

ONE MORE CHRISTMAS

Written by

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Inspired by my Grandma. What I wouldn't give for just one more
Christmas with you.

INT. LYNNE ANDREWS' KITCHEN - DAY

The camera pans around an immaculate kitchen, decorated to Christmas perfection. A small film crew consisting of WILL LEEDS, videographer, 30's, quite and sarcastically funny; HILLARY COLE, Production coordinator, 20's, glasses, smart, determined, and spunky; and JIM STAFFORD, creative director, 30's, positive, caring, and laid back, stand behind the camera as it zooms in on LYNNE ANDREWS, 30's, the bright, bubbly, wears her heart on her sleeve host of *Wit, Wine, and Wellness*, a morning lifestyle show, closing out a segment.

LYNNE

Like my grandmother always said, there's always room for something sweet. For more tips, recipes, and more, be sure to check our socials @witwineandwellness. Until the new year, Stay well, stay witty, and stay wined. Happy Holidays.

JIM

And cut.

LYNNE

We got it?

WILL

We got it.

JIM

You are officially on vacation.

LYNNE

You're sure you don't need anything before I go?

JIM

Nope. Just take some time, relax and enjoy your time off. Your family is gonna be happy to see you. I know it's been a few years since you've been home for Christmas.

LYNNE

Yeah. They're excited.(beat) Hil, can I help clean up.

HILLARY

We got it.

WILL

You're avoiding.

LYNNE

I can get that last segment edited for you. I know you're swamped...

WILL/JIM/HILLARY

We got it!

LYNNE

(laughing) Fine!

WILL

Just think, this time next year, we will have a team of editors to do the work for us.

HILLARY

And then a limo can drive us all up to Mountain Ridge for the annual Christmas Eve Party. (realization) We can film it. A spinoff. A Small Town Soiree. The network will love it. (pause) Obviously, if that's something you would want. I know that's an important event for you.

LYNNE is uncomfortable, JIM clocks it.

JIM

We all decided to take the holiday to think about it and make our decision. So, let's just do that, as exciting as it is to think about.

LYNNE

Yeah, okay. (beat) And, hey, who knows, right? Now, clean up and get out of my house, I have errands to run before we leave.

JIM

That's why you made us a key. Go.

LYNNE heads to the front door and grabs her purse and keys.

LYNNE

Anyone need anything?

WILL

We will be on vacation by the time you're done.

HILLARY

We love you. Merry Christmas.

LYNNE
Love you too. Merry Christmas.

Her phone buzzes. She looks at the screen, and the name MOM stares back at her. She smiles and answers. She yells to her team.

LYNNE (CONT'D)
It's Mom.

HILLARY/JIM/WILL
Hi Mom!

INT. LYNNE'S LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Laughing, LYNNE continues back into the receiver.

LYNNE
Hi Mom. Did you hear them?

KATHLEEN (V.O.)
Hey honey. I did. Hi kids.

LYNNE yells back into the kitchen.

LYNNE
Mom says hi.

KATHLEEN (V.O.)
Everything still on schedule?

LYNNE starts gathering up her purse, keys, etc.

LYNNE
Yep. Just finished filming, gonna run a few errands and then pick up Peter. I think we will take off around 6pm.

KATHLEEN (V.O.)
Please be careful hun. I hate when you drive at night.

LYNNE
Mom, I'm going to sleep before we leave. And I'm not driving alone. We'll take turns. And it's only five hours away.

KATHLEEN is noticeably quiet on the other end of the line.

LYNNE (CONT'D)
Mom?

LYNNE sits down in a chair near the window, out of earshot of her team.

KATHLEEN (V.O.)
Yeah?

LYNNE
What?

KATHLEEN (V.O.)
Nothing.

LYNNE
Your nothing always means something
What?

KATHLEEN (V.O.)
Its just...it's important that you
come home this year. I just, you
know I hate to ask you, but I need
you here. So even if he backs out..

LYNNE
I know Mom, and (beat, unsure) he
won't.

KATHLEEN (V.O.)
I know, honey. It's just, you
haven't been home for Christmas in
three years. I know it's important
to you to spend Christmas with
Peter. You are an adult. You have
your own life know.

LYNNE
Mom. I want to come home. I want to
be with you. (beat) I should have
come home the last few years. I
should have...

KATHLEEN
Honey, no one could have known last
year was her last Christmas.

LYNNE
It's just...maybe my priorities
have been a little off. We could
have compromised, maybe, Peter and
I...I don't know. (beat) This is
the kind of stuff I would talk to
her about.

LYNNE looks at a small trinket on the table. It is a music box with her as a child on it, wearing her Grandmother's blue tulle dress, which is, of course, gigantic on her.

LYNNE (CONT'D)

Mom, do you remember Grammy's blue dress. The one I always played dress up in?

KATHLEEN (V.O.)

Of course I do.

LYNNE

Is it still around?

KATHLEEN (V.O.)

I don't know. We can look when you get home. I have a lot of boxes I haven't been able to go through.

LYNNE

We can go through them together.
(beat) I'll be there. I promise.

KATHLEEN

Have you thought anymore about the offer?

LYNNE

From the Network? I can't stop thinking about it.

KATHLEEN

So, is that a yes?

LYNNE is quiet.

LYNNE

I...don't know.

KATHLEEN

What does your team think?

LYNNE

They are all for it. Jim won't say so for my sake, but I know they are.

KATHLEEN

So what's the hold up.

LYNNE'S doorbell rings. It's PETER DOWNS, 40's, successful, gaslighting narcissist, wrapped in a pretty package. LYNNE looks through the window.

Confused, she continues.

LYNNE
It's Peter.

KATHLEEN
Honey, remember this is *your*
career. If he loves you the way he
says, he will support you....

KATHLEEN (CONT'D)
No, Mom, I mean, he's at the door.
I'm sorry, I gotta go.

KATHLEEN (V.O.)
Right. (Beat) I'll see you tomorrow
morning?

LYNNE hurriedly gets off the phone.

LYNNE
Uh-huh. Love you.

She hangs up and opens the door to PETER.

INT. LYNNE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM/PORCH

*NOTE: LYNNE is never quite herself with PETER. She is the
person he wants her to be.*

LYNNE
Hey. Sorry, I was on the phone with
Mom. What are you doing here?
Wasn't the plan to pick you up in a
few....

PETER dismisses her with a slight wave of his hand.

PETER
You could have asked her to wait.
You know how busy I am.

LYNNE
I know. I got off the call as
quickly...

PETER
It doesn't matter. Listen, we need
to talk about this trip.

PETER barges into the LIVING ROOM. WILL, JIM, and HILLARY,
hear the commotion and quietly eavesdrop from the kitchen.

LYNNE doesn't notice.

LYNNE

Oh. Great. I, um, have a few quick errands to run, and then we can go. I know you said we'd leave at six o'clock, but we can go right after I'm done running errands if you want to (Beat) You wanna come with me...?

PETER

Why?

LYNNE is taken aback.

LYNNE

Why do I want you to run errands with me? I don't, know. You're here and...

PETER

And why am I here?

LYNNE

Honestly, I'm really not sure.

PETER

Lynne. Please.

PETER smiles a big smile and softens his eyes and tone. The words do not match the tone.

PETER (CONT'D)

You're smart. The trip? We need to talk about the trip.

LYNNE

I thought we had everything planned out?

PETER

You have everything planned out. I just wish you would think of me every now and again.

LYNNE

Peter. I do think of you.

She reaches for his arm, but he pulls away.

LYNNE (CONT'D)
You said...after Grammy passed, you said we should spend this Christmas with my family.

PETER
I never said that.

LYNNE is dumbfounded.

LYNNE
You said...

PETER
You're imagining things again.

LYNNE
You did. I know you did. I booked a room at the B and B because you were uncomfortable staying with Mom.

PETER
That's ludicrous. I would never ask you to do that. She's your mother.

LYNNE can't believe her ears. She is panicked. She is trying to make sense of the past three months of plans *they* made.

LYNNE
We are leaving tonight. At six o'clock. To drive to Mountain Ridge. For Christmas.

Beat. She has heard this silence before.

LYNNE (CONT'D)
With my family. That was the plan we made. And we were going to talk about the job offer. *Really* talk about it.

He is unbothered

PETER
Sweetheart, if that's what you remember that's fine, but that's not what happened. Regardless, I have to work. You know this is my busiest time of year. Which is why I *know* I never would have agreed to this. And you already know how I feel about the job offer.

(MORE)

PETER (CONT'D)
They're just going to replace
you...and I don't want to see you
have to go through that. Plus, we
both know this little job is just
until we start our family.

LYNNE reacts to this, but shakes it off.

LYNNE
It's not just a little job to me...

PETER
So this is more important than our
future?

LYNNE
That's not what I'm saying. This
was why I wanted you to come with
me, so we could have a discussion.

PETER
I know what I want. I want a
partner who prioritizes our
relationship.

LYNNE
I do prioritize our...

PETER
Clearly you don't if you are even
entertaining the idea of taking
this deal.

LYNNE is speechless. Trying to make the peace, she take a
breath and continues.

LYNNE
Peter, please.

PETER
You can I will cease to exist if
you take this deal.

LYNNE panics. She immediately goes into appeasement mode.

LYNNE
I know this is you're busiest time,
but you said that you took care of
everything so we could take this
trip and really talk about
this...and I am so appreciative...

PETER
I know what I said.

LYNNE is quiet. There is no use arguing. She knows how this will go...she's defeated.

LYNNE
It's the first Christmas since
Grammy passed.

PETER
Then go. If you don't want to spend
the holiday with me, that's fine.
All I want to do is spend
Christmas with you, like we have
for the past three years. And
that's all I want to continue to
do. But, if you don't want too,
that's fine. I'll manage, somehow.

LYNNE feels like she has been whipped around the room. She
gathers every bit of strength she has.

There is a weighted pause.

LYNNE
I...I'm sorry.

PETER looks at her.

PETER
So, you're going to go then?

LYNNE
I...I don't know. I guess, I don't
have to go.

PETER smiles slyly, his manipulation worked.

PETER
No, don't do that for me. You
should go. You can make it up to me
when you get back.

LYNNE
Okay. That would be good. Two
Christmases, right?

PETER
Sure. Whatever you want.

PETER leans in close to her.

PETER (CONT'D)
And don't wait too long to tell
them your choice. I always knew it
would be me.

He kisses her on the cheek. She winces slightly.

PETER (CONT'D)
I'll talk to you later.

PETER turns and walks away. As he walks out the door he calls back.

PETER (CONT'D)
I said, I'll talk to you later.

LYNNE
Uh huh...

LYNNE closes the door, completely drained with tears in her eyes.

She turns and leans against the door. WILL, JIM, and HILLARY have heard everything. WILL and JIM move on with their work. HILLARY moves toward LYNNE.

LYNNE (CONT'D)
I'm sorry you had to see that.

HILLARY
Me too. Are you okay?

LYNNE
He gets like that sometimes. If you got to know him, you'd see what I see.

WILL and JIM walk into the living room.

JIM
You don't have to apologize for him.

LYNNE
No really, he's just...

LYNNE'S words fail her.

WILL
Hey, you better get moving if you have errands.

HILLARY
Do you want some company on the trip? I can rearrange some things...

LYNNE
Oh please, no. I'm fine.

JIM, WILL, and HILLARY look at her for the truth.

LYNNE (CONT'D)
Alright, I'm not. But maybe a
little time alone will be a good
thing. I can think.

LYNNE picks up her keys and purse.

JIM
Just let us know if you need
anything.

LYNNE
Thank you.

LYNNE opens the door.

LYNNE (CONT'D)
And I promise I'll have an answer
about the show before I come back.

HILLARY
Hey. You deserve only the best, you
know that right?

LYNNE smiles a weak smile and nods her head in an uncertain
"yes".

LYNNE
See you in a few weeks. Merry
Christmas

WILL/JIM/HILLARY
Merry Christmas

LYNNE exits.

WILL
What a jackass.

CUT TO:

INT. LYNNE'S CAR - MOMENTS LATER

LYNNE opens her car door and gets behind the wheel. She shuts
the door and sits frozen for a moment. Her phone buzzes.
PETER. She declines the call. A moment later. It buzzes
again. PETER. She declines. She let's out a primal scream.

The phone buzzes PETER. Her eyes are filled with tears. She considers answering, but thinks better of it.

She looks up, and something catches her eye. Hanging from her mirror is a small pendant given to her by her GRAMMY RUTH (MACHIN) BEAL when she moved away. The camera zooms in on the inscription. It reads *"I wish you could see yourself through my eyes. Only then could you see how strong you are."*

LYNNE touches the pendant and takes a deep breath. Her phone buzzes. PETER. She declines. The she types a text message.

LYNNE (TEXT)
*Heading home now. Turning phone off
 for safety. Text when I get there.*

LYNNE types *Love you* out of habit. Stops. Thinks. Erases it. Hits send and puts her phone down as it connects to her Bluetooth.

She sees her bags in the rearview mirror. She starts her car and dials her Mom's number. Her Mom's voice comes over the Bluetooth in the car.

KATHLEEN (V.O.)
 Hey sweetheart.

LYNNE
 Hey Mom. Change of plans. I'm
 leaving now.

KATHLEEN (V.O.)
 You...?

LYNNE
 Just me.

KATHLEEN (V.O.)
 Are you okay?

LYNNE
 I don't know.

BEGIN INTERCUT

This time KATHLEEN is seen sitting in her Living Room cozy and decorated for Christmas. She doesn't know how to respond.

KATHLEEN
 Do you want to talk?

LYNNE
 No. I just want to drive.

KATHLEEN

Alright. Be safe. I will see you soon. Text me on the way.//

LYNNE

//I'll text you on the way.

LYNNE smiles at their synchronicity.

LYNNE (CONT'D)

Love you Mom.

KATHLEEN

Love you sweetheart.

KATHLEEN sits back in her chair and takes a sip of her tea.

END INTERCUT

LYNNE fiddles with the radio, finding a joyful Christmas station. Despite the cooler temperature, she puts down her windows and opens the sunroof. She breaths in the crisp air.

The camera floats up, taking in the car as it drives on, from a bird's eye view. Then pans up to the clear blue sky.

EXT. MOUNTAIN RIDGE, MD - TWILIGHT - PRESENT

The camera pans down from the twilight sky to reveal the idyllic small town of Mountain Ridge. The Christmas lights that line Main Street sparkle in the fading light of day. The mountains surround the town like a warm hug as the sun says goodnight to the day. Shoppers are walking with bags full of gifts. The air is crisp and there is a pep to their step because of it.

LYNNE smiles as she breathes in the town. She stops at a stop light and texts her mom.

