guy of yours? Like you  
usually do?

Joni shrugs.

WALLY (CONT'D)

No big Friday night date?

The music stops just as Wally shouts this. Joni glances around, embarrassed. Wally leans in.

WALLY (CONT'D)

I'm a pretty good listener, if you  
want to talk.

The music starts again. Tina rushes over.

TINA

Come on.

She grabs Wally's hand and yanks him onto the dance floor.

Joni sits down. Pulls the plate of chicken wings in front of her. Digs in.

LATER:

The table, now littered with empty beer pitchers and crumpled potato chip bags.

Everyone is obviously quite drunk. Joni - most of all.

TINA (CONT'D)

God, I'd be pissed off!

JONI

I'm over it. I really am.

WALLY

I'd kick his balls.

BEN

I'd punch the guy out.

TINA

I'd put Ben Gay in his jock strap.

BEN

(suddenly somber)

I had someone put Ben Gay in my jock strap once.

JONI

You guys are a blast. I never realized it before. I was always too busy running after Rich -

She hiccups.

JONI (CONT'D)

Rich -

She hiccups again.

JONI (CONT'D)

See? I can't even say his name.  
Dick Head!

She laughs hysterically. Upbeat music comes on.

JONI (CONT'D)  
Hey! Let's dance!

BEN  
Okay.

JONI  
What about your vertigo?

BEN  
Oh. I forgot about that.

JONI  
Come on! Let's go!

They all get up, except for Ben. He nursed his beer.

The others prance around the dance floor. Joni, having a blast, does crazy, disco moves.

62 INT. HAIR SALON - DAY 62

Joni, in the stylist's chair. Talking to a young, preppy STYLIST.

JONI  
... Something sexy. Risqué. And  
let's get rid of this god awful  
brassy color.

63 INT. GYM - DAY 63

Joni, donning a stylish new haircut, now brunette with shimmering highlights. She peddles like crazy on an exercise bike.

A JOCK swaggers by. His muscular biceps. A towel slung over his shoulder. His tight shorts hug his ass.

Joni watches him pass. She smiles.

64 INT. JONI'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - NIGHT 64

Joni, hunched over her computer. Writing.

JONI (V.O.)  
How I overcame heartbreak and got  
on with my life.  
(beat)  
Grief isn't so scary. You just have  
to stare it in the face.

65 INT. JONI'S APARTMENT BUILDING - FOYER - DAY

65

Joni waits by the elevator. Her APARTMENT MANAGER approaches, a cheque in his hand.

APARTMENT MANAGER  
Your cheque bounced.

JONI  
It shouldn't have.

APARTMENT MANAGER  
You put on the wrong date.

JONI  
(fake innocence)  
Really?

The Manager shows Joni the cheque. She feigns surprise.

JONI (CONT'D)  
I don't have any more blank  
cheques. I ordered some new ones.  
They should be in soon.

APARTMENT MANAGER  
It's already two weeks overdue.

JONI  
I ordered some new ones. They  
should be in next week.

APARTMENT MANAGER  
You can just change the date on  
this one and initial it.

Joni's face falls.

He shoves the check towards Joni.

She takes it. Changes the date.

66 INT. POSTAL STATION - DAY

66

Andy holds another floor meeting. Everyone gathered round.  
Ben leans against a case. Almost swooning.

ANDY  
I had a complaint this week of a  
letter that was misdelivered.

Andy glares at Joni.

ANDY (CONT'D)  
We can't have mistakes!

Joni squirms.

ANDY (CONT'D)  
The post office is downsizing. Mail  
volumes are low. Door to door  
delivery is becoming obsolete.  
People used to rely on the post  
office. It used to mean something  
to deliver mail. We need to remain  
vital. We must remain sharp!

67 INT. POSTAL STATION - LATER

67

Joni approaches the Supervisor's office, just as Ben comes  
out, a huge smile on his face.

Joni watches him go, wondering what is going on.

She taps on Andy's door.

JONI  
Do you have a minute?

Andy waves her inside.

68 INT. POSTAL STATION - SUPERVISOR'S OFFICE - DAY

68

Andy's office is a testament to the post office. Framed stamp  
collections. Photos of Andy in various poses with mail trucks  
and postal equipment. A framed mission statement: We Must  
Remain Sharp!

JONI  
I want to put my name down for  
overtime.

ANDY  
That's what you wanted to say?

He glares at Joni.

JONI  
It was one letter. How many did I  
get right? One, out of about 2,000  
that day. That's pretty good, if I  
do say so myself.

Andy's eyes look like they are going to pop out of his head.



JONI (CONT'D)  
 I'm sorry. I was going through a  
 hard time. But I'm back now. Back in  
 the game. Ready to be sharp!

Andy checks his clipboard.

ANDY  
 I do have a section of a walk that  
 needs covering.

JONI  
 Great.

ANDY  
 Number 62.

JONI  
 Ben's walk??

Andy nods. Joni looks in the direction Ben went.

JONI (CONT'D)  
 You actually bought that sh - ?

The look on Andy's face stops her cold.

JONI (CONT'D)  
 I mean - do you have anything else?

ANDY  
 You don't want to do it? Fine. Your  
 name goes to the bottom of the  
 list.

He starts to cross out Joni's name.

JONI  
 Okay. I'll do it.

She swallows hard.

69 EXT. FOXHALL ENTERPRISES - DAY

69

Joni delivers mail. She reaches Richard's office. Looks at  
 her stack of mail. There is none for his address.

Andy (V.O.)  
 Monday flyers have to be delivered  
 on Monday...

JONI  
 Damn.

She takes out a pizza flyer. Hesitates.

A KID on skateboard careens down the sidewalk. Almost running into her.

JONI (CONT'D)  
Watch out!

The Kid stops. Flips the board under his arm.

JONI (CONT'D)  
Hey. Would you take this flyer  
inside for me?

KID  
What's in it for me?

JONI  
(threatening)  
I won't call the school and tell  
them you're skipping out.

The kid glares at Joni. Calling her bluff.

JONI (CONT'D)  
Okay. I'll give you ten bucks.

KID  
Make it twenty.

JONI  
Fifteen.

The Kid holds out his hand. Joni gives him money and the pizza flyer.

The Kid walks a few feet towards the door. Then...

He tosses his skateboard on the ground. Jumps on it.

He throws the pizza flyer on the ground, giving Joni the finger as he rides.

70 INT. FOXHALL ENTERPRISES - RICHARD'S OFFICE - DAY 70

Richard glances out the window as...

71 EXT. FOXHALL ENTERPRISES - CONTINUOUS 71

Joni scoops up the pizza flyer.

She takes a deep breath. Heads inside.

72

INT. FOXHALL ENTERPRISES - MAIN ROOM - DAY

72

Gavin piles boxes for shipping against the door.

Joni ducks inside. Hands him the flyer. Starts to head off.

RICHARD (O.S.)

Hi.

Richard comes out of his office.

RICHARD (CONT'D)

(to Gavin)

Would you give us a minute?

JONI

Don't flatter yourself. I'm not here to see you. I'm covering for Ben.

RICHARD

What is it this time?

JONI

Concussion.

RICHARD

Uh huh.

Gavin hands Richard the pizza flyer.

GAVIN

(to Richard)

No post card this time, either, boss.

Richard makes a "cut" signal across his throat. Gavin looks at him, confused. Joni pretends not to notice.

JONI

It's a slow day, I guess.

GAVIN

It'll get slower still. Now that we've gone online.

A surprised look on Joni's face.

GAVIN (CONT'D)

It was Richard's idea.

(to Richard)

What was that you said? "The post office is redundant."

JONI  
Redundant? Did he?

