

JERKINS THEATRE COMPANY

EP.1 G-R-I-E-F

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## TEASER

INT. JERKINS THEATRE COMPANY - LOBBY - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

GUESTS(12-60's), flood the beautifully decorated lobby. Some stop and pose to take their picture at the step and repeat. Several framed headshots of esteemed actors line the walls.

**SUPER:** 1967

INT. JERKINS THEATRE COMPANY - LOBBY - TICKET COUNTER - NIGHT

YOUNG CECILIA(20), Black, the true definition of a sixties beauty, works the ticket/snack counter. She hands out two tickets and two playbills to YOUNG COUPLE(19), Black, dressed in their best attire.

YOUNG CECILIA  
Enjoy the show.

They take their playbills and walk off.

OLDER MAN(60), Black, walks to the counter.

YOUNG CECILIA (CONT'D)  
Welcome, what can I getcha?

INT. JERKINS THEATRE COMPANY - DRESSING ROOMS - NIGHT

YOUNG JUNE(20), Black, handsome, tall, and slender in a tight suit and colorful tie, stands in a large circle of his CAST(20-40's), male and female in full costume and makeup, and CREW(20-40's), dressed in all black.

YOUNG JUNE  
Tonight, we are one, showcasing our  
God-given talents. We are a  
company, a family, and unstoppable.

Everyone nods their head in agreement.

YOUNG JUNE (CONT'D)  
Now, let's go out there and show  
them what we're made of!

He CLAPS his hand. The room ERUPTS WITH JOY and APPLAUSE. He makes his way to the stage.

INT. JERKINS THEATRE COMPANY - BACKSTAGE - NIGHT

He stands by the stage manager's booth. He skims over the flashcards of his speech.

YOUNG THOMAS(21), Black, June's right-hand man and best friend, flips over his binder of the script. He CLICKS his pen three times.

YOUNG THOMAS  
Are you ready?

YOUNG JUNE  
Born ready.

Young Thomas turns on his lamp and blinks it twice. It's showtime! The actors find their places backstage.

YOUNG THOMAS  
June, you're on.

Young June nods. He INHALES and EXHALES before he walks out to the stage. He stands in front of a velvet red curtain.

INT. JERKINS THEATRE COMPANY - STAGE - NIGHT

YOUNG JUNE  
Hello, all, and welcome to the  
grand opening of the Jerkins  
Theatre Company. I am the proud  
founder and director.

He flips through his flashcard.

YOUNG JUNE (CONT'D)  
I'm honored you all came to see our  
very first play--

He loses his place. He looks up at the audience. He sees a proud Young Cecilia admire him from the back. She smiles at him. Young June puts his flashcards in his suit jacket pocket. He CLEARS HIS THROAT.

YOUNG JUNE (CONT'D)  
It means the world to me and my  
family. We have worked hard to put  
on this beautiful production.

INT. JERKINS THEATRE COMPANY - BACKSTAGE - NIGHT

Young Thomas watches him with pride and eagerness.

INT. JERKINS THEATRE COMPANY - STAGE - NIGHT

YOUNG JUNE

With all of that said. The Jerkins  
Theatre Company and Playhouse  
present to you *The Matchmaker*.

Young June runs off stage. The AUDIENCE APPLAUDS as the  
curtain splits and the lights illuminate the stage.

We see brief moments of the play. The audience is engaged.

INT. JERKINS THEATRE COMPANY - BACKSTAGE - NIGHT

Proud Young June and Young Thomas watch from the wings.

YOUNG THOMAS

They're doing it.

YOUNG JUNE

I know.

The audience LAUGHS.

YOUNG JUNE (CONT'D)

They're laughing?

YOUNG THOMAS

You did a good job.

Young June watches with pride.

INT. JERKINS THEATRE COMPANY - STAGE - NIGHT - LATER

The cast join hands for their bows to receive their standing  
ovation. Flowers fly from the audience and land on stage.

The AUDIENCE CHEER and APPLAUD for them.

INT. JERKINS THEATRE COMPANY - LOBBY - NIGHT

Young Cecilia runs and jumps into Young June's arms. He  
catches and spins her around. They LAUGH.

YOUNG CECILIA

You did it! They did it!

YOUNG JUNE

We did it!

He puts her down.

YOUNG JUNE (CONT'D) YOUNG CECILIA  
I love you. I love you.

NEWS REPORTER(40's), takes a photo of Young June and Young Cecilia in a warm embrace.

**END OF FLASHBACK.**

EXT. JERKINS THEATRE COMPANY - PARKING LOT - NIGHT - PRESENT

The once prestigious playhouse is now rundown and barely functional. The paint is chipped, and the roof has several tarps. The stairs need repairs.

**SUPER:** 2025

A busted-up black SUV drives into the lot. The ENGINE STOPS. JUNE JERKINS(76), Black, a winded and stressed-out optimist, exits. He grabs his many bags and cane.

He looks up at the dysfunctional and rusty sign.

**INSERT:** JERKINS THEATRE COMPANY & PLAYHOUSE SIGN.

June makes his way to the front steps.

EXT. JERKINS THEATRE COMPANY - FRONT DOOR - NIGHT

He rummages through his many bags to find his keys to unlock the door.

A LOUD METAL SCREECH RINGS throughout the lot. June quickly looks back. He goes back to find his keys.

The LOUD METAL SCREECH returns. He looks back at the lot.

