

JEMEA MEDIA PRODUCTIONS

AWAY FROM HOME

FICTIONAL IMAGINATIONAL STORY INSPIRED BY LIFE.

JEMEA STUDIOS

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FADE IN:

1. EXT. ROAD OUTSIDE VICKY'S HOME-MORNING

The sun rises over a suburban row of well arrayed houses. People are on their usual power-walk while some dogs bark as they follow their owners in retrieving mails. Background Music Plays at minimal Volume, as a teen on a bicycle runs across the road and hits a mailbox of a particular house. As he falls away mischievously..

CUT TO:

2. INT. VICKY'S HOME-DAY

It is a garish apartment with African fabric sown on pillows and other artifacts hung on the wall... One could immediately tell it is an African home in the suburban street.

Then framed pictures. WE SEE one of VICKY, 35, black woman with a beautiful and radiating smile fully seizing the attention to herself. Alongside her is her GRANDMOTHER, 70s with a vanishing smile that struggles to hold still while she poses with her dearest grandchild Vicky. Then another frame of Vicky and MARK, late 30s, Black man. The picture shows him laying a kiss on Vicky's cheeks as she smiles.

A family picture of PEARL, JOHN and ANNA 6, 4 and 3 (Vicky and Mark's children) with their loving parents.

Vicky is seen tidying her living room. Remotes, numerous toys, stuffed animals, cushions all over the place. She sighs every now and then and as she bends to pick up a toy, we hear a crashing sound.

She turns quickly and sees her kids with one of the Picture frames. John standing next to a broken frame of Vicky with her grandmother. The kids are frozen in fear as she slowly towards them slowly obviously processing her thoughts and hoping her picture isn't broken.

VICKY

What have you all done?

She picks up the cracked frame. John tries helping her with the pieces. She immediately stops him.

VICKY

Don't!

He recoils. Vicky silently walks to her room; ignoring their apologies.

CUT TO:

3. INT. VICKY'S ROOM-CONTINUOUS

Vicky sits on her bed while holding the broken frame. She brings out her phone under the pillow and dials a number. It goes through. She takes a beat then speaks.

VICKY

Hello!

Like she's scared of hearing from the person, the person responds. It is her grandmother.

GRANDMOTHER

My child!

While hearing her voice, it almost breaks her emotions, but same time she is woven by joy of excitement as she speaks to her grandmother.

VICKY

Mama! How are you?

GRANDMOTHER

I haven't heard your voice for a while, my heart is filled with joy.

VICKY

Me too! The children take up my life and I barely have time for myself.

GRANDMOTHER

When are you going to bring them home? I want to see my grandchildren before I join my ancestors.

Vicky takes a while before replying.

VICKY

Soon mama! Soon!

GRANDMOTHER

I also want to see you.

On hearing this, tears burst out of Vicky's eyes, she cries softly.

GRANDMOTHER

Are you crying?

VICKY

No mama! I will come! I would come! I miss you So much.

GRANDMOTHER

Then stop crying.

VICKY

I have stopped Mama!

Wipes away tears.

VICKY

Good bye for now. I will call you again...

GRANDMOTHER

Okay! Take care of yourself!

She nods head and hangs up. She looks up and sees a saddened John at the door. He walks into her arms for a loving hug.

JOHN

Sorry mommy!

Vicky kisses his forehead then tickles his ribs, he laughs and giggles.

VICKY

Who is the spider Man that broke my picture?

As she plays with her son, WE still see some unfading sadness lingering in her eyes.

CUT TO:

4. INT.DINING-

Day

Vicky dishes out plantains and omelets to her kids. She goes back to the kitchen.

VICKY

Mark, I prepared something really special for you!

MARK

Oh yeah? Mmm!

Crushing his palms in anticipation as he looks the kids. Vicky comes back from the kitchen with a pot of soup.

VICKY

I was thinking about my grandmother so I made one of my favorite dishes she used to cook for me. I hope you like it!

MARK

I am dying to try it!

Vicky looks at the kids who are already eating

VICKY

Mark? They didn't pray!!

MARK

Kids, stop making mommy mad.
Pearl you are to say grace every time !

PEARL

But dad, it's not fair. Why not John? Why me all the time?

VICKY

Because you will be a mommy of your own home someday little woman!

He gently pinches her cheek and Vicky serves his food.

Mark tries goes for the food but Vicky stops his hand.

VICKY

Grace! Pearl say the prayer.

Pearl leads the prayer and the rest of the family joins in. Mark tries the food. No reaction. Tries it again and frowns.

Vicky notices.

VICKY

Do you like it?

MARK

I mean it looks good. But I don't understand the taste!

Vicky pauses and feigns a smile.

MARK

Honey, I hope you are not mad?

He touches her hand. She quickly gets up, slightly pushing away his hand while packing up Mark's plate and hers. She heads out to the kitchen with them.

CUT TO:

5. INT. KITCHEN-CONTINUOUS.

Vicky pours the food in the trash can galling about it.

VICKY

Put so much work in this for nothing! No appreciation! I feel like nobody appreciates me.

She takes the dirty dishes to the sink. As she stares at them Mark hugs her from behind.

MARK

I didn't mean to hurt you.

VICKY

It's just that---

MARK

You sound and look stressed. What is happening?

VICKY

The kids broke the picture of mama and me. Practically shattered it. This is the world telling me how broken my relationship with my grandmother has become.

VICKY

Hey, you're too pretty to be stressed! Look at me...

She turns to him.

MARK

I have a very beautiful wife and I wouldn't want wrinkles on your face because of stress. So do one thing for me.

VICKY

What?

MARK

Smile!

She smiles gently. Mark lays his kisses on the nape of her neck.

MARK

That's my girl!

Places a kiss on her lips and as he goes for more, we see the kids at the door. Their faces in disgust. Both parents explode into laughter and head for the kids.

CUT TO:

6. INT. KID'S ROOM-NIGHT.

Vicky sits on Pearl's bed with Anna in her arms. Anna holds her favorite doll tightly to her chest. John and Pearl who are lying down listen to their mother's bedtime story.

VICKY

My grandmother used to tell me this story---

JOHN

Mum I wanna meet your grandma!

PEARL

Me too! You always talk about her, but you don't let us see her. She must have a lot of stories to tell us. I wish she was here.

VICKY

Me too

PEARL

All my friends at school have grandma who visits them and bring them stuff. But not me!

VICKY

(Smiles)

I will tell grandma to send you stuff she makes. How does that sound?

PEARL

Are you sure?

Vicky nods and smiles and then gently...

VICKY

Once a upon a time ---

John interrupts.

JOHN

And they lived happily ever after!

Vicky laughs.

VICKY

I see you don't want to hear any
story.

PEARL

I am getting old!

She chuckles and covers pearl up. She takes Anna to her own bed and tucks her in and begins to sing a folklore in her dialect. The children fall fast asleep. She kisses each one of them on the forehead. As she pulls back from Pearl, the little girl touches her cheek and whispers

PEARL

I love you mommy!

VICKY

I love you more!

She places her hand back under the duvet and heads for the door while looking back severally.

CUT TO:

7. INT. VICKY'S ROOM-NIGHT.

Vicky walks inside her room. Mark immediately sits up from the bed

VICKY
Not sleeping?

MARK
Not anymore. Why do you always
take hours to put them in bed?

VICKY
Jealous?

Crawling up to the bed. She falls in his arms and he kisses
her neck.

MARK
Almost but then I remember you
will always run back to this soft
bed and keep warm next to me.

VICKY
They don't like my stories
anymore.

MARK
Not surprised. They are growing up
so fast.

VICKY
Scary!

Vicky's phone rings.

MARK
Who could that be at this hour?

She picks up the call. Listens in silence and then...

VICKY
Please take care of her.

She drops her phone and painfully curls into a fetal position.

MARK

What happened?

She doesn't reply.

MARK

Honey talk to me

VICKY

My grandmother! She passed out.
They say she hasn't spoken for
hours.

Mark embraces her as she breaks down

8. INT. KID'S ROOM-DAY.

The children are getting ready for school. Vicky who is dressed in scrubs quickly finishes a braid in Pearl's hair, grabs her youngest child and heads for the door.

VICKY

Grab your stuff, meet me
downstairs.

DOWNSTAIRS

Vicky hands over launch box as an irritated Mark walks in.

MARK

Vicky, why did you withdraw \$2000?

VICKY

To send it home?

MARK

And you didn't see the need to
tell me?

Vicky lowers her voice.

VICKY

Not in front of the kids...

A SCHOOL BUS pulls up outside. Both children kiss their Barents and dash outside.
As soon as the bus pulls away, Vicky turns to her husband angrily.

VICKY

You screamed at me in front of the kids when all I did was send money to my sick grandmother?

MARK

Communication! We could have at least talked about it. You always shut me out when it comes to your family.

VICKY

Sorry if you feel that way.

MARK

There you go again...

VICKY

What the fuck do you want from me?
You talk about communication but lacks proper manners of approach!

She barges out of the house. Mark hits his hand on the couch and walks out of the living room.

9. EXT. SUBURBAN STREET-CONTINUOUS.

Mark walks on the sidewalk with a tool box in his hand. He doesn't seem happy. He looks up and sees LUCY, Vicky's friend bumps into Vicky's friend jogging towards him

LUCY

What's with the long face?

MARK

I am heading to work.

LUCY

So?

MARK

Statistically all Americans hate
their jobs...

Lucy laughs.

LUCY

Well, I have never seen you
heading to work looking this
miserable.

MARK

Work, kids, wife, life...

LUCY

You don't need to tell me. My kids
wouldn't even let me work out.

MARK

We can go on all day long. And I
will be late for work!

LUCY

Alright! Have a nice day at work
Mark!

Briefly hugs him and jogs off while Mark stride's off
empathically.

10. INT. VICKY'S HOME-DAY.

A car pulls in to the garage. Vicky who is still in scrubs steps
out. He grabs his purse and a couple of grocery bags.

She struggles to close the door of her car with her leg-
grocery bags in her hands. She loses her grip on the bags
and some of the content falls out.

VICKY

Oh darn it!

11. INT. LIVING ROOM-DAY.

There is a NANNY playing with Anna while Pearl and John play with gun toys, splashing water out of the nozzles, giggling and hiding. Vicky walks in just at the wrong time only to be splashed water on her uniform. Everything slips out of her hands to the ground. She stares in disbelief!

PEARL

Mommy!

She runs off to her and hugs her beguiling her from punishing them.

JOHN

Mum we didn't see you coming!

Vicky holds back her temper and nudges pearl away. The nanny gets up and greets her.

VICKY

I have warned you kids about playing in the house. Guess what?

