**SCENE 8 DI JOXIN**

(Reader)Here’s your Hostess of Hardship, your Emcee of Agony, your Master of Competitive Caring:

Di Joxin!!

DI

Thank you, thank you, wow, what a welcome!

(pointing to someone in the audience)

I’m guessing you have no life. Trying to find a shred of joy, right?

But you (pointing to a person )

have social anxiety. You’re experiencing fight or flight at this very moment, am I right?

The question is:

(Crowd chants: “WHO…HAS IT…WORSE?”)

DI

That’s right! We all know that all suffering is not equal. Each of our contestants are here today to prove that they have the shortest end of the stick, have been dealt the worst hand, and that the world owes them big time.

The winner will receive the title of Queen Sufferer, a pallet of Kleenex boxes, and a special algorithm that puts all their social media posts at the top of everyone’s feed for a month. They will of course receive no cash prize, so neither will be able to claim anything good has ever happened to them.

So now let’s meet our contestants!

(Crowd whoops and cheers.)

She’s only nineteen but already her father left the picture, her mother has died, and she spends her days working with perishables and pantry staples. You could call her Distress in a Dress, please welcome Carla Patton!

(Crowd whoops and cheers as Carla waves.)

And up against her is a woman who is staring down the barrel of dementia. She never had children and her only friend is the geriatric nymphomaniac who lives next door. Give it up for the Raging Aging, Vivian Walters!