

**Leaping into Freedom**

A One Act Play

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## **Character Descriptions**

Evelyn Ford: A determined young woman in her early 20's. Her entire life is planned out. She makes plans with the self-assurance and confidence that she will be successful. Stubborn to a fault. In challenging situations, she is easily angered and uncomfortable that things are not going her way.

Lauren Ford: Evelyn's mother. Mid 40's. Personification of the word, compulsive. She constantly initiates arguments with those around her when she is not in control. Jaded by past experiences and will stop at nothing to keep the past from repeating.

Walter Ford: Evelyn's father. Early 50's. An open-minded individual that accepts and respects people's decisions, regardless if they are absolutely ludicrous, and especially when it pertains to Evelyn.

Priscilla Ford: Evelyn's sister. Late 20's. A self-serving-narcissistic-control freak that always has something to say. A brutally honest person that says exactly what's on her mind without taking a person's feelings into account. She has no filter and could care less.

Theo Yates: Evelyn's best friend. Mid 20's. An extrovert at heart and enjoys solving problems. Good listener and loyal friend.

## **Synopsis**

Evelyn Ford is an early twenty-year-old woman who is officially able to do what she desires; like move out of her parents' home in Billings, Montana. She plans to travel to Seattle to permanently live there; to pursue her dreams as an Analytical Journalist at Seattle Central Community College, even though she was accepted at the University of Montana. There's a time lapse that occurs. Things that seemed clear to her are turning dim; it's all within the past. Suddenly everything stops, her dreams start fading away and things change.

**Stretching and Planting My Feet**

(Curtain rises. Lights up. It is an October morning in Billings, Montana. We see the appearance of a typical open floor plan, modern kitchen that is connected to a dining area and living room space in a Montana suburban home. The home is EVELYN FORD and her family. The Ford's home is made up of wood paneling that has cream undertones. There is a window and door at center stage right that leads to the driveway, which is on the side of the house. There is also a door at USL that leads to a hallway and into their bedrooms. EVELYN FORD is seated at the kitchen table looking rather nervous, while her dad, WALTER FORD, makes pancakes. She gazes up from a trance and opens her mouth to speak but stops herself from doing so. She is judging her father's cooking skills.)

**WALTER**

What's on your mind Eve? You keep your mouth open like that, you're going to have a fly get in there and make a mess of things.

**EVELYN**

Are you sure you know how to make pancakes?

**WALTER**

Are you worried?

(Evelyn stands and crosses to the fridge and retrieves a box of cereal that sits a top of the fridge. She also gets milk, bowl and spoon from their respective areas as she says the following lines.)

**EVELYN**

Of course, I am. They're burned to death. I think I'll just have cereal. (Beat) Are you going to talk to mom? You know...about me leaving?

**WALTER**

You must talk to her .Eve it's not my place.

**EVELYN**

Okay, I'll try. How do I tell her?

(Lauren enters from stage right holding what appears to be a set of keys and a manila folder full of documents.)

**LAUREN**

How do I tell her what?

(Evelyn looks around for something to defend herself with. She lands her eyes on a burnt pancake.)

**EVELYN**

Um...

**LAUREN**

Um, isn't an answer, young lady.

**EVELYN**

I wanted to tell you that I'm moving to Seattle.

**LAUREN**

Seattle?

**EVELYN**

I want to finish school at Seattle Central Community College.

**LAUREN**

What?! No, are you insane? You have full ride at University of Montana. You're staying right here in Montana.

**EVELYN**

I'm serious. I declined the scholarship from UM. I want to get out of Montana. Montana is a downward escalator, and every day I try to take a step up and survive, it just drags me down, mom. I need to get out of here.

**LAUREN**

I can't believe you. You declined your scholarship? Have you lost your mind? Living in what now?

**EVELYN**

I want what I want. Living in Seattle is my dream. I've been doing research and it's perfect for me.

**LAUREN**

Seattle is your dream, really? Since when? This is ridiculous. You've never spoken to me about Seattle.