PEARL

We are grounded.

VICKY

No! Your great grandmother sent you guys knitted cardigans?

PEARL

What?

VICKY

Mmhhh!

She picks up the bag that contains the gifts and hands it to them. They excitedly collect them. Pearl sniffles her-- she doesn't feel alright. She sniffles harder.

PEARL

She didn't make these did she?

VICKY

Why would you say that?

PEARL

It smells like the store we buy clothes from.

She throws the cardigan on the couch and runs to her room.

VICKY

Pearl!

Runs after her.

CUT TO:

12. INT. PEARL'S ROOM - Day

Vicky opens the door quietly. Pearl is on her bed with clearly upset. Vicky sits on her bed, takes her face in her hands.

VICKY

You know I bought those?

Pearl nods.

VICKY

Your grandmother is very sick!

PEARL

Mommy!

VICKY

It's the truth! She can't speak. I didn't want you disappointed since you were expecting gifts from her. Baby I am sorry

PEARL

Then why can't we go and visit her?

VICKY

We are a long way from Africa. But soon we will! Okay.

PEARL

Okay!

Vicky hugs her tightly. She hears distant noises from the living room-- Mark's voice is heard laughing and playing with John and Anna.

PEARL (Continue)

Daddy!!

Runs for the door

13. INT.LIVINGROOM-DAY

WE follow pearl into the as she jumps her dad. Vicky leans against the door, hands crossed, smiling at the beautiful sight of her family laughing cheerfully. Mark hurling Anna in to his arms notices his wife and walks to her.

MARK

Hey

Without warning he snatches and hurls her over his shoulders. She shrieks and the children explode with gleeful laughter.

14. INT. CHURCH-

DAY.

In the middle of the church' congregation, Vicky, and family listens to the pastor's preaching about marriage.

PASTOR

Marriage is like honey, its sweet but something it Sting's. But its Sting's when we are not careful. When we neglect each other and act selfish.

Let me tell you a story of two friends who had gone to harvest honey. One climbed the tree; he plucked out the wax and threw them down for his friend to gather.

(MORE)

PASTOR (CONT'D)

Do you know what happened when he finished throwing them down?

Congregants' nod heads in denial.

PASTOR

He said—the one on the tree said “there are no wax again. I am done” And his friend replied—“I am also done” He asked—“done with what”? And his friend replied—“eating the honey”!

Everyone laugh. Vicky and her husband are seen laughing too.

PASTOR

When you practically care only about yourself, you ruin the rest of the relationship. God loves all of us. To the ladies, he is like your husband. But to us men, he is the way maker umm! So ladies be kind to your husbands and husbands stick out your necks for your wives. For

Vicky grabs her husband's hand and whispers in his ear.

VICKY

I am sorry!

MARK

Me too!

The service comes to an end. Vicky's children see Lucy's kids across the hall and all fidget to them excitedly while Lucy happily makes her way out to them.

LUCY

Victoria!

Hugs her.

VICKY

(Whispers)
You look great!

LUCY

And you look as always-- beautiful!

She turns to Mark.

LUCY

You look way better than the last
time I saw you Mark.

Vicky draws closer to her husband, leaning on him
practically.

VICKY

Do we still have happy days when we
have got 3 kids running around?

MARK

They almost broke my nose.

They all giggle.

15. INT. VICKY'S KITCHEN - NIGHT.

The annoying sound of two spoons being hit together is
coming from the kitchen. John who is also babbling
incoherently is the author of the noise. Mark serves him
some food which he ignores. He further serves it to pearl
but she's seen busy braiding her doll's hair. Mark looks at
Anna who doesn't seem to understand anything either. He puts
down the plate of food in his hand angrily.

MARK

Ok everyone enough. It is either
you eat or none of you will be
watching TV for a very long time. And
John, stop making that noise.

JOHN

I want mommy!

MARK

She will be here soon. Just eat
Pearl take that food, puts it in
your mouth and swallow.

PEARL

You can't force me dad. Mommy
wouldn't force me!

MARK

So daddy is the bad guy right?

The frustrated Mark opens the door and goes outside, anxiously looking around for Vicky.

16. EXT/INT.CAR-

NIGHT.

The STEERING WHEEL of a MINIVAN roughly swerved into the direction of Vicky's house. We see Mark through the WINDSCREEN hands on his hips.

Vicky parks and climb out of the car. She quickly comes out with a few groceries in her hands. She sees her husband standing all tensed. She sighs on reaching to him.

VICKY

Sorry I'm late! I had a terrible night with patients from the depths of hell.

MARK

Your kids wouldn't eat! I am late!

VICKY

Sorry baby! I got it from here. Go!

She plants a quick kiss on his cheek as she maneuvers her way into the kitchen.

MARK

Ok let me go safe my job. I love you.

VICKY

Love you too.

She hands over the keys to him and he picks up a tool box from its storage place in the garage, wears his work hat and heads for the car.

She watches him lovingly for a moment and then shuts the door behind her.

17. INT. VICKY'S HOME-CONTINUOUS.

The children all scream for her as she walks in. Pearl and John rush to their mother but Anna who can't climb down her sit pouts from being stuck to the chair.

JOHN

Why are you late mommy?

VICKY

Is that how you greet your mother!

She makes sure her grocery bags are securely on the table and kisses John and Pearl then heads for Anna

VICKY

My little mimimi! You missed mommy?

She sees the food and then look at them disapprovingly

VICKY (Continue)

Pearl, you are the oldest. When you don't eat they won't eat.

PEARL

But John was the noisiest...

Vicky glares at John.

JOHN

Hey!!! What did I do?

VICKY

Stop giving your dad trouble please.

The children look down guiltily.

VICKY

I am tired guys, so please do me a favor and finish everything up!

PEARL

Okay mommy!

Vicky walks over to the dining table and picks up an apple. Takes a bite and sits on the couch clearly exhausted. Her phone rings; she picks it up and listens.

She can barely hear as the children scream and fight.

She angrily bellows out on them.

VICKY

Can you just keep your voices down!

They go quiet for a split second and then John throws a broccoli at Pearl. She throws it back at him. Vicky nods her head emphatically and sniffs vainly. She puts down her phone and curls her feet to her belly, sadly curves into a sad mood. She closes her eyes and reminisce about the happy times with her Grandmother.

FLASHBACK

WE see Vicky laughing in a small room with her grandmother.

END FLASHBACK

Tears pour down, she wipes them away and maintains calmness. She is consumed by thoughts that she falls into a deep sleep. The kids are done eating, Wind howls inside the house, slightly pushing the door open. John sees the door wide open. As Pearl gazes at the open door, we hear sound of kids' voices. He taps on Pearl's shoulder---

JOHN

(Whispers)

Let's go!

PEARL

No! We will get in trouble

John comes over to Vicky; deep asleep while snoring at same time.

JOHN

We will get back before mum wakes up! See? She's fast asleep!

Pearl looks over at Anna's seat and sees she's fast asleep too. She takes her out of the chair and places her on the couch. Both looks at each other and stealthily hurry out of the house.

18. EXT.HILTON PARK-

DAY.

John steps on the crispy brown leaves on the ground, then brings himself in the open. Pearl follows him at the back. They are soon welcomed by the beautiful park: children are fidgeting and bouncing around happily. Some of the kids are skipping, swinging and running down the slide. While others are seen climb on the jungle gym.

JOHN

I told you it would be fun!

He runs of to meet some boys running down a slide. Pearl shyly walks up to some girls skipping playing tag. Gradually she lets loose and joins them.

19. VICKY'S HOME -DAY.

Anna wiggles off her feet, then gets up from couch. She cries a bit, then walks to her mother. She pulls on Vicky's hand and she mumbles and shifted in to an even more comfortable position. Anna looks around and starts to explore. She notices the open door and walks out.

20. EXT. HILTON PARK - DAY

The day morphs into a balmy evening and gradually the kids leave with their guardians. Just a few are left. Among the few we see John jumping off a trampoline. He stops jumping and looks around just in time to see Pearl walking up to him.

PEARL

Everyone is gone. Let's go before we get in trouble!

She suddenly becomes scared. John jumps down scared too. A female black police officer walks in their direction. John grabs Vicky's hand; stepping away quietly--

POLICE

Hey kids where your parents?

PEARL

Over there!

She looks at John and both run off as soon as the police officer looks into the direction she pointed. The officer doesn't see anyone and so quickly turns back to them only to see the kids running off.

OFFICER

Oh shit!

The kids come to a halt; panting and frantically looking around to make sure they were not being followed.

JOHN

I think we lost her.

He looks up and sees the officer in front of them with her hands on her waist.

POLICE

What are both of you doing?

They walk by a little.

POLICE

Don't make me run again...

They halt.

POLICE

For the last time, where are your parents? Or did you come here all by yourselves.

They both nod.

POLICE

Do you know your address?

They don't reply

POLICE

So you don't know your address?

POLICE

How old are you girl?

PEARL

6!

POLICE

And you don't know your home address?

PEARL

I do!

POLICE

You don't want to go home?

PEARL

I do!

POLICE

Then tell me your home Address.

The officer stoops to their level and then fishes out a paper and pen from her chest pocket. She places the pad and pen on her kneel. Pearl scribbles on the pad. The officer tries to make sense of the address---

POLICE

So this is your house?

Both of them nod.

POLICE

Follow me.

21. INT.LIVINGROOM-

EVENING.

Vicky jumps up from sleep. She looks closely around and is shrouded by loneliness. She gets up.

VICKY

Guys!

She heads over to the dining table. Picks up the dirty plates and heads to the kitchen.

21. INT.KITCHEN- DAY

She dumbs the plates in the sink.

VICKY

John! Pearl! Anna!

She's suddenly becomes fearful. She rushes out of the kitchen.

23. INT.CHILDREN'S ROOM-DAY

She narrows her eyes in their room holding the edges of the door. She calls their names again and again in the same order then runs out to her living room.

24. INT. OUTSIDE - DAY

She rushes out the front door. Then runs to the back of the house. The rushes back in to the house.

25. INT. LIVING ROOM-DAY.

Vicky stands clueless.

VICKY

Where could they be? Lucy!

She picks up her phone and dials a number.

26. INT. LUCY'S HOME - DAY

Lucy is seen watching TV with her legs crossed on the table in the middle of the room. Her kids are playing around.

LUCY

Don't let me get my hands on you
Kate!

One of her kids is with her phone. He is playing some games with it. The phone starts ringing. He cuts it. BACK TO;
Vicky panicking already.

VICKY
Pick up Lucy!

26. INT. LUCY'S HOME-CONTINUOUS

Her kid still holds her phone playing a game, WE see a hand snatching away the phone.

