

This Thing Called Life

By

Alicia M. McClendon

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mcclendon.alicia@gmail.com

"THIS THING CALLED LIFE"

FADE IN:

INT. LIVING ROOM/APARTMENT-DAY

LeeAnn (late twenties, black, petite) enters, placing her tote bag and keys on the beige sofa.

LeeAnn calls out:

LEEANN
Casey? Casey?

Lee glances over the living room...

...behind the sofa...

...under the coffee table...

then exits into the kitchen.

INT KITCHEN-CONTINUOUS

LeeAnn enters glancing over the stack of dirty dishes in the kitchen sink and on the counter.

In the trash can is the pizza box sitting on top.

LeeAnn ambles toward the laundry room and sees...

...On the bare floor is a white and black rat terrier not moving.

LEEANN
Casey, come on. Get up.

LeeAnn bends down to him and moves him to his side. He's motionless.

LEEANN
Casey? Casey? No-No-No!

LeeAnn performs CPR to get his heart going as quickly as she can.

LEEANN
Casey!

LeeAnn stops and falls back gazing at the motionless dog.

INT. KITCHEN-NIGHT

LeeAnn lies beside her motionless dog, eyes brimming with tears, though the lights are off. She stares into oblivion, snot running down her nose, her face stained in tears.

INT. OFFICE-DAY

Outside the window, the green leaves sway with the wind.

LeeAnn types away on her computer, her expression as blank as can be.

A PLUMP SUPERVISOR (female, mid 50s) enters the small and bare office.

PLUMP SUPERVISOR
LeeAnn, can you come with me?

As LeeAnn goes to lock her computer:

PLUMP SUPERVISOR
You can log off too.

LeeAnn stands up and follows the plump woman outside the office.

EXT. PARKING LOT-DAY

LeeAnn walks away from the one-story hospital building, carrying a box of her belongings. She approaches a four door sedan, the plate, reading "INDIANA".

INT. BEDROOM-NIGHT

The room is plain except for the queen size bed with a black comforter, a nightstand, and matching dresser.

Scattered around the room are clothes and shoes.

LeeAnn with her head in her pillow screams and cries until her voice gives out. She falls over the edge of the bed, crying herself to sleep.

INT. LIVING ROOM-NIGHT

Knock Knock.

LeeAnn enters dressed in pajama bottoms. Her hair is disheveled, her face is pale. She opens the door.

Barging in is SHAWNA (late twenties, light caramel complexion, tall), wearing her thin, leather black jacket. She carries a bottle of white wine.

SHAWNA
I brought dessert!

Shawna holds up the bottle.

LEEANN
Shawna-

Shawna puts down her tote bag and enters the kitchen.

LeeAnn sits in front of the television, listening to Shawna ransack her kitchen.

On the kitchen counter that faces the living is a photo of LeeAnn holding the rat terrier in front of a birthday cake that reads, HAPPY BIRTHDAY, CASEY!" with a number thirteen lit candle above it. As LeeAnn tries to blow out the candle, the dog tries to lick the cake.

Shawna enters with two glasses of wine poured and hands one to LeeAnn.

LeeAnn hesitantly takes the glass.

LEEANN
What is this?

SHAWNA
Pinot Grigio.

LEEANN
Yuck.

SHAWNA
Cousin, this is me trying to get in. I know it's been a terrible couple of months, but you can't keep sitting here. Doing this!

Shawna takes in the living room. Take-out boxes all over the coffee table. Clothes in every corner of the room.

LeeAnn, chuckling, says:

LEEANN
I think I'm losing my mind.

SHAWNA

You're not losing your mind. It's time to get a new dog and a new job. Get back to writing your screenplay. That's all.

LEEANN

Is it that easy because you make it sound that easy.

SHAWNA

What is easy? LeeAnn, we've all been through shit. You can't wallow like this forever.

LEEANN

Yeah. Yeah, I can.

SHAWNA

What about your job? You hated it. Your supervisor harassed you until you ended up in the emergency room. How is losing it not a good thing? She bullied you! Went through all your work to find every mistake she could! Lied to your superiors about you! What more could you take, LeeAnn?

LEEANN

I want my dog back.

SHAWNA

I know. I know. So drink up, and tomorrow we make it a new day.

LeeAnn takes one last look at the glass before gulping it down.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM-NIGHT

LeeAnn lies on the sofa, her face planted in a pillow. She starts to stir, her face rising, her eyes flickering open. Glancing over the room, it's just her.

That's when she grabs her stomach and bolts into the bathroom.

INT. BATHROOM-CONTINUOUS

LeeAnn rushes to the toilet, raises the lid, and hurls. She sits on her knees before hurling again. Falling back she takes a deep breath wiping the drool from her mouth before hurling again.

INT. GROCERY STORE-DAY

LeeAnn pushes a cart through the frozen section aisle.

The cart is practically bare except for a couple frozen pizzas and hot pockets.

LeeAnn looks across the store and sees the liquor section. She opens a freezer and takes out a frozen dinner, yet her eyes fall on the wine section.

INT. LINE/GROCERY STORE-DAY

In the cart is the same brand of wine Shawna brought over.

LeeAnn stands in line with the cart and inside a bottle of wine in it. She gazes at the CHILD in front of her pulling on his mother's shirt as he screams for her attention.

CHILD

Mommy! Mommy! Mommy! Mommy!

The child catches LeeAnn's gaze, goes quiet, then shouts for his mother again as his eyes meet LeeAnn's testing her.

CHILD

Mommy! Moooomy!

Our protagonist mouths "Shut up" to the boy.

CHILD

Mommy!

LeeAnn mouths "Shhh" realizing what she has done.

INT. BEDROOM-DAY

LeeAnn sits in the gloomy room where clothes are scattered on the floor. On her nightstand sits the same brand of wine Shawna brought over.

At first she gazes at it then finally opens it, gulping it down. She stops as her face flushes hot then gulps down more.

EXT. APARTMENT COMPLEX-DAY

The yellowish leaves fall onto the terrain as they dance to the rhythm of the wind.

INT. LIVING ROOM-DAY

Stacked in corners and swarming the apartment are moving boxes. Even the beige coffee table is occupied with the clutter.

LeeAnn sits on the dingy carpet with three pill bottles in front of her.

Her cell phone rings next to her. It reads, "MOM".

LeeAnn lets the call go to voicemail, refocusing on the pill bottles. She sighs, opens the bottles, and takes a pill from each one waiting for something magical to happen.

With her two fingers, LeeAnn forms different smiles on her face.

LEEANN

I'm happy...I'm happy. I'm happy now.

LeeAnn rises and heads to the refrigerator.

She takes out a bottle of wine from the refrigerator and a wine glass from the cabinet then pours herself a glass. She takes a sip enjoying the flavor. As she exits, she takes the bottle and glass of wine with her.

LeeAnn enters the living room and continues to pack her necessary BELONGINGS such as clothing, blankets and comforters. She wears a long-sleeve shirt today.

The cell phone on the coffee table rings. It reads "MOTHER".

LeeAnn lets it go to voicemail.

A voicemail logo pops up on the phone.

LeeAnn listens to the message.

MOTHER (O.S.)

(from phone)

Uncle Ted said you could stay with them. I'll pay them. You can stay in their spare bedroom. Call them tonight.

Click.

LeeAnn tosses the phone to the ground, runs her fingers through her hair, then continues to box up folded clothes and blankets.

INT. BATHROOM-DAY

A cell phone alarm goes off. It's loud enough to wake up the dead.

LeeAnn awakens near the toilet, the bathroom now as bland as when she first moved in.

Any decorations or furniture has been removed.

LeeAnn pushes away some hair from her face and crawls out the bathroom door.

EXT. APARTMENT COMPLEX-DAY

LeeAnn carries her coffee table to the trash bin.

GARBAGE COLLECTOR parks his dingy truck next to LeeAnn and climbs out.

GARBAGE COLLECTOR

I'll take that.

LeeAnn hands the table to him.

The garbage collector in overalls takes the table and puts it in the back of his truck. He then heads to the trash bin and starts going through it.

LeeAnn treads back to her apartment, glancing behind her at the garbage collector.

CUT TO:

INT. APARTMENT OFFICE-DAY

LeeAnn sits across from the OFFICE MANAGER.

The office manager scribbles down something on a sticky note.

OFFICE MANAGER

Why are you moving?

LEEANN

I can no longer pay the rent. I've

been home sick these past ten months.

OFFICE MANAGER
What's your address?

LEEANN
3115 Sadler Avenue.

Office manager, writing down the address, asks:

OFFICE MANAGER
Apartment?

LEEANN
414.

OFFICE MANAGER
Moving to?

LEEANN
Uh-541 Acorn Drive. 46254. I-ugh-left
the bed and couch. I just couldn't get
it out.

The office manager looks up.

OFFICE MANAGER
We can.

LEEANN
Oh-kay.

LeeAnn remembers the keys to the apartment. She takes them
out from her bag and places them on the table.

LEEANN
The-The keys.

The office manager takes the keys.

LEEANN
Um...lets see. Anything else?

INT. GRANDMOTHER'S BEDROOM-DAY

GRANDMOTHER (black, light skin, early eighties) in her
bathroom robe shows LeeAnn to her bedroom. She sits at the
head of the bed while LeeAnn sits at the foot.

GRANDMOTHER
So what's new?

LEEANN
Nothing. Nothing at all.

GRANDMOTHER
I'm sure you not having anything to do
is nice.

LEEANN
Thanks, Grandma...

GRANDMOTHER
You know I'm just talkin'!

LEEANN
I'm sure.

Grandmother lets out a sigh.

GRANDMOTHER
Have you been looking for a job?

LEEANN
Everyday. It isn't that easy when
you're broken.

GRANDMOTHER
Now shut up. You're not broken.

LEEANN
Okay.

GRANDMOTHER
You'll find something.

LEEANN
I believe it.

GRANDMOTHER
Good.

Grandmother sighs.

GRANDMOTHER
Did you hear about Charlene? That boy
proposed.

LEEANN
Oh?

GRANDMOTHER
He got her pregnant so why wouldn't

he?

LEEANN

Grandma...

GRANDMOTHER

Well, it's the truth, isn't it?

LeeAnn puts her head in her hand.

LEEANN

I hope you didn't say that to her or anyone else.

GRANDMOTHER

Of course not! But she's not stupid.

LEEANN

(to self)

Oh, gawd.

GRANDMOTHER

Am I right?

LEEANN

Good Lord.

GRANDMOTHER

I can say whatever I want. Can't nobody stop me from saying what I want. Shit.

LEEANN

Ugh.

GRANDMOTHER

You get pregnant, and you get married! Nothing wrong with that!

LEEANN

I see.

GRANDMOTHER

I did it.

LEEANN

My God.

Grandmother glances out her maroon curtains.

GRANDMOTHER
You better get going.

LEEANN
It's seven.

GRANDMOTHER
I don't want you here when it gets dark.

LEEANN
It's seven.

GRANDMOTHER
You need any money?

LEEANN
No. No. I'll be fine.

Grandmother rises and fishes for her purse on her nightstand. She reaches for forty dollars and hands it to LeeAnn.

GRANDMOTHER
I haven't been to the bank.

LEEANN
That's okay. Thank you, Grandma.

GRANDMOTHER
Now lets get you out of here.

LEEANN
It's seven!

INT. LIQUOR STORE-DUSK

LeeAnn looks over the wine selections behind the glass door as patrons walk past her. She sets her sights on her usual brand.

EXT. LIQUOR STORE PARKING LOT-NIGHT

LeeAnn treads to her car as she hears her phone ring. She carries a brown paper bag with a bottle inside.

LeeAnn picks up.

