

PAPERCUTS

"When One Door Closes, Open a Window"

written by

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PAPERCUTS

"When One Door Closes, Open a Window"

CAST

SOFIA.....	ACTOR
RENAE.....	ACTOR
FRANKIE.....	ACTOR
IMANI.....	ACTOR
STEPHEN.....	ACTOR
CRYSTAL.....	ACTOR

GUEST CAST

EDDIE.....	ACTOR
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PAPERCUTS

"When One Door Closes, Open a Window"

SETS

Teaser, Scene A - Scene Heading

Act One, Scene B - Scene Heading

Act Two, Scene C - Scene Heading

Tag, Scene D - Scene Heading

COLD OPENING

FADE IN:

INT. PAPER CUTS - NIGHT 8:45 PM

WE HEAR THE RUMBLING OF A BINDING MACHINE PEDAL. WE SEE SOFIA (28), IN A PAPER CUTS UNIFORM PUNCHING HOLES IN A MANUSCRIPT. NEXT TO HER ARE 15 DISTINCT SETS OF THE MANUSCRIPT.

SOFIA (V.O.)
People say when life gives you lemons,
you make lemonade. Right now I feel
like I am sipping on limeade.

THE CAMERA PANS OVER A BUSTLING OFFICE STORE, UNUSUAL FOR A SUMMER NIGHT. PRINTERS ARE LOUDLY RUNNING. CUSTOMERS ARE OVERFLOWING LINES AND AISLES. WE PAN OVER TO THE MARKETING AREA. CUSTOMERS ARE WAITING IMPATIENTLY.

SOFIA HAS STARTED PUNCHING HOLES IN ANOTHER MANUSCRIPT. THE PILE LOOKS SLIGHTLY SMALLER BUT FEELS LARGER AS SHE LOOKS AT THE CLOCK.

INSERT: CLOCK 8:45 PM.

SOFIA
When do you need this by? We close in
15 minutes.

IMPATIENT CUSTOMER
I need it tomorrow morning.

SOFIA LOOKS UP AT THE LIGHTS TO TAKE A BREATH. THE LIGHTS START BLINKING. THE SOUND OF THE BINDING MACHINE TURNS INTO WHEELS ROLLING ACROSS A TILED FLOOR.

SOFIA (V.O.)
Two months ago I was in an accident
that shook up my world.

INT. HOSPITAL - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

SOFIA IS LYING ON A GURNEY, LOOKING UP AT THE LIGHTS. SHE HAS A NECK BRACE ON. LYING PERFECTLY STILL AFRAID TO MOVE TO MAKE ANYTHING WORSE. HER FACE RIDDLED WITH TEARS.

SOFIA (V.O.)
No one tells you living in the moment
with full faith that God's got you can
land you in a place like this.

SOFIA IS GETTING EXAMINED IN AN X RAY MACHINE.

SOFIA (V.O.)

Don't get me wrong. Jesus is still my homeboy. But boy, did I have questions for him on this one.

INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - DAY

SOFIA IS SITTING ON A CHAIR IN THE DOCTOR'S OFFICE, LOOKING LIKE THE WORLD IS ON HER SHOULDERS.

DOCTOR

Your pain will last for a long time. You have pinched nerves on the C2 and herniated disks on L4 and L5. You will need physical therapy. (beat) If you don't want surgery, chiropractic and acupuncture as well.

SOFIA

Will I be able to return to work?

DOCTOR

It could exacerbate the pain you already have.

CUT TO:

INT. RENAE'S HOUSE - DAY - FLASHBACK

SOFIA (V.O.)

After I got the news, the one place I knew I had to go, was my best friend Renae's. If you ever need a pick me up, she's your girl. But she doesn't spare you a dose of reality.

SOFIA IS CLOSE TO TEARS. SHE IS NOW IN A LIVING ROOM WITH RENAE (20 SOMETHING), EDGY AND NO NONSENSE, SIPPING A GLASS OF RED WINE.

RENAE

So you can't go back to New York.

SOFIA

Doesn't look like it. My life is in the city. I mean I worked so hard to make these moves.

RENAE

What am I chopped liver? (beat) Just sip your wine and give me a minute.

SOFIA

Ray, what am I going to do?

RENAE

What we are going to do is do some research. I mean you are not dead... at least not yet. There is no throwing in the towel. New York will still be there when you are healed.

SOFIA

Some of the people won't.

RENAE

They are not meant for you.

RENAE POPS OPEN HER LAPTOP AND STARTS GOOGLING "JOBS NEAR ME"

SOFIA

You not gonna find something like that.

RENAE

Well your whining is not going to tell your new boss to knock on my door and beg you to work for her.

SOFIA

Her?

RENAE

Yea. Her. We are looking for Black girl magic. You lost yours.

INT. PAPER CUTS - NIGHT - PRESENT

SOFIA (V.O.)

She thinks I lost my magic. I can't let her be right. I won't. (beat) This guy's stare is burning through my skin.

THE CUSTOMER IS STARING AT SOFIA AS SHE CONTINUES TO BIND.
STEVEN HANDS THE CUSTOMER 5 COMPLETED BOOKS.

SOFIA

Next time please come at least by 6pm because it takes a long time to manually bind 20 books. You can pick up the rest tomorrow at 10am.

IMPATIENT CUSTOMER

You don't close til 9. You should be able to finish it.

SOFIA GLANCES OVER AT STEVEN. STEVEN (18), KNOW IT ALL, APPEARS TO BE ADDRESSING A DIFFERENT CUSTOMER IN THE PRINTING SECTION.

STEVE

Should is different than could. You gonna give us an extra hand?

SOFIA HEARS CLAPPING FROM THE OTHER SIDE OF THE STORE.

SOFIA

We will do the best we can.

IMPATIENT CUSTOMER

You better or you will not be working here for too long.

A COIL FLIES FROM THE DESK INTO THE CHEST OF SOFIA.

INT. RENAE'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS- NIGHT

SOFIA (V.O.)

Meanwhile Renae is living her best life. Between doing hair and loving on her children, Frankie and Imani , her main goal in helping me find my magic is to find me a man.

RENAE PUTS AWAY HER HAIR SUPPLIES IN THE CLOSET. WALKS INTO HER KITCHEN TO PREPARE DINNER FOR HER CHILDREN. FRANKIE THROWS A TOY AT HER FEET.

FRANKIE

Is it ready yet?

RENAE

No Frankie. Almost.

RENAE PUTS OUT THE BEEF, SHREDDED CHEESE AND LETTUCE ON THE TABLE. SHE PUTS A BOTTLE OF WINE IN THE FREEZER.

FRANKIE

Is Auntie Fia coming to eat with us tonight?

RENAE

When she comes it's bed time. And time for mommy to find Fia a special best friend.

FRANKIE

Will Auntie Fia come and play too?

RENAE POINTS ON THE CALENDAR, AS FRANKIE FOLLOWS BEHIND.

RENAE

She is working a lot but when Saturday comes around. She can come over to play. (beat) But now it is time for...

FRANKIE

Taco Night!

RENAE AND FRANKIE SIT AT THE TABLE, MAKING THEIR TACOS. FRANKIE PRETENDS THAT A PIECE OF LETTUCE AND CHEESE IS HIS BEARD.

RENAE

You look just like your uncle.

RENAE TICKLES FRANKIE INTO HIS SEAT. THEY BOTH LAUGH.

SOFIA (V.O.)

This is the kind of laughter I live for. Life has a way of creeping up on you and stealing it.

FADE OUT.

ACT I

INT. PAPER CUTS - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

CUSTOMERS ARE SLOWLY MAKING THEIR WAY TO THE FRONT. PUSHING BOXES AND OFFICE CHAIRS TO THE REGISTERS. BRENDA (40S), A BUBBLY YET STERN FORCE OF NATURE, TAKES OVER THE SPEAKERS.

BRENDA

We are closing in 5 minutes. Gather your purchases and head to the registers. You don't have to go home but please, I beg of you, gotta get out of here.

INT. MARKETING DEPT

STEVE NOTICES SOFIA STRUGGLING AND JOINS HER WITH THE IMPATIENT CUSTOMER.

STEVE

The more you argue with us, the less time we have to work. If you need it for the morning, unfortunately a 24 hour marketing store does not exist.

IMPATIENT CUSTOMER

I don't think you should be talking to me like this.

STEVE

I just gave you 6. You can now go on your merry way. Come back when we open for the rest of them. Like the rest of the customers you see around you, exiting the store on time.

