A Mother's Will
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table.

| 1 | EXT. WILLET RESIDENCE - DAY  | 1  |
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|   | Subtitle: Chicago, Illinois  |    |
|   | A big house with a large fenced-in yard and front porch aligned with a flower bed.   |    |
| 2 | EXT. WILLET RESIDENCE - BACKYARD - DAY   | 2  |
|   | A huge backyard with a kid's swing set. Lovely flowers trailing along the fence, and a plastic patio table set up for a tea party.   |    |
| 3 | INT. WILLET RESIDENCE - BEDROOM - DAY  | 3  |
|   | A little girl's bedroom with twin beds, with dolls sitting neatly placed on each of them. Flowered wallpaper covers the walls.   | е  |
| 4 | INT. WILLET RESIDENCE - BEDROOM - DAY  | 4  |
|   | A second girl's bedroom with pastel painted walls. The closed door is open, displaying an orderly row of pretty little dresses and toys on the floor.  | et |
| 5 | INT. WILLET RESIDENCE - BEDROOM - DAY  | 5  |
|   | Light shines in a third girl's bedroom with two twin beds with matching yellow and purple blankets. On one bed lies a light blue church dress and on the other, a pink church dress.   |    |
| 6 | INT. WILLET RESIDENCE - KITCHEN - DAY  | 6  |
|   | A vase of flowers sits in the middle of the kitchen table, with a plate of cookies next to it.   |    |
| 7 | INT. WILLET RESIDENCE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT  | 7  |
|   | The room is neatly arranged with a small end table resting next to a chair. An open book and a small lamp sit on the expression of the exp | nd |

The fireplace blazes, illuminating the room with a warm glow. On top of the middle rests a picture of six little girls.

FADE TO BLACK.

FADE IN:

8 INT. THIRD GRADE CLASSROOM - DAY

8

Subtitle: Detroit, Michigan

In a third grade classroom, GLORIA WILLET, 34, teaches her class about the states. A huge map of the United States hangs behind her.

GLORIA

Now can anyone tell me the capitol of Arkansas?

A few students raise their hands eagerly. Gloria points to a LITTLE BOY in the front row.

LITTLE BOY

Little Rock, Ms. Willet!

GLORIA

That's right Jeremy, Little Rock.

Jeremy smiles, pleased with his right answer. Gloria walks back around her desk to the map trying to figure out the next question.

GLORIA

Who can name the four states that make up the four corners of the world?

Hands shoot up instantly as students chant "pick me, pick me". Gloria glances over the room trying to decide whom to pick.

GLORIA

Let's see, whom should I pick?

The class raises its hands higher. Just then the PRINCIPAL comes in dressed in a pants suit. She approaches Gloria.

PRINCIPAL

(QUIETLY) Can I speak to you in the hallway?

GLORIA

Yes, of course.

With no expression on her face the principal leaves just as quickly as she came in. Gloria perks up.

GLORIA

Class, I have to step out for just a moment.

Gloria smiles as all the kids groan. Gloria continues and heads for the classroom door.

9 INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

9

Gloria comes out in the hall and quietly closes the door of her classroom. She quickly looks in the room just to check on them. Gloria turns to the principal. The principal hesitates.

PRINCIPAL

Gloria I have some... News to tell you.

GLORIA'S POV

The principal begins saying something to Gloria as Gloria shakes her head and listens intently.

FADE TO:

10 INT. OFFICE - DAY

10

Subtitle: Pittsburg, Pennsylvania

VICKI WILLET, 32, sits behind her desk in her lavish office. A book titled "It's Never Too Late" sits on her desk with her picture on the cover next to a photo of a man and little girl. Vicki chats on the phone, laughing.

VICKI

(into phone)

See, Terrance I told you Vicki Willet books are not written to sit on shelves.

Vicki picks up a few sheets of papers, looks at them and tosses them in the trash.

VICKI (CONT'D)

(into phone)

Oh please Terrance. Don't act like you didn't buy a copy.

Vicki's secretary, RITA, walks in. Vicki puts her hand over the receiver.

VICKI

What is it Rita?

RITA

You have a phone call on line 3.

VICKI

Thank you.

Rita smiles and walks quietly out Vicki's office. Vicki resumes to talking.

VICKI

(into phone)

Terrance, sweetheart. I'm going to have to call you when I get home tonight. (BEAT) Okay, bye.

Vicki's clicks a lit up red button on her phone.

VICKI (CONT'D)

Hello? (BEAT) Yes, this is Vicki Willet.

After a few moments of listening, Vicki stares straight ahead not saying a word, mouth open.

FADE TO:

11 INT. OPEN HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

11

Subtitle: Cleveland, Ohio

A beautiful fully furnished house. JENNIFER WILLET, 29, shows the kitchen to a young, excited newly married COUPLE.

**JENNIFER** 

So the kitchen comes fully equipped with all major appliances and all the cabinets have been replaced.

The couple look around the kitchen pleased with it.

**JENNIFER** 

So let's move on to the living room.

They walk towards the living room.

12 INT. LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

12

Jennifer followed by the couple walk in the living room.

**JENNIFER** 

And here in the living room, we have the sky lights and the marble fire place.

The couple smile eagerly at each other.

WOMAN

Can we see the upstairs?

**JENNIFER** 

Sure follow me and I'll show you the bedrooms.

Jennifer heads towards the stairs with the couple behind her. They reach the stairs and Jennifer's cell phone rings.

**JENNIFER** 

Let's hope that's not another buyer. Excuse me while I take this.

Jennifer smiles as the couple talk amongst themselves about a painting on the wall. Jennifer walks a few steps away.

JENNIFER

(into phone)

Hello? Bradley, this better not be you because I told you when I'm showing a house...

Jennifer trails off and she stares into space.

FADE TO:

13 INT. RESTAURANT - DAY

13

Subtitle: Baltimore, Maryland

KINA WILLET, 27, sits in a booth across from KENNY RICHARDSON, a handsome, well groomed man, in his early 30's, with a suit on.

A WAITRESS comes up to the table and sets down two martinis. She smiles and walks away while Kenny breaks his neck watching.

KINA

Kenny, would please stop focusing on her ass and focus on this case.

Kenny laughs it off, embarrassed for being caught.

KENNY

I was not focusing on her... Lower backside region.

KINA

Oh yeah, then what did I just say?

KENNY

You said, what did I just say?

Kenny gives her a grin as he takes a sip of his drink. Kina can't help but smile at him.

KTNA

Now I see why we broke up.

KENNY

Oh Kina, that hurts.

KINA

Anyway, can we please get back to business?

KENNY

Fine, fine. Let's get back to business.

Kenny takes a sip of his drink as the MANAGER walks up to the table.

MANAGER

I'm sorry to interrupt, Ms. Willet, but you have a phone call.

KINA

Okay, thank you.

Kina gets up from the booth.

KINA

Kenny, don't eat any of my food.

MANAGER

Right this way, Ms. Willet.

Kina and the manager walk away. As soon as they're out of sight, Kenny picks a shrimp off her plate and throws it in his mouth.

14 INT. RESTAURANT - HOSTESS STAND

14

The manager leads Kina to the hostess stand.

KINA

Thank you.

The manager walks away. Kina picks up the phone.

KINA

Hello?

As Kina listens on the phone as her eyes get wider unable to speak.

FADE TO:

15 INT. RECEPTION HALL - DAY

15

Subtitle: Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Caterers prepare for a wedding reception. They set tables and arrange floral centerpieces. HEAVEN WILLET, 26, wearing a head set gives instructions on where everything should go. Heaven walks past a table.

**HEAVEN** 

Move this table a little to the right. It's too close to the entrance.

Heaven continues through the hall when her assistant, TINA, approaches her.

TINA

Ms. Willet, there's a problem.

**HEAVEN** 

Why am I not surprised? What is it?

Heaven keeps walking as Tina tries to keep up with her so she talks fast.

TINA

Well the electrician says that the candle chandeliers are too heavy for the fixtures and they will fall and the tables will... (BEAT) Catch on fire.

HEAVEN

This reception is falling apart. (BEAT) Okay Tina, tell them not to touch anything until I get there.

Tina nods and scurries away. Heaven sighs in frustration as she spins around examining the reception hall. A GUY with a clipboard, runs up to Heaven. He has a lot of keys on his belt next to a walkie talkie.

GUY

Heaven Willet?

HEAVEN

(SNAPPING)

What?

GUY

(CAUTIOUSLY)

There's someone here to see you in the hallway.

Heaven smiles, embarrassed for yelling.

**HEAVEN** 

Thanks. (BEAT) And you're doing a great job.

He looks at her like she's crazy as he quickly walks away.

HEAVEN

God, he probably thinks I'm crazy.

Heaven let's out a small breath as she heads for the hallway.

16 INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

16

Heaven enters the hallway and looks to her left and doesn't see anyone.

CARMEN (O.C.)

She plans a couple dozen weddings and forgets to call her best friend.

A big smile spreads across Heavens face. She looks to her right and sees, CARMEN WATERS.

HEAVEN

Carmen, what are you doing here?

They give each other a long hug.

CARMEN

I just came to see how you were doing? (BEAT) So how's it going in there?

Heaven looks back at the reception hall and then back at Carmen and sighs.

HEAVEN

How's it going in there? I'm setting things on fire.

CARMEN

Sounds like your usual wedding reception horror stories.

They share a small laugh.

HEAVEN

So what's going on?

A nervous look spreads across Carmen's face.

HEAVEN (CONT'D)

Carmen, it's okay. The reception will all work out.

CARMEN

Heaven, I don't know how to say this. So I'm just going to come out and say it.

**HEAVEN** 

Carmen, what is it?

HEAVEN'S POV

Carmen takes a deep breathe as she begins to talk. All the color rushes out of Heaven's face as she stares at Carmen.

FADE TO:

17 INT. DR. HILLMAN'S WAITING ROOM - DAY

17

Subtitle: Atlanta, Georgia

REGGIE WILLET, 24, Dr. Hillman's assistant types away at her computer. A few PATIENTS sit in the waiting room along with a older looking man reading a magazine. DR. HILLMAN, in his 50's, comes out of his office.

DR. HILLMAN

I'll be right with you, Frank.

The OLDER MAN nods his head over his magazine. Dr. Hillman walks over to Reggie's desk and he doesn't look happy.

DR. HILLMAN

Regina, I need to speak with you in my office.

Reggie stops typing and looks up at Dr. Hillman.

REGGIE

Sure Dr. Hillman, I'll be right in there.

Dr. Hillman heads back towards his office. Confused, Reggie starts to get up and follows Dr. Hillman.

18 INT. DR. HILLMAN'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

18

Dr. Hillman stands by his door as Reggie slowly walks in his office and begins talking fast.

REGGIE

Dr. Hillman, I'm so sorry. I know I've been late a few times this week but it's just that... I've had so many things going on and...

Dr. Hillman closes the door and walks to Reggie.

DR. HILLMAN

Regina, calm down. You're not in any kind of trouble.

Reggie relieved but still confused.

