

RAISING THE BAR

Written by

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Based on more than one true story

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**INT. - AN UPPER MIDDLE CLASS NEIGHBORHOOD. A PLEASANTLY
APPOINTED HOUSEHOLD IN THE MASTER BEDROOM - LATE AT NIGHT.**

ELIJAH "ELI" NEWMAN, UPPER-MIDDLE AGED MODERATELY
CONSERVATIVE RABBI IN A MIDWESTERN COMMUNITY, IS HAVING WHAT
HE WOULD CALL A NIGHTMARE, BUT TO HIS THERAPIST, IT MIGHT NOT
SEEM SO UNUSUAL. IN THE DREAM, HE IS WATCHING A HAPPY, NON-
DESCRIPT, BUT LESS THAN CONSCIENTIOUS 13 YEAR-OLD BOY ATTEMPT
TO MANAGE THE TORAH SCROLLS ON THE BIMAH (PODIUM). WHEN
SUDDENLY ONE SCROLL FALLS OFF AND STARTS ROLLING AWAY. RABBI
ELI DOES HIS BEST TO RUN AFTER THE SCROLL TO RETRIEVE IT, IN
THE HOPES OF RE-WRAPPING IT BEFORE IT BECOMES UNMANAGEABLE.
BUT ALAS, HE AWAKENS IN THE PROVERBIAL COLD SWEAT, AS HE
REALIZES HE NEVER CAN CATCH UP WITH IT.

MIRIAM

Not again! (LAMENTING THEIR
PREDICAMENT) You have to go see
Sidney - This is getting
ridiculous..

ELI

I don't understand all of this--

MIRIAM

(INTERRUPTING) Eli, You have all of
this great knowledge under your
keepah - and yet you have no idea
why are you having these dreams?

ELI

Miriam I know what you're gonna
say, but I don't believe you are
entirely correct here...

MIRIAM

How correct do I have to be..? I
know you. Tradition has always been
important to you. With the new
reforms, the new Board (PAUSES TO
GRAB HIS FACE) E (SHE CALLS HIM
THAT FROM TIME TO TIME)...E!!
(AFFECTIONATELY HOLDING HIS
FACE)...you've always had---

**INT. - QUICK CUT TO PSYCHIATRIST DR. SIDNEY SCHWARTZ'S OFFICE
- LATE THE NEXT EVENING.**

WHERE DR. SCHWARTZ FINISHES THE SENTENCE MIRIAM STARTED.

SIDNEY

..had difficulty coping with
certain changes Eli.

ELI
What!? (PAUSE) That's exactly what
Miriam said...

THIS COMMENT PROVOKES A SARCASTIC FACIAL REACTION FROM DR.
SIDNEY.

ELI (CONT'D)
What?

SIDNEY
Nothing..I just never quite
understood the tendency to seem
annoyed about having married
intelligently. Your wife is a very
wise woman..maybe you should listen
to her?

ELI
(PAUSING SLIGHTLY WITH HIS FINGER
IN THE AIR) Point taken...On the
other hand, who is the wise one? I
married her. (AGAIN PAUSING) You
know, in the old days, we used to
call this type of meshuggas an
"affliction".

SIDNEY
We try very hard not to use terms
like that anymore Eli, we have
changed and progressed...

ELI
Well I do not believe in mincing
words in situations like this..

SIDNEY
Well..as a patient you have that
luxury--

ELI
What luxury?..I am paying an
absolute fortune here--

SIDNEY
Oy..Eli..now you are making me
meshugganah. (LOOKING AT HIS WATCH)
Actually, we have to wrap this
up...so...I'm going to give you a
thing--

ELI
What?!

SIDNEY
A thing..to help you sleep--

ELI
Oh no..oh no..(LOOKING UP AT THE
CEILING WITH HIS HANDS IN THE AIR)
do you see what is happening here?!

SIDNEY
Why are you looking up there..and
who are you talking to?

ELI
(SARCASTICALLY REPEATING THE
QUESTION) Why am I looking up?..Who
do you think I am talking to? I am
beseeching his Holiness--

SIDNEY
Why?!

ELI
Well..now you are handing out
dope...now I know I have an
affliction!

**INT. - THE LOCAL POLICE STATION ON THE OTHER SIDE OF TOWN - A
FEW HOURS LATER INTO THE EVENING.**

MOSES ROBINSON, A VERY WELL HEELED PASTOR, AND HIS WIFE
BEVERLY HAVE ARRIVED. THEY ARE THERE TO BAIL THEIR SON ISAIAH
OUT OF THE LOCKUP. THE POLICE OFFICER IS EXPLAINING TO MOSES
AND BEVERLY THAT THEIR 20 YEAR OLD SON ISAIAH MAY HAVE MOSTLY
BEEN A BYSTANDER AT A PARTY, WHERE THERE WERE UNDERAGE GIRLS,
DRINKING, PROBABLE DRUG USE, AND EVEN A CONFISCATED WEAPON OR
TWO. BUT HE WAS FOUND WITH A DRINK IN HIS HAND. THE POV
SHIFTS TO ISAIAH COMING THROUGH THE DOORWAY INTO THE VIEW OF
HIS PARENTS..AND HE IS VERY SHEEPISH. ALSO IN THE SAME ROOM,
AN ARGUMENT IS OVERHEARD BETWEEN ANOTHER YOUNG MAN, DORIAN
KIDD, AND ONE OF THE DETECTIVES. DORIAN IS ABOUT ISAIAH'S
AGE, AND IS VERY COCKY AND ENTITLED. HE SEEMS ALSO TO BE FROM
SOME SUBSTANTIAL MEANS, AS HE HAS A VERY WELL DRESSED HIGH-
POWERED LAWYER ACCOMPANYING HIM. AND THIS IS BY CONTRAST TO
ISAIAH, WHO ONLY HAS HIS PARENTS PRESENT.

ATTORNEY BEN LASLOW
Gentlemen..the evidence found at
the scene is circumstantial. The
weapon and narcotics were not
actively in my client Mr. Kidd's
possession, and could have been
anyone's.

(MORE)

ATTORNEY BEN LASLOW (CONT'D)
The only possible charge here
could've been resisting arrest. But
we all know that, because the
presumption was that the weapon and
the drugs were my clients - arrest
and detainment could be considered
harassment.

DORIAN
Yeah (TO ONE COP)..Yeah (TO ANOTHER
COP)

ATTORNEY BEN LASLOW
As a show of good faith, his bail
has been posted. I don't see how
you can detain my client any
further, seeing that he still has
not violated the radius assigned to
him, and his probationary ankle
bracelet.

SUDDENLY THE POLICE CAPTAIN SEEMINGLY IN CHARGE, PIPES IN
MONOTONE.

CAPTAIN ROSS
Turn him loose..(TO THE ROOM IN
GENERAL)

DETECTIVE RUIZ
(TAKING ISSUE) But Captain, this is
the second time in a week! Weapon
possession is a clear violation of
his probation!--

CAPTAIN ROSS
Unfortunately..it is not clear that
the weapon was his..

DORIAN
(AGAIN AT RUIZ) Yeah!

DETECTIVE RUIZ
Captain!--

CAPTAIN ROSS
(INTERRUPTING AND REPEATING AGAIN
TO THE ANGRY YOUNGER DETECTIVE
RUIZ) Turn him loose..

DORIAN
Yeah! You heard my dog..Ain't no
more talking..Because I'm walking..
(MORE)

DORIAN (CONT'D)
 (AS HE GETS UP, BRAZENLY LOOKS
 DIRECTLY AT RUIZ) I always
 said..you know what Lil Kidd is
 gonna do - Just smile for the
 camera baby..smile for the camera
 (FLASHES HIS PERFECT SMILE)

DETECTIVE RUIZ
 (TRYING FRUSTRATINGLY TO SAVE FACE)
 Just make sure you stay within your
 assigned radius Dorian!!

DORIAN FLIPS THE BIRD TO THE DETECTIVE IN A SUBTLE WAY.

SENIOR CAPTAIN ROSS
 (TO BOTH DORIAN AND ISAIAH) Your
 arraignment for these charges is in
 two days. Please make sure you both
 get there on time (HANDS THEM BOTH
 THEIR PAPERWORK).

ATTORNEY BEN LASLOW
 We'll be there.

MO ROBINSON
 (STERNLY LOOKING DIRECTLY AT
 ISAIAH) So will he.

DORIAN
 (TO ISAIAH) You hit me up bruh -
 Don't forget..My rhymes an yo'
 beats.. especially that power
 joint..man..gonna be some long
 money Cuz..long money..(SMILES AND
 GIVES ISAIAH A PEACE SIGN AS HE
 WALKS AWAY).

THE POV PANS AGAIN TO ISAIAH'S MOTHER BEVERLY ROBINSON, AND
 THEN BACK TO MO ROBINSON, WHO IS OBVIOUSLY NOT PLEASED WITH
 ISAIAH'S ASSOCIATION WITH DORIAN, NOR WITH ANY PART OF THIS
 SITUATION.

INT. - THE CONFERENCE ROOM /OFFICES AT TEMPLE BNAI ELOHIM.

STUART KAPLIN, THE TEMPLE BOARD PRESIDENT IS ON THE PHONE
 NEGOTIATING WITH THE CITY MAYOR'S OFFICE, ABOUT SOME LAND ON
 WHICH THE TEMPLE ALREADY BEGAN CONSTRUCTION. THE PROBLEM IS
 IT WASN'T TECHNICALLY THEIRS YET. RUTH, THE TEMPLE OFFICE
 MANAGER, IS ALSO PRESENT, AND IN THE MIDDLE OF AN AVERAGE
 WORK DAY.

STUART KAPLIN
 Mayor Bradley, I can assure you
 that we had only the best
 intentions. If we acted
 prematurely, you have our deepest
 apologies. If I could just cut to
 the chase - (PATRONIZING) What can
we do to make the situation more
 palatable for the fine folks in the
 Mayor's office? (HOLDING THE PHONE
 OUT AWAY FROM HIS EAR)

THE TEMPLE MANAGER RUTH SEES THIS AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO
 WHISPER A MESSAGE TO STUART.

RUTH
 (VERY SOFTLY) A Ms. Gerstein is
 here to see you..for a tour?

STUART KAPLIN
 (ENUNCIATING..WHISPERING BACK TO
 RUTH) Gerstein?

RUTH SHRUGS AS IF SHE IS NOT SURE, BUT DOESN'T CARE PAST A
 CERTAIN POINT.

RUTH
 (AGAIN VERY SOFTLY) The fellow
 divorcee you met at the singles
 event..?

STUART REALIZES WHO IT IS AFTER PEERING INTO THE LOBBY, AND
 SEEING AN EXTREMELY ATTRACTIVE WOMAN, HE MOUTHS THE WORD
 'WOW' SILENTLY. RUTH ROLLS HER EYES AFTER SHE SEES THIS
 REACTION. STUART HOWEVER, CONTINUES HIS CONVERSATION WITH THE
 MAYOR.

STUART KAPLIN
 (REPEATING WHAT HE HEARS OUT LOUD
 AS IF TO ENTERTAIN ANYONE WITHIN
 EARSHOT) No I confess I have not
 heard about the governor's
 community service initiative.
 (PAUSES) Well if that will go a
 long way, then we would be happy to
 take part. What can we do?

STUART LOOKS AT RUTH AS IF TO ASK FOR HER TO TAKE DICTATION.
 BUT SHE DOES NOT MOVE, AND JUST LOOKS BACK AT HIM, AS IF TO
 SAY 'WHAT?'. BUT HE CONTINUES HIS CONVERSATION.

STUART KAPLIN (CONT'D)
(ALMOST TO RUTH) Create an
opportunity in our organization for
community service. Okay. What would
that involve?

STUART LOOKS AT RUTH ONCE MORE, REALIZES SHE ISN'T GOING TO
WRITE ANYTHING DOWN FOR HIM, THEN CONTINUES.

STUART KAPLIN (CONT'D)
(PAUSES) Well then without a doubt,
you can count on us Mr. Mayor. I
will confer with Rabbi Newman and
his staff about us offering that
community service--

STUART PAUSES TO LISTEN AGAIN, BUT HOLDS THE PHONE AWAY FROM
HIS EAR AGAIN, AS IF HE IS LISTENING TO A CHATTERBOX. THEN
INTERRUPTS STRATEGICALLY.

STUART KAPLIN (CONT'D)
So we will send you the document
where you can sign off for the
purchase, and then you send us the
paperwork for the initiative...Yes
and the campaign contribution form.
Yes...And then we'll exchange
documents back-and-forth by the end
of the day. Technology is wonderful
yes sir. (PAUSING) OK my pleasure
sir..you have a good day too. Thank
you.

STUART GETS OFF THE PHONE, AND IMMEDIATELY ATTENDS TO THE
WOMAN IN THE LOBBY, WHO IS SMILING AT HIM. THEN TO RUTH.

STUART KAPLIN (CONT'D)
(TALKING TO RUTH LIKE SHE IS A
SECRETARY) Ruth Sweetie--

RUTH
Don't call me that.

STUART
(WHILE LOOKING AT THE ATTRACTIVE
WOMAN..AS IF RUTH IS UNSTABLE)
Whoa...hey..it's just an
expression..of..love..basically--

RUTH
(SARCASTICALLY) Right...(THEN
ADDRESSING HIS QUESTION)..What?

STUART, ACTING AS IF HE IS CONSTANTLY PUTTING UP WITH SO MUCH FROM RUTH..CHANGES HIS TONE TO MAKE IT MORE GENTLE.

STUART
(ABDICATINGLY) Could you just tell Eli that he will probably be seeing a form he needs to sign, for our (IMPROVISATIONALLY TRYING TO MAKE IT MORE THAN IT ACTUALLY IS) community service..scholarship program for.. services to the community (SMILING MOSTLY TO THE WOMAN).

RUTH
(CONFUSED) What program is it?--

STUART
(IMMEDIATELY RESPONDING TO RUTH, JUST WANTING TO GET TO TALK TO THE WOMAN ASAP) Just tell Eli what I said please?

RUTH
(CURTLY GIVING UP) Fine!

STUART, NOW MOVING INTO THE LOBBY, BUT STILL WITHIN EARSHOT OF RUTH, STARTS TO ADDRESS THE WOMAN.

STUART
Boy I feel like I need to wash my hands. I'm not used to dealing with these politicians - you know?

RUTH INTERJECTS AND SMARTS OFF AT STUART FROM INSIDE THE OFFICE, AND IN FRONT OF THE ATTRACTIVE DIVORCEE.

RUTH
(TO STUART) What are you talking about?..you're in commercial real estate - you talk to the mayor all the time!---

STUART KAPLIN
(INTERRUPTING AND BARKING BACK AT RUTH) Don't you have some typing to do or something??!

STUART MAKES THE CRAZY SIGN WITH HIS FINGER TOWARD MS. GERSTEIN, AS HE SMILES AGAIN AT HER.

STUART
(THEN WHISPERING TO HER) She's on
some weird medication (PAUSES
SMILING..THEN STOPS WHISPERING)
Great to see you again by the
way...you look great!

**INT. - A CLASSROOM IN THE LOCAL CONTEMPORARY COLLEGE FOR
MUSIC - SAME DAY AND TIME.**

STUDENTS ARE ALREADY IN THEIR SEATS. IT IS THE FIRST DAY OF
THE SEMESTER IN THE CLASS SONGWRITING 101. THERE IS AN
TANGIBLE UNDERCURRENT OF CHATTER, AS THE PROFESSOR IS
FIELDING SOME PRE-CLASS QUESTIONS. RACHEL, A 20 YEAR OLD
JUNIOR CANTOR STUDIES MAJOR, TEXTS ONE OF HER FRIENDS, WHO
HAPPENS TO BE IN CLASS WITH HER.

RACHEL (TEXTING)
'I can't believe I couldn't get
into that literature section as an
alternative - it is full :(- I am
going to bomb this class...I can't
write anyway, let alone a song'

JESSICA
'Shut UP..you are such a great
singer, how could you not write
well?'

RACHEL
'It is not the same thing at all!
For one thing, I get so self
conscious about if it is good or
not. And every time I have tried it
has been terrible'

JESSICA SUDDENLY TURNS AROUND, AS SHE IS ACTUALLY SITTING
ONLY TWO SEATS AWAY. SHE DISPENSES WITH TEXTING, AND ASKS
FACE TO FACE.

JESSICA
What was terrible, when did you
write a song?

RACHEL
(ANSWERING FACE TO FACE) Remember
the talent show junior year? We
tried to write and sing that ballad
about the queen of the prom..and we
tried to be all Ariana Grande?

JESSICA
OMG..Rachel....

RACHEL

What..?

JESSICA

You're right..that was terrible!

RACHEL

Shut UP!(LAUGHING)

CLASS CHATTER PIPES DOWN AS THE PROFESSOR STARTS TO SPEAK UP.

PROFESSOR ALBRECHT

In this class, make no mistake, it is about songwriting. So you are going to write songs. And make them into full blown productions. Even if they are not all ready for radio (SMILES). First we will learn to write on our own - to find our own voice. And then, we will have you collaborate in a group - which some of you might find easier, or more difficult to manage. And now, not to be totally old school, but let me pass out a syllabus...

DURING THE PAUSE FOR THE SYLLABUS DISTRIBUTION, RACHEL CANNOT HELP BUT NOTICE THE YOUNG MAN IN THE SEAT NEXT TO HER. HE IS ALREADY WRITING WHAT LOOKS TO BE SOME LYRICS. AS HE RESPONDS TO A TEXT ON HIS PHONE, SHE HAS AN OPPORTUNITY TO GET A PEEK AT WHAT HE IS WRITING. SHE IS PEERING OVER HIS SHOULDER WHEN HE CATCHES HER LOOKING.

RACHEL

Oh, I am so sorry (VERY EMBARRASSED)

ISAIAH

(PAUSES FOR EFFECT, THEN REPLIES LAUGHING) No it's cool...you want to see?

RACHEL

No no..that's okay (STILL EMBARRASSED)

ISAIAH

(STILL SMILING) Well, you let me know if you change your mind?
(LOOKS AT RACHEL AND SMILES AGAIN).

JESSICA SMILES LOOKING AT RACHEL, AFTER HAVING WITNESSED THE INTERACTION WITH ISAIAH. AND RACHEL, STILL SELF CONSCIOUS, TRIES TO KEEP HER EYES FORWARD.

INT. - THE NEWMAN HOME MASTER BEDROOM - THAT SAME NIGHT.

ELI IS AGAIN DREAMING HE IS RUNNING AFTER THE UNCONTROLLABLE TORAH SCROLL. IN HIS DREAM, AS HE IS RUNNING, HE PASSES (OF ALL PEOPLE) HIS THERAPIST DR. SIDNEY - WHO MAKES NO EFFORT TO HELP HIM CATCH THE SCROLL, BUT SPEAKS TO HIM.

SIDNEY (IN THE DREAM)
 Guess we have to increase the
 dosage huh? (PAUSES) Oh and Eli, I
 was wrong..There is a Co-pay!..

ELI WAKES UP AGAIN. COLD SWEAT..THE WHOLE NINE.

INT. - THE CHAPEL ROOM AT THE TEMPLE - NEXT DAY.

SOME MEMBERS OF A JEWISH FAMILY ARE GATHERED TO WATCH THEIR 13 YEAR OLD SON REHEARSE FOR HIS BAR MITZVAH SERVICE. THERE IS MUCH CONVERSATION, AS THEY ARE ON A BREAK, BUT STILL HAVE THE TORAH SCROLLS OUT. ELI IS ENGAGED IN CONVERSATION WITH ABRAHAM, THE TEMPLE CANTOR. HE IS ALSO A BIT OBSESSIVELY PRE-OCCUPIED WITH THE SCROLLS, AND THE SEEMING INSTABILITY OF THEM ON THE BIMAH. HE STARTS TO SEE ONE OF THE SCROLLS FALL LIKE IN HIS NIGHTMARE. BUT JUST AS IT DOES, ONE OF THE RELATIVES BACKS INTO IT, INADVERTENTLY KEEPING IT IN PLACE. HOWEVER, IT STILL MADE RABBI ELI JUMP A BIT.

ABRAHAM
 Are you alright? You seem jumpy..

ELI
 (EXHALES) Jumpy? I don't know about
 jumpy. But I am okay thank you.
 However the question is...how are
you feeling?

ABRAHAM
 (IN A JUVENILE BUT FUNNY WAY) No No
 you first--

ELI
 What is this? Age before beauty?

ABRAHAM
 (TRYING TO BE HIP) I am down with
 that, yes...as they say.

ELI
 (PAUSES TO ABSORB ABE'S
 PHRASEOLOGY) Once again, aren't you
 a bit too elderly to be using that
 vernacular?

ABRAHAM
(CONCEDES) Maybe...or maybe you
have to get out more..

ABE SMILES AT A PATRON - BUT CONTINUES TALKING TO ELI

ABRAHAM (CONT'D)
I thought maybe you were nervous
about your trip. Eight weeks is a
long time to be away Eli. Are you
at least excited?

ELI
Really..I am fine..

ELI STRAINS A SMILE, AS HE ACKNOWLEDGES A PATRON BUT
CONTINUES.

ELI (CONT'D)
It will be a nice trip. I'll be
meeting six Bnai Mitzvot for some
Masada tours...and visiting Priya
in Jerusalem--

ABRAHAM
Nice. Please say hello to your
sister for me. (SWITCHING SUBJECTS)
You saw Sidney?

ELI
Yes--

ABRAHAM
And I assume you discussed your
resistance to certain changes in
your life?--

ELI
Wait - Did he tell you?--

ABRAHAM
What? This is news? (SOFTLY
SARCASTIC) Eli...I've known you
your whole life. There are some
things that are..not all that
difficult to surmise--

ELI
(SIGHS)

ABRAHAM
Did he give you a thing?

ELI
(SIGHS KIND OF PAINFULLY) Yes--

ABRAHAM
You know you can take two if you
need to--

ELI
I don't even want to take one.

ABRAHAM
You know in the old days, you
couldn't just take a pill if you
had an affliction--

ELI
(CUTTING ABE OFF) Are you sure you
didn't talk to him?...

ABRAHAM
I don't think Sidney is allowed to
discuss your diagnosis with anyone
else--

ELI
(GIVING UP AND CHANGING THE
SUBJECT) Well, speaking of
diagnoses..what is going on with
you?

ABRAHAM
Ahh,(PAUSES) the biopsy results
haven't come back yet..but I feel
fine.

ELI
Honestly?

ABRAHAM
Okay - sometimes I get a little
tired...(AGAIN BEING HIP) I chalk
it up to too many hours in the
dance club...

INTO THE FRAME COMES THE TEMPLE MANAGER RUTH, AND DAVID
ROSENBLOOM, TEMPLE BNAI ELOHIM'S JUNIOR RABBI. THEY ARE BOTH
APPROACHING ELI TO TALK TO HIM.

ELI
(EXCUSING HIMSELF FROM THE
CONVERSATION WITH ABE) Yes Ruth?

WITH RABBI DAVID BEHIND HER, IT'S AS IF RUTH IS IN LINE TO GET AN AUDIENCE WITH ELI, AND DAVID IS READY TO CUT IN AT ANY OPPORTUNE MOMENT.

RUTH

Good afternoon Rabbi..? Cantor..?
Just updating you Eli - I need three signatures. One for the new video surveillance system, which I may need some tutoring to figure out by the way. One for the Masada tour with the Berksteins on your trip. And one for Stuart Kaplin's deal with the mayor's office--

ELI

Wait..what deal did Stuart make with the mayor?

RUTH

I don't know Eli - something about community services..for the scholarship..in the community whatever--

ABRAHAM

Scholarship? Not a bad idea actually. I always had a concept like that - A Cantor's Grant I call it. A program giving a young lion an opportunity to rock the mic on the Sabbath. We could do a kind of like a Battle Chant competition...

RUTH LAUGHS AT THIS, BUT ELI SAYS NOTHING IN RESPONSE, HE JUST STARES AT ABRAHAM LIKE HE HAS LOST IT.

ABRAHAM (CONT'D)

What? You don't like it?

ELI

Oy...I was going to say I am not sure where Stuart's mochot (POINTING AT HIS BRAIN) goes sometimes--

RUTH

Oh..I know exactly where they go--

ELI

Actually..I don't want to know--

RUTH
(RESPONDING IMMEDIATELY) No you probably do not..

ELI
Ruth, I will sign the first two.
But let's hold the third one until
I have a chance to speak to
Stuart..

RUTH
Will do Eli--

RABBI DAVID ROSENBLOOM
(SEMI-INTERRUPTING) Rabbi Newman, I really need to talk to you--

ELI
(STRUGGLES A BIT WITH THE FORMAL ADDRESS) Rabbi Rosenbloom - I thought we went over this. If you agree to call me Eli, I will agree to call you David. Do we still have a deal?

RABBI DAVID
Yes sir..Rabbi Eli...(CORRECTING HIMSELF) Eli. Is there a way we can we talk privately? (INTIMATING THAT ABRAHAM AND RUTH MIGHT BE EXTRANEOUS).

ABRAHAM
(HALF SARCASTICALLY/HALF ABDICATING YET HIP) Rabbi David - just when I thought I was one of your peeps?--

RABBI DAVID SEEMS SELF-CONSCIOUS AT THIS COMMENT, BUT CAN'T SAY ANYTHING BEFORE ABRAHAM PIPES BACK UP.

ABRAHAM (CONT'D)
Actually I have to finish this rehearsal anyway...ladies and gentlemen? (LEAVES)

RUTH
(UNDERSTANDING THE SITUATION)
Oh..I'll leave too. Contrary to popular belief, I do have things to do.

LEADING RABBI DAVID, ELI TAKES THE SHORT WALK TO HIS OFFICE. HE SHUTS THE DOOR, AND SITS DOWN BEHIND HIS DESK.

ELI

Okay David, what is it?

RABBI DAVID

Well sir..this is not easy for me to express...(PROLONGING THE AGONY)

ELI

You want to resign..you need to quit?

RABBI DAVID

No..no..not at all. I love this place--

ELI

Then what!? Out with it!

RABBI DAVID

(LOOKING SLIGHTLY DOWN TOWARD THE FLOOR) Well it is no secret that I have harbored feelings for Rachel-- And I just feel as though she does not seem to be reciprocating those feelings.

ELI

(INTERRUPTING) Ahh..I see where you're headed here.

RABBI DAVID

Well, I know she really likes Boy Band music. So I offered to buy tickets to a concert downtown. She said no. But ended up going later with her girlfriends--

ELI

(INTERRUPTING) Son, let me stop you there. This is a difficult subject for me on more than one level. First, I think her Boy Band phase ended some years ago. And secondly, we are talking about my own daughter, who does not seem to want to share much with me about her interpersonal relationships--

RABBI DAVID

So you feel instead that I should maybe speak to Mrs. Newman?--

ELI

(MOTIONING TO HIS EARS) No no David
- KEH-shev....hah ah ZEE noo*
(*HEBREW FOR) *Listen to me..man to
man..Okay? - I also do not believe
it is appropriate to consult my
wife about this (PAUSES). Forgive
the question, but can't you bring
this sort of thing up with your own
mother and father?--

RABBI DAVID

(SIGHS) My parents have never been
a reliable resource for this kind
of subject matter sir. My father
would tell me strange things. Like
he would say 'Just watch old
episodes of "The Bachelorette", and
then after that, things then would
become clear to you'..

ELI

(ANOTHER PAUSE AS ELI SHAKES HIS
HEAD SLIGHTLY) "The Bachelorette"?
Okay..(PAUSING AGAIN TO ABSORB,
THEN MOVING ON) What about your
mother?

RABBI DAVID

Mom would just tell me to do
whatever my father said. But that I
should just make sure I was
prepared for whatever happened..
She would say 'Wherever you go,
always take a sweater and an extra
pair of shoes'..

ELI

(CANNOT HELP FROM LAUGHING, BUT
APOLOGIZES) I am sorry David - I
don't mean to make light of your
circumstance--

RABBI DAVID

No No its okay...(ABDICATING) It is
kind of funny.. (LAUGHS TO
HIMSELF).

ELI

David..since you are asking. Maybe
I will give you a bit of advice.
But of course, this is just from
one man's perspective.

(MORE)

ELI (CONT'D)
 (SLIGHT PAUSE) First of all,
 personally..I can tell you that the
 best part of my relationship with
 Mrs. Newman, is that when we first
 fell in love, I could somehow tell
 that she was at least as crazy
 about me..as I was about her..for
 whatever reason (SMILES).

AT THIS, RABBI DAVID SMILES SLIGHTLY AND NODS, ALMOST KNOWING
 WHERE THIS ADVICE IS GOING. ELI CONTINUES.

ELI (CONT'D)
 Mutual relationships are exactly
 that..Mutual. I have also found
 that it is virtually impossible to
 even slightly manipulate the will
 of other people.

ELI PAUSES HERE, AND LOWERS HIS VOICE JUST A BIT.

ELI (CONT'D)
 And definitely not the will of the
 female gender. There are usually
 two reasons why another person's
 interest is not apparent. Either it
 is not the right time in one's life
 to tap into those feelings, or...

ELI PAUSES HERE AGAIN, ALMOST AS IF TO MUSTER A LITTLE EXTRA
 COURAGE TO CONTINUE.

ELI (CONT'D)
 ..Or the feelings were never there
 to begin with. And sometimes, that
 in itself is a blessing David. In
 that, we only have so much time in
 our lives. And maybe after this
 discovery, we can..move on to where
 we are meant to be...

ELI AND RABBI DAVID TOGETHER
 Beshert* (*HEBREW For meant to be)

ELI
 Yes...am I making sense son?

RABBI DAVID
 (SIGHS) Yes sir. Well, Thank you
 for your time Rabbi
 Newman..er..Eli--

RABBI DAVID GETS UP, SMILING SLIGHTLY HE WALKS OVER AND SHAKES HANDS WITH ELI.

ELI
Shalom my friend. I will see you
when I get back.

INT. - A COURTROOM CONFERENCE CHAMBERS - LATER THAT DAY.

A JUDGE AND PROSECUTING D.A. ON ONE SIDE OF THE TABLE, AND ISAIAH AND HIS PARENTS, ALONG WITH THEIR ATTORNEY, ON THE OTHER SIDE.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY
Despite the mild severity of the violation Isaiah, because of the fact that you don't have any other prior violations, you are eligible for a few other community service opportunities that Mr. Kidd was not. So here is that other list...

HE HANDS IT TO THE ROBINSON'S ATTORNEY, WHO HANDS IT DOWN. BUT IT IS INTERCEPTED BY MO ROBINSON - WHO PERUSES IT ON HIS OWN, TO THE CHAGRIN OF BOTH BEVERLY AND ISAIAH.