IMPATIENT CUSTOMER (CONT'D)

I didn't ask for 6, I asked for 20. Whatever happened to the customer is always right? What are they training you here? Can I speak to your manager?

SOFIA MOTIONS TO BRENDA.

IMPATIENT CUSTOMER (CONT'D)

Not that manager. I want your manager of the marketing department. I want Crystal. She always takes care of me.

SOFIA

Crystal???

IMPATIENT CUSTOMER

You better find a way to get in touch
with her or I am never coming back.

STEVEN PICKS UP THE WALKIE TALKIE.

CUT TO:

INT. CRYSTAL'S HOME - NIGHT

WE SEE A BABY MONITOR. TOYS ALL OVER THE FLOOR A TODDLER
FIGHTING SLEEP AND A BABY CRYING. CRYSTAL (LATE 30S) JUGGLES
SOME TOYS AS SHE TAKES A BOTTLE OUT OF THE MICROWAVE.

SOFIA (V.O.)

Crystal tries her best to never be
here at night. It doesn't always work
out. She works during the day which
often turns into afternoon and on bad
days, night. But bedtime is important.

CRYSTAL FEEDS THE BABY, HEATHER, AND ROCKS HER TO SLEEP IN
HER BASINET.

TAYLOR

Mommy, you missed dinner again. We had
grandma's spaghetti.

CRYSTAL

It must have been so yummy.

SHE PICKS UP THE TODDLER, TAYLOR, AND WALKS UPSTAIRS...

INT. CRYSTAL'S HOME - 2ND FLOOR

CRYSTAL TUCKS TAYLOR INTO HER BARBIE BED.

CRYSTAL

I will try my best next time.

CRYSTAL KISSES TAYLOR ON THE FOREHEAD.

HER PHONE RINGS. CRYSTAL'S HUSBAND, JACK (40S), CHECKS HER
PHONE.

JACK

Your phone is ringing again. Will
these teenagers ever understand what
it means to be "off the clock".

CRYSTAL

I'll be at work in a few hours. They are going to have to wait.

JACK

Let's see how long you keep that mentality. I was so surprised you made it home to put Heather and Taylor to bed.

SHE TAKES HER PHONE AND SILENCES IT.

CRYSTAL HEADS TO HER ROOM AND CHECKS HER WORK SCHEDULE AND ROLLS HER EYES.

INT. CANVAS COUNSELING - NIGHT

WE SEE ANGELA (50 SOMETHING) SITTING AT HER DESK, RUFFLING THROUGH HER SCHEDULE. WE SEE HER SENDING E-MAILS AND PICKING UP HER PHONE.

ANGELA (ON PHONE)

Hi. This is Dr. Angela. I know it's late but I really need to get a counselor to fill in.(beat) I don't have time to explain this to you.(beat) Get me interviews for Wednesday thru Friday. Please and thank you.

SOFIA (V.O.)

I felt so bad leaving her but sometimes in the fight between the body and the mind, the body wins.

ANGELA TAKES OUT HER PATIENT FILES AND DIVIDES THEM INTO STACKS. ONE OF HER COUNSELORS, DANIEL, KNOCKS.

DANIEL

Everything is locked up. The last group member has left. I put away the coffee and cookies in the kitchen. The attendance sheet is by the door.

ANGELA

Thanks so much! You were such a great help taking over group tonight. It's still early. You can get back to your social life.

DANIEL

What social life?

ANGELA

The one where it is Friday night and you go to a bar or something and chat up a pretty girl... or boy... I don't judge.

DANIEL

The AA leader at a bar?

ANGELA

You know what I mean. Just have some fun, non alcoholic fun. With our budget, a Shirley temple should be in your price range. (beat) The jazz club down the block is still open.

DANIEL

If I am going out, I will be going out far, far away from here.

CUT TO:

INT. PAPER CUTS - NIGHT - 9:15PM

THE IMPATIENT CUSTOMER GRABS THE BOX OF MANUSCRIPTS AND IS ESCORTED OUT BY MANAGER, TODD. BRENDA IS NOWHERE TO BE FOUND.

SOFIA (V.O.)

Todd is often the night savior. He's been handling the chaos of Papercuts at night for the last 15 years. 15 years. He could've warned me about the ruthlessness.

SOFIA IS AT HER REGISTER RINGING UP THE FINAL CUSTOMER IN THE STORE. THE REGISTER IS LOCKED.

SOFIA

Todd, my numbers don't work. I need you to open the register.

TODD

You never have numbers on your first day. I have to program it tomorrow morning.

SOFIA

How can I work without numbers? (beat)
Where is Brenda?

TODD DOESN'T ANSWER.

SOFIA (CONT'D)

What are we supposed to do about that customer? He probably is going to call corporate.

TODD

A bad message from corporate on your first day.

SOFIA

Corporate's going to punish me.

STEVE

Kudos to you.

TODD

(sarcastically)

Yes that is all they're good for.
Customer word is king.

SOFIA

It is? (beat) Well in most retail it is.

TODD LAUGHS AS HE LEAVES.

SOFIA TAKES THE GARBAGE TO THE BACK.

STEVEN BEGINS CLEANING THE PRINTING AREA.

UPON RETURNING, SOFIA FINDS A FLASH DRIVE BEHIND A COMPUTER.

SOFIA (CONT'D)

Steve, do you know who was working on this computer? I think they left their flash.

STEVE

I'll put it in the lost and found.

STEVE TAKES THE FLASH DRIVE AND WALKS TOWARD THE LOST AND FOUND. HE OPENS THE DRAWER BUT PALMS THE DRIVE.

STEVE STARTS CLEANING THE COUNTERS.

WE SEE TODD COUNTING THE REGISTERS AND STEVEN INTENTLY WATCHING.

INT/EXT. PAPER CUTS

TODD TAPS ON SOFIA'S SHOULDER AS SHE CLOCKS OUT.

TODD

This job is a learn as you go type deal. I hope you show up tomorrow. You did a good job. Customers can be entitled little pricks.

SOFIA LOOKS BACK AT TODD, SMILES AND GETS INTO RENAE'S CAR.

INT. RENAE'S CAR

SOFIA FLOPS DOWN IN THE FRONT SEAT.

RENAE

I dare not even ask.

AS RENAE'S DRIVING HOME, SOFIA LETS THE WORLD OUT OF HER LUNGS.

SOFIA

Learn as you go my ass. Steven barely did anything to help me while I was up to my ears in bindings. He nearly cussed out a customer. I have no idea what happened to the manager that hired.

THE TWO START LAUGHING AS RENAE TURNS UP THE MUSIC ON THE RADIO. THE TWO SING REALLY LOUD. NOT THAT BADLY BUT SOMETIMES PITCHY.

INT. SOFIA'S HOME - NIGHT

RENAE AND SOFIA ARE DRINKING RED WINE AND LAUGHING.

RENAE

Well at least you got paid for all that.

SOFIA

Girl, I don't get paid enough.

RENAE

Newsflash love. Nobody ever does.

SOFIA

Did you do any hair today?

SOFIA (CONT'D)

Tell me you didn't interrogate your customers again.

RENAE

You not getting any younger and Frankie needs a godfather.

SOFIA
How did his T-ball game go?

RENAE
He struck out.

SOFIA
Maybe you should be teaching him how
to hit on a tee.

RENAE
Maybe you should be dating so your man
can teach us all how to hit it.

THE TWO LAUGH.

SOFIA
Drink your wine.

EXT/INT. PAPER CUTS - DAY - CONTINUOUS 7:45AM

INSERT: CLOCK 7:45AM

IT IS RIGHT BEFORE THE STORE OPENS. THERE IS A LINE AT THE
DOOR WAITING FOR SOMEONE TO OPEN UP.

CRYSTAL, SOFIA AND MARK (16), A NEW HIRE, ARE TALKING IN THE
CORNER OF THE MARKETING DEPT. CRYSTAL IS SMILING BUT MARK AND
SOFIA LOOK SCARED.

CRYSTAL
I understand the two of you are new so
you don't know how everything goes
yet. But rain or shine. You do not
call me for anything after 8pm
bedtime. If you are not dying and the
store is not on fire, you should not
be calling me.

SOFIA AND MARK SHAKE THEIR HEADS. CRYSTAL MAINTAINS HER
SMILE. SOFIA POINTS TO THE PREMIERE CUSTOMER LIST.

