

The Path Not Taken

1.06: Sometimes Hope is Needed

by
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When All Hope is Gone...How Can you Move On?

TEASER

FADE IN:

INT. JENNY'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Jenny and Henry stand at the sink cleaning the dishes.

JENNY

Sorry that the dishwasher is broken.

HENRY

Oh I don't mind. Me and my sister always used to clean the dishes like this. It was fun.

JENNY

Yeah me and Harlan fought over who would do it.

Jenny laughs. Henry looks down at the soapy water. He picks some up and puts it on Jenny's nose. Jenny jumps.

JENNY (CONT'D)

(Laughing)

What was that for!?

HENRY

Lets have a little fun. Loosen up a bit.

Jenny looks at him.

JENNY

Okay. I'll loosen up.

Jenny reaches into the bubbles. She throws it on Henry's head.

HENRY

What a nice toupee.

Jenny laughs.

JENNY

I look like Rudolf minus the red nose.

They both continue to laugh.

HENRY

Now you see what fun is.

JENNY

I can't believe I was missing out.

Jenny and Henry smile at each other.

HENRY

So how are you doing? About Brad?

JENNY

I've been feeling a little better then before.

HENRY

You did revel a lot of stuff about him a couple of days ago.

JENNY

Yeah. I know I did. But I felt like I needed to.

HENRY

And thats good.

JENNY

How is that good.

Henry looks at Jenny. He takes his hand and takes the soap of out his hair.

HENRY

Its apart of the steps. Your realizing the drive that made you want to go to drink.

JENNY

But I still have the urge.

HENRY

You'll have that for a long time. But your getting closer to the root of what made you drink.

(Beat)

Jenny. I've helped people before. But none have them have been like you. Your special.

Henry takes his hand and wipes the soap off her face. He puts his hand on her face. Jenny looks right into his eyes.

JENNY

I'm nothing special.

HENRY

Yes you are. You a powerful woman.
In control of her own destiny and
future. And I have a feeling your
half way there.

Jenny smiles at him. Henry takes his hand away from Jenny's face. He wipes his hands on a dish towel.

JENNY

We should get some sleep.

HENRY

Yeah we should. I'll see you in the
morning.

Jenny takes the dish towel from Henry and wipes her hands off. She puts the towel back onto the counter and heads out the kitchen.

INT. JENNY'S APARTMENT - JENNY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Jenny walks into her bedroom and lies down on the bed. She pulls the blankets over her and falls asleep.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. JENNY'S APARTMENT - JENNY'S BEDROOM - DAY

Jenny begins to stir awake. She sits up and puts her fingers through her hair. She takes the blanket off and gets up. She heads for the door.

INT. JENNY'S APARTMENT - HARLAN'S BEDROOM - DAY

Jenny opens to door to the room. Jenny walks in and looks over at Harlan. She walks over to him. She sits down on the bed and looks at him.

JENNY

Harlan? Hey you need anything?

Harlan does not respond. Jenny brings her hands up to his face. She rubs his cheeks. She feels the stubble from his beard. She looks down at him. His chest not moving. She reaches over and turns the light on. She looks back over at Harlan. His face flushed pale. His body not moving from Jenny's touch.

JENNY (CONT'D)

Harlan?...Harlan?....Harlan?

BLACK OUT:

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

INT. JENNY'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

5 Days Ago

All around the room, banners are every where, festive lights, and a big banner saying "HAPPY BIRTHDAY HOLLY" Everyone stands around the store with music playing. Holly dances with Bennett, Brooke sits at the table with Jenny Mellie Chris Henry and Harlan.

BROOKE

I have to say you guys, great party.

MELLIE

Holly deserves this. And just look at how cute they both look together?

Everyone turns their attention to Holly and Bennett.

JENNY

Yeah they are very cute together.

BROOKE

Yeah...

JENNY

Hey. You'll find someone.

Brooke smiles at Jenny.

HARLAN

I still cannot believe you and Mellie cooked.

JENNY

Yeah me too. I can't even cook.

HENRY

Well, it was very delicious.

Holly and Bennett stop dancing and walk back over to the table.

HOLLY

I feel as if I'm going to pass out. Maybe all those spins and eating a lot were not such a good idea.

BENNETT

You think?

Holly sits down at the table.

JENNY

Well, now that your done dancing.
Its time for presents!

Jenny stands up and walks over to the couch.

HOLLY

You guys don't have to do that.

JENNY

Too late.

Jenny comes back with a small box and a bunch of cards.

HOLLY

Which one should I do first?

JENNY

You pick.

Holly picks up the box and begins to tear off the paper. She opens the lid to reveal a gold heart locket.

HOLLY

Oh my god. Its beautiful.

Jenny smiles.

HOLLY (CONT'D)

Wait...this is from you?

JENNY

Yeah it is. I saw it and I thought
about it? Open it.

Holly pops open the heart to see a picture of Her and Jenny and on the other side a picture of her and Bennett.

HOLLY

This is amazing. But it must of
cost a fortune.

