

The Life
Episode 101: Sideshow
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THE LIFE: SIDESHOW

INT. BEDROOM -- MORNING

The bedside clock reads 5:14am as JAMIE HARRINGTON, a woman in her late 30's, rolls over in bed to see what time it is. She is wide awake even at this early hour - the sun not up yet. After laying there for a moment, she carefully gets out of bed so as not to disturb her sleeping husband TOM.

INT. BATHROOM -- MORNING

Jamie comes into the bathroom and after closing the door, turns on the light. She splashes some water in her face and then looks at herself in the mirror. The look turns into something more - almost an examination. As if she knows on some level that something is wrong just by looking at her face. She shakes her head, clearing away the cobwebs.

INT. SUN PORCH -- MORNING

From the enclosed sun porch we see Jamie in the kitchen, pouring herself a cup of coffee. Wrapped tightly in her robe, she comes out of the kitchen onto the porch and curls up into a chair. The camera PANS around so we can see what she is seeing - the view from the porch is of a heavily wooded backyard, sloping down away from the house. The leaves have begun to drop from the trees in anticipation of the coming winter. It is a peaceful, bucolic setting and Jamie seems to drink it in like the coffee she is holding.

TOM

Hey.

Jamie jumps and turns to see a very sleepy Tom standing in the doorway. He is a couple of years older than she is and still handsome in a 40 year old corporate executive/father/husband kind of way.

JAMIE

You scared me.

TOM

What are you doing up?

JAMIE

Couldn't sleep.

Tom walks up behind her and kneels to put his arms around her.

JAMIE (cont'd)

Did I wake you? I'm sorry.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TOM

It's okay. I have to be up in...

JAMIE

About an hour and a half.

TOM

An hour and a half? I can still sleep for another hour and a half?

JAMIE

Uh-huh.

TOM

That's so cool.

He gets up to head back to bed.

TOM (cont'd)

Are you coming?

JAMIE

No, you go on. I figure I might as well stay up and watch the sunrise.

TOM

Do you remember when the only time we'd see a sunrise was when we were up all night?

JAMIE

Vividly. Go back to bed.

TOM

Yes, dear.

He starts to shuffle off but then shuffles back and kisses her on the head. He then shuffles off. Jamie smiles and sips her coffee, waiting for the sunrise.

During the following monologue, as she speaks, she isn't talking directly to the camera. It's just her speaking, as if there were another person in the room.

JAMIE

It was college. I think that was the last time I saw a sunrise. I mean, I've been awake when the sun has come up but actually taking the time to sit down and watch the sun rise. That's different. And it was with Tom. We'd gone out dancing and when the club closed at like 4am we went to this little diner. Olie's Ham and Egger.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

JAMIE (cont'd)

(laughs)

God it's weird what you remember. Olie's Ham and Egger. You had to ask the cockroaches to pass the salt. Anyway, we had this horrible breakfast and then we went out and sat in his car - he had a Mustang with... what you call those things? The roof panels that come off... T-Tops! That's it. It had T-Tops... and we watched the sun come up. That must've been like... eighteen years ago. Is it possible that I've let eighteen years go by without watching a sunrise? How is that possible?

Jamie returns her attention to the horizon.

FADE TO BLACK:

OPENING CREDITS

FADE IN:

INT. KITCHEN -- MORNING

It's a few hours later and the kitchen is bustling with early morning activity. Jamie is dressed in a conservative blue business suit that almost matches the one Tom is wearing. Their kids BRYAN, 15, and ROSE, 10 are underfoot.

BRYAN

So Dad, you still haven't said about Saturday.

JAMIE

Peach or banana?

TOM

Saturday?

BRYAN

Dad! Driving lesson?

JAMIE

Rose?

TOM

Right, right. Driving.

Tom and Jamie exchange a look.

JAMIE

Rose?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ROSE
What?

JAMIE
Peach or banana?

ROSE
Peach.

BRYAN
So?

JAMIE
Are you sure?

BRYAN
Dad?

TOM
Bryan, your birthday is still a couple of
months off.

JAMIE
Rose?

BRYAN
So?

ROSE
What?

JAMIE
Are you sure you want a peach?

ROSE
Yes.

JAMIE
Because bananas are your favorite.

ROSE
I'm boycotting them now.

BRYAN
Dad, I have to learn how to drive
sometime.

TOM
I know but does it have to be this
weekend?

JAMIE
Boycotting?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

BRYAN
You promised.

TOM
I did not.

ROSE
Migrant workers?

BRYAN
Well, you sort of said.

JAMIE
What about them?

ROSE
Mom, don't you read?

TOM
Sort of said is not promising.

JAMIE
Read what?

BRYAN
Mom, tell him.

ROSE
Dad, tell her.

JAMIE
Tell him what?

TOM
Tell her what?

JAMIE
What?

TOM
What?

Everyone sort of looks at everyone for a moment.

