

7th HEAVEN

"Leaps of Faith"

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Episode #20

Season 9

Written by
Jeffrey Rodgers

Directed by: Ron High

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SPELLING TELEVISION, INC.
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Los Angeles, CA 90036

WRITER'S DRAFT
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SEVENTH HEAVEN

"Leaps of Faith"

PROLOGUE

FADE IN:

DAY ONE

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| 1 | EXT. GLENOAK HOSPITAL - ESTABLISHING - DAY | 1 |
| 2 | INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY | 2 |

ERIC walks down the hallway, finally stopping at a door, where he pokes his head in. Inside, LYNN MILES, an African-American woman in her thirties, stands over the bed of her fourteen-year-old daughter TONYA. Her twelve-year-old daughter KRISTI sits next to the bed, drawing a picture.

ERIC
I hope I'm not intruding.

Lynn looks at him.

LYNN
Of course not.

KRISTI
Hello.

TONYA
(smiles weakly)
Hi.

ERIC
I wanted to stop by and see how
Tonya was feeling.

She gives him a thumbs up, but it's painful to do.

LYNN
We just finished Tonya's transfusion,
so she's a little worn out, and
next week, Kristi's in, so it's the
usual. We're fine. We're getting
by.

ERIC
(nods)
I know it's tough.

LYNN
Yeah, but we're used to it, aren't
we, girls?

(CONTINUED)

2 CONTINUED:

2

They nod.

LYNN
I was actually going to stop by
your office today to talk to you.

ERIC
About?

Lynn motions him out of the room.

LYNN
(turning back to the
girls)
I'll be right back.

Eric turns back to Tonya and Kristi.

ERIC
I hope to see you both Sunday. I'll
be thinking about you.

He follows Lynn into the hallway.

3 INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY - DAY

3

Eric looks at Lynn.

ERIC
Are you having problems with work
again?

LYNN
No, I transferred to another
department, and I can work whatever
hours I can. Of course now I'm
considered a part-time employee, so
I'm losing money and benefits.

ERIC
That is so not fair. Who can I talk
to?

LYNN
For starters, my ex-husband.

Eric reacts.

LYNN
On top of everything else, he called.
He's in town.

ERIC
I don't think I've ever met your ex-
husband.

(CONTINUED)

LYNN

Russell left years ago, moved back to Memphis right after we learned Kristi had sickle cell disease, too. He couldn't face the prospect of having two sick daughters, so he left me to deal with it on my own.

ERIC

Does he support you?

LYNN

Financially, yes, but... emotionally, no. The girls get a card on their birthdays and at Christmas. That's about it.

ERIC

Do you have any idea why he's back now?

LYNN

He says he wants me to think about letting the girls move to Memphis to live with him for a while. They don't even know him.

ERIC

Did he say why? Why now?

LYNN

He said he'd tell me when he saw me. I don't care why. They're not going.

ERIC

So you want me to talk to him?

LYNN

If you don't mind.

ERIC

You want to be there?

LYNN

No, I don't. I haven't seen him since he left, and after walking out on us, I don't think he deserves to see me or my girls.

Eric nods.

FADE OUT.

END OF PROLOGUE

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

4 EXT. CAMDEN HOUSE - ESTABLISHING - DAY 4

5 INT. KITCHEN - DAY 5

UNDER CREDITS: ANNIE is making dinner. RUTHIE is setting the table with some help from SAM and DAVID. Actually, it's not as helpful as Sam and David seem to think it is, and Ruthie has to go back behind them and correct their place settings. They follow behind her and un-correct her corrections. END CREDITS. Ruthie looks at them.

RUTHIE
You guys are doing it wrong.

SAM
We're doing it our own way.

DAVID
Yeah, our way is better. We like
the fork next to the hand that uses
it.

RUTHIE
You use the fork with both hands,
and it's always been on the left.

DAVID
I think our new way is better.

ANNIE
Maybe we can try their new way
tonight, just to test it out.

Sam and David smile. SIMON enters from the back door.

SIMON
Something smells good.

SAM/DAVID
Simon!

RUTHIE
What are you doing home?

ANNIE
Don't you have finals?

SIMON
Not for a few weeks.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

5 CONTINUED:

5

SIMON (CONT'D)

I've got a paper to write, but I
always write better when I eat, and
what better place to eat than right
here?

ANNIE

Thank you.

(to Sam and David)

You can set another place at the
table.

LUCY enters, shocked to see Simon.

LUCY

Hi. I've been trying to call you,
or Kevin's been trying to call you.

Simon looks at her with that "shut-up" kind of look. Annie
looks from Simon to Lucy.

LUCY

We just wanted to say hello, see
how you're doing. How are you doing?

SIMON

Fine.

Lucy nods.

LUCY

Well, you could let someone know.

Now Ruthie looks from Simon to Lucy.

LUCY

(trying to cover for her
weirdness)

Ruthie, I don't think I've asked
how you are today. How are you?

Simon reacts, what an idiot.

RUTHIE

I'm fine.

SAM

I'm fine, too.

DAVID

So am I.

Annie looks at Lucy.

(CONTINUED)

5 CONTINUED: (2)

5

ANNIE
Me, too. How are you?

SIMON
Nuts.

Lucy nods.

LUCY
Yeah, well, I'm a new mother.

They stare at her, Lucy considers then goes back up the stairs. The others react.

6 INT. GARAGE APARTMENT/INT. ZOE'S BEDROOM - DAY

6

MARTIN is there doing homework. His cell phone RINGS, he answers.

MARTIN
Hello?

It's ZOE.

ZOE
Hi, Martin, it's Zoe. What are you doing?

MARTIN
Homework.

ZOE
Can you help me with my homework?

MARTIN
I can do that.

ZOE
Great, you can pick me up at nine-thirty.

MARTIN
Nine-thirty?

ZOE
It's for my astronomy project. I'm supposed to observe the meteor storm. The earliest I should be able to see anything is nine-thirty.

He considers.

ZOE
Really, that's my homework.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ZOE (CONT'D)

It's not a trap. I need you to take me someplace where there's a clear view. Some people in my class are going to the park.

