

FADE IN

INT DINNER THEATER

A crowd of people are mingling in the lobby area outside the main stage/theater area. They consist of major league ballplayers, including star player JASON QUINN. They are dressed for a night out. It is spring training, and they are in Florida. Performers for a national touring troop of Broadway performers are mingling with the ballplayers before the show. It is a private show. MARY ELIZABETH JACKSON stands out among them. Jason Quinn is watching her as he is clearly drawn to her.

Manager BRAD NOBLE and his wife LORI enter with Mary Elizabeth's twelve year old son, EVAN. Mary Elizabeth quickly moves to join them.

MARY ELIZABETH

Ah--there you guys are. All settled in? This program the Sea Devils have started for young prospects is quite an exciting opportunity for these boys Brad. Evan has hardly slept for a week.

BRAD

Well, we've invited these boys to camp for a couple of years now and it has worked out for both groups. The kids love it because they get to meet their heroes and our coaches like it because they work with future prospects for a few weeks. We set them up with our minor league coaches but several times a week they work with the coaches from the big leagues and play side by side with players from the show for a couple of hours as well.

MARY ELIZABETH

The show?

EVAN

The big time Mom--you know, the major leagues.

MARY ELIZABETH

Oh, got it. Speaking of which, I better get ready for my show.

LORI

I'm sorry we won't be able to stay

to see your performance. It is such a great concept involving a local performer with the national troop--did they know you had a son involved in the Sea Devils program too?

MARY ELIZABETH

I doubt it. My director didn't even know which team we performing for tonight.

Laughter among the group.

MARY ELIZABETH

It is strange though. I really don't know how I got here. I had heard they were looking for a local performer and next thing I know, my phone was ringing. I'm a writer not a singer!

Evan starts to look guilty. Brad and Lori look amused.

MARY ELIZABETH

Evan?! Do you know something about this?

EVAN

Well...I heard the team was coming here for a performance and you said that was the troop looking for a local performer. So I wrote to the director and told him you were singing in my teacher/parent talent show and he wouldn't want to miss it. I guess he didn't.

MARY ELIZABETH

Evan! I can't believe you did that! I sang in that show as a favor to your principal to raise money for the children's hospital. It wasn't meant to be an audition!

BRAD

Let me get this straight. You aren't a singer? Not even in your church choir?

MARY ELIZABETH

Hardly! I sing around the house. Evan keeps telling me I have a good voice, so when his principal asked,

I said sure. Thinking it was only for his school (looking directly at Evan).

EVAN

Are you mad?

MARY ELIZABETH

(sighs)

No--just even more nervous than I was before.

EVAN

You'll be great Mom. Just like you were before.

Jason Quinn approaches the group--eyes on Mary Elizabeth as he arrives.

BRAD

Jason! Just the man I wanted to see before I took this young man off to the hotel. I'd like you to meet Evan Jackson. You two have quite a bit in common. According to your father, Evan's numbers are right where yours were at this age. And you are both lefties.

JASON

Pleased to meet you Evan. I recognized you from the film I've seen on you. You've got a great swing. I'm looking forward to working with you.

EVAN

(trying to be cool and clearing his throat)

Thanks. Good to meet you too. You're my favorite player. (turns away and whispers) Man! Why did I just say that? (Back to Jason) This is my Mom. Mary Elizabeth.

MARY ELIZABETH

(trying not to smile at her son's discomfort)

Hi Jason. Nice to meet you.

Jason reaches for Mary Elizabeth's hand and holds on to it longer than normal not breaking eye contact the whole time. Sexual tension is evident.

JASON

It is very nice to meet you too.
You have quite a talented son.

BRAD

And speaking of that son. It is time he joins the other boys at the hotel. Evan, say goodnight to your mother. Mary Elizabeth, will you be at the park tomorrow?

MARY ELIZABETH

Wouldn't miss it! Goodnight honey.
See you tomorrow.

EVAN

Goodnight Mom--love you.

MARY ELIZABETH

Love you too.

Mary Elizabeth watches a bit wistfully as they walk out of the room.

MARY ELIZABETH

Well--you just made his whole camp.
Thanks for coming to say hi to him.
You are his favorite player--he wasn't just saying that.

JASON

Actually. It wasn't just Evan I came to meet. I wanted to meet his beautiful mother as well.

Mary Elizabeth and Jason are still standing in the lobby and some of Jason's teammates are at the bar within earshot of their conversation. They start to chuckle and poke each other clearly laughing at the expense of Jason and Mary Elizabeth's conversation. Mary Elizabeth becomes aware of their antics. Her tone becomes noticeably cooler.

MARY ELIZABETH

That's very charming Mr. Quinn.
However, I have a show to prepare for.

Mary Elizabeth takes a step closer to Jason and speaks quietly in his ear. It looks rather provocative.

MARY ELIZABETH

And I don't have time for games
Jason.

Mary Elizabeth turns and heads back stage. Jason is standing watching as the teammates erupt in laughter. He gives them a dirty look and heads after Mary Elizabeth.

INT BACKSTAGE DINNER THEATER

Jason spots Mary Elizabeth heading for her dressing room and heads that way. Mary Elizabeth enters the room not knowing Jason is behind her.

INT DRESSING ROOM BACKSTAGE

Mary Elizabeth is at the mirror addressing her hair. Jason enters in without knocking startling Mary Elizabeth.

MARY ELIZABETH

(outraged)

What are you doing? You can't be back here? Not to mention have you ever heard of knocking?

JASON

You didn't give me chance to finish. Now, I was going to say that I didn't just notice you when I saw you with Evan.

MARY ELIZABETH

Oh really?

JASON

No. I saw you first when you were with the other performers. You stood out as the most stunning among them. I knew then I had to ask you out. That's why the guys were laughing--I made the mistake of telling them I was going to ask you out.

Mary Elizabeth finishes her hair. She takes a drink of water. Mary Elizabeth turns and takes several steps toward Jason until they are so close they are almost touching. Jason is athletic and tall and Mary Elizabeth is several inches smaller so she has to look up.

MARY ELIZABETH

Let me see if I have this straight. You had decided that you wanted to ask me out when you saw me with the other performers, is that right?

Jason smiles.

JASON

Yeah--no one could compare to you.

MARY ELIZABETH

Right, in other words, you decide to ask me out when you thought I was part of a national *touring* troop that would move on the next day.

Jason stops smiling. Mary Elizabeth leans in seductively and puts her hands on his chest. She puts her head next to his to speak close to his cheek.

MARY ELIZABETH

Mr. Quinn, not only do I not play games, but I don't do one night stands either.

She abruptly pulls back and walks out of the room.

INT OFFSTAGE

Mary Elizabeth is about to go on stage and is clearly shaken by her run ins with Jason Quinn. She is reading a piece of paper. Just then the director, NATHAN SMITHSON comes up.

NATHAN

How are we feeling?

MARY ELIZABETH

WE are not feeling too great about song choice Nathan. Don't you think this song is a bit suggestive considering the audience is bunch of ballplayers?

NATHAN

That is exactly the reason for the song choice. You've got to keep them interested honey. You've got the goods to sell the song.

He looks up and down her body suggestively.

NATHAN

Right? Am I right? Look I know you are nervous.

Just then a stagehand walks by.

NATHAN

You! Bring Ms. Jackson a shot of whiskey--top shelf. (he turns to Mary Elizabeth) I think we need to

calm your nerves.

MARY ELIZABETH
Nathan, I don't drink.

The stagehand appears with a bottle of whiskey and a shot glass--which happens to be a double shot glass and hands them to Nathan.

NATHAN
Well, this will do. Don't worry
honey. One shot won't hurt you.

Nathan pours a generous amount into the oversized glass. He hands it to Mary Elizabeth. She hesitates but takes the glass from Nathan.

NATHAN
Bottoms up, honey!

Mary Elizabeth starts to sip the shot and chokes on the whiskey.

NATHAN
No, no. You have to drink it all at
one time.

Mary Elizabeth gives Nathan a dirty look and this time downs the shot all at once. Mary Elizabeth closes her eyes letting it calm her as an announcer off screen is heard.

ANNOUNCER
Please welcome your very own, Ms.
Mary Elizabeth Jackson.

Mary Elizabeth walks on stage.

Applause. Whistles. Cat-calls. Mary Elizabeth is feeling the effects of the whiskey and appears very calm and loose on stage. She starts to sing. It is seductive and her eyes go to Jason frequently, who is seated at a table in front.

MARY ELIZABETH
(singing)
"I feel your eyes on me. Tonight
you'll be in these open arms. I'll
love you like no one else can. I'll
rock you baby. Tonight is for lovers
like you and me."

Mary Elizabeth nods her head in acknowledgment as the song ends. The crowd erupts in applause. She exits the stage and heads for her dressing room. Jason stands and exits the dinner floor and exits for backstage also heading for her

dressing room.

INT DRESSING ROOM BACKSTAGE

Mary Elizabeth is sitting at her mirror with her head in her hands. Jason once again enters without knocking.

MARY ELIZABETH

Didn't your mother teach you any manners?

JASON

Didn't your mother teach you it is rude to walk out on a conversation before it is finished?

Mary Elizabeth stands and walks to Jason stopping right in front of him.

MARY ELIZABETH

Well if one party is done with the conversation then it sounds like it is done to me!

JASON

Not if the other party still has something to say. That means you have to stay and listen.

MARY ELIZABETH

Fine! You've got ten minutes before I have to go back on stage. I'm listening.

Jason runs his hands through his hair.

JASON

Great. Way to put pressure on a guy.

MARY ELIZABETH

What. Like playing in the World Series isn't more pressure than this?

JASON

Can I continue? Apparently my time is limited.

Mary Elizabeth nods.

JASON

As I was saying, I had decided I wanted to ask you out. I watched

you as you met with the team and
just as I was about to make my move
Brad arrived with your son.

MARY ELIZABETH

And?

JASON

Mary, I knew then exactly who you
were. I was so relieved. I
recognized Evan from the film we had
on him and when you left the troop
and went over to them it confirmed
it. You look just like him and of
course you never left his side once
they entered the room. I *knew* you
were Mary Elizabeth Jackson when I
came to meet you and Evan; when I
came to ask you out, I knew you
weren't going anywhere the next
day. At least I hoped not.

Mary Elizabeth stands looking at Jason not speaking. She is
stunned and uncomfortably embarrassed.

JASON

What? No smart remark?

Mary Elizabeth shakes her head no.

Mary Elizabeth starts to step around Jason as she heads for
the door. He raises his left hand in a gesture to stop her.

