

SWITCHED AT BIRTH

Pilot

by

Lizzy Weiss

Third Draft
September 27, 2010

TEASER

EXT. BUCKNER HALL - DAY

OVER CREDITS, shots of an exclusive private school in Austin. Rolling greens. Gothic architecture. Wealthy, well-bred kids.

MS. GOLD (O.S.)

We are products of our parents - whether we like it or not. Every single trait from the color of your eyes to the color of your hair, to the way your pinky bends or whether you can roll your tongue, it's all determined by the genes passed down to you by your mother and father.

INT. BIOLOGY LAB - DAY

A class of SOPHOMORES stand in pairs at lab stations, each equipped with a blood kit. BAY KENNISH (petite, dark-haired, and dark-eyed) has taken a lot of liberty with her school uniform - rips, patches, acrylic paint drops - and an intricate pen drawing of a building sprawling up her leg.

Everyone sticks out their tongue, seeing if they roll.
Aaaaaahh...

Bay sees one guy making a perfect tongue tube.

BAY

Excellent tongue control, Connor!
(winks)
Good to know.

MS. GOLD

(sharply)
Bay.

Bay looks at her innocently. *What?*

MS. GOLD (CONT'D)

Let's begin our blood type tests.
Use the needle to prick a drop of blood onto each of the four fields on your test card.

Everyone begins to prick their fingers - lots of yelping and laughing as Ms. Gold continues.

MS. GOLD (CONT'D)

The fields contain antibodies,
which will provoke a reaction with
antigens on your red blood cells,
revealing if you are type A, B, O
or the most rare type, AB.

EXT. KENNISH HOUSE - EVENING

A long driveway lined with elm trees leads to a beautiful Old
Enfield estate. A sports Jaguar, a Lexus SUV, and an Audi.

MS. GOLD (O.S.)

Each of your parents donates one of
their alleles and the combination
determines your blood type. A
mother who is type O, for example,
can only pass on an O allele.

INT. KENNISH DINING ROOM - EVENING

The Kennish family - Bay, her parents JOHN & KRISTEN, and
brothers TOBY (17) and LUKE (11) settle around the table for
a balanced, beautifully prepared meal. (Everyone in the
Kennish family except Bay is tall, blonde, blue-eyed.)

BAY

Apparently it's extremely rare.
Only 1% of the population is AB.

The conversations are fluid and overlapping -

TOBY

I gotta run after dinner.
There's this partner thing
for English.

LUKE

And I need posterboard for
social studies.

JOHN

Bay, it's impossible. Mom and I are
both type A. That means you have to
be either A or O.

BAY

It said AB. And blood don't lie.

JOHN

I'm telling you, it's genetically
inconceivable.

LUKE/BAY/TOBY

(Princess Bride)
Incontheebable!

JOHN
 (laughing, but insistent)
 It is!

LUKE
 (Mandy Patinkin)
 'I do not think that means what you
 think it means.'

Bay crosses to the couch, pulls out her blood type card,
 slaps it on the table. It says type AB.

JOHN
 (puzzled)
 This can't be right.

BAY
 It's right! I'm AB!

EVERYONE
 INCONTHEEBABLE!

INT. KENNISH MASTER BATHROOM - NIGHT

John and Kristen wash up at side-by-side sinks.

JOHN
 But it is.

KRISTEN
 Are you going to take the Jag in
 this week or am I? Because I have
 the diabetes fundraiser.

JOHN
 The thing is, I kind of remember
 when she was a kid - them saying
 she had a really rare blood type. I
 just didn't connect the dots - that
 we're both A and it's not possible.

KRISTEN
 And can you take Luke tomorrow?

JOHN
 Kristen, you're not getting it. If
 she's AB, and we're both A, she
 can't be our daughter.

KRISTEN
 Sometimes we may wish she wasn't
 our daughter.

JOHN
Just look at her, Kristen.

KRISTEN
You know there's Italian blood on my great grandmother's side! She got her dark coloring from her.

JOHN
We've joked for years that she was the mailman's kid.

KRISTEN
Well Toby was two years old when I got pregnant with Bay, and I assure you I was way too tired to have an affair.

JOHN
There's something wrong here. She's right. Blood doesn't lie.

KRISTEN
Enough with the amateur scientist bit, okay? Please just let it go.

JOHN
All right, all right.

INT. BAY'S BATHROOM - NIGHT

Bay stands frozen, toothbrush in hand, listening to her parents' conversation, which echoes through the pipes. She looks stunned. There's something to this and she knows it.

CUT TO:

INT. BIOLOGY LAB - DAY

Bay loiters by Ms. Gold's desk a bit hesitantly after class.

BAY
Ms. Gold? Can I talk to you a sec?

Her serious demeanor surprises Ms. Gold.

INT. BIOLOGY LAB - A BIT LATER

The other kids have gone now. Ms. Gold and Bay are alone.

BAY

My family and I have always made up these elaborate reasons why I don't look anything like them. Maybe the answer is the obvious one.

MS. GOLD

Which is what?

BAY

I don't know exactly. But deep down, I've kind of always known something was wrong.

MS. GOLD

Genes can be a shake of the dice.
(admits)
Though I can't explain the blood type mismatch.

BAY

I've been researching...There are places you can go. They take DNA, do genetic tests...

(beat)

I know my dad's worried. He's been secretly looking into it too.

MS. GOLD

There are places like that. I just think you all really need to think this through first. Once you open this box, there's no going back.

BAY

If it were you, wouldn't you need to know?

INT. GENETIC CENTER - DAY - SIX WEEKS LATER

Bay sits between Kristen and John, facing a genetic counselor named MARGARET. Everyone looks solemn and extremely anxious.

MARGARET

We've done extensive 12 marker testing on all three of you...

(beat)

It's 99.9% certain that Bay is not related to you.

Kristen gasps. John grabs Bay's hand.

MARGARET (CONT'D)

The hospital believes there was a mix-up.

KRISTEN

A 'mix-up'...?

MARGARET

Someone wasn't careful matching the ID anklets. It's extremely rare, but at a busy hospital...

(beat)

You took home someone else's baby, and another family took home yours.

Kristen goes pale.

MARGARET (CONT'D)

We're focused on one particular girl who was also born on October 22, 1995 at North Austin Medical. They're in the process of locating and contacting that family now.

BAY

You mean - my real parents. Their real daughter.

MARGARET

We say 'biological', not 'real'.

BAY

But what you're saying is, there's some girl out there in my house, with my parents, living my life.

MARGARET

It's obviously a lot to take in...

KRISTEN

And just what are we supposed to do now? Switch back?

MARGARET

Honestly? In cases like these, there's no road map.

CUT TO:

EXT. VASQUEZ HOUSE - DAY

A middle-class neighborhood. A small house painted a powder blue. Wind chimes and funky statues in the front yard.

INT. VASQUEZ KITCHEN - DAY

The kitchen has been turned into a makeshift hair salon, with silver foils, blow dryers, and dyes crowding the counter. DAPHNE VASQUEZ (lanky, blonde, and blue-eyed) is at the kitchen table reading a textbook, highlighting, totally focused. Music plays and the kettle whistles, but she never looks up. The phone rings; on the ceiling, RED LIGHTS FLASH.

Daphne's mother REGINA (a short, olive-skinned brunette) hurries in from the other room.

REGINA

Hello?

