

# **Second Chances**

*a new musical*

**Book, Music & Lyrics  
by Tenley Webb**

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## CAST

Aislynn Stewart.....28, smart, charming, magnetic, sweet, “old Soul”  
Conner Stewart.....28, Aislynn’s twin brother, guitarist, kind, laid-back, sarcastic  
Jackie Stewart.....55, Aislynn’s mother, perfectionist, savvy, tense, nurturing  
Daryl Stewart.....55, Aislynn’s father, egocentric, masculine, charismatic  
Lance Harrison.....48, Aislynn’s love interest, attractive, funny, wise, athletic  
SueAnn Hart.....27, Conner’s fiancé, gorgeous, self-centered, controlling

### **Ensemble: 4 women and 3 men**

1. Bridgit Stewart, 80, “Daryl’s Mother”; WOMAN I; Carol, 50, “SueAnn’s Mother”; Dr. Li
2. Katherine Hamilton, 20, “Jackie’s deceased Mother” [ballet dancer];  
Wedding Guest; Marriage Counselor
3. Katie “Aislynn’s Colleague”; WOMAN II; Bridesmaid;  
Lisa, 30, “Guitar Student”
4. WOMAN III; Female “Woman” with Daryl; Student Doctor
5. Liam Stewart, 35, “Daryl’s deceased Father”; MAN I;  
Wedding Officiant; Ben “Daryl’s Campaign Manager”
6. MAN II; Wedding Guest; Jeff “Guitar Student”; Student Doctor
7. MAN III; Wedding Guest; Tucker “Guitar Student”; Student Doctor

**Note: Nature plays a big role throughout the play; scenery, sounds, Seasons**

## TIME

3 years prior-present day  
ie. Spring 2014-Spring 2017

## PLACE

Portland, Oregon

## Musical Numbers

### Act One

#### SPRING - 3 Years ago “Year 1”

1. What’s Waiting?.....Aislynn and Conner
2. A Spark.....Aislynn and Lance
3. Everybody Wants.....Aislynn, Lance, Conner, SueAnn, Ensemble
4. Look In The Mirror.....Jackie and Daryl
5. Home.....Aislynn, Conner, Jackie, Daryl, SueAnn
6. Family Politics.....Aislynn, Conner, Jackie, Daryl, SueAnn, Ensemble
7. I Don’t Need To Be Reminded.....Aislynn, Conner, Jackie, Daryl, SueAnn
8. My Life.....Aislynn, Conner, Jackie, Daryl
9. It’s Time.....Aislynn and Lance
10. The Game.....Aislynn and Lance

#### SUMMER “Year 1” through SUMMER “Year 2”

11. Seasons.....Aislynn, Lance, Ensemble
12. Doubts.....Aislynn, Lance, Conner, SueAnn

#### LATE SUMMER “Year 2”

13. Everybody Wants (minor).....Conner and Aislynn
14. I Want A Baby.....Aislynn
15. All About Me.....SueAnn, Conner, Ensemble
16. Picture Perfect.....Aislynn, Lance, Conner, SueAnn, Jackie, Daryl, Ensemble

### Act Two

#### FALL “Year 3”

17. My Escape.....Aislynn, Conner, Jackie, Daryl
18. Imagine.....Conner and Music Students
19. The Visit.....Aislynn, Doctor Li, Student Doctors
20. Look In The Mirror Reprise.....Jackie and Daryl

21. My Dance.....Jackie and Aislynn
22. Daryl's Rant.....Daryl
23. I'm Here For You Now.....Daryl and Conner
24. Party Of One.....Jackie, Aislynn, Female Ensemble
25. A New Beginning.....Aislynn and Lance

**SPRING "Year 4" (present day)**

26. Maybe The Key/What's Waiting?.....Aislynn, Conner,  
Jackie, Daryl, Lance

**ENCORE**

27. Second Chances...Aislynn, Conner, Jackie, Daryl, Lance, SueAnn, Ensemble

## **SECOND CHANCES**

### **Track List**

01. What's Waiting? – 1-1-2
02. A Spark – 1-2-7
03. Everybody Wants \*studio recording – 1-3-11
04. Look In The Mirror – 1-4-18
05. Home – 1-5-23
06. Family Politics – 1-5-25
07. I Don't Need To Be Reminded – 1-7-32
08. My Life – 1-8-37  
It's Time  
The Game  
Seasons
09. Doubts – 1-12-51  
Everybody Wants (minor)
10. I Want A Baby \*studio recording – 1-15-64
11. All About Me – 1-16-66  
Picture Perfect
12. My Escape – 2-1-1
13. Imagine – 2-3-7
14. The Visit – 2-4-10  
Look In The Mirror Reprise
15. My Dance – 2-7-17  
Daryl's Rant
16. I'm Here For You Now – 2-8-22  
Party Of One
17. A New Beginning – 2-11-30  
Maybe The Key/What's Waiting?
18. Second Chances \*studio recording – 2-13-38

### **Author's Note**

The lyrics in this script and the lyrics on the demo recording may vary.  
When there is a discrepancy, please follow the script's lyrics.

## ACT ONE

### Scene One

**Spring “Year 1”.** AISLYNN is at home, packing and journaling, preparing to board a plane from Los Angeles, CA to Portland, OR. CONNER and SUEANN are at home packing, preparing to board a plane from Houston, TX to Portland.

(AISLYNN is side stage in a chair, writing in HER journal, with open luggage near HER. CONNER is opposite side stage with a bag, a cup of coffee and HIS guitar. SUEANN begins off stage.)

AISLYNN

(out loud, to HERSELF, stream of consciousness while writing in journal)  
March 23<sup>rd</sup>. Well, this is it. No surprise, some crazy dreams last night. Best one by far, my long, passionate kiss with Brock. So beautiful, so real. I could live in *that* dream all day. But, gotta finish packing. Almost done. (turns to look at a big pile of clothes on the bed, chuckles, stops writing) What am I doing? Why am I lying to myself in my own journal? (drops HER pen on the floor by accident) I need caffeine!

(AISLYNN walks out of room to get coffee. Shift to CONNER, taking a sip of coffee, composing a song on HIS guitar. HE plays a bit and jots down ideas into a notebook.)

CONNER

(hums/partially sings lyrics of EVERYBODY WANTS minor)  
EVERYBODY WANTS WHAT SOMEONE ELSE HAS (jots down lyrics)

(HIS cell phone rings and HE pauses to look to see who is calling, rolls HIS eyes)

(out loud) Sorry mom! Too busy. (silences the ring) Okay, now where was I?  
TO PLAY THE LEAD IN SOMEBODY ELSE’S MOVIE  
SEARCHIN’ FOR THE PATH TO BE TRULY HAPPY, WE’VE LOST...WE’VE  
LOST (takes a moment to think, write down lyrics, then takes another sip of coffee, spills on HIMSELF) Crap!

(CONNER gets up and walks out of room to clean up HIS pants. Shift back to AISLYNN, sitting back down to journal writing with coffee)

AISLYNN

I wonder if Brock will call today. (cell phone rings) (AISLYNN gasps, smiles, then sneers when SHE looks to see who’s calling)

AISLYNN cont.

(out loud) It's mom. Again. Sorry, too busy packing. (silences the ring)

(CONNER enters again. Now spotlight is on both AISLYNN and CONNER.)

AISLYNN/CONNER

Sure hope this trip is a good idea...

**(Track 01 - What's Waiting?)**

AISLYNN

WHAT'S WAITING FOR ME AFTER TEN YEARS AWAY?  
I SAID GOODBYE TO THAT CHILDHOOD LIFE WHEN I MOVED TO L.A.  
CAN'T EVEN DESCRIBE HOW NERVOUS I FEEL  
FLYING BACK TO PORTLAND, STAYING IN OUR FAMILY HOME,  
IT ALL SEEMS SO SURREAL.

CONNER

WHAT'S WAITING FOR ME AFTER TEN YEARS AWAY?  
I FELL IN LOVE IN TEXAS, THOUGH NEVER EXPECTED TO STAY  
FEELIN' CALM, RELAXED, SECURE (spoken) Yeah, right!  
FLYING HOME WITH MY BRIDE TO BE, PRAYING MY FAMILY  
ACCEPTS HER. WHAT'S WAITING FOR ME? WHAT'S WAITING FOR ME?

AISLYNN

IT'S NOT LIKE I HAVEN'T SEEN THEM  
THE "FAM" COMES HERE OR WE MEET SOMEWHERE  
I KNEW THIS DAY WOULD EVENTUALLY COME  
DEFENSES ARE UP, MASK IS ON.

AISLYNN/CONNER

WHAT'S WAITING FOR ME IN A HOUSE WITH BITTER SWEET MEMORIES?

AISLYNN

THE SMELL OF FRESH BAKED COOKIES, THE GAME MOM PLAYED,  
PRETEND ALL'S ALRIGHT

CONNER

THE STING OF AFTERNOON TEARS THAT LINGER THROUGHOUT  
THE NIGHT

AISLYNN/CONNER

THE SOUNDS OF COUNTLESS ARGUMENTS  
LEAVING THEIR SCARS BEHIND

(AISLYNN calls CONNER from HER cell phone)

AISLYNN

Hi Conner!

CONNER

Hey sis!

AISLYNN

My God, I can't believe we're actually doing this.

CONNER

I know, I've had second thoughts. But...

AISLYNN

...we can't break our promise to Grandma Bridgit.

CONNER

Yup, always said we'd be there to celebrate her 80<sup>th</sup>!

(SUEANN calls out to CONNER from off stage)

SUEANN

Honey!

CONNER

(to AISLYNN on phone)

Uh, gotta go!

AISLYNN

Okay, fly safe! See you guys at the airport.

CONNER

Love you!

AISLYNN

Yeah, love you too!

WHAT'S WAITING IN THE HEART OF A MAN WHO ONCE LOVED ME?  
A HIGH SCHOOL ROMANCE, RICH BEYOND PERCEPTION  
THE MEN I'VE DATED SINCE JUST DON'T COMPARE TO HIM  
CAN BROCK EVER FORGIVE ME? PERHAPS BEGIN AGAIN?



CONNER  
WHAT'S WAITING IN MY FUTURE LIFE AS A MARRIED MAN?  
SETTLING DOWN THIS EARLY WAS NEVER REALLY PART OF MY PLAN  
GOODBYE TO THE CHASE, I THINK I'VE FOUND THE ONE  
THE ROMANTIC SAP IN ME BELIEVES...

(SUEANN storms into the room as CONNER sings "WE'VE ONLY JUST  
BEGUN" and HE hams it up, singing directly to SUEANN on one knee.)

...WE'VE ONLY JUST BEGUN [Carpenter song reference]

(SHE gives CONNER the evil eye)

SUEANN  
Conner!

CONNER  
Okay, maybe not!

SUEANN  
Conner, for the umpteenth time, let's go or we'll miss our flight! You've been stallin' all  
mornin'. Quit dickin' around with that thing!

CONNER  
(CONNER laughs at HER choice in words)  
"Dickin'"?...

SUEANN  
(SHE doesn't pay attention to HIM)  
...Wait! Hang on. Good Lord, I forgot to pack my green dress.

CONNER  
But you said we have to go!

SUEANN  
I'm not leavin' without it.

(SHE walks off, admiring HER new engagement ring.)  
(shouts) I hope your family'll be happy when they hear our surprise!

CONNER

(to HIMSELF)

Oh they'll be surprised. Not so sure about happy.

(starts placing HIS guitar in the case)

CONNER

WHAT'S WAITING IN THE EYES OF A DAD WHO CAN'T SEE ME?

AISLYNN

IN THE WORDS FROM A MOM THAT CAN HURT ME?

CONNER

THE PAIN, THE REGRETS

AISLYNN

MY FEARS, MY DESIRES

AISLYNN/CONNER

LAYERS OF GUILT KEEP LAUGHING INSIDE

AISLYNN

WHAT'S WAITING FOR ME?

CONNER

WHAT'S WAITING FOR ME?

AISLYNN/CONNER

WHAT'S WAITING FOR ME?

AISLYNN

WHAT'S WAITING FOR ME?

CONNER

WHAT'S WAITING FOR ME?

AISLYNN

WHAT'S WAITING FOR ME?

AISLYNN/CONNER

(sung/spoken) I'M ANXIOUS TO SEE.

(Lights fade. AISLYNN and CONNER exit.)

Scene Two

Portland Airport. AISLYNN and LANCE met on the airplane, and THEY walk off the plane together toward baggage claim.

(THEY are walking side by side, slightly touching shoulder to shoulder, laughing)

AISLYNN

That's too funny, Lance! So, the next time you travel to L.A., you're going to take an extra pair of pants, right? We can't have a famous author at another book signing with a broken zipper, now, can we?

LANCE

Unless I want to become famous for something else! Say, I don't need to be anywhere for a couple of hours. I'm meeting up with my kids for dinner later. May I buy you a drink while you wait for your brother to arrive?

AISLYNN

Are you sure? Aren't some sports paparazzi just waiting around the corner, ready to bombard you?

LANCE

(chuckles) Hardly. I'm not a big name on the tour.

AISLYNN

Oh, I'm sure my brother knows who you are. He actually follows golf pretty closely. So, back to your question...I'd love to chat over a drink! Besides, I need to shake off some of these nerves. (flirty) Thankfully, you've kept me so well engaged in conversation that I haven't had time to think about the drama I'm about to walk into.

LANCE

Ok then, I guess it's *your* treat!

AISLYNN

Ha, ha. Hey, sorry about before, you know, when I got really quiet after what I said on the plane?

LANCE

(playful) Which part? When you said you'd rather have a cavity filled than watch, quote, "people playing chase with a little white ball" *or* when you casually mentioned that age forty sounds *old* to you.

AISLYNN

(doesn't know quite how to react) Uh, how was I to know that you're a pro golfer in your late forty's? You look so young, and I'm sure golf is interesting, once you...

LANCE

...it's okay! No offense taken. Nice back pedal, though. I was just messin' with ya to get that priceless look on your face. (smiles)

(AISLYNN and LANCE sing THEIR private thoughts while walking into baggage claim, getting bags and walking to/settling into seats at an airport bar)  
**(Track 02 - A Spark)**

AISLYNN

THERE'S NO DENYIN' THERE'S A SPARK BETWEEN US

LANCE

THERE'S NO DENYIN' WE'VE GOT SOMETHIN' HERE

AISLYNN

THERE'S NO DENYIN' THAT MY HEART IS RACING

LANCE

THERE'S NO DENYIN' WHAT I FEEL IS SURE

AISLYNN/LANCE

A TRUSTING VOICE THAT WHISPERS PAY ATTENTION  
CONNECTION THAT EXISTS BEFORE YOU MEET  
THIS IS MORE THAN JUST A FIRST ATTRACTION  
NOW LET YOURSELF BE OPEN TO WHAT WILL UNFOLD.

LANCE

THERE'S NO DENYIN' THERE'S A SPARK BETWEEN US

AISLYNN

THERE'S NO DENYIN' WE'VE GOT SOMETHIN' HERE

LANCE

THERE'S NO DENYIN'

AISLYNN

THERE'S NO DENYIN' THERE'S A SPARK

LANCE

THERE'S NO DENYIN'

A SPARK BETWEEN US	AISLYNN
A SPARK BETWEEN US	LANCE
A SPARK BETWEEN US	AISLYNN
NO DENYIN'	LANCE
NO DENYIN'	AISLYNN
THERE'S A SPARK	LANCE
THERE'S A SPARK	AISLYNN
BETWEEN US	AISLYNN/LANCE

(AISLYNN and LANCE have wine glasses in front of them at THEIR table by the time the song finishes.)

Scene Three

Airport Bar. AISLYNN and LANCE are seated at a table, chatting while sipping wine. Bar is filled with ENSEMBLE. CONNER and SUEANN eventually walk in.

LANCE

So, how is it for you being a senator's daughter?

AISLYNN

Well I have mixed feelings. It's kind of like what you said earlier about being in the lime light. Ya know, people think our family has it all figured out, like we're up on some pedestal. Or, they think they know me just because of my last name. I get it, I do. (gets roused up) But I'm not my dad, I'm my own person, thank you very much.

LANCE

(under his breath) Ooo, a feisty one!

AISLYNN

(composes herself) What was that?

LANCE

I said, I couldn't agree more! (smiles) I admire your sense of self.

AISLYNN

(sweetly, sincere) Thank you. (suddenly looks at cell phone) Oh, I lost track of time. I need to text Conner to let him know where we are...I mean, where *I* am. (quickly texts) Okay, done.

LANCE

(chuckles) That was fast! I think my thumbs feel a little texting envy. Makes me think of my kids...not that you're like my kid. Wait, that didn't come out right. (clears throat) Where were we?

AISLYNN

You're a funny man, Lance! In a good way. So, your kids. You have two?

LANCE

Yup. 17 year old twins. Danielle and Nathan.

AISLYNN

No kidding! My brother and I are twins!

LANCE

Wow, what are the odds? Are you and your brother as different as my two? Nathan is super creative...really into photography. And, Dani, she's quite the athlete. They get along alright, but they aren't as close as when they were little.

AISLYNN

Conner and I are certainly different, but we have a strong connection. In fact, we were inseparable throughout high school. Conner's a guitarist, and I'm a vocalist, so we use to perform duets at a lot of school events. (laughs) We thought we were so cool!

LANCE

That *is* cool! Wish I had musical talents or at least was more creative! I've kind of stuck to the left-brained side of things. Engineering degrees, technical writing.

AISLYNN

(encouraging) Wait a minute, didn't you tell me that you've designed golf courses? That has elements of creativity! Sometimes I wish I was more left-brained...don't even get me started on my lack of math skills. (laughs) Can't believe I'm going to tell on myself, but (whispers) I still use my fingers to count!

LANCE

(teasingly brushes it off) Math is overrated anyway! (fidgety) Ya know, I haven't shared this much about myself in, uh, let's see, how many (squints as if he's thinking hard; uses his fingers to count) well, *ever*? (jokingly acts hurried to change the subject) What time did you say your brother's arriving?

AISLYNN

(smiles) I *haven't* said yet. Oh, and it's not just Conner. His girlfriend, SueAnn, is with him. This will be my first time to meet her, though Conner's been raving about her non-stop the past few months. So I feel like I kind of know her, at least from his perspective. One thing's for sure, she's a Southern beauty! The type my brother always goes for. I wish *I* was *that* beautiful. (acts embarrassed after realizing she said that out loud)

LANCE

(sincere) What makes you so sure you aren't? (AISLYNN blushes) Besides, beauty is much more than what you look like. (winks)

AISLYNN

(gets quiet/reflective for a moment) Yeah.

LANCE

(lightens the mood) Let's play a little game.

AISLYNN

(looks intrigued) Okaaaaay.

**(Track 03 - Everybody Wants)**

LANCE

For kicks, just throw out there what you'd want in your own "perfect world". Like...

(spoken/sung)

TO BE REAL COOL

AISLYNN

TO BE SO PRETTY

LANCE

TOO LATE TO BE A ROCK STAR?

AISLYNN

TO BE MORE CHILL

LANCE

TO BE IN LOVE

AISLYNN/LANCE

LIFE WOULD BE SO EASY

LANCE

Look around. (points to a man) What do you think *he*'s thinking about right now?