She glares at Richard. The word "redundant" loaded with meaning.

RICHARD  
I didn't mean -

JONI  
If you excuse me, this  
"redundant" postal worker has to  
go.

RICHARD  
Joni, wait -

He gives Gavin a look telling him to leave them alone.

Gavin leaves. An awkward pause.

RICHARD (CONT'D)  
I like your hair.

JONI  
That's what you wanted to say...?

RICHARD  
It looks good on you.

Joni just stares.

RICHARD (CONT'D)  
... maybe we could have coffee  
sometime.

JONI  
Gee, Richard... I don't know.

RICHARD  
I mean - as friends.

Joni bristles.

JONI  
As "friends". Of course.

RICHARD  
If you can't handle it, I totally  
understand.

JONI  
If I can't handle it? Yeah, right.  
Give me a break. I'm fine. I'm  
awesome. I'm doing great.

She walks out, whistling a forced tune as she goes.

RICHARD  
(calling after her)  
Okay, then. Coffee it is.

73

INT. JONI'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - DAY

73

Joni pulls a sexy top out of the closet. Holds it up against her. Changes her mind.

She takes out a turtle neck. Holds that up against her. Frowns.

Another top... and another. Trying to find the perfect thing to wear.

Her cell phone rings. She answers.

JONI  
Hi Sierra. You got my message?  
Good! Yeah, sorry, about the  
improv, but... I thought I might  
just stay home for the rest of the  
night and write.

She cringes at the lie.

JONI (CONT'D)  
I knew you'd understand. Have fun.

She hangs up. Pulls out a sweater with a V-neck. Holds it up against her. Not bad...

74

INT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY

74

Joni and Richard, seated at a corner table.

RICHARD  
I think Felix misses you.

JONI  
I miss him too.

RICHARD  
(joking)  
He's been moping around a lot. He  
perked up when I told him I was  
going for coffee with you.

JONI  
I knew I should have held out for  
joint custody.

RICHARD  
Touche.

They laugh. Richard raises his coffee cup.

RICHARD (CONT'D)  
To new beginnings. As friends.

JONI  
Friends.

They toast.

RICHARD  
Felix isn't the only one that's  
been lonely.

JONI  
(flattered)  
You don't say?

RICHARD  
... If you aren't doing anything on  
the weekend...

His eyes meet Joni's. She smiles.

INT. POSTAL STATION - DAY

Joni sorts mail between Wally and Tina. Ben walks past, a  
patch on his eye.

BEN  
Hey, Joni. Want to give me a hand?

JONI  
I'm busy.

Ben watches her go. What the heck?

Joni heads to her case. Her cell phone rings. She picks it  
up.

JONI (CONT'D)  
Hi.  
(whispering)  
I can't really talk right now.  
Tonight? Okay, see you then, Rich -

Wally and Tina stare at her.

JONI (CONT'D)

What?

The continue to stare.

JONI (CONT'D)

We're just friends.

TINA

Since when is being friends with an ex ever a good idea.

JONI

You don't understand -

WALLY

That's why they're called exes.  
Cuze you got to put a big black X  
over them and blot them out of your  
life.

JONI

It's different with Richard. Our  
breakup is more mature.

Wally and Tina both look at Joni as if she is crazy.

76 INT. MOVIE THEATRE - NIGHT

76

Joni and Richard sit in movie theatre, sharing popcorn.

The lights go down. Joni leans towards Richard. Puts her head  
on his shoulder.

77 EXT. MOVIE THEATRE - NIGHT

77

Joni and Richard come out of the movie theatre.

JONI

(referring to the movie)  
...And then... at the end... Do you  
believe there's a karmic force?  
That some things are meant to be?

RICHARD

Joni. It was just a movie.

JONI

But still.... what if there is such  
a thing as destiny?

Joni looks at Richard. Deep earnestness in her eyes. Richard  
shuffles awkwardly.

RICHARD  
It's getting late.

JONI  
Do you want to come back for  
coffee?

RICHARD  
You know coffee keeps me awake.

JONI  
What about Ovaltine? Herbal tea?

RICHARD  
Thanks, but I have an early start  
in the morning.

JONI  
Okay. Well, good night.

Joni leans in. Richard hugs her awkwardly. Pats her on the  
back like a child.

JONI (CONT'D)  
(pulling away, confused)  
Well, I better go.

She leaves.

RICHARD  
(calling after her)  
Let's do it again sometime.

Joni walks away, totally confused.

78

INT. JONI'S APARTMENT - HALLWAY - NIGHT

78

Joni comes in from seeing Richard. Starts to take her coat  
off.

A KNOCK on the door. Joni answers it. Sierra comes in.

SIERRA  
I came by earlier.

JONI  
I just went out for a walk. To get  
some fresh air.

SIERRA  
I guess your brain needs some  
oxygen after all that writing.

Joni laughs awkwardly.



JONI  
How was the improv?

SIERRA  
Fantastic! This time there was a  
purple iguana.

JONI  
It sounds like fun. Too bad I  
missed it.

SIERRA  
You were writing! Don't apologize!  
I'm just glad you're back to being  
creative again. Hey - I got you  
something -

She digs in her purse. Takes out a wrapped package.

Joni opens it. A leather journal and a pen.

SIERRA (CONT'D)  
If you're going to blow me off, at  
least do it in style.

79 EXT. LAWN - DAY

79

Joni delivers mail.

A van pulls up. HONKS. PHIL (30)- large and jovial - waves to  
Joni from the driver's seat.

PHIL  
Hey there.

JONI  
Hi.

PHIL  
Haven't seen you and Richard for a  
long time. Are you guys coming to  
the housewarming?

JONI  
What housewarming?

PHIL  
Valerie - this new chick I met -  
we're moving in together. Down the  
street. I sent Richard an e-invite.

JONI  
Oh?

PHIL  
For the both of you.

83 INT. POSTAL STATION - DAY

83

Joni heads over to a counter marked REGISTRATION.

A REGISTRATION CLERK sits at the counter, reading a comic book, looking bored.

JONI  
I just needed to check on a change  
of address.

REGISTRATION CLERK  
Name?

JONI  
Phil Walkerton. He used to live on  
Elm Street, but he's moved.

The Clerk looks it up on a computer. Writes the address down.  
Hands Joni the paper.

JONI (CONT'D)  
Thanks.

INT. JONI'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Joni dresses carefully. She puts on a tight, low cut dress.  
High heels.

She takes out her cosmetic bag and starts putting makeup on.

EXT. PHIL'S HOUSE - NIGHT

A small stone bungalow. Music emanating from it.

Joni pulls up in front of the house. Gets out of her car.

She walks towards the house. A couple of GUYS, dressed in T-shirts and jeans, barrel past, carrying a case of beer.

They bang on the door. VALERIE - pudgy, wearing loose, baggy clothes, opens the door.

VALERIE  
Jeff! Todd!

She hugs the guys. Looks at Joni, over their shoulders.  
Raises her eyebrows at Joni's over-the-top ensemble.

JONI  
I'm Joni.

VALERIE

Oh?

JONI

I know Phil.

Phil comes up from behind. Throws his arm over Valerie's shoulder. Kisses her cheek.

PHIL

Hey, babe.

VALERIE

(referring to Joni)

She says she knows you.

He looks at Joni. Surprised.

PHIL

Right. Joni.

(to Valerie)

Richard's gal.

(to Joni)

Come on in.

INT. PHIL'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Joni enters. Scans the crowd.

Richard is not there.

PHIL

Hey. Let me get you a drink.

INT. PHIL'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Joni stands, beer can in hand, on one side of the room. Alone.

She shifts awkwardly on her high heels.

The doorbell rings. Joni glances anxiously towards it.

