The Middle

"Aunt Irene"
FADE IN:

EXT. CHURCH. GRAVEYARD – DAY

A funeral is taking place. SEVERAL MOURNERS are clumped together, giving evils to the HECK FAMILY across from them. They all look rather uncomfortable at the glares they're getting.

FRANKIE
(to Mike)
Stop giving me that look, Mike.
(then)
Okay, okay. I messed up.

The PRIEST comes across saying his condolences to everyone until he comes to the Hecks, and just gives them a look of utter disdain before walking away.

FRANKIE (V.O)
It's crazy what the potential of a life changing amount of money can do to someone, isn't it? You know, normal, rational people can suddenly fly off the rails and do some insane things all in the name of money. I'm ashamed to say that I am one of those people.

A rather large casket is wheeled out of the church, and is about to be put into the ground when, suddenly, FRANKIE makes a bolt for it and dives on top of the casket screaming and crying.

FRANKIE
Why Aunt Irene why?! Why did you do this to us?! We deserved that money! We were family! Sue was your penpal!

FRANKIE (V.O)
Yep, there's another one of those crazy things I did in the name of money. That's me riding on top of Aunt Irene's casket.

MIKE, AXL, SUE and BRICK, are extremely embarrassed as they drag Frankie off of the casket and away from the stunned mourners.

FRANKIE (V.O) (CONT'D)
I know what you're thinking. Who the hell is Aunt Irene? Well, I'll get to that bit soon, but in all honesty, I'm still not entirely sure who she is... Or rather, was. But we got the news of her death around a week ago...
INT. HECK HOUSE. FRONT ROOM/KITCHEN – EVENING

Frankie is sat on the sofa, reading some magazine.

FRANKIE (V.O)
Grief, it's a strange thing, isn't it? We all cope with it in different ways. Some can't stop crying, others remember all the great memories, and a few even use laughter as a way to shield themselves. Then there's Mike...

Mike enters through the front door.

MIKE
(matter of fact)
Turns out my aunt Irene has died.

Frankie jumps off the sofa, all shook up.

FRANKIE
What?! Oh my God!
(then)
Wait, who's aunt Irene?

Mike simply shrugs his shoulders.

MIKE
Rusty told me. Apparently, she's a long distance relative who's lived out in the sticks her whole life.

FRANKIE
Aww, I've always wanted to live out in the countryside.
(off Mike's look)
Sorry, go on.

MIKE
Anyway, she died falling out of a boat or something.

FRANKIE
A boat?! See, that's why it pays to be poor sometimes. We could never afford a boat to fall out of.

MIKE
Well, she certainly could. According to Rusty, she was extremely wealthy.

FRANKIE
How wealthy?

MIKE
Well, she could afford her own boat, for one.
FRANKIE
My God, Mike, she's rich! Or was rich, anyway. Oh, you read about this sort of thing in the papers all the time.

MIKE
What sort of thing?

FRANKIE
I was just reading about it actually.
(reads from magazine)
Long lost relative leaves millions of dollars to poor forgotten family.
(then)
You see Mike, that could be us.

MIKE
(sarcastic)
Yeah, I'm sure. Because we're that lucky.

Mike grabs a beer. Frankie follows him.

FRANKIE
So, how old was she anyway?

MIKE
No one knows for sure, but dad thinks she was about 97.

FRANKIE
97? How did she manage to live that long? Clearly she didn't have any children.
(then)
So, when's the funeral?

MIKE
What funeral?

FRANKIE
She's died, Mike. There's gonna be a funeral. Unless she's still at sea. Oh God, that would be awful.

MIKE
No, they found her. Wet and wrinkly, but they found her. We ain't going to the funeral.

FRANKIE
When is it? Come on, I'll just ask Rusty.
MIKE
It's on Friday. We ain't going, Frankie.

FRANKIE
What? How can you say that, Mike? Your aunt Irene has died.

MIKE
I didn't even know I had an aunt Irene until about lunchtime today.

FRANKIE
Still, she's family. It's only right we all go to her funeral and pay our respects.

MIKE
Frankie, the last thing I wanna do is go there. Social gatherings make me uncomfortable.

