

ACT 2, SCENE 2

BROOKLYN is in the waiting room, looking out the window. RILEY enters.

RILEY

Hey.

BROOKLYN

Hey.

RILEY

Where's Dad?

BROOKLYN

He's in with Mom. They don't give him a lot of time in there, so he goes whenever.

RILEY

Yup. You need to go home? Shower or something?

BROOKLYN

Do I stink?

RILEY

I don't know, I'm way over here. I mean, you could probably use a change of clothes or something. It's been five days.

BROOKLYN

I've changed my clothes. I've been home.

RILEY

I know, I was just...never mind.

BROOKLYN

So...you going back to school soon?

RILEY

I don't know.

BROOKLYN

You're not dropping out, are you?

RILEY

I wasn't planning on it.

BROOKLYN

You've missed a whole week.

RILEY

I know. I just...don't know what I should do.

BROOKLYN

About Mom?

RILEY

Yes, about her. Or Dad.

BROOKLYN

I think you should go back.

RILEY

Of course you would.

BROOKLYN

What do you mean?

RILEY

Nothing. I don't mean anything.

BROOKLYN

Don't you?

RILEY

I don't! What's the matter with you?

BROOKLYN

What's the matter with me?!

RILEY

I can't remember the last time we had a civil conversation.

BROOKLYN

And that's my fault?

RILEY

Oh, yes, it's your fault because it's all about you.

BROOKLYN

Who said that? Who said it was all about me?

RILEY

Just forget it.

BROOKLYN

It's not just about me, Riley. It's about us. It's always been us.

RILEY

But why?

BROOKLYN

Why what? Why can't we get along?

RILEY

Exactly! There's always this...whatever it is.

BROOKLYN

Oh, I don't know. Is it maybe because you hate me?

RILEY

When did I ever say that?

BROOKLYN

I didn't say you said it.

RILEY

I don't hate you.

BROOKLYN

You resent me. You dislike me. You constantly reject me. You ignore me. Deny it.

RILEY

Me? You're dumping all that on me!?

BROOKLYN

Deny it! Look me in the eye and deny it!

RILEY

I don't!

BROOKLYN

You don't deny it?

RILEY

No, I do deny it. I don't do any of those things! You're the one! You're the one who's...

BROOKLYN

What, Riley? Ahh, here it is! I'm the one who what?

RILEY

You're Mom's heart, Brooklyn! She said it! I heard it and she said it. You're Mom's heart and I...

Pause.

BROOKLYN

She couldn't have said that.

RILEY

(quietly)
She did.

BROOKLYN

I don't believe it.

RILEY

I might be a lot of things, Brooks, but I'm not a liar.

BROOKLYN

But...I always thought...

RILEY

What?

BROOKLYN

I always thought she loved you more. Her first-born.

RILEY

You didn't. Did she say that?

BROOKLYN

No. Just a gut feeling I had. Have.

There is a pause as the girls internalize what they've just learned. Time morphs. KAREN and DENNIS enter, really excited and happy.

KAREN

Family game night! I'm pumped! How about you, hon?

DENNIS

Oh, yeah!

KAREN and DENNIS do some kind of ‘game night dance’ with a little game-night song (complete with lame middle-aged-person moves).

RILEY

I’ve got some homework to do.

BROOKLYN

Yeah, I have a paper to wr--

KAREN

Oh, no you don’t! We skipped last week’s game due to school work and we will not do it again!

RILEY

You want us to put off school work to play a game?

KAREN

It’s one little game.

BROOKLYN

Aren’t we a little old to be playing games?

DENNIS

What are you saying? We’re like...four times older than you.

KAREN

Three. Two, maybe.

DENNIS

Okay, two and a half times older than you and we still like playing games.

RILEY

(mostly under her breath)
That’s maybe because you’re lame.

KAREN

What was that? Did I hear a teenage derogatory mumble aimed in our direction??

DENNIS

I’m sensing resistance.

KAREN

Me, too. We must use the force.

DENNIS

(puts his hand out in Obi-Wan Kenobi style)

These aren't the droids you're looking for.

