

Forgiveness
By


TIME

Now

PLACE

The bedroom of a high school student

CHARACTERS:

DELILAH

a high school student who happens to be the sister to Eric

ERIC

the brother of Delilah was hurt in a car accident and in constant pain

MOTHER

the mother of Eric and Delilah

NOTE: Please feel free to have a diverse cast, the siblings do not have to look alike due to the different factors of families like remarriage, adoption, or fostering.

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The scene opens to a female teenager's room. Her room is decorated with fanart and posters from multiple TV shows, mainly superheroes. Her room is neat and the bed is made nicely. There is a dresser to stage left and a desk right next to it. On the desk is a few notebooks, but most notably a jewelry box with a lock. ERIC storms in. ERIC scrambles around in the room looking for a bottle of pills that DELILAH has hidden from him. He makes the room into a mess by undoing the bed and pulling clothing out of a dresser. DELILAH walks in and pauses seeing her bother. He turns and looks at her. He storms his way towards her causing her to back away.

ERIC

Where did you put it?

DELILAH

Put what?

ERIC

My pills. Where the hell did you put them?

DELILAH

I haven't touched them.

ERIC

I know you touched them! Where did you hide them?

DELILAH doesn't respond which causes ERIC to scream and begin to throw things. DELILAH backs away almost in tears and covering her ears. This causes MOTHER to run and grab DELILAH, hugging her. ERIC throws the jewelry box which breaks and reveals an orange bottle of pills. He picks them up and looks over at DELILAH. He storms closer.

ERIC

You bitch!

MOTHER

Eric!

ERIC

No! She doesn't understand anything! She doesn't understand pain! She wouldn't hide my pills!

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MOTHER

You know that's not true!

ERIC

Bullshit! She doesn't care! These pills make me feel better!

DELILAH

The doctor said you didn't need them.

ERIC

Fuck the doctor.

DELILAH

You're addicted!

ERIC

YOU FUCKING IDIOT IF I WAS ADDICTED I WOULD KNOW!

ERIC storms out slamming the door behind him. MOTHER and DELILAH stare at the door. There is silence. This was not the first time this has happened. They slowly begin to clean the room.

MOTHER

He doesn't mean it.

DELILAH

It feels like he does.

Beat.

DELILAH

It hurts. He changed, and won't accept help.

MOTHER

He has to admit he is addicted. If he can't. He won't accept help.

DELILAH

He needs help, mom. We can't just sit here and do nothing. I don't like seeing him like this.

MOTHER

I know.

They stay silent as they clean the room. MOTHER goes to hug DELILAH. She kisses DELILAH on the head.

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DELILAH

I don't get it. We have to do something.

MOTHER

There isn't much we can do. Eventually, he will admit he needs help and when that time comes, we will be there.

DELILAH

I miss spending time with him. Maybe, we can try to convince him to go back to rehab.

MOTHER looks down at DELILAH. MOTHER doesn't think ERIC will ever change. She hugs DELILAH tightly.

MOTHER

I'm not sure honey.

DELILAH

What's that supposed to mean?

MOTHER touches DELILAH's cheek and smiles. A small beat.

MOTHER

I'm going to see if your father can fix your jewelry box.

DELILAH

Mom?

MOTHER

Yes?

DELILAH

You never answ-

She changes the subject with a smile.

DELILAH

I love you.

MOTHER

I love you too.

MOTHER and DELILAH hugs once more. MOTHER picks up the broken jewelry box and leaves the room. She does not notice ERIC walking in. He is walking in a noticeably different way. He is no longer in any pain nor is he angry. He stares at DELILAH. DELILAH turns around and

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freezes. She is scared of him. They stare at each other before ERIC goes over and sits on the bed.

ERIC

Come here.

DELILAH ignores him. ERIC stares at DELILAH as she finishes cleaning. She goes to leave but pauses at the door once ERIC speaks up.

ERIC

Delilah! Please don't go. Let's just talk.

DELILAH

You, want to talk? After all that?

ERIC

Well, yeah.

DELILAH

I don't want to.

ERIC

Wait! Please, Delilah, we need to talk.

She slowly makes her way to the bed and sits as far as she can from ERIC. The two stare at each other briefly. ERIC looks over at the drawings on the wall.

ERIC

I'm glad you kept some of my drawings. You were always into superheroes.

DELILAH

I still am... You shouldn't throw away good art.

ERIC

You think my art is good?

DELILAH does not look at ERIC, but he looks eagerly at her.

DELILAH

You just wanted to talk about your artwork?

ERIC

You bought that one at a con. I remember we both cosplayed that time. I was the ever-charming villain and you the heroine. I had fun that day. What about you?

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DELILAH looks at ERIC for a moment.

DELILAH

Yeah, it was fun, I guess.