(she listens)

No. No. That's impossible. No.

Daphne, sensing something wrong, turns - notices the look on her mother's face. Their eyes meet.

CUT TO:

INT. GENETIC CENTER - DAY

John, Kristen, and Bay are seated in front of Margaret. Daphne and Regina walk in. The Kennishes stand up.

MARGARET

John and Kristen Kennish. Regina Vasquez.

The parents shake hands awkwardly.

JOHN/KRISTEN/REGINA

Hi./ Hello./ Nice to meet you.

Margaret turns to the girls.

MARGARET

Daphne, this is Bay. Bay, Daphne.

Daphne and Bay stare at each other. After a long beat, Daphne is the first to speak. She uses both her voice and her hands, signing as she says -

DAPHNE

Nice to meet you.

That's when we see her HEARING AID, notice the way she's speaking, and both we and the Kennishes realize that Daphne is deaf.

FADE OUT.

ACT ONE

NOTE: Regina both signs and speaks aloud when talking to Daphne. Regina also signs when talking to another hearing person if Daphne is around, so that Daphne can understand without reading lips. When Daphne is talking to another deaf person and neither would speak orally, we will caption.

EXT. KENNISH HOUSE - DAY

Regina and Daphne drive up to the estate in their 10-year old car. They take in the size of the house.

DAPHNE

Whoa...

REGINA

Famous ex-baseball player, owns a chain of car washes...Honey, you scored!

DAPHNE

Stop that.

They park. The front door opens and Kristen steps out.

KRISTEN

Hi! You found it!

Luke and Toby follow her out. (We can see Bay in the kitchen, looking out through the window.)

KRISTEN (CONT'D)

DAPHNE, THIS IS LUKE AND TOBY.

DAPHNE

Hi. Nice to meet you.

The boys stare. Kristen glares at them.

TOBY/LUKE

Nice to meet you. Hi.

KRISTEN

My goodness they look alike, don't they?

(to Daphne)

YOU SURE LOOK ALIKE!

REGINA

No matter how loud you yell, she still can't hear you.

KRISTEN
 (embarrassed)
 Of course, I'm sorry.

REGINA
 Just face her and talk normally.
 Not too fast, not too slow.

DAPHNE
 (to Kristen)
 It's okay, everyone does that.

John pulls up, hurries out of his car.

JOHN
 Sorry! We're opening up three more
 car washes and things are crazy -

DAPHNE
 I can't believe you're John Kennish
 of Kennish Car Wash - we used to go
 there all the time!

BAY
 (to Toby, can't understand
 Daphne's voice)
 What'd she say?

DAPHNE
 And my friend Emmett is so excited
 to meet you. Huge Rangers fan.

JOHN
 We'll go to a game!

KRISTEN
 Should we have some lunch?

Regina signs to Daphne (and we caption) 'lunch -- inside the mansion.' Daphne signs back (and we caption), 'Be nice!' Just as Kristen mouths to Bay 'Be nice!'

INT. KENNISH LIVING ROOM - DAY

Daphne and Regina follow the Kennishes in.

KRISTEN
 I made chicken enchiladas, I hope
 that's okay.

REGINA
 Actually neither of us eat chicken.

KRISTEN

Oh no - you're vegetarian?

DAPHNE

Just chicken. My mom used to date this guy who worked at a chicken plant. He told us stories...

She signs without translating, but it's very clear; she illustrates chickens being hung upside down, electrocuted, feathers plucked, etc. Everyone watches, mesmerized.

DAPHNE (CONT'D)

If you were there, you'd never eat chicken again either.

BAY

I love chicken. Can't get enough.

JOHN

(crosses to the phone)
No problem. We'll order a pizza.

DAPHNE

Please don't, I'm not even hungry.

BAY

I want pizza.

KRISTEN

(to Daphne)
Do you have any allergies? Toby and Luke get terrible hives when they eat pineapple, papayas -

DAPHNE

- or kiwi.

KRISTEN

Yes! Exactly!

Both Kristen and Daphne look excited by this.

KRISTEN (CONT'D)

Bay eats everything except anchovies. Won't touch them.

BAY

(annoyed)
Everyone hates anchovies.

KRISTEN

That's not true! Not your father.

BAY
You mean her father.

Everyone gets quiet.

Kristen sees Toby off on the couch, texting.

KRISTEN
Toby, turn that thing off.

BAY
(mumbles)
I have homework.

Bay disappears into her room and Toby goes back to his phone.
Kristen sighs, giving up.

DAPHNE
Can I take a look around?

KRISTEN
Of course! Luke, give your sis-
(stops herself)
give Daphne a tour.

INT. KENNISH KITCHEN - DAY

John enters. Kristen frantically tries to pick the pieces of chicken out of the enchiladas (an impossible task).

JOHN
Honey, stop, stop.

KRISTEN
(whispers)
Our lives have been turned *upside*
down because some nurse --

JOHN
I know.

KRISTEN
Someone has to pay for this. I want
someone to pay.

JOHN
They will.

KRISTEN
She's a complete stranger to us!
Our own daughter!

JOHN
Well we're going to fix that.

KRISTEN
How are we going to fix that? You think that woman is just going to hand her over??

JOHN
I don't know.

The door opens and Regina enters.

REGINA
Can I help?

KRISTEN
No, no, everything's done!

She smiles.

INT. KENNISH HOUSE - DAY

Daphne walks around the house, taking in the fancy furniture, the expensive art, the pool and tennis court. She looks at Luke and signs 'wow!' by making 'w's with hands on either side of her face and using her mouth to make the 'o' in between. Her face is very animated; it's a fun sign to do.

LUKE
(trying it)
'Wow'.

Daphne adjusts his fingers.

DAPHNE
These are the 'w's. And your mouth is the 'o'.
(again, 'w's wiggling,
eyes lit up)
WOW!

He does it right this time.

DAPHNE (CONT'D)
Perfect!

LUKE
Cool.

They continue walking around the house.

LUKE (CONT'D)

Are you going to move in?

Daphne realizes he said something but didn't catch it.

DAPHNE

Face me so I can see your lips.

LUKE

Are you going to move in?

DAPHNE

I don't think so.

He doesn't say anything.

DAPHNE (CONT'D)

Do you have trouble understanding me?

LUKE

A little.

DAPHNE

You'll get used to it.

LUKE

What's it like to be deaf?

DAPHNE

What's it like to be hearing?

He looks at her blankly.

DAPHNE (CONT'D)

Exactly. It's just what you know, right? Same for me. Talking with my hands is totally normal.

LUKE

But everyone else talks with their voice.

DAPHNE

Not in my world. If you were in a room full of deaf people, you'd be the weird one.

They have arrived at Bay's room - an artistic mess. Stacks of evocative pen and ink drawings, clothes draped everywhere.

LUKE

This would've been your room.

DAPHNE
 I guess it would've.
 (takes that thought in)
 Kind of creepy, huh?

She makes the sign for creepy. He tries it. She beams and signs 'perfect!'

LUKE
 What's 'crazy'?

It's what you'd think (fingers twirling by the head).

LUKE (CONT'D)
 How about 'stupid'?

Again, what'd you imagine: she knocks her head and makes a face 'what a moron!' He grins.

LUKE (CONT'D)
 'Fart'!

She makes the fart sign - clenched fist gradually letting out air. He howls with laughter.

LUKE (CONT'D)
 'Poo'!

