

# **BLOOD OF MY MOTHER'S**

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Characters

MARINA - Asian American. Early 20's, then late 30's.

LILLIAN - Asian American. Late 20's, then mid-40's.

RICHARD - European American. Early 30's, then late 40's.

DEANNA - Hapa American. 17-years old.

DOMINIC - Hapa American. 17-years old.

GRANDMA ORTALEZA - Asian American. Mid-60's.

Act I, Scene 1

Richard and Lillian's house in the suburbs of Eagle, Idaho.

Christmas Eve, 1997.

Act I, Scene 2

Richard and Lillian's house in the suburbs of Eagle, Idaho.

Two weeks later.

Act II

Richard and Lillian's house in the suburbs of Eagle, Idaho.

Mother's Day, 2013. After church.

Notes on text

- { } The words in the brackets are thought but not said it out loud
- / The words are overlapped by the next line
- The line is cut off by the following line
- \* This is used in pairs and indicates when the line is picked up
- ... No words are said, but the gears are churning in the character's head

*For nine months my flesh took shape in the blood of my mother's womb. When I was born, I came into the world like anyone else. I began to breathe the same air we all breathe; and like everyone else, the first sound I made was a cry.*

- Wisdom 7:2-3, GNB

# ACT I

## SCENE 1

9:45pm. Christmas Eve, 1997.

*A warm and cozy living room, beautifully decorated for Christmas. There's a classic holiday song playing softly on the stereo system.  
LILLIAN and RICHARD are wrapping presents and drinking mulled wine.*

LILLIAN

Babe, could you hand me the -

RICHARD

Which, the -

LILLIAN

Yeah, yeah, / just -

RICHARD

Here. *(he hands her the roll of scotch tape)*

Do you think they'll like it?

LILLIAN

I think you'll like it when they open it so you can play with it. You know I don't approve.

RICHARD

Of what? *(she shakes a box at him)*

The Batman action figures?

LILLIAN

He looks like the devil. With those horns on his head.

RICHARD

Batman is classic!

LILLIAN

At least the Beanie Babies I got are nice and soft and not Satanic.

RICHARD

This Beanie Baby fad is getting ridiculous, hun.

LILLIAN

I told you, they are not a fad, they are an investment. They'll be worth a lot more money in the future.

RICHARD

Uh-huh. We should've just gotten them a puppy.

LILLIAN

NO.

RICHARD

Two puppies. Can you imagine?

LILLIAN

Absolutely not.

RICHARD

What? Don't you want two cute little furry faces in a box, looking up at you with love in their eyes?

LILLIAN

I already get that every time the twins wake me up and I go in their room. Also, do you want to vacuum up fur every day? I don't think so.

RICHARD

Maybe next year.

LILLIAN

Next year. *(she kisses him)*

Mmm, you smell good.

RICHARD

It's the wrapping paper.

LILLIAN

Oh?

RICHARD

It's pine scented.

You're beautiful.

LILLIAN

*(pleased)* Stop.

RICHARD

Just utterly, utterly gorgeous.

LILLIAN  
Oh yeah?

RICHARD  
I'm the luckiest man on the planet.

LILLIAN  
I love you.

RICHARD  
*(kissing her)* I love you more.  
You know. Kids are asleep...this wine is great, this music is great...

LILLIAN  
Just let me finish this last gift up real quick -

*He throws himself in front of her on top of the wrapping paper.*

RICHARD  
Come here.

LILLIAN  
Babe, you're squishing the wrapping paper.

RICHARD  
So? They'll just rip it in three seconds anyway. They don't care what it looks like.

LILLIAN  
*(laughs)* Oh brother.

*They start making out heavily on the floor. He strips off his own sweater, then hers.*

Ow, / ow, babe -

RICHARD  
What? What?

LILLIAN  
My hair, it's caught, / your watch -

RICHARD  
Oh sorry! Is that better?

LILLIAN

Mm-hmm.

RICHARD  
Sorry.

*They continue to make out.  
There's a faint rhythmic knock on the door.*

Lill?

LILLIAN  
Mmm? *(kissing his neck)*

RICHARD  
Hun, I think there's someone at the door?

LILLIAN  
No.

*Another knock, heavier this time but the same rhythm.*

Oh my god.

RICHARD  
What?

LILLIAN  
*(pushes him off and rapidly starts getting dressed)* Put your shirt on.

RICHARD  
What -

LILLIAN  
Richard, put your shirt on now!

*LILLIAN rushes to the door and throws it open. MARINA is standing there, in a huge puffy coat, hat, and carrying a duffel bag.*

Mare! / Oh my god!

MARINA  
Hey LeeLee.

LILLIAN

What are you doing here, honey, what's wrong?

MARINA

I -

LILLIAN

Oh my god, come in! Take your boots off. And close that door.  
Richard, go make some hot water.

*MARINA comes in, closes the door, and stands there awkwardly.*

RICHARD

Hi Marina.

MARINA

Richard.

LILLIAN

How did you get here? Did you drive here?!

MARINA

Yeah.

LILLIAN

In that tin can? It's snowing!

MARINA

Yeah, I know. I drove through it.

LILLIAN

Take off your coat.

MARINA

Are Deanna and Dominic asleep?

LILLIAN

Yes, they went down a while ago.  
Richard, did you put the hot water on?

RICHARD

Yes, I put / the hot water on.

LILLIAN

Are you hungry? I made *sinigang*, I can heat some up.

Why aren't you taking off your coat?

MARINA

I'm fine, / I'm just cold.

LILLIAN

I can't believe you drove, it's at least a ten, twelve hour drive from San Fran, ay, and in this weather -

*Hoy*, you're dripping all over my floor, give me your coat.

MARINA

No.

*LILLIAN gives her a look. MARINA takes off her coat.*

*LILLIAN sees MARINA'S very swollen stomach.*

*Beat.*

LILLIAN

*Ay nako!*

Oh my god, Mare! You didn't tell me! OH MY GOD! RICHARD!

RICHARD

Ssh! You'll wake / up the twins!

LILLIAN

WE ARE GOING TO BE AUNTIES -

RICHARD

Just you, Lill.

*Two toddlers start crying offstage. The sound visibly bothers MARINA.*

And there go the twins, / don't worry, I'll just - (*exits*)

LILLIAN

I can't believe you didn't tell me! This is incredible. Honey, oh honey, this is so great. Look at your *suman!* Ay, you look so cute pregnant. Sit down. When are you due?

MARINA

In a couple of weeks.

LILLIAN

Does Mom know?

MARINA

No.

LILLIAN

Okay, great, we won't tell her just yet until I figure out what to do. Thank god she doesn't visit that often. Can you imagine if she lived down the street?

Have you talked to Jason about it? I mean, of course you have about {the pregnancy}, but have you talked about moving the wedding date up? Because Mom will probably get a little bit upset, but if you move the wedding date up and get it over with before the baby comes, that would be best.

*Hoy*, I'm going to give you this special tea that Mom gave me, it'll help. (*goes to the kitchen to make tea from the hot water in the kettle*) She sent it a couple of months before she visited, right before the twins were born, did I tell you about that trip? Two months, she hovered constantly. "Lillian, that's not the right way to breastfeed, feed Dominic more than that, he's hungry!" I was so relieved when she finally went home.

But anyway, this tea helped regulate me so much when I was pregnant - couldn't take a you-know-what for days and this just made everything flow, flow, flow.

And don't worry, I'll talk to her. Or better yet, you know what, I'll have Boy talk to her about it. You know how she listens to anything he tells her. Perks of being the only son.

MARINA

And The Favorite.

LILLIAN

Mm-hmm. Plus he owes me because I had to tell her about his divorce for him.

*Hoy*, drink your tea.

MARINA

Thanks.

LILLIAN

But anyway, she'll be so excited to have another grandkid, you know that, and that will supersede any craziness she might throw at you. So don't worry about Mom, okay?

I know it's the holidays, so that's crazy but I'm sure we could get something planned quickly. But I also don't know if they'll let you be pregnant and still get married in the Catholic Church like Mom wanted. Do you know? Did you check?

MARINA

No.

LILLIAN

Oh! We could have it at our church, Methodists don't care about that kind of thing anymore. At least not as much as the Catholics, I don't think anyway. And that would be perfect anyway

because then I can handle everything for you. I don't like the idea of a justice of a peace wedding at city hall, but it can be our backup plan.  
Okay, so what did Jason say?

MARINA  
About what?

LILLIAN  
Moving the wedding date up.

*MARINA purses her lips into a thin line.*

Marina.

MARINA  
What?

LILLIAN  
Where's Jason?

MARINA  
Nothing. I mean, nowhere.

LILLIAN  
Oh.  
Oh no.  
Did he leave you?!

MARINA  
...

LILLIAN  
*Ay nako!* I'll kill that man! I'll kill him! *Hudas!* He's a *Demonyo!* How could he? You can't just abandon your fiance and your child! And at Christmas! I hope he *lintik!*  
*(calls out)* Richard, can you believe this?  
*(to MARINA)* Honey, don't you worry about / a single thing, we will -

MARINA  
Stop stop stop stop stop stop!  
For fuck's sake, just - STOP.  
Jason's gone. It's over.

LILLIAN  
Why?

MARINA  
Because.

LILLIAN  
Because why?

MARINA  
Because I don't want to talk about him.

LILLIAN  
So, you drove for twelve hours to sit here and not talk?

MARINA  
No, I -

*RICHARD enters and sits on the couch in between the sisters.*

RICHARD  
Well, Marina, how are you?

MARINA  
Great.

RICHARD  
Great, great. Good to hear.

*Beat.*

I see your car is still kicking around.

MARINA  
Yep.

RICHARD  
How'd it handle the snow?

MARINA  
Oh fine.

RICHARD  
That's good.

*Beat.*

Well, I guess I'll go to bed.

MARINA  
Good idea.

LILLIAN  
Night, honey.

RICHARD  
Night. (*exits*)

LILLIAN  
You could try being nicer to him.

MARINA  
I was perfectly pleasant.

LILLIAN  
Ay...  
Okay. You need to tell me what happened with Jason.  
Is there another woman?

MARINA  
No.

LILLIAN  
Did he hit you?

MARINA  
Of course not!

LILLIAN  
Well, I don't know! You're not telling me anything! You come here out of the blue in the middle of the night, drip all over my new carpet, pregnant as a horse, and then tell me that Jason is gone and then you - very annoyingly - offer no additional information about why or what happened.

MARINA  
I can't talk about it!

LILLIAN  
Fine. I'm going to call and ask him what on earth is going on.

MARINA

He's not there.

LILLIAN

Well, where is he then? You can't handle this all on your own!

MARINA

LeeLee, please just sit down.

LILLIAN

I don't want to sit.

MARINA

Okay, fine - just hear me out, okay? I don't know how to tell you this because I know you're gonna panic or overreact -

LILLIAN

I never overreact!

MARINA

... but I'm not going to keep it and raise it.  
I can't.

LILLIAN

Why?

MARINA

I just can't.

LILLIAN

Are you insane?!?

