

kids can have a nice bath. This is the kind of thing that would later be called "spying," and for these people life would become hell. Now your grandfather was in government, so that's different. It did not help the Left in the long run what he and his colleagues, what they did.

EMMA. No.

MORTY. No. So, that's a lesson. And we move on. Right? (Brief pause.)

EMMA. The story I was raised with was that it was the government that lied, and cheated, and conspired.

MORTY. Still true.

EMMA. Still true, yes, but Joe met Soviet agents under highway overpasses and handed over unmarked envelopes; he had a *code name*; that was not what I heard on my father's knee.

MORTY. You're disappointed, I understand. You're disappointed in your family. It's terrible, I know, but Emma, this is not an uncommon predicament. And you ask me, it's not a reason to let down Mumia, to let down all the people you have promised to help. But I see your heart is no longer in it, and I will speak to my accountant and my lawyer later today, if that's what you want. (Brief pause.)

EMMA. I'm trying really hard to figure out what the right thing to do is, Morty.

MORTY. It can be hard, can't it? Even for very bright, well-meaning people. In a tough situation, to know what's right? EM

### Scene 3

Mel/Emma  
start  
Emma late at night. Her phone rings. It could be Miguel. She answers.

EMMA. Hello? (Lights up on Mel.)

MEL. Hi honey. (Brief pause.)

EMMA. Mel?

MEL. Don't hang up, okay? (Brief pause.) Your dad's asleep, it's just me calling. How are you?

EMMA. Fine.

MEL. Good. I'm fine too. Your sister is doing really well, I don't know if you've talked to her recently, she's ... I know better than to feel sure of anything, but it's just incredible, how far she's come. The dogs are fine.

EMMA. Good.

MEL. I just, I'm calling because I want to tell you about the time I did some civil disobedience, the *one* time, I don't think I've ever told you about it because it's a pretty painful memory / actually.

EMMA. Mel —

MEL. Honey, just let me tell this story, okay? It was the Eighties, and it was for — never mind what it was for, who remembers, and I got put in jail, for, I don't know, a day, two days. You have to keep in mind, Emma, I'm a nice girl from the Midwest, this is *way* — being in jail, I'm terrified, I'm uncomfortable, I'm having panic attacks. Long story short your dad picks me up directly from jail once I'm released, we've been together maybe a year but it's before I moved in with you guys. And he takes me to Joe and Veras. And I'm thinking, this is gonna be *great*, because whereas my own Republican parents don't understand what the fuck I'm doing with my life, Ben's parents get it. And they'll be *proud*. And this is my new *family*. You know?

EMMA. Uh-huh.

MEL. So we get there. We get there, and Emma, they never fucking mentioned it. They went on and on about Leo, and especially Ben, and their political involvement and how they were so proud of their sons. And they didn't say one word to me about what I had done. What I had just been through.

EMMA. Why not?

MEL. Well, when we left, I said, Benji, I was so hurt, I said, "Why didn't they say anything?" And he said, "The Communist Party didn't approve of the cause you went to jail for." (Pause.) You know it hurt your dad too, the way they treated me, and I didn't blame him at the time. But looking back, I think why didn't *he* say anything? Why didn't he stand up to his dad and say he was proud of me? Kiddo, I want to say to you that I'm proud of you. I know what you're doing right now is hard and I'm proud of you.

EMMA. (In tears.) Thank you.

MEL. But I also have to say that what you're putting your dad through is cruel. Yell at him, curse, whatever, but you have to talk to him.