



Me & Tammy Faye at the Betty Ford Clinic

Written by

Pamela García Rooney

Kailey Marsh
Brillstein Entertainment Partners
310.205.5128

The totally MADE-UP story of the unlikely bond between a drag queen and the queen of Christian televangelism..

Inspired by the very REAL life of Tammy Faye.

OPEN ON:

INT. EISENHOWER MEMORIAL HOSPITAL - 1987 - DAY

Like a pair of rosy-cheeked Hummel figurines, JIM and TAMMY FAYE BAKKER (pronounced *baker*, both Caucasian, mid-forties) scuttle hand-in-hand down a long corridor. Tammy Faye's high heels click-clack loudly against the tile floor.

She barely skims five feet, radiating bubbly Pollyanna charm from her stylish pumps to her zebra print head scarf. Her heavily made-up Kewpie doll face flaunts ***aggressively thick false lashes that must have taken hours to apply.***

She is never without her signature lashes.

Not much taller than his wife, chipmunk-cheeked Jim is boyish and affable. He puts the *charisma* in Charismatic Christian.

Bodyguard/chauffeur RICK, twenty-seven, is hunky and cocksure, easily keeping pace with his fun-size employers. He sports a black Members Only jacket and tight acid-wash jeans.

CUT TO:

EXT. EISENHOWER MEMORIAL HOSPITAL - DAY (ESTABLISHING)

A majestic American flag soars high above a low-rise building surrounded by palm trees.

EXT. EISENHOWER MEMORIAL HOSPITAL - SAME TIME

A phalanx of REPORTERS and FANS gathers near the entrance of the hospital. Fans hold up posters with several variations on "We love you, Tammy Faye!" and "God bless you, Tammy Faye!"

In the foreground, a FIELD REPORTER speaks to a news camera.

FIELD REPORTER

1987 has hardly been a banner year for Jim and Tammy Faye Bakker. In fact, you might say it has been downright *hellish* for the evangelical Christian power couple famous for launching the so-called "electric church" more than a decade ago. In today's special report, we take a closer look at these icons of pop culture.

CUT BACK TO:

INT. EISENHOWER MEMORIAL HOSPITAL - CONTINUOUS/ON SCREEN.
NEWSREEL MONTAGE (INTERCUT)

Tammy Faye and her small entourage approach a nurse's station.

FIELD REPORTER (V.O.)

After rumors surfaced of Jim Bakker's sexual infidelity and misuse of church funds, the infamous king and queen of televangelism said a tearful goodbye to their PTL network.

CUT TO:

- VIDEO CLIP OF THE BAKKERS SITTING ON THE PATIO OF THEIR PALM SPRINGS HOME SPEAKING DIRECTLY TO CAMERA AND AN INVISIBLE AUDIENCE...

Tammy Faye snuffles and dabs a hankie at her heavily made up eyes. Jim has an enormous cat in his lap. Wearing a forced smile that does little to hide his bristling nerves, he strokes the animal compulsively while he speaks.

JIM BAKKER

Tammy and I are so glad that we've been granted this opportunity to talk with you today. And uh...
(to Tammy)
Say hello.

TAMMY FAYE

(embarrassed)
Yes. Hello, everyone.

JIM BAKKER

And we want to say to you that we are so very, very sorry.

CUT BACK TO:

HOSPITAL NURSE'S STATION - CONTINUOUS

Tammy is surrounded by NURSES taking turns hugging her, offering muted well-wishes.

FIELD REPORTER (V.O.)

For years, the Bakkers have lived a life of conspicuous consumption, inviting viewers into their opulent homes for holidays and vacations...

CUT TO:

- IMAGE ON SCREEN OF THE BAKKERS POSING -- WITH TAMMY SUE, SEVENTEEN, AND JAMIE CHARLES, TWELVE -- IN FRONT OF A BIG CHRISTMAS TREE OVERFLOWING WITH BEAUTIFULLY WRAPPED GIFTS.

FIELD REPORTER (V.O.)

The Bakkers' two children, Tammy Sue and Jamie Charles, grew up on television, right before the eyes of PTL's loyal audience.

- VARIOUS IMAGES ON SCREEN OF THE BAKKERS AND THEIR CHILDREN THROUGH THE YEARS, FROM ITTY-BITTY BABIES TO TODDLERS TO PRESENT DAY.

CUT BACK TO:

HOSPITAL CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

Tammy Faye is greeted by additional HOSPITAL STAFF.

WOMAN #1

We'll miss you Tammy Faye!

Tammy Faye smiles brightly.

TAMMY FAYE

Thank you, Agnes.

The woman comes in for a hug and Tammy obliges, happily.

FIELD REPORTER (V.O.)

P-T-L. The Bakkers say it stands for "Praise The Lord" or "People That Love," but there are many who would argue it really stands for "Pay The Lady" or "Pass the Loot"...

Another hospital staff member approaches. Jim grins big, impressed with all the adoration his wife is receiving.

WOMAN #2

Take care, Tammy Faye.

TAMMY FAYE
I'll do my best, Ruthie.

FIELD REPORTER (V.O.)
The network became a hugely profitable global concern once it turned into a 24-hour satellite broadcast in late 1978. This massive exposure brought the Bakkers fortune and fame rivaling any rock star. But now, it seems, the Bakkers have been irrevocably rocked by scandal...

HOSPITAL STAFF (VARIOUS) (O.S.)
Goodbye, Tammy Faye! / We love you! /
Be well, Tammy! / God bless you!

After a few more hugs, Tammy Faye blows kisses to everyone as she proceeds down the hall with Jim and Rick.

CUT TO:

- IMAGE ON SCREEN OF JIM AND TAMMY FAYE IN TEARS ON THE SET OF THE PTL CLUB SHOW. A HUGE AUDIENCE BEFORE THEM.

FIELD REPORTER (V.O.)
At the core of this outrageous story, it is Jim Bakker's actions that have been relentlessly speculated on in recent headlines...

CUT BACK TO:

HOSPITAL ADMISSIONS AREA - CONTINUOUS

Tammy signs papers then hands them back to a smiling CLERK behind a desk. Jim and Rick stand by.

FIELD REPORTER (V.O.)
Earlier this year, church secretary turned Playboy centerfold, Jessica Hahn...

CUT TO:

- IMAGE ON SCREEN OF JESSICA HAHN ON THE COVER OF PLAYBOY MAGAZINE.

FIELD REPORTER (V.O.)
...claimed Jim Bakker drugged and raped her in a Miami Beach hotel in 1980 when she was just twenty-years old...

CUT BACK TO:

HOSPITAL RECEPTION AREA - CONTINUOUS

Tammy assesses an array of Gucci luggage and checks the contents of one bag, finding a LARGE BEDAZZLED SEE-THRU CASE with what seems like a lifetime supply of false eyelashes.

Satisfied, she slings it over her shoulder and looks at Jim.

FIELD REPORTER (V.O.)
Bakker admits to having sex with Hahn seven years ago, but vehemently denies the sex was non-consensual...

Jim leans in to give Tammy Faye a kiss on the cheek. She flashes him a bright, loving smile.

CUT TO:

- VIDEO CLIP OF JESSICA HAHN IN DARK SUNGLASSES AS SHE IS BOMBARDED BY THE PRESS OUTSIDE HER HOME.

FIELD REPORTER (V.O.)
He has also been implicated in the allocating of church funds to serve as "hush money" for Ms. Hahn. Making matters only worse for him, Bakker is frequently accused of cashing in on his ministry to support a lavish lifestyle for himself and his family...

- IMAGE ON SCREEN -- THE BAKKERS WAVE FROM ONBOARD A YACHT.

FIELD REPORTER (V.O.)
...a lifestyle the Bakkers are proud of and use as an aspirational example within their "prosperity doctrine"...

- IMAGE ON SCREEN OF THE BAKKERS ON THE PTL STAGE DURING A TELETHON WITH DOZENS OF PHONE OPERATORS ON STAGE FIELDING CALLS.

FIELD REPORTER (V.O.)

...a credo that tells of an Almighty God who answers prayers in dramatic, miraculous fashion. The promise is clear: Any money donated to PTL will be multiplied tenfold by God... Unfortunately for the believers, the only money multiplying has been the cash the Bakkers are raking in for themselves...

- IMAGE ON SCREEN OF JIM IN A TUX AND TAMMY FAYE IN A LONG MINK COAT POSING IN FRONT OF TWO MATCHING ROLLS ROYCES.

FIELD REPORTER (V.O.)

Their shameless displays of wealth have attracted the attention of the Federal Communications Commission, compelling it to launch an extensive investigation into the misuse of funds among the upper ranks of PTL...

- VIDEO CLIP OF JIM BAKKER AT HIS DESK ON THE SET OF THE PTL SHOW. HE ADDRESSES THE AUDIENCE.

JIM BAKKER

There are those who like to say I have been careless with PTL's finances, but remember, facts don't count when you have God's word on the subject.

He winks at the camera.

CUT BACK TO:

HOSPITAL ENTRANCE LOBBY - CONTINUOUS

Following close behind Tammy and Jim are a MALE HOSPITAL EMPLOYEE and Rick, both weighed down by Tammy Faye's many pieces of luggage.

FIELD REPORTER(V.O)

Theirs was a multi-million dollar operation racked by colossal debt, incurred as Jim Bakker built his Christian answer to Disneyland...

CUT TO:

- VIDEO CLIP OF A BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF HERITAGE USA FOLLOWED BY FOOTAGE OF THE SPRAWLING, HEAVILY POPULATED AMUSEMENT PARK WITH A MASSIVE WATERSLIDE AT ITS CENTER.

FIELD REPORTER (V.O.)

Heritage USA covers 2300 acres in Fort Mill, South Carolina and is valued at more than \$125 million...

- IMAGE ON SCREEN OF TAMMY FAYE ON THE SET OF PTL, ADDRESSING THE AUDIENCE WITH MASCARA STAINED TEARS RUNNING DOWN HER CHEEKS.

FIELD REPORTER (V.O.)

And standing by her man through all of it...

CUT BACK TO:

HOSPITAL ENTRANCE LOBBY - CONTINUOUS

Tammy Faye slips on a large pair of dark sunglasses as she approaches the hospital entrance.

FIELD REPORTER (V.O.)

...the ever ebullient Tammy Faye will be released any moment now from Eisenhower Memorial Hospital here in Rancho Mirage, California, following a nearly fatal bout with pneumonia compounded by her addiction to prescribed anxiety medication...

Tammy stops to brace herself. Yards away, fans and reporters with their cameras stand ready beyond the glass doors.

FIELD REPORTER (V.O.)

Born Tamara Faye La Valley in 1942, she is the eldest of eight children.

(MORE)

FIELD REPORTER (V.O.) (CONT'D)

By all accounts, she was raised in a deeply religious household filled with love but mired in poverty, growing up in a three-room clapboard house with no running water. After her parents' divorce, she was charged with helping her mother raise her seven siblings...

- VARIOUS IMAGES ON SCREEN-- A HUMBLE TWO-STORY HOME, TAMMY'S CHILDHOOD FAMILY PHOTO OF HER MOTHER, STEP-DAD AND EIGHT CHILDREN.

FIELD REPORTER (V.O.)

Jim Bakker, on the other hand, was raised an upper-middle-class preacher's son. The unlikely pair met at North Central University, a bible college in Minneapolis...

- VARIOUS IMAGES ON SCREEN OF A VERY YOUNG TAMMY FAYE AND JIM BAKKER, JUST MARRIED, FRESH OUT OF BIBLE COLLEGE.

FIELD REPORTER (V.O.)

Dropping out of college in order to marry, the evangelical duo quickly embarked on a journey to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

-IMAGE ON SCREEN OF THE YOUNG BAKKERS ON THEIR WEDDING DAY.

FIELD REPORTER (V.O.)

They found themselves in North Carolina for a time in the late 1960s, holding church revivals that typically ended with a handful of believers speaking in a mysterious language that no one, not even the speaker, could understand. This, of course, is known as "speaking in tongues," an evangelical rite of passage...

- IMAGE ON SCREEN OF THE YOUNG BAKKERS, HANDS UP IN PRAYER, WITH AN AUDIENCE OF ABOUT A HUNDRED CHARISMATIC ENTHUSIASTS AT A TENT REVIVAL.

FIELD REPORTER (V.O.)

The Bakkers were discovered by former Southern Baptist minister turned Christian media mogul Pat Robertson...

- IMAGE ON SCREEN OF THE BAKKERS WITH PAT ROBERTSON -- THE 700 CLUB LOGO BEHIND THEM.

- IMAGE ON SCREEN OF THE BAKKERS POSING WITH SEVERAL COLORFUL PUPPETS.

FIELD REPORTER (V.O.)

...who was impressed by their passion for God and the crowd pleasing puppet show they would later become famous for on Robertson's Christian Broadcasting Network. The puppets taught kids lessons from the Bible in the guise of a sassy pig named Susie Moppet and her pal Allie the alligator...

- VIDEO CLIP OF THE JIM & TAMMY SHOW -- CIRCA 1972.

Puppet pig in a wig SUSIE MOPPET sings a tune in a high-pitched nasally bray while ALLIE the alligator sways along to the music.

SUSIE MOPPET

Jesus takes a frown and turns it upside down-- and oops! There comes a smile/ When I'm very sad Jesus makes me glad-- and oops! There comes a smile!

- IMAGE ON SCREEN OF TAMMY FAYE DRESSED IN ALL WHITE LACE WITH HER HANDS RAISED IN HEAVENLY PRAISE.

FIELD REPORTER (V.O.)

After all that her husband has been accused of, many of her critics and fans alike are asking, "Exactly who is Tammy Faye Bakker, and is she as loving, forgiving...and innocent as she would have us all believe?"

CUT BACK TO:

EXT. EISENHOWER MEDICAL CENTER - DAY

Exhaling deeply, Tammy Faye decidedly pulls the dark sunglasses off and nods to Jim who is standing by the door. He opens it for her. We stay on her determined but cheerful eyes faced with the flashes and clicking of cameras and...

CROWD (VARIOUS) (O.S.)

Tammy Faye!/ Tammy Faye, tell us how you're doing!/ Mrs. Bakker, how has your husband's affair affected your health?

CUT TO:

ECU - A PAIR OF EYES

Spandau Ballet's "True" plays faintly in the background. The eyes peer through ultra fake showgirl lashes, eyelids layered in heavy shadow. The voice belonging to the eyes does its best *Bette Davis/Margo Channing impression*.

JEZZY

Lloyd, I am not twenty-ish. I am not thirty-ish. Three months ago, I was forty years old. Forty. Four-oh, that slipped out. I hadn't quite made up my mind to admit it.

INT. BETTY FORD CLINIC - JEZZY'S ROOM - DAY

Reveal, an **eighteen-year-old** Latina in artfully applied makeup. Giant hoop earrings tangle up in her teased out hair.

This is JEZZY JONES-- striking, confident beyond her years, but with an open, childlike quality. She studies her reflection.

The music we hear emanates from a clock radio on the night stand between twin beds. The room looks like a college dorm invaded by vaudeville strippers. Shades of beige hidden beneath the technicolor of strewn clothes, glitter, feathers, makeup tubes and powders.

Hastily taped to a wall are two posters. One is *All About Eve*. Bette Davis, a/k/a "Margo Channing," shoots her infamous "fuck you" stare, and lurking behind her is Anne Baxter's "Eve," throwing some shade of her own.

The other poster has Prince, circa the 1985 *Purple Rain* Tour, in crushed velvet, batting his bedroom eyes at us.