LYNNE (TEXT)

On Main Street.

She smiles. The light turns green and she turns the wheel off of main street into the residential area.

As she drives through the street, she sees the yards she played in as a kid. She sees neighbors and waves. She sees strangers and waves, as only people in a small town do.

The houses are older. Quaint, decorated for Christmas. Not one is without some type of decoration. Maybe there is a family building a snowman in their yard. It is the type of town you still don't have to lock your doors.

EXT. LYNNE'S CHILDHOOD HOME - EVENING - PRESENT

The old, two story house is lovingly cared for, and decorated to Christmas perfection. Green garland and white lights wrapped around the porch pillars, red ribbons adorn and a candle is aglow in each window.

KATHLEEN ANDREWS, 60's, warm, loving, composed, is on the porch, arms open, to welcome her daughter home.

LYNNE parks her car and gets out, leaving everything inside.

LYNNE

Hey Mom.

KATHLEEN

Welcome home, sweetheart.

They hug in the crisp night air for a moment.

KATHLEEN (CONT'D)

C'mon. Carla's waiting for you at the Green Arrow. I'm sure you're hungry.

LYNNE

That's why I always text on Main Street.

KATHLEEN puts her arm around her daughter and they walk toward Main Street.

INT. GREEN ARROW RESTAURANT -LATER - PRESENT

LYNNE and KATHLEEN walk into the diner, a bell on the door ringing their entrance. There is Christmas music playing, Christmas lights and decorations are strewn about the diner, and the Christmas tree gives it's warm glow.

CARLA HITE, 80's, sassy and spry, her Grandmother's best friend and owner of the diner, looks up from her place at the griddle.

LYNNE

Hey Carla.

CARLA runs from the kitchen squeezes LYNNE.

CARLA

C'mere little one. Oh, I've missed you!

LYNNE
Missed you too.

CARLA
C'mon. I've got something all ready
for you.

CARLA presents a cup of coffee and a slice of cake.

CARLA (CONT'D)
Coffee and German chocolate cake.
Just like you and Gramma Ruth
always had your first night back.

LYNNE
Thanks Carla.

LYNNE, KATHLEEN, and CARLA, move to a table and sit.

LYNNE (CONT'D)
The place looks great, Carla.

CARLA
I think so too. The grandkids run
it now, but they know who the real
boss is.

LYNNE
That will never change.

CARLA
Where's Peter?

LYNNE pauses, deciding what to tell them.

LYNNE
He...had to work.

It's not a lie. That's what he told her.

CARLA
Oh. Again? That's too bad.

LYNNE
Yeah.

CARLA
Well, how about we talk about some
good news? What about the new
network. That's exciting. Tell me
all about it!

LYNNE
Well, um, this network.

KATHLEEN
A national network.

LYNNE
A national network, yes, thank you Mom...wants to, basically buy our show, and expand it to a larger audience and also other avenues of media. Create a Lifestyle Podcast for me to host, a line of products for the kitchen, the home, whatever we want, actually. Basically, Wit, Wine, and Wellness would be a Brand name in homes around the country...maybe the globe. It's kind of a big deal.

KATHLEEN
It's a seven figure deal.

CARLA is stunned.

CARLA
And what is it you have to think about?

KATHLEEN
That's what I have been saying.

LYNNE
I'm not just making the decision for me. It's for all of us. Jim, Will, Hillary. We all have to agree it's the right move.

KATHLEEN
I don't think they are the ones holding back.

LYNNE is quiet for a moment.

LYNNE
They aren't.

CARLA
So what's the hold up? It's sounds like everything you ever wanted.

LYNNE
That's just it. What if it's too perfect? What if I screw it up? (beat) And Peter thinks they're going to replace me.

KATHLEEN

What? Why would he think that?

LYNNE

He says he's worked with big companies and he thinks they'll drop me once they buy the show and replace me with a bigger name.

CARLA

That's ridiculous.

LYNNE

It's not though. It happens. And it could happen to me. Who am I?

KATHLEEN

Someone who created a brand that a major network wants to buy. You are that show.

LYNNE

Everyone is replaceable. He is just reminding me of that. Keeping me grounded.

KATHLEEN and CARLA exchange concerned looks. LYNNE sips her coffee. The next line comes spilling out of her like she can't control it.

LYNNE (CONT'D)

Peter was supposed to come with me, and he canceled.

KATHLEEN

He had to work, you said.

There is a long silence.

LYNNE

That's what he told me, today. After we made plans for months. He just...he always does this. Then he apologizes and I say it's fine and it...it isn't.

KATHLEEN

No, it isn't.

LYNNE

Mom. He...he did this with Grammy's funeral too. Work. It's always work. At least that's what he tells me.

CARLA

Oh hun. I just thought you didn't invite him.

LYNNE

No. I just said that because I was embarrassed. But then he turns around and tells me how much he needs me. Loves me. Can't possibly imagine a world without me in it. (beat) How are you supposed to not believe that. (another weighted beat) Or at least not want to believe it.

KATHLEEN

Of course you want to believe it. We all do.

LYNNE takes a moment. Then,

LYNNE

Is that how it felt with Dad?

KATHLEEN

Your dad and I just weren't a good fit. But when you grow up in a place like this, it's just what you do next. You get married. (beat) I don't know if I ever really loved your dad. Like that. It was just the next step.

LYNNE looks at KATHLEEN sadly.

CARLA

Not like Ruthie and Richard. Took them a while to get there, but once they did...I never saw two people compliment each other so well. Sonny and I were too much alike sometimes, but your grandparents. They...balanced each other.

CARLA (CONT'D)

You know, your grandfather offered your Mom \$300 to turn around and not marry you dad.

LYNNE

Mom. Is that true?

KATHLEEN

It was \$100.

CARLA

My mistake. Ruthie must have
changed it for dramatic value. See?
Balance.

CARLA and KATHLEEN exchange a smile.

KATHLEEN

But I got you out of the deal. And
that is worth everything.

CARLA

Sure is. Ruthie loved you more than
anything in this world. And so do
I.

LYNNE

Except your own grandkids?

CARLA

They're a close second.

KATHLEEN

I want so much more for you, Lynne.
You deserve the world.

LYNNE

Do I?

LYNNE takes the final drink from her coffee. She looks at a
picture on the wall. Camera zooms in to show her Grandmother,
RUTH BEAL and her in the photo.

LYNNE (CONT'D)

I miss her.

KATHLEEN

So do I honey, so do I.

CARLA

We all do. The whole town, truly.

LYNNE

I just...I really need to talk to
her. (beat) Not that I can't talk
to you...both Of you

KATHLEEN

Sweetheart, we both know the
relationship you had with her.

LYNNE

She just...

KATHLEEN
She understood you.

CARLA
You were a lot alike.

There is a long weighted pause as LYNNE looks out the window.

LYNNE
It was my fault.

KATHLEEN
Lynne. No.

CARLA
Honey...

LYNNE
It was. I was supposed to pick her up. It was my birthday. Our tradition. I was coming to pick her up.

KATHLEEN
Your work scheduled changed. We all know that happens.

LYNNE is quiet and keeps looking out the window.

LYNNE
It wasn't work. (beat) Peter. It was Peter. He...

LYNNE is having trouble saying the words...

LYNNE (CONT'D)
He asked me to stay. Said he had something planned for us. He never plans anything. So I stayed. And told you it was work. (beat) He lied. Didn't plan anything. And then you called to tell me...

KATHLEEN
Honey. She called me. I wasn't home.

CARLA
And I can't drive anymore.

LYNNE

But if I had come, she wouldn't have had to get in the car with Frank. Why did she get in the car with him?

KATHLEEN

I don't think he gave her a choice.

CARLA

He never did.

LYNNE

Never?

CARLA

He always pushed her around. Told her what to do when she dated him.

LYNNE looks at CARLA confused.

CARLA (CONT'D)

Ruthie dated that numbskull before your Pap. I would have thought she told you. Kathleen, you didn't tell her?

KATHLEEN

I tried to talk about him as little as possible.

LYNNE

Mom never liked him.

CARLA

Well, your mom is a rarity. Most people loved him. At least at first.

LYNNE

How long did they date?

CARLA

About a year. He never did anything overtly awful to her. That was the thing. He would be a little rude sometimes, but he didn't hit her, or make her feel too bad, publicly. And he left her, pretty abruptly too. So when he came back into her life, we all thought it was nice for her to have someone again. Unfinished business and all. Plus she was so sad when Richard died.

LYNNE

Yeah. I liked him when I first met him too.

CARLA

Turns out he tricked us all. He was smart. Crafty. Taking pieces of Ruth away so she didn't even notice. I didn't even notice. Not until this time around. Keeping her to himself. Isolating her from us. Slowly, bit by bit.

LYNNE

But when she looked in the mirror there were no marks, no bruises, so she couldn't tell.

CARLA and KATHLEEN look at each other. LYNNE starts to let the tears flow.

LYNNE (CONT'D)

It's not fair. He was the one driving. He was the one who was drinking. It should have been him. Why did she marry him? He was so horrible to her.

CARLA and KATHLEEN.

LYNNE (CONT'D)

I hate him. I hate him so much, but the truth is, it's my fault. She wouldn't have gotten into that car if I would have been here like I promised. Like she always was for me.

CARLA

I wish more than anything in this world she had never let him back into her life. She deserved better.

KATHLEEN

Yes. She did. But it's not your fault. It was an accident.

CARLA

A horrible accident.

LYNNE

Why do I let him dictate what's important in *my* life?

This is not a question for them to answer. It is for LYNNE to answer. CARLA holds her hand and KATHLEEN kisses her daughter's forehead.

LYNNE shakes her head

LYNNE (CONT'D)
(to herself) Grammy would know what to do. She'd know what to do.
(beat) I don't know what to do...

KATHLEEN and CARLA look at one another helpless.

LYNNE wipes away her tears and takes a big breath in. A fake smile to appease her family crosses her lips.

LYNNE (CONT'D)
Sorry. I just miss her. Probably gonna be like this for a while.
(beat) I'm gonna head to town and walk around a little. Is the theater open?

CARLA
It is. It's playing (beat) Want any company?

LYNNE
No. I think it's best to pull the bandage off alone.

KATHLEEN
Okay. Call if you change your mind.

LYNNE
Showtime still at 7?

KATHLEEN
Yep. Nothing really changes here, you know that.

LYNNE
I need that right now.

LYNNE gets up and grabs her coat.

KATHLEEN
We have a big day tomorrow.

CARLA
Cookies to make and a big soiree to throw.

LYNNE

Christmas Eve. My favorite. I won't
be out too late.

LYNNE kisses her mom and gives CARLA a hug, grabs her scarf,
and walks out the door.

CARLA

I wish your Mom was here. Ruthie
always knew what to say to her.

KATHLEEN

I know.

CUT TO:

EXT. GREEN ARROW RESTAURANT - FRONT STEPS - NIGHT - PRESENT

LYNNE wraps her scarf around her neck and walks into the
brisk night air. The stars are shining brightly and there are
so few cars on the street, sidewalks are unnecessary. She
walks towards Main Street.

CUT TO:

EXT. MOUNTAIN RIDGE, MD - MAIN STREET - MOMENTS LATER

The lights of Main Street sparkle as LYNNE makes her way down
the sidewalk. Most of the shops are closed/closing and the
shoppers have headed home.

The windows are decorated for the Holidays. Painted with
sayings and traditional Christmas scenes. One catches LYNNE'S
eye. She reads it aloud:

LYNNE

"Traditions keep us alive after
we're gone."

She looks up to the sky and breaths in the town. The stars
twinkle above her. One, in particular sparkles brightly, as
it does, the marquee on The Palace Theater blinks on, like
the star itself flipped the switch. It reads "It's A
Wonderful Life December 23.

LYNNE walks up to the theater. In the Box Office, there is an
older gentlemen standing there who she doesn't yet notice.
His nametag reads CLEMENT, 60's/70's. He has a kindness that
radiates from within. He makes you instantly at ease, like
you have known him your whole life.

LYNNE (CONT'D)
I would give anything for just one
more Christmas with you, Grammy.

CLEMENT hears her and smiles. There is a some magical music
beginning.

CLEMENT
What's that young lady?

LYNNE
Oh, just talking to myself.

CLEMENT
One?

LYNNE nods. CLEMENT hands her a ticket.

CLEMENT (CONT'D)
There ya go, Lynne

LYNNE
How did you know my...

CLEMENT interrupts her. He points to his nametag.

CLEMENT
Name's Clement.

He tips his hat, as his eyes sparkle. She smiles at him.

LYNNE
How much?

CLEMENT
My treat.

LYNNE
Well, thanks. It was my Grammy's
favorite movie. We came here every
year to see it before...

CLEMENT
I know. Maybe it's time for you to
be together again.

CLEMENT gestures toward the door and the door to the theater
magically opens. LYNNE looks at it, confused, then back to
CLEMENT. She smiles a half-hearted smile.

CLEMENT (CONT'D)
Enjoy.

LYNNE
Thanks. And Merry Christmas.

LYNNE smiles and walks into the theater. The lobby is worn, showing signs of age. It needs to be restored, but it has been taken care of.

The smell of popcorn fills the air. Sitting on the concession stand is a single bag of popcorn and a soda. In front of it, a note "For Lynne". She picks it up and looks around. To no one.

LYNNE (CONT'D)
Um, Thank you.

LYNNE opens the doors to the auditorium and walks in.

INT. PALACE THEATRE AUDITORIUM - PRESENT

LYNNE walks into the empty theatre. The reel has started. As she takes a seat, the title of the film comes across the screen.

"IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE"

LYNNE takes a huge breathe and lets out an audible, trembling sigh.

LYNNE settles in her seat and we see tears welling in her eyes already, the memories of this tradition flooding her.

The title music begins to play. LYNNE closes her eyes as the emotions flood her.

The camera cuts back to CLEMENT in the box office. He looks directly to camera, smiles, and winks. This causes a rush of air and magic to woosh through the theater.

INT. PALACE THEATER - CHRISTMAS 1956

There is a flash of bright light and a gust of wind that catches LYNNE'S hair. When the lens focuses again, the color has changed slightly.

There is a minimal sepia filter over everything including her, giving the world that "Golden Era" feel. LYNNE hasn't noticed yet, but everything is brand new.

LYNNE opens her eyes, overwhelmed.

LYNNE
I can't do this...I can't

LYNNE gets ups from her seat and rushes out of the auditorium.

She runs to the lobby. Now, brand new, but she doesn't notice. She is overcome with emotion. Grief, fear, overwhelms her as she tries to escape it.

The doors of the theatre open and a steady stream of patrons begin to enter the lobby. LYNNE, taken aback, begins to fight her way out of the horde, trying to get outside.