FRANKIE
Everything makes you uncomfortable. We're going, and that's the end of it.

Axl enters having overheard, grabs a snack.

AXL
Going where?

FRANKIE
Your dad's aunt Irene has passed away. We're going to her funeral on Friday.

AXL
(to Mike)
Who the hell is aunt Irene?

Mike shrugs his shoulders.

FRANKIE
She's a long lost relative... And rich by the sounds of it. 97. Boating accident. It don't matter, we're going.

AXL
Did it occur to you that I might be busy Friday?

FRANKIE
Whatever it is, you can drop it. A family member has died, Axl.
AXL
I'm meant to be taking Lexi out on a date Friday. Some sort of anniversary thing. I've forgotten what it is now.

FRANKIE
Well, you'll just have to cancel. I'm sure she'll understand.

MIKE
Frankie, don't you think you're taking this a bit far?

FRANKIE
Mike, we have to pay our respects.

MIKE
What for? We didn't even know she existed, same for her with us.

AXL
I'm with dad on this one.

FRANKIE
Well, that's all the more reason to go so we can hear her loved ones speak fondly about her.
(then)
Where's the funeral anyway?

MIKE
Out in the sticks somewhere.

FRANKIE
Oh my God, this is perfect! We get to have a road trip too.

Sue enters, all excited.

SUE
Did someone say road trip?!

AXL
No, no, no, no, no, no way! I ain't going on no road trip with you guys.

FRANKIE
We can make a weekend of it, it will be great.

AXL
That's what you always say, but name just one trip we've had that didn't end in complete disaster?
FRANKIE (V.O)  
He had a point, but I weren't about to give up just yet.

FRANKIE  
Axl, it will be different this time. Aunt Irene has died so--

SUE  
Aunt Irene has died?

She bursts into tears.

MIKE  
What the hell's wrong with her?

FRANKIE  
That's what having a heart looks like, Mike. (then) It's alright, Sue. She was just a distant relative, none of us really knew her or anything.

SUE  
I did.

FRANKIE/AXL/MIKE  
You did?

SUE  
Yeah, I used to write letters to her all the time. I thought she hadn't replied in a while.

FRANKIE  
You see, Mike. Sue spoke to her, but you didn't even know she existed.

MIKE  
I don't like talking to the family in this house, let alone some old woman in the sticks.

FRANKIE  
(to Sue) So, what was she like?

SUE  
She was lovely. Kind, generous, funny.

FRANKIE  
She certainly hasn't got any of your personality, Mike.
AXL
(to Sue)
So why didn't you tell us about this aunt Irene?

SUE
I didn't think any of you would care, you never usually care what I get up to.

AXL
True story.

FRANKIE
Well, we would've with this. I can't believe you knew her. What was her hobbies?

SUE
She liked knitting, gardening and sailing.

FRANKIE
Oh God!

SUE
It was the knitting that killed her, right? She kept saying her hands were sore from all the knitting.

AXL
Shut up, Sue. Who do you know that's ever died from knitting? Maybe she died from the sheer boredom of reading your letters to her.

FRANKIE
That's enough, Axl. She died out on the boat, Sue.

SUE
Oh, no!

FRANKIE
At least she died doing something she loved.

SUE
Yes. She was hoping to meet us all, but she could never find the time to travel here.
FRANKIE
Hear that Mike? She wanted to see us all.

SUE
She said the last time she met dad he was a baby. All she had were some really old photos of him, so I sent her some new ones of us.

MIKE
Was that why you kept snapping us all the time?

SUE
Yeah.

MIKE
Well, I don't think aunt Irene appreciated the one of me on the toilet. Neither did I, for the record.

SUE
She loved it dad. She loved all the photos. She lived alone, so the thought of coming to see us all kept her happy.

FRANKIE
Aww, this just keeps getting sadder and sadder. How did you both start writing to each other?

SUE
Remember that summer a few years back I was cleaning out Granddad's place? Well, I found these unopened letters in the loft. I asked him about them but he just shrugged, kinda like dad. So, I took them home, read them and her return address was inside so I replied.

FRANKIE
This is like something out of a fairytale.

