

The Rock Within

an original screenplay
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TRISHA

I wrote a sticky note on my office desk. And a phone reminder. What do I do if I still forgot? You think I'm not blaming myself for this?

NEIL

Who's saying anything about that?

TRISHA

Aren't you? Tara's recital?

Neil turns to face Trisha.

NEIL

No Trish! I'm talking about day-to-day things. I worry when you step out of the house. Your car bumper's got a dent for God's sake! When were you going to tell me?

TRISHA

Not like you share anything. Your escape mechanism is expensive toys. Or does your science have a way to justify a Tablet for a six-year-old?

Neil sits up now: that's enough.

NEIL

Of course. You trail off on an unrelated topic.

TRISHA

I thought we decided not to give Tara any electronics until her eighth birthday!

Tara runs into the room.

TARA

Mommy, daddy, I'm scared. I got a 'nightmirror'.

Trisha is about to get up, but Neil scoops Tara up and tucks her in the middle, closer to him. Trisha waits. Then turns her back to the family.