MARTIN

I'm not sure if I can get out tonight. The Camdens tend to overreact when it comes to things like staying out late, especially when it's with members of the opposite sex on a school night.

ZOE

Do you have experience with that?

MARTIN

Well... maybe... It's kind of personal.

ZOE

I was kidding, but now I'm interested in how personal. Maybe we can talk about it while we look at the stars.

MARTIN

I really don't know if the Camdens are going to let me out at nine-thirty on a school night.

ZOE

If you ask them and they say no, then I'm going to make an F on this assignment, and I really can't afford to lower my average.

MARTIN

I just don't know if I can talk them into it.

ZOE

(teasingly)

So maybe you could just take a chance and not ask them, live dangerously, walk out to your car and drive away. Where's your sense of adventure? Be a man. I need you. Rescue me.

He considers.

ZOE

Come on, what would your dad have done if he was in your situation at seventeen?

(CONTINUED)

6 CONTINUED: (2)

6

He considers.

ZOE
Nine-thirty.

She hangs up.

7 INT. NURSERY/INT. LUCY'S AND KEVIN'S ROOM - DAY

7

KEVIN, in uniform, enters. He makes his way over to Savannah's crib and takes his seat and starts watching. Lucy enters.

LUCY
I thought I heard you come in.

KEVIN
Shhh. Savannah's sleeping.

LUCY
That's a good thing. Babies are supposed to sleep. You don't have to watch her.

KEVIN
I know that now, but I like watching her. I don't get the chance to do that when I'm working, so I like to spend as much time with her as I can when I'm home, even if she's sleeping.

Lucy watches him watch Savannah for a moment.

LUCY
Did you see Simon?

KEVIN
Simon's here?

LUCY
Yes, he's here.

KEVIN
And?

LUCY
And he says he's fine.

KEVIN
Nice of him to let us know.

LUCY
I couldn't really say anything because Mom and Ruthie and the boys were there. Go find him.

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED:

7

KEVIN

Why? He said he was fine.

LUCY

That was a generic "I'm fine," it wasn't an official medical "I'm fine."

KEVIN

He would have let us know if he caught something.

LUCY

Would he? Or would he just not have called?

KEVIN

He wouldn't have come home if he had a problem.

LUCY

Maybe he would have and maybe he wouldn't have. Go ask him, and then come back up here because we need to talk about me.

She exits into their room, Kevin follows.

KEVIN

What's wrong with you?

LUCY

I've been thinking.

KEVIN

I wish you wouldn't do that.

He takes a seat on the bed.

LUCY

When do you think I should go back to work?

KEVIN

Whenever you're ready.

LUCY

That's just the thing, I'm ready now.

KEVIN

Okay, then you should go back to work now.

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED: (2)

7

LUCY

But I don't know if I should leave Savannah.

KEVIN

Then wait awhile.

LUCY

I don't want you to agree with whatever I just said, I want you to tell me what you think.

KEVIN

I think you should go back to work... whenever you're ready... if you want to.

LUCY

That doesn't help.

KEVIN

Look, I think you're a great mother, and I think you're a great associate pastor, and I think when the time is right, you'll be able to be both at the same time, but I can't decide when the time is right, you have to.

LUCY

If I go back to work now, Mom could take care of Savannah.

KEVIN

Oh, I don't think so. Savannah's our responsibility. If you go back to work, you and I will take care of Savannah.

LUCY

How are we going to do that?

KEVIN

I don't know, but we better figure it out, because when we move, we can't just stick your mom with raising our daughter, so we shouldn't just start doing that now.

LUCY

It takes a village.

KEVIN

Then we'll hire one.

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED: (3)

7

LUCY

We don't have to hire one, we have my mother. I'm sure she'll take care of Savannah if I start back to work.

KEVIN

No.

LUCY

No, you're not sure she will?

KEVIN

No, I don't want to ask your mother.

LUCY

Then I will.

KEVIN

No, I don't want you to ask her either.

Lucy looks at him.

KEVIN

It's just not right, okay?

He exits to the baby's room.

8 INT. KITCHEN - DAY

8

Eric enters. Annie looks at him.

ANNIE

Oh good, you're here. The boys just went up to wash their hands. Dinner's almost ready.

She looks at him.

ANNIE

Bad day?

ERIC

Hospital visit.

ANNIE

Right. I forgot. How are Tonya and Kristi?

ERIC

They're hanging in there, but their dad is supposed to give me a call to set up a meeting.

(CONTINUED)

ANNIE

Their dad? I don't remember a dad ever being in the picture.

ERIC

He hasn't been, not for a long, long time, but apparently he's in town and he wants to talk to Lynn about moving the girls to Memphis to live with him.

ANNIE

I don't remember Lynn's ex-husband. She's been a single mom as long as she's been coming to church, hasn't she?

ERIC

Yes, she has. The father left right after Kristi was born.

ANNIE

And now he wants them back? Why?

Eric shrugs.

ERIC

Lynn wants me to ask him how he could abandon his wife and two young daughters when they needed him most. She wants to know how he can just send a couple of cards a year saying Happy Birthday and Merry Christmas when the three of them are struggling every day of the year. She wants me to ask him if he knows what it's like to live with constant, excruciating pain. And she'd like me to ask him what he hopes to accomplish by coming back now, opening old wounds that probably have never been completely closed.

Annie looks at him.

ANNIE

I can't wait to hear what he has to say.

ERIC

Yeah, me too.

The doorbell RINGS.

(CONTINUED)

8 CONTINUED: (2)

8

ERIC
I'll get it.

He exits.

9 INT. FOYER - DAY

9

Ruthie comes down the stairs and opens the front door, just as Eric enters from the kitchen. Ruthie opens the door to see PETER. A beat.

RUTHIE
Hi.

PETER
Hi. Surprise.

Ruthie smiles.

RUTHIE
Yeah, it is.

ERIC
Come in, Peter. Are you alone, or...

Just then, VIC and PARIS appear.

VIC
Hi.

