

Never Break The Chain or The Effects of Rumours On Our
Lives

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1 INT. EVENING. DK'S APT.

Fade In. A drunk DK BENARES(47), staring blankly forward. He is sitting on a bed. He takes a slug out of a bottle of wine. He passes out, a lit cigarette in his left hand. A woman, MOLLY(25) walks into the room.

MOLLY

DK? DK?!! Come on, DK, not again.

Molly grabs the cigarette. She walks into the bathroom, cursing under her breath.

2 INT. NIGHT. DK'S APT.

Molly is asleep and DK is still passed out from the night before. He sits up and looks behind him. He walks around his apartment. Wine bottles, beer cans and liquor bottles are everywhere. He walks into the bathroom. He stares into the mirror.

3 INT. DAY. HOSPICE ROOM

There is a chair and a chair/couch. In the chair sits MARSHALL SMITH(50) and on the couch, CASSANDRA(45-African-American) and standing over the bed, KATIE HANSON(46). Marshall and Cassandra are sleeping. A NURSE (30) walks in and checks the man in the bed. The nurse looks at Katie.

KATIE

May I do it?

The nurse smiles at Katie, then leaves. Katie walks over, kneels down and gently touches Marshall's hand.

KATIE

Hey, my love. Donn's gone.

Marshall pauses and then suddenly stands up. This wakes up Cassandra. Suddenly, THOMAS(50) runs in from the hall. He has a bag of food.

THOMAS

Hey guys, I got...

Thomas catches Cassandra's eyes. She forces a heartfelt smile. Marshall walks to the bed and grabs Donn's hand. He climbs in the bed with his husband. The rest of the group gathers around the bed.

4 INT. DAY. MARSHALL AND DON'S HOUSE

There are nearly 100 people throughout the house, inside and out. DYLAN MINSCOFF(50) is chatting up an "over developed" blond on the back porch. Katie is speaking with Cassandra in the living room.

CASSANDRA

Dylan...Katie, why did you bring that guy here?

KATIE

He's my partner.

CASSANDRA

In what? He does nothing with your kids. He cheats on you all the time.

Thomas walks through with with a wine bottle.

THOMAS

Hey Katie, Marshall hid some of that Pinot you like. (He looks up...Through gritted teeth)

Thomas pours some wine and escapes.

KATIE

He struggle mentally. You know that. He's still dealing with his brother's death.

CASSANDRA

Darlin', I'm a believer in Never Forget, but those towers came down 25 years ago.

KATIE

Some people never get over Shock.

CASSANDRA

And some people abuse kindness.

KATIE

I'm not giving up on him.

CASSANDRA

Bless your little, white heart.

Marshall is in the kitchen, sunken into a corner. Thomas is standing with him. MISCHA(45), Marshall's step daughter,

walks into the kitchen and grabs another tray of cheese and prosciutto.

MISCHA

Hey dad, what is a wake anyway? You Christians have weird traditions.

MARSHALL

Oh yeah, well... My husband, your father, ate shrimp!

MISCHA

Oy vey...Vat a Shanda! I love you, dad.

Mischa stares at Marshall then eats a piece of ham. She walks out with the tray towards the buffet.

MARSHALL

Love my step-daughter, but...

THOMAS

Did you see Katie? Can't believe she brought Dylan.

MARSHALL

Why don't you...

THOMAS

You know he cheated on her, right?

Marshall has a look of "Again" on his face. Thomas doesn't notice and keeps talking.

THOMAS (CONT)

I even think Katie knows it. Should I say something?

Marshall looks indignant. Marshall's cell phone buzzes.

THOMAS

Heard from DK?

MARSHALL

Speak of the devil...(To DK)Hey!

DK (V/O)

Sorry I'm not there.

As Marshall is on the phone, POP(80) walks in. Pop is DK's father.

POP

Thomas, when are you gonna kick the shit out of that asshole and lay pipe with Kathy.

THOMAS

Pop, your life choices were wrong. You're a poet.

MARSHALL

Would you two shut up. I can't hear.

DK (V/O)

I just have a feeling.

MARSHALL

(To DK) Then come home. Damn man, you've been running long enough.

POP

(To Thomas)Just shut up. I'm tired of the excuses. (Kisses Marshall on the cheek)

MARSHALL

You're leaving?

POP

Yes. And tell that asshole, I'll buy the plane ticket. Just come home.

MARSHALL

Did you hear that? Your dad is buying you a ticket home.

DK (V/O)

I don't want him buying me a ticket. I'll get my own ticket.

POP

Drunken welp. (Yelling into the phone)Quit drinking, Asshole!

MARSHALL

Bye Pop. You're not helping.

POP

Bye. Oh, (Back to the phone) I love you...You guys too.

Pop walks out.

THOMAS

'Bout as subtle as his son.

5 INT. DAY. SMALL THEATRE.

DK sits in the audience watching and Molly instructs a group of dancers. A short, stout woman, PEGGY(65) walks up to DK. She is the board president of the theatre company.

PEGGY

May I speak with you in the office?

DK

THEE office. Not my office, huh?

DK stands up and the two leave.

6 INT. DAY. THEATRE OFFICE.

DK sits at his desk and Peggy sits at one of the chairs in front of him.

PEGGY

...And we are concerned with your drinking around the kids.

DK

Just the kids, not the adults.

PEGGY

Don't be glib.

DK

I'm curious, is this you talking or your husband?

PEGGY

This isn't personal.

DK

Isn't it? Now that you're no longer under water, your 3 time bankrupt husband, *who obviously knows how to run a business*, wants this seat.

PEGGY

We thought this would be your reaction. So, we're offering a severance.

DK

Really? You didn't have a pot to piss in when I got here and now you have money to throw around.

Peggy places an envelope on the desk.

PEGGY

You may take this or not, however you like. Either way, we would like you out by the end of the week. Molly will take over in the interim.

DK stands up and starts walking toward the theater. Peggy follows him.

7 INT. DAY. SMALL THEATRE.

DK walks into the theater with Peggy close behind. He walks up to Molly.

DK

You knew about this?

MOLLY

What? DK, we're working.

DK

Answer me!

Everything stops.

MOLLY

I'm worried about you.

PEGGY

DK...

Dk spins around and looks at Peggy with a death stare.

PEGGY

Mr. Benares, you will have to go.

DK

(To the company) Folks, you are under the capable hands of Molly here. Peggy, eat a salad will you? You look awful.

8 INT. DAY. MARSHALL AND DON'S HOUSE

MARSHALL

He apparently has the company pretty angry. Pretty sure once the season is over, they're gonna let him go.

THOMAS

He's been pretty successful up there, hasn't he?

MARSHALL

The company didn't have any money when he took over but he's got them rolling in it now. But the booze is too cheap there.

THOMAS

Yeah?

MARSHALL

It's like 10 minutes from the North Pole, for Christ's sake. They have nothing to do but drink and well...

THOMAS

Sounds like a great place.

MARSHALL

Not for him.

Cassandra comes in from the living room.

CASSANDRA

Hey, have you heard from Drunky?

THOMAS

He just called. Looks like he's coming home.

Cassandra has trouble getting this out.

CASSANDRA

What? You mean, like...Home, home or just a visit?

MARSHALL

Home, Home...Thinks he's getting fired.

Cassandra is "All Alone". She smiles, lost in thought.

THOMAS

You ok?

CASSANDRA

Hmm? Oh, uh, Wow...What did he do wrong?

MARSHALL

Got them out of a hole and started celebrating...Everyday.

Cassandra loses the smile and looks more worried.

THOMAS

Hey, did Katie leave?

MARSHALL

Here we go.

CASSANDRA

(To Thomas)Dude, go grab her, kiss her and whisk her away to a bedroom.

MARSHALL

Not my room. I just changed the sheets. (To Thomas) Just...Tell her.

CASSANDRA

(To Marshall) The rubber sheets?

MARSHALL

Funny. (To Thomas) Seriously, man, I think she feels the same way.

Thomas just stares at him. Mischa sticks her head in the kitchen.

MISCHA

Hey...I'm gonna start the "Find the door" process, Dad.

MARSHALL

Thanks, Honey.

MISCHA

You guys need anything?

They shake their heads or say no. Mischa leaves. Cassandra lost in thought.

MARSHALL
Hey, clean it up lady.

Cassandra rolls her eyes and walks out.

MARSHALL
Guess I'm gonna have to sign up for scruff.

THOMAS
What's that?

MARSHALL
Gay tinder. Do you ever get angry?

THOMAS
I'm sure I do.

MARSHALL
Think so?

Thomas grabs a bottle of wine and puffs his chest.

THOMAS
Let's get drunk.

MARSHALL
Let's get the house cleared first.

THOMAS
(Politely) Oh, I can help with that.
I'll get the food.

Marshall watches Thomas walk away with a "Poor Guy" look.

9 INT. DAY. MARSHALL AND DON'S HOUSE

Marshall, Thomas, Mischa, Michael are sitting in the living room as Katie and Dylan walk in from outside.

KATIE
Hey, guys. We're gonna head out.
Marshall, if there's anything you need...

MARSHALL
I'm glad you could make it over.

MISCHA
You know, you don't have to go. We just wanted to make the crowd smaller.

KATIE

(To Dylan) Wanna stick around a bit?

DYLAN

I need to do some work. you're welcome to stay.

MARSHALL

Great. Thanks for coming. Katie, another drink?

DYLAN

I know we haven't always seen eye to eye, Marshall, but I'm truly sorry for your loss.

MARSHALL

I know. I appreciate it.

A long pause.

DYLAN

Maybe we could grab a cup of coffee.

MARSHALL

Baby steps, Dylan. Baby steps.

THOMAS

Marshall...

MARSHALL

What? I'm trying too.

MISCHA

Kinda.

Mischa gets up.

MISCHA

Come on, Dylan. She'll be fine. I'll make sure she gets home.

DYLAN

Yeah. Good Bye, everyone.

Mischa leads Dylan to the door and comes back in.

KATIE

Marshall.

Katie sits down beside Thomas.

MARSHALL

I just think you could do so much better. So does Thomas.

Thomas looks uncomfortable.

KATIE

I'm a basket case. Who the hell would want me?

THOMAS

Where are Alex and Aaron?

KATIE

With my parents for the week. I just needed a break.

From Marshall's bedroom, Cassandra screams DK's name. ERIC(25) comes out of the bedroom, clothes in hand.

ERIC

There is something seriously wrong with you.

CASSANDRA

What?!

ERIC

Sorry Marshall. (To Cassandra) My name is Eric!

Eric rushes out the house and the entire group turns to Cassandra standing in the bedroom doorway.

CASSANDRA

Can I use your shower?

10 INT. DAY. MARSHALL AND DON'S HOUSE

Katie is hanging close to Thomas. Marshall is sitting between Mischa and Michael. Cassandra is in the wicker chair.

CASSANDRA

...And we're walking on the river walk. DK says "Can't help it, gotta pee". Katie tells him to whip it out and let it fly. He says "I am". Lunatic is walking and peeing, stretched out to the side. Katie looks in horror! God I love that guy.

They know. They've always known.

MARSHALL

We were all shocked. Back then, he was funny.

