

Script: Everwood, Laynie , 3 pages

ROLE: Laynie, 15-17 GIRL

INT. HOT TUB ROOM. SKI CHALET. NIGHT

THREE BATH-SUITED CLASSMATES THUMP past noisily. They pass Ephram, who's got his jeans rolled up, dangling his feet in the hot tub - careful not to get his comic wet. A toe dips in the water beside him. He's surprised to see it's:

LAYNIE  
Mind if I join?

EPHRAM  
She speaks.

LAYNIE  
She sits.

EPHRAM  
She makes jokes. Who knew? (Beat)  
Probably best not to ask. How come  
you're not out partying.

LAYNIE  
Happy people depress me. Drunk  
happy people make me want to  
register an assault rifle.

EPHRAM  
I thought you were friends with the  
who's-who. Heir-apparent to cool  
and all.

LAYNIE  
You go away to boarding school for  
a few months, it's pretty much out  
of sight, out of clique...

EPHRAM  
So it's not just me you don't talk  
to.

LAYNIE  
(shrugs)  
People are disappointing enough  
without giving them an opportunity.

Just then, Kayla and SOME GUY barge in, designs on the tub. Kayla takes quick stock, assumes she interrupted something.

(CONTINUED)

KAYLA

Oops. Didn't realize you guys had  
dibs. Rock the vote.

She gives Ephram an uncouth thumbs up, leaves.

LAYNIE

Case in point. That girl should be  
neutered. People like her make me  
think boarding school wasn't such a  
bad idea.

Ephrams laughs, he didn't expect this kind of energy from  
her.

EPHRAM

You didn't want to go?

LAYNIE

Actually Saint Anne's was my  
parents' doing. They couldn't  
really deal with me after Colin's  
accident-- (catching herself) It's  
hard to explain.

EPHRAM

You don't have to. You had to  
parent them right?

He's right. She didn't expect that. Ephram explains:

EPRHAM

Anyway, I had to parent my sister  
for a while. Kind of left my dad to  
fend for himself.

LAYNIE

How'd he do?

EPHRAM

Not great. Better.

Maybe it's what Ephram just said that makes Laynie open up,  
or maybe it's just Ephram. She speaks resigned, without  
resentment or bile.

LAYNIE

In a way I lost my parents in that  
wreck too. Not the way you did but  
- they shattered when Colin  
crashed. All they could focus on  
was getting him better. (shrugs)  
Sending me away was the best thing

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

LAYNIE (cont'd)  
they could do. They said it was so  
I'd be surrounded by friends and  
have a normal life, but I get it:  
They didn't have anything left for  
me. And I get that the only reason  
they sent back for me was because I  
kept showing up in Colin's  
memories.

EPHRAM  
That's harsh.

LAYNIE  
It's what it is. Don't get me  
wrong, I love my brother to death,  
and I cried like a bunny to know I  
was still in his head somewhere...  
but ever since that truck flipped  
... my entire life has been about  
him.

Ephram sees the armor crack. He tries to cheer her up.

EPHRAM  
I wasn't aware that bunnies did  
much crying.

LAYNIE  
(smiles)  
Don't nitpick.

EPHRAM  
Right.

LAYNIE  
What can I say? We suffer from out  
devotion.

Ephram sits up. This is something he knows about.

EPHRAM  
Yeah, but how much? I mean, how far  
do you have to go just to prove you  
care?

LAYNIE  
As far as you can? I don't know...  
But I'm pretty sure neither of us  
is done yet.

Ephram considers this new girl. Not what he thought she was.

(CONTINUED)

EPHRAM

And I thought you were just quiet.

LAYNIE

Nope. I just wait to make sure  
someone's worth talking to first.  
Then I don't shut up.