MO ROBINSON
Well I am a little torn (THE OTHERS ARE INQUISITIVE)...the religious option is interesting--

JUDGE
(SEMI-INTERRUPTING) Yes we now have expanded opportunities at various houses of worship..through a new initiative by the governor--

MO ROBINSON
Understood. But I don't feel the church--

ISAIAH
(INTERRUPTING QUICKLY) Or the Temple--

MO ROBINSON
(CONTINUING BUT STARING FIRST AT ISAIAH, AND THEN BACK AT THE JUDGE)
Well..it may not be a rigorous enough sanction--

BEVERLY ROBINSON
Moses!--you are the one who has always advocated--

MO ROBINSON
(SHARPLY INTERRUPTING) What!?

ISAIAH
(VOLUNTEERING THE CONTINUATION)
That I needed to get God into my
life..

MO ROBINSON
Yes, but one has to receive him
willingly--

ISAIAH
(SHARPLY INTERRUPTING) On his own--

MO ROBINSON
Yes--

ISAIAH
(SHARPLY INTERRUPTING) In his own
way--

MO ROBINSON
Yes!..

JUDGE
(A BIT EXACERBATED) Look, if it
pleases counsel, I have no desire
to be a therapist here. May we just
have the young man choose his
service option, and sign the
probationary form..so we can all
move on with our lives please?

ROBINSON'S ATTORNEY
(AFTER A QUICK CHECK FOR A
REACTION) We have no objection your
honor.

WITH THAT, ISAIAH SIGNS HIS FORM. MO GETS A BRIEF LOOK AT IT,
AND HE OBVIOUSLY DOES NOT APPROVE OF ISAIAH'S COMMUNITY
SERVICE SELECTION.

INT. - THE ROBINSON FAMILY SUV DRIVING - MINUTES LATER.

THEY ARE ALMOST HOME. ISAIAH IS IN THE BACKSEAT, AND HE'S
BEING LECTURED TO QUITE VORACIOUSLY, BUT MOSTLY BY HIS
FATHER. AND ALTHOUGH HIS MOTHER HAS A BIT SOFTER DEMEANOR,
SHE STILL WHOLEHEARTEDLY SUPPORTS MO'S FATHERLY EFFORT AND
DISCIPLINARY SANCTION.

MO ROBINSON

You think I can't relate? Boy you don't know. I was just like you. Not much direction, just followed my instincts. And only the influence of the Lord Jesus Christ saved me from a premature demise.

MO PAUSES TO TRY TO RAMP DOWN HIS EMOTIONS, BY CONCEDED SOME ISSUES, BUT STILL KEEP THE INTENSITY HE FEELS IS NEEDED.

MO ROBINSON (CONT'D)

Now I understand that Dorian, although a very distant cousin, is technically a member of this family. His parents apparently have more money than they have sense, letting him run around like that. But he has chosen the wrong path, so you need to get him out of your life, and let God in. And you need to do it for real. Not make some sorry attempt at rebellion, by hiding away in some..temple.

MO PAUSES AGAIN IN THE SILENCE, THEN STARTS DIRECTING THE COMMENTS TO BEVERLY AS WELL.

MO ROBINSON (CONT'D)

Forget losing your comfortable place here, or your music career Isaiah. You can lose everything if--

ISAIAH INTERRUPTS SARCASTICALLY, AS IF HE HAS HEARD IT A MILLION TIMES BEFORE.

ISAIAH

(FRUSTRATED, FINISHES MO'S SENTENCE) If I don't come to Jesus honestly, and with a truly open heart. Just the same way you did - right Pop?

MO

Not just my way son - The Lord's way... (HALF SARCASTICALLY) You know..you sound just like--

ISAIAH

(ANGRILY INTERRUPTING AGAIN) Like Izzie!! Right?

THE CAR STOPS IN THE DRIVEWAY, AND ISAIAH TAKES OFF HIS SEAT BELT, OPENS THE REAR DOOR, AND IS ABOUT TO LEAVE FROM THE BACKSEAT.

ISAIAH (CONT'D)
(LOSING HIS COMPOSURE) Well that
would be just fine with me Pop!
Because Israel was the best person
I ever knew in my life! He knew
exactly who he was...(WELLING UP)
all the way up to the end! (WELLING
UP A BIT MORE) And he was the best
friend I ever had!

ISAIAH EXITS THE VEHICLE, HALF SLAMMING THE DOOR..LEAVING MOM
AND DAD IN AWKWARD SILENCE.

INT. - INSIDE THE ROBINSON RESIDENCE - SEVERAL MINUTES LATER,

ISAIAH IS IN HIS BEDROOM, SITTING ALONE ALSO IN AWKWARD
SILENCE. HE IS REMINISCING AND STUDYING A NECKLACE LEFT
BEHIND BY HIS LATE BELOVED COUSIN ISRAEL. IT IS A MELLOWED
BRONZE STAR OF DAVID. HE CATCHES A GLIMPSE OF HIMSELF IN THE
MIRROR, WHEN HIS MOM KNOCKS ON THE DOOR.

ISAIAH
Yeah Mom--

BEVERLY
Isaiah? Are you decent?

ISAIAH
(SUBTLE CHUCKLE) Yeah Mom..

BEVERLY
(OPENS THE DOOR) Wait - How did you
know it was me?

ISAIAH
Dad has never knocked on my
door..ever...especially after an
argument. (ANOTHER SUBTLE CHUCKLE)

SHE COMES IN AND COMPASSIONATELY SITS BESIDE HIM.

BEVERLY
(PAUSES) You know, your father and
I only want the best for you
Isaiah. (BRUSHING HIS CHEEK WITH
HER HAND)

ISAIAH
 I can't be like him Mom..
 (SOFTENING) I mean..exactly like
 him.

BEVERLY
 (WITH A SLIGHTLY ENCOURAGING SMILE)
 Then find your own way.

AS SHE SAYS THAT, ISAIAH LOOKS AT HIS MOM AFFECTIONATELY, AND THEN CATCHES A GLIMPSE OF HIMSELF IN THE MIRROR AGAIN.

INT. - THE NEWMAN RESIDENCE. LATER THE SAME EVENING.

ELI HAS THE SAME NIGHTMARE AGAIN. BUT THIS TIME, IN THE DREAM, IT IS DARK, BUT ALMOST FEELS LIKE DAWN. AS ELI IS RUNNING TO TRY TO RETRIEVE THE SCROLL, RABBI DAVID IS A BYSTANDER WATCHING HIM RUN. ONCE AGAIN, DAVID (LIKE SIDNEY BEFORE) MAKES NO EFFORT TO TRY TO HELP INTERCEPT THE ROLLING SCROLL. HE IS DRESSED LIKE JUSTIN TIMBERLAKE, AND ACCOMPANIED BY OTHER VERY RABBINICAL LOOKING MEN HIS AGE, ALSO DRESSED LIKE THE REMAINING MEMBERS OF NSYNC. AS ELI RUNS PAST HIM, DAVID INSTEAD ASKS A QUESTION...

RABBI DAVID ROSENBLOOM (IN THE
 DREAM)
 Good morning Rabbi Newman! (TALKING
 TO HIM AS HE RUNS BY) What time
 does Rachel usually get up?

AT THAT POINT, ELI AWAKENS AGAIN, SWEATY.

INT. - STILL THE NEWMAN RESIDENCE - LATER THAT MORNING.

ELI WANDERS INTO THE KITCHEN, GREETING MIRIAM, ARI, AND RACHEL. HE ACTUALLY PEERS EXPECTANTLY INTO THE FRONT YARD, AS IF THERE WAS SOME REALITY TO HIS NIGHTMARE.

RACHEL
 (ASKING) Daddy, What are you
 looking for?

ELI
 (RELUCTANTLY) Well...David--

RACHEL
 (INTERRUPTING) David who?

ELI
 (SHEEPISHLY) Rabbi David.

RACHEL

Rosenbloom? Why would he be here at this time of the morning? To see you off? (CURIOUSLY CONCERNED)
Daddy is something wrong?

MIRIAM

(ALMOST INTERRUPTING) Eli - we have to go..it's time!

ELI

(TO RACHEL) No no..I am fine--

EXT. - THE NEWMAN HOUSE DRIVEWAY - MINUTES LATER.

THE FAMILY IS GETTING IN THE CAR AFTER PACKING IT FOR ELI. EVERYONE BUT ELI GETS IN. AS HE IS ABOUT TO THOUGH, MIRIAM GIVES HIM A REMINDER.

MIRIAM

E.! Your itinerary is still in the mailbox! (POINTING)

ELI GOES TO THE MAILBOX. AND WHILE GETTING THE MAIL, INTERACTS WITH THE RECENTLY SEPARATED NEIGHBOR MRS. CARMEN DESALVO.

ELI

Hello Mrs. DeSalvo (AS HE IS COLLECTING THE MAIL)--

MRS. CARMEN DESALVO

Please Rabbi Newman..call me Carmen (SMILING), are you leaving for your trip?

ELI

Yes Mrs. DeSalvo--(CORRECTING HIMSELF)--Carmen (MANAGING A SLIGHT SMILE)

MRS. CARMEN DESALVO

Rabbi, can I fix you anything for the road?--Some risotto perhaps?

ELI

No no..thank you so much (PAUSING TO STAY CORRECT) Maybe some other time (SMILES AGAIN)--

MRS. CARMEN DESALVO

(WAVING) Well Okay - Have a great trip!

ELI WAVES GOODBYE AS HE GETS BACK IN THE CAR.

RACHEL
(KNOWINGLY SMILING) That woman
likes to cook..

MIRIAM
She also likes to flirt--

ELI
Miriam please!..she is just being
social...

AS ELI AND MIRIAM DEBATE - ARI, ELI'S YOUNGER SON, SEES GINA,
THE DESALVO'S DAUGHTER. SHE HAS BEEN AT CATHOLIC PREP SCHOOL,
AND HE SEES HER FOR THE FIRST TIME IN AWHILE - HE IS SMITTEN.
SHE SMILES AND WAVES AT HIM. HE IS A BIT FROZEN, BUT HAS THE
PRESENCE TO SMILE, AND WAVE BACK.

ELI (CONT'D)
There is nothing more to it than
that--

ARI
(AFTER BEING SMITTEN BY REGINA,
MANAGES A RATIONALE) Maybe flirting
and being social are the same thing
in their family..

ELI
Good point Ari--

THEY START TO DRIVE AWAY, AS ARI LOOKS BACK TOWARD THE
DESALVO HOUSE.

ARI
(MILDLY EFFUSIVELY)..I sure hope
so..

MIRIAM
What was that?--

ARI
(SELF-CONSCIOUS) Nothing.

**EXT. - THE AIRPORT - DEPARTURES. THE AUTOMOBILE DROP OFF -
SAME DAY (CRANE CAMERA SHOT?).**

ELI IS GETTING OUT OF THE CAR, WHILE ON THE PHONE WITH DR.
SIDNEY.

SIDNEY (VOICE IN THE SPEAKER)
Are you at least able to sleep
better Eli?

ELI

I am able to sleep..I don't know
about better--

SIDNEY (VOICE IN THE SPEAKER)

Alright..but listen, if you have
trouble getting drowsy, you always
can take two of them without an
issue.

ELI

(PAUSES - MILDLY SUSPICIOUS) You
didn't talk to Abe - did you?

SIDNEY (VOICE IN THE SPEAKER)

About your visit? Why do you ask?

ELI

(SIGHS) I don't know..

SIDNEY (VOICE IN THE SPEAKER)

We doctors are trained never to
share privileged information Eli.
Listen, I want you to try to relax
and enjoy your trip. Everything
will seem better when you get back.

ELI

Alright Sidney..Thank you. Shalom
Doc.

SIDNEY (VOICE IN THE SPEAKER)

Anytime Eli - Safe travels.

**INT. - ISAIAH'S GOOD FRIEND CALVIN REYNOLDS' CAR - THE SAME
AFTERNOON.**

CALVIN HAS AGREED TO DRIVE ISAIAH, BECAUSE ISAIAH'S LICENSE
WAS CONFISCATED DURING HIS ARREST, AND HAS NOT BEEN RETURNED
YET. THEY ARE LISTENING TO A HIP HOP MIXTAPE VERSION OF "COOL
RELAX" BY JON B., AND CALVIN IS RAPPING ALONG WITH THE
LYRICS, AND KIND OF ACTING THEM OUT WHILE HE DRIVES.

ISAIAH

(THINKING HE IS NOT PAYING ENOUGH
ATTENTION PER USUAL) Calvin, do you
know where you are going bruh?

CALVIN

Yo Ize...chill...aight? You just
trippin' because your license is
still (SINGS IT) _"confiscated"!

ISAIAH
(MILDLY CHUCKLING) Shut up..

CALVIN
But I told you man...I got you..we
cool--

ISAIAH
Oh yeah - we cool. You do have GPS
running up in here, right?

CAR GPS VOICE
(ALMOST INTERRUPTING) At the next
stoplight - take a slight right on
Maple Avenue.

CALVIN
Ha ha..does that answer your
'congestion' my soon to be Holy
'Brether'?

ISAIAH
Whoa slow up Cuz..just because I'm
doing community service at a house
of worship, doesn't mean they are
gonna to make me a Deacon--

CALVIN
Man..you better watch your back
G..they made my uncle a Deacon -
and all he does is wash dishes all
day--

ISAIAH
Calvin...man..your uncle ain't no
Deacon. Washing dishes is his
community service.

CALVIN
(THINKING ABOUT IT) Wait..for real?

ISAIAH
(SHAKING HIS HEAD IN MILD
DISBELIEF) Dude...seriously..you
need to lay off the reality TV!

**EXT. - THE TEMPLE BNAI ELOHIM ENTRANCE - SAME DAY/SAME
MOMENT.**

AS CALVIN AND ISAIAH PULL UP, THEY NOTICE SOME MOSTLY JUNIOR
HIGH AGE KIDS GETTING OUT OF CARS, WITH BASKETBALLS AND
BASKETBALL GEAR ON.

CALVIN
 (HIS ATTENTION QUICKLY DIVERTED) Yo
 ize..they got hoops up in here!?!..
 (SMILES) Up in the Promised
 land?..Oh..you know we gots to get
next one day Boss--

ISAIAH
 With these little dudes? - Boy..you
 is cray-cray (SOMEWHAT
 SARCASTICALLY)--

CALVIN
 Cray-cray like Tre-Tre..Young that
 is. You know I gots to get my 'J'
 on--

ISAIAH
 Yes...Well it has been off for
awhile (SMILES AS HE GETS OUT OF
 THE CAR)--

CALVIN
 (PLAYFULLY REPRIMANDING) Boy you
 know I'm always reignin'! You best
 get rid of that negativity! (SHORT
 PAUSE) Now go play nice with the
 white people.

ISAIAH
 (SHUTS THE DOOR, LAUGHS AND FLASHES
 THE PEACE SIGN) Hey - Thanks C.

INT. - TEMPLE BNAI ELOHIM MAIN ENTRANCE - MOMENTS LATER.

WALKING IN THE ENTRANCE, ISAIAH IS A BIT EARLY FOR HIS FIRST
 DAY. AS HE CHECKS HIS VOICEMAIL, HE LISTENS TO LIL KIDD
 HALFWAY BERATING HIM FOR NOT CALLING HIM BACK. HE DELETES IT.
 AS HE DOES SO, HE IS GREETED IMMEDIATELY BY CANTOR ABRAHAM -
 WHO AGAIN, IS UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT ISAIAH IS SOME TYPE
 OF SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT.

ABRAHAM ASCHER
 Can I help you young man?

ISAIAH
 Yes sir...I am here for the
 community service.

ABRAHAM ASCHER
 Services?...Well son there are no
 services at this time, only
classroom sessions.

ISALIAH

Classroom? I didn't realize there was class...is there homework? Because this is my first day--

ABRAHAM ASCHER

(CHUCKLES) Well I wouldn't worry too much my friend. I hear the teacher is one of those nice elderly types who can't remember where his car is parked. My guess is that homework will probably be the last thing on his mind. Ahh..here we are...

ABRAHAM LEADS ISALIAH INTO A COZY BUT SPACIOUS CLASSROOM. ABE SITS ON WHAT WOULD BE A TEACHERS DESK IN FRONT OF ISALIAH, WITH A VERY ENGAGING AND FRIENDLY DEMEANOR.

ABRAHAM ASCHER (CONT'D)

So what is your name son?

ISALIAH

Isaiah Robinson--

ABRAHAM ASCHER

Oh..what a wonderful name! We should all be so lucky to have such a name. As you've had this name for a little while, I can only assume you are of course well aware of the great religious significance your first name carries?

ISALIAH

(EXTREMELY ENTERTAINED AND ENGAGED BY ABE) Well I know he was one of the first recorded prophets in the scripture--

ABRAHAM ASCHER

Oh..(IMPRESSED) very good. The young man is handsome and intelligent (POINTING TO A CHAIR IN THE CENTER OF THE ROOM). Aerudite as you are sir, undoubtedly this would likely be the best place for you to hang out. Ahh..and here come's the rest of our posse.

INTO THE ROOM COMES THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE CLASS. THE MAJORITY OF THEM SEEMINGLY JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS, WITH ONE EXTREMELY SHORT MIDDLE-AGED HOUSEWIFE FILING IN AT THE END. THEY ALL SIT DOWN.

ABRAHAM ASCHER (CONT'D)
 Good afternoon everyone. I am of course delighted you all have been gracious enough to join us again today. We have two new friends we would like to introduce (POINTS TO BOTH ISAIAH AND THE MIDDLE AGED HOUSEWIFE) Mr. Isaiah Robinson and Mrs. Judith Eisenman. And like most if not all of you in our group, these two members have names of extreme significance. First, Isaiah was a great prophet, a real champion of oppressed peoples everywhere. If there were Marvel Avengers back in those days - he would have been the Captain America of that time. Of course, amusingly enough, he would have had a different type of star on his shield (SMILES).

THE CLASS RESPONDS TO ABE'S JOKE WITH NOT MUCH/IF ANY REACTION.

ABRAHAM
 Tough room. Not impressed with that line, eh? I thought that was clever. And I said 'amusingly enough'...and apparently it wasn't amusing enough..at all.

THE CLASS RESPONDS TO THIS WITH MUCH MORE LAUGHTER/REACTION.

ABRAHAM (CONT'D)
 (ACKNOWLEDGING THE REACTION)
 Ahh..That's better. Moving on...Judith was also an incredibly courageous figure in religious history. She was basically the Dread Pirate Roberts of her neighborhood. So horrified were the Greek-Syrian soldiers by her skill with a sword, that they fled the area making way for a Jewish triumph.

HAYLEY, ONE OF 12 YR OLD FEMALE CLASSMATES, RAISES HER HAND.

ABRAHAM (CONT'D)
 Yes Hayley..

HAYLEY

What did she do with her sword that made them so scared?

ABRAHAM

(BAITING THE GROUP) You sure you want to hear this?

ALL CLASS MEMBERS

Yeah!

ABRAHAM

Well..I think decorum prohibits me from being too descriptive. But let's just say..you all know how I sometimes say when we are not concentrating, your heads are somewhere else? - Well, the Greek-Syrian General's head was really somewhere else!

CLASS MEMBERS EXHIBIT VARIOUS AMUSINGLY SHOCKED AND DISGUSTED REACTIONS.

ABRAHAM (CONT'D)

What??!! You wanted to know!.. Okay...

ABRAHAM TAKES A STACK OF PAPERS FROM A MANILA FOLDER.

ABRAHAM (CONT'D)

As I am required to distribute these old fashioned papers, please take one of these and pass them around...because yes, dusty Cantor Abraham is indeed an 'old school playa'. That's right. With an 'e' at the end of the word 'olde'..

ISAIAH

(REACTING RHETORICALLY SOMEWHAT TO HIMSELF) I love this dude.

ARI

(SITTING NEXT TO ISAIAH AND OVERHEARING) Cantor Abraham? He is the best..

INT. - STILL TEMPLE BNAI ELOHIM - BUT OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM.
IN THE LOBBY RECEPTION AREA - AT THE SAME MOMENT.

AS ISAIAH AND ARI CAN BE SEEN CHATTING THROUGH THE WINDOW
PANE ON THE CLASSROOM DOOR, RACHEL IS WALKING SOMEWHAT
OBLIVIOUSLY BY THE ROOM, AND DOES NOT DIRECTLY PEEK IN. SHE
IS ACCOSTED BY DAVID. THEY INTERACT A BIT.

RABBI DAVID

Rachel (AS IF JUST TO GET TO
CONVERSE) - I still think we need
to organize that extra part for the
Delman wedding a bit more--

RACHEL

David, I think we have gone over
that part enough. I think you know
it really isn't that difficult to
sort out--

DAVID

Well then, maybe we could get some
coffee and just talk about things?

RACHEL

David, what is there to talk about?
Honestly, every time you want to
talk to me in that tone, it makes
me uncomfortable--

RABBI DAVID

What tone? It makes you
uncomfortable to know someone wants
to spend time with you?--

RACHEL

David (ATTEMPTING TO BE SOMEWHAT
GENTLE), have you ever just been
sitting at home going through your
day, and your phone rings and it's
an insurance salesman..

RABBI DAVID

(CONFUSED AT HER DIRECTION) What??

RACHEL

Just listen...And he wants to sell
you some insurance..that you might
not be interested in. But at that
time right then, you just don't
want nor need to make that
decision. Nor do you want to even
talk about making that decision.

RABBI DAVID
(A LITTLE EXASPERATED) Rachel--

RACHEL
(INTERRUPTING - ALMOST IGNORING DAVID) So then you do your best to politely hang up. Now...Do you think it's appropriate for that insurance salesman to continue to call back on a regular basis, or...Is it more appropriate for him to leave you with his information. And tell you if you are ever in the market, and it becomes the right time, he would appreciate it if you called him--

RABBI DAVID
(SIGHING AND SEEMINGLY SOMEWHAT CLUELESS) Rachel, I am not trying to sell you insurance--

RACHEL
I am..(SIGHS BACK) painfully aware of that David (FRUSTRATED SHE LOOKS AT HER WATCH)..I'm sorry, I really gotta go. (WALKS AWAY)

INTO THE FRAME WALKS RUTH, WHO HASN'T REALLY HEARD MUCH OF THE PRIOR CONVERSATION BETWEEN DAVID AND RACHEL..BUT OBVIOUSLY INFERS THE NATURE OF THEIR DIALOGUE.

RUTH
Just for the record Rabbi David, I really do admire your persistence (SMILES).

RABBI DAVID
(UNDERSTANDING..BUT HALF-HEARTEDLY)
Thank you..Ruth--

RUTH
I mean..I like that in a person. My husband is persistent. (PAUSES)
Well. I suppose he kind of has to be..(PAUSES) He sells insurance, it is kind of a..requirement--

WITH THAT COMMENT, RABBI DAVID SELF-CONSCIOUSLY SLINKS AWAY, AS RUTH GETS A CALL ON HER TEMPLE PHONE.

RUTH (CONT'D)
(NOTICING HIS APPARENT
EMBARRASSMENT AND DISAPPEARANCE)
What did I say?

RUTH INCREASES THE VOCAL VOLUME AS SHE ANSWERS THE PHONE.

RUTH (CONT'D)
Hello Temple Bnai Elohim? (PAUSES)
Oh hello Eli! So good to hear from
you. How is the trip going?

WE CAN FAINTLY HEAR ELI FROM RUTH'S PHONE.

ELI (ON RUTH'S SPEAKER)
Wonderful thank you, how are things
going there?

RUTH
Oh very well Rabbi Eli - we are
holding it down--

ELI (ON RUTH'S SPEAKER)
That's very good Ruth. We will try
to keep the call short..Is Ari
helping Abraham with the Bnai
Classes?--

RUTH
Oh absolutely - he is helping, and
getting to know the two new
students and everything. You would
be very proud.

ELI (ON RUTH'S SPEAKER)
Two new students? Wait, there is
Mrs. Eisenman, and who else?

RUTH
I believe his name is Isaiah--

ELI (ON RUTH'S SPEAKER)
Isaiah?

RUTH
I think so..seems like such a nice
young man. He is the one Stuart
apparently arranged through the
Mayor's office. And he also wanted
me to remind you about the contract
with the sports bar. The one that
wants to use our parking lot this
weekend for a charity car wash?--

ELI (ON RUTH'S SPEAKER)
Hold on Ruth. First, I thought if I didn't sign off on that form, that we wouldn't go ahead with any Mayor's program...And secondly, I'm almost positive we didn't discuss any parking lot rental. Knowing Stuart, I can only imagine what that is going to involve. Oy..okay...Well, it looks like I've got to go. Please keep me posted Ruth?..Thank you.

RUTH
Will do Rabbi Eli - you take care.

INT. - CUT TO ELI'S ACCOMMODATIONS IN ISRAEL - HE HAS JUST HUNG UP THE PHONE.

ELI IS DRESSED IN ATHLETIC WEAR, AND SEEMS TO BE STANDING IN A TRAINING ROOM. ELI'S SISTER PRIYA IS WITH HIM. SHE IS KICKING A HEAVY BAG, DRESSED IN A MARTIAL ARTS UNIFORM. SHE STOPS MOMENTARILY.

ELI'S SISTER PRIYA
(BREATHING KIND OF HEAVY) Something wrong Eli?

ELI
(SIGHS) No. As they say, we are given only as much as we can manage--

SISTER PRIYA
Well, whether you were my brother or not..(SHE PUNCHES THE BAG). Ever since we were kids..(SHE KICKS THE BAG). If there was something..(SHE PUNCHES THE BAG AGAIN). You would be the one I'd want to manage it.

ELI
Well, it seemed easier when we were younger--

PRIYA SUDDENLY TURNS AWAY FROM THE HEAVY BAG, AND TOWARD ELI. SHE TRIES A SPINNING BACK HEEL ROUNDHOUSE KICK..AND THEN A KNIFE STRIKE...BOTH OF WHICH ELI CATCHES/BLOCKS.

ELI'S SISTER PRIYA
You've still got it..

ELI
(HOLDING PRIYAS ARM AFTER CATCHING
IT) Let us hope it remains simple
enough to manage.

**INT. - CUT TO ELI'S LODGING ACCOMMODATIONS IN ISRAEL - LATE
THAT EVENING.**

ELI IS IN HIS BED. HAVING ANOTHER VERSION OF HIS RECURRING
DREAM. THIS TIME, WHILE ELI RUNS BY TRYING TO RETRIEVE THE
SCROLL, STUART IS THERE, AGAIN MAKING NO EFFORT TO HELP. HE
IS CHEWING ON A HAMANTASHEN* (*FRUIT PASTRY).

STUART (IN THE DREAM)
How's it hanging Rabbi Eli? Nothing
like peach, Huh? Hey, speaking of
peaches, I snagged almost three
grand from our local Hooters
affiliate to rent our parking lot
for a T-Shirt Charity Car Wash..Woo
Hoo! Gimme five up top sir!

STUART PUTS HIS HAND UP TO GET A HIGH FIVE FROM ELI, AS HE
RUNS BY, AND ELI GETS A HANDFUL OF RESIDUAL HAMANTASHEN FRUIT
FILLING. ELI AWAKENS AGAIN, THE USUAL SWEATY WAY, AND MAKING
SURE HIS HANDS AREN'T STILL STICKY.

WEEKS LATER

INT. - CITY CONDO/LIL KIDDS CRIB - EVENING.

KIDD IS ON FACETIME CALL WITH HIS LABEL'S EXECUTIVE PRODUCER
J.T. - WHO KEEPS BRINGING UP A BEAT OF ISAIAH'S/ISRAEL'S.
KIDD ARGUES A BIT.

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER JT (ON SCREEN)
Listen Dorian..I don't mean to be
hard, but you need to get what I'm
telling you--

DORIAN LIL KIDD
(SEMI-INTERRUPTING) Man I got
beats..endless beats. I sent you 20
cuts from my team. (SEMI-
SARCASTICALLY) How many you need
cuz?

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER JT (ON SCREEN)
Kidd - its not that we didn't like
what you did on the first
single...we loved it. And what you
just sent was okay.
(MORE)

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER JT (ON SCREEN)
(CONT'D)

But it is the same general feel as before. The label however, is looking to go in a different direction now. So I am just asking...what else you got?

DORIAN LIL KIDD
Aight - give me an idea of what your asking fuh--

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER (ON SCREEN)
What happened to those Black I's guys from couple years ago?. You played me some of their stuff over your phone that was interesting...I know the boss liked it--

DORIAN LIL KIDD
They are all under me. And they ain't all that compared to me--

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER (ON SCREEN)
That might be true Kidd, but like I said..the label wants another sound. And if I remember right, they definitely had a different sound..but it was cool--

DORIAN LIL KIDD
(INTERRUPTING) What I want you to remember is that they is me--

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER (ON SCREEN)
(INTERRUPTING BACK) What-ever Dorian. (PAUSES) I gotta roll. Like I said, we need something else, so you hit me back when you have something else. We clear?

DORIAN LIL KIDD
(SIGHS)

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER (ON SCREEN)
Dorian - Are we clear?!

DORIAN LIL KIDD
(ALMOST ANGRILY) Yes my brother..we crystal.

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER (ON SCREEN)
Okay then - Later.(HANGS UP)

DORIAN HANGS UP THE PHONE, AND LOOKS AT HIMSELF IN THE MIRROR SHAKING HIS HEAD. THEN FRUSTRATINGLY, HE DIALS HIS PHONE.

INT. - COLLEGE FOR THE ARTS SONGWRITING 101 CLASSROOM AGAIN - NEXT DAY.

RACHEL AND ISAIAH BOTH IN ATTENDANCE. ISAIAH'S PHONE IS GETTING A CALL ON SILENT MODE. IT IS DORIAN YET AGAIN. HE HAS BEEN CALLING ALL NIGHT. ISAIAH SENDS IT TO VOICEMAIL. THEN HE SITS DOWN WITH THE REST OF THE CLASS TO LISTEN TO THE PROFESSOR'S OPENING SPIEL.

PROFESSOR ALBRECHT
Check it out..

PRESSES PLAY ON HIS LAPTOP, AND A SONG EMANATES FROM THE SPEAKERS INTO THE ROOM. IT IS A CATCHY MOTOWN-ISH TRACK, BUT WITH MORE CURRENT INSTRUMENTATION AND VOCALS. THE PROFESSOR LETS IT GET THROUGH THE FIRST MOVEMENT, AND THEN STOPS IT.

PROFESSOR ALBRECHT (CONT'D)
Every semester at this point, I like to pick one song from all the sections to use as an example. This cut just happened to be kind of a contemporary spin on a classic Motown track. And yeah, it's a good song. But what I wanted to point out was the focus the writer had. Whether this track is your cup of java or not, doesn't matter. You get a very clear idea of where the writer wanted to take you. At least I thought so. Let's remember that as we get into our next assignment. Because with respect to our last individual songwriting project.. Some of you got the idea, and some of you...Well, let us just say you still may need a little help.
(SMILES)

AT THIS, THERE IS SCATTERED LAUGHTER FROM THE CLASS.

PROFESSOR ALBRECHT (CONT'D)
And yes, maybe you know who you are (SMILES AGAIN). The dubious news in this case is that you're going to get some help this time...from your fellow class members! Yes!..

