

CHRYSALIS OF TIME

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WHITE DRAFT: 11.05.17
BLUE DRAFT: 12.04.17
PINK DRAFT: 02.04.19
YELLOW DRAFT: 03.30.23
GREEN DRAFT: 10.12.23
GOLDENDROD DRAFT: 02.13.24
BUFF DRAFT: 04.25.24
FINAL DRAFT: 05.07.24

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1 EXT. SPRUCE MEADOWS EQUESTRIAN CENTER/ARENA - DAY 1

A colorful course of stadium jumps adorns a pristine grassy arena bookended by packed grandstands. Rhythmic hoofbeats THUD closer until a flash of horse and rider WHOOSH past.

JESSICA RAE, 23, elegant in English riding attire, velvety black helmet framing her focused gaze, masterfully guides her mount through the challenging Stadium Jumping course.

2 EXT. GRANDSTAND - CONTINUOUS 2

The silent crowd holds its breath, captivated by the speed and precision, a seamless dance between horse and rider.

INTERCUT WITH THE ARENA.

They gallop around a corner and fix their aim on a butterfly-winged vertical, clearing it with inches to spare, then soar effortlessly over the next formidable obstacle.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

And making very good time with just the triple-combination still to go.

Onward they fly, synchronized, in harmony. The crowd leans in as they conquer the triple combination and fly to the finish. The timer stops and APPLAUSE explodes!

ANNOUNCER (V.O.) (CONT'D)

What a sensational round of sport that was for Jessica Rae, champion of the Spruce Meadows Grand Prix!

Grinning from ear to ear, Jessica triumphantly shoots her hand into the air. She pats her mount's neck as he canters proudly around the ring, energy to spare.

The crowd starts chanting, "*Jess-i-ca! Jess-i-ca!*" Another voice joins in, out of rhythm and increasingly louder...

BETH (O.S.)

Jessica! Jessica, are you alright?

3 INT. BETH'S CONDO/JESSICA'S ROOM - DAWN 3

The face of BETH RAE, 45, a Type-A doer who operates on urgency and time she doesn't have, obnoxiously fills Jessica's vision as her eyes reluctantly open.

BETH

What are you doing?

Jessica sits crosslegged in the equestrian-themed room. Show Jumping posters and motivational quotes line the walls. Beth is leaning over, staring at her. With a SIGH, Jessica stands.

JESSICA

Visualizing my future, if you must know. Experts say you've gotta see it to build it. You read the sign? No distractions-

Points to the sign on her door: "*No Distractions Before 7:15*"

BETH

It's your grandma's assessment today so I'll need you to watch the kiddos for a couple of hours.

Beth is already out the bedroom door.

4 EXT. BETH'S CONDO - DAWN 4

A small condo in a modern neighborhood with a sign out front: "*Rae of Sunshine Day Home*". A light flicks on inside.

JESSICA (O.S.)

Ah... That's not in my day planner.

5 INT. BETH'S CONDO/PLAY AREA - CONTINUOUS 5

A welcoming oasis with drawings on the wall and toys neatly arranged. Beth walks past the door, Jessica hot on her tail.

JESSICA (O.S.)

You know my day was planned a week ago, you could have asked me then!

6 INT. BETH'S CONDO/KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS 6

Beth pours a coffee while scanning Jessica's color-coded day planner: *morning routine, exercise, job, client horse...*

BETH

I'll be back in time for you to make it to work. Promise.

Beth heads out, poking her finger into a house plant.

BETH (CONT'D)

These are parched! Can you give them a soaking? And the floor should be swept before kids arrive.

JESSICA
You always do this!

Jessica snatches a hard-boiled egg from the fridge and takes her frustrations out on it with a CRACK on the counter.

7 INT. BETH'S CONDO/ENTRY - CONTINUOUS 7

Beth snatches her coat and Jessica appears, peeling the egg.

JESSICA
You wait until you're rushing out the door to think of what has to be done now that could have been done yesterday but because you failed to plan, I have to sacrifice my plans for your false emergencies!

BETH
Sorry, Jess, got a lot on my plate.

Jessica lifts the egg to her mouth but then reconsiders.

JESSICA
Here.

Halfway out the door, Beth turns in time to catch the egg.

JESSICA (CONT'D)
Eat. Breakfast. Most important meal of the day.

BETH
Love you!

The door SHUTS. Jessica leans on the wall in exasperation.

JESSICA
I have got to move out!

8 INT. COMMUNITY SERVICES BUILDING/OFFICE - DAY 8

In a tidy office space sits DARLYN, 50, in nurse scrubs. She brusquely scribbles notes between each blunt question.

DARLYN
Do you do your own laundry, Ew-lee?

Beth sits across from her with EULENE, 75 years young, dressed to reflect the regal essence she so naturally exudes. She answers the pointed question with poise and eloquence.

EULENE

It's "Eulene," you lean on me, I lean on you. Yes, I do the laundry every Saturday before my bath.

Beth attempts a discreet head shake in disagreement which Darlyn misses but Eulene notices and glares at Beth.

DARLYN

Any trouble using the bath, toilet?

EULENE

No trouble at all.

DARLYN

Would you like me to send someone out to help you with meals, bathing, that sort of thing?

EULENE

That won't be necessary, thank you.

Darlyn clicks her pen and stands abruptly. Beth follows suit.

DARLYN

Excellent. I'll store this in your file and perform another assessment later if the need for care arises.

Eulene nods agreeably then heaves herself to her feet and shuffles toward the exit. Beth leans in with a hushed voice.

BETH

What do you mean, "if the need for care arises?" She needs care.

DARLYN

If Eulene says she doesn't need the support, we can't force it on her.

BETH

I need the support!

DARLYN

I could send someone out once a day to administer meds and do meal reminders. Should I arrange that?

BETH

No, that's not what I need-

DARLYN

Excellent. Give the office a call if you change your mind.

9 INT. COMMUNITY SERVICES BUILDING/LOBBY - CONTINUOUS 9

Having escorted Beth out the door, Darlyn abruptly shuts it.

BETH
(to no one in particular)
I just need help.

Eulene glares at her, angry and betrayed. She shuffles away.

BETH (CONT'D)
Mom, wait...

10 EXT. PARKING LOT - DAY 10

Eulene cuts toward the vehicle as fast as she can shuffle, with Beth jogging to catch up.

EULENE
What sort of "routine checkup" was that? You tricked me!

BETH
I didn't-

EULENE
And now you're lying to me! Did I raise you to be a liar and a cheat?

Eulene reaches for the door of the wrong vehicle.

BETH
This one's ours, Mom.

Beth holds her passenger door open. Eulene begrudgingly falls into it, rejecting Beth's help. Beth takes a calming breath.

11 INT. PARKING LOT/BETH'S CAR - CONTINUOUS 11

Beth sits into the driver's seat and closes the door.

EULENE
Are you trying to get me in trouble? They'll lock me up in one of those institutions if they deem me incapable of living on my own!

BETH
I never meant to impose.

EULENE

Well, you have imposed! I want you to stay out of my personal life. Understood?

BETH

I'm not the enemy, Mom.

EULENE

Well, what are you then? You're certainly not a friend!

BETH

I'm your daughter-

EULENE

And I'm your mother!

BETH

I'm trying to help you.

EULENE

(hurt, betrayed)
You're not helping anyone.

Beth hangs her head in shame, feeling guilty.

12

EXT. SAUNDERS EQUESTRIAN CENTER - DAY

12

A prestigious equestrian center bustling with activity. The CLIP-CLOP of hooves as two classy English riders lead their horses on a smooth walkway winding through manicured lawn.

Jessica jogs past them, sporting old jeans and a t-shirt with rubber muck boots, hair pulled back into a casual pony tail.

13

INT. SAUNDERS EQUESTRIAN CENTER/BARN - DAY

13

A sleek Warmblood mare, MARIPOSA, is tacked up for a ride. A rider, SOPHIE, 25, mucks out a stall. Jessica dashes in.

SOPHIE

You're late. I covered for you.

JESSICA

Thanks.

She hands the pitchfork to Jessica and steps away to grab her helmet. The mare SNORTS and paws the ground impatiently.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

Who's this?

SOPHIE
 Mariposa. A new import. Rumor has
 it Suzanne mortgaged the property
 to buy her but she's-

Jessica extends a hand toward the mare, who SNAPS at her.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)
 -not very sociable.

Jessica returns the mare's icy glare.

JESSICA
 Nice to meet you too.

14 EXT. SAUNDERS EQUESTRIAN CENTER/MANURE PILE - DAY 14

Jessica dumps a full wheelbarrow into the manure pile. In the nearby arena, she spots Sophie being coached on Mariposa.

15 EXT. SAUNDERS EQUESTRIAN CENTER/ARENA - CONTINUOUS 15

Tall leather boots stride through the sand; SUZANNE SAUNDERS, 45, British charm and a presence that demands respect.

SUZANNE
 I want her lighter on the forehand,
 Sophie! Circle her and come again!
 Don't tug on her mouth, soften your
 reins and use your seat!

The mare tosses her head as Sophie wrestles her for control.

INTERCUT WITH JESSICA AT THE MANURE PILE.

Jessica's gaze remains locked on the horse and rider.

JESSICA
 (sotto)
 C'mon, Sophie, don't fight her.
 Eyes up, find your rhythm.

They canter to the jump - but Mariposa reels away! Suzanne exhales, very disappointed. Her critical gaze finds Jessica.

SUZANNE
 (calling out)
 Those stalls won't clean
 themselves, Jessica!

Jessica snaps to, hauls the wheelbarrow toward the barn.

16 INT. SAUNDERS EQUESTRIAN CENTER/PARKING LOT - DAY

16

A disheveled Jessica passes a rider headed in the opposite direction. AMBER STERLING, 25, tall and slender with a genuine air of confidence and grace, does a double-take.

AMBER

Jessica Rae?

Jessica spins around to return Amber's surprised gaze.

JESSICA

Amber! What are you doing here?

AMBER

Checking out a horse. I didn't know you rode with Suzanne Saunders.

JESSICA

I'm just a stablehand.

AMBER

You are not just a stablehand. You used to win every competition we entered! You and... Rocky, right?

The light in Jessica's eyes smoulders out.

AMBER (CONT'D)

Oh, sorry. It was so tragic what happened. Did you ever replace him?

JESSICA

He's irreplaceable. But I'm starting to watch for the perfect one... saving my pennies.

AMBER

Perfection's overrated. My advice? Find an imperfect horse with potential and bring it out it him.

Jessica contemplates this, checks the time on her watch.

JESSICA

I've gotta go.

AMBER

Let's catch up sometime.

Amber grabs her phone to exchange numbers, but Jessica whips out a business card with a link to her digital calendar.

JESSICA

Sure, grab a slot in my schedule.

Amber's a bit taken aback as Jessica hurries on her way. Jessica walks past her old beater of a car - then doubles back to it when she's sure Amber's not looking.

17 INT. JESSICA'S CAR - CONTINUOUS 17

Jessica attempts to start her car... nothing. After another failed attempt, she reluctantly lifts her phone to her ear.

JESSICA

Hey Mom...

18 INT. BETH'S CAR - DAY - TRAVELING 18

Beth drives, attempting to be present as Jessica chats.

JESSICA

A new horse arrived today. Most exquisite conformation I've ever seen but she's got some... issues.

BETH

Like what?

JESSICA

She's impatient, aloof, lacks trust - too guarded to be curious. Rigid; does things her way or not at all.

BETH

So, what exactly do you see in her?

JESSICA

She's a champion, clear as day! Sophie can't seem to get her to engage her hindquarters. And don't even get me started on her rhythm.

Jessica gazes out the passenger window, lost in thought.

BETH

Have you called the mechanic?

JESSICA

I'd start with lateral exercises to get her more supple through her ribcage, then counter-canter to strengthen her hindquarters.

Jessica's phone RINGS, snapping her out of her daydream.

JESSICA (CONT'D)
Hello... Grandpa? Where are you?

19 INT. HOSPITAL/CUBICLE - DAY 19

Laying on the bed is HENRY, 75, thin and frail, worry boring creases in his weathered forehead. Jessica sits beside him.

JESSICA
When's the last time you ate?

HENRY
I dare not eat! And my feet, corns all over, hurts to stand.

20 INT. HOSPITAL/HALLWAY - DAY 20

Beth and a DOCTOR converse in hushed voices.

DOCTOR
Nothing's physically wrong with your dad. His Psychotic Depression-

BETH
-stabilizes in the hospital and spirals out of control at home. I will not be taking him home again.

DOCTOR
Certainly not before he's stable.

BETH
Certainly not at all, doctor. This can't keep happening, it's not helping him.

21 INT. HOSPITAL/CUBICLE - CONTINUOUS 21

Jessica examines Henry's feet, then slips his socks back on.

JESSICA
You have no corns that I can see.

HENRY (CONT'D)
Promise me... you'll take care of your grandma... and the horses.

JESSICA
You're going to get better, Gramps.

HENRY
 Promise me!

She's startled by his intensity. Henry clasps her hand in his, shakily brings it to his lips and plants a weak kiss.

HENRY (CONT'D)
 Please, Jessy Joy...

Jessica anxiously holds his pleading gaze.

22 INT. HOSPITAL/HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS 22

Jessica slips past the curtain to where the doctor's calm demeanour wrestles with Beth's inconsolable loss of patience.

DOCTOR
 I'm afraid he can't stay, Ms. Rae.

BETH
 He'll only be here until a room opens up for him in a nursing home. Considering the urgency, I imagine that won't be long now, will it?

DOCTOR
 Ms. Rae-

Beth turns on her heels, hightails it out. Jessica follows.

23 INT. BETH'S CONDO/KITCHEN - NIGHT 23

Beth washes dishes and hands them to Jessica for drying.

JESSICA
 Will Grandma be okay without him?

BETH
 Her Alzheimer's is getting worse. She doesn't drive, yard work is out of hand, she won't make a proper meal and won't accept help... Could sell the farm and move her closer.

JESSICA
 No. Grandpa built that place, he'd never sell it.

BETH
 Unless you'd want to stay with her?

Jessica freezes. Tosses down the dish towel and walks away.

JESSICA

Don't you think I've spent enough
time there over the years?

BETH

(surprised)

You loved staying with your
grandparents.

24 INT. BETH'S CONDO/JESSICA'S ROOM - DUSK

24

Jessica braids her hair at the vanity. Her gaze floats over the photos taped to the mirror: her younger self with her grandparents and horses; one with her mom and the hint of a man who's been cut out. She locks eyes with herself.

JESSICA

(chanting affirmations)

*I am powerful. I am resilient. I am
courageous. I am a champion. I am
destined for greatness.*

She opens a binder to a "Daily Life Assessment" to score her *Health, Energy, Mission, Courage and Productivity* from 1-10.

She glances at the clock as it turns from 8:29 to 8:30, then abruptly pulls the blackout blinds to shut out the light.

25 EXT. SAUNDERS EQUESTRIAN CENTER/ARENA - DAY

25

Jessica rides a PONY while a young family - GREG and TAMMY, 30s, and their DAUGHTER - observes from the fence line.

JESSICA

She picks up both leads, responds to leg pressure, and as you can see she stops on a dime and backs with barely a touch on the bit.

The couple exchanges a glance, impressed. Jessica dismounts.

TAMMY

You did all this in 30 days?

JESSICA

Been training since I was twelve.

GREG

How is she on trails?

JESSICA

I don't do trail rides.

TAMMY

Why not?

JESSICA

Too unpredictable. Do you want to take her home today or not?

