

A Test of Time

by

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INT. MEDLIFE MEDICAL GROUP WAITING ROOM - DAY

The waiting room is quiet and small. There is a receptionist desk in the center of the room and there are several people sitting in old brown wooden chairs around it. Some people are asleep, others are reading pamphlets.

CAROLINE(40s, White woman) enters the waiting room and walks to the front desk.

A NURSE (30s, White woman) sits behind the desk looking at a computer, giving it a puzzled look.

CAROLINE

Hi, I'm Caroline Wallace and I'm here for an appointment with Dr. Doren for 1 pm.

NURSE

Okay. Hold on while I find you in our system.

Caroline stands at the desk waiting a moment.

NURSE (CONT'D)

Okay. She can see you now.

CAROLINE

Thank you.

The Nurse stands up and opens a door for Caroline. Caroline enters.

INT. MEDLIFE MEDICAL GROUP DOCTOR'S OFFICE - DAY

The Doctor's office is small and it smells sterile. There is a desk and a chair on one side. Cross from them are two chairs.

There aren't any personal items or anything that makes her office stand out.

Caroline sits on one side and DR. DOREN (30s, Black woman) sits on the other. Caroline fidgets with her fingers.

DR. DOREN

I called you in today to talk about your scans.

CAROLINE

(nervously)

Okay. Everything looks good, right?

(MORE)

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

Last time I was in this office you were telling me I had to have some surgery for my knee. Thank you for that by the way. I just don't want to go through the rehab again. Getting old is just like life. Every now and again when things are going good. Something happens and then everything hits the fan.

Caroline sighs.

DR. DOREN

No its nothing like that. But Caroline, I have to tell you, I don't have good news... You have cancer... There's nothing I can do. I'm so sorry, Caroline.

Caroline is stuck and doesn't respond for a moment.

CAROLINE

Could you excuse me for a moment?

Dr. Doren nods. Caroline exits the room.

INT. MEDLIFE MEDICAL GROUP BATHROOM - DAY

The bathroom smells just like the doctor's office. But its spacious and calming. The light is dim but there's enough light to really see.

Caroline sits on the toilet with her clothes on. She begins to cry. The crying starts to get more intense.

After a few moments Caroline stands up and faces the mirror.

Mascara filled tears run down her face and leave black trails off the edge of her chin. The end of their life.

She wipes her face and exhales a deep breath. She smiles.

CAROLINE

Let's just put a smile on.

Caroline exits the bathroom.

INT. MEDLIFE MEDICAL GROUP - DAY

Caroline stands in the door way. Dr. Doren doesn't notice her.

CAROLINE

I just wanted to say bye before I go... That has a whole new meaning to me now.

Caroline lets out a quiet laugh as she fights back tears.

DR. DOREN

Before you go, Caroline. I wanted to give you this.

Dr. Doren shuffles papers around her desk. She pulls out a pamphlet and hands it to Caroline.

CAROLINE

What is this?

DR. DOREN

Its for a support group of other patients like you. I know this all feels unreal but maybe this is could help you cope.

Caroline takes the pamphlet and exits the office.

EXT. CAROLINE'S APARTMENT - DAY

The neighborhood is run down and the surrounding area is loud and busy. People are YELLING and SIRENS are heard. The air smells polluted and looks it. The apartment buildings all look old and run down.

At the end of the street there is a sign that says "Welcome to Mount Vernon, New York" with old graffiti on it.

INT. CAROLINE'S APARTMENT - SAME DAY

The apartment is small and cluttered. There are old newspapers in the corner and there's a smell through the air that tells you its been someone's home a long time.

Caroline enters and turns on the light. She takes the pamphlet out of her pocket.

She takes off her coat and hangs it. A bowl sits near the closet and she throws her keys in it.

INT. CAROLINE'S LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The living room is the biggest room in the apartment and yet feels small. There is a small couch, a coffee table with candy in a bowl, and a small tv. Photos are all around the room that span decades.

Caroline enters the living room and sits down. She puts the pamphlet down beside her. She turns the tv on and a Covergirl Commercial comes on. Caroline looks at it longingly.

Caroline becomes consumed by the commercial until it ends. There's a KNOCK at the door. She snaps out of it and her eyes light up.

CAROLINE
Come in. Its open.

HENRY JR.(16, White boy) enters the apartment dressed in a "Henry's Bodega" shirt.

HENRY JR.
You can't just keep your door open like that.

CAROLINE
I know everyone in this neighborhood. I've lived her long enough that if anyone tries to mess with me they know what they're in for.

Henry rolls his eyes.

HENRY JR.
Your right everyone knows you but please just lock the door... Its getting bad out there.

Its silent until a POLICE SIREN is heard even though the window is closed. Henry sits beside Caroline.

HENRY JR. (CONT'D)
Special delivery.

He hands her a paper and notices the pamphlet. Caroline takes the paper from him.

CAROLINE
Thanks.

Caroline starts flipping through the paper.

HENRY JR.
What's this?

Caroline stops reading the paper and puts it down. She picks up the pamphlet and flips it over.

CAROLINE

Its nothing just some paper the doctor gave me... hey are you going to stay to watch the new episode of "Days of Our Lives"?

Henry picks up the pamphlet. He flips it over. "Support for the Terminally Ill" is written across the top.

HENRY JR.

Are you sick?

The Joy in Henry's eyes disappears.

CAROLINE

Sadly.. But no one gets out alive you know. There's always going to be one thing that takes us out for good.

Henry sighs. His eyes become sad and low.

HENRY JR.

Are you going to go to the support group?

CAROLINE

I support myself.

HENRY JR.

It'll help... My brother went to one and at first he was mad about it because Ma forced him but he said he made some friends and they helped him.

CAROLINE

That's good. But I've been doing things on my own all my life. I don't think I need it.

HENRY JR.

But you don't have to do this alone. ..

Caroline COUGHES and CLEARS HER THROAT. Henry stands up.

CAROLINE

Wait, your leaving? What about the episode?

HENRY JR.

Dad has a lot for me to do today at the store so I can't stay.

Caroline sighs. He walks toward the door.

CAROLINE
Okay... tomorrow then?

HENRY JR.
Yeah. See you tomorrow.

Henry exits and the door closes behind him. Caroline picks up the pamphlet and reads it. She shakes her head and then puts it back down on the table.

Caroline turns the tv off and walks to the door. She locks it. She stands there looking around her apartment.

She looks at the photos on the wall. She looks at all the faces and the smiles. She sighs.

INT. COMMUNITY CENTER - NIGHT

The community center is sad and dim. There are chairs set up in a circle and they are all filled. There is a table filled with cookies and coffee to the side of the room.

CLAPPING is heard. Caroline stands up.

CAROLINE
Hi, everyone. Since my diagnosis...things have been difficult, so I took my doctor's advice and came to this. But what I realized I really needed was to not have to do this alone... I don't want to die alone.

Caroline wipes a tear and sits down. Everyone in the circle claps. JORDAN (50s, Hispanic man) stands.

JORDAN
Thank you for sharing, Caroline.
Its good to have you in our group.

Caroline nods. Jordan stands.

JORDAN (CONT'D)
Okay, group. Today we will be talking about another step of acceptance. That step is finding forgiveness. We all know that our end is coming but those we've encountered in this life will be left behind.

(MORE)

JORDAN (CONT'D)

Knowing that you've been forgiven
for things in our past helps with
that feeling of unfinished
business.

Everyone nods. Caroline intently listens until her eyes
become wistful.

Jordan continues talking but its inaudible, Everyone stands.
Caroline blinks aggressively. She stands up and exits.

INT. CAROLINE'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Caroline enters her apartment. She takes her coat off and
throws her keys into the bowl. The phone RINGS.

INT. CAROLINE'S KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Caroline enters the kitchen and answers the phone. MARIE
(40s, Latina woman) is on the phone.

INTERCUT - MARIE/CAROLINE

CAROLINE

Hello?

MARIE

Hi, Caroline. Its been along time.

CAROLINE

Hi Marie... yeah it has.

MARIE

Listen... I know Bettye Jean
wouldn't have called but I figure
someone should tell you... Drew
passed away a few days ago.

Caroline drops the phone. She takes a few steps back
breathing heavily. Her eyes become glassy. She backs herself
into the wall and falls to the ground.

Caroline lets out a painful cry from within. Tears fall from
her eyes. For a moment she is undone.

MARIE (CONT'D)

Hello?.....Caroline?

Caroline looks at the phone. She wipes her face and controls
her breathing. She grabs the phone and puts it back to her
ear.

CAROLINE

I'm here.

MARIE

The funeral will be in Mobile,
Alabama at the end of the week.

CAROLINE

Okay thanks. Its nice to hear your
voice again.

MARIE

Yeah you too. Bye Caroline.

CAROLINE

Bye.

Caroline hangs up the phone. She exits the kitchen.

INT. CAROLINE'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

The bedroom is neat and organized. Its decorated with care.
The bed is made and there are organized bins everywhere.

Caroline enters the bedroom and opens her closet. She pushes
clothes to the sides and reveals a memory box sitting behind
them in the back of the closet.

She takes out a box. Caroline puts the box on top of a bin.
She opens it and there several letters address to BETTYE JEAN
(40s, Black woman).

All the letters have stamps but look to have never been sent.
Caroline takes out a photo and looks at it.

INSERT. PHOTO

Caroline is holding a photo of herself and Bettye Jean in
front of their old apartment building.

BACK TO SCENE

Caroline sighs.

She puts the photo inside and closes it.

Caroline gets into the bed and turns the light out.

EXT. MONTGOMERY CEMETERY - ALABAMA - DAY

The sun sits high in the sky. The southern smells of apple
pie and sweet potato linger in the air.

There are several people sitting in chairs around a grave. A
coffin with an American flag on top sits above the hole.

Bettye Jean stands up from her seat and walks up to the coffin. She places a white rose on it. She turns and walks back to her seat.

PASTOR LEE(40s, black man) stands at the front of the coffin. There is a photo of DREW(75, Black man) smiling in a wreath of flowers.

PASTOR LEE

Let us bow our heads in prayer.

Everyone closes their eyes and bows their heads.

PASTOR LEE (CONT'D)

Lord, please guide brother Drew's soul through the white gates of heaven and may he be at peace. For Heaven truly is where he is meant to be. Please unburden him of all his humanly sin and bless him. May he live forever in your kingdom, Amen.

EVERYONE

AMEN.

PASTOR LEE

And now, We will hear from his daughter, Bettye Jean.

Bettye Jean stands up and straightens out her dress. She stands where the pastor once stood. The paster sits down in a seat next to her.

BETTYE JEAN

Hello, Everyone. We are here to celebrate my father's life. We mourn his passing. But we rejoice in knowing that he is in a better place. I want to share with -

Bettye Jean freezes mid thought when she sees Caroline standing in the distance next to a tree. She is wiping her tears.

REMONA(11, Black girl) sits in the front row next her mother's empty chair. She looks at her mother confused and then follows her eyes to a woman standing in the distance.

Bettye Jean snaps out of it and continues talking but its inaudible. Remona taps ROBERT(40s, Black man).

REMONA

Daddy, Who's that?

Robert turns around to look.

ROBERT

Not now. Mom is speaking.

Bettye Jean finishes and makes her way back to her seat. Pastor Lee stands up. MARJORIE (50s, Black woman) stands and walks to where Bettye Jean stood.

PASTOR LEE

Thank you, Bettye Jean. And now Sister Marjorie will sing one of Drew's favorite song.

Marjorie starts to sing "Go Down Moses".

EXT.MONTGOMERY CEMETERY - ALABAMA - DAY

People are standing around talking. The usual "Sorry for your loss" is being exchanged. Bettye Jean, Remona, and Robert walk to the cars parked near the street.

Bettye Jean looks over to where Caroline was standing in the previous scene to see that she's gone. She turns around and AUNT JACKIE(70s, black woman) is standing in front of them.

AUNT JACKIE

Nice to see you Bettye. Robert, hope your doing well. Under different circumstances of course.

BETTYE JEAN

Yes, of course. Nice to see you too.

AUNT JACKIE

Oh wow! Is this Remona? I wish y'all would come visit more.

REMONA

Hi,I'm Remona. Nice to meet you.

AUNT JACKIE

Your so big, sugar plum. I'm your Aunt Jackie.

Aunt Jackie grabs Remona into a hug. They embrace for a moment. They break. Remona smiles up at her.

BETTYE JEAN

It was nice seeing you, Aunt Jackie. But we have to get going. Robert has to be back to work and Remona's got school.

AUNT JACKIE

But aren't you coming to the reception? You can't leave yet. Its been forever. Remona's got to meet the rest of the family.

BETTYE JEAN

She will... just not today. We've really got to get going. I promise I'll call soon.

AUNT JACKIE

Alright. Let me get my hugs in now.

Aunt Jackie hugs Robert and pats his back. She hugs Remona and gives her a kiss on the forehead. She hugs Bettye Jean for a longer time.

AUNT JACKIE (CONT'D)

I know you and your Father never really saw eye to eye but don't let it stop you from bringing her around here. After all he is gone.

Bettye Jean breaks away from the hug abruptly. She walks toward the car as Robert and Remona follow.

INT. CAR - DAY

Remona sits in the back of the car reading a book. Robert drives and Bettye Jean looks out the window. Remona closes her book and looks at her parents.

REMONA

Mom, Why didn't Grandpa Drew know me?

Bettye Jean's face holds some guilt. Robert glances at Bettye Jean.

BETTYE JEAN

I -

Bettye Jean's eyes get watery. She looks up to hold her tears and wipes away any tears that escape.

REMONA

Did I do something? Is it my fault Grandpa never knew me?

Bettye Jean turns to Remona.

BETTYE JEAN

No, sweetie. I'll tell you when I'm ready, okay?

Bettye Jean turns back to her window.

REMONA

But why?

ROBERT

Remona, Listen to your mother.

Everyone is silent.

EXT. HUMMING FAMILY HOUSE - NEXT DAY

SUPER. Ardsley, New York

SUPER. Approximately 20 minutes from Caroline's Apartment.

The neighborhood is clean and quiet. It smells like fresh cut grass and the sun is shining. Kids are riding bikes and laughing. Neighbors are talking and smiling.

INT. HUMMING FAMILY KITCHEN - DAY

The House is small but filled with love. The rooms are filled with colors and furniture of the decade. The kitchen is small. But has lots of windows and smells like fresh cookies.

The phone RINGS loudly. Remona enters the kitchen, she walks over to the phone and picks up the phone on the last ring.

REMONA

Hello?

There's no response.

INT. CAROLINE'S KITCHEN - DAY

Caroline answers the phone after a moment.

INTERCUT - REMONA/CAROLINE

CAROLINE

Hi. Is your mom home?

Bettye Jean enters the room.

BETTYE JEAN

Your talking to that girl from down the street again? You talked to her all day yesterday.

Bettye Jean walks over to the window.

REMONA
 (into the phone)
 My mom says I'm not suppose to talk
 to strangers.

Remona gives a sarcastic smile to Bettye Jean. Bettye Jean walks over to the phone. Bettye Jean takes the phone from Remona.

INTERCUT - BETTYE JEAN/CAROLINE

BETTYE JEAN
 Hello? Who is this?

CAROLINE
 Its me, Caroline. Wait Don't hang
 up.

Bettye Jean looks over to Remona who's eyes are filled with curiosity. Bettye Jean moves the phone from her ear.

BETTYE JEAN
 (to Remona)
 Go play in the living room.

Bettye Jean puts the phone back to her ear. Remona nods and exits.

BETTYE JEAN (CONT'D)
 What do you want?

CAROLINE
 I just wanted to say I'm sorry
 about Drew. He was a wonderful man.

Bettye Jean looks as though she'll boil over.

BETTYE JEAN
 He was a lot of things but
 wonderful wasn't one of them. You
 don't get to tell me about my
 father. Of all people definitely
 not you.

CAROLINE
 Okay okay, I'm sorry. I didn't mean
 to upset you.

Bettye Jean lets out a deep breath.

BETTYE JEAN

Caroline, What is it that you've called for?

CAROLINE

I wanted to see you... to make up. I'm sorry for my mistakes, Bettye. I just want my friend back. These past 20 years without my best friend in the world, my heart has ached. And I just-

Bettye Jean starts to tear up but she stares at the wall and inhales deeply, her tears disappear.

