Left Behind

by Katie Bloomer

SCENE I

*Wednesday, mid-morning. A small townhome. A young woman walks into the living-room, another sits in the adjoined kitchen. Both look tired and disheveled, and the house is covered in empty bottles and trash.*

**SAVANNA:** Uuuuuuuugh..…..

**CHLOE:** Oh……. my……. god…….

**SAVANNA:** I know…..

**CHLOE:** I’m dying.

**SAVANNA:** I’m already dead.

**CHLOE:** [*walks to the pantry, digs around and knocks things over before returning to sit next to Savanna with a small medicine bottle*]Here ya go.

**SAVANNA:** Mmmmm thanks…[*grabs bottle and takes a couple pills with her coffee*]

**CHLOE:** What time you goin in?

**SAVANNA:** One… but I’m gonna call in…

**CHLOE:** Yeah, me too. Can’t work when I’m dead.

**SAVANNA:** We can’t both call in!

**CHLOE:** What, so you get off and I gotta go?!

**SAVANNA:** [*groans and lays head on the cool counter*]They’re gonna kill us…

**CHLOE:** Yeah…

**SAVANNA:** Oh well! They suck anyways!

**CHLOE:** Amen!

**SAVANNA:** Amen!

**CHLOE:** [*sighs and stands up*]Guess I’ll call em… or text em… whatever… [*looks around living-room for phone, finds it and sits on the couch*]I’ll go ahead and tell em you’re not coming either, okay?

**SAVANNA:** Sounds good, thanks.

[*Long pause while Chloe sends text message*]

**CHLOE:** You wanna go to the mall or something later?

**SAVANNA:** I gotta shower first... try and get my fucking hair under control…[*tousles hair with her fingers*]I’m tellin ya, it feels like a fucking rainforest!

**CHLOE:** Ugh, I feel ya there. Damn humidity’s got it just… ugh!

**SAVANNA:** You gonna shower too?

**CHLOE**: I already did…Anyway, you wanna go to North Park? Or Galleria?

**SAVANNA:** Haven’t been to North Park in a hot minute.

**CHLOE:** That sounds good. Wanna invite Liz?

**SAVANNA:** Nah… she’ll just say no. Besides, she’s probably even more dead than us.

[*Both laugh softly*]

**CHLOE:** Oh god yeah. She was soooo fucking trashed last night!

**SAVANNA:** Oh god, just fucking embarrassing…

**CHLOE:** I know, right?

**SAVANNA:** Ugh, she’s such a lightweight. I mean, did you see the way she was climbing all over Mark? Three drinks and she’s slutting after every guy around.

**CHLOE:** I know! I mean, Mark?!

**SAVANNA:** Slutty, slutty, slutty…And desperate! Like, have you seen Mark?!

**CHLOE:** Wish I hadn’t![*laughs so hard she starts coughing*]so…[*takes a sip of coffee*]Should we clean up a bit before we go?

**SAVANNA:** Ha! Fuck no! We’ll just do it later.

**CHLOE:** Ugh fine, but I’m not doing it by myself!

**SAVANNA:** Don’t worry, just get ready.

**CHLOE:** You wanna invite anyone else?

**SAVANNA:** Nah…

**CHLOE:** Alright. How long you gonna be? Like, 30 minutes?

**SAVANNA:** Mmmm, make it more like 45.

**CHLOE:** Sounds good.

[*Both exit*]

SCENE II

*That afternoon. A crowded mall. Despite the crowd, it’s fairly quiet, with soothing music playing overhead. Water fountains and art sculptures are scattered in-between high-end clothing stores and cafes. Chloe and Savanna wear nice clothes, high-heels and big sunglasses, and both carry a few shopping bags and green-colored drinks.*

**CHLOE:** Wanna stop in there?

**SAVANNA:** Oh hell no! Last time, this check-out bitch had the nerve to tell me the skirt I got “wasn’t a flattering color.” Can you believe that?!

