

Just Not Yet

By:

Chase Caldwell

INT. JACKSONVILLE AIRPORT - TERMINAL C BAR - DAY

ANNETTE, 40s, sips a Bloody Mary from atop a bar stool as a hoard of SPRING BREAKERS pass by. She pops her headphones in and presses a button on her phone.

VOICEMAIL MACHINE (V.O.)

You have 2 new messages. First message:

SONNY (V.O.)

Mom, I'm getting on my plane now. I know you think you'll have time to get a Bloody Mary at that stupid bar you like because your flight gets in five minutes before mine. But you don't. I-

Annette presses a button on her phone, sips the bloody.

VOICEMAIL MACHINE (V.O.)

Message deleted. Next message.

SONNY (V.O.)

You can't just ignore me by deleting my messages. If you're not waiting for me in baggage claim, I'll book myself a flight to somewhere people *actually* want to go for spring break. I packed a bathing suit. I'm not kidding.

(sighs)

You're listening to this at that bar aren't you? You have a Bloody Mary in your hand right now. You suck. Love you.

Annette smiles and presses her phone again.

VOICEMAIL MACHINE (V.O.)

Message deleted. You have no new messages.

She twirls the bloody with a celery stick. Just as she reaches to turn the phone off:

VOICEMAIL MACHINE (V.O.)

First saved message.

CHERYL (V.O.)

Honey, it's Mom-

Annette freezes.

CHERYL (V.O.)

Haven't heard from you today,
calling to catch up. Also, I'm in
the dressing room at Dillard's and
need your opinion ASAP, so call me
back. Like, now. Love you, hun.

VOICEMAIL MACHINE (V.O.)

To delete press seven. To replay
press eight. To-

Annette presses the phone, puts her drink down.

CHERYL (V.O.)

Honey, it's Mom-

A bittersweet smile grows over her face. She thumbs a
small owl pendant attached to her gold necklace.

CHERYL (V.O.)

Haven't heard from you today,
calling to catch up. Also, I'm in
the dressing room at Dillard's and
need your opinion ASAP, so call me
back. Like, now. Love you, hun.

VOICEMAIL MACHINE (V.O.)

To delete press-

She presses again.

CHERYL (V.O.)

Honey, it's Mom-

Her phone rings. The name Sonny pops up. Annette,
startled, scrambles to answer.

ANNETTE

Almost ready!

SONNY (V.O.)

This is the kind of thing that
makes kids send their parents to
bad nursing homes.

ANNETTE

Coming now. Sorry.

She hangs up, puts money down, and dashes off leaving her
half drunk bloody behind. It sits still a moment before
she pops back, sucks it down, then races off.

INT. JACKSONVILLE AIRPORT - BAGGAGE CLAIM - DAY

Annette looks around until she spots an 18 year-old, in way too tight Ed Hardy-like clothes, standing with his luggage. This is SONNY. She walks over.

ANNETTE

Sonny!

SONNY

I was *this* close to booking a flight to Cabo. Everyone in my dorm is going and the drinking age is eighteen.

Annette hugs him.

ANNETTE

(faux compassion)

Oh poor Sonny wants to drink with his new friends.

SONNY

And I wasn't kidding about the nursing home. You don't make people wait around at an airport.

She releases the hug and holds onto his shoulders.

ANNETTE

You're a little shit, you know that?

They stare each other down a moment before cracking smiles. Annette kisses his forehead.

ANNETTE

I missed you, college boy.

SONNY

You too, Mom.

ANNETTE

Who's the girl?

SONNY

What?

ANNETTE

You wouldn't be dressed like one of J-Lo's back up dancers if there wasn't a girl.

EXT. RENTAL CAR LOT - DAY

Annette and Sonny drag their suitcases past rows of cars.

ANNETTE
Just tell me her name.

SONNY
I'm not telling you her name.

ANNETTE
Oh, so she has a name? Which must mean she exists. Which means I'm right, right?

SONNY
Yes- No. I want to change the subject.

ANNETTE
Fine.

INT. ANNETTE'S RENTAL CAR - DAY

Annette drives. Sonny sits next to her.

ANNETTE
We can change the subject.

SONNY
Good.

ANNETTE
Are you having... sexual relations with this girl?

SONNY
Mom.

ANNETTE
You can tell me. I mean, you're alive so obviously I've had sex at least once... key word being-

SONNY
Don't say at least. That's gross and it's also two words.

ANNETTE
No it's not.

SONNY
Yes it is.

ANNETTE

Maybe it is but-

SONNY

If you keep asking me about her, I'll list off every single sexual encounter this *alleged girl* and I have ever had. In EXTREME detail. Is that an image you're ready to see? Your only child right up in-

ANNETTE

Enough said.

They drive in silence a while.

ANNETTE

Good power play.

SONNY

Thank you.

A bell RINGS.

INT. DALE'S DONUTS - DAY

Annette and Sonny enter through a door with an old-timey shop keeper bell attached to it. The donut shop looks like time stopped moving in 1955.

ETHEL, 60s and possibly off her meds, pops up from behind the counter like a meerkat. DALE, 60s and wishing he could get some of Ethel's meds, begrudgingly hauls bags of flour around the kitchen.

ETHEL

As I live and breath! Annette Callaway.

She rushes around the counter to hug Annette.

ETHEL

And is that-

SONNY

Hi, Ethel.

ETHEL

Look how grown up he is! Dale, would you look at how grown up Annette's boy is?

Dale looks up from the kitchen, grunts.

SONNY

You actually saw me last year and
I haven't grown any so-

ETHEL

And he's such a snazzy dresser.

She pinches his cheeks a little too hard.

ANNETTE

Isn't he? Great to see you. Do you
have what I called about?

ETHEL

Of course, of course.

Ethel runs back behind the counter. She ducks under it a
moment, then pops back up.

ETHEL

What'd you call about again?

ANNETTE

The pumpkin spice donuts.

ETHEL

Oh, yes! They're right... um...
Dale where'd we put the pumpkin
spice for Annette?

Dale drops a big bag of flour, grunts.

ETHEL

Oh right! Thank you!

She moves down the counter, pulls out a box of donuts.

ETHEL

You know we usually only make
these in fall. Every September
your Mom would be the first to
call and reserve a box. She just-

She pauses, realizes what she's said, leans in.

ETHEL

She was such a sweetheart, dear.
You're Dad doing okay? Haven't
seen him since the funeral last
year.

ANNETTE

Thank you. I think so. But his first birthday without Mom is this week so we're trying to surround him with happy memories.

ETHEL

Well donuts will certainly do the trick! Won't they Dale?

Dale stabs a knife into the bag of flour and grunts.

ANNETTE

How much do I owe you?

ETHEL

No charge. Tell your Dad happy birthday for me, 'kay?

INT. ANNETTE'S RENTAL CAR - DAY

Annette and Sonny drive past homes built in the 1960's. She eyes the box of Donuts in Sonny's lap.

ANNETTE

Just a nibble.

SONNY

Nope.

ANNETTE

Crumb?

SONNY

No.

ANNETTE

How about-

He rolls the window down and holds the donuts out.

ANNETTE

Whoa whoa. Okay. I'm cool. We're cool.

SONNY

You asked me to protect the donuts from you. I take that job very seriously.

They slow at a French Tudor style home. They pull in and see a white 1954 Chevrolet Corvette in the driveway.

SONNY

Grandpa took the Corvette out?

ANNETTE

Hell would freeze over before that happened. He must be washing it.

SONNY

Who washes a car that they don't drive?

ANNETTE

We're not here to question. We're here to spew 100 percent positivity all week. Grandpa's gonna need it.

EXT. JAMES' HOME - DAY

Annette and Sonny, donuts in hand, get out of the car and are immediately greeted by *The Beach Boys - Little Deuce Coupe* blaring from the garage.

ANNETTE

Dad?

They approach the garage and a singing, Tommy Bahama clad, 69 year-old sways out, strumming on an air guitar. This is JAMES, 100 percent in his groove. He doesn't notice them.

JAMES

(singing)

*Well I'm not braggin' babe so
don't put me down. But I've got
the fastest set of wheels in town.*

SONNY

I think Grandpa's doing fine.

ANNETTE

Dad?

He spots them and lights up. He heads their way still singing and strumming.

JAMES

(singing)

*When something comes up to me he
don't even try. Cause if I had a
set of wings, man, I know she
could fly.*

(MORE)

JAMES (CONT'D)

(to Sonny)
Take it, Sonny.

SONNY

Take what?

He misses the "She's my little deuce coupe" line. James points to Annette.

JAMES & ANNETTE

(singing)
You don't know what I got.

JAMES

That's my girl.

ANNETTE

Hi dad.

JAMES

(hugs Annette)
It's so good to see you, honey.
(hugs Sonny)
You look good buddy. Clothes are a little funny but that's what college is for. Come on inside.

ANNETTE

We need to grab our bags.

JAMES

Have the scholar do it later.

He ribs Sonny with his elbow playfully.

JAMES

Come on. I just got back from a drive.

ANNETTE

You drove the Corvette?

James takes her hands and dances her toward the door, humming along with the song.

INT. JAMES' HOME - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Annette, James, and Sonny walk through a living room filled with furniture and decor from the 1960's and 70's.

JAMES

No drama getting here?

ANNETTE

Pretty uneventful. Had a talker sit next to me on the plane but I put a pin in that.

JAMES

You gotta stop those chatty savages in their tracks.

Sonny lifts the donuts to Annette.

SONNY

Should we?

ANNETTE

Oh! We've got a surprise for you.

JAMES

I've got one for you too. Come into the kitchen.

INT. JAMES' HOME - KITCHEN - DAY

Annette, James, and Sonny stand in a gloriously renovated kitchen which looks nothing like the room they just came from. Light blue walls, marble, stainless steel, etc.

JAMES

Well? What do you think?

ANNETTE

You redid the kitchen?

JAMES

Yeah. I realized the Brady Bunch look wasn't working anymore.

SONNY

It's really nice, Grandpa.

ANNETTE

It's so... different.

JAMES

Thanks. I've actually had a lot of help from-

ANNETTE

Like really different.

Annette runs her hand over the new back splash.

JAMES

Those are subway tiles. Very *in* right now apparently.

ANNETTE

In?

JAMES

People say *in*. I'm not too old to say *in*. Anyway, I have something more important that I want to talk about.

ANNETTE

Dad, are you doing okay?

JAMES

Absolutely.

Annette can't pin down what's off. Sonny opens the donut box and tries to fill the silence.

SONNY

We brought these.

JAMES

Is that pumpkin spice from Dale's?

ANNETTE

Indeed it is. I called and Dale made them special for you.

JAMES

What a guy that Dale is. Little creepy, but top notch donuts.

ANNETTE

Yeah. Hey, where are the paintings that were in here?

JAMES

They're all in the garage.

ANNETTE

Dad I think we should-

They hear the front door open and:

FEMALE VOICE (O.S.)

Hello?

JAMES

Oh! She's here.

ANNETTE

She?

JAMES

That's what I was trying to tell
you.

(to the voice)
In the kitchen!

ANNETTE

What were you trying to tell me?

FEMALE VOICE (O.S.)

Annette Callaway!

Annette turns to see ROCHELLE, 40s, blonde, immaculately
dressed with the elegance, grace, and youthfulness of a
beauty pageant contestant.

She screams in joy and rushes to Annette who's totally
frozen in shock. Rochelle hugs her super tight.

ROCHELLE

Oh Annette, it's so good to see
you after all these years.

ANNETTE

Dad?

Rochelle moans like this is the best hug she's ever been
a part of.

ROCHELLE

Don't tell me you don't remember
me. Terry Parker class of 89?

ANNETTE

Umm-

ROCHELLE

Rochelle. Rochelle Walsh?

ANNETTE

Oh wow. You look- wow.

JAMES

Honey...

He puts an arm around Rochelle.

JAMES

Rochelle is what I was trying to
tell you about.

Rochelle gushes and kisses James' cheek. Annette can't believe what she's seeing.

ROCHELLE

This is so exciting.

(to the front door)

Get in here, honey!

(to Annette)

My daughters on Spring Break too. FSU like you, Sonny. It's great to meet you. Your Grandpa told me SO MUCH about you. Didn't mention what a great dresser you were though.

SONNY

Thanks. It's a new look I'm trying out.

JAMES

Why don't you go help Rochelle's daughter with her bags?

ANNETTE

Bags?

Sonny exits.

ANNETTE

What's happening?

INT. JAMES' HOME - FOYER - DAY

Sonny opens the front door and from outside:

FEMALE VOICE (O.S.)

I can't carry this bag, Mom!

Sonny peers outside to see an 18 year-old struggling with a suitcase, her back to him. This is BRITNEY.

SONNY

You need a hand with those-

She turns around and Sonny freezes. She's just as striking as Rochelle but she radiates the kind of apathy that teen boys melt over.

SONNY

Uh... hi.

INT. JAMES' HOME - KITCHEN - DAY

Annette, Rochelle, and James are as they were.

ROCHELLE

I can't believe that we're
standing in this kitchen together
can you?

ANNETTE

Pretty unbelievable.

JAMES

We finished it last week.
Rochelle's a decorator.

ROCHELLE

Interior designer, babe.

ANNETTE

She did this?

JAMES

You bet. She was re-doing the
neighbors bathroom about... well
how long has it been now?

ROCHELLE

8 months?

JAMES

8 magical months.

ROCHELLE

(to James)

You're right about that, mister.

(to Annette)

I ran into this handsome fellow
out by the mailbox and, one
kitchen later, here we are.

