

THE GOLDEN GIRL

Written by

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INT. DINER - MORNING

CHARLOTTE ST. CLAIRE (38) sits at a booth anxiously TAPPING her foot and twirling an unlit CIGARETTE between her fingers.

CHARLOTTE
(to self)
Come on.

The bell on the diner's front door rings as her best friends, MARVELLA WINSTON (38), WENDY KUDO-JONES (38) and DIANA VEGA (36), enter. They rush to Charlotte.

MARVELLA
Charlotte! What's wrong? We got your S.O.S.

CHARLOTTE
(relieved)
Oh, Marvella! Thank God, you guys came!

Diana sits next to Charlotte. Wendy and Marvella sit across.

DIANA
Well? Spit it out.

CHARLOTTE
Ok...I'll tell you.

They listen intently.

CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)
I had a dream...

Marvella, Wendy and Diana GROAN.

CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)
What?!

MARVELLA
Look, the only important words that EVER followed "I had a dream" came from MLK, so you better be planning to end systematic racism.

WENDY
Exactly! I clipped a kid on a bike rushing over here... I think he's alright.

CHARLOTTE
Hey! This is just as important, Wendy.

(MORE)

CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)

(crosses arms)

I dreamt my anniversary party was a total shit-show.

Marvella and Wendy GROAN again.

DIANA

You made me late for work for this bullshit?!

CHARLOTTE

Oh, please, Diana. You're a soap actress. That's hardly a real job.

DIANA

(offended)

Bitch? Bye!

Diana gets up. Charlotte grabs her hand.

CHARLOTTE

Wait! I need your help planning!
And how about breakfast on me?

JUMP CUT TO:

INT. DINER - MOMENTS LATER

Marvella, Wendy and Diana eat their breakfast. Charlotte looks at a CLIPBOARD.

WENDY

(with her mouth full)

I wonder if it's too early for mimosas?

CHARLOTTE

Ok, next up on the agenda are my gifts. How are they looking? I'm tired of vibrators and bath bombs.

DIANA

This was supposed to be a surprise BUT I ordered you a copy of *The Golden Girls'* pilot script. Signed by all four leading ladies!

CHARLOTTE

(excitedly)

Oh, I hope the pages smell like one of Blanche's perfumes! Ok, who's next?

MARVELLA

I'm bringing my pretty ass self
cause y'all know my presence is a
present!

WENDY

By the way. What does your hubby
have planned for y'all big day?

CHARLOTTE

I don't know. Carter's been real
secretive lately.

(excitedly)

It must be a big surprise!

WENDY

Ehh, it doesn't even matter.

(boastfully)

Cause best believe the biggest gift
will be from me.

CHARLOTTE

Aw, Wendy. If you get me a blank
gift card with \$20 in it like you
always do, I'd still love you.

WENDY

Oh, thank God! I just wanted your
approval.

DIANA

See, Charlotte. I told you this was
a bunch of bullshit. Nothing bad is
gonna happen.

CHARLOTTE

(relieved)

I guess you're right. I do feel
better now. Aww, thanks you guys!

FADE OUT.

INT. THE FOYER, THE ST. CLAIRE'S HOME - LATER

Charlotte arrives home. She makes her way to the living room.

INT. THE LIVING ROOM, THE ST. CLAIRE'S HOME - DAY

CHARLIE ST. CLAIRE (17) sits on the couch watching
television.

CHARLOTTE
 (happily)
 Hi, Charlotte Junior!

Charlotte wraps her arms around Charlie and kisses his forehead.

CHARLIE
 Mom! What did I tell you about
 calling me "Charlotte Junior"?!

CHARLOTTE
 That you love it, you love it, you
 love it! Now, where's your father?

CHARLIE
 He's in the kitchen talking to
 himself.

CHARLOTTE
 (curiously)
 Oh. ok.

INT. THE KITCHEN, THE ST. CLAIRE'S HOME - MOMENTS LATER

CARTER ST. CLAIRE (40) stares out the window with his arms
 crossed behind his back. Charlotte sits at the counter.

CHARLOTTE
 Morning, sweetheart. Why are you
 standing there like an evil
 politician?
 (laughs to herself)
 Is everything ok?