She can't breathe.

LYNNE looks at the people around her. The hats, the dresses. She sees. It doesn't sink in.

She is now outside. A 1950's sedan drive by.

She takes a big audible breathe and sigh.

LYNNE (CONT'D)
Ahhh...

LYNNE composes herself for a moment. She turns right, take two steps, and slips on a thick patch of ice. She falls back on the ground and hits hard. The crowd has disappeared inside the theatre. One young woman, RUTH MACHIN, 30's, a kind smile and a twinkle of mischief in her eye, dressed to the nines in her 50's attire, hat and all, running late to the movie, sees LYNNE fall and hurries to help her.

RUTH
Heavens to Betsy, are you hurt?

LYNNE checks for injuries, and seems okay, shaking her head...

LYNNE
Just my pride.

Ruth smiles. LYNNE sees something familiar in her smile. Ruth helps LYNNE to her feet, but she can't put full pressure on her ankle.

LYNNE (CONT'D)
Ow. And maybe my ankle.

LYNNE looks at her swollen ankle.

LYNNE (CONT'D)
Just a little sprain.

RUTH
I'm surprised that's all in those shoes.

LYNNE looks at her heeled boots.

RUTH (CONT'D)
They're darling, but pretty impractical for a Mountain Ridge winter.

LYNNE
I...

RUTH
Listen, you don't have to make excuses for shoes. I never do.

RUTH points to her own, impractical shoes and smiles.

LYNNE smiles back as RUTH places LYNNE'S arm around her own neck to help her walk.

RUTH (CONT'D)
I just speak from the exact same experience. But it doesn't stop me. If your shoes aren't cute...

LYNNE chimes in.

LYNNE	RUTH (CONT'D)
What's the point?	What's the point?

LYNNE stares at her. Her mouth drops open. That was exactly what her Grammy always said. She looks at her face, her eyes, and is in absolute disbelief.

LYNNE begins to look around. She sees the cars now. The people walking by in their 1950's attire.

LYNNE (CONT'D)
What the...???

LYNNE scrambles to her feet. Her ankle buckles under her weight. RUTH catches her.

RUTH
Are you alright? You look like you've seen a ghost.

LYNNE looks right at RUTH.

LYNNE
Something like that.

LYNNE scrambles away but again, can't support her weight.
RUTH helps her again.

LYNNE stares at her. Speechless, she squeaks out

LYNNE (CONT'D)
Will you excuse me for a minute?

Before RUTH can answer LYNNE is hobbling off. Hopping,
really.

RUTH
Be careful....

RUTH'S voice trails off.

She makes her way to the lobby of the theatre, quiet and
empty now, just the faint sound of the film playing in the
auditorium.

She leans against the door behind her. Her eyes dart from
side to side. Realization setting in. Where is she?!?!?!?

The lobby is brand new. The movie posters are from the 50's.
The music, classic Christmas. The decorations. 50's.

That woman. That woman was her Grandmother. But at 30.

LYNNE
Oh my god. What is...this can't be
real. Can this be real?

She thinks about it for a moment.

LYNNE (CONT'D)
No. No, no, no, no, no. NO!
Impossible. It's just. It's
ridiculous. Wake up. WAKE UP!

LYNNE smacks her face.

LYNNE (CONT'D)
Ow.

Just then she sees a flash of CLEMENT as he peeks his head
from back door and closes it just as fast.

LYNNE (CONT'D)
Hey!

LYNNE hops after CLEMENT.

LYNNE (CONT'D)
HEY!! Clement?!?!?

RUTH hears her yell and pops into the theatre.

RUTH
You're going to hurt your other
ankle!

LYNNE turns back to her.

LYNNE
I'll be right back. I just have
to...Please. PLEASE, just don't go
anywhere.

RUTH, confused, nods her head.

LYNNE tries desperately to keep up with CLEMENT, just
catching trails of his uniform as he rounds corners.

There is a long hallway and nowhere for him to go but the
exit at the end.

LYNNE (CONT'D)
Please. Clement. What is
happening?!

CLEMENT turns to her. He smiles.

CLEMENT
One more Christmas. Make the most
of it.

LYNNE
Make the most of...?

LYNNE stares at him in disbelief. She hears heels closing in
behind her, and she turns to see who is coming. When she
turns back, CLEMENT is gone. LYNNE is shook.

RUTH puts her hand on LYNNE'S shoulder shocking her back into
the moment.

RUTH
Did you catch him?

LYNNE
Uh...yeah.

RUTH
Friend of yours?

LYNNE doesn't know what to say. She mumbles.

LYNNE
Mmmhmmm.

RUTH

I'm Ruth, by the way. Ruth Machin.

LYNNE's eyes begin to water. She has no words. How can this be? LYNNE takes RUTH'S extended hand

LYNNE pauses, composing herself before she answers.

LYNNE

I'm Lynne...Andrews.

LYNNE can't help it. She pulls RUTH into a hug. RUTH is polite, but a bit confused.

RUTH

Uh. Nice to meet you Lynne.

LYNNE lets her go.

LYNNE

Sorry. I'm a hugger.

RUTH

That's alright. I haven't seen you around. Not too often we get to see a new face in town.

LYNNE

I know.

RUTH

You from a small town too?

LYNNE

Yeah. (beat) A lot like this one.

RUTH

Well, then you know that we take care of our own. C'mon. We missed the start of the movie anyway. Let's get you a cup of coffee to warm up.

LYNNE

Thank you, that sounds great.

LYNNE and RUTH begin to walk off, LYNNE limping, slightly.

RUTH

Maybe a little pie. There's always room for something sweet.

LYNNE turn to look at her, eyes watering again.

LYNNE

Yeah, always room for something sweet.

They walk off.

CUT TO:

INT. GREEN ARROW RESTAURANT - MOMENTS LATER - 1956

RUTH and LYNNE enter the quaint dinner, a bell hanging on the door signals their entrance. CARLA HITE, 30's, the proprietor, turns from the grill as they enter to welcome them.

CARLA

Hey Ruthie. Take any seat ya like, and I'll be right over.

RUTH and LYNNE make their way to the table near the back. CARLA is finishing up two burgers and fries.

LYNNE looks around and is amazed. It looks exactly the same.

LYNNE

It looks exactly the same.

RUTH

You've been here before?

LYNNE

Oh. No. It's looks just like the diner where I grew up. (beat)
Uncanny.

There are only two other patrons in the dinner, at the other side of the room. SONNY PETERS, 20's, outgoing and funny with his best friend RICHARD BEAL, 20's, a bit rough around the edges, but has a quiet kindness about him.

RICHARD tips his hat to RUTH as she walks by, and smiles, just a bit, then goes back to his conversation with SONNY.

SONNY

I'm just saying, if you can convince your brother to modernize the farm, just a bit, it would give you more time to focus on the station. Maybe even convince my old man to sell it to you.

RICHARD
Bob won't go for it. He likes to do
things the way our Father did. He
doesn't like change.

SONNY
The only constant in life is
change. Ben Franklin.

RICHARD smiles and lets out a small laugh.

RICHARD
I can't believe you failed History.

SONNY
I got bored.

SONNY nods in RUTH'S direction.

SONNY (CONT'D)
I can't believe you haven't asked
her out yet.

RICHARD looks at RUTH, sadly.

RICHARD
She's going with that Frank guy.

SONNY
He's a jerk.

RICHARD
That he is.

SONNY
So...show her you're not. Woo her.

RICHARD
I wouldn't know where to start.

SONNY straightens his jacket.

SONNY
That's why you got me.

CARLA comes to the table with their meals.

CARLA
Here ya go Gents.

RICHARD
I don't think that term has ever
been used for this guy.

RICHARD points to SONNY. SONNY knocks his hand away.

SONNY
Don't listen to him. *Plenty* of gals
have said just that.

CARLA
Watch it, Sonny.

CARLA gives SONNY a quick smooch on the cheek.

RICHARD
Hey Carla, would you put Ruth's
bill on my tab.

CARLA looks at RICHARD, then to SONNY, who winks at her. She
smiles.

CARLA
Of course, hun.

RICHARD
Thanks.

CARLA heads to grab a pot of coffee.

SONNY looks at RICHARD and smiles a big smile.

SONNY
Well, look at you. That's a heck of
a start.

RICHARD
I've watched you for years. So. I
know what *not* to do.

RICHARD smiles and takes a bite of his burger.

The camera follows his gaze to RUTH and LYNNE's table. CARLA
approaches with coffee and two cups.

CARLA
Coffee I assume, Ruthie?

RUTH
Please.

CARLA
And you..?

LYNNE
Lynne.

CARLA
For you, Lynne?

LYNNE
Coffee sounds great, thank you.

CARLA pours LYNNE a cup. In sync, RUTH and LYNNE make their coffee the exact same: 2 cream, no sugar, stirring 3 times to the right, 3 times to the left, but it goes unnoticed by RUTH. LYNNE smiles.

RUTH
So, what brings you to town?

LYNNE panics.

LYNNE
I..um...

LYNNE takes a sip of her coffee.

LYNNE (CONT'D)
Just kind of found myself here.

RUTH
All on your own?

LYNNE
Yep. Just me. A little road trip.

RUTH
Oh no, we left your car?!

LYNNE
No. My car...is..in the shop.

RUTH
Bob's?

LYNNE
Is there any other?

RUTH
Not here.

LYNNE
Some things never change.

RUTH looks at her.

RUTH
Pardon?

LYNNE

Something with the gauge...

RUTH

Alright. We can swing by once we're done. It's right near my house.

LYNNE

Actually, he said he had to tow it to a shop in another town. That has the uh...uh, I don't know the thing that takes it up high to work on.

RUTH

All that for a gauge? Well, we can run by and check when he thinks it will be ready at least.

LYNNE, not knowing how to answer, just nods and takes a sip of her coffee.

RICHARD and SONNY make their way to the door, saying hi as they walk by.

SONNY

Hey there Ruthie!

RUTH

Hi Sonny.

RUTH looks at RICHARD, he shyly tips his hat again.

RUTH (CONT'D)

Richard. How are you?

RICHARD

Fine. Fine. (beat) And you?

RUTH

Good, thank you.

RICHARD and RUTH look at each other a moment too long. SONNY breaks the awkwardness.

SONNY

Who's your friend?

RUTH

I'm sorry, this is Lynne.

SONNY

Ain't seen you around these parts before.

LYNNE
Yeah, just passing through.

SONNY
I'm Sonny. This is Richard.

LYNNE'S mouth drops. She rises from her chair and hugs RICHARD tightly. He is very uncomfortable.

RICHARD
Uh. Nice to meet you, ma'am.

RICHARD looks at RUTH

RUTH
She's a hugger, apparently.

LYNNE lets go, remembering herself.

LYNNE
I just haven't seen you in so long.

RUTH
You know each other?

RICHARD shakes his head as LYNNE lets go.

LYNNE
I'm sorry, I just. You remind me of my...someone. I. I'm sorry. I fell. Hit my head. Concussion. Probably.

RUTH comes to her rescue.

RUTH
Her car is being repaired so we are just warming up a bit.

LYNNE
Sorry to be nosey, but I overheard you say you own a farm?

RICHARD
My brother and I, yes.

LYNNE
You know, a tractor, and a wheat harvester would really up your game.

Everyone looks at her confused.

LYNNE (CONT'D)

Ugh...sorry. It's just an expression. It would really increase production. It's been working...where I'm from. If it would help sway your brother.

RICHARD

Thank you. I'll say something to him.

CARLA comes over with a slice of German chocolate cake for both of the women. RUTH'S eyes go wide with delight.

CARLA

Sorry girls, but I know it's Ruthie's favorite. And I'm out of pie.

LYNNE

There's always room for something sweet.

RUTH smiles at her, already having taken a bite of the cake. RICHARD smiles at her.

RICHARD

That's what Ruth always says.

RUTH looks at him surprised.

RUTH

How do you know that?

RICHARD shrugs.

RICHARD

I pay attention.

Embarrassed, RICHARD looks away. SONNY jabs RICHARD with his elbow.

SONNY

Well, we best be gettin' on.

RUTH, her mouth full of cake, waves.

LYNNE

Nice to meet you.

As SONNY opens the door to exit, he and RICHARD are confronted by an irritated FRANK, 20's, not too bad to look at, charming to the public, but underneath full of meanness and ego.

SONNY and RICHARD excuse themselves as FRANK comes barreling in, talking indeterminately. RICHARD takes one last, sad look back at RUTH.

INT. GREEN ARROW RESTAURANT - MOMENTS LATER - 1952

RUTH hears FRANK before she sees him, as he makes his way through SONNY and RICHARD at the door. Her body goes rigid. LYNNE doesn't pick up on it at first, she is immersed in her cake. With a smirk and a mouth full of cake, she says...

LYNNE

I think Richard has a little crush
on you.

Now LYNNE notices RUTH'S changed demeanor and stare. She sees FRANK moving quickly in their direction. CARLA busies herself in the kitchen. She's seen him like this before.

Before he even gets to the table he bellows.

FRANK

Where were you?

RUTH is now a fraction of the size she was before. His presence shrinks her spirit.

RUTH

I'm sorry, I...

FRANK

I sat in that theatre, *alone*.
Waiting for you.

RUTH

I'm sorry, Frank, please if you'd
just let me...

FRANK has now reached the table. He doesn't even acknowledge LYNNE. He leans in closer to RUTH, almost menacing. This is FRANK LORE, the man RUTH dated before and married after RICHARD passed in LYNNE'S timeline.

FRANK

I was so worried I had to leave.

LYNNE shoots a glance to CARLA who looks defenseless and empathetic. She shrugs her shoulders.

LYNNE, never being one to back down, slides her hand right in between RUTH and FRANK, hoping to diffuse the situation, by offering an introduction.

LYNNE grabs FRANKS hand, and his attention.

LYNNE

I don't believe we've met. I'm
Lynne.

FRANK looks at her surprised. Then his temper boils again, but he tries to contain it in a stranger's presence.

FRANK

Frank.

Realization hits LYNNE.

LYNNE

Frank. Right.

RUTH

Have you met?

LYNNE frantically thinks.

LYNNE

Ugh...no. Just heard of him in
passing. Your reputation proceeds
you. Frank.

FRANK

If you don't mind *Lynne*, I'm
speaking with my girlfriend.

LYNNE

Actually, I do. You see, it's my
fault Ruth missed the movie. I
slipped on some ice and sprained my
ankle. Without her, I'd still be
stuck in the middle on Main Street,
flat on my back, no cell serv...uh
my car being serviced.

FRANK

She could have told me. I was just
right inside.

LYNNE is flabbergasted at his audacity.

