

RICH GIRL

Written by:

Scott Fales

A true story based on the life of Cathy Rich

Scott Fales
(805) 338-8850
scott.a.fales@gmail.com

A PRISON CELL DOOR SLAMS shut.

FADE IN:

INT. CHOWCHILLA STATE PRISON, SHU - NIGHT

CATHY, 33, presses her raw, swollen face between two prison bars. She has a death-grip on the bars just below her chin, her hair matted down with lice and her dead gaze stares out of the lifeless cell.

CATHY (V.O.)
I yearned for peace...

A tear rolls down her cheek.

INT. COUNTY JAIL, SHOWER, NIGHT

Cathy braces herself against the shower wall under the hot, steamy water and weeps. She sucks in air between sobs.

Her emaciated body slumps to the floor. She leans her head back against the wall, her face contorted and distraught.

CATHY (V.O.)
...and found him here.

Sobs escape from the deepest wells of her soul. She chokes and gasps for air as tears stream down her face.

CATHY
Daddy. Daddy, I'm so sorry.

Cathy buries her head between her knees and cries.

[Pop Music Begins]

FLASHBACK TO:

EXT. ORANGE COUNTY - DAY

CATHY, a 28 year-old iconic picture of Orange County success, cruises along in her convertible BMW with MUSIC BLARING and her silky, smooth hair blowing in the breeze on a classically picturesque day in So Cal.

SERIES OF SHOTS

--Cathy passes below the monorail on Disneyland Drive.

--Cathy glances at the park's main entrance as she passes.

--Cathy sways to the music and cruises past the Palm trees along Katella Boulevard next to the convention center.

--Cathy basks in the sun along the 57 Freeway as she passes Anaheim Stadium and then the Honda Center.

--Cathy passes etched images of palm trees on the sound walls lining the Harbor Boulevard exit from the 91 Freeway.

--Cathy cruises through rustic, downtown Fullerton along Harbor Boulevard.

--Cathy pulls into the Orange County Courthouse parking lot.

Cathy brushes her hair and checks her face in the rear-view mirror, puts the top up and then gets out of the car. She grabs her Stenograph writer and brief case before heading toward the courthouse.

INT. SANTA ANA COURT, COURTROOM - AFTERNOON

CATHY transcribes during the final stages of a hearing.

The bailiff hands the verdict to JUDGE CASEY, a pleasant, grandfatherly type. He looks up over his wire-rimmed glasses after reading the verdict.

JUDGE CASEY

Will the defendant please stand?

(Beat)

The jury has found the defendant,
George Barclay, guilty of grand
larceny.

The DEFENDANT's shoulders drop; he looks at the ground with tear-filled eyes.

JUDGE CASEY (CONT'D)

According to the laws of the State
of California, the offense of grand
larceny carries a maximum sentence
of 3 years in State custody.

The Judge has compassion due to the defendant's countenance.

JUDGE CASEY (CONT'D)

But, because it's your first offense and you have demonstrated remorsefulness for the crime that you have committed, I hereby sentence you to six months in county jail and a mandatory 2 year probation period.

The gavel comes down and the bailiff takes the Defendant into custody.

JUDGE CASEY (CONT'D)

That concludes the proceedings of the State of California verses George A. Barclay.

(sighs)

And that will complete the docket for the court today.

The Judge stands and exits, while Cathy quickly packs up her Stenograph writer and rushes out of the courtroom.

INT. SANTA ANA COURT, JUDGE'S OFFICE - DAY

Judge Casey works diligently at his desk and looks up over his wire-rimmed glasses when Cathy struts into the office with an arm load of transcripts. He smiles.

JUDGE CASEY

Thanks for rushing in at the last minute, Cathy. You saved the day.

Cathy plops the transcripts down on the Judge's desk.

CATHY

Any time, I love working with you. You're the sweetest judge in the County.

The Judge chuckles, slightly embarrassed.

JUDGE CASEY

I don't know about that.

CATHY

See you tomorrow!

Cathy winks at him and turns to leave.

JUDGE CASEY

Oh Cathy, I almost forgot.

The Judge pulls a box of chocolates from his desk drawer.

JUDGE CASEY (CONT'D)

I would have baked you a cake, but
I didn't want to eat half of it.
Happy birthday!

The Judge steps around his desk and hands her the Chocolates.

CATHY

Thank you, Judge Casey. I don't
know what to say.

JUDGE CASEY

Don't need to say anything. You're
the best we have and I just wanted
to thank you for your hard work.

Cathy kisses the Judge's cheek and whispers...

CATHY

Thanks.

The Judge chuckles again and smiles as she leaves.

INT. SANTA ANA COURT, BREAK ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Cathy enters the room and notices JILL, 30s, clinging to her coffee looking haggard and miserable.

CATHY

Are you okay, Jill?

JILL

Just tired. I don't know how you
have so much energy all the time.

CATHY

I eat chocolate. Here, this might
help.

Cathy hands the box of chocolate to Jill.

JILL

What's this for?

CATHY

Judge Casey gave it to me for my
birthday.

JILL

I totally forgot. Happy birthday!

Cathy grabs her Stenograph writer and briefcase.

CATHY

Thanks! I got to get going though;
have a big dinner.

JILL

(Beat)

Hey, how do you always get assigned
to Casey?

Cathy turns back and smiles.

CATHY

He requests me cause I kiss his
cheek all the time. He loves the
attention.

She rushes out.

JILL

(yells)

Well I'm gonna start kissing him
too!

EXT. SANTA ANA COURT - LATE AFTERNOON

Cathy shuffles into her car and puts the convertible top
down; it's lovely outside. She pulls out a cell phone and
dials a number.

CATHY

Hi honey. It's me.

(seductive)

Oh, you did? That's gonna earn you
some points.

(Beat then laughs)

I can't wait. Look, we just got
through the docket and I have a
little work to finish up, an hour
and a half or so.

(Beat)

Okay. Love you too. Bye.

Cathy starts her car and pulls out of the parking lot.

EXT. BALBOA PENINSULA - AFTERNOON

The sunlight casts a warm glow on Cathy's face as she crosses
the bridge leading to the Balboa Peninsula. She passes
marinas and tanned beachgoers, then turns left on 7th Street
and pulls up in front of the Newport Harbor Yacht Club.

Cathy checks her hair and makeup in the rearview mirror. She leaves her keys with the valet before rushing inside.

INT. YACHT CLUB - AFTERNOON

The host points Cathy to the patio; she sees ALAN, 30s, as hip as his view of the Newport Harbor.

Cathy breathes in anticipation.

CATHY
(to host)
I see him, thanks!

She rushes out to the patio.

EXT. YACHT CLUB, PATIO - AFTERNOON

Alan smiles when he sees Cathy and waves to her. He places his sunglasses on the table.

Cathy sashays over to the table, where two glasses of wine and a dozen roses await her. She kisses Alan, who stays seated. She picks up the roses.

CATHY
(playful)
For me?

Alan nods and watches while Cathy smells the roses and sits across from him.

CATHY (CONT'D)
They're beautiful. Thank you.

ALAN
I have something else for you.

Alan reaches into his coat pocket and pulls out a ring box.

Cathy's jaw drops. She's speechless and uncomfortable.

CATHY
Alan, I...

ALAN
Just open it.

Resigned, Cathy picks up the box and opens it. She relaxes and chuckles when she sees the contents. Inside is a plastic pouch of crystal methamphetamine. She drops it in her purse.

Alan picks up his wine glass.

ALAN (CONT'D)
Happy birthday! To us.

Cathy sets her glass down after they toast. She laughs.

CATHY
Who celebrates with a bag of meth?

ALAN
I'm romantic that way.
(yells at a waiter)
Hey, waiter! We want to order.

Cathy shoots Alan a reproving look. He places his hand on hers, looks her right in the eyes and smiles.

EXT. YACHT CLUB - EVENING

Empty appetizer plates and wine glasses litter the table. Decorative patio lights suddenly turn on. Cathy jerks her hand away from Alan's and jumps to her feet.

CATHY
Oh my god, it's late! I've got to get home. Jeff made dinner for me.

ALAN
So what do you say?

Alan stands up as Cathy grabs her belongings.

ALAN (CONT'D)
Take tomorrow off so we can really celebrate.

Alan takes her by the arm to get her attention and gazes into her eyes suggestively.

Cathy can't hold his gaze.

Alan pulls Cathy's face to his forcefully and kisses her aggressively. She relaxes as they kiss. Her lipstick is smudged when he finally releases her.

ALAN (CONT'D)
Deal?

CATHY
Uh... yeah. Okay.

ALAN

See you tomorrow.

He watches as Cathy leaves. She turns and waves 'good-bye.'

EXT. CATHY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Cathy drives down an upper-middle class neighborhood and pulls into her driveway next to a furniture delivery van.

Inside her car, Cathy hides her pot and the bag of crystal methamphetamine that Alan gave her.

She gets out of the car and rushes to the house, but hesitates front door. She straightens her clothes and enters the house, not realizing her lipstick is smudged.

INT. CATHY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

JEFF, 38, Cathy's unkempt, blue-collar husband, sits alone at the dining room table. It's decorated for Cathy's birthday with a cake and all. It's obvious the kids have eaten.

Three young children sit on the floor watching TV. JESSE, 6, jumps up to hug Cathy when she enters the room.

JESSE

Mom, you're home!

CATHY

Hi Jesse.

STERLING, Cathy's 5 year-old daughter, runs to Jeff.

STERLING

Daddy, can we have cake now?

CATHY

We need to eat dinner first,
Sterling.

Sterling frowns and sits down at the table.

Jeff follows TONI, 2, as she waddles over to Cathy with her arms stretched above her head, wanting to be picked up.

JEFF

We ate an hour ago.

Cathy picks up Toni.

CATHY
 (to Toni)
 Hi sweetie.

Jeff wipes smeared lipstick off Cathy's upper lip and kisses her.

JEFF
 Happy birthday.

CATHY
 Thanks.

She knows that he knows from the look in his eye. Jeff heads back to the table.

JEFF
 You hungry?

CATHY
 (feigns excitement)
 Famished. I'm sorry I'm so late.

The kids circle the table as Jeff prepares a plate for Cathy. Cathy puts Toni in a high chair.

CATHY (CONT'D)
 How's your blood-sugar?

JEFF
 It was over 200 this morning.
 Twenty minutes after I took my shot
 it dropped to 60. I'm gonna have to
 see the doctor again. I can't get
 it to stabilize. I'm sick of this.

Jeff fights back tears. He sets a plate full of food in front of Cathy and then abruptly cuts the cake.

JESSE
 I want a big piece!

STERLING
 Me too. Can I have the yellow
 flower?

Cathy doesn't touch her food. She just watches her family.

CATHY
 Thank you for making dinner.

Jeff hands Jesse his cake and then cuts another piece from the opposite side of the cake. The piece with the flower.

JEFF

It would have been nice if you were here for it.

Jeff puts the yellow flower in front of Sterling, then cuts a tiny piece for Toni.

CATHY

Things will slow down. Maybe I should take some time off so we can spend more time together.

JEFF

I'm gonna go check my blood sugar.
(irritated)
I feel sick.

Jeff leaves Cathy in stunned silence with the children.

INT. CATHY'S HOUSE, KITCHEN - MORNING

Cathy, dressed for work, huddles in a corner trying not to sound like she's whispering as she talks on the phone.

Toni sits in her high-chair and plays with her cereal.

CATHY

Don't schedule me for anything else. I've got to take my husband to the hospital; his blood sugar is out of control.

JESSE (O.S.)

(yells)
Mom, what shirt should I wear?

CATHY

The blue one! I put it on your chair.
(into phone)
Last time it took all day.
(Beat)
Thanks, Jenna. Bye.

Cathy looks around nervously. The coast is clear. She dials.

CATHY (CONT'D)

Hey, Alan, it's me. I have to stop by the courthouse after I drop the kids off, but I'll be over right after that.

PAN TO:

INT. CATHY'S HOUSE, HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Jeff leans against a wall around the corner and listens to Cathy's phone call, his emotions raging.

CATHY (O.S.)
No, I didn't use any last night.
(Beat)
Yeah, I'll bring it.

He wipes the tears out of his eyes and composes himself.

INT. CATHY'S HOUSE, KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Jeff enters the room and heads directly to the coffee pot next to Cathy, who is still on the phone.

CATHY
(suddenly anxious)
Ah... no. I don't mind as long as I
get the overtime.

JEFF
I need you to pick me up at six.
Remember? I'm getting the brakes
done on the van.

She had forgotten.

CATHY
(into phone)
I have to leave by 5:30 though. I
need to pick Jeff up after work.
(Beat)
Okay. Thanks, Jenna.

Sterling enters and hands a scrunchie to Jeff.

STERLING
Can you fix this, daddy?

Jeff puts the scrunchie in Sterling's hair.

CATHY
I almost forgot. Did you get a
doctor's appointment?

JEFF
(irritated)
It's seven thirty in the morning.

Cathy shakes it off and heads toward the front door.

CATHY
Come on, Jesse! Come on Sterling.
We need to get going.

STERLING
Bye daddy.

Sterling stands on her tippy toes for a kiss.

JEFF
Bye sweetie.

Jeff slumps against the counter as Cathy leaves with Jesse and Sterling.

EXT. KINDERGARTEN - MORNING

MARK, 28, long, messy hair and bushy beard, yells at the sky. He's filthy and looks like he hasn't showered in weeks.

MARK
Leave me alone! Quit following me
around all the time!

Mothers and children stay clear of him. He's crazy.

Mark rummages through a trash can unabashedly - right in front of the school.

Cathy pulls up to the curb, the top still up.

INSIDE THE CAR

The kids unbuckle their seat belts in the back seat. Jesse points out the window.

JESSE
Ewww mom, look what he's doing.

Mark drinks out of a partly empty bottle from the trash can.

STERLING
That's gross.

Passing moms openly display their disgust.

Cathy turns around as Jesse leans forward to open the door.

CATHY
Grandma is going to pick you up
after school today.

The kids climb out of the car. Sterling hurries away without a word.

CATHY (CONT'D)
Love you guys!

JESSE
Love you too.

Jesse slams the door and catches up to Sterling.

Cathy reaches into the glove box and pulls out a joint as she watches the kids head into the school. She sparks it up and breathes a sigh of relief. She looks at Mark.

CATHY
How could anyone stoop to that level?

OUTSIDE ON THE CURB

Mark throws the bottle away and yells at a mom and her son.

MARK
What!? It was still good.

They veer further away from him.

EXT. LAKE ELSINORE, HOUSE - DAY

Jeff lowers a sofa table to the ground with the lift on the back of his delivery truck. The table is strapped to a dolly.

Jeff pushes the sofa table to the top of the driveway and rests. He's worn out, emotionally and physically. He wheels it up to the front door and rings the bell.

MR. CARSON, another grandfatherly type, answers the door.

MR. CARSON
Hi! Come on in, Jeff.

Mr. Carson opens the double doors and stands back as Jeff struggles to get the table inside.

INT. LAKE ELSINORE, HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

MRS. CARSON, 70s, approaches as Jeff enters with the table.

MRS. CARSON
Ben, help him out!

JEFF

It's all right. I've got it.

Mr. Carson grabs one end and helps out.

MRS. CARSON

(points)

Right over there.

MR. CARSON

Yes dear.

(whispers to Jeff)

Those two words will save any marriage.

Jeff is caught off-guard. He pauses then unstraps the table.

MRS. CARSON

I can hear you, Ben.

They lift the table into place.

MR. CARSON

We've been married...

Mr. Carson acts like he has to think about it.

MRS. CARSON

52 years. He's 74 years old and still hasn't grown up.

