



# PERMAFROST

A STAGE PLAY BY ANDREW GRACE



## **CHARACTERS**

DON FROST (40-50s) - Eldest son of Charlie Frost

MAYA FROST (35-50s) - Eldest daughter of Charlie Frost

AUGUST FROST (35-40s) - Youngest son of Charlie Frost

ISAAC FROST (17) - Grandson of Charlie Frost. Don's Son

LUCAS WHITAKER (40-50) - Nephew of Charlie Frost

## **TIME**

Post November, 2017

## **LOCATION**

A lavish Beverly Hills living room

## **NOTES**

- 1) Try to find as much humor as possible - especially in the beginning. The play should zip along - with notable exceptions.
- 2) Cast someone who is charming and likable as August - one of those guys who can get away with anything - otherwise he might seem too much. Also, he's not a drunk - he just drinks... often.
- 3) Lucas should not come off as having a "victim mentality."
- 4) Make the frame shattering a practical problem, not a melodramatic portent. If possible, breakaway or "sugar-glass" can be used for the frame's glass.
- 5) I picture a multi-racial family of some kind. Isaac and Lucas can easily be mixed.

**PERMAFROST**

A subsurface layer of earth that remains frozen for years.

**SCENE I**

From black: There is a CRASH and the sound of SHATTERING glass. Lights up on a large Beverly Hills living room where numerous framed platinum records adorn the walls.

**ISAAC** (17) slim and unassuming, looms over the broken frame that has just fallen from the wall, leaving the record and bits of glass strewn across the floor.

Isaac's father, **DON** (40 - 50s) enters with a spring in his step. Isaac pretends nothing is wrong.

DON

(on the phone)

Yeah. Dad's back at home and the doctors say it's looking up. Keep the release date. I'll make sure he makes the tour, the talk shows and the ceremony at the White House. Yeah... How much is your cut this time? Ah! Kiss me first or something.

Don steps on the glass with his shoes and turns to Isaac.

DON

Hey. Lemme call you back. Thanks. Bye.

ISAAC

...I'm so sorry.

DON

Get a broom. I don't want the maid to do it. There's one in the closet just down the hall.

Isaac rushes off stage. Don picks up the album and gingerly inspects it.

DON

What happened?

ISAAC (o.s)

It just came right off. I barely touched it. I'm sorry, dad.

Isaac comes back with a broom and starts sweeping.

DON

We just renovated. They probably didn't hang it right. We'll re-frame it. Sorry. We're all stressed with getting Grandpa settled from the hospital... It's good to have you here.

Don pauses, then pulls a video game from a pristinely polished leather bag and hands it to Isaac.

DON

And I forgot. I got you this game. I know you like the series.

ISAAC

Thanks.

DON

... Mom got it already for you. Didn't she?

ISAAC

And it's for the other system.

DON

We can get the other system.

Don's younger siblings - **MAYA** (late 30s - early 50s) confident as she is kind, enters alongside **AUGUST** (mid 30s - 40s) who wears extra comfy clothes and walks in like he owns the place.

DON

How is he?

MAYA

Dad's food is better, the pillows are the way he likes them, and I gave him a hug and he was able to hug back - so that's all good news. The nurse is just finishing up.

AUGUST

She's fucking hot!

August and Isaac do a special handshake as they greet each other.

MAYA

August.

AUGUST

Sorry, Isaac. She's "freaking" hot.

(off Maya's scorn)

What? I'm joking - kind of.

August inspects the record as if it's a holy relic.

AUGUST

Wait. What happened to the wall?

ISAAC

It was an accident. I'm so sorry.

MAYA

Oh it's fine, honey.

AUGUST

It's his best record.

MAYA

Grandpa will think it's funny. He has plenty. He gave a bunch of limited edition prints as presents to friends and family...

Maya checks the temperature of the room.

MAYA

Also, uhh, speaking of family. This doesn't need to be a thing, but Lucas is coming to wish dad a speedy recovery.

AUGUST

Wait. LUCAS?

MAYA

He just drove through the gate.

DON

You should have asked me.

MAYA

If I asked you, you'd say no.

AUGUST

Cause he's scary. Is he at least sober?

MAYA

What do you think? And I already warned dad not to give him any money or anything this time.

AUGUST

We should at least hide dad's record. It's not really platinum but he could boost it. It's still worth something.

There is a gentle knock as **LUCAS**  
(a few years younger than Don)  
hesitantly enters holding a  
bouquet of flowers. He's large  
but also timid.

LUCAS

They told me to come up.

They suddenly becomes extra nice.

AUGUST

Lucas! So glad you're here.

LUCAS

Hey, Auggie.

MAYA

(embracing him)

You look... good.

LUCAS

Thanks.

MAYA

Isaac you remember - Our cousin which makes you - is it cousin twice removed? I can never remember which is which.

ISAAC

Hi.

LUCAS

(shaking hands)

Don't worry if you don't remember me. You would have been real young... Hi, Don.

DON

How's Marcus?

LUCAS

... He's good. Just turned twelve...

(to everyone)

... Maya and I talked over the phone. But ummm. I wanted to apologize for the other times-

MAYA

Don't worry about it.

LUCAS

How is he?

MAYA

Great. He's making bad jokes as usual. You should go in.

AUGUST

He's still recovering. So take it easy... Alright?

LUCAS

... Yeah.

MAYA

Go. Go. It's fine.

Lucas exits. Everyone waits to make sure he's gone.

ISAAC

He didn't seem, like, scary or dangerous or anything.

AUGUST

He's seemed okay before...

MAYA

August.

AUGUST

Don't August me. Dad feels bad and gives him anything.



MAYA

Can we not talk about him behind his back?

AUGUST

Maybe Dad will let Lucas have the part.

MAYA

So that's a no.

DON

You're not a bankable star yet, Auggie. It's the studio.

ISAAC

This about the movie of grandpa?

AUGUST

It's not like I'm a nobody. I was just on the charts.

MAYA

The bottom 500.

AUGUST

I'm his son. It's a tribute. People love that sort of thing.

DON

You're the opener for the tour. You don't have to impress him anymore.

AUGUST

I could play every song off of every record since I was five. But hell - people probably want you.

MAYA

(to Don)

You do look exactly like dad.

AUGUST

It's just a good thing you can't act to save your life - otherwise I'd really have to fight you for it.

DON

You wanna fight for it?

Don rushes August about to play fight. They're playful and ridiculous. Don's phone RINGS.

DON

I should take this. And we need to talk about the opening ceremony for the music hall.

MAYA

Also the first lady suggested he play as part of the Medal of Freedom ceremony thing. Did you tell dad?

DON

Yeah. But this is the academy guy. It'll be quick.

Don exits.

AUGUST

(in awe)

... Jesus, dad. EGOT.

MAYA

It's someone who wins an Emmy, Grammy, Oscar // and a Tony.

ISAAC

And a Tony. I know. EGOT. Dad's been talking about it since he picked me up... Best original song. Huh?

AUGUST

Can I check on dad? I don't like that Lucas is-

MAYA

It's been like two minutes. They haven't seen each other in years. Just give them a bit. How was the flight?

ISAAC

Good.

MAYA

Your mom?

ISAAC

Fine.

MAYA

Trip to Europe?

ISAAC

Fun. Thanks, Auntie.

MAYA

Maya. Auntie makes me feel old.

AUGUST

You pick up any European chicks?

MAYA

Auggie.

Don enters.

DON

Oscar race is looking good.

MAYA

It better if I'm going to put a dress on.

AUGUST

It's the academy awards. I can put your dress on and be dad's date if you aren't feeling up to it.

MAYA

Is that a promise?

AUGUST

Depends how tight your dress is.

DON

(to Maya)

You should go. Mom would have wanted you to be there.

MAYA

Yeah. She would have been proud...

(dialing on her phone)

Oh! On the topic of proud mothers. Don.

AUGUST

God. Another call? Do either of you ever stop working? Just send an email.

MAYA

I like to hear their voices.

MAYA

(to the phone)

Tiffany? It's Maya Frost.

I get to congratulate you on being an official recipient of the Charlie Frost Foundation! All four years. I can't wait for you to be able to study in the new Frost Music Hall, and As my father's song says, "When you wish that everything could be, you" ... You sang it better than I can. Congratulations. mmmm. Bye bye.

AUGUST

It's a good thing Lucas didn't hear you giving away cash.

There is the sound of a **CRASH** and muffled **YELLING** from backstage.

MAYA

(going to exit)

I'm sure it's fine.

Lucas rushes in looking flustered and a little out of breath.

LUCAS

I'm sorry.

DON

What did you do?

AUGUST

You were in there for like two seconds.

Don stops August from going to the bedrooms and instead exits.

MAYA

Lucas?

LUCAS

I'm so sorry.

Lucas rushes out.

MAYA

Lucas?

Maya follows Lucas off, Leaving August and Isaac. August relaxes.

AUGUST

We told you, Maya. Let's go check on grandpa. You even seen him yet?

ISAAC

Dad's in there already. I don't want to crowd him.

AUGUST

Come on. We can stop by the kitchen first. He loves it when I sneak him some ice cream.

They exit off towards a kitchen.  
Maya comes back looking confused.  
Don enters from the bedroom.

MAYA

Dad okay?

DON

He's upset. What'd Lucas say? Dad wouldn't tell me.

MAYA

(going to the bedroom)

He just left.

DON

Dad wanted to be alone. I'd let him cool off...

Maya slumps on the couch.

MAYA

I'm not just going to leave Lucas behind, Don.

DON

I'm trying to look out for him too. And Auggie and the movie.

Don inspects the wall.

MAYA

Isaac shouldn't feel bad about the record. And I know everything is packed with dad's schedule, but are you at least doing something fun with Isaac this month?

DON

He likes that TV show Lilly's on. I thought I could introduce him. He'd think that's cool.

MAYA

He's not here to meet Lilly. Take a day off, go to the beach. You never have him out here.

DON

That's not true. It was last...

MAYA

... See? Lisa's worried about you.

