

GRACE'S VERSION

Written by

M. Ruth

FADE IN:

INT. MUSIC VENUE

A woman is sitting center stage on a stool with a guitar and a microphone. A spotlight is lighting her, while the rest of the stage is barely visible. The crowd is murmuring, but relatively quiet.

WOMAN ON STAGE

I'm gonna give the band a break for a few minutes and do a few songs on my own, if that's okay?

The crowd starts to cheer.

WOMAN ON STAGE (CONT'D)

This first one...

The crowd quiets down.

WOMAN ON STAGE (CONT'D)

...is technically a cover, but, uh, I have a running joke with the artist...

The woman tunes her guitar briefly.

WOMAN ON STAGE (CONT'D)

...that it's actually my song, because I, well, I saved it from being a bad song. Hahah. So if you ever go to a Rydel concert and he plays the song Sunshine, think of me.

The woman starts to strum a familiar song and the crowd erupts. She laughs and then starts to sing.

FADE TO BLACK.

OVER BLACK

WOMEN

Hi Miss Meyer, may I call you Grace?

GRACE

Yeah, sure.

WOMEN

Thank you, Grace. My name is Olivia Taylor, and we also have Eric Donovan on the line as well.

ERIC

Hi Grace.

GRACE

Hi.

CUT TO:

EXT. HIGHWAY

A young woman, GRACE (mid-late 20's), drives a nice, but reasonable car down the highway. She has the windows down and her hair is up, but still blowing.

OLIVIA (V.O.)

Okay, let's just get right into it. I'm going to read a pre-written statement and then we can answer any questions you might have, okay?

GRACE (V.O.)

Yeah, sure.

OLIVIA (V.O.)

Okay. Thank you Grace. Okay. So Cloudtech has been reviewing the company performance for the past 6 months, and we have further evaluated teams based on their fiscal performance as well as their production and importance to the company as a whole. Unfortunately, your department has not met the thresholds that we have set forth in this evaluation and the department and all the teams and positions within it have been eliminated. This includes your role here at Cloudtech.

OPENING CREDITS

CUT TO:

I/E. GRACE'S FAMILY HOME

Grace walks into the home through the side door and into the kitchen. She sets her duffel bag on the floor, puts her keys on the counter and takes off her shoes. She walks to the fridge, opens it and peers in. She takes a carrot out and bites into it, closing the door in process. She walks towards the other room.

GRACE
 Mom? Hello? Dad? Anyone home?

CHERYL (O.S.)
 Grace? Is that you? What are you
 doing here? We're in the den.

Grace walks through the home into the den where her mother, CHERYL, is sitting at a table working on a crossword puzzle and her father, DON, is in a recliner staring at an iPad that he places on his lap when Grace enters the room.

GRACE
 Hey.

CHERYL
 Hi dear, what are you doing here?
 It's a Thursday, did you tell us
 you were coming? Is everything
 okay?

GRACE
 No I just came. Yeah, everything's
 fine.

Cheryl and Don look at each other to make sure they're not missing anything.

DON
 It's nice you're here, but don't
 you have work?

GRACE
 Not anymore...

CHERYL
 Oh no, what happened? Did you get
 fired? I thought you were doing
 well in the job.

GRACE
 I didn't get fired. I was doing
 well. The whole department got let
 go. Anyway, I'm going to go shower
 and maybe take a nap or something.

CHERYL
 Okay... are you sure you're okay?

GRACE
 Yeah.

Cheryl starts to speak and then hesitates. Then finally says something.

CHERYL
How about I make your favorite for
dinner?

GRACE
Yeah, sure. Thanks, mom.

Grace starts to walk out of the room. Cheryl gives Don and
look and he just shrugs.

DON
Glad you're here, buttercup.

CUT TO:

INT. GRACE'S FAMILY HOME - GRACE'S BEDROOM

Grace walks into the room, closes the door, and puts her bag
on the bed. Slowly, she walks over to the desk in the room
and pulls a picture off the mirror of a younger Grace and
three other girls making faces at the camera. She smiles
slightly, and then puts it down on the desk. She looks
around and then starts to undress as she walks into the
bathroom.

CUT TO:

INT. GRACE'S FAMILY HOME - DINING ROOM

Grace, Cheryl, and Don are having dinner.

CHERYL
I was talking to Abbey, Lucy's
mom...

Grace looks at Don who winks at her.

CHERYL (CONT'D)
...and she said that Lucy moved
back into town a few months ago.
Did you know that? Are you two
still friends?

GRACE
Yeah, I know, we still talk
occasionally.

CHERYL
You should see her while you're
here.

GRACE
Yeah, maybe.

CHERYL

Maybe? Well I don't see why you wouldn't. You two were two peas in a pod. Abbey said that Lucy is looking for a new job too, and that the one she has now doesn't pay very well, but everyone says they like her. Maybe you can get a job there.

Grace nods slightly.

DON

So did you get severance or any kind of package to leave?

GRACE

Yeah, I got something like everyone else, I don't really know the details yet, haven't looked at all of it.

CHERYL

Well that's good. I was talking to Stephanie the other day and her son got 3 months, fully paid to look for a new job. Is that what you got?

GRACE

Yeah, something like that.

CHERYL

That's amazing, I remember when you just got fired and that was that.

Grace and Don look at each other and Don smiles. Grace laughs slightly.

GRACE

When's the last time you were fired, mom?

CHERYL

Well never, but I'm talking about other people.

Grace and Don chuckle at her response.

CHERYL (CONT'D)

Anyway, that's really nice that you don't have to worry.

(MORE)

CHERYL (CONT'D)

Of course your father and I will help you if you need it, but it sounds like you won't. Have you started looking yet?

GRACE

It happened like 2 days ago, and now I'm here, so no, I haven't done anything.

CHERYL

Okay... I was only asking.

DON

How long you staying with us, buttercup?

GRACE

Probably just the weekend.

CHERYL

Well then you definitely need to call Lucy.

GRACE

Yeah, good idea, I'm gonna go do that right now.

Grace pushes back from the table.

GRACE (CONT'D)

Thanks for making my favorite meal, mom. I appreciate it. Thanks for, whatever you do, dad.

Grace smirks and Don feigns indignation.

CHERYL

Well of course dear, but you didn't finish.

Grace stands up and picks up her plate and starts towards the kitchen.

GRACE

Yeah, maybe I'll have leftovers tomorrow.

CHERYL

Okay, but you really should eat a full meal, you look like you haven't in a while.

GRACE (O.S.)
Thanks mom.

CUT TO:

INT. GRACE'S FAMILY HOME - GRACE'S BEDROOM

Grace is lying on her bed and calls LUCY on FaceTime. The screen splits between the two scenes.

LUCY
Oh hey girl.

Lucy leans in closer to her screen.

LUCY (CONT'D)
Wait, are you in your old
bedroom???

GRACE
How?

LUCY
How what?

GRACE
How did you see it and know, it's
gotta be at least 6 or 7 years ago
the last time you even saw my room?

LUCY
Please, you gotta be the only
person in the world with a Michael
Bubl  poster behind her bed.

Grace looks back behind her and bursts out laughing.

GRACE
What? I just loved his music. And
his voice is wonderful. He's hot.

LUCY
Ew, not when you're 13. Anyway,
what's up?

GRACE
Oh not much, lost my job the other
day, and thought I'd come home to
clear my head and now all I hear is
my mom's voice... literally, she
doesn't stop talking.

Lucy laughs.

LUCY

Oh god - you should hear her and my mom on the phone, I don't know if either of them hears the other, or they just call each other so no one thinks they're talking to themselves. It's insane. I literally have to leave the room when I hear them. What are you doing tonight?

GRACE

Please please please get me the hell out of here.

LUCY

Hah, okay okay. Come over here whenever you're ready and then we'll head out.

GRACE

Here... your parents'?

Lucy rolls her eyes.

LUCY

Ughhh, yes... god I'm pathetic, I know.

GRACE

No, it's...

LUCY

It's fine, I know. Okay, I'm going to get ready. I'll see you soon. Bye.

Lucy hangs up.

CUT TO:

EXT. DOWNTOWN

Grace and Lucy get out of a car on a semi-crowded street. They start walking toward the closest bar when Grace slows to a stop. Lucy gets to the door and realizes Grace isn't beside her.

LUCY

Yo girl, what's wrong?

GRACE

Why here?

LUCY
Oh come on, Kat and Natalie are
inside already. We have to...

CUT TO:

INT. BAR

Grace, Lucy, and their friends KAT and NATALIE are on a small stage with a karaoke set up behind them. They are singing "Telephone" by Lady Gaga and laughing through it, though they don't sound too badly. The song ends and they all bow, still laughing at themselves.

CUT TO:

INT. BAR

Grace is walking away from the table her friends are sitting at.

GRACE
No big deal, just make the one
without a job pay for the drinks...

Grace walks up to a crowded bar. She waves at the bartender as he walks by and he ignores her. She looks on either side of her to see if there's an opening. There's a guy wearing a suit with the shirt unbuttoned and no tie standing next to her, TED.

TED
(muffled over the noise)
You weren't half bad up there.

Grace looks at him and realizes he said something to her. She leans over to him.

GRACE
What?

TED
(louder)
I said you weren't too bad up there
- the Gaga song.

GRACE
Oh, thanks.

TED
Do you sing?

GRACE
Not unless I have to.

TED

Well it's a shame, I liked your voice.

Grace looks at him puzzled, assuming he's hitting on her.

GRACE

Listen, dude, thanks, but I'm just trying to get some drinks for me and my friends...

Ted laughs. He reaches in his pocket and pulls out a business card. He hands it to her and then looks over to the bartender.

TED

Mario!

The bartender looks over at Ted.

TED (CONT'D)

She needs a drink.

Ted looks at Grace, and nods.

GRACE

3 Miller Lites and a Vodka Soda.

TED

Put it on my tab.

GRACE

You don't have to do that. I'm fine.

TED

Don't worry, I can charge it to the company.

Grace looks at him, confused, and then shrugs.

CUT TO:

INT. BAR - MOMENTS LATER

Grace is carrying the drinks to her table of friends. She gets to the table and sets the drinks down, passing them out.

GRACE

3 beers, and 1 vodka soda for the princess.

LUCY
(sweetly)
Thank you, the princess approves.
Who was that guy?

They all look over to Ted as Grace sits down. He's looking away.

GRACE
Hah, I don't know - he was talking
about my singing, gave me his card
and bought our drinks.

Grace pulls the card out of her pocket and shows them.

KAT
Woah. Who is he? What's the card
say?

GRACE
(reading)
Theodore Crispin. Talent Scout.
Sound Funk Studio.

KAT
Oooohhh, there's your big break,
it's finally happening.

Grace rolls her eyes as they all start laughing.

LUCY
Posting up at a karaoke bar? It's
either a really great way to find
new singers or a really great way
to pick up girls...

GRACE
Well I think he missed on both
talking to me.

The girls laugh louder. Ted can be seen looking over at them.