KATIE

He's passed out naked on my kitchen floor before.

They laugh.

MISCHA

What did Dylan say, Katie?

KATIE

Oh, that was before we were together. I think I was still with Carlton.

MISCHA

The kids' dad, right?

KATIE

M-hmm. He wasn't there, thank God. Those two drunks together, Jesus!

If possible, Thomas has the look of "I would have guarded you from that."

MARSHALL

Hasn't always been laughs. DK can be a selfish guy too.

KATIE

Yep, he was supposed to stay with me during a hurricane but decided to get drunk in the county.

CASSANDRA

He's always felt awful about that.

KATIE

Yet he keeps doing stupid shit.

MARSHALL

(Pointed) We all do stupid shit. We're getting older and we better remember that.

Katie realizing she has her own issues, pipes down.

11 INT. DAY. DINER.

A few weeks later.

DK is sitting with his Pop, having breakfast. His father looks exhausted.

DK

...And she won't exercise at all?

POP

No. She does scream sometimes, saying someone is trying to kill her.

DK

Why?

POP

The doctors say it's the mental thing.

DK

Pop, it's dementia. And the cancer doesn't help.

POP

Yea.

DK

Pop...You can't do that by yourself.

POP

Well, you could help, but you won't.

DK

Guilt isn't gonna work. How's the home health care?

POP

We're on our 3rd one. She thinks they are there to steal her stuff.

DK

That's the disease, Pop.

POP

I know.

Thomas walks into the diner with Katie's children ALEX(16) and AARON(13).

THOMAS

Mr. Benares, How are you?

POP

I'm good. Are you still at the hospital?

THOMAS

I am. I'm a night nurse now, though.

POPS

Still in the ICU?

THOMAS

I am.

POPS

Don't know how you do it. Hello, Katie's kids.

THOMAS

This is Alex and this is Aaron.

POP

I know. (To Aaron)Having breakfast?

AARON

What do you think?

POP

I think I don't give a shit about who your mother is. If you're disrespectful to me, I'll whip your ass.

DK

Get Aaron the Blueberry Muffin. Really sucks up all the salt.(Looks at Pop)

THOMAS

Yeah, I will.

Thomas walks the kids away, but stares at Pop. Once they're out of ear shot...

POP

I love that guy, but for 30 years? Has he ever told Katie how he feels about her?

DK

I don't know, but I'm pretty sure you're not gonna be invited to Aaron's Bar Mitzvah.

POP

I don't like for Borscht. Are you gonna help with your mother?

DK

What should I do, Pop? We don't like each other.

POP

Your mother loves you.

DK

No, my mother thinks I'm a doll to play with.

POP

Not the friendly kind.

DK

It's probably a reflection of parenting.

Pop's phone rings.

POP

...Ok. Yes, thanks. I'm on my way. (To DK) I have to go!

DK

Is everything ok?

POP

The nurse is freaking out...I gotta go.

DK

I'm right behind you.

DK throws down some cash and runs out behind his father.

12 EXT. DAY. DINER.

Pops gets to his car and DK is on his way to his. Thomas comes running out of the diner.

THOMAS

Hey! Is everything ok?

DK

Something is up with my mom.

THOMAS

Let me know. I'm dropping the kids off after breakfast.

13 EXT. DAY. CITY STREET.

Katie and Cassandra are walking, drinking coffee.

KATIE

Aren't you tired of this? You can't keep doing this.

CASSANDRA

It's cool.

KATIE

It's not cool, Honey, you're homeless. Have you talked to Marshall?

CASSANDRA

He's already got "Drunky" there.

KATIE

(Pause)Have you seen DK?

CASSANDRA

(A Reflective Pause)What are you asking?

KATIE

If...You have seen your friend.

CASSANDRA

Oh, no. (Flustered)Once or twice. (Moving on quick)I have some gigs coming up at Bottega and Palate.

KATIE

Would it be disrespectful if I...

CASSANDRA

...No, you can't give me any money. I'd never forgive myself if Dylan found out.

KATIE
He's not that bad.

CASSANDRA
You're living with a guy that you
hooked up with?

KATIE
I know. It sounds bad, but...He has
his own place.

CASSANDRA
Is he ever there? Look, I don't mean
to pry...

KATIE
Then don't. Look, We just end up at my
place. It's comfortable.

CASSANDRA
It's a Saturday and it's beautiful
outside. You're here with me and where
are your kids?

KATIE
With Tommy.

CASSANDRA
Tommy, our Tommy, YOUR Tommy.

KATIE
He's not MY Tommy.

CASSANDRA
And Dylan?

KATIE
With his buddies.

CASSANDRA
And later he'll be with you? You, my
love, are an object.

KATIE
That's awful to say.

CASSANDRA
It's true. You are a warm place to
squirt. A no-hands masturbation tool.

KATIE

Jesus.

CASSANDRA

Where are your kids again?

KATIE

You're gonna give me a nose bleed,
punching so hard.

CASSANDRA

No woman should live her life around a
man. Even on a small scale, it would
be great for you and your confidence.

Katie's phone goes off.

KATIE

(Into the phone)Hey. What happened? Is
she at home?

CASSANDRA

What's up?

KATIE

Ok, no...Bring the kids with you and
we'll meet you over there. No, go now.

Katie "Hangs up".

CASSANDRA

What's up?!!!

KATIE

DK's mom is headed to Hospice.

CASSANDRA

Oh, shit. Where'd you park?

KATIE

2nd street.

14 INT. DAY. SITTING AREA- HOSPICE.

Marshall, Thomas, Cassandra and Katie are seated. Aaron is
playing a game on a phone and Alex is looking out a window.

KATIE

How long has she been dealing with it?

MARSHALL

3 years. It's picked up steam the last year or so.

CASSANDRA

I...We better watch DK. (she mimics drinking a bottle)How is Pop dealing with it?

MARSHALL

I don't think he fully understands what it is. He's an old school guy so there was no "Mental Disease" when he was growing up.

THOMAS

I'm not sure anyone really understands it. It's different with everyone.

CASSANDRA

Did you guys study it in nursing school?

THOMAS

Best we could. It's an individualized disease.

MARSHALL

They call it the long goodbye. It's not a goodbye. The patient slowly disappears.

CASSANDRA

With the cancer, it's twice as hard on Pop.

MARSHALL

Right. I can't help but think that it accelerated the dementia.

KATIE

And DK lives with you...

Marshall stares at Katie for a second.

MARSHALL

What's your problem with DK?

KATIE

Nothing. I just think it's selfish of him. He only thinks of himself.

MARSHALL
Says the woman who lives with a guy
that cheats on her.

KATIE
Dylan loves me.

MARSHALL
Dylan OWNS you!

CASSANDRA
Marshall!

MARSHALL
Why are you here? Because you think,
for some strange reason, you're
showing support?

KATIE
That's not fair!

MARSHALL
What's fair? I agree with you, DK
should be with his father, but do you
think you're one to actually throw
stones?

THOMAS
GUYS!

DK has come out of his mother's room and witnessed all of
this.

DK
They say she has a couple of days. Pop
is staying here and I'm going to take
care of the puppy.

DK starts for the exit. Cassandra runs to grab his hand. They
stare at each other for a second.

MARSHALL
Whoa, Whoa, Whoa, where are you going?

DK
I'm leaving. Sounds like you guys have
some issues to work out.

DK looks over to Katie, let's go of Cassandra's hand and
looks at her for a second. He bows his head and walks out.
The silence is very loud.

15 INT. DAY. COFFEE LOUNGE-HOSPICE.

Marshall and Pop are sitting and drinking coffee at the HOSPICE cafeteria. Pop is eating.

MARSHALL

You really like that stuff?

POP

Damn straight. Look, Katie's just lonely.

MARSHALL

I know. I shouldn't let her get to me. I just get tired of hearing how selfish DK is.

POP

Well, he is. I'm his father and I know that.

MARSHALL

I know he is too, but I get tired of hearing it.

POP

His mother, not so different than Katie. His mom threw money at him to try to be his friend. She'd try to intimidate him but he never was.

MARSHALL

Why do you think that is?

POP

She didn't have a mother worth a damn, so she never learned to do it herself. Her mom had more men on her than the beach at Normandy.

MARSHALL

DK always said that quip was an original.

POP

It is, Mine.

Marshall and Pop laugh.

POP

How's your mom?

MARSHALL

She's getting better. She's still not used to being alone.

POP

How long were she and your father married?

MARSHALL

52 years.

POP

Was his death a shock? It was a heart attack, right?

MARSHALL

It was. It was a shock, but not like my brother. THAT was a shock.

POP

You've had a rough go, buddy.

MARSHALL

But I still have you.

POP

I think I'm the one that's gonna need you, Pal.

16 INT. DAY. POP'S HOUSE.

DK walks in with a case of beer. Lily the puppy dog walks up to him.

DK

Hey Pretty girl. Still living in this place of heartbreak. (To himself) I hate this fuckin' place.

He walks in and heads to the back porch.

17 EXT. DAY. POP'S HOUSE.

Sitting in a chair on the back porch, DK is surrounded by beer cans. The Puppy is sitting in his lap.

DK

Sure tastes better going down.

18 EXT. DAY. COFFEE SHOP.

Cassandra, Thomas and Katie are sitting outside a local coffee shop. There's a bit of foot traffic.

KATIE

I thought that attack was uncalled for.

CASSANDRA

He does have a point. It's like a year ago, you started taking shots at DK.

KATIE

Why is it...

CASSANDRA

Hold on. I'm pointing something out. I'm not judging you.

KATIE

Why did he have to bring Dylan up?

CASSANDRA

Well, I mean, Dylan has been caught in the past. Katie, you have to remember, Marshall has known DK longer. Hell, his husband was one of his teachers. Marshall's gonna be protective of him.

KATIE

DK is a drunk!

THOMAS

And you're a constant victim!

There is a silence.

THOMAS

You have no idea how much DK worries about you. No one ever tells you because you have such an anger towards him. No, you have an anger towards yourself. He has threatened on more than one occasion to "Handle" Dylan. It becomes difficult to defend you when you constantly talk bad about him...But DK never wavers. He never gives up. Even though you frustrate him quite a lot.

KATIE

How do I frustrate him?

CASSANDRA

He thinks you deserve so much more.

Cassandra see Dylan walking with a blond. Dylan walks up to the table.

DYLAN

I thought you were with DK. Someone's dying or something.

KATIE

Hey. His mother is in hospice. Doctor says she's only got a few days.

DYLAN

Yeah, dementia, right? She won't be suffering anymore.

CASSANDRA

That's an interesting cologne you're wearing. What is it?

THOMAS

Sweat and Shame.

Long hush.

DYLAN

(To Katie) Well, I'll see you at the house. Where are the kids?

KATIE

They're with my parents.

DYLAN

I'll be home in a while.

CASSANDRA

Yours or hers?

Dylan walks away.

KATIE

I guess he was out for a run.

THOMAS

(Still fuming) Stability but your kids are always with your parents.

KATIE
HOW DARE...

THOMAS
I have to go too. Bye.

He gets up and leaves.

CASSANDRA
Whatcha thinking?

KATIE
He's right.

CASSANDRA
Oh, sweetie.