Tammy looks to Greg who nods and hands Jessica a wad of cash.

26 EXT. SAUNDERS EQUESTRIAN CENTER/PADDOCKS - DAY 26

Jessica forks hay into a line of paddocks. The CLANKING of stadium jump poles yanks her attention to the arena...

27 EXT. SAUNDERS EQUESTRIAN CENTER/ARENA - CONTINUOUS 27

Suzanne stiffly picks herself up off the ground and wipes the sand from her breeches. Mariposa prances around the ring. Jessica dashes in to block the mare's path, speaking gently.

SUZANNE

She won't jump a simple crossrail!

JESSICA

Easy, girl, you're okay.

The mare halts and Jessica takes her reins. The world seems to slow as they lock eyes...

SUZANNE

She's got the breeding of a champion, she just doesn't have the balls. Hold her.

JESSICA

I'm pretty sure balls aren't the problem. Let me work with her.

Suzanne scoffs. She mounts as Jessica holds the mare steady.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

I've trained quite a few horses, my clients are always happy.

SUZANNE

Breaking in ponies is a far stretch from crafting Grand Prix winners.

Suzanne CLUCKS, urging Mariposa on with a bump of her heel.

SUZANNE (CONT'D)

Stay in your lane, Jessica.

28 INT. BETH'S CONDO/JESSICA'S ROOM - DAY 28

Jessica's "horsey bank" sits among cutouts of horse-for-sale classifieds. She dumps out the cash and counts it... then crumples the classifieds and tosses them away, defeated.

29 INT. AUTOMOTIVE MECHANIC - DAY 29

Jessica trades the MECHANIC the wad of cash for her car keys.

30 EXT. SAUNDERS EQUESTRIAN CENTER/PADDOCKS - DAY 30

Jessica leads a horse into a paddock and unclips the lead rope. Sophie hobbles past, favouring her wrist, as another rider supports her. Suzanne leads Mariposa toward Jessica.

SUZANNE

Sophie took a tumble off the crazy mare. No one else wants to touch her, so what do you charge?

She shoves the mare's reins at Jessica who gently takes them.

JESSICA

No charge... But I get to ride her in the Spruce Meadows Grand Prix.

SUZANNE

That's only three months away.

JESSICA

84 days. If we win, you get the prize money - a return on your investment - and I keep Mariposa.

Suzanne laughs.

SUZANNE

You don't stand a chance.

JESSICA

So... what do you have to lose?

Suzanne contemplates, a hint of humor twinkling in her disbelieving eyes. They seal the deal with a handshake.

31 EXT. SAUNDERS EQUESTRIAN CENTER/ARENA - DAY 31

Jessica buckles her helmet and leads Mariposa to the mounting block. As Jessica steps up, the mare SNORTS her disapproval, sidestepping out of reach. Suzanne watches critically.

JESSICA
 (quietly)
 Hey now, don't make us look silly.
 You're better than that.

Jessica focuses on Mariposa's ears flicking back and forth. She follows the mare's attention to every heightened sound:

- The CREAK of a paddock gate being closed.
- The RUMBLE of a wheelbarrow being hauled over gravel.
- The CRACK of a whip where a horse is being lunged.
- The SNICKER of two riders at the gate sharing a joke.

JESSICA (CONT'D)
 She can't focus here, there's too many distractions.

SUZANNE
 Alright, horse whisperer, where do you propose to take her?

Suzanne glances around and shrugs. Jessica contemplates...

32 INT. BETH'S CONDO/PLAY AREA - DAY 32

Jessica's contemplative gaze wanders out the front window...

33 EXT. SWING SET - DAY (FLASHBACK) 33

Eulene pushes YOUNG JESSICA, 10, on a swing, quoting poetry.

EULENE AND YOUNG JESSICA
*Oh, how I love to go up in the
 swing, up in the air so blue! Oh, I
 do think it the pleasantest thing
 that ever a child can do!*

YOUNG JESSICA (CONT'D)
 Higher, grandma! Over the clouds!

EULENE
 Not too high, Jessy Joy, the clouds are a long way to fall from.

YOUNG JESSICA
 You'd catch me.

EULENE
 What makes you so sure?

YOUNG JESSICA
 I'd catch you if you were falling.

EULENE

I'd squash you into a grease spot!

The two of them laugh.

34 INT. BETH'S CONDO/PLAY AREA - DAY 34

The fading echo of the memory invades Jessica's mind as she watches her mom approach the house, laden with bags.

YOUNG JESSICA (O.S.)

I'd catch you if you were falling.

The CLICK of the front door and a drained Beth enters. She drops the bags to tidy the play area. Jessica eyes the bags.

BETH

Your grandpa's laundry. Transferred him to a nursing home today.

JESSICA

I'll do it. I'll move in with Grandma. For the summer at least.

Beth suddenly pauses, turns to Jessica, and breaths a deep sigh of relief. She silently wraps her daughter up in a hug.

35 EXT. GRANDMA'S CABIN - DAY 35

An immaculate truck and horse trailer follow Jessica's car up the driveway to a rustic log cabin nestled in the woods. Suzanne steps from the truck to gawk at the quaint setting.

36 EXT. HOME PADDOCK - DAY 36

A small herd of horses WHINNY their greetings as Suzanne leads Mariposa toward them. Jessica opens a separate paddock gate with a CREAK. Suzanne inspects the boards; solid enough.

SUZANNE

Certainly no distractions here.

Suzanne looks around, condescendingly. Nothing to be heard but BIRDS and long grass swaying in the gentle BREEZE.

37 INT. GRANDMA'S CABIN - DAY 37

The log home, rustic and cozy, is an open concept design, the kitchen, living and dining room functioning as one big room. Butterflies adorn the place in pictures, clips, figurines.

In a fluster, Eulene sets a stack of books on the table: "Poems for a Child's Heart" by Eulene H. Moores. A KNOCK at the door and Jessica steps in, hauling a suitcase.

EULENE

My Jessy Joy? It's been ages!

She wraps up her granddaughter in a hug.

JESSICA

Hasn't been *that* long. How are you?

EULENE

God provides for my every need.

Eulene takes Jessica's face in her hands to admire her. She pulls her in for a loving head bump.

EULENE (CONT'D)

You're just in time! Apparently I have a book signing at the library.

JESSICA

Today?

Eulene points it out on her butterfly-themed wall calendar. All prior days are crossed off.

EULENE

Seems so. It just popped up there, Lord knows where it came from.

Jessica grabs her phone and dials while heading to the kitchen sink where a mound of dirty dishes are stacked.

JESSICA

(into the phone)

Hi there, are you expecting Eulene Moores today for a book signing?

She turns on the tap - but it shoots water in all directions! Jessica takes a breath, recovers from the soaking.

EULENE

(hushed)

Sorry dear, it hasn't been working.

JESSICA

You are... 20 minutes! Thanks, bye.
(to her grandma)
Let's go!

She dries her hands on her pants and grabs a stack of books from the table with an obligated SIGH. Eulene follows suit.

38

INT. LIBRARY - DAY

38

Eulene sits before a crowd of captivated children.

EULENE

One day, the caterpillar climbed a tree. She chomped on the leaves until full as can be, She hung from a limb and said "Wiggle-dee tee! 'Twas so far to climb, a rest would suit me."

The children break into giggles at her caterpillar voice.

EULENE (CONT'D)

She hung there all day, then day turned to night. When she finally awoke, it gave her a fright! For there she was trapped, in a chrysalis green, And try though she might, she couldn't break free.

Eulene wraps a green blanket around herself like a chrysalis.

EULENE (CONT'D)

She wriggled and squirmed, she fought as she churned Inside that hard shell, "I'm a miserable worm! Will I never again feel the sun on my face? Or crawl about from place to place?"

The children lean in with concerned faces.

EULENE (CONT'D)

Day after day, she plotted and schemed. She thought and she cried and she prayed and she dreamed. "If there was an escape, I could just do it." At last then she knew, "I must go through it."

Even the parents in the back of the room are engaged now.

EULENE (CONT'D)

"I'll sing as I wait, a wiggle-dee ting!" And a joy to her heart did the melody bring, Until the day came from her shell she did spring! She looked with a gasp and said "Ah! I have wings!"

Eulene spreads the blanket to reveal butterfly wings! The crowd APPLAUDS their delight.

Sitting alone, Jessica creates a 12-week chart with "Jump Height" vs "Weeks", completing it with a green line from *Week 0* in the bottom left to *Grand Prix* in the upper right.

39 INT. LIBRARY/BOOK SIGNING TABLE - DAY 39

Jessica sells books to a lineup of people. Eulene signs them. A pale girl, EMILY, 7, NG tube in her nose, holds up her book as SHARON, 37, rests an encouraging hand on her shoulder.

SHARON

Emily loves your poetry. It's all she wants to read; gives her hope.

Eulene looks at Emily with compassion. She autographs the book especially to her and hands it back.

EULENE

It's very nice to meet you, Emily.

SHARON

Have you got anything for adults?

EULENE

What are you looking for?

Sharon looks a bit embarrassed as she searches for the words.

SHARON

Well... Hope, I guess...

40 INT. GRANDMA'S CABIN - DAY 40

Eulene empties multiple folders of paper onto the table as Jessica hauls her suitcase through the house toward her room.

EULENE

I'll compile the letters I've written over the years!

JESSICA

Letters?

EULENE

And emails to my readers, friends, family; gather all the words I've ever used to offer people hope!

She pauses in the moment, struck by an idea.

EULENE (CONT'D)

"*Letters of Hope.*" Yes.

41 INT. GRANDMA'S CABIN - DAY 41

Amidst the pile of dishes and a scattered assortment of tools, Jessica manages to disassemble the faulty kitchen tap... but can't find the problem. She glances at the clock.

JESSICA

Agh... I don't have time for this.

She tosses the tap and tools down and heads for the door.

42 EXT. HOME PADDOCK - DAY 42

Jessica bounds to the paddock with a cheerful spring in her step. She WHISTLES a unique call. Mariposa doesn't share her enthusiasm; she SNORTS and turns her butt to Jessica.

JESSICA

That's a bit rude, don't you think?

43 EXT. HOME ARENA - DAY 43

Jessica stands by Mariposa's side, preparing to lunge her.

JESSICA

Let's go back to basics. Walk on.

She CLUCKS but Mariposa won't budge. Jessica grabs the lunge whip from the ground and the mare suddenly rears up!

JESSICA (CONT'D)

Whoa! Easy, girl!

She leaps back to escape flailing hooves! Mariposa's eyes flash with fear. Jessica tosses the whip aside and she calms.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

Somebody hurt you, didn't they...

Jessica slowly steps toward the mare who eyes her warily. She gives her neck a gentle scratch, relaxing her.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

I'm sorry, girl. You can trust me.

She steps back and CLUCKS.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

Walk on.

She gently flicks the tip of the lunge line at her. This time the mare SNORTS and begrudgingly obeys.

44 EXT. GRANDMA'S CABIN - DAY 44

Jessica approaches the cabin, surprised to see a buckskin Quarter Horse hitched to the deck railing, tacked up in Western gear. MUSIC and LAUGHTER seep through the windows.

45 INT. GRANDMA'S CABIN - DAY 45

Jessica finds Eulene at the kitchen sink with SCOTT RYDER, 26, rugged charm mingled with audacious spontaneity.

A hose strung through the window is wrapped around his waist, tied in the front. He washes dishes in one sink and rinses in the other with a simple twist of his hips, and Eulene dries.

CLASSICAL MUSIC is blaring from an old ghetto blaster with Scott as the boisterous conductor of their poetic rendition.

SCOTT

*I walked a mile with Pleasure, she
chatted all the way-*

EULENE

*-but left me none the wiser for all
she had to say!*

SCOTT

I walked a mile with Sorrow-

EULENE

-and never a word said she!

SCOTT & EULENE (CONT'D)

*But oh the things I learned from
her when Sorrow walked with me!*

Jessica abruptly shuts the music off. When Scott spins around the hose inadvertently soaks her! Eulene can't contain her laughter! He spins back to turn off the hose tip; from behind it look awkwardly similar to zipping up after taking a leak.

JESSICA

What is going on?

Eulene wrangles her laughter into submission to explain.

EULENE

We're just washing dishes, dear.

Scott turns around and extends a dripping wet hand-

SCOTT

I'm Scott.

-but the whole situation is too much; him in the hose, puddles on the floor, Eulene in hysterics. Jessica's frozen.

EULENE
Jess, you remember little Scotty?

SCOTT
Wait, you're... Jessica?

He speaks her name slowly, adoring recognition in his tone.

EULENE
He's our neighbor now! And the local handyman.

SCOTT
We built the best fort ever!

JESSICA
Until you burned it down-

SCOTT
I told ya ta watch the fire-

JESSICA
-because you couldn't be bothered!

EULENE
You two did what?

JESSICA
I never saw grandpa so angry in my life! You left the next week and I was grounded for a month.

SCOTT
(cringing)
Guess I owe ya one?

JESSICA
You owe me big time.

SCOTT
I hope I get a chance ta make it up ta you.

He holds her gaze tenderly. It seems his charm almost gets ahold of her - but she breaks it with a quick glance down.

JESSICA
You're leaking.

She walks off. He looks down see the hose dripping a stream down his pants. Eulene tosses a towel at him.

46 INT. GRANDMA'S CABIN/JESSICA'S ROOM - DUSK 46

Jessica pins her posters on the wall. Her phone rings: *Mom*. She glances at the time: 8:26pm. Reluctantly, she answers.

JESSICA

Hey.

47 INT. BETH'S CONDO/PLAY AREA - DUSK 47

Beth tidies up toys and wipes messes as she talks.

BETH

How is she?

INTERCUT WITH JESSICA AT GRANDMA'S CABIN.

JESSICA

She seems fine, no real problems.

BETH

Thanks for staying with her. Can't tell you what a weight off me it is to know she's not alone.

JESSICA

No problem. I've gotta go, g'night.

Beth begins to reply but is promptly hung up on. Jessica dots *Week 1* of her 12-week chart at 0'0" for *Jump Height*; behind on her goal. Jessica sits crosslegged and shuts her eyes.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

I am powerful. I am resilient. I am courageous. I am a champion. I am destined for greatness.

She opens her binder to score her habits, then shuts off the light as the clock reaches 8:30.

48 INT. GRANDMA'S CABIN/MASTER BEDROOM - DAY 48

Eulene stirs in bed. Her eyelids flicker open a crack. Soon fully awake, she heaves herself to a sitting position and her eyes anxiously scan the room. A clock TICKING on the wall.

EULENE

(sotto)

Where am I?

She spots a mirror. Confusion fills her gaze as she rises to investigate the unfamiliar reflection staring back at her.

She raises a trembling hand to her face. Her focus fixes on her weathered hands. She stares at them, bewildered.

EULENE (CONT'D)
(sotto)
Where has time gone, old woman?

49

INT. GRANDMA'S CABIN - DAY

49

Eulene shuffles into the empty room in her nightgown. The relentless TICKING of the clock greets her.

EULENE
Hello!

Silence answers. Her gaze drifts to the messy table. She lifts a paper in each hand, cross-referencing with the others. As her eyes dart faster from one to the next, her head POUNDS until she drops them and rubs her temples.

When her eyes open, she spots a butterfly out the window. Her thoughts wander and wispy words begin to form...

EULENE (CONT'D)
*The first butterflies of the season
have emerged from their chrysalis.
And I envy them.*

She sits, opens her notebook and begins writing...

