

HOW DO YOU SAY GOODBYE

Written by

India Jenkins

First Draft

Jenkins.india@gmail.com
(305)242-7277

FADE IN.

INT. RESTAURANT-AFTERNOON

In an old fashioned country diner, a Father's Day lunch is taking place. At the head of the table is DONALD COOPER, late 50's, who is just starting his retirement years. Across from him is his only daughter GINA, mid 30's, introverted, loyal, but judgmental at times, who has ambitions of becoming a successful Attorney in the future.

GINA

Dad? Have I told you how much I love you?

DONALD

(Looking at Gina)

All the time. We don't do this enough.

Gina hands Donald a small gift wrapped box.

DONALD (CONT'D)

Well good lord, what is this?

GINA

Happy Father's Day, dad.

Donald opens to find a shiny, bright gold necklace with a cross. Looks as though it cost a fortune.

DONALD

How much did you pay for this?

GINA

Does it matter?

DONALD

(Laughing)

Don't tell me you used your piggy bank?

GINA

(Sarcastic)

Very funny dad, no. Besides how many people actually use a piggy bank?

DONALD

Child, you'd be surprised. Your grandmother did for years.

Gina gives Donald a tight lipped smile, then changes the subject.

GINA
Anyway, did you hear from mama?

DONALD
(Shaking his head)
No. Not since last week.

Gina looks at Donald baffled.

GINA
You mean last month right?

DONALD
(A little confused)
Um...yeah...I meant to say last month. Thank you for the necklace by the way, and for a wonderful Father's Day.

CUT TO.

INT. FAMILY LAW FIRM-MORNING

Gina is in the elevator upward. She thinks about her father's behavior yesterday and tried to assure herself its just a normal memory lapse.

INT. GINA'S OFFICE-A FEW MINUTES LATER

Gina opens up her laptop and began typing some documents when a knock on the door interrupted her concentration. Looking up she sees fellow secretary and close friend SHAUNA HERNANDEZ, late 20's, a ride or die chick, standing in the doorway.

SHAUNA
Hey girl. How's your Father's Day?

GINA
It was great, in fact kinda funny.

SHAUNA
What do you mean funny?

GINA
Well dad thought I paid for his present with a piggy bank.

SHAUNA
(Laughing)
For real?

GINA
Yep. I got him a gold necklace
which I saved money to give to him
as a gift.

Shauna notices Gina preoccupied with her laptop.

SHAUNA
You alright G? You seem distracted.

GINA
Yeah I just got a lot of work to do
and-

SHAUNA
(Interrupting)
Oh that reminds me, Lee wants to
see you in his office.

GINA
Did he say what about?

SHAUNA
(Shrugging)
Beats the hell outta me.

GINA
Okay, thanks Shauna.

Just as Gina was about to walk to Lee's office, her cellphone began ringing. She glances at the number and answers.

GINA (CONT'D)
Hello?

MAN
Gina. Is this a bad time?

Gina instantly recognizes the voice. It was her boyfriend KEVIN CHANDLER, mid 30's, rough edged with a big heart of gold.

GINA
Yeah as a matter of fact.

From the tone of the conversation, Gina and Kevin have been estranged for a while.

KEVIN
How long are you going to avoid
talking to me?

GINA
(Annoyed)
I'll call you back later-

KEVIN
Gina wait a minute!-

Gina quickly hangs up her phone. After taking a breath she makes her way to her boss' office.

INT. LEE'S OFFICE-ESTABLISHING

LEE VAUGHN, early 50's, wears his heart on his sleeve, is reading a legal brief for an upcoming trial. He hears a knock on the door. Gina slowly enters.

GINA
You wanted to see me Lee?

LEE
Yeah come in please.

Gina sits down across from him. She stares at his family photos and upward towards awards from law school and college.

Lee lets out a cough before continuing.

LEE (CONT'D)
Excuse me. I wanted to ask you a
personal question.

GINA
Okay, shoot.

LEE
Jeanne is retiring at the end of
the year and-

GINA
Wait a minute, Jeanne's retiring?

LEE
Yeah she wants to spend time with
her family. Anyway, her position
will be opening up and I wanted to
ask if you're interested in taking
her place.

A stunned look comes across Gina's face.

GINA
I'm flattered. I don't know what to say.

LEE
The job is yours if you want it.

GINA
Wow...I'll think about it. How's Andrea doing?

LEE
She's great. In fact her restaurant is getting ready to open soon, you're invited to come to the opening.

GINA
Sure, just call me with the details. Is there anything else?

LEE
Oh yeah. I have these documents for you to file.

He hands her a pile of papers.

GINA
I have that memo you wanted. I'll email it to you.

LEE
Thanks.

DISSOLVE TO.

INT. GINA'S OFFICE-AN HOUR LATER

Gina is filing papers in her office when she suddenly gets a call on her cellphone.

Sensing Gina's expression, she knew who was trying to reach her.

GINA
(Answering)
Hello.

DANICA
Gina its Danica.

DANICA JACKSON, early 60's, southern black woman, talkative, is a close friend who lives across the street from Gina's father. They've been friends since Gina was a child and the concerned tone of Danica's voice alarmed her.

GINA

What's wrong? You sound upset.

DANICA

Your daddy wandered off somewhere and I don't know where he went.

GINA

Calm down, calm down okay? Lets not panic. Daddy could've went to the store to get some groceries, the local store ain't that far. Did he head that way?-

DANICA

No that's the point.

Gina's face abruptly sours.

GINA

Anyone else see him?-

DANICA

Wait a minute! I'm getting another call, I'll call you right back.

Connection cuts off.

Gina cellphone drops on her desk and a brief bout of Nausea began to hit her stomach.

A few seconds later, Gina's phone rang again. She quickly picks up.

GINA

Danica.

DANICA

Gina don't freak out. I got a call from one of the neighbors and he said he seen your daddy in a police car riding off-

GINA

(Freaking out)

Police car? And you said don't freak out?! Where the hell is he going?

DANICA
Jail probably-

GINA
That's not what I'm talking about.

DANICA
The local jail but Gina-

GINA
I'm on my way!

She hangs up then texts Shauna.

GINA (CONT'D)
(Text)
Shauna I need a favor from you.

She presses send.

A second later Shauna enters.

SHAUNA
Hey what's up?

Shauna sees Gina getting her stuff with a flushed look on her face.

SHAUNA (CONT'D)
G What's going on?

GINA
Could you cover for me for a couple
of hours? Tell Lee I had an
emergency.

SHAUNA
Yeah I can do that. Is everything
alright?

GINA
I don't know but I'll call you
later.

Gina quickly exits.

EXT. JAIL-AN HOUR LATER

Gina parks her car into the lot. She steps out with her purse
and slams the door.

INT. JAIL-SAME

Gina jogs upstairs then walk inside and approaches the front desk.

OFFICER
Can I help you ma'am?

GINA
Yes. Do you have someone by the name of Donald Cooper?

Officer checks the computer then looks at Gina.

OFFICER
Yes we do. He's been detained for trespassing on private property. Are you related to Mr. Cooper?

GINA
I'm his daughter Gina Cooper.

She takes out her ID.

He glances at it.

OFFICER
He's in a cell down the hall-

GINA
I want to pay his bail.

Officer types on his computer.

OFFICER
The amount is \$500.

GINA
Okay. Here's my bank card.

She hands the officer her card then the officer swipes it through the reader.

OFFICER
Okay. You'll have to wait here until we get him out.

He hands her bank card back.

GINA
How long?

OFFICER
At least a half an hour.

GINA
Fine.

She slowly walks to the bench and sits down.

While waiting, Gina's cellphone starts ringing. She sees Shauna's name and answers.

GINA (CONT'D)
Hello.

SHAUNA
Hey. Is everything okay?

GINA
My dad got arrested.

SHAUNA
Arrested? What for?

GINA
Trespassing on private property, I
put his bail money.

SHAUNA
Damn. Is there anything I can do?

GINA
You're already doing it just by
calling me. Did you tell Lee?

SHAUNA
He hasn't come yet but if he asks,
I'll tell him.

GINA
(Sighing)
This is a nightmare.

SHAUNA
Your dad will be fine Gina. I'm
going to call you later okay?

GINA
Okay.

Gina then has a flashback about her dad taking her to see a movie at 10 years old.

DISSOLVE TO.

INT. MOVIE THEATER-FLASHBACK

Gina and Donald is approaching the ticket sales department.
Gina was 10 at the time.

DONALD
Which one do you want to see?

GINA
Shrek.

DONALD
Two tickets for Shrek.

CLERK
Here you go. Enjoy your movie.

BOTH
Thank you.

A buzzer snaps Gina back to the present.

INT. JAIL-PRESENT

Gina gets another phone call. She sees Kevin calling and wants to answer but because of past issues, she lets it go to voicemail.

OFFICER
Ms. Cooper?

GINA
Yes?

She looks over and sees another officer bringing Donald out. She goes to the front desk and is handed a receipt for the bail she paid for.

GINA (CONT'D)
Thank you.

A beat.

GINA (CONT'D)
(To Donald)
Dad are you alright?

DONALD
I'm fine sweetheart, I didn't do anything wrong.

GINA
Dad they said you were trespassing
on private property.

DONALD
If so I didn't see a sign.

She looks at him then they start walking.

GINA
C'mon I'll take you home.

DONALD
You're a little too young to drive-

GINA
No dad I'm all grown up now.

They exit.

CUT TO.

EXT. DONALD'S HOUSE-AFTERNOON

Gina and Donald get out the car and shut the doors. Danica's booming voice yell out from across the street.

DANICA
You found him?

GINA
Yeah.

DANICA
Ya'll good, ya'll need some help?

GINA
We're okay Danica, thanks!

Danica goes back to reading her novel on the porch.

INT. DONALD'S HOUSE-ESTABLISHING

Gina brings Donald some coffee to calm down. She sits next to him.

DONALD
Your coffee tastes better than your
mama's.

GINA
Mama was never a fan of coffee, or
staying sober for that matter.

DONALD
Don't start.

GINA
Its the truth.

DONALD
When are you going to stop hating
your mama?

A beat. Gina turns away.

DONALD (CONT'D)
Everybody makes mistakes and the
fact you two don't bother to
forgive each other saddens me.

GINA
How can I forgive someone who stole
a car, drove drunk, got another
person killed, and spends the rest
of her life in prison?

DONALD
You only have one mama Gina. And
whether you like it or not she's
all you got left.

GINA
I still have you dad.

DONALD
I'm saying there could be a time I
won't be here. You need to think
about that.

GINA
Dad don't be silly, you're gonna be
around for a very long time.

She kisses her father's forehead.

CUT TO.

INT. GINA'S OFFICE-MID MORNING

Gina is typing on her laptop then her cellphone once again
starts ringing.

Annoyed, she glances and finds an unknown number. She frowns as she answers.

GINA
Hello?

MAN
Hello is this Gina Cooper?

GINA
Yes who is this?

MAN
My name is Corporal Dwayne Vance from the U.S. Air Force. Your father has been detained for misconduct.

GINA
(Confused)
What the hell is he doing at an Air Force base?

DWAYNE
One of the workers said your father's been causing a scene believing he's still an active member of the Air Force.

GINA
My dad retired from the Air Force 2 years ago.

DWAYNE
I figured that. My advice to you ma'am is to come to the base right away.

GINA
(Sighing)
I'm on my way.

She hangs up.

CUT TO.

EXT. AIR FORCE BASE—HALF HOUR LATER

Gina pulls up to the checkpoint and shows the guard her ID.

GUARD
We're expecting you. Go right in Ms. Cooper.

GINA
Thank you.

She drives through.

INT. COMMISSARY-SAME

Gina browses around for Donald then sees someone waving her to the back office. She approaches the door to see Donald sitting down arguing with the worker. Door closes.

DONALD
I'm trying to tell you, I worked here a long time ago!

WORKER
Sir. Calm down.

The worker stares at Gina.

DWAYNE
Ms. Cooper? Corporal Dwayne Vance, we talked on the phone.

GINA
Nice to meet you.

She shakes Dwayne's hand and bends down to hug her dad.

GINA (CONT'D)
Dad I'm here.

DONALD
Sweetheart what are you doing here?

GINA
I came to take you home-

DONALD
You're not in the Air Force-

GINA
Its okay, the guards let me in.

They both stand up.

GINA (CONT'D)
Dad what were you doing down here?

DONALD
I work here-

GINA
No you don't dad. You were a police
officer not a commissary worker.

DONALD
(Agitated)
I was too!

DWAYNE
Ms. Cooper?

Dwayne motions Gina over to him.

DWAYNE (CONT'D)
Has your father seen a doctor?

GINA
Not yet why?

DWAYNE
We're going to let him go with a
warning but my advice to you would
be to take him to a doctor as soon
as possible.

GINA
(Looking at Dwayne)
Thank you sir.

She turns to Donald.

GINA (CONT'D)
C'mon dad I'm taking you home. How
did you get down here?

DONALD
I took Uber.

They exit.

CUT TO.

INT. GINA'S OFFICE-MORNING

Gina is trying to research a case for Lee online but past
incidents with her father made it difficult for her to
concentrate.

Lee unexpectedly enters the room startling Gina.

LEE
Gina.

GINA
(Almost dropping a few
documents)
Yes Lee.

LEE
Sorry I didn't mean to scare you-

GINA
No its fine I was...doing some
research.

He closes the door and sits across from her.

LEE
Talk to me.

GINA
I...I had an emergency with my dad
that took up most of my time-I know
its not an excuse but I didn't know
what else to do.

LEE
You could've told me and then I'd
give it to Shauna.

GINA
Yeah I've should've known better.
I'm sorry, I really am.

LEE
Is there something you wanna tell
me?

GINA
No it was just that emergency and-

Her cellphone rings. She looks at the ID reading unknown then
see Lee's face with a concerned expression.

LEE
Call me if you need anything.

He gets up and exits.

GINA
(On phone)
Hello....yeah this is she...oh
Jesus...so he would have to attend
court next month?....okay...I'll
tell him....thank you....you
too...bye.

She hangs up.

INT. DONALD'S HOUSE-LATE AFTERNOON

Donald is sitting in his chair drinking some herbal tea while flipping channels on his flat screen TV. He hears a knock at the door.

DONALD
Who is it?

GINA
Its me dad.

DONALD
Oh c'mon in sweetheart.

Gina enters with a few pieces of mail and closes the door.

GINA
I got your mail.

DONALD
Didn't see the mailman-

GINA
He just came when I pulled up
and...

She sees a court summons addressed to Donald.

DONALD
What's up?

GINA
You have a summons to go to court.

DONALD
Hmm.

