

HALF

Written by

Erika Lipinski
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Official Final Draft

INT. CASSIE'S BEDROOM (LA) - MORNING.

CASSIE, short for "Cassandra", is a type-A, controlling, perfectionist. She's a recent college graduate, 22-years-old, Pale skin. Delicate face. Long blonde hair. Blue eyes. Tall and thin.

Cassie stands in front of a mirror straightening her hair. Her hair is naturally pin straight, but she's the type of person that straightens it anyway.

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. ANNA'S BATHROOM (NYC) - MORNING.

ANNA is an aspiring artist living in New York City. She is type-b, passionate about art, and has a great sense of humor. She is nearly identical in appearance to her twin, Cassie; however, Anna has a bit more of an edgy style that makes her ever so slightly distinguishable.

Anna spits her toothpaste into the sink and combs through her hair quickly.

Her pajamas look very similar to Cassie's which makes the two indistinguishable at this moment.

INT. CASSIE'S BATHROOM - MORNING.

Still in pajamas, Cassie rolls mascara onto her eyelashes.

INT. ANNA'S KITCHEN - MORNING

Still in pajamas, Anna eats a simple bowl of cereal.

INT. CASSIE'S BEDROOM (LA) - MORNING.

Cassie buttons up a fitted shirt that flatters her slim waist. Cassie heads toward the door and throws on a blazer on before exiting with her briefcase.

EXT. CITY STREET (NYC) - MORNING.

WIDE SHOT of the back of ANNA'S head. Anna walks down a congested New York City Street wearing ripped jeans and a kimono.

The audience is confused why "Cassie" is wearing something different.

HARD CUT TO:

EXT. CITY STREET (LA)- MORNING.

WIDE SHOT of the back of CASSIE'S head. She struts down a city street too. The CAMERA should align seamlessly with previous shot.

Cassie's BLAZER and BRIEFCASE match what the audience was primed to see. This is the moment we find out they're two different people.

Although Cassie is dressed differently, it's still the same long blonde hair swaying in the wind.

Camera TRAVELS with Cassie, as she enters her PR Firm.

INT. OFFICE (LA) - LATE MORNING.

Cassie sits at a well-organized desk and attentively types on her laptop. Jen, a coworker, enters.

JEN

Morning, Cassie. How have you been?

CASSIE

Pretty good. By the way, congrats on your promotion.

JEN

Thanks! We're celebrating this Friday. You should come out for drinks with us.

CASSIE

Sounds fun.

JEN

I'll let you know the details...
Oh, and could you also get that report to me before the end of day?

CASSIE

Yeah, of course.

Jen exits. Cassie resumes working studiously, blocking out every distraction in her vicinity.

CU of Cassie's phone lock screen. There is one faint VIBRATE. A message from BILL (name in phone reads: "DAD") appears. The text message read:

CALL ME IMMEDIATELY WHEN YOU GET THIS MESSAGE. IT'S AN EMERGENCY.

INTERCUT TO:

EXT. ART STUDIO (NYC) - LATE MORNING.

Anna's phone lock screen contains the same missed message.

ZOOM OUT. We see Anna preoccupied as she paints on an aisle.

INT. OFFICE (LA) - DAY.

Cassie's computer monitor displays a long document. The page is dense and the words are too small to make out. She hits send and proceeds to stand up from her desk.

Cassie notices the message waiting in her phone's lock screen. The notification reveals that she has not taken a phone break in 3 hours.

As she unlocks her phone the SCREEN SPLITS.

On the left, we see cassie's opened message.

On the right, we also see Anna looking at the same message. She is still in her painting smock.

The right side takes over the screen. Anna naturally feels closer to her musical and creative mother, JEANETTE. Plus, she feels like Bill always took Cassie's side growing up. Anna sends a text message to her mom that reads:

"Hey, mom. Is everything ok?"

FADE TO BLACK:

FADE IN:

INT. CAR - LATE MORNING.

Super imposed title reads: "2 days later"

Cassie pensively stares out the car window. Her make up looks very pretty, but it does not disguise the pain in her face underneath.

BILL, her responsible and loving father, is driving down the highway en route to the airport. The mood is glum.

BILL
So how's work been?

CASSIE
(unenthusiastically)
Fine, I guess. They've been happy
with my work.

BILL
That's good.

CASSIE
They gave me time off for the next
few days. I'll be around if you
need anything.

With his hands still on the wheel, Bill's lip quivers. His facial muscles form slight, tensioned smile, that quickly fades.