JENNY

None of that matters alright?

Holly puts the necklace on her neck.

INT. JENNY'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Jenny stands in the kitchen washing the dishes. Harlan walks in the room with more.

JENNY
Really? I'm not Wonderwoman.

HARLAN
Well, suck it up sis.

Jenny looks at Harlan and smiles.

JENNY
Hey can you bring out the cake?

HARLAN
Yeah sure.

Jenny walks over to the other counter where the cake is set. She picks it up and hands it over to Harlan. Harlan loses his grip on it and drops the cake both him and Jenny yell...

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. JENNY'S APARTMENT - HARLAN'S BEDROOM - DAY

Jenny runs over to Harlan and begins to shake his body. Trying to wake him up.

JENNY
Harlan! Please wake up! Please!

Henry runs into the room to see Jenny shaking Harlan.

HENRY
Jenny get back.

Jenny does not let go. Tears begin to fall from her face.

JENNY
Harlan! Please! Not you!

Henry runs over to Jenny and pulls her away from him. He puts his hands together and begins to administer CPR. His body does not react.

HENRY
Jenny call 911 now!

Jenny stands there looking at Harlan's body. It jolts up and down as Henry administers the CPR. But Jenny does not respond. She looks at him blankly. Knowing the truth.

JENNY (V.O.)
 And Sometimes Hope...leaves you
 forever.

Jenny gets herself together and grabs the phone and dials.

OPERATOR (O.S.)
 911 what's your emergency?

JENNY
 Hello? It's my brother! He's not
 moving.

OPERATOR (O.S.)
 Have you admisterd CPR?

JENNY
 We're trying. But he's not waking
 up.

OPERATOR (O.S.)
 I'm sending paramedics over. I need
 you to stay on the phone with me
 until they get there.

Henry keeps giving Harlan CPR.

JENNY
 Just please hurry!

OPERATOR (O.S.)
 They are on their way. Please
 remain calm.

Jenny begins to talk deep shallow breaths trying to keep
 herself calm.

OPERATOR (O.S.) (CONT'D)
 They are a couple of minutes away.
 I want you to tell me the symptoms
 of the body.

JENNY
 He's cold...and pale.

OPERATOR (O.S.)
 The body is cold?

JENNY
 No! My Brother!

There is a knock on the door. Jenny clicks the phone off and
 throws it to the ground and runs into...

INT. JENNY'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Jenny runs in and opens the door. The paramedics walk in.

PARAMEDIC #1
Where is he.

JENNY
In the bedroom.

The Paramedics run into the bedroom. Jenny remains outside. Jenny shuts the door and follows the paramedics into the room...

INT. JENNY'S APARTMENT - HARLAN'S BEDROOM - DAY

The paramedics run in and go directly to Harlan. Henry steps aside. Jenny runs in and goes next to him. The paramedics life Harlan's body off the bed and onto the floor. They put a heart monitor on, a low, long beep comes from it.

PARAMEDIC #1
How long has he been like this?

JENNY
I don't know. I just found him.

PARAMEDIC #1
Is there any previous accidents or medical history?

JENNY
He was in that explosion and he got a cut but the doctors said he was fine. He's fine.

One of the paramedics pull out a respirator and puts it to Harlan's mouth. He begins to pump the bag as air flows from it into Harlan's body. They keep doing this. Jenny continues to look on. The paramedics look at each other.

PARAMEDIC #2
He's cold.

The paramedic sighs. He leans over and turns off the heart monitor. He stands up and walks over to Jenny.

JENNY
Is there...?

PARAMEDIC #1
I'm sorry to be the one to tell you this...but your brother is dead.

Jenny looks up at him not knowing what to feel.

PARAMEDIC #1 (CONT'D)

It seems to have been something that happened during the explosion. Possibly from the wound. It could have been an embolism. But the coroner will determine the final cause of death.

(Beat)

I doubt he felt very little pain. He possibly just died in his sleep.

The paramedic looks down at Jenny.

PARAMEDIC #1 (CONT'D)

I'll call the coroner and they will come by in a little while to take the body. But in the mean time, I would try and get some rest, have a glass of water and try not to disturb the body.

The paramedic near Harlan's body stands up and walks out the room.

PARAMEDIC #2

We gotta go.

The two paramedics walk out of the room and go back into...

INT. JENNY'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - DAY

The paramedics runs out of the bedroom and walk out the door. Henry follows behind them and shuts the door. Jenny walks out. Henry looks at her. He walks over to her and pulls her in for a hug. She puts her head into his shoulders and begins to cry. Her legs begin to give out and she falls to the ground sobbing. Henry follows with her as she falls. He holds her tightly.

INT. JENNY'S APARTMENT - HARLAN'S BEDROOM - DAY

We cut to Harlan's body...pale, cold, lifeless. In the background we hear Jenny's loud crying.