GINA
I'm sorry dad.

DONALD
Don't be. This is what happens when
you make a dumb mistake.

GINA
You never should've been in this
position-

DONALD
This is not your problem, its mine.

GINA

The clerk called me from work to talk about your next court date next month. Its at 10:30am.

DONALD

We'll I'll be there. Could you put the mail on the table Eboni?

Gina gives Donald a baffled look.

GINA

I'm Gina dad.

DONALD

You changed your name?

GINA

No its me dad, I'm your daughter Gina.

DONALD

Well whoever your name is thanks for bringing my mail.

Upset, Gina puts his mail on the table. She thought about what Dwayne said to her recently.

GINA

I'm going to go dad. I'll see you tomorrow okay?

DONALD

Alright Eboni.

Gina gives him a kiss on the forehead and watches him as she exits.

INT. HOSPITAL-EARLY MORNING

Gina sits in a lobby waiting for an appointment then the nurse arrives.

NURSE

Ms. Cooper? Dr. Wong will see you now.

Gina gets up and follows the nurse to Dr. Wong's office.

DISSOLVE TO.

INT. DR. WONG'S OFFICE-ESTABLISHING

Gina reads a few brochures about Neurology. She then stares at Dr. Wong's certificates on the wall.

A few minutes later, DR. BRADLEY WONG, late 30's, witty, smart, warm, friendly, enters the office.

DR. WONG
Ms. Cooper.

GINA
Yes I'm Gina Cooper.

DR. WONG
Dr. Brad Wong, please have a seat.

They both sit down across from each other.

DR. WONG (CONT'D)
What can I do for you Ms. Cooper?

GINA
This is about my dad Dr. Wong. You see he's been experiencing some issues with his memory and a couple of times he had wandered away from his house.

DR. WONG
When did these symptoms start?

GINA
Recently.

DR. WONG
Has he had any other symptoms?

GINA
Well...yesterday he called me by my mother's name instead of mine...twice.

DR. WONG
I'm going to set up an appointment for him. How soon can you bring your father in?

GINA
Easier said than done Dr. Wong, he's a proud man.

DR. WONG

I'll tell you what, talk to your father about the appointment and then give me a call right away.

He gives her his card.

GINA

Okay. Thank you so much.

She stands up and exits.

EXT. LAW OFFICE-MORNING

Gina parks her car in the lot and turns it off. Frustrated, glances at Dr. Wong's card and places it back in her purse. Then she hears a knock on her window.

Shauna waves at her. Gina steps out.

GINA

Shauna what you doing out here?

SHAUNA

I just got here myself. You good? You look upset.

GINA

Oh no I'm...to tell you the truth I am dreading going to work right now.

They walk inside the office.

INT. LAW OFFICE-SAME

Gina and Shauna walk through the lobby continuing their conversation.

SHAUNA

Wow, that doesn't sound like you. Usually you thrive on working a lot.

GINA

Lee gave me the run through on my half-baked memo I typed up.

SHAUNA

It was half done? Why didn't you say anything? I could've finished the memo for you.

GINA
I know..Lee already pounced on me
for that.

They enter Gina's office.

INT. GINA'S OFFICE-ESTABLISHING

Gina puts her purse and jacket on the hanger, sits down and
opens her laptop.

GINA
How's Casey doing?

SHAUNA
He seems fine, I went to visit him
yesterday. Heroin is a hell of a
drug to be hooked to.

GINA
Casey's made it this far. He'll get
through this.

SHAUNA
How about lunch later?

GINA
Sure.

Shauna exits.

CUT TO.

INT. DONALD'S HOUSE-LATE AFTERNOON

Donald is disoriented looking for his wallet when Gina enters
the home with a few bags of groceries.

GINA
Dad I went to the store and got you
some-

She watches with horror at Donald's agitated behavior.

GINA (CONT'D)
Dad what are you looking for?

DONALD
My wallet!-

GINA
Where was the last place you put
it?

DONALD
It was in my room there...it ain't
here now.

Gina drops the bags on the dining room table, runs to Donald's room then searches up and down for the wallet. Coming up empty she re-enters the living room.

GINA
Its not there Dad-

DONALD
Where the hell did I put that sh-

GINA
Calm down I'm sure the wallet will
turn up soon. Come sit on the
couch.

She escorts him to the couch, he sits down, then she turns on the TV for him.

GINA (CONT'D)
I'll put the groceries away for
you.

DONALD
Thank you honey.

Gina starts placing groceries away in the cabinets. She grabbed the chicken from the bottom and began to place it in the freezer when she spots a small black wallet in front of her eyes.

Stunned, Gina takes it out and closes the freezer.

GINA
Dad?..I found your wallet.

DONALD
(Excited)
You did? Where was it?

GINA
Um...in the freezer?

DONALD
How did that happen?

GINA
That's...not important dad. At
least I found it.

Gina comes and gives the wallet to him.

DONALD
Got important stuff in there you
know?

A beat.

GINA
Dad? I think I should take you to
see a doctor.

DONALD
What for? I'm not sick.

GINA
There's something going on.

DONALD
(Defensive)
Oh I see you want me to be sick so
you can put me away somewhere-

GINA
Dad that's not what I'm-

DONALD
Save it! Just leave me alone!...Go!

Distraught, Gina grabs her purse.

GINA
I'll see you later.

She watches him with an angry look in his eyes then exits.

EXT. MOVIE THEATER-MID AFTERNOON

Gina and Shauna are outside the theater buying tickets.
Shauna noticed Gina's distant behavior and tries to break the
ice.

SHAUNA
(Snapping her fingers)
Earth to Gina.

GINA
Oh..did you say something?

SHAUNA
Girl you trippin today, what's up
with you?

GINA
I'm sorry...I just have a lot on my
mind.

SHAUNA
Wanna talk about it?

CLERK
Here you go ladies.

BOTH
Thank you.

INT. MOVIE THEATER-SAME

Gina and Shauna continuing walking inside and stop up front
to buy some popcorn.

SHAUNA
I am so hungry. You want anything?
My treat.

GINA
I don't have an appetite right now,
maybe later.

SHAUNA
Gina we girls, I know you too well.
There's something wrong.

Shauna pays for her popcorn and soda then turns to Gina.

GINA
I'm worried about Dad.

They walk towards the usher.

SHAUNA
Is he okay?

GINA
I'm not sure.

SHAUNA
What do you mean?

GINA
Dad's been having some issues with
his memory.

(MORE)

GINA (CONT'D)

I tried to tell myself there's
nothing to worry about but its
just...I don't know Shauna.

They give the usher their movie tickets and she gives them
the receipt.

SHAUNA

Has he...thank you.

GINA

Thank you.

They continue walking down the lobby.

SHAUNA

Has he seen a doctor?

GINA

I'm trying to get him to see one
but he thinks I want to put him
away in a home.

SHAUNA

He's scared...that's all it is.

GINA

Maybe he's just getting older, all
of us tend to forget things from
time to time.

SHAUNA

Who you tellin? One time I actually
put flour in my freezer.

GINA

You serious?

SHAUNA

Hell yeah. I could tell my mind
wasn't wrapped too tight that day.
I just broke up with a turkey.

They break out in laughter.

GINA

Girl stop.

CUT TO.

EXT. GINA'S APARTMENT-EARLY EVENING

Shauna's car pulls up to Gina's apartment building. She gets out and leans into the car.

SHAUNA
Told you the movie was good.

GINA
Yeah it had me laughing my ass off.
We gotta do this again.

SHAUNA
Anytime, anywhere girl.

GINA
Gotta get ready for work tomorrow.

SHAUNA
You and me both honey.

Shauna leans over and spots someone at Gina's door.

SHAUNA (CONT'D)
Peep there.

Gina stares behind her and watches a man sitting in a chair by her porch.

A heaviness comes across her face as she looks back at Shauna.

SHAUNA (CONT'D)
Look like you got some unfinished
business.

GINA
Yeah...see you tomorrow.

She steps back and walks towards her apartment door. The man sitting is her estranged boyfriend Kevin.

Gina has a nauseous feeling just by looking at him. He stands to look at her.

Shauna's car drives away.

KEVIN
Gina.

GINA
Hello Kevin.

KEVIN
Been a while.

The awkwardness makes them slightly uncomfortable.

KEVIN (CONT'D)
Could we talk?

GINA
Let me open the door.

He steps aside then Gina unlocks the door.

The both enter.

INT. GINA'S APARTMENT-ESTABLISHING

Gina closes and lock the door behind her. Kevin watches Gina putting her purse on the hanger.

GINA
You want anything?

KEVIN
No I'm fine.

GINA
What did you want to talk about?

KEVIN
Us.

GINA
There is no us.

KEVIN
Gina-

GINA
What's left between us? You
abandoned me when I suffered my
miscarriage Kevin.

Her voice becomes angrier.

GINA (CONT'D)
I lost a child, our child! And you
abandoned me when I needed you the
most. You expect me to forget that?-

KEVIN

No! I apologized and begged for your forgiveness how many times? And you kept shutting me out!

GINA

Is that before or after you slept with another woman?-

KEVIN

Jesus Christ I-

GINA

You didn't think I knew Kevin? Why you stayed away so long?

KEVIN

It was one night Gina, it meant nothing. I wanted you back and you pushed me away!-

GINA

Just stop!

A slight pause.

GINA (CONT'D)

I can't do this again.

Kevin comes closer to her.

KEVIN

We can make it work if you give us another chance.

GINA

This was a mistake.

KEVIN

I'm not giving up on us.

He tries to kiss her but she turns away. He starts walking out.

GINA

Kevin?

He stops then turns around to face her. She's unable to say anything else. He then exits.

Tears stream down her face then she wipes them away with her hand.

CUT TO.

INT. GINA'S OFFICE-MID MORNING

Gina is typing some documents then MICHELLE CONNER, mid 40's, self confident, arrogant at times, enters the office.

MICHELLE
Hey Gina could I talk to you?

GINA
Sure.

Michelle shuts the door.

GINA (CONT'D)
What's up?

MICHELLE
Have you made up your mind about becoming a paralegal?

GINA
No not yet, I got a lot going on. I'm not saying no but I'm not saying yes neither.

MICHELLE
Just remember the job is yours if you want it.

GINA
Thank you.

MICHELLE
I have a case for you to research.

GINA
Oh? What is it?

She shows Gina the brief.

Gina's facial expression spells trouble as Michelle looks at Gina with concern.

MICHELLE
Something wrong?

GINA
Uh...no its just...

MICHELLE
What?

GINA

First time I'm researching this type of case.

MICHELLE

Every now and then we do estate along with family law.

GINA

Shouldn't it be a criminal case though?

MICHELLE

The grandfather died from Alzheimer's Disease.

GINA

Yeah but it looks like the granddaughter took advantage of his finances-

MICHELLE

That's why I want you to look into this so we can get it back to the attorney who's handling that part of the case.

GINA

Oh okay I gotcha.

MICHELLE

Thank you.

Michelle exits.

CUT TO.

EXT. DINER-EARLY AFTERNOON

Gina and Shauna are having lunch together at a diner.

GINA

I haven't been this hungry in a while.

SHAUNA

So what happened with you and Kevin last night?

GINA

That's just it, nothing happened.

SHAUNA
Hmmm-hmmm.

GINA
I'm serious. Look he tried to get
us to make up but I can't do it.

SHAUNA
Why not?

GINA
You know why-

SHAUNA
I don't like he did any of that
shit neither but I know ya'll can
work it out somehow.

GINA
He'll use me again and then what?

SHAUNA
Won't know until you give him a
chance. He loves you.

GINA
That's the one thing he hasn't told
me yet.

A beat. Gina's phone began ringing.

GINA (CONT'D)
A woman's job is never done.

She answers.

GINA (CONT'D)
(On phone)
Hello...this is she...what are you
talking about?...I'll be right
there.

She hangs up.

SHAUNA
Uh oh what's going on now?

GINA
I have an emergency. Could you
cover for me?

SHAUNA
Sure. Call me later.

EXT. GINA'S CAR-ESTABLISHING

Gina's car is driving rapidly down the road.

INT. GINA'S CAR-SAME

Gina stares straight ahead, hands sweating while on the wheel all while the news she received over the phone made her queasy.

DISSOLVE TO.

EXT. GAS STATION-EARLY AFTERNOON

Gina's car pulls into the gas station and parks in front. She steps out of the car, slams the door and enters.

INT. GAS STATION-SAME

Gina sees her dad arguing with a clerk (O.S.) and her friend JOHN PHILLIPS, mid 40's, rugged, country man, standing in the corner. She goes over to him and gives him a hug.

GINA

John what's going on here?

JOHN

Gina. Donnie was a bit disoriented when I saw him and claimed he worked in this joint.

GINA

(Sighing)

John? Daddy hasn't worked here in 40 years, how could he just-

JOHN

I know that's why I called you and not the police. I never seen him like this...take it easy on him.

She nods and approaches Don and the clerk.

GINA

Dad.

He sees Gina.

DONALD

See I got a witness sir! My daughter will tell you.

GINA
(To the clerk)
Sir what's the problem here?

CLERK
You a cop ma'am?

GINA
No I'm his daughter. I'm gonna take
him home in a minute but what did
he do?

CLERK
The man came in here while I was in
the bathroom and just started using
the register knowing he doesn't
work here. When I confronted him he
started yelling at me for no reason-

DONALD
Wait just a damn-

GINA
Dad! Dad stop.

DONALD
What?

GINA
Dad listen. It seems to me this man
didn't know you used to work here
years ago.

DONALD
Damn right I did!-

GINA
(Voice cracking)
But you don't anymore.

A beat.

CLERK
I'm not gonna call the police but I
don't wanna see him in here again.

GINA
C'mon dad. I'll take you home.

She escorts her dad out while John follows behind them
staring at the clerk.

EXT. GAS STATION-SAME

Gina, Donald, and John are outside walking slowly.

JOHN

Donnie are you sure you okay?

DONALD

I wish you two would just let me be. Ever since I retired everyone started treating me like a child, which I ain't.

GINA

Dad you had us scared to death.

They stop at Gina's car.

JOHN

Let me know if you need anything, anything at all.

DONALD

Thanks John.

John gets in his car and drives off.

GINA

Dad please let me set up a doctor's appointment for you.

DONALD

I told you I'm not sick-

GINA

Dad something's not right and you can't see that. It's the least we can do even if I'm proven wrong.

He shoots her a sad look.

CUT TO.

INT. GINA'S OFFICE-MORNING

Gina is researching cases from the previous day when she decides to call Dr. Wong. He comes on the speaker line.

DR. WONG

Hello.

GINA

Dr. Wong this is Gina Cooper.

