

INT. WELLES FAMILY DINING ROOM - EVENING

JOANNE (Mom), ROBIN (Dad) and DYLAN WELLES sit silently around the dinner table. Robin sits at the head of the table with his wife and daughter on either side. On Dylan's other side, a place setting sits empty and untouched. A beautiful home cooked meal is laid out on the table in front of them.

Dylan gazes back and forth between her parents. She is uncertain of whether or not it is okay to speak.

Robin picks at his food.

Joanne's gaze shifts past Dylan, and rests on the empty place setting where Noah should be sitting. She rises and exits the dining room. Dylan and Robin stop eating. The PHONE BEEPING as a number is punched in can be FAINTLY HEARD.

JOANNE (O.S.)

Hi, Ben?... Yeah this is Joanne Welles calling again... Hi, listen I'm sorry to disturb your dinner, but I just wanted to check in and see if you've heard anything from Noah by chance?

Robin notices Dylan listening intently, he tries to distract her.

ROBIN

So, how was school today?

DYLAN

Fine.

ROBIN

Yeah, what'd you learn?

Dylan is trying to listen to what her mom is saying. She's not interested in talking.

DYLAN

Well, ah...

JOANNE (O.S.)

Right, okay well, be sure to give us a shout when you hear.

DYLAN

I had Math today...

JOANNE (O.S.)

Right. Well thanks. Talk to you soon.

Joanne reenters the dining room. She sits down and picks up her fork. Dylan and Robin wait for confirmation of what the phone call yielded.

JOANNE (CONT'D)
(a bit too cheery)
Well, what did I miss here?

Robin eyes Joanne quizzically, then chooses to take his cue from her.

ROBIN
Well, Dylan was just telling me
about school today, right Dyl?

Dylan takes a moment to examine her parents. She peers at the empty seat next to her. She decides to play along.

DYLAN
Right. We learned fractions in Math
today.

ROBIN
Yeah? How was that?

DYLAN
Well, I was ahead of everyone.
Everyone kept getting confused
about the lowest common denominator
and so the teacher brought me up to
try and explain to everyone.

As Dylan speaks, Robin turns towards Joanne and catches her eye. Satisfied that Dylan is caught up in her story, Joanne looks towards Robin and gives a subtle shake of her head.

Without looking up at Joanne, he slides his hand up over hers on the dinner table.