

WALTER'S ESCAPE

Written by

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Based on
True life

FADE IN:

INT. OLD FOLKS HOME - WALTER'S ROOM - DAY

WALTER BECKER, a seventy-two-year-old, widower, with a slender, healthy-looking physique, is laying in his bed staring at the ceiling just having wakened for the day.

His living space is one room with a window. The bed is sectioned off by a curtain.

A small couch and television make up the rest of the room.

Walter lets out a heavy sigh.

WALTER (V.O.)

Another day of nothing. Breakfast,
TV, lunch, TV, dinner, TV, and if
I'm lucky, death. Come on death.

The noises of the day are starting.

Workers are rushing past his door.

MARGARET, a Nurse Ratched type, sticks her head in the room.

MARGARET

You up, Walter?

WALTER

I'm moving slow.

MARGARET

Take a shower, you're getting ripe.

WALTER

(mocking)

You're getting ripe, shit.

She comes in and opens the curtain.

WALTER (CONT'D)

Have you found my kidney? Someone
stole my kidney.

MARGARET

Funny, Walter. Same joke every
morning.

WALTER

You think it's a joke, wait 'til
they start stealing your body
parts.

MARGARET

Come on and get up and showered.
Breakfast is waiting.

Walter sighs as he slowly rolls out of bed.

INT. OLD FOLKS HOME - CAFETERIA - DAY

Walter is standing in a line holding a tray. He looks around
the room at the tables of blank faces eating in silence.

A disgusted look on his face.

Walter is sitting at a round table with one elderly lady. The
lady does not look up as she devours her food. Walter stares
at his.

WALTER

(droll)

Bland, oatmeal with raisins, it
must be Thursday.

INT. OLD FOLKS HOME - WALTER'S ROOM - DAY

Walter is sitting on the couch staring out the window. The
television is on. The volume is low.

Walter's eyes follow an elderly man in a sedan as he drives
past.

WALTER (V.O.)

Hell, why am I here?

Later that day Walter is still sitting on the couch staring
out the window.

A young, male, ATTENDANT enters his room.

ATTENDANT

Mail, sir.

WALTER

Put it on the bed.

ATTENDANT

Did you get your lunch?

WALTER

Just got back. Now I'm back to sitting.

ATTENDANT

I could take you for a walk outside.

WALTER

No thanks, I don't like the leash.

ATTENDANT

Let me know if you need anything.

Walter mumbles.

The attendant quickly leaves.

Walter thumbs through his mail. He pauses at an invoice from U-STORE. He opens the invoice and scans it.

The invoice reads, *"Due for May \$80.00 for a black BMW."*

Walter stares at the invoice before producing his phone.

INT. U-STORE LOT - DAY

The lot attendant sits with his feet up on his desk and his eyes closed. He fumbles for the phone.

ATTENDANT

U-Store.

INT. OLD FOLKS HOME - WALTER'S ROOM - DAY

He engages his phone.

WALTER

Yes, this is Walter Becker. I have a BMW parked in your lot. Could you tell me if it starts?

INT. U-STORE LOT - DAY

The phone awakens a napping attendant.

ATTENDANT

I'm pretty busy now. Give me your
number and I'll call you back...
Okay, got it.

He goes back to his nap.

INT. OLD FOLKS HOME - WALTER'S ROOM - DAY

Walter is lying on his bed. His phone rings.

WALTER

Yeah... It started. You had to jump
it, okay, but it's ready to go,
great! Thanks, I'll be down in a
few days.

For the first time, Walter is showing excitement.

He goes back to lying on his bed, hands behind his head. He
has a slight smile on his face.

INT. OLD FOLKS HOME - WALTER'S ROOM - NIGHT

Walter is lying on the bed under the covers.

It is quiet.

Suddenly Walter throws the covers off to show he is fully
dressed.

He quickly moves over to the closet and removes a small
suitcase. He fills the suitcase with his clothes and personal
items.

Walter is peering down the hall.

With no one in sight, Walter rushes down the hall and out a
back door.

EXT. OLD FOLKS HOME - NIGHT

Walter walks down the street to a service station.

He makes a call.

Moments later a cab arrives. Walter, is driven away.

The cab arrives at a hotel.

EXT. HOTEL - DAY

A cab arrives.

Walter emerges from his hotel room, suitcase in hand, and enters the cab.

He has a skip in his stride.

EXT./INT. U-STORE LOT - DAY

The cab arrives at the U-Store lot.

Walter enters the office. The attendant is napping at his desk.

WALTER

Hi, I'm Walter and I called about the BMW.

ATTENDANT

(startled)

Oh, yes, right. It's ready to go. You know I usually charge to jump-start a car.

WALTER

Here's twenty.

ATTENDANT

Great! I'll drive it up.

The attendant drives the car up to the front.

ATTENDANT (CONT'D)

Are you going to sell her?

WALTER

(smiling)

Nope, not a chance.

Walter drives off.

Start montage:

The sun is bright as Walter drives down the interstate, windows open, with a big smile on his face.

The Rolling Stones, "Give me shelter," is playing on the radio. Walter is singing along.

Walter is at a service station pumping gas. He finishes and lets out a yelp, drawing attention to himself.

WALTER (CONT'D)

Yeah-hoo!

Walter is sitting in a Denny's devouring a big breakfast. A waitress approaches.

WAITRESS

You must have been hungry, more coffee?

WALTER

I haven't had anything this good in two years. Yes, more coffee, please.

Walter has his arms full as he shops in Trader Joe's.

Walter is admiring himself in a mirror as he shops for new clothes and sunglasses.

Walter, in shorts, is standing on a beach staring at the ocean as the sun sets.

Walter is checking into a hotel.

End montage:

INT. OLD FOLKS HOME - WALTER'S ROOM - DAY

Margaret is standing with a police officer.

MARGARET

He's just gone.

OFFICER

Do you think he was taken against his will?

MARGARET

Well, no, his suitcase and clothes and personal items are gone. It's been two days and he hasn't called or come back.

OFFICER
So, it looks like he left on his
own.

MARGARET
Yeah, but, he's too old to be by
himself.

OFFICER
Is he an invalid?

MARGARET
No, he had a cancerous kidney so he
ended up in here.

OFFICER
So, why am I here?

MARGARET
He's gone! He should be here!

OFFICER
I'm not following? Did you contact
his family?

MARGARET
He has none.

OFFICER
Did he have transportation?

MARGARET
No, not that I'm aware of.

OFFICER
Did he have visitors?

MARGARET
None. Few do.

OFFICER
Why are you concerned? Do you have
reason to believe he's in danger?

MARGARET
No.

OFFICER
There's not much I can do.

MARGARET

Well, he's on social security, they pay for the room.

OFFICER

I guess now they won't. I'm sure you can find a replacement.

MARGARET

All that paperwork.

OFFICER

Does he have a phone?

MARGARET

A phone! I didn't think of that!

She rushes out of the room and returns a minute later with a folder. Flipping through the folder she pulls out her phone and makes a call.

INT. BMW - DAY

Walter, at the wheel, looks at his phone. He answers.

WALTER

(smiling)

This should be good... Warden, I escaped!

INT. OLD FOLKS HOME - WALTER'S ROOM - DAY

MARGARET

Walter! You get back here!

INT. BMW - DAY

WALTER

No way, warden, I've escaped!

INT. OLD FOLKS HOME - WALTER'S ROOM - DAY

MARGARET

Walter, I thought you liked it here?

INT. BMW - DAY

WALTER

I'm not ready to die yet. I'm going to live!

INT. OLD FOLKS HOME - WALTER'S ROOM - DAY

MARGARET

What about your meds? Who's going to feed you?

INT. BMW - DAY

WALTER

I can take a pill and I can put a fork in my mouth. Have a good life, Margaret! You'll have to find someone else to watch die.

Walter snaps his phone shut.

INT. OLD FOLKS HOME - WALTER'S ROOM - DAY

MARGARET

Well! So ungrateful!

OFFICER

I take it he's all right.

MARGARET

If you call insane all right.

INT. BMW - DAY

Walter is driving with one hand and in the other is a map book. He is scanning a map of California.

WALTER

Where to go, where to go. Northern California, beaches, Santa Barbara, Monterey, San Francisco, or Southern California, beaches, Oceanside, and San Diego. And there is Palm Springs and Joshua Tree. I could go see where Graham Parson's died.