AXL
What fairytales did you read?

FRANKIE
Right, that settles it. We're going to her funeral.

Brick enters.

BRICK
What's going on?
FRANKIE
Oh, we'll tell you later.

Brick shrugs, walks off.

INT. HECK HOUSE. BRICK'S BEDROOM - LATER

Frankie, Mike, Axl and Sue are reading letters. Brick is on his laptop.

FRANKIE (V.O)
So, we spent the rest of the evening looking through the letters sent by Aunt Irene, hoping to get some proper information on the mystery woman such as a surname....

FRANKIE
Anything yet, Sue? We need a name.

MIKE
All I've got so far is that she was a fan of The Golden Girls. Don't think that's gonna help us somehow.

AXL
And all I'm getting is that she was a really, really boring woman. We're talking Sue boring here.

FRANKIE (V.O) (CONT'D)
...It wasn't going very well.

FRANKIE
There must be something we're missing.

BRICK
I've found it.

FRANKIE
You've found it?

BRICK
Yeah. I've been looking up dad's family tree online. It's all here.

They all hurry over.

AXL
See, the internet never fails.

FRANKIE
We've got a name! We've got a name! What is it, Brick? What is it?!

BRICK
It says her name was McCain.
AXL
Oh my God, she created oven chips!

MIKE
Don't be stupid, Axl.

AXL
What? She was old enough to.

FRANKIE
Axl may have a point. Would explain why I don't like cooking. Aunt Irene made it too easy not to.

BRICK
It says she married a John McCain.

AXL
From Die Hard?

MIKE
That's McLane, and he's not even real, Axl.

BRICK
Anyway, this John McCain owned several prestigious businesses in the aircraft and sailing industries, and had a personal wealth of 2.3 million dollars.

FRANKIE
Mike, hold me, I'm feeling faint.

BRICK
When John died, he left all of his belongings and money to his wife, Irene McCain.

FRANKIE
We're rich! We're really rich! I can't believe this is happening!

They all start screaming and hugging each other, even Mike is full of joy, scooping Frankie up in his arms and spinning her around.

END OF ACT
ONE
ACT TWO

INT. HECK HOUSE. MASTER BEDROOM - LATER THAT NIGHT

Mike is sleeping, Frankie is sat up, wide awake.

FRANKIE

Mike?

MIKE

Mike's sleeping.

FRANKIE

Seriously, Mike? We become millionaires and you can still go to sleep like nothing's happened? We're rich, Mike! I don't think I'm gonna sleep again for at least the next ten months... Or at least until I get one of those big expensive beds that you see in those five-star hotels on TV.

Mike starts snoring. Frankie nudges him awake.

FRANKIE

Mike, come on. Our lives have changed forever. Couldn't you get a bit more excited?

MIKE

I am excited. I was dancing around the room earlier, in case you hadn't noticed.

FRANKIE

Can you believe this, Mike? All those years of having nothing and then some old woman dies and we inherit her fortune. It's incredible.

(then)

So, what's the first thing you're gonna buy?

MIKE

I don't know, haven't really thought about it. I don't know what you're supposed to spend money on when you become a millionaire. I know what I do need though, a new razor.

FRANKIE

A new razor? Really, Mike? You get millions of dollars put into your bank account, and the first thing you buy is a razor?
MIKE
What? I need a new one. I'll get an expensive one though.

FRANKIE
Try and be a bit extravagant for once, Mike.

MIKE
Look, we don't know if she's left us anything for sure yet. I just say, let's wait and see first. What I do know is that I have work in five hours time. Night, Frankie.

He turns over.

FRANKIE
We're gonna get that money, Mike.

MIKE
I hope so too, but let's not get our hopes up too much.

FRANKIE
It's gonna happen, Mike. We're millionaires.
(then)
I mean, why wouldn't she leave her money to us? She didn't have no one else. Her and Sue were penpals, you don't get much closer than that.

MIKE
I agree, but old women can be strange. Especially old women who live out in the sticks. Let's just keep our options open, which means me not getting fired from my job.

FRANKIE
Well, enjoy your shift Mike, because it's gonna be the last one you ever have.
(then)
Okay, that sounded a lot more sinister that I meant it. You know what I mean.

