

You Have to Tell Her

A play by

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Cast Of Characters

Young Man.....A businessman (early 30's)
Young Woman.....A business woman (early 30's)
Abigail.....Still naive to the world (8-10)
Sarah.....Lover too Young Businessman (Late 20's)
Jeff.....The Ideal husband and father (Late 30's)

Time: Present day. May. Mid afternoon.

Place: A park in Lincoln Park, Illinois.

The Set: A park bench with a back that can be leaned on. A birthday cake. Shrubs and park ground equipment such as a teeter totter and swings.

You have to tell her

Scene 1

(Sound up to hear birds chirping. Children playing on playground equipment can be heard. Lights up to reveal a swing set, and a park bench. The young man and young woman sit on the bench. A cake is used as a divider between them.)

So...
Young woman

Yeah...
Young Man

This isn't awful.
Young Woman

Yeah it's actually really nice.
Young man

It is.
Young Woman

Maybe we could make this a regular thing.
Young Man

(Young Woman doesn't answer.)

No I just mean for her sake.

You know why we can't do that.
Young Woman

Okay.
Young man

She's grown so much this year.
Young Woman

(Young man moving the conversation along.)

Young Man
Every time I see her something has changed.

Young Woman
Yeah I just love watching her grow up right before my eyes.

Young Man
That must be nice.

(Silence)

Young Woman
I didn't..

(Pause)

Young Woman
I'm sorry that was insensitive.

Young Man
No that was on me, I just miss her so much.

(Pause)

Young Man
I miss you too.

(Pause)

Young Woman
Don't joke right now.

Young Man
I'm not.

(Silence)

Young Woman
You can't keep doing this.

Young Man
Doing what?

Young Woman
That. What you just did.

Young Man
You mean have feelings?

Young Woman
Yes exactly that.

(Young woman gets up to walk away, but Young man stops her.)

Young Man
I'm sorry.

Young Woman
Lets just change the subject.

Young Man
You're right.

(They both look towards the playground.)

Young Woman
She's pretty athletic.

Young Man
Just like her mother.

Young Woman
More like her father.

(They look at each other)

Young Woman
I've been thinking about signing her up for something.

Young Man
What?

Young Woman
I think soccer, and maybe basketball.

Young Man
That's a good idea. And maybe she could try lacrosse.

Young Woman
I don't know about that.

(Sincerely pleading his case)

Young Man
The girls wear helmets now.

Young Woman
I would just really prefer if she didn't.

Young Man
I can teach her.

Young Woman
Didn't your sister get a concussion playing lacrosse?

Young Man
Please.

(Pause)

Young Woman
Okay.

Young Man
Thank you.

Young Woman
Don't mention it.

(Young Man Softens.)

Young Man
Scouts Honor.

(Young Woman Softens.)

Young Woman
You were never in the scouts.

Young Man
You know what I mean.

(Young Woman now being playful.)

Young Woman
Maybe the girl scouts.

Young Man
Fat Chance.

Young Woman
Oh yeah.

Young Man
Yeah!

(They Both Laugh.)

Abigail
Daddy, look what I found.

(Abigail comes over with a dafofail.)

Young Man
Whatcha got their pumpkin?

Abigail
It's a flower.

Young Woman
Ooo honey those are weeds.

Abigail
What do you mean?

Young Man
I think what your mother is trying to say is these are magic flowers.

Abigail
Really?

Young Man
Yeah really. You can make a wish with that flower.

Abigail
Like birthday wishes?

Young Man
Wish away pumpkin.

(Abigail Blows flower.)

Abigail
How do I know if my wish will come true?

(Young woman playfully to Abigail.)

Young Woman
You just have to have faith.

(Young man to Young woman.)

Young Man
Just a little faith will go a long way.

Abigail
Can I give you a hint?

(Jokingly.)

Young Man
I don't know.

Abigail
It's about you and Mommy getting..

(Woman now seriously.)

Young Woman
That's enough.

(Young Woman is visibly uncomfortable.)

Abigail
Sorry. (Pause) Can I go play now?

Young Man
Yes pumpkin.

Abigail
Thank you.

(Pause)

Young Man
What was that about?

