Switch

written by

John Mezes III & K. J. Chitman

73 Fairview Street Milford CT. (John Mezes) 6100 Hollytree Drive Apt. 255 Tyler TX. 203-430-1626 (John) 318-890-8472 (K.J.) Mezes73@optimum.net (John) kenjdetrice@yahoo.com (K. J. Chitman)

FADE IN.

INT. LEWIS HOME - KITCHEN - DAY

Angelique Lewis, (30's) black, full figured with a killer smile, in a jumpsuit, moves through her kitchen like a waitress and short order cook combined.

Angelique grabs toast from the toaster as it pops up and butters it, then turns the stove off and remove the pan of scrambled eggs. She hollers upstairs to the second floor of her home.

ANGELIQUE

(forceful)

Breakfast, my babies! Let's hustle!

INT. LEWIS HOME - HALLWAY - DAY

JJ, (14) black, slender and athletic in jeans, shirt and a jacket, leaves his bedroom and races to the stairs. Chloe, (10) black, cute dimples and energetic, cuts off her brother, playfully beating him in their sibling race.

CHLOE

(triumphant)

Hah, I win!

JJ

Only cause your room's closer, freaky.

JJ grabs the banister and leaps over it onto the third step from the top.

JJ (CONT'D)

(smuq)

But you can't pull that off!

JJ's face winches with pain as he rubs his chest. Chloe takes advantage and runs passed him on the stairs, not noticing his discomfort. Their father's voice SHOUTS through the house.

JOHN (O.S.)

Hey, you sound like a herd of buffalo! No runnin' in the house!

JJ makes his way downstairs.

INT. LEWIS HOME - DINING ROOM - DAY

JJ sits at a table with a delicious plate of eggs, bacon and toast waiting for him. Chloe is already seated and eating her breakfast.

Angelique enters carrying two glasses of orange juice which she puts in front of her children.

ANGELIOUE

(reprimanding)

I heard your father with you two...

She looks at JJ.

ANGELIQUE (CONT'D)

When are you gonna quit it with the stairs before you break your neck?

JJ

(proud)

Sorry mom, I just got the moves is all.

CHLOE

(combative)

Yeah, but you didn't win. I got here first.

JJ mouths some words to Chloe.

JJ

Shut up.

Angelique lightly wacks his arm.

ANGELIQUE

(scolding)

We don't say that to each other!

JJ

How'd you hear that?

Angelique playfully grabs her own ear.

ANGELIQUE

Mother's ears...they hear everything.

JOHN LEWIS, (30's) black, tall, bald with a mustache and an ear to ear grin, enters holding ELLIE, (3) cute with a twinkle in her eye, in his arms.

JOHN

(proud)

Here she is, Miss America!

John places her in a high-chair next to the table, then sits just as Angelique places breakfast in front of him.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Oh, smells good baby!

He gives her a hug around her waist, then looks at his two children.

JOHN (CONT'D)

(puzzled)

Hold up, somethin's missin.

JJ and Chloe both drop there silverware onto their dishes.

JJ

C'mon dad, really?

CHLOE

(silly)

Daddy, no.

JOHN

(playfully)

Aw yeah, c'mon ya'll...you know I need it.

Angelique smiles.

ANGELIQUE

John, not now, they got school.

JOHN

I need a Lewis huddle!

JJ and chloe walk to their dad. They both hug him and kiss his cheeks.

JOHN (CONT'D)

(satisfied)

That's the good stuff!

JJ and Chloe sit again and finish up their breakfast.

ANGELIQUE

Alright babies, coats and backpacks.

JJ

I got baseball practice after school today, so I need a ride home.

CHLOE

I need money for dance class.

ANGELIQUE

(annoyed)

I need, I need...what's with you two?

JJ and Chloe both stare at their mother, caught off guard by her reaction. John reads his wife's attitude and jumps in.

JOHN

You heard mom, get movin'.

John stands and walks to Angelique.

JOHN (CONT'D)

(concern)

Everything cool, baby?

ANGELIQUE

I just need some help with them. Can you drop em' at school?

JOHN

Baby, I can't...I gotta hand out the new sweatshirts and jackets to the guys at the construction site today...

He glances at his watch.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Shoot, I'm late. I gotta fly, baby.

He kisses Angelique on her cheek.

ANGELIQUE

(frustrated)

I gotta talk to you, John!

John kisses Ellie goodbye. He grabs a box and carries it out of the room.

JOHN (O.S.)

We'll talk tonight, love you!

Angelique looks at the dishes and glasses on the table, then around the quiet room, symbolic of her needs left behind. She talks to herself.

ANGELIQUE

We got Josie party tonight.

She sees Ellie making a mess of her food and wipes her hands and mouth.

CHLOE (O.S.)

(impatient)

C'mon mom! Let's go!

Angelique looks at Ellie and strokes her hair.

ANGELIQUE

When is it momma's turn, baby girl?

INT. BOSWELL AGENCY - CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

JOCELIN REYNOLDS, (30's) black, short hair, well dressed in a business skirt and jacket with a confident stance and a ferocious stare, rolls out a poster on a table.

JOCELIN

Meet the future of Kimmology!

POSTER:

A BEAUTIFUL MAN AND WOMAN EMBRACE EACH OTHER WITH A HEART SHAPED COLOGNE BOTTLE NEXT TO THEM. THE WORDS "THE FRAGRANCE THAT NEVER ENDS FOR BOTH"

CONFERENCE ROOM:

KIMM, (40's) black, the complete package of style in her clothes and a business drive in her eye stares at the poster.

ANDREW BOSWELL, (20's) good looking with a supportive smile towards Jocelin, marvels at Jocelin's fierce self-assertiveness and ALDEN HIGGS, (30's) black, serious stare and attentive to the vibe in the room, sit at the table.

KIMM

(inquisitive)

A seductive poster, Ms. Jocelin...it matches my own sexual power, but I need more depth.

JOCELIN

(confident)

The poster is one branch on your Kimmology tree. The Boswell Agency will turn it into a Redwood, strong, lasting...eternal.

Kimm examines Jocelin's poise and listens to the passion in her words.

KIMM

You've got my attention, Jocelin. I've built my business from the ground up, no hand-outs or favors. It's my child.

JOCELIN

(confident)

The Boswell Agency is your best babysitter. We're going to take Kimmology to a level of importance that's unmatched!

Kimm leans forward, focused on Jocelin. Andrew beams with pride at Jocelin's take no prisoners attitude. Alden stirs in his chair with a look of disagreement towards Jocelin.

JOCELIN (CONT'D)

The scent of this body perfume is unparalleled...a unisex cologne that holds up with sweat and it's environmentally safe to the wearer! It's...it's...

ANDREW

(excited)

Revolutionary!

Jocelin points to Andrew in agreement.

JOCELIN

Yes!

She looks at Kimm.

JOCELIN (CONT'D)

You're an empire of thirty-seven million customers strong with no signs of slowing down! Let the Boswell Agency walk with you through a door to a revolutionary future!

Kimm studies Jocelin a moment then smiles.

KIMM

Schedule a second meeting for Friday in two weeks.

Jocelin thrusts her fist in the air with joy. Andrew smiles in agreement.

JOCELIN

Andrew...

Andrew opens up a planner, clicks his pen and begins writing.

ANDREW

Done!

Kimm stands from the table and throws her shades on. Andrew and Alden stand as well. Alden directs his next words towards Jocelin.

ALDEN

The WHOLE Boswell Agency team will put your account front and center Kimm.

Jocelin and Alden exchange a quick combative glance. Andrew subtly smacks Alden's arm with his hand as a corrective gesture. Kimm doesn't notice it.

KIMM

It was your eyes, Ms. Reynolds.

JOCELIN

I'm sorry?

KIMM

They are a window to the soul, and your's showed me belief in Kimmology. I saw all I needed to.

Kimm walks to Jocelin and hugs her.

JOCELIN

(surprised)

Oh, okay.

The hug lasts a few moments. Jocelin politely tries to free herself from Kimm but she doesn't let go. Andrew stares in confusion. Alden shakes his head in disbelief.

KIMM

Not yet...I need to share more of my essence with you. Our success depends on it.

Jocelin nervously smiles and awkwardly pats Kimm's back. Kimm finally releases Jocelin and walks to the conference room door. Andrew offers to escort her out.

KIMM (CONT'D)

Adieu, gentleman.

Kimm and Andrew leave the room with Andrew giving Jocelin and Alden a thumbs up. He shuts the door. Jocelin turns to Alden.

JOCELIN

(annoyed)

What was that about?

Alden's body language is one of frustration.

ALDEN

(frustrated)

The usual, Jocelin...we follow your game plan with none of our own input.

JOCELIN

That isn't fair, Alden.

ALDEN

Oh no? Kimmology can be successful for the agency on half the budget your suggesting.

Jocelin smirks in disagreement.

JOCELIN

(sarcastic)

Putting more money in your pocket based on charging a higher fee to the client and less of a budget to work with, right?

ALDEN

What's wrong with that? Everybody wins.

JOCELIN

Except the personal connection to Kimm and her business takes a back seat to profit! My budget proposal to Jack was fair and represented the best interest of the client.

Alden closes his attache case and stands.

ALDEN

We but heads a lot, Jocelin, and I think my suggestions don't get the respect they deserve. Jack Boswell will back your play, he always does, just like he did with promoting you to executive marketing manager...

JOCELIN

Instead of you, right? Isn't that why we're having this conversation? He chose me over you and a few other people, and it kills you!

ALDEN

Your qualified, Jocelin, no doubt, and I respect your hustle...you bring big clients in and make money for the agency, but that decision was made without fair consideration and you won. There's no I in TEAM.

JOCELIN

(defensive)

But there is a ME in there.

Jocelin packs up her notes and the poster.

JOCELIN (CONT'D)

I'll have Andrew send you today's notes and a copy of the proposal by end of day.

Jocelin leaves the conference room.

INT. BOSWELL AGENCY - JOCELIN'S OFFICE - DAY

Jocelin sits behind a beautiful grand desk. She holds a framed picture in her hands. Gorgeous flowers in a vase sit on the corner of the desk. The room is tasteful corporate decor.

PICTURE:

A PHOTO OF ANGELIQUE AND HER FAMILY.

BACK TO JOCELIN:

Jocelin rubs her finger across the picture. Her face shows a sense of longing. Andrew opens the office door slightly.

ANDREW

(cheerful)

Knock knock.

Jocelin doesn't respond. Andrew enters the office.

ANDREW (CONT'D)

(concern)

Earth to Jocelin? Hello?

Jocelin's attention returns to Andrew.

JOCELIN

Oh, sorry Andrew.

Andrew walks to the flowers and removes the card inside.

ANDREW

From your sin-sational boyfriend, Damien?

JOCELIN

Yep.

Andrew sniffs the flowers.

ANDREW

He got these from Berkley's Florist shop...I can tell. The man has taste, and is beautiful, caring and attentive...

Andrew notices Jocelin's behavior is different then inside the conference room.

ANDREW (CONT'D)

So what's wrong?

Jocelin puts the picture down on a credenza behind her.

JOCELIN

(dissatisfied)

I want what my sister has, Andrew.

ANDREW

What, the house with the picket fence, noisy kids and PTA meetings?

JOCELIN

That's it...and a two car garage too.

ANDREW

Listen to me, sister...when Uncle Jack made you VP of marketing at the agency...

Jocelin raises her finger at Andrew with a stern look.

ANDREW (CONT'D)

I know we promised never to speak of our "dark chapter", and yes there was an appearance by a certain green eyed monster when he chose you over me for the job...

Jocelin cautiously lowers her finger.

ANDREW (CONT'D)

(supportive)

But he made the right choice! I took the career road through IT to get here, and you went like a shark through marketing, but look at all you've accomplished! The freaking Kimmology line of products, are you kidding me?

JOCELIN

You're more polite about it than Alden.

ANDREW

Ugh, did he start up with you in the conference room?

JOCELIN

Knock down drag out!

ANDREW

He needs to get over it already!

JOCELIN

(frustrated)

I can handle him...look, the career's great, the salary and company car that's smarter than I am, my office and parking space, I love it all...but the part of me that wants a family is front and center. My bio clock is going off like Big Ben.

ANDREW

(supportive)
So talk to Damien.

JOCELIN

I've tried...but its been over a month since we spoke about it. He has the hospital and me with the agency.

ANDREW

Girl, this has to end with Damien putting a ring on that finger, getting hitched, and some Barry White playing on a Sunday night.

Jocelin laughs and lets out a sigh.

JOCELIN

Enough about my SAD lovelife, what's Andrew doing this weekend? I'm sure that your hopeless romantic Trevor has something planned.

ANDREW

(exasperated)

Ugh, hopeless is right! Trevor's idea of romance is having me sit in on five card stud poker Saturday night with his friends.

JOCELIN

(joking)
Strip poker?

ANDREW

(attitude)

The only word I hear in that game is STUD!

They both laugh.

ANDREW (CONT'D)

What about you? Is Damien flying you to Paris for your vacation?

JOCELIN

(satisfied)

Even better, an evening with my family tonight. I can't wait to see them.

ANDREW

You are extraordinary, Jocelin. Sitting on a forty million dollars account, and you're thinking about the FAM.

Andrew shakes his head and waves bye to Jocelin. She smiles. He heads for the door.

ANDREW (CONT'D)

Later gator.

JOCELIN

(surprised)

Oh, wait...hold up!

Andrew turns back to Jocelin. Jocelin grabs something from her desk drawer with her hand and holds it out for Andrew to take.

JOCELIN (CONT'D)

Take this backup drive of the Kimmology projected budget to Lisa in accounting. We're going to need it when Kimm gives us the first payment in two weeks. Make sure ALDEN gets a copy too.

Andrew takes the drive from Jocelin.

ANDREW

(sassy)

Oh, the confidence...you wear it well. I know what to do.

Andrew leaves Jocelin's office. Jocelin once again looks at picture of the Lewis family and becomes lost in thought.

INT. LIBRARY - DAY

Angelique serves cupcakes to customers at a bake sale while other volunteers organize books for a reading drive. The library lobby is busy. VOLUNTEERS shout out to Angelique.

VOLUNTEER #1 (O.S.)

You're cupcakes are selling out, Angelique!

Angelique smiles with confidence over the popularity of her baked goods as she hands coins to a customer.

VOLUNTEER #2 (O.S.)

The chocolate ones are gone, and we're almost out of red velvet!

A WOMAN, (50's) in a blue dress and matching hat, puts several cupcakes inside a brown bag. She smiles at Angelique.

WOMAN

You always make such delicious cupcakes at the annual bake sale for the school.

ANGELIQUE

(modest)

Thank you, I love bakin'.

WOMAN

You should open a shop and sell them. Everyone would buy them. I wait all year to sink my teeth into them.

Angelique pauses and reflects on the woman's words. She knows her dream is valid and a shop of her own would succeed.

ANGELIQUE

That's the plan...one day.

EXT. BASEBALL FIELD - DAY

MONTAGE:

High school baseball players team run hitting drills.

Other players practice fielding drills.

MONTAGE ENDS:

COACH BAILEY, (40's) beard, coaching shorts and a team hat and shirt with a whistle, watches the boys play.

FIELD BLEACHERS:

Parents watch their children practice. John Lewis watches the field, a proud smile on his face. SANDRA PARKER, (40's) black, full figured, pretty but with a tired look on her face, sits next to DAVID PARKER, (40's) her husband, crue cut and looks older than his age, watch the field.

BACK TO FIELD:

CAM PARKER, (14) athletic and handsome with the speed of a gazelle, hits a home run and bolts from home plate. He rounds the bases and high fives JJ as he passes second.

BACK ON BAILEY:

As Cam reaches home plate, Bailey blows the whistle around his neck.

BAILEY

Alright guys, let's bring it in!

The players circle around Bailey.

BAILEY (CONT'D)

(supportive)

Nice job, Cam. Way to finish practice. Okay, listen up...we're off to our best start as a team in eleven years in our school history. I'm proud of all of you.

Bailey paces in front of the boys. Some kneel while others stand.

BAILEY (CONT'D)

It's a long season with a lot of games left, so our captains, JJ and Cam, are going to help out their teammates...pick them up like good leaders do, right guys?

JJ and Cam shake their heads yes.

CAM

That's right, coach!

BAILEY

Okay, that's it for today. Practice on Thursday.

The boys disperse and JJ and Cam walk towards the bleachers together.

CAM

(excited)

Yo, you tore it up out there today JJ!

JJ

Yeah, but you popped one out...wish I could do that more often.

CAM

(bragging, then sincere)
Well, we all can't be me, but you a
classic, kid! You spray the ball
all around the field...you set the
table, baby!

The two boys reach the bleachers. John meets them.

JOHN

Nice job with the boomstick, Cam!

CAM

Thanks, Mr. Lewis.

John hugs JJ around his shoulder.

JOHN

You kill it every game, JJ.

JJ smiles at his dad. Sandra and David join them.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Sandra...David, how ya'll doin'?

SANDRA

(pleasant)

We're fine, Mr. Lewis.

David extends his hand to John. John shakes it but notices that David's hand slightly trembles.

DAVID

Your boy JJ plays real well.

Sandra sees David's hand and quickly steps between the men, breaking the handshake.

SANDRA

Please give Angelique our best.

JOHN

I will.

SHOUTS draw their attention.

EXT. BASEBALL FIELD - CONTINUOUS

Coach Bailey is talking to EDDIE PARKER, (19) black, a young man with a worn face and unstable posture. Eddie's words are slurred and he struggles to focus. He is agitated with Bailey.