REGGIE

Then what is this all about?

DR. HILLMAN

Please sit.

Dr. Hillman walks to his desk and sits down. Reggie reluctantly sits down in one of the chairs sitting in front of his desk.

DR. HILLMAN (CONT'D)

I need to tell you something.

REGGTE

Tell me what Dr. Hillman?

DR. HILLMAN

I just got a phone call from the nursing home in Chicago...

Dr. Hillman tries to gather his thoughts.

DR. HILLMAN (CONT'D)

Your mother passed away last night.

REGGIE'S POV

Reggie looks as if she's about to throw up. Dr. Hillman keeps talking to her but Reggie isn't listening anymore. His lips just keep moving.

END REGGIE'S POV

DR. HILLMAN

Regina?

Reggie begins to snap out of her trance.

DR. HILLMAN (CONT'D)

Regina, are you okay? Do you need to lie down?

Reggie finally blinks and starts to breathe again.

REGGIE

Dr. Hillman, what did you say?

DR. HILLMAN

I asked if you needed to lie down?

REGGIE

No before that.

It's obvious Dr. Hillman doesn't want to repeat the news.

DR. HILLMAN

Regina, I know this is a lot to process and you'll need to talk to someone. I have a friend in New York. He owes me a favor and I know he could see you right away.

Dr. Hillman picks up his phone and starts dialing.

REGGIE

That won't be necessary, Dr. Hillman.

Reggie gets up and leaves the office.

DR. HILLMAN

Regina, I really think you need to talk this out.

Dr. Hillman jumps up to follow Reggie back.

## 19 INT. DR. HILLMAN'S WAITING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

19

Reggie storms to her desk and grabs her bag from under her desk and starts putting things in it. The people in the waiting room look up to see the commotion.

DR. HILLMAN

Regina are you sure you're okay?

REGGIE

Of course I'm not okay. I just talked to my mother last week and now you tell me she's dead.

DR. HILLMAN

Please, let's go in my office and you and I can sit down and talk.

REGGIE

Dr. Hillman, please don't pull your psychologist bullshit on me right now.

Just then Reggie's fiance, JASON, walks in the waiting room.

JASON

Hey, you ready to go?

Reggie looks at Jason with tears. Jason looks over at Dr. Hillman confused.

JASON

Reggie, baby what's wrong?

Reggie stops packing her stuff and takes a deep breathe. She tries to get her words out.

REGGIE

My mom died last night.

Jason walks closer to her and attempts to grab her hand.

**JASON** 

God, I'm so sorry, do you want to talk about it?

Reggie snatches her hand away and looks at him in disbelief.

REGGIE

(YELLING)

You know what I want?

I want the two of you to stop asking me if I want to talk about it.

Jason and Dr. Hillman look at each other and back away from Reggie. Everyone in the waiting room watches. Reggie finally calms down and sits down in her chair.

REGGIE

Jason, baby I'm sorry. It's just that I can't handle this and now I have to go back home and I have to see my sisters...

Reggie stops and thinks.

REGGIE (CONT'D)

Oh no, I have to see my sisters. Jason, I cannot see my sisters right now and how can I leave work...

DR. HILLMAN

Regina, don't worry about work. You take all the time you need.

REGGIE

Thank you so much, Dr. Hillman. And I'm sorry for yelling at you.

DR. HILLMAN

That's quite all right Regina.

Dr. Hillman gives her a small smile.

FADE TO BLACK.

# 20 INT. JAMES' RESIDENCE - EARLY MORNING

20

Gloria walks into the kitchen followed by her husband JAMES and their 10 year old son JAMES JR., still in pajamas.

GLORIA

All emergency numbers are on the counter and make sure he eats every morning before he goes to school.

James looks insulted.

**JAMES** 

I think I know how to take care of my own son. I have been doing it ever since he was born.

GLORIA

(COLDLY)

Only on the weekends.

James gets ready to say something but Gloria doesn't give him the chance. She directs her attention to her son.

GLORIA

Okay sweetheart, you make sure you do your homework and don't stay up too late watching TV.

JAMES JR.

Alright, mom.

Gloria kisses James on the head as he gives her a hug.

GLORIA

I shouldn't be gone for more than a few days.

(to James)

Take care of my son.

**JAMES** 

Gloria, he's my son too.

GLORIA

(UPSET)

You know what James...

Gloria, not able to finish her statement gets interrupted by her son.

JAMES JR.

Mom, you're going to be late.

Gloria sighs, kisses her son one last time and leaves the kitchen. James Jr. and his dad stand in the kitchen when the door slams. They look at each other.

# 21 EXT. AIRPORT CHECK IN - DAY

21

A car pulls up to the curb. TROY, Vicki's husband gets out the drivers side as Vicki gets out the passenger side.

VICKI

So you're going to pick Jordan up at your mother's house right?

TROY

Are you sure you're going to be alright going by yourself?

VICKI

Yeah, I'll be fine.

Troy retrieves her luggage from the trunk and sets it on the sidewalk.

VICKI (CONT'D)

Oh, and remember Jordan has a spelling test on Monday and she has to go over every word twice.

TROY

Vicki, you have to calm down. I have everything under control. Jordan will be fine.

VICKI

You're right.

Vicki smiles as Troy pulls her into a hug.

TROY

Make sure you tell your sisters hi for me. (BEAT) I love you.

VICKI

I love you, too.

Vicki grabs her purse and luggage and heads into the airport. Troy makes sure she's in and gets back in the car and drives off.

# 22 INT. AIRPORT SECURITY - DAY

22

Jennifer, her husband BRADLEY and their four year old daughter ASHLEY stand by security. Jennifer gives Bradley a hug and a kiss.

**JENNIFER** 

I should be back in a few days.

Jennifer bends down and hugs Ashley.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)

You going to be mommy's big girl and be good for daddy?

Ashley excitedly shakes her head and smiles. Jennifer gets up and grabs her bag and heads towards security. She blows Bradley and Ashley a kiss and continues.

### 23 INT. AIRPORT BATHROOM - DAY

23

Kina walks out of a bathroom stall and over to the sinks and washes her hands. Kina grabs her bag from off the counter and walks out the bathroom.

#### 24 INT. AIRPORT COFFEE SHOP - DAY

24

Heaven sits in a small coffee shop drinking coffee and reading a wedding magazine. She looks at her watch then puts the magazine away, grabs her cell phone and coffee and heads towards her gate.

### 25 INT. REGGIE'S BEDROOM - DAY

25

Reggie has her bags on her bed. She comes out the bathroom and puts her tooth brush in the open bag. Jason walks in and hands Reggie her ticket.

**JASON** 

Here, don't forget your ticket.

Reggie takes the ticket and sets them on the bed.

**JASON** 

Hey, are you alright?

REGGIE

Yeah, I'm fine.

**JASON** 

Alright, well hurry up so you won't miss your plane.

REGGIE

Okay.

Jason leaves the room. Reggie walks over to her dresser and opens the bottom drawer. She pulls something wrapped in newspaper and puts it in her bag.

Jason comes back in and grabs her suitcases off the bed and carries them out. Reggie grabs the smaller one and leaves.

#### 26 EXT. AIRPORT CHECK IN - CONTINUOUS

26

Reggie stands on the sidewalk as Jason gives her last bag to a PORTER.

**JASON** 

So, are you ready for this?

REGGIE

To see my sisters after three years? Not really.

Reggie gives Jason a kiss.

REGGIE (CONT'D)

I'll call you when I get there.

Jason watches her as she walks away.

# 27 INT. GATE - CONTINUOUS

27

Reggie hands her ticket to the TICKET LADY. She tears it and hands it back to Reggie.

TICKET LADY

Have a nice flight.

Reggie continues on the plane.

### 28 INT. AIRPLANE

28

Kina shuffles her way through the commotion of people to the back of the plane. She stops at her seat and checks her ticket and sits by the window.

### 29 INT. ANOTHER PLANE

29

People try to find their seats and put their luggage in compartments. Reggie looks out the window. She reaches under the seat in front of her and pulls out the item wrapped in newspaper.

Reggie sets it on her lap and unwraps the newspaper and reveals a picture of her and her sister when they were younger.

FADE OUT.

## 30 EXT. WILLET RESIDENCE - DAY

30

Willet house covered in snow with sunlight hitting it making it glow. A light shower of snow falls.

# 31 INT. WILLET RESIDENCE - DAY

31

The front door slowly open and Jennifer walks in. She closes the door and looks around the house.

32 INT. BEDROOM - DAY

32

Jennifer walks in the bedroom and sets her bags down. She walks past the open closet and moves her hand across the dresses.

Jennifer picks up a pillow from one the bed and holds to her chest. Jennifer looks out the window above the bed as a cab pulls up outside and smiles.

33 INT. FRONT DOOR - DAY

33

As Kina comes in, a little snow and wind blow in as she shuts the front door. She sets her luggage down and brushes the snow off her coat and walks towards the living room.

KINA

Looks like I'm the first one here.

JENNIFER (O.C.)

Not quite.

Kina turns around as Jennifer comes down the stairs. Kina cracks a big smile.

KINA

I'm not surprised. You always were the first one to the dinner table.

**JENNIFER** 

That's because I wanted to get there before Vicki ate everything.

They all laugh a little as Jennifer rushes to Kina and they hug.

VICKI (O.C.)

I heard that.

They turn around and see Vicki by the front door. Kina and Jennifer smile.

KINA

Big sis.

Kina gives Vicki a big hug as Jennifer joins her.

VICKI

So we're the only ones here?

KINA

Yeah, so far.

VICKI

You guys been around yet?

**JENNIFER** 

Just our room.

They get quiet.

VICKI

So, how about some tea?

KINA

Sounds good.

They all head for the kitchen.

34 EXT. WILLET RESIDENCE - DAY

34

A car pulls into the snowy driveway.

35 INT. WILLET RESIDENCE - DAY

35

Kina, Jennifer, and Vicki all sit at the kitchen table drinking tea. Jennifer looks out the kitchen window.

**JENNIFER** 

Looks like another Willet sister has arrived.

VICKI

Who is it?

**JENNIFER** 

Well it's a rental car, so it's probably Gloria.

KINA

Why wouldn't she just take a cab?

VICKI

Please, after Gloria saw that movie where that taxi driver killed all his customers, she swore she would never get in a cab.

KINA

No, Gloria is just high maintenance.

VICKI

I remember when we were younger, Gloria would never play with us because she didn't want to get her clothes dirty.

They all laugh.

VICKI (CONT'D)

And one day this boy Larry pushed her in the mud, she got up and hit him so hard he started crying.

They continue to laugh right when Gloria walks in the kitchen.

GLORIA

That's right, and I would have kept hitting him if he didn't run to the teacher.

Everyone stops laughing and looks up at Gloria.

GLORIA

What? Now you all want to get quiet?

She grins at them and Kina jumps up and hugs her. Gloria looks at Vicki and Jennifer.

GTIORTA

You two just going to sit there?

Vicki and Jennifer look at each other and they both jump up. They stand there arms around each other.