ROSE
This is the weirdest family. Who's
taking me to school?

JAMIE
Your father.

TOM
I am?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

JAMIE

Tom.

TOM

I am. Why am I?

JAMIE

I told you, I have to stop at Colin's before work.

BRYAN

Uncle Colin would teach me to drive.

JAMIE & TOM

No!

BRYAN

You guys are so...

TOM

Why don't I remember this?

JAMIE

Because you never listen to me?

TOM

Oh right. Come on kids, party train is leaving.

Rose is up and off.

ROSE

Bye Mom.

JAMIE

Rose. Lunch.

Rose comes back to get the lunch sack.

ROSE

Peach?

JAMIE

You are ten years old. You're too young to boycott.

ROSE

Mom!

JAMIE

It's a peach.

Jamie kisses Rose and then grabs Bryan as he is walking by. She kisses him as well.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

JAMIE (cont'd)
I'll talk to him.

BRYAN
Thanks Mom.

The kids are off.

TOM
I heard that.

JAMIE
He's almost sixteen.

TOM
I'm going to throw up.

JAMIE
Sounds like a plan.

He kisses her.

TOM
I love you.

JAMIE
I love you too. What are you doing this
afternoon?

TOM
I don't know. Thought I'd catch a movie
or something.

JAMIE
Tom!

TOM
I'm picking up the kids after school
because you have a doctor's appointment.
See? I listen.

JAMIE
What is the doctor's appointment for?

TOM
(beat)
Your... annual... month... dent...

JAMIE
You're pathetic.

TOM
I listen!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

JAMIE
I'm leaving now.

Jamie heads toward the door.

TOM
Jamie!

JAMIE
(without stopping)
The ad agency got a new insurance company
and they're making everyone get a
physical.

TOM
Dammit! I knew that.

Jamie exits and Tom follows her out.

INT. HALLWAY -- MORNING

Jamie is walking down the hallway toward Colin's loft,
speaking on a cell phone.

JAMIE
We're shooting the commercial on Friday,
they can't change the concept now... Kim,
it took us a month to come up with that
one... Well...

Jamie has reached the door of Colin's loft. She knocks.

JAMIE (cont'd)
Kim, I can't deal with this right now.
I'll be in the office in about a half an
hour and I'll talk them down off the
ledge then... all right. Bye.

The door opens slightly and COLIN MACNICHOL sticks his head
out.

JAMIE (cont'd)
Hi.

COLIN
Hi. What are you doing here?

JAMIE
It's Wednesday.

COLIN
(beat)
That didn't answer my question.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JAMIE

Why does nobody ever listen to me? Mom's birthday?

COLIN

Oh, right. Umm, can we...

JAMIE

No, we can't.

She pushes past him into the apartment.

INT. COLIN'S LOFT -- CONTINUOUS

Jamie barrels her way into Colin's spacious and sunny loft style apartment. He is wearing nothing but towel - a small one at that. Jamie doesn't notice at first.

JAMIE

We have been putting this off for weeks and if we don't do it today I'm never going to be able get the order in on time.

COLIN

I know but...

JAMIE

Colin, you know I hate it when you make me be the responsible big sister.

She finally notices.

JAMIE (cont'd)

Why are you naked?

Colin doesn't answer.

JAMIE (cont'd)

Oh. Got it. Actually no, I don't get it. You and David have been living together for four years now, hasn't this whole "let's have sex 24 hours a day" thing worn off yet?

COLIN

Jamie...

JAMIE

Oh, am I embarrassing you? I'm sorry.

Jamie walks toward the bedroom.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JAMIE (cont'd)
David? I'm sorry I interrupted you and
my brother having sex!

COLIN
Jamie!

She opens the door to the bedroom.

JAMIE
But it's about time you knew...

She stops short when she comes face to face with another
mostly naked man - but not David. This is Sam, a young,
incredibly handsome and well-built man.

JAMIE (cont'd)
That you're not David.

SAM
I actually knew that already. But
thanks.

Sam walks past Jamie and into the living room area pulling on
his pants and carrying his shirt and shoes. As he walks past
Colin...

SAM (cont'd)
Call me.

Colin nods and Sam exits. There is a horrible silence.

COLIN
Okay, this is not how it looks.

JAMIE
(incredulous)
Really?

COLIN
(beat)
No. It's exactly how it looks.

JAMIE
Colin!

COLIN
No, not "Colin!" No. This is none of
your business.

JAMIE
I just saw the man's penis. I think that
makes it my business. How could you do
this?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

COLIN
I didn't mean to...

JAMIE
You didn't mean to. You are such a...
man.

COLIN
Hey!

JAMIE
David loves you and you love him. Don't
tell me you don't.

COLIN
I do.

JAMIE
Then why?

COLIN
I don't know...

JAMIE
You don't know? What kind of answer is
that?

