

Emma? PENNY (O.S.)

Oh, shit. EMMA  
(calls out)  
Everything's okay, Mom!

PENNY ENTERS in her robe.

Everything's okay. EMMA

What happened? PENNY

I dropped the peanut butter. EMMA

What? PENNY

I dropped the - EMMA

PENNY sees JILL and grows  
a little uncomfortable.

EMMA sees PENNY see JILL.

- Peanut butter. EMMA

Having a little midnight snack? PENNY

Yeah. JILL

Yep. EMMA

Well, it seemed like you didn't get much in your system earlier.  
You should have some water. You're probably dehydrated. I know  
I am. Where's Brian? PENNY

Driving. JILL & EMMA

PENNY

(goes to the fridge and  
gets a glass of water)

When I was pregnant with Brian, I was never sick. Not once. But with Emma? It was awful.

EMMA

Mom...

PENNY

I just felt off-balance the entire time. I couldn't stand food. Candles. Cologne. Dish soap. You name it.

JILL

So are you going to hate me now?

EMMA

Okay.

PENNY

Well, that's direct.

JILL

I don't see the point of beating around the bush, do you?

PENNY

Should I hate you?

EMMA

Um...

Why did she have to pick  
this moment to get a  
sandwich?

JILL

I don't think so. I don't think it'd be very fair.

PENNY

That's the thing. The older you get, the more you realize that "fair" is kind of a lie. It's like Santa Claus. Nice notion but not based on any kind of reality. And I don't know if it's worth the effort sustaining the myth, you know what I mean?

JILL

I want this to be a good weekend for Brian.

EMMA

We know.

JILL

He self-sabotages. I know that. And I don't want him to ruin this for himself. He didn't mean to tell everyone -

EMMA

- But he did -

JILL

- Because he was trying to protect me, in his weird way... And I think the best course of action is to be mature adults about all of it.

EMMA

I agree. Mom?

PENNY

Hmmm.

EMMA

I agree with Jill.

PENNY

I'm sure you do.

JILL

I do like you, Penny.

PENNY

You barely know me.

JILL

I still like you.

PENNY

This isn't how this is supposed to go.

EMMA

Well, this is how it's going.

PENNY

We can stop pretending that anything I think is of consequence here. But you were direct. So that's what I'm going to be.

EMMA

You know, it's late and maybe now's not the best time for all of this honesty -

PENNY

- I'm not naive. I taught biology to high schoolers for 26 years -

EMMA

(under her breath)

- Alright, maybe it is -

PENNY

- Things happen. But if you think that something like this doesn't change a relationship -

JILL

- I'm not responsible for Brian's feelings -

PENNY

- I'm not saying that you are. But you're responsible for...

EMMA

Mom.

PENNY

Brian struggles. I know that. But he would be there for you.

JILL

He already is.

PENNY

And if it's about support, if it's about that, we can help...

This is killing EMMA a  
little.

PENNY

I know your parents are in California. But we're here. And I'm good with babies. So is Marsh. Babies take to him. Both of our kids adored him.

JILL

I'm sure they did.

PENNY

We would be here for you both, no matter what happens.

JILL

It's not about that.

PENNY

Then I don't understand.

EMMA

We don't have to. It isn't about us.

PENNY

Well, that's nice for you that you can think that.

(MORE)

PENNY (CONT'D)

I've waded through a lot in my time. I can probably even wade through this, but you're going to have to try and help me get it.

JILL

I don't think I can.

PENNY

Why not?

JILL

Because I don't think you actually want to.

PENNY

Do you even understand all of this?

JILL

Yes.

PENNY

Are you sure about that?

EMMA

(to JILL)

You don't have to defend this.

PENNY

What is so wrong with my son?

EMMA

Really?

JILL

There's nothing wrong with him. He's been so compassionate and caring.

PENNY

Because I raised him to be! And for what it's worth, he's not perfect but he would be a good father.

JILL

I don't want to be a mother, Penny.

PENNY

Ever?

JILL

No. I don't.

And there it is.

PENNY

Well, I shouldn't keep you from your sandwich.

JILL

Emma mentioned going to a museum tomorrow so Marsh could see the airplanes.

EMMA

Dad wanted to check out the aviation museum in St. Paul.

PENNY

I don't know if Brian will like it.

JILL

If Marsh likes it, he will too.

PENNY

Well, that should be a good time then.

JILL

I'd like to be friends. You're right - we don't need to be. But wouldn't it be nicer if we were?

PENNY

It probably would be. But that's my grandchild in there, even if it's the size of a corn kernel. And I'm having a really hard time trying to understand the woman who's so intent on not bringing it into the world.

(a beat)

You two get a good night's sleep. Tomorrow's going to be a long day.

PENNY EXITS.

JILL leans against the  
sink in the light, eating  
her sandwich.

JILL

You were right.

EMMA

About what?

JILL

It is a little late for all of this honesty.

They continue to eat their  
sandwiches in silence.