Forward and Back

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Time Period: Modern day
Setting: General, New England type of area. Mostly set on a college campus.

Synopsis: Ryder, a college freshman, leaves home, intent to mark the start of a new life chapter. However, it becomes clear that in order to move forward, Ryder will need to come to terms with his past.

Cast of Characters (Order of Appearance):
Ryder: Intelligent though conflicted and prickly in disposition. Brother of Stephani.
Stephani: Ryder’s sister. Bright and outgoing. She looks to Ryder as a father figure.
Paul: Father of Ryder and Stephani. Short tempered and bitterly middle-aged man.
Jay: Quirky best friend of Ryder. Desperate to be liked despite his social ineptitude.
Lily: Insightful and gentle. Though young, she is more mature than would be expected.
Samantha: Skittish and geeky college freshman.
Patricia: Lesbian mother of Jay. High-energy “cool” mom.

Note: Forward and Back is a companion piece to Home by Michael Ciaraldi and Michael Gagliano. For greater context, the script of Home may be found in the D/T Office.
Scene 1: A New England Home

(Nighttime. A teenage boy’s bedroom. Boxes are stacked to one side, as if someone is moving. Nearby there are small stray items. On a too small bed we see a boy sleeping, illuminated by moonlight from a nearby window. A door opens, revealing a prepubescent girl in an obnoxiously pink onesie. She leans forward, a mischievous glint in her eye.)

Stephani: PSSSST! (silence. she creeps forward) Ryder? (nothing. a little louder) Ryder… (He stirs, but does not awaken. Frustrated she sneaks up and starts shaking him) Ryder!!

(Ryder awakens, though very groggily. He stretches, then switches on the lamp next to his bed; one of the few items not in a box.)

Ryder: (Yawning) Stephani? What’re you doing up this late? It’s two in the morning.
Stephani: (As if it’s obvious) I wanna play! Who am I gonna play with while you and Jay are at school?
Ryder: (Softening) Steph… You know, I bet Aunt Patty would love to play with you whenever you’d like. Aunt Janet too! You love playing house with her.
Stephani: But they’re soooooo far away!
Ryder: (crouching down to her eye level) Steph, they’re right next-door! Thirty seconds at most. (slight shift) Paul will still be around too–
Stephani: But I want to play with you! (somewhat aside) Dad’s no fun anyway…

(Stephani takes out a squishy ball she had hidden and holds it out to Ryder, full puppy dog eyes treatment included. They stand at a moment of impasse. Ryder takes the ball.)

Ryder: (sighs) Only for a little bit. (He goes to toss, but stops) and we have to stay quiet.

(Stephani’s face radiates happiness. At this Ryder can’t help but allow a genuine smile. They throw the ball back and forth. Stephani, in her excitement, throws a wildly off target shot. In trying to catch it, Ryder accidentally falls, knocking over the lamp, which sputters off, as well as some nearby boxes. They laugh as Ryder tries to get up. Suddenly, Ryder tenses, having heard noises in the stairway. He rushes to quiet Stephani and get her out of the room. Paul storms through the door and flicks a switch, flooding the room in harsh, cold light. Ryder freezes on the spot, Stephani behind him. Paul looks livid.)

Paul: What the Hell is going on up here?
Stephani: (backing further behind Ryder) Dad?
Ryder: (eyes fixed on Paul) Steph -
Paul: (interrupting) Go back to bed Stephani. NOW!

(Stephani looks between the two men, then clutches onto Ryder.)
Stephani: No!

Paul: (seething) What? I will NOT say it again –

Ryder: (turning toward Stephani) Please. Steph. Go to your room. Don’t worry, it’s all okay. (Stephani still clings tightly. Ryder looks directly in her eyes.) For me?

(Stephani reluctantly leaves, though clearly upset. The men glare at each other, both knowing the explosion that is about to erupt. There is intensely charged silence. Paul sees the broken lamp on the floor and opens his mouth to speak, but is interrupted.)

Ryder: (defiantly) You shouldn’t talk to her like that. You do realize she’s terrified of you?

Paul: (coldly) She is my daughter. I will handle her however I see fit! Now -

Ryder: (quietly) Mom wouldn’t.

Paul: (Scarily quiet) Don’t you dare –

Ryder: (interjecting) She did nothing wrong. It was my idea. I fell and knocked it over.

