

SOS - Episode 20 - Telling the Jones's

A snoring grandpa, inheritance and a cup of tea.

EXT. Jones House – Montana – USA - Night

DARCY JONES picks up her telephone and dials an extremely long phone number.

ZOOM OUT Town Level

ZOOM OUT State Level

ZOOM OUT Country Level

ZOOM OUT Planet Level

PLANET TURNS to AUSTRALIA

ZOOM IN Country Level

ZOOM IN State Level

ZOOM IN Town Level

ZOOM IN Jones Manor

INT. Jones Manor – Living Room – Morning

A phone rings.

A phone rings.

BUTLER JON Answers.

BUTLER JON  
Good Morning?...  
Yes Mam it is.

I am sorry, neither Master nor Mrs Jones is available...

No Mam, I was not instructed to distract you.

Master Alex is available if you should like.

Master Alex.

I do not feel that is my place to say mam.

I apologise, if you would like to speak with him I am sure he would be able to inform  
you.

Mam I am terribly sorry, I cannot divulge any other detail.

I shall get Master Alex for you.

BUTLER JON Exits

ALEX Puts the phone to his ear.

ALEX  
Hello?

ALEX Looks startled

ALEX(cont'd)  
No.  
Who is this?  
Alex...  
Alexander...  
Alexander Williams.  
I am 23.  
Hillary, no! I am only 23.  
I live with Noah.  
No mam.  
9 months  
Yes, very much.  
No, never  
Who is this?

ALEX's jaw drops

ALEX (cont'd)  
Yes certainly, I'll let her know.  
She'll be back in about an hour, you could...  
Oh, well... what time will you arrive?  
Hillary works all day tomorrow, but I think Noah is free?  
Too come to get you?  
Oh.  
Do you know the address?  
Can I tell them when you will arrive?... May I?  
Jon? Yeah he's always here.  
I'll let them know.  
Have a good flight Mrs Jones.

ALEX stands holding the phone.

CUT TO:

CREDITS

INT. JONES MANOR – Kitchen – Morning

ALEX Talks with BUTLER JON

ALEX eats an ice-cream sundae.

ALEX

What was her problem? I felt like I being interrogated.

BUTLER JON

I have not actually met Mrs Jones Senior.

ALEX

What's her problem?

BUTLER JON

From what I hear from Noah and Mrs Jones, she is... mildly volatile.

ALEX

I bet.

BUTLER JON

What else can I say.

ALEX

What language did they use?

BUTLER JON

Obscene

ALEX

How obscene?

BUTLER JON

Mad as a hatter during a female cycle.

ALEX

That's how I'd describe Noah.

BUTLER JON

Mad to the mad might be normal.  
It didn't seem likely on the phone.

ALEX

No.

This is awesome, mate. (gesturing the sundae)

ALEX(cont'd)

I think you should tell them she's coming.

BUTLER JON

She told you.

ALEX

You answered the phone.

BUTLER JON

I didn't tell her I was living with her grandson.

ALEX

You could have warned me.

BUTLER JON

I assumed you knew.

ALEX

I'm kinda pissed off that Noah hadn't told her about me.

BUTLER JON

I don't recommend trying that tack with either of them.

ALEX

Paper scissors rock?

BUTLER JON

Can't help you.

ALEX

I just won't tell them.

BUTLER JON

A compromise.

ALEX

I'll tell Noah, you tell Hillary?

BUTLER JON

No.

I'll tell them she called and is coming, you tell them what you told her.

ALEX

Can you add some alcohol to this?

DOOR SLAMS

BOTH LOOK UP

INT. JONES MANOR – Entry – MIDDAY

HILLARY and NOAH enter the house with hands full of bags.

ALEX and BUTLER JON enter the room

HILLARY  
Look who I found at the markets.

NOAH  
Retail therapy!!!

HILLARY and NOAH are smiling.

HILLARY  
We got a little bogged down in the shoe section.

HILLARY and NOAH Laugh.

HILLARY  
We have heaps for you to try on Alex, and there is more in the car.

ALEX  
I'll go get it.

HILLARY  
No rush.

NOAH  
What's up?

ALEX looks down.

HILLARY  
What?

BUTLER JON looks down

NOAH  
What?

BUTLER JON  
Mrs Jones called this morning.

