

THE LONG HAUL
An Original Screenplay by M. Shoat

WGAE #137376-00

FADE IN:

INT. LOU'S BEDROOM. THE NELL HOME - NIGHT

Clear water, dazzled by a purple flash as a paintbrush is stirred about in a glass.

LOUISE NELL, late teens, jet-black hair hanging before her eyes, her back to the door, painting vigorously, her eyes intent on her work.

In the corner a computer monitor glows.

Lou paints in the deep purple, finishing a picture of a stylish woman in a purple evening dress.

She briefly pauses as she looks over the picture, at a pocket knife, blue-handled.

Lou grabs a black pen and signs "Louise" in the corner, a small heart over the 'i'.

LATER

Lou, relaxed in bed, her teddy bear Roderick keeping her company.

On her desk, the spotlight blazes strong on the knife.

Outside, a murmur of voices.

Lou sits up, Roderick clutched to her chest.

She goes to the door and eases it open.

INT. HALLWAY. THE NELL HOME - NIGHT

At the top of the stairs, Lou peeks out to see DREW NELL talking to ANNE NELL.

Anne is visibly shaken, a slight mascara run down the side of her face.

ANNE
Drew, I swear next time is the last
time, I'm fed up to the hilt.

DREW
I know. I'm sorry.

Anne looks up the stairs.

ANNE
Lou -

Lou closes her door.

INT. LOU'S BEDROOM. THE NELL HOME - NIGHT

Lou walks slowly back to her bed.

As she lies down, she jumps at a series of loud THUDS from
beneath her.

She closes her eyes tight and hugs Roderick.

LOU (V.O.)
Take me away from here.

EXT. AIRPLANE - DAY

Over the clouds, an airplane soars.

Beneath it, a glory - a circular rainbow - barely visible.

INT. AIRPLANE - DAY

MICKEY DRUMMOND, rough-looking, sits next to EVE HAMBLIN,
both visibly uncomfortable with a stranger.

Eve wears a soft purple shirt, matching the purple tint to
her hair.

She's so well-spoken it's almost quaint.

They try to watch the in-flight movie - a typical 80s
family flick.

Mickey sighs, stares out of the window.

MICKEY
They really blow this opportunity,
you know -

Eve turns, startled.

EVE
Sorry?

MICKEY
Showing these crappy movies.

Eve looks back to the screen.

EVE
Close your eyes, kick back and
dreee-ammm.

MICKEY
So what's your favourite movie?

EVE
Wizard of Oz, I watch it -
constantly ...

Mickey smiles.

EVE (CONT'D)
Well what's yours?

MICKEY
I don't know.

He sits back.

MICKEY (CONT'D)
Anything but this.

EVE
You don't remember me.

Mickey sits forward again, looking at Eve.

MICKEY
Should I?

EVE
It's okay, I'm forgettable -

MICKEY
No, I'm forgetful, I meet a lot of
people. I sing, in bars - all over.

EVE
That's where we met. After a show.

She stares into his eyes, willing him to remember.

Mickey stares back, finally shaking his head.

MICKEY
Sorry -

EVE
Well we talked anyway, how I love
your music . . . it's beautiful,
really.

MICKEY
Thank you.

EVE
Eve.

MICKEY
Thank you Eve.

He smiles and turns to the window.

MICKEY (CONT'D)
Oh my God -

Eve looks over quick.

Mickey is staring below the plane, a huge grin on his face.

Eve's face presses in behind to get a glimpse.

EVE
Why Mickey Drummond, I do believe
you've seen your first glory.

Beneath the plane now, the colors of the glory blaze
strong, slight rain sprinkling off the wings into the void.

MICKEY
Glory?

Eve enunciates every syllable carefully.

EVE
A - circular - rainbow.

MICKEY
I never saw it before.

EVE
Well you never flew like this
before.
(shakes her head)
You don't see them on the ground.

Mickey's face turns sour as he watches the clouds turn grey as the sun fades away, and the glory starts to vanish.

MICKEY

There it goes -

EVE

Nothing that beautiful ever lasts.

As Mickey sits back down in his seat, shutting out the grey sky with the blind on his window, he looks down startled at Eve's hand, which has fallen slyly into his crotch area.

Eve sits back in her own seat, removing the hand.

EVE (CONT'D)

Sorry.

She laughs.

EVE (CONT'D)

So who is the lucky girl you always sing to? I've been meaning to ask you.

MICKEY

Huh?

EVE

Love songs such as yours, they don't just happen, there's some girl, I can tell.

MICKEY

I just sing to the audience - maybe to myself?

EVE

Someone s-peshal.

She smiles.

Mickey snaps the blind open again as if it might let air in.

He gazes out across the clouds.

MICKEY

Yeah there's someone.

EVE

Oh . . .

MICKEY

But we've known each other since forever, like we're brother and sister. I love her so much that loving her seems weird.

EVE

And what is her name?

He smiles.

MICKEY

Lou.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Lou walks down the street toward 'Cut-Cost Clothing', her place of work.

Her floppy jet black hair dangles forever in front of her piercing green eyes, and her mouth threatens never to smile.

She stops for a moment, outside a row of small fashion boutiques, admiring the dresses in the window.

In one store, 'Cypress', an assistant spots her and smiles, faintly waving.

Lou cracks a smile, and moves on.

INT. CUT-COST CLOTHING - DAY

Lou walks in, grimacing at her fellow employees - a bunch of teenage boys and girls headed up by CHARLIE - and goes straight to the only other loner on the staff, ELLIS.

She jabs Ellis in the shoulder.

LOU

Hey Ellis - you know where my brother is?

ELLIS

He's in the back, I guess. Was last time I looked.

LOU

Thanks Ellis, you're great.

Ellis smiles at her as she heads straight toward the office at the back of the store.

INT. OFFICE. CUT-COST CLOTHING - DAY

Drew sits with coffee, kicking back in a flimsy chair, feet on the desk.

Lou enters, heads directly for the coffee machine.

Drew spins around in the chair.

DREW

No.

He stares at Lou.

Lou stares startled back.

LOU

I'm just getting -

DREW

No!

LOU

Okay -

She goes back to the door and turns.

LOU (CONT'D)

You and dad were fighting again.

Drew spins away and picks up his coffee.

LOU (CONT'D)

You were, I heard you. So what's happened?

DREW

You heard what happened.

LOU

What happened?

DREW

The usual. Except this time's the last.

LOU

Well lucky you.

DREW

Huh?

Lou shakes her head, turns to the door.

LOU

I'll get back to work.

INT. AIRPORT - DAY

Mickey, waiting for his bags to come through.

He spots his guitar case, drags it off, then his bag further down the belt.

EVE (O.S.)

Wow, we meet again Mickey Drummond.

Mickey turns to face Eve smiling his way.

MICKEY

Oh - hi.

EVE

Well hello.

MICKEY

I remember you now. I'm sorry.

EVE

It's okay, like I said - I'm always forgotten in the end.

MICKEY

You work near me - in Nucci's.

Eve smiles.

EVE

Yes - you like your cappuccino.

MICKEY

Yes.

EVE

Does Lou live around there?

Mickey hesitates.

EVE (CONT'D)

I mean, she must, I suppose, if you've known her for ever. I know a Lou - may be one and the same.

MICKEY

She lives there. I'm going back to see her. Maybe take her away.

EVE

Oh . . .

They walk away from the bag collection.

MICKEY

I shouldn't have mentioned that -

EVE

No, it's romantic. And now I know not to come onto you.

She smiles, reads Mickey's expression.

EVE (CONT'D)

It's a joke.

MICKEY

Yeah.

He smiles weakly.

MICKEY (CONT'D)

Since we're going the same way, how about we sit by each other on the coach?

EVE

How do you know I don't have a limo, Mr.?

MICKEY

You work in Nucci's.

Eve dips her head.

EVE

Ouch.

MICKEY

Sorry.

EVE

It's okay.

MICKEY

So - the coach?

Eve stares at Mickey, sizing up his state of mind.

EVE

Nope - you've thoughts on your mind. I wouldn't want to cloud them. But -

She looks away.

EVE (CONT'D)

Could you do me a favour?

MICKEY

Sure, anything.

EVE

Watch my bags. These buses can get as clever as they want, but - I have a problem with moving toilets, if you know what I mean -

MICKEY

Oh -

EVE

Thank you.

Eve puts her bags down.

MICKEY

I'll write y'a song.

Eve smiles, and runs off.

Mickey pulls a notepad out from his pocket, thinks a moment, and begins to write.

He stops as his phone begins to ring in his jacket.

Mickey pulls out the phone, answers it.

MICKEY (CONT'D)

Hi.

(beat)

Al? What is it . . .

EVE (LATER)

Walking back toward Mickey, who has put his phone away and stands slightly grave staring at Eve.

EVE
So all done and now we can say our
fond farewells.

MICKEY
Actually could you watch my bags?

EVE
Sure.

MICKEY
I wrote you something. It's short.
He hands her the paper and walks away.

Eve watches him go.

EVE
Thanks.

She reads the paper, then looks up again, astonished.

EVE (CONT'D)
Fuck, I let the guy go.

INT. BATHROOM. AIRPORT - DAY

Mickey bursts through the door, stares directly at himself in the mirror, and pulls his phone back out of his pocket.

He dials up, places the phone to his ear, checks the stalls around him. The place is empty.

Suddenly he leaps into action.

MICKEY
Al - what the fuck do you mean I'm
out? I pulled Snowfire together!

AL (V.O.)
We discussed it Mickey - yours just
isn't the style that goes over
well.

MICKEY

I told you - I need to get all this out of me, then I can write your rock stuff, okay?

AL (V.O.)

You're taking too long, Mickey. Your music is too slow.

MICKEY

Slow.

