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## 27. BAD NEWS.

SCENE ENTERS AT A HOSPITAL. JAMIE IS LYING ON THE GURNEY UNRESPONSIVE WITH HER MOM AND DAD WAITING FOR THE RESULTS OF THE MRI. JAMIE BEGINS TO COME TO AND HEARS THE DISCUSSION:

MARIA: (QUESTIONING MICHAEL)  
She hasn't shown any symptoms, have you noticed anything?

MICHAEL: (CONFUSED)  
No... I really can't think of anything abnormal.

JAMIE: (GROGGY)  
What... What happened?

MARIA: (SURPRISED)  
Jamie! How are you feeling?

JAMIE: (CONFUSED)  
Tired... but what....

The Nurse knocks. Enters. Michael stands.

NURSE: (LOOKING AT THE PAPERWORK THEN UP TO THE ADAMS')  
Mr. and Mrs. Adams, would you come with me for a moment.

JAMIE: (LOOKING NERVOUS)  
Just them?

MARIA: (CONCERNED AS WELL)  
What about Jamie? Where is she going?

NURSE: (PROFESSIONALLY)  
She'll be right here, we just need you and your husband next door for a moment.

Maria and Michael follow the Nurse two doors down where they are greeted by the doctor upon entering the room.

DOCTOR: (LOOKING UP FROM HIS DESK COVERED WITH PAPERWORK)  
Mr. and Mrs. Adams, please have a seat.

Michael and Maria take the seats across from the doctor.

(CONTINUED)

MICHAEL: (WITH CONCERN)  
What is going on? Is Jamie OK?

DOCTOR: (VERY PROFESSIONAL YET  
COMPASSIONATE)

The results of the MRI aren't what we were hoping for. It appears that Jamie has some issues going on that are going to require some extensive care.

MICHAEL: (FRUSTRATED AS MARIA BEGINS TO  
CRY)

What are you saying? What is going on with my daughter?

DOCTOR: (MAINTAINS)  
Please, Mr. Adams. Getting upset isn't going to help anything. We must face this together and I will do everything I can to help your daughter.

Jamie has a form of cancer called Hodgkin Lymphoma.

(Pauses as Maria begins to weep, Michael does his best to comfort her). )

Which explains the massive nosebleed she had this morning.

MICHAEL: (ATTEMPTING TO CONTROL HIS  
EMOTIONS)

Ok, so this is treatable? I mean we caught it early, so no problem right?

DOCTOR: (BEGINNING TO HURT FOR THEM)  
Not exactly. Yes, it's treatable, but we didn't catch it early.

(Maria crumbles, Michael loses control)

Jamie has stage 4A Hodgkin's disease, it appears that the cancer has moved into the cerebrospinal fluid around her brain.

MICHAEL: (BEGINNING TO WEEP)  
Am I going to lose my daughter?

DOCTOR: (STRUGGLING TO CONTROL HIS  
EMOTIONS)

We will have to start chemotherapy as soon as possible, but at this  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

DOCTOR: (STRUGGLING TO CONTROL HIS EMOTIONS) (cont  
stage and the severity of the  
cancer... We will do our best.

Camera cuts back to Jamie sitting in the exam room alone.  
But can still hear the Doctor talking to Michael and Maria.

DOCTOR:  
Mr. Adams, we will need to have  
Jamie come back next week to start  
the treatments, for now I have  
prescribed some medication to help  
with the nose bleeds. For now you  
can go back and be with your  
daughter. I'll let you have some  
time to explain to Jamie, and then  
I'll be in to answer any questions  
your family may have.

Fade.