A GAY MAN and his PARTNER enter. Joni's face falls.

A drunk PHIL comes over.

PHIL (CONT'D)

Too bad about Richard.

JONI

(suddenly concerned)

What do you mean?

PHIL

Poor bugger. Up to his eyeballs  
with invoices and things. End of  
the quarter and all.

JON

Oh. Right.

She laughs awkwardly.

JONI

Well, that's why I came. One of us  
had to.

PHIL

I'm surprised you're not at home  
keeping him company. If you know  
what I mean.

He winks at her.

PHIL (CONT'D)

A Saturday night - all work and no  
play? That's just not right.  
Especially when you're dressed like  
that.

Valerie comes over. Grabs Phil by the arm.

VALERIE

Come on. There's someone I want you  
to meet.

She drags Phil away.

86 EXT. AIRPORT - NIGHT

86

An SUV pulls up in front of an airport. Parks in front of a  
sign that says ARRIVALS.

Richard gets out.

EXT. PHIL'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Joni hurries away from the house. Hops in her car.

Drives...

89 I/E. CAR/STREET - NIGHT

89

Joni turns down a side street. Slows down as she passes a  
small house, painted yellow.

Cars on either side of the street. She looks for parking.  
Finds a spot a few houses down.

EXT. RICHARD'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Joni stands in front of the house. Knocks.

No answer.

Joni knocks again. Still no answer.

She starts to leave. Trips over the mat.

She straightens the mat. Notices underneath it... a key.

She hesitates. Beat.

She takes the key. Opens the door.

INT. RICHARD'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

The house is dark. Joni feels along the wall. Finds a light switch. Turns it on.

She glances around the room. Not a bachelor pad. It has the look of someone who has comfortably settled in. For good.

Felix races out of a back room.

JONI

Oh! I missed you too!

She scoops him up. Hugs him. Beat.

JONI (CONT'D)

I should go.

She hesitates. Her curiosity gets the better of her.

She slowly cases out the house.

KITCHEN:

She runs her hands over the counters. Checks in the cupboards. The shattered mug - now replaced.

She hesitates. Heads for the bedroom. Torn. Unable to stop herself. As if being pulled by an invisible magnet.

BEDROOM:

Joni stands at the doorway. Looking at the neatly made, double bed.

She runs her hands over the comforter. Feels the pillows.

She sits down on the bed, bouncing a bit. Felix jumps up on the bed beside her.

JONI (CONT'D)  
I gotta go -

The sound of the door opening.

RICHARD (O.S.)  
The door's open. I guess I forgot to lock it.

JONI  
(to herself)  
Oh shit!

RICHARD (O.S.)  
Welcome to my humble abode.

Joni looks around, confused. How does he know she is there?

RICHARD (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
I'm glad you could come.

More confusion.

DAWNA (O.S.)  
I'm glad you talked me into it.

Joni gulps hard. A look of horror on her face.

Felix, hearing the voices, leaps from Joni's arms and scampers away.

LIVING ROOM:

Felix rushes into the living room. Leaps into Richard's arms.

RICHARD  
(laughing)  
Meet Felix.

DAWNA, a vision of loveliness, pets Felix.

DAWNA  
Aw! He's so sweet.

RICHARD  
I'll just get the suitcases. Make  
yourself at home.

BEDROOM:

The sound of Dawna's high heels in the living room. Coming  
down the hall...

Joni panics. Hides behind the door.

Dawna peeks in. Leaves. Heads off to find the bathroom.

LIVING ROOM:

Richard hauls the three suitcases into the living room.

The sound of water running. Dawna comes out to join him.

RICHARD  
(indicating the suitcases)  
Looks like you're planning on  
staying awhile.

DAWNA (O.S.)  
Treat me right - and maybe I will.

She stretches. Seductively. Emphasizing her curves.

DAWNA (CONT'D)  
I'm tired. It was a long flight.

RICHARD  
How about a massage?

DAWNA  
You got it, Tiger!

RICHARD  
This way.

He takes her hand and leads her towards the bedroom.

BEDROOM:

The sound of footsteps coming towards the bathroom.

Joni frantically yanks open the closet door. Ducks inside.

Dawna and Richard come inside.

They embrace. Passionately. Start undressing each other.

They fall onto the bed.

INSIDE CLOSET:

Blackness.

A crack of light seeps through, illuminating...

Joni. Crouched on the floor.

SIGHS. MOANS. The CREAKS of BOX SPRINGS. Coming from the other side of the door.

Joni stares straight ahead, into the darkness. Fighting back the tears.

INT. RICHARD'S HOUSE - LATER

INSIDE CLOSET:

Silence.

Joni gets up. Slowly opens the door. Peeks outside.

JONI'S POV: Richard and Dawna, sleeping. Wrapped in a post coital embrace.

Joni swallows hard.

BEDROOM:

Joni tiptoes out of the closet, towards the door. Carrying her shoes so not to make any noise.

A SNORT. Richard, starting to wake up. Joni's breath caught in her throat.

Richard rolls over. Falls back to sleep.

Joni creeps out of the room.

LIVING ROOM:

Joni tiptoes across the darkened living room. Towards the door...

Bumping into Dawna's suitcase.

The suitcase falls over with a THUD. A startled Joni drops her shoes.

A commotion from the bedroom. Terrified whispers.

DAWNA (O.S.)  
What's that?



RICHARD (O.S.)

Shhh!

Joni bolts towards the door. Realizes she doesn't have her shoes.

She hurries back and grabs them. Takes off out the door.

EXT. RICHARD'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Joni races towards her car, stuffing her feet into her high heels as she goes. She is not quite at the car when...

Richard's door opens. He comes out onto the porch out,, wearing a bathroom. Holding a baseball bat in one hand, and in the other - a flashlight.

He turns the flashlight on.

Joni ducks down behind a parked car.

Richard's flashlight sweeps the area. Rests on...

The car Joni is hiding behind. She ducks further down into the shadows.

Beat.

Dawna comes up from behind Richard, and hands him a cell phone.

Richard dials. Goes back inside.

Joni sprints to her car, breathing heavily. She leaps inside.

Her hands shake as she puts the keys into the ignition.

Drives away.

91

EXT. JONI'S APARTMENT BUILDING - NIGHT

91

Joni slumps towards her apartment building.

SIERRA (O.S.)

Hey, I brought over a pizza.

Sierra rushes over, carrying a pizza box. Stops when she sees Joni's state.

SIERRA (CONT'D)

What the fuck?

JONI

Dawna's here!

SIERRA  
What...???

JONI  
Dawna. The woman that Richard...  
She stalls. Trying to think of the right word to say.

SIERRA  
(pointed)  
"Did do anything to put you at risk  
medically" with?

Joni squirms.

SIERRA (CONT'D)  
For Christ's sake, Joni! You're  
obsessed.

JONI  
I love him!

SIERRA  
This isn't love!  
(beat)  
There's a new store that opened.  
"Oh La La." You should give that a  
try.

JONI  
Oh. So I should be more like you?

SIERRA  
It wouldn't hurt so much.

JONI  
I should just get a piece of  
plastic. Forget about the rest.  
Dildos make the world go round. Is  
that it?

She pushes past Sierra. Towards her apartment building.  
Storms inside.

92

INT. JONI'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - NIGHT

92

Joni kicks off her high heels. Hurls then into the back of  
the closet.

Something in the back of the closet falls on the floor.

Joni picks it up and looks at it. Richard's tie.

A sudden idea.

Joni rummages through the closet. Finds another tie.

She yanks out Richard's dresser drawer. Searches in behind. Pulls out a pair of underwear. Socks.