The LOUD METAL SCREECH RINGS out once again. Then suddenly, a large metal ampersand falls from the sign and lands on June's car-his CAR ALARM BLARES.

He turns around, throws his bags, and sprints to his car.

JUNE  
Son of a bit--

**END OF TEASER**

ACT ONE

EXT. JERKINS THEATRE COMPANY - PARKING LOT - NIGHT

DESTINY "DEZ" RAWLINGS(55), Black, a butch lesbian and backbone of the company, runs out of the theater with her twin sister CARLA RAWLINGS(55), Black, the artsy, whimsical, and dramatic costume designer of the company.

DEZ CARLA  
June! June! Oh my God!

June stands still.

DEZ (CONT'D)  
June, what happened?

He doesn't respond. He blankly stares at the sign.

Carla taps her sister on the arm.

CARLA  
Dez, I don't think he's breathing.

DEZ  
June...June, you're scaring me.

She puts her hand on his shoulder.

Tears flow from his eyes.

CARLA  
Oh...June.

She hugs him then lets him go.

JUNE  
Cee and I built that sign. It stood here for fifty-eight years. It was perfect. When a lightbulb blew out, Cee would grab a ladder and change it. When we put on a new show, she would change the letters. This was her sign, and now it's broken.

June SIGHS.

DEZ  
June...it's okay. I can fix this.

JUNE

I know...but it's the principle.  
She woulda never let this happen.

CARLA

I know, boss. I know.

JUNE

I miss her...I miss her every day.

DEZ

I do, too.

CARLA

Me too.

The twins glance at each other. Then back at June.

SILENCE.

They stare at his damaged SUV.

Dez looks up at the sign and then back to June's SUV.

DEZ (CONT'D)

I can fix it if you want...

She points at the sign and his car.

He SIGHS again.

CARLA

Lets get you inside.

Carla tries to usher June to the front door, but he doesn't budge. He stares at his sign.

DEZ

June...please...

June walks to the front door. Dez grabs his bags while Carla holds the door open for them.

INT. JERKINS THEATRE COMPANY - LOBBY - NIGHT

Once beautiful and full of life now looks straight out of a nightmare. The once beautiful carpet is stained and ripped up. The lights flicker, and HUM. The wallpaper peels and hangs off the wall. Mold grows on the exposed wall.

June hyper-focuses on all of the imperfections.

DEZ

C'mon, let's go to your office and  
get a snack from concessions.

CARLA

Would you like that? We have salted cashews, your favorite.

He doesn't answer.

CARLA (CONT'D)

June?

(baby-voice)

Would June like a snack from concessions? Would he? Yes, he does. Yes, he does. June would like salted cashews, his favorite--

Dez FLICKS Carla on her forehead.

CARLA (CONT'D)

Ow.

DEZ

He's not a baby? When he's old enough to be our dad.

June stares off.

CARLA

I dunno. It just came out.

DEZ

Well, keep that shit inside.

CARLA

Excuse me for checkin' on June.

DEZ

By repeating what I already said?

CARLA

Why're you yelling at me?

DEZ

I'm not yelling!

CARLA

Yes, you are.

Her VOICE CRACKS.

DEZ

Here come the tears again.

CARLA

I can't help it...



DEZ

Grow up.

CARLA

June, please tell Dez to stop picking on me.

DEZ

I'm not picking on you.

They continue to ARGUE.

June walks away from them and heads to his office. They don't realize that he's gone.

DEZ (CONT'D)

Tears don't work on me...

June opens his office door and enters. He shuts the door behind him.

INT. JERKINS THEATRE COMPANY - JUNE'S OFFICE - NIGHT

A decent size office with pale yellow wallpaper and a shag red carpet. Framed photos of each production he's ever put on hangs on the wall with pride. He walks past the pictures and admires them all.

He sits at his desk. He picks up a framed photo of him and Cecilia from 1967.

**INSERT:** PHOTO OF YOUNG JUNE AND CECILIA, 1967.

He closes his eyes and holds the photo to his chest. More tears flow down his face.

There's a KNOCK at the door. QUINCY "QUIN" JERKINS(25), Black, pessimistic yet gentle, enters.

QUINCY

Granddad?

June opens his eyes and puts the photo back on the desk.

QUINCY (CONT'D)

Hey, How ya feeling?

He sits in a chair.

JUNE

I'm here...

QUINCY

I'm sorry about your car. I'll take you home after this.

JUNE

I don't care about the car.

QUINCY

Why not?

JUNE

Have you seen this place?

QUINCY

Yeah, whatta bout it?

JUNE

Quin, this place is falling apart.

QUINCY

Trust me, I know...

He looks at the floor.

JUNE

Now the sign's broken.

QUINCY

The sign's not broken. Dez can and will fix it.

JUNE

I know she can, but--

He rubs his temples.

QUINCY

Granddad...what's going on?

June doesn't make eye contact with Quincy.

QUINCY (CONT'D)

Talk to me...

June's PHONE ALARM RINGS.

JUNE

It's time for the meeting.

QUINCY

Yep.

Quincy opens the door.

QUINCY (CONT'D)  
Don't think this is over.

June grabs one of his many bags and walks to the door.

QUINCY (CONT'D)  
After you.

June exits, then Quincy. He shuts the door, the door handle breaks off and lands on the floor.

QUINCY (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
Dez will fix it.

INT. JERKINS THEATRE COMPANY - STAGE - NIGHT

A safety hazard. The pride and joy of the playhouse is beyond repair. The curtain's ripped and dirty, barely held together with discolored patchwork and duct tape.

