

Love Thy Neighbor

by

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FADE IN:

EXT. ISLAND - NIGHT (PRESENT)

CORY, 21, who looks like responsible adult, opens her door and scurries to the edge of the porch wrapping her arms around her to keep warm. She stands at the edge with enough room to lean over and see the commotion but not enough to fall off.

After poking her head out she is blinded by the flashing red and blue lights of a diverse set of emergency vehicles.

She hurries to the door and grabs her slides while throwing on a large trench coat from the coat hanger. Cory rushes down the driveway to the cul-de-sac island to meet with a large group a neighbors.

Cory pushes her way through the group to stand next to CARRIE. Cory looks up to her. Carrie lifts her hand and points down the street to the house surrounded by the vehicles.

Cory turns her head and looks into the driveway and watches as coroners pull a black body bag out of the house and into their van. Cory stands in shock of what she just witnessed as tears start to fall from her eyes.

INT. CARRIE'S HOUSE/KITCHEN - DAY (PRESENT)

CORY stands in the kitchen holding BEN's head close to her side while she stares at the golden framed PICTURE of GLENDA. The picture is surrounded by a large bouquets of WHITE ORCHIDS.

Ben squirms out of Cory's grip and turns to Cory with an annoyed face.

BEN

Can I go play with the other kids?

Cory looks down with glazed and teary eyes. She bends down and rearranges Ben's bow tie to be strait and rubs her hands down his blazer to straighten it out.

CORY

Okay. But be back in time for the readings.

Ben runs off into the backyard where the rest of the bored children are playing.

Cory gets in line, grabs a plate and then starts to gather piles of finger food. While she starts to eat a cucumber-butter finger sandwich. CARRIE, late 40s, looks like a bored housewife, joins the line right behind her.

CARRIE

Ben's grown a lot, hasn't he.

Cory, surprised by Carrie's appearance, chews and swallows her sandwich as fast as she can.

CORY

Yeah. He's starting to grow out of his hand-me-downs.

CARRIE

Well, I have some clothes left over from when Simon was living here. You are welcome to them.

CORY

Oh, really. Thank you.

CARRIE

(Condesending)

I feel for you and Ben. You have been through so much in these past few years what with your mom disappearing and now Glen passing away. (beat) How *did* your mom disappear again?

Cory looks up at Carrie astonished that she would bring this up at their neighbor's wake.

Carrie continues to look down at the food, choosing one food after another as she meticulously arranges them on her plate.

Cory aggressively places her plate on the counter.

CORY

(Angrily)

Do you really think this is the time to bring this up?

CARRIE

I have been asking for weeks and this is the only time I know you will have to stay and answer.

CORY

I don't have to tell you anything.

It's none of your business.

Cory begins to walk away towards living room. Carrie lifts her head and waits until Cory is almost out of the kitchen.

CARRIE

(loudly)

It is my business when it's ruining this neighborhood. I'll figure it out sooner or later!

People turn and begin to stare at Carrie. She nervously looks at them, smiles, and walks out to the backyard with her food.

Annoyed with the situation Cory decides to enter the drawing room where Glenda's casket lies.

DRAWING ROOM

Entering the room Cory sees MIKE the corner leaning against the wall with a large bottle of unspecified alcohol in a brown bag. Cory saunters over to him.

CORY

(Sarcastically)

Brought your own alcohol. Carrie's wine and champagne not good enough?

MIKE

(drunkenly)

Pst. That shit? A proper funeral calls for proper hard liquor.

Mike sticks out his bottle and offers some to Cory.

She grabs it and stares at it trying to decide whether or not to take a drink. She sniffs the bottle and then takes a sip. Cory's face scrunches up from the burning sensation and she hands the bottle back.

CORY

What is that?

MIKE

It's something of my own creation. I don't know what I'm going to call it but I'm going to get rich off of it. You're the first to try it.

CORY  
(Sarcastically)  
Sure you are. You're going to be a  
millionaire.

MIKE  
You're not funny, you know that,  
right?

Mike shakes his bottle and realizes it's empty. Mike seeing  
no table around decides to smash the bottle on the floor.

CORY  
Oh, my god! Mike!

