

You were thirteen.

MARIE

It was a lesson well learned.

COLLYN

Mother?

EMERSON

Yes, dear.

MARIE

COLLYN and EMERSON do some of the table setting and pillow distribution while they're talking with MARIE.

Where. Were. You.

EMERSON

Tae. Kwon. Do. You know Thursdays are Tae Kwon Do.

MARIE

I thought you did Tae Kwon Do on Tuesdays.

EMERSON

I told you I'm going Tuesdays and Thursdays now. Don't you remember?

MARIE

No, I don't remember.

EMERSON

It was about/ a month ago.

MARIE

/I don't care when it was.

EMERSON

Emmy, you're getting worked up. Here. Breath. In. Out./ In. Out.

MARIE

EMERSON

/You, too? Just tell me again.

MARIE

I can't believe you don't remember. I'm going twice a week so I can prepare for my black belt test.

EMERSON

I don't think you told me that.

MARIE

Well, I know I told somebody.

EMERSON

Mother...

COLLYN

Still working on that black belt.

MARIE

I'm getting it this time. I swear if that little shit Dylan ruins my test again, I'm going to end him. (looking at her watch) Oh! I better hurry.

EMERSON

What? Wait! Where are you going?

MARIE

I have a date.

EMERSON

A date? With a man?

MARIE

Why do you sound so surprised?

EMERSON

I didn't.

COLLYN

You did.

EMERSON

I didn't.

MARIE looks at her.

COLLYN
We need your help.

MARIE
Oh?

EMERSON
But, if you have a date...

MARIE
(to COLLYN)
Do you need my help?

COLLYN
Yes.

EMERSON
No.

COLLYN
Yes.

EMERSON
I can figure out something else.

COLLYN
What?

EMERSON
I don't know.

MARIE
Tell me what you need?

EMERSON
You have a date.

MARIE
Oh, hell. I was going to a movie with the sky diving group. They won't even miss me.

EMERSON

I thought it was with a man.

MARIE

I was thinking of making Brad's dream come true.

EMERSON

Oh, Mother!

MARIE

I was going to let him kiss me. Neither of us are getting any younger.

COLLYN

Is he the little, old guy who just lost his wife?

MARIE

God, no. Brad's the hot attorney with three houses.

EMERSON

He's ten years younger than you.

MARIE

At our age, age doesn't matter as long as the right body parts work.

COLLYN

Way to go.

EMERSON

Mother!

MARIE

Don't be such an old woman, Em.

EMERSON

I am not an old woman

MARIE

Just ask me.

EMERSON

Actually, it was Collyn's idea.

COLLYN

Was not!

EMERSON

Was too.

MARIE

Girls!

COLLYN

(giving EMERSON a dirty look)

We set our sights on an important client, well, potential client. We know he's unhappy with his current ad firm and shopping around. He's in town but headed back later tonight. Luckily, we know people who know him--anyway, we made a short pitch over the phone and he wants to hear more. We invited him for dinner.

EMERSON

Here. She invited him here.

MARIE

Oh, dear. What about Ted?

COLLYN

Not "oh, dear." I already took care of the situation.

MARIE

Well, it's kind of hard to hide your husband's...I don't even know how to describe what Ted's going through.

EMERSON

(glaring at MARIE)

Look, Ted experiences a nine-month gestation and delivery every twenty-four hours. It's not a situation, it's a nightmare.

COLLYN

It's just a challenge we have to address.

EMERSON

When it's your husband, you can call it a challenge. Since, it's my husband going through hard labor, I'll call it a nightmare.