Another funny sign - one hand in a fist, the other coming out of the hole, making a plop.

Bay exits the bathroom, sees them in her room. Watches, hurt, as Luke bonds with Daphne so easily.

LUKE (CONT'D)
 'Boobs!'

Daphne draws huge breasts coming out of her chest.

DAPHNE
 Or, if they're small -

She makes teeny tiny breasts.

DAPHNE (CONT'D)
 Or really low -

She draws boobs that hang to her belly. He giggles.

BAY
Ex-cuse me?

They look up and notice Bay standing in the doorway.

DAPHNE
 (signs/encircling her
 heart with her fist)
 Sorry.

Luke imitates Daphne, encircling his heart with his fist.

LUKE
 Sorry.

They both exit. Bay slams the door.

INT. KENNISH LIVING ROOM - DAY

John, Kristen, and Regina sit stiffly. John and Kristen have questions, but aren't sure how to broach them.

JOHN
 So was she born...you know...

REGINA
 You can say 'deaf'. It's not a bad
 word.
 (then)
 No. She got meningitis when she was
 three.

KRISTEN
 Poor thing.

REGINA
 (shrugs)
 I felt lucky. One in five kids die
 from meningitis.

KRISTEN
 But being so different...everyone
 staring...that must've been so hard
 on her.

REGINA
 We got used to it. She toughened
 up. I yelled at a lot of people who
 thought gawking at a signing four
 year old was okay.

KRISTEN
 So the...uh...

She gestures to her ear. Can't say the word.

REGINA

Hearing aid? She can hear some sounds, especially in the high range. It helps her a bit in conversation. But she's basically deaf.

JOHN

And she goes to school?

REGINA

Of course she goes to school! She's on the track team, student council, honor society -

JOHN

But how...

REGINA

She's deaf, John. Not retarded.

KRISTEN

This is just all really new for us.

REGINA

Well it's like every other school, except there's no marching band.

KRISTEN

Bay goes to Buckner Hall. Have you heard of it?

JOHN

Not that school is really Bay's thing...

LOUD ROCK MUSIC pounds from the other side of the house. John and Kristen flinch, but ignore it.

JOHN (CONT'D)

She loves photography, art -

KRISTEN

(pleasantly)
- music.

TOBY (O.S.)

BAY! TURN IT DOWN!

But instead, the volume goes up. Kristen sighs.

KRISTEN

Ever since we found out...

JOHN
It's been hard for her.

KRISTEN
It's been hard on all of us. I keep going over that day at the hospital in my head...

The music is still blasting. Regina stands up.

REGINA
Maybe we should go.

JOHN/KRISTEN
No, no! Please. We're going to talk to her. BAY!

Daphne and Luke enter. Regina stands up, ready to go.

REGINA
Let's just all be in touch.

DAPHNE
Actually, Luke and I already talked about meeting up this weekend.

Everyone stares at Luke. John looks delighted.

JOHN
Perfect.

CUT TO:

INT. AUSTIN COUNTRY CLUB - DAY

John, Kristen, Luke, and Daphne walk through the fitness room. Luke and Kristen hold tennis racquets.

KRISTEN
(to John, but speaking quite deliberately, for Daphne's sake)
So we'll see you in about an hour.

Luke looks to Daphne, and she signs 'an hour' for him. He imitates her; she nods happily. Luke and Kristen head towards the tennis courts, leaving Daphne and John alone.

DAPHNE
Thank you so much for lunch.

JOHN

You don't have to thank me! You're welcome anytime. In fact, I'll put you on the account.

NOTE: lip reading is very difficult, highly inaccurate, and requires a ton of concentration. Often Daphne isn't sure what is being said but she doesn't like to constantly ask for clarification, especially with people she doesn't know well. She *thinks* he just offered to put her on the family account but is too nervous to ask. Instead she changes the subject.

DAPHNE

I've actually never played golf.

JOHN

Do you want to try?

Daphne nods and signs 'yes' vigorously.

JOHN (CONT'D)

But is that safe? I mean, what if a ball comes flying at you and you don't hear the warning?

DAPHNE

Really, how often does that happen?

He acknowledges - not too often.

DAPHNE (CONT'D)

Honestly, I can do anything you can do - except maybe sing.

Suddenly John becomes aware that everyone has stopped working out and is staring at them. (Perhaps noting her voice, her hearing aid, or just a girl they've never seen, with John.)

JOHN

(flustered)

Maybe we should go find Luke and Kristen.

DAPHNE

(good-naturedly, loudly)

I'm deaf, not blind - so I can actually see people staring.

Everyone quickly goes back to their machines.

DAPHNE (CONT'D)

So can we? Hit some balls?

John nods, a bit dumbfounded by how she handled that.

DAPHNE (CONT'D)

But if I break a nose, you're explaining it to my mom.

(off his look)

I'm kidding! Man, for an ex-pro-athlete, you're a nervous wreck.

INT. VASQUEZ HOUSE - EVENING

Regina folds laundry as her mother ADRIANNA (early 60s, Puerto Rican) sets the table. (Adrianna lives here, too.)

REGINA

'The poor little deaf girl! How she must have suffered! What a terrible childhood she must have had!'

ADRIANNA

It's a common reaction, you know that.

REGINA

I just know they're going to try to swoop in and impose their ignorant agenda --

ADRIANNA

Reggie, 'these people' are her parents.

REGINA

Mom. Don't even start with that.

ADRIANNA

Well what would you call them?

REGINA

Strangers.

She carries the laundry basket into Daphne's room. Adrianna takes a beat to digest what her daughter just said.

ADRIANNA

(following her)

Am I allowed to ask how you feel about the fact that you've spent 15 years revolving your life around a child who technically, isn't yours?

REGINA
(turns/firmly)
Please stop saying that.

INT. DAPHNE'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

ADRIANNA
Sweetheart, I love her, too. All
I'm saying is, they have a right -

REGINA
(adamantly)
Nothing I've learned in the past
three weeks changes anything.
Daphne is my daughter, no matter
what the DNA says. And nothing
around here is going to change.

She starts putting Daphne's clothes away.

ADRIANNA
Aren't you forgetting someone?

Regina stops, looks at her blankly.

ADRIANNA (CONT'D)
Your other daughter?

Regina waves off that thought.

REGINA
She doesn't need me. Not like
Daphne.

CUT TO:

EXT. ALLEY - EVENING

Bay stands in front of a TRASH DUMPSTER in a deserted alley, spray painting it, fast, working intensely. Street art -- creating something in public spaces on unlikely canvases -- is her passion, her escape, and her secret.

INT. KENNISH HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Bay enters, walks through the living room, as she has done a thousand times before. But this time, she stops. The mantel is covered with PHOTOS. Ski trips, beach vacations, Christmas portraits. Four tall blondes and one petite brunette. Now the truth is unavoidable: she isn't one of them.

Kristen stands in the doorway to her bedroom, sees Bay staring at the pictures.

KRISTEN
Honey? You want to talk?

BAY
I'm fine.

Bay hurries into her room. Kristen sighs, lets her go.

INT. JOHN'S JAGUAR/ EXT. VASQUEZ HOUSE - EVENING

John drives Daphne home in his Jaguar. He pulls up in front of her house, taking in the less-than-stellar neighborhood.

DAPHNE
(cheerfully)
We know all the cops.