JASON

How about this? Will you see me
after the show tonight?

Mary Elizabeth pauses. Not looking at him, she raises her
left hand and places her hand in his.

There is a knock at the door and a voice from the other side.

VOICE

Ms. Jackson? Two minutes.

JASON

I'll see you after the show.

Still not looking at Jason, Mary Elizabeth nods and heads out
the door.

EXT HOME PLATE MAIN FIELD AT SEA DEVILS SPRING TRAINING
BALLPARK

Jason is taking batting practice during a morning workout session. He is scowling as he is hitting poorly. Teammate DEVIN BLAKE is waiting, hanging his arms on the net behind the plate.

DEVIN

Dude--what are you trying to do?
Hit the skin off it? Have you hit
to center yet?

JASON

Lay off man. You're up next don't
forget.

DEVIN

So, how'd your night go? You hook
up with that kid's mom?

Jason turns and gives Devin a dirty look.

DEVIN

Whoa--that bad, huh? She turn you
down?

JASON

Not exactly.

DEVIN

Not exactly? How do you not exactly
turn someone down?

Jason stalks to Devin clearly exasperated that he is explaining this situation.

JASON

We were supposed to meet after the
show and she didn't show up, okay?

DEVIN

She stood you up man?

JASON

Repeat it again a little louder
okay? I'd really like this to get
around the *whole* ballpark.

DEVIN

Sorry man. Really. Have you seen
her today? Her kid is with
BENNINGTON and I heard they are
working out with us today.

JASON

Great.

EXT ONE OF THE AUXILIARY FIELDS AT SEA DEVILS SPRING TRAINING BALLPARK (OUTFIELD)

Evan is throwing with another boy his age. There are approximately 16 boys on the field throwing around them. COACH BENNINGTON approaches the boys. He yells out to them.

BENNINGTON
Okay boys, let's bring it in.

Bennington waits as the boys jog in around him.

BENNINGTON
You have been chosen to attend this mini-camp because you are considered the best players in your leagues. We want to see what you can do and make sure you leave here doing it better than when you came in.
(pause) Of course, you didn't just come here to sharpen your skills. You came to meet and play with your favorite players didn't you?

The boys smile and laugh among themselves.

BENNINGTON
It's okay--we know why you are here. So today--we are going to do just that.

The boys start to murmur and whisper excitedly.

BENNINGTON
We are going to take you to the Main field where you will be in groups of four and you will be working with two of our players. We'll do some fielding, some BP, then play a short game. Get your gear boys.

The boys ran in different directions as they ran to their belongings. Evan comes to his things and sees Mary Elizabeth arrive at the park at the same time. He gathers his gear and runs to her as she approaches the field.

EVAN
Mom! They are taking us to the Main field! We are going to work with a couple of the players in the field, then take BP, and play a short game! Will you watch?

Mary Elizabeth looks uncomfortable. She smiles as best she

can.

MARY ELIZABETH
Of course I will dear.

Evan joins the group entering the stadium.

EXT OUTFIELD STADIUM MAIN FIELD AT SEA DEVILS SPRING TRAINING
BALLPARK

The boys enter the stadium and come onto the field.

Mary Elizabeth finds a place in the seats, trying not to sit too close to the field.

Jason is on the field watching for Mary Elizabeth to enter the stadium as soon as he sees the boys come onto the field. He watches her take her seat.

Coach Bennington starts grouping the boys and pairing up the men as he gets to Evan, Jason steps forward.

JASON
I'll work with him. Apparently we have a lot in common.

Evan smiles broadly.

BENNINGTON
True enough Quinn. You're a step ahead of me. Noble wants you one on one with Jackson. He's dropping his front arm when he's at the plate--wants you to work on it with him. Get through that, then work on opening up his hips.

JASON
Anything else?

Bennington gives Jason an angry look.

JASON
Alright, Alright. We're going. You ready kid? Sounds like we've got some work to do.

Mary Elizabeth is watching the exchange on the field. She looks concerned.

EXT HOME PLATE MAIN FIELD SEA DEVILS SPRING TRAINING BALLPARK

Jason helps Evan get in position to begin hitting.

JASON

Keep your front arm bent. Don't straighten it. Then squash the bug.

EVAN

Excuse me? What bug? How am I supposed to be looking for bugs when I have a baseball flying at me?

JASON

You're kidding right? You've never heard of "Squash the bug"?

EVAN

Of course I'm kidding. Who hasn't heard of it? Let's have the first pitch.

Jason gives the BP coach a nod. He throws one in. Evan swings and misses in an a wide swing. He doesn't turn his front foot.

JASON

You didn't turn your front foot.

EVAN

So?

JASON

That's where the bug was.

EVAN

Oh. Right. Sorry.

JASON

Okay. Let's start over. Squash the bug means turn your front foot like you are squashing a bug underneath it.

Jason demonstrates the movement.

JASON

Where was your Dad when you were growing up? Didn't he teach you this stuff?

EVAN

No--he split when I was a baby. He told my mom that a baby wasn't part of the deal. When I was younger, she told me it just didn't work out. She just told me the truth last year. I've never met the guy.

JASON

Oh. (clearing his throat) Sorry.
How did your mom make ends meet?

Evan is swinging at balls thrown by the BP coach during this conversation.

EVAN

She moved home at first. My grandparents babysat while she worked at the local newspaper. Then she started getting some freelance gigs that paid better, and she was able to support us both. She always liked the warm weather, so we moved here. Grandpa retired, and they followed. End of story I guess.

JASON

Does your Mom go out much?

EVAN

Now you're kidding. I can count the number of dates on one hand my mom has gone out on since I have been old enough to know what a date was.

Jason starts to ask another question but Coach Bennington interrupts them.

BENNINGTON

Okay guys. Time's up. We're going to play a little before we break for lunch.

Coach Bennington splits the teams evenly combining the boys from camp and the professional players. They play a short two inning game. Mary Elizabeth stays to watch the game. After the game, Jason tries to get to the parking lot to see Mary Elizabeth but she is gone before he gets there.

INT JASON QUINN'S HOTEL ROOM AT TEAM HOTEL FOR SPRING TRAINING

It is late afternoon and Jason Quinn is on his laptop searching the internet for phone listings for Mary Elizabeth and Evan. He is not successful and is growing frustrated. He gets up and grabs his keys as he heads out the door.

INT LOCKER ROOM AT SEA DEVILS SPRING TRAINING STADIUM

Jason is changing for an evening game. He is clearly distracted. His teammates look around at each other looking uncomfortable that their star player does not have his mind on the game ahead. Devin's locker is right next to Jason's.

DEVIN

Jason--what's up? You are making the guys--especially the rookies--worried about where your head is at. We're playing the Yankees man--it may be spring training but they are still the friggin' Yankees.

JASON

Why doesn't everyone just worry about their own jobs and not about my head?

Jason slams his locker shut and stalks out the door to the field. He doesn't get a single hit that night and makes an error defensively playing centerfield--something he hasn't done since he was a rookie.

EXT ONE OF THE AUXILIARY FIELDS AT SEA DEVILS SPRING TRAINING BALLPARK (OUTFIELD)

Mary Elizabeth is standing off to a far side watching the boys at camp work out. She is unaware that Jason is approaching from behind until he is stands beside her.

JASON

You are a tough lady to find.

Mary Elizabeth turns startled. She quickly recovers attempting to appear unaffected by his appearance.

MARY ELIZABETH

I didn't know I was hiding.

JASON

Why? I don't get it. I thought we hit it off at the theater.

MARY ELIZABETH

Jason,

JASON

Look, I've been talking to Evan. I know about his Dad. I know there have been only a few since.

MARY ELIZABETH

First of all, who gave you permission to be talking to my son? Second, you don't know anything about his Dad. And third, there hasn't been anyone since his Dad because *I* have decided it there wouldn't be anyone.

JASON

Is that what happened the other night? *You* decided we wouldn't happen, so you ran out without telling me? Is that what you do with the other men? Make them think there is a chance and then decide against it without them knowing?

MARY ELIZABETH

That's unfair. I've been meaning to call you, to explain. I just didn't know how.

JASON

Really. For someone who makes a living using the English language, it sure has taken you a long time to figure out what to say. I'm here now.

MARY ELIZABETH

You were right. There was a connection--a strong one. I just couldn't take a chance on a relationship with someone when Evan is so impressionable right now.

JASON

Mary Elizabeth, Evan's been impressionable before, why is this time different?

MARY ELIZABETH

Because, I just felt I couldn't risk getting involved with a baseball player!

JASON

Well, thank you for finally having the courage to say so.

Jason turns and walks away. Evan is watching from his side of the field with a confused look on his face. Some of the other older boys, who have also watched the scene from afar,

elbow each other and give each other knowing looks.

MONTAGE

A) Jason and Evan working together one on one. They are getting closer.

B) Jason playing spring training games with poor results. He is distracted by Mary Elizabeth.

C) Mary Elizabeth sitting on her lanai unsuccessfully trying to write. She keeps thinking about Jason.

D) Jason sitting on balcony of hotel room looking off in distance. He is wrapped up in thoughts of Mary Elizabeth. They see each other at the park during Evan's camp. Jason and Mary Elizabeth are falling for each other.

END OF MONTAGE

INT BRAD AND LORI NOBLE'S LANAI

Brad and Lori Noble, their daughters, GRACE and KENDALL, are having dinner with Mary Elizabeth and Evan on their lanai.

MARY ELIZABETH

Thank you so much for inviting us to dinner Coach Noble. Your home is lovely and the company is quite entertaining.

Mary Elizabeth directly speaks to Grace and Kendall at the last part of her statement. Grace smiles broadly. She is a charming little girl that captures the heart of everyone she meets. Kendall rolls her eyes at her little sister.

GRACE

Miss Mary Elizabeth?

MARY ELIZABETH

Yes Grace?

GRACE

Are you married? Where's Evan's Daddy?

BRAD AND LORI

Grace!

KENDALL

I had nothing to do with that. (To Grace) Grace, I told you to keep that to yourself!

MARY ELIZABETH

It's okay. Really. Sometimes two people decide that they can't live together, so Evan's Dad lives in a different place than Evan and me.

GRACE

Oh--do you wish you had a Daddy live you with Evan?

BRAD AND LORI

Grace Katherine!

Kendall smacks her hand to her forehead and shakes her head in dismay.

EVAN

Actually, yes. Sometimes I do.

Mary Elizabeth looks startled at this.