June and Quincy walk on stage. In the audience, the company's veteran actors, LESTER "LES" SANTAMARIA TORRES(68), Peruvian, borderline senile with an eclectic accent, sits next to his wife, TAMMY SANTAMARIA TORRES(65), Black, bright, and poppy in similar outfits.

Dez and Carla sit behind the couple.

JUNE  
Hello everyone, I know it's late,  
so I'll make this quick--

LESTER  
June, what happened to your car?

Dez flashes a concerned look at Quincy. He then flashes one to Tammy.

TAMMY  
Lester, hush.

LESTER  
Don't hush me.

TAMMY  
Honey...

LESTER  
I think it's a fair question.

Dez leans toward Lester.

DEZ  
Shut up, Les.

QUINCY  
Can we focus, please?

JUNE  
Quin's right.

TAMMY  
He is?

JUNE  
Y'all, I know things haven't been good...great with the theater for a while. I see everything that needs to be fixed--

DEZ  
Replaced.

LESTER  
Why no one shush her?

JUNE  
I see everything that needs to be replaced, but we don't have the budget to replace the stage--

TAMMY  
What's wrong with the stage?

June walks to center stage and hops. The STAGE CRACKS as a small piece flies into the air.

QUINCY  
Does that answer your question?

TAMMY  
It does--

Lester SHUSHES Tammy.

TAMMY (CONT'D)  
Les!

LESTER  
Don't like it now, do ya?

June returns to his spot next to Quincy.

JUNE

Now, with the sign broken and the lobby needing a complete renovation, I'm trying to figure out how to make all of that possible in such a short time.

DEZ

Y'know, I'll do whatever I can to fix this place.

JUNE

I know, but it's not about fixing it but saving it.

Quincy turns to June.

CARLA

What do you mean?

JUNE

Ever since Cee died, this place has lost its magic.

An uncomfortable SILENCE creeps over everyone.

JUNE (CONT'D)

She took care of this place. She vacuumed. She'd paint. Filed the books. Made the playbills. She ordered the snacks.

TAMMY

She did everything.

The piece of broken stage WHACKS the stage. Everyone jumps except June.

JUNE

This was her baby. Sometimes, I wondered if she loved this place more than me.

Quincy turns to June.

QUINCY

You and Nana made this together. You both loved it. And if she was alive...she wouldn't let you talk about yourself like that.

June doesn't acknowledge Quincy's comment.

JUNE

The audition dates for October have been finalized. They're from October third through the fifth.

CARLA

Wait.

LESTER

Hush.

Tammy rolls her eyes. She reaches into her purse and hands Lester a crossword puzzle book. He opens it and starts.

JUNE

I have some contractors coming out to give us an estimate for the stage and lobby.

CARLA

But what about our monthly bake sale? We always do it on the third of every month.

JUNE

We'll move it.

CARLA

We can't move it. Everyone in town knows we do the bake sale on the third of every month.

JUNE

Things change. We'll tell 'em that.

CARLA

It's tradition.

JUNE

Fuck tradition.

Everyone stares at June in shock.

CARLA

I will not.

DEZ

Carla, relax.

CARLA

No Dez. Cee would never change our bake sale.

JUNE  
She's not here!

A BEAT.

QUINCY  
I think what Granddad is trying to  
say is that if we want to bring  
business back to the theater, we  
gotta shake things up. Do som--

LESTER  
Oregon Trail!

Everyone turns to him. He writes Oregon Trail in his book.

LESTER (CONT'D)  
O-R-E-G-O-N-T-R-A-I-L.

QUINCY  
(whispers)  
What the hell?

CARLA  
But Cee wouldn't want--

JUNE  
She's not here! She's dead! My  
wife's dead! So, don't tell me what  
she'd do and what she wouldn't do!

Quincy goes to console him. He rubs his back.

Carla sits back in her seat.

LESTER  
What's a five-letter word for a  
deep sorrow?

CARLA  
June...

Lester chews on his pen.

LESTER  
I said five letters, not four.

He SNAPS his fingers.

LESTER (CONT'D)  
I got it. Grief! G-R-I-E-F.

JUNE  
I can't take this.

He storms off the stage. Everyone stares at each other.

DEZ  
(to Carla)  
You had to mention the bake sale.

CARLA  
Why're you pickin on me again?

DEZ  
No one's picking on you...again.

TAMMY  
Toughen up, Carla.

CARLA  
Why's everyone ganging up on me?

TAMMY  
No one's ganging up on you.

They ERUPT into an ARGUMENT.

LESTER  
Chaos! C-H-A-O-S!

He writes in his book.

QUINCY  
Shut up!

He STOMPS his foot on the stage. A piece of the stage breaks off into a very long shard.

QUINCY (CONT'D)  
See!

He points to the shard.

QUINCY (CONT'D)  
This! This is why he's out of it.

He then points to everyone.

QUINCY (CONT'D)  
You're why he's out of it. You will not break him. I won't allow it. Granddad needs us.

He sits at the lip of the stage.

QUINCY (CONT'D)  
I know you miss Nana. I miss her too. She kept this place alive.



Tammy hangs her head.

QUINCY (CONT'D)

We all miss her in different ways,  
but she was his wife. They've known  
each other since they were kids, so  
coming here might be hard for him.  
Nana was his entire world. But now  
we have to adjust without her.