MIKE  
What? There was no table.

After hearing the glass breaking Carrie comes rushing in  
worried something valuable had been broken. She sees the  
broken glass bottle and turns to angrily stare at Mike and  
Cory. She clenches her fists in frustration and stomps out of  
the room.

Mike and Cory look back at each other and laugh.

EXT. STREET - DAY (13 YEARS EARLIER)

GLENDa, unspecified age but an elder, looks spry and lively  
despite her age, is sitting with her knees on the ground  
outside her house, planting small, new WHITE ORCHIDS. Glenda  
hears a large MOVING TRUCK backfire and stop in front of the  
house across the street.

A small LIME GREEN 2001 HONDA ACCORD drives up behind the  
moving truck and stops. MARIA, late 20s, looks like she  
hasn't slept in days, struggles to get her large pregnant  
belly out of the drivers seat. CORY, 8, looks wise beyond her  
years yet still has a childish charm, jumps out of the  
passenger seat and runs around the car to help her mother.

Maria finally steadying herself shuts the drivers side door  
and points to the house.

MARIA  
(Surprised)  
That's the new house?

CORY  
That's what it says in the email.

Cory grabs a paper from the front pocket of her HANNAH MONTANA backpack and gives it to Maria. Maria grabs the paper and glances it over while looking up at the house occasionally.

Glenda walks up to Maria and Cory as they stand in the street staring at their new house.

GLEENDA

Hello!

Maria and Cory jump a little and whip their heads around to Glenda.

MARIA

Oh! Hello! You scared me.

GLEENDA

I'm sorry. I didn't mean to scare you.  
I'm Glenda. I live across the street.  
Right over there.

Glenda points to her house and then reaches her hand out for a handshake. She looks down and realizes her hands are covered in dirt. She wipes them on her apron and reaches out again.

Maria looks down and shakes her hand.

MARIA

Hi. I'm Maria and this is my daughter  
Cory.

Maria points down to Cory who is hiding behind her leg. Glenda meets Cory's gaze and smiles.

GLEENDA

Hi Cory!

Cory comes out from behind her mother's leg and looks up while the adults converse.

GLEENDA

She's such a sweetheart. I just love  
children.

MARIA

Do you have any kids?

GLEENDA

Oh yes, Steven and Joanna, but they

are older now and rarely visit. One is a doctor and the other is a lawyer.

MARIA

Wow! Never have to pay for doctor or a lawyer again.

Maria chuckles and looks down to Cory.

MARIA

(To Cory)

Take notes.

Cory rolls her eyes and then looks to Glenda

GLEENDA

Thank you. I miss them running around and helping me, though. If you ever need anyone to watch Cory I would love to.

Glenda looks down at Cory and gives her a warm smile.

GLEENDA

So, you're moving into this house?

MARIA

Yes. Isn't it beautiful?

GLEENDA

It's lovely. (beat) I've lived here a long time though and although the house is great everyone I know who has lived there has had some bad stuff happen to them. Some of the other neighbors say it's cursed.

Cory, shaken by this news, hides behind her mother's legs again.

MARIA

You're funny.

(Looking down at Cory)

I'm sure that's not true.

Glenda notices the movers waiting at the door.

GLEENDA

Well, I'd better not keep you. The movers seem to be getting impatient.

Maria turns to the movers and puts up her hand signaling she will be there soon.

MARIA

Is there any way that you could watch over Cory while I manage this?

GLENDA

(Looking down at Cory)  
Of course!

Glenda bends down to get on Cory's level.

GLENDA

You and I are going to have so much fun. Do you like brownies?

Cory nods her head up and down in excitement.

GLENDA

Great! You and I can bake some using my secret recipe.

Glenda reaches her hand out and Cory cautiously grabs it. Glenda stands up, smiles at Maria and walk towards her house.

INT. CARRIE'S HOUSE/DRAWING ROOM - DAY (PRESENT)

CORY is sitting in the drawing room watching as person after person stands up to tell a heart warming story and read a small prayer. When it comes time for Cory to talk she gathers herself and stumbles to stand up. She pulls a crumbled paper out of her pocket, unravels it and begins to read.

