

**MOTHER.** You asked them!

**FATHER.** I had to! If there's a chance, any chance they were wrong.

**MOTHER.** It's not allowed!

**FATHER.** I'm sorry. I miss her. I'm sorry.

**MOTHER.** No one's allowed to ask them! No one!

**FATHER.** I know.

**MOTHER.** What did they say?

**FATHER.** They said no. They were kind. They said no.

**MOTHER.** You should never bother the committee. They work so hard for us.

**FATHER.** I hate them.

**MOTHER.** Stop that! Don't you dare! Don't you ever say that!

**FATHER.** I hate them, I hate them, I hate them.

**MOTHER.** They'll put us on report!

**FATHER.** I don't care.

**MOTHER.** You have a family. A responsibility. It isn't just you, it's us. You have to think.

**FATHER.** Don't you miss her? A little?

*(Silence.)*

**MOTHER.** Well. We've had quite a day. We'll be hungry. I'd better see. About getting us something.

**FATHER.** I love you. I still love you.

**MOTHER.** Yes. Yes, that's good. And I love you too.

*(She goes, expressionless, an automaton.)*

*(A dark space. KIM shivers in a corner. JASMINE enters with a flashlight.)*

**JASMINE.** Hi.

**KIM.** My name is Kim. I don't belong here.