MARINA

Stop, just listen! I've decided that after I have it in a couple of weeks, I'm going to give them up for adoption.

And I know what you're going to say, believe me I know, but I need you to understand that I've already made up my mind and you have to respect what I want. All right?

LILLIAN

No.

MARINA

No?

LILLIAN

No, I absolutely will not. You have a duty - you want to give your own child up? To be raised by strangers? You don't know who you're giving your baby to, they could be anyone! Pedophiles! Or atheists!

MARINA

Oh yes, I was planning on giving it to a pedophile. Come on!

LILLIAN

You think this is the time for jokes?  
And stop calling your baby an "it".

MARINA

I had a long time to think on the drive over here and I thought that maybe you could help me place *the baby* with a good family, maybe one of your church friends or something. I know you know people and I don't even know where to start -

LILLIAN

But they're not blood.

MARINA

They're your friends, you know them.

LILLIAN

Even if I know them, you can't really know who people are deep down. Who knows what secrets they have in their houses? You would send our own flesh and blood into a house of secrets? This has been the worst year ever. First Princess Diana and now this.

MARINA

Why are you so obsessed with that weird family?

LILLIAN

Stop joking around, stop it! I am so disappointed in you, Marina. You're a disgrace, an absolute disgrace. I don't see you for a year and look at what's happened. Child out of wedlock. No husband, no ring!

MARINA

Okay.

LILLIAN

This is why you need to live closer to family! This is disgraceful.

MARINA

I heard you! Try a different word.

LILLIAN  
Watch it.

MARINA  
Mom likes “worthless”, “shameful”, and “stupid”. In case you need a suggestion.

LILLIAN  
I am not Mom.

MARINA  
Well, you’re doing a remarkable impression of her right now.  
I thought you’d want to help me but that’s fine, I’ll just drop it off at a fire station / or something -  
*(starts gathering up her things, putting her coat on)*

LILLIAN  
FIRE STATION?!?!?!?  
*Hoy*, where are you going?

MARINA  
I don’t know. Back.

LILLIAN  
Back where? To San Fran? / Tonight?

MARINA  
No one calls it that! It’s San Francisco! / San Francisco!

LILLIAN  
Well, I’m sorry! I didn’t know! Because no one told me! No one tells me anything!

*Two toddlers start wailing offstage. MARINA hates this noise very very much.*

RICHARD  
*(offstage)* Lill!

MARINA  
I shouldn’t / have come here.

LILLIAN  
I’m sorry! Could you get them please?  
Mare -

MARINA

You clearly have your own family and your own perfect life / and I'm in the way.

RICHARD

*(offstage)* Hon, I'm trying to sleep -

LILLIAN

I'm dealing with A CRISIS out here!

MARINA

I'll just go. *(exits)*

LILLIAN

No! Don't you dare leave!

RICHARD

*(offstage)* I just -

LILLIAN

RICHARD!

RICHARD

*(offstage)* Okay okay! I'm sorry!

*The sound of a car starting, it takes a while for it to turn over. LILLIAN stands in the doorway, yelling.*

LILLIAN

*(to MARINA)* You can't drive back now! It's a snowstorm! You'll die!

RICHARD

Hon!

*Headlights shine through the house windows. It runs and sits idle for a while.*

LILLIAN

*(to RICHARD)* What?!

RICHARD

*(offstage)* We're out of diapers!

LILLIAN

*(to RICHARD)* Then open a new bag!

*(to MARINA)* Get back inside here, now! I mean it!

*(to RICHARD)* In the closet!

RICHARD

*(offstage)* I can't find it -

LILLIAN

*(to RICHARD)* Richard, my sister is trying to leave and I'm trying to stop her and you need to step up here! Just deal with it!

*(to MARINA)* Please, Marina! I will help, I will help you, but for god's sake, get your butt back inside this house right now or I swear, I will tell Mom and let her deal with you and you will be very very sorry. Let me help you, please!

*The car turns off.*

*(to MARINA)* It's freezing, get inside.

*MARINA enters, LILLIAN slams the door behind. They both stand there, staring at each other.  
Beat.*

RICHARD

*(offstage)* Where are the diapers? I still can't find them -

LILLIAN

The closet - *Ay!* *(she motions to MARINA to put her things down)*

*(to RICHARD while exiting)* I swear, Richard, you need to learn where everything is.

*MARINA closes the front door, takes off her coat, boots, and places them by the door.*

RICHARD

*(offstage)* Well, how am I supposed to know if you keep moving it?

LILLIAN

*(offstage)* I did not move it! I did not move it! It's in the closet!

RICHARD

*(offstage)* I looked there!

LILLIAN

*(offstage)* Well, you didn't look hard enough because - what is that? What is that, Richard? See? The diapers. New bag. In the closet like I said.

*(to DOMINIC)* Ohhhhhh come 'ere, my sweet boy. It's okay, it's okay.

*(to RICHARD)* Go to bed. They'll settle down.

*(to DOMINIC)* Mommy's got you. Ssh, ssh, ssh. You're okay. Go to sleep. Go on.

*The toddlers are still crying, but at a lower decibel.*

*LILLIAN enters.*

Ay! I keep telling that man where I put everything. I show him, here is where the diapers are. But does he listen to me? No.  
Look at all the snow you tracked in here.

MARINA  
Oh sorry. I can {clean it up} -

LILLIAN  
I told you not to leave.

MARINA  
I didn't.

LILLIAN  
*(grabs a kitchen towel and starts dabbing at the snow)* No one listens to anything I say. I just work, work, work.

MARINA  
LeeLee.

LILLIAN  
That's what I do. I work, take care of everyone else. Clean up everyone else's messes.  
*(mutters to herself)* Fire station, I cannot believe...trying to leave in a snowstorm in the middle of the night! Unbelievable.

MARINA  
LeeLee.

LILLIAN  
What?

MARINA  
I'm sorry.

LILLIAN  
Hmph.

MARINA  
No, I am. I didn't come here to make you mad.

LILLIAN  
Hmph.

MARINA

Stop “humphing” at me.

I didn’t mean it about the fire station. And I’m sorry, I shouldn’t have tried to leave. I wasn’t thinking clearly. It’s probably all the pregnancy hormones.

I really need your help, I don’t know what to do.

Please. *Ate*.

*At the word “ate”, LILLIAN softens a bit.  
The babies finally stop crying. Beat.*

LILLIAN

You hungry? You want *sinigang*?

MARINA

Sure.

LILLIAN

I don’t have fresh rice. Just cold.

MARINA

I don’t mind the cold one.

LILLIAN

I can make fresh -

MARINA

No, no, it’s fine.

*LILLIAN ladles the sinigang into a bowl and puts it in the microwave, turns it on. She scoops the cold rice into another bowl and waits for the microwave to ding.  
Beat.*

MARINA

The tea was good.

LILLIAN

Was it?

MARINA

...

LILLIAN

...

MARINA

No, it was terrible.

LILLIAN

It's awful, isn't it?

MARINA

It is! You drank the stuff every day when you were pregnant? / Ugh!

LILLIAN

I know, I'm sorry! But it's good for you! Plus I knew Mom would ask if I was drinking it.

MARINA

Of course.

LILLIAN

When she visited right before the twins were born, she poked around to see if I had been drinking it. I caught her sticking her finger in the tin to measure and make sure there was less in there than when she gave it to me.

MARINA

Of course she did.

*(in Filipino accent)* "Ay nako! Lillian, why you no drink dis tea? It's good for you! Good for baby in belly!"

LILLIAN

*(laughing)* Your Filipino accent gets worse the longer you're around all those white people at Stanford.

MARINA

Seriously? You live in the land of potatoes and white people.

*LILLIAN switches out the bowls from the microwave and puts the bowl of sinigang in front of MARINA.*

LILLIAN

You want Sriracha?

MARINA

You need to ask?

LILLIAN

I don't know if you even eat spicy anymore with all those white people influencing you! *(takes the Sriracha out of the fridge and hands it to MARINA, who puts some in her soup)*

MARINA  
Oy vey.

LILLIAN  
See? And that's Jewish.

MARINA  
You're the one who married a white boy.

LILLIAN  
Hanging out with Jews, ay...

MARINA  
Seriously? That's antisemitic.

LILLIAN  
Oh brother. Eat your soup. *(puts the hot bowl of rice in front of MARINA)*  
Now I want some.

MARINA  
Share with me. You gave me too much anyway.

*LILLIAN dips a spoon into MARINA'S bowl and eats, then reacts.*

LILLIAN  
Ay!

MARINA  
(laughing) What?

LILLIAN  
What did you do, dump half the bottle in there?

MARINA  
Too spicy for ya?

LILLIAN  
Your baby's gonna come out craving hot sauce. Whatever you eat, that's what your baby will want.

MARINA

Well, Mom must've ate a lot of weak broth when she was pregnant with you. Because that's all you can handle.

LILLIAN

*(laughing)* You're rude.

*They eat out of the same two bowls together in silence.*

LILLIAN

I didn't mean it when I said I'd tell Mom.

MARINA

I know.

LILLIAN

Okay.

*Beat.*

MARINA

Stop it.

LILLIAN

What?

MARINA

You're eying my stomach with a hungry look on your face.

LILLIAN

I am not!

MARINA

Yes, you are!

LILLIAN

Ay! Hungry look, oh my god.

I just -

Why didn't you tell me before? Tell me the truth.

MARINA

I just didn't want it to be real. And if I told you, then it was real. Which was dumb, I get it. But at the beginning, when I found out in the spring, that's what it was like.

I didn't know how to deal with it, so I just...didn't. For months. I thought I should probably get an abortion, but I kept cancelling and rescheduling the appointments. For weeks. And then Jason was hounding me to get it over with, so I dug my feet in and didn't do it.

LILLIAN  
Stubborn.

MARINA  
Runs in the family.

LILLIAN  
Hmph.

MARINA  
And then I realized after months went by that the reason I kept putting my appointment off was because I didn't actually want to go to it. So I didn't.  
I was going to tell you eventually, but the longer it went, the easier it was to just avoid it. I thought I could just do it later. And then when it was later, I didn't want to tell you because I knew you'd freak out that I had waited so long to tell you.

LILLIAN  
I could've helped you from the beginning.

MARINA  
LeeLee -

LILLIAN  
No, stop, I talk now. You listen.  
You know the saying of our family, what Dad always said to us - Blood is Blood. And your baby is Blood. An Ortaleza. Our blood, our mother's blood. That means something.  
And I know you weren't there when Dad died, but right before he left us, he asked me to watch out for our family and for you, specifically.

MARINA  
I know. I heard all about it.

LILLIAN  
That's my duty as the eldest. I have always done my best, or at least I've tried, to take care of all of us, however it needed to be done. I'm here and I've been here, yeah? And now that you've got one on the way, I'm also responsible to take care of her too.

MARINA  
How do you know it's a girl?

LILLIAN

Ay, I just know.  
And you know it too.

MARINA

...

LILLIAN

And okay, maybe the timing is a bit tough, but you can do this.  
It's your responsibility.