DR. WONG
How are you Ms. Cooper?

GINA
I'm fine. Listen Dr. Wong I was able to talk my dad into getting an appointment with you. How soon can we come in?

DR. WONG
(Checking his Calender)
I have an opening for Friday afternoon at 2pm. Is that fine?

GINA
Its perfect. I'll see you then.

She hangs up. She then hears a knock.

GINA (CONT'D)
Come in.

Lee enters.

LEE
Hey.

GINA
What's up?

He closes the door and sits across from her.

LEE
Do you have the research on that case Michelle told you to look up?

GINA
Yeah its right here.

She hands him the documents.

LEE
Is everything okay with you?

GINA
Yeah why?

LEE
Well Shauna told me you had an emergency yesterday.

GINA
I did but I'm doing just fine.

LEE

Were you sick?

GINA

No there was a personal issue with my dad. He's okay.

LEE

You know you can tell me anything, I'm here for you.

GINA

Thanks Lee.

CUT TO.

INT. HOSPITAL-AFTERNOON

Gina and Donald are in Dr. Wong's office. Gina's pacing is driving her father up a wall.

DONALD

Your foot dragging is wearing me out.

GINA

What?

DONALD

You're walking like somebody's sending you to Vietnam.

GINA

Sorry. All this waiting is making me nervous-

DONALD

And so is your pacing. I didn't wanna come here in the first place.

GINA

Well I'll tell you what as soon as this is over I'll take you to dinner. My treat.

DONALD

You serious?

GINA

Any restaurant you want.

DONALD
(Laughing)
That's what I'm talking about.

Dr. Wong enters.

DR. WONG
Sorry to keep you waiting.

They stand up.

GINA
Dr. Wong this is my father Donald
Cooper.

DONALD
Doctor.

DR. WONG
Mr. Cooper nice to meet you.

They shake hands then sit down.

DONALD
Doc this really isn't necessary. My
daughter has this idea that I'm
having trouble with my memory. I'm
just getting older like everyone
else.

DR. WONG
That may be but lets run some tests
to make sure its all there is.

DONALD
What kind of tests?

DR. WONG
Blood work, CT Scan, MRI, and a
memory test.

DONALD
How long will all of this take?

DR. WONG
Not very long if we start right
now.

DONALD
Now we're talking. Sooner we get
this over with the better.

DR. WONG
Okay then lets get started. Put
this on and I'll be right back.

He gives Donald a hospital gown and step outside.

GINA
You want me to wait outside?

DONALD
Might as well. Ain't no sense on
you seeing me butt naked posing
for pictures.

GINA
(Laughing)
You got jokes.

DONALD
Everybody's uptight nowadays you
gotta laugh.

GINA
I'll be in the lobby.

She exits.

INT. HOSPITAL LOBBY-MONTAGE

Montage shows Donald receiving an examination consisting of X-Rays, blood work, CT Scan, MRI, and PET Scan. All taken within 3-4 hours.

DR. WONG
We're almost finished Mr. Cooper.

DONALD
Hope so, I'm worn out already.

DR. WONG
You can put your clothes back on
now.

DONALD
Thank you.

Dr. Wong glances at Donald's charts while Donald continues to put his clothes on.

INT. HOSPITAL LOBBY-LATE AFTERNOON

After finishing her veggie chips, Gina is reading a magazine. A few seconds later her phone rings. She answers.

GINA
(On phone)
Hello.

SHAUNA
Hey G. You busy?

GINA
I'm at the hospital right now.

SHAUNA
You sick?

GINA
No I'm here with my dad for a
physical.

SHAUNA
Oh yeah.

GINA
What about you?

SHAUNA
Girl I'm bored out of my mind. I
went to see Casey earlier.

GINA
How he doing?

SHAUNA
He's better. He supposed to be
coming home soon.

GINA
For real?

SHAUNA
Yep. He can finally get away from
them drugs and shit.

GINA
I feel you.

Gina sees her dad and Dr. Wong coming down the hall towards the office. Dr. Wong then signals her to the office.

GINA (CONT'D)
Hey Shauna I gotta run, I'll call
you later okay?

SHAUNA
Okay see you later.

Gina hangs up.

CUT TO.

INT. DR. WONG'S OFFICE-SAME

Gina and Donald are in Dr. Wong's office to hear the results
of Donald's physical.

GINA
How did the tests go?

DR. WONG
It was routine-

DONALD
I've been poked, thumped and pushed
into every machine I could think
of.

DR. WONG
Now there's only one test left. The
memory test.

DONALD
How long will this take?

DR. WONG
At least 15 minutes.

DONALD
Oh good.

GINA
Just let the doctor do his job dad.

Wong brings out several pictures to show Donald.

DR. WONG
Mr. Cooper I'm going to show you
some pictures to see if you can
identify them okay?

DONALD
Fine.

DR. WONG
What's this?

Picture shows a duck.

DONALD
A duck.

DR. WONG
Good.

Wong shows a peacock.

DR. WONG (CONT'D)
This one?

Gina looks at Donald.

DONALD
Um...I've seen them
before...peacock.

DR. WONG
Okay...how about this one?

Wong shows picture of an eagle.

DONALD
Ohhh...what the hell is this?

Donald has a memory lapse.

DONALD (CONT'D)
Its one of those birds that fly
through the Midwest...I forgot.

DR. WONG
That's alright lets keep going. I'm
gonna say some names and all you
have to do is repeat them back to
me. Spell FOOD.

DONALD
F...O...O...D.

DR. WONG
And backwards?

DONALD
D...O...O...F.

DR. WONG
Spell TRAP.

DONALD
T...R...A...P.

DR. WONG
Backwards?

DONALD
P....A...T...R...

Gina looks down realizing her dad slipped.

DR. WONG
And GREAT.

DONALD
G...R...A...T...E...

DR. WONG
(Looking at Gina then back
at Don)
And backwards?

DONALD
E...R...A...T...G...

DR. WONG
Okay all finished.

DONALD
About time.

Dr. Wong writes something on his chart.

DR. WONG
We're going to do a follow up
appointment to discuss your test
results.

DONALD
When will that be?

DR. WONG
In a few days. Mr. Cooper in the
meantime I want you to get more
rest, drink plenty of water,
exercise, and eat a balanced diet.

DONALD
What diet?

DR. WONG
Fruits, vegetables, lean meats, and
whole grains. Low fat dairy is
great as well.

DONALD
Long as its not a laxative.

Dr. Wong gives Donald a tight lipped smile.

DR. WONG
(To Gina)
See you soon Ms. Cooper.

GINA
Thank you Dr. Wong.

DONALD
Thanks Doc.

Dr. Wong exits.

DONALD (CONT'D)
Could we finally get something to eat?

GINA
That's what I promised. Where you do you wanna go?

DONALD
A soul food restaurant.

CUT TO.

INT. RESTAURANT-EARLY EVENING

Gina and Donald are having dinner in a lively atmosphere full of southern style cooking and music. Gina still worries about the test results but Donald is trying to distract her by bringing up her mother.

DONALD
C'mon you gotta talk about something else otherwise you'll drive yourself crazy.

GINA
Like what?

DONALD
Have you seen your mother?

GINA
Uh uh dad. She's the last thing I wanna talk about-

DONALD
How long are you gonna keep hating
her?-

GINA
(A beat)
I don't hate her.

DONALD
But you'll never forgive her.

GINA
Dad?-

DONALD
I forgave your mama a long time
ago. I think you're being selfish.

GINA
Selfish?

DONALD
That's right.

GINA
Could we not do this dad?

A slight pause.

They eye each other eating while trying to figure out something to say. When Gina starts to take a sip of water, Don asks her an unexpected question.

DONALD
When you gonna gimme some
grandbabies?

Gina almost gets choked.

GINA
What kind of question is that?

DONALD
I ain't getting no younger. You
should start having some before
Medicare starts knocking on my
door.

GINA
Dad that's not happening.

DONALD
Well don't wait until your clock
runs out.

Gina shakes her head at Don's comments.

INT. GINA'S APARTMENT-LATE EVENING

After dropping Donald off at home, Gina enters her apartment ready for bed. She checks her answering machine. It indicates one from Shauna and one from Kevin.

She presses the button.

MACHINE

You have 2 messages. Message one
from today at 4:30pm.

It beeps.

SHAUNA

(Voice)

Hey girl its me. Just wanna ask if
you free for lunch tomorrow at
work. Anyway call me.

Beeps.

MACHINE

Message 2 from today at 5:10pm.

It beeps.

KEVIN

(Voice)

Gina its me.

Gina looks at the machine.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

(Voice)

Calling to tell you I'm in the
neighborhood but I didn't see you.
Please call me, I miss you.

Messages end.

Gina turns off the machine then relocates to the back towards
the bathroom.

CUT TO.

EXT. DINER-EARLY AFTERNOON

Gina and Shauna are eating during their lunch break.

SHAUNA
How's your dad doing?

GINA
He's fine. I took him to the doctor
for a physical and we should have
the results by at least Friday.

SHAUNA
(Frowning)
What?

GINA
I'm a little worried.

SHAUNA
C'mon G you gotta stay positive.

GINA
Like you did 2 years ago?

SHAUNA
That was different. I wasn't
careful when I was dating Deandre.

GINA
He could've gave you HIV.

SHAUNA
I tested negative though, besides
that's apples and oranges.

GINA
Kevin left me a message.

SHAUNA
Oh?

GINA
He said he stopped by my apartment
yesterday but I wasn't there. He
wants me to call him.

SHAUNA
So call him.

GINA
I can't.

SHAUNA
He still loves you Gina.

GINA

I'm just not ready to dive back into a relationship yet.

SHAUNA

Like you did with Lee?

GINA

That doesn't count Shauna-

SHAUNA

You had a fling with him didn't you?

GINA

It was one night and I was already broken up from Kevin. Besides we were drunk.

SHAUNA

Yeah. No wonder you kept going to the bathroom throwing up every 15 minutes the next morning.

GINA

That's because my hangover went down to my stomach.

SHAUNA

Hmm. And here I am thinking sex made it disappear.

GINA

Very funny.

SHAUNA

I know nothing serious can be wrong with your dad. He's always been a healthy man. All those times I've been around him.

GINA

Well there's nothing to worry about until there's something to worry about.

DISSOLVE TO.

INT. GINA'S OFFICE-AFTERNOON

Gina is working on a memo when a knock interrupts her concentration.

GINA
Come in.

Lee enters.

LEE
Hey.

He closes the door.

GINA
What's up?

LEE
I came to tell you paychecks will
be available for pickup at 4:00.

GINA
Okay...Is there something else?

LEE
Yeah.

He sits in a chair across from her.

LEE (CONT'D)
I was thinking about giving you and
Shauna a raise.

GINA
Really?

LEE
Yeah...you said you weren't ready
for the paralegal position just
yet.

GINA
I don't know what to say.

LEE
Think nothing of it-

GINA
Lee could I tell you something?

LEE
Anything.

GINA
You ever thought about would
could've happened if we had a
relationship and not just a one
night stand?

A slight pause. He looks down then back up at her.

LEE
Once in a while.

GINA
It probably would've ruined our
friendship.

LEE
Why would you bring it up?

GINA
I haven't thought about it in a
while until Shauna brought it up to
me at lunch.

LEE
She knew?

GINA
Lee she's not stupid. She knew we
both had a lot going on and the
fact that I couldn't stop puking my
guts out spoke volumes.

LEE
Yeah I actually thought you were
pregnant.

GINA
No I was just sick as a dog.

LEE
We were both hurting Gina. You
broke up with Kevin and me and
Susan just divorced.

A beat.

LEE (CONT'D)
Does Kevin know?

GINA
No and he's not going to. Has
anyone caught your attention yet?

LEE
No. Work is the only thing keeping
me sane right now.

GINA

Don't worry Lee. Its only a matter
of time before a beautiful woman
sweeps you off your feet again.

CUT TO.

INT. DR. WONG'S OFFICE-MORNING

Gina and Donald are waiting for Dr. Wong to enter the office.

DONALD

After this is over could we go out
for lunch?

GINA

Sure.

Dr. Wong enters.

DR. WONG

Mr. Cooper, Gina sorry to keep you
waiting.

He closes the door and sits across from them.

DONALD

What's the verdict Doc?

DR. WONG

Going over your results, you tested
negative for most of the chronic
and life threatening diseases.

GINA

Tumors and Mini Strokes too?

DR. WONG

That's been ruled out. And he's
tested negative for other
Neurological illnesses as well-

DONALD

(To Gina)

What'd I tell ya huh?

DR. WONG

All but one.

Short pause.

DONALD

What?

DR. WONG

The results stemming from your blood work and the PET Scan doesn't explain the whole story but what alarmed me were your memory tests that were very abnormal for someone your age.

Don and Gina look at each other then back at Dr. Wong.

DONALD

So what does this mean Doc?

DR. WONG

I'm sorry to tell you this Mr. Cooper but you have Early-Onset Alzheimer's Disease.

Gina looks at Don. Don starts shaking his head and laughing as though he didn't hear what was said.

GINA

Dad this isn't funny, didn't you hear what he said?

DONALD

(Firm)

Yeah. I'm laughing because this is the biggest load of bullshit I ever heard-

GINA

Dad-

DONALD

Doctors give fake diagnoses all the damn time. I want a second opinion-

DR. WONG

You could get a second opinion-

DONALD

See? Even he agrees with me!

GINA

What for?! Dr. Wong is one of the best Neurologists in the country and I trust his judgment.

DONALD

Yeah you want something to be wrong with me so you can send me off you one of those old folks homes!-

GINA

I did this because something is off with you dad! And this is exactly what I was afraid of-

DONALD

Oh save it!-

GINA

Dad. You're upset I get that but we have to figure out what the next steps are for your-

DONALD

I don't wanna hear it.

Donald stands up and starts to leave.

GINA

Where are you going dad?

DONALD

Out for some air. This place suddenly is getting hard for me to breathe in.

He slams the door on his way out.

Frustration flushes Gina's face as she looks at Dr. Wong.

EXT. PARKING LOT-SAME

Donald comes off the elevator. Disoriented he walks around looking for his car. Its at home. A few feet from him Kevin glances at Don coming towards him yelling. He texts Gina.

DONALD

Hey? What are you doing with my car?

KEVIN

Sir wait a minute!-

DONALD

Get the hell away from my car!

KEVIN

Sir this isn't your car its me, just calm down!

DONALD

Who are you?! What are you doing here?

KEVIN
I'm visiting someone.

DONALD
(Calming down)
Who?

KEVIN
I'm Kevin Chandler. What's your name? Do you know who you are?

A beat.

