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EXT. GRAVE-SITE - DAY

Sophie and her sister Anna, and friends are grave-side for her parents funeral.

MINISTER

We intrust their souls to you Lord.
May they rest in peace.

Friends walk by hugging Sophie.

CUT TO:

INT. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE - DAY

Sophie meeting with her parent's attorney going over will. The attorney sitting behind his desk, Sophie in a chair.

ATTORNEY

How are you holding up Sophie?

SOPHIE

As well as anyone can that just lost both parents at the same time.

ATTORNEY

It's a terrible tragedy. I thought I would feel better when they caught the driver that hit them, but, I didn't. All I feel is a profound lost.

SOPHIE

I get a little peace thinking about him spending the next thirty years in a tiny room with no windows; but that's not going to bring my parents back.

ATTORNEY

Let's talk about your parent's will. Your made very specific plans. The house was left to you, of course they didn't see this scenario happening so they didn't leave money for you. They always said, "Sophie will get that degree and make good money." (Beat) They each had two life policies, one for the surviving spouse and the other for Anna's trust fund.

(MORE)

ATTORNEY (CONT'D)

Their thought was, the surviving parent would pay off the house and take care of Anna at home with help from the trust; but, if both parents died at the same time, after the house was paid off all remaining funds would go into Anna's trust account. It's not enough to cover everything but it should cover maybe sixty percent of any cost not covered by the health insurance.

SOPHIE

That's great, so I can put her in a care home and go back to college.

ATTORNEY

I'm afraid, Anna's health plan would only cover twenty percent of a care facility. If you put her in a care facility, it would eat up the trust money in maybe ten years, and you'll have nothing left for care or medicine.

SOPHIE

Okay, if she has to stay in the house, I'll pay someone to live with her so I can go back.

ATTORNEY

You could do that, the cost for twenty-four hour care is considerable. It would eat up a lot of the trust, but there's something else to consider. If you put someone in the house with Anna and you go back to college, how do you know they will treat Anna right. It's not like she can call you and tell you she's being abused.

SOPHIE

So what are you telling me, I have to decide to do what's best for Anna or do what's best for me? This is great; my parents die and now I have to give up my life.

ATTORNEY

Why don't you just give it a little time.

(MORE)

ATTORNEY (CONT'D)

Move back into the house, get a part time job and get comfortable taking care of Anna. Then, maybe next semester, sign up for a couple of classes.

SOPHIE

Get a job?

ATTORNEY

Yeah, remember there's no money for food, house bills and such, so you will have to bring in that money. You going to get ten-thousand from the car insurance for your parents car, that will carry you until you fund work.

SOPHIE

Great, just great. Last week I was a kid enjoying college, now I have to take my parents place taking care of my sick sister. What a difference a day makes right?

CUT TO:

INT. SOPHIE'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Sophie talks from the kitchen to her sister Anna. Camera view point is towards the kitchen entrance. No one is on camera.

SOPHIE (O.S.)

I know you're hungry, I'm hungry too, you're just have to be patient a little bit longer; it's not like you've ever starved to death. I'm sure I would know because they would likely blame me for it.

Camera view changes to showing inside kitchen. Sophie is chopping or blending up Anna's food.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)

You could ask me how my day went, I have a life too you know, the world doesn't revolve around Anna. Let me do it for you. Hey Sophie, how was your day? Well Anna, it was awful, just awful. First I got up really early, to get you washed up and fed;

(MORE)

SOPHIE (CONT'D)

then once the sitter arrived I rushed off to work where I was treated like shit by my supervisor who is a year younger than me but finished college in four years and has her degree, so she was hired for the position I wanted, but couldn't get without a college degree. Then I rushed home because I can't afford to pay the sitter over time, which is why I only work six hours a day, but who's complaining, who needs fun right?

Sophie puts food on plate and walks out of the kitchen.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)

That wasn't fair was it; you can't go out and have fun either can you?

Anna comes into view, sitting in a wheel chair in the middle of the living room watching television. Sophie walks over to Anna and sits down next to her.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)

Don't worry about it Anna, I know you would ask if you could, I'm not mad at you, it's just, sometimes I want someone in the house I can hold a normal conversation with.

Sophie feeds Anna as she talks.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)

I remember when you were young, when you could talk a little bit. You didn't say much, and you took forever to say it, but still we would talk and laugh. (Beat) Now your condition has gotten so bad, you can't talk at all and it feels like I'm talking to myself. (Beat) Never mind me Anna, I'm still in shock over our parents death. (Beat) I haven't been hear much for the last two years so me and you have to do a little catching up.