A knock at the door is followed by PEPPA, twenties, popping her head in. She wears hospital scrubs and a name tag with a teddy bear sticker.

PEPPA

Look at you, pretty girl.

Jezy speaks in her natural voice now, a slight lilt of Chicano English by way of California Valley Girl.

JEZZY

(sarcastic)

Mamá always says... *less is more*.

(then)

Words to live by girl-- amiright?

Peppa chuckles, and they exchange a smile.

PEPPA

Your family is here.

Jezy leaps out of her chair.

JEZZY

What?! They're not supposed to be here for two more days!

Working herself up into a frenzy, Jezy stuffs clothing into various bags.

Peppa looks pained watching her.

PEPPA

Umm... Jezy? Why don't you come talk to them first. You can pack your things up later, okay?

Desperation still on her face, Jezy pauses her haphazard packing job.

JEZZY
Why didn't they call? Why didn't
somebody--

Peppa looks away from her.

PEPPA
They called.

Jezy glances at her, quizzically, but then catches a glimpse of herself in the vanity mirror.

JEZZY
Ohmygawd. I need to change.

She touches at her big hair, unsure of how to begin.

PEPPA
I'm gonna miss you when you're
gone, Jezy.

Jezy turns to face her.

JEZZY
Me too. You and Bruce were the *only*
cool ones.

PEPPA
I'll let your family know you're on
your way.

Peppa gives her a wink then exits.

Jezy's gaze shifts to a photo taped to the mirror-- a white man, a brown woman, a brown little boy and brown young girl.

CUT TO:

A FLASH OF MEMORIES

EXT. JEZZY'S CHILDHOOD HOME - DAY

A violent scene--

The man in Jezy's family photo (clearly, her father) beats the shit out of her with a leather belt on their front lawn. She screams and tries to get away, but he grabs her by the hair to keep her in place.

NEIGHBORS peek out from windows and doorways.

EXT. HOLLYWOOD - NIGHT

Jezy-- a *dolled up lady of the night*-- poses on a street corner with other GIRLS like her... A nice car pulls up and Jezy leans into the passenger side window.

JEZZY

Hey, handsome... lookin' for me?

The MAN inside the car smiles and nods. Jezy gets in the car.

EXT. ALLEY - NIGHT

A disheveled Jezy is slumped over with a needle dangling from her arm.

BACK TO JEZZY IN THE PRESENT

She sits at the vanity, faced with her reflection, painfully *self-conscious* now.

Abruptly, earrings and lashes come off. She wipes her skin with Pond's Cold Cream until it glows. After brushing out her tumbleweed of hair, she removes her strategically ripped tee and lacy bra.

Shoulder pads fall from the bra to reveal...

She is a boy.

She changes into a plain tee shirt and jeans. Without a trace of makeup and hair brushed into submission, she *still* looks very much like a girl gazing into the mirror.

JEZZY

(as Bette/Margo)

Now I suddenly feel as if I've taken all my clothes off.

Unable to bear it, she applies a wisp of gloss and mascara then exhales. She opens the door to her room, about to walk out, when she remembers something and turns back.

Lovingly, Jezy rests her cheek against the image of Prince on the wall, tracing the curves of his face with her finger.

JEZZY (CONT'D)

Are you for real?... Of course I'll marry you, Prince. I'm just the happiest girl alive!

She air kisses Prince's face.

Outside her door, another rehab patient-- STUART, thirties, an "aging" rock star, witnesses this, greatly amused. He speaks in a THICK EAST LONDON COCKNEY.

STUART

'e is a little fella, 'at one.

Caught by surprise, Jezzy's face bursts bright red.

STUART (CONT'D)

I seen 'im in 'e real once. Even in 'em stiletto daisy roots, 'e only come up ta'bout 'ere.

(indicates his solar plexus)

Interpreting Jezzy's chagrin--

STUART (CONT'D)

Sorry to throw the Derry and Tom on ya, but if you ask me, that Prince's a canary anyweh-- dyanowhatimean?

Off Jezzy's utterly perplexed expression.

EXT. THE BETTY FORD CENTER - DAY (ESTABLISHING)

A manicured desert oasis sheltered by purple mountains.

INT. NURSE'S STATION - DAY

We follow Peppa down a hallway, making her way into the nurse's station.

PEPPA

Did you send someone to get the steamer trunk from the family's car?

BRUCE, twenty-five, looks up from paperwork he's filling out. Off to the side, a small black and white television broadcasts *The Price is Right* with the sound on low.

BRUCE

Uh-huh... Our girl's gonna bust-a-nut when she sees that thing.

He laughs at his own joke.

PEPPA
You're so mean.

BRUCE
Aw, come on. I wouldn't say that to
his face.

PEPPA
Her face.

He chuckles.

BRUCE
What-ev-ah.

Peppa clicks her tongue and looks away from him.

EXT. EISENHOWER MEMORIAL HOSPITAL - DAY

With Jim by her side, Tammy Faye stands outside the hospital
entrance surrounded by the crowd of fans and reporters.

She belts out the last lines of a song.

TAMMY FAYE
*And your midnight's almost ohhhh-
over, and the sun is gonna shine
again!*

(speaks)
Oh, thank God, your midnight is
almost over and the sun is truly
gonna shine again.

(sings)
Yes, the sun is gonna shine again!

Loud applause erupts from the gathered crowd.

TAMMY FAYE (CONT'D)
Thank you so much for the warm
welcome back, everyone! I'm feeling
very healthy, *obviously...*

We hear laughter from the crowd.

TAMMY FAYE (CONT'D)
I sensed the spirit in me, and I
just had to sing that song to you
today because I was living my
midnight these last few weeks, but
now I see the sun is about to burst
through-- *I am going home!*

The crowd cheers.

INT. BETTY FORD VISITOR'S LOUNGE - DAY

On tenterhooks, Jezzy sits opposite ESMÉRALDA, fifty-two, and FRANCIS, fifty-six. Leaning against a wall is PAULA, twenty. We recognize them as the same people in the photo Jezzy has in her room. No one speaks until Jezzy finally does.

JEZZY

I'm going home... *right?*

Francis is a small, wiry Caucasian man with steely grey eyes and a pugilistic demeanor. He faces Jezzy squarely, elbows on knees, torso jutting forward.

FRANCIS

Six weeks. Apparently, that's all it takes and you're a new man.

Jezzy sneaks a furtive glance at Esméralda, dark and plump, her indigenous Mexican features straining to conceal emotion.

FRANCIS (CONT'D)

I don't see any damn difference.

Esméralda clears her throat but remains mute.

FRANCIS (CONT'D)

You're still a disappointment.

Esméralda touches her husband's arm, but he shrugs her off.

FRANCIS (CONT'D)

I won't mince words, Esmé. Look at your son.

Jezzy steels herself. She's heard it all before. Francis stands over her now.

FRANCIS (CONT'D)

(to Esméralda)

Look at what he is and tell me you're not ashamed.

Esméralda stares down at her own sensible, low-heeled pumps.

FRANCIS (CONT'D)

This little vacation of his has cost me a fortune.

(to Jezzy)

So you can kiss your college fund good-bye.

JEZZY

I didn't ask to come here!

FRANCIS
 (turns to Esméralda)
 And ungrateful to boot.

Paula, painfully silent, meets her sister's eyes. Jezzy attempts a goofy face. It only makes Paula appear sadder. Esméralda finally speaks. Her accent is thick.

ESMÉRALDA
 Why would you do this, Jezzy?
 (indicates Jezzy's
 appearance)
 Why not try... Just. This. Once?

Jezzy looks down at her earnest but clearly fruitless attempt to look like a boy.

JEZZY
 I thought this... I thought you'd
 like me *this* way.

Francis swivels back to her.

FRANCIS
 Jesse, enough!

JEZZY
 It's JEZZY.

FRANCIS
 That is not your name.

JEZZY
 JEZZY is how mom says it anyway.

He glances at his wife before zeroing back in on Jezzy.

FRANCIS
 Call yourself whatever you want.
 You are not my son anymore.

JEZZY (SOTTO)
 I'm your daughter.

He glares at her. His rising blood pressure palpable. Finally, he turns to his wife.

FRANCIS
 See that? Nothing will ever make
that normal.
 (indicates Jezzy)

He turns back to Jezzy, desperate to get through to her.

FRANCIS (CONT'D)

Don't you see? *This is a sin against God.*

(then)

It's why he's punishing all you degenerates with that disease.

Rage simmers in Jezzy's face. Paula cries and runs off.

JEZZY

Paula!

Heartbroken, Jezzy watches her go. TWO ORDERLIES nearly bump into Paula as they drag in a huge steamer trunk on wheels.

ORDERLY #1

Here okay, sir?

Francis waves them off, and they exit. Jezzy panics.

JEZZY

What's going on?

Francis pulls an envelope from his pocket, hands it to her.

FRANCIS

A thousand dollars.

Jezzy won't take it, so he tosses it onto the sofa beside her.

JEZZY

Why'd you bring my trunk?

FRANCIS

Do not call or try to contact any of us, *including Paula*. Understand?

Jezzy begins to weep and falls to her knees.

JEZZY

Please, Dad-- I've kicked it! I'm clean! I promise!

He turns from her, beckoning for his wife to stand.

FRANCIS

We're done here. No more promises. No more chances. Strike three, you're out.

Jezzy looks to her mother, but Francis leads Esméralda away. Jezzy jumps to her feet, lurches forward and grabs at her.

JEZZY

Mom, wait!

Esméralda pulls away.

ESMÉRALDA

Let go of me. Please.

She moves quickly with Francis through the doorway.

JEZZY

Don't leave me, Mom!

FRANCIS

God have mercy on your soul, Jesse.

Jezy follows them, but an orderly stops her from exiting the building.

Several other REHAB PATIENTS witness this, including aging rock star Stuart and a young blonde, HANNAH, thirteen. *We will meet her later.*

JEZZY

Mamá! Please! Don't go!!!

Off Jezy's tortured expression.

INT./EXT. WHITE LINCOLN CONTINENTAL/ EXT. CONVENIENCE STORE - DAY

Back in her big, dark sunglasses, Tammy Faye sits in the backseat of a fancy Lincoln Continental parked at a convenience store. The royal blue leather seat might swallow her up if not for massive shoulder pads in her suit jacket keeping her afloat.

Glossy manicured fingers caress **a little brown angel figurine with blue wings and hair**. Tammy Faye prays, low and raspy.

TAMMY FAYE (SOTTO)

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace...

A noise from outside distracts her. She removes her shades, revealing those crazy lashes. Jim and Rick converse as they exit the convenience store, but we can't hear what they're saying. They get in the car-- Jim in the passenger's seat, Rick in the driver's.

Jim turns to face Tammy Faye with a boyish grin, eyes twinkling with either mischief or kindness -- *hard to tell the difference with him.*

JIM BAKKER
Got you the good stuff, hun.

He pulls a can of Diet Coke out of a paper bag. She takes it gratefully, chirping in her gravelly Minnesotan twang.

TAMMY FAYE
Finally, civilization is at hand!

She gently places the angel figurine in her lap and proceeds to cradle the soda can in her hands.

TAMMY FAYE (CONT'D)
(to the can)
Those mean doctors didn't let me
have a single drop of you for six
whole weeks.
(then)
I. Have. Missed. You.

Laughing at her own silliness, she pops the can open and takes a glorious sip. Rick and Jim exchange an amused look. Rick turns the key in the car's ignition. It starts but quickly sputters and dies. He tries again. Same thing.

JIM BAKKER
Battery?

Rick nods.

RICK
Sounds like.

Tammy Faye watches them from the backseat, silent and wide-eyed, like a child left out of the adult conversation.

As Rick turns the key again with the same result, a VAGRANT shuffles by in front of the car. The dirty, shoeless man dons tattered clothes, long stringy hair and a scruffy beard like some kind of *homeless Jesus*.

JIM BAKKER
We got jumpers in the trunk?

RICK
Nope.

JIM BAKKER
What's this guy doing?

Vagrant Jesus stands over the hood of the car, his arms raised up like he's parting the Red Sea. Tammy Faye gasps. Slowly and solemnly, vagrant Jesus brings his hands down, palms hovering inches from the hood.

TAMMY FAYE

(serious)

I think we've got a layin' on of hands here.

Rick and Jim chuckle.

JIM BAKKER

If only that would do it, eh?

The man's hands land softly on the hood. He grins like a lunatic, but his teeth are perfectly straight and white in stark contrast to the dishwater hue of the rest of him.

Rick turns the key again. This time the engine roars, *easy*. Tammy Faye's mouth drops. Jim chortles.

JIM BAKKER (CONT'D)

Well what do ya' know? Talk about some good timing.

Rick laughs.

TAMMY FAYE

Thank you, Jesus!

Jim waves to the man politely. The man continues to smile.

JIM BAKKER

(to Rick)

Got any loose change? I'm sure he'll want some beer money.

TAMMY FAYE

No, Jim -- *that man is an angel*.

Suddenly, the disheveled man locks eyes with Tammy Faye. He clasps his hands at his heart and bows to her. Rick hands Jim some quarters, but *the man simply shuffles away out of sight*.

Tammy Faye caresses her angel figurine. Complex emotions spin under the armor of her clownish eyes, now sad and fragile.

INT. BETTY FORD CLINIC - THERAPIST'S OFFICE - DAY

Jezy slouches pathetically across from LINDSAY STICKNEED, a therapist in her mid-forties. Behind Lindsay, several diplomas hang on the wall bearing her name.

Lindsay speaks in a soothing but irksome monotone.

LINDSAY

A friend? Someone you trust?

Jezzy wipes at her tearstained face and shakes her head.
Lindsay takes a deep cleansing breath.

LINDSAY (CONT'D)

There must be someone you can call
to pick you up.

JEZZY

My friends are all waste cases.

Lindsay thinks about this.

LINDSAY

Hum. Okay.

(a light bulb goes off)

Hey, maybe it's a good idea for
them to see how far you've come. No
more... dancin' with Mister
Brownstone.

Jezzy cringes.

JEZZY

Ohmygawd, like what does that even
mean?

LINDSAY

Uh, heroin?

(then)

Anyway, point is, they'll see you
clean. A new ma-- woman.

JEZZY

So like you think it's a good idea
for me to leave Betty Ford with a
thousand bucks in my purse and a
car full of junkies?

Lindsay thinks.

LINDSAY

You have a thousand dollars?

Jezzy nods.

LINDSAY (CONT'D)

Well there you go. Problem solved.

Jezzy looks at her, quizzically.

LINDSAY (CONT'D)

(answers her look)

You'll call a cab!

Jezy stands up.

JEZZY

OK.

Lindsay blocks Jezy from the door.

LINDSAY

The road will be very long. It will be very, very hard.

Jezy regards her like she's an idiot, but Lindsay is unfazed.

LINDSAY (CONT'D)

Like the good book says. What doesn't kill us makes us stronger.

JEZZY

Pretty sure that's *not* from the Bible.

LINDSAY

But it's a true-ism, isn't it?

JEZZY

If my family disowning me doesn't kill me, being HIV positive probably will.

Lindsay gasps, blind-sided. Jezy moves around her and out the door. Lindsay recovers and calls out to her.

LINDSAY

You just need to go out and LIVE!

Jezy appears queasy as she moves down the hall.

The young blonde rehab patient we saw previously, thirteen-year-old Hannah, walks by and stares. Jezy stares back.

JEZZY

What?!

Hannah chuckles and turns away.

INT. NURSE'S STATION - CONTINUOUS

Jezy approaches the nurse's station where Peppa and Bruce appear to be busy at work. *Family Feud* is playing low on a small television at their desk. They don't notice Jezy behind them, stopping to check out the game show.