(THEY both point to a woman being "hit on" at the bar)

AISLYNN/LANCE

Or her! (THEY laugh)

WOMAN I

I WANT RESPECT

MAN I

I NEED MORE TIME

WOMAN II

I WISH I HAD A FAMILY



I'D LIKE HER JOB

WOMAN III

I DON'T WANNA WORK

MAN II

I MISS MY LIFE AS A SINGLE

MAN III

EVERYBODY WANTS WHAT SOMEONE ELSE HAS  
TO PLAY THE LEAD IN SOMEBODY ELSE'S MOVIE  
SEARCHIN' FOR THE PATH TO BE TRULY HAPPY  
WE'VE LOST SIGHT OF VALUING WHO WE ARE.

AISLYNN/LANCE/ENSEMBLE

IF THEY ONLY KNEW WHAT  
I'VE BEEN GOIN' THROUGH  
SHE WOULDN'T TRADE ME PLACES  
WE'RE ALL IN DIFFERENT STAGES.

AISLYNN

THEY DON'T REALLY KNOW MY STORY  
IT'S NOT ALL FRILLS AND GLORY  
JUDGMENT MAY COME EASY  
I'VE FELT MY SHARE OF MISERY.

LANCE

(CONNER and SUEANN walk into the bar to greet AISLYNN. CONNER is carrying a lot of bags while SUEANN is only carrying HER handbag. THEY are surprised to see LANCE with AISLYNN and give a double-take upon arrival in the bar.)

(AISLYNN runs toward CONNER. HE drops the bags to pick HER up and hug HER.)

So great to see you brother. It's been way too long!

AISLYNN

Sure has. I've missed ya sis!

CONNER

How was your flight?

AISLYNN

CONNER

(sarcastic) Just great! The guy next to us was flirting with this hot thing the entire way here. But I don't blame him. (winks at SUEANN, pulls HER toward HIM) Aislynn, I'd like you to meet SueAnn. See, SueAnn, my twin sis really does exist!

(SUEANN is busy primping HERSELF while looking into a compact mirror.  
SHE gives AISLYNN a wimpy handshake and musters up a quick, fake smile.)

SUEANN

Nice to finally meet you.

CONNER

And, who's this...(turns toward Lance to shake HIS hand)...wait, aren't you Lance Harrison?

AISLYNN

(smiles, quietly says to LANCE) Told ya he'd know who you are!

LANCE

Yes, indeed. And you must be Conner Stewart.

(CONNER is flattered. THEY shake hands.)

CONNER

(to AISLYNN and LANCE)

What's goin' on here? How'd you two...

AISLYNN

...we met on the plane, and Lance has kindly been waiting with me until you two arrived.

SUEANN

(SHE grows impatient, stepping in front of CONNER to introduce HERSELF)  
(assertively) Over a glass of wine! I see what's goin' on here. (to LANCE) Excuse his lack of manners. (extends HER hand toward LANCE) I'm SueAnn Hart, Conner's fiancée!

AISLYNN

(turns HER head toward CONNER)

Fiancee?!

MAN I

I WANT HIS WIFE

WOMAN I

I WANT HER LIFE

SUEANN  
I'D KILL TO HAVE THAT HANDBAG

WOMAN II  
TO BE A STAR

CONNER  
TO BE AS WISE

WOMAN III  
TO BE THE PERFECT MOTHER

AISLYNN/LANCE/CONNER/SUEANN/  
ENSEMBLE  
LET'S GIVE THE DIRT

WOMAN II/MAN II  
ON SOMEONE ELSE

AISLYNN/LANCE/CONNER/SUEANN/  
ENSEMBLE  
TO HELP OUR LIVES LOOK BRIGHTER  
MAKE UP LIES TO TELL OURSELVES  
LIFE WILL SOON FEEL LIGHTER.

EVERYBODY WANTS WHAT SOMEONE ELSE HAS  
TO PLAY THE LEAD IN SOMEBODY ELSE'S MOVIE  
SEARCHIN' FOR THE PATH TO BE TRULY HAPPY  
WE'VE LOST SIGHT OF VALUING WHO WE ARE

EVERYBODY WANTS WHAT SOMEONE ELSE HAS  
TO PLAY THE LEAD IN SOMEBODY ELSE'S MOVIE  
DOESN'T REALLY MATTER WHAT YOU BELIEVE  
PEOPLE ONLY SEE WHAT THEY WANT TO SEE.

AISLYNN/LANCE  
DOESN'T REALLY MATTER WHAT YOU BELIEVE

AISLYNN  
PEOPLE ONLY SEE WHAT THEY WANT TO SEE.

LANCE

(looks at HIS watch and then looks at AISLYNN)  
(smirks, playful) Wish we could keep this going. But, our families await us. Hang on. (pulls out a book from HIS bag as standing up to leave. Hands it to AISLYNN). Remember, if you're ever interested in playing a round (pauses) of golf, give me a call!

AISLYNN

Good one. (flirtatious) I'll remember that. It's been really nice getting to know you, Lance.

LANCE

(HE places one hand on AISLYNN'S upper arm as a quick gesture of affection.  
SUEANN listens in.)  
(sincere) Truly, the pleasure is all mine. I'll be thinking of you during your family gathering.

SUEANN

(to CONNER and AISLYNN)  
Speakin' of, we'd better go now too. (to CONNER) We told your mother we'd be there by five!

CONNER

You're right, honey. (fake/showing off in front of LANCE) I'm truly looking forward to a few days of quality family time.

AISLYNN

(mumbles/shakes HER head in disbelief) Uh huh. Sure ya are.

LANCE

(smiles, gives a head nod to CONNER and SUEANN)  
It was great meeting you both. Take care.

(LANCE exits)

SUEANN

(follows LANCE'S backside with HER eyes as HE walks away)  
Wow, you go girl! He's hot for an *older* guy! I have to run to the ladies, be right back.

AISLYNN

(to CONNER)  
(slightly upset) You're engaged?! When were you gonna tell me?!

CONNER

(flustered)  
Well, it's kinda supposed to be a surprise. I was going to announce it to everyone tonight! I figure our news will go over much better with mom and dad in a *large* group setting.

AISLYNN

Still, you could've told me. You know I'd keep your secret. I must admit, I'm pretty shocked. This is a huge commitment after such a short time together! She must be really something. (softens, hugs CONNER) Congrats, brother. SueAnn's a lucky woman to land you.

CONNER

Thanks sis. (grabs the book LANCE gave to AISLYNN) (teasingly) Since when is my sister interested in (looks closely at the book's front cover) "Golf Tips and Techniques For Champions"?!

AISLYNN

Since right now! Besides, Lance wrote it, and he gave me an autographed copy. That's why he was in L.A. Book signing.

CONNER

And I'll bet you flashed that award winning smile at him on the plane to lure him in?

AISLYNN

(playfully hits CONNER) Yeah, right! Our seats just happened to be right next to each other. Funny thing is, I had no clue at first that he's a celebrity. (laughs) No wonder people have been staring at us! (shifts topics) So, uh, you'll never guess who I've been talking a lot with lately.

CONNER

(sarcastic) Hmm, where to begin. That's a tough one! Brock.

(AISLYNN gives HIM a look of surprise)

Oh, come on! I know you. So how does his wife, Madison, feel about all your *frequent* communication?

AISLYNN

This is where it gets interesting. They're separated right now.

CONNER

I see. And are you planning a little rendezvous in the great Northwest?

AISLYNN

Well, it might be fate. You know, he and Madison live in Seattle, but he's going to be in Portland *this* week for a few days! (CONNER lifts a questioning brow) I know, I know, probably not a good idea. But I feel such a strong need to see him, to hug him...to explain *in person* why I left.

CONNER

(coughs the word) Bolted! (sincere/wise) No, really, I'm sure it'll work out how it's supposed to. But, a word of advice?

AISLYNN

(rolls HER eyes/not really interested) Sure. What?

CONNER

You and Brock were an awesome couple in high school. I know you deeply cared about each other. But *you* were the one who chose to break it off and move away. It's been *ten* years. He's your past, sis. Might be best to keep him there.

AISLYNN

(shakes HER head in denial) You don't get it.

(SUEANN reenters. AISLYNN, CONNER and SUEANN exit stage, with CONNER once again carrying and pulling all of SUEANN's luggage.)

Scene Four

Stewart Home. JACKIE and DARYL are in THEIR bedroom getting dressed for the party. DARYL is on HIS cell phone, pacing, while JACKIE listens in.

DARYL

(talking on cell phone)

Wait. No, no, that's just not gonna work Steve. Damn it. Tell Ron I need to see that draft by 7am tomorrow. (pause) Yeah, you're right. I suppose I could come in for a couple of hours. See you soon. (hangs up)

JACKIE

Are you serious? Where do you think you're going? It's not every day your mother turns eighty, Daryl! And we're *never* together like this as a whole family, in *our* home.

DARYL

Don't give me this shit now! (hurriedly texts on his phone)

JACKIE

You don't need to swear at me. (under HER breath) Although I should be used to that by now.

DARYL

(rolls HIS eyes)

Whatever. This is really important, and you know it.

JACKIE

Yeah. It always is. Everything's *all* about you, the great Senator Daryl Stewart.

(SHE grabs DARYL'S phone and slams it down on the dresser with a sound of disgust. HE picks it right back up and gives HER a nasty look.)

(JACKIE and DARYL continue THEIR argument while primping, on opposite sides of the room, looking in individual dresser mirrors, though never looking at each other.) **(Track 04 - Look In The Mirror)**

DARYL

CAN'T YOU BE SUPPORTIVE? I'M STRESSED OUT OF MY MIND!

JACKIE

POLITICS CONSUME YOU NOW. YOU TWIST THE FACTS, YOU LIE.  
YOU THINK YOU'RE SUCH A FAMILY MAN, BUT ONLY IN THE PUBLIC EYE.

DARYL

HOW QUICKLY YOU FORGET HOW DAMNED HARD I'VE ALWAYS TRIED.  
WELL LET'S JUST LAY IT OUT HERE. THIS DREAM WORLD THAT YOU  
LIVE IN. YOUR DARLING GIRL HAS STAYED AWAY, TEN YEARS IT'S BEEN.

JACKIE

I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE IMPLYING, AND YOU COULDN'T BE MORE WRONG.  
OUR DAUGHTER TRULY LOVES ME. NOW LET'S TALK ABOUT OUR SON!

DARYL

YOU'RE HIDING LIKE YOU ALWAYS HAVE. HIDING FROM THE TRUTH.

JACKIE

WELL WHO KNOWS THAT TRICK BETTER? YOU CAN'T ACCEPT THAT HE  
ISN'T YOU!

(private thoughts)

DARYL

ROUND AND ROUND

JACKIE

ROUND AND ROUND

DARYL

ROUND AND ROUND

DARYL/JACKIE

ROUND AND ROUND WE GO, NO RESOLUTION

JACKIE

ROUND AND ROUND

DARYL

RISING TO A NEW LOW

DARYL/JACKIE

WHEN I'M WITH HER/ WHEN I'M WITH HIM  
I BECOME WHO I DON'T WANT TO BE

JACKIE

WHY DO I HIDE?



DARYL  
WHAT CAN'T I FACE?

DARYL/JACKIE  
WHAT AM I SCARED TO SEE?

JACKIE  
Shhh, you're too loud! What if they hear us?

DARYL  
Oh, always worried about what other people think.

JACKIE  
As if you aren't?

DARYL  
I don't think our arguments come as much of a shock to anyone!

YOU'RE NOT THE WOMAN YOU USED TO BE. FILLED WITH DREAMS,  
ALIVE! THIRTY SIX YEARS OF PENT UP GRIEF EVER SINCE YOUR MOM  
DIED.

JACKIE  
AT LEAST MY MOM WOULD BE PROUD OF ME AND HOW I'VE RAISED OUR  
FAMILY. BUT I'M NOT SO SURE YOU MEASURE UP TO WHO YOUR FATHER  
THOUGHT YOU'D BE. I GUESS I'LL JUST GO ON THE SAME, A TROPHY WIFE  
FOR YOUR CAMPAIGN.

DARYL  
I GIVE YOU ALL YOU WANT AND MORE. I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE  
ASKING FOR.

JACKIE  
WHAT A JOKE! IT'S PAST YOUR HEAD. I DON'T WANT THINGS BUT YOUR  
TIME, INSTEAD.

DARYL  
NOW THAT THE KIDS ARE GROWN, MAKE A LIFE OF YOUR OWN!

(private thoughts)

JACKIE  
WHAT'S HAPPENED TO US?

NO SEX IN MONTHS	DARYL
NO KINDNESS IN HIS WORDS	JACKIE
WE DON'T CONNECT	DARYL
I CAN'T GET THROUGH	JACKIE
I DON'T TRUST HIM/HER ANYMORE!	JACKIE/DARYL
ROUND AND ROUND	DARYL
ROUND AND ROUND	JACKIE
ROUND AND ROUND	DARYL
ROUND AND ROUND WE GO, NO RESOLUTION	DARYL/JACKIE
ROUND AND ROUND	JACKIE
RISING TO A NEW LOW	DARYL
WHEN I'M WITH HER/ WHEN I'M WITH HIM I BECOME WHO I DON'T WANT TO BE	DARYL/JACKIE
WHY DO I HIDE?	JACKIE

DARYL

WHAT CAN'T I FACE?

DARYL/JACKIE

WHAT AM I SCARED TO SEE? (pause) WHEN I LOOK AT YOU, I SEE A  
REFLECTION OF...ME.

(JACKIE and DARYL keep THEIR bodies facing THEIR own mirrors, yet each  
peers over HIS/HER own shoulder to look at each other.)

(Spotlights on JACKIE and DARYL fade.)

Scene Five

Stewart home, family room. DARYL'S eighty year old mother, BRIDGIT, is sitting in the "guest of honor" chair. AISLYNN, CONNER, SUEANN, and ENSEMBLE are gathered around BRIDGIT, talking, drinking and laughing.

(JACKIE quickly walks down the stairs. AISLYNN clears HER throat to alert the group to act normal after hearing JACKIE and DARYL'S argument upstairs. JACKIE greets AISLYNN, CONNER, and SUEANN.) (**Track 05 - Home**)

JACKIE

(to AISLYNN and CONNER, sentimental, excited)

MY BABIES, YOU'RE REALLY HERE. HOME, WHERE YOU SHOULD BE.

(to SUEANN)

WELCOME SUEANN! (sung/spoken) MY, YOU'RE COMPLETELY STUNNING.

PLEASE MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME. I SEE YOU'VE MET THE FAMILY.

SORRY IF I SEEM A BIT FLUSTERED, THIS IS QUITE A DAY FOR ME.

SUEANN

THANK YOU MRS. STEWART

CONNER

(upbeat)

Call her Jackie!

(JACKIE shoots CONNER an unpleasant look)

SUEANN

FOR YOUR HOSPITALITY

JACKIE

(turns to AISLYNN)

HAVE YOU SEEN YOUR OLD ROOM, DEAR?

AISLYNN

LOOKS ABOUT THE SAME AS I LEFT IT.

DOESN'T SEEM LIKE *ANYTHING'S* CHANGED AROUND HERE.

(JACKIE catches AISLYNN'S deeper meaning, glares at AISLYNN and then places a fake smile on HER face to address the entire group.)

JACKIE  
WELL, WHAT ARE WAITING FOR? LET'S TOAST THE GUEST OF HONOR!

AISLYNN  
BUT SHOULDN'T WE WAIT FOR DAD?

JACKIE  
(acts focused on the task of refilling drinks)  
HE'LL BE HERE IN A MINUTE.

ALL  
(raising glasses)  
Happy Birthday Bridgit!

(DARYL hurriedly walks down the stairs to join in the toast, acting as though HE hasn't missed anything. DARYL is texting on HIS phone.)

DARYL  
(grabs a glass of champagne and raises it in a toast, looking at BRIDGIT)  
HAPPY 80<sup>TH</sup> TO MY LOVELY MOTHER. YOU'VE BEEN MY ROCK ALL MY LIFE.

(raises HIS glass again, looking around at the others)  
AND HERE'S TO OUR HAPPY FAMILY AND FRIENDS, TOGETHER AT OUR HOME TONIGHT.

(ALL raise THEIR glasses, some with forced smiles)

CONNER  
(under his breath, to himself)  
NO TIME LIKE THE PRESENT, GUESS I SHOULD SAY THIS NOW  
(to the group)  
I HAVE SOME EXCITING NEWS TO SHARE...

(DARYL cuts CONNER off)

DARYL  
SORRY SON, BUT I'M NOT DONE. JUST HOLD ON FOR A SECOND.  
EVERYONE, I'M PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE,  
I'M RUNNING FOR THE US SENATE!

(ALL freeze, except AISLYNN, as SHE takes on the role of a commentator.  
AISLYNN addresses the audience.)

AISLYNN

Ah, the *big* announcement! I don't think anyone is too surprised. As a venture capitalist and state senator, Dad has always been involved with big business and politics. "A servant to the public" as he likes to say, but in *his* case, I view it more like "a servant to his ego". I think the entire Nation, our collective consciousness, if you will, gets a little on edge when a political season rolls around. Know what I mean?

(DARYL, JACKIE and CONNER position as if they are about to engage in a public debate. AISLYNN continues as commentator.)  
**(Track 06 - Family Politics)**

AISLYNN

EVERYONE IS AT EACH OTHER  
TRYING TO MAKE A POINT  
PREPARING TO GO TO BATTLE  
OUT CREEPS OUR DARKER SIDE.

GET READY FOR DRAMA AND HEATED DEBATES  
THROW IN SOME BACKSTABS FOR FUN  
A WAVE OF EMOTIONS, SOMEONE'S BOUND TO GET HURT  
WHY NOT RESENT AND HOLD ON?

(music pauses)

(to audience)

Wait. Did you think I was talking about *National* politics?

WELL, THOSE RELATIONS ARE BASICALLY TAME  
WHAT WE FACE HERE (sung/spoken) IS A MORE PASSIONATE GAME.

AISLYNN/JACKIE/DARYL/CONNER/SUEANN/  
ENSEMBLE

*FAMILY POLITICS!*

AISLYNN

I SENSE YOU CAN RELATE

DARYL

WHEN WE'RE ALL TOGETHER, NO ONE IS SAFE

AISLYNN/JACKIE/DARYL/CONNER/SUEANN/  
ENSEMBLE

*FAMILY POLITICS!*

CONNER

THE JOYS OF COMING HOME

AISLYNN

I MIGHT HAVE BEEN BETTER OFF STAYING ALONE

AISLYNN/JACKIE/DARYL/CONNER/SUEANN/  
ENSEMBLE

WE HAVE GOOD INTENTIONS TO BEHAVE OUR VERY BEST

JACKIE

BUT SOON THE TIDES WILL TURN. I'M SURE YOU KNOW THE REST.

AISLYNN

(to audience)

Ladies and Gentlemen, I will now introduce the participants in tonight's debate!

(AISLYNN dances with each family member when singing about HIM/HER)

(refers to DARYL)

THE TYPE WHO GETS IN YOUR FACE  
WHAT HAPPENED TO PERSONAL SPACE?  
SMART, SARCASTIC, SOMEWHAT FAKE  
MAKES OTHERS FEEL DISGUST AND DISGRACED

(refers to CONNER)

THE ONE WHO'S NAÏVE, GETS PICKED ON THE MOST  
A VERY GOOD SPORT, THE BRUNT OF THE JOKES  
KIND AND SWEET, APPEARS TO TAKE IT WELL  
THOUGH YOU CAN NEVER SEE IT, MUST HURT LIKE HELL!

AND THEN, THERE'S ME, IN THE MIDDLE OF COMPLAINTS  
THE WAY THEY UNLOAD ON ME, YOU'D THINK I AM A SAINT!  
VERY SYMPATHETIC, AGREEING WITH BOTH SIDES  
DEEP DOWN THERE'S A TRUTH I'M NOT SEARCHING HARD TO FIND.

