

Fare
A Life Drama
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FADE IN:

EXT. 90 BEDFORD STREET, NY - "FRIENDS" APT BLDG 12:14 PM

LYNN ANDERSON, 55-year-old cab driver, pulls up to the stop for her fare.

INT. LYNN'S YELLOW CAB - 12:14 PM

LYNN checks the amount owed on the meter. Something registers. Her eyes shift to a small blue sticky note on the dash. It is the same number. She stops cold.

PASSENGER

Are we...is this it? (referencing cell phone) my battery died. Wait is this charging? I think this is it!

LYNN (V.O.)

Death is not the end, really.

LYNN eyes the PASSENGER through the rear view mirror.

PASSENGER

Yeah. I can get out here.

Instead of letting the PASSENGER out, LYNN locks the door, rolls up the windows, and lights a cigarette. She secures the window lock feature so that only she can control it.

PASSENGER

What...Listen can you just--

PASSENGER tries to open the door but can't.

LYNN (V.O.)

It's not something I fear anymore.

PASSENGER

Really...a child safety lock? (laughs)
Ma'am, please open the door.

LYNN connects with the PASSENGER in the rear view mirror. As their eyes lock, the PASSENGER knows that something is wrong. Very wrong. The PASSENGER is confused. Then paralyzed with fear. Then trying frantically to get out. The PASSENGER's voices fade into the background as LYNN continues.

LYNN (V.O.)

When I was a girl, I didn't understand it. I just saw how people reacted.

Hurt. Pain. Sorrow. Fear. And I tried to act like them, you know. Just do what I saw other people do.

EXT. 90 BEDFORD STREET, NY - 12:16 PM

LYNN turns left onto Christopher Street. There is lunch hour traffic. There is an eery calm that has come over her. A satisfaction. She stops at a traffic light.

LYNN (V.O.) CONT'D

But every time I saw the person in the coffin, it didn't make sense to react like that. Like, why are we so emotional over someone who is so at peace?

The PASSENGER finally finds and hits the panic button to alert police. LYNN notices.

LYNN

Broken.

PASSENGER checks phone to see if it's back on and realizes it must be broken too. She takes it out and plugs it back in to test it, try to make it work. LYNN drives.

LYNN (V.O.)

The only real heartbreak is knowing that it's about to end...but fearing how. I don't like that.

LYNN darts through a light and almost laughs at the people she's pissed off in the crosswalk.

PASSENGER tries to let the windows down, but it doesn't work.

PASSENGER

What are you doing? (Banging on divider, then window) Let me out! Now!

LYNN turns right onto West Side Highway. She drives slowly. Purposefully. Parallel with what we now see as a body of lonely water. Long drag. Of road and cigarette. Taking it all in. For the last time.

LYNN (V.O.)

Death, you know...it feels more like a place to go than a thing to be afraid of. I know more people there than I do here now, so...

Red light. LYNN cracks the window. She takes a long drag of the cigarette and flicks it. She holds her breath for moments. Then a long exhale.

PASSENGER hasn't given up just yet. She tries another approach.

PASSENGER
(singing the "Friends" theme,
partially to calm herself) I'll be
there for you...

PASSENGER notices that LYNN hears her, and that the small idea has some effect. She continues the song hoping to change LYNN's mind.

PASSENGER
"So no one told you life was gonna be
this way..."

LYNN Listens. Smiles to self.

PASSENGER
"...Your job's a joke, you're broke
your love life's d.o.a."

Green light. LYNN drives.

PASSENGER
"It's like you're always stuck in
second gear..."

PASSENGER notices a tear falling down LYNN's face. For the first time we see LYNN being emotional in a way she cannot control.

PASSENGER's cell phone light comes on. The power is back. She is using the song to distract and stall LYNN.

PASSENGER
"...When it hasn't been your day, your
week, your month or even your year,
but, I'll be there for youuuu..."

A moment between them. LYNN is lost in thought for a moment. PASSENGER looks down to notice the phone is fully on and dials 9-1-1. LYNN recognizes what is happening. Feels betrayed. Extinguishes cigarette.

OPERATOR
9-1-1 what's your emergency?

LYNN (V.O.)
I decided to take that fear away.

PASSENGER
I'm being kidnapped...or
something...taken against my will. I'm
in a yellow cab on the West Side
Highway. I don't know, there's water!

LYNN releases all emotion, rolls up the window presses play
on her CD player, and drives.

She relaxes into the moment, cherishing every sight. Perry
Street. The Rusty Knot. The Whitney Museum.

LYNN
You ever been there?

PASSENGER

(Hail Mary) We should go!

LYNN looks, and turns up the volume. "Orange Colored Sky"
begins as she drives towards the water.

PASSENGER
We're on the Pier.

OPERATOR
Can you open the window?

LYNN turns left onto the dock. PASSENGER tries to break the
window. It won't budge.

PASSENGER
We're on the Pier. GOD, somebody
please...please...please...

LYNN stops the car, lights another cigarette, draws in smoke
and holds it in her mouth.

LYNN (V.O.)
I decided to know how it ends. With my
favorite song. At my favorite place.
Doing what I do. I like that better.
Knowing how and discovering when.

Music plays on the lyric "I was walking along, minding my
business, when out of an orange colored sky..." LYNN props
the cigarette and puts the car in drive. She drives. On the
lyric "zip" --

BLACKOUT.

In black, we hear a beep. beep. beep.

POV LYNN's eyelids as they blink open.