MIKE
Frankie, you're doing that rambling thing again when you're tired. Let's just go to sleep. We'll talk about it in the morning.

Mike goes to sleep, but Frankie remains upright. Unable to sleep.
INT. HECK KITCHEN - EARLY HOURS

Mike wanders in for a glass of water, sees Frankie with a cup of coffee by her side, frantically jotting things down on a piece of paper. Her hair is all bedraggled too.

FRANKIE (V.O)
Yeah, this wasn't my best look. But I couldn't sleep, not after Mike had put the thought into my head that Aunt Irene's fortune may not be ours. I had to work out who else she could possibly give it to...

Frankie rips up another piece of paper, throws it on the floor with the rest of the pile.

FRANKIE (V.O) (CONT'D)
... Okay, it was fair to say I wasn't getting very far.

MIKE
What you doing up?

FRANKIE
It's driving me crazy, Mike. I just can't do it. I've had six cups of coffee already, and I can already feel my heart rate increasing at a rapid rate. It's making me sick, Mike. And it's all your fault.

MIKE
Ah, the money thing? You've just gotta relax, Frankie.

FRANKIE
Relax?! How the hell am I supposed to relax?! There's 2.3 million dollars that could soon be ours, Mike. Then you go and tell me that we might not get it.

MIKE
I was just being practical, that's all. If we have the money, fantastic. If not, we'll get by. We always have.

FRANKIE
That's just it, Mike. I don't wanna just get by anymore. I wanna live. I wanna shop in Prada without being accused of shoplifting.

MIKE
I know, but all I'm saying is that we know how to get by. We've been (MORE)
MIKE (cont'd)
doing it for so long now, we've
gotten pretty good at it.

FRANKIE
And you're happy with that, are you
Mike? That we've become pros at
just getting by?

MIKE
I didn't say I was happy. I've just
accepted it, that's all. Sometimes
money is the worst thing that can
happen to someone. Now, come back
to bed. The coffee's gonna go to
your head.

FRANKIE
I want that money, Mike.

MIKE
Look Frankie, if it will make you
feel better and stop acting like a
crazy person, I'll talk to Rusty
tomorrow and see if he knows
anything about the will.

Frankie smiles.

INT. HECK KITCHEN - NEXT MORNING

Frankie, coffee in hand, is speeding around the kitchen at
super speed when Axl, Sue and Brick enter.

FRANKIE
Morning. I didn't get much sleep
last night, well none to be
precise. Been up all night drinking
coffee and trying to think of
reasons why Aunt Irene won't give
the money to us. I've written down
a few. If you wanna check them out,
maybe you'll be able to think of
more and--

--Mom, even when we become
millionaires, you make it boring.

FRANKIE
Don't blame me, blame your father.
It was him that put all these
negative thoughts into my head. Now
he's got me paranoid that something
will go wrong and Aunt Irene won't
come good for us.
BRICK
Mom, she was less popular than me. She's got no one else to give the money to.

FRANKIE
That is true. But maybe she was a crazy cat lady? Lots of old women give their money to cats.

AXL
What the hell are a bunch of cats gonna do with a few million dollars, buy an unlimited amount of tuna?

FRANKIE
Ah, that reminds me. We're out of tuna.

SUE
I don't like tuna anyway.

FRANKIE
Well, someone does because we ain't got any left.

BRICK
I fed next door's cat with it.

SUE
Aww, that cat always attacks me. Don't think cats like me.

AXL
It's not just cats that don't like you, Sue.

FRANKIE
Okay, okay, enough of that. Anyway, your dad's gonna speak to Rusty today to see about a will so we'll know for sure. In the meantime, keep this news about aunt Irene and her millions to yourself, okay?

AXL/SUE/BRICK
Absolutely.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - LATER

Brick and CINDY are walking through the school corridors.

BRICK
Can I tell you something?

CINDY
If you want to, good. If not, it won't alter my day.
BRICK
That's where you're wrong because I found out something amazing last night.

CINDY
On a scale of 1-10, how amazing?

BRICK
Well, you can judge for yourself when I tell you. My great aunt Irene has died.

