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18. DECISIONS MADE.

EARLY THE NEXT MORNING, JAMIE EXITS BEDROOM DRESSED TO LEAVE THE HOUSE AGAIN. AS SHE WALKS PAST HER BROTHER'S OPEN BEDROOM DOOR, SHE PEERS IN TO SEE MICHAEL LAYING ON THE BED SLEEPING WITH SON'S BALL GLOVE CLINCHED TIGHTLY IN HIS HANDS. JAMIE THEN WALKS TO HER PARENTS BEDROOM AND WE SEE MARIA SITTING ON THE BED DEEP IN THOUGHT.

JAMIE: (WITH HER HEAD IN THE BEDROOM)
I'm going to Liam's

MARIA: (WITHOUT LOOKING TO JAMIE)
Fine.

JAMIE: (CONFUSED)
What? What's the matter?

MARIA: (BOTHERED BY THE QUESTIONS)
I don't know Jamie! Just go! I don't need anyone!

Jamie turns from the bedroom, and heads out the door to Liam's house.

Jamie rings the door bell at Liam's home where we see Liam's mother who answers the door.

JAMIE: (AS MRS. LANDES OPENS THE DOOR)
Hi Mrs. Landes, is Liam home?

MRS. LANDES (TO JAMIE)
No Jamie, I'm sorry. Liam is at open gym this morning practicing. He should be home in a few minutes, would you like to come in and wait?

Jamie nods and enters the house. Fade.

Inside the Landes' home Jamie and Mrs. Landes are talking in the kitchen as Mrs. Landes serves Jamie some pancakes.

MRS. LANDES:
So Liam tells me you might go to Youth Camp next week?

JAMIE:
I don't know, it sounds fun but... I'm just not sure it's really for me.

(CONTINUED)

MRS. LANDES:

I understand. New things can be frightening. (Pauses) So, tell me, how is it going at home? We have been praying for your family.

JAMIE: (BEING DISMISSIVE, BUT POLITE AS SHE DOES NOT WANT TO LET MRS. LANDES IN.)

Oh, it's been difficult but we will be fine.

MRS. LANDES: (NOT BUYING IT)

Well that's good I suppose. How are your parents handling everything? I know it can be very hard to lose a child.

JAMIE: (BECOMING SOMEWHAT UNCOMFORTABLE)

Yeah, it's hard I'm sure.

MRS. LANDES:

Well, I want you to know that we are here for you if you need anything, and you can let your parents know that too. Perhaps you all could come for dinner tomorrow night?

JAMIE: (BEGINS TO EMOTIONALLY STRUGGLE)

I doubt that will happen...

MRS. LANDES: (PRESSING IN, TOUCHES

JAMIE'S HAND)

Jamie...

JAMIE: (BEGINNING TO CRY)

It's awful, ok. Dad sits around all day, and mom, I think she is leaving us. And this whole thing is my fault! I'm the one who snuck out so I didn't have to watch my brother. I'm the one who wouldn't answer my phone when they tried to call. I'm the reason dad got distracted when he hit that tree. IT'S ALL. MY. FAULT!

Jamie breaks down in tears, and crumbles into the open arms of Mrs. Landes.

MRS. LANDES: (HEARTBROKEN FOR JAMIE)

Oh sweetie, it's not your fault. Sometimes bad things happen.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

MRS. LANDES: (HEARTBROKEN FOR JAMIE) (cont'd)
There's nothing we can do to change
the past. Shhh, it's going to be
ok. You will get through this, I
promise.

JAMIE: (THROUGH THE TEARS)
I don't want to be at home, I can't
be there anymore, and I can't
pretend everything is going to be
ok.

MRS. LANDES: (HOLDS JAMIE TIGHTER AND
WHISPERS TO HER)
It's alright, It's going to be
alright.

Camera pulls back to show Jamie and Mrs. Landes in the
kitchen, Mrs. Landes still holding Jamie.

Fade.