LUCY
Don't ever touch my phone again!

The phone rings again she answers

VICKY
Lucy have you seen my kids?

Lucy turns to her children.

LUCY
Guys have you seen Pearl, John and Anna?

A collective 'NO'.

LUCY
No. What happened Vicky?

VICKY (O.S)
I woke up from the couch, I must have dozed off. They are gone!

LUCY
Have you checked with your neighbors?

VICKY (O.S)
Not yet!

LUCY
I am on my way.

BACK TO; Vicky rushes out of the house. She is still in scrubs

27.EXT. SUBURBAN STREET-CONTINUOUS.

She stands on the porch desperately looking up and down the street. Then a Police car cruises towards her. She runs off to the middle of the road.

28.EXT/INT.POLICE CAR-

DAY

Pearl and John are seated in the back of the car.

POLICE

When you see your home let me
know.

They don't reply. She views them through the rearview mirror.

POLICE

Hey, don't go mute on me.

John sights his mother in the middle of the street and immediately points out.

JOHN

There!

POLICE

Where?

PEARL

That's my mom. And our house.

POLICE

Are you sure about it?

Pearl and John waves their hands in the car.

Vicky sees small hands waving at her in a distance. She curiously walks closer to the car. The car stops in front of her. Pearl immediately runs out of the car followed by John.

29. EXT.SUBURBAN STREET-

DAY

Relief floods Vicky's face as the children run to her. She hugs them very tight. The officer's voice breaks up the reunion.

POLICE

You their mother?

VICKY

Yes! Why do you have them?

POLICE

Madam I will be asking the questions. What were they doing by themselves at the park?

VICKY

The park?

Alarmed Vicky frantically looks around.

VICKY

Where is Anna?

PEARL

She was sleeping with you on the couch.

JOHN

She is inside.

VICKY

No she's not!

Lucy drives in to the scene and parks near the mailbox and joins her friend.

LUCY

You found them.

VICKY

I can't Anna. Pearl where is Anna?

PEARL

Mommy she was inside...

She begins to cry, Lucy holds her.

POLICE

You have three kids

VICKY

Anna, Anna

Cop pulls out her radio and tries to communicate over Vicky's commotion.

POLICE

This is Officer Bloom. Amber alert effective immediately.

LUCY

Calm down Vicky! I am sure she will be found.

POLICE

Come with me to the station. You will need to file a missing person's report.

LUCY

I will watch them

VICKY

Call Mark

She the police car and as they drive off, She turns her tear drenched face to look at Lucy holding her scared children.

30. INT. POLICE DEPARTMENT-NIGHT.

Two police men are seen with their heads low on their desks and officer Bloom and Vicky walk in.

OFFICER 1

Wowoowo! What do we have here?

VICKY

My child is missing.

OFFICER 2

Just calm down and tell what hasppened.

OFFICER 1

Do they have a father

VICKY

What does that have to do with anything?

OFFICER 2

Ma'am we are just following procedures.

FEMALE OFFICER

We would find your child. What's address?

OFFICER 2

Where were you when the child was missing?

There is A MUTE CONVERSATION. We cannot hear them as we only watch Vicky narrate her story from her gestures. Mark comes running into the office confused. Vicky sees him and screams his name. They run in to each other's arms.

MARK

What is happening? Where is Anna?

Vicky who is overwhelmed with sadness can't respond. Mark looks at her in despair and the questioningly at the officers.

OFFICER 1

We would find her.

MARK

By just standing here. Shouldn't there be people already searching...

He runs out of the police station as Vicky runs after him.

VICKY

I am coming!

OFFICER 2

Describe Anna

VICKY

She's 3 years old with cornrows and pink beads. Wearing a pink dress...oh God...

OFFICER 1

Tell me any unique thing about her.

Vicky runs through her mind in search of the uniqueness of her child.

VICKY

Nolu. She can't go anywhere without her browned ragged doll Nolu

OFFICER 1

Alright!

He starts to make calls.

MARK

Are we just gonna stand here and make calls?

OFFICER 2

It's less than 24hours--- we can't launch a search...

A call returns. The officer quickly answers it.

OFFICER 1

Yeah, Black, brown doll, that's correct. She's the one?

He hangs the call and the weight of the silence is palpable. His features harden in despair.

VICKY

Did they find my Anna?

The officer nods sadly.

OFFICER 1

She's in the hospital!

Vicky melts down in Mark's arms crying.

31. INT. HOSPITAL-NIGHT.

The hospital administrator is with Mark on the phone as the emergency team rushes with Anna in to the ER
She puts the call through;

NURSE
Sir we will do our every
best.

32. EXT/INT.CAR-

NIGHT.

The police phone slips down from Marks hand as turns to console his wife.

VICKY
Holy mother of God!

33. INT.HOSPITAL-

NIGHT.

Medical professionals run in every direction handling different tasks. In the busy hallway, Vicky, Mark and the two police officers cautiously makes their way down the hall.

They briefly pause and speak to the CLARK at the nursing station inaudibly. She points down another hallways and all four individuals down towards it. They get to the ER and see a group of healthcare expert fighting for Anna's life.

Then the cardiac monitor starts beeping audibly. The medical team works frantically with chest compressions, bag valve mask-ambu bag, IV polls, medication administration, suction...

Vicky starts to run to the ER but was caught by Mark. She screams inaudibly as the monitor slowly beeps in to asystole.

34. INT.WAITING

ROOM- NIGHT

Mark and Vicky talk to the doctor while the officers listen a couple of feet away.

DOCTOR

She was already oxygen deprived to the brain for at least 15 minutes before she was found and brought in. I am so sorry. We tried!

VICKY

No!!!

She runs out of the room.

35. INT. EMERGENCY ROOM-

NIGHT

Vicky unveils the sloth on her daughter's face...

VICKY

Baby, baby, mommy is here okay. Let's go home. Wake up. It's getting late...you don't like darkness. Open your eyes baby please!!! Nolu is scared too..

The nurses try to motion her out and she lashes out in mad rage. Mark gathers her out of the ER kicking and screaming

VICKY

Look Mark--- Anna wouldn't wake up. Tell her open her eyes.

Tears drench marks face as he hugs his wife in his arms lowering her to the floor in the hallway.

36. EXT. CEMETERY-DAY.

A small group of people in black are standing with their heads down as a sermon is preached. Every now and then someone will wipe a tear silently. Vicky and her family stand together all in sorrow. Her eyes are swollen, misted with tears and sadness. Mark stands alone staring down at the dug grave containing a tiny coffin.

PASTOR

May the souls of the gentle
departed rest I peace.

As the coffin is buried, Pearl throws a red rose on it coffin. Then John too and is followed by the rest of the people present.

Sympathizers attempt to console the family and leave as soon as she smiles back at them. Lucy comes over to her. She holds her hand.

LUCY

My sister...Only God can comfort you

She looks over at her family waiting for her. She takes her leave. Vicky looks down to see Pearl's little hand replace Lucy's.

PEARL

Mommy everyone is gone.

She faintly smiles at her and hugs her closer. Mark walks over with John holding his left hand and with his right hand on Vicky's shoulder, he guides his family out of the cemetery.

37. EXT. ANNA'S GRAVE-DAY

Vicky is sitting on the ground. She wipes away tears from her eyes, sniffing, caressing Anna's tombstone gently.

VICKY

Feels like a dream. I want you to wake me up and tell me it's a dream mommy! Just hold my hand and smile .Then I would be awake happily. How could I have let you go?

Her husband and kids walk up to her.

MARK

Baby let's go.

She gets up involuntarily. The family walk out of the cemetery together hugging one another.

38. INT. VICKY'S

HOME-DAY

The family walk in. Vicky takes off and we follow her to her room. She falls heavily on her bed and starts hitting her head on the bed. She then goes to the closet and does same. Mark walks in concerned.

MARK

What are you doing?

VICKY

I want everything to be normal.

MARK

Only time will heal.

VICKY

So you want me to pretend like everything is perfect when I just lost my child.

MARK

God knows why he took her. We should have faith in him.

VICKY

The faith I had in HIM died when He did nothing as I stood outside that emergency room and watch my baby die... Where was him? Don't you dare talk to me about God?

She stumps out.

Mark leans against the wall and slowly slides to the floor covering his eyes with his hands and sobs. He looks up and sees a picture of Anna on the night stand. He gets up, walks to the stand and picks up the picture. As he stares at it, tears resume their downpour down his cheeks and onto the picture.

MARK

Why did you leave us Anna?

39. INT. HOSPITAL-

DAY.

Vicky walks in to the hospital-her place of work to everyone's surprise. She makes it to the staff room. As she puts up her belongings her friend/colleague Miriam walks in.

MIRIAM

What are you doing here?

VICKY

Working!

Miriam takes her hand in to hers but Vicky immediately retrieves her hands.

MIRIAM

Vicky, I know how strong you are but you're not read.

VICKY

Don't worry about me, I'll be fine.

Miriam stands looks helpless as Vicky walk pass her.

40. INT.HOSPITAL ROOM-DAY

Vicky walks in with a syringe containing medication in to a room. There is a little girl of Pearl's age lying on the bed. She looks surprised at seeing the syringe.

GIRL

I only get that shot in the morning!

Vicky looks at the syringe and quickly shoves it in her scrub pocket.

VICKY

I am sorry!

She quietly turns to the door to leave. The girl calls back;

GIRL

It's ok. People make mistakes.

VICKY

They do, don't they.

She starts to leave the room..

GIRL

Is dying scary?

Vicky freezes--then turns slowly.

GIRL

I think I am gonna die.

VICKY

Why do you say that?

GIRL

Because a lot of kids are now dying and I am not special..

VICKY

You are special.

GIRL

Nobody loves me at school.

Vicky draws near to her.

VICKY

Where is your mum?

The little girl points at the window and we see a woman talking to another nurse.

VICKY

She loves you. Do you know what is special about you? You mommy's love. That's all you need to be special!

Her lips quiver, emotions choking her as she manages to stay calm. She appears distant.

GIRL

You alright?

Vicky's eyes snaps back to the present

GIRL

What if God decides to take me?

VICKY

If you don't want to go just yet, then you fight even with the tiniest energy left you in.

She tickles her feet and the child giggles.

GIRL

I want to stay.

Vicky smiles. She brings out a candy from her shirt and hands it over to her.

VICKY

Then stay

GIRL

Thank you!

Quickly opens the candy while Vicky heads out.

As soon as Vicky vacates, the girl's mother walks in noticing the candy.

MOTHER

Where did you get that from?

GIRL

She's the nicest nurse. Her badge said Nurse Vicky.

