THE "ACCIDENT"

Characters (by order of appearance):

TAMMY
TRISH
LUCILLE
TRINA
WILLIAM
OFFICER

Locations:

TAMMY's house (living room)
On the road
Site of the "accident"

Scene One: Waiting for Mom

(Lights up. The stage is bare except for a single chair set Center Stage, a sofa Center Left tilted towards Center Stage and a coffee table between the two. TAMMY walks in, holding the hand of a child, TRISH, who is only 4 years old. TRISH is TAMMY's younger sister because TAMMY is almost 19. TAMMY is forced to take care of TRISH because their father left when TRISH was born and their mother, TRINA (47 years old), is always working and is never home. TAMMY walks TRISH over to the sofa and sits her down on her lap.)

TAMMY. Trishie, where's your stuffsy? It's almost bedtime.
(Wide-eyed). I don’t know!  

(looks under the chair and sofa.  

gets up and crosses to the coffee table calmly and picks up a stuffed giraffe from under the coffee table.)

(Waving the giraffe). Here she is!  You always leave her there when we watch the news, remember?

. Thankyouthankyouthankyou!

. Slow your horses big guns, you need to settle down, alright?

. Okie Dokie lemon smokie!

. Okay, silly silly, come over here and let’s get you to bed.  

(on the sofa and takes a seat on the chair.  

starts singing “Swingin’ On a Star”, which puts  

TRISH to sleep.)

. Sweet precious girl. She never deserved this. None of us did.

(Slumping into the chair as soon as TRISH falls asleep, she takes her phone out of her pocket and dials a number, her mother’s hospital).  

Okay.. three-two-five-seven?  Here we go.  

(Ring). Hello?  

(The spotlight shines on a woman Down Left in nurse scrubs, TRINA.  

She is TAMMY’s mom.)

. Hey baby.

.  

(TAMMY.  

Mom?  

Hey, when are you coming home?

(Interrupting TAMMY).  

Is Trish in bed? Is your homework done? Are your chores finished?

. Yeah, Trish’s asleep. Yes, all my homework is finished. Yes, the dishwasher’s empty and yes the floors are swept.  But I need to know when you’re coming home.
TRINA. Oh, honey, I'm sorry, but it's gonna be another late night. I'll be home as soon as I can though.

TAMMY. But mom, you've had late nights all week, can you just for once come home at a decent time?

TRINA. Are you sassing me? This family needs money, and your little job at The Pointe Hotel isn't paying anything. You have no room to talk missie.

TAMMY. Okay, okay, I get it, but still-

TRINA. Hey, I got another call. I'll see you in the morning. I love you.

TAMMY. Fine. Love you too. *(TAMMY puts her phone on the table)*. But do you really love me? *(After a while, she picks up her phone again and dials a new number.)*

TAMMY. Hey Luce, my mom's working late tonight, can you come over? I need some help, I'm struggling right now and I really need you. *(Beat) Okay, thank you so much. But be quiet, alright? Trish is sleeping and I do not need her awake right now. Love ya too.* *(TAMMY gets up and starts tidying up the books on the coffee table and the rug on the floor, making sure everything is perfect until we hear a quiet rap on the door. TAMMY crosses Up Right and opens the door for LUCILLE. LUCILLE is TAMMY's girlfriend, they've been together for about three years now. LUCILLE is the same age as TAMMY but acts less mature. They enter and cross to the chair, TAMMY taking a seat on the floor next to the chair on the right side and LUCILLE sits down softly on the chair.)*

LUCILLE *(Grabbing TAMMY's hands)*. Okay Tam Cat, is everything okay with ya? You know how I get when you're like this. The last time you called me over was when you were
having a mental breakdown and Trish was spreading peanut butter all over the walls. That was real hard to get off y' know?

TAMMY (Smiling). Yes, yes, I know. You're such a worrywart. (Beat) I'm okay, I guess. But if I'm being real honest, I'm just tired. I'm tired of being Trish's caregiver, I'm tired of not being able to be myself, I'm tired of my mom never being here. She should be here, right? She should be the mom, not me.

LUCILLE. Oh, sweetheart. (She sighs, at a loss for words) Even though your mama don't love you, you know that I do. You know that little Trishie does too. You are surrounded by people who adore you to the ends of the earth, do you know that? Listen, you know the reason I asked you to be mine?

TAMMY. Because I was in all your classes?

LUCILLE (With a laugh). No, because I love you. I love how you think about everything, I love how you always take care of Trish, I love how you're stone-cold with everyone but me and her. I love how you love me. And that's why I love you. You know that now dontcha? You're my Tammy, you're my Tammy that loves everyone, no matter what.

TAMMY. I don't feel like it though. I don't feel like I'm human, you know? Like I'm misplaced in the wrong dimension, the wrong everything.

LUCILLE. Hey hey hey, that's all super normal. (Beat) Do you know what that's called?

TAMMY. What?

LUCILLE. It's called being a normal person. You're normal. But you're also extraordinary. That's why I love you too much.

TAMMY (Standing up and sitting with LUCILLE). Luce, I love you too. Remember that.
LUCILLE (Wrapping her arms around TAMMY). Like I could forget.

(They both fall asleep together, peacefully and quietly).