CORY

"Glen was more than just my friend she was pretty much my grandmother. There was once a time where she watched over me for a couple of months and that was the best time of my life. I loved... love her so much and hope that she is in a better place."

Cory then quickly sits down and rubs the tears off her face with her wrist.

Cory pats BEN's back signaling for him to stand up and do his reading. Ben not being tall enough for his feet to reach the ground jumps out of his chair and unfolds his neat and clean paper.

BEN

(Fragmented reading)

"I really like Glen. She gives me  
chocolate and money."

Ben fold his paper back into the neat square and puts it in his blazer jacket. He turns around and jumps back into the chair.

People continue to read stories and prayers until everyone has gone.

CARRIE stand up from her seat in the front row and turns to address the audience.

CARRIE

That was just wonderful. Please  
everyone continue to enjoy the food  
and drinks and don't forget to sign  
this card for Steven and Joanna before  
you leave. Thank you all!

Ben scurries out of his seat and back into the backyard where the children are playing.

KITCHEN

Cory is leaning against the counter picking up champagne glass after champagne glass drinking everyone in one sip.

As Cory begins to run out of glasses MARY appears.

MARY

Hi Cory. I'm sorry for your loss. You  
were a lot closer with her than any of  
us here. I know this is hitting you  
hard. Just know that I'm here for you  
if you need anything. I can watch Ben  
whenever you need.

CORY

Thanks Mary.

Mary gives Cory a warm, empathetic smile and rubs her arm before walking away.

CORY

Wait.

Mary slowly makes her way back to Cory

MARY

Yes.

CORY

I know that your husband is a cop. Do you know how she died?

Mary grabs both of Cory's arms and pulls her close rubbing her hands up and down her arms.

MARY

You know that you couldn't have done anything to prevent this. She was an old woman.

CORY

I know but I would just feel a whole lot better and you said if I needed anything.

Mary lets go of her and begins to fiddle with her fingers out of anxiousness. Cory crosses her arms waiting for Mary to respond

MARY

Okay. She died of organ failure.

CORY

(Confused)

But she wasn't even sick.

MARY

Well there are many ways your organs fail but in the elderly strokes are very common which can cause organ failure. With her old age and Steven and Joanna's reluctance to get a full autopsy, they just determined her cause of death to be organ failure due to stroke.

CORY

Oh. Is that what you think being a nurse and all?

MARY

Yes.

CORY

Okay, yeah, if you say so.

MARY

Don't let yourself get all wrapped up  
in her death. If not for yourself then  
for Ben.

CORY

Of course not. I understand. Thank you  
again Mary. For everything.

Mary gives Cory another empathetic smile and then lets out a  
huge sneeze that sprays all over Cory's face.

MARY

Damn those stupid orchids. Sorry.

CORY

(Laughing)

It's okay.

MARY

I'm gonna head out before a make you  
some kind of snot monster.

Mary grabs a champagne glass and squeezes Cory's arm one more  
time before heading to the living room.

Cory wipes her face and heads towards the backyard.

On her way Cory overhears neighbors conversations about their  
disdain for Glenda.

EXT. CARRIE'S BACKYARD - CONTINUOUS

Cory angered by the conversations stomps onto the deck.

CORY

(Yelling)

BEN. BEN.

Ben playing with friends gets startled by the noises and  
turns around to see Cory yelling his name. He drops the ball  
he is holding and runs to Cory afraid of what's to come.

Cory bends down and grabs Ben's arms.

CORY

I'm sorry I didn't mean to yell. I am  
going home. Be back before dark and do  
not leave this house. Do you hear me?

BEN

Okay.

Cory gives Ben a kiss on the forehead, turns him around and pushes him off the porch.

Ben runs back to his friends.

INT. GLENDA'S HOUSE - DAY (13 YEARS EARLIER)

GLENDA is in the kitchen gathering stuff to make her special brownies.

CORY is sitting on the bar stool watching Glenda run around the kitchen while messing with the trinkets on the counter.

GLENDA

So Cory. Are you excited about moving here?

YOUNG CORY

No. I had a lot of friends where I lived before and now my mom says I have to make new ones.

GLENDA

Well, making friends isn't that hard. You'll be fine. What does your mom do for work to afford such a nice house?