19 EXT. DAY. CEMETERY.

A group of folks are walking away from a gravesite where a funeral just took place. Pop and DK sit. Marshall walks up to Pop and DK.

MARSHALL
You guys ok?

POP
I was supposed to go first.

DK
If you were, Pop...You would have.

POP
That's a dick answer.

MARSHALL
Ok. Come on fellas. Why don't we grab some lunch?

DK
The family is coming to the house.

POP
To hell with the family. They didn't come to see her. To hell with those people. To hell with everyone. And for what it's worth, to hell with you. You're my son, I love you, but you shouldn't have come. You never liked your mother.

DK

Alright...I'm gonna go. Marshall, take him to get something to eat.

MARSHALL

How are you getting home?

DK

My feet. He likes Jimbo's.

MARSHALL

I know.

DK walks away. Marshall sits down beside Pop.

MARSHALL

You know why, right?

POP

Because he was always the most independent little bastard she knew. She just wanted a playmate or a doll or some bullshit and he resented it. His whole life. It wasn't his fault, but she's dead so I can take it out on him. At least for a week or so. He'll understand.

MARSHALL

You have a lot of faith in him.

POP

He's the best of me.

MARSHALL

Think so?

POP

I know it. Did you know he's a writer?

MARSHALL

I knew he wrote a couple of scripts.

POP

6. He's written 6. And they're good. I think they're good.

MARSHALL

I didn't know that.

20 EXT. DAY. POP'S HOUSE.

Marshall is dropping Pop off at his house.

MARSHALL

Gonna be ok?

POP

Yeah, I'm fine. Tell Drunky I love him.

MARSHALL

You bet. Get some rest and give me a call if you need anything.

Pop walks away. As Marshall drives off, his phone/car rings.

MARSHALL

HEY STRANGER!!!

ELIZABETH(V/O)

Hello, my darling. Have you ever seen the Tuscan sunset?

MARSHALL

Sometimes I think you are the worst person I know. You know damn well, I've never been to Tuscany.

ELIZABETH(V/O)

Well, I can tell you, I need a break from it. I think we're coming home for a little bit.

MARSHALL

I finally get to meet Gianna?

ELIZABETH

I must tell you, my dealing, she's more manly than you.

MARSHALL

Everybody's gotta eat.

ELIZABETH(V/O)

Oy...Look, how's Drunky doing?

MARSHALL

I just dropped off Pop from the funeral and lunch. They got into another fight.

MARSHALL

Just he's a stubborn drunk. How's Pop?

MARSHALL

A little crushed I think. Hey, when was the last movie you did?

ELIZABETH(V/O)

Well, our little firemen documentary is stalled. The Peruvian government is giving us shit. Why? Wait, not DK's stuff?

MARSHALL

Liz...

ELIZABETH(V/O)

How can we depend on him? This is my business. I can't take a chance on losing everything!

MARSHALL

I don't think a small budget indie film would cost you everything.

ELIZABETH(V/O)

I have to think about reputation.

MARSHALL

You have more money than God. You'll be fine.

ELIZABETH(V/O)

We can talk about it later.

MARSHALL

When are you back?

ELIZABETH(V/O)

I think 6 weeks.

MARSHALL

Why the hell are you calling me now?

ELIZABETH(V/O)

I'm a planner, you oaf. Now, go tell my tenant they have 6 weeks to get the out of my house.

MARSHALL

Ah. Now I get it. Alright. I'll call

you Monday.

ELIZABETH(V/O)
Make it Tuesday. Sunday is a going
away party for the local mayor.

MARSHALL
I thought you hated him.

ELIZABETH(V/O)
I'm throwing the party.

21 INT. DAY. MARSHALL AND DON'S HOUSE

Marshall walks into DK's room. DK is packing his bags.

MARSHALL
Missed you at Pop's house.

DK
(Sarcastically)I shouldn't be there,
didn't you hear? I don't know why I
come back to this town.

MARSHALL
Gluten for punishment. Going
somewhere?

DK
Can't let Pop live by himself. He's a
horrible cook.

MARSHALL
You know, he loves you a lot.

DK
Of course he does. He's my father.

MARSHALL
He worries about your drinking.

DK stops. There is a long pause.

DK
I get it. I'll tell you what, if it's
that important, I'll stop.

MARSHALL
Hey, listen...

DK

Stop. I drink because I like it. Sure, it kills the loneliness and the disappointment. My writing, making movies. Yeah, that's gone, but I don't drink because I have to. You and my father...

MARSHALL

And Katie...

DK

Yeah, what is that?

MARSHALL

You're an easy target in a life that's just shit for her.

DK

Alright...AND KATIE, you want me to stop? Done.

MARSHALL

No AA?

DK

My father, he quit smoking because one day he said he didn't want to do it anymore. If I'm hurting him and you...

MARSHALL

And Cassie?

DK

(Long Pause)What?

MARSHALL

I mean, she worries too. She came up with you nickname.

DK

Yeah, well... Yeah. Kinda wish she wasn't so independent.

MARSHALL

Your father says you're gonna surprise us one day.

DK

Today is the day, Sugar Bear.

MARSHALL
 Ever think we just miss our
 opportunities?

DK
 Yep. We love each other but we're too
 stupid to know it.

MARSHALL
 Still have your scripts?

DK
 Yeah, why?

Long Pause

MARSHALL
 I got some ideas.

22 EXT. DAY. STRIP MALL.

A few days later, Marshall, DK and Pop are in a parking lot,
 walking toward a strip mall where a Mexican restaurant is.
 Cassandra and BRENT(30) are walking out of the restaurant.

CASSANDRA
 HEY!!! How's it, fellas?

Pop hugs her right away.

POP
 Hiya, sexy. (To Brent)How old are you,
 15? (To Cassandra)Don't you know my
 boy loves you?

MARSHALL
 Pop, if you're anything, you're
 subtle.

CASSANDRA
 Your son can have any woman he wants.
 He doesn't need to hang on to
 childhood puppy love, (To DK) right,
 Stud?

MARSHALL
 Where you guys headed?

BRENT
 We're thinking about a movie.

POP

So are we. We have a meeting. See ya.

DK

I guess we're going in.

MARSHALL

We'll see you, sweetheart. Good seeing you, Brent.

BRENT

Yeah.

CASSANDRA

I'll call later.

Marshall goes in and Cassandra's eye follows DK.

23 EXT. DAY. OUTSIDE MEXICAN RESTAURANT.

Marshall, DK and Pop are dipping chips and talking.

MARSHALL

And which one do you think would be a great starting point?

DK

The romcom is the one with the least amount of locations. I imagine that would save us the most money.

MARSHALL

Is it a small cast?

BRANSON(35-40) walks up. He/She is an indie film producer.

MARSHALL

Hey Branson. I'm glad you could make it. Here's the guy I wanted you to meet. Dk, this is Branson. I took care of his mom after her surgery. He's a...

DK

I know who you are, Branson. Heard your last indie went international.

BRANSON

I got lucky. Marshall says you're a writer.

MARSHALL

I'll sit here and keep my mouth shut.
You guys talk. Pop, you just look
interested.

POP

In what?

MARSHALL

I have no idea, but we'll listen.

BRANSON

I've heard you're a great actor, too.

DK

Surprised you haven't heard that I'm a
drunk.

BRANSON

I have. Look, how many scripts do you
have?

DK

About 6 or so.

MARSHALL

He says the romcom would be the
easiest to shoot.

BRANSON

He says that, huh? I thought you were
just gonna listen.

MARSHALL

Sorry.

BRANSON

In the indie world, romcoms are tough
to find an audience. How many
locations do you have?

DK

10 or so.

BRANSON

Small cast?

DK

13 or so.

BRANSON
What kinda budget?

DK
Hadn't even really thought about it.

BRANSON
Got anything in the bank?

MARSHALL
I may have that covered.

DK
Is that right?

MARSHALL
Elizabeth is coming back to town.

Marshall shakes his head yes.

POP
LIZZY!!! I love her! She's insane!

BRANSON
Elizabeth?

MARSHALL
Elizabeth Mulgrew.

BRANSON
Broadway Elizabeth Mulgrew? You know
her?

MARSHALL
For 30 years.

BRANSON
She's...Um...

DK
Flamboyant.

BRANSON
If you're into understatements. I hear
she's a bit of a tyrant.

MARSHALL
You just don't know her. She's a teddy
bear.

DK

Where are you buying your teddy bears?

POP

She's the best...She's got balls!

MARSHALL

And she has money. When can we start?

BRANSON

So much for just listening. Let me read it. IF I like it, it'll probably take 3 to 6 months or so to get to production, IF the money is there.

DK

(Kind of excited)Branson, you really think so?

BRANSON

Yeah. Think you can handle that?

DK

I don't know what to say. Thank you? I'm speechless.

BRANSON

I have to LIKE the script first.

POP

I have a group of friends with crooked noses that say you will.

BRANSON

What?

DK

He's kidding, Branson. I can get you the script today, if you like.

BRANSON

Great! When does Elizabeth get in?

MARSHALL

Should be soon.

POP

She's great! (To DK) Now, keep that drinking promise...Here's your chance! Your mother would be proud.

24 INT. DAY. KATIE'S HOUSE.

Katie is in the kitchen cutting up vegetables. Dylan comes in and grabs her around the waist. Katie pushes him away.

KATIE

Get away from me.

DYLAN

What's your problem?

KATIE

Are you serious? You stink of pussy.

DYLAN

Your friends aren't around. I don't have to be nice.

Katie turns and punches him.

DYLAN

Just finish my dinner...Tell you what, nevermind. I'll go out.

KATIE

You should stay out!

DYLAN

I'm your best option. I tolerate your kids, I buy the food. What do you have to do? Sit around and do nothing...Well, hang out with that trash you call friends. You made your choice. I am what I am. Go somewhere and feel sorry for yourself.

Dylan turns and walks out of the kitchen toward the living room. Katie walks out the kitchen door to the garage.

25 INT. NIGHT. LULA'S BAR.

Katie has been hitting the booze pretty hard. She's drunk and tries to get up. She pays her bill and stumbles to the door.

26 EXT. NIGHT. LULA'S BAR.

Katie is walking out of the bar and is looking at her phone. She walks out in the street without looking. A car swerves to miss her but clips her, sideswiping her. As she lays in the

street, we hear tires squeal to a stop.

27 INT. MORING. EMERGENCY ROOM.

Marshall is walking in wearing scrubs. An ORDERLY(25) runs up to him.

ORDERLY
Hey, Marshall...

MARSHALL
Hey Tig. Something wrong?

ORDERLY
You're friends with Katie Henson,
right?

MARSHALL
Yeah...

ORDERLY
I'm really sorry, man. She's in
surgery. Kinda touch and go.

MARSHALL
What happened?

ORDERLY
She came out of a bar and walked in
front of a car. (A Pause)

MARSHALL
What O.R. is she in?

ORDERLY
6...Paxton is running it.

MARSHALL
That's one positive. Ok. Um, I'll run
up there and maybe get the latest.
Thanks, Tig.

28 INT. DAY. HOSPITAL ROOM.

Katie is sleeping in a bed. She starts waking up and Marshall is sitting on her bed. She's very groggy. Alex is in the corner.