THE PROFESSOR CHUCKLES AS HE BEGINS HANDING OUT PAGES

PROFESSOR ALBRECHT (CONT'D)

I have taken the liberty of separating you into three person teams according to your stated musical specialty, and the grade you got on the last individual songwriting assignment.

THE PROFESSOR STOPS TALKING TO CONTINUE DISTRIBUTING THE PAGES. RACHEL IS LOOKING INTENTLY AT THE TEAM LIST, AND IS SECRETLY HOPING SHE AT LEAST GETS TO BE GROUPED WITH HER FRIEND JESSICA. BUT SHE IS QUICKLY DISAPPOINTED.

RACHEL

(TEXTING) 'Ugh I thought I would at least get lucky and be put in your group. You got a pretty good grade on the individual project - right?'

JESSICA

(TEXTING BACK) 'Actually I did okay yeah...83. Maybe we can ask to switch with someone?'--

AFTER PASSING OUT THE LAST PAGE, THE PROFESSOR SPEAKS UP AGAIN.

PROFESSOR ALBRECHT

(ALMOST INTERRUPTING) And by the way, I am sorry. The groups that we have made here are final--

THIS ELICITS GROANING AND SOME LAUGHTER FROM SOME THE STUDENTS IN THE CLASSROOM INCLUDING RACHEL AND JESSICA.

PROFESSOR ALBRECHT (CONT'D)

I don't want to hear it..(SINGS A LA STEPHANIE MILLS) "No no no no". First of all, those of you who are lamenting your plight, just remember - there is a decent chance that you would not have been your fellow group members' first choice either....I know! The other issue is the slippery slope of allowing all sorts of switching. For obvious logistical reasons, we can't do that either. But - let me give you all one last musical caveat...

THE CLASSROOM GROANING AND MUMBLING GROWS MORE SILENT.

PROFESSOR ALBRECHT (CONT'D)
 ..Even setting aside the awkwardness of suddenly having to be teamed up with a virtual stranger, amidst the creative process...Which really is just good for all of you to experience (WITH A DEFINITIVE TONE). Some of the most spectacular work in musical history, has been born out of the most unlikely collaborations.

THE CLASSROOM IS ALMOST TRANSFIXED, AND LISTENING.

PROFESSOR ALBRECHT (CONT'D)
 Paul McCartney and John Lennon feuded regularly over the course of their careers. I mentioned Motown..Lamont Dozier and The Holland Brothers, for those of you who know your Motown history, still can't totally see eye to eye. Ann and Nancy Wilson from Heart spurned each other for years. I could go on and on. But countless gold and platinum records came out all of those relationships. Who knew...right? (CHANGING TONE) All right let's split into your groups...find a booth and each other...and start making magic people.(SMILES APOLOGETICALLY) Okay that was cheesy - I'm sorry--

INT. - A CORNER ISOLATION BOOTH IN THE CLASSROOM - MOMENTS LATER.

ISAIAH, RACHEL, AND A FEMALE CLASS MEMBER NAMED LAYNIE ARE MEETING TO LISTEN TO EACH OTHER'S INDIVIDUAL PROJECTS..TO GET AN IDEA OF EACH OTHER'S STYLE. BUT THERE AGAIN, IS AN AWKWARD SILENCE.

ISAIAH
 (AFTER SOME MORE SILENCE) Okay I guess I will holla first. (LOOKING AT THE ASSIGNMENT PAGE) It says we first have to listen to each other's individual assignment songs. Ladies?...can I say that, by the way? (NOT WANTING TO VIOLATE A PRONOUN PREFERENCE)..Ladies?

RACHEL
 (ALMOST TOO FORMALLY) Oh..yes

LAYNIE
(SIGHING) I mean yeah...but what
are you trying to get at?

ISAIAH
Well...Laynie. It's Laynie right?

LAYNIE
(DEFENSIVELY) Yes--

ISAIAH
I'm just trying to be respectful.
These days, I get that we have to
be polite, and inclusive--

LAYNIE
(AGGRESSIVELY AND NERVOUSLY
INTERRUPTING) Well - it's just that
almost everywhere I go, people
already have these preconceived
ideas about me. And it really
pisses me off! I don't know if you
can even try to imagine what that
feels like?--

ISAIAH
(PAUSES THEN WITH MILD SARCASM)
Oh..I think I could manage to have
some idea (POINTING AT HIS FACE,
IMPLYING HIS HERITAGE)...How about
you (TO RACHEL..IMPLYING HER'S)
Rachel..is it?

RACHEL JUST SMILES NERVOUSLY. BUT THIS MAKES LAYNIE BLUSH. AS
SHE REALIZES THE GRAVITY OF HER MISTAKE, AND THE ETHNIC IRONY
OF HER COMPLAINT.

LAYNIE
(EMBARRASSED) I'm sorry..um..I'm so
sorry..(STARTING TO LOOK DOWN IN
SHAME)

ISAIAH
(FEIGNING AS IF HE'S BEEN INSULTED)
Well you should be ashamed girl..I
don't know if I can get past this
(PUTS HIS HANDS UP
UNDIPLOMATICALLY)..

AS RACHEL AND LAYNIE NOW THINKING THAT ISAIAH IS REALLY
UPSET, THERE IS AN EVEN MORE AWKWARD SILENCE. WHICH IS
SUDDENLY BROKEN, AS ISAIAH FESSES UP.

ISAIAH (CONT'D)
 I'm just messing with you Laynie...
 (SMILES AND PAUSES FOR TWO
 BEATS)..I mean Rachel is still
 really mad at you, but I'm good--

RACHEL
 (AMUSINGLY SURPRISED AND LAUGHING)
 I am not!--

ISAIAH
 (MILDLY LAUGHING) See? Now I'm
 messing with both of y'all
 (SMILES)..

THEY ALL LAUGH A BIT AS THE ICE IS SOMEWHAT BROKEN.

ISAIAH (CONT'D)
 (TO LAYNIE) All right, now that we
 all homeys. Laynie, why don't you
 play your track?

LAYNIE
 (PAUSES AND SIGHS) Okay...I
 actually wrote this for my
 girlfriend--(PRESSES PLAY ON THE
 IPAD).

WHAT COMES OUT OF THE SPEAKER IS A VERY AGGRESSIVE, YET
 SLIGHTLY MELODIOUS METAL TRACK. IT FEATURES SOME FORMIDABLE
 FRY AND KVIIT SCREAMING, AND AN OVERWHELMING BASS. THE
 INDIVIDUALS TRYING TO STUDY OUTSIDE OF ISAIAH-RACHEL-LAYNIE'S
 BOOTH ARE DISTRACTED BY THE VIBRATION OF THE WINDOWS FROM THE
 LOW END. THE SONG SEEMS TO FADE FROM THE OUTSIDE, AS
 CONVERSATION BEGINS AGAIN.

ISAIAH
 Okay..Cool. Was that all your
 guitar work?

LAYNIE
 Yeah.

ISAIAH
 So you can play lead pretty well?

LAYNIE
 Yeah..definitely. I'm better in
 certain keys though.

ISAIAH
 I hear that. Very nice. Very cool
 Laynie. (PAUSING) Okay.
 (MORE)

ISAIAH (CONT'D)
 You're up Rachel, let's hear what
 you got Girl..

RACHEL
 (EXHALING) Okay listen you two. I
 think this is a really bad idea..I
 got a really bad grade on this
 assignment, and I am apologizing up
front--

ISAIAH
 (MILDLY INTERRUPTING) You don't
 have to apologize. (LOOKING AT
 LAYNIE FOR CORROBORATION)

LAYNIE, FEELING ALMOST OBLIGATED, SHAKES HER HEAD AS IF TO
 SAY NO.

RACHEL
 (MILDLY INTERRUPTING BACK) You say
 that now. But I probably need to
also apologize for not being able
 to contribute much to this upcoming
 project. Because I just don't write
 or even play an instrument very
 well at all--

ISAIAH
 (INTERRUPTING AGAIN) Yeah but you
 sing, right?

RACHEL
 (PAUSING) Well..yeah..

ISAIAH
 (ENCOURAGINGLY) Okay..then you are
 definitely bringing something to
 the table. Just hit play...Ray? We
got you - right Laynie?

LAYNIE
 Well, I can't stay much longer..I
 told Professor Albrecht I needed to
 leave early - (TO RACHEL)
 But...Yes..we do...(AWKWARDLY
 LOOKING TO ISAIAH AS IF FOR
 APPROVAL) Ray..chel..we..(NODDING)
 got you.

RACHEL
 (PAUSING, SIGHING, AND TSKING)
Okay..._alright.
 (MORE)

RACHEL (CONT'D)
 But you're not going to like it.
 (PRESSES PLAY ON HER IPAD).

AS THE TRACK COMES OUT OF THE SPEAKER. THIS TIME THE INDIVIDUALS TRYING TO STUDY OUTSIDE OF ISAIAH-RACHEL-LAYNIE'S BOOTH ARE NOT DISTRACTED BY THE VIBRATION OF THE WINDOWS, BUT FROM THE INQUISITIVE LOOKS ISAIAH AND LAYNIE ARE GIVING EACH OTHER. THE SONG IS NOT LOUD, AND IS SUNG IN RACHEL'S BEAUTIFUL VOICE. HOWEVER THE LYRICS, MELODY, AND GUITAR PLAYING ARE LESS THAN SPECTACULAR. ONCE MORE, THE SONG SEEMS TO FADE FROM THE OUTSIDE, AS CONVERSATION BEGINS AGAIN.

RACHEL (CONT'D)
 I tried to tell you.--

LAYNIE
 (INTERRUPTING BEFORE ISAIAH CAN EVEN GET A WORD OUT) Yes you did...and that was pretty bad--

ISAIAH
 (NOTICING THE GROWING DISTRESS ON RACHEL'S FACE) Whoa..(TO LAYNIE)
 Hold up--

LAYNIE
 I can't...I have to go..I'm sorry!

LAYNIE QUICKLY GRABS HER BELONGINGS, AND LEAVES HER CHAIR.

LAYNIE (CONT'D)
 (TO ISAIAH) I guess I'll hear your track next time. My number is on the sheet. Text me whenever..Bye
 (EXITS THE BOOTH - LEAVING ISAIAH AND RACHEL ALONE).

RACHEL
 (PAUSES LOOKING VERY DESPONDENT AND EMBARRASSED) Maybe I should go too--

ISAIAH
 (SOFTENING) Hold up..Hold up. I mean you can go if you want to..but (POLITELY) can I say something?

RACHEL
 (STILL WITH A DESPONDENT LOOK)
 Okay..(SOFTLY) what?--

ISAIAH

All right..so maybe the writing and production was a little sus.
(PAUSES) But that was you singing wasn't it?

RACHEL

(SLIGHTLY ENCOURAGED) Yeah..

ISAIAH

Rachel...I can even just tell from that recording. You have a great voice. You know that, right?

RACHEL

Well...I've always been able to sing pretty well--

ISAIAH

Pretty well? Listen, there are people that go to this school, and even people in the music business right now..that would love to be able to sing the way you do. For real. No joke.

RACHEL

(STILL NOT SURE) Really?

ISAIAH

Look, maybe I got kind of a selfish reason for telling you..because what I wanna do is produce. But if I can produce voices like yours all day long. Man...My job would be easy. (SMILES)

RACHEL

But I want to do my part--

ISAIAH

(ONE MORE MILD INTERRUPTION POINTING) I like that attitude. And you will. Listen, I can understand why you would feel the way you did about the individual assignment. It's not easy to do everything by yourself. But Girl..You're on a team now. You don't have to worry about the things you don't feel you do well..because we're a team. So you just keep bringing that awesome voice to the studio, and we'll be good. You feel me?

RACHEL
(PAUSES)...Okay..(THEN SMILES KIND
OF ADMIRINGLY)

AT THAT POINT, RACHEL NOTICES HIS STAR OF DAVID NECKLACE. SHE IS JUST ABOUT TO ASK ABOUT IT, JUST WHEN THE CLASS BREAKS UP, AS IT IS THE END OF THE SESSION. THE PROFESSOR STARTS TO SPEAK TO THE CLASS, AS ISAIAH OPENS THE BOOTH DOOR TO HEAR.

PROFESSOR ALBRECHT
Okay - Good work today everybody..

EVERYONE STARTS TO PACK UP, INCLUDING ISAIAH AND RACHEL WHO ARE STILL ACKNOWLEDGING EACH OTHER.

PROFESSOR ALBRECHT (CONT'D)
Please make sure you exchange numbers with your teammates. As I have said many times, the creative process is ongoing. You may need to communicate every so often.
(CHANGES TONE) See you next time!

RACHEL AND ISAIAH ARE CONTINUING TO PACK UP. ISAIAH GETS READY MORE QUICKLY, AND STARTS TO HEAD OUT.

ISAIAH
That's a good idea. (REMEMBERING HE HAS A MEETING WITH HIS PROBATION OFFICER AT THIS SAME TIME NEXT WEEK) You and Laynie keep my number if you need to hit me..because I'm out next week. Cool?

RACHEL
Okay...(SMILING) Hey, maybe next time, we can get to hear your track?

ISAIAH
(PAUSING COYLY) Yeah...we'll make it happen. (SMILES AT RACHEL) Later Ray (EXITS).

RACHEL WATCHES ISAIAH WALK AWAY SOMEWHAT ADMIRINGLY AGAIN. THE SECOND ISAIAH IS OUT OF EARSHOT, AN EAVESDROPPING FELLOW CLASSMATE SPEAKS UP ABOUT ISAIAH'S TRACK.

CLASSMATE
(TO RACHEL) Hey, its harmless, but he is kinda messing with you--

RACHEL PAUSES TO RECOGNIZE THE COMMENT, BUT IS CONFUSED BY IT.

CLASSMATE (CONT'D)
Yeah. Just for the record..you
already heard his track.

RACHEL
(CONFUSED AND SOFTLY) What?--

CLASSMATE
The song..the one Professor
Albrecht played at the beginning of
class?..that was Isaiah's. (PUTTING
HIS BACKPACK ON HIS SHOULDER TO
LEAVE) I only know because I just
happen to overhear him mixing it
last week. (PAUSES...THEN
SINCERELY) Well anyway, have a
great weekend.

RACHEL
(SIGHS AND RESPONDS SURPRISED, AND
CONTEMPLATING WITH A SLIGHT SMILE)
You too..

**INT. - THE TRINITY CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST - ACROSS TOWN -
SAME DAY.**

PASTOR MO ROBINSON IS MEETING WITH KENDALL, A MEMBER OF HIS
STAFF THAT HANDLES MARKETING AND EVENTS. MO'S WIFE BEVERLY IS
ALSO ON HAND HELPING OUT, AS SHE DOES SOMETIMES. THIS TIME
SHE IS SITTING IN FOR THE CHURCH RECORDING SECRETARY, WHO HAS
THE DAY OFF.

KENDALL
Pastor, we have pretty much tackled
all the other issues on the agenda.
The only two left however, are
substantial, and do need attending
to.

PASTOR MO ROBINSON
(HUMOROUSLY) Kendall, the Lord as
my witness, I believe I am ready
for them. So testify..my young man.

KENDALL
Yes sir. In exploring new
directives to increase (PAUSES)
declining attendance, the Board
fielded a suggestion to possibly
(PAUSES) update some of the weekly
musical selections.--

PASTOR MO ROBINSON
Update?..What exactly does update
mean?

KENDALL
(HESITATES) Well Pastor, as you are
likely well aware, there has been a
movement toward a Hip/Hop and Rap
style in Contemporary Gospel--

PASTOR MO ROBINSON
(INTERRUPTING A BIT AGGRESSIVELY)
We are not going to turn our
musical program into a Rap and Hip/
Hop Revue!--

BEVERLY
(ADMENISHINGLY STOPS TYPING TO
TALK) Moses! There is no need to
raise your voice to Kendall! He is
merely the messenger of this
information!

PASTOR MO ROBINSON
(PAUSES A BIT EMBARRASSED - HE
CLEARS HIS THROAT) I'm..sorry
Kendall. (LESS VEHEMENTLY) I just
don't think we need to completely
revamp our musical presentation.
Much as I cannot relate to some of
the musical preferences of today's
generation, I understand the
Board's conclusion. (PAUSES) But
what about all our parishioners who
enjoy our program the way it is
currently - who speaks for them? If
we made such a sweeping change, who
is to say they would even want to
remain with us?

KENDALL
Well sir, that is a very good
question. But if I may, I believe
the Church Board is not suggesting
a complete overhaul of the musical
selections. But merely, an
introduction of a current selection
or two as a substitute, on a weekly
basis.

PASTOR MO ROBINSON
Is Harman okay with this?

KENDALL

(A BIT RELIEVED) Actually, Director Harman and the whole music staff is apparently on board with the concept sir, Yes.

PASTOR MO ROBINSON

(SELF-EFFACING) So, as usual, I am the one standing in the way of our progress? (LOOKS AT BEVERLY TYPING, WHO LOOKS BACK AFFECTIONATELY)

KENDALL

I wouldn't say that sir--

PASTOR MO ROBINSON

(AGAIN SELF-EFFACING) Yes, but you would be well within your rights if you did, Deacon Kendall..(EXHALES) Anyway, what is the last agenda item..sir!?

KENDALL

Well Pastor, a couple of prominent members of the Lakewood Messianic Jewish Association, apparently are taking issue with some of your comments in the online interview you did with EnCore Gospel Magazine--

PASTOR MO ROBINSON

(SLIGHTLY INTERRUPTING)
Okay..Okay..First of all, I told the Board that interview was a bad idea. But they wanted the publicity!--

BEVERLY

(AGAIN ADMONISHINGLY) Actually Moses, if you recall, Kendall was the one who agreed with you about that at the time..(LOOKING SUPPORTIVELY AT KENDALL THEN BACK AT MO).

PASTOR MO ROBINSON

Okay..yes, I definitely do remember that - thank you once again Deacon Kendall. But we all know who is behind this complaint...right?

BOTH BEVERLY AND KENDALL LOOK AWAY AS A REACTION - AS IF THIS SUBJECT HAS BEEN BROUGHT UP BEFORE.

PASTOR MO ROBINSON (CONT'D)
 I deliberately suggested to that magazine editor that she interview Pastor LeMardt. But she insisted that the magazine wanted my interview instead. So at the bidding of our illustrious Church Board, I capitulated--

KENDALL
 (SLIGHTLY INTERRUPTING) Well sir, it apparently wasn't the interview per se, but some comments they felt were pointed at the Messianic Jewish Movement--

PASTOR MO ROBINSON
 (SLIGHTLY INTERRUPTING AGAIN) No.. let us be clear with the assessment. First - Pastor LeMardt and his Messianic minions have always seemed to be publicity hounds. And he personally is likely still sore he was not offered that interview first. Secondly, if they would bother to read, and accurately evaluate my comments..all I did was quote some actual statistics. Of all the major religious movements in the US, there are far more Christians and Jews than Messianic Jews. That is an objective fact. I also clearly added that the wonderful thing about our fair country, is that all of us are free to peacefully worship according to our own individual spiritual ideologies (HANDS OUT TO HIS SIDES).

PAUSING TO BASK TEMPORARILY IN HIS PONTIFICATING SPLENDOR -
 MO QUICKLY REALIZES THE INEVITABILITY OF THE ISSUE.

PASTOR MO ROBINSON (CONT'D)
 (EXHALES AGAIN) Alright Kendall my man...what you do suggest we do?
 (THIS MAKES BEVERLY SMILE AS SHE IS TYPING).

KENDALL
 Well sir, I have given this some thought.
 (MORE)

KENDALL (CONT'D)

And I think we need to reach out to a fellow spiritual leader in the Jewish community proper, and invite him or her to break bread, so to speak...

MO IS CONTEMPLATIVE, AND IS ABOUT TO RESPOND, BUT REFRAINS.
YET HE STILL IS UNDOUBTEDLY INTRIGUED.

KENDALL (CONT'D)

It definitely does not have to be some big blown out public display sir. We will just do what we have always done - merely reach out to members of another spiritual family and say 'Lets you and I get together for coffee some day soon'.
(HOLDING HIS HANDS APART BASKING SOMEWHAT).

PASTOR MO ROBINSON

Deacon Kendall, I want you to take a good look around this office and these rooms - because once the Board and Congregation totally figure out what you can do..this will all be yours. Because clearly I will be out of a job!

MO AND BEVERLY LAUGH AS KENDALL SMILES A BIT EMBARRASSED.

PASTOR MO ROBINSON (CONT'D)

Who do I need to call?

KENDALL

Well sir, let's do some research. I believe in time, we can find the right individual.

EXT - A REST AREA IN THE NEGEV DESERT IN ISRAEL - EVENING.

JUST OFF THE TOUR BUS, ELI IS DIALING HIS PHONE, WHILE DABBING HIS FOREHEAD WITH A TOWEL, AND DRINKING SOME BOTTLED WATER.

INT. - CUT TO DAY THE TEMPLE BNAI ELOHIM OFFICE - DAY.

RUTH'S PHONE IS RINGING, AND SHE ANSWERS.

RUTH

Oh Hello Rabbi Eli! Happy Thursday
and Good Sabbath to you in
advance-- Wait, is it Thursday
there?

ELI (ON RUTH'S SPEAKER)

Yes Ruth, it is at least Thursday
here, when it is Thursday
there...How are things going?

RUTH

Well, not in any particular order -
I think I have finally figured out
the new video surveillance system..

ELI (ON RUTH'S SPEAKER)

That is great Ruth - I hope it is
not so complicated that the rest of
us can't manage it--

RUTH

No worries, it's actually rather
simple. Oh, you got a call from
someone at this large church just
down the way to come for an inter-
denominational visit--

ELI (ON RUTH'S SPEAKER)

What? What is that?--

RUTH

I'm not entirely sure, but it seems
harmless enough--

ELI (ON RUTH'S SPEAKER)

Well if it has to happen in the
next week, let's send Rabbi David,
as I am still out for another 13
days...anything else?

RUTH

Hmm - Oh yes, it looks like Rabbi
David and Rachel will switch off
assuming Bnai Mitzvah class duties
since Cantor Abraham went on his
break today--

ELI (ON RUTH'S SPEAKER)

His break? I don't believe Abe ever
scheduled a break. (SHORT PAUSE)
Ruth, does he seem like he is
feeling okay?

RUTH
(PAUSES) Well..now that you mention
it, he did look a little tired
yesterday morning--

ELI (ON RUTH'S SPEAKER)
Really? (CONCERNED) Ruth, if you
would do me a mitzvah, and please
check on him. He doesn't always get
back to me when I text him. Just
let me know if you find out
anything?

RUTH
I absolutely will Rabbi--

ELI (ON RUTH'S SPEAKER)
Thank you Ruth. I have to run..I
will call you later..

RUTH
Please do Eli - and say hello to
everyone for us?

ELI (ON RUTH'S SPEAKER)
I will. Thank you. Shalom.

**INT - CUT TO THE REST AREA IN THE NEGEV DESERT - IT IS
EVENING THERE.**

ELI HANGS UP PENSIVELY, PAUSES..AND THEN WALKS TO REJOIN THE
TOUR BUS.

INT. - ELI'S ACCOMMODATIONS IN ISRAEL - LATER THAT EVENING.

ELI IS IN HIS BED AGAIN, HAVING ANOTHER VERSION OF HIS
RECURRING DREAM CHASING THE RUNAWAY TORAH SCROLL. THIS TIME
THE DREAM FEATURES ABRAHAM, WHO LIKE THE OTHERS, MAKES NO
ATTEMPT TO HELP CHASE IT. INSTEAD, ABE IS AT A DANCE CLUB
BEING TREATED/GIVEN OXYGEN BY A PARAMEDIC..WHILE STILL DOING
A PIT BULL WAVE WITH HIS ARMS TO THE MUSIC. HE MANAGES A WAVE
TO ELI AS HE RUNS BY TRYING TO RETRIEVE THE SCROLL. ELI
AWAKENS AGAIN THE USUAL SWEATY WAY.

INT. - TEMPLE BNAI ELOHIM - THE FOLLOWING AFTERNOON.

IT IS ANOTHER CANTOR ABRAHAM LED BNAI MITZVAH/YISRAEL CLASS
WITH ISAIAH, ARI, JUDITH EISENMAN AND THE USUAL CLASSMATES IN
ATTENDANCE. THE CANTOR SEEMS A BIT LESS ENTHUSIASTIC, BUT IS
STILL DELIVERING.

CANTOR ABRAHAM

Alright..We have been so productive today, that I want all of you to take that Korah Rebellion homework I assigned you earlier - and (ENUNCIATED) drop it like it is hot..

ABE PAUSES AS MOST OF THE CLASS LAUGHS AT THIS.

CANTOR ABRAHAM (CONT'D)

That is correct, you are not required to complete it. I think we've covered it enough as a group, to get the antagonistic point across..

THE CLASS STARTS TO RISE AND DISPERSE, AS ABE CONTINUES.

CANTOR ABRAHAM (CONT'D)

But please continue to conceptualize for your Parashah portions, as they are extremely important. That's right, in keeping with the theme..(LOOKING AROUND THE ROOM AS THE CLASS STARTS TO DEPART BUT STILL LOOKS ON) We need to keep our mind on our D'var Torah, and our D'var Torah on our mind. (AGAIN ENUNCIATED) Do we dig?

ABE PAUSES AGAIN, AND ISAIAH, ARI, AND A COUPLE OF OTHER STUDENTS START BURSTING INTO LAUGHTER..BUT NOT EVERYONE.

CANTOR ABRAHAM ASCHER

Well..(REACTING TO THE MUTED RECEPTION)--I guess not everyone is a Snoop fan. Okay...Shalom!

ABE STANDS UP, BUT A BIT WEARILY. STUDENTS RETURN THE SHALOM SALUTATION, AND THEN START TO FILE OUT OF THE ROOM. ALL EXCEPT FOR ARI AND ISAIAH, WHO WANT CONFIRMATION ABOUT BRINGING ONE GUEST TO OPEN BASKETBALL IN THE GYM ON THURSDAY NIGHTS.

ARI

(ASKING ON BEHALF OF ISAIAH AND CALVIN) Cantor Abraham, I am just making sure one more time, that we are allowed to bring a guest to Open Basketball tonight--

CANTOR ABRAHAM
 (DECIDES TO SIT BACK DOWN..AGAIN
 WEARILY) I feel like I've just
 played 48 minutes. (SIGHS) Anyway -
 Yes, as students in our program,
 you are definitely permitted to
 avail yourselves of the gymnasium.
 And yes, I believe as long as you
 clear it through Ruth, our esteemed
 Temple Manager...you may bring one
 well behaved guest (SMILES WRYLY).
 Can you vouch for this person?

ISAIAH
 Who..Calvin? Oh yes sir. The only
 problem with him is that he never
 stops talking--

CANTOR ABRAHAM ASCHER
 (INTERRUPTING WITH WEARY COMEDIC
 TIMING) I like him already (ANOTHER
 WRY SMILE)..alright..

BOTH ARI AND ISAIAH ARE ABOUT TO LEAVE WHEN ISAIAH SPEAKS UP.

ISAIAH
 Cantor Abraham are you okay? Can we
 bring you some water or something?

CANTOR ABRAHAM
 Thats very nice of you Isaiah. No,
 Cantor Abraham just needs a nap.
 You gentlemen enjoy - go and be
 prime time playas.

AT THIS BOTH ISAIAH AND ARI LAUGH SLIGHTLY, AND WAVE GOODBYE.
 ISAIAH GIVES ABE ONE MORE LOOK, AND THEN EXITS THE ROOM. ONCE
 ALONE - ABE SEEMS TO TAKE A DEEP BREATH OF SERIOUS, BUT
 PENSIVE RELIEF.

**INT. - THE HALLWAY TO THE TEMPLE GYMNASIUM ENTRANCE. -
 MINUTES LATER.**

ISAIAH AND ARI ARE ALREADY DRESSED TO PLAY HOOPS. ARI
 INTRODUCES NAOMI, A RATHER VOLUPTUOUS YOUNG WOMAN WHO IS
 MONITORING THE CHECK-IN DESK, TO ISAIAH..AND THEN TO CALVIN,
 AS HE COMES AROUND THE CORNER. HE IS ALSO ALREADY DRESSED FOR
 HOOPS. CALVIN IS IMMEDIATELY ADMONISHED BY ISAIAH, BECAUSE HE
 IS WEARING A BLACK SLEEVELESS TOP WITH 'BLACK JESUS' ON THE
 FRONT, IN WHITE BLOCK LETTERS.

ISAIAH
 (LOWERING HIS VOICE) Yo
 Calvin..dude...you best have
 brought another shirt! You ain't
 wearing a 'Black Jesus' shirt into
 the temple!--

CALVIN
 (LOWER HIS VOICE ALSO, BUT TAKING
 ISSUE) Hey man! You know how I
 roll..Old school...Tar Heels shorts
 and MJ on top Ize! Why I gotta
 change?--

ISAIAH
 (KEEPING HIS VOICE LOW) First of
 all, the fact you gotta ask is the
 first problem. And the second issue
 (LOWERING THE VOLUME OF HIS VOICE
 EVEN MORE), is we wouldn't want to
 do anything that might affect my
 probationary status, (AGGRESSIVELY)
 now would we bruh?

CALVIN
 (KEEPING HIS VOICE LOW AS WELL) Ize
 I didn't bring no other
 shirts..guess we playin skins today
 Hoss--

AS CALVIN STARTS TO TAKE HIS SHIRT OFF, NAOMI GETS NERVOUS,
 BUT ALMOST A LITTLE EXCITED. BUT THEN STOPS HIM AS SHE POINTS
 TO THE POSTED LIST OF GYM RULES.

NAOMI
 Uh, I'm sorry sir (POINTING TO THE
 SIGN LISTING THE RULES), but shirts
 must be worn at all times--

ISAIAH
 (VOICE UP TO REGULAR VOLUME) That's
 right Calvin..at all times.

CALVIN
 (SEEMINGLY TRYING TO SWEET TALK
 NAOMI) Say Na-Oh-Mee (SINCERELY
 SMILING AT HER)..Girl you such a
 fine honey. Maybe you could be
 sweet on your boy Calvin and just
 this one time let me play with no
 shirt?..(SEEMINGLY SINCERELY
 LOOKING HER UP AND DOWN) Just let
 me this one time..with your fine
 self?

NAOMI
(TO ISAIAH..SHYNESS SOMEWHAT
FADING) He's kidding..right?

ISAIAH
(THINKING QUICKLY) Uh no Naomi - I
believe he is serious about liking
you..you are his type..

NAOMI
(SURPRISED BUT A BIT INTRIGUED)
What?

CALVIN
Oh yes..No doubt (STILL LOOKING AT
HER).

ISAIAH
(INTERRUPTING THE MOMENT) But..we
are not going to let the nice Naomi
(TO CALVIN) risk her job by asking
her to bend the rules..

NAOMI AND CALVIN
(SAYING IT TOGETHER, WHILE BOTH
LOOKING IN ISAIAH'S DIRECTION)
We're not?

ISAIAH
(TO CALVIN AND NAOMI BUT MOSTLY
CALVIN) No were are not. (LOWERING
HIS VOICE AGAIN) Yo Ari, you got
anything Calvin can borrow?