(MORE)

WALTER (CONT'D)

No, I think I'll stay away from
death. Vegas, I must stop in Vegas.

Walter pulls the vehicle off to the shoulder.

He pulls a coin from his pocket and flips it.

WALTER (CONT'D)

North it is.

He drives off.

Start montage:

Walter is driving on highway 101. The ocean is on his left.
His windows are down and the radio is blaring.

Walter stops in a parking area overlooking the ocean. He
stands watching the ocean.

Walter arrives in Monterey. Parking his car he strolls down
the street.

Walter exits a restaurant. He window-shops as he slowly walks
back to his car.

Again Walter is driving down the highway. He approaches San
Francisco.

Walter is driving on the hilly streets of the city.

Walter is walking around Fisherman Wharf.

Walter is back at his vehicle. He has the map book on the
hood and he is studying it.

With his finger, he traces a route to Las Vegas.

Walter is driving into Las Vegas at night. A big smile on his
face, music blaring.

End montage:

EXT. LAS VEGAS - NIGHT

Walter parks in a lot behind Harrah's casino.

Walter is walking down the Strip, suitcase in hand.

The sidewalk is crowded as Walter comes upon four prostitutes standing in a circle.

SWEET SUGAR, the youngest looking one of the four, with long blonde hair, and a child-like demeanor, breaks away and locks her arm with his, surprising Walter.

WALTER

Well, what do we have here?

SWEET SUGAR

Your date for the night. Don't you want something sweet, I'm Sweet Sugar.

WALTER

(chuckles)

My date! Don't you think I'm a little old for you?

SWEET SUGAR

Old, you're not old, you're experienced. I bet you could teach me a trick or two.

Walter laughs out loud.

WALTER

Now, little girl, shouldn't you be in school?

SWEET SUGAR

School! I never learned nothing in school.

WALTER

At least no good grammar. That's why you're here.

SWEET SUGAR

There's nothing wrong with being here, it's legal.

WALTER

That it is. Here, here is twenty bucks, get yourself some ice cream.

With that, she grabs the twenty and jogs back to her friends.

Walter stares after her.

Back at her friends, Sweet Sugar proudly shows the twenty.

PROSTITUTE 1

That's it!

PROSTITUTE 2

Oh, honey, you ain't gonna make it out here if that's all you can get.

PROSTITUTE 3

You got that little kid look that old men like, but you better get your skinny little ass humping.

SWEAT SUGAR

But, I didn't have to do anything for it.

INT. CASINO - DAY

Walter is strolling through Caesar's Palace casino. He pauses at an empty Craps table.

DEALER

A little action, sir?

WALTER

I played this game at the home. They had Las Vegas night once a month. It got everyone excited.

DEALER

The home?

WALTER

Yeah, they put me in one of those death traps.

DEALER

Deathtrap?

WALTER

Old folks home! Stay away from them.

DEALER

Yes, sir.

WALTER

I'm thinking I would like to see some shows. What shows should I see?

DEALER

For the early shows, starting at two is the topless can-can.

WALTER

A topless can-can. Now, that's what I'm thinking about.

DEALER

Two dozen beautiful women dancing in a row, you can't beat that for entertainment.

WALTER

(chuckles)

I wouldn't get that in the home.

DEALER

Only in Vegas. It's across the street.

Walter flips him a twenty.

WALTER

Thanks.

INT. SHOWROOM - DAY

Walter is sitting alone at a front table in the sparsely occupied room. A scantily clad waitress approaches. She bends down so her breasts are at his eye level.

WAITRESS

A cocktail, sir.

Walter is a little befuddled.

WALTER

I, a, maybe, just a beer, it's early.

WAITRESS

Yes, sir, I'll be right back.

She returns and again bends down as she serves the beer.

WAITRESS (CONT'D)

There you are, a nice cold one.

He hands her a twenty.

WALTER

Thank you. Keep it. Not much of a crowd?

WAITRESS

It's early. You're lucky you'll get all the attention.

The lights go down and the curtain opens and out parades a row of beautiful topless women.

The last song of the set and the girls walk down a set of steps on the side of the stage.

They parade across the front of the stage. As they pass Walter's table they all bend down and flash their breast inches from his face, some rubbing against him. Walter turns red and has a big smile on his face.

WALTER

You don't get that in the home.

EXT. THE STRIP - DAY

Walter is walking down the strip. He comes upon the same two prostitutes who were with Sweet Sugar. One of them interlocks her arm with his.

PROSTITUTE 1

Like that show? I danced there at one time. Now, why don't we go back to your room and you can play with some real tits?

WALTER

Oh, I think you're too much for me. You might kill me. Give me a heart attack.

PROSTITUTE 1

Is there a better way to go, with a smile on your face?

WALTER

You got me there. But I think I'll go have some lunch.

PROSTITUTE 1

I knew you were hungry for something. I could see it in your eyes. You know where to find me.

WALTER

Okay... Hey, that young girl that was with you, a sweet something...

PROSTITUTE 1

Sweet Sugar? Oh, you like 'em real young?

WALTER

Not really. She just seemed lost.

PROSTITUTE 1

We're all lost, honey, that's why we're out here.

WALTER

I guess.

PROSTITUTE 1

So, you're in the saving business?

WALTER

No, never thought I was. She seemed out of place.

PROSTITUTE 1

That's what we're all like when we start out.

WALTER

Oh.

PROSTITUTE 1

It would be nice if someone helped instead of hurt. A lot of pain in this business.

WALTER

I'm sure.

PROSTITUTE 1
 She'll be out tonight. This is her
 corner.

WALTER
 Okay, thanks.

PROSTITUTE 1
 A, forgetting something.

She holds her hand out.

WALTER
 Oh, yeah.

He puts a twenty-dollar bill in her hand. She clamps her hand
 shut, spins, and walks away.

EXT. THE STRIP - NIGHT

Walter is walking down the crowded street turning his head
 from side to side.

From behind he spies a female with the same hair as Sweet
 Sugar. He taps her on the shoulder.

WALTER
 Hey, working girl, I was looking
 for you.

Startled, she spins around. Walter sees it is not Sweet Sugar
 but a girl Sweet Sugar's age.

Seeing this, a middle-aged couple rush over. The female puts
 her arm around the young girl and the man gets in Walter's
 face.

MAN
 (angry)
 Stay away from my daughter,
 pervert!

WOMEN
 She's only fifteen!

WALTER
 I, a, I, was looking for someone
 else.

WOMEN

Sicko!

Walter has a shocked look as he stumbles away.

Walter walks up and down the strip as he looks with more caution at any female that resembles Sweet Sugar.

He comes upon the two prostitutes from before.

PROSTITUTE 1

Well, if it isn't the guy who likes 'em young. Are you ready to play with experience?

PROSTITUTE 2

One of many. I swear the young ones get all the work.

WALTER

That's not what I'm interested in.

PROSTITUTE 2

Are you one of those save-'em guys?

WALTER

What?

PROSTITUTE 2

You see a poor little lamb and you want to save her from the slaughter?

WALTER

Maybe. Why don't you help this one? She doesn't fit in.

PROSTITUTE 3

We see new ones every day that don't fit in.

PROSTITUTE 2

All they do is take our money.

PROSTITUTE 1

Why do you want to help her? Does she remind you of your daughter?

WALTER

No, that's not it... I don't know.
It just seems right.

PROSTITUTE 1

It'll cost you.

WALTER

I'm sure. Tell her I'm looking for
her, Walter Becker, over at
Caesar's. I'll be leaving in a
couple days.

After an exhaustive search late into the night, Walter enters
Caesar's Palace.

EXT. CAESAR'S PALACE - DAY

It's early morning as Walter emerges from the hotel, suitcase
in hand.

A valet arrives with his vehicle.

INT. BMW - DAY

Walter is driving down a very quiet strip.

Walter's attention goes to a woman coming out of a hotel. He
stops his vehicle in the barren street and watches as she
staggers and falls. His expression turns to concern as he
watches her force herself up.

As she staggers in front of his vehicle he sees it's Sweet
Sugar. Her face is bloody and bruised and one eye is swollen
shut.

A stunned look on Walter's face as he exits his vehicle and
runs to help as she begins to fall again.

