

My Life Without You

written by

Alycia Williams

2021

90-54 199th st
Hollis, NY 11423
(347)335-8681
Williams.alycia6@gmail.com

EXT. QUEENS STREETS - MORNING.

SUPER: The Night. November 5, 2005 - November 6, 2005

We PUSH THROUGH an apartment window.

FRANK (V.O.)

I wish someone would've told me
what I was in for.

INT. FRANK'S BEDROOM - MORNING

A MAN ties the laces on his suede black shoes. We PULL BACK to see FRANK, 25, tall, dark, handsome, and slim but strong. He's aggressive yet thin skinned. Bold, but insecure.

He stands up from sitting on his bed then goes to the mirror to fix his tie on his suit.

The front door is heard being opened.

RONNIE, 24, slim, light skin, long hair, comes walking into the bedroom with a postal shirt on.

She flops onto the bed.

Frank sits on the bed next to her.

FRANK

Hard night at work?

RONNIE

This working overnight thing has
been killing me Frank. It's been
months and it's still not a little
easier.

FRANK

Give it some more time, you'll get
used to it.

Ronnie sits up.

FRANK (CONT'D)

And once we save enough we'll be in
our dream house for you, me, and
the girls it'll all be worth it.

Frank and Ronnie peck on the lips.

Frank gets back up and puts on some cologne.

RONNIE

At least I don't have to work tonight.

FRANK

You was able to get off?

RONNIE

I requested it, and they gave it to me.

Beat.

FRANK

You know, you've been working so hard lately, you deserve a night with the girls.

(Beat)

Where y'all going?

RONNIE

Tay-Tay wants to go to the same place we went last year for her birthday, but as long as I get a night out.

Ronnie lays back down.

RONNIE (CONT'D)

You can count me in.

Frank looks at his watch.

FRANK

I've gotta go, if I wanna catch my train.

Frank grabs his coat from the closet.

FRANK (CONT'D)

What time do I need to be back by?

RONNIE

8:30 the latest.

FRANK

I'll be back at 8.

They smooch again.

Ronnie pulls him by his tie for a longer kiss.

They stare into each other eyes for a beat, and Frank pulls away and heads out the door.

EXT. SAKS FIFTH AVENUE - NIGHT

The streets are packed as rush hour is in full affect.

CUT TO:

INT. SAKS FIFTH AVENUE - NIGHT

Frank rushes toward the front entrance, constantly checking his watch.

CO-WORKER #1 (O.S.)
Frank leaving already?

Frank turns around, but he's still in motion toward the door.

FRANK
I've gotta get home.

CO-WORKER #2 (O.S.)
Hey, Frank wait up. Let me get my coat. We'll catch the train together.

FRANK
I'm in kind of rush, but we'll catch up tomorrow.

CO-WORKER #2 (O.S.)
Give Ronnie my best!

FRANK
Will do!

Frank dashes out the door.

INT. FRANK'S APARTMENT

Frank keys into the door and quietly shuts the door behind him.

Frank checks his watch.

Insert watch: 8:01 pm

The shower can be heard running in the bathroom.

Frank slowly walks further into the apartment.

FRANK (V.O.)
It was a typical "girls night out"
atmosphere.

CUT TO:

INT. FRANK'S BEDROOM.

Frank opens the door to see Ronnie's outfit laid out on the bed. Everything from clothes to jewelry and even shoes.

FRANK (V.O.)
Her clothes are laid out on the
bed.

CUT TO:

INT. THE GIRLS BEDROOM.

Frank opens the door to see his daughters ARLENE, 3 years old and AMINA, 5 years old, fast asleep in their bunk beds, With the glaring light of the TV flashing on them.

FRANK (V.O.)
The girls ate dinner, washed up,
and were asleep.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN.

Frank opens up the microwave to find his dinner.

FRANK (V.O.)
My dinner is already made and
waiting for me in the microwave.

CUT TO:

INT. BATHROOM

The shower can be heard running as Frank walks toward the bathroom door.

FRANK (V.O.)
And finally, my wife is taking a
steaming hot shower.

Frank opens the door to the bathroom, the steam comes pouring out.

Ronnie is startled.

RONNIE
Hey babe, I didn't even hear you
come in. When'd you get here.

FRANK
I just walked in.

The shower turns off, Ronnie grabs a towel to put on before stepping out of the shower.

RONNIE
The girls are asleep, your food is
in the microwave and you can watch
ESPN until you fall asleep.

They both chuckle, then kiss, as Ronnie scoots by Frank.

INT. FRANK'S APARTMENT. LIVING ROOM — MOMENTS LATER.

Frank sits on the couch dressed in his pajamas watching the TV.

Ronnie comes out the bedroom and digs through her purse.

RONNIE
Have you seen my silver bracelets?

Frank, still starrng at the TV, answers:

FRANK
Yeah, Arlene was playing with them
last night.

RONNIE
I told you stop letting them play
with my jewelry. It always goes
missing.

FRANK
Just check their room.

Frank glances over at Ronnie. He looks her up and down as she wears a sexy underwear.

RONNIE
Stop.

FRANK
What?

RONNIE
I don't want you to see me until
I'm all ready.

Ronnie goes running into the girls bedroom.

INT. LIVING ROOM - LATER.

Frank sits in front of the television with an empty plate resting on the coffee table, looking like he's about to fall asleep.

Ronnie wearing her high heels can be heard walking in the living room.

Frank sits up and takes a hard long look Ronnie.

Ronnie stands on five-inch platform heels, tight designer jeans, a glittery tank top, and hair done up into a ponytail.

RONNIE
So, how do I look?

FRANK
(memorized)
You look good.

RONNIE
Just good?

FRANK
No, **Real** good.

Ronnie smiles and starts to pack her pocketbook.

FRANK (CONT'D)
How come you never dress like this
when we go out?

Ronnie turns around.

RONNIE
Next time we go out, I'll make sure
I look better than this.

Ronnie continues packing.

Frank notices the seven symbol on the back of her jeans.

FRANK
Are those seven jeans?

Beat.

RONNIE

I had a little extra money this month.

FRANK

\$300 extra?

Ronnie leans over pecks Frank on the lips.

RONNIE

But don't they look so good on me?

Frank agrees.

RONNIE (CONT'D)

I won't be too late, but don't wait up.

Ronnie kisses Frank again and dashes to the door.

RONNIE (CONT'D)

Love you.

The door slams.

FRANK

Love you too.

INT. LIVING ROOM - 2:28AM

Frank fell asleep on the couch with the Sports Center still playing on the TV.

Arlene pulls on Frank's t-shirt until he wakes up.

FRANK (V.O.)

Like clockwork, Arlene got up at 2:30 every night asking for-

ARLENE

Milk. Daddy I need Milk.

Frank quickly gets up and carries Arlene to the kitchen and sits her down as he pours and warms up her milk.

Arlene squirms off the chair and darts into Frank's bedroom.

FRANK

Where are you going?

Frank grabs the milk from the microwave and chases after Arlene.

INT. FRANK'S BEDROOM – CONTINUOUS

Frank walks in to see Arlene playing with Ronnie's jewelry.

FRANK

Stop playing with your mother's
stuff and come drink this milk.

Frank sits on the bed and Arlene comes running.

ARLENE

Here daddy.

Arlene opens her hand to give Frank both of Ronnie's wedding bands.

Frank looks taken aback. He takes the rings from Arlene and gives her the sippy cup.

Frank still sits on the bed evaluating the rings.

Frank looks back at Arlene falling asleep. He smiles, dismisses his thoughts and puts the rings back on the dresser.

Frank lays down in bed with Arlene for a long silent beat, trying to relax.

He quickly pops right back up out of bed.

CUT TO:

INT. FRANK'S BEDROOM – 3:30AM

Arlene is fast asleep. On the other side of the bed sits Frank in deep thought playing with the rings in his hands.

Frank picks up his cellphone and dials Ronnie's phone number, then puts it down and paces back and forth in his room.

He picks up the house phone and starts to dial, then he puts it back on hook, he paces some more.

Frank takes a deep breath and dials Ronnie phone number and waits for it to ring.

The phone rings once, Franks sweats impatiently, the phone rings again. The second ring is cut off by her voicemail.

Frank, stunned decides to hang up. He paces again.

He calls back and it goes straight to voicemail, her phone is off.

He leaves a message:

FRANK
(monotone)
Call me back.

He hangs up.

He puts the phone down and looks back at the wedding bands.

He shakes his head.

Frank lies down in his bed again and closes his eyes.

CUT TO:

INT. FRANK'S BEDROOM - 4:08 AM

Frank is snooping through her dresser and closet neatly and carefully trying to make sure she doesn't notice that he touched anything. He finds nothing.

He sits back on the bed and picks up his phone to call her again. Straight to voicemail. He leaves another message:

FRANK
Just wanna make sure everything is
ok. Call me back.

He hangs up.

He starts to dial again and holds the phone to his ear.

FRANK (V.O.)
I was desperate to get in contact
with this woman. So I called-

FRANK
Hey Tay-Tay, I'm trying to get in
contact with my wife, so when you
get this message could you have her
call me back.

Frank sits in deep thought with the phone in his hand.

INT. THE GIRLS BEDROOM - 4:32

Frank carries Arlene back into her bed.

INT. LIVING ROOM - 5:30AM

The sun is starting to come up. Frank still paces, shaking the rings in his hand. The distress reads all over his face as he hasn't even gotten a wink of sleep.

As he paces, he mumbles under his breath what exactly he's going to say to Ronnie.

He sits in the rocking chair in the corner and wipes his sweat with his forearm.

FRANK (V.O.)
I'm just going to give her a chance
to explain.

INT. LIVING ROOM - 6:30AM

The sun shines bright on Frank as he sits in the rocking chair dosing off. His chin slightly hits his chest and he jumps up. He paces again.

He calls Ronnie again, voicemail.

He calls Tay-Tay again, voicemail.

FRANK (V.O.)
At this point I felt like I either
need to be calling hospitals or
start packing my things, and I
wasn't ready for either one.

INT. LIVING ROOM - 7AM

Frank uses the house phone to call Ronnie's mother CHRISSY, 50, always paranoid.

The phone rings.

CHRISSY (O.S.)
Hello.

Frank talks low because the kids are still asleep.

FRANK
Hey-

CHRISSY (O.S.)
What is it? It's my day off.

FRANK

Ronnie went out for Tay-Tay's birthday last night and never came back.

CHRISSY (O.S.)

What?

FRANK

I tried calling but-

CHRISSY (O.S.)

(paranoid)

Did you call the police or something?

FRANK

No, I only called her and Tay-Tay, but I got nothing.

CHRISSY

I'm going to call you back, when I hear from her.

Frank puts the phone back on the hook and turns around, He's startled by Arlene and Amina coming out of their rooms.

ARLENE

(whining)

Where's mommy?

Frank freezes, not knowing what to say.