Mr. Carson smiles broadly as if he won a contest.

MRS. CARSON (CONT'D)

Could you move it a little closer?

MR. CARSON

Yes dear.

(to Jeff)

See? It works! It makes everything all right.

Jeff pulls out an invoice and has Mr. Carson sign it.

MRS. CARSON

Jeff, may I get you some iced tea? You look like you could use it.

JEFF

No, thank you. I've got a lot going on today.

MRS. CARSON

Okay dear. Please say hi to Cathy
for us. She's a lovely woman.

Jeff looks at Mrs. Carson, but decides not to say anything.

JEFF

Okay.
(to Mr. Carson)
Here you go.

He hands Mr. Carson his copy.

EXT. LAKE ELSINORE, RESIDENTIAL STREET - DAY

Jeff pulls up to a spot along Via Del La Valle, overlooking
Canyon Lake and parks his van. It's a lovely view.

He pulls out a lunch box and opens it up. He opens the diet
soda and takes a drink. He turns off the radio.

After a moment, he pulls his phone out and dials Cathy's
number, but she doesn't answer; it keeps ringing.

He slams his fists down on the steering wheel.

JEFF

You bitch!

Caught between despair and rage... he cries.

INT. SANTA ANA COURT, BREAK ROOM - DAY

Cathy has her office spread out on a table as Jill pesters
her and several other people chat. Her phone rings and rings.

JILL

Aren't you going to answer that?

Cathy disconnects her husband's call.

CATHY

It's not important.

Judge Casey enters the break room and looks for Cathy. He
checks his watch.

INSERT - WATCH INDICATES 10:30 AM

Jill notices. She rushes over to him and kisses the Judge's
cheek. Extremely awkward. She extends her hand to him.

JILL

Hi Judge Casey. I'm Jill Lancaster.

The Judge hesitates, but shakes her hand.

JUDGE CASEY

Nice to meet you...

Cathy laughs out loud as she packs up her belongings.

CATHY

Nice move, Jill!

(to Judge Casey)

I'll have the Johnson transcripts done in the morning. I have some other things I need to get to.

JUDGE CASEY

Really? I wasn't expecting it until Monday.

(Beat)

The reason I wanted to talk with you is that there is a potentially long-term case coming up about the ten commandments.

Cathy rolls her eyes.

CATHY

Who cares about that?

JUDGE CASEY

A civil liberties union wants to stop public schools from posting the ten commandments on campus.

JILL

Why do people attack everything religious? The Bible, then prayer... now the ten commandments.

CATHY

Who has time for religion?

JUDGE CASEY

It's kind of the point to life, isn't it? Everyone is spiritual.

Cathy packs up her belongings. She's agitated.

CATHY

I don't really see the point in it, but you can assign me to the case.

Cathy kisses the Judge on the cheek and winks at him.

CATHY (CONT'D)

I have to go meet my husband.

Concern etches across the Judge's face. Cathy leaves.

EXT. SANTA ANA COURT - DAY

Cathy struggles to dial her phone; her arms are full.

CATHY

Hi Mom, it's me.

(Beat)

Yeah, I just have a lot going on.

Can you pick up the kids today?

Cathy sets down her brief case and leans against her car.

CATHY (CONT'D)

Please... I told them that you were going to pick them up.

(Beat)

Just take them to the park. I have to work until 5:30.

Cathy loads her car as she waits for her mom to stop lecturing her.

CATHY (CONT'D)

(sarcastic)

There's nothing I can do about it... But thanks. See you tonight.

Cathy gets into her car and lights up a joint - relief. She drives away.

INT. FURNITURE WORKSHOP - EVENING

Jeff is sweaty and full of sawdust. He turns off the joiner. He checks the joint he's working on and realizes he cut the wrong side. He chucks the mistake across his shop then leans against the machine, stressed.

The ALARM on his watch goes off. He turns it off and walks toward the office at the back of the shop.

INT. FURNITURE WORKSHOP, OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Jeff sits at his cluttered desk: Papers, wood glue, and catalogues everywhere. He pulls his insulin testing machine out of the pile.

Jeff pricks his finger and places the drop of blood on a glucose test strip, then inserts it into the machine. He wipes the blood off his finger.

As he waits, he glances across the family photos scattered all over the office wall.

The machine BEEPS. His blood sugar level is extremely high.

JEFF
(frustrated)
Crap.

He opens a drawer to get a needle for his shot, but the box of needles is empty.

A HANDGUN in the drawer catches his eye.

Jeff pulls out his phone and calls Cathy. The phone rings, but there's no answer. He hangs up.

Jeff takes the HANDGUN out of the drawer and checks to see if it is loaded. It is. Angry tears swell up in his eyes.

It's 5:40 according to a clock on the wall.

EXT. CITY PARK - EVENING

BARBARA, 63, checks her watch. It's 5:40.

Jesse jumps off the jungle gym and runs toward her.

JESSE
Grandma! Can we go to the beach and
cook hot dogs?

Barbara's frown turns into a smile. Jesse leans into her.

BARBARA
You getting hungry?

Jesse thinks about it very seriously. He nods.

JESSE
Yeah.

STERLING
Grandma, watch me!

Sterling slides down a slide and flops onto the ground. She jumps up and takes a bow.

BARBARA
You are amazing, young lady!

Barbara notices Cathy approaching; her smile fades.

Cathy walks across the park, dishevelled. Her hair is a mess.

CATHY
Sorry I'm late.

Jesse runs to Cathy.

JESSE
Mom, can we go to the beach and cook hot dogs?

CATHY
We have to go pick up your dad.

JESSE
Then can we? Please?

Cathy is distracted by her ringing phone. She pulls it out of her purse. It's Alan.

CATHY
(irritated)
I just left... My gift?

She starts searching through her purse frantically.

CATHY (CONT'D)
No, don't use it. It's mine. You gave it to me for my birthday.

Cathy is startled when she realizes Barbara is standing right next to her.

CATHY (CONT'D)
Your an idiot, Al...
(frustrated)
I'll talk to you later.

Cathy jams the phone into her purse.

BARBARA
Who was that?

CATHY
Nobody, just a friend from work.

BARBARA
I think you need to take some time
off. You don't look so good.

Cathy's stoned; she tries to play it off.

CATHY
They just assigned me to a new
case. Something about religion.
(yells)
Sterling, let's go! We have to get
your dad.

Sterling plays on the jungle gym.

JESSE
Then can we go cook hot dogs?

CATHY
(irritated)
No! We're eating at home tonight.
(angry)
Sterling!

Sterling jumps down and goes to get her books.

BARBARA
You need to spend time with them.

Cathy nudges Jesse and points at the park bench.

CATHY
Go get your books and stuff.
(to Barbara)
Thanks for watching them, Mom. I'll
call you tomorrow.

Barbara is concerned. She shrugs and walks away.

Cathy and the children walk the opposite direction.

INT. FURNITURE WORKSHOP, OFFICE - EVENING

Jeff's desk is even more of a mess. His HANDGUN rests on top
of a stack of stuff as he scratches out a handwritten note.

Jeff's face is intensely red. He's been crying. He signs the
note and examines it.

INSERT - SUICIDE NOTE

Cathy,

You and Alan make a beautiful couple.
This is my gift to you. Happy Birthday!
I hope you remember it always.

Jeff

BACK TO SCENE

Tears fill Jeff's eyes as he scans the drawings and pictures again.

The clock on the wall indicates 6:05.

Jeff picks up the gun.

EXT. FURNITURE WORKSHOP - CONTINUOUS

Cathy pulls up to the shop and parks. Both of the kids are strapped in the back seat. She yells into the phone.

CATHY

You're a jerk! You just told me an hour ago that we were going to the art festival tomorrow.

(Beat)

I already cancelled my assignment.

Jesse reaches over the seat and yanks on the door handle: child locks.

JESSE

Mom, can I get out?

Cathy listens intently and ignores Jesse.

CATHY

Who was that? Who's with you?

EXT. ALAN'S HOUSE, PATIO - CONTINUOUS

Alan and MONICA, a hot, young Hispanic woman in her 20s, relax with cocktails and a joint in the hot tub. Monica takes Alan's joint and kisses him. She takes a hit.

ALAN

Nobody. Just hanging out with an old friend.

MONICA
(whispers)
Who's that?

Alan covers the phone.

ALAN
It's nobody.

EXT. FURNITURE WORKSHOP - CONTINUOUS

Cathy motions for Jesse to stop yanking on the door handle.

CATHY
It's not like I can't hear you, you
jerk!
(to Jesse)
Jesse, quit it!

Cathy is fuming.

JESSE
I just want to get out.

STERLING
Me too!

CATHY
(into phone)
I'll see you later. I have to go
get my husband.

Cathy hangs up. She looks at the time - 6:10.

CATHY (CONT'D)
You guys stay in the car. I'm going
to get Dad. I'll be right back.

Cathy gets out of the car and slams the door. As she walks to the workshop door, she hears a GUN SHOT!

Suddenly concerned, she grabs her keys to unlock the door and steps inside.

INT. FURNITURE WORKSHOP - EVENING

The workshop lights are out. Light streams through the partly opened office door.

CATHY
Honey, I'm here!

Cathy hesitates. The shop is a mess and the lights are out.

CATHY (CONT'D)

Jeff?

Cathy leans into the office.

INT. FURNITURE WORKSHOP, OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Cathy leans into the office and shouts...

CATHY

Surprise!

Shock smacks Cathy in the face. She stumbles back against the door and SCREAMS.

Jeff is slumped over his desk. Blood smattering the wall.

Cathy slumps to the floor and hyperventilates.

INT. FUNERAL HOME, CHAPEL - AFTERNOON

Pictures of Jeff surrounded by flowers decorate a table at the front of the chapel. JEFF'S FATHER, 60s, speaks to the small gathering.

JEFF'S FATHER

He was kind, generous and had a warm heart. And he was a good husband and father.

Jeff's Father tears up as he scowls at Cathy.

Cathy fidgets nervously. She's pale and has dark bags under her eyes. Her two older kids sit on one side of her while Barbara sits on the other.

JEFF'S FATHER (CONT'D)

Jeff, we'll never forget you.

Cathy coughs.

CHARLIE, 63, Barbara's husband, leans forward and glances at Cathy disdainfully.

Barbara notices Charlie's expression and smacks his leg to get his attention. She frowns at him and shakes her head.

Charlie turns his attention away and leans back.

Jesse leans into Cathy and whispers to her.

JESSE
Can Daddy see us?

Horrified, Cathy chokes on her words.

CATHY
Why would you... I don't know. How
should I know?

She silently sobs.

INT. FUNERAL HOME, RECEPTION - AFTERNOON

Cathy and her children huddle in a corner with her parents as people leave. Few stop to say anything to her, but Jeff's Father can't let the opportunity go.

JEFF'S FATHER
It's your fault that my son is
dead.

Shocked, Cathy gasps. Her children move behind her, afraid.

JEFF'S FATHER (CONT'D)
You killed him!

An ELDERLY WOMAN steps in to save her.

ELDERLY WOMAN
That's entirely inappropriate, sir.

Jeff's Father storms away.

The Elderly Woman grabs Cathy's hand and looks her in the eye nodding compassionately as she shakes it.

ELDERLY WOMAN (CONT'D)
I'm sorry for your loss, dear. I'll
be praying for you and your family.

Cathy's eyes well up with tears, she can't speak; her heart has been ripped out. Barbara intercedes for her.

BARBARA
Thank you. We appreciate that.

The Elderly Woman meanders away as CAROL, 30s, Cathy's older sister arrives from the nursery and hands Toni to Cathy.

CAROL
She is so much fun...
(awkward realization)
If there's anything I can do...

Cathy can't muster the strength to speak. Carol embraces her.

CAROL (CONT'D)
It's going to be okay, Cathy.

BARBARA
Why don't you let your dad and I
take the kids for a couple days. It
would give you some time to sort
things out.

Charlie lets out an exasperated sigh as Cathy hands Toni to her mother.

BARBARA (CONT'D)
Charlie...

CHARLIE
I'll go get the car.

Charlie walks away without so much as a glance at Cathy.

CAROL
Why is dad acting like that!?

BARBARA
Give him some time, Carol. He'll
come around.

CAROL
Do you want me to come over?

Cathy shakes her head.

CATHY
I need some time alone.
(to Jesse and Sterling)
You guys are staying with Grandma
tonight. I want you to behave,
okay?

The children nod silently.

CATHY (CONT'D)
I need to go. Thanks, Mom.

Cathy escapes. Barbara calls to her as she leaves.

BARBARA
I'll call you in the morning.

CAROL
Is she going to be all right?

Barbara's strength fails. She doesn't know what to say.

EXT. CITY STREET - EVENING

Cathy smokes a joint as she cruises down a busy street listening to the radio. She notices red and blue lights in her rear view mirror.

CATHY

Oh no!

She puts her joint out and sprays the car with air freshener as she pulls over. She eats a breath mint as she waits for the POLICE OFFICER to arrive.

POLICE OFFICER 1

Do you know why I pulled you over?

Cathy's eyes well up with tears. She shakes her head.

Police Officer 1 is unmoved by Cathy's show of tears. He leans closer and sniffs the air.

POLICE OFFICER 1 (CONT'D)

You were going 60 in a 45 mile per hour zone. May I see your license and registration please?

Cathy cries harder as she fumbles for her documents.

POLICE OFFICER 1 (CONT'D)

Ma'am, it's only a speeding ticket. It's just my job.

Cathy sobs as she hands her documents to the Police Officer.

CATHY

I know. I'm a court reporter. It's just that my husband's memorial was today. I just want to go home.

Cathy's pleas finally get through.

POLICE OFFICER 1

I'm sorry to hear that.

(Beat)

Just slow down and get home safely. Okay?

The Police Officer hands Cathy's documents back to her.

CATHY

Thank you, officer.

Cathy checks her rear-view mirror to make sure he's gone. She immediately stops crying and wipes the tears from her eyes.

CATHY (CONT'D)
(unemotional)
Crap, that was close.

Cathy takes a deep breath and starts her car.

INT. CATHY'S HOUSE, KITCHEN - NIGHT

Cathy sits at the table, a single light illuminates the room. She's been crying, alone with her thoughts.

She suddenly kicks her chair out and throws a salt shaker, smashing a framed photo of her family on the wall. Her eyes well-up with tears.

Cathy grabs a bottle of Vodka from one of the cabinets. She gets some cranberry juice out of the fridge; it's almost empty. She makes herself a cocktail and takes a drink.

Cathy dials Alan's number. No answer. She leaves a message.

CATHY
Alan, it's me. Just seeing what
you're up to.

She hangs up and downs her drink. She makes another one.

She sits back down at the table and dials another number.

CATHY (CONT'D)
Hey Carol, it's Cathy.
(Beat)
I'm okay. I'll get through it. I
was just calling to see if you
wanted to come hang out. I don't
really want to be alone right now.
(Beat)
Really? That would be great! I'll
see you in a bit.

She hangs up a little happier. She downs her drink.

INT. CATHY'S HOUSE, LIVING ROOM - LATER

Cathy downs a clear drink. The juice is gone. She sets the glass down on the coffee table, next to the almost empty bottle of vodka. Dirty clothes and toys litter the room.

CAROL (O.S.)
Cathy, there's nothing in your
fridge, but condiments!

CATHY
There's some apple juice in the
pantry.

Cathy rummages through her purse and finds a bag of meth.

CAROL (O.S.)
You don't have any food. What do
you eat?

We can HEAR Carol getting herself a drink. Cathy hides the
bag of meth in her bra just as Carol enters the room with the
apple juice. She sits down next to Cathy. She's concerned.

