

Good enough for whom?

(Nate doesn't answer)

But you were in the accelerated class?

NATE

Gifted.

LUCAS

(to Eden) We're gonna be here forever if it's like this for every question.

AARON

(no one notices him speaking) I wish I could go back to when I was a kid. There's so much I'd do differently. But you don't know when you're a kid, do you? You don't know any different. You make choices and you don't know that every choice opens a door and closes ten others. And pretty soon there's only one door left.

LUCAS

(to Nate) So what kind of things did you do in the special classes?

NATE

(sharply) It wasn't special. I wasn't retarded.

LUCAS

Wrong word choice. In the gifted program, what kinds of things did you enjoy?

NATE

I don't know. Science. We did this thing one time where we had all these eggs. Like, not from the grocery but from some farm or something. We'd hold them up to a light and look at the baby chicken inside. They stayed in this incubator and we watched them get bigger and did measurements and stuff. We named them all and tried to guess when they'd hatch.

LUCAS

Then they hatched? Did you get to see that?

NATE

Some of them. Some of them died before they even got to hatch. But the ones that hatched, they were really cute. Little and fluffy. We got to pet them, and we measured how big they were. Then they sent them back, I guess to the farm they came from. And I always wondered when I ate chicken after that, if it was one of my baby chickens.

LUCAS

Would that have made you sad? To know you were eating one of the babies that you named?

NATE

I don't know. Yeah? Doesn't matter, does it? Any chicken was a fluffy baby when it hatched. Then they're just...chickens. They're there to eat, so who cares if it's got a name?

(Lights up on JAMES. EDEN and LUCAS ignore him as he speaks.)

JAMES

They were so worried about Lily with the pregnancy. We just kept remembering our baby Johnathan who never took a single breath, and our little Joseph. He lived for almost four weeks in the incubator, just a mess of tubes, IVs. He never came home. This time was going to be different, no matter what it took. This time was...baby Caroline.

(Lights down on James)

EDEN

Your parents must have been very proud of how smart you were.

NATE

I guess.

(NATE moves downstage into a scene.
LUCAS enters the scene, becoming
CHARLIE, NATE's father. He lies on the