ERIC

I guess?

DELILAH

You were flirting the whole time. It was embarrassing.

ERIC

I was in character!

DELILAH

It still was embarrassing, and your character would not flirt.

ERIC

Yeah. I guess you're right.

ERIC moves closer to DELILAH, she gets up and moves farther away. He looks away.

DELILAH

You want money, don't you?

ERIC

No?

DELILAH

I'm not going to give you money.

ERIC

This isn't about money.

DELILAH

Then why are you talking to me? Last time you wanted money.

ERIC

I just want to talk.

DELILAH

Bullshit.

ERIC

It's the truth!

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DELILAH

You just came in here earlier and trashed my room and yelled at me saying that I am the cause of all your problems!

ERIC

I just want to talk!

DELILAH

You haven't even apologized!

ERIC

I'm sorry!

DELILAH shakes her head.

DELILAH

You need help.

A beat.

ERIC

I know.

DELILAH looks over at ERIC. This is the first time he said that he needs help.

DELILAH

Okay, let's find mom and dad, maybe we can schedule an appointment with your doctor or something. Mom can call the rehab place and we can see if you can get in.

DELILAH gets up and grabs ERIC's hand to leave the room. ERIC doesn't move. DELILAH yanks his arm in an attempt to get him to move. He doesn't respond.

DELILAH

Why are you just sitting there?

ERIC

Because I'm your stupid older brother.

DELILAH lets go of ERIC's hand. She sighs. This isn't the first time he has said this.

DELILAH

Don't say that.

ERIC

I am though. Remember at the con? There was a spicy noodle eating competition and I decided to participate even though I hate spicy food.

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DELILAH

You dropped out during the first round. That doesn't make you stupid.

ERIC

On the way back home, we stopped for ice cream. We were waiting in line and a kid came running up to you. You were cosplayed as his favorite superhero. He thought you were real.

DELILAH

I know? I gave him an autograph.

ERIC

You were always good with kids. I can't stand kids. They are so loud and put their hands everywhere. Even up their nose. You never know what you touch when you shake a kid's hand.

DELILAH

You're being ridiculous.

ERIC

Do you still plan on being a teacher?

DELILAH

Yeah.

ERIC

What grade? What grade do you want to teach?

DELILAH

Probably elementary.

ERIC

Ew.

DELILAH

Don't say that! Elementary school students are cute!

ERIC

I think being a teacher would suit you.

The two sit in silence. ERIC stands up and stretches.

ERIC

I miss having conversations like this. When was the last time we had one?

DELILAH

Before the accident.

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ERIC freezes and slumps down, he sits back down on the bed.

ERIC

Oh. The car accident.

DELILAH

I thought you were going to die.

ERIC

Hey, I'm a fighter.

DELILAH

We were worried that you would never walk again!

ERIC tries to lighten the mood.

ERIC

Well, I can walk.

DELILAH

You almost died!

Beat.

DELILAH

If I. If I had never given you that, gym membership you wouldn't have been hurt. It's. It's all my fault.

ERIC

It's not your fault.

DELILAH

It is.

ERIC

No, it's not. The driver who ran the red light is at fault.

DELILAH

I am partially to blame then!

ERIC

No. You are not.

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DELILAH

You blame me.

ERIC

I don't. I never have.

DELILAH

Then, why did you blame me earlier?

ERIC

I didn't mean it.

DELILAH

Why did you say it?

ERIC

I don't know.

DELILAH

You do.

ERIC

I don't.

DELILAH

Why are you lying to me?

ERIC

I would never lie to you.

DELILAH

You are lying to me every day! Every day you just yell and scream! I don't even get why you are being so nice to me right now. You even stopped drawing! You gave it up for some stupid pills!

Beat.

DELILAH

You must want something from me!

ERIC

I don't need anything from you.

DELILAH

Then why are you talking to me!?

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DELILAH stares at ERIC. They sit in silence. She shakes her head.

DELILAH

You don't want help. You must want something from me.

ERIC grabs DELILAH by the shoulders. DELILAH does not like this and tries to push him away. It does not work.

ERIC

I just don't want you to hate me.

DELILAH

It's too late!

ERIC lets go of DELILAH's shoulders defeated.

DELILAH

It's too late. The damage is done! Every time I see you, I am scared. You've changed for the worst. You never will change. I don't want to give up on you, but you just need those stupid fucking pills. They aren't helping you! These pills will kill you one day, and the only memory we will all have is of you being a dick.

ERIC looks at DELILAH, he reaches a hand out to touch her but pulls it back changing his mind. He wants to hug her, but every time he gets close to her she backs away. He sighs while scratching his head.

ERIC

Then, let's make a good memory. I don't want you to have bad memories of me. I caused you so much pain over these past few months, but let me make it up to you.

