

PETE

What's Noah's latest book obsession have to do with anything?

LINDSEY

He insisted he needed to take to Nana's. *Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel*. Do you remember it?

PETE

Maybe, yeah I guess. It was mine when I was a kid. Mary Anne...that's the name of the steam shovel, right?

LINDSEY

Yes, and Mike Mulligan took very good care of her. We read it a lot while you were in the hospital.

LINDSEY

He begged me to read it to him, before we left. He gave me those puppy dog eyes...like yours. So of course, we sat in the chair and read it. Then I asked him why he liked it so much.

PETE

And?

LINDSEY

And he said "it's like you and daddy." He said "because you are always digging together, and I like that".

PETE

Digging together. Sound like a great song title.

LINDSEY

But it got me thinking...what if we *are* like Mike Mulligan and Mary Ann?

PETE

Pretty deep for a five year old. He's not wrong.

LINDSEY

No, he's not wrong, but what if...what if we're digging ourselves into a hole we can't get out of?

PETE

What?

LINDSEY

In the book, she's digging a hole for the new town hall, remember? And the faster Mary Anne digs, the more people watch and the more people watch, the faster she digs.

PETE

You're losing me Lins.

LINDSEY

What if we're digging so fast that we forget to leave an exit ramp?

PETE

What are you talking about?

LINDSEY

I'm saying...we're digging a hole that I need to climb out of, while it's still possible.

PETE

And what am I, the rusty old steam shovel destined to live out my days in a basement?

LINDSEY

I'm saying we have to change, change the way we are doing life, for both of us. For Noah and Sophie.

PETE

I'm beating this disease, Lins. I am. I'm getting stronger every day.

LINDSEY

The cancer battle maybe, so say the doctors. But it's not the whole war. You need help. Help I can't give no matter how fast or how hard we dig. We both need an exit ramp.

PETE

So, you're leaving?

LINDSEY

I didn't say that.

PETE

You said an exit ramp – that sounds like leaving.

LINDSEY

You aren't listening! We need a way out of this hole, a hole that we both created. Everyone was watching, and we both wanted them to believe everything was fine.