Carla SNIFFLES then SOBS.

CARLA

I'm sorry.

DEZ

Me too.

TAMMY

I'm sorry.

Lester scribbles in his book.

LESTER

F-O-R-G-I-V-E-N-E-S-S.

QUINCY

Tammy, please take his book.

She reaches for his book.

LESTER

Disfigured.

Quincy waits for him to spell it aloud.

QUINCY

You gonna spell it?

LESTER

No. I'm saying that'll happen if  
someone takes my crossword.

Tammy pulls away.

QUINCY

Now we can try to do the bake sale  
and then auditions on the same day.

TAMMY

Won't that congest the theater?

QUINCY

It might, but it's the only  
compromise I can think of.

He turns to Carla.

CARLA

But the third--

QUINCY

Forget the damn third.

Carla's eyes well up.

CARLA

But--

Lester turns to face her.

LESTER

Shut up, Marshmallow!

Everyone stares at Lester.

TAMMY

Jesus, Lester.

QUINCY

Lester, behave. Is there anything  
else we needa talk about?

Carla raises her hand.

QUINCY (CONT'D)

Besides the bake sale.

She lowers her hand.

TAMMY

The popcorn machine needs a new  
motor and kettle.

QUINCY

We just replaced them last month.

TAMMY

I know, but it takes forever to  
cook; when it does, it's burnt.

QUINCY

Okay. Um, a new motor and kettle  
for the popcorn machine.

He writes it on a piece of paper.

QUINCY (CONT'D)  
Anything else?

DEZ  
When do the renovations start?

QUINCY  
I'm not sure. I can ask Granddad  
once he's cooled down.

LESTER  
Temper. T-E-M-P-E-R.

DEZ  
I'll ask em.

QUINCY  
Sure.

Dez gets up and walks to June's office.

QUINCY (CONT'D)  
While Dez's doing that, does anyone  
have anything they want to share?

Tammy raises her hand. Quincy points at her.

TAMMY  
I've noticed that the dressing  
rooms need to be repainted.

Quincy writes on his paper.

CARLA  
We need a new sound system and  
renovate the costume closet.

Quincy writes on his paper again.

Lester raises his hand.

QUINCY  
No, we're not ordering any  
crossword puzzles.

LESTER  
I wasn't gonna say that.

QUINCY  
What were you gonna say, then?

LESTER  
I've noticed a considerable lack of  
sudoku and word search books.

QUINCY  
I'm gonna ignore--

DEZ SCREAMS. Everyone turns in the direction of the scream.

DEZ (O.S.)  
Quin! Quincy! Help!

Quincy jumps off the stage and runs to June's office.

INT. JERKINS THEATRE COMPANY - JUNE'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Quincy rushes in. Dez holds an unconscious June in her arms.

QUINCY  
What's goin-- Granddad!

He rushes to June's side.

Everybody else stands at the office threshold.

QUINCY (CONT'D)  
What happened?

DEZ  
I don't know. I knocked on the  
door, and then I heard a loud thud.  
I found him on the floor.

Quincy grabs June and holds him tight.

QUINCY  
Granddad! Granddad! Someone call  
nine-one-one! Please!

Tammy pulls out her phone and dials.

**END OF ACT ONE**

ACT TWO

EXT. JERKINS THEATRE COMPANY - PARKING LOT - NIGHT

A dazed Quincy sits on the broken steps. EMTS(20-30's), White, wheel June out on a gurney. He watches his grandfather get lifted into the back of the ambulance.

Dez sits next to him.

DEZ  
He'll be fine.

Quincy doesn't respond.

DEZ (CONT'D)  
He's the toughest guy I know.

Quincy doesn't respond. Dez rests her hand on his shoulder.

DEZ (CONT'D)  
Look at Carla.

She points to Carla.

Carla WEEPS into the arms of an EMT(25), White. He looks at his coworkers for help.

CARLA  
You don't understand. He's like a father to me!

EMT  
Ma'am, you cannot ride in the ambulance if you're not family.

CARLA  
Please, sir. Please!

EMT  
Ma'am, I legally can not allow you to ride in the ambulance if there's a family member on the premises.

CARLA  
Please!

EMT  
Does he have a relative nearby?

DEZ  
Yeah, over here!

She points at Quincy. EMT pushes Carla out of the way and walks to Quincy.

EMT  
Sir, are you his relative?

QUINCY  
Yeah.

EMT  
Would you like to ride with him to the hospital?

QUINCY  
Yeah, I'll go.

Quincy gets up and walks to the back of the ambulance. He looks back at the theater before EMT shuts the door.

INT. AMBULANCE - NIGHT

Quincy grabs June's hand and squeezes it. The ambulance drives off. He closes his eyes, lays his head against the wall, and trembles.

EMT  
Do you mind if we listen to my band's mixtape?

Quincy doesn't respond.

EMT (CONT'D)  
Rich, play track number one.

INTENSE ROCK MUSIC plays over the speakers.

EMT (CONT'D)  
(deep gravel raspy tone)  
*Darkness! My mistress! Darkness! My wonderful mistress! Darkness!*

He head-bangs.

EMT (CONT'D)  
*Darkness! My beautiful mistress!  
Cleanse me of the pureness of the world! Darkness! My mistress!*

INT. GLENN COVE HOSPITAL - JUNE'S ROOM - NIGHT - LATER

A comatose June lies on the hospital bed with several tubes and wires connected to him.

