

CALLING HOME

Written by

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FADE IN:

INT. STUDIO - NIGHT

A group of WOMEN sit in a near perfect circle, each with small notebooks in their laps. They watch attentively at the WOMAN at the peak of the circle as she speaks.

The woman is MYA SANDERS (40s), ginger, plain beauty and a smooth mommy voice. She uses her hands as she speaks.

MYA

Everyday is a struggle, but we must remember not to think of our lives in weeks, months, and years. It only increases the pressure that is on your mind. Think of life in minutes, hours, and days.

Mya grabs her necklace's heart pendant with a semicolon carved out of the center.

MYA (CONT'D)

Every minute your heart beats, is another minute you are stronger; a warrior; a survivor.

Some of the women grab their pendants too.

A gentle-eyed brunette YOUNG WOMAN grabs her pendant and stares at it, she flips it over.

INSERT - NECKLACE PENDANT

The pendant reads the word STRONG.

The young woman runs her finger over the word before she releases it.

MYA

So remember ladies, minute by minute. Every minute is a minute that the people and things you care about in this life gets to spend with you. That will be all for tonight. I brought doughnuts, help yourselves.

The women laugh and jump up to get to the doughnuts.

EXT. STUDIO - NIGHT

One by one the women thank Mya for the meeting tonight.
Mya hugs, shakes hands and gives friendly pats on the back.
The young woman from before comes up last.

MYA

Skylar. How are you?

SKYLAR (late 20s) smiles with her ruby red lips.

SKYLAR

I'm great. Really great. Your meetings have been very helpful for me.

MYA

That is great! How are things at home?

SKYLAR

Perfect I guess. Charlotte is starting to walk and Michael is getting ready to play t-ball.

MYA

That's wonderful! And your husband?

SKYLAR

Thomas? He's been so great through all of this. He's been such great support.

MYA

That's great Skylar. You just keep holding on.

SKYLAR

I am. I feel so much better ever since I started coming here last year. I didn't think I was going to make it, but here I am.

MYA

That's right, and here you will stay.

The two hug.

SKYLAR

Have a good night.

MYA

You too.

INT. MYA'S HOME - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Mya and her HUSBAND dance around the kitchen cleaning. Mya scrubs the dishes.

MYA

Charlie, I had this idea.

CHARLIE (40s) tall, ties the trash bag. He looks up at Mya with his kind face.

CHARLIE

Oh, what idea?

MYA

I was thinking of planning a trip for the ladies. I think it would be refreshing for them to be somewhere exotic and exciting to get their minds off of everything that's happened. Especially Evelyn's death last month. So sudden.

Charlie notices her voice change. He comes behind her and rubs her shoulders.

CHARLIE

I know how much that must have hurt you. I think it would be a great idea.

He kisses the back of her head.

MYA

You think so?

CHARLIE

Absolutely. What you're doing for these women is incredible. Hell, if it weren't for you, I don't know where I would be.

MYA

As much as you stared at me at our meetings, I suppose I couldn't resist scooping you up.

The two smile.

CHARLIE
You saved my life.

Mya wipes off her hands. She turns around to Charlie, the two gaze into each other's eyes.

MYA
And you saved mine. Thank you.

Their foreheads come together.

CHARLIE
You are a hero without a cape, my
love. Don't ever forget that.

Charlie pecks a kiss on her lips before he returns to the trash.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

It is the middle of the night when Mya's phone BUZZ.

Mya GROANS and grabs her phone. She quints as she reads the text.

INSERT - TEXT MESSAGE

The phone reads, "SKYLAR: The Angels have called..."

Mya jumps up. Charlie rolls over.

CHARLIE
(groggy)
What is it?

MYA
It's Skylar, she needs me.

EXT. DOCKS - NIGHT

Mya hops out of the car. She gazes up at the massive bridge with a long face.

She pulls a box of cigarettes from her coat pocket, lights up, and starts up the sidewalk.

EXT. BRIDGE - NIGHT

Mya releases a cloud of smoke as she makes it to the top. Car pass by her as if she were invisible.

She notices Skylar sitting on the very edge with her feet dangling above hundreds of feet of air and water. She looks content.

MYA

The angels have called, huh?

Skylar turns to her, a big smile on her face. She nods.

SKYLAR

Yes.

Mya nods.

She carefully climbs over the thick metal rail to sit beside her. Cars continue to pass by unaware of their existence.

The two sit in silence as they gaze out at the city lit up with movement and energy.

MYA

I thought everything was fine?

SKYLAR

It was, today was a great day. Yesterday was a great day. But tonight, everything changed. I sat at that table and looked at my family and I was happy to be alive. I laid in bed and everything fell a part. It was as if nothing became worth it anymore. I just can't do it anymore. Do you think that's what Evelyn went through?

MYA

Evelyn's childhood demons wouldn't let her go. For a long moment there was peace for her, but then it all fell a part. She gave us no warning.

Skylar looks back at the cars on the bridge, she notices people looking at them as they drive by. Mya turns too.

SKYLAR

We're being noticed.

MYA

That means it won't be long before
the cops come.

SKYLAR

I'm going to miss the girls.

MYA

They're going to miss you too.
They've been so proud of you
getting better.

Skylar nods. She plays with a piece of loose string on her
coat.

She looks up at the starry sky.

SKYLAR

I'm going to miss everything. The
memories, my family. You.

Mya grins.

MYA

I'm going to miss you too.

A car halts to a stop in the distance.

Mya and Skylar lean over to see a man looking at him and on
the phone.

Mya (CONT'D)

We have an audience.

SKYLAR

You better get out of here before
they implement you.

The two women turn to each other.

MYA

I'll make sure your family get
through it.

SKYLAR

Thank you, for everything. I'm so
sorry I couldn't be saved.

They hug.

SIRENS are heard. The two look to see COP CARS with FLASHING
LIGHTS gunning towards the bridge in the distance.

SKYLAR (CONT'D)
Go... this won't take long.

Mya hops up.

SKYLAR (CONT'D)
Tell my family I loved them more
than anything in the world.

MYA
I will.

Mya heads down the bridge.

SKYLAR
Mya!

Mya stops and turns around.

Skylar has tears in her eyes but she smiles big.

SKYLAR (CONT'D)
I am free.

Mya smiles back.

MYA
You are free.

Mya turns and carefully hurries down the bridge into the dark.

EXT. DOCKS - NIGHT

Mya stands at her car as she watch people gazing over the side of the bridge frantically searching the water. The top of the bridge is lit up in blue and red lights.

MYA
You are free.

Mya hops in her car and leaves.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Mya sits on the edge of the bed with a photo dangling in her hand. She gazes at the

INSERT

Skylar is at the beach. She makes a funny face at the camera.

Mya smiles.

She crawls to the floor and reaches under her bed.

She retrieves a box with "ANGELS" printed on the top.

She opens the box revealing a stack of photos of different people.

She places Skylar's photo on top.

She closes the box, shoves it under the bed and climbs under the sheets. She pulls the sheets close, her eyes filling as she stares at the wall.

Finally she reaches up and turns out the light.

CUT TO BLACK.

THE END.