Young Woman
Stop.

Young Man
No.

Young Woman
Just give me a minute.

(Silence)

I didn't realize.

Young Man
Me either.

Young Woman
She's smart.

Young Man
And impressionable.

Young Woman
What are we doing?

Young Man
Celebrating.

Young Woman
Seriously.

Young Man
Being human.

Young Woman
I just don't know.

(Young Man gets close to Young Woman.)

Young Man
Have faith.

(Pause as the man and woman look deep into each other's eyes. Young woman turns to call Abigail but young man steals a kiss. Young woman stands stunned. Young man calls to Abigail.)

Young Man
Pumpkin! It's time to go.

Abigail
Five more minutes.

Young Man
It's up to you.

Young Woman
Um...

Abigail
Its okay mommy lets go.

Young Man
I love you Pumpkin.

(Young woman walks away with Abigail.)

Young Man
Thank you for today.

(Young woman stops as if to reply, then continues to walk away to the car, lights fade with young man sitting on the bench.)

Scene 2

(Lights up to the mother's apartment, a table and chairs resemble the kitchen. We find Abigail coloring at the table and the young woman typing on her computer. She is visibly distracted.)

Abigail

Mommy?

Young Woman

Yes honey.

(Silence. Young Woman continues with her work not noticing that Abigail hasn't replied.)

Young Woman

Okay honey.

Abigail

Could you hand me the yellow?

Young Woman

Yes honey.

(Abigail colors for a few moments then musters up some courage.)

Abigail

Mommy.

Young Woman

Yes Honey?

Abigail

Why did you stop calling me pumpkin?

Young Woman

I haven't stopped pumpkin.

Abigail

Yes you have.

Young Woman
No I just think you are more of a honey now.

Abigail
I like pumpkin better.

Young Woman
Why is that?

Abigail
Because that's what daddy calls me.

Young Woman
Oh.

Abigail
And you used to call me that until...

(Reassuring her.)

Young woman
Well I'm sorry, I didn't know you felt that way. I'll call
you pumpkin from now on.

Abigail
Thank you.

Young Woman
Your welcome Hon...Pumpkin.

(Abigail goes back to coloring and Young Woman
types. Abigail starts to tear up.)

Abigail
Mommy?

Young Woman
Honey mommy's working.

(Young Woman now notices her daughter.)

Young Woman
Oh Pumpkin what's wrong.

(Abigail tries to speak but is too emotional.)

Young Woman
I promise I will get better at calling you pumpkin.

(Abigail softly whimpering.)

Abigail
It's not that.

Young Woman
What is it?

Abigail
Why did daddy leave?

Young Woman
Honey it's complicated

Abigail
Did daddy not love me?

Young Woman
Why would you think that?

Abigail
I heard you and Jeff talking about daddy the other night
and Jeff said that daddy was a good for nothing son of a...

Young Woman
Don't use that word. It's a bad word.

Abigail
What does it mean?

Young Woman
It means a bad man.

Abigail
Why is daddy bad?

Young Woman
Honey..

Abigail
Stop calling me that.

Young Woman
I'm sorry.

Abigail
If daddy loves me then why won't he see me more?

Young Woman
I didn't know you wanted to see your daddy more.

(Young Woman consoles her daughter.)

Young Woman
Do you want to see him more often?

Abigail
I want to live with him.

Young Woman
Well honey...

Abigail
I don't want to live with Jeff.

Young Woman
Why would we live with Jeff?

Abigail
Because you don't love daddy. I just want my daddy.

Young Woman
Okay pumpkin. Let me call your father.

(Lights fade as you hear young woman dial a
phone and call young man)

Young Woman
Its Abigail, she needs you.

(Sound cuts, blackout.)

Scene 3

(Lights up to find a messy one bedroom apartment. A pullout couch is open and the Young man is in bed with sarah, he is hanging up a phone.)

Young Man

I need to clean.

Sarah

Why?

Young Man

My daughter is coming.

Sarah

I better help.

Young Man

You don't have to do that.

Sarah

It's really no trouble.

Young Man

Thank you.

(Young Man and Sarah tidy up the apartment. Sarah holds up a bra.)

