

The Decision

INT. BOSS' OFFICE - DAY

Neatly stacked columns of papers sit atop a glass-top desk along with a laptop and assorted office supplies. At the edge of this desk is a black name plate that reads: GREG BOMBAY. Mr Bombay, a tall statured man with a receding hairline and constant bulging vein in his forehead, sits at the desk staring at his computer screen

Bombay begins typing, his fingers slamming into the keys as his face twists into a scowl.

There is a knock at his door. Bombay sighs and rolls his eyes.

BOMBAY

Come in!

JULIE opens the door and slowly steps inside, cell phone in hand. Julie is a short woman in her mid-thirties with a weary slouch in her posture and constant bags under her eyes. She pushes her glasses up on her nose then moves closer towards Bombay's desk

JULIE

Sir,

(beat)

I need to take the day--

BOMBAY

Unacceptable. Go back to your desk.

JULIE

You know my--

BOMBAY

Your parents aren't in the best shape. You use this excuse every time--

Julie rubs her head

JULIE

It's not an excuse, believe me I would rather be here but they need someone around--

BOMBAY

I'm sorry. You're unreliable and keep rushing off.

(CONTINUED)

JULIE

Look, I wish I could say that it
will be the last--

Bombay waves a dismissive hand.

BOMBAY

Why don't you take the rest of the
week off to help your parents.

Julie opens her mouth to retort, but stops herself and
silently leaves the room.

EXT. JULIE'S HOME - DAY

A sedan pulls into the driveway of a plain, one-story house.
The home has no plants or flowers out front, only moderately
cut grass and a single tree.

The car stops and Julie steps out as the front door to the
house opens. BARBRA and WALT, Julie's parents, exit.

Barbra is an elderly woman wearing mom jeans and
thick-lensed glasses. She has an oxygen tank slung over one
shoulder and her over-sized purse over the other.

Walt is an elderly man with skinny legs and khaki shorts. He
walks with a cane.

Barbra and Walt shuffle towards the car as Julie opens the
door for the both of them.

BARBRA

(to Julie)

Julie! I didn't think you were
going to make it. We need to get
going or we'll be late.

JULIE

(to Barbra)

Calm down mom, I got here as fast
as I could. What's going on?

Julie manages to get both of her parents into the car. She
climbs back into the car.

INT. CAR - DAY

Julie pulls out of the driveway then proceeds down the road.

WALT

(to Julie)

Damn ExpressEx refuses to leave our packages on our porch. Instead they tack this sticky note on the door frame.

BARBRA

(to Julie)

We almost didn't see it and now we've got an hour til they close

Julie rolls her eyes

JULIE

Why couldn't you two do this tomorrow?

BARBRA

(to Julie)

Because you're working tomorrow, of course.

JULIE

I was working today! I keep telling you both this but you insist on disregarding it.

INT./EXT. CAR - EVENING

The car pulls towards the ExpressEx shipping center. All lights are off in the building; it is clearly closed. The car turns around and leaves.

INT. CAR - EVENING

After a brief moment of silence, Julie speaks up.

JULIE

I can't keep doing this.

WALT

(to Julie)

What's wrong honey?

(CONTINUED)

JULIE

Do you two realize why I came home
so early?

BARBRA

(to Julie)

We called you, it was an--

JULIE

(to Barbra)

I was fired! Greg fired me!

WALT

(to Julie)

Greg? Greg Bombay? The kid that
screwed up that contract?

BARBRA

(to Julie)

I thought you were the head of that
department?

JULIE

(to Barbra)

Almost, but that stunt you two
pulled with the cops made sure that
didn't happen

WALT

(to Julie)

What were we supposed to do you
weren't answering your--

JULIE

I'm tired of this! If you two want
to be helpless Tom and I will
arrange for a hospice or a home!

WALT

(to Julie)

You're still with him?

Julie glares at Walt from the rear-view window.

JULIE

(to Walt)

I'm still with him, what? After
that joke he made that you two took
out of context and still hate him
for? Yes I am.

(CONTINUED)

BARBRA

(to Julie)

I didn't realize we were being so demanding of you. We won't try to be a burden from here on out.

Everyone is silent for the remainder of the ride home.

INT. JULIE'S PARENTS' HOME - MORNING

Julie and Walt sit at the kitchen table watching television as Barbra finishes cooking breakfast and brings the two of them plates of pancakes, sausage, and fruit. Barbra makes a plate for herself then sits at the table across from Julie. Everyone silently watches television. After a moment of silence, Barbra looks up from her plate.

BARBRA

(to Julie)

While your out looking for a job, could you pick up some milk, we're out of milk.

Julie continues to eat and watching television.

JULIE

(to Barbra)

Mhmm.

BARBRA

(to Julie)

You may want to see if the supermarket is hiring since it's so much closer than your office was.

WALT

(to Julie)

And you can probably get flexible hours, too. So if something comes up it won't be such an issue.

JULIE

Mhmm.

Julie finishes her breakfast. She washes her dishes, grabs her bag, and heads towards the door. Walt continues watching television, while Barbra gets up to walk Julie to the door.

BARBRA

I'm sorry about last night, Good luck finding a new job, and don't forget the milk.

(CONTINUED)

JULIE

I won't. You two have a good day.

Barbra hugs Julie, who does not reciprocate

BARBRA

See you later.

JULIE

Yeah...

Julie exits the house, closing the door behind her. Barbra watches from the window as Julie drives away. She returns to the kitchen and begins cleaning dishes. She opens the refrigerator to put food away.

BARBRA

Oh, we're out of butter as well.

Barbra shuffles towards the counter and picks up her cell phone to call Julie.

SFX: phone ringing in another room

Barbra, with a quizzical look, follows the sound to its source.

INT. JULIE'S ROOM - MORNING

Barbra stands in the doorway. The room is a mess of old clothes on the bed and empty hangers strewn across the floor. The closet is empty save for a high school letter jacket and prom dress.

On the dresser, Julie's phone rings one last time before it goes silent. Barbra picks it up and reveals a note that was underneath it.

Barbra opens the note. It reads: I can't do this anymore. I'm leaving.