MOTHER

Don't take gifts from strangers. What have I told you?

GIRL

But she is nice...

41. INT. OFFICE- DAY.

Vicky is having a talk with the director of nursing-AMBER STEVENS.

AMBER STEVENS

We were not expecting you so soon.
Shouldn't you take off more time
to mourn?

VICKY

Amber I can't sit around doing
nothing I will go mad.

AMBER STEVENS

And the rest of your family. They
need you right now.

VICKY

They would be fine without me.

AMBER STEVENS

You are one of our best. But we
can't have you working under these
circumstances. Besides your state
of mind might put our patients at
risk.

VICKY

I have been a good nurse. Never
had even a medication error in my
years of working. Now you are
questioning my ability? If I
hadn't caused my child to die...

DOCTOR

I recommend you see a therapist.

VICKY

I will be going home now.

She leaves clearly upset.

42. EXT. PARK-DAY.

Vicky parks her car and slowly walks over to the ROCKING HORSE Where children are laughing and playing.

FLASHES BACK TO her sitting behind Anna on the rocking horse both laughing and playing.

END OF FLASHBACK as she caresses the horse gently. She looks up to see a little boy waiting to climb on the horse. She hastily leaves forcing a smile at the child.

As she walks away from the toy we see an image of Anna through her mind holding her hands; urging her towards the slide. She follows her imagined child to the slide. We see her and Anna play on the slide.

Sounds of an engine being killed catches her attention. She looks up and notices the playground is deserted and night is approaching. A male officer approaches her from the car.

OFFICER

Ma'am you looking for your kid?

VICKY

Yes!

OFFICER

What is her name? I could help you find her...

VICKY

Anna!

OFFICER

Do you have a description?

The question triggers recent events. Echoes of scenes from the day Anna dies. Images of police station when she was asked the same question the day she drowned.

TURBULANCE in her mind. She reaches for both sides of her head with her hands trying to protect it from the images that assault her mind. Images and voices clash in her mind crashing in together. "She was already oxygen deprived to the brain for at least 15 minutes before she was found and brought in. I am sorry" says the ER doctor's voice. Anna is dead" say Marks voice.

The officer is confused at her behavior and tries to calm her. Vicky still clutching the sides of her head continue to scream...

VICKY

No!

She runs from the officer as he stares at her confused.

43. INT. VICKY'S HOME-NIGHT.

Vicky walks in on her family watching TV. Her husband and children look at her and

PEARL AND JOHN

Hi Mommy!

MARK

Hey sweetheart!

No response-she stares through them-blankly. Says nothing then heads for the room.

Mark gets up.

MARK

Stay put.

PEARL

Is mommy okay?

MARK

Mommy is tired.

PEARL

It is my fault...

MARK

Why do you say that?

PEARL

Because I didn't watch Anna when mommy was sleeping.

JOHN

And now she is dead

MARK

Now listen to me. Whatever happened to your sister was no one's fault. God made a decision and we have respect it.

PEARL

So God is not mad at me?

MARK

No princess. He loves you! He loves us---

JOHN

Then why did He let Anna die. Now mommy wouldn't stop crying. I don't think He is nice---

MARK

Yes He is. He made us all. And He decides when He want us to go to His pearly mansion.

PEARL

Just like my name

44. INT. VICKY'S ROOM-DAY

Mark walks Vicky in their room and no Vicky

MARK

Vicky?

We follow him in to Anna's room

45. INT. ANNA'S ROOM-DAY

There is a sound of running water in the bathroom. He goes to the bathroom and sees his wife kneeling near the bathtub clearly washing---

We see Vicky frantically washing Anna's ragdoll. She increases momentum on the doll and the more she scrubs the doll the more erratic she gets, building a tempo with her actions---

Mark reaches for her hands and she stops.

MARK

Enough!

Vick turns to him face void of emotions---

VICKY

Anna wouldn't be happy seeing blood on her doll.

She goes back to washing it again. Mark turns off the water and she glares at him with murderous rage.

VICKY

What are you doing? Why did you stop me? Can't you see I am doing my best to make my baby happy?

MARK

Happy? Vicky your other kids are traumatized! What about them? They don't count? I don't count. They just lost a sister! I lost my daughter too.

VICKY

But I killed my daughter. I was told grandma was sick. I sat to think of what to do. The next moment I can't find Anna. I killed my baby and my heart can't---

MARK

But God---

VICKY

You talk about God? You talk about God when I am going through the pain of losing a child? Where was your God when I lost both parents on the same day? He never showed up. My grandma did! When I thought He was going to let my grandmother die he sweetened his own plot by letting my baby die. Don't talk to me about God---

MARK

Babe, I love you and it hurts seeing you like this. And the kids----

VICKY

---are better off without me Mark.

MARK

No you are their mother and you cannot blame yourself for anything that happened. We need you baby please.

Vicky looks at the doll then hugs it softly. She walks out on Mark.

46. INT.KID'S ROOM

NIGHT.

Mark tucks in the kids. He sits on the edge of John's bed holding a children's book. He looks weary.

MARK

I guess you don't want to hear this.

JOHN

And they lived happily ever After!

Mark's worrying face gives way to a faint smile.

MARK

Good night kiddos

He plants kiss on John's forehead, moves over to Pearl and does same.

MARK

I love you.

Switches off light and leaves room

As he walks pass Anna's room, he hears Vicky crying. He walks in on Vicky holding tight to Anna's doll knees tucked to her chest. He sits by her and buries ...

MARK

My family is breaking apart Vicky.

Head still buried.

VICKY

I want to go home.

MARK

Which home? This is your home. Our home.

VICKY

I look everywhere and I see her. I can't stay here.

MARK

How are we supposed to get over this when you aren't letting go?

VICKY

Because God took away my daughter!

Mark looks up and see John and Pearl standing at the door.

MARK

It's Ok. Back to bed.

They reluctantly leave and Mark turns to her angrily.

MARK

You see what you are causing?

Vicky starts to cry.

MARK

I am sorry. I didn't mean to scream...Let's pray.

Takes her hands gently in to his. She slowly releases her hands and leaves the room.

47. INT. LIVING ROOM-

DAY.

Lucy walks into the room and sees the dejected Mark on the sofa hugging John and Pearl who are crying.

LUCY

Where is she?

Mark motions towards the room and she exits.

48. INT. VICKY'S ROOM-DAY

Lucy walks in to the room and notices Vicky packing a luggage bag. She notices her passport and other personal belongings scattered on the bed.

VICKY

Don't try to stop me.

LUCY

Someone has to. You need help Vick or you will look around you someday and everything is lost. Mark, your children

VICKY

I have nothing left..

LUCY

You have much more left. I am not leaving until your ass returns these stuff back to the closet you hear me. You will have to fight me every step of the way.

Vicky glares at her with tear filled eyes

LUCY

Come here.

She grabs and hugs Vicky her tightly as she reluctantly hugs back crying violently.

VICKY

Why my baby?

LUCY

God knows why. You have a wonderful husband doing everything to stay by your side. Don't lose him too. Take care of yourself. Those beautiful kids need you.

VICKY

It was my fault. I shouldn't have slept, I should have....

LUCY

Enough! You were human. You dozed off and it happens. It could have happened to anybody. Keep blaming yourself for ever.

49. INT.PEARL'S CLASS-DAY.

There is no teacher and the pupils are rowdy. At the back are TWO kids taunting Pearl-pulling her hair as she tries to ignore, the bullying gets worst.

PEARL

Ouch! Let go of my hair!

PUPIL 1

What? Are you going to kill us like you killed your little sister?

PEARL

I didn't kill my sister.

PUPIL 1

Yes you did! You killed her.

Pearl jumps on her, punching her while the pupil fights back. They rest of the class erupts in excitement. A teacher walks in, runs to the fighting pair.

TEACHER

Perl not you again. What has gone over you? To MR SEANS office now.

Drags both kids out of the classroom.

CUT TO:

51. INT. VICKY'S BEDROOM - DAY

We move in on Vicky and Lucy grabbing the luggage bag.

LUCY

You have to fight harder than that.

Just then, Vicky's phone rings. She combs through stuffs in bed her for it but turns around to Lucy picking her call.

LUCY

No. She is right here. Here..

VICKY

Thank you!

Vicky angrily grabs her phone

VICKY

Hello! I will be there.

Drops the call.

LUCY

What is it?

VICKY

Pearl!

SMASH CUT:

51. INT. PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE-DAY.

Awkward silence...Pearl is sitting close to her mother, scared, tear stained face.

PRINCIPAL

Mrs Victoria, please accept my condolences.

Vicky stares straight ahead with a blank expression.

PRINCIPLE

I can't even imagine what your household is going through. But I want you to know that Pearl has been involved in multiple misconducts. She use to be the brightest in her class but now all she does is fight, refuses to engage in class activities. Your husband who has been here severally for the same issue..

The mention of Mark quickly catches her attention. She looks down at her daughter who bows her head and starts sniffing...

PRINCIPAL (CONTINUES)

I have the report of the interaction between Pearl and the school counsellor here. Suggestive of child neglect...

VICKY

You are accusing me of child abuse.

PRINCIPAL

With all due respect madam, don't put words in my mouth. There is a direct correlation with what your child tells the counsellor and her curricular activities.

VICKY

You are questioning my parenting skills. This conversation is over.

Gets up dragging her daughter with her out of the room. The principal's voice stops her in her tract.

PRINCIPAL

Madam! If this trend continues, you leave me no choice but to contact CPS.

Takes a beat.

VICKY

You don't scare me. Pearl lets go.

52. INT/EXT. CAR-

DAY.

Pearl who is driving looks at her daughter who is silent with downcast head through the REAR VIEW MIRROR.

VICKY

You have been fighting?

Pearl remains still.

VICKY

Answer me!

PEARL

I want daddy!

VICKY

I asked you a question

PEARL

You no longer talk to us!
I don't want to talk to you too...

Vicky freezes. Tears immediately fill her eyes. She swallows and tries to talk...but can't. Then she tries again...

VICKY

Why will you say something like that?

PEARL

You don't love us. You don't care.

VICKY

Baby that's not true. I love you and your brother and...

PEARL

You love Anna's room and her doll more. I wish I didn't kill her Anna...

Just then, Vicky sees Anna through her front windscreen standing in the middle of the road. She screams and slams down her breaks and the car stops abruptly. Pearl screams as another car almost runs into them.

VICKY

Anna!

She steps down totally neglecting traffic. Oblivious to honking cars and angry drivers honking and screaming insults at her.

DRIVER

Move your fucking car bitch!

