

TWO THOUSAND MILES: A NEW MUSICAL

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THE TODAY SHOW

[it's the morning of the show's opening. the cast is doing a press interview while Davis is in the hospital]

Interviewer: Everyone please help me give a warm welcome to the cast and creatives of Two Thousand Miles.

[they enter]

Interviewer: Thank you all for being here this morning.

Christina: Thank you for having us.

Interviewer: Why don't you all go down the line and tell us a little bit about yourselves...

Julian: Hi, I'm Julian. I'm 19 years old. Born and raised in California.. Um, this show fell into my lap at the perfect time. I was dealing with some issues I'm not proud of. But that's a story for another day. I want to take this moment to give a shout out to my brother and the writer of our show Davis who's currently in the hospital. We love you.

Christina: I'm Christina. Julian's wife and assistant director of the musical. I'm from in California but my parents immigrated to the United States from Mexico. I'm also 19 years old. I was working in Coca-Cola's publicity department and studying musical theatre at NYU when I got the job offer.

Jessica: I'm Jessica. I'm 24 years old. I was born in Guatemala and moved to California when I was 3 years old. I went to college for business and landed a job at a private bank right after graduation. I've always had a passion for theatre and would do auditions on the side. I quit my bank job when I booked a lead in an upcoming Broadway show but that ended up not working out. A few weeks later I auditioned for Two Thousand Miles and now I'm here with you.

Ava: Hi, I'm Ava. I'm 24 years old. I was born and raised in California but my dad immigrated from Cuba. I moved to New York City the day after I graduated high school to begin auditioning. I became broke and had to move back in with my parents. Six months after returning to California I booked a lead on the musical television show Shine and was part of the cast for two seasons. And well, the rest is history.

Interviewer: Ava, our viewers are dying to know...why did you leave Shine?

[ava gets nervous and doesn't respond. they all freeze and then Davis comes out]

This scene was kind of
ridic. We didn't have an
opening number and
needed some
way to
intro the
characters.

We let the first
cast write
their own
backstory.
I forgot
about this.

This Part Sounded So good in my head but was so corny in person ↓

Davis: Hello, I'm Davis Montgomery and those are my friends from high school. We all went our separate ways after graduation but a twist of fate...and a musical that I wrote... brought us back together. I'm currently living with my boyfriend Nate and teaching guitar lessons on my free time. I entered a playwriting festival on a whim and the outcome was more than I could ever imagine. But before I go any further let me take you back to the very beginning...

[lighting change. everyone exits besides Davis. he goes to sit on the couch. now we're back at the beginning of the story. davis is reading a book when he gets an email from one of the producers who were interested in bringing his show off-broadway]

SCENE 2: NATE AND DAVIS' APARTMENT IN NYC

Davis: Nate!

Nate: What?!

Davis: Nate, come here. Quick!

Nate: I'm coming! Relax!

Davis: Look at this email!

Nate: Oh my god!

Davis: I can't believe my show finally got picked up!

Nate: So, what's the first step? What do we need to do?

Davis: First I need you to put some pants on.

Nate: I can do that [davis can't help but laugh]

Davis: Ok. Second, I have to tell my parents I'm not going back to school but I don't think I'm ready.

Nate:[sincerely] Will you ever be?

Davis: Absolutely.

Nate: This game face isn't working for you. You're so nervous.

Davis: They're already flying in this weekend to check on me. Ever since they found out about my lupus they've been over protective.

Nate: They worry about you.

You could tell I was new to scriptwriting and seemed to be against stage directions.
It's so funny how this part of the scene has made it to every single draft in the last decade. With little tweaking!

[a beat]

But you're really sure this is the best time to tell them EVERYTHING?

Davis: Well, I was thinking I can just throw all of this information at them at once and then make a run for it.

Nate: *[playfully]* You're an idiot.

Davis: But seriously, I'm ready to tell them about us. If they don't like it then that's their problem. Besides I don't plan on getting rid of you.

Nate: How sweet.

Davis: Ok, now who's being the idiot?

Nate: *[laughs]* Everything will be fine.

Davis: I love you.

Nate: I know.

[a beat]

Have you talked to Julian?

Davis: No. Why?

Nate: Because he's your brother...

Davis: Considering the last time I saw him he stole money from me I don't plan on a reconciliation anytime soon.

DRAMA'!!

Nate: I'm sorry I brought it up, but I really want you guys to fix your relationship.

Davis: I know, Its ok.

Nate:*[notices the time]* Damn, I have to go...I told Jessica I'd walk to rehearsal with her. *[gets up and kisses Davis]*. Do you have lessons today?

Davis: At 2

Nate: Alright, have a rockin' day!

Not me adding a subtle nod to Kevin James who used to always say rockin LMAO!

Davis: Are you kidding? *[laughs]* You too. Tell Jessica I said hi.

Nate: I will. Byeeeeeee!

[lights out]

SCENE 2: AVA'S APARTMENT IN LA

[ava hasn't left her apartment since her knee gave during filming yesterday. she's beating herself up because she wasn't able to finish the big number that she's been constantly rehearsing. she has a doctors appointment later today and they're going to decide if she's cleared to dance or not. she walks over to her desk and picks up her contract. they want her to sign on for the next season. as she's looking it over the TMZ headline comes on TV]

TMZ Headline On TV: Breaking News: This just in Ava Lopez abruptly left the set of Shine during filming yesterday and hasn't returned. Stay tuned for more information.

Ava [to herself]: I knew this was going to happen.

[picks up phone and calls her agent, publicist, who does she call?]

Ava: Ava Lopez abruptly left the set of Shine during filming yesterday and hasn't returned.

Kate: They reached out and asked for a statement.

Ava: I think it's time to everyone what's really going on.

Kate: You can't.

Ava: Why?

Kate: **The producers [who made that decision? Was it producers or was it someone else on the creative team?]** think announcing you have arthritis will hurt the show. And your career.

Ava: Why?

Kate: You know what the media is like, Ava.

Ava: I don't want to hide who I am anymore.

Kate: I understand that. But your career comes first.

Ava: What are they going to do then?

Kate: Say you got into an argument with one of your co-stars and stormed off set.

