

Traveling Years

INT. DORIS AND LORI'S ROOM-NIGHT

Dim bedroom. 50's music is playing. All sorts of picture frames on display. Frames of various pictures of Younger Rose, Younger Doris, and Younger Betsy's graduation. Younger Lorraine is there too. There are also pictures of John and Mary Henry (the twins parents).

One picture in particular with Younger Rose and Younger Doris in the center and Younger Betsy and Younger Lori on the side, accidentally photographed, becomes a moving picture then enlarges to real time.

FADE TO

EXT. GRADUATION-DAY

1955. After YOUNGER ROSE, blonde, slender with a girl next door look, and YOUNGER DORIS, blonde, athletic with a tomboyish look, pose for the picture, Younger Doris reaches out to YOUNGER BETSY, Cuban with long, dark wavy hair, and YOUNGER Lorraine, pretty with chocolate skin.

YOUNGER DORIS

(to Younger Lorraine and Younger Betsy)

Come on, take a photo with us.

YOUNGER ROSE

(disgusted look)

Do they have to?

YOUNGER DORIS

You don't have to be in it, Rose.

Rose huffs to the side, crossing her arms, and rolling her eyes.

YOUNGER ROSE

(underneath her breath)

It's my graduation too, Doris.

Everyone seems to be ignoring Rose's tantrum. MARY, Rose and Doris's mother, who looks like an over-the-top pin up girl with big hair, bold lipstick, heels, and a lot of cleavage, and typically, with a cigarette in her hand, fixes to take the picture.

MARY

Okay, on three..one...

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YOUNGER DORIS
(whispers to Younger Betsy)
I can't believe we did it.

YOUNGER BETSY
New York, here I come!

MARY
Two...

YOUNGER LORRAINE
New york, here I come too!

YOUNGER DORIS
You girls are so lucky!

MARY
(to Younger Rose)
Are you sure you don't want to be in
the picture, Rose? They're your
friends too.

YOUNGER ROSE
Since when, mom?

MARY
Well, I thought...

YOUNGER DORIS
Mom, just take the picture.

MARY
Okay, here we go again. One, two,
three (takes the photo). There. Lori,
dear, when do you graduate?

YOUNGER LORRAINE
I already did, Mrs. Henry, two days
ago.

MARY
Oh.

YOUNGER DORIS
You already knew that, mom, remember?
That's why Gloria took the day off.

MARY
Oh, that's right, silly me. Here, let
me take another picture of my girls.
Rose, honey.

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Younger Rose approaches.

MARY

Stand next to your sister.

Younger Rose listens. She stands right in front of Younger Lori and flips her hair back, slapping Younger Lori in the face. Younger Betsy holds an angry Younger Lori back.

MARY

One...

There's a disturbance in the crowd.

MARY

Two...

Police officers are coming closer to the girls.

MARY

Three...

A police officer grabs Younger Rose. Mary takes the picture.

POLICE OFFICER

Rose Katherine Henry, you are under
arrest for the murder of Charles
Peters.

Freeze frame of Rose being grabbed by the officer. The picture becomes smaller, and back into a picture frame. And..

INT. DORIS AND LORI'S ROOM-NIGHT

Back into Doris and Lori's room. "50 YEARS LATER" 50's music plays. Camera pan to tennis trophies, and DORIS humming and crocheting. Continue camera pan to music awards and Lorraine, softly singing along.

Phone rings. Doris picks it up.

DORIS

Hello?

Doris makes a hand gesture to Lori to put the volume down. Lori rolls her eyes and lowers the volume.

DORIS

Hi, Rose.

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LORRAINE

What does she want now?

Doris gives Lori a look.

DORIS

When is your next hearing?

INT. PRISON-DAY

Rose is huddled near a phone in the hallway. She's also smoking.

ROSE

Later today.

DORIS O.S

Are you nervous?

ROSE

No shit, Doris, that's why I'm calling. Jesus (smokes more furiously).

DORIS O.S

Is this the last one?

ROSE

It should be.

DORIS O.S

Oh, God, Rose.

ROSE

Listen, I got to go. I'll call you later.

DORIS

Okay. I love you.

ROSE

Thanks.

Rose hangs up the phone and puts out her cigarette. She walks to the cafeteria.

INT. CAFETERIA-SAME

Rose enters the cafeteria. A guard makes way for her.

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GUARD

Good morning, Ms. Henry.

Rose snarls. She continues to walk to the food line. Grabs her food, and sits down. She eats alone.

INT. COURT-DAY

Flashback to Rose's trial, her conviction.

JUDGE

Has the jury reach the verdict for the case of Rose Katherine Henry?

JUROR

We have, your honor. We the jury find the defendant guilty of second degree murder.

Mary cries out. She falls into Doris's arms, who is crying too. Rose's father and brother, John and Thomas, sit still next to them.

MARY

It's all my fault. I shouldn't have called the police. The dress. All that blood. I didn't know what to do.

DORIS

It's a set up. It has to be. I know it. It's a set up.

MARY

My baby is going to prison. My baby. This has to be some kind of mistake.

JUDGE

The defendant will be sentenced to 50 years in prison with eligibility for parole.

Mary and Doris continues to cry. Rose is being taken away in chains. She cries silently.

INT. CAFETERIA-DAY

Back to the cafeteria. Rose continues to eat, but she's in some kind of trance until a heavy-set, short-haired prisoner approaches.

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PRISONER

Hey Ol' Lady, you gonna eat yo
biscuit? I think it's bes' you give it
to me.

ROSE

Fuck off, you chunky lesbian.

PRISONER

'xcuse me, ol' lady?

ROSE

You heard me!

The prisoner steps closer, but a guard intervenes.

GUARD 2

Is there a problem, Ms. Henry?

ROSE

Yes, this bitch. Hungry hippo is after
my food.

GUARD 2

(to prisoner)

Back to your table. And I better not
see you over her again, you hear me.

The prisoner sucks her teeth and walks away. Rose rolls her
eyes and finishes her food.

INT.LIBRARY-DAY

Rose is dusting and sorting books. She is singing along to
50's music. A light knock on the door. It's SASHA, middle-
aged, Spanish woman. Rose didn't hear the knock.

SASHA

Is that 50's music?

Rose jumps up a little.

SASHA

I'm sorry. I didn't mean to scare you.

ROSE

What do you want?

SASHA

I'm Sasha. I'm new. I was sent here to
work.

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ROSE

You got to be kidding me.

SASHA

Is that a problem?

ROSE

Yes, it's a problem. I've been working here by myself for nearly 50 years.

SASHA

I'm sorry, they told me to come here. Something about needing a new person soon. I guess you're suppose to show me around?

ROSE

Oh really? Well tell them to kiss my ass.

Rose continues to work, ignoring Sasha. She turns up the volume of the cassette player. A loud knock on the door. Both jump. It's a guard.

GUARD 3

Ms. Henry, it's time for your hearing.

INT. HEARING ROOM-DAY

Rose enters a room with young people, who are professionally dressed, sitting on the other side of a long table. She plasters a fake smile.

YOUNGSTER 1

Have a seat.

ROSE

Certainly.

YOUNGSTER 2

Are you Rose Katherine Henry.

ROSE

Yes, I am.

Youngster 2 takes down some notes.

YOUNGSTER 2

The Rose Katherine Henry that was convicted for the murder of Charles Peters back in 1955.

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ROSE

(pauses, reluctant to agree)
Yes, I'm she.

Youngster 2 takes down some notes.

YOUNGSTER 3

Ms. Henry, are you aware that in a week, you will have reached your full terms of 50 years, and you are now being evaluated?

ROSE

Yes, I'm aware.

Youngster 3 takes down some notes.

YOUNGSTER 3

Would you say that you are a changed person?

ROSE

Oh, yes. A very changed person. I'm not the same Rose.

Youngster 3 takes down some notes.

YOUNGSTER 1

Are you ready to enter civilization?

ROSE

Definitely. More than ready.

Youngster 1 takes some notes. Rose continues to keep the fake smile on her face.

YOUNGSTER 1

How are you ready, Ms. Henry?

ROSE

Well,...I haven't caused any trouble since I've been here. I have taken responsibility of the library. I have come to terms with my punishment. And I am now at peace.

Youngster 1 quickly writes.

YOUNGSTER 1

Any last comments, Ms. Henry?

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ROSE

I'm not young anymore. And I don't have much time here on Earth. I'd really like to spent my last living days with family, my twin sister, Doris.

Youngster 1 continues to write. They sit in silence. Rose's smile begins to wane.

YOUNGSTER 1

Okay, Ms. Henry, that'll be all. Give us a few minutes and we will let you know, if we think you should remain incarcerated or released.

ROSE

Okay, thank you for your time.

Rose gets up and leaves the room. She rolls her eyes.

EXT. HEARING ROOM-SAME

Rose paces back and forth.

EXT. PRISON YARD-DAY

Rose is smoking a cigarette, silently crying.

ROSE V.O

Doris?

DORIS V.O

Rose? How did it go? What did they say?

ROSE V.O

I'm free, Doris. I'm finally free.

Rose continues to smoke, wiping her tears. Sasha watches her at a distance. Rose senses that she's being watched. She looks up and spots Sasha. Sasha quickly looks away. Annoyed, Rose lets out her cigarettes, and walks away.

INT. ROSE'S CELL-NIGHT

Rose is laying down on her bed. She's the only one in her cell. She is listening to 50's music, and looking through old photos. Photos of her and Doris, and her and Charles (Charlie). She looks at the picture of Charlie.

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ROSE

I don't know who killed you, Charlie.
But it wasn't me. I know you believe
me. But what does it matter. I'm here.
50 years later, I'm finally free.

Rose turns up the volume to her music.

EXT. ASSISTED LIVING- DAY

Doris is swimming in the pool. Lori is lying at the pool
side, fanning herself.

DORIS

Can you believe in Lorraine? Rose is
coming home!

LORRAINE

Oh, I believe it.

DORIS

Is this happening? Is this really
happening?

LORRAINE

I wish I was dreaming too.

DORIS

My sister is coming home in a week.
Lori, we need to move into a bigger
room.

LORRAINE

No, that's okay. I'll move to my own
room.

DORIS

Lorraine.

LORRAINE

Doris.

Doris makes a happy dive. Lori rolls her eyes.

LORRAINE

It's hot, Doris. I'm going back
inside.

DORIS

Okay, I'll be there soon.

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Doris continues to swim. Lorraine heads inside.

INT. ASSISTED LIVING-SAME

Lorraine is playing checkers with a young volunteer. The young volunteer is letting her win. Lorraine is on to her.

It's Lorraine turns, but she doesn't go right away.

YOUNG VOLUNTEER
(loudly, as if Lorraine is deaf)
Go ahead, it's your turn, Ms. Benson.

LORRAINE
Yes, I know. I'm thinking.

Lorraine makes her move. The young volunteer does too, then Lorraine. Lorraine wins.

YOUNG VOLUNTEER
(loudly)
You won, Ms, Benson. Good job.

LORRAINE
I'm not deaf you fool. Stop all of that shoutin'

YOUNG VOLUNTEER
I'm sorry, I didn't mean...

LORRAINE
(gets loud)
You didn't mean what? I don't want your sorry. Get outta my face. Where's Hannah?

The young volunteer is shaken up.

LORRAINE
Go on. Go bother someone else.

An Administrator comes forward.

ADMINISTRATOR
Ms. Benson, can I see you for a moment?

LORRAINE
Who me? Sure. I'm not doing nothin'

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right now.

The Administrator escorts Lori. Doris enters and sees Lori being escorted.

DORIS

Oh not again.

EXT. BETSY'S HOUSE-DAY

An older Betsy is gardening. Her house phone is ringing, but she doesn't hear it.

CAMARA PAN

INT.BETSY'S HOUSE-SAME

Pictures of her dancing. There's dancing trophies too. The last picture frame is of her, Lori, and Doris during graduation. Two boys, Carlos and George, run over to the phone, they seem to be racing. The older gets the phone.

CARLOS

Hello? (pauses) Hi mom. Yeah, she's here. She's outside. George will get her.

Carlos taps George. George goes and gets Betsy. Betsy comes in.

CARLOS

Yeah, I'm fine. Here she is.

Carlos tries to pass the phone.

BETSY

Who is it?

GEORGE

It's mom, grandma.

BETSY

I don't want to talk to her.

Betsy turns around. She reaches for her pill bottle.

CARLOS

She...she said she doesn't want to talk to you.

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Betsy takes her pill.

CARLOS

Yeah, George is still here. (hands the phone to George). Here.

George receives the phone happily.

GEORGE

Hi, mama.

Betsy leaves the house again to tend to her garden.

INT. ASSISTED LIVING- DAY

Doris is playing pinball with a young volunteer. Doris is doing very well.

YOUNG VOLUNTEER 2

Wow, you're really good at this Ms. Henry.

DORIS

Why, thank you.

YOUNG VOLUNTEER 2

I can't believe I'm getting beat by an old lady.

DORIS

Now, watch your mouth young fellow. You're talking to a second time worldwide tennis winner.

YOUNG VOLUNTEER 2

No way.

DORIS

Oh yes, way before you were born. I traveled the world and all of the U.S. and played my fanny off. So this, pinball, is a piece of cake.

YOUNG VOLUNTEER 2

So If I googled you, you'd show up?

DORIS

Google?

YOUNG VOLUNTEER 2

It's a website where you can search

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just about anything.

DORIS

Oh, well, if you can search just about anything then I guess I'll show up.

Lori gets out of the administrator's office. Doris sees her, but Lori doesn't see her. Lori keeps walking, she pushes someone out of her way.

INT. DORIS AND LORI'S ROOM-NIGHT

Lorraine is already in bed, rubbing lotion on her hand. Doris appears and gets in bed.

DORIS

So what was that about?

LORRAINE

Oh, it was the same ol' same ol' try being nice shit.

DORIS

Well, you should try.

LORRAINE

Oh, why do I care.

Lorraine puts on her 50's music.

Along with the music, cuts to

INT. STUDIO- NIGHT

Betsy is dancing in an empty studio. She really gives it her best.

INT. PRISON-DAY

Bell rings. Rose's cell door open. She struggles to get up.

ROSE

One more week of this shit.

MONTAGE

Montage of Rose daily prison routine.

--She eats

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--She works in the library

--She smokes outside with Sasha watching her.

EXT. PRISON YARD-DAY

Rose is smoking outside. Sasha approaches her.

SASHA

I'm workin' on gettin' switched to
laundry.

ROSE

You don't have to. I'm leaving in a
few days.

Rose walks away. Sasha follows her.

SASHA

Leaving for good?

ROSE

No, I'm taking a vacation.

SASHA

Oh, so that's what they meant. I'm
suppose to take your place in the
library.

ROSE

No shit, Chica. Are all of you dumb?

Rose puts out her cigarette and walks away.

INT. ROSE'S CELL-NIGHT

Rose puts her box full of pictures away, then she lays down,
covering herself in her sheets. A guard comes to her cell.

GUARD 4

Only a few more days, Ms. Henry. Then
off to the free world.

ROSE

Fuck the free world.

The guard laughs a little. The whole prison goes dark.

GUARD 4

I'm sure gonna miss you.

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INT. LIBRARY- DAY

Rose is working. She has her music playing. Sasha is working also, but far away from Rose.

SASHA

Is that you singing?

ROSE

Why does it matter? It was a very long ago.

SASHA

You have a really pretty voice.

Rose growls.

SASHA

Is that something you wanted to be? A singer? You know, if you weren't in here.

Rose gives Sasha a nasty stare.

SASHA

I'm sorry.

A Mail Carrier enters.

MAIL CARRIER

I have library materials for a Rose Henry.

ROSE

Just place them on the table.

