

GABE

You gotta let go, Mom—I'm almost eighteen.

1

DIANA

Are you snorting coke?

GABE

Not at the moment.

DAN

(off)

Who's up at this hour?

DIANA

Your father. Go. Up the back way.

GABE

(going)

Why does he hate me?

DIANA

Because you're a little twat.

GABE

You can't call me a twat.

(But she shoos him off as Dan enters.)

DAN

Everything okay? I heard voices.

DIANA

Just me. Talking to myself, you know. Now you head on upstairs—I'll be up for sex in a minute.

DAN

You'll...uh...are you sure you're okay?

DIANA

Go.

(Natalie enters, the way Gabe just left, with a pile of books and a tallboy of Red Bull, muttering to herself.)

(DIANA)

Natalie? It's four in the morning—is everything okay?

NATALIE

Everything's great. Why wouldn't it be great? It's great. I've just got three more chapters of calculus, a physics problem set, a history quiz and two pages on floral imagery in *Flowers for Algernon* which is like duh. Everything's so under control it's just like...calm.

(She gulps from the can.)

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DIANA

Honey, you need to slow down, take some time for yourself. I'm going to have sex with your father.

NATALIE

Great. Thanks. I'm so glad I know that.

*(Diana goes; Natalie drops the books on a table and sings.)*

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*In the bedroom, Dan holds Diana, after.)*

DAN

That was great, wasn't it? It was great. Oh Christ, I'm late.

DIANA

That'll teach you to take a whole ten minutes.

DAN

Sorry, what?

DIANA

I said, isn't it a beautiful day?

DAN

Okay. Sure. I mean, it's cloudy, and raining, and really cold for September, but beautiful.

DIANA

Makes you want to dive in with both feet, doesn't it?

DAN

Absolutely.

*(Diana goes. Dan speaks to us.)*

I never know what she's talking about.

*(Gabe sees Dan in the hall, and avoids him.)*

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*(He joins Diana in the kitchen.)*

DIANA

You're going to be late, and you've got a huge day.

GABE

You have no idea what I do all day.

DIANA

Jazz band before school, class, Key Club, then football.

GABE

Not bad.

DIANA

Now get out of here.

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*(Gabe steps out of Natalie's way as she strides into the kitchen.)*

GABE

Morning, sunshine.

*(Natalie does not acknowledge him; she speaks to Diana.)*

NATALIE

So I got the date for my winter recital—do you think you guys can come?

DIANA

We'll put it on the calendar.

NATALIE

Mom, the calendar is still on April of last year.

DIANA

Oh. Well, happy Easter!

NATALIE

Happy Easter, Mom.

*(She goes, passing Dan as he enters.)*

DAN

Hi, sweetheart.

NATALIE

She's on fire this morning.

DAN

Oh, I know.

NATALIE

*(oh, right)*

Eww.

DAN

Hion, can you do the shopping today? I'm slammed at work, and we're out of everything.

DIANA

I keep cave clean. You go out, get fire!

DAN

Uhh...absolutely.

*(to us:)*

Again, no clue.

*(He leaves the kitchen, gathering his briefcase, coat, portfolio.)*

*Natalie and Gabe find backpacks and coats, tie shoes, get ready for the day.*

*Diana pulls out the fixings for sandwiches, and starts making them on the table.)*

*(Diana's now making way too many sandwiches, and just keeps making them.)*

DAN

*(going to her)*

Diana. Diana.

DIANA

~~THE PERFECT LOVING FAMILY~~

~~I WILL KEEP THE PLATES ALL SPINNING~~

~~AND THE WORLD JUST KEEPS ON SPINNING~~

*(spoken)*

...and i think the house is spinning.

*(As Natalie and Gabe stand together, watching, Dan bends to her.)*

DAN

Diana. Honey?

NATALIE

Dad?

DAN

Don't worry about it. Go on ahead. You'll miss the bus.

GABE

Mom?

DIANA

Everything's fine! I'm just making sandwiches. On the floor. You go on ahead. You'll miss the bus.

DAN

*(to Natalie)*

Go.

*(Natalie goes, and after a half beat, Gabe follows.)*

Sweetie? Everything okay?

DIANA

I wanted to get ahead on lunches.

DAN

Sure. Let me help you up.

DIANA

I guess I got carried away.

DAN

Maybe a little.

*(helps her up)*

Let's go see Doctor Fine. This is just a blip. Okay? Nothing to worry about. I'll wrap up the, um, sandwiches, and then we'll go.