Charlotte cuts Carter's steak and eggs with a KNIFE. Carter
 doesn't face her.

CARTER
 Charlotte, darling...
 (beat)
 I've been doing some thinking.

CHARLOTTE
 (with her mouth full)
 About our anniversary!? Where do
 you wanna go? Fiji? Dubai?... The
 Bronx?

CARTER
 (bluntly)
 I want a divorce.

Charlotte GAGS. Carter faces her.

CHARLOTTE
 (clears throat)
 Ha-ha. Very funny. Seriously,
 Carter. Where are we going?

Carter approaches her.

CARTER
 I am being serious...
 (beat)
 I've been seeing some else and I
 would feel so wrong celebrating
 another anniversary with you.

Charlotte GASPS. Tears begin to form.

CARTER
 (comfortingly)
 Hey, hey. You and I had a good run.
 I do hope we can still be
 friends... For Charlie's sake.

Carter places his hand on Charlotte's. Charlotte grips the
 knife tightly.

FADE TO BLACK.

EXT. GRACE ALLEN'S BACKYARD - DAY

MUSIC CUE: "Adagio for Organ" by Morten Malvik.

It's a gloomy day. Charlotte wears a funeral dress. A PRIEST
 stands next to her.

PRIEST
 The Lord look kindly on you and
 give you peace. In the name of the
 Father and of the Son and of the
 Holy Spirit... Amen.

CHARLOTTE
 (bitterly)
 Amen. Rest In Peace, you piece of
 shit.

CHARLIE (O.S.)
 Is this really necessary, Mom?!

End MUSIC CUE.

The sun begins to shine with blue skies. Charlie, Marvella, Wendy, Diana and their families sit on PORTABLE PEWS in the yard.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Das called. He said he forgives you for cutting him!

CHARLOTTE

(spitefully)

Dad? I don't know any "Dads" anymore. The one I did knew is dead to me now. That's why we're having this service so hush and be respectful.

CHARLIE

Dad's not even Catholic!

CHARLOTTE

Cue the next song!

The priest pushes play on his BOOM BOX.

MUSIC CUE: "Hit the Road Jack" by Ray Charles

Charlotte SHOVELS dirt in a FAKE BURIAL PLOT filled with PICTURES of Carter.

Diana sees a tear stream from underneath Wendy's sunglasses.

DIANA

What the? Are you really crying, sis?

MARVELLA

You know Carter's not really, right?

WENDY

Shut up. of course I know that...

(sniffles)

It's just that funerals get to me. Real or fake.

MARVELLA

Any who, I can't believe Carter did this to our home girl. We should find his side bitch.

DIANA

I was thinking the same, Marvella. I'm down with that.

Marvella and Diana slap hands.

MARVELLA

Wendy?

Wendy blows her nose in THIN TISSUE.

WENDY

(sniffles)

Yeah, yeah. I'm down.

Wendy uses the hand with the snotty tissue to slap hands with Marvella.

Wendy's daughter, KATANA KUDO-JONES (15), approaches Charlotte.

KATANA

Yeah, Aunt Charlotte! F these toxic dudes!

CHARLOTTE

That's right, sweetie. Fuck them.

Katana records her and Charlotte shoveling dirt.

WENDY

Katana, that better not be Instagram Live!

Wendy shoos Katana away.

WENDY (CONT'D)

Get outta here! And go get me some more tissue.

Wendy, Marvella and Diana approach Charlotte.

MARVELLA

Hey, sis. Don't you think filling this "grave" is a lil overkill?

CHARLOTTE

Oh, fuck off!

END MUSIC CUE.

Charlotte jabs the shovel in the ground.

CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)

I just knew a something bad was going to happen! But you thought I was being crazy!

(MORE)

CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)
 (to Diana)
 You said it was bullshit!

DIANA
 Whoah! Take it easy, chick.

Charlotte missteps and falls into the plot. Everybody GASPS!

I/E. BURIAL PLOT, GRACE ALLEN'S BACKYARD - DAY

DIANA (O.S.)
 Oh, my God, Charlotte. Are you ok?

