

SOS – Coda emerges.

CODA the outspoken campus psychologist has been away for three months on a research trip. The girl that no one has noticed before has returned and all of the attention is on her. Her attitudes, if possible, have become more pronounced, she is more outspoken, and more argumentative. CODA has gone through a pretty woman transfer. She has lost her weight, she has become interested in fashion, and she has discovered make-up.

She arrives home to find all of her friends waiting for her outside her house. They are all dumbfounded by her appearance, most of all Blair. Blair finds it difficult to speak to her. CODA approaches Blair to discover the problem and Blair is unable to tell her. Noah has been aware of Blair's feelings for some time. Noah attempts to get Blair to come around, but Blair is still Haunted by the memory of Kimberly. Unfortunately for Blair, Coda has been helping him deal with his loss since Kimberly died. Noah recommends Blair try Tarnia, their bond has become strong, perhaps she will give a different perspective.

On discovering Blair has gone to Tarnia instead of her, Coda consults Noah for a reason. As Noah will not speak of other people without them around or their permission, the only reason he can provide is that he told Blair to speak with Tarnia.

Coda's jealousy gets contorted into a rage at Tarnia, and she says some things to Noah that provoke Noah into response. Coda leaves under the impression that while she was gone, Tarnia had replaced her as a friend.

Coda ends up alone in the football stadium, reconsidering her decision to return home. Alex eventually finds her and learns the events of the last few days. Coda believes; Blair is avoiding her and no longer is a friend, Tarnia has ousted her from the group, and that Noah would prefer she hadn't returned. Alex requests the exact events as they occurred.

After Alex has heard what happened, he comes up with his theory of what happened. Alex first clears up the understanding between Coda and Noah, reminding her that he won't talk about others, and fills her in on his background with Tarnia. Then he reveals how Tarnia has been able to help Blair and how she has become a valued friend.

Alex then, confused by Blairs behaviour, begins to explain his own theory. Alex confirms that Coda and Blair have been chatting online since she left. That the first sign of difference was at her welcome home party. Alex then blurts out, "Coda, you got hot!". Coda begins to take offence, then sits down again with an attack at Alex about men. Alex reminds her that Blair met her when he was a couple, so when he knew you how you looked before you left she was Coda, same as from day one. Alex goes on to say that, Coda must admit that she had changed a lot over three months.

Coda then finally admits that while she was away, she worked constantly to 'become beautiful'. Alex questions why, saying that why not while you were here, or before now. Eventually, Coda reveals it being because she wanted Blair to notice her, and when she got home he hadn't.

INT. JONES MANOR – Entrance – Midday

ALEX, BLAIR, JEN and BENJAMIN are waiting (annoyed) in the entrance, loaded up with signs, alcohol and party supplies.

NOAH runs down the stairs.

THE GROUP look relieved.

ALEX  
Are you ready now?

NOAH kisses ALEX briefly.

NOAH  
Sorry, thanks for waiting.

ALEX  
No problem.

JEN  
Speak for yourself.

BLAIR  
What was worth wasting twenty minutes to find, Noah?

NOAH produces a pink ipod.

BENJAMIN  
You, went back for your ipod? And made us wait.

NOAH  
No! It's Coda's, she left it here. Butler Jon put it somewhere safe and I couldn't find it.

JEN  
Why right now tho?

NOAH  
It's done now.

ALEX  
Yes, so lets get going.

NOAH leaves, ALEX follows.

JEN  
Your right. Why was I making it worse?

BENJAMIN  
Because it was annoying!

BLAIR JEN and BENJAMINE follow.

BLAIR  
Just leave it now. Now that Noah has Alex on side just be quiet. We won't hear the end of it.

EXT. JONES MANOR – Driveway – Midday

BLAIR JEN and BENJAMINE exit the house. NOAH and ALEX are loading NOAH's jeep.

JEN  
Coda, my friend, my ally. Together again, Noah will know his place once more.

BLAIR  
Don't count on it!  
She hasn't had to put up with mr and mr as a team for the last three months.

JEN  
She wont care, she knows when to fight and I love seeing Noah loose.

BLAIR  
But now when he looses he will just rub in his coupleness!  
We don't stand a chance

JEN  
Maybe she'll bring a man with her.

BLAIR drops an esky.

BLAIR  
You think?

BENJAMIN  
That nutter! She's worse then Tarnia. She'll have a man alright, some nut fresh from shock therapy.  
It'd be like extreme dating.

BLAIR rescues the esky.

JEN  
Date Coda or loose a finger, which do you chose.

BENJAMIN and JEN Chuckle.

BLAIR

Don't be harsh, she's not that bad.

BENJAMIN turns to BLAIR

BENJAMIN

When did you fall in love with her?

BLAIR drops the esky again.

BLAIR

Put your manners back in Ben.

BENJAMIN keeps going.

BLAIR rescues the esky again and takes a breath.

CUT TO:

OPENING SEQUENCE

FADE UP:

INT. AIRPORT – Terminal – Afternoon

CODA arrives through gates. CODA looks like a new woman, hair, shoes, clothes and make-up are all perfect. She has lost all of her weight and looks like a cover model. She looks around and there is no-one there. She is disappointed.

CODA walks further down the terminal.

INT. AIRPORT – Baggage Claim - Afternoon

CODA arrives at baggage claim. She looks around and there is no-one there. She looks sad, and is slightly confused.

CODA waits to get her bag and then walks out to the Taxi rank.  
CODA takes one last look around at the Taxi rank door and exist.

EXT. CODA'S HOUSE – Road – Afternoon

A Taxi pulls up. CODA is inside for a moment fumbling with money.

CODA gets out of the cab and looks around. The house is deserted, SHE is disappointed again.

