

# CAROLINE

COLD OPEN

EXT. CAROLINE AND BILL'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Pass Christian, Mississippi. A stately, gracious old Southern home in a small, charming Southern town.

The house glows warmly from within. We hear the faint sounds of *Jimmy Kimmel Live* from the TV inside.

INT. CAROLINE AND BILL'S HOUSE (LIVING ROOM) - NIGHT

BILL FLANAGAN, 60, stoic, and originally from the East Coast, sits on an old blue davenport, watching TV. He is entirely unamused by what he sees.

CAROLINE FLANAGAN, his wife, sits next to him. She's Bill's polar opposite; Southern, vivacious, artistic-- well put-together, but a free spirit at heart. She CACKLES appreciatively at one of Jimmy Kimmel's jokes.

START →

CAROLINE  
(to Bill)  
That was funny.

SC. 1

Caroline has a sweet Southern accent.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)  
Come on, you big nerd. Laugh once.  
I dare you.

Bill glances at her with weary affection. Caroline leans over and POKES him like a teasing child. Bill doesn't react.

Caroline leans over and POKES him again.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)  
It's funny!

Caroline, a ball of restless energy, hops up and heads to the kitchen to grab something. As she walks off, she "assaults" him with a flurry of humorous pokes, trying to get a response that will never come. Bill squirms away.

BILL  
Come on now, Caroline.

CAROLINE  
(exasperated)  
Oh!

1/8

UNT. TIG NOTARO

# CAROLINE

2.

Caroline disappears into the kitchen. Offscreen, we suddenly hear a loud CRASH. Bill's head swivels toward the ruckus.

BILL

Caroline?!

He gets up and heads for the kitchen.

CAROLINE (O.S.)

I'm fine. I'm fine!

Bill walks Caroline back to the couch. She brushes off his assist, rubbing her head.

BILL

You didn't hit your head, did you?

Caroline is shaken, but being her usual blasé self.

CAROLINE

Oh, relax.

BILL

You need to exercise caution. A fall could have major consequences at your age.

CAROLINE

(offended)

At whose age?

Bill rises from the couch.

BILL

I think I'm going to turn in.

CAROLINE

Well, g'night.

Caroline rubs her head.

BILL

Are you sure you're okay?

She pokes him playfully one more time. Bill exits. Caroline settles in with a bowl of peanuts in her lap.

INT. BILL & CAROLINE'S HOUSE (LIVING ROOM) - MORNING

TIME CUT. The sun rises and the light changes.

Bill enters the living room.

STOP

2/8

UNT. 716-NOTAR20

BILL  
Caroline?

Caroline is still sitting on the couch in the same position. The TV is still on, an obnoxious morning show blaring.

Bill comes around to face her. We see the CONFUSION on his face. He begins to SHAKE her.

CUT TO:

MAIN TITLES: "Jambalaya" by Creedence Clearwater Revival

~~INT. TIG'S APARTMENT (LOS ANGELES) - DAY~~

~~There's an open SUITCASE on a BED. A frail, exhausted TIG packs haphazardly, tossing T-shirts, jeans, and PRESCRIPTION PILL BOTTLES into a suitcase. She sits down on the bed to rest for a beat. We see a photo of Caroline on her nightstand.~~

~~Tig's girlfriend, BROOKE, enters the room. Her perky, attractive appearance is a stark contrast to Tig's outward suffering. She's working on a plate of leftover BIRTHDAY CAKE.~~

~~BROOKE  
Are you okay, babe?~~

~~TIG  
No.~~

~~Brooke examines the contents of Tig's suitcase critically.~~

~~BROOKE  
Are you planning to pack some different looks?~~

~~TIG  
Looks?~~

~~BROOKE  
Well, you're going down South. I know it's a little more formal there. Maybe pack a cute sandal.~~

~~TIG  
Just one cute sandal?~~

~~Tig cringes and clutches her abdomen, cursing silently.~~

~~BROOKE  
Oh my God. You're too sick to fly.~~

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# CAROLINE<sup>10.</sup>

TIG

Well, my mother keeps taking these big gulps of air. And then she stops breathing for like, 10 seconds, and then she takes another gulp. And I keep thinking each breath is going to be her last.

(then)

Is that going to happen soon?

The nurse glances at the chart nonchalantly.

NURSE

This is your mother? Caroline?

Tig FLASHES BACK to key memories of her mother.

CUT TO:

INT./EXT. VARIOUS (FLASHBACK)

EXT. SWIMMING POOL - DAY

We see a young, vibrant Caroline, smoking and drinking with her FRIENDS by a swimming pool in the '70s.

We pan to two TODDLERS-- Tig and Remy-- paddling around in the pool without flotation devices.

CAROLINE'S FRIEND

Caroline? Are ya babies okay?

CAROLINE

Oh sure. They're little fish.

Little Tig briefly sinks, then fights her way back up to the surface.

EXT. SOCCER FIELD - DAY

Caroline runs down the sidelines of Tig's soccer game cheering while she cracks open a BEER.

CAROLINE

Goddammit, kick the ball!

