

There are a few different story ideas. Maybe you'll like the entire idea or just parts of some of them. Some of them include dialogue, but it is just a suggestion; the general gist of where the conversation could go. The dialogue usually isn't complete. More needs to be added before, in between, and after sometimes to make it flow better. It also may be clunky and needs to be finessed. Characterizations may be off. I always imagine Elizabeth to be as bitchy as I am, for example. Maybe there is a way to soften her dialogue but still keep the general ideas.

2003/2004

I thought this one could be an interesting writing exercise for you. It's in the same time period as *Chain Reaction*, and makes Jason Cameron's father, but I think the feel of the story would be completely different. Writing two stories in the same time period back to back while making each distinct could be a fun challenge.

Jason Quartermaine had a sperm sample stored at GH. No idea why, he just did. Faith Roscoe finds out about it somehow and steals it. When Elizabeth is in a coma from the hit and run, Faith uses it to inseminate Elizabeth. She still wants Ric and she thinks that he will stop being so obsessed with Elizabeth if she is pregnant with another man's baby. She also likes having the leverage of knowing Jason has a child out there that he knows nothing about. It could be a get out of jail free card. She considered using it on herself, but no way she's going to ruin her own figure. She's not cut out for being a mommy anyway. I don't remember how Faith felt about Carly or Courtney on the show. Elizabeth having Jason's baby would really yank their chains, maybe Faith would be happy about that too as an extra motivation.

Elizabeth finds out she is pregnant at a doctor's appointment. She hasn't been feeling well and is worried about complications from the head injury. She never slept with Ric after the panic room (*completely* done with him) or Zander at Jake's, so she had no reason to suspect she was pregnant. When the doctor tells her she asks how it is possible for her to be over 3-4 months (not sure on the timeline of the last time she slept with Ric) when she isn't showing at all. The doctor does an ultrasound and tells her she's only 6 weeks along. Elizabeth says that is impossible. She realizes the date matches when she was in the coma and starts to panic. She tells the doctor that she must have been raped at GH. The doctor wants to inform the police, but Elizabeth refuses. She was only in the coma for a few days. Whoever he was could just claim that they had a ONS before the hit and run and with her head injury no one would believe her. The doctor asks if she's sure she *didn't* have a ONS. Elizabeth says she's sure. The doctor agrees not to go to the police, but asks permission to tell Alan as CoS. The hospital needs better security. The doctor asks if Elizabeth would like to terminate the pregnancy. She doesn't want to because she already lost one baby this year. She really wants a family and thinks she could love the baby anyway. She doesn't remember the assault so convinces herself that it isn't the same as Tom Baker.

Alan talks to Elizabeth about what happened. (He has always liked Elizabeth the most of all Emily's friends. Monica loves Emily, but she is cool and distant with her friends. Alan has a warmer personality and is interested in Emily's life. He thought Sarah was a suck up. Lucky is a selfish, spoiled punk. Nik has a stick up his ass. Courtney is self-explanatory. Elizabeth is charming and kind-hearted even if she did drag Emily into mischief sometimes.) He urges her to go to the police. She insists that she doesn't want to call the police and risk being forced to co-parent with her rapist. He asks if he could at least do a DNA test and compare it with GH's database (no idea if hospitals keep dna results in a database, but this is soapland) and maybe he could pull some strings and get access to some other databases, maybe even CODIS. She takes a few days to think about it but ultimately agrees as long as the police aren't involved. It would be good to know who it is so she can avoid him. Her worst nightmare would be if somebody asked her on a date and she agreed but it was the rapist.

Alan compares the baby's DNA to the GH database first and is surprised to get a hit. It's Jason. He is overwhelmed with grief and anger. He doesn't think, just storms to Jason's apartment. When Jason opens the door he doesn't even bother to say anything, just punches him in the face immediately. Jason gets an arm up and manages to deflect the blow a little, but is still hit. They scuffle a little and Alan asks him how he could do such a thing to a sweet girl like Elizabeth. Jason is baffled. -What are you talking about?- You raped her!- What?!- She's pregnant and the baby was conceived when she was in a coma. You're the father. You raped her!- Jason is in complete shock and is hurt that Alan would think he could do something like that. He denies it and is convincing enough that Alan starts to have doubts. -Then how do you explain the positive paternity test I have?- What?!- Explain the open database search.- It's my baby? How?- Alan remembers that there is another way for a woman to get pregnant. He asks if Jason has ever stored a sperm sample somewhere. He says no. Alan calls the lab at GH. He learns that Jason Quartermaine had a sample at GH and it is missing. Jason is hopeful that this is all true now.

They go to see Elizabeth. She is very unhappy to see Jason. She thinks she was raped due to a coma that Courtney put her in, so she is far more bitter about the hit and run than she was in canon. Alan tells her what they found out. She is shocked and upset. While she is relieved she wasn't raped, she was still violated and she does not want anything to do with Jason. He is hurt by that. When Alan first explained he just said that Jason had a sperm sample stored at GH that was used by someone, they don't know who, he didn't mention that the sample was Jason Quartermaine's. Elizabeth is surprised that Jason would have given a sperm sample. Alan clarifies that it was Jason Quartermaine's sample.

Elizabeth: Jason Quartermaine? Well that's a relief. I thought I would have to deal with Jason for the rest of my life.

Jason: What? I'm the father, we are going to have to talk.

Elizabeth: No, Jason Quartermaine is the father. You're not him, remember? You've been insisting for years that you're not him, so you aren't the father of this baby. There's no reason for you to be here. Please leave.

Jason: I am the father. You can't just...We're friends so we can work this out.

Elizabeth: We're not friends. At an absolute, rock-bottom, bare minimum I expect my friends to care whether I live or die. You don't qualify.

Jason: How can you say that? All I've ever done is care about keeping you out of danger!

Elizabeth: Please, just stop.