Mail Carrier listens. Sasha mouths Rose's name. Mail Carrier smiles to Rose's back, then leaves.

SASHA

I've heard your name before. Rose Henry.

ROSE

Congratulations.

SASHA

Rose Henry. Singer. Prison. Do you know a Betsy Gomez?

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ROSE

I knew one back in high school.

SASHA

Lincoln High School?

ROSE

Yeah. How do you know that wetback?

SASHA

That wetback is my mother.

ROSE

No shit. That makes a lot of sense now.

SASHA

She told me everything. You. Doris. Lorraine. Malcolm. New York. Dancing. Traveling.

ROSE

She's still dancing?

SASHA

Yup. She actually teaches it now.

ROSE

She never told you about Charlie?

SASHA

Who?

ROSE

Good, cause she has no business.

SASHA

She didn't talk much about you. She did a lot about Doris and Lorraine. I just.. I can't believe I didn't put it together. The music. This prison. You're old.

ROSE

Thanks for reminding me.

SASHA

Nice to meet someone from my mother's past.

Rose huffs and walks away.

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ROSE
We're still not friends.

INT. CAFETERIA-DAY

Rose is eating alone. Sasha appears.

SASHA
Can you do something for me?

ROSE
Don't you see I'm eating? Leave me
alone.

SASHA
Please, it has something to do with my
mother.

ROSE
Look, your mother and I weren't the
best of friends. We weren't even
friends at all. So whatever it is. No.

SASHA
Please. She won't answer my calls. She
won't visit me. She refuses to talk to
me...

ROSE
Is that my problem?

SASHA
I just need for her to hear me out
before it's too late. I have this
letter (places it near Rose). I was
wonderin', maybe..

ROSE
Absolutely not.

SASHA
Please.

Rose looks around for a guard.

ROSE
Guard. Excuse me.

SASHA
I get it okay. I'm sorry.

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Sasha walks away.

EXT. PRISON YARD-DAY

Rose is smoking. Sasha approaches.

ROSE

You have some nerves you know that.

SASHA

What? I just wanted to take a smoke with you.

ROSE

I don't need your company.

Sasha still stays.

SASHA

You know. I'm here for twenty years. I have two boys, eight and four years old. I'm gonna miss them grow. I'm gonna miss a lot of things and it's all my fault.

Rose slowly walks away. Sasha follows, assuming they're taking a walk.

SASHA

My mom, she told me to stay away from the boys' father. I used to argue with her how I loved him. He's my everything. Even though I wasn't his (tears start to brim).

Rose gives her a "are you serious?" look. She figures she'll be here a while, she rolls her eyes and sits down.

SASHA

He was involved in some stuff. Things I wouldn't want my boys to mess with. One day, I was with him when he got into an argument with someone. He shot him. And we hid the body together. Days later, I was arrested by my brother, who's a cop (laughs a little). I was charged as a compliance to murder. Twenty years. And my mom, she told me, as long as she is alive, she's not bringing her grandbabies to prison. I've been here for almost

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three months. I haven't seen them since. She moved them out to California with my sister. And my mom, I haven't even heard her voice.

ROSE

Why don't you mail that bitch out yourself? You know you can do that here.

SASHA

I know, but they read a lot of what you send out and the things in here are real personal...and telling.

ROSE

Shit (throws out her cig). Give me that damn letter.

Sasha cries on Rose shoulders. Rose pushes her off.

ROSE

Listen here, I don't do any of that soft shit. And you shouldn't too. Not in here. Not ever. Wipe those pussy tears. And hurry up, give me that damn letter before I change my mind.

Sasha fumbles through her uniform and hands the letter.

SASHA

The address is on there. I don't care how you get it to her.

Rose gets up.

ROSE

I'm mailing this shit to her. Don't think I'm gonna show up at her door step.

SASHA

No, I..

ROSE

Good.

Rose walks away. Sasha wipes her tears.

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INT. LIBRARY- NIGHT

Rose sits in the dark. She gets up to touch the window pane, curtains, the books, table. She smiles at her makeshift sign of "R.K. HENRY LIBRARY".

ROSE

Bye bye. I can't promise that you'll be in good hands, because Sasha is a wreck.

Rose finds a sharp tool and walks near a book shelf that has names and years served. She carves: R.K.HENRY 50 YEARS.

EXT. OUTSIDE OF PRISON WALLS-DAY

Doris and Lorraine is waiting for Rose.

DORIS

Any minute now, Lorraine. Oh, I can hardly breathe.

Doris gets out of the car. The prison gates make a sound. Rose, in hand with a small bag, comes out. Doris jumps up and runs to Rose. She gives her a big hug. Over Doris' shoulders, Rose sees Lori.

ROSE

What is she doing here?

DORIS

Who cares, Rose. You're free. I have my sister back! Let's go now. Let's get far way from this prison.

Doris holds Rose's hands to the car. Rose keeps her eyes on Lori. Doris opens the back door for her.

ROSE

Why can't I sit in the front.

LORRAINE

Because I have for the past 50 years.

ROSE

I remember the days when blacks were in the back.

LORRAINE

Time change darlin'.

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DORIS

Rose, please.

Rose gets in the car. Doris closes the door and enters the car as the driver. She drives away.

INT. DORIS' CAR-SAME

DORIS

Okay, we are going to have a decent time together. No nastiness. I can't take it anymore. Rose are you hungry?

ROSE

Is that a question? I've been eating prison food practically all my life.

DORIS

I'm sorry. Stupid question.

INT. RESTURANT-DAY

Doris, Rose, and Lorraine are eating.

ROSE

(to Doris)

I know it's too late to ask, but are negros allowed?

DORIS

Yes, Rose. Blacks are allowed.

LORRAINE

Are ex-convicts allowed?

DORIS

Lorraine.

Rose notices the cell phones.

ROSE

What is that in that man's year? Why is he talking to it?

DORIS

It's called a cell-phone. It's a phone.

ROSE

A phone? That size?

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Rose looks out the window. And notices a SUV.

ROSE

What is that? That big thing?

DORIS

That right there? It's a vehicle. They call it a SUV. A sports utility vehicle.

LORRAINE

Crying out loud. It's like you're a toddler again, relearning shit.

ROSE

Are you even capable of learning?

LORRAINE

Are you capable to survive out here?

DORIS

Ladies, please. Rose, let's see what you have in your bag. Reminisce a little.

ROSE

Fine.

Rose puts her bag on the table. She takes a dress out.

ROSE

This shit won't fit me. They should have thrown it away.

DORIS

I remember that dress.

Rose digs in more and pulls out an orange gem necklace. Lorraine, who wasn't paying attention, looks up and stares at the necklace, as if it was familiar to her.

ROSE

They had it the whole time? Bastards.

Rose takes out the note, and quickly discards it. Doris wonders about it.

DORIS

What was that?

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ROSE

It's nothing.

DORIS

Then what is it?

ROSE

You won't believe who harassed me
about that piece of paper.

DORIS

Who?

ROSE

Sasha Sanchez. Betsy's daughter.

Doris and Lori drop their spoons. Their mouths are open wide.

LORRAINE

My Betsy?

DORIS

Our Betsy?

ROSE

Yeah, that wetback. She's giving her
daughter an 'i told you so' silent
treatment, so she begged me to get
this letter to her.

DORIS

You're gonna do it, right?

ROSE

I suppose, when I have the time.

LORRAINE

Honey, you're an ex-convict. You have
plenty of time.

DORIS

You have to get it to her soon.

ROSE

I will. But it's not my first
priority.

LORRAINE

Ha, priorities.

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DORIS

I know! Let's bring it to her. Oh, I can see Betsy right now. You know, she moved out of Texas. She's in California now.

ROSE

I am not hand delivering it to her like some damn messenger.

DORIS

We can drive over there! A road trip. It'll be fun. I can't think of a better quality time.

ROSE

I'm not doing it, Doris.

DORIS

We have a lot of years to make up. I really can't think of anything better.

ROSE

(thinks about it)

Fine. But not with Lorraine.

LORRAINE

The world doesn't revolve around you, Rosie. I want to see my friend too.

ROSE

Then I don't want you talking to me.

LORRAINE

My pleasure.

INT. DORIS AND LORI'S ROOM-DAY

They quietly pack. They take clothing, shoes, and all of the picture frames. Rose takes in the room.

ROSE

You slept that close to her?

LORRAINE

Is there a problem?

ROSE

I just commend her bravery.

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DORIS

Rose!

EXT. COLORED NEIGHBORHOOD-DAY

1952. Younger Doris is playing tennis with some of the black girls in the neighborhood. Younger Lori is there, but she's watching/ working on her vocals with her background singers.

An unfamiliar car pulls up. Younger Betsy is in it. She makes brief eye contact with Younger Doris and then Younger Lori. Eventually, the car parks in front of a house and Younger Betsy exits. She goes in the back and carries a box. She enters the house.

Younger Doris and the girls take a water break when Younger Betsy exits the house. Younger Doris notices her.

YOUNGER DORIS

Hey, you're new to this town?

Younger Betsy is caught off guard and looks around to make sure it was she Doris was talking to.

YOUNGER DORIS

Yeah, you. You're new?

Younger Lori, who was watching the whole thing, rolls her eyes and steps forward.

YOUNGER LORRAINE

Don't worry, she doesn't bite. I'm Lorraine.

YOUNGER BETSY

Betsy.

YOUNGER DORIS

I'm sorry, I didn't mean to scare you.

YOUNGER LORRAINE

Please, Doris. You're a white girl asking her questions like she stole somethin'.

YOUNGER DORIS

I was just trying to be nice.

YOUNGER LORRAINE

Next time, try, hi, how are you.

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YOUNGER DORIS
(To Younger Betsy)
Hi, how are you?

YOUNGER BETSY
I'm fine.

YOUNGER LORRAINE
So, where are you from?

YOUNGER BETSY
Cuba.

Charlie and Younger Rose pull up. They beep. Younger Doris holds a finger up.

YOUNGER DORIS
Oh, I know now. Truman passed a new immigration law. That's probably why you're here.

YOUNGER LORRAINE
Really, Doris?

YOUNGER DORIS
I mean, right?

Charlie and Younger Rose exit the car. Younger Rose pouts, so Charlie begins to flirt with her.

YOUNGER LORRAINE
Don't mind her. Listen, what school are you going to.

YOUNGER BETSY
Lincoln High School. I'm in the dance program.

YOUNGER DORIS
That's where I go. That's awesome. We can be friends.

YOUNGER ROSE
Today, Doris.

YOUNGER DORIS
I'm coming, Rose! (to Younger Betsy)
You know, for a non-American, you speak really good English.

Traveling Years

YOUNGER LORRAINE

Dear God, Doris.

YOUNGER BETSY

I went to an english school back home.

Rose beeps the horn.

YOUNGER DORIS

(to Rose)

Give me a minute!

Younger Lorraine walks over to Younger Rose.

YOUNGER LORRAINE

Don't you see she's busy. And don't be coming to my neck of the woods thinkin' you run things.

Rose gasps. She stands behind Charlie with her arms crossed, pouting. Younger Lorraine walks away.

CHARLIE

Hi to you too, Lorraine.

Younger Lorraine sticks her middle finger at him. She reaches Younger Doris and Younger Betsy.

YOUNGER LORRAINE

Anyways...

YOUNGER DORIS

Were you mean to her?

YOUNGER LORRAINE

Of course not. Never. (to Younger Betsy) You should come out later. I'll show you around the neighborhood.

YOUNGER DORIS

And I can show you around school.

YOUNGER ROSE

Doris!

YOUNGER DORIS

Bye.

Younger Doris leaves. Younger Rose, Younger Doris, and Charlie enters the car.

Traveling Years

INT. CHARLIE'S CAR-SAME

Charlie is in the driver's seat.

YOUNGER ROSE

I don't know why you like hanging around them. It's a disgrace. Charlie and I have to risk our lives picking you up in this uncivilized neighborhood. Ugh, I need a shower. Did you see how that Lorraine girl pounced on me?

CHARLIE

You know, Doris, you should really get yourself checked.

YOUNGER DORIS

You know what. I think I'll just walk home next time.

YOUNGER ROSE

Thank God.

INT. HENRY'S HOME-DAY

Younger Rose and Charlie are sitting by the piano. She's singing and he's playing. Doris enters the house from the pool. Their mother, Mary, is smoking in the living room, reading a magazine. Gloria, the help and Lorraine's mother, is dusting.

YOUNGER DORIS

(to Mary)

I met a new Cuban today.

MARY

Did you, dear?

YOUNGER DORIS

Yeah. She's so sweet

YOUNGER ROSE

Truman made a big mistake. I think America have enough coloreds.

CHARLIE

Focus.

YOUNGER ROSE

I am Charlie. You don't need to speak

Traveling Years

to me in that kind of tone.

YOUNGER DORIS

A little more color isn't going to hurt anyone.

YOUNGER ROSE

How many colored friends are you striving for? Big mouth Lorraine isn't enough?

Gloria looks up. Doris quickly looks at Gloria. Gloria looks away.

YOUNGER DORIS

Rose, why don't you focus like Charlie said.

CHARLIE

Thank you, Doris. Missy here has a radio gig soon.

YOUNGER ROSE

Oh hush Charlie.

INT. LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL-DAY

Younger Rose is talking with a group of friends.

YOUNGER ROSE

You girls better not miss it. Tune in tomorrow at two.

Younger Doris taps her on the shoulder to introduce her to Younger Betsy

YOUNGER DORIS

I want you to meet her. You'll see she isn't bad.

YOUNGER BETSY

Hi, I'm Betsy.

YOUNGER ROSE

Was that even in American?

YOUNGER DORIS

Rose.

Traveling Years

YOUNGER ROSE
How was the swim over here?

YOUNGER BETSY
What? Swim?

YOUNGER ROSE
Look, I'm not looking for new
friends....

YOUNGER BETSY
Well, Doris, insist...

YOUNGER ROSE
Especially colored ones. Unlike Doris
here, I have an image to keep. A
serious one.

YOUNGER DORIS
Why do you always have to be so nasty?

Younger Doris walks away with Younger Betsy.

INT. DANCE CLASS-DAY

Betsy's dance class. She sits alone.

DANCE TEACHER
Class, we have a new student. She's
from Guatemala.

YOUNGER BETSY
I'm from Cuba.

DANCE TEACHER
Excuse me?

YOUNGER BETSY
You said I was from Guatemala. But I'm
from Cuba.

DANCE TEACHER
Same thing, Dear. Class, her name
is...

YOUNGER BETSY
Betsy.

DANCE TEACHER
That's right. Betsy is know a part of
our dance program. Even though she's

Traveling Years

Puerto Rican, we're going to accept her. Understand?

The students don't respond. One raises her hand.

STUDENT 1
Does she even dance?

YOUNGER BETSY
Yes, I dance.

DANCE TEACHER
Of course she does, or else she would have been enrolled in a colored school instead. Betty, dear, please, show us something.

YOUNGER BETSY
Now?

DANCE TEACHER
No, after school. Of course now.

Betsy gets up. She takes a deep breath, then dances. She wows everyone in the room.

DANCE TEACHER
Wow, that was spectacular.

STUDENT 2
I've seen better.

STUDENT 3
Me too.

STUDENT 1
She knows a few things, so what.

INT. BENSON'S HOME- NIGHT

A tired Gloria walks in. Younger Lori comes out of the kitchen, ready to go somewhere.

YOUNGER LORRAINE
Hi mama, I cooked dinner.

GLORIA
Thanks, baby. Where you goin'?

Traveling Years

YOUNGER LORRAINE

It's Tuesday remember?

GLORIA

That's right. I'm so sorry, baby. If I remembered, I wouldn't have let Mrs. Henry hold me so late.

YOUNGER LORRAINE

It's okay, Mama.

