

SET SAIL FOR CHRISTMAS - EXCERPT

Written by

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Amanda brings up her phone and begins typing furiously. She turns and heads off toward her cabin, dragging her suitcase behind her.

She manages to walk only a couple of steps before colliding with someone, sending them both crashing to the ground. Amanda's friends see this and wince.

PARKER (O.S.)  
Oh, my goodness. I'm so sorry. Are you alright?

The man reaches down and offers Amanda his hand. She takes it and allows him to pull her up.

AMANDA  
That was my fault entirely. I should have watched where I was--

Amanda looks at the man standing in front of her.

AMANDA  
Parker?

Amanda's friends glance at one another, then back to Amanda.

PARKER  
Amanda? Amanda Tinsley? I can't believe my eyes!

Parker pulls Amanda into his arms. They hold each other for a beat, then it starts to become awkward. They pull apart.

PARKER  
Uh ... wh-what are you doing here?

AMANDA  
I'm ... you know ... friends ... Christmas ... the ocean. Uh ... wait, what are you doing here?

PARKER  
(big smile)  
Same.

Amanda smiles awkwardly.

PARKER  
Wow. Amanda Tinsley. All the times I've thought about you over the years, I never imagined running into you like this. Like, actually running into you.

AMANDA

You thought about me over the years?

PARKER

How could I not?

AMANDA

(blushing)

Well. Uh ... how long has it been, exactly?

PARKER

Since I've thought about you or since we've seen one another?

AMANDA

(smiling)

Since we've seen each other.

PARKER

Hmm ... I'd say ever since you left for college and never returned a single one of my texts or emails.

AMANDA

(wincing)

Oh, Parker. I'm so sorry. I was an idiot.

PARKER

You were a kid. We both were.

AMANDA

Even so, I never should have cut you out like that.

PARKER

It's okay.

AMANDA

No, really. I should explain.

PARKER

There's nothing to explain. We were both offered full scholarships to Juilliard Music School. You decided you wanted to pursue a different path and went elsewhere.

AMANDA

And then got so focused on that path that I lost touch with the people I cared about the most.

PARKER

Hey, you don't have to tell me  
about getting lost in your work.  
I'm the king of that department.

AMANDA

(smiling)

Well ... I guess we're just two  
peas in a pod.

PARKER

(warmly)

We always were.

They stare at each other fondly.

AMANDA

Well, I should let you go.

PARKER (CONT'D)

I guess you need to move  
along.

They laugh.

PARKER

It was good to see you, Amanda.  
Maybe we'll ... run into each other  
again.

Parker heads off. Amanda's friends instantly surround her.

LIZ

Okay. Spill it. What's with you and  
Mr. Studmuffin over there?

AMANDA

Oh, him? He's no one. Just ... just  
my old high school boyfriend.

Brook lets out a squeal, then covers her mouth.

AMANDA

Okay, I know what you're all  
thinking. But this isn't one of  
those rom-coms where the high  
school sweetheart appears out of  
the blue and just happens to be a  
... what did you call him, Liz?

LIZ

Mr. Studmuffin.

AMANDA

Right. Just happens to be Mr. Studmuffin and they, the old sweethearts, fall in love all over again.

KRISTIN

You were really in love with him?

AMANDA

I thought I was. In that naive, teenage dream kind of way.

BROOK

So what happened?

AMANDA

What usually happens to young lovers? He went off to school in New York, I came down here to study in Miami. That was it. End of story.

LIZ

(suggestively)

Not necessarily.

AMANDA

(waving them off)

Don't be silly. He's probably married with kids by now.

LIZ

I didn't see a ring on his finger.  
(to Brook) Did you see a ring on his finger?

BROOK

I did not.

LIZ

(to Kristin)

Did you?

KRISTIN

Nope. No ring.

AMANDA

Is this something you all do instinctively? Check every guy's hand for a wedding ring?

The three friends all nod.

LIZ  
I call it "ring radar."

Amanda shakes her head and grabs hold of her suitcase.

AMANDA  
Huh. Ring Radar and Ninja Fingers.  
My best friends are superheroes.  
I'll see you all back here in a  
bit.

She heads out of the lobby.

LIZ  
Be careful! The next guy you run  
over may not be as forgiving!

BROOK  
Or as stud-muffin-y!