KATIE
Hey.

MARSHALL

You snore.

KATIE

Do I?

MARSHALL

I'd ask you how you're feeling, but I'm a nurse.

KATIE

I remember them talking about my leg.

MARSHALL

Even as you are now, you can dance better than me.

KATIE

As I am?

MARSHALL

You're intact. Oh, and I've now seen you naked.

KATIE

What'd ya think?

MARSHALL

Still gay.

Dylan comes in with a bouquet of flowers.

DYLAN

Hey honey, how are you?

MARSHALL

I'm fine. Where ya been? (Katie laughs) (To Katie) Want me to stick around?

DYLAN

I literally just learned of this and I had to make sure the kids were ok.

MARSHALL

Well, look behind you. (Dylan sees Alex) And how is Aaron?

DYLAN

He's fine. I have him with a neighbor. Look, if we have a medical issue,

we'll give you a ring.

MARSHALL

Hmmm. Here I thought Aaron was with Pop...I mean, according to Thomas. Oh, he's been here already, so we know the truth. Thomas kinda REALLY likes her. I'd be careful. He could be the next man up...

Marshall stands up aggressively.

KATIE

Marshall!!! I'll be ok.

Marshall starts to exit the room. Stops.

MARSHALL

(To Dylan) I just don't see it. Dating an asshole is one thing, but she got the whole ass.

DYLAN

Let me get the door.

MARSHALL

Come on, Alex...How about some Double Fudge. (To Dylan) You know us gays.

Marshall and Alex exit.

DYLAN

How are you feeling?

KATIE

I'm really tired.

DYLAN

Do you need anything?

KATIE

I need rest. And I need you to leave.

DYLAN

I'll sit here with you, if that's ok.

KATIE

It's not.

Katie doesn't speak.

29 INT. DAY. HOSPITAL WAITING ROOM.

Marshall grabs his phone and makes a call. On the line is Thomas.

MARSHALL

She's awake. Dylan is here... Yeah. She's really groggy, but I think she kicked him out. No, Alex is with me. Sure, but what are you thinking? I hope you're not thinking DK.

30 INT. DAY. THOMAS' KITCHEN.

Thomas is sitting in his kitchen.

THOMAS

No, I wanna scare him, not kill him. Here's what I think we can do...

31 INT. DAY. HOSPITAL HALLWAY.

MARSHALL

ARE YOU OUT OF YOUR MIND?! We'll lose our licenses not to mention, probably go to jail.

32 INT. DAY. THOMAS' KITCHEN.

THOMAS

He's vindictive! Besides, he's been abusive to our friend. Time for some pay back. She can't, we can. You always say I never take chances.

33 INT. DAY. HOSPITAL HALLWAY

MARSHALL

I gotta remember to keep my mouth shut.

34 INT. DAY. THOMAS' KITCHEN.

THOMAS

Come on...It'll be fun!

35 INT. DAY. HOSPITAL HALLWAY.

MARSHALL

I wanna know what I did in a past life that was so bad to be stuck with you

guys as the best friends I could find.
Alright, let me talk to Tig.

36 EXT. DAY. HOSPITAL PARKING LOT.

Thomas and Cassandra arrived in one car and DK arrives in another.

DK
Do you know what room she's in?

THOMAS
Marshall says 8th floor.

CASSANDRA
And Dylan is here, right?

THOMAS
Yep.

CASSANDRA
He's not gonna let us see her.
(Mockingly)Him don't like us...

DK
I'll take care of him. (To Cassandra)
You look really nice.

CASSANDRA
Thank you?(A pause and a stare)We
gotta go.

THOMAS
Let's play it by ear, shall we?

37 INT. DAY. HALLWAY OUTSIDE OF KATIE'S ROOM.

As Thomas, DK, and Cassandra are walking up, Dylan comes out of the room.

DYLAN
Hi friends. Katie is sleeping. We will
give you a call when she's feeling
better. Really appreciate your
concern.

CASSANDRA
We can sit with her, give you a break.

DYLAN

I'm fine. (Looks at DK) Why are you here?

DK

Thought I'd check on Katherine.

DYLAN

You two gonna share a bottle?

DK

You know, you gotta lotta balls.

DYLAN

Tough guy, huh?

DK steps closer to Dylan. Reaches to grab his throat.

DK

You bet, Fucko...

Thomas pushes DK out of the way.

THOMAS

Whoa, Whoa...Way too much red meat.(Stands face to face with Dylan)
Look, we just want to see her.

As Thomas and Dylan discuss visitation(Improv), Marshall sneaks up behind Dylan and gives him a shot. Dylan falls into Thomas' arms passed out. Thomas, with the help of Marshall, drags Dylan into the bathroom.

THOMAS

You guys go in. We'll take care of this.

DK

Did you kill him?

THOMAS

Oh, no...No...He's just sleeping, I swear. We'll take care of it.

DK

What are you...

MARSHALL

(Loudly whispering)Just get in the damn room.

THOMAS

It'll be ok.

As Thomas and Marshall, along with Dylan disappears into the bathroom.

38 INT. DAY. HOSPITAL BATHROOM.

Thomas starts underdressing Dylan and Marshall is removing his shoes. After his shoes are off, Marshall starts removing Dylan's pants.

THOMAS

How much trouble do you think we can get in?

MARSHALL

A lot, but it was your idea, so if we get in trouble...(Notices Dylan's penis). I KNEW HE WAS A LITTLE GUY!!! What the hell is she thinking? Look how small that is...

THOMAS

Are you gonna help me get this done or not?!

39 INT. DAY. HALLWAY OUTSIDE OF KATIE'S ROOM.

As Marshall and Thomas are discussing the task, Tig walks up with a gurney, leaves it by the door and continues to walk.

40 INT. DAY. HOSPITAL BATHROOM.

Thomas and Marshall have stripped Dylan and put him in a hospital gown. They pick him up and head for the door.

41 INT. DAY. HALLWAY OUTSIDE OF KATIE'S ROOM.

The door opens and Marshall is first out. SHEILA(50), head nurse on the floor is standing there. Sheila is expressionless.

MARSHALL

Hi Sheila.

SHEILA

I'm gonna grab some coffee.

She turns and walks away.

MARSHALL
Morgue?

THOMAS
Yes?

MARSHALL
It'll be fine.

They load Dylan on the elevator.

42 INT. DAY. MORGUE.

Elevator doors open and the Orderly, Tig, grabs the gurney and puts it in a corner then walks away.

43 INT. DAY. HOSPITAL ROOM.

Katie is laying in her bed.

KATIE
Marshall said I nearly lost my leg.

CASSANDRA
You did a lot of things. Gonna need a lot of rehab. You've been out for a while.

KATIE
I'm sorry I scared you guys. I guess I blacked out.

DK
You need a new therapist. The quack you have ain't finding what needs to be found.

Cassandra looks at him like he has 5 heads.

KATIE
Why would you say that?

DK
Well, you're pissed off at me for something I have no idea about. I'm just wondering if you're mad at yourself for dating a dickhead.

CASSANDRA
DAVID!!!

DK
Call me that one more time...

CASSANDRA
It's your name!

KATIE
Wait...He may be right. Go on DK.

DK
When we were younger, we didn't keep secrets. When we were angry at each other we would tell why. What happened?

KATIE
I guess you're right. I guess I'm angry at how you land on your feet. DUI, you get out of it. Lose your job, you bounce right back. I love you but I hate you. Eh, I don't hate you...I'm jealous of you.

DK
Katie, You're smarter than me. I'm messed up, you're messed up. EVERYONE is messed up.

CASSANDRA
I hear that.

DK
(To Cassandra)Don't help. It comes down to you trusting YOURSELF.

KATIE
Think so?

DK
Somewhere down the line, you've forgotten how to do that. But, if you let us in, we'll do it with ya.

Thomas and Marshall walk in, looking suspicious.

THOMAS
Hey...(To Katie) Are you comfortable? Do you need anything.

KATIE
I'm fine. Where's Dylan?

THOMAS

Hmmm?

KATIE

Where's Dylan?

THOMAS

Oh, yeah...He's in the morgue.

KATIE DK CASSANDRA

What? I'm sorry?

THOMAS

He's fine.

DK

Why is he in the morgue?

MARSHALL

Thomas knocked him out.

KATIE

WHAT?!

THOMAS

Wait, you gave him the shot!

MARSHALL

Thomas made me give him a shot to knock him out.

Alex in the window, smiles.

CASSANDRA

Oh, this is delicious.

THOMAS

He wouldn't let us see you and well, we knew that was going to happen...So we played a gag on him.

DK

And what kind of gag was that?

THOMAS

Well, we ... We gave him a shot, undressed him to look like a corpse....

MARSHALL

He's really small, Katie.

THOMAS

(Parroting)He's really small, Katie.
And then we put him on a gurney and
put him on the elevator to go to the
bottom floor.

MARSHALL

He's fine. It was a sedative. We
checked his chart.

CASSANDRA

YOU WHAT?!

MARSHALL

We wanted to be safe and not poison
him. Tig sent me a text. He picked him
up and put him in a corner.

DK

We're gonna need to figure out our
scheduling.

CASSANDRA

What scheduling?

DK

When we're gonna visit these two in
prison.

Katie makes them sweat a bit with a pause.

KATIE

They're not going to prison.

CASSANDRA

No?

KATIE

No. Dylan cheats on his taxes. I've
known it for a long time. If anything,
I'm going to jail for harboring a
criminal.

DK

(Mockingly... As in "I knew it")And
the plot thins.

KATIE

I have everything we need. I have all
the evidence you need.

CASSANDRA

Should I go grab it before he gets home? (She starts to head for the door)

KATIE

I know computers better than him. I already have it.

CASSANDRA

You sneaky bitch.

KATIE

Look at you guys. I keep running and yet... You're here.

CASSANDRA

We've missed our Katie.

DK

We don't have anyone else that will put up with us as a group.

KATIE

(Looks at Alex)How about you?

ALEX

(Looks at Cassandra)Always thought he was a dick. Men, huh? Am I right?

DK

I didn't know she could speak.

CASSANDRA

She's colorful.

KATIE

Why didn't you say anything, honey?

ALEX

I guess I thought you were happy. Or that's what happy was supposed to be.

KATIE

I have to find a place to live when I get out of here...And get a job...And find a school.

Everyone looks at Marshall.

MARSHALL

(After a long pause) Oh for god's sake. Fine! Katie, I have three extra rooms.

Cassandra and Katie smile. Sheila comes in and they turn.

SHEILA

Your friend woke up. He kinda left.

KATIE

Kinda?

SHEILA

You white people are a strange bunch. Now, get the hell out of here. I have to wash her ass.

DK

As pleasant as ever, Sheila.

SHEILA

Out, drunk.

They start heading out.

SHEILA

Marshall and Thomas, I wanna a cup of coffee and one of those pot pies from the cafeteria.

Thomas turns and tries to speak.

THOMAS

Hey Sheila...?

Marshall grabs him and pulls him out the door.

44 EXT. DAY. FRONT YARD OF A "NICE" HOUSE.

A few months later.

