

ACT I

SCENE 5

(LUCAS and EDEN return to AARON)

JAMES

(Aside) You asked me before when I was happiest, but I was wrong. The happiest day of my life was when Caroline was born. I was finishing my residency, worn to the bone, almost missed her birth because Lily's water broke early despite all the precautions, and they took her to another hospital across town. But I made it, and I held that precious baby girl in my arms, and at that moment I was the luckiest man who ever lived.

LUCAS

(To Aaron) You said you played baseball when you were a kid. What position did you play?

AARON

Pitcher. And I was really good.

LUCAS

Did you play in high school?

AARON

Yeah. I got scouted by a bunch of colleges. I probably wasn't ever gonna make the majors. But I got offered a full ride to Indiana.

LUCAS

They have a good program?

AARON

One of the best. And a scholarship was the only way I was gonna go to college. I was gonna be a police officer. (he chuckles without humor). Me. A cop.

EDEN

But you didn't.

AARON

No. And I didn't go to college on a baseball scholarship.

EDEN

Why not?

AARON

In high school, I had a girlfriend.

(All three move into a downstage scene. AARON and LUCAS as SAUL lie on the floor. EDEN mimes throwing a rock at an upstairs window.)

EDEN AS NIKKI

(stage whispers) Hey! Hey, Aaron!

AARON

(stirs and sits up, going to his "window". He mimes opening it and places his hands on the windowsill, looking out at EDEN and whispering) Hey! What are you doing here?

EDEN AS NIKKI

Come out! We're going to a party. Sneak out and come with us!

AARON

(looking at sleeping LUCAS) I can't.

EDEN AS NIKKI

Sure you can! Come on!

LUCAS AS SAUL

(waking and sitting up) What are you doing? Shut up.

AARON

Nothing. Go back to sleep, Saul.

LUCAS AS SAUL

Is somebody out there? (He jumps up and comes to the open window.) Hey! (to Nikki) What are you doing?

EDEN AS NIKKI

We're going to a party. Aaron's coming. You can come too, I guess.

AARON

(to Saul) I'm not going to a party. I'm not sneaking out, and neither are you.

LUCAS AS SAUL

A party? I'm going.

AARON

You can't. Neither one of us is going to a party.

LUCAS AS SAUL

You don't tell me what to do. I'll go if I want.

AARON

If Father catches you sneaking out of this house, he'll kill you.

LUCAS AS SAUL

I'm not scared of him.

AARON

You should be.

LUCAS AS SAUL

I'm going. (indicating EDEN) She's pretty. Bet next time she comes to this window, she's calling my name, not yours.

AARON

(seething) You are not going anywhere. And stay the hell away from Nikki. (leaning out the window, hands on the sill). I'm sorry, Nikki. We can't go. But I'll see you tomorrow, okay?

EDEN AS NIKKI

(shrugging). Okay. Whatever.

(She turns to go and AARON watches her, not noticing that LUCAS has grabbed the top of the window. He slams it down on AARON'S hands. AARON screams, hands flat, crushed under the window.))

LUCAS AS SAUL

Father! Aaron was talking to a girl out the window and there was...an accident.

(He looks at AARON with triumph and exits. AARON stays there, hands locked in place as LUCAS exits the scene.)

AARON

(still in place, hands trapped). He broke every bone in both hands. The doctor said I was lucky I didn't lose any fingers. They did what they could. But that was the end of baseball, and the end of college. And the start of painkillers. (he holds them as if broken as the scene ends.)