Charlotte looks at a PHOTO of Carter smiling.

CHARLOTTE
 (to Carter's photo)
 Even from beyond your fake final
 resting place you still make a fool
 out of me!
 (punches the photo)
 20 damn years down the drain!

WENDY
 Wow. This is almost Shakespearean.

Charlie reaches in the plot.

CHARLIE
 Mom, c'mon. Gimme ya hand.

CHARLOTTE
 (dramatically)
 Oh, son. Leave me alone to die in
 my embarrassment.

CHARLIE
 No, I can't do that. I need you up
 here. With me. We all do.

Everyone looks down at Charlotte. Charlotte's mother, GRACE ALLEN (60), comes.

GRACE
 (comfortingly)
 Charlotte, honey.
 (sighs)
 This isn't the end of the world.
 Listen to your son, get up and
 brush yourself off.
 (sternly)
 Right, now.

CHARLOTTE
 (beat)
 Fine, Mother.

EXT. GRACE ALLEN'S BACKYARD - DAY

Charlie pulls Charlotte up. They embrace. Everybody CHEERS them on. Charlotte begins to tear. Grace hugs Charlotte and Charlie.

The priest approaches with his boom box.

PRIEST
 Mrs. St. Claire? Is this a bad time
 to ask for my check?

Marvella digs in Charlotte's purse for the CHECK.

MARVELLA
 Here. Take it. And you call
 yourself a damn professional? Who
 still has a boom box?

PRIEST
 Whatever, lady.

The priest leaves. Katana comes back with a box of tissues. She takes a selfie with Charlotte, Charlie and Grace while they still comfort each other.

WENDY
 Katana!

EXT. THE PORCH, GRACE ALLEN'S BACKYARD - LATER

Charlotte sits on the porch and smokes a CIGARETTE. Grace sits next to her.

GRACE
 It was a lovely service, Charlotte.
 (takes the cigarette for
 herself)
 I thought you quit?

CHARLOTTE
 I just buried the love of my life
 today. Or at least what we had. I
 think I deserve one, Mom.

Charlotte lays her head on Grace's shoulder.

CHARLOTTE

You know...I thought I was going to be a hot blonde southern belle like Blanche. But now my life is looking real Dorothy-ish.

GRACE

(laughs softly)

I should've never let you watch *The Golden Girls* at such a young age.

CHARLOTTE

It's my favorite show.

GRACE

I know, honey. I know.

Grace kisses Charlotte on the forehead.

FADE OUT.

INT. JAMES WINSTON'S MAN-CAVE - DAY

Marvella, Wendy and Diana are dressed in FBI UNIFORMS.

MARVELLA

Ok, ladies. We got work to do.

Wendy pulls out her LAPTOP. Diana pulls out her CELLPHONE.

JAMES (O.S.)

What the hell?

Marvella's husband JAMES WINSTON (38), Wendy's husband and Marvella's brother ANDRE KUDO-JONES and Diana's boyfriend FRED SANCHEZ (36) stand at the threshold with SNACKS.

FRED

Oh, no. You ladies need to leave.

DIANA

But we're conducting a private investigation, babe.

WENDY

Hey, can I have a chip? I'm starving.

ANDRE

Sure, honey.

(gives Wendy chips)

Marvy, I know this is your crazy ass idea.

MARVELLA
Ahh, shut up, Andre.

JAMES
Y'all seriously trying to find this chick? And then what?

DIANA
We're just going to talk to her, James. That's all.

James, Andre and Fred sit on the sofa.

FRED
Mhm. Diana, I swear I'm not bailing you out this time.

MARVELLA
Don't worry, Freddie. We're grown ass women. We're not gonna do anything stupid. Right, y'all?

DIANA
(shrugs shoulders)
Ehh...

WENDY
No promises!

FADE TO:

INT. CHARLOTTE'S OLD BEDROOM, GRACE ALLEN'S HOME - THE NEXT DAY

Empty bottles of wine surround Charlotte's bed. She sits up to light a cigarette. Marvella, Wendy and Diana patiently sit in her room.

CHARLOTTE
(startled)
Jesus! How long have you guys been sitting here?