WALTER

Honey, honey, what happened?

Sweet Sugar mumbles something unintelligible as she collapses
in Walter's arms.

INT. HOSPITAL - DAY

A worried-looking Walter is pacing in a hall.

A nurse approaches.

WALTER

What?

NURSE

Are you a family member?

WALTER

No, no. I found her. How is she?

NURSE

Not good. Someone worked her over pretty good. Do you know who did this?

WALTER

I saw her coming out of a hotel I gave the police the information.

NURSE

Okay. Here comes the doctor.

The nurse leaves as the doctor approaches.

WALTER

Is she going to make it?

DOCTOR

Yes, she's beaten pretty bad. Cracked ribs, bruised spleen, a couple of teeth missing, and internal bleeding. Did you bring her in?

WALTER

Yes.

DOCTOR

Just in time. She's going to be healing for a while.

WALTER

Okay, but she'll be all right?

DOCTOR

Physically. She was raped, tore up pretty bad. She will need to get some therapy.

WALTER

Okay. Can I see her?

DOCTOR

No, we put her in a coma. Maybe in a few days.

WALTER

Okay, doctor.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Sweet Sugar is sitting up in her bed. Her bruised and battered face shows signs of healing.

Walter, carrying some magazines and a box of chocolates, sticks his head in the door.

WALTER

Can I come in?

SWEET SUGAR

Who are you?

Walter enters and places the chocolates and magazines on the bed.

WALTER

Walter. I brought you in.

SWEET SUGAR

I was a mess.

WALTER

Yes, you were. You're looking much better.

SWEET SUGAR

Except for my teeth.

She grins wide to show two missing teeth.

WALTER

They can be replaced.

SWEET SUGAR

Yeah, if I ever get any money.

WALTER

Worry about that later. You're healing nicely. You were in a coma for a few days. It's good you didn't see yourself then.

Sweet Sugar starts to tear.

SWEET SUGAR

I know. They showed me pictures.

WALTER

I think they want you to quit that business. And so do I.

SWEET SUGAR

Why! Why do you care? I don't know you?

WALTER

I don't know. Maybe, it's because we're both lost soles.

SWEET SUGAR

What, you got no kids?

WALTER

Nope, no kids and my wife of thirty-eight years died.

SWEET SUGAR

Oh.

WALTER

How about you, any family?

SWEET SUGAR

Not that cares. I never had a dad. My mom was busy with her boyfriends. She loved her new boyfriend more than me and she thought it was okay for him to have sex with me.

WALTER

Terrible! How old were you?

SWEET SUGAR

Thirteen.

WALTER

Oh, God. That explains a lot.

SWEET SUGAR

I lasted until I was fifteen.

WALTER

So, you have no one?

Sweet Sugar sadly shakes her head.

WALTER (CONT'D)

Well, there must be a reason I'm here. What did the doctor say?

SWEET SUGAR

The doctor said I could get out of here in a couple of days but I have to take it easy.

WALTER

Where to then?

SWEET SUGAR

Back to work. I have to pay rent. I'll lose my place.

WALTER

You have a place?

SWEET SUGAR

With four other girls.

WALTER

What kind of place is that?

SWEET SUGAR

A couch if I'm lucky, otherwise a floor in a corner.

WALTER

That sounds horrible.

SWEET SUGAR

Better than home. For the most part, the girls are nice. Except for the ones that steal your stuff.

WALTER

Boy, talk about a rough start in life.

SWEET SUGAR

It is what it is.

WALTER

Yeah, but where does it end up? This is terrible.

SWEET SUGAR

(looking down)

I know.

WALTER

Why don't I put you up in a hotel for a while so you can heal?

SWEET SUGAR

Why?

WALTER

Someone has to help.

SWEET SUGAR

That's never happened before.

WALTER

Maybe it's time.

WALTER (CONT'D)

You could come with me on the road.

Sweet Sugar looks up, surprised.

SWEET SUGAR

You mean, be your girl.

WALTER

No, no, not like that. More like a traveling companion.

SWEET SUGAR

Travel where?

WALTER

Everywhere. You must have some family you can count on, I could take you to them.

SWEET SUGAR

My aunt, aunt Sissy. She was nice to me but she didn't like my mom.

WALTER

Where does she live?

SWEET SUGAR

Florida.

WALTER

Where does your mom live?

SWEET SUGAR

Ohio. But don't take me there.

WALTER

I won't. That sounds like the hell you're in now.

SWEET SUGAR

(sad - head down)

Yeah.

WALTER

(suddenly upbeat)

So, what do you think?

SWEET SUGAR

I have no money.

WALTER

It's on me. Hotel rooms, food, and whatever. Think of it as an adventure.

SWEET SUGAR

Why not. This kind of soured me on Vegas.

WALTER

Good. You can help me drive.

SWEET SUGAR

Drive, I've never done that.

WALTER

Really. How old are you?

SWEET SUGAR

Fifteen. I'll be sixteen in two months.

WALTER

Two months. I guess the first thing is to teach you how to drive.

SWEET SUGAR

Wow!

WALTER

Now how about your name.

SWEET SUGAR

It's Michelle, Mickey, Mckenzie.

WALTER

No more Sweet Sugar.

SWEET SUGAR

No more Sweet Sugar.

EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY

Walter with Mickey as his passenger stop in front of a small unkempt apartment building. Mickey has healed some more.

MICKEY

(Sweet Sugar)

I'll be right back.

She jumps out of the vehicle and runs into the building.

Moments later, she returns with a paper grocery bag.

WALTER

That's it?

MICKEY

(tearing)

They stole all my stuff! They stole my clothes!

WALTER

(sad)

I'm sorry.

MICKEY

All I have is some pictures of my friends from school. I lost my phone!

WALTER

It is time for a new start.

Start montage:

Walter is sitting patiently as Mickey is trying on clothes and shoes at a department store. Mickey has a big smile.

Walter and Mickey are in a phone store being sold a phone.

Mickey is in a dentist's chair. Mickey comes out to the waiting room and with a big smile, showing Walter her new teeth.

A nervous Walter is sitting next to an equally nervous Mickey as she attempts to navigate the BMW in a parking lot.

A more confident Mickey with a more relaxed Walter is driving down a residential street.

Walter is accompanying Mickey to the department of motor vehicles.

A smiling Mickey exits the building proudly holding up her new driver's license.

End montage:

INT. BMW - DAY

Walter is driving as they leave Las Vegas.

WALTER

Goodbye Las Vegas!

MICKEY

Yeah, good riddance!

WALTER

I'll probably never be back.

MICKEY

I hear that. So, where do we go?

WALTER

Where would you like to go? Where haven't you been?

MICKEY

I haven't been anywhere. I went to Vegas because that was the only place I heard of and I had only enough money for a bus ticket.

WALTER

There must be someplace you want to see?

Mickey thinks for a minute.

MICKEY

I know, Disneyland! My mom said I was conceived on a trip she took to Disneyland!

WALTER

Disneyland. That explains, Mickey. Why not.

EXT. DISNEYLAND - DAY/NIGHT

Start montage:

A very excited Mickey and Walter are entering Disneyland.

For the first time, Mickey is showing her young age with a big smile on her face.

Mickey and Walter are buying Mickey's ears.

Mickey and Walter are on Splash mountain.

Mickey and Walter are on Matterhorn bobsled.

Mickey and Walter are on a Jungle cruise.

Mickey and Walter are on the Pirates of the Caribbean.

Mickey and Walter are on It's a Small world. Mickey is laughing hysterically as Walter looks annoyed.

Mickey and Walter are sitting at an outside restaurant. Mickey is pointing and smiling at her mouse-shaped pancakes.

Mickey and Walter are watching the Disneyland parade and fireworks.

An exhausted Walter and Mickey are walking out of Disneyland and down the street to a hotel.

They both still have their ears on.

End montage:

EXT. HOTEL - NIGHT

Walter unlocks a hotel room door. He hands Mickey the key.

WALTER

I'm exhausted. It was quite a day.
Lock your door.

Mickey is holding a picture of her and Walter on a ride.

MICKEY

Okay. I'll never forget this day.
Thank you.

She kisses him on the cheek before entering her room.

He enters the room next to hers.