Anna smiles and makes a sound.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)

I have a nurse that's going to stay with you a while tomorrow while I go out and see about finding a job.
(MORE)

SOPHIE (CONT'D)

You'll be good won't you? Of course you will, you're the sweetest sister ever.

Sophie wipes Anna's mouth and stands up.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)

What kind of work am I going to do Anna?

Anna moves her head.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)

Yeah I don't know either; I'm sure I'll find something.

Sophie takes left over food to kitchen.

CUT TO:

INT. JOB SITE - DAY

Sophie interviews for job.

INTERVIEWER

Looking at your resume, you don't have much job experience.

SOPHIE

I never had to work, my parents gave me what I needed. I worked the summer before my senior year because I wanted to go on a special trip with my friends and my parents wouldn't pay for it; and the last two years I was in college.

INTERVIEWER

Your transcripts say you did take classes in excel, and word and you type fifty words a minute so you should be fine here. For most people the hardest part is adjusting to the call center environment. Some people have trouble sitting in chairs for long periods of time. I see you are requesting to work a six hours shift, may I ask why?

SOPHIE

My parents recently past and I have to take care of my sick sister.

(MORE)

SOPHIE (CONT'D)

Paying a nurse over time is very expensive so I need to be able to get back in eight hours, so with forty-five minute drive time each way, that only leaves me six hours to work.

INTERVIEWER

I understand, and sorry about your lost. We're flexible. You can work from nine to three-thirty with a thirty minute lunch.

The interviewer stands up, Sophie stands also. The interviewer stretches out her hand to shake. Sophie shakes her hand.

INTERVIEWER (CONT'D)

Well Mrs. Pentergrass, welcome to the team. We'll see you tomorrow at nine sharp.

SOPHIE

Thank you so much, you won't regret hiring me.

The interviewer walks to the door, opens it and Sophie walks out.

INTERVIEWER

Don't be late, nine sharp.

CUT TO:

EXT. OUTSIDE GROCERY MARKET - DAY

Sophie comes out of grocery market and bumps into Jacob. They both bend over to pick up the groceries, putting each item, one by one in the paper grocery bag.

JACOB

I'm sorry, it's my fault, I wasn't paying attention.

There's a pause, Sophie moves head away and looks at Jacob.

SOPHIE

I'm sorry, was you waiting on me to share in the blame?

JACOB

Wow, somebody's having a bad day.

SOPHIE

Don't you worry about how my day is going, just hand me that cucumber.

Jacob hands Sophia a cucumber that he is holding. Sophie stands up, followed by Jacob.

JACOB

I am sorry, but I don't think any food was damaged so all's well that ends well.

Sophie gives Jacob a nasty look and walks off. Jacob watches her walk from behind. Sophie stops, looks up and takes a deep breath, turns around and looks at Jacob.

SOPHIE

Are you serious? You bumped into me, knocked my food on the ground; held my cucumber hostage, then you stare at my butt as I walked away?

Jacob throws hands to the side gesturing "was that wrong."

JACOB

First of all I already apologized about bumping into you.

Jacob starts walking toward Sophie.

JACOB (CONT'D)

Second, yes I held your cucumber for a minute but I did release it unharmed.

Jacob walks up closer to Sophie.

JACOB (CONT'D)

But I won't apologize for staring at your butt because it quit possibly may be the finest looking butt I have ever watched walking away carrying a grocery bag.

SOPHIE

Just carrying a grocery bag?

JACOB

I didn't want to commit myself too strongly in case you reject me.

SOPHIE

Maybe you should be more direct, it might keep me from walking away.

JACOB

Okay. Hi, my name is Jacob, would you go out with me some time?

SOPHIE

I'm not sure.

JACOB

You mean girl, you set me up. You said be direct and you won't walk away.

SOPHIE

No I said be direct and it might, keep me from walking away.

Sophie turns and starts walking away.

JACOB

Wow, really?

Sophie stops, looks up, and turns around.

SOPHIE

Was you looking at my butt while I was walking this time?

JACOB

If I say no will you go out with me?

SOPHIE

Why would you say no, did my butt become less attractive in the last five minutes?

JACOB

Okay yes, Yes I was looking at your butt as you walked.

SOPHIE

What kind of man tells a woman he just met he was staring at her butt?

Jacob turns around and walks away.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)

Hey, where you going?

Jacob stops, looks up, then turns around.

JACOB
Was you looking at my butt while I
was walking>

SOPHIE
Yes, yes I was looking at your
butt.

JACOB
I don't think I could go out with a
woman that tells a man she was
looking at his butt the first time
they meet.

SOPHIE
Oh please, please go out with me.

Jacob walks up close to Sophie.

JACOB
I think you deserve a second chance
to make a first impression. I will
go out with you.