BETTYE JEAN

I can't do this. Goodbye Caroline.

CAROLINE

Wait. Wait. Meet me for lunch at that nice restaurant we used to love when it was Lucille'snow its Tori's something. You know the place.

BETTYE JEAN

Caroline, I really can't -

CAROLINE

You don't have to answer now. If you change your mind I'll be there at 2pm on the 12th. Okay, Thanks for taking my call.

BETTYE JEAN

My daughter took your call. Bye Caroline.

Bettye Jean hangs up the phone.

INT. HUMMING FAMILY KITCHEN - DAY

Bettye Jean has set the table with dinner. Remona is seated at the table.

BETTYE JEAN

Robert. Dinner is ready.

Robert enters the kitchen and sits down next to Remona.

Bettye Jean sits down.

BETTYE JEAN (CONT'D)
Don't forget to say grace. Let's
bow our heads.

They all bow their heads and close their eyes.

BETTYE JEAN (CONT'D)
Lord God, Please bless this food,
those who prepared it and will
digest it, Amen.

They eat in silence.

INT. HUMMING FAMILY KITCHEN- MOMENTS LATER

Bettye Jean is washing dishes and Robert is drying dishes.

ROBERT
How was your day?

BETTYE JEAN
Caroline called.

Robert looks taken aback.

ROBERT
Caroline? Oh wow...Its been a long
time...What did she want?

BETTYE JEAN
She wanted to go to lunch.

ROBERT
And are you going to go?

Bettye Jean doesn't answer.

ROBERT (CONT'D)
Maybe you should.

BETTYE JEAN
Why should I give her a chance?
After what she did she doesn't
deserve it.

Bettye Jean's eyes become teary. She drops her dish in the
sink and exits the kitchen.

ROBERT
Honey.. Just hear me out please.

INT. REMONA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

The room is small and girly. Its decorated with pinks and purples. The room is not very clean, with dolls and clothes tossed around.

Remona is laying in her bed. Bettye Jean enters the room and tucks her in under the covers.

Bettye Jean smiles at Remona. Remona smiles back.

REMONA
Mom, Are you okay?

BETTYE JEAN
I'm fine.

Bettye Jean puts on a brave face.

REMONA
I don't think you are. Something is bothering you.

Remona sits up and gives Bettye Jean a hug.

REMONA (CONT'D)
Its okay to not be okay.

BETTYE JEAN
I'm fine, baby. I promise.

REMONA
Does it have to do with the woman who called today?

Bettye Jean's brave face cracks.

BETTYE JEAN
No, Remona. We aren't talking about this.

REMONA
But I just want to help.

Remona lays back down and sighs.

BETTYE JEAN
No Buts. There's nothing to help with. I Love you.

Bettye Jean kisses Remona's forehead.

REMONA
Love you.

Bettye Jean exits.

INT. BETTYE JEAN AND ROBERT'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

The bedroom is big and decorated very modern. There's one king bed in the middle of the room and two closets on both sides. The calming smell of lavender fills the room.

Bettye Jean enters the room. She walks to her closet on the right side of the room and opens it.

She pushes some clothes aside and bends over to pick up a floral memory box. She places the box on the bed and takes a deep breath. She opens it.

There are postcards and old photos tossed around inside. Bettye Jean shuffles some of the postcards around and then stops.

INSERT. Photo

Sitting on top of all the other photos and postcards is the same photo of Caroline and Bettye Jean in front of their old apartment building smiling.

BACK TO SCENE

Bettye Jean gently picks up the photo and holds it. Bettye Jean sighs and her eyes look fondly at the photo. Until she snaps out of it and toss the photo back into the box.

Remona stands in the doorway.

REMONA

Is that her?

Bettye Jean looks over to her.

BETTYE JEAN

Remona! Go back to bed!

REMONA

Your not fine. Something is bothering you.

Remona walks over and looks at the photo. They both stare at the photo in the box. Its quiet.

INSERT FLASHBACK

SUPER: 20 YEARS AGO - 1982

INT. BETTYE JEAN'S ROOM - ALABAMA - DAY

The room is small and divided in half. One side is a bed and a dresser. The other side is stacked with boxes labeled "Christmas" and "Thanksgiving".

BETTYE JEAN(20s) is putting clothes into a suitcase. A CAR HONK is heard several times. Bettye Jean walks to the window.

She looks outside and sees a small burgundy car sitting in the front of the house.

Bettye Jean LAUGHS. She opens the window.

BETTYE JEAN
(yelling)
I'm coming! I'm coming!

Bettye Jean walks over to her dresser and picks up a framed photo.

INSERT. PHOTO

A Photo of Bettye Jean(10), Caroline(10), and MARGARET (40s, Black woman) at a small table with a tea set and a cake in the center.

END OF INSERT PHOTO

Bettye Jean picks up the photo and walks over to her suitcase. She puts the photo in the suitcase and closes it. She picks up the suitcase and exits the room.

EXT. DREW'S HOUSE - DAY

The neighborhood is quiet and all the houses are small. There is a run down house next door that is the eyesore of the neighborhood.

CAROLINE(20s) steps out of the car wearing a scarf and sunglasses. She takes her sunglasses off and looks over at the run down house. She looks at it blankly and swallows.

Bettye Jean exits the house with her suitcase and walks up to the car. Caroline and Bettye Jean hug and jump up and down in excitement for a moment. They separate.

CAROLINE
Are we ready?

BETTYE JEAN
So ready!

Bettye Jean walks to the trunk of the car and puts her suitcase inside. She shifts boxes around in the trunk for a moment.

Bettye Jean walks back over to Caroline.

CAROLINE

Did you send our new landlord the rent?... I love the sound that already.

Bettye Jean laughs.

BETTYE JEAN

Yup. He has our life's savings and he mailed me the key a few weeks ago.

Bettye Jean takes the key out of her pocket and does a dance. Caroline joins in.

DREW(50s) wearing a charming smile exits the house with a box in hand. He walks up to the car. Drew has a twinkle to his eyes as he looks at Caroline.

Caroline and Bettye Jean stop dancing once he is closer to them.

DREW

Caroline, Its been a long time.
Nice to see you.

CAROLINE

Nice to see you too, Mr. Hammond.

DREW

That makes me feel old. Your not a little girl anymore, You've grown into a beautiful young woman. You can call me Drew.

Caroline nods. Bettye Jean slams the trunk shut. Drew snaps out of it. Bettye Jean rolls her eyes and takes the box from Drew and puts it in the back seat of the car.

BETTYE JEAN

Okay. We are all set.

CAROLINE

Great.

Caroline walks around the car and opens it. She gets in and closes the door behind her. Bettye Jean walks over to Drew.

BETTYE JEAN

Okay. I'm off.

DREW

Okay. Be safe both of you.

Bettye Jean nods. MARY LOU(30s, Black woman) exits the house and walks up toward the car.

Bettye Jean and Drew stand there awkwardly. Drew hugs Bettye Jean but its awkward and unnatural.

Mary Lou walks up to them as they separate. Mary Lou steps toward Bettye Jean with her arms out. Bettye Jean steps back.

BETTYE JEAN

Alright. Bye.

Bettye Jean turns around and gets into the car. She waves at them. Caroline starts the car, she waves at Drew and Mary Lou. They drive off.

Bettye Jean looks at Drew and Mary Lou as they get smaller and smaller in the side-view mirror. She smiles.

EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY

Caroline turns on the radio. Music plays.

CAROLINE

Look out New York here we come!

BETTYE JEAN

Two southern girls in the big city...They won't know what hit-'em!

They cheer as Caroline continues driving. They pass a sign saying "Leaving Mobile, Alabama". They both exhale a breath.

EXT. BRIGDE - DAY

The New York skyline is shining. The sun is shining. Its picture perfect.

Bettye Jean is driving now and Caroline is asleep in the passenger seat. Bettye Jean looks over at the New York skyline and SHRIEKS with excitement. Caroline wakes up.

CAROLINE

What is it? What happened?

Caroline sees the skyline. She CHEERS.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

Yes! Its looks just like the movies!

BETTYE JEAN

I can't believe this is our home!

CAROLINE

Believe it.

They smile as they continue to drive toward New York.

EXT. FOLLEY APARTMENTS - DAY

The building looks old and its a rusted color. You can tell the color is darkened by dirt. This building is next to Caroline's apartment building in the present.

Kids are playing on the street and many people walk past dressed for work.

Bettye Jean pulls the car up to the building. The smiles Caroline and Bettye once had are gone. They both look at each mirroring the same expression of shock.

Bettye Jean takes a piece of paper out her pocket and looks at it.

BETTYE JEAN

This is it... Our apartment building.

They both sigh.

CAROLINE

Well this is definitely "Not right outside of the city" like you said. Its at least an hour driving. How did you find out about this apartment again?

Caroline looks upset.

BETTYE JEAN

My dad has a friend who owns buildings here in Mount Vernon. He convinced his friend to let us rent an apartment but only if he co-signed on it. Remember?

CAROLINE

Right. I remember because now that I'm hearing it again it all sounds too good to be true.

BETTYE JEAN

Listen, its all we can afford right now. But once we have enough money to move, we can move closer.

Bettye Jean smiles at Caroline. Caroline's expression softens.

CAROLINE

Yeah your right. I guess its not so bad.

Caroline looks around the neighborhood. She looks at the kids playing and smiling down the street.

Bettye Jean and Caroline get out of the car and unload several boxes onto the sidewalk.

Bettye Jean walks around the car with a box in hand. She sets the box on the sidewalk next to a pile of boxes. She bends over and takes a break.

Caroline stands next to the pile of boxes looking around the neighborhood. She sees a group of men walking down the sidewalk. They smile at her. She smiles back.

Bettye Jean notices this as she exhales a breath. She stands up.

BETTYE JEAN

Hello? Are you going to help?

Caroline snaps out of it and looks over at Bettye Jean.

CAROLINE

What? I was helping, I'm just taking a break.

Bettye Jean rolls her eyes.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

Oh. Come on. Alright alright. I'm helping but look..look around. We did it! We are here in New York!

Caroline hugs Bettye Jean.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

Things are really going to happen for me!

BETTYE JEAN

Us, Caroline. Us.

CAROLINE

Yes of course that's what I meant.
Me and my modeling/acting
career.... and you and your....

Bettye Jean gives her a straight face.

BETTYE JEAN

You saw them. I couldn't live with
them anymore.

CAROLINE

I know. But what do you really
want?

BETTYE JEAN

To have a family of my own I guess,
find someone who makes me feel like
home.

Caroline smiles.

CAROLINE

This is going to be great I can
feel it.

They hug. Caroline walks to the car and takes out a camera. A
WOMAN walks down the street, Caroline stops her.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

Excuse me, Ma'am. Can you take a
photo of us?

The woman nods. Caroline runs over to Bettye and pulls her
close. They smile. FLASH sound. This is the photo Caroline
and Bettye Jean keep in their memory boxes.

INT. CAROLINE AND BETTYE JEAN'S KITCHEN - DAY

Bettye Jean sits at the kitchen table and opens a box. She
places a few things on the table.

Caroline enters the apartment with one box and a newspaper
under her arm. She places it down and exhales heavily.

CAROLINE

That's the last of it.

BETTYE JEAN

Alright, let's just unpack the
kitchen boxes for now.

Caroline nods. She takes the newspaper from under her arm.
She opens it and looks through it.

Caroline places the newspaper down on the table on top of dishes Bettye Jean has put on the table. Caroline opens a box and takes out a marker.

She circles something and then looks at her watch.

CAROLINE

Oh is that the time? I have to run,
there's an audition downtown I
found in the newspaper.

BETTYE JEAN

But we just got here. Can't you
find another one so we can work on
unpacking first?

CAROLINE

I have to audition for everything I
can if I really want to make it.

BETTYE JEAN

Okay? Will you help later?

Caroline exits the kitchen.

CAROLINE (O.S.)

Bye Bettye! See you later!

The door SLAMS shut. The sound echos until the phone rings.
Bettye Jean picks up the phone.

BETTYE JEAN

Hello?

INT. DREW'S LIVING ROOM - ALABAMA - DAY

Drew's home is filled with family photos and comfortable
furniture. The home isn't dirty but is small and cluttered.

Drew is holding the phone to his ear.

INTERCUT - BETTYE JEAN/DREW

DREW

Hi Bettye, Just calling to check on
you. Are you settled in?

BETTYE JEAN

Yea. Everything is fine. You didn't
have to call to check on me. I'm
grown and I can do this on my own.

DREW

You actually can't because you needed me to co-sign your apartment. You need me for that at least. No one would lease to two young girls even if New York is progressive. Anyways I didn't call to fight with you.. I just wanted to see how you were adjusting.

BETTYE JEAN

Ugh! You just know exactly what do say to start an argument don't you?

DREW

Bettye, I'm not arguing with you.

BETTYE JEAN

Your right your not!

INT. CAROLINE AND BETTYE JEAN'S KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Bettye Jean hangs up the phone. She continues unpacking a box angrily.

She takes out a plate from the box and unwraps it out of the paper.

She looks at it and becomes teary eyed.

INT. HARMON CASTING CALL - SAME TIME

A plain hallway with two chairs. Caroline sits in one and another woman similar to her sits in the other.

The woman gets up and enters the room across from the chairs. The door closes behind her. A few moments pass and she runs out crying.

Caroline's body tenses.

VOICE (O.S.)

Caroline Wallace!

Caroline stands and enters the room. The door lingers open.

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

Okay. We're just going to take a few photos and we will call you if you have the gig.

Camera SNAPS are heard. Caroline exits the room with a big smile. She exits the casting call.

INT. CAROLINE AND BETTYE JEAN'S APARTMENT - DAY

Caroline enters the apartment. She flicks the lights on.

CAROLINE
Bettye? You here?

Caroline walks toward the kitchen.

INT. CAROLINE AND BETTYE JEAN'S KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Caroline enters the kitchen, she sees the plate on the table. She picks it up, sighs and puts it down.

The phone RINGS. Caroline walks over to the phone. She picks it up.

CAROLINE
Harmon Casting please give me good news...

INT. DREW'S HOUSE - ALABAMA - SAME TIME

INTERCUT - CAROLINE/DREW

DREW
Caroline? Is that you?

CAROLINE
Oh Hi, Mr. Hammond, sorry I thought you were a work call.

DREW
Its okay, I told you to call me Drew.

CAROLINE
Your right. Bettye's not here right now. I think she stepped out. But I can tell her to call you back.

DREW
Oh no, its fine I can wait. You said you were waiting on a work call?

CAROLINE
Yes, my first audition for a modeling job. I hope I get it, its my dream.

DREW
Don't worry. They'd be fools not to hire you....

(MORE)

DREW (CONT'D)

With all the pageant wins you have under your belt. Why wouldn't they pick you?

Caroline smiles and blushes.

The front door opens and Bettye Jean enters with a bag in hand, she closes the door and enters the kitchen.

CAROLINE

Umm... Thanks Drew. Bettye Jean just got home, I'll give her the phone. You have a Goodnight.

Caroline hands Bettye Jean the phone and she rushes out of the room.

Bettye Jean puts the phone to her ear.

INTERCUT - BETTYE JEAN/DREW

BETTYE JEAN

Hello?

DREW

I'm sorry about earlier, I spoke to Mary Lou and now I get that I have to be more understanding. We've been talking more lately and I don't want to stop.

BETTYE JEAN

Okay. Well thanks for saying that.. I have to go though. Goodnight.

DREW

Goodnight.

Bettye Jean hang up the phone. She rolls her eyes.

INT. BETTYE JEAN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Bettye's room is just about unpacked. She's working on the last box.

She takes some clothes out of the box and puts them in the closet.

Caroline enters the room.

CAROLINE

I didn't hear any yelling so I guess, the conversation went okay.

BETTYE JEAN

It was alright. I told him I had to go though because for once my dad said somethings that didn't make me lose it.

CAROLINE

At least he's trying.

Bettye Jean moves away from the closet and lays back on the bed.

BETTYE JEAN

Yea I guess but I don't know... My instincts always tell me to be mad at him for what he did to my mom. But now I feel like I can't help but want to understand what went wrong.