JOHN
Well that's helpful.

The front door opens and Regina comes out. Daphne pulls a set of brand new GOLF CLUBS from the backseat to show her.

DAPHNE
Look!

JOHN
She seemed so interested in learning...

Now Adrianna emerges from the house.

REGINA
John, this is my mother, Adrianna.

JOHN
Wow, you're the spitting image of Bay.

ADRIANNA
Really?! I can't wait to meet her.

JOHN
I know Bay would love that.

REGINA
Daphne, come in. It's cold.

Adrianna follows her inside, leaving Daphne and John alone.

DAPHNE
Thanks again. That was really fun.

JOHN

Are you kidding? You're a natural!

Daphne grins and heads towards her house. John turns back to his car, sees that she forgot her hat on the passenger seat.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Daphne!

(she doesn't respond)

DAPHNE!

She still doesn't turn around. And then John remembers - she's deaf. He had actually forgotten for a minute.

But instead of getting back into his car, he stands there for a beat, very still, listening to the sounds of the city. The cars, the dogs, the radios, the crickets, the kids playing.

And the realization that she can't hear any of it makes him profoundly sad.

CUT TO:

INT. KENNISH HOME OFFICE - NIGHT

Kristen sits on the floor, flipping through an OLD PHOTO ALBUM. The first picture is of her nine months pregnant. The next is of her, just minutes after delivery, proudly holding her BABY. The next is of two-year-old Toby meeting his BABY sister for the first time. Kristen holds the photos beside each other, COMPARING the two BABIES. Both are pale, squished, eyes shut, wrapped in the same hospital blanket.

She turns to the next page, touches the FIRST LOCK OF HAIR, the FIRST TOOTH, the BIRTH CERTIFICATE. Every photo, every item filled with new meaning now.

The door opens. Kristen quickly closes the album. It's John.

KRISTEN

Oh hi, I thought you were Bay. Did you check on her?

JOHN

She's sketching, headphones on.
Doesn't want to talk.

Kristen nods, he's getting the same response she did.

KRISTEN

You got Daphne home okay?

JOHN
East Riverside.

Kristen winces, reacting to the neighborhood. He sits.

JOHN (CONT'D)
I went online, trying to educate myself on all this...Apparently there's some kind of electronic device that lets deaf people hear. Have you heard of it?

Kristen looks at him skeptically.

KRISTEN
Sounds a little too good to be true.

JOHN
It has a microphone and a speech processor -- it's like a bionic ear or something. And the best candidates are kids who were born normal but went deaf in childhood.

KRISTEN
But that's Daphne.

He looks at her - exactly.

KRISTEN (CONT'D)
Then why on earth doesn't she have it?

FADE OUT.

ACT TWO

INT. VASQUEZ FOYER/LIVING ROOM - DAY

Regina opens the door. It's John.

JOHN

Hi! So I just found out about this cochlear implant thing -

REGINA

(correcting his pronunciation)
Co-chlear.

He strides into the living room, excited.

JOHN

I got an appointment with an audiologist at the Austin Hearing Center next week. Now I know the surgery's expensive -

REGINA

About 100 grand, with speech therapy and follow-up.

JOHN

And maybe it wasn't something you were able to offer Daphne - which I completely understand - but Kristen and I are more than happy -

REGINA

If I had wanted it, I would've found a way to get it for her.

JOHN

Wait. Why wouldn't you want it?

REGINA

You think she needs to be 'fixed,' right? That she can't have a good life unless she's just like you.

JOHN

Like me - *or the rest of the planet*. What am I missing? She's disabled, and technology is offering her a chance to be normal. Why wouldn't we give her that??

Regina glares at him at the use of the word 'normal.'

JOHN (CONT'D)
You know what I mean.

REGINA
Daphne's comfortable being deaf.
She likes it.

JOHN
(bewildered)
Who could like being deaf...?

GREEN LIGHTS flash with the ringing of the phone. Regina heads to the VIDEOPHONE. A man we will come to know as her best friend PENN appears onscreen and they sign briefly. John watches, amazed, never seen anything like this.

Regina finishes and turns back. Tries to explain, calmer now.

REGINA
The cochlear rewires the brain to hear electronically. It isn't a cure.

JOHN
Sounds like a miracle to me.

REGINA
No, it's work. It requires months of therapy after. The way you and I are talking right now -- we're not trying, it's not a 'skill.' It's language. Effortless. But even with a cochlear -- listening, using her voice, it'd always be *this* --
(she furrows her brows,
showing intense focus)
Whereas signing is --

She breathes out, sighs. You see?

JOHN
Ok, so it's work. It's worth it. The rest of the world can hear. She can join it.

REGINA
Listen, you just found out you have this kid and you want her to be just like you, I get it. But Daphne will never be like you, *even with a cochlear*. And the sooner you accept that --

JOHN

I see the way she struggles to follow the conversation. If she had that surgery, she wouldn't need to read lips or rely on you or anyone else to translate for her.

REGINA

Interpret.

JOHN

Or is that it? Keeping her deaf keeps her dependent on you.

Regina turns on him, furious.

REGINA

I want what's best for her. She's my daughter.

JOHN

She's my daughter, too.

There's a knock at the door. Regina opens it. It's a CLIENT. Regina signs 'hello/come in'; the client signs back. (She's deaf.) And suddenly John feels like the outsider here.

JOHN (CONT'D)

This conversation isn't over.

INT. JOHN'S JAGUAR - MOVING - DAY

John drives off, talks on the phone to Kristen.

JOHN

- giving me some hogwash about how being deaf is just as good as being able to hear.

INT. MARKET - DAY

Kristen is grocery shopping at a gourmet deli.

KRISTEN

(checks her phone)

That's the school. Bay must've ditched again. I gotta go.

(clicks over)

Hello?

(sighs)

(MORE)

KRISTEN (CONT'D)

No, she doesn't have a bone marrow biopsy to see if she's compatible candidate for a transplant. She should be in bio.

EXT. VASQUEZ HOUSE - DAY

Bay sits in a parked car across the street from Regina's house. Her hair is tucked into a knit hat and she wears sunglasses. She studies Regina through the kitchen window, watching her every move.

EXT. MARKET - DAY

Kristen loads her groceries into her car. A woman - JULIE - heading into the store sees Kristen.

JULIE

Kristen! I think we saw you at the club on Saturday?

KRISTEN

Oh yeah, beautiful day, wasn't it?

JULIE

Who was that girl you were with?

KRISTEN

(backing out, waves)
Gotta run. Good seeing you!

She speeds off. As she drives away, she feels guilty for lying. She just isn't ready to answer questions. Not yet.

EXT. CARLTON HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

Lunch time at Daphne's school. It's a typical high school, except the halls are mostly silent, as everyone is signing.

Daphne eats at a table with her best friend EMMETT, 16. (They sign and we caption the conversation.)

EMMETT

Just think, if you were raised by them, you could be some incredible golfer today!

BAY

(laughs)
Maybe.

EMMETT

Or a religious freak. Or a total bitch. Your whole personality might be different.

DAPHNE

I like to think there's a part of me that's somewhat fixed. But you're right. Who knows.

EMMETT

You would've been raised in Tarrytown! One thing's for sure - you and I never would've met.

DAPHNE

I probably wouldn't even be deaf.

Emmett reacts to this.

EMMETT

Why do you say that?