BAILEY

(concern)

Eddie, all I'm saying is to get some help, son!

EDDIE

(angry)

I don't need a pep talk coach! (MORE)

EDDIE (CONT'D)

You wasn't there for me when my knees blew out and ended baseball for me...don't need you now!

BAILEY

It wasn't your fault so don't hate yourself! This drinking you're doing isn't the answer!

EDDIE

Step off, Coach, and stay outta my business!

Sandra, David, and Cam arrive.

SANDRA

(parental)

Eddie, that's enough.

CAM

(concern)

C'mon Eddie, don't be like that!

Eddie and Cam's eyes meet. Eddie puts his hand around the back of Cam's neck in a loving way.

EDDIE

I came to pick you up, baby bro.

Sandra pulls Eddie aside.

SANDRA

I told you this morning we were getting Cam...

She grabs Eddie's face by the sides of his jaw.

SANDRA (CONT'D)

You been drinkin', right? Give me your keys.

EDDIE

(defensive)

It ain't nothin' mama!

SANDRA

The keys, now!

DAVID

Please son, give us the keys.

Sandra turns to David with a look of resentment.

SANDRA

I've got this!

David lowers his head, embarrassed. Cam compassionately holds Eddie's hand.

CAM

Just do what Mom says, Eddie.

Eddie reluctantly hands his keys to Sandra, then turns and walks away. Cam tries to follow him but David stops him.

BAILEY

(apologetic)

Mrs. Parker, I'm sorry about what happened but...

SANDRA

We can handle our business Coach Bailey, thank you.

Sandra, David and Cam leave the field.

EXT. BASEBALL FIELD - BLEACHERS - CONTINUOUS

John and JJ watch the Parker family leave.

JJ

(concern)

Shouldn't we help em' Dad?

John lovingly puts his hands on JJ's shoulders.

JOHN

I know you wanna help Cam, and your heart's right, but they gotta work it out themselves.

JJ'S FACE:

JJ watches his best friend Cam leave. Concern washes over his face.

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

Just don't take a ride with Eddie or his dad, okay?

JJ

I won't.

INT. JOCELIN'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Jocelin finishes dressing herself. There's a knock at the half open door. DAMIEN ALEXANDER, (30's) black, handsome with a styled mustache and goatee, mister smooth, enters.

DAMIEN

You almost ready, baby?

JOCELIN

Almost...just one last thing.

Jocelin takes a folder off a dresser and drops it on the bed.

DAMIEN

What's that?

JOCELIN

A business plan for Angie. She's been talking to me about her idea for a cupcake business, so I drew up a proposal for her. I'm going to give a copy to Andrew to look over.

DAMIEN

(jokingly)

That the same cupcake business she been talking about for years?

JOCELIN

(proud)

The same, except now she's focused on it, really determined.

DAMIEN

Well I hope she makes that dream come true.

Jocelin pauses a moment. Her mood changes.

JOCELIN

(hesitant)

Speaking of dreams, I need to talk to you about us.

DAMIEN

US, sounds ominous.

JOCELIN

It's just...I feel it's time for you and me to move our relationship forward.

DAMIEN

(confused)

What? Like getting married?

JOCELIN

Yes.

Damien grows quiet, somewhat dumbstruck.

DAMIEN

I didn't think we were there yet.

JOCELIN

It's been six years, Damien.

DAMIEN

Yeah, six great years, right?

JOCELIN

No doubt, but I've changed what I want.

DAMIEN

Jocelin, now's not the time for this, we got family and friends coming over tonight, and I have a early day at the hospital tomorrow.

JOCELIN

That's just it, there's never time to talk about this. You being a heart surgeon...the hospital always needs you.

DAMIEN

I have responsibilities.

JOCELIN

(frustrated)

Yes, Damien, I know...but what about you and me?

A text alert interrupts them. Jocelin walks to the night stand and looks at both cellphones. She grabs Damien's phone and reads the screen, then holds his phone out to him.

JOCELIN (CONT'D)

I can't believe this!

Damien takes the phone from her and looks at it. His expression changes to embarrassment.

DAMIEN

This is nothing.

JOCELIN

(annoyed)

"Congratulations on being nominated for Chief of Staff of Cardiology?" That's nothing?

DAMIEN

(defensive)

It doesn't mean I'm taking the position...it was just offered to me.

JOCELIN

Why didn't you tell me?

DAMIEN

THIS is why! How you're acting right now!

JOCELIN

How should I respond to it, Damien?

DAMIEN

I don't know, happy...excited for me. This could change our lives for the better, Jocelin.

JOCELIN

Our lives are financially pretty good now. This means more hours at the hospital, more responsibilities...

DAMIEN

Early on, yes, but it can only get easier.

Jocelin becomes somber, almost distant with Damien.

JOCELIN

(vulnerable)

Did you not tell me because you didn't want to talk about it...knowing how I feel about family and getting married?

Damien hugs Jocelin and holds her hand.

DAMIEN

No, of course not. I know how you feel...but I'm just not feeling the need to change our lives by doing any of that.

Jocelin slowly moves away from Damien and adjusts her clothes and hair in a mirror on the wall. There's tension and awkwardness between them.

JOCELIN

(cold)

We'd better finish getting ready.

Damien looks at Jocelin with an expression of loss, then exits the bedroom.

INT. JOCELIN'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Jocelin, Angelique, and their friend RACHEL BENSON, (40's) brunette, friendly smile and a sharp dresser, talk amongst themselves. Angelique is making several cups of coffee.

ANGELIQUE

(helpful)

Josie, all I'm sayin' is marriage and kids is WORK, with no pay and a thank you...sometimes.

JOCELIN

I get that...didn't say it wasn't, but the reward from that work makes it worthwhile, right?

ANGELIQUE

I LOVE my kids and John and I'd do whatever for them, but they can work my last nerve, honest.

RACHEL

When I married Lane it wasn't easy peasy. He had teenage kids from his first marriage that had to get used to calling me Mom, then we went back and forth on finding the perfect house...

ANGELIQUE

Which is gonna get filthy in no time.

The ladies laugh.

RACHEL

But we built a life together...well, still building one, and it's a great one. I am happy.

Rachel smiles as she thinks about her words.

JOCELIN

See, that's what I want, right there...that smile, from having a family and a husband. I want to feel that way.

ANGELIQUE

You been feeling that way a long time, Josie...Damien still draggin' his feet with it?

JOCELIN

He's been honest about HIS PLAN, and what he wants, it's just not what I want.

Rachel reaches out and supportingly takes Jocelin's hand.

RACHEL

Hey, don't give up yet...give him a kick in the rear.

Angelique hugs Jocelin.

ANGELIQUE

(playful)

You tell D to crap or get off the can.

Jocelin forces a smile but her thoughts are on her relationship with Damien.

LANE (O.S.)

(cheery)

Ladies, we're patiently waiting for that heavenly scented coffee!

Rachel lifts the tray with the coffee cups on it from the counter.

RACHEL

(sarcastic)

Oh, let me dear...

She whispers to Angelique and Jocelin.

RACHEL (CONT'D)

After all, it's my husband making the most noise.

The ladies laugh and exit the kitchen.

INT. JOCELIN'S APARTMENT - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

John and Angelique sit next to each other, with LANE BENSON, (50's) Rachel's husband, greying hair and distinguished, and Rachel across the table. Jocelin sits at one end while Damien sits at the other end. A board game is set up on the table.

ANGELIQUE

(excited)

So this game we brought over is fire! Billy Driscoll's Match Your Mate!

LANE

I'm sorry, who?

JOHN

Some guy on Youtube that these two...

John points to Angelique and Jocelin.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Can't get enough of.

ANGELIQUE

Hush, John...he's a well known relationship guru.

LANE

Ah, no wonder I haven't heard of him, I hardly have time for Youtube or anything like that.

JOCELIN

He's also an expert in couple dynamics and the need for understanding your partner.

Jocelin throws a look at Damien. He spots it and grins it off.

RACHEL

How do we play?

ANGELIQUE

You and your partner are a team, one asks the questions and writes down an answer but doesn't show it, and the other person answers the question. If the answers match you get a point, and ten points win.

JOHN

(confident)

That's easy, baby, we got this!

LANE

Not so fast, John. You've got some competition with me and Rachel, and we hate to lose.

ANGELIQUE

I'll go first and show ya'll how its done.

DAMIEN

Why you?

ANGELIQUE

Cause I brought the game here, D!

She draws a card and reads it.

ANGELIQUE (CONT'D)

What daily routine in your lives makes your relationship strong?

Angelique writes an answer on paper then folds it and looks at John. John studies his wife's face. She mouths to him, you'd better get this!

JOHN

(proud)

Pillow talk.

Angelique smiles and opens the paper, then slams it on the table. Rachel looks at the paper.

RACHEL

There it is, pillow talk.

JOCELIN

You two freaks talk dirty to one another...I'm about to throw up!

ANGELIQUE

(passionate)

Stop it, Josie. John and I make time every night to talk in our bed about any concerns, and we don't go to sleep hatin' on one another.

JOCELIN

Does it work?

JOHN

(bragging)

We just got a point, right?

Everyone laughs in different stages of amusement.

JOCELIN

Alright, we're next Damien.

Jocelin draws a card and writes down an answer then flips the paper over.

JOCELIN (CONT'D)

What's most essential in a relationship?

Damien smiles at Jocelin with confidence.

DAMIEN

Trust.

Jocelin looks at Damien in frustration and turns the paper over.

LANE

Do we have a winner?

JOCELIN

(aggravated)

It's commitment, Damien!

DAMIEN

I disagree.

JOCELIN

Commitment is everything in a relationship!

DAMIEN

Too many people get married first, then try to commit to one another because they're married. The trust comes first, then maybe get married.

JOCELIN

MAYBE GET MARRIED!

John whispers to Damien with concern.

JOHN

(concern)

Backpedal, brother.

DAMIEN

Yes, trust in the concept of marriage before a license tells you to.

Jocelin jams the card in her hand back into the box. Everyone is apprehensive. Lane tries to add levity.

LANE

(light-hearted)
So, our turn Rachel?

Rachel rolls her eyes as Angelique frowns at the comment.

ANGELIQUE

Read the room, Lane.

INT. JOCELIN'S APARTMENT - FRONT DOOR - LATER

With their coats on, Angelique and John begin to exit the apartment. Angelique turns back to Jocelin and holds up the cupcake business proposal folder. She mouths the words thank you. Damien holds the door open for them. John, the last one through the door, turns back to Damien.

JOHN

Blink twice if you gettin' out of here alive.

Damien frowns.

ANGELIQUE (O.S.)

Let's go John! Call me sis!

Damien shuts the door. Jocelin sits at the dining room table. She is upset.

DAMIEN

You know it's a rough game night when Lane and Rachel win.

Jocelin doesn't answer.

DAMIEN (CONT'D)

(concern)

C'mon Jocelin, what's going on with you? This can't still be about the job offer.

JOCELIN

We're never going to get married, or have a family, are we?

DAMIEN

I never hid my priorities from you, and I never misled you either. My career would come first, then we would talk about marriage.

Jocelin's eyes begin to tear up.

JOCELIN

I want that now, Damien.

DAMIEN

We worked on our careers together, Jocelin. That's what was important to us.

JOCELIN

It's changed for me...and I can't keep going on like this.

Damien paces the room, upset with the conversation.

DAMIEN

(worried)

Is this an ultimatum?

JOCELIN

It's a choice, Damien...one you have to make. I love you, and I've been SO patient with you...but not anymore. I want to get married and have a family...I can't make it more clear than that.

Damien looks at Jocelin a moment. He knows what's in his head and soul.

DAMIEN

(hurt)

I love you too, but I'm just not ready, Jocelin. I wish I could tell you what you want to hear, but I'd be lying to you.

Tears flow from Jocelin's eyes down her cheeks.

JOCELIN

Then that's it Damien. I can't hope for something that isn't going to show up.

DAMIEN

So it's over between us?

JOCELIN

(upset)

Yes...

Jocelin chokes back her tears.

JOCELIN (CONT'D)

I need a break from feeling this way.

Damien takes a moment to digest what Jocelin said. He grabs his jacket off the couch and walks to the door, then turns to her.

DAMIEN

I was committed to us...I just didn't need to get married to prove it.

Damien opens the door, puts his apartment key on an end table and leaves. Jocelin cries.

EXT. SCHOOL CAMPUS - DAY

JJ and Cam approaches DINA, (14) black, olive complexion with cute dimples, and her friends on the front lawn of their high school. JJ looks worried.

JJ

I don't know, Cam...I been practicin' it, but what if I mess it up?

CAM

(confident)

You got this, double J! Remember, it's for your lady love!

Cam elbows JJ playfully. JJ pushes him in affection. Dina notices them and smiles at JJ. JJ psyches himself up.

JJ

K', its now or never.

The boys stand in front of Dina and her friends. The YOUNG GIRL, (14) next to Dina seems unimpressed by their arrival.

DINA'S FRIEND

What do you fools want?

CAM

(smooth)

Easy mama...ladies, how fly you all look today!

JJ

Hi Dina.

DINA

(excited)

Hey JJ!

JJ and Dina's eyes connect. It's a cute crush they have.

JJ

I want to give you somethin'.

DINA

Like a gift?

JJ

Better, I hope...but let me do it before I chicken out.

JJ signals to Cam, who begins to beat box and presses his cell phone for audio sound. JJ begins to sing a rap song for Dina. His confidence grows in every word. Dina smiles and sways to the boy's song.

Other students gather around. They begin to clap in beat with the song. JJ finishes the song on a high note. The other students applaud him. JJ looks at Dina, his vulnerability showing.

DINA

(happy)
I loved it!

JJ

Really?

DINA

It was fire, JJ!

DINA'S FRIEND

Not bad, even for you two.

CAM

Not bad? It was dope, and yes...

He looks around at the other classmates.

CAM (CONT'D)

(bragging)

We are available for parties!

JJ takes Dina's hand. The two smile at one another with affection. Cam notices and puts his arm around JJ.

CAM (CONT'D)

Hey Romeo, don't forget we got baseball practice. You two can get some smooch time later.

DINA

Shut up, Cam.

JJ

(sarcastic)

Right, practice...just what I was thinkin' about.

JJ looks at Dina.

JJ (CONT'D)

I gotta go get my gear, sorry.

DINA

Can I watch you practice?

JJ

(excited)

Sure!

DINA'S FRIEND

(hint of jealousy)

I though we was gonna do homework at your house?

DINA

You heard his rap to me...HOMEWORK can wait! Just come with me.

Her friend shrugs her shoulders in approval as Dina grabs her backpack. JJ and Cam walk towards the school. JJ winches in pain and clutches his chest. Cam puts his hand on JJ's back.

CAM

(concern)

What's up, you okay?

JJ catches his breath.

JJ

(uncomfortable)

Yeah, it's a pulled muscle, hurt last week too.

CAM

Better not joke and tell coach.

JJ

I will...just don't wanna lose my spot on the team.

CAM

(proud)

Boy, you an MVP. Team can't do nothin' without you. C'mon, let's qo.

JJ and Cam continue to the school while Dina and her friends walk towards the ball field.

INT. GALA DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Angelique and John, beautifully dressed, escort a stunning Jocelin into a ball room with tables and chairs, serving stations, a stage and podium with a banner behind it that reads "2022 Physician of the Year Damien Alexander".

ANGELIQUE

(overwhelmed)

Wow, this is gorgeous!

JOHN

Yep, now where's that jumbo shrimp and mondo dinner I was promised?

Jocelin smiles uncomfortably as other guests at the party recognize her and wave. She feels out of place. Angelique notices Jocelin's behavior and stands next to her sister.

ANGELIQUE

(concern)

You okay?

JOCELIN

It feels weird being here after Damien and I took a break.

ANGELIQUE

Then why'd you come?

JOCELIN

I promised a lot of people I'd show up tonight.

Jocelin looks around the room.

JOCELIN (CONT'D)

Maybe I won't see Damien.

DAMIEN (O.S.)

Hello, everyone!

Damien, in a tuxedo, approaches the trio. He musters an awkward smile. Angelique frowns as John shakes his hand when Damien offers his. Angelique smacks John's arm and whispers to John.

ANGELIQUE

Don't act friendly to him.

JOHN

Baby, he put it out there, and I ain't rude.

Jocelin and Damien exchange polite smiles.

DAMIEN

Jocelin, you look beautiful.

Jocelin subtly tries to avoid eye contact, only making it infrequently.

JOCELIN

You always looked good in a tux.

Damien turns his attention to Angelique and John.

DAMIEN

How are you both?

ANGELIQUE

(cold)

Damien, congratulations on all THIS.

JOHN

Yeah, man, best life tonight...hey point a brother to where the shrimp's at?

Damien chuckles and directs John. John avoids the tension by quickly kissing Angelique's cheek and makes a fast exit towards the food.

Angelique tries to grab his pant's leg to stop him from leaving but fails. She mumbles under her breath with annoyance. Damien turns back towards Jocelin.

DAMIEN

Look, I realize this is strange for you, being here, because of what happened between us...but I appreciate that you came...

Damien eyes Angelique, who gives him the stink-eye.

DAMIEN (CONT'D)

Even if it was with backup.

JOCELIN

(light sarcasm)

Yeah, well, I'm behind enemy lines,

Damien laughs while Jocelin smirks.

DAMIEN

I miss you Jocelin, and I still love you.

Jocelin looks down in response to her conflicting emotions over Damien.

JOCELIN

I know, but I can't do this tonight. It took all my resolve to come here, and I need it to get through this.