CUT TO:

INT. BAR - LATER

The crowd has died down and they're cleaning up the karaoke equipment. Grace walks over to the bar, Ted is a few seats down. The bartender comes over and asks for her order which she gives and he walks away.

GRACE
(shouting to Ted)
Does that work?

Ted looks over to Grace.

TED
Does what work?

GRACE
Giving girls at a karaoke bar your
card and telling them you like
their voice.

Ted smirks.

TED
Work for what?

Grace rolls her eyes.

TED (CONT'D)
You'd be surprised. I find a lot of
talent in places like these.

GRACE
Right, "talent".

Ted chuckles.

TED
I'm serious, I've found a lot of
great voices.

GRACE
Yeah, I'm sure.

The bartender brings her the drinks and looks over at Ted.
He nods and the bartender walks away.

TED
Does buying the second round get me
your name?

Grace collects the bottles and glass starts to walk away.

GRACE
No. But thanks Theodore.

CUT TO:

EXT. BAR

Grace and her friends walk out of the bar in mass, talking loudly. They bump into Ted who's looking down at his phone.

LUCY
Sorry!

Ted turns around, sees Grace and smiles.

LUCY (CONT'D)
Theo! Hey, my girl really does have a great voice.

Ted nods.

TED
You ladies done for the night already?

LUCY
Yeah, unfortunately some of us have to work. But... Grace doesn't.

Lucy nudges Grace towards Ted.

TED
No work, GRACE?

Grace looks slightly embarrassed.

GRACE
Nope... not for me. Not as of last Tuesday.

TED
Ah, that sucks, sorry.

GRACE
No need to apologize, you didn't have anything to do with it.

TED
Right, so everyone has work except Grace?

They all nod, continuing to smile at Ted.

TED (CONT'D)
Right, well I guess it's just me and you, then. Come on, here's my car.

GRACE
Yeah, uh, I'm not going home with
you...

Ted smirks.

TED
Who said anything about going home?

Grace rolls her eyes.

GRACE
You ever heard of the singer Rydel?
Grace snorts, like it's a really dumb question.

TED
Good, then. Let's go.

GRACE
Go where?

TED
The studio, he's recording tonight.

Grace doesn't move, but her friends push her towards Ted and the car.

LUCY
Theodore, we know who you are.

TED
Come on, Grace - it's an Uber. Look
at the destination on my phone. I
promise, you're completely safe.
Honest.

LUCY
Girl, send me your location and get
in the car.

Grace smiles at her, hesitates, but finally walks toward the car.

GRACE
I'm serious, though, if anything
seems weird, I'm calling 911.

Ted shrugs and waits for Grace to get in.

CUT TO:

EXT. CITY

The car stops and Grace and Ted get out. Grace looks around at the buildings and street which is mostly empty. She looks at him, slightly nervously.

GRACE
There's no studio here.

TED
Sure there is, right there.

Ted points to an empty alleyway. Grace looks to where he's pointing and then stares back at him.

TED (CONT'D)
Are you always this relaxed?

GRACE
Are you always taking single women
to dark alleys at night?

TED
No, stop. Well actually, I guess...
never mind, come on.

Ted starts walking down the alley towards a blank door. Ted looks back at Grace who hasn't moved and waves her over. He knocks on the door and it opens immediately. A large man walks out and holds the door open for Ted. He looks down the alley and sees Grace.

DOORMAN
She with you, Ted?

TED
She was...

DOORMAN
(shouts to Grace)
You coming or what?

GRACE
What is this place?

The doorman smirks at Ted.

DOORMAN
You don't know where this guy
brought you?

GRACE
He said a studio, not a creepy door
in a dark alley.

DOORMAN
Damn, dude, you love this.

Ted smiles and smacks his back.

TED
Come on, then, this is the studio.

Grace looks at the doorman who nods.

DOORMAN
I have no problem beating him up if
he tries anything. You're alright.

Grace hesitates and then starts towards the door. When she walks in, there's a long hallway lined with pictures. She looks at the first one and then realizes all the pictures are of popular singers and musicians. She relaxes a bit and looks at Ted who's a few steps away.

TED
You're fine, come on.

CUT TO:

INT. SOUND FUNK STUDIO

Ted and Grace walk in and everyone is quiet. The SOUND ENGINEER looks over at Ted and gives him a nod. Ted points to the couch and they walk over and sit down.

RYDEL
(over the speaker)
Okay - let's spin it.

SOUND ENGINEER
(into microphone)
From the top?

RYDEL nods and the engineer starts to play the music. A girl walks over to Ted and Grace and leans into them.

GIRL
(whispering)
Drink?

TED
(whispering)
2 Beers, thanks.

The girl walks away, but Grace is staring at Rydel as he begins to sing.

CUT TO:

INT. SOUND FUNK STUDIO - LATER

SOUND ENGINEER
(into microphone)
Okay, I think we got it. You want
to keep going?

RYDEL
Nah, man, let's take a break.

Rydel takes off the headphones and walks out of the booth.

TED
What did you think?

GRACE
I mean, that was insane. This is
amazing.

Rydel walks into the room.

RYDEL
It's true, I am amazing. Teddy C -
whatchu you doing here? Showing off
to another poor girl. Don't believe
a thing he says, he's been full of
shit since I met him.

TED
(laughing)
Yeah, I said you'd have 3 grammy's
by now and you only have 1, my bad.

Rydel starts laughing.

RYDEL
1 ain't 3. 1 ain't 3.

TED
If the rest of these tracks sound
like the last 2, your second will
be on the way.

Rydel makes an "ooh" noise.

RYDEL
Don't I know it. They're smooth,
right? This cat you got mixing for
me knows what he's doing. So who
are you babyface?

Grace looks at him, somewhat starstruck. Everyone looks at
her, waiting for a response.

GRACE

Me? Oh, just a girl Ted picked up at a karaoke bar. I'm Grace.

RYDEL

Damn, Teddy, you always workin'. You sing, Grace?

TED

She does.

GRACE

I don't. I mean I did, but I haven't in a while. Aside from some karaoke in a loud bar.

RYDEL

You want to lay down some backup vocals for my track? Always love a new voice.

GRACE

Oh god, I'd ruin it. No, but thank you. I would, but, just not tonight, I think.

RYDEL

Well if Teddy here thinks you got something, you probably do. So whenever you're ready, you let him know.

Grace nods sheepishly.

RYDEL (CONT'D)

Oh damn, it's 3am?! I need to get back to the nest. Alright, same time, um, Sunday, right? Yeah. Same time Sunday. Okay, come on fellas, let's go.

A few people follow him out of the door. Ted stands up and Grace follows his lead.

TED

Okay, you ready to go home?

GRACE

I can get an Uber, it's fine. Thanks.

TED

Nah, Big Ed will give us a ride home.

The doorman, BIG ED, nods in agreement.

GRACE

Okay, well who can say no to Big Ed.

Grace laughs, but no one else does.

TED

Right, okay, let's go.

FADE OUT:

INT. GRACE'S FAMILY HOME - GRACE'S BEDROOM

Grace is lying on the bed, scrolling through her phone's feed. Her phone starts to ring as Lucy is calling on Facetime. The screen splits between the two scenes.

LUCY

Oh hey, girl. How are you feeling?

GRACE

Ha. Ha. I'm fine. Nothing happened.

LUCY

Nothing happened?

GRACE

No, well I mean, nothing like what you're thinking. It was actually pretty ridiculous.

Lucy raised her eyebrows and then started smiling, waiting for Grace to continue.

GRACE (CONT'D)

Stop. It wasn't like that, I promise. We went to his studio where Rydel was recording. It was crazy, he asked me to sing on one of his songs.

LUCY

Did you?!

GRACE

God no, I could never.

LUCY

Oh please, girl. You're crazy, you have this crazy good voice that you waste on bad karaoke. You should've done it.

GRACE

Well I didn't, so no point in worrying about it. Was really cool though.

LUCY

You gonna call him again?

GRACE

Ted? Hah, probably not. I think he was definitely recruiting, not flirting.

LUCY

Too bad, he was hot.

Grace rolls her eyes and smiles.

LUCY (CONT'D)

What? He was.

GRACE

Anyway, what are you up to today?

LUCY

Oh god, my mom asked me to go to her craft fair, did I tell you she started making soap?

GRACE

Hahah, no! Is it any good?

LUCY

Some of it, but like, a craft fair? I need to move out of this place.

GRACE

Yeah... I don't know how much longer I can stay here. My mom, she just won't stop talking. It's making me crazy.

LUCY

Girl, you've been home like 5 minutes, I've lived here forever now.

GRACE

Yeah, well if I don't start looking for a job, I'll be back here before I know it. Speaking of - I think I'm gonna get myself cleaned up and maybe do a little job searching.

(MORE)

GRACE (CONT'D)
Call me after your crafting
adventures.

LUCY
Yeah. Ugh, bye.

CUT TO:

INT. GRACE'S FAMILY HOME - DINING ROOM

Grace is sitting at the table, typing on her laptop. Don
walks into the room.

DON
Hey there, buttercup. Are you...
working?

GRACE
Hey dad, no, I'm kind of looking
for jobs, and kind of updating my
resume... and kind of shopping for
new interview outfits.

DON
Nice, any good prospects?

GRACE
Yes, Anthropologie is having a
sale, so a lot of good prospects
there.

Don nods sarcastically.

DON
Gooooood. You were out late last
night, anything fun?

GRACE
Oddly enough, yeah, I ended up
meeting a talent scout for a
recording studio and he took me
there and we watched Rydel record
some songs.

DON
Rydel? No way!

GRACE
You know Rydel?

DON
Uh... yeah... who doesn't?

Grace starts to laugh.

GRACE
I guess no one.

DON
Did, uh, you sing for him? Them?

GRACE
Oh god, dad. No. I definitely
didn't. He did ask me to, but no -
I'm not, that good.

Don looks at her curious.

GRACE (CONT'D)
(smiling)
Oh come on, dad, you see the rose
colored version of me. I am really
good at karaoke, but more than
that? Hah!

Cheryl walks into the room and they both look over at her.

CHERYL
Hey, dear, what are you up to? I
just came looking for your father.

DON
Well you found me, what did you
want?

CHERYL
Oh nothing, you just weren't in
your chair. Grace, did enjoy your
night out with your friends? What
did you do, anything fun? I heard
Lucy was with her mom today at the
craft fair. Has she told you about
Abbey's soaps, they're just the
best, we have some in the powder
room. Of course they're not for
using, but they make the room smell
so wonderful.

Don and Grace give each other a look.

CHERYL (CONT'D)
What?

GRACE
Nothing, mom. Yeah, I heard about
the soap.

CHERYL
I always thought your dad should
get a hobby like that, but...

GRACE
And what's your hobby, mom?

CHERYL
My hobby's clearly talking to
people, and I think I've gotten
quite good at it!

Grace rolls her eyes, but Cheryl smiles being in on the
joke.

CHERYL (CONT'D)
But did you have fun last night? Do
anything interesting?

DON
Well she got to watch Rydel record
new music!

CHERYL
Oh, that's nice, is he one of your
friends from high school?