Paris is pregnant, very pregnant.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

10 EXT. CAMDEN HOUSE - ESTABLISHING - NIGHT 10

11 INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT 11

After dinner, Eric and Annie are having coffee with Paris and Vic.

VIC
That dinner was amazing.

ANNIE
Thank you.

PARIS
And thanks for not kicking us out
the door when Vic accepted his own
invitation to stay.

ERIC
It wasn't a problem at all.

ANNIE
It's so good to see that everything
is going so well.

PARIS
We couldn't be happier.

ERIC
That's great. And Vic, you're
still...

VIC
Sober? Yep. I'm going to need a
clear head to raise little Vic right.

ANNIE
So you're having a boy?

VIC
Or Vicki, either way.

PARIS
We didn't want to find out the sex
of the baby. We like to enjoy life's
little surprises.

VIC
It keeps us on our toes.

Eric and Annie nod, then look at each other.

(CONTINUED)

11 CONTINUED:

11

ANNIE

We really enjoyed having you stop by. What a nice surprise.

ERIC

But I'm wondering, are you here for a reason?

PARIS

Actually, yes. With the due date on the way, we were thinking it would be nice if we were married when the baby arrived.

VIC

I want Paris to make an honest man out of me.

PARIS

And we'd like you to perform the ceremony.

VIC

We figure that since you know about all the garbage I put Paris and Peter through, it'd be special if you were there when I did something right for a change.

ERIC

I would be honored to perform the ceremony.

PARIS

Thank you.

ANNIE

When do you have in mind?

VIC

The sooner the better, obviously.

PARIS

We don't want anything big, really just the two of us is all we need.

VIC

And Peter as my best man.

Eric and Annie smile at them.

12 EXT. BACK PORCH - NIGHT

12

Ruthie and Peter are there.

RUTHIE
Thanks for helping me with the
dishes.

PETER
No problem.

There's an uncomfortable silence.

RUTHIE
How is your new school?

PETER
Fine.

RUTHIE
It must have been tough, going to a
new school.

PETER
(shrugs)
It wasn't bad. You should know, you
were at a new school, too.

RUTHIE
Right, high school.

A beat.

RUTHIE
How's the new house?

PETER
Fine.

A beat.

RUTHIE
How are your parents?

PETER
Fine. It's weird having them both
under the same roof... And my dad
is on some weird fitness craze. He
always wants to go hiking, or throw
the football around, or do yoga.

RUTHIE
Yoga?

(CONTINUED)

12 CONTINUED:

12

PETER
Yeah, I don't get it either. But my
mom's great, she's really excited
about being a mother again.

RUTHIE
(nods)
Yeah.

There's another uncomfortable silence, then:

RUTHIE
(blurts out)
Why didn't you call?

He reacts.

PETER
What?

RUTHIE
When you moved, you didn't call.

PETER
I called.

RUTHIE
Once. You called once.

PETER
I was in a new neighborhood, trying
to make friends... And you could
have called me.

RUTHIE
I did. More than once.

PETER
Sorry.

They sit in silence again.

13 INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

13

Kevin is waiting for someone and we see that that someone is
Simon when Simon comes down the stairs.

KEVIN
Great, it's about time I got you
alone. What are you, avoiding me?

Simon looks at him.

SIMON
What?

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED:

13

KEVIN

What? How are you?

SIMON

I'm fine. Why does everyone keep asking me that?

KEVIN

Because last I heard from you, you were scared to death you might have gotten an STD from your one-night stand.

SIMON

Would you be quiet?

KEVIN

We've been calling you and calling you. Why didn't you call us back?

SIMON

Because I didn't know anything.

Kevin considers.

KEVIN

What?

Simon shrugs.

KEVIN

You did see a doctor?

SIMON

Yes. Yesterday.

KEVIN

You waited until yesterday?

SIMON

I'm sure I'm fine.

KEVIN

Did they tell you you were fine?

SIMON

They'll call me. I have my cell phone with me. I'm not worried.

Kevin just shakes his head.

KEVIN

You're worried.

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED: (2)

13

Simon shrugs. Eric comes in with coffee cups, looks at the two of them. Kevin exits up the stairs.

SIMON

I don't know, okay? I just went to get tested yesterday.

Eric nods.

ERIC

Alright, well, still, it'll be good to get the official all clear.

SIMON

(casually)

Yeah, of course.

ERIC

And when you do?

Simon looks at him. Eric waits.

SIMON

When I do, I'll be relieved. Not that I'm worried.

ERIC

No, I mean, will you be changing your... social life?

SIMON

I've changed. All I've done is study since that happened.

ERIC

We'll talk more about this. I have to say goodnight to our guests and go meet someone down at the Promenade.

Eric exits down the hall leading to the front door.

14 INT. NURSERY - NIGHT

14

Paris and Lucy are leaning over the baby in the crib.

PARIS

She's really beautiful.

LUCY

Thanks.

(then)

So, what are you guys going to do about work and taking care of the baby?

(CONTINUED)

PARIS

I have to work. We need the money. And I'm still our primary support, even though Vic is teaching. I'll have some time off, then when I go back, Vic's on summer break, so he'll stay home with the baby. And when the fall comes and he goes back to work, he's going to teach night classes so that he can still stay home in the daytime.

Lucy nods. Paris smiles.

PARIS

I know. Who thought Vic would ever be responsible enough to work and take care of Peter and a new baby? It's taken a long time, but I trust him. I never thought I would say those words, but I trust him.

LUCY

That's good, since you're marrying him.

PARIS

Yeah, those are two other words I never thought I would say again, "I do."

LUCY

I'm happy for you, for you and for Vic and for Peter. I think it's great you're having a baby and getting married.

PARIS

Thanks. And hey, when are you going back to work?

LUCY

Kevin and I were just discussing that this afternoon.

PARIS

Oh, you're so lucky, your mom can just take care of Savannah, right?

LUCY

Well... I think she can, but Kevin thinks we should make other arrangements.

PARIS

But your mom, she's right here, and she's had seven children.

(CONTINUED)

14 CONTINUED: (2)

14

Kevin enters.