Paul: (raging) Of course. Par for the course, I guess! I don’t know what in God’s name makes you think you can do whatever the hell you want, but I’m through with it! I don’t know where you’ve gotten this chip on your shoulder from. Frankly, I don’t care. Still, I am your parent, and God dammit; you will listen to me while you’re still under my roof!

Ryder: (holding back) Whatever you say.

Paul: (Advancing forward) I’ve had it with your smartass mouth!

Ryder: Kick me out then! I can’t wait to leave! In case you haven’t noticed I’m leaving tomorrow in the car that I bought, full of the things I worked my ass off for. If you think for a second that I’m going to look back in the slightest, then you’re fucking delusional! Do you not get that? When I go, I’m washing my hands clean of you.

(Boom. Both stand in tense, shocked silence. Finally, Paul goes to the door.)

Paul: (almost calm, looking away) I want you out. I don’t know who this is but you’ve made it abundantly clear that my son no longer lives here.

Ryder: (directly) That would mean assuming that you acted like a father.

Paul: (not looking at Ryder) Thirty Minutes. (Exits)

(Ryder throws on a jacket, grabs some of the boxes, and brings them “outside”. Lights transition to the outdoors. Ryder puts down the boxes and looks at the shabby watch on his wrist. Stephani enters, unseen by Ryder. Knowing it’s time to leave, he looks back at the house one last time, and is surprised/concerned to see Stephani there.)

Stephani: (still in PJ’s) Ryder?

Ryder: Steph, what are -? Go back inside. If he sees -
Stephani: Why’re your things in the car? *(A sad moment, then it clicks)* You’re leaving.
Ryder: *(Reluctantly)* Yeah.
Stephani: *(Starting to cry)* But I thought… I -
Ryder: *(consolingly)* Sometimes things change and you just have to go with them.
Stephani: *(Begging)* I don’t want you to go! I’ll miss you!
Ryder: I don’t want to leave you either. I’ll see you before you know it. I promise.
Stephani: *(Calming down)* Pinky?
Ryder: Pinky.

*(Stephani stifles a hiccup as they pinky promise. They share a heartfelt hug.)*

Stephani: *(she breaks off)* Go! You don’t want dad to catch you and be mad!
Ryder: *(dryly)* I think it’s a little too late for that. *(He gently ruffs up her hair)* Love you.

*(Stephani goes back inside, as Ryder gets into the car.)*

**Scene 2: A Dorm Common Room**

*(Ryder sits, reading a beaten up copy of *August: Osage County*. A slightly pudgy and flustered looking Jay enters. Seeing Ryder, he let’s out a sigh and makes toward him.)*

Jay: *(more exasperation than anger)* There you are! What. The. HELL, man? Did you not remember we were supposed to head out together?
Ryder: *(Putting down the book)* I’m honestly sorry. I –
Jay: Do you know how long it took before I could pry Momma Pat off of me long enough to leave? 2 HOURS. I didn’t even know humans had that many tears!
Ryder: *(loudly)* Jay! *(Normally)* I genuinely did not mean to leave you hanging. Some stuff came up which changed my plans.
Jay: Oooh, stuff… I’m going to take that to mean you and Paul had another argument? Listen, I know you don’t care for him but –
Ryder: *(plainly, reading again)* He kicked me out, actually. About 2:30 in the morning.
Jay: *(deflated)* Oh. *(testing the waters)* Did you get to say goodbye to Stephani?
Ryder: *(with a slight edge, but still calm)* Yeah.
Jay: *(After an awkward pause)* Hint taken. *(more awkward silence)* Sooooooooooo… Have you met any of the others on the floor yet?
Ryder: *(disengaged)* Not really. You?
Jay: Well, I talked to these two girls who live over in 204B, Lily and Samantha. They’re actually how I found where you were!
Two girls enter the room. Lily, the epitome of BoHo-chic, enters first, followed by a rather nerdy and short Sam. Lily spots Jay, nudges Sam and they head toward the boys.

Lily: (sunnily) Hi, Jay! Looks like you’ve found your brooding angst monster!
Ryder: (looking up) Hey!
Lily: (pointing to Jay) His words.
Sam: Yeah. He asked if we’d seen an angsty, brooding figure around the floor, so we pointed him here! Seems like we steered him straight.
Ryder: (to Jay) I am not –
Jay: Come on. You gotta admit that there’s some truth to that description! Ladies, this dark and mysterious gentleman is Ryder!