CINDY
How is that amazing?

BRICK
Oh, not that part. I mean, we found out that she's a multi-millionaire and it's a very good possibility that she has left it all to us.

CINDY
So you could be a millionaire?

BRICK
Yep! Now, how amazing is that on a scale of 1-10.

CINDY
Hmmm, probably 6.

She just walks off, leaving Brick alone.

INT. AXL'S MOTORHOME - LATER

Axl and LEXI are laying on the bed together looking up at the sky through the massive hole in the roof.

LEXI
(re: hole in the roof)
You ever gonna get that thing fixed?

AXL
I've grown to like it, actually. And anyway, I won't need to fix it soon, with any luck.

LEXI
What do you mean?

AXL
Well, you may find this hard to believe but there's a very good chance that I'm about to become a millionaire.
LEXI
Oooh really? That will be so cool, we'll actually be able to buy things together for a change.
(then)
So, you found oil in your backyard or a rich relative died?

AXL
Rich relative. Aunt Irene to be precise.

LEXI
Who's aunt Irene?

AXL
Beats me. All I know is that she was rich and there's a good chance she's left the money to us.

LEXI
So, when do you find out for sure?

AXL
Don't know, just supposed to be keeping it on the down low until we know for sure.

LEXI
(sarcastic)
Well, you seem to be doing a good job of that.

AXL
I know, I'm not very good at keeping secrets. But I am good at one thing.

LEXI
Yeah, what's that?

He leans in and gives her a long kiss.

LEXI
Yeah... That was pretty good, but I'm gonna need another one to be sure.

Axl smiles, gives her another kiss and cuddle.

INT. SUE'S APARTMENT - LATER

Sue is watching MAMMA MIA with BRAD on the sofa. The pair are singing and dancing along.

Once the song finishes, they sit back, exhausted.

SUE
Brad, can I ask you something?
BRAD
If it's, "how gorgeous do I look today?" Then, it's Sandy from Grease level gorgeous.

SUE
Thank you, Brad. But actually that's not what I wanted to ask.

BRAD
Okay, colour me intrigued.

SUE
If I was to suddenly change, would you stop being friends with me?

BRAD

SUE
That's a relief, because I'm about to become a millionaire.

Brad's mouth drops open.

SUE
Brad?

BRAD
I'm sorry Sue, but oh my God, shut up! You a millionaire?

SUE
Well, it's not definite, definite yet but it's looking good. Remember Aunt Irene?

BRAD
The penpal from the sticks? Of course.

SUE
Well, she's died.

BRAD
Oh, may she rest in heavenly peace.

SUE
Ahmen.

(then)
Anyway, there's a good chance she's left a will and we're in it.

BRAD
OMG! This is just fabulous!

They hug.
BRAD
You know what this calls for? A re-run of Mamma Mia, the karaoke version!

SUE
I'll go get the outfits!

She rushes off.

FRANKIE (V.O)
It's nice to know they all still listen to me anyway...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT
TWO
ACT THREE

INT. MIKE'S QUARRY - DAY

Mike is at his desk, nodding off. RUSTY enters.

RUSTY
You alright there, Mike?

MIKE
I'm fine, Rusty. I just didn't get much sleep last night, that's all. It's all this Aunt Irene and this money of hers. Frankie was all excited but I told her not to get her hopes up, you know? Things like this don't happen to people like us.

Rusty simply stares blankly at Mike.

RUSTY
Who's Aunt Irene?

MIKE
Seriously?

RUSTY
I'm just messing with you. Was she rich? Dad never mentioned anything about that. Then again, he never said much about her at all. The only thing he did for her was keep her belongings in a lock-up.

MIKE
You saying this Aunt Irene, who neither of us ever met, kept sending dad her money to keep safe somewhere?

RUSTY
Yeah, pretty much. And I know where it is too. Dad couldn't always get to the lock up so I used to drop the envelopes off. Never knew how much I was putting in, but the envelopes were heavy, and there's lots of them in there.

MIKE
Right, you're taking me there.

RUSTY
Ah, there's one problem.

