

INT. 4TH GRADE CLASSROOM - DAY

JIM

Mr. Z.

MR. ZAHN

Mr. Arnaud. Thank you so much for coming in.

JIM

Thank you for having me.

MR. ZAHN

Officer Arnaud! I'm so sorry!

JIM

It's totally fine. Did I miss Crystal and Roz?

MR. ZAHN

Uh, no. I don't think they're coming in tonight.

JIM

Oh.

MR. ZAHN

But you're here. That's what's important.

JIM

Yeah. While I have you, um, I wanted to let you know that I'm gonna be the point person for Crystal's education in the coming years. Just so you can pass that on to the administration.

MR. ZAHN

I will. Thank you. Should we sit?

JIM

Sure. (Holds his side as he takes a seat)

MR. ZAHN

Everything alright?

JIM

Oh I'm fine. I'm workin'. See me wrestlin' an alligator, help. How are you?

MR. ZAHN

I'm great. I'm great, yeah the kids are really good this year.

JIM

Good. Except for Crystal.

MR. ZAHN

No. No no no. I wouldn't say that. I mean, they're kids, right? They're kids. Obviously they're all gonna be different.

JIM

And you're saying it's her class work she's not excelling at? Is that right?

MR. ZAHN

It's more her performance in class. She can be kinda' strident with some of the other kids and we just wanted to ya in and talk about it.

JIM

I see. So, you're gonna' have to tell me what strident means. I went to LSU. Actually they said they had to stop makin' ice over there because the student with the recipe graduated.

MR. ZAHN

Uh, Crystal is disruptive. She won't listen to me or other teachers.

JIM

I see. I'm sorry to hear that. Look, I mean I have trouble with her listening, too. Straight up. I mean I'm the first to admit it. Um, I don't know how much you know kind of about what my family's going through right now?

MR. ZAHN

Yeah. And look I'm just the messenger here. We do have to think about what's best for all the kids.

JIM

Sure.

MR. ZAHN

And so we think it might just be a simple solution of moving her to another home room, and then observing how she gets along there.

JIM

Yeah, see the problem with that is her little friend Caroline's in this class, and we think that might be the only thing that's keeping her straight.

MR. ZAHN

Actually, we already had to separate them 'cause they were talkin' too much. So, we move her out they're not gonna miss eachother at all.

JIM

Oh. See I didn't know that.

MR. ZAHN

I get it. You know, when kids are outside of the home the parents can't see how they're behaving and so this can be surprising.

JIM

Oh, she's misbehaving?

MR. ZAHN

Well she used expletives against some of the other students and she taught them all what they meant.

JIM

Yeah. Alright. What kinda expletives are we talkin' about here?

MR. ZAHN

Primarily the one where someone pleases a gentleman with their mouth.

JIM

Yup.

MR. ZAHN

And then there was another one where in an LGBT relationship it, I guess really in any relationship and there's a man and then someone else standing behind that man, and then they uh, they, the one behind uses their hand to reach around - well it's a reach around is what it is. She called my class work a reach around.

JIM

I see. I am so sorry to hear that.

MR. ZAHN

Mmhmm.

JIM

I'm sorry and that couldn't be further from the truth. You clearly run a tight ship.

MR. ZAHN

Yup. I do and -

JIM

Stop. Let me first clarify for you that she's getting that language at her mother's house and not from me.

MR. ZAHN

Mmhmm. Understood.

JIM

Look. You can't blame Crystal for this kinda stuff. Even with the homework thing, she gets an assignment on a Monday, she does it but she leaves it at her mom's house, I have her for the next few days, she doesn't get it to you for a week, sometimes weeks at a time, she gets demerits on it; thats the problem of living between two homes. Don't blame her for that. That's on us. She's a good student.

MR. ZAHN

Well, she's also been exhibiting some pretty serious reading difficulties.

JIM

Well, now, that she would have gotten from me. (Slams hand down on desk) I'm sorry.

MR. ZAHN

Mr. Arnaud.

JIM

You gotta gimme a minute I'm so sorry. I'm gonna hold on to this desk for a min.

MR. ZAHN

Please you -

JIM

You gotta stop. Never wanna hear that. Never wanna hear you passed on something terrible to your child. Sorry. I'm gonna go for a second. (Stands up still gripping desk)

MR. ZAHN

Mr. Arnaud?

JIM

You gotta stop that. You gotta stop talkin' to me man. Shithead. I didn't mean to call you that. I'm sorry. That just came out. And now you think I'm probably the bad parent 'cause I cursed in front of you. The whole thing was about her cursing you danced around it for like five minutes it was a fucking nightmare.

MR. ZAHN

It's alright -

JIM

Here I am I cursed again

MR. ZAHN

It's alright cam down. Calm down.

JIM

Gimme a demerit. Gimme a demerit. See if I fucking care. Dude I will hurl this desk across the room so fast.

MR. ZAHN

I prefer you don't, that's Crystal's desk. Put the desk down. Please. Crystal is temporarily a problem child. She's not the worst. She's certainly not gonna be the last. We just needed to get you in here so we could form a united front against problematic behavior.

JIM

And I think that's great.

MR. ZAHN

Great. Thank you for comin' in.

JIM

Thank you for havin' me.

MR. ZAHN

You have any other questions you can feel free to reach out and I'm gonna probably send some reading comprehension lessons home as a PDF tonight.

JIM

I'm goin' through a divorce.

MR. ZAHN

I understand. It's an emotional time for everybody.