ARI
(KEEPING HIS VOICE LOW IN RESPONSE)
The only other t-shirt I have in my
bag that might fit him is this
(PULLS OUT A PINK GARMENT). It was
t-shirt left behind by my Aunt
Priya when she was visiting...It
might be just a little big.

INT. - CUT TO THE INTERIOR OF THE ENTRANCE TO THE GYM.

ENVISIONING A SLOW MOTION WALK VIDEO SEQUENCE TO SOME BAD ASS
HIP HOP INSTRUMENTAL TRACK. THERE IS AN ISO FIRST OF ISAIAH
IN HIS PRETTY COOL SLEEVELESS OUTFIT, SHOWING OFF A BIT OF
HIS MUSCLES. THEN AN ISO OF ARI IN HIS OUTFIT THAT IS JUST A
LITTLE TOO FORM FITTING FOR HIS PHYSIQUE, AS HE FIXES HIS
HEADBAND. THEN TO CALVIN, STILL LOOKING DOWN AT THE 'GOT
YENTL' BLOCK LETTERED LOGO ON HIS BORROWED OVERSIZED PINK T-
SHIRT, AND THEN LOOKING LIKE 'WHY ME?'.

AND THEN BACK TO A SHOT OF ALL THREE COMING INTO THE GYM AREA, WHILE THERE ARE GROUPS OF PLAYERS OF ALL AGES PLAYING ON THE COURTS IN FRONT OF THEM. ALL THE OTHER PLAYERS STOP PLAYING AT THE SAME TIME AS THE HIP HOP TRACK GRINDS TO A HALT, AS THEY LOOK AT ISAIAH, CALVIN, AND ARI. THE ISO WOULD DRIFT BACK TO ARI.

ARI
(PROUDLY SMILING) Who got next?

ENVISIONING AGAIN THIS TIME ANOTHER VIDEO SEQUENCE WITH THE SAME HIP HOP TRACK PLAYING. THERE IS A MONTAGE OF THE 3 PERSON TEAM OF ISAIAH, ARI, AND CALVIN BASICALLY SCHOOLING THE COMPETITION. CALVIN BACKING A DEFENDER DOWN IN HIS 'GOT YENTL' TEE, ISAIAH POSTING UP AND SCORING WITH JUMP SHOTS OFF OF PICKS. AND ARI CHUCKING WHAT WOULD HAVE BEEN AN AIR BALL OVER THE BASKET, BUT ISAIAH CATCHES AND GENTLY DUNKS IT.

CALVIN
(STOPPING THE ACTION) I believe
that is another 'W' for the Dream
Team gentlemen--

THE TRACK GENTLY FADES AS ONE OF THE OLDER TEENS RESPONDS TO CALVIN'S SEEMING OVERCONFIDENCE.

OLDER TEEN BALL PLAYER
You know, you guys are not going to
dominate as much when my cousin
Malachi gets here. He is supposed
to be our third guy--.(POINTING TO
ANOTHER PLAYER)

CALVIN
(GETTING MORE CONCEITED) Who?! Who
is Malachi? Man..you bring him in
here my light skinned brethers, and
we will still be (SINGING) 'in
control' like Janet Jackson baby--

ISAIAH
(INTERRUPTING AS IF FOR A REASON)
Calvin..you best stop clownin'..

CALVIN CONTINUES DOING JANET JACKSON MOVES TO THE AMUSEMENT OF SOME OF THE OTHER PLAYERS, INCLUDING ARI AND NAOMI.

CALVIN
(DOING A JANET SCISSOR KICK AND
THROWING HIS HEAD BACK) Why Bruh?
You always liked to put that old
Rhythm Nation stank on it too..
(STILL DANCING)..Yes!--

ISAIAH
(LOOKING AGAIN IN CALVIN'S
DIRECTION) Calvin?..

CALVIN SUDDENLY FIGURES OUT THAT ISAIAH IS NOT LOOKING AT HIM, BUT OVER HIM. HE STOPS DANCING, FREEZING IN A CLASSIC JANET POSITION.

CALVIN
(LOOKS DIRECTLY AT ISAIAH) What!??

TURNING AROUND SLOWLY 180 DEGREES. CALVIN HAS TO START JUST BELOW THE UNIFORM NUMBER LEVEL, AND CONTINUE TO LOOK UP..WAY UP..TO GET TO MALACHI'S FACE, AS HE STARES DOWN AT HIM.

CALVIN (CONT'D)
(STANDING UP STRAIGHT. HUMBLLED AND
MUCH MORE SOFTLY) What's up boss?

MALACHI
(JUST SLIGHTLY MENACINGLY, AND IN A
VERY DEEP VOICE WHILE LOOKING
STRAIGHT DOWN AT CALVIN) Was
someone saying my name?

WITH ONE GIANT HAND MALACHI GRABS THE BALL FROM CALVIN.

MALACHI (CONT'D)
(PAUSING TO SIZE CALVIN QUICKLY UP
AND DOWN) Nice shirt..

NEXT WOULD BE A MONTAGE WITH A SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT HIP HOP INSTRUMENTAL TRACK, AS MALACHI TAKES THE DREAM TEAM OF CALVIN, ISAIAH, AND ARI TO SCHOOL. INCLUDING A SEQUENCE WHERE HE STEALS A PASS FROM ARI THAT WAS MEANT FOR CALVIN, AND BLOCKS A JUMP SHOT FROM ISAIAH INTO THE BLEACHERS. HE FINALLY CATCHES A LAY UP FROM CALVIN AGAINST THE GLASS WITH TWO HANDS, THROWS AN OUTLET PASS, WHICH ENGINEERS A GIVE AND GO. AND THIS ENDS WHERE MALACHI RECEIVES THE FINAL DISH, AND SPINS INTO A FEROCIOUS 360 PUMP DUNK TO FINISH.

EXT. - JUST OUTSIDE THE TEMPLE'S OUTER GYM ENTRANCE - LATER THAT EVENING.

SWEATY AND SOMEWHAT CASHED, ISAIAH AND ARI ARE SLOWLY WALKING.

ISAIAH
Ari Man (CHUCKLING) that Malachi
dude was a baller. He tore us up.

ARI
(PAUSES) Yeah...but we did pretty good though. Up until today, I had never even won one game in there.

ISAIAH
Could've fooled me 'Steph-CAH-ri'_.
You had that little crossover move
(CHUCKLES AGAIN) I see you Dog.

ISAIAH SMILES AT ARI. ARI ABSOLUTELY BEAMS A SMILE BACK, AS THEY BUMP FISTS.

ISAIAH (CONT'D)
(TO ARI AND HIMSELF) Speaking of dogs..(TO CALVIN WHO IS STILL AT THE CHECK-IN AREA FLIRTING WITH NAOMI) Yo Calvin! We gotta roll!

CALVIN HEARS, AND STARTS TO WALK AWAY FROM NAOMI.

CALVIN
(SMILING AT NAOMI) Holla at you
later Nay-Oh-Mee (CHUCKLES) Ha-ha!

ISAIAH AND CALVIN START TO WALK TO THEIR CAR. AS ARI WATCHES FROM NEAR THE ENTRANCE.

ISAIAH
(TO ARI) Yo Ari, see you in class!
Be good sir!

CALVIN NOTICES THE NEED TO SAY GOODBYE TO ARI AS WELL.

CALVIN
(SOMEWHAT LOUDLY) Arree!! Smell you
later my Dog....Woof!

ARI
(BARKING BACK) Woof! Later Calvin!

AS ISAIAH AND CALVIN WALK TO THE CAR THEIR CONVERSATION FADES SOFTER AND SOFTER.

ISAIAH
Cee you best not be playin' with Naomi--

CALVIN
(ALMOST INSULTED) Man..I didn't even ask for her number yet--

ISAIAH
And you best get that t-shirt back
to Ari after you wash it..

CALVIN
(STOPS WALKING FOR A SECOND) Yo
ize..do I look stupid to you--
(INTERRUPTS HIMSELF AS HE STARTS
WALKING AGAIN) Wait...don't answer
that G!

THEIR DIALOGUE FADES, AS THERE IS A CUT BACK TO ARI STANDING
AND STILL WATCHING, WITHIN EARSHOT OF NAOMI.

NAOMI
(ALSO WATCHING) Hey Ari...I really
like your friends.

ARI
(TRYING TO RESPOND IN A HIP WAY)
Yeah...they aight.

NAOMI
(CONFUSED) What??

ARI
(FUMBLES A BIT REALIZING HIS POINT
HAS NOT BEEN MADE) Yeah..They're...
really..cool.

ARI THEN TURNS HIS GAZE AWAY FROM NAOMI, SHAKING HIS HEAD AT
HIS OWN APPARENT INADEQUACY. HE WALKS AWAY AS NAOMI ALSO
GENTLY SHAKES HER HEAD.

EXT. - AT THE AIRPORT - 8AM. THE NEXT MORNING

MIRIAM IS PICKING UP ELI, WHO HAS JUST ARRIVED BACK FROM
ISRAEL. HE EMBRACES MIRIAM, THEN PUTS HIS LUGGAGE IN THE
TRUNK, AND THEN HE AND MIRIAM GET IN THE CAR, AND START THE
DRIVE HOME.

INT. - IN THE FAMILY CAR. SECONDS LATER.

ELI AND MIRIAM ARE CATCHING UP WHILE MIRIAM DRIVES.

MIRIAM
So, was it a good trip?

ELI
Actually yes Miriam, it was a very
good trip. Priya sends her love,
and all of the Bnai Mitzvot had a
great time with all of the tours.

MIRIAM

Aren't you just exhausted Eli?

ELI

Surprisingly..not really. I don't think the lag has hit me yet. As a matter of fact, I plan on arriving home, getting cleaned up, trying to take a little nap...and then going to the temple late in the afternoon--

EXT. - DRIVEWAY OF THE NEWMAN RESIDENCE.

THE CAR PULLS IN, BEING CAREFUL NOT TO KNOCK OVER THE GARBAGE CANS WAITING FOR PICK-UP ON THE CURB.

MIRIAM

E.., are you sure you don't want to just relax the rest of the day?--

ELI

(GENTLY INTERRUPTING) Miriam really I am fine. It will hit me soon enough. It always does (GETS OUT OF THE CAR). Miriam, is there mail from yesterday..?

MIRIAM

Actually yes - I think so but I will--

ELI

(INTERRUPTING REASSURINGLY) I got it...I got it.

ELI GETS TO THE MAILBOX, AND IS SOMEHOW GREETED AGAIN BY MRS. DESALVO. SHE ALWAYS SEEMS TO BE THERE WHEN ELI IS.

ELI (CONT'D)

(NONCHALANTLY) Hello Mrs. DeSalvo..

MRS. CARMEN DESALVO

Hello..Rabbi Eli! (SMILING) you have returned from your trip. Did you have a good time?..and please once again..call me Carmen.

ELI

Oh yes Mrs. DeSal-- er..Carmen. it was a very good trip, Thank you.

MRS. CARMEN DESALVO
I would think you are very tired
and maybe hungry, could I maybe
offer you some lasagna for later,
after you rest?--

ELI
(GENTLY INTERRUPTING AS HE GETS HIS
LUGGAGE FROM THE TRUNK) That's very
thoughtful of you, but I'm afraid
I'm not quite ready to resume
normal eating habits. Maybe
later...But you have a great day.

MRS. CARMEN DESALVO
Thank you Rabbi..you too. (SMILES
ALMOST ADMIRINGLY)

EXT. - THE ENTRYWAY OF THE NEWMAN RESIDENCE.

MIRIAM AND ARI HAVE BEEN STANDING IN THE DOORWAY, INTENTLY
WATCHING THE SCENE UNFOLD IN THE FRONT YARD AND DRIVEWAY. BUT
EACH FOR DIFFERENT REASONS. ELI RECOGNIZES MIRIAM'S POSSIBLE
ISSUE, BUT IS A BIT CONFUSED BY ARI'S PRESENCE THERE.

ELI
Well, this I kind of expected this
(POINTING TO MIRIAM'S PEERING), but
(TO ARI) what is so interesting out
there in the neighbor's yard, that
you can't hug your father hello?

ARI
(SELF-CONSCIOUS REALIZING) Oh,
sorry Dad..Welcome home (SMILES).

ARI HUGS ELI SINCERELY. BUT SOON AFTER, HIS MOTHER AND FATHER
GO INTO THE HOUSE, PEERS LONGINGLY BACK OUT INTO THE SAME
AREA TO CATCH A GLIMSE OF GINA. SHE IS BOUNCING HAPPILY, AS
SHE HELPS HER MOM CARRY FLOWERS IN THEIR FRONT DOOR. HE
MANAGES A WRY SMILE. MIRIAM, FROM A WAYS BACK IN THE HOUSE,
BREAKS THE MOOD TO REMIND HIM OF HIS CHORES.

MIRIAM
(LOUDLY FROM A DISTANCE) Ari?!
Could you bring in the garbage cans
please?!

ARI
(RESPONDS LOUDLY) Okay Mom!

ARI WALKS DOWN THE STEPS AND THE DRIVEWAY TO RETRIEVE THE
GARBAGE CANS.

WHEN HIS BACK IS TURNED TO NEIGHBOR'S YARD, HE HEARS AN UNFAMILIAR VOICE THAT STARTLES HIM AT FIRST. HE TURNS AROUND TO GET AN INTIMIDATING AND PLEASANT SURPRISE.

GINA
(VERY FRIENDLY) Hi!

ARI
(ENTHUSIASTICALLY) Hi!

GINA
(VERY BUBBLY) I know we've seen each other before, but I've been away at boarding school for awhile. So I just figured I'd say hello since we're neighbors. What's your name?

ARI
I'm Ari (SMILES)

GINA
Ari? (SINCERELY) Like R.E.?

ARI
(LAUGHS SOFTLY) No..It's spelled A-R-I.

GINA
Ohhh. I get it. That's a cool name though. I'm Gina..well, actually my real name is Regina. Everybody just s calls me Gina. (REALIZING) Hey, wait a minute, I just realized - my name starts with your name. R-E...I guess that's kinda random huh?
(LAUGHS)

ARI, BEING SOMEWHAT SMITTEN ALREADY BY GINA'S PRETTY BROWN EYES AND INFECTIOUS SMILE,

ARI
Yeah (LAUGHS NERVOUSLY BUT SINCERELY) That is random.

AT THIS POINT THERE IS A SLIGHT SENSE OF AWKWARDNESS. WHICH WORKS OUT ANYWAY, AS GINA, MAYBE SENSING IT, ENDS THE INTRO. BUT SHE DOES SO IN HER OWN BUBBLY WAY.

GINA
Well. I've got to go help my Mom.
Nice meeting you Ari - Bye! (SMILES AND WAVES QUICKLY)

ARI GOES TO GRAB A HOLD OF ONE OF THE GARBAGE CANS. AND, AS HE DOES SO, HE PASSES THROUGH THE SPACE WHERE GINA WAS STANDING, CATCHING A WHIFF OF HER PERFUME.

MIRIAM
(LOUDLY FROM INSIDE THE HOUSE) Ari!
Did you bring those cans in yet?!

ARI
(LOUDLY TO MIRIAM) I got them Mom!
(THEN TO HIMSELF AS HE IS WALKING)
Wow. She smelled so good.

SMILING, ARI STARTS TO HEAD BACK UP THE DRIVEWAY.

INT. - THE TEMPLE BNAI ELOHIM - VERY LATE THAT AFTERNOON.

ELI COMES BACK TO WORK, AND FINDS THE MAYOR AND HIS TEAM THERE. THEY ARE FINALLY GETTING A TOUR OF THE CONSTRUCTION ON THAT PARCEL OF LAND THE CITY IS SELLING TO THE TEMPLE. HE IS ABOUT TO APPROACH THEM, BUT FIRST DECIDES TO PEER INTO THE WINDOW TO THE BNAI MITZVAH CLASSROOM. HE SURVEYS THE CLASS, AND SUDDENLY SEES ISAIAH. HE TEMPORARILY AVOIDS THE STUART/MAYOR TOUR, TO GET TO RUTH AT HER DESK.

RUTH
(SEEING HIM) Rabbi Eli!!!..I did not
think you would be in today. Just
figured you would be recharging.
(GETS UP AND HUGS HIM)--

ELI
(ADDRESSING HER COMMENT, BUT
WANTING TO CHANGE THE SUBJECT)
Thank you Ruth..I feel okay right
now, so I figured I would come in
and get some work done--

RUTH
(QUIETLY BUT POLITELY INTERRUPTING)
Well I would hurry to your office,
and shut the door. Stuart and the
Mayor's entourage is here..
threatening our peace and quiet--

ELI
(INTERRUPTING QUIETLY BACK) Yes, I
spotted them earlier..

GRABBING HER HAND GENTLY TO WALK HER BACK OVER TO THE CLASSROOM WINDOW.

ELI (CONT'D)

Ruth could you fill me in on who that taller young man in the Bnai class is? (POINTS IN A SUBTLE MANNER)

RUTH

Oh yes..that is Isaiah, the scholarship recipient.

ELI

Scholarship recipient? Who calls him that Ruth?

RUTH

Well, that's what Cantor Abraham has been calling him. I just assumed at this point, you already knew all about it--

WHILE ATTEMPTING TO CONTINUE WITH RUTH ABOUT THE SUBJECT, ELI IS SUDDENLY RECOGNIZED BY STUART KAPLIN FROM THE HALLWAY.

STUART

Rabbi Eli!! (WALKING TOWARD ELI..LEADING THE MAYOR'S ENTOURAGE)
You're back! I'm sorry I didn't realize that...

STUART MAKES POLITICAL INTRODUCTIONS, AND ELI FEELS OBLIGED TO SHAKE EVERYONE'S HAND.

STUART (CONT'D)

Rabbi Elijah Newman..I'm sure you remember Mayor Bradley, Deputy Mayor Alison Martinez, their Campaign Manager Juliette Hill, and of course Donald Berkowitz, our City Building Inspector..who actually grew up in the congregation here at Bnai Elohim.

ELI

(MAINTAINING THE POLITICAL SMILE)
Nice to see all of you again.

DEPUTY MAYOR ALISON MARTINEZ

(SEEMINGLY SINCERELY) You have such a lovely campus here Rabbi--

ELI

(ALMOST IMMEDIATELY RESPONDING STILL POLITICALLY) Thank you--

MAYOR BRADLEY
 (ALMOST CUTTING ELI OFF) And from what Stuart and Inspector Berkowitz showed me, the new wing is going to be just as spectacular..
 (MANUFACTURED SMILE)..And I can see (MOTIONING TO THE SIX FOOT THERMOMETER-LIKE GRAPH DEPICTING THE 2/3 PROGRESS) the New Building Fund Raiser is coming along nicely too.

ELI
 (STILL RESPONDING POLITICALLY)
 Thank you..Yes, we are..very blessed.

MAYOR BRADLEY
 Well first of all, I want to thank both you and Stuart for the campaign donation, it is very much appreciated. And secondly, speaking of divine providence, how is our community service candidate working out? I understand he chose Temple Bnai Elohim to carry out his sentence (LOOKING AT ELI, RUTH, AND STUART COLLECTIVELY).

THERE IS AN AWKWARD PAUSE, AS RUTH AND ELI ARE OBVIOUSLY A BIT BLIND SIDED BY THIS, AS IS STUART SLIGHTLY. BUT STUART CONTINUES TO KNOWINGLY SMILE AT ELI, IN ANTICIPATION OF A POSITIVE RESPONSE. STRATEGIZING QUICKLY, ELI DOESN'T DISAPPOINT.

ELI
 (AS REASSURING AS POSSIBLE) Uh..Yes he is working out very well--

SHARP AS SHE IS AT SURMISING THE SITUATION, RUTH IMMEDIATELY RESPONDS WITH CONFIRMATION.

RUTH
 (INTERJECTING) Absolutely, He is actually such a nice young man.
 (SMILES)

THIS ELICITS ANOTHER BRIEF BUT AWKWARD PAUSE, AS CAMPAIGN MANAGER JULIETTE HILL GETS AN IDEA.

CAMPAIGN MANAGER JULIETTE HILL
 (TO THE GROUP) Do you think we
 could possibly be introduced to
 him? (TO THE MAYOR AND DEPUTY
 MAYOR)..It might make a great
 photo-op..

ELI
 (CONTEMPLATING NEXT MOVE)
 Well...that might prove to be a bit
 difficult at the moment--

RUTH
 (AGAIN IMMEDIATELY CONFIRMING) Yes
 that is correct. You see..Because
 he...(IMPROVISING) is actually in
class right now (POINTING TO THE
 CLASSROOM)..so it really wouldn't
 be the best time--

BUILDING INSPECTOR DONALD BERKOWITZ
 (SOMEWHAT APPALLED) He's in Bar
Mitzvah class!?

AT THIS, THEY ALL LOOK IN THE DIRECTION OF, AND START WALKING
 TO THE CLASSROOM WINDOW.

DEPUTY MAYOR ALISON MARTINEZ
 (SLIGHTLY PAUSING TO REALIZE THE
 APPARENT CHARITY) Ohh that is just
so nice to hear..that you include
 him in the temple
 curriculum..despite his (PAUSING TO
 SOFTEN THE WORD) 'wayward
 behavior'. It's such
wonderful..progressive thinking.
 You all should be very proud--
 (SMILES)

STUART
 (TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE MOMENT,
 AND CHEESILY CHIMING IN) Well,
 Deputy Mayor Martinez, here at
 Temple Bnai Elohim, we have always
 considered education (CUPPING HIS
 HANDS) a sacred primary focus..in
 our mission statement to the entire
 community.

INT. - STILL THE TEMPLE - FROM THE INSIDE OF THE BNAI CLASSROOM.

RABBI DAVID CONTINUES HIS DRONING MONOLOGUE. A BIT CONFUSED AT THE ACTIVITY IN THE WINDOW, ISAIAH AND ARI OCCASIONALLY GLANCING OVER.

AT THIS POINT, ELI, RUTH, THE MAYOR, AND HIS TEAM ARE STANDING AND CROWDING THE WINDOW SEEMINGLY CONVERSING. ALTHOUGH THEY ARE NOT AUDIBLE, BECAUSE THEY ARE ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE GLASS. HOWEVER, THEY ARE ENOUGH OF A DISTRACTION, THAT PART OF THE CLASS IN THE BACK OF THE ROOM (ESPECIALLY ISAIAH AND ARI) ARE STARTING TO STARE BACK MORE INTENTLY. THE MAYOR DECIDES TO START WAVING.

ISAIAH
(WHISPERING SO AS NOT TO DISTURB
RABBI DAVID'S SPIEL) Yo Ari, what
is going on up there?

ARI
(WHISPERING BACK) I don't know.. my
father and my sister sometimes have
to work with some weird people.

ISAIAH
(REALIZING) Snap..So your sister
works here too?

ARI
(NODDING HIS HEAD) Just part-time..

ISAIAH
Ari my man - we have more in common
than I thought (SMILES).

ARI SMILES AT ISAIAH'S COMMENT. THEY CONTINUES TO LOOK FORWARD TOWARD RABBI DAVID, BUT THEN HE AND ISAIAH TAKE ONE MORE LOOK AT THE WINDOW, ONLY TO SEE JUST STUART LEFT BY HIMSELF. HE SMILING AND WAVING LIKE AN IDIOT.

ARI
(STRAINING A SMILE AND WAVING BACK)
I thought when you get older you're
supposed to get smarter..

ISAIAH
(ALSO HALF-SMILING AND WAVING TO
STUART AND THEN TURNING TO FACE
FRONT) I hear that..

INT. - TEMPLE ENTRANCE TO THE PARKING LOT - MINUTES LATER.

STUART, ELI, MAYOR BRADLEY, DEPUTY MAYOR MARTINEZ, CAMPAIGN MANAGER JULIETTE HILL, AND BUILDING INSPECTOR DONALD BERKOWITZ ARE ALL SAYING THEIR THANK YOUS AND GOODBYES. AS THE MAYORAL ENTOURAGE GET IN THEIR CARS AND DRIVE OFF, ELI STARTS IN ON STUART.

ELI
(NOT LIVID, BUT STARTING TO BOIL)
Stuart..I am not sure I want to
know..the answers to all the
questions I have in my head--

STUART
(INTERRUPTING NERVOUSLY ANIMATED)
Eli, we needed the Mayor's
signature on that release for the
construction--

ELI
Enough to possibly put the safety
of the staff and congregation at
risk?--

STUART
Okay, I understand maybe why you'd
think he might be a risk. But the
kid's been here for almost two
months Eli. If there was a safety
issue, we would likely already know
about it--

ELI
(QUICKLY INTERRUPTING) Likely!?!..--

STUART
(QUICKLY INTERRUPTING BACK) Abe
would have reported it, Ruth would
have reported it. Rabbi David is
now teaching some classes, he would
have seen something. Besides,
according to his probation officer,
he is a good kid. His father is a
pastor at a major local church--

ELI
(SOFTENING JUST A BIT FOR THE
SARCASM AND IRONY) And we have him
in Bar Mitzvah classes--

STUART
(AMUSED AND SMILING) I know..right?

STUART IS SMILING ALMOST AS IF EVERYTHING IS FINE NOW. BUT
ELI DOESN'T SHARE THE JOY.

STUART (CONT'D)
(ANTICIPATING MORE ANGST) What??

ELI
(PAUSES TO PROCESS) So you talked
with his probation officer?..

STUART
(SHEEPISHLY) Welllll..Not exactly,
but--

ELI
(INTERRUPTING TERSELY BUTNOT AS
PANICKED AS BEFORE) Stuart!--

STUART
(QUICKLY INTERRUPTING
ACQUIESCENTLY) I had a J-Date with
the Mayor's assistant, she
overheard the Mayor's conversation
about him--

ELI
(INTERRUPTING, THEN EMPHASIZING AS
IF AN UNKNOWN CONCEPT) You had a J-
Date--

STUART
(QUICKLY INTERRUPTING DEFENSIVELY)
Yeah..What's with the judgement
Rabbi Eli?..I'm a single guy again.
What? I can't have a social life?--

ELI
Contrary to what you might think
Stuart, I am not questioning your
morality, only your judgement at
times like this..(PAUSES, THEN A
BIT MORE SHARPLY) How much did you
promise the mayor?

STUART
(SHEEPISHLY PAUSES THEN SIGHS) A
5000 dollar donation--

ELI
(LIGHT SPEED INTERRUPTION) 5000
Dollars!!!! (SOFTER) I'm not sure
I want to know the answer to this
question either Stuart, but where
are we supposed to get that money?!

STUART
(PAUSES EMBARRASSINGLY SIGHING
AGAIN) I added it to our running
total amount for the Fund Raiser--

ELI
You what?

STUART
(SOFTER IN ANOTHER EMBARRASSING
TONE) The big thermometer chart in
the lobby used to say
\$125,000...now it says \$130,000..

ELI
(REALIZING THE CHANGE) That is
atrocious Stuart!--

STUART
(LIGHT SPEED INTERRUPTION) Nobody
even noticed Eli. We had to build
it into the budget. It is
technically part of the projected
cost now! I didn't see how we had a
choice--

ELI
We probably didn't..however, none
of the rest of us were consulted
Stuart..

JUST THEN, A CAR IS NOTICED PULLING UP TO THE DROP OFF LANE
NEAR THE ENTRANCE WHERE ELI AND STUART ARE TALKING. THE
WINDOW ROLLS DOWN. IT IS MS. GERSTEIN, THE ATTRACTIVE
DIVORCEE TO WHICH STUART GAVE THE PREVIOUS TEMPLE TOUR. SHE
WAVES AT THEM.

STUART
(SMILING AND WAVING BACK AT MS.
GERSTEIN) Look..I apologize Rabbi
Eli. (PAUSING THEN LOWERING HIS
VOICE) My dinner date is
here..please call me, if you want
to discuss this further. OK?

STUART LOOKS AT ELI WITH SOME ACTUAL SINCERITY, AS HE WALKS
TO GET TO HER CAR.

STUART (CONT'D)
(LOUDER, MOSTLY FOR MS. GERSTEIN'S
BENEFIT) Once again I apologize for
the confusion Rabbi!
(MORE)

STUART (CONT'D)
Please call me later if you want to
 talk more about this, huh!?--(GETS
 IN HER CAR AND SHUTS THE DOOR).

INT - INSIDE OF MS. GERSTEIN'S CAR.

STUART MAKES AN BRIEF ATTEMPT TO EXPLAIN THE SEEMING TENSE
 ALTERCATION.

STUART
 (SOFTLY TO MS.GERSTEIN) You know,
 we sometimes have mild
 disagreements about temple
 business. But it always ends up in
 good place. (PAUSING AND GETTING
 MAUDLIN) There's a lot of emotion
 between us, it's almost like a
 father-son connection there. You
 can just see the love in his eyes
 sometimes..it's very touching.

ROLLING THE WINDOW UP, THEY LOOK OUT AT ELI STILL STARING
 OMINOUSLY AT STUART.

STUART (CONT'D)
 (RATIONALIZING ELI'S ANGRY STARE)
 Hey, that is some intense love
 there..Huh? Yeah..(CHANGING THE
 SUBJECT AND LOOKING AT HER)..Wow,
 you look so good!..That's a
 fabulous color on you..Oh Yeah
 (SMILES)

EXT. - THE TEMPLE PARKING LOT AGAIN - JUST THEN.

AS THEY DRIVE OFF, ANOTHER CAR PULLS IN. IT IS RACHEL, WHO IS
 PLEASANTLY SURPRISED TO SEE HER FATHER HAS RETURNED. SHE
 EMBRACES HIM, AND THEN STARTS WALKING WITH HIM BACK INTO THE
 TEMPLE LOBBY AREA

RACHEL
 Hi Daddy! I didn't think you would
 be here. (HUGS HIM) Thought you'd
 be too tired, and would want to
 rest--

**INT. - THE TEMPLE LOBBY AGAIN, AS IT IS TEMPORARILY A LITTLE
 EMPTIER.**

ELI
 Ahhh..(OPENS THE ENTRANCE DOOR FOR
 HER, THEN FOLLOWS HER IN) I am
 still a little too wired to sleep.
 (MORE)

ELI (CONT'D)
 Besides it seems there are
 some..situations that
 need..managing. (REALIZING) Wait,
 you don't usually work this late -
 what are you doing here?

RACHEL
 Well, Ruth called me. Apparently,
 David may need help grading the
 Bnai Mitzvah quizzes and homework,
 while Abraham is recuperating.

ELI
 Recuperating?! Whoa..whoa..What's
 going on?--

RACHEL
 Eleanor called Mom about an hour
 ago. Apparently Abraham's energy
 level had been dropping recently.
 So they are running some tests
 tonight, and they should know
 something more by tomorrow.

ELI
 (WINCING) I knew it was unusual for
 him to say he was on a break--

RACHEL
 Maybe he just didn't want to worry
 anyone Daddy..(CHANGING THE
 DIRECTION IN WHICH SHE IS WALKING)
 I have to get some hymnals from the
 library for the next Shabbat -
 Please tell Ruth I will be there in
 five minutes?