AMINA

She's still at work, but she'll be back soon. Right Daddy?

Frank rushes them both to the bathroom.

FRANK

Go brush your teeth, while I get breakfast ready.

Amina and Arlene, oblivious to everything, runs into the bathroom.

CUT TO:

INT. FRANK'S BEDROOM — 8:30AM

Frank is dressed sloppily in his suit and tie as he still paces with the rings in his hand.

Amina walks in.

AMINA

When is mommy going to be here?

Frank doesn't even look in Amina's direction.

FRANK

Go back in you room.

Amina, frustrated, turns to go back into her room.

The house phone rings, Franks quickly runs to pick it up.

FRANK (CONT'D)

Hello.

CHRISSY (O.S.)

Hello.

FRANK

Hold on.

Frank peeks into the girls room to make sure they're not listening.

They're memorized by the TV.

Frank goes back into his room and closes the door.

FRANK (CONT'D)

Hello.

CHRISSY (O.S.)

Did you hear from her yet?

FRANK

No.

Beat.

CHRISSY (O.S.)

(calm)

I wouldn't be worried if, I was you.

FRANK

What do you mean, don't worry? Who knows where she could be and you're telling me not to worry?

Beat.

CHRISSEY (O.S.)
She's at Tay-Tay's house.

 FRANK
 (irritated)
Wait, you spoke to her already?

 CHRISSEY (O.S.)
She's going to call you soon.

 FRANK
You've got to be kidding me.

Beat.

 CHRISSEY (O.S.)
Frank just remember you're married
and you can get over this.

Frank, confused, hangs up.

INT. LIVING ROOM - 10:15AM

Frank sits on the couch, jittering, with the rings still in hand.

The house phone rings again.

Frank jumps up and looks at the caller ID, it reads Tay-Tay's House.

Frank takes a deep breath and picks it up.

Silence, as they listen to each other breath.

 RONNIE (O.S.)
 (quietly)
I'm sorry, I'm-

 FRANK
 (aggressive)
You need to be home now, I have
work at 11.

Frank slams the phone on the hook.

He goes into the girls room and turns up the volume on the TV, the girls don't even budge.

Frank goes into his room, sits on the bed and breathes heavily. He tries to calm himself down.

FRANK (V.O.)
 Although I was almost positive she
 was cheating, I needed to read her
 body language to be completely
 sure.

INT. LIVING ROOM - 10:35

BEGIN MONTAGE

QUICK SHOTS:

-Frank places Ronnie's rings on the counter near the door, so she'll see them when she gets in.

-Frank looks out his bedroom window looking for Ronnie.

-He looks out the kitchen window.

-He looks out the living room window.

-He looks out the girls bedroom window as the girls are still watching TV.

-He stands in the bathtub sticking his head out the tiny bathroom window.

END MONTAGE.

The front door is heard opening.

Frank climbs out of the bathtub and walks slowly toward the door, he closes the girls bedroom door on his way.

Frank turns the corner to see Ronnie.

She stands looking shameful. She wears the same outfit, but her clothes look disheveled. Her nice updo is now what looks matted and wild. She looks down at the ground making no eye contact.

RONNIE
 I'm sorry.

FRANK (V.O.)
 And that said it all.

RONNIE
 But lemme just tell you-

FRANK
 (outraged)
 What the **hell** happened?

RONNIE
I got sick from something I drank
in the club-

FRANK
Where the hell are your rings?

RONNIE
I-I left them-

Frank looks her up and down with disgust. Ronnie doesn't look back.

Frank takes off his ring and slams it on the counter next to her rings.

FRANK
These rings don't mean shit.

Frank walks out the front door and it slams behind him.

He breathes rapidly, and he feels like the walls are closing in on him.

CUT TO BLACK.

SUPER: The Beginning. June 2005 - November 2005.

FRANK (V.O.)
When all was great. At least that's
what I thought.

INT. THE GIRLS BEDROOM - MORNING.

Frank, Amina, and Arlene are on the floor playing dolls. They're having a great time.

The front door is heard opening.

FRANK
You guys play without me, I'll be
right back.

Frank gets up and leaves the room.

INT. FRANK'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS.

Frank greets Ronnie at the front door.

Ronnie drags her feet inside wearing her postal shirt.

FRANK

How was the first day? Or the first night I guess.

RONNIE

When I tell you I am beat.

Ronnie flops onto the couch.

Frank picks up her feet and sits beside her.

FRANK

Rough huh?

RONNIE

Rough is an understatement. The manual labor is overbearing and that place is just so dusty and dirty, I mean just look at me.

FRANK

How about the people there, what're they like?

RONNIE

Frank don't even get me started with the people.

FRANK

There's no one there you can talk to?

RONNIE

I wouldn't even dare.

Frank starts taking off Ronnie's shoes and rubbing her feet.

FRANK

Things will get better, eventually.

INT. FRANK'S BEDROOM — DAYS LATER.

Ronnie is laid out on the bed. The TV is on, but she's not watching it. She's laughing, while she talks on her cellphone.

Frank walks in and stand in the doorway.

RONNIE

Hold on.

She puts the phone down.

FRANK

Arlene is at the babysitter. I was thinking we could catch movie.

RONNIE

Aww, Frank! You should've told me earlier, I already made plans.

FRANK (V.O.)

And that was the first excuse of many.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM.

Ronnie sits on the couch with her cellphone in her hand.

RONNIE

I didn't fit that into my schedule.

CUT TO:

INT. FRANK'S BEDROOM.

Ronnie sits on the bed in her work clothes.

RONNIE

I'm drained, maybe next week.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM.

Ronnie is putting on her sandals.

RONNIE

I'm meeting up with the girls.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN.

Ronnie throws her dishes in the sink and heads for the door.

RONNIE

I have some errands to run.

Ronnie leaves.

Frank shrugs his shoulders and grabs some chips and sits in front of the TV.

INT. SAKS FIFTH AVENUE. FRANK'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Frank sits at his desk, reading through paperwork.

The phone rings, he answers.

FRANK
Saks Fifth Avenue, Frank speaking.

On the other line is LUCINDA, 50s, Frank's mother.

LUCINDA (O.S.)
(confused)
Hello son. Is that you?

FRANK
Yeah, it's me, but I'm actually
about to leave work-

LUCINDA (O.S.)
I don't wanna talk for long.

FRANK
Ok, what's up?

LUCINDA (O.S.)
I wanted to tell you that your
grandmother is in the hospital
again.

FRANK
Her diabetes acting up?

Beat.

LUCINDA (O.S.)
The tumor is back.

Frank is at a loss for words.

LUCINDA (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Frank? Frank? You still there?

FRANK
Umm yeah, I'm here.

LUCINDA (O.S.)
I don't want you to worry.

Beat.

LUCINDA (CONT'D)
She's gonna to be ok, she's a
fighter.

INT. HOSPITAL

MUZ, (Ma-zz), late 70s, lays in the hospital bed. She looks weak, but always has a happy spirit.

Frank stands in the doorway and knocks on the door with balloons and flowers in his hands. Muz slowly turns her head.

MUZ
Frank is that you?

Frank walks in.

FRANK
Hey Muz, What's going on?

Frank pulls up a chair next to her.

MUZ
Where's Amina a-and the baby?

FRANK
I didn't bring them.

MUZ
And your better half?

FRANK
She started working overnight, so she has to rest during the day. But, I'll make sure we all visit soon.

MUZ
And those Bulls, how have those Bulls been playing?

FRANK
Muz, they're fine, but I wanna know how you're feeling?

MUZ
You know me Frank, I'm better than ever.

FRANK
Right.

Frank gets up out of her chair.

FRANK (CONT'D)
Well I got you these.

Frank puts the balloons and flowers off to the side.

MUZ
You know you didn't have to. But I appreciate it.

Frank looks around to an empty room.

FRANK
Who else came to visit you since you been in here?

Silence.

FRANK (CONT'D)
(irritated)
All them kids and grand kids you got, and none of them came?

Muz grabs Franks hand.

MUZ
I don't need none of them to come visit me, because I knew you'd come.
(Beat)
And besides I'll be out of here soon anyway.

Beat.

FRANK
(chuckling)
I believe you.

MUZ
I'm serious. Remember what they told me last time. I showed that stupid doctor and I'll do it again.

INT. APARTMENT - LATER

Frank walks in with his head hung low.

Ronnie, talking on the house phone notices.

RONNIE
Can I call you back real quick girl?

She hangs up.

RONNIE (CONT'D)
How is she?

Frank shakes his head.

RONNIE (CONT'D)
That bad?

FRANK
She tried to make me think she's
ok, but I know her too well.

RONNIE
Do you think she'll...

Frank sharply looks at Ronnie.

RONNIE (CONT'D)
Recover. Do you think she'll
recover.

Frank relaxes.

FRANK
I don't know.

RONNIE
When do you think you'll visit her
again?

FRANK
Everyone else isn't visiting her
like they should, that's why I told
her we would all come on Saturday.

RONNIE
Saturday?

FRANK
Please don't tell me you can't go.

RONNIE
I signed up for an extra day at
work already.

Beat.

FRANK
You can't get off?

RONNIE

I'm on probation, so I can't even call out. I promise I'll make it next time.

Frank, frustrated gets up from the couch.

FRANK

You know what? Don't worry about it.

RONNIE

You sure?

Frank walks into the bedroom.

FRANK

Yeah, I'll just take the girls.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM — EVENING

Muz lays in the hospital bed with Arlene asleep on one side and Amina asleep on the other.

Frank dozes off.

MUZ

Frank.

Frank snaps out of it.

FRANK

Yes, Muz.

MUZ

You're not getting enough sleep at home?

FRANK

I'm fine.

MUZ

You've got a lot going on, I see.

FRANK

I-

MUZ

Cough it up.

Beat.

FRANK

I got back to school shopping to do, Arlene's birthday-

MUZ

And your anniversary.

FRANK

Yeah, but we're not doing anything this year.

MUZ

And why is that?

FRANK

She's still on her 3-month probation from her new job at the post office. So she won't be able to get off.

MUZ

You better find the time to take your wife out for her anniversary. You hear me?

FRANK

I hear you Muz, but it just won't work.

MUZ

Make it work.

(Beat)

And while you're at it, make time for your wife to come see me.

FRANK

Don't worry I'll get her here.

MUZ

Take these babies home, and try to only worry about one thing at a time.

Frank starts to pick up Arlene.

MUZ (CONT'D)

And you make sure one of those things is not me.

Beat.

FRANK

I just want you to get better.

MUZ
When have I ever let you down?

FRANK
Never.

MUZ
So stop doubting me now. Worry
about your kids and your family,
I'm gonna be just fine.

Muz flashes her gentle smile at Frank and Frank can't help to smile back.

INT. SMALL RESTAURANT — EVENING

Frank and Amina sit on one side of the table and Ronnie and Arlene on the other. Arlene is standing on her chair and being disruptive, Ronnie's continuously looks at her phone, and Frank and Amina sit silently.