Emerging from an adjacent room is NURSE DAISY-- thirties, tall, beefy, pale and blue eyed, attractive if her expression wasn't so severe.

She frowns, seeing Jezzy.

NURSE DAISY
Mister Jones. Did you need something?

The other nurses are obviously petrified of Nurse Daisy and say nothing. Jezzy looks the big nurse right in the eye.

JEZZY
Oh honey, what I need is a lot...
and what you got ain't none of it.

Peppa and Bruce suppress giggles. Nurse Daisy's lips tighten.

NURSE DAISY
You'll be getting a room partner today, Mister Jones.

Jezzy's face falls.

NURSE DAISY (CONT'D)
It's imperative that you clear your space and have it ready to take on another guest. That includes removing your personal materials from the walls.

JEZZY
Great. Last night in hell and I have to babysit the noob.

NURSE DAISY
Actually, you are all paid up *with two more days to go*, Mister Jones. Please use the time wisely by attending group at least once more.

Jezzy rolls her eyes.

JEZZY
I already had my exit session with Stickneed.

NURSE DAISY
That's fine. You don't have to repeat that.

JEZZY
Thank gawd!

NURSE DAISY

Regardless, your main task *is* to arrange for your departure, seeing as your family will no longer be checking you out of the clinic.

(hands her a pamphlet)

Here are several cab companies in the area you can call when the time comes.

Jezzy takes the pamphlet and walks off, dejected.

INT. BETTY FORD CENTER - JEZZY'S ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Jezzy holds her family photo for a moment before she crumbles it up and tosses it into a trash can. Looking around at her still messy room, she sighs and begins to remove the posters from the wall.

EXT. BETTY FORD CENTER - DAY

The Bakker's white Lincoln Continental approaches the front entrance.

INT. WHITE LINCOLN CONTINENTAL - SAME TIME

Tammy Faye realizes where they are and bolts upright in her seat.

TAMMY FAYE

Wait a minute. Wait a minute, Rick?

Rick looks at her through the rearview mirror.

RICK

Yes, Mrs. Bakker?

Jim intervenes, turns to face her in the back seat.

JIM

Now Tammy Faye, there's no need to get your feathers ruffled.

TAMMY FAYE

I thought you were taking me home.

JIM

First, we need to make a pit stop.

They pull up and stop at the glass door entrance.

TAMMY FAYE

You didn't tell me we were coming here. This place is for alcoholics and drug addicts!

Panicked, she pulls her arms around herself protectively. Rick turns to Jim with a look of concern.

RICK

(to Jim)

Should I come inside with you?

JIM

No thanks, Rick. Just help me get Tammy Faye's things from the trunk.

TAMMY FAYE

WHAT? Wait-- WHY?

JIM

(to Tammy Faye)

Honey, it's for your own good.

TAMMY FAYE

You can't make me.

JIM

(back to Rick)

It's better if you stay out here with the car. Keep it idling in case that battery surely is a dud.

TAMMY FAYE

You're nuts if you think I'm going inside, much less STAYING here.

Jim and Rick exchange a look.

TAMMY FAYE (CONT'D)

I'm not leaving this car until you drive me home. Thank-you-very-much.

Tammy Faye sets her lips with finality.

EXT. BETTY FORD CENTER - ENTRANCE - CONTINUOUS

Rick exits and waits outside the vehicle as Tammy Faye and Jim remain inside the car arguing.

JIM (O.S.)

This doesn't need to be difficult.

TAMMY FAYE (O.S.)
 ME, difficult? Whoa, that's a
 laugh.

JIM (O.S.)
 I don't want to upset you, but
 there's nothing more important to
 me right now than your health.

Rick settles in and lights up a cigarette as he leans against
 the hood of the idling car.

INT. BETTY FORD CENTER - JEZZY'S ROOM - DAY

The room is clear of all things Jezzy except her suitcase and
 steamer trunk. Jezzy sorts through the trunk and eyes a
 psychedelic blue Afro wig. She puts it on.

The effect is ridiculous, her somber expression against the
 vibrant, outrageous Afro. She startles at a SHARP YELP coming
 from somewhere outside the room.

INT. HALLWAY/NURSE'S STATION - CONTINUOUS

Jezzy's Afro-wigged head pops out from her doorway. Her eyes
 narrow. A VOICE from the nurse's station SCREAMS out.

VOICE (O.S.)
 I don't belong here!

Bruce, Peppa and Nurse Daisy huddle around the screamer.

VOICE (O.S.) (CONT'D)
 I've already stopped the Ativan!

The huddle moves into an adjacent room and shuts the door.
 Still wearing her blue Afro, Jezzy traipses down the hall to
 investigate.

AT THE NURSE'S STATION--

Fancy luggage litters the floor. One bag has items spilling
 out. Jezzy is drawn in by the LARGE BEDAZZLED SEE-THRU CASE
 filled with enough false lashes to keep Imelda Marcos' eyes
Imeldific for decades.

A VOICE shrieks.

VOICE (O.S.)

You lied to me, Jim -- like I'm
some kind of demented looney-tune
that can't make her own decisions!

The door swings open. Jezzy is faced with the rear view of a diminutive, rumped woman surrounded by Jim and the staff.

JIM BAKKER

We all agree that you need to be
here.

Jezzy's eyes widen, recognizing Jim Bakker.

TAMMY FAYE

No-no-no!

Tammy Faye pulls at his shirt, vacillating between bubbly hysteria and throaty, munchkin-like sobbing.

TAMMY FAYE (CONT'D)

I can't spend one more night away
from home!

Nurse Daisy casts a shadow with her hulking frame.

NURSE DAISY

We're going to take good care of
you here in the clinic, Mrs.
Bakker.

She reaches out to Tammy Faye but gets slapped away.

TAMMY FAYE

Don't touch me!

Nurse Daisy recoils. Tammy Faye immediately laments.

TAMMY FAYE (CONT'D)

(sobbing)
I'm so sorry.

Jezzy moves in closer, curious. Nurse Daisy sees her.

NURSE DAISY

You shouldn't be here!

With black tears streaming down her cheeks, Tammy Faye turns to see who the nurse is barking at. Utterly surprised, she takes in Jezzy and her enormous blue Afro.

Tammy Faye and Jezzy lock eyes.

TAMMY FAYE

Oh. I -- Do I know you?

JEZZY

I don't think so.

Off Jezzy as she relives A MEMORY...

EXT. SUBURBAN NEIGHBORHOOD - EVENING (FLASHBACK)

Title Over:

Reseda, California. 1979.

The sun sets over suburbia.

We scan a tree-lined row of single-story homes with TV sets illuminating every living room. We land on a driveway. Plastered on the side of a parked van is a cartoon image of Jezzy's dad dressed as a plumber with "JONES & CO. PLUMBING" in huge bubble lettering above his grinning face.

The television hums from inside the house.

TAMMY FAYE (O.S.)

Jesus, we know you send your angels
down to earth to protect us...

INT. JEZZY'S CHILDHOOD LIVING ROOM - DAY (FLASHBACK)

ON SCREEN-- the PTL Club is broadcast. In between song verses Tammy Faye speaks directly to a live audience and viewers at home.

The ten-year-old *boy* version of Jezzy -- JESSE -- stands a few feet from the TV, enthralled.

ON SCREEN-- a decade younger Tammy is angelic, despite her stiff blonde wig, heavily lined lips and those dramatic lashes. Behind her is a CHOIR of men and women in matching baby blue polyester.

TAMMY FAYE

And we ask you Lord, help us to see
those angels, so that we too may be
instruments of your peace.

Jesse turns around to observe his family. They all have their eyes closed as they pray. On the sofa, Francis holds the King James Bible against his chest. Esméralda's hands are raised to the ceiling in worship.

TAMMY FAYE (CONT'D)

(sings)

We're blest, we're blest, we're blest, we are blest! Oh, we've got shelter, clothing and strength. We are blest!

Twelve-year-old Paula kneels in front of the TV, praying in earnest. Her face is puffy and red from crying. In fact, she's still crying.

From the rear view of this moving tableau, it seems they are all praying to the television, which in a sense they are.

TAMMY FAYE (CONT'D)

(sings)

We're blest, we're blest, we're blest, we are blest! We don't deserve it, but yet we are blest!

Esméralda SPEAKS IN TONGUES-- a droning, rhythmic sound.

ESMÉRALDA

Shal da la do con da sha da see yoh
can da lo shon do shon da lo...

Francis and Paula also PRAY IN TONGUES -- *a muted gibberish.*

TAMMY FAYE

Remember Jesus loves you, no matter
what the world may think or do...

(sings)

We're blest, we're blest, we're blest, we are blest! We don't deserve it, but yet we are blest!

Young Jesse stares at the BRIGHT RED WELTS along the back of Paula's thighs. He looks up at his sister's pained expression. Guiltily, he turns away and stares at the TV.

ON SCREEN-- Tammy Faye gazes into the camera. She locks eyes with Jesse through the TV set.

TAMMY FAYE (CONT'D)

And I love you. I really, really
do.

He moves in close to the TV, tracing Tammy's signature lashes with his finger. Thoughts swirl behind his haunted eyes.

NURSE DAISY (PRELAP)

Mister Jones?

END OF FLASHBACK

INT. NURSE'S STATION - DAY

Jezy looks sad, lost in her memory.

NURSE DAISY

You need to return to your room,
Mister Jones.

Tammy Faye eyes Nurse Daisy, appalled.

TAMMY FAYE

Excuse me, Nurse...
(looks at her name tag)
Nurse Daisy? I believe you're
mistaken. It's obvious you're
speaking to a lady.
(indicates Jezy)

Jezy brightens upon hearing this.

JEZZY

Um-- yeah. The clinic has me
officially checked in as a lady
person, not a mister. I'm in the
women's wing-- *duh*.

Nurse Jezy looks at Jezy with disdain, so Tammy Faye swoops
in, places her tiny hand on Nurse Daisy's arm.

TAMMY FAYE

(sincere)
I can tell you are very good at
your job. I see that in you, one
hundred percent. And it doesn't
hurt that you're just about the
prettiest gal I've seen in uniform.

The big woman is charmed.

TAMMY FAYE (CONT'D)

How about we call it a
misunderstanding? Okay with you?

Nurse Daisy nods.

TAMMY FAYE (CONT'D)

But first, I think you owe-- um...

Tammy Faye looks to Jezy.

JEZZY

Jezy.

TAMMY FAYE

Miss Jezzy. Yes, I-I think you owe her an apology. Please?

Nurse Daisy looks at Jezzy, then back to Tammy Faye who beams love out of every pore in her body.

NURSE DAISY

Okay.
(looks at the floor)
I-- uh...

Tammy Faye nods and rubs Nurse Daisy's arm. The clinic staff look on, holding their breath. Jim smiles, hopeful.

NURSE DAISY (CONT'D)

I'm sorry. Miss Jezzy.

JEZZY

(hesitant)
Thank you.

Angle on Bruce, silently freaking out. He whispers to Peppa.

BRUCE (SOTTO)

What just happened?

PEPPA (SOTTO)

Tammy Faye just happened.

Peppa smiles then moves towards Tammy Faye.

PEPPA (CONT'D)

Mrs. Bakker--

TAMMY FAYE

Please, call me Tammy Faye, or Tammy is fine too.

PEPPA

OK, Tammy. Welcome to the Betty Ford Clinic. Why don't you come have a chat with one of our therapists.

(indicates behind her)
This is Lindsay Stickneed.

Lindsay appears, hand extended, sporting an ear-to-ear grin. Tammy Faye eyes her warily.

LINDSAY

You can just call me *Linds*. Everybody does.

Perplexed looks all around from the nursing staff and Jezzy.

JEZZY
Nobody calls you that.

LINDSAY
Oh, sure they do--

JEZZY
I thought everyone just called you
Stickneed.

Lindsay forces her smile further.

LINDSAY
Well, *Linds* is what I want everyone
to call me now.
(then)
And what color are WE feeling
today, Miss Tammy Faye?

TAMMY FAYE
Thank you, but no.

Jezzy snorts out a laugh.

TAMMY FAYE (CONT'D)
I am so glad to have met you all,
but I really must go.
(to Jim)
Now!

She grabs several bags and heads for the exit. Seeing no one
move to help, Jezzy gathers the rest of the luggage and
quickly follows. Tammy Faye notices and stops.

TAMMY FAYE (CONT'D)
You're a doll, but Jim should be
carrying those.

BACK AT THE NURSE'S STATION, Jim implores the staff.

JIM
Can't you all do something?

Tammy Faye and Jezzy are now out of ear shot.

NURSE DAISY
We cannot force her, Mr. Bakker.
Until Mrs. Bakker voluntarily
admits herself, there's really
nothing we can do to compel her to
stay.

ALONE WITH TAMMY FAYE, Jezzy's head spins with conflicting emotions.

JEZZY

I can't believe you're right here in front of me. My family-- we used to watch you on TV every day and twice on Sundays.

(then)

I felt like I was looking at the most perfect woman in the world when I was looking at you.

Tammy Faye is pained to hear these words.

TAMMY FAYE

That's quite a compliment... that I can't possibly live up to.

JEZZY

I know that *now*.

A beat as Tammy Faye considers how to take this until-- *true to her nature*-- she quips cheerfully.

TAMMY FAYE

Well, as someone wiser than me once said, I'm not God, and I'm not running for office.

Jezzy chuckles quietly.

JEZZY

I prayed and prayed that I'd get to meet you one day... You would always say...

(mimics Tammy's voice)

Jesus loves you, no matter what the world may think or do...

Tammy Faye giggles at Jezzy's impersonation of her.

JEZZY (CONT'D)

I used to really believe that.

TAMMY FAYE

Oh, it is *still absolutely true*. But you've got to love yourself too. That's the thing of it.

A beat.

JEZZY

No one's ever stood up for me like that. The way you just did... with that awful nurse.

Jezy looks so young and vulnerable, Tammy Faye reaches out and grabs her hand.

TAMMY FAYE

Honey, she doesn't know any better. You've got to forgive her.

Off Jezy's expression--

TAMMY FAYE (CONT'D)

Oh, yeah-- I know. Easier said than *did*. Ha, ha. I am painfully aware of that fact.

JEZZY

Either way, thanks for defending me. I just wanted you to know it meant a lot.

TAMMY FAYE

Anytime.

Tammy Faye regards her wistfully.

TAMMY FAYE (CONT'D)

It's strange, but I really do feel that we have met before.

Jim and Peppa approach, *breaking the spell*.

JIM

Tammy Faye, listen, I get that you're upset.

TAMMY FAYE

(bitter)
You have no idea.

JIM

Fair enough. But, I have to insist that you stay here, at least for some initial observation.

She deflates.

TAMMY FAYE

Fine. You wore me down. It's in the Lord's hands now.

Peppa reaches out to touch Tammy Faye's shoulder then thinks better of it.

PEPPA

We have you rooming with Jezzy here tonight, if that's okay.

Tammy Faye perks up.

TAMMY FAYE

Really?! I would love that-- but I don't want to be a burden on Jezzy.

Jezzy brightens, something hopeful stirring in her.

INT. HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Jezzy helps Tammy Faye carry her luggage to their room, but Lindsay stops them in their tracks.

LINDSAY

Can I help you with some of those?

Jezzy hates this woman.

JEZZY

It's fine. I got it.

TAMMY FAYE

(taking Jezzy's cue)
But thank you anyway, Linds!

Lindsay glows hearing Tammy Faye use her preferred nickname.

