

ACT TWO SCENE 2

Place: The same.

Time: Couple days later

FS 13 - JACK APPEARS

The place is still untidy and COOPER is in his sweats. Set hasn't changed much. Bedding is still on the couch. COOPER is in the kitchen. Some empty beer cans are on the counter. COOPER's iPad (on coffee table) FaceTime rings. It is JACK calling. He reluctantly goes to the couch and takes the call.

JACK

Why haven't you answered my texts and calls?

COOPER

Didn't want to.

JACK

(Pause) You good?

COOPER

No Jack, I'm not good. You kept the fact that Dad had COVID from me. Not good at all.

COOPER hangs up and goes to kitchen for a beer. He turns around and JACK suddenly appears on stage, jumping into a conversation.

COOPER

You should have told me.

JACK

Not for me to tell. Besides, he didn't want you to know because he was worried you would feel bad or get stressed as you couldn't do anything, being so far away.

COOPER

I don't believe that. Mum maybe, not him. More like he knew I wouldn't be able to do anything full stop. (Pause) You see this is where you both went wrong because I feel like shit now. I may have wanted to talk to say to him..before he went.

JACK

There's nothing you could've said. It happened so quickly.

COOPER

That was my decision to make not yours. You did the same thing with mum.

JACK

Not fair Coop. You've always got so stressed over things and you go to these dark places. It worries people. So we protect you.

COOPER

I need time to work things out sometimes. Maybe more so than other people but I do get there Jack. Keeping things from me makes it worse.

JACK

Now you say that, but when I do tell you things or try to get you involved you make me feel like shit.

COOPER

Not true.

JACK

Yes it is. You feel guilty for not being here. You want to control me from afar to make you feel better. If I didn't do things for Mum and Dad the way you wanted them done, or I wasn't quick enough doing it, you made me feel like crap.

COOPER

Bullocks!

JACK

You go on thinking that. Easy to blame everyone else isn't it? It was continuously drummed into me to mind your brother, protect your brother. Everything was about you. Lucky you married a woman that continued on the saga for you.

COOPER

Low blow! Dad wasn't protecting me. He just didn't think I could do anything on my own. You think it is easy trying to follow in your perfect steps. I could never live up to you in his eyes. Constantly reminded of it. More friends, higher

grades, bigger career, better pension. I used to wish you'd mess up just to give me a break!

JACK

I know that Coop! I hated that he did that! I didn't do that to you. He did. He did that to you! I've always been there for you. Always wanted what was best for you over myself. You know that! So much pressure from dad, all the bloody time. So controlling. I miss mum, she was so lovely and balanced us. God, I'm so tired. I'm working too much. Watching people die all around me. Can I just get a bloody break? *(Crying to the point where she can't catch her breath.)*

COOPER

Jack? Jack?

JACK

(Sniffling) What?!

COOPER

I'm sorry. Please don't cry. I'm a right asshole. I'm sorry. Things must be so hard for you right now.

JACK

(Pause) I'm not letting you off the hook for this.

COOPER

I don't want you to. *(Pause)* We need to get to know each other without them, don't we?

JACK

Yeah.

COOPER

Rose is right, we do have baggage.

JACK

Ya think?!

COOPER

The thing is we had some good memories so it makes it difficult to completely loathe him.