

DAUGHTER

A full-length play

by

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CHARACTER LIST

ROBYN: Female, 16 years old. Adopted. Intelligent. Suburban, upper middle class.

ALEXIS: Female, 16 years old. ROBYN's best friend. Smart. Suburban, upper middle class.

BEVERLY: Female, mid-40's. Math professor. Adoptive mother to ROBYN. Upper middle class.

JUSTIN: Male, 12 years old. ROBYN's younger brother and the biological son of ELI and BEVERLY. Well-intentioned but often misses the mark. Upper middle class.

ELI: Male, mid-40's. Works in the pharmaceutical industry. Adoptive father to ROBYN. Upper middle class.

MILLIE: Female, 32 years old. ROBYN's long-lost biological mother. A biker chick. She is from Arkansas. Working class.

LOCATION: Princeton, New Jersey, 2011.

*Playwright's notes: Millie speaks with a Southern accent. The name "Danilo" in the script should be pronounced dan-ih-loh.

Act I

Scene I

SETTING: A teenager's bedroom. The bed is unmade, clothes are scattered on the floor. Technology that reflects a teen's life should be apparent in the room (ie. i-pod or Nook, chargers, etc.).

AT RISE: ROBYN sits cross-legged on her bed, typing on her laptop. Her friend, ALEXIS, is texting on her phone and eating popcorn.

ROBYN
I wish I could just remember the name of this article. Do you even remember the name of the town? It was like in Washington or Oregon or something.

ALEXIS
You could IM Peter. He and Sam have Japanese immigration, too.

ROBYN
(typing)
Maybe. Would you look on your Kindle for some books or something? Maybe they have something we can borrow.

ALEXIS
(eating popcorn and looking at her phone)
Oh, my God! Hannah says Peter and Ginny got caught in the janitor's closet during third period!

ROBYN
(pressing send)
That's a total lie. Peter was sitting next to me in chemistry during third period.

ALEXIS
(texting)
Really? Huh.

ROBYN
I wish I knew where this article was. Even the title.

(ALEXIS starts looking at the Kindle. There is a knock on the door)

Come in!

(Enter JUSTIN excitedly. HE has a Nano attached to his shirt)

JUSTIN

Robyn! You'll never guess...!

ROBYN

(angrily)

Hey, is that my Nano? I was looking for that all day!

JUSTIN

(caught)

Oh, I was just...

ROBYN

You're not supposed to go in my room! Give me that!

(SHE grabs it off of his shirt and looks at it)

You better not have uploaded anything on to it!

JUSTIN

I didn't! I swear!

(changing tone)

I have to talk to you about something...

ROBYN

(cutting him off, to ALEXIS)

Did you find anything?

ALEXIS

(picking up laptop)

No. Let's just look on SparkNotes. We'll find stuff there.

JUSTIN

You're not allowed to use SparkNotes!

ROBYN

Shut up!

JUSTIN

Mom said no Wikipedia and SparkNotes! You're going to be in so much trouble!

ROBYN

Get out!

JUSTIN

But I have to...

ROBYN

I'll tell them you took my Nano!

(JUSTIN exits hurriedly)

ALEXIS

That's so stupid. It's just for research.

ROBYN

The Princeton professors are on a tear.

(ALEXIS types on ROBYN's laptop. IM beep)

ALEXIS

Oh, good. Peter.

(SHE clicks to look at the IM)

Wait, this isn't him. I don't know who this is. It's for you. "Were you born in Ginger County, Arkansas, on September 17, 1995?"

ROBYN

(startled)

What?

ALEXIS

That's a weird thing for someone to ask.

ROBYN

(looking at the laptop)

Millie Flowers. I don't even know who she is. I mean, the birth date is right but...

(Trails off. Decidedly)

I was born in New Jersey.

ALEXIS

She probably just saw your birthday on your profile and thought you were someone else.

ROBYN

(typing)

Sorry. Wrong person. I was born in New Jersey.

ALEXIS

Millie. She sounds like she's seventy years old.

ROBYN

Maybe I could Tweet about the article. Someone has to know.

(IM beep)

"Are your parents Beverly and Eli?"

ALEXIS

Woa, that's weird.

(beat)

Is that on your profile?

ROBYN

No.

(beat)

Oh! Justin probably has it on his. I've told him to adjust his privacy settings. He never listens!

(SHE starts typing)

ALEXIS

How is Justin on Facebook? Don't you have to be thirteen to be on Facebook?

ROBYN

You do?

ALEXIS

Yeah. And look, he said he's thirteen.

ROBYN

Oh, man! He knew that!

ALEXIS

And he has you listed as his sister. His settings are just wide open! This is why twelve year olds shouldn't be on Facebook. They just don't know how to do all the privacy stuff. That's why they have age limits.

ROBYN

(typing)

Can we see her profile at all?

(beat)

Nothing.

ALEXIS

There's no information at all?

ROBYN

Just her name.

ALEXIS

Try Googling her. Maybe her name will pop up somewhere else.

ROBYN

(typing)

Millie Flowers. Hmm. Some florist shops. Maybe Millicent?
Or Mildred?

ALEXIS

Yeah, maybe.

ROBYN

(typing)

Nothing. Just her Facebook page.

ALEXIS

(beat)

This is weird. I would stop talking to her.

ROBYN

I'm just going to tell her that she has the wrong person.

ALEXIS

But she can see who your family is right there on Justin's page. She'll know you're lying.

ROBYN

So...maybe I ask her what she wants?

ALEXIS

Or you could just ignore her.

ROBYN

I could. But it just seems like a lot of weird personal information.

(typing)

Is there...something...I can...help you with?

ALEXIS

Sure. That sounds good. A little do you want fries with that but still okay.

ROBYN

(presses "send")

Okay.

(beat)

I have got to get Justin to get off Facebook. Ugh! Look! He put up more pictures of me from when we were little!

ALEXIS

Just de-tag.

ROBYN

I have been but he puts up more all the time. Maybe I'll de-friend him, too.

ALEXIS

Really? De-friend your own brother?

ROBYN

He's got all this information about me out there for...

(IM beep. ALEXIS peers over her shoulder)

ALEXIS

"I might be your birth mother"?

ROBYN

(long beat)

But I wasn't born in Arkansas. I was born in New Jersey. They adopted me in New Jersey.

ALEXIS

Is it possible that you were born in Arkansas, even if they adopted you in New Jersey?

ROBYN

I was born in New Jersey. We have to drive past the hospital to get to my grandparents' house.

ALEXIS

Do you know anything about your birth mom?

ROBYN

No.

(typing)

I was born in New Jersey, not Arkansas.

ALEXIS

Did you ever try to find her?

ROBYN

Oh, sure. When I'd get sent to my room for something, I'd get all mad and start clicking around, Googling to see if I could find my real mom who would never send me to my room.

ALEXIS

Or who would let you stay out past ten o'clock.

ROBYN

Or who would know who Pink is. And maybe she'd take me to Rome or Africa to make up for all the missed birthdays.

ALEXIS

Yeah. Sometimes I wish I was adopted. Then I could have real parents to go to when mine are in all these stupid fights about alimony checks.

(beat)

What do you think she looks like?

ROBYN

(looking at the computer)

I don't know. There's no picture.

ALEXIS

I bet she has your hair.

ROBYN

It could be. I mean, we don't know who my birth dad was, either. So it could be his.

(beat)

I've always thought that maybe they were just really young, in college or something, and they were dating but decided

to finish school and couldn't have a family. I don't know. Maybe they became senators or something.

(beat)

It sounds silly. It could be a lot of other really horrible things, too.

ALEXIS

I think I'd be mad. Aren't you mad?

ROBYN

Sometimes. But, if they really are doing some cool thing like changing laws or helping the world, maybe that was okay.

ALEXIS

So maybe she's done some saving of the world and now she wants to meet you. I mean, Arkansas. That's where Hillary Clinton was.

ROBYN

Yeah, Hillary Clinton is my mom. That's likely. Her name is Millie Flowers.

ALEXIS

Oh, that has to be a fake name, don't you think? I mean, if it's a senator, don't you think they'd use a fake name if they're trying to find a kid they gave up for adoption?

ROBYN

Okay. So maybe they're not senators. Maybe just doctors or lawyers.

ALEXIS

Or humanitarians. Maybe they've been over in third world countries, feeding poor people.

ROBYN

Yeah. Maybe.

ALEXIS

(beat)

Why don't you ask her?

ROBYN

What? No. I'm sure there's some other Robyn out there that she's looking for.

(there is a knock on the
door. ROBYN shuts the
computer quickly)

Come in!

BEVERLY
(entering in work clothes)
Hi, honey. Hello, Alexis. How was your day?

ROBYN
(nervously)
Oh, fine.

BEVERLY
How was the French test?

ROBYN
Pretty easy.

BEVERLY
And your flute lesson?

ROBYN
(a little anxiously)
It was okay.

BEVERLY
What's wrong? The lesson didn't go well? I thought you
decided that you liked flute.

ROBYN
It was fine. Flute is okay. We're just...you know, trying to
get work done.

BEVERLY
Okay. Oh, I heard from Aunt Rita and she said that Jonathan
could host you at Harvard when we go on our trip.

ROBYN
(relaxing)
Oh, wow! That's really great! Thanks, Mom.

ALEXIS
You're going to Harvard now? We're only just studying for
the SAT's.

ROBYN

They have a pre-college program in the summer that I want to apply to and then I'll probably apply early decision next fall.

ALEXIS

Oh, my God! A pre-college program?

ROBYN

It'll be fun. And it's only a few weeks.

ALEXIS

I thought we weren't supposed to be thinking about that until, at least, the spring.

BEVERLY

There's no pressure to do it this early. Robyn's just been so excited. But, when you do start thinking about it, I can put you in touch with any of my colleagues at the colleges you're applying to.

ALEXIS

Wow, thanks so much. That's really generous of you.

ROBYN

Mom, do you think someone in your history department would know about Japanese immigration to the US?

BEVERLY

Maybe. But Dad actually might have books on that. Ask him when he gets home.

(Disapprovingly)

Is that what you were trying to use SparkNotes for?

ROBYN

(under her breath)

I'm gonna kill Justin.

(to BEVERLY)

We weren't using it. I promise.

BEVERLY

Good. Alexis, are you staying for dinner?

ALEXIS

Thanks, but I can't. I have to pick up my sister.

(IM beep. The girls freeze)

ALEXIS

That must be Peter. We asked him about an article...

(SHE looks at the computer)

Yes, it's him.

ROBYN

(exchanging anxious glances
with ALEXIS)

Right. Yes. Of course.

BEVERLY

(starts to exit)

Well, good luck. Don't forget you're on dishes tonight.

ROBYN

I know.

(BEVERLY exits)

Oh, God! I thought that was her again!

ALEXIS

So did I! God, how awkward would that have been?

ROBYN

But it actually was Peter, right?

ALEXIS

Yeah, he doesn't know. Maybe we could look at other books.
There were some on the Kindle that I saw.

ROBYN

(grumpily)

Fine.

ALEXIS

That was really nice of her. With the college stuff.

ROBYN

Oh, yeah, she's so excited that she can help with this. And afterwards, she's even taking me on a hiking trip to a place her crew team used to train. It's going to be so cool! Did you know they won titles all three years she was on the team?

ALEXIS

That's so cool. God, I do not look forward to all of that college stuff. It's just hard enough to get a good grade in this class!

ROBYN

You'll be fine. Okay, I was going to Tweet.

(ROBYN starts to type and
then stops)

Who does that?

ALEXIS

What?