NO ONE IS PERFECT, WE DIG UP THE PAST  
(spoken) BUT WAIT, THERE'S MORE, I SAVED THE BEST FOR LAST!

(refers to JACKIE)

QUIETLY SITTING ALONE  
SHE TAKES IT ALL IN, YET HER THOUGHTS ARE UNKNOWN  
'TIL ALL OF A SUDDEN, SHE STRIKES WITH HER TONGUE  
HAUNTING REMARKS THAT CAN'T BE UNDONE.

AISLYNN/JACKIE/DARYL/CONNER/SUEANN/  
ENSEMBLE

*FAMILY POLITICS!*

AISLYNN

EMOTIONS ARE A MESS

DARYL/JACKIE

BITTERNESS AND PENT UP FEELINGS NEVER EXPRESSED

AISLYNN/JACKIE/DARYL/CONNER/SUEANN/  
ENSEMBLE

*FAMILY POLITICS!*

CONNER

WE LIVE THROUGH HIGHS AND LOWS  
HOW OR WHEN OR WILL THEY CHANGE? I REALLY DON'T KNOW.

CONNER

(addresses the group, starts quiet and builds to a loud voice)

Ok, I just have to get this out...SueAnn and I are engaged!

(DARYL, JACKIE, and BRIDGIT look shocked. DARYL, JACKIE, BRIDGIT,  
and CONNER pause THEIR movement for a moment. AISLYNN quickly  
redistributes champagne glasses to ease tension. SUEANN is oblivious to the  
family undercurrent of emotions. SHE'S busy drinking.)

AISLYNN

(raises HER glass for a toast)

To my twin brother and his fiancé! Congratulations!

DARYL

(to CONNER)

THERE ARE SHARPER TOOLS IN THE SHED  
SON, THIS ONE MUST BE GREAT IN BED!

JACKIE

I DON'T BELIEVE SHE'S RIGHT FOR YOU  
(spoken harshly) SEEMS TO ME YOU DIDN'T THINK IT THROUGH.

CONNER

SOMEONE WAKE ME UP FROM THIS NIGHTMARE CALLED MY LIFE



BRIDGIT

PRAISE THE LORD, MY GRANDSON IS FINALLY GOING TO TAKE A WIFE!

AISLYNN/JACKIE/DARYL/CONNER/SUEANN/  
ENSEMBLE

(sung/whispered while dancing) DRAMA! SECRETS! JUDGMENT! LIES!

(Dancing continues to end of song. JACKIE is off to the side, drinking;  
SUEANN is still drinking heavily. THEY both hiccup at the same time and give  
each other a little look of surprise. DARYL dances with HIS mother, BRIDGIT.  
AISLYNN and CONNER dance together.)

Scene Six

Stewart Home. It's 10pm, the party is over.  
DARYL, JACKIE, CONNER, AISLYNN and  
SUEANN are winding down for the evening.  
DARYL, JACKIE and SUEANN are gathered in  
the family room, chatting and drinking wine.  
CONNER and AISLYNN are on THEIR way into  
the kitchen.

(DARYL is on HIS laptop. JACKIE shoots HIM dirty looks occasionally.)

SUEANN

Thanks again for includin' me in your big family celebration today. It sure was fun!

JACKIE

Of course! (snarky) It certainly was a day filled with surprises. So, now that you kids are engaged, have you talked about the possibility of moving out *here*? Conner always tells us that he plans on coming back.

SUEANN

Well, now that you mention it, he does bring it up a lot. He's always sayin' what a great city this is. I don't know if Conner told you, but my hometown is Portland too. (ditsy) Just, the one in Texas.

JACKIE

Wow! How ironic!

(kicks DARYL to get HIM to look up/pay attention. HE looks at SUEANN, pretending not to miss a beat)

DARYL

Uh, yeah. Maybe it's a sign.

SUEANN

I don't know. I've always been a Texas gal, and all my family still lives there.

JACKIE

I see. Remind me again how long you and Conner have been dating? Has it been a year?

SUEANN

Oh no ma'am, more like eight months.

DARYL

(makes a little whistle sound between HIS teeth)

And now you're engaged! So how are you with our son's occupation choice? English teacher by day, musician by night. Not much of an income to support you two.

SUEANN

I'll admit, it's not ideal, but with my income, we can make it work. Maybe I can talk him into takin' on another job, like teachin' guitar lessons or somethin'. If you don't mind me sayin' so, I'd like to live your kind of lifestyle. Conner never told me how...

JACKIE

(blunt)...rich we are? That's just like him. He's not one to boast, like *some* people (looks over at DARYL, who has returned HIS focus on the computer).

(AISLYNN and CONNER are chatting in the kitchen before joining the others in the family room.)

CONNER

(sarcastic) Well that went over well. Once again, Dad steals the show!

AISLYNN

And Mom didn't help matters much. She's probably drunk.

CONNER

Yeah, caught that. Neither of them are very accepting of SueAnn.

AISLYNN

Oh, I don't know if it really has anything to do with SueAnn. It could be any woman and Mom wouldn't like her. SueAnn's a threat. (teasingly dramatic) She's taking away Mom's precious son! And, Dad, he's so worried you're going to make a mistake. Like it will make *him* look bad!

CONNER

Yeah, and it's not like Mom and Dad's marriage is rock solid. At least our dad isn't abusive like SueAnn's dad. I'm afraid he's gonna punch a wall in when he hears about our engagement.

AISLYNN

Whoa. Not good. I'm sorry to hear that. Must be really tough on SueAnn.

CONNER

She tries to hide it, but I know she carries some pretty deep scars. I'll do everything in my power to help her feel protected.

AISLYNN

You're a good man, brother. I think we'd better get back in there. Who knows what they're saying about us!

Scene Seven

JACKIE and SUEANN move to the nook table.  
DARYL eventually joins THEM at the table mid-song. CONNER and AISLYNN walk in and sit down at the table just in time to hear JACKIE ask SUEANN about her family.

JACKIE

I'd love to hear more about your family, SueAnn. (acknowledges CONNER and AISLYNN by pouring them each a glass of wine) (**Track 07 - I Don't Need To Be Reminded**)

SUEANN

Well, let's see...

I HAVE TWO OLDER SISTERS WITH FAMILIES IN CORPUS  
AND MY BABY BROTHER LIVES IN SAN ANTON,  
MAMA IS A FIRST GRADE TEACHER AND DADDY IS A PRISON GUARD!

JACKIE

(fake/worried)

How nice!

CONNER

(to himself, sarcastic)

OH HOW THIS IS GONNA BE FUN!

JACKIE

You know what? I have yet to hear how Conner proposed!

SUEANN

HE PLANNED A ROMANTIC DINNER ON THE STAGE WHERE I FIRST HEARD HIM PLAY. THEN HE GOT DOWN ON ONE KNEE, AND I SAID YES RIGHT AWAY! I KNOW THIS ALL SEEMS FAST, WAS THE SAME FOR MAMA AND DADDY. So what about y'all? HOW DID THE TWO OF YOU MEET?

JACKIE

WE WERE HIGH SCHOOL SWEETHEARTS

DARYL

THE HOTTEST COUPLE IN SCHOOL! WE KICKED ASS IN OUR DEBATE CLASS. (to JACKIE) REMEMBER OUR PLANS TO TRAVEL THE WORLD? BECOME A POWER POLITICAL TEAM?

JACKIE  
I DON'T NEED TO BE REMINDED! TRAVEL YES, BUT POLITICS, ME?  
THAT WAS ONLY *YOUR* DREAM!

CONNER  
(mumbles HIS words through a fake cough to SUEANN)  
Change the subject!

SUEANN  
MY WHAT A LOVELY PAINTIN', (sung/spoken) JACK...MRS. STEWART!

JACKIE  
I'M SURE YOU WANT TO HEAR MORE ABOUT CONNER. SINCE A CHILD, HE  
WAS ALWAYS OUR CHARMER.

DARYL  
(winks at SUEANN)  
IN THAT WAY, HE'S LIKE ME

JACKIE  
YET, HE'S SENSITIVE IN NATURE AND LISTENS WHEN I'M IN NEED

DARYL  
WORKS THE OL' "STEWART MAGIC", (to CONNER) REMEMBER YOUR  
HIGH SCHOOL PARTIES, SON?

JACKIE  
THE SURPRISES WE'D FIND IN YOUR ROOM?

CONNER  
I DON'T NEED TO BE REMINDED

DARYL  
A COOLER FILLED WITH CONDOMS AND PANTIES UNDER THE RUG!

CONNER  
COULDA TIMED IT! SO I WAS SEXUALLY CHARGED IN MY YOUTH, WHAT'S  
THE CRIME IN THAT? CAN'T YOU THINK OF SOMETHING ELSE TO SHARE?  
(to SUEANN) WHAT ARE *YOU* SMILING AT?

AISLYNN  
REMEMBER WHEN MOM DRANK ONE TOO MANY AND BACKED OUT OVER  
THE DOG?

CONNER  
OR THE TIME DAD WAS HASSLED BY THE PRESS FOR THE NIGHT HE SPENT  
IN JAIL?

DARYL  
(to CONNER)  
OH NOW YOU'VE STEPPED IN IT

JACKIE  
(to AISLYNN)  
HOW DARE YOU, IN FRONT OF OUR GUEST?  
REMEMBER HOW YOU LIED TO ME?  
SAID YOU'D NEVER DREAM OF LIVING AWAY.

DARYL  
(to CONNER)  
REMEMBER HOW I BAILED YOU OUT  
WHEN YOU ALMOST DIDN'T GRADUATE?

SUEANN  
I THINK I'LL JUST GO UPSTAIRS, I'M REALLY TIRED. All this wine. (a play on  
the word, spoken like "whine", as the family is whining) (exits)

CONNER  
(to DARYL) You forgot to show up!

DARYL  
What? When?

CONNER  
YOU MADE A PROMISE TO US. BUT JUST LIKE YOUR HEART,  
IT WAS EMPTY. THE NASTY STARES AS MINUTES TICKED BY, WHERE WAS  
THE HOST OF OUR SIXTH GRADE ASSEMBLY?

JACKIE  
YOUR FOCUS, THE PRAISE OF THE PUBLIC. AND NOT THE PRIZE OF YOUR  
FAMILY.

AISLYNN  
(to JACKIE)  
LIKE YOU HAD A SPINE TO STAND UP TO DAD?

JACKIE  
I DON'T NEED TO BE REMINDED

JACKIE

(to AISLYNN)  
NO RESPECT! X 10  
(to DARYL)  
YOU WEREN'T HERE! x 10

CONNER

(to DARYL)  
LISTEN TO ME, JUST LISTEN TO ME x 2  
(to DARYL and JACKIE)  
I DON'T NEED TO BE REMINDED x 2

AISLYNN

(to JACKIE)  
SPEAK UP! x 6  
(to ALL)  
NOTHING CHANGES x 2

DARYL

(to CONNER)  
SHUT UP! SHUT UP! x 2  
(to ALL)  
NO RESPECT! x 3

DARYL

I DON'T NEED TO BE REMINDED OF HOW I WASN'T HERE, WHAT I DIDN'T DO, HOW I MAY OF HURT YOU!

(slams hands down on the table)

Enough!

(Each storms out of the room. SUEANN opens HER bedroom door a crack and pops HER head out once CONNER is close by.)

SUEANN

Pssst!

CONNER

(still angry) What?

SUEANN

(opens the door further and shakes/shimmies in some sexy lingerie)  
Thought you might need a little change of pace after all that *quality* family time.



CONNER

Ha! Yeah, now we're talkin'.

(walks into the room, grabs SUEANN in a hug and closes the door behind them, leaning against it with HIS backside. SUEANN giggles as THEY move toward the bed.)

SUEANN

Come take yourself a wife!

(THEY fall onto the bed and CONNER leans over to turn off the lamp.)

## Scene Eight

The Grandfather Clock chimes 2am in the Stewart House. JACKIE is in bed/or on a couch, dreaming, after falling asleep with a book on HER lap. DARYL is reminiscing his past while trying to doze off in the family room chair. CONNER has left the house to take a walk. AISLYNN is sitting in the garden on a bench/in gazebo. OR Each character walks to a stool front stage and sings with HIS/HER own instrumentalist (CONNER plays guitar). Four stools are lined up.

(JACKIE'S deceased mother, "KATHERINE", appears in JACKIE'S dream as a young woman, dancing in a flowing white gown. Before "KATHERINE" exits, SHE places her hand on JACKIE'S shoulder. JACKIE awakens and sits up.)  
(Track 08 - My Life)

JACKIE

MAMA? IS THAT YOU AGAIN? WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO TELL ME?  
HOW I STILL ACHE FOR YOU, NEEDING YOU NOW MORE THAN EVER.  
EVERYONE HAS LEFT ME, I FEEL SO LOST, SO BROKEN.

I THINK ABOUT THE HOURS I'VE SPENT TENDING THIS BEAUTIFUL HOME.  
NURTURING MY CHILDREN, FOREVER MAKING *DARYL* LOOK GOOD

MY LIFE. MY LIFE. WHO AM I IN MY LIFE?

(DARYL is sleepy, yet HE keeps replaying scenes from childhood in his head.  
[pre-recorded sounds/dialogue] We hear DARYL'S FATHER, "LIAM",  
interacting with DARYL as a "BOY", playing baseball.)

DARYL'S FATHER "LIAM" VO

Do it again son! Again! And again! Damn it, do it right! Can't you remember how I showed you?

BOY DARYL VO (or DARYL)

Yes Daddy.

DARYL'S FATHER "LIAM" VO

If you wanna be the best, you've gotta work harder! You're just not good enough.  
Sstt, what a waste.

(DARYL opens HIS eyes and sings from HIS chair)

DARYL

THAT WAS SO LONG AGO BUT HAUNTS ME STILL TODAY  
I SWORE I'D NEVER BE LIKE DAD, YET I TREAT MY SON THE SAME  
WHAT THE FUCK IS WRONG WITH ME?

I THINK ABOUT ALL I GIVE TO IMPROVE OUR COMMUNITY  
YET JACKIE DOESN'T SEE IT, JUST PICKS ME THE HELL APART  
RUNNING FAST ON EMPTY, DON'T KNOW WHAT I WANT.

MY LIFE. MY LIFE. WHO AM I IN MY LIFE?

(CONNER sings from a balcony or bridge.)

CONNER

MY SUE, SHE IS SO GORGEOUS. WHY DID SHE CHOOSE ME?  
IF SHE COULD JUST SEE WHAT I SEE IN HER.  
HOW CAN I FIX HER HEARTACHE?

I THINK ABOUT MY MUSIC. THE SONGS I CRAVE TO WRITE.  
TO DAD, THESE DREAMS AREN'T VALID. MY CHOICES PALE TO HIS.  
SOME DAY, HE'LL BE SORRY. I'LL PROVE TO HIM MY WORTH.

MY LIFE. MY LIFE. WHO AM I IN MY LIFE?

(AISLYNN sings from a bench or gazebo, journaling.)

AISLYNN

BEING HOME JUST BRINGS ME BACK TO THE SPECIAL TIMES WITH BROCK  
WHY DO I REHASH OUR LOVE WHEN I'M THE ONE WHO THREW IT AWAY?  
I KNEW HE'D FIND SOMEONE BETTER THAN ME, WHAT MAN COULD WANT  
MY MIXED-UP SELF?

I THINK ABOUT MY DRIVE TO COMPETE, TO COMPARE  
SHOW THAT I CAN DO IT ALL, OTHERS SEE THAT, RIGHT?  
DEAR GOD, MAKE ME THE OPPOSITE OF MY WEAK AND SHATTERED MOM.

MY LIFE. MY LIFE. WHO AM I IN MY LIFE?

(The spotlight now shines on JACKIE, DARYL, CONNER and AISLYNN  
at the same time in THEIR different settings.)

AISLYNN

I'M SPIRALING DOWN, DOWN A DARK, MESSY HOLE  
HOW DO I FIND THE LIGHT BACK TO MY SOUL? IF I SILENCE MY FEELINGS  
TO BLACK IN MY CORE, MAYBE THIS PAIN WON'T EXIST ANY MORE.  
MY BODY IS WEAK, MY SPIRIT IS NUMB, HOW CAN I MAKE UP FOR WHAT  
I'VE DONE? WHO HAVE I BECOME? UNHAPPY, FILLED WITH DOUBT,  
THIS ISN'T HOW, THIS ISN'T HOW...

AISLYNN/CONNER/ JACKIE/DARYL

I'M SPIRALING DOWN, DOWN A DARK, MESSY HOLE  
HOW DO I FIND THE LIGHT BACK TO MY SOUL?  
IF I SILENCE MY FEELINGS TO BLACK IN MY CORE  
MAYBE THIS PAIN WON'T EXIST ANY MORE.

AISLYNN

MY BODY IS WEAK

CONNER

MY SPIRIT IS NUMB

AISLYNN/CONNER/ JACKIE/DARYL

HOW CAN I MAKE UP FOR WHAT I'VE DONE?

DARYL

WHO HAVE I BECOME?

JACKIE

UNHAPPY, FILLED WITH DOUBT

DARYL

THIS ISN'T HOW

CONNER

THIS ISN'T HOW

AISLYNN

THIS ISN'T HOW

JACKIE

THIS ISN'T HOW

AISLYNN/CONNER/ JACKIE/DARYL

I PICTURED MY LIFE PLAYING OUT.  
(blackout)

Scene Nine

AISLYNN is back in HER Los Angeles office the following week.

(AISLYNN is sitting at HER desk, typing on HER computer. SHE looks at LANCE'S book every now and then, opening the cover to read what HE wrote. AISLYNN'S COLLEAGUE, "KATIE", walks into HER office. AISLYNN quickly lays the book down on HER desk.)

AISLYNN'S COLLEAGUE "KATIE"

Morning! Welcome back! I'm just dying to know...how was your trip?

AISLYNN

Heh...*memorable*. Hey, sorry I didn't get back to you. (winks) You know how family politics can be.

KATIE

No worries. I get it. So? What about Brock? Did you...

AISLYNN

Nothing. Never saw him. He was "too busy" with meetings.

KATIE

I'm sorry. I know how much you wanted to connect again.

AISLYNN

Now part of me will always wonder. Would we still be attracted to each other? I guess I'm still having a hard time forgiving myself for breaking up with him and moving away. I loved him, Katie. I really did. Well, as deeply as I could at that age. Honestly, I was scared. We were *too* close, ya know? I felt he had this image of me that was ideal, and if I let him down and showed my flaws, he'd leave me. So, I left first.

KATIE

Wow, I didn't realize...I thought he was just a typical high school fling. Thanks for sharing with me. Is that what you were hoping to share with *him*?

AISLYNN

Yes. At least, that was my intention. (laughs) But you know me. I don't think I would have really opened up like that!

KATIE

(looks at and picks up the book on AISLYNN'S desk)  
What's this? Are you picking up golf now?

AISLYNN

(laughs) Or the golfer himself! I don't know. (coyly) I *may* have met someone special on the plane. We'll see.

KATIE

(very interested) Someone special, huh? I want to hear more at happy hour! (looks at watch) So, to catch you up to speed...I spoke with Dan, weighed in on the Murphy account....left at least a dozen messages with Celia, set up a meeting with Keri a week from Tuesday...I have some notes for you from last week's staff meeting....

(AISLYNN begins to block out KATIE while KATIE is talking. AISLYNN is daydreaming about LANCE.)

