

Meeting the Parents

A Ten Minute Play

By

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CHARACTERS: LILY: A girl coming home from college to introduce her
boyfriend to her parents.
JACK: Lily's boyfriend.
RICHARD: Lily's overprotective dad.
MARGARET: Lily's mother.

JACK

(Standing outside of the door, he takes a big breath and knocks on door.)

LILY

(Opens door)

Hey, come on in!

JACK

Thanks.

(Steps inside)

MARGARET

(Calling from the kitchen)

Lily, is he here?

LILY

Yup.

MARGARET

(Whispers to husband)

Do behave yourself Richard.

RICHARD

(Distractedly)

Of course dear.

(Kids walk into kitchen)

LILY

Mom, Dad, this is Jack.

MARGARET

It's a pleasure to meet you Jack.

JACK

Same to you ma'am.

RICHARD

Hello there, son.

JACK

(Shakes Richard's hand)

Very nice to meet you, sir. Your daughter speaks very highly of you.

RICHARD

(Smiling)

Well...

(Awkward silence)

MARGRET

Let's eat then!

RICHARD

What would you like to drink Jack? Beer, vodka, whiskey? I am a fan of scotch myself, but you seem like the tequila type.

MARGARET

Richard!

LILY

Dad!

RICHARD

What!?! He looks like he might drink that sort of thing.

JACK

(Shifting uncomfortably)

Just a water please.

(Everyone except Richard freezes)

RICHARD

Well, he passed that test, but I'm not done with him yet!

(Resume)

(Everyone sits down at the table.)

LILY

Looks good Mom.

JACK

Yes, this looks very nice. Thank you, Mrs. Page.

RICHARD

Well, let's dig in.

(Everyone starts eating.)

RICHARD

So, how are you doing in school Jack? What are your grades like?

LILY

Wow, Dad, just diving right in, are we?

RICHARD

Lily, don't be so sensitive. I'm just asking him a question!

JACK

(Touches Lily's arm)

It's okay. I have all A's, except for one B. Calculus is very hard!

LILY

Yeah, I've heard Professor Mason's tests are really difficult!

MARGARET

So Jack, are you doing any sports or activities outside of school?

JACK

Yeah, I'm on a soccer team and I am in the choir.

RICHARD

(Rolls his eyes)

LILY

I saw that.

(Again, an awkward silence fills the room.)

RICHARD

(Determinedly)

So, what are you smoking these days Jack? Virginia slims, Camels, Marlboros?

JACK

Um...

MARGARET

(Cutting Jack off before he can answer.)

Richard may I speak with you in the hallway please?

RICHARD

Alright, but quickly. My porkchop is getting cold.

(Richard and Margret step into the hallway.)

MARGARET

Why on earth are you attacking that poor boy in there? He's been nothing but polite to you and you are treating him like dirt!

(She sighs)

Lily's away at college now. Don't drive her even further away.

RICHARD

I just want to make sure he's right for Lily. I don't want her to be with someone unworthy!

MARGARET

No one will ever be good enough for you, but that doesn't matter. What matters is that Lily is happy.

RICHARD

But...

MARGARET

Listen, I know you are trying to do the right thing, but if you really want to make Lily happy then you are just going to accept this boy and move on.

RICHARD

(Resignedly)

But, he's not good enough...

MARGARET

(Hands on hips, she speaks agitatedly.)

Come on, your pork chops might be getting cold.

(Margaret freezes with her hands on her hips.)

RICHARD

Damn! You just can't win with these women!

(Resume.)

(Re-enter kitchen; Margaret and Richard)

RICHARD

Sorry son, I may have been a bit rude to you. Let's start over, shall we.

JACK

Well... thank you sir.

MARGRET

So, Hon, how was work today?

RICHARD

It went very well, I finally convinced those Masons to buy the beautiful white mansion down on Clifford Street. I was quite proud of myself.

MARGRET

Wow, that's great!

RICHARD

Yes, but my boss, that dreaded Hunsberger, told me that I didn't get his rich butt enough money, and that I would be demoted if it ever happened again. Honestly, that man is disgrace to the company. I can't even image how on earth he got his job.

LILY

(Hurriedly)

Dad, stop!

RICHARD

That man just sits in his expensive chair staring bug eyed at his expensive computer doing nothing helpful. And then, he has the audacity to yell at me, who has been slaving away trying to help his company prosper.

LILY

Dad!

RICHARD

But does he ever thank me? Nooooo. Ugg, that man is insufferable.

JACK

(Suddenly sitting up much straighter. He looks uncomfortable.)

Um...Very nice. My father is a real estate broker. Um... I think you know him. He's...
Uh... Mr. Hunsberger.

(Everyone at the table stiffens. LILY puts her head in her hands. It is silent for a moment.)

RICHARD

(Shifting)

Well, isn't it a small world we live in.

(Once again, an awkward silence fills the room.)

RICHARD

(Cautiously)

So, Jack, I'd appreciate it if you kept those words I just said to yourself. I didn't mean them really.

