

LUCAS

(to Nate) Okay. What do you want to talk about?

NATE

I don't know. I don't even know why I'm here.

(LUCAS is not sure what to say. Eden takes over.)

EDEN

You were talking before about science. You wanted to be a doctor.

NATE

Yeah. I did.

(They enter a scene. Eden is Caroline--James and Lily's daughter, and Nate's classmate in the gifted program at school. NATE is sculpting something with his hands at a table.)

EDEN AS CAROLINE

Hi.

NATE

Hey.

EDEN AS CAROLINE

I'm Caroline.

NATE

Nate.

EDEN AS CAROLINE

Mrs. Stinson said you're supposed to help me.

NATE

Help you with what?

EDEN AS CAROLINE

My project.

NATE

I got my own project.

EDEN AS CAROLINE

Yeah, and she said you're supposed to help me with mine.

NATE

Why?

EDEN AS CAROLINE

Because I'm new, I guess. Maybe because you're older, I don't know. But you've done the science fair before, so you're supposed to help me finish my project on time.

NATE

It's tomorrow. Aren't you almost finished?

EDEN AS CAROLINE

Sure.

NATE

How much do you have done?

EDEN AS CAROLINE

Almost all of it.

NATE

Show me.

EDEN AS CAROLINE

(she hesitates). It's not actually written down yet.

NATE

No?

EDEN AS CAROLINE

No. It's gonna be a poster. It's gonna be really cool. It's about my mom.

NATE

Yeah? What's she special for?

EDEN AS CAROLINE

She's a dentist. She owns a whole dentist office,
all by herself.

NATE

You don't have a dad?

EDEN AS CAROLINE

Of course I have a dad. He's a doctor. He saves
people's lives.

NATE

(a bit more interested now) He does? I'm gonna be a
doctor, too.

EDEN AS CAROLINE

No you're not. Only the very smartest people are
doctors.

NATE

I *am* gonna be a doctor.

EDEN AS CAROLINE

What's your dad do?

NATE

He's...he's an architect. He builds houses and
skyscrapers.

EDEN AS CAROLINE

Builds them? Like, pounds in nails and stuff?

NATE

Yeah. No, he doesn't pound in nails. He designs
them. He's very smart. Smarter than a doctor. He's
coming to the science fair so I have to get my
project done.

EDEN AS CAROLINE

Yeah, but you have to help me. Mrs. Stinson said so.

NATE

(sighs). Fine. So it's about your mom.

EDEN AS CAROLINE

Yeah. So in one corner it's gonna say about how you become a dentist. Like school and dental school and stuff. And then in the other corner it's gonna be about what a dentist does.

NATE

Pulls teeth.

EDEN AS CAROLINE

Yeah, and fills cavities and makes dentures and all that. She has this laser thing that makes the fake tooth and they screw it right into your head.

NATE

(smiling) Into your head? Like, it could go anywhere? I could have a tooth screwed in right here? (he points to his forehead) Or here? (he points to his ear.)

EDEN AS CAROLINE

They have to go in your mouth.

NATE

Maybe I could get a hundred teeth. Lined up behind each other like a shark.

EDEN AS CAROLINE

Ew, gross! (they laugh) So what's your project?

NATE

It's about volcanoes. Lava and magma, and how the magma builds up underground until there's so much pressure and then boom!

EDEN AS CAROLINE

Cool.

NATE

Yeah. My dad's gonna love it.

(scene ends, EDEN and NATE return to
upstage)

LUCAS

So did your dad love the volcano you built?

NATE

(with a very faint, haunted smile). No. He did not
love it.