HEAVEN (O.C.)

You guys got room for one more?

Everyone turns around to see Heaven.

KINA

For a Willet sister, we have plenty of room.

Heaven runs to them and they have one big hug.

GLORIA

So who's going to get me a cup of tea?

The smiles fade away as they all look at each other.

### 36 EXT. WILLET RESIDENCE - NIGHT - INTERCUT

36

With snow falling harder, a cab pulls up to the curb. The cab driver hops out and gets luggage out of the trunk and sets them on the sidewalk.

#### 37 INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

37

All the sisters are gathered in the living room. Vicki looks at the pictures on the mantle. A bare Christmas tree sits in the corner of the room. Heaven walks in from upstairs.

HEAVEN

Man I can't believe our rooms are still the same.

VICKI

I know. It's kind of weird being here.

KINA

Where is Reggie?

VICKI

She should have been here by now. I hope she's okay.

GLORIA

Oh, she's fine. She think just because she was born last, she gets to be late to everything.

# 38 INT./EXT. WILLET RESIDENCE - INTERCUT

38

The cab driver opens the back door and Reggie gets out and hands him a tip. The cab driver gets in the cab and drives off. Reggie stands in front of the house and just stares. Reggie finally grabs her luggage and heads through the gate towards the house.

KINA

Yeah, like we couldn't leave for school until Reggie was done getting dressed.

HEAVEN

Or we had to wait for her to get done eating before we could watch television. VTCKT

I know it was such a pain. We were always waiting for...

EVERYONE (CONT'D)

Baby Reggie!!!

REGGIE (O.C.)

You guys promised that when I got bigger, you would stop calling me that.

Everyone looks to see Reggie. They smile and hug her one by one.

REGGIE (CONT'D)

It's not my fault I'm the youngest.

KINA

Man we begged mom and dad for a brother.

REGGTE

Thanks, Kina.

Reggie looks back and sees the Christmas tree in the corner.

REGGIE

I see the Christmas tree is out still.

**HEAVEN** 

Yeah you know how dad is, he never felt like putting it away when momma was just going to make him take it back out a year later. I guess mom just kept it out.

KINA

Hey, I didn't see that before.

**JENNIFER** 

What?

KINA

That red box under the tree. What is it?

Everyone looks over to the tree and see a little box.

**HEAVEN** 

I don't know.

Gloria laughs changes the subject.

GLORIA

You know what I just thought of? That one Sunday morning when daddy couldn't find his brown hat he always wore to church.

VICKI

I remember he called us all in the living room just like this and started yelling at us about where his hat was. Then mom came downstairs and sure enough she had his hat.

GTIORTA

He left in the bathroom. Then mom yelled at him for yelling at us.

HEAVEN

I remember he took us all out for ice cream after church that day.

Everyone falls silent.

REGGIE

So what time is the service tomorrow?

KINA

It's at seven.

GLORIA

Well, why don't we all get some sleep.

Everyone gets up.

REGGIE

So everyone in their same rooms right?

Everyone looks around at each other and smiles.

## 39 INT. REGGIE & HEAVEN'S ROOM - NIGHT

39

Both Reggie and Heaven in their twin beds. Heaven is reading a magazine.

REGGIE

So what do you think it's going to be like?

**HEAVEN** 

What, the funeral?

REGGIE

Yeah, I've never been to one before.

**HEAVEN** 

Yes, you have.

REGGIE

Who?

**HEAVEN** 

Uncle Walker, Daddy's brother. You were about three and mom had to take you out because you wouldn't stop crying.

REGGIE

Why was I crying?

Heaven just shrugs her shoulders.

HEAVEN

I don't know. You were a brat. You always cried.

REGGIE

What if I start crying tomorrow and can't stop?

Heaven looks over at her and gets up and sits on Reggie's bed. Reggie sits up to make room.

**HEAVEN** 

It'll be alright Reg. It's going to be hard but we're all here now. We'll get through this.

Heaven leans over and hugs Reggie.

# 40 INT. JENNIFER & KINA'S ROOM

40

Jennifer is lying down when Kina comes in the room and gets in her bed.

**JENNIFER** 

You alright? You were in the bathroom a long time.

KTNA

Yeah, I think it's just something I ate.

**JENNIFER** 

Probably just nervous about tomorrow.

KINA

How do you think tomorrow is going to go?

**JENNIFER** 

There's going to be a lot of tears.

KINA

Yeah, mostly from Reggie. You know how sensitive she is.

They both get quiet.

KINA (CONT'D)

So what's going to happen afterwards?

**JENNIFER** 

Well everyone's coming back here for the repass and then --

KINA

No, I mean after everything is over. What's going to happen with all of us?

They fall silent again.

# 41 INT. GLORIA & VICKI'S ROOM

41

Gloria and Vicki in their beds talking and going over details for tomorrow's service. They're going through some papers.

VICKI

Well I talked to the funeral home today and everything is set for tomorrow.

GLORIA

So what did the cost of the funeral come out to?

VICKI

Trust me. You don't want to know.

Vicki puts the papers in a folder and sets them on the floor.

VICKI

So what time are people getting here after service?

Gloria continues to look through papers.

GLORIA

Around four.

VICKI

Gloria, how are you and James doing?

She takes off her reading glasses and thinks quickly.

GLORIA

Great, were doing great. Everything is great.

VICKI

That's wonderful. I'm so glad you two are happy.

Vicki smiles and rolls over. Gloria looks a little worried.

GLORIA

Yeah, me too.

#### 42 EXT. CEMETERY - DAY

42

Family and friends stand on the snow covered ground to pay their last respects to Joanna Willet. The Willet sisters stand in the front together as the REVEREND TAYLOR, delivers the sermon.

REVEREND TAYLOR

God has decided that he needs Joanna more than we do and she will be missed. Let us bow our heads.

Everyone puts their heads down. Heaven holds Reggie in her arms as she cries.

REVEREND TAYLOR (CONT'D)

Dear Lord, we give you Joanna Willet. Take care of her Lord. We know she's in a better place now. Amen.

The Reverend walks over to the sisters. The Reverend and Gloria hold hands.

GLORIA

Thank you so much Reverend Taylor, that was a beautiful service.

REVEREND TAYLOR
Well Joanna was a beautiful person.
We're all going to miss her.

Gloria gives the Reverend a small hug.

REVEREND TAYLOR
You all take care of yourselves.

Reggie slowly walks away from the crowd and stands looking at a headstone with the name RONALD WILLET A BELOVED HUSBAND AND FATHER on it. The rest of the Willet sisters show up behind Reggie and they look at the headstone.

REGGIE (CONT'D) She wanted to be next to him.

They all stand, holding each other.

43 EXT. WILLET RESIDENCE - DAY

43

Snow falling down layering the Willet house and the cars parked outside it.

44 INT. WILLET KITCHEN - DAY

44

The Willet sisters fidget around in the kitchen, preparing food and talking with family. Kina jumps up from the table covering her mouth and runs out the kitchen.

REGGIE

I'll go see if she's alright.

Reggie quickly runs after Kina. Just then, Vicki walks in with an empty tray with nothing but crumbs on it. She sets it on the counter as the rest of the sisters gather around.

GLORIA

That chicken is gone already?

HEAVEN

You know black folks, funeral or wedding, they will eat chicken.

They laugh a little as Kina enters with Reggie.

**JENNIFER** 

You okay, sweetheart?

KINA

Yeah, I'm fine.

WOMAN (O.C.)

Lord have mercy!

They all turn around to find their AUNT PATTY, Joanna's older sister, wearing a ridiculously large hat.

AUNT PATTY

I can't believe it. All of Joanna's girls together again. Shirley come here.

SHIRLEY, an elderly woman comes up to them. She pushes her thick glasses up on her nose while fanning herself with a cardboard church fan.

SHIRLEY

What is it Patty?

AUNT PATTY

Look at this. These are Joanna and Ronnie's girls.

SHIRLEY

(SMILING) Well don't God work in mysterious ways. If only your parents could be here to see this.

Shirley walks away. Aunt Patty smiles and sighs.

AUNT PATTY

Joanna is surely missing an act of God.

Aunt Patty smiles and walks away. AMANDA PILLAR, a woman in a business suit approaches them next.

AMANDA

You ladies are Joanna Willet's daughters right?

REGGIE

Yeah, and who are you?

Kina hits Reggie in her arm. Gloria walks around her sisters to Amanda and holds out her hand.

GLORIA

I'm Gloria, Joanna's oldest daughter and you are?

Amanda shakes Gloria's hand.

AMANDA

Amanda Pillar. I'm your mother's legal adviser.

REGGIE

(RUDELY) You mean her lawyer?

Heaven walks over by Gloria and Amanda.

HEAVEN

Shut up, Reggie. (BEAT) Is there a problem Ms. Pillar concerning our mother?

AMANDA

Actually there is. I was wondering if we could all meet in my office.

**JENNIFER** 

Why can't you tell us here?

**AMANDA** 

It's rather private.

Amanda pulls out a business card from her purse and hands it to Gloria.

AMANDA (CONT'D)

I'll see you all tomorrow.

Amanda leaves as the sisters all look at each other concerned.

45 INT. AMANDA PILLAR'S OFFICE - THE NEXT DAY

45

Everyone sits around a big wooden conference table except for Reggie. She scans the books and awards displayed everywhere.

Reggie looks at some antique wooden statues. Reggie lifts her hand up to touch one when Heaven snatches her hand away.

REGGIE

Ouch!

Heaven drags her to the table and sits Reggie down in the seat next to her.

**JENNIFER** 

I swear wherever we went we needed

a leash for you.

Reggie gives Jennifer a dirty look just as Amanda walks in.

AMANDA

I am so sorry I'm late. I got held up in a meeting.

VICKI

It's okay. We just got here ourselves.

Amanda picks up a file sitting at the end of the table and skims through it.

**AMANDA** 

Okay, let me make sure I've got this right. Gloria, Vicki, Jennifer, Kina, Heaven and Regina. Am I right?

REGGIE

It's Reggie.

Gloria gives Reggie a stern look. Amanda sits down at the head of the table.

AMANDA

Well, lets get started. I called you here because we are unable to locate your mother's will.

**JENNIFER** 

When you say unable to locate, does that mean you lost it?

**AMANDA** 

No, it means I never saw the will.

KINA

Then how do you know there is one?

AMANDA

Because your mother told me she was revising it. But unfortunately she passed before she gave it to me and now I don't know where it is.

**HEAVEN** 

What do you mean revising?

AMANDA

Well the last one she prepared, you and Reggie weren't born yet, so she added you two in.

REGGIE

So why is it so important to find it now?

**AMANDA** 

Well I'm glad you asked. In the will, your mother specifically states who she's leaving her belongings and the house to.

GLORIA

Our mother left the house to one of us?

**AMANDA** 

That's right. But until we find the will, we won't know which one of you it is.

KINA

What happens if we don't find the will?

**AMANDA** 

Well actually a lot can happen. The house would eventually be turned over to the state and you will have to deal with the intestate administration or probate.