A movie set. About 20 to 30 people are watching two actors finishing a scene. "JENNY"(40) and JIM(40) are about to kiss. DK is sitting behind a camera with the DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY(45) and the producer, Branson.

JENNY

You're so sappy...And I love you for it.

The two actors kiss each other.

DK

Cut. Check the gate.

45 EXT. DAY. FRONT YARD OF A "NICE" HOUSE.

On another section of the set is ELIZABETH(65) a straight shooter. Her spouse, GIANNA (40) is bringing her a bag of croissants. Elizabeth is on the phone.

ELIZABETH

(Into the phone)You tell that little flea I gave you a lot of money so that your boss can be Wilmington's first gay mayor. Do you know what that says to North Carolina, moron? Yeah, well, get off your ass, and go tell him to start knocking on doors. That's why I gave the money. DO YOUR FUCKIN' JOB!

GIANNA

Here are the pastries. What did he say?

ELIZABETH

Oh, we'll be fine. I think we're leading the polls by seven points. Tuesday should be a walk. Small Town Politics. Why do I come back here?

GIANNA

Thought they were like family.

ELIZABETH

They are, the town's not.

Branson walks up.

BRANSON

Hey, Elizabeth. I hope everything is ok.

ELIZABETH

We're fine, Branson. I heard cut and had to make a point. How's the shooting?

BRANSON

We're turning the camera around and then it's lunch time.

ELIZABETH

So much fun. I'm so happy for you guys. The distro deal is done, right?

BRANSON

Yep. Signed yesterday.

ELIZABETH

How's the kid doing?

Branson turns and finds DK.

BRANSON

Hey, Director, Your friend wants to speak to you.

DK walks over and hugs Gianna and Elizabeth.

ELIZABETH

Look darling, I need a small bit in the film.

DK

How small?

ELIZABETH

A line, can I have a line?

DK

For you, sure.

ELIZABETH

Not me. It's a friend. She wants to do this, but can't get a break. A Union eligibility would go a long way to getting an agent.

DK

Is she interesting?

ELIZABETH

She's hunchback. (Under her breath) Asshole. That said, how are you?

DK

Didn't realize it was going to cut into my sleeping.

ELIZABETH

Just don't let the booze back in.

DK
Still clean.

ELIZABETH
So proud of you!

DK
Thanks.

ELIZABETH
Great! Start writing more. The more
you write, the more we work...

DK
I understand.

A box truck shows up with a few cars following behind. Folks
get out and start setting up tables and placing catering
items (Food) on the tables.

DK
What the hell is this?

ELIZABETH
I'm sorry, dear...Your caterer is a
bloody nightmare and his food sucks. I
fired them.

DK
You what?

ELIZABETH
My money, love. These folks are
incredible.

BRANSON
We have about 50 people here!

ELIZABETH
Yes, we're catering for 75. A couple
of folks from City Hall are coming
over. If we push this as a major
independent, then that highlights us.
Town officials can do that. Trust me,
I know how to sell and raise interest
and money.

BRANSON
Elizabeth, you can't...

DK
 Branson, it's fine. Go back. I'll take
 care of this. Go...

Branson looks at her and turns. He walks back to the crowd.

ELIZABETH
 And...?

DK
 He'll be ok. Once he eats he'll be ok.

46 INT. DAY. MARSHALL AND DON'S HOUSE

With his room right off the living room, Marshall is making
 his bed. He opens the door and sees Alex sitting on the
 couch. She is watching TV and we hear from the TV...

MALE VOICE
 Oh yeah, tell me Hector, do you like
 lollipops?

Marshall is in complete horror.

ALEX
 Found your tape. 5 to 1, Hector likes
 lollipops. You really should start
 dating again.

MARSHALL
 Think so?

As Alex shuts off the TV, we hear Katie coming down the
 stairs with Aaron.

KATIE
 Whatcha watching?

MARSHALL
 I didn't notice!

ALEX
 Public Access.

KATIE
 (To Marshall) Didn't notice what?

MARSHALL
 I...Eh...

ALEX

Some of the almond milk was missing in the fridge. Marshall thought it was me.

KATIE

Oh...(To Marshall) I'm sorry. Aaron had some. I should have told you. Alex doesn't like nuts.

ALEX

So very true.

KATIE

What are you up to today? I have to take Aaron to an ear appointment and then to my parents.

MARSHALL

I was gonna go to the set and see DK. Plus, I haven't seen Elizabeth yet.

ALEX

Can I go?

MARSHALL

Why? I...I mean, sure. I don't mind.

KATIE

Are you ok?

MARSHALL

Yeah. Sorry. I was in a rush. Yeah, Alex can hang out with me today.

KATIE

Great! We better go. Give Elizabeth my best. Thanks for all you do for us.

MARSHALL

You're family. I don't mind.

47 INT. DAY. MARSHALL'S TRUCK.

Marshall and Alex are driving in a rural area outside of town.

ALEX

How old were you the first time you had sex with a guy?

MARSHALL

Oh dear god, where are we going with this?

ALEX

Come on, Marshall. I'm almost 16 and I have 3 girls in my school that are pregnant. I need advice.

MARSHALL

Jesus. I have to do the sex talk? Why ask me?

ALEX

My girlfriend and I have gotten hot and heavy and we're thinking of moving forward. But, I'm not sure.

MARSHALL

You're gay?

ALEX

Thus, me not liking nuts.

MARSHALL

I wouldn't have guessed. Does your mom know?

ALEX

What was my first question?

MARSHALL

Your mom doesn't know? Why do I have to be the one... (Long Pause) Why don't you give her a chance?

ALEX

She's straight. She doesn't understand us.

MARSHALL

It's us now, is it? (Silence) Do you drink coffee?

ALEX

We've lived with you months.

MARSHALL

We'll hit the set later. Let's grab some coffee.

48 INT. DAY. LUNA CAFE.

Marshall and Alex are sitting with a cup of coffee. Cassandra comes in.

CASSANDRA
Hey guys. How's things?

ALEX
Fine. Wanna join us? Marshall, do you mind?

MARSHALL
No, not at all..PLEASE.

Cassandra has a confused smile on her face.

CASSANDRA
Ok. Let me grab a coffee.

Cassandra walks away.

MARSHALL
Look, I can give you all the regular speeches, but at the end of the day, you have to make the decision. Only you know if you're ready for the next step. But you have to make sure you're willing to get hurt. 'Cause at your age, I doubt you and your girlfriend will be together forever.

As Cassandra returns to sit down, Alex responds to Marshall.

ALEX
I don't wanna get hurt. I mean, she just wants eat my box.

CASSANDRA
Whoa, this is gonna need a lot more cream!

Cassandra pops right back up and walks away.

ALEX
What did I say? Was that wrong?

Marshall gives her a thousand yard stare. A pause.

MARSHALL
Look, I'm not the one to talk to. You

have to speak to...

ALEX

Please don't say my mother.

MARSHALL

No, not necessarily. You're gonna make your choice one way or another. The one conversation you need to have with your mom is just telling her you like women. That's the simple part.

ALEX

I need a refill.

MARSHALL

And maybe cut down on the shock speak.

Alex walks towards the bathroom. Cassandra walks back to the table.

CASSANDRA

What the hell kinda whirlwind did I walk into?

MARSHALL

She's 16 and horny.

CASSANDRA

I guess.

MARSHALL

I walked in on her watching my private stash.

CASSANDRA

The Hector Factor?

MARSHALL

Right at the lollipops.

CASSANDRA

Damn! She's freaky.

MARSHALL

She just needs someone to talk to, hint, hint.

CASSANDRA

Is she gay?

MARSHALL
You didn't know?

CASSANDRA
I would have never guessed.

MARSHALL
Wow, your gay-radar must be broken.

Alex sits down.

CASSANDRA
Honey, are you ok?

ALEX
Yeah. I just don't know the right thing to do. Or say, obviously. I don't want anyone to get hurt.

CASSANDRA
You have to be willing to get hurt. 'Cause this will change the relationship. It's guaranteed.

ALEX
(To Marshall) Did you tell her you said the same thing?

MARSHALL
No. We're both just old and have lived it.

CASSANDRA
I'm not old.

MARSHALL
Darlin', you're as dry as a saltine.

Alex spits out coffee and Cassandra laughs.

49 EXT. DAY. FRONT YARD OF A "NICE" HOUSE.

Elizabeth is sitting in a chair as Thomas and Gianna are speaking. DK and Branson are on a different place of the same set.

THOMAS
Did you grow up in The Philippines?

GIANNA
No. I grew up in upstate New York. We

met in the city at a Hotel I was working at. Elizabeth had produced a play over at The Music Box. She came in for a drink in the lounge. Fell in love and she got me out of the rat race and got me into this.

THOMAS

Ever wanna go back?

GIANNA

Nah. This is a lot of fun. It's frustrating, but fun. I like this kinda project.

THOMAS

Simple stories?

GIANNA

Yeah. That's far more interesting to me than these big budget things. This is more important, the human experience.

THOMAS

You sound like DK. How's that even possible?

GIANNA

We've both been to Chiang Mai. (She winks)

DK

CUT! (To Branson) Ok. I think we should do one more and then?

BRANSON

We're wrapped.

Marshall, Cassandra and Alex arrive on the set.

ELIZABETH

Marshall, darling. I have missed you. And Cassie, my angel. (She hugs Marshall and whispers in his ear) I am so sorry we missed Donn's memorial.

MARSHALL

Thank you for suggesting counseling. The grief was bearable with your doctor's help. How was Italy? You look

fantastic.

ELIZABETH

I look like a bag lady. The airport certainly hasn't improved here in the port city. Hello Cassie(They hug). Still living wild?

CASSANDRA

Why grow up? It's too hard.

ELIZABETH

I told Drunky you're working on the music with this. Meet Gianna...Gianna!

Gianna and Thomas walk over.

ELIZABETH

This is my lover. Cassie, you will appreciate this. She's younger and she can do it every night...

GIANNA

You're Marshall, right?

MARSHALL

I am.

GIANNA

How do you keep these guys straight?

MARSHALL

A lot of Marijuana.

Elizabeth turns and looks at Alex.

ELIZABETH

And you...You're Alex? Katie's beautiful daughter?

ALEX

I am.

ELIZABETH

I'm your crazy Auntie Lizzy. (They hug)

ALEX

You're the flamboyant one, right?

ELIZABETH

Yes...(Matter of factly)And you're a lesbian.

ALEX

THANK YOU!

Cassie and Marshall look indignant.

THOMAS

You're gay???!!!

50 EXT. DAY. ANOTHER CITY STREET.

Katie and Aaron are walking toward a restaurant and coming out of the restaurant is Dylan with a Red-Headed woman (20's).

DYLAN

Well, there you are. The woman with the funny friends. Katie, this is...

KATIE

(to the woman)It doesn't matter. Hello, Dylan. You are finished being here, right?

DYLAN

How's the gang? Are they still full of pranks? I could have been poisoned, you know.

KATIE

I don't think I'm that lucky.

DYLAN

That's cute.

KATIE

(To the Red headed woman)Speaking of cute, listen Red, he cheats on his taxes nearly as much as he cheats on women. Wanna see the papers?(Pause) Do you read?

DYLAN

You really are a bitch.

