

BETWEEN HERE AND THERE

by Brent Holland

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SYNOPSIS: A teen's life hangs in the balance after a car crash. Will a mysterious vote grant her a second chance? A thought-provoking drama about choices and redemption.

DURATION: 35 minutes.

TIME: Now.

PLACE: Between Here and There.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(6 females, 1 male, 5 either)

KAITLYN (f).....	A high school girl who is facing the vote for renewal. <i>(97 lines)</i>
STAND-IN (f).....	A similar female, dressed in gray that stands in for Kaitlyn. <i>(189 lines)</i>
IMPATIENCE (m/f)	Plays the role of Kaitlyn's younger sibling. <i>(42 lines)</i>
SPITE (f).....	Plays the role of Kaitlyn's romantic adversary, Audrey. <i>(14 lines)</i>
DISHONESTY (m/f)	Plays the roles of one of Kaitlyn's teachers. <i>(17 lines)</i>
RESPONSIBILITY (f).....	Plays the role of Kaitlyn's mom. <i>(24 lines)</i>
CREATIVITY (m/f)	Plays the role of Bella, Kaitlyn's partner for a special project. <i>(10 lines)</i>
HUMILITY (m/f).....	Plays the role of Kaitlyn's friend, Ash. <i>(5 lines)</i>
MANIPULATIVE (f)	Plays the role of Kaitlyn's friend, Elise. <i>(20 lines)</i>
COMPASSION (m)	Plays the role of Kaitlyn's father. <i>(31 lines)</i>
INTEGRITY (f)	Plays the role of Kaitlyn's grandmother. <i>(23 lines)</i>

RECKLESSNESS (m/f).....The final vote, and plays the role of one of Kaitlyn's teachers. *(11 lines)*

SET: The set can be as simple or as ornate as you choose. The original production used a very ethereal set.

COSTUMES: In the original production, each of the characters, minus Kaitlyn, wore a black or white robe until they spoke their first line. Under the concealing robe, each character wore the contemporary outfit their assumed character would wear. Kaitlyn and the Stand-In should be dressed identically.

PROPS: In the original production, props were pantomimed, but hand props such as phones, artwork, etc could enhance a performance if that's the directors vision.

AUTHOR'S NOTE: Thanks for choosing my show! I am always available for questions or to talk with your kids if desired.

PREMIERE PRODUCTION

BETWEEN HERE AND THERE premiered at Laney High School in Wilmington, NC at the North Carolina Theatre Conference and the Ashley High School Play festival in November of 2024 with the following cast and crew:

KAITLYN	Maddy Liva
STAND-IN.....	Taylor Boughton
IMPATIENCE.....	Sara Duffield
SPITE	Bee Upchurch
DISHONESTY	Tenaya Toon
RESPONSIBILITY	Miriam Van Slyke
CREATIVITY	Nathan Daniel
HUMILITY	Micah Gesualdi
MANIPULATIVE.....	Lilly Stanley
COMPASSION	Wyatt LaBrake
INTEGRITY	Edie Zeldin
RECKLESSNESS	Kevin Williams

Stage Manager: Madz Bluford

DEDICATION

Hey Rhett, if you'd learn to occasionally pass instead of always running Bo Jackson you may actually Beat me one day in Super Tecmo Bowl. Just saying.

AT START: *As the lights come up we see various figures positioned around the stage at various levels. KAITLYN is alone in middle of the stage, dressed normally which should contrast the dress of the other characters on stage.*

KAITLYN: Where am I?

At this, the STAND-IN, a character dressed in all gray, moves towards a young girl.

IMPATIENCE: *(The young girl.)* But you said you'd play with me when you got off the phone with Micah!

STAND-IN: *(Dismissively.)* I can't right now, I have to call Hailey.

IMPATIENCE: But you told me we could play Animal Crossing more than an hour ago!

STAND-IN: I don't have time right now!

KAITLYN: Emma! What are you doing here? What's going on?

IMPATIENCE: But I got the game for my birthday so that we could play it together!

STAND-IN: That's not my fault! I didn't tell you to do that!

KAITLYN: What's going on here?

IMPATIENCE: But you've been on the phone all day!

STAND-IN: I have things I have to do, Emma!

IMPATIENCE: Will you have time to play when you get off the phone with Hailey?