The car pulls into the airport parking lot. Bill puts the car in park and exits.

INT/EXT. CAR - LATE MORNING.

Cassie is motionless. Bill speaks to her through her unopened car door.

BILL
Cassie?
(beat)
Are you coming?

Cassie rolls down her window.

CASSIE
(politely)
No, it's fine. I'll wait in the
car.

BILL
(opens her door)
Are you sure?

Cassie nods.

CU of Cassie's face. She stares out the window, lost in thought.

Bill approaches the car carrying Anna's OVERNIGHT BAG, then sets it into the trunk.

Anna notices Cassie in the car. Shocked and irritated, her mood immediately changes from grief to anger. She purposely slides her body into the back left seat to keep her distance from Cassie. Both parties refuse to even acknowledge the other's existence.

Bill drives off. The LA sunshine and palm trees juxtaposes the unison of sorrow within the car.

BILL (CONT'D)
 (jokingly)
 So you two have missed each other?

There is dead silence.

BILL (CONT'D)
 How do you girls feel about lunch?
 How about I take you to Kenny's
 Diner like old times?

INT. KENNY'S DINER - EARLY AFTERNOON.

The diner is bright and filled with (mostly) happy families. Old vintage items decorate the interior. It's as if not a single frame hanging has moved in years.

A WAITRESS seats Bill and the twins at a booth near a window. Cassie sits on the same side as Bill. The booth forces Anna and Cassie to look at each others faces.

Bill puts money in the jukebox at their table. He flips through the songs and see's him and his wife's wedding song. He quickly pulls his hand away.

BILL
 Look, I know this is a very hard
 situation for all of us. We just
 need to stick together as a family
 and we'll get through it.

ANNA
 You're right, Dad.
 (beat)
 I know you loved Mom, Cassie, and I
 equally.

Anna heavily glances at Cassie.

BILL

Of course. The three most important women in my life.

The waitress returns and takes their orders.

BILL (CONT'D)

It's funny how both of you still order what you liked as kids. Wow, we have some great memories here.

ANNA

(chuckles)

Yeah, Remember when Cassie squirted milk out her nose?

CASSIE

Haha, yeah. At least my body can process lactose though.

ANNA

(very sarcastically)

Good one, Cas. Wow. I'm so hurt.

BILL

Girls. Please.

CASSIE

I'm sorry Dad. I apologize for Anna's unnecessary comment.

Cassie touches Bill's arm. Anna rolls her eyes and directs her attention to her cell phone. Cassie joins in and sits there with her eyes locked on her phone screen. The awkwardness turns into anguish for Bill.

BILL

I know you two still haven't gotten over your high school feud, but can you please just put it aside for the next two days? For me?

The twins nod in accordance, but it does not resolve or address the elephant in the room.

Still annoyed, Anna gets up from the table and enters the bathroom. She reminisces about BRAD, her tall, handsome, first love.

Anna looks in the mirror and see's her reflection morph into Cassie's. She violently smacks the glass.

FLASHBACK:

INT. DINER - FRIDAY NIGHT (YEARS AGO).

When Anna opens the door and exits the bathroom, the diner is LIT differently as if she has gone back in time.

Anna sees her and Brad sitting in a large corner booth laughing together. Anna wants to communicate, but she only can stand there and watch as an invisible on-looker.

BRAD

Did, you see Kelsey at the game?
She was so trashed.

ANNA

I know, she literally ate shit on
the bleachers.

BRAD

Haha hopefully, she'll be alive for
the dance tomorrow. By the way, are
we still going to Claire's house to
take picture's beforehand?

ANNA

Yeah, come over at 6.

They look at each other and smile. Meanwhile, more and more rowdy high students pile into the diner.

ANNA (CONT'D)

Thanks for leaving the game early
with me.

BRAD

Yeah, we were so far ahead, the
game was already over to me. For
Homecoming we purposely play the
worst team, so we don't embarrass
ourselves if we lose.

ANNA

I don't know. Our football team is
already pretty embarrassing.

Cassie and her friends enter. Cassie is still in her cheer uniform. Her crowd is a mix of boys and girls all dressed head to toes in blue and white.

Cassie sits down uninvited. Her friends follow. Brad is in awe.

BRAD

Whoa, I didn't know you had a twin.

Cassie starts being moderately flirtatious.

CASSIE

So, Brad. Are you going to the homecoming dance?

BRAD

Uh... Yeah actually. With.. Umm.
Uh.. Anna.