GLORIA

Where's Malcolm?

YOUNGER LORRAINE

He's coming soon. He went to make sure the stage was ready for me. You'll see him before you sleep.

GLORIA

Don't stay up so late.

YOUNGER LORRAINE

Of course not mama.

Younger Lorraine kisses her mom and leaves.

INT. LUCILLE'S PLACE-NIGHT

The restaurant that Younger Lorraine sings in. Malcolm is sitting at a table by himself when Younger Doris surprises him.

YOUNGER DORIS

Surprise!

MALCOLM

Hey!

They both hug.

MALCOLM

How's my favorite white girl doin'?

YOUNGER DORIS

She's doing alright. (takes a seat)
Did I miss Lorraine?

MALCOLM

No, she's next.

Traveling Years

YOUNGER DORIS

Good. I had to sneak over. here.

MALCOLM

Oh, life must be so hard for you.

YOUNGER DORIS

(giggles/ flirts)

Oh, stop it.

Younger Betsy appears.

YOUNGER DORIS

Betsy! What are you doing here?

YOUNGER BETSY

Lorraine invited me.

YOUNGER DORIS

Of course she did. I'm sorry.

YOUNGER BETSY

Hi, Malcolm.

MALCOLM

Hi, Betsy.

They both hug, and kiss each other on the cheek. Younger Doris looks away out of jealousy. Malcolm pulls out a chair for Younger Betsy.

ANNOUNCER

Ladies and gentlemen, give it up for
the one we've been waiting for.
Lorraine Benson!

Crowd goes wild. Lorraine appears and gives an awesome performance. Younger Lorraine finishes.

YOUNGER BETSY

Wow, she was amazing.

YOUNGER DORIS

Isn't she? Her voice gives me chills.
Not to mention, she has an awesome
manager (nudges at Malcolm).

MALCOLM

Thank you. But she does it all
herself.

Traveling Years

Younger Lorraine bows on stage, and walks away.

INT. RADIO STATION-DAY

Younger Rose is at the radio station. Outside of the room are her fans and friends. Younger Doris is not there. Charlie sits in the same room.

RADIO HOST

Welcome back to W.E.R.B. We have with us the lovely Rose Henry.

YOUNGER ROSE

Actually, it's Rose Katherine. We're changing my stage name.

RADIO HOST

I'm sorry folks, Rose Katherine, formerly known as Rose Henry. So, Rose I learned a fun fact about you recently.

YOUNGER ROSE

And what is that?

RADIO HOST

You have a sister, and she's your twin.

YOUNGER ROSE

Fraternal twin.

RADIO HOST

Is she here with us? What's her name?

YOUNGER ROSE

(looks around)
Her name is Doris. And no, she isn't here. (embarrassed) She's also busy with her own stuff.

RADIO HOST

Is she a singer too?

YOUNGER ROSE

Tennis player.

RADIO HOST

Sounds like you gals are two different people. Tell us, why the name change?

Traveling Years

YOUNGER ROSE

Well, my manager and I felt it was best.

RADIO HOST

It does sound prettier.

YOUNGER ROSE

Thank you. And thank you for having me here again.

RADIO HOST

Of course. We love having you here Rose. So tell us, what song are you singing today.

YOUNGER ROSE

An original. It's called, If I Was Your Girl.

RADIO HOST

If I Was Your Girl. Let's hear it.

Younger Rose collects herself, then she gives an outstanding performance.

RADIO HOST

There you have it folks, another outstanding performance by our very own Rose Katherine.

EXT. COLORED NEIGHBORHOOD-DAY

Younger Doris is playing tennis with black people (the reason why she wasn't at the station). Charlie and Younger Rose pull up. Younger Rose angrily exits the car, slamming the door.

YOUNGER ROSE

I knew I'll find you here. All of Lincoln High was there, except my very own sister.

YOUNGER DORIS

I'm sure you did great, Rose.

YOUNGER ROSE

You missed my radio gig to play tennis with them. I can't believe you!

Traveling Years

YOUNGER DORIS

Rose, I'm sorry I missed it. I just need to practice for my game tomorrow. And I like practicing with them. They keep me on my toes.

YOUNGER ROSE

(rolls her eyes)

Doris, I don't care. I know you went to see that Lorraine girl sing last night, but you didn't come out for me.

Younger Rose walks away.

YOUNGER DORIS

Rose!

Younger Rose continues to walk

YOUNGER DORIS

I'll be there next time. Promise.

Charlie and Younger Rose drive away.

INT. LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL-DAY

Younger Doris is at her locker. Younger Rose and her friends are screaming down the hall about Younger Rose being asked to sing the national anthem at the baseball game.

FRIEND

So are you going to do it? Sing the national anthem at the baseball game?

YOUNGER ROSE

That's a stupid question.

FRIEND

I'm sorry.

YOUNGER ROSE

Of course, I'm going to do it. Oh gosh, I need to tell Charlie.

Younger Doris approaches Rose.

YOUNGER DORIS

That's awesome, Rose!

YOUNGER ROSE

Excuse me. Supporters only.

Traveling Years

Younger Rose and her friends brush past Younger Doris.

EXT. TENNIS COURT-DAY

Doris is winning her tennis game. She wins it. She looks to the crowd, and sees her mom and Younger Betsy. Younger Rose is not there.

INT. HENRY'S HOME-DAY

Younger Rose is practicing at the piano with Charlie. Mary and Younger Doris enters.

MARY

Hi, sweetie.

YOUNGER ROSE

Hi, mom.

MARY

Charlie, darling.

CHARLIE

Hi, Mrs. Henry.

MARY

How many times I have to tell you.
Call me Mary. Mrs. Henry reminds me of
my mother-in-law.

CHARLIE

Mary.

MARY

(lights a cigarette)
Rose, dear, your sister won her game.

YOUNGER DORIS

Too bad you weren't there.

YOUNGER ROSE

Oh, darn. I need to practice. I'm sure
you understand, right, Doris?

YOUNGER DORIS

I get it. I already said I was sorry.
And I'll definitely be there for your
next gig.

YOUNGER ROSE

Pinky promise?

Traveling Years

YOUNGER DORIS

Pinky promise.

They both pinky promise, kissing their own hand.

EXT. HENRY'S HOUSE-DAY

Younger Doris, Younger Lorraine, and Younger Betsy are in the pool. Mary has her feet in the pool while she smokes, and reads a magazine. Younger Rose sits at the pool side. Gloria is inside, looking out the window.

YOUNGER DORIS

Why don't you come in Rose. The pool feels great. Even mom has her feet in it.

YOUNGER ROSE

I'm sure it feels amazing, but not when all types of coloreds are inside of it.

YOUNGER LORRAINE

For someone with a pretty name like Rose, you do a very good job being everything but a soft, delicate flower. You're more like a rose stem. You know, the thorns on the side that no one likes.

YOUNGER ROSE

Keep talking to me the way you do and I'll have your mom fired.

YOUNGER DORIS

Rose!

YOUNGER LORRAINE

You'll actually be doin' us a favor.

Younger Rose gasp. She gets up and sits further away from Younger Lorraine. Charlie comes out and sits by Younger Rose.

YOUNGER ROSE

The nerve of that girl.

CHARLIE

Who?

YOUNGER ROSE

That blackie! The way she speaks to

Traveling Years

me. It's disgusting.

CHARLIE

(looks at Younger Lorraine)

I thought coloreds didn't know how to swim.

YOUNGER ROSE

She didn't. Doris taught her.

CHARLIE

Of course the Cuban knows how to swim.

Both laughs.

EXT. ROADTRIP-DAY

Present day. Doris is driving. Lorraine is in the passenger's side, while Rose is in the back. Lorraine starts to sing. Rose is quickly annoyed.

ROSE

Can you spare our ears, Lorraine. Dear God, how were you a singer?

LORRAINE

You're pathetic, Rose. Jealous you never got the chance?

ROSE

Jealous of who, you? Don't flatter yourself. I would have done way better than you.

LORRAINE

Shoulda, coulda, woulda, but don't you remember? You were locked up, Rosie dear.

ROSE

I'm surprised you didn't find your way in there. All the other blacks did.

LORRAINE

I didn't kill anyone.

ROSE

I never killed anyone. I most certainly never killed Charlie!

Traveling Years

LORRAINE

Who did, Rose? You were the last one seen with him! Not to mention his blood on your dress.

Doris angrily pulls the car aside.

DORIS

I'm not having this! Absolutely not. None of this prison talk, back talking, slandering, malicious back and forth. Or I'll just leave you two on the side of the road, and I'll see Betsy myself. What do you guys prefer? Huh?

LORRAINE

Oh stop being dramatic, Doris, and just drive.

ROSE

Go!

Doris starts to drive.

DORIS

I'm mean it. This is suppose to be fun, okay.

Both Lorraine and Rose roll their eyes.

INT. DOCTER'S OFFICE-DAY

Betsy is in the doctor's office. Betsy is finishing up her appointment.

DOCTOR

Everything seems the same from the last time I saw you.

BETSY

That's good, right? It's not progress, but I'm not getting worse.

DOCTOR

Mrs. Sanchez, I've already told you plenty times before how I feel about your situation, and...

BETSY

The other night, I danced. Not those

Traveling Years

small movements, but danced. I was in the air, weightless, lost in the rhythm. I danced. I haven't done that in years. I don't know, I just feel more alive lately.

DOCTOR

But Mrs. Sanchez, surely, your health is more important.

BETSY

I was happy, even if it was for a moment. It was worth it.

INT. ASSISTED LIVING- DAY

A nurse is leading the administrator to Lorraine's and Doris's room.

NURSE

I'm just worried. I haven't seen either of them since last night.

They reached the room. The nurse opens the door to an empty room with beds perfectly made.

ADMINISTRATOR

They've done this before, they'll disappear hours at a time, no word where, like two teenage girls.

NURSE

What should I do?

ADMINISTRATOR

Give it a while. A few hours, maybe, then call the cops.

NURSE

Okay.

EXT. MOTEL-NIGHT

Doris, Rose, and Lorraine pull up. They all get out of the car.

DORIS

I'll ask for a family room. That way, there'll be a queen size bed for Rose and I, and a single bed for you,

Traveling Years

Lorraine.

LORRAINE

Oh, no. I am not sleeping in the same room with her.

DORIS

Lorraine, please.

LORRAINE

I'm serious, Doris. That's exactly what she needs, an opportunity to suffocate me.

ROSE

Are you serious?

DORIS

Don't be foolish, Lorraine.

ROSE

As tempting as that sounds, I won't be thrown back in prison for you.

LORRAINE

I want my own room.

DORIS

You're being ridiculous, Lorraine.

LORRAINE

You know what, I'll pay for my own room.

Lorraine walks away.

ROSE

It would have been better just you and me, Doris.

DORIS

Oh stop it, Rose.

INT. MOTEL ROOM- NIGHT

Doris and Rose are preparing their individual beds.

ROSE

A real bed.

Traveling Years

DORIS

Not really. It's a motel bed.

Both get on their beds.

ROSE

Well it's better than the wood I slept on for 50 years.

DORIS

I remember when I used to travel for my games. Oh, the kinds of beds I slept on. I used to rate them, you know. Spain was the first to get an A plus (laughs a little).

ROSE

I wish I'd seen your games.

DORIS

It's okay, Rose. I have some on video somewhere.

ROSE

You know, Doris. I didn't kill Charlie.

DORIS

Rose, please.

ROSE

I don't know who did.

DORIS

Rose....

ROSE

Who ever did, framed me. The blood on my dress, I don't understand.

DORIS

Rose, stop it. This has already come between us all these years. And between mom, dad, and Thomas. (starts to get teary eyes) No more. I can't take it.

ROSE

Just tell me this, do you think I killed him?

Traveling Years

DORIS

You ask me this all of the time, and
I've always said no.

Lorraine barges in the room. Her hair is a mess and her eyes
are watery. Both Doris and Rose are startled.

DORIS

Lorraine!

LORRAINE

(to Rose)

I want an apology from you.

ROSE

(gets off of bed)

A what!

LORRAINE

You heard me! An apology!

ROSE

An apology? For what?

Doris gets off her bed.

DORIS

Ladies, people are trying to sleep. (to
Lorraine) Do you have to do this now?

LORRAINE

Yes, I have to. I want an apology for
all those years you made my life hell.
Mine, my mother's, my brother's, my
father's...black people.

ROSE

Are you serious?

LORRAINE

Would I be in here if I wasn't?

ROSE

Well, you're not getting an apology.
So you can march right back to your
room, missy!

LORRAINE

Not until I get my apology.

Traveling Years

ROSE

Hold your breath while you wait.

LORRAINE

(gasps)

I'm not going anywhere till I get my apology (pulls up a chair and sits).

ROSE

Then it's going to be a long night (sits back on bed).

DORIS

(sits back on bed)

This is ridiculous.

Rose makes herself comfortable on her bed, while Lorraine does the same with her chair, then they both stare at each other, challenging one another with arms cross. Doris sits with her arms cross too.

INT. BLACK DANCE HALL- NIGHT

1952. Black people are dancing to black music. Younger Doris is dancing with Malcolm. Younger Lorraine shows up with Younger Betsy. Younger Lorraine brings Younger Betsy to a group of her friends, Ebony, Denise, and Shirley.

EBONY

Lorraine, good job on Tuesday!

DENISE

Yeah, you did that thang!

SHIRLEY

Sorry, I couldn't make it. I had to work.

YOUNGER LORRAINE

Thanks girls. And its okay, Shirley, I understand. I was workin' too (winks at her).

SHIRLEY

Thanks. I'll try to be there next time.

YOUNGER LORRAINE

I'll be looking for you.

Traveling Years

DENISE

Who's your friend? (points at Betsy)

YOUNGER LORRAINE

Oh, I'm sorry. This is Betsy. She's new in town. She's over at Lincoln for the dance program. Betsy, this is Ebony, Denise, and Shirley.

Everyone smiles and says their hellos.

YOUNGER BETSY

I remember seeing you guys at the tennis court, I think. Sorry.

EBONY

It's okay. People say all black folks look alike.

SHIRLEY

Wait a second, I remember you. You were ambushed by Doris and her 50-11 questions.

YOUNGER BETSY

(laughs)

Yeah, that's right.

YOUNGER LORRAINE

Doris is here?

DENISE

Yeah, and she's dancing with your brother....again.

EBONY

She loves her some dark chocolate.

Younger Doris and Malcolm turn to see them, they approach.

MALCOLM

(to Younger Betsy)

Hey, you came.

YOUNGER BETSY

I did.

YOUNGER DORIS

Hi, Betsy. Lorraine.

Traveling Years

LORRAINE

Hey girl.

YOUNGER BETSY

Hi, Doris.

YOUNGER DORIS

Did Lorraine drag you here?

YOUNGER BETSY

Just a little bit.

YOUNGER LORRAINE

Well, she's a dancer. I figured this would be your thing.

MALCOLM

(to Younger Betsy)

That's right, you're a dancer. Come dance with me. Show me what you got (pulls Betsy's hand).

BETSY

I dance ballet and contemporary, not...not...

MALCOLM

What?

BETSY

I can't dance like that (points to people dancing).

MALCOLM

Oh, it's easy. I'll show you.

Malcolm and Younger Betsy are on the dance floor. Malcolm is already showing her how to dance like them. Younger Doris looks on, jealous. The girls watch her.

EBONY

Do you like Malcolm?

YOUNGER DORIS

Who me? oh no. He's just my friend.

DENISE

Girl, what are you doing here anyways.

YOUNGER LORRAINE

Denise.

Traveling Years

DENISE

It's just a question.

YOUNGER DORIS

I like being around you people.

SHIRLEY

You people?

YOUNGER LORRAINE

She didn't mean it that way, Shirley.

