

Motivational Units/Events for Of Good Stock by Melissa Ross

UNIT	PAGES Cut script	WHO	QUESTIONS	DRAMATIC ACTION / KEY REVELATIONS
Unit 1 8:30 AM		JESS FRED	In the opening of the show, Is Jess looking forward to seeing her sisters? <i>Jess seems to be anxious about her sisters' arrival. She is looking forward to seeing them, but worried about what could possibly go wrong.</i> -What is her demeanor in the beginning? (nervous, happy, dreading) -Who is the boss of the marriage (wears the pants) -How does Jess feel about the several scripts in the mail to make her dad's novels into movies? How does she show her feelings? -What are madras pants? Fred said, 'when I'm dressed I'm not changing' and he shows up in madras pants. What does this say about his personality and his relationship with Jess. What does his reaction to Jess mean? -Why is Jess annoyed with Amy's wedding? Is it the card or more than that? <i>Jess is not worried about being a "huge part" in the wedding. She would just be happy to be alive and healthy enough to attend.</i>	-Need to know everything about Fred and Jess's relationship -Jess's reaction to the "madras pants" needs to show her thought process. (be able to be playful, yet annoyed) -Playful banter between Jess and Fred (bickering) -Amy's a little over the top (extra) "wedding for her cats" -Fred and Jess's feelings about the gathering- -Jess's birthday -This meeting is important to Jess because she has officially outlived her Mom, causing some emotional realizations about mortality.

Unit 1 8:30 AM (CONT).	JESS FRED (cont)	-Why does Fred worry about Celia? Fred could also feel some of the weight that Jess carries of being the parent figure. Fred has also known Celia and Amy since they were kids (more in Unit 4). - "Not my art, not my choice." What does that mean? - What shows the emotional ridge between Jess and Fred? - What was Jess like before she was diagnosed, what was she like before her mom died? - What does Celia's activities "saving the world" say about her character? Why is this important? - "She likes to take in lost things." Why do people have this sort of behavior? - "Everybody to play nice." How does this allude to previous gatherings? How does Jess feel about this? - "I don't love sharing something I love with people who don't appreciate it." What does this say about Fred? - What does Jess's reaction to the reminder of her birthday show how she feels about the event? - How can Fred show age? - How can Jess show age?	- JESS could be thinking about how her mother would not have similar experiences to guide her from this point forward. - Jess seems to deflect from Fred's questioning of Celia's "new guy" by bringing up Amy and Josh. "We don't know a lot about Josh." - We have to see Fred's attempt to be close with his wife and how it affects him. He must show hurt but cover up the hurt with humor.
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Unit 2 11:30 AM		JESS CELIA	-What does Celia's entrance (and impact) on the house say about her character? -Celia's thoughts on Amy? -Possibly foreshadow Celia's "no vodka" and "professional alcoholic?" -"Known him that long?"- Jess's judgemental side? How does it add to the relationship between the sisters? - How can we show change and distance between the sisters? - Why does Jess have more moments with her sisters than with Fred? -How does Celia reassure Jess? What does this say about their relationship? -	-Celia acknowledges that she's the "flakiest one" in the Stockton family -Celia needs to try to conceal her secret (she needs to know what's going on, subtle foreshadowing) -Every character has a secret and it should be shown onstage) -Sisters are close -Jess's illness is still unknown to the audience, but they now know something is wrong - We have to show a way that Celia is 'flakey' without disrupting the OAP needs. For example, Celia could leave something lying around and Jess could pick it up afterwards.
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Unit 3 4:00 PM		JESS CELIA AMY JOSH	- Josh and Amy are matching, what does this say about their relationship? - Bickering between Celia and Amy? Compared to Jess and Celia? - Jess and Celia's relationship compared to Jess and Amy's? Who is Jess closer with? - Why is Amy persistent with the fact that she "didn't forget?" - Is Josh ever involved in the conversation, or is he just kind of there? - What does Jess want? - How does Josh stand up for Amy? - Why does no one react when Amy leaves?	-Act out actions, even if not stated in cut script -Cancer is now named as Jess's illness -Amy needs to cry in this unit -Josh is on the attack with these questions about "the boyfriend," Celia is retreating
		JESS CELIA AMY JOSH FRED	- What does Jess want? - Amy's sudden silence when she re-enters? Tense moment on stage? - Pie preference between sisters- shows how different they are? Jess goes with Celia's choice? How does this make the other people feel?	
		JESS CELIA AMY	- Celia and Amy arguing over Jess's speech about her own birthday? Sisters are more focused on annoying each other. What does this say about Celia and Amy's relationship? - Celia and Amy arguing about presents when Jess says "I don't want presents." Amy and Celia more focused on winning the argument rather than what Jess is actually saying? - What does Jess want? - Why does Amy worry so much about technicality?	