Caroline nods. She walks over and lays back on the bed.

CAROLINE

I understand...I'm glad your trying. I'm proud of you.

BETTYE JEAN

Thanks. How did your audition go today?

Caroline forces a smile.

CAROLINE

I think it went well. But I'm feeling like its taking awfully long for them to call me..

BETTYE JEAN

Don't worry, I'm sure, They'll call soon. This is the city that never sleeps after all.

CAROLINE

Your right. I don't know why I was starting to feel anxious. Let's talk about something else to keep my mind busy.

Caroline thinks for a moment.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

What did you do today?

BETTYE JEAN

Well I'm fully unpacked so I went to the grocery store around the corner.

CAROLINE

Your doing better than me. I'm still living out of boxes.

They laugh.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

I noticed you unpacked your mother's china in the kitchen.

BETTYE JEAN

Yeah it always brings back good memories of our little tea parties. I bought some ingredients to make her favorite chocolate cake. Its just something I thought I could do to bring some of that happiness back.

CAROLINE

I think that's a great idea. I can help you make it tomorrow.

BETTYE JEAN

Great. Thanks.

CAROLINE

I always enjoyed her baking so this will be fun.

They lay there staring at the ceiling. The phone rings. Caroline jumps up and exits the bedroom.

INT. CAROLINE AND BETTYE JEAN'S KITCHEN - NIGHT

Caroline enters the kitchen. She runs over to the phone and answers it out of breath.

INT. HARMON CASTING CALL - NIGHT

The HARMON CASTING AGENT sits at a desk with a phone to his ear.

INTERCUT - CAROLINE/HARMON CASTING AGENT

CAROLINE

Hello..

HARMON CASTING AGENT
Hello. Is this Ms. Caroline
Wallace?

CAROLINE
Yes.

HARMON CASTING AGENT
Thank you for taking the time to
audition for us but unfortunately
we decided to go in another
direction.

Caroline looks confused.

CAROLINE
Oh alright.. Thanks for the oppor-

The phone clicks.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)
Hello?....Hello?

There's no answer. Caroline hangs the phone up. She sighs and
exits the kitchen.

INT. APARTMENT HALLWAY BETWEEN CAROLINE AND BETTYE JEAN'S
BEDROOMS- NIGHT

Caroline walks toward her bedroom. Bettye Jean's door is
closed. The lights under her door are on.

CAROLINE
Goodnight Bettye.

BETTYE JEAN
Goodnight.

Bettye Jean's light goes off and Caroline's light stays on
for a moment.

Caroline turns her room light off.

INT. CAROLINE AND BETTYE JEAN'S KITCHEN - DAY

Bettye Jean is standing near the counter with a carton of
eggs and a mixer.

Caroline enters. She walks over to Bettye Jean and looks at
the ingredients. Flour, Sugar, etc.

CAROLINE
How can I help?

BETTYE JEAN

Well I'm starting the batter right now so you can make the buttercream.

CAROLINE

Okay. How do I do that?

BETTYE JEAN

Well let me just finish mixing everything together in the mixer and then I'll show you.

Bettye Jean starts throwing ingredients in the mixer after measuring them out. Caroline watches. Bettye Jean turns it on and flour flies out into their faces.

They both face each in shock, not sure whether to laugh or scream. They both settle on LAUGH.

Bettye Jean and Caroline wipe the flour from their eyes. Bettye Jean turns the mixer on and it continues mixing the flour.

INT. CAROLINE AND BETTYE JEAN'S KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Caroline and Bettye Jean are sitting at the kitchen table. They both have a plate with chocolate cake on it. There is a mess behind them from the baking.

Bettye Jean eats some cake while Caroline cuts herself a new piece.

CAROLINE

This came out a lot better than I thought.

BETTYE JEAN

I told you it would be good. It tastes just like when she used to make it for us when we were kids.

CAROLINE

It really does.

BETTYE JEAN

You know this reminds me of how sweet she really was, she would always take the time to take care of those who needed her. When I was having a hard time she would always be there for me. Even before she died she told me not to be so mad at my Dad.

CAROLINE

Yeah I remember. You know throughout my whole childhood, the only time I really felt safe was at your house.

Bettye Jean nods.

BETTYE JEAN

Yeah. She was one of a kind.

She shifts the table a little bit and a plate from her mother's china set falls to the ground.

A GLASS SMASHING sound is heard as pieces of the plate cover the floor. Bettye Jean and Caroline's eyes widen.

INSERT. FLASHBACK

SUPER: ALABAMA, 1962

INT. CAROLINE'S CHILDHOOD HOME - DAY

CAROLINE (10) wearing a blue dress is sitting in a small room on a bed. A loud SMACK is heard. She's looking at the door to the bedroom. The room isn't decorated and is very plain. Its dim.

YELLING and CRYING is heard. Caroline opens the door very quietly and exits.

INT. HALLWAY OF CAROLINE'S CHILDHOOD HOME - DAY

Caroline is tip toeing through the hallway. She walks past the living room.

GEMMA(30s, White woman) AND ERNEST (30s, White man) are standing in the living room yelling at each other. Its inaudible. She opens the front door and exits the house.

EXT. CAROLINE'S CHILDHOOD HOME - DAY

This is the run down house next to Drew's house in Alabama. The paint on the house is chipped and the house is falling apart.

Caroline straightens out her dress and walks through the grass. She walks over to the house next door.

EXT. DREW'S HOUSE - DAY

Caroline stands at the front door. She KNOCKS on the door. Margaret and BETTYE JEAN(10) answers the door.

MARGARET

Hi, sweetie.

CAROLINE

Hi, Mrs. Hammond.

BETTYE JEAN

Caroline, We're having a tea party.
Do you want to join?

Caroline looks at Margaret.

MARGARET

Its okay with me.

Bettye Jean grabs Caroline's hand and they run into the house with big smiles on their faces.

INT. BETTYE JEAN'S ROOM - DAY

Bettye Jean's room is decorated like a little girl's dream. Its got an abundance of toys, and a tea set. The window is open and the curtains are flowing in the breeze.

DREW (40) is sitting at small table with a cake in center and a tea set. There is a camera also sitting on the table. Drew is eating a piece of cake.

MARGARET

Honey, you were suppose to wait for us.

DREW

I got hungry.

Drew continues eating. Bettye Jean crosses her arms and sighs.

Margaret shakes her head. She looks over at Bettye Jean and rubs her shoulder. Bettye Jean softens her expression and looks up at Margaret. They both smile at each other.

Bettye Jean and Caroline sit down at the table and eat cake.

Drew gets up from the table. He picks up the camera and takes a picture of Margaret, Caroline, and Bettye Jean at the table. They smile.

This is the photo Bettye Jean packs with her to go to New York. Drew smiles and sits back down at the table. They continue eating.

Moments pass until there is a SLAM sound heard from outside. Margaret exits Bettye Jean's room.

EXT. DREW'S HOUSE - DAY

Margaret stands outside of the house with the door open. Ernest walks outside with an angry expression on his face. He is carrying two suitcases.

Ernest opens the car trunk and puts the suitcases in. He SLAMS it shut. Gemma runs outside crying. She grabs him. He violently brushes her off.

Gemma falls to the ground. Caroline stands outside with Margaret. Ernest sees her and walks over toward her.

Ernest smiles at Caroline. He extends his hands to pick her up but Margaret shields her.

Margaret and Ernest stare at each other angrily. Neither of them backing down.

Ernest extends his hands again. Caroline takes it. Ernest and Caroline walk away from the house. They get into the car and drive away.

Bettye Jean watches from her window.

END OF FLASHBACK

INT. CAROLINE AND BETTYE JEAN'S KITCHEN - DAY

Bettye Jean is emptying the dust pan from sweeping up the glass. Caroline is still sitting at the table. Bettye Jean walks back over to the table and sits down.

They are sitting the same way as they were in the photo but without Margaret in between them.

They continue eating the cake. Its silent.

INT. CAROLINE AND BETTYE Jean'S LIVING ROOM - NEXT DAY

The living room is small but its decorated with love. There's a small love seat, a chair, coffee table, and tv.

Bettye Jean is sitting in the chair reading the newspaper. She has a pen in her hand. She circles an ad.

INSERT. NEWSPAPER AD

Looking for a nice young woman who is capable of taking care of 2 young boys. Will pay well and has benefits. Inquire at (212)-484-2978

BACK TO SCENE.

Bettye continues to read the paper. Caroline enters the apartment and closes the door behind her. The phone RINGS.

INT. CAROLINE AND BETTYE JEAN'S KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Caroline enters the kitchen and answers the phone.

INT. DREW'S KITCHEN -DAY

Drew has the phone to his ear while he sits in a chair beside the phone.

INTERCUT - CAROLINE/DREW

CAROLINE

Hello?

DREW

Hi Caroline, Is Bettye Jean there?
I've been trying to call her but I
guess I keep missing her.

CAROLINE

Hi Drew, Ugh..

Caroline looks over and Bettye Jean enters the kitchen. She mouths "I'm not here." Bettye exits.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

No, she just stepped out.

DREW

Oh okay. How are you?

CAROLINE

I'm alright.

DREW

That's good to hear. How are the
auditions going?

CAROLINE

Good...really good.

DREW

That's good. I'm proud of you. I'm
glad everyone can see the star you
are.

Caroline lets a smile escape.

CAROLINE

Thanks, Drew. I'll tell Bettye Jean
you called.

DREW

Okay. No need to thank me. I'm just
telling you the truth.. Bye
Caroline.

CAROLINE

Bye.

Caroline and Drew hang up the phone. Caroline walks over to
the refrigerator. She opens it.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

(yelling to Bettye Jean)
You have to talk to him sometime
you know.

BETTYE JEAN (O.S.)

(yelling to Caroline)
I know just not now.

The phone RINGS. Caroline closes the refrigerator and walks
to the phone.

CAROLINE

(yelling to Bettye Jean)
We are in high demand today!

Caroline picks it up.

INT. AUDITION OFFICE - DAY

The office is big and spacious. Its decorated with the best
of everything.

AUDITION MANAGER (30s, Hispanic man) sits at a desk with a
phone to his ear.

INTERCUT - CAROLINE/AUDITION MANAGER

CAROLINE

Hello?

AUDITION MANAGER

Caroline Wallace?

CAROLINE

Yes?

AUDITION MANAGER

Hi, I'm calling on behalf of York
publications, We just want to thank
you for coming in to audition for
the part but we are going in
another -

Caroline slams the phone down on the hook. She sighs and exits.

INT. CAROLINE AND BETTYE JEAN'S LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Caroline enters the living room.

BETTYE JEAN
What was that noise?

CAROLINE
Nothing I just dropped something.

BETTYE JEAN
Oh okay. Who was that on the phone?

CAROLINE
Just a call back for an audition I did a few weeks ago.

BETTYE JEAN
So How'd it go? Did you get it?

Caroline plasters a smile on.

CAROLINE
It went great! Yeah I got it.

Bettye Jean smiles. Caroline sits beside Bettye Jean.

BETTYE JEAN
Yay! Congratulations! I'm so happy for you! After that let down with the other audition, things are finally starting to look up.

CAROLINE
Thanks! But you know... what this whole model actress thing is a bit too unstable for me. I mean who knows when I'll get another contract after this one. I should look for another job too just for stability.

Bettye Jean nods.

BETTYE JEAN
Right. We do still have rent to pay.

CAROLINE
Any good jobs in the paper?

BETTYE JEAN

Yea. They're alright. Here

Bettye Jean gives Caroline the paper. Caroline looks through it. Bettye Jean exits.

INT. CAROLINE AND BETTYE JEAN'S KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Bettye Jean picks up the phone.

BETTYE JEAN

Hello, yes Hi. I'm calling to answer your ad in the newspaper...

INT. HOFFMAN HOUSE LIVING ROOM - DAY

The Hoffman house is spacious and decorated with care. Bettye Jean sits on a sofa, opposite of her is JOSEPHINE HOFFMAN(30s, White woman).

JOSEPHINE

Bettye Jean, Thank you for coming. I need some help around the house and with our boys during the day. If this interview goes well I'd like to hire you.

Bettye Jean's face lights up.

BETTYE JEAN

Thank you for the opportunity, Mrs. Hoffman.

Josephine nods.

JOSEPHINE

So Bettye Jean, Where are you from?

BETTYE JEAN

You can just call me Bettye, I'm from a small town in Alabama. I lived there all my life until I moved here almost a week ago now.

Josephine writes something down in a notepad.

JOSEPHINE

Oh okay this must be a big change for you. What town are you from?

BETTYE JEAN

Grand Bay in Mobile, Alabama.

JOSEPHINE

I moved here from Montgomery and met my husband. 3 years later... Here I am. The city is great isn't it?

BETTYE JEAN

Its wonderful.

Josephine writes something else in her notepad. Bettye looks at the notepad. Josephine notices.

JOSEPHINE

Oh.. I'm just taking notes. Is that okay?

Bettye Jean nods.

JOSEPHINE (CONT'D)

So do you have any experience taking care of children?

BETTYE JEAN

Yes. I'm the youngest of eight... We grew up on a farm and played house a lot. Even though I was the youngest, I was always the mama.

Bettye Jean chuckles to herself.

JOSEPHINE

Wow! Your mother and father must of had their hands full. Are you still close with your parents?

Josephine chuckles softly. Bettye doesn't answer right away.

BETTYE JEAN

Is that question important for the interview?

Josephine looks off put.

JOSEPHINE

No.. Let's move on. I don't think playing house makes you qualified to take care of my children and I think I've heard enough. Thank you for your time. I'll show you out.

Bettye stands up. She walks toward the exit same as Josephine. She stops.

BETTYE JEAN

My father left my mother for someone else. They got married and shortly after that she died...

JOSEPHINE

What?

BETTYE JEAN

You asked me before about my parents...no we aren't.

Josephine nods. There's an awkward silence.

They continue walking to the door.

INT. CAROLINE AND BETTYE JEAN'S LIVING ROOM - SAME TIME

Caroline is sitting on the sofa watching tv. She's laughing. The phone RINGS.

Caroline gets up and walks to the kitchen.

INT. DREW'S LIVING ROOM - SAME TIME

Drew is putting a puzzle together.

INTERCUT - CAROLINE/DREW

CAROLINE

Hi.

DREW

Hi. Is Bettye Jean there?

CAROLINE

Nope. She's gone out.

DREW

Oh... She's always out and about. I'm glad she's enjoying herself. I just wish she would talk to me about it.

CAROLINE

I know. I think she will though ...when she's ready. She'll be back soon I think.

DREW

I hope so.

Drew doesn't say anything for a moment.

DREW (CONT'D)

What's going on with you? Anything interesting?

CAROLINE

Not much. Looking for another job. Gigs aren't super consistent so I figure I should look at other options while I wait.

DREW

That's smart. You've got a good head on your shoulders.

Caroline smiles.

CAROLINE

You always have such good things to say about me.

DREW

There are only good things to say about you.

CAROLINE

How are you?

DREW

Things are good. I'm just working on a new puzzle. You like puzzles?

CAROLINE

Not really but I always admire the challenge. Doing those 500 piece ones sounds insane.

DREW

I like a challenge.

CAROLINE

I can't say I don't like a good challenge myself.

There is a strange tension between the two. There's a twinkle in both of their eyes. Caroline CLEARS HER THROAT.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

Well...It was nice chatting with you Drew, I have to get back to the job hunt.

DREW

Alright you have a good evening.

CAROLINE

You too.

Caroline hangs up the phone. She stares at it for a moment. She shakes her head.

INT. CAROLINE AND BETTYE JEAN'S KITCHEN- NIGHT

Caroline is sits on the phone.

CAROLINE

Thank you for taking my call, I will see you tomorrow at 9am at the front gate.

Caroline hangs up the phone. Bettye enters from the hallway.

BETTYE JEAN

Who will you be seeing at 9am?

CAROLINE

I'm going to the corrections center tomorrow.

Bettye looks confused.

BETTYE JEAN

Like a prison? Why?

CAROLINE

I told you I was looking for another job. I picked corrections, it pays well and there lots of eye candy.

Bettye Jean chuckles.

BETTYE JEAN

That's fair. Speaking of jobs, I had the worst job interview today. She asked me about my parents and I just said it.