Jason: Elizabeth-

Elizabeth: I said stop, Jason! You don't care about me. You were an accessory to my attempted murder! You married the single woman on this planet that has come closer to killing me than any other. Even Helena Cassadine's attempt was amateurish compared to Courtney. And you married her *after* she tried to kill me. Maybe I could understand covering for her if you were already married, vows and all that, but I will never understand how you could choose to marry someone who wanted me dead.

Jason: That was an accident.

Elizabeth: (scoff) Did you even bother to read the police report before you covered for her? It was 100%, absolutely deliberate. She both sped up and swerved to hit me.

Jason: That can't be... Why did you agree not to press charges then?

Elizabeth: What choice did I have? Do you have *any* idea how terrifying it is for a woman with my history to be blind? To hear footsteps but not be able to see who is coming? So there I was: in pain, blind, scared out of my mind, and more vulnerable than I have ever been in my entire life and the godfather of Port Charles sent his number one enforcer to make sure that I wouldn't press charges against his sister. Do you really think I could have said no?

Jason: You know I would never hurt you. (she scoffs) We're friends, I would never hurt you!

Elizabeth: You weren't there as my friend. You were there to use my friendship to your advantage. I know that because the moment I agreed not to press charges you turned around and walked out the door, business concluded. (brushing hands together like a task is complete) You didn't even thank me. Hell, forget thanking me, you didn't even say goodbye. I was *blind*. I called out your name a couple times before I accepted that you had truly left just like that.

(He left because he couldn't stand to see her beautiful eyes "looking" past him. He was eaten up with guilt and shame that he was asking her not to press charges. He was too much in his own head to think of saying thank you or goodbye. He had to help Courtney. She couldn't have kids because of his life and the only reason he was with her in the first place was because she was Sonny's sister. He was drunk the first time he slept with her. He doesn't even remember doing it and it would have been a forgotten one night stand but he couldn't treat Sonny's sister that way, so he tried to make more of it than he should have. Then Sonny ordered him to break up with her and he couldn't prove Elizabeth right about him being Sonny's enforcer first, last, and always so he dug his heels in and refused to break up with Courtney. He wishes he had taken the out when he had the chance. How did it get this far? He's married! He doesn't want to be married, not to Courtney. His first reaction when Courtney told him about the miscarriage was relief. He didn't want a baby with her. His second reaction was guilt for being relieved. Now Elizabeth hates him for covering for Courtney, but he owed it to her after ruining her life.)

Jason: I...that's...I'm sorry.

Elizabeth: You're only saying that because I have something else you want now.

(Turns to give Alan her full attention. He has found this conversation very interesting, to say the least.)

Elizabeth (brightly): So! This is Jason Quartermaine's baby, but I would rather the last name be Webber. It would just be easier for me as a single mother to have the same last name as my baby, but maybe the middle name could be Quartermaine.

Alan: I think that's a good compromise.

(Jason is bewildered and fuming at the same time. Teehee. He wants this baby with Elizabeth desperately. He didn't realize she was on such good terms with Alan, either.)

Eventually Alan and Jason leave. Alan confronts him about Courtney and the way he has treated Elizabeth. Parallels between covering for AJ versus covering for Courtney...It doesn't go well.

Alan: Jason Quartermaine was a good man. I've mostly accepted that he is never coming back. Now I learn that you're not even the man I thought Jason Morgan was.

Courtney learns about the baby. She is jealous and wants the baby for herself. She is more careful about not showing her contempt for the business in this timeline. She doesn't want to give Jason an excuse to divorce her. Jason asks his people to get him a copy of the police report from the hit and run. He reads it and is disgusted with himself and her. But he made vows and she is still Sonny's sister and Carly's best friend. He feels trapped. He refuses to file for custody of the baby. He technically can't file until the baby is born anyway. He wants to spend the rest of the pregnancy trying to get Elizabeth to be reasonable. This *is* his baby and he wants

to co-parent peacefully. (He really just wants both Elizabeth and the baby. How did he get into this mess? Oh, right. Carly planned the wedding and sprung it on him as a *fait accompli* and he didn't stand his ground and just say no. *Elizabeth was lost to him. He didn't deserve her.* He gave up.) Carly gets involved and is her usual belligerent self, harassing Elizabeth. Carly and Courtney have a lawyer draw up custody papers suing for full custody even though the baby isn't born yet.

Elizabeth receives the papers and is so upset she goes to Edward for help. Edward is very fond of Elizabeth. I'm not sure what his relationship with Dr. Hardy was like in the show, but in this universe Steve and Audrey were Edward and Lila's best friends. Steve was a good influence on Edward. Sometimes. Audrey has visited Lila once a week, every week since the last time she and Steve got married. They have tea and a good chat. Ever since Elizabeth moved to town she has joined these weekly meetings once or twice a month. Half the time Elizabeth is there Edward also crashes the party. He tells her stories about her grandfather and she talks about her life (never Jason though) and especially her art. They have a great relationship because, as the granddaughter of his best friend, he is predisposed to like her but, as a non-family member, he doesn't feel the need to micromanage her life. She thinks he's a charming curmudgeon and is more likely to be amused by his antics than his family who are usually the targets. If Jason had just told Edward that he needed that list of ELQ properties because Elizabeth was kidnapped, then he would have handed them over immediately, no negotiation required. Edward is *thrilled* that Elizabeth is pregnant with Jason's baby. He doesn't know how that boy screwed up his relationship with Elizabeth, but he's sure *he* can fix things. Starting with helping Elizabeth with the custody case. If Jason and Elizabeth can't reconcile, then plan B is that she gets primary custody because she will let him see the baby, unlike Jason. He assigns a team of guards to Elizabeth. That Carly really is a menace. Jason wants his own guards to provide security. There's some conflict. LOL

Elizabeth's main contention is that, since Jason Quartermaine is legally dead, his sperm sample should be treated like any other donation, so Jason shouldn't have any parental rights. It wasn't a donated sample though, so her lawyer tells her that the closest precedent is people with amnesia who want to sever their parental rights and financial responsibility to children they don't remember having. Which is a no, so even though in this case the mother wants the father's rights severed, they probably won't be. It would be in her best interests to negotiate joint custody with Jason.