AL (V.O.)

I'm sorry.

MICKEY

I pulled it all together - you'll be shit without me -

AL (V.O.)

We're shit with or without you, we've decided to go without. Really there's nothing to discuss . . . except one thing and this I feel really shitty about doing, okay?

MICKEY

What?

AL (V.O.)

We want your guitar back -

Mickey's jaw gapes open as he stares into the mirror.

MICKEY

You're fucking kidding -

AL (V.O.)

- officially it's the band's property, we signed all that shit you brought over. And we need the money, okay?

MICKEY

It's my guitar - I need the money. I play this damn thing, not like you. This is the most important thing I own, not to mention the most expensive -

He looks at his watch.

MICKEY (CONT'D)
Fuck, I have to go - look, when
exactly do you want this guitar by?

AL (V.O.)
Yesterday.

MICKEY
Okay . . . I can't argue about this
right now - we'll talk again, okay?

AL (V.O.)
We really need it, Mickey.

Mickey shakes his head.

MICKEY
Fuck you, Al.

He hangs up the phone.

INT. AIRPORT - DAY

Mickey walks back out to Eve.

EVE
Everything okay?

MICKEY
Not at all.

EVE
Okay.

She looks at the paper he handed her.

EVE (CONT'D)
I love this, Mickey.

MICKEY
Great.

He looks up from his bags into Eve's face.

MICKEY (CONT'D)
I'm sorry, something just happened.
I think you're right, we shouldn't
sit together on the coach.

EVE
You wouldn't want to hurt me.

MICKEY
Something like that.

EVE
I get it. So I guess this is
goodbye.

MICKEY
Yeah.

Eve steps forward to kiss him.

Mickey tightens up as Eve slowly nestles her face beneath
his chin and kisses his neck.

EVE
Bye.

She turns and rapidly wheels her bags away into the crowd
leaving Mickey alone.

INT. CUT-COST CLOTHING - DAY

Lou, red-faced, pushes a stack of white shirts onto a
shelf.

As she turns to grab some more, the aforementioned stack
slides off the shelf onto the floor.

Lou stares at the shirts everywhere.

LOU
Fuck!

She grabs them all in one go, careless, and simply thrusts
them messily into the shelf.

She starts doing the same with all the other clothes she
has, pushing them fast into their places.

LATER

Lou walks across the store past the other employees who all
seem to be giggling.

As she passes Drew's office, he looks out.

DREW
Lou -

LOU
I'm going upstairs.

She glares at him and he simply vanishes back behind the door.

INT. LOCKER ROOM. CUT-COST CLOTHING - DAY

Lou enters, leans against the wall, sighing.

She goes to her locker, brings her key up to unlock it, and notices bubblegum pushed hard into the lock.

LOU

Shit!

She scrapes at the hardened gum with the key, then failing bashes the door with her hand.

She pulls it away fast, clutching her hand, and sits on the floor.

LOU (CONT'D)

Fucking assholes!

She sits silently, breathing a second, and reaches into her pocket, producing her pocket knife.

She opens the blade and stares at it intently.

In the locker directly in front of her, she spots her reflection, and tips her head so her hair falls again in front of her eyes.

As she looks up, momentarily the whole room appears as a mirror image of itself.

Lou stands, knife in hand, and then pounds her locker over and over and over.

Finally she jams the blade in through the side of the door, prising it open, snapping the lock.

She leaves the room, eyes filled with hate.

INT. THE NELL HOME - DAY

Lou bursts through the front door, kicks off her shoes.

She walks up the stairs quick, then is stopped.

ANNE (O.S.)

Lou!

Lou shakes her head, turns and heads back down.

INT. KITCHEN. THE NELL HOME - DAY

Anne stands over some cooking, staring at Lou.

LOU

What?

ANNE

I just wanted to say hello. How was your day?

LOU

It was normal. Normal as ever. Why?

ANNE

Just wanted to ask.

LOU

I talked to Drew. About last night.

Anne turns to face Lou.

ANNE

As long as it doesn't happen again -

Lou glares.

ANNE (CONT'D)

- I'm sorry Lou, I know you'll miss him, but -

LOU

That's not my problem -

She turns and leaves the kitchen.

INT. LOU'S BEDROOM. THE NELL HOME - DAY

Lou enters, dumps her bag on the floor and heads directly to the desk in the corner.

She digs in her pockets and throws a number of pieces of paper onto the desk, spreading them out - they're quick sketches of various dresses and clothes.

She walks over to a computer desk and jabs a couple of buttons.

An e-mail window pops up.

Lou grins at the screen.

LOU

Mickey!

Sure enough, the mail is from "mickey222@hotmail.com".

A big heart pops up on the screen.

LOU (CONT'D)

Asshole -

She goes back to her drawings and sits down, picking up a pen, taking the top off and holding it between her teeth.

She begins adding vigorously to her sketches, now and then closing her eyes.

She stops suddenly, and turns to look around her room.

On her bed she spots her collection of teddy bears, a notable gap amidst them.

LOU (CONT'D)

Roderick.

She paces over to the bed, moves all the other teddies aside, checks under the duvet, under her pillow.

She tosses her lilac pyjamas aside.

LOU (CONT'D)

Shit!

Lou checks under the bed.

INT. KITCHEN. THE NELL HOME - DAY

Lou storms in, startling her mother.

LOU

Where the fuck is Roderick?

ANNE

Don't you DARE talk to me like that.

LOU

Where is he, he was there, he was RIGHT there! On my bed.

ANNE

I've been no where near your room today. How can you talk to me like that?

LOU

I put him there, I know dad wouldn't go in there. Everyone knows not to touch him, EVER.

Lou's red face now gives way to light tears.

LOU (CONT'D)

You know!

Anne moves closer to Lou.

ANNE

Lou . . . he'll turn up I'm sure, I promise I didn't touch him.

LOU

Then it's Drew, it's gotta be.

She wipes her face.

LOU (CONT'D)

Bastard.

She looks at Anne.

LOU (CONT'D)

Sorry.

She leaves the kitchen again.

INT. COACH - EVENING

Mickey sits staring forward, well aware of Eve's eyes behind, watching him.

MICKEY (V.O.)

I'm playing at Club Dax tonight, perhaps you'd like to come.

EVE (V.O.)

What about Lou?

MICKEY (V.O.)

I'm okay till tomorrow.

Slowly, Mickey's guitar increases in volume, the song "Loaded Gun" being played :

INT. CLUB DAX - NIGHT

Mickey sits on stage, playing his guitar.

MICKEY

(sings)

Loaded gun, waiting to be fired,
Tired of waiting for a target,
wounded,
Winded, calling out your name, I'm
tired,
Firing into air, firing into
nothing,
Listen to me crying.

He stares out at Eve, who watches him hypnotic.

MICKEY (CONT'D)

I'm crying for you, but don't know
who -
You are mine, not there, just give
me time,
The world's too big, and you're so
small,
Call me back
So I can hear you're mine.

INT. LOU'S BEDROOM. THE NELL HOME -NIGHT

The song continues to play as Lou stares up at her ceiling, miming the words.

MICKEY (V.O.)

Okay, I'm scared to call you now, I
know
Your name's too beautiful for me to
say
I pray you'll move first to spare
my blush
Crush me with your call, call my
gun to fire away.

Lou smiles, closes her eyes.

INT. CLUB DAX - NIGHT

The crowd cheers, Eve raises her glass to Mickey.

Mickey steps off the stage.

INT. CUT-COST CLOTHING - MORNING

Lou enters, more aggressive today.

She heads directly for the back room, ignoring Ellis' smile and everyone else's giggles.

INT. OFFICE. CUT-COST CLOTHING - DAY

Drew again looks up as Lou enters.

DREW

Lou - did you break your locker?

He sees her heading for the coffee machine.

DREW (CONT'D)

No coffee.

Lou takes a cup anyway.

LOU

Yes. I broke my locker.

DREW

You should have told me about it.

LOU

Why?

DREW

Lou, I told you about this.

LOU

Listen, okay? Stop thinking I care about getting fired from this place. You firing me from here is like me getting kicked out of home. It's such a blessing, I know it's not going to happen! All I want is what you have.

DREW

What?

LOU

I don't know - I just want to, to just do what I want. But -

She stares at Drew.

LOU (CONT'D)
I'm sorry that you don't understand
me.

She turns to leave.

LOU (CONT'D)
Where's Roderick?

DREW
I don't know.

Lou looks at him carefully.

LOU
I'm going to the library, for my
lunch, and - I want Roderick when I
come back.

She leaves.

EXT. LIBRARY - DAY

Lou sits on the steps, alone - reading.

She keeps glancing across the street toward the row of
boutiques.

Mickey slowly approaches from the library with a book,
unnoticed by Lou.

MICKEY
How many times have you read that?

Lou looks up startled, startling Mickey with her red face.

LOU
You asshole! I didn't know you'd be
back here already.

She stands and grabs him, punching him hard in the arm then
hugging him.

MICKEY
I know, I thought I'd surprise you.

LOU
So how'd the whole thing go, you
never told me anything.

MICKEY
It went okay, but -

LOU
But.

MICKEY
I got kicked out of Snowfire.

LOU
Shit.

They walk together toward the library.

LOU (CONT'D)
Well that band was a waste of time,
you're perfect alone like me. And I
got your e-mail. Thanks.

MICKEY
You got that?

They walk away down the street.

INT. DISUSED RAILWAY TRACK - DAY

Lou balances carefully, tiptoeing down the rail tracks.

Mickey reaches for her hand.

LOU
Hey, I can balance!

MICKEY
Careful.

LOU
So what's with the book?

She snatches it off him, flicking through it.

MICKEY
Just some poetry, I don't know.

LOU
Right.

