THE YEARS WE LOST

Derek sits in the middle of the stage head in his hands. It appears as though he hasn’t slept in many days.

May ENTERS to the right, equally as drained.

MAY:
Are you okay?

DEREK:
(looks up...teary eyed)
What do you think?

MAY:
We should talk.

DEREK:
What do you want me to say?

MAY:

Something...anything. I hate it
When you just sit there.

DEREK:

Oh, I’m sorry, let me stand up, so you feel more comfortable.

MAY
That's not what I meant.

DEREK: Really?

MAY (CONT'D)
You know that's not what I meant!

DEREK (CONT'D)
I don't know, what did you mean?

He stands with an exaggerated motion.
MAY: (CONT'D)
(shakes her head)
You always do this.

DEREK:

What?

MAY:
I wasn't telling you what to do.

DEREK:
Oh, really?! So it's different from every Other time then?

MAY
That's not true...

DEREK (CONT'D)
Oh, no, because for the past ten years you've been telling me what to do...and I just went along with it. Why? Because I love you.

MAY (CONT'D)
When have I ever told you what to do?! When have I EVER done that?

DEREK: (CONT'D)
But the minute I tell you to do something, you say no!

MAY (CONT'D)
That's not true!

MAY: (CONT'D)
(crosses her arms)
Can we just talk?

DEREK:

We are.

MAY:
No, we're not! You're arguing with me! And I'm tired of you making excuses and stupid reasons for us not to.

Derek gives a sardonic chuckle. He shakes his head.

DEREK:

You're one to talk.

MAY:

What's that supposed to mean?!

DEREK:
Oh, please, when Maisie was sick you kept using every excuse not to be there! 'Oh, the house needs to be sold! The car broke down! My mom needed me!'

DEREK: (CONT'D)
Who took her to ALL the doctor's appointments? Me. You never showed up...not once!

*May steps back.*

MAY:
(trembles)
I--I couldn't see her like that. It hurt too much.

DEREK
You don't think it hurt me?!
And Maisie? She was heart broken every time she woke up and you weren't there. And so I had to lie and say you'd be there next time...and you never were!

MAY:
(voice breaks)
I was hurting!

DEREK:
So was I! But I never left-- I never ABANDONED my duty as a father!

MAY:
You never asked me to be there! I felt like you didn't want me there!

*There is a silence filled with tension.*

DEREK:
Oh, no... you don't get to do that.

MAY:
What?

DEREK:
Blame me. I wanted you there. SHE wanted you there!

MAY:
I couldn't see her like that!
DEREK:
See you're making excuses again!

   Derek turns away, calming himself down.

DEREK: (CONT'D)
You were the one who didn't want me around... I-I saw the divorce papers, May.

MAY:
Where?
Where?!

DEREK (CONT'D)
...in your drawer!

MAY: (CONT'D)
(Visible anger)
You went through my desk?!

DEREK:
No! Your desk was open I just saw them-

MAY:
Okay, fine! I had divorce papers! Why does that matter? I never signed them! I-I thought we could work it out.

DEREK:
Okay first...you had them in your desk! I don't care if you signed them or not! And second...work out what?!

(a short pause)
Our child died, May, you missed the time when we're supposed to 'work it out!'
You can't just expect everything to go back to normal!

MAY:
I'm not expecting normal!

DEREK
Yes, you are! You think you can just waltz back in and it'll be okay! You've changed!

MAY
No, I haven't

DEREK (CONT'D)
We've both changed!
They both stop talking for a moment, both eyes brimming with tears. May sits down in the chair and puts her head in her hands. She starts sobbing.

DEREK: (CONT'D)
We're just not the same people, May, and there's no use pretending any different.

She looks up and shakes her head. He goes over and puts a hand on her shoulder.

MAY:
What happened to us? Where did it go wrong?

He kneels down and takes her hand.

DEREK:
Our daughter died...

MAY:
I know it's my fault...I'm so sorry...I know you hate me.

She looks away and he pulls her into a embrace. He stands and kisses the top of her head.

DEREK
I don't hate you, I never could...but we can't keep acting like things haven't changed between us, because they have.

MAY:
I know. But I feel like we owe it to her. She wouldn't want this.

DEREK
No, she wouldn't want us to be unhappy, and...we don't make each other happy anymore.

There is a long pause.

DEREK: (CONT'D)

Goodbye, May.

May remains silent as the DEREK exits the stage.

MAY:
(in a whisper)
Goodbye, Derek.

A little girl(clothed in complete white, wearing a beanie) ENTERS and watches. She steps closer reaching out to touch May then pulls back. With one glance backwards she EXITS.

END SCENE

THERE'S A PICTURE OF THE YOUNG GIRL IN THE MIDDLE OF THE STAGE.

DEREK enters the stage. He sighs, looking at the picture.

May walks in a few moments later from the other side of the stage.

They stare at the picture together and smile. They then turn to each other.

The little girl ENTERS and watches from the side of the stage, hopeful.

MAY:
You know it's been 5 years and it still hurts. Think it ever stops?

DEREK:
I don't know. But it has gotten better.

How's Sam? You guys still together?

MAY
Yeah...he's doing great! How about Angela?

DEREK:
She's good. We're good.

Derek?

MAY:

DEREK:

Yeah?

MAY:
DEREK (CONT'D)
I'm sorry...for everything. You don't have to...

MAY (CONT'D)
Yes, I do...it wasn't fair what I put you through and I'm really sorry...
DEREK:

Me too.

They give sad smiles.

DEREK: (CONT'D)

Come here.

He embraces her. They stay this way for several moments.

DEREK: (CONT'D)

You and Sam want to have dinner?

MAY:

(laughs and pulls away)

I can't... I have an appointment.

That's not funny.

DEREK:

MAY:

It was... just a little.

DEREK:

No not at all.

They both laugh.

He holds his hand out to her and she takes it. They exit the stage smiling.

The little girl from the picture ENTERS from the opposite direction and stares after them. An elderly man dressed all in white ENTERS and rests his hand on the girls shoulder. He takes her hand gently and leads her off-stage.

The little girl looks back and smiles, satisfied.

END PLAY