SOFIA
But it was H--

CRYSTAL DOES NOT TURN TO LOOK AT THE LIST. SHE CHECKS THE
CLOCK. TIME TO OPEN THE STORE.

INSERT: CLOCK 8AM.

CRYSTAL
---No calls, no texts unless you are
dying and bleeding out from paper cuts.

THE DOORS OF THE STORE OPEN. THE CUSTOMERS FLOCK IN. THEY DON'T HEAD TO THE OFFICE DEPARTMENT OR TECH OFFICE. NO. THEY ALL HEAD RIGHT TO THE MARKETING DEPT.

INT. PAPER CUTS- MARKETING DEPT

MARK IS ANSWERING ALL THE CUSTOMER'S QUESTIONS. SHOWING THEM TO THE PRINTING AREA OR DIRECTING THEM TO THE SHIPPING AREA.

HE IS RUNNING AROUND LIKE A CHICKEN WITH HIS HEAD CUT OFF. A DELIGHTFUL CHANGE FROM STEVEN.

SOFIA IS ON THE PHONE CALLING CUSTOMERS SHE COULDN'T THE NIGHT BEFORE.

SOFIA

Hello, this is Sofia from Papercuts.
Your presentation is ready for pick
up. You can come any time. We close at
9pm.

MARK TAPS SOFIA ON THE SHOULDER.

MARK

How do I make a 24 by 36 poster?

MARK IS OUT OF BREATH, IN MID PANIC. MARK LOOKS BACK AT THE CUSTOMER AT THE FRONT OF THE LINE.

SOFIA HANGS UP THE PHONE.

SOFIA

First of all, deep breaths. Slowly
count to 10. In for 10 and out for 10.

MARK REGAINS HIS COMPOSURE. EXAGGERATING THE BREATHS

SOFIA (CONT'D)

The poster cannot be made right now.
Heck, the machines aren't even warmed
up yet.

MARK

Right. Right.

MARK STARTS TO HEAD TOWARD THE POSTER CUSTOMER. SOFIA GRABS HIS ARM.

SOFIA

Take the order. Find out when they
need it. Have them come back in at
least two hours. (beat) Smarter not
harder. These people will drive us
crazy crazy.

CRYSTAL

Over promise. Over deliver. What they don't know won't hurt. When we get it done early, the customers stay happy and we stay sane.

MARK LOOKS SOFIA UP AND DOWN.

MARK

Maybe you should be moving more and sitting less. (beat) Why do you get a cushy job?

SOFIA MAY START FUMING. SHE TOO NEEDS TO TAKE A DEEP BREATH.

SOFIA

Your customer is waiting.

SOFIA RETURNS TO HER PHONE CALLS.

INT. PAPER CUTS OFFICE - LATER

CRYSTAL IS SITTING AROUND A DESK WITH TODD. THE OTHER MANAGERS IN THE DISTRICT ARE ON SPEAKER PHONE.

DISTRICT 9 (O.S.)

We noticed that our marketing planograms have gone missing. Two weeks later, District 15 has had a spike in sales.

TODD

District 15 is on the verge of closing. They have terrible customer service. Are you sure?

DISTRICT 9

This is their first positive quarter in 6 months. (beat) Has anything gone missing from your stores?

TODD

Not that we know of. We will implement spot checks starting next shift.

THE CALL ENDS. CRYSTAL AND TODD LOOK AT EACH OTHER.

TODD (CONT'D)

I had to suspend Brenda last night.

CRYSTAL

Seriously. Is that why my phone was blowing up last night?

TODD LEADS CRYSTAL TOWARD THE SECURITY CAMERAS...

INT. PAPER CUTS OFFICE - SECURITY CAMERAS

WE SEE THE IMPATIENT CUSTOMER TALKING TO BRENDA CLOSE TO THE EXIT.

BRENDA

No one talks to my workers like that.
Only me.

IMPATIENT CUSTOMER

Well you better get a hold of them

BRENDA

You better get a hold of this..

BRENDA TAKES A SWING AT THE CUSTOMER. THE CUSTOMER STUMBLES BACK AND GOES TO GATHER HIS BOXES.

CRYSTAL RECOGNIZES SOMETHING ON THE SCREEN.

CRYSTAL

Wait! Who is that?

TODD REWINDS THE FOOTAGE.

CRYSTAL (CONT'D)

Slow it down a bit. (beat) Pause it
right there.

TODD

What do you see?

CRYSTAL

That is Henry, one of the marketing
preferred customers. We can't have him
mad like that. He spends over \$2000 a
year in the store.

TODD IS SPEECHLESS AND RED.

END OF ACT I.

INT. PAPER CUTS- MARKETING DEPT 1PM

MARK IS WITH A CUSTOMER AT THE COUNTER. HE LOOKS NERVOUS. THE CUSTOMER IS LOOKING AT THE POSTER.

MARK

How do you like it? I think it looks great.

SILENCE. INTENSE INSPECTION.

CUSTOMER

Can you roll it back up?

AS MARK TAKES IT, THE WHITE CORNER TEARS. HE PRETENDS NOT TO NOTICE.

CUSTOMER (CONT'D)

You just tore it.

MARK

You are cut--- Nevermind.

MARK TAKES A DEEP BREATH. TURNS BACK ON THE POSTER MACHINE. HEADS TO THE COMPUTER DEFEATED.

CRYSTAL'S PHONE RINGS.

SOFIA NOTICES THE FLASH DRIVE SHE FOUND LAST NIGHT IS NOT THERE.

CRYSTAL PRINTS A FILE.

CRYSTAL

Single sided, you center the file in the middle of the laminating sheet. Double sided you line up each page back to back then center.

SOFIA GIVES HER THE "OF COURSE" LOOK. CRYSTAL'S PHONE RINGS AGAIN.

SOFIA

Aren't you going to get that?

CRYSTAL LOOKS AT HER PHONE AND SET IT TO VIBRATE.

CRYSTAL

The more it looks nice and doesn't bubble up, the less the customers complain. Do not give them a reason to complain.

SOFIA PUTS THE FILE IN THE LAMINATOR.

SOFIA

You sure that wasn't important?

CRYSTAL

Speaking of complain, why didn't you tell me that the customer last night was Henry?

SOFIA

I tried but you cut me off. The store was opening.

CRYSTAL IS LIVID AND THE CREEPY SMILE IS BACK.

CRYSTAL

Did he pick up the rest of his files?

SOFIA

Not sure. Ask Mark.

CRYSTAL WATCHES AS SOFIA LAMINATES SOME FILES.

CRYSTAL

Make sure the machine light is steady. This way it is hot enough to seal the documents.

CRYSTAL'S PHONE STARTS TO VIBRATE.

SOFIA

You should get that. It could be Taylor's school.

CRYSTAL

It's probably Jack. (beat) Do not lean on the laminator or you will burn yourself.

CUT TO:

EXT. BASEBALL FIELD - DAY

RENAE IS PUTTING LOTION ON A BURN ON HER FINGER. AS WE PAN OUT WE SEE SHE IS SITTING ON A RISER SURROUNDING OTHER PARENTS.

RENAE

(under her breath)
Darn flat irons.

SHE TAKES OUT HER PHONE TO SCROLL THROUGH HER INSTAGRAM HAIR PHOTOS. SO FOCUSED UNTIL...

WE HEAR A WHACK... RENAE JUMPS, DROPPING HER PHONE BETWEEN THE RISERS..

TO NOT BE *THAT MOM*, RENAE STANDS UP AND STARTS TO CHEER.

WHEN SHE FINALLY LOOKS AROUND, SHE IS THE ONLY ONE STANDING.

HER FRIEND, DENISE, THE QUINTESSENTIAL ALL ABOUT BEING PROPER
ROLE MODEL OF A SINGLE MOM, TUGS ON HER SHIRT, LAUGHING.

DENISE

It was a double.

RENAE

Ok. But I am always supportive of
Frankie and his teammates.

DENISE

It was for the other team.

RENAE

My bad.

RENAE TAKES A BEAT. LOOKS FOR FRANKIE IN THE OUTFIELD.

THEY LOCK EYES AND FRANKIE WAVES.

HE RUNS TO THE DUGGOUT WITH HIS TEAMMATES.

AS RENAЕ TURNS BACK AROUND, DENISE IS GONE AND A MAN IS
HANDING HER A PHONE.

MAN

I think you dropped this.