They reach a dark tunnel and sit at the opening.

LOU (CONT'D)
I missed you so much, you asshole.

MICKEY

It wasn't long though, right?

Lou shakes her head.

LOU

It was too long, I've been dying.

Mickey dips his head, looking up at Lou.

MICKEY

Next time come with me.

LOU

My parents would destroy me.

MICKEY

Fuck your parents.

Lou laughs, blushing, grabs Mickey's hands on the table between them.

LOU

I can't do that, remember?

She tips her head from side to side, puts on a funny voice.

LOU (CONT'D)

Lit-tle Lou . . .

MICKEY

Yeah I know. It's time you shocked 'em into realising though.

LOU

Realising what?

MICKEY

Reality.

LOU

I know where you're going, and I swear one day I'll leave with you but stuff's been happening while you were gone.

MICKEY

Drew and your dad again.

He pulls his hands away.

LOU
Yeah. Mickey, about what you sent
me...

MICKEY
That's a long story.

LOU
You can't send me words like that
and expect me not to feel.

MICKEY
Like I told you I got kicked from
the band - so I've been down.

LOU
I know -

MICKEY
And Al called me saying I have to
take my guitar back to them, they
need the money.

LOU
No! That's your guitar -

MICKEY
There's nothing I can do about it.
But this is why I want you to
come. I want you to come with me
this time.

LOU
Mickey, don't ask me this -

MICKEY
I know you want to go.

LOU
I want to go - Jesus. I know - I
hate it here. But here's the only
thing I know. Cathy at Cypress
thinks I might be able to work
there some day. It may be bullshit,
but it's all I have.

MICKEY
Please.

LOU
Fuck.

She laughs at herself.

LOU (CONT'D)

You know I will.

MICKEY

I've been trying to plan this all morning now it comes to it I can't think how to do it.

LOU

What?

MICKEY

You're going to laugh, but - Lou, I want us to be together forever. I mean, like -

Lou turns her head away once more.

LOU

Fuck, Mickey -

MICKEY

No, just think about it. All we've been through. I know we've been apart awhile, but -

LOU

It's okay. I know what you mean.

She stares down at his hands.

LOU (CONT'D)

I'm not saying no, Mickey, it's just -

MICKEY

You're not saying no -

LOU

I need to think.

MICKEY

Do you need to be back at work?

LOU

Not yet, he can wait.

MICKEY

Drew.

LOU

I don't wanna talk about him.

MICKEY
Okay, you wanna go?

LOU
Yeah.

Mickey stands, releasing Lou's hands.

She sits still a moment, staring up at him . . .

INT. CUT-COST CLOTHING - EVENING

Lou enters, unnoticed by the customers and other workers as she passes them.

EXT. CUT-COST CLOTHING - EVENING

Lightning, thunder.

Rain patters in the street gutter rhythmically.

INT. CUT-COST CLOTHING - EVENING

Lou sings.

LOU
I don't know how it started,
He knew me as a kid.
But ever since we parted
I can't help but wonder what I did.

She walks past more customers, Charlie stacking shirts.

THE PAST: a young girl with Lou's obvious black fringe squirts water at a rough-looking boy.

In the store, Lou continues singing.

LOU (CONT'D)
Spring-time, I remember,
Playing hide and seek - December.
That's all in the past,
Some things just don't last.

EXT. CUT-COST CLOTHING - EVENING

Lou exits into the rain.

LOU
 But this, this is so much more.
 He no longer sees the girl next
 door -
 Am I wrong? To feel the way I feel?
 Because this feels so much more
 than real.

The rain patters its last on the street and Lou flicks back
 her fringe, walking slowly back into the store.

INT. CUT-COST CLOTHING - EVENING

Lou enters, noticed now, but the looks are not as before.

Charlie lets her past, even smiles at her.

She walks toward the back room.

INT. CUT-COST CLOTHING. BACK -EVENING

Lou stops, startled, seeing Drew alone holding a small
 teddy bear in his hands.

LOU
 I didn't know you were still here.
 So what are you doing with
 Roderick?

She goes to take the teddy off him.

He pulls it away from her.

DREW
 Where have you been?

LOU
 I've been thinking, something's
 happened.

DREW
 Yeah.

LOU
 I meant to me - what?

DREW
 I went back to get some more of my
 stuff -

LOU
So you thought you'd steal my teddy bear? What are you talking about?

DREW
You don't want to know okay, Lou?

LOU
You and dad were fighting again right?

He hands Roderick back to Lou.

LOU (CONT'D)
Jesus, Drew.

DREW
From now on I want you in here on time everyday. Cos remember I can fire you now.

He stands and goes to the door.

LOU
I might not be here much longer. Like I said something happened to me today. If you wanna hear.

Drew turns.

DREW
Okay, go on.

LOU
Mickey, he's going on this bus journey, he has to. And he asked me to go with him.

DREW
You can't do that.

LOU
You think I care anymore?

Drew re-enters the room.

DREW
I'm not kidding, Lou. Don't do it, cos mum and dad, they'd kill each other.

LOU
I'm not listening to this.

She turns to leave.

DREW

Think about it. I know it's not perfect around here, but -

LOU

I would love for you to fire me, okay Drew? I would love to be kicked out. I wish that would happen to me. But it wouldn't happen to me, would it? Cos I'm little Lou.

Drew unconsciously glances at his watch.

LOU (CONT'D)

Yah, and Lou has to be home.

She leaves.

INT. LOU'S BEDROOM. THE NELL HOME - NIGHT

Lou's eyes snap open to her parents arguing below.

ANNE (O.S.)

We'll lose her next! If you'd only go and talk to her -

FRANK (O.S.)

Look where talking got Drew -

ANNE (O.S.)

But we're not talking about Drew, Drew's gone . . .

Lou jumps out of bed.

INT. KITCHEN. THE NELL HOME - NIGHT

Frank and Anne turn startled to the door as Lou enters, bitch-faced.

LOU

Would you shut the fuck up about me?

Lou turns and stamps out the room up the stairs.

Frank and Anne glare at each other.

LOU

I'm thinking my mum is going to freak out. And I all I care about is what would happen if I dropped this food. What are you thinking?

MICKEY

I don't know. Did you tell anyone you're going?

LOU

I told Drew. I don't think he believed me. He told me not to. I left a note for dad.

MICKEY

You can call them.

LOU

I don't want to. I'm gone now.

MICKEY

You should call them.

LOU

Yeah.

Lou looks around at everyone.

Everyone seems to be looking at them.

LOU (CONT'D)

I hate this part. The waiting.

MICKEY

It'll be fine when we're on the way.

She offers him some of her sandwich, he takes it.

MICKEY (CONT'D)

Thanks, I'm starving.

A young woman, DONNA, sits near them.

MICKEY (CONT'D)

I hate the waiting too.

LOU

Are you sure this is right?

MICKEY

Yes.

Lou grabs Mickey's hand.

A dirty looking MAN approaches Lou and holds out his hand.

MAN
Got any change, I need a bus fare.

MICKEY
Fuck off, asshole.

Lou stares at Mickey.

The Man looks at Mickey, quickly turns away.

LOU
Jesus, Mickey.

OVERHEAD VO
7A now boarding, if passengers
could proceed to departure point
nine.

MICKEY
That's us.

Donna stands with them, grabbing her small bag.

Lou quickly gets up and follows Mickey.

As they walk toward the gate, Lou looks at the pigeons,
mischievous.

She pulls a few pieces of crust off her sandwich, and
tosses it out into a bunch of the birds.

They go wild, fluttering in people's faces.

Mickey turns and sees Lou watching with fascination.

MICKEY (CONT'D)
Jesus.

He grabs Lou and pulls her after him, both of them
laughing.

INT. THE BUS - DAY

Mickey and Lou pack themselves into the back seats.

An elderly couple, EMILY and LESTER, join them.

Donna sits at the front, behind the driver.

LOU
I really need to sleep now.

She tips her head onto Mickey's shoulder.

MICKEY
Me too. It's a long journey.

LOU
Good. You're cosy.

Lester looks over at Mickey and Lou, smiles.

At the front of the bus, Donna arranges her bag, and then stands holding a microphone.

DONNA
Good afternoon. My name's Donna and I'm your hostess. Wayne our driver will be here shortly and we'll be on our way. We'll stop twice, but I'm here if you need coffee, drinks, or anything else. We'll also be showing a movie -

She points at an overhead screen at the front of the bus.

Mickey laughs.

LOU
What's so funny?

MICKEY
Nothing.

DONNA
I picked The Wizard of Oz.

A couple of people groan.

Mickey laughs even more.

DONNA (CONT'D)
But we have a few other movies if that's not a popular choice. Rest assured we don't have Crash or Speed.

A young man, TOM RAMB, yells "aw, no fair!" and his girlfriend, AIMEE, hits him hard in the arm.

DONNA (CONT'D)
I'll be walking up and down once
we're on the way, in case you need
anything.

WAYNE, the driver, handsome, gets on the bus.

DONNA (CONT'D)
Here's Wayne.

Wayne looks up at his passengers, smiles.

LOU
Oooh, he's cute.

Mickey turns to Lou, stunned.

LOU (CONT'D)
He's not you, but he's cute.

She smiles.

MICKEY
You'll make me competitive.

LOU
Don't be.

She looks ahead at Wayne again as he starts up the bus.

Donna, still standing, gestures to a ticket in her hand.

DONNA
Once we're moving, I'll come round
to check tickets so if you have
them r -

She screams suddenly, and grabs onto the two nearest seats
as Wayne jolts the bus forward.

Lou suddenly fights laughter.

Donna recovers quickly, standing again.

DONNA (CONT'D)
If you have them ready when I come
round.

As she sits, she hits Wayne on the shoulder.