ELI NODS YES TO HER REQUEST, BUT WALKS AWAY STILL THINKING OF
 HER ASSESSMENT OF ABRAHAM'S MOTIVATION.

ELI
 (TO HIMSELF) When people tell me
 not to worry, that is exactly when
 I start worrying..

RUTH APPROACHES ELI AS HE IS NOW BACK IN THE CLASSROOM AREA.

ELI (CONT'D)
 Ruth, Rachel wanted me to tell you
 she will be with you shortly--

RUTH
 (HALFWAY BUT POLITELY INTERRUPTING)
 Thank you Eli. And I assume then
 that you have heard about Abe's
 hospital visit..

ELI IS ABOUT TO SAY SOMETHING, BUT BEFORE HE CAN, RUTH
 INTERJECTS.

RUTH (CONT'D)
 (BEFORE ELI CAN RESPOND) I already
 called (PUTTING HER HAND UP), and
 he can have visitors tomorrow all
 the way into the afternoon (LOOKS
 AT ELI WITH COMPASSIONATE
 CONCERN)--

ELI
Thank you Ruth (A SUBTLE SMILE IN
 HIS RESPONSE)--

RUTH
 Of course (SMILES). Well, I am done
 for the day, so I am going home.
 (REALIZING ONE MORE THING) Oh, here
 is the contact information for
 Isaiah. I was able get it from the
 Mayor's office earlier. And
 (LOOKING THROUGH THE CLASS WINDOW)
 it looks like Rabbi David just gave
 the class a break for
 intermission..

THERE IS SOME NOTICEABLE ACTIVITY STARTING TO PERCOLATE IN
 THE CLASSROOM.

RUTH (CONT'D)
 Anyway Eli, you take care!

ELI
 You too Ruth...thanks for
 everything.

RUTH EXITS - AND LIKE SHE INDICATED, THE BNAI MITVAH CLASS
 DISPERSES FOR A TEN MINUTE INTERMISSION. RABBI ELI, FOR
 CURIOSITY'S AND SAFETY'S SAKE, FIGURES AT THIS POINT, HE WILL
 SEIZE THE OPPORTUNITY TO APPROACH ISAIAH, WHO JUST HAPPENS TO
 BE WALKING IN HIS DIRECTION.

ELI (CONT'D)
 (TO ISAIAH) Young man, may I have a
 word with you?

ISAIAH
(RECEPTIVELY SMILES) Yes sir.

ELI MOTIONS TO ISAIAH TO JOIN HIM AT A LITTLE MORE PRIVATE
SITTING AREA NEARBY. THEY SIT DOWN.

ELI
My name is Elijah Newman, I am the
Senior Rabbi here at Temple Bnai
Elohim--

ISAIAH
(DELICATELY INTERRUPTING) Oh
yeah! ..Cantor Abraham talks about
you a lot--

ELI
(PAUSING AND FINDING TIME FOR
LEVITY) Well, I hope he is
saying..some positive things about
me?

ISAIAH
(SLIGHT PAUSE TO THINK) For the
most part, Yeah..

A LITTLE CONFUSED AND AMUSED, ELI PAUSES. AND THEN CONTINUES.

ELI
I understand you are here to
complete some community service..Am
I correct?

ISAIAH
Yes sir. That's right. And I am
going to make sure I continue to
study, and turn in all my
assignments on time--

ELI
(IMPRESSED) Well, as extremely
encouraging as that is to hear, I
am still a bit confused by one
thing...How did you end up in that
class?

ISAIAH
(A LITTLE CONFUSED) Well...I showed
up the first day like I was
supposed to. And the first person I
saw was Cantor Abraham, who may be
the coolest teacher I've ever had
by the way.

(MORE)

ISAIAH (CONT'D)
 (SMILES) Anyway, I told him what I
 was here for, and he said there was
 'no services at that time, only
 classroom sessions'.

WITH THIS, ELI IS AT LEAST TEMPORARILY RELIEVED THAT HE NOW
 CAN SEE THE WAY THIS SITUATION COULD HAVE OCCURRED. HOWEVER,
 AT THAT MOMENT, RACHEL WALKS INTO THE AREA AND RECOGNIZES
 ISAIAH.

RACHEL
 (SOMEWHAT PLEASANTLY SURPRISED)
 Isaiah!..

ISAIAH
 (SIMILARLY PLEASANTLY SURPRISED)
 Rachel!..

RACHEL
 (CONFUSED) What are you doing
 here?

ELI
 (INTERRUPTING AND SHOCKED) Wait a
 minute..Wait a minute..you two know
 each other?

ISAIAH
 (ALMOST OBVIOUS) Yeah!

RACHEL
 (AS IF IT IS LESS SIGNIFICANT THAN
 ELI MIGHT THINK) Daddy, I go to
 school with him..at the college--

ISAIAH
 (GETTING A WORD IN) Whoa - Hold
 up..(POINTING AT ELI) Daddy??!--

THOUGH NOT REALLY MEANING TO, RACHEL IGNORES ISAIAH'S
 REACTION MOMENTARILY, TO ELABORATE TO HER FATHER.

RACHEL
 (TO ELI) I am actually in a class
 with him..we're doing a group
 project together--

ISAIAH
 (WAVING TO RACHEL) Wait one more
 sec, (POINTING) he is your
father?!--

ELI, WHOSE HEAD IS SPINNING AT THIS POINT, WAS ABOUT TO ANSWER, AND GET A WORD IN. BUT IS UNABLE.

RACHEL
(INTERJECTING QUICKLY TO ISAIAH)
Yes, he is my father, and that is
the truth...(SLIGHTLY
DISAPPOINTINGLY) which is more than
what you told me the other day!--

ISAIAH
(TO RACHEL) Wait...What?!--

RACHEL
(EXPLAINING ALMOST HUMOROUSLY) When
we were alone together..you let me
think I hadn't heard your song--

ELI
(ALARMED) Wait..you two were alone
together?--

RACHEL
(TOTALLY NONCHALANT) Relax
Daddy..it's for a school project.

ELI
(SARCASTICALLY) Oh - Thank you.
That makes me feel so much better.

ISAIAH
(TO RACHEL) Hold up girl..I did not
lie to you--I just didn't think it
was necessary to mention it at the
time--

ELI
(INTERJECTING SOMEWHAT SERIOUSLY)
Well, are you mentioning everything
that is necessary to me right now?

ISAIAH
Well, yes sir..why?

ELI
Forgive me son, but you are on
probation--

ISAIAH
So it's because I am having to do
community service, that now -
neither one of you can trust me?

RACHEL
 You're here doing community
service? Why? (THEN INTERRUPTING
 HERSELF) Wait..We offer that here?

BOTH ELI AND ISAIAH ANSWER RACHEL'S QUESTION SIMULTANEOUSLY

ELI
 No!

ISAIAH
 Yes!

ELI
 (ACQUIESCING BUT EXPLAINING) Okay I
 guess what I mean is, we
 haven't..offered it up to this
 point..but now it seems we are--

ALL OF A SUDDEN, INTO THE SCENE WALKS ARI, AS RABBI DAVID IS
 APPARENTLY CALLING ALL STUDENTS BACK TO CLASS AFTER
 INTERMISSION.

ARI
 (TO ISAIAH) Hey Yo Ize (FORCING A
 FIST BUMP) Rabbi David is starting
 up class again, so we gotta skate--

ELI, RACHEL, AND ARI PAUSE FOR DIFFERENT REASONS. THEN ARI,
 AS HE KIND OF GRASPS THE CURRENT SITUATION, SPEAKS UP FIRST.

ARI (CONT'D)
 (REALIZING) Whoa..is my Pops
 getting up in your grill for
 something?--

ISAIAH
 Whoa! Snap...Pops? (POINTING TO
 RACHEL) so Rachel's your sister!?

ARI
 Yeah (THINKS) Wait, is she checkin'
 you too? Sorry Ize man, sometimes
 my fam is whack--

ELI
 (INTERRUPTING) Hold on..hold on -
 first of all, Ari why are you
 talking like that?

ARI
 (KNOWINGLY) Talking like what?

ELI
 (PAUSING LOOKING AT ARI) Never
 mind. Nobody's 'checking up on
 anybody's grill' here.

ARI AND RACHEL ROLL THEIR EYES AT ELI'S PHRASING.

ELI (CONT'D)
 So let me get this straight Ari...
 (POINTING TO ISAIAH) You know him
too?

ARI
 Yeah Dad - we're homeys!

ELI
 Homeys?

ISAIAH
 (FEELING THE NEED TO TRANSLATE TO
 ELI) It just means that we're
 friends sir..

ELI
 (QUICKLY RESPONDING A BIT
 SARCASTICALLY) I kind of gathered
 that, Thank you.

ELI IS TORN BETWEEN DETAINING ISAIAH TO SPEAK WITH HIM, WHICH
 MAY CAUSE SOME CHAOS - AND LETTING HIM GO BACK TO CLASS,
 WHICH ALMOST PERPETUATES THE CHAOS.

ELI (CONT'D)
 (SIGHING) Isaiah, against my better
 judgement, I think we will let you
 get back to Rabbi David - and then
 maybe you and I can talk some more
 after class? Just so we can be 'at
home' with each other as well.

ARI AND RACHEL ROLL THEIR EYES AGAIN AT ELI'S PHRASING.

ISAIAH
 Well, I'd be down--Sorry..(STOPS
 AND RE-PHRASES)..I would love to
 sir. But I have an appointment
 (PAUSES)..with my probation
 officer.

UNDERSTANDING THE IRONY, AND BEING AT LEAST SOMEWHAT
 ENCOURAGED BY ISAIAH AND HIS CANDID DEMEANOR, ELI TEMPORARILY
 SUSPENDS HIS INTERROGATION.

ELI
(CHUCKLES A BIT BUT OBVIOUSLY WITH
SOMETHING IN MIND) Alright, it's
okay son. We will have a chat some
other time.

ELI LETS ISAIAH PROCEED TO CLASS, AND HEADS TOWARD THE OFFICE
AREA. SECONDS LATER, RACHEL IS WALKING WITH ISAIAH TO THE
CLASSROOM.

RACHEL
(ALMOST FLIRTATIONOUSLY BUT NOT
DEMEANING) What did you do to be
put on probation? And then how did
you get here?

ISAIAH
Well..to the first question - I was
in the wrong place at the wrong
time, and trusting another dude
maybe once too often. And ...I'm
here because I didn't want to serve
out the term of my hours at my
father's church.

RACHEL
Your father's church!? Wow..I am
learning so much about you today..
(SMILES)

ISAIAH
But not enough to trust me anymore?
(SMILES DISAPPOINTINGLY).

RACHEL
I didn't say that..

ISAIAH
Well I am definitely sus with your
father--

RACHEL
Actually, my father might surprise
you. (THINKING) Besides, he just
doesn't know you like I do.
(COMPASSIONATE SMILE)

ISAIAH
Whoa Girl..you sure you want to say
that?--

RACHEL
(SOMEWHAT COURAGEOUSLY) Why? Is
there a reason maybe I shouldn't?

ISAIAH
 (REACTING TO THAT COURAGE) Check
you out..(PAUSING THEN TRUTHFULLY)
 No..you can say it (SHAKING HIS
 HEAD..SMILING AGAIN, JUST A LITTLE
 SMITTEN).

RACHEL
 (SMILING..A LITTLE SMITTEN AS
 WELL..TRYING TO BE HIP) So I guess
 we're vibing now huh?

ISAIAH
 (QUICKLY REACTING, AS IF TO MANAGE)
 Welllll (SEARCHING FOR A WAY TO KEEP
 IT G-RATED)...yeah..we are. I mean
 there is more than one kind of
 vibing. But..yeah we definitely
 feelin' one of them. (SMILES)

RACHEL
 (SEMI-URGENTLY WANTING TO KNOW)
 Wait, what's the other one?--

CHUCKLING, ISAIAH QUICKLY INTERRUPTS, AND TIPS HIS HEAD
 TOWARD THE CLASSROOM.

ISAIAH
 (RECEPTIVELY) You know what? Why
 don't we talk about that later?--

RACHEL, REALIZING THE SITUATION, SNAPS OUT OF HER MOOD.

RACHEL
 (QUICKLY RESPONDING) Oh..yeah..

ISAIAH
 (JUST AS QUICKLY HOLDING HIS FIST
 OUT TO HAVE HER BUMP IT) Teammate..

RACHEL REACHES HER FIST OUT, AND THEY BUMP KIND OF
 INTIMATELY, AND WALK AWAY FROM EACH OTHER WITHIN THE
 SIGHTLINE OF RABBI DAVID. AS HE STARTS TO ADDRESS THE CLASS
 AGAIN, THE DOOR SHUTS, LEAVING RACHEL AT THE WINDOW LOOKING
 ON FOR A MOMENT.

**INT. - RUTH'S DESK, BACK IN THE TEMPLE OFFICE AREA - MOMENTS
 LATER.**

ELI IS DIALING THE NUMBER LISTED ON ISAIAH'S PARENTAL CONTACT
 INFORMATION. BEVERLY ROBINSON'S VOICEMAIL MESSAGE IS FAINTLY
 HEARD. AT THE BEEP, ELI ADDRESSES HER.

ELI
 (INTO BEVERLY'S VOICEMAIL) "Uh yes,
 hello - my name is Rabbi Elijah
 Newman, and I am calling from
 Temple Bnai Elohim..where Isaiah
 has apparently been assigned to
 complete his community service?"

**INT. - CUT TO THE ROBINSON RESIDENCE. BEVERLY IS NOW PLAYING
 THE VOICEMAIL MESSAGE FOR MO AND ISAIAH IN THEIR LIVING ROOM.**

ELI (CONT'D)
 (ON BEVERLY'S VOICEMAIL) "I was
 hoping I could speak to you or your
 husband sometime soon. It seems
 there has been some confusion on
 our end, regarding how Isaiah will
 carry out his responsibilities.
 Given the circumstance, I feel it
 is only fair to Isaiah, and to all
 parties involved that we discuss
 this and come to an appropriate
 resolution. Once more, I can be
 reached at Temple Bnai Elohim, and
 the number here is 847-707-7271.
 Thank you in advance for your
 time."

AS BEVERLY TAKES HER PHONE OFF SPEAKER MODE, MOSES IS FIRST
 TO SPEAK UP AS THEY ANALYZE WHAT MIGHT BE THE PURPOSE FOR
 ELI'S CALL.

PASTOR MO ROBINSON
 Well Isaiah, maybe you can shed
 some light on this confusion the
 good Rabbi is describing?

ISAIAH
 Pop..I have done everything I was
 asked to, since I first showed up.

MO
 Okay...If, as you say, you have
 done everything asked of you, then
 why would he be calling?

ISAIAH
 That's just it Pops, I don't know.
 From day one, I was put in these
 classes. And it seems every day I
 show up, that is where I am
 supposed to be.

MO

And you've been doing all your work in these classes, to the best of your ability?--

ISAIAH

Yes Pops..I get graded on them. Cantor Abraham has never given me less than an 'O' on any assignment--

MO

An 'O'?

ISAIAH

For Outstanding..

MO

Well that's just wonderful. The rest of the world is working with A's B's and C's..And these folks are using the Gap Band scale.

BEVERLY

(ADMENISHING HIM) Moses! you, of all people, know very well that not everyone responds to conventional means.

MO

Well, what I know..is that someone likely has made a big enough mistake Beverly, for him to be calling--

ISAIAH

So it's probably me that made it - right?

MO

Well Isaiah, you have to admit there is that possibility. What would you honestly think if you were in our position?

ISAIAH

I would trust my son--

BEVERLY

Isaiah - Your father and I do trust you. But, you have to admit, there is obviously something that needs our attention here.

(MORE)

BEVERLY (CONT'D)

If it is possible, I am going to make an appointment to meet with Rabbi Newman first thing tomorrow.

MO

Beverly, are you sure I shouldn't just meet him later in the week..one spiritual leader to another? Kendall has yet to land a suitable candidate for that bread breaking event. We might be able to cover both objectives--

BEVERLY

(INTERRUPTING SOFTLY BUT FIRMLY)
No, I think the sooner we address this, the better..

MO

Are you sure you feel comfortable enough walking into a Jewish synagogue--

CUTS HIMSELF OFF, AS IF HE HAS JUST REALIZED SOMETHING.
BEVERLY SHOOTS HIM A KNOWING LOOK. MO THEN PAUSES AND SIGHS.

MO (CONT'D)

Okay Beverly (PUTS HIS HANDS UP)..I know you know what you're doing.

INT. - THE NEWMAN RESIDENCE MASTER BEDROOM - LATER THAT EVENING.

ELI IS IN HIS BED AGAIN HAVING ANOTHER VERSION OF HIS RECURRING DREAM. THIS TIME, AS HE IS SPRINTING AFTER THE RUNAWAY SCROLLS TO THE RIGHT OF THE PAPER TRAIL, ISAIAH SUDDENLY APPEARS RUNNING ON THE LEFT SIDE OF THE SCROLL PAPER. HE IS DRESSED IN TRACK AND FIELD WEAR, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF A KEEPAH. AND HE IS WEARING ONE OF THOSE BRIGHTLY COLORED NEON VESTS THAT COMMUNITY SERVICE HIGHWAY WORKERS ARE ISSUED. HE RUNS PARALLEL TO ELI, AND IS TALKING TO HIM.

ISAIAH (IN THE DREAM)

(RUNNING COMFORTABLY) Evening Rabbi!..You having some trouble catching up? Don't worry sir, I got you. All this community service has made me really fast!

WITH THIS, ISAIAH SPRINTS WAY AHEAD INTO THE DARKNESS AFTER THE SCROLLS, AS ELI KEEPS RUNNING.

ALL OF A SUDDEN ON THAT SAME LEFT SIDE, HAVING ABANDONED THE CHASE, ISAIAH IS SEEN FACING RACHEL, AND SOCIALIZING WITH HER VERY FLIRTATIOUSLY, AS SHE HANDS HIM A BOTTLED WATER WHILE HE TOWELS OFF. THEY BOTH WAVE AT ELI AS HE CONTINUES THE PURSUIT FROM THE RIGHT SIDE. AND ALMOST ON CUE, ELI THEN AWAKENS, COLD SWEAT STILL OBVIOUS.

INT. - TEMPLE BNAI ELOHIM OFFICES - LATER THE NEXT MORNING.

BEVERLY IS ALREADY SITTING IN THE LOBBY WAITING AREA. AND RUTH IS BEING A VERY ATTENTIVE HOSTESS.

RUTH

Mrs. Robinson, may I offer you some refreshments, say some coffee or water?

BEVERLY

That is so very kind of you, but I am actually fine right now..

PAUSING AS IF TO ANTICIPATE RUTH OFFERING HER NAME. RUTH DOESN'T DISAPPOINT.

RUTH

Well my name is Ruth, and please let me know if you change your mind. (SMILES)

BEVERLY

Thank you so much Ruth. I am Beverly. (SMILES BACK)

RUTH

Well you're quite welcome Beverly-- (SMILE FEST)

FROM OUT OF HIS OFFICE COMES ELI, HE GREETES BEVERLY WARMLY.

ELI

Mrs. Robinson, how are you (THEY SHAKE HANDS). So nice to meet you in person. I hope I didn't keep you waiting long?

BEVERLY

Not at all Rabbi Newman..and again, please call me Beverly.

ELI

Thank you..Beverly. And once more please call me Eli...right this way..may I offer you something?

SHOWS HER INTO THE OFFICE. THEY SIT DOWN, AND BEVERLY GETS RIGHT TO BUSINESS.

BEVERLY

Well again, that is so nice. But Ruth already did, and I am fine. First of all, I do apologize for making an appointment with you this quickly, but I wanted to address any situation regarding Isaiah as soon as possible.

ELI

Please Mrs. R--(CORRECTS HIMSELF) Beverly, absolutely no apology is necessary. I very much appreciate you and your husband's time and attention. And I want to assure you, this has nothing whatsoever to do with Isaiah's performance, nor his behavior here at the temple. So far, he apparently has done everything that has been asked of him.

BEVERLY

Well now that's definitely a relief to hear..but if that is the case, then what is the issue with his service - if I may ask?

ELI

Well, embarrassingly enough, the problem was actually created from our end...

WITH THIS ELI GOES INTO THE SORDID STORY, AS THE CAMERA GOES BEHIND BEVERLY'S CHAIR, IN A MOMENTARY FADE TO BLACK FOR A TIME LAPSE. WE COME OUT ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THAT CHAIR WITH BEVERLY LAUGHING ABOUT STUART.

BEVERLY

(SMILING) Well, first of all Rabbi Eli, as unusual as the circumstances are, I can assure you that this sort of thing happens in my husband's church quite frequently. There is a 'Stuart' in every major church in the country. My husband just chalks it up to be the challenge of being a spiritual leader in the modern age..

ELI

Well your husband sounds like a very wise man Beverly. I am hopeful to someday have such insight..

BEVERLY

Well now, I am sure your wife would say the same about you--

ELI

(HUMOROUSLY INTERRUPTING)
Please...she thankfully is much smarter and more capable than I am--

BEVERLY

Well I'm sure you have your moments Rabbi (PAUSING, SMILING, AND STAYING WITH THE THEME)..So how can we proceed here, so that Isaiah can complete his service?

ELI

I have been actually going over that in my head, and there are some "tasks" that he can perform weekly that would qualify as community service for our organization.

BEVERLY

Well that would be wonderful Rabbi Eli. Because I have to tell you.. that, although I realize there should be a chore-like element to most sentences of this kind.. Isaiah has so enjoyed his time here, and it seems it has not only enlightened him, but has helped heal a part of him in the process.

ELI

(CURIOUS) Forgive me, but when you say it has helped heal him, what do you mean?

BEVERLY

Well, before I answer that Rabbi, I am going to make an unusual request. (PAUSES) I wonder if it would be possible for Isaiah to complete the service you have formulated for him, and at the same time, continue the class time and curriculum he has started?

ELI

Mrs. Robin--Beverly, respectfully,
there is quite a bit more to what
you are requesting, than auditing a
few classes--

BEVERLY

Oh no. He would not be auditing
Rabbi Eli. Although I do understand
why you would use that word in the
context of moving forward. What I
mean is, Isaiah would stay in the
program as an actual Bnai Mitzvah,
or at the very least a Bnai
Yisrael..

AT THIS ELI SMILES, BEING PLEASANTLY SURPRISED BY BEVERLY'S
KNOWLEDGE OF THE PROGRAMS.

ELI

(SINCERELY) I could only hope that
our average temple parent were as
well informed about our programming
as you apparently are Beverly
(PAUSES)..but there are just a
couple of other more conventional
issues in play here--

BEVERLY

(INTERRUPTING ALREADY SEEMINGLY
PREPPING FOR SOME EMOTION) Forgive
me Rabbi, I likely also understand
those as well. But again, please
let me first tell you, that ever
since Isaiah lost his cousin Israel
(SINCERELY GETS JUST A BIT
EMOTIONAL)..yes, his name was
Israel..(GETS A LITTLE MORE
EMOTIONAL).

BEVERLY PAUSES. AND ELI PAUSES AS WELL, OBVIOUSLY NOTICING
BEVERLY'S TEARS, HE OFFERS HER A TISSUE.

ELI

(VERY SINCERELY) I do apologize if
I have somehow upset you, Beverly.

BEVERLY

(TAKES THE TISSUE) No need to Rabbi
Eli, I am so sorry for losing my
composure.

ELI

Please, there is absolutely no need to apologize. It is quite all right Beverly. These subjects very often produce this type of emotion.

BEVERLY

(DABBING HERSELF ELEGANTLY WITH THE TISSUE) It's just that Israel contracted leukemia and passed away almost 3 years ago. He was..Well..the brother Isaiah never had. They were more than cousins, they were inseparable. Both making a lifelong commitment to each other to be partners in music production. You see, this is why it is so important to Isaiah to honor his probation. So that he stays in good standing with that music school. He wants the all training to further his career. And this is why I do know that his commitment would be 100% to you as well.

ELI, BEING BOTH CURIOUS, AND WANTING SOMEWHAT TO CALM THE SITUATION, CHANGES THE SUBJECT.

ELI

(POLITELY) If I may ask, why did he not choose to carry out his service at--

BEVERLY

(POLITELY INTERRUPTING) My husband's church? (PAUSES AND CHUCKLES) Isaiah is in the middle of that classic love-hate battle with his father...to be his own man. Many children of prominent parents can often find it a difficult task, making their way out of their father's shadow. And though it is not the worst curse one could shoulder, it is a bit more more difficult for Isaiah, as I think he is still grieving for Israel even now. But it is for these reasons, I am hoping you will reconsider giving him this opportunity.

ELI

Okay. But Beverly, I may need you to understand something however. And it may be as difficult for you to understand, as it is for me to articulate. In the Jewish faith, all prospective Bnai Mitzvah candidates are generally children of Jewish parents. Even more specifically, Jewish mothers. Technically, your husband and you..well--

BEVERLY

(INTERJECTS) No my husband is definitely not Jewish (PAUSES TO COMPOSE HERSELF) but technically Rabbi Eli...I am.

ELI, A BIT SHOCKED BY THIS REVELATION, ONCE AGAIN FEELS OBLIGED TO APOLOGIZE.

ELI

(A BIT UNSETTLED) Once again...Beverly..I am so sorry to have presumed. I just figured you were aligned with your husband where your faith was concerned--

BEVERLY

And once again thank you, but anyone would have made the same inference. My husband and I are raising our children the way we were raised. So regardless of whether it was Judaism or Christianity, we wanted them to have a strong belief in God, and his teachings. But truly, even though my husband is obviously an enormous influence, we agreed we would let them choose whichever spiritual direction they felt in their hearts..was right for them.

AS ELI IS STILL A BIT PENSIVE, BEVERLY CONTINUES, AS SHE IS NOW FEELING OBLIGED.

BEVERLY (CONT'D)

My father was a Bahamian Jew. And he met my mother, Rebecca Stein, at an Ethiopian Jewish retreat--

ELI
 (FEELING CURIOUS ENOUGH TO
 INTERRUPT) Rebecca Stein? Your
 mother wasn't from around this
 area..was she?

BEVERLY
 Why..yes, she actually did live in
 this area. Unfortunately, she has
 since passed away several years
 back.

ELI
 I'm very sorry to hear that. For
 what it's worth, if it is the same
 Rebecca Stein, I actually remember
 your mother. And I'm pretty sure I
 know others in our congregation who
 would as well. (SMILES SLIGHTLY)

BEVERLY
 (DECIDING TO CONTINUE) Though
 neither my brother, Israel's
 estranged father, nor myself were
 fully 'Bar and Bat Mitvahed'...We
 kept kosher, and recognized all of
 the holidays each year growing up.
 So you see, Isaiah is actually
 fully eligible, because he is
 considered Jewish, even in the eyes
 of tradition. Because I, his mother
 am a Jew.

ELI SMILES, AND IS ABOUT TO SPEAK AGAIN, WHEN BEVERLY
 INTERJECTS.

BEVERLY (CONT'D)
 And, Rabbi Eli, I am fully aware
 that there is a financial
 responsibility to the temple for
 such training. So I hope you don't
 mind that I took the liberty of
 asking Ruth what the full Bnai
 Mitzvah tuition was (HANDING ELI
 TWO CHECKS).

ELI
 (EVEN MORE SHOCKED) I admit I am a
 bit overwhelmed right now Beverly.
 (PAUSING AND SMILING SLIGHTLY) But
 please, this first check is
 sufficient. It is not necessary to
 contribute--

BEVERLY

(INTERRUPTING) No no no..we insist on that donation as well Rabbi Eli. There is the temple's building fund to think about, and we would like to do our part.

ELI

(PAUSING AND SIGHING) You make a very compelling case Beverly. Okay...(SMILES AGAIN), I think we are squared away. I should also mention that I customarily like to informally interview each Bnai Mitzvah candidate. So if it is okay with you, I would be very grateful if would you please tell Isaiah that I will be in touch?

BEVERLY

Rabbi Eli, it would be my pleasure. I'm sure he would be happy to meet with you (SMILING AND RISING TO LEAVE). Well, thank you so much for meeting with me, I feel so much better..

ELI

As it happens, so do I. (SMILES AGAIN) Almost a sense of spiritual relief?--

BEVERLY

(SMILING SHAKING ELI'S HAND) Praise the Lord Rabbi..Amen to that..Very nice meeting you Eli.

ELI

(SHAKING BACK) Yes..Praise the Lord..Amen. The pleasure was all mine Beverly.

ELI SMILES, BUT ALMOST A BIT NERVOUSLY, AS HE WATCHES BEVERLY LEAVE.

INT. - CANTOR ABRAHAM'S HOSPITAL ROOM - LATER THAT DAY.

AS HE WOULD WITH MANY ISSUES, ELI HAS ALWAYS SOUGHT THE ADVICE AND COUNSEL OF HIS BELOVED COUSIN AND MENTOR. BUT THIS TIME, HE IS PRIMARILY AND EXTREMELY CONCERNED WITH ABRAHAM NOW BEING IN A HOSPITAL BED WITH A REAL AFFLICTION. AS ALWAYS, HIS CANTOR AND COMPATRIOT IS AN IRREPRESSIBLY OPTIMISTIC VOICE OF REASON, EVEN IN THE MIDST OF HIS UNCERTAIN STATE.

ACTUALLY, SINCE ABE HAS A TENDENCY TO AVOID DEVULGING
NEGATIVE INFORMATION, ELI HAS ALREADY RESORTED TO PASSING THE
TIME BY DESCRIBING THE SITUATION WITH ISAIAH. AFTER
RESPONDING WITH SOME SMALL TALK, ABRAHAM PLAYFULLY BUT
AFFECTIONATELY BAITs ELI.

ABRAHAM

Eli?

ELI

Yes?

ABRAHAM

I need to tell you something..

ELI

Yes Abe? (IN A VERY SYMPATHETIC AND
FEARFUL TONE)

ABRAHAM

(PAUSING FOR EFFECT)....The food
here is horrible...

ELI

(A LITTLE EXASPERATED) That's
it!?!..I thought you were going to
say something life-
changing...inspirational..
spiritually fulfilling. And all you
give me is Gordon Ramsay--

ABRAHAM

(INTERRUPTING) I'm speaking my mind
Eli. When one is faced with my
circumstances, sometimes the
obvious is all that comes to mind
at that moment..

ELI

(HAVING ASKED MORE THAN ONCE) What
are your circumstances right now?--

ABRAHAM

(FINALLY SUPPLYING THE INFORMATION)
Ahh...I am not necessarily
improving. Something about being
more susceptible to an anuerysm--

ELI

And you would rather complain about
the cuisine--

ABRAHAM

Again my good man, sometimes we would rather deal with a bonfire in front of us, than the inferno out in the distance. I look for direction and inspiration too, and then all I'm given is creamed spinach...as a side dish! What kind of sacrilege is this? I mean I understand it as a dip...with matzoh or something. And then they serve it to me with a salisbury steak. Let's face it Eli, in our line of work, all that dairy with the beef? A definite no-no--

ELI

(INTERRUPTING TRYING TO STAY ON TOPIC) Are you going to be okay?