LYNNE

I'm sorry. You really think a minor
inconvenience to you is more
important than being neighborly?

RUTH

She couldn't walk. I think that's more important than a date. If you had just let me get a word in, maybe you could understand that.

FRANK does not like being attacked. He tries to back out, to remain the "good guy".

FRANK

I just wish you would think of me every now and again.

LYNNE stares at him. Did she just hear that? FRANK sweetens even more.

FRANK (CONT'D)

Ruthie, I was just worried about you. You know I go out of my mind when I don't know where you are.

This hits LYNNE like a lightening bolt. She looks at CARLA, who rolls her eyes.

FRANK goes to kiss RUTH'S cheek. RUTH doesn't pull away, but doesn't enjoy it either. She simply allows it.

RUTH

(coldly) Yeah. I know.

FRANK straightens up. He is not happy, but fakes a smile.

RUTH (CONT'D)

I'll see you tomorrow, okay?

FRANK stands there, not knowing what to do.

RUTH (CONT'D)

Carla, can I have a refill, please.

LYNNE looks at FRANK.

LYNNE

She said she'll see you tomorrow.

CARLA comes with the coffee pot and bumps FRANK away

CARLA

Unless you're a paying customer...

CARLA points to a "No Loitering" sign behind the counter.

FRANK is livid. He pulls himself together and says, through a fake smile, as he tips his hat.

FRANK

Ladies.

FRANK leaves. The bell on the door the only sound for a moment as they all hold their breath.

Then, a collective sigh of relief.

RUTH puts her head on the table. CARLA makes her way to the door to make sure he's gone. LYNNE lets out an anxious laugh.

RUTH

I'm sorry about that girls. Didn't mean for him to interrupt our time.

CARLA makes her way to the table and sits down.

CARLA

Don't be sorry. You didn't know he'd show up.

RUTH

He just...

RUTH pauses to choose her words wisely

RUTH (CONT'D)

He gets like that sometimes. If you got to know him, you'd see what I see.

LYNNE

You don't have to apologize for him.

RUTH

No really, he's just.....

LYNNE hears herself, just this morning saying the same thing to JIM. She changes the subject.

LYNNE

So, is there a hotel in this town? I doubt my car is going to be done tonight. Plus it's getting late, and you know, need to rest this ankle.

RUTH

Don't be silly. You can stay with us.

LYNNE

Us?

CARLA

Me and Ruthie are roommates. We live right over the creek on the back road.

RUTH

My family home.

A look of knowing passes over LYNNE.

LYNNE

Well, if it isn't too much trouble...

RUTH

As long as you can make it up a flight of stairs, it's no trouble at all.

LYNNE moves her ankle around a bit. Stiff, but less pain. She smiles.

LYNNE

I think I can make it. Carla, what did you put in this cake. I think it healed me.

LYNNE smiles and takes another bite.

FADE TO:

EXT. MAIN STREET - EVENING - 1956

RUTH is helping LYNNE down the street to her home. The Christmas lights glow and there is not a single worry to be found. LYNNE'S limp is subsiding. RUTH is still shaken up from the confrontation with FRANK.

They walk past RICHARD'S gas station. He is gassing up a customer. SONNY is sitting on a crate near the door talking away.

RUTH

Hey Richard, thank you so much for the coffee and cake. You didn't have to do that.

RICHARD

I wanted to. (beat) You okay?

RUTH
Fine. Just a (beat) long day.

RICHARD knows she means FRANK. Everyone in town knows.

RICHARD
If there is ever anything I can do
to help...

RUTH
Thank you.

RUTH smiles at him and we see a faint smile. He's not the smiling kind, so this is huge. SONNY clocks it, and moves from his perch.

He nudges RICHARD.

SONNY
You need any help there? Getting
our visitor home?

LYNNE
Thank you, I'm good. Walking on it
helps.

RUTH
Just over the bridge now. We'll
make it.

SONNY elbows RICHARD again.

RICHARD
You sure?

RUTH
I am. I'll see you boys later.

LYNNE and RUTH walk off. RICHARD stares after them.

SONNY
Nice wooing.

RICHARD sneers at him and finishes gassing up the customer.

RICHARD
I'm taking my time.

RICHARD takes payment from the driver, and taps the side of the car to indicate he's all filled up.

RICHARD (CONT'D)
Thanks, come again.

SONNY

If you wait too much longer, she'll be married to that SOB. C'mon Rich, ask her out.

RICHARD

I just don't have anything to offer her.

SONNY

It's not a marriage proposal. It's a date. Dinner. Heck, make it easy. Lunch.

RICHARD

In this town? Nothin's easy.

SONNY

Take her to the movies of something. Just a short walk away, dark, romantic, less prying eyes.

A pause.

RICHARD

I'll think about it.

SONNY throws his hands in the air in celebration.

SONNY

He'll think about it.

Another customer pulls in. SONNY leans down to the driver.

SONNY (CONT'D)

Did you hear that. He'll think about it!

SONNY plays a little percussion on the car door.

RICHARD

Stop harassing my customers.

SONNY

I'm gone.

RICHARD

Don't you work the night shift today?

SONNY

They'll understand. Richard Beal said he's gonna think about asking out Ruthie. Oh, this is gonna be the topic of conversation today!

RICHARD

Don't you dare.

SONNY is walking away, back to work.

SONNY

Try and stop me!

RICHARD shakes his head and starts to pump gas.

FADE TO:

EXT. BACK ROAD - MOMENTS LATER - 1956

RUTH and LYNNE are making their way to RUTH'S house. LYNNE'S limp is almost completely gone and she is taking in everything around her.

It's the same, but different. The town that her Grandmother reminisced about.

LYNNE

(to herself) How can this be happening?

They reach the house that RUTH and CARLA live. It is LYNNE'S childhood home. Been in the family for years.

EXT - RUTH'S FAMILY HOME - MOMENTS LATER - 1956

LYNNE looks up and sees her childhood home as her Grandmother knew it.

RUTH

Alright, we have four stairs to the porch. Think you can handle it?

LYNNE

Only one way to find out!

LYNNE takes her arm from around RUTH'S neck and grabs on to the railing. She begins to make her way up the stairs with ease.

LYNNE (CONT'D)

Hey, not too shabby!

RUTH
I'm glad. That was quite a fall you had.

LYNNE
And we aren't going to talk about that fall anymore.

RUTH
What fall?

The girls laugh together as they get to RUTH'S door. She takes out a key and let's them inside.

INT. RUTH'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER - 1956

The door opens to an immaculately decorated, yet slightly messy, home. It is small, but cozy. Think Farmhouse/country chic 1950's. RUTH made the things she couldn't afford.

The mess comes from the Christmas decorations that are laid out, but not put up yet.

RUTH
I'll take your coat.

LYNNE
Oh, thanks. (beat as she looks around) Wow, you've always loved Christmas.

RUTH
Pardon?

LYNNE
You love Christmas as much as I do.

RUTH
Yeah. I just hate that I haven't gotten the decorations up...

LYNNE smiles and turns toward RUTH, who has just finished hanging their coats. She see's LYNNE in her 2020's attire and is flabbergasted. LYNNE doesn't realize at first.

LYNNE
What?!

LYNNE freezes and looks down.

LYNNE (CONT'D)
Oh...

RUTH
I thought the boots were
fashionable.

LYNNE
Oh, yeah. I, um, I...

She is panicking. She starts to laugh nervously.

LYNNE (CONT'D)
I try products for a living.

RUTH
That's an interesting job....I've
Never heard of it.

LYNNE
It's new. I work in television...

RUTH
Television?! Really?! That *is* new.
We don't even have one yet. Been
saving up, though.

LYNNE
Yeah. Ugh...companies ask me to
review their products. Sometimes we
try recipes, cosmetics, furniture
(she looks at her clothes) even
clothes...or shoes. (beat) I think
we can tell them this is a big N-O.

RUTH circles her.

RUTH
Oh no. I like it. It's very modern.
I like pants. Although denim for
everyday is not something we see
around here. I like it.

She looks at the undone, raw hem of LYNNE'S jeans. She points
to it and shakes her head.

RUTH (CONT'D)
Although, I don't understand paying
money for something that's
unfinished. I can hem those for you
if you like.

LYNN smiles. She always says that.

LYNNE
I'll let them know.

RUTH
I'm sure you're exhausted.

LYNNE
I am pretty tired, actually. You don't mind if I go ahead and head to bed.

RUTH
Not at all. I'm going to start organizing this mess. You can use my parent's room. They're staying with my sister and her family for the holiday.

RUTH points to the room, but LYNNE smiles and starts walking toward the room without the help of RUTH'S directions.

INT. RUTH'S PARENT'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER - 1956

LYNNE looks around the room.

LYNNE
You're fine. This is fine. It's not real. I mean, it can't be real...

LYNNE pinches herself.

LYNNE (CONT'D)
Ow! Okay. That felt real. I should stop doing that.

LYNNE falls onto the bed.

LYNNE (CONT'D)
UGH!!!

LYNNE (CONT'D)
(into the pillow) This is impossible.

LYNNE flops onto her back and stares at the ceiling.

LYNNE (CONT'D)
Ok, let's say for a moment, this *is* real. That's my Grammy, younger than me, which I'm not even going to unpack right now. She's dating Frank. Won't really give my actual Granddad the time of day. And I'm here. How? How can I be here? And WHY? I have to have hit my head, I mean, right?

She bolts up in bed.

LYNNE (CONT'D)
Wait! Will?! Jim!? You have such a
sick sense of humor, you know. This
is all some sort of simulation,
right?

LYNNE gets up and starts looking around the room for
microphones or cameras.

Like, a video you're going to play
on the show? Or our social!? Ha Ha,
very funny. We got Lynne. Good one.
Use my pain to grow our audience.
(beat) They wouldn't do....

RUTH enters and knocks, frightening LYNNE.

LYNNE (CONT'D)
..THAT....Oh. Ruth.

RUTH
I heard you talking to someone.

LYNNE
Just having a little conversation
with myself.

RUTH is confused.

LYNNE (CONT'D)
Just trying to figure out how to
explain the wild reaction to these
clothes.

RUTH
Maybe they'll catch on?

LYNNE
(laughing) Yeah. That's perfect.

RUTH
Well. Sleep tight. Don't let the
bed bugs bite.

LYNNE smiles and nods and yet another saying that her Grammy
filled her youth with.

LYNNE
Okay. Let's say I'm here. I'm
really here...why am I here?
(MORE)

LYNNE (CONT'D)
There's always a purpose I've
watched movies. Wait! Am I going to
start fading into oblivion a la
Back to the Future?

She reaches for a picture realizing she has nothing but a
cell phone, which is, of course, not charged and not working
in 1956. She looks at it, trying to turn it on.

LYNNE (CONT'D)
Damn technology.

Frustrated, she tosses the phone aside.

LYNNE (CONT'D)
A flip phone would at least have
made that more dramatic.

She flops onto the bed.

LYNNE (CONT'D)
This may be the last time I ever
get to see you, so I am going to
make damn sure you know who Frank
really is. That's the least I can
do.

FADE OUT.

INT. RUTH'S HOUSE- MORNING - 1956

RUTH is sitting at the kitchen table with a cup of coffee and
dress pattern paper laid out all around her - mid design.

LYNNE comes out of the bedroom.

LYNNE
Morning

RUTH
Good morning. Coffee?

LYNNE
Yes, please.

LYNNE goes to the cupboard and grabs a cup, then pours hot
water into her cup and adds some instant coffee.

RUTH
Did I show you where the mugs
where?

LYNNE

Oh...I..just. (beat) Lucky guess.

Changing the subject.

LYNNE (CONT'D)

Did you sleep at all?

RUTH

A bit. Couldn't quiet my mind.
Mostly just rested my eyes.

LYNNE smiles at this familiar saying.

LYNNE

You didn't have to give up your
bedroom. I'm happy to couch surf.

RUTH laughs.

RUTH

Sometimes I think you are from
another planet, not another town,
the things you say.

LYNNE

Not too far off.

LYNNE sits at the table.

LYNNE (CONT'D)

What are you working on?

RUTH

This is why I couldn't quiet my
mind. Trying my hand at designing
my own patterns. I alter for a
living, but I'd really like to
design my own dresses someday.

RUTH looks at LYNNE and smiles

RUTH (CONT'D)

Might add some denim for everyday
too.

LYNNE

No raw hems though.

RUTH

No raw hems.

They laugh together.

LYNNE

I didn't know you wanted to do that! That's funny, I always thought you should.

RUTH

Well, we've just met, and I didn't mention it so...

LYNNE

Right. Obviously I wouldn't know that.

LYNNE sips her coffee.

LYNNE (CONT'D)

Want some cookies?

LYNNE, again, knows where they are kept, so she grabs them and brings them to the table, with a plate, like she's done hundreds of times at this house in her present.

RUTH looks at her. LYNNE happily starts eating a cookie and looks back, realizing what she's done.

LYNNE (CONT'D)

All these old houses are the same.

RUTH

I suppose so.

LYNNE

So. Have you talked to him.

RUTH

No. (beat) Carla said he tried to come here last night, but she convinced him to go home.

LYNNE

Wait. Who?

RUTH

Frank.

LYNNE

Oh. I was talking about Richard. He seems pretty smitten with you.

RUTH

He barely says two words to me.

LYNNE
Actions speak louder than words
sometimes.

LYNNE looks around the kitchen.

LYNNE (CONT'D)
Hey, where is Carla?

RUTH
At the Diner. She's always there by
five.

RUTH works on her patterns as LYNNE watches, just like she
did as a kid.

RUTH (CONT'D)
So, do you have someone special
back home.

LYNNE
It's kind of complicated at the
moment.

RUTH stops what she is doing at looks at LYNNE.

LYNNE (CONT'D)
He's seems (beat) a little like
Frank, actually.

RUTH takes her hand which prompts LYNNE to talk more.

LYNNE (CONT'D)
He was supposed to take this trip
with me. Cancelled at the last
minute. Again. Or, like always, I
should say.

RUTH
A road trip with no chaperone? You
must be serious.

LYNNE
I thought so, but I'm not so sure
anymore.

RUTH
Because he didn't come with you?

LYNNE

It's more than just that. The way he speaks to me...but when I confront him, he tells me I'm crazy, that he would never say that to me. I catch him in lies, and he talks his way out of them so much that my head spins until I can't see straight. (beat) Then there's this job opportunity.

RUTH

In television?

LYNNE

Yeah. This network wants to air us nationally. Right now, we are just regional, just in our little area. But they want to put us on a BIG network. I'd have a larger stake in the company. As a producer.

RUTH

Like Lucille Ball?