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

INT. JENNY'S APARTMENT - HARLAN'S BEDROOM - DAY

On Harlan's body, the coroner puts Harlan's body into a body bag. They zip it up. They pick up his body and place it onto a stretcher. They begins to wheel him out.

INT. MELLIE'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Mellie sits on her couch, her eyes red from tears as more begin to fall down her face. Chris comes out from the kitchen with the phone in hand, and a cup of water in the other. He walks over to Mellie and sits down on the coffee table in front of her. He hands her the cup of water. She does not take it.

CHRIS

Honey you need to drink something.

MELLIE

I'm not thirsty.

CHRIS

To hell you're not.

Mellie looks up at him and takes the water from his hands. She takes a sip of it. She sets it down on the coffee table next to Chris. Chris looks down at her.

CHRIS (CONT'D)

Are you okay?

MELLIE

No...I'm not.

Mellie sits up.

MELLIE (CONT'D)

What the hell do we do? I mean we can't just waltz in there and pretend everything's alright when its not.

CHRIS

I'm not saying to do that Mel.

MELLIE

Then what do we do?

CHRIS
I don't know. I think we should
just be there. For Jenny.

Mellie looks down at her clothes.

MELLIE
I should change.

Mellie stands up and walks into her bedroom.

CHRIS
Mellie, what are you doing?

INT. MELLIE'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - DAY

Mellie walks in and peels over her top and begins to go
through the closet.

MELLIE
I'm changing.

CHRIS
Why?

MELLIE
Because I don't like what I had on.

CHRIS
I don't think it matters.

MELLIE
It does matter.

Mellie comes out now wearing another outfit.

MELLIE (CONT'D)
I need to be there for Jenny and I
need to look as if I'm not going to
a club.

CHRIS
You don't look your going to a
club.

Mellie begins to go through her closet.

MELLIE
(Crying)
Why do all my clothes make me look
like a skank!

Mellie begins to throw clothes out of the closet and onto the
floor. Chris goes behind her and grabs her.

CHRIS
Mellie calm down!

MELLIE
I can't calm down!

CHRIS
You can!

MELLIE
(Crying)
I can't. I can't deal with this!

Mellie cries harder. She breaks away from Chris and walks around the room.

MELLIE (CONT'D)
Jenny doesn't deserve this! Why did this have to happen to her! She's been through so much! Why add this to it?

CHRIS
I don't know why.

MELLIE
It's Brad's fault. He did this to Jenny he's been scaring her. Following her in the shadows.

CHRIS
Mel? Please look at me.

MELLIE
It's just not fair! It's not fair to any of us! Why did Harlan have to die!? He did nothing wrong!

Chris looks at her.

MELLIE (CONT'D)
Chris? Why am I like this?

Chris walks over to her and puts Mellie's head between his hands and he looks right into her eyes.

CHRIS
Your grieving. You don't know what to feel. You're sad, mad, scared...Its a difficult process to go through.

MELLIE
But why?

CHRIS

Because you lost someone. You lost
a person that is in your heart. Its
hard to let them go.

Chris kisses her forehead and then goes in for her lips. He
kisses her trying to calm him down. He breaks the kiss.

CHRIS (CONT'D)

We'll get through it okay?
Together. I promise. You have to be
strong.

Mellie nods her head. She goes in for another kiss. Mellie
pulls away.

MELLIE

What about Holly? Oh god...Holly.

Chris begins to tear up looking at Mellie.

MELLIE (CONT'D)

She's too young to be going through
this. To deal with death.

CHRIS

It doesn't matter how old you are.
You could be eighty years old or
younger. Everyone feels the same
way.

Mellie looks at him.

MELLIE

How do you know so much about this?

Chris takes a deep breath.

CHRIS

That's not important. But the main
focus right now is to help Jenny
and her family through this.

Mellie nods her head.

CHRIS (CONT'D)

Do you wanna go over there?

Mellie looks around the room.

MELLIE

Yeah...we should.

Chris brings Mellie in for another kiss. This time its more passonite. Chris breaks away. Him and Mellie walk out of the room.

INT. MELLIE'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Mellie and Chris come out of the bedroom. Chris grabs his and Mellie's jacket. He takes the keys and heads out the door. It shuts. We pan down to the coffee table to where we see a picture of Her and Jenny, Henry, Chris, Holly and Harlan. All of them smiling and having a good time.

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

INT. CELEBRATION HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY - DAY

Holly walks out of the bathroom. Brooke stands waiting outside.

BROOKE

I don't think you should be in school if you got that bug.

HOLLY

I can't miss school. I'm already falling behind in math.

BROOKE

So?

Holly gives her a look.

BROOKE (CONT'D)

Fine.

HOLLY

What do we go next?

Brooke goes into her bag and pulls out a schedule.

BROOKE

History.

HOLLY

Perfect...

Brooke laughs. They begin to walk down the busy hallway.

BROOKE

So, how's Harlan doing?

HOLLY

Well from last night I could see that he was fine. He was sleeping when I left.

BROOKE

I cannot believe he survived an explosion.

HOLLY

Trust me. I'm more surprised then you were.