ABRAHAM

Either way Rabbi..God has a plan, right? Come on. Right now, it is apparently to listen to me kavetch about the menu--

ELI

(RATHER EMOTIONALLY) No - I honestly want to know you if are going to be okay--

ABRAHAM

I know Eli (SMILES). I know that is why you came here. Part of it is that, but the other part is that maybe I've always been your other voice..other than Miriam. Because you can basically be a closed-minded dude..to anyone other than Miriam. And even to a large extent..me. Actually, now that I think of it, over the years..as much as you didn't want to hear what I had to tell you. I can honestly say I'm proud of you Eli..for never having completely walked away.

ELI, WHO IS ACTUALLY DIRECTING HIS GAZE AWAY FROM ABRAHAM AND OUT THE WINDOW WHILE HE WAS SPEAKING, TURNS TO LOOK OVER HIS SHOULDER AT ABE, BUT IS STILL A BIT EMOTIONAL. SO IN AN ATTEMPT TO LIGHTEN THE MOOD, ABE MOVES TO ANOTHER TOPIC.

ABRAHAM (CONT'D)
 (CHANGING THE SUBJECT) So let me
 see if I've got this straight -
 This kid's father is..well..like
 King of the Goyums...

AT THIS, ELI CRINGES AT ABRAHAM'S RHETORIC, ALBEIT TONGUE-IN-CHEEK. ABE CONTINUES.

ABRAHAM (CONT'D)
 Ahhh...but his mother is
 surprisingly enough, a member of
 our tribe, so you feel obliged to
 grant the kid a Bnai
 Mitvah..especially now that his
 family not only stacked some paper
 to pay his tuition..But they were
 even dope enough to grease the
 Stuart Kaplin Whoopee Machine..

ELI
 (LESS SOMBER) Why do you insist on
 talking like that?

ABRAHAM
 (LAUGHS) Why are you (HOLDING UP
 HIS FINGERS AS QUOTATION MARKS)
 'tripping' every time I do?

ELI
 Because that's not who you were
 brought up to be--

ABRAHAM
 (INTERRUPTING) No Eli...but it is
 who I am. That's the thing.
 (PAUSES) Sometimes I think you are
 fighting your instincts..to be who
 you think God wants you to be. And
 why? Because you look at the
 Commandments, and the Torah, and
 the virtues of all the
 prophets..and you feel the need to
 align yourself to all of it..to the
 letter. And as you have gotten
 older, it has gotten infinitely
easier for you. This is one of the
 reasons why I will surmise you went
 to rabbinical school. I mean, where
 else but there..can you be the
 (AGAIN HOLDING UP HIS FINGERS AS
 QUOTATION MARKS) 'best' version of
 what God thinks you should be?..

ELI LOOKS BACK OVER HIS SHOULDER AT ABE, A LITTLE ANGRY, AND A LITTLE HUMBLLED.

ABRAHAM (CONT'D)

But there is one problem Eli...by doing that, I think you are getting further away from being human.

AT THIS POINT, ABE ALMOST EXPECTED A RESPONSE. BUT ELI HAS TURNED HIS GAZE BACK OUT THE WINDOW. SO, HAVING NOT GOTTEN A REACTION, ABE CONTINUES.

ABRAHAM (CONT'D)

You see Eli, I believe God set out all these guidelines so that we could monitor our own behavior. You look at life as if it is a bunch of blocks that you need to stack perfectly straight, and manage at all times. But just when life gets a little chaotic, and not always in a negative way...well sometimes that stack becomes a just pile...which is really what it was in the first place. I mean, even if they are in a different order now, we are lucky if all of our blocks are still there after all these years Eli. That's how you really count your blessings--

ELI

(INTERJECTING) I do count my blessings!

ABRAHAM

(INTERJECTING BACK) I know you do Eli...Hey, with that nice neat stack, it is much easier to do..You dig?

ELI

(STILL LOOKING AWAY) Oy..

ABRAHAM

(REACTING TO ELI) I'll take that as a 'yes'! (PAUSING AND CHUCKLING) Me? I'm not that much different from you, Eli. My best blessing has been Eleanor. Other than our family, she is pretty much my whole stack, my whole pile.

(MORE)

ABRAHAM (CONT'D)

And then there was the little piece that was Music. And maybe that's where you and I have had our differences. Music is what kept me closer to his Holiness, Eli. And it didn't just have to be temple based hymns, or holy Jewish melodies. I found joy in other types of music as well. Sometimes even as much joy as when I sing the Schema. And I know that sounds sacrilegious to you Rabbi. But the beautiful thing is...that I have never tried to hide it from God. And I don't believe God looks poorly on me for having done so.

ELI

(TURNING BACK AROUND) How are you so sure about that Abraham?--

ABRAHAM

(PAUSING) Well let me ask you..Is he not omniscient? Does he not know what is in my heart?

AGAIN, ELI DOES NOT RESPOND WHEN ABE GIVES HIM THE OPPORTUNITY. SO AGAIN HE CONTINUES.

ABRAHAM (CONT'D)

(LOOKING DIRECTLY AT ELI, THOUGH HE IS LOOKING AWAY) You have always been the prepared one Eli. And we have all always loved you for it. And I know it bothers you that our staunchly Conservative temple has swung into the Reform realm like a boss.

ELI

(LOOKING AT ABE WITH HIS HANDS SLIGHTLY OUT TO HIS SIDES)
Really?...

ABRAHAM

What??...(AS THERE IS NO IMMEDIATE REACTION HE CONTINUES) Eli, even you may have to admit that we all come to the Lord in our own way. And even you, as our spiritual leader, may have to allow us..God's children..the freedom, and the opportunity to do so.

ELI

So we are to just do whatever we want? Is that what you are saying?

ABRAHAM

You seem unusually uptight about this part of the subject Eli - what else is on your mind?

ELI

(SIGHING ABDICATINGLY) Ahh...It's Rachel.

ABRAHAM

Wait, I thought you two were getting along--

ELI

We are...it's just that they are..as well..you know?--

ABRAHAM

(PAUSES THEN REALIZES) Ooohh...You think she has feelings for this kid?..

ELI

(SIGHS) It's just the way she looks at him...I just know my daughter--

ABRAHAM

Oh..Snap!

ELI REACTING TO THE COMMENT. GLARES AT ABE AGAIN WITH HIS HANDS OUT TO HIS SIDES.

ELI

Must you...!?

ABRAHAM

(PAUSES) What? (PAUSES AGAIN) Okay. Okay. I know we are talking about your baby girl. But I'm a bit confused...right now, I am assuming you are questioning how you should handle your current Isaiah situation?

SOMEWHAT EXASPERATED ELI PUTS HIS HEAD IN HIS HAND

ABRAHAM (CONT'D)
 I'll take that as a 'yes' also
 (CHUCKLING AND PAUSING AGAIN)
 Well...my answer is the same then.
 That our Bnai Mitzvah, and our
 relationship with God means
 something slightly different to all
 of us. This is not a 12-year-old
 kid...who, if you ask him what his
 religion means to him, the only
 thing that ever goes through his
 mind at that age, is how to get his
 first date...

ELI SHOOTS ANOTHER LOOK AT ABE FOR THAT REMARK. AND SHAKES
 HIS HEAD.

ABRAHAM (CONT'D)
 (REACTING LIKE HE MIGHT HAVE
 CROSSED A LINE) Maybe I should
 rephrase. Okay...(REPHRASING)
 Although he is not a grizzled
 veteran, this is a young man who
 has seen a little bit of life.
 Maybe a little more than most young
 men his age..

THIS COMMENT DOESN'T ACTUALLY SIT WELL WITH ELI EITHER, AS HE
 JUST STARES AT ABE.

ABRAHAM (CONT'D)
 (JOKING, SHOWING SOME CONTRITION
 FOR THE COMMENT) Well, at least
 I'll be nice and cool in this hole
 I seem to be digging. (SMILING AND
 HOLDING HIS HAND UP) My bad..Rabbi.

ELI BARELY ACKNOWLEDGES THIS HIP APOLOGY, JUST SHAKING HIS
 HEAD, BUT NOT LOOKING BACK AT ABE THIS TIME

ABRAHAM (CONT'D)
 Whatever. You want to know what
 this kid's Bnai Mitzvah means to
 him, or your daughter..for that
 matter? Ask him. As "leaders of our
 spiritual community", traditionally
 we can't expect to move Mount Sinai
 to us...Can we?

ELI SEEMS MORE PENSIVE WITH THIS NOTION, AND NOT AS
 FRUSTRATED.

ABRAHAM (CONT'D)
 But sometimes tradition itself has
 to move in order for us to progress
 Eli. It's not as though, back in
 the day, Judah was worshipping in a
 temple with a cordless microphone.
 (PAUSES) Did they fix that blessed
 thing by the way? (SMILES) Or is it
 it still squeaking like Mrs.
 Lipschutz during Oseh Shalom?

AT THIS, ABRAHAM DOES AN IMPRESSION OF MRS. LIPSCHUTZ
 SINGING, WHICH MAKES ELI LAUGH AND EMOTIONALLY PUT HIS HEAD
 IN HIS LEFT HAND. AS HE IS WELLING UP, HE CAN ONLY POINT AT
 ABRAHAM, AS IF TO SAY ONCE MORE..THAT HE IS SCARED FOR HIM.

ABRAHAM (CONT'D)
 (SMILES EMOTIONALLY) I know..you're
 worried..right? I get it..me too.
 (HOLDS HIS ARMS OUT FOR A HUG)
 Hey..come on, let's go - bring it
 in Big Man.

THEY BRO HUG A BIT AS ELI IS TEARING JUST A LITTLE MORE.

ABRAHAM (CONT'D)
 (AS THEY HUG)
 Okay....Alright....Did you lose
 weight?

**INT. - AN INTERIOR STUDY ROOM AT TEMPLE BNAI ELOHIM - LATER
 THAT AFTERNOON.**

BOTH DOORS ON EITHER SIDE OF THE STUDY ROOM ARE AJAR. ONE
 OPENS UP INTO THE LOBBY, AND THE OTHER INTO THE OFFICES WHERE
 BOTH RACHEL AND DAVID ARE WORKING. ISAIAH IS IN THE STUDY
 ROOM, FINISHING AN ASSIGNMENT FOR THE BNAI MITZVAH CLASS. HE
 IS WITH CALVIN, WHO HAS JUST ARRIVED TO PICK HIM UP. SUDDENLY
 ARI APPROACHES FROM THE LOBBY, AND KNOCKS ON THE OPEN DOOR.

ARI
 Isaiah?

ISAIAH
 Ari..my dog. What's up sir?

CALVIN
 (TO ARI) Wha's happening Little
 Man?

THEY ALL BUMP FISTS, AND SNAP OVER THEIR SHOULDER A LA FRESH
 PRINCE AND JAZZY JEFF.

ARI
(A BIT AWKWARDLY) Just
chillin'..like penicillin..Playas.

ISAIAH
(LAUGHS SOFTLY) I hear that.

ARI
Isaiah, can I maybe talk to you?

ISAIAH
Uhh..(REALIZING HIS ASSIGNMENT
DUTIES) Yeah okay...I just got to
make sure I finish this (POINTING
TO THE PAPER).

ARI
(SEEMING SELF-CONSCIOUS) Well..it's
kind of a private matter (NODDING
TOWARD CALVIN..IMPLYING HE WANTS TO
SPEAK TO ISAIAH ALONE)--

ISAIAH
Ohh...I feel you. Calvin, go write
something in the lobby Homes--

CALVIN
What? Aw man, (TO ARI) I give good
advice too Bruh...

ISAIAH
(RESPONDING FOR ARI) We know that
Cee, but my homey here wants to
handle his business with me..solo?
(LOOKS TO ARI FOR CONFIRMATION)--

RESPONDING TO ISAIAH, ARI NODS HIS HEAD IN AGREEMENT.

CALVIN
But--

ISAIAH
(INTERRUPTING AS IF REPRIMANDING A
BIT) Calvin?! You need to write
some lyrics anyway. You want me to
mix that song for you, right?
(PAUSES) Then do me solid and hit
the lobby!

CALVIN
(SOFTLY AS HE EXITS THE ROOM) Can't
believe you dissin' me like
this...that's cold..

ISAIAH
Yeah..well it's much warmer in the
lobby..(SHAKES HIS HEAD SMILING)

CALVIN EXITS AND SHUTS THE DOOR..BUT NOT ALL THE WAY, SO HE
CAN EAVESDROP.

ISAIAH (CONT'D)
Alright, we got to make this
quick...what's up?

ARI
Well I may have a little
situation--

ISAIAH
(INTERRUPTING) Ari! - did you do
something to get into trouble
dude?! (KIND OF SMILING)

ARI
No..no..its nothing like that. It's
a..social issue..

ISAIAH
(REALIZING) Oohh...Ari, is this
about a girl?!

ARI
Well (KIND OF SMILING
SHYLY)..Yeah..

ISAIAH
(SMILING SUPPORTIVELY) Ari-
rizzle!...

THE WAY ISAIAH SAYS THIS, IT MAKES ARI BLUSH A BIT.

ISAIAH (CONT'D)
Okay Playah, what's the deal?

ARI
(SIGHS) Well..I am around a lot of
Jewish girls, so I am much more
comfortable with them...but..

ISAIAH
(INTERRUPTING GENTLY, ANTICIPATING
THE ISSUE) Ahhh...and you think
because I have been around
more..Gentile ladies than maybe you
have, I've got more of an idea of
how to relate?

ARI SHRUGS HIS SHOULDERS AND NODS IN AGREEMENT.

ISAIAH (CONT'D)
Well..seeing as we up against the
clock..(THINKS IT THROUGH QUICKLY)
Okay,now...this is just my opinion,
alright? (ARI NODS)

ISAIAH (CONT'D)
Okay, well I wouldn't be worrying
about the cultural issues Dog..not
at this point in your career
sir...You really like this girl?

ARI
(PAUSES TO SAVOR THE THOUGHT)
Yeah..(SMILES)

ISAIAH
And you think she is digging on you
too?

ARI
I think so..Yeah..

ISAIAH
Aight well..then I would just do
two simple things dude. One..Don't
'front' on this girl. You don't
want to start off like that...you
know what I mean when I say you
'frontin'?

EVEN THOUGH HE MIGHT HAVE HEARD THAT TERM BEFORE, ARI SHAKES
HIS HEAD NO.

ISAIAH (CONT'D)
Just be yourself Ari. Very
difficult to stay in a relationship
trying to be someone you're not.
You feel me?

UNDERSTANDING TOTALLY, ARI NODS AND SMILES

ISAIAH (CONT'D)
Secondly, and this can happen,
especially early on. If things get
awkward, and the vibe seems to cool
off or get weird...Just make sure
you try to make her feel
comfortable. Ask about her.
(MORE)

ISAIAH (CONT'D)
 (GIGGLES A BIT) Sometimes this can backfire on you..but if you remember to make less of your conversations about you, and more about her...If she's genuine, she will notice that. And if she asks about you in return (SMILES AND SIGHS) well then she might be totally cool...you feelin' me?--
 Alright Prime Time--(SMILES AGAIN AS HE FIST BUMPS ARI AGAIN)--

SUDDENLY INTERRUPTING FROM OUTSIDE THE DOOR, CALVIN BURSTS INTO THE ROOM, AS HE HAS BEEN LISTENING IN THE WHOLE TIME.

CALVIN
 And if that don't work, just bust off a mad rhyme about her Bruh!--

ISAIAH
 (INTERJECTING) No..Ari..listen to me Man - Do not bust off a mad rhyme about her, at least until you're sure she's ready for that, dude!

CALVIN
 (TAKING ISSUE) Come on Ize..you know the honeys can't resist when I'm bringin' it on the mic--

ISAIAH
 Is that right?--Just exactly which honeys are we talking about?

CALVIN
 What's that supposed to mean Ize? I been kickin' it with a lotta honeys man--

ISAIAH
 Yo the only kickin' I've been seeing is you..to the curb homey--

CALVIN
 Aww man that is coldest son, when did you get so cold?

ISAIAH
 I'm just being real Cee - seriously, when was the last time you had a date?

CALVIN

That's it Man..now why you gotta bring that up? (PUTS HIS HANDS UP)..It ain't down with this bruh..I'm going to go wait in the car, 'cause your attitude is (POINTING ONCE) Whack! (STARTS TO WALK AWAY THEN COMES BACK AND POINTS AND SAYS IT A SECOND TIME) Whack!! (THEN LEAVES THE FRAME COMPLETELY ONLY TO COME BACK AND POINT AGAIN..A FULL THREE SECONDS LATER)

CALVIN (CONT'D)

Whack!! (THEN LEAVES THE FRAME AGAIN)

BOTH ISAIAH AND ARI LAUGH TO EACH OTHER. THEN THEY REALIZE CALVIN IS NOT MAKING A FOURTH TRIP.

ISAIAH

Okay Ari-ri..you have to get up on out of here because I..have to finish this work, and then go get my ride on with Romeo..

ARI LAUGHS, GETS UP, AND FISTS BUMPS ISAIAH ONE MORE TIME.

ARI

Thanks Ize (SMILES)--

ISAIAH

Do what you do..Playah (SMILES BACK)

ARI EXITS. ISAIAH SMILES TO HIMSELF, THEN GETS BACK TO WORK.

INT. - STILL TEMPLE BNAI ELOHIM - MINUTES LATER. IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES.

RACHEL AND DAVID HAVE BEEN WORKING AT BOTH DESKS. ISAIAH KNOCKS, AND THEN PREPARES TO COME THROUGH THE DOOR FROM THE STUDY ROOM WITH HIS FINISHED ASSIGNMENT. DAVID, WHO STEPPED OUT TO RETRIEVE SOMETHING FROM HIS CAR, IS COMING IN FROM THE LOUNGE AREA. HE DOUBLES BACK TO STAY OUT OF SIGHT AND EAVESDROP.

RACHEL

Come in!

ISAIAH OPENS THE DOOR AND ENTERS THE OFFICE.

ISAIAH
Hey Ray..what's happening? (SMILES)

RACHEL
(SMILES SEMI-AFFECTIONATELY) Hey
you--

ISAIAH
Just turning in this extra
assignment. Cantor Abraham said it
wasn't totally necessary, but would
be (*DOES A CREDIBLE AND RESPECTFUL
ABE IMPERSONATION) "an interesting
extra 'cred' exercise".

RACHEL
(LAUGHS AT THE IMPRESSION)..And was
he right?

ISAIAH
Yeah..he was. Hey...have you heard
anymore about how he is doing?

RACHEL
(SIGHS) Only that he still has to
be in the hospital.

ISAIAH
Oh man. Well I hope he gets to come
home soon--

RACHEL
(PLAYFULLY SARCASTIC) Are you not
enjoying your new substitute
teachers?

ISAIAH
(KNOWINGLY) Well Cantor Abraham is
the bomb. He's a tough act to
follow, but Rabbi David is cool.
(SMILES)

RACHEL
(BEING COY ABOUT HER NEW TEMPORARY
ROLE) You mean you're not vibing
with the other substitute?
(SMILING)

ISAIAH
(LAUGHS SOFTLY) Well like I said,
there is more than one type of
vibing..

RACHEL
 (SMILES THEN CHANGES THE SUBJECT)
 Hey, I know you gotta go, but
 before you do..I wanted
 to...well...thank you.

ISAIAH
Thank me..for what?

RACHEL
 First, for being so cool to me that
 first day of the group
 project...But really for being so
 nice to Ari--(POINTING AND
 EXPLAINING HOW SHE HEARD)..The door
 was open, and I heard all the
 advice you gave him. That was very
 kind of you...(SMILES SWEETLY)

ISAIAH
 (SMILES BACK) I like Ari..He is a
 good kid.

RACHEL
 Well he really likes you too..and
 your friend Calvin.

ISAIAH NODS HIS HEAD AND LAUGHS GENTLY.

RACHEL (CONT'D)
 He's obviously never had a brother.
 And I think he really..well..likes
 the vibe he gets from you.--

ISAIAH
 (INTERRUPTING AND LAUGHING GENTLY
 AGAIN) There is that word again--

RACHEL
 Am I using it wrong?--

ISAIAH
 No no..you basically got it right--

RACHEL
 I know..I know..you'll explain the
 other type of vibing to me one
 day--(SMILES MILDLY AFFECTIONATELY)

ISAIAH
 Yeah (AGAIN LOOKING INTO HER
 EYES..A BIT SMITTEN AGAIN)
 Yeah..for sure...
 (MORE)

ISALIAH (CONT'D)
 (BREAKING THE MOOD SLIGHTLY) Well,
 I gotta roll..

ISALIAH STARTS TO LEAVE, WHEN RACHEL PUTS OUT HER FIST TO GET
 IT BUMPED.

ISALIAH (CONT'D)
 (RECOGNIZES) Oh..that's right..
 (THEY BUMP FISTS) Teammate--

RACHEL
 See you in class..

THEY SMILE AT EACH OTHER ONE MORE TIME. ISALIAH EXITS. AND
 THEN, AS IF ON CUE, RACHEL, WHO HAS RECOGNIZED THAT DAVID HAS
 BEEN LISTENING FROM IN THE LOUNGE, SPEAKS UP.

RACHEL (CONT'D)
 (STILL LOOKING DOWN AT HER
 PAPERWORK) You can come out now
 David..

DAVID RELUCTANTLY AND SHEEPISHLY APPEARS FROM THE LOUNGE.

RABBI DAVID
 (SIGHS AND PAUSES) Look..just for
 the record, I was not spying on
 you--

RACHEL
 Well, then what would you call it?
 (SARCASTICALLY) It takes two
 minutes to go your car get your
 precious Yad. So you have obviously
 been standing behind that wall the
 whole time.

RABBI DAVID
 Rachel, is that called for? You
 don't need to mock my
 sentimentality for a family
 heirloom--

RACHEL
 (NOT COMPLETELY APOLOGETIC) David,
 I'm sorry..I know how careful and
 how possessive you are with it, and
 how much it means to you. I am just
disappointed in your behavior.

REALIZING SHE HAS AN IRREFUTABLE POINT, DAVID RATIONALIZES.

RABBI DAVID

Rachel, he is a convicted felon--

RACHEL

(INTERRUPTING ABRUPTLY) He is not a felon. Because what he is apparently guilty of..is not a felony. Just a low level misdemeanor. I read the Mayor's memo. And I don't imagine that he got arrested for being drunk with his frat brothers in an abandoned hotel room when he was in college...David..Since we are finding fault here.

RABBI DAVID

Well he is your student Rachel, and you don't know much, if anything about this guy--

RACHEL

(INTERRUPTING ABRUPTLY AGAIN) He is Abe's student, I am just filling in...and he is a student of yours and my father's even more than he is Abraham's.

RABBI DAVID

But you--

RACHEL

(INTERRUPTING YET AGAIN) And I know enough about him to make my own judgements - thank you.

DAVID PAUSES JUST TO PONDER HIS NEXT COMMENT - BUT RACHEL CONTINUES.

RACHEL (CONT'D)

(PULLING SEVERAL EARLY IN-CLASS QUIZZES OUT OF A PILE) And speaking of judgements David, maybe you can explain your apparent inconsistency in grading these quizzes?

RABBI DAVID

What are you talking about?

RACHEL

Well I'm not really sure David, but I'd just like to know why you took points off for #6...

(MORE)

RACHEL (CONT'D)
Isaiah put "Jehovah", and you
marked it as wrong--

RABBI DAVID
(SIGHS) Well, like a lot of
Gentiles, he used the term
'Jehovah'. I believe we were
looking for 'Adonai'...the Hebrew
version.

THEY BOTH PAUSE, AS RACHEL SARCASTICALLY SHARPENS HER TONE.

RACHEL
Ohh - So that is why he got it
wrong...Really? (PAUSING AGAIN)
Well then why didn't you mark Jacob
as wrong (SHOWING HIM ALL OF THE
OTHER PAPERS), or Shelly as wrong,
or Jordan as wrong..or even Mrs.
Eisenman? They all put 'Jehovah' as
well David, and you didn't bother
correcting them! (REALLY
SARCASTICALLY) Why is that I
wonder?

RABBI DAVID
Well..(VERY EMBARRASSED AND
SIGHING) I'm sure it was just an
oversight..

DAVID LOOKS AT HER AND RACHEL STARES BACK STERNLY.

RACHEL
(WITH THE SAME SARCASM) Really..an
oversight?--

RABBI DAVID
You know Rachel, with all due
respect, you make it sound like it
really even matters for him. It's
not like he is a legitimate Bnai
Mitzvah student, he is here to
satisfy--

RACHEL
(INTERRUPTING AND FINISHING HIS
SENTENCE).. satisfy his community
service responsibilities, yes
David..very glad you are so aware
of that. But..are you aware that
his mother is actually legitimately
Jewish?

(MORE)

RACHEL (CONT'D)
 Or maybe he might have a genuine interest in being here?..Because his tuition was already paid in full. Did you know that?..Or that his family also made a large contribution to our Construction Project Fund?--

RABBI DAVID
 (TOTALLY EMBARRASSED NOW) Well no...I..I didn't know that--

RACHEL
 Oh - So if you did, you would have treated him more "appropriately"? Because..all of a sudden he is actually one of us??

DAVID
 Look Rachel, if I messed up, I didn't mean any disrespect toward him..(SIGHS AGAIN)..I just always feel like I am competing..

RACHEL
 Competing for what?--

RACHEL STOPS HERSELF SHORT..AS SHE SEES DAVID IS LOOKING AT HER LONGINGLY, AND REALIZES THE OBVIOUS.

RACHEL (CONT'D)
 Oh for Heaven's sake David...

RACHEL PICKS UP HER BELONGINGS TO LEAVE, AND STARTS TO WALK TOWARD THE DOOR.

RACHEL (CONT'D)
 Human beings are not like your Yad..(STOPPING AT THE DOOR BEFORE LEAVING) You can't just put them in a box, when you don't want anyone else around them!

DAVID
 Rachel...I'm sorry.--

RACHEL IS JUST ABOUT TO WALK OUT AND SHUT THE DOOR.

RACHEL
 (INTERRUPTING SHAKING HER HEAD)
 Just change the grade David...Good night (WALKS OUT).

RACHEL WALKS OUT, LEAVING DAVID SOMEWHAT DESPONDENT AND ASHAMED.

INT. - ONE OF TWO NEWMAN FAMILY VEHICLES - NEXT DAY - MID-MORNING.

ELI IS DRIVING, AND IS SECONDS FROM HIS DESTINATION, WHICH IS RACHEL'S MUSIC COLLEGE CAMPUS. HE HAS PLACED A CALL OVER THE CAR SPEAKER PHONE TO MIRIAM. THE NEWMAN CLAN IS HAVING TO MAKE DO WITH ONE AUTOMOBILE TODAY, BECAUSE ARI IS LOGGING CAR HOURS IN PREPARATION FOR TAKING HIS DRIVER'S TEST.

INT. - CUT TO THE OTHER FAMILY VEHICLE - SAME MOMENT.

ARI IS DRIVING AND AS HE IS, KANYE WEST'S 'ALL FALLS DOWN' PLAYS LOUDLY IN THE BACKGROUND. MIRIAM PICKS UP THE CALLS ON HER CONVENTIONAL PHONE SPEAKER.

MIRIAM
(USNG JUST HER PHONE'S SPEAKER -
THE MUSIC BEING SOMEWHAT LOUD) You
are dropping off Rachel's extra
flash drive she needs for class. I
guess she filled up the other one.

INT. - CUT IMMEDIATELY BACK TO ELI IN THE ORIGINAL FAMILY VEHICLE - AGAIN SAME MOMENT.

ELI
Miriam..I can barely understand
you, what is all that noise?

ARI (ON ELI'S SPEAKER)
(INTERJECTS TO APOLOGIZE) Sorry Dad
- I'm gettin my Yeezy on. I'll turn
it down.

ELI
Ari, yes please take it easy and
turn down your Yeezy for a moment.
(THE VOLUME LOWERS)

ARI (ON ELI'S SPEAKER)
(INTERJECTING EXCITED AND LAUGHING)
Hey Dad..you just busted off a mad
rhyme!?

ELI
(CONFUSED) I did what!?

ARI (ON ELI'S SPEAKER)
(REALIZING THE IMMEDIATE FUTILITY)
Nothing..

ELI
 (PAUSES THEN MOVES ON)
 Okay..Miriam, how exactly am I
 supposed to deliver this thing
 again?

**EXT. - THE MUSIC COLLEGE - SAME MOMENT, ELI'S CAR IN THE PAID
 PARKING LOT.**

AS MIRIAM STARTS TO DESCRIBE THE INSTRUCTIONS, ELI IS PULLING
 IN, AND GRABBING A TICKET AT THE GATE.

MIRIAM (ON ELI'S SPEAKER)
 Just GPS the address I texted you.
 You will unfortunately probably
 have to pay to go into the parking
 lot. But you're very early Eli, she
 still has about an hour and a half
 before she can see you--

ELI
 Well I can't stay that late Miriam,
 I have to get back to the Temple
 for a bit before I come back to
 pick her up. (PAUSING AS HE HAS
 PARKED) Alright, so now where do I
 go?

**EXT. - SAME DAY - THE MCGOVERN PRODUCTION AND PRACTICE
 BUILDING AT THE MUSIC COLLEGE.**

MIRIAM'S VOICE ON ELI'S SPEAKER PHONE IS STILL HEARD
 DESCRIBING IN FURTHER DETAIL, AS ELI, HAVING ALREADY GOTTEN
 OUT OF THE CAR, WALKS THROUGH THE BUILDING ENTRANCE TO BE
 GREETED BY A RECEPTIONIST.

MIRIAM (ON ELI'S SPEAKER)
 (STILL WITH AN UNDERCURRENT OF
 MUSIC PLAYING) You will continue
 until you get to the entrance to
 the McGovern Production And
 Practice Building. And then just go
 inside, and I was told someone
 would help you get the drive to
 Rachel.

ELI
 Okay..I'm here. And I think I've
 got it. Thank you for the
 directions. Miriam I love you.

MIRIAM (ON ELI'S SPEAKER)
 Okay Honey, I love you too. Bye.
 (THEY BOTH HANG UP)

INT. - QUICK CUT BACK TO THE CAR WITH ARI AND MIRIAM..THE MUSIC IS STILL SORT OF BLARING.

MIRIAM
You didn't you want to say goodbye
to your father?

ARI IS A LITTLE TOO BUSY SINGING ALONG TO THE MUSIC, BUT
HEARS MIRIAM SAY THIS. HE JUST THEN REALIZES A BIT TOO LATE.

ARI
(INTO MIRIAM'S PHONE) Oh Yeah...Bye
Dad!

MIRIAM
No..Ari!..he already hung up--

ARI
Well..I..I didn't know..

MIRIAM
Well how could you hear it...with
all this London Bridge Is Falling
Down noise in your ears?

ARI
London Bridge? Mom..

