

PLAY #14 GRADUATE APPLICATIONS

by

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## CHARACTERS

BYRON	A 21-year old, freshly graduated from college, planning to marry a boy named Jake.
HANNAH ANDREWS	Jake's mother. In her late 40s.
GREG ANDREWS	Jake's father. Late 40s.

## GRUNTS AND GRUMBLES

## SCENE 1

(At Rise: GREG, HANNAH, BYRON in the Andrews' home. GREG is on the couch reading a newspaper. Silence.)

HANNAH

Greg... Your son's future husband is here.

(Not looking up.)

GREG

Mmmnnn...

HANNAH

You could do more than just grumble.

GREG

Hello, Byron.

BYRON

Hello, Mr. Andrews.

HANNAH

Should we discuss the wedding?

GREG

It's not for two months.

BYRON

Right. It's better to wait for Jake anyway for that. No need to rush into details too early, Mrs. Andrews. Lots could change before the big day.

HANNAH

Of course.

BYRON

So... My plan is to go to grad school, you know.

HANNAH

Wonderful. In what?

BYRON

Landscape architecture. I'm submitting my application tomorrow.

GREG

And you and Jake will live together.

BYRON

We already do live together.

GREG

Right. You'll continue to live together. What will be different?

BYRON

Not much I suppose.

HANNAH

A lot can change. In marriage. Greg is well aware of that.

BYRON

If I get into school... And maybe this is where you could help me out, Mr. Andrews. The acceptance rate is tight. You were once a college dean right?

GREG

Years ago.

BYRON

Maybe you could have a look at my application.

GREG

I suppose I could do that.

BYRON

I remember how helpful you were. In high school. When I wasn't so good at understanding math.

HANNAH

Greg is good at math. Aren't you, honey?

BYRON

Yeah... I was really... Appreciative... Neither of my parents were good at math... And you were always the one who came to my baseball games. My father was always working.

HANNAH

That was a long time ago.

BYRON

Yeah... So, Mr. Andrews, once I get in... our plan is for Jake to work full time for a while.

HANNAH

He's already working more than full time.

BYRON

Just for a while so I can finish school. And then we'll switch. We want to stay close by.

GREG

Sounds like a plan.

BYRON

So, you'll help me finish the application?

GREG

When do you need the help?

BYRON

Well... Tonight... Preferably.

(GREG looks up from the paper for the first time.)

GREG

Tonight?

HANNAH

I don't see why not... He's not doing anything else.

BYRON

It's due tomorrow.

GREG

You brought the application with you?

BYRON

I've been out all day. Sorry.

GREG

You want me to drive all the way over there tonight?

HANNAH

For godsake, Greg. You can get off your ass for your future son-in-law. I'll keep your paper here. I'll even keep it warm in our bed.

BYRON

It's okay. I'm sure it'll be fine.

HANNAH

Nonsense. Greg?

BYRON

No, really. It's late notice. I should have called.

GREG

Can't you email it to me?

BYRON

It would be better if we discussed it in person.

HANNAH

He's right. This emailing thing has gotten way out of hand. Please, Greg...

GREG

Fine. I'll do it. After dinner.

HANNAH

You could stay for dinner, Byron!

BYRON

No. I really need to get home. I want to... Polish the application before Mr. Andrews looks it over.

HANNAH

Suit yourself.

BYRON

Call me when you're on your way. Okay?

HANNAH

He will.

BYRON

Bye, now.

HANNAH

Bye.

(BYRON exits.)

That was a little strange.

GREG

Who are you telling?

HANNAH

Still. He's grown into a handsome man, don't you think? Greg? (Pause.) Better looking than ours.

GREG

What do you mean?! Hardly!

HANNAH

I mean... Our son isn't bad looking... But Byron could be a model or something. I don't remember him looking that good.

GREG

Well. He's a man now.

HANNAH

I guess.

GREG

I'm glad you find men more attractive than boys.

HANNAH

Anyway... Make sure you do go over there. He seemed to really need help.

GREG

Mmmnnn...

LIGHTS FADE

END OF SCENE

## SCENE 2

(At Rise: BYRON's and JAKE's apartment. A mess. BYRON is frantically cleaning up. Picking up clothes on the couch. clearing glasses from the coffee table. Turns off the lights. So there's just a lava lamp on the coffee table. Knock at the door. Answers the door.)

BYRON

Hi.

GREG

Can I come in?