Due to Carly's harassment and Courtney trying to kill her, Elizabeth insists that she wants a restraining order keeping both of them away from her and her baby. She never wants either of them within 100 ft of her child. Ever. Non-negotiable. She doesn't care that this will make joint custody difficult because he's married to Courtney. He's a wealthy man. He can afford to maintain two homes and one of them *will* be a Courtney-and-Carly-free zone. If he won't agree then she will get Edward to send her out of the country if she has to. The baby isn't born yet. She has the right to move wherever she wants.

The hotel fire happens at some point. It would be a lot different in this timeline. For one thing, Elizabeth doesn't end up hitting Jason with a pipe like she did Zander. She would never feel scared enough of Jason to resort to physical violence that way.

Sam could still be in this story. This time Sonny is the one who comes up with the idea that Jason should claim to be the father. He's reluctant, but the Michael card always works. Courtney is humiliated but still clings on. Elizabeth doesn't believe that Jason is the father. She immediately clocks that he is doing this for Sonny. She is upset that he tried to lie to her and about the implications of this decision.

Elizabeth: How will this affect our baby? You may think that Sonny will claim his child as soon as it's born, but you don't know that. What if this drags on for years? Our child is going to grow up thinking they have a sibling, then you are going to rip that away from them?

Jason: I didn't consider that. It all happened so fast.

Elizabeth: You need to stop thinking like Sonny and Carly's lackey every time you have to make a decision and start thinking like a father first.

Somewhere in the story Elizabeth throws out the fact that Jason didn't pay the hospital bill from the hit and run either. It destroyed her savings and she is still making payments too. And it's not like she can sue in civil court for damages, can she? More proof that he doesn't care about her. (Jason didn't even think of the hospital bill. His bills go straight to his accountant so he never has to think of them.)

10/9/06 episode tag

(Elizabeth just left. Jason sits on the couch looking blue. There is a knock on the door and she's standing there.)

Jason: Are you alright? Is the baby...?

Elizabeth: Yes. Everything is fine. I was waiting for the elevator and I realized something.

(She peers at Jason intently.)

Elizabeth: You were really charged up and excited when I first walked in. But then I started asking questions and you sort of deflated more and more. I...you...

(Jason looks so hopeful.)

Elizabeth: Jason...you really want the baby to be yours, don't you?

Jason: (lets out a breath) Yeah. Yeah, I do.

(Elizabeth looks a little overwhelmed.)

Jason: The answer is yes.

Elizabeth: Yes?

(Jason approaches her slowly and encircles her waist as he talks.)

Jason: You asked: If we were married would we be a couple? (touching her face gently, his voice softens) The answer is yes. Of course it is.

Elizabeth: Oh.

(Their eyes connect and the spark of that magical chemistry arcs between them. Kiss.)

Story idea: 2005

How is it possible that Jason lost his memory for weeks and *nothing changed*?

I will always believe that the only reason Jason and Sam got together in the first place was because he is lazy. She was there. She said she loved him. She was already a criminal so she couldn't be tainted by his life and she would be in danger with or without him. (He wishes he had danced with Elizabeth at Emily's wedding, but Sam was falling down drunk and Elizabeth was getting back together with Lucky. She was a mother now. His life is dangerous...She encouraged him to be with Sam that day she introduced him to Cameron. She clearly didn't want...) He made the best of it.

When he lost his memory he found himself going to sit on the docks all the time. He thought he did it simply because he liked it there, but then he runs into Elizabeth (hands immediately in pockets *squee*) and they talk a little and he has a memory flash ("You listen to me think") and he realizes that SHE is the reason he keeps going to that bench. He has some more sporadic memory flashes (not sure which ones) over the next few days(weeks?), then eventually the rest of his memory comes back in a flash and seeing his relationship with Sam all at once causes him to realize how lacking it was. How often she turned on the waterworks. That he didn't like her at all when they first met and she has shifted her personality to "fit" him because she is a con artist. He also sees the way he has changed so much. He used to live for himself and now he lives for Sonny and Carly because of Michael. It happened so gradually as he was living it, but seeing his memories so quickly all at once really highlighted the difference to him. He isn't happy with what his life has become and he is especially unhappy with *himself*. He's embarrassed by what he has allowed to happen. I don't remember the show timeline, but

preferably Jason's epiphany would come before Elizabeth marries Lucky, so it might mean changing the order of events a little. Also would prefer no ridiculous surrogacy story (Seriously, what were they thinking? For Courtney of all people?! I heard a rumor that it was supposed to be for Jason and Sam and lead to Liason, but *someone* threw a fit. Not sure how true that is. If it is true I don't understand why they didn't scrap the surrogacy idea altogether rather than pivot to the absolute crap it was).

A story about Jason waking up and really thinking about what *he* wants his life to look like, then going after it. Sometimes I think that Jason has depression. Not can't-get-out-of-bed depression, clearly he's functional, but he's just so damn passive. He just lets things happen to him and reacts instead of being proactive. It's like he's given up. When did that happen? Was it Michael? Elizabeth? She brought color into his life and now everything is just gray?

At some point in the story he talks with Elizabeth about everything he has realized due to his memories coming back the way they did. He is afraid to have the conversation because he thinks he is so far away from the man she fell in love with (he can see now from his accelerated memories that she *was* in love with him). He has the conversation anyway because they have always been able to talk to each other. It would feel dishonest if he didn't tell her. He wants to get back to who he used to be and this is an important step.

A story about Jason pursuing Elizabeth instead of waiting for her to come to him. A story in which Elizabeth chooses Jason over Lucky because he is her perfect match and she no longer feels obligated to prop the manchild up.

