

*LUCY enters in a dance uniform as she ties her hair in a bun. She has a dance bag around her shoulder. VAL sees her. Silence.*

VAL (CONT'D)

Where are you going?

LUCY

Just saying hi to my friends.

VAL

With dance shoes?

*LUCY is silent.*

VAL (CONT'D)

Tommy, get cleaned up for dinner.

*TOMMY hesitates before leaving.*

LUCY

Before you say anything-

VAL

We've gone over this before.

LUCY

I'm finally old enough to audition for the company.

VAL

Where are you gonna get the money?

LUCY

Mrs. Fedrick said I could get a discount if I help teach the elementary class!

VAL

You still have to pay. And we can't be losing money now. We've just gotten things under control after the economy crashed.

LUCY

I'll work for the money!

VAL

Work for the money? No, I work for you. I work so you can live and enjoy life. And no boy is ever going to want to be with a dancer. They want stability, not someone running away from home to go practice.

LUCY

I love dancing! Isn't that enough?

VAL

What about us? Your family?

LUCY

I don't see why you think this has anything to do with you.

VAL

It does! I work every day. I get up before the sun rises so I can handle lumber. Every splinter I get, every blister on my hands I do for us.

LUCY

Oh, not this again-

VAL

What are you going to do? Huh? What's your plan? You move out to the city, away from us, away from your *family*. You start auditioning, and you know, you only hear about the ones that make it. It's a hard life! I...I want you here. I want us to stay together. It's a cruel world, Lucia.