MARINA

I can't take care of a kid! How can I? I'm not even done with college. Am I supposed to just drop out and become a single mom?

LILLIAN

You'll move here. And I'll take care of you and her.

MARINA

No, no, no, / no, no -

LILLIAN

What?

MARINA

I can't live here.

LILLIAN

Why?

MARINA

I can't just move to Idaho. I hate this place. It's nothing but dry desert and hicks with Confederate flags on their trucks. Like, hello, you weren't even in the Civil War, why are you waving that stupid Confederate flag around like an idiot? You weren't even a state! You weren't even involved!

LILLIAN

Do not tell me that you would be so selfish -

MARINA

Maybe I am selfish!

I like San Francisco. I like that it's a temperate climate. I like my little apartment with its bay window where I sit and drink my coffee very early every morning. I like that I can walk from it to

class where I am single handedly blowing the mind of every econ and business professor I have because I am smart and brilliant -

And maybe this is also selfish, but I don't want to leave. It's Stanford, for god's sake. Do you know how hard it was to get into that school in the first place? With Mom and Dad both push, push, pushing me to excel? You weren't there when I was in high school, they were absolutely manic about my grades. I didn't sleep or see any friends my entire senior year. It was just me and Boy having to deal with them.

LILLIAN

I know I wasn't there then -

MARINA

And I fully intend on driving right back there after we deal with this thing and finishing out my degree and getting an amazing job where I can afford to pay back my student loans and buy a house and save some to take care of Mom.

LILLIAN

I promised Dad -

MARINA

You want to talk about promises? I promised Dad I would get into Stanford and I DID. And I was there, even when he was dying my first semester because he wanted me to get through finals before going home to Hawaii. Which I did, even though I knew how sick he was. I drank so much vodka the morning he died, I got lost in my shower because I was too drunk to find the door and open it. I missed my flight home. Twice. That's why I barely made it to the funeral. You think I have the emotional capacity to be a mother right now? Are you fucking serious? I'll probably end up like one of those mothers who drown their toddlers.

And I'm sorry, but I don't want to wake up every morning and look in this kid's face and see nothing but Jason staring back at me! I can't handle it, I just can't. Every time it moves, all I feel is him kicking me in the gut from the inside and I just want to take a knife and carve out this thing he put into me. I don't want anything tying me back to that man! It's his fault that I even have this, this, this PARASITE inside of me and even though you probably think I'm the most selfish bitch ever - and maybe I am - I will not let Jason derail my WHOLE LIFE!

*Beat.*

LILLIAN

All right.

MARINA

What?

LILLIAN

This is what we will do. You said two weeks, yes? When you're due?

MARINA

Yes.

LILLIAN

My god, that doesn't give us a lot of time.

Okay. You will stay here and have the baby at St. Alphonsus down the road, I'll see if I can get you in with my OB-GYN, she's the best. And then you will take the semester off, tell them you have a family emergency you need to deal with, and that's not even lying because that's exactly what's going on. And then in the fall or even the summer if you want, you'll go back and finish your degree. I will take her, she will be Deanna and Dominic's little sister, and that'll be it.

MARINA

What about Richard? Don't you need to talk to him first?

LILLIAN

Please. That man will do what I say.

MARINA

Are you sure? I know you've also got Deanna and Dominic right now -

LILLIAN

It'll probably take some convincing, but this is family. You don't need to worry about that, I will deal with him.

MARINA

What about Mom?

LILLIAN

Well, we definitely won't be telling her.

MARINA

Um, I'm pretty sure she will have a lot of questions about why you suddenly have a new baby in your house when you weren't pregnant for the last eight months.

LILLIAN

She's not due for another trip to the mainland until at least the summer. And I can tell Boy to keep her with him on the island.

Don't worry, I won't tell him why.

MARINA

Mom will be able to tell the difference between a newborn infant and a six month old baby.

LILLIAN

I don't know, Marina! I don't know how to handle all of this yet, but I will figure something out. That is what I do.

MARINA  
But what about -

LILLIAN  
Enough.

MARINA  
It's just - I'd like to go back to school in January, I'm already signed / up for classes.

LILLIAN  
Enough Marina! We can talk about all of these details tomorrow. Just know that I'm handling this, okay? It's done.

MARINA  
Just one more thing. Please.  
What will we tell it?  
Her, I mean.

LILLIAN  
I knew it was a "her"!

MARINA  
It's just - I don't want her to know.  
I think it would be better for her and I want to make sure -

LILLIAN  
She won't know. You'll be Auntie Mare to her, just like you are to my kids. And that's it.  
It's getting late. You should go to bed. The guest room is - you know where it is.

*LILLIAN starts to exit, MARINA catches her by the wrist.  
MARINA pulls LILLIAN into a big hug. MARINA cries.*

*(pulling away from MARINA)* Okay, go to bed.

*MARINA exits towards the bedrooms. LILLIAN puts the bowls in the sink, stands there for a moment thinking.  
She exits.*

## SCENE 2

*Two weeks later, late at night.*

*It's dark, except for the light above the stove in the kitchen.  
The Christmas decorations are still up.*

*MARINA enters from the hallway with her duffel bags, quietly slips on her coat and boots, and exits out the front door, trying hard to not make too much noise.*

*RICHARD enters, wearing Batman pajama bottoms, slippers, and an old T-shirt.*

RICHARD  
Marina?

*He goes to the window and watches her scrape ice off of her car.*

What are you doing out there?

Oh!

*He leaps back from the window and goes into the kitchen.  
MARINA enters.*

Hi.

MARINA  
*(starts)* Fuck! Don't do that.

...

I needed to get something from my car.

RICHARD  
Uh-huh.  
What?

MARINA  
I'm sorry?

RICHARD  
What was it?

MARINA  
*(lying)* I couldn't find it.

RICHARD  
Oh, of course.  
You want some cheese?

*He goes to the refrigerator and brings out a small block of orange cheese in plastic wrap.*

MARINA

No thanks. I don't eat dairy.

RICHARD

I eat cheese and crackers at night when the twins wake me up, so I guess you could say I've been eating a lot of cheese lately. Packing on the dad pounds.

*He slowly slides a small knife along the edge of the cheese. He holds eye contact with MARINA as he slices the cheese and uses the knife to bring bits of the cheese to his mouth.*

So...Jason, huh?

MARINA

What about him?

RICHARD

You and Jason aren't together anymore.

MARINA

Yep.

RICHARD

I wasn't sure from your conversation with Lill if you were going to get back together with him.

MARINA

Do you always eavesdrop on private conversations?

RICHARD

I do when they're in my house. But you know, she and I tell each other everything. Because that's what married couples do. You know?

MARINA

Huh.

*Beat.*

RICHARD

You know, Marina, I feel it only fair to tell you that Jason called here.

MARINA

What? When?

RICHARD

Oh, I'm not sure. A week ago? You two were both out, so I talked with him. Really nice guy on the phone. But you know, I've always liked Jason.

Anyway, you see, he posted bail and was really wanting to get a hold of you. Something about a car accident he got into, someone got hurt, and you calling the cops on him? I can't remember.

MARINA

What did you tell him?

RICHARD

I told him you weren't here. Which wasn't a lie because oh! You were at the hospital at the time, giving birth. So yeah, I guess it must've been a week ago.

MARINA

Has he called back since?

RICHARD

No, no, I don't think so. But if he does, I mean. What should I tell him?

MARINA

Tell him to fuck off.

*Beat.*

RICHARD

Have I ever told you about the day Dominic and Deanna were born?

MARINA

No.

RICHARD

It was a beautiful, fall day. Just picture perfect. Leaves falling, the whole valley was just full of colorful trees.

You weren't here, I don't think, were you?

MARINA

No, I wasn't.

RICHARD

That's right. You weren't here, your mom was. Woof! What a dragon that woman is.

MARINA

Don't say that about my mom.

RICHARD

Sorry, sorry! Is that “racist”? Anyway! Lill was such a trooper with the whole birth thing. And you know, when they put Dominic in my arms for the first time, it was like I knew that it was right. Like, this was the moment I’d been building to my whole life. I felt like my heart exploded, like The Grinch? Have you seen that? You know the part where his heart gets big when he saves Christmas or whatever?

MARINA

No.

RICHARD

Oh, what am I talking about, you also just did this! Did you feel that way when they put Egg in your arms?

MARINA

...

RICHARD

It’s quite the feeling. Nothing like it in the whole world. I just love being a dad. Everyone should do it. Well...all men, anyway.

And call me old school, but I think kids should be with their parents. You know? It’s better for them. Blood is blood, isn’t what you girls are always saying?

And the thing with Jason is, well... it sounds like the man has made some mistakes in his life - who hasn’t? But he’s a dad! You know? As a dad myself, I don’t want to keep his daughter from him. That seems especially cruel, don’t you agree?

Since you’re leaving tonight and not taking her with you.

*Beat.*

MARINA

*(calmly)* You know, Richard, this is a lovely home.

RICHARD

Thank you, Lill has done a great job on it.

MARINA

She really has. She always had a talent for that kind of thing. Decorating. Color schemes. Putting up with bullshit.

RICHARD

Excuse me?

MARINA

Now listen, I would just hate for this sweet little happy home you've all got here to suddenly go poof! I mean, my Mom paid for it, Lillian decorated it, and you, you just live here, right?

RICHARD

I pay the bills.

MARINA

Of course you do! Except that you wouldn't even have that fancy job if my Mom hadn't introduced you to her Cousin TingTing at Hewlett Packard - well, more like if my Mom hadn't forced her cousin at Hewlett Packard to hire you when you had that really unfortunate job history and also lied about graduating from UCLA.

RICHARD

...

MARINA

Oh please, do you know how easy it is to verify if someone has a degree from a university? You literally just have to call the registrar office and ask.

And the thing is, you and I both know how much "Lill" values honesty. And if she found out that you told a small lie like that, graduating from a pathetic public university, who knows what else you could be lying about, right?

RICHARD

Quiet.

MARINA

And when she goes digging, oh the trouble she might find! Blonde trouble. Right? Or is it redhead trouble? I can't remember.

Guess you didn't really that ol' dad feeling with that other kid you've got, huh?

RICHARD

I mean / it. Stop it.

MARINA

Also, wasn't that girl like, sixteen?

RICHARD

She was eighteen.

MARINA

Uh-huh.

RICHARD

Maybe just.

I didn't know, okay? She looked older! She had a fake ID in a bar and that wasn't my fault. It was college. I hate hashing this out with you again and again. Just let it go.

MARINA

Oh, I'm not the one you need to talk to about letting go.

I'm sure Lillian would definitely understand. She's the most forgiving Filipina in the world. But while she probably would've forgiven you if you had just told her about having a kid with some TEENAGER years ago, what she won't forgive... is you lying about it.

And also funnelling money to aforesaid teenager for child support.

And also not telling her about that.

You two "tell each other everything" - seriously? What a scream.

RICHARD

I'm surprised you haven't told her before.

MARINA

Oh please. You and I both know that the only reason I haven't told her about all this is because she loves you for some godforsaken reason, and it'll break her heart and destroy her family, and I'd rather kill you than see that happen.