Scene Two: Going to Work

(The sofa is Center Stage while the chair is in the center of it Up Center. TAMMY is attempting to put TRISH in her winter coat, but she is having none of it.)

TAMMY. Trish, come on. It's cold outside! Do you want to freeze your toes off?

TRISH. No! I like mah toes!

TAMMY. Then you better get your coat on then huh?

TRISH. Fine. (Grunts as she complies and puts her coat on)

(TAMMY puts TRISH in her car seat, which actually is the chair. TAMMY sits on the left side of the couch and begins driving)

TAMMY. Trishie, do you want the Wiggles or Sesame Street for the radio?

TRISH. I don't want anything!

TAMMY. No no no, I cannot be having this right now. (Facing TRISH) Trish, straighten up or I'll tell your teacher that you're acting up again. Do you want that to happen?

TRISH (Quietly). No...

TAMMY. Good. (TAMMY faces full front again.) Now, do you want Wiggles or Sesame Street?

TRISH. Can we do Wiggles, please?

TAMMY (Smiling). Of course.

(Wiggles begins playing, and TAMMY starts the car to drive).
TRISH. Tams?

TAMMY. Yes, Trishie?

TRISH. Where do the fishies come from?

TAMMY. You know, I actually have no idea. Why don't you ask Miss Heartson? I'm sure she'd have the answer.

TRISH. You're right! She's old and wrinkly, so that means she knows more stuff!

TAMMY. You are absolutely right!

TAMMY (Stopping the car). Okay, Trish, we're here. Have a good day, and remember I love you! (She blows a kiss at TRISH.)

TRISH. Okie Dokie, I will! Love ya!

TAMMY (Pressing buttons that turn off Wiggles and play pop music). Okay, so it's left, then right and then left again. I think? Alrighty then. (Cell phone rings; she picks it up). Yes? (A light shows on LUCILLE Down Right on the phone, talking to TAMMY). Luce, is that you?

LUCILLE. Yes, it's me. I'm at The Pointe, the boss needs you like, right this second.

TAMMY. Why does the boss need me?

LUCILLE. I dunno, he didn't say, he just said that he needed to talk to you before your shift. Be careful on the roads though, they're slick from last night's rain.

TAMMY. Okay, I'm coming right over, tell him I'm almost there.

LUCILLE. Will do.

(The phone call ends and LUCILLE's spotlight dims to dark.)
TAMMY. Oh no. No, no. This can't be happening, I can't get fired. No, no, no! No way is this happening to me. Not in a million centuries. *(TAMMY takes a deep breath)*. It's going to be okay, it'll be alright. Everything will be alright.

Scene Three: The "Accident"

*(Same set up as the previous scene, but another sofa and chair Center Left positioned the same way as TAMMY's car. This car has a man, WILLIAM, in the front seat that looks like he hadn't slept in a few days. No light on WILLIAM's car yet).*

TAMMY *(Still driving)*. Jeez, these roads are slick, Luce was right.

*(Lights on WILLIAM's car).*

WILLIAM *(Groaning)*. Move it, lady!

TAMMY *(Sighing)*. Stupid drunk drivers. *(Yelling)*. Get off the road, you idiot!

WILLIAM *(laughing)*. No!

*(Car crash noise and then the lights go dim. When lights up, WILLIAM's car is gone, while TAMMY's car [sofa and chair] is tilted over, with TAMMY lying on the ground, unmoving. Red and blue flashing lights appear with a siren sounding.)*

OFFICER *(On phone)*. Yes, I'm reporting a drunk driving accident. I think there's a girl, she looks to be injured.

OFFICER *(Examining TAMMY's body)*. Chief, I think she's gone. *(OFFICER picks up TAMMY and exits with her off stage, Down Right).*

*(All lights go dim, and when they're turned back on, TAMMY's car is gone, and TRISH is standing Center Stage).*
TRISH. Mommy told me that the doctors at the hospiddle took Tammy and made her better. But she was crying and I tried to tell her that Tammy's comin' back, but she didn't stop. I don't like it when Momma cries. She never cries. I still waited and waited for Tammy to come home, but she never did.

(Lights dim and TRINA takes TRISH's place).

TRINA. The officer brought my Tammy into the hospital and told me that they are trying to save her, but they don't think she'll make it. I had to lower my hours at work to take care of Trish, while my Tammy rested her body. I eventually had to quit my job and Trish was taken into foster care since I couldn't take care of her.

(Lights dim and LUCILLE takes TRINA's place).

LUCILLE. The boss was gonna give Tammy a promotion as hostess at the hotel, but she never showed. I drove up to her house to check on her, and that's when Ms. Miller told me what happened. Boss gave me Tammy's promotion, but I had to quit; The Pointe was our place, and without Tammy, I couldn't work there. Without Tammy, I couldn't do anything.

(Lights dim and TAMMY takes LUCILLE's place).

TAMMY. I was killed in this drunk driving accident. I was killed and so were all of my family's lives along with mine. The culprit: William. William Turner is his name. The man who destroyed my life. He was sentenced to 9 months in prison. 9 months doesn't fix a lifetime of hurt and pain for four people. It just doesn't.

(TAMMY exits Down Right slowly and the lights dim as she exits.)

CURTAIN