

AUGUST: OSAGE COUNTY

Barbara & Bill

Barbara

Phantom of the Opera?

Bill

You don't remember what it was like to be 14?

Barbara

She's old enough to exhibit a little character! But I guess that's something you normally learn from your parents.

Bill

That's a shot across my belt, right? I missed something.

Barbara

Really? Instantly character. Our burden as parents.

Bill

Got that part.

Barbara

I mean you really haven't been much of a parent lately, so it might be tough for her –

Bill

Look, just cuz you and I are struggling with this Gordian Knot, doesn't mean that –

Barbara

Oh not this *Gordian Knot*. Her 14 year-old self might view it differently - might consider it abandonment.

Bill

Oh come on, she's a little more sophisticated than that, don't you think?

Barbara

Pretty fucking sophisticated. The restored whatever of the Phantom of the Opera, I know that makes your dick hard.

Bill

Barbara –

Barbara
Precocious little shit.

Bill
I am not defending her!

Barbara
I'm not blaming her!

Bill
I'm on your side! I don't even know why we're fighting, I'm on your side!

Barbara
How do I expect her to act any differently when her father's such a selfish son of a bitch?! Be a father! Help me!

Bill
I am a father, Goddamn it!

Barbara
A father in name only.

Bill
I have not forsook my responsibilities.

Barbara
It's '*forsaken*' big shot.

Bill
No, actually, forsook is also an acceptable usage.

Barbara
Well, *forsook* you and the horse you rode in on.

Bill
You do not fight fair.

Barbara
I've seen where that gets me. Grow up! While you are dying your hair and going through your 5th puberty, the world is falling apart and our kid can't handle it.

Bill

Our kid is trying to deal with this Goddamned madhouse you dragged her into.

Barbara

This madhouse is my home.

Bill

Yeah, think about that statement for a second, why don't you –

Barbara

Jean is here with me because this is a family event.

Bill

Jean is here because she's a buffer between you and the sheer insanity of your mother.

Barbara

You'd have a lot more credibility if you had any credibility. You're an easy mark!

Bill

You're so Goddamned self-righteous, you know that?!

Barbara

Surely you must've realized when you started porking Pippi Longstocking that you were due for some self-righteousness, just a smidge of indignation on my part.

Bill

Maybe I split because of it!

Barbara

Oh, is this your confession then? When you finally unload all, hmm?

Bill

You're thoughtful Barbara, but you're not open. You're passionate but you're hard. You're a good, decent, funny, wonderful woman and I love you but YOU'RE A PAIN IN THE ASS!!!