

INT. LUCY'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

LUCY (30) a hip, lovely woman, sits cross-legged on the floor in front of her coffee table.

THERESA (60's) an affable, harried woman with a little extra weight on her, sits on the sofa with a glass of wine.

A SPOTIFY MIX plays lightly in the background. It covers mostly late 60's psych-rock.

A finished meal of takeout Indian sits on the table in front of them. Lucy reaches back to open the window.

THERESA lights a cigarette.

THERESA

Your mom said you had a special new beau in your life?

LUCY

We don't have to talk about that at this particular moment in time. If that's OK.

THERESA

Can we talk about what a pain in the ass your ex was instead?

LUCY

Any time. All the time.

THERESA

Remember when we went out to dinner and he wanted to order a second entree after dessert?

LUCY

He was nuts about food. Every meal had to be the best meal he'd ever had. It was exhausting.

THERESA

He was a real shit to you, you know. Your mom was worried.

LUCY

Really? She didn't say anything.

THERESA

You know your mom. Unless you mention it she'll never speak up.

(MORE)

THERESA

She was always like that. Even back in nursing school.

LUCY

You know what's weird? When I was little she used to talk about nursing school all the time. But she doesn't really anymore.

SUMMERTIME by Janis Joplin comes on. Theresa looks at the speakers. Ash falls off her cigarette. She doesn't notice.

THERESA

Jones loved this song.

Her posture droops. She blinks a lot. Lucy scoots forward and puts her hand on Theresa's leg.

They listen to the song. When it ends Theresa shakes off the moment and lights a new cigarette with her old one.

Lucy leans back.

LUCY

How long has it been since he passed?

THERESA

Five years. No. Six. Jesus.

LUCY

I've been thinking about you guys a lot lately. Forty years. Shit. I can't get my head around it. Me and my ex were together for three and god Jesus did it feel like a lifetime.

THERESA

We all end up in the wrong relationship sometimes. But when it's the right one? You better sit up and take notice.

LUCY

More wine?

THERESA

I shouldn't. I told Scott I'd be home in time to watch one of those old Hammer Horror movies with him. You know, with Christopher Lee? His folks get back tomorrow. It's our last night together.

LUCY
One more glass.

Theresa exhales.

INT. LUCY'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN - NIGHT

One more glass has clearly turned in to two more glasses. Probably three. Lucy makes frozen margaritas in a blender.

LUCY
What was my dad like back then? You met him before my mom, right?

THERESA
You want to hear a great story about your dad? This is back before your mom started nursing school. So. Sixty eight? Sixty nine, maybe? Don't tell her I told you. Promise. She'll shit a brick.

LUCY
Scouts honor.

A half-drunken grin crosses Theresa's face.

INT. FLASHBACK - NURSING SCHOOL DORM - NIGHT

A 19 year old Theresa sits on a bed. She has crazy long hair and a deeply humble prettiness about her.

GINNY (18) a plump red head, lies on the bed behind her.

LUCY (V.O.)
Wait, wait. Wasn't Ginny my moms roommate?

THERESA (V.O.)
Ginny was a year younger than me, so she and your mom shacked up after I graduated. They got a place off campus though. This was in the dorms.

VOSS (22) a huge, strapping biker looking chap, holds a tab of acid out to Theresa's tongue.

THERESA (V.O.)
Only your dad could have gotten me to
do LSD for the first time the night
before we had to make rounds at a
Psych facility.

Theresa gobbles up the LSD.

THERESA (V.O.)
He fucking swore left and right it
would wear off before the next day.

INT. FLASHBACK - WILLOW CREEK PSYCHIATRIC - HALLWAY - DAY

Theresa stands in a BRIGHT WHITE NURSE'S UNIFORM in a group
of other nurses in the same uniform.

Her eyes are wide as hell. Her smile a mile and a half long.

THERESA (V.O.)
He was wrong.

A FUSSY ADMINISTRATOR lectures the group. He's slovenly,
overweight. Theresa moves to touch his face.

Voss holds her back.

THERESA (V.O.)
Your dad thought it was the funniest
thing on the fucking planet.

Lucy laughs.

