

Noah's ARC - episode 8 – Dare you to move.
Song: SwitchFoot - Dare you to move

Synopsis:

Noah is hit with the news that his estranged father has passed away. Grief stricken he attempts to process the news by himself. Due to her lag in communicating the knowledge of her ex-husband's condition; Noah's mother is unable to console her son.

As the reality of his father's death sets in, Noah, slightly mad, goes to the gym to run out his feelings. Several hours later, Alex; unwitting object of Noah's fancy, is informed of the situation by Alex's mum, who has received a concerned call from the gym owner.

Alex walks into the gym to find an obviously exhausted Noah, still slogging it out on a treadmill, seemingly oblivious to the gym staff's pleas to stop. On Alex's arrival Noah's emotional composure falters, and the situations full impact surfaces. Noah finally breaks down on the floor in front of Alex.

After mere moments of true connection, Noah; exhausted, passes out and has to be taken to the hospital by ambulance. Alex watches helplessly as Noah is seen to. In the small moment of life that passed between them, the seemingly straight Alex has fallen in love.

At the hospital Alex's feelings are quickly exposed by a young nurse. Finally, with nowhere else to turn, Alex is forced to come clean to Blair.

EXT. ARC university – Main Courtyard – Morning
BLAIR walks with NOAH

BLAIR

Come on Noah, you wanna leave for a reason, so, out with it!

NOAH thinks silently.

NOAH

Shut up Blair.

INT. ARC refect – among pillows on the floor – morning

BLAIR is studying NOAH.
NOAH Sighs deeply.

NOAH

It's Alex.

BLAIR
ALEX?

He's a cagey fucker, but he's a good bloke.
What'd he do?

NOAH sits perturbed.

NOAH
I LIKE HIM.

BLAIR studies NOAH carefully.

Beat

BLAIR
You're fucked. You gotta leave.

NOAH
What the fuck is wrong with people? Everyone always says; getting it off your chest is good. Nu ah, WRONG, it sucks royal. All I feel now is ashamed, as well as the crap feeling from earlier.

BLAIR
I don't know. What did you tell me for? Now *I'll* be all weird around Alex. Fuck, now I'll have to leave as well.

NOAH smiles
NOAH punches BLAIR in the arm HARD.

BLAIR
Well at least now you know how stupid you are.

NOAH is silent.

BLAIR
How bad is it?

NOAH does not look at BLAIR

BLAIR
Bugger, dude.

BLAIR's phone rings

BLAIR
(to NOAH)
Sorry man.
(to phone)

BLAIR (cont'd)
Yep?...
Yeah he's sitting next to me.
Sure...
(to NOAH)
s'your mum?

BLAIR throws the phone.
NOAH catches the phone.

NOAH
Hello?

Beat

NOAH
Wait, wait a sec! Tell me...

NOAH hangs up phone.

NOAH
I gotta go.

NOAH drop's phone in Blair's lap at he leaves.
BLAIR watches NOAH.

BLAIR
Dude, What the fuck?

BLAIR gets up and chases NOAH

BLACK OUT:
CREDITS (type 2)

CUT TO:
EXT. Jones house – driveway – Morning

BLAIR
DUDE?

NOAH
Blair, I am not in a good frame. Just Stop.

NOAH walks ahead and into the house.

INT. Jones house – Sitting room – Morning

HILLARY
Noah.

NOAH
Mum, what's happening? What did you hang up for?

HILLARY
Noah, baby...
(beat)
Your father, has passed away.

BLAIR stands awkwardly
HILLARY tears silently
NOAH sits down, silent.

(Beat)

BLAIR
I, will..
Call me if you need me.

BLAIR moves to leave

HILLARY
Blair, please stay.
(beat)
Noah, there *is* more.

NOAH
What? Wait, how did it happen?

(beat)

HILLARY
He, your father, went into hospital two weeks ago, for some, minor procedure.
(beat)
Janice called this morning to tell me, there had been complications and that he had died.
(beat)
Honey, I am so sorry we didn't tell you earlier. But up until this morning there wasn't
any reason.
(beat)
Noah?

