

CHOCOLATE & TEA

Written by

Jill Godley

140 North Washington St, Norton, MA 02766
781-927-4130

INT. ELLE'S BEDROOM

A pretty, tall, blonde freshman in college, ELLE on the phone with her boyfriend giggles. Her best friend JANE, a high school senior cute dark haired, reads a romance novel on the bed. She looks at the male model on the cover.

JANE
(mumbles)
Just me and you tonight.

Elle's face runs the gamut from flirty to frustrated and back again. Jane finishes her book.

Elle hangs up the phone her face red with tears.

ELLE
We are breaking up, I mean it.

Jane takes out a bag of Hershey's kisses from under the bed, unwraps one, plops it into Elle's mouth. Jane gives Elle a quick hug, swings her legs off the bed.

JANE
I'll make tea.

INT. ELLE'S HOUSE - BASEMENT - WORLD SERIES NIGHT

A tall military cut guy, BEN plays ping pong with JOE, his best friend, a cute guy in a sports jersey. Elle, like a pin-up cheerleader, marks the score on the chalkboard.

Play stops when Jane comes in, Elle links her arm in Joe's for introductions.

ELLE
This is Joe, he's in my English class.

Ben gives a wave from the table.

JOE
That's Ben, my brother from another mother, he's leaving for Okinawa in a few weeks.

Jane gives a wave to Ben, shakes Joe's hand.

Elle's younger sister STACEY joins the group, hands full of drinks and snacks.

Joe dislodges his arm, takes the drinks from Stacey.

JOE (CONT'D)
Let me help you.

The game starts on the TV. Joe sits between Elle and Stacey on the couch. Ben takes the loveseat with Jane.

JANE
I'm not a baseball person.

Ben looks into Jane's eyes with a conspiring smile.

BEN
Me neither.

Ben moves closer to show Jane his new military tattoo.

Elle moves a bit closer to Joe, but he scooches closer to Stacey.

Ben puts his arm around Jane.

Stacey looks back and forth between Jane and Ben snuggled on the love seat and Joe, his puppy dog eyes directed at her sister. She grabs a bag of chips.

Jane and Ben are shaken from their two person world when Stacey lets out a whoop. Stacey on the floor surrounded by empty snacks and cans, turns off the TV.

STACEY
We won!

SAME

Joe and Ben talk in the corner while the girls clean up. Ben takes some of the empty cans from Jane.

BEN
Do you want to go out? We can
double date. You and me, Joe and
Stacey.

Jane blushes, nods. Ben leans in, kisses her on the lips.

MONTAGE OF DATE SCENES

- Double dinner date.
- Jane teaches Ben to ice skate.
- Make out on the couch in Elle's basement.
- Jane shows off a picture of them at school.

- Jane on the phone while Elle paints her toes.

INT. CAR OUTSIDE HOUSE

Ben gives Jane a wistful kiss.

BEN
I can't believe three weeks are
over already.

Jane pulls back.

JANE
I know, it's too bad we didn't meet
sooner. Good luck.

BEN
I'll write.

Jane's lips lift in a half-hearted smile, she knows it would be one or two letters then no more.

JANE
Sure.

They kiss one last time, Jane get's out of the car, waves goodbye as he pulls away.

INT. JANE'S BEDROOM - A WEEK LATER

Jane reads a romance novel on her bed. The clock shows 8pm. Her phone rings, an unknown caller.

JANE
Hello.

BEN (V.O.)
Jane!

Jane sits up, eyes wide with surprise and confusion.

JANE
Ben, what's up?

BEN (V.O.)
I miss you. It's horrible here.

Jane marks her page in the book. Folds her legs under her into a more comfortable position.

JANE
Have you made any friends?

BEN (V.O.)
No, a bunch of jerks, all they do
is yell and drink.

Jane sits forward, brow wrinkles in concern.

JANE
Give it some time, you just need to
adjust.

BEN (V.O.)
When I get back, let's go skating
again.

Jane lips pressed, she nods her head.

JANE
Sure, something to look forward to.

