

PHLEBE'Z (INTERLUDE) - CHERRY REVISION

Written by

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1 EXT/INT.DAY.HARPERS APARTMENT**1**

Somber jazz music opens the scene, it's a rainy, melancholy day somewhere in Midwest, America the voice over begin with the the b-roll.

HARPER (V.O.)

What a difference a day makes. What about all the effort, it takes to make day great, or a dollar to break.

We see a exterior wide shot of Harper's apartment complex, inside we see Harper funky apartment.

HARPER (V.O.)

Congratulation's!!! You have just entered the uneventful life of Miss Harper Brown, a walking billboard for the neighborhood liquor store and love life resembles that of never ending revolving door, but hey isn't life grand?!?!?

The walls are decorated with her successes and family portraits, and a path of clothing and beer bottles leads to her bedroom.

1A INT. DAY.HARPER'S BEDROOM**1A**

The sunlight cuts through crooked blinds , a cracked cell phone buzzes on the nightstand next to a open bottle of tequila and cocaine, Harper Brown , 30's,curvy, edgy is sprawled out ,in tank top and underwear, her make up is smeared. she has one cowboy boot on.

ALEX (O.S.)

It's 10:04 AM you have two missed calls from the lab.

HARPER

Who's there? (waving the gun wildly in the air.) Shit, it was just you Alexa. Alexa, what time is it?

She groans and rolls over .she grabs the phone squints then slams the phone back down

HARPER

FUUUUUUUCK ME!

She takes a swig from the tequila bottle from the nightstand, before she scurries throughout the house to get dressed for work, after she finally get's dressed she peeks out the front door surveying her surroundings before she darts out the front door.

HARPE (V.O.)
I know what your thinking , she
looks like she has it all figured
out.

Beat

HARPER (V.O.)
Yeah, me either.

She sets up slowly, head pounding. She

2 INT.DAY.CAR

2

It's bumper to bumper traffic, she looks at the her reflection in the mirror glances at her work badge.

HARPER (VO)
After all of the soul searching
that I've done throughout my life
from, I think I've finally found a
job that I can call home. Today,
marks my two year anniversary that
I've been working at the lab, I
even was promoted to the lead
phlebotomist position.

A montage of shots of her troubled past: a mugshot, her shooting dice in a dark alley, and finally her binge drinking.

HARPER (V.O.)
Today's my one year anniversary as
the lead phlebotomist at Mercy
Diagnostics

B-roll footage showcases Harper in action, overseeing the lab as a skilled phlebotomist. She finally makes it to work and darts inside of the busy hospital lab.

3 EXT.DAY.HOSPITAL

3

A few moments later....

HARPER (V.O.)

Correction was my one year
anniversary. four hours late No
call. No show I'm what H.R. likes
to call a "liability"

Somber music plays in the background, With sadness, Harper
steps out of the hospital, clutching a box of her items after
being fired She makes the long walk back to her car.

HARPER (V.O.)
Well, that was humiliating... I
mean how.... I mean why... What the
hell just happened?

After, finally making it to her car, carelessly throwing the
box in the backseat. She takes a moment to reflect, looks
over at the empty passenger seat, as if she is expecting
someone to be there, then grabs a joint from the ashtray,
sparking it before she drives off. As she drives, she stares
at the empty seat next her, as though she is expecting
someone.

HARPER (V.O.)
See, I wasn't always this like
this, I use to have dreams ,hope
now all I have is hangover's and
punch card for terrible decisions.

Out of nowhere, Shelia—her alter ego—exudes a bohemian aura
as she perches in the passenger seat, casting a distant gaze
at Harper.

HARPER
(holding her chest)
Dammit, Shelia! What I tell you
about sneaking up on me like that?
You almost gave me a heart attack
and car accident at the same time.

SHELIA
Well, you know me, I got to keep
you on point, you never know when I
might pull up.(snickers)

HARPER
You don't say?!? I'm really not in
the mood for company today, so what
can I help you with?

SHELIA
You sure?!? Look like to me you
could use a friend right about now.

HARPER

A friend?!?!? Is that's what this is?

SHELIA

I would say we was best friends, but something tells me-but the way your body language just changed, something say's we might not be on the same page.

HARPER

BEST FRIENDS?!?! That would be exaggerating a little don't you think? You show up unannounced. invading my space whenever you feel like it. Now, that I think about, every time you come around, it's drama!