HILLARY and NOAH stop smiling

NOAH  
Who answered the phone?

BUTLER JON  
I did.

NOAH relaxes

BUTLER JON  
But then I gave the phone to Alex.

HILLARY(to alex)  
What did you say?

ALEX  
She asked who I was, I told her.

NOAH  
What exactly?

ALEX  
The truth.  
I had no idea she wasn't supposed to know.

HILLARY  
When is she coming?

BUTLER JON  
Tomorrow.

NOAH  
For how long?

ALEX  
She didn't say.

HILLARY  
Jon, if you wouldn't mind could you please go to David Jones and pick up Seven sets of off-white 1000 thread sheets, a new set of towels, and find someone with a steam cleaner to clean the guest house.

Dejected HILLARY Leaves the room.

NOAH follows her. ALEX follows him

INT. JONES MANOR – sun room – midday

NOAH

It has to be better then last time.

HILLARY

Noah I think you should consider taking Alex away for a few days. Just until I get a chance to speak with her.

ALEX

I don't want Noah it miss his Grandparents because of me.

NOAH

Grandparents? Plural?

HILLARY

My Father is coming?

ALEX

Mrs Jones said they were both coming.

(beat)

HILLARY

Noah, you and Alex can't be here when they arrive.

NOAH

Why?

HILLARY

Noah, I haven't spoken to Edmond in four years because of your birthday. You are his own blood. I won't let him do the same thing again. I don't want him near you or Alex.

NOAH

I am not leaving!

HILLARY

Noah, you are.

NOAH

No way. This is because of me. I won't run from something that I will be facing my whole life. Even if it is grandad. There is no way I am leaving because of them.

HILLARY

Fine, stay. But, if I ask you to leave at any time while they're here you will not question me. And, you better let Alex know what he is in for.

ALEX

I'll stay at Coda's if need be.

NOAH

No! You'll be sleeping in my room! They can both get fucked.

(beat)

HILLARY

I am going to my room.

HILLARY goes to leave.

HILLARY(cont'd)

Tell Blair as well.

ALEX

What's so scary about your grandparents?

NOAH

Not scary, like nails on a chalkboard.

ALEX

So why are you getting all worked up?

NOAH

Last time they were here, they couldn't care less about who I was. They wouldn't even look at me. I can't say I really cared either. But they really picked on mum, saying I was her fault, she made all these mistakes. They prey on every insignificant doubt she has.

I know mum is strong, but she respects her mum and dad, it really hurt her.

ALEX

What about you?

NOAH

I don't really even know them. My dad's family were the ones we were close with. And even them I haven't seen in years.



ALEX

No, I mean did it hurt her, how they treated you?

NOAH

I don't know, probably.

ALEX

Why do you think she doesn't want you here?

(beat)

NOAH

I made it about me, didn't I?

ALEX

You can't help that; it's built in.

NOAH thinks a moment.

NOAH gets up.

ALEX(cont'd)

This was too easy.

NOAH

When you're right you're right.

ALEX

This is a first.

NOAH

Yes. What did I ever do without you?

ALEX

Don't be a dick.

CUT TO:

INT. JONES MANOR – Hillary's bedroom – EARLY AFTERNOON

HILLARY is folding clothes on her bed. NOAH enters and flops beside her.

NOAH

I have this tendency to make things about me.

HILLARY

So do I, I'm afraid.  
How did you find out?

NOAH  
Alex.  
You?

HILLARY  
William.

NOAH  
Dad? He wouldn't have had the guts to stand up to you.

HILLARY  
You'd be surprised, your father was once revoltingly just.  
(beat)  
I can't believe Alex had the guts to tell you.

NOAH  
Somehow he got the idea that I'm a pushover.  
It's so annoying. He's like having a conscience.

HILLARY smiles.

NOAH (cont'd)  
I'm sorry about before.

HILLARY  
That's alright Noddy.

NOAH  
No it isn't.  
Alex and I agreed that we'll stay in town for the week.

HILLARY  
The hell you will.

NOAH  
What?

HILLARY  
All I said was I didn't want you here when they arrived. You're not getting out of the whole week.

NOAH  
And here I was trying to protect you.

HILLARY

Nice try.

NOAH

I was honestly trying to look out for you.

HILLARY

Get over that, just do what I ask this week.

NOAH

Never.