BYRON

Oh. Sure. Sorry. Please. Make yourself at home. I mean. It practically is your home.

GREG

It's not my home.

BYRON

Family. I mean.

GREG

I'd say it smells like a college dorm, but I guess you'll be in college a few more years.

BYRON

Grad school.

GREG

Architecture.

BYRON

Landscape. Architecture.

GREG

Trees and bushes and stuff.

BYRON

It's actually much more than that.

GREG

Of course. I would imagine.



BYRON

It involves planning, in terms of rainfall, where it will go after it hits the ground, where are the sunny spots, the micro climates. What kind of water features could you include? Flowers versus trees. Annuals versus perrennials.

(BYRON puts on some music. John Coltrane.)

Do you mind?

GREG

It sounds as if you've already studied it.

BYRON

I might as well have.

GREG

John Coltrane. That's a surprise.

BYRON

Good, I hope.

GREG

My favorite.

BYRON

I know.

GREG

You know?

BYRON

I remember. When Jake and I would be playing in his room, you'd be working in your study.

GREG

Listening to Coltrane no doubt. While you and Jake were playing...

BYRON

Just playing at that point.

(Pause.)

GREG

Well... Shall we get started with the application?

BYRON

Sure.

(BYRON drops the application on the table. GREG looks at it.)

GREG

Maybe we should have another light or two.

BYRON

Do you want to get high?

GREG

That's probably not a good idea.

BYRON

I'm old enough now, you know?

GREG

I suppose.

BYRON

Do you mind? I also know you used to get high.  
(BYRON rolls a joint.)

GREG

I guess it's kind of hard to hide that.

BYRON

All those years. Me in Jake's room... Doing whatever we do. You in your office. Getting high. Listening to Coltrane.

(BYRON takes a hit.)

GREG

Hannah doesn't like when I get high.

BYRON

Is Hannah here?

GREG

Maybe just a little bit.

(GREG takes a hit.)

Shit!

BYRON

Mmmnnn-hmmm.

GREG

This isn't going to help with the project at hand.

BYRON

Do you mind if I ask you a question?

GREG

Shoot.

BYRON

What do you think of me?

GREG

What do you mean?

BYRON

You've known me almost since the day I was born. You must have some opinion of me.

GREG

It's not my place to form an opinion of my son's friends. At least not now that he's an adult.

BYRON

Surely you've had some opinion over the years. And now. How about your son's future husband? You don't think anything about me? You and Hannah never have words about me?

GREG

She thinks you're... A very nice boy.

BYRON

Does she know that I've been a porn star?

GREG

I think I should go. It doesn't seem like we're gonna get to this.

BYRON

Don't go. We'll get to the application.

GREG

So...

BYRON

I wasn't sure if you knew. (Pause.) Jake knows of course.

GREG

I would hope so.

BYRON

But I thought... You should know more about me. Since we'll be family.

(BYRON sits close to GREG.)

GREG

I'm sure Jake will be home any moment.

BYRON

Not for hours.

GREG

If we're going to get to this, I'll need some more light to see.

(BYRON removes GREG's glasses.)

BYRON

You don't really need to see.

GREG

Why not?

BYRON

All those years.

GREG

All those years of what?

BYRON

You in one room. Me in the other. Waiting at the sidelines when I went up to bat.

GREG

Are you trying to seduce me?

(BYRON laughs. Backs off.)

BYRON

Come on, now! Why would you think that?

GREG

I don't know. I just have a strange feeling.

BYRON

Have you ever had sex with a man before?

GREG

No!

BYRON

You're probably just picking up on my... Alternative professional identity.

GREG

What kind of movies do you do?

BYRON

Do you watch porn?

GREG

Not for a long time.

BYRON

Mrs. Andrews probably didn't like it.

GREG

The medium can be a little demeaning to woman.

BYRON

Maybe she wouldn't mind gay porn.

GREG

Maybe not. What kind of stuff do you do?

BYRON

Mostly Daddy stuff.

GREG

You mean...

BYRON

Daddy. Son. Domination. That kind of thing.

GREG

She'd probably really be into that.

BYRON

Really?

GREG

I think we should stop here.

(BYRON kisses GREG.)

What are you doing?

BYRON

Why stop? This is what I always wanted. Consider it my bachelor party. A kind of graduation to our new life.

(BYRON kisses GREG again.)

LIGHTS FADE

END OF PLAY