Aaron tugs on Dylan's pants.

AARON
Have you ever thought of being a
farmer?

DYLAN
What?

AARON
Here's a couple of ache-ers.

Aaron, standing right in front of Dylan, hauls back and punches Dylan in the balls.

DYLAN
EYEEEEEE!

KATIE
(To the woman) He'll be fine. Just
grab some ice. (To Aaron) You wanna
hamburger, honey?

AARON
I didn't think I was allowed.

Katie and Aaron start walking toward the restaurant.

KATIE
Let's live on the edge a bit.

51 INT. NIGHT. MARSHALL AND DONN'S HOUSE.

DK is in the kitchen cooking with a few folks hanging around, including Gianna. Marshall and Thomas are in the dining room adjusting and picking at the buffet with a few stragglers doing the same. Cassandra is talking to a couple of folks out on the back porch and Elizabeth and Katie are talking in the living room, decorated for Christmas, with a few folks sitting and standing around.

ELIZABETH
Oh, you have to be proud of her.

KATIE
I am! She is so mature. DK is letting
her work on the film.

ELIZABETH
I know, we were there today.

KATIE
She's auditioning, doing great in

school. She's incredible!

ELIZABETH

And so brave. Embracing her sexuality.

KATIE

What do you mean?

In the background, around the entire house, you hear Fleetwood Mac's The Chain. The mandolin entrance starts and Elizabeth's eyes grow big. Cut back to the kitchen.

DK

"Listen to the wind blow, watch the sun rise"

MARSHALL & THOMAS

"Running in the shadows, damn your love, damn your lies"

ELIZABETH & KATIE

"And if you don't love me now"

Cassandra jumps in.

ELIZABETH & KATIE & CASSANDRA

"You will never love me again" (Katie is singing, but is terribly confused)

Cut back and forth to all the groups. The house guests are freaked out, but laughing or smiling.

GROUP

I can still hear you say, you would never break the chain (Cassie and Katie) Never break the chain.

Marshall, Thomas, Elizabeth, Katie and Cassandra make their way to the kitchen. Elizabeth puts her arm around Gianna (She joins in) The song continues and the house guests watch the love that these lifelong friends have for each other as the song goes on.

52 INT. NIGHT. MARSHALL AND DONN'S HOUSE.

The party is winding down. Elizabeth is in the recliner and Cassandra, Marshall and Gianna are on the couch. DK is in the kitchen, cleaning up and Katie is in the bathroom. Thomas, standing in the foyer and shouts back to the room.

THOMAS

I'm gonna run Syndee and Mitchell home really quick. I'll be right back.

Thomas walks out with a couple of guests.

ELIZABETH

He's always so good. He's like you, Gianna. But you're a better cook...Go make me a sandwich.

DK walks in from the kitchen.

DK

I busted my ass for hours and you want a sandwich.

ELIZABETH

Oooo, no! I want one of those egg rolls. Are there any left?

DK huffs back into the kitchen. A Dramatically Drunk Katie comes out of the bathroom.

KATIE

Hello, my dearest friends. Let's discuss.

CASSANDRA

(To Marshall) This is new.

MARSHALL

(To Cassandra) Jesus, she's hammered.

KATIE

I found out tonight, my daughter is dating a girl! And THAT'S ok. What is NOT ok is that YOU people knew she was queer before me!

DK comes in with an egg roll, hands it to Elizabeth and sits on the arm of the chair.

KATIE

(Pointing to DK) THIS booze hound quits drinking because he wants to.
(Pointing to Elizabeth) THIS one lives in Italy. (Pointing to Marshall) This one just bought a business...

MARSHALL

Shit...

CASSANDRA

You bought a business?

MARSHALL

It's a transport company. Don't mention it again.

KATIE

ANNNNDDDDDD, MY DAUGHTER HAS A GIRLFRIEND!!! So, you ALL have accomplishments and secrets. Fine! You have secrets, I have a secret too!

Alex is at the top of the stairs and is coming down, slowly.

KATIE

Sixteen years ago, I FUCKED Thomas! That's right, I fucked Thomas and Alex is Thomas' daughter. How about THAT?!

DK

Oh, this is delicious.

ELIZABETH

With a side of roasted bone marrow and sea urchin.

DK

Jesus, you are rich.

KATIE

And ladies...He's a two hander.

MARSHALL

Oh!

CASSANDRA

She has small hands.

Marshall slap Cassandra's leg and chuckles. Alex is now at the bottom of the stairs and standing right behind Katie.

ALEX

Mom?

Katie makes a very dramatic, very drunk turn.

KATIE

Oh, honey...How was your night?

ALEX

Is this true, mom?

KATIE

You didn't hear that, did you?

ALEX

The neighbors heard it, Mom.

KATIE

Oh honey, I'm so sorry.

Katie starts to sob as Thomas comes in the door.

ALEX

Hi Dad.

THOMAS

Oh god...

53 INT. NIGHT. MARSHALL AND DONN'S HOUSE.

The group, including Alex, is sitting around Thomas on the couch, while Katie is laying with her head in his lap.

THOMAS

We were drunk and her husband was deployed.

CASSANDRA

Why didn't you tell us?

THOMAS

I didn't know for sure! But... I can't say I didn't hope. When Katie started dating Dylan after the divorce, I was heartbroken. I knew his reputation and I did my best to keep the kids away from him. Always being the friend or puppy or WHATEVER!!!

Thomas starts to get animated, then stops himself. The group smiles.

DK

Hey...Don't do that to yourself. Funny seeing her on the drunk side for a change.

THOMAS

I just can't let you guys hate Katie.

Katie snores like a moose.

MARSHALL

What the hell does that mean? She just made everything great! Now, the door is open for you two to FINALLY get together. Lord knows it's time.

ELIZABETH

Hoping they'll move in together, Marsh?

MARSHALL

More than a handjob from Prince Harry.

Cassandra roles her eyes and chuckles.

DK

(To Alex)How are you doing, kiddo?

ALEX

Not sure how I feel about her having to get drunk to tell me, but...

Alex stares at Thomas for a minute. She gets up and lays down by her mom, moving her to the back of the couch and she wraps her arm around Thomas' leg. Katie's arm goes around Alex and even in her drunken stupor, she smiles.

ELIZABETH

Oh my...

DK

You too?

ELIZABETH

Need a tissue?

As Elizabeth reaches for a tissue for DK, she grabs Cassandra's hand with her other hands and puts it on DK's knee.

54 EXT. DAY. THOMAS AND KATIE'S NEW HOUSE..

A few months pass.

Thomas and Katie along with Alex and Aaron are getting out of their car. They see a car parked on the street. Beside the

car is CARLTON(60) Katie's first husband. He walks up to them in the driveway.

CARLTON
Hello, Katie.

KATIE
Carlton...Wha? How are you?

CARLTON
I'm good. Hi Thomas. How are you?

THOMAS
Well, confused. Haven't seen you in a while.

CARLTON
Yeah, I've been pretty messed up. Look, can I speak to Katie for a minute?

THOMAS
Ask Katie.

KATIE
Of course. (To Thomas) Take the kids inside. I'll be there in a bit.

AARON
(To Alex) Who's that man?

ALEX
I'll tell you in a bit.

Alex stares at Carlton as she walks in.

CARLTON
They got big.

KATIE
How are you?

CARLTON
Not as angry. Not as drunk. Heard you and Thomas finally figured it out.

KATIE
Yeah.

CARLTON
I came to town about a month ago. I

saw Marshall at the hospital. Said you're getting married. Congratulations.

KATIE

He's very good to me...And the kids.

CARLTON

That's good. That's kinda what I wanted to talk to you about.

KATIE

We haven't seen you in nearly a decade, Carlton. I doubt Aaron knows who you are. Is this an issue?

CARLTON

No. I'm wondering if Thomas would adopt them. They deserve a dad.

KATIE

What?

CARLTON

I can't say I've not kept up with you guys. He's the perfect dad and I'm leaving. I'm headed to California. I thought maybe they should call him dad.

KATIE

I should tell you something. Alex already does.

CARLTON

I guess my suspicion wasn't completely off.

KATIE

I'm really sorry.

CARLTON

Don't be. How about Aaron?

KATIE

He's yours.

CARLTON

Well, I'd like him to be Thomas'...If Thomas is up for it. I got a lot of healing to do and I'd like a fresh

slate.

KATIE
You really mean that?

CARLTON
I do.

KATIE
(Smiling) Pretty sure this is the guy I met way back when.

CARLTON
I hope so. I hope I get back there.

KATIE
Look, DK's opening is tonight... Why don't you come?

CARLTON
He finally did it, huh? I might. I doubt it, but...Tell him I'm happy for him.

KATIE
Thank you, Carlton.

CARLTON
Thank YOU, Katie. You're raising some great kids.

Katie watches Carlton walk to his car and drives away.

55 INT. DAY. DINER.

Marshall is with Pop. They're having lunch.

MARSHALL
Yeah, but it is pretty cool, right? Your son made a movie.

POP
I'm proud of him. I wish I understood what the hell was going on, but I know he's happy.

MARSHALL
And he has distribution with it?

POP
Is that the "being shown on a tv"

thing?

MARSHALL

Yeah.

POP

Yeah. That long haired fella did that.
I think.

MARSHALL

Branson?

POP

That's it.

The waitress comes over.

WAITRESS

Hey fellas. Marshall, you having the
stewed beef?

MARSHALL

Yeah, with mashed potatoes and banana
pudding.

WAITRESS

Pop?

Pop has a blank stare on his face, facing Marshall and his
face is dipping.

WAITRESS

Pop? MARSHALL!

Marshall looks up.

MARSHALL

Pop? POP?!

Marshall runs around the table and grabs Pop.

MARSHALL

I gotcha buddy. I gotcha. (To the
waitress) Call 911, NOW!

56 INT. DAY. HOSPITAL ROOM.

Marshall is sitting with Pop laying in a bed.

MARSHALL

Hey, DK. Look, I'm with your dad.

He's had a stroke.

57 INT. DAY. LOBBY OF A CINEMA.

DK is in shock. Cassandra is behind him.

DK
Is he gonna be ok?

MARSHALL(VO)
You better hurry, buddy.

DK's phone just falls to his side.

CASSANDRA
Hey...What's up?

DK
My father is dying.

Cassandra grabs him.

58 INT. DAY. HOSPITAL ROOM.

Marshall is standing on one side of Pop's bed as DK is on the other, holding Pop's hand. Pop is unconscious. Cassandra is in the back of the room with Katie. Katie has her arm around Cassandra. Gianna is sitting with Elizabeth. Thomas walks in with coffee. He sits it on the serving tray.

THOMAS
So he just went blank?

MARSHALL
It was exactly like they described it in class years ago. He just stopped talking and looked like he was struggling to finish a thought. I've been doing this for 20 years and I don't think I've ever been more scared.

ELIZABETH
Was it his look that scared you?

MARSHALL
I think it was more the phone call I knew I had to make.

ELIZABETH
And he hasn't spoken at all?

MARSHALL

I'm not sure he can. He's...

Suddenly, Pop's eyes open. DK looks right at him.

POP

(Barely Audible) Thank you for being my son.