**EVELYN**

We don't exactly speak very often, mom. We're strangers on a carousel. We go around and round in time and the world just keeps on moving, not stopping, and before you know it, it's over.

**LAUREN**

I need to get to work, Evelyn.

**EVELYN**

Of course, you do.

**LAUREN**

This isn't what you want, you just-

**EVELYN**

-How would you know? You don't know who I am.

**LAUREN**

(Calming herself down) I know you're better than this. You don't actually want to pack up your life and leave your family. (Beat) I just want you to succeed; I want you to be...I need you to be better than me.

**EVELYN**

I completely plan on being better than you! If you want me to be happy then I need you to accept this, because it's happening. Get over it, and make peace with it.

**LAUREN**

Evelyn Mae Ford! I don't like your tone. I won't accept your careless mistakes, and trust me this is a mistake. I would gladly support your choices if they made sense. This is the most moronic plan for your future; giving up your scholarship and leaving so far away, when you know that I need you here. (Beat) I'm not dumb! You're trying to move away from me. Am I that horrible of a mother?

**EVELYN**

I love you mother. (Pause) I just don't *like* you.

(Lauren looks at Evelyn intensely and it is clear that she was hurt by Evelyn's comment. She gathers her things and keys and begins to exit. It is clear she is holding back an emotional outburst)

**LAUREN**

Walter, please try not to burn down the house.

(Lauren kisses Walter on the cheek and exits stage right.)

**WALTER**

Wait...Lauren. (Sighs and glances over at Evelyn who is clearly distraught and stressed) This isn't easy for her. She'll come around. This is your decision, remember that Eve. I'll support you no matter what.

**EVELYN**

Thanks, dad. I know you will. (She crosses to the living room and sits on the couch. She grabs her bag and takes out a folder and some papers.)

**WALTER**

What are you going to work on?

**EVELYN**

I have to keep working on my thesis for my research project.

**WALTER**

What is it about? What are you researching this time?

(She holds it out in front of her and reads it aloud.)

**EVELYN**

Morality's place in our lives: A blessing or a cosmic joke?

**WALTER**

Sounds deep. I think-

(Lauren storms in from stage right, crosses to Evelyn and sits next to her. Evelyn looks up with a confused expression.)

**LAUREN**

Listen, I just want to make sure that you understand the consequences for your actions. There is no coming back from this. You, leave, and I won't be there to hold your hand.

**EVELYN**

This is exactly why I need to leave. Crap like this. I don't need you. I'm an independent adult woman. Stop trying to use fear to shackle me to this place. It's time you accept me as an adult and support me. Dad supports me, why can't you?

**WALTER**

Woah, wait a second. Your mom does-

**LAUREN**

-Your father thinks you're crazy. He's just too much of a saint to tell you that. I have to be the bad one.

**WALTER**

Listen. I do support Evelyn and so do you Lauren. I'm not picking sides and jumping into this fight. I love you both. Keep me out of this. I hope you can resolve this quickly, life is too short to be fighting with blood. (Beat) You ladies want some pancakes, they are actually not that bad?

**EVELYN and LAUREN**

NO!

**WALTER**

Ok. More for me. (Beat) I don't like it when you two fight. If I get back and you two are still going at it, you're getting pancakes for lunch and dinner too.

(Walter exits through the USL door and stuffs a burnt pancake into his mouth exiting stage right.)

**LAUREN**

Evelyn this isn't a game. It's reality.

**EVELYN**

Reality? (Sarcastically) This whole argument about my choice in what I want to do for a living; it's just a bunch of bullshit! Let's all go about our regular lives and pretend that we're all *happy* and our lives are perfect and we don't want to open the window and scream until our heart explodes. (Beat) This is what you did to Pricilla.

**LAUREN**

(Lauren shakes her head no. Raises her pointer finger upward to Evelyn signaling her to stop)

Don't you dare. She has nothing to do with the fact that you want to escape. You and your sister are different.

(Evelyn rises from dining chair and stands over Lauren, looking at her angrily)

**EVELYN**

You'll never understand.

