

ACT II

Late-Fall, 2011.

A hospital room. MARTIN sits in a chair by JUDY's side. JUDY lays in a hospital bed, hooked up to an oxygen machine (nasal cannulas). The sound of the bustling hospital can be heard. JUDY is asleep.

MARTIN puts his head in his hands for a moment.

MARTIN takes his phone out of his pocket and looks at it for a minute and then puts it back into his pocket. He sits for a minute. He puts his chin to his chest and closes his eyes for a moment. He opens his eyes.

MARTIN sits for a minute, staring at JUDY.

MARTIN gets up from his chair and walks to the table. He picks up a paper coffee cup and takes a sip. He's unenthused by the contents of the cup (a cold cup of coffee).

JUDY

Uggghhhh.

MARTIN darts back to the bed.

MARTIN

What is it Mom? What do you need?

JUDY

Who is that?

MARTIN

It's me, Mom. It's Martin.

JUDY

Uggghhhh.

MARTIN

Are you in pain Mom? I'll get the nurse.

MARTIN starts to press the call button.

JUDY

Where am I?

JUDY looks around and starts to pull her oxygen

apparatus out of her nose.

MARTIN

No Mama.

MARTIN stops JUDY from pulling the apparatus out.

MARTIN

It's okay Mama. You're at the hospital. Remember?

JUDY reaches for the tube again.

MARTIN

Mom. You have to keep that in.

MARTIN pushes the call button.

JUDY

The hospital?

JUDY pulls the tube out of her nose.

MARTIN

Oh Mama.

*MARTIN tries to put the tube back into her nose.
JUDY grabs his arms.*

MARTIN

Mom. You have to keep this in your nose.

MARTIN pulls away, pushes the call button.

MARTIN

The nurse will be here in a second.

JUDY

Martin, why am I in the hospital?

MARTIN

You were in too much pain at home. You've been here for a few days.

A beat.

MARTIN

You've been asleep for awhile. It's good to see you up. Hey now, you have to keep the tubes in your nose Mama.

JUDY looks up at him and points to her side.

JUDY
Uggghhhh.

MARTIN
I know you're in pain. I called the nurse.

MARTIN presses the call button.

MARTIN
They're coming Mama.

JUDY
Ugggghhhh!

MARTIN
Alright. They're coming.

MARTIN presses the call button.

MARTIN
They're coming.

NURSE DANA enters.

MARTIN
She's in a lot of pain. On her side, I think. Oh and she pulled out her oxygen from uh. . .

MARTIN motions towards his nose.

NURSE DANA
Okay. I can do something about that. (To JUDY) You're hurting on your side? Which side?

JUDY points at her right side.

JUDY
Uggghhhh!

NURSE DANA
Okay. I can give you some pain medicine, okay? I'll be right back, but you have to keep your oxygen in your nose. Okay, Miss Judy?

NURSE DANA tries to put JUDY's oxygen tube in JUDY's nose. JUDY pulls her head back.

NURSE DANA
I'll get her something to calm her down.

MARTIN

Please be quick.

NURSE DANA exits.

MARTIN

I'm sorry Mama. I know you're in pain.

MARTIN grabs JUDY's hand. Her breathing is labored.

JUDY

Where is that woman going?

MARTIN

She's the nurse, Mama. She went to get you pain meds. She's coming.

NURSE DANA returns holding a syringe. She injects one of JUDY's IVs.

NURSE DANA

That should make you feel better.

MARTIN

Thank you.

JUDY winces and closes her eyes.

NURSE DANA puts JUDY's oxygen tube back into her nose.

MARTIN

Is that better Mom?

JUDY doesn't answer. She has slipped off to dream land.

NURSE DANA

She should sleep for a little while.

MARTIN

Thank you.

NURSE DANA

Call if you need anything else.

NURSE DANA turns to leave.

MARTIN

Remind me of your name.

NURSE DANA
Excuse me?

