

LOVE & NORAEBANG

SINCE U BEEN GONE

EPISODE 6

MUA x SONORO

Written by

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***Bold text indicates sound design or foley.**

EXT. LOS ANGELES - STREETS - DAY

A busy intersection with cars. Peak rush hour.

1 LOS ANGELES 1
Total humble brag, but I have over
four thousand synchronized
stoplights all across Los Angeles.
That's a lot of moving traffic.
It's no wonder that chaos doesn't
ensue on my streets.

Suddenly, wheels screech. Hear honking and swerving.

2 LOS ANGELES (CONT'D) 2
I never said anything about human
error. It amazes me what people
choose to perceive.

Car doors slam. Sounds of an argument.

3 LOS ANGELES (CONT'D) 3
You can plan everything down to the
last detail, but human error has a
way of undoing that. Especially
when it comes to communication.
Let's see how our two lovers are
communicating. Or not.

CROSSFADES TO:

INT. DON DAGO'S RESTAURANT - BACK OFFICE - NIGHT

Ana CLACKS on the keyboard. Mark enters. It's awkward.

4 MARK 4
Here. Made you an horchata.

5 ANA 5
I'm not mad.

6 MARK 6
Your hair's in a bun so tight, it
looks like you're trying to
strangle it.

7 ANA 7
I guess it is.

8 MARK
You're mad at me. 8

9 ANA
No. Yes. I don't know. 9

Ana's office chair rolls back.

10 ANA (CONT'D)
I know I'm about to spend money I
don't have for my restaurant that's
about to close. 10

11 MARK
You want me to talk to Chloe? 11

12 ANA
No, I will. 12

13 MARK
I meant what I said back there. I
love you, Ana. 13

14 ANA
Please stop saying that. 14

15 MARK
Remember the night we rode our
bikes to sneak into that Rage
Against the Machine cover band
show, and we somehow ended up by
the LA River? Thank God your tío
Jaime found us. Turns out, we were
just in a different part of the
neighborhood. But while we were
together, I never once felt lost.
That was the day I knew. I knew it
then and I know it now. I love you,
Ana. 15

A long pause as Ana absorbs all this. Then, **Ana relentlessly hits Mark on the shoulder.**

16 ANA
You're. So. Stupid. 16

17 MARK
Ow! Ow, stop it. You're hurting me,
Ana. Stop! 17

18 ANA
Why are you ruining our friendship? 18

19 MARK 19
I'm already losing the most
important person in my life to some
guy halfway across the world.

20 ANA 20
He's coming back.

21 MARK 21
Do you honestly think he loves you
if he was willing to leave you for
two years?

22 ANA 22
He... he had to leave.

23 MARK 23
But I'm here. I've always been. You
just never noticed.

He gathers his papers.

24 MARK (CONT'D) 24
The difference between him and me
isn't the money, or the driver, or
the fancy clothes. It's that he
left and went back to his old life.
Me? This is my life. You are my
life.

25 25

26 ANA 26
(sadly)
27 Mark ... 27

28 MARK 28
I'm leaving.

We hear a door close. Door reopens.

29 MARK (CONT'D) 29
(flustered)
I'm not leaving YOU. I just wanted
to finish payroll at home.

30 ANA 30
Yes, Mark. I know.

PRE-LAP: cigarette being lit.

INT. SWANKY DTLA LOFT - NIGHT

Chloe paces, stress-smoking cigarettes. Her phone rings.

31 CHLOE Hello, Jaesun? 31

She exhales cigarette smoke.

32 JAESUN *Neo ajig dambaepyeo? Kkeun-eunjul-* 32
al-assneunde.
 33 (Are you smoking? I thought you 33
 quit. 너 아직 담배피? 끈은줄알았는데.)

34 CHLOE I did. 34

35 JAESUN Way to blow up my phone. What is it 35
 now? Whose chakras pissed you off
 this time?

36 CHLOE *Dagchyeo* (shut up, 닥쳐). This is 36
 serious.

She exhales more smoke.

37 CHLOE (CONT'D) Did you know Ana's restaurant's 37
 about to get evicted?

38 JAESUN What? No, no way. She and Valentina 38
 are working on their salsa line.

39 CHLOE Your *yeojachingu's* (girlfriend, 39
 여자친구) been keeping shit from you.
 I knew something was off about
 them, but I thought I was
 projecting and didn't want to prove
 my therapist right, but she was
 wrong! I wasn't projecting!

40 JAESUN Chloe, slow down. Can you start 40
 from the beginning, please?

Chloe stabs out her cigarette and lights another.

41 CHLOE Fuck. I should've told you after 41
noraebang, but I didn't.

42 JAESUN
Noraebang (karaoke, 노래방) was how many months ago. 42

43 CHLOE
 I overheard Mark admit to Valentina that he loves Ana. 43

44 JAESUN
 Obviously. He's pretty much family. 44

45 CHLOE
 Fuck, I keep fucking this up. No, he's in love with her. I saw him and Ana basically making out at the restaurant today. 45

A long pause. Chloe takes in a deep breath.