REGGIE

What's that?

AMANDA

That's when the state comes in and will determine if there is any debt owed.

VICKI

And if there is?

AMANDA

Then they will use the estate to pay off that debt and that could mean losing everything.

GT<sub>i</sub>ORTA

So was our mother in debt?

AMANDA

Between keeping up payments on the house and her medical and nursing home bills, yes, she was in debt?

GTIORTA

How much?

Amanda takes out a piece of paper from her file and slides it to Gloria. She and Vicki look at it and look at each other.

VICKI

That's a lot of debt.

KTNA

So if we don't find this will, we're going to lose momma's house?

GTIORTA

Pretty much.

**AMANDA** 

But if you do find it and figure out who it goes to, you guys together can pay off the debt and possibly keep the house.

Everyone looks at each other.

REGGIE

Wow, this is major.

**JENNIFER** 

So finding this will is really important.

AMANDA

No, finding this will is urgent.

Amanda gets her files together and proceeds to get up.

AMANDA

I wish you all the best of luck and if you need my assistance with anything, please call.

Amanda leaves the office. Everyone let's out sighs.

KINA

So what do we do now?

GLORIA

Well we have to find momma's will. We can't let them take our house.

Reggie looks at all of her sisters.

REGGIE

So who do think she left the house to?

Everyone looks at her in disbelief.

VICKI

Reggie!

REGGIE

What? You all were thinking it.

Everyone rolls their eyes.

46 INT. RESTAURANT - DAY

46

The Willet sisters are having lunch. After a few moments, Kina comes and sits in the empty seat.

**JENNIFER** 

Where were you?

KTNA

Oh, I had to go to the rest room.

Reggie reaches over to Kina's plate and tries to take a pickle. Kina smacks her hand and the pickle falls back down on the plate.

VICKI

It just doesn't make any sense. How is it possible that this lawyer can't find the will?

**HEAVEN** 

You're a lawyer Kina, what do you think?

KINA

Well, first of all, I'm a divorce lawyer. I make sure unhappy couples are not together for the sake of society. I don't know anything about this type of thing.

Kina takes a bite of her burger.

REGGIE

Then what good are you?

Reggie cracks a smile at Kina.

JENNIFER

Where would a person even keep a will?

VICKI

Probably in a safe.

**HEAVEN** 

So Gloria how do we find the will?

Everyone looks at Gloria.

GLORIA

Why are you all asking me?

REGGIE

Because you're the oldest.

GLORIA

What does that mean?

KINA

It means you're just going to tell us what to do anyway. This time we're asking first.

Everyone waits.

REGGIE

So big sis, where do we start?

# 47 INT. BASEMENT - DAY

47

The Willet sisters stand in the middle of the basement. Boxes stacked from wall to wall. A single stream of light shines through from a small window. Cobwebs string from every corner sparkling with sun light and floating dust. In the corner water slowly drips from a pipe onto a box making the most annoying dripping sound.

**JENNIFER** 

Are you serious?

VICKI

We have to look through all of this?

HEAVEN

Oh, hell no. I'm out.

Heaven turns to leave but Reggie grabs her and pulls her back.

KINA

I'm not allowed to lift heavy things.

Everyone looks at her confused.

GLORIA

There is no way I'm touching anything in this basement.

VICKI

Gloria, stop being so dramatic.

**JENNIFER** 

Yeah, you're not wearing a dress and Larry isn't here.

Reggie let's out a loud sneeze. Everyone looks at her.

REGGIE

What? I'm allergic to dust.

They make their way towards the boxes when Heaven stops them.

**HEAVEN** 

Wait a minute. Kina why aren't you allowed to lift heavy boxes?

They all look suspiciously at Kina.

KTNA

Bad back. (BEAT) Doctors orders.

They try to get to the boxes again when Jennifer stops them this time.

**JENNIFER** 

Hold on.

REGGIE

(ANNOYED) What is with everyone?

**JENNIFER** 

Bad back and in the bathroom every second could only mean...

Jennifer's mouth drops open.

REGGIE

Could only mean what?

**JENNIFER** 

Kina, you're pregnant aren't you?

Everyone gasp.

KINA

(SMILING) Yes, I'm pregnant.

REGGIE

By who?

Heaven pushes Reggie out the way and everyone gathers around  ${\tt Kina.}$ 

**HEAVEN** 

Reggie, shut up. How far are you?

KINA

Three months.

GLORIA

I can't believe you're going to have a baby.

Gloria and Kina hug.

REGGIE

We're all going to be aunts.

VTCKT

Reggie, we're already aunts.

Vicki hugs Kina.

REGGIE

You should totally name it after me if it's a girl or if it's a boy.

**HEAVEN** 

I'm so happy for you.

KINA

Thank you.

GLORIA

Okay, we really need to look for this will. We can celebrate later.

KINA

Let's get started.

They all walk around and examine the boxes.

**JENNIFER** 

How is it possible that momma and daddy had this much stuff?

Gloria opens a box.

GLORIA

I have a feeling that most of this stuff is ours.

KINA (O.C.)

Oh my goodness.

Everyone hurries to Kina. Kina has holds up a ratty old doll with a torn dress. The dolls face has faded away. Heaven takes the doll from Kina.

**HEAVEN** 

I thought momma threw this thing away?

REGGIE

Why would she do that?

HEAVEN

Because we used to fight over this doll. You know, who would get to play the mommy?

KINA

Only thing is we all wanted to play the mommy.

Gloria takes the doll from Heaven.

GLORIA

Momma would put her on the highest shelf in the living room and tell us if we couldn't share her then no one could play with her.

VICKI

She stayed up there for a long time.

They all go back to looking through boxes. Jennifer looks on the side of a box and Heaven is written on it. She throws the box at Heaven's feet.

**JENNIFER** 

Heaven, that one has your name on it.

Heaven picks through it and pulls out some books and then a purple jump rope. Reggie notices the jump rope. She jumps up and marches over to Heaven and snatches the jump rope from her.

REGGIE

This is mine?

**HEAVEN** 

What?

REGGIE

This jump rope, it's mine.

**HEAVEN** 

Yes, Reggie I know that.

REGGIE

I thought I lost it.

KINA

I remember you used to love that thing.

REGGTE

So how did Heaven end up with it?

Everyone tries not to laugh.

GLORIA

Reggie, we stole that from you.

REGGIE

Why would you steel from your little sister?

HEAVEN

Because you would never let us play with it.

JENNIFER

You were always so stingy with your stuff. You were such a brat.

GLORIA

You wouldn't let us play, so we took it.

REGGIE

You guys told me that a dog grabbed it from the yard.

They all laugh harder.

VICKI

Heaven made that up.

REGGIE

You guys were so evil.

GLORIA

Come on, let's go look upstairs.

They all head for the stairs.

REGGIE

Man I better not find anymore of my stuff in nobody else's box.

They all laugh.

#### 48 INT. HALLWAY - DAY

48

They all stand in front of a closed door, staring at it. Reggie comes up the stairs and joins them.

REGGIE

What are we doing out here?

KINA

Momma and daddy's room.

**HEAVEN** 

Maybe we shouldn't go in there.

**JENNIFER** 

Why not?

HEAVEN

I don't know. It's just weird.

VICKI

I remember daddy was so obsessed with everything being neat. He would make the bed up and never sit on it. Didn't want to get it wrinkled.

Everyone laughs a little.

VICKI (CONT'D)

One day momma got sick of him so she just started jumping on the bed. Daddy went crazy. REGGIE

We have to find this will, don't we?

Reggie opens the door.

#### 49 INT. PARENT'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

49

The door slowly creeks open and Reggie, the first one to walk in, followed by her sisters. They spilt up and look in the closet, drawers and under the bed. Reggie opens some dresser drawers and leafs through them.

REGGIE

Daddy was crazy.

**HEAVEN** 

Why you say that?

REGGIE

Because his church socks are in stacks according to color.

Reggie shuts the drawer. Kina pulls something out from under the bed.

KINA

Well would you look at this.

GLORIA

What?

Everyone surrounds her.

HEAVEN

It's daddy's brown church hat.

VICKI

Momma always said she was going to burn that hat.

**JENNIFER** 

Instead she just hid it from him.

Kina puts the hat on as Heaven brings a box out from the closet.

HEAVEN

Check this out.

Everyone crowds around the bed as Heaven opens the box and lays out a small, but long white lacy dress.

REGGTE

What is it?

GLORIA

It's our christening gown.

REGGIE

We all were christened in the same gown?

KINA

Momma and daddy couldn't afford to buy each of us a gown so she would sow something on it each time to make it look different.

Vicki grabs the gown off the bed.

VICKI

The flower is for Gloria, Heaven's is the cross, the bow is for me, Jennifer had the star, and Reggie, you had the butterfly.

REGGIE

What about Kina?

KINA

(POINTING) I had the heart.

REGGIE

I can't believe momma kept this.

Vicki hands the dress to Reggie.

VICKI

Reggie, why don't you keep it?

REGGIE

Really, why me?

GLORIA

You were the last to be baptized in it. You should have it.

REGGIE

Thanks.

Reggie looks at the dress and runs her fingers over the beads and different sowed on pieces. Jennifer comes and sets a safe on the bed.

**JENNIFER** 

Think I may have found the will.

Jennifer opens it up and takes the contents out. Vicki grabs them.

VICKI

It's just our birth certificates and some photos.

Reggie picks up one of the pictures. It's a picture of their father and another woman.

REGGIE

Who is this?

**HEAVEN** 

Let me see.

Reggie hands Heaven the picture.

HEAVEN

I don't know.

Heaven hands the picture to Gloria.

**HEAVEN** 

Gloria, who is this?

GLORIA

That's Terri.

Kina takes the picture from Gloria to look at it.

REGGIE

Who is Terri?

Jennifer takes the picture from Kina.

JENNIFER

Some woman who had a thing for daddy.

REGGIE

What, daddy had it like that?

Vicki takes the picture from Jennifer.

VICKI

Yeah momma almost killed him when she found out they were creeping.

Reggie, in shock snatches it away from Vicki.

REGGTE

He had an affair with this woman? (BEAT) Why? She is not even cute.

Vicki takes the picture from Reggie and puts in back in the box.

HEAVEN

How come no one told us?

VICKI

Because you and Reggie were too young.

REGGIE

See Heaven, you're born a few years late and you're the last to know everything.

Reggie picks up an old Christmas card.

REGGIE (CONT'D)

Who is this? Another one of daddy's mistresses?

HEAVEN

That's Ms. Barbara. You remember her Reggie. She was one of mommas best friends.

KINA

I remember her. She lived down the street next to that mean guy who trained his dog to chase kids.

REGGIE

I hated him.

**HEAVEN** 

It was his dog who I told you took your jump rope.

KINA

Why don't we talk to Ms. Barbara about the will? She might know where it is.

GLORIA

You know what, that's a good idea. I'll find her number and we'll go tomorrow.

VICKI

Sounds good. Let's go get something to eat.