Wayne sits carefully laughing to himself.

INT. LOU'S BEDROOM -DAY

The empty bed, the computer monitor still glowing in the corner.

On the screen, a note floats around, reading "Gone away with Mickey, sorry ..." and a funny face sketched by Lou.

ANNE (O.S.)

Lou?

There's a slight knock.

ANNE (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Time to be up Lou.

INT. THE NELL KITCHEN -DAY

Anne enters, Frank reading some mail at the table with coffee.

ANNE

Have you seen Lou go out?

FRANK

No, is she not upstairs?

ANNE

Of course she's not upstairs.

FRANK

Sorry! Well maybe she went to work for once.

ANNE

I don't think so.

She stands in the doorway, staring at Frank who continues to filter his mail.

Finally, Frank looks up.

FRANK

Do you want me to phone Drew?

ANNE

Would you.

Frank slaps the mail back down on the table and stands, brushing past Anne to the phone.

ANNE (CONT'D)

I just don't like talking to him.

FRANK

It's okay.

ANNE

I don't think he likes talking to me.

FRANK

I told you didn't I. It's okay.

He picks up the phone.

INT. CUT-COST CLOTHING -DAY

Drew emerges from the back, everyone stopping as he passes them.

He goes straight to Ellis.

DREW

Ellis, have you seen Lou?

ELLIS

Today?

DREW

Yes today.

ELLIS

No, I don't think so. Is she okay?

DREW

I don't know!

INT. THE BUS - DAY

Mickey rests his head on Lou's shoulder, eyes closed.

The guitar case rests between them.

Across the other side of the bus, Lester eyes the guitar case, and smiles at Lou.

Emily nudges him, telling him not to look.

Lou smiles back, and turns her attention back to her new boyfriend.

She blows his eyes, making them flicker, giggles.

Then she blows his ear.

Mickey cracks a slight knowing smile.

Lou turns his head towards her and sticks her tongue out.

Lester turns his head away smiling.

Mickey opens his eyes just as Lou's tongue is on the tip of his nose.

Lou pulls away and closes her mouth.

MICKEY

What are you doing?

LOU

Just . . . looking.

MICKEY

Your face is still red, are you sure you're okay?

Lou puts one hand to her face.

LOU

Yeah - I had a stressful moment at work. I just get over angry sometimes. I look awful don't I.

Mickey puts his hand on Lou's cheek.

MICKEY

That's impossible.

LOU

I wonder if my dad's found my note yet.

MICKEY

We won't be gone long.

LOU

I know. I'm scared too though.

MICKEY

You don't have to be scared.

LOU

No - I like this feeling. It's ...
so much more interesting than
feeling safe all the time.

MICKEY

Yeah.

He reaches down into his bag and pulls out the poetry book.

Lou, again, watches, bemused.

LOU

Come on, you're gonna have to tell
me about that. What does Mickey
have to do with a poetry book?

Mickey looks at Lou, smiles.

MICKEY

It's stupid.

Lou hits him in the arm.

LOU

Tell me!

MICKEY

Okay. I need to find some words. To
explain the way I feel about you.
And I figure this is a good place
to start.

LOU

But I think I know the way you feel
about me. If it's anything like the
way I feel for you, I know.

MICKEY

Yeah, but I really want to be sure.

LOU

Yeah.

MICKEY

So how do you feel about me?

Lou turns away, sees her reflection in the window, and then
turns back to Mickey, blushing.

LOU

I can't say.

MICKEY

Why not?

LOU

Well, I just feel like I can't get close enough to you. You know?

Mickey's face reveals his surprise, as Lou nods at him.

MICKEY

When I get married, I don't want to use the same words everyone else uses. I want the perfect words.

LOU

Talking about marriage again.

MICKEY

Yeah.

LOU

Like I said it's-

MICKEY

Scary, I know. But I couldn't do it with anyone but you.

Lou pulls a small pad out of her pocket and opens it on a half-finished drawing. She takes the pencil from the pad's binding and continues to finish it.

Emily sees the drawing.

She glances to the front of the bus.

LOU

You know if we stop soon?

MICKEY

I don't know.

He looks over at Lester and Emily.

MICKEY (CONT'D)

Excuse me?

Lester turns to him.

LESTER

Hi.

MICKEY

Do you know when we stop?

LESTER
I think it should be soon.

Mickey sits back in his seat.

MICKEY
Thanks.

LESTER
How you guys doing?

Mickey looks over again.

MICKEY
We're fine. Thanks.

The gentleman shakes his head.

LESTER
I'm sorry.

He leans across the aisle, holding out a hand.

LESTER (CONT'D)
Hart -

Mickey takes the hand. They shake.

LESTER (CONT'D)
Lester.

Emily hits her husband on the shoulder with a knitting needle.

EMILY
Les-terrrr!!

She smiles at Mickey and Lou.

EMILY (CONT'D)
Lester's so formal.

Lou laughs.

Emily puts one hand on her chest.

EMILY (CONT'D)
And I'm Emily.

MICKEY
Hi Lester and Emily. I'm Mickey,
this is Louise.

LOU
I get called Lou. Hi.

Emily smiles at them.

She points at the guitar case.

EMILY
Our son had a guitar.

Mickey smiles.

MICKEY
I'm about to lose mine. What
happened to his?

LESTER
We still have the guitar. We lost
him.

EMILY
He was going to be a band.

Lou turns to Mickey.

LOU
(just for Mickey to
hear)
I'm gonna go and ask the driver if
he's stopping soon, 'kay?

MICKEY
(for Lou)
Sure.

Mickey stands to let Lou out.

They both look at Emily and Lester, really sorry.

LOU
(to Emily)
Excuse me.

Emily smiles.

Lou squeezes past and walks down the aisle toward the
driver.

Mickey watches after her.

EMILY
Would you play something?

Mickey looks across, slightly startled by the question.

MICKEY
Play something?

Emily nods.

Mickey reaches down for the case.

MICKEY (CONT'D)
Sure.

He starts getting the guitar out.

He looks down at Lou, making her way gawkishly to the front of the bus.

EMILY
You two really like each other.

MICKEY
Yeah.

EMILY
When did you meet?

MICKEY
I can't remember. We've known each other since forever.

EMILY
You've always been close?

MICKEY
We've always been close. Just not as close as we have been this week.

Emily laughs.

EMILY
Oh, I see.

Mickey sits up with the guitar, looks down toward Lou and the driver.

MICKEY
What kind of thing do you want me to play?

EMILY
Oh, anything.

MICKEY

Okay.

Mickey plays a few chords. He smiles - it sounds okay.

FRONT OF BUS

Lou swings casually on the support bar.

Mickey's Song drifts in from the back.

LOU

You like driving?

Wayne, keeps his eyes on the road.

WAYNE

Yep. It's okay.

LOU

I'm Lou.

WAYNE

I'm Wayne.

Lou giggles.

LOU

Yeah I know your name. That's my...
my boyfriend -

(she smiles)

- playing the guitar at the back.

WAYNE

He plays well.

LOU

I know.

Wayne turns his head full for a second to look at Lou. She smiles coyly.

WAYNE

So did you come down here for a
reason?

LOU

Oh, I'm bored ... I've never been
on one these long journeys.

WAYNE

What about your boyfriend?

LOU

I love his guitar playing. But -
it's stupid - I only like it when
there's just me.

WAYNE

That's kinda sweet.

Lou flicks her eyes back at Mickey.

LOU

Do you have a girlfriend?

WAYNE

We just broke up. Didn't like me
being away so much. She works in a
cappuccino place now or something.
We still talk.

LOU

That's so sad. I couldn't be away
from Mickey though. You didn't
think of changing your job?

WAYNE

I think that's why I broke it off.
Cos I didn't. I mean, if I really
loved her I wouldn't have been so
scared, would I?

LOU

I guess. But I'm scared doing what
I'm doing. I ran away from home.
And I did it for Mickey. I'm gonna
be in trouble, but I don't care.

WAYNE

That's love. Someday -

He looks at Lou and laughs.

Lou smiles back.

LOU

I know. And don't worry, it's the
fear keeps you going.

BACK OF BUS

Mickey continues his song, a ballad, hardly focussed on the
music, staring down the aisle at Lou flirting with Wayne.

Emily, tears streaming down her face, holds Lester's hand. Mickey strums out the final notes of the song, and relaxes his grip on the guitar.

EMILY
That was wonderful.

A crackle comes through a set of speakers, followed by a thumping.

LOU (V.O.)
(giggling)
That was my boyfriend Mickey - this
is our driver -

Mickey looks down in Lou's direction to see her and Wayne battling over a little microphone.

LOU (CONT'D)
Seems Wayne's a little shy. Anyway,
we're stopping soon, so grab your
things if you wanna get off. Thank
you.

Mickey watches as Lou flicks off the microphone and hands it back to Wayne, playfully punching him in the arm.

Lou giggles something else, and spins to walk back up the aisle toward Mickey.

She sits by Mickey, her cheeks flushed.

They sit in silence for a moment.

LOU (CONT'D)
That was really great, by the way.

MICKEY
Thanks.

Lou looks across at Emily.

LOU
Did you have any other kids?

EMILY
No. I think we decided -

LESTER
It was unlucky. But you move on.
You don't realize -

Words catch in his throat.

Lou nods and sits back in her seat.

Lester pulls himself together quickly, and turns to Mickey.

LESTER (CONT'D)

I was in the music business.

MICKEY

Really?

LESTER

Did you write that song?

MICKEY

I did. I haven't written in - a long time.

LESTER

Cos it really was great. If you have anymore - I still have connections. Weak ones, but connections so -

LOU

Awesome!

MICKEY

I think I'm out of music, actually.

Lester shakes his head.

LESTER

You don't get out of music. Music gets in you and never leaves.