STAND-IN: I don't know.

IMPATIENCE: Just thirty minutes! Just play for thirty minutes!

STAND-IN: I don't have time right now!

KAITLYN: Emma! Look at me! What's going on?

IMPATIENCE ignores her, as does the STAND-IN.

IMPATIENCE: *(Sadly.)* You never have time.

STAND-IN: There's just a lot going on right now.

IMPATIENCE: Can it wait fifteen minutes? Just let me show you what I'm building for us!

STAND-IN: (*Looking at her phone.*) Not right now. (*Indicating her phone.*) That's Hailey. I have to take this.

STAND-IN takes several steps away and freezes. This allows KAITLYN to confront IMPATIENCE.

KAITLYN: Emma! Look at me! What's going on here?

IMPATIENCE: I'm not your sister.

KAITLYN: What? Of course you are! What's happening to us?

IMPATIENCE: I am just a shadow of your interactions with your little sister. I am not Emma Tyler.

KAITLYN: What?

IMPATIENCE: I have seen enough and I cast my vote not to renew this candidate.

A low chime sounds.

KAITLYN: What are you talking about Emma?

IMPATIENCE moves to the far left of the stage and ignores KAITLYN. Another character, SPITE, approaches the STAND-IN. She is the same age as KAITLYN.

SPITE: (*Exasperated.*) I didn't know! I swear!

STAND-IN: I've been crushing on him all year.

SPITE: You never told me!

STAND-IN: It was obvious!

KAITLYN: Audrey!

SPITE: It's not like I asked HIM out... he's been texting me for weeks!

STAND-IN: That's only because you hang all over him in class!

SPITE: I do not!

STAND-IN: It's gross. All of our friends think you're pathetic.

SPITE: What?

STAND-IN: They talk about you all the time!

SPITE: They do?

KAITLYN: Is this a dream? I remember this... this happened last week.

STAND-IN: I'd show you the texts, but I don't want to be mean.

SPITE: Why would they do that?

STAND-IN: I don't know. I just know that if I had to act that trashy to get a guy to pay attention to me, I'd be ashamed.

SPITE: I didn't mean to upset you.

STAND-IN: It's fine. He made his choice. If he chose you over me, considering how you've acted, I don't want him anyways.

SPITE: (*Now facing KAITLYN.*) You never told Audrey that you were interested in Nate.

KAITLYN: What?

SPITE: But you went out of your way to talk down about her to all of your friends.

KAITLYN: I'm sorry Audrey.

SPITE: I'm not her, I'm only here to pass judgement on your treatment of a person who had always been a loyal friend. I cast my vote not to renew this candidate.

A chime sounds and SPITE moves to the far left, near where IMPATIENCE stands.

KAITLYN: I don't understand.

STAND-IN: You're being judged Kaitlyn.

KAITLYN: I'm being judged? Why?

STAND-IN: Because the time for judgement has come.

KAITLYN: What does that mean?

DISHONESTY: (*Approaching from the ensemble.*) Did you finish the calculus homework?

STAND-IN: Oh no! I totally spaced! Did you?

DISHONESTY: I was up half the night doing it.

STAND-IN: Can I borrow yours?

DISHONESTY: You know what happened to Lance and Tommy last week when they got caught!

STAND-IN: Mrs. Anderson will never know!

DISHONESTY: I don't know...

STAND-IN: I'll totally owe you one! (*A beat.*) Please?

DISHONESTY: Fine. Just make sure you change some things up so that it won't look like you copied mine. I'm not sure I got all of them right.

STAND-IN: You're the best, Skylar! I'll make it look right... trust me!

KAITLYN: Why am I being judged? What's happening?

Another ensemble member moves forward and approaches the STAND-IN.

RECKLESSNESS: Do you know why I wanted to meet with you Kaitlyn?

STAND-IN: No sir.

KAITLYN: Why are you showing me this?!

RECKLESSNESS: I'm going to be straight with you, Kaitlyn. I believe that you and Skylar worked on this together when the instructions specifically said that you were to work on your own.

STAND-IN: What do you mean? Do you think we cheated?

RECKLESSNESS: The evidence would suggest it.

STAND-IN: What evidence?

RECKLESSNESS: Did you work on this with Skylar?

STAND-IN: No! Of course not.