INT. LYNN'S BEDROOM DAY

LYNN's bedroom is all white. She tried to make it a serene space. It ended up feeling more like a hospital room. Sterile. Empty. In need of healing.

Remnants of happier times litter the sparse furniture placed haphazardly around the room. Pictures of her parents show us that she wasn't raised this way. Awards and certificates from previous jobs show us that she had a life before driving to support herself became her only option.

Over the counter supplements cover a makeshift night stand by the bed. A rarely used dusty smart TV sits on a multi-purpose wooden stand across from the foot of the bed. Four fancy clothes hampers, a mini trampoline turned sideways, and a tower fan line the wall.

She hits the snooze button on her phone. Sits up. And goes to:

INT. BATHROOM DAY

LYNN uses the bathroom. In the mirror while washing her hands, she examines herself-searching for what she can see. She turns to the side and notices her distended abdomen. She poses and muses to herself as if it were a baby. But it's too late for that.

The snooze alarm goes off and snaps LYNN back into her present. She tries to suck her stomach in but it goes nowhere. She touches it a bit and takes in the hardness of it.

INT. BEDROOM DAY

LYNN goes back into the bedroom, hits snooze again and opens her Chromebook laptop. She closes out chatroom tabs on "what if the cancer returns" and "cost of cancer treatment." She opens a new tab to the virtual dice roller on calculator.net. She clicks the "Roll Dice" button and waits.

1-6-6-3. She writes \$16.63 on a small yellow sticky note, then crumbles it and rewrites it on a blue sticky note.

CUT TO:

INT. LYNN'S YELLOW CAB - DAY

Lynn places a sticky note on the dash next to the meter. Then takes it down. She might not need it. She places the sticky note in her front denim shirt pocket. Once it's secured, she flips the switch, adjusts the mirror and begins to drive.

CUT TO:

EXT. 125TH APARTMENT BUILDING DAY

Out of nowhere JAMES, 41, runs into the street in front of the car. LYNN slams on brakes barely missing him.

JAMES

C'mon Peaches.

LYNN hates the name.

LYNN

Move.

JAMES dances to the driver side window while singing:

JAMES

"...and party - and bullshit - and party - and bullshit..."

His breath reeks of Boone's Farm and Vodka from last night. The stench is overwhelming.

LYNN

James move! I gotta get to an appointment.

JAMES

Just a little Kool-Aid to knock off the edge. You got me and my girls this evening right Peaches?

LYNN

Stop calling me that. And yes I talked to Brenda I'm picking them up at 5:30.

JAMES

That's right. PICK THEM UP and BRING THEM HERE!

LYNN

James--

LYNN watches him, then gets out of the car and walks towards him.

JAMES

They MY daughters!

LYNN embraces JAMES. And holds him. He breaks.

JAMES

They my kids Lynn. They mine too.

LYNN

I know...I know.

A beat. They see each other. And understand.

LYNN

Now dry your drunk ass out before I get back or I'm not leaving those babies with you.

JAMES looks. LYNN gives it right back. JAMES relents.

JAMES

I hear you Peaches! Why you so mean though?

LYNN heads back to her car.

JAMES

Where you going? Come on with me and party...and bullshit...and party...and bullshit...

LYNN drives away without knocking him down as he continues his chant in the street.

JAMES

And party...and bullshit...

CUT TO:

INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE WAITING ROOM - DAY

L-shaped desk with 4 receptionists (3 older, 1 new).

PACO

Hey Lynn-long time no see. What you

doing back here?

LYNN
I missed you Paco.

PACO
They always do. I'll let Tina know
you're here.

LYNN signs in at the desk, takes her seat and waits.

FRONT DESK
Ms. Anderson?

LYNN returns to the front desk.

LYNN
Yes?

FRONT DESK
Just to let you know, your insurance
ends at the end of the month--

LYNN
I know.

FRONT DESK
Do you want to add an additional plan
to your file?

LYNN
No.

FRONT DESK
Ok, well we should be fine for today
but--

TINA MERRIT, Office manager, enters.

TINA
(to attendant) She's fine.

LYNN
Thank you.

FRONT DESK
--but after today if we need to set
you up with a treatment plan it will
be out of pocket. I can refer you to--

LYNN
No thank you.

TINA
Amanda why don't you take a break? (to
LYNN) I got you.

LYNN walks back to her seat and waits.

CUT TO:

INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - DAY

DR. DAVID SARKISIAN, 46, greets LYNN at the door. Looking at his file:

DR. SARKISIAN
Lynn, come in. How are you?

LYNN enters, and sits.

LYNN
You tell me.

DR. SARKISIAN,
So we got the results back from your
biopsy...and unfortunately, it's back.
There are a few ways we can approach
this. As you know from the prior two
times...

CUT TO CLOSE-UP ON LYNN:

As DR. SARKISIAN speaks, all sound falls away. We watch as LYNN listens and takes it all in. Her face does not give way to the fear that is rising up in her. She reaches for the sticky note in her pocket, takes it out without looking at it, and holds it close.

FADE TO BLACK

EXT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE STREET PARKING - DAY

LYNN exits Doctor's office. It is pouring rain.

INT. CAB - DAY

She enters cab and places blue sticky note on the dashboard by the meter. She cranks up the car and prepares to drive off when there is a tap on the window.

PASSENGER 2
Hey-sorry, are you taking passengers?

LYNN unlocks the door.

PASSENGER 2
Thank you! Save me from having to call
a car and wait in this terrible
weather.

PASSENGER 2 closes the door.

PASSENGER 2
Huh. My lucky day.

LYNN
Where to?

BLACKOUT

THE END