Glenda now having gotten everything out for the brownies begins the process of baking.

CORY

I don't know. She leaves before I go to school and then she picks me up from school. She wears an apron so maybe she's a cook.

GLENDA

Wow a cook. What about your dad?

CORY

My mom says that my dad is a no good piece of shit that always pays the bills too late. I've never met him.

GLENDA

Do you know anything about him?

CORY

Just that he is some type of lawyer in New York. Apparently he owns a huge building called Graham Tower. I don't know but sometimes he sends me gifts.

Glenda's lifts her head and her eyes widen. She turns around and hands Cory a bowl of unmixed batter. She signals to Cory to start stirring and begins to clean the kitchen

GLEENDA

I thought you have never meet him?

CORY

I haven't. But I don't know if I really want to. He bought us this house though so maybe he will come visit.

GLEENDA

He bought you a house and your mom still doesn't like him?

CORY

She didn't really wanna move here but she said I need to go to a good school so we moved.

Glenda having finished cleaning leans over the counter and watches as Cory focuses on stirring the batter.

GLEENDA

Ah okay. Cory is a nice name, is it short for anything

CORY

No. (beat) I don't like my name sometimes.

GLEENDA

Why?

CORY

The kids at school make fun of me for having a boy's name.

GLEENDA

Don't pay them any mind. Everyone calls me Glen so you and I can rock these boy's names together.

Glenda grabs the bowl from Cory and sprinkles in a mysterious spice for an unlabeled BOTTLE with a strange blue top. She mixes it a little more and then reaches her finger in to taste it. Happy with the outcome Glenda reaches her hand in again but this time she plops a big dollop of batter on Cory's nose.

Cory and Glenda both laugh.

CORY

Okay. Cory and Glen.

Cory grabs the batter of her nose and eats it. Glenda and Cory giggle while Glenda starts pouring the batter into the dish.

CORY

What did you put in the brownies?

GLEENDA

Well that's a secret, maybe one day I'll tell you.

Glenda then throws the brownies in the oven and turns back to lean on the counter to talk to Cory face to face.

GLEENDA

Now we wait twenty minutes and then you will have the best brownies of your life.

INT. CORY'S HOUSE/KITCHEN - AFTERNOON (PRESENT)

Cory enters the kitchen barefoot and grabs the large pile of mail sitting on the edge of the island counter.

She sits on the bar stool and begins to go through the mail throwing junk into one pile and bills into the other. At the end of the pile she reaches a large manila ENVELOPE.

Cory stares at the envelope that just has her name and address on it. Cory turns the envelope around looking for anything to determine who it's from.

Cory debates whether she should place the envelope in with the bills or that trash. After careful considerations she decides to place it in with the bills.

Cory throws the junk mail in the trash and takes the envelope and bills to her office.

OFFICE

Cory places the mail on her messy desk, filled with old coffee cups and old textbooks.

Cory sits down and gets onto her computer. She opens up her email and sees she was received one from Steven. She opens it and it reads.

**ON SCREEN:** "Hey! I got your email earlier you are welcome to go into my mothers house and get whatever you like. She really loved you. I hope to see you soon. Love Steven."

Cory opens the drawer and grabs a key attached to a LANYARD with images of BROWNIES.

Cory suddenly hears a loud BANG from the front door. Cory tenses from the noise.

SAM (OS)  
(Yelling)  
I'm here bitches!

Cory sighs in relief and opens the door of her study to revile SAM, early 20s appearing confident yet vulnerable, standing holding a plethora of bags reining from suitcases to shopping bags.

CORY  
(Angrily)  
Sam.

SAM  
(Emphatically)  
Cory!

Sam drops all of his bags and rushes to hug Cory. Coming back from the hug Sam leaves his hands on her shoulders and looks her up and down.

SAM  
You look like shit.

Cory pushes out from the hug and grabs some of Sam's bags. She heads towards the living room.

SAM  
I'm just telling you the truth. You told me you wanted complete honesty from me and so here it is.

Sam grabs the rest of the bags, kicks the front door closed and rushes to catch up with Cory.

CORY

You know that's not what I meant.

