

MID ACT II SCENE III

ROBYN

Is Dad coming, too? I wanted to talk to both of you.

BEVERLY

Yes, he's just finishing cleaning up from dinner. I just thought you and I could chat a little first.

ROBYN

Oh. Okay.

BEVERLY

I know you found out a lot of this stuff with Millie accidentally, through Facebook or Justin or from her but not really any of it directly from me or from Dad.

ROBYN

Wait, you wanted to talk about Millie?

BEVERLY

I just thought...it's probably really confusing. Do you...have any questions or anything?

ROBYN

I don't know.

(beat)

How much did you know about Millie?

BEVERLY

Before she showed up, nothing. We knew she was from Arkansas, that was all.

ROBYN

Do you hate her? I mean, I know you don't trust her, but do you hate her?

BEVERLY

I don't know her at all so I can't possibly hate her. And she gave me you, one of the best things in my life. So I couldn't hate her. Even if she was a terrible person, she still gave me you.

ROBYN

Did you ever wonder about her?

BEVERLY

Who, Millie?

ROBYN

Before we knew it was Millie, did you wonder who she would be? Like in the mall or anything?

BEVERLY

In the mall?

ROBYN

Yeah, like imagining she'd be walking around the mall.

BEVERLY

Well, no, because I knew she was from Arkansas so I figured she probably wasn't in a mall in New Jersey. But I did wonder what her story was; why she gave you up, what the circumstances were, things like that. Probably a lot of the same things you might have wondered.

ROBYN

Right.

BEVERLY

But I never questioned the fact that you were my daughter. When we first saw you, you were crying but when you were put into my arms, you calmed down immediately and started looking at my face. I mean, I know now that you probably couldn't see a lot because babies that age can't see very far but I was just sure that you could see me and that you were choosing me just like I was choosing you.

ROBYN

(beat)

I remember one night, when Justin was a baby, he was crying so hard and I went to the crib to try to calm him down. But I could never do it; he only calmed down with you.

BEVERLY

You were only four. Four year olds don't need to know how to soothe an infant.

ROBYN

(beat)

I was on some chat rooms for adopted kids and a lot of them have really messed up families. Like one girl's adopted parents were killed in a car crash when she was seven and

another one was abused by her uncle. Just crazy stuff. But then they go and meet their bio parents and sometimes it's even worse. The bio parents don't want to talk to them or they're druggies or they want money or something.

(beat)

I'm glad that you and Dad and Millie aren't like that.

BEVERLY

Me too.

(beat)

You know, I'm on a listserv for adoptive parents.

ROBYN

You are?

BEVERLY

Yeah. And I started emailing them last night after we got home to get advice.

ROBYN

And what did they say?

BEVERLY

To do this. Talk with you. Ask about your feelings.

(beat)

This is all new territory for me and your dad, too, you know.

ROBYN

Yeah.

(there is a knock on the door)

Come in.

(enter ELI)

ELI

Hey.

BEVERLY

Hey. Thanks for cleaning up.

ELI

(to ROBYN)

So. You wanted to talk to us?

ROBYN

Yes. Well, I know you wanted to do research today about the test and everything before I could do it.

ELI

We didn't say you could do it, Robyn.

ROBYN

You know what I mean, Dad. So. Did you do the research?

(BEVERLY and ELI exchange glances)

ELI

Yes, we did. And there are a few things. First, I did hear from Millie's doctor today.

ROBYN

So you believe her now?

ELI

He confirmed pretty much everything she said. He said a bone marrow donor would be her best bet.

ROBYN

You see? I told you!

ELI

Okay, yes. But then we also got a call from Mrs. Reynolds.

ROBYN

Oh.

ELI

She said that you already tried to get tested today.

ROBYN

She said she wouldn't tell anyone!

BEVERLY

She was very concerned.

ROBYN

Well, I couldn't do it, anyway. So it doesn't matter.

BEVERLY

It does matter, Robyn. You would have been agreeing to do a whole operation!

(beat)

Look, we're worried about you. We're worried that you're getting taken in by Millie very easily.

ROBYN

Oh, God, Mom.

ELI

Robyn, we understand how important Millie is to you. Your mom and I always knew that she might show up some day. And we agreed that, if she did, we would support your relationship with her.

(beat)

But we think it's just too much to ask of a sixteen year old to undergo this kind of operation.

ROBYN

No, I have to get tested! I have to!

BEVERLY

You don't have to, Robyn. You want to.

ROBYN

No, it's not just that. Millie was adopted, too. I'm her only blood relative that she knows of. I could be her only chance.

BEVERLY

(after a silence)

She told you that?

ROBYN

Yes. Her brothers and sister, they were all sort of adopted. But she was left on her mother's campground! Can you believe that? Isn't that horrible?

ELI

She told you that she was left on a campground?

ROBYN

Yes. And there was no way to track down the parents because they paid in cash and didn't have a car and so she doesn't know who they are at all. She doesn't know if she has blood brothers or sisters. I'm her only blood relative.

(ELI and BEVERLY exchange glances)

BEVERLY

(gently)

When did she tell you this, honey?

ROBYN

Earlier today.

ELI

You were talking with her through Facebook again?

ROBYN

(covering)

Yes, on Facebook. And I asked her about her brothers and sister because I saw that siblings had the highest likelihood for being a match and that's when she told me that she was adopted. So now I'm the only one. I have to get tested.

ELI

You're still too young, Robyn.

ROBYN

But Dad...! She's going to die!

BEVERLY

Okay, look. Your father and I have decided that you were right about helping people; we did teach you that. So, because Millie is...who she is...to you, we would consider...

(SHE takes a big breath)

We would consider getting tested ourselves.

ROBYN

What?

(beat)

But you're not going to be matches.

