



20 **INT. BILLIE'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM - NIGHT**

20

Billie opens the door to find David at the table waiting.

START → BILLIE
Where's Jace?

DAVID
He's sleeping on the couch.

Billie walks toward the couch eyeing her poor little boy with a bandage wrapped around his head.

DAVID (CONT'D)
We have to keep an eye on him while he rests, make sure he doesn't have a concussion.

BILLIE
I'm so sorry. What happ --

DAVID
Why was your phone off?

BILLIE
It died. Look. I'll make sure it's charged --

4/7

Billie shows him that it's on 10 percent.

DAVID

You don't have to show me... that's not the point.

BILLIE

I feel awful--

DAVID

What about how I feel? You travel damn near every weekend, work late every other night. You're never here.

BILLIE

It's my job, David --

DAVID

And we're your family.

BILLIE

I'm doing the best I can.

DAVID

What if that's not enough?

BILLIE

I should have been here for him, for you. I don't know what you want me to say.

DAVID

But you weren't, and you're not... a lot of the time. This isn't about your job Billie. But in order to be a family, you have to be around.

David's look is harsh... does he know something he's not saying? It's enough for Billie to think so.

BILLIE

What am I supposed to do --

DAVID

What you asked me to do. I upheld my end of the bargain but somewhere along the way you stopped upholding yours. How much longer do you think I can keep this *unbalancing* act up?

Billie takes this in.

BILLIE

... I'll cut down on travel.

5/7

DAVID

Good.

BILLIE

I'll cut down on my hours.

DAVID

Good.

(beat)

What else?

She can truly see where David is coming from. AND WHAT HE KNOWS.

BILLIE

I'll be home... more.

Their eyes lock. Both of them full of emotion.

BILLIE (CONT'D)

... I love you David.

DAVID

I love you too.

Billie starts to cry... her guilt, her shame, all pouring out of her. David holds her. Comforting her, being there for her always, even though Billie knows she doesn't deserve it.

BILLIE

We're ok.

DAVID

We will be.

While his words of forgiveness wash over her, we focus on her face, dripping with sorrow, realizing the effect she has had on her family. Jace wakes up. His sleepy eyes glad to see his mom.

JACE

Momma, I missed you!

BILLIE

I'm right here Love Bug. Right here.

JACE

I really smacked my head. It hurts.

Billie kisses his head.

BILLIE

We're gonna get you better in no time.

JACE

Are you mad at me?

6/7

BILLIE

Of course not. Why would you say that?

JACE

Because you weren't there.

This crushes Billie.

BILLIE

I should have been there, I'm very sorry.

JACE

Will you stay with me?

BILLIE

I'm here Love Bug, and I'm not going anywhere.

← END

Billie hums to Jace as he falls asleep in her arms.



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