**CHLOE:** Seriously?! What colored was it?

**SAVANNA:** Blush pink!

**CHLOE:** Are you kidding me? The pleated one?

**SAVANNA:** Yeah!!

**CHLOE:** Ah, that looks so good on you though!

**SAVANNA:** I know right? Then again, pretty much everything looks good on me.[*giggles*]

**CHLOE:** Oh seriously though! Everything does! Makes me hate you sometimes.

**SAVANNA:** Oh shut up.

**CHLOE:** Seriously! No wonder guys are always groveling at your feet. Asking for your number and taking you out to nice places.

**SAVANNA:** Oh stop it.

**CHLOE:** Oh please, don’t play humble. It’s amazing you can even keep track of all the guys who treat you --

**SAVANNA:** Look who’s talking! Missed spoiled-rotten over here…

**CHLOE:** Uh, I am not spoiled.

**SAVANNA:** Oh please.

**CHLOE:** Am not!

**SAVANNA:** Yeah right. Who bought you that expensive little dress? Or those pretty little heels? I forget, was it David or Matt? What about your fancy little jewelry box? And all the pretty little things you fill it with? Was it one of them, or could it have been Jason? Or Don? Or --

**CHLOE:** Okay okay, I get your point. No need to be a bitch about it…

**SAVANNA:** I’m just sayin…

**CHLOE:** So what if they buy me stuff? I’m not forcing them! They like paying for stuff, and I like real gentlemen like that!

**SAVANNA:** True.

**CHLOE:** Besides, it’s not like I’m sleeping around. I --

**SAVANNA:** Are you saying I sleep around?!

**CHLOE:** No no no! You just list all these guys like I’m some kind of slut who’ll just hop around to any guy like a -- like a -- a gold digger! I’ve never cheated on anyone!

**SAVANNA:** I know…

**CHLOE:** I love David! And I loved all the guys before… I’m not just a some money-grubbing slut ya know…

**SAVANNA:** I know. And I wasn’t saying you were. I was just trying to make a point that you’ve got a… certain… type. Just like I got a certain type. No judgement here. Right?

**CHLOE:** Yeah… sorry…

**SAVANNA:** It’s all good.[*takes a sip of her drink*]So, how’re things with David?

**CHLOE:** Oh, good! Our one year’s comin up!

**SAVANNA:** Oh, that’s awesome! Anything planned?

**CHLOE:** Yeah, but he said he’s gonna surprise me.

**SAVANNA:** Uh, I can’t even imagine dating someone for that long. I feel like it’d get too boring.

**CHLOE:** [*Chloe had stopped paying attention and was looking at her phone*]Hmmmm…

**SAVANNA:** What?

**CHLOE:** Jenny texted.

**SAVANNA:** Oh, they mad we didn’t show?

**CHLOE:** Yeah, but more so at Liz.

**SAVANNA:** She didn’t show either?

**CHLOE:** Nope. No call no show.

**SAVANNA:** No surprise. Way she was acting last night it’s amazing if she’s still alive.

**CHLOE:** Hmmmmm…. I’m gonna try calling her.

**SAVANNA:** Why?

**CHLOE:** Well, Jenny said no one can get in touch with her. I’m a little worried…

**SAVANNA:** Oh please…

**CHLOE** [*dials the phone, listens, hangs up*]No answer…

**SAVANNA:** She’s fine! Probably still sleeping.

**CHLOE:** You think she’s at home?

**SAVANNA:** Either there or some fuck-boys place.

**CHLOE:** Maybe we should try and check on her?

**SAVANNA:** Ugh, come on! I bet you hundred bucks she’s just sleeping off the tequila. She’s fine!

**CHLOE:** Still…

**SAVANNA:** [*groans loudly*]Fine… let’s go.

[*Both exit*]

SCENE III

*That evening. Just outside Liz’s house. The sun is starting to go down, and the girls are standing just outside their parked car. The neighborhood is packed full of small houses with faded paint, chain-link fences and cracked sidewalks, and the grassless front lawns are littered with old furniture, cars, equipment and toys.*

**SAVANNA:** Ugh, I always hate coming here!

**CHLOE:** Yeah, I know what you mean.

**SAVANNA:** Like, why does she chose to live in such a pigsty?! I mean, does she really like living in such a trashy place?

