

# Untitled [Redacted]: Episode 2

By Nicholas Tran

*Calm, idyllic music playing in the  
background*

JOANNA

Dear mother,

It has only been a few weeks since our wedding and life has been a dream. Jack is such a sweetheart and our life has been full of passion and new discoveries. I learned that Jack has a cute, but quiet, snore. It's adorable! I discovered it the other night when I was feeling a bit peckish in the middle of the night.

Speaking of which, thank you for your recipe box. It's been a life-saving wedding gift. Jack has such an incredible appetite, in many different ways. I've been able to cook all day as Jack works the field, and having all of your recipes helps keep things fresh and exciting!

It is hard work but satisfying. I look forward to your visit to our new home. The house is cozy and quaint, and the fields are a vision from a dream. I can't believe that we were able to purchase it for cheap. I can't wait to hear from you again.

Love,

Jo

*Beat. SFX: Turning of page.*

Dear mother,

Thank you for the books you sent for our anniversary! I cannot believe that it's been a full year of marriage! It still feels like yesterday that Jack was bringing flowers to our door every day. He's such a romantic.s

We have been taking lots of time to ourselves as Jack prepares for the next season of farming. It has been nice, being able to read together in the study and relax.

And exciting news, Jack and I are starting to try to have a baby. We're looking forward to starting this new chapter of our life. Do you have any advice for me to quicken the process? There's no rush, but I want to get pregnant as soon as possible.

Tell father I love him. Until next time,

Love,

Jo

*Beat. SFX: Turning of page.*

Dear mother,

I am excited to tell you that I'm pregnant! It's seems like so long ago that you gave me advice on how to conceive. It's been a hard two years, but it's all worth it!

Dr. Jefferson said that I'm 6 weeks along, it looks like our child will be born with the coming of spring. He has also informed me of a new machine that can tell whether the baby will be a boy or a girl before they are born! He will help me take the test during the next appointment.

Please tell father that he is going to be a grandfather! I'm so happy!

Love,

Jo

*Beat. SFX: Turning of page.*

*Moody, idyllic music playing in the background.*

Dear mother,

The harvest has been hard this year, but it looks like we will be able to just get by financially. In a stroke of irony, my state has also grown difficult as well.

I have been having a difficult time walking around the house. I have been feeling intense pain with every step I take. Dr. Jefferson has said that it's a normal symptom of pregnancy, and that I should not worry, but it has been an incredibly painful experience.

Jack has taken over cleaning and cooking in addition to his farm work. While I am grateful, the house is still a mess and he is not a great cook.

I know that winter has made the roads difficult to travel, but can you come earlier mother?

Love,

Jo

*Beat. SFX: Turning of page.*

Dear mother,

It's been a hard winter. While I look forward to finally giving birth, I am afraid I might not make it through. I have been feeling sickly and weak for months. I barely have the strength to lift the pen to write to you.

Dr. Jefferson has said that he believes that I will have a safe delivery, but the look on his face betrays his worry. I am scared. I am so afraid of leaving Alexis and Jack in this world alone.

I cannot wait until you can make it here to help guide me through this. Please come soon.

Love,

Jo

*Beat. SFX: Turning of page.*

*Calm, idyllic music playing in the background.*

Dear mother,

It's only been two weeks since you have left, and I miss you dearly already. Alexis has been quiet and moody recently; she misses her grandmother.

Jack and I have been returning to our routine. He's preparing for the next farming season, and I have been enjoying just taking care of Alexis and being able to walk again.

Dr. Jefferson says he's impressed at my recovery, being able to walk just under a year later. I am still limping a little, but he says that that will go away with time.

Despite that, I am content with our lives finally returning to some semblance of normalcy. Tell father that we all say "hello."

Love,

Jo

Dear mother,

Alexis has finally started school, and the house is quiet again. Thank you for the books again. It has been fantastic timing, I have so much more time to read again, I have missed it so much.

Jack is looking to expand the fields and hire on some farmhands. I don't think we really need to expand, but I think Jack has big dreams for the farm. I think he wants to be able to help pay for Alexis's schooling down the line too, but that's very far into the future.

I am happy now. While things are not perfect, our family still feels like a dream I never want to wake up from. I hope everything is going okay on your side. I miss you. With Jack working on expanding the fields and Alexis at school, it has been lonely at home. I can not wait to see you again.

