

SOS episode 3 Tempering the suffering of others.

FADE IN

EXT. CBD – Street – Late morning

NOAH walks past a PARKING INSPECTOR about to give a ticket to a car.

NOAH Puts twenty cents into the meter.

NOAH(to parking inspector)
Mate, it's my car I just went inside to get some change

PARKING INSPECTOR
Yep, sure mate, just be sure to have the cash next time.

NOAH smiles.

PARKING INSPECTOR moves on.

NOAH walks on.

BLAIR has just seen what happened, HE approaches NOAH.

BLAIR has some bruises on his arms and a cut on his face.

BLAIR
Why would you do that?

NOAH(annoyed)
What?

BLAIR
That isn't your car.

NOAH
Don't ask stupid questions.

NOAH walks on.

BLAIR
I think you just happen to be a dick.

NOAH
Fine, you wanna know why I did it? Because I'm a fag. That looks like a hot guys car; I think he'll sleep with me if I help him out.

BLAIR
Get off it.

NOAH
What is it to you?

BLAIR
You claim to hate stupidity, why help someone that did something stupid?

NOAH
How do you know it was something stupid?
Any number of things could have happened.
The real point is that I had the power to stop it and I did. The only thing I need to know is that someone may have suffered because of that ticket, and now they won't.

BLAIR
What if they deserve it?

NOAH
All that matters is that my conscience is clear for each of the possibilities where they don't.

BLAIR
So it was about you.

NOAH
Yep.

BLAIR
As always.

NOAH
Yep

NOAH crosses the road, BLAIR remains.

FADE TO:

OPENING SEQUENCE

FADE TO BLACK:

FADE IN:

INT – ARC GYM – ROWING MACHINES – MIDDAY

ALEX and NOAH are sitting on the rowing machines.

NOAH is strapping his feet into the machine.
ALEX is sitting on the chair playing with the machines settings.

ALEX
It sounds more like he was asking you why you helped him.

NOAH
Well I was still right, it was a stupid question.

ALEX
The first words you say to him after he got attacked were, 'that's a stupid question'.
No wonder he was on guard.

NOAH begins to row.

NOAH
Either way, it was a stupid question.
I stopped someone getting a ticket, why?
I stopped someone getting their head kicked in, why?

ALEX
I spose.
But you told him you were his enemy the other day, if I were Blair, I'd wonder why too.

ALEX begins to row.

NOAH
No I didn't, I said I was his, not he was mine.
And if you had to ask me, you obviously don't think much of me.
(beat)
Who in their right mind could let someone get bashed?

ALEX
Not too many people would take on three guys to help someone out.

NOAH
Would you?

ALEX
Alone?

NOAH
Yeah.

ALEX
Depends on who it was.

NOAH

That's exactly how society ends up with murder cases like James Bulger and Anita Colby.

ALEX

That's a bit harsh.

Are you saying if it were a complete stranger, you would have done the same thing?

NOAH

Yep.

ALEX

That is easy to say. But, how can you have any idea what they've done?

NOAH

Who cares! A three on one bashing is just cowardly.

ALEX

Why not just call the police and stay out of it?

NOAH

How would you feel if they were dead before the cops could get there?

NOAH stops rowing, gets out of the machine.

ALEX

I thought we were doing an hour?

NOAH leaves.

ALEX stops.

CUT TO:

INT. ARC GYM – LOCKER ROOM – MIDDAY

NOAH walks in and goes straight to his locker.

ALEX enters.

ALEX

Don't just walk out on people!

NOAH
Leave me alone.

ALEX
No. Somethings got you cheesed heaps more then a stupid question.

NOAH
Maybe... A fight, and a trip to the cop shop last night.

ALEX
No, something else. You couldn't care less about that fight.

NOAH
Just drop it Alex.

ALEX
No.
(beat)
Why was *Blair* at Mulligun's last night, Mulligun's is a gay bar?

NOAH
Because, I got Kimberly to bring him.

ALEX
And there it is.

NOAH
Ok. You're very clever.

ALEX
He didn't know it was a gay bar either?

NOAH
I don't know.

ALEX
But you think, that's why he got into the fight?

NOAH
It was.

ALEX
But it isn't your fault.