ANNETTE

You're dating my Dad?

ROCHELLE

I know. It sounds totally weird
when you say it like that.

ANNETTE

You mean, like, accurately?

ROCHELLE

(chuckles)

Look, he's just James to me.
Sweet, kind, lovable James.

James and Rochelle get lost in each other's eyes a moment, then snap out of it.

ROCHELLE

I hope this isn't awkward. I told him to tell you months ago but-

JAMES

I didn't know how to say it over the phone.

ANNETTE

Hmm. Maybe something like...

She holds her fingers to her ear like a phone.

ANNETTE

"Hi Annette, I'm dating again and I can't figure out Tinder so I'm gonna use your high school yearbook instead."

There's a long painful pause. Then Rochelle bursts out laughing. James joins in.

ROCHELLE

I forgot how funny you are. It's so good to see you, Annette.

ANNETTE

It's... I'm definitely seeing you.

Rochelle lifts Annette's gold owl necklace in her hand.

ROCHELLE

Oh my god, this is SO chic.
Where'd you get it?

ANNETTE

It was my Mom's.

ROCHELLE

That is so sweet. It's such a beautiful heirloom.

JAMES

I knew that looked familiar.

ANNETTE

Glad to hear it's familiar, Dad.

Sonny and Britney enter.

ROCHELLE

Ah, Britney! Did you two meet?

BRITNEY

Actually we've-

SONNY

We just- uh- have a class together. English, I think.

ROCHELLE

What a small world we live in, right Annette?

ANNETTE

It's feeling pretty small today.

Rochelle eyes the donut box.

ROCHELLE

What is that I see?

She opens the box, lifts a donut out.

ROCHELLE

James you know you can't have sugar like this with your heart.

JAMES

Actually, those are-

ROCHELLE

No excuses.

Annette, James, and Sonny shout to stop her but she plops the donut box in the trash.

They go quiet.

ROCHELLE

What?

JAMES

Annette brought those for me.

Rochelle immediately grabs for them in the trash.

ROCHELLE

Oh my god, I'm so sorry, I had no idea.

ANNETTE

No, no, stop. It's fine. It's not like they're impossible to get this time of year or anything.

(takes a breath)

I need to go to my room. Excuse me.

INT. JAMES' HOME - ANNETTE'S ROOM - DAY

Annette sits on a twin sized bed staring at a yearbook.

Her room's covered in 70's and 80's memorabilia: Charlie's Angels posters, Terry Parker High School pennants, an 8-Track Player, etc. Sonny enters with a few suitcases.

ANNETTE

We have a problem.

SONNY

You got that right.

ANNETTE

I can't believe he let her gut Mom's kitchen.

SONNY

Seriously. He should have at least told us about her. And sent us a list of her relatives' names. Something like that.

ANNETTE

What?

SONNY

Just a thought. Who is she by the way?

Annette looks back at her yearbook.

FLASHBACK TO:

INT. TERRY PARKER HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY - 1986 - DAY

Eddie Murphy's *Party All The Time* swells in as students roam the hallway.

We land on YOUNG ANNETTE at her locker. She's totally 80's out in neon sweats and orthodontic headgear but played by the same actress as present Annette. In fact, every student in the hallway is a forty-something playing a high-schooler.

Annette sees something off screen and smiles, her braces glisten.

TITLE: Freshman Year

Across the hall we see what Annette's so caught up on: YOUNG ANDY KAUDER, tight tee, popped collar jean jacket, and the body of a 40 year old man. He's leaned against a locker with FRIENDS firing an endless spray of hair spray on himself.

Annette fluffs up her huge hair, musters up some courage.

YOUNG ANNETTE
(to herself)
Hi Andy.

She takes the first step toward him. Unfortunately she steps right in the way of YOUNG ROCHELLE, 3 times her present size and rocking a deep black Joan Jett shag haircut. She's bullish and messy, a total opposite of what we've seen in the present.

YOUNG ROCHELLE
Coming through dweeb-tard!

She hurls Annette into her locker and slams it shut.

YOUNG ANNETTE
(from inside)
Sorry, Rochelle!

CUT TO:

INT. TERRY PARKER HIGH SCHOOL - CLASSROOM - 1987 - DAY

Head to Toe by Lisa Lisa & Cult Jam plays.

Annette, in an oversized blazer, bowler hat, and braces, sits as the TEACHER, an actor in their 70s, drawls on.

TEACHER
All right, I gotta go smoke. Pair
up. Learn.

He exits, pulling a rolling oxygen tank behind him.

Annette turns to Andy at the back of the room sniffing a tube of glue. She swoons.

TITLE: Sophomore Year

She heads toward him. She gets closer than before but gets caught on a stiff outstretched Reebok Pump and crashes into some desks.

The pump belongs to none other than, Young Rochelle.

YOUNG ROCHELLE
Watch it, Callaway!

Rochelle gives her shoe a quick triple pump.

CUT TO:

EXT. TERRY PARKER HIGH SCHOOL - 1988 - DAY

Got My Mind Set On You by George Harrison plays.

Annette, giant lime green Madonna bow in her hair, rides her bike through the student parking lot. She spots Andy chugging beers with friends from the trunk of his 83 Trans Am. She's smitten.

TITLE: Junior Year

She rides closer. Almost close enough to speak. She raises a hand to wave and:

SMASH!

A shitty Drivers Ed car plows into her. She flies up on the hood.

REVEAL: Rochelle behind the wheel with the Teacher from the previous scene holding a clipboard.

YOUNG ROCHELLE
Oh my god! Are you okay?

Annette's face down but pulls herself up with the help of windshield.

YOUNG ANNETTE
I think so...

YOUNG ROCHELLE
Callaway...

Young Rochelle's look of concern quickly shifts to annoyance at the realization of who she's hit.

She turns on the wiper blades. Annette tries to dodge them but falls off the hood.

CUT TO:

EXT. TERRY PARKER HIGH SCHOOL - 1989 - DAY

If You Don't Know Me By Now by Simply Red plays. All other sound cuts out.

Young Annette is much more developed in the chest now. She's doing her best to show it off in a loose low cut shirt and acid wash everything else.

In slow motion, she glides past a Sadie Hawkins Dance sign. Her eyes are on Andy, faux stripping on the flag pole for a gang of GOOFBALLS around him. Today's the day.

TITLE: Senior Year

She floats through the crowd. Her hair, magically blowing in the wind. She finally reaches Andy, his back to her.

YOUNG ANNETTE

Hi Andy.

No response. She taps his shoulder and he turns. If we were in slow motion before, we're in mega slow-mo now.

Andy lowers his neon Ray-Bans, smiles.

YOUNG ANNETTE

Hi Andy.

She basks in the moment. Her hair blows even more than before. It's her dream until the blowing becomes too much. She makes a stank face and looks off frame.

The music cuts out and the sound of a roaring leaf blower swells in.

Annette tries to stop the gust but it catches the bottom of her shirt and it puffs up. Dozens of tissues fly up from her shirt into the air, totally deflating her "developed" chest.

She's mortified.

Reveal Rochelle next to a lawn guy passing him a five.

YOUNG ROCHELLE
Bitchin rack, Callaway!

Rochelle bursts into laughter. The whole crowd joins in as tissues fall to the crowd. Annette tears up, spins around and dashes off down the street.

Rochelle basks in the misery.

FLASH FORWARD TO:

INT. JAMES' HOME - ANNETTE'S ROOM - DAY

Annette and Sonny are back on the edge of her bed.

SONNY
Wow. So she like, lost a ton of weight?

ANNETTE
That's all you got from that story?

SONNY
No! No. I mean- your part was super sad. But hers? I mean- what a transformation. That's all I'm saying.

Annette stares him down a moment but deflates.

ANNETTE
Yeah it's pretty impressive. But Grandpa still has no business running around with her.

SONNY
Couldn't agree more. He should be playing golf, or whittling, or, like, doing water aerobics.

ANNETTE
Something's off with him. He's not ready to be *redecorating* with anyone, especially her. Maybe it's a sex thing.

SONNY
Ugh. Can Grandpa even have sex?

A KNOCK at the door. James pops in.

JAMES
Everything okay in here?

They both force fake smiles.

ANNETTE
Great.

SONNY
All good.

JAMES
Okay. I know this is a lot, and I definitely should have told you sooner, but I really appreciate how welcoming you two just were.

ANNETTE
Us? No sweat. It's certainly a huge thing to spring on someone with no warning but hey, that's life. If you're happy, we're happy.

SONNY
Of course! No big deal at all. The more the merrier right? A heads up would have been cool but, if you're happy, we're happy.

They finish their rambling at exactly the same time. James looks skeptical a moment then:

JAMES
Do you do that in public often?

They nod, silently.

SONNY
We try not to.

JAMES
Yeah. Maybe try just a smidge harder.

More shameful nodding from Annette and Sonny.

JAMES
Little weird. But anyway, thank you both. And heads up- we're taking the Vette to a car show later.

ANNETTE
So you drive it all the time now?

JAMES
Rochelle convinced me that it wasn't worth having if I didn't drive it.

ANNETTE

She's had quite the effect on you.

JAMES

She has.

(smiles)

Take your time up here.

He exits but pops his head back in a moment later.

JAMES

Oh, and Sonny. To answer your question: Yes, I very much can.

EXT. DICK'S WINGS - EVENING

Classic cars are parked everywhere outside a divey beach side bar/restaurant. CAR ENTHUSIASTS mill about.

Good Vibrations by *The Beach Boys* plays.

James and Rochelle blend right in as he steers his Corvette through the crowd. They wave at other classic car owners like they're King and Queen of the ball.

It's a perfect moment until:

We spot Annette, Sonny, and Britney following in her rental car. The music cuts out, the mood is dead.

INT. DICK'S WINGS - EVENING

A COVER BAND plays hits from the 50's and 60's.

James leads the family through the busy restaurant. People in the bar shout greetings to James and Rochelle which they happily return. This is their crowd.

Annette sees James' arm around Rochelle's waist. She also spots several other OLDER MEN with YOUNG WOMEN.

ANNETTE

(sotto to Sonny)

I'm gonna say something.

SONNY

This is no way for him to grieve Grandma.

ANNETTE

THAT is not grieving. It's groping.

Annette catches up to Rochelle and James.

ANNETTE
Dad, can I talk to you?

JAMES
Yeah. We're about to sit down.

ANNETTE
No I mean like- in private.

INT. DICK'S WINGS - BAR - MOMENTS LATER

Annette and James step up to the bar and order.

JAMES
Dewars on the rocks, please.

ANNETTE
Two.

JAMES
That's my girl.

ANNETTE
What's going on?

JAMES
It's fun, right? We started coming here a few months back and-

ANNETTE
No, I mean with everything. With Rochelle. What are we doing here?

JAMES
It's weird for you isn't it?

ANNETTE
We flew past weird hours ago.

JAMES
It's an age thing. I get it. The fact that I attended your high school graduation means that I also attended hers.

ANNETTE
Wow. Didn't consider that. I definitely anticipate that thought keeping me up tonight though. Thanks.

JAMES

No. I didn't mean to-

ANNETTE

Dad, it's not the age thing.

JAMES

What is it then?

ANNETTE

I think it's pretty obvious.

He waits for her to speak. She does the same.

ANNETTE

Are you in love with her?

He looks over to Rochelle, smiles.

JAMES

I am. I really am.

ANNETTE

(shakes head)

That's exactly my point.

Annette thumbs her mother's owl pendant on her necklace.

ANNETTE

Dad, when you *REALLY* love someone you commit to them forever. You promise to never forget about them. You know that right?

JAMES

Of course.

ANNETTE

It's been a tough year for all of us. I know it's been an especially tough one for you. But, Dad, you need to settle down with all this... newness.

An idea sparks in James' mind.

JAMES

Settle down?

ANNETTE

Yes. You're almost 70.

JAMES

I'm certainly not getting any younger.

ANNETTE

Exactly. It's pretty clear. In fact, I'm a little worried that you don't see it. I mean look at her.

They look toward Rochelle, Annette filled with dread and James gushing like a school boy. His eyes stay locked on her as she laughs with their friends.

ANNETTE

You see what I mean?

JAMES

I do.

ANNETTE

Perfect. You just need to talk to Rochelle and take care of it.

JAMES

You're right.

ANNETTE

Thank you. Wow. I thought this conversation was going to be WAY more awkward.

Annette pats James on the back in relief but he's in another world, transfixed on Rochelle.

ANNETTE

Just let her down easy and we can-

JAMES

I'm gonna ask her.

ANNETTE

Hmm?

JAMES

I'm gonna ask her right now. Excuse me.

He walks off toward Rochelle.

ANNETTE

Wait- what just happened?

INT. DICK'S WINGS - DANCE FLOOR - MOMENTS LATER

James walks through dance floor and hops up on the stage. The band stops playing and he takes the microphone.

JAMES

Sorry folks, I'll get you back to dancing in just a second.

At the bar: Annette has no clue what's going on.

JAMES

I just had a talk with my beautiful, and very single, daughter, who always surprises me with how insightful she is. She's right over there everybody.

The bar looks her way. A few potential suitors throw glances her way at the news that she's single. She waves them off.

JAMES

She was talking to me about commitment. Settling down. How, when you really love someone you commit to them forever. Well, I love someone and you all know her too.

Annette smiles, looks down at her necklace.

JAMES

Rochelle.

Annette looks up "What the fuck?". The bar claps for Rochelle. She smiles and watches James.

Sonny turns around in a booth to look his Mom's way.