EXT. HOTEL - DAY

Mickey, beaming from the day before, is knocking on Walter's door.

WALTER

Good morning.

MICKEY

(excited)
Hi. Are we ready to go again?
What's next?

WALTER

Well, breakfast, then I thought we
would go to the beach. Have you
ever seen the ocean?

MICKEY

The ocean! No! Let's go!

WALTER

Okay. I'll check out, you put our luggage in the car.

INT. BMW - DAY

Driving through the city, Mickey is speaking rapid-fire. Walter is quiet and sports a big grin.

MICKEY

Disneyland was just the coolest! I want to go back someday! Maybe I could work there! I've seen pictures of models on the beach. I thought I could be a model but all the girls want to be models. I'm not pretty enough. I need to get a tan. I don't have a bathing suit. What's it like swimming in the ocean, is it cold, are there sharks?

Walter burst out laughing.

WALTER

It's so nice to see you excited. And it's nice to hear you thinking about doing something. People do make a career at Disney.

MICKEY

I never thought of a future before. I was always day to day, just surviving.

The vehicle climbs a hill and on the other side is the ocean. Mickey reacts in amazement.

MICKEY (CONT'D)

Oh, my God! Look at it, It's huge!

Walter laughs again.

WALTER

Yes, it is. Water covers seventy-one percent of the Earth..

MICKEY

It does?

WALTER

See how many things there are for
you to learn.

MICKEY

Yeah.

They drive through the streets and down the peninsula in
Newport Beach until they come to a General Store.

They park on the street. As Mickey exits the vehicle she
spies a bathing suit store across the street and suddenly
gets excited.

MICKEY (CONT'D)

Walter look!

She points to the store across the street.

WALTER

I see.

MICKEY

Can I go look?

WALTER

Yes. I'll be over when I'm done
here.

Mickey dashes across the street as Walter enters the General
Store.

INT./EXT GENERAL STORE - DAY

Walter is perusing the magazines. He picks up one titled,
GED.

Walter emerges from the store with an arm full of items for
the beach. He places the GED study magazine on Mickey's seat.

INT. BEACH STORE - DAY

Walter enters to find Mickey in a skimpy bathing suit. She is
looking in a full-length mirror and is helped by two
beautiful women in skimpy bathing suits. Walter stands off to
the side until he is noticed.

MICKEY
(to Walter)
Is this too much?

WALTER
I was thinking not enough.

WOMAN 1
Your daughter is growing up. She
has quite a figure.

MICKEY
Oh, he's not my dad.

WOMAN 1
(cold)
Oh.

MICKEY
It's not like that. He's nice.

WOMAN 1
I hope so.

WALTER
Nothing to worry about here...
Maybe something that shows less.
I'll wait outside.

MICKEY
Can I get a suit?

WALTER
Yes, you can get a couple. But
let's try a little modesty.

Walter exits and stands out front.

WOMAN 2
Is this all right? Nothing strange
going on here?

MICKEY
No. He real nice, nothing funny. He
rescued me.

WOMAN 2
Okay, he's old enough to be your
grandfather.

Walter and Mickey exit the store. Mickey is wearing a more modest suit under a camisole and a big brim hat. Her face shows happiness.

As Mickey enters the vehicle she picks up the GED study magazine from her seat.

MICKEY

What's this?

WALTER

I thought you might like to start on your path to your future.

MICKEY

Oh.

WALTER

You see, my life is ending. I made my way. I went to school and became an engineer. Your life is just starting.

MICKEY

Oh.

WALTER

This is the first step.

MICKEY

What should I do?

WALTER

That's for you to decide.

MICKEY

I don't know.

WALTER

One step at a time. But for now, we're having fun.

EXT. BEACH - DAY

Start montage:

Mickey is running into the waves. Walter is watching.

Mickey is building a sandcastle with two small children. Walter is watching with a big grin on her face.

Mickey is playing volleyball with a group her age and Walter is relaxing in a beach chair.

Walter and Mickey are eating hot dogs at a stand.

The sun is going down and Walter and Mickey are watching the sunset.

End montage:

INT. HOTEL - LOBBY - NIGHT

A tired-looking Walter and Mickey are checking in. The desk clerk eyes them suspiciously.

WALTER
Any rooms left?

CLERK
We are not that kind of hotel.

WALTER
What kind?

The clerk nods at Mickey.

WALTER (CONT'D)
(incensed)
She's my daughter!

CLERK
Oh.

WALTER
And besides, we'll have separate rooms!

CLERK
Oh, I'm sorry. We can't be too careful. We have two rooms next to each other and it is very safe here.

WALTER
That will do.

Walter unlocks Mickey's door and hands her the key. She reaches up and kisses him on the cheek before entering her room.

MICKEY
Good night, dad.

Walter stands stunned for a second. A big smile slowly forms.

INT. BMW - DAY

Walter is driving down the road, the windows are open and music is playing. Mickey is reading her study book. Walter looks over and grins.

MICKEY
This looks hard.

WALTER
At first. You probably never had anyone help you develop good study habits.

MICKEY
No. My mom was always too busy partying with whoever she brought home.

WALTER
The good news is you can change that.

MICKEY
Looks hard.

WALTER
It's not. Do you know how you get smart?

MICKEY
No. I just know, I'm not.

WALTER
You read. Reading exercises your brain. Like working out exercises your muscles. The brain is a muscle.

MICKEY
Really.

WALTER

And it doesn't matter what you read.

MICKEY

Really.

WALTER

I started reading comics when I was young. Then I went on to something more sophisticated, Mad magazine.

MICKEY

Mad magazine?

WALTER

Yeah, you had to be there. Different time.

MICKEY

Oh. Math, I don't get math.

WALTER

I can help you with that. Being an engineer, I had to do a lot of math.

MICKEY

Why an engineer?

WALTER

It's what interests me. I was always taking things apart.

MICKEY

Oh.

WALTER

You're only sixteen. You have time.

MICKEY

I guess.

Walter gives her a sly look.

WALTER

It'll be hard at first. You had a bad start.

MICKEY

I know. I never thought I would have to be anything. Never thought I could.

WALTER

Nobody told you, you can be anything you set your mind to. Wait till you get to college.

MICKEY

College!

WALTER

Sure why not.

Mickey stares at the floor.

WALTER (CONT'D)

Don't worry, you'll get it.

MICKEY

I'm not so sure.

WALTER

I'll tell you what, I have an old friend in Omaha, we'll work our way there. She a retired high school teacher. She can help you.

MICKEY

Okay. Where to now?

WALTER

We are going to look at a big hole in the ground, It's called the Grand Canyon.

MICKEY

I've heard of it. Started by a river?

WALTER

Exactly. See you just need information. You can do this.

Mickey stares out the windshield.

EXT. GRAND CANYON - DAY

It's late in the day and the sun is starting to set.

Mickey and Walter are standing on the rim staring out into the canyon in silence. Mickey's eyes are wide and her mouth is open.

WALTER

Well?

MICKEY

Unbelievable.

Walter chuckles.

WALTER

Yes, it is.

MICKEY

So, that little river, all the way down there, made this canyon?

WALTER

That's right.

MICKEY

Unbelievable!

WALTER

And tomorrow, we'll ride mules down to it.

MICKEY

No! Are you sure?

WALTER

Trust me.

Mickey stares down to the river.

INT. GRAND CANYON - GENERAL STORE - NIGHT

Walter and Mickey are strolling through the clothes aisle. Walter picks up a cowboy hat and puts it on her head.

WALTER

What do you think?

MICKEY

It's big. I've never worn a cowboy hat before. Do I need one?

WALTER

You will tomorrow.

MICKEY

Why?

WALTER

We're going to ride mules down the canyon.

MICKEY

What? Mules? Aren't they like donkeys?

WALTER

Yes, only bigger and more sure-footed.

MICKEY

We're going down the canyon, on a mule?

WALTER

Yes.

MICKEY

Why?

WALTER

It's fun and educational.

MICKEY

So, this is more of that education you were talking about.

WALTER

Right.

MICKEY

Oh... What if the mule falls?

WALTER

They don't. They're very sure-footed and they do this every day.

MICKEY

Oh. Well, okay. Something tells me this isn't going to be as much fun as Disneyland.

WALTER

A different kind of fun. Now you'll need a hat, some boots, and jeans and long sleeve shirt.