LEEANN
(in phone)
Yes, Mom.

MOM (O.S.)
(from phone)
You thief!

LEEANN
(in phone)
You weren't going to pay your portion
of the phone bill, and I need my
phone!

MOM (O.S.)
(from phone)
You stole from me!

LEEANN
(in phone)
You were going to let them shut off
the phones!

MOM (O.S.)
(from phone)
You are godless! Soulless!

Click.

LeeAnn checks her phone screen as she strides to her car. She
climbs inside, her cheeks stained with tears.

Inside the car...

...she dials a number.

LEEANN
(in phone)
Grandma!

Grandmother, on speaker, says:

GRANDMOTHER (O.S.)
(from phone)
Hey, baby.

LEEANN
(in phone)
She's going to turn off the phones!

GRANDMOTHER (O.S.)
(from phone)
What's going on?

LEEANN

(in phone)

I used mom's check to pay for her portion of the phone bill! I need my phone! I'm living out of my car! I have nothing! I at least need my phone!

GRANDMOTHER (O.S.)

(from phone)

Your car? Girl, if you don't get your ass over here.

LEEANN

(in phone)

I'm not going to ask Aunt Karen if I can stay over there. I'd rather just sleep in my car. Sleep in a bunker. I don't know.

GRANDMOTHER (O.S.)

(from phone)

You don't have to ask anything. I live here.

LEEANN

(in phone)

Too. You live there too. I just need my phone!

GRANDMOTHER (O.S.)

(from phone)

Then get a new one!

LeeAnn, banging on her steering wheel, shouts:

LEEANN

(in phone)

I can't even afford to eat!

GRANDMOTHER (O.S.)

(from phone)

Go to Uncle Ted's right now, and I'll help you get a phone.

LeeAnn, more so to herself, says:

LEEANN

(in phone)

Why does she do this? Why does she do things to hurt me? What did I do to

her?

GRANDMOTHER (O.S.)
(from phone)
LeeAnn.

LEEANN
(in phone)
What did I do to her?

GRANDMOTHER (O.S.)
(from phone)
She's sick, LeeAnn. She's sick.

LEEANN
(in phone)
I don't do anything to her. I just
needed her to pay her portion of the
phone bill.

GRANDMOTHER (O.S.)
(from phone)
LeeAnn, throw that phone away!

LEEANN
(in phone)
Grandma, I gotta go. I'll see you
tomorrow.

GRANDMOTHER (O.S.)
(from phone)
LeeAnn-

LeeAnn ends the call, watching the patrons enter and exit the
liquor store.

EXT. MOTEL PARKING LOT-NIGHT

LeeAnn looks through the broken office glass door.

Patrons enter and exit the office, some wearing dingy pajamas
or shabby jeans.

LeeAnn makes her way inside.

INT. MOTEL ROOM-NIGHT

On the bed is LeeAnn's comforter laid out to be slept on and
on it is the laptop. On the foot of the bed are her book bag
and handbag.

The bottle of wine and some red cups are on the beige dresser.

LeeAnn takes a deep breath, pushing away hair from her face. She opens the bottle of wine and pours a cup gulping it down. Climbing in bed, she turns on the television, hearing a studio audience applaud. She opens her laptop.

LeeAnn, typing away, says out loud:

LEEANN

The rain pours...down mercilessly...
under the stormy sky...Drenched in
dirty slacks...and a long-
sleeve...hood, Leila (late teens)
treks through the...woodland, carrying
a full sack...and a sheathed kali
stick.

A knock is at the door.

LEEANN

Who is it?

SHAWNA (O.S.)

(behind door)

You know who it is. Open up.

LeeAnn sighs and makes her way to the door opening it.

Barging in is Shawna in her black, leather jacket.

LeeAnn closes the door behind her and goes to sit down.

Shawna paces back and forth.

SHAWNA

You can't do that.

LEEANN

Do what?

SHAWNA

Not answer your phone. Move. Turn your
phone off.

LEEANN

Scorn the homeless and the poor.

SHAWNA

Serious, here!

LEEANN

I messaged you, didn't I? And my mom turned off my phone! Things are just happening, Shawna!

SHAWNA

Why are you here? You can stay with me.

LEEANN

Where?

SHAWNA

'Where'?

LEEANN

You have two kids at home.

SHAWNA

Are you stupid? You're not fine.

Shawna, taking in the room, says:

SHAWNA

This is not fine.

LEEANN

It's a motel.

SHAWNA

It's not right.

LEEANN

It's as right as I can get it.

Shawna sits on the edge of the bed.

SHAWNA

At least the bed is comfy.

LEEANN

I didn't ask for any of this. I don't know how I got to this point. I lose Casey, I lose a job, I lose my apartment. Everyone has lost someone, but I'm here. What did I do?

SHAWNA

You didn't do anything!

LEEANN

I used to be stronger than this. When Casey was alive. I know he was just a dog, but I was strong. I would lose my car, lose a job, lose my family's respect, and it would just be me and him, and I was okay. Now I have nothing but the clothes on my back.

SHAWNA

You have me!

LEEANN

How do you do it?

SHAWNA

I just do it.

LEEANN

Nice slogan to live by.

SHAWNA

Yeah. I wanted to tell you. My cousin can get you an interview at this laboratory. You like chemistry, right? She'll set it all up, and it's yours. All you have to do is keep it.

LEEANN

Oh, how the mighty have fallen.

SHAWNA

Shut it.

LEEANN

When is the interview?

Shawna rubs her hands together as if a magician ready to do her magic trick.

SHAWNA

Tomorrow.

LEEANN

Tomorrow?

SHAWNA

Tomorrow.

LeeAnn walks to the dresser and pours herself a cup and Shawna a cup. She raises it toward Shawna.

Shawna nods.

LEEANN

How are things with Roger?

LeeAnn hands the cup to Shawna.

SHAWNA

Don't switch up, and it is what it is.
He takes both kids on the weekend so I
can get out.

LEEANN

Better than nothing.

SHAWNA

Right. Better than nothing.

INT. MOTEL ROOM-DAY

The sunlight permeates the room.

LeeAnn stands in front of the circular mirror dressed in black slacks. She buttons up her blouse and takes one last look at herself before nodding in approval.

EXT. LABORATORY BUILDING-DAY

LeeAnn in business attire peers up at the six story building as EMPLOYEES in white lab coats or dress pants pass her.

INT. LAB HALL-DAY

A SUPERVISOR (plumb, short, late thirties) dressed in scrubs leads LeeAnn on a tour.

SUPERVISOR

It's been a hectic few weeks. We are
up to our noses in cases. This
position's been available for-oh-about
a few weeks. Oh! Here is the library.
I doubt you will use it, but we keep
the procedure binders in here just in
case you have a question! Of course
you are more than welcome to ask any
of us a question.

The supervisor leads LeeAnn to the elevators as she continues on, LeeAnn trying to keep up.

SUPERVISOR

The elevators lead to every floor, but you have to use your badge, and on the sixth floor, you'll find the cafeteria. Every floor has a break room with its own microwave too. You won't go hungry. They even serve breakfast!

The supervisor gets on the elevator followed by LeeAnn.

INT. LABORATORY STORAGE AREA-DAY

LeeAnn and the supervisor stroll through the dim-lit warehouse where ivy green cabinets are stored on the walls and in the center of the concrete floor.

SUPERVISOR

Here you will find slides from the previous years. We keep them down here to make room upstairs for the current year. It does become a hassle to run back and forth to get slides and blocks, but we need the space! So excited you're starting. Lets get back upstairs and I'll introduce you to the ladies.

INT. OFFICE-DAY

The supervisor, grinning, enters with LeeAnn behind her. In a set of six cubicles are heads sticking out to see the new girl.

SUPERVISOR

Ladies, meet LeeAnn! She is interviewing for the lab assistant position.

FEMALE EMPLOYEE raises her hand and waves.

LADIES

Nice to meet you!

LEEANN

Thank you so much.

EXT. DRIVEWAY-DAY

Three cars are parked in the driveway.

LeeAnn parks her car behind another. She climbs out and heads up the driveway to the one-story house.

At the door with her hand on her hip is her grandmother in the same bathrobe.

LEEANN
Hi, Grandma.

GRANDMOTHER
Come inside!

LeeAnn exits inside.

INT. FRONT ROOM-CONTINUOUS

LeeAnn enters, following her grandmother to her room.

GRANDMOTHER
How was the interview?

LEEANN
I got the job!

GRANDMOTHER
Oh good! Congratulations!

LEEANN
Thank you! But I didn't have my phone so there is that.

GRANDMOTHER
Forget about that phone!

They pass a room, and inside is a black woman (dark skin, early twenties) wearing a capri pajama set.

LEEANN
Hey, Charlene.

CHARLENE (CHARLENE)
Hey.

LeeAnn follows her grandmother into the room.

INT. GRANDMOTHER'S BEDROOM-CONTINUOUS

LeeAnn sits at the foot of the bed.

Grandmother sits at the head of the bed facing LeeAnn.

GRANDMOTHER
Now what is your new job?

LEEANN
I receive and send out specimens.
Blood and tissue. Yum.

GRANDMOTHER
Like your old job.

LEEANN
No.

GRANDMOTHER
You know what I mean! How are your
coworkers?

LEEANN
They're okay. Nice. Welcoming. It'll
be an easy job going in.

GRANDMOTHER
You haven't been using that brain of
yours so I hope so.

LEEANN
At all! You have mental breakdowns and
forget to how to juggle. But it's
humbling. How are you doing?

GRANDMOTHER
Oh, I'm doing great! I've been eating
all week! Mikel brought me home some
liver and onions the other day.

LeeAnn scowls.

LEEANN
Eww.

GRANDMOTHER
You kids don't know what you're
missing out on.

LEEANN
We're doing fine.

GRANDMOTHER
And Aunt Karen got me some cottage
cheese with strawberries and salad. Do
you eat cottage cheese?

LEEANN

You know I don't.

GRANDMOTHER

And I also had a-What do you call them? A beef manhattan!

LEEANN

No you didn't!

GRANDMOTHER

I was waiting for you. I couldn't eat all of that. It's still in the refrigerator.

LEEANN

Yeah, I don't want it.

GRANDMOTHER

Why not? It's still good!

LEEANN

It's old!

GRANDMOTHER

It's not old!

LEEANN

On the contrary. Old. So grandma, I don't want to be that person, but are you able to help me get a phone?

GRANDMOTHER

Of course. You don't have to ask.

LeeAnn, leaping up, says:

LEEANN

I'll pay you back!

GRANDMOTHER

Shut it.

LeeAnn exits the room.

INT. HALL-CONTINUOUS

LeeAnn heads to the living room and picks up the cordless house phone on the cocktail table.

No dial-tone. LeeAnn tries to listen for it.

LeeAnn, calling out: says:

LEEANN

Grandma? Are the phones off?

GRANDMOTHER (O.S.)

I haven't been able to dial out all day.

LEEANN

Ugh.

(to Charlene)

Hey, Charlene! Can I use your phone?

LeeAnn tries to dial out. Nothing.

LEEANN

Charlene!

Charlene, surreptitiously, appears around the corner-her eyes hollow.

CHARLENE

No. I don't want you ruining grandma's credit.

LeeAnn looks up, her jaw dropping.

LEEANN

Did you really just say that to me?

Charlene steps into the living room with her arms crossed.

LEEANN

You're twenty-three and live with your parents and boyfriend.

CHARLENE

Okay?

LEEANN

I lost my job!

CHARLENE

Okay?

LEEANN

I can't believe you. You're supposed to be one of my closest cousins, and you'd say that to me because I'm trying to get my phone back?

CHARLENE

All you do is use grandma for money!