COLIN
The only one I have right now. Look
Jamie, you don't understand.

JAMIE
You're right, I don't. Because there is
no excuse for...

COLIN
I'm just... I'm not...

JAMIE
You're not what?

COLIN
I'm not happy... anymore.

JAMIE
And cheating on your boyfriend with some
humpy 22 year old will make you happy?

COLIN
First of all, he's older than 22.

JAMIE
How much older?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

COLIN
Older.

JAMIE
He's 23.

COLIN
He's older than 22! And second of all...

JAMIE
No, I don't want to hear the second of all. If you're not happy, break up with David and then you can sleep with all the older than 22 year olds that you want to. But you don't cheat. You don't ever cheat. You saw what that did to Mom.

COLIN
It's not the same thing.

JAMIE
You saw what it did to us.

COLIN
It's not the same thing, Jamie!

JAMIE
Yes, it is. It absolutely is.

There is another ugly silence.

JAMIE (cont'd)
You tell David. And you beg him for forgiveness. And if for some reason he is stupid enough to want to stay with you, you better not ever do something like this again or I will personally make sure you're not able to. Do you understand me?

COLIN
(beat)
Yes.

Jamie angrily pulls out a catalogue from her bag and slams it down on the counter. She flips through a few pages and points.

JAMIE
Which one?

Colin tentatively walks up to the counter. He looks at the pictures for a moment.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

COLIN

I know Mom is going on this big cruise
next month but monogrammed luggage? It's
just not very...

Jamie glares at him.

COLIN (cont'd)

That one.

JAMIE

Thank you.

COLIN

You're welcome.

Jamie puts the catalogue away and exits, angrily slamming the door on her way out.

EXT. PARKING LOT -- CONTINUOUS

Jamie comes storming out of Colin's apartment building and gets in her car.

INT. CAR -- CONTINUOUS

Jamie slams the door shut, muttering under her breath and keys the ignition to life. She puts the car in reverse and backs quickly - too quickly - out of her parking space. The car comes to a bone jarring stop as she runs into something.

She pauses for a moment, shocked, and then gets out of the car.

EXT. PARKING LOT -- CONTINUOUS

She walks to the back of her car to see that the business end of a concrete post smashed into her back bumper.

JAMIE

Well, this day just keeps getting better
and better.

She sighs heavily.

FADE TO BLACK:

FADE IN:

INT. JAMIE'S OFFICE - MORNING

Jamie is sitting in her office with KIM CHO, an efficient mind reader of an assistant. They are looking at photographs of buxom models, one of which Kim points out to Jamie.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KIM
She's pretty.

JAMIE
Her breasts aren't big enough.
(beat as Kim looks at her)
I know, I'm going to hell, leave me
alone.

KIM
Should I be horrified by my career choice
now or should I wait until I'm your age
and can't do anything about it?

JAMIE
Save yourself. It's too late for me.

KIM
So are you going to tell me what you did
to your car?

JAMIE
I already told you. I backed it into a
post.

KIM
Yes, but why did you back it into a post?

JAMIE
Why? I don't know. I was bored with the
way the back end of my car looked?

KIM
Fine, if you don't want to talk about it.

JAMIE
Thought I'd mix it up a little.

KIM
I said fine.

JAMIE
I'm crazy that way.

KIM
You're like the safest driver in the
entire world. You drive like an old
lady.

JAMIE
That is not true.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

KIM

One who can barely see over the steering wheel.

JAMIE

You are so fired.

KIM

You wouldn't dare.

JAMIE

You're right. Oh did you...

KIM

Yes.

JAMIE

You don't even know what I was going to ask.

KIM

You were going to ask me if I confirmed your lunch with Elaine and yes I did. She should be here any minute.

JAMIE

(unconvincing)
Wrong.

Kim waits.

JAMIE (cont'd)

Okay, you're right. How do you do that?

KIM

I know how your mind works.

JAMIE

Can you explain it to me? Because I have no idea.

KIM

Which is why I know that something else must have been on your mind when you backed your car into a post.

JAMIE

I do not drive like an old lady.

Kim pulls another picture out to show Jamie.

KIM

She has big breasts.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

JAMIE
Holy God, you'd never see the product
behind those.

Jamie's phone rings and Kim picks it up.

KIM
Jamie Harrington's office... oh hi Mrs.
MacNichol.

Jamie shakes her head.

KIM (cont'd)
Yep, she's right here. Hold on.

Kim puts the call on hold and holds the receiver out to
Jamie.

JAMIE
What does this mean?

She shakes her head again.

KIM
It means if you want to lie to your
mother you're going to have to do it
yourself.

Jamie takes the receiver and Kim starts to exit.

JAMIE
I'm thinking of a number between one and
ten.

KIM
Five.

Kim exits.

JAMIE
(beat)
How does she do that?

Jamie hits the hold button on the phone.

JAMIE (cont'd)
Hi Mom.

