SECOND NOAH - ROXANNA - AUDITION SCENE #1

INT. PROM - DANCE FLOOR - NIGHT

Ricky is onstage tuning his guitar, trying to concentrate in spite of the dance music coming from the speakers...in spite of Roxanna now dancing in Jeff's arms only fifteen feet away. He allows himself one more glance -

AT ROXANNA

Cheek turned away from Jeff's shoulder, concentration in her eyes. If she could just hold on...smile enough...relax a little - she'd stop imagining there's something wrong. With Jeff, this whole night, her dream of belonging.

As she's turned away, Jeff's face comes into our view. An entirely different expression there: Angst. And he's holding an eagle eye contact with someone -

KATHERINE

In her date's arms a few feet away.

Ricky stops what he's doing. He's seen it. And he sees --

Jeff's mouth forming a silent, plaintive "I love you" across the dance floor. To which Katherine responds almost by startling, then breaking away from her own date.

Ricky dumps his guitar and jumps off the stage.

ON THE DANCE FLOOR

Ricky weaves determinedly through the crowd to Roxanna and Jeff. Pulls Roxanna into his arms -

RICKY
Cutting in, Sinclair. Hope you don't mind.

And Jeff is gone, uncharacteristically without protest, into the crowd. Leaving an annoyed Roxanna in Ricky's arms.
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ROXANNA
Ricky, what are you doing?

RICKY
Relax, okay? I just wanted to talk to you for a minute.

ROXANNA
Now? Now? You have to talk to me this second? I was dancing with my date, you know?

Her attitude perturbs him but he's got to get through to her.

RICKY
I can see what's going on Roxanna. A mile away.

ROXANNA
Oh yeah? And what's that, Einstein?

RICKY
For your sake, I'm gonna pretend that wasn't the eight hundredth time you've insulted me.

She pulls away, bristling.

ROXANNA
For my sake, you'll leave me alone so I can have a good time.

RICKY
Is that what you're having? That what you call it?

ROXANNA
Let go of my wrist.
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RICKY
Look, why do you always assume the worst from me? Isn't it just remotely possible I'm trying to help here?

ROXANNA
No.

RICKY
(ignoring this)
Your date's a flake, okay? That's what I'm trying to tell you.

ROXANNA
Come on, Ricky, you've always been jealous of Jeff and you know it.

Ouch.

RICKY
That's a bunch of bull.

ROXANNA
Gee, no actually, it's a fact. And this - trying to wreck my prom - this is just you killing two birds with one stone.

RICKY
You know something, I'm getting pretty sick of hearing how much I dislike you.

ROXANNA
So, go stick your head in a punchbowl.

Ricky has to take a deep breath. Okay. One more time. Calm. Even. He has to make her see ---

RICKY
Look...You're obviously smart enough to know something's wrong. Do yourself a favor. I'm not saying he's a total bad guy. He made a mistake -
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This hits Roxanna like a shot. The sudden hurt in her eyes takes Ricky by surprise. She goes very still.

ROXANNA
A mistake? So that's the real bottom line, right? Asking me was a mistake.

RICKY
(momentarily thrown)
What?

ROXANNA
That's cold, man. That's really cold.

And turns to walk off.

RICKY
Wait a minute. That's not what -

She spins around, eyes flashing.

ROXANNA
I'm gonna tell you something - You're not going to mess this up for me, you hear that? So take your pretty white face and your tight pecs and go stick them in someone's face who cares. I may not be good enough to you -- but I am to Jeff. So just for tonight -- leave me alone. You got that? Tonight... I don't deserve this!

And she's gone. Ricky stares after her, frustrated, miserable for her.

RICKY
(under his breath)
No... you don't.