CAROL (CONT'D)
You should probably slow down.
You've had kind of a lot.

CATHY
I'm fine, mom... I mean, Jill.

Cathy laughs at her own joke. She holds up the vodka.

CATHY (CONT'D)
You want some?

Carol shakes her head, uncomfortable. She pours some apple
juice for Cathy.

CAROL
No... Here, drink some juice.

CATHY
Whoa, not so much. Where am I
supposed to put my vodka?

CAROL
I don't think you need anymore.

CATHY
Need isn't the issue here.

Cathy pours the end of the vodka into her drink.

Carol is disturbed.

CAROL
Cathy, I can't watch you do this to
yourself. Just go to bed and get
some sleep, okay?

Carol gets up to leave and heads to the door.

CAROL (CONT'D)
Let's do lunch tomorrow so we can talk.

CATHY
I'm busy tomorrow. Maybe next week.

Carol has nothing else to say. She leaves.

Cathy falls back onto the couch, eyes glazed.

INT. CATHY'S HOUSE, LIVING ROOM - DAY

Cathy wakes up on the couch, exactly as she was the night before. Her PHONE RINGS repeatedly. Painfully, she leans forward and answers the phone.

CATHY
Hey mom.

INT. GRANDPARENT'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Barbara holds Toni in her arms as she talks on the phone.

BARBARA
Where have you been? I've been trying to get a hold of you all morning.

INTERCUT BETWEEN BARBARA AND CATHY

Cathy pulls the meth out from her bra.

CATHY
It's just been busy. Trying to get some stuff done.

BARBARA
It's after noon! I've called you four times.

Cathy dumps the meth on the table.

CATHY
I'm sorry, mom. I must have had the phone on silent.

BARBARA

Why don't you come over for lunch?
I'm making grilled cheese and
french fries for the kids.

Cathy lines up the meth.

CATHY

I need to go down to the courthouse
and file some paperwork.

(Beat)

Can you keep the kids? I'll pick
them up in the morning.

Barbara wants to cry.

BARBARA

Yeah, it's no problem sweetie. Just
get some rest. You sound tired.

Barbara hangs up.

Cathy puts the phone down and does the line of meth. She
wipes her nose and leans back.

EXT. KATELLA BOULEVARD - AFTERNOON

Cathy leans her head back enjoying the breeze as she flies
past the palm tree lined boulevard. She's on the phone.

CATHY

Alan, I'm on my way now! I want to
hang out.

(smiles)

And I want a quarter bag. I need a
pick-me-up.

After listening, Cathy's smile fades to anger.

CATHY (CONT'D)

Who's over there!?

EXT. ALAN'S HOUSE - AFTERNOON

Cathy screeches into Alan's driveway. She storms up to the
front door and raps on it.

STEVE, a wiry, seventies throwback in his late 20s, opens the
door and checks Cathy out, up and down.

CATHY

Get out of my way, Steve. Where's Alan?

Cathy pushes past him. He has an 'oh shit' kind of grin.

STEVE

Out back.
(to himself)
This should be good.

He shuts the door and follows her into the house.

Down the street, an UNDERCOVER COP, 40s, watches the house from his UNMARKED CAR. He writes a notation in a note pad.

EXT. ALAN'S HOUSE, PATIO - AFTERNOON

Cathy storms out onto the patio, where Alan and Monica have beers and food spread out on a patio table. Monica is all over Alan, her chair crowding his.

CATHY

Oh... is this your "old friend?"

Alan stares past Cathy at Steve, who stands in the patio door and shrugs uncomfortably.

ALAN

Relax. We're just hanging out.

CATHY

More like hanging all over!

Monica flips Cathy off.

CATHY (CONT'D)

Screw you!

Alan jumps to his feet and intercepts Cathy as Steve sits at the table and grabs his beer to watch the fireworks.

ALAN

Look, just get out of here. We'll talk later.

CATHY

Get out of here?

MONICA

Yeah, get out of here.

Cathy searches for words, but there are none. She tears up. She spots a SMALL BAG OF POT on the table and grabs it.

CATHY

Thanks for the hook up, Alan!

Cathy storms into the house. Seconds later, the DOOR SLAMS.

Alan settles back into his chair.

STEVE

She just took your pot.

Monica hands Steve the joint. He takes a hit.

ALAN

You're picking up my stash tomorrow, right?

STEVE

Yeah, good point.
(exhales)
Cathy's pretty hot.

Monica shoots Steve a dirty look.

ALAN

She's not mine. Go ahead and hit it.

Steve takes another hit and hands the joint to Alan.

STEVE

All right, maybe I will.

His chuckle creeps out Monica.

EXT. KATELLA BOULEVARD - AFTERNOON

Cathy cruises past palm trees near the convention center, mad as can be. She cuts around a slow moving vehicle.

A POLICE SIREN BLASTS. The red and blues flash.

Cathy's countenance falls. She pulls over and straitens her hair in the rear view mirror. She takes a deep breath.

POLICE OFFICER 2 steps up beside her car.

CATHY

Sorry I was going so fast, officer.

POLICE OFFICER 2
License and registration, please.
(Beat)
You were driving erratically. Is
everything okay?

Cathy opens the glove box and a pipe falls out. She tries to
hide it as she grabs her registration.

CATHY
Yeah, I'm fine, officer.

POLICE OFFICER 2
Is that a marijuana pipe?
(off Cathy's reaction)
Ma'am, can you please step out of
the vehicle.

The Police Officer motions to his PARTNER, who gets out of
the squad car.

Cathy is really about to cry, now.

CATHY
My husband just died. He committed
suicide.

The Police Officer steps aside to let her out of the car.

POLICE OFFICER 2
I'm sorry to hear that. Place your
hands on the vehicle, please.

Partner retrieves the pipe after the Police Officer points at
the glove box. He cautiously smells it and nods. He opens the
car door to search the vehicle.

CATHY
Look, I'm a court reporter. I'm
just going through a really hard
time right now.

The Police Officer's Partner holds up a small bag of pot.

POLICE OFFICER 2
I'm arresting you for the
possession of a controlled
substance. Do you understand?

Cathy nods her head. The Police Officer pats her down.

CATHY
Officer, please... I've got three
children.

POLICE OFFICER 2
Please, place your hands behind
your back.

The Police Officer continues as he handcuffs her.

POLICE OFFICER 2 (CONT'D)
You have the right to remain
silent. Anything you say can and
will be used against you in a court
of law. You have the right to an
attorney. If you cannot afford an
attorney, one will be provided for
you.

Cathy's whole body shakes as she cries, slumped over the
front of her car.

INT. POLICE STATION - NIGHT

Cathy is slumped over a desk. She looks up with a tear-
stained face.

CATHY
Do I get my call now?

Police Officer 2 looks up from the paperwork littering his
desk. He dials a code and hands the phone to Cathy.

POLICE OFFICER 2
Yeah go ahead.

Cathy thinks for a moment, and then dials.

CATHY
Jill, this is Cathy. I've been
arrested.
(fights back tears)
No, they're going to keep me the
night. Can you pick me up in the
morning?
(Beat)
I don't want to talk about it right
now. I'll call you in the morning
after I'm released, okay? Okay,
I'll see you tomorrow.

Cathy hangs up and takes a deep breath, resolved.

EXT. CATHY'S NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY

Jill drives Cathy home. Cathy has bags under her eyes; she's trashed, wearing the same clothes. Life is taking a toll.

JILL

Judge Casey asked how you're doing.
I told him you're okay. I lied.
You're lucky he's going on
vacation.

Cathy chuckles, but she doesn't open her eyes.

CATHY

Did you kiss him again?

JILL

That was awkward.

(Beat)

Why don't you come to church with
me and Gary on Sunday?

CATHY

Yeah, right. Me an God have this
thing going. I don't need church to
talk to him.

Jill turns down Cathy's street. Cathy looks up.

CATHY (CONT'D)

Oh no... Don't say anything. Okay?

EXT. CATHY'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Barbara holds Toni while the other two kids play in the front yard. She watches as Jill's car pull into the driveway. Cathy and Jill climb out of the car.

BARBARA

Where were you!? What are you
doing?

(Beat)

You were supposed to pick your
children up this morning.

CATHY

Sorry mom, I've just had a hard
night. Things aren't going so well.

Barbara hands Toni to Cathy, who kisses her forehead.

CATHY (CONT'D)

Thanks for taking care of them.

BARBARA
Cathy, you need to take care of
yourself. You look terrible.

Jill hangs on to her car door.

JILL
Cathy, call me whenever you want,
okay? I'm here for you.

CATHY
Thanks Jill.
(to the kids)
Come on guys, let's go inside.

BARBARA
Where's your car?

Jill gets in her car and leaves as Cathy and her mom head
inside.

INT. CATHY'S HOUSE, LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Barbara follows Cathy inside.

BARBARA
Honey, the place is a mess. There's
clothes everywhere.

CATHY
Mom, I'm too tired for this right
now. I'll get it cleaned up later.

Jesse and Sterling run right to the television.

JESSE
Can we watch TV mom?

CATHY
Yeah, I don't care.

Cathy sets Toni down on a pile of clothes and follows her mom
into the kitchen.

INT. CATHY'S HOUSE, KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Barbara opens the empty refrigerator then opens the pantry
and finds little food.

BARBARA
Cathy, you don't have anything to
eat or feed the children with.

Barbara faces Cathy, initially angry, but bursts into tears.

BARBARA (CONT'D)
And look how skinny you are. Are
you taking drugs?

Cathy can't look her in the eye.

CATHY
Really? I'm in the best shape of my
life.
(angry)
I'm just broke!

Barbara gets emotional. She grabs Cathy's shoulders to look
her in the eye.

BARBARA
Cathy, let us help you! We love
you. And your children need you.

They both fight back tears as they hug.

INT. CATHY'S HOUSE, GIRL'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Cathy hugs Toni, lays her down in her crib and tucks her in.

CATHY
There you go, sweetheart.

Cathy leaves the door ajar as she leaves.

INT. CATHY'S HOUSE, LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Jesse and Sterling watch TV, cuddled up on the couch when
there's a knock on the door.

Cathy enters the front room and answers the door.

CATHY
What are you doing here?

Steve pushes his way in with a spliff in his mouth.

STEVE
Figured you could use a little
company... and a little relaxer.

Cathy shoves his hand down as he holds the joint up for her
to see.

CATHY

Now's not a good time.

Cathy nods toward the children. Steve puts the unlit joint in his shirt pocket and heads toward the couch.

STEVE

What are you guys watching?

Cathy shoves the door shut and hurries to intercept Steve.

JESSE

A movie.

Cathy slides between Jesse and Steve.

CATHY

Steve, this is not a good time.

Steve places his arm around Cathy's neck and pulls her closer as he grabs the inside of her leg with his other hand.

STEVE

We're chillin, it's all good.

Steve forces a kiss as Cathy squirms and tries to get away.

CATHY

Steve, Stop it! What are you doing?

Steve pulls her close to him.

STEVE

Gonna give you some love. Alan
ain't gonna take care of you no
more.

Cathy slaps Steve and jumps to her feet.

CATHY

Get outta here or I'm gonna call
the cops!

Steve rushes her. He wraps both arms around her waist and grinds, pinning her arms between them.

STEVE

I know you want it.

Cathy backhands Steve's face with her fist. He jumps back with a bloody nose.

STEVE (CONT'D)

You bitch!

CATHY
Get outta here!

Steve notices Jesse escape with Sterling down the hall.

STEVE
No wonder Alan dumped you.

Cathy breathes a sigh of relief after she locks the door behind Steve.

Jesse and Sterling watch her from the hallway.

CATHY
It's okay, guys. He's gone. It's
time for bed anyway.

Cathy herds the kids toward their rooms.

INT. CATHY'S HOUSE, JESSE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Jesse sits up on his bed and yells.

JESSE
Mom! Can I have some water?

Cathy slides her head in the door. She's exhausted.

CATHY
I just gave you a drink.

JESSE
I can't sleep. Who was that man?

CATHY
(sighs)
You don't have to worry about him.
He's just someone I know. Here, lay
down go to sleep.

Cathy tucks Jesse in.

JESSE
He's not nice.

CATHY
No, he's not nice.

Cathy lays down next to Jesse.

JESSE
Is Daddy in heaven?

Gut shot. Cathy closes her eyes and rolls over to hide tears.

CATHY

I don't know.

(Beat)

I think so. I'm so tired.

They lay silently for a moment.

JESSE

What do you think heaven is like?

Cathy doesn't respond. Jesse leans over to see if she's asleep. She is. He lays back down and watches red and blue flashing lights stream through the window.

UNDERCOVER COP (O.S.)

Put your hands where we can see
them!

Jesse leaps up on the bed and looks out the window.

EXT. CATHY'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Squad cars surround Steve's car as police officers approach his vehicle with guns drawn. The UNMARKED CAR is there and the Undercover Cop leads the others with his gun drawn.

The Undercover Cop, yanks the car door open while the other officers converge on the car.

UNDERCOVER COP

Step out of the car.

As soon as Steve is out, officers force him to the pavement.

The Undercover Cop removes a duffel bag from the back seat and opens it. It's full of marijuana and drugs.

UNDERCOVER COP (CONT'D)

Jackpot! I see you're in the
pharmaceutical business.

Jesse watches the activity from his bedroom window.

INT. CATHY'S HOUSE, BATHROOM - MORNING

The doorbell rings as Cathy lines up some crystal meth on the bathroom counter. She snorts it.

Jesse bursts into the bathroom, excited.

JESSE
 Mommy, Grandma is here with some
 food!

Cathy pinches her nose and sniffs in.

CATHY
 (angry)
 Jesse, knock on the door before you
 come into a bathroom!

JESSE
 Okay.

Jesse leaves, wounded.

INT. CATHY'S HOUSE, KITCHEN - MORNING

Barbara places a container of milk in the refrigerator.

BARBARA
 Carol is driving up tomorrow. We're
 having the full turkey dinner. You
 and the children are coming too,
 right?

Jesse pulls a pack of cookies out of one of the grocery
 sacks.

JESSE
 Can I have some of these?

Cathy leans against a counter, stressed. She ignores Jesse.

CATHY
 Yeah, sure.

Jesse takes the cookies into the other room.

BARBARA
 You don't need to bring anything!
 I've already made it all.

Cathy intercepts Barbara as she continues unpacking groceries
 into the pantry.

CATHY
 Mom, I'll get this. Don't worry
 about it.
 (Beat)
 Thank you.

Barbara hugs Cathy.

BARBARA

Okay, dear. I have a lot of stuff
thawing out in the car and I've got
a lot to do before tomorrow! See
you about noon, okay?

Cathy musters up a smile.

CATHY

Okay. Love you, mom.

Cathy can breathe once Barbara leaves.

BARBARA (O.S.)

See you guys tomorrow!

Once she HEARS THE FRONT DOOR SHUT, Cathy takes the groceries
from the pantry and puts them back into the grocery bags.

INT. CATHY'S HOUSE, LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Jesse and Sterling stuff their faces with cookies as Toni
crawls around on piles of dirty clothes. The house is a mess.

Cathy comes from the kitchen with two full bags of groceries.

CATHY

You guys behave!

Jesse and Sterling think they are busted; they have cookie
crumbs all over their faces.

CATHY (CONT'D)

I have to go to the store real
quick. Watch your sisters until I
get back.

JESSE

(confused)

Okay.

Cathy leaves.

INT. GROCERY STORE - AFTERNOON

Cathy rushes into the grocery store with the bags of
groceries and sets them down at one of the check out stands.

CATHY

I need to return these.

