

KATHERINE

I think she's a pretty great kid!

ELLIE

I could do better.

DR. EHRIN

Let me cut to the chase: Ellie skips class when she's bored.

SEÑOR O'BRIEN

Eleven days!

(ELLIE glares at KATHERINE. KATHERINE looks at the ground, ashamed. She twists her hair. ELLIE smacks her hand away.)

ELLIE

I am really disappointed. Disappointed in myself. And angry. At myself!

(lifts up her shirt to reveal the belly button ring)

I am especially angry at this decision!

(to TEACHERS)

You see this?!?

KATHERINE

Well, at least you're not a smoker. Like me!

(to TEACHERS)

I smoke!

(A beat.)

MRS. LUCKENBILL

If I may say a word about Ellie's file, and the tests—

KATHERINE

Those tests are dumb.

DR. EHRIN

Mrs. Blake!

MRS. LUCKENBILL

I agree.

DR. EHRIN

Diane—

MRS. LUCKENBILL

Enough with the tests, Kevin!

(to KATHERINE and ELLIE)

Ellie's bright. She's articulate. She has a wonderful mind. She's special.

ELLIE

She is?

I am?

We are?

KATHERINE

I am?

She is?

We are?

MRS. LUCKENBILL

She is.

(beat)

But Ellie grew more challenged about five years ago.

ELLIE

The year my husband— my dad passed away.

KATHERINE

Just say died. He died.

(KATHERINE twirls her hair around her index finger.)

ELLIE

Oh, honey — Mother...*(The TEACHERS look confused.)*I wanted to give you your space. I didn't want to be one of those helicopter parents —
um... helicopter children.

KATHERINE

I don't want to talk about it.

(The TEACHERS look more confused.)

ELLIE

I thought after he died, letting you process your own way was the right thing.
Maybe I was wrong...

KATHERINE

I really don't want to talk about it.

ELLIE

(empathetic)

You don't have to. Let's wrap this up.

(to TEACHERS)

I appreciate all the feedback. From now on, I'm going to be really good.

(ELLIE exits into the hallway.)

KATHERINE

(to SEÑOR O'BRIEN)

I'm sorry to hear that your class is boring. Buena suerte.