Stage directions making a cameo!

Ghostbusters?

Was I talking to myself?

This is a big part of Ava that has been consistent throughout each version

Ava: [*sarcastically*] Oh, they're going to make me look like a Diva.

Kate: At least it will make people talk about you.

Ava: I guess so.

Kate: Have you looked over your contract for next season?

Ava: I was when the headline came across the TV.

Kate: Did you sign it?

Ava: I was going to but now I'm not sure.

Kate: Don't make any rash decisions.

Ava: I have to get ready for my doctor's appointment.

Kate: Av-

Ava: [*cuts off kate*] Bye, Kate.

SONG 1 - OH, AVA (3:30)

So, this is it
The girl of poise and courage
Has now
Come to this
Is it even worth it?
When every endpoint's so unclear
Do I choose myself or my career?
Is this not, everything, that I wanted?

Take a breath
Take a moment to reflect
This is your life, this is your passion
Why throw it all away?
Just look at how far you've come
Imagine all you could've done
This is not the time or place
To be making a mistake

Oh Ava
You're risking everything
Oh Ava
What do you stand to gain?
You either go and play the part

*This was the first song
we wrote for the show.
Still going strong*

Or you stay here in the dark
Oh Ava
Oh Ava

I'll make a case
Show them all I can't be easily replaced
Be someone they can't ignore
The people want me so they'll have me
And everything I am
Yes, honesty is never easy
But it's harder to pretend

Just take a breath
Take a moment to reflect
On who you are, what you want and
Make sure they don't conflict
Cause if you choose to live a lie
It's only you who hurts inside
Kiss the girl you knew goodbye
She's finally through with killing time

Oh Ava
You're risking everything
Oh Ava
What do you stand to gain?
You either go and play the part
Or you stay here in the dark
Oh Ava
Oh Ava

Should I step out?
Or hide behind a pretty face in this
Pretty crowd
Fully knowing what's at stake
I'll just choose what I fear less
And hopefully avoid the mess
Cause if the people understand
It's all worth it in the end

Oh Ava
You're risking everything
Oh Ava
What do you stand to gain?
You either go and play the part
Or you stay here in the dark
Oh Ava
Oh Ava

[lights out]

SCENE 3: JESSICA'S APARTMENT IN NYC

[jessica was getting ready for rehearsal but her phone rang. it was her agent telling her that the production only hired her to be a fill-in until demi lovato's tour ended because the previously hired understudy had to pull out. they were thinking about keeping Jessica on as an understudy but they changed their mind. jessica is the type of person who masks her pain with comedy. when she gives nate the news she delivers it in a funny way trying not to let the situation bother her]

Jessica: [on the phone] I understand. Thanks for letting me know. Bye.

[starts to cry. She's showing weakness because no one's around]

[knock at the door]

Jessica: Be right there!

[wipes the tears. tries to collect herself. she doesn't want nate to know anything's wrong. goes to open the door]

Nate: How's my Latina Beyoncé doing today?

Jessica: [laughs and does a beyonce dance move] I just got off the phone with my agent.

Nate: What happened?

Jessica: [she makes it like she's telling him huge GOOD news] Are you ready?

Nate: Yes...

Jessica: Are you sure you're ready?

Nate: THE SUSPENSE IS KILLING ME

Jessica: ok, ok... drum roll please

Jessica: [over nates drum roll with enthusiasm] I'm being replaced.

Nate: Get out! By who?

Jessica: Demi Lovato.

Nate: GURL.

Jessica: I know, right?! I fucking love Demi Lovato.

If anyone was
Wondering... no I wasn't
stoned when I wrote
this. lol7 me
did not
take editables.

which means I
don't have an excuse
for what this
scene is so untimed

This part did
always get a laugh.

Nate: SAME.

[they both laugh]

Jessica: I guess I'll go to the bank tomorrow and see if they'll give me my job back.

Nate: I'm sorry.

Jessica: Its ok. I'm just embarrassed. They'll all ask what I'm doing back after I left to do a Broadway show.

Nate: Did your agent say anything else?

Jessica: Apparently they only hired me to fill in until her tour ended.

Nate: That's ridiculous.

Jessica: Maybe I'm only meant to be "Jessica the banker" after all.

SONG 2 - JESSICA THE BANKER (2:15)

It's close enough to see
But always out of reach
I can almost taste it

What a joy it must be
To be anyone but me
No one's first decision

Less than, not quite
Temporary
Too much, not enough
We need more
Tall and thin with glitz and glamour
But I'm just Jessica, the banker

But honestly, who really wants to be a star anyways?
It looks like a lot of work
Play it safe and be a number
That way you'll always know just what you're worth

I mean dreams are fun and all
But they're not practical
Who wants to live just barely scraping by?
When you can sit behind a desk
Wondering' where you could've been if you had tried

I have a love/
hate relationship with
this song.

Less than, not quite
Temporary
Too much, not enough
We need more
Tall and thin with glitz and glamour
And I'm just Jessica, the banker

[blackout]

SCENE 4: NATE AND DAVIS' APARTMENT/JULIAN AND CHRISTINA'S APARTMENT

[the next day. davis and christina are at his apartment and julian and nate are at his apartment. davis and julian are having the same feelings about each other]

Christina: [to davis] I think it's time for you two to talk.

Nate:[to julian] This has gone on long enough.

Julian: [to nate] I screwed up.

Davis:[to christina] He knows he screwed up. Maybe I'm being too hard on him.

Julian: I remember when the Montgomery's first adopted me. It was a rainy day in October.

Davis: I remember when my parent's first brought him home. He was 5 years old. So little and so afraid.

Julian: I was so afraid. But then I saw Davis sitting on the couch. I walked over and sat right next to him. And I rested my head on his shoulder. His presence made me feel safe.

Davis: I used to make him feel safe.

SONG 3 - I'm Still Here (3:33)

This new perspective
A sudden change brought in the night
And I can't fight the urge to pray

All your mistakes, oh
They start to fade away
And I'm left here with the words I've longed to say

Do you remember when? *(almost spoken)*

You were 5
Sometime in late October

The worst song
in the history of
JKN! Yet it seems to
have gives like a cut.

