

SIDE: F late 20s, M 30/40

THE SETTING:

Faculty lounge of your local high school. PTA Event

MAE

Been there is right. Oh, man. I do not miss tantrums.

LLOYD

I *did not* miss the tantrums.

MAE

Oh, god. You have two teenage girls/

LLOYD

/Two. Teenage. Girls. Your trip home from T-ville? Every. Other. Day.

MAE

I just have moodiness. He'll barely speak for days and he's embarrassed to be seen with me. I'm like ... I walked with you through that weird-ass phase when you were four where you made up your own language. He'd be (*demonstrates*) click-click-ing his tongue and just making ... noise (*another demonstration*).

LLOYD

Our youngest wouldn't go on a regular toilet until she was almost five. We used to have to carry around a potty chair in the car, bring it in with us to the gas station if we stopped. This one time we were ... (*He stops. The memory is funny.*)

*(Mae laughs with him.)*

We were on a road trip, going up north, and ... Bree, she had to go, like right now! So we had to pull over on this dirt road. And there she is doing a number two on her Elmo potty in a ditch.

*(They laugh. Mae's laugh fades as she realizes something.)*

MAE

Your daughter's name is Bree?

LLOYD

Yeah. That's my sophomore.

MAE

Bree Allen?

LLOYD

Yeah! You know her?

MAE

I'm Steven's mom.

*(A moment.)*

LLOYD

Ah.

*(It is tense.)*

How's um, Steven doing?

MAE

He's doing.

LLOYD

Young love, huh? Bree was pretty heartbroke.

MAE

I'm ... I'm sure she was.

*(Mae focuses on getting the raffle tables ready.)*

LLOYD

I mean. I don't know what happened between 'em. Steven seems like a nice enough kid.

MAE

He is. Nice enough.

LLOYD

I mean, Bree had been all moody for a few days and ... then at dinner her sister asked about

*(cont'd)* homecoming and Steven and she started crying. Said he, what's the word, ghosted her.

MAE

Ghosted her?

LLOYD

Yeah, I didn't know either. It's when someone just drops out. They just stop all contact.

MAE

M-hm.

LLOYD

He unfriended her, stopped calling her, saw her in the hall one day and walked the other way. She doesn't know what she did.

MAE

Nothing.

LLOYD

What? I mean, she doesn't seem to know either. I mean, boys ... hey, I was one, but ... it seemed like he really liked her ...

MAE

He did. He ... does.

LLOYD

So then, why ...? Bree's still moping around/

MAE

/It's you.

LLOYD

What?

MAE

It's you. You scared him.

LLOYD

What? I always shook his hand when he came over.

MAE

Yes.

LLOYD

We'd joke around/

MAE

/Joke around.

LLOYD

/Yeah. Nothing out of line, or anything/

MAE

/Nothing out of line? You threatened to shoot him!

LLOYD

What? No, oh ... *(Lloyd laughs)* I guess, yeah. I told him, 'bring my daughter home by 11 or you'll meet my hunting rifle right up close'/'

MAE

/meet my hunting rifle right up close.

LLOYD

Yeah! See? I was just goofing around. I mean ... sure, as a dad with a daughter, I always mean it *a little*, but I knew Steven was a good kid.

MAE

You said it every time. The last time he came by, you were cleaning it in the garage and you did this.

*(Mae does the I'm-watching-you move.)*

LLOYD

*(Laughing)* Come on. That can't be why he/

MAE

/Yes, it can! How would you like it if Bree came to pick up Steven and I said, "Honey, you keep your hands off my boy or I'll shoot you in the face"?