(Ryder reddens, not able to come up with a retort. The two girls laugh at the exchange.)

Sam: (composing herself) You know, the two of us were actually about to get some food before the orientation ceremony. If you want, you can come with. (gently teasing) We can decide then the extent of your brooding.
Jay: (before Ryder can speak) Y.E.S. Yes. I am starving! (exiting off with Sam) You know, one of my moms told me she’d kill me if I came home a, quote, skinny bitch!

(Lily goes to follow, then stops, noticing that Ryder has not moved.)
Lily: (gently) Are you coming? (No response) Sam was just kidding. (No response) I really think you’d have more fun out and about than alone in this room…

(Still no response. She sighs, going to leave. He looks up as her hand touches the door.)

Ryder: (looking up) Can I finish the Scene? I’ve only got a page left.
Lily: (Going to sit with him) I can’t see why not. Sure!

Scene 3: A Janky Street

(Ryder and Jay walk along, Jay is now dressed as his definition of “cool”, which most certainly is not. Ryder, wears what he was wearing earlier with a worn looking jacket.)

Ryder: So where are we going, exactly?
Jay: (barely able to contain himself) A college party!
Ryder: (fake excited) That description was so helpful!
Jay: (stopping short) You’re the biggest buzzkill; you know that? (Ryder considers, then nods) As long as you know. (they continue walking) Well, I overheard the guy two doors down from us, Angus, I think, talking about this party. He was all like (In his best Roided-muscle-bro voice), “Bro! My dawg Joey said that Chi Theta Mu was throwing
this huge start of semester blowout tonight! Tons of chicks, shitload of booze, and no List! Bro, we gotta try and get some action, Bro. I already bet Bruno I’d get laid before he does, and I can’t let that ass wipe win, Bro.”

Ryder: (shaking his head) First, nobody speaks like that. Second, if they do that’s just gross. Third, thank you for enlightening me about the type of people I’m living with. (after a second) Why do you even want to hang out with people like that?

Jay: I don’t. I want to socialize and meet as many new people as I can. What better way is there to do that than a party?

Ryder: Um, genuine and meaningful conversation?


(Jay walks off and out.)

Ryder: (flummoxed) Guess I have to look after him…

**Scene 4: Chi Theta Mu House, Party O’clock**

(Pulses of house music are heard off stage, mixed with assorted party noises. Sam stands on stage, looking shaken, disheveled and a little relieved. She closes her eyes, inhaling deeply. Just then Ryder barges in, looking around for something. She jumps at the noise.)

Sam: (seeing it’s Ryder) Oh, it’s only you! whew!

Ryder: Have you seen Jay recently? I lost track of him a half hour ago and I just know he’s making regrettable decisions as we speak.

Sam: Sorry, I haven’t. I actually stepped out here because nobody else was around.

Ryder: (embarrassed) Oh, if you see him –

(A door opens, which Jay bursts through. He both looks and acts joyfully inebriated.)

Jay: (Slurred) Ryder! Buddy! Where ya been? Isn’t this party great? I love it!

Ryder: Woah, woah woah. Why don’t I take this drink while you sit down for a second.

Jay: (Giving the drink. trying for humor) It’ll help you get in the spirits! (starts laughing)

Ryder: (looking at Sam in disbelief) This is bad. He actually thought that was funny.

(Suddenly the music cuts, replaced by Cyndi Lauper’s “Girls Just Want To Have Fun”.)

Jay: (Too excited) OMIGOD! This is my JAM!

(Jay begins to horrendously sing a completely different part of the song. He runs for the door, misses, hits the wall, and falls. Undaunted, he gets back up, regaining his balance.)

Ryder: I really think we should head home –
Jay: (Loudly) Never!! (He goes through the door)

Ryder: (To Sam) I’m sorry about him. I’ll just go –

Sam: (holding her hand up) Don’t worry about it. Honestly, I was about to try and find Lily and head home myself. We’ll bring him home with us.

Ryder: (relieved) Thanks.

(Sam follows after Jay, leaving Ryder alone on the porch. He goes to toss the drink in a trash can nearby, then looks out at the night sky. After looking at the door to see that nobody else is coming he sits calmly and just breathes.)