The two argue over each other.

GRANDMOTHER

Hey!

LEEANN

You live here! Your brother lives here! Your boyfriend lives here! You have both parents! I have no one but grandma!

GRANDMOTHER

Hey!

LeeAnn's cheeks are stained with tears.

Charlene stands there with her arms crossed.

LEEANN

Never mind, Grandma.

LeeAnn wipes her eyes and heads outside.

EXT. PORCH-CONTINUOUS

LeeAnn enters, hastily.

Grandmother enters.

GRANDMOTHER

Now what is going on with you?

LEEANN

You heard her!

GRANDMOTHER

I didn't hear her.

LEEANN

You didn't hear her say I would ruin your credit?

GRANDMOTHER

You can't ruin my credit. I already filed bankruptcy!

LEEANN

Grandma.

A SUV drives into the driveway and parks beside LeeAnn's. A PLUMP WOMAN in her mid fifties gets out the car, grabbing grocery bags. She walks up to the porch.

PLUMP WOMAN

Hey, LeeAnn.

LEEANN

Hey, Aunt Karen.

AUNT KAREN (AUNT KAREN)

Your mother says you aren't looking for a job. When do you plan to start?

LeeAnn glances at her grandmother.

LEEANN

I start my job tomorrow.

AUNT KAREN

Good.

Aunt Karen exits into the house.

LEEANN

Nice to see her too.

GRANDMOTHER

Go in there and talk to your aunt.

LEEANN

For what?

GRANDMOTHER

She's always asking about you.

LEEANN

Is she now? That's your family. Not mine.

GRANDMOTHER

Now don't you talk like that.

LeeAnn opens her mouth, though before she can say anything, she hears the screen door open.

Aunt Karen enters and tosses her hand out. It holds at least sixty dollars.

AUNT KAREN

Here. Mom keeps talking about you.

This is the last time.

LeeAnn's eyes widen in disbelief.

LEEANN

I didn't even come here for money. So
keep it.

LeeAnn turns away and heads to her car.

GRANDMOTHER

LeeAnn!

AUNT KAREN

There you go again! Walk away!

LEEANN

Of course I'm going to walk away!

LeeAnn jumps in her car and speeds off.

INT. PHONE STORE-DAY

SEVERAL CONSUMERS look over the phones and accessories.

LeeAnn enters dressed in shades, the black dress from the
last scene and a black jacket. She grips her bag.

A STORE ASSOCIATE dressed in a navy blue shirt and khakis
approaches LeeAnn.

STORE ASSOCIATE

Hi. Welcome to AT&T. My name is Adam.
May I help you find something?

LEEANN

Yes, my mother turned my phone off,
and I need it back on.

The store associate, taken aback, says:

ADAM

Well, I can help with that. What do
you have?

LeeAnn takes out her phone.

LEEANN

What can you do with this?

She hands him the phone and is surely serious about this

question.

EXT. PHONE STORE/PARKING LOT-DAY

LeeAnn dials a number and presses the phone again her ear.
She listens.

GRANDMOTHER (O.S.)
(from phone)
Hello?

LEEANN
(in phone)
It's me, Grandma. My phone is on.

GRANDMOTHER (O.S.)
(from phone)
I knew you'd get it on.

LEEANN
(in phone)
I pay for it as I go. No contract. Not
a bad deal. If I pay, it goes.

GRANDMOTHER (O.S.)
(from phone)
That's wonderful.

LEEANN
(in phone)
Yeah...

GRANDMOTHER (O.S.)
(from phone)
You know you shouldn't've walked away
like that.

LEEANN
(in phone)
What should I do next time? Stay and
fight?

GRANDMOTHER (O.S.)
(from phone)
Yes! You fight back!

LeeAnn snickers.

LEEANN
(in phone)
My aunt.

GRANDMOTHER (O.S.)

(from phone)

Your aunt. Your mother. You fight back. You don't let people rile you up like that. You stay, and you fight.

LEEANN

(in phone)

I'm sorry I'm not like you.

LeeAnn clenches her fists.

GRANDMOTHER (O.S.)

(from phone)

You're right about that. I wouldn't let no one rile me up like that. I just brush it off. Can't no one tell me something that will hurt my feelings.

LEEANN

(in phone)

You're right, grandma.

GRANDMOTHER (O.S.)

(from phone)

Now stop it. Before you give yourself a heart attack.

LEEANN

(in phone)

You heard what they said.

GRANDMOTHER (O.S.)

(from phone)

I don't give a damn! That's my money, and I can do what I want with it.

LEEANN

(in phone)

I don't want you thinking I'm using you.

LeeAnn grips the steering wheel.

GRANDMOTHER (O.S.)

(from phone)

Will you stop it? Ain't no one talking about using! Now you need to stop letting people in your head. You're better than that. You have too much

going on. Start living your life.
Forget about everyone else, and start
living your life!

LeeAnn just wipes away the tears that fall as she listens
taking in every word.

GRANDMOTHER (O.S.)
(from phone)
What do you want to do with your life,
LeeAnn?

LEEANN
Grandma, I just want to write and
film.

GRANDMOTHER (O.S.)
(from phone)
Then what's stopping you?

INT. CUBICAL/OFFICE-DAY

LeeAnn sits behind her computer screen highlighting and
typing away. She puts microscopic slides back into a plastic
biohazard bag.

The phone rings.

LEEANN
(in phone)
Pathology. This is LeeAnn. How may I
help you?

LeeAnn takes notes.

LEEANN
I can look up that case for you.
What's the patient's date of birth?

INT. SLIDE ROOM-DAY

On the counter are countless flats with microscopic slides
stacked up side to side, and against the wall are olive green
storage cabinets.

LeeAnn sits at a rectangular office table sorting slides.

Across from her is a CO-WORKER (plump, early 60s, grayish
brown hair) also sorting slides.

CO-WORKER

And you always want to sort the older slides first. Empty the cart on your slide room day to make room for other flats. The doctors will fill the cart up-They always do so empty it when you can, and you want to put the slides in order so you can file them later. The drawers are already labeled in numeric order so don't worry about that for now.

LeeAnn nods then checks her phone. It reads, "12:25 PM".

CO-WORKER

So where did you work before here?

LEEANN

Um-I used to work in research at the School of Medicine and at the theater.

CO-WORKER

That seems interesting. What did you research?

LEEANN

Traumatic brain injuries. I would collect data on patients after a year of injury and five years and so on. How long have you been here?

CO-WORKER

Oh-Haha-ten years. Before here, I worked in a theater too. I was supposed to intern there, but I couldn't get my brother's wedding day off so I didn't take it.

LEEANN

Well, darn. I absolutely loved working at the theater. As one of the assistant house managers, I was allowed to sit through the plays. So I'm seeing plays for free, enjoying myself, eating their popcorn. It definitely helped with my screenwriting too, that's for sure.

CO-WORKER

You're a screenwriter?

LEEANN

I am.

CO-WORKER

What do you write?

LeeAnn picks up a stack of flats and puts them to the side.

LEEANN

I write sci fi thrillers, fantasy adventures, martial arts dramas. Things like that!

CO-WORKER

That's really cool.

LEEANN

Thanks! It's the love of my life.

INT. MOTEL ROOM-NIGHT

LeeAnn is planted on the motel bed typing away on her laptop. She types in, "INT. WOOLDAND-NIGHT".

The phone vibrates. It reads, "MOM".

LeeAnn answers it.

LEEANN

Yes, Mother.

MOTHER (O.S.)

(from phone)

Why are you telling grandma everything is my fault? Blaming me! You couldn't find a job because you're lazy!

LEEANN

I lost Casey!

MOTHER (O.S.)

Well, he's dead! Get over it!

LeeAnn screams and slams the phone against the bed over and over again until no energy is left in her.

INT. LABORATORY-DAY

LeeAnn staggers to her cubicle, putting her tote bag in one of the drawers. She sits down.

One of her co-workers notices her state.

CUT TO:

INT. LABORATORY-DAY

LeeAnn types away on her computer behind her bare cubicle.

The supervisor enters.

SUPERVISOR

LeeAnn, can I talk to you real quick?

LEEANN

Yeah.

LeeAnn follows the supervisor down the hall into a conference room.

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM-DAY

The supervisor closes the door behind her, and both sit down across from each other.

SUPERVISOR

LeeAnn, when you first started here, you were working very efficiently, but lately there's been errors. Then today, you just don't seem like yourself. I don't mean to pry, but maybe you should speak with someone.

LeeAnn's eyes brim with tears, and her head falls into her hand.

SUPERVISOR

I didn't mean to upset you. I've already called Human Resources to see what help we can give you, and there is an option. We have on-site therapy. Would you consider it?

LeeAnn nods, yes.

LEEANN

Anything. I'll try anything.

SUPERVISOR

Good, and don't worry. This stays between us. They're ready for you right now, okay?

LeeAnn nods, yes.

INT. STEPHANIE OFFICE-DAY

LeeAnn is planted on the black leather sofa, her tote bag near her feet. She sits with her hands clinging for each other.

A therapist sits next to a lit computer screen with her legs crossed. On her blouse is a name tag that reads, "STEPHANIE GREEN".

While LeeAnn glances around the room, at the plant in the corner, at the black desk behind therapist, Stephanie fixes her gaze on LeeAnn.

STEPHANIE

We can sit here for as long as you like, LeeAnn, but we only have one hour.

LEEANN

Right.

STEPHANIE

Your supervisor is concerned, and she wants to make sure you can do the job. That's all this is.

LEEANN

Right.

STEPHANIE

Tell me what's been going on.

LEEANN

Well, Stephanie. A lot. I lost my dog. I lost my job. I lost my apartment. Then I lost my mind.

STEPHANIE

I am so sorry, LeeAnn. You've had a traumatic time. When did you lose your dog?

LEEANN

May tenth.

STEPHANIE

I am so sorry.

LEEANN

It's been months. Months. Why am I still like this?

STEPHANIE

Oh, LeeAnn. Just because it's been months doesn't mean your mind has healed. The brain is a very complicated organ. You're not going to magically get over things.

LEEANN

I have no one now.

Stephanie leans back in her seat.

STEPHANIE

What about family?

LEEANN

My family thinks I'm unbearable. That I'm mentally unfit. My mother-she just hates me.

STEPHANIE

Your mother doesn't hate you.

LEEANN

You don't know that woman. She was neglectful raising me, and she makes it known that she despises me. Have you ever seen that Korean film about the man with no name who wanted to protect the queen of what would become Korea from the armed Japanese? He took his sword and deflected every attack until he couldn't anymore. It was a beautiful film, though what would come. Well, anyway, that is how a mother should be.

STEPHANIE

You're right, but usually when a parent neglects their child, it's because they were neglected themselves. It's not your fault.

LEEANN

I'm a monster.

STEPHANIE

Just from knowing you these past short minutes, LeeAnn, you are no monster. You've suffered mental and emotional abuse, and now your one companion that helped you coped is no longer here for you.

LeeAnn takes a tissue from the coffee table. She shrugs.

LEEANN

He was just a dog, right?

STEPHANIE

No. He wasn't, LeeAnn.

LeeAnn wipes her nose, glances away.

STEPHANIE

What do you want? Why did you come here?

LEEANN

I want to get better. I want to save my job.

Stephanie nods then faces her computer and scrolls through LeeAnn's chart.

STEPHANIE

You're not on meds.

LEEANN

I am not.

STEPHANIE

I'm going to have the office set up an appointment for you to see Dr. Kumar. I think it would be really beneficial. While he works on the med side, I want us to work through the grief side starting with your mother. Do you drink?

LEEANN

I'm not an alcoholic.

STEPHANIE

But do you drink?

LEEANN
On occasion.