KEVIN
True, but we're moving.

LUCY
Someplace close by.

PARIS
I think that's my cue to leave.
Goodnight.

She exits. Kevin looks at Lucy.

KEVIN
What, are we taking a survey now?

LUCY
No, but you heard what she said.

KEVIN
Yeah, I heard every word. I was
right in there. And you know what
else she said? She said she was
going to stay with the baby at night
while Vic works, and then he's going
to stay with the baby during the
day while she works.

Lucy looks at him.

KEVIN
Why couldn't we do that? Why couldn't
I work the night shift and stay
with Savannah during the day while
you work?

Lucy looks at him, wanting to laugh.

KEVIN
Well?

LUCY
Well... I just don't see you as...
a stay-at-home dad.

KEVIN
Well, maybe I want to be a stay-at-
home dad. I'm off tomorrow, maybe
we should have a trial run.

Lucy can't even comprehend this.

15 INT. GARAGE APARTMENT - NIGHT

15

Martin is there, getting ready to go. Simon enters. Martin plays it like he just got home, tosses his keys and cell phone on the table.

MARTIN

Hey. I was at the library.

SIMON

Sure you were.

MARTIN

Do you want something?

SIMON

If you don't mind, I'd like to crash on the couch. I just don't feel like staying over at the house. I'm kind of expecting a phone call and I'd like some privacy.

MARTIN

Well, you wouldn't exactly have privacy here either. I mean, I'm here.

Simon drops on the couch.

SIMON

You're here now, but clearly you were leaving when I came in.

MARTIN

Okay, but I'm leaving because I have to do something for school, I swear. It's a homework assignment.

SIMON

You don't have to explain anything to me.

MARTIN

I know. But if your dad comes looking for me...

SIMON

I don't know where you are.

Martin nods, grabs his keys, but not his cell phone, and takes off.

SIMON

(calls after him)
Be careful.

(CONTINUED)

15 CONTINUED:

15

Martin doesn't know what he's talking about.

MARTIN

Okay.

Martin exits. Simon waits a beat, and then sits up, puts his hands over his face, looks heavenward.

SIMON

God, please, if everything comes out okay, if I'm okay, I promise I will never ever have sex again until I'm married. And I'll start going to church again. And I'll be a better... Christian.

He keeps looking heavenward.

16 EXT. PROMENADE - NIGHT

16

Eric is sitting at a table alone. Two boys, TORIN and PRESTON, walk up.

TORIN

Hi, Reverend Camden. Glad we ran into you. We were looking for someone we know.

ERIC

Well hi, Torin, Preston. What can I do for you?

PRESTON

Could we borrow ten bucks for coffees?

ERIC

Ten bucks? For coffees? I don't think I can afford that.

TORIN

Yeah, neither can we.

PRESTON

Thanks anyway.

They walk away. From behind him, Eric hears:

RUSSELL (O.S.)

Are you Reverend Camden?

He looks to see RUSSELL MILES and stands to greet him.

ERIC

Yes.

(CONTINUED)

RUSSELL

Russell Miles. Thanks for meeting me. My wife, ex-wife... Lynn said you were a good person, a good listener.

ERIC

That was very nice of her to say so, I hope I can live up to the expectation. What's going on, Russell?

Russell sits down, he starts to talk, can't.

RUSSELL

I'm sorry. I don't know how to begin.

ERIC

That's okay. I didn't mean to rush you.

RUSSELL

I understand you saw Lynn and the girls today, how are they?

Eric looks at him.

ERIC

Your wife and your daughters are... well... they're having a tough time. The girls have been going through blood transfusions for a number of years now, and so they're sleeping at night with a needle sticking in them, you know, for the drug that takes care of the iron overload, I don't remember what it's called, anyway, they're sick a lot and they miss school a lot and Lynn has missed so much work she's been transferred into a new, part-time job, and she's exhausted and...

Russell puts up his hand.

RUSSELL

That's pretty much how I pictured it. I know what having sickle cell disease in a family is like, my mother died from it.

He puts his head down and starts to fight back the tears.

(CONTINUED)

16 CONTINUED: (2)

16

RUSSELL

I can't bear to think of what they're
going through, what they've been
through, or I couldn't, until now.

He fights back the tears.

ERIC

It's okay. Take your time, take
your time.

Russell can't fight back the tears anymore.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

17 EXT. PROMENADE - NIGHT

17

Eric and a now composed Russell talk.

RUSSELL

I know Lynn must have said plenty of horrible things about me through the years.

ERIC

She actually never told me anything about you until she asked if I would meet with you.

RUSSELL

I can't say that I blame her. After the way I left, she deserves every ounce of hate she has for me.

ERIC

She never said she hated you.

RUSSELL

How could she not? I abandoned her and my daughters.

Eric nods.

RUSSELL

Lynn and I both knew we carried the sickle cell trait, and we knew there was a chance we'd pass the disease on to our children. When Tonya was born and the test indicated she had it, well... We took a wait and see approach and both promised to be strong. But it wasn't long before she started developing problems, pain, pneumonia, infections. The doctors addressed symptoms as they came up, but she was sick a lot, and then... I don't know, we hadn't planned on having another baby, but we just... weren't that careful, and so Kristi was born, and we hoped against hope that she would be okay, but she wasn't. And we both promised to be strong again, but I broke that promise. I bailed.

Eric waits.

(CONTINUED)

17 CONTINUED:

17

RUSSELL

I was young when my mother died, but believe me, the memories stayed with me. I saw her being turned away from the emergency room time and time again, because some doctor knew nothing about sickle cell disease and thought she was complaining about nothing. You know, there's no swelling, nothing to show that there's any pain, so they treated her like she was a drug addict trying to get pain killers. There were little strokes along the way, and then she had a stroke that crippled her, and then she had one that killed her. I know it's no excuse for leaving, but I couldn't bear to see it happen again with my own daughters.

Eric nods.

ERIC

And now?

RUSSELL

And now, I see that it doesn't have to be that way with them. That's why I'm here.

Eric waits.