JAMES

We met last summer in my driveway and the past 8 months have been an absolute whirlwind. I feel like a man half my age.

BAR GUY (O.S.)

That ain't even that young!

The bar laughs.

JAMES

I set myself up for that one.
(to Rochelle)
(MORE)

JAMES (CONT'D)

Rochelle, we've been flying by the seat of our pants since we met. And Annette just put things in perspective for me.

He uses the mic stand to lower himself on one knee. Everyone starts cheering. Annette's jaw drops, the two scotches arrive. She downs one.

JAMES

You'll have to forgive me, I don't even have a ring ready.

Their friends push Rochelle on stage.

JAMES

Rochelle, honey. Will you marry me?

Rochelle shakes with joy as Annette looks on in horror.

ROCHELLE

Yes, of course!

The whole bar erupts in applause. James and Rochelle kiss. The BAND LEADER steps in and grabs the microphone.

BAND LEADER

We'd like to dedicate this next song to our summer lovers. Congratulations you two.

He nods to the band. They begin to play *Summer Nights from Grease*. James and Rochelle dance on stage as people rush to join on the dance floor.

James looks to a stunned Annette and gives her a thumbs up. She downs the other scotch and heads for the door.

EXT. DICK'S WINGS - NIGHT

Annette storms out into the crowded car show.

ANNETTE

What the fuck. What the fuck.
(singing)
What the fuck did I just do?

She sees a chair, goes to sit and:

MALE VOICE (O.S.)

Ma'am you shouldn't-

Too late. She plops down.

MALE VOICE (O.S.)

Sit there.

She turns to the voice. An attractive man in his 40s. This is ANDY KAUDER. THE Andy Kauder from Annette's high school; still hunky, great hair, and wow, what a smile.

ANNETTE

Sorry.

She pops up. A greasy rag from the chair is stuck to the back of her pants. She goes to walk off but:

ANDY

Wait, wait, wait. You got uh- my rag there.

Annette peels the rag off to reveal a large stain.

ANNETTE

Perfect.

ANDY

Sorry, I tried to warn you. Here.

He gives her a clean rag.

ANNETTE

Thanks.

ANDY

Annette?

ANNETTE

Do I know you?

ANDY

Annette Callaway. I hardly recognized you without that head gear you wore to correct your-

ANNETTE

Overbite. It's so thrilling to be remembered for that. Thanks. Who are you?

ANDY

Andy Kauder. Terry Parker High?

Annette's eyes go wide.

ANNETTE

Andy? Wow. I- I'm actually already living a high school reunion from hell at the moment so I can't squeeze in another. But it's great to see you. Really the cherry on top of an already terrible night. Thanks for-

(gives him the rag)

Yeah.

ANDY

You're welcome!

He watches her stained backside as she leaves, "Not bad."

INT. JAMES' HOME - ANNETTE'S ROOM - NIGHT

Annette sits up wide awake. She stares at a big orange alarm clock from the 70's. It reads 2:30AM. She hears giggling through the walls then:

ROCHELLE (O.S.)

Again?

JAMES (O.S.)

Shhh.

Superfreak by Rick James starts to play through the wall.

Annette looks to Sonny, awake on an air mattress.

SONNY

You think, maybe they've just been dancing in there for the past 4 hours?

ANNETTE

Go to sleep.

INT. JAMES' HOME - KITCHEN - MORNING

Annette enters in pajamas to find the door to the fridge open and eggs cooking on the stove.

ANNETTE

Dad?

The door closes and Rochelle, looking amazing in Lululemon, greets her with a smile.

ROCHELLE

Good morning.

ANNETTE

Morning.

Annette makes coffee.

ROCHELLE

Thank you for last night. I don't know what you said to your father but-

ANNETTE

Do you think maybe, while you're here, you could... do things quieter? Night things?

ROCHELLE

Oh god you heard that? I'm so sorry. Your father's just *such* a passionate man and after that proposal we-

ANNETTE

No need to describe it. I'm good.

ROCHELLE

Got it. Of course.

(a beat)

Did anyone come down with you?

ANNETTE

No.

ROCHELLE

Good. I wanted to ask you something about your Dad's birthday this Sunday. I want to do something special for him so I was hoping to plan a party with-

ANNETTE

You're planning a party?

ROCHELLE

Yes. Wait- unless you already had something in mind. I don't want to step on your toes in any way.

Annette coughs up her first sip of coffee.

ANNETTE

Right- Uh- wouldn't want that.

ROCHELLE

Were you planning something? If so, I'll totally back off. And I'd love to help if you need it.

Annette looks at Rochelle and the dazzling kitchen, then out to the dated living room, her mother's living room.

ANNETTE

Uhh... yeah. I had a couple... plans in the works.

ROCHELLE

Oh fun. Like what?

ANNETTE

What?

ROCHELLE

What kind of plans?

Annette takes a deep breath in, looks around for something to help her out. She spots the eggs cooking.

ANNETTE

Well, food. Like, really good food from somewhere... really, really good.

ROCHELLE

Would you want to-

ANNETTE

And music. All his favorite music. And uh people. People he likes... a lot.

ROCHELLE

That sounds... original. I was going to meet with my caterer this week if-

ANNETTE

Oh no. You don't have to do that.

ROCHELLE

You sure?

ANNETTE

Yeah. I'll just have a chat with uh- you know, *my* caterer. I've got it.

Rochelle slides a perfectly cooked omelette on a plate and sets it on the table next to Annette. She tops it with a picture perfect sprig of parsley.

ROCHELLE

I'm sure you do. Anything you need just let me know. I'm gonna go work out downstairs but I made this for your Dad. Would you give it to him for me when he comes down?

ANNETTE

Sure.

ROCHELLE

Thanks. And sorry again for last night.

ANNETTE

Don't mention it. Like, ever again, if possible.

INT. JAMES' HOME - ANNETTE'S ROOM - MORNING

Annette enters. Sonny is asleep on his air mattress.

ANNETTE

(whispering)

Sonny... Sonny... Hey Sonny...
Sonny get up... Sonny...

Annette shrugs. She pops open the air valve on Sonny's mattress. It lets out a gust of air and he sinks to the floor.

SONNY

(eyes still closed)

Nooooooooooooo.

ANNETTE

Good morning, sunshine.

SONNY

You are the WORST parent.

ANNETTE

Get up. We just took party duty from Rochelle.

SONNY

Go away.

ANNETTE

Nope. Lots to do by Sunday.

SONNY

What are you talking about?

ANNETTE

We're throwing a party for Dad-Grandpa. Whatever.

SONNY

I thought this was supposed to be a quiet family weekend.

ANNETTE

It was until Grandpa let HGTV down there redecorate my Mom and I out of his life.

SONNY

So you throw him a birthday party to get back at him?

ANNETTE

No I-

SONNY

Why don't you just talk to him about it?

ANNETTE

I tried to last night and look what happened. Grandpa was with Grandma since he was nineteen years-old. Fifty years of near perfect marriage. And now, less than a year after she passes away, he moves on to Rochelle. Why?

SONNY

Maybe it's a-

ANNETTE

Rhetorical question.

SONNY

Sorry.

ANNETTE

Not your fault. Just keep up.

(beat)

Grandpa's never been alone before.

(MORE)

ANNETTE (CONT'D)

So instead of mourning Grandma, he's replacing her. Just like we did with your fish, Mr. Twinkles.

SONNY

You got the wrong color fish. I knew.

ANNETTE

Why would Rochelle think it's okay for her to throw his 70th birthday party?

Sonny goes to speak but:

ANNETTE

Rhetorical again. Just don't talk. Rochelle's doing it because it's what Mom would have done. And Grandpa's gonna keep letting her do all the things Mom was supposed to do until, suddenly, Rochelle's cooking our Thanksgiving dinners and decorating our Christmas trees. Then one day all of Mom's recipes and ornaments get shoved in a box in the garage and we just stop talking about her.

(beat)

OR, we show him that his family, who he ACTUALLY loves, is gonna step up and fill the void that Mom left behind. We make his birthday, this whole week, the best 70th birthday week of all time so Grandpa sees that he doesn't need Rochelle to be happy. Then, he can call off this ridiculous engagement and we can all move on with our lives.

Sonny doesn't say a word.

ANNETTE

You can talk now.

SONNY

Thanks. Sounds like you put a lot of thought into this.

ANNETTE

We're taking him to the fort today.

SONNY

Ugh. I hate the fort.

ANNETTE

So do I. But grandpa loves it. So we're gonna lie and tell him we do too cause that's what family's for.

EXT. CASTILLO DE SAN MARCOS - DAY

The oldest military fort in the continental US. It sits on the shore of a beautiful bay filled with sailboats and yachts. It's an incredible sight, save for one thing:

TOURISTS. Thousands of them. Fanny packers, families, crying toddlers, the works.

A crowded tour tram pulls up and the family gets out. Sonny and Britney look at the fort like it's the pit of hell. James and Rochelle look thrilled and Annette does a good job faking it. They walk toward the entrance.

JAMES

Castillo de San Marcos. First stone laid in 1672. The Spanish came over and- Are you guys sure you want to go in? I don't want to force anyone.

ANNETTE

Of course we're sure.

JAMES

I know you came here a thousand times on field trips as kids.

SONNY

(sotto)
More like a million.

Annette elbows Sonny.

ANNETTE

We're just happy to be here with you, Dad. Plus I got us a VIP tour so we should get right in.

At the entrance they see two very long lines filled with tourists. One line is marked: PUBLIC. The other: VIP.

ANNETTE

Oh.

JAMES
That's a lot of VIPs.

INT. CASTILLO DE SAN MARCOS - LATER

Annette, Sonny, James, Rochelle, and Britney reach the front of the line and are stopped by a GUARD.

GUARD
Morning folks. Hope you enjoyed your Castillo De San Marcos line experience. Be sure to put your 3D glasses in the bin and check out our gift shop on the way out.

The group stares at him, bewildered.

GUARD
I'm just kidding. Welcome to the fort. Tickets and ID's please.

They hand everything over. He compares the ID's to each member, checks a clipboard. Annette looks around, notices a TON of SECURITY GUARDS everywhere.

ANNETTE
What's with all the security?

GUARD
We're still considered an active US military base, ma'am.

ROCHELLE
Seriously?

GUARD
No. But last year some guy got naked and jumped in the Fountain of Youth down the road. Monument security's been nuts ever since.

SONNY
Oh yeah. I know that guy.

The group looks at him like her just grew a third arm.

SONNY
I mean, not well. Geez.

GUARD
All right. Everybody's set.

The group thanks him and starts to move in when:

GUARD

Except you.

He stops Annette.

ANNETTE

What?

GUARD

No purses.

ANNETTE

No one said that.

GUARD

It's on your ticket. See.

(lifts ticket)

No weapons, drugs, large handbags,
or British military forces.

(chuckle to himself)

I made that last one up. Little
bit of fort humor.

ANNETTE

Can I just stick it in the bushes
and come back for it?

GUARD

Sure ma'am. Our security team
loves finding abandoned bags in
the bushes. Go for it.

Annette looks to the rest of the group for help.

GUARD

In case you didn't catch on. I was-

ANNETTE

Kidding. I get it. That seems to
be your thing.

GUARD

And so is keeping this line
moving. So non-rule breakers, you
head on in and have a great day.
Rule breaker, please leave but
also have a great day.

ANNETTE

I'm trying to spend an afternoon
with my Dad, man. Can you just
hold on to my bag?

GUARD

Ma'am, I'm already guarding a fort so I'm pretty maxed out. But try the gift shop. And we're moving.

He shuffles the family in.

JAMES

We can wait if you want.

ANNETTE

No no. Go. I'll be right in, Dad.

James and Rochelle put there arms around each other and lead the family in.

Annette watches them go. So does the guard.

GUARD

Wow.

ANNETTE

What?

GUARD

Either your Dad has a really weird relationship with your sister or your Mom is SUPER hot.

EXT. CASTILLO DE SAN MARCOS - GIFT SHOP - DAY

Annette fights through hoards of tourists until she reaches the gift shop door. She tugs it but it's locked.

She knocks until she spots a sign on the door that reads: "The British are attacking. Back in 5."

LATER:

Annette, sweating profusely, sits by the gift shop on a decommissioned cannon. She's been there way longer than five minutes.

INT. CASTILLO DE SAN MARCOS - DAY

Sonny walks, absorbed in his phone. He steps right into an old carriage, shakes it off, and corrects course. He's basically a Roomba.

He rejoins a tour group led by a burnt out TOUR GUIDE dressed in an ill fitting 17th Century Soldier costume. James and Rochelle are enamored.

TOUR GUIDE

(dead pan)

Now the second besiegement
occurred in 1740 when James
Oglethorpe came down from Georgia.

Britney, at the back of the group, is also on her phone.

TOUR GUIDE

Any questions?

James goes to raise his hand but-

TOUR GUIDE

Great let's move on.

The group follows the guide. Sonny ambles along looking
at his phone until he spots a tiny doorway and slips in.

EXT. CASTILLO DE SAN MARCOS - DAY

Annette is still on the cannon and sweating profusely.

She takes out her phone and makes a call. It rings for a
moment but it goes to voicemail.

SONNY (V.O.)

This is Sonny. Leave me a message
if you're my Mom or text me if
you're a civilized person.

ANNETTE

This gift shop thing isn't
happening. We need to do shifts
with Grandpa. Come swap with me.
Love you.

