

BIG SISTER

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If your entire sense of self-worth is derived from helping the people you love, what happens when they suddenly reject you? That is the central question of “Big Sister,” a female-driven drama about embattled siblings in the vein of “August: Osage County” and “Blue Jasmine.”

A successful woman abandons her career to save her destitute younger sister, but her efforts backfire and she becomes the one who needs to be saved.

Lynn Connors, 40, is the consummate problem solver. Her world revolves around **Suzanne**, 35, her emotionally-fragile, financially-strapped younger sister in L.A., and **Oliver**, 40s, her high-maintenance boss and lover in New York. Lynn does everything to make life better for Suzanne and Oliver—or so she thinks. The truth is, Lynn is an enabler, and as “Big Sister” unfolds, her “loving help” becomes her downfall.

We open in L.A. at a birthday party for Suzanne. What should be a festive day turns ugly when **Carl**, 38, Suzanne’s slacker husband, insults Lynn’s success, and Lynn demands that Carl grow up and be the husband that Suzanne deserves. Lynn returns to New York, where her tireless efforts to put Oliver on the map as a motivational speaker are about to pay off big time. But Lynn no sooner unpacks her bags when Carl vanishes, leaving Suzanne penniless and with an eviction notice.

Lynn rushes back to L.A., compelled to put Suzanne’s life back together. Instead, over a few tense days, Suzanne and Oliver’s problems rapidly escalate. Lynn goes into overdrive to fix everything, but instead alienates the two people most important to her. Suzanne sends Lynn packing for refusing to accept that, no matter what, Suzanne still loves Carl. Oliver publicly fires Lynn for abandoning him at a crucial juncture in his career. When the dust settles, Lynn must face the one person she’s been avoiding her whole life: herself.

Lynn hides out in her Manhattan apartment and struggles to complete the novel she promised Suzanne she would write—about their terminally ill mother’s choice to take her life. But this was the one problem that Lynn could not fix, and after months of false starts, her world comes to a standstill. One day, unannounced, she returns to L.A. to find that Suzanne has rebuilt her life—without any help from Lynn. When Lynn admits for the first time that *she’s* the one who needs help, Suzanne guardedly agrees to let her stay and the sisters begin the task of rebuilding their relationship.