CAROLINE

Bettye! You shouldn't have said anything.

BETTYE JEAN

She got kind of weird when I didn't answer so I figured if I answered she would appreciate the honesty.

CAROLINE

And I take it, she didn't?

BETTYE JEAN

She showed me right to the door.

Bettye Jean shrugs. The phone RINGS. Bettye Jean answers the phone.

BETTYE JEAN (CONT'D)

Hello?

INT. HOFFMAN HOUSE LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Josephine sits in a chair.

INTERCUT - JOSEPHINE/BETTYE JEAN

JOSEPHINE

Bettye, Hi. I'm calling to tell you, you've got the job. I remember what it was like for me when I first moved her. I'm giving you the chance I didn't get so be here tomorrow at 10am. See you then.

Bettye Jean smiles.

BETTYE JEAN

Thank you, I will see you tomorrow. Goodnight.

Bettye Jean hangs up the phone.

CAROLINE

Who was it?

BETTYE JEAN

I got the job!

Caroline hugs Bettye Jean.

CAROLINE

Congrats!

BETTYE JEAN

Thanks. I think I'll call my dad..I kind of feel like spreading the good news.

Caroline nods and exits the kitchen. Bettye Jean walks over to the phone. She picks it up and dials a number.

INT. DREW'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Drew is sitting in the kitchen working on the same puzzle.

INTERCUT - BETTYE JEAN/DREW

DREW
Hi, Bettye. How are you?

BETTYE JEAN
I'm good. I got a job today.

DREW
That's great. What is it?

BETTYE JEAN
Just taking care of 2 kids not too far from the apartment.

DREW
That's good. I'm happy you told me about it.

BETTYE JEAN
Yea. Me too.

DREW
I'm glad everything you want is happening for you.

BETTYE JEAN
Thank you for being so supportive of me.

DREW
Your my baby girl, I'll always support you.

They both smile.

BETTYE JEAN
Well I have a big day tomorrow so I have to get to bed.

DREW
Okay. Have a good day at work.

BETTYE JEAN
I will. Thanks. Bye.

Bettye Jean hangs up the phone.

INT. HOFFMAN HOUSE LIVING ROOM - NEXT DAY

Bettye Jean sits in the living room beside Josephine.

BETTYE JEAN
Thank you for hiring me.

JOSEPHINE
No need to thank me. I just saw
some of myself in you and wanted to
give you a chance.

Bettye Jean nods. There's an awkward silence.

JOSEPHINE (CONT'D)
I'm sorry about what happened to
your mom. I can't imagine how it
must have been for you.

BETTYE JEAN
Its been hard.

JOSEPHINE
Yeah we all have our own trauma.

BETTYE JEAN
Yeah.

Josephine looks at the time.

JOSEPHINE
I'm glad we got to talk but I must
be going I have some errands to
run. I left you a list in the
kitchen. See you at 6.

Josephine gets up and heads to the door. Bettye follows.

Josephine opens the door and exits. Bettye waves to her and
closes the door.

INT. HOFFMAN HOUSE KITCHEN - DAY

Bettye Jean enters the kitchen. There's a note on the table.
Bettye Jean picks it up and starts reading.

INSERT. MONTAGE

- Bettye Jean clean the counter in the kitchen.
- Bettye Jean vacuuming the living room floor.
- Bettye Jean playing with DANIEL (6, White boy).

- Bettye Jean giving Daniel a bath.

END OF MONTAGE

INT. HOFFMAN HOUSE KITCHEN - NIGHT

Josephine enters the kitchen with brown paper bags in her hands. Bettye Jean is looking in a cabinet.

JOSEPHINE

How was it today? Were the boys good?

Bettye Jean closes the cabinet.

BETTYE JEAN

Yes. Everything went well.

JOSEPHINE

Good I'm glad. Thank you.

BETTYE JEAN

No problem.

JOSEPHINE

See you tomorrow.

Josephine starts to unpack the bags. Bettye Jean exits the kitchen.

EXT. HOFFMAN HOUSE - NIGHT

The house is an average size and it doesn't feel like its only a couple of blocks from Bettye Jean's apartment. It feels like a different city entirely.

The neighborhood is quiet and gives off the American dream vibe.

Its dark outside and Bettye Jean exits the house. She closes the door behind her. A black car pulls up in front of the house.

CHRISTOPHER (40s) opens the car door. He kisses a woman and then exits the car. Bettye Jean sees this. Her eyes widen.

Christopher sees Bettye Jean. He walks past her and nods. She gives him a fake smile. She continues walking but then turns around.

The car drives off. Christopher gets to the front door and unlocks the door. Christopher opens the door. Daniel rushes over to the door and hugs his legs.

CHRISTOPHER

Hi buddy.

Josephine walks over and kisses Christopher. Bettye Jean looks shocked.

Josephine sees her and waves. Bettye Jean smiles and waves back.

Bettye Jean turns around, looks confused but continues walking away from the house.

INT. CAROLINE AND BETTYE JEAN'S KITCHEN - NIGHT

Caroline enters the kitchen with a stack of books. She places them down on the table. The phone RINGS.

INT. DREW'S LIVING ROOM - SAME TIME

Drew sits in a chair with the phone to his ear.

INTERCUT - CAROLINE/DREW

DREW

Hi Bettye. How are you?

CAROLINE

Its Caroline. Bettye is still at work.

DREW

Oh well... How did the job hunt go?

CAROLINE

I got a job at the prison not too far but I have to pass this test first to be a correction officer.

DREW

Well you'll pass.

CAROLINE

How do you know?

DREW

I know your smart. You always have been.

CAROLINE

Yeah. I think it should be fine but it makes me nervous to think about.

DREW

Don't be... You know your parents would be proud of you. If they were still here.

Caroline sighs.

CAROLINE

They would barely know I existed if they were.

DREW

I doubt that. Who could not know you exist?

Caroline blushes. Drew smiles. The tension is back.

CAROLINE

How's the puzzle?

DREW

I finished it... Now I have to find a new challenge.

CAROLINE

Do you have any idea what that would be? A new puzzle maybe?

DREW

Yeah, I have an idea but its not a puzzle. Something more challenging.

CAROLINE

That's great. Well I got to get started studying. I only have a few days before the next test date.

Drew nods.

DREW

Alright. Tell Bettye to call me.

CAROLINE

Yeah.

Caroline and Drew hang up.

Caroline sits at the table. She takes a book off the stack. She opens it and begins reading.

INT. DREW'S KITCHEN - ALABAMA - NIGHT

The kitchen is decorated above any man's standards of this era. There's isn't much to it, its a pretty average looking kitchen but with very few appliances.

The kitchen has the basic stove, sink, and fridge and a small dining room set for 2.

Drew sits at the table eating. Mary Lou is washing dishes at the sink.

MARY LOU

How's the chicken? I seasoned it a little differently this time.

DREW

Its pretty good. Make it like this from now on. I could look forward to this.

Mary Lou smiles and continues doing the dishes. Drew finishes eating and leaves the table. He exits the room.

Mary Lou rushes to the table to take the plate away.

INT. DREW'S LIVING ROOM - ALABAMA - NIGHT

A small living room space adjacent to the kitchen. A coffee table sits in-front of Drew.

Drew enters the living room and sits on the couch. He exhales a big breath. He looks at the mail sitting on the coffee table.

DREW

Honey? Is this today's mail?

MARY LOU (O.S.)

Yes, dear.

Drew picks up the mail and looks through it. He stops when he gets to an envelope post marked from New York.

Drew opens the envelope. He takes out photos and a note.

INSERT. NOTE FROM BETTYE JEAN

BETTYE JEAN (V.O.)

Hi Dad, Just wanted to share a few weeks of my life in New York with you.

BACK TO SCENE

The photos of Bettye Jean and Caroline in front of their building are seen. He looks at it for awhile and touches Caroline in the photo.

He sets the photos down and then reaches for the end table next to him.

Drew opens the drawer and takes out a piece of paper and a pen. He starts writing.

INT. CAROLINE AND BETTYE JEAN'S KITCHEN - DAY

Bettye Jean enters the kitchen with mail in hand. She tosses it onto the kitchen table and walks to the refrigerator. She opens it.

Caroline sits at the table looking at one of the books for her corrections exam. She stops and looks through the mail.

She stares at a letter from Drew addressed to her. Caroline puts it inside her book and flips a few pages. She continues reading.

Bettye Jean takes out a water and drinks it.

BETTYE JEAN

When's the test?

CAROLINE

Later today. Just looking over a few things before I go.

Bettye Jean nods.

BETTYE JEAN

Your going to do great.

Caroline closes the book and puts it in a bag hanging on the chair. She gets up and walks to the exit. She looks nervous.

CAROLINE

Wish me luck.

Bettye Jean smiles at her.

BETTYE JEAN

Luck!

Caroline exits.

INT. CAROLINE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

The bedroom is decorated with purples and blues. There are pageant trophies, crowns, and ribbons on shelves organized. There 2 boxes on her desk next to her bed.

Caroline enters her bedroom and closes the door behind her. She puts her bag down on the floor. She takes a book out of the bag.

Caroline opens the book and takes the letter out. She holds it close to her chest.

She takes a deep breath and then opens the letter. She begins reading it.

DREW (V.O.)

Dear Caroline, The other day when we spoke on the phone, I could hear the nervousness in your voice. I couldn't help but write to you and send you encouraging words. I don't always know the right things to say but what I do know is you have nothing to worry your pretty head about. You are an amazing woman, one who the world wouldn't dream of passing up on. You will light up New York and make sure it never forgets you. I know I never will. When I hear your voice I'm more excited than I've ever been. I feel chills when I think of you and smile. I know you will do great because that's how you make me feel.

Caroline starts blushing and then realizes she is blushing. She stops immediately. Caroline puts the envelope on her desk underneath some boxes.

INT. CAROLINE AND BETTYE JEAN'S KITCHEN - NIGHT

Caroline walks into the kitchen and picks up the phone.

INT. DREW'S KITCHEN - ALABAMA - NIGHT

The phone RINGS. He picks it up and yawns.

INTERCUT. CAROLINE/DREW

DREW

Hello?

CAROLINE

Hi... I just read your letter.

DREW

Did you like it?

CAROLINE

I can't say I didn't but you know this is wrong.

DREW

Write me back.

CAROLINE

But we're talking right now.

DREW

I couldn't possibly say all the things I want to say to you out loud not here.

CAROLINE

We can't do this. I have to go.

Caroline hangs up the phone.

INT. CAROLINE AND BETTYE JEAN'S KITCHEN - DAY

Caroline enters the kitchen with a paper in her hand. She skips in.

Bettye Jean is sitting in the kitchen on the phone.

BETTYE JEAN

Okay, So Aunt Jackie came over to the house and did what?.. She threw the gift back at Mary Lou!

Bettye Jean looks at Caroline enter the kitchen. She gestures "Just a moment".

Caroline nods. She starts doing a happy dance.

BETTYE JEAN (CONT'D)

Oh I got to go, Dad. Caroline just walked in. We'll talk tomorrow. Love you.

Bettye hangs up the phone and starts laughing. Caroline makes an intrigued face.

CAROLINE

You said "I love you". I haven't heard you say that to your dad in a long time.

BETTYE JEAN

I guess its a big deal. We've just been getting along really well and I can't help but enjoy laughing at Mary Lou's pain.

They both laugh.

CAROLINE

Aunt Jackie still hasn't warmed up to Mary Lou. Its been years.

BETTYE JEAN

Yea well neither have I and I lived with the woman. I don't think either of us ever will. She knew my father was married when they got involved how could a woman do such a thing?

Caroline looks down at the floor for a moment looking a little guilty. She snaps out of it.

CAROLINE

I passed the test! I'll be a real officer at Orlien Prison starting tomorrow!

Bettye Jean smiles.

BETTYE JEAN

Congrats!

They hug.

CAROLINE

Thanks! The pay is good and I can also look for a piece of man candy. Why not?

Bettye Jean shrugs.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

Besides the schedule is pretty good so I can still do a lot of auditions. Since I passed, I'm actually going to go do another audition a little later.

BETTYE JEAN

How did that gig go? You never said.

Caroline thinks for a moment but doesn't make it too noticeable.

CAROLINE

Really great. It was pretty simple, not much to it.

INT. A BUSY NEW YORK CITY STREET - CONTINUOUS

Caroline stands in a phone booth on a busy street, eating candy.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

Drew, that's not funny! It did really happen.

She laughs.

INT. CAROLINE AND BETTYE JEAN'S KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

BETTYE JEAN

Great, hopefully the people at the other auditions see it so they know your a shoe in.

CAROLINE

I hope so. I just came home to change and tell you before I go to it.

Caroline gets up from the table.

BETTYE JEAN

Okay see you later.

She's about to exit the kitchen.

BETTYE JEAN (CONT'D)

Hey wait, The girls down the hall told me about this restaurant called Lucille's two blocks over, do you maybe want to go tomorrow night? We haven't been out together since we moved, its been about a month since we had some real fun.

Caroline turns around and her face lights up.

CAROLINE

Has it really? Oh God! Yes.

Caroline exits the kitchen. Bettye picks up the paper off the table and reads it.

INT. STYLE CASTING CALL - DAY

The room is decorated with color and unusual furniture. The decor looks like its international. Caroline sits in a waiting room with over a dozen women. Most with the same build as her and all very beautiful.

There is a door leading to another room right across from the seat in the waiting room.

Caroline sits right across from the door. She looks at her watch.

INSERT: WATCH

SUPER: 4:30pm

BACK TO SCENE

Caroline notices a woman in the waiting room looking at her teeth in a mirror. She stares at her pick something out of her teeth. She makes a disgusted face.

A MAN (30s, White man) enters the waiting room through the door.

MAN

Darcy Wellington?

The women closes her mirror and puts it in her bag. She gets up and goes through the door.

Caroline dozes off.

INT. STYLE CASTING CALL - NIGHT

She wakes up and looks at her watch.

INSERT: WATCH

SUPER: 9:00pm

BACK TO SCENE

A man enters the waiting room and all the women look at him giving him their full attention.

MAN

Thank you ladies all for coming!
But we've found our lucky lady!

A brunette petite women steps out from behind him with a big smile on her face.

The man claps loud and some women in the waiting room clap. Caroline just stares.

Caroline exits the waiting room. She walks right toward the door the man and woman just came out of. She pushes her way through them.

INT. STYLE CASTING CALL HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

She bumps into the woman and the contents of her bag spills out. She rushes to put everything back into her bag. She stops when she sees Drew's letter.

INSERT: Excerpt from Drew's letter

"Your an amazing women, one who the world wouldn't dream of passing up on. You will light up New York and make sure it never forgets you."

BACK TO SCENE

Caroline holds back tears and smiles. She blushes hard. She picks up everything off the ground and leaves.

INT. CAROLINE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Caroline takes the letter out of her bag. She holds it in her hands. She squeezes the letter.

Caroline sits at her desk and turns her desk light on. She starts writing a letter of her own.

CAROLINE (V.O.)

Dear Drew, Thanks for the encouraging words. I really appreciate them. You've always known exactly what I needed to hear. But I'm not sure if I appreciate your advances...I mean these aren't the things a married man would say..

INSERT: SERIES OF SHOTS

INT. DREW'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Drew writing Caroline a letter. Mary Lou is cleaning in the background.

DREW (V.O.)

INT. CAROLINE'S BEDROOM - EVENING

DREW

Caroline, You are a wonderful woman and since you moved away, I wasn't able to see how you became this woman. But I'm glad we can re-connect now. As for what I said there is no harm in telling a beautiful woman I appreciate her and how she makes me feel... I can't deny myself these feelings.. I haven't felt this way about anyone in a long time and I don't want to stop feeling them.

Caroline lovingly starts writing a letter. Bettye Jean stands in the doorway.

BETTYE JEAN

I made some chili, it'll be done in a few minutes.

Caroline tries to conceal her loving eyes. She nods. Bettye Jean exits.

CAROLINE (V.O.)

(to Drew)

I'm glad we are able to re-connect too. Something about writing letters is so intimate, something not many people still do. Taking the time to write someone and waiting for a response, adds a thrill you know. Phone calls aren't as thrilling. I love the beautiful words you write me and the way they make me feel. I feel so full with love, in a way I've never felt. But we can't be together you know Bettye Jean would not accept this not with all that's happened. And Your wife? I can't help but feel selfish but if this amazing feeling stays with it....I might not be able to resist...