I can tell you have a lot on your mind. (starts moving toward door) See you later...

(KATIE smiles and leaves the office. AISLYNN attempts to keep working)  
**(It's Time)**

AISLYNN

WORK KEPT ON TICKIN' ALONG WITHOUT ME. AM I REALLY AS  
IMPORTANT AS I THOUGHT? I'M READY FOR CHANGE AND A LITTLE  
EXCITEMENT. YEAH, THINKIN' TALL, DARK, HANDSOME AND HOT!  
IT'S TIME TO BE BOLD. IT'S TIME TO BE DARING. IT'S TIME TO FACE  
(spoken/sung) yet another first date?!

(AISLYNN paces, talking out loud while HER eyes are closed.)  
Ok, deep calming breaths. Might as well put my yoga classes to some use here. Think positive.  
No rush. I have all day.

(AISLYNN'S eyes pop open)  
Oh, screw peace, I just can't wait!

(AISLYNN grabs HER phone, and dials LANCE'S cell phone.)

(nervous) What if he answers, what if he answers...

(We hear several rings. AISLYNN is relieved that LANCE doesn't answer. SHE'S just about ready to hang up when HE *does* answer. LANCE is right outside a golf course clubhouse when he picks up his cell phone.)

LANCE

Hello? (silence) Hello?

AISLYNN

Oh, hi, this is Aislynn Stewart, from the airplane?

LANCE

Aislynn! Sorry, I couldn't hear you at first. Must be the reception. I'm out near a course.

AISLYNN

(bites lip)

Uh, yes, must be the reception!

LANCE

What a pleasant surprise! It's great to hear your voice!

(to himself)

I WAS CERTAIN THAT SHE HAD FORGOTTEN ME. COULD MY SOCIAL LIFE BE TURNING AROUND? I'M READY FOR CHANGE AND A LITTLE EXCITEMENT. MY FEET HAVE ACTUALLY LEFT THE GROUND! IT'S TIME TO BE BOLD. IT'S TIME TO BE DARING. IT'S TIME TO TRUST MY INSTINCTS ARE RIGHT!

I'd love to see you again. I'll be in LA next Friday night.

AISLYNN

Okay, then...

AISLYNN/LANCE

IT'S A DATE!

(THEY hang up)

LANCE

(to himself)

SHE SAID YES!

AISLYNN

(to herself)

HE'LL BE HERE!

LANCE

(to himself)

I CAN'T WAIT!

AISLYNN

(to herself)  
I CAN'T WAIT!

AISLYNN/LANCE

IT'S TIME, IT'S TIME, IT'S TIME!

(Black out)



Scene Ten

**Summer “Year 1”.** AISLYNN and LANCE are on a date at a driving range in Los Angeles.

(LANCE is teaching AISLYNN how to swing a club. THEY are clearly familiar with each other, as THEY’VE been on many dates since meeting on the airplane.)

LACNE

I’m quite impressed with your natural athletic body...I mean, ability!

AISLYNN

Well, I can’t take much credit. (flirty/breathy) I owe it all to my pro golf coach and such fine *private* instruction over the past few months.

LANCE

Maybe we should be heading back to your place!

(THEY give each other a knowing smile and laugh)

Hey, let’s take a little break.

(THEY go to sit on a nearby bench or at a pro shop patio table)

I’ve been having such a great time with you, Ace.

(AISLYNN gives LANCE a curious look and LANCE chuckles, surprising HIMSELF)

What? Where’d that come from? Sorry. I mean...

AISLYNN

...no, wait. I like it! I like the idea of you having a special nickname for me.

LANCE

I like it too. Sooo, Ace. Do I have competition?

AISLYNN

And where’d *that* come from? What do you mean?

LANCE

Well, I’ve recently overheard a few of your conversations with or about Brock. Not sure.

AISLYNN

(caught off guard) Oh. I see. (sincere/feels guilty) I'm sorry. Does that bother you?

LANCE

I just get the sense there's some unfinished business there.

AISLYNN

Lance, you have nothing to worry about. You are the *only* man I'm interested in. As long we're asking serious questions, (hesitates) I'm curious about where you're at with children.

LANCE

(pretends to choke and cough)

Trying to scare me away?

AISLYNN

(light heartedly) Owe. That's mean.

LANCE

Kidding. You're right, wasn't funny. Let's put it this way, I'll try to keep an open mind, but I'm not sure I want any more kids. It's a bigger commitment than you might realize. Are *you* dead-set on having a family?

AISLYNN

I can't say for sure. I mean, I haven't really thought about it in the past few years because I'm still young...haven't met anyone special...busy with work, friends. (audible breath out)  
But if I really dig deep, my gut tells me there's something more. Like I just can't say, *no*, I never want children.

LANCE

I understand. Well, even though we're both a bit unsure about the future, I hope we can continue seeing each other.

AISLYNN

(sweetly) I want that too. I'm glad you brought me to the golf course. I can certainly see how you're inspired out here.

LANCE

(jokingly) While I'm playing chase?

AISLYNN

That...and, it's so beautiful. Do you always see yourself golfing professionally? And writing, too?

LANCE

Golfing, yes, even when it's no longer my "career". Writing, yes and no. Nobody else knows this, but it's not really the technical writing that I'm passionate about.

AISLYNN

Ooo, so what is this secret passion?

**(The Game)**

LANCE

Well, I may be a little more creative than I lead on that first day we met. It's...NOVELS. I WANT TO WRITE NOVELS. MYSTERY, SUSPENSE WHY NOT A GOLFER, INSTEAD OF A LAWYER, WRAPPED UP IN SOMETHING SHADY? I can see that you're intrigued.

AISLYNN

NO JOKE, YOU HAVE MY ATTENTION.  
WHAT IS IT THAT'S HOLDING YOU BACK?

LANCE

STUPID, BORING, LACKING. A FEAR OF CRITIQUES TO DESCRIBE MY NEW WORK. I STOP BEFORE I GET STARTED.

AISLYNN

BUT IF YOU FEEL IT IN YOUR BONES, HOW CAN YOU GO WRONG?  
LET'S LOOK FROM A DIFFERENT ANGLE. WHAT HAPPENS OUT THERE  
WHEN YOU CAN'T READ THE GREENS OR YOUR GRIP'S TOO TIGHT? DON'T  
FOLLOW THROUGH, HIT THE BALL TOO FAR RIGHT?

LANCE

I JUST FOCUS ON WHAT THEY SAY  
'BOUT THE GREATEST GAME EVER PLAYED:

AT THE END OF THE DAY, ALL YOU'VE GOT TO REMEMBER  
IS BREATHE AND RELAX, DON'T TRY TO FORCE ANYTHING  
JUST SWING THAT CLUB, AND MOVE OUT OF YOUR OWN WAY.

AISLYNN

There you go!

TRUST ME, I MAKE THINGS HARDER THAN THEY REALLY NEED TO BE. SET  
MY SIGHTS ON WORK IN L.A. WITH "THE BEST" AD AGENCY. I HOUNDED  
MY CONTACT FOR WEEKS! DIDN'T CONSIDER HOW ANNOYING I WAS. And  
sure enough, THEY HIRED SOMEONE ELSE. STILL REELING FROM MY  
FAILURE, EVENTUALLY I MOVED ON.

AISLYNN cont.

Then, guess what? FOUR MONTHS LATER, THEY CALLED ME UP AND OFFERED ME A JOB! WISH SOMEONE HAD TOLD ME THEN:

AISLYNN/LANCE

AT THE END OF THE DAY, ALL YOU'VE GOT TO REMEMBER IS BREATHE AND RELAX, DON'T TRY TO FORCE ANYTHING JUST SWING THAT CLUB, AND MOVE OUT OF YOUR OWN WAY.

LANCE

TRUTH BE TOLD, IT'S ME. THE SABOTEUR OF MY OWN DREAMS. A HEAP OF EXCUSES, CONTENT, YET NOT GROWING BEYOND THE COURSES I KNOW.

AISLYNN

EVEN IF IT'S JUST FOR *YOU*, FIND REWARD IN THE JOURNEY. BEGIN AND SEE WHAT HAPPENS

LANCE

IT HELPS TO TALK IT THROUGH  
DO YOU KNOW HOW MUCH YOU INSPIRE ME?

AISLYNN

I'M FLATTERED (to HERSELF) THAT CAN'T BE TRUE

LANCE

CAN YOU MEET AGAIN NEXT WEEKEND?

AISLYNN

WE COULD PLAY A ROUND, FOR REAL THIS TIME! AND WILL I GET A PEEK OF YOUR OUTLINE?

LANCE

WITH YOU, I'M GAME FOR ANYTHING!

AISLYNN/LANCE

AGREED, WE'LL PLAY THIS OUT!  
AT THE END OF THE DAY, ALL YOU'VE GOT TO REMEMBER IS BREATHE AND RELAX, DON'T TRY TO FORCE ANYTHING JUST SWING THAT CLUB

AISLYNN

AND MOVE OUT OF YOUR OWN WAY!

LANCE

A DIFFERENT ANGLE,  
RELAXED AND EASY, I SEE THE WAY!

Scene Eleven

**Summer “Year 1” -- Summer “Year 2”.**

AISLYNN and LANCE go on a series of dates, in different settings, changing coats/accessories to reflect Season changes and the passage of time.  
**(Seasons)**

(LANCE places AISLYNN’S sweater around HER shoulders. THEY walk along the beach holding hands. We hear ocean sounds.)

AISLYNN

(looks at HIM dreamily)

Thanks sweetheart.

ENSEMBLE WOMEN

Oo, Oo, Oo...

ENSEMBLE

SEASONS CHANGE, THEY COME, THEY GO  
BRANCHING OUT FROM THE WORLD WE KNOW

WOMAN I/MAN I

YOU FIND YOURSELF IN A BRAND NEW SCENE

AISLYNN/ LANCE

AM I AWAKE OR AM I IN A DREAM?

LANCE

THE WAY SHE LIGHTS UP A ROOM  
I FEEL SO ALIVE WHEN I’M WITH HER

AISLYNN

THE WAY HE MAKES ME LAUGH OUT LOUD  
I FEEL SO RELAXED WHEN I’M WITH HIM

LANCE

I’VE FALLEN FOR HER LIKE NO ONE BEFORE

AISLYNN

IT SCARES ME A BIT, I’M INVITING HIM IN

AISLYNN/LANCE  
WE WON'T KNOW WHERE THIS ROAD LEADS UNTIL WE BEGIN

ENSEMBLE  
SEASONS PASS, SOME TOUGH, SOME GRAND

ENSEMBLE WOMEN  
DAYS YOU EXPECT

ENSEMBLE  
THOUGH MOST UNPLANNED

AISLYNN/LANCE/ENSEMBLE  
SEASONS CHANGE AROUND AND AROUND  
TIME SPEEDS UP, THEN TIME SLOWS DOWN.

AISLYNN/ LANCE  
STEP WITH ME INTO SOMETHING NEW

AISLYNN/ LANCE/ENSEMBLE  
I WANT TO WALK THIS JOURNEY WITH YOU.

(AISLYNN and LANCE stop to talk)

LANCE  
Aislynn, you know I'm not really the romantic type, though I'm so suave and "deboner".  
(grins and becomes more serious) Okay, what I'm trying to get at here is that I think we have  
something special, and I don't want to lose you. (places HIS hand on AISLYNN'S shoulder)  
Will you consider moving in with me?

AISLYNN  
(chuckling) I appreciate your sincerity, "Mr. Suave and Debonair". And, that's quite the  
question. It means...

LANCE  
(HE picks up from where AISLYNN left off)  
...giving up your life in LA, your high profile dream job, moving back home where your parents  
live. What's not to love about that?

AISLYNN  
(laughs) You make your case so appealing! (serious) You're an incredible man, Lance.  
I mean, this past year has been the most amazing time in my life.

LANCE

Couldn't keep away from my irresistible charm, right?

AISLYNN

Ha! (nervously/stumbles) I can't believe I'm about to say this, but I'm gonna go with what my heart is telling me. My answer's yes. Let's do it!

(THEY hug and kiss and grab hands to walk off stage as lights dim)

Scene Twelve

**Summer “Year 2”.** AISLYNN is unpacking and settling into LANCE’S home in Portland. CONNER and SUEANN are unpacking and decorating THEIR new home in Portland.  
**(Track 09 - Doubts)**

(SUEANN is eyeing the coffee table, trying to decide what to place there. SHE’S grumbling to HERSELF. Rain sounds begin. A window is open, and SUEANN stomps over to the window to slam it closed. CONNER is happily unpacking.)

CONNER

(to SUEANN)

SUEANN, I’M THRILLED THAT YOU’RE WILLING TO SEE  
MAKING PORTLAND *OUR* HOME MEANS THE WORLD TO ME!  
AND NOW WE’RE HERE...

CONNER/ LANCE

IT’S MOVING DAY!

SUEANN/AISLYNN

IT’S MOVING DAY!

SUEANN

(to CONNER)

YEAH, NINE MONTHS OF CLOUDS WITH DRIZZLIN’ RAIN!

AISLYNN

BETTER FINISH MOVIN’ IN BEFORE I CHECK OUT

CONNER/SUEANN/AISLYNN/LANCE

I SAID I WOULDN’T, THOUGHT I COULDN’T AND REALLY SHOULDN’T  
HAVE THESE DOUBTS!

SUEANN

CONNER THINKS THIS PLACE IS A FIND, NOT EVEN CLOSE TO THE CHARM I  
HAD IN MIND

CONNER

WHAT MORE CAN I DO TO MAKE HER HAPPY? TO SATISFY HER NEVER-  
ENDING NEEDS?



CONNER/SUEANN/AISLYNN/LANCE

DOUBTS. DOUBTS!

AISLYNN

I'M STARTING TO MISS MY LIFE IN L.A. MY DREAM JOB, MY FRIENDS, MY FAVORITE CAFÉ.

LANCE

SO LONG TO MY MAN CAVE. (sung/spoken) Is it too early for a drink?  
I'M ALREADY SEEING TOO MUCH PINK!

CONNER/SUEANN/AISLYNN/LANCE

DOUBTS. DOUBTS!

AISLYNN

LOOK AT ME, I RAN FROM LOVE, AND NOW I'M BACK TO PURSUE IT?!

LANCE

WILL SHE STILL WANT ME WHEN I'M NOT A CELEBRITY, NO LONGER MAKING THAT RICH, SWEET MONEY!

CONNER/SUEANN/AISLYNN/LANCE

I SAID I WOULDN'T, THOUGHT I COULDN'T AND REALLY SHOULDN'T HAVE THESE DOUBTS!

CONNER

WAS I SELFISH TO BRING HER OUT HERE? 'CAUSE ALL THIS COMPLAINING IS HURTING MY EARS!

SUEANN

JUST AS I FEARED, I MOVE FROM PORTLAND, TEXAS TO "KEEPING PORTLAND WEIRD"!!

CONNER/SUEANN/AISLYNN/LANCE

DOUBTS. DOUBTS!

AISLYNN

(SHE hears LANCE'S cell phone chime and looks at it to read the text.)  
Oh, so glad to see that your ex-wife is texting you every twenty minutes!

LANCE

(HE picks up a framed picture of AISLYNN with BROCK.)  
Hmm. Do you really need to hold on to this rather *cozy* picture of you and Brock?

SUEANN

(to audience)

How did I miss that he can be such a wuss? Will people suspect, *I'm* the one who wears the pants?

CONNER

(to audience)

Last night, I saw an ugly side you wouldn't believe! She actually threw her hairbrush at me!

CONNER/SUEANN/AISLYNN/LANCE

DOUBTS! DOUBTS! DOUBTS!

LANCE

MY KIDS ARE ALL GROWN UP, DO I *REALLY* WANT MORE? WOULD MY ENERGY HOLD UP?

AISLYNN

WILL I LIKE MY WORK WITH THIS NEW COMPANY? WILL LANCE SOME DAY LOOK *OLD* TO ME?

(In the midst of cleaning out drawers, AISLYNN finds LANCE'S old wedding ring and holds it up to ask HIM about it.)

(miffed)

Is this your old wedding ring?

AISLYNN

HIS EX-WIFE KEEPS CALLING AND CALLING AND CALLING. HIS EX-*LIFE* CONTINUES TO DINE AT OUR TABLE

CONNER/SUEANN/AISLYNN/LANCE

DOUBTS, DOUBTS, DOUBTS!

SUEANN/AISLYNN

WHAT ELSE AM I GIVING UP?

CONNER/LANCE

COULD SHE BE THINKING THE SAME?

CONNER

IS THIS A SIGN?

CONNER/SUEANN/AISLYNN/LANCE

ALL THESE DOUBTS IN MY MIND!

SUEANN

I've been thinkin'....

CONNER

(under HIS breath, sarcastically)

Great, here it comes.

SUEANN

Since your sister's back in Portland, I think she should throw me a bridal shower!

CONNER

Oh, I'm sure she can hardly wait!

(CONNER scratches HIS testicles.)

SUEANN

You know, I hate it when you do that!

CONNER

(pretends to be sweet) Ohhhh, that bothers you?

SUEANN

More than you realize!

CONNER

Well if that's the case....

(HE scratches more and faster just to spite HER. SHE grunts out of disgust and turns to another project.)

(CONNER address the audience)

You wanna know something I just don't get? How can moving in with the person you love

(pause) BRING UP SO MUCH SHIT?!

SUEANN/CONNER

A LOT HERE IS TROUBLING ME

AISLYNN/LANCE

HOPE THAT HE/SHE DOESN'T SEE

CONNER/SUEANN/AISLYNN/LANCE/BROCK

HAVE TO GET RID OF THESE! DOUBTS!

(THEY calmly go about THEIR projects, hiding any display of doubtful thoughts)

SUEANN

You're awfully quiet now. Whatcha thinkin' about?

CONNER

(no hesitation) Just how beautiful, enchanting and charming you are. And that you're like a Summer's day filled with butterflies and flowers and, and...a fudge brownie with whipped cream and a cherry on top!

(Big pause. SUEANN glares at CONNER, looking like SHE'S not buying it. But, SHE switches to a huge smile and giggles.)

SUEANN

Awe, aren't you so sweet! That's *just* what I was thinkin' about you, honey! (sexy/seductive) Speakin' of a fudge brownie with whipped cream (climbs on top of CONNER'S lap), I've got some whipped cream for later!

CONNER

(mesmerized) That sounds....

SUEANN

(shakes HER finger at HIM teasingly) Ah, ah, ah! Dinner first, dessert last. (still sultry) And speakin' of dinner, how would you like a nice hot, freshly cooked steamy bowl of chicken stir fry and rice?

CONNER

That sounds absolutely delicious!

SUEANN

(gets off CONNER'S lap, regular voice) Good! You'll be back in 20 minutes, right?

CONNER

Say what?

SUEANN

Hello? Take out?

CONNER

(grunts as HE gets up to walk toward the door/to grab a coat; emphasizes placing a hood over HIS head)

Uh huh.

(scene switches over to AISLYNN and LANCE in THEIR home)

LANCE

(AISLYNN is quietly stirring soup on the stove while LANCE is prepping other food.)

You're sure quiet over there. Anything you want to talk about?

AISLYNN

Nope! Not really.

(It's quiet again and AISLYNN audibly passes gas.)

Oh my God, how embarrassing!

LANCE

(laughing)

You're really cookin' with gas tonight, honey!

(AISLYNN bursts out laughing too. SHE walks by LANCE and hits HIM on the bottom with a spatula.)