STAGE:

Lane Benson walks out and stands behind the podium with a microphone in front of him.

LANE

Everyone, please...if we can all take our seats, we can begin to honor Dr. Damien Alexander.

ROOM:

Guests begin to sit at various tables.

BACK TO DAMIEN AND JOCELIN:

DAMIEN

Well, if you'll excuse me, they need me up there to start this thing.

ANGELIQUE

(attitude)

Don't want to be late for YOUR OWN party.

Damien smiles at Angelique.

DAMIEN

I'm glad you and John came tonight, Angelique.

He turns back to Jocelin.

DAMIEN (CONT'D)

Bye Jocelin.

Damien walks towards the stage. Angelique moves closer to her sister in support.

ANGELIQUE

(conflicted)

I wanna hate him, but he's so dang smooth.

Angelique forces a laugh out of Jocelin who thanks her sister with a shoulder hug. John returns with a plate full of shrimp. Jocelin's eyes widen in marvel.

JOCELIN

Did you save ANY shrimp for anybody else?

JOHN

It's jumbo shrimp...gives an illusion of a full plate.

Angelique eyes John.

ANGELIQUE

Let's sit down...can't believe you.

JOHN

What? Baby, I'm HANGRY!

The three walk to a table and sit.

INT. GALA DINING ROOM - DANCE FLOOR - NIGHT

John and Angelique dance slowly along side other couples. Angelique marvels at the beautiful gowns and tailored suits that surround them. John pays attention to his dance moves.

ANGELIQUE

It's so much fun, John...so elegant...classy.

JOHN

It's alright.

ANGELIQUE

Just alright? Figures you'd think that.

JOHN

All I'm sayin' is this...

John motions to the room with his eyes.

JOHN (CONT'D)

It isn't us. We're real folks, livin' in the real world. All this is for one night.

ANGELIQUE

(hopeful)

But it could be us, John. With me ownin' the cupcake shop and you havin' the construction gig, we'd have SO MUCH.

JOHN

You still with the cupcake thing?

ANGELIQUE

Yeah, and why not? You and everybody else loves em'. It'd be solid gold.

JOHN

Baby, now's not the time to open a business...economy's nuts, plus the kids need you home.

ANGELIQUE

Woman have kids and work, John...happens all the time.

JOHN

(proud)

Look Angie, I'm the man and I provide for us, don't I? My family don't want for nothin'...JJ's baseball stuff, Chloe's dance classes, whatever Ellie needs, and you...

John pauses and looks perplexed at Angelique as they dance.

JOHN (CONT'D)

(surprised)

You never ask for nothin'...what do you need?

ANGELIQUE

The CUPCAKE SHOP!

John shakes his head in frustration. Angelique looks at Jocelin alone at the table with her head on her hand and a look of unrest on her face.

ANGELIQUE (CONT'D)

(envious)

Josie's got that respect of bein' in charge. I want that.

JOHN

Yeah, she looks thrilled about it.

Angelique stops dancing with John. She pulls on his arm to follow her back to the table.

INT. GALA DINING ROOM - TABLE - NIGHT

Angelique sits next to Jocelin.

ANGELIQUE

You okay?

JOCELIN

I'm just ready to go.

ANGELIQUE

Alright, let's hit it.

John overhears their conversation.

JOHN

Since we leavin', I'm grabbin' some mini quiches to go.

John heads towards the buffet table.

ANGELIQUE

You sorry you came tonight?

Jocelin sees Damien talking to other people. Damien spots Jocelin and after a pause waves to her. Jocelin half-heartedly smiles back.

JOCELIN

(reflective)

Sometimes all this is too much...

Angelique holds Jocelin's hand in support.

JOCELIN (CONT'D)

During the night I was wishing I was at your house with you and the kids.

ANGELIQUE

(sarcastic)

They'd drive us crazy.

JOCELIN

I'd love it!

The two women laugh.

ANGELIOUE

Let's qo.

Angelique and Jocelin put their coats on. John joins them and stuffs a few quiches wrapped in a napkin into his jacket pocket.

NEAR THE PODIUM:

Damien looks to the table where Jocelin sat but only sees an empty chair. He's disappointed.

INT. LEWIS HOME - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Angelique and John lie next to each other in bed. There's an awkward silence between them. John rolls on his side and hugs Angelique.

JOHN

(compassionate)
This cupcake business means
somethin' to you?

I love bein' a mom to our kids and your wife, but there's a part of me who wants more...to be in charge of somethin'.

JOHN

You in charge of us and the house, that ain't enough?

ANGELIQUE

It's not the same thing, baby. Lookin' at something that's yours, and wantin' to make it a success because it's a reflection of you...

Angelique looks into John's eyes.

ANGELIQUE (CONT'D)

You know how that feels with the construction company. I wanna feel that way too.

John kisses his wife.

JOHN

Alright, let's do it!

ANGELIQUE

Really...don't play me!

JOHN

Nope, straight up truth. I'm the provider and I'll make it happen.

ANGELIQUE

How?

JOHN

The construction business is solid, so I'll take out a loan against it.

ANGELIQUE

We can do that?

JOHN

Sure, the bank loves me. Besides, happy wife, happy life, right...and you got a birthday comin' up, so HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Angelique smiles at John then kisses him.

(sexy)

C'mere, my big strappin' man.

John pulls the covers over the couple as they giggle.

JOHN (O.S.)

(seductive)

I'm about to give you an early birthday present.

ANGELIQUE (O.S.)

You still fit into that Cupid costume from a few years back?

John laughs and throws off the cover.

JOHN

(excited)

I'm gonna' find out right now!

John makes a dash to the bedroom closet.

JOHN (CONT'D)

You ain't never said what you wanna do for your birthday, Angie.

ANGELIQUE

I just wanna spend it with family, baby...and Josie too.

John skims through the clothes hanging in the closet as he searches for the costume.

JOHN

You sure she's gonna be up for it, I mean with her and Damien and everything?

ANGELIQUE

(eager)

We FRAT TWINS, baby! I know she needs a pick up and she'll be down with it.

JOHN

Yeah, I sometimes forget how close you two are, like you readin' each others minds or somethin'.

John finds the costume and gleefully turns to face Angelique to show her, but frowns. Angelique opens a drawer in a nightstand and remove a pad and pen. She starts writing.

JOHN (CONT'D)

(disappointed)

Aww, not a list...not now!

ANGELIQUE

I gotta plan the party, baby or I'll forget stuff. You know how I am!

John waves the Cupid costume.

JOHN

I was gonna be the baby...with the wings, and the arrow...

John holds up different parts of the costume in a plea to his wife to get back into the mood. Angelique waves him off, concentrating on her list.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Baby, you started the engine, now you gonna leave me idle?

Angelique is lost in writing her list. John, defeated, drops the Cupid costume and climbs back into bed. He turns over on his side in the bed.

JOHN (CONT'D)

(sarcastic)

You lucky you beautiful.

EXT. BASEBALL FIELD - DAY

Cam walks towards the parking lot of the field. Eddie, somewhat agitated, meets him.

EDDIE

Yo bro!

Cam is surprised to see Eddie.

CAM

Eddie, why you here? Where's mom and dad?

EDDIE

It's cool, baby bro, I'm gettin' you.

Cam looks nervous based on Eddie's past drinking, but Eddie tries to calm him by putting his arm around his shoulder.

EDDIE (CONT'D)

(convincing)

It's okay, let's go home.

INT. EDDIE'S CAR - DAY - MOMENTS LATER

Eddie drives while Cam sits in the passenger seat. He reaches to put his seat belt on but Eddie stops him.

CAM

I gotta buckle in, man.

EDDIE

Nah, girls see you breakin' rules and they hot for you. You watch when we pass em'.

CAM

Really?

EDDIE

Truth only, bro.

Cam lets go of the seat belt and it snaps back into place.

CAM

Practice was good, I think we got the championship this year.

EDDIE

(disinterested)

Oh yeah?

CAM

Yeah, Coach Bailey says...

Eddie's tone is sudden resentment.

EDDIE

(annoyed)

Listen, don't preach on Coach Bailey...dude bailed on me and never looked back.

CAM

Eddie...

EDDIE

You playin' ball is fine cause I love you an' all, but no coach talk...

Eddie pauses and reflects on when he played baseball.

EDDIE (CONT'D)

I was better than you on that field. One of the best.

Eddie's car hit a bump. Something from under the passenger seat hits Cam's foot. He looks down.

CAR FLOOR:

A bottle of liquor, half full, rests against Cam's foot.

BACK TO CAM:

CAM

(anxious)

Eddie, you drinkin' and drivin'?

EDDIE

Nah, it's old stuff, I ain't loaded.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Eddie's car drives through a stop sign.

INT. EDDIE'S CAR - DAY

Eddie and Cam argue.

CAM

(upset)

Pull over man!

EDDIE

Just shut up, bro...it's fine!

Cam reaches into his jacket and removes a cellphone.

CAM

I'm callin' Mom!

EDDIE

Don't!

Eddie grabs Cam's arm to stop him from using his cellphone.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Another car hits Cam's side of the car at full speed.

CAR FLOOR:

Cam's phone screen reads Mom and Sandra Parker's voice is heard saying "Cam? Cameron?"

INT. HOSPITAL PRIVATE ROOM - DAY

A distraught Sandra and David talk with Lane. David tries to comfort his wife. Sandra is a stew of emotions.

SANDRA

(upset)

I want to see my boys! We've been waiting here for hours!

LANE

(calming)

You will see them, Mrs. Parker...I'm trying to prepare you for when you see them.

David is sweating as his hands shake.

DAVID

Doctor, how are they?

LANE

Eddie received some bruises and lacerations along with a broken wrist, which we treated when he arrived in the ER after the accident.

DAVID

And Cameron?

Lane pauses a moment to collect his words before saying them. This provokes Sandra.

SANDRA

What's wrong with Cam?

LANE

(compassionate)

Your son sustained life threatening injuries from the crash. Several of his vital organs were damaged except his heart. By some miracle it remained intact. Cameron's brain received blunt force trauma as well.

Sandra eyes fill with tears. David's face expresses shock.

DAVID

What?

LANE

Your son is on life support. We've made him as comfortable as we can.

SANDRA

(grief-stricken)

What about surgery? Can't you do that?

Lane clears his throat. This is a difficult conversation.

LANE

(supportive)

It isn't that simple, Mrs. Parker. At this point, surgery could repair some damage to Cameron, but it wouldn't heal him or give you back your son the way you remember him.

Through her tears, Sandra pulls herself together.

SANDRA

(panicked)

I want to see my boys. I'm not giving up on Cameron. He'll recover...he's strong. He plays baseball...and he wants to live.

David tries to hold Sandra's hand but she pulls it away from him and gives him a cold look. Lane notices this but says nothing.

SANDRA (CONT'D)

My boy will be fine...he'll be fine...

INT. LEWIS HOME - LIVING ROOM - NEXT DAY

John walks through the front door with JJ. Angelique sits on a couch waiting for them.

ANGELIQUE

(tender)

There's my baby...c'mere, sit with me and your dad...we gotta' tell you somethin'.

JJ sits next to his mother. John sits in another chair.

JJ

What's goin' on, mom? Dad don't pick me up this early from school.

JOHN

(apprehensive)

I knew you didn't have practice today...figured it was cool to get you.

JJ

Yeah, Coach Bailey cancelled practice but I don't know why.

Angelique takes JJ's hand in support.

ANGELIQUE

Now, what I gotta say is hard honey, but you have to know.

JJ grows nervous as things seem ominous.

ANGELIQUE (CONT'D)

Your friend, Cam...

JJ

Yeah, he wasn't at school today.

ANGELIQUE

Well, something happened to him...

JJ

(concern)

Is he sick?

John puts his hand on JJ's back.

JOHN

Let your mom finish.

ANGELIQUE

(saddened)

He was in a car accident yesterday, baby. Cam's not doin' too good.

JJ is in shock by what his mother told him.

JOHN

Talk to us JJ.

JJ

(upset)

I saw em' two days ago...he was okay! Why didn't they say somethin' at school today?

JOHN

His parents probably didn't want your principal sayin' nothin' to the kids...get em' upset.

ANGELIQUE

Dina's mom called a little bit ago before you got home...some parents found out...she told us what happened.

JJ's eyes tear up. His body trembles. Angelique hugs him while John comforts them both.

JJ

Is he gonna be okay?

ANGELIQUE

(comforting)

No JJ, he's not okay...Cam got hurt real bad.

JJ sobs and buries his head into Angelique's chest. Angelique holds her son tight, as if trying to absorb his pain.

ANGELIQUE (CONT'D)

But we can pray for him, and hope he gets better. That's what we gonna do, right?

She pulls JJ's face up and lovingly strokes his head. JJ nods yes.

JJ

Can we go see em'?

John and Angelique exchange a look of surprise at their son's bravery to want to see Cam so quickly.

JOHN

(supportive)

Yeah...sure we can, if you feelin' up to it?

JJ

I want to.

Angelique continues to cradle JJ's face.

My brave boy.

INT. LEWIS HOME - KITCHEN - FRIDAY - DAY

Angelique prepares a tray of meats and cheese. Jocelin sips wine from a glass while MARILYN REYNOLDS, (60's) the women's mother, smart dresser in glasses, talks to Chloe seated at the serving island.

CHLOE

(excited)

So if Momma make a wish today on her birthday it'll come true?

MARILYN

Sometimes, sugar, but not always. It has to be a special wish made by the right person.

CHLOE

Who can do it?

MARILYN

The belief in the wish has be so strong, and so true, that the person wills it to happen. You have to also be clear on the wish in your heart cause what you ask for, you get.

Jocelin looks at her mother in disbelief.

JOCELIN

Mom, quite filling Chloe's head with that old world nonsense.

MARILYN

(offended)

Nonsense? I beg your pardon.

CHLOE

(protective)

Grandma wouldn't lie.

Marilyn smiles at Chloe and strokes her hair lovingly.

MARILYN

Thank you baby...

She turns her attention to Jocelin.

MARILYN (CONT'D)

Wasn't too long ago you and your sister were children and believed in wishing...a new doll, a bike...or having your daddy back.

Angelique comforts her mother with a hug. Jocelin's tone turns.

JOCELIN

(reflective)

Mom, I miss daddy everyday. He past away so young, and Angie and I did wish he'd come back, but we were kids, and then we grew up.

MARILYN

You should never lose the innocence of belief inside you. It keeps hope of the impossible alive.

ANGELIQUE

I ain't never lost that belief, Mama...shoot, there's a whole lot I'm wishin' for today.

JJ and Dina enter the kitchen. Marilyn's eyes light up with excitement seeing her grandson.

JJ

(curious)

Mom, when's the food comin' out? Everybody's starvin' in the living room.

Angelique hands the stray full of food to JJ.

ANGELIOUE

As soon as you help your mother with it!

Angelique gestures to Jocelin.

ANGELIQUE (CONT'D)

I cook and plan OUR birthday dinner, and this one comes in here tellin' me to hurry up?

JJ sneaks a quick taste of the food.

DINA

Can I help, Mrs. Lewis?

Aren't you precious, baby girl, but we got this.

Angelique gives her a hug around the shoulders.

ANGELIQUE (CONT'D)

So polite to...

She motions towards JJ.

ANGELIQUE (CONT'D)

(playful)

What're doin' with him?

Dina laughs as JJ blushes.

DINA

He's funny.

CHLOE

(sarcastic)

Funny lookin'.

JJ makes a I'm going to knock your block off gesture at Chloe. Marilyn interrupts and gathers up her grandchildren and Dina.

MARILYN

Come, my angels, let's go to the living room...there's a birthday party for your Mom and Aunt to get to.

Marilyn looks back at her daughters.

MARILYN (CONT'D)

I'm sure you two can bring the food inside.

Marilyn, Chloe, JJ and Dina leave the kitchen. Jocelin drinks from her glass.

JOCELIN

(sarcastic)

That is not the same woman who raised us. She's an old woman trying to get into heaven now by being nice to her grand kids.

Jocelin looks at Angelique, and her thoughts settle on JJ. Her tone changes.

JOCELIN (CONT'D)

(concern)

How's JJ doing?

ANGELIQUE

He's dealin' with it, in his own way. After we visited Cam at the hospital, JJ cried so much...he loves that boy.

JOCELIN

(sympathetic)

What happened to that poor boy...and his family...too much.

ANGELIQUE

I asked the kids if they still wanted this party for their Momma and Auntie, and it was a yes, so here we are.

Jocelin puts her glass down on the kitchen island and picks up a dish to carry.

JOCELIN

You ready?

ANGELIQUE

You gonna wish for what you want when the cake comes out?

JOCELIN

(sarcastic)

You mean when YOU bring the cake out to OUR party?

ANGELIQUE

Nope, John's bringin' it in the living room...but I'm serious, Josie, why not wish for what we want?

JOCELIN

What? C'mon, not you too.

ANGELIQUE

Why not? It ain't hurtin' anybody, so what of it?

Jocelin pauses and listens to her sister.

ANGELIQUE (CONT'D)

(hopeful)

Josie, you want that family deal, husband and kids, house and the fence around it, and I wanna be a boss, in charge of my own thing, and the respect with it. Let's wish for it together!

Jocelin looks into her sister's eyes and sees the sincerity of her words. Angelique's belief touches Jocelin's heart.

JOCELIN

(reflective)

That IS what I want, more than anything...so what harm could it do?

Jocelin smiles with a playful innocence.

JOCELIN (CONT'D)

(mischievous)

Maybe it'll come true, and if it does then I have a two week vacation for that wish to get started, right?

ANGELIQUE

That's what I'm talkin' about, Josie!

