

SCENE 5: Blake House, Living Room

(FLETCHER leaps into KATHERINE's lap, a paperback of Peter and the Starcatchers in hand.)

FLETCHER

Mommy, read to me. Please.

KATHERINE

(opens the book to the bookmark)

Here?

(off FLETCHER's nod)

"Peter awoke facedown, with sand in his mouth and a bird on his—"

(FLETCHER falls asleep and begins to snore. MIKE enters.)

MIKE

Maybe it wasn't a great idea to let him eat brown sugar out of the box.

KATHERINE

Mike... I'm pretty sure I owe you an apology for today.

MIKE

Yeah... I was warned. You did say that if you catered our wedding you'd be a crazy person. I didn't know how crazy, but—

KATHERINE

I want to apologize for Ellie, too.

MIKE

For Ellie?

KATHERINE

You know, Ellie's a pain. And she's not very nice to you.

MIKE

I don't want to speak out of school, Katie, but... Ellie can be mad. It's okay.

KATHERINE

It is?

MIKE

You're too hard on her. She lost her dad. I could never replace him. And I wouldn't try. I need Ellie to get to know me on her terms. I love her. If she wants to be angry with me... I can take it.

KATHERINE

She's not angry with you. She... sometimes she's just angry. And she misses her dad. I think Ellie's afraid that she'll forget him.

Scene
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Scene

Start

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MIKE

No one needs to forget him. Her or you. Are we okay?

KATHERINE

Yeah. We're good.

(KATHERINE initiates a fist bump. MIKE bumps her fist.)

MIKE

All right, then. I'm gonna go iron my shirt.

(MIKE exits, leaving KATHERINE with FLETCHER sound asleep on her lap.)

Scene End

#17 - After All of This and Everything

Katherine

KATHERINE

LISTEN TO ME, LITTLE SLEEPING MONSTER...
 YOU THERE, WITH THE SUGAR-CRUSTED FACE...
 I UNDERSTAND THE URGE TO RUN AWAY, KID
 BUT STAY AWHILE, AND YOU MIGHT LIKE THE PLACE
 SOMEDAY YOU'LL BE SIXTEEN AND AWKWARD
 AND TOO OLD FOR THE PUPPETS, BUT STILL ODD
 AND YOU MAY FEEL ALONE, OR EVEN ANGRY
 LIKE LIFE'S A JOKE AND GROWN-UPS ARE A FRAUD...
 BUT KID, I SWEAR TO GOD

THAT AFTER ALL OF THIS AND EV'RYTHING
 I CAN TELL YOU IT'S NOT TRUE
 AFTER ALL OF THIS AND EV'RYTHING
 I PROMISE YOU'LL GET THROUGH
 AND MOM AND MIKE, YOU'LL CUT SOME SLACK
 'CAUSE BOTH OF THEM HAVE GOT YOUR BACK
 WHATEVER CRAP MAY COME OUR WAY
 AFTER ALL OF THIS AND EV'RYTHING
 KID, WE'LL BE OKAY

AND YOU MAY FEEL LIKE MOMMY DOESN'T LOVE YOU
 AND YOU JUST FEEL, JUST, ANGRY EV'RY DAY
 AND MAD AS HELL AT DAD BECAUSE HE LEFT YOU
 AND ANGRY AT YOURSELF TO FEEL THAT WAY...
 BUT LISTEN WHEN I SAY
 THAT AFTER ALL OF THIS AND EV'RYTHING
 I CAN TELL YOU WHAT I KNOW