

LARRY/SCOTT #1

(LARRY watches Wheel of Fortune while SCOTT bounds in, searching through the fridge.)

LARRY

We got in some good steaks at the store so we're having that for dinner.

SCOTT

Awesome - thanks, Dad!

LARRY

(to TV)

Moron! You don't need to buy the vowel. Damn, these people are stupid.

SCOTT

You should be a contestant.

(Scott sits next to him, puts his feet up on the coffee table. During the following exchange: Larry kicks Scott's feet off. Scott puts his feet back on. It's playful - almost like two frat bro's.)

LARRY

Yeah right, with what free time? Gotta feed the bottomless teenage pit and Robbie's out for a week at the store, so I'm gonna be bagging groceries. I haven't done that all day since I was eight and your great grandpa was still running the place.

SCOTT

Aw man, I wish I could help out. It's the best geometric challenge there is. Screw the SAT, they should make everyone bag groceries, then you can really know how people think.

LARRY

You're in a good mood today.

SCOTT

Uppers.

LARRY

(serious)

Scott.

SCOTT

We have to have a sense of humor, right? You said that's how we're gonna get through it.

LARRY

(to TV)

Idiot! Idiot! United Parcel Service, not Pencil!

(MORE)

LARRY (CONT'D)

(to Scott)

Why wouldn't you be helping out at the store?

SCOTT

School play season, Pop. And this year, I was thinking of -

LARRY

I heard about what Mr. Powell wants to do this year.

SCOTT

Yeah, it's kinda wild. But it could be a lot of fun. I'm nervous as hell about this, but I was thinking of -

LARRY

A little too wild, if you ask me.

SCOTT

No, it's the "School version." I mean, doesn't that already sound like it's Annie or something?

LARRY

Annie?

SCOTT

The red headed kid?

LARRY

Oooh, yeah. Your Mom made me watch that with you on TV.

SCOTT

Sunday November 7, 1999. You couldn't use football as an excuse 'cause the Cowboys played Monday night that week. And we lost. What a crappy season.

LARRY

(breathes, then)

Son, I think it's better if you sat this one out this year.

SCOTT

The show? Why?

LARRY

I just don't like it, that's all.

SCOTT

Why?

LARRY

There's just something not right about it.

SCOTT

Like the fact it kinda falls apart in the second act?

LARRY

They just need to pick something that's more right for the school.

SCOTT

You're overreacting. The show's fun, got some upbeat songs -

LARRY

So do a lot of other shows, right?

SCOTT

Yeah, but this one's got something I can actually do in it -

LARRY

You want to be in it?

SCOTT

That's what I've been trying to tell you. One of the leads is a dork who carries around a film camera. Sound like anyone you know?

LARRY

I don't want you doing the show. And that's it.

SCOTT

That's it? What? "I'm the mommy, that's why"?

LARRY

I told you NOT to talk about your mother.

SCOTT

It's a figure of speech!

LARRY

(to the TV)

Letter to the Editor! Thank you! Finally.

SCOTT

That's it? No discussion? Just your house, your rules.

LARRY

Son, I don't ask a lot of you, but this one thing is important to me.

SCOTT

Why?

LARRY

I said it's important, and that should be enough for you.

SCOTT

Mom might have been a lot of things, but she always explained herself.

LARRY

Don't confuse lying and making excuses with explaining yourself.

SCOTT

Fine, I get it. You don't want me doing the show.

LARRY

I really don't.

SCOTT

K. You're the Dad.

(on his way out)

Call me when dinner's ready.

LARRY

So we're good here?

SCOTT

Aces.

(re: TV)

Final round.

(SCOTT exits.)

LARRY/SCOTT 2

LARRY

I get a call today from Mr. Powell saying I have to sign a permission slip so you can be in the show.

SCOTT

I was -

LARRY

I'm talking. I told Mr. Powell that I didn't know what he was talking about since I was sure my son didn't try out for the show.

SCOTT

I did it because -

LARRY

I don't want to pull the Dad card here, but hell, Scott. Did I not make myself clear?

SCOTT

What is so wrong with the show?

LARRY

This is not about the show. This is about you lying to me. You made a promise to me and you broke it.

SCOTT

But if you knew -

LARRY

We already had this discussion.

SCOTT

No, YOU already had this discussion. I don't think I got to be a part of it.

LARRY

But you made a choice - a choice to say "Screw you, Dad. I'm gonna do what I want."

SCOTT

This show means a lot to me.

LARRY

I told Mr. Powell, I'm sorry, but Scott won't be available to come to rehearsals because he has to work at my store.

SCOTT

You're punishing me?