Not sure how dark you want to go with Sam, but one possibility:

Jason breaks up with her, some excerpts from the discussion:

Jason tries to be kind about it at first. He's a decent person. He absolutely does not want to be with Sam, but there's no need to be mean about it.

Sam: Waterworks, manipulation, bla, bla, bla...

Jason: Sorry, not changing mind...

Sam: So good together, bedroom, you'll miss me...

Jason: Sam, stop! Not happening...

Sam: I gave up everything to be with you!

Jason (starting to get annoyed): You didn't have anything when you came to town except your boat and you still have that. You don't work. You have spent the last 2 years sitting on my couch and spending my money.

Sam: Why? Why are you doing this? You said you love me!

Jason: I cared about who I thought you were.

Sam: What is *that* supposed to mean?!

Jason: My memories came back really quickly. It was like watching my life in fast-forward. Without the everyday distractions I realized something: You tailor your reactions to whoever is standing in front of you. You wanted Sonny, so you fit yourself to him, now you want me, so you fit yourself to what you think I want. Well I want somebody who isn't trying to con me.

Sam: (Denials at first, but then eventually) Okay, so maybe I was working a con on Sonny. But I fell in love with you because I saw how much you would love our daughter. Everything between us has been real!

Jason: No trust, etc.

Sam: bla, bla, bla, dead daughter...

Jason suddenly goes still. He just realized something. Sam's daughter died due to placental abruption from placenta previa. But she didn't have any of the risk factors for placenta previa. She just admitted that she was trying to con Sonny all along, which must have included the pregnancy. Has she run a pregnancy scam before? Is it part of her M.O.? Where are her other children? His mind is racing with all the information he read in the pregnancy books during Sam's pregnancy. He was too distracted by grief to think of the inconsistencies before, but now it feels like his brain is running on all cylinders. The clot that caused his memory loss developed over time. How long? Has he been operating at a lower IQ for longer than he realized because of a physical anomaly in his brain? No wonder he was an easy mark.

Jason: confronts her with his realization

Sam: tears, outrage, denial, bla, bla, bla

She eventually realizes that he isn't buying it. She switches tactics. If she can't guilt him into staying with her, then she'll make him as miserable as possible as a parting gift. Her defining characteristic has always been spitefulness.

Sam: It's your fault my daughter died! You and Sonny insisted that you go to all my doctor's appointments. I didn't have a chance to tell her about my full history.

Jason is stunned and hurt. He almost takes that guilt on, but then:

Jason: No. I'm done taking responsibility for other people's choices. You could have come clean at any point. *You* decided that running your con was more important than your daughter's life.

This one could be fun for Halloween: zombies

Takes place after the results of the paternity test but before the MCHC.

Jason ran into Elizabeth and Cameron at the hospital earlier that day. She was taking Cam to the GH daycare before her shift.

Jason and Sam are at Kelly's. The TV starts broadcasting a breaking news story. There are videos of riots and attacks in major cities all around the world. The news anchors can't believe what they are seeing. It looks like zombies.

Jason thinks this must be some kind of prank. He has a vague idea of what zombies are from Michael. Something about destroying the brain to stop them? Suddenly one of the other diners has a massive heart attack. The fear and panic from the broadcast was too much. He dies instantly. His daughter begs for help and is holding him close. He suddenly "wakes up" and bites into her neck, which causes everyone to panic. Jason shoots the man in the head and his daughter too when it's clear that her neck wound is fatal.

From his minimal zombie knowledge Jason thought that you had to be bitten to turn into a zombie, but if anyone who dies will become one...

He sprints to his car. He has to get to Elizabeth. He doesn't even think of Sam even though she was standing right next to him. On the way to the hospital he sends a code black to all his employees. That means "get your families, go to your designated safehouse or shelter in place at home". Guards without families in the area are assigned to Sonny, Carly, their children, and Emily. Sam insists she can take care of herself. I think Jason would be a bit of a prepper (without the religious overtones). He clearly would want to be prepared for anything. At least one of his safehouses has to be a fortress-like compound outside the city with a food and weapons stockpile, solar panels, backup generators, giant propane tanks and its own water source.

Sam has been calling him repeatedly. He answers finally. She's upset that he left her like that. He feels guilty, but a crisis like this has a way of setting your priorities straight. He breaks up with her. He tells her to go to her designated safehouse. He wants her to survive this, of course, but they're done. Her safehouse is not the one he is taking Elizabeth to.

Patrick and Elizabeth have just finished surgery when they learn about the outbreak. They aren't sure what to believe. Elizabeth isn't taking any chances. She goes straight to the daycare to get Cameron. Patrick goes to the lab for Robin. At the daycare Elizabeth runs into Portia who had the same idea and is there for Trina. Suddenly, they hear growling. They rush into the daycare and block the door. The kids and workers are scared.

Jason runs up the stairs. He knows that Elizabeth would go straight to Cam if she knew about the zombies. He hears screaming and sees 4 zombies trying to break into the daycare. He shoots them all. Patrick and Robin race toward him. (Elizabeth has good friendships.) He asks where Emily is. She isn't working today. She's with Nikolas. He gets Elizabeth, Cam, Patrick, Robin, Portia, Trina, and all the other kids and daycare workers to the parking lot. The fire alarms are blaring. He's not sure if there is a fire or if someone pulled the alarm to evacuate the building because of the zombies. It's chaos. The daycare workers point out the tree the daycare is supposed to go to during fire drills. The kids are reunited with their parents. Out of the corner of his eye, Jason sees Stan dragging Epiphany to his car while she protests vociferously. Robin climbs on the hood of a random car and desperately looks for Georgie. She was candy striping today. She finally spots her and waves her over. Jason gets his group into his car and away from the hospital.