STEPHANIE
I want you to start going to AA
meetings.

LEEANN
I'm fine. My drinking is fine.

STEPHANIE
You'll find that there are people just
like you. People wanting support.

LEEANN
I see.

STEPHANIE
So tell me what else has been going
on?

CUT TO:

LeeAnn at the bar, taking a two-glass shot while others cheer
her on in a packed club.

CUT TO:

LeeAnn at an apartment, taking shots with GUESTS as music
blares from inside.

CUT TO:

LeeAnn in pajamas and a bath robe checking her phone for the
time as she waits in an empty self-check out line.

The wallpaper is of a RAT TERRIER with a white body and black
face. Her phone reads "SEVEN AM".

CUT TO:

LeeAnn blinks at Stephanie without a care in the world.

STEPHANIE
LeeAnn, If Dr. Kumar puts you on
medication, you cannot mix it with
alcohol.

LEEANN
I know.

STEPHANIE

We're going to start a checklist.
First, you're going to attend AA
meetings.

LEEANN

Sure.

STEPHANIE

Tell me about home.

LEEANN

Uh-Could be better?

STEPHANIE

Meaning?

LEEANN

I'm staying at a motel.

STEPHANIE

Second on that checklist, you're going
to keep this job and save up money for
an apartment.

CUT TO:

EXT. CANAL-DAY

LeeAnn eats her sandwich at the top of the stairs, eyes on
the blue water of the canal surrounded by a grassy plain.

JOGGERS pass the DOG WALKERS walking their companions around
the canal as LeeAnn people watches.

Her face has color, her shoulders hang high. She's at peace
for the first time in a long time.

INT. GYMNASIUM-DAY

LeeAnn straightens her handbag strap and enters.

On the door on a piece of paper reads, "WOMEN'S AA MEETING".

Several women sit around the circular table chatting away.

LeeAnn glances around the room, turns on her heel, and
hurries out of the room, bumping into a flamboyant man (late
thirties) in a navy blue sweater.

FLAMBOYANT MAN
Running away already?

LEEANN
You guessed it. Excuse me.

FLAMBOYANT MAN
Well, hold on.

The man looks her up and down.

FLAMBOYANT MAN
You don't seem ready anyway. Carry on.

The flamboyant man steps aside and is headed into the meeting.

LEEANN
I don't seem ready? And that's an all women's meeting.

FLAMBOYANT MAN
I know, but they let me come anyway.

LEEANN
Hmph. What did you mean I don't seem ready?

FLAMBOYANT MAN
Hesitant. You seem hesitant. A sponsor. Do you have one?

LEEANN
No.

FLAMBOYANT MAN
Oh, honey. You need one. Jonathon.

JONATHON extends his fingers to be shook.

LEEANN
LeeAnn.

LeeAnn shakes his hand.

JONATHON
Charmed. LeeAnn. When you come back. Be ready, and I'll be your sponsor.

LEEANN
You don't know what you're getting

into.

JONATHON

Honey, I've sponsored people who didn't know what the word 'sober' was. If you put in the effort, I put in just as much. Now, it's not easy. When I was trying to get sober, I immediately thought it was a waste of time. Impossible. I fooled myself.

LEEANN

Sounds like I wouldn't know what I'm getting myself into.

JONATHON

You don't.

Jonathon winks at her.

LEEANN

So to be my sponsor, I have to quit drinking?

JONATHON

If you think that's it, then I'm not doing a very good introduction, am I?

Jonathon heads inside.

INT. DINING ROOM-DAY

LeeAnn sits across from kindergartner TWIN BOYS as they eat a plate of spaghetti.

At the head of the table is the twins' mom, JASMINE (late twenties), with her own plate. She has the same caramel complexion as the boys.

LEEANN

(to the twins)

Oh so you were being bad?

TWINS

No! Uh-uh! We weren't bein' bad!

JASMINE

Yes, you were.

(to one of the twins)

That's why you were sent home.

The twin, shaking his head, says:

TWIN
I wasn't bein' bad!

JASMINE
What were you doin' home then?

TWIN
Hmph!

JASMINE
(to LeeAnn)
He hit some little boy.

TWIN
Don't tell her!

LEEANN
Hm. Hm. Hm. Shame on you.

TWIN
I didn't mean to! He was being mean.

LEEANN
(to Jasmine)
You should send them to their dad's.

TWINS
Noooooooo!

JASMINE
I should.

TWINS
Nooooo!

LEEANN
Pack their bags and put a bow on top.

TWIN
No!

JASMINE
Ha-Merry Christmas.

TWIN
Stop it..

CUT TO:

INT. DINING ROOM-NIGHT

LeeAnn is at the table waiting for Jasmine.

LEEANN

Jasmine, just take the boys to their
dad's. Drop them off!

Jasmine returns with two glasses of red wine.

LEEANN

Oh, I shouldn't.

JASMINE

What? Turning down wine? YOU?

LEEANN

Well, maybe a glass.

Jasmine sits a glass down in front of LeeAnn and sits
adjacent to her.

JASMINE

When he lived across the street, how
many times did he visit?

LEEANN

Ahhh.

JASMINE

He lived right across the street!
Didn't even send a Christmas card!

LEEANN

Yeah.

JASMINE

I hate him!

LEEANN

Boy, do I feel you on that.

JASMINE

Yeah.

The two take a sip of wine.

LEEANN

You ever wish you can just up and go?

JASMINE

Ha-What day are you talkin'?

LEEANN

I can't believe this is our life.

JASMINE

My life. You have no kids.

LEEANN

Ouch.

JASMINE

LeeAnn, you want kids? Take mine.

LEEANN

I can have both?

JASMINE

You have nothing holding you back.
Soon you'll have to stop letting your
mom hold you back. We both do.

LEEANN

What do you have holding you back?

JASMINE

I have two kids. I want to draw.
Design clothes, travel across the
country in a RV, but I can't. I'm
stuck. You aren't. Go back to school!
Start writing and filming again! Adopt
another puppy.

LeeAnn swirls her glass of wine.

LEEANN

If it was that easy-

JASMINE

It is! The only one holding you back
is you.

LeeAnn, tilts her glass, and says:

LEEANN

Here-Here.

JASMINE

We never see our lives as it is now.
No one does. We see north, we end up

east. We go west thinking we'll end up south. When we're south we ponder ourselves being west.

LEEANN
What shall we do? Go north though we're nowhere near it?

JASMINE
Yes!

LEEANN
Where did you see yourself?

JASMINE
South.

LEEANN
Can you get there?

JASMINE
Eventually.

Jasmine tilts her glass toward LeeAnn.

JASMINE
I was thinking. I know the boys will drive you crazy, but why not stay here?

LEEANN
As if it's a sleepover?

JASMINE
As if it's a sleepover!

LEEANN
Really?

JASMINE
Yeah! When my lease is up, we can look into gettin' a bigger apartment.

LEEANN
That is so precious.

JASMINE
'Precious'?

Jasmine chuckles taking a sip of wine.

INT. JASMINE'S LIVING ROOM-DAY

The morning sun permeates the room.

LeeAnn is asleep on the couch under her sheets drooling.

In the background we hear the twins fighting their mom to get ready for school.

JASMINE (O.S.)
Put on your shirt!

TWIN (O.S.)
I'm sleepy!

JASMINE (O.S.)
I don't care!

LeeAnn awakens, looking over the living room.

Toys are scattered about along with coloring books and coloring pencils. In the corner is one of those toy cars you put your feet through and stroll around.

JASMINE (O.S.)
Where are your pants?

TWIN (O.S.)
They're wet!

JASMINE (O.S.)
You peed on yourself?!

TWIN (O.S.)
No!

LeeAnn listens until she hears house keys jangling.

JASMINE (O.S.)
Lets go! And be quiet!

TWIN (O.S.)
(whispering)
Okay.

LeeAnn hears footsteps, a pause, then a door opening and closing.

Silence.

LeeAnn checks her phone. It reads "7:05 AM".

INT. JASMINE'S BATHROOM-DAY

Clothes are scattered about.

LeeAnn takes a schoolboy's t-shirt out of the sink and tosses it to the ground. She picks up her toothbrush and the toothpaste and starts to brush her teeth.

INT. DINING ROOM-DAY

LeeAnn enters dressed in black slacks and a buttoned up t-shirt and cardigan. She grabs her purse and keys from the counter, stepping on a car toy.

LEEANN

Damn!

LeeAnn, limping away, to herself says:

LEEANN

Damn. Damn. Damn.

INT. STEPHANIE OFFICE-DAY

Stephanie sits at her desk, facing LeeAnn, who's in her usual seat across from the coffee table.

STEPHANIE

How do you feel today?

LEEANN

Like everyday.

STEPHANIE

Which is like what?

LEEANN

I don't want to live anymore.

STEPHANIE

Do you want to hurt yourself?

LEEANN

Everyday.

STEPHANIE

Do you have a plan?

LEEANN

No.

Stephanie nods, okay.

STEPHANIE

Why do you feel like this?

LEEANN

I'm worthless.

STEPHANIE

LeeAnn, you are not worthless. From what you have told me about your family-Your aunt, your cousin, your mother, even your grandmother, they have their own issues to work out so when it comes to your family, you have nothing to worry about.

LEEANN

I just feel like I have no one. The two friends I do have have kids so I can't worry them with problems. They have their own.

Stephanie nods, understanding.

STEPHANIE

What about your cousin? The one you wanted to invite to an appointment.

LEEANN

Shawna. She has her own problems too. I don't want to be one of those people who come around when everything is bad. Darkening everyone's sky. If that makes sense.

STEPHANIE

It does. You don't want to be negative around people.

LEEANN

Exactly! These days all I feel is negative. All I think is negative. All I say is negative.

STEPHANIE

I've said this. You've had a traumatic few months!

LeeAnn, chuckling self-deprecatingly, says:

LEEANN

Few months.

STEPHANIE

I've said this, but you've had a traumatic few months. What about your mother? Have you talked to her?

LEEANN

She hasn't called. I could be sleeping on the street right now, but she hasn't called. I'm too old to be thinking that.

STEPHANIE

You want a mother's love, that's all. When I was around your age, I wanted the same. When I was a teenager, I wanted the same. My mom never gave me that. It was until I had my daughter that I saw how she could at least be a grandmother.

LEEANN

So I'm never going to get that motherly love, am I?

Stephanie shakes her head, no.

LeeAnn holds her head up with her hand and moves away a strand of hair from her eye. She shifts in her seat.

STEPHANIE

What are your hobbies, LeeAnn?

LEEANN

Writing.

STEPHANIE

Oh wow! You're a writer?

LEEANN

Yeah. I'm working on a new screenplay right now. Well, trying. There are distractions, but it's coming. I think I'm halfway done on the first draft!

STEPHANIE

That is so good. Do you make movies too?

LEEANN

Yeah! Well, I've made a couple. I'll sometimes pay local filmmakers to help me produce something I write, but it can get mighty painful to my pockets.

STEPHANIE

What about looking into local production companies? Maybe they can help.

LEEANN

That seems like a lot of work.

STEPHANIE

Don't worry about it. You have nothing but time.

In the distance is the ticking of a clock.

INT. PSYCHIATRIST OFFICE-DAY

The stoic DOCTOR KUMAR sits beside a computer screen, his elbow on his desk, his fingers gripping his chin.

DOCTOR KUMAR

What's been going on?

LEEANN

Well, I moved in with my best friend. I was homeless at first so I can officially say I am not sleeping in my car or a motel!

LeeAnn chuckles, though the doctor finds nothing amusing.

DOCTOR KUMAR

Good. And how's that going?

LEEANN

It's going.

DOCTOR KUMAR

What does that mean?