DON

She doesn't have to worry about me. That's why she divorced me - so she wouldn't have to worry about me. Do you still talk to Claire?

MAYA

What? No.

DON

So you talk to my ex wife more than you talk to yours?

MAYA

He's gonna start college. You won't get this time back.

DON

I know. I know.

Isaac enters looking ghostly.

DON

What's wrong?

ISAAC

Grandpa's dead.

Lights fade.

**SCENE II**

August sits on the couch with a box of tissues in one hand, a photo album in the other, and a glass of whiskey to his side on an arm table. He's not drunk just - loose. Lucas quietly sits on the other side of the room waiting. Both are dressed up - it's very tense and awkward between them. August joking offers his glass to Lucas.

AUGUST

(re: photo album)

God. Here's the two of us with him when we were kids. You wanna see?

LUCAS

I'm fine.

AUGUST

... You clean up nicely.

LUCAS

Thanks. So do you.

AUGUST

... Armani? - Your suit.

LUCAS

... JCPenny.

AUGUST

It's nice.

Maya enters.

MAYA

The limos should be here any moment.

Don enters writing in a journal,  
Isaac right behind him.

AUGUST

(to Maya)

There's one with your big o'l head.

MAYA

Shut up.

AUGUST

How did dad always look so cool? Come look.

DON

(writing)

I gotta finish this.

AUGUST

I can give the eulogy if you don't know what to say?

MAYA

The deal was you play a set, he says a few words.

AUGUST

And you micro-manage. "Everything's fair that way."

DON

You'll get your audition. You know Ben and the studio heads will be there.

MAYA

Jesus, Don. It's his funeral - not an audition.

DON

Sorry... Today's about celebrating him. I think dad would like it getting this green lit.

August resumes looking through the books.

AUGUST

(flipping a page)

Here you are, Isaac.

Isaac stiffens as if about to cry.

AUGUST

Hey... It's okay. It's okay to cry.

Don reaches out to join August in comforting Isaac, but stops himself before touching his shoulder.



ISAAC

Excuse me.

Don watches his son leave. Maya  
and August share a glance.

DON

... Did Hal get back to us?

MAYA

We filed. They'll answer pretty quickly I imagine.

AUGUST

What are the chances this goes to trial?

DON

Medical malpractice will be harder to prove since we were at  
home, but it's worth a shot.

AUGUST

Their alarm or whatever should have gone off. He died on  
their watch.

DON

(re: the drink)

How many have you had today?

AUGUST

Relax. You know what? Let's turn on his first record.

LUCAS

Not right now. Please. Umm. Just not right now.

AUGUST

Sure. Sure... You know... I'm glad you're here and all. But I  
gotta tell you. The other day when you left dad like that-

MAYA

(to Lucas and removing  
August's glass)

We all thought you should be here. I'm sure you didn't mean  
to do anything upsetting.

AUGUST

Whether he meant to do anything or not dad did have a heart  
attack.

MAYA

He had heart complications. Which he had before.

AUGUST

But he was getting better. I'm just saying what we're all thinking.

MAYA

(to Lucas)

You loved him. He loved you. We all know that.

LUCAS

No. It's fine. I wasn't trying to rile him up. When I got the invite for today I thought... But if you don't feel comfortable with me being here I can leave. I'd understand.

Don's phone RINGS. Maya motions for Lucas to say.

DON

(picking up)

Hey, Hal.

AUGUST

(begrudgingly to Lucas)

Do you want a tissue for the ceremony? I got a whole box.

LUCAS

I'm fine. Thanks.

DON

(on the phone)

I'm sorry, can this wait? ... What? No. Not to my knowledge... Yeah... See you at the ceremony.

Don hangs up.

AUGUST

What was that?

MAYA

What did Hal say?

DON

Nothing.

AUGUST

Seriously. What is it?

DON

We'll talk about it after the funeral.

MAYA

I'll just imagine the worst.

AUGUST

I can call Hal back.

DON

Stop... They're saying dad should have lived.

MAYA

No. We're arguing that.

AUGUST

Yeah. That's why we're suing them.

DON

No. They're saying the monitors should have picked up he was having an issue.

AUGUST

Exactly. They had faulty equipment. It's blatant medical malpractice.

DON

No. They're saying it's human error.

Isaac enters.

ISAAC

The limos are here.

MAYA

Well. It was just their staff.

DON

And our family.

ISAAC

The limos are here.

MAYA

Just wait outside, honey.

Isaac takes a few steps back but  
doesn't leave.

AUGUST

So they think we killed dad?

MAYA

That's not what they're inferring.

DON

They're just trying to shift blame before we settle. That's all this is. We'll get a team to investigate the equipment. But listen. We're about to get condolences from all dad's friends, others celebrities he half liked, a prince, and about two dozen journalists. I need to know that you're going to be okay.

AUGUST

Yeah. I'm great. I'm fucking fantastic.

MAYA

Not now, Auggie.

DON

It's just a tactic by the defense. It's nothing.

AUGUST

It's not nothing. They're insinuating that one of us murdered dad.

MAYA

Legally they're insinuating that we caused the accident that killed dad.

AUGUST

What's the difference?

MAYA

Manslaughter vs murder.

AUGUST

It was a rhetorical question.

DON

It'll blow over.

AUGUST

(to Lucas)

What did you do to him?

MAYA

Wow. Not okay.

AUGUST

No. I think it's fair. What the hell did you do to him?

LUCAS

He was fine when I left.

MAYA

August-

RING of Don's phone as the  
momentum continues.

AUGUST

He was upset. And it was his equipment that malfunctioned.  
Did you do something to it?

LUCAS

What?

DON

This is Don Frost Lemme call you back.

MAYA

He didn't do anything.

AUGUST

Come on. Let us hear it?!

DON

Calm down.

AUGUST

Just give me peace of mind then? What did you do to make him  
upset?

LUCAS

I just asked him a question.

AUGUST

You asked him a question?

LUCAS

Yes.

AUGUST

Was it for money?

LUCAS

No.

MAYA

August!

AUGUST

Then what was the question?

MAYA

Back off. I'm serious.

(to Lucas)

He's drunk.

AUGUST

I'm not drunk. What was the question?!

LUCAS

It doesn't matter.

AUGUST

I can be the judge of that. What did you ask him?

DON

That's enough, August.

AUGUST

What did you ask him?!

DON

I said that's enough!! Now the limos are here. I suggest you get in one.

There is silence for a moment.  
**Lucas stands frozen - shell  
 shocked.**

AUGUST

Fine.

DON

Isaac. Let's go.

ISAAC

Yes, dad.

Isaac doesn't move. Instead he  
 stares at Lucas who remains  
 rooted to the spot.

MAYA

Here, Lucas. You can ride with me.

(touching his shoulder)

Lucas?

LUCAS

I asked him why he touched me.

Everyone stops - something about  
 the way he just said it.

LUCAS

Like that, when I was a kid. I didn't come over to ask him.  
 It just happened. I asked if he remembered those times... I'm  
 sorry. I didn't mean to say all this just now either. But...  
 ... .. Someone say something.

Don, Maya, August and Isaac say  
 nothing.

AUGUST

...I'm getting another drink. Anyone else want one? Lucas?

LUCAS

... I'm sorry, Maya. Maya... I know this isn't // what you-

MAYA

(sitting down)

Please just another second.

AUGUST

Where did we put the other glasses?... Hello?

LUCAS

I didn't know I needed to say it but I'm glad I did.

AUGUST

She said - give us another second.

DON

Isaac. Go upstairs.

ISAAC

Dad I-

DON

I said go upstairs.

ISAAC

Ummm. I- uh.

DON

Tell the drivers we'll be a minute. Then wait upstairs. Now.

Isaac backs out.

LUCAS

It's better now everyone knows.

August downs his drink.

LUCAS

I'm trying to see this from your point of view. Let me explain-

August slams the glass down.

AUGUST

Would you shut up!!

DON

Stay cool.

AUGUST

No. No. No. You don't get to come in here trying to pull this shit.



LUCAS

Someone is going to come forward. Even if I didn't.

AUGUST

You don't know shit.

LUCAS

Someone, somewhere. It could be today, could be tomorrow, could be twenty years from now.

AUGUST

He's not even in the fucking ground. Do you remember what he did for you? Everything he gave you.

LUCAS

You want to know why he did all that? Guilt.

August takes a step towards  
Lucas. Maya gets in front of him.

MAYA

I want all of us to take a breath.

They glance amongst each other.

LUCAS

None of you believe me. Do you?... It started when I was probably seven and ended when I was around thirteen. It's still a little hazy.

AUGUST

Hazy? That's convenient.

LUCAS

I remember other things in extreme detail.

AUGUST

I can give you a new detail.

DON

Back off. I'm warning you.

(to Lucas)

Would you give us a second? They're setting everything up but I'm sure there's punch or refreshments on the terrace. We won't be long.

Lucas looks to Maya, who nods. He exits. The three siblings stand motionless for a while.

MAYA

Did Isaac say that the limos are here?

DON

Yeah.

AUGUST

Fucking hell.

MAYA

What do you want to do?

DON

I'm thinking.

AUGUST

Can we beat the shit out of him?

MAYA

(to Don)

How do you want to handle this?

AUGUST

By beating the shit out of him.

DON

Give me a second.

AUGUST

He made it up. You think this is to get back at us for Marcus?

MAYA

This isn't some ploy of his. You saw him. And I want to flag this before we do or say anything more. Do we believe him?

AUGUST

Fuck no.

MAYA

I wasn't really asking you.

AUGUST

You're actually considering this?

MAYA

I mean, *something* happened to him. Maybe he's confused about the details. Not dad - but - something.

AUGUST

He's just waiting for us to open our check books. Same thing, new tactic. A buddy of mine had this happen to him too.

MAYA

Why does that not surprise me?

AUGUST

Ha ha.

DON

(to August)

Your friend's lawyer specializes in this?

AUGUST

I assume.

DON

Get me his lawyer. Now.