HILLARY

I'll tell Alex on you.

NOAH

Fine, one week of obedience.

It's doable.

HILLARY

Where are you going to stay tomorrow?

NOAH

I'll have to ask the other boss.

HILLARY

No Hiltons! Dad and Mum never forgave them for that Christmas dinner in sixty-five.

NOAH

Can I have your Starwood card?

HILLARY

It's in my black pocket book.

NOAH exits.

HILLARY(cont'd)

Book under Alex's name!

FADE OUT:

INT. JONES MANOR – Entry – LATE AFTERNOON

HILLARY waits in a sitting chair beside the entrance table.

Car doors are heard outside.

HILLARY stands.

BUTLER JON Enters the door and holds it back, clearly perturbed.

EMILY JONES and EDMOND JONES enter properly.

BUTLER JON exits to get the bags.

EMILY

I can't say I was expecting it, but I must admit, a delightful antipodal slice of home.  
You've done quite well Hillary.

HILLARY

Hello Mother.

EDMOND

Lovely Hillary, quite lovely.

HILLARY nods.

HILLARY

You must be tired.  
Madeline.(off)

MADELINE enters.

HILLARY (cont'd)

Madeline will take you to your rooms. I have a light dinner prepared for us in the atrium  
once your settled. Jon will have your bags to you shortly.

EDMOND Nods, hurt.

EMILY

Nice to see frontier life hasn't completely sapped your civility.  
We will be down promptly.

EDMOND

Where is young Noah? I hoped he would be here to greet us.

HILLARY

(beat)  
Father, I...

HILLARY (cont'd)

We will talk at dinner.

EDMOND nods.

EMILY and EDMOND embark the stairs and exit.

HILLARY watches as they leave.

HILLARY turns and proceeds to the kitchen.(camera follows)

INT. JONES MANOR – KITCHEN – EVENING

HILLARY enters the kitchen and pours a glass of red wine from a full bottle.

HILLARY drinks the glass.

FADE TO:

INT. JONES MANOR – ATRIUM – NIGHT

HILLARY is sitting at the table the bottle of red wine is now quarter full.

BUTLER JON enters and stands at the entrance.

EMILY Enters.

EMILY

I can't imagine where you found Buiguli soap.

HILLARY

I am full of surprises.

EMILY

And those sheets, freshly purchased and white washed. Quite delightful.

HILLARY

I am glad.

EDMOND Enters.

EDMOND

That southern aspect is breathtaking; I cannot recall a vista that could possibly match it.  
Which orientation do you occupy Hillary?

HILLARY

My room is in Southwest corner, I am quite fond of the southern view myself. Before you leave I will show you the western aspect also.

EDMOND

It must be lovely.

So who, may I ask, is privy to the room adjacent mine?

HILLARY

That is where the boys live, and Blair, another friend of Noah, occupies the northeast apartment.

EDMOND

The boys?

HILLARY

Yes, Noah and his partner Alex.

EMILY

Ahh yes, the delightful man from the Telephone.

HILLARY

That was Alex.

EDMOND

So, where are the boys tonight?

HILLARY

Well Father, they are staying at a hotel in town for the evening, and Blair will be back after his classes.

EMILY

I take it that the hotel was a last moment decision.

HILLARY

Actually yes. I thought it would be a good idea for us to speak without them.

EDMOND

I hardly think it was necessary to evict Noah or his friend from their house on our account.

HILLARY

After your behaviour last time I am surprised to be seeing you at all.

EMILY

Hillary, that is absolutely unfounded. Last visit we were caught of guard. I cannot believe you would sustain a simple misunderstanding and begrudge us our grandson.

HILLARY

If you pardon me, I do not believe a simple misunderstanding covers what occurred last visit.

(beat)

When Noah, finally, was confident enough to trust you with who he was, your behaviour was so utterly appalling; I seriously considered never allowing you to see him again.

(beat)

As you are not aware; four years ago Noah cancelled his eighteenth birthday because he didn't want his friends to have to meet his grand parents. To this day, I am positive he considers our relationship breakdown his fault. Perhaps you can see why I am slightly aggravated.

EMILY

Hillary, I am very sorry. Yet as we were not aware of this, how could we be expected to rectify it?

EDMOND

Emily, just a moment?

(beat)

Hillary, I think you must share your version of events. I fear we are severely under informed.