LEEANN

She has two kids..

The doctor nods. He gets it.

DOCTOR KUMAR
I saw in your file you just started
working.

LEEANN
Yeah.

DOCTOR KUMAR
When do you get your first paycheck?

LEEANN
Won't be for a couple weeks.

DOCTOR KUMAR
Get an apartment as soon as you can.
I've also read about what happened at
work.

LEEANN
Yeah..

DOCTOR KUMAR
How often do you drink?

LEEANN
Everyday?

DOCTOR KUMAR
How much?

LeeAnn fiddles with her fingers as she glances away.

LEEANN
A bottle a day, but it's just wine. I
don't see it as a problem.

DOCTOR KUMAR
That is a problem. Have you tried AA?

LEEANN
No. Not yet.

DOCTOR KUMAR
Start going to an all women's AA
meeting only three times a week. If
there are virtual ones, do everyday.
How are you feeling?

LEEANN
I don't know. Most of the time I feel
low. Nothing really puts a smile on my

face. Other times I don't feel anything.

DOCTOR KUMAR
We're going to try a combination of Abilify and Cymbalta. Lets start low with Abilify and 30mg for Cymbalta.

LEEANN
Okay.

DOCTOR KUMAR
Are you in therapy?

LEEANN
I see Stephanie once a week.

DOCTOR KUMAR
Keep it that for now. Will you start going to AA meetings?

LEEANN
I guess I have no choice.

INT. BAR/RESTAURANT-NIGHT

LeeAnn sits at a round table in the corner on her laptop typing away. One empty glass is on the table.

A waitress approaches her.

WAITRESS
Would you like another?

LEEANN
Please. I'm going to stop drinking tomorrow.

The waitress grabs the empty glass, grins, and walks off.

LeeAnn types away.

LEEANN (V.O)
Interior. Room. Day. Hugo lies in bed under a sheet, his face a sickly white. He's lost weight. Though through it all, he smiles.

LeeAnn pauses then continues to type away.

The waitress enters and places the full glass on the table.

LeeAnn sips on the glass.

INT. JASMINE'S LIVING ROOM-NIGHT

LeeAnn staggers inside, listening to a war zone that is twin boys and a mother trying to get them into the bath. She tosses her shoes off and keys on the counter.

Jasmine, from a distance, shouts:

JASMINE (O.S.)
Why are you in the tub with your pants
on?

TWIN (O.S.)
You told me to get in the tub!

JASMINE (O.S.)
Take your pants off now!

Jasmine enters and finds LeeAnn staggering to the couch.

JASMINE
Been drinking?

LEEANN
Not a lot.

LeeAnn retrieves her laptop from her bag and opens it, waiting for it to boot up as Jasmine glances her over.

Jasmine grabs the bath towel off the floor and exits.

LeeAnn hears the bathroom door shut.

LEEANN
(to herself)
Hm. There's a casting notice...

LeeAnn browses through a Facebook post that reads, "CASTING FOR A HORROR FEATURE FILM". She scrolls down and reads, "SCRIPT SUPERVISOR NEEDED". Her eyes squint as she reads over the post.

EXT. MANOR/DRIVEWAY-DUSK

Cars are parked to the side of the occupied driveway.

LeeAnn parks her car next to another vehicle and climbs out of it, holding a folder of papers.

The manor is four story, dirty white haunted house. Though the house isn't well-taken care of, the land and the trees are.

On the front porch are YOUNG FILMMAKERS with equipment from cameras to boom mics.

LeeAnn treads up to the front porch greeting everyone and exits inside the manor.

INT. MANOR-CONTINUOUS

The ground is made of wood and so are the walls. No decorations, just a run down old manor. Even the floor is ready to give in.

LeeAnn feels out of place, though continues inside into the living room.

INT. LIVING ROOM/MANOR-CONTINUOUS

Seven people either stand around or sit on a dingy couch talking amongst each other.

LeeAnn digs her hands into her pocket and steps to the side to get out of anyone's way. Gripped on her arm is a packet.

BRIAN (white, mid thirties, 6'2) enters, holding a film camera. He begins formatting it.

LeeAnn, though hesitantly, walks up to him.

LEEANN

Brian?

BRIAN

That's me.

LEEANN

I'm LeeAnn. You're looking for a script supervisor?

BRIAN

Aww yes! We've been filming for a week now and things can just get out of control. If you can help, that would be great.

LEEANN

Yeah! I'll be more than happy too. I have the script right here.

LeeAnn holds up the packet.

BRIAN

Great, we'll get started in a few minutes. Just waiting on Chris to get back with the batteries. So sit tight.

Brian walks off.

LeeAnn stands to the side and holds the packet against her chest glancing over the room.

EXT. WOODS-DAY

The actors are circled around a campfire dressed in winter garments, chatting away.

The filmmakers are behind the two camera, the boom mic hanging above in the center ready for audio.

LeeAnn stands next to Brian, taking in everything there is to learn. She takes

FILMMAKER

Levy, we need you closer to the camp fire!

The man called Levy pulls his chair closer to the campfire.

FILMMAKER

Boom mic in the camera!

The BOOM OPERATOR adjusts the boom mic.

LEEANN

Laura, you hair wasn't up in the last take!

The woman called Laura takes her hair down.

FILMMAKER

Okay! I think we are set!

The actors straighten their hair and adjust their clothes.

BRIAN

And action!

The actor pulls his chair forward as the cameraman focuses his camera on the actor.

ACTOR
Ever heard of the story of this manor?
The story of the old man and his
lover, a slave?

LeeAnn bites her lip and observes in silence at the authentic performance that's happening on a real set.

INT. JASMINE'S LIVING ROOM-NIGHT

LeeAnn enters, quietly, though she's not sure why because the living room is a war zone.

The twin boys are playing with toys as Jasmine yells for them to clean up.

JASMINE
Pick up the toys or I'll get rid of
them!

TWINS
Nooooo!

JASMINE
Pick them up then.
(to LeeAnn)
How was it?

LEEANN
It was glorious!

LeeAnn puts her purse down on the couch.

LEEANN
We filmed a campfire scene! Ahh, it
was so perfect! I loved being on a
real set surrounded by real actors,
not just my friends volunteering to
help.

JASMINE
You stayed over late, didn't you?

LEEANN
That's filmmaking!

LeeAnn takes off her shoes.

LEEANN
I'm going to shower! We have an early
day tomorrow!

LeeAnn vanishes into the restroom, closing the door behind her.

INT. BATHROOM-CONTINUOUS

Just as LeeAnn goes to turn on the faucet, the phone in her jacket pocket rings.

LeeAnn goes for her phone.

The phone screen reads "MOM".

LeeAnn lets the cell phone go to voicemail. She sees she has one and goes to listen to it as she washes her face.

MOTHER (O.S.)

(from phone)

So you aren't going back to school?
I'm so disappointed in you. I don't
know why you keep mentioning film, Mom
would never support it. Instead of
writing scripts, maybe focus on
getting a better paying job.

CLICK.

LeeAnn grabs a towel and dries her face, gazing at her reflection in the mirror.

INT. JASMINE'S LIVING ROOM-NIGHT

LeeAnn tosses and turns on the sofa ready for good night's sleep.

The twins scream and laugh in the other room.

LeeAnn lands on her back, a migraine starting to develop. She can't keep her eyes open, her face is flushed.

LEEANN

Ugh.

LeeAnn throws the sheets off her and heads to the refrigerator. She opens it, and inside is a partially empty bottle of wine. Her mouth waters. She goes to grab it but stops short. Closing the refrigerator door, she goes back to the living room.

LeeAnn opens the closet door packs a small bag.

LEEANN

Jasmine, I'm going over to my cousin's
for the night!

JASMINE (O.S.)

Why?

LeeAnn exits the apartment, closing the door behind her.

Jasmine treads into the living room and gazes at the closed
front door as she places her hands on her hips, glancing back
at her twin boys as they bicker.

INT. APARTMENT FRONT ROOM-DAY

LeeAnn appears at the bottom of the stairs stretching and
yawning.

At the kitchen table is a FIVE YEAR OLD BOY eating cereal.

FIVE YEAR OLD BOY

Good morning, LeeAnn.

LEEANN

Good morning, lil' Roger!

In the kitchen is Shawna on the stove.

LEEANN

Cousin, that was the best sleep I've
had in days!

SHAWNA

I can tell. Want breakfast? I made
eggs, pancakes, and oatmeal.

LEEANN

Yes, please!

LeeAnn sits across from Lil Roger.

LEEANN

It's fine over there, but the boys are
ruthless. I just don't see how she can
handle them. The screaming. The
crying. The whining.

SHAWNA

She doesn't do anything about it?

LEEANN

No! But the plan is to get a bigger place when her lease is up.

SHAWNA

Are you stupid? You sound stupid.

LEEANN

Ugh. I know. Work today?

SHAWNA

Yeah, I'm drowning! They're giving me too many clients! You know I work in a special needs home so it's not like having a resident in a nursing home.

LEEANN

I remember those days. It is not.

SHAWNA

Right! Well, one of them didn't want to go to bed so she spit on me!

LEEANN

No she did not!

SHAWNA

Spit right in my face! I almost slapped her, but something in me took hold. I told management to give her to someone else so I'm waiting to hear back. I'm not goin' back until she does. Some things I can handle. Can you imagine?

LEEANN

Nasty.

SHAWNA

I don't even want to relive the man that took off his diaper!

LEEANN

Yeah, please don't.

SHAWNA

He didn't want to watch the movie when he could've just went to his damn room and went to bed! No! He didn't do that.

Shawna fixes LeeAnn a plate and places it on table in front of her.

SHAWNA

He took off diaper and threw it right
as us! When I tell you it stuck to the
wall-

LeeAnn gazes at the breakfast with a disgusted look.

SHAWNA

Oh, I'm sorry! Eat up!

LEEANN

Thanks for the preview.

SHAWNA

Ha-imagine being there and seeing what
was for dinner.

Shawna makes herself a plate and sits adjacent to LeeAnn, who is digging in.

SHAWNA

You're in therapy now. What is she
saying about your mother?

LEEANN

Mourn my loss because she'll never be
a mother to me.

SHAWNA

I'm sorry. Someone had to say it.
What's your next step?

LEEANN

Getting my own place. I love her, but
I can't live with her forever.

SHAWNA

Good!

LEEANN

So for my first paycheck, I'm getting
an apartment. Also, my psychiatrist
said I should do this so I'm just
doing what the doctor says!

SHAWNA

Thank God someone is talking sense to
you!

Shawna goes for the refrigerator and takes out two little wine bottles from a package of four.

LEEANN

It's early!

SHAWNA

LeeAnn, it's two.

EXT. APARTMENT-NIGHT

LeeAnn staggers her way toward the door, taking out the key from her coat pocket. She tries to unlock the door but it just won't go in. Then she sways before collapsing.

Black.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM-NIGHT

LeeAnn's eyes flicker open as she lies in a hospital bed. She touches the hospital gown that clings against her flushed skin. Scanning the room, her eyes widen as she sees the IV in her arm. She presses the nurse call button.

A NURSE in scrubs enters.

NURSE

Hi, you're awake. You gave the paramedic quite a scare. Do you know where you are?

LEEANN

The hospital. What happened?

NURSE

Someone must've seen you collapse outside your apartment.

LEEANN

Oh no. Who called?

NURSE

They didn't say.

LEEANN

I would like to leave now. Am I good to go?

NURSE

I'll go get the doctor.

INT. FRONT OF HOSPITAL-DAY

Specks of snow fall, covering the terrain.

LeeAnn exits the hospital and treads towards a black SUV that's parked out front, seeing the profile of a middle-aged woman playing on her phone. She knocks on the window and hears the door unlock.