GRACE
(laughing)
No, mom, he's just a super popular
singer that everyone, including
dad, knows about...

CHERYL
Well he must not be that popular,
because I've never heard of him.
Sounds fun though, did they ask you
to sing? That would be nice for you
to get back into! I just love your
voice.

GRACE
No mom, they... well yes, they
asked, but I didn't sing.

CHERYL
Oh, why not? You have a beautiful
voice.

GRACE
Thanks mom, but like I said to dad,
I think you're both a little
biased.

CHERYL

Nonsense. And if they didn't like it they could just delete it after you leave. You should've sang if they asked you. Next time I suppose. Anyway, I was thinking about Spencer's for dinner tonight, what do you think?

Grace nods - distantly. Don looks at her and then finally looks at Cheryl and answers.

DON

Yeah, Spencer's is fine. I think I'll go nap a bit before we leave.

Don walks out of the room.

CHERYL

Are you okay, dear?

GRACE

Yeah, mom, fine. Thanks. I'm going to finish up a few job applications before dinner and then get ready to go.

CHERYL

Job applications? Anything good?

GRACE

Not really - but I gotta start, right?

CHERYL

Oh. Well you'll find something good, I'm sure. Marybelle's daughter Siera lost her job and ended up getting a promotion and raise at her new company. Maybe something like that will happen to you. Although I think she lost that job not long after too, but I don't know if it was a layoff or firing. I think she might be pregnant now, so maybe not the best person to follow.

GRACE

Okay, mom, good to know, don't take advice from Marybelle's daughter, Siera. If I ever find out who either of them are.

CHERYL
Right, well I'll leave you to it.
Leave in an hour?

GRACE
Yeah, that's fine.

CUT TO:

INT. LUCY'S HOME

Lucy and Grace are sitting outside in a comfortable, well manicured patio area, drinking wine.

GRACE
I just can't. How do you do this?
I've only been home a few days and
I swear I can hear my mom's voice
in my sleep.

Lucy shakes her head.

GRACE (CONT'D)
What?

LUCY
This is like the same conversations
we had in high school about your
mom being annoying. Get over it.

GRACE
Woah, geez. Sorry.

Grace takes a sip of her wine and makes a face. There's an uncomfortable pause, until Lucy finally speaks.

LUCY
Sorry - it's just I hate this. You
come home for a few days and we
hang out non-stop, and then you'll
finally get annoyed with her and
leave, and we won't talk again for
6 months.

Grace looks at her and thinks a moment on what she said, not really having a good response. She takes another drink and sets her glass down on the table.

LUCY (CONT'D)
It's fine. It's just, sad... after.

GRACE

I'm sorry, I never really paid attention that it happened like that.

LUCY

Yeah, well it does, and it sucks. Especially when I'm still living here.

Lucy gestures to the surrounding area.

GRACE

At least...

LUCY

At least, what?

GRACE

Oh god, I don't know. I'm sorry. Depending on how this job search goes, oh god, I don't even want to say it... I might have to move back with my parents too. Then I'll be around. Miserable. But around.

LUCY

I'll take it.

Lucy smiles at Grace, who smiles back and clinks glasses with her.

GRACE

To living with your parents!

LUCY

I'm not toasting to that.

GRACE

To living in your old bedroom that's still decorated the same way as it was when you were 14!

LUCY

Stop it, now you're making me depressed.

GRACE

To sleeping in a twin-sized bed when you turn 30!

LUCY

Seriously. You're ruining the evening.

GRACE
Ughh, whyyyyyy is this happening???

LUCY
More wine?

GRACE
(nods vehemently)
More wine.

FADE OUT.

INT. GRACE'S FAMILY HOME - NIGHT

Grace quietly walks into the house from the door in the kitchen. There's a light on over the stove, but otherwise mostly dark. She takes off her shoes, puts the keys on the counter and walks to the refrigerator. She opens the door, peers in, and takes a drink out. Don walks in.

DON
(voice low)
Hey buttercup, how was your night.

GRACE
(matching his volume)
Good. You?

DON
Good, heading to bed.

GRACE
Okay. Good night.

DON
There's some girl scout cookies in the cabinet. And your mom got you those pretzels you like too.

GRACE
Thanks dad.

DON
You're welcome. We're glad you here.

GRACE
Me too.

DON
Okay, good night.

Don walks out of the kitchen, and Grace opens the cabinet and looks at the snacks - the cookies first, then grabs the bag of pretzels. She walks back to her bedroom and turns on the light. A guitar is sitting on the bed. Grace walks over and quietly strums the strings. There's a sticky note on it. "I always thought your voice was beautiful, Mom".

CUT TO:

INT. GRACE'S FAMILY HOME

Grace walks into the den where Cheryl is at her puzzle, and Don is sitting in his recliner with his iPad.

DON
Hey buttercup.

GRACE
Hey dad.

DON
You going somewhere?

GRACE
Yeah, back to my place.

CHERYL
Oh no, that's a shame, you'll be all alone. You can't stay any longer?

GRACE
Thanks mom, I do live alone. I also have my own place, so I should go, you know, water my plants.

CHERYL
I didn't know you had plants. Abbey is thinking about adding some small succulents to her soap business, I can ask her about it if you want some more - maybe on your table?

GRACE
I don't actually have any plants, I was just using it as an expression. But, okay, well, I'm going to go for real, thanks for letting me crash your life here the past few days.

DON
Of course, buttercup. We'll miss having you around. It was nice.

Grace smiles at her dad, who gives her a wink.

GRACE

Bye mom. I'm taking the guitar with me, thanks for finding it.

CHERYL

(not looking up from her puzzle)

Oh good. Well it isn't doing any good just sitting in the basement, is it? Okay, well bye dear, I'm sure you'll be back when you're done being alone.

GRACE

Okay... right... bye.

Grace walks out of the room.

CHERYL

I guess I don't have to make anything special for dinner tonight. Well special for Grace. I'm surprised that she's going back to her apartment, just to be alone, I wonder why that is.

DON

I haven't the slightest clue.

CUT TO:

INT. GRACE'S APARTMENT

Grace unlocks the door and walks into her apartment. It's cozy and bright. Her stuff is cluttered but not messy. She sets her keys and bag down, kicking off her shoes, and walks into her kitchen area. She opens the refrigerator and looks in for a moment. She takes out a small container of milk, smells it, makes a face, and then puts it back in. She walks into the living area and sits on the couch, turning on her TV. She glances over at the guitar. After a moment, she goes and picks it up and sits back down on the couch.

CUT TO:

INT. GRACE'S APARTMENT - LATER

Grace is sitting on the couch and calls Lucy on FaceTime. Lucy picks up and the screen splits.

LUCY

Oh hey - wait where are you?

GRACE
My apartment.

LUCY
Oh, booo. Philly, right?

GRACE
Yup.

LUCY
That's like half a city.

GRACE
It's a whole city... just not a New York one.

LUCY
Lame.

GRACE
Haha, stop, you live in Connecticut.

LUCY
Ugh, so true. What am I doing with my life. Anyway - what's up?

GRACE
So I told my parents about the recording studio, and my mom got my old guitar out of the basement.

LUCY
No she didn't. Are you playing it?

GRACE
A little - not really. It's so silly.

LUCY
No it isn't. Are you gonna call Ted again?

Grace doesn't say anything for a moment and Lucy keeps going.

LUCY (CONT'D)
You want to! You should. He's your in. And if not you could just casually date, or more than casual or both.

GRACE
Haha, what's both?

LUCY

I don't know. But call him. And definitely get your sing on.

GRACE

Yeah, yeah. Why don't you come down next weekend, we can do Philly things.

LUCY

I wish. Can't - mom's craft season, ya know.

GRACE

Riiiiight. Of course. Heard she's getting into succulents.

LUCY

Oh god. I hope that's just a thought. Your mom tell you?

GRACE

Of course. I've been home for like a week and CAN STILL HEAR HER VOICE in my head.

LUCY

Well I think I can literally hear her voice right now, so...

GRACE

Yeah, I don't know how you do it. Anyway, I'm going to go, but find a weekend to visit me, please!!

LUCY

Okay, I will. I hate that you're not here. Ahhh - annoying. Bye.

Lucy hangs up and Grace sits there staring at her phone. She looks at the guitar leaning against the chair beside her. She gets up and walks over to her bag and rummages through. She pulls out Ted's business card and types his number into her phone.

GRACE (TEXT)

"Hey Ted - this is Grace, the girl from Chaucer's Pub Saturday night."

Nothing happens, and Grace lets out an audible sigh of frustration. She looks back down and sees he's typing.

TED (TEXT)

"Hi - yeah I remember Grace. Turns out I haven't met a lot of them."

GRACE (TEXT)

"Right, yeah. I feel like a really messed up or whatever."

TED (TEXT)

"???"

GRACE (TEXT)

"I thought you were hitting on me, but you wanted me to... sing."

No response.

GRACE (CONT'D)

Oh, god, what am I even doing?

Grace throws her phone on the chair, and just stares out the window. The phone buzzes and she lunges for it, falling down on the ground as she grabs it.

TED (TEXT)

It was a little of both. Where are you now?

GRACE (TEXT)

My apartment... Philly.

TED (TEXT)

Philly???

GRACE (TEXT)

Yeah, Philly. That's where I live. My parents are in Conn.

TED (TEXT)

Right. Damn. Okay - Rydel asked about you the other day. He's recording tonight.

GRACE (TEXT)

Oh no!

TED (TEXT)

I'll send a car if you want - but this time you gotta get in the booth.

Grace stares at her phone, unable to respond.

TED (TEXT) (CONT'D)
So???

GRACE (TEXT)
Yeah.

TED (TEXT)
Yeah?

GRACE (TEXT)
Yeah, okay, send the car?

TED (TEXT)
Okay, send me your address and be ready in 30 minutes.

Grace looks down at herself.

GRACE
Shit.

TED (TEXT)
And don't make me look stupid

GRACE
Shit shit shit. Okay. Shit.

CUT TO:

EXT. HIGHWAY

Grace is in the backseat of a black SUV driving down the same highway she was driving in her car to her parents.

CUT TO:

EXT. SOUND FUNK STUDIO

Lucy is standing at the back door to the studio when Grace pulls up. Grace starts walking toward her.

LUCY
He won't let me in, says I'm not on any list, you didn't tell Ted???

GRACE
Oh, sorry! Big Ed - she's with me.

Big Ed shakes his head as Lucy gives him a defiant look.

LUCY
I told you.

Big Ed walks out and holds the door open for Grace and Lucy.

BIG ED
They're in Studio 3. Down the hall
a ways on the left. Don't go in if
the red light is on.

Grace nods and they walk inside.

LUCY
(whispering)
This is insane.

GRACE
(whispering)
I know, right?

CUT TO:

INT. SOUND FUNK STUDIO

Grace and Lucy are sitting on a couch sipping on their
drinks as Ted and the Sound Engineer are chatting.

SOUND ENGINEER
(into microphone)
Okay, man, I think we'll break for
10.

