

GOOD FOR YOU

written by

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## 1. INT. KITCHEN - EVENING

The sounds of a meal being cooked fill the kitchen. JULIA, 12, stands at the stove, stirring pasta. Her brother, COLIN, 9, scrubs the countertop, looking lost in thought.

JULIA

Can you get the strainer, please?

She turns back to the steaming pot. Colin silently scrubs the same spot over and over again.

JULIA (CONT'D)

Colin? You okay?

COLIN

(Suddenly)

D'you ever think about dad?

Beat. Julia is slightly off-put by Colin's question.

JULIA

(Hesitant)

Well, yeah, but...it's been a while.

COLIN

Is he going to come back?

Beat. Julia shakes her head.

JULIA

Colin, stop worrying. We have mom, and she loves us.

Colin shrugs. Beat. He opens a cabinet and grabs a colander. Julia pours the pasta in, draining it.

COLIN

I've got it, Julia.

Julia smiles at him in thanks. She exits the kitchen.

## 2. INT. KATHLEEN'S ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Only a dim lamp illuminates the room in which KATHLEEN, 43, sits. Dark circles burden her under-eyes. She sits on the edge of the bed, sorting through a stack of overdue bills. From behind the bills, Kathleen finds a yellowed letter dated in 2014. The letter begins with 'Kathleen, I hope you can manage on your own.'

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There is a knock at the doorframe. Kathleen turns around to see Julia. Kathleen shoves the papers under a pillow.

JULIA  
Hey, mom, dinner's ready.

Beat. Julia notices her mother's upset demeanor. Julia moves to sit next to Kathleen.

JULIA (CONT'D)  
Is everything okay?

KATHLEEN  
Yes, honey...just...grown-up stuff.

Kathleen shows Julia a meager smile.

3. INT. HALLWAY - LATER

Julia walks down the hall, noticeably tired. She passes the open door of Colin's room. Colin sits on his bed, reading a book. When Julia passes by, he looks up at her. Colin sets his book down, stands, and follows after Julia.

4. INT. JULIA'S ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Colin wanders in and hops up on the bed next to Julia. They sit in silence for a beat. Julia holds open her arms in an embrace. Colin returns the hug tightly.

JULIA  
I'm worried about mom.

COLIN  
Why?

Colin sits back, out of Julia's embrace, and looks up at her.

JULIA  
You don't think she's lonely?

Colin looks a little confused.

COLIN  
She has us.

JULIA  
But what about dad?

COLIN  
What?

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CONTINUED:

JULIA  
It's like you said. She doesn't  
have someone like that anymore.

Julia thinks for a moment, then realizes:

JULIA (CONT'D)  
We have to help her.

COLIN  
How?

JULIA  
I don't know yet, but we'll figure  
something out.

Julia ruffles Colin's hair.

JULIA (CONT'D)  
Get some sleep, okay?

Colin nods, exits the room. Julia sighs, looking defeated.

5. INT. KITCHEN - MORNING

Julia enters the kitchen, still wearing pajamas. Julia stops short when she sees Kathleen standing at the counter, pulling on a puffy coat.

JULIA  
Mom?

Kathleen turns to Julia, still adjusting her coat.

KATHLEEN  
Honey...I'm going to take you and  
Colin over to Aunt Tracy's.

Julia looks at her mother in concern.

JULIA  
Is everything okay?

KATHLEEN  
Yes, Julia, just...I need to be  
alone for a little. Figure a few  
things out.  
(Beat)  
Can you wake up Colin, please?

Julia nods. Kathleen turns to the counter and begins searching through her purse. Julia exits.

## 6. EXT. TRACY'S HOUSE - LATER

Kathleen's car parks in front of an eclectic red house. Julia and Colin exit the car, holding overnight bags. Colin wears a jacket over his Batman PJs and eats an Eggo waffle.

Colin turns back to look at Kathleen through the open window.

COLIN

When are you gonna pick us up?

KATHLEEN

Tomorrow morning. Promise. I love you.

JULIA

Love you.

The kids start walking up the steps to the house.

COLIN

(Whispering to Julia)

Why are we here?

Before Julia can answer, the front door opens, revealing AUNT TRACY, 40, a colorfully-dressed woman with a bright smile.

TRACY

Hi, you two!