FRANK
Ronnie.

Ronnie doesn't answer.

FRANK (CONT'D)
Hello, Ronnie.

Frank shakes the table a little.

Ronnie doesn't look up.

RONNIE
What is it?

FRANK
Muz was asking me, when you think
you'll be able to visit her.

RONNIE
Umm.

ARLENE
(screaming)
It's my mommy and daddy's
anniversary.

FRANK
(annoyed)
Could you sit this child down,
please?

Ronnie looks up from her phone.

RONNIE
Relax, I didn't notice.

Ronnie sits Arlene down, and she gets right back up and jumps on the chair and sings a song.

The WORKERS along with the other CUSTOMERS look at them.

FRANK
(frustrated)
Sit her down.

RONNIE
I'm trying.

Arlene takes ice out of the cup and start throwing it at other customers.

FRANK
Hurry up, we're gonna get kicked outta here.

Ronnie Struggles to get control of Arlene.

Arlene continues to throw ice, and she's hitting customers.

RONNIE
Don't you see me trying.

Frank looks back, as the MANAGER approaches.

CUT TO:

EXT. RESTAURANT — MOMENTS LATER.

The four of them walk out the restaurant and toward the car.

RONNIE
(sarcastically)
What an amazing anniversary.

Ronnie opens the car door to put Amina in her booster chair.

FRANK
None of this would've happened if you wasn't always looking at your phone.

Frank puts Arlene in her car seat.

RONNIE

What was I supposed to do? Talk about nothing at this crappy restaurant.

FRANK

I thought maybe you would wanna spend our anniversary with our family.

Ronnie chuckles.

RONNIE

My friends are going to Las Vegas, Cali, and Miami, for their anniversary and you take me to shabby restaurant for ours.

FRANK

Right now we have too much going on with the kids, we're saving for a house and how am I supposed to take vacation when I have to go see Muz every Saturday?

Ronnie scoffs.

RONNIE

I'm not waiting on you to live my life.

Ronnie gets in the drivers seat.

Frank gets in the passenger seat.

INT. APARTMENT - LATER

Ronnie walks in first, she dashes into her room and slams the door.

Frank walks in behind her holding his girls in his arms.

FRANK

Who's ready for a bath?

AMINA AND ARLENE

Me!

ARLENE (CONT'D)

Can we bring the dolls in today?

Frank puts the girls down.

FRANK
 You guys get the dolls you want and
 and I'll get the bath ready.

The girls run into their room.

FRANK (CONT'D)
 Only two each.

The house phone rings.

Ronnie comes dashing out the room to answer it.

RONNIE
 It's probably for me.

She answers.

RONNIE (CONT'D)
 Hello.

Beat.

Ronnie hands the phone to Frank.

RONNIE (CONT'D)
 It's your mother.

Ronnie darts back into the room.

FRANK
 What's up?

LUCINDA (O.S.)
 I got a call from the hospital
 today.

Frank's heart becomes heavy.

LUCINDA (CONT'D)
 Her condition is getting worse.

FRANK
 How bad?

LUCINDA (O.S.)
 They said there's still a chance
 that she could recover, things just
 took a turn for worse.

FRANK
 Did you speak to Muz?

LUCINDA (O.S.)

Yeah, she said she feels fine, you know your grandmother. I'm going this Saturday to see how she's really doing. You going?

FRANK

I've been going every Saturday, but I'll make sure Ronnie and the girls come with me this time.

Arlene and Amina come running out with two dolls each in their hands smiling and ready to go.

FRANK (CONT'D)

Lemme go and get these kids washed up, I'll talk to you later.

INT. FRANK'S BEDROOM — LATER

Ronnie sits on the bed, texting on her phone.

Frank walks in, Ronnie looks up, she says nothing.

Frank sits on the bed.

FRANK

Muz isn't doing to well.

RONNIE

What happened?

FRANK

She's just not recovering as fast as we thought she would and

(Beat)

I want all of us to visit her this Saturday.

RONNIE

I can't I'll-

FRANK

(imitating)

"I'll be too sleepy for work" yeah I know, but she's been asking about you and you haven't seen her since she's been admitted.

RONNIE

I'll do my best to come next time, I promise.

Frank, pissed turns off the light and lays down.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM — DAY.

Muz lays in bed looking weak. Lucinda and Arlene sit in one chair and Frank and Amina sit in the other surrounding her bed.

MUZ

How was the anniversary?

FRANK

I don't even want to talk about it.

LUCINDA

That bad?

FRANK

Yeah, we got kicked out of the restaurant and it all went downhill from there.

LUCINDA

Don't worry about it, things will get back on track.

MUZ

Speaking of your anniversary, where is your other half?

FRANK

(disappointed)

She just couldn't make it. You know with work and stuff.

MUZ

Don't stress over it, I'll see her when I get out of here. And then maybe I'll throw a party at my place or something like that.

They all laugh.

LUCINDA

Let's focus on recovery first.

INT. APARTMENT — EVENING

Frank opens the front door and the girls run in Frank follows.

FRANK

Ronnie?

No answer.

Frank looks around, she's not there.

Frank seems confused. He picks up the phone to call.

The phone doesn't even ring, her phone number is out of service. Frank is beyond confused.

Amina runs out of her room.

AMINA

Daddy can you play with us?

Frank is conflicted. He hangs up the phone and carries Amina to her room.

INT. APARTMENT – NIGHT.

Ronnie walks through the door quietly. Frank surprises her at the doorway. Ronnie jumps.

RONNIE

Hey babe.

FRANK

Where have you been? I thought you needed sleep before work.

RONNIE

I left to come pick you and the girls up from the hospital.

Frank looks at the clock.

FRANK

And that took 4 hours?

Ronnie pushes by Frank.

RONNIE

(irritated)

Why are you pressing me so hard. God Forbid I try to do something nice for you.

FRANK

And I tried calling you, it said your phone was out of service?

RONNIE

Oh Yeah, I got a new number. I thought I told you.

FRANK

No you didn't, but Why?

RONNIE

Do I have to explain everything to you?

Frank still waits for an answer.

RONNIE (CONT'D)

I keep getting these random calls from these people that don't speak English and it was annoying, so I got a new number.

(Beat)

Anything else you wanna know master?

Ronnie storms off leaving Frank feeling guilty.

EXT. LANA'S BACKYARD — DAY.

The backyard is decorated in girly decorations for Arlene's birthday party.

Arlene and Amina run around playing with their COUSINS and FRIENDS.

Frank sits at a table talking his sister LANA mid 30s and his brother JAY early 20s.

FRANK

I couldn't be more thankful for letting us have Arlene's party here. We wasn't even planning anything and things just got-

LANA

You don't have to thank me, you know we love to have the girls over and you know Jazmine loves having people over. She gets bored all by herself especially on the weekend.

FRANK

You should take her to see Muz on Saturdays. I take the girls every weekend and she loves it.

LANA

I can't on the weekends cause I
have to work. Jay could you maybe
take her on Saturdays?

Jay thinks for a moment.

JAY

I think I might be able to.

FRANK

Good good, I really want people to
come to see her. You know she won't
say it, but she wants visitors.

JAZMINE, 6 years old, Lana's daughter, runs over.

JAZMINE

Mommy, Mommy.

LANA

What is it Jazmine?

JAZMINE

Can I have some food?

LANA

Ok lemme fix this girl a plate.

Lana starts to get up.

FRANK

Don't worry about it Lana, I'll fix
Jaz's plate.

Frank gets up and walks over to the food and starts making a
plate.

Frank realizes Ronnie and TAY-TAY, 20s, slim, dark, talking a
few feet away.

Frank tries listening, but he can't hear.

Frank walks slowly away with a full plate of food.

He looks back, Tay-Tay and Ronnie are now fixing plates of
food, still whispering and laughing.

Frank, conflicted stands still for a beat, he's in deep
thought.

He spots the trash can out the corner of his eye.

Frank quickly tosses out the full plate of food out and heads back to make another.

Frank slowly fixes another plate and listens intensely.

TAY-TAY

Wait so you changed your number?

RONNIE

Yeah, I changed it.

TAY-TAY

Was it because-

Ronnie shakes her head and giggles.

RONNIE

Yeah.

TAY-TAY

Ok good, so you don't have to worry about that anymore.

RONNIE

I'm about to change my cellphone plan too.

TAY-TAY

Why?

RONNIE

Cause I keep going over my minutes.

TAY-TAY

Is that because of-

RONNIE

Yup, yup.

They both laugh.

Frank rushes to finish fixing the plate and heads back to the table.

INT. FRANK'S APARTMENT - LATER.

Frank stacks Arlene's gifts in the living room.

Ronnie comes walking out of the girls room.

RONNIE

The girls are asleep and I'm about to jump in the shower.

FRANK

Ok, but I wanted to ask you something.

RONNIE

Yeah, what's up?

FRANK

I heard you telling Tay-Tay something about you getting a new Cell phone plan.

RONNIE

Yeah so what, I'm getting another plan. I need more minutes.

Beat.

FRANK

I just don't understand why you would need a new plan when you work overnight when minutes are free and when you're home you can just use the house phone.

RONNIE

(angrily)

Why the fuck do I have to run everything by you. I work hard every fucking day and I wanna get myself a new plan and I'm gonna pay for it.

FRANK

(confused)

I'm just saying we're trying to save money so why are you wasting it.

RONNIE

I'll spend my money how I got damn please.

Ronnie goes into the bathroom.

Frank exhales and continues to stack the presents.

INT. LANA'S HOUSE — DAY.

Jazmine, Arlene, and Amina can be heard playing in the background.

Lucinda, Lana, and Frank all sit in the living room.

LANA

When is Jay gonna be here cause-

LUCINDA

He said he'll be here soon.

FRANK

Yeah, I got stuff to do too. What was so important that you couldn't tell us over the phone.

LUCINDA

Just wait until your brother gets here.

(Beat)

Actually I think that's him coming now.

Jay walks in the door.

JAY

Hey-

LANA

Finally.

LUCINDA

Son, take a seat.

JAY

Is something wrong?

LANA

She wouldn't tell us until you came.

LUCINDA

As you know your grandmother is sick and you know you guys have been trying your best to go and see her which I know she appreciates.

FRANK

But?

LUCINDA

But, her illness is now fatal and doctors are saying-

FRANK

Saying what?

LUCINDA

Any day now.

The mood in room quickly turns around.

LUCINDA (CONT'D)

Everyone is coming out of town to see her, and she wants all of her family to come see her on Friday because she's getting discharged on Saturday.

FRANK

(frustrated)

Why are they discharging her, she needs help, she needs the doctors.

LUCINDA

She doesn't want her last moments to be in the hospital.

(Beat)

Just make sure you're all there on Friday with your families. It's the only thing she wants.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM — DAY

Frank, Ronnie, Arlene, and Amina walk up to the room. There are tons of RELATIVES outside and inside the hospital room.