DAPHNE

I got sick when I was a baby. Maybe I wouldn't have gotten sick in this alternate life. I mean, you change one thing, everything changes. It's a domino effect.

He stares at her. The concept dumbfounds him.

EMMETT

You...but hearing. I can't imagine.

DAPHNE

I try not to think about it. The whole 'what if' thing makes my head hurt.

RED LIGHTS flash and the students head to class.

Daphne stands up - sees John standing on the edge of campus. She hurries over to him.

DAPHNE (CONT'D)

Hi! What are you doing here?

EXT. VASQUEZ HOUSE - DAY

Bay is still in her car, spying on Regina. There's a KNOCK on the passenger window - she JUMPS.

A MAN (the same man Regina spoke to through the videophone - PENN) is staring at her. He gestures for her to roll down the window. (He is deaf, but he does not sign in this scene.)

PENN

Hey. What are you doing here?

BAY

Nothing! I'm allowed to park where I want!

Scared, she jams the car into gear and speeds off.

Penn watches her go, and sees a KENNISH CAR WASH license plate holder. Suddenly he realizes who she must be.

EXT. CARLTON HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

Daphne and John take a walk through the basketball court.

JOHN

Bay goes to Buckner Hall. Have you heard of it?

She looks at him quizzically.

JOHN (CONT'D)

(says it again, slower)
Buckner Hall.

DAPHNE

Oh yes, yes. Buckner Hall.

JOHN

It's the best school in the city. I know your grades and activities would be good enough to get you in.

The PRINCIPAL walks by, signs to Daphne (and we caption).

PRINCIPAL

Why aren't you in class?

DAPHNE

This is my uncle.

The principal looks John over.

PRINCIPAL

Tell him next time he has to get a pass from the office.

Daphne nods and he leaves.

DAPHNE

You want me to go to Buckner Hall?

JOHN

I just don't think isolating yourself in a deaf bubble is a good idea. Let's say you want to be a surgeon - is your team going to have to learn to sign to get your instructions? Are you going to have to read lips in the operating room? Am I talking too fast?

(Daphne gestures 'a little'; he slows down)

The rest of the world can hear. Don't you want to interact with them on a daily basis?

Daphne hesitates. She wasn't prepared for this.

DAPHNE

I know Buckner's really expensive -

JOHN

Don't worry about that.

DAPHNE

I appreciate this so much. But I like my friends, my teachers, the classes...

JOHN

You'd love Buckner Hall! They've got this incredible science lab, the pool is almost Olympic size... We want to give you the best education so you can have every opportunity open to you. Plus there's Bay...I think you two should get to know each other.

DAPHNE

I don't really think she wants to get to know me.

JOHN

Well, she needs some time. But we all want to be part of your life. Luke, Toby...you have brothers.

DAPHNE

I know. It's incredible.

Even though mainstreaming has never been something she's wanted, he is making it sound so appealing - to get to know her new family, to make him happy.

DAPHNE (CONT'D)

Can I think about it?

JOHN

Of course! I'll set up a tour.
We'll go from there.

DAPHNE

I should get back to class.

JOHN

Absolutely. Just - one more thing.
(beat)
Maybe it's best not to tell Regina
about any of this? Keep it just
between us?

Daphne hesitates. As uncomfortable as this makes her, she realizes that he's probably right.

She nods and walks back to class.

FADE OUT.

ACT THREE

EXT. BUCKNER HALL - DAY

Daphne and John get a tour from the principal, MR. LANIER.

MR. LANIER

Last year we had 35 National Merit Scholars. But we're not just for smart kids. We've got scientists, poets, linguists, athletes, service leaders - you name it.

Daphne takes in the facilities - which are magnificent.

JOHN

Now Roy, you were telling me you'd have a, what's it called again -

MR. LANIER

Right, we'd have an interpreter with you at all your classes, P.E., any afterschool event you want to participate in. And we'd pair you with a student in each class whose notes you could borrow. That way you can focus on the interpreter.

Daphne nods, smiles.

JOHN

Isn't it incredible here?

DAPHNE

Beautiful.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

Bay sees the principal, her father, and Daphne, obviously on a tour. Bay is dumbfounded. She had no idea about this.

The GIRL next to her leans over.

STUDENT

Who's that girl with your dad?

BAY

Just some scholarship kid he's sponsoring.

She returns to her paper, pretending she doesn't care at all.

EXT. BUCKNER HALL - DAY

Daphne turns to John and the principal.

 DAPHNE

 Is it okay if I just walk around on
 my own for a few minutes?

 JOHN/MR. LANIER

 Of course!/ Yes!/ By all means.

INT. BUCKNER HALL - HALLWAY - DAY

Daphne wanders through the halls, taking in the trophy display, the academic plaques, the list of colleges where last year's senior class matriculated: a lot of Ivys.

An African American sophomore named LIAM walks past her, on his way back to class. He's surprised to see a pretty girl he's never seen before roaming around alone.

 LIAM

 Do you go here...?

 DAPHNE

 Just taking a tour. Do you like it?

 LIAM

 I've gone here since kindergarten.
 It's pretty much all I know.

 DAPHNE

 I've gone to my school since
 kindergarten, too.

 LIAM

 Where?

 DAPHNE

 It's called Carlton?

 LIAM

 Never heard of it.

 DAPHNE

 It's for deaf kids. I'm deaf.

 LIAM

 You're what -- ?

Daphne thinks he's making fun of her, making a deaf joke.

DAPHNE
(annoyed)
Deaf.

LIAM
Oh. I thought you said you were
'death'.

Daphne takes this in. They both start to laugh.

DAPHNE
What would that mean, exactly?
Like, 'I'm here to come get you?'

LIAM
I didn't know! I was scared!

He's teasing. And the ice is officially broken. She gestures to his jacket, which says JENSEN'S.

DAPHNE
Awesome mac and cheese.

LIAM
My dad's the head chef there.

DAPHNE
Shut up! My mom's going to flip!

LIAM
Ever tried the Dr. Pepper marinated
pork chop?

DAPHNE
Only like seven times.

LIAM
Get this: peanut butter and jelly
bread pudding. New.

DAPHNE
Okay -- yum.

LIAM
You should come check it out. And
ask for me. I'll make sure you get
some free sides.

DAPHNE
I totally will! What's your name?

LIAM
Liam. Wait...

He fingerspells L-I-A-M, a little clumsily.

LIAM (CONT'D)

We learned the alphabet in first grade.

DAPHNE

I'm Daphne. But my name sign is -

She makes a 'D' by her chest.

LIAM

What's a name sign?

DAPHNE

It's a shorthand so you don't have to fingerspell someone's name each time you use it. Mine is the sign for 'happy', with a 'D.'

LIAM

Because you're always happy?

DAPHNE

I guess I was when I was four. My teacher gave it to me.

LIAM

I need a name sign! What's the sign for 'exceedingly handsome'?

DAPHNE

(smiles)

You can't name yourself. It's like a rule. A deaf person has to do it.

LIAM

A 'rule'? Like I'd get in trouble?

She knows he's teasing.

DAPHNE

It's just kind of bad form.

The BELL rings. Doors burst open and KIDS swarm the hallway.

LIAM

Bye -

He makes the sign for 'Daphne.' She smiles.

DAPHNE

Bye, Liam.

EXT. BUCKNER HALL - PARKING LOT - DAY

Bay and John are by his car, mid argument. She is very upset.

