

## **The Secret Life of Bees**

August Boatwright (A) ~ Queen Latifah  
Lilly Owens (L) ~ Dakota Fanning

A: Hey Lily.

L: This is my mother.

A: I know honey. Your mama was Deborah Fontanel Owens.

L: You've known all this time?

A: I knew she had a daughter but I thought it couldn't be you. But one look at you, all I could see is Deborah at your age.

L: You knew her when she was little?

A: I took care of her.

L: Why didn't you tell me?

A: Something told me you wasn't quite ready to know about her. I just wanted to give you a chance to get on solid ground first.

L: T. Ray. He told me that my mother...he told me my mother left me and ran away. I don't have any memory of her but I know he's lying cause some things aren't possible. Children just don't have two parents who refuse to love 'em.

A: Is that what made you leave?

L: I know what I did was wrong. I just seem to do all the wrong things. I don't mean to be a bad person but I just can't help it. So that's why I gotta go. I bought the outside in here and what happened to Zach and Miss May...if I'd never come here, it would've never happened.

A: Lily...

L: I wrecked everything.

A: Lily that wasn't your fault.

L: Yes it was. They were fighting and screaming and she grabbed a gun and he took it away from her and I just wanted to help her. I just wanted to give it back to her and I killed her.

A: Who Lily?

L: My mother. I killed my mother. I'm unlovable.

A: Oh Lily. You listen to me now. That's a terrible, terrible thing for you to live with but you're not unlovable child. There's love all around you. Gimme your hand.

*BEGINNING OF NEXT SCENE BUT CONTINUATION OF DIALOGUE*

A: I started taking care of Deborah when she was 9 back in Virginia. Over 7 years. Till my grandma died and left me this place. That's why June resented you at first. She never got over me working in your momma's house.

L: So my mother came to Sylvan, met T. Ray and got married?

A: That's right

L: But what I don't get is why she married him.

A: I think Deborah liked the fact that he was decorated in the war. She thought he was brave. Said he treated her like a princess.

L: It's not the same T. Ray. I can tell you that right now.

A: You know Lily, people can start out one way and by the time life gets through with them...end up completely different. I mean I don't doubt that he started off loving her. Fact he worshipped her but after about 6 months or so the love wore off.

L: But if the love had worn off why did she marry him?

A: Honey, Deborah was pregnant that's why. She called me soon after you were born. I got letters and phone calls, mostly about you. How you were sitting up and taking your first steps. Playing patty cake, but then the letters start coming less and less and one day she called up and said she was leaving T. Ray. When I picked her up from the bus station she didn't even look like herself. She had gotten so thin.

L: I was with her when you picked her up from the bus station right? She brought me along didn't she?

A: No she came by herself honey.

L: Why? Why didn't she bring me?

A: All I know Lily is she was falling apart. Depressed people do things they wouldn't ordinarily do.

L: It was easy for her to leave me cause she never wanted me in the first place.

A: Lily after she was here for a few months and started feeling better she started talking about how much she missed you. Then she went back to Sylvan to see you.

L: She was just coming for her things.

A: I believe she came back for you.

L: I'm going to bed.

A: Now your mama made a terrible mistake but I believe she tried to fix it.

L: Good night.

A: Damn it Deborah.