EULENE (V.O.)
*As the world grows tight around me,
I struggle to see the light in
slivered streams through a
thickening dark in which Hope seems
a dream, not a spark, not a flame.
As the clock ticks the minutes,
long years slip away. I'm afraid-*

The DOOR opens. She anxiously stands as Jessica steps in.

EULENE
Thank God! Where is everyone?

JESSICA
It's just you and me, Grams.

Concerned, Jessica offers a hug as Eulene fights to slow her rapid breathing. Scott peaks in the window.

EULENE
You locked out what's his name.

Scott waves and a smile lights Eulene's face. She waves back. Jessica disappears into her room as he lets himself in.

SCOTT

Scott, at yer service.

EULENE

Scott, Scott, Scott... Why can't I remember that?

SCOTT

Can't remember it m'self some days. I just look in the mirror and say, "Yep, still the same guy."

This brings a chuckle and lightens her mood.

SCOTT (CONT'D)

So, what'll we tackle today?

She struggles to organize her thoughts, looks out the window.

EULENE

The lawn could use mowing. There's an old push mower in the shed.

He follows her gaze to the vast expanse of overgrown lawn. Jessica steps out of her room in her riding clothes.

JESSICA

He's too lazy for that.

SCOTT

Me, lazy? Nah. I'm just a believer in the power of strategic idleness.

Jessica hurries out the door.

50

EXT. HOME ARENA - DAY

50

Jessica is doing groundwork with Mariposa but struggles to hold her attention as the LAWNMOWER grows louder. It rolls by... hooked to the back of Scott's truck! Eulene catches the breeze while they sing along to blasting COUNTRY MUSIC.

JESSICA

Hey! You're spooking the horses!

Jessica shakes her head in disgust. The horses bolt in the pasture while Jessica struggles to keep Mariposa calm.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

So much for no distractions!

51 INT. GRANDMA'S CABIN/JESSICA'S ROOM - DUSK 51

Jessica marks *Week 3* of her chart; still 0'0" for *Jump Height*. Concern glints in her eyes.

52 INT. SAUNDERS EQUESTRIAN CENTER/OFFICE - DAY 52

Suzanne sits at the desk, talking on the phone.

SUZANNE

That's impossible, just run the card through again.

She hangs up and sorts a stack of OVERDUE BILLS. The phone RINGS again. She ignores it. Jessica walks past the doorway.

53 INT. SAUNDERS EQUESTRIAN CENTER/BARN - DAY 53

Jessica is mucking out stalls when Suzanne strides in.

SUZANNE

How's the mare coming along?

JESSICA

(feigning enthusiasm)
Yeah, she's doing really great!

SUZANNE

You've got her jumping?

JESSICA

Well, not yet. But I've been establishing trust on the ground.

SUZANNE

Groundwork is not what I sent her to you for. She was competing at the Grand Prix level! Your job is to figure out why she won't jump and get her over it. Understood?

JESSICA

I won't quit until I figure it out.

Suzanne steps closer, her presence challenging, her tone smoothly insinuating she is not to be taken lightly.

SUZANNE

I like you, Jessica. You remind me of me. Don't let me down.

Suzanne strides off and Jessica's mask of confidence melts.

54 INT. GRANDMA'S CABIN - DAY

54

Eulene peers anxiously out the window. The DOOR startles her but when Jessica enters, relief floods Eulene's face.

EULENE
Where have you been?

JESSICA
Just outside feeding the horses.

Confused, Eulene forces her rapid breathing to slow.

EULENE
Where's Henry?

JESSICA
He... lives in a nursing home.

EULENE
(shocked)
Why was I not informed? ...Beth!

Eulene snatches the phone and starts to dial - but freezes. Shaking in anger, her finger hovers over the buttons.

JESSICA
Mom said she talked with you.

EULENE
Then she lied; I would never have condoned it! What's her number?

She shoves the phone at Jessica who reluctantly dials and passes it back before nervously taking a seat at the table.

EULENE (CONT'D)
Did you move Henry to a nursing home? ...My own daughter turned against me! No, I won't calm down! I want him home, you hear me? Go get him and bring him home, now!

Jessica zones out on the dark and desperate poem Eulene wrote earlier, as the voice muffles, fading into the background...

55 INT. GRANDMA'S CABIN/LAUNDRY ROOM - DAY

55

Jessica stuffs a pile of laundry into the washing machine while speaking in hushed tones into the phone.

JESSICA
Mom, I don't know what to do.

56 INT. BETH'S CONDO - DAY 56

Half a dozen children play with cars while Beth attempts to split focus between a sink of dishes, a child and the phone.

BETH
What's going on?

INTERCUT WITH JESSICA IN THE LAUNDRY ROOM.

JESSICA
Laundry's piling up, she only eats a meal if I make it, I don't think she's bathing...

She pulls a hairbrush from the laundry basket, puzzled.

57 INT. GRANDMA'S CABIN - DAY 57

Jessica climbs the stairs with a basket of clean laundry.

JESSICA
Papers are still scattered all over the table from weeks ago.

She drops off clean cloths in the kitchen, the cluttered dining room table in view, an empty cookie box amid the mess.

JESSICA (CONT'D)
She wants to turn them into a book but it's like... she can't get organized to even start.

Scott enters the house, calling over his shoulder.

SCOTT
I'll be right back, Eulene!

He heads for the kitchen as Jessica leaves the room. He reaches for the tap - but pauses to catch the conversation.

JESSICA (O.S.)
If I step out for a few minutes she thinks she's been alone all day. Every time I come in she's panicking. I don't know what to do.

58 INT. GRANDMA'S CABIN/MASTER BEDROOM - DAY 58

Jessica sets the laundry basket down to make the messy bed.

JESSICA

She's always thanking God for his provision but He's not providing for her, I am!

BETH

Maybe you are God's provision?

Jessica scoffs. She finishes the bed, starts folding laundry.

JESSICA

That's ridiculous. There's a reason grandpa went crazy.

BETH

I'm sorry this is all falling on you, Jess. Hang in there, I'll try again to find some support.

59 INT. GRANDMA'S CABIN/JESSICA'S ROOM - DUSK 59

Jessica marks *Week 4* of the chart - still 0'0" for *Jump Height* compared to their goal of 3'0".

60 EXT. HOME PADDOCK - DAY 60

Jessica WHISTLES her unique call and Mariposa looks over. This time, the mare NICKERS a greeting and approaches her.

JESSICA

You're actually happy to see me!

61 EXT. HOME ARENA - DAY 61

Jessica jogs in figure eights, Mariposa following her. When Jessica halts, Mariposa does too. Smiling, she hugs the mare who affectionately wraps her neck around Jessica in return.

JESSICA

I think we're ready.

Jessica gently mounts up, stroking her neck. Mariposa turns her head to nuzzle Jessica's feet. Then starts walking.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

Oh, are we walking now? Alright, whatever you want. I like my independence, so I bet you do too.

The mare keeps walking around, exploring the arena.

Giving her a loose rein, Jessica rides her through her paces:
 - Walking in squiggly lines
 - Trotting over poles
 - Cantering broad circles

Jessica slows her to a walk, very pleased! She pats her neck.

JESSICA (CONT'D)
 You're amazing, you know that?
 Alright, let's try something else.

They canter toward a small jump - but Mariposa suddenly tosses her head in protest and rears up on her hind legs!

JESSICA (CONT'D)
 Easy! Whoa!

Jessica manages to keep her balance until the mare calms down. They both catch their breath, shaking.

JESSICA (CONT'D)
 Sorry, girl, I pushed you too far.
 Let's just trot over some poles and end on a good note, okay?

She loosens her reins and lets the mare trot freely.

62 EXT. GRANDMA'S CABIN - DAY 62

Jessica steps to the door and pauses, bracing herself for the usual moment of panic. She grabs the doorknob and enters...

63 INT. GRANDMA'S CABIN - CONTINUOUS 63

It's not panic that greets her but Eulene happily humming along to "*Great is Thy Faithfulness*" while crocheting. A handmade sign reads: "*Eulene's Calming Sensory Corner.*"

The space is decorated with electric candles, Bible verses, a tidy display of colorful yarn, and a whiteboard that reads, "*Jessica's just out riding. She'll be in soon.*"

Eulene calmly looks up to meet her gaze.

EULENE
 Hello, dear. Have a good ride?

Jessica is speechless. She suddenly registers the question.

JESSICA
 Ah, yes, it was a good ride.

Eulene offers up her finished crochet piece; a meticulously patterned tri-colored square design for some future afghan.

64 EXT. GRANDMA'S CABIN/PATIO - DAY

64

Jessica carries the crochet piece onto the patio where Scott is strolling past with a wheelbarrow of old brush and twigs.

JESSICA

Hey!

He stops to look at her.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

(earnest, sincere)

Thank you.

With a smile and a tip of his cowboy hat, he carries on.

65 EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD PARK - DAY

65

Jessica and Amber share a morning jog on the path near a playground where children tussle in the sand.

AMBER

It's good to see you again! Glad I found a slot in your schedule.

JESSICA

Surprised you wanted to hangout. You're a Grand Prix winner and I'm still shovelling manure.

A closer look at the playground shows two children ganging up on the third, grabbing her teddy and shoving her away.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

Hey!

Something snaps in Jessica as she bolts to the scene, screaming at the children like a frenzied madwoman!

JESSICA (CONT'D)

Back off! I said leave her alone!

The two children drop the teddy horse and dash away. She picks it up and kneels by the girl to hand it to her.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

Are you okay?

She nods shyly, intimidated by Jessica's intensity. She takes the stuffed horse and scurries away. Jessica watches her go and lets out a sigh, embarrassed by her overreaction.

66 EXT. SCHOOL PLAYGROUND - DAY (FLASHBACK)

66

At a lively school playground, one girl sits alone, reading a book. YOUNG JESSICA, 7, a timid soul with straight-cut bangs. Two girls skip by, one knocking Jessica's book to the ground.

GIRL #1

Ooops! Sorry, didn't see you there.

YOUNG JESSICA

(smiling sweetly)

It's okay.

GIRL #2

(mockingly)

"It's okay."

GIRL #1

No really, I didn't. It's like you're invisible!

The two girls share a laugh and skip on their way, leaving little Jessica to sadly collect her book from the dirt.

67 EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD PARK - DAY

67

Amber jogs up to Jessica who's kneeling in the sand.

AMBER

Hey, you alright?

She extends a hand and helps Jessica to her feet.

JESSICA

(embarrassed)

Sorry. That was a bit much, huh?

AMBER

Actually, it was pretty epic. You're like a tribal warrior, we just need to get you a spear.

A smile escapes Jessica. They casually stroll down the path.

JESSICA

What's it like to live your dream?

AMBER
 (thoughtfully)
 Feels right, like it's meant to be.

JESSICA
 I have to win the Grand Prix. If I
 do, I'll get the horse, media
 attention, sponsors, a real career.
 No more being invisible...

AMBER
 And if you don't?

JESSICA
 Not an option. If I fail, it's back
 to square one. I can't wait another
 year for my life to finally begin.

AMBER
 Why wait? Life is now! You can have
 fun riding even if you're not
 making a living from it, right?

JESSICA
 It's not about fun for me, Amber.
 It's a chance to build something,
 to become someone, to be seen, to
 be significant. Riding is... Power.
 Power to control my own destiny.

68 EXT. FIELD - DUSK

68

Scott and his horse are silhouetted against the setting sun,
 gazing in wonder across the rolling hills of green.

SCOTT
Freedom.

He urges his mount forward and they gallop across the field!

69 INT. GRANDMA'S CABIN - DAY

69

Eulene sits at the messy dining table, flipping through a
 photo album and munching on cookies. Jessica balances making
 supper with studying a book: "*Solving Show Jumping Problems*"

EULENE
 Aw... Jessy Joy. Come see this one!

It's a picture of Young Jessica, cheeks squished between a
 kiss from Eulene and Henry. Eulene gazes at it fondly.

EULENE (CONT'D)
 Don't bother yourself with dinner,
 dear, I'm not hungry.

Eulene pops another cookie into her mouth.

JESSICA
 I wish you'd stop eating junk food.

EULENE
 I've only had one or two. Come.

JESSICA
 It's not good for brain health.

EULENE
 How do you think I made it to 65 or
 72 or whatever I am? Wasn't because
 of your meddling. Now come here!

With an obligated SIGH, Jessica steps to the table to look.

JESSICA
 (not that impressed)
 Very cute...

She begins to turn away but another photo on the page catches
 her attention: her and a boy of similar age with a butterfly.

70 EXT. GRANDMA'S CABIN/GARDEN - DAY (FLASHBACK) 70

YOUNG JESSICA, 7, eyes wide with wonder, peers intently
 through dense foliage at a chrysalis bursting with new life.

YOUNG JESSICA
 Scotty, it's hatching!

The curious face of YOUNG SCOTT, 10, a handsome little
 cowboy, suddenly appears beside her, fascinated.

YOUNG SCOTT
 It's "enclosing." Eggs hatch.
 Butterflies enclose.

YOUNG JESSICA
 I think she's stuck.

YOUNG SCOTT
 We should help her.

He reaches in...

Henry strolls across the yard, whistling, pitchfork over his shoulder. An excited cry from Young Jessica stops him.

YOUNG JESSICA
Grandpa! Look what we found!

Henry eagerly approaches.

YOUNG JESSICA (CONT'D)
A new butterfly! Well, I found it
but Scott saved it. It was stuck,
just struggling and struggling...

Henry leans down to their level to take in the sight of the sad, wrinkled specimen. His enthusiasm fades.

HENRY
You freed it from its chrysalis?

YOUNG SCOTT
Yeah, we helped it out!

Henry stands with a sad shake of his head.

HENRY
Now this butterfly will never fly.

YOUNG SCOTT
But we were very careful-

JESSICA
-we didn't break it! Promise!

HENRY
You see, the chrysalis is what
builds the butterfly's strength.

He rests on one knee and takes a small hand in each of his.

HENRY (CONT'D)
Listen to me. Unless one goes
through the struggle, one won't
have the strength to fly. Wings are
formed in tight places.

71 INT. GRANDMA'S CABIN/JESSICA'S ROOM - DUSK

71

Jessica lays on her bed, staring at the photo. The clock changes from 8:20 to 8:25 to 8:29. She reaches for the lamp - as a paper airplane flies through the open cabin window!

Intrigued, she unfolds it to read, "Our Best Memories." Two more read, "lost in the woods," "our tree fort." More fly in.

She lifts the window wider and peers out to see Scott.

JESSICA
Whaddia think yer doin', young man?

72 EXT. GRANDMA'S CABIN/JESSICA'S WINDOW - CONTINUOUS 72

Scott stands like a humble boy with his arms hanging and hands clasped in front.

SCOTT
Hello, Ms. Rae. Can Jessica come out ta play?

JESSICA
I'm sorry, it's Jessica's bedtime.

SCOTT
Promise ta have 'er back by ten.

JESSICA
Ten! Not a chance.

She turns, disappears from view. Disappointed, he turns away.

JESSICA (CONT'D)
How about nine o'clock?

He looks back to see her standing once again at the window.

SCOTT
Nine forty-five? Promise.

He offers her a hand. With a mischievous smile, she takes his hand, slips through the window and they dash off together...

73 EXT. FOREST TRAIL - DUSK 73

A lush forest - CRICKETS chirping, feet PATTTERING through the grass - Scott and Jessica run hand in hand, laughing like children as they negotiate the path in the growing darkness.

JESSICA
Where are we going?

SCOTT
Does it matter?

JESSICA
Yes! Yes it does. I would have brought a jacket and shoes if I-

SCOTT
Too late, I'm kidnapping you.

