

Meg & Billy – Scene 1

(Lights up on the apartment. The main areas of the apartment can be suggested, rather than faithfully depicted, but there should be a central living area with attached kitchenette. Somewhere else on stage is BILLY's room. The living room and kitchen are in disarray, with some pieces of furniture having been snatched from garage sales or perhaps found in the garbage. BILLY's room is decorated eclectically with bizarre additions such as a ficus plant or poster of Al Capone.)

(As the lights come up, MEG, 18, is reclining on the sofa. BILLY enters from his room and stares at her.)

MEG *(without looking at him)*

What.

BILLY

You wanna know what happened in school today?

MEG *(without looking at him)*

No.

BILLY

Cool, cause I wasn't going to tell you.

(BILLY stands there.)

You wanna know?

MEG

I'm watching TV.

BILLY

Right, but do you wanna know what happened in school today?

MEG

Fine, what happened?

BILLY

You know Mr. Edmonds?

MEG

Is he your teacher or something?

BILLY

My science teacher. My *life* science teacher.

MEG

Right.

BILLY

So you know Mr. Edmonds?

Your science teacher?

MEG

Yeah.

BILLY

(Pause.)

What about him?!

MEG

You wanna know?

BILLY

(MEG threatens to get up from the couch and attack BILLY.)

Are you always this annoying?!

MEG

So, I gave my presentation today, right? And basically I said some things about Mr. Edmonds and now I'm suspended for five days, which is cool cause I get to spend more time with you—

BILLY

Wait, what?

MEG

So what are we gonna do tomorrow?

BILLY

I'm working tomorrow—

MEG

Being a whore?

BILLY

What did you say about Mr. Edmonds?

MEG

Some things. So can we go to the zoo tomorrow?

BILLY

Are you fucking kidding me?

MEG

Did you learn that language on the streets? The mean streets?

BILLY

Billy!

MEG

What?

BILLY

MEG

What did you say about Mr. Edmonds?

BILLY

Oh just some things about how he was fat and ugly and his wife was cheating on him. I'm not really sure that's true, well the fat and ugly parts are true, but the wife thing is just conjecture, really.

MEG

Are you serious with this?

BILLY

Sure.

(he takes out a note from school.)

Here's a note they sent home with me. I guess they're going to mail one to you too since you're my guardian and everything and they don't trust me. You have to sign it. I was going to have Mom sign it.

MEG

Mom can't sign it.

BILLY

Right, but maybe she will this time. Maybe this'll be the thing.

MEG

Give me the goddamn note.

(BILLY gives her the note.)

BILLY

So do you know if they have capybaras at the zoo?

MEG

You wrote this into your presentation?

BILLY

I spent a lot of time on it.

MEG

All right, Billy—can you just not be weird for one second? Okay—what the fuck are you trying to do?

BILLY

I'm pushing boundaries. It's a part of being an adolescent. I've been reading Dr. Spock's book.

MEG

You can't do this—

BILLY

Right now you're in the rebellious phase. Which I guess explains your being a whore.

MEG

I'm not a whore!

BILLY

Lady of the night.

MEG

Billy!

BILLY

It also says I need a male role model. I'm going to pick Adam Sandler. He seems smart.

MEG

Go to your room!

BILLY

Fine.

(BILLY retreats toward his room, then stops.)

Is our internet connection working?

MEG

Shut up.

BILLY

Cause I'm gonna be downloading for a long time.

(MEG throws something at him as BILLY escapes into his room.)

(Lights shift into darkness. A slide appears, "Making Friends at the bus stop." CHASTITY, an overdeveloped girl of fifteen, is sitting on a bench at a bus stop. She has a sunny disposition. BILLY, carrying a backpack, spots her. He approaches slowly. He sits on the bench.)

BILLY

My name's Billy.

(She scoots a little away from him on the bench. Lights down.)

Mother, Meg, & Billy – Scene 5

(Their living room. MEG enters in a cheerleader outfit. MOTHER enters, wearing a perky smile and a happy outfit.)

MOTHER

Kids! I'm home!

MEG

Yay!

(BILLY comes running out of his bedroom and gives his MOTHER a hug.)