**LAUREN**

You're right! I don't understand, how such a brilliant girl like you could be so lost. If you go against my wishes and-

**EVELYN**

-Why do you always try to control me? Priscilla-

**LAUREN**

Enough! I am your mother! It is my job to *control* you. That's the role you play in being a parent. Control, protect and raise a child to be a human being that adds to the world and doesn't take away.

**EVELYN**

Safe to say you're failing at all of those, because I don't feel safe around you.

**LAUREN**

That is ridiculous.

**EVELYN**

I don't.

**LAUREN**

Listen, life is a vicious vacuum, just sucking in waste and tearing people apart. You are just being sucked up into-

**EVELYN**

Life doesn't create an environment of suffering, you do. (Beat) When was the last time you spoke to Priscilla, or are you planning to forget her existence as well as mine?

(Lauren raises her hand and slaps Evelyn across the face. Lauren exits stage right.)

**Mental Block, Doubt and Nerves**

(Priscilla enters from USL door in time to see Evelyn walk out of the house.  
Light change)

**PRISCILLA**

Wow, I could hear you guys yelling from my room. I heard my name, and I just had to come over and see what all the commotion was about. Was mom talking about me? (Evelyn is holding her face and is looking down.) Must have hurt pretty bad. Are you going to cry? (Laughs) You need to lean in next time and meet her halfway. Don't tell her I told you that trick. She still packs one hell of a slap. Don't want her trying harder, right?

**EVELYN**

(As tears roll down her face) Priscilla, not now.

**PRISCILLA**

Eve, I'm trying to give you some sisterly advice. It's your decision whether or not you choose to take it. (Beat) You want to know how I get through it? My pills... my daily essentials; golden ticket to the party in my mind. Oh, it's real fun in here (pointing to her head).

**EVELYN**

No. I'm not like you. You make mistakes, I don't.

**PRISCILLA**

You're right, you're perfect. (Takes out pill bottle from her pocket) So, perfect. You're nothing like me. (Shakes bottle with a smile). Mom and dad still like me more. We all know I am the screw up, but I think it makes me more normal. Unlike the human computer. Do you ever have any fun?

**EVELYN**

I'm moving to Seattle.

**PRISCILLA**

Sure.

**EVELYN**

I am.

**PRISCILLA**

We don't leave Evelyn. We stay. We are the reef at the bottom of this vast ocean. Just watching others swim by. You can't leave. Instead, you want to have a little fun for once?

**EVELYN**

No. Your fun would just make things worse. Mom is-

**PRISCILLA**

-I won't tell if you won't. You don't get it. We're made to make mistakes. That's what makes us *humans*. Make an imprint into the ground as you live hard and leave it in the past where all mistakes go to rot.

(Priscilla stands and crosses center stage right to the window and looks off into the void.)

**EVELYN**

I recall all events of the past, all of *your* mistakes. So much rotting in this house...your smell makes me sick.

**PRICILLA**

(Priscilla angrily stalks to down stage left)

An illusion is to be mistaken, but to be mistaken is unaccounted for, don't you think, Eve? You say you want to go somewhere; you want to see the world and explore things; to have and share these...these experiences. But you won't be able to! You want to be a fancy analytical journalist, writing human interest stories and changing the way people view the world. Such horseshit!

**EVELYN**

Stop it.

**PRISCILLA**

Really! It is. People are all stuck in their ways and we are all a mess. Eve, how are you supposed to help *analyze* the world and change people, when you can't even analyze your own life!

**EVELYN**

Shut up! It's none of your business. I'm fine. Just go back to your room and let me be! I'm sure you'll mess up all on your own and I'll have to pay for it, because mom won't take it out on you, will she?