Ted turns to Grace and Lucy.

TED
So, what did you think.

LUCY
I thought it was amazing!

TED
You?

Grace doesn't say anything at first.

TED (CONT'D)
Not... amazing?

GRACE
No... It was... I just, never mind.
It was good.

TED
I didn't bring you here fishing for
compliments, if you have a note,
just say it.

Rydel walks into the room.

RYDEL
Who has a note?

Ted points at Grace.

RYDEL (CONT'D)
You back! Gracie girl, right?

Grace nods.

RYDEL (CONT'D)
You got a note, huh? Alright Gracie
girl, whatchu got?

Grace swallows and looks between Ted and Rydel. Lucy nudges her.

GRACE
I... It just, maybe felt like you
should, like it was too fast. Maybe
it could be a ballad instead? Like
slower?

Rydel looks at her, then looks at Ted.

RYDEL
Hmm...

Rydel thinks a moment. Grace is visibly uncomfortable in the silence. Then he looks at the Sound Engineer.

RYDEL (CONT'D)
Aight, let's slow it down.

The sound engineer nods, makes some adjustments and plays it back.

RYDEL (CONT'D)
Take out the kicks and then pull
that high-hat. Ok, yeah. Okay, now
let's put some base in like "bummm
bum, bummm bum bubum.

The sound engineer follows his direction.

RYDEL (CONT'D)
Damn. Okay, yeah. Alright Grace,
that sound right?

GRACE
(excited)
Yeah, exactly! I think...

RYDEL
 Alright alright, I can dig it.
 Let's hear it then.

He motions to the booth.

GRACE
 Me? I, uh, I didn't memorize - I
 don't know the words.

Rydel looks over at Ted and the sound engineer. He nods at a stack of papers. Ted hands them to him and he holds them out to Grace.

RYDEL
 Here ya go.

Grace looks down at the papers and sees that it's sheet music with the word "Sunshine" at the top. She looks back up at him. Then to Ted. She takes the papers from Rydel.

RYDEL (CONT'D)
 You read music?

Grace nods.

RYDEL (CONT'D)
 Looks like you ain't got much of an
 excuse now. I'm gonna go get some
 air outside for a few minutes if
 you know what I mean, and then I'll
 be back in to hear it. Let's see
 whatchu got.

Rydel walks out with a few others and everyone left is staring at Grace. She looks terrified, and Ted make a gesture with his head.

SOUND ENGINEER
 I can show you everything in there
 if you want.

Grace smiles and looks at Lucy, who's eyes are wide. Grace takes a deep breath and nods at the sound engineer.

CUT TO:

INT. SOUND FUNK STUDIO

Inside the sound booth Grace looks around at everything. The sound engineer hands her headphones.

SOUND ENGINEER

So when I get back over there, I'll play the track for you, just give me a thumbs up if the volume is okay. And then I'll have you sing into the microphone and check your levels. Good?

Grace nods as she slides the headphones on. He puts the music on the stand in front of her. The sound engineer walks out of the booth back to the control board. Grace adjusts herself and fidgets with the microphone.

SOUND ENGINEER (CONT'D)

(into the microphone)

I'm going to play the track, let me know if the volume is okay.

He plays the track and it makes Grace jump.

SOUND ENGINEER (CONT'D)

(into the microphone)

Sorry - too loud?

Grace shakes her head.

TED

(into the microphone)

You can talk - we can hear you.

GRACE

Right, sorry. No it's fine, just caught me off guard.

SOUND ENGINEER

(into the microphone)

Okay, no problem. Can you sing something so I can check your levels?

Grace takes a breath. She closes her eyes clears her throat and starts to sing Dreams by Fleetwood Mac. The sound engineer looks at Ted and makes an impressed face. Ted shrugs.

SOUND ENGINEER (CONT'D)

(into the microphone)

Okay, got it. Thanks. You ready?

Grace nods. The new, slower track starts to play and Grace looks at the music. She hums intermittently as the song plays. She waves at the sound engineer.

SOUND ENGINEER (CONT'D)
(into the microphone)
You okay?

GRACE
Yeah, can you just start it again?
And, um, maybe a little bit slower?

SOUND ENGINEER
(into the microphone)
Yeah, just a second.

The sound engineer looks at Ted nervously.

TED
(into the microphone)
You good? Need water or anything?

Grace shakes her head, and then remembers that they can hear her.

GRACE
No, I'm good.

TED
(into the microphone)
Okay. Just let me know if you need something.

Grace nods. Rydel walks into the studio and everyone turns towards him. He says something to Ted and the sound engineer and both shrug their shoulders.

SOUND ENGINEER
(into the microphone)
Ready?

GRACE
Ready.

The music starts playing and Grace looks at Rydel who nods to the beat. She closes her eyes and sings the first few words.

CUT TO:

INT. SOUND FUNK STUDIO - LATER

Everyone is in the studio having some drinks, chatting.

RYDEL
Sorry Ms. Grace, I never caught your friend's name.

Grace looks at Lucy and starts to speak before Lucy jumps in.

LUCY

I'm Lucy.

RYDEL

Lucy and Grace. Do you sing too, Lucy?

LUCY

In the shower mostly.

RYDEL

That's where it starts...

LUCY

That's where it ends for me.

RYDEL

Hahaha, she's funny, Grace. That's where it ends - I like that. Alright, I gotta roll - we're doing a event at some club tonight. Any of y'all wanna come along? Lucy?

Lucy looks at Grace and immediately knows she's not going to go.

GRACE

Not for me thanks - never was a big club person, too many people.

RYDEL

Aw, damn, not where we at.

GRACE

Oh right, maybe next time then?

RYDEL

Anytime you want. You saved my song.

GRACE

I don't know about that.

RYDEL

Nah, it's true. You gotta own that. This business is hard enough if you don't take credit when it's give.

GRACE

Right, okay - well then I guess that second Grammy's actually going to be mine.

The whole group woops at her comment.

RYDEL

Okay, maybe let's calm down, girl - I said song, not album.

GRACE

Maybe that's the one that wins it.

Rydel smirks.

RYDEL

Yeah... maybe... Alright, we out.

Rydel and his group walks out of the studio. Grace yawns and smiles.

GRACE

Sorry - I'm not used to this I guess.

TED

Right - well I'm going to wrap up here and Big Ed will take you two ladies wherever you want to go.

LUCY

This was really cool, thanks for letting me watch.

TED

Sure, any friend of Grace is a friend of mine.

LUCY

So what happens next?

TED

What do you mean?

LUCY

When does the album come out?

TED

Oh, I don't know, probably not for a few months. We'll test the songs different places, and do some shows maybe see what people like. Then come up with a launch plan.

GRACE

Wow - seems... complicated.

TED

Welcome to the music business.
Today was the easiest part of the
whole thing. Anyway, Grace, I'll be
in touch. Thanks for coming, good
stuff.

Grace and Lucy look at each other realizing it's time to go,
and start to gather their things.

GRACE

Okay. Sounds good. Ready Lucy?

Lucy nods and they start to the door.

CUT TO:

INT. GRACE'S FAMILY HOME

Grace shuts the door quietly and goes to the refrigerator.
She takes out a drink and closes the door to see her father
standing there and gasps.

GRACE

(loud whisper)

Dad!

DON

Grace, what are you doing here? I
thought we were getting robbed!

GRACE

You are...

Grace waves the drink at him.

GRACE (CONT'D)

I'm robbing you of your beverages.

DON

Did I know you were going to be
here?

GRACE

No, last minute decision.

DON

Is everything okay?

GRACE

Yeah, dad. I'll tell you in the morning. Go back to bed.

DON

Okay buttercup. Good night then.

FADE TO BLACK.

FADE IN:

INT. GRACE'S FAMILY HOME - DINING ROOM

SUPER: 18 months later

Grace is sitting at dinner with Cheryl and Don. No one says anything as they eat. Cheryl starts to say something and stops herself. After a moment, she starts to talk again, and Don gives her a look.

DON

How's the new job, you like it?

GRACE

It's not exactly new, dad, I've been there a year now.

CHERYL

What's it called again? The company.

GRACE

Excella Technology. I've told you like 20 times now, mom.

CHERYL

Right, yeah, I just can't get it to stick. I was talking to Abbey the other day and she asked me and it was on the tip of my tongue. But I always say the wrong one, or maybe make it up. It used to be there were just the big companies and then John Smith Inc. Now, the names are all over the place, don't you think honey?

Don nods at Cheryl and winks at Grace.

GRACE

Anyway - yeah, it's good. Nothing too exciting, but I'm starting to make some friends at the office, so it's good.

CHERYL

Are you...

Cheryl trails off, not wanted to say something to make Grace upset.

GRACE

Go ahead mom.

CHERYL

No nothing, I was just going to ask if you're still singing.

DON

Cheryl, that was over...

GRACE

It's okay, dad. Actually I've been doing it for fun at home a bunch recently. So yes, but not the way you think.

CHERYL

Oh, well that's nice. You know I just love your voice. Abbey gets annoyed at me because I talk about it so much, but I can't help it. Speaking of Abbey, are you going to see Lucy this weekend?

GRACE

Yeah, maybe. I don't know, I haven't talked to her in a while. She's still at home?

CHERYL

Oh gosh, no. She got a new job over a year ago and moved out. I thought you knew?

GRACE

Nope. Good for her. She was dying there. I'm happy for her.

CHERYL

I don't know if dying is the right word - hard to feel like you're dying in a nice home like that. Well you should give her a call. I'm sure she'd love to hear from you.

Grace stares at her food and moves it around a bit with her fork.

CHERYL (CONT'D)
Grace, dear, did you hear me? You should call her.

GRACE
Yeah, mom. Maybe I will.

CUT TO:

INT. GRACE'S FAMILY HOME - LIVING ROOM

Grace is sitting on the couch, watching TV. Don walks into the room, behind Grace just inside the doorway.

DON
Hey buttercup, we're going to bed.

Grace doesn't look back at him.

GRACE
Okay dad, goodnight.

Don goes to leave the room, and pauses. He turns around and looks at Grace.

DON
You doing okay, buttercup?

GRACE
Yeah dad, thanks.

DON
I mean, are you actually doing okay?

Grace turns and looks at him. She takes a deep breath.

GRACE
Yeah, dad, I'm okay. Thanks for asking.

DON
Love you.

GRACE
Love you too dad.

CUT TO:

INT. OFFICE

Grace is sitting at a desk in an open office plan with headphones on.

A woman, PENNY, walks up to her and taps her on the shoulder. She looks over and slides her headphones off.

GRACE

Hey Pen, what's up?

PENNY

Ugh, I just met with Paul. I always feel like I need a shower after those meetings.

GRACE

Hah! Yeah... it's, well you know. So what's up?

PENNY

Nothing - what are you listening to?

GRACE

Rydel's latest, it's a couple months old now - have you listened to it?

PENNY

Uh, yeah... like a dozen times. It's so good! That one song, is like sooo good. I literally stopped and looked it up. Sunshine? Know which one I'm talking about?

