

INT. BASEMENT APARTMENT, STELLA'S BEDROOM - DAY

STELLA (35) and CHRIS (35) are in bed, sleeping. We view them from above, the stars' point of view.

Stella's eyes blink open.

Beat.

Suddenly, energetic, Stella searches her bedside table with her hand until she finds her phone.

STELLA
Shit. Shit shit shit...

She frantically presses buttons, but the phone's dead.

Stella searches around Chris, looking for his phone.

No reaction. Stella eventually finds it. She takes one look at the time on the phone--

STELLA (CONT'D)
Shiiiiit....

--and jumps out of bed.

INT. LUCY'S HOUSE, FRONT DOOR - DAY

PHOEBE (6) plays with a doll, quietly, by herself.

A SOCIAL WORKER (60) sits on the couch as Stella, with some effort, gets the door open and comes inside the house with her luggage.

STELLA
Hi! Sorry, hi!

KITCHEN / LIVING ROOM - LATER

Stella and the social worker sit at the kitchen table, signing paperwork.

Stella has zoned out, looking into the living room where Phoebe is playing quietly.

The social worker pulls Stella's focus back:

SOCIAL WORKER
Alright, I'll leave you to it.

STELLA
That's it?

SOCIAL WORKER
That's it.

STELLA
You, um...You're not gonna check if
I'm, like, a gun nut or
something..?

SOCIAL WORKER
Lots of gun nuts have kids.

STELLA
Right... Sorry, um... Aren't there
all these, like, hoops people have
to go through when they adopt?

SOCIAL WORKER
You're not adopting.
(laughing to herself)
If you were, you wouldn't pass.

Stella doesn't really have the nerve to join in the laughter.

FRONT DOOR - MOMENTS LATER

Stella follows the social worker to the door, who dons a face
mask and leaves.

Stella closes the door behind her - The click precedes a
stark silence. Stella is now all alone with Phoebe.

LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Stella takes a deep breath, then approaches.

STELLA
Uh...Hi. I--I don't know if
you...remember me...but I'm your
Aunt Stella.

PHOEBE
I know. Do you know where the other
one of these is?

Phoebe is referring to her toy.

STELLA
Uh, no, sorry.

Phoebe, unbothered, returns to her playing.

PHOEBE

Oh. Maybe mommy took it with her.

Stella freezes.

STELLA

Uh...Yeah, maybe.

KITCHEN / LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Stella is smoking out the window. She momentarily forgets her cigarette as her attention catches on the NIGHT SKY. It's a beautiful clear night and some of the stars are even visible.

Remembering her cigarette, she stubs it out, careful to preserve it for next time, and blowing smoke out the window before shutting it.

Over in the living room, Phoebe watches TV. The TV glows onto her face.

Stella turns away from the window and, unsure, looks around. She spots the half dozen medication bottles on the counter. She hesitates, then throws them in the bin.

PHOEBE (O.S.)

Stella...!

Stella, surprised, looks over to Phoebe.

STELLA

Yeah?

PHOEBE

What time is it?

STELLA

(checking her phone)

Uh, 9:45.

Phoebe thinks quietly.

STELLA (CONT'D)

What?

PHOEBE

My bedtime is 8.

STELLA

...Oh. Okay, go to bed.

Beat. Phoebe stares at Stella, expectantly. Stella stares back, confused.

(Pre-lap) The sound of water rushing.

BATHROOM - EVENING

The water pours out rapidly.

Phoebe sticks her foot in to the water, then pulls it out.

 PHOEBE
 Too hot!!!

 STELLA
 Really? I--

Stella puts her hand in, then jerks it out.

 STELLA (CONT'D)
 Ow! Fuck!

Phoebe looks at her. Stella looks back, frozen.

 STELLA (CONT'D)
 Don't say that word.

PHOEBE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

We look around Phoebe's room: Phoebe's bed is stacked with piles of stuffies. Soft light comes from her moon nightlight. A night sky drawing on the wall.

 PHOEBE (V.O.)
 Can you watch TV in space?

 STELLA (V.O.)
 Uh...no, I don't think so.

We find Stella sitting on Phoebe's bed, waiting for Phoebe to doze off. She is transfixed by her phone.

She has up a tracking app - like a Santa tracker. The little dots progress, impossibly slowly. It's showing the trajectory of a SPACE SHIP.

When she looks over at Phoebe she's fast asleep. Stella gets up as quietly as possible.

But at the door she pauses, a softness overtaking her face as she watches Phoebe.