MARTIN
I apologize. I've forgotten your name.

NURSE DANA
My name's Dana.

MARTIN
I'm Martin.

NURSE DANA
Nice to meet you Martin. Formally.

NURSE DANA turns to leave.

MARTIN
Dana, thank you for taking care of my Mother.

NURSE DANA
You're welcome.

MARTIN
Can I ask you a question?

NURSE DANA
Sure.

MARTIN
Do you think we'll be able to take her home soon?

A beat.

NURSE DANA
I'll talk to Doctor Springer.

MARTIN
Thank you.

NURSE DANA leaves the room.

MARTIN stares at the door for a beat. He sits in the chair by JUDY's bed. He sits for a minute. He gets up and walks to the table. He grabs his coffee cup and walks over to the sink. He dumps the coffee into the sink. He looks up at the ceiling. He pulls out his phone and looks at the screen for a moment, then he puts it back into his pocket. He walks back to the chair and sits.

A minute passes.

LIV enters.

MARTIN

Liv. Hello.

LIV

How is she?

MARTIN

Not great. Unfortunately. Not . . . uh not great.

LIV looks at JUDY for a moment.

LIV walks over to MARTIN and hugs him.

MARTIN

She was awake a couple minutes ago and was in a fair amount of pain so the nurse gave her some pain medicine and she went to sleep again. She's sort of been in and out the last . . . well three days. Sleeping a lot. When she's awake she seems to be in pain. She's rarely lucid. When she wakes up she's been pulling her oxygen out of her nose.

They stare at JUDY. LIV's eyes well up with tears.

LIV

She wasn't this bad when I saw her last month.

MARTIN

Well she was at home. She wasn't in so much pain. She was a little bit more lucid. She keeps asking me where we are.

LIV

Is she afraid?

MARTIN

I don't know. She's in pain.

LIV

Oh Martin. Thanks.

LIV grabs MARTIN and hugs him.

A beat.

MARTIN

It's a fucking nightmare, huh?

LIV

Thanks for taking care of her.

MARTIN nods.

MARTIN

How was your flight?

LIV

Not too bad. A little bumpy here and there but not too bad. I had a drink on the plane.

MARTIN

Well it's five o'clock somewhere.

LIV

Yep. A vodka soda. On the rocks. Trying a new diet.

MARTIN nods his head.

LIV stares at JUDY.

A beat.

MARTIN

Here, sit down.

MARTIN motions over to the chair next to the bed.

LIV

Oh yeah. Thanks.

LIV sits down.

MARTIN grabs a chair from across the room and puts it next to LIV's chair. He sits.

A beat. LIV takes JUDY's hand.

MARTIN

How's Sergei? And the kids?

LIV lowers JUDY's hand.

LIV

They're good. Sergei's busy with work. Which is good. Ummmmmm. The kids are good. Annie just started sixth

grade, so you know how that goes. Sasha's started fourth grade. He's doing fine. Charlie's been at the house, helping with the kids with everything that's been going on with Mom.

MARTIN
Charlie?

LIV
Oh um. Abbie's oldest.

MARTIN
Oh yeah. That's nice of him.

LIV
Yeah. He's wonderful.

MARTIN
How old is he?

LIV
Charlie? Oh he must be . . . I don't know, let's see, twenty-five or so now. He's been done with college for a few years. So he's yeah, twenty-five, mid-twenties.

MARTIN
He's helping out around the house?

LIV
Yeah helping out with the kids mostly. Driving them to and from school, you know.

MARTIN
Oh that's nice.

LIV
Yeah. It's been really nice. Sasha's been having a hard time with me being away so much.

MARTIN
Oh yeah?

LIV
Yeah. I feel bad but . . .

MARTIN
It's hard.

LIV
Yeah.

A beat.

LIV
How's Mary-Anne?

MARTIN
She's good. She's looking into getting her real estate license.

LIV
Oh. I didn't know she was interested in real estate.