NOAH
What we? YOU! YOU DIDN'T TELL ME!

HILLARY
Your father, and I, didn't want to worry you Noah. I'm so sorry.

NOAH
Why? About what?
Why didn't *you* tell me? Since when do you do what he wants?

HILLARY
Noah...

NOAH
NO, no... This is bullshit... I can't stay here... I'm leaving... Dads gone. I'll get over
it... I am going to the gym.

NOAH EXITS

HILLARY
Noah, wait.

BLAIR
Noah.

(beat)

HILLARY completely loses her composure

BLAIR (cont'd)
What can I do Mrs Jones?

HILLARY
I don't know Blair.
I thought this would happen.
His dad is... was... the only person who could level with him.
(beat)
I can't...
(beat)
It may sound odd, but I am very glad you are here Blair.
Noah has taken such a liking to you.
I am sorry to ask you this, but will you, please...
Be there for him?

(long beat)

BLAIR
I'll can try. But.
There must be someone else who would be better.

HILLARY
Who?
He needs an ally, someone he trusts.

BLAIR
Like his dad.

HILLARY
I know that Noah is gay, but the only man *he ever* 'loved' was his dad.

BLAIR
I don't think I will be very useful.
But I'll try.

Beat

CUT TO:

INT. Jones house – Noah's room – Morning

NOAH is changing, his gym bag is stuffed with gear. All of the pictures in his room are turned over.

NOAH stands silently tranced, holding his keys.

BLAIR knocks at an open door.

BLAIR
Hey man.

NOAH is startled from his reverie.

NOAH
Hey man.

BLAIR
You're going to the gym?

NOAH
Yeah man.. I'm fine. I am just a little annoyed mum lied to me.

BLAIR
What about your dad?

NOAH

Nah he lied to me all the time.

BLAIR

No, your mum just told you he died.

NOAH

Yeah, I was there.

BLAIR

Then what are you doing?

Your leaving your mum to go to the gym, just when you find out your father died.
That's a bit crappy.

NOAH

I think it's a bit crappy I didn't know he was sick at all.

BLAIR

Noah!

NOAH

And, I think it's pretty shitty you're trying to tell me what to do.
(Beat)

NOAH EXITS

BLAIR remains.

CUT TO:

EXT. Jones House – Driveway – Morning

NOAH Jumps into his car.

NOAH Starts the ignition.

(long beat)

NOAH Drives away.

CUT TO:

INT. Jones house – sitting room – morning

HILLARY is broken on the couch.

BLAIR slowly enters.

BLAIR
I'm sorry Mrs Jones, he wouldn't listen.

HILLARY
Where is he?

BLAIR
He left.

HILLARY
Where to?

BLAIR
He said the gym.
(Beat)

HILLARY
Thank you for trying Blair. I'm sure you have somewhere else you need to be.

BLAIR
I'd like to stay, Mrs Jones. Noah is my best mate, and *I know* if he was thinking, he wouldn't want you left alone.

HILLARY
Thank you Blair.

BLACK OUT

INT. Jones house – sitting room – early afternoon

HILLARY is still in the chair from earlier. Around her are tissues, chocolate wrappers, empty bowls stained with ice cream residue.

BLAIR enters, carefully balancing a cup of tea on a saucer.

BLAIR
Anything else?

HILLARY shakes her head.

Telephone rings

Telephone rings

HILLARY(cont'd)
Would you mind Blair?

Telephone rings

BLAIR nods and answers the phone.

BLAIR (to phone)
Jones house?...
Sorry, who is this?...
(to hillary)
It's *Bruce* from ARC Fitness centre.

HILLARY shakes her head

BLAIR(to phone)
Sorry she isn't here. Can I Help?...
OH. Alright. Um... Someone will be there soon..

BLAIR Hangs up

BLAIR (cont'd)
Hillary, he said Noah has been on the treadmill for over five hours. When the staff approached him he wouldn't get off.

HILLARY
He's...
I ca...
I don't know what to do.
If I stop him he'll just go somewhere else.
He doesn't discuss things with me.
Other than his father, he doesn't *trust* anyone enough to talk.
(beat)
Could I possibly ask you to go?