MIKE
What?
RUSTY
I haven't got the key. I mean, I
did have, but I lost it. And I
can't remember where.

Mike puts his head in his hands.

INT. HECK HOUSE – LATER

Frankie is sat at the table, hunched over a pile of papers,
looking rather stressed.

The PHONE RINGS. Sue answers.

MIKE (O.S)
Sue, it's dad. Is mom there?

SUE
Yeah, she's here. She's looking
rather stressed though.

FRANKIE
Who is it, Sue? If it's those cold
callers again, tell them to go to
hell!

MIKE (O.S)
(re: Frankie)
So I can hear. Anyway, we may have
got a breakthrough with Aunt
Irene's money.

SUE
Really?!

MIKE (O.S)
Yeah, Uncle Rusty said she used to
send Grandad money to keep safe for
her in a lock-up. Did Aunt Irene
ever send you anything? Maybe a key
or something?

SUE
No, nothing like that. She did send
me a brouche once, but I could
never get it open.

MIKE (O.S)
Where is it now?

SUE
In my bedside table at college.
Want me to go get it?

MIKE (O.S)
Yes. Be quick though, Sue. The
lock-up closes at 6 for the
weekend. Don't tell your mother
(MORE)
though, don't wanna get her hopes up.

Sue hangs up. Frankie looks at her.

FRANKIE
Who was that?

SUE
Nobody.

FRANKIE (V.O)
Sue's never been a good liar, which I guess is a good thing, right? Well, it's a good thing if she's your daughter and she's telling you a lie. I'm not too sure how good it would be if she went into politics.

INT. AXL'S MOTORHOME - MOVING - LATER

Frankie is driving through the streets rather rapidly, with a worried Sue in the passenger seat, and Axl and Brick holding on for dear life in the back.

FRANKIE
This is it!

AXL
That's what I'm worried about!

FRANKIE
The last day we have to worry about anything.
(then)
Well, anything financial anyway.

The motorhome suddenly breaks down.

FRANKIE
What is it? What's going on?

AXL
Yeah, I think we've run out of gas.

FRANKIE
Axl, I gave you thirty dollars for gas just two days ago.

AXL
I may or may not have used all that for snacks.

FRANKIE (V.O)
The urge to throttle him there and then was high, but I managed to control myself. We still had time (MORE)
FRANKIE (V.O) (cont'd)
to get to the college, get the key,
then head to the lock-up before it
closed. There was just one thing
for it....

EXT. MIDWESTERN STREET - MOMENTS LATER

Frankie, Axl, Sue and Brick are running down the street.
They pass a shocked DONAHUE FAMILY in their car, but just
keep ploughing ahead.

FRANKIE (V.O)
Nothing was gonna stop me from
getting that money. Not no broken
down motorhome, not no Donahue...

Suddenly, a car speeds up and splashes Frankie from head to
foot in mud.

FRANKIE (V.O)
... And not no careless driver and
a mudbath.

INT. SUE'S COLLEGE APARTMENT - LATER

Frankie and Sue are tearing up the room trying to find the
brouche.

FRANKIE (V.O)
Yeah, we ran all the way here only
for Sue to discover that the
brouche was no longer in her
bedside drawer. So we began
searching high and low for it, well
me and Sue did anyway, Axl and
Brick were otherwise preoccupied...

We see Brick sitting down reading some book, and Axl kissing
Lexi on the sofa.

FRANKIE
Brick, could you stop reading for
five minutes and come help us
look?! I'll buy you a library full
of the things if we find it.

BRICK
Okay, great. I'm not exactly sure
we'd have room for all the books,
I'd need to have my own place too.
There's so many books out there.
(whispers)
So many books.
(them)
Damn, I really thought I'd grow out
of that by now.
FRANKIE
We all did, Brick. We all did.
(to Axl)
When you've quite finished with Lexi, we could do with your help too.

Axl just gestures with his hand for her to be quiet.

Frankie looks about to explode, when Sue suddenly YELLS out with delight. She is holding something in her hand.

SUE
Yes, I found it!

FRANKIE
Thank God for that! Give it here.

SUE
Okay, sure.

She hands Frankie a fancy bookmark. Frankie stares blankly at Sue.