Robin and Georgie want to be taken to Mac. Jason says it would be safer to go to his safehouse. Patrick talks them into it. The phone lines are spotty and overloaded by now, but Portia manages to get a call through to Taggart. He isn't happy that she's with Jason or that he has to be grateful to him for saving her and their daughter from zombies already. He tells her to go to Jason's safehouse, even though it *burns*. He knows Jason is competent and has plenty of guns, at least. Taggart is a cop. He needs to be on the streets helping to control the chaos. If he sees Mac, then he'll tell him Robin and Georgie are with Jason.

Jason is surprised and relieved that Elizabeth doesn't ask to be taken to Lucky. He would have refused anyway. This is one time where he isn't going to follow her lead. He will keep her and Cam and the baby safe no matter what it takes. Even if she ends up hating him. He's glad he has three doctors in his group. But how long is this going to last? In all of the zombie stuff Michael told him society collapses almost immediately. How will they get Robin's medication?

They get to his compound. One of the guards sorts out rooms for their unexpected guests. Jason takes Elizabeth and Cam to his room. He'll bunk somewhere else. She says she needs to talk to him. As she starts to open her mouth, her phone rings. It's Lucky. He grimaces and makes to leave, but she grabs his hand, then pulls him close. She cuddles up to him, looks up and says, "I have to talk to you", then she answers the phone while she's in his arms. She tells Lucky that he isn't the father of her baby while looking into Jason's eyes. He is shocked, but pulls her closer. Lucky is Lucky. It isn't a pleasant conversation, but in the end she convinces him they're done and he shouldn't bother to try to find her in all this chaos. She's safe and can take care of herself and Cam. She doesn't want Lucky to get himself killed trying to play hero.

The call ends and Jason and Elizabeth talk it out. He doesn't have to sleep somewhere else after all.

Elizabeth's pregnancy and delivery goes smoothly in this timeline. Turns out a zombie apocalypse is less stressful than dealing with Lucky.

Jason's 2024 return

I wasn't watching in 2021, so I have no idea how feasible this one is.

Scene:

Takes place before Jake's birthday.

Elizabeth is coming home at 3 am from another long shift. As she is opening her door Jason comes up behind her and startles her. She lets out a small scream but then realizes who it is and ushers him inside. Jason makes sure the windows are covered so no one can see in from the street. Upstairs Jake wakes up from the scream and then creeps down the stairs. He decides to sit on the stairs and listen when he sees it is Jason. At some point in the conversation Jake gets angry and quietly goes back upstairs, so he misses the rest. Not sure when it should be.

Elizabeth: What are you doing here?! It's late.

Jason: I'm sorry. It's dangerous for me to be around you right now, so I had to come when no one would know.

Elizabeth: Then why come at all?

Jason: I needed a friend.

Elizabeth(sits on the couch): Okaaay... What's wrong?

Jason: Jake hates me for abandoning him and he's going to hate me even more when he finds out why I stayed away for so long.

Elizabeth: I'm sorry, Jason, but what did you expect?

(Jason looks away from her accusing look.)

Elizabeth: (sighs) So why did you stay away so long?

Jason: Agent Cates had enough evidence to put Carly away for RICO charges for 20 to life.

(Will need to add more to the evidence Cates had instead of just a recording. Seriously, WTF?! I can't believe someone got paid to come up with that.)

Elizabeth: What?! That's it? That's the *big reason*? Jake has a right to be upset, Jason! Any explanation that doesn't include a threat against Jake's life or Danny's life isn't good enough! How could you abandon your children for almost 3 years to cover for Carly for something she probably is guilty of?! I thought Diane was supposed to be the best lawyer ever. Why didn't you just let her do her job fighting the charges as usual?!

(By the end of her rant Jason is looking down and away, absolutely ashamed.)

Jason: I owed--

Elizabeth: (spluttering, scoffing interruption) Owed?! Owed who?! Carly? What about what you owed your sons?!

(Jason gently grasps Elizabeth's hand.)

Jason: Would you please let me finish?

Elizabeth: (put upon sigh) Fine. But nothing you say will justify this, Jason.

Jason: Thank you. (He lets her hand go.) I'm not sure where to start. (He scrubs his face with his hands in pure frustration.) When I had to marry Carly because she had taken over the business I was ordered by (name of really powerful mob boss here) to make sure that she thought I was in love with her.

Elizabeth: (disbelieving, gasping laugh) What? Why?

(Jason gives her a look for interrupting again. Elizabeth mimes zipping her lips closed.)

Jason: (deep sigh) He said that they all knew what Carly was like. That she couldn't help but make a mess of things, but if she thought that I was in love with her, then maybe she would actually listen to me and do as I asked for once. I knew that was ridiculous, Carly never listens, but he insisted. He said that there would be eyes on us in public to make sure I was doing what I was told and implied that they would also be able to monitor us in private. I always sweep my home and office and other places to make sure there aren't any recording devices, but you can never be 100% sure, so I didn't want to risk it. Carly also isn't the best actress. But I still wanted to give her a heads up so I told her that it has always been her and even in 1997 I loved her more than Robin.

Elizabeth: Well, that's an obvious lie. Emily told me how much you loved Robin back then. But, let me guess, Carly thought you were telling the truth? (wry, knowing look)

Jason: (exasperated groan) I don't know how she could miss the hint I was giving her that something else was up.

(Elizabeth bursts out laughing. Jason is annoyed at first, but then his eyes soften. It's been so long since he's heard a true Elizabeth laugh. He's missed it.)

Elizabeth: Jason, you were saying everything Carly has wanted to hear for over 20 years! Of course she took it and ran with it.

(Jason slumps down with his head against the back of the couch, looking at the ceiling. They sit quietly for a moment.)

Elizabeth: I still don't understand what this has to do with you letting us think you were dead for so long.

Jason: (Mob boss name) was right. She did mess things up. Those RICO charges are from the time she was running the business. I knew how hurt she would be when I told her that everything I said about being in love with her was a lie. How could I also turn around and let her go to prison? Plus the deal was to take down Pikeman, which will make everyone safer, including Jake and Danny. (Sly peek at Elizabeth out of the corner of his eye.)