DONALD
I don't know where I am. I'm just looking for my daughter Gina.

KEVIN
Um...where did you last see her?

DONALD
Uh...upstairs somewhere. I have to tell her my car's been stolen-

KEVIN
Hold on sir. Do you want me to go get her?

DONALD
Yeah...you do that. Please?

KEVIN
Of course.

Don calms down from the confrontation. He sees something familiar in Kevin but can't bring himself to call out his name. Kevin then calls Gina.

INT. DR. WONG'S OFFICE-SAME

Gina is still standing there in shock from her dad's reaction to his diagnosis.

GINA
Sorry about that Dr. Wong. I never seen him lash out like that before.

DR. WONG
You don't have to apologize. Its not uncommon for someone with Alzheimer's to react this way.

GINA

Doc are you sure he has this disease? And not a brain tumor?

DR. WONG

Gina. By all means you can still get a second opinion. To be blunt I knew what your dad was facing before the memory tests. From what you told me along with treating others who have the same problems, I have no doubt that your dad has Alzheimer's Disease.

GINA

Jesus.

Dr. Wong approaches Gina.

DR. WONG

Gina I know an Alzheimer's diagnoses is a lot to take in. But the first step for Don is to get him to discuss options and acknowledge his diagnosis.

GINA

I have to hope he hasn't wandered off again too-

Gina's phone starts vibrating. She finds Kevin's name on the ID.

GINA (CONT'D)

I'm sorry I have to take this.

DR. WONG

Sure. I'll be right back.

He exits.

GINA

(On Phone)

Hello.

KEVIN

Gina its me-

GINA

What do you want? Now's not a good time to talk.

KEVIN

Just hear me out.

GINA
Make it quick.

KEVIN
There's a guy down here in the
parking lot looking for you.

GINA
Oh shit.

KEVIN
You know him?-

GINA
I'm on my way, just keep him there!-

KEVIN
Gina wait a sec-

Signal cuts off.

Gina abruptly exits the office and enters the elevator.

CUT TO.

EXT. PARKING LOT-ESTABLISHING

Kevin and Donald still in the parking lot waiting for Gina. There's a short awkwardness between them as they are unable to figure out what to say. A minute later, Gina comes out the elevator. They see Gina coming towards them.

GINA
Dad are you okay?

KEVIN
He's your dad?

GINA
Yeah. I thought I had introduced
you to him.

KEVIN
No...No you didn't.

Kevin shot Gina a worried and disappointed glare realizing there's something else going on.

DONALD
This punk tried to steal my car.

GINA
Huh?

DONALD
My car was stolen-

KEVIN
I tried to tell him this is my car.

GINA
Dad we came in my car.

Gina points to a black car on the other side of Kevin's.

GINA (CONT'D)
Your car is at home.

DONALD
Its home? Its not stolen?

GINA
No dad its safe and sound at home.

DONALD
Oh...then who the hell are you?

GINA
A friend of mine, this is Kevin.
Kevin this is my dad. Donald
Cooper.

KEVIN
(Attempting to shake Don's
hand) Nice to meet you Mr.
Cooper.

DONALD
(Shakes his hand)
You too Bob.

KEVIN
Its Kevin sir.

DONALD
Well...whatever.

Donald turns to Gina.

DONALD (CONT'D)
Child you got so many friends I
don't know about its a shame.

Gina escorts Don back upstairs to Dr. Wong's office. Kevin
follows them.

DISSOLVE TO.

INT. DR. WONG'S OFFICE-MID AFTERNOON

GINA

What's the next step Dr. Wong?

DR. WONG

We do have a few medications that can manage the symptoms-

DONALD

You mean treatment for the disease?

DR. WONG

It doesn't treat the disease per se but it can delay the progression.

DONALD

In otherwords I could still become a vegetable.

GINA

Dad it could still save you a number of years-

DONALD

And then what?

Donald abruptly stands.

DONALD (CONT'D)

Both of you think this is easy when all this gonna do is kill me!

DR. WONG

Don I know how difficult it will be for the both of you.

DONALD

(Calming down)

I want to try the medication.

DR. WONG

(Nodding)

I'm gonna give you a prescription for Aricept. There's a few side effects but overall it can help you manage the symptoms.

(To Gina)

Gina? Make sure you put in for it at the pharmacy.

He gives Gina the prescription paper.

GINA
Okay...doc could I ask you
something?

She waves him outside.

DR. WONG
Sure.

They go outside to talk. She notices Kevin sitting in the
lobby and looks back at Dr. Wong.

GINA
What is the life expectancy for
someone with Alzheimer's?

DR. WONG
Depending on when the symptoms
started, it can be as little as 2
years or as long as 10 years.
Here's some brochures for you to
read about the disease.

He hands Gina some pamphlets. She browses through them and
stops to a section labeled "caregiver support groups."

GINA
Thank you Dr. Wong.

DR. WONG
Anything you need please call me.

GINA
I will.

She hides the brochures just as Kevin is walking towards her.

KEVIN
You alright?

GINA
Fine as I will be. My dad only went
in for a checkup.

She opens the door.

GINA (CONT'D)
Come on dad we're getting something
to eat.

DONALD
(To Kevin)
Wanna come young man?

KEVIN
(Hiding his nervousness)
Uh...sure.

CUT TO.

INT. RESTAURANT-EARLY EVENING

Gina, Kevin and Donald are having dinner together. Gina notices Donald at his food which was unlike him.

GINA
Enjoying your food dad?

DONALD
I don't know what they put in this baked potato. A shoe lace?

GINA
Uh..no that's the skin, that's the healthiest part of the potato.

DONALD
Shit...the least they can do is put some butter on top.

GINA
The butter is over here dad, let me spread it for you.

Gina reaches over to spread the butter onto her father's baked potato. Kevin senses some tension between Gina and her dad.

Afterwards Don continues eating and picking at his food. Gina sits back in her chair as Kevin leans over whispering.

KEVIN
Gina what's going on here?

GINA
I don't know what you mean.

KEVIN
Did your dad ever do this before?-

GINA
Could we not talk about this please?

KEVIN
You're not answering my question.

GINA
What's there to answer Kevin?-

KEVIN
I mean I never seen anything like
this before.

GINA
Dad's getting older okay? He's just
been a bit forgetful lately.

KEVIN
He forgets to butter his baked
potato?-

GINA
(Raising her voice)
Will you shut the fuck about this?

DONALD
Hey watch your mouth young lady
before I wash your mouth out with
soap.

They look at Don as silence brew through the restaurant,
quiet enough for a pin to drop.

GINA
Sorry.

KEVIN
Me too.

Atmosphere goes back to normal.

CUT TO.

INT. GINA'S APARTMENT-EVENING

Gina and Kevin enter the apartment. Gina closes and locks the
door behind her.

KEVIN
I wanna know what's really going on
here Gina.

GINA
Long day.

KEVIN

Its more than that. You haven't looked me in the eye and you've been distracted ever since I came to find you.

A beat.

GINA

There's nothing wrong!-

KEVIN

Yes there is Gina! Is there someone else?

GINA

(Defensive)

What? God no! How can you ask me that?

KEVIN

Tell me the truth!

GINA

I am telling you the truth damn it! If you don't believe me you can get the fuck out!

KEVIN

Just be honest with me.-

GINA

You know what? Just go, I can't do this tonight.

KEVIN

Fine!

He scurries out and slams the door.

Emotionally drained, Gina decided to go straight to her bed and lie down the rest of the night.

INT. GINA'S OFFICE-MID MORNING

Gina is finishing scanning documents for one of Lee's clients despite feeling withdrawn lately.

Afterwards, she takes the papers down to Lee's office.

INT. LEE'S OFFICE-ESTABLISHING

Lee is on the phone with a client. He hears a knock.

LEE
Come in.

Gina enters.

Still on the phone, Lee signals her to the chair after seeing her with papers. She sits across from him.

LEE (CONT'D)
(On phone)
No you should ask her to consider
joint custody of your two kids...if
she won't hear of it then
countersue for full custody
yourself....yeah...well call me
when you made a decision...okay.
Goodbye now.

He hangs up.

LEE (CONT'D)
What's up?

GINA
I have your documents.

LEE
Let me see.

She hands them to him. He browse through them nodding.

LEE (CONT'D)
Great, gotta use these.

GINA
Lee I made a decision about the
paralegal position.

LEE
Oh?

GINA
I'm afraid I can't take it at this
time. Its nothing personal I'm just
not ready yet...are you
disappointed?

LEE
Can't say that I am. Timing is
everything even for a promotion. If
you change your mind let me know.

GINA
Thanks Lee.

Gina is almost on the way out when Lee calls out to her.

LEE
Gina.

GINA
Yeah?

LEE
How's your dad?

GINA
My dad?

LEE
Yeah Shauna told me he's been
having some issues. She wasn't
specific or anything but how's he
coming along?

GINA
He's...fine...um thank you for
asking...I'm a go back to work.

She exits.

A look of concern crosses Lee's face as if to wonder if she's
hiding something.

INT. DONALD'S HOUSE-AFTERNOON

Gina brings Donald his mail then continues cooking his
dinner.

GINA
He's your mail.

DONALD
You really don't have to do all of
this.

GINA
I wanted to dad. You're by yourself
and somebody's gotta be here to
help you.

DONALD

You have your own problems child,
like that kid you hanging around
with. He giving you trouble?

GINA

No he's...Kevin's not giving me
trouble. He's just worried about
me.

DONALD

Tell you the truth so am I.

GINA

Why?

DONALD

As I've said you don't have to do
all of this for me.

She stops to turn around at him.

GINA

Dad. You took care of me for most
of my life. Its time for me to
return a favor.

She comes over and sits next to him.

GINA (CONT'D)

Other than mama, you're really all
I have left.

DONALD

Speaking of your mama, when are you
gonna see her?

GINA

I'm not-

DONALD

Gina-

GINA

I can't do it.

He reaches under a couple of magazines and finds a white
envelope addressed to Gina and shows it to her.

DONALD

Here.

GINA

What's this?

DONALD

Your mama wrote this letter that I held onto. I wanted to show it to you but you would've just threw it away.

GINA

How long have you kept this?

DONALD

(He struggles to remember)
I'm...not really sure, I don't know but please read it.

Curious, Gina opens the envelope and reads the letter to herself.

DONALD (CONT'D)

She misses you sweetheart.

GINA

Maybe I will...on my own time.

Gina's phone vibrates. She looks to see Kevin's name and answers.

GINA (CONT'D)

(On phone)

Hello.

KEVIN

Hey how's it going? How's your dad?

GINA

He's fine. I was just finishing cooking dinner for him.

KEVIN

I was wondering if we could meet for lunch tomorrow?

GINA

Um...okay...I'll see you then.

She hangs up and sighs.

DONALD

Your husband's calling you?

GINA

I'm not married dad.

DONALD

Then who the hell was that?

GINA
My friend Kevin, you met him the
other day.

DONALD
I don't remember meeting him child.

GINA
(Frustrated)
Never mind.

CUT TO.

EXT. DINER-EARLY AFTERNOON

Kevin and Gina are having lunch together. She's trying
everything to avoid talking about their relationship.

GINA
Delicious.

KEVIN
Gina-

GINA
I haven't had pasta like this in
years-

KEVIN
Gina will you-

GINA
Can you imagine if every restaurant
put this type of pasta and sauce on
their menu-

Kevin grabs Gina's hand.

KEVIN
Gina will you stop?!

GINA
What?

KEVIN
Could we talk please?

GINA
Talk.

They eye each other.

KEVIN

That's the first time you looked at me today.

GINA

Didn't realize eating pasta was a federal offense-

KEVIN

Damn it Gina will you stop?! How come everytime I want to talk about us you change the subject?

GINA

What?..I Mean what is there to talk about Kevin?

KEVIN

I miss you...I miss us.

She looks away then back at him.

GINA

I'd be lying if I didn't say I still loved you. You really hurt me Kevin.

KEVIN

And I'm sorry about that. I didn't know how to comfort you when our child died let alone my own grief.

GINA

(Wiping away tears)
I can't do this with you.

KEVIN

Do what?

GINA

We've been down this road before and it hasn't worked. How can I be with you when all you're gonna do is abandon me again?

KEVIN

I promise I'll never do that to you again.

GINA

Kevin-

KEVIN

I love you Gina.

He leans in to kiss her.

KEVIN (CONT'D)
Give us another chance.

GINA
I have to...get back to work...I'll
call you okay?

KEVIN
Please.

She exits.

INT. LAW OFFICE LOBBY-SAME

Gina is walking down the hallway after her lunch break. She delivers files to the front desk receptionist's desk when Shauna approaches her.

SHAUNA
Girl do I have news for you.

GINA
You shoul'da had your own gossip
show.

SHAUNA
C'mon now don't tell me you woke up
on the wrong side of the bed?

GINA
I'm sorry I short talked you.

SHAUNA
What happened?

INT. GINA'S OFFICE-SAME

Gina and Shauna enter the office and closes the door.

SHAUNA
Girl you makin me nervous now. You
did something stupid again?

GINA
No. You remember I told you I took
my dad to see a doctor right?

SHAUNA
Yeah?...you said everything's fine-

GINA
I'm afraid not...my dad has
Alzheimer's Disease.

A stunned look crosses Shauna's face.

SHAUNA
My God G...is there anything I can
do?

GINA
You're already doing it, being a
good friend.

SHAUNA
Gina I'm sorry.

GINA
I have some big decisions to make.

SHAUNA
Gina? Was this the reason you
turned down the paralegal position?

GINA
How can I be a caregiver and a
paralegal at the same time? I'm
barely able to get by as a
secretary.

SHAUNA
I got an idea. You have your own
apartment, why don't your dad stay
with you?

GINA
My apartment isn't big enough.

SHAUNA
Or go stay at his house and look
after him, he's gonna need care.
You can come to work from there.

GINA
Maybe.

SHAUNA
And you can also hire a nurse or a
health care aide to help while
you're working. Just make sure
they're bonded.

GINA
Bonded? Shauna really?

SHAUNA

Hell yeah. You know they love to steal your shit.

GINA

Girl please. And Shauna?

SHAUNA

Yeah?

GINA

This stays between me and you okay? I'll tell Lee on my own time but for now I'd rather keep this quiet.

SHAUNA

Alright cool. I gotta take my lunch now. Wish you could come with me.

GINA

I had mine with Kevin.

SHAUNA

Oh? Do tell.

GINA

He wants to get back together.

SHAUNA

And?

GINA

And what?

SHAUNA

Do you still love him?

GINA

Yeah I do.

SHAUNA

Then give him another chance.