BLAIR
I don't think I would be any better.

HILLARY
Perhaps if we both go? He might, listen to us.

BLAIR(Interrupting)
What about Alex.
Alex could go?

HILLARY
Blair, I think it would be best not to include anyone else in this.

BLAIR
I know Alex needs to go.

HILLARY
I would prefer not.

BLAIR
Hillary, I am honoured you included me, and Alex would be to. I am positive Alex is who he needs. I can't explain it, something you said earlier. Alex can do it.

HILLARY
I am not up to debating this now.
(Beat)
If you think so...

BLAIR
Can I call him?

HILLARY
Alright Blair.

BLAIR takes the phone and exits.

CUT TO:

INT. Jones house – kitchen – early afternoon

BLAIR dials and waits for answer.

CUE SONG – SWITCHFOOT – DARE YOU TO MOVE

BLAIR
Alex! I need you to do something...
(beat)
Noah's just found out his dad died...

FADE OUT.

CUT TO:

INT ARC Fitness Centre – Cardio room – morning

NOAH is running moderately on a treadmill; the time reads one hour twelve minuets.

INT ARC Fitness Centre – Cardio room – late morning

NOAH is running flat out on a treadmill; the time reads three hours twelve minutes.

INT ARC Fitness Centre – Cardio room – Early Afternoon

NOAH is running moderately on a treadmill; the time reads five hours five minutes. A staff member is harassing NOAH to finish. NOAH ignores him.

INT ARC Fitness Centre – Cardio room – Afternoon

NOAH is running moderately on a treadmill, his shirt is wet, he is crying and his water bottle is empty. Over his left shoulder ALEX enters the gym. The treadmill reads six hours 20 minutes.

ALEX is transfixed by NOAH's face in the mirror.

ALEX walks to the wall next to the treadmill and unplugs its power cord.

NOAH wacks the machine and hits several buttons.

Viciously NOAH turns to see the power socket.

NOAH acknowledges ALEX and shrinks shamefully.

ALEX stares at NOAH for a long beat.

ALEX
What the fuck are you doing?

NOAH steps down off the treadmill, his legs fail.

NOAH falls to the ground in front of ALEX.

ALEX steps down to catch NOAH, late.

ALEX
Buddy, what's going on?

NOAH (on his knees/haunches) meets ALEX's gaze.

NOAH is empty.

ALEX collects NOAH and takes him out of the gym.

EXT. ARC fitness centre – bench – afternoon

NOAH is sitting on the bench, ALEX is squatting in front of him.

A Staff member hands ALEX some water and jelly beans for NOAH.

ALEX
Killing yourself isn't going to help matters any.

NOAH swigs some water weakly.

ALEX(cont'd)
Are you going to tell me what you were doing, or do I have to guess?

NOAH starts crying

NOAH
She didn't even let me say goodbye.

ALEX
Who?

NOAH
My mother.
She...sh...

ALEX
I think you've got it a bit messed up on that one big guy. Your mum is cool but she isn't clairvoyant.

NOAH sobs

ALEX
Buddy, what are you doing?

(beat)

NOAH
I'm never gunna see him again.

NOAH cries

Beat

ALEX hug's NOAH

NOAH holds ALEX desperately crying.

Beat

ALEX worried, holds NOAH out to arms length, and forces eye contact.

ALEX

Bayb.. Buddy. Why torture yourself?

NOAH (agitated)

I can't deal with this. It's too much.

NOAH attempts to stand, he fails.

NOAH cries

ALEX

Nod. Just... Stop for a minute. You're too smart for your own good. Sometimes, you can't be strong, and you have to, give up. Let others fight for a little.

(beat)

You *can't* try to figure this one out, and stop trying to fight past it.

This time you have to lay down and wait for the wall to move...

I won't tell anyone you're just another mere mortal.

NOAH winces and collapses onto ALEX

NOAH cries briefly and goes silent.

Beat

ALEX smiles and tentatively pushes NOAH back.

NOAH is unconscious.

