

At that moment Damiano returns, oblivious to the change of mood. He walks over to Nellie and kneels, revealing a sapphire ring. Shocked, Nellie looks at her father.

NELLIE

Is that...?

EDUARDO

Your mother's. Yes. She wanted you to have it. It was in her will.

She's speechless, overwhelmed. Damiano doesn't wait for a response. He slides the ring onto her finger. It doesn't fit.

DAMIANO

Shit. I can fix it.

NELLIE

No, please --

EDUARDO

Yes, we'll get it fixed. I'll pay for it, it's my mistake.

DAMIANO

No, no. I insist. You're giving me your daughter's hand. The least I can do is provide a ring that fits.

Nellie is thunderstruck, heart racing, unsure what to say.

INT. NELLIE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

**Eduardo SCENE
START**

Nellie sits on her bed, the ring beside her. She scrolls through photos of her MOM (30's) and YOUNG NELLIE (6).

Her Dad knock and enters, sits next to her.

EDUARDO

You know, when I proposed to your mother, she didn't say yes. She made me wait 3 years. She said she still needed to see the world. She said there are forces bigger than us, that move us, and there's nothing we can do to stop it. I disagreed, I always thought we had a choice. But there was one thing we did agree on. The one thing that finally made her settle down.

NELLIE

Me.

He pulls her close.

EDUARDO
It's okay to be scared.

NELLIE
I'm not ready.

EDUARDO
But you will be.
(beat)
Look it's normal to have a little
wanderlust. Just don't let it stop
you from building something real.

END SCENE

INT. HOSPITAL - DAY

Busy hallway. Nellie sits alone, watching people. Kids hug their parents, doctors share news with families, some good, some bad. She's trying to squeeze the ring on her finger.

A burst of commotion startles her. A gurney rushes by, surrounded by ER nurses. Nellie sees the face of the unconscious patient... it's Ben.

Time SLOWS DOWN and there is momentary connection... then he passes and everything goes back to normal.

DAMIANO
What are you doing here?

She turns as Damiano walks up.

NELLIE
Hey, can we talk?

DAMIANO
Shit, babe, I'm right in the
middle. Can you hang for a few
minutes? Sorry to keep disappearing
on you. I'll be right back.
Promise.

NELLIE
Sure, of course.

He kisses her, hurries away, leaving her alone again.