

16 INT. FARRELL LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

16

It is the perfect family Christmas setting - house decorated with cards strung around door frames, a manger under the tree, gifts beginning to pile up and the family, minus Frankie, decorating the tree, drinking egg-nog, etc. As Jenny enters behind Eddie, and Rose rushes over to greet her:

GROUP

Merry Christmas...it's about time...why are you so late?...Did you bring me something, Aunt Jenny?

ROSE

Are you hungry? There's food in the kitchen.

EDDIE

You go eat and I'll take your bags upstairs.

JENNY

(sudden, shaky)

No!

They all fall silent and stare at her, confused by her tone.

JENNY (CONT'D)

(to Rose)

Can we go upstairs? There's something I have to tell you.

Without waiting for a response, Jenny quickly turns and goes up the stairs. Eddie and Rose exchange a glance, then Rose goes after her. The others watch.

17 INT. JENNY'S CHILDHOOD BEDROOM - NIGHT

17

Rose sits on the edge of the single bed watching Jenny pace up and down.

ROSE

Please say something, Jenny.

Struggling for control, Jenny shakes her head. Rose hesitates, then:

ROSE (CONT'D)

I know you're involved with someone, your father told me.

Jenny lowers her hands and looks at her.

ROSE (CONT'D)  
(compassionate)  
We thought you were going to tell us you're getting married but it doesn't look like that now. What happened? Did you break up?

JENNY  
No.

ROSE  
(baffled)  
Then what is it? What do you want to tell me?

As Jenny stares at her, anxious tears fill her eyes.

JENNY  
(soft, agonized)  
This isn't going to be easy for you.

ROSE  
(frightened)  
You're not sick are you?

JENNY  
No.

ROSE  
Then what is it? What could possibly be so hard for me?

Jenny stares at her, takes a few deep breaths, then:

JENNY  
(soft gasp)  
I'm gay.

Rose stares at her.

ROSE  
(confused)  
What...?

JENNY  
(soft sob)  
I'm gay, Mom.

Rose stares at her, frozen.

ROSE  
(stunned)  
You're what...?

JENNY  
I'm a lesbian. I'm gay.

Rose stares at her, stunned.

ROSE  
(dazed, faltering)  
But...but what about the guy...

JENNY  
What guy...?

ROSE  
(reeling)  
The one you're involved with...

JENNY  
(remorseful)  
There is no guy. There never has  
been a guy. All these years you  
made them up and I went along with  
it.

Rose is desperately trying to take it all in.

ROSE  
(reeling)  
But I don't understand...how long  
have you known this...?

JENNY  
(choked)  
Always.

ROSE  
(stunned, reeling)  
And I missed it..? How could I  
have missed something like this!

JENNY  
You wanted to. You didn't want to  
know. I knew that. Didn't you  
ever wonder why you never met any  
of my boyfriends?

ROSE  
(floundering)  
You always broke up with them  
before I could.

JENNY

No, I didn't. I just let you think what you wanted to think.

ROSE

(in tears)

I thought you were waiting...

JENNY

(desperate cry)

For what? I'm not heartless, I'm not conceited, I have feelings, I care about other people and other people care about me. What do you think I was waiting for? Why would I want to be alone all this time?

ROSE

(desperate, reeling)

I thought...I just thought you were waiting to meet the right person...

JENNY

My whole adult life...?!

Tears spilling over, Rose looks at Jenny, sick with guilt.

ROSE

What did we do to you? What did we do wrong?

JENNY

(angry cry)

You didn't do anything wrong! This is how I am!

ROSE

But you were the good one. Anne was always in trouble, but not you...

(soft sob)

We even liked the same things, I always thought you were the most like me...

Jenny is choking back her tears.

JENNY

That hasn't changed. I'm still the most like you and I haven't stopped liking those things just because I'm gay! I'm still the same person!

ROSE  
 (shattered)  
 No, you're not. You've been lieing  
 to me for years.

Jenny turns away with guilt.

ROSE (CONT'D)  
 (low sob)  
 Your father will have to know. It  
 won't be easy for him either, but  
 he has to know and I think you  
 should tell him yourself.

JENNY  
 (confused)  
 I know that. I was going to tell  
 you both at the same time, but  
 everybody was staring at me. He  
 has to know before I tell everybody  
 else.

Rose goes very still and stares at her.

ROSE  
 (soft)  
 You're telling other people...?

Jenny looks slightly thrown by her tone.

JENNY  
 Well, yeah...I have to tell Anne  
 and Michael...I'm going to tell  
 everybody.

ROSE  
 (soft gasp)  
 Why...?

Jenny hesitates, then:

JENNY  
 (emotional)  
 I want to get married, Mom.

Rose stares at her, then slowly stands up.

ROSE  
 (stunned)  
 What...?

JENNY  
 To Kitty.

ROSE  
 (low, stunned)  
 Your roommate...

JENNY  
 She isn't my roommate. We've been  
 partners for five years now.

Rose stares at her.

JENNY (CONT'D)  
 (emotional)  
 And I don't mean just sign some  
 legal thing, we don't care about  
 that. We want a ceremony, a real  
 wedding like Anne and Michael had.  
 I want you and Dad to give me away.

Rose freezes.

ROSE  
 (soft gasp)  
 But I can't...we can't do  
 that...that's not what we do...  
 (in desperate tears)  
 And I'm asking you, for my sake,  
 not to tell anybody else.

JENNY  
 (thrown)  
 Why not...?

ROSE  
 (desperate)  
 Because if you do nothing will ever  
 be the same again.

JENNY  
 But I don't want things to be the  
 same!

ROSE  
 (harsh cry)  
 That's easy for you to say! Your  
 life isn't here anymore! If you  
 don't like what happens you can go  
 away, but I can't! This place,  
 these people, they are my life and  
 I have to stay here!

Jenny stares at her, frozen.

ROSE (CONT'D)  
 (choked sob)  
 I love you, Jenny. I'll always  
 love you. But that doesn't give  
 you the right to change that on me!

Wiping at her tears, Rose quickly turns, walks unsteadily to the door and goes out, shutting the door behind her.

18

EXT. GARAGE - NIGHT

18

Jenny is slumped in a chair while her father walks up and down, smoking, deeply upset.

EDDIE  
 (floundering)  
 It's not like I'm living in the  
 past, I'm not, I know times have  
 changed and anything goes these  
 days....  
 (rambling)  
 I just don't personally know  
 anybody in this neighborhood who  
 has children who...you know...  
 (helpless mutter)  
 Maybe they all left...

JENNY  
 (confused)  
 What?

EDDIE  
 (half to himself)  
 The neighborhood...maybe they all  
 left...

She stares at him.

JENNY  
 Yeah. They probably did.

He stops pacing, stares into space in great turmoil, then finally turns to look at her.

EDDIE  
 (upset)  
 I'm not going to tell you how to  
 live your life, Jenny...but I'm not  
 going to pretend I like this  
 either...especially the  
 lying...all that lying...it's a  
 hard pill to swallow...  
 (horrified)  
 (MORE)