Cathy pulls out the receipt and hands it to the cashier.

CASHIER

Is there a problem with them?

CATHY

No, my mother buys processed foods.
I try not to give them to my
children.

The cashier nods knowingly and starts scanning the items.

CASHIER

It must be fun being a grandparent.
You can give your grandchildren
anything you want and not have to
take them to the hospital.

The cashier laughs, but Cathy is put off.

EXT. GROCERY STORE - AFTERNOON

Cathy climbs into her car with one small grocery bag. She sets the bag down on the passenger seat and searches through her purse. She pulls out a small bag of meth and inspect it, but there is only a little left. She sets it down on the car seat next to the grocery bag.

Cathy unlatches the car top and opens it. She stretches as she pulls her hair off her face. She reaches over for the grocery bag, but pauses to look around.

The parking lot is empty. The coast is clear.

She pulls out a large bottle of vodka, opens it and takes a big swig. She leans back against the headrest with her eyes closed and exhales deeply.

INT. POLICE STATION, INTERROGATION ROOM - AFTERNOON

Steve leans back with his eyes closed and exhales deeply. He looks exhausted.

UNDERCOVER COP

I can make this much harder on you.

(Beat)

Who is your supplier?

Steve slams his fists down on the table.

STEVE

I told you I didn't buy the drugs!

UNDERCOVER COP
Then where did you get them?

STEVE
Cathy's friend told me to drop the
duffle bag off at her house. I
didn't know what was in it.

UNDERCOVER COP
Then why didn't you take it with
you when you went inside?

Steve doesn't know how to answer. He looks around nervously.

STEVE
She told me not to take it in if
the kids were awake.

UNDERCOVER COP
Why didn't you wait in the house?

STEVE
She had to put the kids to sleep...
And she had tons of meth.
(Beat)
I felt uncomfortable in there.

The Undercover Cop buys it.

Steve smiles when the Undercover Cop looks away.

INT. GRANDPARENT'S HOUSE, DINING ROOM - DAY

Charlie places a turkey on the table. The Thanksgiving meal
is ready. The chairs for Cathy and her kids are empty.

CAROL
I felt uncomfortable in there, Mom.

The ladies serve themselves as Charlie slices the bird.

BARBARA
I don't know how to get through to
her.

CAROL
It's not just that. She's bent on
destroying herself.

CHARLIE
I don't want to talk about it
anymore. Can't we just enjoy a meal
together without talking about her?

Charlie plops turkey down on Barbara's plate.

CAROL
Sorry, dad.

BARBARA
Do you want to pray for the food?

CHARLIE
(angry)
Can I at least serve myself?

The ladies are silent as Charlie gets some food.

BARBARA
Carol, when we're done can you take
some leftovers over to Cathy?

CHARLIE
Why should we send food over to
her? She could have just come.

Barbara wants to cry.

BARBARA
The children need food.

CAROL
Sure, mom.

INT. CATHY'S HOUSE, LIVING ROOM - AFTERNOON

The three kids hide in a fortress made out of the dirty
clothes. Cathy enters the room all made up holding Toni.

CATHY
Are you guys ready?

Sterling pokes her head out of the fort.

STERLING
We're hiding in the tent!

JESSE (O.S.)
Shut up, Sterling!

CATHY
Don't tell your sister to shut up!
I told you guys to get dressed.

Sterling steps out and Jesse pokes his head out of the tent.

JESSE
Mom, we're hungry.

CATHY
There's plenty of food where we are
going. Get moving!

Jesse and Sterling head sheepishly down the hallway.

INT. CATHY'S HOUSE, GARAGE - AFTERNOON

Cathy leads the dressed up versions into the garage, gets them into the car and places Toni in a car seat.

Cathy plugs up a vent in the garage wall with rags. She gets in the car and starts the engine, then waits.

JESSE
Aren't you going to open the garage
door?

Cathy shuffles through her purse nervously.

CATHY
In a little while.

STERLING
Where are we going, mommy?

CATHY
Don't worry, we're going to a very
nice place.
(Beat)
I'm sure you'll like it.

As they sit, Jesse begins to get nervous.

JESSE
Can we go outside and play?

CATHY
No, Just wait!

Cathy revs the engine several times. A DISTANT KNOCKING SOUND can be heard.

JESSE
Why aren't we going anywhere?

CATHY

Jesse, would you just relax. You've been sitting in that stupid tent all morning. Why can't you just pretend you're in the tent?

As they wait, the DISTANT KNOCKING can be heard again.

JESSE

Mom, someone is knocking at the front door.

(Beat)

Aren't you going to answer it?

Frustrated, Cathy turns off the engine and gets out.

CATHY

Wait here. I'll be right back.

INT. CATHY'S HOUSE, LIVING ROOM - AFTERNOON

When Cathy opens the front door, Carol barges past her with her arms loaded with leftovers.

CAROL

Where have you been? Mom and dad were pretty upset you didn't show up.

Cathy reluctantly follows Carol into the kitchen.

INT. CATHY'S HOUSE, KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Carol plops the grocery bags on the kitchen table and starts unpacking the food.

CATHY

We were just on our way.

CAROL

Just on your way? You were supposed to be over there three hours ago!

(Beat)

You know how irritated dad was because you didn't show up?

CATHY

Yeah, I bet.

Carol turns to face Cathy.

CAROL
Where's the kids?

INT. CATHY'S HOUSE, LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Before Cathy can respond, Jesse and Sterling enter the living room from the garage.

JESSE
Mom, can we go outside and play?

CATHY
(resigned)
Yeah.

CAROL
At least the kids are cleaned up.
Your house is a wreck.

CATHY
You can clean it up if you want.

Carol shouts to Cathy as she heads back into the garage.

CAROL
I can't stay. But, you should
probably call mom! She's pretty
concerned about you.

Cathy comes back inside with Toni in her arms and sets her down on some blankets. She doesn't respond to Carol.

CAROL (CONT'D)
Well, I've got to go... Take care.

They hug and Carol leaves.

EXT. CATHY'S HOUSE - AFTERNOON

Carol intercepts a ball as Jesse and Sterling kick it around on the front lawn.

CAROL
Hey you two, what are you doing?

STERLING
We're playing soccer!

Jesse waits for Carol to kick the ball back to him. She does.

CAROL
Take care of your mom, Jesse. She
needs you right now.

JESSE
Okay.

CAROL
I'll see you guys later.

Carol waves to them as she heads to her car.

STERLING
Bye, Aunt Carol.

Jesse kicks the ball to Sterling.

JESSE
I wish dad was here.

INT. CATHY'S HOUSE, LIVING ROOM - EVENING

While Toni crawls around on the floor, we HEAR THE KIDS PLAY OUTSIDE. Cathy throws back a shot of vodka and sets the bottle on the coffee table. She sits on the couch and has another one, then lies down to sleep.

EXT. CATHY'S HOUSE - MORNING

A SWAT VAN, the UNMARKED CAR and a couple police cars are parked up the street from Cathy's house.

Several men in black SWAT gear cautiously approach the house. A couple move toward the back while the Undercover Cop and another officer approach the front door.

A SNIPER lines up on the door and flashes a hand signal.

The Undercover Cop knocks on the door with a SWAT OFFICER right behind him.

Cathy opens the door, shocked at what she sees.

UNDERCOVER COP
Put your hands in the air and step
outside slowly.

Cathy raises her hands and steps out onto the front porch.

UNDERCOVER COP (CONT'D)
Is there anyone else in the house.

CATHY
(scared)
Only my children.

Cathy looks back toward her living room.

INT. CATHY'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

The SWAT OFFICER leans his weapon and head through the front door.

The children stare back at him.

STERLING
Who's that?

JESSE
Shut up, Sterling.

SWAT OFFICER
Is there anyone else in here?

Jesse and Sterling shake their heads.

The Swat Officer steps inside and motions for the others to follow. Two other officers rush past with guns drawn. The SWAT Officer lowers his weapon.

SWAT OFFICER (CONT'D)
Why don't you guys come out front
with your mom? It's nice outside.

The SWAT Officer picks up Toni and guides the other two out front.

EXT. CATHY'S HOUSE - MORNING

Police Officer 1, the cop who let Cathy go with a warning, lectures her as a rookie officer searches her car nearby.

POLICE OFFICER 1
The court ordered you to report to
the community services department
for the possession charge. You
never showed up.

Cathy is distracted as the SWAT Officer emerges from the house with her children. He guides them to the front yard.

The rookie officer hands Police Officer 1 something. Police Officer 1 inspects the small bag of crystal meth that Cathy left in her car.

BARBARA (O.S.)
That's my daughter. Let me go!

Barbara pushes her way past an officer. Her car is parked in the middle of the street. Barbara rushes to Cathy.

BARBARA (CONT'D)
What's going on? What are you doing with my daughter?

POLICE OFFICER 1
Ma'am, you need to wait over there.

He points toward the SWAT Officer and Cathy's children.

POLICE OFFICER 1 (CONT'D)
Wait here.

Cathy buries her face in her hands to hide the tears as Police Officer 1 talks to Barbara.

POLICE OFFICER 1 (CONT'D)
It's a good thing you showed up when you did. Otherwise those children would be taken into State custody.

BARBARA
What?

POLICE OFFICER 1
Cathy is being arrested for failure to appear. It's a violation of her probation.

BARBARA
Probation? What probation?

POLICE OFFICER 1
This is not your daughter's first offense. If I were you, I would take those kids and get them out of here.

(off Barbara's reaction)
If you don't take custody of the children, they will end up in the foster care system. And once that happens, it's very difficult to get them out of the system.

Barbara is confused. Tears form. Police Officer 1 tries to comfort her.

POLICE OFFICER 1 (CONT'D)

Look, Cathy can call you once she gets to the police station. She gets a phone call. There's nothing you can do here. Just get the children to a safe place. Do you understand?

Barbara nods.

BARBARA

Yes. Thank you, officer.

Barbara takes Toni from the SWAT Officer and leads the children to her car. She turns back toward Cathy.

Cathy exchanges glances with her mother as Police Officer 1 handcuffs her.

INT. POLICE STATION - DAY

The Undercover Cop fills out paperwork.

UNDERCOVER COP

So, you're a court reporter?

Cathy looks up with puppy dog eyes. She nods.

CATHY

Can you take these handcuffs off?

The Undercover Cop pauses.

UNDERCOVER COP

Sorry. I would have thought after seeing so many people sentenced that you might have known better.

He continues his paperwork.

CATHY

Can I make my phone call?

UNDERCOVER COP

You failed to appear for community service on your possession charge. That's a violation of probation.

CATHY

Can I make my call?

(Beat)

Look, I have rights!

UNDERCOVER COP

Right now, you're being booked and taken into custody. You're lucky we didn't catch you with more drugs than we did.

CATHY

I told you before, I'm not a drug dealer. I don't know why you think I am.

The Undercover Cop reads Cathy's expression as she fights back tears. He has compassion and hands her the phone.

Cathy struggles to dial with her wrists cuffed.

CATHY (CONT'D)

(into phone)

Hi Dad. Dad?

(long pause)

Hi Mom. Yeah, I'm okay.

Cathy wipes tears from her eyes as she listens.

CATHY (CONT'D)

I know, Mom. They arrested me for a violation... I mean for possession of a controlled substance.

(Beat)

No! I'm not a drug dealer. It's not as serious as it sounds. I'll be out in a couple of days.

Cathy rolls her eyes in frustration.

CATHY (CONT'D)

Are the kids okay?

UNDERCOVER COP

Okay, you've had your call. You need to cut it short.

CATHY

Mom, call my attorney and tell him I was arrested. I've got to go.

The Undercover Cop reaches for the phone.

CATHY (CONT'D)

I love you too. Okay, bye.

The undercover Cop takes the receiver and hangs it up.

INT. POLICE STATION, HOLDING CELL - AFTERNOON

The cell door SLAMS SHUT. Cathy faces VICTORIA GONZALES, 20s, a butch Hispanic woman with a single earring. A few other women eye the newcomer.

GONZALES

What are you looking at Bolillo?

(Beat)

Come here and sit on my lap.

Gonzales slaps her knee and laughs when Cathy moves to the opposite side of the cell and sits down.

GONZALES (CONT'D)

What, you don't like Mexican women?

Her comment gets a laugh from the other women.

GONZALES (CONT'D)

What are you in for? Prostitution?

Are you a prostitute?

CATHY

No. Just a violation.

Gonzales pulls a cigarette and lighter out of her bra. She lights up.

GONZALES

Who did you violate?

Cathy shifts uncomfortably as the ladies laugh again.

FEMALE OFFICER (O.S.)

Leave her alone Gonzales! She's mine.

A heavy-set FEMALE OFFICER stands at the cell door with another officer.

GONZALES

Oh you wish, grande!

The ladies laugh again.

FEMALE OFFICER

Where'd you get the cigarette? Put it out.

GONZALES

Oh come on, I just lit it.

The Female Officer unlocks the cell.

Gonzales stomps out her cigarette.

FEMALE OFFICER
Give me the lighter.

After a brief stare down, Gonzales pulls the lighter out of her bra and hands it to the officer.

FEMALE OFFICER (CONT'D)
It's time for you ladies to move
into your new residence.

The two officers stand to the side of the cell. Female Officer points down the hall.

FEMALE OFFICER (CONT'D)
Last door on the right. You guessed
it. Behind door number three... a
new wardrobe!

The two officers laugh at the Price is Right reference.

Gonzales is the only one of the prisoners laughing. She shakes her butt.

GONZALES
I love blue mumus!
(to Cathy)
What's wrong with you, Bolillo? You
didn't even have to wait.

Cathy is miserable.

INT. COUNTY JAIL, CELL BLOCK - NIGHT

Cathy and Gonzales carry prison issue sheets, pillows and clothing as they are led into a cell block. Each cell has 18 bunk beds. The Female Officer opens a cell door.

FEMALE OFFICER
Welcome to Orange County' ladies.

Most of the women are Hispanic and laying on their bunks. Only a few empty bunks remain. Cathy steps inside first.

A skinny, black, tattooed WITCH with a serpentine accent in her 20s, stares at the new girls. She's a gang-banger.

WITCH
Gonzales is back!

Cathy hesitates at the sight of the Witch. Gonzales slams her shoulder against Cathy's to get past her.

GONZALES

Get out of my way.

Gonzales marches directly to the open bunk at the back.

Cathy places her belongings on the only open upper bunk and caresses her shoulder. GIGI, mid 20s and eight and a half months pregnant pushes herself upright on the lower bunk.

GIGI

This your first time?

Cathy steps back to get a look at her and nods.

GIGI (CONT'D)

You'll get used to it. I'm Gigi.

Cathy shakes her hand.

CATHY

Cathy.

GIGI

You look tired.

CATHY

It took twelve hours to process us.
(whispers)
Who's the black girl with the
tattoos?

The Witch is staring at Cathy and Gigi.

GIGI

Stay away from her. She's a
witch... like serious.

As Cathy makes her bed, some of the ladies start whistling and humming the Inspector Gadget song. Cathy turns around.

INSPECTOR GADGET, a frumpy, older woman marches up and down between the bunks staring at the ground with her hands clasped behind her back, just like Inspector Gadget.

FEMALE OFFICER (V.O.)

(intercom)

Light's out, ladies.

With a LOUD BREAKER SOUND, the bright overhead lights go out, leaving only dim night lights on.

Cathy climbs up into her bed and pulls a sheet over herself.

Inspector Gadget keeps marching. Three younger women dance promiscuously under one dim light. The NOISE doesn't subside.

Cathy pulls the covers up to her face and lays in bed with her eyes open. She starts to silently cry.