THERE'S NO DENYING THERE'S A SPARK BETWEEN US....(LANCE continues humming the melody)

AISLYNN

(SHE smiles and places HER hand on Lance's chest.)

Be right back.

(AISLYNN walks into the next room and finds the framed picture of herself with Brock. SHE takes a long look, rubs her fingers over the photo, peers around HER shoulder to see if LANCE can see, then tenderly tucks the picture under some clothing in a drawer.)

(AISLYNN walks back into the kitchen to sit at the table next to LANCE.)

LANCE

Hey, I forgot to mention. The kids are with me...I mean, with us, this weekend. Is that okay with you?

AISLYNN

(a bit angry) Do I have a choice? You know, you could have asked me first.

LANCE

Alrighty then. (under his breath) Geez, might be sharing a room with my son tonight.

AISLYNN

Heard that.

LANCE

(genuine) Ace, is everything okay? I know we're both pretty stressed out right now with the move and all, but is something else eating at you?

AISLYNN

(can't look LANCE in the eyes, offers up a fake smile) Couldn't be better. Don't worry about me. (matter of fact) Let's go get the kids' rooms ready.

(AISLYNN gives LANCE a quick kiss on the forehead and walks off. LANCE clearly knows AISLYNN isn't okay, but HE drops the conversation and follows HER.)

Scene Thirteen

AISLYNN is in a local coffee shop, journaling,  
sipping coffee.

(SUEANN walks in and spots AISLYNN)

SUEANN

Hey, Aislynn! I'm so glad to bump into you. I was just at the bridal shop tryin' on my gown,  
and I saw the cutest little flower girl dress!

AISLYNN

(gives SUEANN an uncertain look)

That's nice. Are you going to have a flower girl...

SUEANN

(clearly isn't listening to AISLYNN and continues HER thought)

Gets me excited about havin' a baby girl. I just *have* to have a girl! You and Lance talk about  
havin' kids?

AISLYNN

Well, as you know, Lance already has kids, so, uh (hesitates), we talk about it. So, maybe.

SUEANN

I'm so lucky, I don't have to give it a second thought. Conner and I *both* want kids.  
Must drive you crazy not knowing *for sure* if Lance does or doesn't.

(AISLYNN just glares at HER. Before AISLYNN has a chance to reply, SUEANN shifts  
to a new topic. SUEANN pulls out her smart phone to show AISLYNN a photo.)

Look, here's a pic of my gown!

(SHE continues to further describe the gown by showing AISLYNN with her hands.)

See how it cuts across here and fits kinda snug here? What do you think?

AISLYNN

(ticked off) Suits you well. You'll surely get the type of attention you're looking for in that  
dress. Excuse me, I really need to get back to my project.

SUEANN

(slightly offended) Okay. See ya in a couple of weeks.

(SUEANN exits)

(AISLYNN goes back to writing in HER journal. We hear HER thoughts.)

AISLYNN

(upset) Why does she have to do that! (mimics SUEANN'S voice) "Conner and I both want kids". Well good for you, honey! (sighs, grumbles) What if she's right? If I was with Brock, there'd be no question. I *know* he wants kids. God, what am I saying? That's *not* going to happen! What am I gonna do? I'm such a mess!

(lights fade on AISLYNN, as if SHE continues writing)



Scene Fourteen

**Late Summer “Year 2”.** CONNER is playing guitar at a venue. AISLYNN, LANCE, JACKIE, DARYL, and SUEANN are there to listen. CONNER has just finished a set, and a JOURNALIST is there to take a photo.

(A JOURNALIST takes a photo of DARYL, JACKIE, AISLYNN, CONNER and SUEANN together on stage.)

JOURNALIST MALE

(to DARYL, though all can hear the conversation)

Thank you Senator Stewart! This will be perfect for our “day in the life” piece about your family. (shakes DARYL’S hand; looks to CONNER and SUEANN) And, once again, congratulations to the happy couple on your upcoming nuptials. (to SUEANN) Ms. Hart, you’re bound to be one of the most beautiful brides Portland has ever seen.

(SUEANN giggles)

SUEANN

Thank you, sir!

(turns to whisper to LANCE)

Can’t believe I agreed to get married in Portland!

(LANCE just laughs it off and nods. HE receives a call on HIS cell phone.)

DARYL

(to JOURNALIST)

Yes, we’re really...proud of our son (mumbles) and his fiancé. Uh, but our full family photo will be on the cover, right? The one with me in the middle?

JOURNALIST

Of course, sir!

(DARYL and JACKIE continue to talk with the JOURNALIST. LANCE hangs up and approaches AISLYNN.)

LANCE

I’m so sorry Ace, I have to run. There’s a little situation that came up.

AISLYNN

Oh. Is everything okay?

LANCE

I'm sure it'll be fine. Just some drama between the kids and my ex. See you later tonight.  
(HE places HIS hand on AISLYNN'S shoulder and dashes off.)

SUEANN

(to AISLYNN)

Trouble in paradise?

AISLYNN

No, it's fine. But I could use another glass of wine. Join me?

SUEANN

(hesitates) Uh, sounds good, maybe later!

(smiles and walks off toward CONNER. AISLYNN suspiciously follows SUEANN with her eyes.)

(JOURNALIST exits stage)

(CONNER scratches his testicles. SUEANN catches HIM.)

SUEANN

(disgusted) Good Lord, in public?

CONNER

Give it a break, will ya?! You're the only one who saw. Unless...you think *I*, and this very fine package, should be the center layout in the magazine. What do you think? Feature (poses, modeling right side) Nutty? (turns to left side) Or Buddy?

SUEANN

(can't help but snicker)

Oh, I give up!

DARYL

(to JACKIE)

I know I don't say this much, but thanks for sticking by me through all this. (curt) I know it hasn't been easy.

JACKIE

(surprised)

Thank you, Daryl. I needed to hear that. You know, your Dad really *would* be proud of you.  
(DARYL gives HER a partial smile, yet is quick to look in the other direction)

DARYL

(points toward CONNER, seated on stool back on stage)

Looks like Conner has an encore. (sits down at bistro table with JACKIE)

CONNER

At this time, I'd like to invite my twin sister, Aislynn, to the stage to perform with me.

(AISLYNN hesitates a bit, but SHE soon joins CONNER on the stage as a stool is brought up for HER. (**Everybody Wants (minor)**))

CONNER

EVERYBODY WANTS WHAT SOMEONE ELSE HAS  
TO PLAY THE LEAD IN SOMEBODY ELSE'S MOVIE  
SEARCHIN' FOR THE PATH TO BE TRULY HAPPY  
WE'VE LOST SIGHT OF VALUING WHO WE ARE.

AISLYNN

IF THEY ONLY KNEW WHAT  
I'VE BEEN GOIN' THROUGH  
SHE WOULDN'T TRADE ME PLACES  
WE'RE ALL IN DIFFERENT STAGES.

CONNER

YOU DON'T REALLY KNOW MY STORY  
IT'S NOT ALL FRILLS AND GLORY  
JUDGMENT MAY COME EASY  
I'VE FELT MY SHARE OF MISERY.

AISLYNN

LET'S GIVE THE DIRT, ON SOMEONE ELSE

CONNER/AISLYNN

TO HELP OUR LIVES LOOK BRIGHTER  
MAKIN' UP LIES TO TELL OURSELVES NOW  
LIFE WILL SOON FEEL LIGHTER.

EVERYBODY WANTS WHAT SOMEONE ELSE HAS  
TO PLAY THE LEAD IN SOMEBODY ELSE'S MOVIE  
SEARCHIN' FOR THE PATH TO BE TRULY HAPPY  
WE'VE LOST SIGHT OF VALUING WHO WE ARE

AISLYNN/CONNER

WHAT IS IT THAT YOU BELIEVE?

CONNER  
WHAT IS IT YOU WANT TO SEE?

(Everyone claps. CONNER and AISLYNN hug. THEY walk off to the side to talk privately.)

I haven't told mom and dad yet, but there's something I need to share with you first.  
Sis, SueAnn's pregnant.

AISLYNN  
What?

CONNER  
I know, can you believe it? I'm gonna be a father! I'm kinda on a high right now. *And* in complete shock.

(AISLYNN just stands there, stunned, doing HER best to maintain a smile.  
SUEANN, walks up. AISLYNN hugs SUEANN.)

AISLYNN  
Wow. A baby. This is all so fast. I'm...I'm so happy for you two! That's, um, really great news. (tears begin to run down her face) Uh, if you'll excuse me, I need to head out, find Lance, uh...(practically runs out)

SUEANN  
She's so sweet. I can tell she's really happy for us. Well, next up...your parents!

(End scene)

Scene Fifteen

AISLYNN is in a gazebo or on a bench outdoors  
with HER journal.

(AISLYNN is sobbing as she writes in HER journal. **(Track 10 - I Want A Baby)**)

AISLYNN

Why isn't it me, why isn't it me?

(looks up part way through first verse to address audience/puts down journal)

THEY THINK I'M CRYING TEARS OF JOY, SHARING IN THEIR BLISS  
YET ALL I FEEL IS A SALTED WOUND. I'M THE ONE WHO WANTS THIS  
ALWAYS STRIVING TO BE THE BEST, WHILE FOCUSED ON MY CAREER  
THAT PATH NO LONGER FEEDS ME. NOW, I REALIZE WHAT I'M LONGING  
FOR.

I WANT A BABY, A CHILD, A SOUL CONNECTED TO MINE  
TO FEEL THIS BLESSING IN MY LIFE. A LOVE THAT OUT DANCES TIME  
A TRUTH MY HEART HAS ALWAYS KNOWN  
LIKE FINALLY FEELING WHAT MEANS HOME.

HAVE I LOST MY CHANCE TO PARENT, WITH A MAN WHO DOESN'T WANT  
THE SAME? WHAT A PRICE FOR MY MISTAKE. I'M SWALLOWED UP BY  
PAIN. I DIDN'T KNOW 'TIL NOW HOW MUCH THIS MEANS TO ME  
MY JEALOUSY GROWS STRONGER WHEN OTHERS REACH THEIR DREAM.

I WANT A BABY, A CHILD, A SOUL CONNECTED TO MINE  
TO FEEL SUCH WONDER IN MY LIFE. A YEARNING I CAN'T DEFINE  
LOVE MUST FIND A WAY TO GROW. A JOURNEY THAT I NEED TO KNOW

I'LL MEDITATE, I'LL PRAY, CREATE A SACRED SPACE WITHIN  
WHATEVER IT TAKES TO BIRTH THIS WISH AND START NEW LIFE AGAIN  
LIFE'S STORY WILL BE RICH AND GRAND, MY CHILD AND I, HAND IN HAND  
A SPIRIT TO GIVE ROOTS AND WINGS. I HAVE TO TRUST AND BELIEVE

EXPERIENCES I HAVE NEVER KNOWN BEFORE  
NEW HEIGHTS AND DEPTHS WE WILL EXPLORE  
WE'LL LEARN AND GROW, THINK AND FEEL  
DISCOVER THE GIFT OF BECOMING REAL.

I WANT A BABY, A CHILD, A SOUL CONNECTED TO MINE  
TO FEEL THIS BLESSING IN MY LIFE. A LOVE THAT OUT DANCES TIME

1-15-65

A TRUTH MY HEART HAS ALWAYS KNOWN  
LIKE FINALLY FEELING WHAT MEANS HOME.

THE LOVE BETWEEN US, LIKE NO OTHER  
OH HOW I WANT, (spoken) no I *need*, TO BE A MOTHER.

(Black out)

Scene Sixteen

Hotel Ballroom. Morning of the wedding.  
SUEANN and ENSEMBLE are in the ballroom  
helping with set-up. CONNER then arrives.

(SUEANN bosses everyone around and shouts at anyone helping set up for the ceremony and reception.)

SUEANN

No, I told you a million times, the tulle goes there and the bows go over there! I knew I'd have to be here this morning!

(CONNER comes running in)

CONNER

Sorry I'm late honey! Now, put me to work. What can I do?

BRIDE'S MAID

(to CONNER)

I thought you weren't supposed to see the bride before your wedding?

(SUEANN overhears the question and answers for CONNER)

SUEANN

Oh, we don't believe in that nonsense. This room has to look perfect, and that means *everyone* pitches in! Even the groom!

(SUEANN addresses the audience and ENSEMBLE. (**Track 11 - All About Me**))

I'VE BEEN DREAMIN' OF MY WEDDIN' DAY SINCE I WAS ONLY THREE  
MY PRINCESS DRESS, FIVE TIER CAKE, I COULD PICTURE IT TO THE TEE  
THIS DAY IS FINALLY HERE, IT'D BETTER SAIL WITHOUT A HITCH  
(spoken) I'd say I'm particular...

BRIDE'S MAID

(spoken) ...some might say a bitch

SUEANN

I VISUALIZE THE GLAMOUR, I'M SHOWERED IN THE HYPE  
NOTHIN' HERE IS TACKY OR CHEAP, NO, NO, I'M NOT THAT TYPE  
WITH VOWS SO SWEET, A LOVE THAT'S RICH, OK, I'LL ADMIT, (spoken) who  
gives a shit! THIS DAY IS ALL ABOUT ME, I'M THE PERFECT SOUTHERN  
LADY!

CONNER

I'VE BEEN DREAMING OF OUR WEDDING DAY SINCE I PROPOSED  
IT'S ONE OF THOSE TIMES YOU DON'T HAVE TO THINK, DEEP DOWN YOU  
JUST KNOW. THIS DAY IS FINALLY HERE, WE'RE MEANT TO BE, I DO  
BELIEVE. (spoken) I'd say I'm romantic...

BRIDE'S MAID

(spoken) ...some might say naïve

SUEANN

I LOVE ALL MY BRIDESMAIDS BUT THEY'RE NOT PULLIN' THEIR WEIGHT  
FOR STARTERS, YOU DON'T GIVE ME SASS, DON'T SHOW UP LATE  
YOU MAY POKE FUN OF MY GALS IN GREEN, 'CAUSE YOU'RE SEEIN'  
RIGHT, THERE ARE FOURTEEN! IT'S ALL ABOUT ME, I'M THE PERFECT  
SOUTHERN LADY!

CONNER

FOURTEEN!

ENSEMBLE

FOURTEEN!

CONNER

I WAS UP ALL NIGHT, MY THUMBS ARE TORN, CUTTIN' FAT OFF THE  
BRISKET

SUEANN

EMILY POST WOULD BE SO PROUD, I'M GRACED WITH FIRST-CLASS  
ETIQUETTE

CONNER

NOW I PRAY ON OUR WEDDING DAY, I'LL SAY MY VOWS JUST RIGHT

SUEANN

NOW I PRAY ON MY WEDDIN' DAY, THIS DRESS MAKES MY ASS LOOK  
TIGHT!

SUEANN'S MOTHER "CAROL"

I SURELY HOPE YOU REALIZE IT'S MORE THAN JUST A DAY  
MARRIAGE LASTS A LIFETIME, NOT A TWELVE HOUR DISPLAY  
FOCUS ON THE LOVE YOU FEEL, AND DON'T FORGET WHAT'S TRULY REAL  
BELIEVE IN "WE", NOT "ME" AND YOU'LL BE THE PERFECT SOUTHERN  
LADY!



SUEANN

Oh, mama, get off your high horse!

(Two women show SUEANN some centerpiece doilies.)

Ach! I said ivory, not cream! Nobody listens to me!

MALE ENSEMBLE

SHE THINKS SHE IS A SOUTHERN BELLE, SHE'LL MAKE HIS LIFE A LIVING  
HELL

SUEANN

THIS DAY IS ALL ABOUT ME, I'M THE PERFECT SOUTHERN LADY

CONNER/SUEANN

HELP US PRAY, OUR FAMILIES GET ALONG TODAY!  
JUST OUR LUCK...

CONNER

OUR PARENTS WILL ARGUE POLITICS

SUEANN

SISSY'S BOYFRIEND WILL MAKE A SCENE

CONNER

DAD WILL END UP GIVING A ROAST

CONNER/SUEANN

AND MEMAW'LL END UP DRUNK! (spoken) Drunk?

(SUEANN snaps HER fingers for everyone to get back to work.)

SUEANN

THAT IS WHERE MY PORTRAIT GOES, OUT FRONT WHERE ALL CAN SEE  
I SURELY MAKE A BEAUTIFUL BRIDE, NOW WOULDN'T YOU AGREE?  
WE'RE ALMOST DONE, BUT, WAIT, NOT QUITE, NO ONE LEAVES 'TIL THE  
ROOM LOOKS RIGHT! THIS DAY IS ALL ABOUT ME, I'M THE PERFECT  
SOUTHERN LADY!

(Curtain is placed in front of SUEANN as SHE sheds a robe and "changes" into  
HER wedding dress.)

SUEANN cont.

WHO CARES ABOUT THE COST? AS LONG AS I GET ALL THAT I WANT  
WHO CARES ABOUT THE GROOM? WHO CARES ABOUT *HIS* DREAMS?  
DON'T MESS WITH THIS HERE SOUTHERN LADY, 'CAUSE THIS DAY IS ALL  
ABOUT ME!

(SUEANN is now in HER wedding dress, lifted up onto two ENSEMBLE  
MEN'S shoulders.)

Well, hell! How are ya supposed to go pee in this thing anyway?!

(End music.)

Scene Seventeen

AISLYNN and LANCE enter the decorated ballroom after everyone has left.

(THEY enter the room with distance between THEM.)

AISLYNN

(throws hands up, upset) Great. We're beyond late. I can only imagine what SueAnn's thinking about me right now.

LANCE

Oh, get over it. She has fourteen frickin' bridesmaids to help!

AISLYNN

Yeah, and I'm not one of them!

LANCE

Since when do you care? You're Conner's best woman! Isn't that a hundred times more special? (cell phone rings)

AISLYNN

Wait, let me guess. It's your ex. Go on, answer it! You always do.

LANCE

What's your problem?! (HE doesn't answer HIS cell. Almost calms down, but HIS anger heightens) You know that's not true. Oh, but if it was *Brock* calling on *your* cell, you wouldn't hesitate!

AISLYNN

That's random! Brock?! I haven't talked to him in months!

LANCE

Hasn't kept you from thinking about him, though. (pauses) Do you still love him?

AISLYNN

(hurt) Oh my God. How could you ask me that? Wait a minute. Have you been reading my journal?

LANCE

So you admit it!

AISLYNN

No! I don't. Why are you doing this?

LANCE

I...I don't know. (audible breath) Okay, I do know. Aislynn, it seems like ever since we've lived together you're always talking about our future and baby this and baby that. I *have* kids.

AISLYNN

Oh, so now you're going back on your promise?

LANCE

Whoa, I *never* promised. I have only said I'd keep an open mind.

AISLYNN

Well that's not good enough! You either want a child with me or you don't!

LANCE

(flustered) Damn it, stop pushing me, Shannon!

(AISLYNN freezes and glares at LANCE. HE then realizes HE called AISLYNN by HIS ex-wife's name. LANCE tries to pull HER toward HIM, but SHE backs away.)

(soft) Ace, I'm *so* sorry.

AISLYNN

I'm *not* your *ex*, Shannon. (starts walking toward the door) I have to go get ready for the wedding.

(AISLYNN walks out leaving LANCE standing alone.)

Scene Eighteen

Moments before CONNER and SUEANN'S wedding, CONNER and AISLYNN are together in the "groom's suite". JACKIE interrupts.

JACKIE

Come on kids, it's time!

CONNER

Dad isn't coming, is he?

JACKIE

(matter of fact, straightening CONNER'S boutonniere)  
His flight from Chicago is still delayed.