JACK

(More confidently)

Really? You seemed to mean every word. Anyway, I'm not sure I can do that sir. I consider myself an honest person, so if my father asks if you mentioned him or not, I will not lie.

RICHARD

But...

JACK

(Very confidently)

No. I respect my father very much. He worked hard for his money and has every right to expect a lot from his employees. I'm sorry.

(Uncomfortable silence)

MARGARET

So, how did you two meet?

JACK

Well, actually, it was at a school production of Romeo and Juliet four months ago.

LILY

I couldn't see the stage, because Jack is so tall.

JACK

I noticed her trying to see the show, and I offered to switch seats with her.

LILY

Then he asked me to dinner after the show ended.

JACK

It must have been the romantic mood in the air.

MARGARET

That's a pretty good story. Richard and I met on a blind date.

RICHARD

(Aggressively)

Are we done yet?

(Everyone freezes)

MARGRET

My goodness! Why on earth did I choose this monster over that dreamy European helicopter pilot!? I mean really.

(Resume)

LILY

I think we're all done. Shall we clear the table?

MARGRET

All right.

(Everybody stands up and begins clearing the table. Jack begins washing the dishes.)

MARGRET

Thank you, Jack, that is so helpful of you! You are such a gentleman.

RICHARD

Thank you, Jack.

(JACK grins and nods)

RICHARD

Alright, Jack. Now that you are part of the family, I must ask you. What are your intentions in this relationship with my daughter? Will you be needing me to provide you with any condoms?

MARGRET

Richard!

LILY

Dad! Stop it right now! Honestly, I might never bring anyone home to meet you ever again! Jack is trying, I am trying, mom is trying, and you're not. Are you trying to ruin this relationship? If you are, stop! It's not like I'm asking a lot of you. Just be polite! And for God's sake, don't ever talk about condoms in front of me again!

RICHARD

Lily, stop being so dramatic.

(Nudges Jack playfully)

Women, right?

JACK

Sir. I refuse to satisfy your need for attention. That was not a funny comment. It was rather abusive. Lily has every right to disagree with you.

RICHARD

How dare you speak to me in that tone!

JACK

I may speak to you in any tone that I please. I think I get a free pass here. You don't want me to tell my father about your disrespectful comments about him... Do you?

RICHARD

I don't give a damn what you tell your detestable father. The fact of the matter is, our families don't mix well. Your father hates me and I hate him! I think it would be best if you stop seeing my daughter.

MARGRET

Richard. I'm sorry. I know it's hard for you to see your little girl grow up, but the fact of the matter is that she's not so little anymore. She can make her own decisions. And truthfully, she made a pretty good choice here. This boy is honest and kind. You just have to let go a little.

RICHARD

But this boy isn't good enough for her!

LILY

Dad, we are right here!

RICHARD

I don't care.

LILY

(Sighing)

Dad. I will always be your little girl. Always and forever. You know that. But right now, I'm happy. Isn't that what you want?

(Richard is silent)

LILY

(Sadly)

I guess not. Come on Jack.

(They walk into the hallway and freeze.)

(Cut to parents in kitchen)

RICHARD

Thank goodness that's over!

(MARGARET looks sadly at RICHARD)

RICHARD

What?

MARGRET

It's just...

RICHARD

Spit it out!

MARGRET

It's just that I thought that you were different from your father.

RICHARD

I am not like my father!

MARGRET

What would your father have done in this situation! Would he have respected your sisters boyfriend if she had ever trusted your dad enough to bring him home to dinner? Or, when you and your sister were in college, did he make the few times you were together happy, or were they spent bickering?

(RICHARD is quiet and looks down)

MARGRET

That's what I thought.

(MARGARET and RICHARD freeze, cut to LILY and JACK)

LILY

(Crying)

This is full on Romeo and Juliet.

JACK

"Did my heart love till now? forswear it, sight! For I ne'er saw true beauty till this night."

LILY

That's why I love you. You can quote Shakespeare! I'm so, so sorry. My dad, he's not usually like this!

JACK

Don't worry. Your dad will come around. I promise. I'm not going to give up on this!

LILY

Oh God, this is as sappy as a soap opera!

(LILY and JACK kiss. Enter parents.)

MARGRET

Oh, sorry, um...

LILY

Uh... it's ok.

(She looks at Richard and speaks coolly)

What do you want?

RICHARD

To apologize. I am truly sorry. I was out of line to say the things that I did. Truthfully, Jack, I think you are a fine boy. I get that I need to let go a little. Just know, it's not easy. You'll understand when you're a parent.

JACK

Thank you, but I don't need an apology. I took nothing you said to heart. Lily did though.

RICHARD

I'm not finished. Lily, you know I want you to be happy. I really do.

(He shrugs)

I'm sorry.

LILY

Thanks.

(Lily, Richard, and Margaret hug and freeze there.)

JACK

Now all that's left is to introduce Lily to *my* parents. This is gonna be fun...