

21 CONTINUED:

MEGAN

21

MARK

~~And I want a girlfriend. And I want to be able to take care of little babies. Because I won't hurt them.~~

OFF Nick.

22 INT. LEGAL SERVICES OF PITTSBURGH - MEETING ROOM - DAY

22

MEGAN TILDEN (a grown up looking fourteen year old girl) sits with Nick, Elizabeth and Kate.

MEGAN

My school has a ski club.

NICK

Okay.

MEGAN

Right after school on Friday, everyone takes a bus out to Seven Springs or Hidden Valley.

NICK

Okay.

MEGAN

Everyone brings their ski stuff to school, right. And leaves the stuff in the gym.

ELIZABETH

Megan.

MEGAN

Right. I always -- Fridays -- I always looked at the stuff against the wall. You know -- I mean -- I've never even been skiing. I haven't even gone sledding since my mom got sick. And I asked my dad if I could go, just once, and he told me no. I just wanted to go once.

Pause. Nick turns to Kate and Elizabeth.

NICK

She's retracting the allegation.

KATE

Correct.

NICK

So. Send the kids home.

(CONTINUED)

1/4

22 CONTINUED:

22

KATE

It's not so simple.

ELIZABETH

The abuse allegations were false. But there is clear evidence of neglect. And Mr. Tilden is in denial about what's going on in his home.

NICK

What do you mean?

ELIZABETH

Megan Tilden takes care of her younger sisters because Mr. Tilden will not. She is, for the most part, parenting her younger sisters alone.

KATE

We've also found that Megan missed thirty days of school this year, and was held back last year.

NICK

That's not grounds to remove --

ELIZABETH

-- Megan is made to cook for her sisters, clean up after them, get them ready for the school in the morning and get them ready for bed at night.

NICK

The issue here is alleged sexual abuse.

KATE

The fact that Megan was upset enough to allege that kind of abuse suggests these other issues be taken very seriously.

NICK

So. If my client agrees to let Megan join the ski club --

KATE

-- My client doesn't want to be held responsible for the care and upbringing of her sisters. She'd like her father to know that.

OFF Nick.

FYI

= 2/4

29 INT. LEGAL SERVICES OF PITTSBURGH - MEETING ROOM - DAY

29

Nick and Carl sit with Megan, Kate and Elizabeth.

NICK

Carl felt it was important to try to work this out instead of going to court.

Nick looks to Carl. Who looks directly at his daughter.

CARL

Megan. I was -- pretty upset about what you did.

MEGAN

Right.

CARL

I mean, I didn't know you felt the way you felt. And I guess I really just wish you could have talked to me about it.

MEGAN

(looking away)
I tried to talk to you.

CARL

Complaining about taking care of your sisters isn't exactly talking.

Pause. Nick looks at Carl - this is not the right direction in which to take this.

CARL (cont'd)

I'm sorry. But -- I'm sorry. This is about a ski trip?

(to Elizabeth and
Kate)

You people have no idea what it's like to be us. Okay? No idea.

NICK

Carl --

CARL

-- They don't. They don't have any idea. And Megan, I'm sorry, but I think you're being immature.

ELIZABETH

She's fourteen, Mr. Tilden.

3/4

(CONTINUED)

29 CONTINUED:

29

CARL
She's being selfish.

NICK
Carl.

CARL
This is the way we are. Like it or not, sweetheart. And you lying to people for attention is not the way to change it.

MEGAN
Amy and Cindy call me mom, Dad. They call me mom.

CARL
So that gives you the right to lie? To call the police?

MEGAN
I'm sorry.

CARL
I had to go through terrible things this week -- tests and questions that you would not believe --

MEGAN
-- I'm sorry, Daddy.

Elizabeth stands.

ELIZABETH
Okay. Well. Mr. Tilden. I think we understand where you are coming from.

CARL
Megan belongs at home. With me.

ELIZABETH
We won't be able to solve it here. We'll have to talk about it in court.

OFF Megan.

30 INT. FALLIN & FALLIN - BURTON'S OFFICE - DAY

30

Jake steps in to find Burton sitting at his work table.

BURTON
Call these guys. From the club.
(MORE)

414
(CONTINUED)