



CHARLOTTE

You hear that? That's my son. He calls me Charlotte, not Mom, because I ran out on him and Kevin when they were kids.

LIZZIE

Why did you do that?

CHARLOTTE

Because I made a series of decisions based upon what I thought I was *supposed* to be doing, instead of what my heart told me I *should* be doing, and one day I woke up and realized it was killing me. I had to get out. It was awful and I hurt a lot of people, but it saved my life, and it kept my boys from being raised by a parent who simply was not up to the task.

IVAN

I tell you something. In Bulgaria, when I was boy, I find lost little puppy by the river. I bring puppy home and I name him Bogumil. I keep Bogumil in woodshed because we live in woodshed. Our family had been banished to wilderness because my father, once, he looked at the mayor, which was forbidden in our village. And ohhh how I love my puppy! But then, Bogumil grow larger, and Mamo says, "Ivan, we must set Bogumil free because he is not a puppy, he is grizzly bear." So I say goodbye to Bogumil, and I was so sad for very long time. But one day, the mayor is bathing in river, and Bogumil, he ate the mayor! And my family was allowed to return to village! Everybody hated that mayor!

LIZZIE

Leonard's Uncle Roger shot the mayor once, but he didn't die. Ended up with a bad limp, though.

~~LIZZIE yelps a contraction.~~

~~DEB FROM UPSTAIRS~~

~~Just breathe through it.~~

~~DENNIS~~

~~Shouldn't we get her back to her room?~~

~~LIZZIE~~

~~No, it's just a contraction, I really wanna hear how this story ends.~~

~~IVAN~~

~~Where was I?~~

~~MR. YARMOWICH~~

~~Your pet grizzly bear ate the mayor.~~

IVAN

→ ~~Ah! Yes!~~ Now, the custom in our village, whoever kills mayor becomes new mayor.

LIZZIE

They made the grizzly bear mayor?

IVAN

A grizzly bear, he cannot be mayor! This would be madness! He became City Clerk. And after this, no one in village gets divorced, because do you know what happen if you go to courthouse?

LIZZIE

You'd be attacked by a grizzly bear?

IVAN

Oh yes. So much carnage. And so a husband say to his wife, "Perhaps we should not risk being mauled by bear, perhaps we just work out our problems." And there were many years of peace and happiness in our village!

LIZZIE

Are you, like a crazy person?

CHARLOTTE

What Ivan's saying, I think, is that sometimes the most loving thing you can do for someone is let them go, so they can have a beautiful life you never would have imagined.

IVAN

I am not sure that was my point, but I agree with what you are saying. Now, I have earned a cigar, yes?



~~Hey-~~

~~**BRIANNA**~~

CHARLOTTE

Aaaah! Sorry, Brianna, I forgot you were here.

LIZZIE

She scares me a little.

MR. YARMOWICH

She scares all of us a little.

BRIANNA

Thank you. Ivan, I'll join you. I love a good cigar.

IVAN and BRIANNA head for the elevator and depart.

DEB FROM UPSTAIRS

Lizzie, what are you afraid of?

LIZZIE

I don't know, she kind of looks like the ghost in a Japanese horror movie.