

DOROTHY

I don't know. But I believe it'll happen.

MORGAINNE

It's already been almost a month. When is he going to come home?

ELEANOR

Soon. The doctors said soon.

MORGAINNE

They think the damage might be permanent.

ELEANOR

And if it is?

MORGAINNE

I don't know.

ELEANOR

You do.

MORGAINNE

I see the light slipping from his eyes. He's not happy. They haven't told him yet that his hearing loss probably isn't reversible. They don't want to cause him unnecessary stress. (She looks down at her cocoa.) I don't even feel like I deserve to drink this.

ELEANOR

I think you're actually more than deserving of a nice cup of hot cocoa.

(MORGAINNE and ELEANOR cuddle close, but not all the way. SPIRAL 2 enters, watching from the couch where MORGAINNE and ELEANOR are sitting. DOROTHY spots SPIRAL 2 immediately.)

SPIRAL 2

Well, you're a big help.

DOROTHY

Stop it.

SPIRAL 2

What a great friend you are.

DOROTHY

What else am I supposed to do? I'm trying everything I can. I just want to be there for her. That's what she needs right now.

SPIRAL 2

You know what would be hilarious? Pouring your hot cocoa all over Morgainne and Ella.

DOROTHY

Why would I do that?

SPIRAL 2

Look at them. They look so sweet over there. You could break up that cute little moment in a second.

DOROTHY

I wouldn't do that, though.

SPIRAL 2

But you could.

DOROTHY

But I *wouldn't*.

SPIRAL 2

But you *could*. The only thing stopping you is your uptight attitude. Why not just let loose for just a second? You can apologize after. Say it was a mistake. See what it feels like.

DOROTHY

Shut up.

SPIRAL 2

You know I'm right.

DOROTHY

Just shut up.

SPIRAL 2

Do it!

DOROTHY

God, I fucking hate you!

MORGAINNE

What?

ELEANOR

Dee, are you okay?

DOROTHY

Shit. Sorry, that wasn't to you.

MORGAINNE

It certainly sounded like it was.

DOROTHY

It wasn't. I'm sorry. I'm just having a bit of a moment.

ELEANOR

Are you okay?

SPIRAL 2

Look at that. You made it about you.

DOROTHY

I'm fine, really. Don't worry about me. Morgainne, I just want to make sure you're okay.

MORGAINNE

I'm trying to be.

(SPIRAL 2 doesn't budge. He comes over and taps her cocoa cup, egging her on again. DOROTHY tries to redirect herself.)

DOROTHY

I just remembered I have something to take care of. Mo, are you going to be okay?

MORGAINNE

Yeah. I think Ella and I are just gonna watch some TV.

DOROTHY

Sorry.

ELEANOR

What for?

DOROTHY

I don't mean to leave you alone when you're hurting.

MORGAINNE

You're not. Don't worry.

DOROTHY

Okay. I'll just be upstairs. Please let me know if you need anything.

MORGAINNE

You got it.

(DOROTHY heads upstairs. She decides to finish up her application for the scholarship. Both DOROTHY's room and the kitchen/living room area are lit on stage.)