The four of them make there way to Muz's bed side.

MUZ

Frank you made it!

He kisses her on the forehead.

MUZ (CONT'D)

Now I know you didn't come without your better half this time.

FRANK

Nope she's right here

He points to Ronnie. Ronnie waves awkwardly.

MUZ

I love to see you two together.

MUZ (CONT'D)

Did you hear I'm going home tomorrow.

FRANK

(gloomily)

Yeah, I heard.

Muz can see the sadness on Frank's face.

MUZ

Frank, you better not cry.

(Beat)

I have never seen you cry and your first few tears are not gonna be over me. Do you hear me?

FRANK

Yes.

MUZ

Don't be sad, everyone has an expiration date and I'm looking mine in the face.

Ronnie creepily fades away.

MUZ (CONT'D)

I'll finally be with him.

She points to heaven.

MUZ (CONT'D)

And you'll be here with your family.

(Beat)

You'll be able to focus all of your attention on them and not worry about me anymore.

(Beat)

And you know I'll be watching the Bulls play from up above so don't even worry about that.

They both chuckle.

Muz flashes that smile Frank and Frank forces himself to smile back.

INT. APARTMENT — NIGHT

The phone rings, Frank is woken out of his sleep. He drags his feet to answer it.

FRANK (V.O.)

I knew what this call was, but I didn't want to believe it until I heard it.

He picks it up.

FRANK

Hello.

Frank swallows deeply as he fights his tears.

INT. LANA'S HOUSE — DAY.

Lana's house is packed with a bunch a RELATIVES, hugging, crying, and grieving.

Frank sits in the corner by himself. He's in deep thought.

Lucinda pulls a chair next to him.

LUCINDA

How are you doing?

Frank doesn't look in her direction and shakes his head no.

LUCINDA (CONT'D)

Where's Ronnie, we need her here.
You need her here.

FRANK

I spoke to her earlier, she said she'll stop by.

LUCINDA

Well, I wanted to ask you permission first, but we wanted to know if she would read the obituary.

Frank looks up at her.

FRANK

I think she would love that, seriously.

LUCINDA

Why don't you give her call see if she can make it.

CUT TO:

EXT. LANA'S HOUSE — MOMENTS LATER.

Frank holds the phone to ear waiting for Ronnie to answer.

RONNIE (O.S.)

Hello.

FRANK

Hey, are you coming soon? We all really want you here.

RONNIE (O.S.)

I just can't make it, but I'll come to pick you and the girls up in the morning.

Frank, disappointed, tries to find the right words to say.

FRANK

I'll see you in the morning.

INT. FUNERAL HOME — DAY.

While everyone sits in the first few rows, Frank sits in the very last row, by himself.

Ronnie stands at the podium with the obituary in her hands.

RONNIE

Ruth Ford, a wife, a mother, a grandmother, a great-grandmother, a friend, but most importantly Muz to everyone.

Frank looks up and looks Ronnie in the eyes.

Ronnie gives a smile and a nod and continues to read the obituary.

CUT TO:

INT. FUNERAL HOME — LATER

There's no-one in the funeral home beside Frank.

He sits in the front row, alone, staring at her open casket.

Ronnie approaches Frank and taps him, Frank doesn't move.

RONNIE

I'm about to head to work.

FRANK

Work?

RONNIE

I'm almost done with my probation and I don't wanna screw things up.

Frank looks disgusted as he looks at Ronnie.

FRANK
Whatever, go, go to work.

Ronnie walks away.

The lights start to shut off and Frank doesn't move.

CUT TO:

INT. FRANK'S APARTMENT - NIGHT.

Frank launches up from laying down and breathes heavy.

FRANK (V.O.)
Every moment of everyday felt like
the funeral.

INT. APARTMENT - DAY

Frank sits on the couch watching the TV, but the TV isn't on.

Arlene runs out of the room.

AMINA
Daddy can you play dolls with us?

Frank doesn't even look in her direction.

FRANK
No.

Amina, discouraged walks back into the room.

CUT TO:

EXT. APARTMENT - DAY

Frank and Amina walk toward their apartment.

AMINA
Daddy can we go to the park?

Frank keeps walking.

AMINA (CONT'D)
But we always go to the park when
you pick me up from school.

Frank doesn't answer.

INT. APARTMENT — MORNING

Frank sits on the couch watching sports on TV.

FRANK (V.O.)

By late October I finally started to feel somewhat normal. I had my emotions in check.

Ronnie walks in.

RONNIE

Guess who's not on probation anymore?

FRANK

Wow, it's been 6 months already.

RONNIE

Yup, I'm a free woman.

Ronnie lays across the couch on Franks lap.

They kiss.

RONNIE (CONT'D)

And you know what I'm gonna do with my new freedom.

FRANK

What?

RONNIE

I'm requesting Tay-Tay's birthday off, so we can go out.

CUT TO:

QUICK FLASHES FROM "THE NIGHT"

INT. FRANK'S BEDROOM — DAY.

Ronnie sits on the bed in her Postal clothes and Frank is dressed in his suit ready for work.

FRANK

You was able to get off?

RONNIE
I requested it, and they gave it to
me.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM

Frank sits in front of the television.

Ronnie wearing her high heels can be heard walking in the living room.

Frank sits up and takes a hard long look Ronnie.

Ronnie stands on five-inch platform heels, tight designer jeans, a glittery tank top, and hair done up into a ponytail.

RONNIE
So, how do I look?

CUT TO:

INT. FRANK'S BEDROOM - NIGHT.

Arlene hands Frank Ronnie's wedding bands.

ARLENE
Here Daddy.

CUT TO:

INT. FRANK'S BEDROOM - LATE NIGHT

Frank paces back and forth with the rings in his hand.

CUT TO:

INT. APARTMENT - EARLY MORNING.

Frank is on the phone with Chrissy.

CHRISSEY (O.S.)
Frank just remember you're married
and you can get over this.

CUT TO:

INT. APARTMENT — MORNING.

Frank takes off his ring and slams it on the counter next to her rings.

FRANK
These rings don't mean shit.

Frank walks out the door and slams it behind him.

CUT TO BLACK.

SUPER: Panic. November 6.

FRANK (V.O.)
There's only one way to describe
this. Mental Prison.

INT. APARTMENT HALLWAY — MORNING

Frank stands right outside his door breathing heavily not knowing what his next move is.

CUT TO:

INT. F TRAIN — LATER.

Frank sits on a semi crowded train trying not to have a panic attack.

Other TRAIN RIDERS are afraid to sit near him.

FRANK (V.O.)
She could be calling this guy right
now.

Frank sits up and starts looking around.

FRANK (V.O.) (CONT'D)
He could be on this train.

Frank angrily evaluates all the TRAIN RIDERS.

FRANK (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Is it him... or him... Maybe him.

The train stops and the doors open. Frank looks out the window.

FRANK (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Nah, that's him right there.

Frank hops out of his seat and runs off the train onto the platform.

Frank charges toward a RANDOM MAN, then he abruptly stops.

Frank looks around to see PEOPLE ON THE PLATFORM looking afraid of him. He's embarrassed and runs back onto the same cart and sits down. People quickly move out of his way.

EXT. SAKS FIFTH AVENUE — AFTERNOON

Frank stands right outside the doors hesitate to walk into work.

He takes a deep breath and heads in.

INT. SAKS FIFTH AVENUE — LATER.

CO-WORKER #1 stands outside the bathroom, frustrated.

RAY, early 30s, Frank's friend and boss, approaches.

RAY
Who's in there.

CO-WORKER #1
Frank, he's been in there nearly
twenty minutes already.

RAY
Is he ok?

CO-WORKER #1
I don't know, he does seem a bit
off today.

Ray knocks on the door.

RAY
Frank? You good in there?

Frank comes out with his head hung low.

Co-Worker #1 rushes into the bathroom.

RAY (CONT'D)
What happened to you? You look
terrible.

FRANK
The kids man, they had me up all
night.

RAY
You wanna go home for today?

FRANK
No, no, I'm fine.

Frank tries to walk past Ray. He stops him.

RAY
Go home, get some sleep, and if you need another day, give me a call.

EXT. TRAIN STATION — EVENING.

Frank slowly walks to the train station amongst A BUNCH OF PEOPLE, it's rush hour.

Frank pulls out his cell phone and dials Ronnie's number.

It rings.

RONNIE (O.S.)
Hello.

FRANK
I'm going to my brothers house to watch the game.

RONNIE (O.S.)
(quietly)
Ok.
(beat)
Can I just say something real quick?

Frank quickly hangs up and walks down into the train station.

INT. JAY'S APARTMENT BUILDING — NIGHT

Frank knocks on the door.

Jay answers the door and looks Frank up and down.

JAY
You alright bro? Did you hurt your back playing ball?

Frank's shoulders are slumped and his head is down. He's fighting his tears hard, but doesn't cry.

Frank looks up at Jay. He looks tired and disheveled.

FRANK
I think Ronnie is cheating on me.

JAY
What the fuck?

CUT TO:

INT. JAY'S APARTMENT — MOMENTS LATER.

Frank is sitting on the couch, the game is on, but he's not watching it.

Jay comes out of the kitchen with two bottles of water.

JAY
And then what happened when she walked in?

Jay sits on the couch next Frank.

FRANK
The guilt was written clearly across her face.

JAY
Did she say anything?

FRANK
She said she's sorry. And then I took my ring off and went to work.

Jay sits back in deep thought.

JAY
I don't know bro.

FRANK
What is there not to know.

JAY
I think you might be exaggerating.

FRANK
I don't think she's cheating on me, I know she is.

JAY
You're jumping the gun. The only thing you know for sure is that she was out all night. You didn't even hear her side of the story.

FRANK

It's just something about that phone situation that doesn't feel right. I can feel it in my gut. I'm gonna have get a divorce and-

(beat)

I don't know if I can do it.

Frank buries his head into his elbows.

JAY

Go home, hear Ronnie out before we start talking divorce. She could have a reasonable explanation for all of this.

Beat.

FRANK

Yeah, maybe your right.

JAY

Of course, I'm right.

Jay chuckles.

JAY (CONT'D)

Just remember when you guys sit down to talk,

CUT TO:

INT. FRANK'S APARTMENT BUILDING — LATE NIGHT

Frank takes a deep breath contemplating on going inside.

JAY (V.O.)

Concentrate on listening, not on what you're going to say.

Frank pulls his keys out and puts them into the door.

Ronnie can be heard rustling on the other side of the door.

Frank stands a little straighter and with a little more confidence.

FRANK (V.O.)

Maybe we will work it out.

CUT TO:

INT. FRANK'S APARTMENT — DAYDREAM

Frank bursts through the door, Ronnie comes running into his arms.

They embrace, for a long beat.

RONNIE

I love you, and everything is gonna
be ok.

END DAYDREAM.