LINDSAY

Can we just get a few minutes, Tammy?

Jezzy turns and faces Lindsay squarely.

JEZZY

(conspiratorial)
You got bigger fish to fry, girl.

The therapist's curiosity is piqued. Bewildered but patient, Tammy Faye watches their exchange.

JEZZY (CONT'D)

I heard Vegas Barbara got her hands on some BASE.

Lindsay's eyes expand.

LINDSAY
 (unsure)
 Vegas Barbara?

JEZZY
 Yeah, old lady Barbara.

Lindsay understands now.

LINDSAY
 Base, you said?

Jezy exaggerates looking around for eavesdroppers.

JEZZY (SOTTO)
 You know. WHITE ROCK.

Lindsay's face lights up, *she finally gets it.*

LINDSAY
 Oh... Lady Cain. Mama Coca.

Jezy whispers.

JEZZY (SOTTO)
 I really shouldn't be telling you
 this.

Lindsay tightens her lips and mimes zipping them. With that, she scurries off. Tammy Faye and Jezy exchange a look.

TAMMY FAYE
 I think I may have just dodged a
 bullet.

JEZZY
 More like an atom bomb.

Jezy rolls her eyes dramatically and keeps moving.

INT. JEZZY & TAMMY'S ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Jezy, wig-less now, watches Tammy Faye unpack.

TAMMY FAYE
 I can't believe they only let me
 bring in a few bags.

A mountain of luggage occupies an entire corner. Jezy chuckles.

JEZZY
 Your luggage wails.

TAMMY FAYE

All knockoffs. I get everything at the swap meet.

JEZZY

NO. WAY.

TAMMY FAYE

I've learned to stretch a dollar until it screams.

Jezzy runs her fingers along the Gucci designs.

JEZZY

(in disbelief)

Gawww, looks so real.

Jezzy turns and opens up her own huge trunk filled with wigs, scarves and other flashy adornments. She notices Tammy Faye looking at her things with curiosity.

JEZZY (CONT'D)

If you want, you're totally welcome to anything in here.

Tammy Faye smiles brightly.

TAMMY FAYE

Oh my land! I've never seen so many beautiful things in one place.

JEZZY

Uh... You live in a mansion and drive a Rolls Royce.

Tammy Faye deflates a little.

TAMMY FAYE

Oh yes, we had some nice things. But not anymore.

As quickly as she deflates, she bounces back again, rummaging through the glittery dresses in Jezzy's trunk, oohing and aahing over everything.

TAMMY FAYE (CONT'D)

If ever two people were meant to bunk together, it's us.

They laugh.

JEZZY

I like to dress up fancy for dinner.

TAMMY FAYE

I love doing that!

JEZZY

After everyone eats, we usually have entertainment. I sing or this guy Stuart plays a song on his guitar. He's a rock star. British. Everyone sort of pitches in their talents or whatever.

TAMMY FAYE

You're a singer?

JEZZY

Among other things. I'm checking out the day after tomorrow, so we'll for sure get something going tonight or tomorrow.

TAMMY FAYE

You're leaving?! If you're going then I really don't want to stay.

Tammy catches a glimpse of herself in the mirror and is taken aback. Her makeup is smeared. She looks a mess.

TAMMY FAYE (SOTTO)(CONT'D)

Lord have mercy.

Jezzy chats away as she looks through her own belongings while Tammy Faye sits in front of the mirror, horrified.

JEZZY

I'm really glad to be leaving. I've been here for six weeks and I already gained like seven pounds. The food is *too* good. Ya-know-what-I-mean? And I've only ever talked to a therapist like three times my entire stay and it's always that moron Stickneed asking me what color I'm feeling or am I a dark cloud, white cloud or dark cloud with a silver lining. Her color cloud bullshit just makes me wanna hurl-- *excuse my French*.

Half listening to Jezzy, Tammy Faye is preoccupied with what she sees in the mirror.

TAMMY FAYE

I look absolutely TERRIBLE.

Jezzy leans in next to her in the mirror.

JEZZY
(lying)
It's not *that* bad.

Tammy Faye eyes her -- *knows she's lying*.

JEZZY (CONT'D)
Let me give you a makeover.

TAMMY FAYE
It's hopeless, Jezzy.

JEZZY
Come on, let me do you up.

Tammy Faye looks away from the mirror dramatically. Her eyes land on a black sequins dress in Jezzy's trunk.

TAMMY FAYE
Where did you get all those gorgeous gowns?

JEZZY
I make them.

TAMMY FAYE
You're a singer *AND* a costume designer?

JEZZY
I make them for the pageants. I'm a ball queen.

TAMMY FAYE
Ball queen? How GLAMOROUS.

JEZZY
I'm a champion in the *realness* category.

Off Tammy Faye's puzzled look.

JEZZY (CONT'D)
I pass. For a real woman.

TAMMY FAYE
A *real* woman?

Jezzy answers her tentatively.

JEZZY

You do realize I'm a boy who
should've been born a girl, right?

Tammy Faye smiles knowingly.

TAMMY FAYE

It's really no contest. You're more
real than most of the women I know.

Jezzy blushes, flattered.

TAMMY FAYE (CONT'D)

I've never had a makeover from a
pageant queen before.

They both lean into the mirror.

JEZZY

First, the *face*.

Tammy Faye stares at her reflection, doubtful.

CUT TO:

A WHILE LATER.

Tammy Faye sits with a clean face (her thick lashes are still
securely in place). Jezzy applies foundation to her skin.

TAMMY FAYE

After you check out tomorrow,
where's home-- your family?

JEZZY

(sharply)
I'm an orphan now.

Off Tammy Faye's curious look.

JEZZY (CONT'D)

(holds it in)
It's complicated.

TAMMY FAYE

I'm an orphan too, in a way. I was
raised by my wonderful momma and
step-daddy, but I know what it's
like to not have the love of a
parent.

EXT. TAMMY FAYE'S CHILDHOOD HOME - DAY (FLASHBACK)

A humble two-story home. Snow covers the ground. The sounds of a man and woman arguing inside the house.

Title Over:

International Falls, Minnesota. 1945.

TAMMY FAYE (V.O.)
*My momma and daddy divorced when I
 was three.*

INT. TAMMY FAYE'S CHILDHOOD HOME - DAY

CARL LA VALLEY, twenties, storms out, leaving RACHEL, twenties, holding a baby and THREE-YEAR-OLD TAMMY in tears.

TAMMY FAYE (V.O.)
*Losing the love of my real daddy
 left a deep hole in my heart.*

EXT. CHURCH - DAY

Title Over:

Seven years later.

TEN-YEAR-OLD TAMMY FAYE walks hand-in-hand into church with her mother. Her seven SIBLINGS form a long train behind them.

TAMMY FAYE (V.O.)
*I watched my mother live with the
 shame of her divorce.*

A group of CHURCH LADIES shoot hostile glances at Rachel and whisper angrily as she passes by with the children.

TAMMY FAYE (V.O.)
*I never understood how Christians,
 who were supposed to be the salt of
 the earth, could treat her so bad.*

INT. CHURCH - DAY

Rachel noodles on the church piano before the service. The MINISTER and his WIFE reproach her. We see the action but only hear Tammy's voice over.

TAMMY FAYE (V.O.)
She was a gifted musician...

INT. TAMMY FAYE'S CHILDHOOD HOME - DAY

Rachel entertains all her children and her second husband, FRED, thirties, with her lovely singing and piano playing.

RACHEL

Sing to the mountains, sing to the sea! Raise your voices, lift your hearts! This is the day the Lord has made-- let us give thanks and rejoice!

INT. CHURCH - DAY

The church group that glared at her outside are now surrounding Rachel by the piano.

CHURCH LADY #1

Divorcees don't perform in the service. You know that.

MINISTER'S WIFE

Lord have mercy on those poor children.

Rachel pulls herself and the children away from them and heads for the pews in the back of the church.

TAMMY FAYE (V.O.)

She just wanted to praise the Lord.

Sitting with her children, Rachel weeps. Young Tammy Faye comforts her distraught mother.

INT. TAMMY FAYE'S CHILDHOOD HOME - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Ten-year-old Tammy Faye kneels next to her bed where all her sisters are jammed together, asleep. In the adjacent bed, all her little brothers are doing the same. On a small table rests the little brown and blue angel figurine we saw adult Tammy Faye holding previously.

TAMMY FAYE (V.O.)

I was searching for something to fill that big hole in my heart...

As Tammy Faye prays, **the little angel COMES TO LIFE, full-size. She looks a lot like Jezzzy.**

Tammy Faye's eyes widen in wonder.

END OF FLASHBACK

MATCH CUT TO:

INT. JEZZY & TAMMY'S ROOM - DAY

Adult Tammy Faye's eyes widen with the shock of recognition.

TAMMY FAYE

It's you!

Jezzy looks puzzled, holding a makeup brush in one hand and a color palette in the other.

TAMMY FAYE (CONT'D)

You're the little brown and blue angel!

Jezzy looks down at her own skin.

JEZZY

You got the brown part right.

TAMMY FAYE

It sounds INSANE, but this little angel figurine I have--

Tammy gets up and proceeds to rummage through her things.

TAMMY FAYE (CONT'D)

It's in here somewhere.

(then)

Look!

She displays the figurine; it does resemble Jezzy. Still holding her makeup tools, Jezzy looks from the figurine to her blue Afro on the vanity.

CUT TO:

INT. TAMMY FAYE'S CHILDHOOD HOME - BEDROOM - NIGHT
(FLASHBACK)

Young Tammy Faye stares at the life-size angel before her.

TAMMY FAYE (V.O.)

The little angel first came to me when I was ten-years-old. I prayed constantly for Jesus to fill my heart, tell me what to do, give me direction.

LITTLE BLUE ANGEL/JEZZY
 I have a message for you, Tammy
 Faye. Jesus has a plan for you.

Tammy Faye's eyes are as big as saucers.

INT. CHURCH - DAY

The minister calls out to the CONGREGATION from his pulpit.

MINISTER
 Who among you are ready to receive
 the baptism of the Holy Spirit?

The congregation members hoot and holler amen's. Ten-year-old Tammy makes her way down the aisle in a euphoric daze. Arms up to heaven, Tammy falls to her knees among a small crowd of other BELIEVERS at the front of the church service.

She begins to speak in a strange tongue.

TEN-YEAR-OLD TAMMY FAYE
 Ches que dah lan ja doh. Shel da la
 dah no. Loh han ja la. Oh la jah.

Tammy's face glows, gazing up to heaven, speaking a language she doesn't understand.

TAMMY FAYE'S VISION

EXT. HEAVEN - DAY

We follow Young Tammy as she walks down a gilded road with JESUS CHRIST, thirty-three. He wears a white robe and blue sash. The life-size blue angel walks on Tammy's other side.

Birds chirp, the sky is cloudless and the greenery is lush. We can't see Jesus' face, but he holds Tammy Faye's chin in his hand and speaks in a comforting tone.

JESUS
 Tammy Faye, all things work
 together for good to them that love
 God and are called according to His
 purpose. Spread my message of love.
 Lift the burdens of the afflicted.
 Love them with all your heart... so
 that they may truly know *my* love.

END OF VISION

INT. CHURCH - NIGHT

The church is empty, hours later. Waiting patiently, Rachel watches young Tammy Faye, prostrate on the church floor, slowly come out of her trance-like state.

TAMMY FAYE (V.O.)
*It's kind of funny. They call me
 the queen of televangelism...*

END OF FLASHBACK

INT. JEZZY & TAMMY'S ROOM - DAY

Jezy finishes up the last touches on Tammy's makeup.

TAMMY FAYE
 ...but I never set out to be the
 queen of anything. I just wanted to
 do what Jesus commanded me to do.

Jezy turns her around to face the mirror. What Tammy sees makes her gasp.

JEZZY
 What's wrong?

TAMMY FAYE
 I look... fantastic.

She really does. She looks up at Jezy.

TAMMY FAYE (CONT'D)
 I know an angel when I see one. I
 don't know how and I don't know
 why, but it's like you've been with
 me all my life.

(then)
 I always say be kind to everyone
 you meet. You never know when
 you're talking to an angel.

JEZZY
 I seriously doubt Heaven's got a
 bunch a queens like me in halos and
 wings walking around.

TAMMY FAYE
 And why not? Who says what angels
 should or shouldn't look like?

Tammy Faye watches Jezy put her makeup away.

TAMMY FAYE (CONT'D)
Why are you here, Jezzy?

JEZZY
Why are you here?

TAMMY FAYE
I shouldn't be.

Off Jezzy's silence.

TAMMY FAYE (CONT'D)
I think God brought us together for
a reason.

She reaches out to grab Jezzy's hand.

TAMMY FAYE (CONT'D)
I can see that you have suffered a
lot. It's not fair...

Jezzy fights her emotions.

TAMMY FAYE (CONT'D)
... and I have suffered too. It may
seem like I have a great life-- and
I do, don't get me wrong. I am
grateful to the Lord for so many
things, especially my children.
They have been my reason for
living, let-me-tell-you. But
something inside of me still hurts
real bad, and I don't know if it
will ever go away.
(then)
You are a good person, Jezzy, and
God does love you, no matter what.

Jezzy pulls away from her and proceeds to busy herself with
cleaning up the room.

JEZZY
I'm pretty sure God has forgotten
all about me.

Tammy exhales, holding back her tears.

TAMMY FAYE
I know it feels like that right
now. But it has to get better. It
just has to.
(then)
(MORE)

TAMMY FAYE (CONT'D)

I wish I knew what to say to make it better, but I guess I'm kind of feeling the same way, if I'm being honest.

CUT TO:

INT. PTL STAGE - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Tammy Faye addresses her audience.

TAMMY FAYE

Thank you. Hallelujah.

The AUDIENCE claps as Jim Bakker joins her on stage. This goes on for a moment or two.

TAMMY FAYE (V.O.)

For years, my husband and I seemed like we knew what we were doing. Sure, we spilled a few beans about our arguments, typical marriage stuff. But in reality, it has been so much worse than normal ups and downs. And I'm not talking about my husband's very brief mistake with that money-hungry woman. That's forgivable, ya know. Anyone can survive that in a marriage.

Jim puts his arm around her, making a big show of giving her affection. She has a huge smile plastered on, but something threatens to crack underneath those pounds of eye makeup.

TAMMY FAYE (V.O.)

For me, it hasn't helped that sometimes I goof on my meds and end up like whoa-- Out. To. Lunch.

Jim smiles into the camera.

JIM BAKKER

Tammy Faye and I are so happy to be here with you today.

Tammy Faye nods and smiles. Jim continues to hold her tight as if she might crumble to the floor.

JIM BAKKER (CONT'D)

When one of us is in trouble. We all are. Can I get an amen?

AUDIENCE

Amen!

JIM BAKKER

If PTL doesn't get your financial support, well -- we're gonna be pulled off the air. Simple as that.

Gasps and groans from the audience.

JIM BAKKER (CONT'D)

My fellow Christians, pick up your phones, take out your pocketbooks. Join us in the effort to save all souls for Christ!

Off to one side of the stage are several rows of TELETHON VOLUNTEERS answering phones.

ANGLE ON one of the studio CAMERA MONITORS showing the TV IMAGE of the action on stage unfolding. A telethon number appears on the bottom half of the small screen.

JIM BAKKER (CONT'D)

Please, make that call.

Jim looks around, realizing that Tammy Faye has wandered off and made her way to the back of the stage.

BACK ON THE ACTUAL STAGE

Jim tries, nonchalantly, to get her attention.