NOAH
But it was stupid to take him there. I should have guessed what would happen.

ALEX
Noah.
Blair is not a homophobe.
His brother is gay, he couldn't care less.

NOAH
I figured that.
But I needed to prove I am.

ALEX
So he doesn't think you're after her.

NOAH
Yeah.

ALEX
Clever.
Get Blair to see you out, Blair stops being jealous.

NOAH
It didn't quite work like that though, did it?

ALEX starts laughing.

NOAH looks annoyed.

NOAH
What?

ALEX
Instead it looks like you were trying to have him killed.

NOAH
Funny.

ALEX
And now, he probably hates you more for coming to the rescue in front on Kimberly.

ALEX laughs more.

NOAH chuckles.

NOAH
Great!

ALEX
I'd say just let it go for the time being.
He'll come around.

NOAH
I'm not looking forward to the rumours on Monday.

ALEX
Oh yeah.
You do seem a hive of action, young Jones.

NOAH
Oh, goodie.

ALEX
I might have to start calling you Indiana.

NOAH
Shut up.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

EXT. – ARC UNIVERSITY – MAIN GATES – AFTERNOON

ALEX and NOAH are dressed carrying their gym bags. THEY are walking towards the carpark.

ALEX
What was being in a gay bar going to show Blair anyway?

NOAH
I don't know, I'd never been to one.

ALEX
NOAH your 22, you've been out since you were eight?
I've been in more gay bars than you.

NOAH
You've never been to a gay bar.

ALEX
No, but I said in.
Once I walked into one by accident in the city. And last week the footy boys went to Mulligun's by accident.

NOAH
How long did that last?

ALEX
Only the first six of us actually made it inside.

NOAH laughs.

ALEX
If you don't go out, how do you expect to hook up?

NOAH
If I did 'hook up' it wouldn't be in some ratty bar.

ALEX
If?

NOAH
IF.

ALEX
You're a...
Oh god! You're a...

NOAH
Virgin. Say it. I'm proud I'm not a whore.

ALEX
You mean never?

NOAH
Never.

ALEX
Wuw. That's a pretty big secret.

NOAH
No it isn't, Coda, Kimberly and Jen know.

ALEX
Why am I last?

NOAH
You aren't! I told you when I told them. You were just too drunk to remember.

ALEX
When?

NOAH
At the O week party.

ALEX
Oh...

NOAH
Why do you care anyway?

ALEX
I just like to be informed.

NOAH
About virgin status?

ALEX
Brothers.

NOAH
What?

ALEX
Five brothers. I was a bit of a competition.

NOAH
Right?
Being the youngest puts you at a bit of a disadvantage though.

ALEX
Nah, it was done on age.
I won anyway.

NOAH
I didn't want to know that.

ALEX
But your 22, what else do you do?

NOAH
You listed most of my accomplishments when you mentioned why Blair doesn't like me.

ALEX
Sounds a little strange.

NOAH
I did a lot of martial arts too.

ALEX
Really?
What ones?

NOAH
I started with kung fu.
But changed after a couple of years to Wushu.
Over the last few years I have done Capoeira Angola as well.

ALEX
What's Capoeira?

NOAH
Brazilian dance fighting.

ALEX snorts.

NOAH
Want a demo?

ALEX
No!
It just sounds very zoolanderish.

NOAH chuckles

ALEX
So why don't you still do it?

NOAH
I don't really want to compete. And I suck as a teacher,
so I stopped when we moved.

ALEX
You should start a class here at school.

NOAH
I suck as a teacher.

ALEX
Why?

NOAH
I have no patience.

ALEX
Just teach me then.

NOAH
No.

ALEX
Why?

NOAH
I'm not a teacher.

THEY arrive at ALEX'S car.

ALEX
What's the rest of your Saturday look like?

NOAH
Might get a start on the next Harry Potter.

ALEX
You're not going to read it all night?

NOAH
No, I'll probably go to bed around 10 or so.
I have training in the morning, they want us to do our placement qualifiers at the end of training.

ALEX
Oh. Yuk. That's pretty harsh. To train, then do qualifying.

NOAH
I just really have to watch, I qualified for my own school with my scholarship.
I just can't come in last, rumour is the coach culls last place each year.