Sophie laughs.

SOPHIE
Oh you're funny. If you make me
laugh like this, you might get a
second date.

JACOB
Do you promise?

Sophie moves her head and shoulders to suggest maybe.

SOPHIE
Let's play it by ear.

CUT TO:

EXT. PAK - EVENING

Jacob and Sophie walking in the park, talking, laughing.

CUT TO:

EXT. AMUSEMENT PARK - DAY

Jacob and Sophie walking, talking, laughing.

CUT TO:

INT. JACOBS APARTMENT- - NIGHT

Sophie and Jacob watching television sitting on couch.

JACOB

Hey Sophie, have you noticed we always hang out at my place. We've been dating for six months now and I'm never seen where you live.

SOPHIE

That's because you are neater than I am. My house is always a mess.

JACOB

So you live in a house, not an apartment?

SOPHIE

Yes Jacob, I live in a house.

JACOB

I want to see your house, you can't be that messy.

SOPHIE

You will, one day. It's not just me, I have a roommate that never cleans up. One day, when the house is clean, you can come over.

JACOB

I think you're a rich girl and you want to make sure I'm not with you for the money.

SOPHIE

I wish I was rich. But don't you worry, if I was, I'd still give you a shot.

JACOB

Oh you'll give me a shot, thanks.

SOPHIE
You're welcome. Now stop talking,
you're messing up the movie.

CUT TO:

EXT. BOWLING ALLEY - EVENING

Jacob and Sophie bowling, talking, laughing.

CUT TO:

EXT. MINIATURE CAR RACING - DAY

Jacob and Sophie racing and laughing.

CUT TO:

INT. JACOBS APARTMENT - NIGHT

Jacob and Sophia arguing.

JACOB
I don't understand it, we've been
seeing each other for a year now
and I've never met anybody in your
family. I'm assuming you do have a
family somewhere right?

SOPHIE
Of course I have a family, don't be
stupid.

JACOB
Then what's going on Sophie, why
don't you want me to meet them,
you've met all of mine? Is it me,
you don't think they will like me,
is that it?

SOPHIE
No it's not you, you're great, who
couldn't love you. It's just not
time yet.

JACOB
When will it be a good time, two
years into the relationship; three
years?

SOPHIE

No, not that long. Soon Jacob, okay soon.

JACOB

There's something strange going on, I want to know now, why I can't meet your family and why you won't let me come to your house.

SOPHIE

Because you're leave me if you do.

JACOB

I'll leave you, why in the world would I leave you?

Sophie looks at Jacob in silence for a few seconds, then speaks.

SOPHIE

My sister.

JACOB

There's something, you have a sister. What about your sister?

SOPHIE

My sister has cerebral palsy.

JACOB

Cerebral palsy?

SOPHIE

Yeah, Cerebral palsy. It's when.

Jacob cuts Sophie off and waves her off.

JACOB

You don't have to explain, I know what it is, I'm a nurse in a convalescent home remember?

SOPHIE

Yeah I know, and I hear you talk about how it's good to come home and get away from that place. What was I suppose to do, tell you that if you got with me, you would be coming home to more work.

Jacob paces back and forth.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)

Look at you, you haven't even met my sister and it's freaking you out.

JACOB

Don't put this on me, you had a year to tell me about this and you didn't. Now you tell me, after I love you and don't want to live without you; now you tell me that being with you also means taking care of your sister for the rest of her life, for the rest of my life.

Sophie grabs her purse and walks to the door and stops.

SOPHIE

You got it all wrong Jacob, you don't have to take care of anyone, I'm stuck with that job.

Sophie opens the door.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)

I'm walking out Jacob; aren't you going to attempt to stop me.

Jacob looks at Sophie and makes a gesture of I don't know.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)

Great.

Sophie walks out the door.

CUT TO:

INT. SOPHIE'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Sophie feeding Anna.

SOPHIE

Where is that sitter, I'm going to be late for my date with Jacob.

Sophie wipes Anna's mouth.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)

Jacob is meeting me tonight. I haven't seen in two weeks, since he found out about you.

Sophie is giving Anna something to drink with a straw. Anna chokes and accidentally spits some drink on Sophie's dress. Sophie jumps up from her chair.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)

Oh no, my dress, it's ruined. I spent the last bit of money I had to look nice for Jacob and look what you did Anna. I hate this, and I hate you.

Sophie storms to the kitchen. Sophie's cell rings, she runs back into living room and answers it.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)

Yes, oh hi Jacob how are you.
(Beat) What, wait why? (Beat) But Jacob. (Beat) That's not fair, you want me to choose between you and my sister? (Beat) But I love you Jacob. (Beat) I want to be with you but she's my sister, what am I suppose to do. (Beat) Okay Jacob, I understand, good bye Jacob.