So maybe you should watch your fucking mouth when you're talking to me.

...

Don't. Talk. To Jason. Ever again.

*Beat.*

*RICHARD plays with the knife.*

RICHARD

*(smiling)* Well, it's late. I should be getting back to bed.

MARINA

That sounds wise.

RICHARD

Marina, it's always lovely having you visit.

MARINA

Isn't it, though?

RICHARD

Drive safe.

*They do not look away from each other.*

*The sound of a car horn blares through.*

*Blackout.*

## END OF ACT I

## ACT II

*Mother's Day, 2013. After church.*

*LILLIAN and RICHARD'S home. It has been updated a bit since Act I. New artwork, no carpet, a contemporary living room rug, maybe some new furniture.*

*DOMINIC is wearing a Zombie Frenzy! T-shirt, faded pajamas pants and is sitting on the couch under a blanket, playing a video game; every now and then he sniffles. There are used kleenexes all over him and the general vicinity of the couch. LILLIAN is wearing a floral midi-length dress and house slippers. She rushes around, making food, cleaning up clothes, etc.*

LILLIAN

Where's your sister?

DOMINIC

...

LILLIAN

Dominic, I'm talking to you! Stop looking at that tv and look at me!  
Where's your sister?

DOMINIC

...out.

LILLIAN

Very helpful, thank you.

*(starts cleaning the used Kleenexes)* Throw these Kleenexes in the trash, I put this trash can right next to you so you could -

*(finds socks on the coffee table)* You know your Grandma and Cousin Tingting are coming, don't leave your socks on the coffee table.

DOMINIC

I'll do it, just gimme a second, I'm -

*(to the video game)* Oh yeah! Take that, you son of a bitch!

LILLIAN

*Hoy! (hits him with a sock)*

DOMINIC  
Ma! That hurt!

LILLIAN  
Language!

DOMINIC  
I'm sick. Mommy...

LILLIAN  
Oh, my son. *(feels his forehead)* You're still a little warm. Did you take that oil of oregano?

DOMINIC  
You didn't give it to me.

LILLIAN  
Oh, that's right, I forgot to do that before we went to church. Let me get that for you.

*She goes to the kitchen and opens a cabinet, pulls out the oil of oregano bottle.*

Where's your Nalgene? Is it in your room?

*RICHARD enters with a bag of groceries and flowers in a vase.*

Dominic, is it in your room?  
*(clocks RICHARD's entrance)* Oh good, you're back. Did you remember the margarine? Mom won't eat butter.

RICHARD  
I did. And these are for you. *(proudly hands her the flowers)*

LILLIAN  
Oh, babe, you didn't have to do / that.

RICHARD  
Well, I wanted to and you deserve it. I know these last few months haven't been the easiest, but we're getting through this together and that's what matters.

LILLIAN  
Aww.

RICHARD  
So...Happy Mother's Day, to the most wonderful wife in the world. *(sweeps her into a big kiss)*

LILLIAN

I love you.

DOMINIC

Mom, my oil of oregano!

LILLIAN

Hang on!

*(to RICHARD)* Thank you for the flowers, babe. Could you put those groceries in the fridge, babe? But leave out the margarine.

*(to self)* What was I doing? ...oh, the Nalgene... *(exits)*

RICHARD

Still sick, bud? *(putting away groceries in the fridge)*

DOMINIC

...

RICHARD

Where is your sister?

DOMINIC

...

RICHARD

You should wrap that up soon, the game will be on in a bit. You gonna watch it with me?

DOMINIC

Sure.

RICHARD

LeBron is having just an absolute killer season, isn't he? Even with those minor injuries earlier in the fall. Unstoppable force, just unstoppable. He's having his best season ever, I think.

Definitely headed towards MVP this year. And I'll be shocked if they don't make it to the Finals.

Remember last year, when he averaged 25 points in the Finals? Stellar performance. My bet is

that if Heat goes to the Finals again this year, he'll beat his own record. What do you think?

Think he can do it?

DOMINIC

....

RICHARD

Did you hear what I said? Huh? *(gives Dominic a kiss on the head)*

DOMINIC

Don't.

RICHARD

What? What's the matter, don't like me getting in the way? *(stands in the front of the tv)*

DOMINIC

Dad, knock it off! Wyatt and I are pwning these noobs and I....*(trying to see around him)*

RICHARD

What if I do this? *(starts dancing like a nerd in front of the tv)*

DOMINIC

MOM!!!!

LILLIAN

*(coming back in)* Richard, what are you doing? Stop teasing him. And put some slippers on, no one wants to see your can cutter toenails.

*(gives pill and Nalgene to DOMINIC)* And you, take this and then go change. Your Grandma will be here any minute and she will raze our house to the ground if she sees that I let you wear that shirt. / Where are they?\*

RICHARD

Yeah, what is that shirt, Dominic? It's grotesque.

LILLIAN

\*They are so late!

I thought you were going to put the beer in the fridge.

RICHARD

There's no room. I got the pop in.

LILLIAN

Okay, fine, I'll just put it out in the fridge in the garage.

RICHARD

I'll do that, / hun.

LILLIAN

No, no, no, I've got it. Slippers!

*LILLIAN heads to the garage with the beer.*

RICHARD

Hey bud, wrap that game up, okay?

*RICHARD exits towards the bedroom.*

*DOMINIC takes his pill, drinks some water, and continues to play his game. He kills something impressive and reacts!*

*DEANNA enters from the front door, holding a Victoria Secret bag.*

DEANNA

Hey dumb dumb.

DOMINIC

*(looking at her VS bag)* Aren't you like, grounded or something?

DEANNA

That was last week.

You don't look sick.

DOMINIC

Oh yeah, how about now? *(he makes a sick, pathetic face)* "Mommy, I'm sick..."

DEANNA

Ugh, you fucking bullshitter.

DOMINIC

*(fake horror)* Language!

DEANNA

I can't believe she falls for that.

DOMINIC

Don't let her hear you or you'll get grounded again.

DEANNA

Whatever. She'll probably find another bullshit reason to ground me.

DOMINIC

Probably, yeah.

DEANNA

She only sees what she wants to see.

DOMINIC

Hey, Mom likes it when she can baby me, okay? It makes her happy. I'm just being a good son, making his mom happy. And if it means I can get out of going to church - win score win.

DEANNA  
Mom is so stupid.

DOMINIC  
You're stupid.

DEANNA  
No you are. Brat!

*LILLIAN enters with a big bowl of pansit.*

LILLIAN  
Hey, don't call your brother that! Be nice to him, he's sick.  
Did you go to the mall? I thought you were going straight home from church.

DEANNA  
Yeah.

LILLIAN  
By yourself?

DEANNA  
No.

LILLIAN  
Who'd you go with?

DEANNA  
Friends.

LILLIAN  
Who?

DEANNA  
Just some friends from church.

LILLIAN  
Who?

DEANNA  
I dunno. JoJo, Krystal.

LILLIAN

Was Krystal's brother there?

DEANNA

Maybe, I dunno.

LILLIAN

You don't know?

DEANNA

Well, I think he might've picked her up from the mall afterwards, but I dunno.

LILLIAN

I told you, Deanna, I don't like that boy.

DEANNA

He's not a boy, Mom. He has his own car.

LILLIAN

That is the worst reasoning I've ever heard. I don't want you hanging out with him.

DEANNA

Okay, whatever.

LILLIAN

Hey! Don't you talk like that to me. You watch your mouth, do you hear me?

DEANNA

Yes.

LILLIAN

Yes what?

DEANNA

Yes, Mom. Sorry.

LILLIAN

Go change. And don't think I can't see that crop top under your cardigan. Put on something decent for your Grandma.

*DEANNA flounces out and almost collides into RICHARD.*

RICHARD

Hey, where's the fire?

*DEANNA doesn't respond and goes to her bedroom.*

LILLIAN

That girl is going to be the absolute death of me, I swear...

RICHARD

It's pretty normal for her age. / You could let up on her a bit.

LILLIAN

I never was disrespectful like that to my mother, at any age.

Let up on her? Remember how we tried that with the other one? And you remember how that turned out? Disaster. You said you'd let me handle Deanna, so let me handle this. I'm handling it. Did we not agree?

*(slaps at his hand, which is in the pansit bowl)* Hey, stop picking / at the pansit!

RICHARD

I'm hungry!

LILLIAN

They'll be here soon, just -

*There's a rhythmic knock at the door, the same rhythm as in Act I.*  
*Beat.*

LILLIAN

Oh my god.

Dominic, stop!

DOMINIC

What?

LILLIAN

Ssh!

*Silence except for the sounds of the video game.*  
*There's another rhythmic knock at the door, the same one as before but louder.*  
*LILLIAN marches over the tv and turns it off.*

DOMINIC

MOM, / ARE YOU KIDDING ME?!

LILLIAN

Turn that off right now, and put on a different shirt, I told you three times, now get out, go!

DOMINIC  
But Mom -

LILLIAN  
*(through gritted teeth)* Dominic.

DOMINIC  
*(sees the look on her face)* Okay, okay, I'm going!

*He trundles off to his room. LILLIAN and RICHARD look at each other.  
There's a third knock at the door.*

RICHARD  
Lill.

LILLIAN  
*(sets her shoulders back)* It'll be fine.

RICHARD  
Did you ever tell her about -

LILLIAN  
It'll be fine! Just don't say anything.

*LILLIAN smiles and opens the door. MARINA and GRANDMA ORTALEZA are standing there.  
MARINA is wearing a very soft t-shirt, skinny jeans, a blazer, big sunglasses, and stilettos.  
She's holding this season's Prada bag and looks casually expensive, fabulous, and just so cool.  
GRANDMA ORTALEZA is wearing a modest but aggressively peach colored dress, a large hat,  
and a lot of jewelry.*

GRANDMA ORTALEZA  
*Ano ba'ng iniisip mo* (What are you thinking) ?! Are you deaf? Why so long to answer the door?

LILLIAN  
So sorry, Mom, I -

GRANDMA ORTALEZA  
We standing here in the cold, you in there making big noises, we knock, then you scurry, scurry, scurry. *Nakakahiya* (disgraceful)! You have something to hide? *(she sweeps into the house)*

LILLIAN  
Sorry, Mom, I was trying to get the house presentable for you.

Marina, I didn't know you were coming!

MARINA

I wanted to surprise / you guys.

RICHARD

Hi Mom, good to see you. Marina.

GRANDMA ORTALEZA

*(nods in RICHARD'S general direction)* Hmph.

MARINA

Hey.

LILLIAN

Mom, where's Cousin Tingting? I thought she was bringing you home after mass.

MARINA

She was, but she had a headache when I met them in the church parking lot, so I took her home.

GRANDMA ORTALEZA

Where is Dominic? Where is my grandson?

LILLIAN

He's coming, he wasn't feeling well this morning -

GRANDMA ORTALEZA

What? What do you mean?

LILLIAN

Well, he -

GRANDMA ORTALEZA

Lillian, what does he have? How long? You should have told me, I would've brought my medicine box. So neglectful!