CUT TO:

## 7. INT. LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Tracy enters the living room with Julia and Colin. Also in the living room is UNCLE ED, snoring in an easy chair.

TRACY

I've missed you both! Haven't seen you since, what, last summer?

Julia halfheartedly smiles at Tracy.

JULIA

Yeah, not since June.

The three sit down on the sofa, Aunt Tracy between the kids.

TRACY

How have you been?

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CONTINUED:

JULIA  
We're...good...

COLIN  
Something's wrong with mom.

Julia winces at Colin's abruptness.

TRACY  
What do you mean, Colin?

COLIN  
All she's wanted is to be alone  
since --

Julia catches Tracy's gaze.

JULIA  
(Quietly)  
-- Since the divorce.

TRACY  
You think she's lonely?

Colin nods.

JULIA  
She has us, though. I thought we  
were enough.

TRACY  
She loves you two so much...but  
she's a strong lady and I know she  
can take care of herself.

Julia averts her gaze, unconvinced. Beat.

COLIN  
How did you and Uncle Ed meet?

Tracy laughs, remembering the story.

TRACY  
My girlfriends and I went for  
burgers one night. He bought me a  
strawberry milkshake and the rest  
is history. To this day, he's my  
Prince Charming!

ANGLE ON: Uncle Ed snores in his recliner.

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CONTINUED:

TRACY (CONT'D)

Your mom was always so picky about her crushes, even back in high school. She practically auditioned them for the part!

Colin smiles to himself.

CUT TO:

8. EXT. SIDEWALK - AFTERNOON

Colin proudly tapes a homemade sign onto a telephone pole.

ANGLE ON: The poster reads 'AUDITIONS: Seeking guys age 40-50 to date my mom. She's really nice.' in haphazard handwriting. Strips with phone numbers are attached to the bottom.

Julia stands behind him, her arms crossed.

JULIA

You really think this is going to work?

Colin steps back, admiring his work. He nods affirmatively.

At that moment, a JOGGER passes by. He slows down and tears a slip off the bottom of the poster. Colin smiles gleefully.

9. INT. GARAGE - DAY

Colin and Julia sit at a plastic table in their garage. STEVE, 35, cleanly dressed and attractive, stands before the siblings. A tag reading '1' is pinned to his front.

STEVE

Is there a script I'll be reading from?

JULIA

No. Just do your best.

Steve, a bit confused, nods.

STEVE

Oh, well, that's perfectly fine! I have a background in improv.

COLIN

So why do you want to date my mom?

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CONTINUED:

Steve freezes; he was not expecting that question.

MONTAGE: Auditions. Various MEN come and go through the audition room, each one with an increasing number pinned to their shirt. The hands on Julia's watch tick forward. Colin and Julia look more and more discouraged as each man exits.

Julia slouches in her chair, discouraged and tired. Colin flips through a stack of headshots of the men. He lazily draws a mustache on one with a black marker.

The door opens, catching the kids' attention. JEREMY, 45, enters the room. His plaid shirt has a stain on the front. As he moves to stand in front of the table, the haphazardly pinned number on his shirt flutters to the ground.

JEREMY

Sorry I'm late.

Colin stops doodling on the headshots and looks up.

COLIN

That's okay.

Colin flips to a fresh sheet on his notepad.

JULIA

Why did you come to this audition?

JEREMY

(Nervously)

Well, Uh, speed dating isn't really my scene. Thought I'd give this a shot.

COLIN

What kind of emotional baggage do you have?

JEREMY

Little to none.

JULIA

Occupation?

JEREMY

Telemarketer, but I'm more of an introvert.

JULIA

Idea for a first date?

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JEREMY  
...Getting ice cream and chatting.

Colin and Julia exchange a glance.

COLIN  
Excuse us, please.

Colin lifts up a manila folder, shielding his and Julia's conversation.

COLIN (CONT'D)  
(Whispering, excited)  
He's the one.

JULIA  
(Whispering, unsure)  
Are you sure? Seems like kind of a fixer-upper to me...

COLIN  
(Whispering aggressively)  
He's going to get her a strawberry milkshake!

A lightbulb goes off for Julia. She nods once. Colin sets the folder down and they turn back to Jeremy.

JULIA  
Congratulations, sir!

Jeremy smiles.