93 EXT. STREET - DAY

93

Joni, dressed in her postal uniform, comes out of a store marked OFFICE SUPPLIES. She jostles masking tape, brown wrapping paper. Empty boxes.

She stuffs what she can into her postal bag. Juggles the boxes under her arms.

94 INT. JONI'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN - DAY

94

The items from the Office Supply store are lined up on the counter.

Joni holds up Richard's tie. She grabs a pair of scissors. Cuts the tie into little pieces. Drops it in a cardboard box.

She puts the pair of socks on the counter. She takes a black marker. Writes ASS on one sock. HOLE on the other. Stuffs them into another box.

Joni looks at Richard's underwear. Trying to decide what to do.

She goes into the bedroom. Returns with a book of matches.

She strikes a match. Holds it up to the underwear. The underwear catches on fire. Burning Joni's fingers.

The fire alarm sounds. Joni freaks.

She drops the underwear in the kitchen sink. Turns on the water.

The charred underwear sizzles as the fire goes out. Joni looks at the result. Grins.

95 INT. POST OFFICE - DAY

95

Ben's desk is piled high with mail. He picks up a box addressed to Richard. He grumbles.

Joni "happens" to walk by.

BEN

What's with that ex-boyfriend of yours? All of a sudden he's getting a whole slew of parcels. All with no return addresses.

JONI  
 (innocently)  
 They look oversized...

BEN  
 You think?

He pulls out a tape measure and measures the side.

BEN (CONT'D)  
 Just by an inch! I don't have to  
 carry them!

JONI  
 I can help you card them for  
 pickup.

Ben looks surprised.

JONI (CONT'D)  
 Your sore hand...?

BEN  
 Oh. Thanks.

He holds out a blank Parcel Pick up Card with a green border.

JONI  
 That's okay. I have one here.

She fills out a card with a blue border and another with a  
 red one. Ben doesn't notice it is a different colors.

96 INT. POSTAL OUTLET - DAY

96

A long line of customers, all with cards with blue borders. A  
 harried POSTAL CLERK.

Richard taps his foot impatiently at the back of the line.

LATER:

Richard hands the postal clerk the card.

RICHARD  
 This was carded to the wrong  
 outlet. I had to drive ten miles  
 out of my way.

The Postal Clerk gives a blank stare.

RICHARD (CONT'D)  
 This is totally unacceptable.

POSTAL CLERK

Look. Do you want your parcel or not?

Richard sighs. The Postal Clerk hands him one of Joni's boxes.

97 INT. FOXHALL ENTERPRISES - DAY

97

Gavin watches as...

Richard opens the parcel. Pulls out a pair of burnt underwear.

Gavin raises his eyebrows.

RICHARD

Don't ask.

98 EXT. SECOND POSTAL OUTLET - DAY

98

A rural building, set in the woods. Richard goes inside.

99 INT. SECOND POSTAL OUTLET - CONTINUOUS

99

Richard hands a SECOND POSTAL CLERK a card with a red boarder. The Clerk hands Richard a parcel.

Richard takes it outside. Opens it.

Pulls out the socks.

100 INT. FOXHALL ENTERPRISES - RICHARD'S OFFICE - DAY

100

Gavin comes in, carrying a parcel pick up card. Hands it to Richard.

RICHARD

Another parcel?

Richard heads out the door.

GAVIN

You're not going to fall for it again, are you?

Richard shows Gavin the green border on the card.

RICHARD

It's for the right postal station this time. It's probably for business. It might be important.

101 INT. THIRD POSTAL OUTLET - DAY

101

A busy post office. An ELDERLY POSTAL CLERK puts a box on the counter, that hasn't been sealed properly. Richard signs for it.

ELDERLY POSTAL CLERK  
It looks like it's coming undone.  
Should I get tape?

RICHARD  
No. Just give it to me.

The Clerk hands Richard the box. The box jostles.

The movement causes the box to open. A NUDE MALE BLOW UP DOLL bursts out of the box.

An embarrassed Richard glances around, at the staring customers. A YOUNG BOY giggles. His MOTHER elbows him.

Richard starts to leave.

ELDERLY POSTAL CLERK  
Hey. You signed for it. You have to  
take it.

An exasperated Richard tucks the doll under his arm. Grabs the box with his other hand. Walks past prying eyes, out of the door.

102 INT. JONI'S APARTMENT BUILDING - FOYER - DAY

102

Joni heads inside. Sees...

The Apartment Manager, waiting for the elevator.

Joni sneaks away. Takes the stairs instead.

103 INT. JONI'S APARTMENT BUILDING - STAIRWELL - DAY

103

Joni climbs the stairs. Pants as she reaches the seventh floor.

She opens the door at the top of the stairs. The Manager's figure fills the door frame.

APARTMENT MANAGER  
Miss Sullivan.

He glares down at her.

APARTMENT MANAGER (CONT'D)  
You're having financial problems -  
Now that you've been dumped.

JONI  
(lying)  
No.

APARTMENT MANAGER  
Your check bounced.

JONI  
I can explain.

APARTMENT MANAGER  
Two days. That's it. And then  
you're out.

The Manager retreats into the hallway.

APARTMENT MANAGER (CONT'D)  
We have a waiting list a mile long.

The door slams shut.

104 INT. POSTAL STATION - SUPERVISOR'S OFFICE - DAY 104

Joni sits across from Andy in his office.

ANDY  
No overtime.

JONI  
But -

Andy's clenches an expense report in his hand. His eyes  
narrow. His jaw twitches.

ANDY  
The latest report.

He waves the report in Joni's face.

ANDY (CONT'D)  
Expenses are up. Profits are down.  
There's no more overtime! We  
haven't been sharp!

105 EXT. ELDERLY LADY'S HOUSE - DAY 105

Pouring rain. Joni slugs up to a house carrying her postal  
bag. She rings the bell.

An ELDERLY LADY answers. Joni holds out a sheet of paper and a pen.

JONI  
Registered letter. Sign here  
please.

The Elderly Lady tries to sign.

ELDERLY LADY  
The pen is out of ink, dear. Do you  
have another one?

Joni rummages in her pocket.

JONI  
No.

ELDERLY LADY  
I'll get you one. Come inside,  
dear, out of the rain.

106 INT. ELDERLY LADY'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

106

Joni steps into the front hall.

The Elderly Lady goes into another room.

ELDERLY LADY  
Wait here.

Joni waits. Glances around. The house is ornate, with expensive furniture and accessories. Her eyes fall on a table with a silver ashtray on it.

She picks up the ashtray. Turns it over. Feels the weight of it.

ELDERLY LADY (CONT'D)  
(coming back)  
Here we go.

Joni startles. Drops the ashtray. It lands in her bag.

The Elderly Lady comes into the room, carrying a pen and a tray of freshly-baked cookies.

ELDERLY LADY (CONT'D)  
Don't worry. You can keep it.

JONI  
Really?



ELDERLY LADY  
I have lots.

The Lady signs the registration sheet. Joni takes the pen,  
and initials the sheet.

JONI  
Here you go...

She starts to give her the pen back.

ELDERLY LADY  
Like I said, you can keep it. I  
have lots.

JONI  
(to herself)  
Lots of pens. Right.

She looks from the lady, to her postal bag, to the table with  
the missing ashtray.

ELDERLY LADY  
Cookie?

She holds out the tray.

JONI  
Uh... thanks.

She takes a cookie. Bolts out the door.

107 EXT. ANOTHER HOUSE - LATER 107

Joni steels herself. She rings the doorbell. A MAN answers.

Joni hands him a letter and the registration sheet.

He takes the sheet. Holds out his hand for a pen.

Joni pats her pockets, as if looking for one.