Elizabeth: Oh, no. That was only a secondary consideration. You don't get any points for that.

(Jason looks expectant.)

Elizabeth: Okay, maybe half a point.

(Jason smiles. There is also a chance he'll be able to get out of the mob completely now, but he doesn't tell her about that. It may not work out.)

Jason: (smile drops) Everything keeps snowballing. It wasn't supposed to take so long. I thought it would be months, not years. And now I'm back and Pikeman still hasn't been found so Cates wants to use me as bait, which is why I really shouldn't have come here. It's too dangerous. I'm sorry.

(Elizabeth shrugs half-heartedly.)

Jason: (starts speaking faster and faster, is clearly stressed) And Carly still seems convinced that I'm in love with her. And that the only reason the marriage ended and we aren't together now is because of Sonny. And I can't tell her the truth now because the last thing I need is for her to be on the warpath with this Pikeman stuff still up in the air. So I try to be noncommittal without leading her on and I bring up Sonny a lot, but I know she's only seeing what she wants to see.

Elizabeth: (teasing) Whoa. I thought I was the one who rambles.

(Elizabeth is clearly amused about this whole thing now. Jason eyes her suspiciously.)

Jason: You could try to be a little less amused.

(Elizabeth bursts into giggles again.)

Elizabeth: (calming down) I'm sorry, I'm sorry. You're right, this is very serious. (Schools her face into a serious expression.)

(Jason keeps eyeing her suspiciously.)

Jason: (gentle tease) Brat.

(Elizabeth gives him her biggest, sunniest smile. But then quickly sobers again.)

Elizabeth: You know this still doesn't really make it okay that you let Jake think you were dead for so long. It makes it funnier. But not better. You still decided to prioritize Carly's feelings over your sons. So she would have been hurt that you lied about loving her. Too bad. Carly has deliberately hurt plenty of people over the years with far worse motives.

Jason: I know. I made the wrong choice.

Elizabeth: Yeah, you did. You're going to have to put in a lot of work with Jake.

Jason: I know. I want to fix things with him right now. But I can't. Until Pikeman is taken down it is too dangerous for me to see him. And you can't tell him or anyone else what I said about me being bait, so he's just going to feel abandoned again. (Frustrated groan.) I should go.

Elizabeth: How long do you think this is going to take? Because if you are in town and ignoring Jake for his safety for weeks or months that is just going to make it even harder to get him to trust you again.

Jason: (frustrated grunt) I know! But what choice is there?!

Elizabeth: (sadly, because it's the same story all over again) I don't know. You should go.

End Scene

There could also be something more soapy going on with this scenario. It's weird that (Mob boss) would demand such a thing from Jason. But what if he was bribed to make that demand by Carly? Jason says she's not a good actress, but we all know she is. She has manipulated Jason so effectively for 30 years that he routinely prioritizes her over his own family including his

children. Why would she want him to pretend to be in love with her? Well, she's an obsessive erotomaniac for starters. Not clinically diagnosed, but it is clear as day. More importantly, she would think that if they were married and he was forced to pretend long enough, then it would *become* true.

Why would (Mob boss) accept that bribe? For business favors. Maybe he's just a troll who likes a good prank. More likely he knows that Jason would be off balance and that is good for his own organization. Carly's manipulation could come to light when Sonny asks Jason why he gave (Mob boss) such a favorable deal for shipping rates or something. Jason has no idea what he's talking about. He looks over the contract Carly used to pay the bribe to (Mob boss) and even though it obviously doesn't include the details of what she wanted him to do, Jason still realizes what she did.

Maybe she finally goes over the edge. She's been staying in Jason's orbit through Sonny and Michael all this time and as long as Jason stayed away from Elizabeth and jumped when she called it was enough for her, but she *almost* got him in bed again, they were married, she had everything she ever wanted and then it was snatched away. Now that he is back she is ready for the endgame. Being the "best friend" isn't enough anymore and her mental stability gets more and more precarious.

Which brings me to another scene that works well with the above scene, too:

What if Jake was so angry that Jason chose Carly over him (which is what he did by staying "dead" to bail her out) that he refuses to talk to Jason unless he has a restraining order against Carly?

Scene:

{The Pikeman stuff is resolved enough that the immediate danger is gone. Jason has tried a few times to talk to Jake, but it always devolves into Jake storming away.}
(Elizabeth and Jake are sitting on the docks or somewhere else in public. Jason is eavesdropping. Gotta love that soap trope.)

Elizabeth: So. Are you ever going to give your dad a break?

Jake: What's the point? It's all just words. They don't mean anything. Actions are what count, right?

Elizabeth: (slowly drawn out)Yes. Doesn't the action of trying to talk to you again and again even though you keep yelling at him count for something?

Jake: No. He's not doing that for me. He just wants to clear his conscience. So? What? I listen to his apologies, let him explain away letting me think he was dead just so Carly wouldn't have to pay for her crimes, and then what? He goes right on back to putting me on the bottom of his

priority list. An apology means nothing if you don't change your behavior. His never changes, so what's the point?

(Elizabeth opens her mouth as if to respond, but then hesitates. She hugs herself and her eyes go sad.)

Elizabeth: You're right.

(She looks away and her sadness deepens.)

Jake: Mom?

Elizabeth: (sighs) The last year your father and I were together we had the same conversation over and over. For someone who doesn't talk a lot, he sure gave me a lot of pretty words. (sad, wistful smile) But they were all meaningless, because his actions never backed them up. (Jason is stunned. *Does she really think...*)

Jake: So you know exactly what I mean.

Elizabeth: Yeah, I do. But I also don't want you to be at odds with him your entire life.

(Jason gets a series of 911 texts from Carly. He clearly wants to stay to hear more, but ultimately leaves. Asshole. When he arrives at the MC it turns out to be nothing, as usual. He is furious for once.)