Sarah

I mean it would be kinda awkward if your daughter found this.

(Sarah and Young Man laugh.)

Young Man

Yeah, I don't know how you would live that one down.

(Young Man and Sarah start putting the take out into a trash bag.)

Sarah

So when am I going to get to meet your daughter.

Young Man
You know why we can't do that?

Sarah
Things are different now.

Young Man
What do you mean, i've been divorced for a year nothing's changed since then.

Sarah
I'm leaving him.

Young Man
What do you mean?

Sarah
I can't do this anymore, I don't love him.

Young Man
What do you think is going to happen.

Sarah
Well, we aren't going to just hook up forever.

Young Man
No your right.

Sarah
I don't want to pressure you, but I hope you might be willing to give us a try for real.

Young Man
Sarah...

Sarah
So does that mean I get to meet your daughter tonight.

(Young Man Uncomfortably and a little to loud.)

Young Man
NO!

(Young Man realizes that this was way to loud and corrects himself.)

Young Man
I just don't think that she's ready.

Sarah
Alright.

(Silence as they keep putting the apartment
together.)

Sarah
What if we went and got brunch on saturday?

Young Man
I don't get her this weekend.

Sarah
You're her father, how can she keep Abigail from you?

(Young Man answers jokingly, but is also very
serious.)

Young Man
Well, when you have a judge that doesn't take too kindly to
affairs the cards aren't in your favor.

Sarah
You've never told me that before.

Young Man
You never asked.

Sarah
How did that conversation go?

Young Man
I didn't tell them it was a double affair if that's what
your asking.

Sarah
Thank you.

(Silence)

Sarah
Will your daughter ever know I exist?

Young Man
No Sarah, and I would like to keep it that way.

Sarah
Wow.

Young Man
Why do you care, this has always been casual.

(Sarah now turning the tables.)

Sarah
This isn't my fault, we found each other.

Young Man
Yes but we knew what we were getting into.

Sarah
I love you!

Young Man
You what?
(Silence.)

Sarah
I love you. And I want to be with you. I did before we got together and I do now.

Young Man
Sarah.

Sarah
That's not something we've ever talked about but we need to.

(Young Man now feels stuck.)

Young Man
I think you should go.

Sarah
What?

Young Man
Sarah, what did you think was going to happen with us?

Sarah
I don't know get married.

Young Man
You're unbelievable.

Sarah
Are you serious?

Young Man
Yes. Now will you please go, they will be here any minute.

Sarah
Oh.

Young Man
Thank you.

(Tension continues to build.)

Sarah
You're not worried about Abigail. You still haven't told your wife about us.

Young Man
Ex wife, because of you!

Sarah
Oh, so you're blaming me?

Young Man
Yes.

Sarah
Really?

Young Man
NO!!!

(Composing himself.)

Young Man
I blame myself. I chose wrong.

(Silence.)

Young Man
I'm sorry.

(Young Man starts to back some bags.)

Sarah
I'm sorry, I didn't mean to over step.

Young Man
I've made my decision.

(Sarah now holding back tears. She is frustrated because the man she loves is choosing someone else.)

Sarah
What about everything that has happened since you're divorce.

Young Man
What do you mean?

Sarah
I know that some part of you cares about me.

Young Man
You're right I do care, but not enough for me to keep making the same mistakes.

Sarah
I'm not a mistake.

Young Man
You're not. But i'm not that guy.

(Young Man still grabbing items and putting them in the bag, not paying attention to Sarah.)

Sarah
What am I...you can't just toss me out like trash.

Young Man
No, but you're not good for me.

Sarah
At least look at me when I talk to you.

Young Man
No! Please just go.

(Young Man drops two bags in front of Sarah.)

Sarah
What's this.

Young Man
Sarah, don't make this harder than it has to be. If I find anymore of your stuff I'll drop it by your office.

Sarah
You can't be serious.

(Young Man opens the door.)

Sarah
You would choose her over me?

Young Man
Every time.

(Sarah is now standing outside of the door.)

Sarah
You're going to regret this.

(Young Man closes the door on Sarah and is left alone on stage. He surveys the apartment. Lights fade to black as the young man grabs the trash bags and starts to walk to the door he just closed.)