AISLYNN

Quit making excuses for him, mom! (to CONNER) Dad hasn't even called you, has he?

JACKIE

(trying to hold it together; doesn't show HER true emotion)  
Aislynn, I'm just as upset as you are. Let's focus on the wedding now.

AISLYNN

No! They can't get married without Dad here! Besides, what'll the press say? (speaks as though reading a headline) Senator Stewart, a no-show for his own son's wedding. Conner, are you okay? Shouldn't we postpone?

CONNER

(in a daze)  
(quietly) SueAnn would be crushed. I can't do that to her.  
(pretends to be okay, perks up)  
...come on "best woman", I'm getting married! Right now. And then, I'm gettin' shit faced.  
(smiles, winks at AISLYNN)

Scene Nineteen

CONNER and SUEANN are standing in front of an altar with MALE WEDDING OFFICIANT. AISLYNN stands on CONNER'S side/BRIDESMAID on SUEANN'S side. JACKIE and CAROL sit in chairs up front. TWO ENSEMBLE MEN and ONE ENSEMBLE WOMAN sit in chairs as wedding guests, including LANCE. DARYL is side stage at a bistro table with ENSEMBLE WOMAN.

(CONNER, SUEANN, AISLYNN, LANCE, JACKIE, DARYL sing their private thoughts during the ceremony.) **(Picture Perfect)**

CONNER

DOESN'T THIS GROOM LOOK CONTENT AND ROBUST? YET I'M ON THE EDGE OF, OF A TOTAL MELT DOWN.

SUEANN

THIS WILL NEVER BE MY HOME, I'M SICK OF PRETENDIN', GET ME THE HELL OUT OF THIS TOWN.

CONNER/SUEANN

I'M SMILING. SHE'S/HE'S SMILING. WE'LL FAKE OUR WAY THROUGH.

CONNER

AS LONG AS I LOOK PICTURE PERFECT

SUEANN

PICTURE PERFECT

CONNER/SUEANN

AS LONG AS THEY THINK I'M PICTURE PERFECT.

DARYL

I SEEM LIKE AN ASS FOR NOT SHOWING UP, BUT I CAN'T STAND BY AS HE RUINS HIS LIFE.

JACKIE

EMBARRASED, HURT, NOT TO MENTION TEED OFF! WHERE'S A DRINK WHEN I NEED ONE?

DARYL

(HE grabs the hand of ENSEMBLE WOMAN)  
I WANT TO BE HERE

JACKIE

I'LL LIE TO OUR GUESTS  
WHO'S TO KNOW WHILE WE PUT ON THIS SHOW?  
AS LONG AS I LOOK PICTURE PERFECT

DARYL

PICTURE PERFECT

JACKIE/DARYL

AS LONG AS THEY THINK I'M PICTURE PERFECT.

LANCE

AM I FOOLING MYSELF ALL OVER AGAIN? IS IT *ME* THAT SHE WANTS OR  
JUST CHILDREN?

AISLYNN

MAYBE WE'RE JUST TOO FAR APART IN ALL THAT WE WANT FOR THE  
FUTURE. I'M OVER MY HEAD AND SO OUT OF CONTROL.

ENSEMBLE WOMEN

PICTURE PERFECT, PICTURE PERFECT, OH SO PICTURE PERFECT

ENSEMBLE WOMEN  
PICTURE PERFECT, PICTURE PERFECT,  
OH SO PICTURE PERFECT

ENSEMBLE MEN  
HOW MUCH LONGER?,  
I'M READY TO PARTY!  
SEEMS LIKE IT'S BEEN HOURS

AISLYNN/LANCE  
SHOULD I STAY? x 14

CONNER  
SHOULD I FOLLOW THROUGH? x 4

JACKIE/DARYL  
SHOULD I STAY? x 6

OR FIND A WAY OUT?

AISLYNN/CONNER/JACKIE/DARYL/LANCE

DO I LOOK FOR EXCUSES?

AISLYNN/CONNER

JACKIE/DARYL  
NO ONE SEE THROUGH ME OR FEED OFF MY FEARS

AISLYNN/JACKIE/DARYL/LANCE  
MUST LOOK PICTURE PERFECT, MUST BE PICTURE PERFECT x3

SUEANN  
(whispers to CONNER)  
Honey, I hate to tell you this, but I'm not pregnant after all. False alarm.

(CONNER looks dumbfounded)

AISLYNN/JACKIE/DARYL/LANCE  
DON'T I LOOK

OFFICIANT  
You may now kiss the bride!

(CONNER and SUEANN kiss)

AISLYNN/CONNER/SUEANN/JACKIE/DARYL/  
LANCE  
PICTURE PERFECT?

(The group poses for a photo with the bride and groom. We see many different faces of emotion. Black out. END of ACT I.)





## ACT TWO

### Scene One

**One year later. Fall “Year 3”.** JACKIE,  
DARYL, CONNER and AISLYNN are each in  
THEIR respective homes.

(JACKIE is napping and sees “KATHERINE”, dancing in her flowing white gown. “KATHERINE” exits, JACKIE awakens and takes a drink from a bottle of alcohol. SHE hears rain beating against the window and looks outside.)  
**(Track 12 - My Escape)**

JACKIE

THE CLOUDS ROLL IN AND STILL THE STORMY DAYS REMAIN  
A YEAR HAS PASSED BUT LIFE STILL FEELS THE SAME  
SOMETHING’S MISSING. SOMETHING’S OFF  
HOW MUCH MORE CAN I TAKE? I’M DRENCHED. I’M DRENCHED.  
I’M DRENCHED IN MY ESCAPE.

DARYL

(JACKIE tries to hide HER bottle of alcohol as DARYL walks into THEIR  
bedroom.)

Really, Jackie?! You’re still playing this game? I can’t believe you’d even consider taking  
another drink after what happened last Christmas. You almost killed yourself! Or can you even  
remember *that*?

(JACKIE hands the bottle over to DARYL and looks ashamed.)

I’m leaving now. Clean up! We have an event downtown in three hours.

(DARYL doesn’t give HER the chance to answer. HE walks out of the bedroom,  
pauses to reflect in the hallway, shakes HIS head and pulls out HIS phone to text  
on his way out of the house.)

JACKIE

I’VE BEEN DARYL’S PUPPET, SHOWING UP WHEN I AM CALLED  
LIKE AFTER MY MOM’S DEATH, I FEEL TRIVIAL, SO SMALL  
A LITTLE DRINK HERE AND THERE HELPS TO EASE THE BITE  
MY SADNESS SLOWLY SHIFTING TO THE ANGER STEEPED INSIDE.

DARYL

I'M HOT ON THE TRAIL AND CERTAIN TO WIN! WE'VE KEPT UP OUR  
FAÇADE WHEN JACKIE STEPS IN  
A RECENT AFFAIR, TRAVEL, WORK, HELPS IN MY DISTRACTION  
MY VALUES, CLEARLY HAZY. AM I THE MAN I'M PROUD OF?

JACKIE/DARYL/CONNER/AISLYNN

SOMETHING'S MISSING. SOMETHING'S OFF  
HOW MUCH MORE CAN I TAKE? I'M DRENCHED. I'M DRENCHED.  
I'M DRENCHED IN MY ESCAPE.

CONNER

THE HARDER I TRY, THE MORE I FAIL. I HAVEN'T MADE HER HAPPY.  
IT'S ALL I CAN DO TO WORK TWO JOBS, OR THREE, TO PRAISE HER DAILY.  
I LIVE A MILLION LITTLE DAYDREAMS OF EVERYTHING WE COULD BE  
MY LONELINESS IS GAINING. I'VE LOST MYSELF AT THIRTY.

AISLYNN

LANCE AGREED TO START A FAMILY, I GOT MY WAY, AND IT THRILLS ME  
I VOWED I WOULD TRUST AND BELIEVE, BUT I'M LOOSING HOPE, WE HAVE  
YET TO CONCEIVE  
FOCUS IN, MUST FIND A WAY, BEFORE HE CHANGES HIS MIND  
WORRY KEEPS ME BUSY, AFTER ALL, / WANT THIS, right?

JACKIE/DARYL/CONNER/AISLYNN

SOMETHING'S MISSING. SOMETHING'S OFF  
HOW MUCH MORE CAN I TAKE? I'M DRENCHED. I'M DRENCHED.  
I'M DRENCHED IN MY ESCAPE.  
DROWN ME IN MY ESCAPE.

Scene Two

AISLYNN is at CONNER and SUEANN'S home.  
SUEANN is out running errands.

(AISLYNN and CONNER have just finished singing a duet with CONNER on guitar.)

CONNER

Nice harmony at the end there!

AISLYNN

Thanks! I'm so happy to be performing with you again. We're even better than we were in high school.

CONNER

Which may or may not be saying much. (grins)

AISLYNN

(smiling, reminiscing)  
(laughs) Remember that time Brock sang with us at the Homecoming assembly?

CONNER

Oh, yeah! Didn't we have his mic levels turned down because he...

AISLYNN

...sucked? Yep. But at least he looked hot!

CONNER

So, when's the last time you two talked?

AISLYNN

At least a year ago. Last I heard, he and Madison are back together.

CONNER

You don't sound too thrilled.

AISLYNN

Yeah, I think it's more that I don't feel like I ever had closure with him. A part of me still hurts, thinking about what I gave up.

(SHE slowly lays down on the couch as if in a counselor's office.)

CONNER

You'll always hold a place for him in your heart. But, as far as closure, I personally don't think it really matters if you see him again. I believe it's up to *you* to work through your own perceptions of what that relationship was or the reasons why he was in your life.

AISLYNN

(negatively sarcastic) Should I be paying you? I guess I'm just so frustrated! Whenever Lance and I argue or I think about how hard it is to get pregnant...

CONNER

...you romanticize that life with Brock would be so much better if you had stayed with him, right? (AISLYNN shamefully nods) But who knows? Maybe he can't have kids either. Is this all really about having a baby? Or are you making up excuses not to be with Lance, just like you did with Brock? Ask yourself, sis. Why do you push men away?

AISLYNN

(angry/defensive) Okay, that's it. Get outta my head and get me off this couch! (stands up) You wanna know something? I think *you're* making up excuses to *stay* with SueAnn. I can't believe she faked a pregnancy just to get you to consider moving back to Texas.

CONNER

That's not fair and you know it! She didn't fake anything! It was just a mistake.

AISLYNN

Wake up, Conner! Can you honestly tell me that you like how she treats you? *Are* you her white knight or really her doormat? She doesn't deserve you!

CONNER

And you don't feel you deserve Lance! Do you?

(AISLYNN is about to cry, but at that moment, SUEANN walks in with several shopping bags)

SUEANN

Hey you two! (oblivious to AISLYNN and CONNER'S emotional conversation)  
Ugh, the mall was an absolute zoo today! Took me 15 minutes just to find a parkin' spot. Do y'all wanna go out to eat tonight?

AISLYNN

Oh, no, but thanks, SueAnn. I need to head out.  
(grabs HER sheet music and gets a finger cut)

AISLYNN cont.

Ouch! Finger cut.

CONNER

Ooo. Sorry, sis. Just a sec. I'll get a bandage.

(walks to side stage "bathroom". Rummages around in some drawers.)

(shouts to SUEANN) Honey, where are the bandages?

SUEANN

Lowest bathroom drawer!

CONNER

(yells) Found 'em! Along with something else.

(marches back into the room with a bandage box in one hand and a smaller box in the other hand. AISLYNN quietly walks toward CONNER to get a bandage, yet HIS focus is on SUEANN, and HE has a tight grip on the bandage box.)

What the hell, SueAnn? Why are a bunch of pregnancy sticks in your drawer? I'm so confused. (agitated) Help me understand this. I thought we were both relieved to find out you weren't pregnant last year. And we made a plan...save more money, buy a house, *then* try again.

(SUEANN is looking through HER purchases, acting like CONNER'S "find" isn't a big deal)

AISLYNN

I think I'd better be going.

(CONNER still has a tight grip on the bandage box, squeezing it harder as HE talks. AISLYNN tries to grab the box with no success as CONNER gesticulates with that box in hand.)

(whispers) I'll just see myself out.

(SHE turns to exit but takes one last attempt to grab the bandage box out of CONNER'S hand. CONNER continues to stare at SUEANN, awaiting an answer. AISLYNN is successful in pulling the box out of CONNER'S hand. HE hardly notices. AISLYNN quickly exits.)

CONNER

Well?

SUEANN

Well what? It's not a big deal.

CONNER

Wait a minute. Are you still on birth control?

SUEANN

Never mind that right now! I have a bone to pick with *you*! I was thinkin' at the mall today...do you realize it's been a *year* since our weddin', and you still haven't told your daddy how pissed off you are that he didn't show? It's all I can do to look at him and not read him off myself! Pretendin' everything's all hunkey dorey. Damn. You really need to grow a pair! You know that?

CONNER

Well, you, you...your butt's gotten big! (scratches HIS testicles before leaving)

SUEANN

Rrrgh!

(SUEANN throws something at CONNER as HE dodges it, trying to escape HER rage. HE runs to the couch, grabs HIS guitar to put it in its case)

CONNER

(yells as HE walks toward the front door)

I'm going to class! Early! And, I'll be...late! *Don't* wait up!

SUEANN

(SHE grabs HER compact mirror and places it behind HER bottom, turning HER head to try and take a look.)

Umph! Screw him!

(SHE slams the compact down.)

### Scene Three

CONNER is in a classroom with HIS guitar, playing a bit, waiting for HIS three adult students to arrive (Two MALES, “JEFF” and “TUCKER”/One FEMALE “LISA”).

(One of CONNER’S male students, “JEFF”, arrives early.)

CONNER

Hey Jeff! (looks at watch) Early? You either want extra practice time or you’re secretly hoping for some special one-on-one time with Lisa (winks, nods).

MALE STUDENT I “JEFF”

Heh. I don’t think *I’m* the one lookin’ for special time with Lisa.

(CONNER looks stunned, like HIS secret attraction to “LISA” has been discovered. HE tries to play it cool.)

CONNER

Huh?

MALE STUDENT I “JEFF”

Dude, just a joke! I know you’re a happily married man.

CONNER

(fake) That’s me!

MALE STUDENT I “JEFF”

Wish *I* was in a better place right now. Life’s been pretty rough these past few months.

CONNER

(sarcastic) Yet you’ve hidden it so well!

MALE STUDENT I “JEFF”

Okay, so you’re on to me. You know, your class is my only sanity right now.

CONNER

(sarcastic) I’m so sorry. (sincere) Can I help?

MALE STUDENT I “JEFF”

If I could just sort out this mess in my head...where do I even start....

(CONNER begins to strum HIS guitar, singing to “JEFF”) (**Track 13 - Imagine**)



CONNER

(spoken/sung, thinking out loud)

IMAGINE YOUR LIFE COULD BE DIFFERENT  
IMAGINE YOUR LIFE FILLED WITH JOY  
ABUNDANCE AND MEANING, PURPOSE AND VALUE  
IMAGINE YOUR LIFE RICH WITH LOVE!

(MALE STUDENT II “TUCKER” and FEMALE STUDENT “LISA” have entered the classroom, overhearing CONNER. THEY pick up guitars and join in playing.)

IMAGINE YOUR LIFE IS FULFILLING  
IMAGINE LIFE FLOWING WITH EASE  
LOOK WHERE YOU WANT TO BE, MAKE DREAMS REALITY  
WHO ARE YOU TRYIN’ TO PLEASE?

IT’S EASY TO LET YOUR PAST HAUNT YOU  
ALLOWING REGRETS TO LIVE ON  
DWELLING ON FEARS OF DAYS YET TO PASS  
INSTEAD OF CREATING WHAT YOU DESIRE

(CONNER steps forward and sings while looking out into the distance.)

IMAGINE *MY* LIFE COULD BE DIFFERENT  
TO TRULY FOLLOW MY BLISS  
NURTURED AND CARED FOR, RESPECTED AND LOVED,  
ANY LIFE OTHER THAN THIS

NO MORE PROFANITIES SCREAMED IN MY EAR  
HAIRBRUSHES, PICTURE FRAMES THROWN IN MY FACE  
CUT DOWN AND RIPPED APART IN FRONT OF OUR FRIENDS  
ABUSE WEARS HER NAME, I CAN’T OWN THAT ANYMORE!

(CONNER faces students again. THEY are looking at HIM oddly after he went off on HIS own tangent.)

CONNER/STUDENTS

IMAGINE YOUR LIFE COULD BE DIFFERENT  
IMAGINE YOUR LIFE FILLED WITH JOY  
ABUNDANCE AND MEANING, PURPOSE AND VALUE  
IMAGINE YOUR LIFE RICH WITH LOVE!

MALE STUDENT I “JEFF”

EXPRESS WHO YOU ARE

WRITE YOUR OWN SONG FEMALE STUDENT “LISA”

PAINT YOUR OWN DREAM MALE STUDENT II “TUCKER”

IMAGINE WHO YOU CAN BE CONNER

IMAGINE, IMAGINE, IMAGINE... CONNER/STUDENTS

CONNER/FEMALE STUDENT “LISA”  
(THEY lock eyes, lean in toward each other and smile.)  
JUST IMAGINE ALL THAT CAN HAPPEN....

CONNER  
(breaks the romantic tension)  
Well, I guess that pretty much sums it all up.

(The three students begin packing THEIR guitars away.)

MALE STUDENT I “JEFF”  
Thanks for the wisdom, Conner. You know, you’re the best instructor I’ve ever had.  
(dreamily) Well, maybe second best, right after my childhood piano teacher, Miss Rachel.

MALE STUDENT II “TUCKER”  
Oh, and why is that, Jeff?!

(JEFF grins and CONNER cuts off the beginning banter)

CONNER  
I don’t want to know! I’ll just take your word for it. And, thanks for the compliment, but I  
wouldn’t give *me* that much credit. After all, how do you know I’m following my own advice?

FEMALE STUDENT “LISA”  
You have more figured out than you think. Just trust that gut of yours. (winks at CONNER)

(The three students exit and CONNER strums on HIS guitar again, singing  
Imagine, Imagine as HE gets up and exits the stage).

CONNER  
IMAGINE, IMAGINE, IMAGINE...

### Scene Four

AISLYNN is at a local Naturopathic and Chinese Medicine clinic. SHE walks into a room where an empty chair sits at the head of a rectangular table. DOCTOR LI and STUDENT DOCTORS MALE I, MALE II, FEMALE I are already seated at the table.

DOCTOR LI

(stands) Hello Aislynn, I'm Dr. Li. (shake hands) Thank you for being open to a student teacher session today.

(each student acknowledges AISLYNN, yet without speaking or giving names)

So what brings you in?

AISLYNN

Basically, my boyfriend and I are having a tough time conceiving. A few days ago, I went in for some tests to get some answers but I haven't received the results yet. In the meantime, my friend Katie told me about your clinic and said I should look into Chinese and Holistic medicine for a different perspective. So here I am!

DOCTOR LI

Wonderful. Let's start with you describing some of your habits; how your body is functioning....

(AISLYNN looks uncomfortable and sits up straight, keeping HER hands in HER lap. SHE begins sharing very basic information, first looking at DOCTOR LI, and then slowly looking at different STUDENTS. One STUDENT smiles, the two others have serious looks on their faces, and all take notes.)

**(Track 14 – The Visit)**

AISLYNN

Well, uh...

