

LEAP OF FAITH

WILLIAM (M, 30s), *has hit bottom again; he's recovering now, but it's not easy.*

BETH (F, his sister), *has been through all this before; wants to be supportive, but has to be smart.*

BETH

What made you go into rehab? This is what, the second time?

WILLIAM

The third. *(pause)* I was arrested. Selling a dime bag to an undercover cop. Hey, I was hungry. And then it was rehab or jail.

BETH

Did Mom and Dad know?

WILLIAM

Of course not. Imagine my one phone call. "Call for Bill Sloane from his son at County Jail." Click.

BETH

Who did you call?

WILLIAM

Alicia. To tell her that I wasn't making it back and that she had to find someone else to fix her up.

BETH

Really?

WILLIAM

I may not love her, but I try to be kind. She lost the baby, you know.

BETH

I didn't know there was a baby.

WILLIAM

She was three months along. Of course, Alicia didn't know she was pregnant for most of that time. But for two weeks, there were moments when the fog cleared, when I believed things could change. Two solid weeks of perhaps before it all crashed and burned.

BETH

I'm so sorry.

WILLIAM

It was for the best.

BETH

(after a pause)

William. Is it different this time? Different from the other times you tried to get clean?

WILLIAM

I don't know.

BETH

Well, that doesn't instill a lot of confidence.

WILLIAM

Honesty is a necessary element for recovery. Page 47, line 24 of the Rehab Bible.

BETH

You know that's what bothers Dad, right? All the promises. All the "I'm not the same person, Dad." "I will never steal from you again, Mom." "I ..."

WILLIAM

Please, Beth.

BETH

They were all lies even as they left your lips, weren't they?

(William looks away.)

Things will have to be different if Dad is going to be convinced to let you stay. You are going to stay clean this time or you aren't. Which is it?

WILLIAM

This isn't a place for yes or no, black or white. It's a gray area we're in now. Damn, you couldn't possibly understand.

BETH

Don't tell me about gray areas. My life has been a gray area, for God's sake.

WILLIAM

I didn't mean it like that. *(softening)* You are happy, Beth, aren't you?

BETH

Yes. I am. But it wasn't always like this. *(pause)* Somehow, you always understood. Even when we were younger and there were no words. I'd be so confused and you would show up and sit next to me. That's all, just sit and I was able to breathe. I don't know how you knew. I don't think I ever said thank you.

WILLIAM

You're welcome, I guess.

BETH

So, you're not dead to me. *(small smile)* At least, not yet.