MICKEY

I had a band and we did some great songs. Then they kicked me out. And after this week I'm gonna have no guitar.

LESTER

I don't need to tell you your music isn't contained in that piece of wood.

Mickey stares at his guitar.

EXT. BUS SERVICES - DAY

The bus turns off the road into an almost empty car park.

It comes to a stop and the doors hiss open.

A small group of people get off and split into different directions, followed by Emily and Lester.

As Mickey steps off, with his guitar case, he turns around for Lou.

He sees her laughing with Wayne.

MICKEY

Lou you wanted to -

LOU

Yeah I'm coming, Mickey, hold on a sec.

As Mickey stands waiting, Tom Ramb and Aimee step off.

Aimee pushes Mickey aside, somehow jabbing him in the ribs.

Mickey winces slightly.

AIMEE

Move it.

The violent couple continue to walk, leaving Mickey slightly stunned.

Lou says quietly to Wayne 'I gotta go', and waves.

She steps off and walks with Mickey.

LOU

Our driver's so sad. He lost his girlfriend.

Mickey continues to walk, looking about for somewhere to sit.

LOU (CONT'D)

That' ll never happen to us. I know it. My parents never loved each other - not as long as I've known 'em ... and your parents ... but not us. I can feel it. Can't you?

Mickey takes Lou's hand .. and Lou pulls away.

LOU (CONT'D)

Okay, hold on a sec, cos I really
need to go.

She dashes off toward the main building.

Mickey watches her go, then looks across to Emily and
Lester, sitting at a picnic table with coffee and
sandwiches.

He wanders over toward them.

As he approaches, Lester smiles.

LESTER

Hey, Mickey.

Emily rummages through her bag and pulls out a spare coffee
cup.

She sets out coffee, biscuits in front of Mickey as he
sits.

MICKEY

Thanks.

Emily stands and walks away leaving Lester and Mickey
alone.

LESTER

You really do play well.

MICKEY

Thanks. I'm really not good with
compliments though.

LESTER

Well you do.

MICKEY

It's impossible really.

LESTER

Nothing's impossible.

MICKEY

I'm not kidding, I haven't written
in almost a year.

LESTER

Doesn't matter, it'll come.

MICKEY

Well, I don't like to shoot you down but only time's gonna tell that. And tomorrow I won't have a guitar.

LESTER

You'll have a guitar.

Lou emerges from the building behind them, sees them and walks over to Emily.

Mickey watches her, sees Emily feeding birds with the crumbs.

Lou and Emily begin to talk.

Mickey looks back to Lester.

LOU AND EMILY

A tiny wagtail bird hops into the crowd of birds and tries to get some of the action.

He picks up a crust of bread bigger than his tiny body.

Lou giggles.

LOU

That's so cute!

A bigger bird snatches away the crust and the wagtail hops around aimlessly.

LOU (CONT'D)

Hey!

Emily looks up and smiles.

EMILY

Don't worry. He'll get his after everyone else.

LOU

It's unfair though.

EMILY

Is it.

Lou sits next to Emily.

The bigger birds fly away, leaving the wagtail.

Emily smiles at Lou and reaches in her pocket.

EMILY (CONT'D)

Now...

She pulls out a small muffin, and peels off the case.

Lou giggles again.

LOU

You can't give that to a bird!

Emily sets it down in front of the wagtail.

The wagtail pecks at it, cocks its head at Lou and Emily, and tweets twice. It definitely sounds like a thank you.

Lou laughs.

LOU (CONT'D)

Oh my god, I've never seen that before.

Emily pulls a half-knitted sweater from her bag and resumes her work.

LOU (CONT'D)

God - you knit? I can't do that.

EMILY

I can show you?

LOU

No. It's okay. I haven't mastered design yet.

EMILY

Of course. I saw you drawing.

LOU

It's what I want to do.

EMILY

Well. I could never do that. We're even then.

LOU

But you're doing something. Somebody'll wear that. I'm guessing Mr. Hart?

EMILY

Oh goodness, call him Lester. It is for him, though I doubt he'll wear it.

LOU

But it's real. Not like my drawings.

EMILY

One day you will make them real.

LOU

Yeah. I should tell you I'm not the kind of girl who succeeds. I'm the girl with gum in her lock. The girl whose only job was with her brother.

EMILY

Where are you and Mickey going?

LOU

He got kicked out of his band and has to return his guitar. And I'm running away from home.

EMILY

You could make a fresh start.

LOU

It's not going to happen.

EMILY

I saw your drawings. They're nice. Things will turn up.

She looks over at the bus. People are getting back on. It's getting dark.

EMILY (CONT'D)

Looks like the journey's set to continue. I'll see you back on board.

Lou smiles and watches as Emily walks away.

She breathes in deep as she sees Wayne walking towards her.

She glances over at Mickey and Lester.

WAYNE

Hey.

Lou smiles.

LOU

Hello.

MICKEY AND LESTER

Mickey gazes across at Lou and Wayne.

Lester stands, hands in pockets.

LESTER

Well, seems they're getting on.

MICKEY

I just gotta get some stuff from
inside.

LESTER

Want me to take your guitar?

MICKEY

No, it's okay. I got it.

Lester nods his head and walks back to the bus.

Mickey sits a moment, watching Lou with Wayne.

He stands and heads for the main building.

INT. MINI-MART -EVENING

Mickey enters a multi-purpose mini-store, scattered with
people.

He browses newspaper headlines.

JUD HERALD, assistant, watches TV behind the counter.

Tom Ramb again, grabbing almost every kind of alcohol off
the shelves, dragging the waif-like Aimee behind him.

Mickey watches him, still browsing magazines.

Tom approaches the counter.

JUD

You were in here just now.

TOM

So?

Aimee stares through her fringe at Jud.

AIMEE

So?

JUD

I guess it's your money.

Jud runs the booze through the counter.

Tom hands over rumpled cash.

Mickey steps back as Tom whisks past him with the paper bag, as Aimee flashes an eerie smile, then he goes to the counter with a music magazine and a bag of candy.

JUD (CONT'D)

Lucky you.

MICKEY

Huh?

JUD

You're on the bus that's about to leave?

MICKEY

Yeah.

JUD

That fun couple are on it too.

MICKEY

Yeah -

JUD

I wouldn't go near him now. He stinks to high heaven.

MICKEY

Great.

EXT. CAR PARK - EVENING

Mickey exits the building and looks across to Lou and Wayne.

Lou says something to Wayne and he walks away.

Mickey walks across and sits by Lou.

MICKEY
He's interested in you.

LOU
Yeah, I think he's lonely or something.

MICKEY
No, it's you. You're too pretty.

LOU
I'm not.

MICKEY
Yes you are.

LOU
So are you going to play something?

Mickey glances at his guitar case.

MICKEY
You didn't seem too impressed earlier.

LOU
What?

MICKEY
You were busy with Wayne. You should have seen Emily, she was in tears.

LOU
I know.

MICKEY
You didn't say anything.

LOU
I said it was good. I love your music!

MICKEY
You never show it.

LOU
What is with you?

MICKEY
I don't know.

LOU
 Mickey – I don't show it, 'cos I
 feel it. I'm too busy feeling it
 inside. I can't feel enough!

Mickey, silenced, stares at Lou. Now she's crying, slight
 tears staining her face.

He opens his guitar case.

LOU (CONT'D)
 I like it when there's only us.

MICKEY
 I like it when there's only you.

He unclips the case -

LOU
 Then all the music is for me.

MICKEY
 It's always all for you.

- takes the guitar out.

MICKEY (CONT'D)
 Every moment I live now is for you.

LOU
 Me too. For you.

Mickey begins to play.

The tune begins as an obviously improvised mix of
 arpeggios.

Lou watches, listens.

She looks at Mickey's eyes as they flick over the guitar
 strings.

She begins to hum, and Mickey looks up, smiling.

She has a tune, she has Mickey's attention.

She sings.

LOU (CONT'D)
 How slow can a love affair go
 Before the wheels stop turning,
 And my heart stops burning
 For your love?

(MORE)

LOU (CONT'D)

How slow can a love affair go
Till I don't love you anymore?
How slow can a love affair go
Feels like it's ended before it's
begun,
Mickey,
Help me understand the way I'm
feeling. Help me make you realize
it's pain that keeps me alive -
Tell me all these things before I
die.

Mickey continues to play, Lou leaning on his shoulder.

MICKEY

You are everything to me, like the
sun
You make me glow inside, you
Dwell inside my mind, all the time
I'd help you understand these
things, but I don't understand at
all, Lou
You're everything to me -

LOU

But nothing more?

He finishes the song.

LOU (CONT'D)

Mickey we need to do more.

MICKEY

You want to go further?

LOU

Yes.

MICKEY

I just didn't want to rush things.

LOU

I know. But like you said, it's
hard to imagine doing any of this
with someone else. You're the only.

MICKEY

It's your decision.

LOU

It's our decision.

MICKEY

Yeah, ours.

Lou looks up as she hears a plane flying over head.

She spots a faint rainbow in the distance.

LOU

Oh . . .

Mickey smiles.

MICKEY

You know, up in the sky, you see
full rainbows.

LOU

Like a circle?

MICKEY

Yeah, perfect circles.

LOU

So how come we don't see them down
here?

MICKEY

I don't know ... maybe 'cos we're
in it.

They walk together to the bus.

The sun gone, Lou sees her reflection in the dark window.

As she looks, she turns her head away, grabs onto Mickey.

She quickly looks up again, as a CRACK splits through her
reflection, spreading like a spider web across the window.

MICKEY (CONT'D)

Jesus!

Tom comes tumbling out of the entrance, followed by a
couple of young passengers.

They start kicking him.

Aimee runs out after them all, screaming.

