

FADE IN:

INT. RESEDA - TRAILER - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Calling this living room drab just wouldn't cover it.

Various shades of gray and brown meld into a general hue of "been nowhere, going nowhere, and disdaining the ride."

RONNIE LULA, 29, in a Cal State Northridge sweatshirt, leans over a weary sofa where her mother, PRESSA LIPPERT, 55, sleeps.

Ronnie's limp hair is like overdone pasta, and just by looking at her, we can tell she bites her fingernails.

Ronnie's pretty, but tired. Very, very tired.

Pressa's a fire hydrant redhead with the lime-green stretch pants to go with it.

Ronnie takes a gin bottle out of Pressa's hands and covers her with a blue afghan.

INT. BRIDAL SHOP - DRESSING ROOM - DAY

A white net covers something brown.

RONNIE (V.O.)
(slightly Southern
accent)

I was nineteen when I had my first
abortion and twenty when I had my third.
I don't know if it's important for you to
know that, but it doesn't make sense to
talk about the summer I became a nanny
without telling you about my limited
experience being a mother.

Pull back to realize it's a wedding veil over a brown head of hair.

Ronnie looks at herself in the mirror then stares at the
CAMERA - still in the mirror though.

RONNIE
This might mean I'm going to hell. I'm
Catholic, so it doesn't look good.

Ronnie futzes with the zipper on the back of the white wedding dress.

RONNIE

Too bad we can't do things over and over
until we get it right. Think of all --

MOLLY, 9, scoots under the dressing room door and steps up on a chair.

MOLLY

Who are you talking to?

RONNIE

Who are you?

MOLLY

Shh-h.

Outside the dressing room, someone in dirty sneakers runs by.

VOICE (O.S.)

I'll find you, Molly. I've still got two
minutes.

RONNIE

What are you doing in here?

Footsteps fade.

MOLLY

My brother, Andy. He hates when I beat
him at his own game. Who were you talking
to?

Exasperated, Ronnie looks at the CAMERA then back at Molly.

RONNIE

Can you get out, please?

MOLLY

You're not zipped up. Want me to help?

Ronnie opens the door.

RONNIE

Thanks, no.

MOLLY

You're sending me to certain death.

RONNIE

I'm busted up about it.

Molly leaves, and the door shuts. She pops back in again.

MOLLY

I'm not sure white's your color.

Molly leaves. Ronnie stares in the mirror. Quick glance at CAMERA, then back at the dress. Outside there is a SQUEAL.

ANDY (O.S.)

Gotcha.

INT. ROOM - DAY (VIDEO)

Matronly grandma-type, EDIE RHODES, 68, sits at a desk. High collar, shawl around the shoulders, the works.

She fiddles with a MICROPHONE on her collar.

A director, MILES, 37, walks into the frame and stares at the camera.

MILES

Okay people, let's --

EDIE RHODES

-- Dear, the camera can't see me if you're standing there.

MILES

We're not shooting yet, Mrs. Rhodes.

(to crew)

Let's take this from the top. Now, remember --

EDIE RHODES

-- I know what to do, dear.

MILES

Thank you. Roll tape, and Action.

EDIE RHODES

Hello, I'm Edie Rhodes of Granny's Nannies. I want to tell you about the

(MORE)

EDIE RHODES (cont'd)
importance of having a loving someone in
your home to take care of your children.

Sweetly. Lovingly.

EDIE RHODES
If you don't have time to raise your
little ones, perhaps we could help.

A nasty BUZZ starts in the background.

EDIE RHODES
At Granny's, we handpick only the kindest
young women to raise your children. You
can even call me Granny, if you like.
Many of our clients' children do.

BUZZ continues. Edie rips off her MIC.

EDIE RHODES
Are one of you sons of bitches going to
stop that goddamn buzz?

BUZZ stops abruptly. Everything stops, actually. Obviously,
it was the MIC.

EDIE RHODES
Oh, goodness. Should we try that again?

Miles steps back into frame.

MILES
Cut.

END VIDEO

INT. CAL STATE NORTHRIDGE - DEAN'S OFFICE - DAY

DEAN THORNTON, 60, an amiable sort, shuffles through a file
cabinet.

He hands a page to Ronnie who sits in front of his desk.
Ronnie looks up, teary eyes.

RONNIE
I got in?

DEAN THORNTON
Absolutely. We sent that out two months
ago.

RONNIE

I can't believe this. I bought a Northridge sweatshirt six months ago dreaming this would happen. Are you sure I got in?

DEAN THORNTON

Ms. Lula, if you didn't know this, what are you doing here today?

RONNIE

I called to check the status of my application, and they said come talk with you. I thought you were going to tell me 29 is too old to start college.

DEAN THORNTON

Nonsense. It's official, you're in. Just pay your tuition, and we'll see you in three months.

Ronnie's face falls.

RONNIE

Tuition?

INT. REGISTRAR'S OFFICE - DAY

A bored clerk, LAVONYA, 30, chews on a pencil. A line of students snake through the office.

LAVONYA

Because all the financial aid funds have been disbursed, Miss Lula, and we never received your final paperwork.

RONNIE

I just found out I got in.

LAVONYA

This office sent two letters in the last two months, and the financial aid office must have sent something, too.

RONNIE

I never got anything.

Lavonya sorts through a file.

LAVONYA

Veronica Lula, Happy Trails Mobile Home Park, Lot 115, Reseda. Is that you?

RONNIE

I live with my mother, but I never received them.

LAVONYA

Sorry.

RONNIE

You mean I have to pay my tuition without financial aid?

LAVONYA

Most of our students work while they're in school.

RONNIE

Of course I'm going to work, but that's to cover my living expenses.

LAVONYA

Don't you have any savings?

RONNIE

I just spent my last seven hundred dollars on a pink wedding dress.

LAVONYA

Maybe you can get a loan. Books and tuition will only be \$6000.

RONNIE

No one's going to loan me \$6000. I'm going to college to get a job and a life, so someday someone can lean across a counter and say it's only \$6000, and I'll say, "Such a deal, only \$6000!"

RONNIE

Is there someone I can talk to?

LAVONYA

You are talking to someone.

RONNIE

Someone else?

LAVONYA

Turn around.

Ronnie turns to see a room full of STUDENTS in the office.

The guy in line directly behind Ronnie pulls his finger out of his nose and wipes it on his coat.

INT. PICK UP - DAY

Ronnie drives and talks to the CAMERA.

RONNIE

On top of it all, I'm an hour late for work.

The CAMERA moves closer.

RONNIE

What? I don't care about Northridge. I don't.

Ronnie guns ahead in her lane.

TIME CUT TO:

INT. PICK UP - DAY

Ronnie pulls in front of a Gap store, leaves the motor running. She continues to lie to the CAMERA.

RONNIE

When you think about it, a college education is a highly overrated thing. Bill Gates never graduated from college and neither did Madonna. Anthony Robbins would probably say this is the defining moment in my life. Then again, looking at Anthony Robbins' teeth makes me want to throw up.

Ronnie peels out of the parking lot.

INT. PICK UP - DAY

Ronnie pulls up in front of a doleful tract home. A UPS truck is parked in front, and a clunker's in the driveway.

EXT. TRACT HOME - FRONT PORCH - DAY

Ronnie retrieves a key from under the mat and unlocks the front door.

INT. HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Couch, chairs, lamps. Tofu-boring. On a hall table, there's a picture of Ronnie hugging a guy.

RONNIE

Hi baby, it's me. I ditched work.

She flops on the couch.

RONNIE

You won't believe my day. Guess who got into Northridge? My mother's going to freak.

A half-smoked joint sits in the ashtray.

RONNIE

I got the dress. It's pink. I don't think white's my color.

Ronnie stops, hears something.

RONNIE

Steve?

Heads up the stairs.

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

She gets to the top of the stairs.

RONNIE

Honey?

We hear something nasty and sweet going on behind the door she's about to open.

RONNIE

There's a UPS truck out front --

She opens the bedroom door.

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

A UPS GUY, his back to the door, is in ecstasy. Someone's on their knees, blowing the guy -- but good.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Eerie quiet, then a crashing blast, as a man in boxers, tumbles down the stairs and splays on the landing.

At the top of the stairs, Ronnie calmly stares down at him. He attempts to get up, sees her, then flops down again.

It's the guy we saw in the picture with Ronnie. Quite obviously, it's STEVE.

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

In here, United Parcel Service's finest huddles in the corner. Ronnie enters.

UPS GUY

Please don't hurt me. I've never done anything like this before.

Ronnie picks up a pack of smokes on the table and lights one.

RONNIE

So how was he?

UPS GUY

Better than my wife.

EXT. HOUSE - DAY

Steve follows Ronnie out the door.

STEVE

Where are you going?

RONNIE

Now I know why you were so depressed during the UPS strike.

She glances at the UPS truck then heads to the garage.

INT. GARAGE - DAY

She rummages through a box and finds a can of spray paint.

EXT. HOUSE - DAY

Ronnie speeds away in her pick up, when the UPS guy runs out and jumps in his truck.

He zips away, never seeing the message tagged on the side of his truck:

FED EX GUYS HAVE BIGGER DICKS.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Back on the landing, Ronnie talks to the CAMERA.

RONNIE

Let's try this again, because the truth is, I'd never throw anyone down the stairs.

From the floor, a hand feebly reaches for her.

RONNIE

I'm a pacifist.

STEVE (O.S.)

You're standing on my hand.

RONNIE

I know.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Just like before, Ronnie is poised outside the door listening to amorous MOANS.

She opens the door and SCREECHES. Steve looks between the UPS guy's legs and sees her.

A gaggle of Beanie Babies cover the floor.

RONNIE

You're crushing Spinner the Spider.

A stream of cum squirts on the Beanie Babies. Ronnie slams the door and runs into the bathroom.

INT. BATHROOM - DAY

She crushes a towel to her face and sobs. She waves the camera away then shuts the door. The door opens.

RONNIE

Do I look like the kind of girl who'd cry
over a guy? Last time, I promise.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

For the third time, Ronnie stands outside the bedroom door, listening to MOANS.

She opens the door and sees the same dick-blowing scene. Watches for a moment then quietly shuts the door.

She walks downstairs.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

A moment of emotion wells up, but Ronnie catches it and composes herself. She opens the front door then slams it shut.

RONNIE

Hello?

There's a clamor of sound upstairs. Steve peeks over the banister. He's wrapped in a towel.

STEVE

Didn't you have to work today?

RONNIE

Out early. I was thinking about going to
Connor's to pick up some lunch. Hungry?

STEVE

Very.

Ronnie opens the front door.

STEVE

Ronnie? I love you, baby.

RONNIE

Back at you.

She leaves.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Walking toward her pick up, Ronnie shrugs at the CAMERA.

RONNIE

Now, that's me.

INT. BOWLING ALLEY - DAY

Ronnie steps up to the line, ball in hand. She gets a strike.

The score sheet is displayed above her lane, and we see she just got her fourth strike.

RONNIE

One thing white trash mothers have going for them is they get their kids involved in bowling leagues early. My high game is a 269. I'm shooting for 300 these days.

Up at the counter, HAPPY, 35, holds up a longneck.

HAPPY

Ronnie, beer?

RONNIE

Thanks.

(to CAMERA)

That's my best friend, Neil, but I call him Happy.

Happy comes from behind the counter, and we see he's a dwarf. True to his name, he seems very content with himself.

He hands Ronnie the beer.

RONNIE

Don't worry, he doesn't mind.

HAPPY

I'm just glad you don't call me Dopey.

Ronnie steps up to the line and gets another strike.

HAPPY

So what are you going to do?

RONNIE

Cut off his penis, stuff it, and mount it, so to speak.

HAPPY

I meant about Northridge.

RONNIE

I know.

HAPPY

I've got three hundred. It's yours.

RONNIE

Thanks, but that still leaves me \$5700 short with three months to get it. Plus my mom's got my room rented starting in August, so I also need to find a place to live.

HAPPY

My cousin has a job where she makes three grand a month, drives a Jaguar, and lives in Malibu.

RONNIE

I wouldn't do well in that career. I only like the missionary position.

HAPPY

I'm talking about a different, much-needed service.

RONNIE

Forget it, my drug dealing days are over.

Ronnie bowls again. All the pins go down except one. She turns off the light on the overhead.

HAPPY

My cousin Sarah is a nanny.

Ronnie takes off her bowling shoes.

RONNIE

I'd rather deal drugs. Or be a prostitute.

HAPPY

You prefer to be a Gapper?

RONNIE

I like the Gap. We just got the new summer colors in.

HAPPY

Sarah knows two families looking for someone.

RONNIE

I'm not the nanny type.

HAPPY

Fine, it's none of my business. That's \$2 for the beer.