BACK TO SCENE:

INT. FRANK'S APARTMENT BUILDING — LATE NIGHT

Frank snaps out of it and opens the door.

INT. FRANK'S APARTMENT — CONTINUOUS.

Frank creeps in to see Ronnie in her long black night gown that shows off her curves, Frank's favorite.

Frank is memorized by her looks, but snaps out of it.

Ronnie softly walks over to Frank for a hug, he pushes her away.

FRANK

Just sit down.

INT. APARTMENT. LIVING ROOM — MOMENTS LATER.

Frank and Ronnie sit across from each other at the table. Frank leans back in his chair not making eye contact with Ronnie. Ronnie looks nervous. It's silent.

FRANK

(irritated)

What are you waiting for? Tell me
what happened.

RONNIE

Oh ok, this is how it went down.

INT. LOUNGE — NIGHT (RONNIE'S STORY)

Ronnie, Tay-Tay, and other GIRLFRIENDS of theirs sit in a section. The place is crowded with a lot of other PEOPLE.

RONNIE (V.O.)
We went to the lounge right, for
Tay-Tay's birthday.

Ronnie turns to Tay-Tay. They lean in to hear each other over the music.

RONNIE
I'm not feeling well. I think it
was something I ate or drank.

TAY-TAY
We're probably not gonna leave for
a while. Are you gonna be sick?

RONNIE
No, I'll be fine, but I think I'm
gonna head home.

TAY-TAY
Ok, get home safe.

They hug goodbye and Ronnie gets up and leaves the lounge.

CUT TO:

EXT. LOUNGE PARKING LOT — LATE NIGHT.

Tay-Tay and the rest of their FRIENDS comes out of the lounge.

FRIEND #1
Is that Ronnie's car right there?

They look and walk up to the car.

They crowd around the car, peeking through the window.

Ronnie is in the front seat, passed out with puke splattered all over her clothes.

Ronnie's friends carry her to the backseat and drive her car off.

BACK TO SCENE:

INT. FRANK'S APARTMENT — NIGHT

Ronnie intensely explains the story.

RONNIE

And then they took me to Tay-Tay's house to get cleaned up, and sleep it off.

Frank looks at Ronnie with major disbelief.

Silent beat.

FRANK

Are you done?

RONNIE

What do you mean "Am I done?". That's what happened.

FRANK

(calm)

That story is bullshit.

Ronnie starts to get frustrated.

FRANK (CONT'D)

Is your friends that stupid?

RONNIE

Why are you calling my friends stupid?

FRANK

You was sick and your friends never thought to reach out to me, your husband. I even called Tay-Tay, and she didn't think to pick up the phone or call me back. Now does that make sense?

Ronnie is silent for a beat, then she gets up.

RONNIE

You know what, I knew you were gonna do this. You're gonna believe what you wanna believe.

Frank keeps his composure as he's still laid back in his chair.

FRANK

I think your friends are stupid and I think your story is fake.

RONNIE
 (raising her voice)
 Believe what you wanna believe. The
 only one that's stupid here is you.

FRANK
 Let's scratch the whole friends
 thing. Why didn't your clothes
 smell like puke when you came in
 the door?

Ronnie thinks for a second.

RONNIE
 I don't need this harassment and
 all these fucking questions. I told
 you what happened already.

Ronnie storms into their room, leaving Frank in the same
 position.

INT. APARTMENT - MORNING.

Frank is laid out on the couch with the same suit he had on
 last night. He looks like he didn't get a wink of sleep.

Ronnie comes storming out of the bedroom and into the
 kitchen. Frank notices, but says nothing.

Ronnie pokes her head out the kitchen.

RONNIE
 By the way Frank. My friends washed
 my clothes and that's why it didn't
 smell like throw up.

Frank quickly snaps up.

FRANK
 (intensely)
 Go get the clothes right now. I
 guarantee you that they don't smell
 like detergent or fabric softener.
 They smell like perfume.

Ronnie has nothing to say.

FRANK (CONT'D)
 Go ahead, go get them.

Arlene and Amina come running out of their bedroom and sit on
 Frank's lap.

Frank and Ronnie try to act normal.

RONNIE

Girls, you're going to Nana's house tonight.

ARLENE AND AMINA

Yayyy!

FRANK

Why are they going there? It's your night off.

RONNIE

(frustrated)

Now, you wanna hear what I have to say, right?

Frank gets annoyed.

RONNIE (CONT'D)

I'm going in for a 6th day tonight.

AMINA

Daddy, did you sleep in your outside clothes?

Amina and Arlene laugh, while Ronnie and Frank looks at Ronnie with suspicion.

INT. FRANK'S APARTMENT. LIVING ROOM — DAYS LATER.

The house phone rings, Ronnie rushes over to the phone. She reads the caller's ID.

She turns around, annoyed.

RONNIE

It's for you.

Frank gets up from the couch and picks up the phone.

FRANK

Hello.

LUCINDA (O.S.)

Frank? It's your mother.

FRANK

Hey mom, what's up?

Beat.

LUCINDA (O.S.)
Thanksgiving is coming up.

FRANK
Yeah?

LUCINDA (O.S.)
This is the first Thanksgiving
without Muz and my sister really
wants to host Thanksgiving at her
house in Virginia.

(Beat)
I know that's gonna be a lot of
work for you, but we need to make
sure we're there. Do you think
Ronnie can make it since she's off
probation now?

Frank slowly walks into the kitchen where Ronnie.

FRANK
That's a good question mom. Will
Ronnie be able to go to
Thanksgiving in Virginia?

Ronnie, with a stank attitude, shakes her head no, as she
writes in her planner.

FRANK (CONT'D)
Even though it's the first
Thanksgiving without Muz and
everyone will be there.

Ronnie is persistent as she mouths the word "NO".

CUT TO:

INT. FRANK'S BEDROOM — NIGHT

Ronnie is fast asleep in the bed. At the foot of the bed sits
Frank searching through Ronnie's cell phone. He quickly goes
down her call log, evaluating every unsaved number he comes
across.

CUT TO:

INT. FRANK'S APARTMENT. BATHROOM — MOMENTS LATER.

Frank sits on the toilet and closes the door.

He holds Ronnie's phone to his ear.

RONNIE'S CO-WORKER (O.S.)
Hey, why you calling me on your
night off?

FRANK
(hostile)
Why's your number in my wife's
phone? Are you sleeping with my
wife?

RONNIE'S CO-WORKER (O.S.)
Whoa, whoa, I'm sorry you've got
the wrong guy.

FRANK
(angry)
I swear I'm coming to your job
right now, and I'll be waiting for
you when you get off.

RONNIE'S CO-WORKER (O.S.)
I swear I'm not the guy.

FRANK
So if you're not the guy, then who
is?

RONNIE'S CO-WORKER (O.S.)
(hesitant)
He.. he... he works here.

FRANK
He works at the post office?

RONNIE'S CO-WORKER (O.S.)
I don't wanna get too deep into
Ronnie's business.
(Beat)
You're gonna have to just ask her.

INT. FRANK'S APARTMENT — NIGHT.

Frank bends down in front of television with Arlene in one
hand and Amina in the other.

FRANK
5, 4, 3, 2, 1.

AMINA AND ARLENE
Happy New Year!

Frank, hugs his daughters, they're having a great time.

Ronnie comes out of the bedroom, dressed in her work clothes.

FRANK
You're going to work?

RONNIE
Yeah, what's the problem?

Ronnie starts packing her bag.

FRANK
It's New Years.

RONNIE
And some of us still have to work.

FRANK
You start work at 11 it's already
passed midnight.

RONNIE
They said we can come in late. Calm
the fuck down.

Ronnie storms out, leaving Frank still.

FRANK
Girls let's get ready for bed.

CUT TO:

INT. FRANK'S BEDROOM — MOMENTS LATER.

Frank paces in the living room then, he spots his phone.

Frank picks up his cellphone and dials.

INT. JAY'S APARTMENT — MOMENTS LATER.

Jay is laid out on the couch, watching TV.

His cellphone rings, he sees that it's Frank and quickly
answers.

JAY
Happy New Year-

INTERCUT — PHONE CONVERSATION

FRANK
She's cheating on me bro, I know
it.

JAY
We're still on this?

FRANK
She just left and claimed she was
going to "work".

JAY
On New Years?

FRANK
Exactly. She's gonna go see this
dude from her job.

JAY
Are you sure?

FRANK
Positive.

Beat.

JAY
Ok, if she's really seeing someone
else, then you should be able to
find evidence around.

FRANK
But, she's been acting so weird
since a few weeks ago when she
stayed out all night.

JAY
I know but you need hardcore
evidence. You know something that
she can't deny or rebuttal. If
she's cheating, you'll find it.

CUT TO:

INT. FRANK'S BEDROOM — MOMENTS LATER

Frank is on the ground with a flashlight searching under the
bed.

CUT TO:

INT. FRANK'S BEDROOM — MOMENTS LATER.

Frank's on the phone.

FRANK
I got her.

JAY (O.S.)
Whatcha got?

Frank examines a brand new iPod in the box.

FRANK
A brand new iPod, she never told me
about this.

JAY
Not good enough.

FRANK
What?

JAY
She works, she can just say she
bought that with her money. Keep
looking.

CUT TO:

INT. FRANK'S BEDROOM — MOMENTS LATER.

Frank carefully searches through Ronnie's dresser draws. He opens multiple draws looking under clothes.

CUT TO:

INT. FRANK'S BEDROOM — MOMENTS LATER.

Frank is on the phone again.

FRANK
Designer jeans, a whole stack of
them.

JAY (O.S.)
Nope.

CUT TO:

INT. FRANK'S BEDROOM — MOMENTS LATER.

Frank forcefully searches through the closet.

CUT TO:

INT. FRANK'S BEDROOM — MOMENTS LATER.

Frank holds a knee-length mink coat in one hand and the phone to his ear in the other.

FRANK

This is it! She can't afford a mink coat, please. He got this for her.

JAY (O.S.)

Better, but not good enough.

INT. FRANK'S BEDROOM — MOMENTS LATER.

Frank sits on the bed, defeated.

He looks around the bedroom for something to look through. He spots Ronnie's calendar book on the night stand. Frank shrugs his shoulders and grabs it.

CUT TO:

INT. FRANK'S BEDROOM — MOMENTS LATER.

Frank has the open calendar book in his hands and the phone to his ear.

FRANK

Got her!

JAY (O.S.)

Ok, this is the last call, I'm about to lay down.

FRANK

I've got her planner, and all throughout November and December she wrote "S.W.V".

JAY (O.S.)

SWV? Like the singing group?

FRANK

No, S.W.F stands for sex with Frank.

(MORE)

FRANK (CONT'D)
 So, S.W.V is sex with someone's
 name that starts with V. Probably
 like Van or Victor or something.

Frank looks closely at the dates.