INT. MARY'S HOUSE -- CONTINUOUS

MARY MACNICHOL is a pretty woman in her sixties, standing in
her traditional kitchen talking on the phone. We begin
intercutting between the two of them.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MARY
Hi honey. Did I catch you at a bad time?

JAMIE
No, I was just looking at breasts.

MARY
Yours or someone else's?

JAMIE
A little of both.

MARY
I don't understand your job.

JAMIE
Neither do I. What's up?

MARY
What are you doing this weekend?

JAMIE
It depends.

MARY
On what?

JAMIE
On whether or not I want to do what
you're about to ask me to do.

MARY
Oh, all right, then never mind.

JAMIE
Mom, it was a joke. What?

MARY
No, if I'm that much of a bother.

JAMIE
Mom! Don't pull out the guilt guns. It
was a joke!

MARY
I need new luggage for the cruise.

JAMIE
Uh... what's wrong with your old luggage?

MARY
I don't have any.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

JAMIE
You have luggage.

MARY
I have one suitcase.

JAMIE
That counts as luggage I think.

MARY
It's a two week cruise.

JAMIE
You can borrow some of mine.

MARY
Then it won't match.

JAMIE
And you know they'll probably throw you
overboard for that.

MARY
I just want everything to be nice.

JAMIE
I have a very nice set of luggage. It
all matches and everything.

MARY
But that's yours.

JAMIE
But you can borrow it.

MARY
I don't want to borrow it.

JAMIE
Why not?

MARY
Because I want my own! I'm sixty-two
years old... and I have never bought my
own luggage. I don't want to borrow
yours. I don't want someone to give me a
set. I want to go to a store and pick
out a set of luggage and buy it with my
own money.

(beat)
I want my own luggage.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

JAMIE
(beat)
Okay.

MARY
You think I'm being silly.

JAMIE
No, I don't.

MARY
Then go with me this weekend and help me
pick some out?

JAMIE
Of course.

MARY
Thank you.

JAMIE
I have to get back to work.

MARY
Okay. I love you sweetheart.

JAMIE
I love you too, Mom.

Jamie hangs up and we stay with her.

JAMIE (cont'd)
Kim!

Kim comes in.

JAMIE (cont'd)
Did you place that order that I asked you
to?

KIM
Of course.

JAMIE
Will you cancel it please and bring me
back the catalogue?

KIM
It took you a month to decide on luggage.

JAMIE
Ah but you see in Mary MacNichol's world,
our decisions have no relevance.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

KIM

Good to know. Elaine is here.

JAMIE

Oh good. Elaine!

ELAINE COOPER, an Asian woman in her early 30's, shows up at the doorway.

ELAINE

You bellowed?

JAMIE

(pouty)

I'm having a bad day.

ELAINE

Awww. Elaine is here and she'll make it all better. Kim, can you call ahead to the restaurant and ask them to have a pitcher of margaritas waiting?

JAMIE

(mock tears)

You're my very bestest friend.

Jamie gets up and the two exit.

EXT. RESTAURANT -- AFTERNOON

Jamie and Elaine are sitting at an outside table at a little cafe, enjoying their lunches and the margaritas.

ELAINE

So you really saw it?

JAMIE

Yes.

ELAINE

How big was it?

JAMIE

Elaine!

ELAINE

Oh come on. I've been married for ten years! I've forgotten what it's like to see a real live actual penis.

JAMIE

Is there something you're not telling me about Andy?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ELAINE

Other than Andy's. Don't get me wrong,
Andy's penis is great...

JAMIE

I'm begging you not to finish that
sentence.

ELAINE

But, you know, ten years of the same
thing. It's like you have steak over and
over and over and you like steak. Steak
is good. But you kind of forget that
there's this whole world of rib eyes and
filet mignon, you know?

JAMIE

This conversation is getting ugly.

ELAINE

Just tell me. Cheap thrills. Come on.

JAMIE

(beat - sighs)
Porterhouse.

ELAINE

Really?

JAMIE

Uh-huh.

ELAINE

Really!?

JAMIE

Oh yeah.

ELAINE

Wow. Well, your brother always did have
good taste in men.

JAMIE

That he doesn't deserve.

ELAINE

Jamie, you're acting like he cheated on
you.

JAMIE

You know how I feel about that.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ELAINE

I know, I know, your father was a
bastard.

JAMIE

Total bastard.

ELAINE

Got it, but Colin's not your father.

JAMIE

He sure is acting like it.

ELAINE

(beat)
Have you?

JAMIE

Have I what? Cheated?! How can you even
ask me that?

ELAINE

It's just a question.

JAMIE

First of all, you know me better than
that and second of all the reason you
know me better than that is because I
tell you everything.

ELAINE

That's true. Sorry.

JAMIE

(beat)
Have you?

ELAINE

Hello? Ten years of steak, remember?

JAMIE

Right.