They continue shopping.

EXT. GRAND CANYON - DAY

Walter and Mickey, decked out in western wear, are with a tour group mounting mules.

Single file, they descend the canyon. Mickey is apprehensive Walter is relaxed.

GUIDE

Now, some of you or all of you are not familiar with riding a mule.

MICKEY

I'll say.

GUIDE

Just let the animal do the work. They are sure-footed and they know what they are doing.

WALTER

(to Mickey)

Look at the cliffs. You'll see the different rock formations. This shows the different time periods.

MICKEY

(uninterested)

Oh.

WALTER

You have to imagine the river starting at the top and cutting its way through the rock, amazing.

MICKEY

I guess.

WALTER
This took millions and millions of
years.

MICKEY
Oh.

The group reaches the bottom and Phantom Ranch.

GUIDE
Okay, folks. This is it.

MICKEY
(to Walter)
What's this?

WALTER
This is where we spend the night.

MICKEY
Here?

WALTER
Yes, in a bunkhouse.

MICKEY
No comfortable hotel room?

WALTER
Not tonight.

MICKEY
Ugh.

Walter chuckles.

WALTER
They provide nightshirts. It gives
you the real cowboy experience.

MICKEY
I'm hungry. Is there food?

WALTER
Of course. We eat at a table with
all these people.

MICKEY
Sounds quaint.

Walter chuckles again.

WALTER

Maybe the lesson to learn here is to get a good education so you can have a comfortable life.

Mickey stares and shrugs her shoulders.

MICKEY

Seems like you're always trying to teach me stuff.

WALTER

I'm trying to instill the love of learning.

MICKEY

Oh.

WALTER

Bingo! You give a man a fish he eats for a day, you teach a man to fish, he eats for life.

MICKEY

We're going fishing?

WALTER

A, no. Well, fly fishing is something I've never tried. Looks like Colorado is our next stop.

INT. BMW - NIGHT

The sun is setting as they drive past a welcome to Colorado sign.

Mickey is asleep in her seat.

Walter's attention is grabbed by a row of cabins and a small neon vacancy sign he drives past.

WALTER

That's it.

He makes a U-turn and enters the driveway.

He shakes Mickey awake.

MICKEY

What, what.

WALTER
We're at our new home. At least for
a while.

MICKEY
Where are we?

WALTER
Colorado. Beautiful Colorado.

MICKEY
Oh.

Mickey scans the area.

MICKEY (CONT'D)
What are these?

WALTER
Cabins. Cabin living.

MICKEY
You mean like the Grand Canyon?

WALTER
Yup.

MICKEY
Well, we have the clothes for it.

WALTER
Yup.

MICKEY
Are we going to the bathroom in
another outhouse?

WALTER
You bet. That's the fun of it.

MICKEY
My idea of fun is a shower and room
service.

WALTER
Next stop... We'll hang out here
for a few days.

EXT. ROCKY MOUNTAIN CABINS - NIGHT

Coming out of the main cabin, (office,) to greet them, is ALICE, a plump, cheery, middle-aged, woman who is never without a smile and her apron.

ALICE
Hello, folks. We've got one cabin left. I'm Alice and me and my husband own this place.

WALTER
Perfect. I'm Walter.

ALICE
The room has one bed and a cot.

WALTER
That will be fine.

ALICE
Come in, come in, we'll get you signed in.

INT. ROCKY MOUNTAIN CABINS - OFFICE - NIGHT

The office is small and neat with a counter and a couch and a table for coffee in the morning.

ALICE
I'll need to see an ID.

Walter obliges.

ALICE (CONT'D)
And this is your daughter?

WALTER
Yes, Mickey.

Mickey searches her purse.

MICKEY
I have a driver's license.

ALICE
That's okay dear, this will do.

Out of the back room comes WILBER, a spry, wisp of a man who is full of energy.

ALICE (CONT'D)

This is my husband, Wilber. If you need anything he can take care of it.

WALTER

Okay.

ALICE

He'll show you to your cabin.

WALTER

Thank you.

MICKEY

Thank you.

WALTER

Is there fly fishing around here?

WILBER

Sure is. I'll take you over to Jeb's when you're ready.

WALTER

Okay, thanks.

ALICE

There's also plenty of hiking trails. When you go out stay to the trails, they are marked. And come by and get some bear spray.

MICKEY

(concerned)

Bears?

WILBER

Yup, bears. They're why we keep this place so clean.

WALTER

We'll do our part.

WILBER

(leans towards Mickey)

They can smell food a mile away. And they like to eat little girls.

ALICE

Wilber! Don't mind him, he's a fool.

Wilber snickers.

ALICE (CONT'D)

We haven't had an attack in three years.

MICKEY

(swallows hard)

Attack?

Walter has a big grin.

EXT. ROCKY MOUNTAIN CABINS - NIGHT

The guests are gathered around a campfire. Off to one side is a pig on a spit and next to that is a table filled with food.

The guests are lounging in handmade cane chairs.

A guitar duel is playing cowboy songs.

WALTER

(To Mickey)

This is the life. A long hike and now a feast by a campfire with good folks.

MICKEY

I liked it more than I thought I would.

WALTER

It's the people. Places like this attract the best, nature lovers.

MICKEY

Everyone is nice. Not like Vegas. You can't trust people in Vegas.

WALTER

That's right. See, you just learned that people are different in different places. Who you associate with decides how happy you will be.

MICKEY

I guess.

WALTER

That's why you want to pick a career that surrounds you with happy people.

MICKEY

Is that what you did?

WALTER

Sure was. I had a good partner in my firm and a great wife... I miss her.

Walter has a tear in his eye. Mickey notices.

MICKEY

Wow, she must have been something.

WALTER

She sure was. She was beautiful and smart. She was a pediatrician.

MICKEY

A baby doctor.

WALTER

Yes, she loved it.

Walter produces a picture from his wallet and hands it to Mickey.

MICKEY

A redhead.

WALTER

That she was, an Irish lass straight from Dublin. That's where I met her.

MICKEY

Wow.

WALTER

I was on vacation. I twisted my ankle and she was working at the hospital I went to. Love at first sight.

MICKEY
For both of you?

WALTER
More me than her. She had just become a doctor and that was her focus.

MICKEY
Oh.

WALTER
I found out where her office was and booked an appointment, several appointments. After the third one, she caught on and told me I had to ask her out and quit taking up her patient's time.

Walter chuckles.

WALTER (CONT'D)
She was direct like that.

MICKEY
How did she end up here?

WALTER
I had to get back to the states and get back to work. I called every day and finally wore her down. She came to visit and I turned on the charm. When her three-week visit was up, I asked her to marry me.

MICKEY
After three weeks, what did she say?

WALTER
She said yes. I can be quite charming.

MICKEY
And you were together ever since.

WALTER

That's right. Well, she had to go back home and tell her parents and quit her job but we spoke every day.

MICKEY

Wow.

WALTER

And we were madly in love to the end.

MICKEY

Wow.

WALTER

That's what you need to strive for.

MICKEY

Marry a doctor.

WALTER

A doctor or someone who has something going on.

MICKEY

Marrying a doctor would be nice.

WALTER

It would. You find them in hospitals.

MICKEY

So, you're saying I should work in a hospital?

WALTER

Why not. It's a great career.

Mickey shrugs her shoulders.

MICKEY

How come no kids?

WALTER

We tried for a while. We found out she couldn't have any.

MICKEY

That must have been hard.

WALTER

At first. We adjusted. We became a family of dogs.

MICKEY

Oh.

WALTER

Anyway, we're leaving tomorrow.

MICKEY

Okay, where to.

WALTER

Omaha. Off to see an old friend.

MICKEY

Okay.

WALTER

She's the retired teacher I told you about.

MICKEY

Okay.

INT. BMW - DAY

The vehicle passes a sign that shows, Omaha next 9 exits.

Mickey is driving and Walter is reading a newspaper.

MICKEY

We're here. It looks like a big city.

WALTER

It is. All cities look alike. They all have the same stuff.

MICKEY

Looks like it. Which way?

WALTER

Straight through to Council Bluffs. Over the river.

The vehicle stops on a residential street in front of a well cared for, three-story, Victorian house.

WALTER (CONT'D)

This is it.

