

- PLEASE MEMORIZE LINES FOR THIS SCENE.
- FRAMING IS CLOSE-UP, TOP OF HEAD TO CHEST.
- LOOK OFF-CAMERA AT AN ANGLE WHERE WE CAN STILL SEE YOUR EYES.
- USE A READER, IF POSSIBLE.

2. SCENE WITH FRIEND FROM GAMBLER'S ANNONYMOUS

SCREEN DIRECTION: LOOK OFF-CAMERA. HAVE SOMEONE READ SHIRLEY'S LINES OFF-CAMERA, IF POSSIBLE.

[Shirley and Beatrice sitting at coffee shop. Beatrice is battling with negative thoughts about herself. Her friend Shirley helps her to challenge those thoughts and come up with alternative and more accurate thoughts.]

Shirley:

How are you feeling? You were pretty down on yourself on yourself when you called last night.

Beatrice:

Much better, thank you. I was able to fall asleep eventually. Those cute dog videos you sent me made me smile and helped distract me from my negative thoughts; they were just overwhelming.

Shirley:

I'm glad it helped. I think you'd be feeling much worse if you decided to give in to the casino last night. You know, when we talked, you said some things I'd like to talk about with you.

Beatrice:

Oh, yeah, I was a little harsh on myself...

Shirley:

One thing you said, "Gambling is the only way to make my awful feelings go away." Why do you think that?

Beatrice:

pauses] I felt pretty awful last night, I didn't gamble--and I survived! The feelings didn't disappear right away, but they did start to subside, especially after watching a video my daughter sent me of my granddaughter in her school play. There are other things in my life that help make my awful feelings go away, too.

Shirley:

Exactly. Now, you also mentioned that gambling makes you more social, which I KNOW you know isn't true because you have me in your life!

Beatrice:

[pauses] When I think about it, I was really just sitting in front of a machine by myself. Lately, I have been more social when I go to the community garden, coffee shop, and GA meetings. Well, sounds like I am social in a lot of other ways that don't involve gambling!

Shirley:

A good example is that you are here with me!

Beatrice:

I know... I just get so upset sometimes. I should be able to support myself! How did I let myself get into this mess?"

Shirley:

You went through so much after Bill died, and here you are, still managing. That shows you are not weak. You are putting in the effort to make changes in your life that will make you feel more accomplished.

Beatrice:

You're right. Just because I feel like a failure sometimes doesn't mean I am one. I'm working hard to get my life back on track.

Beatrice:

But, the hardest thing is I've pushed Becca away, we don't talk like we used to. I've ruined my relationship with her, she will stop talking to me and I'll never see my granddaughter again.

Shirley:

Whoa. Hang on. You feeling you've lost your relationship with Becca and your granddaughter isn't true. Yes, things might be a little strained right now. But, she has always been supportive of you, and she only shows signs that she wants you in her life. Have you considered telling her? And asking for her support?

Beatrice:

I lied to Becca about needing money to pay bills. She doesn't know about my gambling, and if I tell her she'll never trust me.

Shirley:

Do you really think that's true? Give Becca some credit for always supporting you in the past.

Beatrice:

I feel bad about lying to Becca about my gambling, but she has always been really supportive. I can apologize and be more honest with her. There is no reason to think our relationship is ruined."

Shirley:

Yes, that's a much better way to think about it!

Beatrice:

You know maybe this is something I could talk to my counselor about, maybe role play with her on how I can tell Becca. Thank you, Shirley for helping me talk through all of this.

[End Scene]