The sisters laugh.

JOCELIN

(excited)

Alright, let's throw a wish out into the universe!

ANGELIQUE

That's how I feel...so we doin' this?

JOCELIN

Okay, but just for two weeks...Mama said we have to be precise.

ANGELIQUE

Two weeks...I got your life and you got mine.

The two sisters laugh.

JOCELIN

Let's do this before I call you crazy and back out!

INT. LEWIS HOME - LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

John enters holding a birthday cake with lit candles. Chloe's face beams with excitement. JJ and Dina sit next to Marilyn with Ellie on her lap. Angelique and Jocelin look at one another with anticipation. The cake is placed on a table.

JOHN

Deep breath you two, then blow em' out!

Angelique and Jocelin hold hands and give each other a final look before they close their eyes simultaneously and make their wishes. The sisters blow out the candles in one try.

MARILYN

Well done, ladies.

Jocelin and Angelique's eyes open at the same time. A yellowish glow shines inside them ,then disappears.

ON CANDLES:

The smoke slowly rises from the extinguished candles and dissipates around everyone in the living room.

BACK TO ANGELIQUE AND JOCELIN:

Angelique looks at Jocelin.

ANGELIQUE

Fingers crossed.

JOCELIN

It's silly, but I guess we'll see.

Jocelin stands from her chair.

JOCELIN (CONT'D)

I'll get a knife for the cake.

INT. LEWIS HOME - BEDROOM - NEXT DAY

Angelique sleeps on her side with covers over her. John lies next to her and puts his arm around her waist. She awakens but is still half asleep.

(groggy)

Not now Damien, I'm still tired.

John's head shoots up from behind Angelique's body.

JOHN

(surprised)

Damien? Did you just say Damien?

Angelique wakes up, turns over, sees John, and SCREAMS. She falls out of bed.

ANGELIOUE

What are you doing in bed with me?

JOHN

Where else would I be?

Aghast, Angelique looks around the bedroom.

ANGELIQUE

Wait, this is your bedroom!

JOHN

Our bedroom, Angie! What's goin' on with you?

She stands up.

ANGELIQUE

Why'd you call me that?

JOHN

Cause it's your name? If this is a joke, I'm missin' it!

Angelique looks at, then feels the nightgown she's wearing.

ANGELIQUE

(nervous)

What am I doing in these clothes? What is going on?

JOHN

I wanna go back to Damien! Why's his name comin' outta your mouth?

Angelique searches her thoughts.

ANGELIQUE

Hold on...YOU being here, the clothes....

She runs into the bathroom and slams the door behind her.

INT. LEWIS HOME - BATHROOM - DAY

Angelique turns on a light, sees her own reflection and SCREAMS.

JOHN (O.S.)

What's goin' on, Angie? Open the door!

Angelique stares at herself in the mirror. She rubs her face with her hands in shock.

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

You have too much wine at that birthday party yesterday?

Angelique talks to herself.

ANGELIQUE

(rationalizing)

I'm Jocelin, but I'm

Angelique...but I can't be two

people...that's

impossible...unless...Oh my god,

the wish!

JOHN (O.S.)

Angie!

ANGELIQUE

I need a minute!

INT. LEWIS HOME - BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Angelique exits the bathroom. She is a bundle of nerves. John, frustrated, stand with his arms crossed. JJ and Chloe are in the room.

CHLOE

(worried)

Mom, we heard you scream.

JJ

You okay?

John motions to the kids with his finger as if to say you'd better tell them something.

(convincing)

Mom's good, just had a bad dream is all. Can you give John and me a minute?

JJ and Chloe look oddly at one another then leave the bedroom.

JOHN

John? Since when?

ANGELIQUE

(light-hearted)

Sorry...I'm out of sorts this morning. Guess it WAS the wine at the party.

JOHN

And Damien? What's that about?

Angelique thinks quickly of an excuse for what she said.

ANGELIQUE

Oh that...it was probably that movie I was watching in bed last night, with that actor...Damien what's-his-name...

John looks at Angelique, puzzled.

ANGELIQUE (CONT'D)

(admitting)

Okay, I was having a dream about him...no big deal, right?

Angelique grabs her cellphone from the dresser.

ANGELIQUE (CONT'D)

I have to call Angel...I mean Josie about something.

She nervously enters the bathroom and slams the door shut behind her.

JOHN (O.S.)

I'm gettin' tired of hearin' that name Damien.

INT. JOCELIN'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - MORNING

Jocelin is fast asleep when her cellphone ring wakes her. Half asleep, she answers it.

JOCELIN

(annoyed)

It's too early! Who is this?

She pauses and waits for an answer.

JOCELIN (CONT'D)

(concern)

Angie, what's wrong...no, slow down...what? Wait...how do you sound like me? Go look in the mirror? Why?

Jocelin looks at the bed, then the room.

JOCELIN (CONT'D)

(panicky)

What is this? Why am I in your bedroom...

Jocelin grabs at her nightgown, the phone to her ear.

JOCELIN (CONT'D)

In your clothes...this is freaky!

She pauses again.

JOCELIN (CONT'D)

(worried)

Alright, let me see a mirror!

Jocelin walks in front of a full length mirror and sees a reflection of herself. She SCREAMS and falls backwards to the floor and drops the phone.

JOCELIN (CONT'D)

What's goin' on? I'm me, talkin' to you...but you're me...

Jocelin scrambles to her feet. A look of shock on her face. She picks the phone up to her ear again.

JOCELIN (CONT'D)

Oh yeah we gotta talk! Sit tight..don't move!

Jocelin puts the phone down on a dresser. She stares at herself in the mirror, then feels her waist and legs, then her face and hair.

JOCELIN (CONT'D)

(scared)

This ain't right!

INT. LEWIS HOME - LIVING ROOM - DAY

John opens the front door. Jocelin barges in.

JOHN

(sarcastic)

Whoa! Sure, come on in!

Jocelin races past John and up the stairs.

JOCELIN

Can't talk now, honey! I gotta see Angie!

JOHN

Honey?

INT. LEWIS HOME - HALLWAY - DAY

Jocelin reaches the second floor. JJ and Chloe, in their pajamas, are outside Angelique's bedroom door listening through the door.

JOCELIN

(elated)

My babies!

The kids turn around, surprised. Jocelin hugs both of them.

JOCELIN (CONT'D)

Miss you guys!

Jocelin finally lets go of them.

CHLOE

We saw you yesterday at my party, Aunt Josie.

JOCELIN

What?

Jocelin takes a second and reminds herself what's happened to her.

JOCELIN (CONT'D)

I know...it's just...

JJ

(puzzled)

Just what? First mom's actin' up, now you too? Something's weird.

Jocelin takes another look at the kids, then the bedroom door.

JOCELIN

I gotta see your mom.

She walks passed the kids, opens the door and closed it behind her.

INT. LEWIS HOME - BEDROOM - DAY

Angelique rushes to Jocelin and grabs her.

ANGELIQUE

(anixous)

It's the wish! It happened!

JOCELIN

Oh Lord in heaven! I can't believe this!

ANGELIQUE

What are we going to do? We can't stay like this!

JOCELIN

I know...I know...wait, let's unwish it! We did it, so let's undo it!

ANGELIQUE

Okay...what do we do?

JOCELIN

(sarcastic)

I don't know...I ain't never done THIS before!

ANGELIQUE

Wait...we'll both wish to fix it, at the same time. That should do it, right?

JOCELIN

Let's go!

The two women tightly close their eyes at the same time. After a moment, they open them.

ANGELIQUE

I'm still in here!

JOCELIN

Dang, it didn't work...try it again.

The women repeat their actions.

JOCELIN (CONT'D)

(frustrated)

Nope!

ANGELIQUE

What are we going to do? John and the kids are going to find out!

Jocelin pauses a moment, deep in thought.

JOCELIN

Wait...did you wish for two weeks?

ANGELIQUE

Yes, did you?

JOCELIN

We were too specific...it's two weeks of this!

ANGELIQUE

I never thought the wish would come true!

JOCELIN

Me neither, but hocus pocus...here we are!

ANGELIQUE

(nervous)

What are going to do?

Jocelin pauses, the gears inside her mind are spinning. Her face slowly switches to optimism.

ANGELIQUE (CONT'D)

What is it?

JOCELIN

Maybe nobody needs to find out...this might not be so bad.

ANGELIQUE

HAve you lost it?

JOCELIN

Chill and think about it. We wanted this, it's what we wished for.

I didn't wish for YOUR family! I wanted A FAMILY!

JOCELIN

(excited)

I'm talkin' about changin' our lives, Josie. Member', you wanted a family and I wanted to be a boss, well whoop, here it is!

ANGELIQUE

You're talking about leaving your family!

JOCELIN

Not really...let's live out the wish for the two weeks, that's it. Then we switch back.

ANGELIQUE

We couldn't change back when we tried just now...how are we going to do it in two weeks?

JOCELIN

Momma said a wish happens when somebody really believes and wants it bad enough, so it's gotta be the same for gettin' rid of it.

Angelique stares at her sister. She knows her too well.

ANGELIQUE

And?

JOCELIN

(embarrassed)

I kinda didn't really want to end it when we tried before.

Angelique throws her hands in the air.

ANGELIQUE

Are you kidding me?

JOCELIN

Hear me out, Josie. I trust my family with you...you love my babies almost as much as me, so their safe for two weeks.

Angelique calms down and listens to her sister.

JOCELIN (CONT'D)

All you do is tell me how to be you, for two weeks, so I can feel like a she-E-O.

Angelique thinks on Jocelin's words.

ANGELIQUE

(cautious)

So after TWO WEEKS, we wish to go back in each other's bodies, and MEAN IT, right?

JOCELIN

Yep, promise.

ANGELIQUE

Won't you miss being away from the kids...and John?

JOCELIN

Yeah, but you're over my house all the time, so I ain't far away, and I can video chat with em' anytime I want to. I love them, but this is the break I need, Josie.

Angelique pauses a moment.

ANGELIQUE

(nervous)

What about John? He's a hound dog when it comes to you and he...

Angelique waves her fingers between Jocelin and the door indicating John downstairs as she makes a stank face.

ANGELIQUE (CONT'D)

You know!

JOCELIN

True, my man does come after it.

Angelique playfully GAGS.

JOCELIN (CONT'D)

Tell em' I got a cold...the man hates germs. Had the flu once, couldn't find him for five days.

ANGELIQUE

And the kids?

JOCELIN

I'll tell you everythin' you need to know.

Angelique smirks and nods her head in agreement.

ANGELIQUE

Okay, so a trial run at a family...and you'll be around...sounds good...and I'm on a stay-cation so you can't mess things up at my work.

JOCELIN

(sarcastic)

A-hem, and how you gonna take care of your sister?

ANGELIQUE

What? You have my clothes and my car to use...OH and I can give you a credit card that I would have used anyway, so we're good.

JOCELIN

(concern)

What if Damien comes sniffin' around?

Angelique thinks a moment.

ANGELIQUE

Don't answer his calls and don't be home a lot...or at the hospital...you won't see him.

The two sisters hold each other's hands, happily anxious and a little nervous.

JOCELIN

So, we doin' this?

ANGELIQUE

Yeah, let's do it.

Angelique and Jocelin hug each other.

ANGELIQUE (CONT'D)

Look at you, a BOSS!

Jocelin points at Angelique.

JOCELIN

Momma's home!

INT. LEWIS HOME - KITCHEN - DAY

MONTAGE:

Angelique tries to find something for breakfast. She searching cabinets and the fridge. Fed-up, Angelique drops a cereal box, milk, and a fruit bowl on the table and motions to her family, saying eat up...that's breakfast. Her family stares at her, confused.

John tries for a hug and kiss from Angelique. She reacts with a fake sneeze and cough, repelling John away. Angelique puts a face mask on and shakes her head no. He hastily exits the house with the kids.

Angelique closes the door, flips off the mask, and chuckles to herself.

Angelique tries to feed Ellie baby food. Ellie playfully spits some up. She wipes Ellie's mouth. Ellie throws some food at Angelique which lands on her face. She grins at Ellie as if to say I'll get you back, little girl.

MONTAGE ENDS:

INT. JOCELIN'S APARTMENT - BATHROOM - DAY

Jocelin, a towel around her and another on her head, wipes the shower steam from a mirror in the bathroom. She smiles at herself then opens a medicine cabinet filled with creams and lotions. Jocelin applies one to her shoulders and relishes in the experience.

INT. JOCELIN'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN - DAY

Jocelin, in sweats, takes a container from the fridge labeled breakfast to the microwave, puts the food inside, and pushes a button. She looks through cabinets while the food heats.

With a DING she removes the breakfast, opens the lid and tastes it. Jocelin frowns and dumps ketchup and hot sauce all over the breakfast, tastes it again, and smiles.

INT. JOCELIN'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM -DAY

Jocelin, in workout clothes, rides an expensive stationary bike with excitement. She smacks a video screen on the bike where the VIRTUAL INSTRUCTOR, (20's) pushes for just one more mile.

INSTRUCTOR

You got this! Keep up with me!

JOCELIN

(confident)

Nah-ah, you keep up with me!

INT. JOCELIN'S APARTMENT - DINING ROOM - DAY

Jocelin types on a laptop. She studies a notebook next to her.

NOTEBOOK PAGE:

Angelique's hand written instructions for investing and trading stocks with the title, follow precisely, don't mess up!

BACK TO JOCELIN:

Jocelin finishes typing and closes the laptop. Jocelin suddenly throws her arm straight up in the air making a fist in excitement, success!

JOCELIN

(thrilled)

Yeah! Who's in charge?

She starts motioning money flipping in her hands.

JOCELIN (CONT'D)

I'm makin' it RAIN!

INT. PARKER HOUSE - DAY

Sandra, David and Eddie walk in. Eddie walks somberly towards a set of stairs, his wrist and neck bandaged. David closes the door behind them.

INT. PARKER HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Sandra puts her purse and coat on a chair. David begins to fix himself a drink.

SANDRA

(frustrated)

I can't believe I'm hearing ice hit a glass right now.

David pauses.

DAVID

It's just one, Sandra.

SANDRA

It's never one, and you know it.

David puts the glass down.

DAVID

Our son is lying in a hospital bed kept alive by a machine, and we just came from court who decided our other son has to attend AA meetings and perform community service for two years, so I thought one drink might take the edge off.

Sandra walks to David and turns him around to face her.

SANDRA

(angry)

You pour that drink and I will walk out that door and never come back! This is about YOU, and EDDIE...the cycle you created in this family, David!

DAVID

It's easy to blame me, right?

SANDRA

Who else? I don't touch alcohol, you know that! Eddie sees you, David...a drink for this, a drink for that! Who keeps count anymore, right?

DAVID

(begging)

All I try to do is please you!

SANDRA

I don't need a "yes man", I need a husband and father who's with it!

David puts the glass on the bar and SIGHS.

DAVID

Throw all the liquor out, Sandra! It won't matter...I can't live up to your expectations anymore! Our family is falling apart!

(MORE)

DAVID (CONT'D)

Eddie's in his own hell, and we may get sued because of the accident...and Cam is...

SANDRA

(defensive)

Going to get better! He will be ALRIGHT!

Sandra turns from David and cries.

SANDRA (CONT'D)

He has to be...he's all I have left.

EDDIE (O.S.)

(dejected)

What about me, mama?

Sandra and David turn and see Eddie at the bottom of the stairs. Tears roll down his cheeks. David starts to walk towards him, but Sandra steps in front of him and meets Eddie.

SANDRA

(painful)

I've never lied to you Eddie...when I heard what you did...why it happened...for a moment, I hated you.

She grabs Eddie and hugs him tight. Eddie sobs.

SANDRA (CONT'D)

I don't ever want to feel that way again...not ever.

EDDIE

(remorseful)

I'm so sorry, Mama...I didn't mean
it! I'd never hurt Cam on purpose!

SANDRA

I know Eddie, and I love you, more than anything, and we all have to get better, but now we have to pray for Cam, okay?

Eddie nods his head yes. David looks at his wife and son. A look of guilt forms on his face as he watches the anguish between them.

INT. LEWIS HOME - KITCHEN - NEXT DAY

Angelique moves with a smooth flow as she serves breakfast to her family seated at the table. John bites into a cupcake and grimaces. JJ chews his cupcake with resentment and puts the remainder on his plate.

JOHN

(apprehensive)

Baby, somethin's missin' in these cakes.

JJ

Taste.

Chloe laughs.

ANGELIQUE

(defensive)

Come on now, they're good!

JOHN

Not your best work, Angie...swing and a miss.

ANGELIQUE

Oh, now everyone's a food critic?

She looks at John.

ANGELIQUE (CONT'D)

Cook off...me and you, tomorrow night.

JOHN

Now you know my go to dish is mac n' cheese and fish sticks...

John looks around the table at his family.

JOHN (CONT'D)

So ya'll ready for TASTY!

ANGELIQUE

(competitive)

I'll have that beat.

John moves from the table next to Angelique and tries to hug her. She politely slides away.

ANGELIQUE (CONT'D)

(uneasy)

I'm still under the weather,

John...sorry.

She pretends to cough. John tries to lower his voice when he talks to Angelique so their kids don't hear.

JOHN

Baby, it's been over a week, and I need the good stuff.

ANGELIQUE

I can't get you sick...

The next words get caught in her throat. It's unnatural for her to say them.

ANGELIQUE (CONT'D)

Baby.

JOHN

I'm takin' the chance!

John moves closer to Angelique, gyrating in a sexy way. She needs a diversion, grabs an open box of cereal, and throws food at John.

