

SCRIPT TITLE

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INT. MISS AMERICA DINER - DAY

DANIEL and ALLISON are sitting in a the diner after their AA meeting.

DANIEL

When I was a cop, I used to eat here every day. Free coffee refills. You hungry?

ALLISON

Uhm, no.

DANIEL

Funny the things we stop caring about. I used to wanna travel. I would leaf through National Geographic and dog ear all of the exotic places I would visit once I've retired. I'll never do that now.

ALLISON

You still could.

DANIEL

Nah. Nah, I couldn't.

Beat.

ALLISON

I wasn't... drunk, or... on anything, by the way.

DANIEL

What?

ALLISON

When I saw you the other day at the meeting, I instantly got worried that you may have thought that I was drinking or on drugs. On the day of the incident. And I wasn't. I was sober. It wasn't my fault.

DANIEL

I have every report ever written committed to memory.

ALLISON

Right. (beat) So you know that it was the backhaul guy's fault? Not ours?

DANIEL

I don't wanna get into that all right now.

ALLISON

Okay. Yeah. You're right.

Silence.

ALLISON (CONT'D)

Nathan said that he was deaf since birth.

DANIEL

He never told you?

ALLISON

Maybe he wanted me to like you.

DANIEL

I doubt that. (beat) I thought that raising Ryan would offer me the chance to be a better father than I ever was. Shit, I'm in way over my head. I got one of those audiobooks... 'How to talk to a Teen.'

ALLISON

Oh yeah? How's that working out?

DANIEL

Well, it's from the 80's. It's on a cassette. It's advice is: chaperone a dance. Chaperone a dance. I just caught her having sex with a boy that looked like a man. A dance would be delightful.

ALLISON

Can I give you some advice? From a former teenager? She's gonna have sex. And nothing you say is gonna change that. Just make sure she's on birth control.

DANIEL

Birth control?

ALLISON

Yeah.

DANIEL

She's sixteen! (beat) No, we'll be going the abstinence route.

ALLISON

No offence, Daniel, but uh, there's a nod in your logic. You're trying to solve a problem by looking in the other direction.

A meaningful look from Daniel.

ALLISON (CONT'D)

I could talk to her if you want me to?

DANIEL

Oh, uh no thanks. That's not appropriate.

ALLISON

Ofcourse, I don't even know why I said that.

DANIEL

No, it' okay. It's just that I think that -

ALLISON

I just felt the need, uh - the impulse to help in some way. It's the least I could do.

Beat.

ALLISON (CONT'D)

I don't know how to do this.

DANIEL

What?

ALLISON

Start all over. How do you do it?

DANIEL

It takes work.

ALLISON

Can I tell you a secret?

DANIEL

Sure.

ALLISON

I'm not sure I have the will.

Silence. After a while Daniel takes out a coin and puts it in the small jukebox at the end of their table. Allison notices a tattoo written 'Amor Fati' on Daniels wrist.

ALLISON (CONT'D)

What does 'Amor Fati' mean?

Daniel sighs.

DANIEL

Certain things are private.

ALLISON

Do you think I'm fucked up?

DANIEL

Are you high right now?

ALLISON

No.

DANIEL

I was a cop for 40 years. I was an addict for 50. So I'm gonna ask you again: are you high right now?

ALLISON

Well I... I broke a pill in half, so half.

DANIEL

Yes, I think you're fucked up Allison. Not half. All fucked up.

ALLISON

Do you think I'll ever pull out of this? I mean like, that maybe, one day I might be the kind of person people want their grandchild to hang out with?

DANIEL

I have no idea.

ALLISON

Me neither.