

Faith, Hope & Nevyn

By

Kimberly Britt

Copyright (c) 2009

[kimbritt02@yahoo.com](mailto:kimbritt02@yahoo.com)

FAITH, HOPE & NEVYN

FADE IN:

INT. TUCKER HOME - KITCHEN - NIGHT

NEVYN (30s), pretty but plain, stirs the sizzling contents of a frying pan and boiling contents of a deep pot simultaneously. She wears a stained apron over a simple party dress.

NEVYN

Oh, oh, oh!

She does a "potty dance" like a five year old.

NEVYN

Logan!

She dips a spoon into a red sauce, tastes it. Makes a "not bad" face.

NEVYN

Logan!

LOGAN (10), big for his age with a perpetually bored look on his face, wanders into the room.

LOGAN

I heard you the first time.

NEVYN

Then you should've answered me the first time.

LOGAN

I was feeding my fish.

Nevyn turns down the stove burners to low heat.

NEVYN

You don't have fish.

LOGAN

On Facebook. Duh.

Nevyn removes her apron.

NEVYN

Watch the food. I need to pee.

LOGAN

Again?

NEVYN

I pee a lot when I'm nervous.

LOGAN

Fine. But I'm not wearing the apron this time.

NEVYN

Of course you are. That's the only dress shirt you own.

She fastens the apron on Logan, races out of the room. As soon as she's gone, Logan strips off the apron.

INT. TUCKER HOME - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

A curly-haired blonde, KENNEDY (6), and an angelic-faced toddler, CALEB (3), stack blocks in front of a TV playing cartoons.

Nevyn speed-walks through. Heads up the stairs.

NEVYN

TV off. Clean up that mess.

Caleb motions toward his wooden block masterpiece.

CALEB

Mama, look!

NEVYN (O.S.)

Gotta pee. Gotta pee!

INT. TUCKER HOME - BATHROOM - NIGHT

Toilet FLUSHES.

Nevyn washes her hands, looks at her reflection. Frowns at what she sees. She dusts some cosmetic powder under her eyes to conceal the dark circles. Applies a fresh coat of lip gloss. Brushes her hair.

She opens the medicine cabinet, finds a gold band on the top shelf. Slides it on her left ring finger. Looks down at it, then takes it back off. Gently places it back in the cabinet. Contemplates her naked ring finger.

POUNDING on the door interrupts her reverie.

KENNEDY (O.S.)

Mommy!

Nevyn swallows hard, clears her throat.

NEVYN

Coming.

INT. GREG'S CAR (MOVING) - NIGHT

GREG (30s), shaved head, scruffy face and tan skin, sits behind the wheel bopping to the RAP music that pumps out of the speakers.

HOPE (late 20s) sits in the passenger seat plucking her eyebrows in the visor mirror. Her face is expertly made-over, hair neatly styled.

In the backseat, FAITH (30s) sits between two feuding children, ANDREW (5) and COURTNEY (8). The kids lean across Faith to exchange slaps and punches.

COURTNEY

Mommy, Andrew hit me.

ANDREW

No, I didn't. Courtney's being mean!

Andrew lunges across Faith, slaps Courtney's arm. Faith leans back in her seat to avoid getting hit in the crossfire.

GREG

Courtney, leave your brother alone.

Andrew smiles triumphantly. Sticks his tongue out at Courtney.

INT. TUCKER HOME - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Caleb and Kennedy continue to stack blocks in front of the TV that is still on. Logan sits on the sofa with a laptop.

NEVYN (O.S.)

You guys better be cleaning up in there.

LOGAN, KENNEDY & CALEB

We are!

NEVYN (O.S.)

Thank you.

A KNOCK on the front door. None of the kids seem to hear it.

NEVYN (O.S.)

Can someone get the door?

Kennedy and Caleb ignore the request. Logan looks up from his computer, annoyed. Sighs loudly, walks over and peers out through the peep hole.

LOGAN

It's a guy that looks like Mr. Clean.

NEVYN (O.S.)

That's Uncle Greg. Let 'em in.

Logan unlocks the door, pulls it open. Finds Greg, Hope, Faith, Courtney and Andrew standing there.

GREG

Hey, Logan. Remember me?

LOGAN

Yeah, you make cleaning products.

Hope elbows him, crooked smile on her face.

HOPE

I told you to stop shaving your head.

Greg rubs his bald head self-consciously as everyone files into the house.

KITCHEN

Nevyn peeks into the oven, then removes her apron and exits into the --

LIVING ROOM

-- where everyone is getting acquainted.

Faith rushes over to Nevyn. Takes a good look.

FAITH

Nev, Jesus Christ. Hope wasn't kidding when she said you changed. Where's the other half of you?

(MORE)

FAITH (cont'd)  
Aren't you supposed to get fat when  
you're depressed?

Nevyn is put off by the comment but Faith doesn't seem to notice. She pulls Nevyne into a tight embrace.

FAITH  
Speaking of depression... where's  
Rob?

Nevyn smiles politely, then moves on to Hope. The two embrace.

NEVYN  
How was your drive?

HOPE  
Pretty good.

FAITH  
That's because you weren't sitting  
between your two precious angels.

As if on cue, Andrew kicks over Kennedy's and Caleb's tower of blocks. A shoving match ensues.

Nevyn and Hope separate their feuding children.

FAITH  
(mock enthusiasm)  
Isn't this gonna be fun!

GREG  
Where's the guests of honor?

NEVYN  
I sent them out to a movie so we'd  
have time to set up. They should  
be back in...

She takes a quick glance at her wrist watch.

NEVYN  
... oh crap! An hour. We better  
hurry.

The room becomes mass chaos as the adults scramble into the kitchen while the children resume fighting.

In the midst of it all, Logan lounges on the sofa with his laptop, content.

EXT. TUCKER HOME - BACKYARD - NIGHT

Five round tables adorned with crisp white table cloths dot the lush back lawn. Twinkling lights hang from the trees above, providing a delicately fancy touch.

A long rectangular table holds covered trays of food.

PARTY GUESTS dressed in their Sunday best drink and mingle.

Logan sits at a table, alone.

Greg and the younger kids play on some playground equipment at the back of the yard.

Faith talks Nevyn's ear off while Nevyn straightens the silverware on the tables. She occasionally looks up, glances at someone over Faith's shoulder.

FAITH

So I told her that if I didn't have so many bills to pay, I would give her specific instructions on where to shove her stupid job.

Nevyn doesn't seem to be paying attention. Faith follows her line of vision to --

MATT (mid-30s), short black hair, facial stubble, both arms covered in tattoos. He stands near the gift table trying to pretend that he hasn't been looking at Nevyn.

FAITH

Is that... oh, my God! Fatty Matty?!

Nevyn cringes, looks around to see who heard the outburst.

NEVYN

Keep your voice down.

FAITH

What's he doing at our parents' anniversary party? If I remember right, mom hated him for peeing on and killing her marigolds.

NEVYN

His parents are close friends with our parents and since I invited his parents, I just thought it was the right thing to do. Y'know, to invite him, too.

FAITH

That doesn't explain why you're staring at him. Or why he's trying so hard to look like he's not staring at you. And why he's not fat anymore.

NEVYN

He was twenty the last time you saw him. People change. And I imagine he doesn't pee on marigolds anymore, either.

FAITH

Do you know this personally, or do you mean metaphorically? Does Rob know about this?

She glances at Nevyn's hand as she perfectly centers a vase of flowers on one of the tables. Sees her naked ring finger. Picks her hand up for a closer look.

FAITH

Oh, my God! Why aren't you wearing your ring? Did you and Rob... are you...

Hope races out of the house from the back door.

HOPE

They're coming!

Faith stares at Nevyn, waiting for an answer. Nevyn walks away, leaving Faith behind. All the guests gather around.

DANE and LEANNE TUCKER (late 60s) walk out onto the back deck. Dane, with his full head of white hair and white stubble, looks old for his age. Leanne, with her short, curly brunette hair and smooth skin, could easily pass for late 50s.

A hand shoots up to cover Leanne's mouth. Shocked. Dane on the other looks unimpressed.

LEANNE

Alright, who was the mastermind behind this?

Hope comes up behind Nevyn, lifts her hand. She modestly pulls it back down.

NEVYN

We all decided we couldn't let your  
fiftieth go by unrecognized.

Leanne walks down the deck stairs, heads for Nevyn.

LEANNE

I just can't believe you kept a  
secret this huge. We tell each  
other everything!

Faith secretly rolls her eyes. Leanne embraces Nevyn, then  
throws her arms around Hope, Faith and finally Greg.

Dane ventures into the crowd, issuing half-hearted hugs and  
handshakes.

INT. TUCKER HOME - UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - NIGHT

Nevyn speed walks down a long hallway. Tries a  
doorknob. Finds it locked.

NEVYN

Shit. Shit. Shit!

She does a little dance in the hallway while she waits.

MATT (O.S.)

Nevyn.

She looks up to find Matt heading her way. Tries her best  
to stop squirming.

NEVYN

Matt. Hi. How's the party?

MATT

Good. Listen, I've been trying --

NEVYN

Are your parents having a good  
time?

MATT

My dad's on his fifth glass of wine  
and my mom passed out in her  
souffle an hour ago. I just wanted  
to --

NEVYN

Can we... not do this... right now?  
(lowers her voice)

(MORE)

NEVYN (cont'd)  
My sisters are here and they're --

MATT  
(lowers his voice)  
Why are you whispering?

NEVYN  
I have to pee.

MATT  
You're whispering because you have  
to pee?

NEVYN  
No. I need you to get back to the  
party because I have to pee.

MATT  
I thought it was because your  
sisters were here.

NEVYN  
What?

MATT  
Huh?

A SCREAM comes from within the bathroom. The door flies  
open and Hope staggers out with a home pregnancy test stick  
in hand.

MATT  
You okay?

Hope looks like she just came from a funeral.

HOPE  
Who're you?

MATT  
Matt... Fiore.

HOPE  
Fatty Matty?

A hand shoots up to cover Hope's mouth.

HOPE  
Oh, my God. Did I just say that  
out loud?

NEVYN  
Yeah. Kinda.

HOPE  
I'm so sorry.  
(to Nevyn)  
Will you hold this?

Nevyn takes the pregnancy test. Hope heads down the hallway shaking her head. Nevyn and Matt study the pregnancy test.

MATT  
Your sister's pregnant?

EXT. TUCKER HOME - BACKYARD - NIGHT

Hope cuts through the crowd, spots Greg at a table with Dane, Leanne and Faith. Comes up behind him.

HOPE  
Can I talk to you for a second?

Conversation ceases. They all turn their attention to her.

GREG  
Sure.

Hope glances from one curious face to the next.

HOPE  
Alone.

GREG  
Did something happen in the bathroom?

HOPE  
Sort of. Yeah.

GREG  
Other than the usual?

DANE  
Don't keep us in suspense.

Hope makes eye contact with Faith for a brief moment. Turns back to Greg.

HOPE  
I'm pregnant.

LEANNE

What?

The smile on Faith's face quickly fades, replaced with anger.

FAITH

You gotta be kidding me. Were you trying?

HOPE

No. It's completely and utterly unexpected.

Greg looks like he could be knocked over with a feather. Dane is speechless. Leanne struggles to repress her excitement.

FAITH

How freaking insensitive can you be?

All eyes are on Faith now.

HOPE

What?

FAITH

I've been trying for over a year to get pregnant and you just announce your little surprise baby like it's something we should all celebrate.

HOPE

How would I know that? I didn't even know you were dating anyone, let alone considering children.

FAITH

Of course you didn't.

She gets up from the table and stomps off.

INT. TUCKER HOME - KENNEDY'S ROOM - NIGHT

A pretty, feminine room without being overly girly.

Nevyn turns down the full-sized bed, fluffs up the pillows. Switches on a bedside lamp on her way out into the

--

HALLWAY

-- where Greg, Courtney and Andrew stand listening to Faith and Hope carry on.

FAITH

What do you mean I don't care about you? You're my sister. Of course I care!

HOPE

I'm sorry, what I meant was maybe if you cared about yourself a little less, you'd have more free time to care about other people.

FAITH

Y'know, that is so typical, Hope. Always pointing fingers at other people. When's the last time you looked in the mirror.

Nevyn whistles. The fight instantly comes to an end.

NEVYN

Hope, you guys can have this room. Faith, you're in Logan's room... last door on the left.

FAITH

Logan's... what do you... you guys live here? With mom and dad?

Hope and Greg usher their kids into Kennedy's room and shut the door.

Nevyn sighs loudly. Heads down the hall. Faith follows relentlessly.

FAITH

What the heck is going on? I feel like I'm trapped in some bizarre episode of the Twilight Zone. Hope's knocked up... again. And you're living with mom and dad and not wearing your wedding ring.

Nevyn opens a door. Steps halfway inside.

NEVYN

Night, Faith.

She closes the door. Faith stands there a second longer, then shakes her head, walks down the hallway.

INT. TUCKER HOME - NEVYN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Nevyn steps over Logan who lies on an air mattress at the foot of the full-sized bed. Climbs into the bed, snuggles between Kennedy and Caleb. All the children appear to be asleep.

NEVYN  
You guys asleep?

LOGAN, KENNEDY & CALEB  
No.

NEVYN  
Well... go to sleep.

LOGAN  
Why do they have to stay here? This is so lame. I want my room back.

NEVYN  
They're family. This is what family does.

LOGAN  
They make each other sleep on the floor?

NEVYN  
You're not on the floor. You're on an air mattress.

LOGAN  
Big difference.

KENNEDY  
I think it's kinda cool. It's like a big, giant sleepover.

LOGAN  
Yeah, except the other kids are all older than you and all they do is fight.

CALEB  
What does "knocked up" mean?

Nevyn reaches across Kennedy and switches off a lamp. Room plunges to near darkness. Then --

NEVYN

Crap!

She climbs out of bed, charges into the bathroom.

INT. TUCKER HOME - KITCHEN - DAY

Nevyn scrambles eggs and turns bacon.

INT. TUCKER HOME - LOGAN'S ROOM - DAY

Faith is sound asleep in bed. A sudden SHOOTING noise causes her to bolt upright. Eyes search the room. Finds Logan playing a video game.

FAITH

Logan?

No reply. Logan concentrates on the game.

FAITH

What time is it?

LOGAN

What does the clock say?

Faith rubs the sleep from her eyes. Squints at the alarm clock. 7:45.

INT. TUCKER HOME - UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - DAY

Faith stumbles down the hallway, eyes barely open, feeling around like a blind person. Opens a door and peers inside.

NEVYN'S ROOM

Empty air mattress. Kennedy and Caleb are asleep in bed. Kennedy rolls in her sleep, precariously close to the edge, then -- THUMP! She falls out.

HALLWAY

Faith shuts the door, moves on down the hall. Opens another door.

KENNEDY'S ROOM

Hope, Courtney and Andrew are asleep on the floor in one corner of the room. Greg lies in bed alone, snoring thunderously.

## HALLWAY

Faith shuts the door, moves on. Opens the next door just a crack and peeks in.

## DANE'S ROOM

Dane sits at a desk in the corner of the room, back to the door. He talks on the phone while browsing a dating website.

DANE

(on phone)

Well, when I get there I'll show you exactly what I mean. But for now, just use your imagination...

## HALLWAY

Faith quickly shuts the door. Mouth hung open. Eyes wide with alarm.

FAITH

Whose house is this?

## INT. TUCKER HOME - KITCHEN - DAY

Nevyn transfers plates of food to the table. Catches sight of Leanne through the window.

## NEVYN'S POV

Leanne trims her numerous rose bushes.

