

LIGHTS UP on two girls, PIPER and BEA, lying on the ground. They're surrounded by piles of Bea's belongings, some labelled "new house," others labelled "donate." BEA'S MOM enters cheerfully yet another overstuffed box.

BEA'S MOM

Girls! How goes the sorting?

Bea sits upright, dusting herself off. Meanwhile, Piper remains curled up on the floor.

BEA

Well, we've gone through 14 boxes, most consisting of absolute junk. On the bright side, we salvaged 12 of those boxes for the move!

BEA'S MOM

Glad to hear it!

PIPER

I'm just glad everything is sorted! I love you, Mrs. H, but you seriously might have a hoarding problem.

Bea's Mom rolls her eyes, huffing at the girls.

BEA'S MOM

I'm not a hoarder, just a mother who wants her daughter to have memories to look back on! You'll understand later.

PIPER

I'm sure we will.

BEA'S MOM

Well, maybe this will get you to come around! Take a look.

Bea's mom sits the box on the floor in front of the girls. At the sight of another full box, both groan.

BEA'S MOM (CONT'D)

Come on, don't give me that; there's good stuff in there! I think you both will like what you find.

Bea's Mom exits. The girls look at each other tiredly before Bea reaches begrudgingly towards the box.

BEA

Let's just get this over with.

Piper scoots closer to her friend while Bea opens the box and pulls out a few random things. Finally, she holds up a familiar-looking object: a worn, well-loved stuffed puppy.

PIPER

What's that?

BEA

It's... it's the old toy I used to have! I used to carry him around everywhere! We named him Mr. Snuggles because I couldn't sleep without him. I didn't know my mom kept him!

Piper gestures pointedly at the massive piles around them.

PIPER

Clearly she doesn't have a problem with that! Seriously though, that is sweet of her.

Bea sets Mr. Snuggles aside in a separate area while Piper rummages through the box. She fishes out a crinkled, poorly colored hand turkey.

PIPER

Wait a minute... I remember this! We made these in Mrs. Penshorn's class in second grade, right?

BEA

Now that you mention it, I think I do remember that! It was the craft we made in class on the last day before Thanksgiving break!

PIPER

Why did you color the turkey pink and the cornucopia purple?

BEA

I don't think realism mattered to me just yet, Piper! And you have no room to talk considering how *your* project went.

PIPER

Hey! Cutting the turkey in half with the scissors was based on real life Thanksgiving dinner. I stand by my choice!

BEA

Whatever you say.

Piper places the craft next to Mr. Snuggles and the two dig through the box a bit more. Bea pulls out some pictures at which Piper makes a face. A few more things like books, a blanket, old school spirit T-shirts, and maybe a game or toy or two come out of the box before being cast aside. Finally, Piper pulls out a yearbook.

PIPER

You have *got* to be kidding me!

BEA

Is that our yearbook from 2021? What was that, sixth grade?

PIPER

Unfortunately, yes.

Bea snatches the yearbook from Piper's grasp and flips through it until landing on the right page. A cackle escapes her as her eyes land on Piper's yearbook portrait.

BEA

Oh my gosh! That was the year you cut your hair really short and shaved off your eyebrows because you were 'edgy.'

PIPER

SHHHHH... we don't need to bring that up again!

BEA

It's funny now!

Bea pulls the book closer to her face, getting a better look at middle-school-Piper.

BEA (CONT'D)

It's also kind of weird to look at how young we were.

PIPER

This was only four years ago, but I feel like I'm looking at a different person.

BEA

Weird, huh?

PIPER

Trippy. Do you want to put this with the other two?

BEA

Sure! We can name that pile "Too good to get rid of."

PIPER

Your mom was right, we did find some good stuff! What's left in the box?

Bea picks up the box and dumps the remaining contents out. A loose sheet of paper, maybe a few crayons, and two bracelets fall out.

BEA

What are those?

Piper scoops up one of them. The bracelets are homemade and beaded. One is purple and pink and has the word 'besties' spelled out on it. The other is sky blue and has the word 'forever' spelled out on it. A wave of solemnity washes over the room.

PIPER

I remember these.

BEA

Me too. We made these together.

PIPER

They're so... clean. Did we ever even wear them?

BEA

Not for long. Don't you remember why?

PIPER

Now that you mention it, I do. But we promised to not talk about it!

BEA

I know, but... shouldn't we talk about The Fight at least once before I move away?

PIPER

Why does it matter? It was stupid, and a total waste of time.

BEA

Exactly, that's *why* we should talk about it!

PIPER

...fine. Wasn't it over a boy?

BEA

Not just any boy; *Preston*.

PIPER

Oh my gosh, that guy! We were both obsessed with him!

BEA

We were so obsessed with him that we totally turned on each other when he confessed that he liked me.

PIPER

I remember The Fight so clearly. We were here, in this room, when he called and told you everything. I was so mad, I threw my bracelet at you and walked home in the dark!

BEA

Gosh, our fight was so stupid. We stopped speaking for over a year all because of some boy that I never even dated!

PIPER

Well, when you put it like that, it sounds pretty bad.

BEA

It was pretty bad. Now that we're talking about it, I wish we hadn't had that whole argument in the first place. We had no idea how much time we were wasting being petty!

PIPER

I know. Especially now that you're moving, all the disagreements and dramatics seem so pointless.

BEA

Looking back, they were! That's what sucks about growing up, you only get to do it once. If I could just go back and tell myself what I know now, we could've had more time.

PIPER

Hey, it hasn't been all bad! We still have years of adventures to look back on. And that's not going to go away when you move. You know that, right?

BEA

But *I'm* going away. After next week, I won't get to see you for who knows how long. What are we going to do until then?

PIPER

We have Facetime, and we can text, and send each other pictures!
We'll still talk everyday, I promise!

BEA

That's nowhere near living in the same neighborhood like we do now. I can't just walk over to your house whenever I feel like it. We won't be at the same school anymore, and we can't have sleepovers every weekend. All of that ends next Friday.

PIPER

I'm going to miss you a lot, Bea. But we're not going to stop talking, not again. We can't change what happened, but we sure can stop it from happening again!

BEA

Pinky promise?

The two interlock pinkies, sealing their promise. Piper looks down at the bracelets, forming an idea.

PIPER

Why don't we start wearing these again? It'll be like before our fight, like nothing ever happened!

BEA

(brightening up)
That's a great idea!

Bea picks up the pink and purple bracelet while Piper slips on the blue one.

PIPER

There. Now, even when we get busy or lonely, we won't be apart!

BEA

Shake on it?

Bea and Piper launch into an elaborate, long-rehearsed handshake. Once they finish, they break into laughter before Bea pulls Piper into a tight hug. Bea's Mom enters with two cups of water as they embrace.

BEA'S MOM

Girls, I- oh, am I interrupting something?

BEA
Nope, not at all.

PIPER
We just got finished sorting through your collection!

BEA'S MOM
I see that!

Bea's mom reaches for Piper's and Bea's wrists to get a better look at their new jewelry.

BEA'S MOM (CONT'D)
I had a feeling you'd like those! I kept them just in case you two ever made up.

BEA
I'm happy you kept them too! Thanks, Mom.

Bea and her mother embrace. Bea's Mom extends her hand to invite Piper to join them, which Piper zealously accepts.

PIPER
Yeah, thanks Mrs. H. I guess your hoarding came in handy after all!

BEA'S MOM
I told you you'd understand eventually!

The girls look at each other knowingly and grin.

BEA AND PIPER
We do now.

BLACK OUT.