RONNIE

Happy, I know you're trying to help, but I don't belong at Northridge.

He picks up her bowling shoes.

HAPPY

Baloney, you joined the Army out of high school to make money for college.

RONNIE

I joined the Army, because I was young and stupid and liked screwing guys in uniform.

HAPPY

Now you're old and stupid with a fiance who likes screwing guys in uniform.

RONNIE

Ex-fiance.

HAPPY

What happened to the girl who wanted to be the first one in her family to get a college degree?

RONNIE

She got slapped with a bit of reality about who gets to climb out of the lower class. I didn't even get the stuff Northridge sent me. That's the world trying to tell me I don't belong there.

HAPPY

Who told you that, Miss Clio?

RONNIE

I wouldn't know what to study in college.

HAPPY

You used to want to be a photographer. Study that.

RONNIE

Why do you get so rattled about what I'm going to do with my life?

HAPPY

Because your life affects mine. Maybe I don't want to work in a bowling alley the rest of my life.

RONNIE

I'm not the college type, Happy. I know that now.

Happy gathers the empty beer bottles.

HAPPY

I walk down the street and people stare and laugh when they pass me. That used to make me feel like a fool but not anymore. Now I just feel like a fool when people lie to me.

Happy walks away.

RONNIE

Happy?

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Ronnie holds a framed photograph of a teenaged Ronnie, holding a bowling ball.

Ronnie pulls another photo out of a huge box of snapshots.
And another.

Tears fill her eyes, as she sorts through hundreds of
pictures.

The blue afghan we saw in the beginning is draped across her
bed.

Ronnie picks the Northridge sweatshirt off the floor and hugs
it.

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

Ronnie's mother, Pressa, GIGGLES and walks down the hall. A
MAN follows her.

MAN'S VOICE
I need to take a leak.

PRESSA
First door on the left.

He opens Ronnie's bedroom door.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Ronnie cowers. The man grins at Ronnie.

PRESSA (O.S.)
Your other left, you fool.

MAN
You must be the daughter. Care to do a
little mother-daughter tryst?

Ronnie tosses the framed photo at the door. It crashes to
the floor. He bolts out.

Ronnie picks the photo up and sets it on her dresser,
scooting the frame glass under her bed.

She puts the Northridge sweatshirt on.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Pressa pulls a black piece of toast out of the toaster and sets it on top of two others.

PRESSA

What's wrong with this thing?

Pressa picks up a knife to stick it in, but Ronnie stops her.

RONNIE

Like this, Mom.

Ronnie moves the knob from dark to light and looks at the CAMERA.

RONNIE

I might've just had a solution to my problem, but I blew it.

REPLAY scene where Pressa actually sticks the knife in the toaster.

Ronnie scrambles eggs while the FLASH AND SOUND OF SOMEONE BEING ELECTROCUTED happens offscreen. Then the THUMP of a body hitting the floor.

BACK to Ronnie.

RONNIE

Then again, my Mother probably has her money willed to the Ringling Brothers Clown College.

PRESSA

Who are you talking to?

RONNIE

I did it, Mom. I got into Northridge.

PRESSA

I thought you never heard from them.

RONNIE

They sent my acceptance, but we never got it. Now I just need to find the money for tuition.

Pressa opens the refrigerator. Ronnie sits at the table with her eggs.

PRESSA

You forgot to pick up my yogurt.

RONNIE

Sorry. I'll get it today. Now I just need to find the money --

Pressa eats some eggs off Ronnie's plate.

PRESSA

-- What does Steve have to say? Does he want to support a wife in college?

RONNIE

The wedding's off.

Pressa shakes her head in disgust.

PRESSA

That's just fine.

RONNIE

You never liked Steve anyway.

PRESSA

You can't even screw up right. Now where are you going to live?

RONNIE

I'll figure it out.

PRESSA

Seems like a foolish time to start college.

RONNIE

Please don't.

PRESSA

Ronnie, we're not the college type.

RONNIE

What type are we, Mom?

PRESSA

Blueberry and peach only. No strawberry yogurt. The seeds get stuck in my teeth, and it's a bitch getting them out.

RONNIE

If I can just get the tuition paid, I --

Pressa fishes her lipstick out of her purse. She puts it on, extending it beyond her lipline all the way around.

Ronnie taps her own lips.

RONNIE

You know your --

A look of panic in her mother's eyes.

PRESSA

-- What?

RONNIE

Nothing.

Pressa goes to a cupboard and opens it. There's a mirror on the inside.

She appraises her face and closes the cupboard.

PRESSA

If you're smart enough to go to college,
you're smart enough to pay for it
yourself. Don't count on me, Ronnie.

Pressa leaves.

RONNIE

Why would I do that?

EXT. HOUSE - DAY

Paint peels off the house, and the grass is parched and brown. Ronnie approaches the porch and RINGS the bell.

RONNIE

What is it about drug dealers using
blankets for curtains?

BONG, 34, opens the door. He looks about as healthy as the grass.

BONG

Who are you talking to?

INT. HOUSE - DAY

Bong takes a hit off a bong.

BONG
It's the truth.

RONNIE
What happened to that Persian Red Seed?

BONG
Sold, smoked.

RONNIE
The Lao Black?

BONG
My dealer found Allah. Connection's gone.

RONNIE
You're shitting me. You've got a stash
somewhere.

He offers her the bong, and she hits it.

BONG
Think I'd be smoking this Humboldt
stinkweed if I did? You're not gonna make
that kind of cash moving weed anyway.
Gotta go blow.

RONNIE
I'm not selling coke. I do have some
principles intact.

BONG
Good, because I wouldn't set you up with
it anyway.

A mangy cat walks in the room. Bong picks it up and hugs it.

RONNIE
Why?

BONG
Because once those principles crumble,
it's a long way back.

He cups his hands around the cat's face and exhales smoke
into it.

EXT. HOLLYWOOD BUNGALOW - DAY

Ronnie rockets out the door. A MUMU MAMA attempts to follow her.

MUMU MAMA
You crazy broad, what did you think an
escort service meant?

INT. PICK UP - DAY

Ronnie, wearing her Northridge sweatshirt, watches summer students walk to and fro on the Northridge campus.

Pressa's ghostly face floats in front of Ronnie.

PRESSA (V.O.)
We're not the college type, not the
college type, not the --

Ronnie lays on the horn, and Pressa disappears.

Ronnie grabs a yellow legal pad and jumps out of the truck.

EXT. PICK UP - DAY

Ronnie dials a payphone. She writes \$6000 at the top of the legal pad.

Someone answers.

RONNIE
Happy, it's me. So how do I get this
nanny job?

A WHOOP OF JOY can be heard through the phone.

INT. ROOM - DAY (VIDEO)

The grandma from before, Edie Rhodes, is in front of the camera.

EDIE RHODES
At Granny's Nanny Agency, we like to think
of our nannies as angels from heaven --

Behind her, NANNIES on straps slowly descend from above.

EDIE RHODES

-- Who come down to take care of your
little cherubs.

Slowly, gently. Two nannies have descended. A third is on
her way.

EDIE RHODES

Granny's nannies have completed six months
at our topflight nanny college in Ames,
Iowa. We choose only the most wholesome
young women from the Midwest.

A chunky nanny drifts down just behind Edie. The strap stops
lowering her. She hangs in the air and shrugs.

EDIE RHODES

They're chosen for their sweet
dispositions and gentle natures.

The strap breaks. The chunky girl BANGS to the floor. A
bevy of people run to her.

EDIE RHODES

If the time has come to make a decision
about a nanny --

VOICE (O.S.)

-- Somebody call 911.

EDIE RHODES

-- You'll find we have just the girl for
you. We're located at --

Miles the director steps into the frame.

MILES

-- Cut, Mrs. Rhodes. We've got a
situation here.

Edie sees the people surrounding the MOANING girl. Edie
turns back to the camera.

EDIE RHODES

We're located at 434 Harding Street in the
heart of Westwood Village.

Miles stares at the camera.

MILES

Why don't you cut?

The screen goes to black.

EDIE RHODES

(O.S.)

That's Granny's. Providing only the best
childcare for your little ones.

END VIDEO

INT. HOUSE - DAY

Ronnie raps a huge lion knocker on the front door. In a nice dress with her hair up, she looks pretty damn good.

Inside, there are SHOUTS.

A housekeeper opens the door and motions Ronnie into the house we all dream of living in.

Ronnie walks in, and a little boy runs by chasing a cat. He rams into her but hurries on, saying nothing.

INT. LIBRARY - DAY

Ronnie sits in a leather chair surrounded by books she never knew existed, let alone read.

From outside, there's a BOOM of what sounds to be a cannon coming every few seconds.

BETH SMALLEY, 40, walks in. It's obvious she's had her lips done and quite frankly she shouldn't stop there.

BETH

You must be Ronnie.

Another huge BOOM goes off. Beth opens the door.

BETH

Eugenia! Tell the boys I'm going to call
their father if they don't stop doing that
to the cat.

RONNIE

What are they doing to the cat?

BETH

I have five of them.

RONNIE

Cats?

BETH

Boys, 7 to 16. Do you have experience
with hyperactive children?

A few SCREAMS and the POW of what can only be flesh hitting
flesh.

RONNIE

Well --

BETH

-- The medication helps.

RONNIE

Medication?

BETH

Since we started the Ritalin, they're just
like any other kids.

Another BOOM.

RONNIE

They? How many of your boys are
hyperactive?

BETH

One --

RONNIE

-- Good, because I thought --

BETH

-- isn't.

BOOM!

INT. WILSHIRE CONDO BUILDING - LOBBY - DAY

A DOORMAN points toward the elevator.

DOORMAN

314. Mrs. Quince is expecting you.

Ronnie steps into the elevator. Zips up and PING - the doors open, and a woman, ILONA QUINCE, 33, is there with a tennis racket and a baby.

Ilona shoves the baby in Ronnie's arms.

ILONA

She just had a bottle.

Ronnie fumbles with the baby who CRIES.

ILONA

She'll want to nap, but don't let her.
I'm going to train her to sleep through
the night if it kills me.

Ilona gets on the elevator.

ILONA

I'll be back by 3, and we'll talk then.

The elevator doors almost close then open again.

ILONA

You're Happy's friend, right?

RONNIE

Right.

ILONA

Good.

The doors close. Ronnie looks at the baby who burps up all over herself.

INT. HAPPY'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN - DAY

Happy pours iced tea.

HAPPY

Just take one of the jobs. My cousin the
baby nurse says they're great families.

RONNIE

Your cousin's been sniffing too much
Desitin. I'm going to a nanny agency.

HAPPY

Nanny agencies are tough. They want
resumes and references.

RONNIE

And you're going to help me with those,
right?

INT. YORKSHIRE NANNIES AGENCY OFFICE - DAY

Ronnie's in an office with OLGA, 60, a cigar chomping drill
sergeant type. A few sacks of potatoes sit on the floor.

Olga picks up a 10 lb. sack and hands it to Ronnie. Then she
puts a 20 lb. sack in Ronnie's other arm.

OLGA

I see you can carry a newborn and toddler
at the same time.

RONNIE

Want to see my resume?

Olga stares at Ronnie holding the potatoes.

OLGA

I'm looking at it.

INT. PICK UP - DAY

Ronnie's parked outside a gorgeous Holmby Hills home. It's
huge with rosebushes and other cheerful shit around the
place.

A man runs by with a Labrador on a leash, and a little WHITE
BICHON follows.

A child, KATIE, 5, bursts out the back door of the house.
She's in a dress, but it's obvious what a tomboy she is.

KATIE

Lily's out! Lily's out!

Katie tears the gate open and runs after the white bichon.
She slips and skins her knee.

Ronnie exits the passenger side of her truck.

KATIE
That's my dog.

Ronnie takes after the man who's now halfway down the block.

RONNIE
The white one?

Katie nods and cradles her bloody knee. Ronnie runs down the street and catches the scampering dog.

Ronnie runs back to the house with the bichon. Katie takes Lily from Ronnie.

KATIE
Thank you. My name's Katie Clipper.

SASHA, 13 and meaty, walks out the back door. She's dressed in black, and that's the most cheerful thing about her.

SASHA
That stupid dog's going to get hit one of these days.
(to Ronnie)
Are you here to interview?

RONNIE
Yes.

SASHA
You're ten minutes late.

She holds the gate open.

SASHA
Like I care though.

KATIE
What's your name?

RONNIE
Ronnie.

KATIE
That's a boy's name.

SASHA
Not always, dope.

KATIE
I'm telling Mom you called me a dope.

SASHA
(mimicking)
I'm telling Mom you called me a dope.

The three walk in the house.