JOHN (CONT'D)

(playfully)

What...aw now you done it!

He opens another cereal box and flings food back at Angelique.

JJ

(excited)

Food fight!

JJ flicks scrambled eggs from his fork at his parents. Chloe throws toast at JJ. Everyone's caught up in the excitement and laughs.

MONTAGE:

EXT. BASEBALL FIELD - DAY

Angelique practices with JJ on catching and throwing drills. The two are laughing and enjoying the time together. Angelique throws a fastball to JJ. He catches it, takes off his glove, and shakes his hand from the stinger. Angelique smirks at him with pride.

INT. LEWIS HOME - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Angelique sits next to Chloe and helps her with her homework. Chloe seems frustrated at first, but Angelique patiently shows Chloe how to figure out the problem. After a moment, Chloe and Angelique cheer with the correct answer. They hifive each other, then hug.

INT. LEWIS HOME - BEDROOM - DAY

Angelique changes Ellie's smelly diaper with a cloths pin on her nose. She aims a small desk fan that's on at Ellie while she works.

INT. LEWIS HOME - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Angelique sits on Chloe's bed and tucks her in. She kisses her forehead. Angelique picks up a cell phone next to the bed. After a moment, she turns the phone towards Chloe.

CELL PHONE SCREEN:

Jocelin's image appears on the screen. She waves and inaudibly video chats with Chloe.

JOCELIN AND CHLOE:

Angelique and Chloe smile as Chloe talks to the phone.

END MONTAGE:

Int. LEWIS HOME - BEDROOM - DAY

Angelique folds clothes from a laundry basket. John walks into the room.

JOHN

Hey.

Angelique turns to him. A hint of apprehension appears on her face but she quickly hides it with a smile.

ANGELIQUE

Hi, you're gonna be late for work.

JOHN

(playfully)

Yeah, you mixed up my lunch with Chloe's but I swapped it out.

(apologetic)

Sorry.

Angelique puts clothes into drawers of a dresser.

JOHN

(disappointed)

So listen, baby, I didn't get the loan from the bank for the cupcake shop.

Angelique is surprised. Being Jocelin inside Angelique's body, she knew nothing of this. Angelique pauses, unsure how to react.

JOHN (CONT'D)

I'm sorry, I know it was everything to you.

ANGELIQUE

(cautious)

Well, that is bad news...it did mean a lot to me...but we'll figure something else out to make it happen, right?

JOHN

(surprised)

That's it? I thought you'd be flippin'!

ANGELIQUE

John, I believe you have to solve an issue, but don't lose your resolve. There's always another way, you just have to want it bad enough, and...I do...so it'll get done.

John is dumbfounded by Angelique's answer.

JOHN

So...who are you lately?

Angelique's eyes go wide with nerves.

ANGELIQUE

(nervous)

What do you mean?

JOHN

It's just...you got a new fire in you.

ANGELIQUE

I just do what I normally do around here, right?

JOHN

Nah, I mean, you get it all done, no problem, but it's like you enjoy it more...like it's somethin' new to you, and you divin' in with both feet.

Angelique pauses a moment, conflicted whether to tell John about the body switch with her sister. She decides not to.

ANGELIQUE

I guess I'm just happy to do things for the family...the laundry, meals, helping with homework...all of it.

JOHN

(supportive)

Well, you're killin' it, baby. Two bedtime stories with Chloe last night, helpin' JJ with baseball signs the day before, and my draws never got as soft as they are now, and you bein' understandin' with the loan...call me impressed.

Angelique smiles as John turns to exit.

ANGELIQUE

John?

He turns back to her.

ANGELIQUE (CONT'D)

(vulnerable)

You really think I'm doing a good job?

JOHN

Wouldn't say it if it wasn't true. Now hurry up with that cold cause we got some unfinished business between us.

He winks at Angelique. She falsely smiles and laughs, giving him a thumbs up. John exits. Jocelin runs to the door and locks it, panicked by the thought of being intimate with John.

INT. RESTAURANT - DAY

Jocelin, seated at a table, samples different foods in a high end dining room. She is in pure delight. Andrew suddenly joins her, startling Jocelin. He is surprised by Jocelin's reactions. Her fork HITS different plates.

JOCELIN

(shocked)

Who are you and what are you doin' here?

ANDREW

What...It's your favorite restaurant, Jocelin, and we eat here at least once a week.

Jocelin looks over Andrew for a moment.

JOCELIN

(proud)

Wait...Andy, right? Short hair, beady eyes... my right hand man...yeah now I see you!

Andrew looks surprised at Jocelin's comment, then by the amount of food on the table.

ANDREW

(sarcastic)

Okay, Andy's NEW and...how's lunch?

JOCELIN

(thrilled)

Hmm...this is fire! So many foods I've never had! Plus this restaurant is LIT...just beautiful!

She points to a plate.

JOCELIN (CONT'D)

What's this?

ANDREW

Red Curry Soup...you had it a few weeks ago.

Jocelin stops eating, a nervous look on her face. She quickly swallows the mouthful of soup and throws a quick smile out.

JOCELIN

Guess I'm so busy I forgot what it tastes like.

Jocelin reaches with her fork and stabs at another meal. She eats it and falls back into her chair with ecstasy.

JOCELIN (CONT'D)

So good! Can't believe what I've been missin'!

Andrew is puzzled.

ANDREW

(puzzled)

That's Manapua...one of your favorites.

Jocelin swallows her food, now a bit anxious.

ANDREW (CONT'D)

(sarcastic)

Alright, who are you and what have you done with Jocelin?

Jocelin pauses with a wide-eyed face, then laughs off the question.

JOCELIN

You're crazy...it's me, silly.

ANDREW

It's you? Your usual foods are like, new to you, and you're acting like you've never been in a restaurant before. What gives?

Jocelin plans her words carefully.

JOCELIN

I'm just...enjoying the things I took for granted, livin' in the moment.

ANDREW

Ok? Well this new you...

He motions towards her with his hand.

ANDREW (CONT'D)

It's going to take some getting used to. Anyhow, always awesome to have lunch with you, even on your vaca, and I reviewed your business plan for the CUPCAKE SHOP, and I gotta ask, why?

Why not? Something wrong with it?

ANDREW

No, it's terrific...thorough, answering all the questions an investor would ask, and projects a great profit. I loved it, but why a cupcake shop? Is this a hobby? Are you bored or something?

JOCELIN

It's something I've wanted for a long time...it gives me peace.

ANDREW

I never knew you baked!

Jocelin smiles in affirmation of inner Angelique's desire for the shop.

ANDREW (CONT'D)

But if you want to get your Harriet Home Maker on, knock it out of the park! Oh, and the meeting with Kimm has been moved up to Tuesday.

Jocelin almost chokes on a mouthful of food.

JOCELIN

(panicked)

Meeting? What meeting...I'm on vacation for two weeks!

ANDREW

The Kimmology account?

JOCELIN

That rich lady on tv that makes perfume?

Andrew smiles.

ANDREW

Not funny, quit clowning around.

JOCELIN

But I'm not ready for no meeting!

ANDREW

What can I say, Kimm's ready Tuesday. Besides you're always ready.

How long have you known about this?

ANDREW

(confused)

She called the agency a few hours ago. What's wrong?

Jocelin freaks out and grabs her purse. She holds up her credit card.

JOCELIN

I'm ready to pay! I gotta get outta here! Hello!

Andrew looks flabbergasted at Jocelin's behavior.

JOCELIN (CONT'D)

C'mon...where's the waiter at? I gotta go!

A WAITER, (20's) approaching the table in a hurry.

JOCELIN (CONT'D)

Where you been? You're here every two seconds with water but when I need the check you vanish!

Jocelin begins to hand the waiter the credit card but stops.

JOCELIN (CONT'D)

Nevermind, I'll walk with you to the register! Later Andy!

Jocelin pushes the waiter forward and walks with him, leaving Andrew alone at the table, bewildered.

INT. LEWIS HOME - BEDROOM - LATER

Angelique paces frantically around the room holding her cell phone.

ANGELIQUE

Are you sure Andrew said Tuesday? It's supposed to be Friday!

CELL PHONE SCREEN:

Jocelin freaks out, waving her hands and yelling.

I know what I heard! The man speaks English! TUESDAY!

BACK TO ANGELIQUE:

ANGELIQUE

Okay...don't panic!

Jocelin's voice SHOUTS from the phone.

JOCELIN (O.S.)

Oh, we beyond panic, Josie! I'm about to run for the hills! We gotta switch back! I can't do no meeting!

ANGELIQUE

There's no time! Besides, when we wished for this, we said two weeks! It's set...no take-backs!

CELL PHONE SCREEN:

JOCELIN

You thrown me to the wolves? Oh Lord, what are we gonna do?

BACK TO ANGELIQUE:

ANGELIQUE

Look...let's just calm down, deep breaths.

Angelique takes a breath to calm herself.

ANGELIQUE (CONT'D)

You breathing too?

JOCELIN (O.S.)

(sarcastic)

You can't hear me through the phone?

Angelique has a eureka moment.

ANGELIQUE

I've got it! I'll teach you everything you need to know about the Kimmology account before Tuesday.

JOCELIN (O.S.)

(anxious)

That's two days...how am I gonna learn all that?

ANGELIQUE

It's not as hard as you think. You'll have my notes, and...well...your me, so I'll show you my POWER stance, my LEVERAGE lean, and my COMMAND look. Guaranteed to own any meeting.

JOCELIN (O.S.)

I sweat when I'm scared, Josie...like puddles!

ANGELIQUE

No, no...you got this! I know it! The account's ninety percent mine, so you just have to bring it home!

JOCELIN (O.S.)

(doubtful)

I don't know Josie...

ANGELIQUE

This is your chance to be A BOSS, sister! To feel assertive...in control! Are you POLISHED?

JOCELIN (O.S.)

What?

ANGELIQUE

Are you POLISHED? Do you have IT? Say it with me...I'M POLISHED?

JOCELIN (O.S.)

(excitedly anxious)

Yes! I'm polished, I'm polished!

ANGELIQUE

Great, be over your place...er, my place in half and hour! We have work to do...moving mountains!

JOCELIN (O.S.)

Wait. You said it wasn't hard...

Jocelin hangs up the phone and grabs her purse.

JOCELIN'S APARTMENT MONTAGE BEGINS:

INT. JOCELIN'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Jocelin and Angelique sit around a coffee table. A pile of neatly stacked papers in front of Angelique and unorganized papers in front of Jocelin. Angelique motions to Jocelin to straighten her papers. Frustrated, Jocelin pushes Angelique's papers over, as a take that response.

Angelique points to a graph chart on a whiteboard, explaining it to Jocelin with inaudible conversations. After a pause, Jocelin says something to Angelique and they celebrate. The two sisters hug.

Angelique holds Jocelin's waist and butt, helping her to walk in heels. Jocelin trips and falls in different ways. Jocelin grabs a pillow and whacks Angelique with it.

Jocelin stands in front of a mirror, hands on her waist and a big smile, admiring her outfit. Angelique helps put a pair of earrings on Jocelin, then backs away from her. Jocelin turns slowly in her heels and remains standing up. Overjoyed, the two sisters high-five each other.

INT. BOSWELL AGENCY - HALLWAY - NEXT DAY

An elevator door opens with a BING. Jocelin, dressed to success, exits slowly, looks around, then begins to walk counting steps along the way.

Jocelin wobbles and catches her balance several times trying to walk in heels. She uses the wall for support, still counting steps. Andrew surprises her and Jocelin SHOUTS.

ANDREW

Hey, you're late.

JOCELIN

Dang, can't you wear a bell or somethin'?

ANDREW

Sorry...What's with you?

Jocelin's mind races a moment in search of an answer.

JOCELIN

A little to much wine last night.

ANDREW

Oh, some pre-celebrating for today's meeting...Mama like.

Jocelin leans against a wall. She throws Andrew a fake smile.

ANDREW (CONT'D)

Okay, pull yourself together and I'll meet you in the conference room.

Andrew walks away. Jocelin tries to take a step and nearly falls.

JOCELIN

(frustrated)

Enough! I'm about to break my neck!

She quickly looks around and spots Lisa, (30's) blonde and dressed like a plain Jane, sitting in her cubicle.

JOCELIN:

Jocelin's eyes light up with relief.

JILL:

Jill is wearing comfortable sneakers.

JOCELIN:

Jocelin smiles and walks straight to Jill.

INT. BOSWELL AGENCY - JILL'S CUBICLE - DAY

Jocelin peeks around the cubicle opening and eyes Jill.

JOCELIN

Psst.

Lisa turns towards Jocelin.

LISA

(surprised)

Jocelin...helló.

JOCELIN

You got a minute...

Jocelin glances at Lisa's name plate outside her cubicle.

JOCELIN (CONT'D)

Lisa?

LISA

Sure.

Lisa stands from her desk.

(playful)

And bring those comfy sneakers with ya'.

The two leave the cubicle.

INT. BOSWELL AGENCY - HALLWAY - DAY

Jocelin, smiling, struts by a breakroom carrying files in her hand wearing Lisa's sneakers.

INT. BOSWELL AGENCY - BREAKROOM - DAY

Lisa is elated and wearing Jocelin's heels as she talks to a co-worker.

LISA

(happy)

So she just traded these Gavonte shoes for my sneakers...there like six hundred dollars in a store! She's such a GREAT boss!

INT. BOSWELL AGENCY - CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

Jocelin enters with determination. Andrew and Jack Boswell, (60's) neat haircut and a pricey suit, stand from their seats. Kimm rises and approaches Jocelin. She embraces Jocelin in an exaggerated hug.

JOCELIN

(surprised)

Oh...okay, we're gettin' right to it...no problem.

Kimm releases her, smiles, and stares into her eyes.

KIMM

I'm glad you suggested meeting today. Friday is too far away.

JOCELIN

(confused)

But I didn't...

She looks at Jack and Andrew who are waiting for her to begin the meeting, then back at Kimm.

JOCELIN (CONT'D)

No problem, let's get started.

Andrew turns a projector on for Jocelin. Jocelin puts her files on the conference table and opens them. She whispers to herself after a deep breath.

JOCELIN (CONT'D)

Time to be a boss.

Jocelin addresses the room.

JOCELIN (CONT'D)

(anxious)

Thank you for this meeting, Kimm.

She quickly looks down to the table and reads Angelique's notes.

JOCELIN (CONT'D)

We at Boswell love your products, and we love you...

Jocelin tries to activate the projector with a remote but it doesn't work. She clicks the remote again and again, then positions herself in different places around the projector and aims the remote at it, but still nothing. Jocelin whacks the side of the projector in frustration.

JOCELIN (CONT'D)

(worried)

Work you piece of...

Jocelin notices everyone else is looking at her. Her anxiety grows.

JACK

Why don't we do it the old fashioned way, huh?

Andrew leaves his chair and fetches a whiteboard on wheels. He moves it next to Jocelin. Jocelin stares at the board as if to say what do you want me to do with this?

She quickly looks at her notes on the table, then the whiteboard, and begins taping graphes to the whiteboard.

Jack smiles at Kimm who looks at him puzzled.

JACK (CONT'D)

We're nothing if not adaptable here at Boswell.

Jocelin finishes fastening the sheets of paper. She is rattled, thrown off the preparation Angelique put her through.

Okay, so this red colored circle shows..

Angelique switches from the whiteboard to her notes on the table.

JOCELIN (CONT'D)

(nervous)

Okay, here it is, it indicates projected lost on Kimmology for a year, and the green colored circle is...uh...just one second.

She reads her notes as Jack and Kimm watch in confusion. Andrew speaks to Jocelin under his breath.

ANDREW

Let me take the lead Jocelin, before you commit career suicide.

Jocelin answers him under her breath.

JOCELIN

I got this.

JACK

Everything okay, Jocelin?

Andrew asks a question towards Jocelin out loud to the room.

ANDREW

Can I help?

Jocelin, annoyed, whispers a little louder to Andrew.

JOCELIN

Will you knock it off?

Andrew puts up his hands in a surrender motion. Jocelin stops, collects herself, and after a moment, finds her whoosah state of mind. She talks quietly to herself.

JOCELIN (CONT'D)

Just be me...you're the boss.

Jocelin smiles and a waterfall of confidence comes forth.

JOCELIN (CONT'D)

Is it Christmas in here, red and green charts...I mean c'mon, right?

KIMM

(puzzled)

I don't follow.

JOCELIN

Kimm, you wanna sell a fragrance that makes a person smell yummy when they sweat, right?

KIMM

Yes.

JOCELIN

That's freakin' genius! Andrew, how much does it cost to make a bottle of it?

ANDREW

Three to four dollars each.

JOCELIN

Sell it for twenty-nine ninety nine for a ten milliliter bottle! People are gonna buy anything Kimm! Heck, I got one of your purses!

Kimm waves her hands in front of Jocelin in a circular motion.

KIMM

This...you...is very different from when we met last...continue.

JOCELIN

DISCO! How much profit is that?

ANDREW

Eighty six percent.

JOCELIN

(excited)

Oooo, Kimm, you sittin' on a gold mine!

Jack seems concerned with the meeting's direction.

JACK

Jocelin, this is a very different approach...

Jocelin interrupts him.

One minute, Mr. Boswell, I'm on a roll!

Jack's eyes open wider with surprise. Kimm pats Jack on the arm with enthusiasm, much to his shock.

JOCELIN (CONT'D)

Women will wear it during a gym workout, force and femininity, am I right?...or at the beach, sandy and sexy, and guys will wear it to land the ladies! Either way, you win!

KIMM

(excited)

Keep going, Jocelin.