ROBYN

Why would you contact the daughter you possibly gave up for adoption on Facebook? I mean, that's really weird, don't you think?

ALEXIS

Maybe she didn't have any other way to contact you.

ROBYN

It's not me.

ALEXIS

Right. Well, her daughter. Maybe she didn't know how else to find her.

ROBYN

But that's not the right way to meet your biological daughter. She should call or write or something.

ALEXIS

She was writing.

ROBYN

Not like that. This girl, Melanie, from camp, her biological mother found her through her church. That's a far more normal way to find your biological child. I talk to my friends on Facebook. That's not where I want to find my birth mother. I don't even friend my own parents on Facebook. I don't want them to see what I'm talking about with my friends.

ALEXIS

I know. Me neither.

(beat)

But, if you could...I mean, if you knew her name...I don't know. I would do it.

ROBYN

You would? You would try to find your birth mother that way?

ALEXIS

Sure. If I really wanted to find her and I couldn't find her any other way, why not? Everyone's on Facebook. I mean, my grandfather is on Facebook. Except he calls it Facemail.

(beat)

I guess...I guess it just depends if you actually want to find her.

ROBYN

(beat)

No. This is silly. I don't need to find her. I've got my parents, I've got Justin, I'm fine.

ALEXIS

Right. She can go save the world.

ROBYN

Yes. They both can.

ALEXIS

Good.

ROBYN

(looks at her phone)

Okay. Twenty more minutes till you have to go. Let's see what else we can find.

(THEY both lean over the computer. END SCENE)

Act I

Scene 2

SETTING: Same. Later that night.

AT RISE: JUSTIN enters, carrying laundry. HE looks around for the Nano and puts it in his pocket. After making sure no one is coming, HE opens ROBYN's laptop. Realizing there is a password, HE tries several and is frustrated.

ELI (OS)

I can look but I don't usually clip that kind of article.

ROBYN (OS)

Yeah, okay. God! This is so frustrating. We talked about this for maybe one class and this counts for fifteen percent of our grade.

(JUSTIN quickly closes the laptop and picks up the laundry as though HE has just walked in. Enter ROBYN and ELI)

Justin! What are you doing in my room? I didn't say you could come in! Are you stealing things again?

ELI

Justin doesn't steal things.

ROBYN

You have no...

JUSTIN

(innocently)

Mom just wanted me to give you your laundry. See?

(HE holds it up)

ROBYN

(takes the laundry)

Fine. Leave it outside the door next time.

ELI

He was doing something nice for you, don't you think?

ROBYN

(grudgingly)

Thank you, Justin.

JUSTIN

You're welcome!

ELI

Okay. Now, let me see what I've got in the study. Did Mom look at your geometry homework yet, Justin?

JUSTIN

She doesn't need to check it. It's right.

ELI

(exiting)

Have her check it.

JUSTIN

Fine.

ROBYN

(opens the laptop. Beat)

What? You gave me my laundry.

JUSTIN

(closing the door)

Um. I think...I think I found your biological mom.

ROBYN

(beat)

Oh, geez.

JUSTIN

(excitedly)

This woman IM'ed me on Facebook...

ROBYN

(typing)

Okay, we are closing your account right now.

JUSTIN

No, listen!

ROBYN

What's your password?

JUSTIN

I'm not telling you my password. Robyn, listen. I think this woman really is your biological mother!

ROBYN

Why? Because she knew Mom and Dad's names?

JUSTIN

Well...

ROBYN

And the city that we live in?

JUSTIN

She didn't mention...

ROBYN

Do you know how much information you have on your profile?

JUSTIN

Everybody has stuff on their profiles. You have stuff on your profile!

ROBYN

But not everyone on Facebook can see it! Just my friends. And stop putting up photos of me!

(beat)

Did you tell her anything?

JUSTIN

Nothing. Look, I thought you would want to find her. I mean, remember when you and Mom talked about it a couple years ago?

ROBYN

We didn't do anything about it!

JUSTIN

Okay, so I thought maybe she did the work and found you and you wouldn't have to do anything. Did she IM you?

ROBYN

This isn't your business! This is my business!

JUSTIN

I know! That's why I'm telling you!

(Re-enter ELI with a book)

ELI

I found this...

ROBYN

Justin told all kinds of stuff about me to some random woman on Facebook who thinks she's my biological mother!

JUSTIN

I didn't tell her stuff!

ROBYN

Yeah, sure.

ELI

(under his breath)

Oh, no.

(to JUSTIN)

You know better than to talk to strangers like that.

ROBYN

And Alexis told me that you're not even supposed to be on Facebook because you have to be thirteen years old!

ELI

What? Is that true?

JUSTIN

I'm almost thirteen!

ROBYN

In five months! That doesn't make you thirteen! And you opened this account back in the spring. You were definitely not thirteen then. You were only just turning twelve!

ELI

Okay, can we let that go for right now and focus on this woman?

JUSTIN

She just started chatting with me and asking these questions...

ROBYN

(looking at the computer)

Oh, God, you have your school on here! Did you tell her where I go to school, too?

JUSTIN

I'm not stupid! I was just trying to help!

ROBYN

Well, stop helping!

ELI

There's no need to shout at your brother.

ROBYN

But, Dad...!

ELI

(calling over his shoulder)

Beverly! Beverly! Could you come here?

JUSTIN

(beat)

Do you even want to know what she said?

ROBYN

No! I really don't! I don't want to know anything about her! Don't you get it? I don't want to know!

JUSTIN

Oh.

ROBYN

I can't believe you!

(Enter BEVERLY)

BEVERLY

What's all the yelling?

ELI

I think Millie contacted Justin on Facebook.

BEVERLY

Oh, God.

ROBYN

Wait, how do you know her name? I thought you didn't know anything about her.

BEVERLY

Well, we didn't. But we heard from her. Recently.

ROBYN

(beat)

On Facebook?

BEVERLY

No. The agency called us and told us that she had gotten in touch with them and had requested contact.

ROBYN

(beat)

But they're not supposed to do that. They're not supposed to contact us if we haven't said that we want contact. We have to both want it.

BEVERLY

You and I put something in our file a few years ago. Don't you remember?

ROBYN

What kind of something?

BEVERLY

Saying that you wanted contact.

ROBYN

I said that? I never said that!

BEVERLY

Yes, you did! We talked about it and you said you thought you would want to talk to her but you didn't think she would be interested. And then we were at Dad's company picnic and you met that woman who had been adopted...

ELI

Lacey.

BEVERLY

Right, Lacey. And you changed your mind. You told me to put a note in our file.

ROBYN

Oh, yeah. I forgot about her.

BEVERLY

Yes. Because, believe me, Robyn, I wouldn't have done it on my own.

ROBYN

Okay, fine. So we had something put in the file. So now what? She contacted you and you've already talked to her?

BEVERLY

(hesitant)

We haven't...exactly...responded to her yet.

ELI

We wanted to talk to you about it first.

ROBYN

God, when did you get the call?

BEVERLY

Just a few days ago. But...

ROBYN

What? A few days! How could you not tell me?

BEVERLY

We didn't know how...

ELI

(to JUSTIN)

Why don't you go to your room?

JUSTIN

What? What did I do?

ROBYN

Really? What did you do? Maybe you should go close your Facebook account! Maybe that would jog your memory.

ELI

That's enough! Leave your brother alone.

JUSTIN

(clearly upset)

I just thought...that I would have wanted to meet her if it was my biological mom.

ROBYN

(indicating BEVERLY)

Well, you know your biological mom so it doesn't matter.

(JUSTIN exits, sadly)

BEVERLY

I'm sure he just didn't understand, honey.

ROBYN

I can't believe you didn't tell me!

BEVERLY

I'm sorry. We just...we didn't...

ELI

We were very startled.

BEVERLY

Very startled. We had no idea that she'd...that she'd...

ROBYN

What does she want?

ELI

I don't know. We haven't talked to her. But, I would guess, she probably just wants to know you.

BEVERLY

Do you...do you want to know her?

ROBYN

I don't know.

(beat)

She's from Arkansas.

BEVERLY

(startled)

How did...how did you know about Arkansas?

ROBYN

(caught but covering)

Justin told me. But why didn't you tell me that? You told me that I was born at a hospital near Nana and Grandpa's.

ELI

Nana and Grandpa wanted to do that.

BEVERLY

(under her breath to ELI)

Oh, yes, blame my parents.

ELI

(to ROBYN but annoyed at
BEVERLY)

They thought it would make you feel more like you were from here.

ROBYN

Instead of some stupid place like Arkansas? Why Arkansas, anyway? There are fifty states and you chose Arkansas?

ELI

All right, let's not yell...

BEVERLY

Dad had a friend who had used the agency a few years earlier and had had a good experience.

(under her breath)

We could have, at least, done San Francisco like we planned.

ELI

(sharply)

Beverly!

(to ROBYN)

We wanted to go with things that we knew. And we wanted to get you as soon as possible.

(pointedly at BEVERLY)

Which we couldn't have done at other places.

ROBYN

But you even pointed to the hospital! You told me that...

ELI

No, Nana did that. We never did that. We wouldn't have done that.

BEVERLY

Don't start.

ROBYN

I can't believe you!

BEVERLY

Honey, we understand how you're feeling...

ROBYN

No. None of you do! None of you! Just leave me alone! I don't want to talk to you! You lied to me!

BEVERLY

No!

ELI

It was Nana and Grandpa...

ROBYN

It was you! You didn't have to go along with it! And you didn't even tell me that she contacted the agency!

ELI

All right. Okay. Why don't you take some time to cool down and when you're ready, we can come back and talk about it?

ROBYN

I'm not going to want to talk about it.

BEVERLY

(beat)

We'll need to sometime, honey.

ROBYN

I said no!

ELI

You don't need to shout. We're right here.

(beat)

Okay. Well. Here's the book for your paper.

(HE puts it on the bed)

BEVERLY

And we'll be downstairs if you change your mind.

ROBYN

I won't.

ELI

Okay.

BEVERLY

(beat)

Robyn, I just want you to know...

ROBYN

Just go.

BEVERLY

(beat. Hurt)

Okay.

(BEVERLY and ELI exit. Beat.
IM beep from the open
computer. SHE glares at it
but then reads. Long beat)

ROBYN

Oh, my God.

(SHE slowly types, then
deletes. Beat)

Oh, my God!

(SHE puts her head between
her hands. Long beat. SHE
starts to dial on her phone
and then hangs up. SHE re-
reads the message.)

This is crazy.

(SHE types again and reads.
Beat)

Oh, God.

(Beat. SHE gets agitated and
drinks from a water bottle.
Maybe she paces or squats to
calm her clearly nervous
energy. SHE drinks more
water. SHE approaches the
computer again and hesitantly
types. Long beat. SHE takes a
deep breath and presses send.
BLACKOUT)

Act IScene 3

SETTING: The public library in Ewing, New Jersey. There is a table with several chairs. There is a pile of books on the table.

AT RISE: ALEXIS is sitting at the table with her laptop. After a few beats, ROBYN enters. She has a backpack and water bottle and is looking very anxious. Throughout this scene and the rest of the play, ROBYN drinks water when she is particularly nervous or overwhelmed by MILLIE.

ALEXIS

Finally! That bus is so slow. You know you're half an hour late? I had to have the librarian find all of these books...

(SHE gestures)

For us. I can't believe she's making us bring in the hard-copies. It's so dusty here! People really come here?

(SHE notices that ROBYN is looking around)

What's with you?

ROBYN

(hushed)

She's coming.

ALEXIS

Who's coming?

ROBYN

Millie.