ELAINE

But...

JAMIE

But?

ELAINE

I've... thought about it.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

JAMIE

Thought about it in theory or thought about it in reality?

ELAINE

There was a guy...

JAMIE

Oh my God.

ELAINE

I didn't do anything!

JAMIE

I'm still Oh-my-Godding you.

ELAINE

He was a consultant from New York, training Andy and me, mostly me, on a new travel booking computer system.

JAMIE

And you wanted to sleep with him.

ELAINE

Very badly.

JAMIE

And he wanted to sleep with you?

ELAINE

Very, very badly.

JAMIE

So what happened?

ELAINE

We spent a month wanting to sleep with each other and then he went back to New York and that was the end of that.

JAMIE

Okay, but see, here... this is exactly what I'm talking about. I can totally understand wanting to sleep with someone else but what is it that makes some people do nothing about it until they have to go back to New York and it's too late and other people jump in the sack with humpy twenty-three year olds?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

ELAINE

I don't know. I wish I could tell you that I thought about my husband and realized how much it would hurt them and how horrible of a person it would make me... and I did think about all of those things... but in the end I think I was just chicken.

JAMIE

Hooray for cowardice.

ELAINE

I'll drink to that.

And the two of them do.

ELAINE (cont'd)

So are you feeling better?

JAMIE

I'm not feeling any worse. Although the day is young. God only knows what fresh horrors are in store for me.

They toast to that too.

INT. JAMIE'S OFFICE - AFTERNOON

Jamie walks back into her office and stops cold when she sees DAVID CUTLER, Colin's boyfriend, waiting for her.

DAVID

There's my favorite sister-in-law.

JAMIE

David!

David gets up to hug her.

FADE TO BLACK:

FADE IN:

INT. JAMIE'S OFFICE - AFTERNOON

David hugs Jamie tightly and then lets her go.

DAVID

God, you look fantastic. Did you do something to your hair?

JAMIE

No.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DAVID
Well it looks great.

JAMIE
Thank you.

Kim comes in.

DAVID
Oh, and this one...

KIM
I'm sorry but you're wrong.

DAVID
I am not wrong.

KIM
Yes, you are. It looks cool.

DAVID
It looks ridiculous.

KIM
Jamie, tell him it doesn't look
ridiculous.

DAVID
Jamie, apparently you get the final say
in this. Tongue piercings: ridiculous or
not ridiculous?

JAMIE
Totally ridiculous.

KIM
She does not get the final say in this.

DAVID
She says she wants to get her tongue
pierced.

KIM
I said I would if I thought I could get
away with it around here.

DAVID
Oh so what, there's some sort of "no
tongue-piercings" rule in the employee
handbook?

KIM
This is just way too conservative of an
office. Look at Jamie.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

JAMIE
Thanks for that.

DAVID
I still say it's ridiculous.

Kim heads for the door.

KIM
Well, you're conservative too.

DAVID
Honey... I have worn tighter dresses, had bigger hair, and walked in heels higher than you've ever dreamed of. Conservative is not a word usually applied to me.

Kim smiles and leaves.

DAVID (cont'd)
(to Jamie)
So hi.

JAMIE
Hi. Uh, hi. What are you doing here?

DAVID
I'm sorry to drop by unannounced but, I was in Chicago doing a music video, which of course meant teasing hair higher than God ever intended it to be and who should I run into but Selwyn Cartwright, the founder and CEO of that wireless company Intervue, who parenthetically I knew in a biblical way many years ago when he was soldering things in his mother's garage and although I love your brother don't think I'm not still kicking myself for letting that one get away. Anyway, we were talking about Colin and you came up and your ad agency came up and he said he was looking for a new ad agency and using my charmiest of charms I talked him into talking to you.

JAMIE
Wow.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

DAVID

I know. So I flew in about two hours ago and I had to come right here and tell you the news because you have to call him now. Like right now or it's going to be too late.

JAMIE

I'm... I'm speechless. David, thank you.

DAVID

What are brothers-in-law for? Here's his card, he's waiting to hear from you.

JAMIE

I... I really don't know what to say.

DAVID

Too bad I don't have that affect on your brother. He *always* has something to say.

JAMIE

Yeah. Have you... talked to him... since you've been back?

DAVID

No. Like I said, I just came from the airport directly here. Why? Is something wrong?

JAMIE

No. Of course not. I mean, I don't know. I mean... Selwyn Cartwright. Wow.

DAVID

Are you okay?

JAMIE

Yes. I've been drinking. I mean, I had a couple of margaritas at lunch with Elaine.

DAVID

Atta girl.

He stands up.

DAVID (cont'd)

So call him.

JAMIE

I will. Thank you.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

DAVID
You're welcome my love.

He kisses her on the forehead. He starts to leave but turns back.

DAVID (cont'd)
Did Colin help you pick out the luggage?

JAMIE
Yes.

