

SCRIPT TITLE

Written by

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PROTECTOR

by Japheth Gordon

INT. COURTHOUSE - AFTERNOON

A bland hallway in an even more bland government building. Dylan sits in a row of chairs. Kylee emerges from a door marked "DEPT. OF FAMILY AFFAIRS". She strolls over solemnly and sits next to Dylan.

DYLAN

What did you tell them?

Kylee stays quiet, just a shrug.

DYLAN (CONT'D)

Well you were in there a long time.

KYLEE

They wanted to know about dad - how he acts around the house, if he ever loses his temper.

DYLAN

And?

KYLEE

They asked about you.

DYLAN

What'd you say?

Kylee doesn't want to look at Dylan.

KYLEE

I told them I didn't know.

DYLAN

This is such bullshit. You're supposed to be my sister - my best friend.

KYLEE

I am.

DYLAN

Then friggin act like it!

KYLEE

I'm trying to. All I'm saying is everything isn't black and white.

DYLAN  
Are there shades of gray  
here? You can't even say  
that I'm the one who's  
right! I mean, are you on my  
side or not?

KYLEE  
And since I wasn't there and  
don't really know all the  
details, I'm not going to  
say it's his fault.

KYLEE (CONT'D)  
I'm not on anyone's side! I just  
want things to be normal. Just...  
normal. I love you. And I love him.  
And I didn't want to do anything to  
hurt anyone.

DYLAN  
By doing nothing, you are hurting  
me. Now it's my word against his  
and they're gonna think I made the  
whole thing up.

KYLEE  
I'm sorry.

DYLAN  
If it was you, and the situation  
was reversed, I wouldn't let anyone  
lay a hand on you.

KYLEE  
He's our dad.

DYLAN  
(MAKES THE POINT)  
Anyone.

KYLEE  
Listen to what you're saying. You'd  
break up our family, ruin mom's  
life - all of our lives, just  
because dad got pissed and crossed  
the line?!

DYLAN  
Yes!

KYLEE  
Well I'm not that selfish.

DYLAN  
Selfish?!

KYLEE  
Yes. Have you ever heard of  
a thing called sacrifice?  
It's when you realize  
everything isn't about you.

DYLAN  
I'm the victim here. You  
know what? I'd love to see  
you act this way if the shoe  
were on the other foot and  
you got hit instead of me...

KYLEE  
I have.  
(BEAT)  
Twice.

DYLAN  
What?

Kylee is avoiding eye contact again.

DYLAN (CONT'D)  
Kylee? Why didn't you say anything?

KYLEE  
It wasn't a big deal.  
(THEN THE TRUTH)  
I didn't want dad to get in  
trouble.

DYLAN  
It's not our job to protect him.

KYLEE  
I know.

DYLAN  
And if we don't tell them now, this  
won't end.

KYLEE  
I know.  
(BEAT)  
I'm scared.

DYLAN  
Me too.

They hold hands and walk back into the office...