

THE BREAK-UP
A monologue
By JANE CAFARELLA

Comedy – 3 minutes

JOANNE, 40+, tells her book club why she's leaving.

I always knew it wouldn't work.

After all, I'm more the romance type.

Not that I admitted it. You're all so "lit-er-ary"!

Mimicking

"It's so alle-gori-call!"

"I loved the unreliable nar-rator."

If they're so unreliable, why are they narrating!

Beat

I tried to tell you.

When Rebecca invited me...she goes, "You're *always* reading, Jo. It'll be fun!"

And I go, "Probably not what you're reading."

Whispers.

Colleen Hoover. Love her!

Brightly

But I thought, maybe she's right? We could all join the Coleen Hoover Fan Club.

Then I got the book list.

O. M. G!

The first book was a "classic" - *The Goldfinch*

Whispers.

DNF! I gave up when Theo, the hero, was still stuck in the museum after the bombing. I thought he'd never get out.

Not that I told anyone. I watched the film and then looked up a few chapter summaries on Sparknotes – that study guide.

It was great, I was talking "foreshadowing", "themes", "motifs"!

Then, just as I was reaching for my second piece of cake, Rebecca said:

"You're such a fast reader, Jo. I'm still up to the bit where Boris tells Theo he stole the painting. What did you think of Theo's reaction?"

Wide-eyed

Oh oh!

I made sure to read EVERY chapter summary after that.

The next book wasn't much better - *Hello Beautiful*.

Hello boring! For me at least.

Everyone else loved it.

Of course, I didn't say anything.

I just concentrated on the food. That was the best bit. Everyone bringing a plate.

I put on five kilos.

Beat.

The point is that we're just not compatible.

Brightly

So, I was sort of relieved when Liz's marriage broke up and we all started to talking about that.

Every week.

The week she decided to leave her husband was inspirational.

I thought that's me! I'm leaving too!

I'm going back to Colleen - my first love.

Rosie's leaving. And Amanda. They just didn't have the guts to tell you.

So, I guess that's the end of Book Club.

Quietly.

Yay!

To quote Colleen: "It ends with us!"

337 spoken words

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