

AMAZING LEMONADE GIRL

4/1/21 DeVita_Alex 51.

A

BROTHER

MOM

Well, the same as always, right? We'll donate it to the neuroblastoma research at your hospital.

ALEX

(A thoughtful beat. To herself.) That is so selfish.

MOM

What?

ALEX

It's wrong.

It's not right giving the money just to my kind of cancer.

I mean, all kids want their tumors to go away.

We should be giving money to all kinds of hospitals for all kinds of cancers.

ALEX steps out of the 'scene'.

And that's when we started donating money to lots of different kinds of cancer research. And people started sending money in all the time now, not just on Lemonade Days. And that year we raised over \$80,000! And then the *next* year, I turned eight, and I got to celebrate my birthday at -- *guess!* Guess where.

ALL

Chucky Cheese! The Water Park! Bowling! The movies! *Etc.*

ALEX

No. I got to go to BUILD-A-BEAR!

ALL

BUILD-A-BEAR! Whoo-hoo! Yay! *Etc.*

BUILD-A-BEAR scene begins. Fun, celebration -- but ENSEMBLE 4 steps out again and speaks to the audience. Again, the ENSEMBLE stops to listen.

START

BROTHER

Okay, sorry, but there's something else I need to say -- as 'the sibling' in this story -- and it's really hard for me, because I'm afraid that nobody's going to like me if I say it . . .

But . . . I also feel this . . . this weird kind of jealousy.

I know, I know that sounds awful! But it feels like she gets all the attention all the time

because she's sick. And I know I shouldn't be having those feelings, I know they're wrong, but knowing that still doesn't stop me from feeling them. You know? And then I feel even *worse* because I feel so *guilty* about feeling like that. And I just -- I don't know what to do with all this.

ALEX steps out of BUILD-A-BEAR scene and comes closer.

And I don't want to bother my parents to talk about it because they already have so much to worry about. And I know my feelings don't mean anything compared to *hers*. I mean, she's got cancer and I'm worried about not being able to play with my cousins or have my friends over? I mean, what kind of a brother worries about stupid things like that? It makes me feel like I'm just -- like I'm a really bad person for feeling these things, for thinking these things.

ALEX

(Steps into brother's 'scene'.) No. No, you're not. It's super normal, what you're feeling. I mean, your whole life gets turned upside down too. And what you're feeling matters. It really does. And you need to talk about it. *(She gestures for ENSEMBLE 1 & 2 to join her.)* Everyone needs to -- right now -- everyone let each other know what they're feeling. Okay?

ENSEMBLE 1, 2, and 4 improv the scene. Perhaps it is difficult to do.

MOM

You know we love you, right?

DAD

And how proud we are of you, for how you're handling all this.

MOM

We know you need us too.

DAD

It's just that, right now, she needs us more.

BROTHER

I know that. I know.

It's just . . . sometimes it's just hard.

END

Short beat . . . And then ALEX gives ENSEMBLE 4 a big hug.