BEN (V.O.)
Ugh, I need to go. I love you.

Jane's eye's widen as she stares at the phone, calls Elle.

MONTAGE OF CALLS BETWEEN JANE AND BEN AT 8PM

Jane is more tense with each call over the next few weeks.

At first Jane lays on the bed sympathetic.

BEN (V.O.)
I wish I never enlisted.

She sits up back straight, tries to be helpful.

JANE
Why don't you talk to your
commander or your parents?

BEN (V.O.)
I only can talk to you.

She stands against the wall, careful not to set him off.

BEN (V.O.)
We can get married after you
graduate, buy a house. How many
kids do you want.

Jane straightens off the wall, rubs her temple.

JANE
That sounds nice, but--

BEN (V.O.)
--I can't stand it anymore, you're
the only reason I hold on. (BEAT)
I'll shoot my own leg, then they
will send me home.

Jane takes a deep breath.

JANE
You can't do that.

BEN (V.O.)
I don't know how much more I can
take. I got to go. I love you.

At the DIAL TONE, her arms drop to her side, she presses her forehead to the wall.

INT. ELLE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Jane paces the floor, Elle paints her nails while she listens to her vent.

JANE
I don't know what to do, I'm not
equipped to handle this. I thought
once he left things were over, now
he wants to know how many kids we
will have! I am afraid to say the
wrong thing and send him off the
deep end.

Elle pulls out a bag of Hershey kisses.

ELLE
Let's call Joe, he can tell Ben's
family what's going on.

Elle takes out her phone. Jane unwraps a chocolate, her phone rings. She looks at the clock, 8pm, she freezes, stares at her phone.

BEN (V.O.)
I want to die, I should hang
myself.

JANE
Ben, you need to talk to someone!

BEN (V.O.)
Times up. I love you Jane.

Elle puts her arm around Jane, hands her another chocolate.

ELLE
I'll make tea. Uhh, how long do you
let it sit for?

Jane stuffs the chocolate in her mouth.

JANE
I'll do it, you call Joe.

INT. JANE'S BEDROOM - 8PM

Jane watches the clock, phone in hand paces in anticipation.
8:10pm Jane checks the phone volume, 8:30pm Jane picks up a
book puts it down, 9:00 pm.

Jane waits for the phone to ring every night at 8pm for
weeks.

INT. ELLE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM

Stacey watches a New Year countdown show, her head on Joe's
shoulder. Joe straightens his posture, shakes his head at
Jane.

JOE
He hasn't called me or his family.
No one has heard from him in weeks.

Stacey squeezes Joe's hand.

Jane runs her hand through her hair, a clump comes out.

INT. ELLE'S HOUSE - KITCHEN

Valentine decorations on the table. Elle, Stacey and Joe
stand around Jane.

ELLE
We need to tell you something.

Jane braces herself.

JANE
What happened, is Ben...

JOE
He is fine...it's just...ugh.

Joe turns red, looks at Stacey. Elle takes a breath, spits
the rest out quickly.

ELLE

He knocked up a masseuse, they're engaged.

Everyone takes a deep breath watch Jane bend over wrap her arms around her knees, she shakes. They huddle over her with concern.

The sound of a laugh escapes. She looks up tears in her eyes as she laughs so hard she can't catch her breath.

Elle, Stacey and Joe look mirror expressions of bewilderment.

ELLE (CONT'D)

Are you okay?

Jane catches her breath, holds up her hand.

JANE

Thank god, so happy that's over. So much for "I love you".

Jane takes another deep breath.

JANE (CONT'D)

Finally.

INT. ELLE'S ROOM - VALENTINE'S DAY

Elle is on the phone with her ex-boyfriend, arms folded in aggravation. An hour later she giggles and riffles through her closet. Jane, on the bed reads her romance novel.

Elle makes a kiss noise into the phone, tosses it on the bed.

ELLE

I've got a valentine's date!

Elle holds up two shirts. Jane glances up, points to one, finds the bag of Hershey's kisses, almost empty. She eats the last piece.

JANE

Time to restock.

THE END

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