INT. CASTILLO DE SAN MARCOS - COSTUME ROOM - DAY

Props and costumes rattle. The sounds of heavy breathing
lead us through the room to:

Sonny, in a passionate, albeit sloppy, make out session
with a BLONDE GIRL.

They knock over a rack of spears and pull away from each
other long enough to reveal the blonde's face: BRITNEY.

SONNY

I'm so glad we're finally alone.

He moves in for more making out. She pulls away after a moment.

BRITNEY

Oh, you and I are a "we" again now that we're in the privacy of this dungeon?

SONNY

I'm pretty sure the dungeons are on the other side. This is way nicer than the dungeons.

BRITNEY

When I told you I was coming back to meet my Mom's new boyfriend, did it not occur to you to tell me that your grandfather, who lives in the same town, was also introducing you to his new girlfriend?

SONNY

No- I mean- he didn't tell us about a girlfriend. And he's old, like crusty wrinkly old. I never would have imagined him and your Mom would-

BRITNEY

Ew.

SONNY

Sorry.

They make out a little more but she pulls away and scrunches up her face.

BRITNEY

Random girl from English class?

SONNY

What was I supposed to say?

BRITNEY

The truth? I don't know. Just, stop talking.

SONNY

Everyone keeps telling me that.

Britney dives in for more making out. Sonny's phone rings but they ignore it.

EXT. CASTILLO DE SAN MARCOS - GIFT SHOP - DAY

A tense Annette is on her phone, still on the cannon. She hears a beep.

ANNETTE

Okay I don't know if you realize it but as your mother and the person who pays for your cell phone you HAVE to answer my calls. Especially right now. The whole point of today was for Grandpa to enjoy an afternoon with both of us, not Rochelle. I need you to get out here, sit with my purse and-

She notices a STUPID TEEN stick his head into the cannon.

ANNETTE

On second thought, I just got a better idea. You're still dead to me though. Love you.

She hangs up and steps to the tip of the cannon as the teen walks off. She waits for two security guards to pass by. Then she slides her purse into the stubby cannon and heads for the line.

EXT. CASTILLO DE SAN MARCOS - LATER

Annette squeezes past tourists in the painfully long line. She doles out faux apologies along the way.

ANNETTE

Hi, excuse me/ Sorry/ Family emergency/ You have a beautiful baby. I do need to get past you though./ Thank you

She makes her way to the front and stops behind a family as they give their tickets to the Line Guard from before.

Annette waits in line, confident that she's nailed this. But just as she's about to be up:

An alarm wails. Everyone drops except for her.

Security guards swarm, shouting into walkie talkies. The Line Guard from before lifts his walkie to listen.

WALKIE TALKIE

We've got a purse in the red zone.
Full shut down.

The Line Guard and Annette make eye contact. She bends down to try and blend in with the tourists.

INT. CASTILLO DE SAN MARCOS - SECURITY CENTER - DAY

Annette sits on a bench in a 300 year old prison cell.

GUARD (O.S.)

Right this way.

Annette looks up at the sound of a door and sees James with the family. Sonny and Britney look like a hot mess.

ANNETTE

Hey, Dad.

JAMES

Hi, sweetie.

ANNETTE

Did I ruin your tour?

JAMES

Only half of it.

Sonny notices that a button on Britney's shirt has been left open. He coughs and points to it. She fixes it just before anyone else notices.

JAMES

We got you a shirt.

James removes a shirt from a souvenir bag. It has a picture of the fort with the word Freedom printed below it. He eyes the bars on Annette's cell.

JAMES

Maybe not the most appropriate
gift for the moment.

He looks over at the line guard, back to Annette.

JAMES

Am I supposed to give you a stern
talking to right now?

ANNETTE

(to Line Guard)
Can I go?

GUARD

Actually, we found the cocaine in your purse ma'am. You're gonna be here a while.

Everyone's eyes go wide.

GUARD

(laughs)
I'm kidding.
(stern face)
But seriously, please leave.

EXT./INT. JAMES' HOME - GARAGE - NIGHT

The family heads inside past James' Corvette. Annette holds James back.

ANNETTE

Hey, sorry about today. I was just trying to get in there to be with you.

JAMES

Don't worry about it, hun.

ANNETTE

No. I totally ruined your fort day.

JAMES

No no. Not everybody gets to see the holding cells. Not even VIPs.

ANNETTE

(laughs)
Thanks.

James goes for the door but she stops him again.

ANNETTE

Hey uh- Sonny and I are planning your party for Sunday. Anything special you have in mind?

JAMES

I thought Rochelle was planning it.

ANNETTE

She was. And you know she didn't need to be.

(MORE)

ANNETTE (CONT'D)

Sonny and I are happy to do it. I just didn't know you wanted one.

JAMES

Well, I'm not crazy about being the center of attention but-

ANNETTE

THAT is such a lie. Any special requests?

JAMES

(thinks it over)

Nope. Don't stress yourself out over it. Just keep it easy, Alcatraz.

INT. JAMES' HOME - ANNETTE'S ROOM - NIGHT

Sonny pumps away at his air mattress. Annette enters and collapses on her bed.

SONNY

Does Grandpa not know that they've been making air beds that inflate themselves for like ever now?

ANNETTE

Maybe it's a character building thing.

Annette rolls away from Sonny. She faces a mirror by her bed with photographs jammed into its edges.

SONNY

Yeah, I thought it might be one of those walk up hill to school both ways kind of things.

She removes a photo of her younger self with metal headgear on. She gives an "I wish I could forget that forever" face and puts the photo back.

SONNY

But then I thought, maybe Grandpa just legitimately doesn't know. You know?

ANNETTE

(distracted)

Right.

She looks over photos of her with friends until she lands on one of her younger self, James, and her Mother wearing the golden owl pendant that's currently around her neck.

They're in a French restaurant holding a plate that reads "Chez Sidney." Behind them is a mustached chef with a big grin on his face, SIDNEY. Annette smiles as she takes in the photo.

SONNY

I can't blame him though. You know, he's old and stuff but-

ANNETTE

He just needs to remember.

SONNY

Um, I don't know about that. We could just like- get him a better one. Tomorrow we could-

He notices she's not paying attention.

SONNY

You're not talking about the air mattress are you?

EXT. JAMES' HOME - BACK PATIO - MORNING

Annette, in pajamas, walks out with a phone book and plops down in a chair. She opens the phone book. She flips through pages until she finds an ad for Chez Sidney. She calls and it rings only a few times.

OPERATOR (O.S.)

We're sorry, this number has been disconnected. Please hang up and try again.

She hangs up, checks the number, tries again.

OPERATOR (O.S.)

We're sorry, this number has been disconnected. Please-

ANNETTE

(hangs up)
Shit.

MALE VOICE (O.S.)

Well, look who it is.

She covers herself. Andy approaches with a weed-wacker.

ANNETTE

What are you doing here?

ANDY

Sorry. Just a little Lawn & Order.

ANNETTE

What?

He shows her a business card. It reads Lawn & Order in the exact same font as the Law & Order TV show.

ANDY

These are the stories of the men and women who cut your grass. Dun Dun.

He waits for her to react but gets nothing.

ANDY

Yeah, not for everybody. I do your Dad's lawn. I do everybody's lawn in here.

ANNETTE

Well you shouldn't sneak up on people.

ANDY

Sorry.

(beat)

My old man cut the grass here before me. I took over when he retired. Thinking about expanding to Colony Grove across the road.

ANNETTE

Quite an empire you've got there.

ANDY

Yeah, it's tough being a lawn mogul but somebody's gotta do it. You want a beer?

He reaches into his cargo pants and pulls out a beer.

ANNETTE

I'm good.

ANDY

Suit yourself. You move back in or something?

He walks up to the patio edge and leans against a tree.

ANNETTE

Back for my Dad's birthday. Don't you have work to do?

ANDY

Grass isn't growing that fast. Everything work out for you the other night?

ANNETTE

My Dad proposed to Rochelle Walsh so, no, not really.

ANDY

Rochelle Walsh? The Rochelle Walsh from Terry Parker?

ANNETTE

That's the one.

ANDY

I heard she lost, like, a ton of weight. Total transfor-

ANNETTE

Transformation. Yes. She looks fantastic.

(looks to phone book)

You remember a place called Chez Sidney?

ANDY

French place over on Atlantic?

ANNETTE

Yep.

ANDY

Sure. Fancy. Haven't been in years. Not many people go over there since they opened the Town Center off Butler. Now *that's* a mall. Let me tell you, shopping, restaurants-

ANNETTE

I'm sure it is. This place is special though.

She gets up and heads for the door.

ANNETTE

Gotta go. Good luck with the Lawn & Order.

ANDY

Thanks. Hey, while you're back home do you want to catch up or something?

ANNETTE

Gotta fix my Dad's life. Maybe on another trip.

INT. JAMES' HOME - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Annette walks up the stairs and calls up.

ANNETTE

Sonny let's go. Gotta see the caterer.

INT. JAMES' HOME - UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - DAY

Sonny heads for the stairs. Britney pops out of her room, puts a hand over his mouth, and pulls him into her room.

INT. JAMES' HOME - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Annette looks up the stairs and sees no movement.

ANNETTE

Sonny?

She sighs then heads up.

INT. JAMES' HOME - UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - DAY

Annette peers into to her and Sonny's empty bedroom.

INT. JAMES' HOME - BRITNEY'S ROOM - DAY

Britney has a finger to Sonny's lips, silencing him.

ANNETTE (O.S.)

Sonny?

Britney hears footsteps, then the handle on her bedroom door begins to turn.

She shoves Sonny over the side of the bed and lands on top of him with her hand over his mouth and one knee in his crotch. Annette walks in.

ANNETTE
You see Sonny anywhere?

BRITNEY
What? No.

Annette eyes her a moment.

ANNETTE
What are you doing?

BRITNEY
Oh uh. My morning stretches. It's
important to stay limber.

She extends a leg behind her. Her other leg digs into
Sonny's crotch and he turns red.

ANNETTE
Right.

Rochelle appears behind Annette in more Lululemon. She
has a sweat towel over her shoulder but looks fabulous.

ROCHELLE
Oh good, I didn't miss you! Are
you leaving to see your caterer
now?

ANNETTE
Yeah.

ROCHELLE
Do you mind if I tag along?

ANNETTE
Sonny's coming so-

ROCHELLE
Great! I'll join you two. Give me
five minutes to clean up this
mess.

(gestures to her
perfect appearance)
I'll meet you downstairs.

ANNETTE
You don't need to-

ROCHELLE
Just five minutes.

Rochelle and Annette exit. Britney waits for the door to close before she rolls off of Sonny who looks like he's about to pass out.

SONNY

Oh my god. I think your knee pushed everything down there back inside my body.

BRITNEY

Sonny, we have to tell them about us.

SONNY

I'm seriously in so much pain right now. I think I may have gone full Ken doll.

BRITNEY

The longer we put this off, the weirder it gets.

SONNY

Maybe we put it off just a little bit? I'm supposed to go with my Mom to this catering thing and-

BRITNEY

Yeah, you're not going.

SONNY

I'm not?

BRITNEY

I thought about it. We need to plan and practice exactly what you're gonna say.

SONNY

Wait. What *I'm* gonna say?

BRITNEY

You started the lie. You fix the lie.

She gets off him. He tries to get up but winces in pain.

SONNY

Ugh. Still tender.

INT. ANNETTE'S RENTAL CAR - DAY

Annette drives with Rochelle in the passenger seat.

ROCHELLE

This is SO exciting! Your Dad's talked about this place like, a million times.

ANNETTE

He has?

ROCHELLE

Oh my god, so much.

ANNETTE

Hmm.

ROCHELLE

Hey. I'm actually glad it's just us today. I feel like I should say this while we have a second.

ANNETTE

Say what?

ROCHELLE

Well, I know we weren't really best friends in high school. Or friends at all actually. I was really uncomfortable with myself and...

(zones out a second)

Angry...

(snaps out of it)

I was a huge jerk to you, Annette, and I'm sorry for that.

ANNETTE

Okay.

ROCHELLE

I really am. You didn't deserve any of it. But we're big girls now right?

ANNETTE

Big girls?

ROCHELLE

Yeah. Like, we're okay, aren't we? I know all of this is crazy.

ANNETTE

(horrible lie)

Umm... yeah...

ROCHELLE

Oh that's good to hear. I don't want you to think of me as some kind of evil step mother or something.

Rochelle smiles. Annette's eyes go wide. She hadn't considered the title yet.

EXT. CHEZ SIDNEY RESTAURANT - DAY

Boarded windows and eviction notices. Chez Sidney is long past its prime. Annette and Rochelle approach.

ANNETTE

Closed? How?

Annette peers through one of the windows.

ROCHELLE

There's gotta be something we can do. What happens when you call?

Annette points to a box filled with old phones.

ANNETTE

Not much.

She knocks on the windows and moves toward the door.

ANNETTE

Hello?/ Hello-ooo?/Anybody-

She tugs at the door. It's open.

ANNETTE

Oh.

ROCHELLE

Oh no.

ANNETTE

Come on.

ROCHELLE

I don't know, Annette. This doesn't seem... murder-y to you?

ANNETTE

A little, yes. But there's probably only a 25% chance that we get murdered in there. Come on.

Annette enters.

ROCHELLE
That- wait- 25 is a lot.

INT. CHEZ SIDNEY RESTAURANT - DINING ROOM - DAY

Annette and Rochelle tip-toe through the dark, half packed up, restaurant.

ANNETTE
Anyone here?

ROCHELLE
Shhh.

ANNETTE
What?

ROCHELLE
Someone's gonna hear you.

