TRUE BLOOD TIES

by

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JENA sits at a small square table in the center of the room. In comes her father, GIN MALONE, a prisoner.

Jena stands up and they both hug affectionately.

GIN
Sit down, sweetheart. You look nice.

JENA
Thanks. How’ve you been feeling?

GIN
Got rid of that head cold finally. Took months.

JENA
You got more color in your face.

GIN
I feel good. How about you? Every time I see you, you’re more beautiful than before. How are things? How’s your wacko mother?

JENA
She’s alright.

GIN
Leaving her was the best decision of my life.

JENA
She threw you out, what are you talking about?

GIN
Yeah, but I didn’t go crawling back like she wanted.

JENA
That makes you happy?

GIN
At least I have some pride left in the salt shaker.

JENA
...Look, if you’re going to act like this the first minute of me sitting down, than I’m outta here.

Jena stands up and the cop monitor stares at her and Gin.
GIN
Alright, alright, just sit down, okay? Jena, I’ll cool it. I haven’t had the best of mornings. Someone stole my soap and I had to shower with just water.

JENA
Well, I’ve had a bad life, so we’re even...

GIN
Alright, sweetheart. Sit down, just sit down, I’m sorry.

Jena sits. A calming moment between them. How is your mother, really?

JENA
She drives me crazy?

Jena and Gin look at each other and burst out laughing together.

But she’s okay, I guess, you know she’s taking heavier doses of meds now and she... lately, I catch her in daydream states. She’ll be talking with me and suddenly stop and she’s off somewhere else. Then she’ll snap right back into the conversation like nothing happened.

GIN
Right.

JENA
I think she knows she goes off but we never mention it to each other, cause, you know...it’s just---

Jena holds back the emotion welling up inside of her.

GIN
I’m going before the board next month and you never know, most likely they will want me to stay the whole ten but since I’ve done half, you never know, they may let me out sooner. I doubt it but if they do, things will change and get better. I’ll be home and I’ll be there.
JENA
It's a long shot Dad.

GIN
Let's not depend on it but---I know your situation cause it's my situation. You understand?

Jena feeling better nods.
Are you keeping up with things?

JENA
Yeah, things get rough but we're getting by. I put a hundred in your commissary.

GIN
That's plenty, thank you. Is Harvey taking care of you?

A dark aura descends over Jena but she nods and smiles.

JENA
Yeah, he, he gives me the money to survive.

GIN
I did a lot of favors for him, got him out of a lot of shit. He knows what to do.

JENA
Yeah.