AUGUST

(texting)

I can find out who he is.

MAYA

We have Hal. And this isn't my area of expertise but I could do something.

DON

You and Hal can work with the other guy and figure this out.

Maya texts.

AUGUST

I asked my buddy. But do we really need an army of lawyers?

DON

If he hasn't told anyone else then we could come to an agreement.

AUGUST

Let him talk. People will see what this really is.

DON

Not these days they won't.

AUGUST

Then we sue him for slander or damages or whatever. Right?

DON

Did he respond?

AUGUST

(reading)

I got his name. Brett Wineglass-

MAYA

It would be a Brett.

AUGUST

Shut up.

MAYA

Hal's on it too. But he'll need to know what it's about.

AUGUST

Oh my god. This guy's hourly rate is // astronomical.

DON

(over)

I don't care what his rate is. Just have him drop everything and work with Hal.

AUGUST

We can spin this if Lucas comes forward. "Distant junkie cousin tries to take family down with hysterical claims."

MAYA

Lucas isn't hysterical. He's cleaned up.

AUGUST

But he is a junkie, a thief, and you saved Marcus from him. That's like a public record. Right?

DON

It's not going to get that far. Did we get Brett?

AUGUST

Yeah. I sent him Hal's number.

DON

If he's done this before he'll know how to start.

AUGUST

He'll probably just copy and paste the last agreement.

MAYA

What happens if someone else comes forward? Someone who's more credible. I'm just thinking contingencies.

DON

There aren't going to be others.

AUGUST

If Lucas was such a victim why did he come over the other night? Huh? If someone did that to me I'd stay the hell away.

MAYA

I asked him to. He's family.

AUGUST

You didn't ask him because he's "family". You asked him cause you feel guilty because of what happened with Marcus. God. We fell right for it.

MAYA

If he wanted leverage he wouldn't have said anything just now. He would have taken the limo down, sat with us on stage, done all those photo ops and then used it for a story. But he didn't. Also I think it's foolish not to consider if it's actually possible.

AUGUST

What did you just say?

MAYA

I'm not saying dad did it. But Lucas was here and at the farm all those summers. I'm saying people will investigate it. And it's not like we can prove it didn't happen.

AUGUST

What happened to due process in this fucking country?

DON

She's not just thinking in the legal sense.

MAYA

It'll be *the* story for more than just a news cycle or two. We'll lose advertisers, brand partners, the foundation will definitely take a hit-

AUGUST

(over)

I get it.

MAYA

-The building will be renamed, the studio will scrap the film-

DON

And then there's the chunk of your inheritance to take into consideration.

AUGUST

Why do you say it like that's the only thing that matters to me?

MAYA

How does a million sound?

AUGUST

He has no proof.

MAYA

That's why it's only a million.

AUGUST

You know these rats can get out of their NDA's. Just wait a few years and then he'll suddenly have a "moral epiphany" when his cash runs out.

DON

A hundred fifty thousand. He can counter and we'll go up from there.

MAYA

It's too low.

AUGUST

A hundred and fifty? Offer seventeen thousand and we can go up to twenty - make him feel like he's really sticking it to us.

MAYA

August.

AUGUST

(mocking)

"Maya." How do you like it? You're always nagging. August August August.

DON

Just stop.

AUGUST

I'm not the bad guy here. We're not settling with a "victim" we're paying off a liar. He doesn't know what this goes for anyhow.

MAYA

And you do?

DON

Hal and the other lawyer can advise on the sum.

AUGUST

Stuff hundreds down his throat till he chokes, I don't care. He'll probably O.D. in a week anyway.

MAYA

We should also get someone to investigate Lucas' claims.

AUGUST

Do I need to remind you that people are showing up to the venue right now.

MAYA

Maybe we can ask Lucas to wait to handle this till after the funeral.

DON

If this isn't settled who says he won't threaten to crash the funeral.

MAYA

He wouldn't.

AUGUST

You wanna take that bet?

MAYA

Fine.

DON

(to August)

We'll do it with subtlety. Let him back in.

August goes to the door.

DON

While you're outside, call Hal and Brett and tell them everything.

AUGUST

While I'm outside?

DON

Let us handle Lucas.

AUGUST

You call Hal.

DON

Just do it. We're going to be late.

AUGUST

... Fine.

mAYA

And tell Jen and the team we're delayed. Text Jen. // Call Hal.

AUGUST

(over)

I got it. I got it.

August exits. Don and Maya don't say anything for a long moment.



MAYA

What are we doing, Don?

DON

I need you for this. Lucas trusts you.

MAYA

... Tell me dad didn't do this.

DON

... Dad didn't do this.

Maya hugs Don. After a moment he  
half hugs back.

MAYA

You might want to make sure Isaac's okay.

DON

I will.

There is a knock as August lets  
Lucas back into the room.

MAYA

Lucas. Please sit down.

LUCAS

I'm fine.

Maya considers this then sits  
anyway. Don continues to stand.

MAYA

Luc. Umm. We were talking. I am so sorry for how Auggie  
reacted. That was not okay.

Lucas considers this then sits.

LUCAS

I didn't mean to tell you like that. It just... happened. I'm  
sorry.

MAYA

You don't have to apologize... I realize things have been  
hard for you with rehab and the divorce and then Marcus...

LUCAS

You did what you had to do with him. I don't hold that against you.

MAYA

Thanks... But ultimately I know we haven't stayed in touch. And, maybe that's my fault. Our fault. Maybe there is something that we could do ... There are some nice houses - closer to the city, better schools, private schools - I'm sure we can get a spot for Marcus in one of them.

LUCAS

... You think I made this up for money.

MAYA

No. But... I realized we haven't been there for you - recently. I know you've had some rough times and where were we? You hear what I'm saying?

LUCAS

You want to buy my silence.

DON

Don't pretend like we don't know what this is.

MAYA

Don-

LUCAS

I didn't make this up.

MAYA

It's not about money. It's about making it right.

LUCAS

So you believe me?

MAYA

I mean... Making us not being there for you right.

LUCAS

I see.

MAYA

No. It's not like that. I'm sure there's a decent job out there for you. We could get you a better lawyer and you might be able to appeal and get more days to see Marcus.

LUCAS

I'm clean. I got a job.

MAYA

You don't have a job. You have three. And you're still barely making ends meet.

LUCAS

Do you want me to say what he did again? That's what this is about. Not drugs. Not my work. Not my son. It's about what your father did. And I know I've done things in the past - lied, begged, cheated you even. But this isn't that, Maya.

MAYA

Do you have any proof?

LUCAS

I can be very explicit.

DON

A witness? Evidence?

MAYA

I can't say I want to believe you... but if you told me something more-

LUCAS

I remember him taking pictures. Pictures of me. Not normal ones.

DON

Do you have them?

LUCAS

No.

DON

So you don't have the only evidence that could prove something happened?

LUCAS

You might find them. And we can go over the timeline. I started to remember more of it when I got sober.

DON

So you don't even remember?

LUCAS

I can tell you things that only someone who was that close to him would know.

DON

Do it.

MAYA

Don. I don't know if I want to hear this right now.

DON

Do it.

LUCAS

I remember he wore this one cologne.

DON

Maya and I know that. Everyone in the family does.

LUCAS

... He had a small scar. Below the belt. It stretched from here to here.

DON

You could have seen it when he was in bed the other night.

MAYA

He had all those blankets on.

LUCAS

(that area)

You want me to describe another area?

MAYA

Just stop! It's me. You were the first person I came out to. I could have been there for you. Why didn't you tell me then? Or anytime after?

LUCAS

He's your dad, Maya.

DON

It's a little convenient that he can't defend himself now.

LUCAS

He can't hurt me either.

MAYA

Hurt you? He paid for your school - before you dropped out.

DON

He bought you that car - which you sold for drugs.

LUCAS

You ever think who introduced me to all that stuff?

DON

Did you try to rile him up the other night?

LUCAS

No. It just came out... I thought he was the greatest. Everyone else still does. It's all over the news and online- everyone just showering him with praise. I did too - when I was a kid. I used to brag to my friends that I was his nephew... I want them to know.

MAYA

Them?

LUCAS

Everyone.

MAYA

You want revenge?

LUCAS

Do you think people knowing the truth is revenge?

Don whispers something to Maya.

Maya reluctantly exits. Don waits till he's sure she's gone.

DON

You talked about this with any friends, other family, a journalist?

Lucas pauses, then shakes his head no. Don considers this.

DON

Maya and I are going to hire an outside team of investigators. And if they find out that you're lying I will personally see to it that // you and all your lies -

LUCAS

I'm not lying, Don. And what happens if they find out the truth?

DON

... How about a million dollars?

LUCAS

What?

DON

Right now. How about a million dollars?

LUCAS

You know I read somewhere that some victims got payments in the hundred thousand range for hush money - but that was for a one time event.

DON

You did market research?

LUCAS

This is just a test. Isn't it? You had me there for a second. That's all you wanted. You wanted to see if this was a performance and if I'd break?

DON

Is it the amount that offends you or the offer?

LUCAS

You're just like him. You look just like him, you sound just like him, you play mind games just like him.

DON

I'm not playing games, Lucas. But you're making us late for my father's funeral. So this is your last chance to squeeze money out of us. And you know what? You win. And if you're in a better place like you say you are, then pay off any debts, invest, save up for Marcus' college, hell, start your own business for all I care. But I am through with you.

LUCAS

You won't believe me if I take the money.

DON

I won't believe you either way. But if he actually did it then you deserve something... Do you not deserve something?

LUCAS

Mind games.

DON

I need an answer.

Lucas stands up and walks to the windows. He thinks for a moment as Maya comes back with a folder and several papers.

LUCAS

This is one of those NDA situations. Right?

MAYA

We only want what's best.

LUCAS

I sign that?

Maya nods and slides them his way.

LUCAS

You've worked on other things like this for your father?

DON

No.

Lucas looks to Maya for reassurance. She shakes her head. Lucas picks up the document.