DAVID
Oh good. I've been bugging him about that. Are you still coming over on Saturday for dinner?

JAMIE
Sure.

DAVID
Wonderful. It'll be an extravaganza.

He throws her another kiss and exits. Jamie exhales for the first time since she saw him. The intercom buzzes and Jamie jumps as Kim's voice comes across.

KIM (OS)
Jamie, Fred wants to see you in his office. He sounds mad.

Jamie looks heavenward.

JAMIE
What next? Plague of locusts?

She stands wearily.

INT. FRED'S OFFICE - AFTERNOON

Fred Turner is on the phone when Jamie peeks her head in the doorway. Fred motions for her to come in.

FRED
I want it on my desk in two hours... I don't care... if you want the job you'll have it here in two hours. After that I start looking for someone else... Listen, I don't want to have to do that either but you're forcing my hand here... I'm sorry. Two hours. Not a minute later. Bye.

Fred hangs up the phone and turns his attention to Jamie.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JAMIE

You wanted to see me?

FRED

Yes, I did. Jamie, how long have you worked here?

JAMIE

Seven years.

FRED

Seven years. I hired you.

JAMIE

I remember.

FRED

You started out as an assistant and worked your way up to senior account executive.

JAMIE

That's right.

FRED

And now, apparently, you're in charge of the whole place.

JAMIE

I'm sorry?

FRED

You're the boss. The head honcho. The big kahuna. You make all the decisions and you don't report to anyone... oh no, wait. That's me. I'm the boss, right?

JAMIE

Right.

FRED

You know you'll have to forgive me for my confusion on that issue because I just got off the phone a little while ago with the director of the Cunningham Cosmetics shoot and he says that you okayed a six-thousand dollar budget increase.

JAMIE

The client asked for changes.

FRED

Six thousand dollars worth of changes?!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

JAMIE

Yes!

FRED

That will come out of our pocket!

JAMIE

It's a quarter-million dollar account that they were threatening to pull if I didn't give them what they wanted. I figured six thousand dollars wasn't that big of a deal in the grand scheme of things.

FRED

But right there, Jamie. That's the issue. You don't get to decide the grand scheme of things. I do. Are we clear on that concept?

JAMIE

(beat)

Yes.

FRED

You're a great account executive, Jamie. The clients love you, the staff loves you. But if you ever do anything like this again I will fire you so fast that by the time your head stops spinning you'll be asking why you're not in Kansas anymore. Understood?

JAMIE

(beat)

Yes sir.

Fred turns back to his paperwork and Jamie sits there for a moment shell-shocked. When she realizes she is being dismissed, she gets up and leaves.

INT. JAMIE'S OFFICE -- CONTINUOUS

Jamie walks back into her office and sits down heavily at her desk. Kim enters a moment later.

KIM

Are you okay?

JAMIE

Have you ever heard the phrase, "he ripped me a new one"?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KIM

Yes.

JAMIE

Never really understood it until now.

The phone rings.

JAMIE (cont'd)

Unless it's Ed McMahon with a million dollars I'm not here.

Kim walks over to the desk and picks up the phone.

KIM

Jamie Harrington's office... hi, hold on.

She holds the receiver out to Jamie.

KIM (cont'd)

It's Tom.

Jamie takes it and Kim leaves.

JAMIE

Hi. You are not going to believe the day I'm having.

INT. HOSPITAL - CONTINUOUS

Tom is in the waiting room of a hospital emergency room talking on a cell phone. He has a slightly bloody cloth to his head.

TOM

Bet I can top you.

FADE TO BLACK:

FADE IN:

INT. HOSPITAL - LATER

Jamie comes into the waiting room at the emergency room and finds Tom.

JAMIE

Oh my God, Tom, you're bleeding!

TOM

It's stopped.

JAMIE

Let me see.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

She pulls back the cloth.

JAMIE (cont'd)
You're going to need stitches.

TOM
Hence the whole emergency room thing.

JAMIE
And your hand?

TOM
Yeah. I think it's broken.

JAMIE
Why are you still sitting out here?

TOM
Because they haven't called me back yet.

JAMIE
Well, that's ridiculous.

TOM
Jamie, they're very busy with serious stuff.

JAMIE
Stitches and a broken hand aren't serious?

TOM
Not as serious as gunshots and stabbings, no.

JAMIE
I'm going to go talk to someone.

She gets up but Tom stops her with his good hand.

TOM
Jamie. Sit. Relax. Breathe.

She does.

TOM (cont'd)
What about the kids?

JAMIE
David is picking them up.

TOM
David?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

JAMIE

He had just been in my office when you called and I couldn't find Colin and...

TOM

Breathe.

Jamie takes a deep breath and exhales slowly.

JAMIE

He's taking them back to the loft and I told him we'd pick them up on the way home.

TOM

Okay. So everything is okay.

