

Emma

EMMA

Come on, Elenore. If you keep being slow, we're going to be late.

(Pause.)

DAWN

W-what? Who is that?

(She has a shocked look on her face. She backs up and out of the way as Emma enters.)

EMMA

(EMMA walks in with a smile.)

Hi, Mom.

(Turning to Elenore)

Again. We don't get to just choose when we leave. They're waiting for us. Let's go!

ELENORE

Right. Just give me like two more minutes.

(Emma nods and walks back out.)

SYNOPSIS

Months after a school shooting, a family is split in two. Elenore and Dawn grow farther apart as they try to win the battle of keeping their own peace. When grief is holding them back from growing, can they come to terms with the truth and move away from the past?

Stephen

ELENORE

(She let her mother go and puts the bracelet in her hand.)

I love you, Mom.

(ELENORE picks up her backpack and walks out her bedroom door. DAWN collapses to the ground as she watches her daughter leave her side.)

(Dawn stays there on the floor in disbelief. She stopped crying and is staring at the ground, as she is in deep thought.)

(Her husband, STEPHEN, walks in with a confused and sorrow look.)

STEPHEN

(He walks over to her and kneels.)

Honey, what are you doing on the floor?

DAWN

(Long Pause)

(She looks out into the crowd.)

I think I know how to move on. *(Pause.)* I know what my next chapter is going to be.

(Lights black out.)

END OF PLAY.

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Dawn

ELENORE

(She turns and walks over to her bed. She starts throwing things into her backpack.)

Don't you have a chapter to write?

DAWN

No. I cleared my schedule for you.

ELENORE

Why? Because you wanted to use all morning to convince me not to go to school? *(Pause.)* There's a difference between what happened to me and what happened to others. I'm never going to be over the death of Emma but at least I can get over what happened to *me*.

DAWN

There is no difference. They're the same path. Same healing process.

ELENORE

You just said there are many healing paths. Does that only apply when it benefits your wants?

DAWN

(There's a long pause and anger shows up on DAWN's face.)

You're not ready for this.

ELENORE

Yes. I am.

(She throws her backpack over her shoulder and heads for the door.)

I have to go. I'm going to be late for the bus.

DAWN

(She grabs Elenore's wrist and accidentally pulls on a bracelet.)

Don't walk awa-

ELENORE

(She quickly pulls away and steps back)

Stop! You're going to break it!

DAWN

I'm sorry. I'm sorry. I didn't mean to pull on it. *(small pause)* I don't understand why you are so attached to it. Where did it even come from?

ELENORE

It was Emma's. I-I took it after everything.

(There's a pause as ELENORE thinks and she starts to cry.)

I was holding her in my arms when I knew she wasn't going to make it. I knew they were going to take her away from me. It was her favorite and they were going to take it. I made it for her right before she started high school. It was supposed to give her something to look at when everything got overwhelming. It was supposed to be a reminder that we would be safe! That we would leave high school in triumph. But we never did.

DAWN

(She looked down and takes a deep breath.)

Don't you see why I'm afraid. She didn't make it out of there alive and you were close to being in the same position. I already lost one daughter. I can't lose you too.

EMMA

(A shout can be heard off stage.)

Come on, Elenore. If you keep being slow, we're going to be late.

(Pause. We see a shocked look on Dawn's face.)

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