YOUNGER DORIS

I mean. I like being around this culture, this atmosphere.

SHIRLEY

That sounds betta.

Gun shots are heard from outside, then loud banging on the walls. People are screaming, running around, and ducking. Then a few broken windows with laughter that follows. Malcolm and Younger Betsy approach the girls.

MALCOLM

What's going on?

YOUNGER LORRAINE

I don't know.

DENISE

I bet it's a bunch of white people.

EBONY

Of course it be white folks.

SHIRLEY

(to Younger Doris)

You probably know 'em.

YOUNGER DORIS

I don't know anyone that mean.

MALCOLM

I want you girls to lay flat on the ground. Imma lock the doors.
(disappears).

While they get in their new positions. Doris sees the outline of what looks like to be Charlie, and in a car behind him, a girl sits in the passenger's seat. It looks like Rose.

Traveling Years

EXT. BASEBALL FIELD- DAY

The baseball game where Rose is going to sing. An angry younger Doris sits at a distance from Charlie on the bleachers. She eyes him.

SPORT ANNOUNCER

Ladies and gentlemen, singing the national anthem for us this afternoon is our very own Rose Henry...I'm sorry, Rose Katherine.

Rose appears. The crowd cheers. Rose stands on her platform.

YOUNGER ROSE

I'll like to dedicate this to my brother, Thomas Henry, who is fighting for our country in Korea right now.

The crowd continues to cheer. Rose begins to sing.

Back to Charlie and Doris.

YOUNGER DORIS

I know it was you last night. How could you?

CHARLIE

What are you talking about, little sis?

YOUNGER DORIS

The dance hall. God, you make me sick.

CHARLIE

I was with your sister last night.

YOUNGER DORIS

I saw her too. In the car.

CHARLIE

Doris, sweetie, where is this coming from?

Moves closer to her.

YOUNGER DORIS

You're pathetic.

CHARLIE

Ouch. That hurts. Look, Doris, me,

Traveling Years

you, we're practically family (wraps his arms around her). We need to work on this tension between us.

YOUNGER DORIS
(forcefully removes his hand)
Go fuck yourself.

CHARLIE
(laughs)
Then I wouldn't need your sister, now would I?

YOUNGER DORIS
You're disgusting.

CHARLIE
And you're not very lady like. See how the crowd loves a lady (points at Rose).

Doris moves her seat. Rose finishes the anthem. The crowd goes wild. Doris turns to look back at Charlie, who gestures to her to hear the crowd. Doris rolls her eyes and turns around.

INT. SCHOOL CAFETERIA-DAY

Younger Lorraine's school. Ebony, Denise, and Shirley are at a table, eating and waiting for Lorraine.

EBONY
Should I tell her?

SHIRLEY
I'm not afraid to tell her. Shoot, I'll go to the line and tell her right now.

DENISE
Wait till she come, Shirley. Look, she's coming right now.

Younger Lorraine comes with her plate of food, and sits down. She notices the way the girls are looking at her.

YOUNGER LORRAINE
What? I got a booga in my nose.

Traveling Years

EBONY

Ew, no. Look, Lorraine...

SHIRLEY

That white girl, you need to drop her
as a friend.

EBONY

She's the one that brought 'em white
folks ova'

DENISE

And they'll come again.

SHIRLEY

They know she was there. You can't
hang around her anymore.

YOUNGER LORRAINE

I know. I haven't talked to her ever
since, and it's been a week.

SHIRLEY

Good. Next thing you know, we all
dead.

EBONY

Shirley!

SHIRLEY

What? It's true. Shoot. I'm still
traumatized.

YOUNGER LORRAINE

I'm sorry ya'll.

SHIRLEY

You should be, cause I didn't sign up
for that. Gettin' shot at when I'm
just tryin' to have a good time.

DENISE

Okay, Shirley. She gets it.

SHIRLEY

I'm just sayin'

EBONY

How'd you meet her anyways.

Traveling Years

YOUNGER LORRAINE

My mama work for their family. Their
mama invites us to their house for
dinner a few times.

SHIRLEY

And ever since that first dinner, that
white girl became your shadow.

All laugh.

EXT. HENRY'S HOUSE-DAY

Younger Doris is swimming in her pool. Gloria puts dry towels
on the chairs. Younger Rose is heard on the piano in the
background.

YOUNGER DORIS

Thanks, Gloria.

Gloria awkwardly smiles.

YOUNGER DORIS

Gloria?

GLORIA

Yes, Ms. Doris?

YOUNGER DORIS

Please, just Doris. We've been through
this already.

GLORIA

I'm sorry. Doris.

YOUNGER DORIS

Did Lorraine tell you anything? She
haven't spoken to me in weeks. Can you
tell her I miss her.

GLORIA

Yes, I'll tell her.

YOUNGER DORIS

Okay, thank you.

GLORIA

Welcome (walks away).

Doris looks after her, but then she swims away.

Traveling Years

INT. BENSON'S HOME- NIGHT

Gloria walks in. Younger Lorraine is about to leave.

YOUNGER LORRAINE

Hey Mama (kisses Gloria on the cheek),
did you see Malcolm outside?

GLORIA

Yeah, I did. Don't be late tonight.

YOUNGER LORRAINE

We won't. (senses something is wrong)
What's wrong, Mama?

GLORIA

Oh nothin'. Don't worry about me.

YOUNGER LORRAINE

Did the Henry's do something to you?
Was it Rose?

GLORIA

Oh no, Lorraine. Doris. She wanted me
to tell you that she missed you. But I
don't know Lorraine. I don't want you
to be so close with her. Especially
since she's my boss's daughter.

YOUNGER LORRAINE

I know, Mama.

GLORIA

She's a nice girl and all, betta' than
that Rose girl. But I heard about what
happened at the dance hall. That's
some dangerous business.

YOUNGER LORRAINE

And I haven't seen her since. Everyone
been saying it was cause of her, and
she was there cause of me. So, I don't
want that blame.

GLORIA

I know baby. You betta' go, Malcolm be
waitin' for you.

Younger Lorraine kisses Gloria, and leaves.

Traveling Years

INT. LUCILLE'S PLACE-NIGHT

Younger Lorraine is performing. Malcolm and Younger Betsy is there. Younger Doris is there, but she stays at a distance. Malcolm and Younger Betsy sits close and they flirt. Doris becomes jealous.

Younger Lorraine is done performing and she steps off the stage to Malcolm and Younger Betsy. They embrace her.

Younger Doris is walking forward when Younger Lorraine sees her. Younger Lorraine meets her half way.

YOUNGER DORIS

Hey..

YOUNGER LORRAINE

What are you doing here?

YOUNGER DORIS

What do you mean? I always come.

YOUNGER LORRAINE

Yeah, but that was before the incident.

YOUNGER DORIS

You think I had something to do with that?

YOUNGER LORRAINE

A lot of us think you were the reason.

Younger Doris looks over Younger Lorraine shoulders to see Malcolm and Younger Betsy look away after staring.

YOUNGER DORIS

Is that why you haven't been speaking to me?

YOUNGER LORRAINE

It's one of the reasons why. Look, Doris, I don't think we can be friends.

YOUNGER DORIS

Why? Is it something Rose said?

YOUNGER LORRAINE

Rose? Please.

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YOUNGER DORIS

Then what is it?

YOUNGER LORRAINE

It's not safe anymore. People notice.
It's becoming risky.

YOUNGER DORIS

I'm assuming since Malcolm and Betsy
have yet to come over and say hi,
they're feeling the same way, huh?

YOUNGER LORRAINE

I guess.

Younger Doris takes it all in before she walks away.

INT. MOTEL-DAY

Present day. Lorraine and Rose are all sleeping in the same position they were when they decided to stare and wait. Doris is sleeping in a comfortable position. An alarm ring. Doris gets up. The others doesn't wake. Doris walks over to the window and pulls back the blinds.

DORIS

Rise and shine, children!

Lorraine and Rose groan awake.

EXT. MOTEL- DAY

All three are walking to the car. Rose practically pushes pass Lorraine to get to the passenger's side. She succeeds. Lorraine starts to bang on the door.

LORRAINE

Hey!

ROSE

To the back sucker!

DORIS

Lorraine, please. Not today.

Lorraine gives Rose a dirty look before getting in the car through the back.

INT. DORIS'S CAR-DAY

They have been driving for a while.

Traveling Years

ROSE

So, Betsy. What happened to her?

DORIS

What do you mean?

ROSE

You know, what did she do with her life? Or, what did life do to her?

DORIS

Well, she had a very successful dancing career. She traveled. Got married. Had children, as you know. And now, she's teaching dance.

ROSE

Better than what I expected from her. Must have been a nice life. Lucky her.

DORIS

It wasn't always so nice.

ROSE

How so?

LORRAINE

You don't need to know, Ms. Nosy. Stop acting like you are asking about an old friend. When did you ever care for her?

ROSE

No one was talking to you, Lorraine.

DORIS

Her husband died.

LORRAINE

And that's all you gettin'.

DORIS

Right after she had Sasha.

LORRAINE

Doris!

ROSE

How did he die?

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DORIS

He was tired of her traveling. Of him having to travel. A couple months after Sasha was born, Betsy was offered to do a show. She promised Victor that it would be her last international performance. Of course, he rather she stayed home with their three kids. But she ended up going, and convinced him to go too. After the performance, he left early.

LORRAINE

You don't have to finish you know.

DORIS

Oh, hush, Lorraine. I might as well. I've gone this far.

ROSE

What happened to him?

DORIS

He died in a car crash on her way to the show. It blew up in flames.

ROSE

Oh God.

DORIS

Betsy, she...she struggled with guilt, self-blame. She even stopped dancing for a while. And now her daughter is in prison.

Rose searches for Sasha's letter. She finds it.

ROSE

Here's Sasha's letter (begins to open it).

DORIS

What are you doing?

ROSE

What? I'm just going to read what it says.

LORRAINE

You see what I mean? Nosy. She neva' cared for Betsy. She just wanted to be

Traveling Years

in other people's business.

DORIS

Rose, you can't read that.

ROSE

Why not?

DORIS

It's not for you to read. Gimme that.

Doris reaches out to get the letter. She misses because Rose moves it away. The car swerves. Doris tries again. Lorraine gets in it too.

Suddenly, the wind picks up the letter and it flies out of the window. All panic. Doris tries to follow it with the car. It still dances in the wind.

With no one paying attention to the road, the car swerves left then right on the road.

Suddenly, a big semi-truck honks its horn. They are all alert. They scream in panic. Doris swerves out of the way. She swerves so hard that they end up on the side of the road. They do a violent turn before they stop. Heavy breathing.

LORRAINE

I'm too old for this.

ROSE

Watch the road next time, Doris!

DORIS

Me?! This is all your fault!

ROSE

Oh shit, the letter.

DORIS

Where did it go?

The letter lands right outside Lorraine's window.

LORRAINE

Right here (she opens the door and retrieves it. She sticks it in her shirt). And it's staying with me.

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ROSE

Seriously?

DORIS

Good. Now, let's get this road trip going.

Doris tries to restart the car with some struggle, then it starts and they are on their way.

INT. ASSISTED LIVING- DAY

A Spanish cop and the Administrator is standing in front of an open door to Doris and Lorraine's room (they packed their photos). He's taking notes.

COP

We will definitely file. But I wouldn't worry too much about it. The elderly like to do their own thing.

ADMINISTRATOR

Especially these two.

COP

My mom does that sometimes. Did they mention anything about family? Friends?

ADMINISTRATOR

I was meaning to mention that to you. Doris. She had a twin sister who was being released from prison after 50 years. Can you believe that?

COP

Really. Do you know the sister's name? Did she pick her up the day they went missing?

ADMINISTRATOR

I don't recall the sister's name. You should ask the nurse closest to Doris. And I'm assuming she went to pick her sister up. You know, after 50 years, who's really around?

COP

Got it. So the two roommates are Lorraine Benson.....hey (looks at the singing trophies as if for the first

Traveling Years

time), Lorraine Benson, the singer right?

ADMINISTRATOR

That's right.

COP

My mom listens to her all of the time. And the other roommate is Doris Henry, correct?

ADMINISTRATOR

Yes....and yes, the tennis player.

COP

I'm sorry.

ADMINISTRATOR

Doris Henry. She was a professional tennis player.

COP.

Hmph, I didn't know that.

ADMINISTRATOR

(thinks for a bit)

Rose! Rose Henry. That's her twin's name.

The cop takes note.

COP

Rose Henry. Sounds familiar. Thank you. We should put this in our system.

ADMINISTRATOR

Okay, thanks for your time. Let us know if we can assist you any further.

COP

Of course.

The cop leaves. The administrator lets out a heavy breath.

ADMINISTRATOR

(to nurse)

We do not need this look (rubs temples).

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EXT. PORT-DAY

1953. The end of the Korean War. Family and friends are awaiting their soldiers. Some have signs that read "Welcome back" or "We miss you". Younger Doris, Younger Rose, Mary, and JOHN, the twins father, awaits Thomas.

THOMAS and a crowd of soldiers approaches.

YOUNGER DORIS

There he is (points)!

Everyone looks where she points.

YOUNGER ROSE

Tommy!

The twins run to him. The parents speed-walk.

The twins make it to Tommy first and they hug. They shower him with kisses.

YOUNGER DORIS

Welcome back.

YOUNGER ROSE

I'm so glad you're here. You know, I sung the national anthem at the baseball game and I dedicated it to you.

TOMMY

Did you?

The parents approach.

MARY

My boy.

JOHN

Son.

They hug.

TOMMY

Hi mom, hi dad.

JOHN

We are so proud of you, son.

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MARY

We are, but don't you dare leave me again.

TOMMY

I won't.

YOUNGER ROSE

We have a surprise for you back home.

YOUNGER DORIS

Rose! You're not suppose to tell someone they have a surprise. It's a surprise.

YOUNGER ROSE

I didn't tell him what it was.

Younger Doris rolls her eyes.

MARY

Let's go home now.

They all leave arm to arm.

INT. HENRY'S HOME-DAY

A big welcome party for Tommy awaits him. The Henry family enters. Everyone yells "surprise." Tommy tries to act surprise.

TOMMY

Oh wow.

YOUNGER DORIS

He's faking it. Rose told him.

Everyone lets out an "oh". While Tommy walks through the house. One by one, people say welcome back to him. Some hug him.

Time passes. People are enjoying themselves.

Younger Rose walks over to the piano where Charlie waits for her.

YOUNGER ROSE

Attention everyone.

Younger Rose picks up a glass and a fork and taps on it. Silence.

Traveling Years

YOUNGER ROSE

Thank you. I understand your excitement. We are excited too. So excited, that Charlie and I wrote a song for Tommy.

Everyone looks at each other in a "really, now?" look.

Charlie begins playing the piano. Rose begins to sing.

INT. BENSON'S HOME- DAY

Gloria is leaving the kitchen with a cake and a big smile on her face. In the dining room, sits Younger Lorraine, Malcolm, and REGGIE, their dad. He's also back from the war.

GLORIA

Welcome back, suga'.

REGGIE

Hmm, that looks good. All that for me?

YOUNGER LORRAINE

You're not gonna' share?

MALCOLM

Yeah, pops. You just gonna have us look at you eat mama's cake.

REGGIE

I've done enough sharing overseas. But since we all family, I guess I can share. But one piece each. Only (smiles).

YOUNGER LORRAINE

Oh, daddy. I miss you.

Gloria has already put the cake down and she's cutting it now.

REGGIE

I miss you too, baby girl. Sing something for me.

Lorraine starts to sing a capella.

INT.RADIO STATION- DAY

Younger Rose and the radio host are talking. Doris is standing outside the glass window. In the background of

Traveling Years

Younger Doris is Charlie, talking to someone, a man.