JIM BAKKER (CONT'D)

There you are, honey. Why don't you come down here and join me?

She doesn't seem to hear, staring in awe at the stage backdrop. Several sailboats and a sunset are painted on it.

JIM BAKKER (CONT'D)

(sweetly)
Tammy Faye?

Laughter from the audience. Jim grins good-naturedly. Tammy Faye, in a drug induced haze, has no idea that all eyes are on her.

TAMMY FAYE

Jim! Look at these sailboats. Whoever painted them did a wonderful job.

JIM BAKKER

Oh yes, Tammy. They are quite good.

He looks back at the audience, smiles. More laughter.

TAMMY FAYE

Jim! Have you ever seen anything like it?

She continues to stare at the sailboats.

INT. BACKSTAGE AT PTL - A WHILE LATER

We hear loud applause as Jim and Tammy Faye emerge from the stage, arm-in-arm. People swarm them until they get to the hallway where their separate dressing rooms are.

TAMMY FAYE (V.O.)

It's hard for a marriage to survive lies. But what I do know is that it really can't survive without love.

Alone now, Jim pushes her arm away and walks off without a word, leaving Tammy Faye in a sad daze.

END OF FLASHBACK

INT. JEZZY & TAMMY'S ROOM - DAY

Tammy Faye sits up in bed, her feet propped up on a few pillows, looking glorious in her makeover but pensive as well. Jezzy reclines at her feet, painting Tammy's toes.

JEZZY

Ever think you might leave him?

Tammy laughs.

TAMMY FAYE

Oh no, I love my husband.

(beat)

I know he really loves me, too.

Chain-smoker "VEGAS" BARBARA, sixties, appears in the doorway, emaciated in a long silk kimono, full makeup and red nails. She has a decayed, toothy grin.

Tammy looks up and smiles. Jezzy's face falls.

BARBARA

Tammy Faye Bakker?

TAMMY FAYE

That's me.

BARBARA

I watch your show, I do.

Barbara sucks deeply on her cigarette and blows a thick cloud of smoke into the room. Jezzy gets up and fans it.

BARBARA (CONT'D)

You've got those nice big wigs and the puppies sometimes come out and sit on your lap.

Tammy Faye smiles politely.

BARBARA (CONT'D)

Jesus! Yeah, Jesus. Always Jesus.

TAMMY FAYE

(sweetly)

That's kind of the point.

BARBARA

I was a prostitute once.

Jezzy and Tammy Faye exchange a look.

BARBARA (CONT'D)

Never very good at it. I don't enjoy fellatio, you see.

TAMMY FAYE

Oh.

BARBARA

Unlike this one here, I'm sure.
(indicates Jezzy)

Jezzy exaggerates her shock with a gasp and hand to her mouth. Tammy Faye is unsure of how to proceed.

TAMMY FAYE

(awkward)

Well... I don't see how you could know that.

Barbara inhales deeply on her cigarette again.

BARBARA

And here you are at the Betty Ford. See I always knew you TV Barbie Dolls were a sham. With your fake boobs and fake hair.

TAMMY FAYE
Don't forget fake eyelashes.

Jezy coughs and speaks loudly to Barbara like she's hard of hearing.

JEZZY
Barbara, I have ASTHMA. So I need
you to smoke out in the hall!

Barbara puts her cigarette out in a nearby coffee cup.

BARBARA
(to Tammy)
I like my crystal. What's your
poison?

Jezy helps Tammy Faye stand.

TAMMY FAYE
Poison? I-- uh... I'm not sure.

Tammy Faye's toes are still drying, so it's awkward when she and Jezy shuffle out of the room slowly.

JEZZY
Gotta take Tammy Faye to her
electric shock treatments. Sorry,
Barbara.

Barbara stands in the doorway, looking confused.

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Close on Tammy Faye and Jezy further down the hall.

TAMMY FAYE
Do you really have asthma?

Jezy shakes her head.

JEZZY
I wasn't gonna let that shady bitch
read you all day.

Tammy Faye bursts out laughing.

TAMMY FAYE
Oh, I'm used to it. Just water off
a duck's back to me.

Tammy Faye mimes brushing something off her shoulder.

TAMMY FAYE (CONT'D)

And for the record, these are real.
(indicates her boobs)

They both erupt in giggles then stop abruptly when...

They see Lindsay Stickneed coming from around the corner. Jezy physically lifts Tammy up and out of sight. They lean against a wall. *Close call.*

JEZZY

Come on, this way.

We have VARIOUS SEQUENCES of them running around trying to avert Lindsay but seeing her nonetheless and barely escaping her... until they stop at the nurse's station.

Bruce looks up from his perch. Jezy gives him a pleading look and indicates towards a doorway labeled "meditation garden." He smirks and nods, so Jezy pulls Tammy Faye through that doorway.

INT. MEDITATION GARDEN - DAY

They enter an indoor garden. Jezy listens at the door.

Lindsay (O.S.)

Bruce, have you seen Tammy Faye?

Bruce (O.S.)

Can't say that I have.

Lindsay (O.S.)

Well, I'm done for the day. If you see her, let her know I'm very sorry I missed her.

Jezy exhales in relief and sits next to Tammy Faye on carpeted steps arranged in a semicircle, surrounded by potted plants, a small pond and tropical flowers.

TAMMY FAYE

This room... is so relaxing!

JEZZY

They don't usually let us in here without supervision, but Bruce is cool.

TAMMY FAYE

Kind of warm, isn't it?

JEZZY

Too much?

TAMMY FAYE

I like it. I know I should be worried it'll melt my face off, but there's just something about a warm, humid room that calms my nervous condition.

A beat.

JEZZY

Are you really done with those pills you used to take?

TAMMY FAYE

I don't ever want to see another Ativan as long as I live... Jezzy, I nearly killed my children because of that drug.

JEZZY

Seriously?

Tammy fans at her eyes.

TAMMY FAYE

Oh Lord... I'm probably going to cry.

JEZZY

It's okay, you don't have to talk about it.

TAMMY FAYE

But I want to tell you. I *need* to tell you.

(then)

I got really sick with pneumonia. My throat was killing me from all the coughing and hacking, so I started taking cough medicine, but I was still on the Ativan, too. They're prescribed mainly for my fear of flying... that's a whole other thing, but anyway, the mix of medicines and a really high fever sent me over the edge... I was in bed, trying to sleep, and I had the most awful hallucinations! I saw these big purple elephants falling from the sky into my bedroom.

(MORE)

TAMMY FAYE (CONT'D)

My son told me later that I kept screaming, "ELEPHANTS! They're gonna crush us!"... Oh, that poor child. He yelled out for the hallucinations to stop, in the name of Jesus!

Jezzy listens with rapt attention.

TAMMY FAYE (CONT'D)

Jim was busy, off building another building at Heritage USA or whatever he was doing, so a family friend had to call our doctor to come get me. They put me on a private jet for California-- we had to fly to Eisenhower-- for privacy, mainly. The last thing we needed was to make another splash in the headlines. I got on the plane with him and my kids. That's where the worst of my hallucinations happened...

She pauses for a moment to collect her thoughts.

TAMMY FAYE (CONT'D)

The floor and the walls of the airplane cabin were swarming with rats. Thousands and thousands of them! I remember trying to scream, but my lungs were too weak for any sound to come out. I panicked and tried to get off the airplane while we were 30,000 feet up in the air. I pulled at the emergency exit, but luckily I was in too weak a condition to open it... Oh Jezzy, every time I think about it I get this sick feeling in the pit of my stomach. I could have killed all of us... my two precious children. I was not in control of myself, and I don't ever want to feel like that again.

(then)

I'm not addicted to Ativan. I just needed to be educated, you know? Once I understood what it was doing to me, it really wasn't a problem for me to quit.

JEZZY

Ohmygosh, Tammy-- that's such a
crazy story.

TAMMY FAYE

Well, it's all true.

(then)

What about you?

JEZZY

Huh?

TAMMY FAYE

Why are you here... at Betty Ford?

Jezzy hesitates.

JEZZY

Umm... heroin.

TAMMY FAYE

Serious stuff.

JEZZY

My parents couldn't take it
anymore, I guess, so this was it
for them-- my third go at rehab.

Tammy Faye pats Jezzy's hand.

TAMMY FAYE

How are you feeling this time
around?

A beat.

JEZZY

Truth?

Tammy nods. Ashamed, Jezzy looks at the floor.

JEZZY (CONT'D)

I miss it. Like my body doesn't
need it now, but I just keep
thinking how nice it would be to
just turn my life off for a
while... I'm kind a scared to leave
here, to tell you the truth... It
feels like this giant brick is
stuck in my chest...

TAMMY FAYE

I know that feeling.

JEZZY

It's like the worst feeling in the world. So yeah, sometimes I just wanna feel that weightless thing. Like everything's gonna be okay and I'm not this terrible person anymore--

TAMMY FAYE

Why do you think you're a terrible person?

JEZZY

I dunno.

TAMMY FAYE

Have you ever murdered anyone?

JEZZY

Uh, no.

TAMMY FAYE

OK. So, what's so terrible about you then?

A beat as Jezzy thinks.

JEZZY

Everything.

Tammy puts her arm around Jezzy, comforting her.

TAMMY FAYE (SOTTO)

You are a miracle... God made you a miracle and how can that possibly be terrible?

Another beat.

JEZZY

I think my dad had this stupid idea that they could rehab me wanting to be a girl right out of my system.

Off Tammy Faye's appalled expression.

JEZZY (CONT'D)

As *if*, right?

TAMMY FAYE

Is your father an intelligent man?

They exchange a look and laugh.

After a a couple beats--

JEZZY

He's an angry man. My dad. Real mean. I sometimes wonder if he wouldn't have ended up being so mean if it weren't for me. Like if I was the perfect son, football player, good grades, Ivy League bound... making him proud... would he be happy then?

TAMMY FAYE

Probably not, Jezzy.

Jezzy nods.

JEZZY

My mom and my sister... we used to be best friends. The three of us. They're scared of him, so I don't really blame them. I know my Mom, deep down in her heart-- she was okay with me being... *this way*... In another life, she might've even like encouraged me to just be myself, ya know?

(then)

But the look in her eyes... the first time she realized I was hustling for drugs... It was just... *disappointment*. Epic, sad-as-hell disappointment. Awful.

Tammy takes this in.

TAMMY FAYE

She loves you, Jezzy. She was probably disappointed in herself. She probably blames herself for your pain.

JEZZY

You're just saying that to make me feel better.

TAMMY FAYE

No, I mean it.

(then)

I think my son is experimenting with drugs.

JEZZY

Yeah? What kind of drugs?

TAMMY FAYE

I don't know exactly. But I have to remember not to look at him the way your mother looked at you.

JEZZY

You won't be able to help it, Tammy.

Tammy stands, suddenly agitated.

TAMMY FAYE

I-I need to call Jim and just force him to pick me up in the morning.

JEZZY

There's a strict rule here about waiting five days before patients can call out.

Tammy's hands fly to her face.

TAMMY FAYE

I'll go bananas if I have to stay here one more day, especially with you leaving so soon. I have to get out of here and back home, Jezzy. I mean it. I just have to.

Off Jezzy, wheels turning.

INT. LOBBY/NURSE'S STATION - A WHILE LATER

Tammy Faye sits in a chair by the nurse's station, thumbing through a magazine. Nurse Daisy, Peppa and Bruce are behind the counter when we hear a horrific SCREAM. The three nurses run out towards the direction of the sound.

Tammy casually places the magazine down and looks around to see if she's alone.

INT. ADJACENT WING - MOMENTS LATER

Jezzy screams bloody murder *again* at...

Barbara, in the hallway, *completely in the nude*, proudly displays her skin and bones physique while smoking a cigarette. Slung over one withered shoulder is a big rubber bag with a long narrow tube and large plastic syringe extending from it.

Nurses come running. Patients peek out from their rooms.

INT. THE NURSE'S STATION - SAME TIME

Tammy Faye sits alone in the station with a phone to her ear.

TAMMY FAYE

If you don't pick me up *first thing*
in the morning, I'm leaving you-- *I*
mean it, Jim.

She pauses to listen.

TAMMY FAYE (CONT'D)

Oh, thank the Lord! I just knew you
wouldn't let me down.

(then)

I'm sorry, I shouldn't have
threatened you. It's just, my
nerves are shot.

(she begins to cry)

I miss you and the kids so-- so
much. Okay, see you tomorrow, hun.
Love you too.

She hangs up and breathes a sigh of relief through her tears.

INT. ADJACENT WING - MOMENTS LATER

Nurse Daisy excuses herself from the old woman's room.
Barbara stands in the doorway, fully clothed now, lighting up
an ever-present cigarette.

Jezy appears from around a corner. She checks to see that
the coast is clear and sidles up to Barbara. Jezy slips a
folded twenty dollar bill into Barbara's outstretched hand.

JEZZY

Ten extra for the giant douche bag.
Nice touch, Barb.

Pleased with herself, Barbara nods before Jezy slips away
unseen.

INT. JEZZY & TAMMY FAYE'S ROOM - LATER

Jezy and Tammy Faye crack up in laughter.

TAMMY FAYE

They heard that scream all the way
to San Francisco.

(then)

That was one of the nicest things
anyone's ever done for me.

JEZZY

Aw, it was nothing. I got your back, girl.

This visibly moves Tammy Faye.

TAMMY FAYE

Just so you know, I've got your back, too.

Tammy Faye organizes her things in preparation for her morning departure. Jezzy watches her.

JEZZY

Can I tell you something? It's kinda personal.

Tammy Faye senses the importance of what Jezzy has to say and looks at her, nodding her head.

They sit down.

JEZZY (CONT'D)

I'm HIV positive.

Tammy Faye's calm smile falls away.

TAMMY FAYE

I'm so sorry.

She hugs Jezzy.

TAMMY FAYE (CONT'D)

You're going to let me help you.

JEZZY

No. I have to figure it out for myself.

Tammy Faye pulls back to face her.

TAMMY FAYE

I'm not asking. I'm telling you. Jim and I know some great doctors.

JEZZY

No way I'm scabbing off you and your husband.

TAMMY FAYE

I just found you, Jezzy, I'm not letting you go.

They sit in silence for a beat until Peppa walks by and knocks on the door frame.

PEPPA
Dinner's in five.

She walks away and knocks on the next door.

PEPPA (O.S) (CONT'D)
Dinner's in five.

Jezy attempts to lighten the mood.

JEZZY
Let's dress up.

Tammy Faye is pulled from her thoughts.

TAMMY FAYE
Okay.

JEZZY
Your makeup is totally on point.
But now for the finishing touch.

She pulls out the black sequined gown Tammy Faye admired earlier. Tammy looks down at her own body like the dress couldn't possibly be her size.

JEZZY (CONT'D)
It'll totally fit you.

Tammy Faye closes the door to their room and proceeds to remove her clothes and slip right into the dress in front of Jezy.

JEZZY (CONT'D)
Like a hand in glove.

Tammy Faye looks at herself in the mirror, pleased.

TAMMY FAYE
How the heck are we the same size?
You're way slimmer than me.

Jezy is thrilled, but something gives her pause.

JEZZY
I gotta teeny weeny confession to
make.

Tammy Faye continues to admire herself in the mirror.

TAMMY FAYE
What's that?

JEZZY
I kind a like-- *impersonate you.*

She turns to look at Jezzy, confused.

JEZZY (CONT'D)
It's totally out of love and respect, but I've been obsessed with you my whole life. I'm not a stalker or anything. I just love your style, Tammy Faye-- always have-- and I like thought you should know that I do *you* at some of my drag shows.