One of Cassie's drunk FRIENDS reaches over to select a song on the jukebox. In the process, she knocks over a full glass of water that spills on Anna's lap.

CUT TO:

INT. DINER - EARLY AFTERNOON (PRESENT).

Anna runs water through her hands out of a streaming faucet. She splashes some on her face, pulls herself together, then proceeds to exit from the bathroom.

By the time Anna gets back to the table the food has arrived. Bill does not take even a small bite. There is a sinking feeling in his stomach for reasons far worse than the twins' catty drama.

After what Anna's experience, she doesn't have much of an appetite either. Bill pays the check and leaves a few dollars on the table.

INT. BILL'S HOUSE (TWINS OLD BEDROOM) - NIGHT.

The lights are off which disguises the purple walls. The room is filled with their childhood furniture. The twins lie asleep in two single beds with unmatched comforters.

Bill opens the door slightly. He peers into the twins' bedroom, to check if they're asleep, like he did when they were kids. This is the first glimpse of a peaceful moment between the two all day. He silently closes the door.

ANGLE ON stuffed TEDDY BEAR perched on Cassie's dresser.

FLASHBACK.

EXT. SCHOOL YARD PLAYGROUND - NOON

The twins, age 7, carelessly play together with a group of five or so friends at recess. On the playground, Cassie holds that same TEDDY BEAR.

She slides down the slide with the bear in her hand. The energetic clump of children race from the playground to the blacktop.

CASSIE

I win!

Cassie picks up a piece of chalk and draws a four square board. She grabs a ball and competitively starts a game. The kids all follow her lead.

Cassie stands in the Ace's box and serves the ball. Her teddy bear sits outside of the square watching.

Meanwhile, Anna takes Cassie's used piece of chalk and starts to draw off to the side.

TARYN

(to Anna)

Cassie, aren't you going to play with us?

ANNA

I'm Anna.

TARYN

Oh... Anna, aren't you going to play with us?

ANNA

Nah, it's okay. I'm already having fun.

TARYN

Okay. You can play with us if you want to though.

Taryn gets back in line to play 4 square. They continue their activities.

Eventually, a WHISTLE is blown indicating that recess is over. Cassie puts the ball away in a bin.

ANNA

Cas, come here.

Cassie sees Anna's chalking drawing of her teddy bear.

CASSIE

Wow, Anna that's really good. I wish I could keep it!

ANNA

Don't worry. I can draw you another
one on paper.

The twins hug and scurry inside.

ANGLE ON the chalk drawing of Cassie's teddy bear.

CUT TO:

INT. BILL'S MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT.

Bill proceeds down the hall and enters his master bedroom. He kneels at his bed and prays that the twins will get along tomorrow.

Tears of grief stream down Bill's face as he says a prayer for his wife. He swallows a pill and then drifts off to sleep.

CU of a framed family PHOTO on Bill's nightstand in the darkened room.

INT. BILL'S MASTER BEDROOM - EARLY MORNING.

SMASH CUT TO see PHOTO in same place on nightstand in morning light.

INT. FUNERAL HOME - DAY.

SMASH CUT TO see same PHOTO displayed during the wake service. Friends and family members dressed in black enter.

Cassie is wearing a flattering, tight dress complemented with pearls and heels. It is sexy, but classy.

CASSIE

(whispers to Bill)

What if she doesn't show up?

Anna arrives 10 minutes late. She is wearing sandals and a flowing black romper.

The guest are gathered, chatting quietly and expressing condolences. A distant AUNT SYLVIE approaches the twins.

AUNT SYLVIE

Annabelle, Cassandra! It's so nice
to see you two together again.

Cassie looks up from her phone. The girls both smile and nod, when in reality they want to claw each other's eyes out.

ANNA

Good to see you too. It's almost sad how it takes a tragedy to bring people together.

AUNT SYLVIE

It's has been years. You two are growing up to be such fine ladies.

ANNA AND CASSIE

Thank you.

AUNT SYLVIE

You're mother would have been so proud of you girls. It breaks my heart losing my sister, but at least you have each other. Just remember that.

Anna reaches in to fake hug her sister. Aunt Sylvie gets very emotional and excuses herself. Once the Aunt is out of sight, Cassie releases from the forced hug.

CASSIE

Don't touch me.

ANNA

You don't need to be so hostile.

CASSIE

And you don't have to show up late to Mom's wake. Also, what are you wearing?

ANNA

It's boho. You like it?

CASSIE

You look homeless.

