

TITLE: BIG SISTER
FORMAT: Feature - Female-Driven Drama
LOGLINE: *A personal manager's problem-solving skills are tested when her younger sister's life spirals out of control—just as her star client's career starts to skyrocket.*
COMPS: AUGUST: OSAGE COUNTY / BLUE JASMINE
ABOUT US: We are American expat screenwriters based in Tokyo. We write female-driven dramas with sharp humor and have a Netflix feature credit. BIG SISTER was written after the suicide of David's brother-in-law. We know well the emotional toll of living abroad when needed back home, and BIG SISTER is a testament to the strength of sibling bonds. For more on our screenplays: davidchester.com

LYNN CONNORS (40) is the consummate problem solver. What she wants to fix most is her younger sister **SUZANNE** (35), who is financially-strapped and in a marriage Lynn doesn't approve of. There has also been a chasm between them since their mother's recent death.

Present Day L.A. - Suzanne's birthday party...

What should be festive turns into a showdown between Lynn and **CARL** (38), Suzanne's slacker husband. Carl, always jealous of Lynn, mocks her successful career. Lynn retaliates by demanding he grow the hell up and be the husband Suzanne deserves. Despite Suzanne's protestations, Lynn leaves the party early— but not before giving Suzanne another desperately needed survival loan.

Lynn returns to New York, where her high-maintenance boss (and lover) **OLIVER** (45) waits impatiently. Due to Lynn's hard work and undying faith in him, Oliver's career as an author and motivational speaker is about to skyrocket. After a champagne toast to their shining futures, Suzanne calls from L.A., hysterical: *Carl has drained her bank account and vanished.* Lynn knows she could put a band-aid on things by sending more money, but what Suzanne really needs is the emotional support of her big sister.

When Lynn informs Oliver she's returning to L.A., he panics; he's got a publisher's deadline, a big TV interview, and an upcoming U.K. tour— *he* needs her. Lynn promises she can keep his world running even as she helps Suzanne get back on her feet. But the truth is, Oliver can't function without Lynn by his side— and they both know it.

Lynn has barely touched down at LAX when Suzanne blurts out she's about to be evicted. Not only did Carl take her money, he also lied about paying the rent with it. Lynn zooms into action to help Suzanne find a new place, which becomes a challenge with Oliver's increasingly urgent needs from three thousand miles away.

After a fruitless apartment hunt, Lynn contacts **DARREN** (40s), a real estate agent—and the man she left for Oliver and her career. Darren offers his mother's guest house. It's a perfect solution, but a loaded one: Darren still hopes to reignite the flame with Lynn. When the sisters visit the guest house, Darren pulls Lynn aside. They reminisce about their past, and for one incredibly hot moment, she succumbs to Darren's kiss. But she fights her residual feelings for him, gets Suzanne to sign the lease, and for a moment all seems well.

That night, as Suzanne sleeps, Lynn works till dawn to polish Oliver's outline for his new book and sends it to him. Moments later he calls, clearly drunk first thing in the morning. He's read

the outline; *it's better than anything he'll ever write*. He admits his deepest fear: *he's nothing without her*. Lynn begs him to pull himself together for that night's TV interview; *he insists she return to New York or there won't be an interview*. Despite her concerns about Suzanne, Lynn promises to return.

Suzanne overhears the conversation and encourages Lynn to go; *she'll be fine*. Lynn isn't convinced, but Suzanne leaves for work, Lynn packs her bag... and promptly passes out. Hours later, Lynn's assistant **YVETTE** (20s) calls: The interview is about to start, Oliver is a mess; *where the hell is Lynn?* Lynn apologizes and gives Oliver a pep talk. But it's too late; he abruptly ends the call and Yvette is pressed into service as the *new* Lynn.

Lynn stands motionless, stunned, when she hears a noise in Suzanne's garage. She races out to find a distraught Suzanne destroying Carl's beloved motorcycle. Realizing that Lynn never left, Suzanne breaks down and admits she's been fired. *How can she afford the guest house now?* Lynn promises to foot the bill until Suzanne gets a new job. And now that she's missed her plane, she'll stay and help Suzanne pack for the move. Again, Lynn comes to the rescue.

The next day Lynn attempts to donate Carl's old easy chair to Goodwill, Suzanne explodes and the blow-out fight that's been bubbling beneath the surface finally erupts. *Why is it that Lynn has never been able to accept the fact that Suzanne loves Carl?* And then, the real issue: *Why was Lynn spending all her time with Oliver instead of helping Suzanne care for their dying mother?* The argument quickly escalates into an ugly examination of their relationships with Oliver and Carl. When Suzanne boldly insists she doesn't need Lynn's help anymore, Lynn says she's glad to hear it and leaves, telling Suzanne to enjoy sitting in Carl's piece-of-shit chair.

Lynn flies straight back to New York and her beloved Oliver. She arrives to find that he is already at the airport, ready to leave for the U.K.— *with Yvette*. When Lynn confronts him, he publicly fires her for abandoning him— but Lynn gets the last word, calling him out for what she now realizes he is: *a fraud*.

Lynn retreats to her Manhattan apartment to write the book she once promised Suzanne she would—about their mother's sudden decision to take her own life in light of her terminal illness—a decision that left the sisters reeling. But after three months, Lynn can't get past page one. The truth is: Lynn *could* have been at her mother's side, fighting the good fight, instead of chasing after Oliver and running his world. But consummate problem-solver Lynn didn't stay in L.A. because she knew she couldn't fix her mother's life. No matter how Lynn looks at it, she failed — and it's suddenly clear to her that the only person she can talk to about it is Suzanne—who refuses to return her calls.

Lynn returns to L.A. unannounced to find her once fragile little sister has managed to rebuild her life without any help from Lynn. As for Carl? He's written, apologizing to Suzanne *and* Lynn; she was right; he has to grow up, and he hopes to make it up to Suzanne someday. And Darren? He keeps asking when Lynn's coming back; he hasn't given up on her yet. Finally, Lynn: For the first time, she admits that she's the one who needs help. With that, Suzanne guardedly agrees to let Lynn stay, and the sisters begin the task of mending their relationship.