Scene 4

(In the dark the sound of a car closing its doors is heard. Lights up to reveal a much cleaner apartment. A doorbell is heard.)

Young Man
One minute.

(Door Bell)

Young Man
Just a second.

(Doorbell. Young Man takes a minute to himself.
Young Man opens the door to reveal the Young
Woman and Abigail. Immediately the Abigail bursts
in and hugs Young Man)

Young Man
Hey Pumpkin I missed you.

Abigail
I missed you to daddy.

Young Man
Why don't you head into my room and i'll tuck you in in a
minute.

Abigail
Okay.

(Young Man and Woman watch as Abigail enters the
room and closes the door.)

Young Man
Would you like to sit down?

(Young Man reaches for a bottle of wine and two
glasses.)

Young Woman
I shouldn't.

Young Man
Just one glass of wine?

Young Woman

One glass. And it better be Merlot.

Young Man

Of course.

(Young Man and Woman sit down at the couch.)

Young Woman

Thank you for answering.

Young Man

Your Welcome.

(Silence)

Young Man

So what happened.

Young Woman

She misses you.

Young Man

I miss her too.

(Silence...Young Woman Pours herself another glass of wine, young man follows suit then moves closer to her.)

Young Man

Are you free friday night?

Young Woman

Jeff and I are going to dinner and we have a sitter for his kids but Abigail could come over.

Young Man

Right...Jeff. Well have a goodnight then.

(Young man grabs the bottle of wine and both glasses and proceeds to put them away.)

Young Woman

Did I say something?

Young Man

It's late, I should tuck Abigail in.

(Young Woman grabs Young Man's arm.)

Young Woman
Common, what did I say.

Young Man
You didn't say anything.

Young Woman
Don't give me that crap.

Young Man
Do you love him?

(Silence)

Young Woman
No.

Young Man
Then why are you still with him?

Young Woman
Did you love her?

Young Man
No.

Young Woman
Then why did you do it?

(Silence)

Young Woman
Why are you hesitating.

Young Man
Are we really going to talk about this now?

Young Woman
Yes.

Young Man

That was a totally different situation.

Young Woman

How?

Young Man

That wasn't a relationship.

Young Woman

He's a good man.

Young Man

And what am I?

Young Woman

Indecent.

(Silence)

Young Woman

I trusted you...

Young Man

You don't...

Young Woman

Even when you gave me every reason not to.

Young Man

I'm sorry.

Young Woman

I know you are.

Young Man

Really?

Young Woman

But that doesn't mean I trust you.

(Silence)

I loved you so much that I convinced myself there was no way.

Young Man
What do you want me to do.

Young Woman
I don't know. Go back in time? Never do it in the first
place.

(Silence)

And the worst part is, is...

(Young Woman Stops herself.)

Young Man
What?

(Silence)

Young Woman
I will never be hurt like that again.

(Silence)

Young Man
Talk to me...

(Young woman walks towards the door.)

Young Man
Wait...

Young Woman
I'm done waiting for you.

(Young Woman walks out the door leaving the young man
on the couch. Abigail calls from the room.)

Abigail
Daaaaaaaddy!

Young Man
Coming Pumpkin!

(Young man turns the light off and walks to the
bedroom. Blackout)

Scene 5

(Lights Up to see Young Woman storming into a living room. A Man is sitting on the couch watching TV. Young Woman is visibly flustered.)

Young Woman

We need to talk.

Jeff

Easy there, you'll wake up the girls.

(Young Woman still talking loudly)

Young Woman

You're right! I need to calm down.

Jeff

What's wrong?

Young Woman

Everything!

(Jeff still hasn't left the couch and is trying to bring Young Woman back to a neutral position.)

Jeff

Common and sit down.

Young Woman

I don't want to sit.

Jeff

Okay, stand then.

(Jeff and Young Woman stare at each other.)

Jeff

You said we needed to talk?

Young Woman

Yes, but first how was your day?

Jeff

It was great how was yours?

Young Woman
Fine until I dropped off Abigail.

Jeff
Why do you let him get to you so easily?

