

INT. ARMAGEDDON'T ROOM - DAY

It's about thirty-seven seconds after the world was supposed to end. The room is littered with debris, including three teenagers, who are sprawled a few feet apart. MAE, the Chosen One, is the first to her feet. She's not a large person, not the type to seem particularly intimidating, but fit enough to have made it through the end of the world. She watches as JACK, a tallish (well, taller than Mae) boy in a torn t-shirt, helps up NOLA. Nola is, despite appearances, our protagonist. Make no mistake. She is usually pretty, but at the moment she, like her friends, is dirt-streaked and bloody. Her left ankle is bruised and scraped.

Once Jack has Nola on her feet, he pulls her into a tight hug. The girls look at each other over his shoulder and burst into giggles.

NOLA  
We're alive!

MAE  
Yeah, Nola, we are.

NOLA  
It's over. It's really over.

JACK  
I cannot believe that that actually worked.

MAE  
No kidding. We actually saved the world!

JACK  
You saved the world.

MAE  
No, we saved the world. I'd never have made it this far without you two. I'd have died in Ithaca and the earth would be toast now.

NOLA  
No kidding! Now, get over here, Mae-Mae!

Mae scurries over and gets pulled into the hug.

NOLA  
Y'know, I think I saw a first aid kit in the hall. I'm gonna go grab it.

She limps away. As she returns, first aid kit in hand, she finds that Mae and Jack are still wrapped around each other, talking in low voices. They kiss, and Nola winces and turns away.

EXT. CAR - LATER

Mae, Jack, and Nola lean against Mae's car.

JACK

Okay, so we just stopped the world from being consumed by an ancient demon who's a stickler for spelling. What the hell are we supposed to do now?

MAE

Go home? ...oh my god, we can finally go *home*.

JACK

I never want to go camping again in my life.

MAE

We're still at least a day from home. But I guess we could stay in a motel or something.

NOLA

Do we have the money for that?

MAE

Yeah. But I was going to try 'We literally stopped the apocalypse two hours ago' first.

NOLA

Think it'll work?

JACK

God, I hope so.

MAE

Oh, hey, Nol - you should know... Jack and I --

NOLA

You've finally pulled yourselves together and gotten together?

JACK

Uh, yeah.

MAE  
You okay with that, bud?

NOLA  
Yeah, of course. Why wouldn't I be?

JACK  
We just thought maybe - never mind.  
Let's go home.

MAE  
That sounds amazing.

Jack walks around to the driver's door and gets into the car. The girls take a bit longer, as Mae is helping Nola walk. They both smush into the passenger's seat.

The car drives away.

EXT. NOLA'S BACKYARD - DAY

Nola sits in a beat up plastic swing, hung for a child much smaller than she is now. A pair of crutches leans against the tree. She pushes herself back and forth with her good leg.

NOLA  
Stupid quest. Stupid prophecy.  
Stupid May-with-a-y and her stupid  
wrong-spelt name. Stupid  
alloromantics with their stupid  
dating. Ugh! (etc.)

Jack wanders into the yard, not bothering to close the gate behind him. He kisses the top of Nola's head and flops onto the grass next to the tree.

JACK  
Heya, Nol. How you holdin' up?

NOLA  
Well enough. School's weird.

JACK  
No kidding.

NOLA  
What is with everybody, anyway?

JACK  
It's not like we're any different.

NOLA  
Well. We're a little different.

Mae appears, and actually closes the gate behind her. Unlike some people. She crosses the yard, kisses Jack, and sits down facing Nola.

MAE

Hey guys. Whatcha talkin' about?

NOLA AND JACK

School.

MAE

Fascinating.

JACK

People're being weird. D'you have any classes with Ellie Andersen? She's been the worst, I think.

NOLA

Staring?

MAE

No, no. She's always going on about the prophecy and stuff, like she knows what happened better than we do.

NOLA

Ugh. That is the worst. Who does that?

MAE

Ellie.

NOLA

No kidding.

They sit quietly for a few moments, processing.

MAE

Do you ever wonder what happened to the other one?

JACK

May-with-a-y?

NOLA

I bet she's relieved, if maybe a bit pissed off that she spent her whole life training to fulfill the prophecy and then --

MAE

Typo.

JACK

I kinda wish they hadn't noticed,  
though. Our lives wouldn't've been  
turned upside-down and all...

MAE

Yours didn't have to be.

NOLA

Oh my darling sweet, have you ever  
even read one of these books? The  
Chosen One's always got to bring  
their two best friends along. And  
anyway, life-dictating cliches  
aside, we'd never have let you run  
off like that alone.

MAE

We don't actually live in a book,  
Nol.

NOLA

Sure feels like we do.

They fall silent again. Nola keeps pushing herself back and forth with her good foot. Mae starts pulling up bits of grass and dropping it onto Jack's lap. Jack watches Nola's injured ankle as she swings back and forth.

JACK

I feel like I never see you guys  
anymore.

MAE

Jackie, we see each other every day.

JACK

(eyes still on Nola)

It isn't the same. I mean - we  
spent, like, literally every hour  
together for nine months.

NOLA

And with you two together now, yeah.  
It's... it's not the same. It's not  
even the same as it was before the -  
thing. Armageddon't or whatever.

MAE

I know.

JACK

It's weird.

NOLA  
I miss you guys.

JACK  
But you're still okay that we're -  
(vague handwave between himself and  
Mae)

NOLA  
I'm fine. It's fine. As long as  
you're happy, yeah?

MAE  
We are.

NOLA  
Then I'm fine.

JACK  
Nol, if you're --

NOLA  
I'm fine.

MAE  
Okay.

Jack's phone rings.

JACK  
Sorry.  
(he answers the phone)  
Yeah, mom?

Jack, still on the phone with his mother, hugs Nola and  
kisses Mae.

JACK  
Okay. I'll be home in ten.  
(puts phone away)  
I've got to run. Dinner. Nola,  
love...

NOLA  
I'll call. Don't be a stranger, bud.

Jack crosses his heart with his finger, then runs off. He  
leaves the gate open. Again.

MAE  
I should probably go, too. I told my  
mom I wouldn't be gone long.

NOLA

Go ahead. I'll see you tomorrow.

Mae starts to leave, but stops halfway to the gate and turns around.

MAE

You're sure you're okay?

NOLA

Yeah, Mae-Mae.

MAE

It's just - you're so weird about it. I don't want to make you uncomfortable.

NOLA

Mae --

MAE

You're not, like, crushing on one of us, are you?

NOLA

Me? No way. C'mon, Mae, you know me better than that. I don't crush.

MAE

Okay. Right, of course. See you at school.

NOLA

Later.

Mae leaves, carefully latching the gate behind her. Nola watches her go, then kicks the swing back violently.

NOLA

I wasn't lying. I wasn't lying. I don't crush. I'm just... I'm just... crushed.