MIRIAM
(REALIZING SHE MIGHT HAVE
MISINTERPRETED) Well I don't
know..somebody's falling down..I
can't keep up with this stuff..

THIS SENDS ARI INTO GALES OF LAUGHTER..WHICH INSPIRES MIRIAM
TO LAUGH TOO.

**INT. - CUT BACK ONCE MORE TO THE ENTRANCE TO THE MCGOVERN
PRODUCTION AND PRACTICE BUILDING - AGAIN SAME DAY.**

ELI, HAVING COME THROUGH THE DOOR, APPROACHES THE RECEPTION
DESK.

RECEPTIONIST JESSICA
(NOT IMMEDIATELY LOOKING UP AT
FIRST) Good morning, Can I help
you?

ELI
Hello...yes, I am Eli Newman, my
daughter is Rachel Newman. I am
just here to drop this (SHOWS THE
DRIVE) off to her - is she
available?

RECEPTIONIST JESSICA

Oh, Rabbi Newman...! I'm Jessica Fishman, Rachel's friend..from high school? So nice to see you again!

ELI

Oh yes! Jessica...! I'm sorry I didn't recognize you, you are so grown up (SMILES) How are you?

RECEPTIONIST JESSICA

Well I am so happy to be still getting to see Rachel every week. And by the way..looking at the schedule..she is in a voice lesson for the next hour or so. But if you leave that with me, I can promise to give it to her as soon as she gets out?

THINKING SINCE HE IS HAVING TO PAY FOR AT LEAST AN HOUR OF PARKING, ELI IS ABOUT TO SAY HE WILL HANG FOR AWHILE, AND GIVE IT TO HER HIMSELF...UNTIL HE SEES ISAIAH OUTSIDE THE BUILDING, COMING TOWARD THE ENTRANCE.

ELI

(SEES ISAIAH) Thank you Jessica...actually that would be great if you could do that. Listen, it was great seeing you again, please give my best to your family. (SMILES)

RECEPTIONIST JESSICA

I will Rabbi, it was so nice to see you too!

RIGHT AT THAT MOMENT, ISAIAH COMES THROUGH THE ENTRY DOOR.

ISAIAH

(RECOGNIZING ELI IMMEDIATELY) Rabbi Eli. How are you? What brings you here?

ELI

Hello Isaiah. Just here to drop something off for my daughter Rachel. But actually, I am delighted we have run into each other, as I wanted to see if we could talk just a little bit, if this is not a bad time?

ISAIAH IS THINKING THIS REQUEST IS NOT TOTALLY UNUSUAL, JUST MAYBE A LITTLE UNCOMFORTABLE. BUT BECAUSE HE ALSO DID GET PRIOR NOTICE FROM BEVERLY THAT IT MIGHT HAPPEN, HE ACCOMMODATES ELI.

ISAIAH
Well..Yeah..Okay. I am sharing a writing room for about the next two hours, but I've got some time before that. Follow me sir.

AS ISAIAH TAKES ELI FURTHER INTO THE BUILDING, JESSICA TURNS TO HER PHONE AND TEXTS RACHEL.

JESSICA
(TEXTING) 'Hey R...Just FYI, your dad just walked in with a flash drive for you. BUT he just asked Isaiah to have a talk with him. He is so cute, U sure ur not dating him ha ha? :)'

INT. - THE INSIDE OF RACHEL'S VOCAL LESSON ROOM - SAME MOMENT.

RACHEL IS TAKING A SIP OF BOTTLED WATER DURING A BREAK IN THE SESSION. WHEN SHE CHECKS HER PHONE AND GETS JESSICA'S TEXT, SHE SEEMS A BIT EMBARRASSED, AND A BIT THRILLED SIMULTANEOUSLY.

RACHEL
(TEXTING BACK) 'Will U stop with the gossip! Isaiah is just doing some work at the Temple 4 my father.'

JESSICA
(TEXTING AGAIN) 'You stop being coy GF, I know exactly why Isaiah is at Bnai El...You always did have a thing for the bad boys lol.'

RACHEL
(TEXTING BACK AGAIN) 'OMG Jess, please don't spread rumors. He is not like that at ALL! We all could have made the same mistake. He is actually a really sweet guy..'

JESSICA
(TEXTING ONCE MORE) 'I'll bet he is :)'

RACHEL
(TEXTING ONCE MORE BACK) 'Shut
UP.. :)'

**INT. - THE INSIDE OF ISAIAH'S PRODUCTION ROOM - MINUTES
LATER.**

THERE IS QUITE A BIT OF STUDIO EQUIPMENT PRESENT, AND CALVIN
IS ALREADY SITTING AT A STATION LISTENING TO A TRACK WITH
HEADPHONES ON, AND EATING TRAIL MIX. ISAIAH AND ELI ARE
ALREADY IN THE MIDST OF A CONVERSATION - DESPITE CALVIN, WHO
IS BEING KIND OF LOUD, UNAWARE OF HIS OWN 'HEADPHONE
SYNDROME' ANTICS.

ELI
..We just figured, along with the
Bnai program, to make sure the
judge knows that you will be
helping Ruth and Rachel with some
of the regular weekly events, after
classes. So I hope that's okay with
you?--

CALVIN, WHO IS STARTING TO GET A LITTLE MORE ACTIVE WITH HIS
HEADPHONES ON, SINGS OUT A LITTLE.

CALVIN
(LISTENING TO THE HEADPHONES)
Mmm..Yayess, That's what I'm
talking 'bout!

ISAIAH IS ABOUT TO BUMP CALVIN'S CHAIR WITH HIS HAND AND
MOTION HIM TO CHILL. BUT HE REFRAINS.

ISAIAH
Yes sir I understand, and that is
no problem...Ruth is really nice,
and Rachel is the bomb.

ELI
(PAUSES WITH A WRY SMILE) I am
assuming that is a compliment--

ISAIAH
(A LITTLE EMBARRASSED, REALIZING HE
MIGHT HAVE SEEMED TO CROSS A LINE)
Uhh..Yessir, I mean that in a very
respectful way. Rachel is..a really
cool person.

AT THIS POINT, CALVIN NOTICES ISAIAH AND ELI A BIT MORE
OBVIOUSLY. HE GREETES THEM ENTHUSIASTICALLY BUT LOUDLY, AS HE
CAN'T MANAGE THE LEVEL IN HIS HEADPHONES.

CALVIN
(LOUDLY TO ISAIAH) Hey Ize! (LOUDLY
TO ELI) Whoa, what's happening
Reverend? (SMILES)

ISAIAH
(CORRECTING CALVIN) Cee..How many
times do I gotta tell you, he is
not a Reverend..And stop yelling,
man..

CALVIN IS BUSY CLEANING TRAIL MIX FROM HIS TEETH, SO HE
NOTICES THAT ISAIAH SAID SOMETHING, BUT HE IS NOT REALLY
UNDERSTANDING. PRIMARILY BECAUSE THE HEADPHONES HAVE STAYED
ON HIS EARS PRETTY MUCH THE WHOLE TIME.

CALVIN
(REALIZING AND FINALLY TAKING ONE
EARPHONE OFF) Oh Man - was I being
too loud?..My bad. (SOFTER TO ELI)
Do you need me need me to do some
Hail Marys or something Rev? Ha ha!

CALVIN PUTS HIS HAND UP FOR A HIGH FIVE FROM ELI--

ISAIAH
(GENTLY PULLING CALVIN'S HAND BACK
DOWN, GETTING A BIT MORE ANNOYED)
Calvin It's Rabbi!..Not
Reverend!..Now just chill out,
aight?

CALVIN
Yeah...yeah..cool..(PUTS HIS HAND
UP VERY SLIGHTLY)..Sorry Boss.

CALVIN RETURNS TO WORKING WITH THE HEADPHONES ON ONE EAR AND
HALFWAY ON THE OTHER.

ISAIAH
(TO ELI) Sorry about that sir.

ELI
(CHUCKLING REFERRING TO ISAIAH'S
EARLIER REVEREND COMMENT) Not an
issue..I understand.(SMILES)

ELI THEN RETURNS TO THE SUBJECT AT HAND.

ELI (CONT'D)
Anyway, it is just that this way, I
guess the judge and probation
officer will be completely
satisfied with that..as your
community service portion.

ISAIAH NODS AS ELI THEN NOTICES THE WEATHERED STAR OF DAVID
AROUND ISAIAH'S NECK. AND DECIDES TO EXPLORE THAT TOPIC.

ELI (CONT'D)
May I say, that is a very nice Star
Of David. Looks like it has been
around for a long time..No?

ISAIAH
(HOLDING IT BRIEFLY) Thanks...it
was my cousin's. His name was
Israel.

ELI
(NOT HAVING REALIZED..SINCERELY) Oh
yes. I..heard about him. I am very
sorry.

ISAIAH
(GETTING JUST A BIT EMOTIONAL)
Thanks..(PAUSES AS IF TO
CONTEMPLATE WHETHER TO SHARE) you
know..it's weird. But when I put it
on..I feel...(WELLING UP JUST A
TINY BIT)

ELI
(FINISHING THE SENTENCE FOR
ISAIAH)..Somehow maybe closer to
him..

ISAIAH
(RELIEVED ELI GETS IT) Yeah--

ELI
And maybe closer to his spirit?..

ISAIAH
(LITTLE MORE RELIEVED) Yeah!--

ELI
That's completely understandable.
Some in the Jewish religion would
say..that is your faith talking
(SMILES A BIT), and some would say
his spirit is still with you.
(MORE)

ELI (CONT'D)
Then, others might say..that the
emotion you feel is merely
you..just missing your cousin.

ISAIAH
(TRYING IN VAIN NOT TO
SHED A TEAR)
How do you know which one is right?

ELI
That young man, is a very good
question. As a Rabbi, I am supposed
to tell you that you will find your
answers in the scripture. But I'm
also a human being, and sometimes I
think it may be found also inside
all of us. I think it is whichever
answer feels right for you here--
(POINTING TO HIS HEART)

ELI, REALIZING THE SITUATION IS GETTING VERY EMOTIONAL FOR
ISAIAH AND REACHES OUT TO GENTLY PUT HIS HAND ON ISAIAH'S
SHOULDER.

ELI (CONT'D)
Son, I apologize. I did not mean to
upset you..Forgive me--

ISAIAH
(COLLECTING HIMSELF ALSO REALIZING
THE SITUATION) No no it's
okay...it's cool..

ELI
(LOOKING STRAIGHT AT ISAIAH)
Okay..good.

ELI TAKES HIS HAND AWAY AND CHANGES THE SUBJECT AGAIN

ELI (CONT'D)
(LOOKING AT HIS WATCH) While I have
the chance, I have to ask..(AS HE
LOOKS AROUND) So you write and
produce music in these rooms?

ISAIAH
(EXHALES AND CHANGING GEARS TOO)
Uhh..yeah.

ELI
And is it mostly...Rap Music, kind
of like what he (POINTING TO
CALVIN) is listening to?

ISAIAH

(POLITELY) Uhh..yes and no - Well,
first of all that song (POINTING TO
THE IPAD IN FRONT OF CALVIN) also
has some cool singing on it. But we
like to try to write a lot of
different types of songs--

ELI

And you use words
and..colloquialisms..from your own
experiences for your lyrics?--

ISAIAH

(ECHOING ELI'S PREVIOUS SENTIMENT)
Now that's a great question.

THEY BOTH SMILE, THEN ISAIAH CONTINUES THE TOPIC.

ISAIAH (CONT'D)

Well..I mean if I asked you to give
me a phrase or two you might use
during the day - what would it be?

ELI

(PAUSING TO THINK, BUT GAME FOR THE
CHALLENGE) Well..as a Rabbi, I say
things like 'Live and be well'
quite a bit...and 'the Lord be with
you'--

ISAIAH

'And also with you'..

ELI

(LAUGHS RECOGNIZING THE IRONY)
Common ground I guess?..

STARTING TO CONNECT BETTER, THEY BOTH SMILE AGAIN.

ELI (CONT'D)

Anyway, the other thing is..a lot
of the phrases I use are in
Hebrew--

ISAIAH

See now, that is so cool..I love
that. (TAKES A PEN OUT OF HIS
NOTEBOOK) Is there an everyday
phrase that comes to mind right
now..like a Hebrew phrase?
(RECOGNIZING AN OPPORTUNITY)

ELI

Actually, now that you mention it.. and it is especially appropriate for prospective Bnai Mitzvot like yourself. (SMILES) It is Hadran Alaich...Hadran Alaich. You would say it respectfully to your mentors when your training is finished. It means basically 'I will return one day to you my Teacher...'

ISAIAH

(TRYING TO WRITE IT DOWN AS BEST HE CAN) Ohh that is very cool--

ELI MOVES OVER..GENTLY VOLUNTEERING TO ISAIAH TO WRITE THE WORDS OUT FOR HIM, IN FRONT OF HIM.

ELI

(WRITING) Here is how it is written in Hebrew...And yes I am writing right to left. And then this how (WRITING AGAIN) it would be phonetically spelled in English (FINISHES BOTH FOR ISAIAH ON HIS PAPER).

ISAIAH

(LOOKING AT THE PAPER..AND THEN AT ELI) Thank you Rabbi--

ELI

Ah, you're welcome. (THINKS OF SOMETHING AS HE PAUSES) Well now, is there a phrase you could share with me...if you and I are just saying 'see you soon, or 'so long for now'?

ISAIAH

Well..yeah sure. I would probably just say something simple like (PUTS HIS HAND UP TO WAVE) 'Holla!'

ELI

(PAUSING CONFUSED SLIGHTLY) 'Challah'?!'

ISAIAH

Yeah 'Holla'..

ELI

You mean...bread?

ISAIAH
Wait..bread..like (SAYING IT A BIT
LOUDER) money!?

CALVIN
(STILL MOSTLY LISTENING TO THE
TRACK ON HIS HEADPHONES, BUT
HALFWAY PICKS UP THE CONVERSATION)
No you money Ize!..(NOTICING ELI
AGAIN) You too Rev! This track is
hot! (GOES BACK TO LISTENING)

ISAIAH
(TURNING TO CALVIN TO REPEAT THE
EARLIER CORRECTION) It's Rabbi!!
Not Reverend!! (TURNING BACK TO
ELI) sorry about that again..

CALVIN, WINCES, REALIZING HE BOTCHED IT AGAIN. HE PUTS HIS
HAND UP TO WAVES HIS APOLOGY TO ELI AND ISAIAH.

ELI
(SMILING AGAIN) No problem, it
happens...So challah is a very
sacred type of bread in the Jewish
religion. It is enjoyed at many
events, including Bnai Yiraelim and
Bnai Mitzvot. Again, phonetically
we would spell it C-H-A-L-L-A-H..

ISAIAH
Ohhhh (LAUGHING AND REALIZING)
no..no..when said 'Holla' I meant
Holler..as in H-O-L-L-E-R. Kinda
like I would shout to you. But we
use it as if to say 'Call Me' or
'We Will Talk Soon'--

ELI
Ahhhhh..I see.--

CALVIN
(INTERRUPTING) Yo Ize..(BUT THEN
REALIZING HE IS) whoa sorry again
man. But this track is so fire
dude--

FASCINATED BY CALVIN'S ADJECTIVE, ELI REPEATS IT SOFTLY

ELI
Fire?

CALVIN
(NOTICING ELI CHIMING IN) Straight
up Father--

ISAIAH SHAKES HIS HEAD AND ROLLS HIS EYES, BUT CALVIN DOESN'T
NOTICE ISAIAH'S REACTION, STILL CONCENTRATING ONLY ON THE
LYRIC SHEET HE IS CREATING.

CALVIN (CONT'D)
Ize..I think I got some mad lyrics
for the end of the bridge Boss..

CALVIN THEN NOTICES ISAIAH STARING AT HIM, BECAUSE HE KEEPS
CALLING ELI 'REVEREND' OR 'FATHER'.

CALVIN (CONT'D)
...What?

ELI ALSO NOTICES THE REPEAT OFFENSE, BUT MOVES ON QUICKLY.

ELI
Not to interrupt, But will you be
playing that song he (POINTING AT
CALVIN) is listening to on the big
speakers anytime soon? And if so,
may I listen as well, before I go?

ISAIAH ABANDONS CALVIN'S TRANSGRESSIONS FOR THE MOMENT.
PARTIALLY BECAUSE HE IS FULLY AWARE THE REQUESTED TRACK MIGHT
BE SCRUTINIZED FOR OTHER 'RACHEL BASED' REASONS.

ISAIAH
Uhh Yeah...absolutely. We can make
that happen. Calvin, go ahead and
switch that track to the mains.

THE TRACK BEGINS THROUGH THE MAIN SPEAKERS. IT IS A
CONTEMPORARY R&B/GOSPEL TYPE SOMG WITH A MALE VOICE AS THE
MAIN LEAD, AND A MALE/FEMALE CHOIRED HARMONY BACKGROUND
VOCALS. AND THEN THE FAMILIAR TONE OF A SOLO FEMALE SINGER IS
HEARD SOULFULLY RIFFING OVER THE MELODY. THE OBVIOUS IS NOT
LOST ON ELI, AS HE RECOGNIZES THE FEMALE VOICE BEING
RACHEL'S. THE TRACK SOON ENDS.

CALVIN
Ize, that track is bangin'..

ELI
(AFTER RECOGNIZING RACHELS VOICE
AND ANXIOUS TO LEAVE) Assuming that
banging is a good thing, I would
agree...for whatever that is worth.

ELI STANDS UP, PAUSES, AND SMILES AT BOTH ISAIAH AND CALVIN.

ELI (CONT'D)
 Well, I will leave you two to your business. I want to thank you so much for your time Isaiah, (HOLDING OUT HIS HAND) I very much appreciate it. (SHAKES HIS HAND)
 See you at the Temple. (TO CALVIN)
 Calvin? (SHAKES HIS HAND SMILING) A pleasure.

ISAIAH WATCHES ELI LEAVE, HAVING MORE ADMIRATION FOR HIM THAN WHEN HE STARTED. BUT NOW HE IS ALSO WONDERING WHETHER ELI RECOGNIZED RACHEL'S VOICE ON THE TRACK, AS CALVIN CONTINUES TO WRITE LYRICS IN THE BACKGROUND.

EXT. - THE LOCAL HIGHER END SUPERMARKET - SAME DAY AND TIME.

ARI AND MIRIAM ARE STILL IN THE CAR, BUT NOW KANYE WEST'S "THROUGH THE WIRE" BLASTING ON THE CAR SPEAKERS, AS THEY PULL INTO THE SUPERMARKET PARKING LOT. GINA DESALVO, WHO IS ACTUALLY ONE OF THE PART-TIME MARKET EMPLOYEES, IS HELPING AN ELDERLY LADY PUT GROCERIES INTO HER CAR. GINA NOTICES THE HIP-HOP MUSIC FROM A DISTANCE IN THE LOT, SAYS HER GOODBYES TO THE ELDERLY LADY, AND TURNS TO WALK BACK INTO THE STORE ENTRANCE. SHORTLY AFTER, ARI AND MIRIAM EXIT THEIR VEHICLE. ARI IS FLIPPING THE CAR KEYS CONFIDENTLY, AS THEY BOTH ALSO HEAD INTO THE MARKET ENTRANCE.

MIRIAM
 (AS THEY BOTH ENTER AND MIRIAM GRABS A SHOPPING CART) Ari? Don't wander off too far, I only need to get a few things. As a matter of fact, why don't you go get that mustard you and Dad like, and I will meet you back here at the register?

ARI
 Okay Mom..

AS IT TURNS OUT, THE AISLE WITH THE MUSTARD WAS IN THE CENTER/FRONT OF THE STORE, SO IT IS EASY FOR ARI TO SECURE IT. HE STARTS TO APPROACH THE REGISTER AREA, AND HE AND GINA RECOGNIZE EACH OTHER. SHE IS NOW HELPING FUNNEL THE SPARSE AMOUNT OF CUSTOMERS TO OPEN REGISTERS.

GINA
 Hey Ari! (SMILING)

ARI
 Hey Gina! (ALSO SMILING AND MUSTERING A SENTENCE THIS TIME) I didn't know you worked here?

GINA

Yeah, just a couple days a week..

ARI

Well that's cool. This is my favorite supermarket (PAUSING BUT COMING UP WITH A CHEESY BUT SUAVE COMMENT) now I know why (SMILES)

GINA

Aww you're so sweet. (SMILES BACK)

ARI

(NOTICING HER EARBUDS) What are you listening to?

GINA

Just some Adele..a little Justin Bieber, and then a little Kanye--

ARI

Whoa, you like Kanye too? That's awesome!

GINA

Wait..was that you pulling in with "Through The Wire" blasting really loud?

ARI

(LAUGHS) Yeah, I figured if I'm gonna be driving my Mom around, maybe she'll let me play what I want. I don't think she liked it that much though..

GINA

Oh that's so nice that you drive your Mom--

ARI

Well, to be honest, I need the hours...To pass my drivers test--

GINA

OMG Ari, that's coming up for me, and I'm really nervous about it--

ARI

Gina you shouldn't worry! It's not that hard..really..I'm sure you'll do great!

GINA
You are so sweet! (PAUSES) Well
I've got to get back to work..Maybe
I'll see you later? (SMILES)

ARI
Yeah, that'd be great! (SMILES
BACK)

GINA
Okay..Bye!

ARI PUTS HIS HAND UP TO WAVE, AS HE SNIFFS THE AIR AS GINA
WALKS AWAY.

ARI
(TRANSFIXED) Bye!

NOT TOTALLY AWARE OF HIS SURROUNDINGS, ARI REALIZES THAT
MIRIAM IS CALLING HIS NAME.

MIRIAM
Ari...(PAUSE) Ari...!

FINALLY REALIZING HIS MOM IS SUMMONING HIM, HE TURNS TOWARD
HER.

ARI
Yeah Mom??

MIRIAM
(SMILING KNOWINGLY) Wherefore art
the mustard Romeo?

ARI
Sorry...(SHEEPISHLY WALKS OVER TO
HER AT THE REGISTER, AND HANDS HER
THE MUSTARD JAR) I got it
though..Here..

MIRIAM SMILES GENUINELY WHILE ARI DOES SO EMBARRASSINGLY.

INT. - THE NEWMAN HOUSEHOLD.

ELI IS ALREADY THERE, AND HE GREETES MIRIAM, ARI, AND..RACHEL,
WHOM THEY PICKED UP ON THE WAY HOME.

ELI
(AS HE IS CHECKING THROUGH THE
MAIL) Hey everyone...How was the
driving practice?

ARI

It was good Dad..we brought you
some dinner (SMILES)

RACHEL

I think Ari is really ready for
this test. He is definitely even
more conscientious than before.

ELI

Really?

MIRIAM

Actually E, I have to agree. He is
so much better. Although he could
turn the music down a little more--

ELI

What..? (TRYING TO BE HIP) You mean
Mr. Yeezy isn't banging?

ARI

Wow Dad..you almost got that right.

ELI

I did? What did I miss?

ARI RESPONDS, TRYING TO THINK OF AN EXCUSE TO GET OUT OF
EXPLAINING SO HE CAN GO AND TEXT GINA.

ARI

Can I tell you later Dad?
(PAUSING), I've got to go do my
homework..

ELI

Homework? Yeah..sure--

ARI LEAVES ELI, MIRIAM, AND RACHEL IN THE KITCHEN AREA TO GO
UPSTAIRS TO HIS ROOM.

RACHEL

(HAVING AN EVENTUAL SIMILAR IDEA TO
TEXT ISAIAH) Actually I've got a
lot of work too..so I'm going to
turn in--

ELI

Well, Rachel..speaking of music,
before you go - I need to talk to
you about something..

RACHEL

What is it Daddy?

ELI

I know you understand the commitment you have made to your religion by being a Jew. But are you maintaining that same commitment with your decision to be a Cantor?

RACHEL

Daddy, why would you ask me that?--

MIRIAM

(INTERJECTING INQUISITIVELY) Yes Eli..why would you ask her that?

ELI

Miriam, I am not instigating an argument here. There is traditional Jewish custom that prohibits an ordained Cantor from singing melodies containing subject matter contrary to Jewish ideology--

RACHEL

What are you getting at Daddy?

ELI

If I asked you if you were singing such contrary material, would you have something to tell me?

RACHEL

No would not have anything to tell you. There is a group project I am working on at school yes..but it is not sacrilegious--

MIRIAM

E..What is this all about?

ELI

(TO MIRIAM BUT LOOKING AT RACHEL)
By being at the Music College today, I had the opportunity to visit and talk with Isaiah at his studio. (TO RACHEL) Did you think I would not recognize my own daughter's voice on that song?

RACHEL

Daddy, I was just asked to sing one or two lines - It is no big deal--

ELI

No big deal?? Is this the kind of image you wish to portray as a Cantor, let alone a Jew before the Lord?

RACHEL

And just what kind of image is that Daddy? I've even heard Abraham say "There are many ways to communicate musically with God"--

ELI

Not for a real Jew at a real synagogue.

RACHEL

Wow...First David, and now you? (FRUSTRATED) Daddy, what is a real Jew? Is Cantor Abraham not a real Jew because he listens to, and even celebrates secular music? Is Isaiah not a real Jew because he writes secular music, or because he is from a non-traditional background...or is it just because he is a darker complexion?!

ELI

That was uncalled for Rachel, I have never even implied that his background or ethnicity made any difference!

RACHEL

Well I certainly hope not..because I know you studied our history even more than I have, so you know that back in ancient times, our people looked a lot less like us, and a lot more like him--

ELI

(INTERRUPTING IN A STERN FATHERLY TONE) I am well aware of all of that Rachel. And like I said, none of that has ever been an issue. As a matter of fact, I happen to think Isaiah is very nice young man. But without prying too far into your personal business..which, to a point, I think I even have a right as a father, to ask you about...

(MORE)

ELI (CONT'D)

My actual concern is for your spiritual well being. You make a commitment to your faith when you become a Cantor--

RACHEL

(MORE FRUSTRATED) I know that Daddy!

MIRIAM

Eli, with all due respect, you sound like you are you saying that you do not trust your own daughter?

ELI

Look..(PAUSING) Yes, she has been spending quite a bit of time with this young man. And yes, as her father, of course I have questions...but Miriam, once again, I am also a Rabbi. So if I see her heading in a questionable spiritual direction, - as I am assuming those two roles..Yes, I think I have a right to ask.

MIRIAM

E..there is asking..And then there is interrogating. So I will ask you again, do you not trust your daughter Rachel?

ELI

It is not that I do not trust her, I do not always trust everyone around her--

RACHEL

(EXTREMELY FRUSTRATED) Daddy - Isaiah has always treated me very well, and very respectfully. And if you are asking me whether I will continue to see him, and work with him..the answer is "Yes"--

ELI

So he is more than just a friend?

RACHEL

So what if he is? Would that be so wrong? (SARCASTICALLY) It's not like he is not Jewish--

ELI
Technically that is true--

MIRIAM
 And technically, we are not
 Christians either Eli..

ELI
 What's that supposed to mean
 Miriam?

MIRIAM
 Well, you must think, Isaiah's
 parents might have reservations
 about him getting involved with
 Rachel as well..because of our
 religious differences.

ELI
 Nonsense - The scriptures clearly
 describe Jews as "The Chosen
 People"..We should be welcome
 everywhere--

MIRIAM
 Wow...now who is making judgments?
 Daddy I love you, but I just cannot
 talk to you right now. Especially
 when you are like this. You're just
 so impossible sometimes--(STARTS TO
 WALKS AWAY)

ELI
 Impossible? - Rachel?!

ELI IS ABOUT TO CALL OUT HER NAME AGAIN, BUT REALIZES THE
 ARGUMENT IS OSTENSIBLY OVER ANYWAY. SO HE SOFTENS, AS SHE IS
 ALREADY UPSTAIRS.

ELI (CONT'D)
 (SARCASTICALLY) I love you too..

MIRIAM SMILES AS SHE IS AMUSED AT THE UNMISTAKABLE WARMTH
 AMIDST THE TUMULTUOUS DIALOGUE.

MIRIAM
 So what was this music she was
 singing?

ELI
 Isaiah's music I think. I guess he
 commissioned her to sing in one of
 his songs--

MIRIAM

Well..she did say they were in a group project together. Maybe that was it.

ELI

You know what? Actually..she did say that, didn't she? Good point Miriam--

MIRIAM

(SEMI-SARCASTIC) Oh well thank you Rabbi...

THERE IS A PAUSE AS ELI SHAKES HIS HEAD AT THIS COMMENT.

MIRIAM (CONT'D)

Well...Was it good, I mean did you like it?

ELI

Miriam, our daughter has a beautiful voice.(PAUSES) Yes, it was..well..I believe the term I heard was "fire"

MIRIAM

"Fire"? (PAUSES) Somehow that doesn't sound positive to me--

ELI

I didn't think so either, but apparently it is..

MIRIAM

I'm sorry, I'm still curious...So was it...I don't know.."Funky"?

ELI

(A BIT SHOCKED) Miriam...what do you know about "Funky"?

MIRIAM

(A LITTLE EXASPERATED..SIGHS) Eli, the children have been listening to all sorts of music for years. And they have not all been Jewish songs...

ELI

(PAUSING, THEN REALIZING SOMETHING) Wait, you have been listening too?

MIRIAM
(SIGHS) Yes Eli..Me too.

ELI
Miriam!?

GENTLY TAKEN ABACK, ELI LOOKS AT HER, THEN PAUSES AS HE
REALIZES THE FUTILITY OF CONTINUING THE SUBJECT.

ELI (CONT'D)
Well..then I believe it was "Funky"
yes. (PAUSES) That's good..right?

MIRIAM ROLLS HER EYES, SHAKES HER HEAD, AND THEN SMILES AND
WAVES HIM OFF AFFECTIONATELY.

**INT. - STILL THE NEWMAN RESIDENCE - RACHEL'S ROOM MOMENTS
LATER.**

RACHEL IS RELAXING A BIT, BUT SHE THEN HAS CAUSE TO PICK UP
HER PHONE AND TEXT ISAIAH.

RACHEL (TEXTING)
Hey you.. :)

ISAIAH (TEXTING)
What's up Ray? :)

RACHEL (TEXTING)
I heard my father came to see you
today. I hope he wasn't too much..

ISAIAH (TEXTING)
No :) Not at all. He was really
cool actually.

RACHEL (TEXTING)
Really? I'm so glad to hear you say
that. Because sometimes I just feel
I have to automatically apologize
for him.

ISAIAH (TEXTING)
Oh yeah? Well then maybe I better
send you a written apology for my
father right now - just in case you
run into him one day :)

RACHEL (TEXTING)
Lol Really? I bet he can't be that
bad..

ISALIAH (TEXTING)

Well then, if I were you, I would only bet what you are prepared to lose Ray Ray ha ha..my father can be hard.

RACHEL (TEXTING)

Wow..okay. I will take your word for it. But I still say my dad's got skillz :)

ISALIAH (TEXTING)

Whoa..check you out! :)

RACHEL (TEXTING)

Hey, speaking of skillz, is there way you could help me with the production quiz terms tomorrow sometime? I know it's not a big part of our grade, but I want to do well on it.