AIMEE

TOM!!

Mickey steps forward and Lou grabs him.

LOU

Don't.

MICKEY

What do you mean? That guy's just drunk, he can't hurt anyone.

LOU

Don't get involved, please. Sweetie - don't.

MICKEY

You don't care if they hurt him?

LOU

I don't want you to get hurt.

MICKEY

Lou -- I have to help out. Please let me go.

He pulls away from her, dumping his guitar case.

Lou watches as Mickey pushes the two young passengers away.

He helps Tom up, then the two young passengers push them both to the ground.

Lou turns away, her face hurting with the sight.

She shuts her eyes.

THE PAST: Drew and Frank fighting.

The two young passengers push Tom away from the bus.

As Aimee goes after him, she kicks one of them hard in the knee.

AIMEE

Fucking die.

She goes to Tom, he drops his bag, hits him hard in the arm, and they hug forever.

Lou walks to Mickey's side as he stands.

LOU

Why did you do that?

MICKEY

He didn't do anything.

LOU

Neither did you. I asked you not to get involved.

MICKEY

I had to.

LOU

But I asked you not to.

MICKEY

Well, I had to say no. I'm sorry.

LOU

Mickey, you know what I feel about fighting.

MICKEY

I know.

They walk back toward the bus.

INT. THE BUS - NIGHT

As Mickey and Lou step on, they both stop as they see Wayne carefully cleaning a cut on Donna's visibly shaken face.

MICKEY

Shit.

Behind them, the two younger men approach holding Tom.

INT. MOTEL LOBBY - NIGHT

The passengers stand, gathered around Wayne.

WAYNE

We can't move on directly, and I apologise for all this, but the bus company will pay for any inconvenience this causes you. We have rooms arranged for everyone, I'm really sorry about this.

He sidesteps a number of angry glares, and goes to Mickey and Lou.

He addresses Lou as he hands he a key.

WAYNE (CONT'D)

You two can go straight up.

LOU

Thank you.

MICKEY

You go on, Lou, I gotta call Al.

WAYNE

There's a phone in the -

Lou shakes her head at Wayne.

She walks away.

Wayne goes to help the other passengers.

Mickey grabs his phone and walks into a secluded corner.

He dials.

MICKEY

Hey Al.

AL (V.O.)

Mickey? What's this? It's -

Mickey looks at his watch.

MICKEY

Late, I know - sorry - it's just we've had an incident here and we're held up.

AL (V.O.)

Don't give me that, Mickey -

MICKEY

Hey, I told you fuck you, Al, I'm not gonna again. Something's happened, but we're on our way already.

AL (V.O.)

We?

MICKEY

Lou.

INT. MOTEL ROOM -NIGHT

Lou lies alone on the bed, pulling her blue-handled knife from her pocket.

She stares at it.

INT. MOTEL LOBBY - DAY

Mickey puts his phone away and starts for the motel rooms.

The phone rings, Mickey halts.

He pushes the answer button -

MICKEY
Hello?

DREW (V.O.)
How's Lou?

MICKEY
Who's this? Is this Drew?

DREW (V.O.)
Yeah, Mickey, it's Drew.

MICKEY
How did you get my number?

Drew laughs over the line.

DREW (V.O.)
So where are you?

MICKEY
Like I'd tell you.

DREW (V.O.)
Well how is she?

MICKEY
She's fine.

DREW (V.O.)
Why'd you take her?

MICKEY
I didn't take her, she's my
girlfriend, we're together. How did
you get this number?

DREW (V.O.)
Lou's pinboard. Where are you?

MICKEY
So you can take her back? She's not
a toy, Drew.

DREW (V.O.)

You don't understand - our parents will not deal with her being gone. And she doesn't know what she's doing.

MICKEY

She knows. She knows she wanted to leave.

DREW (V.O.)

Lou wants to leave cos she can't handle it here. You think she'll handle it better elsewhere?

MICKEY

She has me, Drew, I know her problems, probably better than you.

DREW (V.O.)

If you know her problems, how can you act like this?

MICKEY

You don't fix a person by locking them away. She's an upset girl, and I believe I'm showing her something she hasn't seen before. Happiness.

DREW (V.O.)

I care about her too, you know.

MICKEY

We love her differently, okay, I understand all this, but the difference is that she came with me. She wanted that, and that's the truth.

DREW (V.O.)

Where are you? Please.

MICKEY

I can't tell you.

DREW (V.O.)

I'll find out.

MICKEY

I know you will.

DREW (V.O.)

Only please do me a favour.

MICKEY
Short of bringing her home -

DREW (V.O.)
She has a knife. Get it off her.

MICKEY
Drew -

DREW (V.O.)
Please.

Drew hangs up.

INT. MOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Mickey slowly opens the door and enters.

MICKEY
You okay?

LOU
I'm fine.

MICKEY
Maybe I shouldn't have -

LOU
No, you shouldn't have.

MICKEY
Guess who I was just talking to?

LOU
Don't tell me, Drew.

MICKEY
Yeah.

Mickey spots the knife, held loose in Lou's hand.

LOU
What'd he say?

MICKEY
He wants you home. I told him it's
not his decision.

LOU
It's not his decision.

MICKEY
 You've been playing with that knife
 again. You're bleeding.

He goes to sit by her on the bed.

MICKEY (CONT'D)
 Why?

LOU
 Because.

MICKEY
 I had to get involved, Lou.

LOU
 Why?

MICKEY
 I don't know. Look, it wasn't me
 fighting. Can you give me the
 knife?

LOU
 No, nobody takes my knife.

She holds the knife tighter.

MICKEY
 Promise me you won't do this again.

LOU
 Promise me you won't do that again.

MICKEY
 I promise.

LOU
 I saw you doing that for her, and I
 really wanted to love you for it -
 honestly - cos if you do that for
 her, you'd do more for me, right?

MICKEY
 Yes!

LOU
 But instead all I saw was you and
 fighting, and you and fighting
 don't go together, not in my mind.

Mickey goes to the bathroom, returns with a wet towel,
 which he puts on Lou's cut arms.

MICKEY

I've done this before for you, but
just to hide it from your dad.

LOU

If my dad saw these, he'd finish
the job for me.

MICKEY

Promise me you won't do this again.

LOU

Please take my knife.

She drops it in front of him.

He stares at her, tightening the towel on her arms, and
picks up the knife.

MICKEY

Thank you.

Lou takes the towel from him.

LOU

Sorry.

MICKEY

Don't be sorry. I hate seeing you
like this, seeing blood on your
skin. Imagine it on me.

He quickly brings the knife up to his own throat, holds it
there.

MICKEY (CONT'D)

Like that.

Lou's eyes widen.

LOU

What are you doing?

He lowers the knife.

MICKEY

Nothing, I don't know.

Lou starts to cry.

LOU

You asshole. Don't ever -

She turns around, lies down again, her head in the pillow, shaking.

LOU (CONT'D)
Don't ever do that again, okay?

MICKEY
I'm sorry.

LOU
And don't be sorry. Just don't hate me.

MICKEY
Lou, I love you.

He gets on the bed with her, puts his arms around her. She slowly turns and faces him, tears in her eyes. He wipes her eyes, puts his arms tight around her. They kiss.

LOU
I so want to be a whole part of you. I want to be this close forever.

MICKEY
About what we talked about -

LOU
Yes, I wanna do it. Now.

She slips her shirt off, dropping it off the bed with the towel, and reaches for Mickey's belt buckle.

MICKEY
Are you sure?

LOU
Don't ask me to repeat myself, okay?

MICKEY
Okay.

He helps her remove his pants, and takes off his own top.

They slip under the sheets, Mickey plants the knife on his bedside table, and turns out the light.

Lou carefully unclips her bra, slipping it off her shoulders really slowly and uneasy.

She falls into Mickey's arms as she drops the bra off the bed.

 LOU
I never thought this could happen.
We were kids!

 MICKEY
I know.

 LOU
Well it's crazy, but I'm in the
mood for crazy.

She smiles at him, moves under the covers.

 LOU (O.S.) (CONT'D)
I want you inside me.

 MICKEY
What?

 LOU
I want us to be one.

 MICKEY
Lou, I don't have any -

 LOU
I've got it.

She stretches her arm out from the bottom end of the bed, reaches for her jacket on the chair, and goes in the pocket.

She pulls out a single condom.

 MICKEY
Jesus, Lou!

 LOU
It wasn't my idea.

 MICKEY
Who?

 LOU
 (laughing)
Emily.

She emerges from Mickey's end of the bed, smiling.

She hands him the condom.

MICKEY

Are you absolutely sure?

LOU

I have thought about this every
night since you left me. The fact
we didn't do it yet -

MICKEY

Okay.

They make love.

Finally, lying next to each other in the dark, Lou rests
her head beneath Mickey's chin, kisses him, and closes her
eyes.

LATER

Lou wakes.

A storm outside rages strong against the window.

Mickey sleeps sound.

INT. BATHROOM. MOTEL - NIGHT

Lou enters, trying not to face the huge mirror.

She turns the water on, splashing her face and neck over
with water, smoothing her hair away from her eyes.

She looks up sharp at the mirror, at herself.

She smiles, her cheeks slightly red.

She backs up and sits against the wall, looking at the
mirror, then looks down at the wall suddenly upset as the
sound of the storm enters the room.

LOU

My heart beats like the storm,
Mickey.

INT. MOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Mickey opens his eyes.

INT. BATHROOM. MOTEL - NIGHT

Lou stands again, facing the mirror.

She walks to it slowly, and puts her finger out, touching her reflection, pushing so hard that in a second, it CRACKS.

The crack spreads out across her entire reflection, and BLOOD begins to run from her finger throughout the cracks like a thin river.