A RESPIRATOR BEEPS. Quincy, still dazed, sits in a chair. He doesn't let go of June's hand.

The RESPIRATOR BEEPS AGAIN.

NINA MOHAMMED(25), Middle Eastern, assertive, and no-nonsense, in teal scrubs, KNOCKS on the door. She holds a red Jello cup behind her back.

She waits a few seconds before she enters.

NINA  
Hello? June?

Quincy freezes like he's seen a ghost.

QUINCY  
Nina...

NINA  
I wasn't expecting to see you here.

QUINCY  
I can say the same.

NINA  
Did you forget I work here?

QUINCY  
No...I just.

They stare at each other. Quincy turns his attention to June.

NINA  
What happened to him?

QUINCY  
He had a stroke.

NINA  
Was it stress-induced?

QUINCY  
Yeah.

The RESPIRATOR BEEPS again.

QUINCY (CONT'D)  
How long's he gonna be like this?

NINA  
It's hard to say. I can get his doctor if you want.

Quincy doesn't respond.

NINA (CONT'D)  
Who found him?

QUINCY  
Dez.

An AWKWARD SILENCE falls on them.

QUINCY (CONT'D)  
How'd y'know he was here?

NINA  
Again...I work here.

QUINCY  
You've seen him. Now go.

NINA  
Quin...

QUINCY  
You're not family.

She CHUCKLES to herself.

NINA  
You weren't saying that last year.

QUINCY  
That was different.

NINA  
You haven't changed at all.

QUINCY  
Again, I can still say the same  
bout you.

NINA  
Why? Why're you doing this?

QUINCY  
Not now, Nina.

NINA  
You push people away when things  
get the slightest bit difficult.  
You think everyone has bad  
intentions for you.

QUINCY  
Are we done?



The RESPIRATOR BEEPS.

NINA

What? No witty response, no insult?  
The truth stings a lil—June's like  
a father to me. There's nothing you  
can do to change that.

She storms out but quickly turns around and reenters.

NINA (CONT'D)

And another thing: I will not allow  
you to disrespect me again. I've  
done nothing but be there for you,  
June, and Cee, and this is how you  
treat me.

Quincy trembles.

NINA (CONT'D)

And even after what you did to me,  
I still came here and checked in on  
your sorry ass. When I have  
patients to tend to, stop pushing  
away people who love you. Cause I  
loved you.

She tosses the Jello cup at him. It lands on his lap.

NINA (CONT'D)

Eat up...

Nina then SLAMS the door behind her.

Quincy lets go of June's hand. He closes his eyes.

The RESPIRATOR BEEPS AGAIN.

INT. DEZ'S JEEP - NIGHT

A modified Jeep Cherokee with various rubber ducks glued on  
the dashboard. Dez drives as Carla, Tammy, and Lester ride  
along. Lester works on his crossword puzzle.

TAMMY

We can't lose June.

DEZ

We're not gonna lose him.

TAMMY

How do you know?

DEZ  
He's tough.

CARLA  
But nothing ever stays tough.

DEZ  
He'll pull through, I know it.

LESTER  
Resilient. R-E-S-I-L-I-E-N-T.

DEZ  
Perfect timing, Lester.

What? LESTER

DEZ  
Your crossword puzzle. Isn't resilient one of your words?

LESTER  
No, I just wanted to say resilient.

Oh . . .

TAMMY  
Has anyone talked to Sam and River?

Shit!                      DEZ                      Shit!                      LESTER

Dez looks in the rearview mirror as Lester works on his crossword puzzle.

DEZ (CONT'D)  
No, I haven't.

She looks at Tammy in the rearview mirror.

DEZ (CONT'D)  
Can you call them, please?

LESTER  
No, I'm doing my crossword.

DEZ  
Not you, Lester, Tammy!

Tammy reaches into her purse, grabs her phone, and dials Sam.

Her PHONE RINGS.

TAMMY

Hey Sam, it's Tammy...come to the hospital. June had a stroke. Of course, bring River.

She pauses.

TAMMY (CONT'D)

We don't know. Yes, he's at Glenn Cove Memorial. Once we get there, I'll text you the room number.

She pauses again.

TAMMY (CONT'D)

Okay, Sam, Bye.

She hangs up the phone.

CARLA

What she say?

TAMMY

They'll meet us up there.

DEZ

Was she...

TAMMY

Super drunk? Yes.

CARLA

Goodie.

She steps on the gas—the ENGINE ROARS.

INT. GLENN COVE HOSPITAL - JUNE'S ROOM - NIGHT - LATER

Quincy leans next to June's ears and WHISPERS.

QUINCY

If you can hear me, squeeze my hand. Give me something.

He waits for a squeeze.

QUINCY (CONT'D)

I can't go through this again. I can't lose you, too.

His VOICE CRACKS.

QUINCY (CONT'D)  
Please...please. I still need you.

Dez, Carla, Tammy, and Lester barge into the room. Quincy moves away from June and sits back in his chair.

QUINCY (CONT'D)  
What're y'all doing here?

DEZ  
We came to see our fearless leader.

QUINCY  
Your fearless leader's in a--

TAMMY  
You don't have to say it.

Tammy and Lester sit on a small plastic couch.

LESTER  
Anything we can do for you?

QUINCY  
Can you wake him up?

LESTER  
I wish I could.

DEZ  
You hungry?

Quincy shakes his head yes. She reaches into her pocket and hands him a twenty-dollar bill. He looks at it.

