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EXT. ROOF TOP OF COUNTY HOSPITAL - EVENING

DRs Laura Lofflin and Mitch Hollan take a break from a difficult DNR patient up away from the ER.

LAURA
Can I ask you something?

MITCH
Shoot.

LAURA
Did you ever love me?

MITCH
What?

LAURA
I think you heard me.

MITCH
What do you mean?

LAURA
Mitch.

MITCH
Alright. Why are you asking me this?

LAURA
Susan said that you told her once that you would always love me. Did you tell her that?

MITCH
Uh...yeah, I guess I did.

LAURA
Well, since she wasn't pissed off about it, I assume that you explained to her that you meant some sort of plutonic love.

MITCH
This is awkward, Laura.

LAURA
Is that what you meant?

MITCH
Why are you doing this now, Laura?

LAURA
Is that what you meant? Is it?
(beat)
Answer me, dammit!

MITCH
Laura, calm down.

LAURA
Don't tell me to calm down, please.

MITCH
Laura, what is going on?

LAURA
You have to tell me if you loved
me. Please.

MITCH
Laura, you've got everything going
for you, why are you obsessed about
this?

LAURA
I have to know.

MITCH
Laura, we've been friends since 6th
grade and I hope for the rest of
our lives. Okay?

LAURA
No. Not okay. It's not enough.
Why are we still friends? Our
lives have little in common and we
only see each other away from the
hospital a few times a year. When
we do, you speak for like 5 minutes
and I babble for like 50 about
stuff that's not really of interest
to you.

MITCH
You're a girl, and I'm a guy.
That's normal.

LAURA
You remember when I made an ass of
myself at your house in Austin?

She looks at him.

LAURA (CONT'D)

Yeah, you remember. I couldn't say what I was feeling, so instead I told you you were really important to me.

MITCH

Thank you.

LAURA

You said I was really important to you, too.

MITCH

Did I?

LAURA

One time in school, you told me I could stand to lose a few pounds.

MITCH

What?? I'm sure I was joking.

LAURA

It stuck with me. Last year I was telling you about running and stuff and you said that I didn't look like I needed to lose any weight.

MITCH

You don't.

LAURA

That stuck with me, too.

MITCH

Laura, I don't know why this is such a big deal.

LAURA

Me either!! Don't you get it? any normal human being wouldn't remember 20 year old playground scars, lyrics to the song we danced to, the phrase "je'taime toujours" in the close of an innocent letter and make way too much out of it.

MITCH

It's sweet.

LAURA

No, no it's not. It's sick. It is sick and makes me think there is something wrong with me.

MITCH

There's nothing wrong with you.

LAURA

Then answer my question.

MITCH

Laura.

LAURA

Answer it! If there's nothing wrong with me and I'm stable and you consider me a true friend and we're just two buddies hanging out, and there's no consequences then why can't you just tell me?

MITCH

I don't want to --

LAURA

Hurt my feelings? By now, I think the feelings have been hurt with or without any sort of admission, so why stop now? I think it will actually be best for me to hear it. That way I can stop fantasizing about some secret romance.

MITCH

Laura, I need you to take a minute -

LAURA

Do you understand what I'm asking you? I have apparently used you, or the thought of you to survive a myriad of bad things that have been thrown my way. This turns upside down, "oh, well, at least Mitch loves me", this relationship fails, "oh, that's okay. I was meant to be with Mitch anyway"...I better work my ass off to look good, I'm going to see Mitch today.

(beat)

I need to be able to do it without you.

MITCH

Laura...

LAURA

(in tears now)

What?

MITCH

You and I *never* ever had the right timing. You moved on, found yourself, success, everything. I think about you and how you were back when we first met, and I like you so much more now. Your life matters the way it is now. You change people's lives every day. I'm proud of you. That's why we're still friends. You make the day brighter. So, never mind the past. If that's what got you through, then It IS okay. Stop worrying about it. Come here.

He hugs her to him.

MITCH (CONT'D)

I will always be here for you,
okay?

LAURA

Ok.

MITCH

Really...Okay?

LAURA

Ok. Thank you. I'll see ya later,
Mitch.

She walks to the stairs and through the door.