CUT TO:

INT. A DRAG SHOW STAGE - NIGHT

Jezzy, in full Tammy Faye drag, belts out a song.

JEZZY (SINGS)
*Well, somebody touched me! Oh,
somebody touched me! I was in
darkness, but now I see!*

CUT BACK TO:

INT. JEZZY & TAMMY FAYE'S ROOM - EVENING

Jezzy tries to read Tammy's face as she processes this.

JEZZY
I'm sorry. It's too weird, right?

Tammy Faye grins at her.

TAMMY FAYE
It's not weird. Okay, it's a little *unusual*, but I'm flattered. I mean it. I really am.

Jezzy sighs in relief.

TAMMY FAYE (CONT'D)
You should dress up like me *tonight.*

JEZZY
Are you serious?

TAMMY FAYE
As a heart attack.
(then)
I wanna see what I look like!

Jezy laughs at this and proceeds to scramble through her trunk. She stops and thinks for a moment then turns to Tammy Faye, reverential and nervous.

JEZZY
Um... Do you think you could show me how you do your lashes? I, uh-- I can't do them as good as you.

Tammy pulls out her giant eyelash kit.

TAMMY FAYE
I call this quantity over quality.
(then)
You know what? We should do a duet tonight-- as the two Tammys!

Jezy's mouth drops.

PRELAP - Violins and horns swell.

CUT TO:

ECU -- JEZZY AND TAMMY FAYE'S MATCHING FACES

With identical crazy lashes and smiles, Jezy and Tammy Faye sing "If Life Hands You a Lemon/You Start Making Lemonade!"

JEZZY & TAMMY (SING)
*If life hands you a lemon, you
start making lemonade!*

We pull out to see...

INT. SMALL, DARK STAGE - NIGHT

Tammy Faye and Jezy, both dressed to the nines, perform on a tiny black box stage with red velvet curtains behind them. A spotlight shines on them from somewhere.

JEZZY (SINGS)
*If the heat of the day gets a
little too hot, you just start
thinking shade!*

TAMMY FAYE (SINGS)

*You thank God for the situation and
you praise him for the day he made.*

In the audience, other Betty Ford PATIENTS sway along. Barbara, cigarette dangling from her lips, shakes her bony ass.

JEZZY & TAMMY (SING)

*Oh, if life hands you a lemon, you
start making lemonade! I said you
start making lemonade!*

Tammy Faye and Jezzy hold actual lemons and mime squeezing them into a pitcher with a giant spoon that magically appears out of nowhere.

Spotlight on Jezzy now. She throws the lemon over her shoulder, which Tammy Faye catches.

JEZZY (SPEAKS)

You know we all get sidetracked
just a making those plans of what
we wanna be and do.

CUT TO:

INT. JEZZY'S CHILDHOOD LIVING ROOM - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Twelve-year-old Paula helps ten-year-old Jesse dress up like Tammy Faye-- makeup and high heels, a costume wig of crazy blonde curls. The PTL Club is on TV in the background.

JEZZY (V.O)

(speaks)

*And you know all too often we don't
even consult God about what he has
in mind for me and you.*

Esméralda enters with a basket of laundry. Paula and Jesse dance around in their mother's heels. Esméralda joins the fun, dancing around with them until they all look up, terrified, when Francis appears in the doorway.

JEZZY (V.O) (CONT'D)

(sings)

*Well, we plot and we scheme, we
struggle and we fret... And we're
amazed when we're pruned by God's
blade.*

Esméralda pulls at Francis' arm as he whacks the crap out of Jesse, ripping the dress off of him.

He shoves Esméralda to the floor and proceeds to pull the leather belt from his waist to whip Paula. **We only see his hand grip the belt before it comes down, repeatedly.** His steely eyes burn.

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

(speaks)

But you know what he's trying to teach us that when he hands us a lemon...

Off little Jesse's tear-filled eyes, helpless, watching his sister being beaten.

END OF FLASHBACK

INT. SMALL, DARK STAGE - NIGHT

Close on Jezzy and Tammy's matching smiles again.

JEZZY & TAMMY (SING)

Turn that lemon into lemonade!

(then)

*Ah, when life hands you a lemon,
you start making lemonade!*

They dance around, fanning each other with large yellow feathers.

JEZZY (SINGS)

*If the heat of the day gets a
little too hot, you just start
thinking shade!*

They pose, back to back.

CUT TO:

INT. JEZZY'S CHILDHOOD LIVING ROOM - DAY (FLASHBACK)

We are back on little Jesse and his family, now praying to the television set with their hands up and their eyes closed.

This is the same moment Jezzy flashed back to when she first met Tammy Faye in person.

TAMMY FAYE (SINGS)(V.O.)

*You thank God for the situation and
you praise him for the day he made.*

Young Jesse stares guiltily at the BRIGHT RED WELTS on the back of Paula's legs.

END OF FLASHBACK

INT. SMALL, DARK STAGE - NIGHT

Jezzzy and Tammy Faye face each other now.

JEZZY & TAMMY (SING)
*Oh, when life hands you a lemon,
 you start making lemonade. Oh, you
 start making lemonade!*

They turn to the audience at the same time.

TAMMY FAYE (SPEAKS)
 Oh, stir a little more sugar in it!
 Aha!

The big spotlight is on Tammy Faye now.

TAMMY FAYE (CONT'D)
 You know there's times when we
 think we've hit our highest low yet
 and there's just nothing left to go
 wrong.

CUT TO:

INT. PRIVATE JET - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

Tammy Faye HALLUCINATES rats swarming the floor of the private plane she, her two kids (Jamie Charles and Tammy Sue) and her DOCTOR are on.

TAMMY FAYE (V.O.)
 (speaks)
*And we're convinced that the old
 devil he's been working overtime to
 sneak in and steal our happy song.*

Wading through a sea of rats at 30,000 feet, Tammy Faye rushes the emergency exit, but the doctor and her kids pull her away before she can open it.

TAMMY FAYE (V.O.)

(speaks)

You know there's two things we can do when we're put to the test and we're afraid we just can't make the grade. You know we can throw in the towel and just run off and hide...

END OF FLASHBACK

INT. SMALL, DARK STAGE - NIGHT

Tammy and Jezzy, in unison, turn around to face us.

JEZZY & TAMMY (SING)

Or turn that lemon into lemonade!

(then)

*Oh, when life hands you a lemon,
you start making lemonade...*

Everyone in the audience dances and sings along. Nurse Daisy hangs back by the door, swaying to the music.

JEZZY & TAMMY (SING) (CONT'D)

If the heat of the day gets a little too hot, you just start thinking shade. You thank God for the situation and you praise him for the day he made. I said when life hands you a lemon, you start making lemonade!

TAMMY FAYE

You really do!

Tammy Faye winks at us.

The audience hoots and hollers as Jezzy and Tammy Faye stand cheek to cheek.

INT. BETTY FORD CENTER - NIGHT

All is quiet and dimly lit in the nurse's station and hallways. A male NIGHT NURSE watches television with the sound very low.

INT. JEZZY & TAMMY FAYE'S ROOM - NIGHT

The full moon is shining down through the window on Tammy Faye and Jezzy.

They face each other from their separate beds. They're both in pajamas, but Tammy is still in full makeup.

JEZZY

You really think it'll work?

TAMMY FAYE

I know it will. If there's one thing I know how to do, it's put on a good show.

JEZZY

I can't believe I'm taking my act on the road with Tammy Faye!

TAMMY FAYE

We'll start with smaller venues around here and up along the coast. After we catch some heat, we can do the bigger shows in Los Angeles.

She studies Jezzy for a moment.

TAMMY FAYE (CONT'D)

You sure you want to do this?

JEZZY

Beyond sure.

Jezzy smiles but her thoughts darken.

JEZZY (CONT'D)

Tammy Faye?

TAMMY FAYE

Yeah?

JEZZY

What if you change your mind?

TAMMY FAYE

Why would I do that?

JEZZY

What if when you get home, back to your life and your husband, you realize that maybe it's not such a great plan to go on the road with a drag queen? I mean, it's kind of a crazy idea, if you think about it.

Tammy Faye reaches her hand out and Jezzy takes it.

TAMMY FAYE

I promise you, we are going to
stick to this plan.

A beat.

Jezzy begins to weep. Tammy quickly moves to comfort her.

TAMMY FAYE (CONT'D)

What's wrong?

Jezzy sits up and wipes her eyes.

JEZZY

I'm scared.

Tammy Faye wipes Jezzy's tears and puts her arm around her.

TAMMY FAYE

I'm here, Jezzy. Right here, honey.

JEZZY

I don't want to die.

TAMMY FAYE

Oh, Jezzy.

Tammy Faye holds her close, almost cradling her like a baby.

JEZZY

My dad says God's punishing me cuz
I'm this way. What if he's right?

TAMMY FAYE

No-no.

JEZZY

What if I die alone, no family,
nobody? No one remembers me or
misses me.

Tammy Faye is stricken by Jezzy's vulnerability.

TAMMY FAYE

I love you, Jezzy. We're family
now, and God hasn't forgotten you.
It's why he brought us together.

(then)

I'm your momma now.

Jezzy smiles through her tears. They hug.

JEZZY

I love you, too.

Off Jezzy, at peace for once in a long time.

INT. JEZZY & TAMMY FAYE'S ROOM - LATER

Jezzy sleeps. Tammy sits up in bed in the dark, eyes closed, praying. A blue light appears, illuminating her face. Her eyes pop open.

TAMMY'S VISION

Jesus Christ and the Little Brown & Blue Angel stand at the foot of her bed. They are dressed like warriors. Jesus holds a medieval looking sword. His face is in shadow, but we see the angel clearly (she looks like Jezzy), also holding a sword in her hand.

LITTLE BLUE ANGEL

Tammy Faye, you must prepare for battle.

Tammy Faye blinks, and they're gone. She jumps out of bed and tries to wake Jezzy.

TAMMY FAYE

Jezzy! Wake up!

Jezzy is roused, but very sleepy.

TAMMY FAYE (CONT'D)

I just saw Jesus and you -- the Little Angel. They visited me.

Jezzy, disoriented, rubs her eyes.

JEZZY

(smiles sleepily)
That's nice.

She falls back asleep.

TAMMY FAYE

(to herself)
Hallelujah. Praise the Lord.

Awestruck, Tammy stares at the spot where Jesus and the angel stood. A realization hits and her expression darkens.

INT. HALLWAY & LOBBY - MORNING

Happy as clams, Tammy Faye and Jezzy come down the hallway, loaded down with luggage.

TAMMY FAYE

We are going home, Jezzy.
Hallelujah! Praise the Lord!

Jezzy laughs.

In the lobby they set their belongings by the door and don't even bother to sit down.

TIME LAPSES where they eventually sit, watch the clock, and wait until Nurse Daisy approaches.

NURSE DAISY

Tammy, your husband just called.

Tammy stands.

TAMMY FAYE

Why didn't you let me talk to him?

NURSE DAISY

He sends his apologies that he couldn't speak to you himself, but he was in a rush and asked me to relay that he got pulled into an emergency meeting. He won't be able to collect you this morning. He isn't sure if he'll be able to come for you today at all.

Without a word, Tammy lifts a few of her bags and walks away down the hall.

A moment later, Jezzy grabs the rest of their luggage and hobbles back down towards their room.

INT. JEZZY & TAMMY FAYE'S ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

A CLEANING WOMAN is vacuuming when Jezzy enters. The luggage Tammy carried with her is thrown onto one of the twin beds.

The cleaning woman sees Jezzy and points to the closet.

Jezzy unloads the rest of the luggage onto the other twin bed and waits for the woman to finish. Taking her sweet-ass time, the woman finally unplugs the vacuum before exiting.

Jezzy stands with her ear to the closet door. The room is silent. She knocks gently. Tammy Faye opens the door.

JEZZY

You okay?

Tammy looks perfectly fine.

TAMMY FAYE

Oh, hi Jezzy.

She notes the luggage.

TAMMY FAYE (CONT'D)

Thanks for bringing my luggage. I guess we should see what's on the to-do list for today.

Jezzy's eyes follow Tammy as she walks out of the room.

INT. MEETING ROOM - DAY

Lindsay facilitates a group counseling session. Seated in a circle with her are Jezzy, Tammy Faye, Barbara, Hannah and Stuart.

CLOSE ON young and blonde Hannah.

HANNAH

He would never do the things my bitch-ass mother says he did.

LINDSAY (O.S.)

How does that make you feel?

Hannah laughs.

We scan the faces in the group...

Tammy Faye listens politely, hands folded in her lap.

Jezzy looks like a kid in detention, checking the clock on the wall repeatedly.

Stuart, chin in hand, struggles to keep his eyes open due to either fatigue or cigarette smoke curling in his direction.

Barbara chain smokes, inexplicably tapping ashes into her hand and slipping them into the pocket of her kimono.

HANNAH

(mimics her)

How does that make you feel?

Lindsay stares at her blankly.

HANNAH (CONT'D)

Jesus, you are like the WORST therapist in the history of therapists.

Lindsay keeps it together.

LINDSAY

I hear what you're saying, but this isn't about me, Hannah. Help me-- help *us* understand... What is it like being you?

All eyes are on the girl, a simmering volcano. The room is silent for a moment until--

HANNAH

OK, *Stickneed*. Sounds like you really wanna hear something to make you feel better about your own boring vanilla existence.

Lindsay is obviously hurt by this, but covers with one of her weird smiles.

HANNAH (CONT'D)

Maybe when you go home tonight, all alone, you can jerk off to what it's like *being me*--

(to Stuart)

Wait. Is it still called jerking off, if you're a girl?

(to Jezzy)

Hey, what's it called if a girl-- Oh, right-- you're not really a girl! Ha, ha.

If this stings Jezzy, she doesn't let it show, but it clearly bothers Tammy Faye.

TAMMY FAYE

Hannah, please do not speak to my friend like that. Jezzy is most definitely a girl.

Awkward silence. Jezzy and Tammy exchange a look of great affection.

HANNAH

Um, okaaaay. First off, my mom is a bitch--

JEZZY

You already said that.

Hannah glares at Jezzy for a moment before continuing.

HANNAH

The reason she sent me to Betty-fucking-Ford is not because she's worried about my "drinking" problem, it's because she's jealous. My daddy prefers me to her, *if ya know what I mean.*

LINDSAY

What *do* you mean?

Hannah sets her gaze on Lindsay.

HANNAH

What do you think I mean?

LINDSAY

I just want to clarify--

HANNAH

My DADDY likes me to suck him off!

Tammy Faye winces then immediately prays, hands raised in supplication.

TAMMY FAYE (SOTTO)

Oh, sweet Jesus! Please Lord, deliver this child with your grace and mercy.

Hannah laughs.

LINDSAY

Thank you for sharing, Hannah. That was very brave of you.

TAMMY FAYE

(shocked)

Is that it? Shouldn't we stay on Hannah a little bit longer?... Do the authorities know about this?

(to Hannah)

How old are you, sweetheart?

HANNAH

Thirteen, two months ago.

Tammy Faye's hands fly to her face.

TAMMY FAYE

Oh, no! You poor thing!

Lindsay appears at a loss for words.

BARBARA
Tickling the kitty.

All eyes turn to Barbara.

LINDSAY
What was that, Barbara?

Barbara takes a long drag of her cigarette.

BARBARA
Tickling the kitty... In my day,
that's what us girls called jerking
off. Or, sometimes we'd say--
checking for oil.

More awkward silence.

STUART
(to Tammy Faye)
I know you. Your 'usband bilked
like a ton a money from his merch
or whatevah.