ALEXIS

From Facebook? Your mom?

ROBYN

Shhh! She's not my...!

ALEXIS

Sorry. Your maybe real mother?

ROBYN
Birth mother. Yes.

ALEXIS
She's coming here?

ROBYN
Yes.

(IM beep. ALEXIS types)

ALEXIS
When is she coming?

ROBYN
(checks her phone)
In about ten minutes.

ALEXIS
Wait, what? You mean, here here! Here, the library here?

ROBYN
Yes.

ALEXIS
Are you crazy?

ROBYN
(glancing around)
Keep your voice down.

ALEXIS
I thought you meant New Jersey here. In a few weeks or something. I thought you didn't want to talk to her.

ROBYN
She's sick.

ALEXIS
She's sick? What kind of sick?

ROBYN
Lymphoma. She said she needs a bone marrow transplant.

ALEXIS

She's coming to New Jersey for the surgery? Don't they have bone marrow where she lives?

ROBYN

She thinks I could be a match.

ALEXIS

(beat)

So this woman, who you never met, is showing up, saying she's your mom and asking for bone marrow? And you thought, sure, why not?

ROBYN

I didn't say I was giving her any organs. I didn't even say I was going to get tested.

ALEXIS

What did you say?

ROBYN

I said I would meet her, that's all.

ALEXIS

And she just happens to be in New Jersey? This sounds a little stalker-y, don't you think?

ROBYN

Apparently, she moved to Pennsylvania a few years ago so she's not really too far.

(ALEXIS looks doubtful)

Look, I picked a public place, right?

(SHE gestures around)

We have to keep our voices down because it's a library so we can't do any screaming or anything. And you're here...

ALEXIS

Oh, I'm meeting her, too? I thought I was working.

(IM beep)

ROBYN

Yesterday you said that, if you really wanted to find your mom, you would go through Facebook. That it wasn't that creepy. Right? That she had written to me. Right?

ALEXIS

Yes, but...

ROBYN

Okay. So I thought about it. And I thought maybe you're right. Twenty five years ago, maybe she would have sent a letter or called but now there's Facebook.

ALEXIS

Yes, but you said you didn't want to meet her. You said you were fine with your family.

ROBYN

I am.

ALEXIS

So then, why are you...

ROBYN

She's sick! She needs a bone marrow transplant! I could be her only match.

(beat)

Look, I remember when Justin had to have his shoulder fixed a couple years ago? So I get that surgery is a big deal.

(beat)

But, I mean...if she really is sick and I really am the only person that can help her, shouldn't I? Wouldn't you give bone marrow to someone if you were the only person who could do it? Whether or not she was your birth mother.

ALEXIS

(beat)

Okay, fine.

(IM beep)

Ugh, sorry. My sister is making some kind of paper mache puppet and keeps asking me about where to find stuff at my dad's house.

ROBYN

You shouldn't even have the sound on for IM when you're here. I can't believe someone hasn't told you to turn it off.

ALEXIS

(SHE types)

Seriously?

(ROBYN nods)

Okay, fine! I'll turn it off.

(SHE does so)

So. Are you at all interested in the books I found or do you want to just look at them later?

ROBYN

I don't know. I guess I could use a distraction.

ALEXIS

(looking at her computer)

Come on. You can't find the paint yourself? Really? Hello! Check the garage!

(As ALEXIS types, MILLIE enters, carrying a motorcycle helmet and a brown bag. SHE looks around)

MILLIE

(to ROBYN)

Robyn?

(Both girls look up)

I'm Millie. I'm your mother.

ROBYN

(taken aback)

Um...no.

(SHE points to ALEXIS)

That's Robyn. I'm Alexis.

ALEXIS

What?

MILLIE

(doubtful)

Oh. Really? Sorry, I just assumed...

ROBYN

Yeah, well. That's Robyn.

MILLIE

(to ALEXIS)

Robyn. It's real nice to finally meet you.

(SHE puts out her hand to ALEXIS who stares first at MILLIE, then at ROBYN, who is staring at MILLIE also.)

Awkward pause. MILLIE
withdraws her hand)

That's okay. I guess I'm not really what you'd expected. I mean, who expects their mom to be riding a motorcycle, right?

(SHE laughs nervously)

I mean, my mother rode a motorcycle but you never met her. Probably wouldn't have liked her anyhow. I didn't even like her that much. But she raised all four of us by herself so I guess she did something right, right?

ALEXIS

I...guess.

MILLIE

Wow. This is just so...

(SHE looks back and forth
between the girls)

It's really so great to meet you...both. I mean, I can't believe it. You're all grown and everything. Last time I saw you you were this little bitty nothing in the hospital. All mad and yelling about coming into the world. And now you're...you're a teenager! That is just...

(SHE gathers herself)

Look at me getting all blubbery. I didn't think I'd do that.

ALEXIS

That's okay.

MILLIE

(offers the bag to ALEXIS)

I, um, I got you some coffee. I had about three cups at the gas station on the turnpike but I thought you might like some. Do you...? Do you want some coffee?

ALEXIS

(taking the bag)

Um, well. I don't really drink coffee, but thanks for the thought.

MILLIE

Yeah. I didn't know, you know. So I just thought I would get you some and...I have some doughnuts, too. They're out on the bike. Do you want some doughnuts?

ALEXIS

Oh, no thanks.

MILLIE

(to ROBYN)

Do you? I didn't know she was going to have a friend here.
Alexis, was it?

(ROBYN nods)

You're the one in the picture on her screen page, aren't
you? On the Facebook.

ROBYN

Oh. Yes. Right.

ALEXIS

We're very close. Like sisters.

MILLIE

Aw, that's nice. I'm not close to my sister so much
anymore. It's nice that you have one.

(to ROBYN)

So, did you want one? A doughnut, I mean? Or coffee?

ROBYN

No, thank you. I've got my water.

MILLIE

(disappointed)

Oh. Okay.

ALEXIS

Maybe we'll have some on the way out.

MILLIE

(brightening)

Okay. I mean, you don't have to.

ALEXIS

We'll see.

MILLIE

Yeah.

(beat. To ALEXIS)

This is pretty crazy, huh? I mean, all these years.

ALEXIS

Yeah. All these years.

MILLIE

So. I mean, tell me something about your life. I've missed pretty much everything.

ALEXIS

(glancing at ROBYN)

Oh. I don't know.

MILLIE

It doesn't have to be deep or something. We don't have to cover your whole life. Just anything.

ALEXIS

Okay. Well...I'm a runner. I do track.

MILLIE

Like marathons or something?

ROBYN

Sprints.

(beat. Awkwardly)

She does competitive sprints.

MILLIE

(lost)

Uh-huh. What else?

ALEXIS

Um...I'm trying to help make the school more eco-friendly. You know, recycling, composting, getting CFL lightbulbs put in and everything.

MILLIE

Oh, composting, sure. I do that when I can.

ROBYN

You do?

MILLIE

Good for the soil.

ROBYN

Right.

(beat)

You really ride a motorcycle?

MILLIE

What? Oh, yeah.

(SHE pats her helmet)

Blackbird. My daddy got me my very first bicycle when I was three. Not a tricycle, like the others had. A real bicycle. "Tricycles are for pussies." he said.

(Long beat as the girls stare
at MILLIE. Uncomfortable, SHE
starts nervously babbling)

It's not like my daddy was around a lot, you know. He was a total drunk, always gambling and sleeping around with these whores. And he didn't even teach me to ride, the bastard. My mother had to do that, too.

(Awkward pause. To ALEXIS)

Do you...do you ride?

ALEXIS

What, a motorcycle? Me? No! My mom would never...

(SHE looks at ROBYN)

ROBYN

She's just getting her driver's license. State law.

(MILLIE looks confused)

Robyn's only sixteen.

MILLIE

Well, I know that. She just had a birthday.

(to ROBYN)

Happy Birthday.

ROBYN

Not me. Her.

MILLIE

(clearly not believing, to
ALEXIS)

Right. Happy Birthday.

ALEXIS

Thanks.

ROBYN

So New Jersey state law says you have to be sixteen to have a driver's permit.

MILLIE

Sixteen?! Damn! I was driving when I was fourteen in Arkansas!

ALEXIS

(suddenly)

What were you doing when you were sixteen?

MILLIE

Well, when I was sixteen, I was...

(SHE stops)

Well, you know what I was doing when I was sixteen, don't you?

ALEXIS

Not exactly. Was it when you were sixteen?

MILLIE

Yes. I was sixteen, I'd left school...

ROBYN

You...what?

MILLIE

In my town, if you made it to 10th grade, you were doing pretty good. I made it to 11th. But, you know, then I was done with that.

(beat)

Are you sure you want to hear about this? I mean, we just...

ALEXIS

Yes. Absolutely.

MILLIE

If you're sure.

(beat)

Well, my mom owned Blackbird Perch, the local campground, so I was over there a lot. A lot of interesting people coming through there. And sometimes people would let me come hang out with them at their campfires or sometimes I'd run errands for people to the store. And I had my share of boyfriends or boys I thought might be boyfriends or boys I just happened to get in the sack with.

ROBYN

At sixteen?!

MILLIE

What? You guys are sixteen. Aren't you guys doing it?

ROBYN

(gritted teeth)

No. We aren't.

MILLIE

But you are dating, aren't you? I mean, you're not like nuns or something.

ALEXIS

We're not nuns.

MILLIE

Good. Well, I got my women's when I was ten. My boobs shot right out of me. First one in my class.

(SHE looks at ROBYN then very
deliberately looks at ALEXIS)

Didn't that happen to you, too?

ALEXIS

(self-consciously covering
shirt)

Um, no.

MILLIE

Huh.

(Beat)

Anyhow, by sixteen, I had been having sex for a buncha years and...

ROBYN

Unbelievable.

MILLIE

You got a problem?

ALEXIS

(quickly)

No, she doesn't. Go on.

MILLIE

(to ROBYN)

If you've got something to say, Alexis, go ahead.

ALEXIS

No. No. It's fine.

(to ROBYN)

Right?

ROBYN

(after a beat)

Right. Please go on.

MILLIE

I don't need you to sit there and judge me, you know?

ALEXIS

We need to keep our voices down.

MILLIE

(lowering her voice)

You're the ones that wanted to know. We could just skip all of this and talk about the transplant test but I thought it might be nice to meet each other, too!

ALEXIS

It is. She's done. It's fine.

MILLIE

(long beat)

Okay. Fine. So, where was I?

ALEXIS

You had boyfriends.

MILLIE

Right. Boyfriends. Right. So one night, at the campground, this guy comes through. And he's really wild. And he just had this energy...you just wanted to be with him all the time, you know? And, out of everyone there, he wanted to be with me. He stayed at Blackbird Perch for a good week or so. And I stayed with him every single night. And he was a fantastic lover.

(beat)

That's probably not the stuff I should be telling you about your dad. You probably don't want to be hearing that kind of stuff.

ROBYN

(under her breath)

Oh, God.

MILLIE

Anyhow, he was wild and dreamy. I really thought this was it. I thought "Wow. This is it. This is what it's really like to be in love." Or whatever that means. At sixteen, can you imagine? And, there he was, just talking to me, spending every waking minute with me, looking up at the stars with me every night. It was like a dream. Really. I thought I'd died right there and gone to heaven. But.

(beat)

One morning, he was out in the woods, looking for some berries or something. And, you know, he just must have lost track of where he was and wandered way off into another part of the forest where people are really not supposed to go. I mean, he had a pretty good sense of direction so you had to think he knew something but he wandered right into the hunting area. And, wouldn't you know it?