SAM

Doesn't matter what you meant just what you said. You should watch your words next time.

CORY

You're a day early.

SAM

With everything that just happened I thought it best to come home earlier and my trip was too long anyway.

Cory and Sam leave Sam's bag leaning against the stairs and walk into the living room to plop down on the large leather couches.

LIVING ROOM

CORY

(Sarcastically)

What the fawning ladies to much for you?

SAM

(gasping)

Never!

Sam places a hand on his chest and leans back into his chair.

SAM (CONT.)

How was the funeral?

CORY

It was okay.(beat) Except that Carrie asked about my mom again.

SAM

Carrie's a bitch you know. What gives her the right to stick her nose in everyone's business. Oh what I wouldn't give to give her a taste of her own medicine.

Sam jumps to the edge of his seat.

SAM  
(Excitedly)  
Maybe we should steal her dog.

CORY  
Sam. No. She's just sensitive and easy  
to blame others.

Cory and Sam both chuckle. Sam stands up going back to his bag and brings back a small blue bag with white tissue paper coming from the top.

SAM  
Where's Ben?

CORY  
He's still at Carrie's playing with  
the other boys.

SAM  
I got him something.

Sam reaches is hand into the bag and pulls out a small shot glass with breasts coming out from the side. He throws it into Cory's lap and laughs.

Cory looks up at him horrified and hands the shot glass back.

CORY  
Absolutely not.

Sam chuckles and pushes the glass back to her.

SAM  
It's a joke. It's actually for you. I  
got Ben a magnet for his collection.

Sam pulls a small magnet of a blue whale and hands it to Cory.

CORY  
Thanks.

Cory stands up to put the presents in the kitchen. Sam follows behind her and on the way throws his bag onto the others near the stairs.

KITCHEN

Cory leans against the counter messing with trinkets placed in the center.

Sam sits on the bar stool.

CORY  
Steven emailed me back.

SAM  
Oh did he now.

CORY  
He said "Love you" add the end of his email.

SAM  
Dick. He doesn't get the right

CORY  
Sam. He's trying.

SAM  
Is he?

Cory sighs

CORY  
I don't wanna talk about it right now.

Cory pulls the key to Glenda's house out of her pocket.

CORY  
He said I could go into Glens to get my stuff. Do you wanna come?

SAM  
Only if I get to steal some stuff too.

Cory sighs.

CORY  
Fine.

Sam jumps from his seat and claps his hands a little

INT. CARRIE'S HOUSE/BATHROOM - AFTERNOON (13 YEARS EARLIER)

CARRIE, early 30s, looks like a sleep deprived and stressed housewife, sits on the toilet with a worried face as she urinates on a small pregnancy stick. She pulls the stick up and sets it on a small towel on the counter.

While washing her hands she stares at the stick waiting for something to appear. Once she sees the slightest mark of

color she violently grabs the stick and sees in large print.  
"Not Pregnant"

CARRIE

Shit.

Carrie angrily throws the pregnancy stick into the trash. She paces while rubbing her hands on her face trying to rub away the tears streaming from her eyes.

DAVID (OS)

(muffled)

Carrie? Is something wrong?

Carrie rubs her face one more time to clear away the tears. Putting on a fake smile she opens the door.

DAVID, early 30s appears happy yet stressed, stands in the hallway in a new grey suit holding a small brown briefcase.

CARRIE

I'm fine just a little morning  
sickness from this baby.

Carrie chuckles while she rubs her belly.

David leans down and holds Carrie's stomach.

DAVID

Stop making your mom sick.

David kisses Carrie's stomach and then stands and gives Carrie a kiss on the cheek.

DAVID

I'm off to the airport. I'll call you  
when I land.

CARRIE

I'll be waiting.

David blows Carrie one last kiss as he rushes out the door.

Carrie sighs in relief and heads to the kitchen.

KITCHEN

Carrie sits at a bar stool and sorts through the mail stopping at a strange ENVELOPE.

The ENVELOPE is small and an off shade of white. It's marked

with only David's name and the address.

Curious as to what's inside Carrie opens the envelope and unfolds the papers inside.

The first paper reads. "Your Wife Isn't Pregnant" in large red marker. Carrie takes that paper and sets it down on the counter.