JAMIE

No, it's not Tom. You were in a car accident for Christ's sake.

TOM

But I'm okay.

JAMIE

But you could've been...

TOM

But I wasn't.

(beat)

Look on the bright side. At least we still have one car in running order.

JAMIE

Yeah. About that...

TOM

What?

JAMIE

Nevermind. I'll tell you later. So the car is...

TOM

It's pretty bad.

JAMIE

Oh my God, you could've been killed.

TOM

But I wasn't.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

JAMIE
Stop saying that. I mean... you know
what I mean.

TOM
You're freaking out.

JAMIE
I think I am allowed to freak out when my
husband gets in a major car accident.

TOM
Fair enough.

JAMIE
And you know how much I hate hospitals
and doctors and...

TOM
Doctor. What about your doctor
appointment?

JAMIE
Screw it.

TOM
Isn't your doctor right across the
street?

JAMIE
Tom, I'm not going for some dumb physical
while you're sitting here bleeding with a
broken hand.

TOM
Jamie, it could be hours before I get out
of here.

JAMIE
I don't care, I'm not leaving you.

TOM
Okay, but honey...

JAMIE
I'm not leaving.

TOM
Sweetheart...

JAMIE
And I'm not listening to you either.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

TOM
Love of my life...

JAMIE
Not leaving, not listening.

TOM
Jamie, until we get the car thing sorted out you're going to have to drop off the kids and take me to work and pick up the kids and with all of that plus work when are you going to have time to reschedule? Wouldn't it just be easier if you went and got it out of the way now so that we don't have to worry about it later?

Jamie sighs and looks at her watch.

JAMIE
I have my cell phone with me. If I'm not back before you're done, you call me.

TOM
I will.

JAMIE
Do you promise?

TOM
I swear to God.

Jamie kisses him.

JAMIE
Thank you.

TOM
Thank you for sending you to a doctor's appointment?

JAMIE
No. Thank you for not getting killed.

Tom kisses her.

TOM
Anytime. Go.

Jamie gets up and leaves the waiting room.

INT. HALLWAY -- AFTERNOON

David is walking down the hallway toward the loft with Bryan and Rose.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BRYAN

Did they say what time they were going to come and pick us up?

DAVID

After they are done at the hospital. It shouldn't be too long.

ROSE

And you're sure Dad is okay?

DAVID

I'm positive. Just a couple of bumps.

ROSE

You're not just saying that to make us feel better?

DAVID

If I was going to say something to make you feel better I'd tell you that they were going to take you out for ice cream on the way home.

ROSE

They are?

BRYAN

He's kidding, Rose.

They have reached the door.

ROSE

Oh. So no ice cream?

DAVID

Well maybe not from your folks but Uncle David and Uncle Colin are always stocked with ice cream. It's a rule.

ROSE

Cool.

David opens the door and the three of them go inside.

INT. COLIN'S LOFT -- CONTINUOUS

They come inside and David drops his bags by the door.

DAVID

Colin?

BRYAN

Can I watch TV?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DAVID
Of course. Colin?

ROSE
I guess he's not home.

DAVID
I guess not. Oh well. More ice cream
for us.

ROSE
Yeah!

David goes to the kitchen area and opens the freezer.

DAVID
Let's see. Chocolate chocolate chip or
cookie dough?

ROSE
Cookie dough!

DAVID
A woman after my own heart. Bryan?

BRYAN
Chocolate chip, I guess.

DAVID
A man after Colin's heart.

David takes both ice cream containers out of the freezer and sets them on the counter. It is now that he notices the note. He picks it up and opens it and his expression slowly changes from the smile he was wearing to one of heartbreak.

He closes the note and looks around, a little lost. After a moment he walks into the bedroom carrying the note.

INT. BEDROOM -- CONTINUOUS

David walks into the bedroom and over to the closet. He opens it to reveal a big empty space where Colin's clothes used to be. He pauses there for a moment - shocked and stunned.

He walks back to the door and closes it then crosses to the bedside phone. He unfolds the note and then picks up the receiver to dial.

DAVID
Room 1406 please... Colin MacNichol.

INT. HOTEL ROOM -- CONTINUOUS

The phone in Colin's hotel room rings and Colin comes out of the bathroom to just look at it for a moment. After a few rings he crosses and picks up the receiver.

COLIN
Hello?

We begin intercutting between the two of them.

COLIN (cont'd)
David?

DAVID
Tom was in a car accident. He's okay but Jamie had to go and pick him up at the hospital so I went and picked up the kids. They're here now and Jamie and Tom are going to pick them up on the way home.

COLIN
(beat)
Do you want me to...

DAVID
No.

There is a long uncomfortable pause.

COLIN
David, I'm sorry.

DAVID
Yeah. I read that in your note.

He hangs up the phone and we stay with him as he breaks down a little bit. He recovers though and after a moment he walks back to the door and opens it.