(SHE puts a finger to her
head like a gun and makes
gunshot noise. The girls
gasp)

Just like that. Really quick, too. The hunter found him immediately and tried to get help but it was too late. A friend of my uncle's, actually. They used to hunt together all the time. And he just felt terrible. Never forgave himself. Even stopped hunting for a while.

ALEXIS

Only a while?

ROBYN

So...he's...dead?

MILLIE

Yeah. And, after his funeral, that's when I found out. I was pregnant with...

(SHE looks at ROBYN then at
ALEXIS)

...you. I wanted to keep you but my mom wouldn't let me. She said that the baby was going to bring bad spirits on the family. She even closed Blackbird Perch after that. Sold it. She said it had bad juju. I never really believed that kind of stuff. But she marched me right to the clinic and signed me up to have you adopted. I never even got to hold you in the hospital. They took you right away. But I was always mad about it. So, when my mom died a few months ago, I made up my mind to try to find you.

ROBYN

(after a beat)

But. What about the bone marrow transplant?

MILLIE

Well, that just speeded things up. I got bone cancer a few months ago. They said it's...it's already spread and it doesn't look good. So I really started looking for you then and...

ALEXIS

So, it's true then. You really do need a bone marrow transplant?

MILLIE

(ROBYN sits down,
overwhelmed. ALEXIS hands
ROBYN her water which she
drinks. ALEXIS becomes
increasingly protective as
the scene goes on)

Of course it's true! I told you on the computer. I've got one week left to find a match before I have to go into this experimental thing and then it's out of my hands. You think I'd come all the way out here and lie to you?

ALEXIS

(aside to ROBYN)

You want me to end it?

MILLIE

(ROBYN drinks again)

So. You don't believe me. That's it.

(SHE is clearly trying not to
get upset. ROBYN shakes her
head at ALEXIS and starts
gathering herself)

You know, I don't enjoy going around talking about how this nasty stuff is eating away at my body.

(SHE cannot continue)

ROBYN

(finally to MILLIE)

I'm Robyn.

(beat)

I'm Robyn. She's Alexis.

ALEXIS

Hi.

MILLIE

Heh. You think I didn't figure that out? You're a crappy liar. And you look just like him. And you...

(SHE indicates ALEXIS)

Don't look like any of us.

(to ROBYN)

Besides, you're sitting there getting all mad at me...

ROBYN

It was very irresponsible!

ALEXIS

Shh!

MILLIE

Well, you hide your feelings about that real well.

(beat)

So. Anything else you want to tell me? You want to tell me how horrible I was for giving you up? Or how horrible my mother was for making me give you up? Because I'll agree with you there. I didn't speak to her for five years after that! Shut her right out of my life.

ROBYN

Five years? I can't imagine not talking to my mother for five years.

MILLIE

(beat)

Well. Good. Then things didn't turn out so bad for you, did they?

ROBYN

(beat)

No. They didn't.

(realizing)

No, I guess they really didn't.

ALEXIS

Her parents are still together.

MILLIE

See?

(beat)

And even that little brother of yours is pretty damn protective of you...

ROBYN

(truly surprised)

He is?

MILLIE

Oh, yeah. Told me he wouldn't tell me anything. Told me to contact you myself.

ROBYN

Oh.

MILLIE

But he spent a lot of time asking questions. He could be a detective, that one.

ROBYN

(smiling)

He's not really thirteen, you know. He's not even supposed to be on Facebook.

MILLIE

Oh, I don't know anything about the Facebook. I just opened an account to find you.

ROBYN

You...?

(SHE looks at ALEXIS and back
at MILLIE)

You what?

MILLIE

Well, I tried everything else. So my nephew showed me how to do it. Well, actually, he's your dad's nephew. But he's my nephew. He's been real worried about me not finding a match.

ALEXIS

So. You're still in touch with his family?

MILLIE

Oh, yeah. I even moved in with them for a while. His mom and dad are great. Well, were great. They both died a bunch of years ago. But I got real close to his brother, Stevie, and Stevie's wife, Shana. They were really excited when they heard that I found you.

ROBYN

Oh. So, they...want to meet me, too?

MILLIE

Well, sure. I mean, you were his only daughter.

(ROBYN drinks more water and
looks overwhelmed)

ALEXIS

(aside to ROBYN)

You know, we can go whenever you want to.

MILLIE

Danilo Flowers, that was your dad. I put his last name as mine on the birth certificate and it's been my name ever since.

ROBYN

Oh. That's...so then...what was your last name?

MILLIE

It doesn't even matter anymore. I haven't used it since I was sixteen.

ROBYN

Oh.

ALEXIS

(aside to ROBYN)

Robyn...?

ROBYN

(aside to ALEXIS)

I'm okay.

MILLIE

(indicating the private
conversation)

Something going on here?

ROBYN

No. It's nothing.

MILLIE

I know it looks kinda weird, me showing up like this and asking you to get tested...but I really didn't have another choice.

(Beat. Pointing to the books)

These all yours?

ROBYN

They're for a history paper that we're doing.

MILLIE

You're going to college or something?

ROBYN

Not yet. But I'm going to take the SAT's in the spring and I'll start applying next year.

MILLIE

(relieved)

So you're pretty smart then.

ROBYN

Well, I don't know if...

ALEXIS

Yes, she's very smart. She always gets A's.

MILLIE

A's? Really?

ROBYN

Not always. I'm not as good in French.

ALEXIS

Okay, but you're really good in trig.

ROBYN

Right, but that's because Mom helps me...

(SHE trails off and then looks at MILLIE, who has stiffened)

MILLIE

Your...

(Beat. SHE takes a breath)

So...your...she's good at math?

ROBYN

(uncomfortable)

Yes. Very good. She's the chair of the math department at...

(breaks off self-consciously)

She's a math professor.

MILLIE

And...and your...

(SHE falters)

...your...what does he do?

ALEXIS

Her father works for a pharmaceutical company.

MILLIE

Oh. Like a doctor or something?

ROBYN

No. He does client management for a drug company.

(beat)

Prescription drugs. Like the ones you have to take...

MILLIE

(sharply cutting her off)

Do you know what your real father did?

ROBYN

(testily)

He is my real father.

MILLIE

Danilo wasn't just a nobody. He was a musician. When he wasn't playing, he was teaching music at a guitar store.

ALEXIS

So he wasn't in school either?

MILLIE

No. He was older. Twenty three or twenty six or something.

ROBYN

Wait. Wasn't that statutory rape? You were sixteen. I mean, you were too young to know if...

MILLIE

It was fine.

ALEXIS

(looking around)

Shhh.

MILLIE

I wasn't doing anything that I didn't want to. I have no regrets.

ROBYN

Really? None? Then what are you doing here?

MILLIE

You think I'm just some hick, don't you? Some stupid woman who got herself all knocked up when she was too young to know whether she should have been having sex. Is that right? Because I didn't follow the rules?

(Silence)

I figured it'd be like that.

(beat)

I mean, here you are in this fancy town, hanging out in a library, for Christ's sake! I mean, I think I actually saw a BMW dealer and a Mercedes dealer on the way here!

(beat)

And you're so mad. Are you like this with everyone or just me? Because I can take it. But I don't want to think I gave birth to an asshole or something.

ROBYN

(beat)

I'm sorry.

(Aside to ALEXIS as ALEXIS starts to say something)

Don't.

MILLIE

(beat. To ROBYN)

You play guitar?

ROBYN

Flute right now. I used play piano and clarinet. A friend of mine taught me a little guitar at camp once but I just learned one song.

MILLIE

What song?

ROBYN

Um...it's called "Everything Possible".

MILLIE

By Fred Small. Sure, that's a great song.

(sings)

"You can travel any country/where your heart leads/and know I will love you still..." I always thought part was about me.

ROBYN

(stunned)

You know that song? I've never met anyone who knows that song.

MILLIE

That's an old favorite of mine. It's on the tapes...I have some old tapes of Danilo's, songs that he played me at the campfire. The only real things I have left of him. That song is on them.

(beat. Shyly)

I didn't know what this was gonna be like, when we met, you know, but I thought, if we got to talking...well, anyhow, I brought them, just in case...

ROBYN

Oh...wow...that's...

MILLIE

I thought you might want to hear your dad play.

ROBYN

(suddenly uncomfortable)

Oh. My...right...my...

MILLIE

They're out on the bike. We could go get them. Or we could go find a music store. You could play it on a guitar for me. I just knew you had music in your blood. Come on, let's go find a guitar.

ROBYN
(exchanges glances with
ALEXIS and then awkwardly)
I would but I...I think Alexis and I need to work on our
paper some more.

MILLIE
Can't you do that later?

ALEXIS
It's due in a couple days and we've barely started.

ROBYN
(sees MILLIE is hurt)
It's worth fifteen percent of our grade.

MILLIE
(beat)
Are you good in science, too?

ROBYN
I'm okay.

MILLIE
Do you know that bone cancer is a family thing?
(beat)
That was the other reason I came out here. I wanted you to
know that you could...you know...I mean, not now, but maybe
some day...

ROBYN
(long beat)
Oh.

MILLIE
I mean, it probably won't, right? But you never know. I
mean, look at me. I didn't know.

ROBYN
(dismayed)
Right.

ALEXIS
(quickly)
But lots of things run in family medical histories. I mean,
my cousin is the only one who had a hearing loss and my

grandmother is the only one with asthma. It doesn't have to hit everyone in the family.

MILLIE

Oh, sure. These kind of things could just happen sometimes, you know? No rhyme or reason. But I really need your help. Would you see if you're a match for me?

ROBYN

(beat)

Did your mother die of lymphoma?

MILLIE

(beat)

Yes. She couldn't find a match.

(Long beat. ROBYN takes out her phone)

ALEXIS

Robyn...

(ROBYN shakes HER off)

Robyn.

(ROBYN dials and walks to the side where SHE can't be heard. To MILLIE)

I'm sorry about your mom.

MILLIE

Yeah. Well, like I said, she and I didn't get along too well after she made me give up the baby. Even after I started talking to her again.

(beat as SHE looks after ROBYN)

Who do you think she's calling? I mean, she didn't say a word.

ALEXIS

I don't know.

MILLIE

You think she's coming back?

ALEXIS

Probably. Her bag is still here.

MILLIE

Hmm.

(abruptly)

So. You must have been friends a long time to be like sisters. My sister and I were never close. Never. We fought when we were kids. But she knew when to get out. She's out in South Dakota or something now and we don't even talk on the phone.

(beat)

But it's nice that Robyn has someone who's like a real sister. Not like the one I have.

(beat)

Why do you keep whispering stuff in her ear? You think I don't see that?

ALEXIS

Well, you come on a little strong, you know. And this is really overwhelming for her.

MILLIE

Hey, she's not the only one, you know?

(beat)

It's good she has you to check in on her. That's what sisters should do.

ALEXIS

Yeah.

(beat)

I'll be right back.

(SHE crosses to ROBYN who is
hanging up the phone)

Hey, are you okay?

ROBYN

Yeah.

(beat. Sadly)

Alexis. She's not a senator.

ALEXIS

(comforting)

I know.

ROBYN

(beat. Crossing to MILLIE)

Okay. I've talked to my mom. I told her that you were here. She was a little...well, it doesn't matter. Anyway, she thought maybe we should have dinner.

MILLIE

Who?

ROBYN

You and us. My parents.

ALEXIS

Really?

MILLIE

I don't know. That seems kind of...I mean, I don't really have clothes to go to some nice restaurant or something, you know?

ROBYN

It doesn't have to be a nice restaurant.