10. INT. KATHLEEN'S ROOM - DAY

Julia and Colin enter Kathleen's room and stand before her.

JULIA  
Mom --

COLIN  
Please don't get mad.

KATHLEEN  
(Gently)  
Why would I be mad?

JULIA  
(Quickly)  
We sort of planned a date for you tonight.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KATHLEEN  
(Completely shocked)  
I'm sorry, what?

Colin looks at Julia. He is getting worried.

KATHLEEN (CONT'D)  
I -- I'm not going on a date.

COLIN  
Mom, please.

KATHLEEN  
Why? Who even is this person?

JULIA  
We're worried about you, mom. You  
hardly go out and have fun anymore.

Kathleen still looks unsure.

JULIA (CONT'D)  
Please. For us?

COLIN  
I'll cry if you don't.

Kathleen looks frightened for a beat before regaining her composure.

KATHLEEN  
(Quietly)  
Okay.

Colin reaches over and hugs Kathleen, who still looks worried.

11. INT. ICE CREAM SHOP - EVENING

Kathleen sits across from Jeremy in an ice cream shop. She is noticeably disengaged from the situation.

JEREMY  
Really nice weather we've been  
having.

KATHLEEN  
Mhmm.

Kathleen glances down at the watch on her wrist. She sighs inwardly, noticeably bored by Jeremy.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JEREMY

And for November...whew.

Kathleen glances looks beyond Jeremy. At an adjacent table sits Julia and Colin, wearing bad disguises; Julia in a blonde wig and Colin in a fake mustache and bowler hat.

COLIN

(Whispering)

Can you hear what they're talking about?

Julia leans back in her seat, eavesdropping. After a beat, she leans back forward toward Colin.

JULIA

(Unimpressed)

The weather.

Colin sighs in disdain. Julia checks her watch.

CUT TO:

JEREMY

You know, these are record-setting temperatures for --

Kathleen suddenly stands up from the table.

KATHLEEN

Excuse me for a moment.

Jeremy nods politely.

Kathleen passes the table where her kids sit. She clears her throat dramatically. The kids get the signal and follow her.

12. INT. RESTROOM - MOMENTS LATER

The kids follow Kathleen into the womens' restroom. Colin looks around skeptically.

COLIN

(Whispering, to Julia)

Am I allowed to be in here?

Julia shushes Colin.

KATHLEEN

I'm sorry, but this isn't working out.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JULIA

Mom, there's more to talk about  
than the weather!

KATHLEEN

Thank you both for putting so much  
effort into this, but I think we  
should just go home.

Kathleen walks to the door, about to exit the restroom.

COLIN

We just wanted to make you happy.

This stops Kathleen.

KATHLEEN

What?

COLIN

Aunt Tracy said you used to have  
auditions for your boyfriends.

Kathleen is shocked by Colin's comment.

KATHLEEN

Oh.

Julia grasps Kathleen's hand, getting her attention.

JULIA

We just want to know why you've  
been so sad, and we...thought this  
might help.

KATHLEEN

None of this is your fault, but  
thank you for trying.

(Beat)

And you two are my happiness.

Julia still looks worried.

KATHLEEN (CONT'D)

I'm sorry I haven't been myself  
lately. I love you both so much and  
I don't want you to worry about me.

(Beat)

And this...this is quite the plan  
you two have come up with.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JULIA

Please, though, will you give him another chance? You deserve someone besides us.

COLIN

He was the best out of all of them.

Kathleen looks to Colin for a beat.

JULIA

You deserve this, mom.

Long beat. Kathleen hugs her children.

She smiles at them before exiting the restroom. The kids follow after her.

13. INT. ICE CREAM SHOP - MOMENTS LATER

Kathleen sits down across from Jeremy. He smiles forgivingly at her. Julia and Colin sit next to Kathleen.

KATHLEEN

I guess you've met my kids...?

Jeremy looks at Julia and Colin quizzically. The kids remove their bad disguises. Jeremy connects two and two.

JEREMY

Oh, um...yes.

A WAITRESS walks over to the table, holding a milkshake. She sets it down between Kathleen and Jeremy.

WAITRESS

Strawberry milkshake. Enjoy.

The Waitress exits. The kids look at Kathleen expectantly. Beat. Kathleen takes a sip of the shake.

CUT TO BLACK.