

BOTTLED

by

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FADE IN:

**INT. LIQUOR STORE - NIGHT**

KACEY, early 30s, spent her life under the bottle, counts out change at the cashier's counter. She digs in her pockets.

CASHIER

Kacey, it's alright. You're good.

KACEY

No, no I have enough. It's somewhere.

CASHIER

You're good. I'll see you tomorrow.

Kacey raises her bottle in gratitude and leaves.

**INT. KACEY'S APARTMENT HALLWAY - NIGHT**

Peeled paint and rusted rails. The place should be destroyed.

An eviction notice sits on a door. Kacey stares at it.

KACEY

Shit.

She pulls it down and heads inside.

**INT. KACEY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT**

No better than outside. Clothes and garbage litter the place.

A self-help audio book on substance abuse plays. Kacey, with a cigarette in hand, mindlessly watches a show on mute.

The half downed bottle of liquor dangles in her fingertips.

CHEERS from next door break the moment. Kacey sits up and looks at a picture on her light stand.

Picture: Kacey, a two-year-old girl, and her husband smile.

**INT. KACEY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT**

Kacey stands in the doorway of a children's room that hasn't been touched in years. Kacey absentmindedly flicks the light on and off as she stares into the room and drinks.

ROCK MUSIC blares from next door. Kacey cringes.

**INT. KACEY'S APARTMENT HALLWAY - NIGHT**

Kacey bangs on a door. JASON, 21, asshole, answers.

KACEY  
Hey, Jason right? Do you mind keeping  
it down? I could hear you guys --

JASON  
I'm having a party.

KACEY  
Yes I can see, and definitely hear  
that from my apartment.

JASON  
Great. So do you mind?

Jason starts to close the door but Kacey stops him.

KACEY  
Could you turn it down? Just a  
little. I know how it was at your  
age, so I'm not trying to --

JASON  
You can relate? Oh, awesome. Since  
we shared such similarities in our  
youth, I'll definitely turn it down.

KACEY  
I don't want to be an asshole here.

JASON  
You don't think it's too late?

They stare at each other. Jason eyes the bottle in her hand.

JASON  
I saw the note on your door there.  
You're not even going to be living  
here for that long.  
(gestures to bottle)  
Maybe you should just get back to  
your party.

Jason closes the door. Kacey starts to walk away but stops.  
She bangs on Jason's door one last time. Jason answers.

JASON  
This is like, harassment or something.

Kacey empties the rest of her bottle on his floor.

JASON  
What the fuck?

Kacey lights a match and holds it over the floor.

KACEY  
You're right, I'm won't be living  
here anymore.

Jason stares at the crazy woman then shouts inside.

JASON  
Yo, turn the music down!

**INT. KACEY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT**

Kacey has the phone to her ear.

KACEY  
Hey, big sis, what's been going on?

**INT. EMMA'S HOUSE - NIGHT**

Emma, mid 30s, great contrast to Kacey, struggles to put on a pair of socks on a little girl who hums a song.

EMMA  
Frank and I are taking Vickie to see  
a movie if she'll get in these socks.  
Why, what is it this time?

**INTERCUT**

Kacey eyes her eviction notice.

KACEY  
I can't call just to see how you  
guys are doing?

EMMA  
So you don't have a favor to ask me?

KACEY  
... You're always on my ass. I just  
wanted to say hi for fuck sakes.

EMMA  
You're drunk. Goodbye.

KACEY  
Emma, wait!

EMMA

What?

A long pause.

EMMA

Keep drinking your life away, Kacey.  
Just keep drinking up.

Emma hangs up. Kacey holds the phone for a while. She goes for her bottle but it's empty.

**EXT. LA STREETS - NIGHT**

The sketchy part of town. Kacey shivers from the cold as she walks past convenience stores.

She approaches STEPHAN, knows his ways around the streets, standing at a corner with a group of friends.

KACEY

Hey, Stephan I need to talk to you.

STEPHAN

Crazy Kacey, what can I do you for?

KACEY

I asked you not to call me that.  
I'm being evicted, and you know I  
can't go back to the shelters anymore.

STEPHAN

Yeah, I heard about that. I also  
heard you lost your job at the mill.

KACEY

No, that's talk. You know people  
talk.

STEPHAN

They said you was drunk again. Some  
brother almost lost his arm.

KACEY

I don't know what that's all about.  
I know I have to get my ass up  
tomorrow morning and go to work, I  
know that. I just need a little  
money to get me by for this month.  
I'll pay you back in two weeks.

STEPHAN

Get outta here, Kacey.

KACEY  
I'm serious Stephan.

STEPHAN  
Yeah? You serious?

Stephan pulls out a stack of money and pulls out some bills.

STEPHAN  
A grand. Take it.

Kacey eyes the money with suspicion.

STEPHAN  
Two weeks, right? I trust you.

Kacey stuffs her hands in her pocket. Stephan puts it away.

STEPHAN  
I like you Kacey. But you don't  
want to owe me.

He slides a twenty in her pocket and nods to a liquor store.

STEPHAN  
Go out with a last hoorah.

Kacey takes the twenty out and glares at stephan.

STEPHAN  
Don't be acting all noble on me. I  
know you. We all know you.

Kacey continues to glare at him.

**INT. KACEY'S APARTMENT HALLWAY - NIGHT**

Kacey stumbles up the steps with a bottle of liquor in hand.

She gets to her door and sees it cracked open.

KACEY  
What the hell?

She pushes it open and sees her tv is missing.

Kacey runs to Jason's apartment and bangs on the door.

KACEY  
You son of a bitch! Give it back to  
me, you asshole! Open the door!

Jason swings open the door with a grin. He eyes the booze.

JASON

What are you babbling about out here?

KACEY

Just give me back my television, and I won't call the cops on you.

JASON

You had a break in? I didn't hear anything, my music must have been up too loud. You should remember to lock your door, or somebody could steal that cute teady-bear you have on your shelf right above the --

Kacey tries to run inside but Jason pushes her back.

JASON

Calm down, crazy Kacey.

Her bottle slips from her hand and falls down the steps.

KACEY

No!

Kacey runs after it. Jason laughs.

JASON

Keep on drinking, crazy Kacey. Keep drinking your life away.

Kacey stops mid way down the steps. She watches the liquor pour out onto the floor.

**INT. KACEY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT**

Kacey stares at her phone.

She picks it up and dials.

**EXT. CAR - NIGHT**

Emma stands outside the theater with her phone. Vickie and EMMA'S HUSBAND play around behind her as they wait.

EMMA

What do you want? We're about to head home.

**INTERCUT**

Kacey holds the picture of her old family.

KACEY  
How're you doing, Emma?

EMMA  
Just get some sleep, Kacey. We'll  
talk in the morning.

KACEY  
I miss them. I miss them everyday.

Kacey stares at the tomb of her kid's bedroom.

KACEY  
I still can hear her running around  
the house singing. She loved to  
sing.

EMMA  
Get some sleep, Kacey.

KACEY  
If I could see her. Or hear her.  
Just once...

Kacey weeps.

Emma shakes her head.

Kacey stares ahead, eyes red and puffy.

A pause.

VICKIE  
(on phone)  
Mommy?

Kacey looks up.

Emma holds the phone to Vickie's ear.

VICKIE  
Mommy, I miss you. How are you?

Kacey smiles, for the very first time.

FADE OUT