MILLIE

Robyn. I don't know if you've seen this town but it's kind of...you know...on the

(SHE sort of whispers)

...rich...side of things. Every restaurant is nice.

ROBYN

What? No. There's...

(SHE thinks and then looks to
ALEXIS for help)

ALEXIS

Pizza.

ROBYN

Pizza! Yes, pizza.

MILLIE

Pizza?

ROBYN

Yeah. That's not too...rich...right?

MILLIE

(beat)

I guess not.

ALEXIS
You could go to Gino's.

ROBYN
Right. Yes, Gino's.

MILLIE
(beat)
Really? They want to meet me?

ROBYN
Well. If I'm going to get tested to see if we're a match,
you're going to have to.

MILLIE
(long beat)
You sure you want to do it?

ROBYN
(long beat)
It's just a test, right? We don't know anything for sure.

MILLIE
Sure. Right.

ROBYN
Right.

(END SCENE)

Act I

Scene 4

SETTING: A bench outside Gino's Restaurant.

AT RISE: BEVERLY is pacing, carrying her purse. SHE looks around, checks her phone, and then sits down impatiently on the bench. Enter ELI from SL.

ELI

Beverly.

(BEVERLY jumps up and hugs
HIM)

They're not here yet?

BEVERLY

No. It's a really long wait in there. You think we should go somewhere else?

ELI

How long?

BEVERLY

They said thirty five minutes. There's some private party happening in the back.

ELI

Let's see what they want to do when they get here.

(beat)

I called Justin. He said he'll get a ride home from swim practice with Brian.

BEVERLY

Okay, good. Thanks.

ELI

She's not here yet? She wasn't driving with her, was she? I mean, she didn't get in a car with her. She took the bus, right?

BEVERLY

Alexis was going to drop her off.

ELI

Good.

(beat)

How did she sound on the phone?

BEVERLY

A little shaken. I don't know what that woman said to her. I'm just glad Alexis was with her. What was she thinking, meeting with her and not telling us?

ELI

I don't know, I don't know.

BEVERLY

I mean, I thought we did it right. We told her that she was adopted. And early, too, like people suggested, so there wouldn't be secrets.

ELI

I know.

BEVERLY

I even offered to help try to find her, if she was interested. And she did ask me to put that in her file!

ELI

I know. She did. We did do everything right.

(beat)

I mean, we could have told her about the call earlier.

BEVERLY

Don't start.

ELI

I'm just saying...

BEVERLY

Right now? You want to say it right now?

(ELI lets it go. Beat)

What if...what if she's really great?

ELI

What do you mean?

BEVERLY

I mean, what if Millie wants a relationship with her?

ELI

(beat)

Let's just...let's see what she's like first.

BEVERLY

She's gotta be crazy, don't you think? Contacting us and then Justin? And how did she even get a hold of Robyn?

ELI

(hugging her)

It's going to be all right. We're her parents, right?

BEVERLY

Right.

ELI

And Robyn is a smart girl. And she loves us.

BEVERLY

Right.

ELI

So. Let's just do what we always said we would. We'll be open and polite.

BEVERLY

Okay.

(SHE looks OS left. Pulling
away from ELI)

Oh! There's Alexis' car.

(beat. Suddenly)

Do I look okay?

ELI

You look fine.

BEVERLY

This isn't what I would have chosen to wear to meet her. But I was coming straight from a faculty meeting..

ELI

You look great.

(HE kisses HER)

Really. It'll be all right.

BEVERLY

Good. Keep saying that. Maybe it'll be true.

ELI

Let's just sit down.

(BEVERLY does. As ELI does,
he hears the sound of a
motorcycle from off-stage
left and looks up)

Wow, look at that Harley! That's old school.

BEVERLY

Eli! Could you focus? Just sit down.

ELI

(sitting)

I'm focused. I'm just admiring a motorcycle. I mean, that
is a really nice bike.

BEVERLY

How can you talk about a motorcycle when we're about to
meet...

(SHE can't finish)

I mean, really, Eli!

ELI

Okay, okay.

ROBYN

(entering nervously)

Hi.

ELI

Hi, honey.

(THEY each hug ROBYN)

BEVERLY

Hi. Are you...are you doing okay?

ROBYN

I don't know. I'm a little...I don't know.

(Enter MILLIE, carrying HER
helmet)

Mom. Dad. This is Millie.

(BEVERLY's jaw drops a
little. Silence)

ELI

(bummed)

So. You're the one with the Harley?

MILLIE

Oh, yeah. That's mine.

(beat)

Well, it's really nice meeting you finally.

BEVERLY

(recovering)

Oh, yes. It's nice to meet you finally, too. I'm Beverly.

(SHE offers HER hand to
shake)

MILLIE

Oh, I would but...

(SHE looks at HER hands)

I'm still all greasy from the bike.

BEVERLY

Oh.

MILLIE

But, thanks.

(beat)

Maybe after I wash my hands. Is there a toilet around here
that I could use?

ELI

Oh, yeah. Just inside.

BEVERLY

They said it's a long wait.

MILLIE

At the toilet?

BEVERLY

(flustered)

No, sorry, I meant...for dinner.

ROBYN

How long?

BEVERLY

Thirty five minutes. But...

(SHE looks at her watch)

That was ten minutes ago.

MILLIE

Well, I'm in no rush.

ROBYN

Yeah, it's fine.

MILLIE

I'm just gonna...

(SHE holds up HER fingers and
then exits SR)

BEVERLY

So!

ROBYN

I know I should have told you but...

ELI

Did you ride on that?

ROBYN

What? No. Alexis drove me.

ELI

Because those things are very unsafe, you know?

ROBYN

I know.

BEVERLY

For God's sake, Eli! Leave the motorcycle alone!

(to ROBYN)

So. What's she like? What did you think?

ROBYN

I don't know. She's a little...quirky. Eccentric.

BEVERLY

We can see that.

ROBYN

But she's not that bad. I mean, she's just very...talkative.

ELI

Did she tell you about...you know...what happened? When she was...younger?

ROBYN

Yes. She talked about that a lot.

BEVERLY

Really? That seems odd.

(Re-enter MILLIE)

MILLIE

They said the line is moving.

BEVERLY

Oh, good.

(Long awkward pause)

ELI

So, Millie, where do you live now?

MILLIE

Western Pennsylvania. A little tiny town. Probably never heard of it.

ELI

And you drove all the way from there...today?

MILLIE

It's not that bad. Good weather, no traffic. And I figure I'll just find a place to stay tonight.

ELI

Hmm. I've always found Route 80 to just go on forever. Pennsylvania, in general. Just goes on forever.

MILLIE

I was on 70.

ELI

Oh.

(beat)

Well, maybe 70 is better.

BEVERLY

And what is it that you do?

MILLIE

Bike mechanics.

BEVERLY

Oh.

MILLIE

When I learned how to keep my bike in shape, I just started fixing everyone's.

ELI

Useful skill.

BEVERLY

Yes. Everyone needs to have their cars fixed from time to time.

MILLIE

No. I do bikes, not cars.

BEVERLY

Oh.

MILLIE

(awkward pause)

People mix that up a lot.

ROBYN

(awkward beat)

So, why don't you tell Millie about yourselves? Mom?

BEVERLY

Okay. Well, I'm a math professor...

MILLIE

Yeah, she told me.

BEVERLY

(startled)

Um, okay.

ROBYN

(awkward beat and then)

She's received lots of awards for her teaching and was even featured in a book last year.

MILLIE

Uh-huh.

BEVERLY

Yes. And I...oh! I grew up in San Francisco. And Eli grew up in Chicago.

MILLIE

Boy, they musta just thought you guys were one super smart couple.

ELI

What?

MILLIE

Chicago and San Francisco. You're city folks. And now you're out here in New Jersey. It's no wonder they picked you.

ELI

Who?

BEVERLY

(hardening)

The adoption agency.

ELI

Oh.

MILLIE

Hey, do you think we're supposed to tell them that we've met?

(THEY all look blankly at
each other)

BEVERLY

I don't think they ever said anything to us about it. Do you remember that, Eli?

ELI

No.

(to MILLIE)

Did they say anything to you?

MILLIE

I don't think so.

ROBYN

(beat)

It might be kind of cool to let them know, though, don't you think?

ELI

Sort of tie the whole thing up.

BEVERLY

Yeah.

MILLIE

(long beat)

Pretty name. Robyn.

ELI

Thank you. Robyn Charlotte. She's named for my mother and Beverly's grandmother.

MILLIE

Oh. I always thought I might have named her Danielle. After her dad.

ROBYN

(Beat. Uncomfortable)

He was um...he was killed in a hunting accident.

BEVERLY

Oh, God! That's awful!

ELI

I'm so sorry!

MILLIE

Yeah. These things happen, don't they?

(long beat. Everyone gets uncomfortable)

So you think you did a pretty good job with my kid here?

ROBYN

Millie!

BEVERLY

(icily)

Yes, we do.

MILLIE

(trying to soften with a
joke)

She didn't drive you too crazy?

ELI

Oh, no. Robyn was a great baby. She slept, she ate. And a fast learner. She learned to walk before her first birthday.

MILLIE

(sadly)

You don't say. Before her first birthday.

ELI

Justin was really the more challenging one.

MILLIE

He's adopted, too?

ROBYN

(annoyed)

No.

BEVERLY

(hesitantly)

They told us we couldn't have a child. But...then...

MILLIE

Well.

(cheerfully)

Good for you. No, that's really great. Children are a real blessing.

(beat)

I never had another child.

BEVERLY

Oh. I'm...I'm sorry.

MILLIE

You are?

BEVERLY

Did you want one?

MILLIE

I don't know. I never even got married. I would have married Robyn's father, if I could have.

(ELI reacts)

But...that wasn't in the cards.

ROBYN

(after an awkward beat, to

BEVERLY)

Maybe we should see how much longer it will be, Mom.

BEVERLY

Yes. Good idea. I'll go check.

(SHE exits SR)

ELI

So. Do you smoke?

ROBYN

What?

MILLIE

Oh, no, thanks. Gave it up a long time ago.

ROBYN

Dad, what are you...?

ELI

You know, we should celebrate when we get in there. I mean, it's sort of a celebration. Maybe we could have a nice wine or something.

ROBYN

They don't have wine here, just beer.

ELI

How do you know that?

ROBYN

(possibly covering)

I can read a menu, Dad.

MILLIE

I don't really drink anymore, anyhow. And I would never drink when I'm going to be riding.

ELI

Oh, right. Of course.

(Re-enter BEVERLY)

So?

BEVERLY

Still another fifteen to twenty minutes.

MILLIE

That's okay.

BEVERLY

Do you still have homework tonight, honey?

ROBYN

Oh. Well, yes. But...it's fine. It's not too much.

ELI

You found some books for the paper?

ROBYN

Alexis did.

BEVERLY

Robyn's at the top of her class.

MILLIE

Yeah, I heard she was pretty smart.

(SHE leans in to BEVERLY)

You're welcome.

BEVERLY

(indignant)

Now, look...!

ROBYN

(exasperated)

Millie...

MILLIE

Take it easy. It was just a joke.

(SHE tugs at HER shirt)

A little warm out here, don't you think?

BEVERLY

Very.

ELI

So, Millie, what's it like being a bike mechanic? Do you have long hours or...

BEVERLY

(exasperated)

Oh, Eli.

MILLIE

Not as much now. When I owned the shop, my hours were really long. But then...

(SHE glances at ROBYN. ROBYN
avoids her glance)

Some stuff happened recently. I couldn't do it anymore. So I had to sell it.

ELI

Oh, that's too bad. This economy has just killed so many small businesses.

