

The Right Decision

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INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

EMILY, 16, attractive and slim, has a fatigued look on her face as she comes into the house. She enters the living room where mother JANIE, 39, petite and sweet-looking, is hanging up the phone.

JANIE

You're home kind of late. Long day, huh?

EMILY

Yeah. Long day...

She tries to walk past Janie to go upstairs, but Janie stops her. She stares at her daughter.

JANIE

Emily, sweetie, are you okay?

Emily forces a smile. It takes some effort.

EMILY

I'm all right mom. Just tired from school, that's all.

Janie smiles sympathetically.

JANIE

Guess what? I just got off the phone with your grandma and she's coming all the way from New York just to come to your party.

EMILY

Great.

JANIE

This is gonna be really fun, Emily. God knows, you've earned it after all your hard work.

Janie lovingly touches Emily's pale face.

JANIE

Are you sure you're okay?

(touches her forehead)

Maybe you're coming down with something.

Emily is about to say something when father AARON, 41, tall and handsome, comes down from upstairs and interrupts.

AARON

What's going on? Something wrong with my high-scoring SAT champ?

JANIE

She's a little pale. I think she's running a fever.

EMILY

I'll be okay, really...

Emily heads for the stairs, passing Aaron who gives her a quick kiss.

AARON

So, what kind of cake does my princess want for her party?

EMILY

Whatever will be fine, dad. I'm kind of tired, I think I'll go to my room now.

Emily rushes up the stairs towards her room. Her parents watch her go with concern.

CUT

TO:

INT. EMILY'S ROOM - DAY

Emily closes the door. Immediately bursts into tears and walks to the bed to sit down. She is nervous, shaking her leg uncontrollably. The radio is on and starts playing "I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU." This only saddens her all the more.

She picks up a framed picture and we see:

Close-up - the Photo

Janie at her middle-school graduation, surrounded by her adoring parents. All of them have smiles on their faces and Emily is surrounded with balloons, bears, and presents.

There's also a banner that says "CONGRATS SWEETHEART YOU NEVER DISAPPOINT US!"

Back to EMILY

She looks up and more tears roll down her cheeks. The calendar on her wall catches her eye.

CLOSE UP - The calendar

A date is circled and there's a message scrawled on it:
"BIG PARTY FOR OUR PRINCESS!"

Emily turns away in shame. She reaches down at her stomach, touches and caresses it. She closes her eyes as the words come back to haunt her:

NURSE (V.O.)
I'm sorry, dear, but the test came back positive. I'm afraid you're pregnant.

She opens her eyes and gazes sadly at a photo on her bulletin board.

CLOSE-up - the photo

Emily at the park, a tall and handsome 17 year old boy, we will come to know as DAVID, has his arms around the waist of Emily.

CUT TO:

EXT. DAVID'S PORCH - DAY

Emily takes a deep breath and knocks on the door. The door opens to reveal David, the boy from the photo.

DAVID
Hey Emily...

He leans over to kiss her, but she turns her head.

EMILY
Are your parents home?

DAVID
No, they're at the hospital visiting my aunt. They won't be back till late.

Emily steps forward, hugs him, and breaks into tears. David hugs her back, staring into space, confused.

CUT

TO:

INT. DAVID'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

David is holding Emily's hand as he leads her to the couch. He sits down next to her.

DAVID

Do your parents know you're here?

EMILY

No, I sneaked out of the house.

David looks worried.

DAVID

What is it, Emily? What's wrong?

She looks at him and struggles to talk.

EMILY

I'm... pregnant.

Complete silence. David immediately stands up and paces around the room with his hand over his mouth.

DAVID

Please tell me you're lying to me.

EMILY

David, do you think I would lie about something like this?

DAVID

Then tell me I'm dreaming.

EMILY

I wish this was all a dream but it's for real. I've been to the doctor and everything.

David turns to Emily and gives her a nasty look.

DAVID

This baby can't be mine.

Emily looks like she's been slapped in the face.

DAVID

I mean, how do we know that for sure?