MARTIN
It's a newish endeavor.

LIV
Ah.

A beat.

MARTIN
Yeah. We'll see how far she goes with it.

LIV
And how's Margaret?

MARTIN
Margaret's good. She just started field hockey. Oh. Here's a picture.

*MARTIN pulls his phone out and finds a picture.
He shows it to LIV.*

LIV
Wow. She's gotten so tall.

MARTIN
I know. It's funny to see her with Jimmy's boys, she's just about a couple inches taller than they are.

LIV
How is Jimmy?

MARTIN
He's good. They have their hands full with the new baby and the twins but he and Sally are doing alright.

LIV
I haven't seen them in such a long time. I think the

last time I saw them Sasha was just a baby. The twins couldn't have been more than two.

MARTIN

Everybody's growing up.

LIV

Yeah.

LIV looks at JUDY for a moment.

LIV

When did Mom stop wearing her scarf?

MARTIN

Huh? Her head scarf?

LIV

Yeah.

MARTIN

Oh. Ummm . . . Only since she's been here.

LIV

It's so stark to see her without it. Like you know she's bald but unless you're looking right at her bald head. I don't know. It's just so . . . white.

MARTIN

Yeah.

A beat.

LIV

Why did she stop wearing it?

MARTIN

I don't know. I think things just got lost in the shuffle the last few days. Like I said, she hasn't been "with it" but here and there. It's definitely been in short spurts.

LIV

At least she's sleeping. And not in pain.

MARTIN

Well she is in pain.

LIV

But at least not in this moment I mean.

A beat.

LIV
Is she eating?

MARTIN
We're trying.

LIV
Hmmm.

A beat.

MARTIN
We being me and the nurses. She just refuses to eat anything.

LIV
They're not gonna like uh, force feed her? Feed her through a tube?

MARTIN
Hoping it doesn't come to that.

LIV
Huh.

A beat.

LIV
What about a smoothie from "Cafe Cassandra"? She loved those when she was going through chemo. The mango ones? I wonder if she could stomach one of those.

MARTIN
Maybe. Not a bad idea.

A beat.

LIV
I'll go grab her one.

LIV stands up.

MARTIN
You just got here.

LIV
I know. But maybe she'll be hungry when she wakes up.

MARTIN

She really hasn't wanted to eat anything, to tell you the truth.

LIV

I know, but she loved those smoothies when she was doing chemo and maybe she'll want one. I'll just slip out to Cassandra's and get her one. It couldn't hurt.

MARTIN

You just got here, let me get it. Spend some time with Mom.

MARTIN stands up.

LIV

Are you sure? I don't mind.

MARTIN

Please. I need a break from the hospital anyway.

LIV

Okay.

MARTIN

What's the smoothie called? A mango something?

LIV

I don't know ummm. Just ask for the one with mango in it.

MARTIN

Okay.

MARTIN starts to leave.

LIV

It's Cafe Cassandra. Next to the laundry place on Howston.

MARTIN

I know where it is. I'll be back soon.

LIV

What if she . . . what if she needs something?

MARTIN

You see that button there?

MARTIN points to the call button.

LIV
Yeah.

MARTIN
That calls the nurse. Nurse Dana. Just press that
button and she can help you.

LIV
Okay.

MARTIN exits the room.

A beat.

*LIV sits down next to JUDY. She gently puts her
head on JUDY's chest and listens to her
breathing.*

LIV raises her head. Her eyes water.

LIV
Looking good Mom.

*LIV puts her hand on JUDY's head for a moment.
She sits for a minute, unsure of what to do. She
takes JUDY's hand and holds it. She puts it to
her face.*

*A couple of minutes pass. All is silent, save
the distant noises of hospital goings-on
happening outside the door and the sound of
JUDY's labored breathing.*

LIV puts JUDY's hand down onto the bed.

A beat.

JUDY stirs.

LIV comes closer to JUDY.

JUDY opens her eyes and looks at LIV.