MILLIE

Well, it wasn't the economy exactly. I mean, I had lots of business...

ELI

I'm sorry, I just assumed...

BEVERLY

Setting up your own business must have been so hard. I don't think I could do that. Did you take business classes?

MILLIE

Classes? My mother owned a campground for twenty years. She taught me how to keep her books and everything. I didn't need classes after that.

BEVERLY

Experiential learning is so valuable. It's great that your mom was able to teach you all of that. Running a campground must be so different from running an auto shop, though.

MILLIE

Bike shop.

BEVERLY

Right. Bike shop. That's what I meant. Those industries are so distinct from one another. I just wonder if a business class could help with transferrable skills. Make them more effective.

MILLIE

(defensively)

My customers seemed to think I was pretty effective.

BEVERLY

Oh, no, that's not what I meant. Not for this business, but if you were to do another one. I mean, if you wanted, I could probably get recommendations for you from some of my colleagues.

MILLIE

Recommendations?

BEVERLY

For small business classes.

MILLIE

I don't really think I'm going to...

BEVERLY

It wouldn't be any trouble. I hear from other...

MILLIE

I said I don't want any...

ROBYN

(blurting)

Millie has lymphoma!

(Stunned silence)

BEVERLY

What?

MILLIE

You really know how to break it gently, don't you?

ROBYN

Mom. Dad. The reason I went to meet Millie is because she said she has lymphoma and she needs a bone marrow transplant. And I might be her only match.

(Long silence)

ELI

When were you diagnosed?

MILLIE

A few months ago.

ELI

You're receiving treatment now?

MILLIE

Some but it's already spreading really fast. I can get more if I go into this experimental thing next week. It's really a last resort. The doctor wanted me to try to find a bone marrow donor first. He said that was my best shot. I've been looking for weeks.

ELI

So...that's why all the emails and calls?

MILLIE

Yeah. Why? Did you think I was crazy?

ELI

(beat. Nervous laughing)

No, of course not.

BEVERLY

No, not at all. I mean, who wouldn't want to find their biological daughter?

MILLIE

Right. I mean, if you had given up your son, you would have wanted to find him, right? So, you understand.

BEVERLY

Hmm. Right.

ELI

You know, Robyn's very young for this kind of thing.

ROBYN

So what?

ELI

We need to research what this would be like, Robyn. It can be very complicated and painful.

ROBYN

Well, it can't be that complicated if they need to know if you have a match by next week, right?

BEVERLY

By next week?

MILLIE

Yeah. I sure didn't want to cut it this close but it took so long to find Robyn. I had just about given up hope.

ROBYN

So we could just do it fast and if I'm not a match, then I don't have to do it.

ELI

Robyn, it's not that simple. If you're taking the test, you're committing to doing the procedure, if you are a match.

ROBYN

I can't change my mind?

MILLIE

(angrily)

Well, it would really suck for me if you did, wouldn't it?

ROBYN

I didn't mean it like that. I just...

ELI

She wouldn't be able to change her mind. Several of my clients work with cancer related medicines. They give you something to sign before they administer the test.

BEVERLY

Don't you think this is a lot to ask?

MILLIE

What?

BEVERLY

I mean, you come in here and just ask this sixteen year old girl to undergo a painful procedure to give you her bone marrow. She's only sixteen! She's still a minor!

MILLIE

Look. I didn't get to bring Robyn up. I didn't even get to know her or hold her, even though she was mine. I never came to bother you before. So I'm just asking for this. But. If it's too much, I'll just take my chances on this experimental thing and see what happens.

(beat)

And, I figure, if I gave her life, she can probably give it back to me.

ROBYN

Mom. We don't even know.

BEVERLY

I'm not discussing this now.

MILLIE

You're not...what do you think you're here for?

BEVERLY

(sharply)

We will discuss this. At home.

(beat)

Go get in the car.

ROBYN

What?

ELI

Beverly...

BEVERLY

Right now.

ROBYN

But we haven't had dinner.

BEVERLY

We're not having dinner. Get in the car.

ELI

Beverly, calm down.

BEVERLY

You, too, Eli.

MILLIE

Well, now we know who wears the pants in the family, don't we?

ROBYN

Mom! Millie is dying!

BEVERLY

Robyn! Don't make me tell you again.

ROBYN

I'm not a kid, Mom! You can't just tell me to...

BEVERLY

Robyn!

ROBYN

She's my mother, Mom!

(Long silence. BEVERLY turns
and exits SL. ROBYN follows)

Mom, I didn't mean...I didn't mean it like that!

(ROBYN exits. END OF SCENE.
END ACT I)

Act II

Scene 1

SETTING: ROBYN's room.

AT RISE: The lights are off. No one is in the room. Beat. ROBYN bursts in clutching her phone to her chest with BEVERLY close behind her, who turns on the light. ELI follows.

ROBYN
No! I'm not showing it to you!

BEVERLY
Robyn! We just want to understand what she said to you.

ROBYN
I told you what she said!

BEVERLY
I want to read it.

(BEVERLY goes to ROBYN's laptop on the bed which ROBYN quickly snatches up)

ROBYN
No! That's my laptop! What is reading what she said going to change? Nothing! You're still not going to like her! You're still going to be mad that I didn't tell you!

BEVERLY
It doesn't even matter if I like her, Robyn! She contacted you on Facebook, for God's sake! I want to know whether or not she's telling the truth!

ROBYN
Why would she lie?

BEVERLY
Oh, honey. People do lots of things to get what they want.

ROBYN
She's not lying.

(Enter JUSTIN quietly)

ELI

All right, look! I've asked her for her doctor's information. She needs to have a bone marrow donor by next week or she has to enter the trial. So we don't need to see the messages to figure out if she's telling the truth. We'll be able to talk to a doctor if she is.

BEVERLY

Eli.

ELI

But if she never sends the information or we don't hear from a doctor, than we'll also know.

ROBYN

No, you won't! She probably hates you now because of how you treated her! I wouldn't want to send you any information after that! And now she could die!

BEVERLY

It is not your responsibility to save her.

ROBYN

Didn't you always tell me that I should help people?

BEVERLY

It is not the same thing!

ROBYN

Why not?

BEVERLY

Because...!

(SHE flounders)

Because...because it's just more complicated, Robyn. And just because she's sick doesn't make her a nice person!

ROBYN

Well, you didn't have to be so mean!

BEVERLY

I wasn't mean. I was being protective. You're sixteen! And sixteen year olds don't know everything. Lots of people will want to manipulate you to get things that they want...

ROBYN

She's not...!

BEVERLY

You don't know that!

ROBYN

Ask Alexis! She was there! She talked to her more than you did! She'll tell you!

ELI

Beverly, calm down. You're very upset.

BEVERLY

Well, our daughter just went to meet a stranger...

ELI

I know.

BEVERLY

And didn't tell us!

ROBYN

I said I was sorry!

BEVERLY

You have no idea who she really is! She could be dangerous!

ROBYN

Mom! Don't you think I thought about all of that? I was the one who yelled at Justin about his privacy settings!

(SHE indicates HIM. BEVERLY

and ELI notice HIM for the first time)

I was the one who picked the library in another town to meet at. With Alexis there! I was the one who called you when I felt like I couldn't handle it by myself anymore. And I was the one who suggested going to a restaurant, another public place, not near our house. I'm not giving her any more information about us than you would. So just back off! I'm not being stupid! And you know it!

(Long beat)

BEVERLY

(quietly)

I don't know it because I don't know what you said to her or what she said to you.

ROBYN

Oh, God, Mom!

ELI

All right. Let's take a break. We haven't eaten and, honey, you know you don't always think clearly when your blood sugar is low.

BEVERLY

I'm thinking just fine!

ELI

Fine. But it's getting late. Robyn still has homework to do and this isn't something that needs to be solved tonight.

BEVERLY

(incredulous)

What?

ROBYN

She needs an answer by next week, Dad!

ELI

But next week isn't tonight. We will research it tomorrow. Justin, did you finish your homework before swim practice?

JUSTIN

(startled)

Uh, no.

ELI

Okay. So let's go have some dinner, cool down and get everyone's homework finished. There are plenty of leftovers and there's still school tomorrow.

(beat)

Beverly.

BEVERLY

(to ROBYN and ELI)

We are not done discussing this!

(SHE exits, angrily)

ELI

Both of you be downstairs in five minutes for dinner.

(HE exits past JUSTIN. Beat.
ROBYN puts her laptop down)

ROBYN

I can't believe him!

JUSTIN

So...you met her?

ROBYN

(exasperated)

Yes! What are you doing in here, anyway? I didn't say you could come in!

JUSTIN

And...she's sick?

ROBYN

Yes, Justin! Didn't you just hear? She has lymphoma!

JUSTIN

Which one is lymphoma?

ROBYN

Bone cancer. Don't you ever pay attention in science class?

JUSTIN

(beat)

So does her head look all weird?

ROBYN

What? No. Why would her head look weird?

JUSTIN

When Mrs. Bennett had cancer, she had to have all kinds of things done that made her lose her hair. Remember? She had to wear a scarf but she had that really weird shaped head. Don't you remember?

ROBYN

(beat)

No. I forgot about that.

(beat)

Well. I don't know if she's doing chemo yet.

JUSTIN

(beat)

She didn't tell me she was sick.

ROBYN

Why would she? It's not your business and you didn't have the right bone marrow to donate.

JUSTIN

Ew. Bone marrow? She needs bone marrow? How do you even move that from one person to another?

ROBYN

I don't know. There's some procedure.

JUSTIN

So why does it have to be you? Can't someone else do it? She said she had like two brothers and a sister. Can't they do it?

ROBYN

(getting flustered)

I don't know, Justin! She asked me!

(beat)

I guess they're not matches or something.

JUSTIN

I'd do it, if it was you.

ROBYN

You would?

JUSTIN

Of course. I don't want you to die or anything.

ROBYN

Thanks, Justin. I don't want you to die or anything either.

(beat)

But you probably wouldn't be a match for me, anyway.

(beat)

So you don't think I'm crazy for wanting to help her, right?

JUSTIN

No. I think Mom's crazy for getting in your way. I mean, wouldn't she want some bone marrow if she was sick?

ROBYN

Yes! Exactly! Thank you!

JUSTIN

It still sounds gross, though.

(beat)

So, come on. Tell me what she was like. Was she like soccer mom or cool mom?

ROBYN

Millie's not mom-like at all. She's more like...I don't know...

JUSTIN

Cooler?

ROBYN

She's just kind of...strange. I can't even believe that she gave birth to me. We're just so different. I just wouldn't think she has kids.

(beat)

I guess she doesn't have kids.

JUSTIN

So with this bone thing...you're gonna be seeing her a lot?

ROBYN

I don't know about a lot. I don't even know if I'll be seeing her ever. I don't know if she needs to be there for it.

(beat)

I didn't even get to say goodbye. Mom was just so mad and she was yelling at me to get into the car. I didn't even say goodbye to Millie.

(beat)

Oh, my God! I really don't know if I'll ever see her again!

(SHE starts to tear up)

I didn't have enough time to get to know her.

ELI (OS)

Justin! Robyn! Come set the table!

JUSTIN

(calling back)

Okay! Be right there.

(beat)

You'll see her again, Robyn. You will.

ROBYN
(wiping her eyes)

Thanks.

JUSTIN
And, if it makes a difference...I'm glad that Mom and Dad adopted you.

ROBYN
(smiling)
That's just because you wanted someone to break them in for you.

JUSTIN
Ha! Break them in? Did you see how hard it was to get Dad to let me stay at Brian's house last weekend?