ELI

You don't know that. Anyone could be a match.

ROBYN

I am the most likely person.

BEVERLY

This is our compromise.

ROBYN

Your compromise? You're compromising on her life? Okay, let's say you do it and you're not a match, will I be able to be tested then?

BEVERLY

No. Look, this is a very painful procedure. You could have bone or nerve damage...

ROBYN

No, I looked it up. The website I saw said that that was a very small likelihood.

ELI

Nerve damage is very serious. It might never repair itself and this could cause all kinds of problems for you. It could affect your running track or hiking or even driving. Walking up stairs. Anything physical.

ROBYN

Oh, come on, Dad.

ELI

This is all from research we found. Rehab can take a long time.

BEVERLY

And if it doesn't go well, you might need to put off your plans for college. We don't want you to have to do that.

ROBYN

Now you're just exaggerating.

BEVERLY

No, we're not. Rehab can be very difficult. And doctors have said that the whole experience can be a real emotional burden, too.

ROBYN

Well, don't you think it would be an emotional burden if she died?

ELI

Of course.

BEVERLY

But look at you already, Robyn. You're on IM with her all the time...

ROBYN

Not all the time...

BEVERLY

...you're fighting with us, you're running out to a lab during school. And that's before you have even had a test.

ROBYN

What if it was you who was sick? Huh? One of you. Wouldn't you want me to get tested?

BEVERLY

No.

ELI

No.

ROBYN

What? That's crap! You wouldn't want me to get tested to save your life?

ELI

No. Look, there are registries that we would get on. But we wouldn't ask you or Justin to do it. Millie is probably on one of the registries already.

ROBYN

But, Dad, that's not going to get her a donor by next week.

BEVERLY

Robyn. It was very unfair for Millie to put this kind of responsibility on you. It's not your job to save her.

ROBYN

You don't understand! None of you understands! You know who understands? Millie! Millie knows what it's like to be adopted! She understands!

BEVERLY

Okay. So tell us.

ROBYN

What?

BEVERLY

You say we don't understand. So tell us what it's like.

ROBYN

Mom, you can't just...it's not that easy.

BEVERLY

Come on, I talked before. Now it's your turn. You always wondered about where you came from?

ROBYN

Yes, but that's not what I mean.

BEVERLY

So then tell us what you mean.

ROBYN

(beat)

Justin was always your actual child.

BEVERLY

Oh, honey.

ROBYN

No, he was. I mean, you had him. You didn't have me. You don't have any pictures of me from the day I was born or the bracelet from the hospital or any of that stuff. And he was like the miracle child, you know? You weren't supposed to be able to have him and so I was it. I was supposed to be the only one. And I didn't even know then. So, fine! I got used to having a brother and not being the only one. But then, when I found out that I wasn't really yours...well, then... I mean, I wasn't good enough to be your only child? You just had to go and have your own?

BEVERLY

Robyn, you know we had no idea that we could have kids!

ROBYN

Because, if you did, you never would have adopted me at all.

ELI

We did adopt you. And that's what matters.

ROBYN

Yeah, and then had one of your own.

(beat)

And, you know, he might be your child but he's a big dork in math! He sure didn't get your genes with that!

ELI

Robyn!

ROBYN

What? He is! And I'm better than him at track. And soccer.

BEVERLY

But it's not a competition.

ROBYN

It was always a competition. Always.

(beat)

And then, when Millie showed up, she was mine, all mine. And she doesn't have anyone else; she only wants me. Not me and Justin, just me! And, until Millie showed up, I never knew why she gave me up. Why she didn't want me, why...anything. I mean, how could someone not want me? Not want a baby? What did I do? What could have been so bad that they had to give me up?

(beat)

And I thought of all kinds of things. Maybe she was a drug addict or maybe she had been raped.

ELI

Oh, honey.

ROBYN

But, now, I found out that she did want me and that it was her mother that didn't want me...her horrible, horrible mother...

BEVERLY

Robyn!

ROBYN

You have no idea, Mom; she was awful! And she thought I was some kind of bad omen or something after Danilo died.

BEVERLY

You have never been a bad omen.

ELI

Who's Danilo?

ROBYN

My bio dad. So. If Millie really wanted me...I don't know. I feel like she got cheated. And now she's dying and she's never going to get to be a mom the way she really wanted to be. Or have a family really, at all. I mean, she didn't get to have her real parents and she didn't get to have her real daughter. She's all alone.

BEVERLY

(beat)

You never told us all this stuff about why you thought your birth mom had to have you adopted. Or about Justin.

ROBYN

What was the point? It wouldn't have changed anything.

BEVERLY

Robyn, you were always our first child. Even with Justin, even though I gave birth to him, he is and will always be our second child. I don't love him any less because of it but I don't love him any more either. I don't want you to feel like you need to compete for my love or for Dad's love. We always love you. Because you're our daughter.

(beat)

Are you hearing me?

ROBYN

Yes, Mom, I hear you.

BEVERLY

Good. It's very important to me that you know that.

ROBYN

So, now, what about Millie?

ELI

Do you want us to get tested?

ROBYN

Yes, Dad!

ELI

Okay, then. We'll get tested.

ROBYN

Okay, but you have to do it tomorrow because she really needs to know and she's waiting to find out before she can go back home.

BEVERLY

She's still here?

ROBYN

Yes.

ELI

(beat)

Well. We'll get tested first thing then.

ROBYN

Okay. Thank you.

BEVERLY

You're welcome.

(SHE hugs ROBYN)

Now, finish up your work so you can get some sleep.

(ELI hugs ROBYN)

ROBYN

Tomorrow, will you text me as soon as you have the results?

BEVERLY

We will call you at lunch.

ROBYN

(grumpily)

Fine.

(END SCENE)