GINA

I don't know Shauna. I feel like I'm walking into another trap here.

SHAUNA

Then start slow. Go slow and see where it will take you and God forbid if it isn't your cup of tea, then let him go and move on.

CUT TO.

INT. DONALD'S HOUSE-MONTAGE

Montage of Gina in caregiver mode. She takes care of his medications, grocery shopping, and doctor's appointments over the range of 2-3 months. A care worker also stops by to take care of Don's basic needs while Gina goes to work.

DISSOLVE TO.

EXT. DONALD'S HOUSE-THREE MONTHS LATER

Gina and Donald are sitting on the porch looking at kids playing baseball in the streets.

DONALD
I miss days like this.

GINA
Days like what?

DONALD
When your grandparents were alive.
It was me playing outside with
kids. Baseball, basketball, tennis,
you name it I played it.

GINA
(Laughing)
You played Tennis?

DONALD
Yeah. I wanted to play all the
sports every other kid was playing.

GINA
Wow.

Seconds later she sees Donald wiping tears away and puts her hand around his back.

GINA (CONT'D)
What is it?

DONALD
I'm scared.

GINA
Why?

DONALD
I'm scared there will be a day
where I won't I even know who my
daughter is.

GINA
Listen dad. No matter what happens,
I'll always be here for you. I will
not leave your side.

Then tears well up in her eyes as she leans her head on Don's
shoulder.

CUT TO.

INT. RESTAURANT-EVENING

Gina and Kevin are having dinner at a gourmet restaurant.

KEVIN
Why haven't I heard from you?

GINA
I've been busy.

KEVIN
You're treating me as though I'm
some stranger who works at an
escort service.

GINA
Kevin I have a lot going on okay?
Romance is the last thing on my
mind.

KEVIN
Well the last time I checked you
were able to give our relationship
another chance. Unless that was a
lie too?

GINA
No it wasn't.

KEVIN
You forgot what today is didn't
you?

GINA
No its Friday.

KEVIN
Gina you know better than that.

A short pause.

GINA

Oh my God...the anniversary of the first day we met.

KEVIN

Met at this same restaurant. You were having a drink and I was coming out of the bathroom going home.

GINA

You bumped into me-

KEVIN

Actually we bumped into each other.

GINA

(Tight lipped smile)

How can I forget? I still love you.

KEVIN

I love you too.

He puts his hands on hers.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

Why don't we go back to your place for a nightcap?

GINA

I can't do it.

She takes back her hand.

KEVIN

Gina?...What is holding you back from being with me?

GINA

Its just not the right time.

KEVIN

When the hell is it ever the right time? Next month, next year, 10 years from now?

GINA

Don't be ridiculous-

KEVIN

I'm ridiculous?

GINA

Yes you are. I told you I have a lot going on and for some reason this is not sinking into your thick skull.

KEVIN

Well if you tell me what's going on instead of shutting me out all the damn time-

GINA

You know what? I'm not gonna argue about this anymore..I'm going home-

KEVIN

At least let me take you home-

GINA

(Angry)

Never mind, I'll take an Uber.

She abruptly exits the restaurant.

CUT TO.

INT. DONALD'S HOUSE-LATE EVENING

Gina comes inside and noticed the house dark. She turns on the lights, go towards the kitchen and puts her food in the fridge. She closes the door and hears a loud click. She turns and sees Donald with a gun pointed at her causing her to scream.

GINA

Jesus Christ dad!!

DONALD

What are you doing here this time a night?

GINA

Dad I told you earlier I had a date. I was just coming back.

DONALD

Next time knock. Don't do that again.

GINA

Put the gun away, you know I hate guns.

He lowers the gun.

GINA (CONT'D)
In fact let me put it back for you,
where do you keep it?

She comes to him and takes the gun.

DONALD
In my room, in the closet on top
inside of my shoebox....I don't
know somewhere.

GINA
I'll put it in your shoebox.

INT. DONALD'S BEDROOM-ESTABLISHING

Gina enters the room, opens the closet door and spots the shoebox. She grabs it, opens and places the gun inside. She puts it back in the closet and exits.

INT. LIVING ROOM-SAME

Taking a deep breath Gina goes back in the living room and eyes Donald trying to eat food from the garbage can. She runs to stop him.

GINA
Dad what the hell are you doing?

DONALD
I'm just...I just want a snack-

GINA
They're in the fridge dad, not
here. I'll give you a snack and
I'll have one too.

She fixes them both a sandwich and they sit at the kitchen counter to eat.

DONALD
It was food over there.

He points to the can.

GINA
Dad that's disgusting okay? Fresh
food is in the fridge.

CUT TO.

INT. DONALD'S HOUSE-MORNING

Gina is sleeping when her cellphone began vibrating. Awakened, she sees a dozen messages on her voicemail and a few texts from Shauna.

She stares at the time and realizes she's very late for work.

GINA
Oh fuck!

She abruptly climbs out of bed.

CUT TO.

INT. LAW OFFICE LOBBY-MORNING

Gina rushes down the lobby. She sneaks into her office to avoid talking to anybody. Seconds later Shauna sees Gina with her head down on the desk.

SHAUNA
You pulled a fast one honey.

GINA
(Looking up)
You got jokes.

SHAUNA
I got you some coffee, where were you?

GINA
I overslept.

SHAUNA
A late night with Kevin perhaps?

GINA
No.

SHAUNA
You were never late a day in your life girl.

GINA
I'm aware of that.

Shauna pulls up a chair and sits.

SHAUNA
Talk to me.

GINA

I had to sit up all night with dad because not only did he try to wander off but he got agitated a bit.

SHAUNA

Does it happen often?

GINA

He wandered off twice before he wasn't this agitated. Dr. Wong gave me some brochures about Alzheimer's and you might as well say dad experienced most of the signs already.

SHAUNA

Its only a matter of time before Lee starts howling.

GINA

Yeah.

Phone buzzes. She looks to find a message from Lee.

GINA (CONT'D)

Oh damn.

Shauna shakes her head.

SHAUNA

Speak of the devil.

GINA

I'll be right back.

Gina exits.

INT. LEE'S OFFICE-SAME

Lee sits anxiously at his desk waiting for Gina wondering why was she late. Gina appears a few seconds later.

LEE

You're very late.

GINA

I know I'm aware of that.

LEE

Gina this isn't like you.

GINA
Lee I-

LEE
Gina listen. Its not just you being late but your work performance is coming into question and that's never happen before neither...until recently.

GINA
(She tries to avoid eye contact with Lee)
Lee I can't.

LEE
(Annoyed)
Can't what?

GINA
Just...never mind.

LEE
Never mind?

GINA
Forget it Lee.
(Defensive)
I'm sorry I'm late and it will never happen again okay?

LEE
No its not okay Gina. I know you too well, you're doing everything you can to avoid dealing with whatever issue this is when its clearly affecting your performance and your behavior...are you sick?

GINA
No?

LEE
Did somebody do something to you?-

GINA
My dad's sick.

LEE
What do you mean?

GINA
A few months ago, my dad was..um..

LEE
Gina?

GINA
Can I ask you something?

LEE
What?

GINA
Would you believe me if I told you
this was the reason why I turned
down the paralegal position?

LEE
Yes if you would be honest with me.

GINA
A few months ago my dad was
diagnosed with Alzheimer's
Disease...early onset.

Pause as Lee shoots Gina a stunned look.

LEE
My God Gina....why didn't you say
anything?

GINA
(Voice breaking)
What the hell am I gonna say? This
is the reaction I was trying to
avoid from everybody.

She gets up while trying not to look at Lee. Lee comes over
to comfort her.

LEE
Is there anything I can do to help?

GINA
Down the line I may need to take a
leave of absence to take care of
him on my own.

LEE
Gina you shouldn't do this on your
own okay? Let all of us help you.

GINA
(Nodding)
Okay. Lee?

LEE
What is it?

GINA
How do you say goodbye to your own
father?..because I can't.

They both sit down close to each other.

LEE
I haven't told anyone this in years
but I lost my grandmother to
Alzheimer's 12 years ago. I didn't
talk about it for a long time
because it hurts too much. You're
pretty much in the same position as
me. Me and my grandmother were very
close, she helped raised me when I
was a child while my parents were
going through a divorce. Does your
mom know about this?

GINA
Me and my mom haven't spoken in
years.

LEE
Your parents divorced?

GINA
If you wanna call it that. Lee my
relationship with my mom is very
complicated.

LEE
Well I won't do anymore prying but
how is he doing?...really?

GINA
Some days are better than others.

DISSOLVE TO.

INT. GINA'S OFFICE-SAME DAY

Gina is trying to type some documents when her phone
vibrates. She answers.

GINA
(On phone)
Hello.

KEVIN
Hey Gina its me.

GINA
What can I do for you?

KEVIN
I really wanna see you. Are you
free tonight?

GINA
No I can't, I have to be with my
dad.

KEVIN
Gina I think your dad can take care
of himself.

GINA
Kevin you don't understand-

KEVIN
What don't I understand?

GINA
I have to go-

KEVIN
Gina wait a second-

She hangs up.

CUT TO.

INT. HOSPITAL LOBBY-MORNING

Gina walks down the hallway contemplating going back home but
wanted more information on Alzheimer's from Dr. Wong. She
knocks on his door.

INT. DR. WONG'S OFFICE-ESTABLISHING

Dr. Wong hears Gina's knock and she enters.

DR. WONG
Come in.

GINA
Dr. Wong.

DR. WONG
Gina. How are you? How's your dad?

GINA
We're doing fine.

She closes the door behind her. She sits across from him.

DR.WONG
What can I do for you?

GINA
I want to know everything from you
about Alzheimer's Disease.

DR.WONG
Alzheimer's Disease is the most
common form of Dementia.

GINA
And what is Dementia?

DR.WONG
Dementia is a progressive brain
disorder that affects cognitive and
bodily function. There are several
stages of the disease and a few
other forms of dementia.

GINA
What other forms?

DR.WONG
For example there's Vascular
Dementia, Frontolopal Dementia,
Parkinson's Dementia and
Huntington's Disease.

GINA
You said there were several stages
of Alzheimer's. From my dad's test
results do you know which stage
he's in?

DR.WONG
From the results, Donald seems to
be in the moderate stages. Because
we don't know when the signs first
started, its difficult to pinpoint
those early signs. In fact let me
introduce you to somebody.

GINA
Who?

DR.WONG
 Her name is Rowena Valentini, she's
 a social worker who work with
 Alzheimer's patients.

He picks up the phone.

DR.WONG (CONT'D)
 (On phone)
 Yeah send her in please.

He hangs up and ROWENA VALENTINI, early 50's, compassionate,
 straight shooter, enters.

ROWENA
 Dr.Wong. Are you Ms. Cooper?

GINA
 Yes.

ROWENA
 Rowena Valentini, nice to meet you.
 Did you bring your father with you?

GINA
 No he's home with a neighbor. Would
 you like to come with me to see
 him?

ROWENA
 Yes I would if you don't mind.

GINA
 Okay. You could follow behind my
 car...Thank you Dr. Wong.

DR.WONG
 You're welcome. Anything you need
 let me know.

GINA
 I will.

Rowena and Gina exit.

EXT. DONALD'S HOUSE-MID MORNING

Gina and Rowena get out of their cars and walk side by side
 to the front porch.

ROWENA
 Nice neighborhood.

GINA
 Long as its safe that's all I care
 about.

ROWENA
 How is Donald?

GINA
 Some days he's normal and other
 days he's...well you know what I
 mean.

They step up on the porch and Gina knocks on the door.

GINA (CONT'D)
 (Calling out)
 Dad I'm here.

She opens revealing Danica standing inside.

DANICA
 Hey there come in.
 (Looking at Rowena)
 Who this is?

They enter the house.

GINA
 This is Rowena Valentini, she's a
 social worker from the hospital.

INT.DONALD'S HOUSE-SAME

They all see Don sitting on the couch and Danica pulls Gina
 to the side.

GINA
 (Whispering)
 What's up?

DANICA
 Don's been having trouble
 remembering me.

GINA
 Join the club.

DANICA
 Well I asked him if he wanted a
 sandwich and he thought I said
 Which Sand. On top of that he
 pissed in the garbage can thinking
 it was the toilet.

GINA
Lord. Have. Mercy.

A beat.

GINA (CONT'D)
Well thanks for watching him for
me.

DANICA
No problem child, you know I love
both of ya'll.

GINA
I love you too.

DANICA
(As she exits)
See ya later Donnie.

Rowena observes Don's behavior.

DONALD
Bye Sherri.

Rowena and Gina look at each other then at Don.

ROWENA
(To Gina)
Who's Sherri?

GINA
Wait a minute.

Gina sits next to Don.

GINA (CONT'D)
Dad that wasn't Sherri that was
Danica.

DONALD
It was, she just left.

GINA
Dad. Sherri died years ago-

DONALD
(Agitated)
No she ain't, how could you say
something like that?!

GINA
 (Firm)
 Dad listen to me...Sherri died from
 AIDS years ago, when I was a
 teenager.

Donald glances at both of them as though he wanted to cry.
 Then he stands up and heads to his room.

GINA (CONT'D)
 I'm sorry about this.

ROWENA
 Its okay Gina, I've seen this in a
 lot of Alzheimer's patients. They
 would get agitated a while then
 afterwards they calm down.

Don comes back out and sees Gina and Rowena.

DONALD
 (To Rowena confused)
 Who are you?

GINA
 Dad I want you to meet Rowena
 Valentini, she's a social worker
 from the hospital.

ROWENA
 Very nice to meet you Mr. Cooper.

DONALD
 Oh don't be so formal, everyone
 calls me Don...my closest friends
 call me Donnie.

ROWENA
 Well Don will suit me just fine.
 I'm here because I want to help you
 prepare for what can happen in the
 future.

GINA
 Such as?

ROWENA
 Long term care, financial matters,
 legal matters, if applicable...Don
 do you have life insurance?

DONALD
 Well...I don't know...Sweetheart?

GINA
(Turns to Rowena)
Yes he does.

ROWENA
You got brochures about Alzheimer's
right?

GINA
Yeah Dr. Wong gave me some.

DONALD
Why would you ask me about life
insurance? I ain't dead yet.

GINA
Dad?-

ROWENA
Its okay Gina. I'm asking Don
because God forbid if something
does happen, the burden will be on
Gina to take care of everything
when you're not around. And with
life insurance she'll be taken care
of.

DONALD
I do have a will.

A beat.

GINA
What?

DONALD
I had a will made out before I got
out of the military and left
everything to my daughter in the
long run.

ROWENA
That's a start.

DONALD
I knew there was going to be a time
where I won't be here with my
daughter, that's why I actually
prepared the will for her.

