

INT. BEER N' CHICKS BAR - NIGHT

It's small and jam-packed with mingling PATRONS.

LAUREN, 34, brown-skinned with a round face and pixie hair-cut, wearing a pencil skirt and a dressy shirt, stares intently at the floor.

BEGIN FLASHBACK MONTAGE

--Lauren dressed in a skimpy outfit brushes CANDACE'S hair.

--Lauren snatches the key of the wall and pulls Candace out the door.

--Lauren drives into a parking lot full of TEENAGERS.

--Lauren deviously smiles at Candace and hangs out the driver door.

--Speed on the dashboard accelerates, and Lauren grips the wheel.

--Lauren panics and Candace screams as the car spins out of control and barrels into a tree.

--Lauren, bandaged, cries at Candace's bedside in a hospital. Candace pushes her away.

LAUREN

I'm so sorry, Candace. This wasn't supposed to happen.

--Lauren cries into the bed.

END MONTAGE

CONNOR, 35, brown-skinned with hazel-colored bedroom eyes, collar shirt and slacks, sits on the stool besides Lauren. He places a drink down and touches her shoulder.

Lauren jumps and looks around bewildered.

CONNOR

Hey, hey... Are you okay?

LAUREN

Yeah, I'm sorry. It's been a day.
Well a month. I'm just tired.

Lauren sips the drink and smiles.

CONNOR

Maybe you can take some time off.
Your working yourself crazy. I miss
you. I miss us.

Lauren takes another sip and smiles at Connor. She touches
the side of his face.

LAUREN

Oh, really? So, let's go so you can
show me just how much.

Connor leans close and nibbles on her ear.

Lauren giggles and gathers her purse.

Connor holds her waist as they scurry out the door.

INT. LAUREN AND CONNOR'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - DAY

The sun peaks through the closed blinds. Articles of clothing
are scattered on the floor.

Connor and Lauren sleep half-naked under a white blanket on a
king sized bed.

Connor stirs awake and looks at the night stand. He snatches
up the pager.

The display reads: "CODE BLUE/DELIVERY ENROUTE."

Connor sits on the side of the bed and looks back at Lauren.

She snores.

Connor smiles and scrambles to get dressed.

CONNOR

(Whispers)

Lauren... Hey, Lauren.

Lauren pulls the cover over her head and snores louder.

CONNOR (CONT'D)

Okay then. I have to go. Call me
when you wake up.

He kisses the top of her head and slips out the room.

SUPER: "HOURS LATER"

DOOR BELL RINGS RAPIDLY.

Lauren's eyes flutter open. She groans and sits up.

The bedroom door swings open.

CANDACE, 30, brown-skinned with high cheekbones and bone-straight tresses, wearing a leopard print body suit and matching purse, struts inside.

LAUREN

Why you rang the bell like a
savage, if you were just going to
use your key?

CANDACE

To announce my arrival and you need
to clean this room.

Candace frowns as she sits on the bed and crosses her legs.

Lauren tucks the blanket around her body and falls back in
the pillows.

LAUREN

Well, hey to you too, sis. I just
got back last night, give me a
moment.

Candace holds her hand out, looking down at her manicured
nails.

Lauren looks over at her.

LAUREN (CONT'D)

What's wrong?

CANDACE

I've been having the fever lately.
I think it's time you fulfilled
your promise to me. I'm ready.

Candace looks intently at Lauren and rubs her stomach.

Lauren sits up and grimaces at Candace.

LAUREN

Candace, right now--

CANDACE

Right now, would be perfect for me.
Besides, it's your fault I'm like
this. I didn't ask to be in that
car with you. You--

LAUREN

I know what I did! But damn it Candace, I can't have a baby right now. Tell me how would I explain it to Connor?

Lauren leans against the headboard.

Candace stands and paces the floor.

CANDACE

Simple. Just say, 'hey babe, I gotta' have this baby for my sister because my careless ways caused her to have a hysterectomy at the tender age of fourteen.'

Lauren scowls at Candace. She grabs a robe off the bed frame and covers herself as she stands.

LAUREN

It's not that simple. Connor wants a family, too. He has been hinting at a child for the longest. To be pregnant and it not be his would be torment.

Candace leans on the bed.

CANDACE

I'm your sister, Lauren. Your blood. What about me and my feelings? If I could have a baby of my own I would.

Lauren scoffs.

LAUREN

You will never let me live it down? I mean, have you even forgiven me for it?

CANDACE

Partially. Once you give me a baby, I will completely.

Lauren throws her hands in the air and blows out an exasperated breath.

LAUREN

Your impossible, Candace! All this time I thought we had an understanding--

CANDACE

No, you thought I would just forget and just move on, but I won't. I can't. I need this.

LAUREN

I'm sorry, Candace. I can't. I can't do this to Connor or myself. It's not a good time.

Lauren crosses her arms.

CANDACE

So, your choosing him over me? Over what you promised me, especially knowing what you did?

Candace glares at Lauren and gathers her purse.

LAUREN

Candace--

CANDACE

Save it. Your dead to me Lauren. I'll never forget this, so count your days.

Candace storms out the room.

LAUREN

Candace!

The FRONT DOOR SLAMS. A picture of Lauren and Candace falls on the floor. The glass shatters.

INT. SUPERMARKET - DAY

SUPER: "ONE MONTH LATER"

CUSTOMERS move about aimlessly through the isles. Connor strolls down the wine and spirits isle holding a phone to his face and pushing a shopping cart.