Scott takes his sweater off and wraps it around Jessica, then scoops her up in his arms and carries her off.

SCOTT (CONT'D)
You don't have ta plan everything,
ya know. If ya live ta control yer
life, it'll control you.

JESSICA
If you leave it to chance you never
know where you'll be swept off to!

SCOTT
Is that always such a bad thing?

He smiles at her and she blushes, clearly enjoying this spontaneous trip into the unknown.

74 INT. GRANDMA'S CABIN/LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

74

Eulene reclines in her rocking chair, the phone to her ear. She pulls a cookie from the full box, munching.

EULENE
I don't see why you should stay in
the nursing home. Can they take any
better care of you than I could?
(pause)
Let me help you, love. We can face
this together, like we always have.
(pause)
Henry? Henry, are you there?

The room fills with silence apart from the clock TICKING. She lifts a portrait to gaze into the eyes of her beloved.

EULENE (CONT'D)
How did it come to this, darling?

The hands of an elderly man reach in from behind to give her shoulders a squeeze. Henry rests his cheek against hers.

HENRY
(whispering)
I'm right here, love.

She rests her hand on his and breathes deeply, eyes closed. He steps into the room, stopping at the old record player.

HENRY (CONT'D)
So quiet in here. Where's that song
we love?

She watches him with longing.

HENRY (CONT'D)
Darling, the song? Which track?

EULENE
Three.

He lifts the tonearm and moves it into position.

HENRY
Ah ha!

A pleased grin lights up his face as a cheerful tune plays.
He does a playful little jig and sings along.

EULENE
No, no, not that one.

He keeps dancing away and she can't suppress a giggle.

EULENE (CONT'D)
Oh, Henry, stop fooling around!

He returns his focus to the record player and switches songs.

HENRY
Ah, there it is!

He hums along to the melody with a spring in his step and an
outstretched hand to Eulene.

HENRY (CONT'D)
Come here, love. Up we go.

EULENE
Oh, Henry. We're too old for that.

HENRY
Dance with me, darling!

She takes his hand and he helps her to her feet.

HENRY (CONT'D)
Atta girl.

They sway to the music like love-struck teenagers, obsessed
with each other. Then he notices her downcast expression.

HENRY (CONT'D)
What's wrong, love?

EULENE
I'm afraid. I'm not ready to grow
old alone and you're never around.

A sad expression fills his loving gaze.

EULENE (CONT'D)
Why don't you ever call me? I think
it would be easier if you'd call
once in a while-

He SHUSHES her and lifts a gentle hand to caress her face.

HENRY
Courage, darling.

He plants a kiss tenderly on her lips.

75 EXT. CAMPFIRE SPOT - NIGHT

75

Scott and Jessica sit beside a CRACKLING fire.

SCOTT
So, yer grandparents took mom and
me in after dad left. Dunno what
we'd have done without 'em.

JESSICA
Guess I was too young to understand
back then.

SCOTT
I'll never be able to repay 'em but
I'd sure like to do what I can.

Scott pulls a couple of beer bottles from a small cooler.

JESSICA
I don't drink.

SCOTT
I figured. It's kombucha.

JESSICA
Is it healthy?

SCOTT

The best! Full of enzymes and bacterial acids like gluconic acid which helps ta bind toxins and expel 'em from the body. The probiotics aid in digestion.

Jessica gawks at him, impressed. But he's not done!

SCOTT (CONT'D)

Also stimulates the immune system, fights free-radicals ta strengthen yer natural defences against disease and boosts yer energy.

JESSICA

You... wanted to be a doctor! I forgot! What happened to that?

SCOTT

Ah, life's too short ta waste on hard work. Besides, it's not where ya go in life that matters but... who ya have by yer side.

JESSICA

But you have a gift, Scott! Are you really going to let it go to waste?

SCOTT

Jess, let it go.

She's a bit taken aback by his abruptness, but she obliges.

JESSICA

What I do remember is you always got me in trouble. Like that time we broke Grandma's china plate and buried it out back? Terrible idea!

SCOTT

Hey, what about all the fun we had? Riding ponies, building forts-

JESSICA AND SCOTT (CONT'D)

Rolling down the hill!

76

EXT. GRASSY HILL - NIGHT

76

Scott and Jessica roll down the hill and crash at the bottom, laughing! He props himself up on an elbow. Lost in her gaze, he leans in... and sees the time glowing on his watch: 9:36pm

SCOTT

I've gotta getcha home!

He leaps to his feet and offers her a hand.

SCOTT (CONT'D)

I promised. Let's go, let's go!

Reluctant to leave, she takes his hand and he pulls her up.

77 INT. GRANDMA'S CABIN/LIVING ROOM - NIGHT 77

Jessica finds Eulene asleep in her chair, cradling a framed portrait of Henry. An empty cookie box sits beside her. Jessica gently pries the photo from her and helps her up.

JESSICA

C'mon, Grams. Time for bed.

78 INT. GRANDMA'S CABIN/JESSICA'S ROOM - NIGHT 78

Jessica marks 0'0" on the chart's half-way point: 6 Weeks. She forces a few deep breaths to calm her anxiety.

JESSICA

I am powerful. I am resilient. I am courageous. I am a champion. I am destined for greatness.

79 EXT. HOME ARENA - DAY 79

Amber observes as Jessica attempts to get a panicked Mariposa over a small jump - but the mare won't get near it.

JESSICA

So? What do you think?

AMBER

Bet you anything they polled her.

Jessica shoots her a quizzical look.

AMBER (CONT'D)

Poling. It's illegal but some do it. They strike their legs over the jumps to make them try harder. Looks like it made her stop trying.

JESSICA

How awful! I wouldn't keep trying something that hurt me every time.

She dismounts and compassionately strokes Mariposa's face.

JESSICA (CONT'D)
What am I gonna do with you?

AMBER
Find her a new sport she enjoys?

JESSICA
Suzanne's gonna lose it on me...

80

INT. GRANDMA'S CABIN - DAY

80

Dressed for a jog, Jessica makes breakfast. She opens the cupboard, pulls out... a hairbrush. Eulene is gloomy, dazed.

EULENE
Why does Henry never call?

JESSICA
He calls you ever day.

EULENE
We haven't talked in months.

JESSICA
Here, I'll prove it to you.

She wipes her wet hands on her pants, snatches the phone and scrolls through the Caller ID, showing Eulene the evidence.

JESSICA (CONT'D)
A call at 10:37 yesterday, 9:35 the day before. Wednesday at 12:51, and before that- Here, you look.

Eulene grows afraid and confused as she scrolls through.

EULENE
If I'm that far gone, get rid of me now while you still can!

Deeply upset, Eulene stands to leave but Jessica intercepts.

JESSICA
Don't say that. Don't ever-

EULENE
Sharpen my legs, pound me into the ground and use me as a fence post! At least I'd be good for something!

JESSICA
Stop that right now!

EULENE
Why are you so angry?

JESSICA
I'm not angry! I'm scared, Grandma!
I'm scared...

They stare at each other for a moment before Eulene shuffles out of the room. Jessica watches her go, guilty.

81 INT. COMMUNITY SERVICES BUILDING/OFFICE - DAY

81

Darlyn reclines in her office chair across the desk from Beth, her long gel nails rhythmically clinking her coffee mug as she considers Beth's plight with growing irritation.

BETH
So, you're telling me there's not enough funding for the support she needs to live at home, yet we can place her in a nursing home that will cost the health care system thousands of dollars more?

DARLYN
I don't make the rules, Ms. Rae. Your mother simply doesn't qualify for self-managed care. There are no codes I can enter to apply for it.
(patronizing)
Is this cleear? Do you understand what I'm saying to you?

The two parties stare each other down while Beth fights back the flood of emotion that threatens to overpower her.

BETH
Yes, I understand perfectly.

DARLYN
Excellent.

Darlyn swivels her chair to face the computer, begins typing.

BETH
You're saying that because she can put a spoon in her mouth and wipe her own butt, she doesn't qualify for care.

(MORE)

BETH (CONT'D)

So we'll need to wait for her to break a hip or worse before we can get the help we need.

DARLYN

Get her on the list for a nursing home. It can take years and trust me, you'll be ready by then.

Beth abruptly stands to her feet and storms out the door.

82 EXT. GRAVEL ROAD/SCOTT'S DRIVEWAY - DAY 82

Jessica jogs with intensity past a driveway. She pauses, breathing heavily, then decides to jog up the driveway.

83 EXT. SCOTT'S CABIN/FRONT - DAY 83

Jessica jogs up to the tiny, rustic, one-room cabin guarded by Spruce trees, and slows to catches her breath.

84 EXT. SCOTT'S CABIN/BACK - DAY 84

A solar-powered system heats a large bucket of water which Scott hoists above him with a hand-rigged pulley. He sings while he prepares to "shower" and strips off his pants.

JESSICA (O.S.)

Scott are you there?

Jessica appears and gasps in shock! She spins back around.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

I'm so sorry! I only saw your back.

SCOTT

My back wasn't showing.

He strips off his shirt.

SCOTT (CONT'D)

It is now though.

He tugs another rope to loose a trickle of water from the bucket and scrubs his hair in it. Frozen in embarrassment, she finally bursts into laughter at the ridiculous situation.

JESSICA

I'm so sorry, I'll leave right now!

SCOTT

Actually, since you've got shoes on
maybe ya can grab my towel for me?

She spots it in the trees and heads for it as he soaps up.

JESSICA

I came to ask you about Grandma.
You seem to have a way with her.

SCOTT

What's goin' on?

JESSICA

I really messed up. I thought if I
could prove she has a problem...

She grabs the towel and walks backward toward Scott.

SCOTT

...then you could face it together.

JESSICA

Exactly! But she just panicked. Now
she won't talk to me. What do I do?

SCOTT

Don't prove it, don't argue, just
let 'er be right.

JESSICA

But she's not!

SCOTT

And how is being right helping you?

Jessica realizes his logic. He takes the towel, wraps it
around his waist, then leans in to kiss her on the cheek.

SCOTT (CONT'D)

You can turn around now.

Sheepishly, she does, as he takes her hands in his.

SCOTT (CONT'D)

Let her be right, acknowledge her
feelings, redirect her attention.
Let me know how it goes.

He turns and disappears into the cabin.

85 INT. GRANDMA'S CABIN - DAY 85

Jessica gently knocks on her grandma's closed bedroom door.

JESSICA
Grams, it's me. Can we talk?

86 INT. GRANDMA'S CABIN/MASTER BEDROOM - DAY 86

The empty bedroom answers with silence.

JESSICA (O.S.)
Grandma? I'm coming in, okay?

At last, the door cracks open and Jessica peers in to find the room empty. A confused concern glints in her eyes.

87 EXT. GRANDMA'S CABIN/PATIO - DAY 87

Jessica scans the yard with the piercing gaze of a hawk.

JESSICA
Grandma! Grandma!

Her focus lands on the open shed door.

88 EXT. WOODPILE - DAY 88

By a stack of firewood, Scott slams his ax into a chopping block and straightens to focus on his phone call.

SCOTT
Whoa, slow down. She took the quad?
Did it leave any tracks?

89 EXT. GRANDMA'S CABIN/BACK YARD - DAY 89

A panicked Jessica attempts to follow the faint tracks.

JESSICA
Ah... They go toward the trail.

INTERCUT WITH SCOTT AT THE WOODPILE.

SCOTT
And where does the trail go?

Jessica's heart sinks as she realizes.

JESSICA
To the river.

SCOTT
We'll take the horses.

JESSICA
I don't do trail rides!

He hangs up and leaves her to wrestle with her options.

90 EXT. FOREST TRAIL - DAY 90

Scott and Buddy take the lead, while Jessica fearfully clings to Mariposa who trots uncertainly behind.

JESSICA
Easy girl, not too fast...

SCOTT
She could be at the river by now,
we have ta pick up the pace!

Scott and Buddy break into a gallop and Mariposa won't be left behind. Jessica clings on for dear life.

91 EXT. FIELD - DAY 91

The trail opens onto a field. With no quad in sight, the horses fly across the land at breakneck speed!

92 EXT. FOREST TRAIL - DAY 92

As the trail narrows, a fallen tree blocks the path ahead. The quad is parked to the side but Eulene isn't there. Scott reins Buddy into a sliding stop - and Jessica flies past!

SCOTT
Rein her in, Jess! Stop!

But the mare has her sight fixed on the far side of the fallen tree. Digging in, she propels herself over...

...and lands on the other side! Jessica can't suppress a WHOOP of joy as they continue to gallop along the trail.

JESSICA
We did it, girl! We jumped it!

93

EXT. RIVER - DAY

93

Eulene is kneeling under a weeping maple tree as its branches drift and sway like a silk curtain caught in a breeze. Sweat beads on her brow as she wrestles a hole out of the soil.

JESSICA (O.S.)

Grandma!

The rhythmic THUD of cantering hooves approaches and Jessica leaps from her mount's back to kneel by Eulene's side.

EULENE

I can't find it.

JESSICA

You had me worried sick!

EULENE

We left it right here.

At last, Eulene looks at her, the gentle desperation in her eyes boring a hole to Jessica's heart.

EULENE (CONT'D)

Would you help me?

Jessica hesitates, but those pleading eyes...

JESSICA

I can try. What are we looking for?

Jessica uses a flat stone to carve out the earth.

EULENE

This is where we started our life together. If we were ever to be separated, we would come here.

A CLUNK stops her digging. They exchange a glance.

EULENE (CONT'D)

Keep digging!

They unearth a glass butterfly container. Its wings open to reveal an old picture of Henry and Eulene in their 20s wearing matching bandanas. Under the picture are the folded bandanas. Eulene lifts one to her nose and breathes deeply.

JESSICA

How did you remember this was here?

EULENE
 (a bit offended)
 My memory's not that bad, dear.

Jessica helps her grandma up. Eulene traces her fingers along an old, worn carving of "Henry ♥ Eulene" in the bark.

EULENE (CONT'D)
 Why does he never call me anymore?

A pained look crosses Jessica's face. She flashes back to Scott's advice: *"Let her be right, acknowledge her feelings, redirect her attention."*

JESSICA
 I'm not sure why, Grandma. That must be really hard.

Jessica takes Eulene's muddy hands in her own.

JESSICA (CONT'D)
 But I promise he loves you more than you know. He misses you too.

EULENE
 You think so?

JESSICA
 I know so. Come, let's wash up and head home. Then we can call him.

EULENE
 I don't know his number.

JESSICA
 I'll help you. Okay?

Jessica goes in for a head bump, bringing a smile to Eulene. They scrub their muddy hands in the river. Jessica flicks a few drops at her. Eulene splashes back, starts a water fight!

Scott rides Buddy to the clearing, collects Mariposa's reins, and happily watches them laughing and playing. THUNDER rolls in the distance, turning his attention to the darkening sky.

94 INT. GRANDMA'S CABIN - DAY

94

Jessica and Eulene burst inside, drenched and laughing!

EULENE
 Oh, I don't remember the last time I had so much fun!

Jessica helps Eulene strip off her wet jacket.

EULENE (CONT'D)
Go! Help Scott with the horses!
I'll get us some towels.

Jessica turns on some music and writes on the whiteboard:
"Scott and Jessica will be in by 7:00pm."

95

INT. OLD BARN - DAY

95

Jessica and Scott run toward the open entrance of the barn, laden with horse tack, and dash inside out of the rain. The soggy weather does nothing to dampen their spirits.

JESSICA
That was amazing!

SCOTT
Not bad for your first trail ride.