DON

Creeps who actually do this make a pattern of it. Somehow You're the only one.

Lucas sets it down again.

MAYA

The money doesn't change anything. We still love you just the same... Okay? I know this is all happening fast... but we need you to do this. Please?

She hands him a pen. Lucas considers this for several moments. He looks at Maya, then Don, then grabs the pen and signs it.

MAYA

... May I... um... Give you a hug?

Lucas reluctantly accepts.

MAYA

You did the right thing. We love you. Okay? If you want, you can stay here or umm...

LUCAS

I don't want to go to the funeral.

MAYA

That's okay... But we really should go.

LUCAS

Yeah.

MAYA

Why don't I walk you out. We can have someone drive you home.

LUCAS

Okay.

DON

Maya can I talk to you a second?

Lucas exits out. Maya suddenly seems drained and shaken.

MAYA

I need to walk him out.

DON

Are you gonna be okay?

MAYA

I was the one who got him to sign it.

DON

That's why I'm asking.



MAYA

I'm fine.

DON

Don't let him rattle you. He lied about all of this.

MAYA

That's just the thing. I know him better than anyone and I can't tell...

Maya goes to the door to exit.

DON

You came out to him first?

MAYA

We need to go.

Maya exits. After a moment so does Don. Lights fade.

### SCENE III

The funeral: Don stands in a spotlight downstage.

DON

It was always about what the music did with dad. How did it make people feel? How did it bring people together? Inspire love. My father had a rough upbringing. His father... let's just say never inspired much love. But dad set out to change that. To do better. To be better. And he did.

Don pauses. Looks out for a moment.

DON

He did it through his music. But it wasn't about the number of people he played for, or the record sales, or whether he played for folks on the street or a queen. It was about inspiring love. It's in all his songs and his lyrics. He loved the music, he loved his family and he loved you. And I know you loved him back. I know cause you say I look just like him and you greet me with a smile. And it's the joy in your eyes, the warmth in your heart, the kindness of your spirit that makes me proud to be his son - to hear that he inspired so many of you. He inspired me and my sister to give back. And together we created the Charlie Frost foundation. And for almost twenty years we've been proud to support music education across the country. I know his spirit lives on not only through his music, or through our family, but through many of you - his friends, his fans, and through the foundation - his students. I love you, dad. I'm proud of you. I know you're smiling down on us. Please welcome to the stage, My brother August!

The sound of applause as an electric guitar plays and the lights fade on Don.

#### SCENE IV

Back in the living room a few hours later. The murmur of a smaller gathering with music plays from off stage. Isaac pops his head in to see Maya on the couch - calming herself down from the gathering downstairs. She seems like she's had an anxiety attack.

ISAAC

Is everything okay, Auntie? You don't look so good.

MAYA

It's Maya. I'm fine.

Is

My dad want us down there.

MAYA

I just needed a second.

Isaac closes the door behind him.

ISAAC

Is it about what Lucas said? What did you and dad do?

MAYA

Do you think I'm a bad person?

ISAAC

No. But umm what did you do?

MAYA

August thinks Lucas purposely killed grandpa.

ISAAC

I like him, but uncle Auggie is kind of an idiot.

MAYA

We didn't even take pictures or anything. Was there anything suspicious when you found grandpa?

ISAAC

No. You get a whole team to investigate? And I gave that statement.

MAYA

Anything more?

ISAAC

No. But I don't think we should blame Lucas for what happened.

MAYA

So you believe him?

ISAAC

Dad had me leave the room before I could hear much.

MAYA

From what you heard then.

ISAAC

I don't know. Maybe. Yeah. Do you? What are you going to do?

Don enters.

DON

You're not downstairs doing that because...?

MAYA

Stop being controlling. I just needed some air.

DON

I'm sorry. It's just August down there right now. How well do you think that'll go?

MAYA

I'm going. I'm going.

Maya nods to Isaac before she exits.

DON

(to Isaac)

There's someone I think you'd like to meet.

ISAAC

More family?

DON

(setting him up for a date)

It's Lilly. I thought you'd like to meet her. You love her show. You're about the same age. Maybe - I don't know. You could... hang out or something while you're in town.

Don coaxes Isaac to the exit.

ISAAC

How did you give that speech, dad? After everything - with Lucas.

Don stops at the door.

DON

Lucas really isn't credible.

ISAAC

You heard him the same as I did.

DON

There is a lot of good about people coming forward with these kinds of things. I'll be the first to acknowledge that. But Lucas isn't one of the good guys. Okay? Fix your tie. We should be down there.

Don goes to help fix his son's tie. Don looks like he feels awkward this close to his son.

ISAAC

I'm assuming Lucas isn't going to show up.

DON

Don't worry about him. We figured it out.

ISAAC

Did he ask for money or did you force it on him?

DON

You met him for an hour or two. You need more context and you're missing years of it. We gave him money not because it's credible, but because he's family, because we could have done more to support him in the past, and mostly because Maya's too good of a person.

ISAAC

She looks like a freaking ghost.

DON

We're lucky we're at a wake.

ISAAC

Yeah...

Don finishes the tie. It's perfect. They go to leave. Don stops him at the door.

DON

There's a difference between a scholarship and a shakedown. We give, but we give to those who deserve it - or we usually do. You hear me?

Isaac nods.

DON

You can always be proud of who you are and where you come from. Don't forget that.

ISAAC

Yes, dad.

The two exit.

**SCENE V**

It's night - a few days later.  
Thunder Rumbles. Maya stands surrounded by old boxes that litter the stage. She's on her phone.

MAYA

Lucas? It's me. I'm sorry to call you again. I went to your place yesterday. Your neighbor said she hadn't seen you in a bit. I want to make sure you're okay... And listen. I'm going through some of dad's things and... um. I want to know more - maybe cross reference your story with anything we find. I haven't found anything yet, I just... We don't have to do it at the house if you're not comfortable. We don't have to do it at all... it's just... I'm trying, okay? Call me back. Love you, bye.

August enters with a snack.

AUGUST

Can we be done?

MAYA

Don and I have been doing this all day. You just started.

AUGUST

We can hire people to do this.

MAYA

How would they know what to keep?

AUGUST

(holding a key and pens)

How do we? I love dad, but his desk alone has so much junk. Worn records, empty note pads, a key that doesn't go to anything, and used fountain pens.

MAYA

Those pens are expensive.

Don enters.

DON

I couldn't find more box cutters. But it's fine. I can handle all this. You two go home.

AUGUST

We should sell some of this. You know some nut online would buy his old socks and stuff.

MAYA

Seriously?

AUGUST

I don't know. I think maybe we could get some of that million dollars back. And when is that frame being fixed?

MAYA

You want to sell it?

AUGUST

God no. I just don't like seeing that wall empty like that. It's like rude to dad or something.

DON

We'll get it back tomorrow.

AUGUST

...We really gave him a million dollars?

MAYA

You wanted to offer him 20k right?

AUGUST

Seventeen.

MAYA

So you know what? You pay that. I'll take the rest of your share.

AUGUST

I'm just joking-

MAYA

I'm not. But, Auggie. I don't want you to ever speak about Lucas or this deal again. Okay? Not ever. Do you hear me?

AUGUST

Oh my god. You actually believe him?

DON

Leave her alone.

AUGUST

He took our money and ran.

MAYA

Doesn't mean it didn't happen.

AUGUST

Doesn't mean it did either.

MAYA

And how do you know he ran? Do you know where he is?

AUGUST

What? No. It's an expression.

DON

Have you tried to contact him?

MAYA

No... Alright, yes.

DON

Maya-

AUGUST

And that's why you insisted on going through his stuff so quickly? You want to find dirt on dad?

MAYA

I just want to know for certain.

AUGUST

There's nothing to know.



MAYA

Then we need to make sure Lucas is okay - that he doesn't relapse or something worse.

DON

He probably doesn't want to see you cause he'll feel guilty about his scam.

AUGUST

No. She's right. He's probably relapsed and laughing his ass off at us, tanning on some tropical beach, high out of his mind. He killed dad *and* got a million dollars.

MAYA

The monitor malfunctioned.

AUGUST

But who made it "malfunction?"

DON

No one. We're going to get the fingerprints back from the monitor and the result will show that only the staff used it... Look, I can go through these boxes. It's fine. You both go home.

AUGUST

...I touched it.

DON

What?

AUGUST

I touched the monitor. He asked for a little... you know... extra juice. I thought that I could press that one button. It didn't work. Nothing happened. And no. I know what you're thinking. I didn't turn the damn thing off.

MAYA

I might have touched it too.

DON

Jesus Christ.

August tries to hold in a chuckle.

MAYA

What? It's not funny.

(trying not to laugh)

It was the volume control. It was so loud. It stayed the same level. I didn't kill him either.

Maya and August laugh. Don even breaks into a smile. They sit on the couch together - a singular moment of peace.

DON

... We're definitely going to lose this lawsuit.

AUGUST

I keep thinking he's gonna walk in the door... God. I really miss him...

Maya touches August's shoulder.

MAYA

You probably touched the monitor first.

AUGUST

No. I bet you did.

Don stands up, opens a box, and takes out an old Luger pistol.

MAYA

Out of the two of us, who is more bumbling?

AUGUST

That would be you.

DON

(holding the gun - but not at them)

Oh god. You two.

AUGUST

Are you holding a gun?

MAYA

You're holding a what?

DON

It's not loaded. The ammo's right here.

Don holds up a small case of bullets.

AUGUST

Is that what that key was for?

DON

What key?

MAYA

Careful with that.

DON

It's basically a paper weight. It's more of an antique than anything. I didn't think he still had it.

AUGUST

You knew dad had a gun?

DON

It was grandpa Joe's from WWII. Dad found it at the farm and kept it.

AUGUST

Dad owned a gun. That's funny.

MAYA

I would feel better if the gun wasn't here.

AUGUST

You're such a liberal. Can I see it?

MAYA

Definitely not.

Maya takes the Luger and puts it on the mantle.