ALEX
Well, Me, Jen and Ben were going to watch some DVD's at the dorms tonight if you want to come?

NOAH
What's this, Mr Incredible staying in on a Saturday?

ALEX
Mr Incredible, has to work at 6:00 AM.

NOAH
You can come over to my place and we'll watch em?

ALEX
Yeah, alright. I'll call you later, make sure Jen and Ben are keen.

NOAH
Can I ask Coda?

ALEX
It's your house mate.

NOAH
Just, her and Ben.

ALEX
We must all learn to get along...

ALEX gets into his car.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

INT. JONES MANOR – THEATRE – NIGHT

MISSION IMPOSSIBLE THREE is playing on the projector screen.

NOAH, CODA, JEN, BENJAMIN are sitting on individual recliners.

ALEX is sitting on the floor with JERRI, a cheer leader from ARC.

CODA
It looks as if he is chasing a can of deodorant.

NOAH (desstressed)
My links, My link, I have terrible B.O.

JEN
Like Mr. Moody.

NOAH
He hasn't chased a can of deodorant in his life.

ALEX
Do you three ever shut up?

JEN
What is it you actually want to hear?
The witty repartee of tommy.

CODA
Let me synopsis it for you.
I LOVE KATIE HOLMES
I LOVE KATIE HOLMES

NOAH laughs

NOAH
Did you see when they paid that out on family guy?
(beat)
They had Stewie playing Tom Cruise.

ALEX Turns to NOAH

ALEX
What about when they have I dream of genie as the Christian version of evolution?

CODA
NO. NO. NO!
You two are not getting into quoting family guy again!

JEN
Ben is asleep.

CODA
Has been since this shit started.

ALEX
It's the last movie we brought to watch.

CODA
Go into Jones's collection. That whole cupboard is full of DVD'S.

ALEX Jumps up and opens the cupboard.

The cupboard is full from roof to floor with 5 rows of DVD'S

ALEX
Oh my god.

ALEX studies the DVD'S

ALEX

We'll never have to hire anything again!

JEN

You feed him, you keep him entertained, he's all yours.
BUT, you have to keep him exercised and walk him every day.

ALEX

I'd be the gardener to live here!

CODA

Poor wittle awix. Never got the privilege of a multi-billion dollar upbringing.

NOAH

Shut up!

ALEX

You have every Family Guy in existence!

CODA

NO!

NO!

There is no way!

ALEX

We have to watch these one day!

ALEX checks with NOAH

NOAH nods.

CODA

Another day though.

NOAH stands.

NOAH

I am going to bed, you think you can let yourselves out?

CODA

We can leave now?

NOAH

No it's fine hey.

Alex, come on, I'll show you the locks.

NOAH exits
ALEX follows

CUT TO:
INT. JONES MANOR – MAIN ENTRANCE – NIGHT

ALEX and NOAH are walking together.

ALEX
We have to watch the first season. I never saw all of it.

NOAH
Rightio.

ALEX
You sure you ok if we stay?

NOAH
Yep.
When you leave type in 22
57
22
Lock
Then just pull the door shut as you leave.

ALEX
That's it?
22
57
22

NOAH
Lock

ALEX
Right

NOAH
Just make sure no-one else looks. Mum's a little finicky about security.

ALEX
You mean Jerri.

NOAH
And Ben.

ALEX
Alright.

22

57

22

Lock

Make sure no-one sees.

NOAH
Good.

ALEX
Why do you trust me?

NOAH
Because you may not come to the rescue if I was being beaten by three thugs.

ALEX
What's that supposed to mean?

NOAH
You're honest.

ALEX
Oh, I coulda told you that.

NOAH
Night man.

ALEX
Night.

NOAH walks up the stairs.
ALEX walks back to the theatre.

ALEX (off, loud whisper)
Good luck with qualifying.

NOAH
Thanks.

CUT TO:

EXT. ARC UNIVERSITY – RIVER – EARLY MORNING

NOAH is rowing along the river.

Several other skulls are around him. The coach is in a motored dingy behind the group.

There are another few groups of rowing skulls back about 100 metres.

COACH
NOAH!

NOAH
YEAH?

COACH
I want you to hit the anchors and wait for the last group.
Make sure they do 38 spm max out for the last thousand metres.

