



MONTAGE of photographs: Cindy entering Renee's apartment, suitcase in-tow; Cindy and Renee hugging; Cindy cooking for Renee; Cindy and Renee watching TV; Cindy folding Renee's laundry, etc. Narrator's VO plays over sequence.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Cindy is visiting her mother, Renee, who lives at an assisted living home in Nebraska.

A Californian, Cindy has recently increased the frequency of her biannual visits to monthly, out of concern for her mother's recent diagnosis with probable Alzheimer's disease.

One of the home's administrator's called Cindy last week, urging her to talk to her mother about her driving. Twice in the past month, Renee backed into parked cars while driving other residents on local errands.

INT. RENEE'S APARTMENT - DAY

CINDY, 50ish, enters carrying a grocery bag full of food. RENEE is sitting on a couch, watching TV.

CINDY

I got you everything on the list, but they were out of two-percent. You're gonna have to deal with skim.

Renee doesn't divert her eyes from the TV.

RENEE

(annoyed)

What about the licorice?

CINDY

I got your licorice.

RENEE

The black licorice.

CINDY



Yes, the black. I know, ma. You told me. Three times.

Cindy places the grocery bag onto a counter that frames a kitchenette.

RENEE
I forget things, remember?

CINDY
Funny.

Cindy begins putting away the groceries.

CINDY (CONT'D)
I talked to Mitch. He sends his love.

A beat.

CINDY (CONT'D)
He booked a flight to come back with me next month. He said he's gonna take you to the Italian place with the piano bar.

Renee nods and smiles just slightly.

Cindy finishes with the groceries, opens two cans of diet soda, and sits in a chair next to her mother. Her mother pretends not to notice and instead feigns concentrating on the TV.

CINDY (CONT'D)
You're not talking to me?

A beat.

CINDY (CONT'D)
Ma?

A beat.

Cindy gently pries the remote from her mother's hands and turns off the TV. Her mother stares forward at the black screen, not daring to look at her daughter.

CINDY (CONT'D)



I thought we could go out later and get you a few scarves. It's getting cold already.

A beat.

CINDY (CONT'D)
Hello? Is anyone there?

RENEE
You don't need to keep treating me like a kid.

A beat. The moment Cindy knew was coming.

CINDY
Ma, you're doing great, you really are.

RENEE
Please don't patronize. You're the daughter, remember?

CINDY
I'm not patronizing. I just - I saw your car. In the lot.

A beat.

RENEE
I was texting and driving. That's the right word, isn't it? Texting? I promise, I won't do it again.

CINDY
Not funny.

A beat.

RENEE
I told you, they backed into me.

CINDY
They were parked cars, ma. Your friends told me.

A beat.

CINDY (CONT'D)
Ma, please.



Cindy places her hand on Renee's knee and keeps it there until her mother makes eye contact.

RENEE

I drive fine. If my loud mouth friends would quit yapping for two seconds, I could concentrate better.

A beat.

CINDY

They're definitely loud, no argument there. But just in case there's something else.

A beat.

CINDY (CONT'D)

I don't want anything happening to you.

A beat.

CINDY (CONT'D)

I've got too many frequent flier miles to use up.

Renee smiles. Finally, a breakthrough.

RENEE

I'm not going anywhere. You worry too much. (thinking) How about if I promise just to drive alone, no distractions.

CINDY

How about this: You've been a great driver your whole life, I know that, but just to be safe, what if we get another opinion.

RENEE

As long as the opinion is that I can drive.

CINDY

I know you know better than that. You've always done the right thing.

A beat.



CINDY (CONT'D)
Here's what I'd like you to do. If

RENEE
(interrupting)
What if?

CINDY
I said, if the Department of Motor Vehicles says its OK. They've got a driving evaluation test, they do tests all the time to assess safety risks.

RENEE
I've driven with you. Now that's a safety risk.

CINDY
If everything checks out, great, but we keep getting that driving test every few months. Just to make sure.

A beat.

RENEE
The doctor said probable. That means there's a doubt. So we don't even know for sure that I have it.

CINDY
That's true, but it also means that it's probable, which means more likely than not.

And besides driving is, well, it's stressful. At any age. And with everything going on, your losing dad, your move here, you don't need that extra stress.

RENEE
(re: her pill case on the coffee table) I thought those were supposed to take care of my stress.

CINDY
I spoke with the staff, they said their ride service is available every day of the week.



RENEE

Ride service. Everyone who takes it is like a hundred!

CINDY

Ma, you've been so giving your whole life, for once, let others have the satisfaction of helping you. And if you'd rather not take the service here, the women from your church will drive you, I spoke with Teri last week, she'd love to help.

RENEE

Teri. She's so cheap, I can't afford what she'd charge for gas.

CINDY

It's worth the dollar or two.

RENEE

Try five. Or probably ten.

CINDY

Ma, don't worry about the money.

RENEE

Easy for you to say. You married a lawyer.

CINDY

You've got plenty of money in your account. Even for friends who overcharge.

RENEE

(thinking)

Uch, she'll probably drone on about her grandchildren. It's torture, you have no idea.

CINDY

Look at it this way, you could text all you want.

Renee smiles slightly. A bittersweet moment.

RENEE

I liked you better when you visited less often.



Renee grabs the remote, turns on the TV, and settles in to her show.

CINDY
I love you, too, Ma.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

A BLACK SCREEN. (ALT. RENEE AND CINDY WATCHING TV DURING THE V.O.)

(NOTE: The following could always be accompanied by still images that recount the referenced interactions.)

NARRATOR (V.O.)
Speaking with a loved one about
Alzheimer's and driving is a
sensitive yet critical event.
Here's what you can do to ensure
the safety of your loved one.

SUPER: Reaffirm your love and support.

NARRATOR (V.O.)
Living with Alzheimer's can be
lonely and frightening, especially
when family members are not always
close-by. While Cindy lives in
California, she and her husband
Mitch have both increased their
Nebraska visits, and Cindy does not
miss a chance to remind her mother
that she loves her.

SUPER: Initiate a dialogue.

NARRATOR (V.O.)
It's never too early to initiate a
positive and productive
conversation about driving. Cindy
integrates the driving discussion
during a multi-day visit, not
during a brief encounter that would
otherwise appear confrontational.

SUPER: Stress the positive while offering alternatives.

NARRATOR (V.O.)



Driving is an empowering activity, especially for seniors. Finding an alternate driving source can help alleviate feelings of helplessness while preserving independence. Cindy tells her mother that driving is stressful while suggesting ride alternatives from the assisted living home and from church friends.

SUPER: Address resistance while offering support

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Renee tries to downplay the dents on her car, and Cindy counters by directly but gently confronting the situation and its gravity. She also informs her mother of the driving evaluation test at the Department of Motor Vehicles, an objective, third-party assessment that helps in the decision-making process.

SUPER: Appeal to your loved one's sense of responsibility

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Cindy reminds her mother that she has always done the right thing, appealing to her sense of responsibility as she considers letting others provide driving assistance.

FADE TO BLACK.