

Running On Empty Scene
Screenplay 1988

Annie:

Hi Dad. I asked Jonah to set this up. You can call the cops if you want to. I'm sorry. This is hard for me too.

Dad:

I wonder if you'll ever know what it's like not to see your child for 14 years.

Annie:

Dad...

Dad:

Not knowing whether she's living or dead. Not knowing whether that child is responsible for the death and mutilation of other human beings.

Annie:

I didn't kill anybody. If you don't believe by now that what I did was an act of conscience to stop the war, then there's nothing I can say to you that's going to make you understand.

Dad:

A man was blinded and paralyzed.

Annie:

He wasn't supposed to be there. Don't you think there have been times that I would have blinded and paralyzed myself to take that back?

Dad:

It's all Arthur's influence on—

Annie:

No dad it isn't. It was my idea. I'm living with the consequences of my own choice.

Dad:

I don't believe it.

Annie:

Well that's your problem.

Dad:

Your mother and me: do you ever think about us?

Annie:

Do you really have to ask that?

Dad:

My God, Annie, why'd you throw it all away? (beat) Your mother misses you terribly. And Danny.

Annie:

Will you take him, dad? He wants to study music. He's good. They want him at Juilliard.

Dad:

So you taught him? There's some irony in this, don't you think Annie? Here you are, asking me to take Danny into a life that you ran from like a shot out of hell. This what he wants?

Annie:

I think so. Got himself an audition without telling me. He'll need money. And people to care for him.

Dad:

Don't you think this is too much to ask? I hardly know the boy. We take him there'd be FBI agents following us everywhere we go. You'd never be able to see him. We're too old for this.

Annie:

Yeah, I think it's too much to ask. (beat) I have another son. He's 10. Harry.

Dad:

Heard about it on the news.

Annie:

I plan to turn myself in when he doesn't need me anymore. When he's old enough.

Dad:

And Arthur?

Annie:

I can't speak for him. Please think about this. (beat) Well, I should go.

Dad:

Annie, he can come to us.

Annie:

Please, tell mom that I love her. That I thought about you both so often. I've called out to you. I'm sorry that I've caused you so much pain. I guess I'm about to see what it feels like. I love you, dad.