INT. CLIPPER HOME - DAY

The kitchen is huge, airy, and bright. Right out of Architectural Digest.

Katie puts Lily down, and the dog sniffs around the kitchen.

KATIE
Should I tell Mom she's here?

SASHA
What do you think?

ANN CLIPPER, 36, and California sunshine perfect, walks in the kitchen.

ANN
I'm Ann Clipper, and you must be Veronica.

KATIE
That's not her name.

RONNIE
I go by Ronnie. Could I get some water?

Sasha fills her own glass and walks away, drinking. Ann fills a glass for Ronnie.

KATIE
Isn't that a funny name for a girl?

ANN
What happened to your knee?

KATIE
I fell chasing Lily.

RONNIE
I got your dog back.

The dog Ronnie caught walks back into the kitchen.

ANN
That's not Lily.

Another bichon, Lily, walks into the kitchen. SURPRISED,
Ronnie looks at the CAMERA.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Ronnie runs down the street with the unidentified white
bichon in her arms.

The MAN with the labrador walks now. Ronnie reaches him and
sets the bichon down. The dog scampers along with them.

Ronnie runs back.

INT. CLIPPER HOME - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Tasteful and elegant. Grand piano by the window. Striking
black and white family photographs on the walls.

Sasha glances at Ronnie's resume, pretending to be
uninterested.

SASHA
You started as a nanny when you were 19?

RONNIE
Yeah.

SASHA
You didn't go to college?

RONNIE
No.

ANN
Not everyone goes to university, Sasha.

SASHA

Obviously.

ANN

Do you cook, Ronnie?

RONNIE

Love to cook.

SASHA

Yes, but can you cook?

Sasha plunks the piano.

ANN

Later, please.

SASHA

You said I'm supposed to practice.

Ronnie stares at the family photos on the walls.

RONNIE

These are great.

ANN

My sister's a photographer.

RONNIE

She's got a good eye.

SASHA

She takes pictures at K-Mart.

Ann scowls at Sasha.

ANN

Do you like photography, Ronnie?

RONNIE

Not really. You have a beautiful family though.

ANN

Do you come from a big family?

RONNIE

I don't come from any family.

Ann and Sasha stare at Ronnie.

RONNIE

I mean, I don't have any siblings, and my
parents are deceased.

SASHA

What happened?

ANN

Sasha!

RONNIE

They were killed in Africa.

Embarrassed, Ronnie glances at the CAMERA.

SASHA

How?

Ann leans forward.

RONNIE

They were missionaries, and they were
killed by --

ANN

-- Natives?

Ronnie shakes "no."

SASHA

Other missionaries?

Another glance at the CAMERA, then --

RONNIE

Lions.

SASHA

Holy shit. Did you see it?

ANN

Sasha, go help Verlinda with dinner.

SASHA

I bet there was tons of blood.

Ann attempts to usher Sasha out of the room, but Sasha dodges
to the other side.

ANN

Ronnie, the pay is \$500 a week. You'll use the Jeep to drive the kids around, and you can use it on your weekends off.

SASHA

So if you lived in Africa, where's the hillbilly accent from?

ANN

Out!

Sasha ignores her. Ann reaches into a bowl of nuts on the table, then changes her mind.

RONNIE

I lived in Georgia until I was ten. Ninety-day trial period with the job, right?

ANN

Absolutely, but if we decide it works, I'm hoping you'd like to stay at least a year or two.

A GUILTY glance at the CAMERA.

RONNIE

For sure.

ANN

Now I know they're very thorough at Yorkshire Nannies, but I'd like to call your references also.

RONNIE

Right. Am I going to meet your husband?

Ann shoots a furtive glance at Sasha.

ANN

My husband Tony travels with his job. He's not here too often.

RONNIE

What does he do?

SASHA

He's a lion tamer.

Ann glares at Sasha.

SASHA

I better go see what Katie's doing.

Sasha runs out of the room.

ANN

He's a businessman. You'll meet him eventually.

INT. BATHROOM - DAY

Happy shaves. He's shirtless and has an extremely hairy chest. The cell phone RINGS.

HAPPY

Hello?

(beat)

Let me get my wife.

He shaves some more, then gets back on the phone, speaking in a remarkably believable woman's voice.

HAPPY

This is Barbara Louis.

(beat)

Ronnie is divine. Had my children not grown up, she'd still be with us.

Happy tweezes a hair out of his nose.

HAPPY

That's right. I honestly don't think I've met a woman who loves children more.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Ann walks back in.

ANN

When can you move in?

INT. BATHROOM - DAY

Ronnie sits on the toilet and talks to the CAMERA.

RONNIE

The hardest part is going to be not blowing up at that monster, Sasha, but I think you can withstand anything for three months.

She futzes with the toilet paper.

RONNIE

I don't know if I'll --

Katie walks in the bathroom.

KATIE

Who are you talking to?

RONNIE

I'm talking to my imaginary friend, okay?

KATIE

Okay.

Katie leaves the bathroom. Ronnie stares at the CAMERA, DUMBFOUNDED.

INT. CLIPPER HOME - HALLWAY - NIGHT

Ronnie carries a load of her things in. She tries to shut the door but manages to slam her foot instead.

Sasha ambles over, sucking a popsicle.

RONNIE

I'm going to leave this open for a minute.

SASHA

Lily will get out.

Sasha sets her popsicle down on the counter.

SASHA

Need some help?

RONNIE

Thanks.

Sasha raps on a door, and the housekeeper, VERLINDA, 40, opens it. Verlinda holds a rosary.

SASHA

The new nanny needs help bringing her things in.

Sasha picks up her popsicle and walks away.

INT. CLIPPER HOUSE - RONNIE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Cheerful wallpaper with lots of little flowers on it. A garden with a pool behind it is seen through Ronnie's window.

Ronnie doesn't have a lot of things. Clothing in various shades of drab spills out of two garbage bags.

She puts her Northridge sweatshirt under her pillow then shoves the three photograph boxes under the bed.

TIME CUT TO:

INT. RONNIE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Ronnie sleeps. The door opens, and Katie walks in. She crawls into bed with Ronnie.

In her sleep, Ronnie scoots over. Katie snuggles in and closes her eyes.

TIME CUT TO:

INT. RONNIE'S BEDROOM - DAY

Ronnie wakes to find Katie in bed with her. She sits up and looks around the room. Next to Katie, there's a huge urine spot.

INT. BATHROOM - DAY

Ronnie runs a bath, while sleepy Katie yawns. The housekeeper, Verlinda, looks in.

VERLINDA

Had a visitor last night?

Ronnie nods.

VERLINDA

This happens with all the new nannies.

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

RONNIE

That's a strange thing for her to do with
someone she doesn't know.

VERLINDA

She's afraid you're going to leave, like
all the others.

RONNIE

How many nannies have they had?

VERLINDA

You're number five.

RONNIE

They've had five nannies since she was
born?

VERLINDA

They've had five since the beginning of
the year.

RONNIE

Why do they keep leaving?

Sasha walks into the kitchen.

SASHA

Hello? Is anyone going to make me
breakfast?

Verlinda crosses herself and heads for her room.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Smoke drifts from the waffle iron. Batter leaks over the
sides.

Sasha walks in with her backpack, dressed in seventies stuff.
Bell-bottoms, smiley face necklace, and on.

SASHA

What stinks?

Ronnie unplugs the waffle iron.

RONNIE

Just making waffles like you wanted.

SASHA

As if.

Sasha opens the freezer and pulls out a box of frozen waffles.

SASHA

Try not to burn these.

Sasha opens a window. Verlinda enters the kitchen.

SASHA

Verlinda, my white blouse is still in the hamper. I wanted to wear it today.

VERLINDA

Ronnie will be doing your laundry from now on.

Verlinda walks out. Ronnie gets the syrup out.

SASHA

Like I use that. Pure sugar.

RONNIE

Maybe Katie will.

SASHA

Katie doesn't eat waffles. Where is she anyway?

RONNIE

She's in the tub in my bathroom.

SASHA

What?

Sasha runs down the hall and opens the door. Ronnie follows.

INT. BATHROOM - DAY

Katie plays in the water.

SASHA

What are you doing leaving her alone in here?

RONNIE

She wet the bed.

Sasha pulls her out of the tub.

SASHA

She's five years old. She could drown in here while you're burning waffles.

RONNIE

I'm sorry. I didn't think.

SASHA

Nice.

The smoke alarm in the kitchen goes off. Ronnie leaves. Sasha throws a towel to Katie.

KATIE

You leave me alone in the bathtub all the time.

SASHA

Shut up.

Sasha takes Katie's hand and walks her toward the kitchen.

SASHA

Did you know a kid can drown in two tablespoons of water?

RONNIE

No, I didn't. I made a mistake.

Ronnie gets the fire alarm turned off. Sasha points at the smokey waffle iron.

SASHA

That's a mistake. Leaving a kid alone in a bathtub is a totally different category.

The toaster waffles pop up. They're black.

INT. LAUNDRY ROOM - DAY

Ronnie empties the white clothing from the hamper into the machine and starts it. She walks out.

A moment later, Sasha walks in and purposely throws a red

sweater in the machine.

INT. JEEP - DAY

Ronnie waits in a carpool lane to drop off Sasha who sits in the front seat. Katie's in the back.

On the school lawn, cheerleaders climb into a pyramid.

KATIE

I want to see.

Sasha unbuckles Katie and pulls her into her lap. Ronnie edges forward in the lane.

RONNIE

So this is your last week of seventh grade. That's exciting.

SASHA

What's so exciting about it?

A MOTHER rushes over to their Jeep. She raps on Sasha's window.

MOTHER

What do you think you're doing?

RONNIE

Pardon?

MOTHER

Does Ann know you drive her children around without seatbelts on?

RONNIE

She wanted to see --

MOTHER

-- That child is supposed to be seated and buckled. This is dangerous. I'm going to call Ann.

She huffs away. Sasha raises the window.

SASHA

Mind your own business, bitch.

RONNIE
God, she scared me.

Sasha opens the door.

SASHA
I've got a ride home. Don't pick me up.

Sasha slams the door and walks over to the mother who just bitched at them. They talk.

The mother shakes her head toward Ronnie and puts her arm around Sasha.

Sasha smirks at Ronnie then walks off with the woman.

TIME CUT:

INT. JEEP - DAY

Ronnie watches Katie run toward the schoolyard. A TEACHER raps on Ronnie's window.

TEACHER
Carpool lane. Move along.

Startled, Ronnie drives away.

INT. HOUSE - DAY

Ronnie walks in to find Verlinda on her way out.

VERLINDA
Ann wants you to make vermicelli for dinner.

RONNIE
You're leaving?

VERLINDA
It's my day off. Keep Lily outside or she "no no's" on the rug. Katie's done at 3.

Verlinda leaves.

INT. FAMILY ROOM - DAY

There's a huge stereo system in this room along with a monster TV.

Ronnie picks up the remote and futzes with it. She can't get the TV on.

She tries the stereo. Whoever had it on last, left it on HIGH.

RAP MUSIC BLASTS through the speaker system throughout the house.

Ronnie tries to turn it off, but it won't even turn down. Lily tears through, heading for the kitchen.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Ronnie PLUNKS a few keys on the piano. Obviously never played before.

Ronnie heads up the stairs. Takes another step, and SQUISH. Ronnie's stepped in dog shit.

She doesn't realize it though, because the MUSIC still BLARES through the house.

Ronnie tracks dog shit up the blue carpeted stairs. Not too much of a problem, but --

INT. MASTER BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

-- Ann's bedroom is wall-to-wall pearl white carpet.

Ronnie kicks off her shoes and jumps up on Ann's kingsize bed. Bounces like a kid.

KLUNK. Something's under the bedspread. Ronnie pulls out a vibrator.

She turns it on and jumps when it vibrates. Ronnie notices the dog shit she's tracked into Ann's room.

TIME CUT TO:

INT. MASTER BEDROOM - DAY

On her hands and knees, Ronnie cleans the carpet.

INT. KATIE'S BEDROOM - DAY

Ronnie sets down the pail of dirty water to look around this little girl's paradise of a bedroom.

Katie's four poster bed is draped with white lace. A wall of dolls and stuffed animals beckons the toddler in us all.

There's a tea table with four little chairs. Ronnie sits and pretends to drink tea. Chair CREAKS under her weight.

INT. SASHA'S ROOM - DAY

Frightening in only the way a teenager's room can be.

Clothing, papers, and fast food wrappers litter the floor. Posters of scary bands cover the walls.

A kickass computer is on the desk along with a pile of change.

Ronnie opens a desk drawer. There's a carton of Marlboros in there.

She opens the next drawer. BONANZA. It's a wad of hundred dollar bills. Shit, this kid must have 3 grand here.