18 INT. ERIC'S AND ANNIE'S ROOM - NIGHT

18

Annie is there when Lucy enters.

LUCY

I want to talk.

ANNIE

Okay.

LUCY

What do you think about the idea of my going back to work?

ANNIE

Well, I don't know if it matters what I think, it's up to you and Kevin. What does Kevin think?

LUCY

He thinks, you're not going to believe this, he thinks it would be a good idea if we take turns.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

18 CONTINUED:

18

LUCY (CONT'D)

He thinks he should work the night shift while I take care of Savannah, and then while I'm at work, he'll take care of Savannah.

She looks at Annie, like this is an insane idea. Annie looks at her.

ANNIE

What's so crazy about that? They'll be fine.

Lucy just looks at Annie.

ANNIE

What?

LUCY

I just thought that you would want to take care of her if I go back to work.

ANNIE

(laughs)

That's funny.

Lucy looks at her. Annie looks at her.

ANNIE

No, let me say it for the record, I do not want to take care of my beautiful granddaughter whom I love dearly, while her mother goes back to work.

Lucy nods and exits.

19 INT. ATTIC ROOM/INT. VINCENT'S ROOM - NIGHT

19

Ruthie is on the phone.

RUTHIE

Do you know why he said he didn't call me? Because he doesn't have feelings for me anymore. Can you believe that? We went through a lot together in that year and a half. Don't you think he'd have some feelings for me? I was his first girlfriend, and he was my first boyfriend. Doesn't that mean anything? I guess not.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

19 CONTINUED:

19

RUTHIE (CONT'D)

I don't expect him to still be madly in love with me or anything, but no feelings at all? Doesn't that strike you as odd?

No response from the other end.

RUTHIE

Are you still there?

We see VINCENT on the other end.

VINCENT

Yeah, I'm still here.

RUTHIE

What do you think?

VINCENT

I think it's getting late, and I better finish my homework.

RUTHIE

No, I mean what do you think about what I just said?

VINCENT

I really don't have an opinion one way or the other about it.

RUTHIE

You have to think something about it.

VINCENT

Well, I do think it's a bit awkward that you, my girlfriend, are complaining to me, your boyfriend, about how Peter, your ex-boyfriend, doesn't seem to care for you anymore. And I think maybe he doesn't have feelings for you because he has a girlfriend. But I doubt he's talking to her about you.

And he hangs up. Ruthie considers.

20 INT. GARAGE APARTMENT - NIGHT

20

Simon is there. Eric knocks, enters, sees Simon.

ERIC

Oh, you're up here.

SIMON

Yeah.

(CONTINUED)

20 CONTINUED:

20

Eric looks around.

ERIC
I noticed Martin's car wasn't in
the driveway, so I took a look inside
the garage, and it's not in the
garage either.

SIMON
I don't know anything about that.

ERIC
Is Martin here?

SIMON
I saw him at dinner.

ERIC
So did I.

He looks at Simon.

SIMON
I have no idea where Martin is right
now.

ERIC
Maybe I should call him.

SIMON
You can't. He left his phone, and
it's been ringing all night.

Eric reacts.

ERIC
He left it here on purpose so I
couldn't call him?

SIMON
I don't know. Was that you calling
him?

ERIC
No.

SIMON
Well, someone's been calling him,
like every half hour.

ERIC
And he didn't say where he was going?

SIMON
No.

(CONTINUED)

20 CONTINUED: (2)

20

Eric nods, shows no signs of leaving.

ERIC

Okay, I'll wait. And while I'm waiting, maybe we can talk. Are you worried?

SIMON

About the test? The medical stuff? No, we used protection. I'm sure I'm fine.

ERIC

So you're not here because you're concerned you might not be fine?

SIMON

No.

ERIC

You're not just saying you used protection because you don't want to tell me you took a risk, are you?

SIMON

No, honest. I wouldn't do that.

Eric looks at him, glances over to the couch, sees an open Bible, smiles, nods toward it.

ERIC

Reading the Bible?

SIMON

I might be.

ERIC

Interesting.

SIMON

Why is that interesting?

Eric considers.

ERIC

Why do I sense that perhaps you've struck up a bargain with God?

Simon looks at him.

21 INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

21

Kevin is getting something out of the refrigerator when he hears a KNOCK at the back door. Kevin crosses.

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED:

21

KEVIN

Who is it?

VIC (O.S.)

It's Vic.

Kevin opens the door.

KEVIN

Eric's not here.

VIC

That's okay, you'll do.

KEVIN

Thanks. What do you need?

VIC

Well... It's just that... You think Paris would be marrying me if we hadn't gotten pregnant?

KEVIN

Guess you'll never know for sure, but come on, she doesn't have to marry you, even now. She could stay single and have the baby, lot of women do that. You guys could just continue living next to each other in a duplex. Nothing says you have to get married.

VIC

Yeah, you're right. I mean, we're happy, life's been great for us this past year.

Kevin nods.

VIC

So why the heck am I screwing that up?

Kevin looks at him.

VIC

I'm the one pushing to get married, maybe we should forget about it, thanks, Kevin, thanks. You know, I thought I was doing the right thing, but maybe I'm not, maybe I ought to leave well enough alone. I mean, having a baby is going to change our lives enough, don't you think?

Kevin reacts, uh-oh.

22 INT. ATTIC ROOM/INT. PETER'S ROOM - NIGHT

22

Ruthie dials the phone, Peter picks up.

PETER
Hello?

RUTHIE
Hey, it's me.

PETER
Oh, hi.

She rolls her eyes.

RUTHIE
"Oh, hi?"

PETER
Look, I'm sorry if you thought I
showed up with my family so that we
could get back together. I'd already
heard that you have a boyfriend.

RUTHIE
Where did you hear that?

PETER
I still talk to people who know
you.

RUTHIE
But why don't you talk to me?

PETER
Because you have a boyfriend.

RUTHIE
I didn't have a boyfriend all year
long. Vincent and I just started
going out.

PETER
I have a girlfriend. I'm in a
committed relationship.

RUTHIE
(nods)
I didn't know.