EXT. SADIE'S HOUSE - DAY

They walk up the steps onto a large porch and Walter knocks. After a minute he knocks again. No answer.

WALTER

Let's go around back.

As they reach the backyard they encounter, working in her garden, SADIE, a slender, spry woman of Walters age. She has long blonde turned gray hair worn in a ponytail.

WALTER (CONT'D)

Well, hello, stranger.

Startled, Sadie turns and drops her spade. Her expression turns from surprise to a big smile.

She runs to Walter and throws her arms around him.

SADIE

Oh, Walter!

She tears. Mickey looks on in amazement. Walter smiles.

WALTER

Sadie, it's been a long time.

SADIE

Too long. We've both been married and we both lost our spouses. And here you are.

WALTER

And here we are.

Sadie has not let go. She looks up and sees Mickey.

SADIE

Oh.

WALTER

This is Mickey, my traveling companion.

SADIE

Oh, wonderful meeting you.

Sadie releases her grip on Walter and gives Mickey a big hug, startling her.

WALTER

We're making our way to Florida to see her aunt.

SADIE

Well, I'm glad you're here now. Are you going to stay awhile? You're welcome to stay as long as you like. There's plenty of room.

WALTER

Why not. We're in no hurry.

SADIE

Good.

WALTER

(to Mickey)

Honey, would you get our bags.

MICKEY

Sure.

SADIE

Take them in the front door, dear, it's open.

MICKEY

Okay.

Sadie grabs on to Walter again. She beams as she looks into his face.

SADIE

Oh, Walter.

She puts her head on his chest. He chuckles.

INT. SADIE'S HOUSE - DAY

Walter and Mickey are lounging in the living room. Sadie is busy in the kitchen.

The house is well cared for and filled with antiques.

MICKEY

She sure seems nice.

WALTER

Oh, she is. My first love.

MICKEY

Really.

WALTER

Yeah. I was about a year older than you are now. We were high school sweethearts.

MICKEY

Wow. What happened?

WALTER

We went to different colleges. We drifted apart.

MICKEY

Oh.

WALTER

I guess you never stop thinking about your first love.

Sadie enters the room.

SADIE

Lunch is almost ready and I put your bags in your rooms.

WALTER

Such a host.

SADIE

I don't get visitors very often. My boys are both in Europe. Both became military men like their father.

WALTER

Good for them. Did they get married?

SADIE

Yes, one married an Italian, and the other married a French girl.
(MORE)

SADIE (CONT'D)

Beautiful women. And I have three grandchildren.

She removes a family photo from the wall and hands it to Mickey. Mickey hands it to Walter.

SADIE (CONT'D)

They'll come back to the states when their tours are over. In a few years.

WALTER

You must be excited?

SADIE

Oh, I am. I'm counting the days until I can be a grandma. How about you?

WALTER

No kids. It wasn't in the cards. I had a wonderful wife. I lost her three years ago.

SADIE

It's been eight for me. And how about you dear, where's your family?

MICKEY

I don't really have one.

Sadie looks at Walter.

SADIE

Looks like you have one now.

Walter and Mickey smile at each other.

SADIE (CONT'D)

Well, lunch is ready.

The three are sitting at the dining room table eating sandwiches and salads.

WALTER

Um, good food.

MICKEY

Sure is.

SADIE

Fresh vegetables from the garden
and homemade bread. Have you ever
made bread, dear?

MICKEY

No, never.

SADIE

I'll teach you.

MICKEY

Okay.

WALTER

Looks like we made a good stop.

SADIE

I hope so. Stay as long as you
like.

WALTER

Mickey is working on getting her
GED, I thought you could help her.

SADIE

I sure could. I would love to.
Education is everything. I was your
age when I thought about being a
teacher.

MICKEY

Did you like it?

SADIE

I loved it.

MICKEY

I haven't thought about what I
could be.

WALTER

You can be anything you decide.

SADIE

After your GED, there's a community
college outside of town. A good
place to start.

WALTER
(chuckles)
Looks like we're going to be here a
while.

SADIE
Why not?

INT. SADIE'S HOUSE - MICKEY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Mickey is in her bed, awake. The sound of Walter and Sadie making love filters through the walls. Mickey puts a pillow over her head.

EXT. SADIE'S HOUSE - GARDEN - DAY

Sadie and Mickey are working in the garden. Walter is mowing the yard. Sadie is teaching Mickey.

SADIE
Now, take this pitchfork and place
it a foot back from the plant. That
way you won't damage any of the
potatoes.

MICKEY
Okay.

Mickey digs out a mound of potatoes and looks in amazement.

MICKEY (CONT'D)
Wow, look at all those potatoes!
That's where they come from?

Sadie chuckles.

SADIE
Yes, darling, that's where they
come from.

Sadie bends down and picks a pod of peas. She pops opens the pod and hands it to Mickey.

SADIE (CONT'D)
Here, taste these.

Mickey pops the peas in her mouth.

MICKEY

Wow, they're sweet.

SADIE

Yes, sweet peas. Delicious. Go ahead and take this pail and pick the pods that are two to three inches long and show the peas popping out.

MICKEY

Okay.

SADIE

We'll have them for supper.

MICKEY

Is this where you get all your food?

SADIE

A lot of it, vegetables anyway. Not meat or fruit.

MICKEY

Oh.

SADIE

My fruit comes from a farmer's market and the meat comes from the store.

MICKEY

Oh.

SADIE

This is all new to you.

MICKEY

Yeah. I thought food came from a drive-through.

Sadie laughs.

SADIE

That's not good for you. All that fat and salt.

Walter turns off the mower and walks over to the two.

SADIE (CONT'D)

All done?

WALTER

All done.

SADIE

That's a big help.

WALTER

I don't know how you keep up all by yourself.

SADIE

When Jim died it was all left up to me, had to.

WALTER

It's good we're here.

SADIE

Yes, it is.

Sadie and Walter's eyes meet. Mickey notices and smiles.

INT. SADIE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Sadie and Mickey are at the dining room table. Sadie is helping her study.

Walter is in the living room reading a newspaper.

He looks over and stares.

WALTER

This is just like a family.

Mickey and Sadie look up and smile.

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Mickey is sitting across from Walter and Sadie having finished their pizza.

Walter and Sadie are holding hands.

Out of the back of the restaurant comes several employees singing happy birthday and carrying a cake.

Mickey reacts with amazement.

When the employees leave, Sadie pulls a card and a large manila envelope from her coat.

SADIE
These are for you, dear.

MICKEY
What?

Mickey opens the card first. A look of surprise fills her face.

MICKEY (CONT'D)
Oh, my God!

SADIE
That's from both of us.

MICKEY
Five-thousand-dollars!

WALTER
We thought you might like to get
some clothes or maybe a down
payment on a car.

Sadie hands her a pamphlet.

MICKEY
What's this?

SADIE
A brochure on the community
college.

WALTER
If you're still thinking about
going.

MICKEY
I am. Why not. I'm still not sure
what I want to be.

WALTER
It will come to you.

Mickey picks up the manila envelope.

MICKEY
What's this?

SADIE
It came for you this morning.

Mickey opens the envelope and stares, a tear forms in her eye.

MICKEY
I passed.

Walter and Sadie smile.

SADIE
You did.

WALTER
You did great. I'm proud.

MICKEY
I have a diploma!

WALTER
Yes, you do. That's a great start.
Seventeen, right on track.

Mickey's eyes go from the check to the diploma.

MICKEY
I could get my own car?

WALTER
You'll need your own car.

Mickey's watering eyes go from Walter's to Sadie's and back to Walter's.

MICKEY
Thank you so much. You saved me.

Sadie and Walter smile wide.

EXT. SADIE'S HOUSE - GARDEN - DAY

Mickey, under Sadie's supervision, is rototilling the garden.

Walter is painting the garage. Walter pauses to wipe the window and peer inside.

WALTER

Hey, Sadie, is there a car in the garage?

SADIE

Oh, yes. I forgot about that.

WALTER

Why is it there?

SADIE

That was the first car Jim and I dated in. We kept it for a memento. I haven't been in there for years.

WALTER

Really.

SADIE

If you can get the door open, take a look.

Walter wrestles the double doors open.

Sadie and Mickey join him to stare at the car which is caked with dirt.