ANNETTE
That's the point.
(to the room)
Hello?

They hear a loud noise behind the bar. Rochelle tenses up. CHRIS, 30s, steps out.

CHRIS
Hey ladies, this isn't a Soul
Cycle yet.

ROCHELLE
Alrighty. We'll see ourselves out
then. Thank you.

ANNETTE
We're not looking for Soul Cycle.
What's going on?

CHRIS
Closing up shop. You two want some
Eiffel Tower Christmas lights?

He holds up a box full of lights. Annette and Rochelle are interested for a moment then snap out of it.

ANNETTE
Maybe later. What happened here?

CHRIS

Rent went up. Then it went up again. And Again. And-

ANNETTE

I'm sorry. My parents loved this place. Is Chef Sidney still around?

CHRIS

The chef and the cooks already started a new gig.

ANNETTE

Where?

EXT. CHUCK E CHEESE'S RESTAURANT - DAY

Annette and Rochelle stand outside looking up at a giant Chuck E Cheese sign. Chuck gives a big thumbs up.

ANNETTE

This is gonna suck.

INT. CHUCK E CHEESE'S RESTAURANT - DAY

Dozens of children run and scream in every direction. Annette's miserable. Rochelle eats it up.

ROCHELLE

This is SO cute. Isn't it?

Annette eyes her. "You fucking idiot." A HOSTESS approaches.

HOSTESS

Welcome to Chuck E Cheese's. Are you with the Kupfermen party?

She points to a group of STRESSED MOMS at a table with their KIDS.

ANNETTE

No. I'm looking for Sidney.

HOSTESS

I don't think we have a Sidney party today but let me check the-

ANNETTE

Chef Sidney. With a Mustache. Can I talk to him?

HOSTESS

I'm sorry, Ma'am. We're slammed right now. Could I take a message?

ANNETTE

I'm trying to do something special for my Dad. I just need two minutes with him.

HOSTESS

I'm so sorry. There's nothing I can do.

The two stand off in silence. Tension boiling until:

ANNETTE

Does twenty bucks work?

HOSTESS

(super friendly)
I'll get him for you now.

ANNETTE

Terrific.

The hostess puts her hand out. Annette checks her wallet. It's empty.

ANNETTE

Rochelle, would you take care of her please?

INT. CHUCK E CHEESE'S RESTAURANT - KITCHEN - DAY

Highly trained FRENCH CHEFS slide frozen pizzas into an oven using big wooden pizza paddles. The Hostess enters.

HOSTESS

Sidney, some lady's here to see you.

SIDNEY, mustached and much older than his picture at James' house, looks at her.

SIDNEY

A lady?

HOSTESS

Yeah. She's out front.

Sidney walks to the service window and peers out. His eye is immediately caught by a gorgeous looking Rochelle.

SIDNEY

Oh. Belle!

The other chefs crowd him at the window to get a look. LEO, a younger chef, puts a pizza in the oven but leaves the paddle in as he hurries to join them.

The paddle begins to smoke.

INT. CHUCK E CHEESE'S RESTAURANT - DAY

Annette and Rochelle wait by the hostess stand.

ANNETTE

You think I should go back there?

ROCHELLE

Maybe give them one more minute.

A hoard of screaming Kupferman kids rush by, narrowly knocking Annette down. A STRESSED MOM chases after.

STRSSED MOM

FOR CHRIST'S SAKE, SLOW DOWN KYLE!

(to Rochelle)

Kids huh? Love 'em. You don't have any vodka do you?

ROCHELLE

I think that's our cue.

ANNETTE

Agreed.

They head for the back.

INT. CHUCK E CHEESE'S RESTAURANT - KITCHEN - DAY

The Hostess watches the enamored chefs in disgust.

HOSTESS

Okay this is gross guys. Come on.

She notices smoke from the oven.

HOSTESS

Is that supposed to-

The pizza paddle ignites.

HOSTESS

Um... Um... Ahh... FIRE!!!

The chefs spin around in horror.

INT. CHUCK E CHEESE'S RESTAURANT - DAY

Annette heads to the back as a bunch of Kupferman kids dive into a ball pit nearby. She hears screams from behind the kitchen door but pushes it open anyway.

ANNETTE

Hey I'm looking for-

A fire extinguisher BLASTS her in the face.

ANNETTE

WHOA SHIT!

She stumbles back into the edge of the ball pit. It crumbles under her weight. Plastic balls and crying Kupferman kids spill out everywhere.

By the kitchen door, Leo holds the charred pizza paddle and Sidney holds a fire extinguisher. They're stunned silent as the balls settle by their feet.

After a beat, they shout in *French with subtitles*.

SIDNEY

Look what you've done!

LEO

I'm sorry. I didn't-

SIDNEY

You made me blind that sad woman!

Mothers rush in and grab their kids. Rochelle squeezes past and kneels down by Annette who writhes in pain.

ROCHELLE

Oh my god. Are you okay?

ANNETTE

Holy shit. This hurts so much more than you'd think it does.

Sidney slaps Leo.

SIDNEY

You are a curse my son!

LEO

Maybe she's okay?

Annette moans. Sidney slaps his son repeatedly until:

Rochelle interrupts, she speaks to him in perfect French.
(Also with subtitles)

ROCHELLE

Wait! Please! She'll be fine.

She looks to Annette's swollen red eyes.

ROCHELLE

I think.

The men are shocked. Her accent is spot on.

ROCHELLE

This sad woman wants to hire you to cook for her father. It's his birthday. Mr. James Callaway.

SIDNEY

Mr. Callaway?

ROCHELLE

Yes. He remembers you fondly. And it would mean so much to his daughter if you would cook for him on Sunday.

ANNETTE

So much pain!

ROCHELLE

I think you owe it to her.

Rochelle looks at a Chuck E Cheese sign.

ROCHELLE

Plus you don't want to cook pizza for the rat forever do you?

Sidney thinks this over, tosses his apron off.

SIDNEY

No.

ANNETTE

Seriously, just find a hose and spray my eyes with it.

The fire sprinklers in the building finally go off.

INT. JAMES' HOME - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Annette lays on the couch with ice packs on both eyes. James paces around. Rochelle sits next to her.

JAMES

What happened?

ROCHELLE

Don't you worry about it. The EMT said she'll be able to see again by tomorrow.

JAMES

Jesus. It looks awful.

ANNETTE

I can still hear, thank you.

JAMES

I said make this party easy on yourself.

ANNETTE

Not a big deal. I'm totally on top of it.

Sonny and Britney make their way down the stairs.

BRITNEY

Hey everyone. Sonny and I have something we want to say to-

They freeze at the sight of Annette's ice packs.

SONNY

What happened?

JAMES

Apparently this is what a minor party planning hiccup looks like.

ROCHELLE

What'd you want to say, hun?

Britney pushes Sonny forward.

SONNY

Um. We... are... uh...

The whole family is waiting for his next word. He looks to Britney and then his Mom's ice packs.

SONNY
 Pretty tired. Yeah, pooped
 actually. So-

He looks to Britney who's utterly disappointed.

SONNY
 Yep. Good night.

Sonny and Britney head upstairs.

JAMES
 How much are you two paying for
 that college of theirs?

INT. JAMES' HOME - ANNETTE'S ROOM - NIGHT

Annette sleeps with both ice packs on.

Sonny is woken by a text on his phone from Britney: "Come over ;)"

SONNY
 (whisper)
 Winky face?

He looks to his mom and her ice packs, then to the door. Another text comes in: "I need you..." Another: "NOW..."

Sonny goes to get up but his air mattress makes a ton of noise with every movement. He slowly rolls himself off and crawls for the door.

INT. JAMES' HOME - UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - NIGHT

Sonny knocks on Britney's door. It opens. Britney, in a robe, and practically in heat, signals for him to enter.

INT. JAMES' HOME - UNCLE'S ROOM - NIGHT

Britney stares Sonny down.

BRITNEY
 Take off your clothes.

SONNY
 Wow. Um- Okay.

Sonny tries to lift off his shirt but it gets stuck around his head. Britney shoves him on the bed.

BRITNEY

Off!

He wrestles violently with the shirt until finally he's able to break free.

BRITNEY

Pants.

Sonny rips his belt off and flings it across the room. He goes to undo his pant button and:

BRITNEY

Wait.

SONNY

What?

Britney undoes the sash around her waist, opens the robe, and lets it fall to the floor. Bright red lingerie, an absolute vision in Sonny's eyes.

BRITNEY

Now pants.

Sonny tears at his pants and zipper. He shimmies his heart out to get the pants off. They bunch up at his feet and he kicks wildly to get free of them.

Britney pulls them off, throws them across the room.

Sonny, now only in boxers, sits up, goes to kiss her.

SONNY

All right let's-

She shoves him back onto the bed, climbs on top of him.

SONNY

Okay.

She grabs his head, whispers in his ear.

BRITNEY

I want to ask you something.

SONNY

Whatever you want. Yes.

BRITNEY

You sure?

Britney kisses his neck.

BRITNEY

Because it's really important.

Then his chest.

SONNY

Awesome.

She traces a line of kisses toward his boxers.

BRITNEY

It's something I want...

She looks up seductively.

BRITNEY

NEED. Actually.

SONNY

You can totally have it.

BRITNEY

Good because...

She goes back to her line, nearly kissing her way to the edge of Sonny's boxers and then:

BRITNEY

I want you to stop being a pussy
and tell our families about us.

Everything stops.

SONNY

What?

She hops off him, puts her robe back on.

BRITNEY

Because you won't be enjoying any
of *this* until you do.

SONNY

Okay. My mom was basically blind
so-

BRITNEY

I don't care. I'm not hiding
anymore.

SONNY

We don't hide. At school we're
totally un-hidden.

BRITNEY

I'm not talking about school. I'm talking about now. And if this thing with my Mom and your Grandpa keeps going then I'm talking about Christmas, Thanksgiving-

SONNY

That's only three days out of the year.

BRITNEY

Three big days.

SONNY

It's like, not even one percent of a year.

BRITNEY

If you don't want to tell them, it's because you don't see a future for us.

SONNY

I see it. I one hundred percent see it. We just have to make sure we don't...

(searching)

Uhh... That we don't come off too... you know... incestuous.

BRITNEY

Incestuous?

SONNY

Poor word choice. This is ME, apologizing for THAT.

BRITNEY

That's what you think we are?

SONNY

No! That's not even possible for me to think because we're not actually related. What I meant to say was-

INT. JAMES' HOME - UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - NIGHT

Britney shoves Sonny out of the room in just his boxers. She slams the door.

SONNY
Britney? Britney? Great.

INT. PUBLIX GROCERY STORE - PHARMACY - DAY

Annette, in black sunglasses, walks down an aisle but can't find what she's looking for.

She goes to the next aisle and spots Andy. She turns quick to avoid him. But just when she thinks she's escaped, he notices her.

ANDY
Callaway.

She freezes, slowly turns to face him.

ANNETTE
Oh hi. You're somewhere random again. Okay, nice seeing you.

She turns to leave but:

ANDY
Whatcha buying?

ANNETTE
Isn't that sort of a personal thing to ask someone in a pharmacy?

ANDY
Probably. I'll tell you what I'm gettin if you don't wanna share.

He grabs a foot cream off the shelf.

ANDY
This claims to fight athletes foot which I think I have based on this odor I smell every time I-

ANNETTE
Eye drops. I'm getting eye drops.

ANDY
That why you're sporting the Ray Charles look?

She lowers her glasses revealing blood shot eyes.

ANNETTE
Yesterday sucked.

ANDY
Couple bad ones in a row, huh?

INT. PUBLIX GROCERY STORE - CHECK OUT - DAY

Annette waits to pay while Andy, in front of her, hands his items to the CASHIER.

ANDY
Sounds like you should step back
from the party planning.
(holds up candy)
Want some?

ANNETTE
No.

ANDY
You'll be sorry.

CASHIER
\$8.97

He pays, collects his things, then waits for Annette.

ANNETTE
You don't have to wait for me, I'm
all set.

ANDY
How come we never knew each other
in high school?

ANNETTE
You were very popular.

ANDY
(smiles)
I was, wasn't I? And look how far
that got me.

He points out the Lawn & Order logo on his shirt. Annette cracks, finally laughs.

ANDY
There you go. The ice princess can
laugh after all.

ANNETTE
Only at the expense of my peers.

EXT. PUBLIX GROCERY STORE - PARKING LOT - DAY

Annette and Andy walk to their cars.

ANDY

What are you doing today?

ANNETTE

Tonight I have to go see about a band for my Dad's party.

ANDY

That's tonight, not today.

ANNETTE

I appreciate your persistence, Andy. But you're about 30 years too late.

She walks off to her car.

ANDY

So I did have a chance at some point?

INT. ANNETTE'S RENTAL CAR - PUBLIX PARKING LOT - DAY

Annette shuts the door, takes the eye drops out, and goes to put them in. Every time she gets them close enough to drop in, she can't help but close her eyes.

ANNETTE

Shit.

She tries again but keeps closing her eyes. She tries to hold one eye open and but it's not happening.

In her rearview, she sees Andy loading his truck. She thinks it over then rolls down her window.

ANNETTE

Hey weed-wacker, got a second?

MOMENTS LATER.

Andy's in the passenger seat with the drops and Annette is fully reclined in her seat looking straight up.

ANNETTE

I can't put in eye drops myself. Every time I try, I just close my eyes.

ANDY

Common problem. Not really, but that's okay.

ANNETTE

I can find someone else.

ANDY

No no. I'm your guy.