46 CHLOE (CONT'D)
 I walked in, saw them say I love you, then they kissed. 46

A beat.

47 CHLOE (CONT'D)
 I'm so sorry, Jaesun, but I think Ana's been sleeping with Mark since you've been gone. 47

48 JAESUN
 Ana would never sneak around behind my back. She's not like that. 48

49 CHLOE
 Then why didn't she tell you about the eviction notice? If she kept that from you, what else is she hiding? 49

Jaesun tries to come up with an answer, anything, but can't.

50 CHLOE (CONT'D)
 Remember what your dad always says? A sleeping dog still carries fleas. 50

51 JAESUN
 Chloe, I gotta go. 51

52 CHLOE
 Jaesun-- 52

53 JAESUN Good night. 53

Click.

INT. CHOI VACATION HOME - NIGHT - MOMENTS LATER

A desktop being awakened from sleep mode. A keyboard quietly clacking. A mouse double clicking.

54 JAESUN
(reads article headline)
"LA's beloved Koreatown restaurant
Don Dago's at risk for eviction." 54

A chair slides back. The dial of a Facetime call. It feels like eternity.

55 ANA
Jaesun? I thought you couldn't make
video calls on base. 55

56 JAESUN
(musters up a smile)
I go back tomorrow. Wow, you
actually picked up. 56

57 ANA
Where are you? 57

58 JAESUN
Our vacation home. Want a tour? 58

59 ANA
("no")
It looks nice. 59

60 JAESUN
Oh. Wish you were here. Oye.
(pause) How are you? 60

61 ANA
Fine. Just... there's a lot going
on right now. 61

62 JAESUN
Like what? 62

63 ANA
I don't want to get into it. 63

80 JAESUN 80
Chloe said--

81 ANA 81
Wow. I said no. So you believe
Chloe over me?

82 JAESUN 82
She's my cousin. And you haven't
responded to any of my voice memos
in weeks.

83 ANA 83
I've been busy!

84 JAESUN 84
So nothing happened then?
Absolutely nothing happened between
you and Mark?

85 ANA 85
Yes, nothing happened! Can we talk
about this later? I'm going through
a really tough time right now, and--

86 JAESUN 86
 (scoffs)
You're going through a tough time?

87 ANA 87
You have no idea. My boyfriend's
decided to go dig ditches halfway
across the world "for his country."
Then, when I finally get to see
him, he yells at me about my
childhood best friend as I'm about
to lose my family's restaurant and
everyone with it because unlike
you, we don't have a safety net.

A beat.

88 JAESUN 88
You're right. I have no idea.

89 ANA 89
No, you don't.

90 JAESUN 90
But neither do you. You haven't
even asked me once how I'm doing. I
don't remember the last time I shit
in private. We eat the same crap
every day.

(MORE)

JAESUN (CONT'D)

I worked for years and never let myself have a life and now I can't get any updates on the business I've built because I'm supposed to be focused "on my duty." And while I'm in here hanging out with a bunch of twenty-year-olds with guns who mostly ignore me, I can't even get my girlfriend to respond to my stupid fucking voice memos. Would it kill you to just say, "Hi, I miss you"?

91 ANA
Jaesun, I-- 91

92 JAESUN
I wish I had known sooner that's how you really felt about me serving. So much for being on each other's team, huh? 92

93 ANA
94 (backpedaling, frightened)
No, I am. We are. 93
94

95 JAESUN
We're not. Let's not waste each other's time anymore. You have other things to worry about, and I got ditches to dig, right? 95

96 ANA
That's not what I meant, Jaesun-- 96

97 JAESUN
(softly)
Good-bye, Ana. 97

Click. Ana bursts into tears, heaving earth-shattering sobs.

INT. CHOI VACATION HOME - NIGHT - MOMENTS LATER

The sound of a dial tone. Sookmin picks up Jaesun's call.

98 JAESUN
(watery)
Appa (Dad, 아빠)? 98

99 SOOKMIN
(in Korean)
Eo adeul (Son, 어 아들)! 99

The Korean crossfades into translated English.

SOOKMIN (CONT'D)
 (in translated English)
 100 Jaesun, what's wrong? 100

JAESUN
 (in translated English)
 101 I broke up with Ana. I'm never 101
 going to love again. Wow, is this
 what real heartbreak feels like?

A beat. **Sookmin chuckles.**

JAESUN (CONT'D)
 102 Why're you laughing? 102

SOOKMIN
 103 Because. You remind me of your 103
 mother.

JAESUN
 104 My breakup reminds you of *eomma* 104
 (mom, **엄마**)?