She climbs inside.

LEEANN

Hi, mom.

MOM

Hi.

MOTHER (early 50s, black, indifferent) wears black sunglasses and an overcoat. She starts to drive off.

MOM

What were you in the hospital for?

LEEANN

Fainted. I didn't eat.

MOM

Hmph. Is that true? You could've called a cab for that.

LeeAnn gazes out the window as the view shifts by.

LEEANN

Don't know where my wallet is. Thank you for coming to get me.

MOM

Yeah. Where am I taking you?

LEEANN

To Jasmine's.

MOM

You could've just called her.

LEEANN

I will be sure to do that next time, but she's at work.

Her mother glances out the rearview mirror and changes lanes.

SHAWNA

Barely working. Not in school. Now the hospital. Anymore checks you want to get off your bucket list?

LEEANN

Yeah, I'm losing at life, aren't I?

LeeAnn's mother glances at her, though remains quiet for the rest of the ride.

INT. JASMINE'S LIVING ROOM-DAY

The door opens and LeeAnn pokes her head in.

Complete silence.

LeeAnn enters, tossing her jacket on the couch. She sits down and throws her head into her hands.

CUT TO:

INT. JASMINE'S DINING ROOM-NIGHT

Jasmine enters from the kitchen with an open bottle of wine.

LeeAnn and a third young lady sit around the table sipping wine. Jasmine sits at the head of the table and goes for her glass.

JASMINE

Jade, you stayed long enough. It was time to go.

JADE (dark skin, late twenties, short braided hair) shrugs.

JADE

I know.

LEEANN

How long?

JADE

Five years.

LeeAnn, spitting out her wine, shouts:

LEEANN

Five years?

JADE

And in those five years, we had sex like twice.

LEEANN

Say it ain't so!

JADE

It's true!

LEEANN

Gawd.

JASMINE

He wasted your time.

LeeAnn takes a sip of wine, eyes diverting away from that.

JADE

Coming from you? You're still waiting for someone who stole your social security card.

JASMINE

I'm not talking to him.

LEEANN

None of us are good with men. Noted!

JADE

I would cook for him. Macaroni and cheese, bake beans, a pot roast! A salad! And he'd just play on his phone.

LEEANN

Not even a kid out of this?

JADE

No.

Jade looks afar as she takes a sip of wine from her glass.

LEEANN

We have all failed at this.

Jade breaks down crying.

LEEANN

You okay?

JADE

I gave him five years! Five!

LEEANN

It's okay. We all give our time to people who don't deserve it.

JASMINE

What did you want? Did you really want kids out of that?

JADE

Yes! Or a ring. Something!

JASMINE

That's what we all want.

LeeAnn sighs.

LEEANN

If you think about it, none of us know what we're doing. We're just here. Doing what we know best, which is never enough. We shouldn't be too hard on ourselves!

JADE

Amen!

JASMINE

Amen.

LEEANN

Amen!

LeeAnn goes to take a drink, but realizes her glass is empty. She peers at her empty glass then at Jasmine.

Jasmine takes the hint and picks up the bottle of wine. She shakes it to find only a drop left.

JASMINE

I'll be right back.

Jasmine vanishes into the kitchen.

JADE

So, LeeAnn. How is living with Jasmine?

LEEANN

Good. It's good.

JADE

Did Jasmine tell you? I just moved into a condo.

LEEANN

Whoa. Look at you.

JADE

Yeah. After I moved out from Robert's I moved in with my dad, and he drove me all over to look for a house.

LEEANN

I'm really sorry about Robert. I'm sorry it didn't work out.

JADE

Some things aren't meant to work out, I'm learning.

Jade takes a sip of wine, and a light bulb goes off.

JADE

Hey. You know I have a two bedroom. Why don't you come live with me? I could use the company.

LeeAnn goes to take a sip of wine, remembering it's empty.

LEEANN

Um-I'll think about it. It would nice to have my own room again.

JADE

Sounds good!

Jasmine, unbeknownst to the previous conversation, enters with a new bottle of wine.

JASMINE

I have wine!

LEEANN

(to herself)

I'm needing that.

INT. STEPHANIE OFFICE-DAY

Stephanie and LeeAnn are in their usual spots.

STEPHANIE

Are you afraid to tell your friend
that you want to move in with her
friend?

LEEANN

I am.

STEPHANIE

I feel compelled to tell you that just
because someone did you a favor, it
doesn't mean you owe them your life.

LEEANN

But how can I tell her that? She's not
a person who would take money and
leave it as is.

STEPHANIE

It's been-What? Two weeks since you
moved in with her? Provide what you
can, but do what's best for you too.
Don't worry about everyone else.
You're trying to get better. How can
you do that worrying about her?

LEEANN

You're right. And I would have my own
room. My own space.

Stephanie nods in agreement.

STEPHANIE

What about drinking-Have you been to
an AA meeting?

LEEANN

The drinking is-well-worse and no, but
I'm trying. Going to an AA meeting is
like admitting I have a problem, and I
don't want to walk that road yet.

STEPHANIE

LeeAnn, what's on the checklist? AA
Meetings and saving for an apartment.
Keeping your job.

LEEANN

I know. I know.

STEPHANIE

Lets add to it then. You'll finish your script, and you'll get back into filming.

LEEANN

You have too much faith in me.

STEPHANIE

So what are you doing to check these off your list?

LEEANN

Nothing.

STEPHANIE

Wrong! You're in therapy. You have a job. You're writing!

LEEANN

Is that something?

STEPHANIE

Of course it is! I'll have to keep asking. Have you looked into any local production companies for your script?

LEEANN

Actually, I have.

STEPHANIE

You did? Tell me!

INT. CUBICLE/LABORATORY-DAY

On the computer screen is a script.

LeeAnn types, "INT. MEDICINE ROOM/HOUSE-NIGHT" then types away behind her computer screen. She types faster than her mind can follow, though that doesn't stop her. It's all muscle memory. She knows what she wants. This is what she wants.

INT. JASMINE'S LIVING ROOM-DAWN

Little light permeates the room.

LeeAnn lies on the sofa asleep.

The front door opens. She hears whispering from at least two voices.

LeeAnn's eyes flicker open. She turns over.

The door closes.

LeeAnn hears the creaking of the floorboard then the bedroom door close. From behind the living room wall, she hears moans and the bed creaking.

LEEANN
(to herself)
Are you kidding me?

LeeAnn tosses the sheets off her and rises from the couch. She takes her car keys, not forgetting the bottle of wine from the refrigerator, and leaves the apartment.

INT. MOTEL ROOM-DAY

LeeAnn types away on her laptop as she sits on the bed, the bottle of wine on the dresser beside her. She reaches for it, stops inches from it, and grabs it, opening it and taking in a gulp until the bottle is no more.

CUT TO:

INT. RESTROOM/MOTEL ROOM-NIGHT

LeeAnn rushes to the toilet, raises the lid, and hurls. She sits on her knees, her head tilting the side as her eyes peering far into the distance. She collapses hitting her head on the sink.

CUT TO:

The phone alarm trumpets throughout the motel room.

LeeAnn's eyes flicker open as she lies on the cold, bare restroom floor. She covers her ears then scampers to her feet to head out of the room.

INT. MOTEL ROOM-CONTINUOUS

LeeAnn enters and turns off the cell phone alarm on her bed.

At the head of the bed is the partially empty bottle of wine.

She sits at the edge of the bed and rubs the spot on her head that she hit on the bathroom sink.

EXT. FRONT DOOR-DAY

LeeAnn goes to open the door when...

...a TALL MAN (mid twenties, biracial) in pajama bottoms and a t-shirt exits the apartment and walks off.

LeeAnn glances back and enters the apartment.

INT. JASMINE'S LIVING ROOM-CONTINUOUS

LeeAnn enters with her sheet.

Jasmine is packing lunches dressed ready for the day.

LEEANN

Have an interesting morning?

JASMINE

Where did you come from?

LEEANN

Just got back from my grandma's.

JASMINE

You went to your grandma's?

LEEANN

Yeah.

JASMINE

Why?

LEEANN

How was your morning?

Jasmine flushes red.

JASMINE

(to twins)

Boys!

(to LeeAnn)

It was okay.

Jasmine takes the brown paper bag of lunches and heads to the door with the twins.

TWINS

Bye, LeeAnn! See you later!

LEEANN

Bye, boys!

Jasmine and the twins exit.

LeeAnn heads to the cabinet and takes out a wine glass. She opens the refrigerator and takes out the wine, pouring a glass for herself. Just before she takes a sip, she stops and pours it out into the kitchen sink. LeeAnn lets out a sigh.

CUT TO:

INT. JASMINE'S LIVING ROOM-NIGHT

On the couch typing away is LeeAnn.

LEEANN

Exterior. Antony's home. Night.
Leila... dashes out...the door,
blade...on her back. Cy trots
along...behind her.

LeeAnn backspaces then ponders as she hears the door unlocking, opening then closing.

The twins rush inside.

TWINS

LeeAnn! LeeAnn!

LEEANN

Hey, boys!

The twins jump on the couch.

TWIN

What are you doing?

LEEANN

I'm writing a movie! Did you have a
good day at school?

TWINS

Yes!

Jasmine enters carrying grocery bags. She closes the door behind her.

JASMINE

What a day.

LEEANN

I bet.

LeeAnn gets up and takes a grocery bag from Jasmine, and the two head into the kitchen.

Jasmine starts putting up the groceries.

LeeAnn fiddles with her thumbs as she faces Jasmine. She takes in a deep breath.

LEEANN

So Jade offered me a room in her
condo. I thought I'd take it.

Jasmine turns to LeeAnn not saying a word as she closes a cabinet.

LEEANN

Since your lease ends in five months.
I thought I should go ahead and take
her up on her offer.

JASMINE

I feel like you wanted to move out way
before just now.

LEEANN

Well, I thought about it, and-

JASMINE

Is it because David was here?

LEEANN

No-

JASMINE

Yes it is. You've been wanting to move
out.

LEEANN

Come on, Jasmine.

JASMINE

So you're moving out?

LEEANN

Not any time soon. I'd like to help
you with the boys and bills first.

The two just stand there in an unsettling silence.

Jasmine, crossing her arms, says:

JASMINE

If it's not because of David, it's because of the boys. You left a few nights ago too to go to your cousin's. You went to your grandma's. You just up and leave. You've been complaining about migraines. Are we an inconvenience to you?

LEEANN

Of course not!

JASMINE

If the boys and I are such an inconvenience to you, maybe you should move out now.

LEEANN

You're kicking me out?

JASMINE

Good luck with Jade.

LEEANN

You're jealous.

JASMINE

I'm what?

LEEANN

Jealous. Jealous that I want to move in with her. Jealous that I go to my cousin's. Jealous.

Jasmine continues to put food away, closing cabinet doors.

JASMINE

If you want to move in with Jade then do that.

LEEANN

And just like that? You know what I've been through, and you do this?

Jasmine gets out a pot and pan, turning on the stove.

LEEANN

Jasmine, maybe we shouldn't be friends if this is how you treat people.

LeeAnn exits into the living room and starts packing her belongings.

Jasmine follows her.

JASMINE

This is what I wanted to avoid.

LEEANN

So you kick me out? How is that right? Jade's not even ready for me! She just asked, Jasmine!

JASMINE

And you took her offer so I'm only helping you.

LEEANN

You're helping me? I see.

JASMINE

You know, maybe it is for the best. The way you stumble in here every night like a drunk in front of my kids.

LeeAnn's eyes widen in disbelief.

Jasmine opens the refrigerator and grabs a bag of lettuce and cheese.