ROBYN
Yeah, because he knew Brian's parents were going to be out of town! Why didn't you say you were going to someone else's house?

JUSTIN
Oh. See? If they hadn't adopted you, I wouldn't have thought of that.

ROBYN
(beat)
Thanks, Justin.

JUSTIN
Are you coming downstairs?

ROBYN
Yeah. I'll be down in a minute. Let me just put my stuff away.

(JUSTIN exits. SHE glances at the laptop and then at the door. SHE opens the laptop and reads something. SHE looks at the door again, then types a little. SHE presses send. Beat then an IM beep. ROBYN reads and types. END OF SCENE)

Act II

Scene 2

SETTING: The library. The next afternoon.

AT RISE: ROBYN is sitting at the table with her laptop open. There is a bottle of water on the table. SHE is typing furiously. Enter ALEXIS.

ALEXIS
(looking around and finally seeing ROBYN)
There you are! Where the hell have you been?

ROBYN
(startled and caught)
Oh, hey. What are you doing here?

ALEXIS
Looking for you. I've been looking everywhere. I tried texting you all day. Didn't you get them?

ROBYN
(looking at her phone)
Ugh, no. I have terrible signal in here.

ALEXIS
Not just now. All day! You weren't in trig, you weren't at history class or study hall when we said we would do more research. I looked on FourSquare but you hadn't checked in since last night. I thought maybe you had gone home sick but then Peter said he saw you meeting with Mrs. Reynolds at lunch. What the hell are you doing meeting with Mrs. Reynolds? You don't even take biology, Robyn!

(ROBYN types. ALEXIS slams the laptop shut)
Robyn!

ROBYN
Hey! What the hell? I was IM'ing!

ALEXIS
Yeah, I know! I was talking to you!

ROBYN

I heard you. You don't need to slam my computer shut!

ALEXIS

We need to work on the paper.

(SHE starts taking books out
of her bag)

I'll show you the notes from the work I did today.

ROBYN

We're not presenting until Thursday. We're fine.

ALEXIS

Yes. Tomorrow is Thursday.

ROBYN

(beat)

It is? Well, I can't work right now because Millie's going to be here any minute.

ALEXIS

Wait, you're meeting her again?

ROBYN

(SHE looks at her phone)

Yeah, but she's really late. I'm barely going to have time to...

ALEXIS

What is she still doing here?

ROBYN

She's waiting to find out if I'm a match.

ALEXIS

Your parents said yes? You're going to do it?

ROBYN

I couldn't get the test done. I needed parental consent and I didn't tell them I was going.

ALEXIS

Robyn!

ROBYN

(opening her computer and
clicking around)

No. Look at all this information I found out about it last night. They say that the healing process isn't too long. Look, it's outpatient surgery. Not even that big a deal.

ALEXIS

But it says that the whole thing could take up to six weeks to do everything. You're going to miss finals...

ROBYN

I can make those up.

ALEXIS

And the junior ski trip. That's in four weeks.

ROBYN

I'm not going to miss that. I just won't ski but I can still go.

ALEXIS

(beat)

So. You've just got this all worked out.

ROBYN

(defensively)

You know, Millie isn't so bad. She's actually pretty cool. We've been IM'ing since last night and she's just traveled everywhere on her motorcycle! I mean, everywhere! She's gone to the Grand Canyon and Yellowstone and Niagara Falls and Route 66...you remember Route 66 from...?

ALEXIS

Yes, but Robyn...

ROBYN

And she has that same weird ear thing that I have.

ALEXIS

What ear thing?

ROBYN

The funny shape of my ear lobe. See?

(SHE shows her)

She sent me a photo.

(ROBYN clicks on her
computer)

See? That's hers. Same thing.

(beat)

I had to tell her how to use her phone to take a picture and upload it. That was hilarious.

(beat)

She just seems really cool. Like really adventurous, you know? Maybe I could travel around like that some day.

ALEXIS

Don't you think this is just moving really fast? I mean, two days ago, you didn't even know who Millie was and now you're IM'ing with her? Cutting classes to get tested, lying to your parents, and meeting with her during the day. This isn't you!

ROBYN

(closing the computer)

She's got lymphoma!

ALEXIS

That's just not a pass for everything. Meeting her, sure. Considering a transplant...maybe. Everything else, it's just not!

ROBYN

It's not a pass. It means that we don't know when she could die. For all we know, she could die tomorrow and I would never have gotten to know her.

ALEXIS

(beat)

Maybe I just don't get it because I'm not adopted.

ROBYN

Maybe. You know, I got on a chat room for adoptees and they all got it. Finding your bio mom is like...there's so much stuff she's telling me about my bio uncle, Stevie, and his wife. And it's like...they're my family, too, sort of. They even have a son they named after my bio dad but they call him Danny.

ALEXIS

Listen. Your mom...is great.

ROBYN

I know.

ALEXIS

I mean, really great.

ROBYN

I know.

ALEXIS

She made my Halloween costume in third grade when my parents were too busy with the divorce...

ROBYN

I know. You were a great Beaker.

ALEXIS

And your dad. Not one of those uninvolved dads, you know? Not like mine. Your dad's not all busy at work and stuff and ignoring his kids. He's with you guys all the time.

ROBYN

I know. I'm just saying that I want to know Millie, too. She seems pretty great and I really didn't get a chance to talk to her yesterday.

ALEXIS

Yes, because of the awkward and the kind of crazy!

ROBYN

No, because of the screaming and the shoving me in the car!

ALEXIS

Okay, fine. You want to get to know her and her whole crazy family, fine. But we still need to do this paper. And Millie's coming now? How late is she?

ROBYN

(looking at her phone)

About forty five minutes but...

ALEXIS

Forty-five minutes? How do you even know she's really coming?

ROBYN

She's coming!

ALEXIS

How do you know?

ROBYN

Because!

(flustered)

Why are you doing that?

ALEXIS

(starting to pack her bag)

You've been sitting here for forty-five minutes waiting for her when we could have been doing our research! I need to get a good grade in this class! And you said it would be easy.

ROBYN

It's not like it's every day that my bio mom just shows up, okay? You're supposed to back me up! You're supposed to be my 911, right?

ALEXIS

Yes, but...

ROBYN

No, then that's it. Back me up!

(Enter MILLIE, carrying her
helmet and a bag)

MILLIE

Hey. Sorry I'm late. Some damn trucker thought he could squeeze under an overpass and it made a giant mess. Idiot.

(SHE looks back and forth
between the girls)

Did I interrupt something?

ALEXIS

No. I was just leaving. I have work to do.

ROBYN

Alexis.

ALEXIS

No.

(SHE exits)

MILLIE

Boy, she looks mad. You sure you don't want to go talk to her?

ROBYN

She's just upset about our paper. I'll talk to her later.

MILLIE

(SHE opens her bag)

Okay. Well, I brought all the tapes. Most of these songs were ones he played at the campground for me. But he had one or two albums he put out on his own before I met him. Here's the one with "Everything Possible" on it.

ROBYN

(looking at the tape)

Oh, yeah. Wow, thanks for bringing these. Oh, my God, tapes. That's so crazy. Wow, even the cases are in good condition!

MILLIE

Well, I think this is the first time I've taken them out of the house since I moved. These aren't the kinds of tapes you just throw anywhere, you know? These are special.

ROBYN

Yeah.

(beat)

Oh, I really wish I could listen to them today but I don't think I can. When you were going to be here before, I would have had time but now...well, I have to be home for dinner soon.

MILLIE

Even for a few minutes? Didn't you say there was a tape player somewhere in here?

ROBYN

In the audio library but there's only one listening room so they're really slow. Maybe I could come back again tomorrow or something when I have more time. Will you still be here?

MILLIE

Maybe. It sorta depends on what happened with the test today.

ROBYN

Oh, right.

(beat. Awkwardly)

Well, I went to the lab but I couldn't get it done because I needed a parent consent.

(SHE sees MILLIE is
disappointed. Quickly)

But I'm going to talk to my parents tonight and I'm sure they'll sign the form.

MILLIE

I don't know. Your mom didn't seem too excited...

ROBYN

They just needed a day to do their research and get comfortable. They like to think about things before they do them. I'm sure that when I talk to them, it will be fine.

MILLIE

You know, Robyn, if you don't wanna...

ROBYN

No, I do. I do. I'll get the parent consent tonight.

MILLIE

Okay. It's just that it's one more day closer to needing to enter that other program. So I'm really just waiting on you.

ROBYN

I know. It'll get done tomorrow.

(awkward beat)

Oh! Here are the photos that I told you about.

(SHE takes some photos out of
HER bag)

Just a few from when I was a baby and then growing up.

MILLIE

(looking at them)

Oh, you were a fat little baby, weren't you?

ROBYN

Yes, I was, apparently, a very good eater.

MILLIE

What the hell is this?

ROBYN

Oh, ballet. I was in a ballet class for, like, five minutes, and that was my recital outfit.

MILLIE

Pretty fancy looking. I don't think I ever had anything with so many sparkly things. And a lotta pink.

ROBYN

Yeah. Well, ballet has a lot of pink.

MILLIE

(looks at a new photo)

You're winning an award for something here?

ROBYN

Oh, yeah. Track. I got first place in a competition.

MILLIE

Well, that sure explains the little shorts. But, hey, look at that! What are you, ten, or something here?

ROBYN

Something like that.

MILLIE

And see? There are those boobs I was talking about. Just shot right out of you, didn't they?

ROBYN

Yes, it was very annoying.

(beat)

Hey, Millie?

MILLIE

Yeah?

ROBYN

I wanted to ask you something.

MILLIE

Yeah?

ROBYN

Well...I was looking up some statistics, you know, about who would be the best candidates for you to get a bone marrow transplant from and it said that your siblings would be.

(beat)

You asked them, right? Your brothers and sister? You asked them?

MILLIE

Well...

ROBYN

You didn't ask them?

MILLIE

It's complicated.

ROBYN

Are you kidding? It's not complicated!

(lowering her voice)

It's not complicated!

MILLIE

Now, hold on!

ROBYN

I mean, I know you don't talk to your sister but, come on, you tracked me down to see if I could do it; you could probably talk to her. And your brothers? I mean, you talk to them, right? So what's the problem?

MILLIE

You know you get all pissy pretty fast when you think you know everything. You don't know everything!

ROBYN

Keep your voice down. Okay, fine. What don't I know?

MILLIE

None of us got tested for my mom.

ROBYN

What? You didn't get tested either?

MILLIE

No. But before you start...

ROBYN

Wait a minute! You want me to get tested for a bone marrow transplant to save your life and you wouldn't even do it for your mother?

MILLIE

I wouldn't have been a likely match for my mom!

(beat)
I'm adopted, too.

ROBYN
You...?

MILLIE
It was just one of those weird things that we both got it.

ROBYN
(overwhelmed)
You're adopted, too.

MILLIE
Yeah. But it's not like my mom really wanted me or anything. My birth parents left me behind at Blackbird Perch.

ROBYN
On purpose?

MILLIE
Oh, yeah.
(ROBYN drinks her water)
They knew how to disappear with the best of them. They didn't bring a car so there was no license plate number to track. They paid in cash so there were no credit cards. They gave fake names. Everything. Totally untrackable.

ROBYN
Oh, my God. That's crazy. Who does that? How could you abandon a baby like that at a campground? What did the police say?

MILLIE
My mom didn't like to get the police involved in stuff that happened on her campground. But she also didn't want to take another kid in.

ROBYN
What do you mean, another kid? How many kids had she taken in?