SOOKMIN
 105 I'm sorry, son. 105
 (beat)

106 Wanna go to *jjimjilbang* (sauna, 106
찜질방) with me?

INT. KOREAN SPA - BATHING AREA - NIGHT - LATER

**Shower water hits expensive tile. Hear splashing as people
 dunk themselves in cold and hot tubs.**

LOS ANGELES
 107 Ahhh, *jjimjilbang*. Bathhouses are 107
 essential to the Korean way of
 life. Men, women, and children
 alike participate in *seshin*, an
 intense cleansing process where the
 body is soaked in hot water, then
 rubbed down with a thin, sandpapery
 loofah to rid the body of all the
 naturally accumulated dirt and dead
 skin. A new concept to most
 Americans. In layman's terms, a
 Korean spa is the granddaddy of
 self-care and exactly what Jaesun
 needed.

INT. KOREAN SPA - STEAM ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Steam wafts. Sookmin sighs a long sigh of relief.

108 SOOKMIN
Ahhhhhh. Come on, Jaesun, it's good for you. 108

109 JAESUN
(forced)
Ahhh. 109

110 SOOKMIN
No, no, deep from the belly. 110

Sookmin slaps his belly.

111 SOOKMIN (CONT'D)
Pain must move to be released. 111

112 JAESUN
Ahhhhhh. 112

113 SOOKMIN
Feel better? 113

114 JAESUN
A little. 114

115 SOOKMIN
Tell me, what's hurting your heart? 115

116 JAESUN
I don't want to talk about it. 116

117 SOOKMIN
Okay. 117

A beat.

118 JAESUN
I can't remember you and *eomma*
(mom, **엄마**) ever fighting. 118

119 SOOKMIN
What? She'd run head first into a
fight. 119

120 JAESUN
We talking about the same person? 120

121 SOOKMIN 121
 I was terrified of your mom. Took
 me weeks to ask her out. At the end
 of our first date, she demanded
 that I kiss her. Then, she got mad
 that she had to ask. It didn't help
 that we were lost in *Bukchon Hanook*
 Village. Had to piggyback her home
 because her feet hurt.

122 JAESUN 122
 You never told me that story.

123 SOOKMIN 123
 It never came up.
 (then)
 124 You have her heart. 124

A heavy sauna door opens. An AJUSHI, a middle-aged, Korean man, pokes his head in.

125 AJUSHI 125
 Number eighty-eight? Scrub massage?
Jaesun's locker key jingles as he checks his number.

126 JAESUN 126
 We're fifty and fifty-two.

The door shuts.

127 JAESUN (CONT'D) 127
 How'd you do it?

128 SOOKMIN 128
 Do what?

129 JAESUN 129
 Your relationship. Stay in love
 when you were gone.

130 SOOKMIN 130
 She was never afraid of being
 honest about how she felt.

More steam wafts.

131 JAESUN 131
 Ana's restaurant's about to go
 under, and she won't let me help
 her.

132 SOOKMIN 132
 Is that why you broke up?

They chuckle. Then sigh.

144	JAESUN It's funny what you remember after a break up.	144
145	SOOKMIN Bad stuff?	145
146	JAESUN No. More of the good stuff. How she got chocolate on her nose when we ate churros. How she'd reach for my hand when we walked together. How she rolled her eyes at couple look but she always matched with me.	146
147	SOOKMIN Sounds like you really love her.	147
148	JAESUN I do.	148
149	SOOKMIN I think your mom would be proud. You're only an asshole to me.	149
150	JAESUN Haha.	150
	A beat.	
151	JAESUN (CONT'D) Going back to base is going to be so hard.	151
152	SOOKMIN You're almost done.	152
153	JAESUN Almost done feels like looking for the exit out of the Century City Mall only to find another line of angry cars.	153
154	SOOKMIN Huh?	154
155	JAESUN It's an LA thing.	155

156 SOOKMIN Just keep your head down. *Hwaiting* 156
(you got this, 화이팅).

157 JAESUN I didn't think we'd end up like 157
this. I didn't think we were ever
going to end.

158 SOOKMIN Sometimes we need small endings for 158
big beginnings. You'll figure out
what's important. Being happy or
being right.

159 JAESUN What's that mean? 159

Sookmin pats Jaesun's leg.

160 SOOKMIN If you don't know, you still 160
haven't figured it out yet.

The heavy sauna door opens again.

161 AJUSHI Number fifty and fifty-two? 161

162 SOOKMIN *Gaja* (that's us, 가자.) 162

163 JAESUN *Appa* (Dad, 아빠)? Thanks. 163

164 SOOKMIN *Eung* (mm, 응). 164

Steam wafts.

CROSSFADE TO:

165 LOS ANGELES See what I said about human error? 165
There are some things you can never
plan for. Too bad heartache can't
be sweated out. If it could, we'd
all just dust ourselves off and get
back up again. But the path to love
is paved with good intentions. Oh
wait... or was that hell?

And as something like Kelly Clarkson's Since U Been Gone
takes us out...

END OF EPISODE 6

MUA x SONORO