

GLASS CLOSETS

Written by

Madison Sean Flannery

FADE IN:

1 VIDEO MONTAGE

1

A YouTube video of amateur proportions plays. It's a clipshow of scenes from an *ER* or *Grey's* type mainstream medical drama.

The clips all feature JANE and GABBY, the MAIN CHARACTERS. They're played by BECCA JAMES (white/late 20s/bi) and CHELSEA MARKS (mixed-race Asian/late 20s/straight).

Jane and Gabby have various heartfelt scenes: looking into each other's eyes. Hugging. One of them crying, the other comforting. Arguing. Making up. Sharing a donut

The video title says JANE/GABBY MY HEART WILL GO ON

ZOOM OUT into...

2 INT. GREEN ROOM - DAY

2

BECCA JAMES, the girl next door all grown up, sits on a couch as she watches the video on a laptop.

With her is SOPHIA COOPER (20s/Black/gay) - cheerfully nihilistic, a half-empty donut box in front of her.

On a laptop in front of them the VIDEO ENDS.

BECCA

Genius. The fans know what's up.

Sophia looks up through the trailer window. Eats a donut.

SOPHIA

Where *is* Chelsea?

Becca scrolls through the YouTube comments - fans showing support for the Jane/Gabby ship.

BECCA

Dave hasn't... said what he's thinking, has he?

She fumbles for her purse and pulls out some chapstick.

BECCA (CONT'D)

For the new season finale?

CHELSEA MARKS - Jane from the video - enters. Still waters run deep with Chelsea - usually. Now she brandishes a script, a hurricane on the horizon.

CHELSEA
 Okay, which one of you chucklefucks
 sent me a fake script!?

Sophia grins.

CHELSEA (CONT'D)
 YOU.

SOPHIA
 I always thought if acting didn't
 pan out I'd be a great writer.

CHELSEA
 YOU WROTE THAT I DIED!

Becca dramatically awards Chelsea a donut.

BECCA
 A peace offering, my lady.

SOPHIA
 Hey, those are mine!

CHELSEA
 Aww, babe, I always thought you'd
 propose with a ring.

Becca plays along. This is something they've done before -
 and echoes the clip with Jane and Gabby eating donuts.

BECCA
 Oh, but sweetheart, it's just like
 our first date, remember?

Chelsea fakes a swoon and takes the donut.

CHELSEA
 Darling, however could I forget?

BECCA
 (Laughing)
 See, this is exactly why we need to
 talk to Dave.

Record scratch. Sophia and Chelsea stare at her.

BECCA (CONT'D)
 Next season's our last, right?

CHELSEA
 Yeah. Magic number seven.

BECCA

That means we can take risks.

She gestures at the laptop. Sophia closes it.

SOPHIA

He's not gonna like it.

BECCA

So a few crappy fans on Twitter ruin it for everyone? We're already doing reshoots. Didn't Caleb say they're still making changes? We have a real chance!

SOPHIA

Caleb's just a writer's assistant.

BECCA

They've been going back and forth in the writer's room for weeks.

CHELSEA

I... I like the idea, but...

BECCA

I'm not that hideous, you'd survive kissing me.

CHELSEA

It's not that.

BECCA

Soph?

SOPHIA

It'll fall flat on its face and Dave will laugh at you. But you should do it.

BECCA

(Deadpan)

Thanks, Soph, you always know just what to say.

CHELSEA

I have a fitting.

She leaves - almost flees. Becca follows.

BECCA

Wait!

3

INT. CRAFTY - CONTINUOUS

3

Becca chases Chelsea.

BECCA
Chels - wait-

She grabs her arm. Chelsea turns back to her.

BECCA (CONT'D)
You're one half of the ship. I
don't want to ask Dave about this
without your blessing.

CHELSEA
You have it - but I can't.

BECCA
I don't understand.

CHELSEA
They could still kill me off!

BECCA
They wouldn't do that. Jane is the
heart of the show just as much as
Gabby-

CHELSEA
They wouldn't kill Jane just for
shock value?

BECCA
We could do something amazing -
especially for our queer fans-

CHELSEA
I said NO, Becca!

Becca shrinks a little. Chelsea exhales and walks away.

4

INT. MARCUS AND BECCA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

4

Becca enters the upscale West Hollywood apartment with a
groan and kicks off her shoes.