**PRISCILLA**

(Priscilla rolls her eyes and begins to circle back around the couch) Listen, Eve, I want you to understand something. The world has gone to shit! Complete and utter shit. There's nothing beautiful about it. The only desire people have, is more. They crave more than ever before with a heightened sense of deception and ugliness, as their greedy little paws scratch for more as they crawl out of their greedy zest pools of blood. We all have blood on our hands. There are three kinds of people in this world. There

is the obvious one, the ones that show you their cards upfront. They don't hide that they are the scum of the earth. They are who they are. Then there are ones who sugar coat things; anything, even the simplest of things. They seem as sweet as a jelly doughnut and then they turn around and stab you right in the back when you need them the most. The other kind is you. You're the third kind.

**EVELYN**

I don't understand anything you're saying. You just want to distract me and keep me here. It won't work. I'm going to finish this project, transfer and start my life.

**PRISCILLA**

Oh, please! You're just defensive because it's the truth. Your kind is the canary bird in the cage. Meek little thing that goes back forth on its porch, making lots of noise, but never has the balls to fly away when the cage is open. I've clipped your wings and I'm not letting you fly away, sis. I can make you stay here forever. Seattle can wait.

**EVELYN**

Leave me alone. Get out! This is exactly why I need to leave. To get away from *you* and this crazy family. You're *stuck* to me. I'm pulling away with force but you won't let go. I feel so helpless sometimes.

**PRISCILLA**

So, avoid the pain and feel numb. Take it, you need it for times like these.

(Priscilla shakes the white bottle of pills and hands it to Evelyn. Evelyn takes the bottle, pours out several pills onto her hand. Evelyn shuts her eyes closed and is about to drink the pills, when a knock is heard at the door. She then puts the pills back in the bottle and tosses the bottle to Priscilla. Priscilla stands and crosses toward the USL door. Evelyn crosses to SR door and opens it. Theo enters and looks in the direction of Priscilla as she exits angrily through the USL door.)

**The Leap**

**THEO**

Um, hello?

**EVELYN**

Hey, Theo. (Awkward pause)

**THEO**

Are you alright? You seem kind of shook up.

**EVELYN**

Yeah, I'm fine.

**THEO**

Are you going to let me in?

**EVELYN**

Of course. Come in. Take a seat over at the couch. It's just been a stressful day.

**THEO**

Alright. Family stuff?

**EVELYN**

Yeah, it'll be fine.

**THEO**

How's your thesis coming along?

**EVELYN**

Yeah, that's why I called you over. Can you read what I have so far?

**THEO**

Yours is about Morality and Suicide or something like that right?

**EVELYN**

It's on analyzing the statistical significance of the effects leading to suicide in Montana.

**THEO**

Sounds like fun.

**EVELYN**

(Shoving him) What? Maybe I should've analyzed the statistical significance of your ugly face. Is that better you think?

**THEO**

Whatever. I'm cute and you know it. You wish you looked this good. You now what? I'm getting out of here. I have to go hang out with other good-looking people, and present company isn't quite cutting it.

**EVELYN**

(Laughing) Seriously, help me! Read it aloud.

(Theodore stands up and walks center stage holding Evelyn's thesis in hand and raises it forward and begins to read it out loud dramatically.)

**THEO**

"From the beginning we were always truthful to our acts. We admitted our horrible schemes to the worthy. We're damaged control freaks that live off of our own self-destruction."  
(Theodore pauses and turns to Evelyn. He looks at her worriedly.) Are you good?

**EVELYN**

I'm fine. It's a thesis. It's supposed to be serious.

**THEO**

Yeah, serious, but it does kind of sound like Dorian Gray giving a lecture.

**EVELYN**

Shut up!

**THEO**

(In “Dorian Gray” type accent) Evelyn, you must understand that our souls have depth, but if your soul is as demented as yours, your depth will take you below the realm of comfort and (he puts his hands up in the air) you might not survive (he begins to tickle her. She laughs uncontrollably until she falls off the couch.)

**EVELYN**

(Laughing followed by a pause) I told my parents about my plans.

**THEO**

How are they handling it?

**EVELYN**

Well, my dad seems to be okay with it. My mom...not so much. It's not their decision anyway. It's mine. I need to get out of here.