Mom would drive
And you slept on my shoulder
It's funny how the time goes by
And though so much changed through the years
I'm still here

I don't blame you
I had my share of chances
And with everyone you gave I let you down

I felt the pressure
Of meeting all your expectations
But you were always there to pick me off the ground

Just like when (*almost spoken*)

I was 5
Sometime in late October
Mom would drive
And I slept on your shoulder
It's funny how the time goes by
And though so much changed through the years
I'm still here

What do you say?
When the words are falling empty
Guess I'll start with saying sorry for the pain
Then I'd tell you that I love you
And that I'll always be here for you
Just like the way I was back on that day

Just like when
You were 5, I was 5
Sometime in late October
Mom would drive
And you (I) slept on my (your) shoulder
It's funny how the time goes by
And though so much changed through the years
I'm still here

[*after song ends julian's phone rings. its dougie looking for his druggies. nate knows*]

Julian: Ugh, it's Dougie looking for his druggies. I have to go.

Nate: [laughs] I'm sure you do.

Julian: Can we not do this right now? Christina gives me enough shit.

Nate: Ok, ok.

Julian: Can you stay with the baby until she gets back.

Nate: Of course.

Julian: Thanks, man.

[lights out]

[lights up]

[julian is on his phone writing a text to davis. after having lunch with nate he decided he's going to be the one to try to make amends. he thinks their feud has gone on long enough. before he finishes the text dougie shows up]

Julian: [texting davis while saying the words out loud] Hey. Listen. I'm sorry. I know I...

[doug comes up behind him and stabs him in the back. julian falls to the ground. doug steals drugs and money from julian's pockets and then runs off]

[lights out]

Scene 5: Nate and Davis' Apartment

[davis is sitting on the couch working on his musical. maybe he's writing a new song. then his phone rings]

Davis: Hello

Ava: Guess where I'm going?

Davis: You could be going literally anywhere.

Ava: I'm coming to New York!

Davis: You are not!

[phone beeps. davis checks it but continues talking to ava]

Ava: I am! My flight leaves Monday morning.

Davis: When can I see you?

Ava: I have a meeting Monday night, but I'm free after that.

What was I watching during
this time? Empire? Bleeding
Bad?

What was I watching
about a musician doing
a drug deal when
I was prob watching
Disney channel.

Davis: Great! Wait, a meeting for what?

Ava: I'm thinking about-

Davis: *[cuts her off]* Christina keeps calling me. I have to go. See you soon!

[conversation shifts to christina]

Christina: Davis...

Davis: Yes?

Christina: Can you come to the hospital...Julian got stabbed.

Davis: What? What hospital?

Christina: NY Pres.

Davis: I'll be there as soon as I can.

[hangs up]

[lights out]

SCENE 6: JESSICA'S APARTMENT

[nate is at jessica's apartment. he showed up unannounced because he hasn't heard from her in days. jessica's apartment is far from clean and you can tell she hasn't left the house]

Nate: Oh my god...it's a mess in here.

Jessica: I'll get around to it.

Nate: When's the last time you left the house?

Jessica: I don't remember

Nate: Let me help you clean up a bit, and then we'll go grab some food.

Jessica: I don't want to go out.

Nate: Did something happen at work?

Jessica: I never got my job back.

Nate: I thought you went to talk to your boss last week.

Jessica: I did go. But everyone started asking me questions and I didn't know how to respond so I just left. I got overwhelmed and walked out before I was able to see him.

Nate: I'm sorry.

Jessica: It's ok.

[a beat]

Nate: Did you stop taking your meds?

Jessica: What makes you ask that?

Nate: This is what happens every time you're off them. You don't leave the house, you're apartment becomes a mess, and no one hears from you for days.

[jessica puts her head down and doesn't respond]

Nate: Jess, this can't be the reason you give up. I know it sucks, but it's not the end even if you feel like it is.

Jessica: It's not just about getting replaced by Demi. It's about my parents too. All they wanted was for me to be a performer. I feel like I'm not good enough. I feel like I failed them.

Nate: You didn't. You booked a lead role from an open call where there were hundreds of other girls they could have picked. Even with your iPhone headshot you printed at CVS two seconds before you walked into the room. Stop focusing on being replaced and start focusing on that.

Jessica:[takes a moment to process] Yeah, you're right. I get so blinded by all of the negative that I can't see the positive. It may take a while but I'm going to be ok.

Nate: I know.

[nate checks his phone. it's been vibrating the whole time he's been with jessica but he didn't want to pick it up]

Nate: 15 missed calls from Davis. That's weird.

Jessica: I hope everything's ok.

Nate: Me too. I'm gonna go see what he needs. [kisses Jessica on the head]

RANDOM!
was trying to add
the DRAMA

Based on my
girl linedy
who is
still killing
it on
BWAY!

Please take your meds. I need you too.

[starts to walk towards the door. stops and turns around]

You should give Ava a call. I know you two have your fair share of drama but I think you need each other right now.

Jessica: Ava?

Nate: Jess, she didn't know you were up for the role on Shine. How do you think she felt when you cut her off all of a sudden?

Jessica: I don't care.

Nate: You do. You're just pretending you don't. I gotta go.

Jessica: Bye

[nate exits]

SONG 4 - JESSICA THE BANKER (REPRISE) (0:40)

Less than, not quite
Temporary
Too much, not enough
We need more
I'll show them I'm something better
Than just Jessica
The banker

[blackout]

SCENE 7: A NYC HOSPITAL

[davis see's julian's wife in the waiting room]

Christina: Thanks for coming.

Davis:*[brushes off what christina says]* How is he?

Christina: He's out of surgery. They said the blade went in pretty deep, but we won't know anything until he wakes up.

Davis: Did they say when that would be?

Christina: No. It could be tomorrow or it could take days.

*I forgot about
this lil feud.*

Davis: Jesus. Why the fuck is he still dealing? That isn't something you do when you have a wife and kid waiting for you at home.

Christina: Everyday I tell him to put this life behind. He always said he'd stop dealing once he felt like it was putting him in danger [*starts crying*] now he got himself stabbed.

