

**MARIA**

**Maria Sides**

**START HERE**

Maria sees Madelyn before going into the courtroom.

MARIA

Madelyn, can we talk before we go in?

MADELYN

What do you want to talk about?

MARIA

Rebecca turns seventeen soon. She's been doing well with us. She made the honor roll, she talks about going to college.

Madelyn rolls her eyes.

MARIA (cont'd)

She has friends. She is the leader of a club. She works and babysits.

Madelyn starts to walk away.

Maria gently grabs Madelyn's arm and pulls her back.

MARIA (cont'd)

She has been doing well. Let her stay with us. Let us take care of her.

MADELYN

But she's my daughter. She should be with me.

MARIA

Madelyn, you don't even have a home right now. You need to focus on getting back on your feet, I know you can, but it will be harder if you have to take care of her too.

Madelyn looks to the ground and starts to cry.

MARIA (cont'd)

The court will not let us have her unless you and her father sign over your rights. You don't have a place for her, the court may put her with her father, a man she doesn't even know. Do you want that?

MADELYN

No, I don't want her with him.

MARIA

If you sign over your rights, he might too. Let us have her.

Madelyn, with tears in her eyes, looks up at Maria.

MADELYN

I know you and Alfred love her and take good care of her. I never wanted to give up my daughter, she's my daughter. I love her.

Maria puts her hand on Madelyn's arm.

MARIA

We know you love her, and she will

always be your daughter.

MADLYN

I don't want her to forget me.

MARIA

She won't. We won't let her.

Madelyn looks to the ground, closes her eyes, and begins to cry.

Maria comforts her by giving her a hug.

**END HERE**