MARY ELIZABETH

I didn't know this.

EVAN

I didn't either until I started spending so much time with Jason and I realized what I've been missing.

MARY ELIZABETH

Jason! What could you have learned from him? He's a bachelor for heaven sake. I'm sure he wouldn't know a serious relationship if it hit him in the head.

LORI

Actually. Jason is quite unlike many of the other single players and honestly, quite unlike many other men period.

MARY ELIZABETH

What are you talking about?

LORI

When Jason entered the farm system, he was engaged to his high school sweetheart. They had been dating since the 10th grade and decided to get married once Jason signed with a team and made it to Triple A. It didn't take long for Jason to make his way to Triple A, and once there

they set a date. All during their engagement, during his travel, he never once strayed, shall I say?

Lori looks pointedly at the children and back at Mary Elizabeth. Mary Elizabeth looks at Brad who is listening intently to Lori.

LORI

Jason called Amy from every city. He loved playing baseball but hated being away from her. One month before their wedding date, Jason got called up. He knew he couldn't pass it up, but we were playing the West Coast swing, so it meant being apart from Amy for almost two weeks. Amy finally told him, he was going to have to accept this as their way of life if he was to be a major league ballplayer. It's because of Amy that Jason is where he is today.

GRACE

Is this the story about Uncle Jason being sad?

KENDALL

Yes, sweetie. Now shhh, let mom tell it.

Mary Elizabeth turns to Grace then.

MARY ELIZABETH

Uncle Jason?

BRAD

He's been like a big brother to the girls since he joined the team. He's a member of the family as far as we're concerned.

Mary Elizabeth turns to Lori.

MARY ELIZABETH

You were saying?

LORI

About six days into the west coast trip, Jason got a call. Amy had been driving home alone from work one evening and a drunk driver ran a red light. He broadsided her--she never saw him coming. She didn't

survive the surgery. Jason didn't make it to the hospital in time to say good-bye before she went into surgery. He only saw her after when it was too late.

Mary Elizabeth eyes begin to fill with tears.

LORI

To say Jason was devastated, would truly be an understatement. This was at the end of July and Brad and I both knew, he wouldn't make it back for the end of the season.

BRAD

I wasn't sure he'd be ready by the start of next season.

LORI

I wasn't sure either but neither of us said it out loud. Jason went home and mourned Amy for a long, long time. But he surprised us all and was here when spring training opened. He said Amy prepared him to be a ballplayer, so he'd be dishonoring her memory if he did anything else. He didn't have a great spring--kind of like this spring actually.

That gets Mary Elizabeth's attention.

LORI

Slowly, Jason got his form back and started to build a name for himself. So he decided to use his newfound fame, especially with young children and teens, and started doing speaking engagements on drunk driving, driving safety; he created a foundation in Amy's name for college scholarships to allow ballplayers to go to college.

MARY ELIZABETH

This is Jason Quinn.

BRAD

As my wife said, you won't find many players like him. Not many who can play like him, not many who can be a good and decent man like him.

GRACE

You don't need to cry. Jason is happy now. He told me he met a girl who makes him happy like Amy.

Evan hides a smile.

MARY ELIZABETH

He told you that did he?

Mary Elizabeth is visibly shaken.

GRACE

Yes. He tells me everything.

LORI

Okay, my little gabby girl. I'm pretty sure what he tells you he expects to stay with you too. Why don't we go get our PJs on?

KENDALL

Come on Gracie, that's our cue. I'll take you back.

MARY ELIZABETH

I think it is time we head home anyway. Evan has an early workout in the morning. Right Coach?

BRAD

You got it. Last day. Let's make it a good one.

EVAN

You bet Coach. Thank you for having us.

MARY ELIZABETH

Thank you. It was lovely.

GRACE

Wait!

Grace jumps up from the table and runs into the house. She runs back out holding a piece of paper. She hands it to Evan.

GRACE

I drew this picture. It's you and Jason. He told me you were friends.

EVAN

Thanks Grace! I'll hang it in my

room.

Mary Elizabeth and Evan stand to leave. Grace hugs them both. They shake hands with Brad and Mary Elizabeth hugs Lori. They exit the lanai.

Grace stands at the lanai door waving to Mary Elizabeth and Evan.

BRAD

You have never told anyone Jason's history before--especially in such detail. Why do I get the feeling you know something I don't?

LORI

Don't I always dear?

Lori kisses Brad's cheek and takes Grace by the hand leading her into the house with Kendall trailing behind smiling to herself.

INT BLUE PARROT BAR

Jason is shooting pool with Devin Blake, and teammates ANTHONY LEONINO and MITCHELL WILBUR.

DEVIN

Look, all I'm saying is maybe it's time you moved on and quit moping around dude. I mean, you didn't even *kiss* this girl.

JASON

Really? How many times are we going to advertise this?

ANTHONY

Like we didn't already know that? C'mon man. The whole locker room knows that.

JASON

(sighs)Great. Since when has my love life become the topic of the locker room?

MITCHELL

Since you haven't had a hit in 11 games.

JASON

Who invited you?

DEVIN

Jay, we're your friends. We're here talking to you. Not the guys in the locker room. And the fact is you've let whatever this is between you and this kid's mom get in the way of your ability to play.

JASON

This kid's mom has a name. It's Mary Elizabeth.

DEVIN

Fine. Whatever. You need to do something man.

JASON

What are you talking about?

ANTHONY

He's telling you to shit or get off the pot dude. Either make your move with Mary Elizabeth or find another chick.

MITCHELL

Nice Anthony--ever consider poet laureate as your next job?

ANTHONY

Why do I need another job? I could retire tomorrow thanks to this one.

JASON

Someday, you are going to sweep some girl right off her feet Anthony with your charm and way with words.

ANTHONY

You know it bro-you know it!

Jason, Devin, and Mitchell shake their heads and go back to the pool game.

ANTHONY

What? What did I say?

EXT ONE OF THE AUXILIARY FIELDS AT SEA DEVILS SPRING TRAINING BALLPARK (OUTFIELD)

It is the end of the final day of the boys' camp. The major league players came out to say a few words, including Jason

Quinn. After the speeches, everyone breaks up to gather their things and find their parents. Jason pulls Evan aside.

JASON

Hey. This is for you. It is my personal card with my numbers on it. If you need me for anything, anything at all, call me at any of these numbers and you'll get me directly instead of going through my agent or through Coach or the team.

EVAN

Thanks Jason.

Jason gives Evan a tight hug. He goes back to the clubhouse not seeing Mary Elizabeth pull into the parking lot. As Evan puts together his bat bag, two of the older boys approach him, DANNY GATSON and SAM PATRICK.

DANNY

Boy, he still looks crushed doesn't he Sam?

SAM

Yeah, well can you blame him? I mean, she turned him down over and over. A man can only take so much.

EVAN

What are you guys talking about?

SAM

What? You don't know? She's your mother dude!

DANNY

Yeah, come on. You trying to tell us that you didn't know Jason Quinn has been trying to get your mom to go out with him all through spring training and she kept turning him down? Why do you think he stunk so bad? Your mom was dumping on him this whole time!

EVAN

I don't believe you. If Jason had asked my mom, she would have said yes. She knows what kind of guy he is. She doesn't have any reason to say no.

SAM

Yeah--why don't you ask her?

Sam nods in the direction behind Evan. Evan turns around to find Mary Elizabeth standing there looking shocked having overhead their conversation.

EVAN

Mom! Is it true? Did you really turn down Jason Quinn? Tell Danny and Sam it isn't true.

MARY ELIZABETH

Evan--it wasn't like they said.

The boys start to snicker.

MARY ELIZABETH

Danny, Sam--gone! Evan, look...

Evan turns and walks away. He gets in their car without another word.

INT MARY ELIZABETH JACKSON'S CAR

Mary Elizabeth is driving Evan home from camp. Evan is staring out the passenger window. He turns to Mary Elizabeth angrily.

EVAN

How could you mom?

MARY ELIZABETH

How could I what Evan?

EVAN

Did you really turn down Jason over and over again?

MARY ELIZABETH

No, Evan. It was one time and it was before I knew anything about him.

EVAN

Would you go out with him now if he asked again--now that you know more about him I mean?

MARY ELIZABETH

I don't know--probably.

Evan stares out the passenger window again.

INT MARY ELIZABETH'S HOME

Mary Elizabeth is in her study. She is at her desk writing on her laptop. Evan enters the room.

EVAN

Mom?

MARY ELIZABETH

Yes, honey?

EVAN

Can I ride over to Chase's and spend the night? He just called. His mom said it was okay.

CHASE DONEGAN is Evan's best friend and lives around the corner.

MARY ELIZABETH

Sure honey. Just let me know when you leave, okay?

EVAN

Got it.

Evan heads to his bedroom and finds the card Jason gave him in his desk. He pulls it out and grabs his cell phone off his desk and dials Jason's number.

EVAN

Umm, Jason? This is Evan, Evan Jackson. Hi, yeah. How are you? (pause) Well, actually. My mom is out for the evening. Yeah, I'm by myself. I watched something I shouldn't I think-freaking out a bit. Yeah. Can you come over for dinner? Do you like Italian? What do you like? Okay. No, I'll order it. She left me money. Come to the lanai door, I'll leave it open. Can you be here in an hour? Thanks--Bye.

Evan heads to the lanai and sets up the table for dinner. He tries to make it look romantic. He then heads into the kitchen and finds the number for Mary Elizabeth's favorite italian restaurant and orders Mary Elizabeth's favorite meal plus what Jason just told him. Evan then heads to his bedroom to pack his things for his overnight stay at Chase's house.

INT JASON'S CAR

Jason is driving over to Mary Elizabeth's house at the request of her son, Evan. He is talking aloud to himself.

JASON

What the hell did Evan mean by his mother was out? And why isn't Evan with a sitter? No wonder he sounded so anxious.

INT MARY ELIZABETH'S HOME

Evan heads into Mary Elizabeth's study carrying a backpack. Annie is still at her desk writing.

EVAN

Hey mom--I am ready to go.

MARY ELIZABETH

Okay honey. Have a good time.

EVAN

Hey mom--I think you need to take a break. I ordered you some dinner and I set it up on the lanai.

MARY ELIZABETH

Oh Evan, you shouldn't have. I can't take a break right now.

EVAN

Mom--you need to. Just go eat--what do you always say? Feed the body, feed the brain.

MARY ELIZABETH

Alright, I'll go. You go have a good time and I'll feed my brain.