AUGUST

Great hiding spot.

DON

You're going to freak the maid out when she finds it early tomorrow.

Maya opens another box and finds  
a photo album inside.

MAYA

(opening the album)

We'll throw it out. I want to make sure we don't find a  
grenade or...

DON

What?

MAYA

Jesus Christ. It's the photo album.

Lights OUT

**ACT II****SCENE I**

Maya looks at the photo album as Don and August peer over her shoulder. Maya is visibly rattled.

MAYA

This is what Lucas was talking about.

AUGUST

Let me see that.

August grabs it and crosses downstage - flipping through each page.

MAYA

I knew it. I knew it. There could be other people too. We should get ahead of this. We should change the name of the foundation and that stupid music hall. Who's gonna want a scholarship from dad now.

AUGUST

You're going nuts, Maya. They're not pornographic. I went through the whole book.

MAYA

That's right. A whole book. Of just Lucas. Lucas at the pool, Lucas at the fair, Lucas // backstage.

AUGUST

It wasn't locked and hidden away. There's probably photo albums of everyone...

August opens the box next to the one with the photo album.

AUGUST

(finding another)

Ah. See. Here. What dad doesn't document every little thing?

(flipping through pages)

This is of me. We'll probably find yours and Don's in another box. Jesus. Are you okay?

MAYA

I'm fine, Auggie.

AUGUST

You should see a therapist.

MAYA

Fuck you. I already have one.

AUGUST

Well I would pay for you to go to a better one. But I'm down about twenty thousand dollars.

DON

Dammit.

MAYA

Auggie.

AUGUST

Auggie me one more time.

DON

(dialing on his phone)

Stop. Stop.

MAYA

What?

DON

(still dialing)

Twenty thousand dollars. That new scholarship. We were supposed to let those kids know last week.

MAYA

Not tonight. What are you doing?

August's phone buzzes.

AUGUST

Are you calling me?

DON

(to his phone)

Hi there, this is Don Frost with the Charlie Frost Foundation.

August's phone still buzzes.

AUGUST

So that's a no?

MAYA

(to August)

Who's calling you?

August excitedly holds his finger up and exits.

DON

(to the phone)

Is this William's mom? He's there? I have wonderful news for him. Yeah. That'd be great.

Don holds the phone out to Maya.

MAYA

What?

DON

You liked this William kid's essay. Remember?

Don holds the phone out again.  
Maya shakes her head.

DON

(to the phone)

... Yeah. Just wait one second, William...

MAYA

Why are you doing this now?

DON

Just take the phone.

Don holds the phone outstretched once more. Maya waits a moment, sighs, then takes it.

MAYA

(to the phone)

William? Maya Frost here. You are officially a recipient of the Charlie Frost Foundation. My father loves - loved supporting artists... As his song says, "When you wish that everything could be...

(off them)

That's right. Mhmm. Yes I am his daughter... Yes he was... Thank you. God bless you too. Bye bye.

Maya puts the phone down and slumps into the couch.

MAYA

What was that?

DON

He deserves it. We're giving him a better shot...

MAYA

You made me do that to convince me of what?-

DON

That we're doing something good and right. We did the right thing for the kid... We did the right thing with Lucas too.

MAYA

We did?

DON

If dad did it we made amends. And if Lucas is lying we got played. But we did our best.

MAYA

He's not lying. And silencing him isn't the best... He really trusted me. Didn't he...

DON

If he came forward with the lies, we wouldn't be able to help kids like William. *They* actually deserve the money.



MAYA

They deserve it... .. When I came out he took me by the hand and said that there wasn't anything wrong with me, that I could tell people, that I shouldn't be ashamed and that it was all going to be okay.

DON

I know mom was mom. But we were all happy when you told us.

MAYA

This is not about me.

DON

Dad didn't even care when you came out.

MAYA

That's right. He didn't care. But Lucas did... And look how I repaid him.

DON

Maya-

MAYA

You don't believe him. I get it. It's fine...

DON

(genuinely)

... Are you mad at dad because he didn't pay enough attention to you?

MAYA

Fuck you, Don.

DON

No. I'm serious. He was happy that Auggie was becoming a little him, he let me handle most everything, and when you had the idea for the foundation he pretended as if it was his idea.

MAYA

I'm not mad at him...

DON

It'd be fine if you were.

MAYA

... .. It's like he never even saw me... And I don't believe Lucas because of that. I just believe him. Who knows where he is right now.

DON

At home. Probably wanting space from us. We got lucky when he took the deal. Don't mess with it... And look. You were running on empty before dad went into the hospital. You should go home. Actually, just crash upstairs.

Maya nods. August scampers in.

AUGUST

(happy)

Why didn't you tell me?!

MAYA

Tell you what?

AUGUST

They gave me the part! Ben just called me himself.

DON

Congrats, Auggie.

MAYA

They what? You knew, Don?

AUGUST

They said they couldn't see it any other way.

DON

You'll make dad proud.

AUGUST

You mean it?

DON

Course.

MAYA

I think I'm going to lie down for a bit.

AUGUST

Maya. I kinda hoped we'd, you know, celebrate?

Celebrate?

MAYA

Yeah.

AUGUST

You really think that's a good idea. Right now?

MAYA

Maya.

AUGUST

I don't feel well. I'm gonna lie down upstairs.

MAYA

At least be happy for me?

AUGUST

I'm happy for you.

MAYA  
(flatly)

Come on, Maya.

AUGUST

What if someone else comes forward? I don't want to get your hopes up all for the film to be called off.

MAYA

Lucas is a nut.

AUGUST

Have you even considered that Lucas might be telling the truth?

MAYA

What do you want from me? To sit and cry about "the what if?" - I heard Lucas too. And I thought about it.

AUGUST

For two seconds-

MAYA

But I know dad pretty fucking well. And I sure as hell know Lucas. Why is this still a discussion?

MAYA

Just cause you idolized dad doesn't mean-

AUGUST

He didn't do it. Jesus. And wallowing like this and "believing" Lucas doesn't make you a good person. It just makes you easy to manipulate.

MAYA

We'll know for sure once we finish our investigation.

AUGUST

Investigation?

MAYA

Don said we'd hire someone - outside - to look into Lucas' claim.

AUGUST

You agreed to that?

MAYA

And I think we should tell the studio to hold off a bit.

DON

You know how long it takes for this momentum. If we pause now it might never get made.

MAYA

You okayed this?

DON

We both wanted August.

MAYA

That was before. We're in the middle of this and a lawsuit with the medical team.

DON

The lawsuit is an inconvenience, yes.

MAYA

An inconvenience?

DON

The film isn't about his death. The script they're shooting ends more than twenty years ago.

MAYA

Wait for the investigation or at least the lawsuit to be over.

AUGUST

That could be years.

MAYA

However long it takes.

DON

Maya.

MAYA

You were never going to check out his claims were you?

DON

Come on.

MAYA

We promised Lucas.

AUGUST

We can hire someone. Jesus. I know a guy-

MAYA

An outside person. Not someone you know.

AUGUST

Do you want them to find something?

MAYA

Of course not.

AUGUST

Cause it seems like you do.

MAYA

If we find some evidence. Would either of you believe it? Hmm? Lucas mentioned pictures.

AUGUST

And we found them. They're fine.

MAYA

What if I leak the accusation? Huh?

Don and August share a glance.

AUGUST

You wouldn't.

MAYA

Wouldn't I?

DON

When was the last time you've slept?

MAYA

That doesn't matter.

DON

It does matter. When was the last time you've slept? You're not thinking clearly.

MAYA

Maybe I'm the only one who is.

AUGUST

You want to do this? We can do this. Go right ahead. Release it.

DON

Auggie?

AUGUST

If it gives you peace of mind just do it. Here. I know a girl at The Times and another at the New Yorker. I've fucked em both. You want their numbers? Take em. They're right here. One's an associate producer or something. Take it. Take it.

August throws her his phone.

DON

Maya... Don't.

Maya holds the phone for a long while. It looks like she might dial someone but then she drops the phone.

AUGUST

I thought not.

August takes his phone back.

DON

Let me help you upstairs.

MAYA

Fuck both of you.

Maya exits. August mutters to himself as he goes over to the mantle and picks up the old Luger pistol.

AUGUST

That went well.

DON

Don't play with that.

AUGUST

I'm removing the *empty* magazine. And checking the empty chamber. We're good.

DON

... Maya will come around.

AUGUST

(holding the pistol)

She wouldn't leak the story because she'd be blasting her own life away. But sure - she'll blame us so she can think of herself as the victim.

August puts the gun down.

DON

She's not doing that.

AUGUST

Yes. She is. And she can turn her nose up at me because I don't believe something like this with absolutely no evidence. If she really believed Lucas and wanted to do the "right thing" she'd give him money and let him talk... But she didn't do that. Did she? No. And thank god she has a modicum of sense left.

(off Don's look)

What?

DON

Congrats on the movie, Auggie.

Don starts to exit.

AUGUST

Don't you do that to me too.

DON

I'm going to check on her.

AUGUST

You know why dad trusted you? Cause you were willing to make the hard call. You did it with the foundation, with his managers, his life rights - with it all. At least you have the spine to say, "You know what. Here's a million dollars whether Dad did it or not. It's better for everyone this way." I still think you're stupid for believing Lucas. But you did what you had to do. But Maya-

DON

I never said I believed him.

AUGUST

But you do. It's fine. You're entitled to your own opinion.

DON

I'm going to apologize to her.

Don's phone (left on one of the boxes on stage) BUZZES.

AUGUST

Don your phone...

August looks at it. Then answers.

AUGUST

(to the phone)

Hello? Hey, Hal. No. It's August... What'd they find about the equipment? ... What does that mean? Are you serious? Jesus Christ.

(calling off)

Don? Don! No. No. I'll tell him.

He hangs up. Don comes back out.



DON

Quiet. Maya's sleeping.

AUGUST

She went upstairs like two seconds ago. She's pretending to be asleep so she doesn't have to talk to you.

DON

Who was it?