BROOKLYN

(playing along)

These aren't the droids you're looking for.

RILEY

Oh, yes, and quoting from 'Star Wars' doesn't disprove your lameness or anything.

KAREN

We're just asking for one game. Just one! (pause—starts a chant) Game. Night. Game. Night. Game. Night. Game. Night.

DENNIS joins in.

RILEY

Okay!! Okay!! ONE lame game.

BROOKLYN

When do I write my paper?

KAREN

Your paper that was assigned exactly how long ago?

RILEY

Two weeks.

BROOKLYN

Tattle-tale!

RILEY

You're the tattle-tale!

KAREN

If it's waited two weeks, it can wait another hour.

RILEY

What are we playing?

DENNIS

I don't care.

KAREN

I don't care either. You two go to the game closet, pick your favorite game, and we'll play!

RILEY

How about hide and seek? You two go hide—

KAREN

Ha, ha, ha, Riley. Very funny. Now go!

The girls reluctantly exit to find a game.

DENNIS

They're not going to want to do this for much longer, you know.

KAREN

I see that. They don't want to do it now.

DENNIS

I don't know how much longer we can force them.

KAREN

Humor me. I just hope they don't pick Monopoly. Anything but Monopoly.

DENNIS

I love Monopoly!

KAREN

So you can pretend to be a billionaire entrepreneur. And because you always win.

DENNIS

I think you'll be pleasantly surprised if they pick Monopoly this time...

KAREN

What did you do?

DENNIS

You'll see...maybe.

The girls re-enter.

RILEY

Brooklyn wants to play Monopoly. I'd rather play Yahtzee.

DENNIS

Monopoly!

KAREN

Honey...

RILEY

It takes forever!

DENNIS

We'll play the short version.

BROOKLYN

Please??

KAREN

Okay, set it up. Quickly! Apparently there's some kind of time crunch going on here.

DENNIS

I'll shuffle and hand out the properties. (to KAREN) You set up the Chance and the Community Chest cards and get people their start-up money.

As they're setting up.

RILEY

We having popcorn?

KAREN

We just ate!

BROOKLYN

Game night and no popcorn?

DENNIS

It'll take more time...

RILEY

Never mind. We can do without the popcorn.

KAREN

How much money does everyone get? \$500?

BROOKLYN

\$1500.

RILEY

You sure? That's a lot of money.

BROOKLYN

I'm sure.

DENNIS

We're doing the fast version. Make it ½ of that.

1/2 of \$1500...

KAREN

\$850.

RILEY

\$750.

BROOKLYN

Oh, right...

RILEY

There you are. Money's all set.

KAREN

Okay...Brooks gets the race car, Mom gets the thimble, I get the top hat and Riley gets the dog.
All set!

DENNIS

I want the race car.

RILEY

I always get the race car.

BROOKLYN

I thought you wanted the dog because we won't get you an actual dog.

KAREN

I'll get a dog. I will eventually wear you down. I can feel it.

RILEY

The Monopoly dog will bring you luck.

DENNIS

Oh, fine.

RILEY

Brooks, you roll first.

KAREN

Why her?

RILEY

She's the youngest. We could have Dad go first since he's the oldest.

KAREN

RILEY

Never mind. It's fine.

BROOKLYN

(rolls the dice)

Seven. One, two, three, four, five, six, seven. Chance.

DENNIS giggles. KAREN looks at him suspiciously. BROOKLYN picks up the card.

BROOKLYN

(reading the card)

You dig the disco dance craze. Dance a wild, abandoned disco dance for ten seconds. (pause)
That's not a regular Chance card.

DENNIS

Whatever do you mean?

KAREN

You sabotaged the Monopoly cards?

DENNIS

I wouldn't exactly call it sabotage.

RILEY

You changed all of them?

DENNIS

Maybe.

BROOKLYN

Somebody needs a hobby.

DENNIS

(feigns hurt feelings)

I have a hobby, thank you.

RILEY

Terrorizing your children doesn't count.

KAREN

You drew the card, Brooks. You have to do it.

BROOKLYN

I have to dance a disco?