(Young Woman Defensively.)

Young Woman
I do not let him get to me easy.

(Young Woman catches her tone and calms down.)

Young Woman
You're right, i'm sorry.

Jeff
From the top, what happened.

Young Woman
He still has feelings for me.

(Silence)

Jeff
Well does he know that you're taken.

Young Woman
Jeff be serious. This is important for Abigails sake. If Beth was still around and you two had split don't you think the girls would want you two to be civil.

Jeff
You're right, I apologize.

Young Woman
I mean, we have worked so hard this year.

Jeff
Do you have feelings for him?

(Not sure of herself.)

Young Woman
No, of course not.

(Jeff takes Young Woman in his arms.)

Jeff

What are you feeling?

Young Woman

Honestly.

Jeff

Yes, Honestly.

Young Woman

Confused?

Jeff

What's confusing you?

Young Woman

I don't know what's best for Abigail. (Pause) What do you want?

Jeff

I want to start a life with you.

Young Woman

Really?

Jeff

Yes. These past few months I have been thinking alot about our future.

(Jeff and Young Woman share a tender moment.)

Young Woman

Jeff. Thank you.

Jeff

For what?

Young Woman

For being there. This whole situation is crazy.

Jeff

I love you and I want you to know that I'm in it for the long haul.

Young Woman

Good, because I know that you are the one for me.

(They kiss.)

Jeff

Man I feel good! So when are you going to break the news to him.

Young Woman

Jeff i'm not trying to ruffle any feathers right now. Lets just enjoy this moment.

Jeff

I am enjoying it, but I would be lying if I said I wasn't worried about him getting in the way.

Young Woman

He won't get in the way.

Jeff

We can't do this if your heart isn't there.

Young Woman

What do you mean, "If my heart isn't there"?

Jeff

Don't lie to me. This isn't that hard of a decision.

Young Woman

Of course it is. I need to think about Abigail and how this will effect her.

Jeff

What about my daughter's? You don't think this affects them?

Young Woman

It's not the same and you know it.

Jeff

That's an excuse.

Young Woman
Jeff what do you want from me?

Jeff
I want you!

(Silence)

I want you to choose me without hesitating.

(Silence)

I'm not going to be the middleman, so you have to tell me who you are choosing.

(Silence)

Young Woman
I want you Jeff.

(Jeff takes a moment to himself.)

Jeff
Are you sure?

Young Woman
Jeff...

(Jeff is very understanding with Young Woman.)

Jeff
I'm sorry i'm being so rash, and I know that it's different. My daughter's don't have their mother anymore, but Abigail still has her father. I shouldn't try to have him cut out of your life. It's not fair to you and not fair to Abigail.

Young Woman
You're a good man Jeff.

Jeff
Just please figure this out quickly.

Young Woman

I will Jeff don't worry.

(Jeff kisses young Woman.)

Jeff

Take some time and figure out how you want to deal with custody and everything. I'll make sure to play nice.

(Jeff Kisses Young Woman again.)

I love you and I know that you will make the right choice.

Young Woman

I love you, and i'll see you soon.

(Young Woman gets up and walks to the door.)

Jeff

I'm counting on it.

(Young Woman leaves the room. Jeff takes a little black box out of his pocket and reveals a ring. Lights fade to black.)

Scene 6

(Lights up to find Young Woman on a park bench alone. Its night time. She sits for a minute then dials a number. We hear the voice of Young Man.)

Young Woman

Hey.

Young Man

What's wrong.

(Young Woman acting Coy.)

Young Woman

Why would something be wrong?

Young Man

You never call me unless something is wrong.

(Silence)

Young Man

Abigail's fine, I can look after my own daughter.

Young Woman

Can I come over?

(Silence)

Young Man

What do you want?

Young Woman

I just need to talk.

(Silence)

Young Man

Alright, come over.

(Young Woman is relieved at the young Man's response. Lights fade to black as Young Woman walks off stage. Car sounds are heard as she drives to Young Man's house.)

Scene 7

(Lights up to find Young Man's apartment. There is a knock at the door and the young man gets out of the pull out couch bed and heads to the door. Abigail is in the bedroom. He is putting his shirt on.)