JASMINE

You think your depression is worst. You losing a job is worst. Your sorrow is worst. We've all been through shit, LeeAnn!

LEEANN

Really.

JASMINE

Yes, but you seem to think that you are above everyone else and can break apart at a moment's notice because you didn't get your way!

LEEANN

Oh.

JASMINE

You're not the epitome of trauma!

LEEANN

I never said I was, but now I see how
you feel. I guess I am moving out.

TWINS

We don't want LeeAnn to move!

The twins jump up from the couch.

ISAIAH

I don't want LeeAnn to move away...

TWIN

Me neither!

LeeAnn glances at Jasmine then bends down to the boys' eye
level.

LEEANN

I'm not leaving. I'll be right back.

ISAIAH

You promise?

JASMINE

Boys, go to bed!

LEEANN

Yeah.

ISAIAH

Okay.

The twins exit into their room.

LeeAnn grabs her keys from the kitchen counter and exits.

INT. CONDO-NIGHT

The condo might as well be an apartment complex where LeeAnn
stands. The entry is in a carpeted, dim-lit hallway where
across from it is another door to a condo.

LeeAnn knocks on the door in the same clothes from Jasmine's
apartment.

Behind the door she hears a dog barking, though no answer.

LeeAnn pulls her bag up. Taking out her phone, she dials a
number.

No answer.

LeeAnn is about to take off when she hears the door unlock.

The door opens.

Jade stands there surprised to see LeeAnn.

JADE

LeeAnn? I saw your text. Is everything
okay?

LeeAnn, nearly in tears, says:

LEEANN

No.

JADE

Come in.

INT. JADE'S LIVING ROOM-NIGHT

LeeAnn sits in the corner of the black, leather sofa gulping
down more than a sip of wine.

Jade pours LeeAnn another glass of wine then sips her own.

JADE

I knew she would be mad, but I didn't
think she would kick you out.

LEEANN

Twelve years of friendship gone, but
this wine is impeccable. What is it?

JADE

Roscato. She had David over though?
Wow.

LEEANN

Wow, indeed.

LeeAnn finishes the second glass and pours a third.

LEEANN

I never said I was the epitome of
trauma. I never thought my trauma was
more important than someone else's.

JADE

Hm.

LEEANN

Is that how I come off? As someone who thinks their trauma is worse? That my trauma should be the only one recognized?

JADE

I don't know.

LEEANN

Right.

JADE

But just move in now. I don't have the room set up, but it's yours. We'll work on Jasmine another day.

LEEANN

Jade, thank you so much.

JADE

You're welcome.

The two clink glasses.

INT. JASMINE'S LIVING ROOM-DAY

LeeAnn is packing her belongings, folding her clothes on top of each other. She pauses and sighs.

She heads to the refrigerator and takes out a wine bottle, though hesitantly pours it out into the sink.

LEEANN

What did I just do?

LeeAnn tosses the empty wine bottle into the overflowing trash can.

LEEANN

I'm going to regret this.

INT. BEDROOM/CONDO-DAY

LeeAnn sits on the blow-up mattress that's inches from the ground with her head in her lap.

Scattered about are her belongings from clothes to her electronics.

A Jack Russell terrier gallops inside and sits in front of

LeeAnn.

LeeAnn, looking up, says:

LEEANN
(to the terrier)
Hey, there. Did you know you have it
easy? Eat, sleep, drink, repeat. Easy.

The terrier licks it lips.

LEEANN
(to the terrier)
I'm hungry too. Lets see what we can
do about this.

INT. PANTRY/CONDO

LeeAnn grabs a bag of dog food from a pantry full of canned food.

Next to the pantry is the laundry room. In front of the washer are two dog bowls, one with water and the other empty.

LeeAnn pours the dog food into the empty dog bowl.

LEEANN
(to the terrier)
See, your food just magically
appeared. Boy, do you have it easy.

The dog tilts its head.

INT. GYMNASIUM-DAY

A sign on the gymnasium door reads, "ALCOHOL ANONYMOUS".

When you first walk in, there is a table with a box of cookies and a container of cupcakes and a jug of tea and cups.

Chairs are lined up in rows for a speaker. At the front is a podium with a microphone.

Several people are already inside eating and drinking as they mingle with each other.

LeeAnn enters gripping her bag close to her dressed in black leggings and a t-shirt and jacket. She takes a cookie from the table and takes a seat in the back close to the exit.

CUT TO:

INT. GYMNASIUM-DAY

The SPEAKER wearing dingy jeans and a wrinkled t-shirt speaks at the podium.

SPEAKER

Now would anyone like to come up and share their experience? Don't be shy.

LeeAnn looks around as does everyone else. She sees Johnathon in the back-he winks at her.

CLAIRE (white, early forties, thin) raises her hand.

SPEAKER

(to Claire)

Come on up.

The gymnasium gives off an applause.

Claire rises and heads to the podium.

The applause dies down.

CLAIRE

Hi, my name is Claire, and I'm an alcoholic.

AUDIENCE

Hi, Claire.

CLAIRE

I've been an alcoholic for about twenty years. I started when I was in my late teens. I had just gotten married to this abusive prick and ended up pregnant. He was a heavy drinker, and so I became a heavy drinker. From the time the sun came up to the time it went down, we drank.

Claire taps her knuckles on the podium.

CLAIRE

Football was on, we drank. Basketball was on, we drank. There wasn't a day where we didn't drink so I got used to it. There was a problem. I drank. My kid wouldn't stop crying, I drank.

Before I knew it, drinking was a part of my life. My daughter had just entered high school, and that's when the drinking completely took over. My daughter hated me. I was late picking her up. Missed her volleyball games. If it wasn't alcohol, I didn't care. Eventually I noticed that I was losing my daughter, and I had to choose. I chose my daughter. I chose my life. I chose to fight. So here I am today able to tell you my story. I'm not sure what you can do with it, but please-continue on with the fight. Thank you.

The gymnasium explodes into applause.

Claire returns to her seat.

LeeAnn gazes at the silver coin in her palm that reads, "ONE DAY SOBER".

CUT TO:

INT. GYMNASIUM-DAY

The meeting is over.

The patrons are hugging and saying their departures.

LeeAnn heads to the exit.

At the exit is a MIDDLE-AGED WOMAN handing out pamphlets.

MIDDLE-AGED WOMAN
(To LeeAnn)
Here you go, sweetheart.

LeeAnn takes the pamphlet and smiles at the woman.

Jonathon approaches LeeAnn.

JONATHON
You made it after all. It only took a decade.

LEEANN
You said I needed to stop drinking. Well, here I am.

JONATHON
One day sober?

LEEANN
One day sober.

JONATHON
Honey, I'm proud of you. Now you look like you're dressed to work out, am I right?

LEEANN
Um? I wouldn't say dressed to work-

JONATHON
You drive here? Meet me at the gym on West 86th street. See you there!

LEEANN
Hey!

Jonathan is already gone.

LEEANN
Um?

INT. GYM-DAY

LeeAnn and Johnathon enter, Jonathon carrying his tote bag.

On the purplish wall reads, "JUDGEMENT FREE ZONE HERE".

Every piece of equipment is occupied with gym-goers ready to drop the weight and in shape.

JONATHON
Meet me in the ab zone. First thing we do is find something else to replace the-
(whispering)
Drinking with.

Jonathon heads into the restroom.

LeeAnn treads to the corner of the gym, takes down a mat, and sits on it. She observes the gym, watching the people get in shape as they try to shed the pounds.

Jonathon enters in sweatpants and a t-shirt. He gets a mat and places it down beside LeeAnn.

JONATHON
Ever been here?

LEEANN
It's been awhile.

JONATHON
Then this is going to hurt, honey.

LEEANN
Be gentle.

Jonathon goes to lay down, and LeeAnn follows suit.

CUT TO:

Jonathon observes LeeAnn lifting weights as her squatter. She is only lifting the bar.

JONATHON
That's only eight. We need two more.

LeeAnn finishes her set, her face damp with sweat.

Jonathon places the bar back.

LeeAnn goes to get up.

JONATHON
Oh, we're not done. Lets add five pounds to each side.

LEEANN
I think not.

JONATHON
I think so.

EXT. GYM PARKING LOT-NIGHT

LeeAnn faces has a glow to it as she emerges from the gym. Could be her face is flushing from the recent workout.

Jonathon, carrying his tote bag, is right behind her.

LEEANN
That was good!

JONATHON
I know. Didn't think you'd feel good after, yeah?

LEEANN

No! Obviously not. You worked me.

JONATHON

This is day one. Don't think it'll get any easier, honey. It won't. After every session, this is where we're coming. Put in the effort, and I will put in the effort.

LEEANN

Sounds like a plan.

JONATHON

You can do this. It just takes work.

LEEANN

I know.

JONATHON

Good. Now I can use some ice cream. I'm thinking vanilla? Maybe a sundae?

LEEANN

We just worked out.

JONATHON

Okay? We didn't give up our lives too, God. Come on!

Jonathon drags LeeAnn to their cars as she chuckles.

INT. BEDROOM/CONDO-DAY

LeeAnn is reading over the pamphlet she received from AA as she eats a frozen tv dinner.

The opening page of the pamphlet, reads, "HOW TO OVERCOME ALCOHOLISM".

Her cell phone rings.

LeeAnn puts the food down answering the call.

LEEANN

(in phone)

Hey, grandma.

GRANDMOTHER (O.S.)

(from phone)

Are you all moved in?

LeeAnn looks over the empty room.

LEEANN
(in phone)
Yup.

GRANDMOTHER (O.S.)
(from phone)
Good. Anything I can do for you?

LEEANN
(in phone)
You've done enough for me.

GRANDMOTHER (O.S.)
(from phone)
I didn't ask all that.

LEEANN
(in phone)
No, grandma. I'm okay. Thank you so much.

GRANDMOTHER (O.S.)
(from phone)
Good. I was just checking in. Call me back.

LEEANN
(in phone)
Okay. I will.

LeeAnn puts her phone to the side. Just as she is about to go for her food, she sees the terrier...eating her food.

LEEANN
Hey!

The terrier takes off with LeeAnn's food.

LEEANN
Hey! Bingo!

LeeAnn goes after him and catches him in a corner. She fights to get the tv dinner from his grip.

LEEANN
No! Bad dog! This food isn't for you.
(to herself)
As a matter of fact, it's shouldn't be for anyone. Yuck.

INT. KITCHEN/CONDO-DAY

LeeAnn is washing dishes in the kitchen. She hears the door open then close.

Walking in on her last leg is Jade dressed in scrubs.

LEEANN

How was work?

JADE

It was good. I saw someone you may remember from school. Brandon Jones.

LEEANN

He's in jail?!

JADE

Yep. Had to clean his teeth. I didn't ask him what he did, but I did tell him to stay out the hell out of here. Jail? It's no fun, but you can't imagine how many people from high school I see.

Jade takes out a bottle of water from the refrigerator.

JADE

How was Bingo?

LEEANN

Why do you call him that?

JADE

That's his name.

LEEANN

He was fine. No problems. I walked him after I got home and then fed him. Oh! He ate some of my ravioli. I hope that's all right. Sorry.

Jade stops chugging her water.

JADE

You fed him ravioli?

LEEANN

I didn't feed him. He ate it when I answered the phone. I left it for like sixty seconds. I didn't see him.

Jade heads into the living room without a word.

LEEANN

I'm really sorry. It won't happen again.

Jade uses a remote to turn on the big screen TV and sits on the sofa.

LEEANN

Are you okay?

LeeAnn hears a studio audience coming from the television. She turns off the faucet, wipes her hands, and returns to her room.

INT. BEDROOM/CONDO-NIGHT

LeeAnn lies on the air mattress, face stained with tears.