BAY

When were you planning on telling me?

JOHN

I'm sorry, I should've. But it's just a tour. It's very preliminary.

BAY

That's not the point.

JOHN

Honey, we have to find a way to integrate her into our lives. And I think it'd be good for you to get to know her.

BAY

Why? Because she's so perfect?

JOHN

What? Of course not.

BAY

You can't just throw her in my face. One second after meeting her, she's going to my school?

JOHN

I know it's fast, but we've all lost so much time already.

Teachers walk by. They both lower their voices.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Bay, be reasonable. She hasn't had the same opportunities as you. Your mother and I are just trying to make this thing right.

She's on the verge of tears.

BAY

Right for who?

JOHN

Right for all of us.

BAY

Well what's best for me is not
having her here. And if you care
about me at all, you won't do this.

The bell rings. She turns around.

JOHN

Bay...come on. Bay!

EXT. BUCKNER HALL - FRONT OF SCHOOL - DAY

Daphne sits on the curb, texting. Toby jogs out of school, glances around, making sure there are no teachers around. He doesn't notice Daphne.

He heads over to a BMW with the motor running, hands over an ENVELOPE. Daphne watches, curious. The car drives away.

He walks back towards school - and sees her. Stops.

TOBY

Hey. What are you...

DAPHNE

Your dad set up a tour for me.

He seems a little nervous. He's obviously wondering what she saw and if she's going to say anything to his dad.

TOBY

Are you going to go here?

DAPHNE

I don't know. We'll see.

A motorcycle pulls up. It's Emmett. She signs and speaks.

DAPHNE (CONT'D)

Emmett, this is Toby. Toby, Emmett.

Emmett holds up one hand, a silent hi.

TOBY

Hey.

Emmett signs to Daphne, and we caption.

EMMETT

Is this your brother?

She signs 'yes.' Toby looks between them.

DAPHNE
He was just asking who you are.

TOBY
He doesn't talk?

DAPHNE
Not orally.

The guys look at each other.

TOBY
Why not?

EMMETT
Ask him why he doesn't sign.

TOBY
I mean, why do some deaf people
talk and others don't?

He's asking genuinely, but Daphne knows Emmett probably isn't taking this line of questioning well.

DAPHNE
It just kind of depends on the
person...if they're comfortable...
if they had speech therapy growing
up...if they want to to speak.

TOBY
But he reads lips?

DAPHNE
Yes.
(then, delicately)
You can just ask him directly.

TOBY
(confused)
But he won't answer.

DAPHNE
It's just, uh, not really
considered polite to talk about
deaf people in the third person if
they're right there.

Toby looks at Emmett. Still not totally getting this.

DAPHNE (CONT'D)
Plus I can interpret.

TOBY

What does he do if you're not around?

EMMETT

He's doing it again.

DAPHNE

He uses pen and paper, or gestures. He actually isn't around people who don't sign that often.

TOBY

How is that possible?

DAPHNE

Because everyone in his family is deaf. Because all of his friends are deaf.

TOBY

His whole family is deaf?

DAPHNE

Uh huh.

TOBY

Okay, but what about stores, buses, restaurants? What does he do in like, real life?

DAPHNE

He gets by.
(looks at Emmett, laughs)
Trust me. Emmett gets by.

EMMETT

Because I've been trained to deal with d-bags like you since I was born.

Daphne glares at him.

TOBY

What'd he say?

DAPHNE

He really likes your shoes.

INT. LEXUS/MOVING - DAY

Kristen heads towards the school. A motorcycle speeds by. She looks twice - realizes that's Daphne on the back.

INT. KENNISH CAR WASH - OFFICE - DAY

John is at his desk doing paperwork. Kristen enters.

KRISTEN
Promise not to be mad?

JOHN
No.

KRISTEN
I just went crazy when I saw her on that motorcycle...I thought, what kind of mom lets her 15 year old daughter get on one of those -

JOHN
Kristen. What did you do?

KRISTEN
I hired a private investigator.

JOHN
You did what?!

KRISTEN
Just to see who this woman is.

JOHN
And?

KRISTEN
She has two DUIs.

EXT. PACO'S TACOS - DAY

Bay and her friend SIMONE sit at a bench on the patio of a Mexican dive where they serve minors. They're drunk. Bay is acting like the whole story is hilarious.

SIMONE
I don't believe you.

BAY
It's true! We were switched at birth!

SIMONE
You're such a liar!

BAY
I'm telling you! I got her family and she got mine.

SIMONE
You and some deaf girl.

BAY
Yes! And you know what's even weirder? I could've been deaf.

SIMONE
Ha ha.

BAY
I'm serious. She got sick as a kid. So if I had been raised by my real mom, I would've probably been in the same place on the same day to catch the same germ that made her sick. I might've gone deaf, too.

SIMONE
That is so freaky.

BAY
I know!!
(imitating how a deaf person sounds)
He-llo. My - name - is - Bay.

She folds her arms, shimmies her weight, throws her fingers into what looks like gang signs.

SIMONE
Why are you signing like a deaf gangster??

They both crack up.

INT. BAKERY - EVENING

Regina and Penn enter, find a table. Penn is looking at his iPhone and we see the wallpaper photo is a picture of him with his arm around his partner SAM and their son, Emmett.

REGINA
She was spying on me?

PENN
She wants to get to know you. It's sweet.

REGINA
It's just better to leave well enough alone.

PENN

What is that supposed to mean?

REGINA

It's too complicated. Nobody wants two moms!

(then, re: his situation)

Yes I know, Emmett has two dads. Two dads is way easier than two moms, trust me.

PENN

I know you. You're just scared of trying to bond with her in case she doesn't like you.

REGINA

You should see their house! What would she want with me?

PENN

That's not even funny.

REGINA

I'm serious! A hairdresser who works out of her kitchen who can barely make rent? I don't think any teenage girl is going to give up a tennis court and pool for that.

She laughs. She's pretending to be joking, but she's not.

PENN

Regina. It's not her or Daphne, you know that, right? You can be a mom to both of them.

REGINA

And how exactly would that work? No, no. Better to just leave things the way they are. No mess.

INT. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE - EVENING

Kristen and John consult with their attorney, JOY BARWICK.

JOY

My understanding is the court tends to give full custody to the parents who raised the children, with visitation to the biological parents.

KRISTEN

But the DUIs mean she's unfit to parent.

JOY BARWICK

A case could be made for that. But is that a road we want to go down at this point?

JOHN

We just need to know how to get Daphne back without losing Bay.

JOY

The only way to get this settled is to take it to court. But you know how these things go: they get appealed, they go on for years. With a lot of collateral damage, especially for the kids. May be worth it to you, I just want you to think about it.

EXT. AUSTIN STREET - EVENING

Penn and Regina exit the bakery, head for Regina's car.

PENN

Are you going to call Angelo?

REGINA

Why on earth would I do that?

PENN

Because he left when Daphne was three years old insisting she wasn't his daughter and that you cheated on him with a tall, blonde mystery man?

REGINA

He left when she was three years old because she went deaf.

PENN

That's probably true. But as it turns out, he was right. She wasn't his daughter.

REGINA

Pure coincidence.

PENN

I'd think you'd want to prove to him you were telling the truth.

REGINA

Screw him. He missed out on raising Daphne. That's his loss.