PETER
Doesn't really matter, does it? I
mean, you're with someone else too,
right?

(CONTINUED)

22 CONTINUED:

22

She doesn't say anything.

PETER

You are still with that Vincent
guy, aren't you?

RUTHIE

Yeah, Vincent and I are still going
out.

PETER

So, I guess there's nothing else to
say, is there?

RUTHIE

I guess not.

PETER

Okay, well, nice talking to you.

Peter hangs up. She hangs up.

23 INT. GARAGE APARTMENT - NIGHT

23

Eric and Simon are talking.

ERIC

Believe me, nothing would make me
happier than if you've decided to
seriously consider your life in
terms of spiritual matters,
however...

Martin's phone RINGS and RINGS. Eric walks over and picks it
up.

ERIC

Hello?

(listens)

Martin's not here, this is Eric
Camden, could I give him a
message?...

And he listens, nods his head.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

DAY TWO

24 EXT. CAMDEN HOUSE - ESTABLISHING - DAY 24

25 INT. GARAGE APARTMENT - DAY 25

Eric climbs the stairs.

ERIC
(yells)
Coming up!

He hits the landing, sees that Martin is ready to come down.

ERIC
Good morning.

MARTIN
I got in late, so I didn't come
over last night when I got your
message. I didn't want to wake
anyone.

ERIC
What time did you get home?

MARTIN
It was around two.

ERIC
Something to do with school?

Martin nods.

MARTIN
So Simon told you?

ERIC
Yes, but that's all we knew, so
when your dad called looking for
you...

Martin reacts.

MARTIN
That's why you wanted to talk to
me? My dad called?

(CONTINUED)

ERIC

He called and called and called on your cell phone, and well, I finally picked up. I thought maybe it was an emergency.

MARTIN

I knew you wouldn't approve that I was out with Zoe, even though it was only for school, and there are witnesses. She had to watch a meteor storm as part of a class, and she didn't want to go out to the park late by herself, so I took her.

Eric nods.

ERIC

I wish you had just asked. I wish you had trusted me to trust you, but you didn't.

MARTIN

No, I didn't, so I took a risk.

ERIC

And while you were out taking a risk, you missed a call, an important call from your dad.

MARTIN

Did he say why he was calling?

ERIC

He said it was something he wanted to tell you himself. He didn't want to leave a message.

MARTIN

That can't be good. Who knows when he'll get the chance to call again.

ERIC

He said he's going to try to call you back tonight.

MARTIN

Was he angry that I wasn't home?

ERIC

I think he might have been a little upset that I didn't know where you were and that you hadn't told me where you were, but... that's not what he called about.

(CONTINUED)

25 CONTINUED: (2)

25

Martin nods. Eric pats him on the shoulder.

ERIC
Don't worry, okay? Whatever it is,
everything will be fine. He sounded
fine.

Despite the advice, Martin doesn't look too happy.

ERIC
I have to get to work. I've got a
busy morning.

Simon enters from the shower.

SIMON
Good morning.

Eric nods.

ERIC
Oh. How are you this morning?

SIMON
God willing, I'm fine.

Martin looks at him, huh?

ERIC
Let me know.

Eric exits. Martin looks at Simon.

SIMON
I'll pray that everything is fine
with your dad.

Martin doesn't know how to respond.

MARTIN
Alright. Thanks. I guess.

He picks up his book bag and exits.

26 INT. NURSERY - DAY

26

Kevin is there, being tested by Lucy.

LUCY
And then what do you do?

KEVIN
Then I put the diaper in here, and
it makes it into a sausage.

(CONTINUED)

LUCY

And then...?

KEVIN

And then I put the new diaper on.

LUCY

Don't forget the baby powder. She needs baby powder.

KEVIN

I know about the baby powder. Really, Luce, most of this I've done before, or if I haven't, I've seen you do it plenty of times. There won't be a problem.

LUCY

I won't be gone that long. I just want to get some things so I can start thinking about switching over to a bottle.

KEVIN

Great. Once she's on a bottle, I can take care of her all by myself.

Lucy looks at him.

KEVIN

I can.

Lucy gives Savannah a kiss then exits.

KEVIN

Lucy?

She reenters.

KEVIN

If you're gone longer than you think and she gets hungry, if I give her a bite of my sandwich, am I supposed to burp her more or less than if she just has milk?

Lucy freaks.

LUCY

You're not supposed to give her any of your sandwich.

Kevin laughs.

(CONTINUED)

26 CONTINUED: (2)

26

KEVIN
I was just kidding.

LUCY
It's not funny.

KEVIN
We'll be fine.

Lucy exits, unsure.

27 INT. CHURCH OFFICE - DAY

27

Eric takes off his coat, Lynn knocks and comes in.

LYNN
Did you talk to Russell?

ERIC
I did.

LYNN
And?

ERIC
And...

LYNN
Oh please don't tell me that you're
on his side.

ERIC
I want to tell you why he wants the
girls to go to Memphis.

She sits down, dreading what he has to say.

ERIC
Have you ever heard of St. Jude
Children's Research Hospital in
Memphis?

LYNN
Tonya and Kristi don't have cancer,
they have sickle cell disease.

Eric nods.

(CONTINUED)

ERIC

St. Jude treats more than just cancer, it was established to conduct clinical research and provide treatment for catastrophic childhood diseases, including sickle cell disease. Russell heard about what they were doing for children with sickle cell disease who have had strokes before, like Tonya and Kristi, and he went in and talked to some of the doctors. What he found out was pretty interesting.

LYNN

I'm not letting them go. I'm not giving them up just because Russell thinks something is interesting.

ERIC

They have a new drug they're using to treat sickle cell disease, actually it's not all that new, some of the patients have been on it for years without any serious side effects whatsoever. It was developed as an anti-cancer drug, but the results for sickle cell disease have been phenomenal.

LYNN

I can't afford another drug, the one we're using now for the iron overload is very expensive. Along with the cost of the transfusions, it's more than thirty thousand dollars a year for each of them.

Eric nods.