INT. MOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Mickey turns on his light, looks at the knife, turns and sits up as he notices Lou's absence.

MICKEY

Lou?

LOU (O.S.)

It's okay, Mickey.

He lies back down.

INT. BATHROOM. MOTEL - NIGHT

Lou picks at the mirror, drawing a lengthy strip of it away from the wall.

She holds the reflecting dagger in her already bloody hand, and sits.

As she sits, the room suddenly pops, a mirror image of itself.

LOU

You're the storm of my soul,
Mickey.

Lightning.

The light flickers.

INT. MOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Mickey walks slowly over to the bathroom door.

MICKEY

Are you okay?

He knocks, hand already on the handle.

He opens the door.

MICKEY (CONT'D)

Fuck, Lou.

He turns and walks directly back to the bed, where he sits.

He stares at Lou's open hand on the floor, through the bathroom door.

MICKEY (CONT'D)

Why Lou?

LOU

I said it's okay, Mickey. Don't hate me Mickey.

INT. BATHROOM. MOTEL - NIGHT

Mickey enters, sees Lou's wrists all cut up.

He grabs a towel, picks Lou up and wraps the towel around her arms.

MICKEY

You have to help me.

LOU

Why.

She puts her arms around his neck and he carries her out of the room.

EXT. MOTEL - NIGHT

Mickey runs across the car park with Lou in his arms.

Lester emerges from the front door, looking a little upset.

LESTER

Mickey! What the hell are you doing?

MICKEY

It's Lou, I don't know what to do -

LESTER

What?

Mickey runs back toward Lester, letting him see.

LESTER (CONT'D)

Well Christ, get her inside. I'll call an ambulance.

MICKEY

Okay -

He looks at Lou carrying her back inside.

MICKEY (CONT'D)

Thanks, Lester.

Lester waves his hand, takes his glasses off, cleaning them and rubbing his eyes.

INT. HOSPITAL - NIGHT

Lou stares at herself in a mirror at the bottom of her clinical white bed.

She waves out the door at Mickey sitting in the corridor.

END OF CORRIDOR

Nurse KATHRYN LANNING passes Mickey, carrying a selection of hospital paraphernalia.

KATHRYN

You can talk to her now, Mr. Drummond -

Mickey stands quickly.

MICKEY

Thank you.

He smiles at Lou through the door and slowly enters.

THE WARD

Lou lies almost alone, the beds around her all empty save a few.

Mickey sits by Lou's bedside.

MICKEY

Are you okay?

LOU

Just - embarrassed. They've been asking me all these questions.

MICKEY

You don't have to be embarrassed.

LOU

You look awful.

She laughs.

MICKEY

Yeah, I don't feel too good - you scared the hell out of me, and after everything on the bus -

LOU

Don't break down on me, Mickey.

MICKEY

I'll try.

Mickey picks up a note left on a trolley by the bed.

MICKEY (CONT'D)

What's this?

Lou sits forward.

LOU

I don't - oh, that's -

MICKEY

Love letter? Smells of aftershave. Who's it from.

Kathryn appears at the door.

KATHRYN

Mr. Drummond, Doctor Miller would like to speak with you.

MICKEY

Okay, I'll just finish talking to Lou, okay?

KATHRYN

Don't be too long.

She spots the letter in Mickey's hand.

Quickly she walks up to him and snatches it away.

MICKEY
Sorry.

KATHRYN
It's all right.

LOU
I told Kathryn, I knew you'd think
it was someone for me.

Kathryn walks back to the door.

LOU (CONT'D)
(to Mickey)
Sorry.

Kathryn disappears into the corridor.

KATHRYN (O.S.)
Don't be long.

Lou turns to Mickey.

LOU
Jealous head.

She looks at the mirror at the bottom of her bed.

LOU (CONT'D)
Mickey, do you think you could turn
my mirror away?

MICKEY
Sure.

He stands and goes to move it.

MICKEY (CONT'D)
Why?

LOU
I just hate looking at myself.

As he turns it, he watches her in the reflection.

MICKEY
I like looking at you.

LOU
That's different.

Mickey comes back to the bedside and sits.

LOU (CONT'D)
You know I should warn you.

MICKEY
Why?

LOU
I think we're nearing the end. I see it.

MICKEY
What do you mean?

LOU
It's what Dr. Miller wants to talk to you about. He wants me to go home.

MICKEY
But you don't want to.

Lou stares at Mickey, then looks away to the mirror, which now contains Mickey in the reflection.

Mickey turns also to the mirror, and they both stare at each other through the mirror.

LOU
I don't know what I want.

INT. MILLER'S OFFICE. HOSPITAL - NIGHT

DR. MILLER looks up stern as Mickey walks in.

As Kathryn enters behind, Miller smiles at her.

MILLER
Take a seat, Mickey. Thank you, Kathryn.

As Kathryn leaves behind Mickey, she holds up the letter to Miller and mouths 'thank you', smiling.

Miller smiles after her.

MILLER (CONT'D)
You've spoken to Lou?

MICKEY

Yes, just now.

MILLER

And how is she?

MICKEY

She seems okay. Better than okay.

MILLER

Good. Now - I don't know quite what to say of all this. I gathered from Lou that she's supposed to still be at home.

MICKEY

She left a note. It's not like it's illegal.

MILLER

I know that. But let's look at what happened -

MICKEY

This has all been an accident. Something happened on the bus we were taking, this guy freaked out and attacked some people. It shook us both. None of this would have happened.

MILLER

Perhaps not. I think it would have, eventually, though.

Mickey shifts around in his seat.

Outside the window, he spots the headlights of a car flashing into the car park.

MICKEY

So what do 'we' do about this?

MILLER

Like I said, I don't know quite what to say. You seem like such a great couple, like you know what you're doing. But there's these cuts on Lou's arms - not just from today, Mickey, but from months ago! - and I see she got to you too.

He gestures toward Mickey's neck.

Mickey feels the slight nick below his chin where he placed Lou's knife.

MICKEY

I knew about Lou. She does have problems. But she wouldn't ever go too far, I know that.

MILLER

She went too far tonight, Mickey.

MICKEY

And I told you, tonight is an exception.

Miller flicks through a number of papers on his desk, then scratches his forehead.

MILLER

I have to be honest. I'd love to help. But - I think it could be out of my hands now. Did Lou tell you anything more?

MICKEY

No - why?

MILLER

Do you have anywhere you can stay the night?

Mickey turns as Miller looks over his shoulder at Kathryn outside the door.

MICKEY

No, why?

MILLER

Well Lou needs to rest, I don't imagine you'd want to sit in the corridor all night.

Mickey looks at his watch.

MICKEY

It's past midnight, it's not long - what should Lou have been telling me about?

MILLER

It doesn't matter, really.

He smiles.

MICKEY
I could go back to the motel?

MILLER
That would be perfect, and we can
call you in the morning.

MICKEY
I'd rather stay here, I mean I
don't feel great myself.

MILLER
Go. Really, you'll go crazy hanging
around this place.

Miller stands.

MILLER (CONT'D)
I'm sorry - I have to go and attend
to some things. So -

Mickey stands and follows Miller to the door.

MILLER (CONT'D)
I'll see you in the morning?

MICKEY
Yeah. You know, there's no need to
call me, I'll be here early-

MILLER
That's fine.

Mickey passes through the door by Miller.

MICKEY
I can go say bye to Lou, right?

MILLER
Sure.

Mickey walks down the corridor, into

THE WARD

Lou sits staring.

LOU
I told you it was ending.

MICKEY

Stop saying that - I've been given orders to go away. I don't understand why I can't wait here with you, but hey, maybe he's right.

LOU

He's right. Go, sleep.

MICKEY

I think I'm glad we had this detour.

LOU

I know.

He kisses her.

MICKEY

I'll see you tomorrow.

LOU

Bye.

EXT. MOTEL -NIGHT

Mickey trudges slowly from a taxi toward the front of the motel.

INT. MOTEL. HALLWAY -NIGHT

As he approaches his room, Lester steps out from a room.

LESTER

Mickey-

MICKEY

Hi Lester.

LESTER

Is Lou okay?

MICKEY

Just an accident. Got a scare.

Lester nods.

LESTER

I hope she's okay.

MICKEY

Yeah she's fine.

He steps further out of his room.

LESTER

Emily and I were just up talking -
we can never sleep in these places.
Would you like a drink or -?

MICKEY

Sure. Thanks.

He enters Lester's room.

INT. MOTEL. LESTER'S ROOM - NIGHT

Mickey enters the room.

It seems somehow to already be furnished in the manner
Lester and Emily would like - warm, cosy.

Mickey spots a small white envelope on a coffee table as he
sits.

LESTER

Whisky?

MICKEY

Sure, perfect.

He takes the shot off Lester.

MICKEY (CONT'D)

Lou's staying at the hospital just
tonight.

LESTER

I have something for you - so you
don't lose your guitar.

MICKEY

Huh?

LESTER

I wasn't kidding about your talent,
so I don't want you to lose your
guitar. Just as much as you don't.

Mickey eyes the envelope again.

LESTER (CONT'D)
So that's for you.

He points to the envelope.

LESTER (CONT'D)
For your friend.

Mickey reaches for the envelope.

LESTER (CONT'D)
Yeah, take it.

Mickey picks it up, opens it slowly.

Cash.

Mickey looks up at Lester, over at Emily, who both smile.

MICKEY
This isn't right.

LESTER
No, you have to hear the rest. I'm
not just giving it to you, so don't
worry.

MICKEY
What's the rest?

LESTER
It's an investment, you have to
promise me you'll keep up the
songwriting.

MICKEY
I can try.

LESTER
Do try.

INT. HOSPITAL - MORNING

Mickey approaches the front desk.

A nurse looks up.

NURSE
Good morning.