Tammy Faye dabs at her eyes with a tissue.

STUART (CONT'D)
Shagged his secretary, in'it true?

JEZZY
Shut up!

Tammy Faye reaches out to pat Jezzy's arm before she mimes
brushes something invisible off her own shoulder.

TAMMY FAYE
It's okay.

STUART
(to Jezzy)
Aw come on love, I din't mean
noffin by it.

LINDSAY
Stuart, let's hear about YOU.

STUART
I'm an open book, whad'ya want ta
know?

LINDSAY
 Whatever you feel like sharing
about yourself.

He thinks for a minute, a mischievous smile forming.

STUART
 A'ight, I'll start with me
 childhood.

Lindsay perks up.

STUART (CONT'D)
 I remembah the day me mum lef me. I
 was just a wee lad. Cheeky sod I
 was, but still. I says to her, mum,
 how can you just leave me standin'?

Lindsay nods, actively listening.

STUART (CONT'D)
 Alone... in a world that's so cold.

Jezy looks up at him-- *catching onto something*. Hannah catches it, too.

HANNAH (SOTTO)
So cold.

LINDSAY
 What was that, Hannah?

Hannah shrugs, feigning innocence.

LINDSAY (CONT'D)
 Stuart, please continue.

Stuart gazes off into space.

STUART
 I dunno, Linds... Maybe I'm just
 too demanding.

Hannah and Jezy both fight the urge to laugh.

STUART (CONT'D)
 Maybe I'm just like my father.

HANNAH
 Too bold?

Stuart maintains his poker face, but Hannah cracks up, making Jezy laugh as well. Tammy Faye observes this, baffled.

LINDSAY

Please, ladies... someone is sharing.

STUART

It's all good, Linds. Hannah's right, *too bold*.

LINDSAY

(energized)

Oh. Okay... okay. Typically, I would stick to refraining from comments, but -- and let me know if you disagree, Stuart -- I think we're getting somewhere here. You really seem to be opening up... This is good... Keep going.

STUART

Maybe you're just like my mother.

He looks right at Lindsay.

LINDSAY

Do I... remind you... of your mother?

STUART

She's never satisfied.

(then)

She's *never* satisfied-- me mum.

Seeing Jezzy and Hannah silently lose it, Tammy Faye leans in to whisper to Jezzy.

TAMMY FAYE (SOTTO)

What's going on?

JEZZY

Prince.

TAMMY FAYE

What?

Stuart winks at Jezzy before he stands and yells out--

STUART

Why do we SCREAM at each other?!

Lindsay straightens up in her chair. Barbara stands and leaves the room without a word.

Prince's "When Doves Cry" erupts in our heads as Stuart completes the verse while gyrating his hips.

STUART (CONT'D)

This is what it sounds like...

(sings)

*When doves cry... YEOW! YEOW! YEOW!
YEOW! YEOW! YEOW!*

Stuart stops, and the music in our heads stops.

Jezy and Hannah laugh, but Tammy Faye is focused on Lindsay who appears to be *shrinking in her chair*. The laughter dies down and Tammy is up on her feet, kneeling by Lindsay. Lindsay just stares at her hands.

TAMMY FAYE

(softly)

Linds? Are you all right?

The others sit back in their seats. Tammy Faye lightly touches her hand. Lindsay speaks quietly, painfully.

LINDSAY

I don't know why I thought I could do this. Hannah's right. I'm the worst therapist ever.

Tears form in Lindsay's eyes.

TAMMY FAYE

Oh, honey, that's not true.

LINDSAY

You don't need to lie to me. I *know* I'm no good at this.

TAMMY FAYE

What *I* know is that you really care about people.

Lindsay looks around at the others. Hannah and Stuart still look amused, but Jezy has lost her smile.

LINDSAY

You all think I can't hear you when you make fun of me in the hallways.

HANNAH

No, we know you can hear us.

JEZZY

Geez, Hannah!

Lindsay emits a short, mirthless laugh. Hannah rolls her eyes at Jezy.

LINDSAY

But, I do love people... I love helping people... I don't know why I'm just so bad at it.

(then)

Both my parents were addicts. My dad died when I was seven. Heroin. My mother... she was bipolar. Self-medicated. Anything you can think of, she took it... I was fifteen... I came home from school and found her. She'd taken most of a bottle of tranquilizers and cut her wrists... There was blood everywhere... all over the place. I tried to get her to wake up and... I slapped her and... I was just a kid. I tried to... I tried to shake her. But she wouldn't... she wouldn't wake up. I got blood all over my clothes...

(then)

The thing that gets me is she knew I would find her. It was just her and me. I had nobody else. She knew I would find her there.

Tammy holds Lindsay in her arms now, comforting her.

CLOSE ON Jezzy, deeply moved. She stands and joins Tammy Faye in hugging Lindsay.

JEZZY

I'm sorry, Lindsay. I'm so sorry for everything.

Hannah and Stuart watch, stunned.

HANNAH

I was lying about my dad.

Everyone looks at her.

HANNAH (CONT'D)

I was just messing with you all. I don't really suck my dad off-- that's fucking disgusting.

JEZZY

You are *such* a bitch!

This stings Hannah.

HANNAH

Hey, Tammy Faye? You know your friend's got a full-on penis underneath that dress, right?

Jezy and Tammy Faye exchange a look.

TAMMY FAYE

Hannah, I know you're in pain, but--

HANNAH

It's not like I'm *trying* to insult him-- or her or whatever, gawd it's SO confusing...

Seeing that Lindsay has recovered somewhat, Tammy Faye goes back to her chair.

HANNAH (CONT'D)

...and he clearly prefers to bone *other* dudes, doesn't that make *him* a sinner?

Jezy's eyes shoot daggers through Hannah.

TAMMY FAYE

We're all sinners, but our sins can be washed away by the blood of Christ.

HANNAH

Gross... But only if Jezy stops doing the gay stuff, right?

TAMMY FAYE

I said we're all sinners, didn't I?

HANNAH

Okay, but let's say Jezy's *dad* came asking you for advice on what to do about Jezy. Like, would you tell him that you agree it's a sin if Jezy's with another guy-- sexually? Or not?

Jezy watches Tammy collect her thoughts.

TAMMY FAYE

Well, the Bible says sex should happen only in marriage... between a man and a woman.

Jezy and Tammy exchange a look. Something in Jezy immediately changes. She is *wounded and defensive*.

JEZZY

Oh, right-- and since I'm not really a woman... so yeah, it's a sin. Got it.

A long, awkward beat before Jezzy looks at Tammy again.

JEZZY (CONT'D)

You're exactly like my father, you know that? But, you're just so sweet about it. I'm not sure which is worse. Deep down both of you believe I'm a degenerate and both of you are hypocrites... He beats his children and his wife, but God punishes *me* with this disease. You steal money from little old grandmas, but *I'm* the sinner-- oh, right, I forgot. We're *all* sinners.

Tammy is clearly shocked.

TAMMY FAYE

Jezzy, I don't steal!

JEZZY

Yes, you do. That little old lady believes you, believes that if she gives you her whole Social Security check, God is gonna bless her ten-fold. But it doesn't happen, does it? She ends up broke until her next check, eating cat food out of a can, praying to God she'll find her next meal and enough money to pay for heat when winter comes. And YOU go home in your million dollar Rolls Royce and your fur coat and sit on your gold plated toilet seat, shitting all over the people who believe all the lies you tell them, just like I believed that God loves me no matter what the world may say or do... and just like I believed that *you* love me-- you really, *really* do.

With that she gets up and exits, leaving Tammy stunned.

INT. JEZZY & TAMMY FAYE'S ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Jezzy grabs all her belongings from the room and heads down the hall towards the nurse's station.

INT. NURSE'S STATION - CONTINUOUS

Bruce and Peppa are seated at the desk. Nurse Daisy is standing, reading something off a clipboard. They all look up when Jezzy stops in front of them with her luggage.

NURSE DAISY
Are you checking out, Miss Jezzy?

Nurse Daisy's kindness disarms Jezzy.

JEZZY
Yes... please.

Nurse Daisy nods with a sincere smile.

NURSE DAISY
Let's get you a cab then.

She picks up a phone and proceeds to dial.

INT. HALLWAY - SAME TIME

Tammy Faye and Lindsay walk slowly, arm-in-arm, comforting each other. They near Tammy's room.

TAMMY FAYE
I need to call my husband.

Lindsay nods.

INT. NURSE'S STATION - MOMENTS LATER

Jezzy sits with her luggage at her feet. Her back is to the nurse's station, but she can hear what's happening behind her. Tammy Faye approaches with Lindsay. It pains her to see Jezzy there. She looks away and speaks to Bruce.

TAMMY FAYE
I'd like to make a call.

Fully aware that Nurse Daisy is watching him...

BRUCE
Tammy, we have a very strict five day--

NURSE DAISY
Let her use the phone, Bruce.

Bruce nods and hands Tammy the phone.

ANGLE ON Jezzy, listening. As Tammy becomes increasingly emotional, the guilt on Jezzy's face deepens.

TAMMY FAYE (O.S.)
 Hello? Rick? Yes... Is Jim there?
 (pause)
 I know he's there, please let me
 speak to him... Why are you doing
 this? I'm so sick right now. I need
 him to come get me. Why won't he
 talk to me?!

Back on Tammy-- she cries into the phone. Lindsay puts her arm around her.

TAMMY FAYE (CONT'D)
 I'm like a prisoner here. Please
 put him on the phone, Rick!

After a moment of listening, Tammy hands the phone back to Bruce. She turns around and sees Jezzy still there, her back to her. Tammy blinks slowly and shuffles away.

CLOSE ON Jezzy. She hears a loud bellowing coming from the direction of the room she shared with Tammy. The sound of a lamp shattering comes next, along with Tammy's screams.

TAMMY FAYE (O.S.) (CONT'D)
 I wanna die! I wanna die! I wanna
 die... I wanna die...

Jezzy sees a yellow cab roll up to the front entrance. She stands up and grabs her luggage, ready to leave.

She pauses, hearing....

TAMMY FAYE (O.S.) (CONT'D)
 Please Lord, I wanna die...

Jezzy pulls herself together and heads for the glass doors while Tammy's voice continues to ring out.

TAMMY FAYE (O.S.) (CONT'D)
 I keep asking God to kill me, but
 he never listens...

INT. JEZZY & TAMMY FAYE'S ROOM - SAME TIME

Tammy is a rumped mess on the floor.

TAMMY FAYE (SOTTO)
 God doesn't listen...

Lindsay tries to hold her but gets pushed away. Meanwhile, Bruce is cleaning up the broken lamp Tammy must have thrown across the room.

Tammy finally gets up off the floor.

TAMMY FAYE (SOTTO) (CONT'D)
I just want to be alone right now.

She walks inside the bedroom closet and closes the door behind her.

Lindsay and Bruce exchange a helpless look.

INT. TAXI CAB - DAY (TRAVELING)

For **several long beats** we stay on Jezzy in the back seat, her expression a testament to all the heartache she's faced in the last twenty-four hours.

She blinks away tears until finally...

JEZZY
Stop the car, please.

We hear the crackle of tires on gravel as the cab begins to slow down.

INT. BETTY FORD CENTER ENTRANCE/LOBBY/HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Jezzy pushes through the doors to the entrance... runs towards the nurse's station lobby... then she runs down the hallway to Tammy's room.

INT. JEZZY & TAMMY FAYE'S ROOM - DAY

She enters the room as Bruce is leaving with the remains of the broken lamp. Lindsay brightens seeing Jezzy.

JEZZY
Where is she?

Lindsay indicates the closet door then steps out of the room. Jezzy kneels beside the door. She speaks quietly. We hear muffled crying coming from inside the closet.

JEZZY (CONT'D)
Tammy? It's me. Please let me talk to you.

A long beat.

JEZZY (CONT'D)

Tammy, I'm sorry... I didn't mean to say the things I said. Those were really shitty things to say, and there's no excuse... I'm just so, so sorry.

The door creaks open halfway. Tammy is a hot mess of makeup, snot and tears. She manages to meet Jezzy's eyes before gently pulling her...

INSIDE THE CLOSET.

They are packed tightly together, crouching awkwardly.

JEZZY (CONT'D)

Um... okay.

Tammy sniffles.

JEZZY (CONT'D)

I'm sorry... for everything.

Tammy pats Jezzy's hand.

TAMMY FAYE

I saw all these demons coming at me...

JEZZY

When? Now? Just now?

TAMMY FAYE

No. Remember how I told you about those hallucinations I had when I was really sick?

JEZZY

Yeah.

TAMMY FAYE

I saw something... something so horrible--

JEZZY

The falling elephants?

Tammy shakes her head.

JEZZY (CONT'D)

Oh the rats, you said. Thousands and thousands of them.

TAMMY FAYE

Yes, but I've never told anyone about what else I saw... Demons. Devils. They were coming at me-- all at once. Screaming my name over and over with their grotesque faces and mouths. I knew I was in hell. Jezzy, I'm so scared I'm gonna go to hell for all the things I've done.

A beat.

TAMMY FAYE (CONT'D)

Part of me liked to believe I was just dumb, unaware of all the things we were doing. But I'm not stupid. I'm not stupid at all. I am quite aware of what has been going on all around me, even on those pills... *I knew.*

(then)

People who have never been poor like me growing up... we didn't even have indoor plumbing... They don't know what it's like. What it's like to finally have everything you ever wanted. It makes you crazy. That's not an excuse. It's just an explanation. I know those demons were coming for me, for all the things I've done. I'm so scared Jezzy. What if God rejects me?

They both cry and hold each other. After a few beats, Jezzy pulls away to face Tammy.

JEZZY

Please, stop being so hard on yourself... You've gotta forgive yourself. *This* is hell-- right here on earth. Those demons weren't real. You imagined them because you felt guilty... but God loves us no matter what. I know I said those awful things, but I feel it in my bones that God really does love us.

Tammy looks into Jezzy's eyes, wanting to believe it like she does.

OUTSIDE THE CLOSET DOOR-- we see Jezzy and Tammy emerge. Tammy immediately goes to the mirror to check out the mess she's become.

TAMMY FAYE
(looks in the mirror)
Oh, Lord. Just awful.

She opens a cylinder of loose powder about to apply some to her face, but she pauses to look at Jezzy.

TAMMY FAYE (CONT'D)
Thank you for coming back.

Jezzy smiles weakly and sits down on one of the beds, watching Tammy attempt to fix her face at the vanity. Tammy glances at Jezzy and stops what she's doing.

TAMMY FAYE (CONT'D)
All that stuff that Hannah was asking me was just her trying to get at you.

Jezzy shrugs.

TAMMY FAYE (CONT'D)
I want you to know something. If your father asked me for advice about you, I would defend you. I would tell him to love and cherish you anyway.

This hits a painful chord in Jezzy. She let's out a heavy sigh and starts to walk out of the room.

TAMMY FAYE (CONT'D)
Wait! What did I say?

Reluctantly, Jezzy turns around to face her.

JEZZY
Tammy, there is nothing *wrong* with me.

TAMMY FAYE
I know that.

JEZZY
Nope. You DON'T know that.

TAMMY FAYE
Just tell me! Please! Tell me what is so wrong with what I said.

JEZZY

You would tell my dad to love me...
anyway?

Tammy Faye takes this in.

TAMMY FAYE

I guess I can see how that doesn't sound so good. But you know I don't mean anything bad by it. I promise I will try to do better, but this is all new to me. I need time to catch up...

Jezzy paces, exasperated.

