

DAD/MOM

DAD

I know you guys need to talk, but please let me make my peace so I can get out of the way.

Melody and Tony walk into the living room where Dad is standing. Melody sits while Tony decides to stand.

DAD

Tony, as a man, I'd like to apologize to you first. The things I said to your wife --

(Pause)

My daughter -- were mean and wrong. I didn't know they would carry so much hurt years later. Mel spent so long not talking to me.

I thank God he brought you into her life, because the first time Mel finally reached out to me was around the time you guys were getting married. I knew then she met the right man. Not sure if you said something to her then, but deep in my heart, I knew your upbringing had something to do with it.

TONY

Mr. Allen, I don't mean to be rude, but shouldn't this talk be between you and Mel?

DAD

It is. But what I have to say, you both need to hear. You see, Mel, when you went away to college and never came back, your mom and I went through hell.

Mom walks downstairs and takes a seat.

DAD

We didn't know whether our marriage would stand. I had the church to run at the same time. It took me a while to realize that I had to step down as pastor and tend to my wife, because I couldn't lose my daughter and wife within such a short time. Mel, you and your mom had a good relationship. So, to see you go ...

Dad pauses and takes a deep breath, as if he's holding back tears.

DAD

There was a lot of finger pointing. At one time, we barely spoke to each other. But there's strength in love. As a married couple, you have to grab hold of that in order to make it. You guys are in a way better position than me and your mother at five years. It took me over twenty years to realize how to make my marriage work. I don't know if Mel will ever have it in her heart to forgive me, but Tony, I know she's worth your forgiveness.

Mom gets up, holds Dad's hand, and rubs his back.

MOM

You see, marriages go through different stages. You guys went through the first stage of being in love. Many people call it the honeymoon stage. Nobody could do wrong. But the second stage is the eye-opener. The reality stage. There's a lot of adjustment where things will have to be put in order. Thoughtfulness for each other and their feelings.

The third stage is the wisdom stage. Thank God your dad and I made it. In stage three, there's clarity and contentment. You guys are in stage two. You each gotta want it bad enough to get to stage three. I believe in you two. Just remember, for better or for worse.

I think we've said enough.

(To Dad)

Let's give them their space.

Mom turns toward Mel and Tony.

MOM

We are going to step out. We'll be back in the morning.