

SCENE – Wintertime (before Christmas)—Jackie and Isabel meet for drinks at a restaurant’s bar.

*Isabel walks in the door. She looks around and her eyes land on Jackie (already with a drink) at a table. Isabel walks over to the table--that Jackie is sitting at—pulls out a chair and sits down while taking off her winter coat.*

Waitress: Would you like a drink?

Isabel: Patron please—double.

*Waitress leaves.*

Isabel: What’s up?

Jackie: Last year I lost Ben.

Isabel: What?

Jackie: In the supermarket.

Isabel: You’re lying.

Jackie: It’s true.

Isabel: That’s impossible. You could never lose that kid for one second.

*Waitress returns with Isabel’s drink and lays it down the napkin and drink. Jackie waits for the waitress to leave.*

Jackie: I did.

Isabel: Ben never mentioned it.

Jackie: He just remembers I found him.

Isabel: Why didn’t you tell me?

Jackie: You know why.

Isabel: I never wanted to be a mom. Well, sharing it with you is one thing. Carrying it alone the rest of my life...always being compared to you. You’re perfect.

Jackie: *(Laughs)*

Isabel: They worship you. I just don't want to be looking over my shoulder every day for twenty years... knowing... that someone else would have done it right... done it better... the way that I can't.

Jackie: What do I have that you don't?

Isabel: *(Laughs)* You're Mother Earth incarnate.

Jackie: You're hip and fresh.

Isabel: You ride with Anna.

Jackie: You'll learn.

*Isabel thinks about it.*

Isabel: You know every story... every wound... every memory. Their whole life's happiness is wrapped up in you. Every single moment. Don't you get it? Look down the road to her wedding. I'm in a room alone with her... fitting her veil... fluffing her dress... telling her... no woman has ever looked that beautiful. And my fear is... that she'll be thinking... "I wish my mom was here."

Jackie: And mine is... she won't. But the truth is... she doesn't have to choose. She can have us both... love us both. And she will be a better person because of me... and because of you... I have their past... and you can have their future.

*They share a moment*