

ALS1 - JACK, JESSE, CLAIRE

CLAIRE, JACK and JESSE enter the wing of the stage, chatting.

CLAIRE  
So my assistant, Chris - you know  
Chris, right?

JESSE  
Yes, I know Chris.

CLAIRE  
Well, he came out yesterday as  
transgender, so now *she* is Chrissy.  
I mean, I totally saw it coming,  
but I was still surprised.

JACK  
I've stuck my foot in my mouth,  
like, three times already.

CLAIRE  
I'm going to have to throw her a  
party. Without her planning it.  
How am I going to do that? I can  
barely make my own dinner  
reservation! Anyway, what happened  
to you last night? You  
disappeared.

JESSE  
I, uh, got married. When in Vegas,  
right?

CLAIRE  
You did not!

JACK  
Seriously? Congratulations!

Claire hugs Jesse.

STAGE MANAGER (OFFSTAGE)  
Band to stage, please.

JESSE  
Come to dinner with us after the  
show. I'll tell you all about it.

JACK  
Look what you did - she's  
speechless!

JESSE  
Shoulda done this years ago!

Claire and Jesse walk on-stage.



ALS3 - SUSAN, TONY, JACK & CLAIRE

Tony taps away on his phone in the hallway. Susan enters, sees Tony and rushes over.

SUSAN

What's wrong, Tony? Did something else happen? I assume you got Jack's text? The idiot valet took his sweet time taking my car -

TONY

Susan, calm down. I'm sure she'll be fine.

Tony peeks his head through the door, then motions for Susan to follow him.

TONY (CONT'D)

Knock, knock. Up for visitors?

SUSAN

I know I told you to stay in the news, but this isn't what I had in mind, dear. How did this happen?

CLAIRE

(whispered) Mugged.

TONY

What?

CLAIRE

Mugging gone bad.

SUSAN

Claire, now isn't the time for your jokes.

JACK

Not mugging for a camera, Susan. She was assaulted.

TONY

Susan, maybe you'd better take a seat. Okay, what's going on?

JACK

During the attack and then the paramedics' resuscitation, the muscle that operates Claire's vocal cords was damaged. The doctor said it's very unusual. Her vocal cords are okay, she just can't use them.

TONY

What does that mean? When will she heal? Is there a surgery?

JACK

The doctor is looking into it, but it may not work.

SUSAN

But she can talk. She just said words.

JACK

Her tongue isn't broken, just her voice box.

TONY

So you can't sing anymore?

Claire shakes her head no.

SUSAN

But you have an album coming out! How can you promote it if you can't sing? Or speak? I can maybe push the release a few weeks ...

TONY

We'll get through this, sweetie.

JACK

Hey, babe. Whatcha thinking?

CLAIRE

I can't do anything else.

JACK

Sure you can, you've just never had to before. We'll figure it out.

TONY

Whoa! We don't need to decide anything today.

JACK

Let's talk about something else.

SUSAN

Do some visualization. Like you do before your shows.

TONY

We can all do it. I think we need it too.

A2S2 - ALISI, KAREN, CLAIRE

Claire answers the door to find Karen and Alisi on her porch.

KAREN

We saw Jack leaving and thought this might be a good time to get to know you better. I'm Karen, poppy chicken casserole.

ALISI

I'm Alisi, enchilada casserole.

CLAIRE

Come in!

They walk in and halt.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

No housekeeper yet.

KAREN

Housekeeper? Oh, I don't think we have those in these parts. We just do it ourselves. Like normal people.

ALISI

She means that we're just a small community and don't have all the amenities you might be used to.

KAREN

Yes, that's what I meant.

ALISI

But this is a small place. I'm sure you can manage. Or Jack?

Claire gives an unsure smile.

KAREN

A few loads of laundry and some elbow grease should do it. No sweat! Or maybe since we're already here we can help out for a few minutes. Where should we start?

ALISI

Maybe show us where you keep the cleaning supplies? In a closet? Under the sink? How about we just look around for a bit?

Claire nods. They open a few cupboards and then veer off to whisper in a corner.

KAREN

I don't think she knows how.

ALISI

What? To clean?

KAREN

To clean, to cook - look at all that takeout. I think she needs us more than she knows.

ALISI

To teach her what? How to be a person?

KAREN

Exactly! Think of the good we can do!

Karen leads them back over to Claire.

KAREN (CONT'D)

How long have you been famous?