Love,

Jo

*Beat. SFX: Turning of page*

Dear mother,

I am excited to announce that I am pregnant again! This time with a boy! I am 16 weeks in now, and I wished I could have informed you earlier, but the first few months were intense and just as hard, if not worse, than when I was carrying Alexis.

Even Dr. Jefferson voiced his concerns about potentially transferring me to the city's hospital for the duration of the pregnancy. But recently, in the last two weeks, I have had a full recovery to form! Even my limp seems to have improved. It is just like magic.

Jack has been a little tense; I think he has been worried about my health. I told him that he does not have to worry anymore, but I think he's still worried, even if he doesn't say it.

Alexis is ecstatic about being an older sister. Honestly, I am a little surprised myself. I did not expect to be having another child. All of this feels like a miracle honestly. Our family is very blessed. I can not wait for your next visit.

Love,

Jo

*Beat. SFX: Turning of page*

Dear mother,

I am sad that you could not be here to see Benjamin's birth, but he was a vibrant baby. His smile brings joy to my life every time I see it. From pregnancy to delivery, it has been a smooth journey this time. Even Dr. Jefferson was surprised.

Alexis has helping out with all of the chores, and she even began learning how to cook! I am so proud of the girl she has grown up to be.

Jack is the happiest I have seen in a long time. He has been worried this whole pregnancy. He often woke up in cold sweat, and refuses to go back to sleep, often choosing to walk in the fields instead. I am glad that his nerves have finally calmed down.

I am so excited for this new chapter of my life. I can not wait until you get to meet Benji.

Love,

Jo

*Beat. SFX: Turning of page.*

*Slow-build dramatic music playing in the background.*

Dear mother,

Jack's mother moved in with us this month. It has been an interesting experience. I know I was against it at first, but it has not been too difficult of an experience. She has been very docile and just eats, sleeps, and sits in the living room staring off into the distance.

I feel sympathy for her, having her husband die so suddenly. I hope she can fit in here. Jack seems happy to have her closer to him, but he seems to be stressed about taking on another mouth to feed. I am optimistic that we will be able to make it work though.

Love,

Jo

*Beat. SFX: Turning of page.*

Dear mother,

Our household has become very strained recently. Alexis has been acting out and has been very cold to us recently. I wonder if it's the new trend among teenagers. It's strange, I do not remember being like that at her age.

Jack has been stressed about the harvest. We have been having weak harvests recently, and it seems to be hitting Jack hard. He's been very sensitive recently, we got into a fight about his snoring keeping me awake at night.

Jack's mother has not been well either. She seems to be losing her memory, often mistaking Jack for his father and Benji for a younger Jack. Honestly, it would be so cute if it was not so sad.

All of this has been hard on me, but I must persevere for all of us. I hope this is just a phase for everyone.

Love,

Jo

*Beat. SFX: Turning of page.*

Dear mother,

I found Jack awake in the middle of the night, just staring out the window, unresponsive. It was an odd moment, but not isolated. I often find him muttering unintelligible things to himself. When I ask him about it, he gets defensive and acts like he was not aware of it.

I fear for his mental health, but Dr. Jefferson will not be able to make a home visit for some time. All I can do is stand strong and hopefully wait this to past.

Love,

Jo

*Beat. SFX: Turning of page.*

*Sinister music playing in the background.*

Dear mother,

Jack has become more and more deranged. He mutters in his sleep about some ritual, often screaming himself and me awake in the middle of the night. He spends long hours in the fields just staring into the distance, sometimes bursting in insane laughter.

I feel like this insanity is infectious. I often find Benji talking to an invisible friend, who seems to be inviting Benji somewhere where we can't reach. I even find myself waking up, standing by the counter, cutting something that's not there.

I fear for the safety of our entire family.

Love,

Jo

*Beat. SFX: Turning of page.*

Dear mother,

I cannot express my emotions right now. Alexis has died. I can't even tell you how, I just, can't believe it. I fully believe our house is cursed.

I am looking to run away with Benji,

Jo

*Beat. SFX: Turning of page.*

Dear mother,

Benji has disappeared.

I do not know what to do now, please send guidance.

Jo

*Beat. SFX: Turning of page.*

*All music stops.*

Dear mother,

I know what I have to do. I know how to end this. I wish you and father were still with us.

I will be joining you soon,

Jo.

*Static. An uncomfortable beat.*

DISTORTED VOICE

*Backwards*

And no one lived happily ever after.