

Nash sighs, feeling guilty.

LANE
Just sleep on it. I'm sure you'll come to the right decision when you've had some time to reflect.

NASH
...Okay. But if it still doesn't feel right--

LANE
The deal is off.

Nash nods, feeling a little better-- but still not fully convinced. He looks down at his coffee, deep in thought.

OFF LANE, a look of concern crossing her face.

INT. BRANDON'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Mary lies on Brandon's couch, face down. Brandon enters the room with a cup of coffee.

START →

BRANDON
If you're done yelling into my couch, I have some coffee for you.

A beat as Mary just lies there. Finally she sits up and takes the coffee from Brandon.

MARY
She makes me so... furious. Just because she has a career, and a husband, and a tiny apartment in New York doesn't mean she's better than me.

BRANDON
Bethany doesn't think she's better than you. She's just mad at you.
(beat)
Don't you think she kind of has the right to be?

MARY
I don't know! Maybe. I guess.

Mary takes a sip of her coffee before leaning back in the couch.

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MARY

I just... thought I could make it, you know? If I recorded a song, and got discovered... maybe they wouldn't be so disappointed in me.

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BRANDON

Who do you think's disappointed in you? Bethany?

Mary just shrugs, not wanting to admit it.

MARY

Her life is so together. And mine's never been.

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Brandon sits down on the couch next to Mary.

MARY

Maybe that's why I've been holding onto the house so much. They have their lives to go back to, but me... once the house is gone, that's it. I don't really have anything else.

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BRANDON

Yes you do.

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She gives him a look-- really?

BRANDON

You have courage. I mean, putting everything on the line to pursue your dream in music? That takes guts.

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Mary smiles a little at that.

BRANDON

And you have talent. I've heard you sing. There's no doubt in my mind you'll make it if you keep trying.

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Mary looks up at him.

MARY

You think so?

Brandon nods.

BRANDON

And that's not to mention everything else you have.

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BRANDON (CONT'D)

Passion, strength, beauty. Not to mention me, which is super valuable.

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Mary can't help but laugh. She looks at him for a beat.

MARY

Thanks, Brandon.

Mary wraps him up in a hug. They hold each other for a moment, both enjoying it. Mary catches herself smiling, and a look of surprise crosses her face.

← END

EXT. MARVIN HOUSE - NIGHT

The house is once again glowing in the night with Christmas lights. Megan walks up to the house and steps inside.

INT. MARVIN HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Megan enters the living room to find Bethany and George working on their laptops side by side. They all look up when Megan enters.

GEORGE

There she is.

BETHANY

Where have you been all day?

Megan walks over, sitting down next to Bethany.

MEGAN

I got lost for a while. Walked around town. I almost forgot how beautiful this place really is.

BETHANY

Starting to miss it?

Megan sighs.

MEGAN

I think I've always missed it. It's hard not to. I just... wasn't really focusing on the right things.

Bethany gives her sister a smile.

MEGAN

Is Ivy around?

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