

ACT I

SCENE 7

(EDEN and LUCAS move to James)

EDEN

So you lived in Chicago?

JAMES

For my post-doc, yes, until I got the offer from Good Shepherd in St. Louis. I'd be running the emergency department. It was exactly what I wanted.

EDEN

Another move?

JAMES

Yep. Caroline was still little, so changing schools for her was no big deal.

EDEN

You sent her to public school?

JAMES

(laughing) Yeah. Everybody thinks doctors are just born rich, you know? But we got so behind on everything with Lily not working until Caroline was in pre-school. Residents make nothing. Post-docs make almost nothing. So we moved into the best school district we could find and Caroline went to public just like I had. Not like it mattered. She would have done well anywhere. She was a brilliant student, as smart as her mom.

(JAMES and EDEN move into a scene,  
Lily is stirring a pot on the stove)

EDEN AS LILY

Oh, hey. You're home on time for once.

JAMES

I am, and that smells amazing. (he reaches for the pot but EDEN nudges him away)

EDEN AS LILY

Hands off until dinnertime. You could start washing up. Oh, I got a note from the school today.

JAMES

Yeah? (he starts washing dishes)

EDEN AS LILY

Caroline's teacher is recommending her for some kind of accelerated program. Something for gifted students.

JAMES

In fourth grade?

EDEN AS LILY

Apparently so. They put kids in when they think they're ready. They do science stuff, more advanced math, but also more like logic and critical thinking. I think she'd do well.

JAMES

Absolutely. Let's do it.

(They cook/wash in silence for a moment)

EDEN AS LILY

So, there's something else.

JAMES

Yeah?

EDEN AS LILY

Charlie is retiring. He offered to sell me the Market Street practice.

JAMES

(stopping dish duty). Whoa. That's...a lot earlier than I thought.

EDEN AS LILY

I told him I'd think about it, and talk to you.

JAMES

But...Market Street? Really? That's not the best neighborhood.

EDEN AS LILY

No, but I'm the only dentist that takes Medicaid there. If I don't buy it and keep that up, those people won't have anywhere to go.

JAMES

So what are you thinking?

EDEN AS LILY

Caroline's not a baby anymore. She's in fourth grade. She doesn't need me so much. You don't need me at all...

JAMES

That's not true...

EDEN AS LILY

I don't mean it in a mean way. But you're never home, and you're never going to be home as long as you're in the ER.

JAMES

We knew that when we moved here.

EDEN AS LILY

We did. But owning the practice...everything could be the way I want it to be. Something that's just mine.

JAMES

Then you should do it.

EDEN AS LILY

Really?

JAMES

Really. You want this, you think the timing is right, then you do it. We do it. As much as I can be here to help you, I'm here. And it will be good for Caroline to see her mom owning a business, running things without a man to tell her what to do.

EDEN AS LILY

I hope so. I want her to be independent. I feel like I'm pretty good at the whole "mom" thing, but I also want to set an example for her. Like, her mom can do anything, and so can she.

JAMES

Her mom *can* do anything.

EDEN AS LILY

Yeah. I think I can.