

INT. OFFICE - DAY

A woman, Carolyn, is at her desk working, when the a teenage girl bursts through the door and folds herself into the chair across from Carolyn.

CAROLYN

Well sure, come on in.

Clenching tight to a manila folder, the girl stares fiercely at Carolyn.

CAROLYN

Babygirl is there something you need?

GIRL

I need your help.

CAROLYN

Okay, well there's a process for that, and bursting into someone's office isn't part of that process.

GIRL

I don't care. I'm not going back to that stupid group home.

CAROLYN

Who's your social worker? (beat)  
Okay... let's start with your name.  
What's your name?

Carolyn sees "Lucinda Gr--" on the file folder.

CAROLYN

Lucinda? Well, Lucinda, you are not the only girl who needs help. You see this stack of files right here? Each one of these represents another girl who hates her group home, so let's talk to your social worker-

GIRL

-You're a social worker.

CAROLYN

Yes but I'm not *your* social worker.

GIRL

I'm not leaving. And Lucinda is not my birth name.

CAROLYN

So... you're not leaving, and you won't tell me your name.

Carolyn looks at her stack of files, then back at the girl.

CAROLYN

Listen babygirl, I know life sucks right now. I've been there... by the time I was your age I'd been in 9 different foster homes and group homes. Why do you think I do this work? It ain't for money! (beat)

I Remember I was in this one home, with a family that I *really* liked. I'd been there a couple months maybe and I thought they were it. I had a sister and everything, and .. we were watching *The Shining* with Jack Nicholson, you know who that is? Anyway, he's this crazy maniac... and I say, as a joke, I say to my sister, "Monsters are real, they live inside of us, and sometimes they win." I was joking, it was a quote from the movie. Well, the next morning before I even opened my eyes, my social worker was there, bags were already packed. Apparently she felt threatened, and I never saw them again. A week went by before I even knew why I was ripped out of there.

So I get it, baby. I was a big ball of anger and revenge and survival..But eventually, with the help of a few good people and God, I found a path to a better life. I found a way to feel a good bit of peace and a good bit of love, and... given the willpower you had to bust open my locked door, I *know* you can find a good bit of it too. But... you gotta at least give me your name.

The girl looks at her file now on her lap.

GIRL

Did you ever make a mistake?

... she puts the file on the Carolyn's desk.

CAROLYN

Honey, are you kidding? I've made some very big mistakes in my life.

Carolyn opens the girl's file, a paper-clipped picture catches her eye.

GIRL

Was I a mistake?

CAROLYN

What?

Carolyn sees an old picture of herself under the words, "Biological Mother."

CAROLYN

Oh my god.

GIRL

Was I a mistake, mom?

CAROLYN

Oh my god, Alanya? Alanya! Oh my god my sweet baby girl! I'm so sorry. You were *never, ever* a mistake my love.

Carolyn gets emotional, and jumps from her chair toward the girl.

END