FRANK (CONT'D)
 S.W.V on November 5th, the night
 she stayed out all night. S.W.V on
 thanksgiving, while me and the
 girls were down south.

Silent Beat.

JAY (O.S.)
 You got her.

INT. FRANK'S APARTMENT — NEXT MORNING.

Frank sits on the couch with Ronnie's planner in his hands,
 his foot taps rhythmically, and he seems to be in deep
 thought.

Ronnie walks through the door, Frank opens up the planner.

RONNIE
 Hey, what's up?

FRANK
 November 5th S.W.V.

Ronnie seems taken aback.

FRANK (CONT'D)
 November 8th S.W.V, November 16th
 S.W.V, November 24th which is
 thanksgiving, you wrote S.W.V.
 December 10th S.W.V. I guess you
 wanna add a S.W.V for Jan 1st too
 right?

Frank gets up and tosses the planner at her.

RONNIE
 Stop going through my shit all the
 time, damn.

FRANK
 So what's his name? Is it Vinny or
 Vincent?

RONNIE
 Could you calm down?

FRANK
 What does that S.W.V stand for
 then.

Beat.

RONNIE
 (unsure)
 Southwest Voucher

FRANK
 That's the dumbest thing I've ever
 heard.

RONNIE
 That's what it is.

FRANK
 So you get a Southwest Airlines
 voucher once a week?

RONNIE
 You're bugging Frank. Stop
 panicking all the fucking time.

Frank goes into their bedroom.

RONNIE (CONT'D)
 Stop going through my shit when I'm
 not here.

Frank slams the door.

INT. JAY'S APARTMENT — EVENING

Frank is sitting on the couch with Jay and ERIC, early 20's,
 Frank and Jay's friend.

ERIC
 Damn that's crazy.

FRANK
 Yeah, and then I found the S.W.V
 thing and then she denied it.

JAY
 What'd she say it stands for then?

FRANK
 Southwest voucher.

Eric and Jay laugh.

ERIC

I don't even know how she thought of that so quickly.

FRANK

It's not funny. It's not funny at all. She's cheating on me and she still won't admit it.

ERIC

If you for sure know she's doing it, then why do you want her to admit it.

FRANK

I feel like once she admits it, we can probably work on our relationship from there. But she can't even tell the truth.

JAY

This is what I think, I think you've already got her on the ropes. Use the S.W.V thing to find more clues. Look for things that has a V name on it or something like that.

ERIC

Yeah, like a card or a text.

FRANK

I don't even know where to look anymore.

ERIC

You probably don't have to dig deep, the planner was in plain sight. I don't think she's trying to hide it from you.

JAY

Exactly. Then don't confront her directly with your new evidence.

FRANK

Why not, if I find something, I'm gonna show it to her.

JAY

Nah bro, she's just gonna deny it again and come up with some lame excuse.

FRANK
So what should I do?

JAY
If you find something else? Call me
I'll tell you what to do.

INT. FRANK'S BEDROOM - DAY

Frank peeks his head out the bedroom, Ronnie's in the shower.

Frank starts looking on the TV stand through old receipts. He finds nothing.

He moves over to the dresser and starts looking through her jewelry box.

He knocks over a prescription bottle. Frank picks it up and puts it back on the dresser, he keeps searching.

Frank double takes to look at the name on the bottle.

CUT TO:

INT. FRANK'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Frank on the phone holding the prescription bottle.

FRANK
Vince Richardson, he lives on 145th
and Lenox, in Harlem. I got him.

JAY (O.S.)
Where's Ronnie now?

FRANK
She's in the shower, but she's
about to come out.

JAY
Perfect. You said Ronnie's mom is
in on this whole thing right?

CUT TO:

EXT. FRANK'S APARTMENT BUILDING - LATER

Frank is sitting on the steps outside in his pajamas. He dials a number on his cellphone.

CHRISSY (O.S.)

Hello.

FRANK

Hey, Chrissy. Ronnie told me everything.

CHRISSY (O.S.)

What're you talking about?

FRANK

The guys name is Vince Richardson and he lives in Harlem. She told me everything.

Beat.

CHRISSY (O.S.)

I'm sorry for lying, but it wasn't my place to tell you.

Frank, shocked, tries to keep playing it cool.

FRANK

I understand.

Frank starts to head back to his apartment.

CHRISSY (O.S.)

I met him before. They both came to pick up me and the girls before.

FRANK

Really?

CHRISSY (O.S.)

She's been seeing this guy for a few months but

(Beat)

You guys can work through it.

FRANK

I'm sure we can, thanks for everything.

Frank hangs up and opens the door to his apartment.

INT. FRANK'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Ronnie turns the corner to see who came in.

RONNIE

Where were you? Why would you leave the kids while I'm in the shower.

Frank holds his cellphone up.

FRANK

I just got off the phone with your mother. She told me everything.

RONNIE

(nervously)

Could you stop fucking around?

FRANK

His name is Vince Richardson and he lives in Harlem, Right?

Ronnie is at a loss for words.

FRANK (CONT'D)

(angrily)

She told me you had him around my kids?

Ronnie's phone rings. She looks down at it, its Chrissy. She ignores it.

FRANK (CONT'D)

You had this fucking guy around my kids?

Ronnie is still for a beat. Then sits on the couch.

RONNIE

(aggressively)

So what?

FRANK

So you are seeing this guy?

RONNIE

Yeah, I'm seeing him.

FRANK

What does that mean? You went on a date?

RONNIE

Yeah, we've been on dates.

FRANK

Did you kiss him?

Ronnie doesn't answer.

FRANK (CONT'D)
Did you fuck him?

Ronnie gets frustrated.

RONNIE
If I said I went on dates with him,
then what do you think happened?

Frank storms into his bedroom.

RONNIE (CONT'D)
What now?

Frank comes racing back out the room with Ronnie's cellphone.
He tosses it on her lap.

FRANK
Call Vince right now.

RONNIE
What?

FRANK
Call Vince, put him on speaker.
Tell him that it's over, that you
never wanna talk to him again, and
that you're working things out with
your husband.

RONNIE
(unbothered)
I'm not calling him.

Frank quickly grabs her phone off her lap.

FRANK
I'm gonna call him, then.

Ronnie jumps up off the couch and into Frank's face.

RONNIE
If you call him we're done, we're
finished. If you call him, we're
getting a divorce.

Frank tries to keep her from grabbing the phone.

FRANK

You only knew this guy for half a year and you're ready to throw away your whole life for someone you met six months ago. I must mean nothing to you.

Frank pushes Ronnie back with one hand and chucks her phone at the wall with the other.

Frank and Ronnie look at the wall for a beat.

The phone went through the wall leaving a huge hole.

RONNIE

Do you see what you did? Your out of your fucking mind/ Demanding me to do stuff like your my dad or something.

FRANK

Because you wanna be with this guy you just met months ago.

Frank walks away into the kitchen and starts slopingly fixing himself a sandwich.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Ronnie runs after him.

RONNIE

You think you can just come up in here and say what you want and do what you want./ You're breaking up my shit that I paid for and ruining the walls. You need to stop acting like a child.

FRANK

No actually that's you. Lying saying your going to work. When you're really fucking around with Vince all the damn time, not even worried about your kids.

RONNIE

I don't need this shit.

Ronnie storms back into the living room and lays down on the couch and turns on the television.

Frank follows her and comes out with his sandwich on a plate in his hand.

FRANK

All the times you fucked this guy,
and you thought I would never
figure it out, huh?

Ronnie ignores him. Frank puts his sandwich on the table and picks up calendar book.

FRANK (CONT'D)

You had S.W.V written on November
5th when you went out for Tay-Tay's
birthday.

Ronnie shrugs her shoulders.

FRANK (CONT'D)

And a week after that on November
11th, right?

Ronnie is still ignoring him.

Frank flips through the pages a bit.

FRANK (CONT'D)

Let's see when you first fucked
him.

Frank stops on September. He looks down to see S.W.V written on September 29th.

CUT TO:

INT. FUNERAL HOME - FLASHBACK

Frank sits in the back row of the funeral home.

He picks up the obituary its reads:

Ruth 'Muz' Ford. Sunrise April 5th 1932 - Sunset September
29th 2005.

END FLASHBACK

BACK TO SCENE:

FRANK

You fucked this guy on the day that
Muz died?

Ronnie looks at Frank slowly.

RONNIE

Yeah, so what.

Frank quickly tosses her calendar book and flips the table over. His sandwich goes flying and the glass shatters everywhere.

Ronnie quickly hops up off the couch, frightened.

Frank charges toward Ronnie as Ronnie tries to keep her cool.

Frank shoves her and she flips over the rocking chair.

Ronnie tries to get up, but Frank lifts the rocking chair up and holds it over Ronnie. He looks at Ronnie with such an evil eye, she's visibly terrified.

AMINA

Daddy?

Frank and Ronnie look toward the doorway.

Amina stands there in her pajamas, shivering.

AMINA (CONT'D)

What's going on?

RONNIE

I'm ok, I just fell.

Frank slowly puts the chair down.

Ronnie gets up dusts and herself off.

RONNIE (CONT'D)

Come on, lets get you back in the bed.

Ronnie and Amina goes into the girls room, leaving Frank, ashamed.

INT. FRANK'S BEDROOM - NEXT MORNING

The living room is a WRECK. GLASS everywhere, pieces of Frank's sandwich everywhere, the flipped over rocking chair and just a mess everywhere.

Frank is laid out on the couch in his clothes, sleep.

Ronnie bends down to Franks level.

RONNIE
Frank.. Frank get up.

Frank is startled out of his sleep.

RONNIE (CONT'D)
Sorry.

Frank sits up. He's standoffish, but still visibly guilty.

FRANK
What is it?

RONNIE
Last night was crazy and I can't- I
won't do that again.

FRANK
(ashamed)
I know.

RONNIE
I don't think it's healthy for the
kids or for us to be around each
other. I don't mind leaving if
that's what you want-

FRANK
No, no, you stay. I'll go.

CUT TO BLACK.

SUPER: Therapeutic. 2 Months Later.

FRANK (V.O.)
I could finally breathe.

EXT. LANA'S BACKYARD - DAY.

Frank is on the grill, while Lana and Lucinda sit at the picnic table.

We hear Jazmine, Amina, and Arlene playing, but we don't see them.

Frank brings over a pan of burgers and rest them on the table. He takes a seat with them.

Lana and Lucinda just stare at Frank and Frank seems confused.

FRANK
What? What is it?

LUCINDA

You just look much happier. I'm so glad you're feeling better.

FRANK

I feel great. I'm getting my wife back, my family back, and we can finally get back on track.

Frank's cellphone rings, he doesn't recognize the number. He hangs up.

LANA

When are you going back?

FRANK

I'm supposed to be going back next weekend.

LANA

And she's not seeing this guy anymore?

FRANK

We've been talking for the past few weeks, and she says she's done with him.

Frank's phone rings again, it's the same number.

