

SCRIPT TITLE

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Phyllis sits in a chair in the office of Dr. Herschkopf.

PHYLLIS

Well, thank you for seeing me.

DR. HERSCHKOPF

You're welcome.

PHYLLIS

Marty doesn't know I'm here. I'd like to keep it private.

DR. HERSCHKOPF

Sure, what do you want to talk about?

PHYLLIS

I think we both know that.

DR. HERSCHKOPF

Marty.

PHYLLIS

I know you'll think I'm overprotective. I always say he's my 4th child.

DR. HERSCHKOPF

But he's not a child, and he's not your child. He's a grown man. Maybe you don't give him enough credit.

PHYLLIS

Maybe not. But I do know what's right. And a therapist throwing a bar mitzvah for a patient is not normal. And a therapist coming to a patient's place of business is not normal. There needs to be boundaries.

DR. HERSCHKOPF

Says the woman who calls my Rabi and comes to my office to snoop on me. How's that for boundaries? You know. I'm actually glad you came Phyllis. Because while you're concerned for your big brother. I'm concerned for you.

PHYLLIS

Me?

DR. HERSCHKOPF

Yes you. You've lost both your parents. You're going through a divorce and yet you come here because you're worried about Marty. My question is who worries about Phyllis? Who looks after Phyllis? For once in your life, why don't you put yourself first? Something tells me you don't get the chance to talk about yourself very often.

PHYLLIS

That's true. I don't.

DR. HERSCHKOPF

So let's forget about Marty. Let's talk about you. Tell me again, what's your ex husband's name?

PHYLLIS

Daniel.

DR. HERSCHKOPF

Daniel. OK. D- Do I have permission to call him prick?

PHYLLIS

You do.

DR. HERSCHKOPF

So what about the prick?

PHYLLIS

You know. I looked after his parents, I gave him a family. I invested everything in him while my own business suffered. And the second he finds an ounce of success, he starts up with this woman that works for him.

DR. HERSCHKOPF

That must be so painful.

PHYLLIS

Oh. It is.

DR. HERSCHKOPF

Sounds to me like you haven't been appreciated enough.

PHYLLIS

No I haven't.

DR. HERSCHKOPF

What about what you want? Your potential? Or have you been too busy taking care of everybody else?

PHYLLIS

That!

DR. HERSCHKOPF

Well, I think you're very brave Phyllis.

PHYLLIS

Thank you.

DR. HERSCHKOPF

And I can see how strong you are.

PHYLLIS

Thank you Dr. Herschkopf.

DR. HERSCHKOPF

Tell me, what was your relationship with your father like?

PHYLLIS

He was pretty hard on me.

DR. HERSCHKOPF

Harder than on Marty?

PHYLLIS

I th--- I thought we weren't talking about Marty.

DR. HERSCHKOPF

Only when it's relevant.

PHYLLIS

Ok. Ok. Marty was the boy. The golden child. He could get away with... anything. Um, but with me... I don't know, we... I could never live up to my father's expectations.

DR. HERSCHKOPF

So you spent your entire life pleasing everyone else because you couldn't please your father.

PHYLLIS

Maybe. Yea that kinda makes sense.
Ooh... You're really perc-- really
perceptive.

DR. HERSCHKOPF

I'm just seeing a pattern.

PHYLLIS

Thank you.

DR. HERSCHKOPF

The good news is that recognizing
the pattern is the first step to
changing things. You don't have to
be your brother's parent anymore.
You don't have to be your parent's
parent, you don't have to be the
prick's parent. You finally get to
be you. How does that sound?

PHYLLIS

I gotta tell you that sounds good.

DR. HERSCHKOPF

Mom and dad are no longer here.
Marty's finally growing up. You no
longer have to pander to the
prick's wants or have to prove
yourself with endless ill-fated
business schemes.

PHYLLIS

Wait, what?

DR. HERSCHKOPF

What?

PHYLLIS

What did you just say?

DR. HERSCHKOPF

I said you don't need to pander to
the prick's wants and ne--

PHYLLIS

No. No after that?

DR. HERSCHKOPF

Business. You don't have to worry
about your-- the business.

PHYLLIS

I didn't tell you that.

DR. HERSCHKOPF

You did-

PHYLLIS

No, I said that I started my... I started my own business, but I didn't. Who told you that?

DR. HERSCHKOPF

You did.

PHYLLIS

No I didn't. Did Marty tell you that?

DR. HERSCHKOPF

Oh. Look.... The. The. The point is, you're finally free to do-

PHYLLIS

No the point is this does not feel right.

DR. HERSCHKOPF

Come on, hey we were making real progress, hey, come on sit.

PHYLLIS

Thank you, Doctor. I appreciate you seeing me. And I am grateful you've been able to help my brother.

DR. HERSCHKOPF

What's the problem Phyllis? Because it seems like you've got a problem with me.

PHYLLIS

You're a nice guy, and you're a good therapist. And I don't have your brains or your education or your qualifications. But I do have good instincts. And I don't trust you Dr. Herschkopf. So you be careful. Because I will be watching you.

Phyllis exits.