RECKLESSNESS: Yet you missed the same five problems with the exact same wrong answers.

STAND-IN: That could happen.

RECKLESSNESS: Look, Kaitlyn... I don't want to make a big deal of this, but I need to know the truth. Did you copy Skylar's work, or allow her to copy yours?

STAND-IN: No ma'am. I would never do that.

RECKLESSNESS: I'm disappointed in you, Kaitlyn.

STAND-IN: You are?

RECKLESSNESS: I've already spoken with Skylar and she admitted to allowing you to copy her work. I was hoping you would tell me the truth and I could deal with this myself, but I think it would better if the school's administration handled this.

RECKLESSNESS walks back to their original spot as DISHONESTY resumes the scene.

KAITLYN: Is this just a nightmare where I have to sit through every bad thing that's happened to me recently?

DISHONESTY: (*Angry.*) What did you tell her?!

STAND-IN: What?

DISHONESTY: Mrs. Anderson wrote us up!

STAND-IN: She did?

DISHONESTY: What did you tell her?

STAND-IN: What did YOU tell her?

DISHONESTY: I told her that I let you copy my work.

STAND-IN: Why did you do that?

DISHONESTY: Because it was obvious you had!

STAND-IN: You could have lied?

DISHONESTY: That would have only made it worse. It DID make it worse!

STAND-IN: Don't try to blame this on me! You should have denied! There's no way she could have proven it.

STAND-IN pauses as DISHONESTY faces KAITLYN.

DISHONESTY: As you've gotten older, honesty doesn't come naturally to you, Kaitlyn.

KAITLYN: But... I didn't mean...

DISHONESTY: The world has become a place where it's almost impossible to count on people for the truth. We need fewer Kaitlyn Tyler's in the world. I cast my vote not to renew this candidate.

A chime sounds and DISHONESTY joins the group to the left. KAITLYN approaches the STAND-IN.

KAITLYN: What are they voting on? What does she mean when she says she votes not to renew the candidate? Is that me?

STAND-IN: It is. You are being judged.

KAITLYN: You already told me that. Why am I being judged?

STAND-IN: Because your time has come.

KAITLYN: What does that mean? Where am I?

STAND-IN: You are in between here and there.

KAITLYN: How did I get here?

RESPONSIBILITY emerges from the ensemble.

RESPONSIBILITY: I'm going to need you again this afternoon.

STAND-IN: But Mom, I have plans!

KAITLYN: Why am I having to watch my life from the outside?

RESPONSIBILITY: I was going to take your grandmother in myself, but I got called in to work. I tried your Aunt Bethany, but she's working a double.

STAND-IN: Does it have to be done today?

RESPONSIBILITY: I called the hospital and the only time they have this week is this afternoon. If we could reschedule, I would. I'm sorry, Katie.

STAND-IN: Her appointments are just so close together now. This is the second time this week I've had to take her.

KAITLYN: Everything you are showing me makes me seem like a bad person!

RESPONSIBILITY: She can't help the fact that her kidneys are shutting down.

STAND-IN: *(After a beat.)* I know Mom. It's just that I was supposed to go shopping with Elise... and she's only in town until tomorrow.

RESPONSIBILITY: I'm sorry, Katie. I'll make it up to you, I promise.

STAND-IN: Did you try Uncle Eric?

RESPONSIBILITY: You know Grandma won't go with Uncle Eric.

STAND-IN: It's just not fair...

RESPONSIBILITY: I feel bad for asking you. I can tell work that I can't make it tonight. It will be ok.

STAND-IN: No... I know you need the overtime. Since Dad's been unable to work.

RESPONSIBILITY: Yeah...

STAND-IN: What time does Grandma need to be there?

RESPONSIBILITY: This candidate values familial responsibility. Her mother gave her a way out, but Kaitlyn understood the situation and responded with a sense of responsibility. I vote to renew this candidate.

RESPONSIBILITY moves to the right and gives KAITLYN an approving look as she goes.

KAITLYN: That's good right?

STAND-IN: It's a vote in your favor. But that's only the first, as opposed to three against you.

KAITLYN: Why am I here? I know I'm being judged and I know that my time has come, but why now? What happens if too many votes are cast against me?

STAND-IN: If the majority of your interactions result in a vote against you, you will not be renewed.

