

## BRAIN DEAD

(Note – The names and gender of each character is left up to the actors to choose. Actors may make up their own names and are encouraged to translate the scene into the language that is most comfortable for them. Translations should try to follow the same lines but some flexibility is permitted.)

A – What?

B – Just listen to me for a second.

A – No, I'm not gonna listen to you anymore.

B – Please, \_\_\_\_. I've spoken to the doctor and she agrees.

A – You've spoken to the doctor?. You cannot speak to the doctor without me.

B – I ran into her in the hallway. It was an accidental conversation.

A – Accidental. Sure. The two of you were scheming.

B – She is coming back in just a minute to explain the process.

A – You turn your back on your own father. How could you?

B – I am not turning my back on him. He's already gone.

A – He is not gone. He is still breathing. His heart is still beating.

B – There has been no brain activity for over a week.

A – That doesn't mean anything.

B – It means everything. The doctor explained it to me. She'll explain it to you.

A – What does she know about dad? Nothing. He is a fighter. He will beat this.

B – \_\_\_\_, please.

A – Stop it. Stop pleading with me. You think you can manipulate me?

B – I'm not trying to manipulate you. I know this is emotional. Turning off the breathing machine and saying goodbye....

A – If you say one more word about turning off the breathing machine, I swear....

B – You don't think this discussion is killing me inside?

A – It's his life we are talking about. His death. Not yours. Always about you, isn't it?

B – He's my father too. You do not get to stand there and intimidate me and berate me.

The only difference between you and me is that you are in denial about his condition. I am not. He is gone, \_\_\_\_, gone.

A – He is not gone. He is lying in a bed in the hospital. He is improving.

B – Improving?

A – I sat with him all night, last night, talking to him. Telling him how much I loved him, telling him stories, holding his hand. When I told him the story about the first time he and mom met, I felt his hand move. His hand moved, I felt it.

B – That was a just a nerve tremor. The doctor explained it to me. I feel the same thing when I hold his hand.

A – I never see you holding his hand. You never hold his hand.

B – I'm not so public about it like you. I do it in private.

A – You never showed him any affection. Your whole life.

B – How could you say that. I loved him. I took care of him after your after mom left us.

A – Mom ran off because she couldn't handle living with such a terrible person like you.

B – Your mom was sick. She had a schizophrenic break from reality. That's why she left.

A – You drove her crazy.

B - She was born that way. She was paranoid all her life and then one day her mind snapped and she lost it. It's a disease, the same disease her mother had, and it's passed down in the genes.

A - You drove mom crazy and now our father is dying because you broke his heart.

B - That's a sick thing to say.

A - You are a curse.

B - You're starting to sound like your mom.

A - Oh, that's convenient. You don't like what you're hearing so you accuse me of going crazy.

B - You're scaring me.

A - I see how you've twisted everything around. I've seen dad's will.

B - What are you talking about?

A - I saw his will. Dad is leaving everything to you.

B - What are you doing looking at his will.

A - You turn him against me so you can get everything.

B - I don't want anything from him.

A - That's why you want to kill him now.

B - Please. And I didn't turn him against you. You're the one who fought with him every time you came to visit.

A - We fought about you.

B - What for?

A - I was trying to warn him about you.

B - I'm really starting to worry about you. \_\_\_\_, listen to me. \_\_\_\_, what's wrong? What are you staring at?

A - Do you hear that?

B - Hear what?

A - The party is about to start.

B - What party?

A - Don't tell me you've forgotten Daddy's birthday party.

B - His birthday is in January.

A - Silly. I know when his birthday is.

B - It's July.

A - You are so funny. I remember that Daddy and I always laughed when you lost track of the time. You haven't changed a bit. Did you bring the cake?

B - Please. Don't joke like this

A - I'm not joking. Did you bring the cake?

B - We need to get you to the hospital.

A - Can't start the party without a cake. I hope you made a chocolate cake. That's Daddy's favorite. Where's daddy? Can't be late to your own birthday party. Daddy.

Where are you, daddy? The cake is here. Time for your party.