FADE IN:

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

LEENA (18), emaciated, lies in bed. A number of tubes run from her arms to an EKG machine. She smiles faintly at--

Her mother, DAINA (40s). Leena hands a letter to her.

LEENA
You never read it in full. The last paragraph is about you.

Diane reluctantly takes it.

LEENA
Read it aloud. Please.

Diane takes a deep breath and reaches for her glasses. She reads aloud, her voice shaky.

DIANE
Try to hear your mom when you grow up. And remember, she loves you more than anyone else.

Diane puts away the letter and shakes her head.

DIANE
Now she says it?

LEENA
Mom, please.

Diane takes a moment to respond.

DIANE
I’ll go get us something to eat.

Leena nods. Diane rises and makes her way to the door.

INT. HOSPITAL - CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

Daine closes the door and reaches into her pocket for the tissue. DOCTOR ZALEWSKI (60s), a folder in hands, approaches.

DIANE
Doctor Zalewski. The tests should be in by now, shouldn’t they?

Doctor nods. He takes a moment before responding.
DOCTOR
The lump grows faster than I expected. I’m sorry.

DIANE
You said she’s got a couple of months.

The Doctor looks away. Diane bites her lip, reaches for a tissue and blows her nose.

DOCTOR
I still can’t believe you refused the therapy.

DIANE
That’s what she wanted.

DOCTOR
Leena’s the most selfless and brave girl I know.

DIANE
I would love it if she was selfish and spoiled just like any other kid her age.

The Doctor opens the folder and points at something.

DOCTOR
Here’s the photo of the boy she saved. I’m going to show it to her. Forty thousand will buy him much needed treatment.

Diane retrieves a tissue from her pocket. She blows her nose and walks away.

INT. LEENA’S HOUSE – LEENA’S ROOM – DAY

Diane, eyes all cried out, and Leena wait beside the phone. The phone rings. They exchange a scared glance.

Diane picks up. It’s Doctor Zalewski on the other line.

DOCTOR (O.C.)
...Just like I suspected... she does have a chance. But a very small one.

Diane turns pale.

DOCTOR (O.C.)
It’s five to ten percent.
DIANE
--We’ll do the therapy. Anything.

DOCTOR (O.C.)
That’s the spirit. I’ll be waiting for you in the office to discuss.

Diane hangs up.

DIANE
You’ve got a good chance.

LEENA
I heard him.

Diane starts getting ready. She puts on the jacket, buttons it up all wrong, frantically searches for her purse.

Leena doesn’t move, just observes her mom bustle around.

DIANE
Let’s not make the doctor wait, dear.

Leena reaches for a drawer. She retrieves the letter.

LEENA
I opened the letter.

DIANE
The letter? Which letter?

LEENA
The one I was supposed to open when I turn eighteen.

DIANE
Oh. Good. We must hurry, dear.

Leena doesn’t move.

LEENA
It was a fun read.

DIANE
I’m sure it was. Where’s my check book?

Diane looks for it in the drawers.

DIANE
They might ask for the first payment today.
LEENA
Listen.

Leena reads from the letter.

LEENA
Dad missed his chance to do the great deed. Don’t make the same mistake as him. Don’t put off the great deed.

DIANE
The deed. Right. I remember him obsessing about that. Put on another shirt, honey, this one is not good to wear to the doctors.

LEENA
You know, I thought about it. ...I thought what if my chances to survive were slim. Would it pay off to waste this much money?

DIANE
Don’t you dare talk like that.

Leena shakes her head, hides her eyes. Lips thinned, jaw squared, she whispers, her voice adamant.

LEENA
I decided not to do the therapy.

DIANE
What? ...Why?

Leena takes a deep breath before breaking it to Diane.

LEENA
It’s very expensive. Doctor said it’ll cost us forty thousand.

DIANE
We’ll use up your trust fund money.

LEENA
A 10 percent chance to survive - it’s a freakishly small chance, Mom. I better donate that money, give it up for someone who’s got better odds than me.

DIANE
Give it up? What are you saying?
Leena opens up the letter.

LEENA
If I die I’ll never get to do this great act of kindness. I won’t have time for the deed.

DIANE
Not the deed again! Dad didn’t know what he was saying. He was sick.

Leena stares at the letter. Diane turns pale. She sits next to Leena grabs her arm.

DIANE
This is written by a silly little girl who barely knew how to spell.

Leena looks away.

INT. LEENA’S HOUSE – LEENA’S ROOM

Seated behind her desk is LITTLE LEENA (8). The room looks different now – it belongs to a little girl.

DIANE (O.S.)
Leena, dinner’s getting cold. What are you doing in there?

LEENA
Writing a letter to myself. Isn’t that cool?

DIANE (O.S.)
Very cool, dear, but you must hurry.

LEENA
I wrote about the deed. Dad’s deed remember?

DIANE
Yeah, I do, honey.

LEENA
Only we can’t open the letter before I turn eighteen, okay?

Leena shoves it into an envelope. She writes on it “Open in 2014 only!”

FADE OUT.