

**POP GOES THE STAR**

Written by

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Characters: Ariana, 16 - 19

(Think Ariana Grande or Miley Cyrus for reference.)

Jesse, late 20's

Ex-baseball player. Went to fight for his country overseas and possibly ran out on his dreams of making to the big leagues.

**Synopsis:**

Jesse, a bodyguard, confronts Ariana about her wild antics, while trying to hide his feelings for her. Ariana, a spoiled pop star singer, doesn't handle it well.

INT. GRAND HALL DRESSINGROOM - NIGHT

ARIANA ENTERS THE DRESSINGROOM WITH A POMPOUS AND SEEMINGLY PROUD ATTITUDE AND TAKES A SEAT AT THE MIRROR TO TOUCH UP HER MAKEUP. JESSE FOLLOWS HER IN AND SHUTS THE DOOR.

ARIANA

Can you please stand outside the door?

JESSE

I have direct orders from Mitch to not let you out of my sight.

ARIANA

Fine.

Jesse stands in silence with folded arms, biting his tongue until...

JESSE

I know I'm not supposed to stick my nose into your personal business...

ARIANA

Then don't.

JESSE

Your right. Never mind.

Ariana stands and grabs a dress off the wardrobe rack. She is about to start undressing in front of Jesse, as he turns away to give her privacy.

ARIANA

I thought you said you had orders not to take your eyes off of me.

Jesse keeps his eyes averted.

ARIANA (CONT'D)

Well...

JESSE

You know, when I was pitching in the minors, I saw guys get called up to the majors, and then, poof, just like that they disappeared.

ARIANA

(confused)  
What's your point?

(CONTINUED)

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JESSE

The ones who couldn't cut it would sometimes go back to the minors, work on their game. Some gave up, some got injured, but the ones who had all the right stuff, they only had a short time to prove themselves.

ARIANA

You going somewhere with this?

JESSE

I was hired to protect you from the paparazzi, creepy stalkers, hell I might even take a bullet for you if the wind is blowing in the right direction...

This touches Ariana, but she manages to hide her feelings for Jesse.

ARIANA

Well, that is your job isn't it?

JESSE

Yeah, it is. But what's not in my job description is to protect you from yourself. You act like a spoiled little child who doesn't know that fire burns yet.

ARIANA

What? Oh, please. Your not my father.

(beat)

Look, you have no idea what I have to do to stay on top in this business. Besides like Mitch says, "there is no such thing as bad publicity."

JESSE

God, you even talk like them. No one is going to take you seriously if you don't take yourself seriously, if you don't take the game seriously.

ARIANA

The game? Now that's funny.

JESSE

What?

(CONTINUED)

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ARIANA

This is not baseball, Carter. It's all about publicity around here. Parties, power and rubbing elbows with the people who have the power. I choose to have a little fun because it works.

JESSE

Sounds like someone who doesn't believe in their own talent.

This stings Ariana. Hurt.

ARIANA

Really. So what's your excuse tough guy? Had to go off and be a war hero first.

Jesse just stares at Ariana.

ARIANA (CONT'D)

How convenient.

Jesse doesn't respond.

JESSE

Let me know when done Mame, I'll be outside.

Jesse leaves.

ARIANA

Jesse wait...  
(beat)  
shit.