END OF SERIES OF SHOTS

INT. DREW'S KITCHEN - ALABAMA - DAY

Drew sits at the kitchen table working on a puzzle. Mary Lou enters and sits across from him.

MARY LOU
Can I help with the puzzle?

Drew looks confused.

DREW
(annoyed)
You hate puzzles.

MARY LOU
Yeah but you love them and I want
to spend time with you.

Drew looks at Mary Lou. There's a suppressed twinkle in his eye. It looks like the twinkle is just about gone.

Mary Lou picks up a puzzle piece and connects it. It the last piece and it fits.

MARY LOU (CONT'D)
I'm your missing puzzle piece.

Mary Lou giggles. The twinkle in Drew's eye begins to light up brighter than before as if he's really seeing her for the first time.

DREW
You're more than that.

Drew kisses Mary Lou. They kiss passionately for a moment.

INT. CAROLINE AND BETTYE JEAN'S KITCHEN - NIGHT

Caroline enters the kitchen. She's wearing her pajamas. She walks over to the phone and sits down by it. She stares at it for a moment.

Caroline dials a number on the phone.

INT. DREW'S KITCHEN - ALABAMA - NIGHT

Drew is wearing his pajamas sitting at the table.

The phone RINGS. Drew answers it.

DREW
(annoyed)
Hello?

CAROLINE
Hi Drew, Its Caroline.. I'm sorry,
am I disturbing you? I knew it was
probably too late to call.

DREW

(softer)

Oh Caroline? No, No its okay. I was just sitting here. What's going on?

CAROLINE

I just wanted to enjoy your company. I've loved writing you recently..

DREW

I have as well. I didn't expect you to have my same feelings. Shouldn't you be busy going out on dates and doing whatever it is girls do these days?

CAROLINE

I am doing those things except for the dates.. I'm a little too busy for that.. But you've been wonderful to me giving me all the attention any boyfriend could give me so I don't feel like I'm missing out.

Drew smiles but then becomes serious.

DREW

You deserve a man who can be fully yours. I don't know if I can be that man for you. Go out there and find a man who you can call your own.

Drew looks sad.

CAROLINE

What if that's not what I want? You've done it before... for love.

DREW

If I'm being honest I don't know what this is Caroline. I have feelings for you..but I don't know what they mean yet. Your probably better off with someone else, someone with less baggage, someone younger.

CAROLINE

I want you..just you. I don't care about any of the other things.

INT. CAROLINE AND BETTYE JEAN'S KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

The light comes on in the hallway. FOOTSTEPS are heard.

Bettye Jean turns the corner and enters the kitchen.

Caroline's sad expression turns to shock by her entrance.

CAROLINE

No, sir we don't want what your
selling. Please take this number
off your list..

Caroline hangs up the phone. Bettye Jean rubs her eyes.

BETTYE JEAN

Who was that?

CAROLINE

I don't know some salesman going on
and on. Come on let's go back to
bed.

Caroline walks with Bettye Jean out of the kitchen. Caroline looks back at the phone with her eyes watering.

She wipes them away immediately and plasters on a smile.

INT. ORLIEN PRISON - DAY

The prison is run down and over populated. There are thousands of cells and thousands of inmates.

Caroline enters the prison with her uniform on. She's wearing navy pants, a navy button down shirt and a name tag with her last name on it.

She walks through the prison and walks past other officers. OFFICER READE(20s, White man) stands with another officer and his eyes are drawn to Caroline. She smiles politely at him.

INT. HALLWAY OF ORLIEN PRISON - CONTINUOUS

This hall is lined with cells. Caroline walks to the end of it. Many prisoners are yelling until she walks by. They are entranced by her. She stands there at her post silent as they look at her.

INT. ORLIEN PRISON EMPLOYEE BREAK ROOM - DAY

The break room is out dated. The furniture isn't taken care of and it smells like body order throughout the room.

Caroline enters and the room, its empty except for the fridge, tables, and chairs. The door CLICKS behind her. She exhales.

Caroline walks up to the fridge and opens it. She takes out a sandwich wrapped in tin foil and then walks to a table and sits down.

ROBERT(20s, Black man) enters the break room. The door clicks behind him. He walks over to the coffee machine sitting on the table. He starts the usual routine of making coffee.

He notices Caroline sitting at the table from the corner of his eye. He turns and watches her for a moment.

ROBERT

You must be the new officer?

Caroline looks up and adjusts herself. Her eyes light up.

CAROLINE

That's me. And your?

ROBERT

Robert, welcome to Orlien.

Robert reaches for her hand and she shakes his. He continues making his coffee.

CAROLINE

Thank you, Robert. I definitely won't forget it.

Robert finishes making the coffee and sits at the table with Caroline.

ROBERT

Orlien isn't that bad.

CAROLINE

Oh I know. That's not what I meant when I said I won't forget. I was talking about you. How could I forget that face?

Caroline leans into the table and stares at Robert. He blushes but tries to cover it up immediately.

ROBERT

So what are your rounds today?

CAROLINE

Oh, playing hard to get?

ROBERT

No.

CAROLINE

Oh well..then what's wrong? A beautiful girl is throwing herself at you and you won't bite.

ROBERT

I'm just not interested. If I'm being honest Officer Reade has made it known that he's interested in you and he's my closest friend.

CAROLINE

Well if you and Officer Reade are free tonight, me and my girls are going to Lucille's. Have you heard of it?

ROBERT

Yea. I've been there a few times. We'll see y'all tonight then.

Robert takes a sip of his coffee. Caroline cleans up her area and opens the door to exit.

An alarm goes off while Robert continues to drink his coffee.

INT. BETTYE JEAN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Bettye Jean stands in front of her closet picking out something to wear.

Caroline enters the room wearing something flashy. Bettye Jean looks her up and down.

CAROLINE

Well how to I look?

Bettye Jean doesn't respond for a moment.

BETTYE JEAN

Looking to steal the spotlight as usual.

Caroline and Bettye Jean laugh.

CAROLINE

You always know what I'm going for.

Caroline looks through Bettye's closet.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

What are you going to wear?

Betty Jean steps away from the closet. Caroline pulls out a navy colored dress.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

What about this? I bought it for you last year and you still haven't worn it. It reminds me of you, you know. Its cute and modest but there's something sexy just waiting to escape. Maybe tonight?

Caroline lifts her eyebrows waiting for a answer. Bettye Jean's eyes widen.

BETTYE JEAN

I don't know...

CAROLINE

I have a feeling, it will. Put it on.

Caroline puts the dress in Bettye Jean's hands and exits.

BETTYE JEAN

Caroline, What do you mean by that?

Caroline doesn't answer.

BETTYE JEAN (CONT'D)

Caroline?

Bettye Jean rolls her eyes. She looks at the dress and then puts it on.

INT. LUCILLE'S - NIGHT

The interior is decorated beautifully. There is music playing throughout the place. Everyone is dancing and talking as smoke fills the air.

Bettye Jean and Caroline enter with FRANCINE (21, Latina woman) and MARIE (20, Latina woman). They all walk to the bar.

They each sit and watch as people dance across the dance floor. Immediately after sitting down Francine and Marie are asked to dance.

Two men take them by the hand and whisk them onto the dance floor.

Bettye Jean turns to face the bar. The Bartender (20s, Black man) walks over to her.

BETTYE JEAN

Can I have a Alabama Slammer?

Caroline turns to face the bar.

CAROLINE

And I'll have an Amaretto Sour.

The Bartender nods and begins making the drinks. The bartender gives them their drinks.

Bettye Jean and Caroline both turn to face the dance floor and watch everyone dance. They drink the drinks.

Across the room Robert enters with Officer Reade standing behind him. They begin scanning the room.

Caroline notices them from across the room and fixes her hair. She puts her glass down and turns to face Bettye Jean with a smile.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

Quick! There here. How's my teeth?

Bettye Jean looks meticulously at Caroline's teeth.

BETTYE JEAN

Perfect. Who's they?

Caroline turns back to the entrance where Robert and Officer Reade are still standing. She waves her arms from the bar and Robert notices.

Robert and Officer Reade make their way through the crowd to the bar.

Robert and Officer Reade stand in front of Bettye Jean and Caroline.

ROBERT

Caroline nice to see you again. You know Officer Reade right?

Officer Reade smiles big at Caroline.

CAROLINE

Yes, we met today in the hall right?

OFFICER READE

Yea. You can call me Michael. You should have seen the way the inmates were acting towards her. Their eyes were glued to her and they were silent. It was like working at a completely different place.

Caroline snickers and Officer Reade blushes.

Robert notices Bettye Jean and walks around Officer Reade. Caroline notices this.

ROBERT

Hi, I'm Robert and you are?

Robert extends his hand. Bettye Jean clears her throat. Caroline turns her head to Bettye Jean.

CAROLINE

Oh, Fellas, This is my friend Be-

BETTYE JEAN

Bettye Jean.

Bettye Jean shakes his hand.

CAROLINE

So formal.

ROBERT

Its very nice to meet you, Bettye Jean. Will you dance with me?

Caroline gives Bettye Jean a "No" look.

BETTYE JEAN

I'd rather not.

ROBERT

Why? A beautiful woman like you deserve to be out there dancing the night away.

CAROLINE

Robert, I'll dance with you.

Robert takes Bettye Jean's hand.

ROBERT

Just one dance. I promise it'll be worth it.

Bettye Jean looks back at Caroline. Caroline nods at Bettye Jean.

BETTYE JEAN

Just one.

Bettye Jean puts her glass down on the bar. She gets up and begins dancing on the dance floor with Robert.

OFFICER READE

Want to dance?

Caroline shrugs her shoulders.

CAROLINE

Why not.

They walk to the dance floor and start dancing next to Robert and Bettye Jean.

OFFICER READE

This is nice. I hope your enjoying yourself.

Michael continues talking but Caroline is staring at Bettye Jean and Robert dancing.

INT. LUCILLE'S - SAME TIME

Bettye Jean and Robert are dancing.

ROBERT

What was all that about at the bar?

BETTYE JEAN

Caroline has her eyes set on you. I didn't want to step on her toes. If she's interested in you she's going to make sure she gets what she wants.

ROBERT

What about what you want? Or what I want?

BETTYE JEAN

What I want? No one ever asked me that... I want to have a good time.

ROBERT

Me too. I'm having a good time with you.

Bettye Jean's eyes light up with excitement.

BETTYE JEAN

Yeah. I feel the same way.

Robert blushes.

INT. LUCILLE'S - SAME TIME

Bettye Jean laughs at Robert and he smiles back. They all continue dancing for awhile until the song changes.

Everyone including Francine and Marie walk back to the bar. Robert has his eyes fixed on Bettye Jean. Bettye takes out a small camera.

BETTYE JEAN

Can you take a picture of us,
Francine?

Francine nods and Bettye Jean hands her the camera. Everyone else gets close together.

Robert puts his hand on Bettye's waist and she blushes. Caroline notices and takes Officer Reade's hand and puts it on her waist for the photo.

Michael smiles.

MARIE

Okay everyone get close...and
smile.

The Camera CLICKS to take the picture.

INT. DREW'S LIVING ROOM - ALABAMA - DAY

Drew is looking at the photo that was taken in the previous scene. His face is scrunched up and he's turning red.

He puts the photo down and looks at the note.

BETTYE JEAN (V.O.)

I love New York and it loves me!

Drew puts the picture and the note down and leaves the room.

INT. DREW'S KITCHEN - ALABAMA - DAY

Drew walks over to the phone and dials it. He puts the phone to his ear.

INT. CAROLINE AND BETTYE JEAN'S KITCHEN - SAME TIME

The phone rings. Caroline enters the kitchen with a quickness.

She answers the phone and puts it to her ear.

Intercut. CAROLINE/DREW

CAROLINE

Hello.

DREW

Hi Caroline, I just received some photos from Bettye Jean...

Caroline doesn't respond for a moment.

CAROLINE

Yeah, did you see the one from Lucille's? It was such a wonderful night.

DREW

I did... I see you found yourself someone special..up there. I hope he's treating you right...

CAROLINE

Oh? Oh you mean Michael.. No... Him and I aren't together..He's not really my type.

DREW

Oh really? Who is your type then?

CAROLINE

Drew, Your my type. I want us to be together. I don't care about the consequences anymore. I can't deny the feelings I have for you.

DREW

I can't either. Your sure this what you want?

CAROLINE

A thousand times yes, I love you.

DREW

I love you too.

CAROLINE

Drew, There's something I have to do.

DREW

Something more important than this moment?

CAROLINE

Kind of. Its something I have to take care of so we can have more moments like this.

DREW

Its the guy, isn't it.

CAROLINE

Not the one you think. I'll call you back.

Caroline hangs up the phone and starts to dial. She puts the phone back to her ear.

INTERCUT - ROBERT/CAROLINE

ROBERT

Hello?

CAROLINE

Robert, Hi. Its Caroline. Listen, me and Bettye Jean had such a wonderful time the other night and I was thinking you should call Bettye and ask her out.

ROBERT

Yea... I think I will. She's a great girl.

CAROLINE

That she is. She's not here right now but I'll give you the number to where she works.

INT. HOFFMAN LIVING ROOM - DAY

Bettye Jean sits on the floor with Daniel beside her. They are playing with his train set. Bettye Jean pulls the toy train into the station.

BETTYE JEAN

Choo Choo.

Daniel laughs and pulls his train into the station.

DANIEL

Choo Choo.

The front door opens.

Josephine and WILLIAM (10, White boy) enter the living room.

JOSEPHINE

Bettye, I hope he hasn't been giving you any trouble this afternoon?

Bettye Jean looks up at Josephine.

BETTYE JEAN

No Ma'am. Daniel was well-behaved as always.

Josephine nods.

JOSEPHINE

William , Don't be rude say hello to Bettye.

WILLIAM

Hi

JOSEPHINE

Good. Now go up to your room, we will have company over soon and I want you to look your best.

William walks up the stairs to his room. Daniel continues to play with his trains.

JOSEPHINE (CONT'D)

Will you take Daniel upstairs and see to it that he is dressed for dinner?

BETTYE JEAN

Yes. The dinner is ready in the kitchen I just have to heat everything up a few minutes before they arrive.

JOSEPHINE

Perfect. Thank you Bettye.

Bettye Jean picks up Daniel and he keeps a train in his hands. They exit the living room.

INT. HOFFMAN HOUSE KITCHEN - NIGHT

Bettye Jean sits in the kitchen by the stove. She is reading a book. Through the kitchen door. LAUGHING is heard. The phone is on the wall across from her.

The phone RINGS.

JOSEPHINE (O.S.)
Bettye, can you get that?

BETTYE JEAN
Yes. Ma'am.

Bettye Jean puts her book down on the counter and walks over to the phone. She picks it up and puts it to her ear.

BETTYE JEAN (CONT'D)
The Hoffman residence.

INT. ROBERT'S LIVING ROOM - SAME TIME

Robert's apartment is pretty clean. The furniture definitely shows that a man lives here. The living room has all the usual components.

Robert is sitting on the sofa next to the phone with the tv on. Robert has the phone to his ear.

INTERCUT - BETTYE JEAN/ROBERT

ROBERT
Bettye Jean...Hi

Robert starts breathing heavily.

BETTYE JEAN
Robert? Why are you calling me? I'm working..

Robert begins to sweat. He exhales a sharp breath

ROBERT
I'm sorry for calling you at work but I just couldn't stop thinking about the other night and the fun we had. I was wondering if maybe we could do it again but like a date...just us.

BETTYE JEAN
I can't.. I have to go.

ROBERT
I thought we both had a great time... tell me you didn't and I'll leave you alone.

Bettye doesn't respond for a moment.

BETTYE JEAN
What about Caroline...

ROBERT

She gave me this number, Bettye.
She's not interested in me anymore.

Bettye doesn't respond.

BETTYE JEAN

Okay. One date.

Robert smiles.

ROBERT

Okay. Great. See you then. Bye

Bettye Jeana hangs up the phone. She picks up a pan and exits the kitchen.