Pop exhales with his eyes open, almost smiling.

59 INT. DAY. HALLWAY OUTSIDE POP'S HOSPITAL ROOM.

Cassandra and Katie are sitting on a couch. People are moving back and forth. Thomas is standing.

CASSANDRA

Have you ever seen anything like that?

THOMAS

I've never even heard of anything like that. Maybe in the movies. That's what a miracle looks like.

Elizabeth and DK come out of the room.

DK

Ok, I have to get to the cinema and solidify the guest list tonight.

ELIZABETH

Honey, I can do that. You need to be with your father.

DK

Why? Is he coming back? Give me a break. Marshall knows all the ins and outs. I've signed the paperwork and what...I go home and sit in a chair. I have a movie screening tonight and my father would want me to WORK!

DK walks away, headed toward the exit.

THOMAS

I guess the next chapter is off to a rough start.

ELIZABETH

Talk about someone mad at god. But, he's right. His father was like that.

You got responsibilities. You handle them.

Gianna and Marshall come out of the room.

GIANNA

Ok, he signed all the paperwork. I'm driving him over to the cinema and Marshall is going to the house to take care of the puppy.

MARSHALL

And don't get angry with him. (He looks right at Katie) He's gonna deal with it his way and we have to support him. Let's get through tonight and then, we'll deal with whatever.

60 INT. DAY. CINEMA LOBBY.

The GENERAL MANAGER(35) of the cinema is standing with Elizabeth, Gianna and DK.

GENERAL MANAGER

...And we're finishing the 3rd room. We have well over 1000 prepaid. I've even brought in a few more staff to open all the registers.

ELIZABETH

Thank you, Myron. (To DK) I think we should change and be back here around 5:30. Does that sound alright?

DK

It's fine with me. Gianna, do you mind running me to the house?

GIANNA

Not a problem.

61 INT. DAY. GIANCARLO'S CAR.

Gianna and DK are walking to Gianna's car and there's a liquor store.

DK

Hang on a second.

GIANNA

Look, man...

DK
I'm not asking. Wait.

Gianna stands by as DK goes into the store.

62 INT. NIGHT. CINEMA LOBBY.

Elizabeth is speaking with local news personality, JON EVANS(55-60). Gianna is with her.

JON EVANS
What made him finally decide to pursue the filmmaking?

ELIZABETH
The idiots at the theater he was running thought they could do it better and didn't renew his contract, so...He came back to Wilmington to make his movies.

JON EVANS
And how did you get involved with the project?

ELIZABETH
I've always believed in DK. He was the first man I brought into my theater company years ago. He has an interesting take on the human experience and I find him fascinating.

JON EVANS
Is he gonna make his own premiere?

ELIZABETH
Oh, he'll be here. He wouldn't miss it.

JON EVANS
Well, thank you Elizabeth, for not only your time but for bringing this to town. It's very exciting and congratulations!

The interview ends.

JON EVANS
Think he's gonna make it?

ELIZABETH

I couldn't say it on air, Jon, but his father died this morning.

JON EVANS

Oh no. I'm sorry to hear that. Of all nights. Have you spoken to him?

ELIZABETH

Not since the hospital. Gianna said he picked a bottle.

JON EVANS

I thought he quit drinking.

GIANNA

He did. I thought I was taking him home.

JON EVANS

Well, let me know if there's something I can do. I really like DK.

Jon walks away.

GIANNA

Ok, I'll go.

ELIZABETH

No. I'm just gonna call Marshall. He was there this afternoon, right?

63 INT. NIGHT. POP'S HOUSE.

Marshall is staring at a point(We never see DK)

MARSHALL

He's not gonna make it...No, just enjoy the movie. He'll be fine. He's...Dealing. I promise. He'll be fine.

64 EXT. NIGHT. POP'S HOUSE.

The group walk up to Marshall standing on the front porch.

MARSHALL

How'd it go?

KATIE

It's a beautiful little movie.

MARSHALL

That's great. I saw the rough cut. It looked great.

Cassandra walks by Marshall and Marshall stops the rest of the group.

65 INT. NIGHT. POP'S HOUSE.

Cassandra walks in and sees DK sitting on the floor with his chin on the coffee table. There is a bottle of unopened scotch in front of him and he's staring at it. Cassandra sits down at the corner of the table.

CASSANDRA

(Delicately) Wanna open it?

DK

Did you know, my dad had covid?

CASSANDRA

I did.

DK

I don't think I've ever been that scared in my life. Since my mom died, he's had a rough ride. He had open heart surgery. He suffered from vertigo. His hearing faded. And then covid. He never complained. It's amazing to me how nothing ever fazed him. When he finally got to the other side of covid, he just wanted to go to lunch...with Marshall.(DK chuckles) I can't begin to explain how lucky I am Marsh was with him. He always loved you guys like you were his own kids. I've always felt like I let him down a bit. I never wanted to do anything else but him being a working class guy, I don't think he ever really understood me. I was like some sort of alien. And then...And then that last line. Once again, he showed he was wiser than me. It was the most beautiful moment of my life thus far. (Long Pause) My daddy's gone. (He finally cries)

Cassandra moves towards him and comforts him. The group has slipped in.

ELIZABETH
The crowd loved the movie.

Everyone turns to Elizabeth in shock except DK.

DK
Did they like it?

ELIZABETH
Oh, they were crazy about it. Even
Scott Mavis wanted you to flop, but...

DK
Did you tell him my dad died?

ELIZABETH
I didn't.

DK
Would have loved that guilt.

ELIZABETH
Damn! Good call.

Finally, a laugh.

ELIZABETH
I loved your dad.

DK
He thinks you're insane. Thought you
were insane. But he was crazy about
you. You should have seen his face
light up when Marshall said you were
coming home. "She's got balls".

THOMAS
Wanna open that bottle?

CASSANDRA
Asked the Pope...And no. I've already
asked.

DK
Doesn't mean you guys can't.

66 EXT. DAY. CEMETERY.

Folks walk by Pop's grave and toss in flowers. A young man,
EMMANUEL(25), is in the middle of the line as "The Group"
sits. Marshall notices him. There is no dialogue during the

precession, just "Songbird".

67 EXT. DAY. AWAY FROM GRAVE.

Marshall is standing with Thomas.

MARSHALL

Who is that boy?

THOMAS

That's Emmanuel. He's DK's little brother.

MARSHALL

And how do you know that and I don't?

THOMAS

I didn't know it either until he came up to me. DK only found out a year ago.

Marshall is a bit flush.

MARSHALL

I can see me on him at a beach. I mean, I can see me with him on a beach.

THOMAS

And?

MARSHALL

I can't fool with around family.

THOMAS

We're back to foolin' around? I'm fooling around with Katie!

MARSHALL

Good point. Probably straight.

DK walks by with Cassandra on his arm. Gianna walks with them by Marshall and Thomas.

DK

Probably not.

Marshall gasps.

GIANNA

We have GOT to work on his Gay-Dar.

CASSANDRA
 (Playfully whispering) He is single.
 Oh, and a yoga instructor.

DK
 All sorts of stretchy.

Marshall "Clutches the pearls". Gianna keeps walking as DK and Cassandra stops.

MARSHALL
 But wait...You're sure he's your
 brother?

DK
 Yeah, uh huh. Pop had a lot of
 secrets.

MARSHALL
 Um...

DK
 Yeah.

THOMAS
 What about his mother?

DK
 Ovarian Cancer. My date and I are
 going to Marshall's house.

CASSANDRA
 Date...That's cute.

DK and Cassandra walk away.

MARSHALL
 (To Thomas) Are they...

THOMAS
 No. (To DK and Cassandra) The food is
 out and the doors will be open. (Looks
 at Marshall) I'll make sure "Sadie"
 gets there. (Referring to Marshall)

DK
 Thanks.

68 INT. DAY. MARSHALL AND DON'S HOUSE

Marshall's house is scattered with mourners and friends.

DK

Seems Marshall hasn't forgotten his chase skills.

THOMAS

He hasn't dated since Donn died, right?

DK

Yeah, but I guess it's like riding a bike. Oh, did you hear about Dylan?

THOMAS

No, what...

DK

Got arrested.

THOMAS

For what?

DK

Blowing a guy in a city hall bathroom.

THOMAS

WHAT?!

DK

Just kidding. He got arrested for fraud. Somehow some papers ended up on the state prosecutor's desk. Know anything about that?

THOMAS

Can't help ya. (They chuckle) How late is this going go on?

DK

I don't know. It's a Marshall thing. I didn't think we needed it.

Cassandra and Alex walk over.

CASSANDRA

Do you know these people?

DK

Not many. But, Marshall always has a wonderful buffet. Alex, make these people leave.

ALEX
Any suggestions?

CASSANDRA
Can't wait.

DK
Improvise.

Alex turns towards the crowd.

ALEX
GET THE FUCK OUT OF HERE, YOU FREE
LOADING SCUMBAGS!

CASSANDRA
That should do it.

DK
She's an animal. God I love her, an
animal.

DK and Cassandra smile at each other for a moment.

69 INT. DAY. MARSHALL AND DON'S HOUSE

Most folks have left.

ELIZABETH
Jesus, those people are exhausting.
It's like a night at the Oak Room
after a Webber opening. Hang-ons,
nudges.

DK
The food was great.

ALEX
Marshall always has a great buffet.

DK
Well said.

THOMAS
What is that banging?

From the bedroom, we hear Marshall's rabid dog voice.

MARSHALL(VO)
Yeah, YEAH...Do it! Get me pregnant!
Yeah...Yeah. Damn...Grab me a towel.

No the bathroom is there.

THOMAS
(Sheepishly) Anybody want a sandwich?

The entire group turns their attention to Thomas, looking at him like he has 9 heads.

70 INT. DAY. MARSHALL AND DON'S HOUSE

As the group sits in the living room, we hear a voice coming from the bedroom. It's Marshall.

MARSHALL(VO)
Ok. I'm gonna walk out and you count to 10 and then you come out.

Marshall opens the door to see the group.

MARSHALL
Hey. Where'd everybody go?

DK
Get me pregnant?

MARSHALL
Oh for god's sake. I knew I should have moved my bedroom upstairs when Donn died. (To Emmanuel) Well, come on out.

EMMANUEL
Hello.

ELIZABETH
Hello, Manny. I'm Elizabeth. Where do you live? And how old are you? Honestly, the second question is the most important. I want to know if we are calling the cops on Marshall.

EMMANUEL
I'm 25. and I live in Florida.

KATIE
(To DK) When was your dad in Florida?

DK
He wasn't. My little brother was born in Winston-Salem. My dad poked a nurse while my mom was having heart surgery.

ELIZABETH

How so very Donald Trump of him.

DK

Classy, right? She was at Baptist Hospital.

CASSANDRA

(To Emmanuel) How did you find out about your father?

EMMANUEL

My mother told me he lived in Wilmington and his son was an actor. The movie kinda made it easy.

DK

When he contacted me, we did a blood test. And yes, my doctor did it. He's my brother.

ELIZABETH

And you didn't want us to know?

DK

I wanted to finish a movie. And then, Pop sped up his coming out, so to speak. (To Emmanuel) If you want to hang around, you're my family and family always comes first.

