

**1 INT. BEDROOM - AFTERNOON****1**

ELLIE stands in front of a mirror in a simple dress, fixing her hair. Her younger brother BEN sits on the floor behind her, looking down at his phone. On the wall we see certificates and pictures of the siblings and their friends. On a desk in the background is a notebook and several trophies.

Ben looks up.

BEN  
You'll be fine.

ELLIE  
I know, but if Aunt Peggy finds one imperfection on me she'll make a scene.

BEN  
(doing impression of  
elderly woman)  
God, you've just let go of yourself  
haven't you sweetheart?

Ellie shakes her head as Ben laughs.

ELLIE  
Yes Aunt Peggy, sorry Aunt Peggy, of  
course Aunt Peggy.  
(beat)  
I can't wait to get out of here.

Ellie searches through a make up bag. Ben stops laughing and looks at his sister in the mirror. There's a knock at the door.

MOTHER (O.S.)  
Are you ready to come down? You'll  
never guess who just got here!

ELLIE  
I'll be there soon!

Ellie stops, looks in the mirror, then turns around and plops down in front of her brother.

BEN  
Ugh?

ELLIE  
 (nodding)  
 Ugh.

BEN  
 I told you you'd be fine, now get  
 down there and make Aunt Peggy  
 disappointed!

Ellie flips off her brother and smiles, getting up from the floor and turning towards the door.

ELLIE  
 I'll see you down there?

BEN  
 Only if Mom makes me.

Ellie rolls her eyes and exits. Ben gets up and heads to the desk in the corner of the room. We see the pictures on the wall of the siblings-

MONTAGE OF PHOTOGRAPHS:

- A) The siblings as young kids smiling at the camera.
- B) Ellie giving Ben a piggy back ride.
- C) Ellie and Ben comparing heights- Ellie is taller.
- D) Ellie and Ben comparing heights- Ben is smiling and taller.
- E) Ben taking picture with Ellie who's in graduation cap and gown.

Ben picks up the notebook from the desk and leaves the room.

**2 INT. LIVING ROOM - AFTERNOON**

**2**

Hanging on the mantle is a banner that reads "CONGRATULATIONS!", accompanied by balloons and pictures of Ellie. Among the pictures we see an invitation to the graduation party.

Ellie is talking to AUNT PEGGY who is studying her dress.

AUNT PEGGY  
 I do wish you'd wear lighter colors  
 like you used to.

ELLIE  
 Yes, of course, sorry Aunt Peggy.

Ellie sees her brother sitting down on the other side of the room, scribbling in the notebook. He looks up and the two make eye contact. Ben laughs as his sister sticks out her tongue, which elicits a gasp from Aunt Peggy.

AUNT PEGGY

Ellie, please!

Aunt Peggy sighs and walks away, swatting the air. Ellie begins walking to where her brother is sitting, but is intercepted by her mother.

MOTHER

Oh Ellie, come say "Hi" to your cousin, he's going to Harvard!

Ellie rolls her eyes at her brother as she's pulled away, Ben laughs. He then looks at the notebook and begins to scribble again.

BEN (V.O.)

(affectionately)

Dear Smellie, you finally got tired of us, huh?

A tall man in a suit sits with a woman in a bright dress on the same couch as Ben, who uncomfortably scoots completely to the side of the couch, using the armrest as a table.

BEN (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Finally ready to leave behind being the favorite, the breadwinner, and my driver?

We see another man in a suit pass by Ellie, ruffling her hair and smiling at her. She nods and smiles back.

BEN (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Well thank God, I never thought we'd actually be able to get rid of you!

Ellie leans up against a wall, closing her eyes for a second before being prompted into a new conversation.

BEN (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Not only do I get your room and all the shit you leave behind, but I get it all in turn for not having to deal with you, it's like a dream!

Ellie hugs the family members she's talking to as a goodbye, then sits in a nearby armchair. She rests her head in her hands for a moment.

BEN (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
 I promise I'm kind of kidding. I'm  
 gonna miss you, El. Even more than  
 Mom.

Their mother taps Ellie's shoulder, gesturing and looking in  
 the opposite direction. Once she looks at her daughter, she  
 stops and sits on the armrest of the chair.

BEN (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
 It's not really fair, you know. I  
 can't talk to her or Dad like you.  
 You're it. You're what I've got.  
 You're what they've got.

Ellie leans into her mother's side and closes her eyes.

BEN (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
 You'll still have us. I promise.  
 We'll be here. You've always been  
 the most active one. Always the one  
*actually* doing something.

Their mother pats Ellie's back and stands up, extending a  
 hand to her daughter and beginning to dance to the faint  
 music mixed with the chatter in the room.

BEN (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
 You always will be. I'm glad.

Ellie and her mother dance, taking turns spinning one another  
 and laughing.

BEN (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
 Because if you will, you'll be fine.

**3 INT. EMPTY DORM ROOM - DAY**

**3**

Ellie sits on her bed next to her suitcase, taking a deep  
 breath. She unzips the smallest pocket of her luggage and  
 reaches in to find something. When she takes her hand out,  
 she holds an envelope labeled "From Ben". She smiles.

**4 INT. BEDROOM - DAY**

**4**

Ben walks into the quiet room, slowly heading to the desk in  
 the corner. As he walks, scanning the walls, he sees a piece  
 of paper sitting on Ellie's made bed. We see the letter up  
 close, the text at the bottom reading "You'll be fine. I  
 promise. Love, Ellie."

THE END