She stands at the spot where she saw visions of Anna. The world seem to be spinning around her chaotically. She twirls around and no Anna. She looks back to her car and sees pearl crying. She snaps out of her hallucination and runs back to the car.

In the car Vicky immediately reaches for her daughter who runs from her.

VICKY

I am sorry sweetie! I thought I saw

PEARL

Anna?

VICKY

I swear she was right there

PEARL

I want to go home to daddy!

She start to drive amidst honking cars and curses.

52. INT. LIVING ROOM-DAY.

Pearl runs into the house.

MARK
Hey kid, be careful!

PEARL
We almost had an accident.

MARK
Really?

Vicky walks in, she stares at Pearl and walks to her and touches her cheek.

VICKY
Are you okay?

Pearl shrugs again. Vicky gets up and leaves.

53. INT. KITCHEN-CONTINUOUS.

Vicky slices some onions, then FLASHING back to Pearl being scared of her.

Her speed with the knife increases. It becomes intense just when Mark taps her on the shoulder.

MARK
Don't cut your hand.

She stops breathing hard.

MARK
Let me help you.

VICKY
No! I can do it!

She begins to cut again. Then stops out of frustration.

VICKY
I almost killed another child! She must hate me by now.

MARK

No she doesn't. She's just scared.

VICKY

She isn't supposed to be scared of her mother...

MARK

Babe you have to agree a lot has changed..

VICKY

I am trying!!

MARK

I know. But you have to try harder. Look around you; everyone is hurting.

VICKY

It's better I don't go close to them.

MARK

We need you. We can't do without you.

Touches her hand gently. She moves her hand away.

VICKY

You all are better off without me.

MARK

I spoke to your grandmother!

She is shocked.

VICKY

When?

MARK

I told her about situation... your condition.

VICKY

She could speak?

MARK

She spoke. She is getting better. You know what. She's stronger. The reason she was able to raise you all by herself. She wants you strong for us Vicky.

VICKY

You do think you know everything
about me...

MARK

Not at all. But I sure know that John and Pearl
need you. Even though I am equally broken but I am
trying not to let this family never fall apart. I
still wish you take care of your other kids

Pearl stands at the door

PEARL (O.S)

There is someone here.

They both turn around to Pearl at the door. They both look
perplexed as both head for the door. Pearl follows her
parents.

54. INT. LIVING ROOM- DAY

WE see two SOCIAL WORKERS, PETE and CHARLOTTE in the living
room with John.

Pearl comes back.

CHARLOTTE

You are the parents

VICKY

Yes

MARK

What is going on here?

VICKY

Who are you?

CHARLOTTE

We are social workers.

Stunned silence

PETE

The principal of his school called
us after he engaged in another
fight.

CHARLOTTE

Same as your daughter

Vicky grabs her son and looks for bruises

VICKY

Did anyone hurt you?

JOHN

No mommy!

VICKY

Thank God

CHARLOTTE

The bad news is some other kid was hurt--- they parents are pressing charges.

MARK

John what happened?

Pete presents pictures of a boy same as John's age who is deeply wounded on the head. Vicky and Mark are horrified and John hides in his father's arms.

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

54. EXT. SCHOOL HALLWAY-DAY.

A blonde boy with a SKATE BOARD uses it to push John to the floor. He is with other friends. They all laugh at John.

BLONDE BOY

He killed his sister!

Taunting continues

John struggles getting up. He forces himself up eventually. Then snatches the skate board and smashes it on the boy's head.

A closer look at the blonde kid pulling back as blood runs down his head. He is frightened and then his sight turns blurry- the others scream and run away in terror...

John stares in blankly

END FLASHBACK.

55. INT. LIVING ROOM- DAY

Tears start streaming down the shocked face of Vicky. Mark looks at the social workers stonily.

John and Pearl eavesdrop from the hallway.

MARK

Now what?

CHARLOTTE

We have been made aware of both schools you are going through a tough time. But it's our duties to make sure a child is not neglected which is a form of abuse. Their grades are suffering, coupled with their exhibition of violent behaviors.

PETE

We can't stop the kid's parents from pressing charges against your family. We will have to monitor your family and if this trend continues, I'm afraid we will be forced to take them away.

PEARL (O.S)

Dad, are they gonna take us away?

MARK

Nobody is taking anyone away. We are a family and just like any other family, we have our own bad times.

Mark still facing Charlotte as he speaks

MARK (CONT'D)

Look, we just lost one kid---

CHARLOTTE

And we are here to make sure your other children are safe.

Vicky looks weary and scared as she processes all insinuations about her family. She walks away. Mark tries calling her back.

MARK

Vicky!

The social workers stare unapprovingly at her departing back.

MARK (CONT'D)

Everything will be fine... She is hurting. I hope you both understand.

PETE

We will be coming back from time to time to check on the kids. I am sorry to say, any more incidents and your kids will be taken away temporarily so they don't get in harm's way.

CHARLOTTE

See you next time as we will be seeing each other quite often henceforth.

She gives a jaunty smile, departing from the house with her colleague. Mark watches them carefully, watching them vividly across his window... As soon as they take off in their car, Mark grabs his kid's hands firmly and takes them outside.

PEARL

Where are we going daddy?

JOHN

Yes Daddy, where are you taking us to? I won't hit anyone again I promise.

56. EXT. OUTSIDE VICKY'S HOUSE- DAY

Mark, John and Pearl in the yard

PEARL

Tell us dad!

He stops.

MARK

Can you do me a favor?

PEARL

Yes

MARK

Promise me you are going to stay
at Aunt Lucy's house. Just for
tonight!

PEARL

Are you gonna with us?

MARK

No! I will stay and take care of
mommy. So you can stay at Aunt
Lucy's house. Deal?

JOHN

No. I want to be with you.

MARK

It's just for one night. Please

PEARL/JOHN

Okay

MARK

Remember you guys always have so
much fun!

He tickles them and they start laughing and giggling. He
smiles too, out of relief.

56. EXT. LUCY'S PORCH-DAY.

Mark rings the doorbell twice.

57. INT. LUCY'S HOME-DAY.

Lucy is on the phone while cleaning the kitchen. Her kids
are seen in the background with capes on their necks playing
super heroes.

Lucy holds a pen and paper, trying to copy down everything
said to her on the phone.

LUCY

54? I can't hear you?

CALLER (O.S)

No I said 55.

Lucy turns to her kids out of frustration and yells;

LUCY
Can you stop talking?

The doorbell rings adding more to her frustration.

LUCY (CONT'D)
Kylie get the door!

KYLIE sprints to the door. Opens it and sees mark standing with his kids.

KYLIE
It is Uncle Mark!

Lucy quickly ends the call.

LUCY
I will call you back. I said I will
call you back!

Drops the call and toss her phone on the kitchen table and heads for the living room.

LUCY (CONT'D)
Mark! What a surprise.

PEARL
Good afternoon aunty!

JOHN
Good afternoon aunty.

LUCY
Hello little pumpkins. Please come
inside and seat down.

They all take seats and one look at Mark face told Lucy they need to talk

LUCY (CONT'D)
Drew, Kylie, why don't you take
John and Pearl to your rooms.

The kids cheerfully leave

MARK
John was in a fight. A child was badly hurt.
Social workers showed up. You know how that goes.
Can they stay the night?

LUCY

You know I am always here for your family.

MARK

We are indebted to you.

LUCY

We are Africans. This is what we do. Besides you are doing me a favor bringing them. Mine don't get to fight with each other or trouble me.

MARK

Well you have two more avengers then. Thanks Lu. Don't know what we will do without you.

LUCY

Glad to be of help

He gets up and exchanges hugs with Lucy. Lucy calls out his kids who rush in, give him quick kisses and rush out to be with their friends.

MARK

I love you all okay. Pearl take care of your brother. John be nice.

LUCY (CONT'D)

By the way shave your beard. I almost didn't recognize you.

MARK

I will. Good night.

58. EXT. SUBURBAN STREET-DAY.

Mark walks wearily down the street and soon comes face to face with a church. He pauses, stares at it blankly, looks up in the sky and sighs heavily. He starts to leave but changes his mind and goes in to the building.

59. INT. CHURCH - DAY

He walks in to the church and sees the PASTOR closing for the day.

PASTOR
Welcome brethren Mark.

MARK
Pastor---

PASTOR
Mark it's been a while since I saw
you and your family.

Mark is silent. The pastor motions for him to sit and he sits facing Mark.

PASTOR
This is a moment of trial. God is
testing your faith in him.

PASTOR

You see in the book of Proverbs
3:3-4, the lord tells us this:
never let love and faithfulness
leave you; bind them around your
neck and write them on the tablet
of your heart.

Poking his heart.

PASTOR (CONT'D)

Then you would win a favour and
good name in the sight of God and
man. So don't give up!

Tears slowly runs down Mark's face

MARK

Pastor this trial is destroying my family.

PASTOR

You and Vicky are like a bundle of
sticks. Once together, you can't
break.

MARK

Thank you so much pastor Greg. Can
you please pray for my family?

PASTOR

Let's pray.

Both men start to pray fervently

60. INT. VICKY'S HOME-NIGHT.

Mark locks the door, heads over to the living room and
turns off the TV and heads to the kitchen.

61. INT. KITCHEN-NIGHT.

He quickly makes a sandwich while images of his happy family plays in his mind. He walks out of the kitchen with the sandwich on a plate.

62. INT. ANNA'S ROOM- NIGHT

Mark opens Anna's room, he switches on the light and sees his wife folded on the bed with her doll held tight to her chest fast asleep.

Mark puts down the food and walks slowly to Vicky. He runs his fingers on her skin, she stirs and mumbles incoherently.

VICKY

Anna stay with me.

Mark picks her up and heads for their room.

63. INT.VICKY'S ROOM-NIGHT

He gently lays her down on the bed... She turns takes his hand.

VICKY

Where are my kids?

MARK

They are safe.

She immediately goes back to sleep. Mark leaves their bedroom and heads for Anna's.

64. INT. ANNA'S ROOM-NIGHT

Mark steps inside the room, picks up the plate of sandwich but then locks eyes with Anna's picture frame on the floor. He abandons the plate and picks up his daughter's picture. Emotions overtake him and he succumbs to the tears that rake his frame.

MARK

My little angel! Daddy is so sorry!

His hands holds on to the frame and he falls asleep.

BEGIN MONTAGE:

QUICK CUTS:

--Lucy tucks in Pearl who is sleeping next to Kylie. She then goes to the boys (Drew and John and tucks them in too.

--Vicky sleeping peacefully yet calling out Anna's name.

--Mark holding tight to Anna's picture crying.

--Anna is seen dancing in the yard with her doll.