Unit 4 7:00 PM		JOSH FRED	- How does Josh feel about his relationship with Amy? - What habits has Josh picked up from Amy? - How does Amy treat Josh? - Josh's perception of Amy being "hot" making her the one? Josh is pretty shallow. - Why didn't Jess want a wedding? - Even though Fred has a rocky relationship with Amy, he still insists "she's cool." What does this say about Fred? - Fred says he would've wanted a wedding, what does this say about Fred? - Possible foreshadowing about Josh's future, his admiration of Mick Stockton? - "I will throw you a fantastic funeral," what does this say about Fred's sense of humor and his relationship with Jess? - What is Josh feeling when he says the ocean is "overwhelming?" - Why does Josh say "death might be really extraordinary?" What is he thinking?	- Jess micromanages - Amy is controlling of Josh - Josh is shallow - Jess/Fred married 7 years, known each other 25 - Age difference is 7 years - Fred worked with Mick Stockton - Sisters avoid talking about their father - Josh- perk up when Fred mentions his broken off engagement - Josh is thinking near the end of the scene, making decisions - Josh is overwhelmed, a lot is going on (the wheels are turning)
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Unit 5 8:00 PM		JESS CELIA HUNTER AMY	- Amy pointing out Hunter's quirks? Why does she do this? - Amy brings up that "Jess and Celia tease her relentlessly." How does Amy see her sisters' relationship? - The house is constantly brought up as a point of tension? Why? - Why are Jess and Amy hung up on Hunter's age and education? - How does each person react to Celia moving? - Which characters like Hunter? Which characters don't? -	- We meet Hunter - Jess is trying to figure out more about Hunter - Hunter seems to be clueless, a little ambushed - Age difference between Celia and Hunter is large - Find out that Celia is moving to Missoula (across the country) - House is a point of tension -
		JESS CELIA HUNTER AMY FRED JOSH	- How does each couple react to Amy and Josh's relationship - How does everyone react to Josh leaving? - Why does Amy target Celia when she finds out Josh left? - Why is this argument a pivotal moment? - Do Celia and Amy really mean what they say, or are they just trying to hurt one another?	- "That's Amy-" big moment of realization for Josh, Amy's behavior is final - Pivotal argument for the sisters - Family finds out Celia's pregnant - Hunter's statement about Family splitting up (possible pivotal moment) - Jess has a lot of emotion (guarded) being the oldest and being the mother figure.

Unit 6 10:00 PM		JESS FRED HUNTER	- How does Jess feel about Hunter? - How can Jess look distracted? - What does Fred mean by "Jess likes to make a plate?" What does this tell the audience about how Fred sees Jess? - How does Jess react to the news about multiples running in Hunter's family? -	- Jess begins to become weary when it comes to Hunter. This is a change from Fred being protective. - Jess is trying to process all of the events that have just occurred - Hunter opens up - Fred is concerned about the food
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		JESS FRED HUNTER CELIA	- What can the audience tell about Celia and Hunter's relationship from their interactions? - How can we make Jess look like an "energetic" Martha Stewart? - Are there any similarities between Hunter and Fred (behaviors and demeanors)? - What do we find out about Fred and Hunter's sense of humor about the "dramatic exits?" - Does Jess seem to like Hunter? Where does this concern seem to stem from? - How does the scene between Celia and Fred elaborate on their relationship? - What do we find out about Jess's health from Fred and Celia? - How can we take time with pauses? How does this affect the relationships in the show? - How can we have silence carry the weight? - How can we make Celia look anxious and dramatic?	- Hunter and Celia seem to have new ideas and opinions - Hunter and Celia are kind of unpredictable - Celia seems to be avoiding discussion due to nervousness (hormonal) - Jess seems to be acting like Amy in the way of background checks (Maternal role) - Fred and Celia are really close (father/daughter like?) - Fred is content and happy for Celia, but he is still concerned - Fred opens the door with Celia, but he takes many pauses to decide to open up - Fred is borderline scared (could be a cause of not being able to be scared around Jess) - Fred admits to Celia that he is not okay.
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				- Fred wants to talk about Jess, but Jess always shuts him down. It could be a cause of why he moves to Celia.
Unit 7 10:10 PM		JESS HUNTER	- How do the Stockton sisters cope with their trauma? - What do we see in Hunter and Jess's relationship? - How does Hunter describe his feelings about Celia? - What information do we find out about Hunter? - Why is Jess hesitant about Celia's relationship? - "Any of us Stockton girls can truly be happy." Why does Jess say this? - How does Jess feel about Celia talking about her illness to Hunter? Why do you think Celia talked about Jess? - What does Hunter's monologue about "someone opening their heart" say about his and Celia's relationship? - How does Jess feel about these ideals? - How are Hunter and Celia going to end up? Do they stay together forever?	- Hunter's mom has passed on - Jess feels out of place in Cape Cod - Always being busy-trauma response - Learns that Jess is not a huge fan of Hunter - Celia- commitment is not her thing - Hunter is clear on his intentions (clear communication) - Jess steps into the "mother bear" role (tries to protect Celia) - Celia is healing through Hunter and vice versa - Hunter calling out Jess on her judgment - Emphasis on the end of this scene