GINA
Dad is there something you wanna
tell me?

DONALD

The Air Force knew I had a few issues with my memory. When it kept happening I asked one of my friends who was a JAG Officer to make out a will for me just in case. Gina will have all she needs from me.

Rowena and Gina looked at Don stunned.

ROWENA

I have a couple more brochures about long term medical care, I'm a go get them.

Rowena gets up and exits to her car.

GINA

Why didn't you tell me this?

DONALD

I thought the memory lapses would just go away. When it kept happening, the Air Force suggested I should retire with an honorable discharge.

GINA

Jesus Dad.

A beat.

Rowena re-enters the house and gives Gina the brochures.

GINA (CONT'D)

Thank you.

ROWENA

I'm gonna call you every week and stop by every month to check on Don's progress.

DONALD

You're leaving?

ROWENA

I have to go back to the hospital. I'm gonna call you on Thursday, will you answer the phone?

DONALD

Yeah if I don't forget.

GINA
I'll answer the phone.

ROWENA
Pleasure meeting you Don.

DONALD
You too.

They shake hands.

GINA
I'll walk you out.

Gina and Rowena exit the house.

CUT TO.

EXT. DONALD'S HOUSE-ESTABLISHING

Gina and Rowena walk outside towards Rowena's car.

GINA
I'm worried about him.

ROWENA
That's to be expected..I can't tell
you how many caregivers say the
same thing.

GINA
What else can I do for him?

ROWENA
You're already doing it. You moved
in with him, taking care of his
daily needs, hired a health care
worker to stay until you get off
from work. You're doing what you
can do.

GINA
(Sighing)
Yeah.

ROWENA
But I'm also concerned about you.

GINA
Why?

ROWENA

There will be days where things can get pretty rough. Caregivers have to know when to take care of themselves as well and reach out for help.

GINA

I can handle it.

ROWENA

Some have told me this too. In the long run a few of them got sick because they did too much on their own.

GINA

I won't be next.

They approach Rowena's car.

ROWENA

I hope not. Alzheimer's doesn't care who you are or where you came from. Its a cruel thief that keeps on taking. Miracles can happen everyday. Who knows? The next miracle can save a lot of people's lives, including your dad's.

GINA

From what I heard this disease is also called "The Long Goodbye."

Gina looks at Rowena emotional. Rowena then gives her a hug. Tears began to come down Gina's face and as they let go, Gina wipes them with her hand.

ROWENA

Stay strong Gina.

GINA

I'll try.

Rowena gets in her car and Gina looks at it as the car drives away.

EXT. DINER—MID MORNING

Gina and Kevin are having lunch. Gina's pretending to be in an upbeat mood though deep down she's on the verge of falling apart.

KEVIN
How's your dad?

GINA
He's fine.

KEVIN
I'm glad that we have some time to
talk...I miss being with you.

GINA
Me too...I hear you got a
promotion.

KEVIN
Yeah I was promoted to supervisor.

GINA
Congratulations.

A beat.

GINA (CONT'D)
I got one proposal myself a few
months ago but I had to turn it
down because dad got sick. Lee was
gonna promote me to paralegal.

KEVIN
Really?

GINA
Yeah. One of the paralegals is
supposed to retire at the end of
the year and Lee wanted me to take
her spot. Maybe when things get
better I'll reconsider.

KEVIN
Whatever decision you make I'll
support you all the way...I love
you.

GINA
I love you too.

They kiss on the lips.

GINA (CONT'D)
I'm sorry for shutting you out of
my life.

KEVIN

I should be the one to apologize
Gina. I wasn't there when you
needed me the most and I regret
that.

GINA

I forgive you. I should go back to
work.

KEVIN

(Standing up)
When can I see you again?

GINA

Maybe this weekend.

KEVIN

Its a date.

GINA

See you later.

She exits.

CUT TO.

INT. GINA'S OFFICE-AFTERNOON

Gina is filing some papers when her cellphone rings. Dr. Wong
is on the other line, she stops and answers.

GINA

(On phone)
Hello.

DR.WONG

Gina hi this is Dr.Wong.

GINA

What can I do for you Dr.Wong?

DR.WONG

I have your genetic testing results
in front of me.

GINA

What are they?

DR.WONG

Its up to you if you want to know.

GINA
I do.

She hears a knock and Shauna enters. Gina holds up her hand to Shauna signaling her to hold on.

DR.WONG
Your results came back negative.

Shauna sits down.

GINA
Wow...that's...quite a relief..thank you Dr.Wong.

DR.WONG
You're welcome...your dad has an appointment on Thursday at 10:30am. Can he make it?

GINA
We'll be there.

DR.WONG
Great...I'll see you soon.

GINA
Thank you.

She hangs up then a smile comes across her face.

SHAUNA
Somebody's happy.

GINA
I know.

SHAUNA
You made up with Kevin didn't you?

GINA
That too.

SHAUNA
Too?

GINA
Yeah...I took a genetic test to see if there's a chance I could develop Alzheimer's in the future. Luckily for me there are no chances, the tests were negative.

SHAUNA
(Excited)

Go girl! That's what I'm talking about. I know you gonna celebrate.

GINA
Yep. Me and Kevin are gonna see each other this weekend. Then next week is dad's court date.

SHAUNA
Oh yeah. The judge will let him go, all you gotta do is tell him your dad's got Alzheimer's and they'll throw that shit out.

GINA
I hope so. The justice system is fucked up enough.

SHAUNA
I feel you.

DISSOLVE TO.

INT. HOSPITAL-MORNING

Gina and Donald are coming out of the elevator towards the lobby.

DONALD
You know you really didn't have to come with me.

GINA
And let you get lost again? Uh uh I'm not taking that chance.

DONALD
Where's my girl at?

GINA
Who?

They sit on the bench.

DONALD
The one who showed up at the house.

GINA
Oh you mean Rowena?

DONALD
Yeah her.

GINA
She's working in the area
somewhere. After your appointment
you want to go see her?

DONALD
I sure do, she's a real sweetheart.

GINA
Oh dad.

Dr. Wong appears.

DR.WONG
You can come in now.

INT. DR.WONG'S OFFICE-SAME

Gina and Donald in Dr.Wong's office waits and he appears.

DR.WONG
Sorry to keep you waiting.

He closes the door and sits across from them.

DR.WONG (CONT'D)
Donald I have your test results and
you scored a little lower than your
last one.

GINA
What does that mean? Is the disease
progressing?

DR.WONG
I'm afraid so. Generally Don's
still in good health but his
cognitive function is declining.

DONALD
He's saying I'm dying?

GINA
No he's not dad-

DONALD
The hell he isn't!
(Standing up)
(MORE)

DONALD (CONT'D)
 You're telling me I'm in good
 health but my brain is turning into
 a damn vegetable! I'm still a human
 being, no one will tell me
 otherwise!

Donald slams the door as he exits.

Gina has her hand in her face feeling frustrated. Donald
 notices her having a hard time dealing with this situation.

GINA
 I'm sorry Dr. Wong.

DR.WONG
 Its okay.

GINA
 See you later.

She exits outside and realizes her father disappeared.

She walks around the lobby to find him and calls out.

GINA (CONT'D)
 Dad!....Dad where are you?!

A nurse approaches her.

GINA (CONT'D)
 Have you seen an older man with a
 brown jacket and jeans on?

NURSE
 As a matter of fact I have, he got
 on the elevator.

GINA
 Thank you.

Gina runs inside the elevator.

CUT TO.

INT. HOSPITAL DOWNSTAIRS 1ST FLOOR-ESTABLISHING

Gina gets off the elevator and sees her dad arguing with a
 security guard. She runs towards them.

GINA
 What the hell is going on here?!

They see Gina with terror in her eyes.

GUARD

Ma'am do you know this man?

GINA

Yeah he's my father, what's the problem?

GUARD

He was causing a scene, he thinks this is the Air Force base.

GINA

Jesus.

DONALD

Well it is!-

GINA

No its not dad!...This is the hospital where you have your doctor's appointments.

A beat.

DONALD

(Calming down)

Where am I?

GINA

At the hospital...not the Air Force base...Lets go home.

She takes Donald by her hand and escorts him to her car.

DISSOLVE TO.

EXT. DONALD'S HOUSE-AFTERNOON

Gina is reading a book on the porch when a black car pulls up in front of the curb. She squints her eyes to see inside. The passenger window rolls down. Its Kevin. He climbs out and walks towards her.

GINA

How did you find my dad's house?

KEVIN

Google maps. You should try it sometime.

GINA

(Sarcastic)

Very funny.

He sits next to her on the porch and kisses her on the cheek.

KEVIN
How's your dad?

She tilts her head inside then back at Kevin.

GINA
Tired. He's been up all night, he just went to sleep this morning.

KEVIN
Have you slept?

GINA
Not really. I took a nap earlier but it didn't help too much.

KEVIN
You gotta get some rest Gina.

GINA
Lucky for me one of Dad's friends are inside so maybe I can take a break and sleep.

Kevin takes her hand.

KEVIN
Come to my place.

GINA
I couldn't.

KEVIN
Why not? Someone's looking after your dad and you're exhausted.

GINA
I don't know-

She abruptly stands up as does Kevin.

KEVIN
Wait a minute baby.
(A beat)
Look Gina I'm gonna be honest with you and say what everyone else is gonna say. I'm worried about you and I know if you don't take care of yourself, how are you gonna be able to take care of your father?

INT. KEVIN'S APARTMENT-SAME

Kevin and Gina enter the kitchen that look as though its been remodeled. Gina sits at the counter while Kevin fixes himself a drink.

KEVIN
Want something to drink?

GINA
No...well...maybe some water.

He pours her a cup of water.

KEVIN
(Handing Gina her cup)
Here you go.

GINA
Thanks.

She takes small sips.

KEVIN
Make yourself comfortable while I
go take a quick leak. Be right
back.

He exits to the bathroom.

While Gina is drinking her water, Kevin's phone rings. Gina sees an unknown number. She's tempted to answer but lets it go to voicemail.

KEVIN'S VOICEMAIL
If you have a message for Kevin,
spill it out.

The machine beeps then a woman's voice come on the line.

WOMAN
Hey Kevin its me. I wanted to talk
to you about what happened between
us. Give me a call when you get
this message, later.

Message ends.

A sick feeling suddenly hits Gina's stomach. She hears the toilet flushing and stood up to wait on Kevin.

He sees her with an angry look on her face.

KEVIN
What's wrong?

GINA
Wrong?...You wanna know what's
wrong?

She turns his answer machine on to let him listen.

After the message stops, Gina grabs her purse and heads for
the door.

KEVIN
Gina I can explain-

GINA
Explain what?! That you've been
with another woman?

KEVIN
Its not what it looks like-

GINA
What the hell does it look like? A
Three-way?

KEVIN
Gina!

Gina pushes Kevin out the way, exits the apartment and slams
the door behind her.

Kevin stares at Gina's cup then throws it violently at the
wall.

CUT TO.

INT. DONALD'S HOUSE-LATE AFTERNOON

Gina is sitting on the couch while Donald is still sleeping.
Her cellphone rings. She sees its Shauna and answers.

GINA
Hello.

SHAUNA
Hey girl...how's your dad?

GINA
He's okay, sleeping. What's up?

SHAUNA
I need a big favor from you.

GINA
Sure, what you need?

SHAUNA
Is there anyway you can do overtime for me? I was supposed to do it but I have to see my grandmother, she's not doing very well.

GINA
What's wrong with her?

SHAUNA
Pancreatic Cancer.

GINA
Damn...I hope she'll be okay. Sure honey I'll stand in for you, I need some extra money anyway.

SHAUNA
Thanks.

GINA
Keep in touch with me okay?

SHAUNA
I will.

GINA
Later.

She hangs up.

INT. LEE'S OFFICE-MID MORNING

Gina brings Lee a few papers she just printed out from her office.

GINA
I have these memos you told me to type up.

LEE
Okay thanks.
(A beat)
Gina.

Gina turns to him.

LEE (CONT'D)
I'm having lunch in about an hour, would you like to join me?

GINA
Sure.

Gina exits.

EXT. DINER—EARLY AFTERNOON

Gina and Lee are eating lunch at the diner. Lee can't help but worry about Gina so he has a heart to heart with her.

GINA
Delicious.

LEE
Gina I wanna have a talk with you.

GINA
Okay?

LEE
How are you doing with all of this?
I know you tell me you're fine
everyday, but what's really going
on?

GINA
Well dad is starting to...some days
are better than others, what can I
tell you?

LEE
Gina its okay to be honest with me.

GINA
He's more agitated than he used to
be...mostly stays up all night then
falls asleep during the morning and
afternoon...and he's starting to
forget my name...Is that what you
mean by being honest?

LEE
I'm sorry.

GINA
Its fine Lee, you asked so I told.

LEE
Have you gotten his financial
matters in order?

GINA

I'm gonna ask Michelle to draw up a Power Of Attorney to take care of his decisions if and when dad gets incapacitated.

LEE

That's a start.

GINA

Can I ask you something?

LEE

Sure.

GINA

How come some woman hasn't swept you off your feet yet?

LEE

Work keeps me busy. Besides why go through a broken heart again?

GINA

(Sighing)

Yeah tell me about it.

LEE

Sound like you got the same problem.

GINA

That would be an understatement. Just when you think you know someone, that person turns around and punch you in the gut.

LEE

Don't I know it.

GINA

You think we could've been together if neither one of us was in a relationship months ago?

DISSOLVE TO.

INT. BAR-FLASHBACK

Gina is drinking. She's already had two glasses of vodka when Lee walk in as though someone killed his best friend. He sees Gina and sits next to her also ready to drink. Bartender approaches him.

LEE

I'll have what she's having and
make mine a double.

Bartender fixes Lee's drinks and hands it to him. Lee gobbles
it down just as Gina glances at him tipsy.

GINA

Starting kinda early ain't it?

He looks at her.

LEE

So are you...why are you here?

GINA

Celebrating being a single
woman....you?

LEE

I'm a free man myself.
(Slurring)
From a divorce.

GINA

(Slurring)

Noooo shit?...Well I'd be lying if
I didn't say I'm getting drunk
because I can't get over losing a
child.

He eyes her again with a look of sympathy.

LEE

Sorry to hear that...anything I can
do?

GINA

Yeah....tell the doctors I can have
another child...even though they
told me I can't.

LEE

I don't know about all that but I
can tell you is you're still able
to have a full life whether you
have a child or not.

A beat.