He goes about putting drops in her eyes.

ANDY

So what's your Dad doing getting engaged to somebody like Rochelle?

ANNETTE

My Mom passed away last year.

ANDY

I heard. Sorry about that.

ANNETTE

Thank you.

ANDY

If you want me to talk him out of another marriage I've got plenty of ammo. I just wrapped up my second.

ANNETTE

You really do over-share quite a bit, you know that?

ANDY

That's what divorce number two said.

Annette laughs.

ANDY

Hold still, one more.

He makes a final drop, She sits up.

ANNETTE

My number one probably said the opposite about me.

ANDY

So there was a number one?

ANNETTE

Yep. He was an asshole.

ANDY

All number ones are. You got kids?

ANNETTE

One. College. You?

ANDY

Two. College also. Boy and a girl.
Boy's a little shit and the girl
only wants my money, which there
isn't much of. I love em.

He smirks at her, she smiles back.

ANDY

Do you want to hang out with me?

ANNETTE

I really have a lot to do.

ANDY

We don't have to go anywhere.

She thinks it over a second.

ANNETTE

What do you wanna do?

ANDY

Wait right here. Turn the radio
on.

A FEW BEERS LATER.

Four empty beers are tossed on the dashboard of the car.
Supertramp's - The Logical Song plays on the radio.
Annette and Andy, beers in hand, sing along.

ANNETTE & ANDY

(singing)

*Now watch what you say or they'll
be calling you a radical...*

ANNETTE

Liberal...

ANDY

Ohhh Fanatical...

ANNETTE

Criminal.

ANNETTE & ANDY

Won't you sign up your name, we'd like to feel you're acceptable...

ANDY

Respectable...

ANNETTE

Oh Presentable, A Vegetable...

ANNETTE & ANDY

Oh! Take, take, take it yeah...

They both play air saxophones along with the sax solo, then burst into laughter.

ANNETTE

Okay. You're fun. I admit it.

ANDY

Aren't I? I keep telling everyone that but nobody listens.

ANNETTE

How come you never left town?

ANDY

Aside from inheriting my empire? Don't know. Where are you now?

ANNETTE

Atlanta. I'm in real estate. It's boring.

ANDY

Oh you ever go to Fiddler's Green? The pub?

ANNETTE

With the-

ANDY

Beer tubes?

ANNETTE

Beer tubes?

ANDY

Exactly!

ANNETTE

I live 5 minutes from that place. How do you know about it?

ANDY

I went all sorts of places before I got my grass kingdom.

ANNETTE

That you're thinking of expanding?

ANDY

Good listener. Maybe. But I'd have to get a second truck and hire people. Right now it's just me and I'm surprisingly easy to manage. You want another?

ANNETTE

Sure.

ANDY

Next time I'm in Atlanta we should split a tube.

ANNETTE

I'd like that.

(laughs)

If my high school self knew I'd be sitting in a Publix parking lot with Andy Kauder she'd... well she'd probably pass out. But once she woke up, she'd be thrilled.

They smile at one another and lock eyes. He leans in to kiss her, she goes with it for a second before she pulls back.

ANNETTE

I'm sorry.

ANDY

No no. My mistake. 30 years too late.

ANNETTE

No. It's just, this thing with Rochelle and my Dad is taking a lot out of me.

ANDY

Right. No. I get it.

They sit in silence a moment.

ANDY

You know I saw your parents over the years. They were in some crazy kind of love. That's for sure.

Annette smirks.

ANNETTE

Thank you. They totally were. My Mom was his world. Everything. But somehow my Dad seems fine now. And I don't know how.

Annette tugs at her necklace.

ANNETTE

I want him to be happy. I really do. Just not yet, you know? He's not ready to be happy without her yet.

That thought weighs on Annette for a moment. Then she snaps back to reality.

ANNETTE

I'm sorry.

ANDY

No. Don't be.

ANNETTE

I should go. I-

ANDY

Hey. I think maybe you're going about your situation the wrong way.

ANNETTE

Huh?

ANDY

With Rochelle. You're trying to help your Dad and you want her to back off, right?

ANNETTE

Yeah.

ANDY

Then tell her.

ANNETTE

What?

ANDY

Just tell her. There's nothing clearer than clarity.

Off Annette's reaction:

INT. JAMES' HOME - ANNETTE'S ROOM - DAY

Annette takes a deep breath before speaking.

ANNETTE

Okay. Rochelle, you can't marry my father. It's nothing personal. Has nothing to do with our past together. My Dad's just not in a place to be dating, let alone marrying anyone right now. He's still adjusting to life without my Mom. And woman to woman, I'd appreciate if you could step back to allow him to figure that out on his own.

She holds her gaze a moment. Then we hear a slow clap.

SONNY (O.S.)

Not bad. You sound like an actual adult expressing actual adult feelings.

We reveal that Sonny is seated in the room and Rochelle is nowhere to be found.

ANNETTE

Should I throw in a few compliments?

SONNY

You're not that good of a liar.

ANNETTE

Touché.

SONNY

But maybe don't dive in so hard at the beginning?

ANNETTE

It's blunt?

SONNY

Pretty blunt. Maybe wade into it a little. Like...

(plays sincere)

This is really difficult to say but it's important that I say it.

(drops sincerity)

Then like, go into your whole get out of my family spiel.

ANNETTE

That's good. You're good. I raised
a good son.

SONNY

Did you just turn a compliment
about me into a compliment about
you?

Annette thinks this over a bit.

ANNETTE

Meeting adjourned.

She exits and heads downstairs.

A moment later, Sonny spots Britney walk by.

SONNY

Brit?

He follows her into the hall.

INT. JAMES' HOME - UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - DAY

Sonny catches Britney just outside her bedroom door.

SONNY

Hey can we talk?

Britney ignores him, walks inside, and closes the door.

SONNY

You're gonna have to communicate
with me at some point.

The door cracks. Britney's hand pops out to flip him off.

SONNY

That's not what I meant.

INT. JAMES' HOME - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Two sets of hands peruse over paint swatches and wood
floor samples. We pull back to reveal James and Rochelle
cozied up on the couch in pajamas.

ANNETTE (O.S.)

Rochelle? Rochelle are you home?

JAMES

We're in here, honey.

Annette enters.

ROCHELLE

Hey. How are your eyes today?

ANNETTE

The throbbing's stopped. Thank you. What are you doing?

JAMES

Swatching.

ANNETTE

Swatching?

ROCHELLE

I told your father we can pass on a honeymoon if we just put a splash of color in this living room.

ANNETTE

Right.

JAMES

We are deadlocked right now between Whispering Peach and Phantom Mist.

James holds out two identical looking swatches.

JAMES

Which do you prefer?

ANNETTE

Can I talk to you a second, Rochelle?

INT. JAMES' HOME - FOYER - DAY

Annette and Rochelle whisper to one another.

ANNETTE

Tonight, I'm going to see my Dad's favorite cover band about the party. You were a total lifesaver with Sidney yesterday. Maybe literally a lifesaver. Would you mind coming with me?

ROCHELLE

You really want me to come?

Annette puts a gentle hand on her shoulder.

ANNETTE

So much.

INT. JAMES' HOME - LIVING ROOM - LATER

James looks at the swatches by himself. He hears a cabinet slam from the kitchen, then a frustrated grunt.

JAMES

Everything all right in there?

A sullen Sonny appears in the doorway.

SONNY

Sorry.

JAMES

Hey, you okay? You look mopier than usual.

SONNY

I'm fine.

JAMES

Ohhh. I've heard that tone before. She dump you or are you in the dog house?

SONNY

Who are you talking about?

JAMES

Your Mom told me there's a lady friend back at school. She wrong about that?

SONNY

(sighs)

Fine. No. She's not. And I'm in the... dog house. Or whatever you call it.

JAMES

That's okay, pal. Happens to all of us. Want to know my trick to get out?

SONNY

I don't have a choice, do I?

JAMES

Nope. No you don't. But here goes:
Tell her what you did, tell her
that you're sorry, tell her that
you'll never do it again, and mean
every single word of it. Also, a
little music never hurt anyone.

EXT. LYNCH'S IRISH PUB - NIGHT

Dirty Deeds Done Dirt Cheap - By AC/DC plays outside A
skeezy bar with green and gold stained glass windows.

Annette and a nervous Rochelle enter.

INT. LYNCH'S IRISH PUB - NIGHT

An overly enthusiastic COVER BAND composed of men in
their 60's plays *Dirty Deeds* as Annette and Rochelle
enter. Their drum has the name Love Knot on it.

Annette and Rochelle approach as they finish the song.

ANNETTE

Mad Dog?

The lead singer, MAD DOG, perks up.

MAD DOG

You the chick that called earlier?

ANNETTE

Annette?

MAD DOG

You got the check?

ANNETTE

Sure do.

MAD DOG

What song did you want us to play
again?

ANNETTE

Anything by the Beach Boys.

ROCHELLE

His favorite song's Kokomo.

ANNETTE

It's actually Little Deuce Coupe.

ROCHELLE
Are you sure? Because I-

ANNETTE
Pretty sure. He's my Dad so-

ROCHELLE
Of course. I just swear he told me
it was Kokomo though.

ANNETTE
It's not Kokomo.

ROCHELLE
Okay but-

ANNETTE
Play both.

MAD DOG
Got it. See you on Sunday.

ANNETTE
Thank you.

Annette turns to Rochelle, smiles.

ANNETTE
Well, thank you for coming.

ROCHELLE
That was it?

ANNETTE
Yep. Calling ahead helps.

ROCHELLE
So what did you need me for?

ANNETTE
Do you want to get a drink?

Rochelle's taken back.

ROCHELLE
Um. I'm really happy you brought
me, but I don't usually drink.

Annette takes Rochelle's hand and leads her to the bar.

ANNETTE
That's okay. I just want to chat.

MOMENTS LATER.

Annette and Rochelle are seated at the bar with a cocktail and a glass of water in front of them.

ROCHELLE

Is everything okay?

ANNETTE

Yeah. No- I mean yes. Everything's fine.

ROCHELLE

What did you want to talk to me about?

ANNETTE

Rochelle, you can't- No.

ROCHELLE

You're sure you're okay?

ANNETTE

Yes. Um. This is really difficult to say but it's important that I say it.

ROCHELLE

Okay?

ANNETTE

Rochelle you can't-

The BARTENDER places a martini in front of Annette.

BARTENDER

From the gentleman over there.

A HANDSOME MAN across the bar lifts a glass to Annette.

ANNETTE

Oh. No thanks. You can send it back. I don't want it.

The bartender walks off and the man, NICK, walks over.

NICK

Hi. Sorry if I'm interrupting. I'm Nick.

ANNETTE

Hi. Thank you. We're actually having a conversation so-

NICK

Would you care to have that drink
with me at my table?

ANNETTE

We're in the middle of something
right now actually.

NICK

Ahh. Well that's too bad. You
sure?

ANNETTE

Yeah I-

NICK

Because I bought that drink for
you and-

ANNETTE

What?

NICK

Come on. Guy buys you a drink. I
think you owe him something.

ANNETTE

I didn't ask for-

NICK

5 minutes of conversation at the
least.

Rochelle picks up the glass, and slams the whole thing
back. It burns for a second but she pulls it together.

ROCHELLE

There. It's gone.

(she sizes him up)

And your plan didn't work. Even
after that drink, you're still an
asshole.

NICK

Excuse me?

She stands up. Gets in his face. This is the first
glimmer of old Rochelle that we see in the present.

ROCHELLE

Buying a woman a drink doesn't
mean she owes you a damn thing.
Now get out of here.

(MORE)

ROCHELLE (CONT'D)

Go call your mother and apologize
for what a little dick you turned
out to be.

A small group of women nearby who have overheard all this
applaud. Annette is in awe. Nick tries to hide his face
as he heads for the exit.

ANNETTE

That was amazing. You like- wow. I
thought I was good at telling
people off but-

Rochelle doesn't look so hot.

ANNETTE

Are you okay?

ROCHELLE

What was that drink?

ANNETTE

A martini.

ROCHELLE

I'm gonna be drunk very soon.

INT. LYNCH'S IRISH PUB - MOMENTS LATER

The retching sound of someone vomiting comes from behind
the door to the women's bathroom. It goes on for a
painfully long amount of time. Then it goes silent.

The door opens and Annette exits with a woozy looking
Rochelle using her for support.

ANNETTE

Well you skipped right passed the
being drunk part.

INT. ANNETTE'S RENTAL CAR - NIGHT

Annette drives as Rochelle melts into the passenger seat.

ANNETTE

You doing okay?

ROCHELLE

Yep.

She let's out a tiny burp.

ROCHELLE

Nope.

ANNETTE

That's okay. What you did in there
was awesome... until you puked.
That kinda killed it.

They drive in silence a while.

ROCHELLE

What did you want to tell me?

ANNETTE

Huh?

ROCHELLE

Earlier. You wanted to say
something.

ANNETTE

Oh umm...

She tries to build the confidence back up but it's gone.
She deflates.

ANNETTE

It was nothing. No biggie.

Good Times by CHIC comes on the radio.

ROCHELLE

Oh my god, I love this song.

She lifts herself up to turn it up but burps again and
goes a little white.

ROCHELLE

Bad idea.

Off Annette's look of utter failure:

INT. JAMES' HOME - UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - NIGHT

Sonny takes a nervous breath outside Britney's room and
knocks. No answer.

SONNY

Brit?... Britney?

He gently pushes the door open to find an empty room.