GRACE

Yea - it's good.

PENNY

Good? It's so... I just can't stop listening to it. You know he's in town like next week. We should totally go!

GRACE

Yeah, maybe. Okay, it's time for my meeting with Paul, wish me luck!

Penny makes a face, and Grace gets up and walks past her.

CUT TO:

INT. GRACE'S APARTMENT

Grace is sitting on her couch, the guitar next to her. She's watching the Grammy's.

ANNOUNCER

And the Grammy for Best Pop Vocal Album goes to.... Rydel!

GENERAL ANNOUNCER

Rydel has won 2 other Grammy's, the best new artist in 2021 and Best Pop Solo Performance for "Sunshine" this year.

Grace turns off the TV. Her phone vibrates and she looks down to see a text message from her mom.

CHERYL (TEXT)

Did you watch the Grammy's - isn't that Rydel person the one you met?

Grace throws her phone at the chair, picks up a pillow on the couch and screams into it.

CUT TO:

INT. OFFICE

Grace and Penny are sitting at a table eating lunch.

PENNY

Did you watch the Grammy's last night?

Grace shakes her head no.

PENNY (CONT'D)

Oh my god, it's crazy, cause we were just talking about it. Rydel won best album, and he won best song for "Sunshine"! Like, what? Isn't that crazy?

GRACE

Yeah, pretty crazy.

PENNY

Anyway, I think I'm going to go to his show on Thursday - do you want to go?

GRACE

Oh, I dunno - are there even tickets available?

PENNY

Probably not, but I used to date this guy who can get tickets to anything, so I can hit him up.

GRACE

Yeah... okay. Sure I guess.

PENNY

You okay?

GRACE

Yeah, why?

PENNY

You just seem, I don't know - distant or something? Oh god I sound like a sad wife asking about her husband who's not paying attention to her.

GRACE

Haha, no, I'm fine. Just tired I think.

PENNY

Okay, well I'll see if I can get us tickets and let you know. By the way, did you hear that cover or whatever of the song?

GRACE

Cover? No, what song?

PENNY

Sunshine - it was like leaked or something. But it's some girl singing Sunshine. And like it's kinda better...

Grace lets the words settle in for a moment, and then like a bolt of lightening, comes to.

GRACE

Wait, what? Rydel's song? There's a cover?

PENNY

Yeah, I don't know where it came from, like it sounds professional, but it's all over the internet and honestly, it's like really good.

GRACE

Where? Where is it? Like how do I
listen to it?

PENNY

Woah, relax. Just google "Sunshine
Rydel girl" and it's everywhere.

Grace pulls out her phone and searches for the song. When she finds it, she plays it out loud. It's the recording of her from the studio. The song grows louder as Penny starts to talk, muted, over it.

PENNY (CONT'D)

Grace, isn't it good? Grace...
Hey... GRACE!

Grace comes to and looks at Penny, who looks slightly worried.

PENNY (CONT'D)

Are you okay?

GRACE

Yeah, I... um, yeah, I'm not
feeling good. I think I might go
home. Can you let Paul know if he
asks.

PENNY

Yeah, sure. Are you sure you're
okay.

Grace nods, and get's up in a rush and walks away from the table.

CUT TO:

EXT. STREET

Grace is walking down the street with her phone out, texting.

GRACE (TEXT)

WTF - how'd my song get leaked?

The three dots show the message is being responded to. Then they disappear.

Grace waits for a response and nothing comes. She looks up and screams.

CUT TO:

INT. GRACE'S APARTMENT

Grace is sitting on her sofa with a glass of wine in her hand and her phone in the other. She dials Lucy on Facetime, when Lucy picks up the screen splits.

LUCY
Woahhh... she is alive. How exciting...

GRACE
I know, I'm the worst. But...

LUCY
But I'm kinda the worst too...

GRACE
We're both the worst.

Grace takes a sip of her wine.

LUCY
Woah. Little early to drink by ourselves isn't it?

Grace raises her glass.

GRACE
Did you see?

LUCY
See what?

GRACE
Rydel.

LUCY
Just that he won a Grammy for your song.

GRACE
It's not MY song.

LUCY
Well I mean it wouldn't have won a Grammy if it weren't for you.

GRACE
Maybe.

LUCY
Definitely. We both heard the original. Not that good.

GRACE

Okay, yeah. Did you see my version was leaked.

LUCY

Leaked? What? What do you mean your version? The one you recorded that night?

GRACE

Yup - that's the one.

LUCY

What?! Noooo. Really?! Are they saying it's you?!

GRACE

Nope. I texted Ted - no response. And all the sites that have it list it as anonymous female. They're literally trying to guess.

Lucy puts down her phone on an angle and can be seen typing.

LUCY

No way. They're literally guessing all the biggest people - Taylor, Bette, Billy, damn, like anyone with a voice and a vagina. What are you going to do?

GRACE

Nothing. What can I do? Who'd believe me anyway?

LUCY

Um, all you gotta do is recreate it and post it...

GRACE

Yeah, I thought of that too... Look on TikTok at all the copies of it now...

LUCY

I mean there's gotta be something you can do to prove it was you.

Grace finishes her wine and pours some more.

GRACE

My mom said you got your own place and a new job.

LUCY

It was a while ago now, but yeah. Girl, have you read any of these comments about your version? Like damn.

GRACE

Hah! Sunshine, Grace's Version. I'm like a pathetic Taylor Swift gimmick.

LUCY

I can't with this. You need to do something. Go to the studio or something.

GRACE

Stop - I'm just gonna drink my wine at 3 in the afternoon, and then tomorrow will come and it'll be over. Anyway, we should get together soon. Come down to Philly and stay with me this weekend!

LUCY

I wish I could, but I'm kind of seeing someone, and it's kind of our 1-year anniversary.

GRACE

Oh damn! Good for you girl.

LUCY

Thanks, but maybe another weekend?

GRACE

Whenever, mi casa es su casa.

Lucy laughs.

LUCY

Okay. Maybe easy on the wine for a bit. But I'll definitely pick a weekend and get back to you.

GRACE

Do it. You won't.

LUCY

I will. Okay, well I gotta go. Talk soon, Tay.

Grace blows a kiss into the camera as Lucy hangs up.

CUT TO:

INT. OFFICE

Grace is at her desk with her headphones on, looking hungover. Penny walks up to her and hands her a coffee, making a slightly disgusted face. Grace slides her headphones down.

PENNY

How we doing? You don't look so hot.

GRACE

Yeah, thanks. I don't feel so hot. I'm sorry for calling so late last night.

PENNY

It's okay...

Grace's phone starts to vibrate, a random number appearing.

PENNY (CONT'D)

Need to get that?

Grace looks down and hits end call.

GRACE

No, probably spam. Anyway, I am sorry. I don't actually remember what I said.

PENNY

Nothing crazy, just that you're the voice of the most popular song on earth right now. Must've been really feeling good about yourself.

Penny laughs. Grace takes a sip of the coffee and looks at her confused.

PENNY (CONT'D)

What?

GRACE

It is me, my voice. I recorded that song.

Penny laughs again.

PENNY

Yeah, that's what you said last night. So funny.

Grace's phone rings again and she silences it again.

GRACE

No, I'm serious. It really is me.

Penny stares at her, unsure if she's joking or not. Grace's phone rings again.

PENNY

I don't think spam numbers call this many times in a row...

GRACE

Okay, hold on.

(answers the phone)

Hello - this is Grace Meyer.

RYDEL

Hey hey, Gracie Girl. The lady of the hour, how are you doing?

Grace's eyes get big as she looks at Penny.

GRACE

Is this?

RYDEL

The one and only, 3 time Grammy winner Rydel, all thanks to you.

GRACE

Can you, uh, hold on for a second.

RYDEL

Uh, yeah I guess.

Grace stands up. Penny mouths "who is it?" Grace shakes her head and walks out into the lobby.

GRACE

Hello, Rydel? Sorry - I'm at work so I had to step away. What's, umm, going on?

RYDEL

Going on? You're going on, girl. Haha!

GRACE

Right, the leaked track from the studio. Kinda crazy, right? I didn't do it, you know!

RYDEL
All good girl, I did. You ready to
be something?

GRACE
Be something? What?

RYDEL
Ted said you're in Philly, right?

GRACE
Yeah.

RYDEL
Alright, well I'm doing a show
there Thursday, but I'll be in
tomorrow. Let's get it tomorrow
night and talk about what we do
next. Send me your digs and I'll
snatch you up at 6. Sound good,
doll?

GRACE
Umm, yeah, I guess. I mean yes.
Sounds good.

RYDEL
Aight. I'll see you then.

GRACE
Okay see you tomorrow.

RYDEL
Oh, yeah, one more thing - you got
anymore of that in you or was this
a one time thing?

Grace didn't answer immediately, and Rydel jumped in.

RYDEL (CONT'D)
Don't answer that - tomorrow. Bye
bye Gracie girl.

Rydel hangs up and Grace drops her hands. After a moment,
she slides down the wall onto the floor. She screams and a
person walking by her jumps.

GRACE
Sorry!

CUT TO:

EXT. GRACE'S APARTMENT

Grace is standing on the street outside of her apartment looking neither dressy, nor casual, but somewhere in between. A black car pulls up and the window rolls down revealing Rydel, and a cloud of smoke.

RYDEL

Damn girl. If I didn't know better,
I'd think this is a date.

Grace looks somewhat embarrassed and shrinks a little at the comment.

RYDEL (CONT'D)

I'm kidding Gracie girl. All
business tonight. Get in.

CUT TO:

INT. RESTAURANT

Grace and Rydel and a few others are sitting at a table in a low-lit restaurant.

GRACE

I don't get it. What is all this?

RYDEL

Your new life, baby. If you take
advantage.

GRACE

Why did you leak the track?

RYDEL

Because it was too good not to.

GRACE

But you waited until after the
Grammy's.

Rydel smirks and looks at one of the guys next to him who also smiles.

RYDEL

Well, Gracie girl. Ya know,
hardware is a bit of a rain maker,
and ain't no one giving out
hardware to a song that has some...
controversy. BUT controversy will
sell albums and tickets. So...

GRACE
So get the Grammy, and then leak
the original to sell more tickets.

Rydel nods.

GRACE (CONT'D)
So what do you want from me?

RYDEL
Damn girl.

The others at the table snicker.

RYDEL (CONT'D)
I got all I need from you. Now's my
turn to give back a little. You got
any more songs or ideas in that
pretty little head of yours?

GRACE
Maybe...

RYDEL
(snickers)
"Maybe". Good, you're gonna need
'em.

GRACE
What does that mean?

RYDEL
It means, baby doll, that in the
next 24 hours, your whole life
about to change, temporary or
forever - all how you play it.

GRACE
I don't get it.

Rydel leans in to Grace.

RYDEL
Listen, I'm rootin' for you. That
grammy the other night, at least
one of them thanks to you.

Rydel leans back and takes a sip of his drink.

RYDEL (CONT'D)
So this is how this gonna go.
Tomorrow, I'll be at the studio
around 7.