DAVID (cont'd)
So what about that ice cream?

ROSE
Yeah!

He goes back out into the living room.

INT. DOCTORS OFFICE -- AFTERNOON

Jamie is sitting in the exam room of her doctor's office wearing a hospital johnnie and looking uncomfortable.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

She checks her watch a couple of times before her doctor, AMANDA KAELIN, a solid woman in her 40s enters.

AMANDA

Okay, I called my friend across the street and they're taking Tom in right now.

JAMIE

Thank you so much, Dr. Kaelin.

AMANDA

You're welcome. Do you think you can relax a little bit now?

JAMIE

How long have I been coming here?

AMANDA

Long enough for me to know better than to ask dumb questions like that I suppose.

JAMIE

So how much have we got left here?

Amanda checks her chart.

AMANDA

Let's see, we did blood pressure and lungs and weight...

JAMIE

Which makes me love that whole doctor-patient confidentiality thing.

AMANDA

Please. If anything you could stand to gain a few pounds.

JAMIE

Careful. I may take that as doctor's orders.

AMANDA

(back to the chart)
So I think if we do the EKG, and the breast exam, and the pelvic that should wrap it up.

Jamie looks at her watch.

AMANDA (cont'd)

Twenty minutes. I promise.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

JAMIE

Okay. Feel me up, Doc.

Jamie pulls down her hospital johnnie so the doctor can examine her breasts. Amanda begins the exam as they chat.

AMANDA

So how did it happen?

JAMIE

A guy ran a red light. Talking on his cell phone of course.

AMANDA

Of course.

JAMIE

Driving a big SUV.

AMANDA

Also of course.

JAMIE

Plowed right into him on the passenger side, flipped him around, and Tom's car wound up wrapped around a light pole.

AMANDA

Good God.

JAMIE

I know. I guess the car is totalled.

AMANDA

It's a miracle he wasn't hurt worse than he was.

JAMIE

A miracle. Absolutely.

AMANDA

Was the other guy hurt?

JAMIE

He was driving a tank! He didn't even get a broken fingernail.

AMANDA

Those things should be...

Amanda trails off as she finds something in Jamie's left breast. Jamie picks up where she left off.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

JAMIE

Outlawed. I know. Tom wanted us to get one but I'm very happy with my old-fashioned station wagon. Which, by the way, I ran into a pole this morning. The back end crumpled like a piece of tissue paper. So maybe I will go get a tank of our own.

AMANDA

Jamie, have you been doing your self breast exams?

JAMIE

Uh.. yeah.

AMANDA

Every month?

JAMIE

Most every month.

AMANDA

Have you felt this before?

JAMIE

Felt what?

Amanda takes Jamie's hand and guides it to the lump she feels in Jamie's breast.

AMANDA

Here.

Jamie feels it for a moment.

JAMIE

It's probably just another cyst right?

AMANDA

How have you been feeling?

JAMIE

I feel fine.

AMANDA

Run down? Tired? Anything?

JAMIE

No. In fact I feel great. That's gotta be a cyst. You know I've had them before - no big deal.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

AMANDA

Yeah. I'm going to send you down for a mammogram.

JAMIE

When?

AMANDA

Right now.

JAMIE

Now? But Tom is...

AMANDA

Jamie... right now.

Jamie meets Amanda's gaze and gets it immediately: this is serious.

JAMIE

Okay.

AMANDA

I'm going to go call. I'll be right back.

JAMIE

Okay.

Amanda heads toward the door and is almost out when Jamie stops her.

JAMIE (cont'd)

Dr. Kaelin.

AMANDA

Yeah?

JAMIE

This is the part when you're supposed to tell me that it's probably nothing. That you just want to be safe.

AMANDA

(beat)

It's probably nothing. I just want to be safe.

Amanda leaves the room and closes the door behind her. The lights start to dim around Jamie as she stands and goes to the window. She speaks - not directly to the camera or to any other person - just talking out loud.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

JAMIE

I remember when I was about eight, Dad took me to this carnival down at the fairground. One of those traveling things with rides that probably aren't safe and animals that look like they are about ready to drop. I didn't really want to go because they kind of scared me. The rides. It wasn't about being scared to ride them it was more about... just the way these sort of big things loomed and hulked out over the fairground. Shaped like a giant octopus and a pirate ship. So I didn't want to go but Dad insisted. "We're going to have a fun family outing whether you like it or not!"

(laughs)

So we get there and all the other kids were running from ride to ride and I wanted nothing to do with any of it until I saw the sideshows. This long row of bizarre attractions like the bearded lady and the three headed goat or whatever.

(beat)

I was wearing a blue dress. Weird.

(beat)

Anyway, I was there for hours. And I totally forgot about all the big scary rides because I spent the entire time just fascinated with the sideshows.

(beat)

I was too distracted by the sideshow to pay attention to the big scary stuff behind me.

FADE TO BLACK.