NOAH
OK.

COACH
And make sure they only go one at a time, the timers cant handle multiples without chips.

NOAH
Yep.

NOAH stops.

Most of the boats pass him, He tells them to line up at the thousand mark and they all go past him.

Last skull to round the corner looks extremely low in the water.

NOAH looks at the boat confused.

The boat get's closer

NOAH
Hurry up. I'm getting cold!

BLAIR
Shut up Noah!

NOAH
Blair?
What have you done to the skull?

BLAIR
Nothing, it must have a hole in it.

NOAH
How full is it?

BLAIR
About half way.

BLAIR'S Skull draws level with NOAH'S.

NOAH stands.

NOAH
Here.

NOAH jumps into the water.

BLAIR
What are you doing?

NOAH holds onto the side of BLAIR's skull.

NOAH
Take mine, you'll never qualify in that.

BLAIR
I don't need it Noah.

NOAH
Blair, just get out and take my boat.

BLAIR
Why?

NOAH
Because, you wont make the team.

BLAIR
I don't want your boat.

NOAH
Too bad!
I'm also team captain.
You have too.

BLAIR
So that's it, you want me on the team to control me?

NOAH
My god!
I don't like Kimberly Blair!
I'm GAY.

BLAIR
What makes you think I'd care if you did?

NOAH
Remember the rumour you heard?

BLAIR
Yeah.

NOAH
It happened six years ago, and the boy involved was Jason.

BLAIR
What, when the coach attacked him?

NOAH
I'm really getting cold now.

BLAIR
How do you know about that?

NOAH
I'm the one that hit the coach.

BLAIR
Oh, fuck!

NOAH
Just take the boat, I'm freezing.

BLAIR stands and bails into the water.

NOAH hikes into BLAIR'S boat

BLAIR jumps into NOAH'S boat

BLAIR
Why didn't you just say?

NOAH
Why should I have to?

NOAH struggles to row in the partly submerged boat.

BLAIR waits.

NOAH
Just go. Make sure you qualify.

BLAIR rows away.

NOAH struggles along.

CUT TO:

EXT. ARC UNIVERSITY – BOAT JETTY – MORNING

BLAIR is standing in a tracksuit on the jetty looking down the empty river.

KIMBERLY walks down the jetty to BLAIR.

KIMBERLY
What are you waiting for?

BLAIR
Noah isn't back yet.

KIMBERLY looks a little confused, she goes to speak.

BLAIR
Why didn't you tell me?

KIMBERLY
Tell you what?

BLAIR
About Jason?
Why didn't you say something?

KIMBERLY
I only figured it out on Thursday, when I did he asked me to keep it quiet.

BLAIR
You could have told me.

KIMBERLY
I know.

BLAIR
Why didn't you?

KIMBERLY
It wasn't my secret to tell.

BLAIR looks anxiously down the river.

NOAH walks down the jetty dressed in his tracksuit.

NOAH
Guys can you move I have to lock the jetty.

BLAIR is startled by NOAH

BLAIR
How did you get here?

NOAH
I walked, I took the other skull out at the thousand mark and carried it back.

BLAIR
How long have you been back?

NOAH
About half an hour. I've been waiting at the gate for you to move for about twenty minutes.

KIMBERLY Chuckles

BLAIR
Oh shit.
Sorry.
Have you locked the bathrooms yet?

NOAH
No, next stop.

BLAIR
I just have to get my bag.

BLAIR jogs away to the lockers rooms.

KIMBERLY puts her arm in NOAH'S, She rests her head on his arm.

NOAH and KIMBERLY walk quietly up the jetty.

NOAH Turns to lock the gate.

KIMBERLY

He was waiting for you to get back.

NOAH

Really, why?

KIMBERLY

He thought you might have sunk.

NOAH

He was really waiting for me?

KIMBERLY

Yep, I think you did it.

NOAH

Did what?

KIMBERLY

Made a friend.

NOAH

I'd pretty much given up.

KIMBERLY

He'll be a good friend.

One thing you can count on, once your in good with thumper, you can't easily get out.

NOAH

Sounds like the mob.

KIMBERLY

I think he's a little bit embarrassed today.

But you wait, by Tuesday he'll be on your door step ten seconds after you get home.