AUGUST

The forensic guy or whatever got back to Hal.

DON

And?

Isaac can be heard from offstage.

ISAAC (o.s)

I'm back.

Isaac enters.

DON

How was Lilly? Was she cool?

ISAAC

I guess.

DON

You guess? You love her show.

ISAAC

She's different in real life. But thanks for setting it up... Am I interrupting something?

DON

(hinting to August)

No. It was nothing.

AUGUST

The forensic guy got back to us about the hospital equipment.

ISAAC

That seems like something.

DON

You don't have to hear this.

ISAAC

It's fine, dad.

AUGUST

Well they didn't find prints or anything to do with me or Maya I'll tell you that.

ISAAC

You touched the equipment?

DON

It doesn't matter.

AUGUST

But they didn't find anything.

DON

Did you voluntarily offer your fingerprint and DNA to match it with their samples?

AUGUST

No. But-

DON

So of course they didn't find you.

ISAAC

What did they find?

AUGUST

That's the thing. They didn't find *anything*... At all.

DON

... Someone wiped it down?

AUGUST

Someone wiped it down. Covered their tracks. But why?

DON

Don't play detective with this. That doesn't mean anything.

AUGUST

What are you talking about?

DON

The medical team probably sanitized it before the forensic people could see it.

AUGUST

But if we used it. They would be destroying all evidence that it was us. Which they would want.

DON

They weren't "destroying evidence"; it was probably just a routine cleaning.

ISAAC

They'll probably claim they didn't clean it.

DON

They can claim what they want. We'll get an expert who knows sanitation procedures, and another who knows in-home medical care, and they'll say what we all know - That the medical staff was to blame.

AUGUST

I don't know. I still think that Lucas // probably -

DON

Probably what? Knew how to sabotage high end medical equipment - without dad ever seeing - cover his tracks, "give him a heart attack", and timing it so that it happened only after he left?

AUGUST

Well, when you put it like that.

DON

Thought so. I'll call Hal back. See what our next steps are.

Don dials as he exits. August sulks on the couch.

AUGUST

I still think there's something to my fingerprints theory.

August loads bullets into the magazine. The Luger itself is far out of reach.

AUGUST

If I load the magazine, the casings themselves would have my prints on it. But if I wiped them down, used a glove or-

ISAAC

I know how fingerprints work, Auggie.

AUGUST

Right.

August puts the clip down still loaded. The gun itself is far away.

AUGUST

(shifting gears)

Were you nervous to be with Lilly tonight?

ISAAC

Why would I be nervous?

AUGUST

She's kinda famous.

ISAAC

And I'm the grandson of Charlie Frost.

AUGUST

There you go.

ISAAC

I mean the nephew of August Frost.

AUGUST

Damn straight.

August goes to make a drink.

Isaac looks around at the boxes for a moment.

ISAAC

Why are you sure Lucas is lying?

AUGUST

Cause he's an addict. Don't do drugs.

ISAAC

That's one of those - Do as you say not as you do - situations. Right?

AUGUST

You could probably do as I do and be fine. But don't tell your dad I said that - and not till you're older.

August takes a sip of his drink.

ISAAC

Maya believes him.

AUGUST

She helped Lucas' ex divorce him and then again to get custody of Marcus. Maya didn't tell you that. Did she? She shouldn't feel too bad about it. Don doesn't...

ISAAC

What happened to you two?

AUGUST

... You ever listen to my first album?

ISAAC

Yeah.

AUGUST

The electric guitar I use throughout is this custom, baby blue, 1964 Gibson. Grandpa used it on a lot of his albums too. Anyway, Lucas comes to my place after the divorce and the custody battle and all that. He was fucked up and I was going to come up with an excuse not to let him in but... he was Lucas. He used to let me tag along with him and Don at the farm - you know. So, I let him in. I got him cleaned up with a shower, got him dinner, some blankets, put him up on the couch - made him hot chocolate and everything. This was my old place and it had my little home studio - with that Gibson... He boosted it in the middle of the night - ended up selling it on the street - probably got a tiny fraction of what it was worth - used it for drugs... I never could find it again.

ISAAC

How much was it worth?

AUGUST

It wasn't the price... It was the only guitar my dad ever gave to me...

One of the few times he acknowledged me as a real artist. So, forgive. Don't forget. It's called boundaries. They're healthy. Maya needs to learn some.

Don enters again.

DON

I told Hal our theories. We're probably gonna lose.

ISAAC

At least you made progress with the boxes.

AUGUST

Yeah. We did.

DON

Cause you did a lot.

ISAAC

Does that mean we can go home?

DON

In a bit. I want to get through a few more.

ISAAC

Seriously?

DON

If you're tired there's rooms upstairs. Just don't wake Maya. She's the third on the left.

ISAAC

Okay...

Isaac exits.

AUGUST

Go home, dude.

DON

I'm gonna get through a few more.

AUGUST

What's the rush?

DON

I don't want Maya to have to go through them. Lucas really rattled her with everything.

AUGUST

I'll see if Isaac wants to play one of those video games.

DON

He's tired.

AUGUST

He's not tired. He just doesn't want to be here.

DON

His mom already got the game for him. And I got the wrong game for the wrong system.

AUGUST

I know. That's why I bought another game and the other system. It's in the basement.

DON

You didn't need to do that.

AUGUST

I know. I get cool uncle points.

August exits.

AUGUST (o.s)

Yo. Isaac. Let's play. You're in for a can of whoop ass.

Don waits for a moment then goes through the boxes one by one. He looks over his shoulder periodically until he finally opens one and stops. Inside is an old lock box. He tries to open it but can't.

Lucas enters, standing in shadow in the doorway. He seems very different from when we last saw him - eerily confident.

LUCAS

Need help opening that?

DON

How'd you get in here?

Don puts the box down somewhere visible.

LUCAS

Good evening to you too.

DON

August or Maya let you in?

LUCAS

You haven't changed the gate code in a couple years. And the front door was unlocked.

DON

So you broke in.

LUCAS

It was unlocked. I knocked and announced myself. This place is huge.

DON

Maya's upstairs sleeping. I wouldn't bother her.

LUCAS

That's fine.

Lucas inspects the boxes.

LUCAS

Whatcha looking for?

DON

What can I help you with, Lucas?

LUCAS

What? I can't stop by for a friendly call?

DON

Is this a friendly call?

LUCAS

It can be.



Lucas sits down and gets comfortable.

LUCAS

How are things?

DON

How are things? - What do you want?

LUCAS

(finding the photo album)

He's got a lot of stuff here. You got the old records, the outfits... nice pictures.

DON

There's an album of August we found just like it too.

LUCAS

Relax. I just said nice pictures. These aren't the ones I was talking about.

DON

Of course they aren't.

LUCAS

I was cute though. Wasn't I?

Lucas finds the old Luger pistol.  
Lucas doesn't see the loaded magazine is on the other side of the table.

LUCAS

Oh hey.

(to the gun)

I remember you.

DON

Don't touch that.

LUCAS

(checking it)

You're missing the clip - chamber is clear. We're friends, this one and I.

Lucas points the gun at Don then at himself he feigns the results of pulling the trigger.

LUCAS

You still a bad shot?

Lucas throws the gun to Don who awkwardly catches it.

DON

If I'm a bad shot you're to blame.

Don puts the gun down by the magazine.

LUCAS

Looks like she still could fire. If we find the magazine we can load her up, go out to the backyard - I'm sure you have a few bottles lying around.

DON

This isn't the farm.

LUCAS

So you are still a terrible shot.

DON

I was about to go home.

LUCAS

This doesn't have to take long.

DON

What is this then?

LUCAS

Why the hostility?

DON

Maya isn't here. I don't have to play nice with you.

LUCAS

So the other day you were being nice?

DON

We don't have any more money to give if that's what you're after.

LUCAS

I didn't say anything about money. But that is a lie.

DON

We're not as rich as you think we are.

LUCAS

Lie again. You know I thought about going public anyway? I thought I could call some reporters - crash the funeral. I could have held that agreement up in front of all those cameras and said, "They believed me. I was credible enough to get a million dollars. And you should believe me too."

DON

I'm going to call you a car.

LUCAS

I started looking at houses. I could get one close to Marcus.

DON

The car can be here in seven minutes.

LUCAS

But I've not been a good father, Don.

DON

I'm not your bartender, Lucas. What's your address?

LUCAS

You know what it's like to realize you're a terrible father?

DON

You now have the means to make a better relationship with him. What's your address?

LUCAS

You think Marcus remembers that day?

DON

I could get a hotel for you instead.

LUCAS

I was in that motel too high to move and he was crying cause I couldn't respond. And I remember realizing that I was about his age when it all started. And then you and Maya and Lindsey burst in and... I knew I lost it all right there. I was a fuck up of a father, but you know, I never did anything like yours... Still, you were the ones that protected my son from me. You're good at protecting people. I know you never let Isaac be alone with your dad...

DON

The Waldorf has a few rooms open. You want a suite?

LUCAS

I was over here years ago and August and Maya were talking about it - how they rarely saw Isaac. I remember because I was like, "Good. Keep the kid away."

DON

He lives on the east coast with his mom.

LUCAS

I never thought you kept him away to protect him on purpose till yesterday...

DON

You're not making any sense.

LUCAS

You remember my tenth birthday party? We had it right here. When my mom died I found an old tape of it. I couldn't watch it until last night. Your dad does this thing. He did it all the time. I don't know how people didn't see it. Hell my mom was right there filming it. I'm about to blow out my candles and he's standing over me and he rubs my shoulders and whispers something into my ear. It wasn't that he did it. It was the way he did it. I got sick watching it and was about to turn it off when I noticed something. He interacts with Maya in the video. He doesn't touch her like that. Auggie might not have even been born. But you're right there. And he goes to you. He does the same thing he did to me to you.

DON

... So?

LUCAS

So?

DON

There's nothing wrong with that. And he did that to August and Maya all the time too. Just not there on film.