SHELIA

I'm appalled! I'd like to think that I bring source of joy and balance to your life. I keep you calm, cool and collected.

HARPER

Calm?!? Like the time you convinced me to drink some calming tea before my grandma Bell's wake and it was Ayahuasca.

They exchange a look, and Shelia instinctively turns her gaze.

DISSOLVE TO:

FLASH BACK

4A INT.CHURCH.NIGHT

4A

Pastor Reggie-late 50's slick suit, pinky ring, the kind of man who turns every sermon into a business pitch-stands at the pulpit, a gleaming smile on his face. he spreads his arms wide milking the moment.

FADES OUT.

PASTOR (O.S.)

Saints and friends.... We are gathered here today celebrate the life of our beloved Mother Mae Bell. A woman of faith a consistent tither. Now before we move foreword with the very necessary love offering to honor Mother Mar Bell(gestures to a large donation box) I wanna open the floor to anyone who would like to share a few words on her behalf. Sistah Romaine come on up here.

A chair scrapes loudly as Romaine best friend of sixty three years makes her way to the pulpit.

ROMAINE
Church.... God is good!

CONGREGATION
All The time....

ROMAIN (O.S.)
Now, I knew Mae bell for Sixty three years three month and two days. And when I tell you that that woman was a a solider.

4 INT/INT.CHURCH.NIGHT

4

Dim candles flicker. Harper and Shelia sits in the middle of a pew, Harper clutching her stomach ,her eyes darting nervously. The choir hums softly in the background. The kind of eerie gospel that makes you feel judged.

HARPER
(low whisper) Shelia.

SHELIA
Hmm?

HARPER
What was in that tea?

SHELIA
What kind of herbs?!?

SHELIA
Lavender and dandelion.

Harper turns her head to look behind her and the wooden Jesus behind her smiles and winks.

HARPER

Are you sure? Cause I'm either tripping or I'm losing my mind. Turn your head to the right but I think Jesus is flirting with me.

They both look at the Jesus statues winks and nods again. They both look at each other with the WTF look.

5 EXT. DAY.CAR

5

Present day

As Harper drives into the parking lot, she and Shelia share a moment of silence.

HARPER

FUUUUUUUCK! (hits the steering wheel) I was already in the hole before today, now, I'm just FUCKED!

SHELIA

I know it feels heavy right now, but don't be too harsh on yourself. We've walked this path before, everything is going to okay, trust me.

HARPER

Yeah... right! I can hear my daddy right now calling me everything but the child of god, I can hear him now " you better go stay at the shelter, cause you ain't bringing your black ass back home"

The pair walk to the mailbox, cautiously looking out for her apartment manager.

5A INT/EXT. EVE HARPER'S STUDIO

5A

As she makes her way to her apartment she digs into her purse and reveals a stack of unpaid bills. Tacked to her front door is a day eviction notice. She storms inside, slamming the door right in Shelia's face.

KNOCK! KNOCK!

SHELIA

Come on now Harpo, you just had a bad day, that could've happened to anybody.(mumbles) Although, your the first person that I've ever known to get canned on their anniversary, but, like I said, could've happened to anyone.

Harper walks over to her bar, pouring up two generous shots of tequila knocking them back one after the other.

KNOCK! KNOCK!

Shelia walks to the window and watches from outside.

SHELIA

So you just gonna get faded off the liq?

HARPER

Yup, sure am!

SHELIA

That's smart, I'm pretty sure that the reason you was four hours late this morning-great idea!

HARPER

Oh, so now your judging me?!?!

SHELIA

Me judging you? of course not! it's more of like an observation I would day.

HARPER

You know what? Why don't you go jump off of clip somewhere! I already told you that I'm not in the mood for you today. Every time you come around shit just tends to happen! You know what? I think I got this, whatever this is I'm going through, I can handle it, ON MY OWN! GO AWAY! I DON'T NEED YOU!

Shelia begins to walk off, then walks back to the front door.

Bam! Bam!