ALEX shakes NOAH.

ALEX

Noah, NOAH!

HELP!

HELP!

ALEX holds NOAH with one hand by the back of the neck and attempts to wake him.

ALEX

HELP!

A gym staff member walks out, then runs to them.

GYM STAFF

What has he taken, what happened?

ALEX

Nu, Nothing, he was upset about his father and then he was unconscious.

GYM STAFF

Bruce! Call an ambulance.

ALEX

NOAH!

NOAH!

GYM STAFF

Mate, help me lay him on his side.

(beat)

MATE!

ALEX

Yeah. Ok. Um.

Help me with his neck.

GYM STAFF (BRUCE) ENTERS

BRUCE

Ambo five minuets.

(to alex)

Mate, your gunna need to give us some room.

GYM STAFF

Can you find a pulse? Check the carotid, there is nothing from any of the peripherals.

The two GYM STAFF begin first aid, then EAR.

NOAH doesn't respond

ALEX paces.

BLACK OUT

CUT TO:

EXT. ARC fitness centre – bench – afternoon

NOAH remains between the two GYM STAFF.
An ambulance arrives, two drivers exit.
They see to NOAH.
ALEX runs over to them.
ALEX and AMBO's move to NOAH.
AMBO's work on NOAH.
AMBO-ONE talks to BRUCE.
BRUCE points an AMBO to ALEX

AMBO-ONE
Do you know what happened mate? Mate! MATE!

ALEX
What?..
He passed out.

AMBO-ONE
What happened before that?

ALEX
Um. He was upset, Um. He ran, he ran for like, 6 hours straight.

AMBO-ONE
Did he take anything?

ALEX
NOAH? Never. Noah wouldn't even take aspirin.

AMBO-TWO
He isn't responding, his pulse is weak. We have to get him to B.R.

AMBO-ONE
Mate, anything else you know, quick!

ALEX is crying.

ALEX
No, Nothing.

AMBO-ONE and AMBO-TWO prop the stretcher, and begin to load NOAH into the ambulance.

ALEX
What's happening? Where are you taking him?

AMBO-ONE

We have to get him to the emergency room, they can treat him there.

ALEX

WHAT?! WAIT! I'm coming.

AMBO-ONE

Only family mate.

ALEX

Yeah!

He's my brother.

(beat)

AMBO-ONE

Alright, in the front. DO NOTHING!

ALEX carriers around to the front passenger door and hurtles in.

NOAH flat lines.

BLACKOUT

CUT TO:

INT. Emergency waiting room – Hospital – evening

ALEX crowds a payphone, intently possessing the earpiece.

ALEX

Blair! Where is Hillary?...

(beat) {BLAIR: She is still in the same spot. Where the fuck is NOAH? Is he alright?}

No, he isn't. Blair, We're at B.R emergency, Noah's... Noah's...

(beat){BLAIR:WHAT?! ALEX?}

I don't know, they won't tell me (ALEX CRIES) He passed out at the gym.

(beat){BLAIR: Is he alive?}

He was in the ambulance, but no-one will speak to me.

{BLAIR: We're coming}

ALEX stands holding the receiver.

Beat

A young nurse approaches him from the counter.

NURSE (tentatively)

What's your name handsome?

ALEX Stares

NURSE (cont'd)

If you would like to put that phone down, I'll get you a drink?

ALEX nods through tears.

NURSE takes the phone and hangs it up.

NURSE and ALEX walk to a break room.

NURSE(cont'd)

You came in with the young guy from the gym, right?

ALEX nods

NURSE(cont'd)

Water? Coffee?

ALEX

Water?

NURSE

You can speak! Water, cold or luke?

ALEX

Luke.

NURSE gets a glass and fills it, then hands it to ALEX who sits at the table.

ALEX breaths.

NURSE

He will be fine, honey. They think he is just in shock.

He'll need to rest for *some time*, but he should pull through fine.

ALEX Lunges across to hug the NURSE.

NURSE giggles.

NURSE (Cont'D)

Alright big fella, Alright.

ALEX sits Back to his chair.