**THEO**

Ever since you told me... I sort of panicked, and was like, “wow, another loss.” (Pause) I’m not exactly excited about losing my best friend.

**EVELYN**

You’re not going to lose me, Theo. I’ll only be 11 hours away.

**THEO**

11 hours. You say that like it’s around the corner. I hate driving for 1 hour. If I’m driving 11, you better be paying me for my gas.

**EVELYN**

Yeah, ok. It’s 2018. I’ll get a job and pay for your gas. How does that sound, you cheapskate?

**THEO**

Oh, ok. You better bring me a bag full of dicks.

**EVELYN**

Excuse me?

**THEO**

Bag full of dicks (Pause. Followed by laughter) It's a popular burger place over there. I did some research on Seattle after you told me you were going there. I've heard that Seattle has the best burgers. I want onions and a whole bunch of ranch. You are getting me a big bag full of-

**EVELYN**

-I swear on my deathbed if you mention the word dick again; I'm going to slaughter you.

**THEO**

Oh, come on! Why, Seattle anyway?

**EVELYN**

-Theo!

**THEO**

I know, it's your choice and your sticking to it, but you haven't really given me a concrete answer.

**EVELYN**

I just see my future there. I dream about it. I don't really need a reason for everyone. Haven't you ever had a feeling about something. A yearning that you can't make go away.

**THEO**

(Theodore shrugs and runs his hand over his hair.) I mean, yeah, I get the idea. The whole yearning thing. I don't want to... be a cliché and say something cheesy like...follow your dreams and don't let anyone stop you from getting what you want. Crap, I guess I just said it.

**EVELYN**

I'm going to miss this. I'm going to miss bonding with you and making long lists for things to buy from Ikea. Dude, your house is empty.

**THEO**

Tell me something I don't know. You know that you can stay, right?

**EVELYN**

Theo, we talked about this.

**THEO**

I'm not trying to change your mind. I just want you to know that I'm here for you and that you mean more to me than you know. Just because you said it, doesn't mean you're not allowed to change your mind. If you do change your mind that is.

**EVELYN**

Right. I know.

**THEO**

Cause it would be pretty cool if you stayed. I... never mind.

**EVELYN**

What?

**THEO**

(Trying to change the subject) Your thesis should be more personal. I want to feel connected to you as reader, as an individual. I don't want to read this and feel like I cut you off on the highway with no signal and you got super pissed at me. Then, started hating the world.

**EVELYN**

Easier said than done. The subject matter makes me a little angry and I'm passionate about it. So, you hate it?

**THEO**

Well, your statement is short and sweet and it involves demented commentary that a sane person wouldn't really need to know anything about...so of course I like it. It's perfect just like you.

**EVELYN**

Stop. I'm not perfect.

**THEO**

That's what I couldn't say earlier. I...no, you're not perfect. You're perfect for me.

(A long pause is shared where they both stare at each other. Theo begins to lean in to kiss Evelyn.)

**EVELYN**

(Pulling away) Theo, please don't start something you can't finish. I don't want to hurt you, but I have to get out of here.

**The Pressure**

(Walter and Lauren enter from stage right speaking amongst themselves. They both cross to Eve and Theo)

**LAUREN**

No, Walter. I can't let my daughter just leave. Can't you understand that? She's crazy...

**WALTER**

All I'm saying is that she's an adult and she's made up her mind. Don't come in here attacking her expecting to get your way.

(They both finally see Theo and Evelyn sitting by the couch. Lauren walks up to the couch as soon as she sees them.)

**EVELYN**

Are you here to slap me again or just talk down to me like I'm a child?

**LAUREN**

I lost my temper. You keep dragging the past around like it's a warm blanket and I've had enough of it. I'm sorry I slapped you.

**WALTER**

You did what? Oh, Lauren.

**LAUREN**

You weren't there. You didn't hear her cold tone and cutting words. Your words cut Evelyn.

**EVELYN**

Do they? Good. Feel my words for the last time. I am leaving. You can keep all of this and Priscilla all wrapped up into your hand, but not me, I will be free.