They all head out. Reggie, holding the christening dress shuts the door behind her.

### 50 EXT. STREET - DAY

50

Snow showers the streets. Reggie, Kina and Heaven walk down the side walk.

KTNA

Remember Christmas Eve we used to walk down to Ms. Barbara's. She would always have cookies waiting for us.

REGGTE

And daddy would make us sneak him some cookies cause momma would never let him have any.

**HEAVEN** 

We haven't seen Ms. Barbara in a long time. I hope she remembers us.

KINA

I'm sure she does. We were the only family on the block with six kids.

All of a sudden Reggie stops and points.

REGGIE

Hey, isn't that where that boy Brandon lived?

Heaven and Kina stop.

KINA

Yeah I remember Brandon. (SMILING) That was Heaven's boyfriend.

REGGIE

He was all in love with you.

**HEAVEN** 

Please, he was not in love with me.

They continue down the sidewalk.

REGGIE

Oh no? Then why would he show up everyday at school with flowers from his momma's garden?

HEAVEN

I don't know. But I do know he got a whooping for cutting his mommas flowers.

KINA

And you got a whooping for kissing him.

They laugh and continue to walk down the sidewalk.

# 51 EXT. MS. BARBARA'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

51

Kina, Heaven and Reggie walk up the stairs to a porch and Kina rings the doorbell. After a few seconds the door opens and JANET DANIELS, Ms. Barbara's daughter, about the same age as Kina. Janet stands there looking back and forth between the sisters.

JANET

Can I help you?

KINA

Janet?

JANET

Kina?

They let out small scream and hug each other as Heaven and Reggie exchange confused glances.

JANET

Oh my God. It's been like what, 11 years?

KINA

Yeah it's been a long time. (BEAT) You remember my sister Heaven, she was in a grade lower than us.

JANET

I remember.

KINA

And that's Reggie, my youngest sister.

Janet smiles as her and Reggie shake hands.

**JANET** 

I recognize you.

REGGIE

I've seen you in Kina's yearbooks.

JANET

Come on in.

Janet opens the door wider and stands aside as they all walk in.

# 52 INT. FRONT HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

52

Janet close the door behind them.

JANET

I heard about your mom. I'm really sorry.

KINA

Thank you.

JANET

Why don't we go into the living room?

Janet leads the way.

# 53 INT. LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

53

Heaven, Kina and Reggie take a seat on the couch while Janet sits in the chair.

REGGIE

So Janet do you still live here in Atlanta?

JANET

No. I came back for my brother George's graduation.

HEAVEN

I remember him. How is he doing?

JANET

He's doing good. He got real tall. He plays basketball.

KINA

Janet, is your mom here? We kind of need to talk to her.

JANET

Yeah, she's upstairs. I'll go get her.

KINA

Where is your bathroom?

JANET

Down the hall, past the kitchen. It's the first door on the right.

Janet exits as Kina goes to the bathroom. Reggie gets up but Heaven pulls her back down.

REGGIE

What? I was just going to go look at the--

**HEAVEN** 

Yeah, I know.

54 INT. WILLET RESIDENCE - KITCHREN

54

Vicki looks through drawers as Jennifer searches through cabinets.

JENNIFER

Why are we looking for the will in the kitchen?

VICKI

Because Gloria said to.

Jennifer slams a cabinet door shut and sits down at the table.

**JENNIFER** 

What, she thinks just because she's the oldest, she can tell us what to do?

Gloria strides in.

GTIORTA

Yes. That's how God intended it.

**JENNIFER** 

Why would momma even keep her will in the kitchen?

GLORIA

I don't know, but we can't count out all possibilities.

VTCKT

Look at these?

Vicki holding on to a small tin box, sits at the table with Gloria and Jennifer. Jennifer leafs through all the small pieces of paper.

**JENNIFER** 

What are they?

VICKI

Momma's recipes.

GTIORTA

Oh, let me see.

Gloria pulls the small box to her and pulls out some recipes and reads them.

**JENNIFER** 

She had so many of them.

GLORIA

She should. She made everything from scratch.

Vicki pulls the box back towards her and shuffles through some of them.

VICKI

That's strange.

**JENNIFER** 

What?

VICKI

Momma's sweet macaroni and cheese isn't in here.

**JENNIFER** 

She made the best macaroni and cheese.

VICKI

I know, but the recipe is gone.

GLORIA

I have it.

**JENNIFER** 

You have it?

Gloria continues to look through the recipes.

VICKI

You have momma's sweet macaroni and cheese recipe?

GLORIA

Yeah.

VICKI

How did you get it?

GLORIA

Well Aunt Marcy had it and I called her and she sent it to me.

VTCKT

But I wanted that recipe. I'm the one who helped her cook it.

GLORIA

Oh, stop being such a baby.

**JENNIFER** 

Gloria, that wasn't right.

VICKI

You think just because you're the oldest you get to have everything.

Gloria thinks for a moment.

GLORIA

Yes. (BEAT) And besides you got momma's ear rings.

VICKI

That's not the point.

Jennifer looks at them.

**JENNIFER** 

Wait a minute, how come I didn't get anything?

Gloria and Vicki exchange glances.

55 INT. DANIEL HOUSE - DAY

55

Kina comes back into the living room and sits back on the couch.

HEAVEN

Jesus, we were about to come get you.

REGGIE

Are you alright?

KINA

Yeah, I'm fine.

Just then Janet and MS. BARBARA walk in.

MS. BARBARA

My Lord, if I didn't see it with my own eyes I wouldn't have believed Janet.

JANET

(SMILING) I told you they were here.

They all stand up and Ms. Barbara looks at them back and forth.

KINA

Hi, Ms. Barbara.

MS. BARBARA

Kina?... Heaven?

KINA

I'm Kina. That's Heaven.

Kina walks to her and gives Ms. Barbara a hug.

MS. BARBARA

I always did get the two of you mixed up.

Ms. Barbara looks over to Heaven as she smiles.

MS. BARBARA (CONT'D)

Heaven. You always did have the biggest smile.

Heaven and Ms. Barbara hug. Ms. Barbara walks to Reggie and smiles.

MS. BARBARA

The smallest one in the bunch.

Reggie smiles.

MS. BARBARA (CONT'D)

You all grew up to be such beautiful women. (BEAT) Ronnie and Joanna would be so proud. I miss her already.

**HEAVEN** 

So do we.

REGGIE

We missed you, Ms. Barbara.

MS. BARBARA

Well, how about I go make us some cookies.

The girls all smile.

# 56 INT. WILLET RESIDENCE - LIVING ROOM

56

Gloria, Vicki and Jennifer all spread out on the living room floor surrounded by boxes looking at pictures.

GLORIA

You wanted to do everything like me.

VICKI

I did not.

Gloria hands her a picture.

GLORIA

See, this proves it. You got your chicken pox the same time I did.

VICKI

You think I planned that?

Jennifer comes and sits next to them and hands Vicki a picture.

**JENNIFER** 

Isn't that just horrible?

Vicki and Gloria both look at the picture.

VICKI

Oh, God. I hated when momma would dress us the same.

GLORIA

I know. We couldn't deny being sisters if we wanted to.

VICKI

Reggie couldn't even walk and her diaper still matched our dresses.

They all laugh.

### 57 INT. DANIEL HOUSE - KITCHEN

57

Everyone gathers in Ms. Barbara's kitchen around the table eating cookies. Pictures spread out. Ms. Barbara looks at the picture of her and Joanna.

MS. BARBARA

Boy, me and your momma were so close. Lived on the same street all our lives.

Reggie picks up a picture.

REGGIE

Ms. Barbara, how come you have this picture of me?

Ms. Barbara takes the picture from her and smiles.

MS. BARBARA

Cause this was at my house. All your sisters had the chicken pox except you and your momma didn't want you to catch them.

REGGIE

Did I ever get them?

MS. BARBARA

Yeah, you got them. Had them bad too. All over your little butt.

Everyone laughs a little.

KINA

Ms. Barbara, we wanted to ask you something.

MS. BARBARA

What is it child?

KINA

You wouldn't happen to know where are mother's will is would you?

Ms. Barbara thinks for a moment.

MS. BARBARA

Wish I could help but your mother and I hadn't spoken in a while.

HEAVEN

Why not?

MS. BARBARA

Even with some of your best friends you can loose touch with. Even family.

Ms. Barbara eyes them. They all exchange glances.

MS. BARBARA (CONT'D)

Why do you ask dear?

KTNA

Well if we can't find the will we might lose the house.

JANET

Isn't there anything you can do?

REGGTE

Without the will, not much.

58 INT. DANIEL HOUSE - FRONT DOOR

58

The front door opens. Reggie holds a plate of wrapped up cookies. Ms. Barbara follows them.

**HEAVEN** 

Ms. Barbara, it was really nice seeing you again.

REGGIE

Yeah, thanks for the cookies.

Kina and Janet hug each other.

**JANET** 

You make sure you keep in touch.

KINA

I will. I promise.

JANET

And good luck with the will.

Ms. Barbara and Janet stand at the door as they make their way down the porch.

MS. BARBARA

Girls?

They all stop and turn around.

MS. BARBARA (CONT'D)

You take care of each other.

KINA

We will.

**HEAVEN** 

Bye, Ms. Barbara.

They walks down the steps.

# 59 INT. WILLET RESIDENCE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

59

Gloria, Vicki and Jennifer still in the living room looking at pictures. Reggie, Heaven and Kina come in yelling and arguing.

KINA

No Reggie, there is no way.

REGGIE

But why not?

GLORIA

Hold on, what are you guys yelling about?

Heaven sits down on the couch.

**HEAVEN** 

Reggie's idea.

GLORIA

And what is Reggie's idea?

REGGTE

To have Christmas here.

VICKI

No.

REGGIE

Why not?

VICKI

Because I have to get back to work.

REGGIE

Your book is finished, Vicki. What else do you have to do?

Heaven laughs. Vicki gives her a dirty look and Heaven stops laughing.

HEAVEN

What? Sometimes she's funny.

**JENNIFER** 

I think it's a good idea to have Christmas here.

REGGIE

Thanks you, Jennifer.

Vicki thinks about it.

VICKI

I guess it would be nice being here all together.

Everyone looks at Kina.

KINA

Fine Reggie, but you and Heaven have to do all the shopping.

Heaven jumps up from the couch.

**HEAVEN** 

Why me?

GLORIA

Because we say so.

VICKI

So it's settled then. Christmas at the Willet house once again.

All the girls smile.

# 60 INT. GROCERY STORE - THE NEXT DAY

60

Reggie sits at the end of the basket filled with food as Heaven pushes it down the isle.

HEAVEN

Reggie, get your heavy butt off.

Reggie jumps down.

REGGIE

So what else do we need?

Heaven examines the basket.

HEAVEN

I think we have everything. (BEAT) Oh, gravy.

REGGIE

Gravy?

**HEAVEN** 

Yeah gravy. Go to the next isle and...

Heaven's voice trails off as she stares straight ahead. Reggie looks at her confused.