SHELIA

You know what HARPER?!?! You've got some nerve, blaming me for you being irresponsible! Why don't you grow up and stop blaming other people for your fuck up's! You're the one still acting like you're still in your twenties, bar hopping on weekdays, getting shit faced, not to mention, hooking up with every Tom, Dick or Harry. YOU are the one who fucks up every good thing that comes into your life, maybe if you get out of your own way, you can do something productive with your life instead of this whole "whoa is me" act, because let me tell you sistah girl, it's old.... and lame!

Harper feels the impact of her words. She takes a swig from the bottle, swaying as she heads to the door. She yanks it open, and their eyes meet in a quiet standoff, both waiting for the other to ease the tension.

HARPER

You really think you can just waltz in here and judge me, Shelia? Who do you think you are? My life went downhill the moment you showed up, pretending you know anything about me! You don't know shit about me! So, you go to hell!

Harper slams the door, in a fit of rage she trashes the living room.

FADES TO BLACK

END OF ACT I

6 EXT.DAY.BUSY STREET

6

ACT II

The scene opens up with somber jazz music, it's rainy melancholy day, A somber Shelia walks down a busy street with no place to go, the voiceover's play, as she makes the long walk to the bus stop.

SHELIA (V.O.)

Okay, so maybe my words were a little harsh, but they here honest, but still, it's not what you say, but how you say it. Her life was better without me in it?!? I beg to differ, I still remember the day that we met.

DISSOLVE TO:

FLASH BACK -TWO YEARS EARLIER

7 INT.DAY.HARPER'S STUDIO

7

Harper lies on the empty floor of her quiet apartment, looking up at the ceiling as she takes long puffs from a joint. After a moment, she pulls out her phone from her back pocket and scrolls through her Facebook. Seeing her old classmates thriving in their jobs and starting families fills her with sadness. Then, a loud thunderclap surprises her, and the lights flicker before going out.

HARPER

Are you fucking kidding me?!?

She searches in the dark for a bit before lighting a match to light a candle. Once the candle is set down, she returns to her place on the floor and continues to smoke her joint. Out of the blue, Shelia shows up and sits beside Harper.

SHELIA

(singing") Pass the doobie to the left.

Not really paying attention, Harper passes the joint to her.

SHELIA

This is some fiyah!!!

HARPER

Yeah, I know, it's that "Blue dream"

Harper realizes she is not alone, and they both scream at each other in sync. Harper continues to yell, while Shelia watches her like she's lost her mind. Without warning, Shelia slaps Harper, pulling her back to reality.

HARPER

(holding her face) Whatch'u hit me for?

SHELIA

Blowing my high with all that
screaming, you act like you just
seen a ghost.

Harper slaps Shelia back.

SHELIA
(holding her face) Whatch'u do that
for?

HARPER
Had to get my lick back, whatch'u
mean?

They share a chuckle.

HARPER
So who are you? And what are you
doing here?

SHELIA
I mean... Isn't it obvious hon, I'm
you, well.. the best part of you,
I'm Shelia.

HARPER
Best part of me?!? Yeah, sure you
are?

After getting up from the floor, Harper heads to the kitchen
and pulls a can of malt liquor from the bare refrigerator.

HARPER
The best part of me is joke. I'm a
joke! This whole thing called life
is a joke! So do yourself a favor,
Shelia don't blow smoke up my ass
about you being the best part of
me, cause, I don't know if you
know this or not, but I'm all kinds
of fucked up. My family has
basically disowned me, my man left
me a months ago, after I lost my
part of the rent on dice game from
I got three days to come up on rent
money or I'm gone be standing in
line at the soup kitchen. Soooo,
Shelia, if you don't mind, I'd like
to be alone and wallow in self pity
and loathing.

She walks back into the living room and takes a seat on the
floor next to Shelia, takes a swig from her beer, then passes
it to Shelia who reluctantly accepts it.

SHELIA

(examines the can) UGH.... Steel reserved huh? Nah, I'm good.
(passing it back) How are you going to ever going to get whatch'u want out of life if you don't treat yourself like your worth something?

HARPER

Because... I ain't shit, I thought that was evident.

SHELIA

Well, of course you ain't going to be shit, if that's what your telling your self. You have to be your own cheerleader.

HARPER

Well, aren't you confident.

SHELIA

Very! (smiles and waves)

HARPER

Well, I'm not that confident, besides, as soon as I start to build my confidence up, my world starts to crumble, so I like to just keep it real with myself, this is me.

SHELIA

So what that mean? You get pushed down, so what! you just gone lay down accept that?