LANA

That's good. I'm happy for you guys.

Frank answers the phone.

FRANK

Hello?

MO (O.S.)

Hi. May I speak to Frank?

FRANK

Speaking.

MO (O.S.)

Hi this is Mona and I'm Vince's girlfriend.

Frank seems overwhelmed.

FRANK

(whispering to the phone)
Hold on a second.

Frank gets up from the table.

FRANK (CONT'D)
 (to Lana and Lucinda)
 I'm gonna take this in the house.

INT. LANA'S HOUSE — MOMENTS LATER.

Frank paces in the living room, debating if he should answer again.

He picks up the phone.

FRANK
 Hello.

MO (O.S.)
 Yes, Frank. What are we gonna do about Vince and Ronnie fucking?

FRANK
 I'm sorry, I don't really know what your talking about.

MO (O.S.)
 But you **do** know that Vince and Ronnie are fucking right?

FRANK
 Umm, Ronnie told me she was done with him. So?

MO (O.S.)
 When did she say this, because she called my house yesterday and when I answered she said to me "Put Vince on the phone bitch".

FRANK
 Are you sure?

MO (O.S.)
 I'm positive.

Frank overwhelmed wipes the sweat from his face.

MO (O.S.) (CONT'D)
 I didn't believe she even had a husband they way she's all over my man. Y'all married?

FRANK
 Yeah, we're married.

MO (O.S.)

She got a husband doing all this.
Me and Vince is not even married
and I've been with him for almost
20 years.

FRANK

We've been together for about 5
years.

MO (O.S.)

Frank, I don't know what you look
like and I don't care, but I wanna
fuck.

Frank, taken aback, tries to find an answer.

FRANK

Umm ok?

MO (O.S.)

I wanna meet up so we can discuss
some things.

FRANK

Umm yeah, I think- I think we can
do that.

MO (O.S.)

This is my number if you wanna
reach me again. Let's set up
something sooner rather than later.

EXT. RESTAURANT — EVENING.

Frank takes a deep breath before going inside. He looks
inside the window, he can't really make anything out. So he
goes inside.

INT. RESTAURANT — CONTINUOUS.

Frank walks in slowly he sees an attractive woman sitting
alone. Frank approaches her.

FRANK

Mona?

MO

(surprised)

Frank?

MO, 40s, dark skin, curvy, neat looking, and attractive stands up and hugs Frank. Frank stands there awkwardly.

MO (CONT'D)
You can call me Mo.

They both sit down.

MO (CONT'D)
I know this is weird, but I just want to stop Ronnie from sleeping with my man.

FRANK
That's what I wanted to talk to you about. How sure are we that they're still seeing each other? I just moved back in with Ronnie and things seem to be going smooth.

Mo gives Frank a blank stare.

MO
Frank. I don't know you, but you don't look like a dumb man. Just cause there hiding it better, doesn't mean it's not happening.

FRANK
I guess-I guess your right.

MO
Aren't you tired this. Tired of watching the kids while they go out and do whatever they do. Tired of the lying and the sneakiness?

Frank shakes his head yes.

Mo gets a little choked up.

FRANK
Please don't get upset.

MO
(sniffling)
I'm not, I'm ok. It's just after being together for 20 years you would think I wouldst be going through this.

(Beat)
Why doesn't this make you more upset? You guys are married for god's sake.

FRANK

It does make me upset, I just not a
big crier.

Mo grabs Franks hands on the table, while she still tears.

MO

Listen we're not gonna let them
make us feel this way anymore. I
know exactly what we're gonna do to
get our lives back.

CUT TO:

INT. FRANK'S APARTMENT — DAY.

Ronnie is sitting on the couch. She looks suspicious as she
texts on her phone.

MO (V.O.)

Anytime you see Ronnie acting
funny,

CUT TO:

INT. FRANK'S APARTMENT — DAY

Ronnie sneaks into the bathroom with her cellphone.

MO (V.O.)

Sneaking around,

INT. FRANK'S APARTMENT — DAY

Ronnie is talking to Frank inaudibly, while Frank seems
unsure.

MO (V.O.)

Or gives you a story or excuse that
just doesn't feel right.

BACK TO:

INT. RESTAURANT — EVENING

Frank and Mo are still at the table.

MO

You give me a call and I'll do the same. We can probably connect the dots and catch them in their lies. A few times of doing that, and they'll get fed up. What do you think?

Beat.

FRANK

I think it's a plan.

INT. FRANK'S APARTMENT — MORNING.

Frank sits on the couch watching sports center. Amina comes running in the living room in her pajamas.

AMINA

Good Morning Daddy.

Amina jumps on Frank's lap.

AMINA (CONT'D)

What's for breakfast?

FRANK

What do you want?

AMINA

We always have pancakes on Saturday.

Frank gets up and puts Amina on the couch.

FRANK

Frank heads to the kitchen.

INT. FRANK'S APARTMENT. KITCHEN — CONTINUOUS.

Frank prepares to cook. His phone rings. It's Mo calling, he's hesitant to pick up, but does anyway.

FRANK

Hello.

MO (O.S.)

Hey Frank, Vince took off from work tonight, so look out for what Ronnie's doing tonight.

FRANK
What should I do?

CUT TO:

INT. FRANK'S APARTMENT — MOMENTS LATER.

Frank looks through Ronnie's papers.

MO (V.O.)
First confirm that she isn't going
in tonight.

He finds an approval notice for her to be off of work
tonight.

INT. FRANK'S APARTMENT. KITCHEN — LATER.

Frank is making pancakes.

MO (V.O.)
Then throw it in her face.

Ronnie walks through the door, she doesn't acknowledge Frank.

Frank turns off the fire and follow her to their room.

INT. FRANK'S BEDROOM — CONTINUOUS.

Ronnie sits down pulls her shoes off, while Frank stands in
the doorway.

FRANK
I have something to do tonight, so
you don't mind watching the kids
right?

RONNIE
What're you talking about, I have
work tonight.

Frank goes into his pocket and pulls out her approval sheet.

FRANK
That's funny because this sheet
says you're off.

RONNIE
You're going through my stuff
again?

FRANK
Like I said I have something to do,
I'll be leaving soon.

Frank turns and walks away, feeling good.

INT. FRANK'S BEDROOM — DAY

Frank's phone rings while he lays in bed. He quickly answers it.

MO (V.O.)
Where's Ronnie right now?

CUT TO:

EXT. PLAYGROUND — DAY.

Frank sits on the park bench while the kids play. His phone rings, he answers it.

MO (O.S.)
Vince just left, are you near
Ronnie?

CUT TO:

INT. FRANK'S APARTMENT — NIGHT

Frank sits on the couch and notices Ronnie taking a phone call in the bathroom.

He pulls his phone out and start dialing.

CUT TO:

INT. LANA'S HOUSE — DAY.

Frank is chatting in the kitchen with Lucinda.

His phone rings he answers it.

MO (O.S.)
We need to meet up and regroup.

EXT. SAKS FIFTH AVENUE — EVENING

Mo sits in her car, waiting.

Frank runs out the building and into Mo's car.

INT. DINER — NIGHT.

Frank and Mo laugh and joke as they sit at the table with their food.

CUT TO:

INT. MO'S CAR — NIGHT

Mo parks the car outside of Frank's apartment building and looks at Frank.

FRANK

Thanks for the ride again.

Frank takes his seatbelt off.

MO

Frank.

FRANK

Yeah.

MO

I wasn't kidding when I first talked to you and I said I wanted to fuck.

Mo starts unzipping Frank pants.

Frank seems uncomfortable, but doesn't stop her.

FRANK

I don't really know if-

MO

Just relax.

Mo starts to go down on Frank.

Frank tries to reject at first, but he eventually eases up and enjoys.

CUT TO:

EXT. MO'S CAR — LATER.

Frank gets out of the car and closes the door behind him, with a visible stain on his pants.

INT. JAY'S APARTMENT — AFTERNOON.

Jay, Frank, and Eric sit on the couch watching the game.
Frank's phone rings, Frank runs out the room to answer it.

INT. JAY'S APARTMENT — MOMENTS LATER.

Frank's on the phone with Mo.

FRANK

I can't meet up tonight. I'm
already hanging out with my brother
and my friend tonight.

MO (O.S.)

I have some friends. We can make it
a group thing.

CUT TO:

INT. BOWLING ALLEY — NIGHT

Frank, Mo, Jay, Eric and Mo's FRIENDS are on a triple date,
laughing and having a good time.

CUT TO:

EXT. MO'S CAR — LATER.

Frank and Mo get out of the parked car and walk into a Motel,
holding hands.

INT. FRANK'S APARTMENT — LATE NIGHT.

Frank creeps in the front door and closes it quietly behind
him.

Ronnie walks by and sees Frank.

RONNIE

You went out with Jay.

FRANK

Yeah.

Frank walks by Ronnie.

RONNIE

Well, I'm about to leave.

Frank goes into the bedroom.

FRANK (O.S.)

Cool.

Ronnie's left confused.

INT. FRANK'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Frank is laying on the couch with his phone pressed up against his ear.

MO (O.S.)

You excited your kids are coming back from down south?

FRANK

Yes and no.

MO (O.S.)

Why so you can finally have your family back together with Ronnie?

Frank doesn't answer.

MO (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Where's she at now?

FRANK

(nonchalant)

I have no clue, I haven't seen her since she went to work last night.

Frank hears keys jiggling on the other side of the door.

FRANK (CONT'D)

I actually think that's her coming in now.

Ronnie walks through the door. Frank doesn't acknowledge her.

MO (O.S.)

Should I call you back later?

FRANK

No, she'll be fine.

MO (O.S.)

Are you sure?

Ronnie notices he's on the phone.

RONNIE
Who are you talking to?

Frank gives her a screwed up face.

FRANK
(into the phone)
Hold on for a sec.

Frank sits up on the couch.

FRANK (CONT'D)
You questioning me about who I'm
talking to, is a joke. As much as
you snoop around here, I never say
anything to you.

(Beat)
So why don't you go in the room and
get on the phone like you usually
do.

Frank lays back down and gets back on the phone leaving
Ronnie annoyed.

INT. FRANK'S APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY.

Amina and Arlene come racing up the stairs. Frank comes up
behind them carrying their suitcases as they head to their
apartment.

FRANK
How was you guys' trip?

ARLENE
It was good, but Grandpa just likes
to sit in the house all day.

Beat.

AMINA
What are we doing for you and moms
anniversary?

Frank chuckles

FRANK
Umm, nothing.

ARLENE
Why?

AMINA

Yeah, I wanna have dinner like we did last time.

FRANK

I'll see what we can do.

Frank opens the door.

ARLENE

Is mom home?

FRANK

She should be.

INT. FRANK'S APARTMENT — CONTINUOUS.

Frank walks in with the girls.

Amina goes running around the apartment, while Frank and Arlene are still getting settled.