EMMANUEL

I would like to learn more about you. And the things you do.

MARSHALL

And me?

Emmanuel struggles for an answer.

CASSANDRA

Don't worry, we're all uncomfortable now.

EMMANUEL

I'm going back to Florida for a bit. But...I wouldn't mind coming back...Maybe even to live...If that's ok.

ELIZABETH
Darlin', you are more than welcomed.
I'll give you work.

KATIE
Doing what? Cabana boy?

ELIZABETH
Shut up!

KATIE
Gianna?

GIANNA
She goes back and forth so much...At
least I'll get a break.

ELIZABETH
You can shut up too.

EMMANUEL
You folks are funny.

MARSHALL
Believe it or not, we love each other
dearly. Welcome to the weird part of
your family.

THOMAS
I still can't get past Get Me
Pregnant.

71 EXT. DAY. CAFE ON FRONT STREET.

Marshall and Cassandra are having lunch.

MARSHALL
I love this Tropic Thunder Beer. What
are you doing for work these days?

CASSANDRA
A gig here and there. I could always
marry DK. He's got money these days.

MARSHALL
Not the worst idea. Can't believe how
that movie took off. And he still
dresses like an out of work Uber
driver.

CASSANDRA

He's always been his own man. How's your love life?

MARSHALL

Dear god, I'm a slut. Since Emmanuel split me open, I've been on a tear.

CASSANDRA

Have you seen Manny again?

MARSHALL

Once, but we're not a couple. He stayed in Florida. DK set him up.

The Server comes out with a tray.

SERVER

Large Basket?

MARSHALL

(Sarcastically) That's the rumor.

The server looks confused.

CASSANDRA

Jesus. (Server leaves)

MARSHALL

You know, that DK idea isn't a bad one.

CASSANDRA

What? Marriage? Neither one of us would be up for that.

MARSHALL

Ever really noticed those big green eyes?

CASSANDRA

What?

MARSHALL

Those BIG GREEN EYES. Ever notice them?

CASSANDRA

I...Just stop. (Pause) He does amaze me, how far he's come. I just wish....

MARSHALL

What?

CASSANDRA

Nothing.

MARSHALL

Cassie...You know he's crazy about you.

CASSANDRA

He's crazy about all of us.

MARSHALL

Cassie...

Cassandra ignores him.

CASSANDRA

I gotta go.

MARSHALL

Cassie, are you ok?

CASSANDRA

Yeah, just...Gotta run.

She scurries off. Obviously, the DK thing has made her uncomfortable.

MARSHALL

Cassie?

Cassandra runs off.

72 INT. DAY. AN OFFICE.

Katie and Thomas are in an adoption office with MARCUS(40).

MARCUS

...And you've been approved. She is now your daughter.

KATIE

(Tearing up) Can she come home with us now.

MARCUS

She can. We're so very happy for you. Never have I known the process to move this fast.

THOMAS

We really got lucky.

MARCUS

And you really have a great advocate in Elizabeth. She's supported us for years and speaks very highly of you both.

KATIE

She seems to always take care of us. ALL of us.

MARCUS

I've heard the extended family is rather large too.

KATIE

We're the chain that can't be broken...For better or worse.

MARCUS

Let's head down to the nursery.

73 EXT. DAY. FRONT OF THE ORPHANAGE/PARKING LOT.

The Group, including Alex and Aaron is waiting for Thomas and Katie to come out with POPPY(Newborn), Marcus is with them. There are balloons and gifts. Elizabeth has a New Years Eve horn.

THE GROUP

Hey, Hey! Here they come! Look at that pretty girl!

THOMAS

Can you believe it, she's perfect.

MARSHALL

She sure is! You guys are getting good at this adopting thing.

ALEX

I hope this is the last one...I lost my bathroom.

MARSHALL

Are we naming her, Marsha?

ELIZABETH

Her name better be Elizabeth...The

second.

KATIE

(Looking at DK) We were thinking
Poppy...If that's ok with you.

DK

I think he'd like that. Better yet, I
think he'd demand it.

MARSHALL

(To Marcus) We're gonna grab some
lunch. Wanna join us?

DK

(Under his breath to Cassandra)Subtle.

CASSANDRA

Right?

MARCUS

Um...Really?

MARSHALL

Why not?

ELIZABETH

It'll be fine. I'll talk to your boss.

74 EXT. DAY. ANOTHER CAFE.

The group is having "Lunch" mostly drinks with most folks.
Appetizers are hardly touched on the table. Poppy is being
passed around (SAFELY) from person to person.

THOMAS

(To Elizabeth) When do you leave?

ELIZABETH

We're driving to Raleigh tonight.
We're seeing Gianna's niece and then
off to Peru.

CASSANDRA

You're telling us this now?

ELIZABETH

Darlin', I'll only be gone a year and
then I'm back. We have a wonderful
documentary that Gianna has been
working on for a few years. It's time

to shoot it. It's about the little firemen. Their lives are harrowing. Wonderful story, but very scary.

GIANNA

The government ignores their needs and certainly their safety and THEY RISK THEIR LIVES EVERYDAY...

ELIZABETH

GIANNA! breathe, my love. (To the group) She's a bit passionate about it.

MARSHALL

We could have planned a party. DK didn't give me warning and he's leaving too!

THOMAS

Careful, Marcus... He's got a party problem.

MARCUS

Huh?

MARSHALL

Nothing.

GIANNA

I'm sorry everyone. We'll pick up lunch. Besides, my liver needs to deflate.

MARSHALL

Just wish I'd known.

The group is stunned a bit.

KATIE

When are you leaving, Trouble?

DK

I don't know. I didn't wanna bring it up. You guys got a new baby. I've only done the Chiang Mai thing. Just got Pop's house rented and I wanna see some things. I think I'm starting in Africa.

THOMAS
Sounds exciting!

MARSHALL
Take Cassie with you. She's never left this town.

CASSANDRA
The hell does that mean?

MARSHALL
I was joking.

DK
I'm not. Wanna go?

CASSANDRA
And have you support me? No chance.(She scoffs)

DK
No. I just...Thought we could...

CASSANDRA
We could what?

ELIZABETH
Darlin', he's just asking...

CASSANDRA
You all have your plans. You all have changes. I don't want things changing. I like my life!

GIANNA
Do you?

Katie cringes.

ELIZABETH
I love you, Gianna, but you haven't been part of us long enough. But it is a great question, Cassie...Do you?

CASSANDRA
Why do you guys keep me around? The one that's not successful. The one that continues to be a failure. The black one.

THOMAS

WHOA!!! Hold on a second!

MARSHALL

Cassie!!!

THOMAS

When, and I fucking mean it, WHEN have we treated you like the BLACK one? How dare you! We love you...We love everything about you and you bring up that?

CASSANDRA

Look who's quick to get angry.

THOMAS

You know what, you're right. Go ahead. Feel sorry for yourself. I think I speak from experience. Better yet, how long do you two have to really want something to happen, waiting for the other to do it? Who did he open up to when his father died? Who is he always standing beside when we're together? And NOW, when he has worked his ASS off and can live comfortably and wants to take a trip...And he finally has the balls to ask YOU to join him and you get your ass on your shoulders because YOU'RE THE BLACK ONE? How self absorbed are you?

Cassandra stares at Thomas. All other eyes are on her. DK has his head down. Cassandra turns to DK. DK's eyes meet hers. She turns and runs away.

THOMAS

I'm sorry everyone.

MARSHALL

Wow...Kaboom.

GIANNA

Is it true, DK?

DK

I never wanted to get in her way. Much like I didn't want anyone to get in my way.

ELIZABETH

She's gonna be fine, my love. She's just afraid of being alone.

KATIE

(To Thomas) Take care of the baby. I'll be home later.

Alex is stuck on watching her mom.

ALEX

Mom...Can I come with you?

The entire group looks at Alex.

KATIE

Come on...

75 EXT. DAY. RIVERWALK.

Cassandra is sitting on a bench, looking at the river. Katie and Alex walk up behind her and stop. Cassandra doesn't look at them.

CASSANDRA

I'm not gonna bite...Well, I guess I already did. Didn't expect you two...Well, maybe Alex.

Katie and Alex walk up. Katie sits beside her and Alex sits on the boardwalk.

CASSANDRA

You know, I met him right here.

KATIE

I do. And I also know you come back here when you're feeling alone.

CASSANDRA

Can you believe that movie?

KATIE

It's not a bad movie.

CASSANDRA

NEVER thought it would take off like that. I mean, another romcom.

KATIE

I think the comedy and silliness of

the characters is what sold it.

CASSANDRA
Funny how they kept missing each other.

KATIE
Is it?

CASSANDRA
They're so different, but exactly the same. Just...Weird.

KATIE
Weird or familiar?

CASSANDRA
Oh, please.

KATIE
You really didn't see it?

CASSANDRA
I don't...I...I guess I didn't want to. Why would he put us out there like that?

KATIE
He's always loved you. The way he looks at you...So many woman have begged the universe to have him look at them like that...But, he only has eyes for you.

CASSANDRA
You really think so?

KATIE
He hasn't had a date in years. What is that a year and a half, 2 years?

CASSANDRA
Then why not say anything?

KATIE
Not sure. Maybe he was hoping it would be the last thing to fall into place. Maybe that's the last bit of business we have with each other.

CASSANDRA

And that's the end?

KATIE

Nooooooo. That's the beginning. We're older now. It took us to 50 to realize, we're not friends...We're closer than that. We're closer than family. We have something that can't be described. Marshall, our cornerstone. Elizabeth, the older sister that steps on the tracks first, defending us. Thomas, the worker bee, always keeping us comfortable. Me, I'm the drama, the wooden spoon that keeps us honest. DK is our storyteller.

CASSANDRA

And me.

KATIE

You're the most important...You're our spirit of bliss and happiness. The blessed gift that we continue to learn from...The one in the world, teaching us how the world changes.

CASSANDRA

I don't like change.

KATIE

No one likes change. But, we don't really control that.

CASSANDRA

I don't want to say good bye.

KATIE

You're not. We're just turning a page and we'll do this all over again...Next time with new eyes, new eyes on new adventures.

CASSANDRA

Has DK ever heard you talk like this?

KATIE

I don't know that I've ever heard me talk like this.

CASSANDRA
I love you.

KATIE
I love all of us.

CASSANDRA
Me too.

Katie and Cassandra embraces. Alex looks at both of them with great admiration.

76 EXT. DAY. ANOTHER CAFE.

The group that is left hugs each other, saying good bye to Elizabeth and Gianna. Thomas holds Poppy, turns to walk away and Aaron follows him. Elizabeth and Gianna get into a cab/uber(Depending on if I can get money from Uber) and Marshall, DK and Marcus wave good bye. DK kisses Marshall, shakes Marcus' hand and leave the two standing there.

77 INT. DAY. A BUSY AIRPORT TERMINAL.

DK walks into the terminal. He finds a departure board. The camera drops to his hand. Cassandra's hand slips into his.

DK
Where you headed?

CASSANDRA
Anywhere.

He turns and looks her in the eyes.

DK
Never been there.

CASSANDRA
I think we'll love it.

They kiss.

Fade out.