LEEANN

I can't take much more of this.

CUT TO:

LeeAnn awakens on the air mattress, glancing at the time. She sits up and glances over the room. Her face is stained with tears.

INT. KITCHEN/CONDO-NIGHT

LeeAnn enters and goes right to the refrigerator grabbing a bottle of wine from inside.

INT. BEDROOM/CONDO-NIGHT

LeeAnn chugs the bottle of wine as she staggers trying to walk in a circular motion. She falls into the air mattress.

The terrier enters the room just reminding LeeAnn of the past day.

She begins packing her things once again. At first she starts to fold her clothes then decides to toss them into her suitcase.

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM/CONDO-NIGHT

LeeAnn sits against the door, her cheeks stained with tears.

She holds the wine bottle and takes a sip.

LEEANN

I don't deserve this. I don't deserve
this. I didn't do anything. I'm a good
person. Right?

LeeAnn let's out a cry then screams in pain. She falls over,
lying on her side as she gazes ahead.

After staring blankly for what seems like minutes, she rises
to her feet and grabs her belongings.

EXT. CONDO PARKING LOT-NIGHT

LeeAnn gently places her flat screen into the back of her
little car, finding little space for it as the car is stuffed
with suitcases and bags.

She jumps inside, turns the engine, and takes off.

INT. APARTMENT HALL-NIGHT

LeeAnn tries to use different keys to get into an apartment.

No luck.

She starts to bang on the door.

No answer.

LeeAnn starts to stagger off until she hears the door
unlocking.

The door opens.

At the door in a robe is a black woman (early sixties,
petite, caramel skin).

MOTHER

Lee? What are you doing here?

LEEANN

Hey, Mom. I-I have to leave Jade's
house.

MOTHER

Who is Jade?

LEEANN

J-Jade is Jasmine's friend. I have to

leave there.

MOTHER

I thought you were staying with
Jasmine?

LEEANN

She kicked me out.

MOTHER

So what? You need a place to stay?

LEEANN

Yes.

MOTHER

Hmph. Well you can stay here for
tonight.

LeeAnn shakes her head no.

LEEANN

Can I just keep some things here?

Mother, with her nose in the air, says:

MOTHER

I guess.

LEEANN

You know what? Never mind.

LeeAnn walks off not looking back.

She hears the door closing behind her.

EXT. PARKING LOT-NIGHT

LeeAnn parks her car in the empty lot.

Just as she opens the door, she hurls out chunks of what was
in her system.

EXT. WHITE RIVER PARK-NIGHT

LeeAnn staggers through the empty park, in the center a canal
filled with water that the moon reflects off of.

At a distance is a stone wall that protects joggers and
walkers from falling into the river below.

LeeAnn staggers up to the wall and leans over it to see the water below.

LEEANN

Hey, Casey. It's been a long time. I'm sorry I haven't visited. I've been busy wreaking havoc on my life. I guess I haven't been the best mom to you, but I hope you forgive me. Since you passed away, things haven't been good. Not good at all, and I'm sorry about that. I'm sure you don't want to see me cry, but here I am.

LeeAnn hears the rustling of leaves from behind her.

LEEANN

I'm being punished, aren't I? And I deserve this punishment. I deserve all of this because I am not a good person. God hates me. I'm not sure what I did, but He hates me. I'm so sorry, Casey. I'm so so sorry!

LeeAnn lets out a painful cry. Everything that she's been holding in is finally seeping out.

EXT. HOSPITAL PARKING LOT-NIGHT

LeeAnn staggers toward a parking garage, a bottle of wine in hand. She climbs the stairs until she's at the top-the fifth floor.

She treads toward the edge and peers over it. Nothing there. Only asphalt.

Though it's only the fifth floor, it's pretty high up.

LeeAnn takes in the sight before climbing the stone wall nearly losing her balance. Our protagonist is prepared to jump. Closing her eyes, LeeAnn takes a deep breath. Just as she is about to step over, she hears her cell phone alarm go off. She takes out her phone.

The phone screen is of a rat terrier, who we now know is Casey, and the time reads, "6:00AM".

LEEANN

Casey?

JONATHON (O.S.)

LeeAnn!

LeeAnn sees Jonathon rushing toward her.

LEEANN

Jonathon?

JONATHON

Get down!

LeeAnn climbs down.

Jonathon is as pale as a sheet of ice.

JONATHON

What were you thinking?!

LEEANN

How did you know I was here?

JONATHON

Hello! GPS! And you sent me this!

Jonathon takes out his phone and shows LeeAnn a picture of the bottom of where she could've fallen.

LEEANN

Oh.

JONATHON

Oh? I am not equipped for this!
Alcohol I can do, but jumping? What
were you thinking?!

Tears start streaming down LeeAnn's face as she sits down and leans back against the wall.

Jonathan sighs and sees the phone in LeeAnn's hand.

JONATHON

What's this?

Jonathon sees a picture of a little rat terrier.

JONATHON

He's so adorable. Your dog?

LEEANN

Yeah. He passed away.

JONATHON

Oh. Honey, I am so sorry. Losing a pet is like losing a family member.

LEEANN

It was like losing a part of me.

JONATHON

Is that when the drinking started?

LEEANN

Yeah. I lost my dog then I lost my job. It's all one, big scene.

Jonathon sits beside LeeAnn, welcoming the silence.

LEEANN

I guess it never gets easier.

JONATHON

Losing the one thing that never judged you or stopped caring for you? No, it doesn't. Why didn't you mention him before?

LEEANN

I didn't want you to judge me. I know he's just a dog-

JONATHON

Honey, he is not just a dog. He was your child. Your best friend. Your rock. Then one day he's not.

LEEANN

That dog treated me better than my own family.

JONATHON

That's why they're considered our best friend. But he wouldn't want to see you like this, would he? How do you think he would feel that he left you, and you're like this? How did he die?

LEEANN

Old age.

Jonathon scoffs.

JONATHON

Old age? I don't do dogs. Lord, I don't do dogs, but I had a best friend who's dog ran away. Never seen him again. You lost yours to 'old age'? Wow. Be thankful for that! Forget your family and friends for now. Focus on your dog. He stayed by your side until he couldn't anymore! Now, I'm not the religious type, but um??

LEEANN

I never thought about it like that.

JONATHON

We never think. We grieve, and that's okay too.

The two gaze at the starry night sky.

EXT. EMERGENCY ROOM-NIGHT

LeeAnn gazes up at the red sign, reading "EMERGENCY ROOM". She glances back at Jonathon.

Jonathon waves.

LeeAnn glances back up at the sign.

INT. EMERGENCY ROOM-DAY

The OFFICE ASSISTANT dressed in scrubs behind the desk checks in a PATIENT.

LeeAnn is second in line. Her hair is disheveled, and her clothes look like they could use a good ironing.

The office assistant gives the patient back their ID.

OFFICE ASSISTANT

Someone will call you up.

PATIENT

Thank you.

The patient walks off.

LeeAnn approaches the office assistant.

OFFICE ASSISTANT

May I help you?

LEEANN
I have suicidal ideation.

The office assistant types away on the computer.

OFFICE ASSISTANT
May I have your ID?

LeeAnn goes into her bag and hands the office assistant her driver's license.

OFFICE ASSISTANT
I'm going to make a copy of this.

The office assistant stands up and heads to the copier.

LeeAnn glances over the emergency room filled with sick people. She hears someone cough in the distance.

The office assistant returns with LeeAnn's ID.

OFFICE ASSISTANT
Here you go, Miss.

LeeAnn takes the driver's license and returns it to her bag.

OFFICE ASSISTANT
Someone will be out to get you
shortly.

LeeAnn nods, okay and heads toward an empty seat in between two patients, both with disheveled hair and dingy jeans.

MONTAGE

INT. PSYCHIATRIC WARD-NIGHT

LeeAnn lies on a hospital bed in a hospital gown.

A TECH enters with two paper cups: one with pills; the other will water.

TECH
Here you go.

LeeAnn takes both cups and swallows the pills with a cup of water.

INT. APARTMENT PARKING LOT-DAY

LeeAnn climbs out of her car, peering up at the office

building. She heads toward the office door. As someone walks out, she walks inside.

INT. APARTMENT LIVING ROOM-DAY

The apartment is completely empty.

The beige carpet is newly fresh as if it has had a deep cleaning.

LeeAnn enters with a book bag hanging over her shoulder. Dangling in her hands are keys to her newly, rented apartment.

CUT TO:

LeeAnn carrying boxes of clothes into the apartment stacking them in the corner.

EXT. TRAIL-DAY

Green leaflets dance to the rhythm of the wind.

LeeAnn in yoga pants and Jonathon in sweatpants jog around the trail, wearing ear phones.

INT. GYMNASIUM-DAY

LeeAnn sits in the back row of the all women's AA meeting as someone speaks at the podium. She nods in agreement with the speaker.

Beside her is Jonathon joined to LeeAnn's hip.

END OF MONTAGE

INT. STEPHANIE OFFICE-DAY

Stephanie is planted in front of her computer screen with a sympathetic look.

LeeAnn sits across from Stephanie, her hands clamped together.

STEPHANIE

I am so sorry you went through all that.

LEEANN

It's not your fault. It's my fault.

STEPHANIE

It's not your fault. LeeAnn, you've had a traumatic few weeks. Months. Did you reach out to the hot line?

LEEANN

I did.

STEPHANIE

Good. Remember you can always reach out to me, and if you can't get me, call the hot line. How are things now?

LEEANN

I'm struggling, but I have a job. I have an apartment.

STEPHANIE

That's wonderful!

LEEANN

Thank you! I'm in AA. I have a sponsor.

STEPHANIE

That is so good! LeeAnn, you're doing it! You know, I saw one of your films the other day.

LEEANN

You did?

STEPHANIE

I did. You were so good! You can act!

LEEANN

Thank you!

STEPHANIE

I'm just so glad you didn't give it up.

LEEANN

I think writing and filming are what kept me going. I know I can be a great writer one day.

STEPHANIE

I have no doubt.

INT. APARTMENT LIVING ROOM-DAY

Boxes are stacked in the corner. The sofa is planted near the patio door, the coffee table directly in front of it, the picture of Casey at his birthday party in the center adjacent to a navy blue vase.

Knock knock.

LeeAnn enters from the hall and answers the door.

Jonathon with his tote bag enters and glances at the bare yet clean living room.

JONATHON

Nice.

LEEANN

That's all?

JONATHON

You need some decorations, honey, but nice.

INT. GYMNASIUM-DAY

Seats are lined up in rows, and most are occupied with AA members.

LeeAnn sits in the back row, listening to a speaker at the podium. Adjacent to her is Jonathon.

EXT. MANOR-NIGHT

The ground is frozen from the snow.

The young and inspired filmmakers are rehearsing a scene behind the manor in the woodland.

LeeAnn observes with a clipboard against her.

Brian approaches LeeAnn-they stand side by side.

BRIAN

LeeAnn, so I saw you post your short film last night. It was really good!

LEEANN

That old thing? I made it so long ago, but thank you!

BRIAN

You know, you're really good. Why not
write something for our production
company and we can produce it?

LeeAnn can't face Brian fast enough.

LEEANN

Wha-Really?

EXT. PARKING LOT-DAY

Jonathon waits at the entrance of the gymnasium, his tote bag
in hand.

Plastered on the door reads "AA MEETING".

LeeAnn treads to him, adjusting her own tote bag. She wears
yoga pants and tennis shoes, matching his own sweat pants and
gym shoes.

JONATHON

You ready?

LEEANN

I'm ready.

Jonathon holds the door open for LeeAnn, and they exit
inside.

END.

FADE OUT.