NOAH

Maybe I should rethink this.

I can't say I'm very good with visitors.

KIMBERLY

Try brother.

NOAH

He's that bad!

KIMBERLY
You'll handle it.
You've saved his life once already.

NOAH looks at her quizzically for a moment.

NOAH
Tell him to push in the button and pull the door shut, but make sure it's locked.

KIMBERLY pecks him on the lips and nods.

NOAH picks up his bag and heads for his car.

KIMBERLY heads over to the locker room.

BLAIR walks out.

KIMBERLY
Noah said to push in the button then pull it shut.

BLAIR puts his hand in behind the door, it clicks, he pulls it shut.

KIMBERLY checks the handle.

BLAIR kisses her on the lips and they walk towards the car park.

NOAH'S car comes around the turning circle behind them.

BLAIR jumps the barrier and walks over to the road.

NOAH'S jeep pulls to a stop.

NOAH lowers the window.

BLAIR
I just wanted to thank you for what you did on Friday night.

NOAH
Anytime.

BLAIR
I owe you an apology.

NOAH
No you don't, save it for someone who really needs it.

BLAIR
I'll see you in the week?

NOAH
Tuesday morning, training 5:00.

BLAIR Nods.

NOAH pulls away.

NOAH looks at KIMBERLY, she looks back without smiling.

KIMBERLY blows NOAH a kiss.

NOAH looks ahead and leaves.

FADE TO:

EXT. JONES MANOR – SWIMMING POOL – Afternoon

NOAH is lying on a daybed reading Harry Potter.

The doorbell rings.

NOAH ignores it.

The doorbell rings again.

NOAH ignores it.

The sound of the security system chirping is heard.

The sound of the door opening and closing.

NOAH ignores it

A muffled voice is heard “check the kitchen”

Another muffled voice “there he is”

BLAIR and ALEX emerge in sweaty running shirts.

NOAH doesn't look up from his book.

NOAH
I knew it was a mistake trusting you.

BLAIR and ALEX walk over and collapse on the ground next to him.

BLAIR
You're reading Harry Potter?

NOAH
Trying too.
So far Alex has managed to interrupt me six times.

ALEX
You need to get out more.
Where do you keep that bottled water?

NOAH
In the pantry there are a stack of boxes with Pure Mountain written on them. In there.
Cold ones are in the fridge, replace one if you take it though.

ALEX stands and walks inside.

ALEX
Want one?

NOAH
Room temp please.

BLAIR
Same.

(beat)

NOAH
Kimberly assured me I wouldn't be seeing you until Tuesday, because you'd be too embarrassed.

BLAIR
Alex was persistent.

NOAH
Generally annoying.

ALEX enters carrying three bottles.

ALEX
Do you ever use that pool?

NOAH
You can if you want.

ALEX
I have to run home.

BLAIR
Noah will drop us.

ALEX
But that would be lazy.

BLAIR
I went rowing at 6:00 AM.

NOAH
In a leaky boat.

ALEX
That was dumb, don't you know to check for leaks before you leave shore.

BLAIR hits ALEX in the arm.

BLAIR and ALEX exchange looks.

BLAIR and ALEX stand and grab NOAH.

Together they pick NOAH up.

NOAH doesn't struggle

NOAH
I knew this was unavoidable when I hear the doorbell ring.

NOAH is carried over to the pool.

NOAH
One second, can I get my phone out?

NOAH gets his phone out of his pocket and throws it onto the chair.

NOAH
Ok go.

ALEX and BLAIR drop NOAH in the pool.

NOAH swims back to the surface and jumps out.

ALEX
Nice dip, drip?

NOAH
Yeah not bad.

NOAH sits back on the couch and picks up the book.

ALEX and BLAIR walk back to NOAH and move to pick him up.

NOAH pulls BLAIR over him onto the couch with great ease.

NOAH grabs ALEX hoists him over his head.

NOAH dumps ALEX into the pool.

NOAH turns to find BLAIR struggling to get off the couch.

NOAH
You're dead McDougal.

BLAIR
Yeah, I'm trapped on this bloody couch.

NOAH grabs BLAIR, hoists him over his shoulder and tosses him in the pool.

NOAH dives at ALEX.

FADE TO BLACK

END CREDITS