LILLIAN

He's just got the sniffles, Mom. He'll be okay in a day or two.

GRANDMA ORTALEZA

Hmph.

MARINA

Just give him some whiskey.

LILLIAN

*(stiffly)* We don't do that. He's just a child.

MARINA

No, I mean, like how Dad would say, remember? We'd be sick and he'd be like *(in a thick Filipino accent)*, "hoy, drink some whiskey!"

Mom, remember when Dad used to say that?

LILLIAN

She didn't hear you.

MARINA

Oh well.

RICHARD

Speaking of drinking, Mom, can I get you a beverage?

*GRANDMA ORTALEZA waves a hand at him. RICHARD looks at LILLIAN for interpretation and she nods to him and silently points at the fridge.*

Marina, you want a pop?

MARINA

I'll take a Diet.

RICHARD

Uh, I think we only have regular.

LILLIAN

We didn't know you were coming. If I'd known, I would've planned to get some at the store for you.

RICHARD

Or beer, would you like some / beer?

MARINA

It's okay, I'll just have water then. I don't drink regular. Or alcohol anymore, actually.

RICHARD

Huh, that's new.

MARINA

Yep.

RICHARD  
Any reason why?

LILLIAN  
I can go to the store and get some Diet.

MARINA  
Oh my god, no, don't do that. Just water is ok.

RICHARD  
Sparkling or tap?

MARINA/LILLIAN  
Tap.

*DOMINIC and DEANNA enter.*

GRANDMA ORTALEZA  
Oh, there he is!

DOMINIC  
Hi Grandma.

DEANNA  
Hi Grandma.

GRANDMA ORTALEZA  
Marina, look at this boy! So big, so handsome!

MARINA  
I am! Very handsome!

RICHARD  
Dominic is gonna be taller than me when he stops growing, I think.

DOMINIC  
Yeah, I am.  
Hi, Auntie Mare!

DEANNA  
We didn't know you were coming!

MARINA

C'mere, let me give you a hug! Both of you! (*hugs DOMINIC and DEANNA*)

GRANDMA ORTALEZA

But too skinny. Lillian, you should feed this boy. / He's growing, he needs nutrients.\*

RICHARD

Oh, she feeds him, all right.

DEANNA

\*I'm growing too.

GRANDMA ORTALEZA

Hmph, sideways. But still pretty. / Come here, you big boy! (*gives DOMINIC a huge hug*)

DEANNA

Dang ok.

MARINA

(*lowers her voice*) Don't listen to her, it's just how she says I love you.

DEANNA

OHEMGEE, is that your Prada bag?!

MARINA

Yep, this season's!

DEANNA

Wow! Look Mom!\* (*puts it on her shoulder*)

LILLIAN

I see it.

GRANDMA ORTALEZA

(*scrutinizes DOMINIC*) \*But what / is this shirt?

DEANNA

And omg / THESE SHOES!

GRANDMA ORTALEZA

*Hoy...why...why* do you have a Black man / on your shirt?

DEANNA

I think we're the same size, / can I try them on?

DOMINIC

It's Killer Mike, / Grandma.\*

MARINA

Go for it.

GRANDMA ORTALEZA

\*WHAAAA? You have killer on your shirt?!? *Isang kahihyan* (such a disgrace)! Lillian!

LILLIAN

Killer Mike is just the man's rapper name, Mom.\*

RICHARD

He's very famous.

GRANDMA ORTALEZA

\*You buy your son that shirt and let him go outside with it on?

LILLIAN

He bought it with his own money, I had / nothing to do...

GRANDMA ORTALEZA

People will look at him and think he is trouble, think the whole family is trouble! Shameful.  
(to DOMINIC) Tomorrow, I take you shopping. You need proper clothes.

DOMINIC

Okay, Grandma, thanks!

LILLIAN

Deanna, take those stilettos off, you'll break an ankle.

GRANDMA ORTALEZA

You, pretty girl, come kiss your grandma.

DEANNA

(*toddles over in the stilettos and kisses her on the cheek*) Grandma, I love your necklace.

GRANDMA ORTALEZA

Oh my, yes, your grandfather gave it to me. It was his mother's and she gave it to him when she died at 80.

Tell you what, I'll give it to you when I'm 80.

DEANNA

I'll be 30 when you turn 80!

GRANDMA ORTALEZA

Well, it'll be a miracle if you make it to 30.

DOMINIC

Ha!

LILLIAN

Deanna, shoes. Off.

RICHARD

Mom, here's that drink.

*GRANDMA ORTALEZA nods at him and takes the drink. DEANNA takes off the stilettos.*

MARINA

Where's Egg?

LILLIAN

...

MARINA

Is she not here?

GRANDMA ORTALEZA

She's at school.

MARINA

School? On a Sunday?\*

GRANDMA ORTALEZA

Some fancy -

DEANNA

\*She's at -

LILLIAN

Egg got into this specialized uh...

RICHARD

Space training program NASA has for teens.

LILLIAN

It's eight weeks long, so she's in -

RICHARD

Florida.

LILLIAN

Florida, yeah.

MARINA

Oh. I didn't know that.

LILLIAN

Well.

Deanna, come help me with the food.

MARINA

I can help.

LILLIAN

No, no, we can do it. There's not much / left to do anyway.

DOMINIC

Whoa! Auntie Mare, is that your car?

MARINA

Sort of...I drove it up here, anyway.

DEANNA

Can we see it?

MARINA

Sure, go ahead.

DOMINIC

*(to DEANNA)* Come on! Let's go!

*DEANNA and DOMINIC bolt out the front door to go look at the car.*

LILLIAN

I guess I'll just make the plates then.

MARINA

I'm coming. *(goes over to help LILLIAN in the kitchen)*

RICHARD

Wanna watch the game with me, Mom? *(he turns on the television, the sounds of basketball come on)*

MARINA

LeeLee, that space program sounds...amazing.

LILLIAN

It is.

MARINA

I didn't even know she was into that space stuff.

LILLIAN

Well, you know she's always been good at sciences.

MARINA

Right.

LILLIAN

And she wanted to go and she got herself into it, so she went.

MARINA

Did you know she was applying?

LILLIAN

Uh, no. She did it all on her own.

RICHARD

Do you like LeBron James, Mom?

*GRANDMA ORTALEZA juts her chin in the air in response.*

MARINA

She didn't tell me about it. How long has she been gone?

LILLIAN

Four weeks or so.

MARINA

Oh, okay, I wondered why she wasn't responding to my texts.

LILLIAN

Probably just busy.

RICHARD

He's playing like a monster, huh?

MARINA

And her school is letting her just take off to do it during the school year?

LILLIAN

It's a very prestigious program, so they're letting her count it towards graduation.

MARINA

Wow.

RICHARD

Some people think he's better than Michael Jordan.

*GRANDMA ORTALEZA snorts.*

MARINA

Well, it sounds like a great experience. But probably expensive.

LILLIAN

Oh! Well, of course...

MARINA

How much is it?

LILLIAN

Oh...

MARINA

Because I'd like to contribute some extra money towards this, her taking this program.

LILLIAN

No, no.

MARINA

No, seriously, / you know it's not a problem.

LILLIAN

Like I've said a million times, we don't want your money. Richard makes enough money to take care of all the kids, so...it's fine don't worry about it.

*(to RICHARD)* Babe, do you want rice or no?\*

RICHARD

No rice, thanks! (to GRANDMA) I'm watching my carb intake.

MARINA

\*Not worried, just want to do my part for the family and help.

LILLIAN

Well, we don't need help. That's why we kept sending your checks back.

MARINA

...

What?

*DOMINIC and DEANNA burst back into the house.*

DOMINIC

Mom! Mom! Did you see the car?

DEANNA

Did you look at it?

LILLIAN

Yes, it's very nice.

*DEANNA and DOMINIC start laughing.*

DOMINIC

Nice?! It's a CLA45 AMG!

LILLIAN

Ok, I don't know what that is -

DEANNA

It's like a really sweet Mercedes.

DOMINIC

Ummmmmmmm..."sweet" is an understatement, okay? It's a 350 horsepower turbo charged 4 cylinder all wheel drive. With 19 inch wheels.

LILLIAN

Okay.

DOMINIC

It goes from 0 to 60 in like, 5 seconds.

MARINA  
4 seconds, I think...?

DOMINIC  
Oh my god! See?!

DEANNA  
That's not just "nice" Mom, wow.

LILLIAN  
Deanna {watch it}...

DOMINIC  
And look at those brakes! You know a car is fast when it has huge brakes like that! It's so much faster than your C Class, Dad!

RICHARD  
Well -

DOMINIC  
(to MARINA) It's the 2014 model too, yeah?

MARINA  
It is, yeah.

DOMINIC  
How did you get it? They're not even on the lots yet.

MARINA  
I have a friend who works at Mercedes. I asked him to hook me up and he did.

*LILLIAN snorts.*

DOMINIC  
That shade of red is so dope. What kind of navigation system does it have? What about the sound system? Also, are you going to get racing seats, because that would really amp it up for shizz.

MARINA  
I have no idea, sorry. My friend had it customized but I'm not sure exactly what they did to it.

GRANDMA ORTALEZA  
Friend? What kind friend?

MARINA  
Just a friend, Mom.

GRANDMA ORTALEZA  
Not boyfriend?

MARINA  
No. He's married.

*LILLIAN snorts again.*

GRANDMA ORTALEZA  
Hmph. Fancy job, fancy car, but no boyfriend, no husband.

DOMINIC  
Did you see the car, Grandma?

DEANNA  
She came in it, dumb dumb.

DOMINIC  
Oh yeah.  
Aw man, I really wanna get a car like that. It would so dope. Like maybe for my 18th birthday?

RICHARD  
Keep dreaming, bud.

MARINA  
Well...I actually brought it up here for Egg's birthday.

*Beat.*

LILLIAN  
You...what?

MARINA  
I mean, I know I'm a few months late, but I couldn't get away from work until now so I thought why not just bring her present up when Mom was visiting. Birds, stone, you know.

RICHARD  
Marina, that is a...very generous gift.

LILLIAN

Very inappropriate gift.

RICHARD

Lill.

LILLIAN

I just don't think she needs an expensive sports car / at her age.

MARINA

It wasn't that expensive. I got a good deal on it.

GRANDMA ORTALEZA

Foolishness. You can't give that ridiculous car to a teenage girl.

LILLIAN

Thank you, Mom.

GRANDMA ORTALEZA

What will she do with it?

MARINA

Drive it? It's just a sedan, it's not a big deal.

LILLIAN

It is a big deal, take it back.

DOMINIC

Take it back?! Mom, she can't just take it back to the dealer! / That's a really special customized car!

DEANNA

Yeah, and if she gives it to Egg, then we can drive until she gets back / from treat -

DOMINIC

Dude, shut up.

RICHARD

Hey kids, why don't we all go outside to the back, hmm?

DEANNA

But -

RICHARD

Lill did a real nice set up in the backyard for our lunch, right under the new pergola we built last year.

Mom, I think you're really going to love what she did out there. She planted some grapevines and we're going to make our own wine once the plants mature.

