















LOUISE

How did you not know? I'm terrible at keeping secrets. You've just been super bad at noticing.

CHARLIE

Why would I ever think that my girlfriend was pregnant?

LOUISE

I've been sick every morning for a month. I balled my eyes out at The Avengers Age of Ultron!

CHARLIE

You cry at everything!

LOUISE

Our freezer is full of hot dogs!

CHARLIE

I just thought you liked hot dogs.

LOUISE

I don't think I do?! And I didn't touch the mint juleps at Katey's Kentucky Derby party. *I am a walking cliché.*

A beat.

LOUISE (cont'd)

I wanted to see *The King and I* with you tonight because I know you can't go to the theater without wanting to talk about it afterwards. And I would be the only one there, so you'd have to talk to me. And when we got home, you'd want to sit on the couch and read what Brantley had to say, and I would sit down next to you and complain that my belly hurt and ask you to rub it for me. And I think you would have... even if it was just to get me to shut up. And then you would notice how it felt a little hard. And you would ask me if I was doing sit ups, and I would laugh, because I never... and then I would tell you that I went to see Dr. Fein. And you would realize. And you would smile again.

A beat.

CHARLIE

I don't want a baby, Louise.

A beat. Louise just looks at her.

LOUISE

There is a baby right now inside of me that you told me you wanted. And now you don't want to have a baby with me anymore.

CHARLIE

It's not that I don't want to have a baby with you, it's that I don't want to have a baby. I was so relieved when you ran out of that office. My entire adult life whenever I've thought about having a baby, I've thought about being pregnant. That's what I wanted. And thinking about all the strange cravings you would have and how your body would be changing and to hear you try to explain to me what it felt like to have someone kicking you inside made me so jealous I didn't want to look at you. I kept having nightmares of the day you started to show that I would start to hate you. And I don't want to hate you and I'm so afraid I'll start to hate the baby too.

LOUISE

You could never hate our baby.

CHARLIE

I don't know that! I can't promise that! I hate *you* right now because you can just announce that you're pregnant. Because you have that option.

LOUISE

You don't hate me.

A beat. Louise looks to Charlie, searching.

CHARLIE

I do. A little. And I feel like a fucking monster for feeling that way, but in a million years I never would have guessed you would go back.

LOUISE

Well... I did...

CHARLIE

Yeah.

A beat.

CHARLIE (cont'd)

I can't do this, Lou.

LOUISE

What?

CHARLIE

I can't do this.

LOUISE

What does that mean?

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CHARLIE

I don't know. But I can't do it.

A beat.

LOUISE

You got me pregnant. It's already done.

CHARLIE

I did not do this to you. I have spent the last six months feeling like I don't know who I am anymore and feeling like I can't talk to you about it because you don't understand.

LOUISE

I want to understand, but I can't if you don't talk to me.

CHARLIE

It's just so final. There is this experience that I have taken for granted my entire life that I would have. There was never a question that it would happen. Like *the most basic* human experience. But I will never get to now. And I only get one life, Lou. So it's like I never get to do it... like ever. And I didn't choose that. But it doesn't matter, because it's so permanent. And life just never really felt like that before. And right now, that's all it feels like.

(beat)

I have been so jealous of you. Because it's not something you want.

LOUISE

Charlie...

CHARLIE

I just want everything to go back to the way that it was, when I didn't have a baby because I *didn't* have one and not because I *couldn't* have one.

A beat.

CHARLIE (cont'd)

I can't have a baby, Louise.

LOUISE

But we can.

CHARLIE

It's going to hurt too much.

LOUISE

It won't hurt too much. It will hurt. A lot. But becoming a mom is supposed to hurt. *I'm going to have to push a baby out of me.* And it's going to hurt so much. But that was okay because it was going to be our baby. But now... Charlie...

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once this baby gets to know me, it's going to know that it's fucked. Because I have no idea what to do with a baby. I never thought I'd have one. And now I am. And I hope it gets to know you too, because otherwise...

(beat)

A baby is a whole other life, Charlie.

(beat)

And I'm so scared. I don't think I can do it without you.

Louise looks down and checks the time on her phone. She looks back up at Charlie.

LOUISE (cont'd)

It's 8:06.

CHARLIE

It's okay. I've already seen it.

A beat. Charlie looks across the table at Louise's belly and the still kind of non-existent baby bump. She breathes in and starts to sing (poorly and out of tune, but really trying).

CHARLIE (cont'd)

(singing)

Getting to know you  
Getting to know all about you.  
Getting to like you,  
Getting to hope you like me.

Louise joins her, quietly at first. And then a little louder.

BOTH

(singing)

Getting to know you,  
Putting it my way,  
But nicely,  
You are precisely,  
My cup of tea...

Lights down. End of play.