FRANKIE
What the hell is this, Sue?

SUE
My personalised bookmark. Remember, I lost it last summer?

Frankie is seething.

FRANKIE (V.O)
I had to calm myself down. Sue's bookmark was important to her, but it really was the wrong time to get excited about it.

LEXI (O.S)
Hey, is this what you've been looking for?

Frankie turns to see that Lexi is holding the brooch in her hand.

LEXI
I was cleaning earlier and found it. Thought it was beautiful so I kept it out.

Frankie beams with a smile, locks her in a big hug.

END OF ACT
THREE
EXT. LOCK-UP - NIGHT

Mike is pacing up and down, growing more and more impatient. While Rusty sits on the floor eating a bag of potato chips.

RUSTY
Take a seat, Mike. No good pacing up and down like that. Here, have a chip.

MIKE
No, I'm good. Where is Sue? She should be here by now. 45 minutes ago, actually. And now it's locked. She's not even answering her phone. None of them are.

Rusty just nods.

RUSTY
There's only one thing for it.

Rusty gets up, and runs at the door, breaking it down. Mike is in disbelief.

INT. LOCK-UP - MOMENTS LATER

MIKE
What the hell did you just do?

RUSTY
I got us in. I also think I've dislocated my shoulder.

MIKE
But why did you do it? We still haven't got the key?

RUSTY
No, but I do have a screwdriver we can use.

Mike contemplates this.

MIKE
Okay, which locker's hers?

RUSTY
I'm not sure, but I know it's one of them.

Mike shakes his head, then starts searching for the locker.

INT. HECK HOUSE. MASTER BEDROOM - LATER THAT NIGHT

Frankie, all dejected, enters in her pajamas. She just falls face first onto the bed.
FRANKIE (V.O)
The night didn't turn out as planned. Mike and Rusty got arrested for breaking and entering. And we managed to bust open the brouche only to find nothing was inside. No key, nothing. We'd just about given up when....

The DOORBELL RINGS. Frankie sits up, sighs.

She heads to the door, answers it. No one there. But there's a package on the welcome mat.

Frankie picks it up. Puts it on the table.

FRANKIE (V.O) (CONT'D)
.... This was what we had been waiting for. A gift from the Gods.... Or rather Aunt Irene.

She rips open the parcel, only for her face to then drop.

FRANKIE'S POV: inside, are a few bits of jewellery and knitted items.

Sue enters.

SUE
What's all that?

FRANKIE
It's from Aunt Irene's estate.

SUE
Oooh, what is it?

Frankie holds up the knitted items and bits of jewellery.

SUE
Aww, so cute and thoughtful. I always told her how much I loved her knitting.

FRANKIE
But where's the money?! There's no mention of it here?

Axl enters.

AXL
What's going on?

FRANKIE
This. This is all we got from Aunt Irene. If she thinks we're going to the funeral now she's got another thing coming!
AXL
No family road trip? Aunt Irene's starting to warm on me.

Frankie sits down, holds her head.

FRANKIE
We were gonna be rich. I had it all planned out. Why didn't she give us anything?

Brick enters. Picks out a letter, begins reading.

BRICK
It says here that she donated all of her money to a cancer charity. It's what killed her husband.

FRANKIE
Oh.

BRICK
It also says that there was money put aside for us but Sue told her that we didn't need anything like that.

Everyone glares at her.

AXL
Thanks a lot, Sue!

SUE
What? I was just being polite.

FRANKIE
I can't believe this. All that for nothing.

AXL
Well, we could sell the jewellery, I guess.

SUE
Axl, you can't go doing that. She may haunt us or something.

BRICK
Haunting doesn't actually work like that, Sue. I read a book on it the other week and apparently--

FRANKIE
--Not now, Brick.

(then)
Wait, the lock up! Rusty said he had to deposit envelopes of cash in there every month. No one else (MORE)
FRANKIE (cont'd)  
knows about it. So she can't have donated it. We have to get it.

AXL  
Ah, that led to dad getting arrested.

FRANKIE  
Well, we have to do something. We can't just leave the money there.

She rushes to the door, only to find NANCY on her doorstep.