INT. HOFFMAN HOUSE DINNING ROOM - NIGHT

The Dining room is exceptionally decorated. A beautiful china cabinet stands in the room with the most beautiful china. There is a dinning room table set for 6.

Bettye Jean walks in and places the pan on the table.

JOSEPHINE

Thank you.

Bettye Jean nods and looks over at the special guests. The woman in the car with Christopher that night sits beside a man with a mustache.

Bettye Jean's eyes widen. Christopher nods and gives her an angry stare. Bettye Jean steps back and loses her footing.

JOSEPHINE (CONT'D)

Are you alright?

BETTYE JEAN

Yes. I'll be fine.

Bettye exits the dinning room. Josephine follows.

INT. HOFFMAN HOUSE KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Bettye Jean sits back down in her chair. Josephine enters.

JOSEPHINE

What's going on with you?

BETTYE JEAN

Christopher and that woman..

JOSEPHINE

What about them? That's his boss's wife.

BETTYE JEAN

They were together. I saw them when I left one night.

Josephine is stunned. She sits down beside Bettye Jean. She inhales a big breath and exhales it.

JOSEPHINE

Are you sure?

BETTYE JEAN

Yes. I'm sure. I wouldn't have said anything if I wasn't.

JOSEPHINE

I know... Thank you for telling me. I don't know that many people here in New York that would.

BETTYE JEAN

You don't have to thank me. I'm just sorry I had to be the one to tell you.

Josephine stands up and fixes herself. A tear falls from her eyes. She wipes it quickly and exits.

JOSEPHINE

Go on home. The boys and I will see you tomorrow. My husband won't be seeing any of us for a very long time.

Bettye Jean nods. She exits the kitchen. YELLING is heard.

INT. CAROLINE AND BETTYE JEAN'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

The Living room is neat and decorated with muted colors. There's a sofa, a few chairs and tv.

Caroline sits on the sofa with a marker in hand.

INSERT. NEWSPAPER AD

Looking for management for your modeling or acting career? Come down to Sophia Escobar's Talent Management office on East 45th Street and I'll see what you can do. Call at (212)-485- 9320

BACK TO SCENE.

Caroline circle this in red. Bettye Jean enters the house and walks past her to her room.

CAROLINE
Hi. How was work?

Bettye Jean walks backward back toward the living room.

BETTYE JEAN
Did you give Robert the Hoffman's
phone number?

Caroline turns the volume down on the tv.

CAROLINE
I did but only because I saw how
much fun you both were having.

BETTYE JEAN
But what about you? I thought you
liked him?

Bettye Jean sits in the chair near the exit of the living room.

CAROLINE
I did but I can't be selfish. I see
something happening between you
two. So I told him to go for it and
you should too.

Bettye Jean smiles.

BETTYE JEAN
I don't know he seems nice but I
guess I'll give him a shot.

BETTYE JEAN (CONT'D)
Thanks. Your such a good friend.

They hug and then Bettye Jean exits. Caroline looks down for a moment. The heart warming feeling written across her face disappeared and guilt is left.

Caroline snaps out of it and goes back to reading the paper.

INT. SOPHIA ESCOBAR TALENT MANAGEMENT OFFICE - DAY

Caroline enters the office, its small and decorated with style. SOPHIA(30s, White woman) sits at her desk with a script in hand.

SOPHIA
You're?

Sophia looks at Caroline's portfolio.

SOPHIA (CONT'D)
Caroline Wallace, right?

CAROLINE
Yes, that's me.

SOPHIA
Okay well. Let's see what you got.
Here's a script from a movie that
is in the process of being shot.
We'll read a few lines and then
I'll tell you what I think.

Caroline nods and takes the script Sophia has extended to her.

Caroline clears her throat and begins reading the lines.

CAROLINE
And What? Your just going to leave
without a goodbye after all we've
been through.

Caroline's demeanor changes. She sounds so believable. Sophia is taken aback.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)
No closure? Was I nothing more to
you than just sex?

SOPHIA
You were more.... Someone I thought
I couldn't live life without but in
the end I'll survive.

CAROLINE
But you can't just leave. I-

SOPHIA
Okay I think I've heard enough.
From your portfolio, I see you
haven't gotten hired for anything,
so tell me why I should represent
you?

Caroline smiles.

CAROLINE
Well I have the look, of course
that any actress/model should have.
I've won multiple pageants in my
town and I have charm.

Sophia laughs. She lights a cigarette and leans back in her chair.

SOPHIA

Caroline, sit down. Clearly no one has told you this so I'll make it quick and make this just like taking off a band-aid.

Caroline sits down.

SOPHIA (CONT'D)

Listen, if that's the argument your selling me. I'm not sold. Let me guess your from a small town in... I don't know Wisconsin and everyone in town says your beautiful you should be in the movies or something like that right?

CAROLINE

Alabama.. But their not wrong.

SOPHIA

I'm not saying they are but your talent is just average in my opinion. You might have sold me on your acting a little bit because for whatever reason it was raw. Honey, there are billions of you coming through my door everyday but I'll tell you now there's nothing special about any of you. I'm sorry.

Caroline looks like she has been stab or worse.

SOPHIA (CONT'D)

Caroline, I'm doing you a favor in the long run. Find something else.

CAROLINE

Can I have one of those?

Sophia hands Caroline the cigarette box. Caroline takes one out and Sophia lights it for her.

Caroline stands up and takes the cigarette with her. She exhales smoke as she exits the office. She plasters on a smile and turns to look at Sophia.

Sophia smiles back.

INT. CAROLINE AND BETTYE JEAN'S KITCHEN- NIGHT

Caroline is sitting by the phone with another cigarette. She also has a bottle of vodka in her hand.

She picks up the phone and starts dialing.

CAROLINE
(slurred)
Hello??

A WOMAN answers the phone.

WOMAN
Hello?

CAROLINE
(slurred)
Your not Drew....Who are you?

WOMAN
What is this? Who are you?

Caroline rolls her eyes and hangs up. She struggles to dial the number again. She makes an effort to open her eyes wide making sure its right.

CAROLINE
Drew?

INT. DREWS'S KITCHEN - NIGHT

Drew is holding the phone to his ear.

INTERCUT - CAROLINE/DREW

DREW
Hey sweetie... are you doing okay?
You don't sound to good. What's
going on?

CAROLINE
I haven't been okay for awhile.
Drew, my dreams aren't happening. I
lied. Nothing is happening for me
like its suppose to.

Caroline takes a pull from her cigarette.

DREW
These things take time. Even for
the best of us.

CAROLINE

I don't think I can take this...

DREW

Don't say that, Love. How about this.. Maybe you need a break. How about I come see you for a bit. I could use some of my days off work and we could spend some time together.

Caroline takes a sip of vodka.

CAROLINE

Come to New York?

DREW

Yes. If that's something you want.

Caroline doesn't respond for a moment.

CAROLINE

What about Bettye?

DREW

What about her? I can come see her another time. She won't understand us.

CAROLINE

Okay. Yea you're right... I can't wait to see you.

DREW

I'll see you soon.

CAROLINE

Okay see you soon.

Drew and Caroline hang up.

INT. BENNY'S DINER - SAME TIME

The Diner is decorated very retro with a 50s theme. There's a jukebox and a few people sitting in booths.

Bettye Jean and Robert enter the diner and sit down across from one another.

They both blush but tried to hide it from each other.

ROBERT

So... Have you been here before?

BETTYE JEAN

Nope. I don't get out too much. I'm always working.

Robert nods.

ROBERT

I'm always working too. I came here all the time when I was a kid though.

BETTYE JEAN

Oh so you've lived close by all your life then?

ROBERT

My grandmother lived a few blocks away. When my parents would have really bad arguments. They would send me and my brothers to her house. They would come pick us up when they thought they were done arguing..

BETTYE JEAN

Think they were done?

ROBERT

I guess they never stop arguing because after our 5th trip to our grandma's house they never came back for us.

BETTYE JEAN

I'm sorry to hear that.

Robert smiles.

ROBERT

Yeah... I'm sorry I didn't mean to say my whole life's story like that. I guess I'm a little nervous.

BETTYE JEAN

Its okay. You know I thought you were just a playboy when we first met you but your slowly changing my impression of you.

ROBERT

Good because I want nothing more than to leave a wonderful impression of me in your beautiful mind.

Bettye Jean smiles.

The waiter comes by with water and begins talking to them. This part is inaudible. The waiter leaves.

BETTYE JEAN

Since you told me about you. I should return the favor.

ROBERT

Caroline told me all about you. But don't be mad. I just wanted to know more and I couldn't wait.

Bettye Jean shakes her head.

BETTYE JEAN

That girl. She's always trying to help.

ROBERT

She seems like a nice girl but I wonder if she will ever let you shine.

BETTYE JEAN

What are you talking about?

ROBERT

She seems like she needs a lot of attention is all. That is never a good thing.

Their entrées come shortly after and they begin to eat. After they finish Robert walks over to the jukebox. He puts a quarter in.

He presses a button and the song from the other night comes on. Robert looks over to Bettye Jean and starts dancing by himself. He extends his hand. People stare.

BETTYE JEAN

Robert, people are looking.

Bettye Jean smiles at the other people as they awkwardly smile back.

ROBERT

I think this should be our song. I know that I'm not that good a dancer but I'll keep doing it as long as your dancing with me.

Bettye blushes and shakes her head. She takes his hand and they dance next to their booth.

EXT. FOLLEY APARTMENTS - NIGHT

Bettye Jean and Robert stroll to the entrance of the apartments.

They stop at the stairs and they face each other.

Bettye JEAN

So this is me.

ROBERT

I had a really great time with you tonight.

Bettye JEAN

Yeah me too.

ROBERT

I was wondering if you'd want to go out again. Maybe tomorrow?

Bettye JEAN

Tomorrow? Don't you have work?

ROBERT

I do but I get off early. I really like you and I want to spend all my spare time with you.

Bettye Jean blushes. She moves closer to Robert and kisses his cheek.

Robert blushes.

Bettye JEAN

See you tomorrow.

Bettye Jean walks up the stairs and enters the building. Robert watches as she leaves.

INT. CAROLINE AND BETTYE JEAN'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Caroline is sitting on the sofa looking through the newspaper Bettye Jean enters and sits beside her. Bettye Jean turns to her and smiles.

Caroline doesn't look at her.

BETTYE JEAN
Any Auditions in the paper today?

CAROLINE
A few.

Caroline circles something in the paper. Bettye Jean continues looking at Caroline.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)
What do you want?

BETTYE JEAN
What? Who says I want anything?

CAROLINE
That smile. What is it?

BETTYE JEAN
Okay. Well I was wondering if you want to do a double date with me and Robert... and Michael.

CAROLINE
Officer Reade? No thank you.

BETTYE JEAN
But why he's really nice and I hear he really likes you.

CAROLINE
No.

BETTYE JEAN
But what about romance?

CAROLINE
I can't go on a double date because I'm already seeing someone kind of.

Bettye Jean's eyes widen.

BETTYE JEAN
Oh really? What's his name.

CAROLINE
He's a guy from back home.

BETTYE JEAN
Okay so I should know him.

CAROLINE
Its your Cousin Lewis.

Bettye Jean makes a face like she's surprised.

BETTYE JEAN
Really?? He's always been
interested in you. But I never
thought you would actually accept
his advances. How did this start?

CAROLINE
He called one day asking for you
and it just happened. But that's
why I can't, sorry.

BETTYE JEAN
Okay well I'm happy for you and
Lewis. I'll just tell Robert it'll
be just the two of us tonight.

CAROLINE
Okay. Have fun.

BETTYE JEAN
Okay I will.

Bettye Jean gets up and walks to the door. She turns and
smiles at Caroline. She exits the apartment.

INSERT. MONTAGE

- Bettye Jean and Robert walking back up to the apartment
doors They are LAUGHING. They wave goodbye.

- Robert and Bettye Jean sitting in the booth at the diner
talking.

- Bettye Jean walks up to the apartment door with Robert. He
kisses her. Bettye Jean smiles as she walks into the
building.

- At the diner again, Robert and Bettye sharing a milkshake.

- Bettye Jean walks up to the apartment doors and lets Robert
in with her.

END OF MONTAGE

EXT. THE LANE MOTEL - DAY

The Motel is very run down. The exterior is a dirty white.

Caroline walks up to the a room door with the number 3 on it. She is wearing dark sunglasses, a scarf over her head, and is holding a duffle bag. She looks around and then knocks on the door.

The door opens and she enters.

INT. THE LANE MOTEL ROOM 3 - CONTINUOUS

The room has old motel furniture and the walls are painted in a off white color.

Caroline enters the room and the door closes behind her. Drew stands behind the door. Caroline takes off her sunglasses, drops her duffle bag and jumps to hug him.

Drew lifts Caroline off the ground and hugs her back. They kiss passionately for several moments and move to the bed.

Drew continues to kiss Caroline passionately.

DREW

I've missed you.

CAROLINE

Not as much as I've missed you.

They continue kissing as they get undressed. They begin having sex but this is off screen.

There is a painting above the bed that is on screen for several moments.

Caroline MOANS off screen and the bed is shaking the wall. The painting moves about. Hands are shown on the walls.

Drew MOANS with Caroline and then the painting falls off the wall.

Caroline and Drew are now on screen and the painting has fallen in between them. They lay there like that for a moment.

Drew and Caroline turn their heads to look at each other.

DREW

You are so beautiful.

Caroline blushes.

CAROLINE

That's good to hear. I haven't been feeling like it lately.

Caroline gets up and puts her shirt back on. She grabs her bag off the floor and pulls out a cigarette. She lights it and inhales. She sits back down on the bed.

DREW
Your smoking now?

CAROLINE
Everyone here does it. Its not a big thing.

DREW
Its not like you... How are you feeling now? I know last week you weren't feeling well but what about now?

Drew sits up and puts some clothes on.

CAROLINE
My dream isn't coming true. The reason I came here in the first place.. It isn't happening. I just feel like a failure and I don't know how to fix it.

Drew moves the painting off the bed and rolls over to where she is sitting.

Drew sits up next to her.

DREW
Hey, your not a failure, my love. You always win in my eyes. Maybe New York just isn't ready for you yet. Maybe you can come back home for awhile.

Caroline looks at him with a "What?" Face.

CAROLINE
Why would I do that? I came here to make it big.

DREW
I was just thinking that you know that everyone realizes your talent back home so why not just do that for awhile. I mean I think it could work and I could see you more often..

CAROLINE

Drew, what about my career? I have to make it.

DREW

I know you do baby and you will. You just have to wait. All good things come to those who wait.

Caroline rolls her eyes.

CAROLINE

I'm tired of those old sayings.

Caroline lays her head on his shoulder as she smokes her cigarette.

DREW

They're old for a reason.

Drew gets up and walks into the bathroom. The shower water turns on. WATER RUNNING is heard.

Caroline puts out her cigarette and walks into the bathroom. The door closes behind her.

EXT. HOUSTON PARK - DAY - SAME TIME

Bettye Jean is wearing a floral dress laying under a tree. Robert lays down next to her and they hold hands.

BETTYE JEAN

Robert, look at how beautiful the sky is today. A true blue... I haven't seen a sky looks like this in New York only in Alabama.

ROBERT

This is the only sky I've known but looking at it with you makes it even more beautiful.

They look at it for a moment and then sit up. In front of them is a picnic blanket, sandwiches and some treats.

Bettye takes a bite of a sandwich. Its a messy bite. She notices and reaches for a napkin. Robert grabs the napkin and hands it to her.

ROBERT (CONT'D)

You are everything to me, Bettye.

Bettye Jean looks confused. She swallows her bite.

BETTYE JEAN

Huh?

ROBERT

Ever since we met, there's just something about you that makes me feel excited to start my day, I feel excited to get my day over with just to see you. These past few months getting to know you and be with you have been some of the best of my life.

Robert moves closer to Bettye and gets on one knee. Bettye Jean looks shocked. Robert takes Bettye Jean's hand in his.

ROBERT (CONT'D)

Bettye Jean... Will you marry me?

Bettye Jean begins to tear up. Robert pulls out a ring from his pants pocket.

BETTYE JEAN

Yes. Yes, I will.

Robert puts the ring on Bettye's finger and they hug. Bettye Jean looks at it and smiles.