INT. JAMES' HOME - GARAGE - NIGHT

A dart plunges into the wall next to an empty dart board. A moment later, another digs into the wall. We pull back to reveal that they're coming from a very angry Britney.

She hurls another at the board but again puts a hole in the wall. The door to the house opens and Sonny enters.

SONNY

Brit? Can we talk?

She throws a miss that pings into the wall by Sonny.

SONNY

Okay. Not talking is cool too.
I'll just give you your space.

He goes back to the door but before he exits:

SONNY

Look, I'm sorry I called us incestuous. That's like, literally one of the worst things I could have said. And I'm sorry I introduced you to my family as a girl from my English class. Even though we did technically have English together.

Another dart in the wall.

SONNY

Right. Not the point. The real point is I'm worried about what our families will think. And I should have been more honest about that to begin with. I've got this image of your Mom locking you away in a castle somewhere or like- you know, sending you to a different college or something. I'm scared. That's the truth. But, what's even more true is that I really like being your boyfriend and I don't want to hide that from anyone.

Britney softens up at this.

SONNY

I'm ready to tell our families about us whenever you are. And I'm sorry it took me so long. You deserve better than that.

Britney cracks a smile. Sonny puts his phone in an old mug on a workbench and presses a button. *Toni Braxton's Un-Break My Heart* begins to play.

SONNY

I also picked a song that I
thought would express how I feel.

Britney stares Sonny down for a silent moment until finally giving in. They melt into each other.

BRITNEY

You're so dumb.

She kisses him and it's absolute magic until:

BRITNEY

Can you please turn that off?

SONNY

On it.

Their kissing grows more passionate as Sonny blindly fumbles with his phone to turn off the song.

They start to disrobe each other until the muffled sounds of *Good Times* by CHIC come through the garage door. Just as they pull away from each other to listen:

A light clicks on and the garage door comes to life, slowly raising. Britney pushes Sonny toward the house, grabbing their clothes. He stops her.

SONNY

No. We do this right now.

BRITNEY

I like your spirit, tiger. But
half naked, middle of the night,
in your Grandpa's garage, might
not be our best way to break this
news.

She pushes him inside just as the garage door opens.

INT. JAMES' HOME - ANNETTE'S ROOM - MORNING

Annette awakens to the gentle sound of laughter outside her window. She smiles and goes to the window to inspect. Her smile fades when she sees James and Rochelle on the back patio having breakfast, laughing, and loving each other's company. She sighs.

EXT. JACKSONVILLE BEACH CEMETERY - MORNING

Annette, tote bag over her shoulder, walks through the cemetery, stops at a headstone and sits.

ANNETTE

Hey Mom.

She takes two Styrofoam cups of ice, a bottle of vodka, and a bottle of bloody Mary mix from her bag. She mixes the drinks, puts one by her Mom's headstone.

ANNETTE

I was gonna bring flowers but I figured you hadn't had one of these in a while so- cheers.

(sips drink)

This needs a floater.

She adds a bit of vodka to the drink, holds the bottle toward the headstone.

ANNETTE

You good?

(shakes head)

Sorry that's weird.

(beat)

I really miss you. Everything's gone to shit since... well, since you left. Dad's doing fine. Too fine actually. He proposed to this girl- woman, that I went to high school with. He introduced her to all your friends. It's like I'm in some weird twilight zone and you never even existed. You would DIE if you saw your kitchen right now.

(beat)

His birthday's tomorrow. I thought I'd have this "fiancé" thing dealt with by then but I don't. This is usually when I'd call you for advice so- I don't know...

Annette hears a noise behind her, turns. It's a couple in their mid 80's: WALT and ELEANOR. They approach a headstone and she watches.

Walt walks up first, Eleanor stands back. He takes a moment with the headstone.

WALT

Hi Kay.

Walt gestures for Eleanor to join him. She does and gives a polite wave.

WALT

Kay, this is Eleanor. She uh-

He scans around, something's off.

WALT

Oh shoot. I forgot the flowers. Be right back.

He starts toward their car. Eleanor goes to walk with him but he stops her.

WALT

No it's fine. I'll be right back.

ELEANOR

But-

He's off. Now alone, she turns to the head stone, looks back at Walt again, super uncomfortable.

ELEANOR

Hello, Kay. It's very nice here. You've got a good spot. I uh... I met your husband about 4 years after you... passed away. He loved you very much.

She shifts around, still uncomfortable.

ELEANOR

And I love him very much now. I hope you don't mind me spending time with him.

Eleanor see's Walt approaching with flowers.

ELEANOR

I just want to make this part of his life as happy as you made your part.

Off Annette's look of near comprehension:

INT./EXT. ANNETTE'S CAR - DAY

Annette drives through the cemetery. Up ahead, she sees a man loading a riding mower into a truck. It's Andy.

ANNETTE

You gotta be kidding me.

He spots her and waves. She stops, rolls the window down.

ANNETTE

You're everywhere aren't you?

ANDY

Wherever the crabgrass takes me.
How's operation save Dad?

ANNETTE

My Dad and Rochelle couldn't be
happier right now.

ANDY

Bummer. And his party is tomorrow
right?

ANNETTE

Yeah.

Andy says nothing and it gets awkward real fast.

ANNETTE

What? Do you want come or
something?

ANDY

No no. I don't want to impose on a
family event. Just curious is all.

ANNETTE

YOU are a bad bull-shitter. I'll
see you there tomorrow.

She drives off. Andy smiles. He watches her go until she
sticks her head out.

ANNETTE

It's not a date!

EXT. JAMES' HOME - BACK YARD - DAY

A "Happy 70th Birthday James" banner hangs off the house.

Love Knot plays on a tiny stage in the corner. Sidney,
preps food with his Chuck E Cheese crew. Ethel and Dale
walk around with boxes of Donuts. Dale's still miserable.

Sonny sneaks two cocktails from the bar. He walks across
the yard to Britney seated in an Adirondack chair.

SONNY

Strongest drinks I could find.

BRITNEY

Thanks.

SONNY

You sure you don't want to do it today?

BRITNEY

It's your Grandfather's day.

SONNY

Okay. But if you want me to get on that stage right now I'll do it.

BRITNEY

Very sweet. But we're good.

Sonny spots Ethel waving and heading his way.

SONNY

Great. Also, unless you want your cheeks pinched off, we should walk away very quickly.

He pulls her out of the chair, through the crowd, and away from Ethel.

EXT. JAMES' HOME - BACK YARD - CONTINUOUS

James and Rochelle approach Annette and Andy.

JAMES

Look what the cat dragged in! Glad you came, Andy.

ANDY

Thank you, sir.

JAMES

Yard looks great too.

ANDY

I appreciate you saying that. And happy birthday.

JAMES

Thank you. Another year, another prostate exam.

ANNETTE

Dad.

JAMES

I'm kidding, honey.

(to Andy)

It's actually true though. Don't
ever age.

ANNETTE

Andy, you remember Rochelle?

ANDY

I do but not like this. You look
incredible.

ROCHELLE

That's so sweet of you to say.

ANDY

No really, a total transfor-

Annette nudges him.

ANDY

You get it. Nice to see you.

ANNETTE

We're gonna go grab a drink.

She leads him off and just when they're out of earshot:

ANDY

She wasn't so bad.

Annette raises an eyebrow at Andy.

EXT. JAMES' HOME - BACK YARD - CONTINUOUSTwo drinks are lifted off a table. Annette and Andy sip
and watch Rochelle laugh with James through the crowd.

ANNETTE

Well this is what the rest of my
life's gonna look like.

ANDY

Don't you think-

Sidney from Chuck-E-Cheese passes.

SIDNEY

Bonjour. Comment vont tes yeux?

He gestures to his eyes, gives a thumbs up.

ANNETTE

All good. Thank you. Merci.
(to Andy)
Don't I think what?

ANDY

I don't know. Your Dad seems
pretty happy.

ANNETTE

I know.

Annette fumbles with her Mom's owl necklace.

ANNETTE

He's just not ready for all of
this yet.

ROCHELLE (O.S.)

Present time! Gather round.

Rochelle gathers the entire party around James and a shed
in the backyard. Annette and Andy join.

ROCHELLE

This will only take a second.
Thank you all for coming. James,
it's your special day and I know
you're thrilled to spend it with
what matters to you most. Your
family, your friends, and... your
car. I'll let you all decide which
order those actually come in.

The crowd laughs, James eats it up.

JAMES

Depends on the day!

ROCHELLE

(laughs)

Well on the "rare" days that the
car takes the number one spot, you
need a place to enjoy it. This is
just a little mock-up but it'll
give you an idea of how I'm gonna
turn that garage into your very
own-

She swings open the door to an unbelievable Corvette themed mini Man Cave adorned with pictures and models of James' Corvette. The crowd cheers. James lights up. It's totally perfect save for one thing:

SONNY AND BRITNEY, sucking some serious face in the corner, clothes half off.

ROCHELLE

Man cave...

The crowd Ooo's as Sonny and Brit realize they've been outed. They go white and try to cover up.

ROCHELLE

Britney!

BRITNEY

Mom!

ANNETTE

Sonny!

JAMES

Whoa.

Rochelle slams the door shut.

ROCHELLE

Oookay let's-

Sonny bursts out with Britney.

SONNY

Wait wait wait! This wasn't the plan but whatever. It's not what it looks like.

BRITNEY

Stop talking. Stop talk-

SONNY

We weren't just hooking up. We're dating. We've been dating for months. Mom, Grandpa, Rochelle...

(looks to crowd)

Other old people, this is my girlfriend.

He puts an arm around her as the crowd's jaws drop.

SONNY

And I love her.

BRITNEY

You do?

SONNY

Of course I do. I mean like, if
you do too, and stuff.

For a moment she melts, forgetting the crowd.

BRITNEY

I do. And stuff.

She kisses him. Annette, James, and Andy wince.

ANNETTE

THIS is the girlfriend you were
talking about?

SONNY

No!

BRITNEY

What?

SONNY

I mean yes. YES.

(to Britney)

I wasn't so much talking about you
as she was inferring that you
existed and I was deflecting.
Technically I was talking about
not talking about you so-

The family has no clue what he's saying.

SONNY

Sorry I ramble when I'm nervous.

ROCHELLE

I don't know what to say. I'm
speechless. I'm completely without
speech. James?

JAMES

I just- it's not that big a- well
Sonny will technically be her step
nephew so-

ROCHELLE

Oh god.

ANNETTE

And now we know where the rambling
comes from.

ROCHELLE

Okay. Nothing to see here
everybody. Thanks.

BRITNEY

We didn't mean to ruin your party
Mr. Callaway it's just-

ANNETTE

You guys didn't ruin anything it's-

ROCHELLE

Of course they ruined it! And you
need to control that son of yours.

Something clicks for Annette, or rather, snaps.

ANNETTE

Control?

SONNY

Actually she pulled me in there.

Britney elbows him, tries to hide her smirk.

SONNY

Sorry. It was awesome though.

ROCHELLE

Let's get back to the dance floor
everyone. Umm... Band, can you
play something?

They begin to play *Kokomo* by the Beach Boys.

ROCHELLE

Great. All right everyone lets
move along.

Rochelle keeps trying to herd them but nobody moves.
Annette watches and a smirk grows on her face that turns
into a laugh.

ROCHELLE

What are you laughing at?

ANNETTE

Do these two make you
uncomfortable?

ROCHELLE

What? Of course.

ANNETTE

How does that feel?

ROCHELLE

Excuse me?

ANNETTE

HOW DOES THAT FEEL, ROCHELLE?

Rochelle goes to respond but before she can get a word out:

ANNETTE

Because honestly, I'm fine with their totally normal, though poorly timed, relationship. It's the one you have with my father that I've got a problem with.

The crowd gasps. Rochelle is in shock. Kokomo swells in Annette's ears.

ANNETTE

And you know what? This is NOT his favorite song.

ROCHELLE

What?

ANNETTE

Kokomo isn't his favorite song and I told you that.

ROCHELLE

I have no idea what you're talking about.

ANNETTE

Of course you do. You know exactly what you're trying to do.

ROCHELLE

Trying? I've been nothing but nice to you since you got here.

ANNETTE

Since *I* got here? This is where I grew up. YOU don't belong here!

JAMES

Annette.

ANNETTE

No. That's you and Mom's favorite chef catering this party while you and Mom's favorite band plays music and she's just gonna request Kokomo like she knows anything about our lives?

(to Rochelle)

This is my Mom's house and you're just some... interloper!

ROCHELLE

Whatever you're angry at is way bigger than me. If you want to act like a child go ahead but keep me out of it.

ANNETTE

I'd love to keep you out it. I'd love to keep you out of my life entirely but you just keep crawling back.

SONNY

MOM.

JAMES

Rochelle is my fiancé now and you need to accept that. Your mother would be mortified if she saw you like this.

ANNETTE

I can't believe you just said that.

ANDY

Ohhh kay lets-

ANNETTE

You want to let this BITCH redecorate Mom out of our lives? Fine. Do it. And be like every other dirty old man with a young wife.

ANDY

She doesn't mean that, sir. It's been a big day.

ANNETTE

I mean EXACTLY that. And I don't need to be censored by some hometown loser in front of my own family, thank you very much.

This knocks Andy back. He walks away.

ANDY

Okay.

ANNETTE

Oh grow up, Andy!

ANDY

(his back to her)

I have. You should try it some time.

JAMES

You need to calm down.

ANNETTE

I'm getting out of here.

She heads for the patio. Rochelle and James follow.

ROCHELLE

We are NOT done.