END MONTAGE.

64. INT. ANNA'S ROOM-DAY.

Vicky is a lighter mood, with a smile and new energy. She walks into Anna's room where she sees her husband sleeping on the floor with Anna's picture held tight to his chest.

She quietly takes the picture and puts it on the night stand.

Mark wakes awakens and is surprised to see his wives face close to his.

VICKY

Good morning sleepy head.

MARK

Hello princess

He starts to get up and Vicky offers him a hand. Once in a standing position, she reaches out and touches his overly grown beard.

VICKY

We have shave this. You are a mess.

Mark stares stunned at her new behavior.

MARK

Vicky is that you?

VICKY

I don't understand, do you have another wife?

MARK

No... no! I am just, well yesterday

VICKY

Yesterday nothing! I lack words in expressing how lucky I am to have a husband like you.

MARK

I have missed you baby--

VICKY

Which is why I made you breakfast.

She turns to leave, Mark holds back her hand.

MARK

Now that I have my wife back, what about a kiss?

She smiles and both locks lips passionately. Soon she nudges him away.

VICKY

Breakfast is getting cold.

She walks out of the room. Mark still unsure what is happening.

VICKY (O. S)

Make sure you go get my kids after breakfast.

MARK

(to himself)

Of course

Mark laughs quietly feeling his lips where she had placed hers.

65. EXT. OUTSIDE VICKY'S HOME-DAY.

The sun shines brightly as Vicky walks outside with a scarf on her head heading to the mail box.

The Mail box looks distorted.

VICKY

Who could have done this?

She brings out a mail and heads back inside the house.

66. INT. VICKY'S HOME-DAY

Vicky walks in on Mark eating at the dining table. He notices the envelope his wife is holding.

MARK

What is the mail about?

VICKY

Nothing!

MARK

Sure?

VICKY

Just work things I have to take care of.

MARK

You want some?

VICKY

Nah! I already ate.

She leaves the room.

67. INT. VICKY'S ROOM-DAY.

Vicky rushes inside to her room with the mail. She opens it up and we are able to see its contents: "Court case". Frantic, she shoves the letter back in to the envelope and squeezes into her purse.

68. INT. LIVINGROOM - DAY. Vicky rush pass Mark who is finishing up his food.

MARK

Where are you rushing to?

VICKY

To grab a few groceries. See you.

MARK

Be safe.

Mark watches his wife rush into the car and takes off. A frown crease his forehead and quickly disappears as he proceeds to clean the table.

70. INT. HOSPITAL-DAY.

We find Vicky walking in the hallway, checking all the rooms for a particular patient.

She does so until she comes across the little girl she once motivated, standing at the door, looking incredibly well with a candy stick in her mouth.

The girl sees her first;

LITTLE GIRL

Hey Vicky!

She turns and beams at the girl.

VICKY

Hey princess, look at you!

LITTLE GIRL

I feel much better now.

VICKY

I am so happy to hear that.

Wonders around the hospital unit, her eyes fall on a blonde kid covered with head wrapped up in bandages. He seems to be in a pretty bad situation.

VICKY

Who is he? And where is your mummy?

LITTLE GIRL

He is my brother. Some kid hurt his head at school.

Vicky's eyes widen in horror.

VICKY

Are you sure?

The little girl's mother comes from behind;

MOTHER (O.S)

Isn't it obvious?

She comes into full frame holding down on her daughter's shoulders.

MOTHER (CONT'D)

Whoever did this to my son will have to pay!

Vicky blinks her eyes and tries to steady herself

MOTHER (CONT'D)

Are you okay?

VICKY

(Stutters)

I am good! Can I talk to you for a second?

MOTHER

You are Vicky the nurse? My daughter can't stop saying nice things about you. Why aren't you in your uniform?

VICKY

Because I am on leave.

MOTHER

Oh I see! Well enjoy your leave---

VICKY
I lost my child!

MOTHER
Oh no! I am so sorry about that...
what happened?

VICKY
I...she...

MOTHER
It ok. Sorry I asked. I can only
imagine the pains off losing a
child. I almost had a heart attack
when I saw him on that bed.

VICKY
It's hard--

MOTHER (CONT'D)
You so strong! But then what are you
doing here? You should be---

VICKY
I came to see you.

MOTHER
Me?

VICKY
My son is the one who hurt your
son...

The mother stares at Vicky in stunned silence for a brief
moment and then...

MOTHER
Your son did this to my son?

VICKY
I am so sorry your son is hurt. My
family is going through so much...I
know it's no excuse..

VICKY (CONT'D)

I am not justifying my son's actions or anything but I know my son... He wouldn't just hurt anyone. Let alone be violent.

The Mother's eyes narrow at the audacity.

MOTHER

So you are telling me, it must be my son's fault

VICKY

No! Not like that. The fault is all mine. I should pay more attention to my kids rather than abandon them because I am mourning...

She begins to sob.

VICKY (CONT'D)

I am so sorry. From one mother to the next please forgive my son. Please my family won't be able to handle any stress with the court now.

She looks over to her daughter sitting on the bench playing with a toy.

MOTHER

For the sake of my daughter...but pray nothing happens to my son. I might not be this forgiving.

Girls sees the ladies watching her and she beams and wave at them.

MOTHER (CONT'D)

I will withdraw the case!

VICKY

Thank you.

MOTHER

My son better be alright

Vicky embraces her tightly while she stands awkwardly now knowing what to do with her hands. She slowly returns the embrace.

VICKY

God bless you! Thank you so much.
And may your son get well. God be
with you and your family.

MOTHER

So you believe in God?

VICKY

Of course I do! He is the one with
the miracles.

MOTHER

Did he cure my daughter?

VICKY

She used her strength and God saw
her desire to stay alive. So he
saved her.

Vicky's eyes fill with tears.
She reaches inside her purse and brings out her church
ministry card and holds it out.

VICKY (CONT'D)

Come visit my church anytime you
see the need. You will always be
welcomed.

She hesitates in collecting the card but eventually does.

MOTHER

Thank you!

VICKY

I should be thanking you for your
kindness. I will take my leave.
Take care of your family and may
God be with you.

She goes to the little girl and both exchange happy good
byes. The mother stares briefly then shifts her eyes to
stare at her son in bed.

She then does the sign of the cross.

71. INT. VICKY'S -Living ROOM-DAY

Vicky walks and her children happily jump on her.

MARK

Hey be careful.

VICKY

How was sleepover?

JOHN

Great! I got to play Batman with Drew. We played so many games.

PEARL

I missed you mommy

VICKY

I missed you all! I am sorry for---

Charlotte and Pete walk in from the children's bed room. Vicky looks surprised seeing them.

The kids hide behind her.

JOHN

Mommy are they going to take me away? I don't want to go with them.

VICKY

You are not going anywhere.

CHARLOTTE

Hello Ms Vicky

VICKY

Hello Ms Charlotte

CHARLOTTE

I understand the children were not her last night?

MARK

They had sleep over at their aunt's house is that an issue?

Charlotte moves closer to the Pearl send John.

CHARLOTTE

I see. And the court case?

VICKY

Don't hold your breath. It's been settled. Now you can take your leave.

CHARLOTTE

We are just doing our jobs ma'am.

VICKY

I understand. But there is nothing left here to see. My family is doing excellent.

CHARLOTTE

We will be coming back from time to time until everything is settled. If you may excuse us.

PETE

Have a nice day Mr and Mrs Mark!

MARK

You too!

They both head out.

MARK (CONT'D)

John, Pearl, to your room.

They run off. Vicky slumps in to the couch.

MARK (CONT'D)

The court case is settled?

VICKY

I spoke to the kid's mum and she is withdrawing the case.

MARK

What? How?

VICKY

From one mother to another

She smiles. Mark jumps off to the couch on her.

MARK

I even love this new mommy better.

VICKY

Really?

MARK

Yes babe!

Vicky gets up abruptly...

MARK (CONT'D)

What is wrong?

VICKY

Work! My leave expires today.

MARK

Are you sure you want to work?

VICKY

Yes

MARK

We can spend some time together.

She kisses him and leaves.

VICKY

See you when I come back.

As soon as Mark watches her leave from the window, he turns back and whispers.

MARK

Kids, your she is gone!

They storm out of their room with buckets of Paints jumping up and down.

MARK (CONT'D)

Let's paint now that she is gone

PEARL

Yeah!!

72. INT. ANNA'S ROOM- DAY.

Pearl stands quietly staring at the bed. While Mark and John move some boxes of Anna's belongings in and out of the room.

Mark notices Pearl's solemn behavior.

MARK
Hey, you alright?

She doesn't answer.

He drops the box and goes to his daughter.

MARK (CONT'D)
Hey sweetie is everything okay?

PEARL
No I miss Anna! Dad why did God take her?

Mark hesitates

MARK
So she can look after us.

PEARL
Is she happy?

MARK
Of course she is. She is in heaven.

PEARL
Can I stay in this room?

MARK
Depends?

PEARL
On what?

MARK
If we moves things faster.

JOHN
I will get this room!

PEARL
I am a girl, I should get this room.

JOHN

No. You stay in our old room.

PEARL

No!

SOME HOURS LATER.

Mark and his kids stare at the well cleaned room with content on their faces.

MARK

Great job kiddos! We make a great team.

He gives them high fives

PEARL

Mommy would love it!

MARK

Yeah she would.

PEARL

Does that mean I get to keep the room?

She walks around the room admiring the colors on the walls.

PEARL (CONT'D)

The colors are pink and blue--

The room is mine?

MARK

Yes it is!

John looks
sad

MARK (CONT'D)

Don't worry John, we will fix your own room too.

JOHN

OK. But why does Pearl always get everything first?

MARK
She is the eldest.
JOHN
Not fair!

72. INT.LIVING ROOM-NIGHT.

Mark and the children watch a cartoon show while munching on popcorn.

Mark picks up the remote and changes the channel. The kids protest.

MARK
Your mom would soon be home and
guess what?

JOHN
What?

MARK
Bed time!

PEARL
No!!

MARK
Yes, sweetie, and I will have the
TV all to myself.

Just then Vicky walks in. She is in scrubs. She smiles at her family. The children rush to embrace their mother.

VICKY
Hey little ones.

PEARL
Hey mommy!

JOHN
You didn't bring ice cream?

VICKY
Oops! I forgot. Next time I will.

Vicky goes to Mark sited on the couch. Kisses him from behind the couch...

VICKY (CONT'D)

Hey honey!

MARK

How was your day at work?

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

We see Vicky at work in the hallway. There is a little kid of Anna's age walking around all alone.

