

INT. CHERYL'S KITCHEN – EVENING

Old family photos line the walls.

CHERYL (70), sharp-eyed and warm, stirs a pot on the stove.

SHAYE sits at the table, tired but present.

CHERYL

You eat today?

SHAYE

I had crackers at work.

CHERYL

That's not food. That's a cry for help.

Shaye smiles faintly.

SHAYE

Mika's been giving me attitude again.

CHERYL

Good. Means she feels safe.

SHAYE

I don't know if I'm doing this right.

CHERYL

You worrying already tells me you are.

Beat.

SHAYE

I see myself getting tired... and I hear my mama's voice.

CHERYL

That woman did the best she could with the tools she had.

SHAYE

And she still left me with you.

CHERYL

She knew I'd raise you right.