INT. COUNTY JAIL, CELL BLOCK - MORNING

A LOUD BREAKER SOUND. The bright overhead lights turn on.

Cathy rolls over squinting, looking thrashed. She hasn't slept much. She gasps when she realizes she's in jail.

A guard opens the cell block door so the women can shower.

Cathy sits up as the other women get ready for the day. She looks over at Gonzales.

Gonzales hands some pills to the Witch, who opens her locker and takes out a bar of soap for her.

Gigi realizes that Cathy was watching the exchange.

GIGI

I've got a bar of soap you can have
if you need it.

CATHY

Thanks.

Cathy climbs down off the bunk. She's shaking.

Gigi reaches down into her locker.

INT. COUNTY JAIL, COMMISSARY - MORNING

Cathy reaches down and picks up a plastic tray: oatmeal, toast, and a couple hard boiled eggs. She gets a cup of coffee and a glass of juice and follows Gigi to a table. She's wearing a blue v-neck and blue cotton pants, like everyone else.

Gigi notices that Cathy is shaking as they sit down.

GIGI

You jonesing?

Cathy nods. She doesn't touch her food.

GIGI (CONT'D)

You got stamps?

Cathy looks confused.

GIGI (CONT'D)

You want to trade your breakfast? I can get you something to help.

Cathy thinks about it. She nods.

CATHY

Okay.

Gigi looks around. She leans back and whispers to an inmate at the next table.

GIGI

You have seroquel? I can get you an extra breakfast.

The inmate looks for guards, then hands Gigi an empty tray.

Gigi exchanges the trays and hands Cathy's tray to the other inmate.

The empty tray has a pill on it.

GIGI (CONT'D)

Snort that when you get back to the cell. Just half of it.

Cathy grabs the pill and hides it behind her back.

INT. COUNTY JAIL - INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY

An officer takes Cathy's handcuffs off and shuts the door behind himself as he leaves. CATHY'S ATTORNEY, a middle-aged litigation lawyer in a very expensive suit, leans back in his chair, disgusted by Cathy's appearance.

CATHY'S ATTORNEY

How are you doing, Cathy? You look like hell.

CATHY

Welcome to Club Med.

Humiliated, Cathy sits at the far end of the table.

CATHY'S ATTORNEY

Your parents put some money in your commissary account. Buy yourself some shampoo before the arraignment.

Her attorney jots a note down in his notebook.

CATHY

How bad is it?

CATHY'S ATTORNEY

Could be better. The problem is that you're already on probation.

CATHY

(angry)

Why did they come to my house with a SWAT team?

CATHY'S ATTORNEY

Someone tipped them off that you were trafficking drugs.

CATHY

What!? Who would do that?

CATHY'S ATTORNEY

Fortunately, they only found point zero four grams of crystal meth. They wanted to get you for dealing.

Cathy chokes back tears.

CATHY

What's going to happen to me?

CATHY'S ATTORNEY

They'll charge you with violation of probation and possession of a controlled substance.

(Beat)

I'll talk to the judge and enter a plea for community service and credit for time served. I can't imagine it will be any worse than that. The jails are overcrowded as it is.

CATHY

Are my kids okay? Am I going to get to see them?

Her attorney shakes his head. He tries to be compassionate.

CATHY'S ATTORNEY

You're lucky that your mom showed up when she did.

(Beat)

(MORE)

CATHY'S ATTORNEY (CONT'D)
They're not going to let you see
them until after you're released.

Cathy cries as the attorney leaves.

INT. SANTA ANA COURT, JUDGE'S OFFICE - DAY

Cathy's attorney steps into Judge Casey's office. Judge Casey stands to shake his hand.

JUDGE CASEY
Hi Dennis. What have you got for me
today?

They shake hands.

CATHY'S ATTORNEY
Hi Bill. A couple possessions and a
violation. Nothing new.

Cathy's Attorney hands him three files. They sit across the desk from each other.

CATHY'S ATTORNEY (CONT'D)
The violation was a first-time
possession offence. When they
picked her up, they found another
tenth of a gram of crystal
methamphetamine.

Cathy's Attorney waits as the Judge flips through the files and opens one on his desk.

CATHY'S ATTORNEY (CONT'D)
The thing is... she doesn't fit the
typical profile. Her husband
committed suicide and she's got
three kids. She could use a break.

Judge Casey's countenance drops when he reads Cathy's name in the file. He leans back into his chair.

JUDGE CASEY
(angry)
Dennis, she was a court reporter in
this district. She has a DUI and a
possession charge. I had no idea.
(Beat)
Who has custody of her children?

CATHY'S ATTORNEY

Her parents. I'd like to request extended probation and community service for a guilty plea. It was less than a tenth of a gram.

The Judge leans forward as he thinks about it.

JUDGE CASEY

For a violation and a possession?

(Beat)

She worked for the court. I don't think she's in a position to bargain. What else do you have?

INT. COUNTY JAIL, CELL BLOCK - AFTERNOON

It's a typical day in paradise; some women play cards, some read and others chat it up. Cathy and Gigi sit on Gigi's lower bunk and talk quietly.

A JAIL GUARD opens the cell door.

JAIL GUARD

Take it easy on this one ladies.
She's already been beat up.

The Jail Guard locks the door after JANA, 28, a battered and bruised Caucasian prostitute steps into the cell with her jail issues. Her face is swollen, battered and bandaged.

Gonzales struts over to Jana and looks her up and down.

GONZALES

Tore up from the floor up.

Jana avoids eye contact, searching for an empty bed.

GONZALES (CONT'D)

I'm talking to you.

Gigi hops to her feet and waddles over between them.

GIGI

Leave her alone, Gonzales.

GONZALES

The knocked up whore is gonna save
beat up whore.

Gonzales laughs at her own joke, but she stops laughing when Jana catches her angry gaze, looking like she's ready to go a round or two. Gonzales walks away.

GIGI

There's an empty bunk over there,
but why don't you come hang with us
for a little while.

Jana smiles.

JANA

Thanks, Gigi.

CATHY

You guys know each other?

GIGI

Professional acquaintances.

Cathy moves to the middle of the bed so the others can relax
in corners. Awkward silence.

JANA

My John slipped me methadone. He
beat the shit out of me and...
whatever. He left me for dead in a
dumpster.

CATHY

So what are you in here for?

JANA

Parole violation.

Cathy sighs heavily.

CATHY

Me too.

GIGI

I thought you said that you were in
for possession.

CATHY

That too.
(to Jana)
I'm Cathy.

Cathy extends her hand; they shake.

JANA

Jana. Nice to meet you.

CATHY

You can take my bunk since you guys
know each other. I'll be out soon.

JANA
Really? Thanks.

CATHY
It's no big deal, my hearing is in
a couple days.

INT. SANTA ANA COURT, COURTROOM - DAY

The bailiff removes handcuffs and Cathy enters the courtroom wearing a navy blue jumpsuit. When she notices Judge Casey is presiding, she breathes a sigh of relief. She sits next to her attorney.

Judge Casey isn't smiling. He looks through paperwork.

JUDGE CASEY
The State of California verses
Cathy Penberthy, a violation of
probation sentencing hearing.
(to Cathy)
You've been apprehended with
possession of a controlled
substance while on probation.
(Beat)
Not only that, but it has come to
my attention that you've had prior
arrests, which I wasn't aware of.

He looks over his wire-rimmed spectacles at Cathy.

Cathy shrinks into her chair and scratches her head. Her attorney stands up.

CATHY'S ATTORNEY
Your Honor, considering the tragic
losses the family has suffered with
her husband's... passing, and
considering that the amount of
crystal methamphetamine was
substantially less than a tenth of
a gram, the defense requests the
sentence be limited to time served
and community service.

JUDGE CASEY
I've considered the case carefully
and I understand the surrounding
circumstances.
(Beat)
(MORE)

JUDGE CASEY (CONT'D)

However, as a court reporter, the defendant is also a representative of the judicial system, and it is upon these facts that I have based my decision. Will the defendant please stand?

Cathy looks over her shoulder to her parents, who are seated in the courtroom. She stands and faces the judge.

JUDGE CASEY (CONT'D)

Cathy, you are a disgrace to the family of the court of law, which is why I sentence you to the maximum sentence allowed by law: sixteen months in State custody.

Cathy gasps audibly in disbelief.

The gavel slams down and Judge Casey tosses the file into the pile.

JUDGE CASEY (CONT'D)

Next case, please.

Shocked, Cathy faces her parents with tear filled eyes as the bailiff places cuffs on her wrists.

Gonzales is freaked out in the holding pen, waiting for her turn. She leans over to another prisoner.

GONZALES

Oh my god, this judge sucks.

(Beat)

I was busted with two grams!

Gonzales watches, horrified, as Cathy is led into the back.

INT. COUNTY JAIL, DAY ROOM - AFTERNOON

Cathy talks on the inmate phone. Tears stream down her face.

CATHY

Say goodbye to the children for me.

(sobs)

Mom, I can't handle this!

INT. GRANDPARENT'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Barbara rubs her forehead. Her voice is tense.

BARBARA
Honey, we will get through this.
This too will pass.

INTERCUT BETWEEN BARBARA AND CATHY

CATHY
Everything in my life has passed.
This isn't going away.

BARBARA
I don't know what to say right now,
but I know that God will work it
out. Things will be okay.

CATHY
Just say goodbye to the children!

Cathy slams the phone down.

Barbara turns to Charlie, who's not even listening.

BARBARA
Charlie, I think Cathy is going to
try to kill herself!

CHARLIE
She won't kill herself. She doesn't
have the backbone for it.

Barbara clenches her teeth, frustrated.

BARBARA
Will you at least pray with me?

Cathy braces herself against the wall clinching her teeth
with tears streaming down her face.

CATHY
Tell them I loved them.

INT. COUNTY JAIL, SHOWER - NIGHT

Cathy braces herself against the shower wall under the hot,
steamy water sucking in air between sobs.

CATHY
(angry)
Why are you doing this to me? What
kind of God are you?
(Beat)
I have the worst life in the world!

Tears stream down her face as she presses her forehead into the wall in front of her.

Nearby, Gonzales whispers under her breath; she doesn't know Cathy can hear her as she walks by.

GONZALES

Oh my god, that white bitch got sixteen months for less than a point. I got less time than her!

WITCH

Good. I don't like her.

They laugh. Cathy waits till she hears them walk away.

CATHY

(yells quietly)
Why do you hate me?

She scratches her head furiously and screams quietly. Her emaciated body slumps to the floor. She leans her head back against the wall, her face contorted and distraught.

CATHY (CONT'D)

I'm so sorry, God. God, I'm sorry!

Sobs escape from the deepest wells of her soul. She chokes and gasps for air as tears stream down her face.

CATHY (CONT'D)

Daddy. Daddy, I'm so sorry. Please help me.

Cathy buries her head between her knees and cries.

INT. COUNTY JAIL, CELL BLOCK - NIGHT

Cathy watches as a new inmate is assigned to the cell block.

The NEW GIRL has her jail issues and a Bible in her hand. She lays out her stuff on the empty bunk and makes her bed. She's startled when she realizes Cathy is directly behind her.

CATHY

I'll trade you toothpaste,
toothbrush and soap for the Bible.

The New Girl thinks about it.

NEW GIRL

You can get Bibles for free.

Cathy tears up.

CATHY
I kind of need it now.

NEW GIRL
Okay.

She hands Cathy the Bible and follows her to her locker.

Cathy opens the locker and hands the stuff to the New Girl.

NEW GIRL (CONT'D)
Thanks.

CATHY
Sure.

Cathy climbs up on her bunk and opens to the table of contents. She turns to Jude.

With a LOUD BREAKER SOUND, the bright overhead lights go out.

Cathy repositions the Bible under the dim night lights. After reading a bit, Cathy slowly looks over her shoulder.

The Witch sits up unnaturally fast and jerks her head to stare directly at Cathy.

Shivers run down Cathy's spine. She looks away, closes the Bible and lays down staring at the wall.

INT. COUNTY JAIL, CELL BLOCK - AFTERNOON

Cathy, Gigi and the Jana sit on the floor to read the Bible together. Cathy shows them something in Jude.

The Witch stares at the girls from her bunk.

Gigi exchanges 'looks' with the Witch.

WITCH
What are you looking at?

GIGI
I'm looking at you, stupid.

JANA
(hoarse whisper)
Leave her alone, Gigi. She'll curse us or something.

The Witch walks over kicks Gigi.

Gigi rolls to her feet as fast as a pregnant woman can.

GIGI
You ever touch me again...

WITCH
(growls)
Go ahead try it, mommy!

The Jail Guard walks up to the bars as Gigi shoves the Witch.

JAIL GUARD
(points at Gigi)
Hey, roll it up, right now!

Deflated, Gigi goes to her bunk.

Nervously, Cathy reads aloud from her Bible. The Witch steps away and hisses at her. Jana moves away from the Witch.

CATHY
(shouts)
These are sensual people, who cause
divisions, not having the Spirit.

GONZALES
Look, now she's all religious!

Cathy keeps reading as Gonzales laughs at her.

CATHY
But you, beloved, building
yourselves up on your most holy
faith, praying in the Holy Spirit,
keep yourselves in the love of God.

The Witch follows Gigi to her bunk and leans close to her.

WITCH
Get lost whore! Time for you to get
outta here.

JAIL GUARD
(to the Witch)
Be quiet and get away from her!
(yells)
Everyone to your bunks!

The Jail Guard unlocks the cell door and steps inside as everyone scatters to their bunks.

JAIL GUARD (CONT'D)

Gigi, you can stay.
 (points at Witch)
 Roll it up! I'm moving you out.

The Witch stares Gigi down as she rolls it up. Gigi mouths the words "Thank you" to Cathy.

INT. COUNTY JAIL, CELL BLOCK - NIGHT

Two guards unlock the cell block. The Jail Guard raps a billy club on the bars.

Cathy's eyes pop open. She's freaked out.

JAIL GUARD

Penberthy and Gonzales... Roll it up! You're moving out.

Cathy climbs down. She glances over at Gonzales, who packs her belongings into a pillow case. Cathy does the same.

As she leaves, Cathy pauses and looks back at Gigi.

CATHY

I'll see you around. Good luck with the baby.

Gigi forces a smile as tears form. She waves.

EXT. COUNTY JAIL - DAWN

Shackled in pairs, female prisoners file into a transport bus sporting mumus. Cathy is the only white girl. She's chained to Gonzales, who elbows her as they climb onto the bus.

A TRANSPORT OFFICER at the bus door sees it.

TRANSPORT GUARD

Knock it off or I'll throw you both into the cage.

Gonzales scowls at him.

TRANSPORT GUARD (CONT'D)

I'm watching you.

Gonzales jerks away, yanking at the chain on Cathy's wrist. It's raw and bleeding.

INT. TRANSPORT BUS - DAY

Rows of prisoners sweat profusely as the bus travels through the desert. Cathy looks down at her wrists: dirty, bruised and dry blood. Her hair is greasy and matted.

The bus driver and two armed transport guards suffer in the heat at the front of the bus along with the women.

TRANSPORT GUARD

Can you hand me one of those?

The other guard hand Transport Guard a bottle of water.

As Cathy presses her forehead against the window watching the passing desert, Gonzales has her eye on the water.

GONZALES

Hey, we want some!

The Transport Guard clinches his teeth Clint Eastwood style.

TRANSPORT GUARD

Bet you do.

The other guard chuckles weakly at his impression.

TRANSPORT GUARD (CONT'D)

This bus duty is hell.

Cathy looks at the Transport Guard with contempt.