LUCAS

You knew who he was. That's why you kept your son away from him.

DON

You need help, Lucas. August said you might be losing it. I didn't agree. I thought you were really smart to exploit us like you did. But with stories like that... Maybe he was right.

LUCAS

You can't gaslight me.

DON

I'm actually concerned about you.

LUCAS

Did you know about me?

(off Don's silence)

I wasn't sure I'd go to the press when I came in here. Now I am.

DON

Come forward - We have friends in the media.

LUCAS

But you don't have enough friends. That's why you gave me the money.

DON

... Stop. I'm sorry. It was a horrible thing for you to insinuate about me and my father. I over reacted. Please. Sit down. I can wake Maya up. She always defuses things better than I can. She'll be relieved to see you anyway. She was worried sick.

(calling off)

Maya. Maya!

LUCAS

Double it.

DON

... What?

LUCAS

Double it.

DON

You made all this up just to put me on edge. You're good. You want double. You got it.

LUCAS

Triple it.

DON

... What is this?

LUCAS

Two million dollars isn't what it once was. Three seems fair.

DON

What victim negotiates like this?

LUCAS

You wouldn't offer the first or second million if you didn't believe me. Make it three million.

DON

With the loss in revenue with the stations and labels, an extensive legal battle, not to mention ruining our foundation, the first million wasn't an outrageous sum. But three?

LUCAS

You're right. I wasn't thinking of all those factors. Make it six.

DON

Three.

LUCAS

Six.

DON

Four.

LUCAS

Six.

DON

Five. That's my final offer.

Lucas considers this for a long while.

LUCAS

You're the one that needs help, Don.

Lucas turns to leave.

DON

We have a deal? Lucas? Lucas?

LUCAS

Mind games, Don. I'm giving that million back and I wouldn't stay silent for all the money in the world.

DON

Six. Seven. Ten. That's as high as I can go... Lucas? Ten million. Please. Stop. Lucas. Lucas!

Lucas is halfway out the door when.

DON

I thought I was the only one.

Lucas halts.

DON

I thought I was the only one.

Lucas turns around.

DON

Close the door.

Lucas does, but stays at the other end of the room. Don can't quite meet his gaze.

LUCAS

Don? ... Don? ... Talk or I walk.

DON

There's no long list of names... It's just me. Or I thought it was just me. There. You happy?

LUCAS

You're a piece of shit. You know that? You're a fucking piece of shit. I can't believe that I'm actually sorry for you right now.

DON

Don't be.

LUCAS

Why the hell did you pretend all these years?

Don says nothing.

LUCAS

Maya and August don't know. Do they?

DON

He was sick. You know what he went through when grandpa Joe came back from the war.

LUCAS

Do not give him a pass.

DON

I'm not giving him a pass.

LUCAS

Your mom knew?

DON

... It was complicated.

LUCAS

What's complicated? You grab your kids and you leave.

DON

Well she didn't.

LUCAS

She told you not to say anything.

DON

She was just trying to protect us.

LUCAS

Funny way of doing it.



DON

After a while it's like none of it even happened.

LUCAS

Or like it happened to someone else.

DON

I'm sorry.

LUCAS

You're sorry?

DON

Why do you think I gave you the money in the first place?

LUCAS

Come forward with me.

DON

Is that why you're really here?

LUCAS

It's going to be better this way.

DON

For who?

LUCAS

For everyone.

DON

Everyone?

LUCAS

We can get the best journalist to handle this - something on our terms.

DON

They're just after a book deal or a Pulitzer and speaking fees.

LUCAS

You're really that cynical?

DON

No. Just well informed. I told you, I know these people.

LUCAS

This is about the money from the record releases you got planned. Right? All those special edition collections, the T-shirts, the mugs, the movies?

DON

Now who's the one being cynical?

LUCAS

You know some days I think I'm fine... and who knows, maybe I really am. But then one of his songs comes on the radio, or in a movie or commercial and I want to break everything around me. I was at my best friend's wedding and burst into tears during one of those god awful dances cause his stupid fucking song came on. I hear it for a second, just a split second and I'm nine years old again upstairs in that bedroom. But I am ready to do something about it. Are you?

DON

You think talking about it to strangers is going to make it any better?

LUCAS

Yes. I felt better saying it out loud the other day. Don't you feel better now?

DON

I don't feel a thing.

LUCAS

In time you might. It's better to do it when you can control how it happens. Because the truth always comes out eventually.

DON

We know the truth. That's all that matters.

LUCAS

That's not good enough.

DON

Why not?

LUCAS

Cause it's just not. Cause the world thinks he's a hero.

DON

He was. At least in part. And he means something to people - more than we ever will. Don't take that away from them.

LUCAS

You're only protecting yourself.

DON

I'm trying to protect you too.

LUCAS

Protect me?

DON

People are not going to hate him if they find out. They're going to hate you.

LUCAS

Don-

DON

They'll say you're out for money or attention but that's not why they'll hate you. They'll hate you because they feel bad about the posters they had on their walls as kids, their complete record collections, their first kiss cause that's the song that played. All that ruined cause of you.

LUCAS

I can handle that.

DON

You're going to get death threats. Do you hear me? I'm not just talking about a few million people spewing hate about you online - which you will get too. I'm talking about a handful of deranged people who call themselves "fans". And they will find out who you are, what you do, and where you live. You think your ex wife will let you be around Marcus then?

LUCAS

You're just trying to scare me.

DON

No. I'm telling you exactly what will happen. But it should scare you.

LUCAS

Is that why you really never came forward? Because you were scared?

DON

No.

LUCAS

Then why not?

DON

Cause it's nobody's fucking business. It shouldn't even be yours.

LUCAS

What if there are others? Others like me. This isn't just about you.

DON

You want to hear how I threatened him when I saw him make a move on August? Huh?

(grabbing the gun)

I used this stupid old gun, Lucas. August doesn't even remember it he was so young. Is that what you want to hear? Huh? The day dad stopped is the day I stopped him. For you. For me. For August. He never had to deal with this because of me. *Me*. Not you. So don't talk about how now that he's dead you want to save people and be a hero.

LUCAS

This is not about being a hero. This is about doing what's right. They need to know.

DON

They don't care. Maybe they stop listening to him, or maybe they don't. But either way, you will forever be the guy who maybe was, or maybe wasn't, raped by my father. That's all they will ever see. That's all they can see.

LUCAS

I don't care what they see.

DON

But you're not the one who looks just like him. They see me - they see him. You said it yourself. Since I was five years old I was just a little him. And you know what, believe it or not I learned to like it. I did. At least people greet me with a smile.

LUCAS

They're not going to hate you if we come forward.

DON

Worse. They'll pity. I'd rather blow my brains out than be pitied by every single person on the god damned planet for the rest of my fucking life.

(shifting gears)

Or we can have whatever life we want. Take the money. My last offer still stands. It's my money at this point not his. Don't give him another single second of your waking life. You didn't have a choice as a kid. I didn't either. But now we do. Finally. Clean slate. But if this comes out we are never, and I mean never going to get away from the very worst parts of him.

LUCAS

But then we don't get to the very best parts of us - how we can go through this and come out okay. Maya, August, your son - they don't even really know you. Do they?

DON

What happened doesn't define me. It shouldn't define you.

LUCAS

You're right. It doesn't. But maybe standing up for something will.

Lucas goes to leave.

DON

Lucas. Lucas. Please. I'm begging you. What do you want me to do? Huh? Get on my fucking knees? I'll do it. Here.

(getting on his knees)

Here.

LUCAS

Stop it. Get up. Get up.

DON

Don't do this. We can make this right another way.

LUCAS

(turning to leave)

I'm sorry.

DON

Lucas. Lucas! Don't make me do this.

LUCAS

(still walking out)

What are you going to do?

DON

I'll say you're the one that killed him.

LUCAS

What? You really are desperate.

DON

(getting up)

You always came to dad for money. But this time he said no. Didn't he?

LUCAS

That's ridiculous.

DON

It's genius. Cause he's alive when you leave and no one knows because the equipment is broken.

LUCAS

If I have motive to kill him. Then so do you. Did you kill him?

DON

I had the opportunity for years. You only had a few moments and you took your chance. I could call the police and tell them the whole thing right now. Who do you think they'll believe?

LUCAS

Make wild accusations, bury me in litigation, show everyone my criminal record, do whatever you have to, Don. But you know why I stuck through all your bullshit excuses just now? Why I came over here in the first place? - It wasn't to help my case - though it sure as hell would if we came forward together - it was for you. You. All this. Because believe it or not I still see who you were before everything. You weren't this block of ice that you are now.

DON

Spare me.

LUCAS

You've been frozen, Don. You'll thaw.

Lucas goes to exit. Don goes to block him.

DON

What happens if you accidentally start using again. Huh?

LUCAS

Out of my way.

DON

You get stressed from coming forward and who knows? A junkie's always a junkie. Didn't you learn that in your little program?

LUCAS

Watch it. I'm warning you.

DON

You start back up on the dosage you left off on and then... You never know what that'll do.

LUCAS

Fuck off I'm warning you.

DON

(getting in his way)

Marcus isn't even going to be surprised when you're found dead next to a dumpster.

Lucas shoves Don back and tries to leave but Don recovers and grabs Lucas. By reflex Lucas swings to detach himself from Don. But Don gets in a punch to Lucas' stomach and then another. But before Don can land a third, Lucas deflects his blow and sends Don into the boxes.

LUCAS

(approaching Don)

Are you okay?

Don gets up and, seeing the lockbox, grabs it in one motion, swinging it at Lucas's head. The box connects with a thud and Lucas stumbles back dazed.

Don advances again and swings but Lucas dodges, gets in close and connects with a punch. Then another. And another. Lucas knocks the lock-box from Don's hands and sends Don to the floor with one final hit. Lucas jumps on Don, his hands around his neck when Maya and August rush in.

MAYA

Lucas? What the hell is going on?

Lucas looks at them as if coming out of a trance. He gets off of Don who gasps for air.