GRACE

Am?

RYDEL

Yeah, girl. This work ain't for the weak. 7 am.

Rydel looks at her awaiting confirmation. Grace stares at him for a moment, and then nods.

RYDEL (CONT'D)

Anyway, studio at 7... am. I have 2 tracks that I want you on. And then we'll do any songs that you got, or bring some in from the writers.

GRACE

Okay... uh, what for?

RYDEL

We gonna record 2 EP's for release Friday - one is mind and the other is yours.

Grace starts laughing.

GRACE

I can't - this is insane. Is any of this real?

RYDEL

It's as real as you want it to be, baby doll.

GRACE

Right... So we record a few songs, and release these EP's on Friday. That's it?

RYDEL

Almost.

GRACE

Almost?

RYDEL

We gotta rearrange Sunshine as a duet.

GRACE

You want to record 6 songs, and rearrange a Grammy-winning song as a duet - all tomorrow?

RYDEL
Damn, you right, we need to start
at 5.

GRACE
5 am?

Rydel just stares at her.

GRACE (CONT'D)
Okay, okay - 5 am. Record 6 songs,
rearrange one. That it?

RYDEL
No - one last thing.

Grace raises her eyebrows and takes a drink.

RYDEL (CONT'D)
We'll do the new version at my show
tomorrow night.

Grace chokes on the drink at what Rydel says.

RYDEL (CONT'D)
You okay Gracie girl?

GRACE
(clearing her throat)
You invited me to dinner tonight to
ask me to record 6 songs in the
morning, and then perform a new
duet in front of an arena full of
people tomorrow night? No, I'm not
okay.

RYDEL
5 songs. 1 is just mine. And you
can say no. But I'll be real with
you - this ain't happenin' again.

Grace picks up her drink and sits back in her chair,
contemplating what he's proposing.

RYDEL (CONT'D)
Listen, Gracie girl. The car will
be at your place tomorrow morning
at 5, on you to get in.

Rydel leans over to another person at the table and says
something. The person responds.

RYDEL (CONT'D)
 Alright. We going to some club down
 the street, you coming with?

GRACE
 Club? Umm, no, I don't think so.

RYDEL
 K - D-hop will take you home, then.
 Or wherever you wanna go.

GRACE
 No, umm, I'm okay, I think I'll
 walk, or maybe stay here for a
 little bit longer. I'm not sure.

RYDEL
 You sure?

GRACE
 Yeah, yeah, I'm not far from here.

RYDEL
 Word - let's go then.

Rydel and the rest stand up, leaving Grace still sitting.

RYDEL (CONT'D)
 Hope to see you in the morning,
 baby doll. If not, thanks for the
 hardware, haha!

Grace smiles and nods. Everyone walks away and Grace is left
 alone at the table. Finally she picks up her drink and
 finishes it.

FADE OUT.

EXT. GRACE'S APARTMENT

Grace comes running out of the building and rushes to a
 black car starting to pull away.

GRACE
 WAIT! Wait!!!

She bangs on the back window just before it pulls out into
 the street. The window rolls down and a face looks back at
 Grace.

RYDEL
 5:15 - you late.

Rydel smiles.

RYDEL (CONT'D)

Get in.

CUT TO:

INT. CAR

Grace gets in as Rydel slides over.

RYDEL

You ready for this?

GRACE

No.

RYDEL

Yeah, ain't no one is.

Grace closes the door to the car and they pull out into the street.

CUT TO:

INT. MUSIC STUDIO

Grace is in the booth with headphones on, sitting on a stool with an acoustic guitar. She's taking some deep breaths.

SOUND ENGINEER

(into the microphone)

Ready when you are, Grace.

Grace nods. She looks down at her guitar, settles her fingers on the right chord and closes her eyes. She let's out another deep breath.

RYDEL

(into the microphone)

You good, baby doll?

Grace nods yes, but doesn't start playing or singing. Rydel and the sound engineer look at each other and the engineer shrugs his shoulders.

RYDEL (CONT'D)

(into the microphone)

Listen, let's take 5 and come back to this.

Grace opens her eyes and nods.

CUT TO:

INT. MUSIC STUDIO - HALLWAY

Grace is sitting on the floor with her head in her hands. Her phone starts to ring. She looks down to see her dad calling. She goes to reject the call and then decides to answer.

GRACE

Hey dad...

DON

Hey there, buttercup. I was just checking in. How are you, anything new and exciting?

Grace laughs out loud.

DON (CONT'D)

What is it?

GRACE

Oh nothing, just in a music studio with Rydel panicking.

DON

A music studio? With Rydel??

GRACE

Yeah, I'm literally in the music studio with Rydel. Well technically, I'm sitting on the floor in the hallway of the music studio, panicking.

DON

Why are you panicking? That sounds so amazing!

GRACE

He wants to record some of my songs...

DON

He does? Wow, buttercup, that's... it sounds like a great opportunity. I didn't even know you had any songs.

GRACE

Yeah, well I thought I did - but now I feel like they're probably terrible and I don't want to play them and have everyone be embarrassed of me, or worse, for me.

Don doesn't respond.

GRACE (CONT'D)

Dad? You still there?

DON

Still here, buttercup.

GRACE

You don't have anything to say to your failure daughter?

DON

I don't have a failure daughter... so no, I guess not.

GRACE

Dad. I'm not good enough to be here... what do I do?

Don is quiet.

GRACE (CONT'D)

Dad!

DON

Yeah, I'm still here... I'm just thinking about what to say to you. Sounds like you're struggling with imposter-syndrome.

GRACE

Yup, pretty much exactly. Well any ideas?

DON

Yeah, I guess just one.

GRACE

What's that?

DON

Fuck em.

GRACE

Dad!

DON
What?

GRACE
I... I've never heard you swear...

DON
I can swear.

GRACE
Yeah, apparently.

DON
Did that help?

GRACE
I don't think so... but now I'm
just thinking about you swearing
and why you don't, but now you do.

DON
Listen buttercup. Play your song,
or don't. But do it because you
want to or don't want to. Not
because of Ridle.

GRACE
Rydel.

DON
Not because of Rydel or anyone
else, just play it for yourself.
And if they don't like it, fuck em.

GRACE
Fuck em.

DON
Fuck em!

In the background faintly you hear Cheryl asking Don what
he's saying.

GRACE
(laughing)
Is that mom?

DON
Yeah - I gotta go explain why I'm
cursing on the phone, now.

GRACE
(still laughing)
What are you going to tell her.

DON

That someone's trying to sell me an extended warranty on our Buick.

GRACE

Seems like a reasonable reason to swear on the phone to me.

DON

Okay, buttercup. Good luck. I love you no matter what you decide.

GRACE

Thanks dad. You can tell mom the truth.

DON

And have her ask me a thousand questions about what you're doing the rest of the day? No thanks.

GRACE

Haha, love you dad.

DON

Love ya buttercup.

CUT TO:

INT. ARENA

Rydel is on stage.

RYDEL

Okay, so tomorrow we're dropping a couple of EP's.

The crowd roars.

RYDEL (CONT'D)

The first is a few new numbers that I put down earlier today. They got a new artist on 'em, Grace Meyer. The other EP is hers. You might be thinkin' who this doll, Grace that Rydel name dropping? Well, she the mystery pipes on the Sunshine track that leaked. And, well, she here with me tonight, come on out Gracie girl.

Rydel looks back and forth between the two sides of the stage. The crowd starts to murmur as no one comes out.

RYDEL (CONT'D)
Grace, you out there somewhere?

Nothing.

RYDEL (CONT'D)
I really set this up good for us...
so it would be great if...

Grace comes running onto the stage and the crowd cheers. She goes to the mic next to Rydel.

GRACE
I'm here!
(whispering off mic)
I had to pee.

RYDEL
(laughing)
Sorry ya'll - Gracie girl here had
to pee before coming out to stage.
Okay, you ready?

Grace nods.

RYDEL (CONT'D)
Got it all out?

The crowd laughs.

GRACE
When you gotta go, you gotta go.

RYDEL
Damn, she right. Alright alright.
So you may have heard this next
one, we changed it up a bit, but
this one's called Sunshine.

The crowd erupts. The music starts to play and Rydel has the first few lines. Then Grace comes in and crowd gets even louder. Rydel takes a step back as Grace closes her eyes and continues to sing.

CUT TO:

INT. ARENA - BACKSTAGE

Rydel and the band are at the side of the stage. A stage hand brings Grace over to him. The crowd in the background is shouting his name.

RYDEL
 (in her ear)
 You remember the words to the two
 songs we did this morning?

GRACE
 (in his ear)
 I think so.

RYDEL
 (in her ear)
 You think so???

Rydel leans over to the stage hand and says something.

RYDEL (CONT'D)
 (in her ear)
 They gonna get you the words on a
 tablet. I'm gonna go do the encore,
 start with a couple popular songs,
 get the crowd in it. Then I'll ask
 you back on stage and we'll do
 those 2, and then end with Magic.
 You can stay and sing with if you
 want, or not. You ready?

Grace nods. Rydel starts to walk on stage.

RYDEL (CONT'D)
 (shouting to her)
 I guess we'll see!

The crowd goes wild.

FADE OUT.

INT. GRACE'S FAMILY HOME

SUPER: 12 Months Later

Grace walks into the kitchen, drops her keys on the counter,
 takes her shoes off and walks to the refrigerator. She opens
 the door, looks in, and then closes it. She looks tired and
 sad as she walks deeper into the house.

GRACE
 Mom? Dad?

CHERYL (O.S.)
 In the den, dear.

Grace walks through the house into the den where Cheryl is
 sitting at a puzzle, and Don is in his chair with his ipad.
 Don starts to get up.

DON

Do you have stuff to bring in?

GRACE

No, it's fine, we can get it later.

Don sits back down.

CHERYL

Is the moving truck here?

GRACE

No, I just put it all in storage. Just have some clothes and whatnot. I'm going to go shower I think - just wanted to let you know I'm here.

CHERYL

You know you could've brought your stuff here - I mean there's no reason to keep your old bedroom the way it is when you have all the nice stuff from your apartment.

GRACE

Thanks, mom. It's okay, I don't mind. At least until I figure out what I'm going to do.

DON

Okay, well if you change your mind, we can get a truck and pick some things up at the storage unit anytime you want, okay buttercup?

GRACE

Yeah, thanks dad.

DON

You okay?

Grace nods, tearing up slightly.

GRACE

Okay, I'll be out in a bit.

CUT TO:

INT. GRACE'S FAMILY HOME - DINING ROOM

Grace, Cheryl, and Don are sitting at the table eating dinner. Grace is sullen and barely eating anything.

Don is watching her and smiling slightly when they make eye contact, while Cheryl continues to talk.

CHERYL

Anyway, I said to Abbey that the music business is a pack of wolves, just looking to prey on innocent people. Don't you think, Don?

DON

Oh, uh, I don't know. I...

GRACE

It's not the whole industry, mom. I think that they sometimes just push things out, see what people like. They just didn't like my stuff.