Ryder: (tentatively) So, um. Hi, mom. It’s me. I know this is a weird place to be talking to you but- (he can’t find the words) I’d like to believe you can hear me. That you’re up there – somewhere – watching. I wish you were still here, though. (He pauses, nervous to go on) I’m in college now. I remember how you made me promise to go out, to make mistakes and actually live, so I’m trying. (A pause) I’d like to think you’d be proud of me, of who I’ve become. When you d- (the word catches) left, I had to learn to grow up fast. I don’t blame you for your choice. I can’t imagine my life without Stephani in it. She’s ten now – almost eleven. Of course, you’d know that. (he looks down sheepishly) She reminds me of you – of how I remember you: kind, candid, (a small laugh. Lily enters, unnoticed by Ryder. She freezes, not wanting to reveal her presence while also not wanting to eavesdrop on Ryder.) rebellious. I remember when you were pregnant and you told me to look out for her. How eventually the only thing Stephani and I would have would be each other. I don’t think you knew how soon that would be. Maybe you did, who knows? But, I’ve tried to guide her the best I can, even though it’s hard sometimes. (he is lost for words) Dad – Paul and I barely talk anymore. When we do it always seems to be an argument. I know you wouldn’t want that. (he collects himself for a moment) I miss you. I miss having you here. I miss having someone on my side. I miss having you there to help guide me. Whenever I try to convince myself I’m fine and have my shit together, I know deep down I’m just lying. (a small chuckle) Shoot, I didn’t mean to curse. Sorry. I’m just so confused. Why now, even though I’m trying to do what you told me to and live my life, do I feel so guilty about it? (he looks off) I don’t know. I -

(Lily accidentally knocks into the trashcan while trying to sneak out, creating a noise. Ryder immediately turns and spots her. Ryder is at first angry and caught off guard.)

Lily: (panicked) I’m sorry. I should go.

Ryder (sighs. Calmly) How much did you hear? I’m not mad; I just want to know.

Lily: I didn’t mean to. I was only trying to get away from this Angus guy and stumbled out here. I didn’t think anyone would be up here. (nervous pause) I won’t say anything.

Ryder: Do you think I’m crazy?

(Ryder pats the spot next to him as a peace offering. Lily tentatively sits.)
Lily: No. (Seeing Ryder’s surprise) My Uncle died in Afghanistan when I was a kid. I didn’t really understand it at the time. Still, there are times, even now, when I catch my mom talking to him. I think it makes her feel closer to him, even if for a moment. (there is a silence, though amiable) Is Stephani your sister?

Ryder: Yeah. She means the world to me.

Lily: And your dad?

Ryder: (more testily, bitterly) What about him? He doesn’t mean shit.

Lily: (still calm) You say that, but I don’t believe it.

Ryder: (closed) You hardly know me. We’re practically strangers –

Lily: True. I don’t. Still, you harbor an awful lot of bitterness toward someone you say you don’t care about. You want to know what I see? I see someone who is hurt and confused. You don’t know your own feelings about your dad since they are so tangled up.

Ryder: (caving) I don’t hate him, if that’s what you mean. I wish things were different, they could change, but at what point is it stupid to not simply cut the losses and leave?

Lily: He’s your father, Ryder. It’s never too late for your family.

Ryder: (Deflecting) This hypothetical is nice, but kind of pointless. He kicked me out for good last night, even if I did goad him. If he cares he has an odd way of showing it.

Lily: (sweetly) Don’t you see that’s my point? Maybe he’s hurting too. That ache and yearning that you feel? He feels it too. Like you, he has a hard time processing those feelings. Regardless, that doesn’t mean that he doesn’t love you. You know, sometimes love doesn’t come in the form we expect, or even want, it to, but that does not mean it isn’t there. Sometimes, you need to change your way of looking at things to see it.

Ryder: (after a pause) Are you comparing me to Shrek?

Lily: (laughs) Not intentionally, but I guess. Though, wouldn’t you be Fiona in that case?

Ryder: (flatly) Thanks. (After pause) But actually, thank you.

Lily: If it helps then I’m glad. You seem like a caring person, Ryder. The only things that can hold you back and keep you tied in the past is yourself. I don’t want to see that. You came here to start a new chapter, right? A new chapter doesn’t mean you need to erase the past, but rather continue the story using the lessons you’ve learned from it.

Ryder: You really get people… It’s like you can see straight through me.

Lily: It’s amazing what opening your mind and truly listening will do.

(Lily hugs Ryder. There is a moment where they linger. Then, Ryder kisses Lily. She is surprised but does not recoil from it. After a brief moment they separate.)

Lily: (Shocked, blushing) What was that for?