CLAIRE

Since I was fourteen.

KAREN

Did anyone ever teach you how to clean a room? Boil an egg?

Claire thinks, almost speaks a few times, then smiles helplessly.

ALISI

Would it be okay with you if we showed you a few of those things?

Claire warily nods.

KAREN

It might not be easy, or pleasant, but I think you're way past due learning how to, uh, how did you say it?

ALISI

You need to learn to be a person, honey. And I mean that in the nicest possible way, bless your heart.

A2S5 - JACK, CLAIRE

CLAIRE  
When do you leave?

JACK  
In an hour. I'll be back in a few days.

CLAIRE  
No. Stay.

JACK  
Are you coming? Then I'll be back here in a few days.

CLAIRE  
Stop letting me hold you back.

JACK  
Why do you keep pushing me away? I don't understand what is going on.

He takes both her hands. She tries pulling away.

JACK (CONT'D)  
No! If I let you go, you'll walk away and we'll avoid this conversation again.

CLAIRE  
I need some space.

JACK  
Why? What have I done now? Just tell me and I'll fix it! I'm sorry, whatever it was!

CLAIRE  
It's all me! I keep telling you that.

JACK  
(raising his voice)  
Then why are you taking it out on me? On us!

CLAIRE  
Stop yelling! I can't and it's not fair!

JACK  
Well, Claire, life's not fair!  
Isn't that what this is all about?

CLAIRE

Stop trying to fix me. Just go!  
You don't deserve this!

JACK

Neither do you.

CLAIRE

I don't get the choice. You do.  
Stay in LA. Live your old life  
again.

JACK

You want that. What about what I  
want?

CLAIRE

What do you want, Jack?

JACK

I want my wife back!

CLAIRE

I'm not that wife anymore.

JACK

Who do you think I married? Do you  
think I'm so shallow that I only  
married you because you could sing?  
Or because you had an entourage?  
Or because you were famous? Yeah,  
losing your voice changes some  
things, but it doesn't change who  
you are.

CLAIRE

My life will never be the same.  
I'll never be able to raise  
children -

JACK

What do you mean? The attack  
didn't affect your uterus!

CLAIRE

I didn't say I can't have kids. How  
can I raise them if I can't talk or  
yell or sing them to sleep?!

JACK

Get off your pity train, Claire.  
Deaf people raise kids all the  
time. At least you'll be able to  
hear yours!



A3S1 - TEVI, CLAIRE

TEVI

Can you tell me more about the business? I mean, like, tons of people can sing. I want to do what you do, or did - compose my own stuff, record albums, tour. Is that where you compose, in there?

He points to Jack's open studio.

CLAIRE

That's Jack's studio.

TEVI

Nice! Is he here?

CLAIRE

He's in LA producing Tatiana's new album.

TEVI

Like, *the* Tatiana? Uh, I mean, her music doesn't have the underlying soul that yours does, but she's got some pretty smooth tunes.

He glances at his phone and jumps up.

TEVI (CONT'D)

Yikes! I gotta go. Thanks so much, C-, uh Miss, uh, Claire. See you next week!

He calmly sets down the guitar, leaves, then dances his way off the porch.



A3S4 - JACK, TATIANA, ENGINEER

Tatiana slaughters the song in the recording booth.

JACK

Cut!

TATIANA

Hey? A little auto tune and I was on fire!

JACK

You're not singing what's written.

TATIANA

Of course not. I'm making it my own.

She comes through the door to talk to Jack, ignoring Engineer.

ENGINEER

Uh oh.

JACK

Tatiana, all those extra riffs are distracting from the message of the song.

TATIANA

Don't worry about it, Jack. I know what's best for me and my fan base. I need a vocal showcase, and this is it. They don't care about the message. It's a sexy love song.

JACK

But it could be so much more! It's about trust and support, and -

TATIANA

Trust me, Jack. This is going to make you a lot of money. Maybe when we're done here we can go celebrate? I'm going with some friends to Spike, that new club downtown. We could dance and drink and let off a little steam.

JACK

No, thanks. I'm not really a club person.

TATIANA

No more moping. Come on, you've  
got to get out! Play a little  
while you're free!

JACK

Nah, thanks anyway.

ENGINEER

I'm available ...

TATIANA

Where were we? Let's hit that  
chorus one more time. I'm so  
close, I can taste it.

Tatiana struts back into the booth. Jack pats Engineer's  
shoulder.

JACK

One of these days, man.