

STERLING. Including her.

DENNIS. Especially her! Sterling! I would not mess with you on things like this. I know what you're feeling. I respect it utterly. Now, I always say cash makes a big impression, and that's what's gonna close this. How liquid are you these days? Can you put your hands on a suitcase full of cash?

STERLING. What do you think?

DENNIS. I think I have a motivated buyer on my hands. Phil, don't go anywhere. We'll be back.

*(They go. PHILIP sits for a moment, then stands, pulls out a phone from behind the desk. He talks.)*

PHILIP. *(on phone)* Hey, it's Phil. Listen, this girl came here yesterday, said she bought some comic books from you, and asked about selling some stamps. Yeah, she did, and you know, she left them here, and I forgot to get her address, or her phone — oh, you do. Yeah, could I have that?

*(He listens. Blackout.)*

## Scene 5

*(JACKIE sits alone, in the dark. She holds the stamp book, clutching it to her chest. MARY enters.)*

MARY. Oh! It's so dark, I didn't know you were in here. What are you doing in the dark?

JACKIE. Thinking.

MARY. Thinking. That sounds so mysterious. What are you thinking about?

JACKIE. Our situation here.

*(MARY turns on the lights.)*

MARY. "Our situation?" I wasn't aware that we had a situation.

*(JACKIE sets the stamp book down, near her.)*

JACKIE. I was thinking... I was thinking about how, I know you weren't here. And, I know you're upset about that.

MARY. I'm not upset.

JACKIE. This afternoon, you said —

MARY. I'm a little upset, of course I am.

JACKIE. Yes. Yes! Because, you know, that's what I've been thinking about. I've been thinking, that I should tell you what happened. All of it. I never told anybody. But I'll tell you. And then, we'll be in it, together. And then you can understand. Maybe that's why you're so angry.

MARY. I'm not angry.

JACKIE. You're kind of angry. This afternoon —

MARY. Well of course I'm a little angry. I feel very, of course I feel torn, my mother is dead and I didn't really know her or you.

JACKIE. I do want you to know me. That's what I'm saying.

If you want, to to know. I'll tell you.

MARY. Jackie, I want to know anything you want to tell me.

JACKIE. Good.

MARY. Yes. Good.

JACKIE. Because a lot happened. After you left. It wasn't just when she died. That wasn't the worst thing that happened.

MARY. Well, the part I was here for -

JACKIE. (*sings*) Yes! You were here for some of it. So you know about -

MARY. Yes.

JACKIE. And I got to be honest it was hard when you left. I know you had to, if I could've, but I was so little, but I would've, how old were you when you -

MARY. Sixteen was when I went to boarding school and -

JACKIE. And you didn't come back and I don't blame you. If I could've, I would've too. You had relatives who could, I didn't, and I was so little, and she, I don't know why she couldn't...

MARY. She made a lot of bad choices, obviously.

JACKIE. Yes she did. She made some shitty fucking choices.

MARY. (*offended but trying*) I mean it was no picnic for me either. Obviously I had to go. But I was very alone. I wanted to come back. To at least visit. But that wasn't really an option.

JACKIE. No no I know I just... I wrote you letters. I don't know if she ever sent them.

MARY. No. She didn't.

JACKIE. She should've. Because I wanted, I really missed you. And after you were gone, Dad, -

MARY. You know what, Jackie. Jackie you know what? This is just, I can see how much this is upsetting you. And we don't have to do this.

JACKIE. No, I want -

MARY. I know. You want to be a family. And that's what I want too. But we don't have to do it all at once. We can be friends now. And little by little, get to know each other. That's what I'm hoping for. Here, do you mind? I didn't mean to leave this just lying around.

*(She steps forward to take the stamps. JACKIE stops her.)*

JACKIE. We uh, okay. Okay. We don't have to talk about, we don't, it's okay. But we do have to talk about the stamps. Because that guy today - you liked him, right?

MARY. Dennis? Charming. Now, that man is a philatelist.

JACKIE. He seems to be that, yes, and some other things too. And he had a thought. After we all had that nice visit, you know, talking about the stamps, and calling those stamp dealers, that was fun, and when I walked him to the door? He mentioned something about the stamps. About selling the stamps.

MARY. We've already discussed this.

JACKIE. We have to discuss it again, Mary. I know you don't want to. But it would solve everything. Free and clear, you and I would both be free and clear from all of it, all the past would go away if we sold the stamps. We could pay off everything, everything would be gone, and we would both have something -

MARY. I do have something. I have my inheritance. From my grandfather. The only father I had.

JACKIE. Mary - we're the family. You and I are the family, that's why Mom wanted you to come back so that -

MARY. Is that what this is about? You want to be a "family," I guess it's pretty clear what that means.

JACKIE. It means -

MARY. They warned me, you know. They did warn me about this.

JACKIE. They, they who?

MARY. Everybody. They said, don't come. I mean, I know you're angry because I wasn't here earlier, but I almost didn't come at all, because I was afraid, people told me to be afraid, that there was probably some sort of financial quagmire, that that's really what this was all about. Getting me here to help out with the financial quagmire. People said that! But I didn't believe them.