		JESS HUNTER AMY FRED	- How does Amy deal with the news about Josh not calling? - What is Amy concerned about, that Josh left her or that she will be humiliated? - What does Amy think about Hunter? - Why does Fred ask Jess how to 'acknowledge the crying?' What does this say about Fred and Amy's relationship?	- Amy is smoking (told Josh not to smoke, Mom had lung cancer)
Unit 8 10:40 PM		JESS CELIA HUNTER AMY FRED	- How can we demonstrate the different emotions in this unit? - What do we learn about the sisters' relationship? Do they hold grudges? - Is Amy expecting Josh to call? - What was the sisters' relationship with their father? - How do the tones of each character's line show their mood? - What do we learn about the sisters' parents? - How does Jess tend to even micromanage the story? - How does each character's reaction to Amy crying say about their relationship with her? - What do we learn about Amy's feelings about the other reactions to Josh leaving? - What does Amy really want? - Why doesn't Jess want Fred to go to the dock?	- Amy was not close with their father - Amy received more money in the will from the Grandparents? - Father got more emotionally distant - Mother was sad and stoic - Amy sees the relationship between her parents differently than Jess and Celia - Fred is drunk - Hunter is clumsy - Amy is falling apart and does not know how to ask for help - Mom was Polish - Possibility that Mick took advantage of the mother

Unit 9 11:11 PM		AMY JESS	- Why does Amy think Jess is trying to fix things? - What does Amy think of the sisters' relationship with Jess? - What does Amy tell Jess about their stepmother? - What do we find about Jess and Amy's relationship after learning they live in the same city? - How does Amy see Jess? - What do we learn about Amy and her mom's relationship? - What are Jess's plans for the house? -	- Amy is often ignored - Jess tends to follow the other sisters to make sure they're okay - Beach house has stepmother "Diane" all over it - Amy (possibly) took the brunt of troubles with the stepfamily - "Whenever we're here it's a disaster" - Jess is the favorite of the Stocktons, even after Mick's death - "When are you going to live your life for you?" - Jess plans on leaving the house to Celia's baby - If Jess sells the house, it is acknowledging that the family is broken and that she was simply holding on to the "perfect family" thought - Possibly trying to hold onto nostalgia - Jess has something to control
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				- Jess is trying to take care of the sisters, by leaving the house to Celia's baby (the end of the generational trauma). - Jess does not have children of her own, leaving the house to Celia's baby.
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		AMY JESS CELIA	- What are Amy's thoughts on Hunter and Celia's relationship? - Why does Amy say "she wins?" - How does Josh's situation compare to Mick Stockton's? - How does Jess open up about her illness through the "stupid" screaming scene? - Why does Amy throw her engagement ring into the ocean? - What emotions do we find out Amy is feeling? - How does Celia and Amy's relationship change? - Silence needs to carry a lot of weight - How old were the sisters when their mother died?	- Josh got into a car accident - Josh had been drinking, and had another woman in his car - Amy had been trying to find a guy unlike her father - Celia thinks Josh is a jerk - Jess is judgemental, known for fixing people, and forgets to care of herself - Amy is self centered and sensitive - Celia has attachment disorders - "Make me a promise you can keep" - The lid comes off - Jess is not going to cry in front of her sisters
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Unit 10 8:30 AM		FRED JESS	- Why does Jess react so largely when Fred tells her about the altar story? What does Josh have to do with it? - Why is Fred sensitive to the jokes Jess makes? - How is this unit a part of Jess's emotional arc? - Why is Fred avoiding the topic of death? - What are Jess's feelings about her relationship with Fred? - Why does Jess bring up her mother's death? - Does Fred think that Jess is going to live, or is he trying to be strong during this time? - Why can't Fred accept the possibility of Jess dying? - How can we demonstrate the tone shift with the smoke detector? - How has Jess been coping with her illness? - How can lines be delivered like the actor is delivering them for the first time? - How does Fred and Jess view her illness? (Fred- "If I have to." Jess- "When this happens.")	- "Low side comparatively-" trigger - Fred puts his foot down - Fred opens the lid on feeling left out of his own life - Fred wants to be a larger part of Jess's life, and not just feel like a roommate - Jess never wanted children because she didn't want to leave something behind - Jess feels guilty - Jess and Fred open up to each other - "I just feel so guilty" - "When I look at you, all I see is worry and fear on your face" - Jess is making arrangements for her death - "You were the first person on every list" - Stakes grow larger with every line - "Your feelings about my illness are given equal weight."
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				- First time Jess admits that she's not ready to die -
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