PENN

Maybe he wants to meet Bay. Don't you think you should tell him about all of this?

This stops Regina. She never thought about that.

Her cell rings. She gestures 'one second' to Penn.

REGINA

Hello?

(listens)

There must be some mistake.

(listens)

Are you sure? Where?

(to Penn, stunned)

Daphne was arrested.

She's so discombobulated that she speaks without signing. Realizing her mistake, she signs - 'Daphne was arrested.'

REGINA (CONT'D)

(into phone)

She needs an interpreter! By law, she is required to have an interpreter! You have to talk slowly! Wait until I get there!

INT. POLICE STATION - NIGHT

Regina bursts into the police station, frantic. Her daughter is indeed sitting there calmly waiting for her.

But it's not Daphne.

It's Bay.

FADE OUT.

ACT FOUR

INT. POLICE STATION - EVENING

Bay sits in a folding chair between Regina and Kristen.

BAY

I told you, I thought it was
Simone's car, it looked just like
it. And she was too drunk to drive.
I was doing the responsible thing!

KRISTEN

How is that the responsible thing
when you don't even have a license!

REGINA

So whose car were you driving when
you parked in front of my house?

KRISTEN

What are you talking about?

Bay shoots Regina a look.

REGINA

Nothing.

John exits the cashier area, puts his wallet away.

JOHN

Everything's taken care of.
(to Bay)
We're due in court on the 24th.

KRISTEN

(under her breath)
That should sound familiar.

REGINA

Excuse me?

John glares at Kristen. But it's too late.

KRISTEN

We know about the DUIs.

REGINA

What...? That was 12 years ago...
How did you...

KRISTEN

Were you drunk when she got sick?
Did you wait too long to take her
to the hospital? Is that why her
fever got so high? Is that why
she's deaf?

REGINA

Because being deaf is the worst
possible thing you could imagine
for your daughter, right? You don't
know a thing about her or me.

KRISTEN

We know you are not responsible -

REGINA

May I remind you that we're in the
police station because of the
daughter that you two raised.

KRISTEN

We intend to get an attorney and
get Daphne back.

Regina freezes. She waves a finger at them.

REGINA

Don't even *think* about it.

JOHN

Bay...? BAY!

They all turn. She's gone.

EXT. POLICE STATION - NIGHT

Kristen, John, and Regina rush outside.

KRISTEN

I can't believe she ran off here!
It's a horrible neighborhood!

REGINA

It's my neighborhood.

JOHN

Let's just stop fighting and focus
on finding Bay. Okay?

They look at each other. Momentary truce.

REGINA

Call me if you find her.

They nod and head towards their respective cars.

Regina dials her mother.

REGINA (CONT'D)

Can you watch Daph? Bay's missing.

(beat)

I don't know. I'll call you later.

She hangs up and stands there for a beat. The thought of losing Daphne is utterly overwhelming to her.

INT. VASQUEZ HOUSE - NIGHT

Adrianna and Daphne sit on the couch, under blankets, drinking tea.

DAPHNE

What do you think I should do?

ADRIANNA

This is your decision. You know that.

DAPHNE

It's a really good school.

ADRIANNA

But do you want to go just to make them happy?

DAPHNE

I don't know. I'm so confused. It's all so confusing. You're not really my grandmother.

ADRIANNA

Don't be ridiculous! Of course I am. I'm just also her grandmother.
(realizing)

And you have two other grandmothers that you've never met.

Daphne closes her eyes...ugh. This is getting so complicated.

INT. KENNISH CAR/MOVING - NIGHT

John drives, Kristen looks out the window.

KRISTEN

What if something happens to her?

JOHN

Nothing's going to happen to her.

KRISTEN

I should've made her talk to me.

John is silent, also feeling guilty. Kristen's voice breaks.

KRISTEN (CONT'D)

How could I not have known...?

JOHN

What about me? I hadn't just gone through 17 hours of labor. I wasn't doped up on Vikodin. Why wasn't I more attentive to little details like which baby they brought back from the nursery?

KRISTEN

It's different for me. I *carried* her. She was *part* of me.

JOHN

Stop this. Kris, come on.

KRISTEN

I wasn't there for her growing up. I'll never be able to make up for that lost time.

JOHN

Being a mother doesn't end when they turn 15. We've got the rest of our lives with her.

KRISTEN

But Regina got her. Regina got my baby. It's so unfair.

JOHN

And we got Bay. If you had figured it out at the hospital, we never would've gotten Bay.

The profundity of this hits Kristen.

KRISTEN

So are we supposed to feel angry that it happened? Or grateful?

INT. REGINA'S CAR - NIGHT

Regina pulls over beside a WOMAN walking with her YOUNG SON.

REGINA

Excuse me, I'm looking for a 15 year old girl, dark hair, dark eyes. Wearing...what was she wearing? Oh god, I can't remember. What is wrong with me? I didn't notice.

She starts to cry.

WOMAN ON STREET

I'm sorry, I haven't seen her.

REGINA

It's my daughter. She's my daughter.

INT. VASQUEZ HOUSE - NIGHT

Regina walks in. She looks weary.

REGINA

They think she's probably at a friend's house and she'll call when she's ready.

Adrianna signs to Daphne behind Regina's back.

ADRIANNA

Talk to her.
(then, aloud)
I'm going to bed.

She exits. Daphne follows her mom into the kitchen.

DAPHNE

I need to talk to you.

Regina is surprised at how serious she sounds. Daphne is so impassioned and emotional that she doesn't speak the following; she only signs, and we caption.

DAPHNE (CONT'D)

I need you to stop lashing out at the Kennishes. As uneducated as they are about deaf culture, they mean well.

(Regina starts to sign)
Let me finish.

(MORE)

DAPHNE (CONT'D)

(Regina drops her hands)

You are my mother, you will always be my mother. But I need to get to know them, too.

(deep breath)

I took a tour of that hearing school where Bay goes. They really want me to go, and I think I'm going to say yes. So I need you to support my decision. Okay?

Daphne waits.

REGINA

Absolutely not.

DAPHNE

What?!

REGINA

You want to be that weird deaf girl with the interpreter following her around all day? You know what happens to deaf kids at hearing schools. They're outsiders. They struggle academically. Daphne, you can do anything you want with your life. I've always told you that. You're a thousand times smarter than any of those hearing kids who used to tease you and make you feel stupid.

DAPHNE

It's not going to be like that! I'm not five years old, I don't need you to protect me anymore.

REGINA

Yes, you do. Now I have to protect you from yourself. You know what's right for you but you are letting these people pressure you because you're so desperate for their acceptance. Well let them love you for who you are, not who they think you should be.

(beat)

This is your choice. But I think it's a huge mistake.

She strides out, leaving Daphne alone and very confused.

FADE OUT.

ACT FIVE

EXT. STREET CORNER/INT. TOBY'S CAR - NIGHT

Bay stands on a deserted corner, trying not to look nervous. An Audi pulls up. Bay opens the door and hurries in.

Toby drives off. Bay doesn't say anything.

TOBY

You're welcome.

BAY

You should be thanking me, I probably saved you two grand by ending your night early.

TOBY

You are such a brat.

BAY

Why, because I'm not reacting well to finding out that I'm part of some plot device in a Mark Twain novel? Excuse me for not *handling* this better.