EMILY

(raging mad)

It is your baby! Our baby! You're my only boyfriend!

DAVID

All right, all right...

He turns away from her. She rushes to face him.

EMILY

How can you be this way? I thought you would be there for me. That you'd support me and help me confess to my parents about the baby.

DAVID

You gotta be kidding me. If my parents found out they'd kill me.

EMILY

I can't do it alone. I just can't.

DAVID

There's only one way we won't get in trouble over this. The only thing to do is get rid of the baby.

Emily looks devastated as his meaning sinks in.

EMILY

An abortion? No, I can't do that.

DAVID

Well, then you'll just have to tell your parents, no matter how much it hurts them. Is that what you want?

Emily shakes her head 'no.'

DAVID

Then you have no choice, it's the only way.

David puts an arm around her shoulder, as if to reassure her.

DAVID

Hey, I'll come with you to the clinic. No one will ever have to know. It'll be our secret, okay?

Emily just stares numbly at David and nods.

CUT TO:

EXT. STREET - SUNSET

Emily slowly walks home, confused and worried, feeling more miserable than before. David's words echo in her mind:

DAVID (V.O.)
 You'll just have to tell your
 parents, no matter how much it
 hurts them. Is that what you want?

Emily sudders. Clearly, this is not what she wants.

DAVID (V.O.)
 The only thing to do is get rid of
 the baby.

Emily closes her eyes as if to block out the thought.

DAVID (V.O.)
 You have no choice, it's the only
 way...

Emily touches her stomach, which only adds to her
 suffering. Just then, she hears a BABY CRYING. She looks
 up to see --

A MOTHER wheeling a baby carriage down the sidewalk. The
 mother stops and takes her crying baby out of the carriage.
 She cradles the baby in her arms, staring at her child with
 so much love. Emily can't help but smile.

But then her smile disappears as she hears:

DAVID (V.O.)
 ... The only way.

CUT TO:

INT. EMILY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

The front door slowly opens and Emily sneaks back into the
 house. She tiptoes past the living room where she sees --

Aaron unpacking a box of party decorations while Janie
 hangs balloons and streamers around the room.

Emily turns away guiltily and heads up the stairs.

INT. EMILY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Emily enters her room and shuts the door. She lies down on
 her bed, uncertain and afraid and very, very alone. Seeing
 her favorite teddy bear, she clutches and cradles it to her
 stomach. Just then, there's a KNOCK on her door --

JANIE
 Emily, can I come in?

Emily looks up. Before she can respond, Janie enters.

JANIE

We just saw you come in. You went right upstairs without saying anything.

EMILY

I know, I...I didn't want to bother you and dad.

JANIE

No bother. After all, we're choosing decorations for your party.

Emily tries to wipe away the tears from her eyes. Janie approaches and sits beside her on the bed.

JANIE

Emily, honey. There's nothing to cry about. Whatever's bothering you, we can work out together.

Emily looks up at Janie. If only she could believe her...

JANIE

Don't you understand? There is nothing you could do, nothing in the world, that could ever make me stop loving my baby. Nothing.

She cups Emily's face in her hands and looks her in the eye.

JANIE

You're my angel.

Janie gets up and goes to the door. Just as she's about to leave --

EMILY

Mom!

(Janie stops)

I need to tell you something.

Emily rises and approaches her mother.

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

Emily and Janie face each other. Janie then closes the door. We remain outside the room in the hallway. No

screaming. No yelling. None of the things Emily feared.
Just the sound of soft weeping from inside.

Finally, the door opens. Inside the room, Janie is holding
Emily tightly in her arms, rocking her sobbing daughter to
and fro.

Janie pulls away and wipes her daughter's tears. She gives
her a supportive smile, Emily smiles back with relief.
And love.

Janie exits the room into the hallway and heads downstairs.

CUT

TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Janie joins Aaron, who is opening a new box of
decorations. Sadly, with little enthusiasm, she joins her
husband with the party preparations.

AARON

How's Emmy doing?

JANIE

Never better.

AARON

That's our girl.

Aaron beams proudly. Janie forces a smile.

THE END