ANNETTE

No. I'll say when I'm done. And right now, I'm majorly done. Sonny, get your stuff. We're leaving.

ROCHELLE

Good!

ANNETTE

Great!

JAMES

(wheezing a bit)

Annette, just come sit down and talk to-

ANNETTE

No! You blind sided me with this bimbo, proposed to her on a whim, and have been acting like a crazy person since I got home. If Mom was gonna be disappointed with anyone it'd be YOU because-

James clutches his chest, wheezes for air.

ANNETTE

Dad?

He falls to his knees. Annette and Rochelle rush to him.

ANNETTE

Dad?

INT. JACKSONVILLE HOSPITAL - ER - DAY

DOCTORS and EMTs push James down a hall on a gurney. Annette, Rochelle, Sonny, and Britney run with them.

EMT

This is James. 70 years old,
brought to his knees at a party
from chest pain.

ANNETTE

Dad? Dad can you hear me? You're
in the hospital.

EMT

He was conscious upon arrival but
went into a-fib on the way.

ANNETTE

What?

DOCTOR

You get a pulse?

EMT

Yes.

ROCHELLE

James? James?

DOCTOR

Okay let's start an Amiodirone
drip.

ANNETTE

Can he hear us?

The Doctor looks up.

DOCTOR

Wait here.

But- ANNETTE But- ROCHELLE

DOCTOR

Right there.

He points to a waiting room. The EMT's push James down the hall. Annette, Rochelle, Sonny, and Britney watch him go in silence.

INT. JACKSONVILLE HOSPITAL - PATIENT ROOM - DAY

James is unconscious and hooked up to heart rate monitors and breathing machines. Annette, Rochelle, Sonny, and Britney stand over his bed. Annette touches his arm.

The door opens and a DOCTOR enters.

DOCTOR

Hello, I'm looking for...
(checks clipboard)

Annette.

ANNETTE

Yes. Is he going to be okay?

DOCTOR

Your father's suffered a minor heart attack. Right now, we need to know if he's been taking any medications.

ANNETTE

No he doesn't-

ROCHELLE

He started taking Warfarin about 3 months ago.
(to Annette)

He didn't want to worry you.

Annette's totally thrown by this.

DOCTOR

Okay, the Wafarin is a strong preventative but it doesn't necessarily eradicate the chance of events like this. Many things can trigger them. Stress can bring on an episode. Has your father been under an abnormal amount of stress lately?

ANNETTE
(drops head)

Yes.

DOCTOR

Okay. Well he's still experiencing an irregular heartbeat and should remain sedated until we see an improvement there. Now, that can take a matter of minutes, hours, or in extreme cases, days. He's in a fragile state right now but we're doing everything we can to keep him.

ANNETTE

Keep him?

DOCTOR

Yes ma'am.

She looks over to James.

INT. JACKSONVILLE HOSPITAL - PATIENT ROOM - NIGHT

The room is dark. James' heart rate monitor makes an irregular set of beeps as it takes his reading.

Sonny and Britney are asleep in chairs across from James' bed. Rochelle sits next to James' bed with his hand in hers and her face buried in his chest.

Annette sits on the opposite side. She pulls a tissue from a box. The sound causes Rochelle to lift her head. We see she's been crying all night.

Annette puts her head down. Silence fills the room until:

ROCHELLE

It can't be like this.

ANNETTE

What?

ROCHELLE

This. Us. We have to stop.
(beat)

Your Mom was an amazing cook. She never measured anything. She'd just taste the whole way through making something.

(MORE)

ROCHELLE (CONT'D)

Then usually once she was done, she wouldn't want a single bite of whatever she'd made. But all of you loved her cooking.

(beat)

She liked dancing, and old cars, and entertaining all of her and your Dad's friends. Her Christmas Eve parties were the event of the year, right? Rum and egg nog?

ANNETTE

What are you doing?

ROCHELLE

She was an amazing woman, Annette. I know because your Dad told me all about her. He loved her so much. Loves her so much. How could I even begin to compete with a whole lifetime of happiness? I can't. Look, you don't have to like me if you don't want to but I met your father and I fell in love with him. And he fell in love with me. We're happy together. But I will never replace the spot your Mom took in his heart. Or in yours.

Annette's eyes well up.

ROCHELLE

She must have felt so loved by you, Annette.

Tears run down Annette's cheek. Finally, her grief is being seen.

ROCHELLE

Someday soon you'll think of her and those tears will be a smile. Maybe not tomorrow. Maybe not next year. It'll happen whenever you're ready. There's no rush at all. It's okay to not be okay.

This washes over Annette. She's overcome with emotion. She looks for something to say but then a Nurse enters.

NURSE

Excuse me.

The Nurse checks on James.

Annette takes Rochelle in for a moment. She notices how tenderly she holds her Dad's hand. She sees the earnest, loving concern in Rochelle's eyes as the Nurse moves around James.

The Nurse finishes her work and leaves. Annette remains transfixed on Rochelle though. She's seeing her now, as if for the very first time.

They sit in silence a moment. And then, ever so softly, Annette begins to sing *Kokomo* By *The Beach Boys*, VERY SLOW.

ANNETTE

(singing)

*Aruba, Jamaica, oh I want to take
ya...*

The heart rate monitor quietly beeps in the corner.

ANNETTE

*Bermuda, Bahama, come on pretty
mama...*

Rochelle looks on.

ANNETTE

*Key Largo, Montego, baby why don't
we go, Jamaica...*

Annette and Rochelle lock eyes for a long while until:

ROCHELLE

Off the Florida Keys...

Annette smiles through the tears. She continues singing, now with Rochelle.

ANNETTE & ROCHELLE

*There's a place called Kokomo...
That's where you want to go to get
away from it all...*

Across the room, Sonny is woken up. He clears his eyes to see his Mom singing with her enemy. He gives Britney a tiny nudge. She wakes, takes in the sight, smiles, then rests her head against his shoulder.

ANNETTE & ROCHELLE

*Bodies in the sand, tropical drink
melting in your hand...*

Annette and Rochelle, sit on both sides of James holding each of his hands in theirs.

ANNETTE & ROCHELLE

*We'll be falling in love to the
rhythm of a steel drum band,
Down in Kokomo...*

Annette extends her free hand across the bed to Rochelle. She snuffles, smiles, and reaches across to take a firm grip of Annette's hand.

They hum the chorus of the song with James' heart rate monitor beeping in the background and we:

SLOWLY FADE OUT:

INT. JACKSONVILLE HOSPITAL - PATIENT ROOM - MORNING

The room is filled with light. Annette, Rochelle, Sonny, and Britney are asleep. James' heart rate monitor continues beeping.

Then finally, a cough.

Annette is stirred awake by the cough. She looks up to see a smiling James looking down at her.

JAMES

Must have been one hell of a party.

ANNETTE

Dad!

She lunges to hug him, wakes the rest of the room.

ROCHELLE

James!

SONNY

Grandpa!

Everyone rushes over to hug him.

JAMES

Easy guys. They've got me hooked up like the six million dollar man here.

BRITNEY

What's a six million dollar man?

ANNETTE

How do you feel?

JAMES

A little bit like I had a heart
attack.

(smiles)

I feel fine, honey.

He looks between Annette and Rochelle, concerned they're
in the same room.

JAMES

How are you?

They look to each other.

ANNETTE

We're fine.

EXT. JACKSONVILLE BEACH CEMETERY - NEXT DAY

Annette, tote bag over her shoulder, approaches her
mother's headstone.

ANNETTE

Hi Mom.

She sets the bag down, takes out two cups and begins to
mix more Bloody Marys. She stops, pulls out a third cup
and looks behind her.

ANNETTE

You want one?

REVEAL: Behind her, Rochelle. She starts to say no but:

ROCHELLE

Just a sip.

ANNETTE

Mom, this is Rochelle.

ROCHELLE

Hi, it's nice to- well-

ANNETTE

She's dating- engaged to Dad now.
I think she's gonna take good care
of him.

ROCHELLE

I- I will.

They stand in silence a moment.

ANNETTE

Just thought you should meet her
in case you had anything to say.

(silence)

Sorry. So weird. Gotta stop that.

ROCHELLE

James has told me so many
wonderful things about you. Your
family loves you very much.

She looks to Annette. Annette puts a hand on her back.

ANNETTE

Thanks. Can you give me a second?

Rochelle nods, walks to the car. Annette steps closer to
her Mom's headstone. She builds herself up to speak and:

ANNETTE

I- She's no you but neither am I.
And I guess that's okay. You got
to be you and now I've got to be
me.

She sets a Bloody Mary in front of the headstone.

ANNETTE

Bye, Mom. I love you.

She heads to the car but before she reaches it:

CEMETERY EMPLOYEE (O.S.)

Ma'am! You can't keep leaving
trash here!

Annette spins to see an angry CEMETERY EMPLOYEE pointing
at the Bloody Mary she left behind. She jumps in the car,
looks to Rochelle.

ANNETTE

Drive.

EXT. JAMES' HOME - BACK YARD - DAY

A bright blue sky.

Superimpose: 1 Week Later.

We move down from the sky onto the banner from James'
birthday party. On a ladder held by Britney, Sonny,
writes a large "Part II" on the end of the sign. The
ladder shakes.

SONNY
 Seriously not funny.

Britney laughs a flirty laugh.

The party is in full swing and everyone from before is back. Ethel, Dale, Sidney & crew, and The Love Knots. A total redo.

Annette grabs a bite from Sidney's table, takes a bite.

ANNETTE
 C'est magnifique, Sidney!

Annette walks past the chefs and smiles at all of them. She approaches James.

ANNETTE
 How do you feel?

JAMES
 I'm fine. You don't have to keep checking on me.

Rochelle walks up with a cup of water, hands it to James.

ROCHELLE
 Here.
 (to Annette)
 He's not hydrating like he's supposed to.

ANNETTE
 Dad? Didn't we have a talk this morning about hydrating?

JAMES
 Yes but doesn't-

ROCHELLE
 I'll answer that. We did. And just because it's your party doesn't mean you get to break the rules mister.

ANNETTE
 She's right.

James looks at them both, smiles, and takes a sip.

JAMES
 Fine.

Rochelle eyes Britney helping Sonny off the ladder. They're pretty touchy-feely about it. Annette and James follow her gaze.

ANNETTE

What are we gonna do about that?

ROCHELLE

Let's break em up.

They're quiet a moment, then burst into laughter.

ANNETTE

(through laughs)

Wait. Are we laughing because we're gonna do it or-

ROCHELLE

(through laughs)

We're totally gonna do it.

ANNETTE

Hey I haven't said this to either of you yet. Congratulations on the engagement. I'm truly happy for you both.

James leans in and gives Annette a hug and kiss.

JAMES

Thanks, honey.

Rochelle does the same.

ROCHELLE

Thank you.

ANNETTE

And...

Annette points to Mad Dog on stage, he nods.

ANNETTE

I have a surprise.

The Love Knots begin to play *Summer Nights*. Rochelle and James put their arms around one another.

ANNETTE

Had to do it. Get up there.

They hug Annette and head toward the stage. Rochelle guides James up the stage stairs. Annette sees them kiss before stepping on stage, winces.

ANNETTE
 (to herself)
 Still a little gross.

They head to the mic and sing along. Annette watches her happy father and smiles. Then she hears something in the next yard, a mower.

She walks through the party as everyone heads toward the stage. She grabs two beers from a cooler and leaves the back yard.

EXT. NEXT DOOR - DAY

Andy rides his riding mower.

Annette rounds the hedges dividing their yards and walks right in front of Andy's mower. He shuts it off.

ANNETTE
 Weren't you supposed to do this yard a week ago?

ANDY
 Yeah. But this crazy woman kinda through me off schedule.

ANNETTE
 The crazy ones tend to do that. Beer?

She holds her two beers up. He thinks it over.

ANDY
 Beer me.

She tosses it to him, they open them.

ANDY
 I expanded.

ANNETTE
 Huh?

ANDY
 The business. I expanded to Colony Grove. Bought another truck. Gonna hire some guys.

ANNETTE
 Andy, that's amazing. Congratulations.

She toasts him, he toasts back.

ANDY

Not such a hometown loser after all.

ANNETTE

I was a huge jerk.

ANDY

You were.

ANNETTE

Any chance of you forgiving me?

ANDY

Not sure about that.

ANNETTE

Even after you took my peace offering?

She walks toward him.

ANDY

I'm not gonna say no to a beer.

She's inches from his face. Their eyes locked.

ANNETTE

I'm really sorry, Andy.

He looks to the beer, then back at her, and smiles.

ANDY

Apology accepted.

(beat)

So... Do we kiss now or...

She thinks it over a moment.

ANNETTE

Nope. But I think I owe you a dance. Wanna come to a party? Or are you too busy?

He looks around at the yard.

ANDY

The grass isn't growing that fast.

He hops off his mower, extends his arm to escort her, she takes it and they walk away leaving his mower.

ANNETTE

You're just gonna leave that
there?

ANDY

I'll get it later.

EXT. JAMES' HOME - BACK YARD - DAY

The whole party is mid *Summer Nights* sing-along. James is on stage with Sidney, Mad Dog, and a pissed off Dale singing back up.

Rochelle's on stage with Ethel. She does her best to get between Sonny and Britney dancing together but it's not working.

Annette and Andy enter. They stand back a moment, take in the sight.

Annette looks to her Mom's gold owl necklace, smiles.

ANDY

We doing this?

ANNETTE

(smiles)

I'm ready.

They dance into the singing crowd together.

END.