Mary Elizabeth stands and kisses Evan's cheek. Evan goes out through the garage and Mary Elizabeth heads for the lanai.

INT MARY ELIZABETH'S LANAI

Mary Elizabeth walks out onto her lanai. She steps out backwards to close the sliding door and when she turns she sees Jason standing at the table. He is expecting Evan to come to the lanai. They both stand there surprised to see the other one.

JASON

Either you're a really good actress, or we've been the victims of a setup.

MARY ELIZABETH

I'm a writer not an actress. I was expecting to dine alone. Clearly by

the tone of your voice, I gather you aren't expecting to see me either? You were expecting my son?

JASON

I don't like surprises Mary.

MARY ELIZABETH

I don't either Jason. Look, can we start this evening over again? Obviously Evan went to great lengths to arrange a dinner between us. Do you think we could try this again and enjoy this meal?

JASON

(hesitation then nods)

For Evan.

Jason and Mary Elizabeth take a seat at the table Evan prepared earlier. Mary Elizabeth serves the meal Jason ordered earlier with Evan and then serves her own chosen meal.

MARY ELIZABETH

Look Jason, I didn't give you a fair shake. I am really sorry for treating you so badly. I wanted to call you so many times but I didn't know how to begin.

JASON

Don't sweat it.

MARY ELIZABETH

Don't sweat it? That's it? I am apologizing here! I thought there was something between us--

JASON

What the hell is going on here Mary Elizabeth? Your damn right we had something going and then you stood me up! Then our last conversation you were as cold as the Ice Queen. Now I am getting apologies and confessions about true feelings?

Jason pushes back his chair and stands. He throws down his napkin and turns to leave.

JASON

What did you do--get a look at my bank account and decide I'd be a

good catch after all?

Mary Elizabeth stands just as abruptly and throws down her napkin as well.

MARY ELIZABETH

How dare you! I could care less about your bank account. What the hell makes you think I need you when I have done just fine on my own for over 12 years?

JASON

Then why the about face? What's your story Mary Elizabeth? You get a guy interested so you can toy with him? What happened to the woman who doesn't play games?

Mary Elizabeth walks to Jason and stands directly in front of him.

MARY ELIZABETH

(softly) I know about
(hesitation)

Amy. I know you are so much more than RBIs and home runs. At least I know that now. When we met, I couldn't see beyond the field and the locker room antics. Most importantly, I watched you with Evan during camp and although I didn't want to see it, you two truly connected. You became so much more than a favorite player to him and that scared me. I assumed you'd take me out for a few dates, sleep with me and then move on. So I walked away before it really hurt when you walked away; I was so wrong. If I am too late, then leave now please and do us the courtesy of staying out of our lives for good because I don't think I could stand seeing you again after bearing so much..

Mary Elizabeth doesn't get to finish her sentence as Jason grabs her and kisses her silencing her at the same time.

JASON

You writers talk way too much. I've been waiting to kiss you since RBIs and home runs.

MARY ELIZABETH

(smiles)

More kisses and sweet talk like that
and you just might score a home run
tonight.

JASON

(in between kisses)

I thought writers tried to avoid
obvious cliches.

MARY ELIZABETH

We do; but my brain isn't at full
function right now. You can blame
yourself for that.

Jason and Mary Elizabeth kiss.

INT MARY ELIZABETH'S KITCHEN

It is the following morning. Jason is wearing boxer shorts
and no shirt. His hair is wet. Mary Elizabeth has just come
from a shower and in a clean pair of shorts and t-shirt.

Jason is pouring coffee for them both as Mary Elizabeth
enters the kitchen. He looks up admiringly and smiles as she
enters. He puts down the coffee pot and pulls her in for an
embrace as she arrives for her mug.

MARY ELIZABETH

Good morning to you too. I must
say, I don't believe that I have
ever enjoyed a morning shower as
much as I did this morning.

JASON

Happy to oblige.

Jason leans in to kiss Mary Elizabeth.

MARY ELIZABETH

Jason,

JASON

Uh-Oh. This doesn't sound good.

MARY ELIZABETH

We have to talk about Evan. He's
going to be home soon and I don't
want to him to get the wrong idea.

JASON

What are you suggesting? I leave
and we pretend last night never

happened?

MARY ELIZABETH

Would you mind? Just until I am ready to tell Evan about us and for him to see us together?

JASON

Hell yeah I mind! If we wait for that, Evan will be off to college. Come on Mary Elizabeth. You're just scared.

MARY ELIZABETH

Of course I am--and careful. I'm the one left to pick up the pieces when things don't work out and Evan blames me.

Jason draws Mary Elizabeth in even closer in their embrace.

JASON

Then I guess I'm not going anywhere and then that doesn't become an issue.

Evan enters without Mary Elizabeth and Jason aware.

EVAN

I knew it! I knew you liked each other but I didn't know you liked each other this much--cool!

Mary Elizabeth jumps out of Jason's arms.

MARY ELIZABETH

Evan! When did you? How did you? How much did you see and hear young man?!

EVAN

Don't worry mom--I didn't see anything. I just walked in. But I'm not blind, and I'm not stupid. So what's the story? You two an item or what?

Jason grins at Mary Elizabeth. She sighs loudly. Jason puts his arm around her shoulders.

EVAN

Yes! Alright!

Evan starts jumping around the kitchen and Mary Elizabeth

gives Jason a "Now what?" look.

JASON

Easy buddy. Your mom and I are taking things slowly here. Capeesh?

EVAN

I get it. But can I be excited anyway?

JASON

Fine by me.

Jason and Evan give each other a high five. Evan heads to his bedroom.

MARY ELIZABETH

I think perhaps we ought to try to keep this quiet as well, don't you?

JASON

How quiet?

MARY ELIZABETH

At the very least--out of the press.

JASON

We can try, but I don't intend to live like a hermit. It isn't practical. You can't live that way forever. Eventually someone will see you and ask who you and Evan are. Do you think you can handle this?

MARY ELIZABETH

(Sighs)

No, but I guess I have to be ready to try.

SEA DEVILS MAJOR LEAGUE BALL PARK OPENING DAY

Mary Elizabeth and Evan arrive at the park for opening day. They walk down the steps to the seats Jason reserved for them. When they arrive, they discover the seats are with the team wives and families.

MARY ELIZABETH

Oh my gosh. Not yet. I can't believe Jason put us here.

EVAN

What's the matter mom?

MARY ELIZABETH

Our seats! We are with the wives and the families of the players. I thought we'd be by ourselves. Now we'll have to answer questions about how we met, and who we are, you know.

EVAN

Yeah mom, it's called getting to know people. You might want to give it a try--it's how you make a friend.

Evan then proceeds to take the tickets out of Mary Elizabeth's hands and walks into the aisle. He introduces himself to the woman about Mary Elizabeth's age in the seat next to his and sits down. She is MRS. MYA BLAKE wife of Devin Blake. Mya introduces her son KEENAN sitting on the other side of Mya to Evan who happens to be the same age as Evan. Mary Elizabeth has no choice but to follow Evan's lead. She enters the aisle and sits next to Evan.

EVAN

Mom, can I move down and sit next to Keenan? There is an empty seat.

MARY ELIZABETH

Sure honey. Go ahead.

Evan moves down past Mya, and sits next to Keenan. Mary Elizabeth then feels she should move next to Mya to close the gap.

MYA

Keenan has been waiting so long for a boy his age to join us. He has been outnumbered by girls, girls, girls. (She chuckles as she finishes her sentence)

MARY ELIZABETH

I'm glad Evan can keep him company. It looks like they are hitting it off.

Mary Elizabeth glances around nervously.

MYA

Hi--I'm Mya Blake. Keenan is my son; I have a two year old daughter at home, but I gave up bringing her to games last year because I spent the whole game chasing after her.

Mary Elizabeth starts to relax.

MARY ELIZABETH
 Can't see much of the game that way,
 I'm sure. I'm Mary Elizabeth.
 That's Evan my son. It's just he
 and I.

A slight pause.

MYA
 You're hear with Jason, right?

Mary Elizabeth starts to look uncomfortable.

MYA

 Don't worry. I'm not going to ask
 you 101 questions about where you
 guys met, whether or not you are
 going to get married, and so on.
 I'm just glad he finally met someone
 he cares about and from the looks of
 it, cares for him. I will tell you
 this though. Stay away from LAUREN
 McDANIELS and ANITA JUAREZ because
 they will grill you!

MARY ELIZABETH
 Thanks for the warning.

Mary Elizabeth, Mya, Evan, and Keenan enjoy the game until
 the 7th inning stretch.

MYA
 Incoming, it's Lauren and Anita.
 Want me to head them off?

MARY ELIZABETH
 Actually no. If I am going to be a
 part of Jason's life, I may as well
 get used to all the parts of his
 life. Even the unpleasant ones.

Mya gives Mary Elizabeth a look of admiration. Then Mya
 introduces the women to Mary Elizabeth who are waiting while
 the Mya and Mary Elizabeth talk.

MYA
 Lauren, Anita, this is Mary
 Elizabeth Jackson. Mary Elizabeth,
 Lauren McDaniels and Anita Juarez.

LAUREN

Mya, don't you think you should tell her who our husbands are?

MARY ELIZABETH

Actually, I figured that one for myself. KEVIN McDANIELS and RENE JUAREZ. Am I right?

Lauren and Anita smile tightly.

LAUREN

Well done. Coming off the spring they just had, they are hard to forget, aren't they? Speaking of which, how is Jason doing? Was he battling any nerves today?

MARY ELIZABETH

If he was, he seems to have gotten over them. It's only the middle of the 7th, and he's 2 for 3 and has had 2 RBIs.

MYA

Maybe you are his inspiration!

Mya winks at Mary Elizabeth.

ANITA

It was nice meeting you Mary Elizabeth. We were one our way for drinks. Lauren?

Anita guides Lauren out of the aisle as Lauren continues to give Mary Elizabeth one more long look. And the two of them then climb the stairs to the concession area.

MARY ELIZABETH

Did I miss something?

MYA

A little bit, yeah. It is a well known but unspoken fact that Lauren has had a thing for Jason for a long time. She married Kevin two years ago, and everyone knows he was most definitely second choice. Kevin, on the other hand, is head over heels for Lauren and doesn't see any of her admiration for Jason, or at least he is good at hiding it. Even after she got married, she made it clear to Jason she'd be open for a

clandestine relationship, if you know what I mean? Jason wanted nothing to do with her and made that perfectly clear. Ever since then she is ice cold to any girl he brings around.