WENDY
A few hours.
(shifts uncomfortably)
My damn butt fell asleep.

DIANA
Yeah, anyways...
(pulls out party popper)
Happy Anniversary, babe!

Blue and gold CONFETTI cover Charlotte.

CHARLOTTE

What? You all still wanna celebrate?

WENDY

Yeah but as a joke. You know, since your marriage is definitely over.

MARVELLA

Here's your first gift of the day.

Marvella hands Charlotte a FILE.

CHARLOTTE

What's this?

The file contains printed screenshots and pictures from Carter's and another woman's social medias.

DIANA

We found the bitch who ruined your marriage.

CHARLOTTE

(confused)

Serena Vanderguild? Social media influencer? What the hell?! She's like 21! You guys sure this is her?

WENDY

Oh, we're sure. Look at that 3rd photo.

Carter is seen in the reflection of SERENA VANDERGUILD'S (21) aviator sunglasses while she takes a selfie.

CHARLOTTE

(gasps)

Oh, that bastard!...And that bitch!

MARVELLA

Yup. She lives in Flaretown.

DIANA

Dumbass tagged her whole address in a post. So get dressed! We're going to tell her to stop sleeping with your man!

CUT TO:

EXT. APARTMENT COMPLEX - AFTERNOON

Charlotte, Marvella, Wendy and Diana arrive at Serena's apartment complex.

MARVELLA

Well, her car is here. She must be home.

DIANA

How the hell can she afford this?
Do I gotta flash a tit for the internet, too?

They stop at Serena's front door. Wendy prepares to knock. Charlotte grabs her wrist.

CHARLOTTE

What are you doing?

WENDY

What? I'm knocking on the door.

CHARLOTTE

And what are you going to say when she answers? "Hi, good afternoon. We're here to jump you"?

WENDY

Oh...good point.

DIANA

Don't worry. I got a more subtle way in.

Diana positions herself.

INT. SERENA VANDERGUILD'S STUDIO - AFTERNOON

Serena records herself doing a TikTok dance.

SERENA

Time to go viral.

Diana kicks the front door down.

CHARLOTTE

(sarcastically)
Nice, Diana! Real subtle!

SERENA

What the...Who the fuck are..

Serena notices Charlotte.

SERENA
(realizes)
Oh, it's you.

CHARLOTTE
(gags)
Oh, God! You look even younger in person.

WENDY
But still old enough to get that ass whooped!

MARVELLA
Hey! Hey! We're just here to talk, remember. Now, young lady...
(nicely)
I'm going to need you to stop fuckin around with my home girl's husband. Ok?

DIANA
(sarcastically)
Marvella, you forgot to say "pretty please".

SERENA
Hmm, how about you get outta here and mind ya own damn business!

Charlotte, Wendy and Diana are taken aback.

MARVELLA
(scoffs)
Lil girl...
(takes off belt and cracks it)
I am not the one! I asked you nicely the first time! Don't make me ask twice!

Serena positions herself.

SERENA
Get back! I know Taekwondo!

Diana steps forward to protect Marvella.

DIANA
(mockingly)
Oh, please. You probably took a class or two with a Groupon.
(MORE)

DIANA (CONT'D)
 (chuckles)
 Right, guys?

Diana turns her head to see if her friends are laughing with her.

SERENA (O.S.)
 Hi-ya!

POW! Serena roundhouse kicks Diana in her face.

DIANA
 (whimpers in pain)
 Oww...

Diana drops to the floor.

CHARLOTTE (O.S.)
 What the hell was that?!

SERENA
 (boastfully)
 Ha! Roundhouse kick, bitch!

Wendy kneels to the floor and shakes Diana but she's out cold.

WENDY
 (concerned)
 Oh, no. She was our best fighter!

Charlotte notices a shelf decorated with Taekwondo trophies.

CHARLOTTE
 (worried)
 Aw, shit.

CUT TO:

INT. PRIVATE ROOM, KARAOKE BAR - EVENING

The modest room is well lit with a u-shaped SOFA and a small TABLE with ALCOHOL and an ICE BUCKET on top. Diana lays unconscious on the sofa.

