

Script: Lux, Lux, 2 pages

ROLE: Lux, FEMALE, 15-17 years

INT. CATE'S CAR - DAY

Cate drives badly, swerving to avoid a car turning left.

CATE

Wow. You really do listen to my show.

LUX

Totally. Every day. Except when I lived in Olympia. I didn't get the station. It's literally why I asked for a new placement. Well, that and I think my foster parents were, like, dealing drugs.

CATE

I don't understand. When I gave you up, the social worker said they'd find you a good home, that they'd have no trouble placing you, that there were waiting lists...

LUX

I was born with this heart thing. A hole. And had to have a bunch of surgeries. A baby on the operating table's not exactly a big selling point to prospective parents.

Cate looks at her sympathetically.

LUX (CONT'D)

I was fine but after everything, I was almost three. Most people, they want a baby...

she darts a look at Cate.

LUX (CONT'D)

I mean, not everyone... obviously.

Cate feels terrible. She doesn't know what to say.

CATE

So this emancipation thing, it sounds complicated.

(CONTINUED)

LUX
It's simple, actually.

CATE
Yeah, but wouldn't you rather hold
out for someone to adopt you? I
mean, if there was a chance?

LUX
No one's going to take me unless I
come with a government check
attached. If no one wants three-
year-olds, how many people do you
think want teenagers?

CATE
I'm sorry. I probably don't know
what I'm talking about--

LUX
There it is. On the right.

Cate pulls up to the building.

CATE
It's just I thought I knew
everything at fifteen too.

LUX
I'm almost sixteen--

CATE
There are so many things you
probably haven't even considered.
Like how you'd make money, where
you're going to live, school -

LUX
No offense, but I haven't had a
mother in fifteen years. I don't
need one now. Thanks though. (then
adds) For the ride.

She gets out of the car and slams the door. Cate feels like
things couldn't have gone any worse.