MARY ELIZABETH
Well that would explain it. Ummm, just how many girls has Jason brought around?

MYA
Hardly any and none like you.

INT MARY ELIZABETH'S LANAI

Mary Elizabeth and Jason are relaxing after the game. Mary is lounging back on the love seat with her feet in Jason's lap as he gives her foot a massage.

MARY ELIZABETH
So, I met your friends Lauren and Anita today.

Mary Elizabeth yelps as Jason pinches her toe.

MARY ELIZABETH
Yikes! What did you do that for?

JASON
Do what? Are you unhappy with my massage?

MARY ELIZABETH
You pinched me! Did I hit a nerve perhaps?

Jason pulls on one of her toes.

MARY ELIZABETH
Now cut that out! What's the deal anyway?

JASON
Okay okay--but my way was alot more fun.

Mary Elizabeth smacks Jason in the arm.

JASON
Careful, this is my money maker. (He

smirks)

JASON

Okay--there's no 'deal' here.
Lauren and Anita just aren't two of
my favorite people--especially
Lauren.

Mary Elizabeth plays like she doesn't know what he is talking about.

JASON

Let's just say she has made it quite
clear what her feelings were towards
me...and they weren't just friends.
Unfortunately for her, I didn't
return them and things have been a
bit brisk between us and them women
I date.

MARY ELIZABETH

Women?

Jason clears his throat.

JASON

What I mean to say is the very few
women I have brought to the park for
a friendly evening of baseball and
dinner.

MARY ELIZABETH

(Laughing)

That was so lame, but I appreciate
the effort.

Mary Elizabeth leans in to give Jason a quick kiss as she
moves to get up from the couch. But Jason grabs her and pulls
her onto his lap for a deeper kiss and says:

JASON

Just how appreciative are you?

BASEBALL FIELD AT ANY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Evan is playing his baseball game for his team in the local
recreation league. It is an evening game. Evan's real dad,
KYLE FINLAN appears and sits in the bleachers. Mary Elizabeth
cannot be there, so Jason brings Evan to the field. Evan goes
straight to the dugout and Jason goes to the bleachers and
sits next to Kyle. He nods in greeting to Kyle and watches
Evan warm up.

Jason takes another look at Kyle and realizes he has not seen

him before. He starts a conversation.

JASON

I haven't seen you before with our team--who are you here to see?

KYLE

Evan Jackson.

JASON

Evan? Really? He's here with me and I've don't know you. What's your story?

Jason is tense as he waits for this stranger to explain his presence at Evan's game.

KYLE

Long story. I go way back with Evan's mom, M.E. We never got married when she got pregnant--we were very young. She gave me an out and like a fool, I took it. I've been following his life through her journalism career and his baseball highlights in the local papers but this is the first time I've had the nerve to come see him play in person.

Jason's face is frozen in shock. When he speaks, he can hardly control the anger in his voice.

JASON

You're Kyle? I can't believe this. Have you seen Mary Elizabeth?

KYLE

You know Mary Elizabeth? By the look on your face, I can tell she hasn't painted me in the best light. I am everything she said I was--

Jason starts to interrupt him thinking he was going to deny everything Mary Elizabeth said.

KYLE

Let me continue. I am everything she said I was, but the key thing here is the word "was". I have changed into a completely different person--someone she wouldn't even recognize today. I have tried writing her, but she sends my

letters back. I've tried calling, but she won't take the calls or return my messages. I have *tried* to contact my son to undo the mistake I made.

Jason's face is softening like he is believing what Kyle is saying. Kyle presses on.

KYLE

When Mary Elizabeth told me she was pregnant, I freaked out. We were kids! When she told me I could leave and have no responsibilities holding me back, I thought I had been handed a gift. Evan hadn't been born yet, so I had no idea what I would be missing. I left and didn't look back.

Kyle takes a deep breath and looks out at the field at Evan.

KYLE

I finished my degree in business and went back for my MBA. I've got a good job now, I fell in love in grad school to a woman who is now a lawyer and for some reason has agreed to marry me; I've bought a home one town over. I'm not the same guy. All I want is for Mary Elizabeth to see that and let me develop a relationship with Evan before it is too late. I plan to start a family with my fiancée and I want Evan to know his future siblings, and future step-mom. Is all that so bad? I'm not going anywhere; I'm here to stay.

Kyle looks at Jason. Jason looks at Evan. Jason doesn't look back at Kyle but responds.

JASON

I believe you. I don't know why, but I do. I have good instincts and my gut tells me to trust you. Mary Elizabeth wants me to bring Evan home after the game. Why don't I take Evan for some ice cream and you go instead? You and Mary have a few things to talk about. She can call me when she is ready for Evan to come home.

KYLE

I would appreciate that so much. I better go before the game ends. One thing I know about Mary is she'd have a cow if I introduced myself to Evan without her.

JASON

You got that right. I'll tell Evan I didn't get your name if he asks. Good luck.

FRONT DOOR MARY ELIZABETH'S HOUSE

Mary Elizabeth is in her office at her computer writing. The doorbell rings.

MARY ELIZABETH

Did you guys forget your keys *again*?

Mary Elizabeth opens the front door and is frozen when she sees Kyle standing on her front door step.

KYLE

Hi M.E. It's me, Kyle.

MARY ELIZABETH

I know--don't call me that. Nobody calls me that anymore. It's Mary Elizabeth now.

KYLE

Okay, Mary Elizabeth. May I come in? I'd really like to talk to you? I've really changed M-I mean Mary Elizabeth. Please let me come in so we can talk.

Shaking, Mary Elizabeth puts her hand on the door.

MARY ELIZABETH

How can you show up here on my door step after all these years asking me to listen to you?

KYLE

Well, I would have been here sooner if you had responded to my letters or phone calls!

MARY ELIZABETH

The day you walked out was the day you lost your right to communicate anything to me or your son! You've

got a lot of nerve. I finally get my life on track. My son is happy, my job is stable, and I have actually met someone. I will not let you come back into my life once again and wreck it--now get out!

KYLE

Mary Elizabeth wait--you have to listen to me--

MARY ELIZABETH

I don't have to do anything!

Just then Jason calls Mary Elizabeth's cell phone.

MARY ELIZABETH

Hello! You are not going to believe who is standing on my front porch...Kyle! Hold on...

Kyle starts to look relieved as he realizes Jason is on the other line. His relief turns to alarm as Mary Elizabeth runs past him to her car with the phone still to her ear.

KYLE

M.E.! What are you doing? Where are you going? You shouldn't drive when you are this upset!

Mary Elizabeth pulls the phone away from her ear.

MARY ELIZABETH

Leave me alone--you don't know me anymore either!

Mary Elizabeth gets in her car and pulls quickly out of her driveway. She resumes her conversation with Jason.

JASON

Please tell me you are not driving.

MARY ELIZABETH

Why is everyone suddenly worried about my driving habits? I could not continue this conversation with Kyle standing in front of me. I can't believe he is here....Why is he here? Why did he have to come back?

Mary Elizabeth is crying now.

MARY ELIZABETH

Why are you defending him? What do

you mean he has changed? How would you know? (Pause) You what? He was where? And you didn't call me? You should have called me the minute you knew who he was! How could you sit there and listen to him? How can you take his side right now? (Pause) Yes, you are. I don't want to hear about who he is today or what he's done to get there. Have you forgotten what I had to do get where we are? What do you mean that was my choice? How dare you! I didn't have a choice, I...

Just then Mary Elizabeth is entering an intersection as another vehicle runs a red light and broadsides her on the driver side. Mary does not see the car coming at all. Jason hears the entire accident and an automatic speaker system engage where the 911 operator is asking Mary if she is hurt and Mary is not answering. The operator then announces that paramedics and emergency vehicles have been called.

JASON

Mary?! Mary?! What happened--answer me! Answer me dammit! Help is on its way--hang on baby--don't you leave me too (chokes up)

INT HOSPITAL

Flashback to Jason sitting in waiting room. He is in his baseball uniform. He is waiting for his wife, Amy, to come out of surgery. He has flown on the owners private jet to get to the hospital before surgery was over. Devin and Mya Blake, and Lori Noble are with him.

JASON

I didn't get to see her before surgery. I wasn't here.

LORI

Jason, you got here as fast as physically possible. You can't beat yourself up over that.

DEVIN

Jay, she's right about that man. Even Superman couldn't have gotten here faster.

The surgeon enters the waiting room looking somber. Lori and Mya look at each other knowingly and grab one another's hands as Jason stands.

JASON

Doc? You're going to tell me I can go see her now right? Right?

Devin now stands and puts his hand on Jason's shoulder.

SURGEON

I'm so sorry Mr. Quinn. The damage to her internal organs was just too extensive. We did everything we could. I am truly sorry for your loss.

The surgeon turns and leaves the room. Jason stares after him as Devin openly cries along with Lori and Mya sobbing in each other's arms.

It is back to present day and Jason is once again standing in a hospital but it is now a corridor as he waits for Mary Elizabeth to be wheeled to surgery. She appears on the gurney as the attendants are ready to take her to the operating room.

MARY ELIZABETH

Jason? You're here?

JASON

Listen to me--I'm here now and I'll be here when you wake up and every day after. You understand? I love you Mary Elizabeth- I have since the moment I saw you. You don't have to answer; you just need to know.

The surgical attendant indicates they need to get going. Jason nods his agreement. They start down the hall.

MARY ELIZABETH

Wait! Jason...

Jason runs down the hall to Mary Elizabeth.

JASON

What, are you okay? What's the matter?

MARY ELIZABETH

Shhh, Jason. It's okay. I'm not Amy.

Mary Elizabeth looks him in the eye. Jason is stunned.

MARY ELIZABETH

It's okay; I'm okay--I'm going to be okay. Understand what *I'm* saying?

JASON
 (Barely able to talk)
 I do.

MARY ELIZABETH
 And Jason? I love you too.

They wheel the gurney in as Jason watches unable to turn away.

INT WAITING ROOM HOSPITAL

Jason, Evan, Devin, Mya and Keenan Blake, Brad, Lori, Kendall and Grace Noble, Anthony Leonino, Mitchell Wilbur and Kyle Finlan are all waiting in the surgical waiting room. Evan, Keenan, Kendall and Grace are sitting together watching TV. Mya and Lori are together talking quietly. Jason, Devin, Brad, Anthony, Mitchell and Kyle are standing in the corner pacing and talking. Mya, Lori, and Devin are trying not to make comparisons to the last time they gathered there.

BRAD
 She's a strong girl Jason--she'll pull through.