The next paper is a confidential doctors chart displaying lab results. She throws that paper to the side.

Carrie pulls the next paper out. This paper contains email correspondence with an unknown person discussing the purchase of fake doctor visits as well as fake sonogram photos.

CARRIE  
(Angrily)  
Glen!

Carrie jams the papers back into the envelope and angrily leaps from the bar stool. Carrie grabs her keys and rushes out the front door.

EXT. GLENDA'S HOUSE - AFTERNOON (13 YEARS EARLIER)

GLENDA struggles closing her front door while holding a large platter of brownies. She bends down holding the platter out to CORY.

GLENDA  
Could you hold these?

Cory violently shakes her head up and down, making it apparent she is on a sugar high, while struggling to grab platter.

After locking the door Glenda shoos Cory off the porch and walk through the grass to the street.

CARRIE  
(Yelling)  
GLENDA! GLENDA! YOU FUCKING BITCH!

Glenda whips her head to stare at Carrie who is furiously stomping down the street towards her. She grabs Cory and covers her ears.

GLENDA  
(Calmly)  
You should mind your language Carrie,

we are in the presence of children.

Carrie now stands inches from Glenda's face. She looks down at Cory but quickly returns to face Glenda.

CARRIE

My

(Mouthing)

S-E-X

(yelling)

life is non of your fucking business.

GLEENDA

I certainly have no idea what you are talking about.

CARRIE

Yes you do. This was in my mail.

Carrie holds up a small strange colored white envelope and waves it in Glenda's face.

CARRIE

David could have opened this and it would have killed him.

Glenda taking her hands off of Cory's ears grabs Carrie's arm and pushes it down.

GLEENDA

I have no idea what that letter says and I have no idea who sent it.

CARRIE

Like hell you don't.

MARIA walks up to the conversation and grabs Cory's hand.

MARIA

(To Carrie)

Hello! You must be ..

Carrie looks to Maria trying to put on a polite face while still trying to let Glenda know she's mad.

CARRIE

Carrie.

MARIA

Nice to meet you Carrie. I'm Maria and this is my daughter Cory.

Maria waves her hand down to Cory and then extends it for a handshake.

Carrie reluctantly shakes Maria's hand.

MARIA

So Carrie. Are you a mother?

CARRIE

(Fumbling)

I'm sorry?

MARIA

(Sternly)

Are you a mother?

CARRIE

(Fumbling)

Um not yet.

Carrie instinctual moves her hand to her stomach.

Maria notices.

MARIA

Well as an expecting mother. You can understand that I do not care for the language you are using around my daughter and would prefer if you could leave so that Glenda and I could talk.

Glenda shoots Carrie a smug smile.

CARRIE

I understand.

Carrie straightens out her blouse and calms herself down while she stares at Glenda.

CARRIE

(Angrily)

This is not over Glen.

Carrie shoves the small envelope in Glenda's face one more time before turning to walk back to her house.

MARIA

(To Glenda)

What was that about?

GLEENDA

Oh Carrie. She is very sensitive and quick to place blame on others for her mistakes. She usually blames me.

Glenda chuckles.

GLEENDA

But that is nothing to worry yourself about.

Cory looks up to her mom and holds out the brownie platter with one hand. The platter starts to shift on her hand so Cory drops her bag and grabs the other side of the platter and giggles.

YOUNG CORY

Look Mom! We made brownies with special spices.

Maria looks to Glenda with a face of worry.

MARIA

(Mouthing)

Marijuana

GLEENDA

Oh heavens. No.

Maria sighs in relief and grabs the brownies from Cory. She points to Cory to grab her bag. Cory violently pulls the bag up and throws it over her shoulder.

MARIA

(To Glenda)

Thank you! I'm sure these will be delicious. And thank you again for taking care of Cory while I was finishing up in there.

GLEENDA

It's my treat.

MARIA

(To Cory)

Why don't we head inside and set up your room.

Cory excitedly waves her head up and down.

YOUNG CORY  
(To Glenda)  
Bye Glen.

Glen gives Cory a warm smile and wave as she walks back across the street with her mother.