LARRY

You'll get paid.

SCOTT

I -

CAROLINE/SCOTT

(Hallway outside auditorium. CAROLINE is in a chair, doing some kind of ridiculous warmup routine, VOCALIZING, etc. No one is sitting next to her. SCOTT walks by, sees an empty seat, then gets the nerve.)

SCOTT

Anyone sitting here?

CAROLINE

You're auditioning? Well, good for you. Make sure you sign up on the audition sheet, Skip.

SCOTT

Scott.

CAROLINE

Sorry. Scott. I feel like one of those actresses who never know the crew people's names. I heard that Carol Burnett personally introduces herself to everyone, so: Hi, I'm Caroline.

SCOTT

We're in the same homeroom.

CAROLINE

Wow, I might be awful.

SCOTT

It's okay, it's happened before. Not that that's bad -

CAROLINE

I am awful.

SCOTT

No, no - you're actually kinda awesome. Especially on stage.

CAROLINE

Oh, we like you.

SCOTT

Um - you - yeah.

CAROLINE

You're nervous. This your first time?

SCOTT

You mean auditioning, right? I kinda can't audition, but -
(Caroline's VAMP begins.)

CAROLINE

Nope. You are. If you want it, you have to go for it.

SCOTT

Yeah, gotta go for it. It's why I sat down next to you.

CAROLINE

You chose the right person.

I PRACTICE EVERY NIGHT
WITH TWO VOCAL COACHES
EVERY SINGLE NOTE
AS THE DAY APPROACHES
MEMORIZE EACH BEAT
KNOW EVERY LINE

BECAUSE

WHEN I GO ON STAGE
I'M IN LOVE WITH
EVERYTHING ABOUT A STAGE
IT'S A FEELING THAT
ALTHOUGH I'M QUITE VERBOSE
I CAN'T DEFINE

I JUST SHINE

So what's in your book?

SCOTT

Book?

CAROLINE

Sorry. What songs do you have prepared?

SCOTT

I'm not auditioning. Look, the reason I sat down was -

CAROLINE

Don't be nervous. Believe me, I understand nerves.

SCOTT

Why are you nervous? You have the best voice in school.

CAROLINE

"But what have you done for us lately?" It was humiliating being in the chorus in Brigadoon last year when I was Maria AND Eliza my first two years. I'm 17 and over the hill in a small Texas town.

(changes her tone)

Okay, I'm back from the dark place.

SO WHEN I GET THE LEAD
NO BELIEVE ME I JUST
HAVE TO GET THE LEAD
HAV'TA PROVE THAT BRIGADOON WAS JUST A
FLUKE THIS YEAR IS MINE

Can you keep a secret?

SCOTT

Sure.

CAROLINE

If I don't get a lead, I'm not doing the show.

SCOTT

If it's any consolation, I think you would make a terrific slutty drug addict dying of AIDS.

CAROLINE

You really mean it? You're not just saying that as a pick-up line?

(she laughs "as if")

SCOTT

Both.

CAROLINE

(punches him in the shoulder)

You are so my new best friend. So - what song are you going to sing?

SCOTT

I'm not. My Dad doesn't want me to audition.

CAROLINE

Look, fathers have a tough time when their sons are... you know, but that shouldn't stop you from -

SCOTT

Their sons are what?

CAROLINE

Your secret's safe with me.

SCOTT

Wait, but I -

OFFSTAGE VOICE

Caroline, you're on deck.

CAROLINE

SO I SIT AND WAIT MY TURN
HOLY CRICKETS IS IT
FINALLY MY TURN
SO MY PREPARATION
DILIGENCE AND DRIVE
SHOULD NOW COMBINE
AND SHINE

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

Wish me luck. And seriously, forget what your Dad thinks. Audition. It'd be fun to hang out.

SCOTT AT THE SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

SCOT

T (to Caroline)

You are so self-centered - and beautiful, and you deserve to live your passion on stage - to play the role you've been wanting to play. This show is your art. This show was written by someone, and it was his art.

(to the crowd)

You all tried to mess with art. And that's what this is. It's a piece of art, though it has act two problems and that final song is kinda sketchy. It's not some indoctrination device that's going to inject us with something bad if we watch it or heaven forbid, act in it. If we did a show about gangs, we're not all of a sudden going to wear gold bandanas. Just because this show is about drugs, or stealing or guys kissing each other, it doesn't mean we're going to start... shooting up. Look, any good parent knows not to bring a little kid to see this show. But we're in high school. Let us grow up. Nothing in this show is going to make us want to go out and do things we wouldn't normally do or normally be. We are who we are and nothing is going to change it.