REGGIE

And what?

Reggie turns around to see what Heaven is looking at and at the end of the isle they see, BRANDON, handsome and tall. Dressed very casual. Reggie's mouth drops open.

REGGIE

Is that--

**HEAVEN** 

Brandon.

REGGIE

He grew up.

**HEAVEN** 

He grew up well.

Reggie grins at Heaven and shoves her.

REGGIE

Go talk to him.

HEAVEN

Go talk to him? I can't just go talk to him.

REGGIE

Yes, you can. He's not wearing a ring which means he's not married.

**HEAVEN** 

How do you know that?

REGGIE

I can spot them anywhere.

Brandon puts a box of cereal in his basket and then leaves turning the corner.

REGGIE

Well if you're not going to talk to him, I will.

Reggie starts running down the isle. Heaven tries to grab her but can't hold on to her.

CHECK OUT LINE

Reggie runs up behind Brandon and taps him on his shoulders.

REGGIE

Brandon?

Brandon turns around and stares at Reggie.

REGGIE (CONT'D)

It's me, Reggie Willet. You lived around the corner from me and my sisters.

BRANDON

Wow. Look at you.

They hug.

61 ISLE 61

Heaven comes down to the end of the isle just enough to hear.

CHECK OUT LINE

BRANDON (CONT'D)

How are you doing?

REGGIE

I'm doing good. How are you?

**BRANDON** 

I'm great. What are doing back in town?

REGGIE

Our mom passed. Her funeral was this weekend.

**BRANDON** 

Oh wow. I didn't know.

He gives her a sympathetic hug.

BRANDON (CONT'D)

I'm sorry to hear.

REGGIE

Thank you.

**BRANDON** 

So is Heaven around?

ISLE

Heaven shakes her head yes.

CHECK OUT LINE

REGGIE

Yeah, she's here.

Reggie goes to the isle and pulls Heaven. Heaven tries to tear away from her but Reggie won't let her go. Reggie drags her over to Brandon who smiles.

BRANDON

Heaven. You look amazing.

HEAVEN

Thanks. You look good too.

REGGIE

This is so cute. The two of you back together again.

Heaven glares at Reggie.

REGGIE

(QUICKLY) I'm going to go get the gravy. I'll be back.

Reggie walks away. Heaven and Brandon smile awkwardly at each other.

BRANDON

So what have you been doing over the years?

HEAVEN

I've been working as a wedding planner in Wisconsin.

BRANDON

(IMPRESSED) Wow, that's really great.

HEAVEN

Well you know what they say, those who can't do, teach.

Brandon looks a little confused.

HEAVEN

I'm a wedding planner. I'm not
married.

Brandon just smiles at her joke and nods his head.

HEAVEN (CONT'D)

So what about you? What have you been up to?

**BRANDON** 

Well I took over my dad's construction company.

HEAVEN

Good for you.

They smile and both look away.

BRANDON

So are you seeing anyone?

Reggie comes back with the gravy and sets in the basket.

**HEAVEN** 

(RELIEVED) Well we really got to get going.

BRANDON

It was nice seeing you again Heaven.

**HEAVEN** 

(SMILING) You too Brandon.

Heaven and Reggie start to walk away.

BRANDON

Bye, Reggie.

Heaven stops in her tracks and turns back around.

HEAVEN

Brandon?

He turns to her from his check out line.

HEAVEN (CONT'D)

Would you like to join us for Christmas dinner? If you don't have plans.

Brandon smiles.

BRANDON

I would love to.

**HEAVEN** 

Okay. See you then.

Heaven smiles and continues walking with Reggie.

REGGIE

So?

HEAVEN

So what?

REGGIE

Did you ask him if he's married?

**HEAVEN** 

No I did not ask him if he's married.

Reggie turns back around.

REGGIE

(YELLING) Hey Brandon, you're not married are you?

Heaven comes up behind Reggie and yanks her back.

### 62 INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

62

Gloria and Vicki put decorations on the tree. Jennifer hangs all their stockings on the fireplace. Heaven and Reggie come in followed by Kina.

**HEAVEN** 

The light's outside look great.

**JENNIFER** 

We almost killed ourselves putting them up.

**HEAVEN** 

So any luck with the will?

**JENNIFER** 

No, it hasn't come up yet.

REGGIE

(EXCITED) Guess who we saw at the store?

**HEAVEN** 

(ANNOYED) Reggie.

KINA

Who?

REGGTE

Brandon.

Everyone smiles at Heaven.

GLORIA

Could this be the reuniting of Heaven and Brandon?

HEAVEN

It's nothing like that.

REGGIE

Oh yeah, then why did you invite him over for Christmas dinner?

KINA

You invited him here?

Heaven sits on the couch.

HEAVEN

Yes. What is the big deal?

Everyone but Heaven looks at each other and smiles.

**EVERYONE** 

Nothing.

**HEAVEN** 

Then just drop it.

Reggie notices a picture on the floor. She picks it up. Another picture of her father and Terri.

REGGIE

Jesus, how many pictures did dad take with this woman?

Gloria and Vicki exchange a private glance.

GLORIA

Let me see that.

Reggie hands Gloria the picture. Gloria looks at it and then hands it to Vicki.

VICKI

Yeah well, she was in love with him.

Vicki laughs it all off, nervously eyeing Gloria.

REGGIE

Why would momma even let him keep these pictures?

JENNIFER

I don't think she knew he had them.

GLORIA

Reggie, look through that box right there for me. We really need to find this will.

Reggie sits down and looks through the box but suddenly stops and jumps back up.

REGGIE

When did daddy have that affair with Terri?

GLORIA

Why? It's not important.

REGGIE

I just want to know. When was it?

**JENNIFER** 

Couple years after Heaven was born.

Gloria glares at Jennifer.

REGGIE

A couple? You mean like two years? Three years? What?

**JENNIFER** 

Yeah, I guess, two years, give or take a few months.

REGGIE

No. It was two years exactly, wasn't it?

Reggie looks over to Gloria and then Vicki. They look at each other.

REGGIE (CONT'D)

I'm two years younger than Heaven.

Reggie looks back and forth between her sisters and then storms over to Vicki and snatches the picture out of her hand and frantically leaves the living room. Everybody jumps to go after Reggie.

63 INT. PARENT'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

63

They all get to the room just as Reggie brings the safe out from the closet. She opens it and furiously snatches out the pictures and flings them in all directions. She pulls out all their birth certificates and throws them one by one.

REGGTE

Gloria, Vicki, Jennifer, Kina, and Heaven.

She looks up with tears in her eyes.

REGGIE (CONT'D)

(ANGRY) Why don't I have a birth certificate?

Reggie's gathers back up all the birth certificates and holds them up in the air.

REGGIE (CONT'D)

Gloria, why don't I have a birth certificate?

Gloria swallows and exhales.

GLORIA

Because you're not momma's real child.

Reggie's body goes limp as she falls on the bed catching her breath unable to talk.

GLORIA

Daddy and Terri had their affair two years after Heaven was born. She's your real mother.

HEAVEN

I'm sorry, Reggie. I didn't know.

GLORIA

Only me, Vicki and Jennifer knew and then later Kina found out.

Reggie composes herself and stands back up.

REGGIE

Why didn't anyone tell me?

VICKI

Momma and daddy thought it would be best if you didn't know. Your mom passed a little after you were born and momma adopted you.

REGGIE

So that's why you guys left after daddy died.

GLORIA

What are you talking about?

REGGTE

You hated daddy for cheating on momma. So you hated me. That's why you were so mean to me.

Kina walks to Reggie.

KTNA

We were mean to you because you were our annoying little sister, not because you had a different mother.

Reggie rolls her eyes and wipes her face.

REGGIE

I'm the reason momma and daddy split up. It's because of me isn't it?

VICKI

Reggie, that is not true.

REGGIE

And I suppose that's why you gave me the christening gown. You think that's going to make up for not being around for the past 3 years?

Gloria grabs Reggie's arms and turns her toward her.

GT<sub>i</sub>ORTA

Listen to me. You are just as much our sister as any of us.

Reggie shakes her head at Gloria and yanks her arms out of her grasp.

REGGIE

No, I'm not.

Reggie slowly walks past them and leaves. Everyone just watches her.

64 INT. REGGIE & HEAVEN'S ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

64

Reggie has her suitcase on the bed as everyone walks in.

HEAVEN

What are you doing?

Reggie pulls out the gown and rips off her butterfly patch and throws it on the floor. She hands the gown to Vicki.

REGGIE

Here, now there's only five of you again.

KINA

Reggie, don't do this. We love you.

REGGIE

Take it and get out.

Vicki slowly takes the gown from her. Reggie pushes her suitcase onto the floor and sits on her bed resting her head in her hands. The rest of the sisters look at each other and leave.

65 INT. REGGIE & HEAVENS ROOM - NIGHT

65

Kina walks in the room with a blanket and puts it over a Reggie as she sleeps. Kisses her on her head and slowly creeps back out and closes the door.

66 INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

66

Kina comes in the kitchen as Jennifer and Heaven cook dinner. Kina sits at the table and helps Jennifer peel potatoes.

**HEAVEN** 

How's Reggie doing?

KINA

She's asleep.

**JENNIFER** 

This will definitely be an unforgettable Christmas.

67 EXT. BACK PORCH - NIGHT

67

Gloria sits in the cold on her cell phone.

GLORIA

(into phone)

Is he doing all his homework? Getting to bed on time? (BEAT) I'm sorry you're right, he's your son too. (BEAT) Well I have the divorce papers... Fine put him on.

Gloria pulls out a cigarette and lights it.

GLORIA (CONT'D)

(into phone)

Hey baby, how you doing? (BEAT) I'm doing fine. You being good and listening to your dad? (BEAT) Really? He said he misses me? (BEAT) Give him the phone and I love you.

Gloria blows out some smoke.

GLORIA

(into phone)

He sounds good. I'll call you in a few days. (BEAT) I love-- Bye.

Gloria hangs up her phone as Heaven comes out and sits next to Gloria.

HEAVEN

When did you start smoking?

GLORIA

When you were five.

**HEAVEN** 

Gloria, how come you never told me about Reggie?

GLORIA

Honestly, we never thought either of you would find out. (BEAT) Guess we we're wrong.

Just then Vicki comes out as Gloria take a puff from her cigarette.

VICKI

Heaven leave. I have to talk to Gloria.

HEAVEN

Why do I have to leave?

VICKI

Because I just told you to.

Heaven looks over at Gloria who just shrugs her shoulders.

HEAVEN

What is this the meeting of the big sisters club? Anything you say to Gloria, you can say to me.

Gloria and Vicki just stares at her. Heaven looks back and forth between them.

HEAVEN

I'll just go check on Reggie even though Kina just checked on her five minutes ago.

Heaven goes back in the house and Vicki sits down next to Gloria. Vicki motions towards her cigarette. Gloria pulls one out and gives it to her. Gloria lights it for her.

VICKI

Remember when we were caught smoking at school?