RADIO HOST

So, Rose, something very exciting happened to you this week. Do you want to tell people what it is.

YOUNGER ROSE

Of course. My brother, Thomas, is back home from the war. My family and I are beyond thrilled (waves at Doris).

Younger Doris waves back. When Younger Rose looks away, Younger Doris rolls her eyes in boredom.

Focus on Charlie and Jim, the club owner.

JIM

So you mean to tell me, the hot blonde in there is your client?

CHARLIE

Yes sir.

JIM

Is she available to sing at my club some nights?

CHARLIE

Of course, whenever you need her.

JIM

When can she start?

CHARLIE

Today, actually.

JIM

I like the sound of that. We need entertainment over at the club. The one we had got herself pregnant.

Charlie fishes for his business card, finds it and hands one to Jim.

CHARLIE

Here's my card.

JIM

I'll be calling soon.

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CHARLIE
I'll be waiting.

Charlie watches Jim leaves. Once he is gone, he goes up to the window and knocks really hard on it. Everyone is startled.

YOUNGER DORIS
What are you doing?

He motions for Younger Rose to come to him. Younger Rose gives him a dirty look. She tries to keep singing. Charlie becomes relentless, he continues to knock.

YOUNGER DORIS
Stop that.

An angry Younger Rose takes her headphones off and storms out of the room.

RADIO HOST
Sorry about that folks....

Younger Rose reaches Charlie.

YOUNGER ROSE
This better be good (crosses arms and taps foot).

CHARLIE
The owner of Rock n' Kings club wants you to be his new entertainment.

YOUNGER ROSE
(happy)
No.

CHARLIE
He came down here just to see you.

Younger Rose screams and hugs Charlie.

YOUNGER ROSE
Charlie, do you know what that means?
We're one step closer. .

CHARLIE
Don't you think I know that? Come on, I'm your manager. I know what I'm doing. I told you the radio will help you someday.

Traveling Years

YOUNGER ROSE

You did, Charlie (kisses him). Did you hear that, Doris?

YOUNGER DORIS

I did. Congratulations, sissy.

They hug.

EXT.DRIVE IN- NIGHT

The top of the car is down. Tommy is telling a war story to Younger Rose, Younger Doris, and Charlie. The guys are smoking cigars.

TOMMY

I looked over at my buddy. He was gone from a clean shot right in the middle of his forehead. No blood. Nothing....

Rose taps Charlie for his cigar. She smokes it. Younger Doris gives her a look.

YOUNGER ROSE

What? Mom and dad does it too. Don't look at me that way.

YOUNGER DORIS

They don't smoke cigars.

YOUNGER ROSE

Same shit.

TOMMY

Lightin'up, Dori. It's fine.

CHARLIE

Do you want one?

YOUNGER DORIS

No thank you. I'll pass.

CHARLIE

Oh that's right. You're an athlete.

Younger Doris gives him a death stare. Younger Rose hands him his cigar.

YOUNGER ROSE

The movie's starting, Charlie.

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Everyone focuses their attention to the screen. Younger Doris checks the time. Younger Rose notices that she does.

YOUNGER ROSE
Got somewhere to go, Doris?

Younger Doris shakes her head no.

INT. LUCILLE'S PLACE-NIGHT

Younger Lorraine is singing. Malcolm, Younger Betsy, and Reggie are there. Malcolm and Younger Betsy sit really close to each other. Younger Doris enters. She finds Malcolm and Younger Betsy when they kiss.

Younger Lorraine finishes and exits the stage. She heads to their table. Younger Doris approaches when everyone is congratulating Younger Lorraine.

YOUNGER LORRAINE
Doris.

YOUNGER DORIS
Is it alright that I came?

YOUNGER LORRAINE
You shouldn't have, but thanks anyways.

MALCOLM
Hi Doris.

BETSY
Hi Doris.

Reggie nods hello.

YOUNGER DORIS
Good evening everyone. (to Lori) You did great. Like always.

YOUNGER LORRAINE
Thanks.

The group seem to be enjoying each other's company while Younger Doris feels like the outcast. It appears as if Younger Betsy has taken her place.

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YOUNGER DORIS
Well, I guess I'll be going.

YOUNGER LORRAINE
Okay.

They share an awkward hug.

INT. LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL-DAY

Younger Doris is in her tennis uniform. She passes by Betsy's dance class. She sees that they are finishing their meeting. She waits for Betsy.

Betsy exits.

YOUNGER DORIS
Hey, Betsy.

YOUNGER BETSY
Doris, hi.

YOUNGER DORIS
Long day, huh?

YOUNGER BETSY
Always. I don't even know what day of the week it is.

YOUNGER DORIS
(softly laughs)
It's Wednesday.

YOUNGER BETSY
That's right.

YOUNGER DORIS
Were you heading outside?

YOUNGER BETSY
Yeah.

YOUNGER DORIS
Me too.

They start to walk.

YOUNGER BETSY
Are you and Lorraine friends?

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YOUNGER DORIS

We started to talk again. We're trying to be more careful.

YOUNGER BETSY

I understand.

YOUNGER DORIS

So, you and Malcolm. Are you guys going study?

YOUNGER BETSY

(nervously laugh)

Not officially. Or not yet anyways.

YOUNGER DORIS

(hurt)

Oh. I was just wondering. I see you two sometimes. The way you guys are with each other. (lying)It's cute.

YOUNGER BETSY

Thanks.

YOUNGER DORIS

Listen, we should take a swim in my pool, what do you say?

YOUNGER BETSY

Sure, why not. I'm sweating like crazy over here.

YOUNGER DORIS

(laughs)

Me too.

EXT. HENRY'S HOUSE-DAY

Younger Doris dives in the pool. Younger Betsy is already in it.

YOUNGER BETSY

This feels so good. Thanks for inviting me.

YOUNGER DORIS

Of course. No problem.

INT. HENRY'S HOME-DAY

Younger Rose and Charlie is practicing at the piano.

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EXT. HENRY'S HOUSE-DAY

To younger Betsy and Younger Doris at the pool.

YOUNGER DORIS

I'm white. I can't dance like you do.

YOUNGER BETSY

Sure you can.

YOUNGER DORIS

Yeah right.

YOUNGER BETSY

You just have to have confidence.

YOUNGER DORIS

And rhythm.

YOUNGER BETSY

You're a tennis player. You understand rhythm. Here let me show you.

Younger Betsy gets out of the pool. Younger Doris follows.

INT. HENRY'S HOME-DAY

Back to Charlie and Younger Rose. Charlie seems distracted. He is busy looking at Younger Betsy, who is moving her hips and teaching Younger Doris how to dance. Younger Rose notices. Instantly, she's jealous.

YOUNGER ROSE

Who are you looking at? Huh? What's more important right now? This or that trashy wetback?

CHARLIE

I wasn't looking at her.

YOUNGER ROSE

Don't lie to me, Charlie. Yes you were.

CHARLIE

Let's drop this. Focus.

YOUNGER ROSE

Focus! You should tell yourself that. I wasn't the one looking at her dancing.

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CHARLIE

It's nothing.

YOUNGER ROSE

I'll give you nothing to look at.

Younger Rose gets up and storms over to..

EXT. HENRY'S HOUSE-SAME

Younger Betsy, who still dances. Younger Doris sees Younger Rose, but she's confused. She goes to say something, but Younger Rose pushes Younger Betsy in the pool.

INT. BETSY HOUSE- DAY

Present time. Betsy takes some pills before her grandsons come in.

CARLOS

When do we get to see Uncle Sergio?

GEORGE

Yeah, Uncle Sergio.

BETSY

Soon, ninos.

GEORGE

Do we get to see mommy too?

BETSY

Maybe. Let's go. Grab your things.

The boys grab their school things, and then they leave.

INT. DANCE STUDIO-DAY

Betsy is showing her students how to dance.

BETSY

One, two, three..that's right. One,
two..

Unexpected pain hits Betsy. She stops and holds her her sides.

BETSY

Class. I hate to do this.

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DANCE STUDENT 1
We understand. It's ok.

DANCE STUDENT 2
Do you need one of us to take you to
the hospital?

BETSY
No, I'll be fine. I just need some
rest.

DANCE STUDENT 1
Are you sure? You don't look too well.

BETSY
Oh, I'm sure. This will pass, I
promise. Now, go. Go on.

The dance students look at each other, but they reluctantly
leave. Betsy silently cries.

INT. DORIS'S CAR-NIGHT

Back to road trip. The car starts to slow down.

DORIS
Oh no.

ROSE
What?

LORRAINE
Why are you going so slow?

DORIS
That's why I said 'oh no'. I'm running
out of gas.

ROSE
What!

LORRAINE
Gas? You can't run out of gas. We're
in the middle of nowhere!

ROSE
In the middle of the night, too!

DORIS
Stop yelling, okay? I understand how
serious this is.

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LORRAINE

You know what people will do to a bunch of old folks like us?

DORIS

Oh, stop, Lorraine. No need in scaring us.

ROSE

What are we gonna do?

DORIS

Pray that there's a gas station ahead.

ROSE

Lorraine, you're black. You people know how to pray.

LORRAINE

You people?

ROSE

I've seen negr..blacks pray before. Ya'll get all excited, spittin at the mouth and all. Go ahead, pray.

DORIS

Yeah, Lorraine. Pray for a gas station.

LORRAINE

I haven't talked to God in years. I don't even know what to say.

DORIS

You know, Dear God, make a gas station appear.

ROSE

This instant. Pretty please.

LORRAINE

Amen.

A gas station appears.

DORIS

It worked! The prayer worked.

ROSE

Oh thank God.

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LORRIANE

You two are welcome.

EXT. GAS STATION- SAME

They pull up the gas station. They all get out.

ROSE

I need to use the ladies room.

LORRAINE

Thanks for sharing.

DORIS

Lorraine, are you staying?

LORRAINE

Yes, I'll wait out here and pump the gas. That way it's faster.

DORIS

Okay.

Doris and Rose walks away. They enter the quick-store.

INT. QUICK STORE- SAME

Rose heads to the bathroom. Doris stands in line to pay for gas.

EXT. GAS STATION- SAME

A panicked and paranoid Lorraine still stands outside. She looks around. A car pulls up and parks. A white man comes out of it and glances at Lorraine. He continues to walk. Just before he goes inside, he looks at her a little bit longer.

INT. QUICK STORE- SAME

Doris is at the front. The man occasionally looks at Lorraine.

DORIS

Forty on pump 12.

Cashier accepts her cash.

EXT. GAS STATION- SAME

Lorraine notices the transaction and starts to put gas in the car. She also notices the man looking at her constantly.

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INT. QUICK STORE- SAME

CASHIER

You're set.

DORIS

Thank you (begins to walk away). Oh
Rose.

The man is at the register. Doris waits for Rose. Rose comes out. They leave. The man leaves too.

EXT. GAS STATION- SAME

Rose and Doris is walking towards the car. The man is right behind them. Lorraine makes a gesture for them to hurry. Rose and Doris turns to see the man following them. They quicken their pace.

Rose turns again and sees him reach into his pocket.

ROSE

He has a gun!

Rose runs, pulling Doris. They run to the car. The man runs after them. Lorraine gets in the car. Rose and Doris reaches to the car and they quickly get in the car.

INT. DORIS'S CAR-SAME

The man reaches before Doris can drive away. He knocks on Lorraine's window.

LORRAINE

Oh, God. He wants me.

The man places a piece of paper and pen on the window.

WHITE MAN

I'm sorry, I didn't mean to scare you.
But my wife, she's a fan. And she'll
kill me if she knew I saw you and
didn't get an autograph.

ROSE

An autograph?

WHITE MAN

Please.

Lorraine slowly rolls down window and just enough to grab his

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things. She quickly signs it, and gives it to him.

WHITE MAN

Thank you. Sorry again for the scare.
Have a nice night (walks away).

They all let out a heavy breath.

LORRAINE

I need a drink.

ROSE

I need a few drinks.

DORIS

Yes, a few will help. Where's the
nearest bar?

INT. BAR-NIGHT

They are sitting at the bar. They already drank a few shots.

ROSE

One more for this ol' timer, huh?

Bartender gives her a drink.

DORIS

Same here.

LORRAINE

Dido.

Both get new drinks.

DORIS

I don't think I've ever been scared
like that in my whole life.

ROSE

Prison is kind of scary.

LORRAINE

For an ex-convict, you should have
seen your face.

ROSE

Oh, shut up. You ran too.

LORRAINE

All that for an autograph.

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DORIS

No one ever hunted me down for an autograph.

LORRAINE

Trust me, it's not fun.

DORIS

Oh Lorraine.

ROSE

What is there to do in this bar?

They all look around to see karaoke, bull riding, and dance tables. They look at each other.

ROSE

This is going to be a long night.

LORRAINE

It already has been.

MONTAGE-BAR

Montage of the girls having fun at the bar. Rose and Lorraine actually enjoying each other for a moment.

--They're doing karaoke. The crowd loves them.

--They're bull riding

--They're dancing on tables. People are jokingly giving them money.

--They're drinking. Rose says "One more for the road, huh?"

EXT. LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL- DAY

1954. Brown vs. Board. Black people are entering the school. White people are protesting against it, yelling cruel words to the black people that pass. Younger Rose and Younger Doris pull up in their car.

YOUNGER ROSE

Oh no, Lincoln is desegregating too.

YOUNGER DORIS

That's amazing.

YOUNGER ROSE

No it's not, Doris. *Those people are*

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in our school now.

They exit the car. They try to make it through the crowd.
They're in the school building now.

INT. LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL- SAME

YOUNGER DORIS

I wonder if Lorraine switched schools.
Did you see her?

YOUNGER ROSE

I wasn't looking for her. And besides
they all look the same.

Younger Doris continues to walk with Younger Rose, but she
looks behind and around her for Younger Lorraine.

INT. BLACK DANCE HALL- NIGHT

Younger Betsy and Malcolm are dancing among other dancers.
Younger Doris and Younger Lorraine are standing near the
drink bar. They're drinking.

YOUNGER DORIS

So, you didn't switch schools.

YOUNGER LORRAINE

Hell no. I like my school. I don't
want to spend my last year of high
school with people like Rose. No
offense.

YOUNGER DORIS

None taken. I understand.

They pause to sip their drinks. Younger Doris eyes drift over
to Malcolm and Younger Betsy.

YOUNGER DORIS

She told me they're not serious yet.

Younger Lorraine follows her eye contact.

YOUNGER LORRAINE

They are now. They're inseparable.
It's annoying.

YOUNGER DORIS

Really.

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YOUNGER LORRAINE

You like my brother?

YOUNGER DORIS

Me? No. Well, I do like him as a person. If that's what you meant.

Younger Lorraine laughs.

YOUNGER DORIS

Can we change the subject?

YOUNGER LORRAINE

Your call.

YOUNGER DORIS

(looks around)

This place. It looks nice. I like what they did to it.

YOUNGER LORRAINE

Thanks for the donation.

YOUNGER DORIS

Thanks for being my friend again.

YOUNGER LORRAINE

Okay, enough with this gushy stuff. Let's dance.

Younger Lorraine pulls Younger Doris to the dance floor by Malcolm and Younger Betsy. They begin to dance.

INT. HENRY'S HOME-DAY

Younger Rose and Charlie stumbles inside flirtatiously with their hands all over each other. Younger Rose giggles.

YOUNGER ROSE

Where is everyone? Their cars are outside. Charlie stop. (yells) Mom!? Dad!? Thomas!? Doris?!

MARY O.S

We're out here, honey.

A big bulldozer makes a sound. Charlie backs off of Younger Rose.

YOUNGER ROSE

What is that?

Traveling Years

Younger Rose heads to the back of the house. She sees her mom looking at a magazine near the pool side, Tommy is in the pool, and Younger Doris and John are further out, overlooking the construction of a tennis court for Younger Doris. Younger Rose storms out of the house.

EXT. HENRY'S HOUSE-SAME

YOUNGER ROSE

What is going on?

MARY

Hey, honey. It's a tennis court for your sister.

YOUNGER ROSE

What! Dad!

John turns around.

JOHN

Honey, hi!

John and Younger Doris approaches Younger Rose.

YOUNGER ROSE

What is this?

YOUNGER DORIS

I'm getting my own tennis court!

YOUNGER ROSE

That's not fair.

JOHN

We figured since she's getting more serious, we might as well finally build this thing.

YOUNGER ROSE

And I'm not serious with singing? I've been asking for a recording studio since forever.

JOHN

Honey, please understand.

YOUNGER ROSE

Understand what? I never received anything for singing. And I've been doing it longer!

Traveling Years

JOHN

Rose.

YOUNGER ROSE

So she's the favorite, huh?

YOUNGER DORIS

Rose!

Rose walks away. She walks pass Mary.

MARY

Honey, don't pout. It gives you
premature wrinkles.

Younger Rose ignores her and slams the slide door shut.

INT. ROCK N' KINGS- NIGHT

Younger Rose is performing. Charlie is speaking to Jim.

JIM

She's great, Charlie. Just lovely. But
we have a problem.

CHARLIE

Problem. I'm Charlie, Jim, I fix
problems.

JIM

Times are changing, and Rose needs to
hop on board.

CHARLIE

What do you mean? You gotta give me
more than that Jim.

JIM

She needs to shed the good girl, girl
next door look. Rock n' roll is
emerging, she needs to be more edgy.

CHARLIE

Edgy? Okay, I can give you edgy.

JIM

Don't get me wrong, Charlie. We love
Rose Katherine, but we want a Rosie
the riveter.

Traveling Years

CHARLIE

You got it, Jim.

Rose finishes her last goodie-good girl song.

INT. HENRY'S HOME-DAY

Younger Rose is at the piano alone. She sings very safely, then she stops. After a moment, she begins again and tries to be edgy, whipping her hair back and forth and being more raspy with her voice.

Younger Doris comes in from playing Tennis. She catches Younger Rose. Younger Rose stops when she notices Younger Doris looking.

YOUNGER DORIS

What were you doing?

YOUNGER ROSE

Doris, do you think I can be edgy?

YOUNGER DORIS

Edgy?

Younger Doris sits next to Younger Rose.

YOUNGER ROSE

You know, rock n' roll type.

YOUNGER DORIS

Like this (starts shaking her head, whipping hair)?

YOUNGER ROSE

Yeah (does the same).

Both continue to act "edgy." Younger Rose is playing the piano as they sing. They're bonding.

YOUNGER DORIS

This is what Betsy taught me (executes a sultry move).

YOUNGER ROSE

Wait, do that again.

Younger Doris does it again. Younger Rose copies.

YOUNGER DORIS

Yeah, like that. Look, you're already

Traveling Years

edgy.

Charlie walks in. They stop being "edgy."

CHARLIE

Let's go.

Grabs Younger Rose.

YOUNGER ROSE

Where are we going?

CHARLIE

To the mall. You need more wardrobe.

YOUNGER ROSE

Ooo, new wardrobe.

CHARLIE

Yeah, we need hurry.

YOUNGER ROSE

Hold on, let me get my purse.

Younger Rose gets purse. Younger Doris slips out to the pool.

CHARLIE

Rose, today.

YOUNGER ROSE

Okay, Charlie. (turns) Hey, Doris (notices she's in the pool)..wanna come.

CHARLIE

She's gone. Let's go.

They leave the house.

INT. DANCE CLASS-DAY

Younger Betsy and students are gathering their things. The dance teacher approaches Younger Betsy.

DANCE TEACHER

Betsy, may I speak to you?

Younger Betsy nods her head yes.

Traveling Years

DANCE TEACHER

I have really good news for you.

Younger Doris shows up in classroom. She gives a quick wave to Younger Betsy. Younger Betsy returns one. The dance teacher looks annoyed.

DANCE TEACHER

The school of Julliard is interested in you.

YOUNGER BETSY

Me?

DANCE TEACHER

Yes, you.

Younger Betsy covers her mouth. She tries to hold back tears.

DANCE TEACHER

I advise that you be almost near perfect. They'll be watching you for the remainder of your junior year, and more intensely in your senior year. Understand?

Younger Betsy shakes head. Her hand is still over her mouth.

DANCE TEACHER

Congratulations. That's a superb honor.

YOUNGER BETSY

Thank you.

Younger Betsy walks away to Doris.

YOUNGER DORIS

What? What did she say?

Younger Betsy hugs Younger Doris.

EXT. YOUNGER BETSY'S HOUSE- DAY

Malcolm and Younger Lorraine are knocking on Betsy's door, while Doris and Betsy pulls up. They get out of the car.

YOUNGER BETSY

Guys, what's going on?

Traveling Years

YOUNGER LORRAINE
There you are.

YOUNGER BETSY
What's wrong?

MALCOLM
Good news.

YOUNGER DORIS
What?

YOUNGER BETSY
Yeah?

MALCOLM
Lorraine, got a...

YOUNGER LORRAINE
I got a radio gig!

YOUNGER BETSY
That's awesome!

YOUNGER DORIS
Congrats.

MALCOLM
Not just any radio gig. This ones has
connections to the Apollo.

Younger Lorraine shouts in joy. Everyone begins to shout in
joy, except Malcolm, who dances.

YOUNGER BETSY
I have good news too.

YOUNGER LORRAINE
What?

YOUNGER BETSY
Julliard wants me!

More screaming that people begin to look. Younger Betsy and
Malcolm dance together.

YOUNGER DORIS
I also have good news.

EVERYONE
What?

Traveling Years

YOUNGER DORIS

Nothing! I just wanted to join in!

Everyone laughs.

INT. HENRY'S HOME-NIGHT

Younger Doris walks in. She hears crying. It's her drunk mother at the piano being comforted by Younger Rose, while Tommy and John sit on the couch.

YOUNGER DORIS

What's wrong?

MARY

Why can't they leave my baby alone?

YOUNGER DORIS

What is she talking about?

JOHN

Your bother is being deployed to Germany.

YOUNGER DORIS

Deployed? Already? But you just came back.

YOUNGER ROSE

We know, Doris. No need to remind us.

Younger Doris sits down.

YOUNGER DORIS

But I don't want you to go. When are you leaving?

TOMMY

Tomorrow.

YOUNGER DORIS

What?

MARY

He knew for a while now. (to Thomas)
How could you?

YOUNGER ROSE

Mother, please.

They all sit in silence.

Traveling Years

INT. BLACK RADIO STATION- DAY

Younger Lorraine is at the radio station. Malcolm, Younger Betsy, and supporters are behind the window.

BLACK RADIO HOST

We're here with Lorraine Benson. This is her first time here, but not her first time in front of an audience. Is that right, Lorraine?

YOUNGER LORRAINE

Yes, that's right. I've been singing over at Lucille's for a little over two years now.

BLACK RADIO HOST

So, some of you listeners may know Miss. Lorraine Benson.

Younger Lorraine giggles.

BLACK RADIO HOST

So, Lorraine. What's next?

YOUNGER LORRAINE

Well, after I graduate from high school, my brother and I, Malcolm, who's also my manager, will be heading to New York.

BLACK RADIO HOST

What's in New York?

YOUNGER LORRAINE

The Apollo theater. Music producers. Dreams. Everything.

BLACK RADIO HOST

Big dreams, Ms. Thang! Go ahead and sing somethin' for us!

LORRAINE

This is dedicated to my friend whose brother is being deployed to Germany today.

Younger Lorraine sings.

Traveling Years

INT. CHARLIE'S CAR-DAY

Charlie is listening to Lorraine on the radio while he waits for Younger Rose. He likes her singing.

CHARLIE
Man, she can sing.

Younger Rose comes in, wearing an "edgy" outfit. Charlie laughs at her.

YOUNGER ROSE
What? What's so funny?

CHARLIE
Nothing.

YOUNGER ROSE
Fuck you, Charlie. I'm not in the mood.

Charlie kisses her head. Younger Rose likes the person on the radio.

YOUNGER ROSE
Sounds good. Who's on the radio?

CHARLIE
(turns it off)
I don't know. Someone new, I guess.

INT. ROCK N' KINGS- NIGHT

Younger Rose is singing and she is being really edgy. Charlie and Younger Doris are in the audience.

CHARLIE
She looks hot, doesn't she? Very edgy.

YOUNGER DORIS
(annoyed already)
Wasn't that the goal?

CHARLIE
Pretty much.

YOUNGER DORIS
Then congrats Mr. manager.

CHARLIE
So sincere. Like always. Listen, I'm

Traveling Years

going to get a drink, you want one?

YOUNGER DORIS

No, thanks.

CHARLIE

Goodie good.

YOUNGER DORIS

Drunkard.

Charlie walks away. After a while, Jim stands next to Younger Doris.

JIM

Your sister, she's good.

YOUNGER DORIS

Thanks. I think so too.

JIM

Listen, I'm looking for other singers for the new year. If you happen to know of any. Lemme know.

YOUNGER DORIS

Actually, I do.

JIM

Really. A friend of Rose?

YOUNGER DORIS

Not quite.

JIM

Who is she?

YOUNGER DORIS

Her name is Lorraine Benson. She was on the radio earlier today.

JIM

Lorraine Benson. Bring her in.

YOUNGER DORIS

Just one thing. She's a colored.

JIM

I don't care if she was purple. Chuck Berry, the temptations. Ella

Traveling Years

Fitzgerald. All famous negro singers.
Guess who's listening to them?

YOUNGER DORIS
Coloreds?

JIM
And whites. Aint no way they that big
and only negros listening to them.
Bring her in.

YOUNGER DORIS
I will. And trust me, you'll love her.

Younger Rose finishes her "edgy" song.

INT. ASSISTED LIVING- DAY

Present day. The cop is back and he is talking to the
administrator.

COP
We did more research. Turns out Doris
Henry's sister, Rose Henry was
convicted of murder back in the
fifties.

ADMINISTRATOR
Murder? Wow.

COP
Even though she's old. She may or may
not still be dangerous.

ADMINISTRATOR
So Doris and Lorraine may be in
danger?

COP
A possibility. There's a possibility
that all three may be in danger if a
deranged relative of the murder victim
learned of Rose's release.

ADMINISTRATOR
That's unfortunate.

COP
Do the twins have any family? Kids?
How about Lorraine?

Traveling Years

ADMINISTRATOR

Not that we are aware of. Both Lorraine and Doris had careers that hindered them from having children or a home life at that. Both sets of parents are dead. Lorraine's only sibling, a brother, died a few years ago. The only living relative we know of between the two of them is Rose.

COP

Okay. We are going to put a red flag on their reports, too many unknowns.

ADMINISTRATOR

That sounds like the best for them.

COP

If anything comes up, let us know.

The cop stands up to leave.

ADMINISTRATOR

Will do, officer.

The cop leaves.

INT. DORIS'S CAR-DAY

Doris is driving. Rose is in the front, while Lorraine is in the back. Doris looks around, clueless to where she is. She questions if she should have taken the exit that she passed.

DORIS

Oh dear.

ROSE

What?

LORRAINE

Oh dear what?

DORIS

We may or may not be lost.

LORRAINE

Lost?

ROSE

What do you mean?

Traveling Years

LORRAINE

You know how to get to California,
Doris. What's the matter with you?

DORIS

I don't know. I seem to have
forgotten, maybe I should have taken
the exit. I don't know.

LORRAINE

Good, Lord.

ROSE

Well, maybe we should stop and ask
someone for directions.

DORIS

Maybe it was all those drinks last
night.

LORRAINE

Or maybe you're gettin' old and
forgetful.

ROSE

Forget asking, let's buy a map.

LORRAINE

People today don't use maps, Rose.
There's something called a GSP, or
something like that.

DORIS

A GPS?

LORRAINE

Yeah, one of those.

DORIS

Well, I wouldn't know how to use
those.

ROSE

Then let's get a map!

DORIS

Wait, that seems familiar. I
remember..(sees a sign that says
'California this way') You see, I am
going the right way. Looks like we
won't need a GPS or a map.

Traveling Years

ROSE
Well, congratulations.

LORRAINE
You're still old.

They laugh.

INT. DOCTER'S OFFICE-DAY

Betsy is sitting on the bed. The doctor has an xray up that he is going over with her.

DOCTOR
As you can see, the cancer is spreading. Even around your cardio area. Mrs. Sanchez, this is serious, you need to admit yourself to a hospital.

BETSY
I don't like hospitals.

DOCTOR
This is for your safety. It is best that you're under medical supervision. At any given time, you can have a heart attack. These tumors can spread and surround...

BETSY
(shaken up)
I can see that, doctor. You don't need to go into details. Please, it's right in front of me.

DOCTOR
Mrs. Sanchez, this is a serious matter. You need immediate attention.

BETSY
Isn't it too late, look at the picture.

DOCTOR
As a doctor, I can't say it's too late. We have to try our best to help you. But that's only if you want to help yourself.

Traveling Years

BETSY

My kids, my grandkids. They don't know
it's this bad.

DOCTOR

You have to tell them. This can go
either way.

Betsy cries.

INT.DORIS'S CAR-DAY

Doris continues to drive. Rose is in the front. Lorraine is
in the back. Rose goes into her bag and pulls out the
necklace and places it on her lap. Lorraine sees her.

LORRAINE

'It's not an engagement ring, but when
I saw it, its beauty reminded me of
you.' Cheap.

Rose is now alert, surprised, and suspicious.

ROSE

What did you say?

LORRAINE

What?

ROSE

About the necklace.

LORRAINE

(realized she spoke out loud)
Was I talking out loud?

ROSE

Yes, you were. You were there that
night, weren't you?

LORRAINE

No, I wasn't.

DORIS

Rose, don't be silly.

ROSE

I'm not being silly, Doris.

LORRAINE

I didn't say nothin'. And I definitely

Traveling Years

wasn't there that night.

ROSE
Then how did you know about this necklace?

DORIS
Rose, drop it.

ROSE
Lorraine, you know something. You know something about that night.

DORIS
Rose!

ROSE
Tell me! Tell me what you know!

LORRAINE
(shaken)
I don't know nothin'.

ROSE
Yes, you do. Tell me.

DORIS
Rose, you're being ridiculous.

ROSE
Dear God.

DORIS
What?

LORRAINE
What?

ROSE
You killed Charlie.

LORRAINE
I did not...

Something hits one of the tires. The car swerves around, almost going out of control. They scream. Doris pulls the car to the side of the road.

ROSE
What was that?

Traveling Years

They get out of the car.

EXT. ROAD-SAME

DORIS

A flat tire. Great.

LORRAINE

Do you have a spare in the back?

DORIS

No, I don't have a spare in the back.
I hardly drive this thing.

LORRAINE

Great.

ROSE

This is just splendid. I'm stuck in
the middle of the road with a killer.

LORRAINE

You better not be talkin' about me!

ROSE

You killed Charlie!

DORIS

No! Absolutely not! Not here! Drop it,
Rose! Now!

A car is approaching.

DORIS

Let's wave this car down, maybe they
can help us.

They start waving at the car, but it keeps going.

ROSE

Good idea, Doris.

DORIS

You have a better one?

Nothing. Another car. They try to wave it down, but it keeps
going.

LORRAINE

We're stuck here. Haven't their
mothers taught 'em to be nice to the

Traveling Years

elderly.

DORIS
We don't look dangerous, do we?

ROSE
Well..

DORIS
Nevermind, don't answer that question.

LORRAINE
You know what it is.

DORIS
what?

LORRAINE
If only we were still hot and young.

DORIS
Whatever happened to the Good Samaritan?

LORRAINE
Look, another car.

They try to wave it down. It passes. They continue to try to wave down cars.

EXT. HENRY'S HOUSE-DUSK

1955. Gloria and Younger Doris leaves the house at the same time, they go separate ways. Gloria continues to walk, while Younger Doris gets in her car. Younger Doris realizes that she is limping.

YOUNGER DORIS
Ms. Gloria, do you want a ride?

GLORIA
Oh, no, baby. I'm fine.

YOUNGER DORIS
Are you sure?

GLORIA
Don't worry about me, Doris.

Traveling Years

YOUNGER DORIS

At least let me drop you to the bus stop. You're limping. Please. I promise I won't bite.

GLORIA

Oh, alright. Stop begging.

Younger Doris opens the door from inside. Gloria enters. Younger Doris drives away.

GLORIA

Thank you.

YOUNGER DORIS

No problem.

GLORIA

You know, I wanted to tell you that you're a good tennis player.

YOUNGER DORIS

Thank you, Ms. Gloria.

GLORIA

You gonna go far one day. I know it.

YOUNGER DORIS

That means a lot to me.

They reach to the bus stop. Gloria opens the door to step out, but Doris stops her.

YOUNGER DORIS

Ms. Gloria, wait. Let me drop you home. The bus will probably be full, and you'll end up standing. Please. I can drop you home.

GLORIA

You is one persistent girl.

Gloria gets back in the car. Younger Doris drives away.

EXT. BENSON'S HOUSE-LATE DUSK

Younger Doris's car pulls up the drive way.

GLORIA

Thank you, honey. I really do appreciate it.

Traveling Years

YOUNGER DORIS
Anytime, really.

Gloria exits the car. Younger Doris watches her enter her house. Seconds later, Malcolm and Younger Lorraine runs out of the house and to her car.

YOUNGER DORIS
What?

MALCOLM
Get out of the car!

YOUNGER DORIS
What's going on?

LORRAINE
Now, Doris.

Doris gets out of the car immediately.

YOUNGER DORIS
What did I do? Was it Rose?

They both hug her.

MALCOLM
You are amazing!

LORRAINE
We got a call from Jim.

YOUNGER DORIS
You're one of the new entertainment?

LORRAINE
Oh yeah.

YOUNGER DORIS
That's awesome.

MALCOLM
Do you know how many recording producers stop by there?

YOUNGER DORIS
Trust me, I know. That's why I put in your name.

YOUNGER LORRAINE
Thanks you, Doris. You're a godsend.

Traveling Years

YOUNGER DORIS

Of course, it was my pleasure,
Lorraine. When do you perform?

YOUNGER LORRAINE

This Wednesday.

YOUNGER DORIS

Wait, this Wednesday?

MALCOLM

Yeah, what's wrong?

YOUNGER DORIS

That's when Rose sings too. I don't
think she knows.

YOUNGER LORRAINE

Well, she's in for a big surprise.

Malcolm and Younger Lorraine laughs.

YOUNGER DORIS

This should be fun.

EXT. ROAD-DUSK

Doris, Rose, and Lorraine are leaning against the car on
opposite sides avoiding each other. A car approaches. Doris
gives one last try to wave a car down. The car approaches
them.

DORIS

Someone's coming! He's stopping! Rose,
Lorraine, someone's coming!

The car stops. A man comes out.

MAN

Need help with something?

DORIS

We got a flat tire.

MAN

Oh I can help with that.

Lorraine and Rose approaches.

LORRAINE

You can?

Traveling Years

ROSE

Really?

MAN

Of course. How long have you three ladies been out here?

DORIS

For a very long time.

MAN

That's a shame. And no one passed by?

ROSE

Oh, some did.

MAN

My momma woulda slap me silly if she heard I passed elderly women on the side of the road that needed help.

LORAINNE

Elderly? We're the elderly?

DORIS

Oh, Lorraine, stop giving the man a hard time.

MAN

Sorry, I meant to say women.

LORRAINE

Sounds better.

MAN

I'll help y'all get back on the road soon.

ROSE

Thank you.

DORIS

Such a blessing.

LORRAINE

Tell me about it.

The man gets his stuff.

Traveling Years

EXT. HENRY'S HOUSE-DAY

1955. Younger Doris is playing tennis. Younger Rose and Charlie can be heard approaching. They're arguing.

YOUNGER ROSE
This is all your fault! How can you
let this happen?

CHARLIE
My fault? It's your sister's big
mouth!

YOUNGER ROSE
You know how humiliating that is!

They reach Younger Doris. Younger Doris stops playing.

YOUNGER DORIS
What?

YOUNGER ROSE
Please tell me it's not true.

YOUNGER DORIS
What's not true?

YOUNGER ROSE
Did you tell Jim about Lorraine?

YOUNGER DORIS
I might have mentioned her once.

CHARLIE
I told you.

YOUNGER ROSE
How could you? My own sister. My very
own sister.

YOUNGER DORIS
What's the big deal? It's not like he
fired you.

YOUNGER ROSE
What's the big deal? Do you know how
humiliating that is?

YOUNGER DORIS
How is it humiliating, Rose?

Traveling Years

YOUNGER ROSE

To have a someone like her sing the
same night as me! Like I'm some second
class to be lined up with her!

YOUNGER DORIS

Are you scared?

YOUNGER ROSE

Scared of what?

YOUNGER DORIS

They might like Lorraine more.

YOUNGER ROSE

(dirty look)

Who are you?

Younger Rose turns and walks away, pushing Charlie out of her way. He follows her.

YOUNGER DORIS

It's okay to have stage fright!

Out of frustration, Younger Rose pushes Charlie in the pool.

INT. ROCK N' KINGS- NIGHT

Younger Rose is preparing to sing. Younger Doris, Younger Betsy, Younger Lorraine, and Malcolm are sitting in the back. Charlie is sitting somewhere in the crowd. The audience goes wild for Younger Rose. Younger Rose begins to sing.

YOUNGER DORIS

(to Lorraine)

Are you next?

YOUNGER LORRAINE

Yes, Ma'am.

YOUNGER DORIS

What song are you singing?

YOUNGER LORRAINE

You'll see.

YOUNGER DORIS

Are you nervous?

YOUNGER LORRAINE

No. Okay, just a little.

Traveling Years

YOUNGER BETSY

Wow, Doris, your sister is actually good.

YOUNGER DORIS

Isn't she?

MALCOLM

(to Younger Lorraine)

We should start headin' to the back.

Malcolm and Younger Lorraine ready to leave.

YOUNGER DORIS

Good luck!

YOUNGER LORRAINE

Thank you.

Younger Lorraine and Malcolm head to the back.

Younger Rose finishes her song. Crowd goes wild. Jim approaches the stage.

JIM

Give it up for our very own Rose Katherine!

Younger Rose gives a bow before exiting the stage. When she does, Younger Lorraine is standing near the side of the stage, and Younger Rose flips her hair, slapping Younger Lorraine.

JIM

We have new talent that I'll like to introduce tonight. You know what they say, the darker the berry, the sweeter the juice. Ladies and Gents, Lorraine.

Younger Lorraine takes a breath.

MALCOLM

You can do it.

Younger Lorraine walks on stage to a quiet audience. Younger Rose sits next to Charlie, she looks around for Younger Doris, finds her, and waves. Younger Doris waves back.

YOUNGER ROSE

This should be amusing.

Traveling Years

YOUNGER LORRAINE

Thanks for having me tonight.

The same song Younger Rose just sung starts to play, but it is even funkier, more soul. Younger Lorraine starts to dance. Younger Rose gasps and looks at Younger Doris. Younger Doris laughs.

YOUNGER ROSE

How dare she!

CHARLIE

Don't make a scene, people are watching.

The audience warms up to Younger Lorraine. They start to like her. They're hollering for her. Younger Rose crosses her arms. Back to Younger Betsy and Younger Doris.

YOUNGER BETSY

Wow, she's on fire! The crowds really likes her.

YOUNGER DORIS

Except Rose. Look at her face. This is hilarious.

Younger Betsy searches for Younger Rose and sees her pouting.

YOUNGER BETSY

Looks like someone is scared of some competition.

YOUNGER DORIS

She's not used to it.

Back to Charlie and Younger Rose. Charlie empties his glasses.

YOUNGER ROSE

I did way better than her.

CHARLIE

Control yourself, Rose. You have an image to keep. Act confident.

YOUNGER ROSE

She's doing this to spite me. The same song, really? That porch monkey.

Traveling Years

CHARLIE

Rose, people can hear you.

YOUNGER ROSE

I hate her. And I don't care if people know it.

Younger Lorraine finishes up her song. The crowd goes even more wild. They like Younger Lorraine better than Younger Rose. While Younger Lorraine is bowing, Younger Rose leaves her seat and exits the bar. Charlie follows.

EXT. ROCK N' KINGS- SAME

CHARLIE

Where are you going?

YOUNGER ROSE

To the car. Hurry up, go get our stuff. I wanna get out of here.

Charlie obeys. Younger Rose continues to walk to the car. She enters the car, then she reaches for a beer bottle from the back of the car. She drinks it.

INT. ROCK N' KINGS- SAME

Charlie navigates his way to the front, but a man stops him.

MUSIC PRODUCER

Charlie. Rose Katherine's manager.

CHARLIE

Yes.

MUSIC PRODUCER

Hello. I'm with Riverside Recording studio. We're interested in Rose.

CHARLIE

I'm sure she'll feel the same.

MUSIC PRODUCER

(digs in pocket for a card, finds it)

When you get a chance, call this number, and we'll talk more about this. Me, you, and Rose.

CHARLIE

I like the sound of that (accepts

Traveling Years

card).

MUSIC PRODUCER

I'd take the negro too, but you know..

CHARLIE

Well, good thing I ain't her manager.

MUSIC PRODUCER

I may say a few words to her manager.
See if we can work something out.

CHARLIE

Oh really?

MUSIC PRODUCER

She was good. Feisty. Ethnic. Maybe a
little change won't hurt, you know.

CHARLIE

Maybe.

MUSIC PRODUCER

Well, I'll see ya soon.

CHARLIE

Thanks for your time.

Music producer leaves. Charlie continues his trek to the front. Younger Doris looks for Younger Rose. She figured she left.

YOUNGER DORIS

She couldn't take the heat. She left.

YOUNGER BETSY

Really? I mean, she did really good.
She shouldn't be so hard on herself.

YOUNGER DORIS

That's Rose.

Younger Lorraine appears. They run to hug her.

YOUNGER BETSY

You did amazing!

YOUNGER DORIS

More than amazing.

Traveling Years

YOUNGER LORRAINE

You think so? Was the song choice
alright (slightly smiles)?

YOUNGER DORIS

You are so gutsy. I like it.

YOUNGER LORRAINE

Thank you. I figured it will make a
nice first performance.

YOUNGER BETSY

Oh, it did.

YOUNGER DORIS

Where's Malcolm?

YOUNGER LORRAINE

Oh, he's putting stuff in the van.
Where's Miss. Rose thorns?

YOUNGER DORIS

She left.

YOUNGER LORRAINE

Of course she did.

EXT. ROCK N' KINGS- NIGHT

Malcolm is the back of the club putting equipment in the back
of the van. Charlie appears behind him, exiting the club.

CHARLIE

They shouldn't have let you blackies
here.

Malcolm turns around and notices that it's Charlie. He
ignores him and continues to work.

CHARLIE

Did you hear me? I'm talking to you.

MALCOLM

I heard you. Good thing it wasn't your
decision to make.

Charlie steps closer.

CHARLIE

Cause if it was, your sister would
have never stepped into this club.

Traveling Years

MALCOLM

Scared of some competition?

CHARLIE

Oh, Rose and I have nothing to be scared of. As a matter of fact, she's about to be signed.

MALCOLM

Well, congratulations.

Malcolm closes the back door of the van. Charlie opens it and throws an equipment on the ground.

EXT. MOTEL 2- NIGHT

Present day. Doris pulls in to a parking spot. Lorraine is the first to get out. She hurries inside.

ROSE

She's trying to make a run for it!

Rose and Doris exits the car.

DORIS

Stop scaring her, Rose. Lorraine!

INT. MOTEL 2-SAME

Lorraine is already on the phone, calling a taxi.

LORRAINE

I know it's late, but I'll pay you double the price. Triple.

DORIS

Lorraine, what are you doing?

LORRAINE

(still on phone)

Thank you very much. I'll be waiting outside (hangs up phone).

Lorraine makes her way outside. They follow.

ROSE

Only the guilty runs.

EXT. MOTEL 2- SAME

Lorraine is walking to the corner of the motel. They follow.

Traveling Years

DORIS

Lorraine, wait a minute, where are you going?

LORRAINE

Away from you guys, especially this psychotic one (points to Rose).

DORIS

But why are you leaving?

LORRAINE

I'm not having fun anymore, Doris.

DORIS

What's wrong?

LORRAINE

I don't want to talk about it.

ROSE

She knows something, Doris. Look at her. She knows something!

Doris looks at Lorraine. She studies her uneasiness.

DORIS

What do you know, Lorraine.

LORRAINE

What I know won't change anything
(tears roll down her cheeks).

INT. ROCK N' KINGS- NIGHT

1955. Back to Younger Lorraine and Younger Doris.

YOUNGER LORRAINE

I better go.

YOUNGER DORIS

Okay, good night.

YOUNGER BETSY

See you soon.

Younger Lorraine leaves.

EXT. ROCK N' KINGS- NIGHT

Malcolm picks up his equipment and puts it back in the car.

Traveling Years

Charlie throws another out of the car.

MALCOLM

Hey man.

Charlie takes another equipment and hits Malcolm with it. Younger Lorraine appears. Malcolm falls to the ground. Charlie punches him in the face. Younger Lorraine runs and pushes Charlie. Malcolm gets up.

MALCOLM

Get in the car, Lorraine. Now!

Younger Lorraine doesn't listen. Charlie throws another equipment.

CHARLIE

If she wants some too, she can come get it.

Charlie approaches Younger Lorraine, Malcolm comes in between and punches Charlie. Charlie stumbles back. Malcolm pushes him to the ground. On the ground, Charlie finds a bar. He swings at Malcolm. And he keeps swinging, bringing Malcolm to the ground. Younger Lorraine tries to claw his back, pulling his hair. Charlie continues to hit Malcolm with the bar.

Then Younger Lorraine takes a light equipment and hits Charlie on the back. He yells. She hits him again, bringing him to the ground.

While Charlie is moaning in pain, Younger Lorraine helps Malcolm to the van. She throws him in the the passenger seat. Then she quickly puts the equipment back in the car. After, she kicks Charlie before entering the van and drives away.

Charlie groans on the floor. Younger Rose comes out looking for him, she has a beer bottle in her hand. She's already drunk.

YOUNGER ROSE

Charlie? (spots Charlie) Charlie? Oh God, Charlie, what happened to you?

She staggers over to him.

CHARLIE

(embarrassed)

I'm fine. Just help me up.

Younger Rose tries to help him.

Traveling Years

YOUNGER ROSE

Who did this to you?

CHARLIE

Some mugger. I couldn't see his face well.

YOUNGER ROSE

Which way did he go?

CHARLIE

I don't know, Rose.

YOUNGER ROSE

Okay, sorry.

They're walking to the front. Charlie takes the bottle from her hand and starts drinking.

Somewhere in the darkness, Malcolm and Younger Lorraine's van is still there.

EXT. MOTEL 2- NIGHT

Present day. Lorraine is still waiting for the cab. Doris and Rose is with her.

DORIS

You're right, it won't change anything. But please, tell us what you know.