**CHLOE:** Well, she lives by herself. She probably can’t afford anything better.

**SAVANNA:** Yeah, I hear ya… but it’s like, where does all her money go then?

**CHLOE:** What do you mean?

**SAVANNA:** I mean, she lives in this cheap-ass place, then says she never has money to go out with us? Go drinking or shopping or nothing? I don’t know, her attitude lately’s just been pissing me off. Like, she think she’s too good to hang with us or something?!

**CHLOE:** I don’t know, maybe she’s just saving up?

**SAVANNA:** Ugh, why though? Money is for spending on nice things!

**CHLOE**: Ha, amen to that! [*They walk in silence up to the house*] Well, her car’s in the driveway.

**SAVANNA:** Then ring the doorbell.[*Walks up to the door*]… except there is no doorbell.

**CHLOE:** [*Knocks, no answer*]

**SAVANNA:** Try calling her again.

**CHLOE:** Alright…[*Calls, no answer*]Let’s look around, see if we can see her.

[*They’re walking around, peering through and knocking on every window when a police officer walks up*]

**OFFICER:** Excuse me![*The girls tense up and back away from the window a few steps*]We got a call about some suspicious activity. Mind telling me what y’all’re doin?

**CHLOE:** Our friend lives here. She didn’t show up for work and hasn’t been answering, and we got worried.

**OFFICER**: Your friend?

**CHLOE**: Yeah, Liz Fairfield.

**OFFICER**: Hmmmm…. I’ll need to see some ID please. [*They both hand him their licenses*] Wait right here. [*Walks back to his car*]

**SAVANNA:** I am going to kill her!

**CHLOE:** It’s not a big deal, we’re not doing anything wrong.

**SAVANNA:** [*Impatiently digs out her phone and starts flipping through it*]Still… why’d I let you drag me here? This is so fucking stupid.

**CHLOE:** Come on, she’s your friend too! Aren’t you the least bit worried?

**SAVANNA:** As if! She’s probably just fucking around somewhere! And who are we, her parents? You just need to take a chill-pill…

**CHLOE:** Well if you didn’t want to come then why’d you even bother?!

**SAVANNA:** Cause I knew you wouldn’t shut up about it.

**CHLOE:** God you can be such a bitch! Liz is our friend, one of our only friends in case you forgot!

**SAVANNA:** Oh please! Are you kidding me? I don’t know about you, but I’ve got plenty of people I would rather be hanging out with right now.

**CHLOE:** Yeah right. The only other people you know are drunken idiots who live at the bar.

**SAVANNA:** Whatever.

**CHLOE:** I swear, it’s like you’re still in fucking high school.

[*Officer walks back over*]

**OFFICER**: Well looks like you two are clean. [*Hands back their licenses*] You said your friend’s the one living in this house?

**CHLOE:** Yes sir. But we don’t know if she’s here…

**OFFICER**: She’s not… she was arrested late last night.

**CHLOE:** What happened?

**OFFICER**: It appears that she arrived home intoxicated, and having lost her keys tried breaking into her bedroom window. Except she broke into her neighbors window instead.

**CHLOE**: Oh god, is she okay?

[*Meanwhile, Savanna is suppressing giggles*]

**OFFICER**: She’s fine. When she broke in she scraped her arms up quite a bit though, and after knocking over multiple pieces of furniture she passed out. Neighbors didn’t know what else to do, so they called 911.

**CHLOE**: Is she in serious trouble?

**OFFICER**: I’m honestly not too sure, but I don’t think there’ll be official charges against her. She’s probably looking at some fines and maybe AA meetings. But again, I’m not real sure.