(MORE)

HOLLY (CONT'D)

And then I come to school and learn that the big bitch on campus has decided to spread a rumor that I tried to kill myself.

BROOKE

It all started after you had that big freak out a few weeks back.

HOLLY

I was going through something.

A kid walks up to Holly.

KID

Holly. If you ever need to talk to anyone about suicide. I'm here for you.

HOLLY

(Yelling)

I didn't try to kill myself!

Holly's yell makes the entire hallway look her way. She turns around and runs back to the bathroom. The kids begin to laugh. Brooke looks around and runs after her.

INT. CELEBRATION HIGH SCHOOL - GIRL'S BATHROOM - DAY

Holly stands at the sink with tears falling down her eyes. She takes a paper towel and wipes her face. Brooke walks in and goes over to Jenny.

BROOKE

Hey. Are you okay?

HOLLY

Do I look okay?

BROOKE

No you look like a wet rat. But that's not the point.

HOLLY

Of course it's not.

BROOKE

Here's what I would do. Just ignore people. Don't listen to anything they say. Come on. We're gonna be late.

Holly wipes her face clean.

INT. CELEBRATION HIGH SCHOOL - HISTORY CLASSROOM - DAY

Holly and Brooke walk into the room and head for their desk's. The teacher begins to talk about random history stuff. Holly tries to pay attention but she can't. She picks up her pencil and begins to tap it on her books. Brooke looks at her.

HOLLY
(Quietly)
Sorry.

Holly stops tapping. A woman walks in and hands the teacher a piece of paper. The teacher reads it.

TEACHER
Holly, they want you in the office.

Everyone turns to look at Holly. She blushes. She gathers her stuff and heads for the door.

INT. CELEBRATION HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY - DAY

Holly walks down the empty hallway. Her footsteps echo within the walls. She turns into a room.

INT. CELEBRATION HIGH SCHOOL - OFFICE - DAY

Holly walks in to see Henry standing there looking at her.

HOLLY
Henry? What are you doing here? I thought you were picking me up later.

HENRY
There's been a change of plans.

HOLLY
Is everything okay?

Henry takes a deep breath.

HOLLY (CONT'D)
Why are your eyes red?

HENRY
Holly? Can we please go outside?

HOLLY
No! I want to know whats going on?

HENRY
Please Holly not here?

HOLLY
No here! Whats going on?

Henry walks over to her.

HENRY
Holly...Harlan died this morning.

Holly steps back and falls into a seat. She covers her mouth with her hand as tears begin to fall out.

HOLLY
What?...You're lying. Please tell me you're lying.

HENRY
Holly, I wish I was lying.

Holly begins to cry harder. Henry goes and crouches in front of her. He takes her hands and put them in his own.

HENRY (CONT'D)
I know this is hard for you.

HOLLY
I'm not thinking about me.

HENRY
Then who are you thinking about?

HOLLY
I'm thinking about Jenny.

Henry looks at her puzzled.

HENRY
Why Jenny?

HOLLY
Why Harlan? Why would Brad take him? Take his life?

HENRY
I don't know. None of us know.

Holly leans in and hugs him.

HOLLY
Can we please just go?

Henry pulls away.

HENRY
Yeah sure.

HOLLY

And can we get ice cream?

Henry looks at her.

HOLLY (CONT'D)

Not for me. But for everyone. When you took me for the day and you got me ice cream I felt that it helped. And I think it could help everyone else.

Henry smiles at her.

HENRY

I think thats a great idea.

Henry and Holly walk out of the room.

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

INT. JENNY'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Mellie sits on the floor cross armed, we pan up to Jenny to see her lying down on the couch tears falling down her face, her head on Henry's lap as he strokes her hair. Holly sits in the chair trying not to cry. Chris walks over to Mellie and hugs her. Mellie looks around the room and looks at her friends. She looks up to Jenny and takes her hand.

MELLIE

How are you doing?

Jenny looks at her.

MELLIE (CONT'D)

Jenny its okay to talk...

JENNY

He took him away from me....

MELLIE

Who?

JENNY

Brad.

Jenny begins to cry more. She pulls her hand away.

Mellie takes a deep breath and looks over to Holly. Holly looks back. Mellie stands up and goes over to Holly. She brings Holly to her and hugs her.

MELLIE

Its going to be okay sweetie.

INT. JENNY'S APARTMENT - JENNY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Jenny sits on her bed with tissues scattered across. In her hands she has her diary. She begins to write in it. The door opens and Mellie and Henry walk in with a plate of food.

HENRY

Hey. We brought you something to eat.

JENNY

I'm not hungry.

Mellie walks over to the bed. She climbs on top of it and goes next to Jenny, she places her head down on her shoulders, Jenny leans her head down on Mellie's head. Henry sets the food on the bedside table and walks over and sits on the edge of the bed.

JENNY (CONT'D)

(Crying)

Why did it have to be him?

Mellie looks up at Jenny.