CONNOR

I'm just grabbing a six pack. Do you want anything?

LAUREN (V.O.)

I can't even think straight to tell you.

Connor laughs and opens the freezer door.

CONNOR
Did you pee, yet?

LAUREN (V.O.)
Not yet. I don't have... Wait.
Never mind. I'll call you back.

Connor grabs a six pack and places it in his cart. He looks around and spots Candace walking by. He pushes the cart to follow her.

PHONE RINGS.

CONNOR
Yeah, babe.

LAUREN (V.O.)
Get me a small bottle of wine since
this will be my last time drinking
to celebrate anything.

CONNOR
Are you serious? So, I'm going to
be a dad?

Connor freezes. A bright smile spreads across his face.

LAUREN (V.O.)
No, your going to be a great dad.
The best. Now hurry up and get
home. I think I need to throw up
again.

Connor beams as he hangs up.

CONNOR
I'm going to be a dad!

Candace walks up behind him, arms crossed with a deep scowl on her face.

CANDACE
You're what?

Connor spins around.

CONNOR
Hey, sis.

CANDACE
Don't hey sis me. Did you just say
your going to be a dad? So, Lauren
is pregnant?

CONNOR

Yeah. She literally just found out, so act surprised when she tells you.

CANDACE

Oh, I doubt she'll tell me that.

Candace smirks and rolls her eyes.

CONNOR

Why wouldn't she tell you?

CANDACE

The same reason she never told you about the accident that made me have a hysterectomy at fourteen! And I bet she failed to mention that I just asked her to be my surrogate and she told me the time wasn't right, but now she is pregnant?

CONNOR

Wait, what?

Connor reaches for her arm. Candace snatches away.

CANDACE

Don't worry about it. Enjoy your baby. While you can.

Candace bumps Connor's arm as she storms away.

INT. LAUREN AND CONNOR'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - DAY

Lauren lays half-naked across the bed with a wet rag across her forehead.

Connor storms in.

CONNOR

I just seen you sister. And soon as I mentioned your pregnancy she goes into this rant about an accident and how she asked you for a baby. What is going on, Lauren?

Lauren sits up with wide eyes. She drops her head and sighs.

LAUREN

I wrecked the family car when I was eighteen.

(MORE)

LAUREN (CONT'D)

The accident left Candace infertile. I promised her that I would be a surrogate whenever she was ready.

CONNOR

So this baby is hers?

Connor frowns and sits on the bed.

Lauren wraps her arms around his neck from behind.

LAUREN

No! When she asked I told her no. I know how much you want to be a dad. I won't let her steal this moment. This is our baby, Connor. Our baby.

Connor turns slightly and looks at her.

Lauren holds his face and kisses him passionately.

INT. DELIVERY ROOM - DAY

SUPER: "DELIVERY DAY"

A NURSE watches a medical monitor and adjusts the liquids on an I.V. bag.

A DOCTOR examines Lauren under a sheet between her legs.

Sweat pours from Lauren's forehead as she lays on the table wailing in agony.

DOCTOR

You need to push, right now!

Lauren huffs and puffs. She grits her teeth, leans up and pushes down on the table. She screams.

A BABY's cries fill the room.

Lauren collapses back against the table.

The door swings open and Connor rushes over to the bed side.

CONNOR

I tried to get here faster, baby. Are you okay? Is that the baby?

Lauren nods and closes her eyes.

NURSE

I'll get him clean up while they
move you to a room. After the
tests, he is all yours.

The nurse carries the baby away.

LAUREN

That was so exhausting. Never
again.

Connor brushes the hair off her sweaty forehead.

CONNOR

But you did it, and he is perfect.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

SUPER: "ONE HOUR LATER"

Connor holds the newborn in his arms as he paces the floor
with a smile.

Lauren snores softly in the bed.

The door opens slowly.

Candace walks in with a duffle bag over her shoulder.

CONNOR

(whispers)

Hey! What are you doing here?

CANDACE

Seen your post. Came to check on my
sister before I go.

CONNOR

Go where?

CANDACE

I'm leaving town. I need some time.
Some space.

CONNOR

Listen, I don't really know what
you all agreed to in the past, but
right now, she could use your help.
You may not be mom, but you would
make an awesome auntie.

Connor angles the baby so Candace can see his face.

Candace gasps and drops the bag. She caresses the side of the babies' face softly.

Lauren stirs awake.

LAUREN

Candace? You actually came?

Candace glances at her then turns back to the baby. She looks up at Connor.

CANDACE

Can I hold him?

CONNOR

Sure. I'll give you guys a moment to talk.

Connor places the baby in her arms. He kisses Lauren's forehead and slips out the door.

Candace sits on the bed and kisses the baby's cheek.

CANDACE

He is perfect.

LAUREN

He is. Listen Candace, I know—

CANDACE

Shh. Don't ruin this moment for me. Whatever you have to say can wait.

Lauren nods. She gets up and goes into the bathroom.

Candace watches the door close. She jumps up, snatching all the diapers and wipes into the duffel bag. She wraps the baby up and lays him inside the duffel bag. Candace clutches the bag to her chest and bolts out the room.

Lauren steps out the bathroom and gasps.

Connor walks back in room.

CONNOR

What did you say to her? She ran past me like a bat out of hell.

LAUREN

She took the baby, Connor! She took my baby!

FADE TO BLACK.