ANDREW

Really?

JOCELIN

We gonna put Kimmology on TV, radio, social media, on a billboard and in a magazine! Your face...your smell, it's gonna be everywhere! We already love you...now we get more of you!

Kimm sits back in her chair and smiles.

KIMM

(confident)

Because you can never have too much KIMM.

Jocelin waves her fingers back and forth between Kimm and herself.

JOCELIN

Girl, we vibin'!

She proudly walks over to Kimm and extends her hand.

JOCELIN (CONT'D)

Are we puttin' a bow on this? Is it a deal?

Kimm stands, pauses and stares at Jocelin a moment.

KIMM

There are many Jocelins inside you. I can't wait to meet them all. We have a deal.

Kimm passionately embraces Jocelin with a strong hug.

JOCELIN

(surprised)

Oh, alright, we huggin'...I'm in!

Jocelin hugs Kimm tightly. She glances at Jack and Andrew.

JOCELIN (CONT'D)

You want in on this?

Jack waves his hand in a no response. Andrew jumps from his seat and joins the women, throwing his arms around them.

JACK

(excited)

Terrific, we'll get to work immediately on the account. Thank you, Kimm.

Everyone stops hugging.

KIMM

Jocelin, without you, this wouldn't get done. Jack, treat her good!

Jocelin smiles with pride. For Angelique inside of her to accomplish this, and prove she can be a boss, it's an fantastic moment.

Kimm shakes hands with Jack, then turns to leave. Andrew holds the door for her. Jocelin starts to collect her notes. Jack speaks softly to Jocelin.

JACK

Jocelin, if you could a stay a moment please.

JOCELIN

Sure thing, Mr. Boswell.

JACK

Andrew, please show Kimm to the elevator.

Andrew nods a yes to his uncle. He looks at Jocelin and gives a thumbs up. Jocelin smiles. Andrew and Kimm leave the room. Jocelin looks at Jack.

JOCELIN

(happy)

Big win, Mr. Boswell.

JACK

HUGE win, Jocelin. Well done.

He pauses as if to choose his next words wisely, then looks at Jocelin.

JACK (CONT'D)

You always called me Jack before...why so formal today?

Jocelin begins to get anxious.

JOCELIN

Well...you deserve respect as the boss, so...

TACK

Thank you, but let's stick to Jack.

JOCELIN

(upbeat)

You got it, Jack.

JACK

I think the world of you, Jocelin, and you've proven yourself vital to the success of the Boswell Agency...just look at the Kimmology account...so out of respect for you, I need you to clear up something.

A worried and confused look comes across Jocelin's face.

JOCELIN

What is it?

JACK

There's a three million dollar discrepancy in the budget for Kimmology. It's unaccounted for. Accounting looked it over when you submitted it and brought it to my attention.

JOCELIN

(defensive)

Hold on, Jack! My sister doesn't
steal!

JACK

(confused)

What?

Jocelin quickly catches herself.

JOCELIN

I mean, this sister doesn't steal!

JACK

(off-guard)

I believe you, but it has to be straightened out in forty eight hours. Crunch the numbers again and hand in a new budget with the three million dollars accounted for, okay?

JOCELIN

(worried)

What if it's longer than forty eight hours? That ain't a lot of time!

Jack gives Jocelin a long hard look.

JACK

(matter-of-fact)

Don't let it come to that. If you can't fix this, I'm giving the account to Alden, and we will have another conversation about your employment here at Boswell.

Jack turns from Jocelin and walks to the door. He turns back briefly to Jocelin.

JACK (CONT'D)

Forty eight hours.

Jack leaves. Jocelin sits again and drops her head onto the conference table, dejected.

INT. LEWIS HOME - FRONT DOOR - DAY

Angelique opens her front door after repetitive knocks. Jocelin stands in front of her, worried.

JOCELIN

(frantic)

I burned it all down, Josie!

Angelique grabs her arm and drags her through the doorway.

ANGELIOUE

Get in here!

She slams the door shut.

INT. LEWIS HOME - LIVING ROOM - DAY

The women enter the room and sit on a couch.

ANGELIQUE

(concern)

I didn't understand anything in your phone call, so say it again.

JOCELIN

I'm gonna get you fired...wait...

Jocelin stands and quickly looks outside of the room.

JOCELIN (CONT'D)

Anybody here?

ANGELIQUE

(alarmed)

No, John took the kids out. What do you mean, I'm getting fired? Didn't we get the account?

Jocelin paused and collects herself.

JOCELIN

Yes, Kimm loved me! Everything you said worked...I just put it in my own words. I was fire, but then Jack dropped a bomb on me after the meeting! He said the budget was wrong and you was missin' like three million dollars!

ANGELIQUE

(shocked)

What? That's impossible!

JOCELIN

I know, I TOLD HIM...

ANGELIQUE

And?

JOCELIN

He gave me forty-eight hours to fix it!

ANGELIOUE

Forty-eight hours? I can't fix this by then!

Angelique sits on a couch. She puts her hands to her face in worry.

ANGELIQUE (CONT'D)

(anxious)

I feel sick...I'm going to get fired! I can't believe this!

Jocelin sits next to her and grabs her hand.

JOCELIN

(supportive)

I gotta help you sis...what do I

ANGELIQUE

I have to think...let me figure this out.

Jocelin throws her hands up in the air as if she were backing off.

JOCELIN

Whatever it takes!

Angelique's eyes dart back and forth. Her mind reels over the situation.

JOCELIN (CONT'D)

(cautious)

Anything?

Angelique's eyes open wide. A eureka moment.

ANGELIQUE

(conviction)

Somebody's setting me up to fail!

JOCELIN

Really?

ANGELIQUE

It's the only thing that makes sense. I'm too thorough with my work...I don't make mistakes.

JOCELIN

Who'd wanna cross you at work?

Angelique thinks a moment, then snaps her fingers with an answer.

ANGELIQUE

Alden would!

(protective)

I don't know him, but point him out to me and it's on!

ANGELIQUE

He's a sales manager with Boswell, and I got promoted over him. He's always throwing it in my face how unfair it was.

Jocelin grabs her cellphone from her pocket.

JOCELIN

Gimme his digits, we about to MEET UP!

ANGELIQUE

If I lost Kimmology then Alden would get the account...that has to be his game!

Jocelin stands from the couch, flustered.

JOCELIN

Let's go to back to work and beat a confession out of em'...I'm drivin'!

Angelique stops her sister.

ANGELIQUE

Hold up, we have no proof.

JOCELIN

Well how we gonna get some?

Angelique holds up her cell phone and smiles with assurance.

ANGELIQUE

Listen up, I got an idea...

INT. BOSWELL AGENCY - LISA'S CUBICLE - DAY

Jocelin sits next to Lisa.

LISA

Thank you again for those shoes, Jocelin. I could never afford them.

No sweat, baby girl, but let's keep our voices low...I don't want anybody feelin' jelly about it, right?

LISA

Oh absolutely.

Lisa nods in agreement.

JOCELIN

So Lisa, does Alden often ask you to update him on the budget notes for the Kimmology account?

LISA

Just about everyday. He gets annoyed about it.

JOCELIN

How do you keep him in the loop?

LISA

It's a flash drive...

Lisa takes one from her desk drawer.

LISA (CONT'D)

Like this one.

JOCELIN

Is everything about Kimmology on the one you hand over to him?

LISA

Oh no, he only gets one with info specific to his work on the project. You have the flash drives with all the budget specs, remember.

Jocelin pauses, thinking things through.

LISA (CONT'D)

Something wrong, Jocelin?

JOCELIN

No, it's fine. Could somebody get access to all the account info without my drives?

LISA

It'd be really hard to, they're encrypted. They'd have to be great with computers to get through the firewalls.

Jocelin switches her focus of the conversation.

JOCELIN

Now, I give you those drives to back up, right?

LISA

Of course, Jocelin, well not you, Andrew gives them to me from you after he looks them over.

JOCELIN

(curious)

How long does that take?

LISA

Usually the next day, but the last time Andrew gave it to me was two days. Why?

JOCELIN

Just cause we shootin' it, Lisa, and I wanna learn, can you see if somebody peeked at the Kimmology budget from home, not at work?

Lisa types on her computer keyboard. After a moment, she stops and turns the monitor to show Jocelin.

LISA

Yeah, two people did, but it's not uncommon for employees to bring their work home.

Jocelin talks softly to herself.

JOCELIN

Nah, but it's easier when they up to no good.

She focuses back on Lisa.

JOCELIN (CONT'D)

Alright, I need you to do one more thing for me, and if it checks out, there's new shoes in it for ya'. INT. ROOM - DAY

Fingers on a cell phone type quickly.

CELL PHONE SCREEN:

A message sent to Alden and Andrew reads, "Final budget for Kimmology on flash drive in my office desk. Let's go over it in the morning."

HAND:

Fingers start typing a new message to someone different.

INT. BOSWELL AGENCY - JOCELIN'S OFFICE - NIGHT

The door to Jocelin's dark office opens, then closes after someone enters. A flashlight turns on and an unseen person moves towards her desk and begins to search it. A lamp in the corner of the office CLICKS on. Jocelin sits in a chair next to the lamp. Andrew jolts up from the desk.

ANDREW

(surprised)

Jocelin? What are you doing here?

JOCELIN

I didn't think it'd be you Andy.

ANDREW

What...oh, me at your desk...I can explain...

JOCELIN

I gotta hear this.

There's a pause between them that feels like an eternity. Andrew fakes a light-hearted smirk as he turns his flashlight off. Jocelin stares at him, her arms crossed.

ANDREW

I figured...why wait till morning, right? Get on it now!

JOCELIN

(angry)

Stop lyin', Andy! You almost got me fired!

ANDREW

(sympathetic)

No Jocelin...I couldn't do that to you!

The message I sent said MORNING, but you show up now, keepin' the lights off, sneakin' around near my desk, lookin' for my flash drive.

ANDREW

(defensive)

You have it all wrong Jocelin! I'm your friend remember, ride or die.

JOCELIN

Wrong Andy... I talked to Lisa and she said she didn't get the flash drive from you until two days after I gave it to you. A whole extra day when it always takes you one day?

ANDREW

(defensive)

I just reviewed it for mistakes.

JOCELIN

(frustrated)

Mistakes you created on purpose when you took the drives home and changed them, tryin' to make me look incompetent! You came up through IT, member'?

ANDREW

(nervous)

You're nuts, Jocelin. If anyone wanted to do this to you it would be Alden. He'd get the Kimmology account if you failed.

JOCELIN

Oh, Alden's a part of this, but he didn't know it. If he took over the account, you'd move up, become a marketing manager, get a better office, more money, right?

Andrew is silent a moment. Jocelin stares him down. His demeanor changes from supportive to combative.

ANDREW

(angry)

It should have been me who got that job, Jocelin! Not you! I put the time in here, I had to deal with my Uncle's bias towards you...always overlooking me!

So you never got over Jack picking me.

ANDREW

Of course not! With you fired then I could shine, and eventually take over this whole damn agency!

JOCELIN

You a whiner Andy, and a snake.

ANDREW

It's my word against yours, SISTER. You have no hard proof that I can't cover up, and a short time left until Uncle Jack lowers the boom on you.

JOCELIN

(smug)

I ain't goin' anywhere, Andy.

Andrew looks over Jocelyn's shoulder and sees her cell phone on a coffee table. The screen is lit up.

ANDREW

Have you been recording us?

Jocelyn sports a smug smile. Andrew walks towards the cell phone.

ANDREW (CONT'D)

Give me that phone!

JOCELIN

It won't matter, Andy.

ANDREW

What are you talking about?

From a private bathroom door in Jocelyn's office, Jack steps out. Andrew is in shock.

ANDREW (CONT'D)

(scared)

Uncle Jack?

JACK

(cold)

Don't bother saying another word Andrew, I heard everything.

ANDREW

How did...

JACK

(disappointed)

Jocelin called me about an hour ago and told me to meet her in her office. She told me her plan and I went along with it, hoping she would be wrong. Why couldn't you have just come to me with your concerns?

ANDREW

Oh like you would have done anything about it, UNCLE JACK! You never saw my potential.

Andrew turns from his uncle and gives Jocelyn a hateful stare.

JACK

You're fired, go home and I'll have security clean out your desk.

Andrew leaves Jocelyn's office, defeated. Jack and Jocelyn look at one another a moment.

JOCELIN

I'm sorry Jack, that stings.

JACK

It does, but at least I didn't terminate the wrong employee, the more valuable employee, and a friend.

Jocelin smiles at Jack as he leaves her office.

EXT. BASEBALL FIELD - DAY

Coach Bailey's baseball team practices. Players are doing hitting drills. The Coach watches his players carefully. JJ steps to home plate. The pitcher throws a fastball and JJ crushes it hitting a far shot to the outfield.

BLEACHERS:

Sitting in the nearby bleachers, John cheers for his son.

BACK TO JJ:

JJ runs hard around the bases but as he rounds second base he suddenly clutches his chest and falls to the ground. His closest teammates circle him and support. John, now on the field, kneels next to his son. Coach Bailey stands over JJ.

JOHN

(frantic)

What's the matter JJ?

JJ grips his chest tightly with his hands, trying to catch his breath.

JOHN (CONT'D)

What's wrong?

Coach Bailey leans closely next to John.

BAILEY

Let me help JJ, Mr. Lewis.

JOHN

But...my boy...

BAILEY

I know, I understand, but I'm trained for this. Call an ambulance.

With fear etched on his face, John reluctantly backs away from his son while Coach Bailey attends to him. John struggles watching his son in pain, knowing he can't help him.

INT. LEWIS HOME - KITCHEN - DAY

Angelique, cleaning her kitchen counter, speaks to Jocelin on her cell phone.

ANGELIQUE

I know you're happy that we caught Andrew, but for me it's difficult. We had been friends for a long time. I couldn't believe he would do that to me.

Angelique pauses listening to Jocelin's response.

ANGELIQUE (CONT'D)

Yeah, you're right, it was either him or me and he was trying to get me fired...

Angelique smiles.

ANGELIQUE (CONT'D)

But I am proud of you. You closed the Kimmology account for me, and we took down Andrew before he could get me fired. See, you can be a boss.

Angelique quickly looks at her phone as a ping interrupts her conversation.

ANGELIQUE (CONT'D)

Oh, this is John, hold on a minute.

Angelique switches phone conversations. She listens to John's voice and after a moment, her face drops with fright. Her eyes begin to swell with tears. She nervously switches back to Jocelin.

ANGELIQUE (CONT'D)

(worry) It's JJ...

INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY - DAY

Jocelin walks with purpose down a hallway. Angelique and John greet her. Everyone has a worried look on their faces.

JOCELIN

(frantic)

Where's JJ, I need to see him!

ANGELIQUE

He's in the ER right now, we can't see him.

JOCELIN

Aw no, out of my way!

JOHN

Hold up Jocelin, don't you think we want to see him too, but we got to wait.

Jocelin quickly looks into John's eyes and hugs him.

JOCELIN

(concern)

Our baby's in there, John.

JOHN

(puzzled)

Our baby? What you talkin' about?

Jocelin, in that moment, reminds herself that she's Angelique inside. Angelique grabs her by the arm and moves her down the hall away from John.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Angie, where you goin'?

Angelique looks back at John.

ANGELIQUE

I got this John, give me a minute.

INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Angelique corrales her sister. Jocelin is distraught over the situation.

JOCELIN

(worried)

This wish, we got to get rid of it. I feel like an outsider.

ANGELIQUE

You got to hold it together.

JOCELIN

I'm going to tell John the truth, tell him about the wish.

ANGELIQUE

(logical)

And what, admit to him that you're crazy. He's never going to believe that. Plus, you want to dump this on him now with JJ in there.

Angelique points to the ER doors where JJ is.

JOCELIN

You don't understand, Josie... As JJ's mama, I have never been away from him when he's needed me. This is torture.

Angelique hugs her sister.

ANGELIQUE

But you are here, with JJ, and even though I may look like you right now until this wish is over, you'll always be his Mama.

Jocelin begins to pace in the hallway.

I can't think...when does this dumb wish end anyway?

ANGELIQUE

According to my math tomorrow at five o'clock. That's when we made the wish at the birthday party two weeks ago.

Jocelin frantically looks around.

JOCELIN

Where's Chloe and Ellie?

ANGELIQUE

At home, Mom's watching them.

Jocelin grabs her sister and holds her tight. She's doing everything she can not to have a breakdown.

JOCELIN

You're going to be a good Mom, Josie.

Angelique looks over Jocelin's shoulder and sees John waving to them both to join him. Damien is standing next to him. She turns Jocelin around as both sisters walk towards them.

INT - HOSPITAL PRIVATE ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Damien sits across from Angelique and John. Jocelin sits to the left of Damian. She is nervous and full of worry.

DAMIEN

(calmly)

John...Angelique, what happened to JJ is not uncommon, but in his case it is advanced. JJ has a condition called Dilated Cardiomyopathy, where the left ventricle of JJ's heart is enlarged and weakened and can't pump blood regularly.

JOHN

(anxious)

Well, what does he need...take it from me...anything he needs!

Jocelyn rocks and her chair. The waiting is unbearable. Her eyes are welling up with tears. Everyone is on edge except Damien.

DAMIEN

It isn't that easy, John. JJ is going to need a heart transplant, preferably one with the same dimensions as his from another teenager, fourteen or fifteen years old.

JOCELIN

A whole new heart!

ANGELIQUE

Can JJ survive that kind of an operation?