RENAE LOOKS HIM UP AND DOWN. SHE LIKES WHAT SHE SEES.

RENAE

(under her breath) What a tall piece
of chocolate.

BEFORE SHE TAKES THE PHONE FROM HIM....

INT. RENAЕ'S HOUSE - DAY - DAYDREAM

THIS MAN IS PLAYING WITH FRANKIE ON THE FLOOR. HE GETS UP AND
SMILES BACK AT SOMEONE. WE DO NOT KNOW WHO HE IS LOOKING AT.

EXT. BASEBALL FIELD - DAY

RENAE SNAPS BACK TO REALITY.

RENAE

Oh, thank you.

THE MAN SMILES.

MAN

You're welcome.

RENAE DOES NOT SKIP A BEAT.

RENAE
What are doing on Saturday?

THE MAN POINTS TO A BOY ON THE FIELD.

MAN
I am taking care of my nephew during
the day but I am free later on.

RENAE
Perfect.

HE PLACES HIS PHONE NUMBER IN RENAE'S PHONE AND GIVES IT BACK
TO HER.

MAN
Call me.

HE STARTS TO RETURN TO HIS SEAT.

RENAE
Wait.

RENAE HOLDS UP HER PHONE.

RENAE (CONT'D)
Smile. (beat) for my contacts.

RENAE KNOWS THAT'S A LIE.

THE MAN POSES AS RENAE TAKES HIS PICTURE.

DENISE IS NOW BACK AT HER SEAT.

DENISE
I see you are ready to get back in the
game.

RENAE SMILES AND NODS. IS SHE OR ISN'T SHE?

CUT TO:

INT. CANVAS COUNSELING - DAY

ANGELA IS WALKING POTENTIAL COUNSELORS AROUND THE CENTER.

ANGELA
Our patients will lie to you. Once
they figure out you are gullible, they
will continue to burn you.

COUNSELING STUDENT
Aren't they mandated to be here?

ANGELA
If they can get a rise out of you, the
mandate becomes fun. Less about them
and more about you. They wanna ride
that until their "bid" is up.

DANIEL COMES UPSTAIRS AND BUMPS INTO ANGELA ALMOST DROPPING A
STACK OF FOLDERS.

DANIEL
What would you like to do with these
files?

DANIEL LOOKS AT THE OVERFLOWING FOLDERS.

ANGELA
We are behind and have to prepare for
the audit.

ANGELA TURNS BACK TO THE GROUP.

ANGELA (CONT'D)
Whichever one of you make it past the
interview process will be helping us
keep up. So don't feel bad for him.

THE GROUP OF STUDENTS EXAMINE THE MOTIVATIONAL FLYERS ON THE
WALLS.

INT. PAPER CUTS OFFICE

WE SEE THE COMPANY STANDARDS ON THE WALL. WE SEE CRYSTAL AT A
DESK WATCHING SECURITY CAMERAS FROM THE LAST FEW DAYS.

HER PHONE VIBRATES AGAIN.

CRYSTAL
Are you serious?

CRYSTAL CHECKS HER PHONE.

INSERT: "TEXT MESSAGE FROM JACK"

JACK (ON SCREEN)
Taylor needs some money for the book
fair tonight. I have a meeting with a
client. It starts at 6pm. Will you
make it?

CRYSTAL CHECKS HER WATCH.

CRYSTAL (ON SCREEN)
I don't see why not.

JACK
Taylor really misses you. This is
perfect mother daughter time.

CRYSTAL
Ok.

JACK
I will call you and remind you.

CRYSTAL
No.

JACK
You conveniently loose track of time
when your work husbands walk into the
store.

CRYSTAL PICKS UP THE STORE PHONE. THE LINE IS BUSY.

CRYSTAL
Hi Henry. This is Crystal from
Papercuts. I am sorry for the mixup
last night. Please call us back so we
can see what we can do about your
manuscripts.

CRYSTAL TURNS HER ATTENTION BACK TO THE CAMERAS.

SHE CHECKS THE AISLES THEN AND NOW..

INT. PAPER CUTS - AISLES - DAY

WE SEE CHILDREN PLEADING WITH PARENTS FOR GLOW IN THE DARK
GLUE.

AT THE BACK OF THE STORE, WE SEE CUSTOMERS SITTING IN OFFICE
CHAIRS. A COUPLE READING BOOKS BORROWED FROM THE AISLES.

AN INVENTORY SPECIALIST, A SCRUFFY JESSE (30 SOMETHING) RIDES
UP THE AISLE IN A CHAIR.

INT. PAPER CUTS - BACKROOM

WE SEE SHELVES OF PAPER REAMS, BINDING COILS AND LAMINATION.
A BAILER NEXT TO THE GARBAGE AND U-BOATS IN THE MIDDLE OF THE
FLOOR. CAGES OF MERCHANDISE ARE ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE
ROOM.

A TECH ASSOCIATE AND A FLOOR WORKER ARE PLAYING BASKETBALL IN
THE CAGES WITH THE CANDY AND THE STRESS BALLS.

CRYSTAL AND SOFIA PUSH THE DOOR WIDE OPEN, INTERRUPTING THE GAME. CRYSTAL GIVES HER EVIL SMILE.

BRIAN

(nervously)

We are sorting the merchandise. Work and self care all at once.

CRYSTAL

What's the score?

LEVI

10 to 2.

CRYSTAL

Ya'll are selling these after your Kobe moment.

BRIAN

Damaged goods. And there's bubblewrap in the bins.

CRYSTAL

(to Sofia)

Don't mind them. They work on the other side of the store.

CRYSTAL TURNS BACK TO THE SHELVES.

CRYSTAL (CONT'D)

Here is the paper. The binding materials. Old ink cartridges go here. Cardboard goes into the bailer. The shipping boxes go next to the exit door to the right of the garbage.

THE TWO WALK BACK UP TO THE FRONT.

SOFIA

Did anyone come and pick up a flash drive when I was out?

CRYSTAL

No why?

SOFIA

Steven and I found it in the printing section.

JESSE OVERHEARS THEM, STILL IN THE OFFICE CHAIR. CRYSTAL MEAN MUGS HIM.

JESSE

I haven't seen any but I will comb the
aisles.

INT. RENAE'S HOUSE - DAY

RENAE IS BRAIDING A PATRON (30 SOMETHING) 'S HAIR. WE SEE
FRANKIE WATCHING CARTOONS. A BOWL OF CHEERIOS IS IN FRONT OF
FRANKIE ON THE FLOOR AS HE WATCHES.

RENAE

What's going on in your neighborhood?
Anyone looking to partner up?

PATRON

Are you looking for a step dad for
Frankie?

RENAE

Oh no. Please. It is not for me. I am
asking for my girl, Soph. I don't have
time to date. One of us has to have
some fun.

PATRON

I will have to ask my niece. My
stoop's been quite quiet.

RENAE

Thanks. Bring photos and dating
resume. This is serious recon. I can't
lose my bestie because of a bad date.
She trusts my judgement.

INT. PAPER CUTS - DAY

THE DOORS SWING OPEN. A MAN IN A SUIT ENTERS AND MOTIONS TO
TODD. THE TWO MEET AND START TALKING.

SOFIA IS PRINTING RESUMES FOR A CUSTOMER. AS SHE LOOKS UP,
SHE CATCHES A GLIMPSE OF THE TWO OF THEM WALKING THROUGH
TECH.

SOFIA STARTS TO HYPERVENTILATE. CRYSTAL WATCHES SOFIA'S GAZE.

CRYSTAL

That's Bob from corporate. He visits
from time to time.

SOFIA

Did they have an appointment today?

CRYSTAL

He usually comes around to check our numbers or to map the space for new equipment.

THE MEN CATCH EYES WITH SOFIA.

SHE BREAKS THEIR GAZE AND GOES BACK TO THE RESUMES.

THE MEN DISAPPEAR DOWN THE AISLES.

SOFIA (V.O.)

Sometimes I read them and I think about where I could be instead.

INT. CANVAS COUNSELING - FLASHBACK

ANGELA AND SOFIA ARE IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM.

ANGELA

Your resume is quite impressive. I enjoyed your stories. You plan on using them during sessions?

SOFIA

I plan to create the stories for the patients to act out so they can be engaged in the learning.

ANGELA

Pretty clever.

ANGELA WRITES SOMETHING IN HER NOTEBOOK. AS SHE CLOSES IT, WE HEAR A SLAM...