**WALTER**

Priscilla doesn't need to hear this, she-

**EVELYN**

Dad, please! I can't do this anymore. The back and the forth. The arguing on what's best for me, what's best for Priscilla. It's too much. She doesn't deserve special treatment for what she's done. The way we feel, the way we walk on eggshells around here, it's all her fault. She is the root of the problem and I want out. I want something new. Is that too much to ask?

**WALTER**

Your mother is just scared if you leave. She wants us to stay together as a family. She doesn't want Priscilla to-

**LAUREN**

Disappear. If you leave, maybe she will too. Then your father and I have nothing.

**THEO**

Maybe I should go.

**EVELYN**

No. Don't go. You need to hear this. Priscilla had a future. Then she-

**LAUREN**

Evelyn Ford! What is the matter with you? Have you lost your mind? Theo doesn't need to know anything about your sister.

**EVELYN**

My sister killed herself 3 years ago.

**THEO**

Your sister? I saw her this afternoon. I thought you only had one sister.

**EVELYN**

I did. She killed herself. You saw her this afternoon?

**LAUREN**

Stop it. Don't say it.

**THEO**

Yeah. Just as I was walking in.

(Evelyn runs into the USL doorway and Lauren runs after her screaming. Evelyn comes back in running with Lauren trying to stop her. Evelyn is holding an urn.)

**EVELYN**

My sister is in this urn.

**LAUREN**

Stop it. Put it back in your sister's room.

**EVELYN**

For some reason, we can see her and if you can see her then I guess anyone that comes in this house can see her.

(Priscilla enters the room and is laughing)

**PRISCILLA**

Oh, today has gotten really interesting. Hey there, Theo! You ever see a dead girl stuck in her mother's home for all of eternity and can find no way on how to get out, along with a mother who is afraid to spread her ashes or let her other daughter leave the house, due the fear that dead girl will disappear. Now, you have. Welcome.

**THEO**

Is this a joke?

**LAUREN**

I just don't want to lose you Priscilla.

**PRISCILLA**

You lost me a long time ago. You all did. You are all the reason why I'm gone.

**EVELYN**

Stop it. We're not going down this road with you again.

**PRISCILLA**

Right, let's avoid the truth and keep living while I walk around dead. Why am I dead Evelyn? Really. Just say it and be done with it, because none of you ever want to talk about it and maybe that's why I'm still here.

**WALTER**

Everyone relax! Priscilla, maybe you should go back to your room. This might be too much for Theo. He-

**PRISCILLA**

Classic dad. Scared of the serious situations. Avoid the big fights, right dad. Let's push all of our problems under the rug or just walk away from them and you won't have to deal with them. Well, dad, your golden child wants to leave you, but she can't because she can't leave me. That's a fact, Evelyn. You talk a whole lot about leaving to Seattle, but you won't. You won't even get past the front yard without turning back. A part of you is scared that I actually will go away and you'll have an excuse to forgive yourself, and you can't can you?

**EVELYN**

You know what? I'm done.

(Theodore panics and stands to his feet immediately.)

**THEO**

What do you mean done?

(Evelyn rises from her seat and begins to walk stage right.)

**EVELYN**

Done with this conversation. (Looking at Priscilla) Done with everything and most importantly done with you.

**LAUREN**

You're not leaving!

**EVELYN**

Watch me! Tell your precious Priscilla that I left. It's clear that you only care about her.

(Evelyn begins walking heading for stage right.)

**LAUREN**

(Lauren set to follow Evelyn but is pulled back. Lauren falls backward onto the floor gasping for air.)

**WALTER**

Lauren!

(Walter quickly rushes to Lauren. Evelyn turns around worriedly and seeks to help Lauren. There's a blackout. The sound of a heart monitor moving to a flatline is heard.)

### **The Dive**

(Lights up. Evelyn, Walter, Theo are seated in the Ford's kitchen dining chairs all looking lost. Priscilla is seated center stage on the floor staring off into the audience.)