HILLARY studies her wine closely and places it on the table.

CUT TO BLACK:

FADE IN:

INT. SHERATON HOTEL – PENTHOUSE – MORNING

ALEX is lounging on a messy king size bed in a big towel robe. NOAH is in the shower, with the bathroom door open.

ALEX

Your mums house rocks, but can't we just move in here.

NOAH(off)

Nah. We'd just get board.

SHOWER CUTS

ALEX

What's the plan for today?

NOAH enters wearing a towel

NOAH

Did you see that bar in the pool?

ALEX

Do you know how much I love you?

NOAH  
About eight.

ALEX  
Won't you want to shop?

NOAH  
Nah, I got enough stuff yesterday.

NOAH exits to change

ALEX  
What about breakfast?

NOAH(off)  
I ordered it last night, it should already be in the main room.

ALEX opens the bedroom door to a breakfast banquet, his eyes gape.

ALEX  
About eight hundred loves would be more like it.

PHONE rings

NOAH  
Buddy I'm in the middle of something, would you mind?

ALEX has a mouth full of food.

ALEX  
Sure.  
(mouth still full, picks up phone)  
Hello.

ALEX chews.

ALEX (cont'd)  
No, (more chewing and swallow) this is Alex.  
Mornin' Hillary, Noah is just getting changed, wont be a minute.  
I'm pretty good, nah, the bed was lumpy as. No comparison to home.  
Fine I think, he's in a pretty good mood.

NOAH enters.

ALEX (cont'd)  
Yep, here he is now.  
See you soon.  
(to NOAH)



Your mum.

NOAH takes phone  
ALEX eats

NOAH

Morning.

We were just going to lay around and the make our way home around three.

Oh, alright then.

Well, yeah. We wanted to spend at least some time in the water.

Maybe just make it a little later, say two?

Cool, then we can leave at twelve and have the morning here.

Yeah, alright. Should I bring anything back?

Yep.

You sound upbeat?

Yeah?

Ok then.

See you at lunch.

Two o'clock.

Bye.

NOAH throws the phone. It breaks.

ALEX

They'll charge you through the roof for that. (pointing to the phone with a hash brown)

NOAH

Shit!

ALEX

So what's the plan?

NOAH

You are having lunch with the in laws.

ALEX

At two o'clock I take it?

NOAH

Yep, so don't stuff yourself. And, I think we may have to go light at the bar.

ALEX

Ok...

NOAH

Why so glum?

ALEX  
I've never been anywhere with a pool bar before.

NOAH  
We'll come back.

ALEX  
And can I get maggot?

NOAH  
I spose.

ALEX  
ALL DAY?

NOAH  
I spose.

CUT TO:

EXT. JONES MANOR – POOL HUT – EARLY AFTERNOON  
HILLARY, EDMOND and EMILY are sitting at the round table under the pool hut.

MADELINE is serving drinks. The table is set elegantly and chaffing dishes are steaming on a small cart beside her.

NOAH and ALEX emerge from the house holding hands and walk over to the pool hut.

EDMOND rises. EMILY follows.

EDMOND moves to greet them.

EDMOND extends a hand.

EDMOND  
Noah, my goodness what have they been feeding you?

NOAH is surprised but shakes his hand.

NOAH  
Just food, I suppose I had a growth spurt.

EDMOND  
You must be Lex. Since my grandson has forgotten his manners; I am Noah's grandfather Edmond.

EDMOND extends a hand.  
ALEX shakes EDMONDS hand.

ALEX  
Alexander Williams

EDMOND  
I am sorry, Alex.  
This is my wife, Emily, Noah's grandmother.

EMILY  
I believe we spoke on the telephone? Lovely to meet you Alexander.

ALEX takes her hand.

ALEX  
Pleasure.

EMILY  
Delightful.

EDMOND ushers towards the table.

EDMOND  
Shall we sit down?

NOAH  
Maybe we should.

ALL are seated.

BUTLER JON Approaches.

BUTLER JON  
Anything to drink?

ALEX (to NOAH)  
We'll just have water?

NOAH nods still shaken.

HILLARY  
We are fine Jon. Thank you.

EMILY  
Alex, Hillary tells us you are an accomplished athlete?

ALEX  
Just AFL mam.

EMILY  
Emily.

ALEX  
Emily.