LYNNE

Yeah, just like Lucy. We, my team and I, could even add more shows later on. As a woman, it's a huge step in the right direction. And honestly, without it, I'm not sure how long the show will survive. I'm thrilled, but Peter, that's his name, Peter, he doesn't seem to want me to take it.

RUTH

Why?

LYNNE

He says because the network will replace me once everything is signed, and I could lose everything. And he just wants me to wait out his next promotion. Then he says we'll get married and I can just take care of the house, the kids. Him. (beat) He thinks this is a great little hobby for me, but it's obviously more. He just changes the subject when I point that out or says...

RUTH

Don't you love me? I wish you would
think about me a little more?

LYNNE eats a cookie.

LYNNE

Yeah. (beat) So, I'm dealing with
that. And then he...

LYNNE pauses and looks at RUTH.

LYNNE (CONT'D)

He cancelled on me for a funeral.
(beat) My Grandmother passed this
year.

RUTH

Oh, I'm so sorry. Were you close?

LYNNE nods her head.

LYNNE

The closest.

Tears begin to fill her eyes.

LYNNE (CONT'D)

She always knows the exact thing to
say or do to make me feel better.
No, actually, to make me feel like
me. To remind me of who I am.

RUTH

I like that you still talk about
her like she's here.

LYNNE

She is. (beat) She is.

RUTH hugs LYNNE.

RUTH

Anyone would be so lucky to have
you as their granddaughter.

LYNNE breathes in RUTH'S scent and squeezes her harder.

LYNNE

Thank you. But I'm the lucky one.

LYNNE looks at RUTH and smiles, wiping her eyes.

LYNNE (CONT'D)
(beat) Wow, what a way to wake up,
huh?

RUTH laughs.

LYNNE (CONT'D)
So, what are we going to do?

RUTH
Well, what do you say we go and do
a little research in the form of
shopping?

LYNNE
Say more.

RUTH
I need some inspiration, and I
thought maybe since you have the
inside scoop on what new and
exciting you might want to help.

LYNNE
Well then, I better get dressed.

RUTH
Please, borrow something of mine.

LYNNE smiles at her Grandmother.

LYNNE
No ripped hems. Got it.

RUTH goes back to work on her patterns. And she disappears
into the bedroom.

CUT TO.

EXT. MAIN STREET - DAY - 1956

LYNNE and RUTH are smartly dressed in 1950's day suits,
walking through Main Street. The Christmas decoration are
shining in the sunlight. Shoppers are rushing about making
last minute purchases.

They are mainly window shopping, pointing out different
outfits and RUTH is making notes in a little notebook.

RUTH
I read an article in Vogue

LYNNE
You read Vogue?

RUTH
Probably the only person in town.
But I just love to see the new
clothing that's coming out. Since
we hardly ever get that here, I can
try to replicate it. Anyway,
there's this new trend of in-for-
the-evening clothes.

LYNNE
That's practically what I live in.

RUTH
Really? You've heard of them.

LYNNE
Uh...kind of. It's called,
athleisure, in my...town.

RUTH
Well, there's nothing like that
here. And I had never heard of
them, I thought I might try my hand
at them. Add them to my collection
of dresses.

LYNNE
Yes.

RUTH
No hesitation?

LYNNE
Non whatsoever. I think it's a
brilliant idea. If it's you're
dream, and you are talented, which
you clearly are, why wouldn't you
go for?

RUTH looks at her and smiles.

RUTH
I don't know. Why wouldn't you?

LYNNE
We aren't talking about me.

RUTH
I think we're talking about us
both. That network offer is your
dream isn't it?

(MORE)

RUTH (CONT'D)

I mean, to be like Lucille Ball.
Even I would risk for that, and I
have no talent in front of a
camera.

LYNNE

It's just...

RUTH

Peter?

LYNNE

Yes. And no.

LYNNE stops in front of a shop with a beautiful blue dress in
the window.

LYNNE (CONT'D)

It's like he knows my worst fear
and says it out loud. I'm afraid
I'm not good enough. That this is
all some fluke. That at any moment
someone is going to realize I have
no idea what I am doing, I have
zero talent, and everything is
going to just...disappear.

RUTH

Lynne, listen to me. I know we've
just met, but I feel a kinship with
you. Like I've known you my whole
life.

LYNNE

Yeah. Me too.

RUTH

And just like I can't explain that,
I can't explain this, but it
doesn't make it any less real. You
deserve everything you have. I just
know you have worked hard for it.
Maybe harder than others. Longer
hours, missed family gatherings,
just to get ahead. You have a kind
heart, and I am certain that
translates when you are on that
magical television screen. You have
to start believing in yourself as
much as the people working with you
do. You didn't get this far on a
fluke.

LYNNE is overcome with emotion.

RUTH (CONT'D)
Do you want this job? Don't think
about it, just answer.

LYNNE
Yes.

RUTH smiles.

RUTH
Well then. That's all that matters.

LYNNE has tears in her eyes.

LYNNE
Thank you.

LYNNE hugs RUTH.

RUTH
You really are a hugger.

LYNNE pulls away and wipes her tears.

LYNNE
Yeah. I am.

LYNNE looks at the window and sees the blue dress in the window. The dress of RUTH'S she wore countless times as a kid to play dress up in. She smiles.

LYNNE (CONT'D)
Hey, what do you say we take a lap
in this store.

RUTH
I'll never say no.

INT. PESKINS DEPARTMENT STORE - AFTERNOON - 1956

LYNNE and RUTH walk into the department store and begin browsing. Their style of shopping is similar. Before they even look at a piece of clothing, they touch it, to test its texture - if it's not going to feel good on your skin, what's the point?

RUTH
Do you need to do some last minute
shopping?

LYNNE
Not really, just wanted to look
around a little. You?
(MORE)

LYNNE (CONT'D)
Anyone you might want to pick up a
little trinket for?

At this moment she sees RUTH looking at a Swiss army knife on
a table next to her.

RUTH
Oh...uh...maybe.

RUTH changes the subject.

RUTH (CONT'D)
So, would you like to do anything
tonight?

LYNNE
Sure. I have zero plans.
What would you like to do?

RUTH pauses and thinks

RUTH
I haven't been asked that in a long
time.

LYNNE
That's too bad.

They give each other a knowing look.

RUTH
I'd love to go dancing

LYNNE
Dancing?

RUTH
Yeah. I just love to dance and I
haven't been in so long. And
there's this big Christmas dance at
the hall tonight.

LYNNE
Then dancing it is!

RUTH smiles. There is a beat, then RUTH remembers LYNNE'S
jeans

RUTH
Do you need to borrow a dress?

LYNNE smiles.

LYNNE
You really hate that raw hem, huh?

RUTH
I really, really do.

They laugh.

LYNNE
How about, we get new ones?

MONTAGE:

RUTH and LYNNE try on dress after dress from the store. Ruth holds them up to LYNNE and vice versa. Hats are brought out. Shoes. You would think the whole store is in the dressing room.

Then...

LYNNE (CONT'D)
Oh, wait! I know just the one.

LYNNE runs to the rack and grabs the blue tulle, strapless dress. She runs back and hold it up to RUTH. Immediately her eyes fill with tears. This is the dress on her music box. The dress she always played dress up in. The dress she always thought of when she thought of her Grandmother.

RUTH reaches out and touches the dress.

RUTH
Oh my.

LYNNE
Beautiful, isn't it?

LYNNE notices a sale tag.

LYNNE (CONT'D)
And, it's on sale. I know you love
a good deal

RUTH shakes her head.

RUTH
Who doesn't. But it's still so
extravagant. For a special
occasion.

LYNNE holds it up to RUTH.

LYNNE
Make tonight a special occasion.
Just because.

RUTH looks at herself in the mirror.

RUTH
But, you need something.

LYNNE pulls a green dress from the pile.

LYNNE
Done! This will bring out my eyes.
And that one matches yours.

RUTH
You're sure?

LYNNE
Do something for yourself. You
don't always have to put everyone
else first.

RUTH seems a bit confused by this comment. How does this stranger know she feels like that most days. She smiles.

RUTH
Alright. Then let's make tonight
one to remember.

LYNNE
I think it already is.

The girls gather up their purchases. As they makes their way to the register, RUTH grabs the pocketknife to purchase as well. LYNNE also makes one final stop. Walking by the jewelry counter she spots a delicate necklace with yellow rose on it, her Grammy's favorite.

RUTH
Coming?

LYNNE
Coming.

LYNNE grabs the necklace and makes her way to the register.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

INT. DANCE HALL - NIGHT - 1956

The town's dance hall is all ablaze with light. Not just the everyday light, but the Christmas decorations are giving everything an ethereal glow.

The music is loud, big band Christmas tunes and the energy is vibrant. It feels like the entire town is there. There is a happiness that exists only in a simpler time.

The camera lands on LYNNE and RUTH, looking like they just stepped out of a movie. RUTH is radiating confidence. LYNNE is fidgeting with her dress, just a bit, as she's more comfortable in jeans and a tee shirt.

LYNNE

Wow. It's just how I imagined it.

RUTH

The dance hall?

LYNNE looks around.

LYNNE

Everything.

SONNY and CARLA break through the crowd when they see RUTH.

SONNY

Hey ya Ruthie, looking swell.

SONNY takes RUTH'S hand and spins her around.

CARLA

And Lynne! You clean up well.

SONNY puts his arm around CARLA.

SONNY

I almost didn't recognize ya.

LYNNE

Thanks.

SONNY

We got a table in the corner.
C'mon.

SONNY keeps his arm around CARLA and leads the way through the crowd.

LYNNE

Are they together?

RUTH

On again, off again. I can never keep up.

LYNNE

Looks like on again to me.

CARLA looks over her shoulder and winks at them.

CARLA

For good this time.

She flashes a pin on her dress.

RUTH

You got pinned?!

LYNNE laughs and can't help it. That actually happened?

LYNNE

Sorry. (beat) Carla that's wonderful.

CARLA

Taken him long enough.

CARLA turns back around. LYNNE turns to RUTH.

LYNNE

Hey, where's yours? You and Frank are going together, right?

RUTH shrugs and looks defeated.

RUTH

He never gave me anything.

The crowds part, and RICHARD is sitting at the table, trying to look comfortable, sipping a soda. LYNNE smiles when she sees him.

LYNNE

Well, then, I believe that means you're free.

LYNNE gives RUTH a little shove in RICHARD'S direction. RUTH stumbles a little as she arrives at the table. RICHARD looks up.

His mouth is agape and he is speechless when he sees her. RUTH takes his breath away.

RUTH

Hi Richard. I don't see you out too often anymore. Off tomorrow?

RICHARD clumsily stands up as she approaches.

RICHARD

It's my brother's day to wake up with the cows, so I don't have to be anywhere but the gas station.

SONNY, CARLA, and LYNNE are right behind RUTH

SONNY

(to CARLA and LYNNE) C'mon ladies. Let's cut a rug.

SONNY leads CARLA and LYNNE to the dance floor. LYNNE looks back at RUTH and smiles. She just witnessed her grandparents falling in love.

LYNNE

I can't believe I just witnessed that.

CARLA

Who, those two?

SONNY

They've been circling each other for years.

CARLA

First Ruth chased him. Then she started dating Frank.

SONNY

The worst. And Richard has been pining away since. It took him too long to realize she was interested.

LYNNE

She chased him? That's...

CARLA

Unusual? Yeah. But Ruthie has always danced to the beat of her own drum.

LYNNE, knowing this is exactly where she gets it, turns back to smile at RUTH, then continues to dance. SONNY is partnering with both LYNNE and CARLA to this upbeat music.

The camera moves from the group back to RUTH and RICHARD engaged in conversation.

RICHARD
Can I get you a soda or something?

RUTH
I'm alright for now, thank you.

RUTH wants to dance. She's moving slightly to the music, hoping RICHARD will see.

RICHARD moves to her, about to invite her to sit, as she tries to ask him to dance.

RICHARD RUTH (CONT'D)
Did you want... Would you like to...

RICHARD (CONT'D)
Ladies first.

RUTH
Dance? Would you like to dance?

RICHARD turns as white as a ghost.

RICHARD
I...uh...I'm not very good.

RUTH
That's okay.

RUTH grabs his hand. Immediate electricity.

I am.

RUTH (CONT'D)

She leads him to the dance floor near the others. A jitterbug is playing, and RUTH was not lying. She *knows* how to dance.

She takes the lead and RICHARD, clumsy at first, become a good and stable dance partner. He even begins to loosen up and laugh Maybe even having a little fun.

LYNNE dances in with RUTH and with RICHARD a bit, forgetting about the fact that she is stuck in 1952.

DANCE HALL PHOTOGRAPHER
Hey! Look over here!

They snap a pic of the five of them. Then hands RUTH a ticket.

LYNNE
What was that?

RUTH
Oh, they have a photographer here every weekend. Brings in a little extra money. And so few people in town have cameras.

RUTH puts the ticket in her purse.

RUTH (CONT'D)
I'll get you a copy.

LYNNE
I'd like that!

The song ends and a slow song begins to play (HAVE YOURSELF A MERRY LITTLE CHRISTMAS or something of the like). SONNY grabs CARLA and pulls her in. RICHARD and RUTH look sheepishly at each other. RICHARD shyly puts out his hand

RICHARD
May I?

RUTH puts her hand in his, and he pulls her close to him.

LYNNE looks around as the dance floor couples up. She sighs and begins to head toward the table. She turns her head to look back and runs smack dap into HENRY PAUL, 30's, very handsome, movie star looks and charisma, wearing a white dinner jacket.

HENRY
Oh, excuse me, Miss.

LYNNE
Oh no, I wasn't watching where I was...

LYNNE looks into his eyes. He smiles his 100 watt smile. She feels a jolt through her body

LYNNE (CONT'D)
...going.

HENRY
It looks to me like you're running away from the dance floor, and I can't for the life of me, figure out why such a beautiful woman would be without a dance partner.

LYNNE blushes unintentionally, and laughs nervously.

LYNNE
Does that line really work?

HENRY smiles.

HENRY
Never.

He extends his hand to her.

HENRY (CONT'D)
But I've never tried, either.

LYNNE takes his hand, being swept up in the romance of the moment. He leads her to the dance floor.

HENRY (CONT'D)
I'm Henry, by the way.

LYNNE
Lynne.

HENRY
Very nice to meet you, Lynne?

LYNNE
Andrews.

They dance for a moment in pure joy.

Then there is a commotion at the door. Loud arguing and people moving quickly.

Suddenly, LYNNE is pulled from her trance by her name being called.

CARLA
Lynne!? Lynne!

LYNNE
(to HENRY) Excuse me for a sec.

HENRY
Of course.

