

ACT TWO

Scene 4

A few days later. Dark. The sound of a hospital respirator beeps. Possibly other hospital sounds, paging doctors, etc.

As the lights rise, we see Meiko standing outside a hospital room.

Eli comes out, hugs her.

They end the hug. They sit in two chairs in the hallway outside the room. (Or stand?)

MEIKO

I'm so so sorry

ELI

thanks

MEIKO

how um

how

how's Tobias?

ELI

(Shaky.)

he's uh

they have him in a

a Medically Induced Coma

so he's

just to

to give his body a chance to um

to fight and

MEIKO

oh

your poor little guy

but he's

he's stable at the moment

and they're

they're

optimistic

MEIKO

he's gonna be okay

ELI

are you uh

are you asking?

MEIKO

no yeah uh

I meant

ELI

yeah um

yeah

MEIKO

Rebecca's not here?

ELI

no I uh

she's been here for three days straight

she hasn't slept

she can't sleep when she's with him

I told her

I said

you *must* go home and sleep

so

and shower

and eat

MEIKO
thanks for
for letting me visit

ELI
I didn't want to be alone

MEIKO
sure

Some silence.

do you need me to
can I get you some food or

ELI
no no uh

Rebecca doesn't eat when she's [anxious]
whereas I
have completely exhausted the Dorito supply
from the third floor vending machine
the second floor is
touch and go

MEIKO
I think I have an apple in my bag
maybe some roughage?

ELI
okay sure

Meiko reaches into her bag, pulls out an apple. Hands it to him.

thanks

He crunches a bite.

I used to think the worst part about being a parent
was that every fucking cliché is true
you find yourself having these disgusting conversations about
oh *it's all joy and no fun*

the days are long but the years are short

but

I would just sit there in that room staring at him and thinking
(Like a mantra.)

*I'm so lucky I've gotten to have you in my life
I'm so lucky I've gotten to have you in my life
I'm so lucky I've gotten to have you in my life
and I'm like*

why was I so bothered by that
that other people experience the same thing as me?

A lull.

MEIKO
everybody sends their love

ELI
uhhh... thanks?

what'd you all decide to do about the
reopening

I saw a whole big email chain but I couldn't really like
process it
or

MEIKO
oh we're gonna
we're just gonna keep the whole school closed for everybody
until the quarantine is [lifted]

Don just thought
after what happened
a Cooling Off Period might be [a good idea]

ELI
right
but
Olivia's doing okay?

MEIKO
oh she's she's
she's fine she's
pretty much all better

ELI
good

MEIKO
if I had
obviously if I had known

ELI
sure

MEIKO
I just feel so completely [guttled]

ELI
look
there's no way to even be sure he got it from her

MEIKO
but still
Mini-beat.

ELI
it's not your fault

MEIKO
thank you
for saying that
Eli crunches the apple.

it's just uh
I think Rebecca might
think it is

ELI
why would you think that?

MEIKO
she uh
she texted me

ELI
what'd she say?
She pulls out her phone.

MEIKO
just
whore
She hands him the phone.

if you keep scrolling up
like
pretty much once an hour just
whore
whore
whore

ELI
(Scrolling.)
hmmmm
she probably just like
He hands back the phone.

copy and pasted

MEIKO
...right

I just
I thought you guys had uh
had
Passed Through Monogamy

ELI
we have
we did
both of us
I am capable of loving more than one person at a time
and so is she and that's

I mean
sure
we generally do try to have it be somebody
the other person doesn't know
but
she barely knows you so

MEIKO
we were on the development committee last year

ELI
no yeah but
there were a lot of uh [people on it]
it was a huge committee, right?

MEIKO
we co-chaired it

ELI
well look
marriages are [complicated]
it's hard to understand if you've never been in one

MEIKO
(*Hurt.*)
I've had relationships

ELI
okay
sure

A moment.

I can
I'll ask her to stop texting but
I can't tell her how to feel

MEIKO
it's fine
I mean
if it helps
if it makes her feel better to
I can ignore it

I just
I just want him to be okay

ELI
thanks

A moment.

MEIKO
can I
can I see him?

ELI
IIII
think it's better that he
that he not be disturbed

MEIKO
okay

ELI
right now

MEIKO
sure
um

I guess I'll uh
I should probably go

ELI
okay

Lights.

Scene 5

The library.

Two days later. Don, Suzanne, Eli, and Meiko.

DON
and now
can we just go around and say one word
about where we're landing right now?
don't think
just [speak]

Don looks at Suzanne.

SUZANNE
fragile

DON
(Nodding.)
mmmmmm

Don turns his gaze to Carina.

CARINA
um
concerned?

DON
thank you

Don turns his gaze to Meiko.

MEIKO
uhhhhh
pass

Don clocks that something is weird here, but decides to move on.

DON
sure

Don widens his gaze.