### **PRISCILLA**

This is all your fault Evelyn! You actually screwed something up for once. It wasn't me this time. Congrats!

### **EVELYN**

This is all my fault! I killed mom!

### **WALTER**

Don't be ridiculous!

### **PRISCILLA**

You and your selfishness! I wanted you, and mom checked out instead. Life is funny that way, but it never quite makes me laugh in the usual way. You actually caused death.

### **EVELYN**

I *caused* this on myself. I'm so selfish!

### **WALTER**

Eve, your mom was already sick. She's always had heart problems. The doctors say all the stress caught up with her. This isn't your fault. Don't listen to your sister.

### **PRISCILLA**

This is just something that happens...yeah, right

**EVELYN**

I still can't help but think that-

**THEO**

Your dad's right. Her death isn't on your hands. It's no one's fault.

(Evelyn and Walter speak inaudibly. Theo listens quietly. Lights dim around the house, as a spotlight and blue wash fades up on Priscilla.)

**PRISCILLA**

-It's something that happened for a reason. A purpose, a cause, or even justification. It's something that I have no answer for, but I do believe there is a higher power that may even have the answers to everything. Higher power that may suck at their job, but higher power nonetheless. And, from what I know (Pause) They don't want me hanging with the angels. I lost my dignity and self-worth a long time ago and I guess I didn't make the VIP list. I'm truly living in a different world. Everything feels the same around here, but I can't sleep or eat. I walk around this place hoping to find answers and they just never get here. I tried to get my sister to join me, and this betters my chances, but do I still want her here? I just can't take it being here alone. There has to be more to the beyond than this. I want more for my sister. Can she ever release me?

(Light change. Evelyn and Walter both stand.)

**EVELYN**

I'm sorry dad! I'm sorry, I keep saying it because I mean it. I'm sorry, because I keep hurting this family and I can't. I-

**WALTER**

(Walter pulls Evelyn to him and hugs her. She cries into his arms.)

Shh...It's okay. Just sit down. You don't need to apologize. (Priscilla lays on the floor and shuts her eyes.) Priscilla, I think it's time you leave.

**EVELYN**

Dad, what are you talking about?

**WALTER**

Maybe it's time.

**PRISCILLA**

You don't say, dad. Really? You don't think I want to go? It's not up to me and it's not up to you. It's up to Evelyn.

**EVELYN**

I'm not doing this.

**PRISCILLA**

This is all your fault! How can you live with yourself?

**EVELYN**

(Evelyn rises from her seat and stands over Priscilla.) Do you really want to go there? You're that last person that should say anything... If anyone is at fault, it's you!

(Evelyn begins walking to center stage Priscilla follows.)

**PRISCILLA**

You can never take responsibility for your actions!

**EVELYN**

Responsibility?! Responsibility? You! You were the one that overdosed right here in this living room. I came in here and you were dead! I found you here dead. My sister. (Evelyn pushes Priscilla) You were the one that committed suicide! You were the one that couldn't handle life... or even handle the idea of solving your own problems! So, don't *fuck* with me and accuse me of killing mom because I didn't... I couldn't have. (Evelyn falls to the floor and breaks down.)

**PRISCILLA**

I won't go away because you *won't* let go of the past. You can't hide in the dark forever. That's why you're going to release me.

**EVELYN**

How?

**PRISCILLA**

By, letting go of the past and moving on. You found me and what did you do when you found me Evelyn?

**EVELYN**

I held you in my arms and I cried. I didn't call anyone. I didn't call for help. I just sat here and cried. I could have done something. Called someone.

**PRISCILLA**

What else? Keep going.

**EVELYN**

I knew you were sad and didn't say anything. I read your diary and you said all the stuff you were thinking about and how you didn't fit in and that you wanted to end your life. (Pause) I did nothing to stop it.

(Evelyn collapses to the ground in tears.)

### **The Parachute**

(The door from USL opens and a white light shines through. From within that white light, Lauren enters.)