LYNNE moves urgently in the direction of her name. HENRY is following.

CARLA comes rushing over. She has RUTH hidden under her coat.

CARLA
We have to go.

LYNNE
What's wrong?

CARLA
Frank. He's looking for Ruthie.

LYNNE looks at HENRY.

HENRY
Which way did he go?

CARLA points to the back.

CARLA
Sonny and Richard went after him...

RICHARD
It's like he disappeared.

HENRY
There's a break room that hidden
under the stairs.

HENRY is off in that direction. LYNNE scurries to keep up.

They reach the room. HENRY opens the door and peers down the stairs.

HENRY (CONT'D)
Stay here.

HENRY descends the staircase as LYNNE watches. She isn't there for more than a second when she is grabbed by the arm and forced against the door by FRANK, closing HENRY in the room below.

FRANK
You. You did this.

HENRY tries to open the door from the other side.

HENRY
Lynne!? Are you alright!

LYNNE is shrinking from FRANK. His narcissistic rage is making him three times his size.

FRANK
Ruth was perfectly happy before you
showed up.

CARLA and RUTH come upon the scene. RUTH hears FRANK'S voice and looks up. She is within earshot. She hears everything.

HENRY yells from behind the door.

HENRY
Lynne?!!

FRANK
Now she's blowing me off, having
opinions, and fraternizing with
people that I wouldn't spit on.

RUTH has one bought of strength. She reaches for FRANK'S hand
to release LYNNE from his grasp.

RUTH
Let her go!

RUTH pulls his arm, *hard*, as FRANK turns, in a rage to see
who dares to confront him.

He slaps RUTH in the face. CARLA immediately comes to her
aid. LYNNE is by her side next.

By this time the commotion has attracted RICHARD and SONNY to
the area and HENRY breaks free from the door no longer
barricaded by FRANK.

HENRY makes his way to LYNNE

HENRY
Lynne?

LYNNE
I'm fine. It's Ruth.

FRANK starts to cross to RUTH

FRANK
Ruth. I am so sorry, baby. I would
never....

Before he can reach her, SONNY grabs FRANK and holds him
firm. RICHARD is helping RUTH to her feet.

SONNY
Wanna think again?

FRANK tries to get away, but SONNY holds firm.

HENRY
Get the ladies outside. Use the
back door. I'll take care of this
riff raff.

HENRY walks toward FRANK. SONNY lets go of arm. RICHARD brings RUTH to CARLA and LYNNE, but keeps his hand on the small of her back. LYNNE puts RUTH'S coat around her shoulders. She looks back at HENRY.

LYNNE

Thank you.

HENRY

Until next we meet.

HENRY smiles. The door shuts behind them. RICHARD and SONNY guard the ladies as they scurry out the back door.

EXT. DANCE HALL - NIGHT

The group exits the back door. RICHARD and SONNY lean up against the door.

SONNY

Go. We'll make sure he doesn't come this way. Henry's taking care of him now, but I don't trust the guy.

RUTH

This is unbelievable. I'm so sorry.

RICHARD

Why are you apologizing? He was in the wrong, not you.

RUTH

I just...I shouldn't have allowed it to happen.

RICHARD stops her.

RICHARD

You did nothing wrong.

He takes her chin in his hand to make her look at him.

RICHARD (CONT'D)

Alright?

RUTH nods her head slightly.

RUTH

Alright.

RICHARD

Get her home safely.

CARLA

I'll stay behind too and watch Main Street...make sure he doesn't follow in that direction. (beat) Lucky we only have two streets in this town.

RUTH smiles weakly at this. LYNNE puts her arm around RUTH'S shoulders and moves her swiftly in the direction of the apartment.

RUTH reaches for RICHARD'S hand for a brief moment, squeezing it and silently mouthing "thank you" to him, and then she and LYNNE are off.

EXT. MAIN STREET - MOMENTS LATER - 1956

LYNNE gets RUTH farther from the Dance Hall and gives her some room to breathe. They walk in silence for a moment. The Christmas Decorations sparkle above them, reminding them of the hope of the season.

LYNNE

Are you alright?

RUTH touches her face, still red from the sting.

RUTH

I've been better. (she takes a deep breath) I heard what he said to you.

LYNNE

You did?

RUTH

Not all of it. But some. Mostly I just saw him raise his hand and I just...I just had this instinct. I had to protect you.

LYNNE

You always have.

RUTH looks at her oddly.

LYNNE (CONT'D)

That's what Carla says. You take care of everyone. (beat) Except yourself when it comes to him. How did he know where you were?

RUTH

There are wonderful things about living in a small town...but there are *some* downsides. Word of mouth travels quickly. Or he just saw us. I never know how he knows.

LYNNE stops and turns RUTH to her.

LYNNE

He's done this before?

RUTH

Yes.

LYNNE pauses. She knows the next question needs to be right so they can have a dialogue.

LYNNE

Has he hit you before?

RUTH

Never. Although sometimes...

LYNNE knows exactly what she means.

LYNNE

You wish he just would, so then you'd know you aren't crazy.

RUTH nods her head in agreement.

RUTH

I guess tonight I got my wish.
(beat) Some days he's wonderful. He's attentive, and romantic, and makes me feel like I'm the only person in the world. And the next he's screaming at me for the smallest thing.

LYNNE

Like helping a stranger when they've fallen on ice.

RUTH

Or putting too much cream in his coffee. Or not choosing the restaurant *he* wanted me to choose for dinner. Tells me I need to loose weight, or I'm not as pretty as so and so.

LYNNE

You should try harder for him, he
needs to know where you are...

RUTH

...at ALL times.

LYNNE

You must be exhausted.

RUTH

I *am* exhausted.

RUTH laughs for a moment. Someone finally understands.

RUTH (CONT'D)

Thank you for listening. Sometimes
I think about just leaving him, but
it's not that easy.

LYNNE

You're scared.

RUTH

I am. But mostly...I'm ashamed that
I've lost myself and won't be able
to find my way back.

LYNNE

Wow.

RUTH looks at her for a long moment.

RUTH

Yea. Wow. I've never been able to
put the feeling into words.

LYNNE

Sometimes it takes the most
improbable situations to be able
to.

LYNNE takes a moment. She realizes she is talking about
herself.

RUTH

What am I going to do?

A weighted beat.

LYNNE

I don't know. (beat)
But I do know you have strength
hiding inside of you.

(MORE)

LYNNE (CONT'D)

And you should get to move forward
living the life you want. That you
are proud of. With someone that
deserves the wonderfully fun,
smart, independent woman you are
meant to be.

RUTH looks at her with tears in her eyes, and nods her head
in agreement.

LYNNE grabs her hand and they walk hand in hand down the
street to the apartment.

FADE OUT.

EXT. MAIN STREET GAS STATION - LATE MORNING - 1956

The camera fades in on RICHARD putting air in a tire. SONNY
is reading the paper.

SONNY

I'm just so proud of you. I don't
think I've ever seen you dance
before.

RICHARD

And you may never again.

SONNY

If things go the way I think they
will, it may just be a weekly
occurrence.

RICHARD finishes up with the air, and signals by tapping on
the back of the customers car. They drive off.

SONNY (CONT'D)

Did you talk to your brother about
automation at the farm?

RICHARD

This morning. He had the early
shift, so I went to see him.

SONNY

And?

RICHARD

He actually said he would look into
it. (beat) I'm still gonna focus on
the station, and see what happens
from there.

SONNY

Keep on him.

RICHARD.

I am. I'm hoping to get ahead of the world a bit. We always seem to be five steps behind in this town.

SONNY

Don't I know it. (beat) Hey. Have You thought anymore about buying this place?

RICHARD

A bit.

SONNY

The old man won't live forever. He's never here. It's basically yours anyway.

RICHARD

I doubt your father would enjoy you calling him an old man.

SONNY

Don't change the subject. What if we did it together? He's always bugging me to make something of myself. I hate working the night shift at the brick yard.

RICHARD

And what exactly would you do? Keep that spot warm?

SONNY

Oh, he's a funny man now. I can be a silent partner.

RICHARD

Ha!

SONNY

In name. (beat-serious) Or, I could take a few business classes. Take care of the books.

RICHARD

You? Classes?!

SONNY

I've been thinking about it.

RICHARD looks at SONNY.

RICHARD
You're serious?

SONNY
For once.

RICHARD considers this.

RICHARD
Talk to your dad.

SONNY looks surprised.

SONNY
I didn't think you'd say yes.

RICHARD
I'm surprising myself these days
too.

LYNNE and RUTH are walking up the street toward the GREEN
ARROW. SONNY nods his head in their direction.

SONNY
Speaking of. Turn the charm on
Rich. Here she comes.

SONNY slaps him on the back and goes back to reading his
paper.

RICHARD takes a red rag from his back pockets and wipes off
his hands, then smooths his hair.

RUTH and LYNNE approach.

LYNNE
Hiya boys!

RICHARD
Morning Lynne. Ruthie.

RUTH
Morning Rich.

LYNNE, standing in between the two, looks from one to the
other. And again, and they shyly look at one another.

LYNNE
Well, I am going to go ahead and
get us a table.

RUTH
I'll be there in a sec.

LYNNE
K.

RICHARD
Oh hey, Lynne?

LYNNE
Yeah?

RICHARD
Thanks for the advice. Bob, that's my brother. He's gonna start looking at tractor prices.

LYNNE
Good.

LYNNE heads to the restaurant. SONNY is peeking over the top of his newspaper.

RUTH
Not too busy here this morning?

RICHARD
Nope. Pretty slow.

SONNY
Very slow.

RUTH
Well then, join us for breakfast?

SONNY
He'd love to.

RICHARD gives him a look. SONNY hides behind his paper again.

RICHARD
I'd love to. I need to clean up, but, I will be right up.

RUTH
Great. See you soon.

RUTH starts to walk away.

RUTH (CONT'D)
You too Sonny.

SONNY
Thanks Ruthie.

SONNY gets up and runs over to RICHARD.

SONNY (CONT'D)
You ole' Dog. You did it!

SONNY ruffles RICHARD'S hair.

RICHARD
Flip the sign. Let's clean up.

SONNY flips the sign to CLOSED on the door.

CUT TO:

INT. GREEN ARROW RESTAURANT - MOMENTS LATER - 1956

RUTH and LYNNE are sitting at a table, speaking to CARLA who is at the grill. The breakfast rush is gone. They are the only ones in the restaurant.

CARLA
Heya girls. Sleep ok?

LYNNE
Yes, thank you. You were gone early.

CARLA
Breakfast rush is at 5am here.
Everyone headed to the first
brickyard shift.

RUTH
A night out with Carla was rare.
She's normally in bed by 8.

LYNNE
Nothing wrong with that. I think
I'm actually 80 years old inside.
Happy to sit in a rocking chair
with my tea and say things like "*we
needed this rain.*"

CARLA and RUTH laugh.

CARLA
Two coffees? Want to try the
special?

CARLA points to the hand printed sign.

LYNNE
Santa Pancakes!! My favorite.

RUTH
Two, please.

CARLA
Comin' right up.

CARLA heads to grab their coffees and start on their meals.

LYNNE
So. How's Richard?

RUTH smiles at her.

RUTH
Seems good. He and Sonny are going
to join us.

LYNNE
Good.

CARLA comes over with coffee.

CARLA
Here ya go.

LYNNE
Thanks Carla. And thank you, both,
for letting me crash at your place.

RUTH
Our pleasure.

CARLA
You and Henry seemed pretty cozy
last night. I've never seen him act
like that.

RUTH
His age?

CARLA
Exactly.

RUTH
And smitten with you, I think.

LYNNE
Oh. No...he was just being nice.

RUTH

No. He wasn't. He owns the Dance Hall, and I have never seen him dance with someone.

LYNNE

Well, that's flattering, but it doesn't really matter. I...I have to head home. My mom is probably wondering where I am...plus..

RUTH

I know. It's complicated.

CARLA

Oh?

LYNNE

Maybe a little clearer now.

RUTH smiles at her.

CARLA smells the food burning.

CARLA

The pancakes!

CARLA rushes to the grill. It's starting to burn, but she gets there in time.

CARLA (CONT'D)

The first one is always practice anyway.

LYNNE

It is for me!

CARLA

Be out in a sec.

LYNNE

So, have you decided what to do about Frank?

RUTH

Well, someone recently told I should move forward living the life I want.

LYNNE

Absolutely.

CARLA arrives with the food, and takes a seat with them.

CARLA
I'm coming too.

RUTH
Coming where?

CARLA
To wherever you are breaking it off
with him. Since he doesn't seem to
understand actions.

RUTH
You don't need to do that.

CARLA
Yes I do. You're my best friend.

LYNNE
Eat up. I have a feeling you'll
need your strength.

RUTH
We should go before I loose my
nerve.

LYNNE
Okay. Carla, can we get this to go?

CARLA
Coming right up!

RUTH
Oh shoot!

LYNNE
What?

RUTH
I invited Richard and Sonny for
breakfast.

CARLA
Alright. No problem.

CARLA put their food in to go containers.

CARLA (CONT'D)
New plan. You two go, I'll stay and
invite them over tonight for
Christmas Eve. We can decorate the
tree together! Have a little
soiree.

LYNNE smiles. This is where the tradition starts.

LYNNE

A Christmas Soiree. That sounds...

Before she can finish her sentence, the bell on the restaurant signals the arrival of a patron. FRANK.

RUTH sees him first. And for the first time, she doesn't shrink from him.

RUTH

Frank.

LYNNE spins around to see him, as does CARLA.

FRANK starts to rush toward her, apologetic look all over his manipulative face.

FRANK

Ruthie.

RUTH

Let's take a walk. We need to talk.

FRANK

We can talk right here.

He pulls out a chair for her and pats it.

FRANK (CONT'D)

Have some breakfast.

FRANK pulls out a second chair.

FRANK (CONT'D)

All of us. You, me, Carla. Your new friend, Lynne.

LYNNE

Pass.

CARLA

And you know the rules

She points to the NO SOLICITING sign. RUTH smiles at her.

RUTH walks out the door. FRANK angrily walks behind her. CARLA and LYNNE scurry to the door after them. Once RUTH and FRANK are on the sidewalk, CARLA and LYNNE come out onto the front steps on the diner.

SONNY and RICHARD, en route to the dinner, stop in their tracks.

FRANK

Alright. We're outside. Like you wanted. See. I listen to what you want. I take that into consideration.

RUTH

It's time we end our relationship.

The workers around him get quiet and watch. He notices the attention.

FRANK

No, that's not going to work for me.

RUTH

Well this isn't working for me. Truth be told, it never did.

FRANK

But, Ruth, I love you. Don't hurt me like this. Why do you want to hurt me? (beat) What will I do without you?