MELLIE

We don't know. Its just hard to think about.

HENRY

Brad will get what he deserves. I promise you that.

Jenny nods her head, more tears begin to flow out her eyes.

INT. JENNY'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Henry and Mellie come out of Jenny's room and join Chris and Holly.

HOLLY

How is she?

HENRY

She's fine. She's sleeping.

CHRIS

I don't even think I can sleep.

MELLIE

I don't think any of us can. We've never been through anything like this before. I don't even know how to comfort her. I just don't know how...

Mellie sits down next to Chris and lies down into his arms.

HOLLY

I think we just need to be there for her. Help her, you know?

HENRY

What Jenny needs most right now is a family. And we're here.

Everyone looks at each other trying to cry.

HOLLY
Should we take care of the funeral?

Everyone turns to Holly.

HOLLY (CONT'D)
I'm sorry. I just thought it would help.

MELLIE
No sweetie its fine. Lets just not think about that tonight. Jenny's mom will be here in the morning, we can deal with it then.

Holly nods.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. JENNY'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN - DAY

Henry stands at the stove cooking eggs, Holly stands next to him stirring them. Mellie and Chris begin to set things up at the table. Jenny walks into the room. Mellie turns and sees her. She drops every and runs over to Jenny and hugs her. Jenny hugs her back.

MELLIE
Hey. How doing?

JENNY
Still the same.

Henry takes a big sigh. Jenny walks past him not even acknowledging him.

MELLIE
Henry's making breakfast.

Jenny sits down at the table and plays with the napkin. Everyone stares at her. Mellie walks over and sits next to her.

MELLIE (CONT'D)
Jenny...You need to talk.

JENNY
Why should I?

MELLIE
Because it could help.

JENNY
Nothings going to help me now.

Henry stops cooking and walks over to Jenny.

HENRY

Jenny. We're going to help you. I promise.

JENNY

That's what you said when Brad sent that threat.

HENRY

This time I promise. I promise you. We will help you through this.

Jenny looks up at Henry.

JENNY

Then why couldn't you save him...

Everyone turns to Jenny.

HENRY

Jenny, there's nothing I could have done. You heard the paramedics.

JENNY

I don't care what the paramedics said.

(Beat)

Why couldn't you do anything to save him?

Mellie walks over and crouches down in front of Jenny and takes her hand.

MELLIE

Hey. It wasn't Henry's fault.

JENNY

I know it wasn't.

MELLIE

Then why do you keep blaming him?

JENNY

I'm not...

MELLIE

Then who do you blame.

Jenny turns her head to Mellie.

JENNY

Myself.

Mellie takes a deep breath and looks at Jenny.

JENNY (CONT'D)

It's my fault that Brad is doing this. It's my fault that he killed Harlan.

MELLIE

Jenny, look at me.

Jenny looks at Mellie.

MELLIE (CONT'D)

This is not you're fault. Brad thinks he's doing this for love but he's not. Brad is the bad guy...not you.

Jenny begins to cry a little. The doorbell rings. Holly walks out of the room. We focus on Jenny and Mellie. The door opens and shut's quickly and Lisa runs in.

LISA

Jenny!?

Jenny looks up to see her mother. She gets up. She runs over to her and hugs her. Lisa puts her head in Jenny's shoulder's and begins to cry. Her cry pierces the silence. Jenny hugs her.

JENNY

It's going to be okay Mom...

CUT TO:

INT. JENNY'S APARTMENT - HARLAN'S BEDROOM - DAY

Lisa sits on Harlan's bed stroking her hand on the sheets. She holds a tissue in her hands as her eyes burn red. Jenny walks into the doorway and looks at her mom. She walks in and sits down next to her.

LISA

I just can't believe he's gone.

JENNY

Neither can I.

LISA

Your brother was a good man. He cared for everyone. I remember when you were five and got really sick, He sat by you and cared for you.

Jenny smiles remembering the good memories.

LISA (CONT'D)

He really loved you Jenny. His entire life was to protect you from the bad. I don't think you could've asked for a better brother.

Jenny begins to tear up.

JENNY

We had our ups and downs. But at the end of the day me and him would always fix it. No matter what.

Lisa puts her hand on Jenny's face and begins to stroke it.

LISA

I love you Jenny. No matter what.

JENNY

I love you too.

Jenny leans in and hugs her. Mellie comes into the doorway. She knocks on the door.

MELLIE

I'm going to go to the funeral home. Do any of you wanna come?

Jenny looks at Mellie.

JENNY

Mom, I'll go. You stay here and rest okay?

Lisa nods. Jenny hugs her tightly. She gets up and leaves the room.

INT.EXT - MELLIE'S CAR - DAY

Jenny sits in the passenger seat of the car as Mellie drives. Henry sits in the back seat.

MELLIE

You sure you wanna do this?

Jenny looks over to Mellie.

JENNY

I think I need to. I can't be a cry baby.

HENRY

If you don't want to, you can wait
in the car.

JENNY

I can handle it. As long as I don't
see him...