Ronnie holds the money to her chest, contemplating. She finally puts it back in the drawer. Closes it and walks out.

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Ronnie opens the door, and a MAN'S VOICE startles her.

MAN'S VOICE

Who you there? What you doing in the dark?

Ronnie jumps before she realizes it's just another RAP SONG continuing on the CD that never quit downstairs.

Ronnie scurries toward the stairs. Picks up the bucket and her shoes. She starts down the steps.

Steps into dogshit that she'd tracked on the stairs before.

INT. FAMILY ROOM - DAY

Ronnie rips the stereo cord out of the outlet, and the MUSIC STOPS. Finally.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Ronnie drinks milk out of a carton then puts it back in the huge refrigerator.

Door closes, and Ronnie tries to open it again but can't. It's a fancy refrigerator that takes a minute to reseal.

The food closet is crammed with everything imaginable. She stares at the CAMERA, CONFUSED.

RONNIE

What the hell is vermicelli?

TIME CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Ronnie's got everything cooking on the stove in these gorgeous brass bottom pans.

Three cookbooks are propped open. She looks at the clock. Shit, it's 3:15.

INT. JEEP - DAY

Ronnie rips around the corner. No one's in the carpool line. Katie sits alone. Ronnie HONKS. Katie gets in.

RONNIE

Let's hurry, I'm late for Sasha --

KATIE

-- Ronnie, I --

RONNIE

-- Let's stay quiet. I can only concentrate on one thing at a time.

Ronnie peels away.

TIME CUT TO:

INT. SCHOOL OFFICE - DAY

Ronnie waits as vice principal, YONA YALE, 55, talks on the phone. Katie sits in a chair and kicks the table next to it.

Yona hangs up.

YONA
She was in school today.

RONNIE
I know. I dropped her off. I came late,
but --

KATIE
-- Ronnie?

RONNIE
Katie, please.

YONA
I think we should call Ann.

INT. JEEP - DAY

Ronnie and Katie drive home.

KATIE
-- Ronnie --

Ronnie screeches to a STOP at a just-turned red light.

RONNIE
Please don't talk right now.

EXT. DRIVEWAY - CLIPPER HOME - DAY

Ronnie drives up. Ann drives up behind her and gets out.
Ronnie jumps out of the Jeep.

RONNIE
I was making dinner and lost track of --

ANN

-- It figures she'd pull this nonsense today.

Katie crawls out of the Jeep.

KATIE

Mommy.

ANN

Not now, honey. This is why it's so important to be on time, Ronnie.

Ann dials a cell phone.

ANN

I'm calling Tony.

KATIE

Nobody ever listens to me.

ANN

Mommy listens, baby.

(into phone)

Hello, Tony? It's me. Sasha's gone.

Ronnie went to get her, and she's gone.

You're going to have to talk to her. I can't keep doing this.

Katie tugs at her mother's skirt.

KATIE

Let me talk to daddy.

Katie takes the phone from her.

KATIE

(into phone)

Daddy, Sasha said she was getting a ride from someone and Ronnie didn't need to pick her up. Bye.

Katie clicks the phone off and hands it to her shocked mother.

Pissed, Ann shakes her head at Ronnie.

INT. RONNIE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Ronnie spreads peanut butter on a slice of bread. KNOCK at her door. Ronnie hides the food under her pillow.

RONNIE

Yes?

SASHA (O.S.)

I'm supposed to see if you want to eat with us.

RONNIE

No, thanks. Not hungry.

Sasha leaves. Ronnie lifts her pillow to find peanut butter all over it.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Ronnie loads the brass bottom pans along with the dinner dishes into the dishwasher.

Ann enters the kitchen.

ANN

Ronnie, this isn't going to work. You can't --

RONNIE

-- I know, I know. It was just a matter of time.

Ronnie trudges to her room. Ann takes the brass pots out of the dishwasher.

Sasha walks out of the laundry room holding her white blouse, which is now pink, from the red sweater in with the white load.

SASHA

Is anyone going to teach Mary Poppins how to do laundry?

Sasha flounces away.

Ann finds a stash of M & M's.

TIME CUT:

INT. RONNIE'S BEDROOM - DAY

Ronnie's door is open. She packs and looks at the CAMERA.

RONNIE

The one time I actually got fired quicker,
I was working in a bar. The ex-boyfriend
who dicked me over on the abortion thing,
came in and ordered a beer. I threw a
tab of acid in it.

(beat)

Who knew people could be allergic to acid?

EXT. HALLWAY - DAY

Down the hallway, Sasha watches Ronnie pack.

INT. ANN'S BEDROOM - DAY

Ann sits on her bed. The whole bedroom is shimmering white,
including the carpet. She eats M & Ms from a big bag.

Sasha walks in, and Ann stuffs the candy in a drawer.

ANN

Shoes, please.

Sasha kicks her shoes off.

SASHA

It's kind of harsh, Ann.

ANN

What?

SASHA

The least you can do is let me toy with
her for another couple of weeks.

Ann walks out. Sasha puts her shoes back on and does a jig
in the middle of the floor.

EXT. PATIO - NIGHT

Ann uses the pool net to fish flower petals out of the pool.
She smokes while doing this.

Ronnie walks out. Ann tries to hide the cigarette until she realizes it's Ronnie. Ann holds up the PACK.

ANN
Want one?

RONNIE
I quit.

Ann takes a long drag.

ANN
So did I.

The moon's reflection shimmers in the pool. Ann tries to catch it. No luck.

RONNIE
I just came to apologize and say goodbye.

ANN
My senior year in high school, I used to go to the top of Grouse Mountain every full moon. I thought I could get close enough to touch it. My mother thought I was crazy.

RONNIE
I don't mean to be rude, but you are going to pay me for today, aren't you?

ANN
I wish you wouldn't leave.

RONNIE
Didn't you fire me?

ANN
Did Sasha tell you that?

RONNIE
You did. You said this wasn't going to work.

Ann laughs.

ANN
I meant the brass pots. It wasn't going to work to put them in the dishwasher.

Ronnie falls in a lounge chair.

ANN

Though you might wish I'd fired you after a few weeks here.

RONNIE

Sasha doesn't like me.

ANN

Sasha doesn't like any of us. Her mother is very sick.

RONNIE

You're not --

ANN

-- I'm Tony's second wife which makes me the evil stepmother. Nadia's in a hospital in Santa Barbara.

RONNIE

What's wrong with her?

ANN

It's complicated. I was dating Tony for six months before he told me he was married. He got divorced, and we got married six years ago. I don't blame Sasha for hating me.

RONNIE

Will she get better?

ANN

No. The thing about Sasha is you can't take it personally. Somewhere inside she really hurts.

Ann puts the pole down.

ANN

In the meantime, she's making all of us pay for it.

RONNIE

Does she see her mother often?

Ann stares at the moon then tosses her cigarette in the pool.

ANN

Seems if you just got high enough, you could touch it. Turn off those lights when you come in, will you?

Ann walks in the house.

INT. SASHA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Sasha eats a candy bar and watches a Cindy Crawford exercise tape. Sasha's leotard barely fits. KNOCK on the door.

SASHA

Who are you and what do you want?

Sasha throws the candy bar under her pillow.

RONNIE (O.S.)

It's Ronnie. I wanted to apologize for the blouse.

SASHA

Don't worry, it was only my favorite.

RONNIE (O.S.)

I'll replace it. Are you gonna open the door?

Sasha does but blocks the doorway, so Ronnie can't come in.

RONNIE

I'm not sure how you and I got off on the wrong foot, but I'd like to start over.

Cindy Crawford's doing lunges on the video.

SASHA

Translation?

RONNIE

I'd like to be your friend.

SASHA

What's this, "Sound of Music"? You think I'm going to sneak into your room after a rainstorm? I don't need your friendship.

RONNIE
You need something.

SASHA
Who do you think you are? You're hired
help.

RONNIE
Anything I can help you with?

SASHA
Yeah, I'll take tuna in my lunch tomorrow.

Sasha slams her door.

EXT. SASHA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Ronnie glares at the CAMERA.

INT. SASHA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Sasha retrieves the candy bar and crams the last bite in her mouth.

Beautiful Cindy continues to exercise.

Sasha pulls a bag of weed out of her drawer. She stops the exercise tape, turns to "The Simpsons", and rolls a joint.

INT. RONNIE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Ronnie walks in her bedroom to find Katie sleeping in her bed. She rushes over.

Phew! Katie hasn't wet the bed yet. Ronnie picks her up.

INT. KATIE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Ronnie lays Katie in her bed and puts the covers over her.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Ronnie has the breakfast thing going pretty good. There's a stack of Eggo waffles and a plate of scrambled eggs.

Sasha walks in, grabs a couple of waffles and walks out, slamming the backdoor. Ronnie looks at the CAMERA.

RONNIE

You've heard of the terrible twos? The
twelves are twice as bad.

Ronnie looks out the window and sees a young guy get out of an old car that's parked by the curb.

Sasha kisses him long, before she gets in the passenger side. When the car drives away, Ronnie sees its bumpersticker:

TOKE YOUR WAY TO A BETTER MOOD

INT. RONNIE'S BEDROOM - DAY

Katie runs in Ronnie's open door. She lifts her dress to reveal her underwear.

KATIE

I love my new pink undies, Ronnie.

Ann enters.

ANN

Are you sure you don't want to go to the
Getty with us?

RONNIE

I need to run some errands.

ANN

I'm using the Jeep today, so go ahead and
take my car.

Ronnie smiles at the CAMERA.

INT. CONVERTIBLE MERCEDES - DAY

Ronnie, in sunglasses, honks outside an apartment building. Happy runs out the door.

HAPPY

You're kidding.

RONNIE
Do I look like I'm kidding?

TIME CUT TO:

INT. CONVERTIBLE MERCEDES - DAY

Ronnie and Happy cruise down the highway. Her wedding dress, hung in the back, billows like a kite.

In profile, Ronnie looks cool. Happy merely looks like a tot.

EXT. GAP STORE - DAY

Ronnie fishes through her purse.

HAPPY
Quit stalling.

RONNIE
I never told them I was quitting. They'll be furious.

HAPPY
Let's get your check and go. You have nothing to worry about.

Ronnie and Happy walk in the store.

INT. GAP STORE - DAY

That dopey music you only hear in the Gap fills the place.

Yet Gap music and magic grind to a halt when Ronnie steps over the threshold. Everyone stares.

The manager, TAD, approaches in his Easy Fit jeans and Maui Coral pique polo shirt.

He bristles when he reaches Ronnie, then hands her an envelope.

TAD
Hand it over.

RONNIE

Tad, I --

An EMPLOYEE, dressed in Gap gear, approaches.

EMPLOYEE

-- You heard what he said. Hand it over.

Ronnie retrieves her Gap badge from her purse and hands it to Tad.

TAD

I never should have given you that ten-cent raise.

Tad turns on his heel and walks away.

EMPLOYEE

Ingrate.

Ronnie and Happy walk out.

EXT. GAP STORE - DAY

From outside we hear the music and commotion resume in the store.

INT. BRIDAL SHOP - DAY

Ronnie follows a saleslady, JOAN, around the store. Happy trails behind.

JOAN

Darling, these kind of things happen all the time. Wedding jitters.

RONNIE

You don't understand. The wedding is off. I need a refund.

Joan goes behind the counter and pulls a copy of Ronnie's receipt out of the box.

She hands it to Ronnie. Stamped across the receipt:

NO REFUNDS

RONNIE

There must be some exception.

Joan turns the receipt over in Ronnie's hands. On the back:

NO EXCEPTIONS

JOAN

Give it time with your fiance, it'll blow over.

Behind a rack, a young child stares at Happy.

RONNIE

I paid seven hundred dollars for that dress, and I need that money.

JOAN

Come, come, tell Mother Joan. What did he do? Did he come home drunk? Did he complain about the wedding expenses?

Joan leans forward.

JOAN

Did he tell you he likes Miss July's breasts better?

RONNIE

No, Joan, he didn't. He blew the UPS guy in our soon-to-be bedroom while sitting on my Beanie Baby collection.

Beat.

Joan opens the register and counts out seven hundred dollar bills.

EXT. STEVE'S HOUSE - DAY

Ronnie gets out of the car.

RONNIE

I think I better do this one alone.

INT. HOUSE - DAY

Ronnie closes the door behind her.

RONNIE

Steve?

A guy, XAVIER, 28, prances down the steps, clad only in his underwear.

XAVIER

Is that you, darling?

RONNIE

Not quite. When is darling coming back?

EXT. BACK PORCH - DAY

Ronnie sits on the steps and smokes a cigarette. The screen door opens and someone walks out. It's Steve.

STEVE

I thought you quit.