HARPER

Basically, listen, some fights aren't worth fighting, especially, if you know what the outcome is going to be.

SHELIA

Oh so you physic now?!? You get knocked down, you got to get back up and keep that shit pushing, it don't stop!

HARPER

That coming from someone who seems to have her shit together. I mean your beautiful, articulate, shit , your vibe is infectious! Me... well.. " I'm more of like a disease that spreads like a wild fire to all of your vital organs. Look, Shelia, here is the long and short end of it. I'm over the age of thirty with no sense of direction, no purpose, besides all of gambling debts, past due bills , I'm one bean away from standing in line at the soup kitchen for my next meal! I'm constantly watching over my shoulder either from the apartment manger or my bookie. All of my friends stop hanging out with my years ago, their all married with children and careers and I just lost my my whole pay check on Wilder Vs Fury fight last night! I'm FUCKED! The only thing that I'm good at is fucking up!

SHELIA

Well, that's not true. Your really good at two things.

HARPER

Oh yeah?! Well... enlighten me.

SHELIA

Hustling and Gambling.

HARPER

Yeah, both of those attributes sound, like I'm the prime candidate for a perfect position a reputable company.

SHELIA

Don't it though?!?! It means you know how to get shit done!

Harper rolls her eyes.

SHELIA

Hear me out, your a risk taker!
 Now, that can be a good thing or a
 bad thing, but I'm all about the
 positive, you , my friend, have to
 know which risks are worth taking.
 To be transparent with you, I think
 it maybe time to start taking a
 risk on yourself, for your future.
 I mean if you don't want to feel
 like a failure, then start treating
 yourself like the winner you were
 born to be.

Shelia walks over to the mirror, staring at her own
 reflection in the mirror, as Harper watches in the
 background.

SHELIA

You have to wake up every morning
 and thank god for another day of
 life ,another day is a change.

Harper join's her at the mirror.

SHELI (CONT'D)

Life is what you make it. It's time
 for you to start living your best
 life.

FADE TO BLACK.

8 INT.DAY.HARPER STUDIO

8

Montage

The scene begins with "Blessed" by Herald Sihombing playing
 in the background, we see a montage of Harper and Shelia
 tackle the mess in her apartment. A list of organizations
 providing rental assistance is visible, with Harper making
 calls and checking them off one by one. We witness Harper
 battling alcohol withdrawal, while Shelia offers her support.
 Shelia introduces Harper to yoga, but Harper finds it
 challenging. As Shelia observes from the window, Harper picks
 up a flyer for Gamblers Anonymous. A timelapse shows Harper
 finally securing help for her rent and mastering the warrior
 pose. The montage concludes with Harper enter the hospital
 for interview at the lab.

FADES TO BLACK

END OF ACT II

9 EXT/INT.DAY HARPER'S STUDIO

9

ACT III

Present day

An A-hop beat plays in the background as Shelia walks up the stairs to Harper's apartment she watches Harper through the window as Harper lays on the couch staring at nothing, after a beat, Shelia knocks at the door, when Harper opens the door the two share a silent moment, with Shelia walking in closing the door behind her.

HARPER

I want to apologize for being an ass last night; it was out of line. The truth is, I often find myself undermining my own happiness when things are going well. I'm so accustomed to fucking everything up that doing the right thing feels strange to me. For the first time, you've helped me realize that maybe I do have something to offer the world.

SHELIA

You do! You have something so special that it's a shame that you don't even know it.

HARPER

I guess, I'm struggling trying to find what that something special is.

SHELIA

Oh that easy! Come here, I'll show you.

Shelia walks Harper over to the mirror.

SHELIA

That something special is you! Don't let borrowed time that were all on be wasted.

They hug.

HARPER

So, how do I fix this conundrum that I find myself in? Again!

Shelia sits down at the desk and logs on to the computer.

SHELIA

I really don't think its as bad as
you think?

HARPER

Oh yeah?!?! How you figure that?

SHELIA

Sistah girl, you have a
certification, leadership
experience and clinical expertise.

HARPER

That's right! I do huh?

Shelia continues to look at job postings and stumbles across
a national travel phlebotomy position.

SHELIA

Sooooo, how do you feel traveling?

They give each other a smirk.

The END

The theme song to the show plays as the ending credits roll