GLORIA

In the bathroom with Stacey and Rachel.

VICKI

And momma had to come down to the school to get us.

GLORIA

That was so embarrassing. She came in rollers and her housecoat.

VICKI

She did that on purpose.

They both laugh. A moment.

VICKI

So how long have you and James been separated?

Gloria looks at Vicki, shocked.

VICKI (CONT'D)

You think just because we haven't spoken in a while, I don't check up on you?

GLORIA

Six months. We would argue all the time over stupid things.

VTCKT

Sounds like me and Troy. We almost got a divorce.

GLORTA

(SURPRISED) Really? How did you guys solve your problems?

VICKI

Time and patience. We talked to each other. Said what we were feeling. Luckily, we got through it.

GLORIA

I wish James and I could do that.

VTCKT

Maybe this six months apart will be good for you guys and for James Jr.

GLORIA

Maybe you're right.

VICKI

Family is just so important. Considering everything we've all been through. (BEAT) You have to make it work.

Jennifer sticks her head out of the back door.

**JENNIFER** 

Hey you two, dinner is ready.

Gloria and Vicki put out their cigarettes and head inside.

# 68 INT. REGGIE & HEAVENS ROOM - NIGHT

68

Reggie has all her bags on the bed when Heaven comes in.

**HEAVEN** 

Reggie, can you come downstairs?

Heaven notices the bags on the bed.

HEAVEN (CONT'D)

Where are you going?

REGGIE

Back home. So it can just be the five of you.

Reggie gives Heaven a cold stare.

REGGIE (CONT'D)

That's what you all want right?

Heaven hurries to Reggie and grabs her hand.

HEAVEN

No. We are not loosing you again.

REGGIE

Heaven, let go.

Heaven pulls her out of the room.

# 69 INT. KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

69

Heaven drags Reggie into the kitchen where everyone is eating dinner.

HEAVEN

I caught her trying to escape.

REGGIE

What is this all about?

GLORIA

Would you please just have dinner with us?

Reggie rolls her eyes and sits at the table. Heaven sits next to her. Everyone goes back to eating.

REGGTE

This is crazy. Do you guys realize that I'm not even your real sister and I haven't been for 24 years?!

VICKI

Reggie, we know you're hurt and there's no excuse for not telling you. We all thought we were protecting you.

KINA

Reggie, we love you so much.

Reggie jumps up from the table.

REGGIE

It's all a lie. My real mother is dead. The woman who I thought was my mother is dead and my father is dead. And what's worse, I didn't have you guys for the past 3 years. (BEAT) Let's face it, I'm not a part of this family. I never was.

Reggie rushes out of the kitchen. Just then the doorbell rings.

**JENNIFER** 

What now?

**HEAVEN** 

I'll get the door.

Heaven gets up from the tables.

70 INT. KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

70

Heaven returns with Amanda behind her.

AMANDA

I just came to see how the search for the will was coming along.

GLORIA

Not so good.

**HEAVEN** 

We haven't found it.

**AMANDA** 

Are you sure you've searched everywhere?

**JENNIFER** 

We've torn this house up from top to bottom.

**AMANDA** 

I'm so sorry.

VICKI

So what do we do now?

Amanda pulls out some files.

AMANDA

I'm afraid you have no choice.

Amanda hands the files to Gloria.

AMANDA (CONT'D)

You'll have to sign these contracts stating that the state has permission to take over the property, as of the first of the year.

They're faces fall.

AMANDA (CONT'D)

You all can take your time and sign them when you're ready.

VICKI

Thank you.

**AMANDA** 

I'll just let myself out.

Heaven sulks back into her seat as Amanda slips out of the kitchen.

**HEAVEN** 

I can't believe this is happening.

KINA

First Reggie and now this.

71 INT. REGGIE & HEAVENS ROOM - LATER THAT NIGHT

71

Reggie lies on the bed clenching her doll with tears rolling down her cheek. Kina appears in the door.

KINA

May I come in?

REGGIE

If you want.

Kina comes in and sits on the bed.

KINA

How are you feeling?

REGGIE

I should be asking you that.

Kina looks down and puts her hand on her stomach.

KTNA

Other than morning sickness, she's doing fine.

REGGIE

You know it's a girl?

KINA

No. I just have a feeling it is.

KTNA

So are you staying?

Reggie doesn't answer.

KINA (CONT'D)

Come on Reg, it's Christmas Eve.

Reggie stares blankly at Kina.

KINA (CONT'D)

Well while you're thinking it over, we have a surprise for you downstairs.

REGGIE

Why do you guys insist on torturing me?

Kina smiles.

KINA

Because we love you. Now let's go.

Reggie gets up and follows Kina out the room.

72.

72. INT. LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

> Kina guides Reggie in with her hands over her eyes while the rest of the sisters stand in front of the tree smiling. Kina places Reggie in front of her sisters.

> > KINA

Okay, open.

Kina removes her hand and all the sisters move to the side. Hanging all over the tree are pictures of them when they were growing up. Reggie looks at the tree amazed.

REGGTE

What is all this?

**JENNIFER** 

Look at it.

Reggie looks at the photos on the tree.

REGGIE

They're pictures of us.

GTIORTA

You notice anything?

Reggie doesn't say anything.

KINA

Reggie, you're in every picture.

HEAVEN

Pictures don't lie. You are our sister.

Reggie stops and notices a photo of a woman in a hospital bed holding a baby.

REGGIE

Is this me and my mom?

GLORIA

That's the day you were born.

VICKI

You're our sister, but we don't want you to forget where you came from.

JENNIFER

You are very much a part of this family.

Reggie smiles with tears as her and Jennifer hug.

GLORIA

Look, I wanted to apologize. Not only to Reggie, but to all of you. I'm the oldest and I shouldn't have let so many years go by. I was caught up in my own life and I guess I forgot I had five younger sisters who needed me.

VICKI

Me, too. Reggie, we didn't mean to cast you out. What daddy did to momma was not your fault and we're sorry if it felt like we blamed you.

**JENNIFER** 

Listen you guys, whatever the reason was for us not talking, wasn't worth being away from each other.

**HEAVEN** 

I'm just glad we're all back together again.

They all get closer to each other.

KTNA

I think I'm going to be sick.

Kina covers her mouth and runs out.

REGGTE

I'll go hold her hair back.

Reggie runs out after her. The doorbell rings. Vicki smiles.

**JENNIFER** 

I wonder who that could be?

**HEAVEN** 

I'll go get it.

Heaven heads towards the door but Vicki pulls her back.

VICKI

I think Gloria should go get it.

Everyone glances at each other and then at Gloria.

Gloria opens the door letting in snow, wind, her husband and son. James Jr. leaps right into Gloria's arms excited.

JAMES JR.

Mom!

GLORIA

Hi, sweetheart. What are you doing here?

JAMES JR.

Aunt Vicki called us.

Gloria looks over to see Vicki standing behind her.

GLORIA

She did, huh?

VICKI

I figured you two need to talk.

**JAMES** 

We do need to talk, Gloria.

GLORIA

I agree.

James is shocked.

GLORIA (CONT'D)

Honey, why don't you go in the living room with Aunt Vicki and see your Aunts.

JAMES JR.

Okay.

James Jr. and Vicki head go into the living room.

GLORIA

You want some hot chocolate?

**JAMES** 

That would be nice.

Gloria smiles and he follows her towards the kitchen.

74 INT. KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

74

Gloria and James sit at the table.

**JAMES** 

I destroyed the divorce papers. I don't want a divorce.

GLORIA

Neither do I. I never did.

Silence.

**JAMES** 

So what do we do now? Where do we go from here?

GLORIA

We work through it. We fix whatever's broken.

**JAMES** 

Sounds hard.

GLORIA

It's not going to be easy. But I think we can do it.

JAMES

I couldn't imagine life without you.

GLORIA

Well you won't have to.

**JAMES** 

Now I remember why I love you.

GLORIA

Why is that?

**JAMES** 

Because you always fight for us.

James and Gloria inch towards each other when James Jr. runs in with Vicki behind him and jumps onto James' lap.

**JAMES** 

Hey, big man.

VICKI

So, is everything good with you two?

GLORIA

It will be.

JAMES JR.

No more fighting?

**JAMES** 

No more fighting.

VICKI

Good, because we need to discuss something in the living room.

Vicki leads the way with Gloria, James and James Jr. behind her.

#### 75 INT. LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

75

Everyone gathers taking a seat wherever they can. Kina holds her stomach as she sits next to Gloria.

GLORIA

How do you feel?

KINA

Like I'm pregnant.

GLORIA

(LAUGHING) I know that feeling.

Vicki stands in front of everyone ready to make a speech.

VTCKT

Well it looks like we're probably not going to find the will. Which means this will be the last time the Willet sisters will be in this house together.

Jennifer stands up and joins her.

**JENNIFER** 

So this has to be the best Christmas ever.

VICKI

And I know Gloria and James have patched things up but tonight we need to be together with just us.

REGGIE

Vicki, what are you talking about? We are together.

Vicki and Jennifer exchange grins.

**JENNIFER** 

Not quite.

The rest of the sisters look at each other.

76 INT. PARENT'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

76

All the Willet sisters are piled in their parents huge bed.

KINA

I love how we used to all camp out downstairs on Christmas Eve.

VTCKT

And momma would make daddy carry us back upstairs one by one.

HEAVEN

Daddy was so great on Christmas. Passing out the presents.

JENNIFER

He would be just as excited as us.

GLORIA

One year he was so excited he opened up all our gifts while we were sleep.

REGGIE

Then he tried to wrap them again before we woke up

Silence.

REGGIE (CONT'D)

Are we going to be alright?

KINA

What do you mean?

REGGIE

Now that they're both gone. (BEAT) Are we all going to be alright?

GLORIA

Yeah Reg, now that we're a family again, we're going to be fine.

VICKI

That's right. This family is sticking together this time around.

Heaven looks at her watch.

**HEAVEN** 

Wow.

**JENNIFER** 

What?

**HEAVEN** 

It's 1:06.

REGGIE

Merry Christmas.

Through the window snow falls on the Willet house.

## 77 INT. PARENT'S BEDROOM - EARLY MORNING

77

The Willet sisters are sleep. Sun beaming through the window as snow continues to fall. Reggie awakes and looks out the window and then at her sleeping sisters. She slides out of bed stepping over Heaven, trying not to wake them.

### 78 INT. LIVING ROOM - MORNING

78

Reggie runs into the living room like a child. The tree still lit with a few gifts underneath it. Reggie bends down and picks one up.

GLORIA (O.C.)

Reggie?

Reggie jumps up and turns around to find all her sisters standing there.

REGGIE

What?

HEAVEN

You never could wait until everyone was woke.

REGGIE

That's because you all took too long.

Kina yawns on her way to the couch.

KINA

No, it's because you always woke up at the crack of dawn.

Everyone sits around the tree.

VICKI

Can you believe this? Us having Christmas together and opening presents?

**JENNIFER** 

It's great, isn't it?

**HEAVEN** 

It sure is.

