

A close-up, high-angle portrait of a woman with dark hair and eyes, looking directly at the camera with a neutral expression. The lighting is soft and focused on her face, with a dark, blurred background.

IF I WERE
A JET

PITCH DECK

**Actors shown are not attached

LOGLINE

The dynamics of a close-knit family is disrupted when the eldest sibling of four sisters attempt suicide. Subsequent family counseling sessions bring up unresolved trauma and petty childhood grievances. For the sake of their sisterhood and to heal as a family they must learn how to navigate their complicated feelings toward one another.

SYNOPSIS

For years FAITH has wrestled with depression steaming from the death of her mother and the misguided guilt of it being her fault. Upon learning a seemingly innocuous piece of news, she attempts to end her life. Fortunately for her, a literal guardian angel won't let that happen. Emergency services are called and Faith is admitted into a psychiatric wellness center for treatment.

There, Faith has numerous encounters with a nurse whose presence inexplicably provides her with peace. Unbeknownst to Faith, and us, this is her guardian angel. Also by her side, for better or worse, is Faith's self-proclaimed "close-knit" family. As a unit, they are incapable of being vulnerable. They mock anyone in their orbit and with each other they communicate via micro-aggressive comments disguised as jokes. Faith struggles to find her voice when dealing with them. She sees herself as their protector which comes at a tremendous cost to her own well-being.

Her therapist suggests family group counseling. They reluctantly agree and all hell breaks loose. During the session, petty childhood grievances are debated before we get to the root of it all - the entire family is suffering from grief and internalized trauma. This leads to a shared moment of vulnerability with the session ending on a hopeful note.

The next day, Faith has a poignant conversation with her nurse/guardian angel that reveals the implausible - that the nurse is actually her mother incarnate. Reeling from this prompts a flash back to the day her mother died. Faith relives the events, as do we, as they really happened and not as she believed them to have happened. The revelations are palpable. Her eyes brim with tears as she attempts to process what she just experienced. Faith looks around for the nurse who is no longer there. Through the tears we understand that Faith's all-consuming guilt has been assuaged and that she is undoubtedly on the road to recovery.

THE FAMILY

THE LUDLOW'S

FAITH, family martyr, **MANNY**, father and brooding chauvinist. **WHITNEY**, stoic outsider, her sensitive lesbian **SYDNEY** and **RAYNE**, youngest sister, flamboyant influencer.





FAITH

FAITH IS THE FAMILY'S SELF-APPOINTED MARTYR.

Her Suicide attempt is where the story begins. She's living with guilt over the death of her mother and can't move forward. As the oldest sibling and fueled by a tinge of guilt, she took on the role of surrogate mother to her siblings. As a result, they take her for granted and she harbors resentment towards them for stealing her childhood and towards her father for all but disappearing after her mother's death. For her to heal, she must find her voice, confront her siblings and release the guilt in the process.

WHITNEY

WHITNEY IS THE SELF-APPOINTED BLACKSHEEP OF THE FAMILY.

Although, she is a twin to Sydney, she often feels left out and misunderstood. She hides her feelings behind a resting bitch face. She does what she can to distance herself from the family. Including spending more time with her white husband and his family. When Faith gets hospitalized Whitney finds herself stepping into the big sister/mother role - possibly to redeem herself. She wrestles with imposter syndrome and just wants to feel loved.



SYDNEY

SYDNEY LOOKS LIKE A LION BUT IS A BIG PUSSYCAT.

She wears her heart on her sleeve. Openly gay since a young age, her sisters accept her as is but her father is another story. She's constantly trying to prove herself to him – can she be the son he wishes he had. She is fiercely loyal to her family to a fault. She allows their views of her to dictate how she sees herself. She needs to deal with her identity crisis in order to heal.



RAYNE

**RAYNE, RAYNE, RAYNE.
CHARISMATIC, DRAMATIC
AND OVERCOMPENSATING.**

Rayne is the youngest sister and it shows. She lost her leg in the accident that killed their mother but you wouldn't know it to look at her. She radiates confidence, well, cockiness is more like. She resents Faith the most for playing "mother" to her, but really her hard edge is unresolved trauma stemming from feelings of abandonment. In order to heal she has to open up and allow herself to be vulnerable.



