JESSICA
I’ve got it. I will be here.

The veterinarian walks out and Jessica goes back to working and answering calls.

24 EXT. BARREL RACING ARENA - DAY 24

Jessica is seen sitting in the stands of a local weekend type barrel race wearing her work clothes. There’s lots of activity around in the stands and in the arena.

CUT TO:

Some intense barrel racing inside the arena with a musical background. Some slow motion shots of a horse making a turn around a barrel and some of the crowd cheering as the girls make a run.

CUT TO:

A group of teenage girls is walking past Jessica, going up the steps between arena seats. Jessica takes notice of them as they pass and smiles, thinking of when she was that age and just starting out. After they pass Jessica’s focus goes back to the arena, watching a racer running the barrels.

CUT TO:

Back in the arena, a racer hits a barrel hard as Jessica cringes at the sight of it all.

CUT TO:

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At the top of the steps stands a woman, Jessica’s mother GAIL. She starts coming down the steps after she passes the young girls at the top. She looks to be in her 50’s but you can see she tries to look younger. She has a bright color streak in her hair which is popular but also helps her to hide the gray. She makes her way down and sits in a seat in a row in front and to the right of Jessica.

Jessica takes notice of the woman and her expression changes from enjoying the barrel race to one of disappointment. They never look each others’ way during the conversation.

JESSICA
I guess it’s just my lucky day that you choose to sit there?

GAIL
My daughter is always so happy to see her mother.

JESSICA
There was a time that I wanted to see you... I needed to see you... but I never did!

GAIL
So, how are you doing Jessica?

Jessica is annoyed.

JESSICA
Oh please! What do you want? You didn’t just happen to show up here.

GAIL
I’m surprised you are not down there?

She points down toward the area where the racers are running.

GAIL
I walked around looking for you before coming up here.

JESSICA
I would have but I had to work today. You know... work! I’ve been doing it since I was 15.

GAIL
I didn’t come here to fight, Jessica.

Jessica cuts her off before she could finish what she had to say.

JESSICA
Well that’s all we ever do... that is when we see each other once or twice a year!

GAIL
You are so much like your grandfather.

JESSICA
Let’s not talk about Poppa!

GAIL
Ok, but he was a good man. I wish I could have been more like him.

Jessica rolls her eyes and shifts her position in her seat.

GAIL
(laughs)
Lord knows I tried his patience didn’t I?

Gail takes notice of Jessica’s boots that are propped up on the seat in front of her.

GAIL
You were easy to spot with them red boots on.

JESSICA
What do you want... Gail?

Gail looks hurt at being called only by her first name.

GAIL
I knew I could find you here. I just wanted to see how you are doing. You look like you are healthy.

JESSICA
I am!

GAIL
But are you happy?

Jessica is even more annoyed at the question.

JESSICA
Oh spare me the concern over my health and happiness! You didn’t give a damn as long as Poppa could take care of me.

Gail sees the conversation is not going a well as she had hoped.

JESSICA
And when he died, you figured a teenage girl could fend for herself too! Why the sudden concern?

GAIL
A mother always has those concerns Jessica. Even when they don’t show it.

JESSICA
Yes, a mother does have those concerns. I just never had one!

Gail is hurt and sees the resolve of this meeting was not going well. She gets up and brushes herself off a little. She looks Jessica in the eye for the first time.

GAIL
Well, let’s say your mother had concerns now and just leave it at that.

JESSICA
I’ll give you an update when I see you again next year!

Gail begins to walk away but reaches out and touches Jessica. Jessica does not move.

GAIL
Yes... next year.

Gail disappears with Jessica never looking toward her. Jessica focuses back on the barrel race but is noticeably angry over the encounter.

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Gail stops at the top of the steps and watches for a moment to see if Jessica looks back at her leaving. But she never does. Gail walks away and disappears into the crowd.

25 INT. JESSICA’S TRUCK 25

Jessica is driving home from the arena when she comes upon the house she has noticed before. It’s a nice home with pasture land, a barn but noticeably missing is any sign of livestock? She slows down to take notice of the place. It’s obvious she would love to have one like that.

As she passes she turns her attention back toward the road. Further on, she notices a young girl in the front yard of a home playing. Jessica watches the girl as she drives by and begins to reflect.