**CHLOE**: Well thank you very much, officer.

**OFFICER**: Of course! Y’all take it easy, and stay out of trouble. [*Exits*]

**SAVANNA:** [*Laughing hysterically*]Oh my god, what a fucking idiot!

**CHLOE:** Dude, shut up!

**SAVANNA:** Oh… come on! You seriously can’t think this isn’t even the slightest bit funny!

**CHLOE:** Whatever…[*Pulls out her phone*]I’m gonna go down to the station and see if she’s still there. She could probably use some help right now.

**SAVANNA:** Alright, let’s go!

**CHLOE:** What?! Why do you wanna go?

**SAVANNA:** Come on, I bet she’s laughing about all this too! Either way, ya know she could probably use a stiff one after all this shit.

**CHLOE:** [*sighs*]Fine, let’s go.

[*Both exit*]

SCENE IV

*At about the same time. Liz is sitting on the floor in the back corner of an empty jail cell. An older man is pacing in the adjacent cell, mumbling to himself and occasionally yelling at officers passing by.*

**MAN:** Hey! HEY! [*no one responds or even looks at him*] Damn, ain’t nobody gonna tell me nothin’… girl should be here by now! [*plops down on the metal bench and sighs*] Hey girly! Hey! Yeah, you!

**LIZ:** [*sighs*] What?

**MAN:** Anybody comin for ya?

**LIZ:** Why?

**MAN:** Well, they ain’t tellin me nothin bout my girl! She ‘spose to be comin for me, but she should be here by now and they ain’t tellin me nothin! You got anybody comin for ya?

**LIZ:** I called my brother.

**MAN:** He comin?

**LIZ:** Maybe…

**MAN:** Why wouldn’t he?

**LIZ:** He’s probably busy… job and family and stuff…

**MAN:** Ah, and tired of bailin out the ol’ family loser huh? Ha, I here ya there! My girl, God, I don’t know how many times she’s been bailin me outta trouble, lost count long time ago! I wouldn’t blame her for not comin…

**LIZ:** I’m not a loser.

**MAN:** Baby, look at where you at! You thinkin successes end up here? Me, I been a loser since I was born, probably will be till the day I die. Drunk and stupid, that’s what gets me here. You?

**LIZ:** Same…

**MAN:** Tend to go hand in hand, don’t they?

**LIZ:** For me at least…

[*A door opens down the hallway and both pause to see only another officer walking through*]

**MAN:** So, what’s gotcha in here?

**LIZ:** Drunk and stupid, like you said.

**MAN:** Yeah, but why? A pretty, young girl like yaself, whatchu doin in here for? You gotta be in school right?

**LIZ:** I graduated, but haven’t gone to college yet.

**MAN:** And why not?! Baby, you gotta getcha self a education! Don’tchu know that?

**LIZ:** [*sighs*] Yeah, I know… I just never had the money for it…

**MAN:** Excuses! Ya gotta make it happen! Don’t be like ol’ me now and end up old and drunk and in a jail cell!

**LIZ:** I’m trying!

**MAN:** Excuses, excuses!

**LIZ:** You think it’s easy?! My mom’s been a drunken loser her whole life, hopping from one dead-end job to the other! No money, no dad, nothing! My brother and I’ve got to work for all we’ve had! Rent and bills are hard enough, but school?!

**MAN:** Rent and bills and gettin drunk and stupid, parently…

**LIZ:** [*pause*] You think it’s easy?

**MAN:** I ain’t never said it was easy… Fact, some of the best things in life are the hardest we ever gotta do… But ya gotta do em.

**LIZ:** And you’re saying I “gotta” go to school?

**MAN:** Nah, baby, you ain’t gotta do nothing you don’t wanna… Ya know, school just ain’t for some people, but a nice girl like you? I don’t know… I’m just sayin… You don’t wanna end up like ol’ me!