DEVIN
 Of course she will.

KYLE
 You've got to have faith.

When the men look at Kyle with questioning looks on their faces, he responds.

KYLE
 Did I mention, I also found God?

It is enough to break the tension and everyone laughs quietly.

LORI
 Prayer certainly can't hurt Jason.

MYA
 There's a chapel in the hospital.

JASON
 I'm one step ahead of you--but I'd like to go alone if you all don't mind.

Jason heads out of the waiting room.

INT HOSPITAL CHAPEL

Jason is sitting in one of the pews towards the front of the tiny chapel. His hands are in his lap as he stares down at them. He looks to the ceiling and speaks aloud.

JASON

God? Not quite sure how to start here. I suppose you know what's going here--of course you do; you know everything, right? I guess you know that I haven't been the greatest about going to church and everything. Sorry about that. I may not have been very diligent, but that woman fighting for life in there? She has. She's faithful; she honors you in church every week and in everything she does. She's one of the good ones--she is worth saving.

Just then Evan quietly slips in the back of the chapel. Jason does not hear him

JASON

But don't save her for me...don't save her because I'm asking. Save her for her son, Evan. He's another one of the good ones. Nobody can take her place. I'm not even sure Evan knows how much he needs her; he's at that age, you know? Don't let him find out by losing her. I'm not going anywhere God. I'm here to stay for Evan and Mary Elizabeth. Now that he's finally got the father figure he's been needing, please don't take away his mother. For the first time, let him have a complete family. I know what you're thinking. I'm assuming he's going to accept me as his father. I love the boy God--whether he accepts me or not.

Evan stands quietly at this point and slips out of the chapel. He stands just outside the chapel door in the hallway and exhales visibly shaken.

INT WAITING ROOM HOSPITAL

Jason enters the waiting room. Everyone stands questioning him all at once.

JASON

Slow down, I don't know anything. I

was about to ask if the doctor had been here yet.

LORI

No, not yet. How are you feeling?

JASON

Like a caged tiger.

Jason sits down on an empty couch. Evan crosses the room and sits on the same couch next to Jason. After everyone else goes back to their own conversations, Evan scoots closer to Jason.

EVAN

I'm scared.

Jason looks startled. But he recovers quickly and puts his arm around Evan.

JASON

I know you are bud. I'm scared too. She's in good hands though and that makes me feel better. It's frustrating not being able to just make things better though, isn't it?

EVAN

Yeah, I mean like, she's my mom and she's always taking care of me and fixing things and now she's hurt and I should be taking care of her but I can't...

Evan chokes up on his words.

JASON

You are taking care of her. You are safe. You are doing exactly what she would want you to do, so she has nothing to worry about now. And if I know you, you've already prayed hard for her. You are doing more than you realize and it is exactly what she needs.

Evan appears to have his spirits lifted just as the doctor walks in.

DOCTOR

Family for Mary Elizabeth Jackson?

Jason and Evan step forward.

JASON AND EVAN

Yes?

DOCTOR

Ms. Jackson is out of surgery and and resting in her room now. She suffered some serious internal injuries but she's a lucky woman. We do expect a full recovery.

JASON AND EVAN

Can we see her now?

DOCTOR

Yes, but please limit your visits to two people at a time.

LORI

Jason, you and Evan of course will go first.

Kyle looks away hiding his disappointment that Evan will be going with Jason.

JASON

No, Evan should go in with his father. Kyle, you go first with Evan.

DEVIN

(aside to Jason) dude, what are you doing? Do you think this is a good idea?

KYLE

Jason, you don't have to do this. I can wait.

JASON

No, Evan is your son. He should be with his father when he goes to see his mother at a time like this.

Evan looks confused looking between Jason and Kyle after he thinks he and Jason bonds on the couch. He goes with Kyle looking back at Jason hurt. Jason turns away unable to look Evan in the face.

INT HOSPITAL ROOM

Mary Elizabeth is laying in a hospital bed. She turns her head toward the door as it opens. She smiles widely as Evan comes running through the door but the smile freezes as Kyle

walks in as she expected Jason.

EVAN

Mom! I was so worried and scared. I can't believe you're okay. I mean I'm so glad you're okay. Please don't ever have an accident again.

MARY ELIZABETH

Okay, honey. I'll do my best. I'm sorry I scared you. It was scary for me too. But I'm okay now and I'll work very hard to get home as soon as possible.

Mary Elizabeth looks up at Kyle.

MARY ELIZABETH

Hello Kyle.

KYLE

I am so relieved to see you out of surgery ok. You really had everyone worried.

MARY ELIZABETH

Apparently not everyone. Jason didn't stick around to come visit me?

EVAN

No! That's not true! He's been here the whole time--he's still here now. He just thought I should come with Dad not him. Something about how a son should see his mother with his father?

MARY ELIZABETH

Oh, did he? He's making those decisions now is he?

EVAN

You sound mad mom.

MARY ELIZABETH

I am mad!

KYLE

I'm sorry M.E. I shouldn't have let him do it.

MARY ELIZABETH

It's not your fault Kyle. You

couldn't exactly turn down a chance
to be with your son, now could you?

KYLE
Never (with emotion)

MARY ELIZABETH
Kyle?

KYLE
I hope you'll give me the chance to
show you and Evan how much I've
changed..

MARY ELIZABETH
Until you give me reason not to... I
truly wish you the best with your
fiancee. I'd like to meet her.

KYLE
I think she'd like that too.

Kyle and Mary Elizabeth share a quiet moment.

KYLE
Want me to send Jason in?

MARY ELIZABETH
No, please send the others in.

KYLE
Are you sure about this?

Mary Elizabeth turns her face to the window as she cries
quietly.

MARY ELIZABETH
I'm sure.

Kyle and Evan go back to the waiting room. Jason starts to
head out when Kyle stops him.

KYLE
I don't know how to tell you this,
but she doesn't want to see you
right now. She's kind of ticked that
you sent me in with Evan instead of
you, so she wants to see the others
instead. I don't know what to say
man; I'm sorry.

Jason looks at Kyle then briefly at everyone else in the
room. He then turns and leaves the room.

EVAN

Jason?

BRAD

Let him go son.

EVAN

Is he going to see my mom?

DEVIN

Later. Much later.

MARY ELIZABETH'S DRIVEWAY

Mary Elizabeth is being helped out of the car by her son and Kyle. She slaps away their help and walks to the front door unassisted.

MARY ELIZABETH

Please don't treat me like I am an invalid. I had a car accident yes, but I'm fine now.

KYLE

Sure you are honey. Then why are you out of breath just walking to the front door?

MARY ELIZABETH

First of all, don't call me honey. Second of all, I'm not out of breath. I'm breathing heavy to do the exercises they showed me at the hospital to improve lung function.

Kyle and Evan look knowingly at each other. They both put a hand under each of her elbows as they step to the front door and walk in the house.

INT MARY ELIZABETH'S HOME

Mary Elizabeth settles in a lounge chair on the lanai as Evan pours an iced tea for her on the table next to the table. Kyle walks out with a tray and Mary Elizabeth's lunch. He sets the tray on her lap.

MARY ELIZABETH

Thank you both. You don't need to baby me so much you know.

EVAN

It's not a problem mom. You shouldn't be doing this right now anyway. You need to save your

strength, doctor's orders.

KYLE

Evan's right M.E. You can't start doing too much too soon.

MARY ELIZABETH

Don't you have a fiancée to get home to?

KYLE

Ah such charm. My lovely fiancée and her sisters are on a girls weekend before the wedding. I appreciate your looking out for my welfare though.

Kyle smiles jokingly. Evan goes to the house.

MARY ELIZABETH

Has Jason called?

Kyle looks uncomfortable.

KYLE

I'm sorry Mary; he hasn't. I haven't spoken to him since he left the hospital.

MARY ELIZABETH

I see. Then I guess that's it then. Do me a favor please? Tell Evan I'll eat later. Right now I'd just like to sleep.

Mary Elizabeth pulls the blanket up that lay at her feet and rolls to her side, away from Kyle. Kyle picks up the lunch tray and takes it to the kitchen. Evan is preparing a fruit plate for dessert.

KYLE

Don't bother right now buddy. Your mom is tired and wants to sleep first. She's going to eat after.

EVAN

But she needs food to get strong too!

KYLE

One at a time. We'll get her to eat when she wakes, okay?

EVAN

Okay. I'm going to shoot hoops.

Kyle is alone in the kitchen.

KYLE

What in the hell is Jason thinking?

INT JASON QUINN'S APARTMENT

Jason answers the door in his robe. He is unshaven, wearing only gym shorts and holding a bottle of beer. Lauren McDaniels is standing on the other side of the door trying to mask her shock at his appearance.

LAUREN

Jason! You look like you have been living in that robe.

JASON

It's comfortable. You coming in or not?

LAUREN

You invited me didn't you? Of course I am.

Lauren walks in the doorway and lays her purse on the table. She is wearing a very revealing dress.

LAUREN

Why did you invite me anyway?

JASON

Why do you think?

Jason is standing directly behind Lauren as she turns around to face him. There is less than a foot between them.

LAUREN

I see. Does this mean you are no longer with Mary Elizabeth?

JASON

I didn't ask you here to talk about Mary Elizabeth.

Jason takes a step back and turns for the living room a bit unsteadily indicating he has been drinking for awhile. Lauren quickly follows him and lays a hand on his shoulder turning him back to her.

LAUREN

That's fine by me. I'd rather not discuss her myself. I came for you.

Jason pulls Lauren to him with his free hand and kisses her hard. When they pull apart, Lauren takes the beer bottle out of his other hand and sets it on the coffee table in front of the couch.

LAUREN

Why don't we take this to the other room?

Jason doesn't answer but kisses her again as he pushes her back into the bedroom behind them. The door slams shut.

INT KYLE'S BEDROOM

Kyle and MAURA O'ROURKE, Kyle's fiancée, lay in bed together. Kyle is clearly distracted as Maura tries to talk to him.

MAURA

Penny for your thoughts?

KYLE

They aren't worth a penny honey.
Don't sweat it. I've got to run.

Kyle jumps out of bed and heads to the bathroom. Maura looks troubled as she stares after him. She gets out of bed and follows Kyle to the bathroom.

MAURA

What are you doing today? I thought we might spend the day together. We haven't had much time together since the accident.

Kyle is in the shower and sticks his head out.

KYLE

Maura, you know Mary Elizabeth needs as much help as she can get right now and Jason has all but left her. I can't expect Evan to shoulder all the responsibility. I'm sorry, but I need to help her out today.