She is dressed in an elaborate dress. The dress appears as if it is made of white lights.)

**WALTER**

(With tears in his eyes) Lauren, my love. (He goes to her and kisses Lauren) I can't do this without you. (Lauren leans into his ear and says a few words) I will, my love. I love you so much. (They Kiss)

**THEO**

Holy, shit! Mrs. Ford? (Lauren leans over to Theo and whispers in his ear.) Really? (Lauren nods) Thank you Mrs. Ford. I will.

(Lauren crosses to center stage. Evelyn rises and backs away from her. Priscilla approaches her.)

**PRISCILLA**

Mom? Are you stuck here too? Are you going to stay with me? (Lauren crosses to Priscilla and whispers in her ear. As she speaks, Priscilla begins to cry.) Are you sure? (Lauren nods).

**EVELYN**

I let you down, mom. (Lauren crosses to Evelyn and embraces her. They both cry in each other's arms.) I'm sorry that I tried to leave. Your death is all my fault.

(Lauren crosses to Evelyn and whispers in her ear. Evelyn begins to sob even more and hugs her mother harder. Lauren stares into her eyes, nods and crosses to Priscilla and grabs her hand. They begin to exit toward offstage. Priscilla stops abruptly and runs back to Evelyn and hugs her tightly as well.)

**PRISCILLA**

I didn't die because of you. I was depressed and I wasn't thinking clearly. The world kept pushing me and I didn't want to be pushed anymore. I should have talked to you. You were always there for me. I couldn't have asked for a better sister. Please don't repeat my mistakes. Now, you're living for two. Every time you succeed, and every time you get a win, know that I'm right there with you feeling it and experiencing all of it. I'll always be there, no matter what. Live hard, Evelyn. I want to feel your spirit full of life and see you enjoy every part of life. I love you so much.

**EVELYN**

I love you too.

(Lauren and Priscilla cross toward the USL door. Priscilla walks up to Walter, kisses him on the cheek and then whispers in his ear. He nods and then Priscilla and Lauren enter through the USL doorway with the door closing behind them and the light disappearing. Evelyn follows them and puts her hand on the door as the light fades away on the other side. Evelyn cries. Theo and Walter hold onto her.)

**WALTER**

You rose her up Evelyn. You set your sister free. Your sister wants her ashes spread in the front yard. I'm going to go do that now if that's ok with you? (Evelyn nods.)

(Walter exits through stage right door.)

**EVELYN**

What did my mother say to you? (He grabs her hand and they cross to center stage.)

**THEO**

I don't know if I should follow her advice, but here goes everything. (He grabs Evelyn and gives her a passionate kiss)

**EVELYN**

Wow. So, she told you to do that?

**THEO**

Among other things, but she also told me to take care of your dad while you go to Seattle.

**EVELYN**

I'm not going to Seattle now.

**THEO**

She made me promise that I would make sure you go. She wants you to have no regrets and to follow your heart. Your dad and I will be here when you get back. You need this. That and... I really do want you to bring me back a bag of dicks.

**EVELYN**

Shut up, you're so stupid. (Pause) Ok, I'm doing it.

(Light change. Music plays.)

**The Landing**

(There is a spotlight at downstage center. Evelyn enters the spotlight.)

**EVELYN**

From the beginning we were always truthful to our acts. We admitted our horrible schemes to the worthy. We're damaged control freaks that live off of our own self-destruction. Is it all about greed and self-loathing that drives someone to the end of existence? Is it morally wrong to end your own life, and are those who cut it and make it to a natural end the winners of life and the blessed ones? Is morality a blessing or a cosmic joke? I lost my sister to suicide, and I wish I could have her back every day. Whether its morals that keeps us all from ending it all on a terrible day, or our family, or our friends, depression is in all of us lurking like a creature waiting for the right moment to attack. I may think suicide is morally wrong, and others might not. What I can say for certain...is that I leapt for freedom and my creature still can't find me. If your creature finds you, hold someone's hand and choose to leap instead of falling.

(Blackout)

(The End)