Davis: [*hugs her*] Shh. Its ok. He's going to be ok. You should go home and check on Gina. I'll stay with him until you get back.

Christina: Are you sure?

Davis: Yes, don't worry.

Christina: Thank you, Davis. [*kisses him on the cheek and starts to walk away*] You two need to make up.

Davis: I came for you.

[*she exits*]

[*davis goes into julian's room*]

Davis: [*on the verge of tears*] So, was this your plan to get me to talk to you again? Get yourself stabbed? What were you thinking, Julian? [*fully crying now*]

[*a beat*]

[*singing*]

It's funny how the time goes by
And though so much changed through the years
I'm still here

[*lights out*]

SCENE 8: NATE AND DAVIS' APARTMENT

[*davis' just got home from seeing julian. he's sitting at home waiting for his parents to let him know they arrived. then he gets a FaceTime call from his other and he hears something he wasn't expecting. this really makes him look at his mother in a new way.*]

Davis: Hey, did you guys just land?

Mrs. Montgomery: We're not here, honey. We won't be able to make it.

Was I trying to make
Julian a gangster?
Really, what show was I
watching?

Oh how sweet
... not

Davis: What do you mean?

Mrs. Montgomery: I got asked to speak at the Womans Leadership Conference and I didn't want to turn them down.

Davis: Your son is lying in a hospital bed unconscious this conference is your main priority? Julian needs you here.

Mrs. Montgomery: I didn't say that.

Davis: [brushes her off] I was really looking forward to your visit so we can talk. [a beat] [it's now or never. davis goes for it] I have something to tell you...

Mrs. Montgomery: Yes?

Davis: I'm not going back to school in the fall. My show got picked to play at The Public this season.

Mrs Montgomery: That's not what we agreed on, Davis. The deal was to take off to do your workshop and then come back to California.

Davis: This was before I knew my show could be something.

Mrs: Montgomery: Shows that run at The Public don't always make it to Broadway, Davis. You took off from school for a fantasy.

Davis: [furious] Why can't you be happy for me for once? Does it kill you to be supportive? You always want me to do what you want. I went to school for business like YOU wanted me to. I hated it. Now I'm going to do something that makes me happy. And I don't care if my show doesn't make it to Broadway. At least some people believed in my work and that's enough for me.

Mrs. Montgomery: Honey...

Davis: [even more furious] Strangers believe in me but my own mother doesn't. Do you ever wonder why Julian became a drug dealer and screwed up his life? YOU drove him away when you told Christina to have an abortion. YOU always made him feel less because he wasn't your blood. He's not the problem. Its YOU!

Mrs: Montgomery: Dav- [he hangs up] **BYE!**

SONG 5 - IT'S ALL BECAUSE OF YOU MOTHER (2:45)

There you go again with those sharp and pointed words
The same ones that I've heard many times before
You say it's your way or the highway
Well I better hitch a ride
Cause your dreams are in a different place than mine

Yes, this was based
on a real argument.
Yes, I got into trouble
for the scene. Yes,
It turned into a 3 page
argument in later drafts.

You believe that you know better
And can't keep it to yourself
You let everybody know what's on your mind
But I won't let you control me anymore
No, you don't own me
I'm leaving every trace of you behind
Yeah I've changed my point of view
And it's all because of you, mother

Even as a kid, you criticized all that I did
It was out of love, at least that's what you claim
Now while your own son lies in bed
You sit here tall and condescending
So assured, you are not the one to blame

You believe that you know better
And can't keep it to yourself
You let everybody know what's on your mind
But I won't let you control me anymore
No, you don't own me
I'm leaving every trace of you behind
Yeah I've changed my point of view
And it's all because of you, mother

Lying in this bed
Barely hanging by a thread
Trying to figure out exactly why I'm here
And the more I think it through
Well the more I point to you
And all those times that you brought me to tears
I lost the person that I knew
And it's all because of you, mother

[After the song ends Nate comes in]

Nate: What's going on?

Davis: My parents aren't coming.

Nate: Why?

Davis: It doesn't matter. It's better if they aren't here.

Nate: *[really out of character for him but it's weighing on his mind]* I'm guessing you didn't bring the stuff up to them?

Davis: *[still furious from his mother's phone call]* Really, Nate? This isn't something I'd expect from you.

Nate: I'm sorry...i just-

Davis: I'm going back to the hospital.

[davis exits. lights out]

SCENE 9: JULIAN'S HOSPITAL ROOM

[julian has been in and out of consciousness since the stabbing. this is the first time he's fully alert and able to have a conversation with davis. this is also the first time they've spoken since they got into their fight, so there is a little animosity and awkwardness]

Julian: Well, look who it is.

Davis: You're awake!

Julian: Christina said you were going to pick up mom and dad and would be back later. I wanted to surprise you.

Davis: I'm definitely surprised.

Julian: Hold on. Where's mom and dad?

Davis: *[hesitates. he doesn't want to upset julian]* They're not coming. I'm sorry.

Julian: Figures.

Davis: So...do you remember how this happened?

Julian: I thought I was making a drop but instead I got stabbed.

a drop.

Davis: Julian.

Julian: I know.

Julian: Davis..

Davis: Yeah?

Julian: I'm sorry I stole..

Davis:*[cuts him off]* I know. Not now. You need to start taking life more seriously. You have a family now. It's time for you to make some changes.

Julian: Once I'm out of here I'm going to look for a real job.

Davis: Yeah, maybe I can help you.

Julian: Really? You don't have to..

Davis: I know. Don't worry about it.

Julian: I appreciate it, man. Things are going to be different this time. I'm going to change.

Davis: I hope so. *[a beat]* You should get some rest. I'll come visit you tomorrow.

[they hug]

[lights out]

SCENE 10 : SOME COFFEE SHOP

[davis hasn't had a moment to breathe since Julian got stabbed. he's ready to relax, catch up with ava, and have a nice dinner. they know each other very well and it comes out in this scene. ava is already sitting at the table when davis enters]

Davis: *[sneaks up behind ava]* Hey, Superstar!

Ava: Ah! Hey! It's so good to see you.

Davis: You look great!

Ava: Thank you, thank you.

