INT. FARRELL LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

It is the perfect family Christmas setting - house decorated with cards strung around door frames, a manger under the tree, gifts beginning to pile up and the family, minus Frankie, decorating the tree, drinking egg-nog, etc. As Jenny enters behind Eddie, and Rose rushes over to greet her:

GROUP
Merry Christmas...it’s about time...why are you so late?...Did you bring me something, Aunt Jenny?

ROSE
Are you hungry? There’s food in the kitchen.

EDDIE
You go eat and I’ll take your bags upstairs.

JENNY
(sudden, shaky)
No!

They all fall silent and stare at her, confused by her tone.

JENNY (CONT’D)
(to Rose)
Can we go upstairs? There’s something I have to tell you.

Without waiting for a response, Jenny quickly turns and goes up the stairs. Eddie and Rose exchange a glance, then Rose goes after her. The others watch.

INT. JENNY’S CHILDHOOD BEDROOM - NIGHT

Rose sits on the edge of the single bed watching Jenny pace up and down.

ROSE
Please say something, Jenny.

Struggling for control, Jenny shakes her head. Rose hesitates, then:

ROSE (CONT’D)
I know you’re involved with someone, your father told me.

Jenny lowers her hands and looks at her.
ROSE (CONT'D)
(compassionate)
We thought you were going to tell us you’re getting married but it doesn’t look like that now. What happened? Did you break up?

JENNY
No.

ROSE
(baffled)
Then what is it? What do you want to tell me?

As Jenny stares at her, anxious tears fill her eyes.

JENNY
(soft, agonized)
This isn’t going to be easy for you.

ROSE
(frightened)
You’re not sick are you?

JENNY
No.

ROSE
Then what is it? What could possibly be so hard for me?

Jenny stares at her, takes a few deep breaths, then:

JENNY
(soft gasp)
I’m gay.

Rose stares at her.

ROSE
(confused)
What...?

JENNY
(soft sob)
I’m gay, Mom.

Rose stares at her, frozen.
ROSE
(stunned)
You’re what...?

JENNY
I’m a lesbian. I’m gay.

Rose stares at her, stunned.

ROSE
(dazed, faltering)
But...but what about the guy...

JENNY
What guy...?

ROSE
(reeling)
The one you’re involved with...

JENNY
/remorseful/
There is no guy. There never has been a guy. All these years you made them up and I went along with it.

Rose is desperately trying to take it all in.

ROSE
(reeling)
But I don’t understand...how long have you known this...?

JENNY
(choked)
Always.

ROSE
(stunned, reeling)
And I missed it..? How could I have missed something like this!

JENNY
You wanted to. You didn’t want to know. I knew that. Didn’t you ever wonder why you never met any of my boyfriends?

ROSE
(floundering)
You always broke up with them before I could.
JENNY
No, I didn’t. I just let you think
what you wanted to think.

ROSE
(in tears)
I thought you were waiting...

JENNY
(desperate cry)
For what? I’m not heartless, I’m
not conceited, I have feelings, I
care about other people and other
people care about me. What do you
think I was waiting for? Why would
I want to be alone all this time?

ROSE
(desperate, reeling)
I thought...I just thought you were
waiting to meet the right person...

JENNY
My whole adult life...?!

Tears spilling over, Rose looks at Jenny, sick with guilt.

ROSE
What did we do to you? What did we
do wrong?

JENNY
(angry cry)
You didn’t do anything wrong! This
is how I am!

ROSE
But you were the good one. Anne
was always in trouble, but not
you...
   (soft sob)
We even liked the same things, I
always thought you were the most
like me...

Jenny is choking back her tears.

JENNY
That hasn’t changed. I’m still the
most like you and I haven’t stopped
liking those things just because
I’m gay! I’m still the same
person!
ROSE
(shattered)
No, you’re not. You’ve been lieing to me for years.

Jenny turns away with guilt.

ROSE (CONT’D)
(low sob)
Your father will have to know. It won’t be easy for him either, but he has to know and I think you should tell him yourself.

JENNY
(confused)
I know that. I was going to tell you both at the same time, but everybody was staring at me. He has to know before I tell everybody else.

Rose goes very still and stares at her.

ROSE
(soft)
You’re telling other people...?

Jenny looks slightly thrown by her tone.

JENNY
Well, yeah...I have to tell Anne and Michael...I’m going to tell everybody.

ROSE
(soft gasp)
Why...?

Jenny hesitates, then:

JENNY
(emotional)
I want to get married, Mom.

Rose stares at her, then slowly stands up.

ROSE
(stunned)
What...?

JENNY
To Kitty.
ROSE
(low, stunned)
Your roommate...

JENNY
She isn’t my roommate. We’ve been partners for five years now.

Rose stares at her.

JENNY (CONT’D)
(emotional)
And I don’t mean just sign some legal thing, we don’t care about that. We want a ceremony, a real wedding like Anne and Michael had. I want you and Dad to give me away.

Rose freezes.

ROSE
(soft gasp)
But I can’t...we can’t do that...that’s not what we do...
(in desperate tears)
And I’m asking you, for my sake, not to tell anybody else.

JENNY
(thrown)
Why not...?

ROSE
(desperate)
Because if you do nothing will ever be the same again.

JENNY
But I don’t want things to be the same!

ROSE
(harsh cry)
That’s easy for you to say! Your life isn’t here anymore! If you don’t like what happens you can go away, but I can’t! This place, these people, they are my life and I have to stay here!

Jenny stares at her, frozen.
ROSE (CONT'D)
(choked sob)
I love you, Jenny. I’ll always
love you. But that doesn’t give
you the right to change that on me!

Wiping at her tears, Rose quickly turns, walks unsteadily to
the door and goes out, shutting the door behind her.

EXT. GARAGE - NIGHT

Jenny is slumped in a chair while her father walks up and
down, smoking, deeply upset.

EDDIE
(floundering)
It’s not like I’m living in the
past, I’m not, I know times have
changed and anything goes these
days....
(rambling)
I just don’t personally know
anybody in this neighborhood who
has children who...you know...
(helpless mutter)
Maybe they all left...

JENNY
(confused)
What?

EDDIE
(half to himself)
The neighborhood...maybe they all
left...

She stares at him.

JENNY
Yeah. They probably did.

He stops pacing, stares into space in great turmoil, then
finally turns to look at her.

EDDIE
(upset)
I’m not going to tell you how to
live your life, Jenny...but I’m not
going to pretend I like this
either...especially the
lieing...all that lying...it’s a
hard pill to swallow...
(horrified)
(MORE)