Sophie hangs up the phone and walks back to Anna and stands next to her.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)

Well I guess you heard, it was Jacob. Looks like I'm not going to need this dress after all.

Sophie walks away, toward her room but stops, and turns toward Anna.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)

Just watch TV for a while Anna, I need to be alone for a minute. And Anna; I'm sorry, I don't hate you and none of this is your fault. It just seems like since our parents died, I've been dying a little bit everyday. I lost school, I lost fun, now I'm losing the man I love.

Anna is crying. Then you hear Sophie crying in her room. Sophie gives Anna a sponge bath.

CUT TO:

EXT. GRAVEYARD - DAY

Sophie visits parents grave-site.

SOPHIE

Hi mommy, hi daddy. I miss you so much. I'm taking care of Anna, she's doing okay. It's a lot of work, but you know that. I don't know if I can keep doing it, I love my sister but, it takes every minute of every day. It's like having a kid and every time you want to leave the house you have to get a baby sitter. I had a boyfriend, Jacob, he was a really sweet guy, you would have liked him. (Beat) But we broke up because of Anna. I can't blame him, who would want to take on this amount of responsibility I could keep him if I want, but I would have to put Anna in a home and let the state take care of her. I don't know what to do. I love Jacob and I love Anna, but what about me, when am I going to be able to do what's best for me? I haven't finished school, I don't have any friends, and Jacob was the only guy interested in me, now I don't have that. I can't help but think about the fact that Anna isn't even my real sister. I appreciate you adopting me but some times I wish you hadn't adopted me at all. If you had left me at the orphanage, maybe a family with healthy children would have adopted me and my life would be normal. I know you adopted me because if you had another child they would have come out like Anna, but, did you stop and think what that would do to me? Anna may be the one with cerebral palsy, but neither one of have a life.

CUT TO:

INT. SOPHIE'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Sophie is moving around the room cleaning up. Anna sits in chair watching television.

SOPHIE

Okay Anna, I want you to be really good today because Jacob's coming over to meet you. Please don't have any episodes, I want him to see you as a not so sick, sick person. That sounded stupid didn't? Just sit there and don't choke or nothing.

The door bell rings. Sophie runs to the door, stops and fixes her dress, then opens the door. Jacob is on there.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)

Hi Jacob.

JACOB

Hey Sophie.

SOPHIE

Come on in.

Jacob steps through the door, kisses Sophie, Sophie closes door and they walk into the living room by Anna.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)

Jacob this is my sister Anna. Anna this is my boyfriend.

Sophie stops and looks at Jacob.

JACOB

Boyfriend.

Sophie smiles because Jacob still considers himself her boyfriend.

SOPHIE

My boyfriend Jacob.

Jacob reaches out and rubs Anna's hand. Anna smiles.

JACOB

Hi Anna, I've heard a lot about you. I'm sorry it took me this long to come see you, but I'm hear now.

SOPHIE

How long can you stay, I've got dinner ready and I baked a cake. I hope you like German Chocolate?

JACOB

The smell is making me hungry and German Chocolate is my favorite, but you knew this.

SOPHIE

Yeah, I'm trying really hard to make you happy. Is that okay.

JACOB

It's okay Sophie.

SOPHIE

Good, so maybe, after dinner we can watch a movie, I rented a sci-fi movie, since you love anything sci-fi.

Jacob reaches out and grabs Sophie's hand.

JACOB

Relax Sophie, you've got the rest of your life to make me happy; you don't have to do it all in one night.

Sophie stares at Jacob not saying anything.

SOPHIE

What are you saying?

Jacob pulls a ring out of his pocket and gets down on one knee.

JACOB

I figured since Anna is the only family you have, it would be important to share this moment with her. (Beat) Sophie Penttergrass, will you marry me?

Sophie starts crying.

SOPHIE

Are you sure, are you sure you want to marry me?

Jacob looks at Anna and smiles real big. Anna is crying. Then back at Sophie.

JACOB

Yea Sophie, I'm sure.

Sophie falls to her knees and into Jacob's arms, crying and laughing at the same time. The two stand up.

JACOB (CONT'D)

Well Anna, since I'm going to be your brother-in-law, I've got to be honest with you. Sophie has been blaming you for the house being messy. Between you and me, I think she's been lying.

Anna moves and laughs. Sophie laughs, Jacob laughs.

SOPHIE

I didn't lie, Anna is the messy one. I say Anna pick up your cloths and she just looks at me like I'm stupid.

Jacob, Anna and Sophie continue to talk and laugh but you don't hear voices.

FADE OUT.