GRANDMA ORTALEZA

I will make us plates. *(goes to the kitchen)*

LILLIAN

Mom, I already made plates.

GRANDMA ORTALEZA

You don't know how to do it right. And you waited so long to serve us, the food is getting cold. *Ay nako! (she starts putting food on the already-made plates and rearranging the food on them)*

LILLIAN

Mom, Dominic doesn't need that much on his -

GRANDMA ORTALEZA

No, no, you starve that boy. *Tingnan mo siya (look at him)!* Nothing but skin and bones. *(to her grandkids)* Come, we go. Deanna, carry my plate.

*DEANNA and DOMINIC follow GRANDMA ORTALEZA outside.  
Beat.*

LILLIAN

Babe. Here. *(she hands him a plate)*

RICHARD

It looks great, you did a great job.

LILLIAN

She's driving me insane.

RICHARD

I know. Sorry.

LILLIAN

Love you.

RICHARD

You coming?

LILLIAN

Yeah, I'll be right there.

*RICHARD exits.*

MARINA

Mom's really in a mood today, isn't she?

LILLIAN

I don't know what else I expected.

MARINA

She grabbed the wheel in the car three times when I was driving. Almost wrecked the car.

LILLIAN

*(snorts)* Hmph.

MARINA

You know...you're overreacting about this car thing.

LILLIAN

No, I'm / really not.

MARINA

It's just a car! Plenty of kids get cars for their birthdays and graduations.

LILLIAN

Oh brother.

MARINA

Both Dominic and Deanna got cars for their 16th birthday last year. Egg told me.

LILLIAN

So you've been talking to Egg behind my back?

MARINA

You know it's not like that.

LILLIAN

And just what terrible things did she tell you about us?

MARINA

She just told me that she was so excited to get a car for her 16th birthday like her siblings did and what did she get instead? Socks.

LILLIAN

That is / not true.

MARINA

Socks!

LILLIAN

That girl is such a....

MARINA

Such a what?

LILLIAN

...

MARINA

No, such a what, Lillian?

LILLIAN

She got more than socks. We're not abusing her here.  
And besides, the cars we got Dominic and Deanna were used.

MARINA

So? Is a used car not a car?

LILLIAN

So Egg doesn't need a car when we already have four cars and don't need a fifth one.

MARINA

Well, what is she using right now?

LILLIAN

What do you mean?

MARINA

She's in Florida, they don't exactly have the best public transportation so I assume you gave her a car so she can get around while she's there.

LILLIAN

She doesn't need a car, they take care of everything for them. It's like a one-stop shop situation.

MARINA

But what about the weekends? Do they go to the beach? How does she do her laundry? Do they have laundromats at NASA?

LILLIAN

I don't know! It's all figured out, they figure all that out for them.

MARINA

Uh-huh.

LILLIAN

The point is, I'm her mother, she's still a minor and I get to say if she keeps the car or doesn't.

MARINA

Huh. Okay.

LILLIAN

Okay.

MARINA

I'll just keep in my garage until she turns 18.

LILLIAN

Well, I can't stop you.

MARINA

No, you can't.

LILLIAN

Great!

*Beat.*

MARINA

Why are you so hostile today?

LILLIAN

I am not.

MARINA

Yes, you are. You've been hostile since I walked in here. I thought you would be excited to see me, you usually are, but today you're acting super weird. What's going on?

LILLIAN

Well, I'm sorry that your surprise trip isn't what you expected it to be. But you can't just waltz in here, strutting around, showing off your Prada bag, your stilettos, and that stupid car. Every Christmas and birthday it's the same. "Ooo look what Auntie Mare sent us! Look at our laptops,

Mom! Look at our new iPhones, Mom!” Parading your money in front of my kids like a rich peacock, it’s disgusting.

MARINA

Is that what peacocks do?

LILLIAN

You know what I mean. It’s an embarrassment and you’re making an absolute spectacle of yourself.

MARINA

Oh, but it’s okay for Richard to show off his watches?

LILLIAN

Oh brother, he did that / one time.

MARINA

He did it the first time I met him! It left an impression.

LILLIAN

That was ages ago.

MARINA

“Hey, wanna hold my watch? See how heavy it is? Huh, that’s right, it’s \$1200!”

LILLIAN

He was just trying to relate to you, he was nervous.

MARINA

Ah yes, because doing something like that to a poor college student is so relatable.

LILLIAN

He panicked! And also that was almost 20 years ago, so let it go.

MARINA

We’re Filipino! When have any of us ever let anything go, ever?

LILLIAN

You need to back up off Richard, I mean it. He’s my husband and you need to show him some respect. Especially since he has born the brunt of the cost of the kid you left here for us to raise.

MARINA

I have been sending you money!

LILLIAN

I told you, we don't want your money!

MARINA

Why? So you can shove the fact that Richard is paying for Egg's expenses in my face?

Because I am literally paying you so you'll stop doing that!

And he's lying to you, you know.

LILLIAN

Who is?

MARINA

Richard. He hasn't been sending my checks back. Every single one of them has been cashed.

LILLIAN

Ay! That is a lie.

MARINA

No, it's not.

LILLIAN

Because!

MARINA

Because why?

LILLIAN

Because you and your daughter are exactly the same!

*Beat.*

MARINA

What the fuck does that mean?

LILLIAN

She's a liar, Marina. Just like you are.

MARINA

I have absolutely no idea what you're talking about. What did I lie about?

LILLIAN

Where do I even start?

MARINA

I don't know.

LILLIAN

Yes, you do.

Richard. The kid he had with that garbage slut.

MARINA

Oh that.

LILLIAN

What do you mean, oh that?!

MARINA

I didn't know you found out.

LILLIAN

Yes, I did!

MARINA

So why on earth are you mad at me about it when Richard is the one -

LILLIAN

Richard told me about it! You didn't! And you knew.

You. Knew.

And you didn't tell me, Mare.

MARINA

No, I didn't.

LILLIAN

Why? Why didn't you tell me?

MARINA

Because what good would that have done? You were disgustingly in love with him for some reason, you seemed so happy and I'm sorry, I'm really sorry I didn't tell you, but you had just gotten pregnant with Dominic and Deanna when we found out about the girl. / I knew it would hurt you and -

LILLIAN

"We"? Who's "we"?

MARINA

...

LILLIAN

Marina. Who is "we"?

MARINA

Me and Mom. Well, Mom found out and she told me.

LILLIAN

Oh my god. Mom knows?

MARINA

Well...yeah. Boy doesn't, though.

LILLIAN

Great. That's...great.

So, that's why she's awful to my husband and has been for years.

MARINA

Well.

LILLIAN

What?

MARINA

You know how she is. She never forgives anyone for anything.

*Beat.*

How'd you find out?

LILLIAN

Some scruffy blonde hobo looking yahoo came around the back last summer, I was planting the grapes, and he was asking for Richard Brooks, said he's his son. Then when I confront Richard about it, he thought it was YOU that told me and I had no idea that you knew anything about this until that moment and I just -

MARINA

So wait. Richard didn't actually tell you about it, he just confessed after the kid came by.

LILLIAN

He and I are working through things together. But that's not the point! We're not talking about him right now, I'm talking about you. And the point is, is that you lied. To me.

MARINA

Just like Egg.

LILLIAN

*(triumphant)* Yes. Exactly.

MARINA

Okay. So what did she lie about?

LILLIAN

I don't want to talk about it with you anymore.

MARINA

Are you / serious?

LILLIAN

I shouldn't have brought it up. It's fine.

MARINA

It's obviously not fine! I want to know. What did she lie about?

*GRANDMA ORTALEZA comes in.*

GRANDMA ORTALEZA

*Tapos na ako* (I am done). Lunch is over. It's time for family meeting.

LILLIAN

Okay, Mom.

MARINA

Mom, Lillian and I were talking.

*DOMINIC, DEANNA, and RICHARD enter.*

GRANDMA ORTALEZA

No, no more. We talk as a family. Now.

MARINA

Okay.

GRANDMA ORTALEZA

Okay what?

MARINA

Okay, Mom.

GRANDMA ORTALEZA  
 Hmph.  
*(sits in RICHARD's chair) Sit.*

*The whole family gathers in the living room.  
 Beat.*

DOMINIC  
 Are we in trouble?

DEANNA  
 Ssh.

GRANDMA ORTALEZA  
 It is time for the family to be together after many years apart. Too long have we been far away from each other. Lillian is here, Marina in California, and Boy and I in Hawaii. I am not getting younger. It is a privilege to watch one's parents get old. I am giving you that privilege. *Kaya* (so). I have sold my home and am moving. Cousin TingTing helped me find a new one three away from this house and I will be moving in next month.

LILLIAN  
 What about Boy?

MARINA  
 What about the business? Are you selling it?

GRANDMA ORTALEZA  
 We will not sell. Boy will move in with me. Cousin Harold will watch over it there and act as manager. And Boy will manage the business from here on the line and fly over there when he needs to.

DOMINIC  
 On the line?

DEANNA  
 Online, dumb dumb.

GRANDMA ORTALEZA  
 And then Marina.

MARINA  
 What about me?

GRANDMA ORTALEZA

You will move here too. I have found a house for you. It is not as close to this as mine is, but still, it is not far.

MARINA  
Mom.

GRANDMA ORTALEZA  
I have purchased it and you can move in as soon as next month.

MARINA  
Mom? Mom. Okay.  
Thank you so much for this generous and very out of the blue gift, but I can't move here.

GRANDMA ORTALEZA  
Why.

MARINA  
For so many reasons, but um... for one thing, my job. I can't leave my job.

GRANDMA ORTALEZA  
Do not worry, I told your boss you are moving and will work remote.

MARINA  
You did what?!

GRANDMA ORTALEZA  
Do not raise your voice to me.

MARINA  
I'm sorry, I don't mean to yell, but you can't call my boss, Mom. You can't do that.

GRANDMA ORTALEZA  
I did.

MARINA  
I know you did, but you -

GRANDMA ORTALEZA  
*Kilala ko siya* (I know him). I call your boss, I know your boss, why can't I call your boss? *Bakit* (why)? Are you ashamed of me? You don't want me to know your boss? You have something to hide?

MARINA  
No.

GRANDMA ORTALEZA

*Kinukulit mo ba ang boss mo (are you fucking your boss)?*

MARINA

Oh my god, Mom, NO! I am not sleeping with my boss.

If you want to move here to this godforsaken place and drag Boy with you, then that's great, but you didn't ask me if this was even something that I wanted to do. I am not about to leave my job and move here and that's it. I'm sorry, but that's final.

*Beat.*

RICHARD

Well, I think it's wonderful that you're moving here, Mom.

LILLIAN

Babe -

RICHARD

No, no, I think it's terrific! You'll be closer to the kids. We're happy to have you in the neighborhood.

GRANDMA ORTALEZA

Lillian, when I said family meeting, what does that mean?

LILLIAN

Mom, please.

GRANDMA ORTALEZA

Family, Lillian. Family.

LILLIAN

We've been through this. Richard is my husband, he is family.