EXT. GLENDA'S HOUSE - AFTERNOON (PRESENT)

CORY and SAM walk up to the door. Cory grabs the doorknob to unlock it but is surprised when the door swings open.

Cory cautiously enters the house. Sam rushes in behind her.

Making her way to the kitchen she rubs all the surfaces around her and then blows the accumulated dust off her fingers.

CORY  
I'm going to look in the kitchen. Can you look and see if you find anything that's mine?

Sam is already in the living room admiring the sculptures in the bookcases.

SAM  
(Quietly and Drawn out)  
Yeah.

KITCHEN

In the kitchen Cory opens cabinet after cabinet before finally reaching the BOTTLE with the blue top. She excitedly picks it up and drops it into her bag.

Reaching back up to close the the cabinet her eye is caught by a faint shine of a small KEY hidden in the back. She reaches her hand back and grabs it.

She looks at it before deciding to place it in her bag.

Cory opens the fridge and steps back horrified by the smell of rotting food.

CORY  
(Loudly)  
You would think the food would last until Steven got here.

SAM (OS)  
(muffled)  
Yeah definitely.

Cory opens the freezer and starts rummaging through the frozen meals and ice until she reaches the alcohol. Slowly she picks each bottle up and wipes it off before putting it in her bag.

Cory stops at the last BOTTLE and picks it up to stare at it. Lifting she smells the bottle and is repulsed by the smell.  
*Mike's alcohol?*

SAM (OS)  
Cory!

CORY  
(Annoyed)  
No Sam you can't take the cat statue.

SAM (OS)  
(Sternly)  
Cory. You need to come over here now.

Cory rushes down the hall and finds Sam standing in a doorway to a room Cory has never been in.

STUDY

She pushes him out of the way and is met with the scene of a trashed study.

The table lamp is broken on the ground spreading glass everywhere. Sitting right next to it is the desk chair broken into pieces with the stuffing from the cushion spilling out. Papers are scattered around the floor and stuck in furniture.

CORY  
What the fuck.

Cory picks up the chair and starts to gather papers. Sam reaches down and starts to clean the broken glass.

CORY  
Why would someone do this?

SAM  
Hell if I know. Glen must have been into some creepy shit.

Cory looks up from cleaning and sees a file cabinet with

scratches up and down the sides and dents near the key hole.

CORY

Look.

Cory lifts her hand and points to the large black file cabinet. Sam walks over and rubs the scratches.

SAM

Someone for sure tried to get in here.

Reaching in her bag she takes out the key she found in the kitchen and decides to try and open the cabinet door. With some force it opens.

SAM

Where'd you get that?

CORY

It was in the cabinet with the spices.

Inside the filing cabinet Cory and Sam find it to be empty except for a single green file with the name sticker ripped off.

INT. GLENDA'S HOUSE - NIGHT (13 YEARS EARLIER)

GLENDA pulls out two empty green files from her file cabinet.

She sits her at her desk opening the folder placing a name sticker in each name slot.

Glenda hears a loud PING. She reaches over and pulls a pile of paper from the printer. Turning back to the files she goes back and forth from putting one paper in one folder to the other.

Finished with the papers she pulls out a pen and writes the names "Cory" and "Maria" on the name slots.

Glenda chuckles slightly with an evil smirk while she puts the files back into the file cabinet.

EXT. ISLAND - NIGHT (PRESENT)

CARRIE, MIKE, MARY, JENNIFER, 40s, who looks like she had the life was sucked out of her, and FORREST, 40s, who dresses smart but is clearly an idiot, sit around a small roaring fire.

CARRIE  
How old do you think she was?

MIKE  
(Drunkenly)  
I don't know man. She was ancient.

MARY  
Cal said the coroners couldn't even  
tell.

The group chuckles. Carrie slowly stands and repeatedly taps her glass with her nail.

CARRIE  
I'd like to make a toast.

MIKE  
Another?

CARRIE  
Yes, another. I want to thank Glenda  
for being the most destructive  
neighbor I have ever had.

Mary laughs and then abruptly stands up. She lifts her glass to the air

MARY  
I want to thank Glenda for teaching me  
to mind my own business. She was the  
nosiest person I have ever meet.