Ronnie looks at the CAMERA.

RONNIE

That's right, I did. And I don't want to be a negative influence on any of you kids out there.

Ronnie takes a long drag then puts the cigarette out.

SCENE REPLAYS

Ronnie sits on the steps and takes a hit off a huge bong. She looks at the CAMERA and shakes her head.

SCENE REPLAYS A THIRD TIME

Ronnie sits on the steps and picks her hangnails. Steve walks out and sits down. He leans into her.

STEVE

I'm sorry.

RONNIE

Steve, we can't --

STEVE

I know.

INT. FINANCIAL AID OFFICE - DAY

Ronnie counts out money for Lavonya. Ronnie pulls her yellow sheet out and crosses out \$6000. She writes \$4200 below it.

INT. CONVERTIBLE MERCEDES - DAY

They park in front of Pressa's trailer. Happy plays with the electric windows. Ronnie gets out.

RONNIE

You're not coming with?

HAPPY

Forget it. Your mom scares me.

RONNIE

She scares me, too. Come on, I need help carrying stuff.

HAPPY

Get it to the front door, and I'll bring it to the car.

Ronnie walks away.

INT. TRAILER - DAY

Ronnie walks in and tosses her keys on the cluttered dining room table.

RONNIE

Mom?

Ronnie walks through the trailer. Her mother's bed is unmade, and that's the neatest thing in the place.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Sink's full of dirty dishes. Ronnie loads them into the dishwasher.

TIME CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Ronnie dries her hands and leaves the now clean kitchen.

INT. MERCEDES - DAY

Happy watches Pressa get out of her car and head up the stairs.

INT. DINING ROOM - DAY

Ronnie picks up two boxes and grabs her keys. She stops at the door and sets the boxes down.

Ronnie sorts through piles of mail and other assorted crap on the battered old hutch.

She opens drawers which are crammed full. One drawer barely opens.

There's the sound of a KEY in the lock. Pressa walks in with a bag of groceries.

PRESSA

What are you doing here?

RONNIE

I came to pick up some of my stuff.

PRESSA

You don't have any stuff in there. What are you looking for?

Pressa shuts the drawer Ronnie was rifling through.

RONNIE

I didn't come to fight with you.

PRESSA

Why did you come?

Pressa walks into the kitchen.

RONNIE

I guess I needed cheering up.

PRESSA (O.S.)

What?

RONNIE

I wanted to help you clean up.

PRESSA

I don't need you looking after me, Miss College Girl.

RONNIE

(quiet)

You don't need me at all.

PRESSA

Leave your key. I don't want everybody and their brother having a key to my home.

Ronnie slips the house key off her ring and sets it on the table. She picks up her boxes and leaves.

Pressa walks out of the kitchen and stops when she sees the key on the table.

ON PRESSA...sad.

Pressa pulls a bag of peas, some toilet paper, and one of those huge bottles of gin out of the bag.

EXT. TRAILER - DAY

Ronnie puts the boxes in the trunk of the car.

INT. MERCEDES - DAY

Ronnie grips the steering wheel. Seems to be fighting back tears.

RONNIE

I'm not everybody and their brother.

Happy takes her hand.

HAPPY

Are we done?

RONNIE

Almost.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Ronnie sets a pizza box on the table. Ann rushes through in a business suit.

ANN

Smells good.

KATIE

When will you be home?

ANN

After you're in bed. I'll see you in the morning.

Through the window we see a car pull up, blaring LOUD MUSIC. Sasha gets out, runs to the backdoor, and lets herself in.

KATIE

Sasha, there's pizza for dinner.

Sasha flips the box closed.

SASHA

I don't eat pepperoni.

KATIE

Yes, you do.

SASHA

Shut up, squash. I'm a vegetarian now.

ANN

Don't tell her to shut up.

SASHA

Whatever you say, Ann.

Sasha peels her coat off and tosses it in the corner, ten feet away. A bag of WEED falls out. Sasha's horrified.

ANN

What have I told you about throwing your things around?

Ann's a foot away from it but doesn't see it yet. Ann reaches down to pick up the coat.

Ronnie sees the weed and kicks it under the table. Ann hands the coat to Sasha.

Sasha takes it. She looks at Ronnie then leaves the kitchen.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Sasha slams her bedroom door and throws the coat in the corner. There's a Nordstrom bag on her bed.

She opens it and pulls out a beautiful white blouse.

INT. RONNIE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Ronnie reads the Northridge Fall Schedule book. Katie opens the door, and Ronnie shoves the book under her pillow.

KATIE

Can I sleep with you?

Ronnie shakes her head no. Katie leaves. Ronnie retrieves the schedule book.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Sasha looks under the kitchen table. Of course the weed is gone.

The open pizza box sits on the table. Sasha picks the cheese and pepperoni off and stuffs it in her mouth.

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

Sasha stands in front of Ronnie's door. Lifts her hand to knock then stops.

Ronnie opens the door and walks out with a basket of laundry.

RONNIE

Hi.

SASHA

Hi, I wanted to --
Thank you for the blouse.

Ronnie walks into the laundry room and throws her stuff in the machine.

RONNIE

You're welcome.

SASHA

You didn't have to do that, because accidents happen. I mean, we're all human, right?

Ronnie smiles and nods.

SASHA

I'm always telling Larry --
Larry's the guy that drives me around.
He's not my boyfriend, but --

RONNIE

-- You're pretty young to be driving around with a boy.

SASHA

Anyway, I'm always telling Larry he shouldn't be so hard --

Ronnie looks through the cabinet and frowns. She walks into the kitchen.

RONNIE (O.S.)

-- I'm listening.

SASHA

He shouldn't be so hard on himself. You don't do anybody any good by being hard on yourself.

Ronnie returns with bleach.

RONNIE

Certainly don't. Did you leave the pizza on the table?

SASHA

Yeah, I did. I guess I'm not quite a vegetarian. Do you eat meat?

RONNIE

All the time. You should throw the crust away. No one's going to eat that.

SASHA

Are you kidding? Ann will polish it off tonight.

Ronnie walks out and goes to her room.

RONNIE

She doesn't seem like the pizza type.

SASHA

Don't let appearances fool you.

RONNIE

I won't. Good night.

Ronnie closes her door.

INT. RONNIE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Ronnie opens one of her drawers. Sasha's bag of weed is in there. Ronnie winks at the CAMERA.

RONNIE

I think I've got the upper hand.

EXT. PLAYGROUND - DAY (VIDEO)

Edie stands behind a child on a swing.

MILES (O.S.)

Roll tape, and Action.

Edie pushes the child on the swing.

EDIE RHODES

At Granny's Nanny Agency, we believe playtime with children is a very important thing.

The child pumps her legs.

EDIE RHODES

Many children who are struggling academically would do better with regular

(MORE)

EDIE RHODES (cont'd)
trips to the park than tutors after
school.

The child goes higher and higher on the swing.

EDIE RHODES
At Granny's, we train our nannies to
include physical exercise with the
children as a regular part of their weekly
routine.

The assistant director, YONA, 34, pulls her headset off.

YONA
Jesus, Miles, that kid's going pretty high
on the swing.

EDIE RHODES
(O.S.)
Our nannies make it a point to find the
neighborhood park.

MILES
Shh-h. Ten more seconds and we've got a
commercial.

Eddie pushes the child.

EDIE RHODES
If you need a nanny, come to Granny's --
There is a CRASH, and the swing comes back empty.

EDIE RHODES
-- Where we've got the right touch.

END VIDEO

EXT. BACKYARD - DAY

In jeans, Ronnie reclines on a deck chair while Katie and
Sasha splash in the pool.

Katie fills a cup with water and sneaks up behind Ronnie.
Tosses it at her, then runs and jumps in the pool.

Ronnie ignores her.

KATIE

Why won't you come swim with us?

RONNIE

I don't like to swim.

KATIE

Marco Polo is more fun with three.

RONNIE

Sorry.

Sasha gets out of the pool and comes dripping over to Ronnie.
Katie takes off across the pool.

SASHA

She's right. It's more fun with three.

RONNIE

You're blocking my sun.

SASHA

I can teach you.

RONNIE

Teach me what?

SASHA

You know what. It's 95 degrees, and
you're by a pool in jeans.

RONNIE

I don't have a suit.

SASHA

Ann's got ten. What's the matter? Don't
you trust me?

Ronnie finally takes Sasha's outstretched hand.

INT. POOL - DAY

Ronnie is drenched. She's got water wings around her arms.
They look so silly.

SASHA

Let's try something easier. Let's have
you float on your back.

RONNIE
Sounds worse than swimming.

SASHA
I'll hold you.

KATIE
I have to go to the bathroom.

SASHA
It's easy. Watch.

Sasha floats.

RONNIE
I don't want to.

KATIE
Sasha, I have to pee.

SASHA
Get out and go.

KATIE
I don't want to go by myself.

RONNIE
I'll take you.

SASHA
She can go by herself. Just try it,
Ronnie.

Ronnie hesitates, then lies back. Sasha supports her.

KATIE
Sasha.

SASHA
Shut up, Katie. Relax, Ronnie, and close
your eyes.

Sasha holds Ronnie and walks toward the deep end.

SASHA
Are you going to give it back?

RONNIE
Give what back?

Katie squats on the steps. She's obviously pissing in the pool.

SASHA
You know what.

RONNIE
No, I'm not.

Sasha is up to her shoulders, holding Ronnie.

SASHA
It doesn't belong to you.

RONNIE
That's right, it doesn't. But you're a minor, and marijuana is illegal.

Lily runs around the pool.

SASHA
You're probably going to smoke it.

RONNIE
As if I'd smoke that Humboldt stinkweed.

Sasha lets Ronnie go. Ronnie floats for a second then sinks. She splashes and struggles to get to the side.

Ronnie heaves herself out of the water, coughing.

RONNIE
You fucking brat. I could have drowned.

KATIE
You said fuck.

SASHA
She sure did, Katie. We'll tell Ann.

RONNIE
Tell her. I'm sure she'll be interested in my little find.

Sasha floats in the pool.

SASHA
You're a real bitch.

RONNIE

You think you can jerk people around
because your mom's sick?

KATIE

Her mommy's got marble scareosis.

SASHA

Shut up, Katie.

RONNIE

Show me someone who has the perfect
mother.

KATIE

My mother's perfect.

Ronnie goes in the house.

SASHA

I'll take you to the bathroom now, brat.

KATIE

I don't have to go anymore.

SASHA

That's gross. I'm going to tell Ann
you're still doing that.

KATIE

When Dad comes home, I'll tell him what I
saw you doing behind the garage last week.

Sasha storms over to Katie and holds her head underwater.
Katie comes to the surface, coughing and sputtering.

KATIE

Now you're really in trouble. Mom says
you could drown me doing that.

Sasha gets out of the pool.

SASHA

There's always hope.

INT. BATHROOM - DAY

Ronnie's in the shower. Katie bursts in.

KATIE
Sasha's bleeding.

INT. UPSTAIRS - DAY

Ronnie runs down the hallway. She bursts into Sasha's room.

INT. SASHA'S ROOM - DAY

Katie waits outside Sasha's closed bathroom door.

Outside BIRDS SING in the trees, and there is the SOUND OF CARS going by on Beverly Glen.

RONNIE
What happened?

SASHA (O.S.)
Get out.

KATIE
Something on her hand. It was all over.

SASHA (O.S.)
I swear I'm going to kill you, Katie.

RONNIE
Sasha, open the door.

KATIE
Is she going to die?

SASHA (O.S.)
No, but you are.

RONNIE
I said open the door.

SASHA (O.S.)
Fuck you, you're not my mother.

RONNIE
Open the goddamn door.

Everything, including the birds outside, goes completely silent. Sasha opens the door.

RONNIE

What did you do to your hand?

Sasha's hand is bloody, but she opens the door further, and we see the blood in her underwear.

The birds SING again, and traffic continues.

INT. BATHROOM - DAY

Ronnie's hand is balled into a fist. Just loose enough though that she can stick her finger in.

She's got a TAMPON in her other hand. Sasha watches.

RONNIE

This would be a whole lot easier if you'd just wear pads.

SASHA

No diapers.

There's a KNOCK on the door.

RONNIE

Alright, so pretend my fist is your vagina.

SASHA

I don't want you to think I'm some spastic who doesn't know where a tampon goes. I just don't know how to do it.

Ronnie sticks the tampon into her hand.

RONNIE

Put it in like this. Then once it won't go any further, push the plunger up.

Ronnie pulls the cardboard out and the tampon is still in her fist.

RONNIE

Voila. The dike's plugged.

Another KNOCK.

KATIE (O.S.)

Why can't I come in?

SASHA

The string just sticks out?