EMILY  
What is AFL?

ALEX  
Oh, um. Aussie rules. Um, It is like football mixed with basketball.

EMILY  
A team sport?

ALEX  
Yes

EMILY  
How does that fare, being gay?

HILLARY starts  
NOAH Gapes

ALEX  
Not a problem. Some of the guys were a little odd at first, but now it isn't a big deal.

EMILY  
Oh, that's good to hear. We hear such horrible stories in the media, it is a comfort to hear that most people are civil.

NOAH and HILLARY settle

EDMOND  
How long have you known Noah?

ALEX  
Just over a year now. We met around this time last year.

EDMOND  
At university?

ALEX  
Actually on the way there, my very first day in town.

EMILY  
Love at first sight?

NOAH shifts uncomfortably  
ALEX suffers mildly

ALEX  
No. Not at all. I wasn't attracted to men at that stage.

EMILY  
You haven't always been gay?

NOAH starts  
ALEX grips his hand.

ALEX  
I wouldn't say that. I just hadn't admitted it to myself yet.

EMILY  
Oh.

EDMOND  
You are here on a scholarship?

BUTLER JON brings the water.

ALEX  
Yes, sporting.

EDMOND  
What is your major?

ALEX  
Agricultural science and business.

EDMOND  
Do you like it?

ALEX  
Not as much as I should. I am more interested in AFL.

EDMOND  
Is that promising?

ALEX  
I have just accepted a contract to play for the city side.

EDMOND

That is encouraging, so many young people are unaware of their own strengths, you have a refreshing confidence.

ALEX

Not at all, compared to Noah I am an amateur. Did you here he was awarded the university medal for academic performance.

EDMOND

Noah, really? I had no idea, I thought you were studying theatre.

NOAH

I am.

EDMOND

Oh, so do you have another minor.

NOAH

No actually, the award was for my theatrical works.

EDMOND

Well congratulations, as always, have done your family proud.

NOAH looks To HILLARY uncertain.

HILLARY nods him forward.

NOAH

Thanks granddad.

TIME CUT:

EXT. JONES MANOR – POOL HUT – AFTERNOON

The lunch table is messy, covered with empty plates, glasses and wine bottles.

ALEX has a wine glass in his hand with only two or three drops in it.

NOAH is sitting watching everyone.

HILLARY is pleasantly smileing.

EDMOND has swapped seats with EMILY to be next to ALEX

EMILY is quietly talking to HILLARY

EDMOND is poised at ALEX trying to fathom AFL.

EDMOND

So, there are no touchdowns, and each team has 23 players.  
So how do you score?

ALEX

At each end of the field there are a set of goals.

EDMOND

Like soccer?

ALEX

Sort of. But there isn't a goalie, the goals are ten metres wide.

EDMOND

That should make it easy.

ALEX

Not really, the field is over two hundred metres long.

EDMOND

Each goal is worth a point?

ALEX

No. The goals are broken up into 3 sections, the outside two are called a behind, one point. The central one is called a goal, six points.

NOAH

Alex just put him out of his misery invite him to a game.

ALEX

Yeah, that's a great idea. If you'd like to come, we are playing this Thursday against Sydney.

EDMOND

Splendid. It sounds quite worthy of attendance.

ALEX

Great.

EDMOND

I will have to check with Mrs Jones first. She may have plans.

EMILY

Not at all, you go, I will be fine.

EDMOND

It is set then.

BLAIR Enters

ALEX

Blair mate, guess who is coming Thursday night?

BLAIR

Where?

ALEX

The game. Mr Jones is coming.

BLAIR

Your gunna have to be on your best behaviour then.

EDMOND

Young Alex, not foul play I hope.

BLAIR

No, Alex is just known as the most outspoken player in the league, more so since meeting Noah.

EDMOND

My grandson, a bad influence, never.

BLAIR

I can show you the game tapes.

EDMOND

Game tapes?

NOAH

Now you've done it Blair.

EDMOND

Noah you should support Alex.

ALEX

Busted.

EDMOND

Jon, please find Young Blair a seat.

BLAIR

Don't worry Jon I'll get it.

BLAIR trots off.



HILLARY

I think now it is time to get down to the business at hand, don't you father.

EMILY

Perhaps it would be best if Noah and Edmond converse alone.