CODA gets her bags out of the Taxi and walks to the front door.

CODA unlocks the front door and walks inside.

CODA switches on lights, all of her furniture is gone.

CODA is frightened and fumbles for her mobile.

A hand appears on CODA's shoulder. CODA screams.

CODA turns to reveal NOAH.

NOAH

Coda. It's ok.

What are you doing here?

You're a day early?

CODA(gasping)

Noah.

NOAH. It's you.

Noah, where is all of my stuff?

NOAH

What do you mean?

CODA

What do you mean a day early? I told you Wednesday afternoon.

NOAH walks past her into the house.

NOAH

It's Tuesday.

Coda, where's all of your stuff?

CODA

SHIT!

I TOLD THE STORAGE PEOPLE TO RETURN IT ON WEDNESDAY MORNING.

NOAH

Damn. Tough luck.

CODA

Wait there! I'll go and get the garage pundi.

CODA exits.

NOAH  
How was your trip?

CODA(off)  
Give me a second, I'll be right back.

NOAH waits.

CODA comes back through the other doorway.

CODA  
Yeah, awesome actually, I got upgraded to business class on the plane home. I slept really well.

NOAH is staring at CODA

CODA  
What?

NOAH  
My, god Coda turn around.

CODA  
What?

NOAH  
Let me turn on another light.

NOAH switches on the light above her.

NOAH  
Oh My God!  
You look sensational.

CODA Blushes heavily

NOAH  
No, I mean it.  
You look absolutely incredible!

CODA blushes still more but manages to blurt out

CODA  
Thanks Noah.

NOAH  
WOW!  
Where did all of this come from?

CODA  
Time for a change I guess.

CODA moves to the exit.

CODA  
I better go and check my car.

CODA exits and NOAH follows.

CODA  
While I was away there was a gym at all of the hotels. And, I spose it was easy to make myself eat well.

NOAH  
Jenny Craig eat your heart out.

CODA hits the garage button and turns back to NOAH.

CODA  
I actually feel so much better for it too.  
I actually don't hate bike riding as much as I thought as a driver.

The Garage opens to reveal a whole party of people waiting to yell.  
ALEX, TARNIA, JEN, BENJAMIN, PHALEN and a mass of other are all standing with anticipation along with CODA's furniture, waiting to scream out.

CODA still oblivious keeps talking to NOAH.

CODA  
And I even incorporated bits of those carb free, and time of day meals in for fun!

NOAH can't help it he begins to laugh.

CODA  
What are you....

CODA Turns.

GROUP  
SURPRISE WELCOME BACK!

BLAIR sees CODA and his jaw drops. BLAIR is in awe.

CODA white with shock turns back to NOAH

CODA looks as though she will vomit.

NOAH (turning CODA back)  
Vomit on them.

CODA staggers through the group.

MUSIC STARTS ON SPEAKERS. The party spills out onto the yard and a mass of garden lights and lamps come on.

CODA hugs ALEX, JEN and BENJAMIN.

BLAIR is still watching CODA from afar.

TARNIA comes over to NOAH.

TARNIA  
Lucky she has lost all that weight, she looked as though she was going to have a heart attack.

NOAH chokes.

NOAH  
Don't be mean.

TARNIA  
I'm not, she looked quite ill. Someone should write a book, Surprise parties – the not so silent killer. I'll have to look up the number of surprise party deaths when I goto the library next.

NOAH is well advanced into laughing.

TARNIA  
I'm getting a drink, do you want one?

NOAH(laughing)  
Ye... Yes please.

ALEX walks over to NOAH

ALEX  
What is so funny?

NOAH starts laughing harder, tears rolling down his cheeks.



ALEX  
What?

NOAH (laughing)  
Tarni..a  
Surprise parties – the not. So. silent killer.

ALEX giggles.

ALEX  
I think you've finally lost it.

NOAH  
Go into comedy she should.

TARNIA returns with some drinks.

TARNIA gives one to NOAH.

TARNIA  
Sorry Alex you weren't here when I left.

ALEX  
That's alright. I kind of wish I had been.

TARNIA  
After what I saw tonight, I wouldn't be surprised if surprise parties were are preferred  
method of murder to many uncaught assassins.

NOAH snorts.

ALEX smiles to hold back laughter.

BLAIR makes his way over to ALEX who is holding NOAH up.

BLAIR  
What's so funny?

TARNIA  
Surprise parties are murdering people worldwide.  
Noah this it's funny.

ALEX loses control and laughs openly

TARNIA  
Alex does too.

BLAIR scoffs a chuckle.

BLAIR  
Is that so?

TARNIA  
Why aren't you over with Coda?  
You've been obsessing over her coming back for three weeks.

NOAH and ALEX continue to laugh

BLAIR  
She's talking to Jen, apparently she is wearing some Bonolo Planik shoes that are worth screaming over.

NOAH (still catching his breath)  
Monolo Blanix.

TARNIA  
Monolo Blanix, that militant left wing organization. Those over priced shoes just pay the death money for drug dealers.

NOAH looks to ALEX, his laughing eyes pleading for release.

ALEX  
We'll go and get us some more to drink.  
Any requests. Same again?

TARNIA nods and hands ALEX an empty cup.

ALEX takes NOAH under the arm and they leave too get drinks.

NOAH bursts into laughter about five feet away.

ALEX is heard belly laughing while he is carrying NOAH away.

BLAIR remains smiling.

BLAIR  
Really. Why left wing?

TARNIA  
Well, my father did an article six months ago on how 800 percent profit margins could not support a business with such limited turn over. Even with the massive mark up. He believes those types of companies are really tax covers for drug lords.

CUT TO:

CODA is showing of her shoes and outfit to a fascinated JEN.

CODA looks up and around every few moments searching for someone.