KAITLYN: What does that mean?

STAND-IN: You will be judged based off of the most recent interactions with those you chose to surround yourself with. There are other factors as well, but in most cases your most recent behavior is the deciding factor, as it is a portrait of who you are, in this very moment.

KAITLYN: But what if I had a bad day, or a bad week? How is this fair?

STAND-IN: Good people are good to their core, even when things work against them. If you are worthy of renewal, then you will succeed in the vote. It has always been this way.

CREATIVITY: (*Approaching the STAND-IN.*) Did you see it?

STAND-IN: Did we win?

CREATIVITY: We did!

STAND-IN: No way!

CREATIVITY: Mrs. Marks just got the email from the county!

STAND-IN: Wow. That's... I can't believe it...

CREATIVITY: We're going to be competing at states!

STAND-IN: I have to call my mom. (*She dials but no answer.*) She must be working. (*She sends a text.*) I really can't believe it. I was just hoping to place somewhere in the top three!

CREATIVITY: It's all you, Kaitlyn. I know we're a team, but I'm just the art person. The whole idea and execution was you. It was such a good idea.

STAND-IN: No way, we're a team. And we're going to states! I couldn't have done this without you.

CREATIVITY: (*Jokingly.*) Whatever. You literally came up with the whole thing. But I'll take it! I'm so excited for us! (*She takes a few steps away and freezes as HUMILITY approaches.*)

HUMILITY: Congratulations! I just heard!

STAND-IN: Thanks Ash.

HUMILITY: I heard it from Bella, she's so excited her artwork is going to be competing at the top level.

STAND-IN: She's so talented. I can't imagine having done this without her.

HUMILITY: That's not what she said. She was telling everyone that it was your idea that got it there and she even said you came up with what to draw and everything.

STAND-IN: Well, she's crazy. It was a total team thing from start to finish. If I had any other partner it wouldn't have won. You could have given me a month and I couldn't have drawn it up like she did.

HUMILITY: You don't have to tell me. I'm in her Art 3 class. She kills it.

STAND-IN: So you know how it is then. Without Bella, the whole project would have flopped.

HUMILITY: *(Breaking the scene.)* The Candidate has shown humility in the face of high praise, and I feel that it was both genuine and persistent. I vote to renew this candidate.

CREATIVITY: I too have seen enough. In a world of linear thinkers, Kaitlyn has shown creativity... not only in the execution of this project, but in many other aspects of her life as well. I vote to renew this Candidate.

Two chimes sound and both CREATIVITY and HUMILITY move to the right.

STAND-IN: *(To KAITLYN.)* The score is three to three.

KAITLYN: *(Distracted.)* What?

STAND-IN: That was two votes for renewal.

KAITLYN: Well, that's good.

STAND-IN: You are distracted.

KAITLYN: I'm trying to remember what I was doing before I got here.

STAND-IN: Is that important?

KAITLYN: It's just weird that I can't remember.

IMPATIENCE approaches from the right.

IMPATIENCE: Can I go with you when you take Grandma to the hospital?

KAITLYN: What?

IMPATIENCE: I want to go with you!

KAITLYN: Emma?

MANIPULATIVE: (*Approaching STAND-IN.*) Are you sure you can't go with me? I'm going back tomorrow morning!

STAND-IN: I told my mom I would take my grandmother to Dialysis.

MANIPULATIVE: There's no one else that can do it?

STAND-IN: No. Mom has to work and Dad can't either.

MANIPULATIVE: That sucks. Did I tell you that Audrey called me?

STAND-IN: She did?

MANIPULATIVE: What's going on there? She was upset.

STAND-IN: She's going out with Nate.

MANIPULATIVE: Oh.

STAND-IN: And she knew that I've been crushing on him all year.

MANIPULATIVE: She told me she had no idea.

STAND-IN: She's lying to make herself look better. You know, I don't get it. She used to say how annoying Nate is. She used to trash talk him in Chemistry.

MANIPULATIVE: She did?

STAND-IN: All the time. And I think she's the one who told Emily that he cheated on her.

MANIPULATIVE: That was Audrey?

STAND-IN: Yeah.

MANIPULATIVE: Does Nate know any of this?

STAND-IN: I doubt it.

MANIPULATIVE: You haven't told him?