I BRUSH MY TEETH TWICE A DAY. GET SIX OR SEVEN HOURS OF SLEEP AT NIGHT. SWIM OR DO YOGA FIVE TIMES A WEEK. I DO MY BEST TO EAT RIGHT. MY STRESS LEVEL SEEMS TO BE MODERATE. I'M NOT SICK MUCH, JUST A COLD ONCE OR TWICE. (sung/spoken) I TAKE A VITAMIN EVERY DAY. I'D SAY THAT CAFFEINE'S MY ONLY VICE!

DOCTOR LI

Thank you Aislynn, I appreciate what you've shared. But, what I'm really looking for here is more of an *in-depth look*.

(AISLYNN thinks SHE hears each student doctor ask HER a question,  
but it's only in HER own mind.)

STUDENT DOCTOR I  
HAVE YOU NOTICED BODY ODOR?

AISLYNN  
Huh?

STUDENT DOCTOR II  
POOPING EVERY MORNING?

AISLYNN  
Come again?

STUDENT DOCTOR III  
ARE YOU REALLY TELLING THE TRUTH?

AISLYNN  
Excuse me?

STUDENT DOCTORS  
OPEN UP, SHARE WITH US, GO AHEAD, CROSS THAT LINE!

STUDENT DOCTOR I  
NO SUCH THING AS TMI!

DOCTOR LI  
Aislynn, Aislynn? (waves to get her attention, smiles) Don't be scared. Remember, this is your  
body, your feelings. I'm here to help you.

AISLYNN  
(to DOCTOR LI and STUDENTS)  
Well, truth is...

(SHE loosens up a bit and becomes more animated.)  
I'VE HAD HORRIBLE CRAMPS FOR TWENTY DAYS STRAIGHT. AT TIMES  
MY PERIOD'S A WHOLE WEEK LATE! INSOMNIA THAT JUST WON'T PASS  
AND SEVERAL TIMES, EMBARRASSINGLY, AND *IN PUBLIC*, I HAVE GAS!

AISLYNN

(DOCTOR LI and STUDENTS freeze as AISLYNN addresses the audience.)

Okay. Big dilemma. I'm in marketing. I'm a public speaker, so naturally, I like to share eye contact with everyone in the room. But this (does quote marks with her fingers) "situation" has me a little confused. When I'm revealing my most private, intimate, daily bodily functions and such, do I stay focused on the doc or look at every student one by one as I painfully disclose about my morning poop! What would *you* do?

STUDENT DOCTOR I

HAVE YOU NOTICED ANY CRAVINGS?

AISLYNN

Do they read minds?

STUDENT DOCTOR II

MOOD SWINGS GETCHA CRANKY?

AISLYNN

Is this real?

STUDENT DOCTOR III

AND HOW DO YOU FIND INTERCOURSE?

AISLYNN

What ?!

STUDENT DOCTORS

OPEN UP, SHARE WITH US, GO AHEAD, CROSS THAT LINE!

STUDENT DOCTOR I

WE'RE ALL DOCS HERE, DON'T BE SHY!

AISLYNN

Dang, they're good!

(SHE tries *not* to look at the students, but has a difficult time.)

I HAVE MORE OF A SWEET TOOTH THAN I MENTIONED BEFORE  
COOKIE DOUGH ICE CREAM'S A MAJOR SCORE  
A BIG BOWL O' CEREAL'S MY STAPLE FOOD

(AISLYNN forgets where SHE is and gets carried away.)

AND A GLASS OF MERLOT REALLY GETS ME IN THE MOOD!

AISLYNN cont.

I BITE MY NAILS FROM STRESS. AND, HEY, DOESN'T EVERYONE GET  
(sung/spoken) JUST *A LITTLE* DEPRESSED? LET'S SEE, I GUESS THAT  
LEAVES...

DOCTOR LI/STUDENTS

Sex!

STUDENT DOCTOR I

(sing-songy) Still haven't discussed yet!

STUDENT DOCTORS

OPEN UP, SHARE WITH US, GO AHEAD, CROSS THAT LINE!

STUDENT DOCTOR II

WHAT'S SAID HERE, STAYS HERE, TAKE YOUR TIME!

AISLYNN

DO YOU THINK WE'RE JUST ABOUT DONE FOR TODAY? Now, BACK TO  
GETTING PREGNANT, I KNOW IT'S NOT ME. IT'S MY BOYFRIEND. HIS  
SPERM LACKS MOTILITY!

(SHE makes a swimming motion with HER hand, imitating sperm.)

BUT IF THERE'S ANY ONE THING YOU RECOMMEND I DO

(sincere)

I would be so grateful to you.

DOCTOR LI

YOU'RE SEEKING IDEAL HEALTH FOR YOUR PARTNER AND YOURSELF  
TO MANIFEST YOUR DREAM, NOTICE WHAT YOU FEEL, WHAT YOU  
BELIEVE. ANGER, BLAME, GUILT AND FEAR, TRAPPED WITHOUT RELEASE  
CAN ENERGIZE THE NEGATIVE, THE ROOT OF MUCH DISEASE

AISLYNN

I'M NOT SO SURE I UNDERSTAND. I FEEL SO OVERWHELMED.

DOCTOR LI

LET'S START WITH SOMETHING SIMPLE, LIKE GRATITUDE EACH DAY  
INVITE IN LOVE, RADIATE JOY, AND SOON YOU'LL FIND YOUR WAY  
PRACTICE MOVING THROUGH THE CLOUDS OF SUFFERING, DESPAIR  
YOU'RE ENOUGH, JUST BEING YOU, THE SUN IS *ALWAYS* THERE

(AISLYNN feels moved to give DOCTOR LI a hug.)

Scene Five

Stewart Home. JACKIE and DARYL are in  
THEIR bedroom getting dressed up for the day's  
events. Election day.

(DARYL is excited, jittery and moving around a lot, texting. JACKIE is moving  
slowly with no expression. SHE appears morose.)

**(Look In The Mirror Reprise)**

DARYL

CAN YOU BELIEVE THIS DAY IS HERE? THE PINNACLE OF MY CAREER

JACKIE

THANK GOD! I THOUGHT IT'D NEVER END. I FEEL COMPLETELY SPENT

DARYL

YOU'VE BEEN LIKE THIS FOR DAYS, FOR MONTHS. DON'T BE A BITCH  
TONIGHT!

JACKIE

SUCH ELOQUENCE AND FLATTERY FROM THE ONE WHO'S *ALWAYS* RIGHT!

JACKIE/DARYL

ROUND AND ROUND WE GO, NO RESOLUTION  
RISING TO A NEW LOW

WHEN I'M WITH HIM/HER, I BECOME WHO I DON'T WANT TO BE.  
WHY DO I HIDE, WHAT CAN'T I FACE, WHAT AM I SCARED TO SEE?

DARYL

(directed toward JACKIE)

I can't be here one more second!

(looks in mirror to straighten HIS tie one last time)

I'm ready.

(speaks to JACKIE by looking at HER through is mirror)

Send the car for you at four?

(DARYL doesn't wait for a reply. HE walks toward the hallway while texting.)

JACKIE

(quietly, with head down)

Stop.

(loudly, looking up at the back of DARYL)

Stop!

(DARYL stops before HE reaches the hallway and turns around to face JACKIE while still holding HIS cell up toward HIS waist in texting distance.)

DARYL

What?!

JACKIE

(partly calm)

Put down the phone, Daryl. Just put it down, for once. Look me in the eyes, for once.

DARYL

(jerky)

You're *kidding*, right? What the hell are you....

JACKIE

(screams with assertion)

Put down the fucking phone!

(DARYL is dumbfounded and doesn't say a word. HE stares at JACKIE as HIS hand with phone drifts down to HIS side.)

Do I even matter to you? Have I *ever* mattered?

(DARYL acts as if HE'S going to say something, yet HE closes his mouth, tucks HIS phone into HIS pocket, looks JACKIE in the eyes, softens HIS face and silently walks out the bedroom door.)

JACKIE

(Tears start to flow. JACKIE is still standing in the same spot, looking toward the doorway where DARYL just walked out.)

(partly spoken/partly sung)

WHEN I LOOK AT YOU, I SEE A REFLECTION OF...ME.



Scene Six

JACKIE sits down on the couch, blotting HER tears with tissues.

(While JACKIE'S head is down, KATHERINE appears and places HER hand on JACKIE'S shoulder. JACKIE looks up to see KATHERINE'S smiling face.)

JACKIE

Hi Mama. I'm ready now. I'm ready to face what you've been trying to tell me.

(KATHERINE dances a few steps in front of JACKIE and then guides JACKIE to rise and dance some basic waltz steps together. KATHERINE places her hand to JACKIE'S face, lifts JACKIE'S chin until THEY are looking face to face, and KATHERINE gently smiles. THEY hug and then KATHERINE exits. JACKIE grabs a notebook and pen out of her nightstand drawer and starts writing quickly. (SHE then lays down the notebook and takes in a deep breath.)

(upon exhale, SHE speaks with a look of contentment/knowing)

I matter...I am worthy...I love myself.

(JACKIE calls AISLYNN. AISLYNN answers her cell.)

JACKIE

Aislynn, could you come over, please?

AISLYNN

(off stage)

Mom, are you okay? Wait, I thought you were already downtown with Dad? What's going on?

JACKIE

Everything's okay. Actually, more than okay. I'll explain when you get here.

## Scene Seven

AISLYNN and JACKIE are camped out on the Stewart House family room floor with pillows and snacks. They've been talking for quite some time and open the scene in laughter. In the middle of the scene, DARYL enters side stage with HIS manager, where a podium is placed.

AISLYNN

(laughing)

That's hilarious! And they didn't even suspect?

JACKIE

Nope!

AISLYNN

Sounds like you've covered for Dad more than once since high school! *You* should be the one running for the U.S. Senate!

JACKIE

(smiles) Thanks for that sweetheart. You know something? I don't think I've ever shared with you the real, honest history between me and your father. He and your grandparents became like family to me when Mama passed away. I was 16. So young, so vulnerable. My entire world was shattered, and Daryl was so kind, so comforting. He was more than just a high school boyfriend. He became a man then. If I needed anything at all, he was there for me. But, even with all the support I could hope for, I lost myself. I felt like I wanted to die right along with my mother. You might be surprised to know that before that, I was outgoing, fun, even fearless. Daryl and I had big plans. We planned to travel. Oh, and did I have an eye for design! I mapped out where we would go just to find market places with unique textiles filled with vibrant colors. Of course, your father had a keen business sense, even at 17. I've always been interested in politics, in making a difference at that level, but I didn't want those types of pressures, the attention...especially after what I'd been through. But Daryl was persistent. And because he had helped me *so* much, after college, I felt my way to repay him was to support his business and political dreams the best I knew how. He mistook that as my own interest. I grew resentful through the years, but that was my way of coping. It wasn't Daryl who chose that path for me. Until now, I didn't realize that it's the connection with *myself* I've been missing. For the first time, I'm figuring out what *I* want.

(JACKIE sings to HERSELF and to AISLYNN.) (**Track 15 – My Dance**)

JACKIE

ALWAYS IN PERFECT TIME, CAREFUL TO KEEP MY LINES  
COMFORT IN MY ROUTINE, YET EMPTY OF FEELING

PLEASING MY FAMILY, DISGUIISING THE PAIN IN ME  
FLAWLESS AND SO PRECISE, DOING WHAT'S RIGHT

I ALWAYS STEPPED BACK AS HE TOOK HIS CHANCE, MY PARTNER THEN  
LEFT OUR DANCE. WHERE THEN WAS I TO TURN? MY NEEDS, OF NO  
CONCERN

TO FLOW AND BE FREE, IS THE GIFT I'VE RECEIVED,  
THANKS TO MOTHER ANGEL WHO APPEARED IN MY DREAMS

SHOWING STRENGTH AND GRACE WHILE FILLED WITH PEACE, LIVING  
EACH DAY WITH EASE. BALANCE THE RISE AND FALL, FEELING IT ALL

(Split stage. DARYL enters side stage with HIS campaign manager, "BEN".  
They stand together, talking (all mimed to the audience). DARYL continues to  
look at HIS watch/cell phone, appearing worried about the time. TWO  
ENSEMBLE members enter to shake hands with DARYL. HE has clearly won  
the election. As JACKIE and AISLYNN talk/sing, DARYL mimes HIS  
acceptance speech.)

JACKIE

NOW IT'S MY TURN TO TRULY SHINE, THE SPOTLIGHT IS FINALLY MINE  
LET GO OF WHAT I'VE KNOWN, IT'S MY DANCE, YES MY DANCE ALONE.

AISLYNN

Mom, I'm so sorry. My whole life, I assumed you didn't want much and were happy living in  
Dad's shadow. You've always been *just mom*.

JACKIE

And I'm sorry too, Aislynn. This is hard for me to admit, but for many years, I've been jealous  
of you. You took risks I could never bring myself to take.

AISLYNN

(sentimental) Oh, mom, we're really more alike than we are different. You know, Conner said  
something recently that really hit me hard. He asked if I feel I deserve Lance. (JACKIE lifts  
HER brow, awaiting an answer. AISLYNN shakes HER head no.) But I'm changing that.

JACKIE

Good for you, sweetheart. If we can't love ourselves first, how can we truly share our love with  
another?

2-7-19

AISLYNN/JACKIE

NOW I UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH, I HOLD SUCH  
RESPECT FOR YOU. WISHING I HAD KNOWN BEFORE, I WANT TO LEARN  
MUCH MORE

AISLYNN

I'LL STAND BY IN THE WINGS, SUPPORT YOU AS MY HEART SINGS  
JOYFULLY WATCH YOU GO, DANCE YOUR OWN SHOW.

JACKIE

NOW IT'S MY TURN TO TRULY SHINE, THE SPOTLIGHT IS FINALLY MINE  
LET GO OF WHAT I'VE KNOWN, IT'S MY DANCE, MY DANCE,  
YES, MY DANCE ALONE.

(Lights dim on JACKIE and AISLYNN. Stronger light now on DARYL and  
CAMPAIGN MANAGER "BEN" at podium.)

DARYL

Thank you all, and God bless America!

(cheering from the crowd)

CAMPAIGN MANAGER "BEN"

And now I'd like to welcome Senator Stewart's family to the stage!

DARYL

**(Daryl's Rant)** (to HIMSELF)

DAMN IT, WHERE ARE THEY? I LOOK LIKE A FOOL! HOW DO I STALL?  
MUST KEEP MY COOL.

(HE leans over to "BEN" to try and stop HIM from speaking further.)

(awkward chuckling, to the crowd)

Well, um, funny story, but, uh....

MY FAMILY'S NOT HERE! A SLAM IN THE FACE. I JUST WANT TO RUN.  
GET ME OUT OF THIS PLACE!

As many of you know, my family....

(DARYL sees CONNER walking toward the stage from audience. DARYL'S  
anger softens to a childlike disbelief.)

WAIT, IS THAT? HOW COULD THIS BE? AFTER HOW I'VE BEHAVED,  
HE'S THE ONE HERE FOR ME?

2-7-20

Ladies and Gentlemen, my son, Conner Stewart!

(CONNER approaches the stage from the back of the room. HE walks up to DARYL with HIS hand extended for a handshake. However, DARYL hugs CONNER tightly and whispers “Thank you, son” into CONNER’S ear. They raise their held hands together as the crowd continues to cheer. JACKIE and AISLYNN exit.)

Scene Eight

Empty Hotel Ballroom, after election night party.  
DARYL and CONNER walk toward center stage.  
Perhaps we see one ENSEMBLE member sweeping  
up under the removed podium to show that the  
event is over. ENSEMBLE member exits, leaving  
DARYL and CONNER alone.

DARYL

Conner, I....thank you for coming today. (audible exhale). You have no idea...  
(HE starts sobbing.)

CONNER

(getting emotional too) Wow, I've never seen you cry before.

DARYL

I know. I look pretty silly, huh?

CONNER

(softly) No.

DARYL

(looks CONNER in the eye)

Conner, do you realize that in one single moment tonight, you helped me see? I've never known  
such compassion.

CONNER

I couldn't miss your big night.

DARYL

*You're* the real teacher. Supposed to be the other way around. I'm so sorry, son. I should have  
been at your wedding. I should have spent more time with you, I should have...

CONNER

(CONNER places his hand on DARYL'S shoulder. Stops DARYL'S ramble.)

(serious) ...Dad.

DARYL

Yeah?

CONNER

I thought you were gonna crap your pants up there!  
(THEY laugh together.)

DARYL

In all honesty...

**(Track 16 – I'm Here For You Now)**

DARYL

I DON'T DESERVE YOU BEING HERE  
YOUR PRIDE ON THE LINE, YET ALWAYS SINCERE

CONNER

THE TEARS IN YOUR EYES, THAT LOOK ON YOUR FACE  
I FELT YOUR *REAL* SPIRIT FOR THE VERY FIRST TIME

DARYL

HOW COULD I HAVE BEEN SO HARD ON YOU?  
A PATTERN FROM MY PAST IS ALL I KNEW

CONNER

I MAY NOT FORGET, YET I CAN FORGIVE

DARYL

A GIFT I'LL HOLD DEAR AS LONG AS I LIVE  
I WANT YOU TO KNOW

CONNER

I HOPE THAT YOU KNOW

DARYL/CONNER

I NEED YOU TO KNOW, I'M HERE FOR YOU NOW  
I'M HERE FOR YOU NOW, I'M HERE FROM NOW ON

CONNER

ACCEPT ME AS A MAN, LOVE ME AS YOUR CHILD

DARYL

HELP ME TO EXPRESS WHAT I FEEL INSIDE

CONNER

LEAD WITH YOUR HEART INSTEAD OF YOUR MIND

DARYL

VALUE YOURSELF AND TRUST WHAT YOU FIND

I WANT YOU TO KNOW  
CONNER

I HOPE THAT YOU KNOW  
DARYL

I NEED YOU TO KNOW, I'M HERE FOR YOU NOW  
I'M HERE FOR YOU NOW, I'M HERE FROM NOW ON  
DARYL/CONNER

I DIDN'T SEE YOU  
DARYL

YOU DIDN'T SEE ME  
CONNER

I'LL DO BETTER, I'LL DO BETTER. I REALIZE WHAT I'VE MISSED  
DARYL/CONNER

WITNESS ME  
CONNER

TRUST ME. I'M HERE  
DARYL

I'M HERE  
CONNER

I'M HERE FOR YOU NOW  
DARYL/CONNER

WE CAN'T UNDO WHAT'S ALREADY BEEN DONE  
DARYL

WE CAN'T UNDO WHAT'S ALREADY BEEN SAID  
CONNER

BUT, I'M HERE FOR YOU NOW	DARYL/CONNER	BUT, I'M HERE FOR YOU NOW
I'M HERE FOR YOU NOW		I'M HERE FOR YOU NOW
YOU'LL ALWAYS BE MY SON.		YOU'LL ALWAYS BE MY DAD.

(THEY walk out of the ballroom together as DARYL puts HIS arm around CONNER.)



Scene Nine

Stewart Home. JACKIE has invited a group of women friends over to the house. THEY are in the family room/kitchen area.

WOMAN I

Well, social media has been no friend. People suspect all kinds of things after your no-show on election night.

JACKIE

To be expected. But they can just keep on guessin'.

WOMAN I

So, how'd Daryl react?

WOMAN II

Bet the neighbors heard a nasty earful the next day!

JACKIE

Well, you would think that, right? But, actually, Daryl was surprisingly, do I dare say, understanding?

AISLYNN

Yeah, I thought I'd get the what-for too. Maybe it was meant to be. You know, only Conner being there. He needed that.

WOMAN III

Which one?

(JACKIE and AISLYNN both smile)

JACKIE/AISLYNN

Both.

