

ALEX/LOIS

(LOIS is unpacking a box.)

ALEX

Are you still unpacking?

LOIS

I'd kept some boxes taped up in the vain hope that one day we'd move back. Don't judge.

ALEX

You have many dreams. I'm going upstairs.

LOIS

No, no, Alex, you haven't told me about your day yet.

ALEX

Mother, as much as I miss our "processing" time, I have a lot of homework. Chemistry requires math. Math is hard; ergo, chemistry...

LOIS

Oh come on, aren't you excited?

ALEX

Yay, balancing equations. I'm complete.

LOIS

No, the school show.

ALEX

Oh, yeah, whatever. Sure. I hadn't really thought about it.

LOIS

You have to audition.

ALEX

I dunno - maybe - chemistry is, you know -

LOIS

Honey you love that show. After we took you to see it, you used to dance around the house singing the songs.

ALEX

I neither confirm nor deny.

LOIS

Come on, don't you remember when you were nine - belting all the songs on the subway. I love love love that no one on the subway even looked up. God, I miss New York.

ALEX

Yeah, I'm not nine anymore.

LOIS

True, if a nine-year-old did something like that in this town, we'd be lynched.

ALEX

Oh, are you still doing the town-bashing thing?

LOIS

Yeah, I thought it was a phase, too. But apparently some phases you can't grow out of.

ALEX

Hmmm.

LOIS

Honey, sit down.

ALEX

So what I'm hearing is that you want me to fail chemistry.

LOIS

Chemistry can wait. Listen, we need to have a conversation. I want to talk to you about those friends of -

ALEX

No, I've told you. It's not easy being the new kid, you should be happy I have friends.

LOIS

I know, but they're so -

ALEX

They're so... what?

LOIS

Nothing. Well, you know. They're just... different.

ALEX

Oh, say it. Say the "R" word. Come on, I want to hear it from your lips - oh oh, but try saying it without sounding like a racist.

LOIS

I can say Republican, you smart ass. I just worry, that's all.

ALEX

So you're fully aware that Jews don't have horns, right -

LOIS

I don't see what this has to do -

ALEX

And that not everyone from Ireland is an alcoholic -

LOIS

When do you become this person -

ALEX

Just because someone's parents voted for Bush doesn't make them the devil.

LOIS

I just don't want you to -

ALEX

What? Form my own opinions?

LOIS

No. I mean, yes, but -

ALEX

You're the one who always taught me to accept everyone for who they are.

LOIS

Fine - you got me. You're right. I'm being as judgmental as them.

ALEX

"Them!" Wow - Mom, you're so - so. Man, the way you're acting it's like I joined the Hitler Youth.

LOIS

Well, I don't know what to think. Alex, this is the first time in maybe three weeks that you've actually said more to me than "hey" or "when's dinner" or "where's Dad." What's with you?

ALEX

Fine. I'll tell ya. Hey. When's dinner. Where's Dad. And, adding to the repertoire: I have homework and oh I don't know, goals to get into college and be on my own, so I am going upstairs!

ALEX/RICKY

RICKY

Patterson, looking good.

ALEX

Ooooh, you're using your words now.

RICKY

Hey, Brooklyn, I have a 3.9.

ALEX

Don't ruin my mojo.

RICKY

You trying out?

ALEX

My Mom says I have to if I want to go to college.

RICKY

Hot. You in skimpy clothes.

ALEX

What show do you think we're doing?

RICKY

I know what this show is. Everyone's freaking out about it, but hell, we could have sex on stage and stuff.

ALEX

Maybe they should start teaching evolution here, because you are an ape.

RICKY

So. You. Me. Friday night. A real date. I'll even come to your door and be all nice in front of your parents. Or we can always go back to underneath the bleachers. Text me.

ALEX/LOIS #2

(Grocery store - Lois pushes the cart while Alex follows from behind. Lois stops the cart.)

LOIS

You could have told me.

ALEX

Yeah, it's what every parent wants to hear.

LOIS

I'm not like the other parents.

(ALEX laughs.)

ALEX

Oh I know, we lived Park Slope, everyone loves the lesbians. Unless they're in your family.

LOIS

That's so unfair, I give to the Human Rights Campaign and I cannot tell you how many times -

ALEX

You couldn't look at me.

LOIS

What?

ALEX

After Mr. Powell cast me in the show - as a lesbian - that's when you stopped really talking to me.

LOIS

Oh honey, we weren't talking long before that.

ALEX

Be honest with me, weren't you just a little bit relieved when we left New York that you wouldn't have to see me spending all that time with Hailey?

LOIS

I don't know what you're talking about.

ALEX

Oh, you had to have known. Diaries don't jump on and off a nightstand and end up upside down.

LOIS

We could have talked about it.

ALEX

Admit it, it still would have been hard for you.

LOIS

Yes, okay. Yes. I admit it - my plan for my daughter didn't include her being gay, but then again, my plan for our life never involved us moving to Texas, but here we are.

ALEX

Yep, here we are. And we gotta live here.

LOIS

Yes. We do. Alex, I -

ALEX

(reaching for the grocery list) Here, let's split up the list.