STAND-IN: I didn't think it was important, but then I found out today that they started dating.

KAITLYN: Ok, I get it... I'm a horrible person! Can we just move on?

MANIPULATIVE: That's not right. Nate didn't cheat on Emily. We all knew that.

STAND-IN: Emily didn't know it.

MANIPULATIVE: And she broke it off. I don't even think they're friends any more.

STAND-IN: She won't even talk to him.

MANIPULATIVE: And that was Audrey.

STAND-IN: Yeah. She's evil.

MANIPULATIVE: (*To KAITLYN.*) You were the one who told Emily that Nate was cheating on her.

KAITLYN: Go ahead and cast your vote.

MANIPULATIVE: Kaitlyn Tyler is manipulative and cruel. I vote to NOT renew this candidate.

KAITLYN: I'm not proud of it, you know.

MANIPULATIVE moves to the left.

STAND-IN: But you never admitted that it was you behind it.

KAITLYN: Yeah. I know.

IMPATIENCE approaches again.

IMPATIENCE: Can I go with you?

KAITLYN: Are you talking to me? Emma?

STAND-IN: *(Answering.)* Why?

IMPATIENCE: Because I want to see Grandma... and we can talk about Animal Crossing! *(To KAITLYN, not the STAND-IN.)* Can I go with you?

KAITLYN: *(Thinking.)* I was in the car on the way home from dropping off Grandma...

RESPONSIBILITY: *(From her spot on the right.)* Don't text when you drive, honey.

STAND-IN: *(Sharp.)* I won't Mom!

COMPASSION: *(Leaves his original position and joins the STAND-IN.)* You really shouldn't talk to your mom like that, Katie.

STAND-IN: Sorry Dad.

KAITLYN: This isn't fair!

STAND-IN: What do you mean?

KAITLYN: My dad shouldn't count. What we've been through in the past six months... no one should be judged for that.

STAND-IN: Life isn't fair.

KAITLYN: I could write a book on that when it comes to my dad.

RESPONSIBILITY: *(From the right.)* It's not his fault, Katie.

KAITLYN: But it IS his fault. *(To the STAND-IN.)* My dad has alcohol induced dementia. It's what happens to your brain after years and years of abuse. Drugs, alcohol... they always hid it from me, but I knew my dad drank a lot.

RESPONSIBILITY: He has always been a good provider.

KAITLYN: But he'd go on a bender and lose his job. We had to move three times growing up because Dad lost his job. But he'd eventually dry out or get off of whatever drugs he was on and he would come back and be so... so sorry! He'd apologize and promise not to ever do it again but then he would and it's.... I shouldn't be judged for this.

IMPATIENCE: Daddy loves us.

KAITLYN: Maybe, but he always loved himself more. Was he thinking of ME when he'd disappear for a week and we'd be scared out of our mind? Did he think of ME when he took that last drink... the one before it ALL started to fall apart?

A beat passes as she calms down.

KAITLYN: Six months ago, there was a change. And since then my Dad has been fading away. Little by little. *(A beat.)* I shouldn't be judged by this. *(She sits.)*

COMPASSION: *(Sitting next to her.)* Hey Katie. How was your day?

The STAND-IN sits on the other side and takes over the scene.

STAND-IN: It was good Dad. How was yours.

COMPASSION: No complaints at all.

STAND-IN: Do anything interesting today?

COMPASSION: Not really. How did you do on your test?

STAND-IN: Test?

COMPASSION: Didn't you have a Chemistry Test today?

STAND-IN: No Daddy. I took Chemistry last semester.

COMPASSION: That's right. But you did have a test today, right?

STAND-IN: *(Sad.)* Yeah, Daddy. I had a test. I did really great on it.

COMPASSION: That's great. You've always been so smart. You got that from your mom. *(He laughs.)*

STAND-IN: But I got your good looks, right?

COMPASSION: Don't you forget it!

STAND IN starts to stand up.

COMPASSION: Where are you going?

STAND-IN: I have to take Grandma to the hospital.

COMPASSION: What for?

STAND-IN: She has Dialysis today.

COMPASSION: Oh yeah. That's right. Do you have to leave now?

STAND-IN: Pretty soon.

COMPASSION: Could you stay a few more minutes? I've missed you.

STAND-IN: I'm here all the time, Dad.

