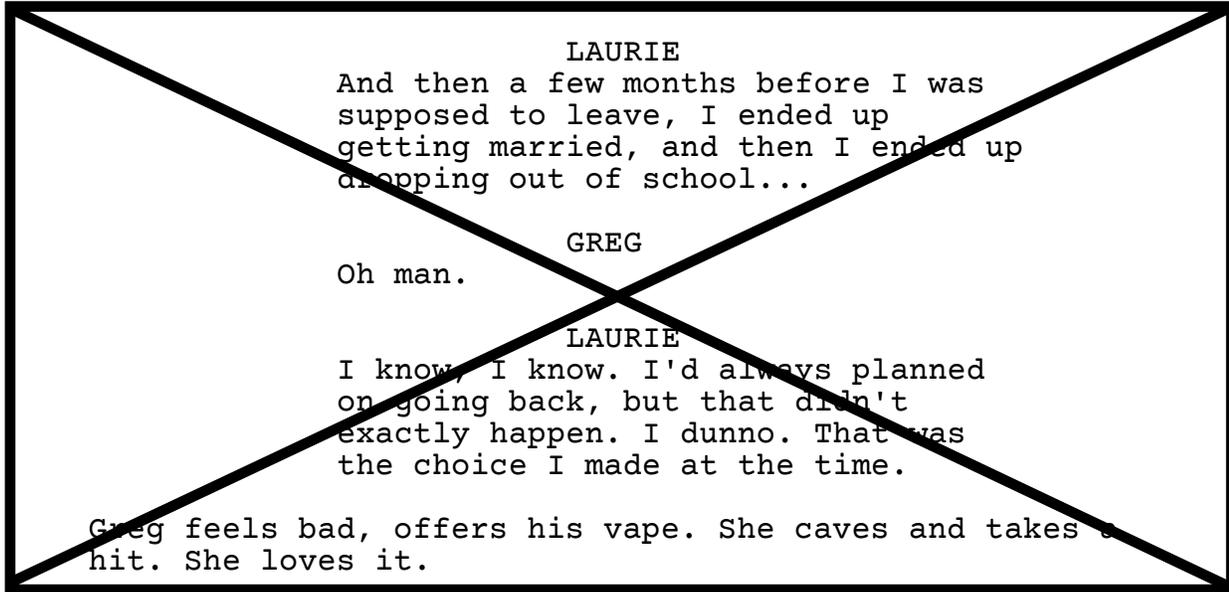


# Breaking Them Up

## Robin

69.



### Start

INT. ROSTAND MIDDLE SCHOOL - AUDITORIUM - DAY

Phil and Robin put milk and sugar in their coffees.

PHIL

So what made you want to become a teacher?

ROBIN

I wouldn't say there are many people out there who aspire to teach middle school theater, not that I don't enjoy it. I was a drama major, after college I moved to L.A. to make it big, gave it a couple years, now I'm back.

PHIL

A couple years? That's it?

ROBIN

I'm almost 30. That's ancient for an actress. We age like in dog years. And not like Pomeranians. No. Like...Great Danes. It's brutal.

PHIL

What about Meryl Streep? She's over 30.

ROBIN

True. Meryl Streep is over 30. You got me on that. Also: Maggie Smith.

PHIL

Yeah. Cicely Tyson. Rita Moreno.  
Dame Judi Dench. Sissy Spacek.

ROBIN

Whoa, Sissy Spacek?

PHIL

What's wrong with Sissy Spacek?

ROBIN

Uh, the opposite of everything? No.  
She's amazing. "Badlands" is hands  
down my favorite movie ever.

Phil smiles - he's found a fellow Terrence Malick fan.

ROBIN (cont'd)

So what about you? Did you train as  
a musician?

PHIL

Years ago. And I was in some bands  
in my 20s.

ROBIN

Any salsa bands?

(off his look)

It's a compliment. You surprised me.

PHIL

My wife and I took a class years  
ago. I guess some of it stuck. But  
as far as my early bands, the music  
would best be categorized as...bad.

ROBIN

Don't say that.

PHIL

It's ok, it was fun. I had one of  
those early mini DV cameras - like  
back when they first came out - and  
I took it pretty much everywhere  
cause I was a jerk, and we'd make  
these impromptu music videos. They  
were so bad.

(she smiles)

Radiohead we were not, and so then  
I started focusing on writing  
songs, but it hasn't really went  
anywhere. To be honest it's been a  
while since I've finished anything.

ROBIN  
Play me one of them.

PHIL  
Ha. No.

ROBIN  
Oh, c'mon.

PHIL  
It's not gonna happen.

ROBIN  
Alright. Well don't give up. Keep  
at it. It'll happen.  
(off Phil's look)  
What?

PHIL  
I guess I'm not exactly used to  
hearing encouragement. My wife - I  
think she's really ready for me to  
move on from this music stuff, as  
she'd say. To be fair, she's been  
very patient with me over the  
years. And I think now she just  
wants me to face up to reality.

ROBIN  
God. Don't say that. You're really  
talented. I mean, you tuned a piano  
by ear. That's remarkable. And  
people are living longer than ever  
these days, so you've got time.

PHIL  
(smiles)  
Well you don't give up either,  
then. You really are still a puppy.

ROBIN  
Are you hungry? I can expense  
something. We can get some food in  
us and finish up after.

PHIL  
Actually, I think I was supposed to  
pick up dinner tonight.

ROBIN  
Of course. Sorry. You've done more  
than enough. I can finish the rest  
during my off periods this week.

End

**Start**

INT. COUNTRY CLUB - RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Two glasses of wine are poured. Phil holds a small gift in his hand that she's given him.

PHIL

I feel bad, I didn't get you anything.

ROBIN

It's fine. I just wanted to thank you for all your help. Are you gonna open it?

PHIL

(he does)

It's a pen.

ROBIN

Yeah. You know, for when you start writing songs again. See, it even has a little musical note on it.

He turns it over and sees it. He's tight lipped, almost touched by the gesture.

ROBIN (cont'd)

Oh god. You hate it. I'm sorry, it was stupid.

PHIL

No. It's not stupid at all. It's actually really great. It's really sweet of you. I mean it. Actually...

ROBIN

What?...Have you been writing?

(he nods)

That's great!

PHIL

Well, I dunno. I finished up something, but I don't know what to make of it. It's probably terrible.

ROBIN

I wanna hear it.

PHIL

No.

ROBIN

You owe me for the pen.

(MORE)

ROBIN (cont'd)  
 (he laughs)  
 C'mon, you can't tease me like that.  
 Excuse me, would it be ok if my  
 very talented friend here played a  
 song on your piano?

End

The bartender signals go ahead.

EXT. COUNTRY CLUB - RESTAURANT - CONTINUOUS

From an outside window, we see them step over to the piano just as it starts to rain.

INT. GREG'S CONDO - NIGHT

Everyone's gone now. Greg finishes putting the furniture back in place and glances out the window, seeing the rain come down when Laurie returns with the dog.

GREG  
 There you are.

LAURIE  
 Yeah, he sort of got away from me.

GREG  
 He does that from time to time.

LAURIE  
 Where is everyone?

GREG  
 Things were getting a little tight here so they went to Einstein's. It's a few blocks away. I told them we'd catch up but...

He gestures at the rain outside.

LAURIE  
 Hm. Maybe I should go home. It's getting late.

GREG  
 C'mon. You can't go in that (rain). Stay. Let's have a drink.

LAURIE  
 ...Ok. Where's the restroom?