The Man opens the door wide. Motions for Joni to come inside.

108 INT. PAWN SHOP - DAY 108

A small pawn shop with grates on the window.

A wiry PAWN BROKER behind the counter polishes silver spoons.

He glances up as Joni enters.

Joni empties the contents of her postal bag onto the counter. The ash tray, a solid brass monkey, a gold pendant, and several more items.

The Pawn Broker examines each item carefully.

He opens a drawer. Takes out a handful of bills. He stuffs them into an envelope.

Joni stuffs the envelope into her mail bag.

109 INT. JONI'S APARTMENT - DINING ROOM - NIGHT 109

Joni takes the money out of her postal bag.

Counts it out. She curses under her breath.

110 INT. POST OFFICE - SUPERVISOR'S OFFICE - DAY 110

Joni taps on the door.

JONI

You wanted to see me?

Andy motions her inside. Waves a stack of papers at her.

ANDY

I have several reports of theft.  
All occurred on your walk.

JONI

(too quickly)

I don't know anything about them.

ANDY

Nothing?

Joni shakes her head.

ANDY (CONT'D)

Anything out of the ordinary?

JONI

Everything is completely,  
absolutely, totally ordinary.

Andy stares evenly at Joni.

ANDY

Not good enough.

Joni squirms.

ANDY (CONT'D)  
I want headlines.

JONI  
Headlines?

ANDY  
"Postal worker helps police nab  
criminal."

JONI  
Oh.

ANDY  
"Supervisor prompts letter carrier  
to find the depraved criminal."

JONI  
Right.

ANDY  
It will make people realize we  
don't just deliver mail. We are  
Neighbourhood Watch! We are  
protectors! We are sharp!!!

EXT. BUNGALOW- DAY

Joni walks up to a brick bungalow, carrying a handful of mail. She starts to put the mail through the slot. The door opens. Joni lurches forward. She is stopped from falling by a MOURNER in black.

MOURNER  
Are you here for the wake?

JONI  
The wake?

MOURNER  
My sister died last night. In her  
sleep.

The Mourner takes out her handkerchief and blows her nose.

JONI  
Oh. I'm sorry.

A MINISTER rushes towards the house.

MOURNER  
(to Minister)  
Thanks for coming.

MINISTER

(to Joni)

You're here for Mrs. Howell's wake?

JONI

No. I'm just delivering mail.

MOURNER

(wailing)

She won't be needing mail anymore.

The Minister gives Joni a "look what you've done" glare.

Joni backs away. She walks a few feet down the street. Looks at Mrs. Howell's mail. A pizza flyer. A letter addressed Dear Occupant. An appointment reminder from the dentist...

...A government cheque.

EXT. THE CHEQUE REPUBLIC - DAY

A small storefront. A sign that says THE CHEQUE REPUBLIC. Joni glances up and down the street. She ducks inside.

INT. THE CHEQUE REPUBLIC - CONTINUOUS

Two cashiers behind the counter. CARL (20), rake-thin with a pimply complexion, flirts with AMANDA (18), a buxom brunette chewing gum.

Joni approaches. Carl reluctantly saunters over. Annoyed at the intrusion.

JONI

I want to cash this cheque.

She puts the cheque on the counter.

CARL

(without looking at it)

I.D?

JONI

What do you need?

CARL

Driver's license. Birth certificate.

JONI

I lost my wallet.

CARL

Something with your address on it.

Joni pulls out a letter.

CARL  
(reading)  
"Dear occupant."

He rolls his eyes.

CARL (CONT'D)  
It has to have your name on it,  
too.

Joni hands him another piece of mail.

CARL  
An appointment reminder from the  
dentist.

JONI  
It says right here. Pansy Howell.  
Next Wednesday. Two o'clock.

Amanda strolls over. She looks at the cheque.

AMANDA  
Social security.

She pops her gum. Peers at Joni.

AMANDA  
Don't tell me, *Pansy*. You use Oil  
of Olay.

Joni squirms.

JONI  
Look. I'll level with you. It's my  
aunt's. She died this morning. She  
was behind in her bills. If I don't  
cash the cheque, her house will be  
repossessed.

Amanda considers this. Senses an opportunity.

AMANDA  
(nonchalantly)  
I guess we could cash it. Our "good  
deed" of the day.

CARL  
Are you out of your mind?

AMANDA

It's a government cheque. It's not like it's going to bounce.

CARL

But -

AMANDA

It would just get returned to the government. It's not like they need the money.

Amanda leans over the counter. Pops the gum in Joni's face.

AMANDA (CONT'D)

We spilt it three ways. Right down the middle.

Carl remains unconvinced. Amanda flashes him a winning smile.

AMANDA (CONT'D)

Who knows? It might be enough for you to take me on a date.

Carl melts.

EXT. THE CHEQUE REPUBLIC - LATER

Joni leaves, stuffing the money into her postal bag.

She heads down the street. She takes out her cell phone. Dials...

EXT. STREET - CONTINUOUS

Joni on her cell phone. Dials.

JONI

(on phone)

I'll have the rent to you this afternoon. I'm just on my way to the bank and get you a registered -

She stops short. Looks across the way. At...

111 EXT. COFFEE SHOP PATIO - CONTINUOUS

111

Richard and Dawna, seated at a table. Heads close together. Smiling. Drinking Lattes.

In front of the cafe is a 4 foot tall red box for mailing letters.

Joni creeps over to the letter box. Ducks behind. Listens.

DAWNA (O.S.)  
A blow up doll? You're kidding me?

Richard and Dawna laugh.

DAWNA  
She must have been desperate.  
It's kind of pathetic, in a way.

Joni seethes.

DAWNA (CONT'D)  
Do you think she will try anything  
else?

RICHARD  
There's nothing else she.

Joni's eyes narrow.

JONI  
(to herself)  
Wanna bet???

112 EXT. OH LA LA SEX SHP - DAY 112

Joni marches down the street. She passes the sex shop.

Beat. She does a U-turn. Storms inside.

113 INT. OH LA LA SEX SHOP - DAY 113

The STORE OWNER, an uptight man in his forties, stands behind the counter. Conversing with his newest employee - Sierra.

Joni storms in. She marches down an aisle. Until she finds...

An display of vibrators. An entire shelf - every shape and size and color and style.

STORE OWNER  
Since it's your first day, I'll  
show you how it's done.

He starts towards Joni.

STORE OWNER (CONT'D)  
Watch and learn.

She sweeps past him. The Store Owner looks concerned.

Joni stares at the display. Overwhelmed.

SIERRA  
(putting on a "Salesgirl"  
voice)  
Can I help you?

Joni looks up at Sierra. Surprised.

JONI  
What are you doing here?

SIERRA  
They cut my hours at the gift shop.  
So I thought I'd moonlight. Put my  
extensive knowledge to use.

She winks. Joni smiles.

JONI  
I missed you.

SIERRA  
I missed you too.

They hug. The Owner, watching, clears his throat.

SIERRA (CONT'D)  
(indicating the vibrators)  
And I'm glad you came to your  
senses.

The Store Owner clears his throat again. Louder this time.

SIERRA (CONT'D)  
Okay. Ahem -

Sierra goes into her rendition of a "Salesgirl" on the  
Shopping Channel.

SIERRA (CONT'D)  
We have several options.

She picks up a plastic vibrator. Holds it up to Joni.

SIERRA (CONT'D)  
This one is "hard" plastic. It's  
your basic model, but it lacks  
flexibility.

She demonstrates the lack of bending.

SIERRA (CONT'D)  
The next step up from this is  
Great for performance. Although  
some people are allergic.



(beat)  
That weird reaction to the facial  
mask? I wouldn't take the chance.