COMPASSION: I know... but it seems like just last week you were five and couldn't wait to go out fishing or on some other adventure, but now you're just about all grown up. I guess I wasn't ready.

STAND-IN: I'm still your little girl.

COMPASSION: Always?

STAND-IN: Always.

COMPASSION: I've really made a mess of things haven't I?

STAND-IN: What?

COMPASSION: I lost my job again. I need to get out there and find another one,

STAND-IN: It's no hurry Dad. You have to get well first.

COMPASSION: I'm as well as I'll ever be. Time to get back at it.

STAND-IN: I'm sure you'll be back at it soon.

COMPASSION: And this time I won't mess up again.

STAND-IN: I know, Daddy

A beat.

STAND-IN: I have to go.

COMPASSION: Where are you going?

STAND-IN: To pick up Grandma. For..

COMPASSION: Dialysis. That's right.

STAND-IN: (*Struggling.*) I love you, Dad.

COMPASSION: Promise?

STAND-IN: Promise. Of all the dads in the world, I'd choose you over any of them.

They hug.

COMPASSION: I love you. Thanks for sitting with me.

KAITLYN is crying.

COMPASSION: (*Looking at KAITLYN.*) The last six months have been horrible for you and your family, but you have shown your father more love than he feels he deserves. You said you did not want to be judged for this, but I feel this is one of the best and strongest parts of who you are, Kaitlyn. I wholeheartedly vote to renew this candidate.

KAITLYN continues to cry.

COMPASSION: (*Back to the STAND-IN.*) Can you do a little something for me, darling?

STAND-IN: Sure Dad. What do you need?

COMPASSION: (*Pulls out 20 dollars.*) Can you give this to your grandma for me? She's supposed to buy me something.

STAND-IN: I can't do that... is Grandma going to buy you alcohol?

COMPASSION: Just a little to help me sleep. I promise baby, it's nothing big. Just a little to help me rest.

STAND-IN: Mom will freak out if she found out I was helping you with this.

COMPASSION: You don't have to tell her. Please... just help me out.

STAND-IN: Dad...

COMPASSION: I won't say a word to anyone. Cross my heart.

COMPASSION walks off as RESPONSIBILITY and IMPATIENCE walk back up.

RESPONSIBILITY: Make sure that Grandma gets her meds after the appointment.

STAND-IN: I will Mom.

IMPATIENCE: Can I go?

STAND-IN: Why?

IMPATIENCE: Because I want to see Grandma! And we can talk about Animal Crossing! Can I go, Mom?

RESPONSIBILITY: That's up to your sister.

IMPATIENCE: Can I go with you... please?

STAND-IN: (*Caving in.*) Fine. But I'm ready to leave now. Are you good?

IMPATIENCE: I'm good!

RESPONSIBILITY: Go on to the car, dear. I need to talk to Katie.

IMPATIENCE walks back to the left.

RESPONSIBILITY: I think your grandma has been giving your dad her pain pills again.

STAND-IN: Not again...

RESPONSIBILITY: If she tries to give you anything to give your dad, please don't. It will only do him more harm. She doesn't get that.

STAND-IN: Ok, Mom.

RESPONSIBILITY: I'm sorry it's like this. Thanks again for taking her.

STAND-IN: Have a good night at work!

KAITLYN: (*As RESPONSIBILITY moves back to the right.*) I dropped off grandma and I was on my way home.

STAND-IN: You're getting ahead of the story.

KAITLYN: I'm trying to figure it out! I know I dropped off Grandma after Dialysis.

STAND-IN: That's right.

KAITLYN: But I can't remember what happened after that.

RESPONSIBILITY: (*From the Right.*) And keep your eyes on the road! No texting!

STAND-IN: I will Mom! (*To KAITLYN.*) You haven't guessed yet?

KAITLYN: Guessed what?

INTEGRITY, the second to last undecided voter walks up.

INTEGRITY: Thanks for taking me to the hospital, Kaitlyn.

STAND-IN: Happy to help, Grandma.

IMPATIENCE: Do you feel better?

INTEGRITY: I do, Emma! But I'm also tired. I'm going to sleep like the dead tonight.

IMPATIENCE: Like a zombie?

INTEGRITY: I don't know? Do zombies sleep?