INT. PAPER CUTS - DAY- PRESENT

ONE OF THE CHILDREN IN THE AISLE HAS DROPPED A BINDER.

SOFIA JUMPS. CRYSTAL LAUGHS.

CRYSTAL

Never a dull moment.

JESSE GOES OVER TO PICK UP THE BINDER. HE FINDS A FLASH DRIVE COVER UNDERNEATH.

CRYSTAL AND TODD ARE IN CUSTOMER PICK UP AREA.

CRYSTAL (CONT'D)

Sofia was talking about a missing flash drive.

TODD

Do you think it is related to the missing marketing plans?

CRYSTAL

I didn't see anything on the security cameras. Now we have Jesse looking for this mysterious flash drive.

INT/EXT. PAPER CUTS - TWO HOURS LATER

SOFIA SEES TODD AND BOB SHAKE HANDS AS BOB EXITS THE STORE.

WE SEE CRYSTAL CHECKING ALL BAGS, CUSTOMERS AND EMPLOYEES ALIKE, BEFORE THEY LEAVE THE STORE.

TODD (THROUGH THE SPEAKERS)

Customers, your bags must be checked before we take your items to your cars. Employees, you will be inspected at lunch breaks and at the change of shifts.

TODD JOINS CRYSTAL AT THE INSPECTION DESK.

CRYSTAL IS EMPTYING SOME CUSTOMER'S BAGS. SHE HOLDS OFF CHUCKLES AT WHAT SHE FINDS. POMEGRANTES, COCONUT OILS, SCISSORS, GLUE, WALKIE TALKIE, ETC.

CRYSTAL INSPECTS THE SCISSORS AND THE WALKIE.

NOT THE STORE BRAND. THE CUSTOMER IS SWEATING.

CRYSTAL

You're good.

CRYSTAL GOES BACK TO SEARCHING THE BAGS.

MARK

No secret this dude doesn't trust anybody. I guess someone stole too many candy and pens.

A CAR SPEEDS OUT OF THE PARKING LOT. WE SEE SOFIA AND OTHER EMPLOYEES JUMP.

JUMP CUT TO:

EXT. NY THEATER - FLASHBACK - 3 MONTHS AGO

SOFIA IS SITTING ON THE SIDE OF THE ROAD.

"When One Door Closes"

26.

WE SEE A SIDESWIPED CAR WITH CRUSHED DOORS.

FADE OUT.

ACT II

INT. RENAE'S HOUSE - DAY

SOFIA IS SITTING ON THE FLOOR PLAYING WITH FRANKIE AND HIS TRUCKS.

RENAE IS BRAIDING A WOMAN'S HAIR.

SOFIA
It happened again.

RENAE
What happened again? You hurt yourself? Girl, have you become Clutsy McFarlin?

SOFIA
Haha. I hope not. (beat) It's the flashbacks.

SOFIA (CONT'D)
A car sped out of the parking lot. I was back on the sidewalk of the theater.

RENAE
Right in the middle of work?

SOFIA
My heart was racing. I even think I was sweating. (beat) I don't think anyone noticed because a lot of people were jumpy. It was one of those muscle cars. (beat) Todd told me there might be a complaint about the pushy customer. Crystal is mad I didn't tell her it was a VIP.

RENAE
So lemme get this straight. You have sticky fingas for coworkers and you pissed off a VIP. Good going Soph.

SOFIA

I know I know. It looks bad.

RENAE

She didn't fire you so I think you're good. (beat) Be careful. If the flashes gets worse, you should say something. You can't keep stuff like this a secret.

INT. STEVEN'S HOME - DAY

STEVEN SITS AT HIS COMPUTER. WE SEE HIM PLACE A FLASH DRIVE INTO HIS DESKTOP.

INSERT: MARKETING PLANS ON THE SCREEN. A LIST OF EMPLOYEE'S NAMES.

HE PICKS UP A PHONE AND DIALS.

A DEEP VOICE ANSWERS.

STEVE

I got it... how much... They could be on to me... She's got her own problems... I know, I know... More? I don't know who else to ask?... I'll be more careful... No don't bother... You'll mess everything up... They're already looking around... I'll get it together... Promise... I need time so they forget about everything... Next week.

HE SPLITS UP THE FILES AND WE SEE A CD BEING PLACED IN HIS TOWER.

INSERT: DOWNLOADING....

CD POPS OUT AND HE PLACES ANOTHER IN.

THE SOUND OF THE COMPUTER GETS LOUDER...

INT. RENAE'S HOUSE - DAY - CONTINUOUS

WE FOCUS ON A WHITE NOISE MACHINE. AS WE PAN OUT, WE SEE SOFIA UPSTAIRS WITH IMANI.

HER PHONE DINGS. SHE PLACES IMANI IN HER CRIB AND CHECKS IT.

SHE SEES THE PICTURE OF THE MAN FROM THE BASEBALL GAME. AND A TEXT... **WHAT YOU THINK? #MCE ONE DAY... SOMEDAY... NEXT SATURDAY?**

SOFIA SMILES. HEARS IMANI COO. PICKS HER UP AND BEGINS TO ROCK HER BACK TO SLEEP.

RENAE IS DOWNSTAIRS BRAIDING A MALE PATRON'S HAIR.

RENAE

She doesn't sound like a caring girlfriend. You sure you wanna stay with her?

MAN

Drama follows her. I gotta do me.

RENAE

Well if you are looking for someone better. My girl Soph is a catch. She just moved back here from the city.

SOFIA HEARS HER NAME BUT CONTINUES TO ROCK IMANI TO SLEEP.

MAN

What's she like?

RENAE

She's smart, chill, fun and caring.

MAN

A chill girl in this area. You gotta be joking.

RENAE

You forgot I'm the one with the comb?

RENAE SMACKS HIM ON THE BACK OF THE HEAD.

MAN

I kinda liked that.

RENAE

I guess you're drama too.

MAN

That's it. You not gonna tell me more about your girl?

RENAE

I am not gonna do all the work for you. Show some interest on your own.
(beat) If you break her heart, I know where you live.

THE MAN BRACES HIMSELF FOR RENAE'S COMB. IT DOESN'T COME.

IMANI STARTS CRYING. SOFIA BRINGS HER DOWNSTAIRS.

AN EERIE SILENCE FILLS THE ROOM. SOFIA SMILES.

SOFIA
This cry I can't fix.

RENAE
I got it. Mommy's coming. (beat)
Sofia, this is Eddie. Eddie, Sophia.

HEAD NODS ALL AROUND.

RENAE TURNS AROUND AND SMILES AT THEM BOTH.

MORE AWKWARD SILENCE. BUT EDDIE LIKES WHAT HE SEES.

CUT TO:

INT. OFFICE MARKETPLACE - DAY

A HOODED MAN IS SNEAKING AROUND A DARK OFFICE.

HE RUFFLES THROUGH SOME LOCKERS.

ENTERS AN EXECUTIVE OFFICE AND DOWNLOADS MARKETING PLANS ON
TO A FLASH DRIVE.

PLACES A CD INTO THE COMPUTER AS IT UPLOADS SOMETHING.

MEANWHILE...

INT. CANVAS COUNSELING - DAVID'S OFFICE

DAVID IS SITTING AT HIS COMPUTER TRANSPOSING FILES INTO THE
COMPUTER LOG.

LOOKING THROUGH FILES.

INSERT: COLOR CODED FILES SORTED BY INITIALS.

DAVID LOOKS IN OVER HIS HEAD.

HIS PHONE DINGS.

INSERT: **"DO YOU WANNA GO OUT TONIGHT?" LORENZO'S 10PM**

DAVID LOOKS BACK AT THE PILE AND THE CLOCK.

INSERT: CLOCK 8PM

HE STARTS TYPING FASTER THAN BEFORE. SKIPPING PAGES. THE PILE
START TO DWINDLE.

HE OPENS HIS DESK DRAWER. BAR COUPONS FOR LORENZO'S.

EXT/INT. PAPER CUTS - NIGHT

STEVEN ENTERS FROM BREAK AND AS HE CLOCKS IN HE NOTICES SOMEONE IN THE PARKING LOT.

STEVEN EXITS AND MEETS THE MAN AT THE SIDE OF THE BUILDING.

THE MAN LOWERS HIS HOODIE AND HANDS STEVEN WHAT LOOKS LIKE A FLASH DRIVE.

THE TWO EXCHANGE SOMETHING.

