

I Love You, but Your Mother's Dead

By

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Cast of Characters

Kate: Wife. Grieving daughter in law. Unaware of her husband's latent homosexuality.

Joe: Husband. Mostly closeted homosexual.

Scene

Kitchen.

(ADD WARMTH ABOUT ROGER)(CHANGE HER LINE ABOUT BEING CLOSE TO MOTHER TO

Scene 1

KATE is sitting at the table with a phone to her ear, her eyes wide and unseeing in the last vestiges of initial shock.

KATE

I'll be sure to tell him. Thank you. And Jane? I'm so sorry.

KATE hangs up the phone and rubs her forehead wearily, too overcome to openly grieve. JOE enters the room, putting down his things. He needs to tell her something very important. When he occasionally glances at KATE, he does not notice her current grief but rather analyzes her in attempts to gauge what her reaction to his news might be. He takes off his coat and hat.

JOE

Hey, Kate.

KATE snaps out of her blank state and looks at JOE.

KATE

Hey, Joe.

JOE

Did you make any coffee?

KATE

No, not yet.

JOE

All right.

JOE starts getting the pot ready to make coffee. They both sit and work silently, lost in their thoughts.

KATE

How was work?

JOE

Fine. Tom's still not rising to the bait.

KATE

Shame. Well, he will soon.

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KATE

Well it's...um...well you know how she likes to stop at the 7-11 to get those Entenmann's donuts? The ones with the little cinnamon crumbles? Well, she went there, as usual, and she told me that Roger was standing at the coffee machines sobbing.

JOE

(startled, perhaps too startled)
Roger was there?

KATE

Yes, well, he's there a lot. Your mom always has him running errands. He's a nice kid, but he does let her push him around.

JOE

(laughing weakly)
As if he had a choice. Anyway, he does get paid for it.

KATE

True. Well, he was standing in front of the coffee machines crying.

JOE

(growing suspicious)
What was he crying about?

KATE stands up and stares at the coffee machine, and they watch it drip.

KATE

Did you find the creamer?

JOE

Oh, I forgot to look. What'd he say?

KATE

You shouldn't drink that shit. It's nothing but gasoline and animal bones.

JOE

Kate.

KATE

Well, he didn't say anything. He couldn't. He just sobbed on Jane and kept shaking his head saying "I can't believe it, I can't believe it." It was like his whole world had just ended.

(JOE abruptly walks to the fridge.)
What are you doing?

(CONTINUED)

JOE
Checking for creamer.