Davis: *[like get over yourself]* Alright, alright tell me about your meeting.

Ava: It was so good! The lady was so nice. They want to sign me...but I have another meeting tomorrow with another agency that I'm excited about. After that I'm make a decision.

Davis: That's amazing!

Ava: Thanks! Ugh, I'm also really nervous. Signing to a new agency is overwhelming. The same thought always comes up..

Davis: About your arthritis?

Ava: Yeah. I don't what to hide anymore. Look what it did to my reputation.

Davis: You shouldn't have to. [a beat] A wise person once told me the world tends to expect less from us sometimes. That's when we have to show up.

Ava: [hesitant] I know..

Davis: Remember when you first got diagnosed? I think we were 7? [Ava nods] You were in the hospital with that really high fever and no one knew what was causing it. Then at some point your knee swelled up. That's how they finally figured out what was wrong. Do you remember how scared you were?

Ava: [shocked] I can't believe you remember every detail.

Davis: How could I forget? Anyway, I think you should stop worrying about how others will react and talk about it.

Ava: I promised myself that if I ever became "famous" I'd use my platform to help people who are going through the same thing I'm going through. I can't do that if I'm not able to share my story.

Ava: Ok, enough about me.

Davis: For once.

[she laughs]

Ava: I'm sorry your parents couldn't come.

Davis: It's ok.

Ava: [senses he doesn't want to talk about it] How have you been feeling? You have to be careful.

Davis: I have my good and bad days. Sometimes I don't have enough strength to get out of bed. Sometimes I feel like I can run a marathon. Today is one of my good days. I'm managing my stress better. Though that seems impossible to do with everything going on with Julian and my parents. [jokingly] And well...Broadway.

Ava: Broadway?! What?!

Davis: More like Off-Broadway.

Ava: IT STILL HAS BROADWAY IN THE TITLE!

Davis: You should audition. I can't make any promises but at least you can get your feet wet. Plus it wouldn't be bad for me to have 'staring Ava Lopez' on the marquee.

Why?

Still the best
way I could
describe living
with a chronic
illness

Ava: I'm honored! Remind me what it's about again.

Davis: It's about a group of friends that went their separate ways and fate brought them back together.

Ava: I'm definitely interested.

Davis: I'll keep you updated. Hopefully I'll hear something new soon. I hate waiting.

Ava: It's because you're impatient.

Davis: Shut up.

[they laugh]

Ava: I need to head back to the hotel to prepare for tomorrow.

[they hug. start to go separate ways. davis turns around to call after her]

Davis: What are you doing after?

Ava: I was thinking about visiting Julian.

Davis: You should. Jessica will be there too.

Ava: Jessica?

Davis: Get over it...call me!

[lights out]

SCENE 11: JULIAN'S HOSPITAL ROOM

[ava and Davis are visiting Julian in the hospital. davis is hanging with julian before ava enters. they all haven't been in the same place at the same time since they lived in california. they're enjoying eachothers company and catching up]

[a little bit of improv conversation before Ava enters. Probably just an exchange of a sentence]

Julian:[see's ava at the door] Well, well. Look what the cat dragged in. Hollywood's Ava Lopez.

Ava: More like New York City's Ava Lopez.

Some friend she is!

This draft is
39 pages long.
This is Page 88 and
the group of friends
this entire show's about
hasn't even been in the
same room yet!

Davis: You signed the contract?

Ava: It's a non-exclusive one. I still have some things to figure out but at least I won't be tied down to an agency.

Julian: No way!

Davis: That's amazing! Congratulations!

[jumping around. then there's a knock at the door. it's nate and jessica. jessica is holding a ukulele case]

Nate: Is there room for two more at this party?

Davis: *[still a little annoyed with Nate but tries not to show it]* Sure, come in.

Julian: Wow! If I knew getting stabbed was all it'd take to get everyone back together I would have done it a long time ago.

All *[but julian]*: Shut up, Julian!

[jessica hands julian the ukulele]

Jessica: I know you won't have enough strength to hold your guitar for a while so I thought this would do for now.

Julian: You know me so well.

Davis: Jess, it's good to see you. I'm glad you made it.

Ava: *[there's a little bit of hostility in her tone but deep down she's concerned]*
Yeah, I'm sorry about the Demi thing. How are you taking it?

Jessica: I'm doing better.

Davis: Good. *[sings]* "Give your heart a break..."

Jessica: Really?

Davis: I saw an opportunity...

[christina enters]

Christina: It's like a high school reunion in here.

All: Hey Christina!

*I'm not sure that
this scene made any
sense, but I did think
I was hilarious for
this.*

Julian: It's more like cheers.

[christina kisses julian]

Christina: I hate to break up the party, but they're coming to take you for a few more tests.

Julian: Ugh.

Christina: I wouldn't complain. If everything comes back ok you'll be going home tomorrow.

Julian: Take me. Now!

[davis' gets an email]

Davis: I have to respond to this email. See you later, guys!

[goes into the hospital hallway]

Davis: No way!

[nate comes to find him]

Nate: Hey. Listen. I said I was sorry. You can't keep being mad at me. Come on!

Davis: *[still shocked. doesn't respond]*

Nate: Davis?! Hellooo...

Davis: They want me to direct my show. Robert said he didn't think anyone else could do the show justice.

Nate: That's amazing babe. *[kisses him]*

Davis: Hold on. You're not getting off that easy. *[walks away]*

Nate: *[laughs and follows him]*

[lights out]

Who is Robert? why does
this matter?
What even is this show??!!
This is terrible -lol!

SCENE 12: MULTIPLE LOCATIONS

[lights up on julian and christina. julian is lying on the couch with his ukulele. he hasn't been doing his exercises or doing anything to try to recover. christina is done coddling him and she's just about ready to knock his ass off the couch]

Christina: I'm going for a walk. Do you want to come with me?

Julian: No.

Christina: The doctor said you have to move around as much as possible even if it hurts. *[she hands him his cane]* let's go.

Julian: *[tries to get up but struggles]* See. I can't do it

Christina: Yes you can.

Julian: *[tries to get up a few more times. they go back and forth with "yes you can and no I can't until he's finally able to stand]* Happy?