INT. LEE'S BEDROOM-FLASHBACK

Lee and Gina are in bed with their clothes off after having sex. Gina tried to figure out where she was then finds Lee's hands cuddling her the whole time and realizes she slept with her boss. She pushes Lee's hand away and sits up. Groggy Lee moves around, squints his eyes and sees Gina's backside. He reaches out to touch her.

LEE
Hey.

GINA
(Touching her forehead)
The hell am I?

LEE
My bedroom.

He comes closer and kisses her back.

GINA
Did I drive?

LEE
No...thank god for Uber.

GINA
Head is killing me.

LEE
You want some coffee? Its almost morning.

GINA
Ohhh shit-

LEE
Its alright we can go to work from here. Our heads ain't up to par but at least we can go in together.

GINA
I have to...take a shower.

LEE
First door down the hall on your right.

They turn around and give a passionate kiss, then backs away.

LEE (CONT'D)
You don't look so good.

GINA
(Holding her mouth)
Oh God.

She runs out to the bathroom to vomit.

DISSOLVE TO.

EXT. DINER-PRESENT

Lee drinks his soda while Gina sips her water.

LEE
You couldn't stop throwing up the
next morning. I had to send you
home.

GINA
Alcohol doesn't agree with me but
for that day, I just didn't care.

LEE
At least you didn't puke on my
floor.

GINA
I didn't know how to get over
losing my baby and then be told I
couldn't have any more kids. It was
just too much to bear at the time.

LEE
So can a divorce.

She looks up at him.

GINA
God always has a way of working
things out.

INT. COURTROOM-MID AFTERNOON

Gina and Donald are walking down the lobby towards the
outside.

DONALD
I can't believe this.

GINA
Its not the end of the world. At
least you didn't get jail time.

DONALD

House arrest with a fine of \$1000.

GINA

I'll pay the fine but I'm afraid you can't leave the house unless its for your doctor's appointments.

DONALD

Can I even sit on the porch?

GINA

Yeah just don't leave the house is all.

DONALD

When do I start house arrest?

GINA

Monday. You know that leaves a weekend open, why don't we take a short trip down through the country?

DONALD

Not interested.

GINA

What about the base?

His eyes lit up with excitement.

DONALD

Now ya talking. When can we go?

GINA

Tomorrow if you want.

INT. DONALD'S HOUSE-AFTERNOON

Gina is inside sitting on the couch while Donald's sleeping. She hears a knock at the door. She opens to find Kevin waiting outside on the front porch.

GINA

Kevin?

KEVIN

I've been trying to call you.

GINA

What do you want?

KEVIN
Could we talk?..please?

She signals him in and closes the door.

KEVIN (CONT'D)
How's your dad?

GINA
Tired...he'll be on house arrest
for the next three months starting
on Monday.

KEVIN
At least he didn't go to jail-

GINA
What do you want Kevin?

KEVIN
A chance to clear the air. The
woman that called my phone, I knew
her from a long time ago before I
met you. We only dated briefly but
nothing more than that. The only
thing happened between us was a
kiss. I didn't want to go further
because I still loved you.

A beat.

GINA
I don't know what to say.

KEVIN
Say you'll forgive me.

GINA
I just don't know how to trust you
again...I need some time.

A look of disappointment crosses Kevin's face.

KEVIN
Will you call me sometime?

GINA
I will.

INT. DONALD'S HOUSE-SAME

Gina is sorting through the mail and finds a letter from her
mom's prison.

She stops to stare at her mother's name on the envelope. She sees Donald looking at her with an agitated expression on his face.

DONALD
Who are you?

GINA
Um...Its me dad, its Gina your daughter-

DONALD
What daughter? I don't have a daughter-

GINA
Yes you do, its me.

DONALD
Where am I?

GINA
You're at home, this is your house.

DONALD
My house?

GINA
Yes dad.

She comforts him with a hug.

DONALD
Could I have something to drink before I go?

GINA
(Taken aback)
Go where?

DONALD
Home.

GINA
But dad-

DONALD
Mama and daddy must be worried about me. They haven't heard from me in I don't know how long.

GINA
(Hesitant)
I'll give them a call and let them
know you're staying over tonight.

DONALD
You'll do that?

GINA
Yes sir I will.

DONALD
Oh thank you. You're one of the
nicest people I ever met.

GINA
You ain't too bad yourself.

CUT TO.

INT. BEDROOM-SAME

Gina sits on the bed talking on the phone while reading her
mom's letter.

SHAUNA
You're kidding?

GINA
No. One minute its today and on
another its 35 years ago. He not
only forgot who I was but he said
he wanted to go home and be with
his parents.

SHAUNA
Wow.

GINA
My grandparents died a long time
ago and he doesn't remember
that...speaking of which how's your
grandmother?

SHAUNA
She's a little better. My brother
is here with her so I can come back
to work tomorrow. How did the case
turn out?

GINA
House arrest for 3 months plus an
\$1000 fine.

SHAUNA

Thank God for that. They know damn well they shouldn't put a dementia patient in prison for something minor like this.

GINA

Kevin was here earlier.

SHAUNA

For real? Ya'll made up?

GINA

I needed time to think.

SHAUNA

I think you should take him back. The kiss didn't mean shit and lets be hones, you're not exactly squeaky clean yourself.

GINA

I know. He told me to call him sometime.

SHAUNA

So do it.

GINA

Its not that simple-

SHAUNA

It is simple Gina, you're the one making it complicated.

GINA

My mom sent me a letter.

SHAUNA

You serious?...does she want to see you?

GINA

Yeah.

SHAUNA

So what's stopping you?

GINA

The past.

SHAUNA

Gina. Whether you like it or not she's your mom and God forbid something happens, she'll be all you have left. Believe me it's never too late to start fresh. So why make things worse all the time?

A beat.

INT. PRISON-AFTERNOON

Gina follows a correctional officer through a corridor towards the visitor's lounge. They enter inside.

INT. VISITOR LOUNGE-SAME

Gina sits down in a chair to wait for her mother.

GUARD

Wait here please.

The guard goes outside to bring Gina's mom into the lounge. Gina spots a young couple with a small child out the corner of her left eye talking. The guard comes back in with EBONI COOPER, middle aged, heavy set.

Gina gives Eboni an uncomfortable glance.

GUARD (CONT'D)

You have 15 minutes.

Gina nods her head and the guard exits.

Eboni hugs Gina. Gina still isn't happy with her mom for obvious reasons. They sit across from each other.

EBONI

You made it.

GINA

I'm here ain't I?

EBONI

How you doing Gina?

GINA

I'm fine.

EBONI

How come you never come to see me?

GINA

I think you know why.

EBONI

There's a lot of distance between us. All I wanted was take care of you and your daddy.

GINA

Is that supposed to make me feel better? The drinking is how you took care of both of us? I wish I'd known this, I could've broke you out of prison a long time ago-

EBONI

Don't get smart with me...I did the best I could with ya'll. It took me years to forgive myself for what I done and thought maybe there could be a way to have you back in my life.

GINA

(Wiping away tears)
Dad's sick.

EBONI

(Concerned)

How sick? What's wrong with him?

GINA

Alzheimer's Disease.

EBONI

Gina...I'm so...How long has he had this?

GINA

He was diagnosed months ago but I really don't know when the symptoms first started and...

EBONI

Gina don't do that.

GINA

I should've-

EBONI

This isn't your fault.

GINA
I didn't see him enough after he
got out the military I just...

EBONI
You're here with him now, that
counts for something.

She holds Gina's hand.

EBONI (CONT'D)
I wish I could be there to help
ya'll.
(A beat)
I can't do shit in here. For what
its worth I do love you and your
daddy.

Guard enters.

GUARD
Time's up Cooper.

They look at the guard then back at each other.

EBONI
I have to go.

GINA
Yeah.

EBONI
Please come back to see me.

Gina stares at Eboni as they embrace for the last time.

EXT. PRISON-SAME

Gina is walking outside the facility. Coming to her car she
sees Kevin waiting then stops dead in her tracks.

GINA
What are you doing here?

KEVIN
Shauna told me where you were...you
okay?

GINA
Yeah.

KEVIN

You never used to talk about your mom. And you never told me she was in prison.

GINA

Its not like its something to announce to the world.

KEVIN

I miss you.

GINA

Just hold me.

They hug.

GINA (CONT'D)

Hold me tight.

EXT. MILITARY BASE-MID MORNING

Gina and Donald enjoy their weekend outside the Commissary eating ice cream.

DONALD

Beautiful place.

GINA

It is.

DONALD

I don't think I ever been here before.

GINA

(Watching him)

Its a wonderful place to visit.

DONALD

What's your name?

GINA

Gina.

DONALD

I think I know someone like that. She doesn't come around like she used to but she's a good girl who is as stubborn and independent just like me.

GINA
(Trying to stare straight
ahead)
What do you wish you could tell
her?

DONALD
To say that I'm proud of her.

Tears stream down Gina's face.

GINA
She would be very happy to hear
that.

DONALD
Could you tell her for me?

GINA
I will.

She gives him a hug.

DISSOLVE TO.

INT. LONG TERM CARE FACILITY—MONTHS LATER

Rowena and Gina are there to visit Donald who's been living
there for the past three months.

GINA
I hate this.

ROWENA
Remember what I told you before, we
knew this day was gonna come.

Gina signs in at the front desk. They then walk towards Don's
room.

GINA
I would think Dad could spend most
of his time visiting the base but
now he don't even know what a base
is. Dealing his illness changed me
a lot.

ROWENA
How do you think he'll behave this
time?

GINA
The last time I saw him he didn't
know me at all so...who knows.

They arrive at his door.

GINA (CONT'D)
(To Rowena)
Ready?

Rowena nods. Gina opens the door and they enter the room.

CONTINUED.

INT. DONALD'S ROOM-SAME

Gina turns on the light and they see Donald sleeping in bed.
A nurse just gave him medicine beforehand.

ROWENA
How long has he been sleep?

NURSE
He just went to sleep.

GINA
Thank you.

Nurse exits.

Rowena phone rings. She glances at the number realizing its
from the hospital.

ROWENA
I gotta take this.
(On phone)
Hello.

While Rowena's voice speaks into the phone, Gina stares at
Donald resting in bed.

Gina has flashbacks of herself as a child playing Jump Rope
with her dad outside. She also experiences another memory of
herself and him on the porch watching her mom in handcuffs
going to jail.

Rowena calls out to Gina snapping her back to reality.

GINA
Huh? What?

ROWENA

Did you hear me? I said I have to go to the hospital, do you need a ride home?

GINA

Yeah...thanks.

EXT. DONALD'S HOUSE-AFTERNOON

Rowena drops Gina off at the house. Gina turns to face her.

ROWENA

You gonna be alright?

GINA

Yeah.

ROWENA

Remember to stay strong Gina, this is what he would want.

GINA

I will.

ROWENA

See you soon.

GINA

Take care.

Rowena drives away.

Gina slowly drags herself to the porch to sit down. Taking a deep breath she notices how much her life has changed over the years.

Danica approaches Gina from across the street and stops to talk.

DANICA

Whew child those porch steps gettin longer every trip.

She sits next to her.

GINA

Your leg still giving you trouble?

DANICA

Yeah, I went to the doctor and was told I had Arthritis.

GINA
Damn.

DANICA
Long as I keep moving, Arthritis is
the least of my worries.

GINA
What?

DANICA
Your daddy.

GINA
What about him?

DANICA
I just...it breaks my heart he in a
nursing home now.

GINA
Me too...that was the last thing I
wanted to do but his health
deteriorated pretty fast...its in
God's hands now.

DANICA
He's still young though. As healthy
as he was all those years in the
service and look what happened.

GINA
Don't I know it.

DANICA
I remember the first time we met.
Ya'll just moved on this street and
I came over to introduce myself.
That was the first time he called
me NeNe.

They break out in laughter.

DANICA (CONT'D)
That nickname was reserved for him
and nobody else. Sherri was still
around then too. She always came
over with a Budweiser in her hand,
cuttin a fool with all of us.

GINA
I've been thinking about her a lot
recently. What would've happened if
she were still alive.

DANICA

I hate that man she went with gave her AIDS. He dead too but he strut his stuff round here pretending he a nice guy and all.

She takes a swig of her cigarette.

DANICA (CONT'D)

That fool ain't shit. I knew that from the start.

GINA

He fooled a lot of people-

DANICA

Sheeeit. He ain't fool me for a second child, I knew his lyin ass was foul. Your daddy didn't like him neither, he told me that.

(Taking another swig of her cigarette)

He said there's something bout that man that don't sit right with me. Word on the street, he fucked around with a lot of women even when he was with Sherri. I couldn't stand that shit.

A beat.

GINA

His ass should've went to jail.

DANICA

He should've but no one knew Sherri had AIDS, not even herself until she got too sick. Not too long after his bitch ass died too.

GINA

Makes me sick to think about it.

DANICA

One thing about your daddy though, he loves you very much. Remember its the disease that's doing this to him. His love for you and love for life never left.

CUT TO.

INT. KEVIN'S CAR-MORNING

Kevin and Gina are in his car on the way to work.

GINA
I have to pick up my car from the
shop later on.

KEVIN
Want me to drive you down there?

GINA
Yeah. I can't afford an Uber right
now.

EXT. KEVIN'S CAR-SAME

They park in front of the law office.

KEVIN
Dinner tonight?

GINA
You bet....I'll see you then.

KEVIN
(Kisses her lips)
I love you.

GINA
I love you too.

She climbs out of the car and closes the door.

INT. GINA'S OFFICE-MID MORNING

Gina is finishing a legal brief for Lee when she hears a
knock.

GINA
Come in.

Shauna enters.

SHAUNA
Hey what's up?

GINA
Busy girl.

SHAUNA
How do you like being a paralegal?

GINA

Better than a secretary. I'm actually preparing trial briefs, researching cases. All that without sleeping with my boss.

SHAUNA

(Laughing)

At least your sense of humor still around.

GINA

I always had one, it just was missing for a while.

SHAUNA

Lee asked if the brief was ready.

GINA

I'm about to bring it now.

SHAUNA

You didn't hold onto your apartment did you?

GINA

No why?

SHAUNA

Because I have a friend who's looking for a place. I thought maybe she could move there.

GINA

Far as I know its still open but I'd check with the landlord first. I'll be right back.

INT. LEE'S OFFICE-SAME

Lee is filing papers when he hears a knock.

LEE

Come in.

Gina enters. He turns around.

LEE (CONT'D)

Hey.

GINA

Got your brief, we can go over it.

They both sit down.

GINA (CONT'D)
Marriages never last long do they?

LEE
Some do, some don't. I should know
mine didn't.

GINA
Marriages end for all kind of
reasons. I never been in that
position but hopefully someday I
won't be just another statistic.