Ryder: (flustered) I – I don’t know. We were hugging, then I just felt like -. I’m sorry -.

Lily: (stopping him) I do like you and I’m flattered, but I think you’ve gotten this a little backward. You’re supposed to take me out on a date first and then that happens.
Ryder: I don’t know what I –
Lily: (smiles) It’s forgiven. I’ve got to go find Sam. (She goes to exit)
Ryder: (as she goes to exit, Blurted) Do you want to? (abashedly) Go on a date, I mean…

(Lily smiles at Ryder; A silent confirmation. She walks out the door, leaving Ryder alone. He allows a rare smile. Though not the night he expected, it has been good. He exits.)

Scene 5: Dorm Common Room

(Time has passed. It is Halloween time. Jay stands dressed in parent approved clothing. He seems markedly anxious/excited. Ryder walks into the room in a light autumn jacket.)

Jay: (Seeing Ryder, in a faux Australian accent) Crikey! Look, it’s the ever-elusive wild Ryder. He ventures alone today without his mate, Lily! What a rare sight!
Ryder: (his demeanor is different; way more at ease. He grins) She’s going to meet up with us in a little bit. (pointing to the window) Are they here yet?
Jay: Any minute now. Last text I got from Momma Jan said they were at The Circle.

(The door behind them opens and Stephani runs through it, in full garish costume.)

Stephani: Ryder!!

(They embrace. Ryder steps back and surveys her.)

Ryder: I love the costume, Steph! (realizing) Wait. How did you get in here by yourself?
Stephani: (cheerfully) Oh, no big deal. I used Aunt Patty’s copy of Jay’s ID! (Jay did not know this) Aunt Patty and Aunt Janet are still down by the car.
Ryder: You are a big girl, but you really should’ve waited. Actually, I have someone I want you to meet. She’s a new friend of mine.

(Lily, enters the room, in a simple yet elegant maxi dress. She smiles at Stephani.)

Lily: Hello! (towards Stephani) And who’s this fairy/unicorn/pirate?
Ryder: Stephani, this is Lily. Lily, this is my sister, Stephani.
Lily: (Crouching down) Nice to meet you, Stephani. You look so beautiful!
Stephani: (to Ryder) Is she your Girlfriend? (clearly audible whisper) She’s really pretty.

(Both Lily and Ryder blush. This is clearly not a conversation they’ve had yet.)

Patricia: (Bursting in, aggressively happy) Here’s Patty! Oh, look at you cuties!
Ryder: Thanks for bringing Stephani with you. You didn’t have to do that.
Patricia: Don’t you even worry about it! By the way, we couldn’t find a parking space so Janet is circling the block. Some guy named Angus kept trying to sell us on this shirtless frat carwash. No, thank you. Guys like that make me glad that I’m a lesbian… Ooh! I brought gifts! Jay, honey, I got you a special surprise. (pulling out a XXL box) Condoms!

(Ryder tries to cover Stephani’s ears, Jay becomes flustered, Lily suppresses a chuckle.)

Jay: Mom! You can’t… Why…Boundaries! I…why can’t you be normal and bring food?
Patricia: (As Jay exits, following close behind) What?! Don’t you run away from me!
Stephani: (loudly) What’s a condom?
Ryder: I don’t think… um… uh –
Stephani: (puppy dog sad face) Please?
Ryder: (Looking to Lily for help) It’s sort of a… kind of…
Lily: (searching) Glove?
Ryder: (seizing the opportunity) Yes! A condom is a glove.
Stephani: Oh! (pause) I want one! Can we get me a condom?
Ryder: How about no… (Stephani skips off unconcerned) So much for a smooth start…

(Ryder and Lily exit after her. Lights shift. It is now later that day toward the end of the afternoon. Ryder and Lily tiredly enter. Stephani is as perky as ever. Lily hangs back.)

Stephani: Thank you so much, Ryder! Today was so much fun. Like when we raced across that field, and ate cotton candy, and played Ping-Pong.
Ryder: I’m glad you enjoyed it! Maybe you can come and visit again soon.
Stephani: Or maybe you can come and visit me. And bring Lily! She’s fun.
Ryder: (getting the implication) I don’t know if I’ll be able to do that.
Stephani: Why?!?! I miss playing with you. (bluntly) Dad’s a no-fun poopy head.
Ryder: (guiltily) If I could, I promise I would –
Stephani: (interrupting) Oh, I almost forgot! I brought something for you! (She reaches into a small backpack and pulls out a homemade “World’s Best Brother” framed picture) TADA!

