

Holiday House

CHET

That doesn't change the fact that if I didn't know you better, I'd think you were trying to sabotage me.

JESSICA

Sabotage? Sabo - Oh, no. It was nothing like that.

CHET

You realize that I'm trying to help Michael sell his house. Otherwise...

MICHAEL (O.S.)

Otherwise, I won't be able to complete my purchase of her father's house.

Jessica turns around and sees Michael and Rod over her shoulder.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

Isn't that right, Rod?

JESSICA

Oh, boy.

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INT. JESSICA'S PARENTS' HOUSE - KITCHEN - LATER

**-START**

Jessica sits at the table, Rod PACES around her. It's as if Jessica is 8 years old, and her father is getting ready to ground her.

ROD

What in the world were you thinking?

JESSICA

I don't see what the big deal is -

ROD

The big deal is that you're misrepresenting yourself.

JESSICA

You make me sound like I burned the house down. I just suggested they look at another house.

ROD

You're interfering.

JESSICA

Who's side are you on? You're out eating lunch with the enemy -

ROD  
The enemy? You're really over reacting, dear. You know if you got to know Michael, he's actually a very nice guy.

JESSICA  
I'm sure he is.

ROD  
He's available.

JESSICA  
Dad.

Rod sits down.

ROD  
What is it?

JESSICA  
What?

ROD  
This isn't like you at all. Are you alright?

JESSICA  
Of course I'm not alright. This is my house and you're selling it to a stranger!

ROD  
Your house? Your house? Sweetheart. You haven't been here in three years. And now that your mother and I are moving out of town, you're finally dropping by for a visit?

JESSICA  
It's not like that.

ROD  
How is then? Please explain it to me. Because I've missed you.

JESSICA  
Oh, dad.

They look at each other...no one's breaking down. Not yet...

JESSICA (CONT'D)  
When...Barry died. I...didn't want to...be here.

ROD  
Why wouldn't you want to be around your family?

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JESSICA  
Because...the most important  
part...of my family was gone.

That does it, they hug each other.

JESSICA (CONT'D)  
But. After a few years in the  
City...without him. That doesn't  
feel like home either...

Jessica laughs, as if remembering the clouds clearing...

JESSICA (CONT'D)  
And one day. A few months ago. I  
thought to myself. I like it. At  
home. I always did. When we moved  
here - Remember when we went  
camping here in the summers?  
Before you built the house -

ROD  
It's why I built the house -

JESSICA  
I know! I left this place because  
of Barry. He wanted to live in the  
City. I...

Jessica drifts off.

JESSICA (CONT'D)  
I just want a home of my own now.  
And...believe me dad, I wasn't  
trying to avoid you and mom and...I  
just wish you weren't moving so far  
away. But I can promise you this:

ROD  
What?

JESSICA  
I will definitely visit you in  
Florida.

Rod LAUGHS. Then...

ROD  
Your mom and I would like that.

They look at each other.

ROD (CONT'D)  
I just wish you would have said  
something earlier.

JESSICA  
I'm sorry, dad.

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ROD  
I'm sorry, too. But for now,  
you've just got to let this house  
go. It breaks my heart. It does.  
But it's just too late.

JESSICA  
I don't know.

ROD  
Sweetheart. I raised you to be  
honest. To be thoughtful. No  
house is worth compromising your  
honor. As tough as it is. This is  
just a house. You can make a home  
anywhere.

**— END**

Jessica sits with that a long moment.

~~INT. MICHAEL'S WORKSHOP - DAY~~

~~The DOG and Madeline watch MICHAEL as he CARVES WOOD,  
speaking animatedly about:~~

~~MICHAEL  
A time capsule.~~

~~MADELINE  
A what?~~

~~MICHAEL  
It was like...a collection of  
memories of the whole summer.  
Little..~~

~~He drifts a little...~~

~~INT. JESSICA'S PARENTS HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - SAME~~

~~Jessica sits on the couch, FLIPPING THROUGH AN OLD PHOTO  
ALBUM, looking at PICTURES of herself as a child...~~

~~MICHAEL (V.O.)  
Reminders.~~

- ~~- THE SUMMER IN THE FOREST~~
- ~~- A BIRTHDAY~~

~~MADELINE (V.O.)  
What kind of reminders? Treasure?~~

- ~~- GROWING UP IN THE HOUSE~~
- ~~- HER FROM PICTURE WITH CHET~~

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