WENDY (O.S.)
 Diana? Hey, Diana.
 (shakes Diana)
 Wake up.

Diana groggily wakes up.

DIANA
 (groggy)
 What happened?
 (sits up)
 Did we win?

Diana sees Charlotte, Marvella and Wendy are roughed up.

WENDY
 Nope! She was whoopin our asses so badly, WE had to call the cops on her.

MARVELLA
 Word. Luckily, Charlotte used her privilege to keep us out of jail.

CHARLOTTE
 (to Marvella)
 You're welcome by the way.
 (to Diana)
 And you didn't know Serena's a damn green belt? I thought you did the research.

Charlotte hands Diana some ICE to put on her face.

DIANA
 The bitch didn't put in her bio that she's a freakin' Power Ranger!

Diana snatches the ice and put it on her face. Her CELLPHONE CHIMES multiple times. She takes it out her pocket.

DIANA
 (excitedly)
 Oh, my God. You guys! I'm getting tagged in a bunch of posts. That lil indie film I did must be a hit!

Charlotte looks at her own CELLPHONE.

CHARLOTTE
 Umm. You might wanna take a closer look at those posts, Di.

Diana looks at the posts. Wendy looks along with her.

WENDY
 It looks like Serena was making a TikTok when we busted in...
 (beat)
 And our whole fight got recorded.

MARVELLA

What?!

Marvella takes out her CELLPHONE.

MARVELLA

Shit, y'all! We made The Shade Room
AND World Star.

(scrolls through)

Listen to this one! "American
Sweetheart Attacked by Vicious
Multiracial Gang"!

(to Wendy)

And why the hell did Katana repost
this?! I'm definitely reporting her
ass!

DIANA

(jokes)

Hey, you know what they say?
"There's no such thing as bad
publicity".

MARVELLA

(irritated)

This isn't a joke, Diana.

(steps to Diana)

That might be cute for you
thespians but my black ass might
get fired for this!

Charlotte steps in between Marvella and Diana.

CHARLOTTE

Hey! Hey!

(nudges them apart)

Nobody's getting fired. I promise
you all.

MARVELLA

Whatever. You better max out that
white privilege card for this one.

Marvella hears a SNIFFLE from Charlotte.

CHARLOTTE

(regretfully)

I'm so sorry you all got involved
in my drama.

(begins to tear)

You guys are my best friends and
you were only trying to help.

Marvella and Diana awkwardly watch Charlotte cry.

WENDY

Oh, no, Charlotte. Don't start that ugly crying...

(starts to tear up)

Cause then I'll start to ugly cry.

CHARLOTTE

C'mon, just let it out.

Charlotte reaches for Wendy and the two embrace. Diana embraces them too and reaches her hand out to Marvella.

MARVELLA

Fine.

Marvella embraces Diana, Wendy and Charlotte. They share a moment.

MARVELLA

I guess things will be ok. But enough of this sad sisterhood shit. Let's sing a song.

Marvella goes to the mounted FLATSCREEN TV and picks up a REMOTE on the table below.

MARVELLA

Can't let this deposit go to waste.

Charlotte, Wendy and Diana stop hugging.

CHARLOTTE

I'm not really in a singing mood, Marvella.

WENDY

Well, what else you gonna do here, Charlotte?

Charlotte sits on the sofa. She pours herself a drink.

CHARLOTTE

Drink and talk shit.

Charlotte takes a sip.

DIANA

We can do that...
(grabs a microphone)
AND put on a show.

MARVELLA

Hey! I found a song! Charlotte, you're gonna love this one!

Marvella and Wendy grab a MICROPHONE each. Marvella gestures for Charlotte to grab a microphone.

CHARLOTTE

No, thanks.
(lights a cigarette)
You chicks have fun.

MARVELLA

You know what? It's all good. Just join in when you feel like it.

WENDY

(to Charlotte)
Boo! Basic bitch!

Charlotte gives Wendy the finger.

DIANA

Start the song, Marvella. Let's rock out!

Under the category "TV Theme Songs", Marvella selects *The Golden Girl's* theme song "Thank You for Being a Friend".

CHARLOTTE

(flattered)
What?
(chuckles)
No way.