They pull up two lawn chairs and sit to watch the downpour while wiping down the leather tack, piece by piece.

JESSICA
Well, I used to ride trails lots.

SCOTT
Why'd you quit? Didn't fit into
your training schedule?

He elbows her teasingly but she gets serious.

JESSICA
Last time my horse broke his leg in
a gopher hole. Had to put him down.

Scott freezes and looks at her with empathy.

JESSICA (CONT'D)
I stopped riding for a long time.
When I started taking on client
horses again I swore I'd only ride
in an environment I could control.

She shoots him a curious, almost accusatory glance.

JESSICA (CONT'D)
You pushed me past that boundary.

SCOTT
I wouldn't have if I knew...

JESSICA

Then I'm glad you didn't. Did you see Mariposa fly over that tree?

SCOTT

Yeah! I thought she couldn't jump?

JESSICA

She wouldn't. You know, her entire life has been regimented. Tiny box stalls, strict schedules, never ridden on trails. I think she needs to learn how to just be a horse.

SCOTT

I think you're onto something.

They hold each other's gaze in a comfortable silence as she peers into his soul with a lingering curiosity.

JESSICA

What happened to that little boy I used to know? I missed him when he left.

SCOTT

He had ta grow up pretty fast. Between dad and me, one of us had ta man up and take care of mom.

JESSICA

Did he hurt you?

SCOTT

He was a good man, everyone said so. But he was a bad drunk.

Empathetic, she rests a hand on his knee. He places his hand on hers, gently tracing her fingers with his own.

SCOTT (CONT'D)

What about you? You enjoy living with your grandma again?

She hesitates then feigns enthusiasm.

JESSICA

Yeah. Love it. She was always my best friend; my only friend really-
(tearing up)
I hate it. And I hate that I hate it because I love her so much...

(MORE)

JESSICA (CONT'D)
 but every day I lose another piece
 of her and all I can do is watch
 her disappear.

SCOTT
 You ever just wanna scream?

JESSICA
 All the time.

SCOTT
 Me too. Think it would help?

MUSIC CUE: "Hideaway" by Jenesia

He stands and extends a hand. She looks up at him. *Is he serious?* She takes his hand and he leads her into the rain.

96 EXT. OLD BARN - CONTINUOUS 96

They both SCREAM, letting everything out as the rain pours down around them. With the release of emotions running wild, they burst into laughter - but for Jessica it turns to tears.

SCOTT
 Hey... come here.

Scott holds her as she cries. Eventually he wipes away her tears and rests his forehead on her head. Captivated, they're drawn together by an invisible force until their lips meet...

97 INT. GRANDMA'S CABIN/LIVING ROOM - DAY 97

Scott, Jessica and Eulene are gathered around a corded phone with pictures of each of her loved ones as the buttons.

EULENE
 Just... push a picture?

She casts a playful glance at Jessica and taps her picture.

EULENE (CONT'D)
 Don't mind if I punch you in the
 face.

Jessica's phone lights up. Meanwhile, Scott discretely clips a bluetooth tracker to the back of Eulene's blouse. He opens his phone to see her location on a map.

98 INT. GRANDMA'S CABIN/DINING ROOM - DAY 98

Scott and Jessica set out a tea party. Eulene dumps a cookie box over a bowl; only crumbs fall out. She glares at Jessica.

JESSICA
(defensive)
What? I'm not the cookie monster!

EULENE
Well, I certainly didn't eat them
all so it must have been you!

Jessica's defense is disarmed by a humoured look from Scott.

JESSICA
I must have eaten them. Sorry guys.

SCOTT
Just don't do it again.

99 INT. GRANDMA'S CABIN/KITCHEN - DAY 99

Baking cookies, Eulene and Jessica sneak each other bits of cookie dough and liquid chocolate. Scott catches them. Guilty, Eulene licks chocolate off her lips. They all laugh.

100 EXT. HOME PADDOCK - SUNSET 100

Jessica opens Mariposa's paddock and she gallops off to play with the horses. Scott hugs Jessica from behind to kiss her neck. She turns around and drapes her arms around his neck...

101 EXT. SAUNDERS EQUESTRIAN CENTER/BARN - DAY 101

Jessica pours grain buckets at work and hauls them. She ducks into a stall to hide as Suzanne enters, her gaze searching.

102 EXT. CROSS COUNTRY COURSE - DAY 102

Scott assembles a cross country course of natural obstacles while Eulene paints a handmade wooden wall. They step aside to watch Jessica and Mariposa fly over the course with ease.

103 EXT. HOME ARENA - DAY 103

The course of stadium jumps has been partly disguised with natural branches and leaves. Eulene waves a handkerchief to signal Scott's stopwatch as Jessica canters Mariposa past.

104 INT. GRANDMA'S CABIN/JESSICA'S ROOM - DUSK 104

Jessica marks *Week 9* at 3'6" - still behind but moving now!

END MUSIC CUE.

105 INT. GRANDMA'S CABIN/KITCHEN - DAY 105

Humming a cheerful tune, Eulene puts the kettle on for tea. She rinses her tea cup then dries it with a tea towel. The phone RINGS. She drops the towel on the stove, shuffles away.

106 EXT. HOME ARENA - DAY 106

The natural disguises have been removed from the jump course Jessica and Mariposa tackle under Suzanne's critical gaze. As they soar over the final jump, Jessica beams with pride.

JESSICA

I knew we could do it!

They slow to a walk as Suzanne strides toward them.

SUZANNE

Alright, I'm impressed. Now, let's see what she's really made of.

Suzanne walks past them to raise a jumps about a foot higher. Jessica gets nervous but Suzanne goes into coaching mode.

SUZANNE (CONT'D)

Pick up your reins, canter a circle, establish your rhythm!

She does as she's told, encouraging Mariposa forward, but Jessica is tense and anxious in the saddle.

SUZANNE (CONT'D)

Hold your reins steady and use your inside leg to yield her out... Eyes up, now look for your fence!

(pause)

Lift your hands, center your core, soft on her mouth!

Jessica's HEARTBEAT grows louder as the large vertical looms ahead. Mariposa veers away at the last second!

JESSICA

That's enough for today. Let's not undo the progress we've made.

Suzanne's not pleased but Jessica has made up her mind.

SUZANNE

There's a clinic next weekend with
Finn Thompson.

JESSICA

I've heard of him. Olympian, right?

SUZANNE

I want you there. Not negotiable.
If you're not jumping the height by
then, the Grand Prix's off.

JESSICA

Of course, I'll be there.

Suzanne leaves. Jessica's confident facade morphs to anxiety.

107 INT. GRANDMA'S CABIN - DAY 107

Jessica enters to find the start of a fire on the stove!

JESSICA

Grandma!?

Panicked, she fumbles and finally manages to toss a pot lid
over the flames, extinguishing them. Eulene shuffles in.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

The stove was left on!

EULENE

You must be more careful, dear! You
could have burned the place down!

Jessica takes a calming breath but makes no rebuttal. She
lifts the kettle and looks at it thoughtfully.

108 INT. GRANDMA'S CABIN - DAY 108

Jessica enters the house with a new electric kettle,
answering her cellphone as she heads for the kitchen.

JESSICA

Hey Mom.

109 INT. BETH'S CONDO/KITCHEN - DAY 109

A cacophony of MOTORS, toy HORSES and children's LAUGHTER
wafts into the kitchen where Beth assembles a line of snacks.

BETH

Haven't forgotten you! Been sorting out power of attorney, settling Grandpa in, sorting finances for the nursing home... How are you?

INTERCUT WITH JESSICA AT GRANDMA'S CABIN.

Jessica sets the new kettle down and hides the old one.

JESSICA

I've had help. But it's getting harder to leave Grandma alone.

BETH

I think I found a home care option!

JESSICA

She'd hate having strangers showing up and telling her what to do. She doesn't believe she needs help.

She dumps a new box of cookies in a ziplock bag and hides it in the back of a drawer, leaving two cookies in the box.

BETH

This is different! It's called *Home Instead*. Imagine a "friend" coming for a "visit" - and helping while they're at it. Elaine will be there on Saturday to meet Mom.

Jessica tidies up "*Eulene's Calming Sensory Corner*," setting her newest crochet square beside a few earlier ones. This new design is less intricate; two solid colors bluntly stitched.

JESSICA

My riding clinic's that day.

BETH

Perfect. She can watch Mom that morning, I'll come later to meet her and fill in until you get home.

Beth RINGS a dinner bell and kids fly in to collect snacks. Jessica checks her watch.

JESSICA

I've gotta go ride.

BETH

Enjoy it, hun. Woulda done anything to chase my dream when I was your-

A CRASH as two children fly through the room, knocking a guitar from its stand. Beth GASPS and hurries to the guitar.

BETH (CONT'D)

What did I say about running?

Beth hangs up and tenderly holds the guitar, strumming the off-key strings, lost in the moment. She snaps back to the present and sets the guitar on its stand.

110

EXT. SAUNDERS EQUESTRIAN CENTER/PARKING LOT

110

Jessica steps out of Scott's truck and he sends her off with a kiss, which Sophie observes as she steps out of her car. The two ladies meet up on their walk toward the barn.

JESSICA

Hey, you're on the mend.

Jessica notices her wrist brace. Sophie glances at Scott.

SOPHIE

(with a sly smile)

What have I missed?

SUZANNE

Ladies.

They spot Suzanne puffing out her stress on a cigarette.

SUZANNE (CONT'D)

What's the primary thing that keeps good riders from becoming great?

SOPHIE

Laziness?

JESSICA

Fear?

SUZANNE

Distraction.

The girls follow her gaze to Scott who waves at them from his truck before driving off as another car pulls in.

SUZANNE (CONT'D)

Careful. Most men don't like taking a backseat to a woman's career.

She stomps out her cigarette and approaches the car where a cheerful NANNY, 45, releases two children from the backseat.

SUZIE

Mommy!

Suzanne gives SUZIE, 10, a playful head rub, then reaches for the BOY who pulls back and clings to the nanny.

JESSICA

I didn't know Suzanne had children.

SOPHIE

More like Suzanne's nanny has children.

JESSICA

And her husband?

SOPHIE

Divorced.

Jessica's heart breaks as she interprets Suzanne's warning.

111 EXT. HOME PADDOCK - DAY 111

Jessica absentmindedly grooms Mariposa, her mind wandering with every meandering brush stroke.

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

112 INT. CHILDHOOD HOME - NIGHT 112

Young Jessica hides around the corner from her parents, her ears covered by her tiny hands, muffling their angry voices.

BETH (O.S.)

Why don't you just leave then if you "can't stand our life" anymore?

BARRY (O.S.)

You want me to leave, I will!

Her eyes squeeze shut as a door SLAMS. All is quiet... until she uncovers her ears to hear her mother's broken SOBS. She steps out of hiding to see Beth sobbing on the floor.

113 EXT. GRANDMA'S CABIN - DAY 113

Young Jessica and Beth, 30, sit in the car. Jessica looks out the window to Eulene and Henry who stand on the deck, waving.

YOUNG JESSICA

But why do you have to go?

BETH

Mommy needs to get self-sufficient.
We have no savings, no plan...

YOUNG JESSICA

What does "self-sufficient" mean?

BETH

Never needing a man to take care of
us. Never getting trapped again.

She plants a kiss on Jessica's head.

BETH (CONT'D)

I love you. Go on now.

Jessica sadly steps out of the car with her backpack.

114 EXT. HOME ARENA - DAY

114

Jessica sits on Mariposa, staring at a tall vertical jump, willing herself to face it. Her HEARTBEAT grows louder and faster. Eventually, she CLUCKS and they step forward.

They canter to the jump and take off - but it's a clunky approach and the rail comes crashing down after them.

SCOTT (O.S.)

What happened there?

Jessica looks over to see him striding toward them. She dismounts, loosens the girth and pulls her helmet off. She runs her fingers through her hair with an overwhelmed sigh.

JESSICA

I dunno, her heart's not in it.

SCOTT

Looks like your heart's not in it.

She glares at him defensively as he strides toward her.

JESSICA

What's that supposed to mean?

SCOTT

Horses are often a reflection of
their rider. It's not her who
doesn't wanna take the leap, it's
you. She's pickin' up on that.

JESSICA

You don't know the first thing
about show jumping!

He wraps his arms around her waist and pulls her close.

SCOTT

I'm sorry. It wasn't my place. I'd
rather talk about us, anyway. Our
future, the names of our children-

Her face blanches at the comment which gets a laugh from him.

SCOTT (CONT'D)

I'm joking. Sheesh, so serious!

He goes in for a kiss but she slips out of his embrace.

SCOTT (CONT'D)

Jess, what's wrong?

JESSICA

I think I've been leading you on.
I've been emotional and irrational
and I just sort of fell into
this... whatever this is with you-

She leads Mariposa away but he steps in front to block them.

SCOTT

"Whatever this is?"

JESSICA

I'm so sorry-

SCOTT

It's called love-

JESSICA

I wasn't thinking and now that I am
I'm not ready for a relationship-

SCOTT

I love you, Jessica.

She freezes and he steps closer so their torsos are touching.
He brushes a strand of hair from her anxious face.

SCOTT (CONT'D)

I love you. And I know you love me.

He leans in to whisper a secret into her ear.

SCOTT (CONT'D)
 (whispering)
 I'm scared too, ya know... but love
 is worth the risk.

She returns his gaze, speechless; he's got her pegged. She longs to save the moment... but at last, she looks away.

JESSICA
 I'm sorry, Scott. I can't do this.

She CLUCKS to Mariposa and pushes forward, leaving him there.

SCOTT
 You're just afraid and you know it,
 Jess! How long are ya gonna run
 from everything ya can't control?

115 INT. GRANDMA'S CABIN - DAY 115

Seated at the table, forehead wrinkled in thought, Eulene wrestles a few measly words into her notebook: "*Hope is frail, like a snail, in a pail.*" She scoffs reading it back.

EULENE
 Oh, pitiful...

She shuffles into the kitchen and reaches for the stove - but is redirected by an arrow with a note: "*Electric Kettle.*" Her finger follows the arrow to the kettle and another note: "*Press Button. Light goes off when water's boiled.*"

She pulls two mugs from the cupboard, sets a teabag in each. CLICK - the kettle turns off. She pours water into each mug.

EULENE (CONT'D)
 Henry! Tea time! Henry?

She awaits a reply that never comes.

116 INT. GRANDMA'S CABIN - DAY (LATER) 116

Eulene dabs at her eyes with a tissue. Jessica, disheveled from stablehand work, holds her hand, trying to soothe her.

EULENE
 A nursing home? Whatever for?

JESSICA
 He's not well, Grams.

EULENE

Then he should be here where I can
take care of him. I've always taken
care of him!

Jessica empathizes. Her gaze falls to the pathetic frail
snail poem. She takes a breath, contemplates her options.

JESSICA

What if I took you to see him?

Hope lights up her grandma's eyes.

117 EXT. NURSING HOME - DAY 117

Jessica helps her grandma out of the car and they walk arm in
arm to the nursing home, Eulene leaning on her for support.

118 INT. NURSING HOME/FOYER - DAY 118

A warm and welcoming environment, seniors mingle and a BAND
plays oldies. Jessica and Eulene shuffle down the hall.

HENRY (O.S.)

Mr. Furtle visited my glass shop.

They follow the familiar voice around the corner...

119 INT. NURSING HOME/ENTERTAINMENT ROOM - CONTINUOUS 119

Henry is surrounded by several gentlemen who listen with
humor and bated breath to his dynamic storytelling.