EXT. CHOWCHILLA STATE PRISON, ENTRANCE - EVENING

The bus pulls into an enclosed area at the front of the prison. The massive gate is shut and locked behind the bus.

An INSPECTION OFFICER steps out of a fortified office and inspects the bus, checking the doors and undercarriage.

INSIDE BUS

The Inspection Officer takes a register from the bus driver.

The Transport Guard unlocks the gate to the back of the bus

The Inspection Officer counts the names on the clipboard. He inspects the prisoners and counts them as he walks the aisle.

Cathy stares hopelessly at the ominous look of the prison, afraid. She fights back tears.

The Inspection Officer signs the register, hands it back to the driver and steps off the bus.

Outside, the large gate in front of the bus opens.

EXT. CHOWCHILLA STATE PRISON - EVENING

The bus stops at the prison processing center. The two transport guards step off the bus. One stands by the bus as the Transport Guard raps on the prison door, then heads directly to the end of a white line painted on the ground.

A couple of prison guards step outside the prison and stand on either side of the door.

Cathy and Gonzales are the first exhausted prisoners to file off the bus, grimy faces hang to the ground.

TRANSPORT GUARD
Stand on the white line!

The ladies line up as the Transport Guard points where each one should stand.

The other transport guard unlocks the prisoners, leaving the shackles on the ground behind them.

Cathy rubs her wrists as the ladies file inside: one clean band of skin on each filthy and bruised wrist.

INT. CHOWCHILLA STATE PRISON, PROCESSING CENTER - EVENING

The prisoner file into a large cage with a single toilet and small stainless steel sink on the center of the back wall.

Some ladies take up spots on benches that line the cage, others remain standing.

A heavy-set woman heads directly to the toilet. She covers herself with her mumu as she sits down. She looks at Cathy.

Cathy turns her gaze away, embarrassed. She closes her eyes.

INT. CHOWCHILLA STATE PRISON, PROCESSING CENTER - NIGHT

Hours later, the women are sprawled out on benches or on the floor - waiting. Cathy leans her head against the bars and stares at the ceiling.

Several guards walk into the room.

The women shuffle to their feet as a PRISON GUARD unlocks the cage.

PRISON GUARD
Step out onto the yellow line.

The PRISON CAPTAIN watches as the women file into place.

PRISON CAPTAIN
Welcome to Chowchilla State Prison,
ladies. You now belong to me.
(Beat)
If you do exactly as you are told,
we'll get you into your new home as
quickly as possible. I don't want
any hassles.

GONZALES
Are we gonna get any dinner?

PRISON CAPTAIN
(yells)
Did I tell you to talk? You don't
say anything unless I tell you to!
You don't do anything unless I tell
you to. You understand? You'll get
food when we give you food.
(to everyone)
Strip down and throw your clothes
in the bin. Everything comes off.

A FEMALE PRISON GUARD rolls a large laundry bin forward. She then puts on a pair of rubber gloves.

Cathy looks nervously down the line, then takes off her clothes as she sees that everyone else is already undressing.

PRISON CAPTAIN (CONT'D)
You are going to be searched one at
a time. Once you've been searched,
walk to that door. Give the guard
your name and you will be given
your prison issues. You can then
get dressed.

When the ladies are naked and facing the Captain again, two female guards start at one end of the row. The Female Prison Guard stands behind the ladies. Cathy is second in line.

FEMALE PRISON GUARD
Bend over and cough.

The first prisoner COUGHS.

CATHY
(to herself)
Oh God...

FEMALE OFFICER
You can go.
(to Cathy)
Bend over and cough.

Cathy complies: her expression the epitome of humiliation.

FEMALE PRISON GUARD
You can go... Bend over and Cough.

Cathy rushes toward the door.

INT. CHOWCHILLA STATE PRISON, SHU - NIGHT

Cathy waits as a Prison Guard unlocks a cell door. She's in her blue prison issue clothes with an arm full of linens.

PRISON GUARD
Step inside.

ROCHELLE, 60, Cathy's cantankerous, black cell mate, watches from the bottom bunk of a two-person cell.

Cathy steps inside the cell and places her linens on the empty top bunk.

The guard slams the door, locks it and walks away.

Cathy presses her face between two prison bars, swollen and raw from tears. She has a death-grip on the bars just below her chin, her hair matted down with lice and her dead gaze stares out of the lifeless cell.

ROCHELLE
I got HIV, so whatever happens is
on you.

A tear rolls down Cathy's cheek.

ROCHELLE (CONT'D)
What's your name?

Cathy wipes her eyes and turns to face her new cell mate.

CATHY
Cathy. What's yours?

ROCHELLE
None of your business. How much
time you got?

Cathy steps back to look at Rochelle. She thinks about it.

CATHY
I don't know, I was sentenced to 16
months.
(Beat)
How bout you?

ROCHELLE
(angry)
I'm gonna die in here! HIV.

Rochelle notices Cathy fight back more tears.

ROCHELLE (CONT'D)
My name's Rochelle.

INT. CHOWCHILLA STATE PRISON, SHU - DAY

A prison guard leads Cathy back to her cell. She has a brown bag in her hands. He unlocks the cell and lets her in, then locks the cell behind her and leaves.

Rochelle stares at Cathy from her bunk.

ROCHELLE
They take your blood?

Cathy nods.

ROCHELLE (CONT'D)
What's in the bag?

CATHY
I guess if you fill out Christmas
cards, there's some church group
that buys presents for your
children.
(shrugs)
At least they'll get something.

ROCHELLE
I don't have a family.

Rochelle's eyes well-up with tears.

Cathy is moved with compassion. She sets the bag down.

CATHY

Rochelle... Can I sit?

Rochelle shrugs, but doesn't sit up.

Cathy sits next to Rochelle. She's nervous and scratches her head again.

Can I... pray for you?

Rochelle scrunches her face. She stares at Cathy's head.

ROCHELLE

I think you have lice.

Cathy doesn't know what to do, so she closes her eyes and pray as Rochelle searches for lice in her hair.

CATHY

Lord, I know you love us. And I know we deserve to be here, but could you heal Rochelle?

Rochelle looks at Cathy like she's crazy

EXT. CHOWCHILLA STATE PRISON, SHU - NIGHT

Cathy has paperwork all over her bunk as she puts Christmas cards into envelopes.

Gonzales stops sweeping the tier outside Cathy's cell.

GONZALES

Hey Cathy...

Cathy looks up expecting the worst.

GONZALES (CONT'D)

Just wanted to say sorry for treating you so bad before.

Cathy sits up.

CATHY

Thanks, Victoria, that means a lot.

GONZALES

You filling out Christmas cards?

CATHY

Yeah, I've got three kids. You?

Gonzales shakes her head.

GONZALES

I can mail them if you want. They
keep outgoing mail in the closet.

CATHY

Really? Thanks!

Cathy rushes to put the last card in the envelope and hands them to Gonzalez through the bars.

Cathy presses her head against the bars and watches Gonzales walk down the tier and toss them in the trash. She laughs.

Devastated, Cathy falls back against the wall and cries.

INT. CHOWCHILLA STATE PRISON, CELL BLOCK - AFTERNOON

CELL BLOCK GUARD leads Cathy to an eight person cell and unlocks the door. She lugs her stuff along the tier.

CELL BLOCK GUARD

Well, go on.

Cathy enters and the Cell Block Guard locks the door.

EMMA, 25, a fiery redhead stretched out on a bottom bunk, looks up from her book. She grins.

EMMA

I guess you're my new bunkie. Your
locker is on the bottom.

Cathy approaches to shake Emma's hand, but Emma doesn't move.

CATHY

I'm Cathy.

EMMA

Emma.

Emma picks her book back up as Cathy organizes her stuff into her locker.

GREEN EYES (O.S.)

(yells)

Would you be quiet?

GREEN EYES, a black 30 year-old with intense, green eyes climbs out of a lower bunk at the back of the cell. It's covered with a blanket hanging from the upper bunk.

GREEN EYES (CONT'D)
It's Saturday! Everybody's sleep'n
until you barge in makin' noise!

Cathy stands up, caught off-guard by the bright, green eyes.

CATHY
I'm sorry. I didn't mean to...

SHAY, a hulky black girl in her mid 20s, climbs out of the same bunk Green Eyes was in, squinting at the light.

SHAY
Damn girl, you make a lot of noise.

Cathy is shocked. She watches Shay pour herself a drink out of her locker.

GREEN EYES
What you staring at?
(to Amanda)
MAN-da, come here!

Amanda, a butch Mexican chick in her 20s, jumps out of her own bunk and answers Green Eyes' summons.

GREEN EYES (CONT'D)
Watch this one. She looks sweet
enough. Show her the ropes.

Green Eyes returns to her bunk.

Emma laughs out loud. Amanda shoots Emma a dirty look, then places her hand on Cathy's chest.

AMANDA
(seductive)
You need anything, you let me know.

Amanda winks at her. Cathy abruptly climbs onto her bunk with her Bible in hand. Emma gets up and seductively approaches Shay with a plastic cup in her hand.

EMMA
Hey Shay baby... how bout a taste
of your hootch.

Shay laughs.

SHAY
You make getting drunk sound like
so much fun.

Shay takes Emma's cup and fills it from her locker.

MARGE, an old black lady on the next bunk is fed up.

MARGE
You're all a bunch of drunks!

EMMA
Cheers!

Emma heads back to her bunk and sits down.

INT. CHOWCHILLA STATE PRISON, CELL BLOCK - MORNING

Emma sits on her bunk rubbing her forehead. She's hung over.

The cell door is open as the women head to work. Cathy doesn't know what to do. She leans over to ask Emma.

CATHY
What am I supposed to do?

Emma scrunches her face.

EMMA
Stop yelling. Go down to the C.O.
He'll tell you what to do.

Emma is the last one out, except for Cathy and Marge.

MARGE
Leave the cell open. I got to mop
the floors.

Cathy follows Marge out of the cell, scratching her head.

EXT. CHOWCHILLA STATE PRISON, CELL BLOCK OFFICE - DAY

Cathy follows several women on their way to the yard and leans her head into the office.

CATHY
Excuse me. I'm not sure what I'm
supposed to be doing.

The CELL BLOCK LIEUTENANT looks up from his desk.

CELL BLOCK LIEUTENANT
Name.

CATHY
Cathy Penberthy.

He looks through a register and looks up at Cathy, who is scratching her head vigorously. He reluctantly stands up and approaches Cathy to inspect her head.

CELL BLOCK LIEUTENANT
You have lice, Penberthy. What cell
you in?

Cathy points.

CATHY
Second one on the top tier.

The Cell Block Lieutenant sees the cell door open.

INT. CHOWCHILLA STATE PRISON, CELL BLOCK - DAY

All of the women from Cathy's cell stand on the tier with the Cell Block Lieutenant as several guards ransack the cell.

Green Eyes is particularly angry. She pushes past others.

GREEN EYES
We had an agreement, you're not
supposed to search this cell!

CELL BLOCK LIEUTENANT
Unless you leave it open.

The Female Prison Guard takes Shay's hootch out of the cell.

GREEN EYES
(yells)
Who left the door open?

Cathy shrinks behind Emma. Marge points at Cathy.

MARGE
She was the last one out.

Guards throw linens, pillows and clothes onto the tier.

Green Eyes get up in Cathy's face. Cathy is terrified.

GREEN EYES
This is your fault!
(to Amanda)
MAN-da, I told you to watch your
girl. Keep her in line!

CELL BLOCK LIEUTENANT
Calm down! Go shower off. Throw
your clothes out onto the tier.

The cell is a mess. The pile of linens is huge.

INT. CHOWCHILLA STATE PRISON, BATHROOM - EVENING

Several of the prisoners are wrapped in nothing but clean towels as they take turns washing their hair in the sinks.

Emma combs through Cathy's hair searching for lice.

The Female Prison Guard wearing rubber gloves sprays something in Green Eye's hair after she's done washing it.

FEMALE PRISON GUARD

Turn around.

The Female Prison Guard inspects Green Eye's head.

FEMALE PRISON GUARD (CONT'D)

You're clear.

Green Eyes intentionally slams into Cathy's shoulder as she leaves. Cathy remains quiet and rubs her sore shoulder.

INT. CHOWCHILLA STATE PRISON, CELL BLOCK - NIGHT

The cell door is open as the cell mates reorganize their lockers and get ready for bed. It's chaotic and noisy.

All the beds are neatly made with new blankets and linens, except Cathy's. Her mattress is bare, not even a pillow. The only thing on her bed is her Bible.

Cathy is the last one back. She's wearing prison clothes. Her shoulders slump when she sees her empty bed.

The Female Prison Guard locks the cell behind her as the other guards remove the last trash bags full of linens.

Amanda slams into Cathy's sore shoulder. She winces.

AMANDA

You mess up again, I'll kill you.

Cathy's lip quivers and her eyes water up from fear as much as the pain in her shoulder.

Green Eyes is already in bed.

GREEN EYES

Keep it down!

The noise subsides immediately.

With a LOUD BREAKER SOUND, the bright overhead lights go out, leaving only dim night lights on. Shay dances in the light.

SHAY

Let's have a party!

GREEN EYES

Shut up, Shay!

SHAY

You shut up. Hey everybody, bring me your fruit from breakfast. I'll make more hootch!

As the others respond, Green Eyes gets up and punches Shay.

SHAY (CONT'D)

You bitch!

Shay punches Green Eyes' face and the two ladies brawl. The fight is brutal and encouraged by the cheering cell mates.

Cathy climbs onto her bare bunk with her Bible to avoid them.

Shay and Green Eyes punch each other entangled on the floor until Green Eyes finally gets Shay in a bloodied headlock.

GREEN EYES

You're cut off, Shay. You're done.

The noise subsides. Green Eyes releases Shay; she's humiliated and returns to her bunk in defeat.

Cathy lays down on her bunk gripping her Bible. She stares through the bars, fully clothed and miserable. She props herself back up and whispers?

CATHY

(whispers)

What?

(hears a silent voice)

Pastor Chuck?

Cathy opens her Bible and pulls out a Calvary Chapel pamphlet and looks on the back. She reads it.

INT. GRANDPARENT'S HOUSE - DAY

Jesse listens intently as he talks on the phone. He grins.

JESSE

School is all right.

(Beat)

(MORE)

JESSE (CONT'D)
 Sterling and Toni are good too.
 Hey, you know what? Grandma got in
 a accident! Someone hit her car.

INT. CHOWCHILLA STATE PRISON, DAY ROOM - AFTERNOON

Cathy grips the phone, breathless and in shock.

CATHY
 What!?! Is she okay? When did this
 happen?

INTERCUT BETWEEN CATHY AND JESSE

JESSE
 Yeah, she's okay. She's standing
 right here.
 (Beat)
 Okay.
 (to Barbara)
 Mom wants to talk to you.

Barbara takes the phone from Jesse.

BARBARA
 Hi honey. I'm okay. It was only a
 bumper bender in a parking lot.

Cathy panics.

CATHY
 Mom, what if something happens to
 the kids before I get out?
 (Beat)
 What!?!

Charlie walks into the room as Barbara speaks slowly and
 deliberately into the phone.

BARBARA
 Would you still trust God if one of
 us did die?

Cathy is almost in tears.

CATHY
 Why would you say that?
 (calms herself)
 Yeah... actually I would.
 (Beat)
 Yeah, I've been reading the
 pamphlets. You know what?
 (MORE)

CATHY (CONT'D)

When I was reading one of them the other night... I think God said I'm supposed to help Pastor Chuck with his books.

(Beat)

Mom?

Barbara doesn't know how to respond.

BARBARA

I'm still here. That's nice dear. You just take care of... What was that? Cathy?

Charlie is surprised when Barbara abruptly hangs up.

BARBARA (CONT'D)

I guess her time is up. She thinks she's supposed to help Pastor Chuck write books.

Charlie shakes his head.

CHARLIE

She's just confused.

EXT. CHOWCHILLA STATE PRISON, YARD - DAY

Cathy strolls casually across the busy prison yard. She has gained a lot of weight.

SUPER: 6 MONTHS LATER

Rochelle runs to Cathy. Cathy doesn't recognize her.

ROCHELLE

Cathy! Your prayer worked. The AIDS is gone!

Rochelle can't contain her smile. She looks great.

CATHY

Ah... Rochelle!

ROCHELLE

You healed me!

Other black women shoot her a nasty look.

CATHY

Oh, I didn't do it. That was the Lord.

ROCHELLE
 We're not supposed to be talking...
 I'm black. But I had to let you
 know... your prayer worked!

Rochelle runs back to her friends. Cathy smiles then walks into a building on the far side of the yard.

INT. CHOWCHILLA STATE PRISON, CAPTAIN'S OFFICE - DAY

Cathy steps into a small office. The Prison Captain sits behind a desk with piles of paperwork.

PRISON CAPTAIN
 Name?

CATHY
 Cathy Penberthy.

The Prison Captain finds her file.

PRISON CAPTAIN
 Sit down.
 (waits)
 You will be transferred to a
 halfway house in Costa Mesa
 tomorrow for work furlough.

Cathy's face beams with delight.

PRISON CAPTAIN (CONT'D)
 I wouldn't let any other inmates
 know. There can be problems if they
 think you are being released.

The Prison Captain hands her some paperwork.

PRISON GUARD
 Sign the top copy indicating you
 have received the rules.

The Prison Captain hands Cathy a pen. She signs as he talks.

PRISON CAPTAIN
 You are free to go where you like
 from breakfast to dinner. The hours
 are in the rules. You have 30 days
 to get a job. If you don't, you
 will be returned here to finish
 your time. So, I strongly suggest
 you get a job.

Cathy hands the signed form to the Prison Captain.

CATHY

Will I get to see my kids?

The Prison Guard looks through her file.

PRISON GUARD

One hour a week, with supervision.
If you attempt to contact them
apart from the supervised visits,
you will be returned here. Do you
understand?

Cathy nods. She doesn't look up as she fights back tears.

INT. CHOWCHILLA STATE PRISON, CELL BLOCK - MORNING

As the girls get ready for the work day, Cathy clears out her locker. She hands her Bible to Emma.

EMMA

Are you sure?

CATHY

Are you kidding? I'm honored to let
you have it. I can get another one.

Emma tears up.

CATHY (CONT'D)

You're going to make me cry, Em.

Emma grabs Cathy and hugs her tightly.

EMMA

We're gonna miss your lice.

CATHY

Thanks! Hey, you're a short timer.
You'll be done soon.

Green Eyes catches Cathy's eye. She nods her goodbye.

Cathy takes a bag of M&Ms out of her locker and hands it to Green Eyes, who's shocked.

GREEN EYES

Thanks kid. You're all right.

CATHY

Take care of yourself.

Cathy grabs the pillowcase filled with her belongings and leaves the cell for the last time.

EXT. HALFWAY HOUSE - EVENING

An unmarked van with barred, tinted windows enters the garage. The door closes. A Sheriff's vehicle pulls into the driveway.

INT. HALFWAY HOUSE, GARAGE - EVENING

A deputy SHERIFF and his partner step out of the van and open the back passenger door. Cathy and two other shackled women climb out, wearing street clothes.

The RESIDENT SUPERVISOR enters the garage from the house as the sheriffs unshackle the women.

RESIDENT SUPERVISOR

Ladies, welcome to Costa Mesa. I'm Janet, the resident supervisor. This will be your new home until your release date.

(Beat)

We have house rules that we'll go over once we get inside, but basically, you need to get a job, you'll have chores, a curfew and you'll be required to stay sober and drug-free... go figure.

The girls laugh. The Sheriff holds a GPS monitoring device.

SHERIFF

You are required to wear a GPS monitoring device. If you remove it or tamper with it, you will go back to prison. So, don't try it.

The girls grumble as the Sheriff places the devices on them.

RESIDENT SUPERVISOR

Look, it's better than being locked up, right? I've been through this program. Trust me, you'll be glad you were able to participate... if you follow the rules.

CATHY

When can I see my children?

RESIDENT SUPERVISOR

I'll talk to each of you privately about your personal circumstances.

The Sheriff deputy hands a clipboard to the Resident Supervisor. He signs the form.

INT. HALFWAY HOUSE - DAY

The DOORBELL RINGS. Charlie and Barbara appear on the front step with the three children when the Resident Supervisor opens the door. Toni is now a toddler.

CHARLIE

We're here to see our daughter,
Cathy.

RESIDENT SUPERVISOR

Oh, come on in. She's right here.

Cathy waits anxiously in the front room and runs and hugs Barbara, who is the first one inside, followed by Toni.

CATHY

Oh mom! It's so good to see you.

Charlie forces a smile when Cathy notices him over Barbara's shoulder. Jesse and Sterling look slightly older and watch Cathy like she is an alien.

RESIDENT SUPERVISOR

(to Cathy)

I'll be in the dining room. You
have one hour.

Toni hides behind Barbara as Cathy's gaze alternates between Jesse and Sterling.

CATHY

Hi Jesse. Hi Sterling.

The kids don't move closer.

JESSE

You got fat.

CATHY

Yeah. Mommy gained a lot of weight.

(Beat)

Can I have a hug.

Jesse and Sterling take turns hugging her.

CATHY (CONT'D)

I love you guys so much. I can't
tell you how much I've missed you.

STERLING

Are we going home now?

CATHY

Not yet honey. I have to find a job
and we have to find a new house.

CHARLIE

Are we going to sit now?

CATHY

Oh yeah. Come on in. Hi dad.

Cathy hugs Charlie. He forces a smile and steps into the living room.

Cathy sits on a love seat, while everyone else squeezes onto the sofa. Sterling stands next to Barbara and leans on her.

CATHY (CONT'D)

Sterling, you can come sit by me.

Sterling doesn't move.

BARBARA

She's being shy right now.

CHARLIE

Have you found a job yet?

Cathy shakes her head. Barbara does too; upset at Charlie.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Court reporting is a good job. I
think you should try to get it
back. I brought your Stenograph
machine.

Cathy fights back tears.

BARBARA

Charlie!

(to Cathy)

Honey, we just want the best for
you.

CATHY

I don't know what to do. I don't
think I can get my license back.

CHARLIE

Well try. You need to do something.

CATHY

I think I've had enough for now.

Cathy stands and walks to the door to hide her tears.

CHARLIE

Me too. Let's go get the
Stenograph.

Barbara yanks Charlie back when he tries to stand up. She shoots Charlie a dirty look and waits till Cathy walks out.

BARBARA

Charlie, she needs you to be her
father right now, not her judge.

JESSE

Is she gonna be okay?

Barbara is overwhelmed by Jesse's question.

BARBARA

I hope so, honey.

EXT. HALFWAY HOUSE - DAY

Cathy waits for Charlie to open the trunk. He takes out the Stenograph and hands it to her.

CATHY

Thanks dad.

Charlie nods.

CHARLIE

I do hope everything works out.

Cathy hugs Barbara, but when she tries to hug Toni, Toni hides behind Barbara.

BARBARA

See you at the 10 o'clock service?

Cathy forces a smile.

CATHY

Yeah. I really want to meet Pastor
Chuck. If it wasn't for his
pamphlets...

Cathy breathes in deeply and sighs. She turns to hug Sterling and Jesse.

CATHY (CONT'D)

I guess I'll see you guys soon. I
love you.

Cathy picks up the Stenograph and abruptly rushes toward the house as tears begin to flow.

The Resident Supervisor waits for Cathy at the front door.

RESIDENT SUPERVISOR

The transition is the hardest part.
It'll get better.

Cathy nods agreement and glances back at her family before she disappears inside.

Charlie stares at her as Barbara loads kids into the car.

CHARLIE

She hasn't changed a bit.

INT. CALVARY CHAPEL COSTA MESA, FOYER - MORNING

Cathy and Barbara HEAR WORSHIP MUSIC in the busy foyer at the beginning of the service. Cathy searches anxiously for her children. GLENDA, 65, a church matriarch b-lines to Barbara.

GLENDA

(shouts)

This must be Cathy! It's so good to
see you.

Glenda hugs Barbara vigorously. She grabs Cathy's hand to shake it.

GLENDA (CONT'D)

Hi Cathy, I'm Glenda. It's so good
to finally meet you. I've heard so
much about you!

Cathy is horrified.

GLENDA (CONT'D)

We have a widowed-women's group
that meets at 7 on Tuesdays. I do
hope you can make it.

CATHY

(panics)

Mom... What did you say?

GLEENDA

It's a safe place. Every one of us has lost our husband for one reason or another.

(Beat)

I can't wait to get to know you!

With that, Glenda waves goodbye and darts into the sanctuary.

BARBARA

She's exuberant. But she is an amazing person and she means well.

CATHY

Where's dad and the kids?

Barbara puts her arm around Cathy.

BARBARA

At home. You're not supposed to see them unsupervised.

Cathy is frustrated to the point of tears.

BARBARA (CONT'D)

I'm sorry, honey. You have to follow the rules. We'll get through this together.

Cathy nods. Barbara nudges her into the sanctuary.

INT. CALVARY CHAPEL COSTA MESA, SANCTUARY - CONTINUOUS

PASTOR CHUCK, 70s, waits at the pulpit for the MUSIC TO END.

Cathy and Barbara slide into an aisle and sit down.

PASTOR CHUCK

Well normally I don't share the announcements, but today is a special day. We have a baby dedication! It's a very special time in the life of the church family.

As Pastor Chuck speaks, Cathy turns to her mother, caught between heartbreak and laughter.

CATHY

That's Pastor Chuck? I pictured him young... and with dark curly hair!

Cathy and her mom have a good laugh.

CATHY

I wrote a letter to Rick Black asking him to renew my license. He's the head of the court reporting association. I don't know if he will.

Jesse walks over and sits next to Cathy as she talks. She puts her arm around him and hugs him.

Barbara tears up when she sees it.

BARBARA

Oh, I almost forgot... There's a receptionist job open in the accounting department at the church. I bet they'd hire you.

Cathy becomes uncomfortable.

CATHY

Oh... I don't do numbers well.

RESIDENT SUPERVISOR

I could write a letter of recommendation, Cathy. I've never seen anyone type as fast as you.

CATHY

Thank you, Janet.

Sterling sneaks her way over and sits on Cathy's other side.

BARBARA

Can you get permission to go to the widowed wives group?

Cathy cringes.

CATHY

It's past my curfew, mom.

RESIDENT SUPERVISOR

What's the widowed wives group?

BARBARA

It's a church group for ladies who have lost their husbands.

RESIDENT SUPERVISOR

It sounds like it might be good for you, Cathy. When do they meet?

CATHY
Tuesdays from 7 to 9.

Cathy is surprised as the Resident Supervisor considers it.

RESIDENT SUPERVISOR
We can work that out.

INT. DONNA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Cathy is shocked at what she is hearing as SHERYL, a prissy middle-aged widow speaks through her tears.

SHERYL
It was awful trying to care for the children. Bill's fight with cancer went on for two and a half years.

Sheryl sniffles and leans back in her chair.

A half dozen women contemplate silently and sip their tea.

DONNA, a strong, practical woman redirects the conversation.

DONNA
Thank for sharing, Sheryl. Would anyone else like to share?

Glenda looks directly at Cathy.

GLENDA
Cathy dear, why don't you share how your husband died?

Petrified, Cathy's mind starts racing.

CATHY
My husband was diabetic. We could never get his blood-sugar level right. It would get really high.

Sheryl speaks up compassionately.

SHERYL
I had a friend who went into a diabetic coma too. It was awful.

Cathy decides to leave it there.

GLENDA
Oh... There's so many diseases we don't understand well enough. I'm sorry, Cathy. Can I pray for you?

Cathy hesitates, so Glenda just stands up and places her hand on Cathy's shoulder. Other women follow suit.

GLEENDA (CONT'D)

Lord we come to you openly and
honestly seeking healing for Cathy.
She's your daughter...

Cathy's shoulders slump. She stares blankly as Glenda prays.

INT. CALVARY CHAPEL COSTA MESA, OFFICES - DAY

Cathy leans forward attentively at a conference table, dressed in business attire. She looks good again!

CATHY

I was a court reporter. I can take
dictation at... maybe 170 words a
minute. I can type about 65.

JOHN EZELL, the senior church accountant, leans back in his chair, impressed.

JOHN EZELL

Wow. I understand that you attend
the church now.

Cathy nods, pleased.

JOHN EZELL (CONT'D)

And you were recently released from
prison.

Stress replaces the peace she just had. She nods again.

John watches her facial expression intently.

JOHN EZELL (CONT'D)

Don't worry, that won't disqualify
you. There tends to be a lot of
people around here with a similar
history.

(smiles broadly)

The job pays \$15 an hour.

CATHY

Anything is fine. I really need
this job.

JOHN EZELL

Okay. Can you be here on Monday?

Cathy's smile flashes as bright as ever. She leaps to her feet and extends her hand.

CATHY

Yes I can. Thank you, Mr. Ezell.

John stands up and shakes her hand.

JOHN EZELL

Thank you.

Cathy opens the door to leave. She hesitates and turns back, right before walking out.

CATHY

I think I'm supposed to help Pastor Chuck with his books.

JOHN EZELL

(condescending)

That's nice, dear. I'll see you on Monday.

CATHY

Thank you.

Cathy leaves embarrassed.

INT. LOGOS BUILDING - DAY

Cathy struts over to the RECEPTIONIST looking sharp.

CATHY

Hi, I'm here to see John Ezell.

RECEPTIONIST

You must be Cathy. I'm sorry but there's been a bit of a mix up.

Cathy's countenance drops; concern and fear mark her face.

CATHY

Oh, okay. That's fine.

The Receptionist recognizes her concern when she looks up.

RECEPTIONIST

Don't worry. They want you to report to Mark Rich on the fifth floor. They need someone to do the radio promotions.

Cathy's joy returns. The receptionist hands Cathy a map.

RECEPTIONIST (CONT'D)
X marks the spot. The elevators are
right over there.

Cathy smiles broadly.

CATHY
Thank you so much!

INT. LOGOS BUILDING, WORD FOR TODAY OFFICES - DAY

Cathy searches the internet in her new cubicle.

CATHY
(to herself)
It's got to be here somewhere.

John Ezell leans into the cubicle.

JOHN EZELL
Hi, Cathy, how are you doing? Do
you have everything you need?

Startled, Cathy spins around.

CATHY
Mr. Ezell, hi.

Cathy stands to face him.

CATHY (CONT'D)
Yeah, just getting situated.

JOHN EZELL
I hope you don't mind the last
minute switch. They needed someone
over here to keep up with the
workflow.

CATHY
Oh no... it's great. Thank you for
recommending me.

JOHN EZELL
My pleasure. If you need anything,
let me know.

Cathy sighs a huge sigh of relief.

CATHY
(to herself)
What the heck is a radio promo?

Cathy sits back down and picks up a book...

INSERT - BOOK COVER - THE END OF THE WORLD AS WE KNOW IT.

She flips it over, then goes back to her internet search.

INT. LOGOS BUILDING, RADIO PROGRAM OFFICE - DAY

MARK RICH, 37, notices Cathy as she passes his office.

MARK

Hey Cathy!

He motions for her to come in.

Cathy steps into the office and notices a completed promo sitting on Mark's desk.

MARK (CONT'D)

How's the End of the World promo coming along?

CATHY

Hi Mr. Rich. It's good. I'm still working on it.

Mark's PHONE RINGS.

MARK

I need that by four at the latest. We go on air tonight with it.

Mark misses the fear on Cathy's face as he turns to answer the phone.

MARK (CONT'D)

Hi, Mark Rich speaking.

Cathy grabs the promo off Mark's desk and rushes out of the office.

INT. LOGOS BUILDING, WORD FOR TODAY OFFICES - MOMENTS LATER

Cathy rushes into her cubicle with the promo and immediately starts banging away at the keyboard. She picks up the book again, reads the back of it and returns to the keyboard.

INT. HALFWAY HOUSE, LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Cathy sits anxiously across from the Resident Supervisor and her PAROLE OFFICER.

PAROLE OFFICER
So how long have you had the job?

CATHY
A couple months. Here's the pay stubs.

Cathy hands him the stubs. He looks at them.

PAROLE OFFICER
And you think you can pay rent and raise three kids on this?

Cathy's emotions hang in the balance. She fidgets.

CATHY
My kids attend school for free at Calvary Chapel because I'm on staff.
(Beat)
And my parents are going to let me move in with them for a few months so I can save some money.

PAROLE OFFICER
How is the 12 step program going.

CATHY
It's fine. I've never had any urges to go back to it.

The Parole Officer doesn't believe her.

RESIDENT SUPERVISOR
Cathy is also attending a weekly widowed wives group.

CATHY
They're great. They know exactly what I've been through. They pray for me...

The Parole Officer scoffs. There is an uncomfortable silence.

RESIDENT SUPERVISOR
I've been doing this a long time. I think she's ready.

Cathy pleads like a puppy dog with her eyes.

PAROLE OFFICER
You still have 2 years on your
parole. Don't blow it this time.

The Parole Officer grins. He stands up to shake Cathy's hand.
Cathy leaps on him and hugs him tightly.

CATHY
Thank you! I won't.

EXT. GRANDPARENT'S HOUSE - DAY

Cathy gets out of her dad's car and steps around to the driver's side. Charlie also gets out and watches Cathy take a single box from the back seat. He takes the box from her.

CHARLIE
I really am proud of you, honey.

Cathy's lips quiver. She immediately tears up. She hugs him.

CATHY
Thank you, papa.

CHARLIE
Welcome home.

Cathy looks over her father's shoulder as Jesse and Sterling run out of the house toward her.

STERLING
Mommy!

Jesse gets to her first and hugs her.

JESSE
Hi mom.

Cathy kneels down to hug the two kids and sees Toni trying to run toward her also, as Barbara waits on the porch grinning.

Toni runs into her mother's arms.

BARBARA
Is that all you have?

CATHY
The Stenograph is in the trunk.

Barbara hugs Cathy.

BARBARA

Nothing like starting fresh. I'm so glad you're home.

INT. LOGOS BUILDING, RADIO PROGRAM OFFICE - AFTERNOON

John Ezell and Mark Rich talk quietly when Cathy interrupts and hands Mark a new promo.

CATHY

Here's the promo for the new book.

MARK

Cathy, we need time to record these promos before we air them.

CATHY

I'm sorry. I'll try to get them to you earlier.

He glances at it.

MARK

It's not 'How Can a Man be Born?'
It's 'How Can a Man be Born Again?'

He points at the page and hands it back to Cathy.

CATHY

Oh okay. I'll change it right now!

As Cathy darts off toward her office, Mark shouts...

MARK

And add Pastor Chuck's name to the promo!
(to John)
She's always late with those.

Cathy overhears him. She's frustrated.

CATHY

(under her breath)
Jerk.

INT. LOGOS BUILDING, CAFE' - EVENING

Warm light streams through the windows. Sterling is busy coloring while Jesse reads a book.

They don't notice Cathy walk in. She watches them.

STERLING

I'm gonna make one for grandma too.

JESSE

The same thing?

STERLING

No... hers is gonna be different.

Jesse goes back to his book.

CATHY

Hi guys!

Sterling runs across the room with her drawing.

STERLING

I made this for you!

CATHY

You did?

Sterling shows Cathy her drawing.

STERLING

This is me... and you... and
Jesse... and the little one is
Toni. And that's a rainbow.

CATHY

That's a big rainbow!

STERLING

Mrs. Marshall says it's God's
promise.

Cathy is touched, but notices there is no dad.

CATHY

Thank you, sweetie. Go clean up
your stuff. We have to pick up Toni
and get home. I have a meeting
tonight.

Sterling runs back to the table as Jesse packs his homework
in a backpack.

INT. DONNA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

The support group women listen as Donna recounts her story.

DONNA

My husband was diabetic too. But he didn't die from that. He died in a car driving home from a boy scout camp with the boys.

Cathy looks up at Donna, shocked.

SHERYL

But your boys were okay, right?

DONNA

It wasn't an accident. He had a heart attack.

CATHY

And there wasn't an accident?

DONNA

He wasn't driving, one of the other leaders was. He was in the passenger seat.

(Beat)

Nobody knew he died till they got home. They thought he fell asleep.

CATHY

That's awful. How old were your boys?

DONNA

It was a difficult. They were ten and twelve.

Glenda is uncomfortable and not quite sure what to say.

GLEENDA

I never knew any of this!

DONNA

Well, some things are uncomfortable to talk about.

Cathy chokes up. Nobody notices her tears form.

INT. GRANDPARENT'S HOUSE, KITCHEN - NIGHT

Cathy has a meltdown with her mother.

CATHY

Mom, I can't tell them my husband committed suicide because I cheated on him!

BARBARA

Why do you feel you have to? You don't have to if you don't want to.

Cathy weeps.

CATHY

I don't think I can make it alone.

BARBARA

Honey... you're not alone. You're surrounded by family. Besides, there's no rule that you can't get married again.

Cathy almost chokes.

CATHY

I'm not up for that.

Sterling meanders into the room with a doll in her arms.

STERLING

Mommy, I can't sleep.

Cathy wipes her eyes and lifts Sterling up onto her lap.

CATHY

Are you thirsty?

Sterling nods her head.

BARBARA

Stay there, I'll get it.

(Beat)

Let the Lord deal with the past.

Barbara gets juice out of the refrigerator and hands it to Sterling.

BARBARA (CONT'D)

The worst is over. God is doing a new thing in your life right now. Let Him do it.

Cathy absorbs her mother's advice... relieved.

INT. LOGOS BUILDING, WORD FOR TODAY OFFICES - DAY

Cathy is buried in paperwork when Jesse rolls a big trash can into her cubicle and empties her trash.

CATHY
What are you doing, honey?

JESSE
Mr. Mark hired me to empty the
trash. He's paying me!

Jesse smiles proudly.

CATHY
Oh... okay.

JESSE
Bye.

Jesse rolls out of the cubicle.

Cathy shrugs it off and goes back to work.

INT. LOGOS BUILDING, RADIO PROGRAM OFFICE - DAY

Cathy stops outside the door to the radio station when she notices Mark talking with Jesse. She listens.

MARK
I used to eat out of trash cans.

Jesse grimaces. He's disgusted.

MARK (CONT'D)
I was a homeless alcoholic and a
drug addict before I accepted
Christ.

JESSE
My mom was a drug addict. And she
used to drink a lot too.

MARK
Jesus changes everything. He makes
all things new!

Cathy enters the room and hands Mark a new promo.

CATHY
Here's the promo.

Mark glances at the promo.

MARK
You're early. Thanks. Looks great.
(Beat)
(MORE)

MARK (CONT'D)

I hope it's okay that I hired Jesse to do janitorial work. We could use the help.

CATHY

Yeah, that's great!
(smiles at Jesse)
He's a good worker.

Cathy ruffles Jesse's hair.

CATHY (CONT'D)

Let's go get Sterling.

JESSE

See you later, Mr. Rich!

Cathy waves as they leave. He watches her with interest.

INT. CALVARY CHAPEL COSTA MESA, SANCTUARY - MORNING

The three kids play with Mark near the front. They adore him. Glenda notices and winks at Cathy.

GLEENDA

He's single!

Cathy watches Glenda walk up the aisle. She turns to her mom.

CATHY

I'm okay just having a relationship with the Lord.

BARBARA

They could use a father in their lives.

Cathy is caught between frustration and fear.

CATHY

I know, but I'd need someone my own age and someone who's...

BARBARA

He's the same age as you.

Mark surprises them when he suddenly pops into the conversation.

MARK

(to Cathy)

Hey, Cathy, good to see you. Is everything okay?

Cathy doesn't know what to say.

CATHY
Thanks... Fine. Uh... yeah.

MARK
Your kids are wonderful. You did a great job with them.

Cathy's mouth is agape.

MARK (CONT'D)
I've got to go help the sound guys.
I'll see you around.

CATHY
Okay.

Mark leaves and Cathy breathes a sigh of relief.

Barbara the matchmaker winks at Cathy.

Cathy frowns at her mother and walks away.

INT. DONNA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Everyone at the widow's group meeting is eating birthday cake.

DONNA
Cathy, how old are you now?

CATHY
Twenty-nine, of course.
(smirks)
Thirty seven and counting.

GLEENDA
Oh, please. You're still young.
Believe me!

CATHY
I can't believe it's already been nine years...
(tears up)
...since my husband died. He died on my birthday.

Donna leans over and places her hand on Cathy's knee.

DONNA
My husband died suddenly too. The heart attack on the boy scout trip.

Cathy nods knowingly as Donna tears up.

GLEENDA

Let's rehash it, Donna. That will
make Cathy's birthday cheery!

Everyone laughs, but the room goes silent again.

DONNA

Shouldn't have been too surprising,
he'd been a drug addict for years.

Donna wipes her eyes.

CATHY

He was? I didn't know it was okay
to say something like that!

All the women laugh again, except Glenda, who sees Cathy's pain. Glenda tears up and hugs Cathy.

GLEENDA

Cathy, it's okay. You can say
anything. We're not your judges and
jury. We're your friends.

Cathy chokes up.

CATHY

I went to prison for drugs.
(tears flow)
My husband didn't die from
diabetes. He committed suicide
because I had an affair.

Cathy weeps in Glenda's arms. The other women gather around. Donna lays her hands on Cathy and prays.

DONNA

Lord, we love you because you first
loved us and ask that you would
comfort Cathy and give her peace.
Please make this birthday special.

The women all shout, 'Amen,' but Glenda continues.

GLEENDA

You are a God of peace and we thank
you for this precious daughter of
yours that you have given us.
(to Cathy)
Cathy, you are such a beautiful
child of God.

Glenda hugs Cathy.

EXT. DONNA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

As the women say their good-nights and walk to their cars, Glenda stops Cathy.

GLEENDA

I think the Lord gave me a birthday
verse for you... for your thirty-
seventh birthday. Psalm 37:37.

Cathy is surprised.

CATHY

What's it say?

GLEENDA

Just read it.

Glenda winks at Cathy and watches as she walks to her car.

EXT. DONNA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Cathy gets into her car, grabs her Bible and turns to Psalms.

CATHY

Psalm 37:37.

She turns to the correct page and reads. Her eyes immediately well up with tears. She's shocked.

CATHY (CONT'D)

Oh God...

She reads the passage again.

CATHY (CONT'D)

Mark the perfect man...

(Beat)

And behold the upright, for the end
of that man is peace.

Cathy weeps, but not out of fear. She's overwhelmed with joy. She starts her car and drives away.

EXT. LOGOS BUILDING, LOADING DOCK - DAY

Several people unload a truck full of books, magazines and office equipment. Mark rolls a stack of magazines out of the truck on a dolly.

Jesse follows him like a puppy and picks up several magazines when Mark spills a few. Jesse plops a newspaper on the top.

Jesse notices Mark is looking at Cathy in the loading bay.

JESSE

Do you like my mom?

Embarrassed, Mark chuckles.

MARK

She's a really nice lady, but it's a little different when you're older.

JESSE

How?

Mark is caught off-guard. He laughs.

MARK

I don't know. Why don't you grab those boxes?

Mark pushes the dolly into the loading bay toward Cathy. Jesse turns away to get the boxes that Mark wanted.

CATHY

Thanks for helping me move my office.

MARK

No problem. So I hear you're going to be helping Pastor Chuck with his books.

Cathy notices the newspaper on top of the stack. She picks it up to look at the picture of Pastor Chuck.

CATHY

Yeah. It's pretty cool.

INSERT - ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER - ACCENT - JULY 1997

It's a photo of Pastor Chuck Smith with a giant rainbow painted on the wall behind him.

BACK TO SCENE

CATHY (CONT'D)

A rainbow... I became a Christian in July 1997.

Mark grabs the paper and reads the date.

MARK

That's funny, I was too. We're the same spiritual age.

(smiles at Cathy)

The fulfilment of God's promises.

He hands the paper back to Cathy and winks. Cathy is shocked.

CATHY

What?

MARK

The rainbow.

Sterling suddenly interrupts them.

STERLING

Mom! Can Jennifer come to my birthday party?

CATHY

I'm not sure we can all fit in our little car.

STERLING

Can't you get a bigger car?

MARK

I might be able to drive. When's her party?

CATHY

Her birthday's July fourth. We're going to the Harvest Crusade that night.

MARK

I'd love to go! Why don't you let me drive?

Cathy blushes.

EXT. ANAHEIM STADIUM - EVENING

Cathy and Mark unload a suburban full of excited kids: Cathy's children and a few extra 9 year-old girls.

Jesse hangs back as the girls run toward the entrance.

CATHY

Stay together!

JESSE
Girls are crazy.

Mark laughs, but checks Cathy's reaction. Cathy laughs.

As Jesse moves a few steps ahead of them, Mark brushes Cathy's hand with his.

Cathy's expression tells him it's all right.

Mark grabs her hand.

INT. ANAHEIM STADIUM - NIGHT

Harvest Crusade is in full bloom with a packed stadium.

Mark, Cathy and the kids are in the infield to the side of the stage. The girls are having the time of their lives as a big name Christian band performs on stage.

The band strikes up a new song.

JESSE
I love this song!

Jesse pushes forward and joins the girls in their dance.

Cathy looks over at Mark. It takes him a moment to realize she is looking at him. Cathy grabs hold of his hand again. They turn their gaze to the children, but just for a moment.

Mark pulls Cathy to face him and embraces her in a tender kiss as fireworks explode over the stadium.

EXT. LAGUNA BEACH, BLUFFS - DAY

Mark and Cathy embrace in a passionate kiss under a white, rose-laden arch at the bluffs overlooking the Pacific Ocean on a bright sunny day. Mark is wearing a bright, pressed Hawaiian shirt and Cathy in a colorful dress.

PULL BACK and REVEAL a row of groomsmen and bridesmaids wearing matching clothes. Cathy's children stand in front of the rows.

A PASTOR steps to the front of the small seated crowd.

PASTOR
Ladies and Gentlemen, I have the great pleasure of introducing for the first time, Mister and Missus Mark Rick.

The crowd leaps to their feet and cheers.

Cathy's children are so excited that they can hardly contain themselves.

Mark kisses Cathy again, before walking down the aisle. The kids follow them down the center aisle - dancing with joy.

Rice and confetti flies into the air like popcorn as Mark and Cathy run through the crowd laughing.

Cathy has never looked more at peace with the world or more full of joy! The MOTION SLOWS and the celebration NOISE FADES into the background...

CATHY (V.O.)

I yearned for peace and found him.

(Beat)

His name is Jesus.

FADE OUT.