MUSIC QUE: "Thank You for Being a Friend" by Cynthia Fee

MARVELLA

Wendy, you go!

The lyrics come on the screen.

WENDY

(singing)
Thank you for being a friend...

DIANA

Marvella, you're next!

MARVELLA

(singing)
Travelled down the road and back again...

WENDY

Take it, Diana!

DIANA
 (singing)
Your heart is true...

Marvella, Wendy and Diana face Charlotte.

MARVELLA/WENDY/DIANA
 (singing in unison)
You're a pal and a confidant!

MARVELLA/WENDY/DIANA
 (singing in unison)
And if you threw a party...

DIANA
 (singing)
Invited everyone you knew...

MARVELLA
 (singing)
You would see..!

WENDY
 (singing)
*The biggest gift would be from
 me...*

MARVELLA/WENDY/DIANA
 (singing in unison)
And the card attached would say...

WENDY
 (singing with soul)
Thank you for being a friend!

During the instrumental Charlotte recalls numerous occasions where her and her friends supported each other through good times and bad times.

CHARLOTTE
 (jokes)
 Well, that was wack. Lemme show you
 heffers how it's done.

MARVELLA
 Oop, well excuse us.

Charlotte grabs a MICROPHONE.

DIANA
 Go head, girl!

CHARLOTTE

(singing)

*And when we all get older...With
walking canes and hair of gray.
Have no fear, even though it's hard
to hear, I will stand real and
close and say thank you for being a
friend.*

Charlotte, Marvella, Wendy and Diana strike poses at the end of the song.

END MUSIC QUE.

Their bodies begin to ache them.

MARVELLA

(in pain)

Let's sit down. I think the
adrenaline is wearing off.

WENDY

(in pain)

Yeah. Good idea, Marvella. I think
that girl broke my rib.

They plop down on the sofa relieved.

MARVELLA

So, how ya feeling now, Charlotte?

CHARLOTTE

Well, I lost a whole husband to
some Gen-Z hoe AND she beat me up
on a video that went viral...I feel
like shit.

WENDY

(awkwardly)

Oh...damn.

CHARLOTTE

But I'll survive. I'm tough. Like
my mother said my world isn't over.
I'm just starting a new
chapter...right here in Flaretown.

DIANA

So, you're moving back to town?

CHARLOTTE

Yup and I know my girls got my
back.

DIANA

Damn, your life's like one of them lifetime movies. You should let me portray you.

CHARLOTTE

Nah, I was thinking more Christina Applegate.

DIANA

Wow! It's the least you can do. I took a bitch's foot in the mouth for you.

CHARLOTTE

And I'll always appreciate it.
(chuckles)
She did knock you out clean, though.

Charlotte, Marvella and Wendy LAUGH.

DIANA

(crosses her arms)
Too soon, you guys.

MARVELLA

Hey, Di. Who would you rather get kicked in the face by? Serena or Jennifer Lopez?

Diana waves Marvella off.

CHARLOTTE

Oh, don't tell me you're still beefing with J.Lo?

WENDY

(laughs)
It's still one-sided but don't get her started.
(realizes)
Oh! Here. I almost forgot.

Wendy pulls out a plain birthday CARD and gives it to Charlotte.

CHARLOTTE

(reads the card)
"The biggest gift".
(takes out crumpled \$20 bill)
Aw, Wendy.

WENDY

Don't spend it all at once.

Charlotte and Wendy hug each other.

CHARLOTTE

Sike! I'm spending this on shots.

DIANA

Amen to that!

MARVELLA

Let's get lit!

JUMP CUT TO:

INT. PRIVATE ROOM, KARAOKE BAR - MOMENTS LATER

Charlotte, Marvella, Wendy and Diana toast their SHOT GLASSES.

CUT TO:

EXT. GRACE ALLEN'S HOME - NIGHT

Marvella, Wendy and Diana stumble out of a cab drunk. Charlotte has to be helped to the front door.

EXT. GRACE ALLEN'S FRONT PORCH - NIGHT

DIANA

(slurs)

We're home!

CHARLOTTE

(slurs)

Shh! You'll wake my mommy up.
Wendy, get my keys for me, please.