NURSE(cont'd)

You certainly have excellent taste.
(beat)

NURSE(cont'd)
He is one sexy guy.

ALEX
What? Sorry no, I'm not...

NURSE(interrupting)
Don't say it. I trust what my eyes see.
(Beat)
You'll figure it out soon enough though.
I have rounds to make.

NURSE moves to door

NURSE(cont'd)
FYI, your "brother" is in Room 28C.

NURSE exits

NURSE(cont'd)
(outside)
But don't wake him up.

ALEX breaths

BLACK OUT

INT. Noah's Recovery Room – Hospital – Night

NOAH Lies asleep on his bed, a saline drip in his arm.

ALEX stands momentarily at the door before entering.

ALEX moves into the room. He is transfixed by NOAH.

ALEX moves to a chair at the end of the bed, still watching intently, he sits.

CUT TO:

LATER

ALEX sits quietly on a chair at the end of the bed, one knee up with his chin resting on it.

HILLARY enters followed by BLAIR.

HILLARY rushes to NOAH. HILLARY strokes NOAH's Arm silently.

BLAIR walks over to ALEX.

ALEX stands and moves his chair behind HILLARY.

HILLARY sits, clasping NOAH's hand. HILLARY tears silently.

ALEX and BLAIR Exit, closing the door behind them.

INT. Hospital corridor – Hospital – Night

BLAIR
Alex, what the fuck?

ALEX breaths deeply

ALEX
The nurse didn't tell me too much...
(Beat)

They think his body went into shock from over exertion. But no wonder, when I got to the gym he had been running for over six hours.
They said he should pull through fine... Should.

BLAIR
Dude, I don't want to be unfeeling. But, when Noah heard this morning, I was at his house, and he left us, both. When I tried talking to him, he was completely unfazed... It was like nothing had happened, he was just pissed that his mum had lied to him.
(beat)
Now we're at the fucking hospital.
(Beat)

ALEX
You're closest to Noah, right?

BLAIR
I suppose.

ALEX
He's gay. Yeah?

BLAIR
Yeah.

ALEX
So, he'd be pretty... sappy, yeah?

BLAIR
Noah? Never.
Dude, I just told you, he took his dad dying of the chin.

ALEX laments.

ALEX
When I got to the gym, the crew there looked, like, petrified...
But, I just walked in and unplugged the machine. I mean he looked wrecked, but I figured, yeah,
ya would be. But. When he looked at me all I did was stand there and he disintegrated.
(Beat)
He was a mess.
(beat)
It was like I knew him as always, Noah, but, not like the Noah I know. He was... I don't know?
Like when you meet a famous person, and you figure out they're real.

BLAIR
What did he say?

ALEX
I don't know. He was just so upset. I've never seen anybody like that before.

BLAIR
Dude, I think *you* need some time to chill.

HILLARY squeezes through the door.

HILLARY
Boys, excuse me for a minute.
Noah is awake; he asked if you were here Alex.
I said I didn't know, I thought you might want to go home.
If you like I'll tell him you had to leave.

ALEX
Yeah, maybe that might be a good idea. I am kinda exhausted after this afternoon.

HILLARY accepts and turns.

BLAIR Nudges ALEX and motions him to go in.

ALEX(cont'd)
Oh, actually Mrs Jones. I'd like to talk to him.

HILLARY
Alright

ALEX Moves to the door behind HILLARY. HILLARY ushers ALEX in but waits outside herself.

HILLARY
From what the Doctor said, if he had kept running any longer he could have died.
Alex saved his life.

HILLARY hugs BLAIR

HILLARY
I know you have a lot of things to struggle with Blair.
You really deserve more credit than you allow.
You are a beautiful person.

CUT TO:

INT. Noah's recovery Room – Hospital – night

ALEX walks to NOAH

ALEX
Hey buddy.

NOAH
Alex...

NOAH
I am so sorry. I don't, get, exactly where I am right now with today. But among a blur of shit...
You are there.

(Beat)
I am so embarrassed, I'm so worried that I've hurt you.
(beat)
Alex, I'm so sorry. You didn't deserve me to do this to you.
I'm Sorry.

