

LINDSEY

You've got to be kidding.

There is yet another box marked for Goodwill. This one is familiar. She sits down next to it. Opens it. Inside are Randy's clothes, the same ones she had found before.

CUT TO:

66 INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

66

Donna steps inside. Closes the door. She's practically floating. But is then startled when she sees Lindsey on the couch waiting for her.

START

DONNA

You scared me.

LINDSEY

Did you have a nice time?

DONNA

Oh, Lindsey, I... I don't know where to begin. We *hit the town*, bit the dust off our shoes, one thing after another. And you're not going to believe this... we went sledding! I haven't sledding in thirty years! It was exhilarating! We even went for ice cream... in the middle of winter!

Donna finally realizes there is a reason Lindsey is not responding to any of this -

DONNA

What's wrong?

LINDSEY

Is there anything else you were going to give away? Besides his clothes?

DONNA

This is going to be a bad one, isn't it. Maybe I should go to the bathroom first.

LINDSEY

It is one thing for you to decorate and reorganize, pretend you own the place. But give away his clothes?

(CONTINUED)

DONNA

I'm sorry. I thought they were boxed up for a reason.

LINDSEY

They were. But it wasn't to give them away.

Donna considers her for a moment -

DONNA

I've already said I'm sorry more times than I can count, but I'm not going to apologize anymore. I'm going to give you my advice. It's been five years. It's time to move on. Not to forget, not to pretend it didn't happen... but to allow yourself to be happy. It took this long for Hannah to even have a real Christmas. I know what it's like to be alone. I talk big about being independent, a free woman. Guess what? I just had the time of my life with a man I've been avoiding for years and all I kept asking myself is, what took so long!

Lindsey is about to speak. Donna stops her.

DONNA

Nobody is saying you're supposed to get married or not feel a little guilty looking at another man. You are going have pain the rest of your life. But it doesn't mean you can't have a life.

LINDSEY

I am trying.

DONNA

No, you're not.

LINDSEY

Mom... it was a big step for me this year. But you -

DONNA

- but you keep finding reasons to take two steps back. I've done it my whole life.

LINDSEY

You're the happiest person I know.

(CONTINUED)

DONNA
I thought I was.

Lindsey is surprised by this...

LINDSEY
You really like him.

DONNA
I'm trying to find reasons not to.

LINDSEY
Boy, you really are a hypocrite.

DONNA
Of course, I am. But I also have a few pearls of wisdom to pass on, so quit being so stubborn.

LINDSEY
I'm not. I want to be open to someone, I really do.

Donna looks at her. Something has just occurred to her -

DONNA
Wait a minute. That's what this is about. You don't like Scott.

LINDSEY
That's not it.

DONNA
I never even considered that.

Lindsey rolls her eyes in frustration -

DONNA
I just assumed. He's good looking, charming, I just thought it was mutual. I didn't consider you don't actually like him, I mean, that explains -

LINDSEY
I do like him!

Donna goes quiet. Even Lindsey is taken aback that she actually said that out loud.

LINDSEY
Okay? And it's starting to make it all -

(CONTINUED)

DONNA

Real.

Lindsey wipes tears from her eyes, doing everything she can to keep from letting it all out.

DONNA

Come here.

Donna sits on the couch and pats the seat next to her. Lindsey hesitates - finally sits. Donna takes her hands gently in hers...

DONNA

A great philosopher once said, "You know you're in love when you can't fall asleep because reality is finally better than your dreams."

Lindsey smiles.

DONNA

It pains me to admit it, but I have been awakened. And I just want my little girl's eyes to be open to whatever possibilities are out there. Life is too good to pass up.

LINDSEY

I know.

She puts her head on Donna's shoulder.

LINDSEY

Who was that great philosopher?

DONNA

Dr. Seuss.

END

Lindsey laughs quietly and snuggles in a little closer.