ERIC gets up and goes over to the desk he begins to draw a picture on the notepad. DELILAH watches him and slowly almost reluctantly, she gets up behind him. He turns around and shows a simple drawing of a cat. DELILAH grabs the drawing and looks at it. She makes her way back to the bed.

DELILAH

It's cute.

ERIC

Do you like it?

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DELILAH

Eh, it's okay. The head is too big for its body.

ERIC

Oh? Now you are an art critic?

DELILAH

A good artist always takes critiques.

ERIC

I guess so.

DELILAH

You, guess?

ERIC

I only improved because you pushed me. I have you to thank.

DELILAH

I'm the best, aren't I?

ERIC

You are.

DELILAH

Do you still plan on going to art school?

ERIC freezes and looks over at DELILAH.

ERIC

Maybe.

ERIC makes his way back to the bed and sits on it.

ERIC

Art school is expensive. It is one of the reasons why I wanted to join the army.

DELILAH

You trained every day. You would come home all sweaty. I never knew how you weren't tired, you would chase me in the backyard trying to hug me. It was disgusting.

ERIC

It was funny. You would run away screaming.

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DELILAH

I hated it.

ERIC

Hey, I would let you take a shower first, and you would use all the hot water.

DELILAH

You asked for it. I miss having days like that.

ERIC

Me too.

DELILAH

How about we do something together again? I miss your company.

ERIC

I know.

DELILAH

We can do something at home.

ERIC

Like what?

DELILAH

Maybe draw or paint.

ERIC

No.

DELILAH

Anything really, writing, music, gardening.

ERIC

I don't think those will work.

DELILAH

We have to try.

ERIC smiles.

DELILAH

Promise me you'll try.

ERIC doesn't respond. He gives a soft smile and begins to cry. DELILAH looks at him. This is the first time she has seen him cry.

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ERIC

I'm sorry. I can't make that promise.

DELILAH doesn't look at him. She gets up to leave, finally giving up on ERIC. He really does want something from her. ERIC gets up and pulls DELILAH into a hug. She fights to get out of it. He refuses to let her go.

ERIC

Can we stay like this for a little longer?

DELILAH fights to get out of his grip. She doesn't respond. He looks at her, but doesn't let go.

ERIC

Delilah, please.

DELILAH

Let go!

DELILAH bites ERIC's arm causing him to let go. She falls backward crawling away. He stands there and slowly begins to hug himself. DELILAH watches him. ERIC is crying silently to himself. She slowly gets up and looks him up and down. He is not slouching he is standing up straight. He keeps crying, slowly he falls to his knees. This is new.

DELILAH

I thought it was too painful to stand up straight. What's going on?

ERIC looks over at DELILAH. He shakes his head as he cries.

ERIC

I'm sorry. I messed up.

DELILAH

What's going on?

ERIC

I'm sorry.

DELILAH

Why are you apologizing?

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Offstage mother's screams and cries can be heard. DELILAH looks over at ERIC and runs off stage.

ERIC

I really fucked up.

ERIC slowly stands. DELILAH runs back in. She looks around the room. She is crying.

DELILAH

Eric?!

ERIC looks over at DELILAH. She doesn't see him. Not anymore. She looks for him. Desperate. She stops and falls to her knees. She lets out a shaky breath, slowly bringing her hands to her face. She cries.

DELILAH

No. No. No. He was just right here.

ERIC slowly sits down next to DELILAH. She doesn't react to him. Her cries get louder as a siren from an ambulance slowly gets louder. ERIC looks at her, he is crying. He slowly begins to hug her. This causes DELILAH to stop crying. She looks up and places a hand on ERIC's hand.

ERIC

I'm sorry. I'm so sorry.

DELILAH cannot hear or see him, but she feels him. The real him.

DELILAH

Please, don't go.

ERIC's starts to hug DELILAH harder, causing DELILAH to cry.

DELILAH

Please.

ERIC reluctantly and slowly stops hugging her.

DELILAH

Please, stay. I need you.

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ERIC slowly makes his way to the door. DELILAH stands up in a panic. She looks for him. She will never find him. She holds her hands out.

ERIC

I never wanted to hurt you. I'm sorry.

ERIC is at the door now, he is ready to open it. DELILAH looks towards the door. The sirens, even louder now.

DELILAH

I forgive you!

ERIC smiles. He looks down at his hands. He wanted forgiveness.

ERIC

Thank you.

He slowly makes his way back to DELILAH and places a hand on her cheek. She feels it. She reaches up to touch it.

DELILAH

Goodbye.

ERIC turns around a hand on the doorknob. He looks at DELILAH who has fallen to the floor. He smiles.

ERIC and DELILAH

I love you.

ERIC exits the stage. The sirens come to a stop. DELILAH wails. The stage falls black with her wails.

END