



INT. JANET AND JOE'S KITCHEN - EVENING

A suburban kitchen. JOE and JANET, in their 70s, are eating dinner with their 20something kids, ALEX and LAURA. Dinner is winding down, and Janet and Laura clear the dishes.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Janet has been diagnosed with Early Stage Alzheimer's. She has not yet had problems driving, finding her way, or keeping appointments,

AD LIB conversation among the family members.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Accepting that her condition will one day deteriorate, though, she has developed a plan to share with her family.

JANET

(playfully)

(re: Alex's plate, which has been licked clean) Didn't like it, huh?

ALEX

Another Iron Chef Sunday, Ma. Great stuff.

Laura fills a kettle with water and places it on the stove, heating it.

JANET

Laura, honey, sit, everything's cleared. I've got something. Before coffee.

Laura sits. Janet reaches for a stack of papers that she distributes to all.

ALEX

What's this?

LAURA

(reading) Planning for the future?

ALEX



(noticing) Oh, come on, ma.

JOE

Easy, both of you. Your mother's been working hard on this.

JANET

With your father's help.

Alex and Laura scan the document.

JANET (CONT'D)

As you know ... I have Alzheimer's.

ALEX

Early Alzheimer's.

LAURA

Ma, it's been two months. What is this?

JANET

Look, I know it's early, but I recognize that I Ñ

JOE

(overlapping)
We Ñ

JANET

That we are in store for some changes. My condition's going to change. I know that ...

LAURA

Ma ...

ALEX

We're having this talk now?

JOE

Alex, Laura, please.

Alex and Laura exchange a look. This is no time to argue. They settle in, recognizing that their mother and father have thought this through.

JANET

That's right: I'm fine. Now. But that's gonna change. And an early concern my doctor brought up is



driving. It's gonna be hard giving it up, the independence, the freedom, but I need you Ñ both of you, all of you Ñ you need to pay careful attention and be honest with me about my driving.

ALEX

(joking but not protesting)

You're a terrible driver ... And your car's a mess.

JOE

Alex.

JANET

You need to be up front with me about the changes, any changes, things you see that you think are safety concerns.

LAURA

Of course, Ma.

JANET

I know that one day, it's not gonna be safe for me to drive. I need you to help me handle the progression. With dignity.

ALEX

This sucks.

JOE

Alex.

ALEX

Seriously, I know, I get it. But it's depressing. I hate talking about it.

JANET

It's OK.

ALEX

It might not even happen, too. You said, the medicine's working.

JANET



Alex. Honey. I appreciate your wanting things to stay like they've been. Really.

JOE

Things are going to change ... Your mother put this together, it's important for her, for us, to know that there's a plan in place.

JANET

I love you, all of you, so much. I'm so grateful, for every minute we have together.

She turns and reaches for another stack of papers on the credenza and distributes them to all.

JANET (CONT'D)

This is something that Dr. Beal, my neurologist, we worked through the details and I need your help in honoring it.

Janet and Alex scan the document. Joe and Janet watch their reaction.

LAURA

(reading) Agreement with my family about driving?

JANET

That's right. It's kind of like a contract. To make sure we're all on the same page. It's an agreement, I need all of you to sign it. It says when I'm no longer able, (scanning the document for the right word) when it's not reasonable for me to drive, that you tell me. All of you.

JOE

You're both to sign and date a copy.

LAURA

This is so formal. Come on ...

JANET



It's to clarify things, sweetie.
Things are going to get tough.

ALEX

(rolling his eyes) So what, like
when you back into our mailbox, we
take away your keys?

JANET

Every six months, I'll get my
driving skills re-evaluated at the
D-M-V. And your father and I
changed the car title, it's now in
both of our names.

Joe reaches for a small box underneath a coffee table. He
opens it.

JOE

And this is a GPS kit, it's called
Comfort Zone. This'll be a huge
help, it's a location tool.

Joe examines the box.

JOE (CONT'D)

Alex or Laura, maybe after dinner,
we can go through this. You hook it
up to the Internet.

ALEX

Of course.

LAURA

Sure, Dad.

JANET

I know this is rough. On all of us.

A beat. All eyes are on Janet. She reaches out to all,
touching their hands and offering a reassuring smile.

JANET (CONT'D)

And we're gonna get through it. By
facing things together. But it's
important that we plan ahead.

SFX: Kettle WHISTLING.

FADE OUT.



FADE IN:

A BLACK SCREEN.

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

NARRATOR (V.O.)

For those diagnosed with Alzheimer's, it's never too early to plan ahead, especially when it comes to driving.

SUPER: Involve loved ones.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Directly engaging family members provides an element of support that's crucial during this very difficult time. Janet developed a detailed plan and shared it with her family.

SUPER: Confront resistance.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

While deflecting and repressing may be standard modes of communication within a family, it's important to overcome those defenses when dealing with Alzheimer's. While Janet's son, Alex, protested that he didn't want to discuss his mother's condition, she empathized with his discomfort but addressed the importance of discussing things directly.

SUPER: Develop an agreement for all to share.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

The progression of Alzheimer's is uncertain, so developing an agreement for all to follow ensures uniform action. Janet presents a document to her family that her neurologist helped create. She presents it to all to sign and date.



SUPER: Take practical steps to ensure safety.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

In anticipation of the progression of Alzheimer's, there are practical steps to ensure maximum safety. Janet has indicated that she will have her driving skills re-evaluated every six months at the DMV, she has placed the title to her car in both her and her husband's name, and she has invested in a Comfort Zone GPS tracking system. Collectively, they will provide added means of support for her and her family during her transition.

FADE TO BLACK.