She looks at Joni's crotch. Shudders at the thought.

She picks up a brightly colored, curved vibrator.

SIERRA (CONT'D)  
These hot tamales are made of  
jelly. They come in a variety of  
colors. They're pliable and soft.  
Go ahead. Touch it.

Joni tentatively touches it.

SIERRA (CONT'D)  
Velvety, right?

Joni nods.

SIERRA (CONT'D)  
And easy to mold. It's shaped for  
the G-spot.  
(whispering)  
It's what Frederico is.

Sierra holds the vibrator in front of Joni's face. Turns it  
on. Laughs at Joni's taken-back expression.

SIERRA (CONT'D)  
Of course, you could always decide  
according to other features. There  
are ribbed. Ones with multiple  
speeds.

JONI  
I'll take one of each.

SIERRA  
A ribbed and a multiple speed? Or  
plastic and jelly -

JONI  
(indicating the entire  
shelf)  
No. One of each.

It takes a moment for this to sink in. A broad smile breaks  
out across Sierra's face.

SIERRA  
Atta girl!

114 INT. OH LA LA SEX SHOP - LATER

114

Sierra rings up the multiple purchases. The Store Owner watches. Impressed.

Joni takes money out the envelope of money she got from the pawn shop. Empties the cash from the Cheque Republic on the table.

SIERRA  
(counting it out)  
You sure you don't need a bag?

JONI  
No. It's fine.

Joni stuffs about a dozen vibrators into her mail bag. Heads for the door.

SIERRA  
Have fun with them!

JONI  
Oh - I will.

115 INT. JONI'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - NIGHT

115

Joni stares at the computer screen.

ON SCREEN: FOXHALL ENTERPRISES. PLACE YOUR ORDERS ONLINE. A photos of Richard with his trophies. A big smile on his face.

116 INT. POSTAL STATION - DAY

116

Joni waits outside the Men's washroom. Wally comes out.

JONI  
Come here!

She leads Wally outside.

117 EXT. POSTAL STATION - CONTINUOUS

117

Joni and Wally, huddled outside.

JONI  
I know the real reason you've souped up your truck.

WALLY  
I'm improving my performance.

JONI  
Give me a break. You're doing it to  
try and pick up chicks.

WALLY  
(flabbergasted)  
That's not true.

JONI  
Gives a new meaning to "pick up and  
delivery", right?

Wally tries to weasel his way out of it.

WALLY  
It's never actually worked.

JONI  
Surprise, surprise.

WALLY  
You not going to report me, are  
you?

JONI  
Not if you do something for me.

118 INT. FOXHALL ENTERPRISES - MAIN ROOM - DAY

118

Richard packs up a bunch of boxes.

GAVIN  
Little league season?

RICHARD  
Plus a bunch of other orders.  
Things have really picked up since  
we went online.

He addresses a box to: CHRISTIAN BASEBALL LEAGUE. OREGON.

119 INT. WALLY'S POSTAL TRUCK - DAY

119

Wally drives. Joni in the passenger seat.

In the back of the truck, Wally's "hopeful" love nest. A bear  
skin rug. A mobile hanging from the ceiling. A lava lamp.

JONI  
A lava lamp? Seriously?

WALLY  
It's battery-powered.

Joni rolls her eyes.

120 EXT. RICHARD'S OFFICE - DAY 120

The postal truck pulls up in front of Richard's office. Wally hops out.

121 INT. BACK OF WALLY'S POSTAL TRUCK - DAY 121

Joni, in the back of the postal truck. At her side - her overflowing mail bag. She peeks outside the window to see...

Wally, coming out of Richard's office, with a cart filled with packages.

The back door opens. Wally hands a package to Joni. Then another, and another...

She piles them on either side of the love nest.

JONI

He didn't ask any questions, did he?

WALLY

No.

JONI

See? I told you. There's always someone different collecting stuff from here.

Wally hands her more boxes.

WALLY

After this, we're square. Right?

JONI

We'll see.

Wally glares.

JONI (CONT'D)

Okay, okay. Just hurry up. We don't have all night.

122 EXT. BACK ROAD - NIGHT 122

Wally drives his postal truck down a deserted back road. He parks.

123 INT. BACK OF WALLY'S POSTAL TRUCK - NIGHT

123

Joni and Wally, repacking the boxes from Richard's office.  
Taping them shut.

JONI  
You must think I'm crazy.

WALLY  
At least you didn't put Ben Gay in  
his jock strap.

They laugh.

JONI  
Poor Ben...

They brush against each other in the crowded space.

WALLY  
I get it, you know.

JONI  
You get what?

WALLY  
I've had my heart broken a time or  
two.

JONI  
You have?

Wally nods. Joni examines Wally's face. Sees his pain.

JONI (CONT'D)  
Tell me about it.

WALLY  
Nah.

He picks up a box. Looks at the address.

WALLY (CONT'D)  
Ladies' Auxiliary.

He tapes the box shut.

JONI  
I wonder if anyone knows anything  
about love.

WALLY  
I know he was a jerk for the way he  
treated you. You didn't deserve it.

JONI  
You really think so?

WALLY  
You're pretty. You're funny. You're smart...

JONI  
(taken aback)  
Thanks.

Their eyes meet. They lean in towards each other. Kiss.

They kiss again. More urgently this time. Hands all over each other.

Wally turns the lava lamp on. They sink onto the rug.  
Hunggrily undress.

124 EXT. BACK ROAD - NIGHT 124

The postal truck, still parked on the side of the back road.  
Rattling and shaking.

Beat.

The sound of a siren.

125 INT. BACK OF WALLY'S POSTAL TRUCK - CONTINUOUS 125

Joni, naked, on the bear skin rug.

JONI  
What was that?

She sits bolt upright. The siren wails. Coming towards them.

JONI (CONT'D)  
Maybe if someone reported us.  
There's no way your truck should be out here.

WALLY  
Maybe they think it's broken down!

JONI  
Or stolen!

They grab their clothes. Frantically dress.

EXT. BACK ROAD - CONTINUOUS

A police car careens into view.

INT. WALLY'S POSTAL TRUCK - NIGHT

Joni and Wally scramble into the front seat.

The look in the rear view mirror. Watch as..

Flashing red lights get closer. Closer.

They hold their breath.

The police races by.

JONI

Whew! That was close.

WALLY

That's for sure.

A long beat.

WALLY (CONT'D)

Let's go drop these parcels off.

JONI

Yes. Let's go.

126 EXT. MAIN SORTATION PLANT - NIGHT

126

Wally's truck pulls up. He and Joni unload boxes onto the dock.

Postal Workers pile them on dollies. Transport then into the plant.

127 I/E. WALLY'S POSTAL TRUCK - NIGHT

127

Wally pulls up in front of Joni's apartment.

JONI

... about the siren...

WALLY

It's okay. I'm glad, in a way.

Joni looks at Wally. Surprised.

WALLY (CONT'D)

Sex isn't love. I think we both want something more.

JONI

Wow! That from a guy with a lava lamp in his truck.

They both laugh.

JONI (CONT'D)  
Good night.

She leans over and kisses Wally on the cheek. Gets out of the truck. Wally watches her go.

128 INT. CHRISTIAN BASEBALL LEAGUE HEADQUARTERS - DAY 128

MORGAN WALKER (50s), clean cut, uptight, dressed in a suit and tie. He opens a box. Looks inside.

Takes out... a bright orange, jelly vibrator.

He holds it, accidentally turning it on.

A SCREAM. His SECRETARY stands in the doorway. Staring at him.

129 INT. FOXHALL ENTERPRISES - RICHARD'S OFFICE - DAY 129

Richard, on his office phone.