She sets her purse down on a table, next to a picture of her
with MARCUS at a Pride parade. Marcus has a trans flag
painted on his face, Becca has the bi flag painted on hers.

From the kitchen comes BANGING.

4A INT. MARCUS AND BECCA'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN 4A

Becca walks to the kitchen area. Pots and pans lie scattered on the floor.

MARCUS (late 20s-early 30s/any ethnicity/trans man) extracts himself from inside a kitchen cupboard.

BECCA

Um? Marcus? Light of my life?

Marcus finishes emerging and stands, grinning.

MARCUS

Hey baby!

He kisses her.

MARCUS (CONT'D)

Long day?

BECCA

Yeah, how'd you know...

MARCUS

Strawberry chapstick.

BECCA

Marcus what is all this?

4B INT. MARCUS AND BECCA'S APARTMENT - BATHROOM 4B

Marcus steps into the bathroom to wash his hands - there are testosterone bottles and an unholy collection of chapstick.

MARCUS

I was going to cook something but - do you know what happened to our steam cooker?

BECCA (O.S.)

We left rice in it when we went to visit your parents and it got moldy.

He emerges from the bathroom.

4C INT. MARCUS AND BECCA'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN 4C

MARCUS

Really? Ah. Well. Takeout?

Becca swoons dramatically.

BECCA
I suppose I could... survive...
with a double pepperoni pizza...

MARCUS
As long as you're paying.

Becca pouts at him. Marcus laughs fondly.

4D

INT. MARCUS AND BECCA'S APARTMENT - LATER

4D

Marcus and Becca sit at the table, eating pizza. Becca uses her hands (and pizza) to punctuate her story.

BECCA
...so then I've got Sophia telling
me to do it but it's my funeral,
and Chelsea's telling me she won't
even attend the funeral!

MARCUS
Chelsea's a straight, babe.

BECCA
So are you.

MARCUS
You know it's not the same thing.

BECCA
I know. I know. I just don't know
what the right thing to do is.

MARCUS
I know I'm just the lowly trophy
boyfriend who's going to murder you
for your money... But I don't
understand. Wouldn't the producers
be gung-ho about it? We're not
exactly in the '90s anymore. Lots
of shows have queer characters.

BECCA
Name a show that was gung-ho about
taking a character they've decided
was straight and making them queer.

Marcus opens his mouth. Closes it. Point taken.

MARCUS

I don't think you should commit murder unless you're ready for jail.

Becca's forehead creases in confusion.

MARCUS (CONT'D)

What if they do a poor job? Do they even know you're queer? They've already fucked up with Chelsea's Asian heritage - that scene with her parents-

BECCA

Don't you think it's better that we fuck it up than never try at all? I would've... cried with joy to see something like this on TV growing up.

MARCUS

(potentially improvised)

Yeah, because they did so well with it on... what was that show? With the magical grad students?

Becca groans.

MARCUS (CONT'D)

(potentially improvised)

They went to Narnia and got old and gray together? Had a kid? But no no the one guy was straight.

Becca laughs ruefully. Marcus takes her hand. Becca nods.

MARCUS (CONT'D)

You sure you can't take backup?

Becca takes a deep breath.

5

EXT. CHELSEA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

5

Becca stands outside Chelsea's cute ranch-style home. The front yard is messy in a well-loved "kids live here" way.

Chelsea is in the yard, picking up after her kids.

Becca applies some chapstick. Takes a deep breath. And is about to walk up when...

Chelsea stands and locks eyes with Becca at the gate.

BECCA

Hi.

Becca holds up A BOTTLE OF WINE - a peace offering.

CHELSEA

Did your phone die?

BECCA

I'm going to see Dave tomorrow, and
I wanted to see if you're sure.

Chelsea folds her arms and leans back against the door.

CHELSEA

Yeah, Beccs, I'm sure.

BECCA

(Softly)

Is it the queer thing? You can be
honest with me.

Chelsea takes a deep breath of resolution and looks at Becca.

CHELSEA

No, Becca. It's the white thing.

Becca blinks, startled.

CHELSEA (CONT'D)

You want to know the last role I
had before this one? Asian Escort
Number Three. I actually have a
name and a backstory on this show.

She stares Becca down. Becca takes this in. Looks away -
ashamed - gets over it. Looks back at Chelsea. Nods.