Young Man

Coming.

(Knock)

One minute.

(Ferocious Knocking. Young Man swing open the door in frustration.)

If you came here to fight i'm not...

Sarah

Why?

Young Man

Sarah this really isn't a good time. Please leave.

Sarah

It's never a good time.

(Young Man softens and explains himself.)

Young Man

Sarah, leave.

Sarah

But...

Young Man

Sarah, I don't love you.

(Silence)

Don't cry.

Sarah

Was any of it real.

(Young Man separates himself.)

Young Man
I'm sorry. You deserve better.

Sarah
So all this time.

Young Man
You'll never be my wife.

(Young Woman approaches the door and sees its
open.)

I hurt her and I'm going to fix things.

Sarah
I wish you looked at me that way.

(Sarah turns to leave and sees Young Woman.)

Sarah
Oh, i'm...i'm just going.

(Sarah turns back to say one last thing then
leaves.)

Sarah
I hope you two are happy together.

(Young Woman walks up to Young Man. The two stair
at each other for a few moments.)

Young Woman
Why?

Young Man
I didn't invite her.

Young Woman
Just tell me the truth.

Young Man
I've been lonely!

Young Woman

And.

(Young Man trying to get Young Woman to understand.)

Young Man

And what, you left me.

(Silence)

Young Woman

Is this still a thing?

Young Man

It was a mistake.

(Young Woman is now tearing up and angry.)

Young Woman

How long!?

Young Man

I never ended things!

(Silence as the young man composes himself.)

I was angry...I'm not trying to justify it, I mean...

(Silence. Young Woman is processing this all.)

Young Woman

I heard those things you said.

Young Man

How much?

Young Woman

Enough.

Young Man

What now?

Young Woman

I don't know.

Young Man
Then why did you come back here?

(Young Man takes a seat on the couch and stares at Young Woman. Young Woman paces around the room Nervously.)

Young Woman
Is Abigail asleep?

Young Man
It's the middle of the night.

(More silence as the two study each other.)

I meant what I said.

(Silence)

I made a mistake...

(Young Woman Shushes Young Man before he can finish.)

Young Woman
Stop.

(Young Man tries to say something else.)

I love you (Pause) But that still doesn't mean that I forgive you.

Young Man
Why did you come here?

Young Woman
Jeff wants a future with me.

Young Man
Did he propose?

Young Woman
Not yet, but I think he will.

(The two sit across from each other on the couch bed. Young Man watches as Young Woman Processes.)

Young Man
Don't you think it's a little soon?

Young Woman
We've been separated for long enough and I like him alot.

Young Man
Like him alot? You're really going to Marry a guy when you only like him?

(Young Woman Calmly.)

Young Woman
You're still sleeping with the woman who ruined our marriage.

(Silence)

Young Man
She didn't ruin it, I did.

Young Woman
What?

Young Man
It's my fault. I'm sorry.

(Silence)

So what now?

Young Woman
We need to talk about how custody might change.

Young Man
Don't change the subject.

Young Woman
We need to plan this.

Young Man
What about the park?

Young Woman

There is no "park". I shouldn't have let that happen.

Young Man

You said you still love me.

Young woman

Of course I do! You're the father of my child. That's why we need to find a way to all get along.

Young Man

Get along!

Young Woman

Stop yelling.

(Silence)

Young Man

I'm sorry.

Young Woman

I need to think.

(Young Woman heads to young man's room.)

Young Man

Hey where are you going? The doors that way.

Young Woman

I'm going to stay with my daughter.

(Young Woman walks into the bedroom and closes the door. Lights fade as Young Man crawls back in the pull out couch bed.)

Scene 8

(Lights up to find Young Man with McDonalds breakfast on a table to the side of the Pullout couch. Once the lights are up he removes the contents of the bag and then proceeds to put his pull out couch bed back together into couch mode.)

Abigail

Good morning!

Young Man

Good morning Pumpkin, how did you sleep?

Abigail

I slept ok but there were some loud noises.

Young Man

Yeah, Mommy and I were having a little talk.

Abigail

Oh.

