

16

LOC. EXT. NO. 32 TANAKA BACKYARD - AFTERNOON 2
BRENT(G), EMMETT(G)

16

BRENT WON'T GIVE UP ON HIS PLAN

After getting some bad news, Brent's fired up.

EMMETT

Maybe when you're set up, they'll let me move in.

BRENT

Your rent-a-dads aren't gonna change their minds. They hate me.

EMMETT

No, they don't. They just have to get to know you.

Brent, bitter.

BRENT

Nup. They wrote me off as soon as they saw me.

(then)

Whatever. Screw them. They're not your family. You don't have to do what they say.

EMMETT

...I guess.

BRENT

You want to live with me, yeah?

EMMETT

Yeah, definitely.

BRENT

So we make it happen.

EMMETT

Okay...but what about what Aaron and David said?

BRENT

Those idiots don't know what they're talking about. I'll sort my job and find us a place.

EMMETT

And then you talk to Leila? Get approved as my guardian?

BRENT

One hundred percent. You watch, I'm making this happen. Nothin's going to stop me.

Passionate. Persuasive. Sincere. Brent makes it sound like it's the two of them against the world.

BRENT (cont'd)

(pointing towards the house)
Those two... they're full of it. We're gonna stick together this time - whether they like it or not.

On Brent, defiant.

17 LOC. EXT. LASSITERS LAKE - MORNING 3
AARON, BRENT(G)

17

BRENT FIGHTS FOR WHAT'S BEST FOR EMMETT

Seeing Aaron approaching, Brent is quick to dish out attitude.

BRENT

What are you doing here?

AARON

Taking you home.

BRENT

Pass.

AARON

Mate, we weren't trying to humiliate you before...but you taking care of Emmett on your own just isn't realistic.

Brent, surly, as Aaron tries to get him to understand.

AARON

We want what's best for Emmett.

BRENT

And you think you're it?

AARON

We can offer him stability - a chance to not just finish school, but thrive because he has support.

Protective, Brent tests Aaron.

BRENT

So what happens when he messes up at school again? And again, and again? It's not his fault, but that's how things go. Will you stay 'stable' or kick him off to the next foster home when things get too hard?

AARON

That's not our plan, mate-

BRENT

It's never the plan, it's just what happens. The system's bull. Kids like Em are just projects for people like you who can't have children of their own and want to feel good about themselves.

AARON

That's not fair.

(then)

What can I do to prove we're serious?

At this point, Brent's fight isn't snarky. He's serious and determined.

BRENT

Nothing. Think whatever you want, but pretty soon you'll let Em down, just like the others.

AARON

We know what Emmett's been through -

BRENT

No you don't. I know because I've been there for him. Every time. And every time, I've always had his back.

Brent takes a moment, letting that sink in.

BRENT

So don't tell me how hard it'll be caring for Emmett. I've been doing it my whole damn life.

On Brent, loyal and confident.