She sights her and wonders of her parents. Then makes some moves towards the kid. She stops again! Her breath increases. She is nervous, panicking and almost sweating.

VICKY

Get a hold of yourself...

She quietly walks up to the kid who looks miserable from searching around for her parents.

VICKY (CONT'D)

Hey princess! What are you doing all alone by yourself.

KID

mommy!

VICKY

Mommy where?

She points in the opposite direction. Vicky looks in the direction.

VICKY (CONT'D)

Is that your mum?

KID

Yes!

VICKY

Okay! Let's get you back to your mum.

She picks her up.

A white lady sees them coming. She happens to be the mother. She walks fast to them.

WHITE LADY

Oh my God. Thank you so much.

VICKY

Please take care of your child. You just might not know when you would lose them.

The lady awkwardly looks at her then collects her child. Vicky turns to leave and the child tells her goodbye by waving at her.

END FLASHBACK.

BACK TO

Vicky binds her hands around Mark's neck.

VICKY (CONT'D)

My day was good.

PEARL

Mum we have a surprise for you!

She turns to Mark.

VICKY

A surprise?

MARK

Yes. I thought you could take a warm bath then we would show you the surprise but looks like pearl just spoilt the plan.

PEARL

Sorry Dad!

JUMP CUT TO

Mark has his hands covered in Vicky's face as they walk up to Anna's room. John opens the door. Mark walks in slowly with Vicky ...

MARK

Here we go---

He removes his hands slowly unveiling the new interiors of the room.

The beaming smile on Vicky's face slowly fades to nothing but despair and anguish.

MARK (CONT'D)

You don't like it?

She is lost in herself figuring out what is happening... She looks at Anna's bed , doesn't find it.. rather it is put at another side.

She turns to MARK deflated in dissapointment.

PEARL

Mum you don't like it?

Grabs her hand..Vicky instantly let's go. She walks backward with tears in her eyes.

VICKY

How could you?

MARK

Could what? We thought we continue surprise you.

VICKY

I didn't ask for any of these.
What's this?

She starts flinging and tearing things apart.

VICKY

This is not my Anna's room. Her favorite color isn't pink! It's purple.. you have forgotten so soon.

MARK

Vicky calm down ,you are beginning to scare the kids.

She stonily glares at them and bounces out of the room. Mark runs after her..

MARK (CONT'D)

Don't come out okay.

JOHN

Is mommy angry at us?

MARK

No! Don't say that. She is only sad that Anna is gone.. lock the door and don't come out till I open up!

They nod their heads scarily.

Mark locks the door , going after Vicky. Who seems to be heading out of the house.

CUT TO:

SEVENTY ONE

INT. VICKY'S ROOM-CONT.

She goes into her room, rummages into the drawers, and sees Anna's ragdoll. She gets relieved as she hugs it tight to her chest.

She leaves the room running into Mark. He tries holding her hand . She shrugs.

VICKY

Don't talk to me! Don't come close
to me.

She runs down the stairs holding support to the Banister while quickly dribbling her legs down to the living room.

CUT TO:

SEVENTY TWO

INT.LIVINGROOM-CONT.

Vicky picks up the the keys to her car in a rush.. Mark grips her by the hand.

She struggles to let go.

VICKY

Let me go!

MARK

To where? It's already late
Victoria. VICKY

You never loved her didn't you?

MARK

What? Can you hear yourself? What's
gone over you? You have lost your
freaking mind and amidst all of
these madness are your children.

VICKY

Children... Children!!! Is all you
say all day long. What about
Anna... You just forgot about her
like she meant nothing to you.

MARK

I loved Anna as much as I loved our other kids. But while she is gone, I have the remaining kids to look after. A responsibility you are running away from. Maybe you are right, you caused Anna's death because you always searched for opportunities to slip out of reality, to be self-victimized and that has come to the end of our daughter's life.

Vicky doesn't hold back to release a slap on to Mark's face. She withdraws her hand and runs out of the house.

CUT TO:

SEVENTY THREE

EXT. SUBURBAN STREET-NIGHT.

Vicky rushes inside her car, she starts the car, it doesn't start immediately. She tries again and it starts after which she takes off.

Mark comes running outside, he removes his keys from his pants and enters inside his truck.

CUT TO:

SEVENTY FOUR

EXT/INT. CAR/ EMPTY ROAD-NIGHT.

Vicky's breath could be compared to the car's engine. Her hair is a mess. Besides her on the front sit is Anna's ragdoll. She looks at it while looking back at the road.

VICKY

Nobody is gonna take you away from mummy okay.

She turns back and sees her husband's truck. She speeds up the car by matching the brakes and pulling back the gear lever. she completely swerves into another direction.

INT/EXT. CAR-NIGHT.

Mark doesn't seem to understand the path she's taken as she disappears from his sight.

MARK

Fuck!

Hits the steering wheel hard.

MARK (CONT'D)

Where are you going to Vicky?

The thought of his kids runs through his mind.

MARK (CONT'D)

They kids!

He sighs , puts the brake on and makes a U-turn involuntarily.

JUMP CUT TO:

SEVENTY FIVE

INT. ANNA'S ROOM-NIGHT.

Mark pushes down the door.. They kids shudder by grabbing each other in fear.

He steps in.

PEARL

Dad!

They run up to him holding his waist tightly.

MARK

Are my kids okay?

PEARL

We were so scared.

JOHN

Where is mum dad?

SMASH CUT TO:

SEVENTY SIX

EXT. CEMETERY-NIGHT.

Vicky comes out of the car into the haze permeating around the graves. She isn't scared at all. She limps with the Ragdoll in her hands. She is literally walking out completely. We saw Anna's grave with her information inscribed on it.

Anna falls to her knees on the grave.

VICKY

(Crying)

my dear Anna! How are you doing?

Caresses fingers on the grave gently.

VICKY (CONT'D)

Look! I brought you your favorite doll. You know what? You dad has gone insane..you shouldn't be mad at him okay. I am here. I am right here. I would never leave you again.

Don't ever leave mommy again okay?

She places the doll among the different flowers placed on the grave.

VICKY (CONT'D)

Frankie is here and mummy too is here. We would never leave you again...

She lies down on the cold ground, placing her head on the Tomb. She then sings the same native lullaby she used to sing to her.

She falls into a deep sleep.

CUT TO:S

EVENTY SEVEN

EXT. SUBURBAN STREET-DAY.

The day breaks with Mark and his children breaking out of their house to the truck.

MARK

We need to find your mother.

PEARL

What if we never find her?

MARK

We will! Now get into the truck.

As he attempts locking the door, the social workers drive into them. He watches them as they park their car.

Charlotte comes out immediately.

CHARLOTTE

Good morning Mr Mark.

MARK

Listen, I don't have to discuss anything with you today.

PATE

We wouldn't be discussing for long. We just want to see your kids...

CHARLOTTE

Can we just see your kids ?

Mark opens the door giving them a view of them.

CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)

Where is their mother?

MARK

You wanted to see they kids, now my wife as well?

(MORE)

MARK (CONT'D)

Or do you want to take her too?

CHARLOTTE

Sorry Mr. But it is one of the procedures.

MARK

I see! She's gone out to work.

Doesn't look convinced.

CHARLOTTE

And where are you rushing they kids to?

MARK

I am not going to stand here and answer your questions all day long? This is my family, and where we rush out shouldn't be your concern nor anyone's.

Pate taps on Charlotte's shoulder.

PATE
(Whispers)
We should go! She grins at him but
retrieves her impulsiveness.

CHARLOTTE
Fine then, we would be going.

PATE
Have a nice day sir.

MARK
Thanks for ruining my day.

He hops into the car. Charlotte and pate head out to their
car.

CHARLOTTE
That family is up to something.

PATE
But the kids look great!

CHARLOTTE
(Grunts)
You are so useless!.

CUT TO:

SEVENTY EIGHT

INT/EXT. CAR-DAY.

Mark takes on they wheels. His kids sit at the back with sit
belt across their bellies.

PEARL
Where could mum be?

MARK
I think I know just where.

He hits the brakes hard and accelerates .

CUT TO:

SEVENTY-NINE

EXT. CEMETERY-DAY

Pearl comes out of the car surprise at the location. Mark
too comes down.

PEARL

Cemetery?

JOHN

What is mum doing at a cemetery?

MARK

Can you stop asking questions and let's search for your mum.

PEARL

Mum!!

JOHN

Mum where are you?

CUT TO:

EIGHTY

EXT. ANNA'S GRAVE-CONT.

Vicky could hear her kid's voices in her head. Steadily her eye lids open, the sun shines in her face , she squints her eyes , covering them up with the back of her palms.

She hears their voices calling her out again.

VICKY

Pearl? John?

She gets up. Mark runs towards the grave, he could see her standing next to Anna's grave.

He brightens up.

MARK

Kids.

They don't hear him as they are busy yelling out her name.

MARK (CONT'D)

Kids, I can see your mother.

PEARL

Where?

MARK

There!

They turn around making contact with her.

WE could see them sprinting towards Vicky's direction. Vicky turns around and sees them too.

But she's in a traumatic state of mind. Barley part of the world they are running into. Mark runs after them.

Pearl and John holds her tightly.

PEARL

Mum!

She runs her fingers in their hairs lazily.

VICKY

What are you doing here?

PEARL

To get you back home.

Mark finally comes to a halt when he finds them. Vicky sees Mark.. she doesn't seem pleased.

MARK

Vicky!

VICKY

What do you want?

MARK

We need you back home.

JOHN

Please mum!

PEARL

Come home mum. We won't touch Anna's stuff again.

Vicky looks weak and confused. Her head spins around.

MARK

Vicky are you okay?

There are stress crinkles on her forehead. She crushes them , walks a few steps back and falls to the ground. She faints.

PEARL

Mum!

Mark runs to her .

MARK

Vicky wake up!

Hits her cheeks .

PEARL

Dad what is wrong with mum?

She falls down to her.

PEARL (CONT'D)

Mum wake up!

Mark grabs her up and all follow up to the truck.

CUT TO:

EIGHTY ONE

INT.HOSPITAL-DAY.

Mark walks in the hallway with Vicky in his arms. His children come running after. Some nurses assists him with her . She's put on a stretcher and taken away to an emergency room. Mark stands outside hell worried , walking up and down while his children look lost starring at the door.

Lucy comes running into the hospital. She walks quickly to Mark .

LUCY

Where is she?

MARK

Inside!!

LUCY

Calm down Mark, you must be strong.

He finally breaks into tears while burying his head in his palms.

MARK

I thought she better. And that I had my wife back.

LUCY

She would be fine. You should take it easy with her.

MARK

I thought I was-- oh God!

