

SCENE 9

Emily in Ben's workshop. She's rifling through papers, searching drawers.

Ben enters. Emily freezes. Long pause.

Ben pulls a letter from a file. It's the letter Emily's mother sent her. He hands it to Emily.

EMILY
Thank you.

(Ben returns to work on his pipe orchestra. He stretches part of a balloon over the end of a pipe.)

BEN
When you tap the end of the pipe, air is pushed out. Pressure inside the pipe is lower than the atmospheric pressure around it. The dynamics of the air circulating inside the pipe are perceived as sound.

(Ben taps the end of the pipe and it plays a note.)

EMILY
Thanks for explaining that, Dad.

BEN
You're welcome.

(Ben continues busying himself with the pipes.)

EMILY
How did you know you wanted a family?

BEN
Your mother always wanted children. Just like you.

EMILY
Did you want children?

BEN
It never occurred to me not to.

(Ben holds up a notebook.)

BEN (cont'd)
 $V = f L$. That's how you know what lengths to cut the pipes. Velocity of sound wave, V , with its frequency, f , and wave length, L .

Ben
#2

EMILY
You'd be a good teacher.

BEN
Your mother is the teacher. She was very proud of her teaching.

(Pause.)

EMILY
That's PVC pipe?

BEN
Yes it is.

EMILY
Funny.

BEN
What.

EMILY
That thing about the pipe bomb. Back when Mom was at Harvard.

BEN
What's funny about that.

EMILY
It's funny they accused you and Mom of sending a pipe bomb to one of her professors, just because you had PVC pipe in the garage.

(Ben gathers up some of the pipes.)

BEN
Scary PVC monster! Look out!

(Emily shrieks.)

BEN (cont'd)
Look at the scary PVC pipes!

EMILY
I'm terrified!

(He hurls the pipes to the floor.)

BEN
Sons of bitches. Pointing fingers. They're the monsters. It's like the booster seat thing. We got to the IHOP way before that woman. They not only seated her first, they gave her the last booster seat. It was an unjust situation.

Ben
#2

BEN (cont'd)
You don't want to drop your mother into the middle of an
unjust situation.

(Beat.)

BEN (cont'd)
Your mother stands up for herself. She stands up for her
family. She stands up for us.

(Pause.)

(Emily opens the letter.)

(She reads aloud.)

EMILY

(reading)

Dear Emily.
Floss morning and night.
Yogurt daily for digestion.
Leafy greens.
Homework.
Homework.
Homework.

Ben