RONNIE

Yep, try it. I'll wait outside.

KATIE (O.S.)

Let me in.

SASHA

Maybe you could wait here. In case --

Ronnie nods. Camera shoots the two of them above the waist, while Sasha puts her tampon in.

SASHA

There, I think I did it right. It feels funny.

RONNIE

It should. You've got an inanimate object in your vagina.

KATIE (O.S.)

I want to see.

SASHA

Katie, shut --
Just cool it. We'll be out in a minute.

RONNIE

Now rinse your underwear in cold water, not hot, or they'll stain.

SASHA

Ronnie, I --

RONNIE

-- A little bit of bleach helps, too.

Ronnie opens the door.

KATIE

Why wouldn't you guys let me in?

Ronnie hands Katie the clean tampon in her hand.

KATIE

What's this thing?

RONNIE

Put it in water and watch what happens.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Katie stares at the tampon in the glass of water. Of course it's expanded to twice its size.

INT. RONNIE'S BEDROOM - DAY

Sasha sits on Ronnie's bed, looking at Ronnie's photographs in the box. Ronnie futzes in her closet.

SASHA

I'm sorry about what I did in the pool.
My dad's busted me twice for pot, and if
I'm caught again, I don't get to drive
around with Larry.

RONNIE

Makes sense to me. You're too young to be
driving around with a boy and way too
young to be smoking pot.

SASHA

I need my freedom.

RONNIE

That's not freedom, it's escape.

SASHA

I'm not saying you have to give the pot
back. Just don't tell anyone.

RONNIE

What do I get in return?

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Ronnie and Katie knock on Sasha's door. Sasha opens it.

SASHA

Yeah?

KATIE

We want you to come bowling with us.

SASHA

Why would I do that?

She starts to close the door, but Ronnie blocks the way with her foot.

INT. BOWLING ALLEY - NIGHT

Katie tries to pick up a ball, but it won't budge. Ronnie nods to Happy.

Happy approaches, and Katie is amazed. He's about her size.

RONNIE

He'll help you find a ball, Katie.

KATIE

Will he be able to lift it?

TIME CUT TO:

INT. BOWLING ALLEY - NIGHT

Sasha steps up to the line. She rolls, but the ball goes in the gutter.

From the scorecard illuminated above the lane, we see that's Sasha's third gutterball in a row.

Ronnie's had two strikes. Katie's only bowled once, but she got two pins down.

On the bench, Katie swings her legs along with Happy. Whatever she does, he follows. She loves it.

Sasha steps up to bowl again.

RONNIE

Want a suggestion?

SASHA

I'd be stupid not to.

RONNIE

Imagine the pins are someone you hate.

Sasha bowls, and she gets nine pins down.

SASHA

Is that what you do?

Ronnie steps up to the lane next to Sasha and bowls another strike.

RONNIE

That was my fourth grade teacher, Mrs. Ridley. She convinced me I was a sloppy dresser.

Sasha bowls and picks up the spare.

SASHA

Julie Osmer. I rescued that nerd, then she ditched me when she got popular.

Ronnie steps up to the line. Ooh, she gets a nasty split.

RONNIE

Gary Pretzlaff. During swim class, he called me the incredible bulk.

SASHA

He did?

RONNIE

In front of everybody. He also called me thunder thighs.

SASHA

What a dick.

RONNIE

I know.

Ronnie steps up to the line again.

RONNIE

If I pick this up, Gary is in a porno theater somewhere whacking off, because women won't go near him.

SASHA

And he's got acne with whiteheads oozing gunk everywhere.

RONNIE
Even on his back?

SASHA
Especially on his back. And his ass.

Ronnie concentrates and gets the split.

SASHA
Poor Gary. You just screwed him.

RONNIE
He screwed himself.

Sasha bowls and gets a STRIKE. She stands at the line for awhile.

RONNIE
Who was that?

SASHA
(defensive)
I don't want to play anymore.

Sasha sits down.

TIME CUT TO:

INT. BOWLING ALLEY - NIGHT

Happy walks back with French fries and nachos. Katie carries sodas.

The scorecard shows Ronnie's gotten eight strikes in a row. A few people have gathered around her lane to watch.

Ronnie steps up to the line, ball in hand. Ronnie bowls and gets stuck with a nasty split.

KATIE
Is it my turn now?

Katie only bowled once. Ronnie resets the pins.

RONNIE
Yes.

SASHA
What are you doing?

HAPPY

She's taking her toys and going home.

SASHA

You're quitting?

Katie heaves a mint green bowling ball. It bounces into the next lane, but she gets three pins down. The man on that lane frowns.

Katie sits back down. Ronnie takes off her bowling shoes.

SASHA

Then I quit, too.

RONNIE

You can't quit.

SASHA

Says who?

RONNIE

You just learned how to bowl. How are you going to get better?

Sasha takes off her shoes.

SASHA

I guess neither of us are.

INT. RONNIE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Ronnie looks at her yellow financial aid sheet. She only owes \$2000 now.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Katie frosts cookies at the dining room table. Sasha licks frosting from a spoon.

RONNIE

I only have one hamper in the laundry room, and it's Tuesday.

SASHA

It's upstairs. Sorry.

Sasha grabs her purse. Ann walks in.

ANN

Where are you going?

SASHA

I'm going to watch Larry breed his dachshund, Trudy.

ANN

Not today. I got tickets for the Lion King play, remember?

SASHA

You said Friday night.

Ronnie unloads the dishwasher.

ANN

No, I said Friday night was sold out. I got matinee tickets.

SASHA

Larry's coming to pick me up. I have plans.

ANN

You have plans with your family, and I spent \$300 on these tickets.

SASHA

Give me a break, Ann. You binge and throw up \$300 worth of food a weekend.

Sasha walks out the back door.

EXT. BACKYARD - DAY

Ann prunes her roses. Never mind that she's in a suit and high heels. Ronnie walks out.

RONNIE

Ann?

ANN

I know. I'm ravaging my metabolism, screwing my electrolytes, and destroying the enamel on my teeth. But goddamn it, I like being thin. So please don't say it.

RONNIE

I was just going to say Katie and I are
ready whenever you are.

Ronnie leaves. Ann cuts a perfect rose, then plucks its
petals out.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Ronnie enters. Stops when she hears something in the
kitchen.

Someone in black fiddles with something in the cupboard.
Ronnie pulls a frying pan off the stove.

RONNIE

Raise your hands, slowly, and turn around.

The MAN does. He holds a box of See's chocolates.

MAN

You must be Ronnie.

TIME CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

The Man is Ann's husband, TONY, 43 - Ferrari slick with a
smile. He grabs Ann from behind.

TONY

The nanny's a little over the top, don't
you think?

ANN

She didn't know you, Tony, and we weren't
expecting you.

Tony grabs Ann's breasts.

TONY

How long do you think I can go without
fucking you? I've only got the weekend.
Let's go to Frisco.

ANN

Don't you want to spend the weekend with
the girls?

TONY

I'll be back in three weeks. Plenty of time then. I want to see you.

ANN

Ronnie has weekends off. I'm going to have to check with her.

TONY

She's an employee. Tell her she's working.

ANN

You're so good with people. I can't understand why you work with computers.

Ann leaves. Tony retrieves the See's candy box from the cupboard.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Darkness throughout the house. There's the sound of a KEY in the lock.

SASHA (O.S.)

Hello?

Sasha turns on the lights. Ronnie, Katie, and Happy jump out.

RONNIE, KATIE,
HAPPY

Surprise!

SASHA
Surprise what?

KATIE
Mom's gone for the weekend.

SASHA
What?

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

EARTH, WIND, AND FIRE'S "SEPTEMBER" PLAYS OVER THE FOLLOWING SCENES:

Ronnie, Sasha, Happy, and Katie do mock ballroom dancing.

INT. BATHROOM - DAY

The four of them bathe Lily in the bathtub. The dog shakes water everywhere and tears out of the bathroom.

Sasha, Katie, and Happy run after the dog.

Ronnie looks at the CAMERA.

RONNIE

I know this is all very Hallmark-ish, but
Hallmark works sometimes. Besides, Earth
Wind and Fire kicks ass.

EXT. BACKYARD - DAY

Ronnie floats on her back in the pool with Sasha holding her.
Sasha lets go.

Ronnie floats for a moment, until she realizes she's doing it
by herself. Flails around.

Sasha catches her.

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

Happy walks out of Katie's closet wearing one of her dresses.
It practically fits.

Ronnie and Katie HOWL with laughter.

MUSIC ENDS

INT. KATIE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Ronnie tucks Katie in. Katie leans in for a kiss, but Ronnie
hesitates and pats Katie on the head instead.

Sasha leans against one wall, and Happy sits on the floor.

KATIE

Aren't you going to sing me a song?

RONNIE

I'm not the singing type.

KATIE

But my Mommy always sings me to sleep.

RONNIE

Sorry.

SASHA

(sings)

You are my sunshine
my only sunshine.
You make me happy
when skies are gray.

Happy joins in and harmonizes with Sasha.

HAPPY AND SASHA

You'll never know dear
How much I love you.
Please don't take
my sunshine away.

A tear streams down Sasha's face as she continues.

SASHA

Please don't take
my sunshine away.

INT. SASHA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Sasha lies on her bed, and Ronnie walks in.

RONNIE

Now I suppose it's time for me to tuck you
in?

Sasha doesn't move.

RONNIE

I had fun tonight. Thanks for the song.

Still no response.

Ronnie leaves.

SASHA (O.S.)

My mom used to sing it to me.

Ronnie re-enters the room.

RONNIE

My mom was never the singing type.

SASHA

You're like her.

ON RONNIE...stunned.

RONNIE

What?

SASHA

I'm tired, I want to go to bed.

Ronnie doesn't move.

SASHA

And it would be easier to go to bed if
you'd leave.

RONNIE

Good night.

Ronnie turns off the light and exits.

Sasha waits before turning the light back on.

She opens her closet and pulls out a shoebox from the top
shelf. Various bits and pieces inside.

Sorts through the box and finds a picture. It's a much
younger Sasha being hugged by a woman with the same dark hair
and eyes. Presumably, her mother.

Sasha puts the picture in her backpack and dons the blouse
Ronnie gave her. Sasha dials the phone.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Outside, a car door slams. The car drives away.

INT. RONNIE'S BEDROOM - DAY

Ronnie goes through one of her boxes of photographs. She closes her eyes then opens them to smile at the CAMERA.

Katie and Happy are laughing in the kitchen.

INT. BATHROOM - DAY

Ronnie hums "You are My Sunshine" while she showers. It's going to be a good day.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Ronnie makes French toast. Happy and Katie walk in from outside. They've got Lily on a leash.

RONNIE

I thought we'd go to the beach today.

HAPPY

I hate the beach. People always stare at me there.

KATIE

I'll protect you.

RONNIE

Someone better go get lazybones. She's not up yet.

KATIE

Race you.

Katie and Happy tear off. Bacon burns in another pan.

Katie races back in, holding the letter. Happy follows.

HAPPY

She's gone.

RONNIE

Who's gone?

Katie hands her the letter. It merely says:

I'M GONE

TIME CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Happy futzes with the FIRE ALARM that's going off. Smoke fills the kitchen, and the burned bacon pan sits in the sink.

Ronnie's on the phone with Sasha's address book in her lap. She hangs up, and the alarm stops.

RONNIE
Larry's gone, too.

HAPPY
It'll be okay.

RONNIE
I'm a nanny, and I've lost a kid. This is not going to look good on the resume.

Katie cries. Ronnie takes her in her arms.

RONNIE
We'll find her.

HAPPY
You should probably call her parents.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - DAY

Tony slams the phone down. Ann frantically packs.

TONY
Goddamn her.

ANN
We'll find her. Don't worry.

TONY
I didn't need this hassle today.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Ronnie flips through the phone book and dials another number. She hangs up.

Outside Happy tries to engage Katie in a game, but she's not into it. The phone rings.

RONNIE

Hello?

EXT. HOUSE - DAY

Ronnie loads Happy and Katie into the Jeep. Ronnie jumps in and starts it.

INT. JEEP - DAY

HAPPY

Do you know where we're going?

RONNIE

North.

TIME CUT TO:

EXT. SANTA BARBARA - NURSING HOME - DAY

Ronnie parks. Beautiful trees and flowers garnish the grounds. Clearly, this is not a state-run place.

INT. CORRIDOR NURSES' STATION - DAY

Ronnie rushes in, followed by Happy and Katie. A NURSE is at the desk.

RONNIE

Hi, I'm looking for Sasha Clipper.

NURSE

Are you her stepmother?

RONNIE

No, I'm her nanny.

NURSE

I'm sorry, but you'll have to --

RONNIE

-- Her stepmom's out of town, and I need to see her now.

