

SCENE BY ZOE K

(Lights up on an empty hotel room, one step up from a motel. A married couple walk in, the husband carrying the bags and the wife carrying a baby.)

CHARLOTTE

(Fed up and exhausted) I need to take a shower. The baby spit up on me.

DANIEL

Okay. I ordered some room service downstairs, it should be here soon.

CHARLOTTE

(Slightly exasperated) Are you serious? We ate at the airport. Room service is so expensive, Daniel.

DANIEL

Relax. I had one tiny thing of peanuts on the plane, I just wanted a burger or something.

CHARLOTTE

Fine. Did you at least order me one, then? *(Hands the baby to her husband, crosses to the bathroom)*

DANIEL

Yeah, I did.

CHARLOTTE

No cheese?

DANIEL

No cheese.

CHARLOTTE

Thank you. *(Goes into the bathroom, sounds of the shower.)*

DANIEL

(To baby, a little awkwardly and scattered:) Okay... Let's get you changed. Um... *(Rummages around in the bags.)* Okay, okay. Do you need a pacifier? No. Do you need a diaper? Yes! Let's see... *(Knock on door, room service arrives and he pays, leaving the baby on the bed.)* Thank you! Keep the change. *(Unpacking the food and yelling to Charlotte:)* We have to be at your parents at like 10 tomorrow, what time should we leave?

CHARLOTTE

(From offstage:) Um, she'll wake up around 6, so I'll be up then. You'll sleep in til like 9? So we can leave at 9:30.

DANIEL

Okay. *(Pause, considering)* I could wake up with her tomorrow if you want to sleep later.

CHARLOTTE

(Shower turns off, still from offstage:) You don't know what she likes in the mornings. It's just easier if I do it.

DANIEL

Charlotte, she's my baby too, you know.

CHARLOTTE

(Coming onstage drying her hair, brushing him off) She needs a change. *(Rummaging through her bags)* Where'd you put the diapers?

DANIEL

I was just looking, I didn't see them.

CHARLOTTE

(Shocked) What did you just say?

DANIEL

They should be wherever you packed them?

CHARLOTTE

Daniel, are you joking? You're joking, right? I know, I just know, that you managed to accomplish the one thing I asked you to do while we were getting ready. I know you packed the diapers. Tell me you packed the diapers.

DANIEL

(Looking down, disappointed in himself.) I didn't pack the diapers.

(A few beats of silence. Charlotte stares at Daniel, Daniel stares at the baby on the bed.)

(After a few moments, Daniel takes a deep breath, the baby starts crying and Daniel and Charlotte begin screaming at each other.)

(Mostly Charlotte speaking, Daniel interjecting:)

DANIEL

(Excuse) I have been SO busy at work.

I didn't even want to come on this trip--

It's like you never notice how hard I'm working for this family--

Look, I said I was sorry, Charlotte. It was a mistake. I don't know why you never let anything go.

Oh my god, would it be the worst thing if she didn't meet your mother?

I didn't mean it like that.

CHARLOTTE

You are so unbelievably irresponsible, I asked you to do one thing--

They're diapers, Daniel, do you know how hard it is to get packing diapers wrong??

I just wanted one normal weekend! I just wanted to see my mother, she hasn't even met Lily yet.

Oh please. Please bring her into this. She's my mother, Daniel. We stayed at a hotel because you didn't want to stay at the house. What else do you want from me?

I think you did, Daniel. I just wanted one normal weekend. One. You couldn't even pack diapers. *(Clearly over exaggerating:)* You ruined it. *(Regrets saying that.)*

(They pause. The baby continues to cry.)

DANIEL

(Quietly) I wouldn't want to ruin anything else for you. *(Grabs his coat and leaves, slamming the door.)*

CHARLOTTE

(Yelling after him:) That's great, Daniel!

(She paces the room, agitated. The baby continues to cry, growing louder. She scoops the baby up and holds her to her chest.)

CHARLOTTE

Shh, shh, it's okay. Everything's okay. (*Telling herself*) Everything's going to be okay.

(Soft music plays as she continues to comfort the baby. They move to the window and stand there, she rocks the baby.)

(Lights down.)