**Howard and Paulie**

PAULIE: So you’re gonna do it?

HOWARD: Yeah. I gotta find some things out. Last I knew he was in Minneapolis.

PAULIE: Yeah that’s what Ma said. Do you think he’s gonna want you back?

HOWARD: Look, I already told you ain’t nothin’ ever for sure…but…everyone deserves a second chance…right? Even Father Flanagan said so.

PAULIE: Take me with you then.

HOWARD: No! I can’t.

*Paulie puts his head down*

HOWARD: Look… I would, but you know that’ll make it harder…you’re too heavy for me and if it don’t go so good, you know… then it’ll just be me. If it goes good…then I’ll be back for you before you know it….and well, we’ll be a family … the way it’s supposed to be.

PAULIE: But Howard, we do have a family…Father Flanagan and the boys!

HOWARD: It’s not the same. A family is supposed to have a father, a mother…and kids…not a circus act with a priest as the Ring Master.

*Paulie drops head*

HOWARD: I’m sorry…I know you like Father Flanagan and this place has been good for you. The boys are good to you…they fight over who gets to carry you for cryin’ out loud! But for me, there’s too many walls and I feel boxed in and I just gotta know some things. I gotta know if he really didn’t want me, or if was just *her* he didn’t want.

PAULIE: Okay… but Howard…I’ve never been without you…I’m afraid.

HOWARD: Yeah I know, but I wouldn’t leave you unless I knew you was in good hands, and I wouldn’t leave unless I thought there was a chance for something better. Okay…so you gotta do something for me…you gotta…you gotta…pray for me.

PAULIE: Pray? But you don’t believe in God.

HOWARD: I don’t have to. It’s you that do …and if it works and something good comes out of it, then you’ve done your part. If nothin’ comes of it, than all you done is wasted a few words on the air.

PAULIE: Well I’m gonna pray a lot then. Cuz if somethin’ good happens, it’ll be easier for you to believe, won’t it?

HOWARD: Maybe… but like I said before, ain’t nothin’ ever for sure.

PAULIE: I’ll take… the maybe.