Amina comes back into the living room.

AMINA

She's not here.

FRANK

What?

INT. BATHROOM — MOMENTS LATER.

Frank is impatiently waiting for Ronnie to pick up the phone.

RONNIE (O.S.)

Hello.

FRANK

Where are you? I told you that I had to leave once I drop the kids off.

RONNIE (O.S.)

Sorry had to get my hair done.

FRANK

But If I told you-

RONNIE

I don't have time for this Frank.

Ronnie hangs up.

Frank dials again, but this time he dials Mo.

MO (O.S.)

Hey, you ready for me to come pick you up?

FRANK

Nope, I can't, Ronnie left to mysteriously get her hair done today. Leaving me with the kids.

MO (O.S.)

Vince isn't here either. Hold on lemme do some digging and see what I come up with.

INT. FRANK'S APARTMENT. LIVING ROOM — LATER.

Frank sits in front of television.

Amina and Arlene come out.

AMINA

Daddy, do you wanna see pictures of us with Grandpa?

Frank's phone rings. He darts up out of his seat.

FRANK

Not now, go back in your room.

Amina and Arlene leave.

Frank picks up the phone.

FRANK (CONT'D)

Hello.

MO (O.S.)

I got them, I know exactly where they are. Can you leave?

FRANK

No, I got the kids here with me.

MO (O.S.)

Don't worry I'll keep you updated.

Frank hangs up and he seems disappointed.

EXT. MOTEL. PARKING LOT — LATER.

Mo stands by a blue jeep, chuckling to herself.

She pulls her phone out her purse and calls Frank.

FRANK

Hello

MO

I'm standing outside a motel and guess what.

FRANK

What?

MO

Vince's car is right here. I already called him and told him I'm standing by his jeep now.

FRANK (O.S.)

Really?

MO

Yup here comes this fool now.

VINCE, tall, big, light skin, 50s approaches Mo.

VINCE

What are you doing here?

MO

Why didn't Ronnie come out and say hi. She can get fucked in my apartment, but she can't say hi.

VINCE

Stop with this, go home.

MO

Oh yeah Vince, say hi to Frank, I'm on the phone with him.

VINCE

You ain't on the phone with Frank. Where did you get that from?

Mo puts her phone on speaker phone.

FRANK

Where's Ronnie at?

Vince looks like he saw a ghost as he starts to back up.

MO
Yeah, go back with that bitch.

Vince turns around and heads back inside.

Mo laughs.

MO (CONT'D)
You should've seen Vince's face.
You would've died.

INT. FRANK'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Frank, Arlene, and Amina are sitting at the table eating dinner.

Ronnie burst through the doors and stomps over to Frank.

RONNIE
(pissed off)
So you're talking to Mo now?

Frank keeps his cool.

FRANK
Yeah, so what?

Frank laughs.

RONNIE
Oh my god. You don't think that's
crazy?

FRANK
Yeah, it probably is. But I
wouldn't know Mo is you wasn't
sleeping with Vince.

Beat.

Amina and Arlene seems confused.

FRANK (CONT'D)
How the heck would I know this
woman if you wasn't doing your
dirt. You introduced me to her.
Thank you.
(Beat)
What was you doing at the motel.
Cause it wasn't getting your hair
done?

RONNIE
I was barely there, he was just
passing me something.

Frank laughs.

FRANK
Ok, yeah, he passed you something.

Ronnie, annoyed, goes into the bedroom.

INT. RESTAURANT — AFTERNOON

Mo and Frank sits across from each other.

FRANK (V.O.)
Mo was the only person I talked to
that understood me and I understood
her.

CUT TO:

INT. FRANK'S APARTMENT — AFTERNOON

Frank lays in bed while Ronnie hovers over him.

RONNIE
Are you fucking Mo?

FRANK
You sound dumb, get outta here with
that.

RONNIE
Well, I think you are.

Frank sits up.

FRANK
I guess the shoes on the other foot
now, huh?

Frank gets out of the bed.

RONNIE
If you're having sex with MO-

FRANK
What? You would do what?

Ronnie's silent

FRANK (CONT'D)

I don't wanna hear nothing about who I'm talking to, What I'm talking to them about, and how I'm talking to them. Don't question me with nothing that I do, **ever**.

Frank leaves the room.

Ronnie picks her cellphone. She waits for it to ring.

RONNIE

Hey babe, you're not gonna believe this.

CUT TO:

EXT. MO'S JOB - DAY

Vince waits outside the building he's visibly angry.

Mo walks out the building, toward her car. Vince grabs her from behind.

MO

What is your problem?

VINCE

Are you sleeping with Frank?

Mo laughs.

MO

(nonchalant)

Yeah, so.

INT. SAKS FIFTH AVENUE- FRANK'S OFFICE - LATER.

Frank sits at his desk on the computer. The phone rings, he answers it.

FRANK

Hello.

CUT TO:

INT. FRANK'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS.

Ronnie is holding her cellphone to her ear while she packs her pocketbook.

RONNIE
Hey it's me.

INTERCUT — PHONE CONVERSATION

FRANK
(slowly)
Ok, what do you want?

RONNIE
I'm not gonna be able to go to the anniversary dinner tonight. I need to go to Brooklyn to help my mom with something.
(Beat)
I know the kids really wanted to go-

FRANK
Yeah, but they'll be fine. Go help your mom.

RONNIE
Cool, I'll see you later.

Frank hangs up the phone and gets up out of his chair.

He heads for the door, when the phone rings again.

Frank, frustrated goes back to answer it.

FRANK
Hello?

CUT TO:

EXT. MO'S JOB — CONTINUOUS.

Multiple police cars crowd the front of Mo's Job. POLICE OFFICERS have Vince in handcuffs as they put him in the back of a police car.

Mo holds her cellphone closely to her ear and tries to hold her hand over her other ear, trying to block the noise of the loud sirens.

Blood drips from Mo's badly beaten face. She shakes as she holds the phone to her ear.

MO
(distracted)
Frank is that you?

INTERCUT — PHONE CONVERSATION

FRANK

Yeah, it's me. What's going on?

MO

Vince, just beat me up.

FRANK

What?

MO

Yeah, and he just got arrested.

FRANK

Where are you?

MO

I'm right outside of my job.

FRANK

That's Crazy.

MO

Ronnie's probably on her way to bail him out, so check where she's at. But I can't talk long, they're forcing me to go to the ER. I'll call you later when I have more time.

Frank hangs up the phone and plops down in his chair.

INT. FRANK'S APARTMENT — LATER

Frank slowly walks into his apartment. Ronnie runs into him on her way out the door.

RONNIE

Frank, what're you doing here?
Aren't you supposed to be at work?

FRANK

I left early, I thought you'd be in Brooklyn already.

RONNIE

Well yeah, I'm about to leave.

Beat.

FRANK
 Since you're here. And I'm here.
 Why don't we just pick up the kids,
 and we all go to visit you're mom.

RONNIE
 No, no, no. I need to go there
 alone.

Frank blocks Ronnie from going out the door.

FRANK
 Why?

RONNIE
 (agitated)
 Could you just get out of my way?

FRANK
 How much of my money are you
 posting for Vince's bail.

Beat.

RONNIE
 It's my money.

Frank steps out of the way and Ronnie shoots out of the door.

INT. FRANK'S BEDROOM — LATE NIGHT.

Frank lies in bed, starrng at the ceiling fan, he picks his
 phone off of the night stand, no missed calls.

He stares blankly again.

His cellphone rings, Frank leaps out of bed and answers it.

FRANK
 Hello.

CUT TO:

INT. MO'S APARTMENT. BATHROOM — CONTINUOUS.

MO creeps into the bathroom and closes the door.

MO
 Frank.

INTERCUT — PHONE CONVERSATION

FRANK

What happened? I've been waiting
for your call all day.

MO

Let me tell you what happened.

INT. MO'S APARTMENT. MO'S STORY

Mo, still badly hurt is now patched up and is looking at her
face in the mirror.

MO (V.O.)

After I got back from the ER, I
went home and looked at myself in
the mirror. And I saw how badly he
bruised my face and the crazy thing
was, I still wanted to be with him.

Vince comes in the front door with Flowers and balloons.

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

I knew Vince was gonna come in
apologizing because if I decide to
press charges, he could be facing
real time in prison, but if I don't
he walks free. But I was still
happy to see that he brought me
flowers.

Vince tries to give Mo the balloons and flowers. Mo smiles
and takes it.

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

But I wanted to seal the deal and
make sure this Ronnie thing was
done forever.

(Beat)

So, I told him if he wanted me to
not press charges that he had to
call Ronnie and tell her that he's
done with her and that he's
proposing to me.

INT. MO'S APARTMENT. MO'S STORY — MOMENTS LATER.

Vince sits on the couch with his phone on speaker. Mo stands
over him with her arms folded.

MO (V.O.)

Now I didn't think he was gonna do
it. But he did.

Vince inaudibly talks on the phone.

MO (V.O.) (CONT'D)
I heard her, crying and begging for
Vince not to leave her.

(Beat)
And that's when I looked at Vince's
face, and realized how painful it
was for him to do that. He doesn't
want to be and I can't make him
love me the way that I love him.

BACK TO SCENE:

INT. MO'S APARTMENT. BATHROOM.

Mo is still on the phone with Frank.

FRANK
So what are you gonna do, now?

MO
I'm packing up and I'm leaving.
Tomorrow I'll be at my mother's
house.

(Beat)
I didn't even tell Vince yet.

FRANK
Wow.

Beat.

MO
Even though my relationship isn't
going to work out, that doesn't
mean that yours won't. Ronnie is
gonna beg for your forgiveness from
you, since Vince broke up with her
and you guys can get back together.
I know how badly you want your
family back and your wife back, and
now you'll have that.

Beat.

FRANK
So I guess this is the end?

Beat.

MO
Yeah I guess it is.

CUT TO:

INT. FRANK'S APARTMENT — DAY.

Ronnie and Frank both sit on the bed. Ronnie weeps as she apologizes inaudibly.

Frank seems to not be listening as he stares at Frank blankly.

FRANK (V.O.)
It's crazy how you can want
something for so long,
(Beat)
And when you finally get it after
all this time. You wonder why you
ever wanted it in the first place.

Frank snaps out of it.

RONNIE
(wiping her tears)
So, what do you think? Can we work
it out?

Frank sits there blankly.

CUT TO:

EXT. MO'S MOTHER'S HOUSE — LATER

The doorbell rings, Mo comes to the door and opens it. Her face is still bruised, but it looks better.

MO
What're you doing here?

Frank stands, alone, in silence, starring at the ground.

MO (CONT'D)
Frank, you've got to go home and
take Ronnie back.

He looks up at her. The tears swell in his eyes.

MO (CONT'D)
You left her.

Frank stares blankly.

MO (CONT'D)

I'm proud of you, Frank.

Frank looks up at her slowly and drops a tear.

The End.