Jake: I just want him to stop trying to have the same conversation with *me* over and over. It hurts each time.

(They sit quietly staring out at the water for a bit.)

Jake: I know how to make it stop. I'm going to force him to take a real action to prove that he cares about me, so that way it isn't just words. I'm going to tell him that I won't talk to him unless he gets a restraining order against Carly keeping her away from him. AND he enforces it every single time she breaks it.

(Elizabeth is visibly shocked and then it melts into concern.)

Elizabeth: Sweetheart...(deep sigh)...You know he'll never agree to that.

Jake: (nods chopply) I know.

Elizabeth: Then why? You're just setting yourself up for more heartbreak.

Jake: (full of reckless teenage bravado, he clearly wishes Jason would do as he asks and is protesting too much) I'll ask, he'll say no, and then the ball will be permanently in his court. Don't you see that's the beauty of it? Every time he corners me, all I will have to do is say, "Did you get the restraining order?", he'll say no, then I'll just walk away. Restraining order? No. Walk away. Restraining order? No. Walk away. He'll give up eventually.

(It is written all over Elizabeth's face that she knows he is trying to be brave but he is really hurting right now. She hugs him close.)

Scene:

Jake has made his demands. Jason is shocked.

Jason: You can't make ultimatums. Those aren't good in relationships.

Jake: No, they're not *needed* in *good* relationships. This isn't a healthy relationship, so this ultimatum is absolutely needed.

He waits for a response. Jason is clearly unwilling to do as he asks. Jake cracks first.

Jake: Your relationship with Carly isn't healthy either, you know. It's an enmeshed, dysfunctional nightmare. Your relationship with her is so unhealthy that it has infected all of the other relationships in your life.

Jason clearly knows Jake is right, but won't admit it.

Jake: So, no restraining order?

Jason: Jake, I can't just-

Jake: Goodbye.

He hurries away.

Jason: Jake, we need to talk about this. Jake!

Jason decides that Jake is right. He needs to prove that Jake (and Elizabeth and Danny) is more important to him than anything. He gets the restraining order.

Jason wants to be with Elizabeth. (*He has always wanted to be with Elizabeth.*) He tries to spend more time with her, but she's cautious. She wants him to focus on his relationship with Jake. As long as Jake is at odds with Jason she won't consider a romantic relationship with him. She is also under a lot of pressure at work with the nursing shortage and her breakup with Finn is still raw (**same as in show, maybe Jason going to Elizabeth when Jake called him could**

help thaw the ice, but not as quickly as the show did it, that was lame.) Ric and Lucky are back in town too.

Elizabeth snaps at a doctor at work in a situation where she would normally have more patience. She decides that she needs help. She starts a real therapy journey. She has had therapy in the past, but it was usually just enough to get her functional again. This is a real deep dive into her life and issues. Some of the therapy sessions are zoom sessions at home. Jake overhears one and finds out about what Sam did to him when he was an infant. Jason has even more explaining to do. I'm not sure how he could come back from that.

Or maybe he doesn't find out from Elizabeth's therapy session. Maybe Carly tells him. Jason didn't tell her that Jake is the reason that he got the restraining order; that's just asking for trouble and he isn't going to throw his kid under the bus. Carly runs into Jake and tries to get him to talk to his dad for her to lift the restraining order. Jake tells her point blank that it was his idea. (He has a lot of integrity.) She wants to hurt him so she tells him exactly how little his dad loves him. The betrayal with Sam is at the top of the list.

ASOIAF/GoT Crossover with GH

Total crackfic. Sometime between 2003-2009 Kelly's Diner and all of its occupants during the late lunch period on a Tuesday (so about 6-10 diners, 1 cook, 1 waitress) is transported to somewhere/sometime in Westeros. Jason (+Courtney or Sam depending on time period) and Elizabeth (+kids) are obviously included. The electricity and plumbing doesn't work since they're no longer connected to the systems in place on Earth. How will modern citizens of PC survive with basically zero survival skills? Jason has his gun but a very limited supply of bullets and the metallurgy level on Planetos isn't up to making more even if he did know how. Elizabeth is a nurse. That's valuable. Germ theory alone is a game changer. Maybe one of the other diners is Patrick and/or Alan on their lunch break so they have their stethoscopes at least. Modern knowledge is valuable, but just because you know how something works and maybe have a basic idea of how it is made, doesn't mean you can make it yourself without months or years of trial and error.

Jason realizes that they aren't going back and danger from "the business" is light years away. He can finally be with Elizabeth, he just needs to break up with Courtney or Sam first.

I mostly thought about this scenario when I was feeling particularly bloodthirsty. You just know that Carly, Sam, or Courtney would earn themselves some medieval justice at some point. Jason refuses to intervene because, unlike them, he has some understanding of how feudalism works and his number one priority is Elizabeth's safety. Trying to rescue Carly, Sam or Courtney from their own stupidity would put Elizabeth and her children at risk. Not happening.

2024

Lucky comes upon Elizabeth and Jason grieving Sam together. He doesn't understand why she would be grieving Sam at all considering everything she did. He is pissed that Elizabeth still cares about Jason after he got back together with Sam. He blurts out the truth about Jake's second kidnapping. He and Sam wanted to break Elizabeth and Jason up, so they drove the Russians towards Elizabeth and her kids deliberately. He expected Sam to be able to stop them from actually hurting Elizabeth and the boys with her "skills", but clearly she failed and Jake was taken. Who knows if that was deliberate too. He asked her point blank at one point, but she only gave him a smug look. Their ploy worked like a charm and Jason and Elizabeth broke up for good. **(I have always believed that this is what really happened. Lucky and Sam are the only people who benefited from Jake's second kidnapping.)**

Jason would never have betrayed Jake by getting back together with Sam if she hadn't saved him during the second kidnapping. Elizabeth has told herself this over and over whenever the pain of his actions gets to be too much. Finding out that Sam was involved in Jake being taken in the first place causes her to finally confront Jason for being such a pathetic deadbeat loser jackass. He was running around, desperately trying to find the person who hurt Michael, *with* the woman who hurt his own son! **(It was grotesque. TPTB were foul for all of that.)**

5/5/11 Alternate reality

On the show she was kind, forgiving, and understanding. Like usual. I don't roll that way.