Maura is irritated.

MAURA

Kyle, at some point she is going to have to learn to function on her own. All you are doing is delaying that. I'm beginning to think you are spending time there because you want to not because she needs you.

KYLE

That's ridiculous! M.E. is still in love with Jason and I'm marrying you.

MAURA

Yes, but you didn't say you loved me just now, did you?

Maura turns and leaves the bathroom as Kyles exhales in frustration and finishes his shower.

INT KYLE'S CAR

Kyle is heading to Mary Elizabeth's house. His cell phone rings.

EVAN

Hi Dad. Did you get the picture I emailed you?

KYLE

Yea buddy, I got it.

Kyle fingers the picture he printed off his computer that morning. It is a picture of the three of them in the hospital the day Mary Elizabeth was discharged. They look like a happy family. It has unnerved Kyle and gotten him thinking.

EVAN

What are you doing today?

KYLE

I'm pulling in your driveway now.

EVAN

Cool!

INT MARY ELIZABETH'S LANAI

Mary Elizabeth is lounging on a deck chair on the lanai. Kyle walks to her and kisses her cheek hello.

MARY ELIZABETH

Well, to what do I owe this surprise? I wasn't expecting you today.

KYLE

Can't I check on you without a reason?

MARY ELIZABETH

I suppose so; are you okay? You seem tense.

KYLE

I'm fine. How are you feeling.

MARY ELIZABETH

Good actually. The best I've felt in days.

KYLE

Good.

They sit in awkward silence for a few minutes.

MARY ELIZABETH

Kyle, why do I get the feeling something is on your mind?

Kyle fingers the photo he now carries in his pocket.

KYLE

It's nothing M.E. I better get going. Get some rest, okay?

Kyle leans in and gently kisses Mary Elizabeth's forehead. Mary Elizabeth gives Kyle a troubling look which he ignores and walks out.

INT KYLE'S KITCHEN

Kyle and Maura are preparing dinner.

MAURA

So, how was your visit with Mary Elizabeth today?

KYLE

Don't start Maura. I'm not in the mood.

MAURA

Don't start what? If it was just a friendly visit to check up on her, then you shouldn't have a problem telling me about it right?

KYLE

Maybe I'm just tired; did you think of that? I just want to eat and stretch out on a deck chair with a beer if that's okay.

MAURA

Kyle, I don't know what's going on here but ever since the accident you have been pulling away from me. If you don't want to marry me, tell me now before the wedding.

KYLE

Don't overreact Maura. You're just tense about the wedding. I said I'm tired, that's it.

MAURA

Fine. I need to run several errands tomorrow for the wedding, so I need your truck. Can I have your keys?

KYLE

Sure.

Kyle reaches into his pocket to retrieve the keys. When he pulls them out, the photo of Mary Elizabeth, himself, and Evan falls out. Maura picks it up.

MAURA

So this is why you've been so distracted. You're trying to get your family back together again. That's why you've been "checking up on her" so much.

KYLE

Maura, you've got it all wrong. Evan sent me that this morning. I'm not trying to get us together.

MAURA

But you've thought about it.

When Kyle doesn't answer right away, Maura shakes her head and storms out of the kitchen.

SEA DEVILS MAJOR LEAGUE BALL PARK

Mya and Mary Elizabeth arrive at the ballpark on a warm afternoon. Mary Elizabeth looks anxious as Mya leads her through the crowds.

MARY ELIZABETH

I don't know about this Mya. I think this is too soon. Jason has made his feelings clear. He never came to see me in the hospital and I didn't hear from him at home either. But I don't

think I'm ready to see him here and I know he doesn't want to see me here.

MYA

You don't know that Mary. We don't know why he didn't come see you. He won't open up to Devin, but he hasn't been himself since that day in the hospital. Something is up. Maybe seeing you will break him out of his funk--or whatever it is.

MARY ELIZABETH

Are you serious? That is why you brought me here? I don't want to force him out of anything! If he doesn't want anything to do with me, then you can't change that. Seeing me won't change anything. I'm going home.

Mary Elizabeth turns to leave. Mya grabs her arm.

MYA

Mary Elizabeth, please. It's a beautiful day. Let's go take our seats. If you really want to, we will avoid Jason.

MARY ELIZABETH

Yes, I think that would be best.

MYA

I'll send Devin a text and let him know you are here, so Jason knows to avoid the friends and family seats.

MARY ELIZABETH

Thanks.

Mary Elizabeth and Mya arrive at their seats. They sit down and notice Lauren sitting directly in front of them with Anita Juarez. Mary Elizabeth and Mya sit down.

LAUREN

It's like I said Anita, it was everything I imagined. The best lover I've every had. When he called, I was over the moon, you know?

Mary Elizabeth and Mya exchange looks. Lauren is speaking loud enough for them to hear.

ANITA

I know; you only talk about it
everyday.

LAUREN

(laughing)

Well, Jason is certainly worth
waiting for.

Mary Elizabeth's face shows shock just as Jason shows up at
the seats with Devin.

MYA

Devin! What are you doing here?

DEVIN

Your text said to stop by.

MYA

No, I said do NOT stop by.

DEVIN

You forgot the Not.

Lauren stands thinking Jason has come to see her and throws
herself at him as he stares at Mary Elizabeth.

LAUREN

Darling! You didn't have to stop
before the game. I'll just see you
after.

Jason unwraps her arms from his neck without looking at her.

JASON

Don't touch me.

Mary Elizabeth turns and leaves the row the opposite
direction. Jason goes after her. Lauren is staring after them
menacingly.

MYA

Mary!

DEVIN

Leave her be Mya. This is between
Jason and Mary Elizabeth.

Jason catches up to Mary outside an empty loge and grabs her
elbow directing her inside.

MARY ELIZABETH

What do you think you are doing?

JASON

What I should have done weeks ago--finding out why you refused to see me after I sent Kyle in with Evan to see you at the hospital. I don't get it Mary Elizabeth. It's been eating me alive.

MARY ELIZABETH

Really? That's not the picture Lauren just painted! How could you Jason? How could you sleep with her? I don't owe you any sort of explanation at all. Don't you have a game to play? Better get to it, besides your girlfriend is waiting; I'm sure she can't like it that you are talking to me.

JASON

What are you talking about? I never slept with Lauren.

MARY ELIZABETH

I heard her! She was telling Anita you called her and asked her to your apartment. You slept with her there!

JASON

No, that's not true. I did call her because I was so distraught over losing you because of something that I thought was the right thing to do. All I could think of was to do the one thing that would hurt you back. But I couldn't go through with it. I kept thinking of you and I knew it was wrong. I sent her home.

MARY ELIZABETH

I'm sorry Jason. I can't believe you.

Mary Elizabeth turns to leave. Jason stops her.

JASON

No, I won't let you walk away. Not again. Come with me.

Jason guides her by the elbow again out of the loge and back down to the seats where Lauren, Mya, and Anita are still sitting. Lauren looks startled to see them both. Jason looks directly at Lauren.

JASON

Tell the truth about what happened the night I called you. The truth Lauren. Or I tell your husband about the men you've been running around with since you've been married.

LAUREN

Jason, please don't do this.

JASON

The truth.

Lauren looks pleadingly into his eyes.

JASON

I won't give you a third chance.

Lauren's lips tighten to a thin line as she barely spits out the truth.

LAUREN

Fine. Jason invited me back to his bedroom but he stopped and told me he couldn't sleep with me. He called a cab for me and sent me home.

ANITA

Lauren! Even I am shocked that you would tell such a story in front of Mary Elizabeth. That's disgraceful.

MYA

Hmph! I'm not surprised.

Jason turns to Mary Elizabeth.

JASON

Now do you believe me?

MARY ELIZABETH

I don't know. I need time to digest this.

JASON

Well, you can't do it down here. Come on. Mya, you coming?

Jason leads them back to the empty loge.

JASON

This loge belongs to Lori and Brad. No one has booked it for today's game. You two use it. I'll be back

after the game. Please don't leave.
I need to see you after the game
Mary.

MYA
I'll make sure she stays Jay. Don't
worry.

MARY ELIZABETH
Do I not get a say in this?

MYA
Today? No. You two need to be in the
same place and talk this through. No
choice.

Mary Elizabeth sighs and sits down.

JASON
Thank you. I'll see you after the
game.

Jason turns to leave the loge but pauses at the doorway to
take a last look at Mary Elizabeth. She is facing the field.
He smiles then leaves.

Mary Elizabeth turns to Mya.

MARY ELIZABETH
My head is spinning. What just
happened?

MYA
I believe Jason just proved Lauren a
liar in an effort to show you he
loves you and regrets not coming to
see you in the hospital.

MARY ELIZABETH
Really? I want to believe that but
he never actually said he regrets it
or that he loves me. All he said
was that he knew it was wrong to
sleep with Lauren. He could have
meant that because SHE is married.

MYA
Oh Mary, when are you ever going to
trust your feelings?

MARY ELIZABETH
When I'm sure they won't lead me to
a broken heart.

It's after the game and Jason returns showered and changed into street clothes. He enters and sees only Mya sitting in the chairs.

JASON

No! I can't believe it. How could you let her leave?

MYA

Jason...

JASON

Are you kidding me? How the hell am I going to get her back now?

MYA

Jason!

JASON

What?!

MYA

Turn around.

Mary Elizabeth is standing right behind Jason having come from the restroom. Jason rushes to her and pulls her into his embrace.

JASON

You can yell at me in a minute. Right now I need to hold you. This is the first time I've had the chance to hold you since the accident. I know I screwed up in the hospital. I was so scared of losing you; I could hardly think straight. When Kyle looked disappointed at the thought of me going with Evan first, I spoke without thinking and suggested he take my place. I'm so sorry. I didn't stop to think how you would feel about that.

MARY ELIZABETH

Are you saying you were on your way to come see me first?

JASON

Of course I was! How could you think I wasn't? You have no idea the hell I had been going through waiting for news about you. I couldn't bear the thought of losing the woman I loved for the second time. I could not

have survived it this time around.

MARY ELIZABETH

Oh Jason, I should have known. I should have realized what it was like for you waiting. I'm sorry too. I shouldn't have reacted so harshly. What you did was generous and unselfish letting Kyle come with his son. He appreciated it so much. Thank you.

JASON

Don't thank me. I've been a stubborn ass. I should have come to see you whether you wanted me to anyway.

MARY ELIZABETH

Well, that I would agree with.