ERIC

St. Jude pays for everything not covered by insurance, it won't cost you anything. But more than that, Tonya and Kristi could go off the blood transfusions, they could go off the expensive drug you're using, and this drug, it's a couple dollars a day, it's taken orally. The children who are using it are in less pain, not in the hospital as much, and it decreases the need for the transfusions. They're hoping it will decrease the chance of strokes, too.

(CONTINUED)

LYNN

But it's a risk.

ERIC

Yes, it is. They don't know the long-term effects. But they know the long-term effects of blood transfusions and so do you.

LYNN

But even if I wanted to take the risk, I could do it here with them. Why would I even consider letting Russell just move them to Memphis and take over?

There's a KNOCK at the door, it's Russell. He and Lynn stare at each other a beat.

RUSSELL

Please, let me explain.

She looks at him, then at Eric, he nods. Russell sits down.

RUSSELL

I don't want to take over, I don't. It's just that from everything I've seen, St. Jude is on the cutting edge of finding a cure for sickle cell disease, not a treatment but a cure. And while they're not there yet, they have cured several patients using bone marrow transplants from their parents. It's still too risky maybe for us to consider, but in the meantime, there's this drug.

LYNN

I'll think about the new treatment plan, but I don't want to think about the girls going to Memphis. You're not taking my daughters away from me.

RUSSELL

I don't want to take your daughters away from you. I want you and our daughters to move to Memphis.

She looks at him

LYNN

What?

(CONTINUED)

27 CONTINUED: (3)

27

RUSSELL

You don't have to move there, they take anyone from anywhere in the country, and they pay for housing, but... I was wrong to leave. I did a terrible, terrible thing. But I'm asking for another chance. I have a good job. I can support you and the girls. You don't have to work. You can be there for them full-time, and I'll be there for them in all the ways that I haven't been. And I'll be there for you, too, if you'll let me.

She looks at him.

RUSSELL

This drug that they're using, the nurse told me that it doesn't just heal sickle cell patients, it heals families.

She looks at Eric, looks back at Russell, who reaches over and touches Lynn's hand. She starts to cry.

ERIC

It's not something you have to decide today.

RUSSELL

But for the sake of Tonya and Kristi, I'd say the sooner, the better. Could I buy you a cup of coffee?

Lynn considers, wiping the tears away.

28 INT. HIGH SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

28

Ruthie steps up to Vincent's locker.

RUTHIE

Hi.

VINCENT

Hey.

RUTHIE

I thought you would call me back last night.

VINCENT

Why?

(CONTINUED)

RUTHIE

Don't you think you overreacted? I mean, it's not like I like Peter or anything, not like I like you.

Vincent nods.

VINCENT

But if Peter had shown up hoping to get back together with you, what would you have done?

RUTHIE

I would have told him I had a boyfriend. I would have told him I wasn't interested.

Vincent nods.

VINCENT

If you ask me, you seem a little upset that you didn't get to reject him and that he rejected you.

RUTHIE

That's not true.

He looks at her.

VINCENT

So did you find out if he has a girlfriend?

She's trapped.

RUTHIE

No. I mean, yes. Yes, he has a girlfriend.

VINCENT

So did he call you or did you call him?

RUTHIE

He... I... He...

VINCENT

You called him. Because you just had to know.

RUTHIE

Please, don't be angry with me.

(CONTINUED)

VINCENT

Hey, that's the chance you took
when you picked up the phone last
night.

He walks away.

ANOTHER ANGLE:

Martin is with Zoe at her locker.

MARTIN

He never calls. He e-mails, but
this was a phone call. And I missed
it.

ZOE

He'll call back.

MARTIN

I just hope it isn't bad news. I
wish I had been there.

ZOE

Well, I wouldn't have asked you to
stay out with me if I had known he
was going to call. It's not my fault.

MARTIN

You're right, it isn't. It's my
fault. I shouldn't have gone out
when I wasn't supposed to. I
shouldn't have listened to you.

He walks away, she follows.

ZOE

I'm sorry, okay? I'm sorry.

He stops.

ZOE

I didn't have any way of knowing
how big a risk it was. I thought
the worst thing that would happen
would be Reverend Camden would get
angry with you, and if he did, he'd
get over it. I didn't think it was
that big of a risk.

MARTIN

It's always a risk, doing the wrong
thing is always a risk. And my dad
is adventurous and all that, but he
never does the wrong thing. I wasn't
being like him at all.

(CONTINUED)

28 CONTINUED: (3)

28

They look at each other.

MARTIN

I'll call you when I hear from him.

He walks away.

29 INT. NURSERY - DAY

29

Kevin is asleep, he's rocking the baby, who is also asleep.
Paris knocks on the door, he looks up. She smiles, he smiles.

PARIS

Is it true?

KEVIN

Is what true?

PARIS

Did you point out that Vic and I
would be taking a big risk if we
got married, that things are fine
just the way they are?

KEVIN

Ummmm, not exactly.

She looks at him.

30 INT. GARAGE APARTMENT - DAY

30

Simon answers his RINGING cell phone.

SIMON

Simon Camden... Yes, thank you,
thank you, I've been waiting for
your call...

He waits.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

FADE IN:

31 EXT. CAMDEN HOUSE - ESTABLISHING - NIGHT 31

32 INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT 32

Eric is in the kitchen with Vic.

VIC

I don't know. Kevin pointed out
that things are fine like they are
and I just...

ERIC

Just...?

VIC

I just didn't want to mess things
up.

ERIC

And you didn't think it would mess
things up to tell Paris, who is
seven months pregnant with your son
or daughter, that you're having
second thoughts about marrying her?

VIC

I'm not. I was. But I'm not. I'm
ready to do this.

ERIC

Good, good. Then let's do it.

Vic nods.

VIC

Let's.

ERIC

Living room.

Vic nods, heads for the living room. Simon enters with his
luggage.

SIMON

Hey, I'm glad you're home. I wanted
to let you know that I got the call,
and I'm officially fine.

(CONTINUED)

ERIC

Except that you've now made a pact with the Almighty out of fear that you might have an STD.