LORRAINE

(takes a deep breath-to Rose)
Remember when you found Charlie on the floor behind Rock N' Kings?

ROSE

Vaguely. That whole night was a blur. I remember only pieces.

LORRAINE

Of course, cause both you and him were drunk.

DORIS

Charlie was on the ground?

LORRAINE

I put him there.

Traveling Years

ROSE

What do you mean?

LORRAINE

He attacked Malcolm, so I attacked back. We left before you came. Actually, we didn't leave, we were still there. Hiding.

ROSE

(thinks)

The mugging....

LORRAINE

I followed you guys to the drive in when he gave you the necklace. That's how I know about it.

ROSE

You followed us?

LORRAINE

My brother was hardly breathing next to me because of what Charlie did to him. I wanted his blood. I had one of Doris's tennis racket in the van and I was ready to use it.

Rose gasp.

DORIS

Dear God. Lorraine.

ROSE

All these years. I knew it.

The cab pulls up. Lorraine gets ready to enter it.

DORIS

Wait.

ROSE

What happened next?

LORRAINE

I'm done talking.

Lorraine enters the cab.

ROSE

What happened? (taps on car) What

Traveling Years

happened next?

LORRAINE

Like I said before, what I know, won't change anything.

The cab drives away. Rose grabs the car keys from Doris's hands and make a run for it to the car.

DORIS

Rose, what are you doing?

Doris follows Rose. Rose gets in the car.

DORIS

Rose!

ROSE

Get in the car or stay here.

Doris quickly gets in the car. Rose speeds to follow the cab. She catches up and pulls up the side.

DORIS

Rose, this is dangerous.

ROSE

I need to know, Doris. I need to know.

Rose drives ahead of the cab in order to cut in front of it. She turns and stop in front of the cab. The cab stops. Lorraine furiously exits the cab.

LORRAINE

Are you serious?

Rose exits the car. Doris too.

ROSE

As serious as can be.

DORIS

Sorry about this, Lorraine. I don't know what have gotten into her.

LORRAINE

I have nothing else to say.

ROSE

I will follow you wherever you go.

Traveling Years

LORRAINE

(gives up)

Do you really want to know? You think you can handle it?

ROSE

I can handle anything. I just want the truth.

Lorraine closes her door. Gives the taxi driver money. And approaches Rose.

LORRAINE

Get in the car.

Lorraine gets in the car. They follow.

INT. DORIS'S CAR-SAME

Rose pulls over to the side of the road. They sit and wait for Lorraine to speak.

LORRAINE

I sat there. I watched you guys drink, what seemed to me, an endless amount of alcohol. Then you climbed on top of him.

EXT-DRIVE-INNIGHT

Rose and Charlie are kissing in Charlie's car. She is straddling him. In between kisses they speak.

ROSE

So he wants to see me? Like he wants to sign me?

CHARLIE

I'm sure they mean the same thing.

ROSE

Baby, we did it!

CHARLIE

Yes, we did.

A furious younger Lorraine watches from a distance. Malcolm is still in pain beside her.

MALCOLM

Leave them alone, Lorraine. Let's just

Traveling Years

go home.

Lorraine is almost to tears.

LORRAINE

But how could he.

MALCOLM

He's white, he can do whatever he wants.

LORRAINE

Not to us, he can't.

MALCOLM

Lorraine, please, bring us home. We'll be lucky if he doesn't report us.

LORRAINE

He attacked first.

MALCOLM

That doesn't matter.

INT. CHARLIE'S CAR-SAME

Charlie and Rose stop kissing. Charlie fishes for the necklace. He presents it. Younger Rose covers her mouth in surprise.

CHARLIE

It's not an engagement ring, but when I saw it, its beauty reminded me of you.

ROSE

Charlie, it's beautiful.

Charlie puts it on for her. They continue to kiss.

INT.DORIS'S CAR-NIGHT

Present day.

LORRAINE

I was about to leave. I wasn't about to stay and watch ya'll have sex. But the car started to move. So I followed.

Traveling Years

ROSE

Dear, God, you did kill Charlie.

LORRAINE

I'm sorry, Rose, for what I'm about to tell you.

INT. CHARLIE'S CAR-NIGHT

Charlie is drunkenly driving. He has a beer bottle in his hand. Younger Rose has one in hand too.

CHARLIE

Only a few more days till this curfew shit.

He almost hit a pole, misses it.

EXT. ROAD-SAME

Younger Lorraine follows from a distance. The headlights off.

LORRAINE V.O

I don't know why I kept following. I had my chance back in the drive in. I couldn't do anything while the car was moving.

INT. VAN- SAME

MALCOLM

Lorraine, I'm serious, take us home.

YOUNGER LORRAINE

Fine.

LORRAINE V.O

I was ready to turn around, but the car stopped. To me, it was an opportunity.

INT. CHARLIE'S CAR-SAME

CHARLIE

Rose don't touch the wheel again.

YOUNGER ROSE

Let me drive. You're way to drunk.

CHARLIE

You're drunk too.

Traveling Years

YOUNGER ROSE

Not as drunk.

CHARLIE

You're not driving my car. Deal with
it or walk home.

Younger Rose leaves the car.

EXT. ROAD-SAME

Younger Rose staggers. Charlie gets out of the car.

CHARLIE

I was joking, Rose. Get in the car.

YOUNGER ROSE

I don't want to.

CHARLIE

Come on, please.

YOUNGER ROSE

I'll beat you to it.

Younger Rose hurries to the driver's side, she enters the
car. Charlie stands in front of it to stop her from moving.

INT. VAN- SAME

MALCOLM

What's going on? Why did you stop?

YOUNGER LORRAINE

Look.

Malcolm sits up straight to see the whole scene.

EXT. ROAD-SAME

CHARLIE

Rose, go to the other seat.

YOUNGER ROSE

Get out of the way, Charlie.

CHARLIE

I'm not going anywhere.

Charlie crosses his arm. He almost loses his balance. Younger
Rose pushes the gas and completely runs over Charlie.

Traveling Years

INT. VAN- SAME

Both Malcolm and Younger Lorraine are shock. Younger Lorraine covers her mouth.

MALCOLM

Oh shit.

Younger Lorraine hides the van.

EXT. ROAD-SAME

In drunk panic, Younger Rose reverses but she runs over Charlie again. She parks the car, and runs over to him.

YOUNGER ROSE

Charlie! Oh, God, Charlie.

Younger Rose goes over to a bloody Charlie. She kneels down and picks his upper torso up by the shirt.

YOUNGER ROSE

Charlie get up. Dear, God, what have I done?

Younger Rose looks around, then she struggles dragging Charlie to the car. His blood gets on her dress. She's crying.

INT.VAN-SAME

MALCOLM

Look what you made us see. I told you to drive us home, Lorraine.

LORRAINE

What should we do, Malcolm?

MALCOLM

We should get home!

LORAINNE

Shouldn't we call the cops?

MALCOLM

Are you serious? They'll blame us!
Let's go.

EXT. ROAD-SAME

While Lorraine slowly pulls away. Younger Rose puts Charlie

Traveling Years

in the back of the car.

INT. DORIS'S CAR-NIGHT

Present day. Rose has her mouth covered.

LORRAINE

A few days later they've found his
body in the trunk. You must've put him
there when you dropped his car off.

Quick flashes of Rose putting Charlie in trunk, then walking
away.

ROSE

No.

LORRAINE

You must've walked home that night a
bloody mess.

DORIS

I remember hearing you come in late.

Quick flashes of Rose closing door, Doris moves in bed, Rose
taking bloody dress off.

ROSE

No.

LORRAINE

All the reason for your mom to panic.

DORIS

Mom, she saw your dress the next day,
and called the police. She thought you
were hurt. You didn't remember a
thing.

ROSE

Oh God.

Rose exits the car, runs to the grass, and throws up. They
follow.

EXT. ROADTRIP-SAME

DORIS

Rose!

Traveling Years

ROSE

(crying)

Oh, God, Doris. I really did kill
Charlie.

DORIS

It was an accident.

Doris hugs Rose.

LORRAINE

I didn't want to tell you. You were
better off not knowing.

ROSE

I killed Charlie.

Lorraine tries to comfort her. Rose cries.

INT. BETSY HOUSE- DAY

Betsy in her kitchen making drinks. She's talking to someone
that is sitting in the living room.

BETSY

The boys are going to be so ecstatic
when they see you. What a surprise.
They've been asking for you.

SOMEONE OS

Really. Well, I'm glad I came.

Betsy walks over to the living room where the cop (handling
the missing Lorraine and Doris case) sits. He is Betsy's son.
Betsy hands him a drink. She sits next to him.

BETSY

What made you come, Sergio?

COP/SERGIO

I've just been reminded of you lately.
And I figured I should come and take
the boys myself.

BETSY

You're going to make their day.

COP/SERGIO

Where's Sandra? I haven't heard from
her in a while.

Traveling Years

BETSY

I hardly see Sandra. The boys don't see Sandra. She's too busy working.

COP/SERGIO

Have they spoken to their mother lately?

BETSY

Not that I'm aware of.

COP/SERGIO

You know I'm going to take them to see Sasha.

BETSY

I know.

COP/SERGIO

Okay, just making sure you're okay with it.

BETSY

I never said I was okay with it. I just said 'I know.'

COP/SERGIO

You should talk to your daughter one of these days, Mom. She really needs to hear from you.

BETSY

I will, when I'm ready.

COP/SERGIO

And when is that?

BETSY

When I'm ready.

INT. DORIS'S CAR-DAY

Doris is driving. Lorraine is in the front. A very solemn and quiet Rose sits in the back, looking out the window.

DORIS

We're almost there. Just a few houses down.

She drives some more.

Traveling Years

DORIS

Here it is. Just like the picture she sent us a while ago. Remember that, Lorraine?

Doris pulls in the parking spot.

LORRAINE

I sure do.

DORIS

(to Rose)

Rose, you still have the letter, right?

ROSE

(quietly)

Lorraine stuck it in her breast, remember.

DORIS

That's right. Lorraine?

Lorraine pats herself, searching for it.

LORRAINE

(talking to herself)

Where did I put that thing. Oh that's right.

Lorraine searches the car, she finds it, and hands it to Doris.

DORIS

Thank God.

LORRAINE

We better go knock.

DORIS

That sounds like a good idea.

They exit the car.

INT. BETSY HOUSE- DAY

Betsy and Cop/Sergio continues to be in each other's company.

BETSY

What have you been up to, Sergio?

Traveling Years

COP/SERGIO

Nothing much. Just work. One of the weirdest cases came my way recently..

The door knock.

BETSY

Strange, I wasn't expecting company.

Betsy walks towards her door. She looks through the peep hole. She's surprise.

BETSY

(in Spanish)

Oh my God. I don't believe my eyes.

COP/SERGIO

(stands up; alert)

What?

Betsy opens the door to Doris, Lorraine, and Rose who stands behind the other two where Betsy can't see her.

DORIS AND LORRAINE

Surprise!

BETSY

(smiles)

Oh my goodness!

Betsy hugs both Lorraine and Doris, then she sees Rose.

BETSY

Oh my. Is that...

ROSE

Yes, it's me Rose. You can pick up your jaw now.

DORIS

Excuse her. It's been an... interesting drive here.

BETSY

Drive? You guys drove over here? For me? What for?

LORRAINE

Long story, too long to be standing out here.

Traveling Years

BETSY
Of course, come in.

All three come in.

BETSY
Find a seat.

Cop/Sergio is still standing, evaluating, and shocked. All three sit. Lorraine and Doris smile at Sergio.

BETSY
(to Sergio)
Sergio, this is (points accordingly)
Lorraine, Doris, and Rose.

COP/SERGIO
Lorraine Benson, Doris and Rose Henry.

All are shock.

BETSY
How did you...

COP/SERGIO
We have a missing case filed for
Lorraine Benson and Doris Henry.

LORRAINE
A what?

DORIS
Oh dear.

BETSY
You guys left without telling anyone?

LORRAINE
We're grown.

COP/SERGIO
It all makes sense now. Doris and
Lorraine went to pick up you, Rose,
from prison, and then you all decided
to see an old friend, my mom. But why?

LORRAINE
We have a letter from...

DORIS
Please don't arrest us. We didn't know

Traveling Years

it was going to cause such a ruckus.

LORRAINE

Doris, calm down. He's not going to arrest us. We've done nothing wrong.

BETSY

A letter? From who?

DORIS

From your daughter, Sasha. She gave it to Rose.

Betsy is shock, then she bends down and clutches her heart. She's having a heart attack.

DORIS

Betsy?

LORRAINE

I think she's having a heart attack.

COP/SERGIO

Mom? (rushes to her; holds her) Call the ambulance!

INT. HOSPITAL- DAY

Betsy is resting on a hospital bed. Sergio sits next to her. Lorraine, Doris, and Rose enter. They have flowers and 'get well' balloons and such.

LORRAINE

There she is.

DORIS

Hi, Betsy.

Rose remains silent.

BETSY

Hi ladies.

They put their gifts down.

DORIS

How are you feeling?

BETSY

Oh, I'm alright.

Traveling Years

COP/SERGIO
My mom is a trooper.

BETSY
Oh, *mi hijo*.

DORIS
Here's the letter. (hands letter).
Rose tell her about it.

ROSE
(bothered)
She was my replacement for the
library. Figured out who I was. Then
begged me to take the letter. Told me
that you wouldn't speak to her, and
this was the only way.

Betsy starts to cry.

BETSY
This is all my fault.

LORRAINE
Oh, Betsy, stop.

BETSY
It is. I nearly died without speaking
to her.

DORIS
You have her words in your hands.

BETSY
You girls came just in time.

COP/SERGIO
I'll try to set up a meeting for you
two.

BETSY
Oh, Sergio, if I'm still alive.

COP/SERGIO
What do you mean? Stop talking like
that.

DORIS
Yeah, Betsy, be positive.

Traveling Years

BETSY

I haven't told you guys this, but I'm really sick.

COP/SERGIO

Sick? What do you mean?

BETSY

I've had cancer for a while now. And I stopped the chemo treatment. The doctor warned me about this heart attack.

The ladies gasp.

COP/SERGIO

(starts to cry)

And you kept this from us?

BETSY

Mi hijo, I'm sorry.

Sandra and the little boys walk in.

GRANDKIDS

Grandma!

They run to give her a hug. Sandra kisses Betsy. Sandra sees the look on everyone faces, Sergio crying.

SANDRA

What's going on?

COP/SERGIO

The boys shouldn't be here.

SANDRA

Why? What happened? Who are these people?

COP/SERGIO

(stands close to Sandra)

They're old friends of mom.

SANDRA

Is that why you're crying?

COP/SERGIO

No. Mom has cancer.

Sandra covers her mouth.

Traveling Years

SANDRA

What?

COP/SERGIO

She had it for a while. Stopped chemo.
And the doctor warned her.

SANDRA

Why would she do that to herself?

Focus to Betsy.

BETSY

Lorraine, can you sing for me?

LORRAINE

Of course, darling.

Lorraine begins to sing, then she stops.

LORRAINE

Rose, would you join me?

ROSE

Who me?

LORRAINE

Is there another Rose in this room?

BETSY

Yes, you too Rose.

Rose joins Lorraine. They both start to sing. Betsy starts to read her letter. Betsy starts to cry.

SASHA V.O

Mami, I miss you. I am so sorry for all of this pain I have cost you and our family. You were right, I should have stayed away from him. He was no good for me. I carry so much regret. I wish I never met him. I wish I made decisions that reflected the life that you had and the life that you've given me. Please forgive me. I promise to change my life in here and when I get back in the real world. I hope to hear from you soon. I love you so much.

Everyone stands close, savoring the very emotional moment.