Christina: Yes.

Julian: *[tries to walk but his leg hits the cane and he falls]* Stop fucking pushing me and stop acting like you know what's best. You weren't the one who got stabbed trying to make a living for his family. I was. I don't want to go for a walk. I don't want the physical therapist to come to the house. I don't want anything!

Christina: If you knew what was best you wouldn't have gotten stabbed in the first place.

Julian: Well, if I never met you I wouldn't have gotten stabbed.

Christina: *[takes a moment to let what he said sink in]* I got asked to be the assistant director for Davis' musical and I said yes. I think it's time for you to look for something too. *[starts to walk away and then turns back]* Oh, and if you wish you never met me...I can help with that.

[she exits]

Julian: *[calls after her]* Chris...

[lights become dim on Julian. lights up on nate and davis. davis is playing his guitar and Nate is reading a book. davis plays and sings for a little but then he stops to talk]

Davis: So, I've been thinking...

Well, there was some
substance here and this
scene has been part

of every
draft in some
way.

Nate: *[looks up from his book]* Don't hurt yourself.

Davis: You need to adjust.

[nate laughs]

Davis:*[emphasizes]* SO, I'VE BEEN THINKING...everyone coming together for Julian made me realize how much I miss the way things used to be. And now with my show happening...

Nate: I know where you're going with this. You should have them audition even if deep down you know you don't anyone else playing the roles. Make them show you they're serious. It'll also give Julian a goal to work towards.

Davis: And this is why I haven't traded you in yet.

Nate: When are you going to tell them?

Davis: Right now

[picks up the phone and dials. lights are up fully. only jessica and ava enter]

Don't speak, just listen. I wrote my show with you all in mind. I never actually thought we'd all be in the same place at the same time but we are now and I think that's a sign. Ava is already auditioning and I think you both should too. You have time to think about it auditions aren't for a few weeks. Let me know when you make a decision.

[he hangs up. everyone exits besides julian. then christina comes back in]

Christina: Who was that?

Julian: Davis. He wants me to audition for his show.

Christina: Are you going to?

Julian: I don't know.

[some silence]

Christina: Julian..

Julian: Yeah?

Christina: I know you resent me.

Julian: What do you mean?

*I don't even know
what to say anymore.
What A MESS!*

Christina: You gave up your CalArts scholarship to be with me. If I didn't make you move here you wouldn't have gotten stabbed.

Julian: Don't say that. You didn't make me do anything. I made a choice.

[a beat]

here...I wrote you something. Come sing it with me

Song 6 - I'd Choose You Again (2:32)

I was only 18
Had the world on a string
A future with endless, possibilities
In a day, it all changed
All our plans, rearranged
Mother said it's far too soon
"You're only a kid"
She said decide
So, I did

We left all the palm trees and beaches behind
And we traded it in for a city skyline
In a search for something more
And I felt the same way that I do right now
Back when we were still kids
In that west coast town
And if I, could go back, to then
I'd choose you again

C: It's a nice song
J: Glad you like it
J: Listen, I'm sorry for everything
C: I know you're sorry, babe
J: I promise I'll change for you
C: I know you'll see it through
J: You bring out the best in me
C: You do the same in me
J & C: Anywhere you go, that's where I'll be

We left all the palm trees and beaches behind
And we traded it in for a city skyline
In a search for something more
And I felt the same way that I do right now
Back when we were still kids
In that west coast town
And if I could go back to then
If I could go back to then

*Best song we
have ever written
hands down!*

I'd choose you again

[lights out]

SCENE 13: REHEARSAL STUDIO

[sound cue which is instrumental from the finale. They're learning a musical number. a little over two months have passed and rehearsals are in the beginning stages. everything seems to be going ok at first but then ava's knee gives out and she falls. the others stop. davis runs to see if she's ok. ava is afraid that everyone was right and maybe she shouldn't be performing]

Davis: Ava are you ok?

[ava won't look at davis at first but then he offers her his hand and helps her up. Once she gets up she shakes it off. she plays strong]

Ava: I'm ok! My knee gave out.

[the mood lightens up a little]

Davis: That's all for today, guys.

[the others walk over to ava and davis]

Julian: Are sure you're ok?

Ava: Yeah, I'm good. Thanks.

Jessica: Did you ever think we'd be doing this again?

Julian: I thought hell would freeze over first. With me in it.

Ava: You are an idiot.

[everyone laughs]

Davis: Who would've thought that we'd all move over two thousand miles away from each other and somehow find our way back together?

Jessica: Some things just work out that way.

Julian: *[sees nate enter]* Hey, Davis your man is here.

Davis: It's date night.

↓
I thought I was
being clever.

All three: Oooo

[davis grabs his stuff. the others go grab their stuff and exit together. nate says hi to them in passing]

Ava: Have a good time!

Nate: How'd it go?

Davis: Besides Ava falling it went pretty well.

Nate: Oh no, Is she ok?

Davis:*[his demeanor changes now. you can tell somethings wrong]* Yeah.

Nate: Are you ok?

Davis: Just a little tired.

Nate: Maybe you should go home and rest.

Davis: No, I'm ok. I want to spend time with you. *[puts his arm around him]* Let's go.

[they exit]

[lights out]

SCENE 14: NATE AND DAVIS' APARTMENT

[davis fell asleep on the couch because he wasn't feeling well. nate knows davis is getting an infection and tries to get him to stay home from rehearsal]

Nate: Davis, wake up. You slept through your alarm.

Davis: I did?

Nate: *[hands him coffee]* Yes, you have to be at rehearsal in an hour.

Davis: Thank you.

Nate: Let me help you. *[raises him to a sitting position with legs out on floor]*
[pause] I heard you coughing all night and you're burning up. Maybe you should call out. I'm sure Christina can handle rehearsal.

Davis: I can't. We just started and there's so much to get done. I'm fine, don't worry.

Nate: *[concerned]* You're overworking yourself, Davis. You know you're supposed to make sure you get enough rest and not adding any extra stress to your body. I know you're in the beginning of a flare up. I've been through enough of them with you. I also know you're sick. Things are going to get worse if you ignore them.

