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BRIGHTON BEACH 2 - 1

BLANCHE  
I wanted to talk to you.

NORA  
How was your dinner date?

BLANCHE  
I didn't go, Mr. Murphy was in an accident.

NORA  
I'm sorry. Is he all right?

BLANCHE  
He has his problems - like the rest of us. I'm very upset that you left tonight without saying goodbye. You have never done that before.

NORA  
Can we talk about this in the morning?

BLANCHE  
I'm leaving Nora. I'm moving out in the morning.

NORA  
What are you talking about?

BLANCHE  
Aunt Kate and I have had a fight. We said some terrible things to each other. I'm going to stay with my friend Louise in Manhattan Beach until I can find a job, then I'll send for you and Laurie.

NORA  
I can't believe it. You mean it's all right for you to leave us, but it wasn't all right for me to leave you?

BLANCHE  
I was never concerned about your leaving me, it was your future I was worried about.

NORA  
So I had to give up the one big chance that I had, that I may never get again. Is that it? I'm the one who has to pay for what you couldn't do with your own life?

BRIGHTON BEACH 2- 2

BLANCHE

What right do you have to judge me like that?

NORA

Judge you? I can't even talk to you! I don't exist to you. I have tried so hard to get close to you but there was never any room. Whatever you had to give you gave to Daddy and when he died what was left you gave to Laurie! I have been jealous my whole life of Laurie because she was lucky enough to be born sick. I used to pray that I would get some terrible disease, or get hit by a car so that I would have a leg all twisted up and then once, once maybe, I'd get to crawl into bed with you on a cold rainy night, and talk to you, and hold you until I fell asleep in your arms. Just once!

BLANCHE

My God, Nora, is that what you think of me?

NORA

Is it any worse than what you think of me?

BLANCHE

I am not going to let you hurt me. I'm not going to be a doormat for all the frustrations and unhappiness that you or anyone, anyone wants to lay at my feet! I did not create this universe. I do not decide who lives or dies, who's rich or poor, or who feels loved. If you feel cheated that Laura gets more than you do, I feel cheated that my husband died at thirty-six! I'm sorry that you feel unloved Nora, and I will do anything I can to change it, but I will not go back to being that frightened, hopeless woman that I created. I've already buried someone I loved, now it's time to bury someone I hate.