DEZ (CONT'D)  
We got him. We got you. Go eat.

TAMMY  
If it makes you feel any better, I heard they serve Jack's Chicken.

Quincy exits the room. He looks back at June one more time.

INT. GLENN COVE HOSPITAL - CAFETERIA - NIGHT

EERILY SILENT. Quincy steps off the elevator and walks to the cafeteria doors. He pulls on the doors. They're locked.

They RATTLE AND SHAKE. He exits. He walks down the hallway.

INT. GLEN COVE HOSPITAL - WAITING ROOM - NIGHT

The large windows show the night sky and mountains of Glenn Cove, Virginia. Some city lights twinkle in the distance.

He stops at a vending machine, inserts a dollar, and presses two buttons. A pack of mini powdered sugar donuts falls out.

QUINCY

(sarcastic)

The meal of champions.

He grabs them from the slot and opens it. He walks to the windows to admire the view. He opens his donuts and eats.

The ELEVATOR DOOR DINGS. They open. RIVER BINGHAM(26), Black, the handsome empath, exits the elevator. He sees Quincy at the window and walks next to him.

RIVER

Hi, Quin.

QUINCY

Hey...

He blankly stares out the window.

RIVER

How ya holding up?

QUINCY

I'm here.

He eats another donut.

RIVER

I know what you're thinking, and I think June's gonna be fine.

QUINCY

You sound like Nina.

RIVER

When did Nina say that?

QUINCY

She came by, cussed me out, and threw Jello at my head.

RIVER

Whoa. Is she still here?

QUINCY  
I dunno and don't care. I forgot  
she worked here.

RIVER  
Me too.

River CHUCKLES. Quincy eats another donut.

A BEAT.

QUINCY  
This reminds me of the last time we  
were all here...

RIVER  
Quin.

QUINCY  
It's true. When--

RIVER  
Cee...

Quincy eats another donut.

RIVER (CONT'D)  
I believe this will have a  
different outcome.

QUINCY  
How so?

RIVER  
I have a gut feeling.

QUINCY  
I forget you're an entomologist.

River CHUCKLES.

RIVER  
Do you mean an empath, Quin?

Quincy smiles.

QUINCY  
Right. Right.

RIVER  
What's an entomologist?

QUINCY  
I have no idea.

They BOTH LAUGH.

RIVER  
I haven't heard you laugh in a  
very, very long time.

Quincy turns to River and offers him a donut.

RIVER (CONT'D)  
I've missed it.

He takes a donut and eats it. Quincy eats the last one, his  
face now covered in powdered sugar.

QUINCY  
I missed it, too.

RIVER  
Y'know, what they say, laughter's  
the best medicine.

River turns to Quincy.

QUINCY  
I've missed you.

RIVER  
I missed you more.

River takes Quincy's hand and squeezes it. They share a very  
gentle kiss. River now has powdered sugar on his face.

QUINCY  
You gotta little something.

He wipes River's face.

They LAUGH again.

**END OF ACT TWO**

ACT THREE

INT. GLENN COVE HOSPITAL - JUNE'S ROOM - NIGHT

Dez, Carla, Tammy, and Lester sit around June's bed. Samantha SCREAMS down the hallway as she SLURS her words.

SAMANTHA (O.S.)  
June! Quincy! June!

Everyone turns toward the door.

LESTER  
Who the fuck is that?

TAMMY  
Lester, language.

LESTER  
Sorry. Who the shit is that?

Tammy SIGHS.

SAMANTHA (O.S.)  
June! Carla! Dez! Somebody...

She MUTTERS to herself.

SAMANTHA (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
Hello!

TAMMY  
That's Sam.

SAMANTHA (O.S.)  
Old man! Lady married to the old man! June! June! Quincy! Twins!

Dez gets up and walks to the door. The door bursts open. SAMANTHA "SAM" BINGHAM(48), Black, a newly divorced white wine mom, enters. She removes her sunglasses and throws her jacket onto Tammy.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)  
June!

She throws herself on top of him.

DEZ  
Sam! Get off him!

Dez struggles to pry her off June.



SAMANTHA

Why lord! Why? It shoulda been  
Lester, Lord. It shoulda been him.

She points to Lester.

LESTER

B-I-T-C-H.

Sam continues her drunken RANT.

TAMMY

You can spell that again, sweetie.

LESTER

Okay, B-I-T-C-H.

TAMMY

That was a figure of speech.

LESTER

F-I-G-U-R-E--

She covers his mouth with her hand.

TAMMY

Never mind, Les.

CARLA

Sam! Get off him!

SAMANTHA

June, wake up! Live June! Live!

She thrashes around some more.

DEZ

Sam! Stop.

SAMANTHA

Jesus! Why? Why God! No! Take me  
now, lord! Take me now!

Sam clings to June and SOBS HYSTERICALLY.

TAMMY

(whispers)

Please, lord, take her.

DEZ

That's it.

Dez grabs Sam by her hair and yanks her off June.

She SCREAMS IN PAIN.

DEZ (CONT'D)  
I said get off him.

SAMANTHA  
My hair! Let me go!

TAMMY  
I need a drink.

SAMANTHA  
I gotchu.

She shows Tammy her flask. Tammy snatches the flask and sips.

TAMMY  
Today drained me...

INT. GLENN COVE HOSPITAL - LOBBY - NIGHT

Quincy and River sit on floral-patterned chairs.