INT. THE LANE MOTEL ROOM 3 - DAY

Caroline is sitting on the bed watching tv. Drew enters the room from the bathroom and lays beside her.

DREW

Have you given it any thought?

CAROLINE

What?

DREW

Moving back home...

CAROLINE

I can't, Drew. What about Bettye?

DREW

But what about us? What if I said I'll leave my wife, would that change your mind?

Caroline's eyes widen.

CAROLINE

I don't want to be the reason you leave your wife and you think Bettye Jean will accept us after everything that happened? I don't think so.

Drew takes Caroline's hands.

DREW

Caroline, I can't deny how I feel about you. Our love is something special. I can't just stay with Mary Lou just because she's my wife. I love you.

Caroline takes out a cigarette. She lights it and inhales deep. She takes the cigarette away from her mouth and coughs.

CAROLINE

I love you too but this just doesn't feel right. I can't just leave Bettye Jean here by herself.

DREW

Bettye has a life here, she has friends and a job. She will be fine.

CAROLINE

Drew, I just can't.. I'm sorry.

Caroline puts all of her stuff back into the duffle bag and rushes toward the door.

DREW

Just think about it okay.

Caroline nods. She exits the motel room.

EXT. THE LANE MOTEL - CONTINUOUS

Caroline stands outside of the motel with her duffle back on the floor. She stands there and finishes her cigarette.

She drops it on the ground and step on it. She gets herself together and walks away from the motel.

INT. CAROLINE AND BETTYE JEAN'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Bettye Jean and Robert are sitting in living room. They are cuddled up under each other. They are kissing.

Caroline enters the apartment and then enters the living room.

CAROLINE

Oh well. Hello Love Birds.

They stop kissing and laugh.

BETTYE JEAN

Hey! Where have you been? I haven't seen you in days.

CAROLINE

Here and there! Happy to see that everything is good with the two of you.

Caroline smiles at them.

BETTYE JEAN

Oh yea. Things are way more than good.

Bettye holds her hand out for Caroline to see. She has an engagement ring on her ring finger.

Caroline steps toward Bettye Jean and her eyes widen. She takes Bettye Jean's hand and looks at the ring in shock.

CAROLINE

Wow that was fast... Y'all have only been dating for a few months.

Caroline looks at them both.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

Are you sure?

Bettye takes Robert's hand and looks at him.

BETTYE JEAN

When you know you know..

CAROLINE

Well I'm happy for you! Congrats!

Caroline's eyes water. But she hides it.

Bettye gets up and walks toward the exit.

BETTYE JEAN

Your the only person we've told.
Now I have to call my father, wish
me luck. I'm sure I'll get the "
your my little girl" speech.

Bettye Jean rolls her eyes with a smirk on her face. Caroline looks nervous. Bettye Jean exits.

INT. CAROLINE AND BETTYE JEAN'S KITCHEN - DAY

Bettye Jean walks over to the phone. She dials the number and puts it to her ear.

BETTYE JEAN

Hi, Mary Lou. Is my father there? I
have some news.

INT. DREW'S KITCHEN - ALABAMA - SAME TIME

Mary Lou is holding the phone to her ear.

INTERCUT - MARY LOU/BETTYE JEAN

MARY LOU

Hi Bettye...Isn't he there with
you?

Bettye looks confused.

BETTYE JEAN

Why would he be here with me?

Mary Lou looks confused.

MARY LOU

Drew said he was coming to visit
you in New York.. If he's not there
where is he?!

BETTYE JEAN

I don't know.. Hopefully wherever
he is he'll be home soon. Anyway I
was calling to say I'm engaged.

MARY LOU

Congratulations!

BETTYE JEAN

Thanks. Can you call when you hear
from my dad?

MARY LOU

Yes of course!

BETTYE JEAN

Okay bye.

MARY LOU

Bye.

They both hang up the phone.

INT. CAROLINE AND BETTYE JEAN'S KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Bettye Jean sits down by the phone. Caroline enters.

CAROLINE

So how did he take the news?

Bettye looks disappointed.

BETTYE JEAN

He didn't. No one knows where he is... its strange.

CAROLINE

I'm sure he'll turn up soon.

BETTYE JEAN

He's up to something.... I thought things were getting better. I actually thought our relationship was changing.

CAROLINE

Things are better. Don't put those thoughts in your head. Get those out and put wedding ideas in there. Let's start thinking about wedding prep.

Bettye Jean stands and Caroline puts her hands on Bettye Jean's shoulders as she guides her out of the room.

INSERT. MONTAGE

- Bettye Jean and Robert trying cakes.
- Caroline drinking at a bar with several empty glasses beside her.
- Bettye Jean writing out invitations to guests.
- Caroline showing up to work unnoticeably drunk.
- Bettye Jean holding up a wedding dress.

- Bettye Jean trying on the wedding dress and Marie sits behind her and smiles.

END of MONTAGE

INT. MARVIN'S RESTAURANT - NIGHT

The restaurant is small but the way its decorated you barely notice. Its got several tables decorated with red tablecloths and seat covers. There is a band playing light jazz on a stage.

Mary Lou, Drew, Bettye Jean, Caroline, Robert's parents, ROBERT SR.(70s, Black man) and RENEE(65, Black woman) are all seated Bettye Jean stands up.

BETTYE JEAN

Thank you all for coming to our wedding rehearsal dinner. We are just so happy all of you could make it to be here with us. We can't wait to get married tomorrow with all of your support.

Everyone claps as Bettye Jean sits down beside Robert and kisses him.

Two waiters circle the table and begin taking orders. The table becomes louder as conversations are started and some end.

Caroline is talking to Marie but she is looking past her at Drew. Drew notices and smiles at her. Bettye Jean sees this unsure of what to make of it.

She walks over to her father. She hunches behind his chair with Robert standing beside her.

DREW

Hi Baby Girl, you're having a good time?

BETTYE JEAN

Yes, of course I am. I'm so happy you could make it.

DREW

And miss my only daughter get married? I wouldn't miss this for the world. Robert, you do know how wonderful she is, right?

Bettye Jean blushes as she looks over to Robert.

ROBERT

Yes I do. She is everything and more I've been missing in my life. I've only know her 6 months but from the moment I saw her I just knew I couldn't spend another moment without her.

DREW

A lot of people would be skeptical about that but Me and Bettye Jean's mom just knew after 2 months.

Bettye opens her mouth to say something. Robert clutches Bettye Jean's hand. She takes a deep breath and looks at Robert.

BETTYE JEAN

Did you say Hello to Caroline? I noticed you both exchange a glance earlier. You both haven't seen each other in years, did you know she's becoming a success in the modeling world?

Caroline over hears this and staggers over to them.

CAROLINE

Did I hear my name?

DREW

Bettye Jean was just telling me about your success in New York.... Congratulations.

BETTYE JEAN

She hasn't had a new gig yet but I know there are more coming since the last one she did went so well. Tell him about it.

Caroline plasters on a smile. She starts to sweat. Drew notices her duress.

CAROLINE

Yes well of course..... you know.... Its really.... Wonderful....All the people are...

Caroline passes out. Everyone is shocked as she hits the floor. Bettye Jean bends down to the floor to make sure she is alright.

Robert fans Caroline.

BETTYE JEAN
 Caroline are you alright?

Caroline doesn't answer. Robert checks her pulse.

ROBERT
 Her pulse seems fine. She might
 have just had too much to drink.

BETTYE JEAN
 Let's take her home.

Robert nods.

BETTYE JEAN (CONT'D)
 Thank you everyone for coming. But
 We have to get Caroline home. We
 will see you all tomorrow.

Robert picks up Caroline and walks her out of the restaurant with Bettye Jean walking behind him with their coats and bags in hand.

INT. CAROLINE'S BEDROOM- CONTINUOUS

The bedroom is a lot messier than the last time we saw it. The bed is covered in clothes and items are scatter across the floor.

Robert and Bettye Jean enter the room. Bettye Jean makes a space and Robert lays Caroline down in it.

They exit the room.

INT. HALLWAY OF CAROLINE AND BETTYE JEAN'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Robert stands in the doorway with Bettye Jean.

BETTYE JEAN
 Thank you for helping me bring her
 home and helping me calm down with
 my dad earlier.

ROBERT
 It was no problem. Have you noticed
 her acting strange lately?

BETTYE JEAN
 Somewhat but she'd have to be
 around more often for me to notice.
 Sadly she hasn't been home.

(MORE)

BETTYE JEAN (CONT'D)

When I'm here the only way I could tell she had been here is when something is out of place.

Robert nods. He kisses her forehead.

ROBERT

Goodnight, Bettye. See you at our wedding.

Bettye Jean blushes.

BETTYE JEAN

Tomorrow hurry up already!

Robert laughs.

ROBERT

Bye.

Robert waves as he walks down the hall.

BETTYE JEAN

Bye.

Bettye Jean closes the door and presses her body of against the door. She lets out a huge breath.

INT. CAROLINE'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Bettye Jean sits down on Caroline's bed. Caroline face away from Bettye Jean but she opens her eyes.

BETTYE JEAN

You awake?

CAROLINE

What happened?

BETTYE JEAN

You passed out at the rehearsal dinner. How are you feeling?

CAROLINE

Fine besides the headache from the fall I guess.

BETTYE JEAN

Good because What the hell? What's going on with you? Do you have a drinking problem now?

CAROLINE

No, It was nothing. I'm just having fun a few nights out of the week. Its fine.

BETTYE JEAN

Its not fine. I left my own rehearsal dinner for you. I ended it early for you because you got sloppy drunk again. You couldn't keep it together for me?

CAROLINE

Everything is fine... I'm sorry Bettye.

BETTYE JEAN

You just couldn't let me have the spotlight, could you?

CAROLINE

That's not true, Bettye. I'm really sorry.

BETTYE JEAN

Don't get sloppy drunk tomorrow. I won't be leaving my wedding early for you.

Caroline turns over to face Bettye Jean.

CAROLINE

I don't have a drinking problem, I promise.

BETTYE JEAN

Then what is it? Why won't you talk to me. We used to be so close and now I feel like your drifting away from me.

CAROLINE

Its nothing.

BETTYE JEAN

You can tell me anything you know that.

Caroline looks away and nods.

CAROLINE

I don't deserve your friendship.

BETTYE JEAN

You're probably right but I give it
to you anyway.

They sit there for a few moments drifting apart. Silence
creeps in.

BETTYE JEAN (CONT'D)

Goodnight.

Bettye Jean gets up and exits.

INT. CAROLINE AND BETTYE JEAN'S KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Bettye Jean enters the kitchen. A red light on the phone
blinks. Bettye Jean puts the phone to her ear and presses the
red light.

A BEEP noise from the answering machine is heard.

SOPHIA

Hi. Its Sophia from the Talent
Management office.. Listen I know I
was probably kind of harsh with you
a few weeks ago but since then your
situation has been bothering me. I
just called because I need to say
that even though you haven't been
hired for any shoots. If this is
something you really want I think
you should do more acting because
we ran those lines and you were
really good. Just think about it
and call me back soon. Bye.

Bettye Jean puts the phone down. Her eyes widen like a
realization as come to mind.

INT. LOUNGE - DAY

The lounge is small but feels bigger with the open floor
plan. Its a bit of a mess but it is decorated for the
wedding. It also has a fancy grey sofa in the center of the
room.

Bettye Jean is doing her hair and makeup. Caroline enters.

CAROLINE

Hi, Are you ready?

Bettye looks over to her.

BETTYE JEAN

I'm as ready as I'll ever be.

CAROLINE

Good. Just wanted to check on you before the big day. I'll see you out there.

Caroline starts to leave.

BETTYE JEAN

Thanks. Oh.. wait I almost forgot Lewis is here.

CAROLINE

Okay?

BETTYE JEAN

You know I just thought that you guys haven't seen each other since the move so I thought you would be excited. Did something happen?

Caroline doesn't respond for a moment.

CAROLINE

Oh no. Nothing happened I just didn't realize he was here. He didn't say.. I'm glad though.

Caroline plasters on a smile.

BETTYE JEAN

Okay good see you out there.

Caroline exits.

INT. WEDDING CEREMONY- DAY

A wedding ceremony is in a church decorated beautifully with flowers. There are chairs set up for an audience and a walkway leading to an arch. Light classical music is being played.

Several family members sit on both sides of the walkway dressed elegantly.

Wedding music begins to play as Robert enters and walks down the walkway. PASTOR MATTHEW(40s, Black man) stands up and meets him at the end of the walkway. They stand together.

People on both sides of the walkway stand up and look down the walkway as Drew and Bettye Jean walk down it.

Bettye Jean's wedding dress flows down the walkway trailing behind her.

Bettye Jean looks to her father lovingly as they walk down. Drew notices and looks down at her. He smiles.

They continue walking until Drew and Caroline's eyes meet.

Bettye Jean stares at Robert at the end of the aisle. He smiles at her. A tear falls from his eye onto his face.

Drew is looking at Caroline. Mary Lou notices.

CAROLINE

(mouthing)

I love you.

DREW

(mouthing)

I love you.

Bettye Jean and Drew make it to the end of the walkway.

PASTOR MATTHEW

And who gives this Woman to this
Man?

DREW

I do.

Pastor Matthews nods.

Drew kisses Bettye Jean's forehead. She smiles at him. Drew puts her hand into Robert's. They smile at each other and face Pastor Matthews.

Drew sits beside Mary Lou. Drew takes Mary Lou's hands and watches the ceremony. Mary Lou doesn't acknowledge him and continues to watch the ceremony.

The pastor begins to speak but it's inaudible. Caroline stares at Bettye Jean and Robert. Then she fixes her eyes on Drew and Mary Lou holding hands.

Caroline begins to cry. It's a strange cry, conflicted. It has despair, sadness, guilt, pain, disappointment. This cry was waiting to escape. It's a quiet cry so it looks like it could be a cry from how beautiful the ceremony is.

Caroline snaps out of it and is brought back to the ceremony.

PASTOR MATTHEW

Thank you for those beautiful vows
and making those commitments to
each other in front of your friends
and family. And now it's my great
pleasure to announce.

Bettye Jean and Robert face everyone sitting down.

PASTOR MATTHEW (CONT'D)
Mr. & Mrs. Humming.

Bettye Jean and Robert kiss. A man dressed in black, drops a beautifully wrapped wooden broom in front of Robert and Bettye Jean.

They both jump over it and everyone cheers. Everyone stands as Bettye Jean and Robert exit.

INT. HALLWAY OF VENUE - CONTINUOUS

Caroline is walking down the hallway She walks past another hallway and sees Drew charmingly talking to Mary Lou.

Drew sees Caroline and steps away from Mary Lou. Caroline looks confused but she continues walking. Mary looks back and forth between them.

MARY LOU
For those 3 days you went out of town. You were with her weren't you?

DREW
What are you talking about?

MARY LOU
With Caroline? I see the way you look at her.

DREW
Can we talk about this later?

Drew walks away. Mary Lou grabs his arm to stop him.

MARY LOU
No, let's talk about it now because I don't know if I will have the nerve later.

DREW
Fine.

MARY LOU
Are you leaving me now too?

Drew doesn't answer.

MARY LOU (CONT'D)
Well. Are you?

DREW

Its not that simple.

MARY LOU

I think it is. After everything I've done and still do for you. This is how I'm repaid. You always forget I gave up things for us. My family, friends, everyone turned their back on me to marry you but I don't regret my decision. I met the love of my life and I took my chance.

Mary Lou sighs deep.

DREW

I love you but I also love her. I haven't left you yet because I'm confused I don't know where I want to be yet.

MARY LOU

Figure it out soon because I'll make the decision for you. I love you too sadly which is why I'm giving you the chance to pick me and stay in this marriage where you belong.

Drew stands there silent. Wedding music begins to play.

MARY LOU (CONT'D)

I'll see you out there.

Mary Lou leaves Drew standing there. Drew looks heartbroken.

INT. WEDDING RECEPTION - CONTINUOUS

There is a band and tables set up everywhere. There are people dancing and eating. The reception is decorated with white linens and nice tablecloths.

Caroline stands by the bar. She's looking out at the crowd of people. She sees Drew and Mary Lou again from afar.

She takes a sip of her drink as she watches them dance on the dance floor.

As she is about to walk over to them. COUSIN LEWIS (30s, Black man) blocks her view. Caroline's eyes widen.