RICHARD  
What do you mean, you're cancelling  
all future orders?

INTERCUT: FOXHALL ENTERPRISES - CHRISTIAN BASEBALL LEAGUE

Morgan Walker hollers hysterically into the phone.

MORGAN  
You sex fiend! You pervert!

RICHARD  
Settle down.

MORGAN  
Five years, I supported your  
business. I should have you  
arrested for indecency.

RICHARD  
I don't know what you're -

Morgan slams down the phone.

A dial tone. Richard stares into the receiver. Flabbergasted.

130 EXT. FIELD - DAY 130

A JUDGE paces beneath a banner that says DOG SHOW. On the table in front of him, prize ribbons - and a box.



A large dog runs up. Snatches the box. Shakes it. A vibrator falls out.

JUDGE

Hey! You!

The dog grabs the vibrator. Races across the field. Drops it on the ground. Starts to chew.

131 INT. CHURCH HALL - DAY

131

Tables set for a church luncheon. Sandwiches. Tea cups. Trays of baking.

KATHERINE (70s) puts a box on a table in front of a group of LADIES.

PRESIDENT

The trophy for most Youth Volunteer Hours. Thank goodness it came.

She opens the box. Takes out a vibrator. Looks at it, puzzled.

PRESIDENT (CONT'D)

I've never seen one like this before. Oh look, it glows! Must be a new generational kind of thing.

132 INT. FOXHALL ENTERPRISES - RICHARD'S OFFICE - DAY

132

Richard hangs up the office phone. Exasperated. It rings again. Richard picks up.

RICHARD

Hello? One moment, please.

He presses "hold." Clicks on another line.

RICHARD (CONT'D)

Foxhall Enterprises. Just a second.

All the lights on the phone illuminate.

Richard takes out his cell phone. Dials.

RICHARD (CONT'D)

(into cell phone)

The complaints department of the Postal Service... Now!

133 INT. POSTAL STATION - SUPERVISOR'S OFFICE - DAY

133

Joni shifts from one foot to the other. Looking nervously across the desk at Andy. Andy seethes.

ANDY

The post office is sacrosanct! For hundreds of years, people have toiled. Through sleet and snow and rain! And now you! And now this!!! You are a blemish to our name!!!!

His eyes narrow.

ANDY (CONT'D)

Who was your accomplice?

JONI

.... No one??

ANDY

You drove a postal truck????

JONI

Yes.

ANDY

All by yourself?

The veins on Andy's neck threaten to pop.

ANDY (CONT'D)

The report said someone tall with dark hair picked up the parcels.

JONI

It was dark outside. They probably couldn't see very well.

ANDY

And the thefts? The ashtray? Tell me you weren't crazy enough to do that!

Joni hangs her head in shame.

ANDY (CONT'D)

You've given me no choice.

He picks up the phone.

JONI

Please. Not the police.

ANDY

The police. Are you nuts? I can see the headlines now. "Postal worker goes off the deep end." "Interferes with mail." "Steals a brass monkey!" Who the hell steals a brass monkey, anyway???!!!

Joni hangs her head even further.

ANDY (CONT'D)

You're lucky that boyfriend of yours is not going to press charges. But if you ever set foot in here again -

He leans forward. His eyes bulge.

ANDY (CONT'D)

- You won't be the only one that goes postal. Have I made myself clear?

Still glaring at Joni, he picks up the phone.

134 INT. POSTAL STATION - SUPERVISOR'S OFFICE - LATER

134

Joni sits, waiting. Staring down at her hands.

KAREN (O.S.)

Joni! For crying out loud!

Joni looks up. Horrified.

JONI

What are you doing here?

KAREN

Mom couldn't come.

ANDY

(to Karen)

Take her away.

Karen leads Joni out to....

135 INT. POSTAL STATION - CONTINUOUS

135

All the other posties, gathered on the floor. Staring at Andy's door.

Karen leads Joni out of the office. Across the floor.

She follows Karen. A "walk of shame." Past the other posties.  
Past Ben. Tina. Wally...

She catches Wally's eye for a moment as she goes.

136

INT. CAR - DAY

136

Karen drives. Joni in the passenger seat. Silence between them.

Karen pulls up in front of Joni's apartment building.

KAREN

Why didn't you say anything?

JONI

What could I say? I'm broke? My boyfriend left me? My life is a mess?

KAREN

I could've lent you money. Given you advice about Richard.

JONI

That's just the point.

She turns and glares at Karen.

JONI (CONT'D)

You and your perfect life! I know everything comes easily to you. You have no idea what it's like to be a fuck up.

KAREN

Joni! For crying out loud - !

JONI

And you don't even swear! What the hell is that all about?

She gets out of the car. Slams the door.

137

INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE OF JONI'S APARTMENT - DAY

137

Joni trudges down the hall. Stops.

A paper tacked to the door. She takes it down. Reads it.

An Eviction Notice.

Joni angrily rips the notice off.

138

INT. JONI'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - DAY

138

A darkened apartment. The shades drawn. Candy bar wrappers and fast food containers litter the floor.

Joni, in her night gown, slumps on the sofa. Disheveled. Eating cheese curls with ketchup on them. Watching TV.

ON TV: A documentary on the Greylag goose.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

If a Greylag goose loses its partner, it will fly around, searching in all the places where the mate might be found, crying over and over again in a plaintive call.

A knock on the door.

JONI

Go away!

She turns up the volume on the TV.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Sometimes, the goose will mourn for life, and never seek another mate.

The door flies open. Sierra marches in.

SIERRA

And sometimes they get up off their asses!

Joni looks up, surprised.

SIERRA (CONT'D)

When you went away and I looked after Felix? I still have your key.

She grabs the remote. Turns off the TV.

SIERRA (CONT'D)

Karen called me. She told me what happened.

Joni groans.

SIERRA (CONT'D)

Jesus, Joni. Look at you. You gave up your soul for a man.

Joni doesn't answer.

SIERRA (CONT'D)

Richard was an asshole. He betrayed you. It sucks. Big time. But that doesn't mean you have to betray yourself. You're better than this!

This hits Joni. She sits up.

JONI

I acted like an idiot.

SIERRA

So what are you going to do about it?

JONI

I don't know.

SIERRA

Well, Get off the couch, for starters. Come on. I'll give you a hand.

She starts picking up candy wrappers. Joni joins her.

SIERRA (CONT'D)

Really? Twenty-two dildoes? You sent them all?

They both burst into laughter.

139 INT. JONI'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

139

Sierra leaves. Joni goes into....

INT. JONI'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Joni pulls open a dresser drawer. Pulls out a sweater and sweat pants. Throws them on.

She finds a pair of sneakers. Stuffs her feet into them.

140 EXT. STREET - NIGHT

140

The air is dark and cold. Joni's breath is visible in the night air.

She walks slowly, through the deserted streets.

Sees a pop can lying on the sidewalk. Kicks it several times.

She continues walking, shoulders slouched, hands in her pockets, until she finds herself in a seedy part of town.

She walks under a street light. Past an abandoned store.  
Catches her reflection in the window. She shudders.

It is blurry and distorted.

141 EXT. COFFEE SHOP - NIGHT 141

A small, run down coffee shop. A neon light that would read  
OPEN 24 HOURS - if all the letters were intact.

142 INT. COFFEE SHOP - NIGHT 142

A small bell RINGS as Joni enters. A few TRUCKERS, on stools  
at the counter, or in vinyl booths.

Joni goes to the counter to order.

TRUCKER (O.S.)

Richard!

Joni jumps. Turns around. An unshaven TRUCKER waves to an OLD  
MAN on a bar stool. The Old Man smiles a toothless grin.