Wendy takes out Charlotte's KEYS and opens the front door.

INT. GRACE ALLEN'S FOYER - NIGHT

Marvella and Diana bring Charlotte in.

MARVELLA

(slurs to Charlotte)

Ok, chick. You got it from here?

CHARLOTTE

(slurs)

Yeah, yeah. Of course, I got it.

Charlotte slides down against a wall and starts to nod off. Marvella, Wendy and Diana try to contain their LAUGHTER.

MARVELLA

(slurs)

Shh! Help her up.

DIANA

(slurs)

Wait! Wait!

Diana pulls out her CELLPHONE. She gets next to Charlotte for a selfie. Marvella and Wendy get in the photo as well.

WENDY

(slurs)

Hey, send that to me.

DIANA

(slurs)

Sure, tomorrow when I wake up.

WENDY

(whines)

Aw, c'mon, Diana. You always say that and never do. Why can't you send it now?

DIANA

(slurs)

Relax, chick. My phone's about to die!

Diana and Wendy struggle over Diana's CELLPHONE.

CHARLOTTE

(slurs)

Hey! Hey!... You guys know the drill. Just put me on the couch.

INT. GRACE ALLEN'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Marvella, Wendy and Diana roughly drop Charlotte on the couch face first.

CHARLOTTE

(muffled)

Thank you.

A CREAK is heard coming from upstairs.

WENDY

(slurs)

Shit! It's your mama!

MARVELLA

(whispers in slurs)

Bye, Charlotte. We love you, bitch!

Charlotte raises her fist up. Marvella, Wendy and Diana exit the house.

CHARLIE (O.S.)

Mom? Is that you?

Charlie enters the living room.

CHARLIE

Mom?

Charlie sees Charlotte looking a mess on the couch. He shakes her awake.

CHARLOTTE

(slurs)

Oh, hey, Charlotte Junior. I forgot you were born.

CHARLIE

Jesus, what happened to you?

(beat)

Anyways, Dad came by to drop a gift off for you. But then grandma chased him off. I think he's sorry though, Mom. I think he wants us to come home.

CHARLOTTE

(softly)

No, not us... He doesn't want me anymore.

Charlie looks disheartened.

CHARLOTTE

(softly)

I think Flaretown might be my new home...again. Despite it all, I still love your father but... I'll have to love him from a distance.

Charlie tears up.

CHARLOTTE

(softly)

Charlie, if you want to go stay
with your dad I'll understand. I
never really gave you the option.

Charlie thinks for a moment.

CHARLIE

No... I'm staying with you.

CHARLOTTE

(happily)

Really? I'm your favorite parent?

CHARLIE

Oh, God, Mom. You're a mess without
me. I got you.

CHARLOTTE

And I got you. Always.

Charlotte and Charlie embrace.

CHARLIE

Ok...

(sniffles)

You sure sober up quickly.

CHARLOTTE

Of course! I'm a pro. I've been
doing this...

Suddenly, Charlotte throws up on Charlie. Charlie is shocked.

CHARLIE

(disgusted)

Ew!

FADE TO:

INT. GRACE ALLEN'S LIVING ROOM - MORNING

Charlotte awakens hungover. She notices a MANILA ENVELOPE
addressed to her.

CHARLOTTE

(gasps)

The pilot episode!

Charlotte opens the manila envelope but instead of a script
it contains DIVORCE PAPERS. There's a CARD attached.

CHARLOTTE
(reading)
"Happy Anniversary, My Friend".
(beat)
Hmm. Alrighty, then.

JUMP CUT TO:

EXT. GRACE ALLEN'S BACKYARD - MOMENTS LATER

Charlotte walks through the backyard to the fake burial plot. She takes out her LIGHTER and sets fire to the DIVORCE PAPERS. There's a low RUMBLE of thunder against the gray skies.

CHARLOTTE
We don't accept gifts from you
anymore, asshole.

Charlotte throws the burning papers in the plot.

MUSIC CUE: "We're Going to Make It" by Myrna Summers

Rain begins to trickle. Charlotte confidently walks towards her mother's house, ready to start her new life in Flaretown.

FADE OUT.