Mary Elizabeth smiles at her last statement. Jason notices the change in her tone. He lightens his tone in response.

JASON

Oh really? Well my phone wasn't exactly ringing off the hook either, now was it?

MARY ELIZABETH

Hey, I was recuperating. I needed round the clock care.

JASON

I'd be happy to offer you that TLC round the clock now, that is if you'll accept.

MARY ELIZABETH

What are you saying?

JASON

I'm saying Mary that in my lifetime I've gone through a devastating loss and now a close call that was way too close with the woman I love. I don't have to be hit over the head to realize that you can't take tomorrow for granted. I'm not going to throw a bunch of cliches at you. Instead, I am going to tell you that I love you and you make me happier together than apart. I love Evan and want more than anything to be a part

of his life in more than a supplemental way. I want to make a family with the two of you and maybe make even more. Do you understand what I am saying Mary Elizabeth? Will you marry me Mary Elizabeth?

Mary Elizabeth takes a step back and looks over at Mya who is still sitting in the chairs now with tears running down her face. Mary Elizabeth looks stunned. Mya nods her head.

MARY ELIZABETH

Jason.

JASON

If you need to think about it, it's okay. I know you have alot to take into consideration.

Mary turns to get her things. Jason turns to Mya smiling a small smile. He looks somewhat dejected. Mary Elizabeth stops and turns back to Jason.

MARY ELIZABETH

No. I'm not going to let the best thing in my life get away because I have to think things over. That's what I've done my whole life and then life passes me by. I love you Jason and Evan loves you too. I want to make a family with you too. I don't need to think about this.

Mary Elizabeth throws her arms around Jason.

MARY ELIZABETH

Jason Quinn I would be honored to become your wife.

Jason is too overcome with emotion to respond and kisses Mary Elizabeth instead. Mya is now openly crying in her chair.

MYA

I just knew you two were going work out!

INT MARY ELIZABETH'S KITCHEN

It is morning and Jason is standing in the kitchen making coffee. He is wearing only his boxers. Mary Elizabeth enters in t-shirt and shorts clearly having just woken up.

JASON
Morning beautiful.

MARY ELIZABETH
Well, this seems familiar.

JASON
Yes, but isn't this our happy ending?

MARY ELIZABETH
Last night was amazing, but we have much to do. We need to tell Evan. And there's Kyle.

JASON
I know. That will be a difficult conversation for sure. But he is getting married himself don't forget. Maybe that will put him in an understanding frame of mind?

MARY ELIZABETH
I don't know. Kyle can be very unpredictable. We'll cross that bridge when we get to it I guess. First we need to tell Evan we're getting married. Do you think he'll be happy?

EVAN
Are you kidding? That is totally awesome!

Evan comes running into the kitchen and slams into Jason's chest nearly emptying his coffee cup all over Jason's chest and Evan's head.

JASON
Can we assume that is a happy response?

EVAN
I've been waiting for this day since the first time I found you in our kitchen.

Jason looks up and smiles at Mary Elizabeth.

EVAN
But I have to be honest. After mom's accident, I didn't think it was ever going to happen. I dreamed about you becoming my dad. When do you think I

can start calling you dad instead of Jason?

Mary Elizabeth opens her mouth to answer but Jason cuts her off. With emotion he answers Evan.

JASON

Evan, there is nothing I want more than for you to call me dad. (pauses) Why don't we let that happen naturally? When you're ready, I'm ready.

EVAN

Okay. I can do that.

MARY ELIZABETH

You're a good boy Evan. Now what about this wedding? What do you two think? I really don't want a big church wedding. I'd rather have something small--and soon.

JASON

Actually, I did have something in mind.

MARY ELIZABETH

You did? What is it? Tell me!

Jason smiles and the three of them huddle around each other.

INT KYLE'S LANAI

Mary Elizabeth sits in a lounge chair tapping her foot nervously as Maura, serves iced tea to the three of them. Mary Elizabeth picks up on the tension between Maura and Kyle.

MARY ELIZABETH

Thank you Maura. This is great. I must say, I love your name. It clearly suits your Irish heritage.

MAURA

Thanks. My mom had this thing with our names. My sisters and I all had to have Irish names, but she wanted them to be a different without being wacky either. One is named Enna, which is the Irish form of Helen, and my other sister is Aislinn. We

used to give my mom a hard time for not giving us names that had natural nicknames.

MARY ELIZABETH

Well, nicknames aren't all they're cracked up to be. Believe me. With my name, I've had people call me nicknames I've never thought of, let alone use. At least your name is what it is.

MAURA

Well, I suppose that is one benefit.

They lapse into an awkward silence.

MAURA

So, congratulations on your engagement. Have you talked about dates yet?

MARY ELIZABETH

Actually yes. We will be getting married in three weeks.

MAURA

Wow. That's fast. I guess you're not planning a big wedding then.

KYLE

No, M.E.'s never been a big wedding kind of person. Remember the wedding we planned?

Maura shoots Kyle a look. Mary Elizabeth looks confused. Kyle exhales loudly. He looks at Maura who is now looking at him with concern.

KYLE

I think it would be better if I excused myself from this conversation.

MARY ELIZABETH

No don't. I'll be going now. I just wanted you to hear the news from me and not third hand either from Evan or worse, the media.

KYLE

Thanks, I appreciate it.

MAURA
I'll walk you out.

Maura and Mary Elizabeth arrive at the front door.

MARY ELIZABETH
Is he okay?

MAURA
He's fine. I think pre-wedding
jitters are getting to him. You'll
see. You've got your own to deal
with now.

Mary Elizabeth smiles and heads out the door. Maura exhales loudly and closes the door, leaning against it as she does. She heads back into the home and finds Kyle on the lanai standing at the back staring out the back.

MAURA
Kyle?

KYLE
I'm here.

MAURA
Are you?

KYLE
Say what you mean Maura. Don't hint
around the bush. You want to know if
I'm still in love with Mary
Elizabeth don't you?

MAURA
I don't want to, but I need to know.
Are you?

Kyle turns around to face Maura.

KYLE
I don't know.

MAURA
I see. Maybe we should postpone our
wedding until you figure this out.
Or maybe cancel it altogether if you
can get this confused, your love for
me must be pretty weak.

Maura runs from the lanai crying.

KYLE
Maura!

Kyle calls after Maura but he does not go after her.

MARY ELIZABETH'S LANAI VIEWPOINT FROM THE OUTSIDE

Kyle is standing outside Mary Elizabeth's lanai where Jason, Evan, and Mary Elizabeth are relaxing and having a good time together. It is evident that Jason and Mary Elizabeth love each other very much as they hug and kiss often as well as Jason shows much affection for Evan. Kyle is observed unnoticed for several minutes and it is clear that he is affected by what he sees and accepts the situation. He turns to leave when Jason sees him

JASON

Kyle! Hey there, what're you doing out there? Come on in!

KYLE

I tried knocking on the front door and heard the commotion back here, so I just came straight to the lanai door. It looked like you guys were in the middle of something, so I decided not to interrupt.

MARY ELIZABETH

Don't be silly! Would you like to stay for dinner? It's family dinner night. We don't get many of those, but Jason played an early game today.

KYLE

No thanks Mary Elizabeth. I just came to ask Evan if he would be my best man in my wedding?

EVAN

Really? Seriously? That would be awesome Dad! Thanks!

KYLE

I take it that's a yes?

EVAN

Yeah, sure!

KYLE

Okay. And Jason, I know this may seem unorthodox, but you and I are both fathers now to a very special guy here and I was hoping you would agree to be a groomsman and stand up with your son.

JASON

I'd be honored.

Kyle and Jason shake hands. Kyle turns to leave but Mary Elizabeth stops him. She gives him a hug. He smiles and leaves.

SEA DEVILS MAJOR LEAGUE BALL PARK

A small crowd is gathered around home plate. They part to reveal Mary Elizabeth and Jason standing over it, holding hands, a Reverend between them guiding them through a marriage ceremony.

REVEREND

Jason Quinn, do you take Mary Elizabeth to be your lawfully wedded wife?

JASON

I do.

REVEREND

Mary Elizabeth Jackson, do you take Jason to be your lawfully wedded husband?

MARY ELIZABETH

I do.

REVEREND

Then by the power vested in me, I now pronounce you husband and wife. (Jason starts kissing Mary Elizabeth) You may now kiss your bride. I see you already knew that.

The crowd is crying and laughing as Jason and Mary Elizabeth embrace. They turn to face the crowd. As they do, the baseball players line up facing each other and raise their bats making a tunnel for the bride and groom to walk through.

REVEREND

I now present to you Mr. and Mrs. Jason and Mary Elizabeth Quinn.

The crowd applauds and Jason and Mary Elizabeth run through the tunnel made of bats.

Mary Elizabeth and Jason are hugging and kissing the guests, accepting congratulations after the ceremony. Kyle and Maura enter the scene.

KYLE

I'm really glad you decided to come today.

MAURA

Why wouldn't I come? Mary Elizabeth invited me. Besides, I was dying to know what the secret wedding was all about. This was great and very appropriate.

KYLE

Well, *I'm* very glad you came today.

MAURA

You already said that. What's going on Kyle. You haven't called since that day Mary Elizabeth visited the house. What kind of game are you playing?

KYLE

I'm not playing games Maura. Planning a wedding takes a lot of time.

Kyle hands her a printed invitation to their own wedding and bends down on one knee.

KYLE

Maura, what I thought I wanted with Mary Elizabeth I already have with you and so much more. It took almost losing it to see that and I won't ever risk losing you or your love again. Will you marry me, again?

MAURA

(through tears) Yes! Yes, I will marry you, again!

Maura brings Kyle to his feet as they embrace unaware of the audience around them as the crowd breaks into applause and cheers.

SEA DEVILS MAJOR LEAGUE BALL PARK

Jason and Mary Elizabeth are dancing together on the infield. It is evening now and the stadium lights are on.

JASON

Happy Mrs. Quinn?

MARY ELIZABETH

I do love the sound of that. I am exceedingly happy. And you Mr. Quinn?

JASON

I've always been Mr. Quinn.

Mary Elizabeth punches Jason in the arm.

MARY ELIZABETH

That's not what I meant and you know it.

JASON

(laughing) I know, I know.
Yes, Mrs. Quinn. I am happy. But you know what would make me even happier?

Mary Elizabeth looks perplexed.

JASON

Getting started on adding to the Quinn family lineup.

Mary Elizabeth smiles up at Jason. They kiss.

FADE OUT