CHELSEA (CONT'D)

I'm not rocking this boat. You've
got a lifevest. I'll drown.

(beat)

I gotta go put the kids to bed.

BECCA

I'm sorry.

Chelsea opens the door and steps inside. Pauses. She takes
the wine from Becca and holds it up.

CHELSEA

Thanks. Good luck.

They smile slightly at each other. Chelsea closes the door.

6 INT. STUDIO OFFICES - DAY

6

Becca, dressed professionally in a 'tried too hard' way, walks with a coffee and pastry down a hallway.

She stops in front of a door marked DAVE HOWITZ. She knocks.

DAVE (O.S.)
C'mon in!

Becca enters.

7 INT. DAVE'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

7

Becca steps inside. DAVE HOWITZ (40s-50s/white/straight) sits behind his large desk. Posters of shows line the walls.

Dave types away on a computer - he looks up in surprise at seeing Becca. He smiles.

DAVE
If it isn't my second-favorite
actress!

It's a joke he uses on everyone. Becca can tell.

BECCA
Hey, Dave. I brought you something!

She sets the coffee and pastry on his desk.

DAVE
Aww, how'd you know I skipped lunch
again? Bless you.

He starts in on the pastry.

DAVE (CONT'D)
Is this about the reshoots? Because
that prank was all Sophia.

BECCA
No, no, I know that. This is about
the reshoots, though. You guys are
finalizing the new script tonight?

Dave gives her a wary look.

DAVE
Did you have some thoughts?

BECCA

I do. And I'm not a writer so I could be totally off base here but.

She screws up her courage and clears her throat.

BECCA (CONT'D)

We both know that Jane and Gabby's friendship is the heart of the show.

DAVE

Of course. Strong female friendships are so important.

Becca smiles and nods.

BECCA

Right! I just thought - nobody is as close to them as they are to each other. Gabby kind of has this thing with Luke, they hooked up a while ago but - it's the final season - with Jane nearly dying Gabby could have a... realization?

Dave's genuinely puzzled. He frowns at her.

DAVE

What kind of realization?

Becca takes a deep breath.

BECCA

A realization that she's in love with Jane. Her best friend.

Dave squints at her. Processing.

DAVE

You think that... Jane and Gabby... should get together?

BECCA

Fans are open to this, quite a lot of them already ship it -

DAVE

(Gently)

We can't do something just because fans want it. Plus the network...

BECCA

Right! No! I'm just saying - it would get a lot of support. It would be - so great, for the characters. A natural progression of their relationship.

DAVE

Neither one's been with a woman.

BECCA

That we know about. We don't see their entire lives on screen.

Dave stands up and paces slowly back and forth.

DAVE

Of course. But the general audience would feel it was - a bit out of left field. We have a great gay character - Sophia's amazing.

BECCA

Sophia's character walked on screen in the pilot talking about her wife. And she's - I mean. There's more than just gay or straight.

DAVE

I'm confused. It's a bad thing her character talked about her wife?

BECCA

No, no, not at all, it's just - how are Jane or Gabby ever going to become as close to some random guy as they are to each other?

Dave adopts a mentoring tone. He doesn't mean for his words to sting, but they do.

DAVE

(Kidding on the square)
You're starting to sound like my comment section on Instagram-

BECCA

Do you think I'm just parroting-

DAVE

Of course not, but are you sure it's really your place-

BECCA
My *place*? I'm bisexual!

Silence falls. Shit. Dave is re-evaluating every single interaction with her. Becca can tell.

DAVE
Does Marcus know this? Is he...
okay with it?

Becca glances at her phone. The PHOTO of her and Marcus' hands intertwined with their respective pride flags glow. No. It's not her information to share. She exhales slowly.

DAVE (CONT'D)
Why didn't you ever say anything?

BECCA
Because I shouldn't have to out
myself to be listened to on this.

DAVE
I'll talk it over with the others.

Becca's anger drains away, leaving her an exhausted husk.

BECCA
Thanks.

She turns and walks out of the room - pauses in the doorway.

BECCA (CONT'D)
You're only considering this
because I came out, aren't you?

DAVE
Of course not.

He's fooling himself, but not Becca. She nods. Leaves.