Elizabeth: You bastard. You absolute bastard!

Jason: Wha-? Elizabeth, I-

Elizabeth: I didn't think my opinion of you could sink any lower than the day I found out you got back together with Sam, but clearly I was wrong.

Jason: What? You didn't say anything about-

Elizabeth: What was I supposed to say? Was I supposed to confront you? Nag and shame you into being a decent father? What would have been the point? If you didn't love Jake enough on your own to want nothing to do with Sam after what she did to him, then that said it all, didn't it? I *never* wanted Jake to find out about what happened. I never wanted him to feel the way I felt growing up; unloved and unwanted. Jake looked so much like you. Eventually his parentage would have come out and I didn't want to spoil his relationship with you. So I put it away in a box and shoved it to the very back of my mind so that it wouldn't show on my face exactly what I thought of you and that bitch.

Jason: Then why didn't you say anything after Jake died?

Elizabeth: You mean when I was in a fog, barely able to get out of bed? How? But I probably never would have said anything. There would have been no point and you are Jake's father. I didn't want to burn everything down in honor of *his* memory. I would have just avoided you and never spoken to you again... But this, today, *this* is the final step too far.

Elizabeth: Sam deliberately scheduled her surgery for today. Jake's birthday. In the hospital / work in. That was cruel. Callous, vindictive, spiteful, malicious. And *that* is the kind of person you threw our son's trust and respect away for, because that is exactly what you would have lost if Jake had ever found out what she did to him.

Cruel? Jason thought that was going too far, Sam wasn't any of those things, was she? He suddenly remembered that look on her face this morning, before the surgery. He hadn't been able to interpret it at the time. Now he realized what it was: Smugness. His stomach churned and he swallowed hard.

Elizabeth: Callous, cruel. And *you* are no better, because you didn't stop her. How could you not stop her?! That you would move to replace Jake so soon, today of all days- She broke off with a pained whimper and the tears that had been clinging to Elizabeth's lashes finally cascaded down her face. Jason moved to...he didn't know...comfort her? But she slapped his hands away.

Elizabeth: Don't touch me! Don't ever touch me again.

Jason's breath caught in his throat. All of those times he had wanted to touch Elizabeth, but held back...

Elizabeth(bit out): Where is the evidence, Jason?

Jason: What?

Elizabeth: The evidence of the crimes Sam committed against Jake. I wanted to have her arrested at the time, remember? You said that we couldn't turn her in because she would have told the truth about Jake's paternity. I let it go because I trusted that you, Jake's father, had his best interests at heart the same way I did. (the bitterness in the scoff hurt almost as much as the words themselves) Well, Jake is gone and the secret is out. I know the statute of limitations hasn't passed. So. Where. Is. The. Evidence?

Jason couldn't look her in the eye.

Elizabeth: Ohhh... It's gone. Jake's loving father "lost" it. And now you are an accomplice to Sam's crimes against your own son.

She waited for him to say something. When it became clear that he wouldn't, she turned and walked away but not without sending him one more disgusted glare.

Jason meandered down the corridor in a daze. Elizabeth's words were running on a loop in his mind, but it was the memory of himself telling Sam that she would be a great mother suddenly popping into his head that sent him careening into the nearest bathroom to empty everything in his stomach in the toilet. Some of it landed on the seat and on the floor.

He leaned his head back against the door of the stall. He remembered threatening to kill Sam if she hurt Elizabeth or his children again. He remembered being annoyed every single time he came home and Spinelli had invited Sam into his apartment. When had that changed? His thoughts immediately tried to shy away, because he knew the answer and it didn't reflect well on him: The day he learned that Elizabeth had gotten back together with Lucky. Had he been punishing Elizabeth for choosing Lucky again? How could he do that? Jake should have been what mattered.

Why didn't anybody say something? Spinelli, Carly, Sonny. They all knew what Sam had done to Jake. None of them questioned him getting back together with her; they actually approved, said that she fit his life. How could they...? No. He was Jake's father. He shouldn't have needed other people to point out how disgusting it was for him to be with Sam after what she did. He wasn't a child or that damaged man who had just woken up from a coma. He had to take responsibility for his own mistakes.

If you didn't love Jake enough on your own...

After his accident, Tony Jones had said that he would never be able to imagine or picture anything in his mind. He knew that wasn't quite true because he had had images flash in his mind before. It was rare, but it happened. Now all he could see was an image of Jake as the teenager he would never grow up to be, looking at him with the same anger and disgust Elizabeth had just now.

Tears slowly ran down his face.

Jason was still in a daze as he left the bathroom.

Spinelli: Stone Cold! The Goddess is awake and asking for you on this auspicious day.

Jason stopped in his tracks and looked down the corridor towards Sam's room. *That you would move to replace Jake so soon, today of all days...*

Spinelli had continued babbling, but then stopped abruptly. He wasn't sure what Spinelli saw in his face, but Jason had never seen the kid's eyes go so wide.

"Stonecold?"

Jason turned around and walked away.

Elizabeth asks Steven to connect her to one of his colleagues from his time working with the FBI. She knows that the PCPD can't be trusted to take her seriously or investigate effectively even if they do, but she wants justice for her son. She tells the agent that she can't prove any of her allegations, but she hopes they can do something anyway. They do.

Jake is found much earlier in this universe. When Elizabeth was delirious with fever and claiming she saw Jake, instead of clinging to Jason she still had enough wherewithal to know that she didn't want him touching her, so she pushed him away and even kicked out with her feet to keep him away from her. Jason was so desperate for her to forgive him that he decided to take her claim that she saw Jake seriously. He found him two days later.