HILLARY

No. I think it would be best together.

BLAIR returns.

EDMOND

Yes, why not. I am sure all here are trustworthy. Besides, I am convinced that this will concern Alex as much as Noah.

NOAH

What's going on mum?

HILLARY

Listen.

EDMOND

Noah, I am sure you are more than aware of your situation among this family.

NOAH

How so?

ALEX

Just listen Noddy.

EDMOND

As your mother is our only child and you her only son, you are still our only heir. As you may already know, the ancestry clause of the Jones estate requires the youngest living descendent of age take possession of all assets. I do not think it polite to discuss commerce among company, so I will omit exact detail, yet I must impress; the vastness of our estate is going to demand considerable attention. Your constant attention.

NOAH

What are you saying?

EDMOND

What I am saying Noah, is that should you wish to fulfil this obligation, it will overwhelm your life. However, in examining the doctrine it has been discovered; should you and I form an accord, we could redefine your obligations.

EDMOND (cont)

It would by no means detach you from the estate, it would simply allow you to either appoint a proxy to represent your affairs, or differ your heritage to your mother. Which would allow you to continue your life with Alex unincumbent.

NOAH

So what you're saying is it would keep your gay grandson below the radar.

HILLARY  
NOAH!

ALEX

Noah! Don't be ridiculous, did you even listen to what he said?

NOAH  
I am hearing it.

EDMOND

Noah, all I am offering is an opportunity for you to maintain your lifestyle.

NOAH  
Right!  
Well I don't accept it.

ALEX  
NOAH!

NOAH stands

NOAH

Back off Alex, what would you know?

I have no idea what's going on.

Mum, yesterday you were barely willing to talk to them and today it's like nothing ever happened. And now I am being asked to run some company by grandparents who have spoken to me once in 7 years. I don't know, what do you all expect me to say?

(beat)

I am sorry to offend you grandad, but that doesn't sound at all above board to me.

(beat)

I'm going for a run.

NOAH exits

HILLARY  
NOAH!  
NOAH!

EMILY

That was quite an over reaction.

HILLARY

I am very sorry dad, I'm sure he'll... come around.

EDMOND(interrupting)

No, he is completely right. We have not been a part of his life. He has no reason to trust either of us.

EDMOND sits back defeated.

ALEX

Hillary, I need to ask you something.

HILLARY

Certainly Alex.

Would you like to come outside?

ALEX

No. I would prefer to do it here.

EDMOND

Should we leave?

ALEX

No, I would prefer you be here.

(beat)

Once Noah steps back, I am sure he will be fine.

(beat)

So, anticipating that I want to ask you all for permission.

HILLARY smiles

BLAIR

For what?

ALEX

To ask Noah to marry me.

BLAIR

Why ask me?

ALEX

You are his best friend.

Edmond and Emily, you are his grandparents.

ALEX  
And Hillary, you are his mother.  
Without your permission, I will forget about it.

BLAIR  
Of course I say yes.

ALEX  
Thanks Blair

HILLARY, EDMOND and EMILY remain quiet.

ALEX (nervous)  
With my new Contract and, the money from this modelling. I have the resources to support us. I am looking to buy us an apartment. And...

HILLARY smiles

HILLARY  
Stop, Alex, stop.  
You have permission, I'm surprised you even had to ask.

EDMOND and EMILY are uncertain.

EMILY  
Can you even get married?

HILLARY  
Emily!

EMILY  
It is an important question.

ALEX  
It does not matter, we will do it anyway.  
With permission.

CUT TO:

INT. JONES MANOR – Noah's room – Evening

NOAH is changing into his running clothes.  
ALEX Enters.

NOAH  
I don't want to hear it.

ALEX  
I wasn't going to say anything.

ALEX begins to change into his running clothes.

NOAH  
What are you doing?

ALEX  
I am coming with you.

NOAH  
Alex I just need some time out.

ALEX  
That's cool.

ALEX continues to change

NOAH  
What are you doing?

ALEX  
I said, I am coming with you.

NOAH  
But...

ALEX(interrupting)  
No, I was completely wrong before and I'm sorry. The last thing I am going to do is let you go out on your own after having us all corner you like that.

NOAH  
Oh, ok.

ALEX hugs NOAH

ALEX  
I sometimes forget that you know what you're doing too.

CUT TO BLACK.