RUTH

That's yours to figure out.

FRANK

I've never loved anyone like you.

This isn't working. FRANK tries another tactic.

FRANK (CONT'D)

You're right. I've been distant and cold lately. I've just been nervous. I bought you a ring. It's worth thousands. From that jewelry store you always say you can't afford.

RUTH

You really think that matters to me?

FRANK

It proves how much I love you.

RUTH

No. It doesn't. It proves how much you don't know me.

RUTH turns to walk away.

FRANK
If you walk away, we're done.

RUTH turns back and smiles.

RUTH
I guess we're done then.

RUTH walks to the diner's steps. LYNNE and CARLA are waiting. FRANK is hot on her tail.

LYNNE and CARLA surround her to create a barrier. FRANK is drumming up crocodile tears for sympathy.

FRANK
But Ruthie. Please. You're the only girl for me.

He grabs her arm.

FRANK (CONT'D)
You're really overreacting. Again.
Just come back inside. RUTH!

RUTH looks at his grasp, and instead of backing down, looks him straight in the eye and rips her arm from his grasp.

RUTH
I said we're done.

RUTH goes inside the restaurant with CARLA and LYNNE.

LYNNE pops her head out of the door. The bell rings.

LYNNE
I hope you have the day you deserve!

She smiles and closes the door.

FRANK, embarrassed, turns around to see RICHARD and SONNY smiling, and a few other people from town watching him and exchanging looks and details. He starts to walk up to RICHARD, who stops smiling and stands his full height, towering over FRANK.

FRANK lowers his head and mopes down Main Street.

CUT TO:

INT. GREEN ARROW RESTAURANT - MOMENTS LATER - 1956

RUTH'S eyes are full of happy, grateful tears as CARLA fills up her coffee cup. LYNNE is hugging her.

LYNNE

I am SO proud of you! Did you see him just standing there, dumbfounded? How are you. You okay?

RUTH

I am. More okay than I've been in a long time.

LYNNE

Then let's eat these pancakes and get back home. We have a Christmas Eve soiree to host.

RUTH smiles as they joyfully eat Santa Pancakes.

FADE TO:

INT. RUTH'S HOUSE - AFTERNOON - 1956

RUTH and LYNNE are in the kitchen, wearing aprons and baking cookies. There are cookies everywhere. They've been at this for awhile. There are chocolate chip, peanut butter and now, they are making sour cream cookies, a local specialty.

LYNNE

Where did you learn to make these? My (beat) Gramma made cookies like this too.

RUTH

I found the recipe in a community cook book. We've been doing them here since I can remember. (beat) What were your favorite when you were younger?

LYNNE

Chocolate chip! No nuts. (smiles, remembering) She always made me a batch without nuts. No one else was allowed to eat them. They were just for me.

RUTH
That's sweet. I'll have to remember
that.

LYNNE
You will.

They smile at each other.

CARLA barges through the door, hands full of bags from the
Market. LYNNE runs to her to help.

LYNNE (CONT'D)
Did you buy out the whole store?

CARLA
No. But I may have invited a few
more people.

RUTH
How many?

CARLA
The town.

RUTH
The town?!

CARLA
It's fine. I told everyone it was
an open house kind of. From 7-11.
We'd have snacks, feel free to
bring something, you know, the
norm.

LYNNE
Good thing we made an exorbitant
amount of cookies.

CARLA
And I got us something special.

CARLA pulls whiskey, sour mix, and cherries out of a separate
bag.

CARLA (CONT'D)
Bill said it's the drink of the
season. I'll make one for us.

CARLA mixes up the drinks as LYNNE and RUTH empty the bags.

LYNNE
So the entire town is coming?

CARLA
Not everyone will show. But I
thought it would be fun.

RUTH
Maybe it can be a tradition.

LYNNE
I think it will be.

RUTH looks around.

RUTH
Oh! We still have to get the
decorations up!

CARLA
I've taken care of that too.
Richard and Sonny will be over soon
to get us all set up.

CARLA hands RUTH and LYNNE a drink.

CARLA (CONT'D)
Here. Cheers.

RUTH takes a sips

RUTH
What's this? It's delicious.

LYNNE smiles at RUTH.

LYNNE
A whiskey sour.

CARLA
Like it?

RUTH
Might be my new favorite drink.

LYNNE
I couldn't agree more.

RUTH
Well, let's get this spread ready,
and then get to decorating.

The camera zooms in on the bare Christmas tree by the window.

FADE TO:

INT. RUTH'S HOUSE - EVENING - 1956

The camera zooms out from the same Christmas Tree, now starting to fill with ornaments.

Christmas music is playing on the record player. RUTH, LYNN, CARLA, RICHARD, and SONNY are laughing and decorating the house. There's is a bit of urgency, as the party is looming, but fun is outshining any worries.

LYNNE holds up an ornament.

LYNNE
I love this one!

RUTH
That was my Grandmother's. From
England. It's my favorite.

LYNNE
Mine too.

RUTH looks at her oddly, but can't speak before CARLA makes her way to them.

CARLA
What are you two whispering about?

LYNNE
Just that Ruth needs help hanging
the mistletoe. Richard!

RICHARD makes his way to them.

RICHARD
Yes?

LYNNE elbows RUTH toward RICHARD.

RUTH
Would you help me hang this,
please?

RUTH holds up the mistletoe. RICHARD smiles.

RICHARD
Absolutely I will.

RICHARD moves the ladder by the door and RUTH climbs onto it. SONNY moves to LYNN and CARLA, now all three in a huddle watching this unfold.

RICHARD, holding the ladder, turns to them with a glare. The three offenders turn and pretend to be involved in decorating the tree with a single ornament.

SONNY

I think it looks much better here.

CARLA

But what if we moved it....here.

RICHARD turns back to RUTH. The ladder wobbles slightly and RUTH loses her balance. She falls into RICHARD'S arms. LYNNE lets out a small gasp, but they cannot hear her. RUTH points above her and shrugs.

RUTH

Mistletoe.

CARLA, LYNNE, and SONNY hide behind the other side of the tree. RICHARD leans in and sweetly kisses RUTH under the mistletoe. LYNNE silently screams with delight. SONNY and CARLA join in. SONNY grabs CARLA and kisses her too.

A knock at the door ends the moment. The first guest. RUTH smiles at RICHARD and opens the door. RICHARD'S brother BOB and his wife PEGGY.

RUTH (CONT'D)

Welcome!

BOB

Well hey Rich. Didn't expect you to be here.

RICHARD

I've been surprising myself a lot lately.

CARLA

Can I take your coats?

CARLA grabs their coats and takes them into the bedroom. RUTH shows them to the snacks.

RUTH

Please help yourself.

Another knock at the door. More guests.

BOB

So, I have a lead on a few tractors. If you think this is the right move...

RICHARD

I do.

BOB smiles and shakes RICHARD'S hand and pulls him in to a hug.

More knocks and guests.

MONTAGE:

The apartment is full of people and joy. They are eating, laughing, and dancing. There isn't much space, but no one seems to notice.

LYNNE is laughing with her grandparents. RUTH is introducing her to everyone.

RUTH and RICHARD have small stolen moments with each other. RUTH gives him the pocketknife she bought for him. He gives her a small gift as well. LYNNE and RUTH toast their whiskey sours.

END MONTAGE.

LYNNE finds RUTH in the crowd.

LYNNE

You look really happy.

RUTH

I am. Maybe for the first time.

LYNNE

He deserves you. The wonderfully fun, independent you. Don't ever lose that.

RUTH

I promise. And you. When are you going to start living the life you deserve.

LYNNE looks at her for a long hard moment.

LYNNE

Now.

LYNNE pulls RUTH into a big, long hug. Like she may never see her again. Because she may not.

LYNNE (CONT'D)

I'm going to go take a walk.

LYNNE grabs her coat and puts it on.

LYNNE (CONT'D)
I'm so glad I met you.

RUTH tilts her head to the side and smiles.

RUTH
Likewise. I'm really glad your car
broke down.

LYNNE laughs with tears in her eyes.

LYNNE
Me too.

LYNNE hands RUTH a small box.

RUTH
What's this?

LYNNE
Just a thank you. You've given me
more than I can say. I hope I have
done the same for you.

RUTH opens the box. The yellow rose necklace LYNNE bought at
the boutique when they were shopping together.

RUTH
My favorite flower.

LYNNE
I know.

CARLA calls from across the room, RUTH turns away. As she
does, LYNNE goes to the door and opens it. She turns back for
one last look.

LYNNE (CONT'D)
I love you.

LYNNE closes the door. RUTH looks back, but LYNNE is gone.

CUT TO:

EXT. MAIN STREET - NIGHT - 1956

LYNNE is walking through town. The Christmas lights are
shining brightly, Christmas Music is heard from passing
carolers. She breathes in the town.

She looks up to the sky and it begins to snow. She smiles as it falls around her.

She walks on and the PALACE THEATER comes into view, Dark at first, then the marquee lights up.

Flashing "IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE - ONE FINAL SHOWING - NOW!"

LYNNE takes a deep breathe and makes her way to the theater.

EXT. PALACE THEATER TICKET BOOTH

CLEMENT is in the ticket booth alone. He sees LYNNE and looks up.

CLEMENT

One?

LYNNE nods.

LYNNE

Yeah. One.

CLEMENT hands her the ticket and gestures to the door which again, opens magically. LYNNE makes her way inside. She turns to him, but he's already gone.

LYNNE walks into the auditorium. The projector is already playing the title sequence. She sits in the seat she sat in earlier. Settles in. Takes a deep breathe.

LYNNE (CONT'D)

I'm ready.

She closes her eyes. A rush of air and magic woosh through the theater.

And the color changes. LYNNE is back in her timeline. She opens her eyes. The film's credits are rolling.

She looks around the theater. Still empty. She looks at her clothes. She is back in her jeans and boots.

She gets up from her seat and rushes outside.

EXT. MAIN STREET - PRESENT DAY - 9PM

LYNNE comes out of the theater. She looks around. She sees the cars. The few people still left on the street. She's back.

LYNNE

I'm back.

She doesn't see the patch of ice in front of her.

She slips, and she is down.

She hears a voice.

HARRY (V.O.)

Are you alright?

LYNNE looks up to see the silhouette of a very tall man approaching her. The Christmas lights from Main Street are keeping his features in the dark. *NOTE: THEY CANNOT SEE EACH OTHER BECAUSE OF THE DARKNESS AND THE FALLS UNTIL THEY ARE FULLY ON THEIR FEET ON PG 95, HARRY'S LINE "I KNOW WHO YOU ARE"*

A hand reaches to help her up, and we see a glimpse of him. HARRY PAUL, the spitting image of his grandfather HENRY PAUL, 30's, tall dark and handsome, is extending his hand to her.

HARRY

Let me help.

LYNNE reaches out to him before meeting his eyes.

LYNNE

Thank you, I...

She looks at him and loses all her words. HARRY takes her hands and begins to help her to her feet. She reaches for his shoulder for a better grip, but instead, it brings them both toppling to the ground.

Oof. Then laughter.

LYNNE (CONT'D)

I'm so sorry. Are you hurt?

HARRY

Just my pride.

They laugh together. The focus is on getting to their feet. They have not really locked eyes yet.

Carefully, they begin to try again.

HARRY (CONT'D)

Alright, just, easy does it. Nice and graceful.

LYNNE

You clearly don't know me.

They make it to their feet. As they straighten up, the ice slides them into each other. Their faces are just inches apart. They gaze into each others eyes. Electricity. They hold the gaze for a moment. They slip a little closer together. HARRY tightens his grip on LYNNE'S arms to keep her upright.

HARRY

I know who you are. Lynne Andrews.
I've been waiting for you.

HARRY is looking deep into her eyes as if he's known her forever.

LYNNE

I...

He breaks the trance.

HARRY

I mean, you're our town celebrity.
I'm Harry. Harry...

LYNNE

Paul.

HARRY stares at her inquisitively.

HARRY

Paul. Yeah.

They stare at each other again.

LYNNE

I (beat) I knew your grandfather.

HARRY smiles.

HARRY

I know. He spoke very fondly of
you.

LYNNE

He did?

HARRY

For as long as I can remember. I'm
Surprised it took us this long to
meet.

LYNNE
I would've remembered.

HARRY
So would I.

LYNNE smiles.

LYNNE
Well, I should...go.

HARRY
Are you fine to get home?

LYNNE
Yeah, it's just across the creek.

They stare at each other again.

LYNNE (CONT'D)
Well, I should...

HARRY lets go of her.

HARRY
...go. Right, sorry.

LYNNE moves away slowly.

LYNNE
Thank you.

She starts to walk away, and turns back around.

LYNNE (CONT'D)
It's nice to meet you. Finally.

HARRY
Likewise.

He is staring after her. She can feel his eyes on her back. She looks back at him. He waves. She smiles and continues on. She turns around once more.

LYNNE
Maybe I'll see you around?

HARRY
You can count on it.

He shrugs.

HARRY (CONT'D)
Small town and all.

LYNNE smiles and continues on her way. HARRY looks after her. The camera catches LYNNE smile and we see HARRY in the background as she rounds the corner to her house.

FADE TO:

INT. LYNNE'S CHILDHOOD HOME - LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER - PRESENT

LYNNE walks into her home, flinging herself against the door in the way only a lovesick fool does. KATHLEEN is cleaning up from their hot cocoa talk just minutes before (her time).

KATHLEEN
That was fast.

LYNNE looks at her mom with tears in her eyes. She runs and hugs her.

LYNNE
Too fast.

We hear a voice from the kitchen.

RUTH (V.O.)
Is that Lynne?

From the kitchen, RUTH, now aged 88 (a healthy and vibrant 88), walks in drying her hands on a hand towel.

LYNNE stares at her in disbelief.

RUTH
I haven't had dessert yet, and you know what I always say.

LYNNE
There's always room for something sweet.

RUTH (CONT'D)
There's always room for something sweet.

Tears start streaming down LYNNE'S cheeks as she rushes to embrace her Grandmother. RUTH looks at her knowingly. *This* is the moment she's been waiting 50 years for.

RUTH (CONT'D)
Hi sweetheart.

LYNNE
You're alive?!

RUTH
Of course I am, what nonsense is that? We just talked this morning.

RUTH takes LYNNE'S head in her hands and dries her tears.

RUTH (CONT'D)
Everything is fine.

RUTH looks at her knowingly and winks at her. Then she picks up the yellow rose necklace that LYNNE gave her in 1956 and shows her - she knows.

RUTH (CONT'D)
As it should be.

LYNNE looks at her. RUTH smiles.