ALEX
Stop. Right now Noah, stop.
(Beat)
I'd do it again now if need be. And again. AND, again.
But if you do this again, I'll kill you.
(beat)
Noah? Tell me what happened today?

NOAH
I don't know.

ALEX
Yeah you do.

(beat)

NOAH
I needed to run.
(Beat)

ALEX
What made you stop?

(beat)

NOAH
Someone unplugged the treadmill.

ALEX
That's it?

NOAH
I don't know what else to say.
(beat)

ALEX
Why did you leave you mum?

NOAH
Alex stop. I know what I did.
I don't need your disappointment as well.

ALEX
I'm not disappointed.
(beat)
I'll let you get some rest.

NOAH
I don't want mum to know I am upset.

ALEX stared at NOAH.

ALEX

I can understand that.
(beat)
But, you know what.
Faking bravery just robs everyone else.
People need to be upset, and need to see others upset.
Your mum can handle it, and she might just need it.

NOAH
I can't let her down too.

ALEX
You will only let her down if you don't talk to her.
People that love you could not care less if you fail their expectations.

(beat)

NOAH
Are you still going to talk to me?

ALEX
You'll have trouble shutting me up.

(beat)

ALEX
Night Noddy.

NOAH
Night.

ALEX
Later.
Noah. Talk to your mum.

NOAH looks down

ALEX (cont'd)
I'll be around, ok. No more running though, talk to me first.
(beat)

ALEX opens the door and HILLARY enters to NOAH's side

HILLARY
Hey Noddy, I'm here again.

NOAH smiles

HILLARY(cont'd)

Sweetheart, I am sorry I didn't tell you your dad was sick. I was wrong.

NOAH

Mum, don't...

Don't worry about it. It doesn't matter. I shouldn't have done what I did. And I had to get put into hospital to figure that out.

NOAH begins to cry.

(beat)

I just don't want him to be gone yet. It's not right, he's the only home I know. I don't, know, how, I am going to *be me* anymore without him there.

(beat)

HILLARY

Noah, what it is you love about William is in you already. Who he was, is already too much apart of you for you to ever lose.

(beat)

The only thing, the *two* of us, will have to overcome; is how much we will miss our relationships with him. Because that's the only thing we have lost of him baby.

(beat)

ALEX exits

HILLARY slumps down into the chair, crying.

(Beat)

NOAH reaches down to take her hand.

NOAH

We'll do it together mumma.

NOAH hugs HILLARY, tearing.

BLACK OUT

EXT. Hospital car park – Hospital – Night

BLAIR and ALEX exit the emergency entrance.

BLAIR

What was with you not going in man? I mean dude, that was weak.

ALEX

Don't start Blair.

(beat)

BLAIR

I've known you five years man. What's up? Tell me

(beat)

ALEX

Dude, I watched Noah nearly die, ok. Lay off.

BLAIR

No way. That's not it. You'd have said it before if you were cut. Come on bro, share the baggage.

(beat)

ALEX chastises himself

(beat)

ALEX breaths deeply

BLAIR(cont'd)

Mate?

ALEX

I LIKE NOAH.

(beat)

BLAIR

Ohh, FUCK.

(beat)

BLAIR(cont'd)

You're FUCKED. (laughs)

(Laughs Harder)

Great timing bro; absolute gold.

ALEX hangs his head

ALEX

You're a cunt.

BLAIR

Something you're obviously not interested then.

(laughs)

ALEX
You can walk home.

BLAIR
Get a grip man. Ten seconds a fag and you're already a drama queen.

ALEX smacks BLAIR in the back of the head.

ALEX
If I'm a fag, I'm a fag that can kick your arse.

BLAIR
You stay away from my arse, Nancy. Or was that little slap a come on.

ALEX
FUCKER

BLAIR bolts.

ALEX gives chase.

BLAIR
HELP HELP!
MOLEST!
RAPE!
MAD FAG ALERT.
(laughs hysterically)
RAMPANT QUEEN.
(laughs hysterically)

FADE TO BLACK.

CREDITS.