HENRY

I tried to remember "Furtle" by
associating it with a similar word.

GENTLEMAN

Turtle!

HENRY

That's not where my mind went. When
Mr. Furtle came back to collect his
new window, I said, "It's been a
pleasure serving you, Mr. Sterile!"

The group of friends burst into boisterous laughter! Then,
Eulene's gentle voice breaks in.

EULENE

Henry?

He turns to see her standing nearby. Frozen in time, they gaze at each other like lovers separated by decades of war.

120 INT. NURSING HOME/CHAPEL - DAY

120

Henry and Eulene sit on a pew. He holds her close and strokes a lock of hair away from her worried face.

HENRY

There, there, love. I'm here.

EULENE

I can't tell you how much I've missed you.

HENRY

And I you. More than you know.

She pulls back to look into his eyes, her gaze beckoning him.

EULENE

Then run away with me, darling. You don't need this place.

He drops her gaze and a hint of the frail old man returns as anxiety begins to encroach.

EULENE (CONT'D)

What's wrong with me, Henry? What have I done to push you away?

HENRY

It's not your fault, love.

EULENE

All my life, whenever anyone had a problem it was "Get Eulene, she can do it!" To tell you the truth, I...

She lowers her voice to offer a vulnerable confession.

EULENE (CONT'D)

I can't seem to do much of anything these days. But one thing I'm still quite capable of is love. Will you allow me that? Come home, darling.

HENRY

I am home. So sorry, love.

121 EXT. NURSING HOME - DAY

121

Henry helps a tearful Eulene into the car and shuts the door.

JESSICA

I shouldn't have brought her, I'm sorry. I know she's what pushed you over the edge in the first place.

HENRY

Not her; Alzheimer's. I'm afraid of losing her. Afraid I already have.

JESSICA

She's not gone yet. Will you miss these years with her just because-

She suddenly identifies with her own words.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

...because you're afraid?

Her gaze falls as a pang of regret hits her.

122 INT. GRANDMA'S CABIN/JESSICA'S ROOM - DUSK

122

Jessica sits in bed, scoring her daily habits. When she reaches "Courage" she pauses. Letting out a sigh of regret, she circles the 2 of 10. She turns out the light at 8:30pm.

123 EXT. SCOTT'S CABIN - DAY

123

Jessica jogs up to Scott's cabin and knocks at the door.

JESSICA

Scott, it's me.

When he offers no reply, she speaks near an open window.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

You were right, I am afraid. Fear isn't a good reason to end this and... I'm sorry.

A groggy GRUNT comes from inside.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

Scott, are you alright? Scott!

Jessica opens the door to find him crashed out on the ground amid scattered beer cans. He groggily sits up, rubs his head.

JESSICA (CONT'D)
What are you doing?

SCOTT
Nothin'.

JESSICA
I'll say. Forget I came.

She promptly leaves and closes the door behind her.

124 INT. GRANDMA'S CABIN/JESSICA'S ROOM - DUSK 124

Jessica marks *Week 10* - still stuck at 3'6".

INSERT BUTTERFLY WALL CALENDAR: Jessica crosses off the day prior to "*Riding Clinic*" and "*Elaine Visiting*."

125 INT. GRANDMA'S CABIN/MASTER BEDROOM - DAY 125

Eulene is sound asleep when Jessica appears at the doorway. She glances at the clock TICKING and rubs her Grandma's arm.

JESSICA
Grandma, it's time to get up. You have a friend visiting soon.

EULENE
(groggy)
You go ahead, dear.

JESSICA
Come on, let's get you dressed.

Jessica pulls an outfit from her closet and tosses it onto the bed. Eulene's definitely on guard now, offended.

EULENE
I'll dress myself, thank you!

JESSICA
Well, do it then.

126 EXT. GRANDMA'S CABIN - DAY 126

Scott steps up to the door and overhears the voices.

EULENE (O.S.)
I said I'm not going!

He lets himself in.

127

INT. GRANDMA'S CABIN/MASTER BEDROOM - DAY

127

Pressure mounts as the clock TICKS time by.

EULENE

Put that back, I'm not wearing it!

JESSICA

I can't be late today!

Both are about to blow a fuse. Scott's deep voice butts in.

SCOTT (O.S.)

(singing)

Have patience, have patience...

He steps into view, carrying a mug of coffee.

SCOTT (CONT'D)

(singing)

*Don't be in such a hurry. When you
get impatient, you only start to
worry.*

Eulene points a corrective finger at Jessica in rhythm.

SCOTT AND EULENE (CONT'D)

(singing)

*Remember, remember, God is patient
too and think of all the times when
others had to wait for you!*

Scott, a few feet away, greets her with an open hand held up.

SCOTT (CONT'D)

Morning, Eulene!

He extends his hand and she reaches to accept it. He kneels to meet her eye level and smiles warmly.

SCOTT (CONT'D)

It's Scott. Got your coffee.

EULENE

Oh, you're an angel!

JESSICA

We really don't have time for songs
and games right now.

He winks at her, notices the outfit laid out on the bed.

SCOTT
Oh, Eulene! This is a beautiful
blouse. I'd love ta see it on ya.

EULENE
Would you?

SCOTT
Think ya could model it for me?

EULENE
I suppose so.

SCOTT
Great! Tell ya what...

He reaches for her hand again, gives it a gentle squeeze.

SCOTT (CONT'D)
I'll take care of your coffee until
you're dressed. May I help you up?
Three, two, one, up we go!

Jessica gawks at Scott in astonishment as Eulene prepares to
dress. He nods to the door and steps out with Jessica.

128 INT. GRANDMA'S CABIN - CONTINUOUS

128

JESSICA
How did you do that? You really do
have a gift. When will you stop
hiding and share it with the world?

SCOTT
Came to apologize. I'm embarrassed
you found me like that yesterday.

JESSICA
No need to be embarrassed... I just
don't want you to waste your life.

SCOTT
I know. Can we hangout today, talk?

Jessica spots a CLOCK, snaps into action.

JESSICA
I've gotta get to my riding clinic!

SCOTT
I'll come with you.

JESSICA

I still have to groom my horse, get
breakfast for grandma-

SCOTT

I'll catch Mariposa.

Without waiting for permission, he heads out the door.

129 INT. GRANDMA'S CABIN - DAY

129

Overwhelmed, Eulene attempts to tidy the papers scattered on the table. Her hair is a mess, greasy and unkempt.

Jessica hustles to fix breakfast. She pulls a hairbrush from the fridge. A KNOCK at the door. She nervously opens it to a bubbly woman with a cheerful disposition, ELAINE, 45.

JESSICA

You must be Elaine. I'm Jessica.

She extends a hand but Elaine goes in for a hug and Jessica is surprisingly comforted by it.

ELAINE

Your mother told me all about you.
It's so good to meet you. And you
must be Eulene! I hear you love
word games. How about a round?

She pulls a game from her bag and Eulene's eyes light up as Elaine joins her at the table.

EULENE

Well, alright! Excuse the mess, I'm
in the middle of a project.

ELAINE

Here, let me help you clear a spot.

A relieved smile warms Jessica's face. She slips outside.

130 EXT. SAUNDERS EQUESTRIAN CENTER/WALKWAY - DAY

130

Mariposa's hooves CLIP-CLOP on the pavement walkway, her legs striding in time with Jessica's. Scott struts a clunkier gait as he gawks at the posh equestrian surroundings.

SCOTT

This is... swanky.

JESSICA

Swanky? I think "prestigious" is a nicer word. Welcome to the elite world of Show Jumping.

He's not impressed. She swings her purse over his shoulder. Up ahead, Amber bounds toward them on her way down the path.

AMBER

Jessica! You're gonna love Finn Thompson. I trained with him all last summer, he's brilliant.

JESSICA

Could use all the help we can get. I'm afraid we're in over our heads.

AMBER

You've got this. Catch ya later.

JESSICA

(over her shoulder)
You riding today?

AMBER

In the class after yours!

131 EXT. SAUNDERS EQUESTRIAN CENTER/ARENA - DAY

131

A horse and rider jump a gymnastic grid, coached by FINN THOMPSON, 35, an Irishman, handsome in a classy, athletic way. He's present and engaged with a laid-back demeanor.

FINN

Stay soft with yer hands, use yer seat! Look for yer line! Rhythm, rhythm, rhythm...

The pair make it through but knock the final pole down.

FINN (CONT'D)

A little more release next time, Tina! Let him do his job! Next up.

Jessica nudges Mariposa into a trot.

132 EXT. SAUNDERS EQUESTRIAN CENTER/BLEACHERS - CONTINUOUS

132

A few onlookers, mostly riders, observe from the bleachers. Scott and Amber are among them. Suzanne steps to the fence with a wealthy businessman, BART, 50, to observe the ride.

133

EXT. SAUNDERS EQUESTRIAN CENTER/ARENA - CONTINUOUS

133

Jessica and Mariposa canter a circle then approach the grid.

FINN

Support 'er off the ground, ride
'er into yer ands! Think pow'r, not
speed! Impulsion, impulsion...
Stabilize, easy now, let it happen!

They fly over the combination with grace and ease.

FINN (CONT'D)

Excellent! Beautifully done!

Pleased, Jessica gives her a pat and lets her relax - but Finn nods to an assistant to help him raise the fences.

FINN (CONT'D)

Let's go again, Jessica!

Seeing the height, her smile fades. She CLUCKS, willing Mariposa on. Her HEARTBEAT thuds louder as they approach.

FINN (CONT'D)

Find yer rhythm! Ah- don't let 'er
fall in on the inside leg! Eyes up,
package that energy!

As they reach the combination, Mariposa slides to a stop, refusing the fence. Jessica manages to hold on. Finn steps toward her with a sly expression as if harboring a secret.

FINN (CONT'D)

Ya think she saw me raise the jump?
She's sensing yer fear. Trust 'er.
Stop tryna micromanage everything.

Jessica looks anxious, hesitant.

FINN (CONT'D)

Let's try somethin'. Go again.

He pats the mare on the rump as she steps forward, then nods to his assistant who helps him lower the jump.

FINN (CONT'D)

Sing a song, line yerself up, then
close yer eyes five strides away.

JESSICA

What?!

FINN

Don't worry, I'll count you down so
you know where your takeoff is.

Jessica wants to resist but does as she's told. She canters
Mariposa, starts singing a song and lines up the jumps.

FINN (CONT'D)

Eyes closed! Five, four, three,
two, one...

They soar over the smaller fence with ease.

FINN (CONT'D)

How was that?

JESSICA

(grinning)
Kinda fun, actually!

FINN

Great! Come again, same thing.

She sings and lines up as before.

FINN (CONT'D)

Eyes!

This time as she closes her eyes, Finn nods to his assistant
and the two of them raise the jump way up.

FINN (CONT'D)

Five, four, three, two, one...

They soar over the fence with ease and Jessica opens her eyes
to the APPLAUSE of her fellow riders and spectators.

134 EXT. SAUNDERS EQUESTRIAN CENTER/BLEACHERS - CONTINUOUS 134

Suzanne turns to Bart who nods his approval. He says a few
words to her which are drowned out by the APPLAUSE, they
shake hands, and he walks away.

135 EXT. SAUNDERS EQUESTRIAN CENTER/ARENA - CONTINUOUS 135

Jessica is too astonished to join in the celebrations.

JESSICA

How did we do that?

Mariposa prances to the center where Finn, a proud coach,
awaits them. He pats her and rests a hand on Jessica's leg.

136 EXT. SAUNDERS EQUESTRIAN CENTER/BLEACHERS - CONTINUOUS 136

Scott leans in and squints at the sight of Finn's hand on Jessica's leg. He tenses up uncomfortably.

137 EXT. SAUNDERS EQUESTRIAN CENTER/ARENA - CONTINUOUS 137

FINN

You released control, you trusted
her, you felt her rhythm and flowed
with it like a spontaneous dance!
That's riding! Everybody see that?

He turns to the riders who nod, then looks back at Jessica and they exchange an exuberant look of shared victory.

FINN (CONT'D)

Brilliant!

As Finn steps aside to direct his attention to the group, Jessica laughs, leaning forward to hug Mariposa's neck.

FINN (CONT'D)

Who's up next?

138 EXT. SAUNDERS EQUESTRIAN CENTER/BLEACHERS - DAY 138

Finn strides out the arena gate where Amber jogs to meet him. Scott oversees the interaction from the nearby bleachers.

AMBER

So, what do you think?

FINN

She's grand! A beautiful rider.
Quiet, intuitive, a natural seat.

He glances toward Jessica at the far side of the arena where she loosens Mariposa's girth and runs up her stirrups.

AMBER

She's the most committed rider
you'll find.

FINN

I've gotta grab a quick lunch. Have
'er call me.

Finn pulls a business card from his pocket, hands it over and walks off. She looks at Scott who looks away. She approaches.

AMBER

Can you make sure Jess gets this? I need to tack up for my ride.

She tucks it into Jessica's purse then heads down the path. He stares at the card, then discretely rips it up and tosses it into a trash can. Most of it... one piece hits the ground.

139 EXT. SAUNDERS EQUESTRIAN CENTER/WALKWAY - DAY

139

Jessica and Scott leads Mariposa back down the walkway.

JESSICA

Did you see that ride? That was incredible! I can't believe we-

Suzanne intercepts their path, accompanied by a GROOM.

SUZANNE

Fantastic work today.

JESSICA

Thank you!

SUZANNE

We'll keep the horse here now; get her used to a more... distracting environment before the Grand Prix.

The groom reaches for the reins. Jessica hesitates but Scott rests a hand on her arm.

SCOTT

Let 'em take 'er, Jess. You can check on 'er tomorrow.

She reluctantly releases her and watches as she's led away. Scott slips his arm around her waist and pulls her in.

SCOTT (CONT'D)

Proud of you for facin' yer fears.

He kisses her and she melts in his embrace.

SCOTT (CONT'D)

I love you.

Fear resurfaces as her gaze locks onto his patient eyes.

SCOTT (CONT'D)

(whispering)
You can say it, Jess.

She stuffs the fear down and forces the words.

JESSICA

I love you.

He kisses her again, then directs her down the path with a protective hand around her waist. She looks over her shoulder to see Mariposa looking back at her as they're led apart.

140 EXT. GRANDMA'S CABIN/PATIO - DAY

140

Beth sits on the porch bench, tissue paper in hand, eyes red and puffy, when Jessica approaches.

JESSICA

Thanks for staying with her.

BETH

Wish I could do more. She won't talk to me; I'm the enemy.

JESSICA

You're not the enemy. Neither is she. Alzheimer's is the real enemy. If you forget that, you're fighting the wrong battle.

BETH

What am I doing wrong, Jess? The harder I try the less it matters.

Jessica glances at her watch, but then sits beside her mom.

JESSICA

I think you're doing your best.

BETH

Then why do I feel detached from the people I love the most?

She looks directly at Jessica, searching her gaze. Jessica takes a breath, daring herself to search old memories...

JESSICA

When dad left, I didn't just lose one parent. I sorta lost you too.

BETH

Lost me? I was providing for us, Jess. I was taking care of you.

JESSICA

There's a difference between care
and caring.

BETH

I worked so you could pursue your
dreams, something I couldn't do!

JESSICA

And I'm grateful! I am. It's just,
taking care of someone is not the
same as being there for someone.

Confused, Beth mulls this over as Jessica bears her heart.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

You've always taken care of things,
Mom. But you were never there.
Maybe grandma feels the same way.

The wheels are turning in Beth's mind as she considers...