BILLY

Hi Mom!

MOTHER

Hi Billy!

MEG

Hey Mom! Look what I learned today!

(MEG launches into a somewhat lascivious cheerleader routine.)

MOTHER

Do you really think you should be kicking up your legs like that, dear?

MEG

You're right, Mom! Cheerleaders are whores! I'm going to quit tomorrow!

MOTHER

Good girl.

BILLY

Hey Mom! Look what I found!

(The CAPYBARA enters from BILLY'S bedroom.)

MEG

Holy fuck!

MOTHER

Boy that sure is one big rodent!

BILLY

He's the world's largest rodent, Mom!

MOTHER

Well I don't imagine there's many bigger.

BILLY

Can I keep him?

MEG

Say no, Mom.

MOTHER

Well, I am attracted to large rodents. Can we eat him?

BILLY

His meat's pretty tough and stringy. And not all that tasty.

MOTHER

All right, you can keep him.

MEG

No!

MOTHER

My mind's made up, Meg.

MEG

Okay, Mom.

BILLY

I'm going to ride him!

(BILLY gets on the CAPYBARA and tries to ride him around like a horse.)

MEG

Can I have a pony?

MOTHER

No Meg, ponies are for virgins.

MEG

Damn it.

BILLY

Where's Dad?

MOTHER

I'm sure he'll be home soon. Your father works late sometimes.

MEG

I love Dad! He's not a worthless, no-good, lying, two-timing sack of shit that's going to drive this family into despair and ruin!

MOTHER

No he sure isn't!

BILLY

And Mom you did a great job choosing a husband who isn't a worthless, no-good, lying, two-timing sack of shit!

MOTHER

Yes. I do have high standards, don't I? I don't just give it up like someone else I could mention.

(she winks at MEG.)

MEG *(giggling)*

Mom! You're embarrassing me.

BILLY

I think I'm going to be a success in life!

MOTHER

Well, you don't have any college savings. But maybe Meg can put you through college by working at Wal-Mart.

MEG

Can I get a job at Target instead?

MOTHER

Meg, I love you, but you're strictly Wal-Mart quality.

BILLY

Maybe Dad can pay for college!

Reynaldo & Meg – Scene 8

(Lights change to the living room. MEG has come out of her bedroom after a shower. REYNALDO, with a look of smug satisfaction, sits contentedly on the couch.)

Our boy is growing up. REYNALDO

What? MEG

Two. REYNALDO

What are you talking about? MEG

Are you wearing panties? REYNALDO

You know what, sometimes you're gross. Okay? MEG

This does not concern me. REYNALDO

And Billy is not doing better. I just got another note—they want him to talk to the counselor. And they want me to fucking go in there too. Like I've got nothing better to do than to— MEG

What is the problem? REYNALDO

Apparently he's cursing a lot. MEG

Do you want me to speak to the boy? REYNALDO

Well, I mean, you are his new father. MEG

Yes. He is difficult. REYNALDO

Shouldn't you talk to him? MEG

REYNALDO

I shall speak with him. He will no longer be doing this cursing.

MEG

Good, cause I'm sick and fucking tired of this.

REYNALDO

Meg, you do not understand. A boy... a boy lives with fire in his groin. Every morning, the fire is there, it says feed me, it says I want to burn, I want to burn, and you must say to it, I am sorry my little friend, but away you must go. And the fire says no, no don't put me in that dark place, let me see the light, let me breathe. But no, you cannot breathe. You must be locked away. And so it is every day, the pain, the sufferings, the imprisonment of your fire, and the girls, what do these girls know? What do they know except to tease you and torment you and call you names like Fish Head? Do they want to see your fire? No. Do they love your fire the way you do? No. And what must we deal with in school? Rules! Rules! More people saying you cannot do this and you must not to do that when all we want is to be free and run naked in the field with our fire bouncing up and down saying yes yes yes!

(Pause. He looks at MEG seriously.)

The boy must have a woman. That is the way. Then and only then will the cursing stop. Then the cursing will stop for all of us.

(Pause.)

MEG

That's kinda gross.

REYNALDO

So is a boy.

(He kisses her romantically. Lights change.)