Young Man

I'm sorry we woke you. Do you want some breakfast, we've got some Sausage Egg Biscuits, Some hot cakes, McGriddles, and your favorite.

Abigail

Hash Browns.

Young Man

You know it pumpkin.

(The two dig into their food. After a few satisfying Bites Abigail speaks up.)

Abigail

Daddy?

(Young Man with a mouth full of food.)

Young Man

Yes pumpkin.

Abigail

Did mommy sleep over because we are going to be a family again?

(Young Man realizes the gravity of everything that Young Woman Said the night prior.)

Young Man

Would you like that?

Abigail

Yes!

Young Man

I would love that too.

(Lights fade on stage right, Abigail and young man freeze, lights up to reveal the bedroom on stage left. A phone is heard ringing and Young Woman is sitting up in Bed. You see that she is talking to someone but it is a one way conversation.)

Young Woman

Mom?

(Young Woman Whispering.)

Yeah i'm great.

(Beat)

Oh no reason, how are you?

(Beat)

I'm at his apartment.

(Beat)

No, i'm here with Abigail.

(Beat)

I can't, I am in his bed.

(Beat)

Mom! It's not like that.

(Beat)

What do you mean?

(Beat)

But Jeff is a good man. And he's, been sleeping with Sarah this whole time.

(Young Woman shocked at her mother's presumptuousness.)

Mom?!

(Young Woman Buries her head in a pillow.)

What should I do?

(Beat)

I still love him.

(Beat)

I can't be with him.

(Beat)

If I go back to him, how pathetic does that make me?

(Beat. There is a longer pause as young woman listens to her mother's reply.)

Okay, thanks mom.

(Lights up on the whole stage. Abigail and Young Man unfreeze and keep eating breakfast. Young Woman Gets out of Bed and gets to the door. Abigail sees her mother and runs to give her a hug.)

Abigail

Good Morning!

(Awkwardly)

Young Man

Goodmorning.

Young Woman

Goodmorning.

Abigail

Look what we got.

Young Woman

Is see that! Pumpkin, will you go watch some cartoons in
Daddy's room?

Abigail

Why?

Young Woman

Daddy and I need to talk.

Abigail

Okay mommy.

(Abigail goes over through the door leading to
stage left and crawls into bed. Lights fade on
Abigail and the scene continues. Young Woman
Addresses Young Man.)

Young Woman

Why?

Young Man

You're going to have to be more specific.

Young Woman

Why did you sleep with her?

Young Man

It's not that simple...

Young Woman

Yes it is.

Young Man

I wanted you.

Young Woman

You had me.

(Silence)

Young Man

When you got pregnant with Abigail I knew things would change and I was excited.

Young Woman

Are you saying you don't want Abigail?

Young Man

No. Will you just...i'm trying to tell a story. (Pause)
When Abigail was born I loved her more than I had ever loved someone. She was everything to me. Along the way, I wanted my wife back.

Young Woman

Where was I?

Young Man

You were there physically, but emotionally, you were gone. I thought it was just a phase...that we would get back to us. All your attention went to Abigail and no matter what I tired.

Young Woman

I never knew that's how you felt...i'm sorry.

Young Man

Thank you.

Young Woman

But, how did Sarah come into the picture?

Young Man

She noticed and was there for me. And I was angry, I just...then she...I don't know what happened.

(Young Woman slaps Young Man.)

Young Woman

I'm sorry I made you feel that way, but you don't deserve me.

(Young Man Confused.)

Young Man

What do you mean?

Young Woman

You're telling me that I wasn't putting out enough so you took a look at the first piece of ass that was offering.

Young Man

That's not what it was.

Young Woman

That's what it felt like.

Young Man

I thought we were finally connecting.

Young Woman

You know, hearing that was supposed to make me feel better.

Young Man

I made a mistake.

Young Woman

That's not good enough.

(Young Woman grabs her bag and goes for the door.
Young Man stops her.)

Young Woman

Get off.

Young Man

No. We are going to talk.

(Young Woman shrugs Young Man off.)

Young Man

I'm sorry.

(Silence)

Young Woman

I just don't see an us anymore.

Young Man

Don't do this.

Young Woman

Don't you ever touch me again.