GRANDMA ORTALEZA

He is not blood! Family. Only.

LILLIAN

No, you can't ask him to leave.

RICHARD

It's okay, I can go.

LILLIAN

No, you're not leaving!

RICHARD

Lill, this happens every time, it's fine.

LILLIAN

No, no, it's not fine! I don't care that it happens every time, it shouldn't and I have a serious problem with this!

DEANNA

Should we go?

MARINA

Yeah, why don't you two go outside or something?

LILLIAN

Don't tell my kids what to do.

*(to DOMINIC and DEANNA)* Go to your rooms.

GRANDMA ORTALEZA

They are blood, they are family, they stay. This family meeting not over.

RICHARD

I need some air anyway, I'll go take a walk. *(he exits out the back door)*

LILLIAN

Mom. They're my kids and I say what they do or don't do in my own house!

Go to your rooms, now!

*DEANNA sprints to her room.*

DOMINIC

I'm going to Wyatt's, this whole thing is wack. *(he exits out the front door)*

GRANDMA ORTALEZA

You need to reign in your temper, Lillian. You're going *atake sa puso* (have a heart attack).

LILLIAN

*(muttering)* Honestly, having a heart attack right now sounds preferable to this conversation.

GRANDMA ORTALEZA

What are you muttering? Don't mutter in front of me. Speak up.

MARINA

LeeLee -

LILLIAN

Mom, it's great that you want to move into the neighborhood, but if you do, you can't treat my husband this way.

GRANDMA ORTALEZA

That man is not worthy of you, Lillian. *Dapat kasi nakinig ka* (you should have listened to me)!

LILLIAN

Stop! Please, just stop, Mom! I'm so tired of this. You come into my home and criticize everything I do, always! You reorganize my kitchen every time you visit, you insult me in front of my kids and I have dealt with you treating me like I was the dirt under your feet my entire life, but I will not stand for you treating Richard like that! Not anymore! And if you continue to treat me and him like this and talk to us the way that you do, then I'm sorry, but you aren't welcome in our home and I don't want you to come over here ever again, goddamn it!

GRANDMA ORTALEZA

*(slaps LILLIAN across the face)* Bad, stupid girl! *Ikaw ay walang halaga* (you are worthless)! To say such things to your mother. I am your elder! You show me some respect! *Napaka-gago mo* (you are so stupid)!

MARINA

Mom -

GRANDMA ORTALEZA

Both of you! Look at you. Spoiled, soft, lazy! I raised ungrateful, worthless children. You live in comfort, luxury, and why? Because of me. Because of your dad and the sacrifices we made so you could have a better life. And now for what?

*(to MARINA)* I thought you would be happy to live near your mother, help take care of her in her old age. But no! *Matapobre* (you're an elitist snob). You want to live your own life. Happy, free, rich, away from your family. Living in luxury alone. Not even come home for your father's death. You think you are queen? *Dapat kang mahiya* (you should be ashamed).

MARINA

Mom, we've been over this. I was at school. Dad wanted me to wait until I was done with my finals before / coming home!

GRANDMA ORTALEZA

*(to LILLIAN)* And you! *Kasalanan mo ang lahat ng ito* (this is your fault)! The way you talk to me in the house I buy for you, and that lazy no-good white man you find on the street and fornicate with! You get engaged, you get pregnant and *tcha!*

MARINA

That happened seventeen years ago, Mom, let it go!

GRANDMA ORTALEZA

I spend all this money of your father's, providing for you, providing for your kids so they do not grow up penniless in the cold, and what do I get? Disrespect! Disrespect in MY house!

LILLIAN

For the last time, this is not your house, Mom!

GRANDMA ORTALEZA

I buy, is mine. How is not my house? I buy! I buy for you! And your kids! As gift!

LILLIAN

If I knew that this gift was going to come with this much abuse, I would never have accepted it!

GRANDMA ORTALEZA

*(sputtering)* You, you - *Nakakagigil ka* (you are making me shake with rage) !

LILLIAN

Take it back then! You can have it! I'll move us out tomorrow!

MARINA

LeeLee, stop -

GRANDMA ORTALEZA

Oh! If only your father could hear you now, he would die on the spot from the disrespect you show me! But he can't because he's dead. He's dead and cold in the grave, but he shows me more warmth than you two together!

MARINA

Mom, enough!

GRANDMA ORTALEZA

It was a mistake to buy you ungrateful girls these expensive things. Waste. Nothing but waste. I thought you want to be near as family and live years together but no. The only one who truly loves me and appreciates what I do is Boy.

LILLIAN

Get out!

GRANDMA ORTALEZA

Fine. I go. *Lintik ka! Tamaan ka sana ng kidlat* (may lightning strike you down) !

MARINA

Where are you going?

GRANDMA ORTALEZA  
I am going to TingTing's.

MARINA  
Mom, that's really far away!

GRANDMA ORTALEZA  
*Ayoko na* (I quit)! I walk! (*goes to the door*)  
I shake the dust from my feet of this place of ungrateful liars and sinners. *Wala kang silbi* (you are worthless).

LILLIAN  
Mom -

GRANDMA ORTALEZA  
(*to LILLIAN*) Tell your sister where her daughter is.

*GRANDMA ORTALEZA sweeps out of the house.*  
*MARINA and LILLIAN look at each other.*  
*Beat.*

MARINA  
Where's Egg?

LILLIAN  
How did Mom know?

MARINA  
Where is she?

LILLIAN  
Did you tell her?

MARINA  
I don't give a shit how or why Mom knows, I want to know where my daughter is!

LILLIAN  
(*laughing*) She's not your daughter! We agreed, did we not, we AGREED that I would be her mom, that she would be my kid. That was the deal. Remember? You left her here. Snuck out in the middle of the night after she was born. I wanted you to take care of her, grow up, be her mom, but no. Your dazzling new life called so I stepped up, like I always do -

MARINA

STOP. I am so tired of this whole martyr act!

LILLIAN

Why did you come here? Did you want to ruin our lives? / You're like a hurricane, Marina. You sweep through and destroy everyone in your wake.\*

MARINA

DO NOT even TRY to give me that right now.

LILLIAN

\*Or maybe you're more like a vampire, sucking the life / out of everyone...

MARINA

For the last FUCKING TIME -  
Where is she?

LILLIAN

She's in treatment.

MARINA

For what?!

LILLIAN

She's at a private facility getting treatment.

MARINA

What the fuck are you talking about? Is she okay, is she sick, what happened?  
Lillian, tell me what's wrong with her RIGHT NOW

LILLIAN

She's a liar.

MARINA

And? You don't send a girl away to get treatment for lying!

LILLIAN

She was always so attention seeking. She'd tell a story and you knew it would be an exaggerated version of what probably really happened. Or she'd just make things up! Even when she was little. She'd say some stupid thing about how a wolf followed her home after school - after watching some nature special on TV about wolves - when we haven't ever had a wolf in this neighborhood. None of my kids saw it, it was just a story she'd tell for attention. Sound familiar? Oh, she's your daughter all right, your blood runs through her veins.

MARINA

Okay, so is she my daughter, or is she not? Because you keep changing the -

LILLIAN

Oh stop.

MARINA

I knew she was unhappy here, but my god. I didn't realize you didn't want her.

LILLIAN

I didn't say that!

MARINA

If you didn't want her, or if you were having serious trouble with her, you should've told me! I would've come and taken her off your hands since you apparently -

LILLIAN

Oh, please and how would that have looked? I'm not a failure like you, Marina.

MARINA

Failure?! I'm a failure?

LILLIAN

Yes! You are!

MARINA

I run a motherfucking Fortune 500 company! Youngest Asian woman / to be CFO of a -

LILLIAN

Oh who gives a flying rat's butt about that! I'm sick to death of you bragging about that crap. I'm talking about what really matters. You failed to be a mother to your own kid, your own flesh and blood. So I had to do it for you.

MARINA

Wow.

LILLIAN

You don't know what it's like! Bringing up a kid, loving it like your own, and then -

MARINA

Don't call / her an "it".

*DEANNA enters, neither LILLIAN nor MARINA see her standing in the doorway*

LILLIAN

We raised her, and loved her, and how does she show gratitude? She spreads lies, truly brutal, vicious lies about us behind our backs! To people in our church! And why? I don't know! Fun? The attention she got from her little friends? But we were the ones who had to pay the price. Our reputation. Richard could've lost his standing in our church - he's a church elder now, you know - or God forbid, his job! And she wouldn't stop, so I had to send her away to people who would make her stop because I couldn't.

MARINA

What did she say about you?

LILLIAN

Oh, it...it doesn't bear repeating.  
Don't give me that face.

MARINA

No. What was so bad that you felt the need to -

DEANNA

It was about Dad.

*Beat.*

MARINA

What about your Dad, Deanna?

LILLIAN

Don't you say / a word.

MARINA

Lillian, shut up.  
(to DEANNA) What did Egg say about him?

DEANNA

She told our friend Krystal that Dad was being a total creep. Watching her swim in the pool from behind the curtain at his bedroom window, pretending he didn't know she was in the bathroom when she had just finished taking a shower, busting into her room when she was changing. That kind of thing.

Well, and then Krystal told her mom, and then Mrs. Friedman called to tell Mom about what Krystal told her but Mom totally freaked and wouldn't believe her.

LILLIAN

Deanna!

DEANNA

So Mom sent her to some weird cult place in the mountains. Fields of Hope, or something like that. Dominic and I heard them talking about it, so we Googled it and it's near Sun Valley. Mom and Dad dropped her off there like, four weeks ago.

LILLIAN

We had to!

Your dad and I sat her down, asked her why she told that story and she clammed up and refused to say anything at all.

MARINA

Well, of course she did, you had Richard there!

LILLIAN

No, it's because she had been caught in her lie and was embarrassed -

MARINA

You can't have the abuser in the room / when you -

LILLIAN

He is NOT an abuser! You've always hated him.

MARINA

Yes, because I can see past this veneer persona he has created for himself. The man you love is not who he really is. You love his smiling shell.

LILLIAN

No.

MARINA

Lillian. Stop. You need to face the fucking facts.

Your husband is a liar. He's been cashing my checks and telling you that he's sending them back to me. He had a kid with someone else and didn't tell you about it until he was confronted with the truth two decades later. Is it really so hard to believe that he would lie to you about being a pedophile?

LILLIAN

He is not a pedophile! How dare you say that about him, he is the kindest, most generous -

DEANNA

Stop! Mom, fucking stop! That is bullshit!

LILLIAN

Don't you talk to your mother like that!

*LILLIAN rushes towards DEANNA and raises her hand to hit her.  
MARINA steps in between.*

MARINA  
Stop!

LILLIAN  
She...she...

MARINA  
I know you're upset, but don't take it out on / your daughter!

LILLIAN  
She can't -

MARINA  
*Ate*, please.  
Don't be Mom.  
You don't want to be like Mom.

*LILLIAN steps back and crumples into a chair.  
Beat.*

MARINA  
Deanna, was Egg telling the truth?

DEANNA  
Yeah. She wasn't making shit up.