ANNA

Sorry, you don't like my sense of style. Unfortunately, that's something in your life you can't control.

CASSIE

At least I have direction in my life... And a real career.

ANNA

At least I don't try so hard.

(beat)

(shakes head)

God. Mom's not here right now. You don't have to try so hard anymore, Cas.

CASSIE

You're just jealous because you know Mom always liked me better.

(beat)

Brad liked me better too.

(beat)

You see Anna, there's a reason why all the boys left you for me-- it's because I'm actually going somewhere in life.

ANNA

Fuck you, you selfish slut.

Anna, overwhelmed by her sister's cruel words and her mother's death, begins to cry. She hastily walks to the other side of chairs and maintains a distance from Cassie.

Cassie floats around for a bit engaging in small talk and making sure the ceremony runs smoothly. She finally takes a moment to herself and goes to her mother's open casket. As she stares at her mother's pale corpse, Cassie reflects on the type of person she became.

CASSIE

(muttered to herself)

Oh my God. Who am I?

Cassie glances up and sees her sister's face soiled in dripping mascara. They make eye contact.

CASSIE'S POV FADE TO BLACK.

Cassie faints and is out cold for about 10 seconds.

CASSIE'S POV FADE BACK IN.

Cassie slowly blinks and wakes up feeling dazed.

GUEST #1

Oh my goodness. Are you okay?

CASSIE
 (tries to shake it off)
 Oh, yes. Really, I'm fine. Must
 have not eaten enough.

GUEST #2
 Are you sure? It looked like you
 hit your head.

CASSIE
 Oh, yes. I just need some fresh
 air.

Disgusted with herself, Cassie rushes to the exit.

EXT. FUNERAL HOME - DAY.

Cassie sits down alone on the sidewalk curve. She takes an
 emergency FLASK out of her purse and takes a swig.

She deeply exhales and sets her gaze on a tree straight
 ahead.

MONTAGE.

SERIES OF SHOTS - MEMORIES GROWING UP

- A) The twins, age 6, play pretend in a tree house.
- G) The twins, age 5, slide down a slide together.
- B) Jeanette, age 35, is in the kitchen cooking.
- C) The twins, age 4, run while holding each others' hands.
- D) Bill, age 40, kisses Jeanette, age 37, on his way to
 work.
- E) The twins, age 6, and their parents open presents
 together Christmas Morning.
- F) CU of one of the twins, age 16, holding someone else's
 hand.
- H) Jeanette plays the piano.
- I) Age 17, Anna SLAPS Cassie across the face.
- J) CUT BACK TO the twins, age 5, sliding down a slide
 together.

G) Cassie's POV of Jeanette's grim body on display in the funeral home.

Immediately, Bill touches Cassie on the shoulder, snapping her back to reality.

BILL
Are you alright?

Cassie is startled. Eyes widened, she bites her lip nervously.

CASSIE
Yeah, I'll be fine.

Cassie hugs Bill close and tight.

CUT TO:

EXT. GRAVEYARD - FUNERAL SCENE - LATER THAT DAY.

CAMERA slowly TRACKS ACROSS from right to left. The focus is on the family members and friends' grieving faces.

Sad music plays as a priest recites a prayer. Some cry, while others do not. All are in disbelief.

During CAMERA TRACK, first we see less important ensemble faces. And lastly, we see Anna, Bill, and Cassie, in that order. Anna is an emotional mess. The father cries silently. Cassie tries her best to hide her emotion, but eventually succumbs to a few measly teardrops. Stop TRACK on Cassie's face.

The coffin is lowered into the ground. Bill tries not to get choked up as he says a few words on his wife's behalf.

BILL
Jeanette was a remarkable woman.
There was this warmth and
compassion that just radiated from
her. She was my soulmate and I
don't think I'll ever find another
person with that much love to give.
She was the great mother to our two
daughters. Although her life was
cut short, she touched the lives of
so many in the the time she had.
Thank you all for coming today. I
know she would have appreciated it.

INT. BILL'S HOUSE (TWINS OLD BEDROOM) - EARLY EVENING.

The twins appear to be acting more mature after the funeral. Cassie is organizing her suitcase. Anna is on her bed reading a book. Cassie takes a break from her packing.

CASSIE

I'm sorry about what I said
earlier.

Anna ignores her at first and contemplates if she should reply.

ANNA

Which thing?

CASSIE

What?

ANNA

Which thing are you apologizing
for?

CASSIE

Everything. Mom would not have
wanted to see us fighting at her
funeral.