IS THIS THE SAME MAN FROM THE OFFICE MARKETPLACE?

INT. PAPER CUTS OFFICE

TODD CALLS BRENDA INTO THE OFFICE. BRENDA LOOKS A BIT WEARY. SHE TRIES TO GET AHEAD OF HIM.

TODD

You can't lose your cool. He's a premiere customer. We can't lose his business.

BRENDA

They can't run amok after hours.

TODD

15 minutes. C'mon.

BRENDA

15 minutes too long.

TODD

We all wanted to go home. (beat)
You are great with some of the workers. I don't want to have to let you go.

BRENDA

Over one mistake. After all this time?

TODD

I have to at least suspend you.

BRENDA

How long exactly?

TODD

A week.

INT. RENAE'S HOUSE - DAY

SOFIA AND EDDIE ARE THE MOST AWKWARD AS EVER.

SOFIA

Lemme guess. She's been talking me up
for about a week.

EDDIE

Nah. She at least waited until I
started having problems with my girl.

SOFIA

So thoughtful.

EDDIE

I know right.

SOFIA

And when was that?

EDDIE

Today.

SOFIA ROLLS HER EYES.

FRANKIE COMES IN FROM THE PORCH. SEES EDDIE AND SOFIA
TALKING.

FRANKIE

Are you Auntie Fia's special best
friend?

EDDIE CRACKS A SMILE. SOFIA TRIES NOT TO NOTICE.

CUT TO:

INT. PAPER CUTS- TECH DEPT - NIGHT

LEVI (20 SOMETHING), PART TIME TECH SUPERVISOR, IS FIXING AN
IPHONE FOR A CUSTOMER.

LEVI

Your screen is very cracked. Since it
is a iphone 6 we are able to fix it
for you. It takes about 2 hours and if
you want we can add liquid armor to
prevent any other scratching.

IPHONE CUSTOMER

I drop my phone at least 5 times a
day. So do whatever you want to it as
long as I can finally see my apps.
I'll be back in a couple of hours.

LEVI

Be careful.

IPHONE CUSTOMER

Without my phone, I should be fine.

THE CUSTOMER TURNS AROUND AND ALMOST BUMPS INTO ANOTHER CUSTOMER, TRIPPING OVER A CHILD LOOKING AT THE TOYS NEAR THE REGISTERS.

LEVI TRIES TO MAINTAIN HIS LAUGHTER. HE PLACES THE PHONE IN THE MACHINE.

CRYSTAL RUNS PAST LEVI AS HE HEADS TO THE BREAK ROOM. CRYSTAL'S PHONE IS BUZZING.

INT. PAPER CUTS OFFICE

CRYSTAL POKES HER HEAD IN.

CRYSTAL

Sorry Todd for barging in.

TODD

What is it now?

BRENDA MEANMUGS CRYSTAL.

CRYSTAL

I got to get to Taylor's school. I have to go or Jack will have a fit. I am already 30 mins late. (beat) There is no manager at the front of the store.

TODD NODS.

CRYSTAL GRABS HER COAT AND PURSE AND RUNS OUT.

EXT. PAPER CUTS

HENRY STOPS CRYSTAL AT HER CAR.

CRYSTAL

Oh hi Henry. I am running late. Can we talk tomorrow?

HENRY

I got your message. This will take a minute.

CRYSTAL LOOKS AT HER WATCH.

HENRY (CONT'D)

Your workers have an attitude.

CRYSTAL
It won't happen again.

HENRY
I'm coming by to let you know I don't need the rest. The client made changes.

CRYSTAL
I hope we still have your business.

HENRY
Just because of you I will give them another chance.

CRYSTAL
Great. We will talk more later. I have to go see my daughter.

MEANWHILE...

INT. PAPER CUTS - BREAK ROOM

ALL OTHER STAFF IS IN THE BREAK ROOM SITTING AROUND THE LUNCH TABLES OR STANDING NEAR THE LOCKERS. LEVI IS GOING THROUGH HIS LOCKER.

LEVI
I can't believe he outted that he's looking into employees too.

MARK
Was it you?

LEVI
I'm not stupid.

MARK
I think someone stole a printer.

LEVI
You really think they could smuggle a printer without anyone knowing.

MARK
If Todd made an announcement it has to be big.

BRIAN
Maybe they stole the signage from the sections.

MARK

You work in tech. Your sign is right
above your head.

LEVI

It has to be something important if
there is so much stress about it.

INT. TAYLOR'S SCHOOL - NIGHT

TAYLOR IS WALKING AROUND WITH HER GRANDMOTHER TRYING TO PICK
OUT BOOKS.

CRYSTAL RUNS IN OUT OF BREATH AND LOOKS AROUND.

TAYLOR CATCHES HER EYE AND RUNS OVER.

TAYLOR

Mommy you made it!

CRYSTAL HUGS HER, TRYING TO CATCH HER BREATH. SHE LOOKS UP AT
GRANDMA. A LOOK OF DISAPPOINTMENT.

CRYSTAL'S FACE CHANGES NOT FOR THE GOOD.

END OF ACT II

ACT III

INSERT: TWO HOURS LATER

SOFIA (V.O.)
I haven't seen Brenda since the night
with Henry. It seems like everyone was
struggling. Not just me.

INT. PAPER CUTS- TECH DEPT

THE IPHONE CUSTOMER COMES BACK TO PAY FOR HIS PHONE REPAIR.

IPHONE CUSTOMER
Thank you so much.

HE PUTS IT IN HIS POCKET.

AS HE WALKS OUT THE DOOR, HE STOPS.

HIS PHONE DROPPED FACE DOWN IN THE PARKING LOT.

HE PICKS IT UP, LOOKS AT IT AND SIGHS. THE PHONE IS FINE.

WHEN HE LOOKS UP, HE SEES A CAR COMING NEAR HIM. HE DASHES
OUT OF THE WAY.

EXT. PAPER CUTS OFFICE

SOFIA GOES TO KNOCK BUT THE DOOR SWINGS OPEN.

TODD
Oh hi. What's up?

SOFIA
Did you hear anything from corporate?

TODD
Someone is stealing plans for the
stores and selling them to our
competitors.

SOFIA

Oh wow. Did they know who?

TODD

Not yet. But we are making changes.

TODD REALIZES WHAT SOFIA IS AFTER.

TODD (CONT'D)

Oh no. You're good. Corporate makes a judgment call on these things. It was too late for orders and you were trying to be courteous. Just please don't be part of this mischief.

SOFIA

No need to worry about me. I hope you get him.

TODD PAUSES FOR A MINUTE. "HIM" HOW DOES SHE KNOW? WHAT DOES SHE KNOW? HE BRUSHES IT OFF.

INT. PAPER CUTS - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

TODD IS OUT IN FRONT OF THE AISLES. CUSTOMERS ENTER THE STORE AND WALK PAST HIM.

INT. MARKETING DEPT

SOFIA IS WORKING WITH A ELDERLY CUSTOMER ON THE COPIERS.

ELDERLY CUSTOMER

But if I put my card in the machine, who's to say that you are not going to steal my information and take all my money.

SOFIA

Once you complete your job, the copier restart and erase everything.

ELDERLY CUSTOMER

Are you sure the next customer won't use my card after I leave?

SOFIA TAKES HER CARD AND WALKS HIM THROUGH THE PRINTING PROCESS.

SOFIA

We are going to follow what it says on the screen and when you are done we will hit the check out button so the next person does not have access to your card.

THE ELDERLY CUSTOMER SEES THE "\$5 PRE-AUTHORIZATION" ON THE TOUCHSCREEN.

ELDERLY CUSTOMER

What is this 5 dollar preauthorization? I am only making one copy and you said the one copy would be 60 cents. I don't have that kind of money.

SOFIA

The \$5 preauthorization is pending on your card and will disappear in 24 hours.

ELDERLY CUSTOMER

24 hours? I am going to need my money now. I am on a fixed income. I can not be spending a lot of money all willy nilly.

SOFIA

You will only be charged for the cost of your copy. Pending is not a charge. You will have access to the rest of that money tomorrow.

ELDERLY CUSTOMER

I want my money. I want my money now.

SOFIA CALLS TODD ON THE WALKIE TALKIE.

TODD IS READY FOR BATTLE.

ELDERLY CUSTOMER (CONT'D)

Your computers are trying to take my hard earned money.

TODD

The preauthorization is not held hostage in the mysterious cloud for us to use whenever we feel like it.