CHERYL

Yeah, which is nonsense, because I loved your songs. They were all written so well. And the reviews and critics, what do they even know. I told Abbey that critics are just people who can't anything themselves.

Grace laughs.

CHERYL (CONT'D)

What? It's true!

GRACE

Remind me never to put you in a room with one. Thanks for having my back though. I'm okay that no one liked my music - I just wish I didn't quit my job before I found out.

Grace smiles, and stares off. As she does, the smile slowly fades.

DON

Well no reason to talk about all this the first night you're here. Have any plans tonight? Anyone fancy some ice cream?

GRACE

Nothing fixes failure like ice cream.

Grace smiles at her father, who smiles back.

DON
I'll even pay for the extra
toppings!

GRACE
Deal!

CHERYL
Well I don't know that I like you
calling yourself a failure, dear.
But there is a new ice cream place
that Stephanie was talking about
that you pick the flavors you want
and they make your ice cream right
there with liquid nitrogen. Have
you ever heard of such a thing?

GRACE
Sounds like something we need to
try, right dad?

DON
Well if Stephanie recommends it,
then how can we resist.

Don and Grace laugh as Cheryl tries to explain that
Stephanie didn't actually recommend it.

CUT TO:

INT. LUCY'S HOME

Lucy and Grace are sitting on the patio drinking wine.

GRACE
Wait, so why are you staying here
again?

LUCY
My apartment flooded. Of course.

GRACE
Oh no! Is all your stuff ruined?

LUCY
All of it. Insurance is cutting me
a check, so it's whatever - I have
to decide if I want to find another
place or wait for that one to be
rebuilt. I just loved it there, but
let's be honest, I'm just going to
be paranoid that it'll happen
again. So that's my life. What
about you, what's your plan?

GRACE
Ughh, I don't know.

LUCY
Done with Philly?

GRACE
Done with Philly.

LUCY
Any word from Rydel? Or Ted?

GRACE
Ghosts.

LUCY
Wow... that's terrible. Screw them.
I never liked Rydel's music anyway.

GRACE
That's not true.

LUCY
No, you're right, I love him.
Sorry.

GRACE
No no, it's okay. I hate to say
this, but I still do too.

LUCY
Oh no! Hahaha. He's just so good.

Grace starts laughing and nodding.

GRACE
It's true. Recording with him, I
mean it was just the craziest
thing. I still can't believe it.

LUCY
Girl, you and me both. I can't
believe you gave him the note on
Sunshine! I mean you were right,
but damn, that took balls.

Grace looks in the distance. She takes a sip of her wine and
lets out a huff.

LUCY (CONT'D)
Oh, Grace. It's okay. You shot your
shot. More than anyone else has
done.

GRACE
Yeah, I guess.

LUCY
More wine?

GRACE
Lots and lots and lots more wine.

CUT TO:

INT. RESTAURANT

Grace, Cheryl, and Don are seated at a busy, brightly lit restaurant during the daytime. A waiter takes their orders and walks away from the table.

GRACE
I have an interview on Tuesday.

DON
Nice, buttercup, where?

GRACE
Umm, I think its an ad agency or something? Not really sure. Something in marketing.

CHERYL
Well that sounds nice. Jane's son works in marketing, or maybe it's advertising. She says he works a lot of long hours and the pay wasn't that good at first, but now he's pretty high up and makes a good living. Still long hours though. Did they tell you if you'll have long hours?

Grace is staring at nothing and doesn't respond.

CHERYL (CONT'D)
Grace? Are you listening?

GRACE
What? Yeah mom.

CHERYL
I asked if they told you what the hours would be.

GRACE

Oh, I have no idea - this will be the first call, just a screening interview.

DON

Still sounds interesting... you could be the next Peggy Olson.

Grace and Cheryl both stare at him, waiting for further explanation. Don doesn't say anything additional.

GRACE

Dad, what are you talking about?

DON

Peggy? From Mad Men? You could be Peggy at the ad agency - start out as something else, and end up a partner...

CHERYL

Oh dear, that's what you think? She's going to be a 1960's ad woman?

DON

I dunno - the show made it look cool.

GRACE

Oh shit.

Grace slouches down in her seat and tries to hide as best as possible.

CHERYL

Grace! What was that? And why the foul language??

GRACE

Sorry mom, it's just... I saw someone I don't want to see.

CHERYL

Who?

GRACE

No one.

CHERYL

Well clearly it's someone... who is it?

GRACE
Ughh... it's um the guy from the
music studio.

DON
(loudly)
Rydel?!

Ted looks over at Don and sees Grace.

GRACE
No, dad not Rydel, but thanks, now
he saw me.

Grace gives a nod to Ted, who waves slightly.

GRACE (CONT'D)
Oh god. Whyyyy...

CHERYL
Grace, dear, why are you acting
like this?

GRACE
Mom, it's just... embarrassing. Oh
god, here he comes. Mom, please
just don't say anything.

Ted walks up to the table.

TED
Hi there, Grace. How are you doing?
It's been a while. These your
parents?

GRACE
Hey Ted - yep, long time. Yeah,
this is my dad Don, and my mom
Cheryl.

TED
Mr. And Mrs. Meyer, nice to meet
you both.

CHERYL
Are you the one that got my
daughter's hopes up and then what's
that word you used earlier, Grace?

GRACE
(almost whispering)
Ghosted.

CHERYL

That's right, are you the one who ghosted her when no one liked her songs?

TED

Uh, wow, um, yeah, I guess I suppose that was me.

CHERYL

Well then, what do you have to say for yourself?

GRACE

Mom, stop. Ted - it's okay, really, I understand.

TED

No, it's... your mom is right. I should have answered. I just - you know how busy it can get. I'm, um, sorry I didn't pick up.

CHERYL

See, was that so hard?

GRACE

Mom, please. Sorry, Ted. But thanks.

TED

No, no, it's fine. I won't disturb your lunch anymore than I already have. Grace, just to let you know, it's not often, but occasionally I get asked about you. I'd be glad to pass along your information if you'd like.

CHERYL

Well that sounds like the least you could do.

GRACE

Yeah, sure, it doesn't matter, I don't think I'm cut out for that business anyway.

TED

Right, okay, well for what it's worth, you did have a good ear, and voice.

Grace nods. Cheryl shakes her head. The waiter approaches the table with their food.

TED (CONT'D)

Well I'll let you get to your meal.
It was nice seeing you again,
Grace.

GRACE

Yeah.

Ted walks away as the waiter starts to set down their plates.

CUT TO:

INT. GRACE'S FAMILY HOME - LIVING ROOM

Grace is sitting on the couch watching TV in the dark. Cheryl walks in.

CHERYL

Hey honey, we're going to bed.

GRACE

Okay, good night mom.

CHERYL

Good night.

Cheryl walks out and Grace continues to watch the TV. A second later, Cheryl walks back in.

CHERYL (CONT'D)

Grace?

Grace doesn't look up.

GRACE

Yeah mom?

CHERYL

I think that if you want to be a
singer, you should be a singer.

GRACE

Thanks mom.

CHERYL

And I loved your songs, even if no
one else did.

GRACE
(tearing up)
Thanks mom. I love you.

CHERYL
I love you too, dear. Good night.

GRACE
Good night.

CUT TO:

INT. GRACE'S FAMILY HOME - DINING ROOM

Grace is seated at the table with her laptop in front of her, wearing business attire with her hair done nicely.

RECRUITER (O.C.)
Right, so like I mentioned this position will report into a Senior Account Manager, and you will provide support for them and their clients.

GRACE
(to her computer screen)
Okay, great.

RECRUITER
So, just quickly, let's go over some things on your resume. Just pulling it up here... Okay, here we go. So it looks like your last role was about a year ago, what was the reason for leaving?

GRACE
(to her computer screen)
Oh, umm, well I guess I left to pursue a music career?

RECRUITER
Wow! Can't say I've heard that one before. I guess it didn't work out though?

GRACE
No, not really.

RECRUITER
Well I'm sorry to hear that. At least it was only a year spent doing it, though...
(MORE)

RECRUITER (CONT'D)

I have a cousin who's been trying to make it for almost 10 years now... yikes, it's a hard business. Anyway, looks like you were at Cloudtech before that? And what made you leave there?

Grace doesn't respond.

RECRUITER (CONT'D)

Ms. Meyer? Did you hear that last question? Ms. Meyer, can you hear me? Oh shoot, I think the connection went bad. If you can hear me, just type something into the chat... Ms. Meyer?

Grace shuts her laptop closed. She picks up her phone and dials a number.

TED (V.O.)

Hi, uh, Grace - I wasn't expecting a call.

GRACE

I changed my mind. I want the contacts who asked about me.

TED (V.O.)

Oh, right, well it's, I'd have to think about who it was.

GRACE

No you don't - just send me the contacts... or I'll tell my mom where the studio is.

TED (V.O.)

Okay okay okay, we wouldn't want that, would we. Let me think. Umm, I think Carolyn Staub asked about you, she's a producer, nothing major. Ummm, Darren Walker, he's a talent manager, but definitely not someone you'd want to talk to unless you're desperate. Oh, shit, Maisie Freed...

GRACE

Maisie Freed?

TED

Umm, yeah. Maisie Freed asked about you.

GRACE

Maisie Fucking Freed asked about me and you didn't think to give her my info? What did you say to her? You know what, nevermind... Do you have her number?

TED

Yeah, but I don't think it's a good idea to randomly call her, I don't think she'll pick up.

GRACE

No, of course not. You're going to text her right now and make the introduction, so that when I do reach out, it won't be random.

TED

Hey hey, relax, that's not how this stuff works.

GRACE

Well let's try, unless you want Cheryl Meyer to come down and get the number from you.

TED

(laughing lightly)

Fine fine, don't send your mom on me. Okay... done. Good luck...

Grace hangs up before he can finish.

CUT TO:

EXT. STREET

Grace gets out of a black car onto the street. She takes a guitar out of the car and walks towards the entrance of a building. The sign next to the door says "Purple Tulip Studio".

CUT TO:

INT. PURPLE TULIP STUDIO

Grace walks into the lobby of the studio and a few people are there to greet her. She quickly shakes hands with them and they start walking through a door.

CUT TO:

INT. PURPLE TULIP STUDIO - HALLWAY

Grace is walking down the hallway admiring the pictures of a woman (Maisie Freed) performing at different venues and studios. Finally she reaches the studio door. She looks up at the light, which is off. One of the people escorting her opens the door and she walks in. Standing inside is MAISIE FREED, an artist in her late 40's/early 50's.

MAISIE

Grace! You made it! I'm so excited to meet you!

GRACE

Meet me? This is like a dream.

Maisie gives Grace a hug.

MAISIE

Here, set all your stuff down there, and come, sit, let's chat for a little bit.

Grace puts her things down where Maisie pointed and sits in one of the chairs as does Maisie.

MAISIE (CONT'D)

First, I'm so glad you had Ted connect us, I completely forgot all about you until the other day. This is exciting. So what have you been doing for the last year?

GRACE

Hah, unraveling?