141 INT. GRANDMA'S CABIN/JESSICA'S ROOM - DUSK 141

Jessica marks *Week 11* at 5'5" - finally matching their goals!

142 EXT. HOME Paddock - DAY 142

Eulene's hair has been freshly washed and curled. She leans
against the fence, admiring the trees, while Jessica forks
hay to the horses and fills the water trough.

EULENE

(quoting poetry)

*I think that I shall never see a
poem as lovely as a tree! A tree
whose hungry mouth is pressed
against the earth's sweet flowing
breast. A tree that looks at God
all day and lifts its leafy arms to
pray. Poems were made by fools like
me but only God can make a-*

Distracted, Eulene bends down to pluck a fluffy white
dandelion. She holds it up to Jessica's face.

EULENE (CONT'D)

Make a wish!

JESSICA

C'mon, Grams, they're just weeds.

EULENE

What do you want most of all?

Jessica takes the flower with an obligated SIGH.

JESSICA

To win the Grand Prix this weekend.
So my life can finally begin.

Jessica blows the seeds into the wind and watches them float freely into the sky. Eulene picks another flower, takes Jessica's hand, squeezes her eyes shut and blows.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

What did you wish for?

EULENE

To remember this moment forever.

JESSICA

(touched, moved)
That's a perfect wish.

EULENE

(concerned)
I have something to tell you, my
dear, but you mustn't tell a soul.

Curious, Jessica listens as Eulene leans in, hushed.

EULENE (CONT'D)

I think I'm losing my memory.

JESSICA

Oh? I won't tell anyone.

They go in for a loving little head bump then gaze out together toward the sun that begins to set over the pasture.

143

INT. SAUNDERS EQUESTRIAN CENTER/BARN - DAY

143

Jessica strides into the barn and WHISTLES her Mariposa call. Suzanne steps into the aisle.

SUZANNE

Ah, Jessica. There's been a change
of plans. Someone saw her at the
clinic and gave me an offer I
couldn't refuse.

Suzanne hands Jessica an envelope of hundred dollar bills.

SUZANNE (CONT'D)

You agreed to work for free but considering the new arrangement I feel it's fair to backpay you for your time. And I'd like to offer you a position as a rider, no more mucking out stalls. How about that?

The fire of betrayal blazes in Jessica's eyes.

JESSICA

You sold my horse.

SUZANNE

It's just business. We were going under, I needed a fast return.

JESSICA

Who took her?

SUZANNE

I'm not at liberty to say.

Jessica is devastated. Suzanne feels a twinge of guilt.

SUZANNE (CONT'D)

Oh, Jess... Horses come and go all the time. It's hard at first but you'll get used to it, we all do...

Her voice muffles as Jessica walks out in a daze.

144 EXT. SAUNDERS EQUESTRIAN CENTER/ARENA - DAY

144

Jessica floats down the path to the arena where it all began.

INTERCUT FLASHBACKS of Jessica and Mariposa first connecting, running side by side at liberty, leaping over the tree trunk.

She gazes out at the jump course, quiet and deserted, and falls to her knees in despair.

145 INT. GRANDMA'S CABIN/JESSICA'S ROOM - DAY

145

Jessica paces anxiously as she talks on the phone.

JESSICA

Did you see who picked her up?
White aluminum trailer... great,
like every trailer ever. What else?

(pause)

It's fine... thanks Sophie.

She hangs up and tries another number.

JESSICA (CONT'D)
Amber, Mariposa's gone. Sold. Can
you please ask everyone you know?

146 INT. GRANDMA'S CABIN - DAY

146

Jessica aggressively chops vegetables. She glances at the wall calendar where "*The Grand Prix*" is the next day. Eulene attempts to make sense of the mess of papers on the table.

EULENE
Oh, it's useless...

She crosses out a line on one sheet, then looks to another sheet and regrets her choice, tries in vain to erase the pen. Humbled by her inability, her pleading gaze finds Jessica.

EULENE (CONT'D)
(vulnerable)
Jessy Joy? I can't seem to wrap my
mind around this. Can you help me?

JESSICA
Not today, Grams, I have my own
mess to sort out.

Feeling the pain of rejection, Eulene tries again to make sense of the papers... but pounds the table in frustration.

EULENE
I can't do it!

JESSICA
Well, don't do it then!

She storms out of the room, leaving Eulene flustered.

147 EXT. SCOTT'S CABIN - DAY

147

Jessica and Scott sit huddled on an old log.

JESSICA
She sold her without even telling
me, like I don't exist. I'm sick of
being invisible! Not just that...

SCOTT
I know... you loved that horse.

JESSICA

Feels like whenever I love
something it's ripped away from me.

He pulls her in for a hug.

SCOTT

Hey... How would ya like something
you never have to let go of?

Scott pulls a crumpled paper from his pocket.

SCOTT (CONT'D)

This isn't exactly ready yet but...

He nervously clears his throat.

SCOTT (CONT'D)

*The moment we met, just kids at the
start, I was drowning at sea, then
you captured my heart. I was lost
and forgotten 'til your warm,
gentle touch Made my heart flutter,
and I threw up my lunch.*

A giggle escapes her and light returns to her eyes.

SCOTT (CONT'D)

*Now you'll never be lonely, 'cause
I'll never be far. I'd rather be
trapped here with you then reach
for a thousand stars. So settle
down, my love, with me. We'll pass
our nights in ecstasy And spend our
days just you and me, two sailors
on an open sea.*

He drops the paper to take her hands, improvising the rest.

SCOTT (CONT'D)

*Forget that swanky ol' Grand Prix,
defining who you get to be. 'Cause
who you are is all I need, You
already exceed my every dream.*

He gets down on one knee.

SCOTT (CONT'D)

Jessica, will you marry me?

She gazes at him in astonishment, totally caught off guard.

JESSICA

I... Ah...

In the far distance, they hear a CRY of agony.

JESSICA (CONT'D)
It's Grandma!

They dash off as fast as they can!

148 EXT. GRANDMA'S CABIN - DAY

148

Jessica and Scott run to the scene where Eulene is laying at the bottom of the deck steps, screaming in pain.

JESSICA
Oh God, what happened?

Scott makes it to her side first and tries to calm her.

SCOTT
Alright, just lay still, Eulene.
(to Jessica)
Call an ambulance!

149 INT. HOSPITAL/INPATIENT ROOM - NIGHT

149

Jessica and Scott sit side-by-side by an empty hospital bed. She pulls her phone from her purse to find a missed call.

JESSICA
Grandma called me earlier.

She clicks on the voicemail and leaves the phone on speaker.

EULENE (S.O.)
(over phone, filtered)
Hello? This is Eulene. Is anybody there? Hello? Oh, please... Hello!

A gentle sorrow fills Jessica's eyes as the voice becomes more desperate. The call CLICKS off and leaves her gutted.

JESSICA
I should have been there. What's wrong with me?

SCOTT
It coulda happened to anyone.

Jessica breaks down, totally guilty.

JESSICA

She asked me to help with her book but I was angry about the Grand Prix. I'm so obsessed with trying to get somewhere that I can't simply be anywhere.

Scott massages her shoulders to try and relax her.

SCOTT

Good news is, she won't remember.

His goodnatured attempt to lighten the mood falls flat.

SCOTT (CONT'D)

Want me to stay with you tonight?

JESSICA

Thanks but... I could use some space. Got a lot to think about.

SCOTT

Okay. I'll be back in the morning.

He stands and steps out, leaving her in silence. The clock TICKS by thirty, forty-five, sixty minutes...

Jessica moves to the hospital bed where she lays with her eyes open, lost in thought, as TIME continues to pass...

Beth enters with a sleepover bag and pillow, sits by the bed.

JESSICA

I want to go home.

BETH

Then let me stay with her tonight.

JESSICA

No, I want to go back to Jessy Joy when her favorite thing in the world was cuddling up with Grandma and reading poetry, or riding the trails with Grandpa, or wishing on a dandelion, or jumping in puddles and rolling in leaves with my Mom.

She turns to look at Beth.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

How'd I lose that? When did riding go from what I love to do to what I have to do?

(MORE)

JESSICA (CONT'D)

I've been running blind toward a
finish line I can never reach...
and I'm tired of running.

BETH

Then why don't you stop?

JESSICA

I don't know how.

BETH

You need a break. Let me stay.

JESSICA

No, I'll stay.

She sits up on the bed.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

When I was little, Grandma used to
take me grocery shopping. One day,
I got lost in the store and all I
could see were strange people and
long hallways. I was so scared, I
thought I was lost forever. I cried
until she found me, picked me up
and held me tight. I felt so safe,
wrapped up in her arms.

(pause)

Now she's the little girl in the
store... and I'm her safe place.

Touched, Beth takes Jessica's hand.

BETH

Then I'll be your safe place.

They share a moment before a panicked Eulene is wheeled in.

EULENE

Hello?!

JESSICA

I'm right here, Grandma.

Jessica hurries to her side. Relief floods Eulene's face as
she grabs her and pulls her in like she'll never let go.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

(muffled)

I'm not going anywhere, promise.

At last Eulene releases her and looks at Beth, urgently.

EULENE
May I go home now, nurse?

Beth and Jessica exchange a pained glance.

BETH
Mom, it's me.

The surgeon steps into the room.

SURGEON
You must be Ms. Rae?

BETH
Please, call me Beth.

SURGEON
Beth, the surgery was successful
but we'll need to monitor her and
begin physiotherapy. She won't be
discharged anytime soon.

BETH
Thank you.

The surgeon leaves the room.

EULENE
I have a daughter named Beth.

BETH
What if I said I am your daughter?

EULENE
Oh no, my Beth has the most
beautiful smile. She plays music.
Sings with the voice of an angel.

BETH
You liked her music?

EULENE
Oh, yes!

Eulene lets out a sad sigh.

EULENE (CONT'D)
It's been ages since I've seen her.
Don't suppose she knows where I am.

Beth is gutted.

150 INT. BETH'S CONDO - NIGHT 150

Beth steps into the house and hangs her coat. She walks to the living room and flicks on a light. Her gaze falls on the lonely guitar in the corner. Eventually, she musters up the resolve to pick it up and begins tuning the old strings.

151 INT. HOSPITAL/INPATIENT ROOM - NIGHT 151

Jessica folds the armchair into a cot and lays out a blanket. Eulene appears to be asleep. Jessica sits crosslegged, her empty gaze fixed on the IV machine DRIPPING methodically.

JESSICA

*I am powerful. I am resilient. I am
courageous. I am a-*

Her voice cracks. She taps her phone to see the background picture: *a selfie with Mariposa*. She kneels beside her bed to fold her hands and close her eyes...

JESSICA (CONT'D)

Help me... I don't know what to do.

152 INT. HOSPITAL/INPATIENT ROOM - DAY 152

Eulene pokes at her breakfast while Jessica dozes in the chair. A TEXT comes from Amber: *"Why didn't you call Finn?"*

She taps on the photo text to see the scrap of Finn's business card that missed the trash can. Confused, she texts back as Beth enters the room, guitar case in tow.

BETH

How was your night?

JESSICA

(groggy)

If nurses actually cared about people, they wouldn't wake us up every single hour to check vitals.

EULENE

Oh, be nice, nurses are angels.

Eulene reaches a hand out to Beth.

EULENE (CONT'D)

Angels. If I was a millionaire, I'd reward you. May I go home today?

A TEXT pulls Jessica's attention to her phone. Her eyes widen as she processes... Scott walks into the room with a bouquet.

SCOTT
Morning, beautiful!
(noticing Beth)
Ms. Rae.

Jessica's eyes narrow as she analyzes him suspiciously.

153

EXT. HOSPITAL/ATRIUM - DAY

153

Scott attempts to catch up with Jessica's fast pace.

SCOTT
Jessica! Hey, slow down!

She finally spins around to face him, shows him the picture.

JESSICA
Do you have something to tell me?

A look of recognition dawns on his face. He tries to play it down but one look at Jessica's defiant eyes says he's caught.

SCOTT
I'm not gonna lie to ya, Jess, I saw the way he looked at you.

She's taken aback by his jealous response.

JESSICA
He's an Olympian, he coaches champions!

SCOTT
You were smitten by him too, weren't ya?

JESSICA
He wasn't interested in hitting on me, Scott, he wanted to offer me an apprenticeship. But he chose someone else now.

SCOTT
Guys always have ulterior motives.

JESSICA
So that's why you showed up at my Grandma's place every day. It was never about helping her, was it? It was about getting me.

SCOTT

You know that's not true.

JESSICA

Do I? How can I trust you if "guys
always have ulterior motives?"

He steps closer, hands extended in an *I-come-in-peace* stance.

SCOTT

Hey, hey, hey... Look at me, Jess.
It's me. Your Scott. The man who
loves you more than life; who'd die
for you. You know you can trust me.

He wraps her fingers around the bouquet; a peace offering.

JESSICA

No, I don't know that... Thank you
for all your help with Grandma.
We'll take it ourselves from here.

Flowers in hand, she turns and walks away.

SCOTT

You are so selfish!

She stops in her tracks, turns around.

SCOTT (CONT'D)

If I hadn't thrown out that card,
you'd be halfway around the world
right now, chasing an empty dream
and leaving your grandma to rot!

JESSICA

I'm selfish? You have a gift,
Scott. You're brilliant. You have
skills the world desperately needs-

SCOTT

Don't give me that.

JESSICA

The way you flaunt your laziness
and bury your potential is an
insult to your Creator! That's why
it's not me who's selfish, Scott.

Having heard enough, he tosses his hands up and marches off.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

It is not me!

She storms the opposite way and tosses the flowers out... then reaches back into the bin to retrieve them.

154 INT. HOSPITAL/INPATIENT ROOM - DAY

154

Eulene observes Beth as she strums at the guitar, playing a tune pure and sweet, singing with the voice of an angel.

BETH

*It hurts to know you'll never
remember all the things I'll never
forget. I miss you most when we're
together, at times as if we've
never met.*

Beth looks into Eulene's eyes and sings directly to her. Jessica steps in with the flowers but watches from the door.

BETH (CONT'D)

*But I know your Heartsong and I'll
sing it when you've forgotten, each
note a star to light your way.
Shining with goodness, surrounded
by mercy, all the days, all of your
days, all the way home...*

A look of recognition dawns in Eulene's eyes and her gentle hand comes up to cover her mouth in emotional disbelief.

EULENE

Beth! You're home! Where have you been, dear?

She reaches out to grasp Beth's hand lovingly.

BETH

I'm here now. Thanks for finding me. I won't lose myself again.

EULENE

I've missed you.

BETH

I've missed you more.

EULENE

So much I've wanted to tell you.

BETH

Tell me, Momma. Tell me everything.

Happy tears fill Jessica's eyes at the sight.

MUSIC CUE: "Love's Great Equation" by Karla Anderson.