WALTER

Wow.

MICKEY

Looks like junk. The tires are flat.

WALTER

To you it looks like junk, to me, it looks like a classic 1968 Mustang that needs to be restored.

SADIE

Do you think you can do something with it?

WALTER

I know I can.

SADIE

Have at it. Looks like we found you a car, dear.

MICKEY
(apprehensive)
Okay.

Start montage:

The car has been pushed out of the garage and sits in the backyard.

Walter and Mickey are washing it.

The hood is up and Walter is instructing Mickey as they take the engine apart.

The car now sits on blocks and Walter is removing the brakes.

A tow truck arrives and a worker is putting on new tires.

Walter sits in the driver's seat. He turns the key as Mickey anxiously watches.

The car starts and Walter and Mickey hug and holler. Sadie comes out of the house and joins them.

An excited, Sadie, Mickey, and Walter are in the front yard as the newly painted Mustang is driven up. The car is beautiful.

The trio, all smiles, walks around the car admiring it before getting in with Mickey behind the wheel.

They drive off.

End montage:

INT. SADIE'S HOUSE - DAY

Mickey enters the house with a backpack over her heavy coat.

Walter and Sadie are sipping tea in the living room. The television is on showing a snowstorm.

SADIE
How was school, dear?

MICKEY
They canceled for the day and probably tomorrow.

WALTER

How does the Mustang move in the snow?

MICKEY

It slides. Scares me.

WALTER

This is the first time you've driven on snow. Best to stay put.

SADIE

They won't clear the streets until it stops.

WALTER

Speaking of which, I should shovel the walks. Get a head start on the storm.

SADIE

I usually wait until some neighbor kids come by.

WALTER

You have me and Mickey now. Come on, Mickey.

Walter and Mickey put on their coats and boots.

SADIE

There's a shovel in the garage and some salt on the back porch. Be careful it's slick out.

Sometime later Sadie is sitting on the couch looking out the window.

Suddenly fear fills her face.

She jumps up spilling her teacup on the table and rushes out the door in a panic.

Mickey is holding Walter who is laying on the ground clutching his chest.

Sadie takes her place and motions to Mickey.

Mickey runs into the house.

INT. HOSPITAL - DAY

Mickey and Sadie, worried looks on their faces, are pacing in a hall.

A doctor approaches.

DOCTOR
Are you the family?

SADIE/MICKEY
Yes.

DOCTOR
It was a tough time for him but I think he's going to make it. We performed a triple bypass.

Sadie collapses in Mickey's arms.

SADIE
Oh, thank God.

MICKEY
Can we see him?

DOCTOR
He's coming out of sedation. He's pretty groggy. Just for a minute.

A very pale Walter is hooked up.

A nurse is standing by his bed.

NURSE
Walter, Walter, open your eyes. You have visitors.

Sadie, with a scared look on her face, approaches first. Mickey, shaking, is behind her.

SADIE
Walter.

She strokes his head.

Mickey holds his hand.

Walter slowly opens his eyes and forces a smile.

He gurgles something unintelligible.

SADIE (CONT'D)
Shhh, we're here for you.

MICKEY
You're going to be all right.

Walter forces a smile again.

NURSE
You shouldn't stay very long. He
needs his rest.

Sadie stares at the nurse.

SADIE
I'm not leaving!

The nurse's eyes widen.

NURSE
Well, I guess that will be all
right, you are the wife. But keep
him quiet, no excitement.

The nurse leaves.

MICKEY
You're going to stay?

SADIE
Yes. You go home and take care of
the house, we left it unlocked.

MICKEY
Okay, I'll come right back. What
can I bring?

SADIE
My big coat and my purse and keys.
Make sure you lock up the house and
feed the cat.

MICKEY
Okay.

Mickey squeezes Walter's hand one more time.

He looks up at her and smiles.

MICKEY (CONT'D)
I'll be back in a little bit.

Mickey exits the room.

As she walks down the hall she pauses to look into the rooms.

She comes to the nurse's station and stops.

NURSE 1
Can I help you?

MICKEY
A, no.

She turns away and turns back.

MICKEY (CONT'D)
A, do you like being a nurse?

NURSE 1
Very much. Are you thinking about
it?

MICKEY
I have off and on ever since I was
in the hospital.

NURSE 1
It's a calling. If you feel it
you're halfway there.

MICKEY
Oh.

NURSE 1
The next thing is to get an
education. Are you in college?

MICKEY
Yes, the community college.

NURSE 1
Good, that's a good start. You
could easily transfer to a nursing
college.

MICKEY
Huh.

NURSE 1
There's a great one in Omaha. And
there's a shortage of skilled
nurses.

MICKEY

There is?

NURSE 1

Yes, that's why so many come from other countries.

MICKEY

Oh.

NURSE 1

And you get to meet a lot of eligible doctors. An added bonus.

Mickey grins.

MICKEY

Thanks.

INT. SADIE'S HOUSE - DAY

Walter is laying on the couch under covers. A tray of medicine sits on the coffee table.

Mickey is at the dining room table doing homework.

Sadie's humming comes from the kitchen.

Sadie enters the living room carrying a tray of food.

WALTER

More soup?

SADIE

Soup and salad. Everything fresh from the garden.

WALTER

Ah, salad, an upgrade.

SADIE

Following doctor's orders.

Sadie pauses and places a ham sandwich and a bowl of soup next to Mickey.

MICKEY

Thank you.

Walter lifts up on one elbow.

WALTER
Is that a ham sandwich, with
mayonnaise?

SADIE
Just you never mind.

Walter lays back down and lets out a heavy sigh.

WALTER
I would have died without you two.

SADIE
That's what family is about.

Mickey looks up from her studies.

MICKEY
Where would I be without you?

Walter smiles.

Sadie sits next to Walter and proceeds to spoon-feed him.

WALTER
I think I can handle a spoon.

SADIE
Hush!

Mickey finishes her food and folds up her homework.

MICKEY
I'm picking up Jimmy and heading to
Omaha. We thought we would check
out the nursing school.

WALTER
Watch your driving. It's slick out.

MICKEY
I will.

SADIE
That's wonderful, dear. A nurse in
the family.

WALTER
Looks like we're going to need it.

SADIE

You are very kind, you have what it takes.

MICKEY

I think so.

SADIE

Is this the same Jimmy who took you out to dinner?

MICKEY

Yes.

SADIE

It's none of my business, but is he a boyfriend?

Mickey blushes.

MICKEY

Maybe.

SADIE

Well, good for you, dear.

WALTER

Bring him over for supper sometime.

SADIE

Better yet, cook him supper. You've learned enough. I'll help.

MICKEY

Maybe. Home cooking, he never gets that. He was an only child raised by his dad.

SADIE

Well then, we could whip up something special.

MICKEY

Okay, why not.

SADIE

How about Friday.

MICKEY

Okay. I'm sure he's sick of
takeout. I gotta run, see you
later.

WALTER

Watch your driving.

INT. SADIE'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Walter and JIMMY, twenty years old and boyishly handsome, are
sitting at the dining room table. Jimmy is a little nervous.

The table is set for a holiday feast.

Sadie enters from the kitchen carrying dishes of food in each
hand. She is followed by Mickey carrying a tray of pork
chops.

JIMMY

Wow, it's like Christmas.

SADIE

Sometimes we like a special meal.

JIMMY

(to Mickey)

Did you make this?

MICKEY

I had help.

SADIE

No, she made the whole meal, I just
supervised.

MICKEY

Oh, Sadie.

SADIE

She even baked the bread.

MICKEY

That I did.

JIMMY

Really.

MICKEY

Sadie's recipe. She taught me everything.

Mickey smiles at Sadie lovingly.

JIMMY

What a wonderful family meal. Do you always eat together?

Walter looks up from his meal and exchanges a look with Sadie and Mickey.

WALTER

Yes, most days. When Mickey's not busy.

JIMMY

How long have you been married?

Walter exchanges a look with Sadie.

SADIE

We're not married. I keep waiting for that proposal.

JIMMY

Oh.

WALTER

We're kind of a thrown-together family. Both Sadie and my spouses died. We were high school sweethearts.

MICKEY

And I didn't have much of a home. Walter found me on the streets of Las Vegas.

JIMMY

Really.