Ronnie looks at the CAMERA, surprised. The nurse walks to a door and motions Ronnie to follow. Happy and Katie follow, too.

NURSE

We found her in Nadia's bed this morning.
When Nadia woke up, she went into
hysterics. She didn't recognize Sasha,
and Sasha was devastated.

The nurse opens the door.

INT. NURSING HOME - ROOM - DAY

Sasha's mother, NADIA, 40, lies in bed, watching WHEEL OF FORTUNE.

Nadia's head shakes, uncontrollably. An ORDERLY clears breakfast dishes.

KATIE

Why does she shake like that?

HAPPY

Let's get something to eat, Katie.

Happy walks Katie away.

RONNIE

Where's Sasha now?

The orderly nods toward the children's playground visible from Nadia's window.

Sasha is swinging.

EXT. NURSING HOME - DAY

Sasha twists around and around in the swing. Lets go, and she twirls like a top.

Larry snores while sleeping on the ground.

Ronnie approaches.

RONNIE

That's the worst thing about getting older.

SASHA

Excuse me?

RONNIE

I used to love spinning like that when I was a kid, now it makes me dizzy.

Sasha twists herself in the swing again.

SASHA

Dizzy's what I'm going for.

RONNIE

Eventually you stop liking it.

Sasha twirls in a dizzy circle again.

SASHA

She wet her pants at my piano recital when I was six.

RONNIE

Sounds embarrassing.

SASHA

I wanted to die.

RONNIE

I meant for her. What did you play?

SASHA

I don't remember. Sometimes I wish my mother would just die.

RONNIE

Don't say that.

Ronnie sits in the swing next to Sasha.

SASHA

I used to bring an apple to my first grade teacher every day hoping she'd take me home with her. One day I saw her throwing it in the trash, and I knew that I was stuck in my house. My dad put my mom in a home a month later, and Ann moved in. You tell me, what does my mother have to live for?

RONNIE

You.

Sasha bursts into tears. Hesitantly, Ronnie hugs her. Sasha sobs harder, and Ronnie embraces her.

SASHA

I don't want you feeling sorry for me.

RONNIE

Don't worry, I'm too busy feeling sorry for me.

Sasha laughs, and they part.

SASHA

I'd feel sorry for myself if I were you, too.

RONNIE

Thanks a lot.

SASHA

I mean about your parents getting killed.

RONNIE

Oh right. Sasha, my parents weren't missionaries eaten by lions.

SASHA

What?

RONNIE

I lied. I've never been to Africa. I've never even been out of California.

SASHA

You are so lame.

RONNIE

I know, it was a rotten thing to do.

SASHA

I mean it's lame that you haven't been out of California. You made the whole story up just to get a nanny job at our house?

Sasha doubles over with laughter.

RONNIE

I'm glad I can cheer you up.

SASHA

Fess up about the parents.

RONNIE

I lived with my mom in a trailer park before I took the job at your house. I haven't seen my dad since I was four.

SASHA

I've never met anybody that lived in a trailer.

RONNIE

You're not going to tell Ann all this, are you?

Sasha drapes her arm over Ronnie's shoulder.

SASHA

Your secret's safe with me, trailer trash.

ON RONNIE...shocked.

SASHA

Kidding. I owe you one. You've been lying to me.

Sasha gives Larry a nudge with her foot.

SASHA

Come on, we're going.

INT. JEEP - DAY

Ronnie pulls into the driveway. Katie and Happy jump out. Sasha sits in the front seat.

Ann runs out of the house and opens Sasha's door. She bearhugs Sasha out of the car.

EXT. CLIPPER HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

ANN

Thank God.

SASHA

Ann, chill.

ANN

I was so worried.

KATIE

Mommy, this is Happy. Isn't he cute?

ANN

Hello, Happy.

Ann smiles at Ronnie then walks in the house with Sasha and Katie.

Happy hangs back, but Ronnie waves him into the house. He goes in.

Ronnie gathers things from the backseat. She takes a minute to pull herself together and shuts the door.

Tony stands there.

RONNIE

You scared me.

TONY

Did I? Guess what? You scare me.

RONNIE

What do you mean?

TONY

I leave my daughters with you, and one runs away. Sasha's never done that before.

RONNIE

She wanted to see her mother.

TONY

She's also never wanted that before.

RONNIE

Don't be so sure. Excuse me, I need to talk to Ann.

Ronnie walks away.

TONY

Ronnie, I think you should talk to me.

He holds up the bag of weed.

RONNIE

Would it make any difference if I told you
it wasn't mine?

He opens the bag and sniffs the weed.

TONY

I don't care whose it is. I found it in
your room. Though why anyone would smoke
this Humboldt stinkweed is beyond me.

Tony seals the bag then tosses it at Ronnie.

TONY

You're fired.

INT. RONNIE'S ROOM - NIGHT

Ronnie carries her things to the door and walks out. Her
boxes of photographs are under the bed. So is the Northridge
catalog.

INT. ANN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Tony swings Katie in the air, and she SQUEALS with delight.
Ann and Sasha watch television on the bed.

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

Ronnie opens the backdoor.

Lily slips out, but Ronnie grabs her before she runs far.
Ronnie carries the dog to the dining room and shuts her in.

INT. DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Ronnie takes a framed picture of the two girls.

EXT. HOUSE - NIGHT

Ronnie gets in the passenger side of her truck and drives
away.

INT. ROOM - DAY (VIDEO)

Edie Rhodes sits in a rocking chair. The assistant, Yona, carries a cat to her.

EDIE RHODES
What's that?

YONA
It's a cat for the shoot, Mrs. Rhodes.

EDIE RHODES
I'm allergic to cats. There'll be no cats sitting on my lap.

YONA
Miles? She's allergic to cats.

Miles walks into frame.

EDIE RHODES
Deathly. I'll break out in a horrid rash.

MILES
Fine, just put it at her feet. Near the chair though, I want it in the shot.

Yona sets the cat at Edie's feet.

EDIE RHODES
If she jumps in my lap, I give her a toss.

MILES
The cat won't jump anywhere, Mrs. Rhodes.

Miles and Yona step out of frame.

MILES (O.S.)
Roll tape, and Action.

EDIE RHODES
Hello, I'm Edie Rhodes from Granny's Nanny Agency.

Edie rocks gently in the chair.

EDIE RHODES
We know many of our clients have pets that concern them almost as much as their children. We make it a point at Granny's
(MORE)

EDIE RHODES (cont'd)
to recruit nannies who have loving
experience with pets, too.

Edie rocks faster in the chair.

EDIE RHODES
Our nannies walk dogs, clean cat litter
boxes, adore hamsters, guinea pigs, fish,
and the occasional iguana.

Edie really rocks in the chair now. Getting closer and
closer to the SLEEPING CAT.

EDIE RHODES
So, if your household includes pets, and
you're looking for a nanny who can handle
it all, try Granny's Nanny Agency --

The cat SCREECHES and shoots through the frame.

EDIE RHODES
-- Where we'll caretake the kids as well
as the cats.

END VIDEO

INT. BOWLING ALLEY - NIGHT

Ronnie bowls, and deliberately shoots for the gutter. We see
she's been rolling gutterballs for the last nine frames.

Happy sits behind her.

RONNIE
Everyone quiets down in the gallery, as
Ronnie Lula steps up to the line.

HAPPY
You should talk to Ann.

Ronnie rolls another gutterball.

RONNIE
You can feel the tension. One more roll,
and Ronnie makes history on Lane 28 at the
MetroBowl in Reseda.

HAPPY
She's a reasonable woman.

A drunk wanders by behind the lanes. Ronnie yells up to him.

RONNIE

I'm going for a perfect game.

He looks at her scorecard of gutterballs and waves her away.
Ronnie rolls the ball into the gutter.

RONNIE

The crowd goes wild. It's not often you
see this kind of rampant failure.

HAPPY

She's a child of the sixties, it's not
that big a deal.

Ronnie takes her bowling shoes off.

HAPPY

Don't do this, Ronnie. It's a mistake.

RONNIE

No, it's a decision.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

An attractive black man, BECK, 22, slips into bed next to
Ronnie's former fiance, Steve.

BECK

There's a woman down on your couch.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Steve walks down the stairs and finds Ronnie on the couch.
He takes an afghan off a chair and places it over her.

He walks back upstairs. Ronnie opens her eyes and stares
ahead.

INT. PICK UP - DAY

Ronnie waits to get on the freeway. A homeless guy with a
sign and a cup waits.

Ronnie slips her Northridge sweatshirt off and tosses it to
the guy through the window.

He stares open-mouthed at Ronnie who drives off with only a bra on.

INT. CLIPPER KITCHEN - DAY

Tony cuts vegetables on the cutting board. Ann storms down the hall from Ronnie's room.

TONY

What did you expect me to do? She's dangerous to our kids.

ANN

Come on, Tony, we just stopped smoking it when Katie was born. What's the problem with Sasha seeing Nadia anyway?

Tony puts the knife down.

TONY

Sasha doesn't need to see her mother like that. It only scares her.

ANN

It scares you.

TONY

She's my daughter and my ex-wife. This isn't your business.

ANN

But firing the nanny is your business?

TONY

Ronnie doesn't belong here.

ANN

Fine. You explain it to our daughters.

Ann leaves the kitchen.

INT. DINING ROOM - DAY

Ann races through and doesn't see Sasha sitting in the corner.

EXT. PRESSA'S TRAILER - DAY

Ronnie fishes through her bags and finds a T-shirt. She slips it on and grabs her bags.

INT. PRESSA'S TRAILER - BEDROOM - DAY

Ronnie loads her clothing into a dresser. Pressa enters with some towels.

PRESSA

I didn't mind the drinking or the gambling, but I told him I am not going to have smut magazines in my home.

RONNIE

Are these sheets clean?

PRESSA

I think your old mother is destined to live out her days single. How about we go celebrate your return?

Ronnie smells the sheets.

RONNIE

Maybe later.

PRESSA

Tonight, then. We'll go grocery shopping, too. I'll make that stew you love.

RONNIE

I haven't eaten beef in three years, Mom. Are the sheets clean?

PRESSA

I think so.

Pressa leaves. Ronnie sets the framed picture of Sasha and Katie on her night table.

INT. CLIPPER HOUSE - RONNIE'S BEDROOM - DAY

Sasha looks around the empty room. Lily runs in and scoots under the bed.

Sasha retrieves the dog and finds the boxes of photos. Sasha looks at them, and a tear rolls down her cheek.

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

Ann sorts through a pile of papers. Katie walks in. Her eyes are red from crying. Ann takes Katie into her arms.

KATIE

It's my fault, isn't it?

ANN

Of course not. Why would you say that?

KATIE

I asked Daddy about Ronnie when he was eating the candy, and he yelled that --

ANN

-- Daddy doesn't eat candy, honey. He's diabetic.

KATIE

He has a whole box of See's in the kitchen, but he won't share it.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Out the window, we see Tony grilling steaks. Ann retrieves the box of See's candy from the cupboard.

Sasha and Katie are behind her.

Ann lifts the lid off the box. The candy cups are full of little cocaine vials. Full vials.

KATIE

Can I have one?

Ann gently pushes Katie's hand away.

EXT. CLIPPER HOUSE - DRIVEWAY - DAY

Tony stares at Ann and the girls before driving away in his BMW.

KATIE

When is Daddy coming back?

ANN

I don't know.

INT. PICK UP - DAY

Ronnie sits outside the Northridge campus and watches a gaggle of students.

Next to her on the seat is the yellow paper with the tuition balance owed to Northridge. It's ripped in half.

INT. DEAN'S OFFICE - DAY

Ronnie sits across from the Dean.

DEAN THORNTON

I've got a hundred people on a waiting list. If you change your mind, you're going to have to reapply next year.

RONNIE

I won't change my mind.

DEAN THORNTON

Why don't I contact the financial aid office? Sometimes there's a way around these things.

RONNIE

Thanks, anyway. To tell you the truth, I don't think I'm college material.

Ronnie opens the door to leave.

DEAN THORNTON

Miss Lula, if you weren't, we wouldn't have admitted you.

Ronnie leaves. Dean Thornton walks to his window and stares out at the beautiful campus.

EXT. GAP - DAY

From outside, we see Ronnie shake hands with Tad the manager. He hands her something.

INT. PICK UP - DAY

She throws the GAP BADGE in the driver's seat and drives away.

INT. JEEP - DAY

Ann drives, while Sasha studies a Thomas Guide. In the back, Katie thumbs through Ronnie's Northridge catalog.

KATIE

Is this the college by our house?

ANN

That's UCLA, honey.

SASHA

It should be up here on the left. Lot 115.