AUGUST

You piece of shit!

Lucas swivels around to face August.

LUCAS

I don't want to-

August charges but is easily taken down by Lucas, who sends August to the floor.

MAYA

Stop it! Everyone!

Lucas looms over Don and August.

LUCAS

I'm sorry, Don. But guess what, asshole? I recorded this whole fucking thing. Say hello to whatever publisher I want.

Lucas reveals his cell phone has been recording everything. He goes to leave.

MAYA

(getting in his way)

Lucas. I don't know what this is about but we can figure this out.



Don picks himself up and grabs  
the Luger pistol.

LUCAS

Get away from me.

MAYA

Just think for a second.

Don finds the loaded magazine.

LUCAS

Move. I'm not playing, Maya.

MAYA

Lucas. This isn't you.

LUCAS

Move!

Don shoves the clip into the  
pistol and points it at Lucas.

DON

(cocking the gun)

Give me the phone, Lucas.

They all freeze.

MAYA

What are you doing?

AUGUST

Don, there's a few rounds in that.

Don keeps the gun pointed at  
Lucas.

LUCAS

What are you going to do? Shoot me?

AUGUST

Don, that's loaded.

DON

The phone. Now.

LUCAS

I accuse your dad and then you shoot me? How is that going to look?

DON

Give me your phone.

AUGUST

I can call the police.

DON

No. I need his phone. Lucas. Now.

MAYA

What's on the phone?

Don approaches Lucas, the gun still drawn.

DON

Now!

AUGUST

Look, Don. Lucas is a piece of shit but I don't know if // this is the-

DON

Move away from him. Move!

August and Maya slide away from Lucas. Don steps even closer.

DON

(to Lucas)

Phone. Now... The phone, Lucas!

LUCAS

You have no idea what you're doing. Do you?

MAYA

Don. This isn't you.

DON

Slide it over!

LUCAS

You were never a good shot.

DON

Phone!

Isaac enters.

ISAAC

Dad?

Everyone looks to Isaac. Lucas sees his chance and goes for the gun.

MAYA

No!

They struggle and then **BANG** - the gun goes off. Both men freeze. Then Lucas takes a few steps backwards.

LUCAS

You shot me...

DON

... I'm sorry.

LUCAS

You shot me, Don.

Lucas stumbles back against the wall and slides down.

DON

I didn't mean // for it to go off.

MAYA

August. Call nine one one. August!

AUGUST

Right.

MAYA

(rushing to him)

Lucas, you're going to be okay. Do you hear me?

ISAAC

Why did you shoot him, dad?

AUGUST

(to the phone)

Hello. Ummm. Someone's been shot.

DON

He just lunged for it and I... I...

AUGUST

(to the phone)

Hi. We- we -we had an intruder and he's been shot.

LUCAS

(to Maya)

I didn't kill your father.

MAYA

We know, Lucas. We know. No one thinks that.

LUCAS

I'm sorry.

AUGUST

(to the phone)

No he's not a threat. Just get an ambulance! 813 Alpine Drive.

ISAAC

What do we do?

MAYA

I don't know. Try putting pressure on the wound. Don. Help, Don.

DON

Yeah.

Don goes over to Lucas and tries to stop the blood.

DON  
(to Lucas)

I'm sorry.

MAYA  
You didn't do anything wrong, Lucas. Look at me. It's all going to be okay.

LUCAS  
I was telling the truth.

MAYA  
(she takes his hand)  
I know. I know. Lucas. Stay with me.

LUCAS  
I'm sorry. Tell Marcus I'm sorry.

AUGUST  
They're on their way...

MAYA  
(taking his hand)  
Lucas. You didn't do anything wrong. You hear me? It's all going to be okay.

LIGHTS FADE

## SCENE II

The next day. The boxes still are strewn about the room. A blood mark clings to the wall.

Don enters looking exhausted. He scans the floor and looks under the couch.

He moves boxes until he picks up Lucas's bloody cellphone. It turns on.

DON

Password... Marcus.

He types it into the phone. Don plays the recording.

DON (V.O)

(recording from phone)

"I thought I was the only one—"

He stops it. Then hits a button and we hear a trash sound from the phone. Isaac enters.

ISAAC

Dad?

DON

Yeah?

ISAAC

You okay?

DON

How's Lucas? Is he gonna come out of it?

MAYA

They don't know if he'll wake up...

DON

It was an accident.

ISAAC

August said he attacked you cause you didn't pay more.

DON

Yeah. He did.

ISAAC

I'm glad you're okay.

DON

Thanks. Me too.

ISAAC

I'm gonna go pack the things that are still here.

DON

Pack?

ISAAC

My flight's today. That's why Maya and I came back.

DON

God. I am so sorry.

ISAAC

It's fine. They think he'll be under for awhile. Maya said she can take me.

DON

No. I'll take you.

Isaac goes to leave.

DON

I love you.

Isaac turns around.

ISAAC

Yeah. You too.

Maya enters. Everyone exchanges glances.

ISAAC

I'll go finish packing.

Isaac exits. Maya glares at Don.

DON

Lucas is gonna come out of it.

MAYA

I left him at the hospital because I realized during everything we didn't find his phone.

DON

Hmm?

MAYA

I'm not stupid, Don. And I'm too tired to go rounds with this. What was on his phone?

DON

Nothing. He was bluffing. See for yourself.

Don hands it to her.

DON

I just found it.

MAYA

You know the password?

DON

No...

MAYA

What did he record? You were willing to shoot him for it.

DON

I didn't mean... I was upset. He wanted ten million dollars and I said that I wished he overdosed - or something like that.

MAYA

That's bad. It's not threaten to shoot someone over it bad.

DON

He could use it. And twist it. You know how he is.

Maya looks at him for a long moment.

MAYA

Did dad ever do anything to you?

DON

... What? Where did that come from?

MAYA

I always thought - or felt that something was... I never knew. But when Lucas came forward August got mad. I got sad. You got quiet.



DON

Jesus, Maya. We all need to be checked in somewhere after this. Lucas made us all crazy.

August enters.

AUGUST

Guys. It's Lucas... He umm...  
(shakes his head)

DON

Maya. I'm so sorry.

MAYA

Don't you say another word.

Maya exits. Don relaxes for the first time in days. August exits for a moment only to reappear with the framed record.

AUGUST

It's fixed. You wanna put it up?

DON

You do it.

AUGUST

It's always crooked when I do it.

August hands it to Don who takes it and hangs it on the wall. The two look at it for a moment.

AUGUST

That's better... Did you hear? The cops think Lucas killed dad.

DON

You didn't tell them about the allegations right?

AUGUST

Just that he was so mad dad didn't give him money that he broke in to threaten us. I mean, the man was nuts. It's not case closed but... someone leaked it to the news. It's everywhere.

DON

Someone?

AUGUST

I feel bad for Lindsey and Marcus. You know we really should try to take care of them. I mean just a little something.

DON

Yeah.

AUGUST

You okay?

DON

I just killed our cousin, Auggie.

AUGUST

You were protecting us.

DON

I was. I was.

Don looks to the record and exits. August inspects the room and where Lucas' body lay.

AUGUST

(to himself)

Dammit, Lucas...

After a moment August sees the locked box on the ground. He picks it up. He tries to open it but can't. August looks around and finds the key where he left it. He puts the key in the lock. It opens. **August freezes.** He looks to where Don just left and then back at the contents of the box.

Maya enters looking like she's been crying.

MAYA

Auggie?

AUGUST  
(closing it)

What?

MAYA  
Have you seen Isaac? We should tell him.

AUGUST  
I think he's upstairs.

MAYA  
What's that?

AUGUST  
Hmmm?... Just more crap of dads.

Isaac enters holding his bags  
looking for any remaining items  
to pack.

MAYA  
Isaac umm-

ISAAC  
Dad just told me. I'm sorry, Auntie.

MAYA  
It's Maya.

ISAAC  
Dad's gonna take me to the airport now.

MAYA  
Right.

Isaac goes to hug her.

ISAAC  
(going for a hug)  
Good seeing you, Auggie.

August stiffens as he clenches  
the box in one hand.

AUGUST  
Have a good flight.

ISAAC

And good luck with the movie.

AUGUST

Thanks.

August slinks away with the box.

MAYA

Isaac. You have a moment?

ISAAC

Dad's gonna come down any second.

MAYA

I called your mom yesterday. She knew Lucas too and umm... I told her about what he said... ..

ISAAC

Yeah?

MAYA

(carefully)

I was going to ask you last night but then everything happened and... Ummm...

ISAAC

What // is it?

MAYA

(over)

Your mom said that she dropped you off here. At grandpas. A few times. Before the divorce. Your dad told her not to bring you around because he was fighting with Grandpa. Or at least that's what he told her... I wanted to ask you-

ISAAC

No.

MAYA

I never knew. Your dad doesn't know. But if something ever happened-

ISAAC

Nothing happened... It's fine. You've been through a lot recently.

MAYA

... You were the one that found Grandpa dead. And I guess, I wanted to say - I know you didn't cause his heart to fail. But if there was an *accident* with the machines... that it's okay.

ISAAC

Nothing happened, auntie.

MAYA

It's *Maya*, Isaac.

She looks at him hard. Her phone buzzes. She silences it.

MAYA

If you ever need to talk about anything.

Her phone buzzes again.

ISAAC

It's fine. Take it.

She waits a moment then does.

MAYA

(to the phone)

... This is Maya Frost with the Charlie Frost Foundation...

She lowers the phone and looks back at him.

ISAAC

*Maya*. It's fine. I promise.

She looks at him once more for a long moment.

MAYA

(to the phone)

No. No. I'm still here. I'm still here.

*Maya* exits. Isaac breathes out for a moment alone. Don enters.

DON

Let's go... You okay?

Isaac looks back to where Maya just left, then to the record, and back to his father. He looks like he might say something for a moment, but then-

ISAAC

Yeah. I'm okay.

DON

Okay.

The two exit together, leaving the framed platinum record displayed on the wall.

THE END