

RUBY:

No. Bring him back.

Pause.

Go away.

CORAL:

Ruby...

RUBY:

Go away! Leave me alone! Go!

CORAL rises reluctantly. She puts Carrots the rabbit on the bed and slowly exits. Pause.

BUBBLES:

It's not her fault, Ruby.

RUBY emerges from the covers, sees Carrots, and holds him close.

RUBY:

Why did this happen, Bubbles? Who is mad at me?

BUBBLES:

No one is mad at you. Sometimes it's just time for people to go.

RUBY:

Will you leave me, Bubbles?

BUBBLES:

No. Not while you need me.

RUBY:

I love you, Bubbles. I won't leave you.

BUBBLES:

I love you, Ruby. I know.

Pause, RUBY sniffles. CORAL reenters cautiously. RUBY runs to her and hugs her. They take comfort in each other. The lights dim. When they return, RUBY is under the covers and CORAL sits on the edge of the bed, reading a book to her. Time has passed.

CORAL:

...And the dragon told her: 'I must go now to make the seasons. There cannot be seasons without me. But I will watch over you. You will hear me in the breeze and in the birdsong. You will see me in the first snowflakes and in the colors of the fall leaves and in the blossoms in the springtime. I will be there. In the next-'

RUBY:

Mom?

CORAL:

Yes?

RUBY:

Is Dad watching over us?

CORAL: (*putting her arm around her*)

Of course, Darling. Always. He loves you.

RUBY:

When I hear the bird chirping outside my window, is that him?

CORAL:

Perhaps it is. He's telling you good morning. He's telling you he's proud of you.