Just then James Jr. runs in with James walking sleepily behind him.

GLORIA

Good morning. Merry Christmas.

JAMES JR.

Merry Christmas, mom.

James gives Gloria a good morning kiss.

KINA

Oh, isn't that cute.

REGGIE

Yeah. Morning breath and all.

The doorbell rings. Reggie gets up.

REGGIE

I'll get it.

79 INT. LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

79

Reggie returns.

REGGIE (CONT'D)

Looks like we have some unexpected guests joining us.

In walks Reggie's fiance Jason, Vicki's husband Troy and daughter, Jordan (8), and Jennifer's boyfriend Bradley and their daughter Ashley all holding presents for everyone. Ashley runs to Jennifer who picks her up.

**ASHLEY** 

Mommy.

**JENNIFER** 

Hi, baby. I missed you.

Bradley comes over to her and they hug and kiss. Troy and Vicki hug.

JORDAN

Mom, we brought presents.

VICKI

I see.

Everyone hugs. Everyone talks. Everyone reunites.

80 INT. LIVING ROOM - LATER THAT MORNING

80

Wrapping paper and presents scattered all over the place. The kids sit on the floor unwrapping more gifts and playing with the opened ones.

VICKI

Reggie, open yours from me.

Reggie opens the gift that was sitting on her lap.

REGGIE

(UNENTHUSED) Thanks Vicki. Just what I wanted.

Reggie holds up a copy of Vicki's book then sets it on a stack of all the other copies Vicki gave out for Christmas.

**JENNIFER** 

Looks like that's it.

GLORIA

We better get started on dinner.

The sisters get up to go to the kitchen but Kina stops everyone.

KINA

Wait a minute. What about the red box?

Under the tree sits the red box with a white bow tied around it. Heaven goes to the tree and picks it up.

JORDAN

What is it Auntie Heaven?

HEAVEN

I don't know. It was under the tree when we got here.

KINA

I forgot all about it.

**JENNIFER** 

Should we open it?

**HEAVEN** 

Doesn't have a name on it.

Heaven holds it out to Gloria.

HEAVEN (CONT'D)

Here, you open it.

GLORIA

Why me?

VICKI

Because you're the oldest.

Gloria hesitates but unties the bow and opens it. Gloria's eyes grow big.

JAMES

Gloria, what is it?

Gloria looks up with a few tears in her eyes.

GLORIA

It's momma's will with a letter.

Gloria looks up at everyone and then at Reggie.

GLORIA

Reggie, I think you should read it.

Reggie looks around and slowly takes the letter from her.

REGGIE

My Dearest Daughters...

DISSOLVE TO:

#### 81 EXT. BACKYARD - AFTERNOON - FLASHBACK

81

The sun shines brightly. Joanna sits on the porch swing as she writes on a pad of paper while her daughters have a tea party.

JOANNA (V.O.)

I'm writing this letter to you in hopes that you will find it when you girls are all grown up. God has blessed me with you girls and it's a blessing I thank him for everyday.

Joanna looks up from writing at smiles at her daughters.

JOANNA ( V.O.) (CONT'D)

There's going to come a time when I'm not going to be there for you and you're going to have to take care of yourselves and each other.

FADE TO:

82 INT. LIVING ROOM - PRESENT DAY

82

Everyone listens intently as few tears run down their faces.

REGGIE

(reading)

Nothing is more important than family. I want you girls to always stick together. Never take advantage of what God has given you.

KINA

Her only wish was for us to be a family.

**JENNIFER** 

Look at us. (BEAT) Her wish came true.

Reggie joins them.

HEAVEN

Well what about the house?

REGGIE

Gloria, what's it say in the will?

Gloria reads over the will.

GLORTA

Well what do you know.

KINA

What?

GLORIA

She left the house to all of us.

**JENNIFER** 

Momma and daddy would be so happy to see this.

They all smile.

83 INT. FRONT DOOR - NIGHT

83

Doorbell rings. Reggie comes and opens the door. Brandon stands there holding a dish as a little snow blows in.

BRANDON

Merry Christmas.

REGGIE

Merry Christmas to you too. Come on in.

Brandon graciously comes in and shuts the door. Reggie takes the dish from him.

REGGIE

This smells really good.

BRANDON

I really appreciate the invitation to dinner. I know it's a family thing and all.

REGGIE

No we're happy to have you. Let me get Heaven for you. (YELLING) Heaven, your boyfriend's here.

Brandon laughs embarrassed as Heaven walks up and hits Reggie in the arm.

HEAVEN

Go away.

REGGIE

(TO HEAVEN) No ring.

Heaven smiles pushing Reggie along as she laughs at them.

HEAVEN

Glad you could make it.

BRANDON

Me too.

**HEAVEN** 

Well dinner's ready.

**BRANDON** 

That's great.

HEAVEN

We're eating in the dinning room.

BRANDON

That's a good place to eat.

Heaven just shakes her head grinning.

**HEAVEN** 

So let's go.

BRANDON

Lead the way.

Heaven smiles and turns around humiliated.

HEAVEN

(MOUTHING) Oh my God.

Brandon follows her.

#### 84 INT. DINING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

84

Heaven and Brandon walk into a bustling dinning room. Food is on the table as everyone is talking and laughing. Jennifer walks in and sets a bottle of wine on the table and sits next to Bradley. She begins cutting food on Ashley's plate.

KINA

Momma would always get on daddy about his elbows on the table.

VICKI

Oh he had the worst table manners.

**HEAVEN** 

Now we know where Reggie gets her bad table manners from.

They all laugh including Jason. Reggie gives him a dirty look and he stops. Gloria then stands up tapping her glass getting everyone's attention.

GT<sub>i</sub>ORTA

I want to make a toast. I look around this table and I see how blessed we are.

Everyone holds up their glasses.

GLORIA (CONT'D)

I'm happy that my husband's back but I'm also happy that I have my sisters back. (BEAT) So to family.

**EVERYONE** 

To family.

Everyone taps their glasses together and drinks. Couples kiss and kids clap.

BRADLEY

So Kina, when is the baby due?

KINA

In June.

REGGIE

I can't wait to have kids.

**JASON** 

Oh, really? Well we can get started whenever you want.

They kiss.

**HEAVEN** 

So do I get to plan the wedding?

REGGIE

For free?

Heaven thinks.

HEAVEN

We'll see.

**JENNIFER** 

You think of any names yet?

KINA

I was thinking about Joanna.

REGGIE

I think that's the perfect name.

Everyone eats and more wine gets poured. Reggie looks around.

REGGIE (CONT'D)

So I get to be godmother right?

HEAVEN

Oh no, I'm the godmother.

**JENNIFER** 

Both of you can forget it because I'm going to be the godmother. Isn't that right Kina?

REGGIE

(TO JENNIFER) You're already Jordan's godmother.

GLORIA

I should be godmother because I'm the oldest.

Everyone stops eating and looks at her.

VICKI

You think just because you're the oldest you get to do everything?

**JENNIFER** 

See Gloria, you've been like that ever since we were little.

REGGIE

I know. Get on my nerves

They all continue to argue about who the godmother will be.

85 INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

85

Christmas tree lights shine bright as flames crack in the fire place. On top of the mantle rest the photo of all the sisters when they were younger and another photo of the sisters as adults and next to it lies the Christening gown folded up.

Hanging off the mantle ledge over the fire, are six stockings with each of their names on them.

86 EXT. WILLET RESIDENCE - DAY - SIX MONTHS LATER

86

A truck with the name *Illinois Charity Drive* on it sits on the street. A for sale signs sits in the middle of the front lawn.

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87

Reggie sits on the stripped down bed in the empty room as a moving guy carries out the last box.

88 EXT. BACKYARD - DAY

88

Heaven swings on the swing set staring off into space. The small plastic table is gone.

89 INT. PARENT'S BEDROOM - DAY

89

Kina stands in their parents empty bedroom holding their father's brown hat. She looks around and puts the hat on.

90 INT. GLORIA & VICKI'S ROOM - DAY

90

Jennifer on the floor puts the ratty doll from the basement in a box and closes it. Another moving guy comes in as Jennifer stands up and takes the box from her.

91 INT. KITCHEN - DAY

91

Gloria and Vicki put their mother's cook books and recipes in a box. Vicki picks up a recipe left out.

VTCKT

What is this?

GLORIA

It's momma sweet potato pie recipe. I thought you might want it since I got the macaroni and cheese recipe.

VICKI

Thank you so much.

Vicki and Gloria share a hug.

# 92 INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

92

Everyone rejoins in the empty living room. Kina walks in holding her baby girl, Joanna, as the movers and the husbands take boxes out to the truck. The Willet sisters stand together.

GLORIA

I can't believe it.

VICKI

This house is no longer ours.

**JENNIFER** 

No more staying up all night.

KINA

No more helping momma cook dinner.

**HEAVEN** 

No more going to get ice cream with daddy after church.

REGGTE

Well look at it this way.

Reggie takes baby Joanna from Kina and kisses her.

REGGIE (CONT'D)

We have a whole new generation to make memories with.

They all smile.

GLORIA

So, Christmas in Michigan this year?

KINA

Sounds like a plan.

VICKI

Come on, let's get out of here.

They head towards the door just as Amanda comes in.

AMANDA

(SMILING) So you guys decided to sell the house?

Reggie hands Joanna back to Kina and walks over to Amanda.

REGGIE

You knew about the will. You knew we would find it, didn't you?

AMANDA

Yes, I knew. It was your mother's idea. She wanted you girls to find the will together.

Heaven smiles at Amanda and kind of looks up.

**HEAVEN** 

That was a good one.

Amanda plays and smiles at the baby.

VICKI

So those contracts that we signed?

AMANDA

All fake. (BEAT) So what did you do with everything?

**JENNIFER** 

We gave everything to charity and the money from the house will go into college funds for the kids.

James walks in.

**JAMES** 

Excuse me ladies, I don't mean to interrupt but there's a family out here who wants to look at the house.

KINA

Already?

They all look at each other and head outside.

93 EXT. WILLET RESIDENCE - MOMENTS LATER

93

The guys are still moving boxes and furniture on the truck as the kids play in the yard.

A MAN and his WIFE along with their SON, stand waiting. They walk up to the sisters and Amanda.

MAN

Hi, I'm Jeff and this is my wife, Lisa and our son Mark. My wife has just fallen in love with your home.

LISA

It's such a beautiful house. I couldn't help it.

HEAVEN

Yeah, it's been in our family for a long time.

JEFF

Do you mind if we take a look around?

All the sisters look at each other uncertain.

GLORIA

I think it's okay.

They all smile.

KINA

Sure, go ahead.

REGGIE

Take all the time you need.

Lisa and Jeff smile at each other.

JEFF

Come on, Mark.

VICKI

Why don't you let him hang out here with us?

REGGIE

Yeah, we'll keep an eye on him.

RACHEL

Alright. Mark you behave.

MARK

I will.

Jeff and Rachel go in the house as the kids play and the move continues.

FADE OUT.