

SCENE 8

That evening.

PENNY is lying on the couch,
her palm facing the ceiling
as it lays across her eyes.

She was clearly in the
middle of getting ready
and gave up.

Her jacket is flung over
the armchair.

EMMA ENTERS from the
bedroom. She looks
stunning.

EMMA

You're getting ready, right? This doesn't look like getting ready.
We're leaving in about 15 minutes.

PENNY

Honey, I know you had your heart set on this dinner, but is there
any chance that we could just stay here?

EMMA moves to the front of
the couch.

EMMA

We had to book these reservations two months ago.

PENNY rolls over and sees
her.

She grabs a pillow and
throws it over her face.

EMMA

What?

PENNY

You look gorgeous. I didn't think this place was that chic. I
can't wear that jacket.

EMMA

Of course you can.

PENNY

It's the nicest piece of clothing I own.

EMMA
It's perfect. You're almost ready.

PENNY
I don't think I can do this.

EMMA
It's your anniversary.

PENNY
A week ago.

EMMA is hitting her
threshold.

EMMA
Mom.

PENNY
I can't go to this party.

EMMA
What party? It's dinner.

PENNY
Lucy told me last week. It's a surprise party.

EMMA is about to have a
meltdown.

EMMA does not want to have
a meltdown.

EMMA is doing her best not
to have a meltdown.

PENNY
I've been thinking about it. I can't do it. We wanted this one
final weekend to just be normal and then everything happened with
your brother. I can't do this.

EMMA
Okay. I have been planning this party, Cate has been planning
this party, Brian, yes, even Brian, has been trying to help. So
I am begging you, Mom. Because I am two seconds from throwing on
my pajamas and joining you on that couch... I am begging you to
just put on your expensive jacket and get in the car.

PENNY
We're getting a divorce.

EMMA

What?

PENNY

Your father and I are getting a divorce.

EMMA

(she's not registering any
of this)

I'm not... I'm...

PENNY

He has a lawyer. I have a lawyer. Nobody knows about it. We were getting ready to tell you next week.

EMMA sits down.

PENNY

And it would feel like such a sham, I would just feel like such a liar walking into that restaurant tonight.

EMMA

Why don't you try separating first?

PENNY

We are. He moved into the plane room.

EMMA

Brian didn't say anything.

PENNY

Because he doesn't know.

EMMA

Why didn't you tell me?

PENNY

Why didn't you tell me you were trying to get pregnant? While we're on the subject.

EMMA

That's not the same thing.

PENNY

You don't think so? You didn't even tell me you were planning on getting married. You called me a week after you eloped.

EMMA

That's not fair.

PENNY

What is it with this family and that word? Fair is no longer in my vocabulary. I vote that we chuck it out of the books. It's imaginary. It does not exist.

EMMA leans over, hugging
her legs.

PENNY

You shouldn't sit like that, you'll squish the baby.

EMMA is crying.

PENNY

Emma. Honey. You're going to get your makeup all over your dress.

EMMA

What does it matter?

She runs her hand through
her hair, ruining it.

PENNY

This is exactly why I wanted to wait until after this weekend.

EMMA

Well, you didn't! You told me today. Why did you tell me today?! Why is everybody telling me everything today? Jesus! Brian kissed Cate. You're getting a divorce!

PENNY

Brian did what?!

EMMA

I have so many people to murder after this party!

PENNY

Honey.

EMMA

(crying)
And they don't sell body bags at Target.

PENNY

Emma.

EMMA

Why can't any of it just go according to plan?

PENNY

Because it never does.

EMMA

We didn't tell you guys about the wedding because Dad wouldn't have come. Would he?

PENNY

Probably not.

EMMA

There. Finally. There it is. And we didn't tell you about this baby because we lost the last one. I miscarried at 13 weeks. And it was horrible. And I was heartbroken. We were so sad, Mom.

PENNY

(puts her arms around her)

Why didn't you say something? We would've been here for you.

EMMA

Why are you getting a divorce?

PENNY

Brian calls it "shrinking." I don't think there's a word for it, for what your father has become. And I've tried to understand this, I've tried to wade through it and there comes a point where you stop wading and you start sinking. Anti-depressants, testosterone, you name it, he's tried it. And at the end of the day, I think it's your father. I think this is who Marsh is choosing to be. And that's fine. It's what he's happy with. But I can't miss out on everything because of that. Do you understand that?

She nods, then rests her head on her mother's lap.

PENNY

Oh, your hair.

A door opens from the hallway.

MARSH ENTERS. He's wearing a suit and tie. He looks handsome.

MARSH

Aren't we supposed to be getting ready for dinner?

PENNY

She knows we know about the party.

MARSH

Why'd you tell her that?