

MOM

Just like I told you. And then what'd we do?

PENNY

We went to McDonald's.

MOM

You bet we did. You've handled so much. You can stand up to little ol' me. Okay?

PENNY

Okay.

MOM

Hey. Come 'ere.

Penny goes to her. Mom sniffs-and-kisses her head.

MOM

Go get 'em.

PENNY

Okay.

(to the sky)

For real this time.

The lights shift. Penny exits. Mom resets. The scene starts over.

Penny enters to the squeaking open and thudding shut of a door. She stands there a moment, watching Mom.

After a moment, Mom notices. They share a silent look, until-

START-----

MOM

Ben.

PENNY

Mom, just don't talk for a minute, okay? I need to say something, and I need to get it all out, so just listen. I just need you to listen.

Mom looks like she wants to say something, but doesn't. Penny takes this as the go-ahead.

PENNY

I just needed to say, that I forgive you. It's so hard, but I forgive you for the stuff you'll admit, and I forgive you for the stuff you forgot, and I forgive for the stuff you'll never admit to. I even forgive you for the stuff I might be remembering wrong. I forgive you

(MORE)

PENNY (cont'd)
for all of it, because hating you is exhausting. I need
to move out of limbo. I need to get better.

That being said, I can't have you in my life.
Definitely not now. Maybe not ever. I'm not sorry about
it, I just needed to say it to your face.

So, that's it. I'm going. Bye.

Starts to go, but turns back for a quick sec.

PENNY
I'm so glad you liked Stranger Things.

Penny goes to leave, but as she nears the exit,

MOM
Kidda?

Penny stops. A beat. She turns.

PENNY
What?

MOM
I love you.

Beat.

PENNY
I know.

Beat.

PENNY
I love you too.

END-----
*Penny exits. The door makes its noise. Mom looks
after her. Then she sits. Silence.*

*Ben, in his Ghostbusters outfit, runs through the
kitchen, playing and shooting at imaginary ghosts.*

BEN
Come on, Janine!

Ben runs off stage.

Mom looks after Ben. Her face goes neutral.

Blackout.

THE END