143 EXT. STREET - NIGHT 143

Joni exits the coffee shop, carrying a large take-out.

She continues to walk, deep in thought. Sits on a bench.

144 EXT. BENCH - MORNING 144

An early ray of sunshine.

An OLDER COUPLE (80s) stroll by.

The Woman falters. The Man holds out his arm.

Their eyes meet. They continue strolling, arm in arm.

Joni smiles. A moment of understanding. That is what love is.

She slowly stands up. Puts her empty coffee cup in the  
garbage. Straightens her shoulders.

A look of quiet determination on her face.

145 INT. FOXHALL ENTERPRISES - MAIN ROOM - DAY 145

Gavin straightens boxes on the shelves. He turns as Joni  
marches in, carrying a parcel.

GAVIN

Joni...

Joni strides towards Richard's office.

GAVIN (CONT'D)  
You can't go in there.

Joni glances at the address on the parcel. Business-like.

JONI  
I've got a parcel for Richard  
Foxhall.

GAVIN  
You're still working for the post  
office? I thought you were -

Joni heads for Richard's door.

GAVIN (CONT'D)  
Just leave it here.

JONI  
I need a signature.

GAVIN  
Give me -

They wrestle with the parcel. Joni wins. She breaks away.  
Heads into Richard's office.

146 INT. FOXHALL ENTERPRISES - RICHARD'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS 146

A surprised Richard glances up as Joni enters.

JONI  
I've something to say.

She closes the door. Positions herself in front of Richard's  
desk. Takes a deep breath.

JONI (CONT'D)  
I loved you. I loved you more than  
I've ever loved anyone. I wanted to  
spend my life with you. And you  
stomped on my heart. It hurt. It  
drove me around the bend, and I did  
things I never thought that I could  
do, and... I'm sorry. I just wanted  
to tell you that.

A long pause.

RICHARD  
I'm sorry too.



JONI

I know.

She glances around the office. The empty shelves.

JONI (CONT'D)

I'm so sorry I ruined your  
business.

RICHARD

I was furious. But then I realized -  
my heart was never in this.

JONI

So what are you going to do?

RICHARD

I'm thinking of going back to  
school.

JONI

Well, at least it's not like Fatal  
Attraction. I didn't boil a rabbit.  
(off Richard's look)  
Okay. I was close.

They both laugh.

JONI (CONT'D)

What about Dawna?

RICHARD

She's gone. Seems she didn't want  
to live with a struggling student.

JONI

But you were a student when you  
were together before.

RICHARD

Yeah. Go figure. Nostalgia only  
goes so far.  
(beat)  
What about you?

JONI

Move in with my mom for awhile.  
Take it from there.

Joni puts the parcel on the table.

RICHARD

I brought you something.

Richard eyes it skeptically.

JONI

Go ahead. Open it. It won't blow up  
or anything. Honest.

Richard opens the box. Takes out a stuffed mouse with a bell  
on it.

JONI (CONT'D)

Felix's favourite toy. I thought he  
might miss it.

RICHARD

I'm sure he'll appreciate it.  
Thanks.

They look at each other for a long moment. Then...

JONI

All the best to you, Richard.

RICHARD

You too, Joni. You too.

Joni leaves.

147 INT. FRANCIS' HOUSE - BEDROOM - DAY

147

Joni's childhood bedroom. Twin beds.

Joni curls up on one bed, her computer on her lap. She stares  
at the blank screen.

Francis, munching on a red twizzler, peeks in.

FRANCIS

Twizzler?

JONI

Sure.

Francis holds out a package of licorice. Joni takes one. The  
sound of the front door opening.

KAREN (O.S.)

Hi!

Joni tenses. Karen rushes in, holding a white kitten.

KAREN (CONT'D)

I thought you might be lonely.

JONI  
You got a kitten? For me?

KAREN  
Do you like him?

JONI  
He's adorable.

Karen puts the kitten in Joni's lap. Joni cuddles him.

JONI (CONT'D)  
(touched)  
Thanks.

KAREN  
What are you doing?

JONI  
Writing. I may start a blog.

KAREN  
You have a talent. I envy that?

JONI  
(surprised)  
Really?

KAREN  
Uh huh.

Karen's cell phone buzzes. She checks the text.

KAREN (CONT'D)  
Oh my God! Ted got the promotion at  
work! I better go help him  
celebrate!

JONI  
Give Ted my congratulations -

Karen rushes out of the room.

148 INT. FRANCIS' HOUSE - BEDROOM - DAY

148

Joni focuses on her computer. Reads what she has written.  
Groans.

She leans back against the wall. Puts the pillow over her  
head.

An idea...

Joni tosses the pillow aside. Sits bolt upright. Opens a new, blank page.

She starts typing. Her fingers fly over the page.

ON SCREEN: HOW NOT TO BREAK UP WITH A GUY.

149

EXT. OUTDOOR RESTAURANT - DAY

149

Sierra and Joni eat quesadillas. Joni relishes hers.

JONI

I got a new job. With Phantom Press.

SIERRA

The publishing company????

JONI

Relax! It's in the mail room.

Sierra laughs.

JONI (CONT'D)

And my new blog is beginning to take off.

Sierra raises her quesadilla. Joni toasts with hers.

SIERRA

Hey. Did you keep any of the vibrators you bought?

Joni shakes her head.

SIERRA (CONT'D)

Cuz we have a sale on -

JONI

I'm not giving up on love.

A sly smile on Sierra's face.

SIERRA

I'm not either.

JONI

(confused)

What do you mean?

SIERRA

The owner? At Oh La La?

JONI  
 Seriously? Seriously??? Oh my  
 God!!!

She excitedly hugs Sierra.

EXT. OUTDOOR RESTAURANT - DAY

Sierra and Joni head out.

JONI  
 Where are you off to?

SIERRA  
 I'm meeting Dan. You?

JONI  
 Shopping.

Sierra raises her eyebrows.

JONI (CONT'D)  
 Not that kind. There's something I  
 need to take care of. It's been  
 bothering me.

150 EXT. PAWN SHOP - DAY 150

Joni enters the pawn shop.

EXT. PAWN SHOP - MOMENTS LATER

Joni comes out, carrying an overflowing plastic bag.

151 INT. POSTAL OUTLET - DAY 151

Joni stands at the service counter, wrapping parcels in brown paper.

She hands the parcels to a CLERK to be mailed.

152 INT. POSTAL STATION - DAY 152

Tina and Wally sort. DAMIAN, a new postie, sorts at Joni's case.

WALLY  
 Anyone for coffee?

TINA  
 Count me in.

DAMIAN  
 Me too.

They give him money. Wally leaves.

LUNCH ROOM

Wall comes in. Sees...

Ben, totally covered with bandages, clearing out his locker.

WALLY

Hey! You finally got disability,  
man!

They high five.

153 EXT. ELDERLY LADY'S HOUSE - DAY

153

Damian rings the doorbell. The Elderly Lady answers.

Damian hands her a parcel wrapped in brown paper. He gives her a cheery wave. Saunters away.

The Elderly lady checks the package. No return address.

She opens the parcel. Inside... her ash tray.

EXT. EMPTY APARTMENT - DAY

A small apartment. Freshly painted. Boxes all over the place.

Joni and Karen survey the place. The white kitten at their feet.

JONI

Thanks for lending me money for the  
down payment.

KAREN

No problem.

JONI

And for co-signing the lease.

KAREN

You're going to make it, Joni.

JONI

I know.

The cat meows. Joni picks it up.

JONI (CONT'D)

We're going to be really happy,  
here. Aren't we, Hope?

Joni hugs Hope. Smiles.

She looks at the apartment. A new beginning. Her new life.

FADE OUT.