

1 INT. KITCHEN - EVENING

1

EDEN washes dishes with MOM

MOM

Thanks for offering to help, honey.

EDEN

Yeah, it feels good to help.

MOM

(happily)

Hm.

They wash dishes quietly.

EDEN

Hey Mom?

MOM

Yeah?

EDEN

Why don't I read to Eli anymore? I used to do it every night.

MOM

Ah. Yes, you used to. One day when he asked you, you had had a really rough day that day, so you went to bed without it. Which wasn't a big deal, but it started to happen more often. You were coming home exhausted more and more. You laughed less, your eyes seemed dimmer. It was really sad.

EDEN

Yeah, I remember feeling really down.

MOM

One night, when Eli asked, you got really mad at him. Normally you were just sad, but this was different. You snapped at him.

EDEN

What? I don't remember that.

MOM

That's okay. You were having a hard time.

EDEN

Then what happened?

MOM

Eli stopped asking you after that. Any time he talked to you at all you were irritated. You were irritated with all of us, actually. It was really hard. That's why we went and got help.

EDEN

Why don't I remember any of it?

MOM

Our minds, they're very good at protecting us. You were in a lot of pain, sweetie. When we're hurting like that, sometimes our brains, they make us forget.

EDEN

I didn't want to forget. I didn't want to hurt Eli.

MOM

I know, honey. And you didn't.

EDEN

Yeah, I did, he doesn't want me to read to him.

MOM

Do you remember what Dr. Sall said last week?

Eden shakes her head, "no".

MOM

(cont.)

Your sickness, it isn't you, sweetheart. You carry it with you, and sometimes it will make you do things you don't really want to. But that isn't you. My Eden is strong, and funny, and caring. My Eden loves her family and her friends, and she's fiercely protective of them. My Eden is witty, and quick on her feet. She is the best daughter a mom could ever ask for. And I love her, even when she isn't herself.

EDEN
(crying)
I haven't felt like myself, momma.

Mom hugs Eden.

MOM
That's alright. We'll figure it out, won't we?

EDEN
(sniffles)
Yeah. What can I say to Eli to make it better?

MOM
You start by saying you're sorry. You make amends. You don't make excuses, and you promise to do better.

EDEN
But you just said it isn't my fault.

MOM
It isn't your fault. Not one bit. But the pain your brother feels is still very real. Sometimes, even though something isn't our fault, it's still our job to help fix it.

EDEN
That's not fair.

MOM
Oh, it isn't. Like if you see someone go to throw something away, and they miss, but they don't pick it up, it isn't your fault they did that. Those were the separate actions of someone else. But if you want to live in a cleaner world...

EDEN
I should pick it up.

MOM
Exactly.

EDEN
Even though I didn't make the mess.

MOM

Nope.

EDEN

So, I tell Eli I'm sorry.

MOM

Yes.

EDEN

I am sorry, even if how I acted wasn't me.

MOM

Yeah.

EDEN

Then what?

MOM

You offer to read to him.

EDEN

What if he says no?

MOM

Then you respect his choice.

EDEN

But I said I'm sorry. And I've been getting better. I'm still having some struggles, but I can feel it getting better.

MOM

You have. So, if he says no tonight, you can offer again tomorrow.

EDEN

Okay.

2 INT. ELI'S ROOM - EVENING

2

Eden knocks. Eli lays in bed, reading Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire

ELI

Yeah?

Eden opens the door.

EDEN

Hey, bud. Can I sit by you?

ELI

I guess.

EDEN

What part are you on?

ELI

Ron's missing. They took him for the 2nd task. Harry's worried.

EDEN

Are you worried?

ELI

A little bit.

EDEN

Do you want me to read with you?

ELI

I thought we didn't do that anymore.

EDEN

I know. I'm sorry about that.

ELI

You used to get really mad at me.

EDEN

Yeah, I'm sorry I haven't been there for you like I should have. I'm trying to be better now.

ELI

Okay.

EDEN

Do you want me to read to you?

ELI

I don't know.

EDEN

That's okay... Can I sit with you while you read?

ELI

I guess.

EDEN

Here, I'll go get my book so we can read together.

ELI

Okay.

Eden leaves. She comes back.

Eden sits on the bed and flips through the pages of her copy of Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire.

EDEN

So what page are we on?

3 INT. MINDSPACE - EVENING

3

INNER EDEN smiles.

She looks to where ARDENIA should be tied up. She is missing and the chair is empty.

INNER EDEN

Oh shit.

FADE TO BLACK.