7A INT. MARCUS AND BECCA'S APARTMENT - DAY 7A

Becca stands in the bathroom, getting ready for another day at work. In her hand is a Bi-Pride Pin. She debates putting it on her jacket.

8 INT. GREEN ROOM - DAY 8

Becca enters - no sleep for the weary. She sets down her purse and her coffee. The PIN is obvious on her jacket.

A PA walks over and hands her a crisp, new SCRIPT.

PA

Nice pin!

BECCA

Thanks!

Her fingers tremble. She flips through. Skims. Reaches almost the last page.

DAVE (V.O.)

Gabby smiles bravely at Luke.
 Gabby: "No, I'm not okay. But
 thanks for staying with me." Luke:
 "Always." It's a confession - Gabby
 realizes it. An 'oh' moment. She
 leans in - takes the leap - they
 kiss.

Becca stops reading. The script slides out of her hands. An ugly sob wrenches free.

Her phone RINGS. She scrambles for it - uncoordinated and shaking. It's DAVE.

Becca inhales - answers. She continues to cry, her splotchy face a complete contrast to her upbeat voice.

BECCA

Hey!

DAVE

Hey! Just wanted to make sure you
 got the script! I thought a lot
 about it, but we decided to go in a
 different direction.

BECCA

Of course. I understand.

DAVE

It was the natural progression.

His echo hits Becca like a slap. She forces her smile harder.

BECCA

Hey, you guys are the writers,
 y'know? I just say the lines.

It's sarcasm delivered with a genuine tone. It goes right over Dave's head.

DAVE

Oh you guys are so much more than
 that.

(MORE)

DAVE (CONT'D)

I can't wait to see how this affects the final season - we're all very excited. But I thought about what you said about more queer representation, and we're going to give Sophia's character a lot more to do this season.

Becca swallows a scream. Breathes deeply.

BECCA

Thank you, I appreciate it!

Dave hangs up.

Becca clutches the phone. Her hand shakes.

She leaps to her feet, cocks her arm back to throw the phone - freezes. Slowly, gently sets the phone down.

Becca sees her purse and coffee.

She THROWS the coffee cup into the sink, smashes it with her fist, then GRABS her purse and hits it on the table. WHACK. WHACK. WHACK. Presses the purse to her mouth and SCREAMS.

Hands shaking, she lowers the purse. Takes in the mess. Becca takes a deep breath. Practices a smile in the mirror.

9 INT. CRAFTY - CONTINUOUS 9

Becca walks towards Crafty, perfectly cleaned up. She smiles at crew members as she walks past, greeting them warmly. Totally natural.

9A INT. HAIR AND MAKEUP - CONTINUOUS 9A

She to the HAIR AND MAKEUP AREA and opens the door.

BECCA

(Cheerful)

Morning!

She steps inside and closes the door behind her.

10 INT. SCENE SET UP - CONTINUOUS 10

Becca, now in a DOCTOR'S OUTFIT, strides onto set in high heels. Her hair and makeup are glamorous but impractical.

The EPISODE DIRECTOR (30s/any gender/any ethnicity) hurries up and walks with her. Wired from too many energy drinks.

EPISODE DIRECTOR

Okay, Becca. Your best friend was right in the bomb blast. Her life hangs in the balance. You have seconds to save her.

Chelsea's already in position on the ground. Her doctor's scrubs are strategically burned and bloodied.

BECCA

I thought this was a bomb scene?

EPISODE DIRECTOR

The network approved the virtual production for this episode. We'll have you run through the scene right now and then I'll call Gary over to help with calibration.

Becca does a silent 'yeah uh huh' look.

EPISODE DIRECTOR (CONT'D)

I don't want you to hold back. I want total devastation.

BECCA

(Bitter, ironic)

Total devastation. Got it.

The director hurries off. Chelsea and Becca make eye contact. Chelsea gives a sympathetic wince.

Becca nods back. Shrugs a little. "Not your fault."

EPISODE DIRECTOR (O.S.)

Cameras rolling!

The CAMERA SLOWLY TIGHTENS on Becca as she stares into the middle distance. Tighter. Tighter.

Tears slide down Becca's cheeks. Her face crumples.

The camera HOLDS on Becca's face. Total devastation.

EPISODE DIRECTOR (O.S.) (CONT'D)

And ACTION!

Becca inhales sharply to say her line-

CUT TO BLACK.