- 155 INT. GRANDMA'S CABIN - DAY 155
 Jessica gathers the papers from the table. She notices Eulene's last entry with a twinge of regret: "Lost. Alone. Forsaken." On the calendar, she crosses off "The Grand Prix."
- 156 INT. GRANDMA'S CABIN/OFFICE - DAY 156
 Jessica scrolls through her grandma's email inbox, copying and pasting emails to a document and printing them.
- 157 INT. HOSPITAL/INPATIENT ROOM - NIGHT 157
 Jessica steps in to find Beth and Eulene asleep together on the bed. A smile of deep satisfaction warms Jessica's face. The flower bouquet brightens the room by the window.
- 158 INT. HOSPITAL/INPATIENT ROOM - NIGHT (LATER) 158
 Alone with a sleeping Eulene, Jessica kneels by her cot and closes her eyes to pray. The clock changes from 9:00 to 9:45 to 10:30. At last, she opens the binder and begins physically cutting and pasting lines, writing notes, circling sentences.
- 159 INT. HOSPITAL/INPATIENT ROOM - DAY 159
 Jessica sits by Eulene and reads from the notebook while Eulene finishes half her lunch, then trades the other half of the meal for the notes, continues reading. Beth plays guitar.
- 160 INT. HOSPITAL/INPATIENT ROOM - NIGHT 160
 Jessica has dozed off in her chair with the papers on her lap. Stretching stiffly, she stands to pull her chair into a cot - and notices Eulene's newly finished crochet piece.
 She lifts it to examine it. More like a circle than a square, one color bluntly outlined by another. Time is running out. Jessica props her bed back up into a chair and keeps working.
- 161 EXT. HOSPITAL/GARDEN - DAY 161
 Beth pushes Eulene's wheelchair through the gardens. Jessica jogs over to them to run an idea by Eulene who nods her approval. Jessica walks to a bench, making notes as she goes.

162 INT. HOSPITAL/INPATIENT ROOM - DAY

162

Eulene reads from the binder and Jessica types it up.

With Beth, they seal the printed manuscript in an envelope.

END MUSIC CUE.

163 INT. HORIZON STAGE - DAY

163

A spotlight shines on a dark stage where Eulene sits in her wheelchair, Jessica beside her. A second spotlight is on Beth who fingerpicks an emotional guitar melody. A stack of books sits on a table: "*Letters of Hope*". Eulene reads from one.

EULENE

*We should not then be surprised
when we sometimes feel imprisoned
by the circumstances in which we
find ourselves...*

Her presentation lacks her earlier vigour and dynamic storytelling qualities, but the words come from her heart. Jessica gazes at her in deep admiration, beaming with pride.

EULENE (CONT'D)

*When we feel restrained by our
human limitations; when we greatly
desire to be liberated from the
'chrysalis' that confines us. When
our hearts long for more than our
minds can define...*

Tears catch in her throat. She finds a tissue in her pocket, but loses her place on the page. Jessica points it out.

EULENE (CONT'D)

*For in time, our chrysalis will
come to an end and give way to our
grand metamorphosis.*

The music ends and the APPLAUSE of an adoring crowd responds. Eulene suddenly notices the dozens of faces surrounding her.

EULENE (CONT'D)

(to Jessica)
Who wrote this?

JESSICA

You did.

Eulene looks surprised, amazed.

EULENE
This is my book?

She flips it over to see her picture on the back. Jessica nods proudly and Eulene holds the book close to her heart.

Hidden among the still-applauding crowd is Henry, his glassy eyes beaming with love and adoration.

164

INT. HORIZON STAGE/SIGNING TABLE - DAY

164

The lights are up and a lineup of people buy books from Beth, then step over to have them signed by Eulene.

SHARON
I'm Sharon.

Eulene autographs the book to "Sharon."

SHARON (CONT'D)
You don't remember me but I'm...
(her voice cracks)
My daughter loved your poetry.

She produces a photo of Emily. Jessica recognizes her.

JESSICA
Grandma! This is the lady who
inspired you to write this book!

EULENE
She did?

She hands the signed book to Sharon who clutches it lovingly.

SHARON
Emily passed away last month.

Jessica is impacted by the news. Eulene studies her picture.

JESSICA
Then she got her wings...

Sharon nods, fighting back tears. A motherly Eulene lovingly reaches out and Sharon leans down to hug her.

SHARON
(referring to the book)
Thanks for this. I'll cherish it.

165 INT. NURSING HOME/HALLWAY - DAY 165

Beth wheels Eulene down the long hallway, Jessica skipping excitedly beside her. Henry's portrait sits on Eulene's lap.

EULENE
Where are we going?

JESSICA
It's a surprise!

166 INT. NURSING HOME/SUITE - CONTINUOUS 166

They turn a corner into a room with familiar decor - Eulene's favourite rocking chair and side table, butterflies, photos.

EULENE
This looks familiar. Is this home?

HENRY (O.S.)
It is now.

Henry shuffles around the corner, his joyful face alight.

EULENE
Henry?

With her gaze locked on his face in disbelief, Eulene heaves herself out of the wheelchair and steps into his arms.

HENRY
Welcome home, darling.

He plants a loving kiss on her lips. Tears of joy well up in Eulene's eyes as she rests her head on his shoulder.

167 EXT. NURSING HOME/VERANDA - DAY 167

Jessica overlooks a lush garden where children play ball with their grandparents, elderly couples stroll, a family enjoys a picnic. Henry steps out, rests a hand on Jessica's shoulder.

HENRY
Thank you. For taking care of my
love when I couldn't.

JESSICA
I've been waiting so long to be
free... and now that I am, I don't
know if I want to be.

She turns to face him, fighting back tears.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

What am I gonna do without her?

HENRY

I ask myself that every day. But living in fear is no way to live. I don't want to miss another moment.

JESSICA

Why does Alzheimer's have to take her? It's so unfair.

HENRY

The better question is, what will you do with it? Will you live with bitterness, angry that it happened? Or will you let it build your character to match your calling?

He places a trinket snugly in her hands. She opens her fingers to reveal a glass butterfly.

JESSICA

"Wings are formed in tight places."

HENRY

And yours have been. So fly!

She opens the wings of the butterfly to find a set of keys.

HENRY (CONT'D)

We want you to have the acreage.

Jessica stares at the keys in disbelief.

JESSICA

Oh, Grandpa...

HENRY

Do something wonderful with it, my dear. Carry on her legacy!

They hug. Then Jessica stares at the keys, pondering ideas.

168

EXT. NURSING HOME/GARDENS - DAY

168

Henry pushes Eulene's wheelchair along the trails surrounded by trees and gardens. Jessica and Beth watch, hearts full.

EULENE

"I think that I shall never see a poem as lovely as a tree."

(MORE)

EULENE (CONT'D)
*A tree that looks at God all day
 and lifts its leafy arms to pray.*
 Oh, ah...

Her forehead scrunches as she wrestles to find the words.

HENRY
"Poems were made by fools like me--"

HENRY AND EULENE (CONT'D)
"But only God can make a tree."

A CHILD tosses a ball and Eulene catches it.

EULENE (CONT'D)
 Oooop! Keep it up!

She laughs and tosses it back. Henry picks a flower, hands it to her. He kisses her cheek and they continue down the path.

169 EXT. SCOTT'S DRIVEWAY - DAWN 169

Jessica strolls down the road, enjoying a morning sunrise. She spots a "For Sale" sign posted on Scott's driveway.

170 EXT. SCOTT'S CABIN - DAY 170

Scott hauls garbage to a trash bin.

JESSICA
 Where will you go?

SCOTT
 Got accepted into the Health Sciences program at McMaster University.

JESSICA
 What? That's amazing, Scott!

SCOTT
 You weren't wrong, I have been holdin' myself back. I don't wanna keep askin' "what if". I think I can really help some people.

JESSICA
 I know you can... You weren't wrong either. I was so obsessed with my future that I didn't realize I was living in black and white.

(MORE)

JESSICA (CONT'D)
 You helped me learn to live in
 color. I would have missed it
 without you.

She gazes at him with gratitude. He pulls her in for a hug,
 rests his chin on her head, neither one in a hurry to let go.

SCOTT
 (whispering)
 Ask me to stay. I love you. I'll
 never stop loving you.

JESSICA
 I love you too. But love doesn't
 make two people right for each
 other if they're not. Sometimes you
 have to love enough to let go.

She finally wills herself to step back and let go.

JESSICA (CONT'D)
 Goodbye, Scott. I'll never forget
 what you've done for me. For us.

He nods, accepting her thanks, then watches her walk away.
 Eyes to the sky, he searches for strength. He grabs a beer
 bottle, stares at it... then hucks it away.

171 EXT. SCOTT'S DRIVEWAY - DAY 171

Jessica waits until she's out of sight before breaking down.
 It's not an easy goodbye...

172 EXT. GRANDMA'S CABIN - DAY 172

Jessica and Beth hoist a wood-burned sign - "*Heartsong
 Equestrian Retreat Center*" - by the driveway, the log cabin
 in the distance. They stand back to admire it.

BETH
 Mom's place was always warm, always
 peaceful, always a refuge. And it
 always will be.

Jessica takes her mom's hand and they share the moment.

173 EXT. FOREST TRAIL - DAY 173

Jessica takes a few guests for a trail ride on Grandpa's
 horses and teaches them Eulene's tree poem.

174 EXT. GRANDMA'S CABIN - DAY 174

A guest cozies up in a hammock outside the cabin, reading Eulene's book, *"Letters of Hope"*.

175 EXT. GAZEBO - NIGHT 175

Guests enjoy a meal in a rustic wooden gazebo where Beth serenades them with her guitar and angelic voice. A male guitarist accompanies her. They exchange a fond smile.

176 EXT. GRANDMA'S CABIN - DAY 176

A cheerful couple, DERRICK and SHERRY, 40s, emerge with their suitcases. Jessica and Beth walk over to shake their hands.

BETH

How was your weekend?

DERRICK

This was just what we needed!

SHERRY

What an incredible place! Something about it, it's like... it changed our perspective on life.

Derrick nods. Jessica and Beth exchange a knowing glance.

INSERT: GUEST BOOK

Flipping through pages of the guestbook, VOICES overlapping.

GUEST #1 (V.O.)

We leave here with such gratitude in our hearts, simply blessed!

GUEST #2 (V.O.)

We needed an escape, what we found was so much more!

GUEST #3 (V.O.)

Memories that will last a lifetime.

GUEST #4 (V.O.)

Thank you for helping us regain our faith in humanity.

GUEST #5 (V.O.)

This experience has reminded us of who we are as people.

177 EXT. NURSING HOME/GARDENS - DAY

177

Henry wheels Eulene along the paths where Jessica meets them.

SUPERIMPOSE: "1 Year Later"

Jessica hugs her grandpa then kneels down to her grandma's height to look into her eyes, but Eulene's gaze is empty.

JESSICA

It's me, Grams. Jessica.

Eulene kindly offers up her crochet piece; not much more than a tangled knot of black yarn. Jessica casts a brokenhearted gaze to her grandpa who shares her pain.

178 INT. NURSING HOME/SUITE - DAY

178

Sitting across from Eulene's wheelchair, Jessica reads from "Letters of Hope" while Henry sadly paces the room.

JESSICA

*Yet, at midnight, lying on the
dungeon floor with their backs
bleeding, their heads aching, the
two prisoners sang praises to God.
(singing)
Great is Thy faithfulness. Morning
by morning new mercies I see.*

Eulene's weak voice joins in.

EULENE AND JESSICA (CONT'D)

*All I have needed thy hand hath
provided. Great is Thy
faithfulness, Lord unto me.*

A light has returned to Eulene's eyes when she turns to look directly at Jessica, an inquisitive expression on her face.

EULENE (CONT'D)

(weakly)
Who... who...

JESSICA

Who am I?

A weak nod from Eulene.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

I'm your granddaughter. You used to call me Jessy Joy.

Eulene's eyes go wide with amazement.

EULENE
You're my Jessy Joy?

Henry steps near and she weakly grabs his arm.

EULENE (CONT'D)
Henry, do you know who this is!?

A smile on Henry's fond face.

HENRY
I'll say!

Eulene holds Jessica's face with two frail hands and pulls her in for a head bump.

EULENE
I'll love you forever and ever,
Jessy Joy. Forever and ever.

179 EXT. CEMETERY - DAY

179

Beth, Henry and Amber are among the funeral guests. The man who played guitar with Beth in the gazebo earlier is holding her hand. Jessica reads a poem from "*Letters of Hope*".

JESSICA
*"You have confined me in this
Chrysalis of Time, to work Your
sovereign will and purpose so
sublime; To give to me Your life,
my spirit to renew. To change me...*

A BUTTERFLY lands on the casket as Eulene's voice overlaps...

EULENE (V.O.)
*...To change me from within, to
make me more like You. Transformed
by grace divine into Your image
fair, I shall come forth at last,
Your glory then to share."*

Flowers are tossed onto the casket and the BUTTERFLY flutters away into the blue sky and to freedom...

180 EXT. HOME PADDOCK - DUSK

180

Jessica gazes out at the horses grazing in the sunset. Her phone rings: Amber. She answers.

JESSICA
Hey friend.

AMBER
I found Mariposa!

181 EXT. MANICURED PASTURE - DAY 181

Jessica strides through a pasture with Bart, the wealthy businessman from the riding clinic, and his wife, HELLEN, 45.

BART
She can be hard to catch...

Mariposa grazes in the distance. Jessica whistles her familiar call and the mare lifts her head... then gallops over and wraps her neck around Jessica in a big horsey hug!

HELLEN
Well, I'll be...

The owners exchange an astonished glance.

182 EXT. FANCY STABLE YARD - DAY 182

Grooms lead fancy horses to and from the stables where Jessica and Mariposa stand with Bart and Hellen.

BART
We'd like you to be Mariposa's rider. For as long as you'd like.

Hellen hands her a sheet of paper.

BART (CONT'D)
That's her competition schedule. We'll be starting here at Spruce Meadows, touring to Germany, Switzerland, the Netherlands...

HELLEN
We'll cover entry fees, accommodations, and you'll get a split of the winnings. Fair?

Jessica gazes at it, stunned; a dream come true. Words evade her so she simply nods. Bart and Hellen share a smile.

BART
Young lady, your life is about to begin!

JESSICA

No sir... my life began a long time ago. I just didn't realize it then.

Mariposa nuzzles Jessica's cheek.

BART

You two have lots of catching up to do. We'll work out details later.

Bart and Hellen walk off. Jessica's gaze catches a dandelion at her feet. She plucks it. Closing her eyes, she makes a wish, blowing the seeds into the wind...

183

EXT. SPRUCE MEADOWS EQUESTRIAN CENTER/ARENA - DAY

183

...and the wind blows Jessica and Mariposa into a grand arena filled with an electric atmosphere where spectators CHEER!

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

First up is Jessica Rae and Mariposa from Meraki Stables to kick off the tournament!

A FLAGMAN signals the clock to start as they begin the course. The crowd watches in awe as they navigate the obstacles with split-second decisions and perfect timing.

With the clock ticking the seconds away, they clear the final combination and fly home to thunderous APPLAUSE! The clock stops and spectators spring to their feet.

Ecstatic, Jessica pats Mariposa's neck, sharing the moment of triumph with her faithful companion as they take a victory gallop around the arena!

184

EXT. SPRUCE MEADOWS EQUESTRIAN CENTER/ARENA - DAY (LATER)

184

A podium has been set up in the arena where Jessica stands beside Mariposa who's wearing the winner's blanket. The ANNOUNCER hands a golden trophy to Jessica.

ANNOUNCER

Jessica Rae! What advice do you have for young riders out there?

He holds the mic out. Still catching her breath, she replies.

JESSICA

Well... if you have a dream that won't leave you alone, I believe it's yours to protect and pursue.

Young riders in the audience lean in and listen intently.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

But just know that the point of a
dream isn't achieving the dream.
What it's really about, is the
places it takes you...

185 EXT. FLOWERY MEADOW - DAY

185

Mariposa grazes in a lush meadow where Jessica lays on her
back, head cushioned on her rump, gazing up at a clear sky.

JESSICA (V.O.)

...the person it makes you, and the
love you share along the way.

A BUTTERFLY flutters overhead...

FADE OUT.