ANNA

Yeah, well, no shit.

CASSIE

(getting worked up)
Stop. This is serious. I-- I
completely ruined this day for
her... And you... And Dad.

Cassie breaks down. She cries and hyperventilates.

Anna is trying to keep the pettiness up with her sister, but Anna's concern grows as she sees what a vulnerable, unstable mess her perfect sister is.

ANNA

Wow, Cas. I don't think I've seen
you cry since you we we're like 10.

Anna hands Cassie a box of tissue. Then, she sit on the bed, puts her arm around Cassie, and tries to calm her down.

CASSIE

(still ugly crying)
This day was for Mom, and I made it
about myself.

Cassie takes another SWIG from her flask.

CASSIE (CONT'D)

I'm not proud of my actions or who I've become. I'm sorry for making you cry today. I'm also sorry about the whole Brad thing in high school. That was really immature of me.

ANNA

Yeah, stealing Brad was coldhearted and pushed me over the edge. But, that's not what our fight was about.

Cassie calms down a bit and starts to really listen.

ANNA (CONT'D)

As kids, people thought we were carbon copies. Then when we got older, I was told I should be more like you. "Why can't you get straight A's and be more social like your sister?". That hurt like hell.

CASSIE

I'm so sorry, Anna. I was actually always secretly jealous of you.

ANNA

I was clearly jealous of you too. It wasn't easy living in your shadow. Once I realized I would never live up to you, I kind of just stopped trying.

CASSIE

Live up to me? Are you kidding? There's so many great things about you, I wish I had.

ANNA

Really?

CASSIE

Your artwork is so good. I only criticized it because I was jealous.

(beat)

You're naturally gifted and it would have been a shame if you gave that up.

ANNA

Wow, Cas. I think that's the first time you've ever complimented my art.

CASSIE

I liked it when we were little. Well, until I realized you were better at it than me.

ANNA

Yeah, God forbid I'm better than you at something.

CASSIE

Can you forgive me? For everything.

ANNA

When we ignored each other for years, it felt like I already was from a family of three. I don't want to go back to that.

CASSIE

Me either Anna, I love you.

ANNA

You drive me crazy, but I love you too.

The twins hug.

ANNA (CONT'D)

(laughs)

I'm sorry for calling you a selfish slut earlier.

CASSIE

(chuckles)

It's okay. I kind of deserved it.

ANNA

So, what ever happened to Brad?

CASSIE

We broke up two months into college and the rest is history.

ANNA

He was kind of an asshole anyway.

CASSIE

Haha, totally!

Cassie resumes folding her clothing. She looks up and stops.

CASSIE (CONT'D)
 You leave tomorrow, right? Let's go
 find Dad and do something as a
 family.

INT. AIRPORT - MORNING.

Bill and Cassie drop Anna off. They block out all the
 commotion in the busy airport and have an intimate goodbye.

BILL
 (to Anna)
 We'll see you at Christmas.

CASSIE
 (to Anna)
 Let me know if you want to get
 together sooner. I could probably
 take a few days off of work.

ANNA
 I'd like that.

CASSIE
 Have a safe flight.

The twins give each other a tight long hug that tries to make
 up for 5 years of silence. Anna walks to her gate, then
 abruptly stops. She waves back to her family of three, one
 last time, then continues into the distance.

EXT. GRAVEYARD - SPRING - DAY.

Super imposed title reads: "5 years later"

Cassie and Anna visit their mother's grave together and plant
 flowers. The spring air is warm and breezy.

ANNA (V.O.)
 Miss you everyday, Mom. You taught
 me that life is short, and I should
 seize the day because tomorrow
 isn't guaranteed. I'm happy I
 finally have my artwork in a museum-
 something I never thought I'd
 accomplish. You also taught me to
 be forgiving. To Cassie and to
 others. Cassie can still be a pain
 in my ass at times.
 (MORE)

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

You don't get to pick your family, but you made me realize the amount of time you have with them is indefinite. I'm grateful to have Bill and Cassie in my life again and feel accepted by them.

CASSIE (V.O.)

After losing you, you reminded of me of how important family is. I made the mistake of putting work before family. That's why I'm pleased to tell you I finally accepted MATT's proposal. I wish you could have physically been at our wedding, but I know you were there in spirit. We have our own little girl now, AVA: She's three. She brings so much joy into my life and I hope I'm half as great of a mother as you were. I'm pregnant again-- this time with twins.

FADE TO BLACK.