DAMIEN

Yes. I'm not making light of this, but besides his heart JJ is young and strong. Many people have this type of operation and it goes successfully. The recuperation time after surgery and the physical rehabilitation is a few months.

JOCELIN

(desperate)

Who's doin' the surgery? Is there a heart available right now?

Damian looks at Angelique and John. He leans forward towards them with purpose.

DAMIEN

I'll be doing the surgery myself and I'm also overseeing JJ's case. He deserves the best treatment.

JOCELIN

But what about the new heart?

DAMIEN

Unfortunately there is no heart available at this time. The donor list for the hospital is long and a heart is one of the more rare organs on it. It would have to come from a very recently deceased teenager, where the heart can be stored immediately and transplanted quickly.

(frantic)

So we have to wait? For how long?

John and Damien look at Jocelin, confused by her aggressive fear and worry. John then looks at Angelique who has a different worried look on her face, one of what do I do?

Angelique sees the pain in Jocelin's voice and grabs her sister's hand.

ANGELIOUE

We're all upset...

The words seem to struggle out of her, as if unnatural.

ANGELIQUE (CONT'D)

My baby isn't right, and I can't do anything to help him.

DAMIEN

This hospital, and me, will do everything we can to get JJ better...I promise. Right now, he's comfortable...stable.

John musters the courage to utter the next words from his mouth.

JOHN

What if you can't find a heart for em'...I mean quick?

Damien pauses, collecting his words while being gentle in his delivery of them.

DAMIEN

(nurturing)

I can't say for sure how long JJ has...a week, a month, six months...his heart won't hold the stress created by the damaged valve...the sooner the better.

Angelique's eyes tear up. John puts his hands on his head in frustration. Jocelin grip on Angelique's hand tightens while tears roll down her face. It's all her strength and rational mind to hold herself together. Damien exits the room. A moment later, Jocelin follows him.

INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY - DAY

Jocelin rushes up to Damien.

Damien, wait...please!

Damien turns to her.

DAMIEN

(understanding)

Jocelin, I'm so sorry this happened to JJ. He's a great kid.

JOCELIN

Damien...

She grabs his hand as if clinging to a lifeboat.

JOCELIN (CONT'D)

I know you'll do whatever to help JJ, no doubt...but can't he be bumped to the top of that donor list?

DAMIEN

(frustrated)

Jocelin, please...

Jocelin's eyes widen with anxiety. There's desperation in her voice.

JOCELIN

I'll do anything for him...anything to get him that heart! You gotta help me! Somebody in this hospital has to be able to give a heart to him.

DAMIEN

There's a patient here in the hospital who would be a candidate for the surgery, but the family has decided to keep him on life support, so right now, it's not a viable option.

JOCELIN

Is the child gonna get better?

Damien hesitates and doesn't answer Jocelin. Jocelin reads his demeanor and realizes the answer is no.

JOCELIN (CONT'D)

So let me talk to the family, get them to consider it!

Damien releases his hand.

DAMIEN

Absolutely not! It would be a clear HIPPA violation if I told you anything about the patient or the family!

JOCELIN

I'm begging you Damien!

DAMIEN

No, Jocelin, I could lose my practice over that! You know that!

JOCELIN

It's JJ!

Damien assess Jocelin a moment. Her behavior is different from what he is used to.

DAMIEN

I know you love JJ...but I've never seen you this involved...this invested...just like a mom would be.

Jocelin tries to regroup, but knows there's no way she could explain the wish to Damien.

DAMIEN (CONT'D)

It's actually beautiful to see you like this. I think I finally understand your need for getting married...having a family, it's giving me a lot to think about.

Jocelin smiles between her tears. Damien's words will comfort her sister. Damien moves closer to Jocelin.

DAMIEN (CONT'D)

I've missed you, Jocelin...I've missed us.

Damien moves to hug Jocelin but she steps back a step, remembering this should be Jocelin's moment, not hers.

JOCELIN

(uneasy)

I hear you...thank you...but JJ is fillin' my mind right now. We'll talk, I promise...just help JJ.

Damien smiles at Jocelin, then walks down the hall. Jocelin leans against a wall and exhales deeply.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - NEXT MORNING

JJ awakens in his bed. He is connected to an Holter Monitor and a Hydromorphone drip. His eyes focus on Chloe's face as she stands next to him. She smiles at her brother.

CHLOE

Hey, dummy.

JJ

(weak)

Hey, creep.

She touches his arm with the love of a sister.

CHLOE

(worried)

You gonna be okay?

JJ

Hey...ain't gonna get rid of me
yet...

He weakly tweaks her nose.

JJ (CONT'D)

Gotta check out yo' dates when you get older.

Chloe smiles at her brother.

CHLOE

Got somebody else here who wants to see you.

Chloe stands aside to let Dina move next to JJ. Dina is nervous seeing JJ in this state.

JJ

Hey girl, I'm glad you're here.

DINA

(anxious)

Hi JJ. You okay?

JJ

Yeah, heart's weak but they taken care of me here.

DINA

I heard what happened to you, but I couldn't come till today.

JJ

I missed you. How'd you get here?

DINA

My mom dropped me off this mornin', said I could miss school and stay a while.

JJ

Cool.

JOHN (O.S.)

There's Miss Dina!

John awakens and stretches his arms from sleeping in a chair in the room all night. Angelique stirs on a nearby couch. John walks to JJ's bed and sits on it.

JOHN (CONT'D)

(playfully)

Now why did you skip school and come here?

DINA

To see JJ, Mr. Lewis.

JOHN

Here I was thinkin' you loved the applesauce and pudding here.

Dina and Chloe giggle. Angelique wakes up. John looks at JJ.

JOHN (CONT'D)

(supportive)

Boy, before your Mama gets over here and smothers you, I'm gonna tell you somethin'. When you ain't feelin' right and you got a problem inside...

John lightly taps JJ's chest.

JOHN (CONT'D)

You tell us right quick, got it?

JJ nods his head yes. John looks at Chloe.

JOHN (CONT'D)

That goes for you too.

CHLOE

Yes, Daddy.

JOHN

Good, cause I am the DADDY, and I got a right to know everything.

Angelique joins the family around JJ's bed. She kisses JJ's forehead.

ANGELIQUE

How you feeling, buddy?

JJ

Tired.

JJ pauses a moment, then looks Angelique right in her eyes.

JJ (CONT'D)

I gotta get a new heart, right mama?

Angelique musters her strength to answer JJ. She feels like she doesn't belong in this moment because of the wish.

ANGELIQUE

Yes, baby...but the operation you need is done often, and Damien is going to do it, so he'll take great care of you...you know that, right?

JJ

(worry)

Yeah, I know...but did he find a heart yet?

ANGELIQUE

(positive)

Now everybody here at the hospital is looking real hard for you, and they'll find one, you watch!

JJ

Am I gonna die?

A loud sniffle interrupts the moment. Everyone looks towards the door to see Jocelin, her eyes full of tears and her body shaking at JJ's words.

Angelique looks at JJ.

ANGELIQUE

No, you will be fine.

She then looks at John as if to say, get in here while I deal with jocelin. John understands and takes his son's hand. Chloe is upset but Dina comforts her.

JOHN

Your mom's right, you ain't goin' anywhere.

Angelique stands from the bed and walks to Jocelin. The two women step outside the room.

INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY - DAY

As the door to the room closes, Jocelin grabs Angelique in desperation.

JOCELIN

(scared)

We gotta switch back, Josie! I gotta be with JJ now!

ANGELIQUE

Angie, we only have a few hours left before the wish ends. You have to hold on till then. JJ's going to be okay.

JOCELIN

You don't know that! Please, Josie...we have'ta try now!

Angelique sees the desperation in Jocelin's eyes.

ANGELIQUE

Alright, right now, while we're alone...come on.

The sisters hold each other's hands and close their eyes tight. Every ounce of energy they have goes into reversing the wish. After a moment, Jocelin opens her eyes first.

JOCELIN

(frustrated)

Damn it, I'm still you!

Angelique opens her eyes. She feels the crushing weight of her sister's words and hugs Jocelin.

ANGELIQUE

We got to believe there's a miracle right now for JJ, in this hospital, and Damien will find it! He won't give up!

Jocelin's face suddenly turns to an expression of revelation. Angelique looks puzzled.

ANGELIQUE (CONT'D)

What is it?

JOCELIN

(anxious)

The miracle, Josie! I know what Damien wouldn't tell me! The donor is Cam Parker!

ANGELIOUE

JJ's friend who was in that car accident?

JOCELIN

No, Josie...he's more than JJ's friend...he's like a brother to him! He's in a coma and he's not waking up...that's what Damien didn't want to tell me!

ANGELIQUE

Wait, he couldn't tell you. It would go against his oath.

JOCELIN

Then he's got nothin' to worry about!

Jocelin frees herself from Angelique and begins to run down the hall.

ANGELIQUE

Where are you going? John's in there, and the kids...and JJ!

Jocelin turns to her sister momentarily as she continues down the hall.

JOCELIN

I hate what I gotta' do, but I have 'ta try...for JJ!

INT. PARKER HOUSE - FRONT DOOR - LATER

David opens a door. Jocelin stands outside it wiping her eyes. This is terrifying for her.

JOCELIN

(nervous)

Hello, David.

DAVID

I'm sorry, you look familiar,
but...

JOCELIN

I'm...I'm Jocelin Reynolds, JJ
Lewis' Aunt.

David remembers her.

DAVID

Oh yes, right, we met at a few baseball games at the high school.

Jocelin begins to move in agitation, as if uncomfortable in her own skin.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Is there something you wanted?

JOCELIN

Yes...I'd like to talk to you and your wife...please.

David pauses a moment. He reads the awkwardness on Jocelin's face.

DAVID

I don't think now's a good time...

JOCELIN

(desperate)

Please?

David gives in and opens the door wider for Jocelin to pass through.

INT. PARKER HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Jocelin enters the room. David follows her. Sandra sits on a couch. Sandra notices Jocelin.

SANDRA

(somber)

I didn't know we had company, Ms. Reynolds, isn't it? You're Angelique Lewis' sister.

The answer doesn't seem to want to exit Jocelin's mouth.

JOCELIN

Yes, ma'am.

SANDRA

Well, my husband let you in, so please, sit.

Jocelin nervously sits across from Sandra. David continues to stand nearby.

SANDRA (CONT'D)

This is a difficult time for our family right now, so forgive my bluntness, but why the visit?

JOCELIN

Coming here was dang scary for me, I was terrified.

Jocelin pushes down the lump in her throat.

JOCELIN (CONT'D)

My nephew, JJ, was a friend of your son Cameron...

SANDRA

(defensive)

"Is" a friend of my son, he's still alive. Yes...your nephew is a fine boy, well-mannered...he's a good friend to Cameron.

David moves somewhat uneasy. He knows how his wife feels about Cam being in a coma.

JOCELIN

Right...well...my nephew is in the hospital now with a bad heart...it doesn't work like it's supposed to...and...

Sandra's face turns to anticipation of something she may not want to hear. David intervenes.

DAVID

Ms. Reynolds, please...

SANDRA

No, David, let her finish.

JOCELIN

If he doesn't get a transplant, he may die.

SANDRA

I am sorry for JJ and your family...we are experiencing a painful situation with Cameron, as you know, so my heart feels for you. We will pray for all of you as we pray for our son.

Jocelin doesn't want to utter her next words, but she must.

JOCELIN

Mrs. Parker, prayers won't get it done for my...nephew...

She takes a deep breath while her eyes well up with tears.

JOCELIN (CONT'D)

Your boy...Cam...

Jocelin chokes up.

JOCELIN (CONT'D)

I'm beside myself with what I'm gonna say...but I'm doin' this because I'm out of options...I need you to give JJ Cam's heart.

Sandra, taken aback, has a moment of bewilderment, which quickly changes to anger, a calm hostility in her voice.

SANDRA

You come to my home...and ask me to kill my son...to save your nephew? Is that what I'm hearing?

Jocelin pleads as guilt smothers her mind.

JOCELIN

Please Mrs. Parker...

SANDRA

You must be insane!

JOCELIN

For me to even come here and say these words to you...a mother...

SANDRA

Something you are not, am I right?

Jocelin's mind reels as the presence of Angelique inside her wants to scream the truth to Sandra. Jocelin trembles with panic. David notices Jocelin and intervenes. He kneels down next to Sandra.

DAVID

(sympathetic)

Our son isn't waking up, Sandra. Dr. Benson tells us that every day we visit him.

SANDRA

I am not ready to say goodbye to Cameron, and you shouldn't be either.

David takes his wife's hand.

DAVID

I've been sober for four days now, and it's given me a chance to think clearly...realistically. I pray for a miracle constantly for Cam, but seeing him...with clear eyes...and having a doctor tell us the truth...it's not how Cam should live.

David looks into Sandra's eyes. Sandra sees the honesty David feels, not clouded by alcohol. She knows the truth buried down inside her. Sandra begins to sob, triggering David to do so as well. Jocelin, already upset, moves to Sandra.

JOCELIN

(upset)

It kills me to think about my reasons for coming to you both, but there's no other heart donors available now, and I don't know how long JJ has...I'm desperate and I'm begging you!

SANDRA

(grieving)

It isn't fair...I should have had more time with him. I just...don't know...how to say goodbye!

Jocelin reaches into her pocket and removes a cell phone. She hits the screen with her finger.

JOCELIN

This is JJ's phone...there's something on here you should see...something owed to you.

She hands the phone to Sandra and hits the screen. Sandra stares at the phone, wiping her eyes with her finger.

CELL PHONE SCREEN:

A video shows JJ and Cam clowning around at baseball practice in their uniforms.

CAM

(proud)

Dis here is the MVP of the whole dang league right here!

He points to JJ.

JJ

(happy)

Not doin' it without you, Bro!

JJ hugs Cam around the neck.

CAM

True dat! We gettin' drafted together, double A and triple A together, and then the BIG LEAGUES...

The boys high-five each other.

CAM (CONT'D)

Together! Do anything for ya', dog!

JJ

Me too! Yo', let's switch jerseys and fool Coach Bailey!

CAM

Oh, I'm in, let's go!

The two boys begin taking their jerseys off when the video ends.

BACK TO SANDRA:

Sandra slowly hands the phone back to Jocelin.

SANDRA

(reflective)

They loved each other...it's beautiful.

DAVID

That was our son...how he wanted to live...not like he is now. Let's do the right thing, Sandra...okay?

With the words absent from her mouth, Sandra shakes her head yes. Jocelin bursts into tears and hugs both Sandra and David.

INT. HOSPITAL WAITING ROOM - DAY

The Lewis family, minus Ellie and Marilyn, with Jocelin, sit in several chairs, anxiously waiting. After a moment, Damien comes through a door. Everyone stands up.

DAMIEN

(positive)

It went really well. JJ's stable and resting comfortably. He's prepped for surgery, we're just waiting on Mr. and Mrs. Parker and their son Eddie to finish saying goodbye to Cam.

The family looks uncomfortably at each other knowing the price that had to be paid for JJ's surgery.

JOHN

Our boy's goin' be okay?

DAMIEN

There's risk in any surgery, John, but I've done this type of procedure before. He couldn't be in better hands.

Jocelin hugs Damien tight.

JOCELIN

Your an angel, Damien...thank you.

Damien hugs her back, then separates himself.

DAMIEN

Thank the Parkers, their selfless act made it possible. We'll talk later, promise. Right now I have to scrub up for surgery.

Damien begins to walk back to the door he entered through. Angelique motions to Jocelin with her head to have her go to John and distract him. Jocelin gets the gesture and talks to John. Angelique goes after Damien.

Damien, wait!

He turns and faces her.

ANGELIQUE (CONT'D)

(nervous)

I just wanted to say thank you, again.

DAMIEN

Please, I'm glad to help JJ, and the family.

ANGELIQUE

You...ah...look good.

DAMIEN

(puzzled)

Thank you, I think?

ANGELIQUE

What I mean is you look calm...before surgery. That's good.

DAMIEN

Oh, yes, you're right.

There's a pause between them.

DAMIEN (CONT'D)

Anything else?

ANGELIQUE

Yes...Jocelin told me about your talk in the hallway, and I just wanted to ask you...have you changed your mind about getting married, and kids?

DAMIEN

Actually, I have.

Angelique's face lights up with a gigantic smile. She's tempting to grab Damien and kiss him but holds back because of what it will look like if the family catches her.

DAMIEN (CONT'D)

But please, let me tell Jocelin how I feel, okay? I need to let her know.

(excited)

Of course, absolutely...not a word.

Angelique motions to lock her mouth with an imaginary key.

ANGELIQUE (CONT'D)

What made you change your mind? You were so adamant about how you felt.

DAMIEN

Seeing you and your family...how you all rallied around JJ when he needed you...the love and support...it made me want that too.

ANGELIQUE

(thrilled)

That's the best!

Damien smiles awkwardly, a little confused about Angelique's reaction.

DAMIEN

Great, I hope Jocelin feels the same way you do.

ANGELIQUE

(confident)

She will.

Damien turns and walks through the door. Angelique is locked into a feeling of euphoria from Damien's words. Jocelin's essence inside her is happy. At that moment she looks to a clock on the wall. It's five minutes to five. Her jaw drops.

Angelique returns to the family. Jocelin locks eyes with Angelique after looking at the clock herself. Worry fills her eyes. Angelique runs to Jocelin and grabs her arm, beginning to drag her away from John.

JOHN

Hey, where you two goin'?

ANGELIQUE

Bathroom, you said you had to go, right Josie?

JOCELIN

Right!

JOHN

Both of you? Same time? Now?

It's a sister thing!