IMPATIENCE: If they do, it would make them easier to kill!

INTEGRITY: That's true! Now run back to the car for a minute!

IMPATIENCE: Why?

INTEGRITY: Cause I need to beat your sister with a stick!

IMPATIENCE: (*Laughing.*) What did she do?

INTEGRITY: What didn't she do?

IMPATIENCE: That's right! She did everything! (*Running off to the left.*) Hit her a couple of times for me too, Grandma!

INTEGRITY: I'm exhausted. I can't wait to get into that bed.

STAND-IN: Need any help?

INTEGRITY: Just some sleep. Sleep fixes everything. Speaking of that... I talked to your father.

STAND-IN: Oh yeah?

INTEGRITY: He said he hasn't been sleeping well.

STAND-IN: He told me the same thing.

INTEGRITY: It makes me so sad thinking about him, up all night and all confused.

STAND-IN: Yeah.

INTEGRITY: I can't hardly bear it.

STAND-IN: I know grandma.

INTEGRITY: He said he sent something with you to give me.

STAND-IN: He did?

INTEGRITY: He did.

STAND-IN: He must have forgotten.

INTEGRITY: So, he didn't give you anything? Or tell you that we needed to stop anywhere on the way back to my house?

STAND-IN: No ma'am.

INTEGRITY: Well, I guess he forgot. Would you mind taking him something for me?

STAND-IN: It depends? What is it?

INTEGRITY: Something to help him sleep a little better.

STAND-IN: I can't do that grandma.

INTEGRITY: But he's not sleeping at all?

STAND-IN: Alcohol and pain medication got him into this mess, Grandma. It won't help him.

INTEGRITY: You don't understand!

STAND-IN: I know you love him... but so do I and I don't think this is the way to help him.

INTEGRITY: You sound just like your mom.

STAND-IN: Good! Dad always said I had her intelligence.

INTEGRITY: And his good looks... yeah...he used to say that all the time.

STAND-IN: He still does, Grandma. He's still in there.

INTEGRITY: But for how much longer?

STAND-IN: I don't know, but I know that feeding his habits will only make it worse.

INTEGRITY: (*Walking over to KAITLYN.*) You made a wise choice there. Integrity over pity. I vote to renew this candidate. (*She moves over to the right.*)

KAITLYN: And then I drove home from Grandma's house.

IMPATIENCE: Let's go!

KAITLYN: Why can't I remember anything else?

RESPONSIBILITY: (*From the right.*) Make sure to keep your eyes on the road.

IMPATIENCE: Put your phone away, Kaitlyn!

STAND-IN: Shut up! I have to answer this.

IMPATIENCE: Mom said you aren't supposed to text and drive!

KAITLYN: I remember this...

A beat.

KAITLYN: (*Realizing.*) There was a crash.

RESPONSIBILITY: No texting while driving!

KAITLYN: Am I dead?

STAND-IN: Yes, you are.

KAITLYN: And what is this? Where am I?

ALL: (*Except the STAND-IN.*) You are in between here and there.

STAND-IN: You're in between here and there.

KAITLYN: What is here and there?

STAND-IN: Here... well, that's here. And there, is where you were before the crash.

COMPASSION: I love you, Katie.

SPITE: I didn't know you liked him!

KAITLYN: And the vote...

RESPONSIBILITY: Keep your eyes on the road, Katie.

STAND-IN: I will Mom!

DISHONESTY: As you've gotten older, honesty doesn't come naturally to you, Kaitlyn.

STAND-IN: When a person with more life ahead of them than behind dies unexpectedly there is a judgement. A portrait of their life as it was at the moment of their passing.

KAITLYN: What happens if I fail?

STAND-IN: In that judgement, if the candidate gets six or more votes for renewal, then the soul will be reconnected with the body and the candidate will receive a second chance at fulfilling the expected trajectory of their lives. If the candidate fails to get the required votes, then they will not move from here, to there.

KAITLYN: And where is "There"?

STAND-IN: That depends on the condition of your soul. None of us who stand between here and there are qualified to speak on the condition of your soul.

INTEGRITY: You have your mom's intelligence...

DISHONESTY: I don't know...

KAITLYN: (*Looking around.*) The score is 5-4. (*Seeing the one who hasn't voted.*) You! You have the last vote!

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