(Young Woman paces around the room and composes herself.)

Young Woman

When we split I was angry and let it affect my judgement.

Young Man

What?

Young Woman

Listen. (Pause) Abigail wasn't my priority. I know that we need to put Abigail first this time.

Young Man

We aren't done with this conversation!

(Calmly, and firmly.)

Young Woman

Yes we are.

(Young Man doesn't know what to do.)

Young Woman

Going forward we will make sure Abigail comes first. The best thing for her is two happy parents. You don't make me happy. Jeff does, he loves me and that is enough.

Young Man

What about our family.

Young Woman

We can still be a family, but we will never be together again. The most important thing is Abigail knowing that we love her.

(Silence)

Young Man

We need to tell her.

(Young Woman calls to Abigail.)

Young Woman

Abigail.

(Lights up stage left, Abigail gets out of bed and comes to the door, lights down stage left. Abigail enters.)

Young Man

Pumpkin,...

Young Woman

Daddy and I want you to know that we love you. No matter if we are together or not, we will always be a family.

(Abigail begins to cry.)

Abigail

Noo, But, but, I thought we would all live together again.

Young Man

I know pumpkin, but mommy and I have decided that we can be a family even if we don't live together.

Abigail

So are we going to do more things together?

Young Woman

Of course sweetheart. And you will always know that your mommy and daddy love you.

(Young Man and Young Woman kiss abigail on the head. Lights fade to black.)

Scene 9

(Lights up to see Jeff on stage in his chair. There is a knock at the door. Young Woman is back.)

Jeff

Hey stranger.

Young Woman

Hey yourself.

Jeff

I missed you.

(Jeff sweeps Young Woman off her feet and gives her a kiss.)

Young Woman

Jeff I love you and I want to be with you.

(Jeff squeezes young woman tight.)

Jeff

I love you!

(Jeff gets down on one knee. And pulls out a black box.)

Young Woman

Oh my goodness.

Jeff

I know our families were broken when we met, but you helped bring us back together. You are the strongest woman I know, and it would make me the happiest man in the world to call you my wife. Will you Marry me.

(Beat)

Young Woman

No.

Jeff

What?

(Young Woman not entirely sure why she said no yet.)

Young Woman

Jeff, I came over here wanting you to ask me that question, but now that you have, I'm sorry, I can't say yes.

(Jeff gets more and more frustrated with each beat.)

Jeff

No...what...are you even hearing yourself.

Young Woman

Yes..

Jeff

Obviously you're not.

Young woman

Jeff

Jeff

Don't Jeff me.

Young Woman

Stop

Jeff

No, I will not stop.

Young Woman

Jeff.

(Silence.)

Jeff

I don't...

(Silence)

Jeff

This is because of him isn't it?

Young Woman

No its not. This is because of me. I don't need this.
Abigail is my family and I'm content.

(Silence)

Jeff

How could you do this to me.

Young Woman

If you love me, you'll let me go.

Jeff

I don't know what you want me to say?

Young Woman

Say, goodbye, remember all the great times we had together
and wish me luck. I need to figure out what's right for me.

(Young Woman Kisses Jeff on the cheek.)

Jeff

You're making the wrong choice.

Young Woman

No, I'm not. I'm doing what's best for me.

(Lights fade to black as Young Woman leaves the
room.)

Scene 10

(Lights up down stage to find the park. It should look like summer time now to show some time has passed. Young Man is sitting on the same bench as at the top of the show.)

Young Woman

Hey.

(Abigail comes running from off stage and jumps into Young Woman's arms. The three sit together on the bench.)

Abigail

Hi Mommy!

Young Man

You made it.

Young Woman

Of course.

Abigail

Will you two push me on the swing?

Young Woman

Yes Pumpkin.

(Abigail runs off left.)

Young Man

How are you?

Young Woman

Good, and you?

Young Man

Getting there, but Abigail is happy and that's worth it.

(Abigail Runs back on Stage)

Abigail

Common!

(To Young Man.)

Young Woman

Thank you.

(Lights begin to fade and Young Man and Young Woman walk with Abigail hand in hand. The trio skip off stage one happy family.)

The End