COUSIN LEWIS

Hi Caroline, I hope your doing well.

CAROLINE

I am. How are you?

COUSIN LEWIS

I'm good

CAROLINE

Good. Listen I meant to talk to you about something.

COUSIN LEWIS

The dating thing? No worries I covered for you.

CAROLINE

Oh. Thanks. But Why?

COUSIN LEWIS

Because you know I've always liked you and I'll do anything to make you happy.

Cousin Lewis smiles creepily.

CAROLINE

Yes. But I'm seeing someone.

COUSIN LEWIS

Yeah. But when that's over. You'll be with me.

Cousin Lewis winks. Before Caroline can say anything else Aunt Jackie walks over.

AUNT JACKIE

Hi Caroline, I hope your doing okay. You took a nasty fall last night, you know from all the..

She holds an imaginary glass in her hands and pretends to be taking shots. Aunt Jackie smiles.

COUSIN LEWIS

Ma, Stop that. Caroline, even when your passed out, you look so pretty.

CAROLINE

...Thank you?

AUNT JACKIE

So How's your career going here in New York?

Caroline drinks her drink until its finished.

CAROLINE

Its good. I'm getting booked for a lot of shoots... Everything is going according to plan.

AUNT JACKIE

That's great. I'm glad. A lot of girls go off to New York and they don't make it. Glad your not one of them.

Caroline looks back to Drew and Mary Lou on the dance floor.

CAROLINE

Yea I'm glad.... Its all working out for me.

Caroline turns around to the bartender.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

(mouthing)

Another please.

The bartender pours more champagne into her glass. Bettye Jean and Robert walk over to the dance floor and start their first dance.

Everyone else stops dancing and watches them. Caroline watches from the bar and drinks her champagne. Bettye Jean notices this from afar.

Caroline looks over to Drew who is already walking in her direction. Caroline drinks her whole glass of champagne and walks to exit the room. Drew follows. Betty Jean looks at Caroline with concern.

INT. LOUNGE - DAY

The lounge is the same as before but messier.

There are dress bags thrown everywhere. Makeup and hair products are across all the tables.

Caroline and Drew enter room. Drew closes the door behind them.

Caroline cross her arms. Drew turns around to face her.

DREW
What's wrong?

Drew walks over to her and rubs her arms.

CAROLINE
What were you and Mary Lou talking about?

DREW
She thinks something is up with me.

CAROLINE
Did you tell her about us?

DREW
Not yet.

CAROLINE
Why not?

DREW
Because your not sure if your coming home yet.

CAROLINE
Let's do it then.

DREW
Do what?

CAROLINE
Be together. I'll move back home and we can start our life together. I'll tell Bettye... sure she won't like it at first but she has a good heart and she'll see we are happy.

Caroline takes Drew's hands.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)
I can't stay in New York without you anymore. Leave your wife so I can come home.

Drew looks hesitant.

DREW
Okay...Yeah...

Caroline and Drew begin making out passionately.

Caroline sighs and Drew breathe heavily from behind it. They aren't on screen. The couch blocks our view.

BETTYE JEAN (O.S.)
 Caroline, Are you okay? I though
 you might have gotten-

The door swings open.

BETTYE JEAN (CONT'D)
 Sick again.

Bettye Jean's face turns to horror. Caroline and Drew's heads
 can only be seen as they get dressed. Caroline's face turns
 to horror.

BETTYE JEAN (CONT'D)
 What the hell is this? What is
 happening right now?

Bettye Jean walks up to them.

BETTYE JEAN (CONT'D)
 Here?! Right now.. You too! At my
 wedding? What the hell?

DREW
 Watch your language.

Bettye Jean chuckles. Drew buttons his shirt and Caroline
 struggles with the skirt of her dress.

BETTYE JEAN
 Watch your language? Watch your
 language? That's all you have to
 say for yourself?

DREW
 I am your father. I don't have to
 explain myself to you.

BETTYE JEAN
 I think its time you do. After
 everything I've been through with
 you, I need to know why. Why do you
 do this to us, to yourself? I've
 seen Mom die because of you and now
 I'm watching you ruin your marriage
 to Mary Lou for Caroline? What's
 wrong with you?

DREW
 I can't help who I love...Its
 complicated. We all fall in and out
 of love. It just happens. You'll
 understand, one day. But You have
 to know I love Caroline now.

(MORE)

DREW (CONT'D)

I loved your Mom and Mary Lou but that love didn't last.

Drew holds Caroline's hand. Caroline's eyes looks watery.

BETTYE JEAN

I will never understand... Were you with her, that day I called and you weren't home?

Drew doesn't answer.

BETTYE JEAN (CONT'D)

You were here in New York, weren't you?

DREW

Yes I was. Caroline needed me.

BETTYE JEAN

She needed you? Did you ever stop to think that maybe I needed you too? You were here in New York and didn't even stop to see me.

DREW

You don't need me, you never did. Caroline has had a hard life and she needed someone to lean on.

BETTYE JEAN

I thought things were changing between us. But I was wrong. You never see me. Neither of you.

CAROLINE

That's not true.

Bettye Jean looks to Caroline.

BETTYE JEAN

I can't even begin with you. How dare you? My father?? I don't even know who you are anymore. He's just going to throw you away like everyone else once he's done with you. I hope you know that.

CAROLINE

Its not like that. Bettye, We were going to tell... and I didn't want to hurt you. But I love him. Please be happy for us.

BETTYE JEAN

If you think I could forgive you
for this, the both of you deserve
each other.

Caroline starts to cry. Drews holds her as she cries into his chest. Bettye Jean storms through the doorway and bumps into Mary Lou.

Mary Lou sees Caroline and Drew embracing each other. Drew immediately moves away from Caroline when he sees Mary Lou. Caroline looks at his eyes.

Mary Lou turns around and leaves. Drew walks toward the exit after Mary Lou leaving Caroline behind.

DREW

Mary baby wait.

Caroline runs after him and exits.

INT. CAROLINE AND BETTYE JEAN'S BATHROOM - DAY

The bathroom is small and tidy. It has all the essentials of a bathroom.

Caroline sits on the side of the tub. She's taking a deep breath.

She stands up and looks at a pregnancy test sitting on the counter. The test is sitting next to a letter and an eviction notice.

INSERT. PREGNANCY TEST

The test reads positive.

BACK TO SCENE

Caroline picks up the test. She becomes off balance and steps back. She finds her balance and inhales. Her eyes fill with tears as she looks at the letter.

DREW (O.S.)

Dear Caroline, I would have called
but if I did I don't know if I
would be man enough to say what I
have to. I've decided to make it
work with Mary Lou. What we had was
special but I just lost my way. I
made it back to my wife. I'm sorry.

Caroline falls to the floor. She can't hold it together anymore and starts to cry.

END OF FLASHBACK

INT. BETTYE JEAN AND ROBERT'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

SUPER: PRESENT DAY

Bettye Jean and Remona are sitting on the bed next to the box.

BETTYE JEAN

Alright. Can you go to bed now?

REMONA

But you still haven't told me what's bothering you so much.

BETTYE JEAN

I will baby. I promise but until then stay out of grown folks business.

Remona rolls her eyes. Robert enters dressed in his corrections uniform.

ROBERT

Did you just roll your eyes?

REMONA

Nope.

ROBERT

I didn't think so. Go on to bed, you've got school tomorrow.

Remona walks to the doorway where Robert stands. He kisses her forehead as she exits.

BETTYE JEAN

Why are you dressed for work? You just came home this morning.

ROBERT

I got called back in. I'll be back in the morning.

Robert walks over the Bettye Jean and he looks at the box. He picks up a photo and looks at it.

ROBERT (CONT'D)

So have you given it anymore thought?

BETTYE JEAN

What? To meeting with her?

ROBERT

Yeah. I think you both need some closure. You left things so open and unanswered.

BETTYE JEAN

Yea. I guess your right but why now. What difference would it make now?

ROBERT

In this life, you don't want to have any regrets. I know you may not regret talking to your father but you might one day and I just don't want you to regret not doing this too.

BETTYE JEAN

Has anyone ever told you that your so wise?

ROBERT

All the time.

Bettye Jean smiles. Robert kisses her forehead and exits the room. Bettye Jean looks at the box again. She places it on the edge of the bed.

INT. TORI'S BISTRO - DAY

Lucille's has become Tori's Bistro, a bistro with modern furnishings and outdoor seating. It still has those charming hints of the past but the new decor makes it present.

Caroline sits at a table and looks at her watch. It reads 2:00 pm.

A WAITRESS walks over to the table.

WAITRESS

Can I get you anything?

CAROLINE

I'm just waiting for one more.

The waitress nods and walks away.

SUPER. 2 hours later..

Caroline is still sitting there and looks at her watch.

INSERT. WATCH

The watch reads 4:00 pm.

The waitress comes back to the table.

WAITRESS

Are you ready to order?

Caroline sighs.

EXT. TORI'S BISTRO - CONTINUOUS

Bettye Jean stands in front of the restaurant window. She looks through and sees Caroline sitting alone. Bettye Jean exhales and enters the restaurant.

INT. TORI'S BISTRO - CONTINUOUS

Bettye Jean enters the restaurant and looks over to the table where Caroline is sitting.

Caroline sees Bettye Jean walking over to the table.

CAROLINE

Just one minute please.

The waitress nods and walks away. Bettye Jean sits down at the table across from Caroline.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

Thank you for coming.

Bettye Jean doesn't respond.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

I just wanted to invite you here to apologize for all the pain that I've put you through.

BETTYE JEAN

I'm here for myself. Not for you.

CAROLINE

Well thank you for listening to me. I never meant to hurt you..

Caroline reaches out for Bettye Jean's hand. Bettye takes her hand away.

BETTYE JEAN

Why did you do it? You had everything already.

(MORE)

BETTYE JEAN (CONT'D)

I was always living in your shadow and you knew it. But as soon as someone started paying me attention you couldn't take it, huh. Were you just trying to get back at me?

CAROLINE

No. It wasn't like that I loved him and I thought he loved me too. I should have known better but I was young and dumb and couldn't see what you had already tried to tell me.

BETTYE JEAN

He was very charming.. But I always saw the truth.

CAROLINE

You did. He made me feel wanted and beautiful, and I was lacking that back then.. But I know now I shouldn't have kept this from you.

BETTYE JEAN

Why did you decide to keep things from me? You know I was always there for you right?

CAROLINE

I was suppose to be a success. I moved here for fame and fortune, and got none of it. I didn't want to tell you back then because I didn't want to ruin everything going well for you. In the end, I guess I should have just told you so I didn't have to suffer alone.

BETTYE JEAN

We were always trying to be so strong.

Caroline nods.

CAROLINE

Listen, is there anyway, we could still be friends? I know it will never be the same but I would love to meet your daughter.

BETTYE JEAN

I can't do that. I can't allow you
back into my life. I have to
protect myself from that pain.

Bettye Jean stands.

CAROLINE

Won't you stay for lunch?

BETTYE JEAN

You have to understand. I can't let
you back into my life and pretend
everything is fine because its not.

CAROLINE

I respect your decision but we can
still just have lunch before we go
our separate ways again.

BETTYE JEAN

You don't get it. Your the reason
we are here now. Without what
happened back then none of this
would've ever happened. I can't
have lunch with you because I'll
remember all of the fun we had
before and once I do. I'll forget
the bad because the good always
overcomes. But I have to protect
myself from heartache.

Caroline's eyes become watery.

CAROLINE

If you can't forgive me for me.
Then please just forgive me for
yourself.

BETTYE JEAN

You don't care about me.

Bettye Jean's eyes become watery.

CAROLINE

I care more than you know. You are
and always will be my best friend.
I love you.

Caroline begins to cry. Bettye Jean turns and exits.

EXT. TORI'S BISTRO - DAY

Bettye Jean stands outside the restaurant. She's hyper ventilating. She takes a deep breath and begins to walk away from the restaurant.

INT. HUMMING FAMILY LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Robert is sitting in the living room. Bettye Jean enters the living room and sits down.

ROBERT

So How was it?

BETTYE JEAN

I'm glad I went. I finally got to say what I needed to.

ROBERT

Good. I'm proud of you.

BETTYE JEAN

Thanks.

Bettye Jean lays her head down on Robert's shoulder. Robert comforts her.

INT. COMMUNITY CENTER - NIGHT

Caroline sits in the circle with other members of the support group.

JORDAN

So anyone have anything to share this week.

Caroline raises her hand.

JORDAN (CONT'D)

Caroline, please go ahead.

Caroline stands.

CAROLINE

Well.. I'm usually not a support group person. I've always supported myself. But I decided to find my forgiveness and to share it with you all. A few years ago, I made a terrible mistake that changed my life forever. I finally faced who I hurt and I think I can finally be at peace with what happened.

(MORE)

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

I know she hasn't forgiven me for what I've done but at least she knows how deeply sorry I am and hopefully when I'm gone it brings her comfort. Maybe she can forgive me then.

Everyone in the group claps.

INT. CAROLINE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Caroline enters her apartment. She turns the lights on.

She takes off her coat and hangs it. A bowl sits near the closet and she throws her keys in it.

She takes her shoes off and walks through her apartment.

INT. CAROLINE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Caroline has changed into her pajamas. She gets into bed and turns the light out. She lays there for a moment. SNORING IS HEARD until its not anymore. Silence comes over the room.

INT. HUMMING FAMILY KITCHEN - DAY

Bettye Jean stands in the kitchen making dinner. The phone RINGS.

Bettye Jean walks over to the phone and picks it up. She puts it to her ear.

BETTYE JEAN

Hello?

There is a silence while she holds the phone to her ear. Her eyes become watery.

BETTYE JEAN (CONT'D)

Thank you for calling.

Bettye Jean puts the phone back on the hook and hangs up. She walks over to the kitchen table and sits down.

Bettye Jean's eyes begin to water. She covers her mouth for a moment and then uncovers it. She inhales and then lets out a shaky breath.

She begins to ugly cry uncontrollably. Remona enters and wraps her arms around Bettye Jean.

EXT. SAINT CATHERINE'S CEMETRY - DAY

The cemetery is gloomy. Everyone is holding black umbrellas to shield themselves from the rain. Pastor Matthew stands behind her grave stone.

INSERT. GRAVE STONE

Caroline Wallace

October 12, 1962 - April 13, 2002

The Pastor is speaking but its inaudible. Bettye Jean is crying silently but its still impactful.

INSERT. FREEZE FRAMES

- The photo of Caroline and Bettye Jean in front of their apartment.

- The two laying in bed talking.

- Bettye Jean and Caroline laughing while baking Bettye Jean's mother's favorite cake.

- Caroline and Bettye Jean's photo at Lucille's

END OF FREEZE FRAMES

Bettye Jean continues to cry. Robert puts a hand on her shoulder and Remona clings to her leg.

As the pastor continues to speak people on the other side of the gravestone start to leave. Miles walks up to it.

MILES(20s, Black man) looking similarly to Drew places a white rose on top of the gravestone. As he stands up straight he looks Bettye Jean in the eyes.

Bettye Jean's eyes widen. People are beginning to leave. Pastor Matthew walks over the Miles.

PASTOR MATTHEW

I'm sorry for your loss, son. Your mother will be missed by us all in the community.

MILES

Thank you.

Pastor Matthew pats Miles's back as he walks away. Miles looks over to Bettye Jean. He turns around and picks up a medium sized box.

Miles walks over to Bettye Jean and her family.

MILES (CONT'D)

Hi, my mother wanted you to have this.

BETTYE JEAN

Caroline was your mother?

MILES

Yes. She talked about you all the time.

Bettye Jean wipes away a tear.

BETTYE JEAN

I'm sorry for you loss.

MILES

Thank you for saying so but its just as much a loss to me as it is to you.

Bettye Jean nods. Miles hands the box to Bettye Jean. She takes it and opens it. Its the box of unsent letters.

They all walk away from the gravestone together talking. Bettye Jean and Miles smile at each other.

CAROLINE (V.O.)

Dear Bettye Jean, Its been a week since your wedding and I know your not answering my calls. But I wanted to write you to tell you I'm pregnant. I know we're not speaking but I just wanted to tell you. I don't want to raise his baby alone, Bettye please call me back... I love you.

END