(Ryder embraces Stephani, as Patricia and Jay enter. Patricia beholds the cuteness.)

Patricia: (audibly) Aw! That is the sweetest thing ever! (aside to Jay) Why don’t you ever hug me meaningfully like that, Jay? (announcing) I’m joining in!
Jay: (chasing slightly after) Mom… No, Mom!

(Patricia overarchingly hugs both Stephani and Ryder. Jay bumps into the pile and they all go toppling. Lily comes over to help them all up. Everyone but Jay laugh.)
Ryder: *(after laughing)* Is it about that time, Aunt Patty?

Patricia: ‘Fraid so, honey.

Ryder: Okay. *(giving a kiss on Steph’s forehead)* I’ll see you soon, Steph.

Stephani: Pinky?

Ryder: Pinky.

*(They pinky. Stephani and Patricia go toward the door. Stephani stops and turns back.)*

Stephani: I love you, Ryder!

Ryder: *(Genuinely)* Love you, too, Steph.

*(Stephani and Patricia exit. In a brief silence, Lily takes Ryder’s hand in hers. He smiles at her, grateful for the support. Jay lets out a huge sigh of relief.)*

Jay: That was something. Tell me, why can’t Momma Pat be normal, even once?

Ryder: I don’t know, that’s just how she is.

Jay: *(holding up the condoms)* But what am I going to do with these? Do you –?

Ryder: *(reflexively letting go of Lily’s hand)* No.

Jay: *(pensively, as he exits)* Maybe Angus might want them… Here goes nothing!

Ryder: *(To Lily)* Thanks for helping me out with Stephani today. You don’t know how relieved I am that you two got along.

Lily: *(teasing)* And why’s that? Because you liiiike me? *(She takes his hand. She looks slightly concerned)* When are you going to see her again? I’d imagine term break, but-

Ryder: *(earnestly)* I guess then. Even if Paul won’t let me in I’m sure I could stay with Jay and his moms. They’ve always treated me like one of their own. Anyway, I made a Pinky promise to Steph and that’s something I refuse to break.

Lily: *(seeing Jay enter, sans condoms)* Why don’t you ask him now? Yank off the Band-Aid. I’ll give you two some time to talk. *(She exits)*

Jay: *(to himself)* Glad to be rid of those…

Ryder: Hey, Jay. What were your plans for over Christmas break going to be?

Jay: Um… Probably just going back home to spend the holidays with my moms? Why?

Ryder: Do you mind if I hitch a ride back with you?

Jay: Okay! *(Hesitates)* Does your dad know about this plan?

Ryder: No, but I told Stephani I’d be back so I have to at least try for her sake.

Jay: *(Nervously)* Alright. I’ll give my moms a heads up that you might be staying with us.

Ryder: That’s probably smart. Thanks.
Scene 6: A Parking lot near the dorms, early winter

(Two duffel bags lay on the floor as well as a full laundry hamper. Ryder enters carrying a small duffel bag and backpack. Lily enters a little behind Ryder. Jay waits by his bags.)

Jay: Is that it? Just the bag?
Ryder: Yeah, I like to travel light – mainly because I don’t have much to travel with.
Jay: Well, I guess we better start packing!

(Ryder puts his stuff in the front passenger seat. Jay begins to load up his stuff.)

Lily: (Pulling Ryder aside) Ry, are you sure you want to do this? Are you sure you’re ready to do this? I know what feelings being around your dad brings out and –
Ryder: (hand on her shoulder) Honestly? No. I don’t know if I’ll ever be fully ready for it, but it’s about time that I stop running from the past. It’s time that I face it.
Lily: You know that I’ll be there to listen, if you need it.
Jay: (Approaching them) Everything’s all set! (To Ryder) Ready to go?
Ryder: (to Jay) Just about. (To Lily) I guess it’s time to head out.

(Ryder and Lily share a sweet kiss.)

Lily: I’ll see you soon, Ry.
Ryder: (as Lily is walking away) Wait! Thanks, for, you know, these past few months. For everything. (he begins to redden) I just wanted you to know that I – I –
Lily: (sweetly) I know. I do, too. Now, go. (gently) Go home.

(Ryder and Jay get in the car and start it. Lily stands by, smiling. Fade to black)

END OF SHOW