BEN

I…um…

(He looks at KATE.)

It really hurts when you say I only want to have a kid because I got fired, and I'm trying to fill some void. It's not true. I didn't used to want to have kids because my dad was so…you know. I didn't think I could be a good dad. But then remember, before we moved here, when Richard asked me to help him coach his kid's soccer team?

KATE

Yeah. You didn't want to do it.

BEN

I thought maybe I'd have a better chance of getting promoted to his project at work if I knew him outside of work. But…there was this one day, during practice, when we took a snack break. I was sitting in a circle in the grass with these five-year-olds. I was trying to open one of those bananas where the stem just bends, but it doesn't open, and it just turns to mush inside. And this little guy next to me put his hand on mine, really gently and said, "No, Mr. Ben, you have to *peel* it." And he mimed peeling a banana, because in his mind I had somehow made it to adulthood without figuring out how to peel a banana, and he was going to teach me how. And then he rested his head on my shoulder, and…something happened inside of me. I can't explain it. I could feel something shift, and…I knew wanted to be a dad more than anything.

(Beat.)

I think we've been growing apart for a long time. I've felt it. And maybe some part of me thought that having a baby would help that, too. But I think we're just…becoming different people. And we didn't want to admit it so badly that we've turned into crazy people the last few years.

KATE

I have this lecture on Nietzsche.

LEAF
(soothingly)

No one cares about that.

END

KATE
(ignoring him)

About how when you aren't your authentic self…your body and you mind are at war. I've felt that for a long time. I felt that all the way into a tree. I was so afraid of you keeping me from who I want to be. And the whole time you were at war too, because I was keeping you from being who you want to be.

(They look at each other sadly.)

I think you're right.