MICKEY
Hi, could you tell Dr. Miller that
I'm here to pick up Lou?

NURSE
Lou -

MICKEY
Louise Nell.

The nurse stares at Mickey, curious.
She picks up the microphone on her desk.

NURSE
Dr Miller, please?

She puts the microphone down.

NURSE (CONT'D)
I don't like to interfere, but I'm
sure Miss Nell left early this
morning.

MICKEY
No she didn't.

NURSE
I could be wrong, but I remember a
face - she had a smile for
everyone, and her brother -

Mickey looks at the nurse, sudden, then looks up as the
glum-faced Dr. Miller approaches.

MILLER
Come with me, Mickey.

MICKEY
Huh?

Mickey edges slowly after Miller.

INT. BUS - DAY

On the road again, Mickey sits silent.

He stares out of the window at cloudy skies, and suddenly,
his phone rings.

He pulls it out of his pocket.

MICKEY

Lou?

Silence.

MICKEY (CONT'D)

L-

LOU (V.O.)

You don't hate me do you?

MICKEY

No.

LOU

I had to go. It wasn't Drew -
honestly, I just had to go back.

MICKEY

Why?

LOU

You keep asking why - I don't know
how to explain it. I'm just not
ready for everything. I wanted
everything, but it's too much. I'm
a boring girl, Mickey, okay?

MICKEY

You're not boring.

LOU

I am. You belong in your clubs and
everything, singing, and I can't go
there. I need to be here, doing
what I want to do. You know, Drew's
trying to get me into one of those
boutiques? Just happens he went out
with someone from Cypress - I never
let him tell me stuff like that
before.

MICKEY

I don't understand exactly what
happened here. I still have to go
to Al, but -

LOU

Don't rush back, Mickey. I'm only
gonna upset you. When we're
together, I'm so happy - I'm so
happy that I suddenly see how awful
the rest of life is.

(MORE)

LOU (CONT'D)

And it's not so awful. I couldn't believe I could feel the way you made me, but now I do - it's better than anything I've known, but it doesn't make everything else go away, it just tips the balance.

Mickey stares out of the window again, he knows he's losing her now.

MICKEY

Lou. We can't just leave this unfinished. I never said goodbye -

LOU

I know.

MICKEY

I'll be back soon, I promise.

LOU

I have to go in a sec, Mickey. Sorry.

MICKEY

Okay, just promise me you won't give up?

LOU

I can promise you we'll see each other again. I can't promise anymore.

Mickey dips his head.

MICKEY

Okay.

LOU

Don't hate me Mickey. Don't. Just - don't love me.

Mickey sighs as Lou hangs up.

INT. AL'S PLACE - DAY

Mickey sits with his guitar secure by his side.

MICKEY

So we're even, if that's even the right word, right?

AL
Yeah. Boy, you got lucky, Mickey,
who was this guy?

MICKEY
A blessing -

AL
Mickey, I'm glad you brought this
cash down instead of mailing it.

MICKEY
Ah, it's nothing, honestly, I
couldn't go back up there.

AL
Why not?

MICKEY
It's too much to go into.

AL
Well, how do you feel about staying
on down here?

Mickey notices Al's gaze toward the guitar.

AL (CONT'D)
It's like a lucky charm. We still
play good, it's just -

MICKEY
It never feels right, right?

AL
How do you feel about hanging
around? We need you. Snowfire
snowballs without you.

MICKEY
I have a lot of song ideas.

He kicks his guitar case.

MICKEY (CONT'D)
And right now, I have nowhere else
to go.

Al stands and goes to Mickey.

AL
Thank you.

Mickey stands, thumps Al in the shoulder.

MICKEY

Fuck you, Al.

THREE YEARS LATER

INT. CLUB DAX - DAY

Mickey sings on the stage.

MICKEY

(sings)

I'm alone now
 The way that you wanted to be
 I don't remember you
 You don't remember me.
 We had a wrong and sensational
 fling,
 A tragically doomed little thing
 That's over now.

He picks out Eve again, in the audience, tear-stained cheeks.

MICKEY (CONT'D)

I'm alone now
 I just want to feel you again
 For one perfect day,
 Then we'll end it again.

Eve smiles as Mickey acknowledges her.

MICKEY (CONT'D)

Where did my love go?
 What was it happened to we?
 Did I just bore you?
 Did you bore me?
 You're there in my heart,
 You're there in my mind,
 You're in my memory.

He pauses, forcing the crowd into silence for a moment.

MICKEY (CONT'D)

I'm alone now
 Trying to live without you,
 Failing but what can I do?
 Who'd have believed that that dream
 could come true?
 I'm alone - now.

Mickey steps silently off the stage and heads out the door.

EXT. STREET - MORNING

Mickey walks slowly past the boutiques, and crosses the road towards Nucci's.

INT. NUCCI'S - MORNING

Mickey approaches the counter.

Eve smiles as she sees him.

EVE

Mickey!

MICKEY

We meet again.

EVE

Yes we do. What can I get you? Hold on -

She turns and starts making cappuccino.

EVE (CONT'D)

Cappuccino.

She turns back.

EVE (CONT'D)

I saw you last night. You were amazing.

MICKEY

Thank you.

EVE

You're always in that bar, right?

MICKEY

I just got back, but yeah - I think so.

EVE

Just I used to see you more - I should be more varied but you're so -

She dips her head, blushes.

Mickey walks down to the end of the bar, starts flipping through the comments book.

EVE (CONT'D)

I didn't do anything wrong did I?

Mickey looks up.

MICKEY

No, I'm just -

EVE

You write your own songs, right?

MICKEY

Now I do, yeah. Kind of a promise I made.

He stops, staring at the page.

It can't be.

"AWESOME COFFEE AND GREAT PEOPLE! THANKS! - LOUISE"

Eve stares at Mickey.

EVE

Y'okay?

MICKEY

I don't know - do you know a girl called Lou? Uh ... Louise.

Eve laughs.

MICKEY (CONT'D)

What?

EVE

Do I know Louise? She does our uniforms.

She turns up the bottom of her shirt, showing the label, "Louise".

MICKEY

Louise Nell?

EVE

No.

MICKEY

Oh, never -

EVE
Louise Drummond. I was figuring she
and you -

MICKEY
Where is she?

EVE
Why, she's just a few streets away.

She smiles.

EVE (CONT'D)
I can't believe this.

Mickey grabs his guitar case, drinks his coffee.

He dumps a pile of change on the counter.

MICKEY
Thank you, this is the best cup of
cappuccino I ever tasted.

He rushes out onto the street.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Mickey stands outside Lou's boutique, looking in through
the window.

Inside, Lou can see him, keeps staring back out at him.

EXT. STREET - EVENING

Lou exits the boutique, slowly locking up with Mickey
watching her.

She turns, sad, and walks to him.

LOU
It's been a long time.

MICKEY
I know, I'm sorry.

LOU
Don't be sorry.

They walk.

MICKEY

I'm really happy for you, with the boutique and everything.

LOU

I'm happy too.

MICKEY

Lou -

LOU

I have to tell you stuff. 'Cos I know why you came back, and I have to say this now, because the more I don't say it the more it's going to hurt you.

MICKEY

Go on.

They walk over to a bench and sit.

LOU

We had such a great time.

MICKEY

We did.

LOU

But I think you think we can have that again. And we can't.

MICKEY

It'll be hard, but -

LOU

No you have to listen. You came into my life, and you turned me upside down. Mickey, you ruined my life! I loved you for it but it's true. I was so happy being little Lou. I was comfortable in my pathetic world.

MICKEY

Lou, stop -

LOU

I was unhappy - but I could do it. And I couldn't do what you wanted. No matter how I tried. We were perfect together - but perfection just doesn't exist.

An airplane flies over and the sky darkens.

MICKEY

You don't want to see me again.

LOU

I don't want it to get that bad, but you know it's going to be hard to see each other as just regular people now. This is all over, but it happened and I can't forget it. We did so much at once. All that love, it's supposed to be spread out.

MICKEY

We made the right choice.

LOU

Just don't hate me.

Mickey smiles, puts his hand on Lou's.

MICKEY

I can't hate you. Life is hard -

LOU

Don't hate me.

She stands and starts to walk away.

MICKEY

Lou!

He stands and puts his hand on her back.

MICKEY (CONT'D)

Wait.

LOU

Mickey, I have to -

MICKEY

Just one thing.

Lou turns, holding back tears.

LOU

One thing.

MICKEY

I always had trouble trying to tell
you something, how I felt about
you.

LOU

I know how you felt about me. If
it's anything like what I felt for
you, I know. I understand.

MICKEY

I was never sure though. And I need
to be sure.

LOU

I promise I loved you?

MICKEY

No, I don't mean -

He puts his hands on her shoulders and kisses her.

LOU

Mickey don't.

She puts her arms around him and kisses him back.

He wraps his hands tight around her body and they kiss once
more.

The people around them passing by all watch this spectacle.

A young boy pulls on his grandma's coat and points,
smiling.

An elderly couple, not unlike Emily and Lester, watch, hand
in hand, smiling.

The sky darkens more.

MICKEY

I love you.

LOU

I know.

She turns, walks away. She won't turn back again.

As she walks, she blinks as rain falls in her eyes.

Suddenly, her tears begin.

Mickey stands as the rain pours heavy.

As he looks aside, he spots Eve, emerging from Nucci's, arms folded, staring at Mickey.

And suddenly the rain stops.

Lou keeps walking, and then holds out her hand, looking up at the sky.

Snow.

A large snowflake drifts down over Lou's head, splitting as it passes her eyes.

Two tiny snowflakes land in Lou's glove.

Lou tosses the two flakes away, continues to walk . . . smiling.

And snow continues to fall.

END

For Laura