QUINCY  
I think we sat here the last time.

River looks around the room.

RIVER  
I think you're right. But unlike  
the last time--

QUINCY  
Things'll be different.

RIVER  
They will be. I just know it.

QUINCY  
Do you miss her?

RIVER  
Cee, Of course I do. There's not a  
day that goes by when I don't think  
about her and everything she's done  
for me and Mom.

Quincy looks at the ceiling.

RIVER (CONT'D)  
Do you miss her?

Quincy nods.

QUINCY

Every day...y'know, up till she died, I didn't think she would...

RIVER

Would die?

QUINCY

I know it sounds crazy.

RIVER

It's not crazy it's real as fuck. I thought the same thing, too. I thought she would outlive us all.

QUINCY

I still can't believe she's gone.

River reaches for Quincy's hand.

RIVER

I know, Quin. I know.

Quincy holds River's hand, then lets it go.

RIVER (CONT'D)

What's wrong?

QUINCY

This is a lot for me. But you being here makes it easier.

RIVER

I'm just glad you're talking to me.

QUINCY

Do you think Nina and I can be friends or...

RIVER

It's hard to say. But I think you guys can be cordial...one day.

QUINCY

I doubt it.

Quincy fidgets in his seat. River notices this and eyes Quincy up and down.

RIVER

What's going on? Talk to me.

QUINCY

I loved her. I really did, but I wasn't happy. But every time I was with you, I felt alive.

River smiles.

RIVER

But--

Quincy passionately kisses River.

QUINCY

I wanna make things right with not just her but with everyone.

RIVER

Quin, that's amazing.

QUINCY

But how do I do it?

RIVER

You be the calming voice that everyone needs right now. They need a leader, and I dunno anybody else qualified to lead those geezers.

Quincy LAUGHS.

QUINCY

You think so?

RIVER

I know so.

He stands up and takes River's hand. They walk to the elevator and press the button. They wait.

RIVER (CONT'D)

I'm proud of you.

QUINCY

Thanks.

The elevator DINGS as the doors open.

INT. GLENN COVE HOSPITAL - JUNE'S ROOM - NIGHT

Samantha sits in a chair, her arms and legs zip-tied to the frame. She rests her head on Carla's shoulder.

CARLA

Remember when June had to go on for  
Demetrius when he got the flu?

DEZ

I remember that—a sixty-year-old  
playing a sixteen-year-old. Good  
times. Good times--

TAMMY

Wasn't that the same day the  
newspaper came to review the show?

LESTER

It was.

SAMANTHA

That's right.

DEZ

Didn't Cee have to check the  
reporter for calling us cute?

She does air quotes on cute.

CARLA

That's the day I learned that cute  
isn't a compliment.

LESTER

Carla?

CARLA

Yeah.

LESTER

Your sweater's cute.

She looks down at her sweater.

CARLA

Aww, really, thanks...  
(upset)  
Lester!

They LAUGH. Carla pouts in her chair.

DEZ

He got you, sis.

TAMMY

Remember when the kids played him  
the soundtrack to *Heathers*?

They LAUGH AGAIN.

LESTER

That was a D-I-S-A-S-T-E-R.

DEZ

Cee liked it a lot, which didn't surprise me.

TAMMY

Was anyone surprised?

DEZ

Not at all.

Nope.

CARLA

Quincy and River enter.

EVERYONE

Hey.

SAMANTHA

(mumbles)

Hola...

DEZ

I started to think you weren't coming back.

QUINCY

Me too. What's up with Sam?

Quincy points to her.

DEZ

Drunk.

RIVER

Drunk.

QUINCY

Is she zipped-tied?

DEZ

Yeah.

He turns to River.

QUINCY

You okay with this?

RIVER

It's not the worst way I've seen her restrained.

CARLA

How're you feeling?

QUINCY

I'm fine. How're you guys feelin?

He looks around the room. He stops and looks at Dez.

DEZ

I'm here.

She gives Quincy a thumbs up.

QUINCY

Carla?

CARLA

I'll be okay.

He turns to Sam.

QUINCY

Sam?

SAMANTHA

It should've been Lester.

She GIGGLES. Lester flicks her off.

QUINCY

Okay, whatever that means...Tammy?

He turns to her and Lester.

TAMMY

We're fine. We wanna make sure  
you're okay and supported.

LESTER

Ditto, perro.

River facepalms.

RIVER

Alrighty.

QUINCY

I don't know when Granddad will  
wake up, but I know he will. So,  
for the time being, I'll keep the  
theater alive. We will keep the  
theater alive. I know I can be  
distant, but I need all of you now  
more than ever.

A BEAT.

TAMMY

Can we pray?

She turns to Quincy.

QUINCY

I'd like that.

They all stand and hold hands. Tammy reaches for a restraint Samantha and touches her shoulder. Dez touches Samantha's other shoulder. They form a circle around June.

TAMMY

Ready?

They nod.

TAMMY (CONT'D)

Lord God, we're here tonight,  
asking for June's healing. We're  
asking for peace and hope for him.  
Touch his mind, lord. Touch his  
heart. Touch his soul. Touch his  
body. Heal him, lord God. Heal him.  
Give June, Quincy, and everyone in  
this room the spirit of peace. The  
spirit of hope and love...

Tammy continues her prayer. Quincy cries as she prays.

TAMMY (CONT'D)

In the almighty name of Jesus, your  
son, we pray. Amen. Amen! Amen!