Davis: I'm fine, babe. I'm just a little sore this morning and have a little cold. *[struggles to get off the couch. Nate goes to help him again but this time Davis plays strong]* I'm going to shower.

Nate: Whatever you say.

[nate watches davis exit]

SONG 7: MY SUPERMAN (1:00)

There he goes again
My man of steel
Flying off to save the day
Pushing down all he feels
But when the illness starts to break him
When the evil overtakes him
Tell me who can save my
Superman

Cute

[lights out]

SCENE 15: REHEARSAL STUDIO

[davis is sitting down during rehearsal. he's usually standing up and very energetic. you can tell he's very run down and his mind is elsewhere. ava is confronting him about not staying home and resting. then Christina goes over the dance steps with them]

Ava: *[to davis]* Nate told me you were coughing all night and had trouble walking this morning.

Davis: I'm fine.

Ava: Davis, It's up to you be in control of this.

Davis: I am in control. I'm here.

Ava: You may think you are, but you're not. You get to choose how much this illness will affect you.

Davis: *[getting annoyed. He knows she's right but doesn't want to hear it]* Ava..

Ava: No, Davis. Listen to me. The only thing we can control is HOW we react. So you can let "it" win and let it feel like the end of the world, or you can take control and say "ok body! I hear you." By being here and not resting you're letting your body win. Think about that.

[walks over to christina, jessica, and julian]

Christina: Ava, you ready? *[ava nods]* Ok, guys. From the top.

[sound cue - finale instrumental]

Christina: Jessica, go upstage a little more.

[confused she moves downstage instead]

Davis:*[he's a little agitated. he usually wouldn't get mad but he's not feeling well]*
Jessica, upstage.

[she bumps into ava]

Ava: Damnit, Jessica. What are you doing on Broadway if you don't know what a simple blocking term means? This isn't high school drama club anymore. Learn your stuff.

Julian: Ava, relax. She got confused. It's not a big deal.

Ava: But it is. She's been confused this entire rehearsal process. No wonder her other job only hired her to be a fill in.

Davis: Ok, Ava. That's enough.

Jessica: No, Davis...It's ok. She's right. I don't belong here. For a moment when I booked this I thought "this is where you're meant to be, Jessica. You were given a second chance." But I was wrong. This was just a handout from a friend.

[walks out]

Davis: *[calls after her]* Jessica..

[silence]

[davis motions to the others to run after jessica. he looks at ava and tells her she needs to put an end to this. then he walks over to jessica and points to ava]

[ava is packing up her stuff when jessica comes back in]

*This scene might have
been based on a real
rehearsal moment.
Not my finest*

Ava: Jessica

Jessica: You don't have to..

Ava: I do.

Jessica: It's ok.

Ava: No, it's not. I know it must be hard to be in a show again after what happened and I wasn't making it any easier for you.

Jessica: You definitely weren't *[laughs a little]*

Ava: And hey, you think you don't belong here? Did you forget I busted my ass 2 days ago?

Jessica: I'm sorry I cut you out of my life. I was jealous when you got picked for Shine instead of me. I've always been jealous. I feel like you're always the first choice. It's been that way since we were kids.

Ava: It's ok. *[a beat]* I'm sorry for yelling at you. I guess it was built up anger. You hurt me. One day we were best friends and one day we weren't. All because of a TV show that I wound up leaving behind.

Jessica: Can we put this behind us and start over?

Ava: Only if you promise to keep the arguing down to a minimum.

Jessica: *[laughs]* I promise.

[they hug]

[lights out]

SCENE 16: NATE AND DAVIS' APARTMENT

[davis is folding laundry in the living room. he's being stubborn as always and refuses to just sit down and rest. he's moving very slowly and you can tell he's still sick. He doesn't talk with much enthusiasm. nate walks in and helps davis]

Nate: Let me help you fold.

Davis: Thanks, babe.

Nate: How are rehearsals going?

Davis: They're going great. It's like a dream. I can't believe I'm directing a show that I wrote.

Nate: And working with your brother and two best friends from high school.

Davis: It's amazing!

Nate: Have Jessica and Ava ripped each other to shreds yet?

Davis: They made up.

Nate: Finally

Davis: It only took 6 years.

Nate: *[notices Davis is holding onto his chest and breathing heavy]* Are you ok?

Davis: I'm fine. My chest is just a little tight.

Nate: Maybe you should sit down.

Davis: I'm almost done!

Nate: So stubborn.

Davis: You know it.

Nate: I'm gonna go get the rest of the laundry.

[davis starts to struggle]

Davis: *[he can't breathe. he's able to call nate's name loud enough for him to hear but the rest doesn't come out fully]* NATE, I can't... *[passes out before nate is able to get to him]*

Nate: DAVIS!

[lights out]

SCENE 17: HOSPITAL

[nate is sitting in the hospital waiting room looking distraught. he's secretly beating himself up for not being there to catch davis when he passed out. ava walks in and he's not ready to tell her the news]

Ava: What happened!?

Nate: He has a viral infection that caused inflammation in his heart. The pain was so severe that he passed out.

[nate takes a minute and starts to cry. he's afraid to tell ava the rest]

Ava: I know there's more...

Nate: He hit his head when he passed out and there's swelling in his brain. They put him in a medically induced coma and lowered his body temperature.
[Full on crying now] They won't have any answers until he wakes up.

Ava: [she's trying to hold it together for nate] Are you ok?

Nate: I don't know. I don't know how to feel. I don't know what to do. I just want him to be ok.

Ava: He will be. He's a fighter.

Nate: Do you want to go see him?

Ava: Please.

Nate: Go ahead. I'll be out here.

[ava goes to davis' room]

Ava: Didn't take anyone's advice when they told you to rest. You are so stubborn sometimes, Davis. You were more concerned about us and the show instead of taking care of yourself. Now I need you to stop worrying about us and focus on getting better. Christina has everything under control.

SONG 8: MY SUPERMAN (REPRISE) (1:05)

Here in this bed
My man of steel
He gave everything he had
And now he must heal
He had less, so he gave more
He had dreams worth fighting for
Davis, you'll always be my
Superman

Don't let "it" win, Davis.

