

START

JESSE

Do you want a hot dog or not?

BONNIE

Only if you're gonna eat one with me.

JESSE

I'm not hungry, Mama. It's not a poison turkey dog. The package's never been opened. Whatever, suit yourself. I'll say it one more time. I'm sorry.

BONNIE

How come you're not at your art class?

JESSE

I quit. All I ever painted was water anyway.

BONNIE

I'm thinkin' maybe I'll make a nice roast, just the way you like it with the carrots and potatoes on Saturday. How's that sound?

JESSE

Roast isn't what I asked for.

BONNIE

What can I say? I got no new information to give you, Jesse. And a roast is the best I can do for you come Saturday.

JESSE

It's not simple like that, Mama. You can't make a damn roast and have it all be better. It's damage. It's in the feel of the room. The temperature. I'm always taking in every situation I walk into with "Where's the nearest exit? Where's the door? If I have to jump out the window, will I break my legs?" That sorta thing.

BONNIE

I'm gonna redecorate the entire house.

JESSE

That's good, Mama.

BONNIE

I'm just sayin', you might as well get used to it. 'Cause everything's about to change.

JESSE

Good for you, Mama.

BONNIE

I even picked out all the colors already. Every room's gonna have its very own "feel."

JESSE

Whatever floats your boat.

BONNIE

Your room's bright yellow.

JESSE

Petie and my room's fine as is.

BONNIE

It's my house and I've decided to paint all the rooms.

JESSE

That's a very bad idea, Mama.

BONNIE

What is that some veiled threat? Gonna try and suffocate me again like you did this morning? Gonna start hittin' me like your daddy use to? You're just like him you know that?

Jesse leaves the room.

BONNIE (CONT'D)

(calling after her)

And another thing, Petie's dying was not my fault. There, I said it. Yes, I made some mistakes, but--

Jesse re-enters.

JESSE

Why would you do that? You have no right to just go in and paint me and Petie's room!

BONNIE

It's my house.

JESSE

It's me who pays the bills!

BONNIE

I'm tired of you blaming me for things ain't entirely my fault! Pastor Sparks says, it's high time I forgive myself. So, I'm plannin' to go ahead and do that even if you won't.

JESSE

Forgiveness? All that forgiveness you talk about, is a load a bull because we both know it all comes down to you fallin' down on the job of motherhood. "Father Son Adventure!" The man was a loose cannon from the word "go." Came back gunnin' for Petie. And, fact, you let him take Petie onto that lake, well, I can say, yeah sure, I forgive you for that lapse in everything clear and sane. But, truth is, why'd you do it? How could you do such a stupid, stupid, stupid, stupid, stupid--

BONNIE

You were there!

JESSE

Come again?

BONNIE

On the lake, in the boat. You were there.

JESSE

Not possible. I saw the boat as it moved away, slid away into the distance. Couldn'ta been in the boat.

STOP

BONNIE

That's just like you. I finally give you the information piece you been waitin' for. Then, you go and say it don't belong to you. What is it you really want from me, Jesse?

They stare at each another. Jesse walks over to Bonnie's plate collection and begins flinging plates. She grabs the blue "Petie" plate and is about to smash it when Bonnie calls out.

BONNIE

Don't do it, Jesse!

Jesse hands Bonnie the plate.

JESSE

I can't forgive you, Mama. It's not possible.

BONNIE

I'm supposed to forgive you no matter what though, right?

Bonnie throws the "Petie" plate onto the floor. Jesse storms out of the house. Bonnie breaks into sobs and tries to piece together the broken "Petie" plate.

SOUND THAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU LAND
BETWEEN TV CHANNELS

Petie enters.

PETIE

Mama? Mama?

BONNIE

What, Darlin'?

PETIE

What kind of pie is chess pie?