

JACK

Why did you even want me here tonight?

PETER

Because you're my brother.

JACK

Am I? Or am I just an embarrassment?

PETER

Right now it's a little hard tot tell.

JACK

Not sure why you'd want me in there then. Amy might not marry you just to avoid having such a giant loser in her life.

PETER

No, because Amy doesn't think like that - she's nice. She's from a *family* family. One that plays board games, and talks, and fuck forget talks - they smile when they see each other.

JACK

As a formality, not because they feel anything.

PETER

They do feel something - it's called happiness. You wanna know who smiles out of formality? The parents of dying kids. (*beat*) Amy just wants to smile when she sees her family, in-laws included. She wants to make sure that her in-laws are able to smile back when they see her. Ya know for when we have kids and shit.

JACK

So you have to prove to her you're good enough? You shouldn't have to do that. We may not be the perfect -

PETER

Not perfect? You're fucking garbage. You can't even pretend to be happy for me.

JACK

Pretending's never helped anyone.

PETER

That's some big talk from someone who's reaped the benefits.

JACK

What are you talking about?

PETER

Your confidence. You wouldn't have the balls to disrupt my life right now if you had known I'd been laughing at you behind back all year.

Beat.

JACK

You say that now, but you're just upset I'm being honest with you. You told me you were proud of me for switching careers.

Peter shakes his head.

PETER

No, I said I was proud of you for "taking the leap." It's what you said to me when I jumped off that roof. Because that's what you say when you have to let someone do something stupid.

Bea.

JACK

I'm not gonna say it.

PETER

Then don't say anything. Just stand there while I propose and slap a smile on your face for the pictures.

JACK

No. I'm not gonna smile while I watch you put the final nail in your own coffin. I won't lie to you.

PETER

Why not? That's what those parents do every time they smile in the face of their dying kids. They're not happy - it's not out of love - it's so they and their kids can pretend for that one second they're not in excruciating pain.

Beat. Jack takes the ring out of his pants and holds it out to Peter. Peter takes it and starts heading inside. Jack stays put, staring at his cigarette. Peter gets all the way to the door and turns around.

PETER

If you're not inside for the photo, don't bother coming back in.

Peter opens the door.

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JACK

You never said you loved her.

Peter looks at Jack.

JACK

You said you wanted her to be your family. You didn't say you loved her.

PETER

I never said I loved you either.

They stare at each other for a second. Jack forces a smile. Peter nods and goes in. After a moment Jack follows. Blackout. End of play.

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