

ANDREW

I was just um, taking Krista through some of the old albums we used to listen to when you'd work late and I wouldn't sleep.

Andrew pulls out a specific one.

ANDREW (CONT'D)

Remember how you'd tell me this was my Mom's favorite?

Andrew is all smiles, sharing these intimate family details and rituals with his love.

David sort of nods and composes himself.

DAVID

Your Mom's favorite? Huh. I'm not sure if that was the one.

ANDREW

Sure it is, you used to-

Andrew stops himself.

ANDREW (CONT'D)

-You had a long day, I'm sorry, Dad. We totally just scared the crap out of you and... Did you eat before you left the office?

DAVID

Uh, no.

David gestures as though he's turning in for the night.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Please, kids. Make yourselves at home, I'm going to-

ANDREW

-Wait, Dad. I just finally introduced you to Krista, and you're leaving? (beat) We got takeout, I'm sure it's still warm. Come on, let's go get something in your stomach.

Take out boxes are spread all over the counter, David sits opposite of the couple with the kitchen island looking like a divider between them.

Andrew finishes telling another story that Krista is absolutely absorbed with, but David, as much as he loves his son, isn't as interested in at the moment.

ANDREW

-I was screaming so loud and so high pitched that the tour guide called in about a girl being bitten.

Andrew refers to David.

ANDREW (CONT'D)

You remember? And that burly guy in the crowd kept saying "it wasn't the little girl that screamed, it was that goat!"

As enthused as Krista and Andrew are, it's easily deflated by David.

DAVID

Yeah, that was something, yeah.

David finishes the last of his drink.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Last time we ever went to a petting zoo, if I recall.

KRISTA

We should go, help you over your terrible trauma of being nibbled on by a goat.

DAVID

Well, thank you for the food.
(beat) Look, son, I'm happy you're here, but I have appointments all week. So enjoy yourself, but we'll probably have to catch up properly during the holidays.

David gives a slight smile to Krista.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Take care of yourself, nice meeting you.

David abruptly walks away. Andrew looks slightly confused, looks to Krista for a moment, then decides to chase his Dad down.

Down the hall, Andrew catches up with David.

ANDREW

Dad! Hey, is everything ok with you?

DAVID

Yeah, everything is fine. Just tired.

ANDREW

I've watched you do nothing but work my whole life. You never get "tired" like this.

DAVID

Oh, a man can't get old now?

ANDREW

See?... That guy! Where was that guy a minute ago?!

DAVID

What are you talking about?

Andrew cocks his head to the side, still not exactly understanding why his Dad is acting so strange.

ANDREW

I have been telling you about Krista for over a year now. You were so excited to meet her and now...

DAVID

What?

ANDREW

Exactly!! What?

David takes in a deep breath before he looks down the hall to make sure no one is in earshot.

DAVID

You had me thinking you'd found "the one". Like you understood. You're over here acting like you were going to take your late Grandmother's ring... my Mom's ring... and give it to *this* girl.

ANDREW

Yeah, isn't it-

DAVID

-If I've seen this once, I've seen it a million times. Have your fun, but move on.

ANDREW

Wha...

Andrew is a little shocked at David and still doesn't quite understand why he's saying what he's saying.

DAVID

Not even your mother got that ring.

David thinks hard about his next response.

ANDREW

I thought she died before you guys could-

DAVID

-Andy, my boy. There are things in life that we do not have any control over.

He grips Andrew's shoulders. Andrew is getting annoyed.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Once you accept that, you can start making the right decisions. Do you hear me?

ANDREW

I don't think I follow.

DAVID

Andrew, settle down with someone like your own or you'll end up on your own. In the long run, you want to be with someone like you.

ANDREW

What do you mean... like me?

David gestures to themselves. Andrew does his best to keep his composure.

DAVID

... Son.

ANDREW

Why don't you just say, it, Dad? Like me? Someone like me? How!?!

(MORE)

ANDREW (cont'd)

(beat) How about someone who truly appreciates life like me? Someone who appreciates the same art? How about someone who basks in the silent moments, as much as the loud, silly ones, like me? Maybe someone who doesn't hide anything and really wants what's best for me? You mean someone like that?!

DAVID

Andrew, I know what's best for you.

ANDREW

Nobody knows anything! (beat)
Y'know something? The older I get,
the clearer that becomes.

Andrew scoffs in disbelief at a man who was once his hero.

ANDREW (CONT'D)

You didn't give her one ounce of respect or attention this whole evening. How would you even know what anything is... to make any kind of judgement, if you're too busy re-running whatever old program you've got running up there. (beat) I was so looking forward to this trip.

Andrew walks away, back towards the kitchen. Pulling back, we can see that Krista was at the end of the hallway and overheard everything.

DAVID

Andr-

David stops himself, unsure of what to even say. Andrew comes to the end of the hall and sees that Krista heard, they immediately reach out and embrace.

ANDREW

There's a great spot that's only an hour from here, you're gonna love it.

They start walking out.

KRISTA

Wherever it is, it'll be nice.