**LIZ:** [*sighs*] Then what should I do?

**MAN:** That’s up to you, baby… I’m just sayin, something’s gotta change…

SCENE V

*Late that night. Outside police station. Savanna and Chloe are walking from the parking lot when Liz comes out the front door.*

**SAVANNA:** Liz!![*Liz turns around and sees them*]Hey! We were so worried about you!

[*They run up to Liz, who’s clearly been crying*]

**CHLOE:** Hey, we heard… how ya doing?

**LIZ:** Ya know… I’ve been better…

**SAVANNA:** I’d say! I mean, I know last night was fun and all but girl did you have a wild night![*Chloe jabs her with her elbow*]Hey!

**LIZ:** Ha, yeah I guess it got a little too wild…

**CHLOE:** Well, you know we got you, whatever you need.

**LIZ:** Thanks…

**CHLOE:** You’ll probably need a ride home, right?

**LIZ:** Actually my brother’s coming to get me.

**SAVANNA:** Awesome! Maybe all four of us can head out for some drinks, what ya think?

**LIZ:** Uh, I think I’ll pass…

**SAVANNA:** Ah, come on. I know it’s been a rough day, but some booze’ll take the edge right off!

**LIZ:** It’s been more like a rough year honestly… today was just the shit-flavored icing on the cake.

**SAVANNA:** Then all the more reason!

**LIZ:** [*sighs*]Nah… I don’t think so…

**CHLOE:** We could do something else? We can just hang out and talk and stuff.

**LIZ:** Thanks but…

**CHLOE:** What’s up?

**LIZ:** [*Starts tearing up*]I just wanna go home… be alone…

**CHLOE:** Okay… we get that. Just, ya know, hit us up whenever you’re feeling up to it.

**LIZ:** [*Starts fidgeting*]Yeah… I don’t know if I will…

**SAVANNA & CHLOE:** What?

**LIZ:** I just…

**SAVANNA:** Just what?

**LIZ:** Just… don’t think I can keep doing this…

**SAVANNA:** Uh, doing what exactly?

**LIZ:** All of this![*Her voice cracks and she starts crying*]I just… I want more out of life ya know? I’m almost 25 and I feel like we’re still living in fucking high school! Working at a shitty, dead-end job making shitty money, and not going anywhere!

[*Chloe goes to rub her shoulder, but sees the irritation growing on Savanna’s face and stops*]

**SAVANNA:** So, you’re saying we’re not going anywhere? That we’re shitty, dead-end losers?

**CHLOE:** I don’t think that’s what she’s saying…

**LIZ:** That’s not… I just…

**SAVANNA:** Well spit it out! You think you’re fucking better than us?!

**CHLOE:** Savanna…

**SAVANNA:** Chloe, shut up.[*Turns back to Liz*]Who the fuck do you think you are, huh? You think you’re some hot shit, talking down on us and what we do?!

**LIZ:** I’m just so sick of your shit![*Savanna and Chloe step back, a little shocked by her outburst*]All you ever do is party! It’s not normal! Day after day after day after day, it’s just working and drinking with you! It doesn’t matter that you’re working in a shitty, dead-end job, but your spending all that money on nothing but partying and shopping! It’s not the job, it’s you! You’re a dead-end piece of shit, and I’m tired of letting you hold me back![*She has some difficulty catching her breath, and her loud cries subside into muted sobs*]I… I… I gotta move forward… and… and you two… you were my best friends… I tried to stay back with you… but I can’t! I need to move on… fucking grow up…

**CHLOE:** So… you’re… leaving us behind?

**LIZ:** [*Still sniffling*]Yeah… I gotta…

**SAVANNA:** [*Her arms are crossed, her nostrils flared and she’s been brooding in silent rage the whole time Liz was talking*]Fine. Then go. See who fucking cares.

**LIZ:** [*Glances at Chloe, turns around*]Bye…

**CHLOE:** Liz! Wait!

**SAVANNA:** Let her go, who needs a stuck up little bitch like that anyway?[*Liz keeps walking away, and the two stand in silence until she’s well out of earshot*]So… ready to get those drinks?

**CHLOE:** [*Still staring off in Liz’s direction*]Yeah… sure…

[*Both exit*]