MELLIE

His body?

JENNY

It's not him. It's just his outer
layer. But it's not who he was.

Mellie looks in the mirror and looks at Henry who looks at
her. They make eye contact.

MELLIE

That's a better way to think about
it.

(Beat)

We're here.

EXT. JEFFERSON FUNERAL HOME - DAY

Mellie's car pulls into the parking lot of a nice white home.
Mellie, Henry and Jenny get out of the car and walk to the
door.

INT. JEFFERSON FUNERAL HOME - FLYOER - DAY

The three enter the funeral home. A man walks out from one of
the rooms to greet them.

TIM

Hello my name is Tim. I'm the
caretaker here. I'm deeply sorry
for your loss.

Henry and Mellie shake his hands. Jenny does not.

HENRY

We're just here to make the funeral
arrangements.

TIM

Okay then. If you would please just
step into my office and sign a few
things.

Henry follows Tim into his office. Jenny looks around the
room. Mellie puts her hand on Jenny's shoulder.

MELLIE
How are you doing?

Jenny looks at Mellie.

JENNY
I'm fine. Better then I was
earlier.

MELLIE
It's hard I know.

Jenny looks at her. Tim and Henry walk out.

TIM
Okay, so you just need to pick a
coffin?

Jenny tries not to cry.

JENNY
A wooden one.

They all look at Jenny.

JENNY (CONT'D)
It's what Harlan wanted. We talked
about it a long time ago just in
case anything we're to happen.

TIM
Completely understandable. Now we
have already settled on a date
which will be tommorow. So I just
need what he will be buried in.

Jenny looks at him.

JENNY
We brought his suit.

Jenny goes over to a chair and picks up one of Harlan's
suits.

TIM
Thank you. I will see you tommorow
morning then?

Tim walks away.

JENNY
Can we go?

MELLIE

Henry just needs to talk to the Coroner so we can find out the cause of death.

JENNY

No...I'll talk to him.

They both look at her.

MELLIE

Are you sure?

JENNY

I'm positive. I need to know.

Henry walks over to Jenny.

HENRY

We'll be standing right here.

JENNY

I know you will.

A man walks into a room wearing a white apron.

WILLIAM

Hello. My name is Dr. William. I was the one the performed the autopsy on your brother.

He puts his hand out and Jenny shakes it.

JENNY

Did you figure out what happened?

WILLIAM

I believe that it was from the wound. It may have caused some sort of blood clot which restricted blood flow.

JENNY

And that was it?

WILLIAM

No. My tests showed that your brother had a very serious heart condition.

Jenny begins to cry a little.

JENNY

How come he never told me?

WILLIAM

He didn't know. It's possible that due to the blood clot, your brother may have had a heart attack. There was really nothing you've could have done.

JENNY

But how come we didn't know about it? How come he didn't know about it?

WILLIAM

His doctor may have misread a few tests. It wasn't from genes. It's possible that the condition his heart was the stress. The stress he had each day made his heart pump faster and it raised his blood level. I'm sorry that I'm telling you all this...

JENNY

No it's fine. But the wound ultimately did kill him?

WILLIAM

Yes ma'am. It did. I'm sorry for your loss.

William walks out of the room. Jenny looks at Mellie and Henry.

JENNY

So...it was a stupid heart condition?

MELLIE

Jenny you heard him...Harlan didn't know.

JENNY

I heard him. But know I just don't know who to blame. Do I blame Brad...or do I blame Harlan?

Mellie walks over to Jenny and hugs her.

MELLIE

You don't blame anyone. It's no ones fault.

Jenny begins to cry. Mellie puts her hand on Jenny's head and begins to stroke down her hair.

MELLIE (CONT'D)
Everything is going to be
alright...

Jenny cries more and more. We pull away and on that we...

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

FADE IN:

INT. JENNY'S APARTMENT - JENNY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Jenny sits on top of her bed writing in her diary.

JENNY (V.O.)

Dear diary...I made it through the day. It was harder then I thought. I thought it would be hard but I saw that everyday is a struggle to make it through.

Jenny stops writing and looks up. She picks up a picture of her and Harlan. Smiling. She smiles at it.

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

He gave me hope. And Brad took it away from me...I still expect to see him walk into the apartment with his smile making my day brighter...

Jenny shuts her diary. She looks over to her clock to see that it's 5 o'clock. She sighs.

INT. JENNY'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Henry and Chris stand in the living room wearing suit and ties. Holly and Brooke sit on the couch in black dresses. Mellie comes out from the kitchen wearing black dress with a black sweater. The door opens and Bennett runs in still fixing his tie.

BENNETT

Sorry I'm late.

Holly stands up.

HOLLY

Your not late.

Holly leans in and kisses him. She then begins to do his tie. Mellie walks over to Chris and Henry.

MELLIE

Is Jenny almost ready?

HENRY

She should be out by now. Lisa already left with Riley.

MELLIE
I'll go check on her.

Mellie turns away and heads towards Jenny's room.