COACH

Mrs. Flanagan, I don't think it's appropriate to drink here.

CAROLINE

Ah, screw you!

SC. 2

START →

4/8



# CAROLINE

11.

INT. BAR - NIGHT

Caroline DANCES on a BAR TABLE, happily downing a cocktail.

Reveal that Caroline is the only patron choosing to celebrate in this particular way. The other CUSTOMERS stare in amusement. LITTLE TIG and LITTLE REMY sip Shirley Temples at the bar.

BACK ON TIG  
(PRESENT DAY):

~~STOP~~

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM/BATHROOM - SAME

TIG  
(from behind the door)  
Yes, she's my mother.

NURSE  
Well, it might be a while before  
she passes. She has very strong  
vitals.

TIG  
(to herself)  
I know.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DUSK

Hours have passed. Tig stares at her mother, who is now making a horrible GURGLING sound, as though she's drowning.

A different NURSE enters briskly.

NURSE #2  
Did you hit the call button?

TIG  
Yes. Thank you. Can you do that  
thing where you drain the fluid  
again? She can't breathe.

The gurgling is constant and unbearable. The nurse looks upon Tig with pity.

NURSE #2  
(gently)  
That's kind of the point.  
(then)  
I know its tough, but we're trying  
to let her go.

5/8

UNT. TIG NOTARO

# CAROLINE

16.

DRIVER

Oh. Sorry about that.

He starts the car.

EXT. CAROLINE AND BILL'S HOUSE (TO ESTABLISH) - NIGHT

The cab drops Tig off in front of Caroline and Bill's home in Pass Christian, Mississippi. It's around 3:00 a.m. There's a single light on inside, but it's dark otherwise.

INT. CAROLINE AND BILL'S HOUSE - SAME

SC. 3

Tig enters the house. There's no one there to greet her. A vision of her MOTHER, Caroline, emerges from the hallway in her nightgown.

START →

CAROLINE

Hey, sugah! Did you have fun tonight?

TIG

Not tonight, you died.

Tig disappears into her old bedroom-turned-spare bedroom.

~~INT. CAROLINE AND BILL'S HOUSE (KITCHEN) - MORNING~~

→  
CONT.

The morning after. Tig enters the kitchen, taking a few pills with a glass of water. Remy and Bill are there waiting for her. Remy looks devastated, Bill appears typically shell-shocked and emotionless.

Remy immediately draws Tig into a hug. There's a tearful beat as they squeeze each other tight. Then:

REMY

How did it go last night?

Tig has no idea how to answer this. She decides not to.

REMY (CONT'D)

Did she go peacefully?

Tig hesitates and glances at Bill, who doesn't seem to be interested in participating in this crucial conversation.

TIG

Why don't you picture the death scene from *Beaches* and that can be your memory?

6/8

BILL

Tig, I've thought about it, and you can keep your mother's possessions at the house. For now.

It's a huge deal for Bill to give in on this.

TIG

So you've accepted that I'm not going to sue you over Bonkerz' couch?

Bill has no response for this.

TIG (CONT'D)

Look, I'm going to stick around as long as it takes to get all of Mom's stuff in order, okay? I'm going to stay here for a while. I'm too sick to go back to L.A. anyway.

BILL

You're going to stay at the house?

TIG

Sure. Is that okay? I know we're not related anymore, but...

BILL

(interrupting)

Stay as long as you need.

This is as warm as Bill gets. It's a moment.

TIG

Okay.

(beat)

I'm going to step outside and get some air.

EXT. YACHT CLUB (BEACH) - DAY

Tig, alone, walks out onto the shore outside yacht club. She looks out at the water.

Caroline-- or Tig's vision thereof-- casually appears at Tig's side, holding a cocktail.

CAROLINE

Oh man, look at that water!

TIG

Oh, hey.

WTF. TIG NOTAR20

SC.3

UNT. →

7/8

CAROLINE  
How are you doing, Sweetie?

TIG  
Not great.

Caroline casually takes a swig of her drink.

CAROLINE  
Never thought I'd live to see the  
day Bill gave in on something.

TIG  
Technically, you didn't.

END.

Tig reaches for her phone. As she stares out at the sand and water, she FLASHES BACK to a BIRTHDAY PARTY she had on the beach as a child.

EXT. BEACH BIRTHDAY PARTY (FLASHBACK)

We see old Super 8 footage of Tig as a child, wearing a birthday hat, running in the sand, surrounded by her mother and family. Caroline takes a CAKE out of a cooler.

We hear AUDIO-- it's the VOICEMAIL: *Happy birthday to you, happy birthday to you...*

BACK ON TIG (PRESENT DAY).

The voicemail ends. Tig is alone. She watches the (1) on her phone's voicemail icon vanish. *No new messages.*

Suddenly, two YOUNG CHILDREN race past Tig, oblivious to the solemnity of the occasion. One shouts gleefully at Tig, quoting her eulogy.

CHILD #1  
"Go to hell!"

The other child gasps gleefully as they run off. Tig watches them disappear down the beach.

END OF EPISODE

8/8

UNT: TIG NOTAKO