Maisie makes a face at Grace's response.

MAISIE

That sounds unpleasant. Is everything okay? Are you sober now?

GRACE

Oh god, nothing like that. I just - the EP was such a disaster, and I had quit my job, so then I had to move back in with my parents. It's all been a nightmare, honestly.

MAISIE

Oh no. Well, you're here now. So let's talk about a few ideas I have and then if you have anything that you're thinking...

Grace shakes her head "no".

MAISIE (CONT'D)

Right. Of course. Well I've listened to your EP a few times, and went back and found the version of Rydel's song that was "leaked". And I have to tell you a few honest things.

GRACE

Okay...

MAISIE

So for one, I just love love love your voice.

GRACE

Thank you.

MAISIE

But, I want to be frank with you... two things about your EP.

Grace nods.

MAISIE (CONT'D)

The first is, it wasn't very good.

GRACE

Oh god, what's the second?

MAISIE

Ted, or Rydel, or anyone involved shouldn't have put you in that position. Someone should have said what I just said to you and stopped it from being released. SO. I'm here now. And I won't let that happen.

GRACE

(meekly)

Okay...

MAISIE

Listen Grace, no one is giving anyone anything in this business, but also, no one can do it themselves. So if you take my advice, and listen to your gut, we'll be able to go something really special with that voice of yours. Sound good?

GRACE

(tearing up)

Sounds, um, really good.

MAISIE

Perfect. Ted and Rydel did say you have a pretty good ear too.

GRACE

You talked to them?

MAISIE

Well talked, scolded, talked some more...

GRACE

Oh no, haha.

MAISIE

Yeah, it's fine, when you've been around as long as I have, you can do that. Anyway, they said you have a pretty good ear, so I have about I don't even know how many songs that I've written that I could never really make work for me or my voice or band's style. So let's listen to them and the ones that strike you, we can work on together. Good?

Grace hangs her head and starts crying.

MAISIE (CONT'D)

Well damn, girl, this isn't even the part to cry about.

Grace laughs through her tears.

GRACE

I know... but... thank you. So much.

MAISIE
Well don't thank me yet - nothing's
really happened.

GRACE
Right.

Grace takes a deep breath.

GRACE (CONT'D)
Okay, let's do it.

MAISIE
Alright. Ready for the first track?

Grace nods, and Maisie nods to the sound engineer who starts playing a track.

CUT TO:

INT. PURPLE TULIP STUDIO

Grace is in the booth while Maisie and the Sound Engineer are watching her and the board simultaneously. Lucy walks into the studio, makes eye contact with Grace who gives her a quick wave. Maisie says something to Lucy, who's eyes go big as soon as she realizes who's there and then makes a face pointing at Maisie to Grace.

CUT TO:

INT. PURPLE TULIP STUDIO - LATER

Grace is still in the booth.

MAISIE
(into the microphone)
Ok Grace - I think we got it.

GRACE
Okay, cool. Anything else?

MAISIE
(into the microphone)
Um, well no, not really. Three days
and 15 songs, I'd say that's
enough.

Grace smiles and seems slightly disappointed.

MAISIE (CONT'D)
(into the microphone)
Hah, what is it?

GRACE

Nothing - I just don't want this to end.

MAISIE

(into the microphone)

None of us do...

There's a pause while the sound engineer says something to Maisie, and she responds to him.

MAISIE (CONT'D)

(into the microphone)

Actually, there is actually one more thing. It's your choice, but we can add a bonus track.

Grace nods emphatically.

GRACE

What songs do we have left?

MAISIE

(into the microphone)

Well we don't really. We can listen to a few more options and pick one.

Lucy walks up to Maisie and says something to her. She shrugs.

MAISIE (CONT'D)

(into the microphone)

Lucy said something about a song of yours... "Summer Winds"? Can you play it for us?

Grace blushes slightly.

GRACE

Uh... I mean I guess. I, uh, that's from like 20 years ago, something I wrote when I was like 15 years old. Maybe younger.

MAISIE

(into the microphone)

Hate to break it to you, girl, some of these songs you sang were written before you were even born, haha. Let's hear it.

GRACE

Okay, give me a few minutes, I haven't done this one in a long time.

MAISIE

(into the microphone)
We'll all take 5 then.

Grace nods.

CUT TO:

INT. PURPLE TULIP STUDIO - MOMENTS LATER

Grace is in the booth with an acoustic guitar.

MAISIE

(into the microphone)
Okay, ready?

Grace nods and closes her eyes. She takes a deep breath and then starts to play the guitar. After the intro she begins to sing. Everyone in the studio stares at her, unmoving as she completes the song. When she finishes, she opens her eyes. Lucy is wiping away tears. Maisie says something and everyone starts laughing.

MAISIE (CONT'D)

(into the microphone)
Thank you.

GRACE

(confused)
For??

MAISIE

(into the microphone)
Well if that was on your EP, then I probably wouldn't have had the chance to work with you, so thank you for keeping it in the vault.

Grace laughs.

MAISIE (CONT'D)

(into the microphone)
I do have 1 little note...

GRACE

Okay...

CUT TO:

INT. PURPLE TULIP STUDIO

Everyone is sitting in the studio. The end of the song that Grace just sang is playing for everyone to listen to, except it's a duet of Grace and Maisie. The song ends and Grace tears up.

MAISIE

Which duet is better this or
Sunshine with Rydel?

No one says anything.

MAISIE (CONT'D)

I'm kidding... kind of. Anyway,
this was good stuff.

LUCY

So what's next?

Everyone turns to Lucy.

MAISIE

Next... good question.
(turning to Grace)
You need to get a manager. Because
I have a feeling this is going to
be a big deal really soon.

GRACE

Oh. Well I think... I have one.

MAISIE AND LUCY

You do?

GRACE

Yeah, you?

MAISIE

I'm not a manager, Grace, you need
a...

GRACE

Not you, no offense. Lucy, she's my
manager.

Lucy laughs slightly and then looks around at everyone
staring at her.

GRACE (CONT'D)

Lucy's known me my whole life,
knows my voice and music better
than anyone - that's why she
suggested "Summer Winds". So it's
settled.

LUCY

Uh, I don't know anything about
being a music manager.

MAISIE

Perfect, means you won't suck.

Maisie and Grace smile at Lucy, who seems more uncomfortable
than before.

MAISIE (CONT'D)

Listen, just protect Grace from us
and herself and you'll be fine.
Everything else is "on the job
training".

Lucy nods and contemplates this for a moment.

LUCY

(hesitantly)

Okay... so what's next next?

CUT TO:

EXT. MUSIC VENUE - DAY

The marquis of a music venue says "Tonight, Grace Meyer with
The Tonals and Louis Spencer"

SUPER: 5 years later

CUT TO:

INT. MUSIC VENUE - DAY

Grace is on stage in an empty venue performing a sound
check.

SOUND ENGINEER

Okay I think we're good.

GRACE

Thanks Pete.

Grace stands up from the stool she was sitting on,
disconnects her guitar and hands it to the stage hand.

GRACE (CONT'D)
What's next Luc?

LUCY
You have about an hour or two
before our meeting with Sony, so we
can go back to the hotel if you
want, or get a coffee, or, are you
hungry?

GRACE
Hmmm...

A door closes loudly at the back of the venue. Ted walks
down the aisle.

TED
There she is... the lady of the
hour. Hello Grace, Lucy.

Lucy rolls her eyes.

LUCY
I'm going to go finish up with the
manager here, make sure everything
is set for tonight.

Grace nods at Lucy, who walks away.

GRACE
What do you want, Ted?

TED
What a way to greet your old pal...
the one who found you in a little
old karaoke bar right down the
street here. Now look at you,
headlining a tour.

GRACE
If you're looking for a thank you,
it's not coming.

TED
No? Shame. Anyway, I found another
diamond in the rough, thought you
could maybe talk to her tonight
before you jet off to your next
city?

GRACE
Who is it?

TED
Her name is Anna, Anna Buxton.

GRACE
What's she sound like?

TED
Honestly, she's like Janis Joplin
and Norah Jones had a daughter...
edgy and soulful at the same time.

GRACE
Sounds made up.

TED
Meet her and see...

GRACE
Alright Ted, get a pass from Lucy
for her.

TED
No pass for me?

GRACE
You can have one, just have to buy
it.

CUT TO:

INT. MUSIC VENUE

Grace is on stage at a dark, filled music venue. She's
standing at the microphone with a band around her.

GRACE
Before this next one, I just want
to give a shout out to my parents,
who are here tonight.

The crowd reacts.

GRACE (CONT'D)
My dad is one of my favorite people
in the whole world. He's supported
me in everything I've ever done.

The crowd cheers.

GRACE (CONT'D)
My mom...
(chuckles)
My dad is there with me when I'm
flying, keeping me in the air.
(MORE)

GRACE (CONT'D)

But my mom, my mom's voice is
always in my head telling me to get
up when I fall. So thanks, mom, for
helping be get up. This next song
is for you, this is "I can still
hear her"

The band starts playing and the crowd erupts. Grace mouths
"I love you" to her parents.

CUT TO:

INT. MUSIC VENUE - GREEN ROOM

Grace is sitting on a sofa, surrounded by the band, Lucy,
her parents, and a few others. They're all laughing and
drinking.

BIG ED

Grace.

Grace looks up at the door and sees a young woman standing
there, ANNA BUXTON.

GRACE

Who is it?

BIG ED

Says she was told to come back
here. Says her name's Anne.

ANNA

Anna.

(louder)

It's, uh, Anna.

GRACE

Anna, oh right, Ted's girl?

Anna nods.

GRACE (CONT'D)

Come on in.

Grace waves her over and she starts to walk further into the
room.

CUT TO:

INT. MUSIC STUDIO - GREEN ROOM - LATER

There are fewer people in the room than before. Grace is at the door with her parents, while Anna is sitting by herself in a chair on the other side of the room.

GRACE

Bye mom, bye dad, I love you.

CHERYL

So are we going to see you tomorrow before you leave, or are you just going to run away without saying goodbye?

GRACE

I will see you tomorrow, mom.

CHERYL

What time? Do I need to have breakfast? Or should we just get donuts. We could get bagels too. How many people are coming over? Is it just you?

GRACE

Bye mom.

Grace gives her dad a look. He smiles.

DON

Bye buttercup. Come on dear, she's telling you it's time to go...

They walk out of the doorway, and Grace walks over toward Anna.

GRACE

I should never have written a song about her. She won't stop.

Anna laughs quietly.

ANNA

She's sweet. Better that than my mom.

GRACE

Oh? What's she like?

ANNA

I dunno, left when I was 4.

Grace frowns, unsure what to say.

ANNA (CONT'D)

It's okay, makes for some great lyrics.

GRACE

Right, about that, Ted says you have some pipes. Let's hear something.

Anna doesn't react, just stares back.

GRACE (CONT'D)

This is THE moment, Anna - don't let it pass you bye.

Anna looks at her, then closes her eyes and takes a deep breath. She opens her mouth to sing.

FADE TO BLACK.

THE END