KATIE

Did Ronnie leave us to go to college?

ANN

I don't know. We'll have to ask her mother.

KATIE

I thought her Mommy got eaten by lions.

Ann stops in front of Pressa's trailer.

EXT. TRAILER - NIGHT

Ann knocks on Pressa's door. Sasha and Katie are behind her.

Pressa opens the door.

PRESSA

Can I help you?

ANN

I'm Ann Clipper. Your daughter Ronnie was working for me. Do you know where I can find her?

PRESSA

No, I don't.

Katie wrinkles her nose at the burning cigarette in Pressa's hand.

ANN

It's very important. There was a misunderstanding, and I need to talk with her.

PRESSA

I'm sorry, but I don't keep tabs on my grown daughter.

Ann hands her a business card.

ANN

If she does contact you, will you ask her to call me?

KATIE

Smoking's bad for you.

PRESSA

Cute kid.

Pressa closes the door.

ANN

What have I told you?

KATIE

Well, it is bad for you.

Sasha ruffles Katie's hair, and they walk away.

INT. TRAILER - NIGHT

Pressa sets the business card on fire with her lighter.

EXT. JEEP - NIGHT

Sasha waits outside the Jeep while Ann buckles Katie in the back.

SASHA
It was my pot.

ANN
I figured.

SASHA
I'm sorry, Ann. I'm sorry for all of it.

Ann hugs her.

ANN
Me too, kiddo. Me too.

EXT. TRAILER - NIGHT

Ann and the kids drive away. A moment later, Ronnie drives up in her pick up.

INT. TRAILER - NIGHT

Ronnie walks in.

PRESSA
Think you can still hold your own against
your mother in billiards?

RONNIE
One way to find out.

INT. BILLIARDS HALL - NIGHT

Ronnie watches her mother take aim for the eight ball. She shoots it in.

PRESSA
Not too shabby for an old lady.

A BARFLY guy smiles at Pressa, and she raises her beer to him.

BARFLY

Not too shabby at all.

RONNIE

You win. Forget about the bank.

Ronnie puts the balls away.

PRESSA

What?

RONNIE

You said you were going to bank the eight ball, but it's alright. You win.

Pressa unloads the ball box Ronnie's filling.

PRESSA

Let's play another game.

RONNIE

Let's get the grocery shopping done. You win, fair and square.

PRESSA

If you think I'm a cheater, I'll play you again.

Pressa puts the balls in the triangle for racking.

RONNIE

No one said you're a cheater, Mom. Let's go. I'm tired.

Ronnie picks up a ball to put it away, but Pressa squeezes it out of her hands.

PRESSA

You little bitch. I'll beat you fair and square. Rack them up.

The barfly eases away from the table.

INT. CAR - NIGHT

Pressa pulls into a parking space outside the grocery store. Ronnie sits.

PRESSA

Are you coming in with me?

Ronnie ignores her. Pressa leans over and kisses Ronnie's cheek.

INT. GROCERY STORE - NIGHT

Pressa waits in line at the checkout.

INT. CAR - NIGHT

Ronnie has a LIPSTICK KISS on her cheek. She tries to wipe it off. No luck.

Opens the glove box and finds a pack of tissues. Now she wipes the kiss away. Puts the tissues back and notices a pack of papers.

There's a letter with "Northridge" at the top.

Ronnie pulls it out. It's the letter from Northridge telling her she got in. It's dated back in May.

Ronnie sifts through the glovebox and finds another letter from the financial aid office.

INT. GROCERY STORE - NIGHT

Ronnie enters, letters in hand. Pressa unloads items. Pressa stops when she sees the letters, then continues.

PRESSA

We forgot the tartar sauce. Get Coleman's.

RONNIE

I hate tartar sauce.

PRESSA

No you don't.

Ronnie grabs a Snickers bar and bites into it.

Pressa rolls her eyes at the checker.

PRESSA

Kids will be kids, won't they?

Ronnie takes another huge bite.

PRESSA

Tartar sauce is back by the fish case.

Ronnie takes another Snickers bar off the shelf and heads toward the back.

She's halfway down an aisle then stops. She's finished the one candy bar and opens the second.

Ronnie looks at the CAMERA.

RONNIE

I did not come this far to gain 50 pounds.
Take two.

INT. GROCERY STORE - NIGHT

Ronnie walks in with the letters in her hand. Pressa unloads items.

PRESSA

We forgot the tartar sauce. Get
Coleman's.

Pressa sees the letters in Ronnie's hands.

ON PRESSA...frightened.

PRESSA

It's back at the fresh fish counter.

Ronnie heads down the aisle. Straight in front of her is the lobster tank.

Ronnie reaches the counter and stares at the lobsters. Their claws are bound with huge rubber bands.

The big ones trample the smaller ones. They claw and climb over one another, aspiring to what? A pot of boiling water?

A butcher sets down the shovel he's using to put ice into the fish case. He approaches.

BUTCHER

May I help you?

Coleman's tartar sauce is stacked on the counter.

Ronnie walks behind the fish case and grabs the shovel.

BUTCHER

What are you doing?

Ronnie swings the shovel into the lobster tank. It bounces off the glass.

She winds up and swings again. It crashes. Water and lobsters pour over the counter.

Free at last, free at last, the lobsters scramble away. Ronnie throws the shovel and runs down an aisle.

INT. JAIL CELL - NIGHT

Ronnie lies on her bunk. She's in a County jail orange jumpsuit as is the lobster next to her.

CAMERA pulls in closer, and Ronnie stares at it.

RONNIE

Wrong. I don't look good in orange.
Besides, why should the lobsters pay?

INT. GROCERY STORE - NIGHT

Ronnie walks in with the letters in her hand. Pressa unloads items.

PRESSA

We forgot the tartar sauce.

RONNIE

Fuck the tartar sauce.

Pressa drops the jar of mustard she's holding. It shatters. The customer behind them scowls.

PRESSA

What did you say?

Ronnie holds up the letters. Pressa resumes unloading the cart. The CASHIER picks up the intercom.

CASHIER

Clean up at Checkstand 3.

PRESSA

I did it for your own good, baby. We're not the college type.

RONNIE

We're nothing alike, you and me.

Ronnie walks out. A pimply BAG BOY bags groceries.

BAG BOY

Did you want me to get that tartar sauce?

INT. BASKIN-ROBBINS ICE CREAM STORE - NIGHT

The kids choose their flavors. Ann looks at the ice cream then turns away.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Ronnie walks Ventura Boulevard. Pressa drives behind her.

PRESSA

Ronnie, get in the car.

Ronnie continues.

PRESSA

Where are you going? Get in the car.
Ronnie, our house is the other way.

Ronnie catches up to a stopped cab and jumps in. The cab speeds off, and Pressa follows it.

INT. BASKIN-ROBBINS ICE CREAM STORE - NIGHT

Sasha hands Ann an ice cream cone. Ann hesitates, then takes it. She licks it and smiles. So does Sasha.

EXT. CLIPPER HOME - NIGHT

Ronnie runs to the backdoor and pounds on it. Verlinda answers.

RONNIE
I'm back.

VERLINDA
Were you gone?

INT. JEEP - NIGHT

Ann and the kids pull into the driveway. Ronnie waits on the porch.

Katie jumps out and crashes into Ronnie. Sasha hugs Ronnie, too. Ann and Verlinda join in.

Lily runs out the back door and devours the ice cream cone Katie holds.

RONNIE
Ann, it wasn't mine.

ANN
I know. We're glad you're back.

RONNIE
I don't think Tony will be.

ANN
Don't worry about Tony.

Verlinda crosses herself and kisses the crucifix around her neck.

Ronnie bursts into tears.

RONNIE
I love you all so much.

Sasha and Katie cry, too. Ann hugs them all.

Pressa pulls up behind the cab. Ronnie walks toward her mother's car. Pressa leans out and grabs Ronnie's hand.

PRESSA

I'll give you the money for college. Just
come home with me.

Ronnie gently rubs the lipstick from around her mother's
lipline.

Now Pressa only has lipstick on her lips. Ronnie kisses
Pressa.

RONNIE

I need to pick up the rest of my stuff.
I'll call you tomorrow.

PRESSA

Ronnie?

RONNIE

I love you, Mom.

Ronnie walks back to the Clipper family.

Sasha takes the Northridge catalog from Katie and hands it to
Ronnie.

SASHA

You left some stuff here.

RONNIE

I guess I'm destined to be a nanny. Who
cares about Northridge?

Katie pokes her finger into Ronnie's chest.

KATIE

You care about Northridge.

RONNIE

Maybe just a little.

ANN

You care about Northridge.

RONNIE

There's always next year.

Sasha stares at Ronnie.

SASHA

You care about Northridge.
It's time to broaden your world, Lula.

RONNIE

I've never even been to San Diego.

SASHA

Thank God you found us. That's all I can
say.

Ronnie looks at the CAMERA.

RONNIE

She's right.

EXT. POOL - DAY

It's a bright, shiny day, and Ronnie floats on her back all
by herself.

RONNIE (V.O.)

Who would've figured that Dean Thornton
would be so open to a flighty girl
changing her mind?

INT. DEAN'S OFFICE - DAY

Ronnie, in a Northridge T-shirt, shakes hands with Dean
Thornton.

RONNIE (V.O.)

Or that I'd actually start my freshman
year as a 29-year old?

INT. REGISTRAR'S OFFICE - DAY

Ronnie hands a check to Lavonya. Ronnie shreds the yellow
balance sheet and high fives Lavonya.

RONNIE (V.O.)

I don't know how long I want to be a
nanny, but there are worse part-time jobs.

INT. GAP STORE - DAY

Sparkly people listen to sparkly music and pick out sparkly clothing.

RONNIE (V.O.)

Things don't always turn out perfect in
the real world --

EXT. SEA WORLD - SHAMU STADIUM - DAY

Ronnie, Sasha, Katie, and Ann get drenched by Shamu cannonballing.

RONNIE (V.O.)

-- But it's still a great ride.

INT. NURSING HOME - NADIA'S ROOM - DAY

Sasha cuddles in bed with her mom while they watch Jeopardy.

RONNIE (V.O.)

Just remember the most important thing --

EXT. CLIPPER DRIVEWAY - DAY

Ronnie opens the driver's door of her old pick up truck. A young guy smiles, and Ronnie hands him the keys.

RONNIE (V.O.)

-- If you're okay with mistakes, do-overs
aren't necessary.

Ronnie stops and looks at the CAMERA.

RONNIE

And then, it all works out somehow.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Ronnie hustles Sasha and Katie into the Jeep. The two girls close their doors.

Ronnie opens the driver's door.

INT. JEEP - DAY

Ronnie starts to drive, then stops suddenly.

Three children, holding hands and dressed in white, stand in front of the Jeep.

SASHA

What are you waiting for?

Ronnie indicates the children in front of the Jeep.

SASHA

What?

Ronnie realizes Sasha doesn't see anything. The children smile and slowly walk across the street.

SASHA

Are you okay?

RONNIE

Yeah, I am.

Ronnie drives away.

Katie turns and waves at the departing children. The children wave back.

INT. ROOM - DAY (VIDEO)

Against an open door, Yona talks with Miles.

YONA

I think we need to face facts. She's not the right actress for the job.

MILES

You're right. She just looks like the perfect grandma. Who's going to tell her?

YONA

You're the one making the big bucks.

Miles sighs. The door behind them closes, and Edie Rhodes stands there.

EDIE RHODES

No one needs to tell me, dears. I heard you.

MILES

Mrs. Rhodes, commercials can be very demanding. The pressure --

She pats Miles' hand.

EDIE RHODES

-- You don't need to explain. I guess my acting days are over.

MILES

I'll see that you get paid for the whole week.

EDIE RHODES

Did I tell you that I once worked with Laurence Olivier?

Miles shakes his head no. Edie's eyes tear up.

EDIE RHODES

I'm an old woman who's having a hard time letting go of the past to move into the uncertain present. Even my desire to keep acting, well, it's time to surrender to reality.

Miles and Yona smile, gently.

EDIE RHODES

I'm going to get changed.

(beat)

There was a time I was very good.

Edie slips into the bathroom.

INT. BATHROOM - DAY

A tear rolls down her cheek. Edie stares in the mirror.

It's a good face. The wrinkles and liver spots indicate a life well-lived.

Edie futzes with something in her purse. Then we hear the telltale dialing of a cell phone.

EDIE RHODES

Bong? It's Edie Rhodes. Do you have anything?

(Beat)

*Fine. I'll be right over. Oh, Bong?
This isn't that Humboldt stinkweed, is it?
Good.*

She hangs up and looks at the CAMERA.

EDIE RHODES

I hate smoking that shit.

FADE OUT.

THE END