TOBY

You're the one who started this! You could've left it alone, but no, you had to go dragging mom and dad to that genetic counselor -

BAY

I didn't expect the answer to be yes! I *said* I did, but deep down I was kind of hoping there'd be some other explanation. Toby, every single thing I took for granted about myself was just yanked away. My mom's not my mom. My house isn't my house. I don't even know what my name is. I'm supposed to be Daphne, not Bay. I mean Jesus, who the hell am I?

Toby is quiet for a beat.

TOBY

You're right, this is wacked.

BAY
(wipes her eyes)
Forget it, I know you can't
understand. No one can.

Beat.

TOBY
Actually, that's not true.

CUT TO:

INT. VASQUEZ HOUSE - DAPHNE'S ROOM - NIGHT

Daphne is in bed, awake. Suddenly she sits straight up.
There's something MOVING outside her window. She gasps.

A FACE appears. It's Bay.

Daphne hurries to unlock the window. Bay climbs through.

BAY
Hi.

Daphne switches on the light.

BAY (CONT'D)
Don't do that!

DAPHNE
I can't read lips in the dark.
Besides, this is my room?

BAY
It's actually my room, technically
speaking.

DAPHNE
Very funny.

Daphne puts in her hearing aid. The two girls face each other
for the first time.

BAY
This is all pretty weird, huh?

DAPHNE
That's the understatement of the
year.

BAY
So what exactly are we to each
other?

DAPHNE

We have the same parents. Does that
make us sisters?

But the word doesn't sit right with either of them.

BAY

We're swisters.

Daphne laughs. Bay looks around. Sees a shelf of CDs.

BAY (CONT'D)

(nods approvingly)

Temper Trap, Broken Bells...

(then)

Wait. Why do you have music?

DAPHNE

I can hear the beat if I turn it
really loud.

Bay is surprised by that.

DAPHNE (CONT'D)

So did you like, run away tonight?

BAY

I don't know. Not really.

DAPHNE

Well everyone was pretty
hysterical.

BAY

Not like if you'd run away.

DAPHNE

You think I like that? Everyone so
concerned about the deaf girl?

Bay hadn't thought about it like that.

EXT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE DAPHNE'S ROOM - NIGHT

Regina is behind the door, very still, listening.

BAY (O.S.)

I'm sure Regina didn't even notice
I was gone.

Regina closes her eyes. Pained to hear this.

INT. DAPHNE'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

DAPHNE
She's just scared of change. And
she hates to show weakness.

BAY
Yeah, I'm the same way.

DAPHNE
Well, there you go.

Beat.

BAY
So I came to tell you that if you
want to go to Buckner, it's fine.
I've gotten suspended so many times
I'm sure I won't be there much
longer anyway.

DAPHNE
I don't want to go.

BAY
You don't?

DAPHNE
Not right now.

Bay almost looks disappointed.

BAY
So then what's the plan? I mean...
you want to get to know my family.
And I guess I should get to know
yours.

DAPHNE
This is like some wonky version of
The Parent Trap.

They start to laugh.

INT. OUTSIDE DAPHNE'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Regina starts to laugh, too.

DAPHNE (O.S.)
Let me go tell my mom that you're
here.

Regina quickly tiptoes away from the door.

INT. VASQUEZ HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Daphne is over the stove, stir frying noodles and garlic.
Regina sets the table, Bay's on the phone.

BAY

Okay, I'll see you in the morning.
(she hangs up)
They said it was fine if I spent
the night.

REGINA

Good.

Adrianna walks in.

ADRIANNA

Nobody invited me to the party. Oh!

REGINA

Mom, this is Bay. Bay, this is -

Adrianna grabs her, gives her a big hug. Bay chokes up a little. This is the first time anyone has given her that kind of greeting throughout this whole thing.

REGINA (CONT'D)

...your grandmother.

Regina and Daphne watch.

ADRIANNA

You're gorgeous! You really are the
spitting image of me.

She grins. Bay wipes her eyes, hoping no one saw.

BAY

I guess I know where I got my dwarf
genes from...

ADRIANNA

You're a quarter Puerto Rican,
young lady.

BAY

Then it super sucks that I've been
taking French for nine years.

DAPHNE

My mom's Spanish is terrible, too.

REGINA

It is not!

She whacks her playfully as she grabs four bowls.

BAY

Regina, can I ask a favor? There's one thing I've always wanted to do but my mom would never let me.

Regina looks a bit nervous.

INT. KENNISH HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Kristen is cleaning up the breakfast dishes. Bay walks in - Kristen gasps. Bay's hair is streaked with blue.

BAY

Regina did it.

KRISTEN

(being positive)
Ah. Well it's very...

BAY

Temporary.

KRISTEN

Thank god.

BAY

They're outside.

Kristen glances out the window. Sees Regina and Daphne waiting in the car. John walks in.

BAY (CONT'D)

She's not going to Buckner. At least not now.

(beat)

But we had another idea.

CUT TO:

EXT. KENNISH HOUSE - DAY

A MOVING TRUCK is parked outside.

EXT. KENNISH HOUSE - BACKYARD - DAY

MOVERS carry a pool table, arcade games, and a huge sectional out of the poolhouse, and cardboard boxes, and furniture in. Both families are here, overseeing the move.

REGINA

I need color to survive. I'm thinking of painting the outside a bright orange...

JOHN

We said no rules. It's your home, do whatever you want with it.

Kristen tenses, doing her best to bite her lip.

Adrianna passes Kristen, holding a plant.

ADRIANNA

I'm Adrianna. Nice to meet you.

KRISTEN

Oh. Are you - also - ?

ADRIANNA

Just like the First Mother-in-Law, right?

She smiles and heads into the poolhouse. Off Kristen's look, wondering what other surprises are in store for her.

EXT. KENNISH HOUSE - BACKYARD - DAY

Kristen approaches Regina.

KRISTEN

I just want to say, anything in the house is yours - the fridge, the pantry, we have a full bar -

REGINA

I'm sober, Kristen. I've been sober for 11 and a half years.

KRISTEN

Oh. I...had no idea.

REGINA

(sharp)

Of course you didn't. We don't know anything about each other except that we raised each other's daughters.

KRISTEN

I'm just trying to -

REGINA

Look, we agreed to this arrangement so I could get to know Bay and you can get to know Daphne. And frankly, I could use the free rent. But I'm sure you're about as thrilled to have me in your backyard as I am to be here. So let's just make one thing clear. I don't intend to enter your house without permission and I assume you'll extend me the same courtesy.

Stunned, Kristen nods wordlessly. Regina heads off.

EXT. KENNISH HOUSE - BACK PORCH - DAY

Daphne sees Luke on the back steps, studying a book intently.

DAPHNE

Hey. Whatcha reading?

Luke holds the book up. It's THE DICTIONARY OF AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE. Daphne's face lights up. She signs something.

LUKE

Wait, wait, I just learned that...
'Awesome!'

She walks away, beaming. Luke practices the sign to himself.

EXT. KENNISH HOUSE - FRONT - DAY

Emmett pulls up on his motorcycle. Daphne approaches.

DAPHNE

Want to grab lunch? I'm craving
Jensen's.

Emmett gestures for her to climb on the bike. As she does, he looks up and sees Bay in the house, staring at him. Their eyes meet, a mutual flicker of interest.

EMMETT

Hey. Who's that girl?

Daphne looks at Bay, considering how to answer this.

DAPHNE

The other me.

FADE OUT