A moment of awkward silence.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

A, I think that's great.

MICKEY

You do?

JIMMY

(to Mickey)

Yes, you're so nice and well-adjusted.

MICKEY

Thank you.

JIMMY

I grew up with just my dad. He didn't pay much attention to me. He was kind of bitter that my mom ran off. He drank a lot.

WALTER

Looks like you two came from the same place.

Sadie pats him on the hand.

SADIE

You can come here anytime for family and a meal.

JIMMY

Thank you.

INT. SADIE'S HOUSE - SADIE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Sadie is lying on Walter's shoulder.

WALTER

Sadie.

SADIE

Yes, Walter.

WALTER

I would marry you.

SADIE

That's got to be the lamest proposal I've ever heard.

WALTER

I, a.

SADIE

Go to sleep.

INT. SADIE'S HOUSE - DININGROOM

Walter is reading the newspaper.

Mickey and Jimmy enter.

MICKEY

Hi, dad.

WALTER

Hi. Kids.

JIMMY

Hi.

WALTER

Just in time to help with the
planting. Sadie is in the back.

MICKEY

(to Jimmy)

Ready to learn how to plant a
garden?

JIMMY

Why not.

WALTER

Sadie has something to show you.

MICKEY

Okay.

EXT. SADIE'S HOUSE - GARDEN - DAY

Sadie is hoeing.

SADIE

Hi, kids, look!

Sadie is beaming as she holds up her hand.

Mickey takes her hand. Her eyes widen.

MICKEY

Oh, my God, it's beautiful!

SADIE

He surprised me. He finally asked.

MICKEY

There's going to be a wedding?

SADIE

Yes, A simple one. At the house.
Will you two stand up with us?

MICKEY

Of course.

Mickey looks at Jimmy.

JIMMY

A, sure.

INT. SADIE'S HOUSE - DININGROOM

Wedding day.

The wedding is vintage 1930s.

The guests are mostly Walter's and Sadie's age. Walter is dressed in a vintage tuxedo with tails. The guests are dressed in suits and gowns from the same era.

The house is decorated and A banquet is set up on the dining room table.

Drinks are flowing.

Walter and Jimmy are off to one side.

WALTER

Pay attention, son. This will be you someday.

JIMMY

I guess.

WALTER

A smart man does what makes his woman happy.

JIMMY

Oh, okay.

WALTER

I know what I'm talking about. I've had two amazing women in my life.

(MORE)

WALTER (CONT'D)

Both were professional women. You can't get in their way.

JIMMY

Okay.

WALTER

Some men like women who are subservient, not me. I want a partner. You have a better life.

JIMMY

Okay.

WALTER

Maybe Mickey is the one for you, I don't know. I can tell you, she's tough.

JIMMY

Yes, sir. We're just friends, for now.

WALTER

You never know what will come your way. If I stayed in the old folk's home I would be a miserable old man. Now I'm about to get married to a wonderful woman and start a new life.

JIMMY

Yes, sir.

INT. SADIE'S HOUSE - SADIE'S BEDROOM - DAY

Sadie is dressed in a flowing dress from the era.

She is being attended to by two ladies her age, CHRISTY and NANCY, and Mickey.

CHRISTY

Okay, I think your hair is done.

SADIE

(to Mickey)

What do you think, dear?

MICKEY

As beautiful as any bride.

NANCY

Someday this will be you.

CHRISTY

Is Jimmy the one?

MICKEY

Oh, I don't know. We're just friends.

CHRISTY

You never know when love will knock you down.

NANCY

Look at these two, fell in love in high school and here they are all these years later.

SADIE

I'm so lucky. I was lonely and all of a sudden Walter pops up. Looks like my life has changed, I have a daughter now.

Mickey and Sadie exchange a loving look.

MICKEY

Same with me. I was in a bad way and Walter came along and saved me.

SADIE

He's something else.

MICKEY

Yes, he is.

INT. COMMUNITY COLLEGE - DAY

Graduation at the college.

Walter and Sadie are in the audience.

Mickey, in her cap and gown, turns in her seat to smile and wave at them.

The ceremony begins.

The speeches are over and the handing out of the diplomas begins.

DEAN
Mickey Mckenzie.

Walter and Sadie are beaming. Sadie is taking pictures as Mickey ascends the stage and accepts her diploma.

INT./EXT. SADIE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

A graduation party is underway.

The house is crowded with fellow students. Jimmy is one of them. A few of Sadie and Walter's friends are in the crowd.

The house is decorated with a large banner that reads, "CONGRATULATION MICKEY AND JIMMY." A banquet is set up on the dining room table and a keg of beer is tapped in the backyard.

Walter takes Mickey aside.

He puts his hands on her shoulders.

WALTER
I am so proud of you.

Mickey gives him a bear hug. Across the room, Sadie sees this and smiles.

MICKEY
Where would I be? Where would I be
if you weren't such a wonderful,
caring person?

WALTER
You also filled a void in me.

MICKEY
I can't believe where I'm at, how
I'm living.

WALTER
You deserve it. You worked hard.
This is who you are. Someone else
may have reverted back to their
previous life. That wasn't you.

MICKEY

Oh, God! That seems so long ago.

WALTER

A lifetime.

Sadie crosses the room. Walter puts his arm around her.

SADIE

Did you give it to her?

WALTER

Oh, no. I was waiting for you.

Walter pulls an envelope from his coat.

WALTER (CONT'D)

A graduation present from us.

MICKEY

You two have given me so much.

Mickey opens the envelope and starts to tear.

She throws her arms around Walter.

She goes back to the envelope and pulls out six tickets to Disneyland and a check.

MICKEY (CONT'D)

Oh, dad!

WALTER

Those are good for three months. We thought you would like to take your friends.

MICKEY

What about you two?

WALTER

Oh, we're going. We have our tickets.

Sadie dances around a few steps.

SADIE

(giggling)

I'm going to Disneyland, I've never been.

WALTER

The check is for expenses.

Mickey throws her arms around Sadie and Walter.

Walter and Mickey's tears are flowing as they stare at each other knowingly.

EXT. NURSING SCHOOL - COURTYARD - DAY

Graduation day.

Mickey is graduating from Nurses school.

The ceremony is small with a graduation class of two dozen nurses all dress in white and all wearing nurses caps.

The audience is approximately fifty family members.

A noticeably older Walter and Sadie enter the courtyard with Walter walking unsteadily on Sadie's arm and with the aid of a cane.

DEAN

Welcome to the graduating class of 2021. I see we have a full house of proud family members. And proud you should be. Being a nurse is a calling. It takes a special person. The type of a person it takes to dedicate your life to helping others is special. From the beginning of time there have been certain people who have heard the calling and responded and today we give homage to the newest class.

The audience applauds.

DEAN (CONT'D)

Many of our students have interesting stories as to what brought them to nursing. Now let us hear from some of them. The first one of our dreamers from Mexico, Maria Pena.

Applause.

MARIA

(broken English)

Thank you. As many of you know Mexico is a poor country. A nurse is much revered there and much in need. Because of America's generosity, I will be able to go back and give my people the care they need. Thank you, my country thanks you.

Applause.

DEAN

Very nice. That is a tribute to our outreach program. Thank you, Maria. Now, one of our hardest working students, Michele Mckenzie.

Applause.

Enthusiastic applause and smiles from Walter and Sadie.

MICKEY

Thank you. I want to tell you about a little girl who was lost to the world. I want to tell you about two wonderful people who took interest in this little girl and gave from their hearts all the love and guidance it took for me to be here.

Walter and Sadie are starting to tear.

MICKEY (CONT'D)

My surrogate parents, Walter and Sadie, sitting right there, took interest in this little girl. I was on the street at the age of fifteen coming from a bad place and Walter found me and took me into his heart and brought me to his wonderful wife, Sadie who taught me how to learn. Thank you, I love you.

Tears are flowing throughout the crowd.

Enthusiastic applause.

Walter and Sadie are holding each other as they cry.

EXT. GRAVESITE - DAY

Sadie and Mickey are holding on to each other on a cold, windy, winter's day. It's starting to snow.

A dozen mourners are departing the service.

Tears are running down Sadie and Mickey's faces.

Mickey is clutching the picture of her and Walter at Disneyland.

The end.

FADE OUT.

(CONT'D)