ELDERLY CUSTOMER TRIES TO REBUT BUT TODD DOESN'T LET HER.

TODD (CONT'D)

The money is held over by your bank to confirm what you spent today on our machine. Whatever money you need for your grandkids...

ELDERLY CUSTOMER NODS.

TODD (CONT'D)

Will be released as soon as your bank
okay's it.

TODD HANDS HIM HIS BUSINESS CARD.

TODD (CONT'D)

After you call your bank tomorrow and
ask them about it, call me if you
still don't have your money in two
days and I will give you the money
back.

TODD TURNS AWAY FROM THE CUSTOMER AND WINKS AT SOFIA.

THE CUSTOMER STARTS TO EXIT THE STORE.

TODD TURNS UP HIS WALKIE AS HE WALKS TO THE FAR SIDE OF THE
STORE.

JUMP CUT TO:

INT. LORENZO'S BAR -NIGHT -9PM

THE DJ TURNS UP THE MUSIC. PEOPLE, INCLUDING DENISE, ARE
DANCING AND DRINKING.

DENISE PASSES BY A TABLE MID DANCE STEP, GLANCING AT THE
CHOCOLATE CANDY AT THE TABLE.

FIVE GUYS, BEERS IN EACH OF THEIR HANDS, LAUGHING AND
SMILING, LICKING LIPS, AT THE WOMEN THAT PASS.

ONE OF THEIR PHONE BUZZES. JAY TURNS IT OVER.

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. CANVAS COUNSELING - DAVID'S OFFICE

DAVID CHECKS THE CLOCK.

INSERT: 9:15

LOOKS OVER AT THE PILE, 5 MORE.

SENDS A TEXT.

DAVID (ON SCREEN)

Sorry man, rain check.

JAY (ON SCREEN)

C'mon man we barely see you

DAVID CONTINUES TO LOOK THROUGH FILES.

DAVID
Boss riding me. We short handed.

ANGELA KNOCKS ON THE DOOR.

ANGELA (O.C.)
How's it going? They are coming early morning.

DAVID
(re: Angela)
Ok. I got it. Almost through.

PHONE DINGS. DAVID JUMPS AND KNOCKS OVER THE FILES. MIXING UP THE PAPERWORK.

ANGELA
You better stay focused.

DAVID
Of course, Ms Angela.

ANGELA WALKS IN. DAVID CHECKS HIS PHONE.

JAY (ON SCREEN)
I thought "Drill Sergeant" told you to go out.

DAVID TURNS OVER HIS PHONE OUT OF ANGELA'S VIEW.

ANGELA
I really need everything in perfectly.
Can't afford to lose points.

DAVID
Understood.

ANGELA NODS. SEES THE MESS ON THE FLOOR, UNDER THE DESK.

ANGELA
Pick those up. Not one paper outta place OR outta date.

ANGELA WALKS OUT, CLOSES THE DOOR. DAVID IS ON HIS HANDS AND KNEES TRYING TO ORGANISE THE FILES.

DING. DAVID HITS HIS HEAD ON THE DESK.

DAVID
Man! I gotta work on these nerves.

JAY TAKES A SIP OF HIS BEER.

JAY (ON SCREEN)
You better be getting that OT

DAVID (ON SCREEN)
Trust. That is understood.

JAY LOCKS EYES WITH DENISE.

JAY
Bet. But you missing out.

JAY SMILES, NODS TO HIS FRIENDS, AND RISES FROM THE TABLE.

INT. NEW BEGINNINGS CHURCH - DAY

A WOMAN IN THE PEWS STANDS UP AND STARTS TO WALK DOWN THE AISLE.

WE SEE RENAE, DENISE AND SOFIA WHISPERING AS SHE GOES BY.

DENISE
That's good for her.

RENAE
It's about time.

SOFIA SLAPS RENAE.

SOFIA
God finally spoke to her and said
enough is enough.

RENAE
Enough is enough with those shoes.

SOFIA ROLLS HER EYES.

RENAE (CONT'D)
What? God knows my heart.

THE WOMAN MAKES IT TO THE ALTAR. THE PREACHER HOLDS HER HAND.

PREACHER
Before we pray for her, let us pray
and ask God to cleanse our hearts.

THE WHOLE CHURCH BOWS THEIR HEADS AND CLOSES THEIR EYES.

RENAE
(whispering)
Dear God, cleanse Sofia's heart so she
can feel your cupid arrow.

DENISE

(whispering)

Dear God, cleanse Renae's heart so her
smart mouth doesn't land her in the
lion's den.

SOFIA

Dear Jesus, cleanse my heart so I can
hear you telling me why you messed up
my neck and my back.

RENAE OVERHEARS SOFIA.

RENAE

(singing)

My neck, my back...

DENISE COVERS HER MOUTH.

DENISE

-- Girl, you better not. God will burn
you down right here on the spot.

CUT TO:

INT. CRYSTAL'S HOME -KITCHEN - NIGHT

CRYSTAL IS PREPARING ICE CREAM. HER MOTHER IS SIPPING TEA.

GRANDMOTHER

You can't be missing out on your
girls' lives.

CRYSTAL

I am not missing out.

GRANDMOTHER

You are always late coming home. Most
of the time they are already asleep.
They ask about you all the time.

CRYSTAL

I don't do it on purpose. My employees
need me.

GRANDMOTHER

So do Taylor and Heather. (beat) They
are your blood. (beat) I need a break.
I shouldn't be raising your kids.

CRYSTAL

You are not raising my kids. What
about Jack?

GRANDMOTHER

What about him? (beat) He's here.

CRYSTAL

Most of his shifts are when the girls are asleep. Early bird or graveyard.

GRANDMOTHER

Why don't you change your shifts?

CRYSTAL

It doesn't work that way. I am a manager.

GRANDMOTHER

Better manage your life.

CRYSTAL GRABS HER ICE CREAM AND STOMPS UP THE STAIRS.

INT. CRYSTAL'S ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

CRYSTAL IS LAYING IN HER BED. ICE CREAM BOWL ON THE NIGHTSTAND. TAYLOR IS LYING NEXT TO HER.

CRYSTAL GRABS A BOOK FROM THE NIGHT STAND.

CRYSTAL

Once upon a time in a land far far away.

TAYLOR LOOKS AT THE PICTURES.

TAYLOR

Lives a froggy and flies.

CRYSTAL

Those are lightening bugs.

WE HEAR FOOTSTEPS.

CRYSTAL (CONT'D)

What else do you see?

TAYLOR STARTS POINTING AT THE BOOK.

CRYSTAL LOOKS UP. WE SEE JACK PEERING INTO THE ROOM AND SMILING.

CRYSTAL (CONT'D)

Should Daddy join us?

TAYLOR SCOOTS OVER.

TAYLOR

Mommy is reading the book we bought at the book fair. Come sit next to me Daddy.

JACK

Sure. Why not?

JACK JUMPS ON THE BED AND HUGS TAYLOR TUCKING HER BETWEEN HIM AND CRYSTAL.

INT. RENAE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

RENAE IS ON THE HER PHONE. FRANKIE IS PLAYING WITH TOYS ON THE FLOOR. IMANI IS SLEEPING IN HER PLAYPEN.

WE SEE THE PROFILE SCREEN AND SOFIA'S PICTURE. WE SEE THE TINDER LOGO ON THE TOP OF HER SCREEN.

RENAE

Little buddy, what do you like about your godmother Sofia?

FRANKIE

Fia is so nice and funny. I like her cookies and her stories.

RENAE CONTINUES TO TYPE IN THE PROFILE.

RENAE

We are going to help Sophia find the best boy best friend ever.

FRANKIE

Like that man she was talking to today? (beat). Her special best friend.

RENAE

Is that what she called him?

FRANKIE

No I did.

RENAE

Not all grownups who talk to each other are special best friends. Then the friends would not be special, they'd be just like everyone else.

CUT TO:

INT. CANVAS COUNSELING - ANGELA'S OFFICE - NIGHT

ANGELA IS LOOKING OVER DANIEL'S AUDIT NOTES.

ANGELA

He skipped a few weeks. Ugh. Here we go.

ANGELA WRITES ON A POST-IT. "CONFERENCE WITH DANIEL" STICKS IT TO HER DESK CALENDAR.

A NEW INTERN KNOCKS ON HER DOOR.

INT. PAPER CUTS - BREAK ROOM

SOFIA ENTERS THE BREAK ROOM. LISTENS TO HER VOICEMAIL. THERE IS A MESSAGE FROM ANGELA.