JEZZY

I don't have time for you to catch up, and I can't wait for the whole world to catch up with me either. I don't expect everyone to understand, but I need YOU to accept me. I need YOU to love me. To see that what I am or am trying to be is not a defect.

TAMMY FAYE

Honey, I DO accept you.

JEZZY

No you don't!
 (mimics Tammy Faye's voice)
Oh Jezzy, God loves you just the way you are! You're more real than most of the women I know! Oh, Mr. Jones, sorry your son's a disgusting degenerate, but try to love that piece of shit...

Jezzy grabs the canister of makeup powder and SLAMS IT DOWN.

JEZZY (CONT'D)

...ANYWAY!

The loose white powder flies all over Tammy Faye, covering her hair and face-- ***sticking to every single eyelash.***

Frozen in shock, neither of them moves a muscle until--

JEZZY (CONT'D)

I didn't mean... to do that.

Tammy Faye touches her powder soaked face and turns to the mirror to see the damage.

JEZZY (CONT'D)

Tammy, I'm so--

Before she can finish, Tammy Faye grabs the canister of loose powder that is still half full and throws the remaining powder at Jezzy's stunned face.

CUT TO:

ECU -- TAMMY FAYE'S EYES

Tweezer between her fingers, Jezzy's hand carefully glues and sets a single fake lash onto Tammy Faye's *nearly bare* lids.

It is a painstaking process.

INT. COMMUNITY BATHROOM - DAY

Jezzy and Tammy Faye sit cross-legged on a long bathroom counter, both of them free and clear of any powder. The bright bathroom spotlight illuminates the delicate work Jezzy is doing on Tammy Faye.

TAMMY FAYE

Not even Jim has seen me without my lashes.

JEZZY

I'm honored, but it is my fault you lost your lashes to begin with.

Tammy peeks in the mirror as Jezzy uses the tweezer to grab another lash from the case, carefully dabbing it with tacky glue.

TAMMY FAYE

It's okay. I got you back real good.

Jezzy chuckles.

JEZZY

Ready?

Tammy closes her eyes, allowing Jezzy to add another lash.

TIME-LAPSE as Tammy Faye's lashes become increasingly fuller with Jezzy's help.

CLOSE ON both women in full makeup, looking into the mirror.

JEZZY (CONT'D)

I feel like I can breathe again.

TAMMY FAYE

Yes! That's exactly what it feels like-- the same feeling I get when I'm flying in an airplane and it's beginning its descent. Like you're holding your breath until those wheels touch the tarmac.

Jezy smiles at her in the mirror. Tammy Faye exhales loudly.

TAMMY FAYE (CONT'D)

Jezy, I can't possibly understand what you go through every day. I'm going to make mistakes-- a lot. I just hope you can forgive me. And I honestly do *accept* you.

A beat as Jezy lets this sink in.

JEZZY

Thank you.

(then)

I shouldn't have gotten so mad.

TAMMY FAYE

Honey, you can be mad at me all you want. I just need you to know that I would never say something to hurt you on purpose.

A beat.

JEZZY

Are you a woman?

TAMMY FAYE

Is this a trick question?

JEZZY

Nope.

TAMMY FAYE

Then, yes.

JEZZY

What if I told you-- what if everyone told you, "Tammy, you're definitely a man."

TAMMY FAYE

It wouldn't matter. I know I'm a woman because that's what my body tells me.

Jezzy gives her a look that suggests "ditto."

TAMMY FAYE (CONT'D)

Oh.

Tammy Faye gets it, the realization washes over her.

INT. JEZZY & TAMMY FAYE'S ROOM - DAY

All their luggage is packed and organized neatly. They stand by the window.

TAMMY FAYE

I don't see the cab.

JEZZY

I had to send it away, so a new one's gonna pull up in about fifteen minutes...

She indicates the front entrance of the building visible from the room's large window.

JEZZY (CONT'D)

I'll load up my stuff. Gonna have to tie my steamer trunk to the roof, so that might take a few minutes.

TAMMY FAYE

While you're doing that, I'll put all these outside the window, right?

Jezzy shakes her head.

JEZZY

Uh-uh... we need to move your luggage like now, before the cab even shows up.

TAMMY FAYE

Oh.

JEZZY

It's gonna be fine. We just can't let the staff see you outside, but it's also way too much for you to do all by yourself.

TAMMY FAYE

What if we get someone to help us?

JEZZY

I dunno... We totally can't trust anyone.

CUT TO:

INT. JEZZY & TAMMY FAYE'S ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Stuart heaves the largest Gucci bag through the window. Jezzy stands outside, catching it. She looks around and runs off across the center's pristine lawn.

Stuart shoves two more pieces outside and follows her. Tammy appears in the window with two smaller bags and awkwardly saddles the window sill, trying to exit in high heels.

CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY - SAME TIME

Barbara *stands watch* outside of Jezzy and Tammy's room, casually leaning against the door frame smoking, of course.

CUT TO:

EXT. BETTY FORD CENTER - DAY

Miraculously, Tammy Faye has managed to cross the lawn without breaking a heel where she meets up with Jezzy and Stuart. They've piled Tammy's expensive luggage on the sidewalk right at the entrance to the center.

While Tammy speaks, Stuart moves the luggage into a less conspicuous spot.

TAMMY FAYE

(out of breath)

Okay, just one more bag left. It's right outside the window... but it's got my lashes, so I think I'll just hold onto that one until it's time.

Jezzy nods in approval.

STUART

Aw-right, ladies. This is great fun, yah... Dunno why we're bein' all stealth or whatevah, but hey... cool. Very cool.

Tammy Faye grabs his hand and looks him in the eye.

TAMMY FAYE

Thank you so much for helping me break out of here, Stuart. You are a very fine young man, and I'm certain you will beat whatever demons you're fighting right now.

Stuart is visibly moved. They have a moment until--

JEZZY

Yeah, thanks, Stuart-- and please don't say anything about this.

He looks up.

STUART

If anyone finds out, it ain't gonna be cos I tole 'em.

He nudges his chin in the direction of a LARGE WALL LENGTH WINDOW on the side of the building.

ANGLE ON a dozen rehab PATIENTS on exercise equipment, watching them -- all with bemused looks on their faces. Two MALE PATIENTS stand at a ping-pong table-- paddles up, game interrupted. Hannah, vaguely amused, stands at the glass with her arms crossed, peering out at them.

Jezzy and Tammy Faye freeze, unsure of how to proceed when a white Lincoln Continental pulls up the lane. It stops right in front of them.

We see Jim Bakker's pudgy face slowly appear as the window lowers. He's smiling from ear-to-ear.

JIM BAKKER

Hi, hun! Sorry I'm late, but you'll never guess the day I had--

TAMMY FAYE

Zip it, Jim.

Off Jim's puzzled look.

INT. BETTY FORD CENTER - LOBBY - DAY

Jezy and Tammy stand with an elegant, statuesque woman-- BETTY FORD herself. She glows from within, it seems.

Lindsay, Nurse Daisy, Peppa and Bruce surround them at a distance, as do Hannah, Barbara and a few other lookie-loo patients who witnessed Tammy's "great escape" moments ago.

TAMMY FAYE

I feel awfully silly now, Mrs. Ford. Trying to escape.

BETTY FORD

Please, call me Betty.

Tammy Faye basks in the woman's strength of presence.

TAMMY FAYE

You have some absolutely wonderful people working here, Betty.

Lindsay and the nurses stand up a little straighter hearing this.

BETTY FORD

I certainly agree with you.

TAMMY FAYE

And me leaving-- or *trying to escape*-- is no reflection on them.

Betty places her hand gently on Tammy Faye's shoulder.

BETTY FORD

The power to leave always rests with you.

Tammy Faye nods sheepishly, fully aware of the irony.

BETTY FORD (CONT'D)

But, if you don't get help here, please Tammy, get help somewhere.

With that, Mrs. Ford glides away. Tammy and Jezy are left with all eyes on them.

TAMMY FAYE

I'm really sorry everyone. I didn't mean to make such a spectacle with my botched escape attempt.

Laughter all around. Some patients call out to her.

PATIENT #1
It was fun to watch!

PATIENT #2
Anything to keep our minds off
things.

Tammy Faye smiles... and locks eyes with Hannah, but the girl looks away.

TAMMY FAYE
I know a lot of you have been hurt.
I have been hurt, horribly, on more
than one occasion. And it's a hard
thing sometimes to forgive people.
Right now, I could just spit at
that man outside waiting for me.

She points to Jim, outside the glass doors waiting by the car with Rick.

TAMMY FAYE (CONT'D)
But I have to forgive him... or
else it hurts *me*.
(then)
I didn't mean to go a preachin' but
whoa-- watch out!

While the small crowd erupts in laughter and cheers, Tammy turns to speak to Jezzy only.

TAMMY FAYE (SOTTO) (CONT'D)
Jezzy, I not only love and accept
you. I want to celebrate you. You
are the bravest, most beautiful and
talented person I have ever met.

Jezzy melts and hugs her tight. Tammy then turns back to the crowd.

TAMMY FAYE (CONT'D)
I want to tell you all a story, if
it's okay with our nurses here...

Nurse Daisy smiles and nods. More patients have emerged and stopped to listen.

TAMMY FAYE (CONT'D)
In ancient civilization, if you
killed somebody, instead of them
putting you in a jail like
nowadays, you know what they did?
(MORE)

TAMMY FAYE (CONT'D)

They took that dead person and they strapped that dead body to your back... And you know what ended up happening? That dead body ended up killing the person that was carrying him!

(beat)

I had a dead person on my back for a long time... it was my biological father who had abandoned me and my family when I was three years old... and I carried that man on my back until I heard a voice inside me say, "Tammy, lay him down. Just lay him down. I'll take care of him!"

Scanning the attentive faces, we land on Hannah wiping a tear from her face.

TAMMY FAYE (CONT'D)

And one day I finally unstrapped that dead body from my back. I laid that body down and I said, "God, he's not a part of me anymore... and I live!"

The crowd claps and cheers.

TAMMY FAYE (CONT'D)

Many of you may have a lot of people who have hurt you strapped to your backs. It may be your mom for leaving you when you needed her most.

She regards Jezzy who has tears in her eyes.

TAMMY FAYE (CONT'D)

(to Jezzy)

It may be your dad or some other family member never accepting you for the *wonderful* being that you are.

(back to the crowd)

You need to unstrap whoever hurt you. Get 'em off your back and go forward and live.

Stuart wipes a tear, and Barbara smiles her toothy grin.

TAMMY FAYE (CONT'D)

Lay 'em down, let 'em go and LIVE!

We hear claps and cheers. People swarm Tammy Faye. After a few hugs, she exits the building arm-in-arm with Jezzy.

EXT. BETTY FORD CENTER ENTRANCE - CONTINUOUS

We follow Jezzy and Tammy Faye as they approach the cab and the Lincoln, both parked on the curb. Jezzy's steam trunk is tied down to the cab's roof. Jim and Rick wait by the Lincoln with its trunk still open, filled with Tammy's luggage.

TAMMY FAYE

Come ride with me to our house. The cab can follow us with your luggage.

JEZZY

Are you sure you want me to come home with you?

TAMMY FAYE

I've never been more sure about anything in my life.

Jezzy feels hunky Rick's admiring gaze. She locks eyes with him and smiles -- THEY HAVE A MOMENT.

Tammy and Jim both catch this.

Jim turns and whispers something in Rick's ear, which causes Rick to grimace and turn away from Jezzy.

Tammy sees this, too. Jezzy looks like the wind has been knocked out of her. She walks to the cab and gets in.

INSIDE THE CAB...

JEZZY

Can you drive me to Los Angeles?

The CAB DRIVER turns to look at Jezzy and smiles broadly.

CAB DRIVER

For you beautiful lady, I'll take you wherever you want to go.

OUT ON THE CURB, Tammy looks pensive... then she makes a beeline for the cab and gets in next to Jezzy.

BACK BY THE LINCOLN... Jim and Rick exchange a confused look.

They watch as the cab driver emerges from his car and proceeds to transfer Tammy's luggage to the cab. Jim walks over to Tammy's closed window and yells.

JIM BAKKER
 Tammy, what ARE you DOING?!

She ignores him for a few seconds. He knocks at the window several times until, finally, the window rolls down with an audible ZEEEEEP.

Tammy stares straight ahead as he speaks to her.

JIM BAKKER (CONT'D)
 Tammy, I already said I'm sorry.
 Look, I'll say it again-- I AM
 SORRY I DIDN'T COME GET YOU SOONER!

Tammy turns to him and smiles.

TAMMY FAYE
 I forgive you, Jim.

ZEEEEEP! The window rises up as...

JEZZY
 Hallelujah! Praise the Lord!

MUSIC UP-- "Tammy Faye, I Love You" by Steven Wesley Guiles.

STEVEN WESLEY GUILLES
*Tammy Faye, I love you/ Don't ever
 let no one come break your heart...*

INSIDE THE CAB AS IT DRIVES AWAY--

Tammy Faye and Jezzy laugh like little kids.

THROUGH THE REAR WINDOW-- we see Jim throw his arms up in frustration. He shrinks further and further from view.

STEVEN WESLEY GUILLES
*Sister don't you break down/ Leave
 those haters coming back for
 more...*

Tammy Faye and Jezzy *finally* exhale and take in the moment.

STEVEN WESLEY GUILLES (CONT'D)
*Standing still never suited you/ Or
 crying alone in your bed/ You've
 got heart like San Francisco/
 You've got lips that raise the
 dead...*

(MORE)

STEVEN WESLEY GUILLES (CONT'D)

*Tammy Faye, I love you/ Don't ever
let no one come break your heart/
Sister don't you break down/ Leave
those haters coming back for more/
Tammy Faye I love you/ When your
eyes look into mine/ Sister you are
sweetness/ Of sweet, sweet love
divine... Locking doors never
suited you/ Or looking down, caving
in/ You've got heart big as Texas/
You speak love like a heroine...*

We watch Jezzy and Tammy Faye-- the giddiness and excitement of their newfound freedom gradually transforms into something more contemplative as they head off into the unknown.

FADE OUT.

LATER... Tammy Faye becomes a beloved ICON of the LGBTQ community.

-After her one-day stint at Betty Ford, Tammy eventually divorces Jim while he's incarcerated for wire and mail fraud and bilking his PTL ministry.

-Tammy is seen as an outcast and a joke in the Christian televangelism world, mainly due to her acceptance of the LGBTQ community, which includes her support of patients with HIV/AIDS beginning at the height of the AIDS epidemic in the early 1980s.

-In 1996 she co-hosts a secular talk show with gay actor Jim J. Bullock called the *Jim J. & Tammy Faye Show*. She quits the show when she finds out she has cancer for the second time.

-Over many years, Tammy Faye actively participates in a number of Gay Pride events nationwide, including judging Tammy Faye lookalike drag contests.

-In 2004, after having battled cancer twice previously, Tammy has a slight comeback when she stars in the reality series *The Surreal Life* alongside infamous porn star Ron Jeremy and rapper Vanilla Ice.

-In 2007, Tammy has her third and final battle with cancer. Weighing only 65 lbs, she makes her last appearance on the *Larry King Live Show*. One of her last messages is her deep love for the LGBTQ community. She tells Larry King that they were the only ones who stood by her when she was at her lowest, and she will love them forever for it.

-She dies the next day on July 20, 2017. Randy McCain, openly gay pastor of Open Door Community Church, officiates at her funeral.



A Tribute to Tammy Faye

https://youtu.be/P4GMMu_3jsc

Tammy singing "We're Blest!"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?>

Tammy on RuPaul's first talk show

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XVy88x63yg>