INT. JENNY'S APARTMENT - JENNY'S BEDROOM - DAY

Jenny stands in front of the mirror fixing her hair. She is wearing a black dress with her Leather jacket. Mellie knocks on the door and walks in.

MELLIE
Hey. You ready to go?

Jenny looks over at Mellie.

JENNY
I'm not ready yet.

Mellie sighs. She walks over to Jenny and takes her hair. She begins to put it into a pony tail.

JENNY (CONT'D)
Thanks...

MELLIE
No problem.

Mellie finishes Jenny's hair.

MELLIE (CONT'D)
I think you would look better with a pony tail. Can you hand me that ribbon?

Jenny picks up the ribbon and hands it to Mellie. Mellie begins to tie it around the ponytail. She makes a bow.

MELLIE (CONT'D)
There. You're all set.

Jenny looks in the mirror. Mellie looks at her.

JENNY
Thank you...for helping.

MELLIE
It's what we do right?

JENNY
Yeah it really is.

Mellie looks at Jenny.

MELLIE

Are you ready to go?

Jenny nods her head. She begins to head for the door. She stops and turns to Mellie.

JENNY

I can't.

Mellie walks over to her.

MELLIE

Can't what?

JENNY

Say goodbye.

Mellie hugs Jenny.

MELLIE

(Crying)

I need you to be strong for me...

Jenny hugs her back trying not to cry any more. Mellie breaks the hug.

MELLIE (CONT'D)

Come on. We should get going.

Jenny nods and opens the door and heads out.

INT. JENNY'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Jenny walks into the living room. Everyone stands up and looks at her. Holly runs over and hugs her. Holly backs away. Henry walks over to Jenny and Mellie.

HENRY

I'll stand by your side.

MELLIE

I will too.

Jenny smiles at them.

JENNY

I know you guys will.

Jenny pulls them for a group hug.

JENNY (CONT'D)

I love you guys.

Jenny breaks the hug. Henry takes her hand and they walk to the door.

INT. JEFFERSON FUNERAL HOME - FLYOER - DAY

People begin to pour into the funeral home mostly wearing black. Some crying others walking around. Some relatives some friends of the family and of Harlan. Jenny and her friends walk in. Jenny looks around.

JENNY

Nice turn out...

MELLIE

A lot of people loved your brother.

JENNY

I know they did.

Jenny walks into...

INT. JEFFERSON FUNERAL HOME - ROOM - DAY

Jenny walks in to see chairs set up in front of a wooden casket. A large picture of Harlan sits in front of the coffin. Jenny walks down the aisle as people look at her. In the front row, Riley and Lisa sit crying. Jenny walks to the front of the coffin. Mellie and Henry follow behind her. Jenny puts her hand on the coffin.

HENRY

Are you okay?

JENNY

Yeah...I'm fine...Can we just get this day over with?

Henry nods at her. He leads her and Mellie to their seats. A priest LARRY walks in and stands in front of the casket.

LARRY

Thank you all for coming. Today we come to remember an amazing man. A friend...a son. A Brother.

Jenny tears up.

LARRY (CONT'D)

Harlan Hart, was a man that we all have found a place for in our hearts. We've made room for him so we can remember all the times we spent with him. Every moment we savored.

(MORE)

LARRY (CONT'D)

Harlan lived everyday as if it was his last. I knew Harlan ever since he was a boy. I saw him grow up and become the man he was today. I saw him protect the ones he loved. Through the good and the bad.

Larry begins to tear up.

LARRY (CONT'D)

I'm sorry. But he was just an amazing man.

(Beat)

Now a good friend of Harlan, Mellie Sever? Would you please come up?

Mellie stands up and walks up to where Larry stood.

MELLIE

Uh. Hi. I'm Mellie. A good friend of the Hart family. From the couple of months that I have known Harlan...every moment I spent with him and his sister made me feel more alive. Harlan made me laugh.

Everyone in the crowd laughs.

MELLIE (CONT'D)

He was a good man. He protected the ones he loved. Gave them hope...I know he did. People loved him. And he loved them back. Harlan loved...because he was loved. Harlan...He was more than friend. More than son. More than a Brother. He was the person you could talk to about anything. And he would listen. No matter what. Harlan will always be watching over us.

Jenny begins to cry.

MELLIE (CONT'D)

He was an angel...

Mellie begins to cry and walks away from the front and heads back to her seat. Larry walks back to the front.

LARRY

Thank you Mellie.

Mellie and Jenny begin to hug.

LARRY (CONT'D)

Now...I would like to ask people here today, and have you share some memories of Harlan.

Holly raises her hand. Larry Points to her and she stands up.

HOLLY

Hi everyone. I'm a friend of Jenny. But I knew Harlan. I remember about a week it was my sixteenth birthday party, Harlan and Jenny through me a big party. Harlan told a couple of funny jokes. He dropped the cake.

The crowd laughs and Jenny smiles.

HOLLY (CONT'D)

But the cake didn't matter. Harlan made it feel as if...as if...I had a real family.