MARINA  
How do you know? Did you see him do anything?

DEANNA  
No, I didn't. But um...

*DEANNA goes to the bookcase, pulls out an old Atlas, and pulls a few pictures out from  
between the pages: photos of Egg in various stages of undress.*

I found these yesterday.

MARINA

Oh my god.

DEANNA

I saw Dad putting some stuff inside this weird old book and I was curious. And then...  
Sorry, I know they're gross.

MARINA

No, no. You're not the one who should be sorry.  
I should never have brought her here.

LILLIAN

Let me see.

MARINA

They're really bad, LeeLee.

LILLIAN

Give them to me.

*MARINA hands them to LILLIAN, who looks through them, stone-faced.*

DEANNA

So. What do we do now?

*RICHARD enters through the front door.*

RICHARD

Hey, hun, I saw your mom marching down the street and she looked pissed, is she okay...

*RICHARD sees all three of the women looking at him. Then he sees the Atlas and the pictures  
in LILLIAN's hands.*

LILLIAN

How could you do this?  
How could you do this to our family?

RICHARD

Listen -

MARINA

Richard, I have always known that you were a lying piece of shit, but I never thought you'd  
stoop this low.

RICHARD  
Now, just calm down -

MARINA  
CALM DOWN?! I'll fucking kill you!

RICHARD  
*(approaching the women)* Can we just talk about this?

*MARINA grabs a kitchen knife from the counter.*

MARINA  
DO NOT COME ANY CLOSER TO / MY FAMILY

LILLIAN  
Stop! Don't! No!

MARINA  
Lillian, get out of my way! He's a monster!

RICHARD  
Please, Marina, now, I can explain...just listen, okay? Are you listening?  
They're not mine.

MARINA  
You're insane if you think I'm going to believe -

RICHARD  
I know, I know! I know it sounds crazy, but I found them in Dominic's room.

LILLIAN  
What?

RICHARD  
He had them in his underwear drawer and when I was putting away his laundry, I found them.  
So I confiscated them. And hid them in the Atlas.  
Yes. I know, it was a stupid place to put them, I probably should've burned them, but I thought  
I'll just put them in there for now and deal with it later -

*LILLIAN starts laughing.*

What? Why are you laughing?  
*(to MARINA)* Why is she laughing?

DEANNA  
Because, Dad...

RICHARD  
What?

DEANNA  
I mean, it's not cool to out someone, but like...

LILLIAN  
He's gay, my son is gay!

RICHARD  
What do you mean, he's not gay! He -

LILLIAN  
He what?

RICHARD  
He plays video games! And watches basketball, and he loves cars.

DEANNA  
Gay people can like cars, Dad.

LILLIAN  
You think you can pin this disgusting crime you've committed on my son?  
MY SON?!?  
My son would never look at such filth! Never!  
I trusted you! I believed you!  
This is CHILD PORNOGRAPHY!  
Egg is only a {child} -  
(*realizing*) I sent Egg away. I -  
(*panicking*) Marina! I sent her away, I sent her away!

MARINA  
I know.

LILLIAN  
I messed up. Oh my god, I messed up. I'm so sorry, I -  
We need to -

MARINA  
I've got it.

LILLIAN  
I should -

MARINA  
No. I will go get her, even if I have to burn that place to the ground.

DEANNA  
I'm coming with you!

RICHARD  
No, you're not -

MARINA  
(to RICHARD) Shut the fuck up.  
(to LILLIAN) Will you be okay?

*LILLIAN nods.*

Okay. Love you, *ate*. It's gonna be fine.  
(to DEANNA) Let's go.

DEANNA  
I need my phone. For directions. / It's in my room.

MARINA  
I'll meet you at the car.

*DEANNA sprints to her room, MARINA grabs her bag and picks up her shoes, which she doesn't bother to put on.*

RICHARD  
Marina, stop!

*MARINA says nothing and strides out, head up.*

RICHARD  
(to LILLIAN) Hun.  
Please look at me.  
Please.  
I'm sorry. I'm so, so sorry.  
I'm sick. I need help. I messed up, I know. But we can get through this together, you know? Like we've done everything else.

*A car door slams outside.*

Just look at me, damn it!

LILLIAN

...

*DEANNA runs through the living room towards the front door.*

RICHARD

Where are you going?

DEANNA

Out of my way!

RICHARD

You're not / leaving! *(grabs her arm)*

DEANNA

GET OFF / ME!

LILLIAN

DO NOT TOUCH MY DAUGHTER!

RICHARD

*(releasing DEANNA)* I'm sorry, I'm sorry, I wasn't going to hurt her, I just don't want her to leave!

DEANNA

Oh, I'm leaving, Dad. I'm going with Auntie Mare to get Egg and then we're going to go to San Fran and we're never coming back here!

RICHARD

Don't say that, I love you, baby girl -

DEANNA

FUCK YOU.

*DEANNA sprints out the front door.*

*RICHARD follows after her.*

RICHARD

STOP!

*A car door slams.*

You're not taking Deanna!  
HEY! STOP! MARINA!

*The sound of a car lurching forward then slamming on the brakes.*

MARINA  
(*offstage*) GET OUT OF MY WAY!

*LILLIAN moves to the window and looks out.*

RICHARD  
(*offstage*) I WON'T LET YOU TAKE MY DAUGHTER! DEANNA STEP OUT OF THAT CAR  
RIGHT NOW OR -

MARINA  
(*offstage*) FUCK OFF, RICHARD! EITHER MOVE OR I WILL / RUN YOU OVER -

RICHARD  
(*offstage*) CALM DOWN! YOU'RE NOT GOING TO HIT ME, MARINA! You didn't stab me with  
that knife, you're not / going to run me over!

MARINA  
(*offstage*) MOVE MOVE MOVE MOVE MOVE MOVE!

RICHARD  
(*offstage*) BITCH! I WILL BREAK THE WINDOW AND DRAG YOU OUT OF THERE BY YOUR  
HAIR, YOU CHINKY LITTLE CUNT -

*The sound of a car revving, then hitting something.*

LILLIAN  
Oh my god.

*She bolts outside through the front door.*

*The car is idling.*

*Too much times passes. Or not enough.*

*LILLIAN bursts back inside. She vomits in the sink.*

*MARINA enters.*

MARINA

LeeLee -  
I fucked up.  
I'm sorry, I don't know why I -  
Oh my god, I didn't mean to -  
We need to call the police.

LILLIAN  
What? No.

MARINA  
We have to! Or an ambulance.  
He's still breathing. I think. I don't know! I don't know! I don't know what to do here!  
Oh my god, Deanna, I left Deanna in the car.  
I don't -  
Where's your phone? We have to call -

LILLIAN  
You can't do that.

MARINA  
We have to!

LILLIAN  
No, Marina! NO.  
Just let me -  
Think I need to think.  
Calm. Breathe.  
Okay.

MARINA  
We need to call -

LILLIAN  
SHUT UP STOP!  
Okay.  
This is what we will do. You need to take Deanna and go.

MARINA  
What? I can't just -

LILLIAN  
You must!  
Listen to me. You have to be strong here. You have to go get Egg.  
We will deal with this. I will deal with this. Everything will be fine.

MARINA  
But...he's not dead.

LILLIAN  
Not yet.

*Beat.*

MARINA  
LeeLee.  
No.

LILLIAN  
There's no other way.

MARINA  
You can't be serious!

LILLIAN  
Marina, that man...that man is a monster!  
I don't want him to die, even in spite of everything but-  
I promised...I promised Dad I would always take care of us and I messed up with Egg, I know,  
but...  
I have to make this right. I have to.

MARINA  
Not like this.

LILLIAN  
*(crying)* Go, you have to go now.

MARINA  
I won't let you do whatever it is you / think you need to -

LILLIAN  
MARINA!  
THIS IS WHAT I DO!  
THIS IS WHAT I \*ALWAYS\* DO!  
SO GO AND LET ME DO MY FUCKING JOB!

MARINA  
*(crying)* NOT THIS!  
THIS IS NOT WHAT DAD MEANT!

LILLIAN  
 DAD ISN'T HERE RIGHT NOW!  
 It's just us. It's just me.  
 And I won't let you go to prison.

MARINA  
 No, I'm not leaving you to deal with this on your own!

LILLIAN  
 We don't have a choice. Think about it, Mare.  
 What else can we do.

*Beat.*

Go. Find Egg.

*MARINA slam-hugs LILLIAN, holds her for a moment, and then runs out the door. The car door opens, slams shut.*

*The car takes off.*

*LILLIAN takes a deep breath to steady herself, purses her lips, then strides purposefully to the door. She grabs the car keys off the hook by the door.*

*DOMINIC enters through the back door, wearing headphones and listening to music.*

*LILLIAN doesn't see or hear DOMINIC and walks outside.*

DOMINIC  
 Mom? I'm hungry!

*Another car starts up. It backs down the driveway.*

Mom?

*DOMINIC goes to the window.*

What are you doing out there?  
 Is that {Dad in the road}...

*The car thuds over RICHARD's body.*

HOLY FUCK!

*He is paralyzed for a few seconds by what he's seen.  
He turns away from the window.*

Ummmm...

*He sees the photos of EGG on the coffee table.  
He walks over, picks them up and looks at them.*

*LILLIAN comes back into the house.*

LILLIAN  
Dominic.

DOMINIC  
Egg wasn't lying, was she?

LILLIAN  
No. No she wasn't.

DOMINIC  
I hoped she was.

LILLIAN  
I know.

DOMINIC  
Did he hurt her?

LILLIAN  
I don't know.

DOMINIC  
Is Dad dead?

LILLIAN  
Yes.

DOMINIC  
Okay.  
Um...  
Are you okay?  
Sorry, that's a dumb question.

LILLIAN

I need you to do something for me.

DOMINIC

Okay.

LILLIAN

I want you to take my car, drive to the foothills, drive around for a bit on the backroads, and then after an hour, come back and go to Cousin TingTing's. Check on your Grandma and then - Dominic, look at me, this is very important, okay? I need you to wash the car. Especially the tires.

DOMINIC

Okay. *(he reaches for the car keys from her)*

LILLIAN

Hoy, this is a Really Big Deal, yeah? If you don't want to do this, or if you don't feel comfortable -

DOMINIC

Mom, stop. I gotchu. *(takes the car keys)*

LILLIAN

Drive safe.

DOMINIC

I love you, too.

*DOMINIC exits.*

*LILLIAN picks up her cell phone and watches DOMINIC through the window.*

LILLIAN

*(dialing 911)* Yes, um, hi, I'd like to report a hit and run. Someone just hit my husband in front of our house.

*The car starts and speeds off.*

Yes.

3598 Gold Fork Drive. We're at the very end of the street.

No, I couldn't see the driver. Hmm-mm, no.

A pick-up truck.

Blue.

Okay. Thank you. Yes, I'll wait.

*She hangs up.  
She goes over to the photos in the kitchen and puts them in the sink.  
She burns them.*

*She waits.*

*A siren in the distance gets louder and louder...*

**BLACKOUT.**

**END OF PLAY.**