BLAKE

BLAKE IS A BROKEN MAN. A BROODING CHAUVINIST WHO LOST HIS WIFE AND HIS WAY.

He has been living a shell of a life since his wife died. The trauma was too great to bear causing him to make the dire decision of leaving his daughters to be raised by their grandmother. He must redeem himself in their eyes AND forgive himself if he wants to heal.



COMPS

SIMILAR THEMES

Movies about dysfunctional families, guilt, grief, mental health, family secrets, abandonment issues, unconditional love and self-acceptance

THE WHALE

THE KING OF STATEN ISLAND

THE FAREWELL

THIS IS WHERE I LEAVE YOU

THE GOOD HALF



DIRECTORS STATEMENT

I'm from a big Midwest family. A ton of aunts, uncles and cousins. I'm one of six siblings. We have the same father but not the same Mother. There are five different mothers - yikes! And while this doesn't affect how we see each other - we consider ourselves full siblings no halvesies in my family - but, I'd be lying if I said this dynamic doesn't at times cause drama. Someone always feels slighted in one way or another. Over the years we've fallen into categories: the peacemaker, the one with the attitude, the push over, the exaggerator, etc. But what I realized is that underneath it all we desperately love each other. We're just too much alike (stubborn, mean, petty) to be vulnerable with each other. Maybe out of fear or self-preservation....



RELEVANCE

...either way, this is damaging to our relationships. When I'm scrolling online or watching reality shows I see that is also prevalent in the world. No matter race creed or color. Families seem to be falling apart. Often you can trace it back to when family the patriarch or matriarch dies. We're all having a hard time relating to each other and we're all suffering as a result. Suicides are up, mental health is a major issue, the country, if not the world, is collectively hurting. All of that makes this story is timely and relatable.

IMPACT CAMPAIGN

Seeking counseling, dealing with mental health and engaging in self-care practices have not always been priority in some communities. In fact, it has often been viewed as weak or even taboo. We know that self-care empowers individuals with coping mechanisms to navigate life's challenges. Our impact campaign is aimed at stressing the importance of self-care for maintaining good health and promoting overall life satisfaction.

Our impact campaign would strive to use creative ways to tie in themes and aspects of the film to health care events with the intent of getting more families (as a unit) to seek therapy. Outreach ideas:

OPEN MIC NIGHTS

- Our lead character writes poetry. We would hold several open mic nights with the theme being mental health, self-care, emotional well-being. Have poets sharing their personal stories of self-care, depression and recovery.

ART THERAPY NIGHTS

- One of the characters is a painter. We would host "Art as Therapy" events that brings families together for a screening and a paint your feelings therapy session.

SCREENING WITH Q&AS

- A group event for siblings where they discuss issues specific to familial connections and provide guidance on ways to work through the issues. Curated for families specifically and moderated by a licensed therapist.

LIVE SOCIAL MEDIA EVENTS

- live mini counseling sessions where we take questions from online viewers (old school radio style)

FAMILY PHYSICAL THERAPY SESSIONS

- Sessions using therapeutic practices used in the film: yoga, sound baths, nature

GAME NIGHT

- Provide games crafted for therapy that are geared toward families learning having to open up to each other (truth or dare, Never Have I Ever, Would You Rather, etc.)

EDUCATION RESOURCES

- A website that provides literature, examples of self-care, counseling and stress relief ideas that can be implemented at home with little to no costs to the participant: meditations, prayer physical activity, reading, etc.

SHOOTING ATMOSPHERE STYLE / LOOK

NATURAL MAKEUP, GLOWING SKIN,
MOODY, WARM, MIXED SOFT LIGHTING

FOCUSED AND INTIMATE
CINEMATOGRAPHY

SINGLES, LONG LENSES, CLOSEUPS

HOLIDAY SEASON

UPSCALE SELF-CARE
FACILITY

MIDDLE CLASS
SUBURBAN
NEIGHBORHOODS

MODERN THERAPY
SETTINGS









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