Holly sits down and puts her head into Bennett's arms and begins to cry.

LARRY

Thank you Holly. Before we proceed to the graveyard, You all may come up and pay your final respects to Harlan and to his family.

People begin to get up and go to the coffin and to say goodbye.

DISSOLVE TO:

Jenny and her friends remain seated now. All the chairs empty. Jenny stands up and looks at the coffin. She begins to cry. She gets up and walks out of the room.

EXT. JEFFERSON FUNERAL HOME - FRONT - DAY

Jenny runs out of the front door and runs to the car. She tries to open it and she can't. Mellie comes out from and runs to Jenny.

MELLIE

Jenny!?

Mellie grabs Jenny's hand and pulls her around so they are face to face.

JENNY

I can't. I can't do it. I can't say
goodbye.

Jenny begins to cry more and more now. She leans in to Mellie's Shoulder and begins to cry loudly.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. CELEBRATION GRAVEYARD - DAY

A row of cars pull along the road and stop. Jenny and her friends walk to the gravestone. Rain begins to fall down. Everyone stands with black umbrella's. Jenny stands close next to Henry under a umbrella. Chris and Mellie stand under one.

LARRY

As we say goodbye to man we all know and love. And as we place his body in the ground, we know that he will proceed to the lord. You may all proceed to the casket to say your goodbye's.

People begin to go up and say goodbye.

DISSOLVE TO:

Jenny stands in front of the casket as people begin to leave. Her friends stand behind her look at her. In her hands, a single red rose. Mellie and Henry walk up to her.

MELLIE

Jenny...we have to go...

Jenny turns and looks.

JENNY

I just a need a few minutes okay?

Mellie nods and walks away from Jenny. Jenny walks up to the coffin.

JENNY (CONT'D)

Hey Harlan. I just want to say goodbye...but it's hard to do that because I don't want to lose you. I want you to hug me and tell me everything will be okay when it's not.

Jenny takes a chair and sits down in it.

JENNY (CONT'D)

Every moment that we had. The good and the bad. Fighting my drinking. Racing to see who would wash the dishes after dinner. You taking care of me when I was sick. We watched movies every night before we went to bed. All of these memories that I can't let go of.

Jenny wipes her nose.

JENNY (CONT'D)

Everyone misses you. Even though it's been a couple of days...it feels like years. Every minute that your not here makes me want to curl up in a ball and cry like a little baby. I know what you would say to that "Be a big girl". It's what you always said to me when things we're bad.

She begins to tear up.

JENNY (CONT'D)

I remember. When I was five. I got really sick and you stayed with me every minute. Mom was scared that you would get that I got. She was so worried. But you didn't care. The time we spent together I can never forget those moments. Harlan...I can't say goodbye. It's too soon. I wanted you to be here. With me.

Jenny wipes her eyes. She takes her hand and puts it on the coffin.

JENNY (CONT'D)

I know we were fighting. But I don't want to remember those moments. It wasn't us. It wasn't our family. I never got a chance to say I was sorry...

(Beat)

Well, I guess I just did didn't I?

Jenny begins to laugh as tears begin to fall. She looks down in her lap to see the rose. She picks it up and looks at it. Rain drops come down from it. Jenny reaches into her hair and begins to undo the bow. She begins to tie it around the rose.

JENNY (CONT'D)

I remember...when you came here....you gave me hope. Hope that helped me get through the days. And I never let it go...

(Beat)

Mellie didn't notice but...When you came here and you gave me hope. I wrote "Hope" on it. And everytime I ever thought about drinking I put the ribbon on.

Jenny wipes her tears. She stands up.

JENNY (CONT'D)

I love you Harlan...More than anyone in this world. You were my brother. You will always be in my heart. I promise.

Jenny places the rose onto the casket. She looks at it. She leans down and kisses the coffin.

JENNY (CONT'D)

Goodbye Harlan.

Jenny begins to walk away, her hand slowly drifting off. We pan down onto the rose where the ribbon lies. We push into the ribbon to where we see the words HOPE lie on it. And on that we...

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT FIVE | END OF EPISODE

NEXT WEEK....

INT. JENNY'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Jenny sits on the couch looking around the room. Trying not to cry.

FADE TO BLACK.

FADE IN

INT. NEW HAVEN ANIMAL SHELTER - FRONT - DAY

Jenny looks out the window. Mellie comes up to her and puts her hand on Jenny's shoulder.

JENNY (V.O.)
Life is filled with choices...

INT. HENRY'S APARTMENT - HOLLY'S ROOM - NIGHT

Holly sits on her bed, looking at a ultrasound picture of her baby. She begins to cry.

JENNY (V.O.)
And sometimes one choice...

INT. JENNY'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Jenny stands in the kitchen looking at a beer bottle....

BLACKOUT:

JENNY (V.O.)
Can change your entire world.

THE PATH NOT TAKEN

The Forbidden Fruit | All New Next
Thursday at 10/9C