## BACK TO SCENE

Faith enters the room, tying her robe.

FAITH

What's your name?

Nevyn turns to her, gives her an odd look, then shrugs. She's going to play along.

NEVYN

Nevyn.

FAITH

And what's mine?

NEVYN

Faith.

FAITH

And that woman out there?

NEVYN

Leanne. A.K.A. Mom. Did someone have too much to drink last night?

FAITH

And that man upstairs... the one surfing an internet dating site while whispering sweet nothings over the phone. What's his name?

Nevyn rolls her eyes. Walks back to the stove, picks up a frying pan. Takes it to the sink.

FAITH

What the hell is going on around here? Dad's cheating on mom?

NEVYN

Would you keep your voice down?!

FAITH

She doesn't know?

NEVYN

Of course she knows. There are women calling at all hours of the day. She'd be a damn fool if she didn't know.

Faith makes a face like she is on the verge of exploding... or imploding. Whichever comes first.

FAITH

What's she doing about it?

NEVYN

What do you think?

FAITH

Well, considering we just threw them a huge anniversary party last night, I'm guessing nothing. Am I right?

Nevyn washes the dishes, back to Faith.

NEVYN  
It's complicated. Stay out of it.

FAITH  
Stay out of it? She's our  
mother. He's our father. How can  
I stay out of it? How can you stay  
out of it?

Hope strides into the kitchen, rubs her tired eyes.

HOPE  
What's with the yelling? I could  
hear you two upstairs. Oh, by the  
way, Kennedy's crying.

Nevyn wipes her hands on a dish towel. Heads out of the kitchen.

FAITH  
She fell out of bed. Did I forget  
to mention that?

EXT. TUCKER HOME - BACKYARD - DAY

Greg and Logan throw a football back and forth, an uncomfortable silence between them.

GREG  
Your dad played football in high  
school. Did he tell you that?

LOGAN  
No.

GREG  
Well, he did. Yep. Football. In  
high school. Lots of football.

LOGAN  
You don't have to talk.

GREG  
Really? You sure? It seems like  
we should be talking.

Logan throws the football purposely low. It catches Greg in the groin. He doubles over in pain.

GREG  
(shrill)  
Nice throw.

Logan snickers as he wanders off.

Kennedy and Courtney play dress-up inside a playhouse. Arguing.

KENNEDY

I get to be the Queen. You have to be the princess.

COURTNEY

No, I'm prettier. I should be the Queen.

Andrew and Caleb play tug of war with a big, yellow truck. Arguing.

ANDREW

I get the big one. I'm bigger.

CALEB

But it's mine. And I had it first.

Logan walks past them, into the house.

INT. TUCKER HOME - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Logan takes note of Leanne, Faith, Hope and Nevyn at the table eating breakfast. Goes into the fridge, gets a can of soda, walks out.

NEVYN

No soda!

PPSSSTT! The soda can pops open in the next room.

Nevyn glances at the other women, sheepish, shoves a forkful of food in her mouth. Faith and Hope exchange a look. Leanne takes a sip of coffee.

FAITH

So, mom, how long has dad been cheating on you?

Leanne chokes, sputters. Coughs. Nevyn pats her on the back. Glares at Faith.

NEVYN

Subtle.

Faith turns to Hope. Not the reaction she was expecting.

FAITH

Why don't you look horrified?

Hope shoves a sausage link into her mouth.

HOPE

(mouth full)

Leave me out of this.

FAITH

Oh, my God! You knew, too? What else have you all been keeping from me? Do I have a couple brothers I don't know about?

Leanne finally recovers. Wipes her mouth on a napkin.

LEANNE

If you wanted to know every move this family makes, then maybe you shouldn't have moved to the other end of the country.

FAITH

Oh, so that's what this is? I'm being punished moving away?

LEANNE

Don't be so dramatic. No one is punishing you!

FAITH

I don't know what you mean. I'm not being dramatic!

Leanne stacks some dirty dishes together. Nevyn takes them from her, walks it to the sink. Hope keeps right on eating.

HOPE

(mouth full)

You're kinda irritable. Is it that time of the month?

FAITH

No, actually, but it's overdue. So I'm sure I'll be rightfully irritable in a day or two. As luck would have it for all of you, though, I'll be back on my side of the country by then.

Hope suddenly stops eating. Turns to Faith. Genuine.

HOPE  
You're late?

Faith nods.

HOPE  
How late?

Nevyn turns off the faucet. Rejoins the conversation.

NEVYN  
You're late?

A smile creeps across Hope's face.

FAITH  
Don't look at me like that.

HOPE  
How late?!

FAITH  
A week or so. It's all the stress from this stupid hoax of a party. I should have stayed home, avoided the anxiety, gotten my period on time and right now would be well on my way into a new cycle bright with possibility.

HOPE  
What if you're pregnant?

FAITH  
I'm not pregnant.

HOPE  
But what if you are?

Nevyn returns to her seat at the table.

NEVYN  
When was your last period?

FAITH  
Stop.

HOPE  
When was the last time you did the deed?

FAITH

I'm not pregnant, okay. Stop deflecting. You're the one that's with child. You get all the attention, welcomed or not. Deserved or not.

HOPE

There's a couple more tests. You should take one.

FAITH

How does one just happen to have pregnancy tests stashed away in her overnight bag?

HOPE

I didn't. I found them in the bathroom cabinet.

All eyes slowly turn toward Nevyn. Accusing. Nevyn bolts out of her chair.

NEVYN

Be right back. Gotta pee.

She races from the room before any questions can be asked.

INT. TUCKER HOME - BATHROOM - DAY

Leanne, Faith, Hope and Nevyn are all crowded into the tiny bathroom. Nevyn holds a positive home pregnancy test out in front of her like it's a poisonous snake.

NEVYN

This can't be right.

FAITH

This is just great. Let me guess, you weren't trying either. You're both doing this to mock me, aren't you? Look at me! Look how fertile I am! I can get pregnant without even trying!

Hope speaks as if Faith's little outburst didn't happen.

HOPE

Wait, so that means that you and Rob... after everything he's... I think I'm gonna be sick...

Faith folds her arms across her chest. Jaw tightens into a stubborn line.

FAITH

So you knew about her and Rob,  
too? Is there anything else the  
whole family knows except me?

Nevyn dumps the last pregnancy test stick out into Faith's hand.

INT. TUCKER HOME - UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - DAY

Nevyn, Leanne and Hope stands out in the hallway, on edge. Nevyn looks the most anxious of all. She paces back and forth, refuses to look anyone in the eye.

LEANNE

Rob hasn't been around for  
months. When did you two --

NEVYN

Hope and Greg are having another  
child out of wedlock. Maybe you  
should be interrogating her.

HOPE

Well at least I don't live with my  
parents.

LEANNE

Girls, we've been together for less  
than twenty-four hours. Let's not  
start --

A SCREAM comes from inside the bathroom. The women exchange a look.

INT. TUCKER HOME - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Leanne, Greg, Faith, Hope and Nevyn sit on the sofa, in the middle of an intense conversation.

GREG

Wait, so...  
(to Hope)  
You're pregnant?  
(to Faith)  
You're pregnant?  
(to Nevyn)  
And you're pregnant, too?

The sisters sit, shell shocked. It hasn't fully sank in yet.

GREG

Is it something in the air?

LEANNE

You better not take any deep breaths, just in case.

GREG

(to Hope)

I know how you got that way.

(to Nevyn)

And as unpleasant as it is to think about... yours is pretty obvious, too.

(to Faith)

But you... who is he?

Faith leans back, folds her arms across her chest.

FAITH

None of your business.

LEANNE

Well, I'd like to know. Is it none of my business, too?

The spotlight is on Faith now. She looks from one set of glaring eyes to the next.

FAITH

Alright. Fine. You're gonna find out sooner or later.

(dramatic sigh)

His name is Bob.

NEVYN

Is that his actual name, or is it an acronym for battery operated --

FAITH

Bob... Newbury. He's very hot and we're very happy.

GREG

And now he's the father of your baby.

FAITH

Exactly. The end. So Nevyn...

Doorbell RINGS. All the women stand up at once. Greg beats them to it. Pulls the door open to find Matt on the other side. Matt wears a wife beater tank top, putting all his tattoos on display.

GREG

Hey.

MATT

Hey.

Greg turns toward Leanne.

GREG

There's a heavily tattooed dude at the door.

Nevyn's eyes dart toward the door. She sees Matt. He sees her back. A half smirk forms on his lips.

FAITH

What does he want?

Greg turns back to Matt.

GREG

Can I help you?

MATT

Nevyn asked me to look at some leaky wipes in her bathroom.

Greg smirks mischievously.

GREG

He's here to work on Nevyn's plumbing.

Nevyn rolls her eyes. Heads toward the stairs.

NEVYN

Come in. It's this way.

Greg doesn't move from the doorway, forcing Matt to squeeze around him. He sizes Matt up as he follows Nevyn up the stairs.

Greg sits back on the sofa. Puts an arm around Hope.

GREG

I don't like the look of that guy. Shouldn't someone go up there? There's safety in numbers.

HOPE

He's not a serial killer. We've known him since we were kids.

GREG

He doesn't have any tools. How is he gonna fix leaky pipes with no tools?

Faith exhales sharply. Starts for the stairs.

FAITH

Would you feel better if I chaperoned?

GREG

Much.

INT. TUCKER HOME - UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - DAY

Nevyn escorts Matt down the hallway.

NEVYN

You can't just show up like this. Especially with my sisters here. They're like bloodhounds. They'll pick up your scent.

Matt grabs Nevyn's arm, pulls her to a stop. Backs her against the wall. Presses his body against hers. Lips nearly touching.

MATT

What scent would that be?

Nevyn stammers to find a response but is unsuccessful.

KENNEDY (O.S.)

Who're you?

Matt and Nevyn quickly separate like two teenagers caught in the act.

NEVYN

This... uh... he's... the...

MATT

I'm the guy that's gonna make your faucet stop dripping.

KENNEDY  
Our faucet doesn't drip.

Faith joins them. Gives everyone the once over.

FAITH  
What's going on?

Nevyn walks on. Opens the door to her bedroom. Enters.

NEVYN'S BEDROOM

Matt, Faith and Kennedy slowly file in behind her. Nevyn opens the door to the en suite bathroom.

NEVYN  
It's right there. Have at it.

She and Matt make eye contact for a second before he disappears into the bathroom. She turns to Kennedy.

NEVYN  
Kennedy, go check on Caleb.

KENNEDY  
He's taking a nap.

NEVYN  
Go check on him anyway.

Kennedy sighs, exasperated. Leaves the room. Faith takes Nevyn's hand, tries to lead her out of the room. Faith sits on the bed.

FAITH  
So, we're alone. Spill.

NEVYN  
We're not alone.

FAITH  
I seriously doubt Fatty Matty cares  
if we --

NEVYN  
He's not fat!

FAITH  
Sorry. It's a hard habit to break.

NEVYN  
You wanna dish? Fine. Tell me all  
about Bob.

FAITH

No way. We're talking about you. Does Rob know that you're --

NEVYN

Moving on? I'm pretty sure he's aware.

Nevyn glances nervously at the bathroom. She can see Matt inside tinkering with the bathroom faucet.

FAITH

Yeah, but how do you think he's gonna take it when he finds out that you're --

NEVYN

Over him? I doubt he cares. It was his idea to leave. He doesn't really get a say in how I react to it.

FAITH

So you're not gonna tell him that you're having his kid?

A loud CRASH comes from inside the bathroom. Nevyn looks mortified.

FAITH

You okay in there?

MATT (O.S.)

Fine.

Nevyn shoots Faith a dirty look.

FAITH

What?

Matt exits the bathroom, white as a ghost.

MATT

I need a wrench. I'll be back.

He quickly exits the room. An uncomfortable silence between Faith and Nevyn.

FAITH

I guess I shouldn't have aired your dirty laundry in front of the neighbor. Sorry.

Nevyn heads for the door.

NEVYN  
I need to start lunch.

INT. TUCKER HOME - LOGAN'S ROOM - DAY

Faith enters the room, surprised to see Logan still playing his video game.

FAITH  
Have you been here all day?

Logan remains focused on the game.

FAITH  
Does your mom know?

Logan shrugs.

FAITH  
You know, video games not only promote violence, but they've been known to cause seizures.

LOGAN  
That's stupid. How could a video game --

He suddenly slumps over, body shakes violently against the carpeted floor. Faith freaks out, rushes over, shakes him.

FAITH  
Logan! Oh, my God! I didn't think they were serious. I was just trying to scare you.

Logan sits up, laughing. Picks up his remote, goes right back to his game.

Faith fumes for a second, then powers off the video game system.

LOGAN  
What'd you... ah, man, I never got to level twelve before!

FAITH  
That wasn't cool. I'm telling your mom.

LOGAN  
Oooh, I'm scared.

Logan leaves the room. Slams the door.

FAITH

Punk!

Faith takes a deep, calming breath, then gets her cell phone out, dials.

FAITH

Hi, this is Faith Tucker. I need to speak to Dr. Palmer... well, when do you expect her back... fine, I'll leave a message. Just tell her that the procedure worked.

(beat)

I'm pregnant!

INT. TUCKER HOME - KITCHEN - DAY

Nevyn stands at the counter. Hand mechanically spreads mayo on a piece of bread while she stares out the window.

NEVYN'S POV

Matt unlocks a storage shed in the yard next door. Disappears inside.

BACK TO SCENE

Nevyn closes the sandwich. Looks over her shoulder. Slips out the back door.

EXT. FIORE HOME - BACKYARD - DAY

CRASHING sounds come from inside the storage shed. Nevyn walks up, peeks inside. Sees Matt slamming various tools around.

NEVYN

We probably have a wrench at our house. Somewhere.

He looks up at the voice, then right back down. Continues on his tirade with renewed conviction.

NEVYN

Or you could keep trashing the shed looking for yours.

MATT

When were you gonna tell me?

NEVYN

I was going to tell you before you left the room, but you seemed to be in a hurry.

He stops to regard her. This is not a happy guy.

MATT

That you're pregnant.

Nevyn looks around suspiciously. Enters the --

STORAGE SHED

Closes the door behind her. Near darkness. A light suddenly flicks on. A bare light bulb hangs from an outlet mounted on the shed roof.

NEVYN

I thought you'd be angry.

Matt noisily expels the breath he had been holding in. Takes Nevyn's face between his hands. Caresses her cheeks with his thumbs.

MATT

Why would you think that?

He moves in for a kiss. Nevyn puts her hand between their lips, thwarts his efforts.

NEVYN

It's not yours.

His hands slide off her face. Come to rest at his sides.

MATT

You sure about that?

NEVYN

Yes.

MATT

It's not mine. That's the story you're going with?

NEVYN

Yes.

MATT

Why?

Nevyn swallows hard. Clears her throat.

NEVYN  
It's the truth.

Matt scoffs loudly. Closes in the distance between them. Face to face with Nevyn.

MATT  
You would rather your family believe that you let that piece of shit put his filthy hands on you than admit you slept with me?

NEVYN  
That's not it. It's not --

MATT  
Lemme guess... "It's not you, it's me". Right?

He pauses for a response. Nevyn remains silent.

MATT  
Good luck with that.

He bursts through the shed door, disappears from sight.

INT. TUCKER HOME - LOGAN'S ROOM - SAME

Faith stands at the window, looking out.

FAITH'S POV

Nevyn exits the storage shed. Slips through a hole in the chain link fence. Trudges across the lawn to the back door.

BACK TO SCENE

FAITH  
Oh, boy.

INT. TUCKER HOME - KITCHEN - DAY

Nevyn continues to prepare lunch. Puts a couple hot dogs on a plate. Sets it down on the table. Hope peeks her head in.

HOPE  
We're going to McDonald's. Want anything?

NEVYN  
But I made lunch.

HOPE  
I know, but Andrew's really  
picky. He only eats chicken  
Mcnuggets and ramen noodles.

NEVYN  
I have some nuggets in the  
freezer. I could --

HOPE  
Really, don't go to any  
trouble. So you don't want  
anything?

NEVYN  
No. I'm good.

HOPE  
Okay. We'll be right back.

And she's gone.

Nevyn waits until she hears the purr of their SUV engine,  
then exits into the --

LIVING ROOM

-- where she finds Leanne lounged on the sofa watching Soap  
Operas on TV.

NEVYN  
Hungry?

LEANNE  
I'll get something later. Thanks.

Nevyn starts up the stairs. Before she can make it halfway  
up, Logan comes stalking down.

LOGAN  
Is it true? You're having another  
baby?

NEVYN  
Who...

Faith peeks her head guiltily around the corner.

FAITH

He overheard Hope and I talking.

Nevyn scowls at her. Faith mouths the words: "I'm sorry".

NEVYN

Yes. I am.

LOGAN

So you're getting back together  
with Dad?

NEVYN

Logan, it's... complicated.

LOGAN

Yes or no.

NEVYN

No.

LOGAN

But you're having a baby with him?

NEVYN

Yes. I'm having a baby.

LOGAN

If it's another boy, it's sleeping  
in Kennedy's room. My room's  
crowded enough.

NEVYN

We have nine months to work that  
out.

LOGAN

If Dad's not moving back in, then  
I'm moving in with him. He said I  
could.

Logan pushes past Nevyn. Stomps down the stairs.

NEVYN

That's not what he said!

FAITH

Please tell me my kid isn't gonna  
be talking to me like that in ten  
years.

NEVYN

Nope. I'm just lucky.

Nevyn trudges up the rest of the stairs. Heads down the --

HALLWAY

Opens one of the room doors. Finds Kennedy and Caleb gathered around a small round table, playing tea party. They are both dressed head to toe in pink, frilly princess garb.

NEVYN

How many times have I told you not to dress your brother like a princess?

KENNEDY

It's his fault. He let me.

NEVYN

He's three. Get that stuff off him and go eat your lunch.

Nevyn continues down the hall. Faith follows closely behind.

FAITH

Rob invited Logan to live with him?

NEVYN

That's not what he said. Exactly.

She enters --

NEVYN'S ROOM

Faith enters a second later. Leaves the door open behind her.

FAITH

What exactly did he say?

Nevyn lets the air out of Logan's mattress. Fixes the bed.

NEVYN

He hasn't said anything. They haven't seen or heard from him in months.

FAITH

So what make Logan think --

NEVYN

The letter.

FAITH

He sent a letter? What'd it say?

Nevyn goes into the nightstand, retrieves a letter. Hands it to Faith. Faith scans it while Nevyn finishes with the bed.

FAITH

(reading)

I just want you to know that none  
of this is your fault. Daddy loves  
you and one day very soon we'll  
make up for lost time.

(to Nevyn)

That doesn't sound like Rob. There  
aren't even any misspelled  
words. Are you sure he wrote that?

Nevyn sinks onto the bed. Bites the corner of her lip. Teary-eyed.

FAITH

Oh, Nev.

She sits beside Nevyn. Drapes an arm around her shoulder. Pulls her close.

FAITH

I'm not a parent or anything, and  
far be it from me to critique  
you... but are you sure lying to  
them and giving them false hope is  
the way to go?

NEVYN

No, I'm not. But what other  
options do I have? How am I  
supposed to explain to my children  
that their father is a lying sack  
of shit that would rather run off  
with some hot, young thing than  
stay here and be the kind of father  
that they need and deserve?

Nevyn looks up from her outburst to find all three of her children standing in the doorway.

FAITH

Well, that's one way.

INT. TUCKER HOME - NEVYN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Nevyn cuddles between Kennedy and Caleb. She reads from a book: "There's A Wocket In My Pocket."

NEVYN

...and the Zillow on my pillow. I  
don't care if you believe it.  
That's the kind of house I live  
in. And I hope we never leave  
it. The End.

She closes the book and slides it onto the nightstand.

CALEB

Read it again.

NEVYN

No, I need to talk to you  
guys. Logan, come up here.

Fake snoring can be heard from in front of the bed.

NEVYN

Logan?

Logan sighs loudly, gets onto the bed. Barely.

NEVYN

Come up here.

She taps the empty space beside Caleb. Logan rolls his eyes while moving to the designated spot. Nevyn takes a deep breath for courage.

NEVYN

You guys know that I love you very  
much, right?

Caleb and Kennedy nod. Logan looks bored.

LOGAN

Can you skip to the part where you  
lied?

Nevyn swallows hard. Clears her throat.

NEVYN

You know how I'm always saying that  
you should tell the truth, no  
matter how bad it is... because the  
truth is always better than a  
lie...

She waits for a response but the kids don't provide one.

NEVYN

Your dad is gone... and I have no  
idea if or when he's ever coming  
back.

KENNEDY

But the letter --

NEVYN

I wrote the letter.

Her bottom lip quivers. She struggles to hold it together.

NEVYN

I was trying to protect you. I  
didn't want you to know... I didn't  
want you to think... I just wanted  
you to feel loved and wanted. I  
thought I was doing the right  
thing.

LOGAN

You lied. Great. Can we go to bed  
now?

Logan crawls off the bed, returns to his air  
mattress. Rolls over on his side.

NEVYN

Night, Logan. I love you.

No reply. Nevyn looks over to find Caleb sound asleep. She  
kisses him on the cheek, tucks him in. Turns to Kennedy,  
her eyes wide with confusion.

Kennedy wraps her arms around Nevyn's neck, pulls her head  
to her chest. Whispers in her ear.

KENNEDY

I still love you.

EXT. TUCKER HOME - DRIVEWAY - DAY

Nevyn helps Greg load suitcases into the back of his  
SUV. The kids (except Logan) chase each other around the  
front lawn. Faith, Hope and Leanne say their goodbyes on  
the front porch.

LEANNE  
 Promise you'll call if you need  
 anything.

HOPE  
 I will.

FAITH  
 Me, too.

HOPE  
 Is Dad coming down to say goodbye?

Leanne looks uncomfortable at the question.

LEANNE  
 Oh, he's probably on the phone...  
 or the computer. You know how he  
 is.

She looks away from Hope's and Faith's prying eyes to focus  
 on her grandchildren.

LEANNE  
 Kids, come kiss grandma goodbye.

The kids obediently rush over and encircle Leanne with hugs  
 and kisses. Even Caleb and Kennedy.

LEANNE  
 Are you leaving, too?

Kennedy and Caleb just giggle.

GREG  
 Everybody in the car. We trying to  
 beat traffic.

Greg ushers Andrew and Courtney into the car. Faith gives  
 Leanne one more hug, then joins Nevyn outside the car.

NEVYN  
 I forgive you for not telling me  
 about Bob.

FAITH  
 I forgive you for not telling me  
 about Rob... and Dad... and the  
 baby and anything else you might  
 still be keeping from me.

Nevyn cracks a smile. Rolls her eyes dramatically.

NEVYN

Okay. Okay.

FRONT PORCH

Hope gives Leanne a big warm hug. Takes her time pulling away.

HOPE

You sure you don't need any help? Greg has work, but me and the kids could hang around for a little while and --

LEANNE

I'm fine. We're fine.

Hope nods, almost disappointed.

LEANNE

You okay? I figured a couple days here and you'd be itching to get back to your own house... away from the circus.

As if on cue, Kennedy and Caleb dash into the house, almost knocking Leanne and Hope down in the process.

HOPE

I just... didn't realize how much I missed it. This. Being a family.

LEANNE

You have your own family now. A growing family.

Leanne rests a hand on Hope's stomach.

LEANNE

I know you didn't plan this, but it'll be alright. God never gives us more than we can handle.

DRIVEWAY

Faith tosses her purse into the car.

FAITH

Where's Logan?

NEVYN

He's... not feeling well.

Faith gives her a knowing look.

FAITH

Well, just remember, if he ever gets too much for you and you need a little break... Greg and Hope are just a phone call away.

Hope comes up behind them.

HOPE

I heard that.

She smiles at Nevyn. Heads for the front passenger door.

HOPE

Thanks for everything.

NEVYN

Have a safe drive. And keep me up to date on my newest niece or nephew.

HOPE

I will.

Hope gets into the car. Shuts her door. Nevyn walks Faith to the back door.

NEVYN

Tell Bob I said to take good care of you. And that I'll look forward to meeting him at the birth.

FAITH

I just thought of something. What if we all give birth on the same day?

NEVYN

What are the odds of that?

FAITH

What are the odds of us all being pregnant at the same time?

NEVYN

Point taken. We'll figure something out.

Faith and Nevyn embrace. Faith gets into the car. Nevyn waves as the SUV pulls out of the driveway. Joins Leanne on the front porch and they enter the house together.

INT. TUCKER HOME - NEVYN'S BEDROOM - DAY

Nevyn sits on the floor, in front of her bed, watching TV.

ON TV SCREEN

A shaky hand-held camera image of Nevyn and ROB (20s), handsome in his tuxedo, standing hand in hand before a PRIEST (50s).

ROB

I know we agreed to write our own  
vows, and I tried, I really did...  
but I couldn't find a way to say  
with words how I feel about you.

Tears roll down Nevyn's cheeks.

ROB

All I know is that I love you and I  
want to be with you for the rest of  
my life.

BACK TO SCENE

Nevyn turns off the TV. Ejects the tape, buries it in a storage bin, slides it under the bed.

INT. HOPE'S HOME - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Dressed for sleep, Hope sits on the bed with bills spread out in front of her. She adds numbers on a calculator. The total is: "3,839". She consults her checkbook ledger. Sees a total of: "\$3,554.20".

She sighs, rubs her furrowed brows.

Greg lounges on the bed beside her, flips aimlessly through TV stations.

GREG

I don't know what you want me to  
do. I'm already working forty hour  
weeks. I thought you were on birth  
control.

HOPE

Well, maybe if your whole check  
went into the bank we wouldn't be  
this deep in debt.

GREG

So this is my fault now?

HOPE

Your kids don't need bikes and  
hundred dollar pairs of  
shoes. They need food and a roof  
over their heads.

GREG

I don't tell you how to spend your  
money. Don't tell me how to spend  
mine.

HOPE

Y'know what. Don't worry about  
it. I'll get two  
jobs. Three. Whatever it  
takes. I'll take care of my  
kids... just like I always do.

She stomps out of the room, slams the door behind her.

GREG

Hey, can you bring me a soda?

INT. BABY SUPERSTORE - DAY

Faith browses through the endless aisles of baby  
products. Walks past the cribs. Runs her hands longingly  
against the delicate pink bedding.

A SALESLADY (20s) comes up behind her. Smiles.

SALESLADY

Having a girl?

Faith turns, shows her trim figure.

FAITH

I don't know yet. I just found out  
that I'm pregnant.

The saleslady smiles knowingly.

FAITH

Is it too soon to shop?

SALESLADY

It's never too soon to shop. Come  
with me.

LATER

Faith stands at the check-out counter. A wide assortment of gender neutral baby items in front of her. The same saleslady rings up her purchases.

INT. TUCKER HOME - DANE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Leanne walks into the room holding a plate of food. Pauses when she hears Dane on the phone. He sits at his computer, back to her.

DANE  
(on phone)  
You like Italian, too? Maybe I'll  
take you to a fancy Italian  
restaurant some time.

COMPUTER SCREEN

A half-naked woman in her 30s posing suggestively.

BACK TO SCENE

Leanne silently sets down Dane's dinner and exits the room.

EXT. TUCKER HOME - NEVYN'S BEDROOM - BALCONY - NIGHT

Nevyn stands against the railing. Stares into the neighbor's window.

NEVYN'S POV

Matt stands on the other side of the window. He is shirtless and dries his wet hair with a towel. He catches her looking. Stares longingly for a few seconds, then lowers the blinds.

BACK TO SCENE

Nevyn goes back into her room. Shuts the balcony doors.

INT. HOPE'S HOME - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Hope lies on the sofa, trying to fall asleep. A noise in the next room causes her to squeeze her eyes shut.

Greg exits the kitchen with a tall glass filled with cereal and milk. He stands beside the sofa, stares at her a second, then continues upstairs.

INT. FAITH'S HOME - GUEST ROOM - NIGHT

Faith enters the unfurnished room. Walls bare and white. A stack of baby products sits on the floor in one of the corners. She sits on the floor beside them and picks up a yellow blanket. Rubs it against her cheek. Smiles.

INT. NEVYN'S O.B. OFFICE - WAITING ROOM - DAY

Nevyn sits among the crowded waiting room of hugely pregnant women. All of the other women are accompanied by their significant others.

An O.B. NURSE enters from a back room. Reads a name off a clipboard.

O.B. NURSE  
Nevyn Thompson.

Nevyn jumps to her feet. Approaches the nurse.

O.B. NURSE  
Will your husband be joining you,  
Mrs. Thompson?

NEVYN  
No.

She follows the nurse into the back room.

INT. HOPE'S O.B. OFFICE - EXAM ROOM - DAY

Hope sits in a sterile office, perched on an exam table. Wears a hospital gown. Fidgets with her fingers.

The door opens and a FEMALE O.B. enters with a big smile on her face.

FEMALE O.B.  
So it's true. When Kelly told me  
you were here, I thought she was  
hallucinating. What happened to  
"I'm never doing this again"?

Hope smiles politely. Looks down.

HOPE  
I don't know.

Female O.B. pushes a stool over to the exam table. Sits.

FEMALE O.B.  
 But this is good, right? This  
 means things are better between you  
 and Greg. Right?

Hope struggles to keep her smile from fading. Just nods.

FEMALE O.B.  
 Speaking of Greg, why didn't you  
 bring him in with you?

HOPE  
 Oh, he had to work.

INT. FAITH'S O.B. - EXAM ROOM - DAY

Faith lies on an exam table wearing a hospital gown. An  
 ULTRASOUND TECH sits on a stool at her feet, performing an  
 ultrasound. Faith and the tech closely monitor the screen.

Faith's excited smile slowly fades as she takes note of the  
 concerned look on the tech's face.

FAITH  
 Well?

Ultrasound Tech turns the monitor off.

FAITH  
 What? Is it the baby?

ULTRASOUND TECH  
 No. The baby looks fine.

Faith sits up alertly. Face cloaked in confusion and panic.

FAITH  
 Then what's wrong?

ULTRASOUND TECH  
 Your doctor will be right in.

Ultrasound Tech walks out of the room.

EXT. TUCKER HOME - DRIVEWAY - DAY

A MINI VAN pulls into the driveway. Nevyn hops out of the  
 driver's side door. Walks around to the trunk, gets some  
 grocery bags out. Starts for the front porch.

Faith sits on the top step, face pale, eyes frozen in shock. Nevyn stops in her tracks. Takes in her sister's dire appearance.

INT. TUCKER HOME - NEVYN'S BEDROOM - DAY

Nevyn and Faith sit on the bed, a palpable sadness between them. Faith looks on the verge of tears while Nevyn has a rock hard expression on her face.

FAITH

They found it during the ultrasound. Leave it to me and my infamous bad luck. Most women just find a baby nestled in there. But me, no, I get a baby... and tumor.

Nevyn is silent a moment longer, then chooses her words carefully.

NEVYN

Are you sure? Are they sure? Did you get a second opinion?

FAITH

Second? No. I barely got the first before I ran out of the office.

A glimmer of hope shines bright in Nevyn's eyes. She even tries to force a smile.

NEVYN

So maybe you misunderstood then. Or maybe it's not as bad as you think.

FAITH

How do you misunderstand the words: "You have cancer"?

Nevyn's optimism prevails despite Faith's grimness.

NEVYN

What's your doctor's number?

She picks up the phone, ready to dial.

FAITH

What? You're gonna just call my doctor... right now?

NEVYN

Number.

Faith sighs loudly, leans over and dials the number. Walks out of the room.

Nevyn converses over the phone MOS. The actual moment her fears are realized is evident as the color drains from her cheeks.

INT. HOPE'S HOME - BEDROOM - DAY

Hope hurriedly packs items into a suitcase spread open on the bed. Her eyes are red and puffy. She's been crying.

Greg enters the room. Lingers in the background for a few beats. Moves beside Hope. She glances at him over her shoulder. Still packing.

GREG

I got your message. Y'know, the one you probably didn't intend for me to get until you were gone.

Hope continues packing.

GREG

Why are you doing this?

HOPE

She's my sister.

GREG

She has Nevyn and your mom.

HOPE

She has cancer! She could die.

GREG

Don't be so freaking dramatic. She'll have surgery, do a few rounds of chemo and she'll be fine.

Hope stops to stare at him in utter shock and amazement.

HOPE

Wow.

She resumes packing at an increased pace.

GREG  
Fine. I'm going with you.

HOPE  
You have to work.

GREG  
So do you.

HOPE  
I'm taking vacation time.

GREG  
Our vacation time? To go see my family.

HOPE  
This is important.

GREG  
Compared to what? Us? Why don't you just call it what it is? You want to get away... from me.

Hope zips her suitcase.

GREG  
You can't take my kids without my permission.

HOPE  
We're not married. I don't need your permission.

She walks out of the room.

INT. TUCKER HOME - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Nevyn, Faith and Leanne sit at the table, eating in silence. For a few beats, nothing can be heard except for the clinking of forks against plates.

Nevyn steals glances at both Faith and Leanne. Neither look in the mood for conversation. Both appear on the verge of tears.

NEVYN  
I made up Logan's room for you.

FAITH  
I'm not kicking that kid out of his room again. I'll sleep on the couch.

NEVYN

He's staying at a friend's house  
for a few days.

Leanne and Faith look up from their plates. This is news to both of them.

NEVYN

He's still angry with me.

FAITH

I don't get kids. His father runs  
off to God knows where to do God  
knows what but he's mad at you, the  
one that hung around... the one  
that takes care of his ungrateful  
ass.

NEVYN

Faith...

FAITH

No. It's not fair. You know what  
else isn't fair. Having cancer.

Leanne jerks out of her seat, dumps her dishes into the sink.

LEANNE

I'm gonna lay down.

She walks briskly out of the room. Faith flashes Nevyn a look.

FAITH

Did you hear that? I'm the one  
dying of cancer... and she needs to  
lay down.

Nevyn sets her fork down, her appetite extinguished.

NEVYN

This is hard for her.

FAITH

For her?

NEVYN

You're her child. Her first born.

FAITH

Well, so far, it hasn't been fun  
for me, either.

Nevyn gets up, takes her dishes to the sink. Rinses them off.

FAITH

Great. Now you're gonna ignore me, too?

NEVYN

I'm not ignoring you. I'm thinking... what we have to do.

Faith picks at what remains of her dinner, can't eat it. Nevyn furiously scrubs dishes as a distraction.

NEVYN

I did some Googling before dinner. There's a really good local oncologist. Highly qualified. Has a high cure rate for ovarian cancer. It'll probably be hard to get an appointment so I think our best bet is to go down there and sit in the waiting room and bug his receptionists all day long if we have to... until we get an appointment.

No reply from Faith.

NEVYN

It's easy to say no over the phone. But if we're there... if they have to look into your eyes...

Nevyn glances over her shoulder to find Faith's seat empty. She sighs deeply. Goes back to the dishes.

INT. TUCKER HOME - LOGAN'S ROOM - NIGHT

Faith sits up in bed. Stares hypnotically straight ahead. Her eyes are full of dread but tearless.

The door opens a crack and Kennedy slips in dressed in her pajamas. She climbs into bed beside Faith and snuggles up to her.

A long silence, followed by --

KENNEDY

You have cancer?

FAITH

Uh huh.

KENNEDY

Is that bad?

FAITH

Uh huh.

KENNEDY

Are you gonna die?

Faith ponders this a moment.

FAITH

I hope not.

KENNEDY

Me, too.

INT. TUCKER HOME - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Nevyn picks up some toys laying on the floor. Dumps them into a storage ottoman. Straightens the pillows on the sofa.

A KNOCK on the door surprises her. She opens the door to find Hope carrying a sleeping Andrew with an exhausted Courtney at her side.

NEVYN

I told you not to come.

HOPE

But you knew I wouldn't listen.

NEVYN

Of course I did. I already have Kennedy's room ready for you.

She takes Andrew from Hope's arms. Hope nudges Courtney through the door, then lugs in a heavy suitcase. Shuts the door behind her.

NEVYN

You're not supposed to lift anything heavy when you're pregnant.

HOPE

Neither should you.

NEVYN  
Why didn't you let Greg carry him?

HOPE  
Greg didn't come with us.

NEVYN  
Why?

Hope glances at Courtney. Shakes her head. Can't talk about it.

HOPE  
Where is she?

NEVYN  
Upstairs. Logan's room.

HOPE  
How is she?

NEVYN  
Oh, you know Faith. Always optimistic.

HOPE  
I'm gonna go up. Put Andrew down before you hurt yourself.

Hope starts up the stairs with Courtney and Nevyn right behind.

HOPE  
You're so stubborn.

NEVYN  
I know.

INT. TUCKER HOME - KENNEDY'S ROOM - NIGHT

Nevyn snuggles in bed between a sleeping Andrew and an almost asleep Courtney. She recites a story. No book in sight.

NEVYN  
And so the beautiful princess realized that she should try harder to get along with her brother, the handsome prince. Having nearly lost him, she knew now that life was too short to waste on petty arguments. And from that day on,

(MORE)

NEVYN (cont'd)  
the princess and the prince were  
the best of friends. The end.

COURTNEY  
(barely audible)  
You made that up, didn't you?

NEVYN  
Yes. But it's based on a true  
story.

Nevyn kisses the top of Courtney's head. Eases out of bed. Courtney's head hits the pillow and she's almost instantly asleep.

The door suddenly flings open and Hope enters. She grabs a pillow off the bed and lets out a muffled scream into it.

NEVYN  
So it went well?

HOPE  
Why must she be so infuriating...  
even now?

NEVYN  
That's Faith. She's been that way  
her whole life. I doubt cancer is  
gonna change her ways.

Hope throws the pillow down. Sinks onto the bed, spent.

NEVYN  
Are you hungry? I made lasagna for  
dinner. I could...

HOPE  
I can't eat. I don't even know if  
I can sleep. What if she...

She stops, unable to complete her thought, as if saying it out loud would make it happen. Her eyes flood with tears. Nevyn wraps her in a bear hug.

NEVYN  
She's gonna be fine. You're  
talking about the girl that kicked  
Danny Duvall's ass in second  
grade. She's tough.

Hope looks into her eyes. She's not so sure.

HOPE  
Mom would just... she couldn't...

NEVYN  
She won't have to.

INT. TUCKER HOME - NEVYN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Nevyn tucks in Kennedy and Caleb. Creeps soundlessly out of the room.

HALLWAY

She walks down the hall. Sees a door open. Peers inside.

DANE'S ROOM

Leanne lies in bed, seemingly asleep. Dane sits at his usual spot, in front of the computer, talking on the phone in a hushed tone.

HALLWAY

Nevyn continues down the hall. Taps lightly on a door. No response from inside.

INT. TUCKER HOME - LOGAN'S ROOM - SAME

Faith lies in bed, on her side, staring blankly at a wall. A second KNOCK is heard, then the door opens and Nevyn creeps in.

FAITH  
Why do people knock if they're  
going to enter without an invite?

NEVYN  
I thought you were sleeping.

FAITH  
That makes even less sense.

Nevyn sits at the end of the bed. A comfortable distance between them.

NEVYN  
If you live life expecting  
everything to make sense, you're  
only setting yourself up for near  
constant disappointment.

FAITH

Here's one that's always perplexed me. Maybe you can help me figure it out. Why do bad things happen to good people?

NEVYN

Faith, that's like asking why the sky is blue. It just is. And it just does.

(beat)

Mom said she'd watch the kids tomorrow so the three of us can go to the hospital.

FAITH

I'm not going.

Nevyn sighs loudly. Frustrated. Moves a little closer to Faith.

NEVYN

If you keep acting like a victim, you're always gonna be one. You have cancer... but you'll fight it.

Faith rolls over to face her. Suddenly furious.

FAITH

Oh, fuck you! So if it were you, you'd be shouting from the rooftops: "I have cancer but I'm gonna fight it"?

NEVYN

I don't know how I'd react. You never know until you're placed in that situation.

FAITH

Why me? What makes me different from the billions of people that don't have cancer? What have I done to deserve this? What did I do that made God want to give me cancer?

Nevyn reels in disbelief at her words.

NEVYN

God doesn't have a cancer button, Faith. "Who can I give it to today? Oh, I know, what about Faith."

Faith sits up. Equally upset.

FAITH

Right. You're right. I shouldn't be angry. I should be a good little cancer patient. Hey, there's worse ways to go, right? I hear burning alive is pretty awful. Phew, good thing I don't have to worry about that.

NEVYN

This is normal. Being angry is normal.

FAITH

What're you, my shrink now? I'm glad you approve of my reaction to the worst news I'll ever have in my life.

NEVYN

Just please don't take it out on the people that are trying to help you. We all love you and we want to support you.

Faith lies back down. Pull the covers up under her chin.

FAITH

Well then I apologize in advance for all the times my big cloud of doom will undoubtedly sprinkle a little unhappiness onto your perfect little picnic.

NEVYN

Bad things happen to people all the time. That's no excuse to lay around and die.

FAITH

Not to everyone. Not you, or Hope, or mom.

NEVYN

Are you kidding me? Dad is planning on leaving mom, after fifty years of servitude for some thirty year old slut he met on the internet. Hope is so depressed she doesn't know whether to cry or hang herself. And my husband ran off

(MORE)

NEVYN (cont'd)  
and left me and his three kids  
penniless.

FAITH  
Is this a competition, because I'm  
pretty sure cancer trumps all that.

NEVYN  
I'm not trying to compete with  
you. Just show you that you're not  
the only one suffering.

FAITH  
Let me know when you're ready to  
switch places.

Faith rolls over onto her side. The conversation is over.

EXT. TUCKER HOME - BACKYARD - NIGHT

Nevyn rushes out through the back door. Walks out as far  
from the house as the back fence will allow. Breathing  
quickens, almost to the point of hyperventilation.

MATT'S BACKYARD

Matt sits at a patio table, drinking a beer and smoking a  
cigarette. He sets the beer down, takes a final drag before  
snuffing out the cigarette.

NEVYN'S BACKYARD

Nevyn's breathing worsens until she's gasping for air. Matt  
slips through the hole in the fence, comes up behind her.

MATT  
Breathe.

NEVYN  
I am.

MATT  
Close your eyes.

NEVYN  
Why?

Matt positions himself behind her. Their bodies touching.

MATT  
You're twenty seconds away from  
passing out.

Nevyn closes her eyes. Breathing still frantic. Matt  
lowers his lips to her ear.

MATT  
Deep breath in.

Nevyn does as instructed.

MATT  
Slowly exhale.

Nevyn exhales noisily.

MATT  
Deep breath in. Fill your abdomen.

He wraps his arms around her. Lays his hands on her  
stomach. Nevyn follows. It's starting to work.

MATT  
And out.

Another noisy exhale. He's breathing with her now. She's  
almost back to normal.

MATT  
Again.

She repeats without further prompting. Matt turns her  
around to face him.

NEVYN  
They teach you that in carpenter  
school?

MATT  
I took a yoga class once. Never  
really found my zen, though.

She looks down at his hands. He's still holding her. She  
squirms away.

NEVYN  
I'm okay.

MATT  
This is probably the farthest from  
"okay" I've ever seen you.

Nevyn remains silent. Wraps her arms around her mid-section, as if trying to keep herself from physically falling apart.

MATT  
Can you talk about it?

NEVYN  
No.

MATT  
Why?

NEVYN  
I'll cry.

MATT  
So cry.

NEVYN  
If I start, I'll never stop.

MATT  
Then don't stop.

She looks into his eyes for the first time. Sees genuine concern staring back at her.

NEVYN  
My sister has cancer.

MATT  
What kind?

NEVYN  
Ovarian.

MATT  
What stage?

NEVYN  
We don't know yet. She went in for a fetal ultrasound and they found it.

MATT  
That's good then. They caught it early.

NEVYN  
We don't know that.

MATT

We don't not know it either. Which sister is it?

NEVYN

Faith.

Matt smiles. She stares at him, undoubtedly wondering what there is to smile about.

MATT

That's poetic, don't you think? You're out here because you don't know what to do... you're looking for answers... right?

She nods.

MATT

Maybe the answer is in her name. You just have to have a little.

Nevyn walks away from him, annoyed.

NEVYN

Tried that. I just opened up my big book of bullshit and started spewing all the pearls of wisdom I thought you should say to someone that's just been diagnosed with cancer. But how do I know if any of it is real? If God doesn't give cancer, who the hell does? I don't blame her for being mad. I'm mad, too. I just want to scream at the top of my lungs until I wake up and realize that it's all just an awful nightmare and the worst thing I have to deal with is my worthless, cheating father or my childrens' deadbeat dad.

She takes a deep breath, gathers up the courage to go on.

NEVYN

But I can't say that in front of Faith. I need her to look into my eyes and believe me when I say that everything is gonna be fine. I need to convince her to get treatment for this because avoidance doesn't shrink

(MORE)

NEVYN (cont'd)  
 tumors. And when I get through  
 with that, I need to keep my mom  
 and Hope from crumbling in front of  
 her and undoing everything.

Another deep breath. Matt tries to touch her, but she holds  
 up a hand, steps back.

NEVYN  
 Now, how am I supposed to do all  
 that while dealing with a son that  
 won't speak to me, a daughter that  
 keeps asking if her daddy's ever  
 coming back, a toddler that's too  
 young to remember his dad at all  
 and a baby that...

She trails off, unable to finish her thought.

MATT  
 It'll be hard. Really hard. But  
 you'll do what needs to be done to  
 get your family though  
 this. You're their rock. Every  
 family has one and you're theirs.

NEVYN  
 Does that self-help shit ever work  
 on anyone? You have no idea what  
 you're talking about.

MATT  
 You're probably right. I'm just  
 the dumb tattooed creep next door  
 that knocked you up.

He starts off for the hole in the fence.

NEVYN  
 For what it's worth... I didn't lie  
 because I was embarrassed of you.

Matt stops his retreat, turns to face her.

NEVYN  
 I'm embarrassed of myself.

MATT  
 He left you, Nevyn. He didn't love  
 you or the kids enough to stay. No  
 one can fault you for moving on...  
 even if it was with me.

He slips through the fence and is gone.

INT. TUCKER HOME - UPSTAIRS - DAY

Nevyn and Leanne pace in the hallway. A loud argument filters in from a nearby bedroom.

                          FAITH (O.S.)  
Get out!

The door to Logan's room opens and Hope steps out, exasperated.

                          LEANNE  
I'll try.

She starts for the door. Nevyn stops her.

                          NEVYN  
Let me.

She enters --

LOGAN'S BEDROOM

-- and shuts the door behind her. Finds Faith, still in her pajamas, curled up on the bed.

                          FAITH  
Oh, here we go.

Nevyn grabs a set of clothes from Faith's suitcase and flings it at her.

                          NEVYN  
Get dressed.

                          FAITH  
I don't see the point.

                          NEVYN  
We'll get a couple odd looks at the hospital, but if it doesn't bother you...

She takes Faith's hand, attempts to pull her out of bed. Faith resists with her entire resolve.

                          FAITH  
I didn't come here to be bullied. I thought --

NEVYN

You thought we would pat your  
little head and let you remain in  
denial?

Faith burrows under the covers. Nevyn searches through Logan's drawers furiously. Throws things out of her way. Faith sits up. Watches her.

FAITH

What're you doing?

Faith ducks as various items fly in her direction. Nevyn finally locates a notebook and pen. Sits on the edge of the bed. Ready to write.

NEVYN

What do you want to wear?

FAITH

I said I wasn't going.

NEVYN

No, I mean when you die. What do  
you want to be buried in?

Faith stares at her incredulously.

FAITH

What?

NEVYN

Nevermind. Skip that one. We're  
all pretty broke right now. We'll  
probably just have you  
cremated. Whose mantle do you want  
to be displayed on?

FAITH

Nevyn...

NEVYN

Or do you want your ashes  
scattered? I've been meaning to  
take the kids to that little lake  
we used to visit when we were  
kids. Remember that? That'd be as  
good a place as any, don't you  
think?

Faith sucks in a shocked breath. Nevyn's words are wounding her. She continues on, unaffected. Emotionless. A machine.

NEVYN

Y'know what, I'm surprised. I thought this would be harder. I don't even think we need a memorial service. The sooner we get it over with, the better.

FAITH

Stop.

Nevyn's voice gradually raises in volume until she's downright screaming.

NEVYN

And then, of course, since you won't be buried, we won't need to mess around with flowers and remembering the anniversary of your death. Not to mention all the money we'll all save on birthday and Christmas presents...

Tears roll down Faith's cheeks.

FAITH

Nevyn!

NEVYN

Hell, in a year or so you'll just be a distant memory and when we do mention you, in passing, on holidays and special occasions, we'll just refer to you as the stupid bitch that let herself die!

FAITH

Okay! I'll go! I'll go! Just... shut up!

INT. NEVYN'S CAR (MOVING) - DAY

Nevyn drives with Faith in the passenger seat and Hope in the backseat. They ride in complete silence, not even the radio on.

INT. HOSPITAL - DAY

Faith, Hope and Nevyn walk silently through a long corridor. They arrive at a set of double doors. Above it a sign reads: "ONCOLOGY".

Nevyn pulls open one of the doors, waits for Hope and Faith to enter. Hope does, but Faith hesitates. Hope reaches for her hand, pulls her in.

INT. HOSPITAL - ONCOLOGY DEPARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

The sisters approach the reception desk. A RECEPTIONIST (30s) with a kind smile looks up from her computer.

RECEPTIONIST

Can I help you?

Hope and Nevyn wait for Faith to speak up, but she looks like a deer caught in the headlights.

HOPE

We don't have an appointment or anything, but we were wondering if Dr. Williamson could possibly --

RECEPTIONIST

Are you Faith Tucker?

Faith, Hope and Nevyn exchange a look, all equally confused.

FAITH

(reluctant)

I am.

RECEPTIONIST

Have a seat. Dr. Williamson will be right with you.

The woman take a seat in the crowded waiting room. Faith looks at her sisters suspiciously.

FAITH

Who did that?

Nevyn and Hope shake their heads.

FAITH

Then... how did...

An office door opens and DR. WILLIAMSON (40s), handsome and young for his age, steps out.

DR. WILLIAMSON

Faith Tucker.

The sisters all stand at once and make their way toward him.

DR. WILLIAMSON  
Your sisters can wait out here.

Nevyn grabs onto one of Faith's arms. Hope latches onto the other.

HOPE  
We're sort of a package deal.

Dr. Williamson smiles. Steps out of the way. Allows the sisters to enter his office.

INT. HOSPITAL - DR. WILLIAMSON'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Faith takes a seat at the lone chair across from a sleek metal and glass desk. Hope and Nevyn stand on either side of her. Dr. Williamson pauses in the doorway. Turns to address someone O.S.

DR. WILLIAMSON  
Olivia, could we get a couple more chairs in here?

Dr. Williamson enters the room. Takes a seat on the task chair poised behind the desk.

NEVYN  
Dr. Williamson, I just want to say thank you so much for --

Dr. Williamson slides a clipboard and pen across the desk to Faith. She takes it, looks it over.

DR. WILLIAMSON  
By signing this document, you agree to release all test results into my custody. I'll have my nurse fax this over to your doctor and we should have the results within the hour.

A KNOCK on the door. Two NURSES enter carrying a chair each. They set the chairs on either side of Faith's. Faith scribbles her signature on the document.

DR. WILLIAMSON  
Olivia, would you fax this form to Ms. Tucker's previous oncologist?

The younger of the two nurses, OLIVIA (20s), takes the clipboard from Faith, quickly exits after the second nurse. Nevyn and Hope slide into their respective seats.

DR. WILLIAMSON  
 Depending on what the test results say, I might want to run a few of them over, just to be certain. If your insurance won't cover it --

FAITH  
 I'm a nurse. I have excellent medical coverage.

DR. WILLIAMSON  
 A nurse? What field?

It takes Faith a moment to reply. Somber.

FAITH  
 Neonatal.

An uncomfortable silence fills the room.

NEVYN  
 Dr. Williamson, can I ask how you knew we were coming?

DR. WILLIAMSON  
 I received a call from a friend. I owed him a favor, so...

Faith and Hope look confused while Nevyn seems to understand.

DR. WILLIAMSON  
 As soon as we hear back --

FAITH  
 Wait. Who --

NEVYN  
 What do we do after the test results come in?

DR. WILLIAMSON  
 We discuss our options.

INT. TUCKER HOME - KITCHEN - EVENING

Courtney, Andrew, Kennedy, Logan and Caleb sit down to dinner. All the kids eat ravenously except Andrew who just stares at his plate.

Leanne monitors them from the kitchen island as she prepares another plate of food.

LEANNE  
Something wrong with your dinner,  
Andrew?

ANDREW  
I don't eat that.

LEANNE  
It's good. Try it.

ANDREW  
I'm not hungry.

Leanne walks over, stands beside him.

LEANNE  
Try it.

ANDREW  
No.

LEANNE  
Try it!

ANDREW  
No!

Leanne pics up his plate and tosses the contents into the trash. Slams the plate into the sink so hard that it shatters.

LEANNE  
Go up to your room.

ANDREW  
But I didn't eat.

LEANNE  
Room. Now!

Andrew trudges out of the room, mumbling under his breath.

ANDREW  
You're mean. I'm telling mommy on  
you.

Leanne grabs the extra plate. Heads out of the kitchen.

COURTNEY  
What's with her?

KENNEDY  
She's worried about Aunty Faith.

COURTNEY  
Why?

KENNEDY  
She's got cancer.

COURTNEY  
What's cancer?

LOGAN  
It means she's gonna die.

KENNEDY  
No, she's not. I asked her and she  
said she's not.

Logan throws his fork down on his plate, causing a loud  
clank.

LOGAN  
Remember Grandpa Tom... how we used  
to go to his house every summer and  
then we just stopped?

Kennedy nods. Sullen.

LOGAN  
He had cancer and died.

He tosses his plate into the sink, walks out. Leaves the  
two girls in tears.

INT. HOSPITAL - DR. WILLIAMSON'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Faith, Hope and Nevyn sit anxiously in their previous  
seats. Faith's legs twitch rhythmically. Hope checks the  
clock. Nevyn chews her fingernails.

A CHEERY TUNE comes from Hope's purse. She fishes her cell  
phone out, checks the screen. Shoves it back into her  
purse.

FAITH  
Greg?

Hope nods.

FAITH

You're not gonna answer it?

Hope shakes her head.

The door opens and Dr. Williamson enters with a medical file. Walks silently to his desk, sits.

The women wait on pins and needles. Nevyn takes Faith's hand. Hope takes the other. They're ready.

DR. WILLIAMSON

I wish I had better news.

He opens the file. Lays it out on the desk in front of him. Looks up to meet Faith's wide, terrified eyes.

DR. WILLIAMSON

Cancer was found in both ovaries, fallopian tubes, the uterus and has spread to the abdomen. Stage three.

Nevyn tightens her grip on Faith's hand. Faith takes a deep breath. Appears to be handling it well.

FAITH

What do we do now?

DR. WILLIAMSON

The good news is that it hasn't spread to the lymph nodes outside of the abdomen. So our first course of action will be surgery followed by chemo. At that point, depending on how much of the tumors are removed during surgery and how well the chemo goes, you may or may not have to undergo radiation therapy. But we'll cross that bridge when we get to it.

Faith takes another deep, shaky breath. On the verge of tears. Voice trembles.

FAITH

Okay. I can do that.

DR. WILLIAMSON

Great. Well, I took the initiative of scheduling you for a D and C tomorrow at ten. From there --

FAITH

A D and what?

DR. WILLIAMSON

Dilation and curettage. Surgical  
removal of the fetus.

Faith gasps. Looks like she's just been punched in the  
face.

FAITH

The fetus? It's a baby. My baby  
and I'm not terminating it.

Dr. Williamson looks at Faith, then the other two women.

DR. WILLIAMSON

Ms. Tucker --

FAITH

No. I looked it up on the  
internet. The only reason I even  
came here is because I read that a  
pregnant woman can safely have the  
tumors removed using laparoscopic  
surgery and that chemo can be  
started after the first trimester.

DR. WILLIAMSON

Ms. Tucker, the cancer is in your  
uterus. If we don't remove it,  
you'll die.

Faith gets out of her chair, rushes out of the room. Nevyn  
makes a move to follow.

HOPE

I'll go.

Hope quickly rushes after her.

NEVYN

Can't she wait... until the baby  
comes?

DR. WILLIAMSON

She could. But there's a huge  
possibility she won't be alive in  
nine months.

Nevyn sits in shock.

DR. WILLIAMSON  
 I apologize for being so blunt, but  
 I'm good at what I do and I'm in  
 high demand. I don't have time to  
 hold my patients' hands. Bottom  
 line, she needs to do this.

INT. NEVYN'S CAR (MOVING) - NIGHT

Faith, Hope and Nevyn ride home in complete silence, until  
 --

NEVYN  
 Faith.

FAITH  
 No.

NEVYN  
 Maybe you should --

FAITH  
 No.

NEVYN  
 You can't just --

FAITH  
 No.

NEVYN  
 So what're you --

FAITH  
 No!

NEVYN  
 Can I just --

FAITH  
 I don't expect either of you to  
 understand this. You both have  
 kids.

NEVYN  
 So having kids disqualifies us from  
 knowing what's best for you?

Faith turns in her seat to stare incredulously at Nevyn.

FAITH

Who the hell are you to dictate  
what's best for me? My body. My  
cancer. My baby. My decision.

Nevyn stops the car in the middle of the road. Horns  
HONK. Drivers SHOUT. Hope looks around nervously.

HOPE

What're you doing?

Nevyn focuses intently on Faith.

NEVYN

Me or Hope.

FAITH

What?

HOPE

Who do you want to raise your  
baby? If it even survives, that  
is.

FAITH

I'm gonna raise my baby.

HOPE

We're causing a traffic jam.

NEVYN

Dr. Williamson doesn't think you'll  
see the end of nine months without  
treatment. So, when you die, who  
do you want to raise your baby?

FAITH

I know what you're doing. And it's  
not gonna work again.

HOPE

Can we have this talk at home?

NEVYN

I'm just saying... you need a back  
up plan. There's Hope. Her kids  
will probably use you son or  
daughter for target practice and  
it'll end up strung out on chicken  
nuggets and ramen noodles...

HOPE  
Hey, I heard that!

NEVYN  
Or there's me. I can't really afford the three I already have plus the one on the way... so I'll probably end up going back to Rob. And look how well we did with ours.

Faith thrusts a finger in her face.

FAITH  
Do not threaten me with Rob.

NEVYN  
If there's a name you like, you better put it in your will. You know how I am with names. If it's a boy, I'll probably end up calling him... Barnaby Ulysses Tucker-Thompson.

Hope takes her eyes off the pile-up of cars behind them to focus on Nevyn, exasperated.

HOPE  
You can't do that. His initials would be... butt.

Mood suddenly lightened, Faith and Nevyn struggle to keep a serious face.

HOPE  
He would be tortured at school. I can hear the nicknames already. Butthead. Butthole.

NEVYN  
Buttface.

HOPE  
Buttbrain.

NEVYN  
Buttstink.

HOPE  
Butt... hair.

NEVYN  
Butthair?

HOPE  
Sorry, I ran out of good ones.

NEVYN  
There's gotta be more. Kids are so  
creative these days.

HOPE  
I'm thinking.

A long silence, then --

FAITH  
Buttcrack.

The women burst into laughter.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Nevyn's mini-van continues down the road.

EXT. TUCKER HOME - DRIVEWAY - NIGHT

Nevyn's van pulls up. Faith, Hope and Nevyn exit, head  
toward the front porch. Nevyn is side-tracked by the house  
next door.

NEVYN'S POV

Matt can be seen through the picture window sanding a piece  
of furniture.

BACK TO SCENE

She stops to watch him.

HOPE (O.S.)  
Nevyn?

Nevyn looks over at Hope, who stands at the front door.

NEVYN  
Go in. I'll be right there.

Hope nods, enters the house. Closes the door.

INT. MATT'S HOME - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Matt sands a piece of furniture that we don't see. Focuses. Determined.

A KNOCK on the door breaks his concentration. He walks over, opens the door a crack, peeks out. Sees Nevyn standing there.

NEVYN

Hi.

MATT

Hi.

NEVYN

Can I come in?

Matt glances over his shoulder, then back to Nevyn.

NEVYN

Or could you come out?

Matt slips out. Shuts the door behind him.

EXT. MATT'S HOME - FRONT PORCH - CONTINUOUS

Matt takes Nevyn's arm, leads her away from the picture window.

NEVYN

Thank you.

MATT

You're welcome.

NEVYN

How did you --

MATT

My mom.

NEVYN

I didn't...

MATT

She's been cancer free for over five years. We don't really publicize it. It was a hard time for us... as I'm sure you can imagine.

Realization crosses Nevyn's face. Blushes.

NEVYN  
Oh, my God. I was totally out of  
line.

MATT  
It's alright.

He edges toward the front door.

MATT  
I'm glad it worked out.

NEVYN  
She won't do it.

Matt stops. Turns back around.

NEVYN  
The surgery. She won't terminate  
her pregnancy. They need to take  
everything out... including her  
uterus.

Matt sinks down onto the top step. Rests his chin in his  
hands.

NEVYN  
I keep asking myself, what would I  
do if it were me? I don't think I  
could do it.

MATT  
You would do what needed to be  
done.

NEVYN  
All I can think about is how  
thankful I am that I don't have to  
make that decision.

Her teary eyes shift up to meet his.

NEVYN  
What kind of selfish, awful person  
would think something like that?

MATT  
You're not selfish, Nevyn. You're  
just human.

INT. TUCKER HOME - KITCHEN - DAY

Nevyn busily prepares two sack lunches. Meticulously wraps two sandwiches, drops them into the brown paper bags along with an orange and a juice box. Folds the tops down.

Logan and Kennedy sit at the table, quietly consuming their breakfast.

NEVYN

Hurry up, guys. You're gonna miss the bus.

KENNEDY

Why do we have to go to school but Courtney and Andrew don't?

NEVYN

They're... on vacation.

KENNEDY

Can't we be on vacation, too?

NEVYN

No, baby. You can't. C'mon.

Nevyn holds out one of the sacks. Kennedy takes it, gives Nevyn a hug and kiss. Heads out of the room.

NEVYN

Have a good day.

She turns to Logan who slurps the last of his cereal milk. She holds out his lunch.

NEVYN

Logan?

LOGAN

I'm going.

He grabs his backpack and heads out.

NEVYN

Wait. Your lunch.

LOGAN

I'm buying.

He exits. Nevyn chases him into the --

LIVING ROOM

Logan is already halfway to the front door.

NEVYN  
It's sloppy joes. You hate sloppy  
joes.

LOGAN  
I said I'm buying.

NEVYN  
Fine.

Nevyn tosses the lunch on the coffee table. Meets Logan in  
the --

FOYER

She grabs him from behind. Pulls him into a forced hug.

NEVYN  
It's okay to be scared... about  
Aunty Faith.

LOGAN  
I don't even know her. What do I  
care if she dies?

His words sting. Nevyn struggles to keep her cool.

NEVYN  
It's okay to be scared about your  
dad. Or angry. Or whatever else  
you're feeling.

Logan wiggles out of her grip. Rushes out the door. Nevyn  
stands in the doorway, watches Logan and Kennedy disappear  
down the street.

Nevyn closes the door, checks her watch. Heads up the  
stairs. Courtney and Andrew come barreling down the  
stairs. They fling themselves on the sofa, flip on the TV.

COURTNEY  
What's for breakfast?

Nevyn sighs. Heads back down the stairs and into the  
kitchen.

INT. TUCKER HOME - KENNEDY'S ROOM - DAY

Hope tosses and turns in bed. Finally sits up. Shields her  
eyes from the sunlight that streams in through the large  
window.

She goes to the window, attempts to pull down the shade, then sees something that catches her attention.

HOPE'S POV

Leanne is out in her garden pulling weeds. Covered in mud.

BACK TO SCENE

She stands there watching for a few moments.

INT. TUCKER HOME - KITCHEN - DAY

Hope trudges in, rubs her tired eyes. Sees Nevyn, Courtney and Andrew at the table.

HOPE  
What time do you people get up?

NEVYN  
Morning.

Hope heads for the refrigerator. Stares inside.

NEVYN  
Breakfast is on the table.

HOPE  
I need an energy drink.

NEVYN  
You can't drink those when you're pregnant.

Hope shuts the refrigerator door loudly. Grimaces at Nevyn.

HOPE  
That's bullshit. Pregnant women need energy drinks even more than un-pregnant women.

She wanders over to the table. Does a double take at Andrew. He's eating pancakes.

HOPE  
How'd you get him to eat that?

NEVYN  
I told him that's all we had.

Hope looks dumbfounded. Sinks into a chair. Nibbles on a pancake.

HOPE  
So, what's the plan?

NEVYN  
I don't know.

HOPE  
Well, we have to come up with  
one. We only have...

Hope lifts Nevyn's arm to glance at her watch.

HOPE  
... an hour to figure out a way to  
get her to the hospital.

NEVYN  
What would you do... if it were  
you?

Hope contemplates, but doesn't reply.

INT. TUCKER HOME - LOGAN'S ROOM - DAY

Faith sits up in bed, sifts through a box of old photos. A  
KNOCK on the door interrupts.

FAITH  
Come in.

Nevyn enters, joins her on the bed. Picks up a handful of  
pictures, flips through.

FAITH  
Look how skinny you were in this  
one.

She holds up a picture as evidence.

INSERT - OLD PHOTO

Five-year-old Nevyn poses on a white sand beach wearing a  
two-piece bathing suit. She is rail thin.

BACK TO SCENE

Nevyn takes the picture for a closer look.

FAITH  
I remember feeling so sorry for  
you. I thought they were starving  
you.

NEVYN

Is that why you used to sneak food  
up to my room? I just assumed you  
were trying to make me fat so you'd  
look thinner.

Faith snatches the picture back.

FAITH

Nice.

Nevyn flips to a new photo.

INSERT - OLD PHOTO

Ten-year-old Faith with wild, shoulder length curly hair.

BACK TO SCENE

She holds it out to Faith.

NEVYN

Oh, my God! Did you stick your  
finger in a socket, or what?

Faith joins Nevyn in laughter.

FAITH

That wasn't my fault. I told mom  
not to cut my hair that short.

She looks through more photos. Holds up another one.

INSERT - OLD PHOTO

A much younger group photo of Faith, Hope and Nevyn along  
with a chubby, freckle-faced boy.

BACK TO SCENE

Nevyn takes it from her. Studies it long and hard.

FAITH

Matt was smitten with you... even  
back then. You must've broke his  
heart when you married Rob.

Nevyn tosses it back into the box. Looks through more  
photos.

FAITH

Are you and Matt... ?

NEVYN

No.

FAITH

It's okay if you are.

NEVYN

We're not.

FAITH

You would tell me if you were,  
right?

NEVYN

Where's Bob? Why isn't he here  
with you... holding your hand  
through all of this? Does he know?

Faith scoops up the scattered pictures, tosses them back  
into the box. Replaces the lid.

FAITH

Bob? Bob...

NEVYN

Yes. Bob.

FAITH

Bob is a petri dish.

Nevyn looks genuinely shocked.

NEVYN

What?

FAITH

Oh don't look so shocked. You know  
there's no man on this Earth that's  
a perfect match for me. God knows  
I've spent enough time looking for  
the elusive Mr. Right. And then I  
realized I didn't need a man to  
make me happy... or to give me a  
child.

Faith grows solemn. Playful smile slowly fades away to  
resignation.

FAITH

I finally got what I've always  
wanted... and I'm gonna die before  
I can enjoy it.

Nevyn remains silent. Doesn't know what to say.

FAITH

I prayed before bed last night,  
which is weird because I don't even  
know if I believe in prayer  
anymore. I asked God to give me a  
sign...

NEVYN

Did he?

FAITH

Not a damn thing.

NEVYN

Remember that story the nuns used  
to tell us in school?

FAITH

You're gonna have to be more  
specific, Nev. The nuns told us a  
lot of stories... half of which  
were probably made up because they  
were drunk on altar wine.

Nevyn sprawls across the bed. Gets comfortable.

NEVYN

There was a great flood and a woman  
was trapped on the roof of her  
house. A piece of driftwood  
floated by with a man on it. The  
man called out: "Get on and I'll  
take you to safety." The woman  
replied: "I'm waiting for God to  
save me."

Faith remains silent, soaks in the story.

NEVYN

Time passed. The water level  
rose. A row boat sailed up with a  
man on it. The man called out:  
"Get on and I'll take you to  
safety". The woman replied: "I'm  
waiting for God to save me."

Nevyn pauses briefly, then continues.

NEVYN

More time passed. The water level  
rose dangerously high. A  
helicopter hovered nearby, dropped  
a rope and a man on board called

(MORE)

NEVYN (cont'd)

out: "Get on and I'll take you to safety." The woman replied: "I'm waiting for God to save me."

Faith hangs her head. Knows where this is going.

NEVYN

The water gradually rose and the woman drowned. When she got to Heaven and was before God, she asked: "Why didn't you save me? I had faith in you. I waited. But you never came." And God replied: "My child, I did try to save you. First I sent a man on driftwood, then a man in a boat and finally a man in a helicopter."

FAITH

Well, that's bullshit. All they had to do was yell out "God sent me."

NEVYN

The signs are always there... even if you don't recognize them.

Faith looks flustered.

FAITH

You're gonna have to clue me in, Nevyn, because I don't understand. What am I missing? What's the sign? He blessed me with a baby and now I have to give it up?

NEVYN

Maybe he gave you that baby to save your life. You wouldn't even know you had cancer if it weren't for the ultrasound.

FAITH

I won't be able to conceive after this surgery. How am I supposed to choose between having a baby and living? Why should I have to? Why can't I have both?

NEVYN

I don't know. I wish I had all the answers. But there's other ways to have a baby. When this is over and you still want to be a mother... I'll give you one of mine.

Faith tries to remain stern-faced but a smirk is just below the surface.

NEVYN

For the record, I'll be strenuously suggesting Logan.

A smile finally brightens Faith's expression. Nevyn pulls her into an embrace. Whispers in her ear.

NEVYN

If this surgery is your helicopter, can you afford to refuse it?

INT. HOSPITAL - EXAM ROOM - DAY

Faith lies on an exam table dressed in a hospital gown. A YOUNG NURSE stands beside her, explaining the procedure MOS.

INT. HOSPITAL - WAITING ROOM - SAME

Hope and Nevyn wait impatiently. Hope sits with her chin in her hands. Nevyn paces back and forth. Hope's phone RINGS. She checks the caller I.D. Hurries off.

HOPE

Be right back.

She walks a few yards away, answers the phone.

HOPE

You have to stop calling me.

GREG (V.O.)

How are my kids?

HOPE

They're your kids now? Since when?

GREG (V.O.)

I didn't call to fight. Just let me talk to them.

HOPE  
My kids are at home, with my  
mother.

GREG (V.O.)  
And where are you? Looking for  
your next baby daddy?

Hope moves the phone away from her ear. Takes a deep, shaky  
breath. Raises it back up.

HOPE  
I'm at the hospital, waiting while  
my sister has her pregnancy  
terminated so she can have her  
ovaries and uterus removed to save  
her life.

A long silence, then --

GREG  
Shit. How's she doing?

HOPE  
We've all got our hands pretty full  
right now, so I'd appreciate it if  
you would stop calling me every  
five minutes. I need to focus on  
my sister right now. I'll have the  
kids call you when I get home.

GREG  
I'm home, Hope. This is home.

Hope ends the call, puts her phone on vibrate.

LATER

Hope and Nevyn sit across each other in the waiting  
room. Hope's cell phone vibrates on the table between them.

NEVYN  
What if it's the kids?

HOPE  
It's not the kids.

NEVYN  
Are you and Greg... okay?

HOPE  
Fine.

A door opens and Dr. Williamson steps out. Hope and Nevyn hurry to his side.

NEVYN

Is it over?

HOPE

Is she okay?

DR. WILLIAMSON

The D&C went well. I had an opening in my schedule and I offered it to Faith. She'd like to go through with the surgery and get it over with.

NEVYN

Right now?

DR. WILLIAMSON

Very soon. Yes.

NEVYN

Can we see her first?

DR. WILLIAMSON

We're getting her prepped for surgery. It's probably best if you don't.

HOPE

How long will the surgery take?

DR. WILLIAMSON

A few hours. If you wanted to go home, I could call when --

NEVYN

No, we'll wait.

DR. WILLIAMSON

Okay. I'll send a nurse out to update you when there's news.

Nevyn nods. She and Hope go back to their seats. Dr. Williamson goes back in through the open door.

A few moments pass silently. Then Hope's cell phone starts to vibrate again.

INT. TUCKER HOME - KITCHEN - EVENING

Leanne prepares dinner at the stove. A loud argument filters in from the next room. She tries to ignore it for a few moments, then picks up the phone and dials.

INT. HOSPITAL - WAITING ROOM - EVENING

Hope walks up to Nevyn, hands her a soda and a bag of chips. Sits across of her.

HOPE  
Pregnancy comfort food.

Nevyn stares at the soda in her hand.

NEVYN  
We're not supposed to have  
caffeine.

HOPE  
I think we've both earned it.

Nevyn pops open the soda. Takes a sip. Phone RINGS. She gets her phone out of her purse. Looks at the screen.

NEVYN  
It's mom.  
(on phone)  
Who killed who?

INTERCUT - HOSPITAL WAITING ROOM / TUCKER KITCHEN

Leanne covers her other ear to hear over the screaming.

LEANNE  
No one's dead yet, but it's only a  
matter of time. Are you guys about  
done?

NEVYN  
She's still in surgery. What's  
that noise?

LEANNE  
They've been at it for hours. I'm  
fixing to lock them all in the  
basement.

Hope leans in. Anxious.

HOPE  
What's wrong?

NEVYN  
(to Hope)  
The kids are fighting.

HOPE  
My kids?

NEVYN  
(on phone)  
Mom, do you need us to come home?

LEANNE  
I just wanted to know how much  
longer I have to listen to  
this. That's all.  
(to kids)  
Would you keep it down in there!

Nevyn moves the phone away from her ear. Cautiously puts it back.

NEVYN  
Mom... one of us will be there in a  
little while, okay. Just... try  
not to kill them in the meantime.

She shoves her phone and chips into her purse. Stands up.

HOPE  
No, let me go. It was probably my  
kids that started it.

NEVYN  
Yeah, well, Kennedy has her diva  
moments. And Logan... Are you  
sure?

HOPE  
Yeah. I'll get them settled and  
come back for you.

NEVYN  
Y'know what, I'll just stay the  
night with Faith. I'll call  
tomorrow when we're ready to come  
home.

HOPE  
Okay. Call if you need anything.

Nevyn hands over the car keys. Hope disappears around the corner.

START MONTAGE:

A) Hope points sternly up the stairs. Courtney and Andrew trudge up the stairs, upset. Hope turns back to Logan, Kennedy and Caleb who sit on the sofa, pouting.

B) Leanne sits on the bathroom floor, weeping.

C) Dane sits at his computer. He closes a window containing a young female photo. Opens a new window and types: "ovarian cancer" in the search box.

D) Greg stands in the doorway of Courtney and Andrew's bedroom. Looks over the two empty beds.

E) Matt stands beside a work bench in the garage, applying a layer of stain to a piece of wooden furniture.

F) Hope tucks Courtney, Andrew, Kennedy and Caleb in for the night. They're all sound asleep.

INT. TUCKER HOME - LOGAN'S ROOM - NIGHT

Logan sits on his bed, turning a baseball over in his hand. A little knock is followed by Hope peeking her head in.

HOPE

Can I come in?

Logan nods. Hope joins him on the bed.

HOPE

Did your dad give that to you?

Logan nods again. Not in the mood to talk.

HOPE

Can I see?

Logan hands her the baseball. She looks it over. It's pretty worn out.

HOPE

I bet you and your dad had a lot of fun throwing this thing around.

Logan snatches the ball back. Tosses it into his nightstand drawer. Turns his back to Hope.

HOPE

Do you want to talk about him?

LOGAN

What for?

HOPE

Sometimes it helps to talk about something that's bothering you.

LOGAN

It doesn't bother me. He left. Whatever.

HOPE

If it didn't bother you, you wouldn't be so upset.

LOGAN

I'm not upset.

HOPE

Then why are you treating your mom so badly? She loves you and she's still here. She hasn't done anything wrong.

LOGAN

She made him leave!

Hope tries to hug Logan but he pushes her away.

HOPE

He chose to leave. It was his decision.

LOGAN

Maybe he wouldn't have left if she hadn't been so mean to him.

Hope grabs hold of Logan, turns him roughly to face her. Stern.

HOPE

There's things that went on between them that you don't understand... that you're not meant to understand. You mom didn't want him in her life anymore, but she didn't ask him not to be in yours. That was his choice. That's on him. It has nothing to do with anything you or Kennedy or Caleb or your mom did.

Logan's eyes tear up.

LOGAN

Why did he stop loving us?

HOPE

He didn't. A parent could never stop loving their child. Some people just have trouble showing it.

LOGAN

What's gonna happen if he never comes back?

HOPE

Then you'll still have your mom and all the rest of us.

INT. HOSPITAL - WAITING ROOM - NIGHT

Nevyn is alone in the waiting room, stretched across several seats. Eyes closed. She sits up suddenly, grabs her stomach. Face grimaces with pain.

DR. WILLIAMSON (O.S.)

Are you okay?

Nevyn looks up to find Dr. Williamson standing a few feet away, concerned. She straightens up. Gets to her feet.

NEVYN

How's Faith?

DR. WILLIAMSON

She's out of recovery. I just got her settled into her own room.

NEVYN

When can I see her?

She reaches for her stomach again. Grits her teeth.

DR. WILLIAMSON

What's wrong?

NEVYN

I don't know.

She sinks back into her seat.

INT. HOSPITAL - EMERGENCY ROOM - NIGHT

Nevyn lies on an exam table wearing a hospital gown. An ER DOCTOR (30s) replaces an ultrasound wand. Turns the monitor off.

ER DOCTOR  
There's no heartbeat.

Nevyn sits in shock. Tries to absorb the information.

NEVYN  
No... it was just some cramps. I had it with my oldest and he was fine. Can you check again?

ER DOCTOR  
I'm sorry, Mrs. Thompson. It looks like the baby stopped growing right after your ultrasound.

NEVYN  
It's... that can't be right.

ER DOCTOR  
Is there someone I could call?

NEVYN  
(urgent)  
No.

She shakes her head vehemently.

NEVYN  
There's no one.

ER DOCTOR  
You'll need a D&C. You shouldn't be alone for that.

NEVYN  
No. I don't want it. I have to go.

She slides off the bed. Slips her jeans on under the gown.

ER DOCTOR  
You could wait to miscarry naturally, but it could take anywhere from two to six weeks.

NEVYN

I'll wait.

ER DOCTOR

I really wouldn't suggest --

NEVYN

I need to get dressed. I have to go.

ER Doctor nods. Heads for the door. Once he's gone, Nevyn finishes getting dressed. Mechanical. No emotion.

INT. HOSPITAL - FAITH'S ROOM - NIGHT

Faith lies in bed, sound asleep. An IV is attached to her hand. Nevyn sits in a chair beside the bed. Watches the rhythmic dripping of the IV. Transfixed. She holds Faith's hand.

DR. WILLIAMSON (O.S.)

You should go home.

Nevyn looks up to find Dr. Williamson in the doorway. He enters, stands on the other side of the bed.

DR. WILLIAMSON

Get some rest. You've been here all day.

NEVYN

I wanna be here when she gets up.

DR. WILLIAMSON

She'll be out until morning, at least.

NEVYN

I don't want her to be alone.

DR. WILLIAMSON

She won't be alone.

He pulls up a chair and sits. Takes Faith's other hand. Nevyn lets go.

NEVYN

I don't have a way home. Hope had to leave...

Dr. Williamson motions out the door. Nevyn cranes her neck to see Matt standing in the hallway. She turns to Dr. Williamson, alarmed.

NEVYN  
You didn't --

DR. WILLIAMSON  
I didn't. But you should.

INT. HOSPITAL - CORRIDOR - NIGHT

Matt and Nevyn walk down the hall, distance and silence between them. They come to an elevator. Matt pushes the down arrow. A few beats, then the door DINGS open. They enter the --

ELEVATOR

Nevyn hits the lobby button. The doors close.

MATT  
So Faith's surgery went well?

NEVYN  
Dr. Williamson said it went as well as could be expected. He'll run some more tests tomorrow and we'll discuss when to start chemo.

MATT  
That's good.  
(beat)  
How're you doing?

The elevator DINGS open before she can respond. She exits.

INT. MATT'S CAR (MOVING) - NIGHT

Matt drives. Nevyn sits beside him, stares out the window, stoic.

MATT  
Have you eaten today? I could stop and get you something.

NEVYN  
I'm not hungry.

MATT  
You might not be, but I'm sure the baby is.

NEVYN

I need to get home... to my kids.

MATT

Are you taking your prenatal vitamins?

NEVYN

Matt --

MATT

I know. I'm sorry.

EXT. MATT'S HOME - DRIVEWAY - NIGHT

Matt's car pulls up. The passenger door opens and Nevyn makes a bee-line across the lawn, heads toward her house. The driver's door opens a second later and Matt leaps out.

MATT

Nevyn, hold on...

Nevyn continues on.

NEVYN

Matt, I'm sorry. I'm not trying to be rude, but it's been a long day...

Matt catches up, takes her hand.

MATT

It'll just take a second. I wanna show you something.

Nevyn doesn't want to go and it shows on her face.

MATT

Two minutes. Tops.

Nevyn glances at the front door of her house. Sighs. Allows Matt to lead her back to his driveway. He lifts up the garage door, flips on a light.

GARAGE

The entire garage has been converted into a workshop. In the center sits a large workbench. Atop the bench is a beautifully ornate, handcrafted cradle.

Nevyn stops in her tracks when she sees it. Matt tries to tug her further in to get a better look but she holds firm. He lets go of her hand, continues to the cradle.

MATT

I bought one of those diaper changing table pads and I cut it to fit inside, so it should be nice and comfy.

Nevyn stands in shock, mouth open, eyes fixed.

NEVYN

Matt --

MATT

I went with a light stain but I can darken it up if it's a boy, make it more manly.

NEVYN

Matt, please --

MATT

I went back and forth about whether to build a crib or a cradle. But then I figured a cradle is smaller and would fit better in your room when the baby is itty bitty and getting up at all hours of the --

NEVYN

I lost the baby.

Matt turns to her. Utter dismay in his eyes.

MATT

You lost it... as in you can't find it?

NEVYN

Matt...

MATT

You couldn't mean that it died. Because if that were the case, you would've found a better way to tell me. You wouldn't have let me talk your ear off about the baby all the way home and you wouldn't have let me bring you in here and show you this cradle that I've been working on ever since I found out you were pregnant.

He waits for Nevyn to reply but she remains tight-lipped.

MATT

So this is another lie,  
right? Kind of like when you told  
your entire family that you were  
having Rob's baby.

Nevyn's jaw tightens. Expression hardens.

NEVYN

I couldn't tell you in the car. If  
I said it out loud...

Matt takes the cradle off the workbench. Sets it on the floor. Stomps on it repeatedly until it crumbles. Nevyn flinches at the unexpected noise.

MATT

There. Now we can pretend the  
whole thing never happened. My  
parents won't have to know they  
lost a grandchild before they even  
had one. And your family won't  
have to know you jumped the  
fence. No scarlet A on your  
chest. No ripples in your divorce  
proceedings. No strings. Nothing.

Nevyn is too stunned to respond. In another fit of anger, Matt kicks the pieces of broken wood across the garage. She walks out of the garage without saying another word.

INT. TUCKER HOME - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Keys JINGLE as Nevyn lets herself in. She creeps through the darkened room. Heads up the stairs.

LEANNE (O.S.)

Is she okay?

Nevyn starts. Turns to find Leanne's silhouette on the sofa. She flips on a light. Sees Leanne covered with an afghan, a pillow behind her back.

NEVYN

You're sleeping on the sofa now?

LEANNE

You didn't call. You said you'd  
call.

NEVYN

It was late. I didn't want to wake the kids.

LEANNE

You could've called my cell.

NEVYN

She's fine. It went well. I'll fill you in tomorrow.

She continues up the stairs.

LEANNE

What about you? You look...

NEVYN

I'm tired. Night.

She disappears up the stairs.

INT. TUCKER HOME - BATHROOM - NIGHT

Nevyn stands in the steamy shower. She lathers her bath sponge, then rubs it absently across her perfectly flat abdomen.

INT. HOSPITAL - FAITH'S ROOM - DAY

Faith's eyes slowly open. She looks around the room. Finds and fixes on Dr. Williamson slouched in a chair beside her bed. He sits upright upon noticing her awake.

DR. WILLIAMSON

Hey, you're awake. How do you feel?

Faith struggles to sit upright. Grimaces with pain.

FAITH

A little sore.

Dr. Williamson pushes a button on the bed. A mechanical BUZZ fills the room as the back of the bed lifts Faith into an upright position.

DR. WILLIAMSON

Better?

She nods.

FAITH  
You're here early.

Dr. Williamson consults a clock.

DR. WILLIAMSON  
Wanted to get a head start on my  
cases.

He gets up. Heads for the door.

DR. WILLIAMSON  
I'll send a nurse in with some pain  
meds.

FAITH  
Where's Nevyn?

DR. WILLIAMSON  
I sent her home for a few  
winks. Thought I was gonna have to  
get security to escort her out.

Faith smiles.

DR. WILLIAMSON  
You should do that more often. It  
suits you.

He exits the room. Faith searches around for something. Finally locates the phone. Attempts to dial. A familiar nurse, Olivia, enters with a smile.

OLIVIA  
Dr. Williamson said you were  
wanting something for the pain.

She takes Faith's hand, sets two tablets in her palm. Hands her a glass of water.

FAITH  
I was kind of hoping for Tequila.

Olivia smiles as Faith downs the pain pills. Hands the cup back.

OLIVIA  
He was here all night, y'know.

FAITH  
Dr. Williamson?

OLIVIA  
His shift ended at eight.

INT. TUCKER HOME - NEVYN'S ROOM - DAY

An alarm BLARES. Nevyn lies in bed, covered head to toe. The alarm suddenly ends. Nevyn uncovers her head to find Kennedy standing beside the bed.

KENNEDY  
We're gonna be late for school.

NEVYN  
You don't have to go to school today.

Kennedy perks up. All smiles.

KENNEDY  
Really?

NEVYN  
Really.

Nevyn covers her head back up. Kennedy skips from the room.

HALLWAY

She runs into Leanne.

LEANNE  
Get ready for school.

KENNEDY  
Mommy said we didn't have to go today.

LEANNE  
You're absolutely going to school today.

Kennedy sighs loudly. Stomps into her bedroom. Slams the door. Leanne walks into --

NEVYN'S BEDROOM

Goes over to the bed, pulls back the blanket. Nevyn stares up at her.

LEANNE

Get up.

Nevyn tries to tug the blanket back over her head. Leanne holds onto it.

NEVYN

I'm tired.

LEANNE

Your kids need to be sent off to school.

NEVYN

They're not going.

LEANNE

They're going.

NEVYN

They're my kids and I say they don't have to go.

LEANNE

Well, they're my grand kids and this is my house. They're going to school and you're getting out of bed. Your sister needs you.

NEVYN

She needs you, too, mom.

Leanne heads for the door.

LEANNE

I need to run to the store before you and Hope head out for the hospital.

EXT. TUCKER HOME - DRIVEWAY - DAY

Nevyn stands at the edge of the driveway, watches Kennedy and Logan board the school bus at the end of the street. As Logan steps up to the door, he turns to Nevyn. Waves. She waves back. Smiles.

INT. HOSPITAL - CORRIDOR - DAY

Hope and Nevyn walk down the hallway. Hope carries a huge bouquet of colorful spring flowers. Nevyn holds a handful of "Get Well Soon" mylar balloons.

HOPE  
Think she'll like it?

NEVYN  
Nothing says "sorry your  
reproductive organs were removed"  
like flowers and balloons.

Hope stops to stare at her. Nevyn continues on, into --

HOPE'S ROOM

Nevyn stops in the doorway when she sees Greg sitting in the chair beside Faith's bed. Hope walks in a second later, collides into her.

HOPE  
Hey, what the --

She fights off the balloons until getting a clear shot of Greg. She releases the balloons, lets them flutter freely, obstructing Greg's view of her. Steps behind Nevyn.

HOPE  
Did he see me?

NEVYN  
Pretty sure he did.

Greg walks over, parts the balloons.

GREG  
Can I talk to you in the hallway?

INT. HOSPITAL - FAITH'S ROOM - DAY

Faith and Nevyn sit in silence, staring out the open door. Greg and Hope converse in the hallway.

FAITH  
Can you hear anything?

NEVYN  
Nope. You?

FAITH

Nothing.

(out loud)

Hey, can you guys talk a little louder? People are trying to eavesdrop in here.

Greg closes the door.

FAITH

Well, there goes that idea. You'll have to get the details and fill me in later.

NEVYN

Has Dr. Williamson been by today?

FAITH

He was here this morning.

NEVYN

Did he say when we would know more about the chemo?

FAITH

Do you think they're happy?

NEVYN

Who?

FAITH

Greg and Hope... mom and dad... Romeo and Juliet. Cinderella and Prince Charming.

NEVYN

Romeo and Juliet died.

FAITH

But do you think it's possible for two people to actually be happy together? I personally think it's all just a big scam.

Nevyn sighs deeply. Adjusts her position in her chair. Puts a hand to her stomach. Looks like she might be in a moderate amount of pain.

NEVYN

I want to talk about your chemo right now.

FAITH

You have no idea how lucky you are.

NEVYN

I'm gonna see if Dr. Williamson is around.

She tries to stand up, but Faith grabs her hand.

FAITH

Mom is stuck with dad. She's retired. She can't live off what little money she has to her name. So she basically has to sit around being miserable waiting for dad to decide if he's staying or running off to chase some young piece of ass.

Nevyn grimaces in pain, grips the handle of her chair so hard her knuckles turn white. Faith continues, oblivious.

FAITH

Hope has three and a half kids with a man she can't depend on. She'll probably end up working herself to death while he continues to blow his money on anything but bills. I'm infertile and cancer-ridden. And then there's you --

NEVYN

My husband gave up on our marriage.

FAITH

I hate to break it to you, Nev, but you gave up way before he did. You were just better at faking it.

NEVYN

What would make all this better for you, Faith? Would it help if Hope and I lost our babies, too? Or do we have to get cancer?

FAITH

Yeah. Maybe it would help. Maybe it wouldn't seem like the universe was punishing me for something I haven't done.

Nevyn pulls away from Faith's grip. Clutches her stomach. Heads for the door.

NEVYN  
I need a break.

Faith screams after her --

FAITH  
Yeah, go hide in the bathroom and  
cry.

Nevyn bolts through the door, leaves it open behind her.  
Stomps down the --

HOSPITAL CORRIDOR

Faith's yells spill out.

FAITH (O.S.)  
Where's my break, Nevyn? I want  
one, too.

Greg and Hope stare after her.

HOPE  
Nevyn? What happened?

Nevyn continues on without as much as a backwards  
glance. Turns a corner and is gone. Hope and Greg head  
into Faith's room.

INT. HOSPITAL - CORRIDOR - DAY

Nevyn stops to brace herself against a wall. Doubles over  
with pain.

An elevator DINGS open and Matt exits with a bouquet of  
flowers. Nevyn quickly straightens up upon seeing  
him. Does her best to act normal.

MATT  
How's Faith doing?

NEVYN  
She's right down the hall. You  
should take those to her. She  
loves flowers.

MATT  
How're you doing?

NEVYN  
Fine. Taking a bathroom break.

MATT

Okay. So, I'll see you inside.

She nods. Forces a smile. Matt pauses for a few moments, then heads off down the hall.

INT. HOSPITAL - BATHROOM - DAY

Nevyn sits on the floor in the handicapped stall. Tears roll down her cheeks as she dumps the contents of her purse out. Sifts through the various items before finding a sheet of paper that looks like a medical discharge form. Picks up her cell and dials a number highlighted on the paper.

INT. HOSPITAL - FAITH'S ROOM - DAY

Matt knocks on the open door to get the attention of Faith, Hope and Greg. They stare at him as if he has a third eye.

MATT

Hey. Nevyn said I could stop by and drop this off.

FAITH

I already have flowers.

Hope takes the bouquet from him.

HOPE

They're pretty. Thank you.

She sets the flowers next to the other bouquet. Returns to Greg's side. The four of them remain in silence for a few beats.

MATT

Is Nevyn okay? She looked --

HOPE

We were just trying to figure that out.

(to Faith)

What'd you say to her?

FAITH

Yeah, sure. Blame me.

HOPE

What happened?

FAITH

I don't know. We were talking and then her face got all scrunched up and she ran out of here holding her stomach.

Matt races out of the room.

FAITH

What? It's probably gas or something.

INT. HOSPITAL - BATHROOM - DAY

Nevyn stuffs her belongings back into her purse. Gets to her feet. Takes one step out of the stall before collapsing.

OUTSIDE BATHROOM

Matt stops outside the door, out of breath. KNOCKS.

MATT

Nevyn? You okay?

He waits, knocks again.

MATT

Nevyn!?

BATHROOM

Nevyn is passed out on the floor. A trail of blood from her to the bathroom stall.

The door opens and Matt enters. Rushes to her side. Sweeps her into his arms.

INT. HOSPITAL - EMERGENCY ROOM - NIGHT

Hope, Greg, Leanne, Matt and all the kids sit in the waiting room. Anxious. For once, the kids are actually getting along.

HOPE

Shouldn't we know something by now?

GREG

She's in surgery. It takes time.

HOPE

Shouldn't someone ask somebody.

They all look around at each other. Matt stands up, heads for the reception desk.

An ORDERLY pushes Faith in a wheelchair up to the group.

FAITH

This is fine. Thanks.

The orderly puts the breaks on.

ORDERLY

Page me when you're ready to go back to your room.

Faith nods. Orderly walks off. She looks over the gathered group. Pauses on Leanne.

FAITH

Mom, I don't know if you heard, but I had life altering surgery yesterday.

Leanne sighs. Walks away.

FAITH

I'm great. Thanks for asking.

Matt rejoins the group.

MATT

They wouldn't tell me anything. I'm not family.

KENNEDY

Daddy!

Kennedy, Caleb and Logan leap from their chairs and converge on Rob (30s), aged slightly since we saw him on the wedding video. He scoops the kids into his arms, puts on a nauseating show of improvised affection.

ROB

I missed you guys. Are you being good for mommy?

The adults exchange concerned looks. The kids all answer at once, making it hard to understand any of them.

ROB  
I'm gonna talk to grandma for a  
minute, okay?

He makes his way to the adults with the kids still clinging  
to him.

HOPE  
What're you doing here?

ROB  
The hospital called. Apparently  
I'm still listed as her emergency  
contact.

FAITH  
I'll make sure she changes that as  
soon as possible.

Rob turns to Faith. Notices the wheelchair and hospital  
gown.

ROB  
What the hell happened to you?

Faith scoffs. Looks away.

ROB  
They said she had a miscarriage. I  
didn't even know she was pregnant.

FAITH  
If I was carrying your spawn, I  
wouldn't be shouting it from the  
rooftops either.

ROB  
My spawn?

Matt suddenly looks nervous.

MATT  
Can we focus on Nevyn and not make  
this into a huge argument?

ROB  
Who the hell're you?

Matt folds his arms across his chest.

HOPE  
He's Nevyn's friend.

Rob smiles maliciously.

ROB  
 Well, Nevyn and I haven't had...  
 (glances at kids)  
 ... relations in over a year.  
 (to Matt)  
 But I got five bucks on Nevyn's  
 "friend".

Matt hangs his head. Walks off. No one knows what to say. Then --

FAITH  
 I bet you don't even have five  
 bucks.

INT. HOSPITAL - NEVYN'S ROOM - NIGHT

Nevyn lies in bed, hospital gown on, hooked up to an IV and various monitors. ER Doctor enters. Picks up her chart. Looks it over.

ER DOCTOR  
 Looks like your bleeding is slowing  
 down. Any discomfort?

Nevyn shakes her head. Doctor replaces her chart. Stands beside the bed.

ER DOCTOR  
 Your entire family is in the  
 waiting room. They're asking to  
 see you.

NEVYN  
 I don't want to see anyone.

ER DOCTOR  
 Your husband is in the hall.

Nevyn turns to him. Serious.

NEVYN  
 If you let my husband in here, I'll  
 sue you and this entire hospital.

Matt peeks his head in the doorway.

MATT  
 I won't stay long.

Nevyn looks over. Doesn't object. ER Doctor heads for the door.

ER DOCTOR

Press your call button if you need anything.

He exits. Matt replaces him beside the bed. Smooths Nevyn's hair back. She rolls onto her side, back to him. He pulls up a chair, sits.

MATT

I don't blame you for being angry.

NEVYN

I'm not mad at you. But I see absolutely no reason for you to stick around. You want kids and now I can't give you any.

Matt walks around the bed. Sits beside her. Turns her face to look at him.

MATT

We don't need to have kids together to be happy.

NEVYN

I didn't feel anything. I wasn't happy. I wasn't scared or anxious. I didn't feel... love. I felt nothing. Maybe that's why it was so easy for me to convince my sister to end her pregnancy. Maybe I wanted her to feel as emotionless and disconnected as I was. Maybe I was jealous of the excitement that was oozing out of every pore of her body when she found out. And if that's the kind of person I am, you're better off this way.

MATT

Well... good luck getting rid of me.

He folds his arms across his chest stubbornly.

MATT

I gotta be honest. I'm in love with you. And I usually get what I want. Eventually.

Tears drip down Nevyn's cheeks. A tiny smile creeps across her lips.

MATT

Mush over. I'm staying until they  
kick me out.

Nevyn scoots over, giving Matt just enough room to lay  
beside her. She rests her head on his chest. Closes her  
eyes.

INT. HOSPITAL - WAITING ROOM - NIGHT

An orderly wheels Faith away. Leanne follows.

FAITH

If you get to see Nevyn, tell her  
I'm sorry.

LEANNE

You can tell her yourself...  
later. I'm going with you.

She puts a supportive hand on Faith's shoulder. Turns to  
Hope.

LEANNE

Oh, the kids.

HOPE

I've got them. Go.

Leanne, Faith and the orderly disappear around the  
corner. Hope gathers up Andrew and Courtney.

Across the room, Rob sits with a sleeping Caleb in his lap,  
Logan and Kennedy seated on either side of him.

ROB

Well, that's my cue to leave.

He carries Caleb over to Hope and Greg.

ROB

Who wants him?

Greg takes Caleb. Rob makes a bee-line for the exit.

LOGAN

Dad, wait.

Logan runs after him.

LOGAN

Maybe we should stay with you for a while... 'til mom comes home.

Rob flashes Hope and Greg a "help me" look. They don't.

ROB

That's not a good idea, buddy. Where I live... you guys are better off with your mom. She'll be back soon.

KENNEDY

When will we see you again?

ROB

Soon, okay? I promise.

He tries to walk out but Kennedy clings to his waist. Sobs.

ROB

My ride's here. I gotta go.

He pries her fingers off of him, hurries out. They watch as he climbs into a car with a FEMALE DRIVER. Car speeds off.

Logan puts an arm around Kennedy, leads her out.

INT. TUCKER HOME - KITCHEN - DAY

Hope stands in front of the open refrigerator, stares inside. There isn't much food. Takes out a nearly empty gallon of milk and a pizza box. Greg wanders into the kitchen.

GREG

What's for breakfast?

She holds up her finds.

GREG

Milk and...

He flips over the lid of the pizza box.

GREG

One slice of pizza. For ten people?

HOPE

Gimme a break, okay. My mom's been at the hospital with Faith doing her chemo and Nevyn's...

GREG  
I'll go shopping.

HOPE  
Thank you.

She digs into her purse. Pulls out her wallet.

GREG  
I got it.

He kisses her on the cheek, walks out of the kitchen.

INT. HOSPITAL - CORRIDOR - DAY

Leanne stands outside Faith's room. A loud argument can be heard from inside.

FAITH (O.S.)  
No. I'm not doing it anymore. I'm done.

Leanne gets out her cell phone, dials.

INTERCUT - HOSPITAL / TUCKER KITCHEN

Hope sets down the half-eaten slice of pizza. Answers the phone. Chewing.

HOPE  
(mouth full)  
Hello?

LEANNE  
Hope?

Hope swallows, takes a drink of milk straight from the carton.

HOPE  
What's up?

LEANNE  
She's refusing the chemo.

HOPE  
What? No, I just saw her yesterday. She was fine.

LEANNE  
That's before her hair started falling out. You need to send Nevyn.

HOPE  
 Mom, she's not gonna --

LEANNE  
 You have to find a way to get her  
 here.

INT. TUCKER HOME - NEVYN'S ROOM - DAY

Nevyn lies in bed, curled up on her side. She stares at a blank wall. Emotionless. Her hair is greasy and disheveled. Looks like it's been a while since her last shower.

A KNOCK on the door fails to get her attention. The door opens. Hope steps in.

HOPE  
 Feeling any better?

No response.

HOPE  
 How's about I run you a shower?

Still nothing from Nevyn.

HOPE  
 Mom called. She needs your  
 help. Faith's refusing her chemo.

Hope walks around the bed. Tries to get into Nevyn's line of vision. Nevyn rolls over onto her other side.

HOPE  
 You're a hypocrite.

NEVYN  
 What?!

HOPE  
 Faith had cancer and you wouldn't  
 let her give up. But here you are,  
 doing exactly the same thing.

NEVYN  
 Forgive me, Hope, for wanting to  
 take a few days to myself. I've  
 put in my time. I did the best I  
 could for Faith and what did I get  
 in return?

HOPE

Okay. Fine.

She walks back around the bed. Sits beside Nevyn.

HOPE

I'm not as good as you are getting people to do things they don't want to do. It's a gift, you know. But I'll go. And you can stay here in your lonely little sanctuary.

(beat)

But before I go, you're taking a shower.

NEVYN

No, I'm not.

HOPE

Yes, you are.

NEVYN

I don't need a shower.

HOPE

Trust me, you do. Don't you see those flies buzzing around you?

Hope swats at imaginary flies.

NEVYN

I don't stink.

HOPE

You do too stink. And there's enough grease in your hair to fry chicken.

Nevyn whacks Hope across the face with a pillow. Hope picks up a pillow and whacks her right back. An all out pillow fight ensues.

INT. TUCKER HOME - DANE'S BEDROOM - DAY

Dane sits at his usual spot in front of the computer. Nevyn KNOCKS, then enters. Dane quickly switches from his open window from a dating site to a solitaire game, turns to her.

DANE

Did you bring my lunch or am I not eating today?

NEVYN

I don't know if you're aware, but  
your daughter has cancer and she's  
in the hospital.

Dane sighs laboriously. Swivels his chair around, faces his  
back to her. Plays solitaire.

Nevyn pulls the plug on his computer. Screen goes black.

NEVYN

She's refusing her chemo. I have  
an idea, but I'll need everyone's  
support.

Dane hangs his head.

DANE

I can't go over there. I can't see  
one of my children... like that.

NEVYN

Like what? Sick?  
(beat)  
There's still time to fix things.  
Don't wait until it's too late.

INT. HOSPITAL - WAITING ROOM - DAY

Leanne sits alone, head rested against her hand. Looks like  
she just lost her last friend in the world. A hand comes  
down on her shoulder. She looks over to find Dane beside  
her.

INT. HOSPITAL - FAITH'S ROOM - DAY

Faith's eyes flutter open. She looks thin, pale and  
sickly. Deep, dark circles underline her eyes.

Hope, Nevyn, Matt, Greg, Leanne, Dane and all of the kids  
stand in front of her bed wearing long auburn wigs.

FAITH

This is the weirdest dream I've  
ever had.

Nevyn pinches her foot.

FAITH

Ow!

NEVYN  
 Dreams don't hurt.

FAITH  
 Then what? Is it Halloween  
 already?

HOPE  
 We're starting a band. We're gonna  
 call it "Faith and the Chemo-ettes"

FAITH  
 That's awful.

HOPE  
 Okay. We'll work on the title.

Hope tosses an identical wig into Faith's lap.

KENNEDY  
 Put it on!

FAITH  
 No way. I don't want to look as  
 stupid as you guys.

NEVYN  
 That's kinda the point.

Matt goes to the door, sticks his head out, calls  
 someone. Dr. Williamson enters with a Polaroid camera.

Nevyn sits on the bed beside Faith. Helps her into the  
 wig. The entire, wigged family gathers around Faith. Dr.  
 William gets into position at the foot of the bed.

DR. WILLIAMSON  
 Say cheese.

ALL  
 Cheese.

Dr. Williamson snaps a picture. It zips out of the bottom  
 of the camera. He hands it to Nevyn. She shakes it a bit,  
 then hands it to Faith.

NEVYN  
 Now, every time you get your chemo,  
 I want you to take this with  
 you. And when you need reminding,  
 just look down. Not only will  
 there always be at least eleven  
 people that love you... but we all  
 look worse in that wig than you do.

Faith tears up. Pulls Nevyn into hug. The rest of the family piles on. One giant group hug.

When they finally separate, Faith holds the photo up. It's now completely developed.

MATCH CUT:

INT. HOSPITAL - CHEMOTHERAPY ROOM - EVENING

Still on the family picture. Faith lowers the picture to reveal --

Dr. Williamson stands by the door, watching over her.

Faith is starting to look more like her normal self. Cheeks have filled back in. Circles under her eyes have lightened. A scarf is tied around her head.

FAITH

You're starting to make this a habit.

DR. WILLIAMSON

What can I say? You're my favorite patient.

Faith smiles. Blushes slightly.

FAITH

Don't let the others hear you. The cute blonde next door has "I heart Dr. Williamson" written all over her journal.

She takes one more look at her photo, then tucks it into her purse.

DR. WILLIAMSON

Who's picking you up today?

FAITH

I don't know. You didn't see any member of my family roaming the halls, did you?

DR. WILLIAMSON

Not that I recall. And they're all pretty memorable, aren't they?

FAITH  
That they are.

Faith reaches for a call button.

DR. WILLIAMSON  
Let me.

He sits on a stool, pushes it up to Faith. Begins disconnecting her from her chemo IV. Hands linger on her arm longer than they have to. Eyes lock together. He grins nervously.

FAITH  
They were all a bunch of cling-ons when I had cancer... and now that I'm out of the woods, no one's around.

DR. WILLIAMSON  
They probably just forgot. I can drop you, if you want.

FAITH  
No. That's okay. I'll call a cab.

DR. WILLIAMSON  
My shift is over. And it's on the way.

He gets to his feet. Holds a hand out to her. She takes it with a smile.

FAITH  
Okay.

EXT. TUCKER HOME - FRONT PORCH - EVENING

Dr. Williamson walks Faith up to the door. She fishes some keys out of her purse. Surprised to find him still standing there.

FAITH  
I would invite you in, but you probably --

DR. WILLIAMSON  
I'd love to.

She unlocks the door. Steps into --

INT. TUCKER HOME - FOYER - CONTINUOUS

Faith and Dr. Williamson are barely past the threshold when the lights go on, and --

ALL  
Surprise!

The entire family stand in the living room that is decorated for a party. A garish banner hanging above the fireplace reads: "Happy Cancer-free Day".

Faith smiles, takes it all in. Turns to Dr. Williamson.

FAITH  
You were in on this, weren't you?

DR. WILLIAMSON  
A little bit. Yeah.

The family converges on Faith for hugs and kisses. There are smiles on everyone's faces. They all look very happy. Someone puts some music on. The party begins.

FADE OUT