RUTH (CONT'D)
What do you say we finish
decorating the tree. We still have
a lot to do before the party
tomorrow.

LYNNE
The Christmas Eve Soiree?

RUTH
Is there another?

LYNNE
No. No other like it anywhere.
Okay. Yeah, that sounds wonderful.

KATHLEEN
I'll grab the box.

KATHLEEN goes to get the ornaments.

LYNNE
I'll get some snacks.

LYNNE steps into the kitchen and can't hold back her tears any longer. She openly weeps over the sink.

LYNNE (CONT'D)
What is going on?

Again we hear RUTH.

RUTH (V.O.)
Feels like a dream doesn't it?

RUTH walks to her grand-daughter and puts her arm around her.

RUTH
All of us together. Well, almost
all of us.

RUTH fiddles with her wedding ring.

LYNNE

Pap.

RUTH

I miss him every day. But Carla keeps me busy. Yesterday she informed me we are taking sculpting lessons.

LYNNE

I'd pay to see that.

RUTH

Take the class and you can. Richard and Sonny and probably laughing at us, but we're having fun, and living for ourselves. We always did.

LYNNE

Did he ever get that tractor?

RUTH

And more. The first to fully automate in the area. It's the reason he and Sonny could run the station, and I could open my design business.

LYNNE smiles.

LYNNE

How can you be here?

RUTH

My darling, we always spend Christmas together.

LYNNE

But, you're here. When I left for my walk tonight, you were gone.

RUTH

I think you've been working too hard. (beat) Oh. I see. I forget that you are experiencing more than I will ever know. Well, I'd never miss Christmas with you. Although Carla did try to get me on a cruise last year. I said no.

LYNNE laughs at the idea.

LYNNE
So you never married Frank?

KATHLEEN pops her head in.

KATHLEEN
Ornaments are ready to go. (beat)
Who is Frank?

RUTH
Sorry, we just got to talking. He
was someone I dated before Richard.
Someone (she looks at Lynne) who
didn't deserve the wonderfully fun,
smart, independent woman I was
meant to be.

LYNNE smiles.

KATHLEEN
Sounds like a tool. Cookies?

LYNNE and RUTH laugh.

LYNNE
I'll grab them.

RUTH
No nuts.

RUTH winks at LYNNE. LYNNE smiles back. She is overwhelmed.

KATHLEEN
You okay hun?

LYNNE
Just...really happy to be here with
you. Both.

KATHLEEN
Okay. You grab the coffee.

KATHLEEN heads to the living room.

KATHLEEN (V.O.)
Decaf!

LYNNE goes to the cabinet and grabs the instant coffee. RUTH
gets the cups.

RUTH
All these old houses are the same.

LYNNE point to RUTH'S necklace - the yellow rose.

LYNNE
You still have it.

RUTH smiles and touches it.

RUTH
My favorite. The girl that gave
this to me saved my life.

LYNNE looks at RUTH. RUTH smiles. They set up the coffee service. RUTH puts her hand on LYNNE'S and squeezes it.

They walk into the living room.

The trio begin decorating the tree to Christmas music.

FADE OUT.

INT. GREEN ARROW RESTAURANT - MORNING - PRESENT

RUTH is sitting at her "normal" table. CARLA is sitting next to her, coffee pot on the table. LYNNE enters, the bell on the door sounds.

CARLA
There she is. Our town celebrity.

LYNNE
Far from it, but I still like
hearing it. Hi Carla.

They hug and LYNNE sits next to RUTH.

CARLA
Coffee's hot. I'll get breakfast
started. Santa Pancakes?

LYNNE
Is there any other option?
Everything is perfect...it feels so
fragile. Like a dream.

RUTH pinches her.

LYNNE (CONT'D)
Hey. Ow.

RUTH
Just checking. (beat) So, have you
decided what you are going to do
about this job?

LYNNE

I think I'm gonna take it.

Just then, the door opens and PETER barges in.

PETER

Lynne! My god! Where were you?!

LYNNE

Wow. Deja Vu.

PETER

I've been calling for hours. Days!
You said you would text when you
got here.

LYNNE

Days?! I left yesterday, Peter.
I...I got caught up.

PETER grabs her arms and pulls her closer to him. LYNNE is surprised, but not totally shocked.

PETER

Do you know how humiliating it is
to not be able to contact your
girlfriend? I am always available
for you.

As he said this, RUTH has stood up, instinctually, and CARLA comes from behind the counter to stand near RUTH. Safety in numbers.

LYNNE rips her arms from his grasp and steps back to her grandmother, RUTH puts a hand on her shoulder and then grabs her hand for support.

LYNNE

I know how humiliating it is to
always be let down. To be belittled
and screamed at in front of
colleagues, friends, family. I know
how small I feel when you accuse me
of putting you last when all I've
ever done is champion for you. Or
when I ask for the smallest favor
and I am told I am undeserving.

PETER tries to speak. She cuts him off.

LYNNE (CONT'D)

No. You don't get to speak to me.
Not ever again.

(MORE)

LYNNE (CONT'D)

The fact that *ignoring* you is the only way I ever got you to come home with me is proof of who you really are. In fact, to ever do *anything* for me. Leave. Don't contact me. As far as I'm concerned, you don't exist.

PETER

There are two people in this relationship. You can't just make this decision.

LYNNE

You have made every decision for four years. Never once considering one of my feelings.

PETER

Lynne. I love you.

LYNNE

No you don't. This isn't love. You don't know what love is. But I do. And I deserve it. I deserve to have everything I've ever dreamed of. And that starts now.

LYNNE pulls out her phone and dials JIM.

LYNNE (CONT'D)

Jim? Call the network. We're accepting the offer.

She hangs up.

LYNNE (CONT'D)

Goodbye Peter.

PETER starts to make a move toward her, but she stands her ground.

PETER

If I walk out that door, we're done.

LYNNE smiles.

LYNNE

Then I guess we're done.

PETER stares her down trying to weaken her one last time. It won't work. He leaves.

LYNNE lets out a huge breath. RUTH hugs her granddaughter.

RUTH

I have never been more proud of you.

CARLA

What do you say we add some mimosas to the meal. This feels like a champagne moment.

RUTH

When did you get your liquor license?

CARLA

I didn't. It's just a drink amongst friends.

RUTH

In that case. It *is* Christmas Eve, so how about a whiskey sour.

CARLA

Even better.

LYNNE

Sure. I'll be right back, I just need to get a little air.

LYNNE walks outside.

EXT. GREEN ARROW RESTAURANT - MOMENTS LATER - PRESENT

LYNNE walks down the steps of the restaurant and toward RICHARD'S gas station. It's not open anymore, but the building is still there.

She breathes in the air. It feels different. Free. She looks up to the sky, not paying attention to her surroundings, like you can in a small town.

Coming from the opposite direction is HARRY. He looks up to see LYNNE and waves. He loses his footing on some ice. HARRY falls. LYNNE looks down at HARRY.

LYNNE

I guess it's my turn to be the chivalrous one.

HARRY
Equal rights.

HARRY smiles and takes her hand, coming to his feet.

LYNNE
Anything other than that pride of
yours hurt?

HARRY
Nothing.

They stare at each other for a long moment. Then, from the restaurant.

RUTH
Sweetheart, your Santa Pancakes are
ready. Oh! Hi Harry! Join us!

He looks at LYNNE. Then to RUTH. He *wants* to say yes.

HARRY
(To LYNNE) Santa Pancakes?

LYNNE
It's tradition.

HARRY
(To RUTH) I would love too, but I
have a meeting this morning.
Raincheck?

RUTH
Tonight then. Join us for our
Christmas Eve Party.

HARRY
Well, I...

LYNNE
She won't take no for an answer.
It's *the* event of the season.

RUTH
I won't take no for an answer.

HARRY
(To RUTH) I've heard that.

HARRY responds, his eyes never leaving LYNNE.

HARRY (CONT'D)
Thank you. I would truly love that.

LYNNE
7 o'clock.

HARRY
Looking forward to it.

They begin to part ways.

HARRY (CONT'D)
Glad I bumped into you again.

LYNNE turns and smiles and shrugs.

LYNNE
Small town.

LYNNE makes her way back to the restaurant. RUTH winks at HARRY. HARRY smiles his million dollar smile, and the camera closes on LYNNE as she smiles back, a truly genuine smile.

FADE TO:

3 YEARS LATER

INT. LYNNE'S CHILDHOOD HOME - LIVING ROOM- EVENING - PRESENT

It's Christmas Eve, three years later. The camera comes up on the same genuine smile from LYNNE. She is standing next to HARRY. She is wearing RUTH'S blue dress from 1956 that she wore to the Christmas dance. Also around the Christmas Tree are KATHLEEN, DON, KATHLEEN'S boyfriend, 70's, kind and quiet, CARLA, JIM, HILLARY, and WILL, trimming away.

They are all laughing and talking, and dressed to the nines. LYNNE is wearing RUTH'S blue taffeta dress. She taps her glass to get everyone's attention.

LYNNE
I want to thank you all so much for making the time to join Mom and I this Christmas Eve. Since it was Grammy's favorite holiday, I wanted to be sure her tradition continued.

HARRY squeezes her hand.

HILLARY
We wouldn't have missed it.

JIM

It's been my favorite tradition
since our first time three years
ago.

WILL

I'm just here for the cookies.

LYNNE laughs and tosses him another.

LYNNE

I'm going to get a little emotional
now, so bear with me. Ruth was more
than my Grammy. She was my second
mom. Until I moved away, I saw her
everyday. She was at every one of
my ball games, plays,
concerts...everything. She made
every Halloween Costume and even
painted herself green to be the
Wicked Witch the year I dressed up
as Dorothy, and didn't tell me. She
taught me how to sew and design,
and reminded me to never lose my
imagination. She was my shopping
buddy. She never said no to ice
cream, but sometimes to letting me
have a sip of her soda...because it
meant she added a little rum. And
then, in some of my darkest days,
she was the mirror to myself that I
didn't know I needed. (pause)
She saved me more than once.

LYNNE is tearing up. She looks at HARRY and he squeezes her
hand again.

LYNNE (CONT'D)

It feels so surreal. You know your
grandparents will pass before you,
but I just always thought she'd be
there...because she always was.
Being her grand-daughter made me so
proud, and living without her will
be, maybe the hardest thing I have
done thus far in my life. But,
because she helped me become the
strong person I am, I know I can
handle it. (beat) And I know she
will always be with me.

LYNNE raises her glass.

LYNNE (CONT'D)
All I wanted with her was one more
Christmas. I got that and so much
more. So now, and every year until
I get to see her again, here's to
Ruth.

Everyone raises their glasses.

EVERYONE
To Ruth.

They all drink. LYNNE begins to sit down, but the doorbell
rings.

LYNNE
I'll get it.

LYNNE heads to the front door. She opens the door, and sees a
package. She bends down to pick it up, then steps out onto
the porch to look for the delivery person. He is standing at
the bottom of the steps, face covered by his hat. CLEMENT.

LYNNE (CONT'D)
Clement?

CLEMENT looks up, smiles and tips his hat.

CLEMENT
Miss Andrews.

LYNNE
Did you want to come inside.

CLEMENT
No ma'am. Just dropping off a
little something.

He nods in the direction of the package she is holding.

CLEMENT (CONT'D)
Been waiting for the right moment.

LYNNE pulls the door closed behind her from privacy.

LYNNE
Clement. How? How did you bring her
back to me?

CLEMENT
I didn't. You did. I just helped
get you to the right destination.

LYNNE'S eyes fill with tears again.

CLEMENT (CONT'D)
 Sometimes life gets a little off
 track, and you need a little nudge.
 (beat) Some Christmas magic.

HARRY pokes his head out of the door.

HARRY
 Is everything alright? Who was it.

LYNNE turns to introduce HARRY to CLEMENT, but CLEMENT has disappeared. LYNNE smiles.

LYNNE
 Just an old friend.

LYNNE looks at the package and opens it. Inside, is a frames photo from 1956. RUTH, RICHARD, CARLA, SONNY, and LYNNE at the dance hall. Behind them, looking at LYNNE is HENRY, HARRY'S grandfather.

HARRY takes the picture from her.

HARRY
 My grandfather had this picture
 tucked inside a copy of The Time
 Machine.

LYNNE
 H.G. Wells?

HARRY
 Yeah. That book haunted him,
 almost. He let me read it when I
 was fifteen That photo fell out.

HARRY reaches out and holds LYNNE'S hands in his.

HARRY (CONT'D)
 I've been waiting for Lynne Andrews
 since I was fifteen.

LYNNE looks at him confused.

LYNNE
 Grammy said that she and Pap were
 the only ones that knew.

LYNNE stops, realizing.

LYNNE (CONT'D)
 Is that why she invited you to
 Christmas Eve that first year?

HARRY smiles.

LYNNE (CONT'D)
She knew.

HARRY
She saved you more than once.

LYNNE throws her arms around HARRY. They embrace fully. The kind of hug that makes you feel utterly safe.

HARRY pulls away and looks at LYNNE deeply.

HARRY (CONT'D)
And I made her a promise.

HARRY gets down on one knee.

HARRY (CONT'D)
That once I found you, I would
never let you go. (beat) I've been
carrying this in my pocket since
she gave it to me, about a month
into our relationship. But I knew
you were healing. You needed time.

He opens the box, and inside is RUTH'S engagement ring.

HARRY (CONT'D)
I've been waiting for the right
moment. And I worry that I waited
too long. That she's not here. But
that picture, I think is a sign,
telling me to get to it.

LYNNE laughs knowing that is exactly what this is.

HARRY (CONT'D)
Lynne, will you marry me?

LYNNE nods her head yes, unable to form words. HARRY glides the ring on her finger. A perfect fit. He stands, gently takes her face into his hands, and kisses her passionately.

The camera stays on them for a moment, then moves back into the house. The family laughing and enjoying themselves at the table, then to the hall, full of pictures.

They are now pictured of joy. Pictures of RUTH and her successful clothing designs/business. Her and LYNNE on set. RUTH with LYNNE and HARRY on the Red Carpet. RUTH beaming with pride with LYNNE and her Daytime Emmy. KATHLEEN, LYNNE, and RUTH traveling. RUTH and RICHARD at 5 years, 10, 20, 40, all happy and thriving.

The gas station, SONNY and RICHARD smiling proudly, with CARLA and RUTH beside them. RICHARD and BOB standing at their farm with their shiny new tractor. A history of a happy family. No sign of FRANK or PETER.

The camera sweeps out the backdoor and up. It begins to snow. Christmas music begins to play in the background. Then, as the camera continues on, there is one shining star. It "winks" as the following is heard.

CLEMENT
Merry Christmas.

FADE TO BLACK.

THE END