

**Two Cents**  
Madelyn Marks

Characters:

**MAX:** Younger than Harper

**HARPER:** Older than Max

Setting:

Harper's bedroom

*(We hear a shatter, sounds like glass-maybe something ceramic. Lights up on HARPER sitting on the floor with a hammer in their hand. In front of them is a shattered piggy bank. There are coins and crumpled-up cash among the shards. For a brief moment, we watch HARPER begin to flatten out bills and organize coins. Enter MAX)*

MAX

How much?

HARPER

I don't know yet. I have to count it.

MAX

I'll help.

*(joins HARPER on the floor and begins sorting)*

HARPER

You heard it break?

MAX

The whole neighborhood heard it break.

HARPER

I seriously did not know it was gonna be that loud.

MAX

Well you did use the biggest hammer you could find.

HARPER

It's a large piggy bank.

MAX

*Was* a large piggy bank

HARPER

Yes, was

MAX

This is so exciting.

HARPER

I know, I finally get to see how much money I saved.

MAX

You mean *we*

HARPER

What?

MAX

How much money *we* saved

HARPER

*(completely stops and looks at MAX)*

Pardon?

MAX

Well some of that change is mine.

HARPER

So?

*(continues sorting)*

MAX

So occasionally I've been putting my spare change in your piggy bank.

HARPER

When?

MAX

I don't know, just like whenever

HARPER  
OK WHEN?

MAX  
OCCASIONALLY

HARPER  
Well how much is that?!

MAX  
I don't know—periodically.

HARPER  
THAT'S JUST A SYNONYM FOR OCCASIONALLY.

MAX  
Relax. All I'm saying is that I deserve at least like a third of the money.

HARPER  
A third? Are you kidding me? That's like...  
*(attempts to count the money in their head, gives up)*  
A lot! That's a lot of my money!

MAX  
*Our* money

HARPER  
You're the worst kind of person.

MAX  
I contributed to the piggy bank so I feel like it's only fair that I receive some of the money.

HARPER  
You can have...two cents.

MAX  
Two cents??? I put way more than 2 cents in there.

HARPER  
I don't think you did.

MAX

Come on Harper, I put money in there. I know I did.

HARPER

You know what? If you help me finish sorting it, I will consider giving you more of the money.

MAX

Why do we have to sort it?

HARPER

So that when I take it to the bank it's--

MAX

You mean when *we* take it to the bank.

HARPER

What? No, it's a one-person job. I'll take it to the bank.

MAX

OH so you can deposit it all into YOUR account? I DON'T THINK SO.

HARPER

I cannot believe you.

MAX

Just let me go with you.

HARPER

No

MAX

Please! I'll be so good and nice.

*(pouty face)*

HARPER

Ugh! Fine you can come with me.

MAX

Yes! And then I can just deposit my third of the money into my account.

HARPER

MAX! I am not giving you a third of this money.

MAX

Well I feel like I deserve-

HARPER

You deserve like two cents! Not a third of my money!

MAX

*Our* money

HARPER

OH MY GOD

MAX

It's only fair.

HARPER

No it's not!

MAX

You're really gonna look me in the eyes and tell me I'm not worth a third of this money to you?

HARPER

Stop it.

MAX

Stop what?

HARPER

Stop trying to guilt trip me.

MAX

Me? Guilt trip you? I could never.

HARPER

I should have waited to do this when you weren't home.

MAX

That's rude. You're being very rude to me.

HARPER

wHaT?

MAX

Come on. Just let me have a third of the money.

HARPER

If I let you have a third, will you promise to shut up forever?

MAX

No but I'll be like really nice to you forever.

HARPER

What are you even gonna do with the money?

MAX

Maybe I'll get my own piggy bank and then this will never happen again.

HARPER

Well, we can share a piggy bank.

MAX

We can?

HARPER

Yeah just make note of how much money you're putting in.

MAX

Ok, I promise I will.

HARPER

*(thinks for a moment, then reluctantly)*

Alright, you can have a third.

MAX

Really?

HARPER

Yes

*(pause)*

MAX

So does this mean I'm worth more than two cents to you?

HARPER

Help me pick up the shards of pig.

*(lights down as they clean up the broken piggy bank)*

**END OF PLAY**