EVERYONE

Amen!

QUINCY

Amen.

**END OF ACT THREE**



**ACT FOUR**

EXT. JERKINS THEATRE COMPANY - PARKING LOT - NEXT DAY

Quincy pulls into the lot. He notices the sign. More letters have fallen off.

QUINCY

Damn...

**INSERT:** JERK\_\_TH\_\_E COM\_\_ \_ P\_\_HO\_\_E.

QUINCY (CONT'D)

Jerk the comp hoe...

He parks his car and exits. He walks to the front door and unlocks it.

INT. JERKINS THEATRE COMPANY - LOBBY - DAY

He turns on the lights. A very large possum in the corner HISSES at him. It darts down a dark hallway.

QUINCY

Dez can handle that.

He makes his way to June's office.

INT. JERKINS THEATRE COMPANY - JUNE'S OFFICE - DAY

Quincy enters. He strolls through and admires every photo.

He stops at a photo of June, Cecilia, and him when he was a baby. He takes it off the wall. He runs his fingers over Cecilia's face.

**INSERT:** THE PHOTO OF JUNE, CECILIA, AND BABY QUINCY, 2000.

QUINCY

I miss you.

He puts the photo back on the wall.

He sits at the desk. When he reclines in his seat, it breaks. He falls on the floor, but he gets up.

QUINCY (CONT'D)

Dez's got a little list goin.

The FRONT DOOR OPENS.

QUINCY (CONT'D)

Hello?

The possum HISSES.

SAMANTHA (O.S.)

Is that a fucking possum!

CARLA (O.S.)

Run!

LESTER (O.S.)

P-O-S-S-O-M or O-P-O-S-S-O-M.

Everyone SCREAMS.

LESTER (O.S.) (CONT'D)

It's a mammal.

DEZ (O.S.)

I'll get it.

He opens the office door. Dez, Tammy, Samantha, Lester, Carla, and River stand by the door.

QUINCY

What're you guys doing here?

CARLA

We came to check on you.

SAMANTHA

Excuse me. There's a big-ass  
mothafucking possum out there.

She barges into the office. Everyone follows behind her.  
Carla shuts the door.

CARLA

We're here because we love June, we  
love Cee, and we love you. We  
gotchu. We'll figure it out.

QUINCY

Thanks guys.

Tammy takes a photo off the wall.

TAMMY

Les, honey, look.

She shows him the photo.

**INSERT:** A PHOTO OF TAMMY AND LESTER, 1976.

LESTER

I remember this. This was our first show together. Romeo and Juliet.

TAMMY

Look how young we were.

LESTER

I miss my hair.

He rubs his head.

TAMMY

I love you.

LESTER

I love you more.

They LAUGH and then kiss. River walks to Quincy.

RIVER

Hey...

QUINCY

Hi.

RIVER (CONT'D)

How you holdin up?

QUINCY

Good, now that you guys are here.

RIVER

I'm glad we're here, too.

QUINCY

River?

RIVER

Yeah.

QUINCY

Do you think Nina's gonna show up?

EXT. JERKINS THEATRE COMPANY - PARKING LOT - DAY - SAME

Nina sits in her car. She admires a photo of her, Quincy, June, and Cecilia at her high school graduation. She wipes her tears.

**INSERT:** NINA'S GRADUATION PHOTO, 2019.

RIVER (V.O.)

I hope so. It'd be nice to see her.

QUINCY (V.O.)

Yeah...

RIVER (V.O.)

Quin, give yourself some grace.  
She'll come around. It's gonna take  
some time, but she will.

QUINCY

I hope you're right.

Nina stares at the front door. She dries her eyes, puts the  
picture back in the glove box, and then drives off.

INT. JERKINS THEATRE COMPANY - JUNE'S OFFICE - DAY

RIVER

It's like what I told you at the  
hospital: I have a gut feeling.

Quincy kisses River. River rests his head on Quincy's  
shoulder. Quincy watches everyone admire the photos.

RIVER (CONT'D)

We're lucky to have you.

QUINCY

(whispers)

I'm lucky to have y'all...

Sam sips from her flask.

SAMANTHA

No, but seriously, who's gonna take  
care of the possum?

Everyone turns to Dez.

DEZ

I'll get to it when I get to it.

A BEAT.

The POSSUM HISSES AND SCRATCHES at the door.

LESTER

S-H-I-T!

EVERYONE

Agreed.

**END OF ACT FOUR**

**TAG**

INT. JERKINS THEATRE COMPANY - STAGE - DAY - FLASHBACK

**SUPER:** 1999

CECILIA(51), still a sixties beauty, and JUNE(51), still handsome but ages like fine wine, enter the theatre. Cecilia holds baby Quincy.

CECILIA  
Quincy, this is the stage. This is where me and your Granddad work.

She gently bounces him up and down.

JUNE  
This will all be yours one day, Quin. Hope you're ready for it.

Cecilia nudges him.

CECILIA  
You're already putting him to work. He's less than a week old.

June SHRUGS. Tammy and Lester(40's) enter in similar outfits. Lester tinkers with his camera.

TAMMY  
Aww, look at him. He's adorable.

CECILIA  
Yeah, he is. Quincy, this is Tammy and Lester.

LESTER  
You want a picture?

CECILIA  
Yes.

JUNE  
Sure.

June puts his arm around Cecilia and poses for the picture. Lester snaps the photo.

LESTER  
Perfect.

**END OF SHOW**