JOHN

But...

ANGELIQUE

Hush, John...let us go before we have an accident right here!

The women run down the hall together.

INT. HOSPITAL CHAPEL - DAY

Jocelin and Angelique enter a small but tastefully decorated room with several pews and an alter surrounded with religious items and paintings. Jocelin glances at her smartwatch.

JOCELIN

(excited)

We got two minutes!

ANGELIQUE

Why here?

JOCELIN

Ain't no better place than the Lord's house to fix somethin'!

The two women hold each other's hands. Both are full of anxiety.

ANGELIQUE

You ready?

JOCELIN

More than ready, Josie!

They look into each other's eyes for a moment.

ANGELIQUE

Aside from what happened to JJ, and thank God he's going to be okay...did you get what you wanted from the wish, Angie?

JOCELIN

I did...I got to feel important, like somebody in charge.

ANGELIOUE

You always were important.

JOCELIN

How bout' you?

ANGELIQUE

Yeah, I got a family to care for, and a whole lot of practice.

JOCELIN

You always had family.

Angelique looks at a clock on the wall.

ANGELIQUE

Ten seconds...here we go!

The two sisters close their eyes tight and hold on to one another. Angelique's smartwatch beeps. The sister's eyes shoot open and a yellow glow covers their pupils. A second later, their eyes clear. Each sister looks at the other.

JOCELIN

(thrilled)

It worked! I'm back inside me!

ANGELIQUE

(excited)

Oh God...I'm home again! I missed you, Angelique!

Angelique gives herself a hug, then shares one with Jocelin. They separate and leave the chapel.

INT. HOSPITAL WAITING ROOM - NIGHT

The sister return to the family. Angelique runs up to John and hugs and kisses him.

ANGELIQUE

(thrilled)

I missed you so much, baby!

JOHN

(puzzled)

Missed me? You been by my side through all this. What's goin' on with you?

Angelique knows she never could explain the last two weeks to John, so she plays it aloof.

ANGELIQUE

(indifferent)

Nothin'...nothin' at all.

(MORE)

ANGELIQUE (CONT'D)

Don't pay no mind to me, just a feelin' I had.

JOHN

(playful)

Girl, you crazy...you actin' this way cause of JJ, and that's the story I'm stickin' to.

Jocelin sits next to Chloe and hugs her. Chloe looks into Jocelin's eyes with vulnerability.

CHLOE

JJ's gonna be okay, right Aunt Jocelin?

JOCELIN

Of course, honey. He's got too much living to do. Besides...

Jocelin strokes her hair lovingly.

JOCELIN (CONT'D)

Damien going to make sure nothing happens to JJ.

CHLOE

Damien's a nice man.

Jocelin smiles.

JOCELIN

(proud)

He sure is, and he loves this family a lot.

CHLOE

You ever gonna marry him?

Jocelin acts surprised by the question from a ten year old, then laughs.

JOCELIN

We have a whole lot to talk about first...but maybe someday.

INT. HOSPITAL WAITING ROOM - NIGHT - LATER

Angelique, Jocelin and Chloe wait with angst. Chloe eats a snack while Angelique paces. Jocelin notices her sister's worry.

JOCELIN

Your going to wear a hole in that floor.

ANGELIQUE

(nervous)

I can help it...it's been hours.

JOCELIN

Damien said the operation would be a while.

ANGELIQUE

I know...I know...

JOCELIN

I'm not going to tell you not to worry, you'll do that anyway.

Angelique flashes Jocelin a look of you got that right. John enters the room. He walks to Angelique.

JOHN

Any word on JJ yet?

ANGELIQUE

No, and I'm goin' out of my mind. How's Mom and Ellie?

JOHN

They're both fine. We gonna owe Marilyn bigtime for watchin' Ellie durin' all this.

John looks in the direction of the information desk.

JOHN (CONT'D)

I'm gonna ask at the desk about JJ.

ANGELIQUE

It's gotta be you cause I've been at the desk like ten times so far. They're gettin' tired of seein' my face.

Damien exits a door and enters the room. The family waits on his words with apprehension.

DAMIEN

(supportive)

Angelique, John...JJ's fine. He's stable and his vitals are good. The surgery went great.

Filled with relief at the good news, Angelique and John both take turns hugging Damien. Angelique then turns and hugs Chloe, then Jocelin. Jocelin mouths the words "thank you" to Damien. He smiles at her.

INT. THERAPY ROOM - DAY - SEVERAL DAYS LATER

JJ works through physical therapy as Angelique and John support his efforts. A occupational THERAPIST, (30's) massages and exercises JJ's arms and legs. A different THERAPIST, (20's) helps JJ walk and use weights. JJ exercises on a treadmill.

INT. JOCELIN'S APARTMENT - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Jocelin and Damien eat dinner and laugh, enjoying each others company once again. Damien holds Jocelin's hand and kisses her.

INT. LEWIS HOME - BATHROOM - DAY

JJ looks in a mirror at the scar on his chest. He is apprehensive to touch it. Angelique peeks her head in through a door.

She stands next to JJ and puts her hand on the scar the way only a loving mother can do. Angelique then takes JJ's hand and places it on the scar. After a moment, JJ smiles at his mom, and seems more at ease.

EXT. BASEBALL FIELD - DAY

Fans cheer from the bleachers.

FIELD:

The baseball team celebrate on the field after another victory. The players gather around Coach Bailey who holds up two photos in his hand.

PHOTO:

Cam and JJ are in the pictures.

FIELD:

The other players cheer.

INT. BOSWELL AGENCY - HALLWAY - DAY

Jocelin walks by Alden's office. He works at his desk. She stops and speaks to him.

JOCELIN

(smirky)

Alden, come on...we need to go over the Kimmology marketing report.

He looks at her.

ALDEN

(surprised)

For real?

JOCELIN

Yes, let's go.

Alden stands and exits the office.

INT. BOSWELL AGENCY - HALLWAY - DAY

Jocelin and Alden walk together.

JOCELIN

I should have included you more in the Kimmology meetings.

Alden looks at her and smiles.

JOCELIN (CONT'D)

(genuine)

I'm sorry.

ALDEN

(sarcastically)

An apology from Jocelin Reynolds? I should have recorded it.

JOCELIN

Don't get used to it, but, when you're right, you're right.

Alden and Jocelin smile at one another with respect.

JOCELIN (CONT'D)

(playfully)

If you're on team Jocelin, better up your game.

ALDEN

(confident sarcasm)
I'm always on another level!

Jocelin laughs.

INT. REC ROOM - NIGHT

Eddie sits in a circle with other people, both men and women of all ages. He is nervous, rubbing his arms, then his hands together. ROBERT, (40's) jeans and a t-shirt with a calm face, the leader of this AA meeting, addresses the group.

ROBERT

(kind)

Hi, I'm Robert, alcoholic.

Everyone but Eddie responds with a "Hi, Robert".

ROBERT (CONT'D)

Thank you for attending the one hundredth meeting of this AA chapter.

Robert looks around the circle.

ROBERT (CONT'D)

I see we have a new face joining us tonight, just like I see our familiar faces. What's your name, son?

Eddie glances at Robert, then the others in attendance, but looks down. His fear is overwhelming him, and prevents him from making eye contact.

ROBERT (CONT'D)

It's okay if you don't want to talk right now, this is a safe space...but I'll keep calling on you so we can learn about you, and in doing so, help you.

A door opens, then closes. It draws the attention of the group. David Parker walks towards the circle. Eddie can't believe his eyes. He's dumbfounded.

David picks up a chair, walks to the group, sets up the chair next to Eddie and joins the circle of attendees. Robert addresses David.

ROBERT (CONT'D)

Welcome, thank you for joining us tonight. What's your name, friend?

David lets out a sign of relief, gathering his courage.

EDDIE

(confused)

Dad, what are you doing here?

David looks at his son. He puts his hand on Eddie's shoulder.

DAVID

(humble)

I belong here as much as you do, son. We'll do this together, okay?

Eddie smiles and slowly relaxes. Seeing his dad's bravery in coming to the meeting has inspired him. David addresses Robert.

DAVID (CONT'D)

I'm David, and I have a drinking problem...I'm here to get some help.

Eddie looks at Robert.

EDDIE

I'm Eddie...and this is my dad...and I'm an alcoholic.

Robert smiles at both of them. The group respond the them with a collective "Hello".

EXT. BASEBALL FIELD - DAY - SEVERAL WEEKS LATER

The baseball team plays against an opponent.

SCOREBOARD:

Coach Bailey's team is losing by two runs. A sign on the scoreboard reads CHAMPIONSHIP GAME 2023.

FIELD:

The bases are loaded with players.

BLEACHERS:

The Lewis family and Dina cheer the team. Jocelin and Damien sit behind them.

The Parkers sit on the seat in front of the Lewis family. Sandra and David are a mix of emotions, happy for the team, but sad that Cam isn't here with them.

Angelique notices that David and Sandra don't stand and cheer when everyone else does. She reaches for Sandra and puts her hand on her shoulder in a loving gesture. Sandra looks back at her and responds by putting her hand on Angelique's.

BASEBALL FIELD:

JJ leaves the dugout with a bat in his hand. He takes a few steps towards home plate then stops and rubs his chest. JJ turns towards Coach Bailey.

JJ

Hold on, Coach!

Coach Bailey signals a time out to an umpire.

JJ returns to the dugout. After a moment, he exits with something in his hands, but no bat. He jogs to the bleachers.

BLEACHERS:

The Lewis family look puzzled as to JJ's approach. JJ stands in front of the Parkers. He holds up Cam's jersey. Sandra and David's eyes well up with tears. It's an embodiment of their son.

JJ (CONT'D)

(sincere)

Mr. And Mrs. Parker...I wanna wear this when I bat...for Cam!

Sandra shakes her head yes. JJ quickly changes jerseys as he runs back to the dugout. Sandra smiles, moved by JJ's gesture. Angelique sits next to Sandra.

SANDRA

(anxious)

I didn't know he had Cam's jersey.

ANGELIQUE

It's his extra one, in case Cam ever forgot his for a game. Cam gave it to him a while back.

SANDRA

(moved)

We miss him so much.

(supportive)

Cam's here...right now...with JJ and the team.

Sandra looks at Angelique through tear-soaked eyes.

ANGELIQUE (CONT'D)

He's always with JJ, in a bond that ain't ever gonna be broken.

Angelique hugs Sandra.

ANGELIQUE (CONT'D)

You all are family now...when you see JJ smile, or laugh, or he says hello to you...that's Cam too.

BASEBALL FIELD:

JJ, at home plate, swings the bat at a pitch. He hits a long fly ball to the outfield.

OUTFIELD:

The other team's outfielders can't get to hit. The ball goes over a fence.

HOME PLATE:

The bases clear as JJ's teammates cross home plate, winning the game. The other players surround JJ and hoist him up on their shoulders.

BLEACHERS:

Everyone cheers for the victory.

BASEBALL FIELD:

SUPER:

HEAVENLY IMAGE OF CAM'S FACE APPEARS NEXT TO JJ'S FACE. BOTH BOYS SMILE.

EXT. BASEBALL FIELD - PARKING LOT - LATER

The Lewis family walk to their car. Jocelin and Damien walk some distance behind them. Everyone is giddy over the team winning the championship game. DAMIEN

Some game, right?

JOCELIN

(proud)

My nephew's a winner! I'm glad JJ could be here, and he got the HOME RUN!

Jocelin playfully punches Damien's arm. She's pumped up. Damien removes a baseball from his pocket. Jocelin notices it.

JOCELIN (CONT'D)

(curious)

Where did you get that?

DAMIEN

It's the game ball JJ hit.

JOCELIN

Hey, you'd better give that to JJ.

DAMIEN

Nah, I'm keeping it...souvenir.

JOCELIN

(concerned)

Damien! He's going to want it! Give it back!

DAMIEN

(playfully)

All right already...

He tosses the ball to Jocelin.

DAMIEN (CONT'D)

You give it to him.

Jocelin catches the ball.

JOCELIN

Can't believe you were going to...

She looks at the ball.

BALL:

Written on the ball are the words, JOCELIN, WILL YOU MARRY ME?

JOCELIN:

Jocelin is in shock for a moment. She looks at Damien. He smiles at her.

JOCELIN (CONT'D)

(stunned) Wait, for real?

DAMIEN

(lovingly)

I've never been more sure of anything.

Jocelin SQUEALS with delight and hugs and kisses Damien with all the love she has for him.

DAMIEN (CONT'D)

Is that a yes?

JOCELIN

Yes, yes, a hundred times yes!

Angelique hears Jocelin's SHOUT and turns back. She sees the celebration between Jocelin and Damien. Her eyes widen and explode with joy.

ANGELIQUE

(excited)

Hold up! That's a proposal yell!

Angelique runs towards Jocelin and Damien. The rest of the family follow her. Angelique hugs both of them. Their SHOUTS of happiness slowly become inaudible.

INT. CHURCH - BRIDAL ROOM - DAY

SUPER - ONE YEAR LATER

Jocelin is dressed in a beautiful wedding gown. The room is decorated with beautiful flowers and gorgeous furniture. Angelique fawns over Jocelin while Marilyn looks on.

JOCELIN

(emotional)

I had my doubts about getting to this day, Angie.

ANGELIQUE

I didn't, Damien knows what he's got in you. He wasn't messin' it up.

Angelique fixes Jocelin's veil. Marilyn nudges her way between the sisters to speak with Jocelin.

ANGELIQUE (CONT'D)

Dang mama, just ask me to move.

MARILYN

(territorial)

Who are we kidding? I have to get physical with you to get this spot.

The ladies laugh. Marilyn looks into Jocelin's eyes.

MARILYN (CONT'D)

Your daddy would be so proud of you, baby. He would have walked you down the aisle today if he was with us.

JOCELIN

He is mom...always.

ANGELIQUE

(proud)

John's gonna walk Josie down, Mama.

JOCELIN

(playfully sarcastic)
Oh Lordy, that man...out of everybody else?

ANGELIQUE

He INSISTED.

The two sisters smile in surprise.

MARILYN

All right you two, let's go...

She gives Jocelin's dress a once over.

MARILYN (CONT'D)

You don't want to be late for your own wedding.

INT. CHURCH HALL - DAY - MOMENTS LATER

The doors to the hall open. The room is filled with family and friends. It is beautifully decorated in blushing colors and eye-catching floral arrangements. Chloe, the ring bearer, enters first.

John, in a tux, stands near the door, ready to escort Jocelin. A few bridesmaids completed by Angelique, stroll down the main aisle. Angelique smiles at John. He gives her a wink.

Jocelin enters to the wedding march ballad. Everyone OOO's and AHH's at her arrival. John sticks his arm out and Jocelin hooks her arm through his. They begin to make their way towards the altar.

ALTAR:

Damien awaits Jocelin in a sharp looking tux standing next to his best man and groomsmen. He's all smiles.

BACK TO JOCELIN:

John accompanies Jocelin down the aisle. He whispers to her.

JOHN

(playfully)

Bout' time you and Damien got hitched and left my family alone.

She jams him in the ribs. He sarcastically makes an ouch face.

JOCELIN

By the way, I know about you not getting the loan for Angie's shop.

John looks at Jocelin, surprised.

JOCELIN (CONT'D)

So you're going to take a loan from me to get it started. No arguments.

John looks frustrated for a moment, then remembers that everyone at the church is looking at them. He smiles.

JOHN

(caught off guard)

You know I can't get into it with you here.

JOCELIN

That's why I did it now...can't say no.

She playfully kisses John's cheek. John realizes Jocelin's offer is the best option for Angelique's dream to come true.

JOHN

That's dang sneaky...you know I'm payin' you back, with interest, right?

JOCELIN

Wouldn't have it any other way.

John and Jocelin reach Damien. He happily takes Jocelin from John. John smiles at Jocelin, knowing she gave him a chance to help his wife fulfill her goal. Jocelin and Damien turn to the altar as a PRIEST, (40's) begins the ceremony.

INT. CUPCAKE SHOP - DAY - IN THE FUTURE

The same woman from the library bake sale walks into a very busy shop as a door chime RINGS. The store is decorated with glass cases filled with decadent cupcakes of every shape, color, and flavor. Flashy signs and boards that say ANGELIQUE'S CAKES reel in the customers.

Angelique works behind a counter, boxing the cupcakes. Chloe, now two years older, works the register. Marilyn holds Ellie's hand while she walks around the store in-between the customers.

The door opens again. Jocelin and Damien push their beautiful new baby in a stroller through it, and make their way to Angelique. Angelique eyes light up with joy. She hugs and kisses them and checks on the baby in the stroller.

ANGELIQUE

(cute)

Where's my niecey-niece?

She resorts to baby talk. Jocelin speaks to her sister.

JOCELIN

(overjoyed)

I'm so proud of you, and the success of this place...it's great!

DAMIEN

Congratulations, Angelique.

Angelique stands from the stroller.

ANGELIQUE

Thanks, it's everything I dreamed of...

She mischievously looks around.

ANGELIQUE (CONT'D)

But it's gonna get better!

Angelique grabs Jocelin and pulls her aside a moment.

ANGELIQUE (CONT'D)

(excited)
Our birthday is comin' up, and I'm thinkin' about wishin' for a new commercial convection oven for the shop!

Jocelin rolls her eyes at Angelique.

JOCELIN

Nah-uh, have you learned nothing? Girl, you better keep your mouth closed! We don't play with wishes anymore!

ANGELIQUE

C'mon Josie, just one!

JOCELIN

I will smack you, I swear...

Their playful sibling talk dissolves into inaudible banter.

FADE OUT.