

## Scene 5

Three weeks later. November. Judy's office. Judy enters, followed by Greg.

GREG. I know you're busy. I don't mean to / hassle you.

JUDY. It's fine. I told you. Is everything all right? *(Pause.)*

GREG. Maybe this is stupid.

JUDY.

GREG. ... just — came to pick up Jake. But I got here early and figured if you know you I might ask if you heard anything more from Trevor Day. ... now you said it wasn't that big a deal. But ... even so ...

JUDY. Well, I'm afraid I haven't heard much. Other than what I already told Alex. ... mean it's certainly not among they haven't seen before, trust me. ... they did feel awful. ... one of their students was behaving like a bully. *(Greg nods.)* I'll get feedback in December. From all the schools. And remember, they will observe Jake here next month, in his own classroom. And for the most part Bethany says he's been well behaved.

GREG. For the most part? *(Pause.)*

JUDY. ... I mentioned a few incidents when I spoke to Alex over the phone. Last week.

GREG. She didn't tell ... *(Short pause.)*

JUDY. Well. Look, it was nothing serious. According to Bethany he's been less participatory. In circle time. He's always liked doing things his own way. ... you know that, but lately, he's been a little more — obsessed. ... Wanting to stay in the dress-up corner when it's time to move on to something else. He ... out the ... uh ... what'd you call it, "stroke of midnight" ... I had to go" over and over ...

GREG. *(Nods.)* "Don't go ... I don't even know your name ..."

JUDY. Exactly. And then he's had some trouble ... cooperating.

GREG. How so?

JUDY. ... Little things. She said there was an altercation at one point. Someone accidentally knocked over a formation of blocks he'd

him. ... And he got very angry. Started ... which isn't like him. ... to give him a time.

GREG. But he's ... at least? *(Judy smiles.)*

JUDY. Like I told you, he should really ask Bethany. For specifics.

GREG. ... How have the ... visits been? ... away but ... Far as I know. *(Greg pauses, thinks. Judy waits.)*

GREG. We had a bit of a meltdown. Last week. *(Pause.)* Jake wanted to be Snow White for Halloween. And I had said, you know, we could talk about it. But Alex felt strongly it was a bad idea. She's obviously fine with his wearing anything, you know, around the apartment, but she was convinced letting him trick-or-treat like that — in the building ... That neighbors might look at him funny. And she's right that he's observant. And sensitive. Anyway, we'd kinda been delaying the conversation, and Halloween rolls around, and Alex has a pirate outfit and a skeleton costume laid out for him on his bed, and he asks, what about Snow White? And she tells him she doesn't have a Snow White costume but she has these other costumes, and he says he doesn't like these other costumes. And she tries to explain, you know, sometimes you can't have exactly what you want but that's why we have to compromise. And he starts throwing a tantrum. Says, he doesn't want to be a skeleton, that her ideas are lazy, "lazy ideas" — who knows where he — Eventually she said if he wouldn't stop behaving this way he wouldn't be allowed to go trick-or-treating at all, and that really sent him over the edge. Screaming at her. "You lied to me ... You're not my boss. Daddy said I could." And I kept explaining I hadn't actually said yes, but at that point ... I mean, the two of them were really getting into it. She said he was being a baby, that he didn't deserve a costume at all. And he said ... you know, "You're the worst mom in the entire world, and I wish you were dead ..." *(Greg half-laughs, a little embarrassed. Pause.)*

GREG. ... thinks maybe we give him ... tries got all these interviews happening ... not on his terms, and she feels like we ... him to set clear ... at home. So he can be ... more ... self-control.

JUDY. ... Do you agree? *(Greg considers.)*