JENNIFER rushes to her feet and holds out a GLASS OF WATER.

JENNIFER  
Thank you Glenda, for teaching me to  
keep my secrets to myself.

CARRIE AND MARY  
Amen.

FORREST slowly stands and lifts his beer to the air.

FORREST  
I want to thank Glenda for teaching me  
that even the oldest of women can be  
snakes.

Mike stumbles to his feet. He lifts his unspecified alcohol into the air.

MIKE  
To that stupid bitch. May she rest  
unpeacefully 5 feet in the rotten  
ground forever.

The group clinked their glasses together and fall back into  
their seats.

CARRIE  
(Concerned)  
Do you think Cory is gonna be okay?

MARY  
I don't know. She seemed very shaken  
up at the funeral.

MIKE  
Seems like her little boy toy is back.

Mike points to Sam's vibrant colored van.

JENNIFER  
Oh hush. He's a nice kid.

FORREST  
Cute too.

The group turn and stare at Forrest. Forrest becomes visibly  
flustered.

FORREST CONT.  
(Anxiously)  
For the ladies.

Forrest takes a large gulp of his beer.

MIKE  
Except for Cory.

Mike laughs and then takes another large gulp of his alcohol.

CARRIE  
What did happen between them?

JENNIFER  
She won't say.

MARY  
(Angrily)  
She's so secretive.

Forrest stands up and pokes the fire.

CARRIE

She learned it from that god awful mother she had. Glen didn't help it either.

FORREST

Maybe she just doesn't want people knowing her business so she doesn't tell people.

JENNIFER

(Snippy)

That's exactly what secretive means Forrest.

FORREST

(Long and drawn out)

Right.

Forrest opens the cooler and grabs another beer. He falls back into his seat.

CARRIE

I hope she doesn't go poking her head where it shouldn't be.

MARY

I'm sure she won't. She's a smart girl.

The group turn their heads and take a long stare at Cory's house.

INT. CORY'S HOUSE/BEN'S ROOM - NIGHT (PRESENT)

CORY sits in on the edge of BEN's bed reading a children's book. SAM sits in the corner of the room on a chair made for a child while he messes with some trinkets.

CORY

(Reading)

Debbie pulled the bucket up the hill and poured the water down. Oh no it must be raining said the blue rabbit -

BEN

Corgi.

Cory looks up to Ben with a warm smile.

CORY

Yes.

BEN

I want Sam to read to me tonight.

Ben points his fingers to Sam.

CORY

Oh. Yeah. Sam can do that.

Sam jolts out of his small chair.

SAM

(Surprised)

I can.

Cory gives Ben a kiss on his forehead and stands up. She pushes the book into Sams chest and points the spot on the bed where she was just sitting.

CORY

Yes. You can.

Sam hesitantly sits down and opens the book.

BEN

Tell me stories about your trip.

Sam throws the book to the ground and grabs Ben's feet from above the covers.

SAM

(Excitedly)

That I can do.

Sam sits up straight and chuckles

SAM

So there was this really hot brunette sitting by the pool wearing the smallest bikini with orchids on it -

CORY

Sam.

Sam looks to Cory and sighs.

SAM

(Sarcastically)

Is a story about whales okay?

Ben sits up and starts jumping up and down.

BEN  
(Excitedly)  
Yes! Yes!

Cory gives Sam a nod of agreement. Sam turns to Ben and tucks him back into bed.

SAM  
I'm standing in the longest line I've  
ever been in -

Cory leaves closing the door behind her.

CORY'S OFFICE

Cory enters her office and proceeds to her desk.

She finds the manila ENVELOPE and decides to open it.

Once opened Cory finds a white bag with the words "If I Die" written on the front. Cory rips open the bag and files begin to fall out. Cory slowly pulls them all together and starts to examining them.

Once Cory realizes that all the name tabs have the names of her neighbors written on them she frantically spreads them on her desk.

Cory rummages through them opening one after another. Each marked with a large red symbol making them as "suspect".

CORY  
(quietly)  
Suspects?

After staring at the contents of the files Cory looks out her office window and sees all of her neighbors sitting in the cul-de-sac laughing and drinking.

FADE OUT: END