

EXT. BACKYARD - NIGHT

BURT is jumping on a trampoline, phone in hand.

BURT

(Into the phone)

Yeah? Well the fact that I'm even calling this late means it's important, doesn't it? I think so. What's your name? I already know cause I... What? Well I think you know more than you're letting on. How about that?

VERONA comes out into the backyard, sees BURT.

VERONA

Burt?

BURT

(Into the phone)

Hello? Damn it.

BURT hangs up the phone.

VERONA

Burt, what are you doing?

BURT

Calling everyone she knew. Her old company, her friends.

VERONA

At midnight?

BURT

(Pacing back and forth)

Right! The element of surprise!

VERONA

Can you stop?

BURT

What kind of Goddamn person leaves her daughter?

VERONA

I don't know. Maybe not such a strong person.

(BURT continues to pace)

Please stop.

(CONTINUED)

BURT

You know what the worst of it is? There's nothing we can do about it. Because she's gone and this family can't be fixed and that's it! And what if one of us freaks out like that?

VERONA

We won't. It can be fixed and you know it.

(BURT throws the phone and sits down)

Thank you.

(VERONA climbs up onto the trampoline with him.)

Burt, it's okay. Look at me, please.

BURT

No, really. What if something happens to one of us and just makes us go crazy? I mean, what if I'm walking by a construction site and something falls and then my frontal lobe gets chopped off and then my personality's altered and then I'm not a good dad? What happens then?

VERONA

Well, be careful walking near construction sites.

BURT

What about Munch?

VERONA

She'll be careful walking near construction sites too.

BURT

No, really. I mean don't you look at her and just want to give her everything she's ever wanted? It's so incredibly unfair that she can't-

VERONA

-Yeah. You're right. It's unfair that she can't have a baby and that bad parents still get to be parents and good parents die when their daughters are in college. So what?

(CONTINUED)

BURT
I'm sorry, Verona.

VERONA
Look, all we can do is be good for
this one baby. We don't have
control over much else.

BURT
Marry me? At least.

VERONA
Never.

BURT looks at VERONA, then looks away. She reaches for him.

VERONA
I will never leave you.

BURT
Yeah.

VERONA
I promise.

BURT
No, I know. You know, you promised
to never marry me because you
didn't want to get married without
your parents there. I get that. Can
you promise to never leave me?
Promise to never leave this baby
that we're having?

VERONA
I promise. I do. Do you promise to
stop talking about your ability to
find or not find my vagina after I
give birth?

BURT
(He laughs)
I do. Do you promise to let me
cobble-

VERONA
-carve.

BURT
Carve in my spare time and teach
our daughter the lore of the great
Mississippi?

VERONA

I do. Do you promise never to develop a thing for seahorses?

BURT

(laughing)

I do.

VERONA

Good.

They lay down on the trampoline together.

BURT

Do you promise to let our daughter be fat or skinny or any weight at all because we want her to be happy no matter what and being obsessed with weight is just too cliché for our daughter?

VERONA

Yes, I do. Do you promise that when she talks, you'll listen? Really listen. Especially when she's scared? And that her fights will be your fights?

BURT

I do. And do you promise that if I die some embarrassing and boring death that you're gonna tell our daughter that her father was killed by Russian soldiers in this intense hand to hand combat with the attempt to save the lives of 850 Chechnian orphans?

VERONA

I do.

(She giggles)

Chechnian orphans. I do. I do.