

* new

= Mattie =

13.

BRIEF FLASHBACK (MOS)

Images tumbling on top of another: Jack and Mattie loading skis on roofrack of car... Jack showing Mattie the perfect serve... Mattie playing clarinet for Jack in kitchen... Jack clapping... Mattie taking a bow.

RESUME SCENE - MATTIE'S BEDROOM

Mattie suddenly yanks the wet sheet from her own mouth.

MATTIE

This sucks.

INT. KITCHEN -- MOMENTS LATER

Kathryn and Mattie at the table, not eating. The kitchen's a mess of overflowing trash and piles of food sent by friends.

Kathryn silently forces down a piece of toast with coffee. Mattie on the edge of her chair, hands clamped between knees.

KATHRYN

Have some toast.

MATTIE

I'm not hungry.

KATHRYN

You hardly ate anything yesterday.

MATTIE

MOM, I'm not hungry, OK? Back off.

She breaks off a teensy bit of crust, chews sullenly.

MATTIE (CONT'D)

You know the worst part?

KATHRYN

Tell me.

MATTIE

That morning before he left? He asked me if I wanted to go to a Celtics game when he got back. And I was in a bad mood, and I wanted to see what Jason was doing Friday night so I said couldn't we just wait and see. I could see he was hurt, Mom, I know he was.

(CONTINUED)

"the pilots"

Lot 5

14.

CONTINUED:

KATHRYN

(lying)

He understood. He did, really, he told me before he left.

MATTIE

He did?

BRIEF FLASHBACK - LYONS' KITCHEN

Jack shines his shoe on pull-out breakboard before he leaves. Kathryn has come down to say goodbye.

JACK

(pissed)

They're great seats. I can't believe I'm suddenly second string. I get so little time with her as it is.

RESUME SCENE

KATHRYN

He was fine with it. He joked about being second string now. When he makes jokes, it means he's OK.

Mattie - not sure she believes it, but wants to.

EXT. SCENIC TRAIL -- A LITTLE LATER

The sun is higher. Mattie charges up a hill. Kathryn follows, perspiring, breathing hard, trying to keep up.

→ * EXT. FLAT ROCK, OVERLOOKING VALLEY -- LATER

Kathryn and Mattie sit on the rock. It's a breathtaking view. Mattie, head back, stares at the sky.

MATTIE

I saw this documentary about penguins. Do you know about them?

KATHRYN

Not much.

MATTIE

What they do is, the male picks out one female from, like, hundreds, but he picks one and he lays five stones.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

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CONTINUED:

MATTIE (CONT'D)
one by one, at her feet. And if she
accepts them, they're mates for life.

KATHRYN
That's nice.

MATTIE
(giddy, near hysteria)
And then at the aquarium with my
class? These penguins were, like,
mating? And the male lay on top of
the female and sort of quivered, and
they looked real happy, like they
were in love. But this jerk in my
class kept making weird jokes.

KATHRYN
Probably just embarrassed.
Silence. Broken by GULL CRIES overhead.

MATTIE
You know, Mom, I've done it.
Whoa. A beat before Kathryn can breathe again.

KATHRYN
Are we talking about what I think
we're talking about?

MATTIE
Are you mad?

KATHRYN
No. When was this?

MATTIE
Last year. Remember Tommy?

KATHRYN
You were only fourteen.

MATTIE
You're upset, I can tell.

KATHRYN
No. No, I'm not upset.

(CONTINUED)

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CONTINUED:

MATTIE

It's fine, Mom. I'm fine. I just wanted to find out what it's like.

KATHRYN

I hope you were careful.

MATTIE

Duh. What do you think, I'm gonna take chances?

KATHRYN

What about with Jason?

MATTIE

He's religious so we don't.

KATHRYN

(reeling)

Oh. Well. I'm glad you told me.

MATTIE

I wanted to before but I thought you'd probably have to tell Daddy.

And now Kathryn doesn't. What would Jack want her to say?

KATHRYN

It's a special part of life. It should mean something.

MATTIE

I just had to get it out of the way.

KATHRYN

Think of the penguins.

MATTIE

Mom, you're weird.

KATHRYN

We knew that.

EXT. JULIA'S HOUSE -- LATER

Kathryn stops her car in front of the old stone house. Mattie gets out, runs up the steps and lets herself in. Kathryn drives away.

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(Mattie has just ridden 5 miles on a bike to get to her mom after hearing rumors that Jack was responsible for the crash.)

28.

* EXT. DRIVEWAY

Mattie, bedraggled and sweaty, does battle with Kathryn.

KATHRYN

It's not true.

MATTIE

How would you know?

KATHRYN

You know your father.

MATTIE

Maybe.

KATHRYN

What does that mean?

MATTIE

Maybe I didn't know him. How do you ever know that you know a person?

One who lied that his mother was dead. But that's not what Mattie needs to hear now. With more bravado than conviction:

KATHRYN

You feel it.

MATTIE

Do you feel that you know me?

KATHRYN

Pretty well, yes.

A look between them. Kathryn sees she's stepped into a trap.

MATTIE

Well, you don't. Half the time you have no idea what I'm thinking.

KATHRYN

OK, but that's different. Come inside and we can talk about it.

MATTIE

No, Mom. I don't want a lot of lies to make things better. It can't be made better. I don't want to pretend.

(CONTINUED)

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