MILLIE
All three of them. My brothers were from my dad's first marriage and my dad's brother abandoned my sister when she

was an infant. I mean, my mother had become a dumping ground for unwanted kids.

ROBYN

Wow. So your mom never gave birth to any of her kids.

(SHE drinks a lot)

MILLIE

Nope. But if my dad ever needs some kinda bone or blood something, he's all set. You okay there?

ROBYN

What about your bio parents? You never found out who they were? I mean, there's no lead there at all?

MILLIE

My bio parents?

ROBYN

Your biological parents. Sorry, that's what they say on this chat room. You never found out who they were?

MILLIE

Never. I told you, they covered their tracks.

ROBYN

God, that really sucks. I guess I just figured I would meet my bio...biological parents sometime. But when I was older, like twenty five or something. But, to never meet them. That's just...

MILLIE

Yeah. You're the only blood relative of mine that I know about. You're my only real family.

ROBYN

(realizing)

Oh! I guess...I guess that's true.

(beat. SHE drinks water)

Do you...do you ever wonder, when you're meeting people, if they're your bio parents? Sorry, biological parents.

MILLIE

Not as much anymore. But I used to. That's part of why I'd hang out at Blackbird Perch so much; I thought maybe my birth parents would come back looking for me one day.

ROBYN

(beat)

I used to look at people in the mall and wonder if they were my parents.

MILLIE

Trying to see if they look like you.

ROBYN

Yeah. Or if their kids did.

MILLIE

This might sound kinda stupid but I always wondered if my birth parents were some kinda singers or something. You know, Reba McEntire or...Dolly Parton or something.

ROBYN

You thought Dolly Parton was your birth mom?

MILLIE

Hey, we had the same boob thing going on; it made sense to me at the time. Well, come on, you must have had some crazy ideas about who I was.

ROBYN

I don't know. I had a lot of ideas.

(beat)

When I was younger, I thought maybe you were Judy Blume.

MILLIE

Who?

ROBYN

She wrote a bunch of books I was reading. "Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing" and "Superfudge". Other stuff. I knew she grew up in New Jersey.

MILLIE

Right. Because you thought you were born in New Jersey.

ROBYN

Yeah.

(beat)

I've never told anyone about the Judy Blume thing. Some of the other ideas, yes, but not Judy Blume.

MILLIE

Yeah, I don't go around telling people about Dolly Parton either.

ROBYN

If your mom was supposed to be Dolly Parton, who was your dad?

MILLIE

John Denver.

ROBYN

Who?

MILLIE

John Denver. Singer. You know Fred Small but not John Denver?

ROBYN

I guess not.

MILLIE

Well, who was yours?

ROBYN

Mr. Rogers.

MILLIE

Oh, that's a good one. Danny used to watch him. He seems like he'd be a good dad.

ROBYN

That's what I thought!

(beat)

I can't believe you're adopted, too.

MILLIE

Yeah. Kinda weird, huh?

ROBYN

Very weird. I've only met a couple other people who were adopted.

(beat)

How come you didn't tell me yesterday?

MILLIE

I don't really think about it that much.

ROBYN

Wow, I think about it all the time. But, I mean, for you, you were just another kid who was adopted in this big family. I guess you wouldn't think about it then.

(suddenly overwhelmed)

Wow. This is just...this is so much stuff!

(SHE drinks and looks at her phone)

Ugh, I really have to go home for dinner. I'm sorry.

MILLIE

(as ROBYN starts packing up)

But you're gonna get the test tomorrow, right? I mean, I can't wait around here forever. I gotta get back soon.

ROBYN

Yes, I'll go tomorrow and I should have the test results by the time that I meet you to listen to the tapes. This biology teacher said they come back right away.

MILLIE

Okay, good.

(beat)

Don't forget the pictures. Thanks for bringing them. I always wondered what your life was like.

ROBYN

Oh, you can keep those. I have them all on digital. Those are just copies I made for you.

MILLIE

(touched)

Oh, wow. That's...that's really nice.

ROBYN

No problem. So, tomorrow then?

MILLIE

Yeah. Tomorrow.

(Awkward beat as ROBYN deliberates a hug but then waves and exits. MILLIE looks at the photos and starts to tear up or cry. END SCENE)

Act II

Scene 3

SETTING: ROBYN's room. Later.

AT RISE: ROBYN is leaning over her computer
and JUSTIN is walking around
excitedly. IM beep.

JUSTIN

And then I just got under his foot and pow!
(HE puts his hands in the air
and runs around the room as
ROBYN types)

GOOOOOAAAALLLL!

(HE stops when HE realizes
ROBYN isn't reacting)

Don't you think that's totally cool?

ROBYN

I guess. It's a basic move, though. I learned it a million
years ago. I don't even know why you're taking soccer. Mr.
Beasely isn't even a real soccer coach; he's an English
teacher. I mean, you like swimming. Just do that.

(IM beep)

JUSTIN

Well, you do track, soccer, flute and that environmental
thing. Why can't I do swimming and soccer?

ROBYN

(typing)

And junior track. Don't forget, you did that, too.

JUSTIN

So?

ROBYN

So just find your own things to do. Quit doing mine.

JUSTIN

You don't own soccer and track. Other people can do it,
too, you know.

ROBYN

(IM beep)

Whatever.

JUSTIN

I can like soccer and track, too. I wouldn't get all snotty if you liked swimming.

ROBYN

(typing)

Oh, my God, Justin! Would you shut up? Why do you even need to be here? Can't you find something else to do somewhere else? I'm really trying to talk with Danny right now.

JUSTIN

Ooh, Danny! Is he a boy you like? Does he play soccer, too?

ROBYN

(IM beep)

No, dummy. It's Millie's nephew. You think I'd tell you about a boy I like?

JUSTIN

(as she types)

And you don't like Millie's nephew?

ROBYN

Ew, Justin. That'd be like...dating...my bio cousin!

(IM beep. There is a knock on the door. ROBYN closes the computer)

ROBYN

Come in!

(Enter BEVERLY)

BEVERLY

Is this a good time to talk?

ROBYN

Yes. It's fine.

(to JUSTIN)

I have to talk to Mom and Dad.

(HE doesn't move)

So...that means go!

BEVERLY

Robyn.

JUSTIN

Man, I miss all the good stuff!

(HE exits)

BEVERLY

Next time, try to ask him nicely.

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)

Act II

Scene 4

SETTING: The audio library. The following afternoon.

AT RISE: The table is moved to indicate a different part of the library. MILLIE is pacing. Her helmet and bag sit on the table. Enter ROBYN with backpack and water bottle.

ROBYN

Oh, you're here. I was just looking for the librarian and she said the listening room is open. It's right down there. Let's go. I can't wait to hear his music.

(SHE starts to exit)

MILLIE

(gently pulling ROBYN back)

Hang on.

ROBYN

What?

MILLIE

Did you go?

(ROBYN sighs)

You said today. You said today you'd go.

ROBYN

I know. But the problem is that my parents wouldn't let me because they think I'm too young.

MILLIE

Too young? Too young? I was too goddamned young to give birth but I did that!

ROBYN

(keeping her voice down)

Right. Okay, but listen. They said I couldn't get tested but they would.

MILLIE

Your parents?

ROBYN

Yes.

MILLIE

So what the hell good is that gonna do? I'm not related to them!

ROBYN

Right. Well, they weren't matches.

MILLIE

Of course they weren't!

ROBYN

They could have been. You never know.

MILLIE

I don't know why I wasted my time waiting around if they were going to say no.

ROBYN

I'm really sorry.

MILLIE

Well, it's not your fault. I mean, you probably did what you could. I mean, you tried on your own...

ROBYN

Right, but I needed a parent consent.

MILLIE

(realizing)

Parent consent.

ROBYN

Yeah. And they said no. So that's...you know, that's...I'm sorry.

(beat)

Why don't we go listen to Danilo's music for a while and then...

MILLIE

What if I gave my consent?

ROBYN

What?

MILLIE

Yeah. I mean, I'm your parent, too. I could give my parent consent.

ROBYN

But you're not my legal guardian.

MILLIE

They don't have to know that.

ROBYN

No, that's...

MILLIE

Didn't you say you wanted to do this? I mean, I'm not making you do this. You said you wanted to.

ROBYN

No, I know, but...

MILLIE

So I'm just helping you do something that you want to do.

ROBYN

(getting uncomfortable)

Well, yeah, but it's not like it's for me. It's for you. You'd be doing it for you.

MILLIE

Robyn. I don't know how much longer I've got. I could kick it tomorrow.

ROBYN

Or you could live for another forty years or something.

MILLIE

Another forty years? What the hell good is that gonna do me? Just sitting around, waiting to die? Going to doctors' appointments all the time. Going into experiment after experiment and just hoping that some day they'll find a cure for this goddamned thing that's eating me alive?

ROBYN

You could get a donor from a list.

MILLIE

I don't want it from someone on a list!

ROBYN

Why not? If it's going to save you...

MILLIE

I'm your mother. I could do it. I could sign...

ROBYN

(yelling)

No. No, you're not! You're not my mother!

(Beat. SHE looks around the library self-consciously.

Quieter)

You're not my mother.

MILLIE

(as ROBYN drinks)

Really. So I just imagined the nine months of pregnancy and the seventeen hours of labor?

ROBYN

Seventeen hours?

MILLIE

(as MILLIE gets louder, ROBYN signals to lower her voice)

That's right! Seventeen hours! And I didn't get one of those pain medicines everyone has. I felt every single minute of pain! And let me tell you! You were not a small baby! Eight pounds, eleven ounces! And tall. I even had to have surgery afterwards because you had plopped yourself down in the corner of my hip so I couldn't walk without a limp! So don't you sit there and tell me I'm not your mother! I am your mother!

ROBYN

(quieter voice)

Yes, you're my birth mother, my bio mom. And I had no idea that it took seventeen hours of labor or that I hurt your hip. I didn't even know that could happen.

(beat)

But that still doesn't make you my legal guardian or my mother. Only my mother mother is the one who can give parental consent. And my father. But not you.

MILLIE

You know, I would have done anything, anything for you. Because I am your mother! Why do you think I didn't show up earlier? You think it was fun for me to be waiting out there for you to turn eighteen so I could find you? No! It was hell! It killed me every goddamned day! But I did it to help you! Everyone said to wait until eighteen so I wouldn't mess you up. But I couldn't because of this goddamned...and now I guess I've screwed you up and you've screwed me up right back. Good then. Now we're even.

(SHE picks up her helmet and bag)

ROBYN

You know, you're making this all my fault but, come on, if your bio mom showed up, would you call her your mother?

(Silence)

For all that you are mad at your mother, she's still your mom. I can't imagine that you would call some other woman your mother. Can you?

(Silence)

Okay, then.

(beat)

Look. I didn't know...Thank you. For not contacting me before now. But we know each other now. And I can help you in other ways.

MILLIE

I'm not looking for hand-outs.

ROBYN

Oh, I didn't mean that. I wouldn't have any to give, anyway. I just mean...you said it isn't going to be easy so...I mean...I'm really good at research and I could come out and visit you or something. And we could go on trips or...

(SHE is embarrassed)

If you want. I don't know if...

MILLIE

No, I do, I do. I just didn't know if you...

ROBYN

I do.

MILLIE

I mean, I didn't scare you off or anything?

ROBYN

(smiling)

Were you trying to?

MILLIE

(beat. Softly)

I could die, you know.

ROBYN

I know.

MILLIE

You want to be around for that? Really?

ROBYN

(beat. Suddenly hugs MILLIE)

I want to be around before that.

(END SCENE. END OF PLAY.)