SIMON

If that's what it took to get me to see the light, then so be it. The first step to wisdom is the fear of God. Or something like that.

Eric nods.

ERIC

Yes, something like that. Going somewhere?

SIMON

I'm heading back to school.

ERIC

Not even staying for the weekend?

SIMON

Dad, I was here in case I needed you, but I don't need you. I need a higher power in my life, and I've got that now.

Eric looks at him.

ERIC

Is that a cross you're wearing?

SIMON

Yes, it is. Mom gave it to me.

ERIC

That's good. It'll be a nice little reminder of the promises that you made.

Simon gives him a hug goodbye. Eric watches him go and just shakes his head.

SIMON

Goodnight. And God bless.

Eric reacts, oh boy.

33 INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

33

Kevin, Martin, Peter, Sam and David are there, looking at a very nervous and sweaty Vic.

KEVIN

I'm sorry about what happened, I don't even know why I said that stuff.

VIC

Me neither.

KEVIN

The important thing is, I got everything all worked out.

Vic looks at him.

KEVIN

With some help from Dad, of course.

Vic nods.

VIC

Of course.

KEVIN

Were you this nervous before your first wedding?

VIC

Actually, I don't remember my first wedding.

SAM

Why not?

VIC

I didn't feel very well that day.

DAVID

Were you sick?

VIC

Yes, for many, many years.

Ruthie approaches, looking lovely. Peter smiles and crosses to meet her.

PETER

You look nice.

(CONTINUED)

33 CONTINUED:

33

RUTHIE

Thanks.

(looks past him)

Didn't invite your girlfriend?

PETER

It was kind of last minute.

She nods.

PETER

Didn't invite your boyfriend?

RUTHIE

It was kind of last minute.

The doorbell RINGS. She crosses to get it. Vic walks up to Peter.

VIC

Girlfriend? You don't have a girlfriend.

PETER

Yeah, I know.

Vic reacts.

34 INT. FOYER - NIGHT

34

Ruthie opens the front door, it's Vincent.

VINCENT

I thought I'd drop by just in case you weren't doing anything, maybe we could go out, talk.

She motions him inside. He enters, he sees the crowd in the living room.

VINCENT

Oh. Sorry. Looks like you're busy.

RUTHIE

You want to come to a wedding?

VINCENT

Peter's mom and dad?

RUTHIE

Come on.

They head to the living room.

35 INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

35

Ruthie and Vincent approach Peter and Vic.

RUTHIE
Peter, this is Vincent. Vincent,
this is Peter and his dad Vic.

Eric enters.

VIC
So, looks like everyone's here.
Where's the bride?

ERIC
She'll be down momentarily.

The doorbell RINGS.

ERIC
I'll get it.

He crosses to the foyer.

36 INT. FOYER - NIGHT

36

Eric opens the door, it's Russell and Lynn.

LYNN
Hi. We just wanted to talk to you
for a few minutes. We still have
some things to work out. Are you
busy?

Eric smiles.

ERIC
A little.

LYNN
A nurse from the hospital volunteered
to sit with the girls tonight so
Russell and I could spend some time
together.

RUSSELL
It's kind of our first date.

She looks at him.

LYNN
Or our second counseling session.

Paris, Annie and Lucy come down the stairs.

(CONTINUED)

36 CONTINUED:

36

LYNN

Oh, I'm sorry. You've got a household full of people. And how crazy are we, just dropping by?

ERIC

Not crazy at all. How's a wedding for your first date? Come on in.

Eric leads them into the living room.

37 INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

37

Eric addresses the group.

ERIC

Everyone, these are our friends Russell and Lynn. Let's all take a seat and we can get started... Bride and groom? Best man?

They all take their places. Ruthie turns to Vincent.

RUTHIE

Thanks for coming over.

VINCENT

Thanks for letting me in.

Kevin turns to Lucy.

KEVIN

So, I did pretty well today, didn't I?

LUCY

You did okay.

KEVIN

So?

LUCY

We'll see.

KEVIN

You got a better plan?

LUCY

Not yet.

Eric begins.

(CONTINUED)

ERIC

Often in our lives, we are faced with choices where the answers are quite simple. Yes or no? Left or right? Right or wrong? Soup or salad? But sometimes the answers are not so cut and dry, and we have to take a risk. With each risk, we must be careful not to make choices without fully thinking through the consequences of our actions. Sometimes we have to look deep within ourselves to see which path to take, other times we may need guidance from a higher power. We may know instantly or we might not know for years whether the risks we take today are going to pay off tomorrow, but that doesn't mean we should never take those risks. Without risk, there is no reward.

We see Lynn look over at Russell.

ERIC

Today, for Paris and Vic, the risk of deciding to see each other again is about to pay off.

A cell phone RINGS.

MARTIN

Sorry.

He walks out of the room, opening his phone.

MARTIN

Dad?

He exits. Eric looks at Paris.

ERIC

Do you, Paris Marie Petrowski, take George to be your lawfully wedded husband, to have and to hold, for better or for worse, for richer or poorer, in sickness and in health, for as long as you both shall live?

PARIS

I do.

Eric looks at Vic.

(CONTINUED)

37 CONTINUED: (2)

37

ERIC

Do you, George Willard Vickery,
Vic, take Paris to be your lawfully
wedded wife, to have and to hold,
for better or for worse, for richer
or for poorer, in sickness and in
health, for as long as you both
shall live?

Vic smiles.

VINCENT

I certainly do.

ERIC

Then, by the power vested in me, I
am pleased to announce that you are
once again, husband and wife. You
may kiss the bride.

And as they struggle to kiss over Paris's big belly, everyone
claps and kisses and cheers. And just then Martin runs in
the room.

MARTIN

My dad is coming home! My dad is
coming home!

More kissing and hugging and cheering, as we:

FADE TO BLACK.

CHYRON: FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT ST. JUDE CHILDREN'S
RESEARCH HOSPITAL, PLEASE CALL:

1-800-785-5130

OR CONTACT THEIR WEBSITE:

www.stjude.org

FADE OUT.

END OF SHOW