LUCY (V.O.)
Wait, wait, wait. I did not know my
dad did acid.

THERESA (V.O.)
Are you kidding me? He gobbled it up
like it was going out of style.

The Administrator leads the group of nurses down the hall.
Theresa moves to stare out the window.

THERESA (V.O.)
I only did it the once, so I have no
idea how strong it was. At the time
it felt crazy strong.

INT. FLASHBACK - WILLOW CREEK PSYCHIATRIC - DAY ROOM - DAY

The wide, derelict room is in a terrible state. Patients wander in filthy robes. Even the walls are disgusting.

THERESA (V.O.)
You have to understand, back then
Willow Creek was about two years away
from getting shut down.

Theresa talks to a man with an honest to god TIN FOIL HAT. He explains something to her and points.

She nods and follows his hands with an eager expression.

THERESA (V.O.)
It was rough. They had their funding
cut so there was barely any staff.
People would drop off sick or
deranged family members and drive
away without admitting them. It was a
fucking tragedy.

Voss sits next to a catatonic ELDERLY WOMAN in the corner. She's a mess. He does his best to clean her up.

THERESA (V.O.)
Your dad was off doing something
useful and kind, like he always was.
Meanwhile I was having it explained
to me that Richard Nixon had bugged
the place to keep tabs on the
patients, who had all helped rig the
election for him.

Tin Foil Hat leans in to whisper. Theresa nods.

THERESA (V.O.)
He was pretty convincing. It made
more sense than people actually
voting that crooked prick in to
office, anyway.

The Administrator approaches and pushes Tin Foil Hat away from Theresa. She leans in to whisper to the Administrator.

THERESA (V.O.)
I tried to clue everyone in, but they
weren't interested. Shocking, right?

INT. FLASHBACK - WILLOW BROOK PSYCHIATRIC - HALLWAY - DAY

THERESA (V.O.)

The weird thing is I had an aunt who was a patient there.

Theresa wanders past closed patient doors. She's alone.

THERESA (V.O.)

She'd been admitted a couple of years before when her folks died. She was what people called "simple" back then. I visited her a few times, but then I started nursing school.

She peeks through a circular window in one of the doors. The room is in total disarray.

THERESA (V.O.)

I snuck off to look for her. I wanted to warn her about Nixon's hidden camera's. It seemed like the right thing to do at the time.

She moves to the next door and peeks in the circular window. MIRIAM (70) a frail woman sits on the floor in the corner.

She's covered in filth. The room is filled with plates overflowing with rotting food.

Theresa puts her hand to the window. Miriam pulls out strands of her hair. She doesn't look at Theresa.

LUCY (V.O.)

Did you find her?

The GIDDY ACID EXPRESSION leaves Theresa's face. A haunted one replaces it.

INT. LUCY'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

THERESA

No. They must have moved her without telling anyone in the family.

Lucy leans over the coffee table and fills Theresa's empty glass with more frozen margarita.

They're both pretty lit.

THERESA

They sent me her ashes when she died.
I guess I was the only one that got
back to them.

She stares at her drink. The same haunted look fills her
face. Lucy passes her a lit cigarette.

They smoke in silence for a bit.

LUCY

Hey, can I ask you something?

THERESA

Hmm?

LUCY

Be totally honest with me. Do I talk
about my ex too much?

INT. THERESA'S HOUSE - FRONT DOOR - NIGHT

CLINK. CLANK. SCRAPE. A key struggles to find its way into a
lock. SHUNK. Success.

Theresa sways through the door. The house is dark. It's a
nice middle class home. She has good taste.

The BLUE GLOW of a TV shines from the living room. Theresa
drops her keys on the floor and hurries down the hall.

SCOTT (16) pokes his head over the edge of the couch. The
movie pauses on the TV.

SCOTT

Grandma T?

INT. THERESA'S HOUSE - BATHROOM - NIGHT

Theresa lies face down next to the toilet. Her cheek is
directly on the tile.

There's a little bit of margarita puke in the bowl. Scott
stands over her in the dark.

He puts a blanket on her and flushes the toilet. CLICK. He
closes the door behind him when he leaves.

Theresa MURMURS in her sleep.

CUT TO BLACK: