

**ACT ONE SCENE ONE**

*Charles is sitting on the bed reading a gossip magazine. Deanna is sitting by her desk typing on her computer.*

CHARLES

Deanna, listen to this (*reading*) Justin Bieber will be taking another paternity test because a seventy-five year old woman is pregnant and claims Justin is the father. Can you believe that? These magazines are ridiculous. What idiot would buy and read this crap?

DEANNA

Didn't you buy that?

CHARLES

Oh yeah. (*Beat*) So what are you doing?

DEANNA

I'm trying to finish this paper for school. I hate papers. No matter how hard I try I can't seem to get to the minimum page count.

CHARLES

How many pages do you need?

DEANNA

The paper has to be at least twelve pages long.

CHARLES

How many do you have so far?

DEANNA

One.

CHARLES

I'm so sick of college. I wish I could drop out without my parents finding out.

DEANNA

Why would you want to drop out?

CHARLES

College is not for me. I want to travel and let life educate me. It's so much more fun. It's so much more real.

DEANNA

My mother would strangle me if I dropped out. I'm actually only doing this for her.

CHARLES

We have to stop doing this. Why are we living our lives for our parents? They lived theirs we should be able to live ours.

DEANNA

They didn't live theirs. They lived their parents'.

CHARLES

Well, no more of children living their parents' lives. If parents can't seem to live their own life it's not our fault. I'm going to start living my own life.

DEANNA

So you're going to drop out of college and start living your own life?

CHARLES

No. I'm going to graduate first for the sake of my parents and then live my own life. I'm free, but I'm not dumb. I'm not trying to hear my parents cry and complain.

ANDREA

*Enters with a stamped envelope in her hand.* Hey Deanna.

DEANNA

Hey mom.

CHARLES

Hey Ms. Fields.

ANDREA

Hey, Charlie. I didn't even realize you were here.

DEANNA

Mom, you don't look so good.

ANDREA

Thanks for the compliment. I had a rough day at work today.

CHARLES

I guess that's why they call it work.

ANDREA

Yes it is.

CHARLES

So, what's for dinner, Ms. Fields?

ANDREA

Whatever your mother is cooking.

CHARLES

Oh, I was shot down by my friend's mother.

ANDREA

You know I'm just playing. I am beat though. There are leftovers in the fridge. You're welcome to help yourselves.

CHARLES

Thank you Ms. Fields.

ANDREA

I'm going to lie down. Please keep it quiet okay.

DEANNA

Okay, mother.

ANDREA

*(As she walks out she remembers the envelope in her hand).* Oh, I almost forgot. You got a letter from your trifling, no good excuse of man who needs to be shot a couple of times so he can get right father. *(Hands her the letter).*

DEANNA

Mom.

ANDREA

Don't forget now, keep it down.

CHARLES

OKAY MS. FIELDS!

ANDREA

Very funny. *Exits.*

CHARLES

So apparently your mother has not forgiven your father yet.

DEANNA

You wouldn't understand.

CHARLES

Then make me understand.

DEANNA

There's nothing to explain.

CHARLES

Then there shouldn't be anything I can't understand.

DEANNA

Just forget it.

CHARLES

No matter what he did you must forgive him. The bible says so. You need to remind your mother that. I mean she is a Christian, right?

DEANNA

Yeah, but you know how Christians are; they pick and choose which scriptures they want to obey. *(She opens the letter and reads it. As Charles speaks it is clear that there is something wrong with Deanna).*

CHARLES

I know what you mean. There is this lady at my mom's church who be singing in the choir. I know I saw her last week at the club shaking her thang. I mean she was rubbing against the man she was dancing with so hard you have thought she was scratching it. *(He notices Deanna's blank face).* D. Deanna, what's wrong? Girl, what's the problem? Girl, you look constipated; please tell me what's wrong? DEANNA!

DEANNA

What.

CHARLES

What's wrong with you?

DEANNA

What?

CHARLES

What's wrong with you?

DEANNA

What!

CHARLES

Girl, if I have to ask again, what is the problem?

DEANNA

*(Pause)* What were you saying about Justin?

CHARLES

What?

DEANNA

You said something about Justin Beiber.

CHARLES

Deanna, don't change the subject. What's wrong? What does the letter say?

DEANNA

Do you think Justin could really be with a seventy-five year old? He doesn't seem like the type of person to do that.

CHARLES

Deanna. *(He takes the letter. She tries to take it back).* Stop it.

DEANNA

Give it back. It doesn't belong to you.

CHARLES

Why do you always shut me out of your life?

DEANNA

I do not.

CHARLES

Every time I mention your father you get like this. What is the problem?

DEANNA

There is no problem. Give me the letter back.

CHARLES

*(He stands).* Dear Ruby; oh that's so sweet he calls you by your middle name. Dear Ruby, it has been a long time since I have written you. I hope you actually take the time to read this. I see you have changed your phone number. And you are not accepting my friendship on facespace. *(To Deanna)* What is wrong with you? Why are you ignoring your father?

DEANNA

I told you, you wouldn't understand.

CHARLES

I am just writing you to let you know Grammy is ill and the doctor says it won't be long. She wants to see you before; well I think you know. Please come by so she can see. So we can all see you. We miss you and your mother. Love, your father, David Reed.

Wow. That's so sad; I'm sorry to hear that. Why do people apologize for hearing bad news? (*Slight pause*) So, when are you going?

Where? DEANNA

To see your Grammy? CHARLES

I'm not going. DEANNA

Why not? CHARLES

I told you- DEANNA

I won't understand. I got it. Apparently you don't trust me. CHARLES

It's not that. DEANNA

Then what is it? Why are you being so secretive? CHARLES

I am not being secretive. You know I think you should just drop the subject and move on. DEANNA

Why do you constantly want to change the subject when I mention your family? CHARLES

I don't want to constantly change the subject. Now would you please just change the subject? DEANNA

Your grandmother is about to die and you don't want to visit her? CHARLES

You know what Charlie, the best thing you can do right now is just mind your business; okay. You let me deal with my family as I please and I will let you deal with yours, okay. DEANNA

CHARLES

I am just trying to be helpful.

DEANNA

You're not being helpful. But you are annoying me.

CHARLES

My gosh, what's with the attitude?

DEANNA

I don't have an attitude, Charlie. WOULD YOU PLEASE JUST LAY OFF IT ALREADY?

CHARLES

Now, you wanna yell. WELL, I CAN YELL TOO YOU KNOW.

DEANNA

WELL, THAT'S JUST GREAT! YELL ALL YOU WANT SEE IF I CARE.

CHARLES

Deanna, could you please just tell me what's wrong?

DEANNA

I DON'T WANT TO TELL YOU WHAT'S WRONG! NOW PLEASE SHUT UP!

CHARLES

WELL, OKAY!

DEANNA

OKAY!

CHARLES

ALRIGHT!

DEANNA

ALRIGHT THEN!

ANDREA

*(Off-stage)* HEY, I SAID KEEP IT DOWN! DAMN!

DEANNA

*(Pause)* It'll be better if you leave.

CHARLES

Deanna. *(She shakes her head no).* Deanna. *(She turns her back)* Deanna. *(No response, he exits).* **BLACKOUT**



**ACT ONE SCENE TWO**

ANDREA

*(Andrea is sitting by the kitchen table drinking from a mug. The doorbell rings. She gets up and opens the door.)* Hey, Charlie. What's up?

CHARLES

Nothing much. Is Deanna here?

ANDREA

No, she stepped out for a bit.

CHARLES

Oh. Is she going to be away long?

ANDREA

I don't think so.

CHARLES

Would you mind if I waited for her?

ANDREA

Not at all. So, what's on you mind?

CHARLES

Nothing really. Just wanted to apologize.

ANDREA

Oh. What was all that hollering the other day?

CHARLES

That's what I came to apologize for.

ANDREA

I haven't heard you guys argue like that since the junior prom.

CHARLES

She wanted me to wear a pink tuxedo. That was not happening.

ANDREA

What was this argument about?

CHARLES

The letter from her dad. Her Grammy is dyeing and he wanted her to come see her, but Deanna doesn't want to.

ANDREA

Grammy is dyeing?

CHARLES

Yeah, the letter says she's ill.

ANDREA

Serves her right.

CHARLES

Well, goodness, what did she do?

ANDREA

You wouldn't understand.

CHARLES

Of course I wouldn't. I mean why would I?

ANDREA

Are you being sarcastic?

CHARLES

I'm just a bit upset. Deanna won't tell me anything about her father. According to you he is no good, but the letter he wrote her paints a different picture. What are you hiding?

ANDREA

You can never tell the character of a person by a letter they write. And as of now I think you have crossed the boundaries. This does not concern you. Just leave it alone.

CHARLES

Honestly, I have been trying to, but I can't seem to do so. There is something driving me to get to the bottom of this pit.

ANDREA

The pit is way too deep. You won't be able to get back up.

CHARLES

That's for me to judge.

ANDREA

It's none of your business.

CHARLES

Well, I'll make it my business.

ANDREA

I am very close to asking you to leave my home.

CHARLES

I just want to know why she won't see her grandmother. That's all.

ANDREA

And I told you, you won't understand.

DEANNA

*Enters.* Charles, what are you doing here?

CHARLES

I came to apologize.

DEANNA

You're forgiven, now leave.

CHARLES

My God, what is wrong with you?

DEANNA

YOU! Is what's wrong with me! Why can't you just leave it alone?

CHARLES

Why should I? Why? When I was being bullied in science class our sophomore year and you found out; did you leave it alone? No! You came in there and threatened Sally in front of the whole class making me look like a punk. Did you leave it alone? What about when I overpaid for my superman's underwear at Walmart; did you leave that alone? No! You waltz in there and you made sure I got my money back. You have always been there for me and it's time for me to pay you back.

DEANNA

This is different Charles. Trust me you just won't understand. I cannot face those people.

CHARLES

Who?

DEANNA

My father, my Grammy, my...I just can't do it. I can't do it alone.

CHARLES

I'll go with you. And we'll face them together.

DEANNA

You just don't understand. You won't understand.

CHARLES

I will make sure I understand. Just for you. Because that's what friends do. We both have a week off for Spring Break so let's go together. And I will make sure whatever it is you can't seem to tell me will be dealt with before we leave.

DEANNA

You just don't understand.

CHARLES

Is that a yes or no? **BLACK OUT**

**ACT ONE SCENE THREE**

*Deanna and Charles is scene with travel bags.*

ANDREA

Alright, you guys drive safely. And make sure you take a break. Don't you dare take the whole ride without taking a break. Take about three breaks maybe five or even ten, twelve or fifteen breaks.

DEANNA

Mother, we'll be fine. Bye mother.

ANDREA

Bye, Baby. Bye, Charlie.

CHARLES

Bye, Ms. Fields.

ANDREA

*Charles and Deanna exit.* Lord, please watch over them and protect them in Jesus' Name. Lord, please heal my daughter. She really needs it. And please heal me too. I need it just as much. To the glory of God the father, through Jesus Christ the son, by the power of the holy Ghost in Jesus' Name, Amen. **BLACK OUT.**

**ACT ONE SCENE FOUR**

*Charles is driving and Deanna is on the passenger side.*

DEANNA

*(She takes a magazine out of her bag).* You left this in my room.

CHARLES

Oh. I'll read the rest of it in the hotel room. I don't believe this. I don't believe it.  
*(Hollers).*

DEANNA

What?

CHARLES

This is my first trip out of Maryland. I am so happy. I can't wait to get into New York City. I'm going to the NYC ya'll *(hollers)*.

DEANNA

You're so crazy.

CHARLES

When I get to New York I am totally going to do everything New Yorkers do. I'm going to be loud and be mean and drive badly. Honk my horn even though it's illegal to do in New York. This way no one knows I'm a tourist.

DEANNA

Not everyone in New York is mean and loud.

CHARLES

Oh you're right. Maybe I'll be like one of them actors. *(Mocking)* Hi, my name is Steven Starr and I'm on *(sings)* Broadway! My goodness this is going to be so much fun! Oh, to be able to smell that stinky air everyone talks about is going to be so refreshing.

DEANNA

Do you realize how offensive you're being?

CHARLES

Oh, I'm sorry. I meant no harm. I'm just so very excited. So, what cool places can you recommend for us to hang out at?

DEANNA

I'm just saying goodbye to Grammy and then leaving. We're not staying long.

CHARLES

This is a long ride to get there for a day. This is our Spring Break. We gotta do something.

DEANNA

I don't have that many fond memories from my past. So the sooner we leave the better.

CHARLES

Would you like to talk about it?

DEANNA

No. *(Slight pause)*. **FADE TO BLACK.**

*The lights fade to black and then slowly fade back in. Music is playing and Charles and Deanna are singing together to a song on the radio. **FADE TO BLACK.** When the lights return Deanna is seen sleeping and Charles is eating and listening to a talk show on the radio. **FADE TO BLACK.** When the lights return Deanna is driving and Charles is on the passenger side.*

CHARLES

So do you want to see a Broadway show?

DEANNA

Charles, I'm just saying goodbye.

CHARLES

I think I will visit a porn shop then. **FADE TO BLACK.**

*The lights fade to black and then slowly fade back in. Music is playing and Charles and Deanna are singing together to a song on the radio. **FADE TO BLACK.** When the lights return Charles is seen sleeping and Deanna is listening to music on the radio. **FADE TO BLACK.** When the lights return Deanna is seen putting the car in park. Charles awakes. Are we there?*

DEANNA

No. I'm taking a break.

CHARLES

Oh yeah. Your mom wanted us to take like fifteen of those. I'm going potty. *(Charles exits.)*

DEANNA

*Takes phone out and dials.* Hey mom. We're doing well. We're taking our first break. Mother, we're fine, calm down. We're in Jersey right now. No, mother I don't have time to visit the cast of the Jersey Shore. Not to mention the care. Yes, mom, we're fine. Okay hold on. He's just coming back from the Men's Room. *(Hands Charles the phone)*. Here, my mom wants to talk to you. I'll be in the Lady's Room. *(She exits)*.

CHARLES

Hey Ms. Fields. What's happening? Oh we're just fine. The ride is great. I am so excited to be going to New York. It's my first time, you know? Yeah. Okay. Alright. We will Ms. Fields. Okay. Love you too. We'll call you when we get to the hotel. Alright. Talk to you later. Bye. **BLACK OUT.** *When the lights return Charles is driving and Deanna is resting her head in looks of "not ready."* I think this is it. *(They exit the car.* Wow, this is awesome!

DEANNA

Charles, if you continue this way everyone will know you're a tourist.

CHARLES

Oh, I just can't contain it. And they stench; hell yeah, that's horribly good. **BLACK OUT.** *When the lights return they are by the lobby desk of the hotel checking in. Charles sees a woman with provocative clothing walking with a man in a suit walking behind her.* Oh, so that's why they call them hotels. *Deanna and Charles walk to the elevator.* This is so exciting.

DEANNA

Calm down, Charlie, it's just an elevator. *(Speaking to man in elevator).* Floor seven please. Thank you.

CHARLES

*The elevator music can be heard. The people on the elevator exit sporadically.* Wow, New York sure has some nice elevator music. *Charles and Deanna are alone.* So, what are we going to do first?

DEANNA

I told you already-

CHARLES

Oh, come on. Lighten up a bit. This is my Spring Break. I want to have fun; I want to live a little. Hell, I want to live a lot. *(Deanna doesn't respond).* What's wrong? Oh wait, I know, I don't understand. *They exit the elevator and enter the hotel room.* At some point you're going to talk to me. *(Notices the room).* Oh, my gosh this is amazing. *(Sings)* New York, New York, New York!

DEANNA

You need to settle down.

CHARLES

So when do we say goodbye?

DEANNA

Tomorrow morning. Early. I don't want anyone to see me.



CHARLES

What are you doing; hiding?

DEANNE

You just-

CHARLES and DEANNA

Don't understand.

CHARLES

I get it. I don't understand and you don't trust me.

DEANNA

Quit it with the drama.

CHARLES

It's okay. I'm cool. I'm just going to go to bed. And in the morning, early morning I will take you to see your Grammy so we can say goodbye and then take you home.

**BLACK OUT.**

DEANNA

*(As the lights return Deanna and Charles are sleeping. Deanna is talking in her sleep. I said no. That's enough, I said no. Get off of me. Stop it please. Stop; (sternly) stop; I SAID STOP!*

CHARLES

*Charles jumps up and starts fighting the air. Hell, you better stop sucker. Where the hell you at?*

DEANNA

What are you doing?

CHARLES

Where he at? Where he at?

DEANNA

I'm sorry, it was just a dream.

CHARLES

Oh. Goodness; sounds more like a nightmare. Are you alright?

DEANNA

Yes, I'm fine.

CHARLES

Are you sure?

DEANNA

I said I'm fine.

CHARLES

Alright, alright. You want to talk-

DEANNA

NO! Just go back to sleep. *Charles slowly lies back down. He soon drifts off back to sleep. Deanna sits up, looks up, and then sighs heavily.*

**ACT ONE SCENE FIVE**

*Grammy is on the hospital bed. Deanna and Charles enter.*

DEANNA

Hey, Grammy.

GRAMMY

Oh, my goodness, is that you? Is that my Ruby?

DEANNA

Yes it is.

CHARLES

Oh, that's so cool. She calls you Ruby too. Can I call you-

DEANNA

No.

GRAMMY

Who's this? Is this your fiancé?

DEANNA

No. This is a really good friend of mine.

CHARLES

Hi. My name is Charles. But many people call me Charlie. You can call me whichever one.

GRAMMY

Hello, Charles. It's nice to meet you too.

CHARLES

It's nice to meet you too. *(Looks at the tv)*. Are you watching television?

GRAMMY

No.

CHARLES

Do you mind if I watch it?

DEANNA

Charles.

GRAMMY

It's okay.

CHARLES

Thank you, Grammy. I wonder if the hospital has TVONE. *(He uses the remote to change the channel).*

GRAMMY

So, how's my Ruby doing?

DEANNA

I am doing well. What's wrong with you?

GRAMMY

I'm old.

DEANNA

I mean what sickness do you have?

GRAMMY

Oldness. It's just my time. I'm glad you came. I didn't want to leave here and you still mad at me.

CHARLES

*(Laughs loudly).* That Sheneneh is so funny.

GRAMMY

Have you forgiven me yet?

DEANNA

Grammy, I don't want to talk about this.

GRAMMY

Then why are you here?

CHARLES

You better go girl!

DEANNA

Charles! I'm trying to have a conversation here. Must you be so loud?

CHARLES

I'm so sorry. You need me to turn the TV down?

DEANNA

Go, wait outside.

CHARLES

You know what. I'll wait outside. *Exits.*

DEANNA

Grammy, I just came to say my last goodbyes.

GRAMMY

That's it? You came all the way here just to say goodbye. When are you going to allow forgiveness in your heart?

DEANNA

Don't you talk that Jesus stuff with me; it only makes you sound like a hypocrite.

GRAMMY

I know what I did was wrong, but at the time I thought I was doing the right thing. I can't change the past Ruby. I have apologized so many times. (*Coughs*). What more do you want me to do?

DEANNA

Was that a fake cough to make me feel bad that you're dying?

GRAMMY

No. What's wrong with you (*coughs*)? I really wish you could find forgiveness. You're tearing this family apart.

DEANNA

I'm tearing this family apart? Are you kidding me?! Is this a joke? You tore this family apart. You and my father and... and you know... I didn't do anything wrong.

GRAMMY

The only thing you're doing wrong is not forgiving. Please, Ruby, I need to know you forgive me before I leave. I have asked God for forgiveness and I know He has done so. John has forgiven me. Even your father. It's just you.

DEANNA

My mother has not forgiven you. And we never will.

GRAMMY

Your mother doesn't blame me.

DEANNA

How do you know?

GRAMMY

God told me so.

DEANNA

Oh really. Well did God tell you how much I hate-

GRAMMY

You don't hate me. You're just angry. I know you love me.

DEANNA

I don't love you.

GRAMMY

Then why are you here? *(Coughs)*.

DEANNA

Charles made me come.

GRAMMY

No one can make you do anything. You choice to be here. I need you to know you need to say your goodbyes now. Make sure you make up with me now. Because the second you forgive me in your heart the Holy Spirit is going to tell me and I am going to leave as soon as He does.

DEANNA

Grammy...just give me some time.

GRAMMY

Take all the time you need.

DEANNA

*(A nurse drags Charles into the room)*. Goodness Charles what did you do?

NURSE

He was disturbing a patient.

CHARLES

No I wasn't I was simply watching his TV.

DEANNA

Charles.

CHARLES

What's the big deal? He was sleeping. He didn't even know I was in the room.

NURSE

Please keep him with you.

DEANNA

Yes Nurse. *(Nurse exits)*. You ready, Charles?

CHARLES

Um, almost. Uh, Grammy, do you mind if I ask you for a favor?

DEANNA

Charles.

GRAMMY

It's okay.

CHARLES

Well, first off, are you saved? Have you given your life to the Lord?

GRAMMY

Yes I have honey. I have confessed with my mouth and I believe in my heart that Jesus Christ is Lord.

CHARLES

That's good. Because you know the only way to heaven is to receive salvation. There are no good deeds or actions you can do to get to heaven other than to get saved.

GRAMMY

Yes baby I know.

CHARLES

Good. Then when you get to heaven can you give Jesus a message for me please?

GRAMMY

Sure.

DEANNA

Charles.

CHARLES

Can you remind him that I am still waiting for him to give me the winning lottery numbers in my dream? And let him know if he is still testing my patience tell him the test is over. It's been five years.

GRAMMY

Yes, sweetie I will let him know.

CHARLES

Thank you, Grammy. Okay I'm ready. (*He exits. We hear him from off-stage*). Hey nurse stop that kart. Can I have some of that Jell-o? Is it kosher?

GRAMMY

Ruby. Your friend has issues.

DEANNA

Yes, Grammy I know. That's why I love him.

GRAMMY

Be a friend and show him around the town. I know you don't want to, but I can tell he has a tourist spirit. Don't let your pain ruin his day. Okay?

DEANNA

Yes, Grammy. Bye, Grammy. I love you.

GRAMMY

I know. I love you more. **BLACK OUT.**



**ACT ONE SCENE SIX**

*Deanna and Charles are sitting at a table in a Diner. They are looking at the menu.*

CHARLES

This is so crazy. I didn't know New York had diners. I thought only New Jersey was allowed to have them.

JULIANA

Hi, welcome to Empire Diner. My name is...Deanna?

CHARLES

*(Deanna looks up).* Your name is Deanna too?

DEANNA

Juliana?

CHARLES

Who's Juliana?

JULIANA

Oh, my gosh! It's really you! *She reaches for Deanna to hug her. Deanna stands to hug Juliana.* I have missed you for the longest. How have you been?

DEANNA

I'm doing fine.

JULIANA

What's wrong with you? You don't write you haven't called, you changed you number; did I do something wrong?

DEANNA

No, its not you. You just won't understand.

JULIANA

You've been saying that to me since I met you.

CHARLES

Oh, she said it to you too. At least I'm not the only one.

DEANNA

Juliana, this is my friend Charles. Charles this is Juliana. We grew up together.

CHARLES

It's nice to meet you. Apparently Deanna was trying to forget something because of all the years I've known her she has never mentioned you.

JULIANA

Her and her mom left so abruptly. I knew something was wrong, but didn't know what. Me, Deanna, and Liang were the best of friends back in the day. In fact Liang is in the back let me go get her. She will be so happy to see you. You don't know how much we talk about you. *(She exits).*

CHARLES

This is amazing. Running into old friends at a New York Diner.

DEANNA

Why did you have to say that? I was hiding something; what was that?

CHARLES

I don't know it just came out.

DEANNA

Well, can you filter your thoughts before you speak them?

CHARLES

Why did you keep her a secret? She seems nice.

DEANNA

I don't know. I guess the conversation never came up.

CHARLES

I asked you many times about your friends from where you were from. What do you mean the conversation never-

DEANNA

Just shut up. *(Liang and Juliana approach the table).*

LIANG

*(Screaming with joy).* Deanna, it's really you. *(Deanna and Liang hug).* My goodness its so great ot have you back. So are you living in the city?

DEANNA

No. I'm just visiting Grammy.

JULIANA

Oh. I heard about her. I hope all goes well.

DEANNA

How did you know about Grammy?

LIANG

Your father. He comes in here at least three days a week. He says seeing us makes him happy.

JULIANA

He said we remind him of the good times before you left.

DEANNA

What good times?

LIANG

How could you say that?

DEANNA

You wouldn't understand.

LIANG

Of course not. We couldn't understand then and I guess that means we won't understand now.

JULIANA

This is her friend, Charles.

LIANG

Hello, Charles. Nice to meet you. Where are you from?

CHARLES

Maryland.

JULIANA

You live in Maryland now?

DEANNA

That's where my mother and I moved to.

LIANG

Why did you guys move all the way over there?

DEANNA

You would-

LIANG, JULIANA, CHARLES

-Wouldn't understand.

LIANG

Well, we need to hang out. Maybe we could go to a club or something.

CHARLES

That sounds great. I would love to go to a NYC club and be around all the other NYC peeps. How awesome would that be?

DEANNA

You're sounding more and more like a tourist, Charles.

CHARLES

Sorry.

JULIANA

What you say?

DEANNA

I don't know.

CHARLES

Come on, Deanna. Forget your troubles and just get happy its time to go to a bar and chase all your troubles away.

LIANG

How about Club New York? We'll meet up at 11pm.

CHARLES

Sounds good to me. I'll drag her there if I have to.

JULIANA

Great, we'll see you there.

GREGORY

*(Walks by)*. Are you ladies working or talking.

JULIANA and LIANG

We're working your majesty. *(Gregory exits)*.

CHARLES

Your majesty?

JULIANA

He's our boss. He makes all his employees call him that.

LIANG

Well, I'll see you guys tonight at eleven. I have to get back to work. *(Lights fade to black. As the lights fade Juliana takes Charles' and Deana's order)*.

## ACT ONE SCENE SEVEN

*Club music is heard. As the lights come up clubbers can be seen drinking, dancing, and clubbing. As they dance Charles and Deanna enter.*

JULIANA

You guys are late. Its 11:30. What took you so long?

CHARLES

I had to drag her.

LIANG

*Come on, Deanna. Loosen up. Let's go to the floor. (Liang takes Deanna to the floor. Juliana and Charles go to the bar. As Liang and Deanna dances a man approaches them. He asks Deanna to dance). Go ahead girl. Don't be shy. (She laughs). That's what I'm talking about.*

CHARLES

*(Charles and Juliana dance together. Liang finds another guy to dance with. As they dance the music gets louder. Another man approaches Deanna and her dance mate. He taps the dance mate on the shoulder and the dance mate looks back. Once Deanna notices she steps back. The dance mate walks away and the man tries to hug Deanna. She pushes him away from her. Soon Charles notices and begins to watch the two of them. Soon the man tries again to talk and hug her, but Deanna slaps him. Charles then runs to Deanna.). What's going on? (Deanna runs to exit. Charles runs after her. Liang and Juliana notices who the man is, they wave at him and he waves back. Liang and Juliana then follow Charles to exit. A man stops Liang and asks to dance; she stops to dance with him. Charles reenters looking for Liang. Once he sees her he runs to her and drags her out. **BLACK OUT.***

**ACT ONE SCENE EIGHT**

*Liang and Juliana is sitting on the bed in the hotel room. Juliana is reading a magazine.*

LIANG

Juliana, listen to this. A seventy-five year old woman claims that Justin Beiber is her baby's daddy. Isn't that amazing? Justin sure 'nough got some swag.

JULIANA

Girl, you know that stuff's not true. Those writers and editors get paid to lie.

LIANG

Oh, like politicians.

JULIANA

*(Beat)* How long do you thing she'll be in that bathroom?

LIANG

I don't know. It's been thirty minute already?

JULIANA

You think she's waiting for us to leave?

LIANG

I'm not leaving until I see her and she tells me she's fine.

JULIANA

Even if she does tell you; you know she's not.

LIANG

I just don't understand why she thinks we won't understand.

CHARLES

*(Enters with ice cream).* Hey ladies. How's she's doing?

LIANG

Not good. She's been in the bathroom for over thirty minutes now.

CHARLES

Well, I went to the ice cream store and brought her something that will hopefully lift her spirits.

JULIANA

*(Looks at the ice cream).* What is that on the ice cream?

CHARLES

Pickles.

LIANG

That's disgusting.

CHARLES

I thought all women like ice cream and pickles.

JULIANA

Ice cream and pickles are for pregnant women.

CHARLES

Oh. I'm sorry. I didn't know. So how long do you think she'll be in there? Has she one this before when ya'll was growing up?

JULIANA

Only once; and she staid in the bathroom a good hour.

CHARLES

What happened? *(He opens the ice cream and goes to eat it)*

LIANG

She got embarrassed because I told this boy she had a crush on him. *(You're not going to eat that are you?)*

LIANG and JULIANA

*(He eats a spoonful). Yuuuuuk!*

CHARLES

It's actually pretty good. *(As they continue to converse he continues to eat the ice cream).* So who was that dude all up in her face at the club.

LIANG

That's Johnny her cousin.

CHARLES

Oh, so that's Johnny.

JULIANA

She told you about him?

CHARLES

No. She had a nightmare the other day. She woke up screaming stop Johnny. I wonder what he did to her. That slap looked liked it hurt. Do you guys know what happened?

LIANG

No. All I remember is when we were about ten or eleven years old we went to a cook out her father was having. I thought Johnny was so cute so I asked her if she could introduce me to him, but she said no. She said he was a disgusting boy and deserved to be in hell.

JULIANA

She told us we couldn't talk to him or even look at him. But I'll be honest he grew up to be one sexy man. If she wasn't still mad at him I would date him.

LIANG

Hell, I would sin with him. You know what I mean girl? *(They high five each other).*

CHARLES

I wonder what he did to her that she hasn't been able to forgive him.

JULIANA

Oh please, Charles, you know according to her you wouldn't understand.

CHARLES

No matter how much she tells me to leave it alone there is something inside me driving me to get to the bottom of this.

JULIANA

Well, you better tell that something to leave you alone. You saw how she slaps.

CHARLES

I just don't understand why she cannot trust me. I've told her my past. I've told her everything that has happened to me. I told her how my father abandoned me and my mother. I told her how my mother used to beat me because I look too much like my father. I told her how I accidentally gave a eulogy at the wrong funeral. I tell her everything. And she can't trust me enough to tell me hers. I just don't get it.

LIANG

I don't even know you that much, but I know enough to know that only you could give a eulogy at the wrong funeral.

JULIANA

I just hope that she gets over- *(Deanna enters).*

CHARLES

*(Changing the subject).* And that's how you fry chicken on the window seal. *(Juliana and Liang respond with "That's amazing, Wow, how awesome, etc.)* Yeah, and it's healthier because you don't use oil.



DEANNA

I'm not stupid. I know you guys were in here talking about me. What kind of friends are you that you are talking behind my back?

CHARLES

We were not talking behind your back Deanna; we were...ok hell, we were talking behind your back. But maybe if your back was in here rather than the bathroom hiding we could talk to you and not behind your back. What is wrong with you? Why won't you talk to us? We're your friends.

DEANNA

You won't understand.

CHARLES

I'm tired of you saying that.

DEANNA

And I am tired of you being in my business. I think it'd be best if you all leave.

CHARLES

Hell, this is my room just as much as it is yours. How about you leave?

JULIANA

Uh, we'll leave.

LIANG

Are you okay, Deanna?

DEANNA

Liang, I'm fine.

LIANG

Okay. That's all I needed to hear. Make sure you stop by the diner before you leave.

DEANNA

Okay.

CHARLES

*(Liang and Juliana exit).* You haven't seen your friends in how many years and you just kick them out?

DEANNA

Charles, not now.

CHARLES

Can we just be adults and sit down and talk about this.

DEANNA

Are you an idiot? Is your brain damaged? What part of you won't understand, leave it alone, I don't want to talk about it Don't You Understand?

CHARLES

I gave you my life in words and you can't do the same. Why not? You gave me your shoulder to cry on and my shoulder has no tears. Friendship is give and take. If I trust you why can't you trust me?

DEANNA

It's bigger than you. It's bigger than me. It's just not the same.

CHARLES

You know what, Deanna? I think you don't understand. *(Beat)*. I guess I'll go out by myself and leave you alone. I didn't come all this way to mope around with you. I thought you were going to let me help you deal with whatever it is you think I won't understand. I'll see you later. *(He exits)*.

**ACT ONE SCENE NINE**

*Charles is strolling outside enjoying New York City. As he walks around with his head up not looking where he is going he bumps into a man.*

CHARLES

I am so sorry. *(He notices him)*. Oh my gosh. Aren't you the guy Deanna slapped in the club?

JOHN

Yes.

CHARLES

Hi. My name is Charles. I'm Deanna's friend.

JOHN

Hi, Charles. My name is John.

CHARLES

I know. Liang and Juliana told me. You're Deanna's cousin, right?

JOHN

Yeah.

CHARLES

I'm sorry she hates you. She won't tell me why. She keeps telling me I won't understand.

JOHN

You wouldn't.

CHARLES

You know why she hates you?

JOHN

Yes. But I thought she would have forgiven me by now.

CHARLES

Goodness. Is it that bad?

JOHN

You wouldn't understand.

CHARLES

Well, then make me understand. Talk to me. Tell me what's wrong.

JOHN

It's not that easy.

CHARLES

Why don't I take you out to eat? We can sit and talk. Get to know each other a bit more and if you feel like telling me, great. But if not, that's great too. What do you say?

JOHN

I'll go, but you won't understand.

CHARLES

Just take it one breath at a time.

**ACT ONE SCENE TEN**

*John and Charles are sitting at a table in a restaurant. There are glasses half full and plates that clearly have been eaten off from).*

CHARLES

Damn. I'm sorry. That was rude. I'm just, I...I guess...my God, let me get my thoughts together and then I can...Damn. Damn, sorry. My gosh...

JOHN

Difficult to understand, isn't it?

CHARLES

Yes! No. No, not at all. Yes, yes it is. No, no it's not. Well, maybe. Damn. I'm sorry, I am really sorry. I am so sorry. I'm sorry.

JOHN

Why are you sorry?

CHARLES

I should have left it alone. Well, no, no, she needs to deal with this, but I'm sorry for prying so hard. I'm, I'm, I'm sorry. You do not; no one deserves what the two of you went through. I am so, so, so, so sorry. I just can't seem to, damn. I'm sorry. My brain, my thoughts, I just cannot, damn. *(Pause)*. But it wasn't your fault. Why is she blaming you?

JOHN

She believes I had the power to stop it and even in the end she believes I should have said something.

CHARLES

But you were no different than her. Just because you were a boy doesn't make any difference.

JOHN

I know, but she doesn't believe that.

CHARLES

I am so sorry. I, I will do everything I know how to do to make sure she finds a way to forgive you. The pain you must feel has to be unexplainable.

JOHN

I forgave my dad, my uncle, Grammy, I even forgave myself. But Deanna not forgiving me is killing me on the inside.

CHARLES

Is your dad okay in California?

JOHN

I don't know. I don't know what he is or isn't doing there. He used to write me, but it stopped about three years ago.

CHARLES

I'm so sorry. And I thought I had it bad. No offense, but it is true what that song says.

JOHN

What song?

CHARLES

Be Grateful by the Hawkins. Someone else really does have it worse. I am really sorry.

JOHN

Thank you.

WAITRESS

*(Enters)* Can I get you boys something else?

JOHN

Just a cup of tea, please.

CHARLES

Um, can I get a bowl of vanilla ice cream? And a side of pickles.

**BLACK OUT.**

**ACT ONE SCENE ELEVEN**

*Charles enters. Deanna is sitting on the bed.*

CHARLES  
Hey.

DEANNA  
Hey. Sorry for kicking you out.

CHARLES  
It's okay.

DEANNA  
So where did you go?

CHARLES  
You won't believe it. I went out walking and I ran into John.

DEANNA  
*(Demeanor changes).* John?

CHARLES  
Yeah. Your cousin.

DEANNA  
What did that demon say?

CHARLES  
Well, I took him to dinner and we talked.

DEANNA  
*(Angry)* About what?

CHARLES  
Well, he *(adlib stuttering)*---

DEANNA  
Why are you stuttering?

CHARLES  
Well, he, he's... hold on. *(Opens door).* Come in. *(John enters).* I thought. You know. That maybe the two of you could. You know. *(Slight pause).*

JOHN  
Hi, Deanna. How are you?

CHARLES

*(Elongated awkward pause. Charles pretends to hear his phone and takes it out of his pocket.)* Hello. Yeah, girl, what's up? *(To Deanna)*. I gotta take this. *(Exits)*.

JOHN

Hey. Charles said it was okay that I come over.

DEANNA

That was a mistake.

JOHN

Deanna. You really don't know the pain I'm in. Why can't you forgive me?

DEANNA

Pain? You want to talk about pain? You don't know what pain is!

JOHN

I have the same pain you have, only more.

DEANNA

How could you possibly have more?

JOHN

Because you won't forgive me. I know Jesus has forgiven me. And it has taken some time, but I have forgiven my dad, yours, and Grammy. But every time I try to forgive myself your unforgiveness brings pain and shame. I am trying to move forward, but I cannot because you won't.

DEANNA

Leave.

JOHN

Deanna, please.

DEANNA

Please, leave, now.

JOHN

Deanna, we really need to finish this. *(He walks towards her)*.

DEANNA

Don't you take another step.

JOHN

Deanna, please. I'm hurting. Can't you see that?



DEANNA

I'm hurting too. Can't you see that?

JOHN

But we can heel each other.

DEANNA

If you do not leave I will call the police.

JOHN

Deanna, please. *(Walks closer)*.

DEANNA

I mean it, John, stand back.

JOHN

Deanna, please *(Walks closer)*.

DEANNA

*(She approaches him and slaps him)*. I said leave.

CHARLES

*(Enters)*. I heard a slap. Is everything okay? *(John exits. Deanna approaches Charles and slaps him)*. What was that for?

DEANNA

Why did you leave me in here with him?

CHARLES

I had a phone call I had to attend to.

DEANNA

The phone never rang. I never heard anything.

CHARLES

That's because the phone was on silent.

DEANNA

Then how the hell did you know it was ringing?

CHARLES

*(Stuttering)*. I saw it light up in my pants.

DEANNA

You are a liar and I am beginning to think that you are an enemy and not a friend.

CHARLES

Hold up now. I'm trying to help you.

DEANNA

How the hell do you think you're helping me?

CHARLES

You have to deal with this Deanna. You can't keep ignoring it. And why d you keep treating John that way? He is just as much as a victim as you are.

DEANNA

Shut the FUCK up! You don't know anything!

CHARLES

I do know, he told me.

DEANNA

*(Pause)*. He told you everything?

CHARLES

I completely understand why you didn't want to tell me, but you have to talk about this. You can't keep this to yourself. It's only going to kill you. And for the record I still love you, trust you, and respect you the same. Maybe even more then before. But you do not have to be ashamed with me. This wasn't your fault. And even if it was, it doesn't matter. I need you to know I will love you no matter what.

DEANNA

Why did you go behind my back?

CHARLES

It's not like it was planned. Besides you wouldn't tell me. And no matter what you say there is no reason why you couldn't tell me. I'm your friend. You should be able to talk to your friend.

DEANNA

Can you leave?

CHARLES

Why?

DEANNA

I don't want you looking at me. I'm disgusting.

CHARLES

Deanna, stop.

DEANNA

Get out of here. Just let me die. I can't live anymore.

CHARLES

DEANNA. Pull yourself together. *(Deanna starts fighting Charles).* Deanna stop it!

DEANNA

Why did you do this? Why didn't you just leave it alone? *(She continues to fight Charles. Charles allows her to do so).* I hate you. You are a bastard and I hate you.

CHARLES

*(Slight pause).* Deanna. You need to scream.

DEANNA

What the fuck?

CHARLES

Scream. I promise you, you'll feel better.

DEANNA

I don't want to scream.

CHARLES

I know, but you have to. Just go ahead. You haven't been able to trust me before, but I promise you, you can trust me now. Go ahead and scream.

DEANNA

*(Slight pause. Screams loudly; then sobs heavily.)* I need to scream again.

CHARLES

Scream as many times as you need to. *(She screams a few more times.)* That's good. Now it's time.

DEANNA

It's time for what?

CHARLES

It's time for you to get rid of this waste you have been carrying.

DEANNA

What waste?

CHARLES

Your life story.

DEANNA

I'm not ready to speak it.

CHARLES

You'll never be ready. You just have to do it. *(She screams again)*. Start from the beginning. Don't leave anything out. Speak every part of it. For this will relieve the pain. *(Slight pause. Deanna is sobbing)*. How old were you when it began?

DEANNA

I was eight. John was nine.

CHARLES

What happened?

DEANNA

*(Slight pause)*. Uncle Lenneth, John's father was babysitting the two of us.

CHARLES

What were you doing?

DEANNA

We were playing video game. *(Pause)*. Uncle Lenneth told us to come into his room. *(Pause)*. I didn't know what was going on, but Uncle Lenny had a camera. It was set up by his bed. *(Pause)*.

CHARLES

What happened?

DEANNA

I can't.

CHARLES

Yes you can.

DEANNA

*(Pause, sobbing)*. Uncle Lenny told me and Johnny to get on the bed. *(Pause)*. So we did. Uncle Lenny then told me to take Johnny's shirt off. I hesitated and Johnny looked confused. I asked Uncle Lenny why, but he said don't worry just do it. *(Pause)*. I didn't want to, but I did. *(Pause)*.

CHARLES

What happened next?

DEANNA

Uncle Lenny told Johnny to take my shirt off. At that time Uncle Lenny was taking pictures. *(Moans. Pause)*. I can't do this.

CHARLES

Scream. (*Deanna screams*). Keep going.

DEANNA

Uncle Lenny then told me to take Johnny's pants off. I told him no, and Uncle Lenny said if I didn't that I would get in trouble. He said I had to or I would be sent away. (*Pause. Moaning*). So I did what Uncle Lenny said to do. After I took Johnny's plant off Johnny took of mine. (*Sobbing*). I then had to take Johnny's underwear off. (*Pause. Sobbing*). I hate this pain.

CHARLES

Keep going. It'll remove it self soon. But you have to keep going. You have to throw this away. This is how you cast your cares.

DEANNA

(*Sobbing*). Johnny then took off my underwear and Uncle Lenny kept taking pictures. After some time Uncle Lenny told me to (*pauses*) he told me to (*sobbing*) Ouch. He told me to put my mouth on Johnny's. I had to put my mouth on Johnny's (*Screams*). I can't do this! It just hurts too much.

CHARLES

This is how you end the pain. Let it go.

DEANNA

(*Sobbing*). As I had my mouth on Johnny's penis (*moans*) Uncle Lenny took more pictures. He then told me to stop and told Johnny to put his mouth on my (*pauses sobbing*). It felt so good. I have never been so conflicted in my life. I felt so wrong, but so good at the same time. The lights kept flashing. I didn't know why he was taking the pictures. But soon Uncle Lenny stopped it and told Johnny to get on top of me. He told Johnny to put his...he told Johnny to...he put his...he put it in my...I can't, Charlie I can't.

CHARLES

Don't stop it now; your healing is in process. If you have to just scream. (*Deanna screams and then begins to heavily sob*). I hate him. I hate him! I HATE HIM! I hate him, I hate him, I hate him, I hate him! (*She starts to punch Charles. Charles grabs a pillow from the bed and puts it on his chest*). Keep punching. Don't stop. (*She continues to punch for a bit then gets restless and stops. She plops on the bed and sobs heavily. Charles pauses for a few and then continues.*). Why do you hate your family?

DEANNA

Because they hate me.

CHARLES

They don't hate you. They just ruined you mistakenly trying to protect your Uncle.

DEANNA

Why would they protect him?

CHARLES

You know why?

DEANNA

I do not believe he was mentally ill. He was a regular person. There was nothing mental about him.

CHARLES

What he did to you and his son was mental. How and when did they find out?

DEANNA

My dad caught us. I was thirteen and Johnny was fourteen. I was so embarrassed. Completely ashamed. Dad and Grammy said to keep a secret. Not to tell anyone.

CHARLES

Who did you tell?

DEANNA

I told my mother. Oh she was pissed. She tried to help me, but I think she was afraid of Grammy and I don't know why. My mom couldn't stand being apart of the family so she divorced my dad and we left. I hated me ever since.

CHARLES

I think you ought to scream one more time.

DEANNA

*(She sobs and then screams. As she screams she feels the urge to vomit.)* Oh shoot. *(She exits to the bathroom. From offstage we can hear her coughing, vomiting and sobbing).*

CHARLES

Deanna, believe it or not this apart of the cleansing process. Don't stop it just let it flow. *(Charles sits quietly praying while Deanna continues the process).* **FADE TO BLACK.**

**ACT ONE SCENE TWELVE**

*Charles is sitting on the couch reading a magazine. Deanna enters from the bathroom.*

CHARLES

You ready to go?

DEANNA

Not yet. I need to go visit Grammy.

CHARLES

Oh. Why?

DEANNA

First and foremost, thank you so much for last night. I know I've been a real bitch lately, but I had so much pain and unforgiveness. I didn't know how to get rid of it. I feel so much better. Thank you for forcing me to finally deal with the pain.

CHARLES

You're welcome. That's what friends are for.

DEANNA

This morning when I awoke I asked God to teach me how to forgive and in my heart I have chosen to forgive. I want to let Grammy know that I forgive her.

CHARLES

Well, that's great. I'll go with you. I want to remind her about that message to Jesus.

DEANNA

Come on, Charlie, this is a serious matter.

CHARLES

*(Charles phone rings. He looks at the phone to see who is calling).* Oh. Hey, John. What's up? *(Slight pause).* Oh. Okay. Yeah, I'll...I'll let her know. Bye.

DEANNA

What did John want?

CHARLES

Deanna, I'm sorry. She passed.

DEANNA

Who, what?

CHARLES

Your Grammy. She passed.

DEANNA

*(She sobs. Charlie embraces her as she sobs).* Oh my goodness.

CHARLES

What?

DEANNA

The last time I saw her she said to say good bye. She said that as soon as I forgive her the Holy Spirit will tell her and she was going to leave. Do you really think God told her? Do you think she staid alive just until I forgave her?

CHARLES

I don't know, D. I don't know.

DEANNA

Is she really gone? *(Charles just looks at her unaware of what to say. He embraces her again as she sobs).* **BLACK OUT**



### ACT ONE SCENE THIRTEEN

*As the scene opens we see an urn and pictures of Grammy surrounding the urn. The scene opens with a woman singing Amazing Grace. Once she is done lights fade to Black. Soon the lights return and Andrea is standing next to William.*

ANDREA

I just wanted you to know that I came not only to pay my respects, but to let you know that you and your family are forgiven. As much as I spent years hating you and hoping you would all die and go to hell thanks to teachings of a wonderful Pastor I have slowly, but surely made a decision to forgive you. I also want to apologize for sending the police to your house as well ordering hundreds of pizza and giving them your credit card info and then having them deliver them to your house. It was petty and I truly apologize.

WILLIAM

You did that?

ANDREA

Yeah, I'm sorry.

WILLIAM

Do you realize how many times that happened?

ANDREA

The police came to your house a total of twelve times in the past eight years and the pizza thing I sorta lost count. And the gay escort coming to your job was I think five times. *(Beat)* I just wanted you to feel every bit of pain I believed you caused me and Ruby to feel.

WILLIAM

I'm sorry. I just did not want my brother to be in jail. I knew he had problems, but I didn't know he was capable of...I am really sorry I ruined our family.

ANDREA

You are forgiven.

WILLIAM

*(They embrace. After William walks towards Deanna). Ruby.*

DEANNA

*(She embraces him).* Dad, I am so sorry for ignoring you...I just-

WILLIAM

It's not your fault. None of it is your fault. I am sorry Ruby. This was my fault. I should have made better choices. Do you forgive me?

DEANNA

Yes, daddy. I forgive you. *(They embrace. After Deanna walks towards John)*. You think we can talk?

JOHN

Sure.

DEANNA

I know; I know none of this is your fault, but I needed someone to blame. I am really sorry for hating you and blaming you all these years. I know you were in just as much pain as I was. I know you didn't want it no more than I did. *(Slight pause)* I'm sorry your dad is mental...I am so sorry that came out wrong. I just wanted you to know that I am sorry.

JOHN

Thank you. You really do not know how much I appreciate it. I always felt like this was my entire fault. Me being the boy and all...Grammy said no, but with you not *(slight pause)* I could never forgive me. Thank you. I am sorry for what I did to you. I am sorry you had to have that as a life experience. I am really sorry that my dad is mental *(They share a brief laugh)*. I'm sorry. *(They slowly and very cautiously go to hug)*. If you're not ready we don't have to.

DEANNA

I'm sorry. I forgive you. But I'm...I'm not ready.

JOHN

It's okay. *(Deep sigh)*. It's truly okay.

CHARLES

*(Approaches Deanna)*. Alright I am ready to eat. Where we having the past again?

DEANNA

*(To John)* Don't ask.

JOHN

What's the past again?

CHARLES

The past again. The repast.

DEANNA

I told you not to ask.

CHARLES

Johnny, I'm sorry about your Grammy. She seemed like a nice person. I sure hope she remembered to give Jesus my message.

DEANNA

Charlie, please.

CHARLES

You think they have dessert at the past again. I think I want me some ice cream and pickles

JOHN

I can't believe you actually like that.

CHARLES

Don't knock it until you've tried it.

DEANNA

Charles, what am I going to do with you? **BLACK OUT.**

**ACT ONE SCENE FOURTEEN**

*Charles and Deanna are in the car. Deanna is driving Charles is sleeping. In some time Charles wakes up frantically.*

DEANNA

What the heck is wrong? Did you have a nightmare?

CHARLES

No. Not at all. I need a pen I need paper. Hurry!

DEANNA

Check my purse. It's in the back. *(He gets her purse and takes out pen and paper. He writes frantically).* What are you doing?

CHARLES

You wouldn't understand

DEANNA

Oh, shut up. What's going on?

CHARLES

I had the dream.

DEANNA

What dream?

CHARLES

Grammy must have talked to Jesus, because he gave me the numbers.

DEANNA

Oh, come on. You don't expect me to believe that, do you?

CHARLES

I'm serious. I was walking down the alley. It was at night. I was afraid. As I looked up I saw a sign that said look at the wall. I looked at the wall and I saw a calendar. Wednesday was circled. As I looked away I saw another sign that said keep walking to Maryland. So I kept walking and I saw a calculator and I saw the numbers 1, 2, 4, 7. So that must be it.

DEANNA

Must be what?

CHARLES

Were you not listening? Wednesday was circled on the calendar and it was night. The sign said walk to Maryland and I saw the numbers 1, 2, 4, 7. That means the winning lottery number is 1, 2, 4, 7 for the Maryland lottery Wednesday night.

DEANNA

That is ridiculous.

CHARLES

Oh is it really? Then I guess you don't want the message Grammy gave me to tell you.

DEANNA

Seriously? She was in your dream?

CHARLES

Do you want the message or not?

DEANNA

What did she say?

CHARLES

After I saw the numbers I saw Grammy and she said make sure you write it down. So I did. Then she told me to follow her and I did. She took me to a building and I asked her what it was. She said Ruby would know and that you should call the building M.I.C.C. Do you know of a building called M.I.C.C.?

DEANNA

Not at all. What type of building was it?

CHARLES

It looked like a type of place you would work at. But I don't know why.

DEANNA

That's strange.

CHARLES

Yeah. **BLACK OUT.**

**ACT ONE SCENE FIFTEEN**

*The scene opens up with Andrea Deanna Charles and Vivian sitting on a couch.*

ANDREA

So are you ready to see if you won?

CHARLES

I know I did. The numbers came to me in a dream.

VIVIAN

I believe in God, but this something that's hard to believe.

CHARLES

Mother, I promise you God gave me the winning numbers.

VIVIAN

Are you sure? I don't want you to get your hopes up for some silly dream. Maybe you were daydreaming instead of dreaming.

DEANNA

Well, that makes sense.

CHARLES

Hey, who side are you on? Besides, don't forget about the building.

DEANNA

A building I know nothing about.

CHARLES

Well Grammy said you would know.

ANDREA

What building?

DEANNA

According to Charles dream Grammy took him to a building and told him to tell me to name the building M.I.C.C.

VIVIAN

What is M.I.C.C.?

DEANNA

I don't know.

CHARLES

Shhh! It's about to start

TELEVISION (*Voiceover*)

And now for the Maryland Pick 4 numbers. And the first ball up is...1

CHARLES

Oh my gosh!

TELEVISION (*Voiceover*)

And the next...2

VIVIAN

Oh wow.

TELEVISION (*Voiceover*)

And the next...4

ANDREA

You gotta be kidding me.

TELEVISION (*Voiceover*)

And the last (*They all rise slowly*).

CHARLES

Please be7, please be 7.

TELEVISION (*Voiceover*)

Is 7 (*They all scream and shout*). Making today's winning numbers 1, 2, 4, 7. Thank you again and remember to play responsibly.

VIVIAN

Thank you, Jesus! Thank you, Jesus!

CHARLES

Thank you, Grammy; thank you, Grammy!

ANDREA

Oh my goodness, I don't believe this. What are you going to do with all that money?

VIVIAN

Well, before he does anything he's going to set aside the tithes and offering, correct?

CHARLES

Of course, mother. And after I pay Jesus, I'm going to put half of it in a savings account.

DEANNA

What are you going to do with the rest?

CHARLES

I am going to take the three ladies in my life who mean the most to me around the world.

ANDREA

So you actually get to travel and let life educate you.

CHARLES

That's right.

VIVIAN

I don't know. I just can't take off of work.

ANDREA

Me either.

CHARLES

Come on. Neither of you have been on vacation since God knows when. I'm sure you have plenty of vacation days.

VIVIAN

Well, yeah, I do.

CHARLES

Come one. It'll be fun. What you'll you say? *(Slight pause, and then black out. As the lights return we see a slide show of the fours travels. (Note: use Photoshop to make pictures of the four in various known places (Italy, France, Africa, etc.) Once the slide show is done we see Charles and Deanna sitting on a couch).* So, how's college going?

DEANNA

Great! I cannot believe in just one month I will have my doctorates.

CHARLES

Doctor Deanna Fields.

DEANNA

No, I turned my name back to Reed. I'm not ashamed to bare my father's name anymore.

CHARLES

That's wonderful.

DEANNA

Do you still have money left over from the lottery? How many years was it?

CHARLES

It's been five years now. I put it in a CD account and never touched it. Why?



DEANNA

You mind if I borrow some money. It will be more like an investment.

CHARLES

Of course. For what? *(She hands him a portfolio. He goes through it).* Wow, this is amazing. Wait a minute. What's this?

DEANNA

*(She looks).* That's the building it's going to be in.

CHARLES

That's the building that was in my dream. The one Grammy told you to name M.I.C.C.

DEANNA

Oh. Well I already named it something else.

CHARLES

What? *(She points).* Oh, *(slight pause)* but wait. If you take out the "and" the initials are-

DEANNA and CHARLES

M.I.C.C. *(They smile. BLACK OUT).*

REPORTER

*(Once the lights return we see a video being shown).* We are here in Fruitland, Maryland for the Grand Opening of the M.I.C.C. where there slogan is Healing Begins With You. And if you're wondering what M.I.C.C. stands for it means Molestation and Incest Counseling Center. And standing next to me is the Founder and Owner Deanna Ruby Reed.

DEANNA

Whether you've been molested, raped, or abused in any way we are here to help you with your healing. **(BLACK OUT)**