**Ciara (9c)**

**Is this the end?**

It is Midnight. I can't sleep because of all the arguing between my parents. Even though my door is closed I can hear their voices very loud. I know they think I’m sleeping. They argue every night and I can't bear it anymore. But I am only ten, so what can I I do? It's not like I can change anything in their life.

Sometimes I look through the old albums of their marriage and the photos of the three of us. They looked so happy, and now... I think something changed their lifestyle. Grandma always said that people and their relationships change over time. All the photos on our walls seem to show a perfect family. Every time I ask my parents if they love each other they just smile but I never get an answer.

Downstairs, they are still arguing and it doesn't seem to stop. I know it isn't a good idea to interfere, but I have to save what’s left of their relationship.

The floor is full of my toys and it’s very dark here. I carefully step across them, trying not to step on anything. I reach the stairs and the voices of my parents get louder and louder. My knees are trembling and my heart is beating faster. Should I really go down? Should I stay here? I‘ll just go down to see if there’s anything I can do to calm them down.

Downstairs there is Mommy sitting in a chair with her back to me. Daddy is standing there with a red face, looking at the ground. Next to him there’s a broken plate on the floor. One day we won’t have any plates left because of Mommy. lt's not the first time she threw a plate at him.

Mommy is crying and when she turns around I see her teary face and the desperation in it, while my daddy is still just looking at the floor, as he always does. Mommy comes towards me and hugs me like it’s a goodbye.

I try to figure out what’s wrong, but when I look at my father’s face, there is nothing. His eyes are empty, no emotions. Why aren’t they talking to me? Why are they just sitting and staring? What’s wrong with them? Mommy’s eyes are red from all the crying. I know that they have been arguing all this time, but I don't know that it was this bad.

I don’t understand why she is crying.... She's such a strong person and I have never seen her cry. She's such a strong woman.

Finally, my dad starts to speak. “Sweetie, you know it’s been a rough time lately and we think that it’s too much for us. We don’t wanna hurt each other anymore and we don’t want you to have to deal with it. We think it’ll be the best to get a divorce!" My heart feels like it has stopped beating. It feels like my world is falling apart. How can they do something like that to me? How am I supposed to feel? Do they even care what I feel?

”Lilith, you have to decide where you wanna live. I know it isn’t easy, but you have the chance to decide it on your own. So, do you wanna live with Daddy or Mommy?"