LEE
Oh don't you worry, a good man will
bound to sweep you off your feet.

GINA
Well that's down the line. How's it
looking?

LEE
I always knew you can be a
paralegal. Who knows, sooner or
later you could end up where I am.

GINA
Don't push it Lee, one step at a
time.

LEE
How's your dad?

GINA
Last time I saw him he was
sleeping.

LEE
Does he still recognize you?

GINA
(Shaking her head)
No. But on certain days he could
remember something only I would
know about. Those moments are the
real blessing.

CUT TO.

INT. DONALD'S HOUSE-LATE EVENING

Gina is sleeping in the bed when the phone starts ringing. She awakens to see an unknown number on the ID. She answers.

GINA
(On phone)
Hello....yes this is Ms.
Cooper.....what?

INT. LONG TERM CARE FACILITY-MOMENTS LATER

Gina enters the facility distraught but furious and approaches the front desk.

GINA
What the hell is going on here?
Where's my dad?!

CLERK
Ma'am calm down-

GINA
Calm down?! I got a call from this
place saying my dad wandered off in
the middle of the fuckin night and
you telling me to calm down?!-

CLERK
We got the police looking for him
now as I speak.

GINA
I'm going out there-

She run quickly outside.

CLERK
Ma'am wait!

CUT TO.

EXT. PUBLIC PARK-NIGHT

Gina's been looking for Donald for over an hour. Tired, she's on the verge of going back to the facility when she sees a man matching her dad's description sitting on a long-wooded bench.

GINA
(Whispering)
Dad.

She quickly walk towards him then stop. She sees him in his pajamas and sits on the bench.

GINA (CONT'D)
Dad are you okay?

DONALD
Who you supposed to be?

GINA
Its Gina...its me dad.

DONALD
You're not the bus driver?

GINA
Why do you want a driver?

DONALD
I wanted to go home. Mama and daddy
are waiting for me.

GINA
(Hiding her nervousness)
I could take you there.

His eyes lit up.

DONALD
You could?

GINA
Yeah.

DONALD
Well get me out of here.

They stand up and start walking back to the facility.

DONALD (CONT'D)
Ain't no tellin when that bus gonna
come.

INT. LONG TERM CARE FACILITY-NIGHT

Gina brings Donald inside. They approach the front desk as the nurse comes towards them.

CLERK
Ms. Cooper you found him. Where was
he?

GINA

A bus stop, a couple miles down the road.

NURSE

C'mon Don lets get you back to your room.

She escorts him down the hall.

DONALD

What room?

NURSE

Right this way.

They exit.

GINA

(Tired)

Jesus Christ.

CLERK

What was he trying to do at a bus stop?

GINA

To go back to his house because his parents were worried about him.

CLERK

Oh dear.

GINA

I'm not surprised about this anymore. The least I can do is not argue with him, just let him be.

Her phone rings.

GINA (CONT'D)

Excuse me I have to take this.

She answers.

GINA (CONT'D)

(On phone)

Hello.

KEVIN

Gina where are you? I'm looking for you and you're not here.

GINA
I had an emergency with dad.

KEVIN
He alright? What happened?

GINA
He wandered off from the facility
and I found him at a bus stop.

KEVIN
A bus stop?

GINA
Yeah. He's...a little disoriented
and agitated but he calmed down
once we got back to the facility.

KEVIN
Thank God you two are okay.

GINA
I'll see you soon.

KEVIN
Be careful...I love you.

GINA
I love you too.

She hangs up and turns back to the clerk.

GINA (CONT'D)
I'm gonna go.

CLERK
I want to apologize on behalf of
the facility Ms. Cooper.

GINA
Everything's fine, that's all that
matters now. If you'll excuse me
I'm gonna go home and have a heart
attack.

She exits.

DISSOLVE TO.

INT. COMMUNITY CENTER—MONTHS LATER

Gina is sitting with three other people and a moderator
discussing her dad's illness.

GINA

He stopped talking not too long after that incident. I wasn't very comfortable attending a support group because I thought I could handle this on my own...but I can't....no one can.

They all nod their heads as if they knew exactly what Gina was going through.

GINA (CONT'D)

But now that I have reached out for help, it was one of the best decisions I ever made.

MODERATOR

How often do you still visit your dad?

Voice echoes as scene dissolves.

INT. HOSPITAL-NIGHT

Gina is sitting at her dad's bedside holding his hand. Her eyes tired and red from crying and not sleeping.

GINA

I wish you could wake up so I can talk to you. Remember all the good times we had.

(A beat)

Would you believe I saw mama? It wasn't the easiest thing to do but deep down I was actually glad to see her. She misses you terribly you know?

Nurse enters and signals Gina outside.

Gina exits out the room where her and the nurse continue talking.

GINA (CONT'D)

What's going on?

NURSE

Your father is very, very sick Ms. Cooper. And because of the complications he's encountered, the only thing we can do for him now is to make him feel as comfortable as possible.

Gina is trying to listen even though her mind was somewhere else.

NURSE (CONT'D)
Is there anything we can do for you
Ms. Cooper?

GINA
No...I don't think there's anything
anyone can for me right
now...excuse me.

She re-enters the room and sits at her dad's bedside.

GINA (CONT'D)
I wish there was a way I could take
you to the 4th of July parade dad.
A used to be tradition along with
eating some barbecued ribs and
baked beans.
(Laughs)
Kevin asked about you too. He said
he wishes you could stay longer to
have grandchildren someday but now
it's just..
(voice cracks)
I'm here in the middle of the night
talking about Kevin and my
attention is supposed to be on you.
(A beat)
Make me understand how I can look
at you and feel as though you're
not gonna be here very long? You're
right. I don't understand it
neither. Only God can answer that.

CUT TO.

INT. HOSPITAL--EARLY MORNING

Gina is sleeping in a chair and her phone starts vibrating. She glances at it and realizes she was supposed to be at work. Lee's name appears on the ID. Reluctant she answers.

GINA
(On phone)
Hello.

LEE
Gina where are you? Do you know
what time it is?

GINA
Actually I don't know the time, all
I can tell you is I'm at the
hospital.

LEE
Are you alright?

GINA
I'm fine, I'm here with my dad.

LEE
Is he okay?

GINA
No. He's not....he's suffered some
complications. I've been at the
hospital all night. I was going to
call you but you beat me to the
punch.

LEE
I'm sure he's gonna recover
right?...Gina?

GINA
I'm afraid not.

A beat.

LEE
What do you mean?

GINA
His system's failing Lee and
there's nothing the doctors can do
for him except make him
comfortable. How's that for
medicine?

LEE
Look stay there with him, I'll get
Shauna. She's been trying to call
you too by the way.

GINA
Oh damn...I'll call her later.

LEE
Okay. Let me know what's going on.

GINA
I will. Take care.

She hangs up. Groggy she stood up and walk outside to find Kevin waiting for her.

GINA (CONT'D)
Kevin.

KEVIN
I wanted to see you before I went to work.

They kiss.

GINA
I thought about doing that too but I don't have the strength right now. Lee called me wondering where I am and so was Shauna.

KEVIN
Is he any better?

GINA
No...but I am praying for a miracle. I wish God would give him a little more time on this earth.

KEVIN
I'm sure he will.

GINA
I never knew you to be spiritual.

KEVIN
I'm not, but I don't tell people what they can and can't believe in. Its not my place to judge.

GINA
(Looking at her phone)
You'll be late for work.

KEVIN
Yeah I better go. You're gonna be alright?

Gina nods her head. They kiss.

KEVIN (CONT'D)
See you later okay.

Kevin exits.

INT. HOSPITAL-AFTERNOON

Gina is seen talking to Danica and John, two of her dad's friends.

DANICA
Ya'll want some coffee?

JOHN
Nah I'm good.

GINA
I'm fine.

Danica drinks her coffee.

DANICA
Damn...I thought my coffee was bad,
this shit taste worse. No wonder
ya'll don't want none.

JOHN
He looks peaceful.

DANICA
He on life support, course he look
that way. Don look like my Uncle
Rooster when he had his heart
attack. Same damn hospital.

A beat.

DANICA (CONT'D)
(To Gina)
Maybe you should go home and rest.

GINA
I rather not. If I do I'm gonna
drive myself sick with worry.

She sits next to Danica while John paces the hallway.
Staring at her dad's room, Gina has another flashback.

INT. DONALD'S HOUSE-FLASHBACK-10 YEARS EARLIER

Donald is sitting at home when his phone rings.

DONALD
(On Phone)
Hello.

GINA
(Drunk)
Dad I need your help..

DONALD
Gina its 1:00 in the morning...have
you?...where are you?

GINA
Jail.

DONALD
Jail?...what are you doing there?

GINA
For being drunk-

She hangs up.

DONALD
Gina, wait a second!

CUT TO.

EXT. JAIL-MOMENTS LATER

Donald's car pulls up to the local jail. He gets out, slams
the door and runs inside.

INT. LOCAL JAIL-SAME

Donald looks around and quickly approaches the front desk.

DONALD
Officer.

OFFICER
Can I help you sir?

DONALD
Yes, I'm here to pick up my
daughter Gina Cooper. I heard she
was here.

OFFICER
(Looks on his chart)
Yes. Gina Cooper. Ms. Cooper was
arrested this evening for public
intoxication. Are you here to set
her bail?

DONALD
Yes sir.

He hands the officer his credit card.

The officer swipes the card and the screen read approved.

OFFICER
Here you go Mr. Cooper, wait here.

He hands Donald his card back.

DONALD
Thank you.

Officer calls inside the jail.

A few minutes later, Gina enters the lobby.

GINA
Dad.

They embrace each other.

DISSOLVE TO.

INT. HOSPITAL-PRESENT

Danica tries to snap Gina out of her daze.

DANICA
Gina?...earth to Gina, where are
you?

Gina looks at her.

DANICA (CONT'D)
Child where were you? In Canada?

GINA
What?

DANICA
For a second I thought you might of
drunk some of that coffee, and got
high as a kite.

GINA
Oh no...I was thinking about the
time Dad bailed me out of trouble.

DANICA
How many times?

GINA
(Giving her the side-eye)
Very funny.

DANICA
C'mon now you know you were a
little troublemaker back in the
day. Your daddy had to not only
bail you out of jail but away from
the prom because you got drunk.

GINA
That's my first taste of
naughtyhead.

Danica laughs.

DANICA
That shit had you trippin.

GINA
I wasn't that bad.

DANICA
Not that bad?

GINA
Nah.

DANICA
When you came back from the prom
you somehow ended up in my house.

GINA
Your window was open.

DANICA
Well..yeah I was sweatin my ass off
but did you have to sleep in the
closet?

GINA
(Laughing)
Those were the days till I got my
shit together.

A beat.

GINA (CONT'D)
You were always there for me when I
needed you the most.

DANICA
And I always will be.

Gina leans her head on Danica's shoulder.

INT. HOSPITAL-MID MORNING

Gina is standing looking through the window when Rowena approaches her.

ROWENA
How's he doing?

GINA
(Giving her a hug)
He's still the same.

ROWENA
You look tired dear.

GINA
I only been home one time since
I've been here. I know what you're
gonna say but I'm just not up to it
right now. I often wonder if life
would be different without dad's
Alzheimer's. He wouldn't be in that
room because he'd be enjoying the
rest of his life.

A beat.

ROWENA
Gina.

GINA
Sorry.

ROWENA
I think you should go home for a
while and come back.

GINA
Maybe you're right. I have to take
a shower anyway and try to eat
something.

ROWENA
You need a ride?

GINA
Yeah.

INT. BATHROOM-AFTERNOON

Gina is laying in the tub taking a long hot bubble bath. She starts nodding off when the doorbell interrupted her relaxation.

GINA
Damn it.

She slowly raises herself up out of the tub and wrap her body with a towel.

INT. LIVING ROOM-SAME

Gina enters the room in a robe walking towards the front door.

GINA
Who is it?

No answer.

She stops and opens the door. Kevin is standing in front of her.

GINA (CONT'D)
Kevin? What are you doing here?

KEVIN
I was in the neighborhood so I came by to see if...Did I come at a bad time?

GINA
Oh no I was taking a bath then I was gonna go back to the hospital. Come in.

He enters as Gina closes the door.

KEVIN
How is he?

GINA
No change. You want anything?

KEVIN
No I'm good. What was you doing?

GINA
Taking a bath. I thought it would help me relax but it didn't.

He massages her shoulders.

KEVIN
Wow you're hard as a rock.

GINA
My point exactly.

KEVIN
(Whispering in her ear)
Maybe I can relieve your tension.

GINA
Kevin I'm not in the mood.

Phone rings. Gina answers.

GINA (CONT'D)
(On phone)
Hello.....Yes this is
she.....okay.....
(Voice cracking)
So that's it?....Thank you.

She hangs up. She turns around to face Kevin with tears in her eyes.

GINA (CONT'D)
He's gone.

Kevin comforts her in his arms as she breaks down crying.

KEVIN
I'm so sorry.

DISSOLVE TO.

EXT. CEMETARY-A WEEK LATER

Gina, Kevin, and a small crowd watch as Donald's casket is about to be laid underground. Two Air Force Honor Guards slowly remove the U.S. Flag, fold it up, then another guard places the Flag in Gina's hands while whispering something in her ear.

Then the guard walks away.

EXT. CEMETARY-MINUTES LATER

Gina, Kevin, and Shauna are walking towards their vehicles. Gina is still staring at her dad's Flag in hand while Kevin and Shauna are in conversation.

SHAUNA
I knew you and Gina was gonna get
back together.

KEVIN
Well I'm happy for your support.

SHAUNA
(To Gina)
You need anything before I go home?

Shauna opens her car door.

GINA
No Shauna, thank you for
everything.

Shauna climbs inside, closes the door and drives away.

EXT. GINA'S CAR-ESTABLISHING

Gina and Kevin approaches the car. She puts her dad's Flag in
the backseat.

Kevin walks around the other side.

KEVIN
You free for dinner tomorrow night?

GINA
Are we picking up where we left
off?

KEVIN
If you wanna call it that.

GINA
(Smiling)
I don't see why not.

Kevin smiles back then steps inside.

Gina glances across the way towards her dad's gravesite.

GINA (CONT'D)
(V.O.)
We were given loved ones for a
reason. For guidance, strength, and
for direction. Dad gave me all
those things and more.

(MORE)

GINA (CONT'D)

I know we're not meant to put a question mark where there's already a period, but I can't help wondering if all of us is faced with this same question when a loved one is about to leave this earth....How do you say goodbye?..For the last time.

Image of a small U.S. Flag on Donald's grave fly while on the ground.

FADE OUT.

END.