30 MINUTES LATER.

They kids are seated on a bench outside the room drinking a smoothie. Mark leans to puts his head to the wall, completely shattered. Lucy sits together with the kid. A nurse comes out of the ICU.

Mark sees her and quickly walks up to her.

MARK (CONT'D)

How is my wife?

NURSE

She is stable. But you must see the doctor.

MARK

Where is he?

NURSE

Go to the left, then turn to the right, and then you would see an office just a right opposite another office.

MARK

Okay. Thank you.

He takes off.

CUT TO:

EIGHTY-TWO

INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE-DAY.

Mark slightly opens the door. The doctor sees him.

DOCTOR

Please come in.

He humbly walks in.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)

You must be nurse Victoria's husband?

MARK

Yeah! Doctor how is my wife?

DOCTOR

You see not everyone can handle grief well enough...

(MORE)

DOCTOR (CONT'D)

your wife is depressed, and it almost killed her. Did you do anything to trigger fear in her.

MARK

I changed the interior of our late child's room. She left home because of it.

DOCTOR

I can understand your pain and concern. But she should be able to let go when she feels alright. Don't force it on her. She is fragile especially now that she is pregnant.

MARK

What?

DOCTOR

You mean you never knew?

MARK

I.... I didn't know?

DOCTOR

Well she's two months pregnant. Congratulations. I would suggest you both go into therapy after this.

MARK

We will try.

DOCTOR

Here is the card of one my trusted specialists.

Mark collects it.

MARK

I don't know if I should be happy or sad. Is she going to be fine?

DOCTOR

Yes! Of course. You brought her in at right time. Well-done !

Mark gets up in a medley of different emotions. He shakes hand with the doctor.

MARK

Thank you very much!

He gets up and leaves.

CUT TO:

EIGHTY-THREE

INT. HALLWAY-DAY.

Mark walks across the hallway with his shoulders hand down like a zombie. He walks to his wife's hospitalized room. Stands at the window and stares at her and kids hovering around her.

Lucy is also inside the room.

Pearl turns to the window and sees her dad watching them. She goes out to him.

PEARL

Dad mum is awake. She's fine. You are my hero.

She hugs him...he takes her by the hand, and both enter inside. Vicky still feels weak, but now a little big exited on seeing her husband.

Mark bends over at Pearl's ear.

MARK

Tell you mum she is pregnant.

PEARL

(Holds breath) Really?

MARK

Shish! Don't scream. Now go!

Pearl runs over to her mom's bed.. she bends down and whispers into her ear.

PEARL

Mum you are pregnant!

Vicky is surprising yet composed.. she smiles and hugs her.

LUCY

What is going on here?

PEARL

My mum is pregnant!

LUCY
Omigod! That's great news.

JOHN
I hope it's a boy !

PEARL
It's going to be a girl!

MARK
Hey kids, let's leave your mother
to rest!

Lucy takes them outside. Mark tries leaving but Vicky calls him back.

VICKY
Are you not going to break the news
to me by yourself?

He pauses. Turns around quietly.

VICKY (CONT'D)
Or you are still angry with me?

Mark scoffs and walks slowly to her. He holds her hand ...
Kisses it.

MARK
We are in this together! We are
pregnant!!

She smiles widely with Mark.

VICKY
You say it like you are going to
carry the pregnancy.

MARK
To tell you, I have been pregnant
ever since.

VICKY
I am sorry for making you go
through all of these... I love you.

MARK
Get well soon. I have a present
waiting for you at home.

Her face turns Blanche.

MARK (CONT'D)
No! It's not about Anna...

VICKY

Then what is it?

MARK

You will find out when you reach home.

TWO DAYS LATER

CUT TO:

EIGHTY-FOUR

INT. VICK'S HOME-DAY

Vicky is assisted out of the car by Mark and her kids. They all look happy.

Vicky puts her hand across Mark's shoulder. She limps forward together with her family.

MARK

Pearl, get my phone from the car.

PEARL

Alright dad.

She turns back and enter the car. She looks around and finds the phone almost swallowed up by the passenger's seat.

PEARL

There you are...

Grabs it. When she brings her head out; WE see Charlotte in the car staring at Pearl at a CLOSE UP, Pearl glares at her, they maintain gazes until the car passes Vicky's house.

She immediately runs to her family.

Mark covers up Vicky's eyes as they enter the house. There are family and friends gathered around waiting for her recovery.

He opens her eyes and she sees the love in their eyes. she becomes hysterics with joy.

VICKY

Oh My God!

Pastor Greg and Lucy clears the path where Vicky's grandma sits on a wheelchair smiling at her.

She sees her grandmother . She is completely blown away by the surprise.

Mark walks behind her.

MARK

All of your family is here with you.

Tears of joy falls down her eyes. She runs to her grandmother and kneels down laying her head on her laps.

VICKY

Mamma!

She touches her; feeling the realness of her wrinkled skin. Grandma caresses her face in furor. She is extremely happy to see her child after 10 years.

GRANDMOTHER

How did you do this to yourself?

VICKY

I guess I am not as strong as you.

She turns to Mark.

VICKY (CONT'D)

When did you bring her?

MARK

A magician never reviews his secrets. Kids go meet your grandmother!

She gets up and hugs him . Gives him a lot of kisses.

LUCY

Enough guys!

JUMP CUT TO;

Mark standing in the middle of the small gathering with a glass of wine in his hand.

MARK

To my daughter Anna, who has left a hole in our hearts, my Anna we love you. May her soul rest in peace.

Turns to his wife.

MARK (CONT'D)

And to my bereaved and beautiful wife who is still finding the balance between losing her dearest child and carrying another child inside here.

Touches his stomach. They laugh.

Vicky's grandmother pulls Vicky close and whispers

GRANDMOTHER

I never approved of this white man, but I think I like him now.

VICKY

I am lucky to be his wife.

Lucy whispers in her ear.

LUCY

Yes you are.

MARK

Cheers to my family! And to God for keeping this family together.

Everyone 'cheers! ".

The doorbell rings ,Vicky checks it out. She opens it and sees Charlotte with pate standing at the door.

VICKY

Any problem this time?

CHARLOTTE

And again, we are just doing our job.

PATE

By the way you look good ma'am.

VICKY

Thank you. And there is a party going on in the house. You can come in.

CHARLOTTE

We are not hear to party.

Pate already finds himself inside. Charlotte grumbles but then follows her colleague.

She walks around the house.

Grandma notices her wondering presence. She calls her daughter.

GRANDMOTHER

Who is that lady. Is she your husband's second wife?

VICKY

(Laughs)

No! She is just doing her job.

Charlotte walks back to Vicky and her husband with some documents in her hands.

CHARLOTTE

I am glad you are doing well. I can see the love around this place and I will be a monster if I take away your kids.

VICKY

(Anxiously)

So?

CHARLOTTE

We would not be disturbing you guys again. Our job here is done.

VICKY

Thank you.

CHARLOTTE

If you must excuse us ,we have to go.

Pate follows her ,she stops and whispers back at Vicky.

CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)

Congratulations!

Vicky smiles.

CUT TO:

EIGHTY FIVE

INT.CHURCH-DAY.

It's a beautiful glorious day at the church. The choir is pouring out their souls to Christ in harmonious Melody.

Mark and his family are on their feet praising and singing together with the choir.

Vicky turns to the other side of the church and sees THE LITTLE GIRL'S MOTHER she met at the hospital humming to the song .she doesn't seem to belong but she sure likes the feeling of Christ in the building.

SOME MINUTES LATER.

Mass is finished. Vicky quickly finds them. She has got her wounded son too.

The little girl sees her making her way to them.

LITTLE GIRL
Mum look! It's the nice nurse.

Vicky meets them.

VICKY
Happy Sunday ma'am. Hey champ,
how's your head?

MOTHER
It is healing. How is your family?

VICKY
They are over there.

She waves them over.

John sights his mate and becomes reluctant. Mark pushes him.

VICKY (CONT'D)
John you must know him? He nods his
head.

MARK
Nice to meet you ma'am. And we are
glad to have you at our church.

MOTHER
Same here.

VICKY
John, you have something to say?

JOHN
I am sorry for hurting your son
Mrs.

MOTHER

Aww! I hope you guys are now friends?

Both hugs.

JOHN

Mike I am sorry for hurting you.

We hear them chat instantly as we can see the people coming out of the church.

CUT TO:

EIGHTY SIX

EXT. CEMETERY-DAY.

A wheel chair is pushed at the back, Vicky is the one pushing it. Her grandmother sits on it.

They both seem to be having a conversation. She pushes her until she reached Anna's grave.

VICKY

This is Anna's grave mama!

Grandma struggles getting up on feet.

VICKY (CONT'D)

What are you doing ma?

GRANDMOTHER

At least I can stand in front of my child's grave.

She wipes away a tear in her eyes. She could barely stand but remains croaked. There is a small flower in her hand. She places it gently on the grave.

GRANDMOTHER (CONT'D)

(Subtitles)

When your mother died, the whole world came crumbling down on me. I lost the will to live. I still remember that day like it was yesterday.

Cleans her tears.

GRANDMOTHER

But then I looked at my side and saw you. You gave me the motivation to live.

If you don't let go of your child , this place would never--
whoops a cough.

GRANDMOTHER (CONT'D)

Heal.

Vicky helps her sit down.

VICKY

My life was going well, I had all
my kids together. Letting go of one
happens to be the toughest thing
for a mother.

GRANDMOTHER

It is always! Always.

Taps her from the low distance of sitting down on the
wheelchair.

CUT TO:

INT. ANNA'S ROOM-NIGHT.

Vicky stands at the door staring into Anna's room. Mark
comes to stand beside her with his hands folded to his
chest.

MARK

You don't have to do this if you
are not ready...

She turns to him.

VICKY

The little one here--

Touches her stomach.

VICKY (CONT'D)

Will occupy this room.

She smiles and locks the door to the room.

Pearl stands in the hallway staring at them. They turn to
leave then sight her.

MARK

Hey princess, what are you doing
still awake?

PEARL

I can't sleep dad.

VICKY

(Sighs)

Alright! Come let's go . I will put
you to bed.

She places her hand on her shoulder leading her to her room.
Mark watches them with Joy and contempt. He shakes his head
happily.

CUT TO:

EIGHTY SEVEN

INT.CHILDREN'S ROOM-CONTINUOUS.

Vicky walks inside the room...she lays Pearl in bed.

PEARL

I love you mum!

VICKY

I love you more sweetheart.

He kisses her on the cheeks. She covers herself up in a
blanket. He moves over to John's bed and does the same. Then
he walks over to the door and switches off the light.

FADE OUT.

THE END