NANCY  
I'm just running to the store, Frankie. And by running, I mean driving. And speaking of driving, I couldn't help but notice you didn't have a vehicle earlier, so I was wondering if you needed anything at the store?

FRANKIE (V.O)  
To be honest, I've been that fond of Nancy Donahue, but on this night I had never been so happy to see her. She was my gateway to a fortune.

FRANKIE  
(to the kids)  
Right, I'm going to the lock-up. If your dad comes back, let him know. If I get arrested, wait for the phone call.

She exits.

INT. POLICE CELL - NIGHT

Mike sits with Rusty, who hums some annoying tune. Mike snaps:

MIKE  
For the love of God, Rusty!

RUSTY  
Whoa, relax, will you? Things could be worse, you know.

MIKE  
Really? Because from where I'm sitting, I find that hard to believe.
RUSTY
Remember, no matter what situation you find yourself in, everything can get worse. Dad told us that.

MIKE
He also told us to microwave underwear.
(sighs)
I just wanna be home with my wife and kids, and forget this night ever happened.

RUSTY
If you're talking about forgetting this night ever happened, then you'll need some serious drugs. I can help with that. I know a guy.

MIKE
Rusty, shut up.

RUSTY
I'm just trying to help.

MIKE
Well, don't.
(them)
You know what? I never wanted any of this. I was content with my lot in life. I accepted my hand and I'd made peace with it. But then all that talk about becoming millionaires got in my head, and look how that's worked out.

RUSTY
Well, it's worked out pretty well for me. I've got to spend some quality time with my brother.

MIKE
We're in a police cell, Rusty. This ain't my idea of quality time.

RUSTY
I get that, but it beats some of the places I've slept in lately.

He goes back to humming the annoying song, while Mike bangs his head against the wall.

INT. LOCK-UP - NIGHT

Frankie arrives at the lock-up. She reaches the correct locker, tries opening it but it won't budge. She looks for something to wedge it open. She finds a screwdriver and starts to prize it open.
NANCY
You sure we're meant to be here, Frankie? I don't feel very comfortable.

FRANKIE
Oh, yeah. It's totally fine. I just forget the keys, that's all. Keep a look out.

DONAHUE
For what exactly?

FRANKIE
You know, the usual. Teenagers, wild animals.... Police.

Frankie turns the screwdriver, but it snaps.

FRANKIE
Damn it!

She hits the locker hard with her fist, and it swings open. Delight etched on her face, she picks out all the envelopes. Starts throwing them in the air.

FRANKIE
Yes! Yes! Yes!

Frankie rips open an envelope but no money falls out. Instead, there's some really old diary entries on some dirty paper, filled with Aunt Irene's thoughts. Frankie frowns. She opens another, to find more of the same.... And another, and another, and so on.

Frankie just sits there and cries.

EXT. CHURCH. GRAVEYARD - BACK TO WHERE WE STARTED

Frankie trudges towards the family car, along with the rest of the clan. She looks up at the sky.

FRANKIE
Why, Aunt Irene, why?

Suddenly, the heavens opens, and Frankie gets soaked in the rain. She drops to her knees, crying. Axl, Sue and Brick look uncomfortable. Mike approaches, holds out his hand.

MIKE
Come on, Frankie. Let's go home.

Frankie looks up, smiles.

FRANKIE
I don't know what it was about that moment, but everything hit me. As cliché as it sounds, it all got (MORE)
FRANKIE (cont'd)
made clear to me. What's important in life is not the fancy clothes you wear, the posh car you drive, the giant house you live in, or the money in the bank. All of that means nothing in the bigger picture. What matters most is family. Whenever you're down, they're the ones to pick you up. They're all I need. They're all I want.

(then)
Okay, a bit of money wouldn't go amiss, but I won't be greedy.

She takes his hand, gets to her feet. They hug in the rain.

AXL (O.S)
Ah, I don't mean to ruin this barf-inducing moment, but Lexi just text, I need to get back in twenty minutes.

Frankie turns to him, smiles.

FRANKIE
Come on then, let's go home.

They all head to the car, and we:

FADE OUT.

END OF SHOW.