[ava is fully broken down at this point. she's crying on him. nate enters. he watches her for a moment then walks in and puts his hand on her shoulder]

Ava: [turns to look at nate] What if he isn't the same when he wakes up?

*I was trying to make
this way too over dramatic.*

*Christina apparently saves
the day.*

What? ↗

Nate: We can't think about that right now. We have to stay positive. That's what he would want us to do.

Ava: Yeah *[a beat]* I'm going to give you two some time alone. I'll be back tomorrow after rehearsal. Call me if you need anything.

Nate: Thank you.

[ava exits]

Nate: *[to davis]* We all need you to pull through this, Davis. I need you to pull through this.

[lights out]

SCENE 18: HOSPITAL

[it's the next day. nate, Ava, & christina are standing outside davis' room. then they join julian and jessica inside the room. davis is still the same. there hasn't been a change. everyone is worried]

Ava: Nate, you should go home and get some rest.

Christina: Yeah, we'll stay with him.

Nate: I'm afraid somethings going to happen if I leave.

[they enter into the room]

Julian: *[trying to lighten the mood]* We've been spending too much time in this hospital.

Jessica: I hate seeing him like this. He looks lifeless.

Ava: Me too.

Christina: So...I have something to tell you guys

Julian: What...

Christina: You were booked to be on the Today show next month.

Ava: When?

Christina: The morning of our opening.

Jessica: I don't think we should. Davis might still be in the hospital.

Nate: He's the one who set it up. He wanted you to have your moment.

Christina: Think about it.

All: Okay.

Christina: I think we should get back to rehearsal. Nate, call us if there's any change.

Nate: I will.

[They exit. Blackout]

SCENE 19: DAVIS' HOSPITAL ROOM

[a little over a month has passed. nate is wheeling davis around the hospital. It's the morning of the opening and davis is doing everything in his power to try to get out of the hospital]

Nate: They said it wouldn't be in your best interest to leave.

Davis: It would just be for one day!

Nate: Babe, I don't think it's a good idea. You're not fully recovered.

Davis: I can't miss my own opening night. I've worked so hard for this. They've worked so hard for this.

[nate finally gives in]

Nate: Let me go talk to them. Stay here.

Davis: *[to himself when nate walks away]* What am I going to do? Roll away?

[nate comes back in]

Nate: They're letting you go..

Davis: THANK YOU!

Nate: This is just for today. You have to stay in the wheelchair the whole time and I will bring you back here after the show. If you're not feeling well you have to let me know.

Davis: I can't go to the party?

*OK this is based on
me having fomo.*

Nate: Don't push it!

Davis: *[pushes off the blanket and he's already dressed]* I'm ready! I want to surprise everyone on the Today Show.

Nate: *[amused]* You're dressed?

Davis: I wasn't going to take no for an answer! Let's gooo! Wheel me!

[lights out]

This did get some good laughs.

SCENE 20: THE TODAY SHOW

[now we pick up where we left off in the beginning of the show. The cast is filming the Today show this and haven't been in to see davis this week because they've been busy preparing. They have no idea that he was trying to leave the hospital and succeeded. this is the moment where ava finally gets to tell the world her story]

Interviewer: Ava, our viewers are dying to know...why did you leave Shine?

[the others are nervous about how she's going to respond. They all look at her]

Ava: *[contemplates for a moment but realizes there isn't anyone holding her back anymore]* I'm at the point in my life where I'm not going to let anyone or anything hold me back. *[a beat]* I have Juvenile Rheumatoid Arthritis. I was diagnosed when I was 7 years old. While we were filming the final dance number of the season I had a flare up and had no choice but to take off. Instead of telling the truth the shows publicist decided to release the story I'm sure you all heard about. I was told that I had to appear strong and sharing my illness would make me look weak. My life is not defined by my condition and I'm not defined by my condition. I learned the value of challenging myself every day to be the best I can possibly be.

Interview: Wow, Ava! Thank you so much for sharing.

[the audience cheers. the interviewer gets news in her ear piece]

Interviewer: We have a surprise for all of you.

Ava: *[nervous]* Oh no...

Interviewer: Everyone please welcome the writer of Two Thousand Miles Davis Montgomery.

[audience goes wild. davis gets wheeled out by nate. everyone runs over and hugs him. ava is the last to go up to him]

I wrote this scene like they were on the price is right.

Ava: What are you doing here!?

Davis: I wasn't going to miss this.

[some tears. they hug for a moment. then Ava pulls back and looks at him]

Ava: *[all the tears]* I don't know how I ended up at zero. I don't know how I ended up amounting to something more. I am so incredibly grateful you took a chance on me when everyone else was ready to leave me behind. I wouldn't be standing here if it wasn't for you.

Davis: *[gets up slowly. He wants to be looking her in the eyes for this line]* I've got you til the very end, superstar.

Ava: Always.

[they hug. Lights out]

[lights up]

SONG 9 - TWO THOUSAND MILES (FINALE)

Company:

Two thousand miles
Setting off to chase a dream
Who knows, we might make it if we try
Two thousand miles
Is not as far as it may seem
With friends and family here by your side

Ava:

Two thousand miles
Bring it on and raise the stakes
I'll show them I have just what it takes

Davis:

Two thousand miles
You're bound to make a few mistakes
But think of all the memories you'll make

Jessica:

Two thousand miles
So go and write your own headline
Everyone deserves a chance to shine

Company:

Two thousand miles
Setting off to chase a dream

*This finale was
definitely something. Something
that never made it past
here!*

Who knows, we might make it if we try
Two thousand miles
Is not as far as it may seem
With friends and family here by your side

Nate:

Two thousand miles
With friends I can find anytime
Always here to help me as I climb

Julian(to Christina):

Two thousand miles
I found something worth fighting for
I've got you and don't need nothing more

Christina (to Julian):

Two thousand miles
Our future is an open door
We'll step through much stronger than before

Company:

Two thousand miles
Setting off to chase a dream
Who knows, we might make it if we try
Two thousand miles
Is not as far as it may seem
With friends and family here by your side
In only two thousand miles, YEAH! (optional)

[blackout]

[End of show]

I don't have anymore
Words left. This
was so bad.