ANGELA (O.S.)

I hope you come back soon. These new interns can't take the level of work. Some of the clients have stopped coming because you left. I hope you know you will always have a place here.

JESSE PEEKS HIS HEAD IN.

JESSE

I found a flash drive cover. If they check the cameras and see me sneaking, I didn't do it. But I think it was either Brian or Steven.

SOFIA

I think it is Steven. He told me that he was going to put it in the lost and found and yesterday it was not there. (beat) Crystal said no one called for a flash drive in about a month.

JESSE

Brian knows way too much about the supervisors' whereabouts to be a new hire.

SOFIA

What he does do everyday?

JESSE

Walk around the tech department playing with the laptops, playing with the price guns, and spying on the rest of us.

SOFIA

Some days I forget he's even here.

JESSE HEADS BACK TO THE FRONT OF THE STORE.

INT. CRYSTAL'S HOME - TAYLOR'S ROOM

TAYLOR IS NOW FAST ASLEEP SURROUNDED BY HER CANOPY.

INT. CRYSTAL'S HOME - CRYSTAL'S ROOM

JACK AND CRYSTAL ARE IN BED.

JACK

Grandma said you were a half hour late.

CRYSTAL

I don't wanna --

JACK

--It was nice to have you home early.

CRYSTAL

I would have been there sooner if Henry hadn't stopped me by the car.

JACK

Henry?

CRYSTAL

A premiere customer.

JACK AND CRYSTAL FEELS THE TENSION OF WHAT THAT COULD MEAN. BUT THEY JUST HAD A GOOD MOMENT. EACH LET IT SLIDE.

CRYSTAL (CONT'D)

At least I got there while Tay was still looking around. I have a new employee that seems to pick up things quick. If she stays on track, I will have my normal hours back in no time.

JACK

That would be good for the girls.

CRYSTAL

And for us.

CRYSTAL LEANS IN FOR A KISS. JACK OBLIGES.

CRYSTAL (CONT'D)

But we'd sure miss the overtime money.

JACK

Your work husband was always yelling
at you to go home and threatening to
cut your hours anyway.

CRYSTAL

Work husband? Oh Todd. He's harmless.

JACK REACHES OVER CRYSTAL TO SHUT OFF HER LIGHT.

JACK

No more work talk.

CRYSTAL TRIES TO GET FRISKY. BUT WE DO NOT KNOW IF THE TWO
ARE ON THE SAME PAGE.

CUT TO:

INT. RENAE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

WE SEE A TEXT FROM RENAE TO THE MAN FROM THE BASEBALL FIELD
WHO SHE CALLS "CHOCOLATE BAR".. ***I CAN'T WAIT TILL NEXT
SATURDAY... YOU WILL LOVE YOUR DATE.***

HE TEXTS BACK.. ***"CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU"...***

RENAE BRUSHES IT OFF AND SHE GOES BACK TO MAKING THE PROFILE
FOR SOFIA.

AS THE PHONE RINGS, SHE ACCIDENTLY MAKES THE PROFILE GO LIVE.

RENAE ROCKS IMANI AS SHE HOLDS THE PHONE TO HER EAR.

RENAE

(into phone)

Hey girl hey.

INTERCUT WITH SOFIA IN THE BREAK ROOM.

SOFIA PACES UP AND DOWN THE ROOM.

SOFIA

I just got a message from Angela.
She is struggling finding a
replacement.

RENAE

Of course she would. You were too good
with both the kids and the adults. You
treated them like humans not numbers.

SOFIA

So you think I should go back?

RENAE ROLLS HER EYES.

RENAE

Girl, you can't. The doc said it would take at least a year for you to find a new normal. Give this job a chance. You still helping people. Imagine if you were dancing with the kids and you pulled something. You put more stress on your back and then --

SOFIA

I'll be Shit Out of Luck.

RENAE COVERS IMANI'S EARS.

RENAE

Imani's ears!

SOFIA

My bad. Don't keep her from me. I need that pretty face in my life.

RENAE

You get a pass. One pass.

RENAE (CONT'D)

(re: Angela)

Don't let her guilt trip you and then you can't move at all.

END OF ACT III

ACT IV

INT. PAPER CUTS- MARKETING DEPT

MARK TAKES A POSTER OUT OF THE WIDE FORMAT MACHINE.

SOFIA

Don't take it out too fast. Watch your fingers.

MARK

Do you wanna do it for me.

SOFIA

Nah. You got it.

THE POSTER CORNERS ARE CREASED.

MARK QUICKLY ROLLS IT UP, PRINT OUTSIDE IN.

WE SEE A FINGERPRINT IN THE INK. MARK STARTS TO SWEAT.

MARK KEEPS AN EYE ON SOFIA AS HE PLACES THE POSTER IN ITS TUBE.

HE HANGS IT UP. THEN GRABS THE PHONE.

SOFIA TURNS AROUND.

SOFIA (CONT'D)

You look so guilty. Who died?

MARK

...You don't have to come right away.
It will be here for at least a week...
Let us know when you are back from vacation.

SOFIA

You know nobody is on the other line.

SOFIA LOOKS AT MARK, IT FEELS LIKE AN ETERNITY. THE SWEAT KEEPS POURING DOWN.

SOFIA (CONT'D)

You have a tell. (beat) Wipe your face. Take a deep breath.

MARK DABS HIS FOREHEAD WITH A PAPER TOWEL.

MARK

The poster...has fingerprints...

SOFIA

Haha. You signing your work?

SOFIA LOOKS AT THE FRESHLY PRINTED SHOT. OTHER DROPLETS HAVE NOW APPEARED..

SOFIA (CONT'D)

It also has your sweat. (beat). New meaning to Blood, Sweat and Tears.

MARK

Oh man.

MARK'S FACE DROPS.

SOFIA

Pick your chin up. I doubt the customer will be coming in 5 minutes. Print another one. (beat) At least it is not for Henry.

MARK

Right.

MARK SMILES THEN TRIPS AS HE GOES TO TOSS THE BAD POSTER IN THE GARBAGE.

A FEW MINUTES LATER, SOFIA IS CHECKING CUSTOMERS OUT.

SOFIA

Here is your order. I think it looks very professional.

CUSTOMER

I have to hand these out in the morning. It is the first meeting I run.

SOFIA

You will be very prepared and authoritative.

CUSTOMER

If I do well, I will get a promotion.

SOFIA

Good luck!

THE CUSTOMER LEAVES HAPPILY AND STOPS TODD AT THE DOOR.

CUSTOMER

Your employees are so great. They were patient with me, especially that lady over there.

SHE POINTS TO SOFIA.

TODD

Sofia.

CUSTOMER

Yes I think that was her name. (beat)
My order looks perfect.

SOFIA (V.O.)

It was in that moment, I finally got my lemonade. You never know how your everyday actions affect people's day. Being in the right place at the right time creates a ripple to turn the tide.

INT./ EXT. PAPER CUTS OFFICE

WE SEE BRENDA, IN EVERYDAY CLOTHES, PLACE PAPERWORK ON TODD'S DESK. SHE WALKS OUT THE OFFICE WITH NO CARE IN THE WORLD.

SHE HEADS TO A CAR. WE SEE A PERSON IN A HOODIE IN THE DRIVER'S SEAT. WE CANNOT MAKE OUT HIS FACE.

WE RETURN TO THE OFFICE.

INSERT: "RESIGNATION LETTER"

EXT. PAPER CUTS - NIGHT

SOFIA GETS IN RENAE'S CAR. RENAE NOTICES SOMETHING IS DIFFERENT ABOUT HER.

INT. RENAE'S CAR

RENAE

What gives? A minute ago you were second guessing your moves. And now you look like you ate Tinker bell's pixie dust.

SOFIA

Mark is still a lost cause. His anxiety gives me anxiety. But I saved a customer's job today. She might get a promotion.

RENAE'S PHONE STARTS TO BUZZ AND CHIME UNCONTROLLABLY. A MIXTURE OF TEXTS AND PINGS FROM TINDER.

SOFIA (CONT'D)

Who's blowing up your phone at this hour?

RENAE

What? Nobody.

SHE QUICKLY PUSHES MUTE AND QUICKLY CHANGES THE SUBJECT.

RENAE (CONT'D)

(re: papercuts)

I guess you're not leaving anytime soon.

END OF SHOW.