WOMAN II

(to JACKIE)

So are you still gonna leave him?

(AISLYNN gives JACKIE an inquisitive look. Sounds concerned.)

Mom?

**(Party Of One)**

JACKIE  
WE'RE TAKING A BREAK FOR A WHILE  
YET SOMETHING CHANGED ON ELECTION NIGHT  
NOW THERE'S A SOFTNESS IN HIS SMILE  
IT SPARKS IN ME THE MEMORY OF HOW WE USED TO BE.

I'LL NEED TO TAKE IT ONE STEP AT A TIME  
I'VE HAD MY A-HA MOMENT  
I'M GOING BACK TO SCHOOL NOW TO STUDY DESIGN  
OO, I'M GETTING TINGLY JUST THINKING ABOUT IT!

WOMAN I  
You go girl!  
YOU'VE SPENT YOUR LIFE BOUND UP  
HONEY, IT'S TIME TO COME UNDONE  
PROUDLY MAKE YOUR STATEMENT  
AS A PARTY OF ONE!

WOMAN II  
Over here! Check me out!  
THAT'S RIGHT, I'VE GOT THE MOVES  
SOON ENOUGH, YOU'LL BE OVER THE HUMP  
AND FIND YOUR OWN SWEET GROOVE

WOMAN III  
I'M ON MY OWN, BUT NOT ALONE

WOMAN I  
I'M PLEASED TO BE IN *MY* COMPANY

JACKIE/AISLYNN/WOMEN  
I'M MAKIN' MY RUN AS A PARTY OF ONE

JACKIE  
MAKIN' MY WAY AS A PARTY OF ONE

JACKIE/AISLYNN/WOMEN  
PARTY OF ONE, YEAH, PARTY OF ONE x4  
PARTY OF ONE, OH, PARTY OF ONE, WOO HOO HOO x2

WOMAN II  
WHAT DO YOU SAY WE TAKE THINGS UP A NOTCH?  
LIKE ANYONE HERE GOT SOME POT?

WOMAN III  
HOW ABOUT SOME WINE TONIGHT? IN THE MOOD FOR WHITE OR RED?

AISLYNN  
(SHE steers JACKIE away from the wine bottle.)

Uh, let's make that dessert instead!

(WOMEN act out a scene of JACKIE dancing by herself and a group pointing at HER, making fun, giggling)

JACKIE  
SOME MAY LAUGH, MAKE FUN AND STARE  
I'M HAVIN' A BALL SO WHAT THE *HELL* DO I CARE?

(WOMEN react to JACKIE'S swear word)

WOMEN  
Oooooo!

JACKIE/AISLYNN/WOMEN  
PARTY OF ONE, YEAH, PARTY OF ONE x4  
PARTY OF ONE, OH, PARTY OF ONE, WOO HOO HOO x2

JACKIE  
I'LL DO THE WORK TO STAY ON TRACK

AISLYNN  
AND IF YOU FALL, WE'VE GOT YOUR BACK!

JACKIE  
I HOPE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

WOMAN I  
TEACH FROM MY EXPERIENCE

WOMAN III  
HELP ALL GIRLS TO SEE THEIR WORTH

JACKIE/AISLYNN/WOMEN  
WOMEN OF THE WORLD, KNOW OUR STRENGTH, BE SELF-ASSURED  
PARTY OF ONE, YEAH, PARTY OF ONE x4  
PARTY OF ONE, OH, PARTY OF ONE, WOO HOO HOO x4  
PARTY OF ONE, PARTY OF ONE, PARTY OF ONE

2-9-27

(WOMAN III pretends to be the host at a restaurant, talking to JACKIE who is waiting for a table.)

WOMAN III

How many in your dinner party tonight?

JACKIE

(proudly)

One!

Scene Ten

CONNER and SUEANN'S home. CONNER is lining up some small boxes near the front door.

(SUEANN walks in the front door.)

SUEANN

(surprised)

What's all this? What do you think you're doin'?

CONNER

(pauses to look at SUEANN)

I can't do *us* anymore, SueAnn. (stands strong) You know we've been through this *a million* times. Don't look so surprised. I've decided to follow some advice you once gave me.

(HE then swings a big duffle bag over HIS shoulder and picks up a few boxes, walking toward the door.)

SUEANN

Huh? What are you talkin' about?!

CONNER

SueAnn, I finally grew a pair.

(HE opens the front door, walks out and slams the door. SUEANN rages, runs across the room to find a framed picture (or something fragile) and throws it at the front door as it closes.)

Scene Eleven

AISLYNN enters home. LANCE is at the kitchen table working on HIS laptop.

(AISLYNN walks into the house looking very distraught. SHE avoids eye contact with LANCE as SHE slowly walks over to the couch with a dazed look.)

LANCE

Ace? I was worried about you. Why didn't you text? (AISLYNN doesn't reply) So, what did Dr. Jantzen say about your test results?

(HE can tell something's wrong and switches to a concerned voice)

Aislynn?

AISLYNN

(to herself, almost a whisper)

It's me.

(to LANCE)

It's actually *me*.

LANCE

What do you mean?

AISLYNN

(yelling) I thought it was *you!* *You!* (breaks down crying)

(LANCE briskly walks over to hold HER as SHE cries and continues to talk.)

I secretly blamed you for the reason we couldn't get pregnant. But, the test results prove it! *I'm* the real issue.

LANCE

I'm sure there's a...

(AISLYNN cuts HIM off)

AISLYNN

(looks up into LANCE'S eyes, rants)

I figured you were secretly happy that I couldn't get pregnant. After all, we both know I'm really the one who wants this. Well, joke's on me!

LANCE

(takes a deep breath and softly responds to AISLYNN'S anger)  
You know what I love about you right now?

AISLYNN

What?! My snotty nose and ugly cry?

LANCE

Yeah. Exactly. That, and you're being honest. (lovingly places HIS hand on her shoulder)  
I may not be any wiser for my years, but I *have* learned this...we need to share these hurts with each other. And truth is, you don't have to be perfect. Not for me, not for anyone.

(LANCE sings to/with AISLYNN. (**Track 17 – A New Beginning**))

LANCE

FIRST TIME AROUND, I MARRIED TOO YOUNG 'CAUSE EVERYONE SAID WE SHOULD. DIDN'T KNOW MYSELF OR WHAT I WANTED. (spoken) I don't think I knew what love was. WE FOLLOWED "THE DREAM", BOUGHT A HOUSE, HAD TWO KIDS AND PLAYED A LIFE OF PRETEND. I ADORE BEING DAD AND WOULDN'T CHANGE THAT, BUT I WANTED MY MARRIAGE TO END.

When we met, I came alive again! Honestly, I didn't ever see that happening for me. I figured I'd be a bachelor my whole life workin' out on Friday nights at the gym with the "get a life club" and eating take out every other night. Okay, maybe every night.

AISLYNN

But you really didn't see yourself with a younger woman starting a family all over again, did you?

LANCE

Well, no. But I grew to want that...with *you*. I want you to experience being the amazing mother I know you'll be. Maybe we keep trying for a while and then look at our options.

AISLYNN

Why have I focused so much energy on the one thing I *don't* have? I mean, look at me. Look at us. I'm with the man I love, great friends and family, happy with work.

LANCE

You're right. We have a lot to be thankful for. We're gonna get through this, okay?

EACH DAY'S A NEW BEGINNING WITH YOU, WITH YOU  
MY LIFE IS FINALLY BEGINNING WITH YOU, WITH YOU

AISLYNN

I KNOW I CAN GET JUST A TAD EMOTIONAL

LANCE  
I MAY NOT BE THE MOST PHILOSOPHICAL

LANCE  
I'LL CHERISH YOU

AISLYNN  
TREASURE YOU

LANCE/AISLYNN  
YOU'VE TOUCHED MY HEART LIKE NO ONE ELSE COULD

AISLYNN  
EACH DAY'S A NEW BEGINNING WITH YOU, WITH YOU  
MY LIFE IS FINALLY BEGINNING WITH YOU, WITH YOU

LANCE  
YOU PUT UP WITH MY CHEESY SENSE OF HUMOR

AISLYNN  
YOU ACCEPT MY FLIRTY DEMEANOR  
EACH DAY MAY NOT BE PERFECT

LANCE  
WE HAVE *OUR MOMENTS* NOW AND THEN

LANCE/AISLYNN  
BUT WHEN IN DOUBT, COME BACK TO MY EYES

LANCE  
THEY'LL SHOW YOU THAT I'M HERE

AISLYNN  
THEY'LL SHOW YOU THAT I'M HERE

LANCE/AISLYNN  
EACH DAY'S A NEW BEGINNING WITH YOU, WITH YOU  
MY LIFE IS FINALLY BEGINNING WITH YOU, WITH YOU  
AND, TOGETHER, YES TOGETHER, TOGETHER WE ARE LOVE.

LANCE  
(HE moves back down to the floor and gets on one knee to propose marriage.)

Aislynn Elizabeth Stewart, will you marry me?



AISLYNN

Yes. Oh, yes!

(THEY give each other a passionate kiss. Lights fade.)

## Scene Twelve

**Spring “Year 4”.** CONNER is at a local park with LISA. JACKIE and DARYL are sitting next to each other on a couch in a COUNSELOR’S office. AISLYNN and LANCE are at gazebo/bench outdoors, getting ready to plant a baby tree.

(CONNER is sitting on a park bench with guitar student, LISA. THEY both have THEIR guitars for a private lesson and conversation. THEY’VE taken a break from playing.)

LISA

So your divorce is almost final?

CONNER

Yup. Just like that.

LISA

What’s she been like through all this?

CONNER

(sarcastic) Oh, just delightful! It’s a good day if I receive only two or three nasty messages!  
(snickers) I think she was hoping for more money out of the deal too, (aside) though she kept all of the wedding gifts. But, there’s nothing to keep her here now. She can move back home where she’s always wanted to be.

LISA

(places HER hand on CONNER’S leg just for a moment)

I wish you would have said something to us in class while you were going through all this. Not that I could’ve helped much, but still. So I get the picture about *her*. Tell me more about what it’s been like for *you*?

(CONNER sings to LISA, DARYL and JACKIE sing to each other, AISLYNN sings to LANCE. (**Maybe The Key/What’s Waiting?**)

CONNER

I LEFT MY HOLLOW MARRIAGE, WITH FREEDOM ON MY BACK  
YET STILL MY LOAD WAS HEAVY WITH SHAME, TRAILED BY ACHE AND  
LOSS. I STILL MISS THE IDEA OF HER, BUT I’M GETTIN’ BY ON MY OWN.  
THESE PAST SIX MONTHS, A CONFIDENCE I’D NEVER MET, HAS GROWN.

(We shift focus to DARYL and JACKIE sitting on a couch opposite a COUNSELOR sitting in a chair.)

COUNSELOR

I commend you both for being here. From what you've each shared with me in our one-on-one sessions, you want to work at rebuilding the foundation of your marriage.

(DARYL is fidgety. The COUNSELOR can tell HE'S ready to share something)

Daryl?

(DARYL quickly turns to JACKIE to face HER)

DARYL

GOD KNOWS, I DON'T SHARE DEEP EMOTIONS  
SO, BEAR WITH ME IF I STUMBLE

(DARYL reaches for JACKIE'S hand. SHE responds by looking down at THEIR hands with surprise, then back at DARYL'S face.)

I SAW MY PAIN INSIDE YOUR EYES  
TOOK STRIDES TO SHUT YOU OUT

JACKIE

(to DARYL)

I SHARE THE BLAME, I DID JUST THE SAME

JACKIE/DARYL

HELP ME KNOW YOU AGAIN

JACKIE

WHY DID WE MAKE THINGS SO HARD?  
FORGET HOW TO LAUGH AND HAVE FUN?  
HAPPINESS SOUGHT ME OUT  
YET I CONTINUED TO BE ON THE RUN

(We now shift focus to AISLYNN and LANCE kneeling on the ground with a baby tree in front of THEM.)

AISLYNN

(to LANCE, before they move THEIR hands around in the dirt)

I'm ready. Let's do this. (smiles)

WE PLANT OUR WISH FOR A CHILD, IN HOPES THE SEED WILL GROW  
EMBRACE WHAT I HAVE RIGHT NOW, JUMP OFF THIS WORRY-GO-ROUND

(now the spotlight is on all three groups)

AISLYNN cont.

MAYBE THE KEY TO MOVING ON IS LETTING IT GO

JACKIE

MAYBE THE KEY IS

CONNER

MAYBE THE KEY TO MOVING ON IS FORGIVING MYSELF

DARYL

MAYBE THE KEY

(to JACKIE)

MAYBE THIS TIME I'LL LISTEN MORE

JACKIE

(to DARYL)

AND MAYBE THIS TIME I WON'T KEEP SCORE

JACKIE

THROW OUT THIS FIGHT x2

DARYL

I'M SICK OF FIGHTING

JACKIE/DARYL

WE'RE ON THE SAME SIDE

(**WHAT'S WAITING?** Theme begins. CONNER gives LISA a good-bye hug and SHE exits the stage. HE is alone.)

CONNER

WHAT'S WAITING FOR ME IN A LIFE ON MY OWN?

I SAY GOODBYE TO MY WELL-TREAD PLIGHT FOR THE SEAT OF UNKNOWN

AISLYNN

CAN'T EVEN DESCRIBE HOW FREEING THIS FEELS

LIVING BACK IN PORTLAND, SHARING LIFE WITH THE MAN I LOVE,

IT ALL SEEMS SO SURREAL.

DARYL

MAYBE THE KEY TO LIVING  
LIFE IS A DAY AT A TIME

AISLYNN

WHAT'S WAITING FOR ME AS A WIFE  
WITH A NEW FAMILY?

LANCE  
MAYBE THE KEY

AISLYNN  
ADOPT THE ROLE OF STEP-MOM  
BALANCING OUR LIVES WITH THE TWINS

(CONNER is walking and playing guitar. HE is headed to find AISLYNN and LANCE.)

JACKIE  
MAYBE THE KEY TO  
LIVING LIFE IS  
HOW I PERCEIVE  
MAYBE THE KEY

CONNER  
FEELIN' INSPIRED TO WRITE NEW SONGS  
HEALING THROUGH MY WOUNDS TAKES TIME,  
PRAYING EACH DAY WILL GET BETTER.

DARYL/JACKIE/LANCE  
MAYBE THE KEY x2

CONNER/AISLYNN  
WHAT'S WAITING FOR ME? x2

LANCE  
MAYBE THE KEY LIES IN THIS SEED

JACKIE/DARYL  
MAYBE THE KEY IS IN WHAT I BELIEVE

CONNER  
I'M READY TO FACE WHAT'S WAITING FOR ME!

AISLYNN  
I'M NOT AFRAID OF WHAT'S WAITING FOR ME!

CONNER  
IT TAKES  
COURAGE TO LEAVE

JACKIE/DARYL  
COURAGE TO STAY

AISLYNN/LANCE  
AND COURAGE TO SURRENDER

(CONNER finds AISLYNN and LANCE. HE hugs AISLYNN.)

2-12-37

CONNER/AISLYNN/LANCE/JACKIE/DARYL  
(DARYL and JACKIE sing to each other. CONNER, AISLYNN and LANCE  
sing to each other)

LOOK, WE HAVE EACH OTHER!

JACKIE/DARYL  
TO KNOW ALL IS WELL

CONNER/AISLYNN/LANCE  
TO KNOW ALL IS WELL

JACKIE  
ALL IS WELL

CONNER/AISLYNN/LANCE/JACKIE/DARYL  
JUST MAYBE THE KEY

(End Act II.)

Scene Thirteen

Curtain call. Encore.  
(Track 18 - Second Chances)

AISLYNN

I WISH I'D DONE THINGS DIFFERENTLY  
ERASE SOME WORDS THAT I SAID  
TAKEN A MOMENT TO CONTEMPLATE  
WHAT MAY RESULT AHEAD.

AISLYNN/CONNER

I WISH I'D DONE THINGS DIFFERENTLY  
ERASE SOME WORDS THAT I SAID  
TAKEN A MOMENT TO CONTEMPLATE  
WHAT MAY RESULT AHEAD.

JACKIE/DARYL

I WISH I'D DONE THINGS DIFFERENTLY  
ALTER SOME CHOICES I MADE  
TAKEN THE TIME TO EXPLORE  
WHY I WAS SO AFRAID.

AISLYNN/CONNER

I'M READY TO LOOK ONWARD

JACKIE/DARYL

TO LIVE TODAY, NOT IN MY PAST

AISLYNN/CONNER

FORGIVE MYSELF AND OTHERS

AISLYNN/CONNER/JACKIE/DARYL

AND FEEL TRUE PEACE AT LAST.

AISLYNN/CONNER/JACKIE/DARYL/LANCE/  
SUEANN/BROCK/ENSEMBLE

WE ALL DESIRE SECOND CHANCES  
TO DO THINGS OVER AGAIN!  
SOMETHING YOU DID, SOMETHING YOU SAID, SOMEONE YOU HURT  
I KNOW MORE NOW THAN I KNEW THEN.

AISLYNN/LANCE

THERE ARE TIMES I'VE ASKED "WHAT IF?"  
BUT THAT GAME IS SLIDING DOORS  
I CAN'T GO BACK TO CHANGE MY COURSE  
PERHAPS THIS WAY, I'VE GAINED MUCH MORE.

CONNER/JACKIE

SOME DAYS I FEEL DOWN AND ALONE  
REPLAYING THOSE SCENES IN MY HEAD  
YET FAITH REMAINS, I'M RENEWED WITH GRACE  
TO MOVE FORWARD WITH WHAT I'VE LEARNED INSTEAD.

AISLYNN/CONNER/JACKIE/DARYL/LANCE/  
SUEANN/ENSEMBLE

WE ALL DESIRE SECOND CHANCES  
TO DO THINGS OVER AGAIN!  
SOMETHING YOU DID, SOMETHING YOU SAID, SOMEONE YOU HURT  
I KNOW MORE NOW THAN I KNEW THEN.

ENSEMBLE GROUP I

MAY WE SEEK OUR SIMILARITIES

ENSEMBLE GROUP II

ILLUMINATE THE LOVE WE CRAVE

ENSEMBLE GROUP I

EMBRACE OUR SPECIAL DIFFERENCES

AISLYNN/CONNER/JACKIE/DARYL/LANCE/  
SUEANN/ENSEMBLE

REVEAL HOW WE'RE ALL THE SAME.

(CONNER, JACKIE, DARYL, and AISLYNN steps forward into a spotlight  
while singing HIS/HER line.)

CONNER

I FOUND STRENGTH IN MYSELF

JACKIE

I'M LETTING GO OF THE PAST

DARYL

I HOPE TO CONFRONT MY OWN EGO

AISLYNN

I AM OPEN TO LOVE

CONNER/JACKIE/DARYL/AISLYNN/LANCE

WE'LL MAKE MISTAKES ALONG THE WAY, KEEP ON LEARNING AS WE GO  
WE'VE ALL BEEN THERE. NO ONE'S ALONE.



2-13-40

WOMAN

I'M AT PEACE WITH THE THOUGHTS RUNNIN' THROUGH MY MIND

MAN

NOW I PLAY THE LEAD IN MY OWN MOVIE

AISLYNN/CONNER/JACKIE/DARYL/LANCE/  
SUEANN/ENSEMBLE

WE ALL DESIRE SECOND CHANCES

TO DO THINGS OVER AGAIN!

SOMETHING YOU DID, SOMETHING YOU SAID, SOMEONE YOU HURT  
SECOND CHANCES....