

SCENE 2

Later that evening.

Dinner is cooking on the stove. EMMA tends to it.

MARSH sits on the couch, reading a magazine about model airplanes.

He notices the silence and looks up.

MARSH

Where is everybody?

EMMA

Brian went out to fix the basketball net and the entourage followed him.

MARSH

It's December. What's the rush?

EMMA

He was bored.

MARSH

What about your mother? Was she bored, too?

EMMA

She probably needed some fresh air.

MARSH

I like a house when it's quiet.

EMMA

So do I.

They appreciate the moment together. There's something very nostalgic about it. This certainly isn't the first time that they've had the house alone together, but it's the first time in a very, very long time.

MARSH
(he goes to help her set
the table)

Here, let me.

EMMA

Okay.

MARSH
The days I don't cook, I set the table.

EMMA

When did you start cooking?

MARSH
A while ago. Penny got the flu last year. She was down for a
week.

(a beat)

And she decided she wanted me to be more independent.

EMMA

What'd she teach you to make?

MARSH

Spaghetti.

EMMA

Straight from a jar?

MARSH
Well, ya gotta heat up the sauce. And I can make something called
"college casserole."

EMMA

Sounds terrifying.

MARSH
Your brother's recipe. Ham cubes, boxed potatoes, peas. Easy
enough.

EMMA

He didn't teach you something from culinary school?

MARSH

Do you know why he gives up on everything?

EMMA

Dad.

MARSH
Do you? I mean where did I go wrong with that kid?

EMMA
He's figuring it out.

MARSH
You actually believe that?

EMMA
I don't know.
(a beat)
Do you really not remember eating beef bourguignon?

MARSH
I can't remember half the stuff your mother insists that I do.

EMMA
It's kind of amazing.

MARSH
Is it?

EMMA
Pretty unforgettable.

MARSH
Look, Emma, I can pay for that electrician.

EMMA
You don't have to.

MARSH
At least let me give you some cash.

EMMA
We've got it, Dad.

MARSH
Now you're just being stubborn.

EMMA
Hmm, I wonder who I got that from.

The door opens and PENNY
ENTERS.

EMMA
How's it going out there?

PENNY
About as well as you'd expect.

EMMA
So we're going to have to buy a new basketball hoop?