ISALIAH (TEXTING)

For sure. And maybe you could help me with some Alef Beit characters that are confusing me?

RACHEL (TEXTING)

Deal! :)

ISALIAH (TEXTING)

Cool. What is your schedule like tomorrow?

RACHEL (TEXTING)

Well that's the problem. I am done tomorrow at 4:30, so I can only meet between then and when my dad picks me up at 6:00.

ISALIAH (TEXTING)

That actually works Ray. I am done with classes at 3:30, and then done tracking Laynie's guitar work on our tune at around 4:00. So I can come to you. Where will you be?

RACHEL (TEXTING)

Group Recital Practice..Rehearsal Room 12 in McGovern. Maybe we can go to The Cafe for some sushi?

ISAIAH (TEXTING)
Whoa..are we gettin' social now ha
ha

RACHEL (TEXTING)
Hey sorry, I don't mean to
presume..

ISAIAH (TEXTING)
No apology necessary Ray..I'm
down :)

RACHEL (TEXTING)
Kewl :) See you tomorrow :)

ISAIAH (TEXTING)
See U Ray :)

INT. - THE MUSIC COLLEGE. THE NEXT DAY - AFTERNOON.

ISAIAH AND CALVIN ARE FINISHING UP A MIX IN ONE OF THE MUSIC
ROOMS.

CALVIN
(TO ISAIAH) Hey..you looking pretty
dope Ize..Thought this was just
study session Boss (SMILES)

ISAIAH
(SMILING AND WORKING THE FADERS)
Cee will you stop trippin'..it is
just a study session.

CALVIN
Man!..Why you frontin'? Your hair's
perfect, you're chewin' gum, (GETS
CLOSER) and you got mad Aqu-
(SNIFFS)-a-(SNIFFS)-De-(SNIFFS)-
Gee-(SNIFFS)-Oh..happenin' (SMILES)

ISAIAH
(BURSTS OUT LAUGHING) Okay
bruh..I'm not gonna tell you I
don't think she's kinda fly..Aight?
I just ain't goin at Light Speed..
(SHUTS DOWN THE COMPUTER AND PICKS
UP HIS BACKPACK) Let's Bounce!

CALVIN
I feel you Dog...(IMPRESSION A LA
EDDIE MURPHY) Yes (SNIFFS) Oh yes -
The Force is definitely with you.

ISAIAH SHAKES HIS HEAD AND LAUGHS AS THEY BOTH EXIT THE MIXING ROOM.

INT. - REHEARSAL ROOM 12 IN THE MCGOVERN BUILDING.

RACHEL AND HER FELLOW VOICE CLASSMATES ARE PRACTICING A GROUP PART FOR A RECITAL, BUT SEEM TO BE STUCK ON A COMPLEX RESOLVE CHORD.

RACHEL
You guys, we have to get this down soon. This guy I have a class with is coming by any minute now, so we can go study.

JESSICA
Rachel, are you sure you're not dating this guy?

RACHEL
No! We are not "dating".

JESSICA
Well it sure seems that way..

ROBERTA
I think he goes to this school too, doesn't he?

BARBIE
He's one of those 'Pop Production' majors--

ROBERTA
Is that even a real major? I mean, are they actually considered real musicians when they graduate?--

JESSICA
(INTERRUPTING) Ladies? Let's get back to it please..1-2-3-4

THE LADIES START SINGING. ISAIAH COMES TO THE DOOR AND OPENS IT SLIGHTLY. AS THEY ARE ATTEMPTING TO WORK OUT THE FOURTH COMPLEX CHORD HARMONY, HE MOTIONS 'HI' TO RACHEL. AS THEY START TO SING AGAIN, ISAIAH SLIPS INTO THE ROOM, BUT STAYS NEAR THE WALL, SO AS NOT TO INVADE ANYONE'S SPACE. THE GIRLS STOP SINGING, AND PAUSE JUST LONG ENOUGH FOR HIM TO SAY SOMETHING.

ISAIAH
I'm sorry - Am I interrupting?
(SOFTLY TO RACHEL) Ray, you still have time right?..

RACHEL NODS, BUT CAN'T FULLY ANSWER, BECAUSE ROBERTA (APPARENTLY THE MOST SARCASTIC OF THE CLASSMATES) SPEAKS HER MIND BUT SHE DOES SO IN A SLIGHTLY HUMOROUS, BUT STILL VERY POINTED WAY.

ROBERTA
Yes you are interrupting!
 We are trying to work out a very complex chord here..

BARBIE
 (HUMOROUSLY FEIGNING DISGUST) And we need absolute concentration (GIGGLES)--

RACHEL
 C'mon guys..cut it out--

ISAIAH
 (QUIPPING BACK) Well..is the chord you want the F augmented second ninth?

THEY ARE ALL A LITTLE SHOCKED AT ISAIAH'S ASSESSMENT.

RACHEL
 (SURPRISED..ANSWERING FOR THE GROUP) Yes.

ISAIAH
 Well if that's the case, with all due respect, you (POINTING AT ROBERTA) actually are the one singing the wrong note--

ROBERTA
 (DEFENSIVE) What?! No way--

ISAIAH
 (ANSWERING ROBERTA) Unfortunately, yes..

THEN ISAIAH POINTS AT BARBIE, WHICH GETS HER ATTENTION.

ISAIAH (CONT'D)
 You're the Contra Alto right?
 (BARBIE NODS) Then your note is this (SINGS IT IN A BEAUTIFUL TONE) Gimme that..

BARBIE SINGS THE NOTE AS ISAIAH NODS APPROVAL.

ISAIAH (CONT'D)
(THEN POINTING AT JESSICA) And
you're the Alto? (JESSICA
NODS)..then your note is this
(AGAIN SINGS IT IN A BEAUTIFUL
TONE) Let me hear it..

JESSICA SINGS THE NOTE AS ISAIAH NODS APPROVAL AGAIN.

ISAIAH (CONT'D)
(THEN POINTS AT RACHEL)
Rachel..Mezzo? (RACHEL NODS) You
sing this note (AGAIN SINGS IT IN A
BEAUTIFUL TONE) Give it to me...

RACHEL SINGS THE NOTE AS ISAIAH NODS APPROVAL ONCE MORE

ISAIAH (CONT'D)
There we go..(THEN POINTING AT
ROBERTA) Mariah Carey here..needs
to be more on point..(TO ROBERTA)
This is your note (SINGS THE RIGHT
NOTE) not this (SINGS THE WRONG
ONE)...so let me hear it..

ROBERTA SINGS THE NOTE AS ISAIAH NODS YET AGAIN.

ISAIAH (CONT'D)
And now let me hear all of you
together..

THEY SING IT, AND IT RINGS PERFECTLY, AND ALL THE LADIES
SMILE AT DIFFERENT LEVELS.

ISAIAH (CONT'D)
Very nice, ladies...Y'all ready for
the Apollo now (SMILES)

THEY ALL LOOK AT EACH OTHER APPROVINGLY, AND RACHEL LOOKS
SOMEWHAT ADMIRINGLY AT ISAIAH WITH A SMILE.

RACHEL
(GETTING ISAIAHS ATTENTION) Hey
Isaiah? (ISAIAH LOOKS OVER) Why
don't you go ahead, and I will meet
you there in five?

ISAIAH
(TO RACHEL) Sure thing
Ray...Ladies? (POINTS AT ALL OF
THEM) Keep sounding fly! (SMILES
AND LEAVES).

ROBERTA
(TO RACHEL EMPHASIZING ISAIAH'S
NICKNAME FOR HER) Ray?!?

RACHEL
Roberta..please!

JESSICA
I think it's cute (SMILING)--

BARBIE
I think he is cute (ALSO SMILING)--

JESSICA
(ALMOST INTERRUPTING) I agree..
(STILL SMILING)

RACHEL
You guys..Please..(SMILES FROM
SOCIAL EXHAUSTION)

ROBERTA
(AFTER A PAUSE TO RACHEL) You
better get going, or you're going
to be late...Ray!...(SMILING
SLIGHTLY)

RACHEL SHAKES HER HEAD AND SMILES AGAIN AS SHE STARTS TO
GATHER HER THINGS.

INT. - THE COLLEGE CAFE. - MINUTES LATER.

ISAIAH IS ALREADY AT A TABLE WHEN RACHEL ARRIVES.

RACHEL
Isaiah, I am so sorry if I have
kept you waiting.

ISAIAH
(LOOKS UP FROM HIS BOOK) Nah, it's
totally cool. Only been here a
minute.

RACHEL
Well I wasn't sure how late I'd be,
so I (A BIT SQUEAMISHLY) bought you
some sushi..to make up for my
probable tardiness..Is that okay?

ISAIAH
(PLEASANTLY SURPRISED AND GRATEFUL)
Yeah..Ray. For sure. Thank you.
What do I owe you?

RACHEL
(STARTING IN ON HER SUSHI)
Nothing..it was my treat--

ISAIAH
(MILDLY BUT DISAGREEING) No..come
on Ray, let me give you something
for the food, really..

RACHEL
(INTERRUPTS POLITELY) No--How about
this..you can get the next one?

ISAIAH
(PAUSES) The next one? Man..we are
getting social, aren't we? (SMILES)

RACHEL
(SMILING CRINGINGLY AS IF TO HOPE)
Is that okay?

ISAIAH
(PAUSES AND THEN LAUGHS SOFTLY)
Yeah Ray..like I said, I'm down.

AT THIS POINT, BOTH ISAIAH AND RACHEL SMILE AT EACH OTHER A
BIT MORE AFFECTIONATELY, FEELING MORE FREEDOM TO DO SO. THEN
THEY BOTH SEEM TO BREAK THE MOOD SIMULTANEOUSLY, AS THEY GET
TO STUDYING, AND OCCASIONALLY DOWNING A SUSHI ROLL AND
BOTTLED WATER.

RACHEL
(GENTLY MOVING ON BUT FLIRTING A
BIT) So what can I help you with?

ISAIAH
(SMILING AT THE VIBE..AND
THEN GETTING TO BUSINESS)
Well, like I said, I've just been
studying my Alef Beit. I am
starting to recognize a lot of the
letters more quickly now. But I
still get stuck sometimes..because
some look so similar..Like--

RACHEL
(INTERRUPTING POLITELY) Don't tell
me...Cheit and Hei?..

ISAIAH
Yes!--

RACHEL
(SMILING) And then..(THINKING FOR A
SECOND) Samekh and Mem?..

ISAIAH
(SMILING/HALF LAUGHING
EMPHATICALLY) Yes! I'm not getting
it Ray..I try to read them faster,
and they all just start to look the
same--

RACHEL
Well it is definitely not you.
Everybody has difficulty with
those..

RACHEL STEPS AROUND FROM HER SEAT ACROSS FROM ISAIAH, AND
THEN LEANS OVER HIM TO SHOW HIM BY DRAWING THE CHARACTERS IN
FRONT OF HIM.

RACHEL (CONT'D)
So Cheit, which sounds like an H.
And Hei..which sounds like an
H..both look like an H..which is
helpful. But, try to remember it
like this..the difference is in the
left stem of both characters. So if
you just think of the phrase 'Hey
Shorty'..because the left stem of
the Hei is too short to connect
with the top line...See? And then I
think of Cheit like..the english
word Height, because the left stem
is high enough to reach the top
line there (DRAWING)..See?

THOUGH HE IS TOTALLY LISTENING AS RACHEL IS EXPLAINING
THINGS, ISAIAH FINDS HIMSELF A BIT SMITTEN AGAIN. HE
CONTINUES TO CHECK HER OUT IN A SUBTLE MANNER, AND THEN STILL
PAY ATTENTION TO HER INSTRUCTION.

ISAIAH
Oh yeah, that's slick (SMILES WHILE
LOOKING ON)..Okay what about Samekh
and Mem?

RACHEL
Well, with the other two (DRAWING
AGAIN), the lower right corner on
the Samekh is cut off at an angle.
So I just think S for shaved..and S
for Samekh..

ISAIAH
(LOOKING ON) Oh..now that's tight--

RACHEL
(CONTINUING) And then for Mem
(DRAWING AGAIN)..just think of the
word 'Memo'. Because the Mem looks
like an O...See?

ISAIAH
(LOOKING AT THE PAGE) That is
totally dope Girl. I think I got
it. (SMILES ADMIRINGLY AT HER) Did
you figure all this out by
yourself?

RACHEL
Actually, my father taught me most
of that (SMILES)--

ISAIAH
For Real?

RACHEL
Yeah. I know. It doesn't always
seem like it, but some of what my
father can do might surprise you.

WITH THIS, RACHEL STARTS THINKING OF WHAT JUST HAPPENED IN
THE REHEARSAL ROOM.

RACHEL (CONT'D)
Kinda like you (SMILES). Where did
you learn all that music theory?
That was impressive..

ISAIAH
(LAUGHS KNOWINGLY) My Pops..

RACHEL
(LAUGHS AT THE IRONY) Really?

ISAIAH
Yeah (CHUCKLES SLIGHTLY). My father
is a great keyboard player. So
growing up, we were always amazed
at his ability to play pretty much
any song, in any key (LAUGHS
SOFTLY). He would just transpose it
in his head. So my cousin and I
decided to study real hard, so we
could try to do the same thing as
producers.

RACHEL
See I think that is really cool..

ISAIAH
Well, it's cool of you to say that.
(THINKING OF A PHRASE) As they say
- I may not be playing on Stevie
Wonder's team yet..but I still come
to practice every day. (CHUCKLES
AGAIN).

RACHEL
(LAUGHING ALONG, AND THEN CHANGING
THE SUBJECT) Well...it seems no
matter how much I take the audio
practice test, I just seem to
freeze up when I get to the
compressor section...

RACHEL TAKES THE PRACTICE EXAM OUT OF HER BACKPACK, AND
PLACES IT IN FRONT OF ISAIAH.

RACHEL (CONT'D)
(SHOWING HIM FROM ACROSS THE TABLE)
So the concept of a limiter
basically makes sense to me. But I
can't explain compression. It just
seems like volume..

ISAIAH
Okay well, you can relax Ray,
because you've at least got half of
it correct. It is about volume. But
let's think about it another way.
You remember having to run the mile
for time in gym class?

RACHEL
Oh..please! Yes I had to, and I was
so slow. And we had these awful gym
uniforms. That was not my finest
moment (CHUCKLES)--

ISAIAH
(INTERRUPTING POLITELY WITH A QUICK
COMPLIMENT) I don't know - I think
you probably looked pretty fly..

ISAIAH MOVES ON QUICKLY. RACHEL CONTINUES TO LISTEN, BUT IS
TAKEN A BIT BY THE IDEA THAT HE MIGHT THINKS SHE COULD LOOK
FLY.

ISAIAH (CONT'D)
 ..Anyway, I want you imagine that
 you are running that mile with a
 jet pack on your back. So, anytime
 you slow down, that jet pack will
 propel you forward, and make sure
 you maintain a minimum
 speed..enough to stay under that
 designated time. Musically, let's
 say I'm singing (SINGS RELATIVELY
 LOUDLY TO THE MELODY OF 'HEY JUDE')
 "Hey Ray..you're looking fly.."

UPON HEARING THIS - RACHEL LAUGHS, IS IMPRESSED, AND AND IS
 FLATTERED..ALL AT THE SAME TIME.

ISAIAH (CONT'D)
 (STARTS SPEAKING AGAIN) My volume
 was a pretty consistent level
 there. But what if I sang it like
 this..

ISAIAH SINGS THE SAME PHRASE..AGAIN TO THE MELODY OF 'HEY
 JUDE'. BUT THIS TIME HE ENDS THE PHRASE "YOU'RE LOOKING FLY"
 MUCH MORE SOFTLY.

ISAIAH (CONT'D)
 (STARTS SPEAKING AGAIN) In a
 recorded mix, with a lot going on,
 we need to keep the volume as
 consistent as possible. So if we
 set the compressor up right, and at
 the right threshold, the softer
 part of that lyric will
 automatically be 'jet packed' up to
 the volume of the first part. That
 is what a compressor does.

RACHEL
 (LAUGHING..IMPRESSED AGAIN) O-M-
 G...that actually makes total sense
 to me now. (REALIZING) You know,
 you could teach this stuff--

ISAIAH
 Totally appreciate that thought
 Ray. But being on probation might
 affect my chances of being hired.
 (LAUGHS)

RACHEL
 (LOOKING DIRECTLY AT HIM
 COMPASSIONATELY) Anybody can make a
 mistake Isaiah.

ISAIAH
 (REACTING TO HER KIND COMMENT)
 Check you out..(THEN CHANGING THE
 SUBJECT, LOOKING AT HIS WATCH)
 Whoa..I gotta roll..

RACHEL
 (LOOKING AT HER PHONE) Wow, me
 too--

ISAIAH
 Can I walk you out? (LOOKS AT
 RACHEL ALMOST FLIRTATIVELY)

RACHEL
 I'd like that (SMILES BACK JUST AS
 FLIRTATIVELY)

EXT. - THE MUSIC COLLEGE STREET ENTRANCE - MOMENTS LATER.

ISAIAH AND RACHEL ARE COMING OUT OF THE BUILDING. SUDDENLY
 FROM OUT OF THE FRAME, THE FAMILIAR VOICE OF DORIAN RINGS OUT
 TO ISAIAH, AND HE APPEARS WITH TWO ATTRACTIVE YOUNG LADIES ON
 EACH ARM.

DORIAN LIL KIDD
 Why you ain't called me? Boy you
 don't treat family like that..

ISAIAH
 Kidd..it ain't like that..I'm on
 probation too--

DORIAN LIL KIDD
 For what? For this school? Bruh you
 don't need that. We already
 ready..Do I look like I'm hurtin'
 to you? Man I'm just smiling for
 the camera. But I tell you what I
do need..is that beat you promised
 me man--

ISAIAH
 Dude..I did not promise you that
 beat. First off, that beat ain't
 all mine..Secondly--

DORIAN LIL KIDD
 (INTERRUPTING) Secondly..you ain't
 a brother that seems to know how to
 make money Cuz. (PAUSES) I already
got a track record..I got a
 concept..

(MORE)

DORIAN LIL KIDD (CONT'D)
 And the record label likes it. I
 already told dude an nem about the
 beat. They want it. I want it. You
 need to get off the possession
 train Clyde. This is a business--My
 business. You want to waste your
 time playing 10 Commandments and
 hitting it with some shepherd girl,
that's yo business--

ISAIAH
 (INTERRUPTING) Hey! - It ain't like
 that man. We're (HESITATES FOR A
 SECOND) just friends--

ONE OF THE PRETTY GIRLS FROM DORIAN'S SIDE DECIDES TO SPEAK
 UP.

DOMINIQUE (A GIRL WITH DORIAN)
 (INADVERTENTLY INTERRUPTING) Hi
 Isaiah. (SMILES ALSO VERY
 FLIRTATIOUSLY) I'm still available
 to sing some backgrounds for you.
 Maybe I can come over again, and we
 can vibe? (SMILES SEXY AGAIN)--

DORIAN LIL KIDD
 (INTERRUPTS HER) Hold up
 'Nique..Dude need to get at me. (TO
 ISAIAH) And you sho'nuff better
 call me. (AS HE STARTS WALKING
 AWAY) Don't make me get Tony
 Montana on yo ass..

WALKING AWAY, HE SLIGHTLY BUMPS INTO ELI, WHO IS THERE TO
 PICK UP RACHEL. DORIAN TURNS TO ELI TO CHASTISE HIM.

DORIAN LIL KIDD (CONT'D)
 You better watch where you goin'
 Pops...(CONTINUING TO WALK AWAY)
 Old man's just lookin' to get his
 ass beat..

ODDLY, ELI DOES NOT SEEM AS AFFECTED BY THIS AS ONE MIGHT
 IMAGINE. HE JUST STARES BACK AT DORIAN, WHO CONTINUES TO WALK
 OUT OF THE FRAME. MEANWHILE, RACHEL HAS BEEN BEHIND ISAIAH
 FOR MORE THAN HALF THE CONVERSATION. AND HAVING OVERHEARD,
 SHE ALL BUT REPRIMANDS ISAIAH.

RACHEL

(HURT WITH SARCASM) I know I'm just a 'shepherd girl', and we're 'just friends' (USING HER FINGERS FOR QUOTATION MARKS), but I thought you were supposed to stay away from him? (STARTS TO BACK AWAY FROM ISAIAH).

ISAIAH

Rachel...Wait. I had no idea he was going to just happen to be out here. He used to go to this school too. Really..I didn't mean it like it sounded--

RACHEL

(INTERRUPTING SARCASTICALLY AS SHE IS NOW VISIBLY A BIT DISTRAUGHT) No it's OK..I mean it's not like we are going to be 'vibing' or anything like that..right?--

ISAIAH

(NOW CLEARLY EMBARRASSED BY HOW THINGS CAME ACROSS)
Rachel!..Listen! What I think you're feelin' I'm feelin' too...Rachel!...(SIGHS DISAPPOINTINGLY)

BUT RACHEL HAS ALREADY WALKED AWAY WITH ELI AS THE SCENE CLOSES.

INT. - THE LOCAL POLICE PRECINCT AGAIN - LATE THE NEXT MORNING.

DETECTIVE RUIZ IS AT HIS DESK DOING PAPERWORK. HE GETS A INTRA-DEPARTMENTAL PAGE, AND PICKS UP HIS DESK PHONE.

DETECTIVE RUIZ

Precinct Nine, Martine Ruiz speaking, may I help you?

PROBATION OFFICER ZHANG

Detective Ruiz, this is Sargent Anson Zhang. We met before, I'm Dorian Kidd's probation officer.

DETECTIVE RUIZ

Yes Sargent Zheng, I remember you. (PAUSES) What can I do for you?

PROBATION OFFICER ZHANG
Well, it's really more what I'm
supposed to be doing for you.
Policy states that I have to report
any ankle monitor activity that
occurs outside of Dorian's GPS
radius. I just emailed a report to
you. And I just wanted to make sure
that you got it. We've been having
network problems down here--

DETECTIVE RUIZ
Hold on...Yeah I got it. Hey,
thanks for following up Sarge. Much
appreciated. Have a good day.

INTO THE OFFICE AREA WALKS RUIZ'S SUPERIOR, CAPTAIN ROSS. HE
IS INQUISITIVE ABOUT THE LAST CALL.

CAPTIAN ROSS
What do you got, Martine?

DETECTIVE RUIZ
An ankle monitor radius violation
report on Dorian Kidd. It seems
he's been wandering into some
restricted areas.

CAPTAIN ROSS
What? You're thinking of picking
him up?

DETECTIVE RUIZ
Nah..probably not right now. He
doesn't seem to be hanging out for
too long at either location--

CAPTAIN ROSS
Well where is he going?

DETECTIVE RUIZ
Well he was at The Arts College for
a bit yesterday evening. And
then...Well, it's a little weird--

CAPTAIN ROSS
What is weird?

DETECTIVE RUIZ
He was at a temple across town.
(HALF-SERIOUS) Does he strike you
as the religious type?

CAPTAIN ROSS
(HALF SERIOUS ALSO) No..not really.

DETECTIVE RUIZ PAUSES, AND THEN STARTS TO GET UP TO GO
SOMEWHERE. CAPTAIN ROSS GETS CURIOUS.

CAPTAIN ROSS (CONT'D)
Where you off to?

DETECTIVE RUIZ
(PUTTING HIS JACKET ON) To do some
research. I've got a little hunch
about this--

CAPTAIN ROSS
(INTERRUPTING) Martine?

DETECTIVE RUIZ
Yes Captain?

CAPTAIN ROSS
If you do decide to bring him in,
you best be carful with him.

DETECTIVE RUIZ
Why? You really think he is that
dangerous?

CAPTAIN ROSS
No..not in the conventional sense.
But we don't need any more bad
publicity for the Department from
the Discrimination Lobby.

WITH THIS COMMENT, CAPTAIN ROSS NOTICES DETECTIVE RUIZ
SHAKING HIS HEAD, LOOKING PAINED AND AMUSED ALL AT THE SAME
TIME. YET HE REMAINS SILENT.

CAPTAIN ROSS (CONT'D)
You've got something on your mind
Martine?

DETECTIVE RUIZ
Permission to speak freely sir?

CAPTAIN ROSS
Granted.

DETECTIVE RUIZ
Not to make this a history lesson
sir.

(MORE)

DETECTIVE RUIZ (CONT'D)
Maybe you are aware that most of us
with a lot of melanin in our skin,
that live in this area of the
world, are all descendants from the
same African Diaspora.

CAPTAIN ROSS
So?

DETECTIVE RUIZ
What I'm saying is, Dorian Kidd and
I, we are both originally from the
same area of the world. I grew up
in the hood in San Juan. He grew up
in a wealthy suburb in the US. My
father was a Puerto Rican cop, and
my mother was from the Phillipines.
His mother and father are actually
Bahamian.(PAUSES) Yet somehow, I
feel that if it wasn't Dorian Kidd
we were talking about, and it was
one of my seven brothers or sisters
- I doubt very highly if we will be
having this conversation about
discrimination.

CAPTAIN ROSS
What exactly are you saying
Detective?

DETECTIVE RUIZ
Just because he's considered
"African-American" doesn't mean he
is somehow immune from prosecution.
And just because Kidd's daddy has
more money than my entire extended
family, doesn't mean he shouldn't
be arrested if he continues to
break the law.

CAPTAIN ROSS
I don't need a lecture from you
Detective Ruiz--

DETECTIVE RUIZ
Well sir, with all due respect,
I'll tell you what I don't need. I
don't need to be given a mug shot
of a Person Of Interest, and then
be accused of profiling when I pull
him over.

(MORE)

DETECTIVE RUIZ (CONT'D)
 I don't need you to tell me to be extra careful with this perp, because of what he looks like, or who his daddy is. And then at the end of the month, say to me "Hey Martine, how come you don't have as many collars as you're supposed to?".

CAPTAIN ROSS
 You realize you are riding the line of insubordination, right now Sargent--

DETECTIVE RUIZ
 You want to suspend me Captain? I can't stop you. But Dorian Kidd will be treated the exact same way anybody I bring in is treated! They give respect, they get respect! If they resist arrest? And I'm going to resist them back. But all within departmental regulations. (PAUSES) So maybe we can please stop talking about me doing my job, and let me do my job? Sir!?

DETECTIVE RUIZ WALKS OUT OF THE PRECINCT OFFICE. AS HE DOES, ANOTHER UNIFORMED SARGENT MAKES A SUGGESTION.

UNIFORMED SARGENT
 (GETTING OUT OF HIS CHAIR) You want me to go with him Captain?

CAPTAIN ROSS
 (EXHALES) Nah.. Leave him alone. He's a good cop. He's just super sensitive. Most intellectual types are. (THINKING OF SOMETHING ELSE) Tell you what you could do though? Is get me some coffee while you're up..Two sugars.

THE UNIFORMED SARGENT REACTS WITH NEGATIVE BODY LANGUAGE AT THE CAPTAIN'S COFFEE REQUEST. THE CAPTAIN NOTICES.

CAPTAIN ROSS (CONT'D)
 (TO THE UNIFORMED SARGENT) What!?

INT. - TEMPLE BNAI ELOHIM - NEXT DAY.

RABBI DAVID'S BNAI MITZVAH CLASS IS IN SESSION AGAIN, BUT ALMOST OVER FOR THE AFTERNOON.

AS USUAL, ISAIAH IS IN ATTENDANCE, BUT KEEPS PEERING UP TO THE OBSERVATION WINDOW, AS IF ANTICIPATING SOMETHING, OR SOMEONE. MEANWHILE, FROM OUT IN THE PARKING LOT, RACHEL HAS ARRIVED, AND COMES IN THROUGH THE ENTRANCE. SHE GETS TO THE FRONT RECEPTION COUNTER, AND UPON CHECKING HER MAIL BOX, FINDS AN ENVELOPE WITH A LETTER IN IT. SHE TAKES IT TO THE BACK OFFICE, OPENS IT, AND SITS DOWN TO READ IT. TURNS OUT IT IS FROM ISAIAH.

ISAIAH (WRITTEN)

Dear Rachel,

I figured I would write this to you in a letter, because a text seemed too informal. Besides that, I don't know your email :) First off Ray..if you want me to bounce, and stay out of your life, I will. I just want you to be comfortable. Secondly, I swear I did not know Dorian was going to be there. Dude has been at me on social ever since the arrest. I actually have stayed away from him, but I guess he still might be enrolled in the school. More importantly, I apologize for the disrespect he showed you and your father. For what it is worth, if we can still be friends, I will never let that happen again. Finally, I just wanted you to know, I said what I said because I didn't want to presume that you felt the same way about me, that I have started to feel about you. I just don't roll like that. I'm not sure why, but at this point in my life, I just can't take for granted that someone feels something unless I hear it for myself. And though I am sorry if that insecurity hurt you, it actually kind of gives me hope that maybe you did feel something too. If not, I hope the Lord blesses you and your family with health and happiness. Live and be well.

Yours Truly,

Isaiah

RACHEL, HAVING BEEN MOVED BY ISAIAH'S NOTE, GETS UP FROM HER DESK, WALKS INTO THE LOBBY OVER TO THE OBSERVATION WINDOW, AND LOOKS DOWN INTO THE CLASSROOM.

INT. - BNAI MITZVAH CLASSROOM - AT THE SAME MOMENT.

CLASS HAVING JUST BEEN DISMISSED, ISAIAH FINALLY SEES RACHEL IN THE WINDOW, AND LOOKS UP WITH A SLIGHT SMILE. RACHEL PUTS HER FIST OUT TO THE WINDOW FOR LONG DISTANCE BUMP. AND AS HE IS PREPARING TO LEAVE, ISAIAH RAISES HIS FIST TOWARD RACHEL. AND STILL SMILING, HE NODS AT HER.

INT. - THE TEMPLE LOBBY AGAIN. - SECONDS LATER.

SUDDENLY, INTO THE FRAME RUSHES RUTH, TO TALK TO RACHEL. SHE IS LOOKING EXTREMELY ANXIOUS, ALMOST WEEPY.

RUTH

Rachel, have you seen your father
yet today?--

RACHEL

Hi Ruth, uh..(SENSING SOME ANXIETY)
I only got here just a little while
ago. I would imagine he is in his
office. Why..what is it?

RUTH

(STARTING TO MAKE HER WAY TO ELI'S
OFFICE, BUT STILL LOOKING AT
RACHEL)..It's Abraham--

RACHEL

(INTERRUPTING) Wait..Ruth..Is he..?

RUTH VIRTUALLY INTERRUPTS RACHEL BY STOPPING AND SHAKING HER
HEAD. RACHEL STARTS TO CRY AS RUTH WALKS OUT OF THE FRAME,
TOWARD ELI'S OFFICE.

RACHEL (CONT'D)

(PUTTING HER HAND OVER HER MOUTH
STARTING TO CRY) Oh no...no..

ISAIAH, HAVING LEFT THE CLASSROOM, APPROACHES RACHEL. HE
IMMEDIATELY RECOGNIZES HER ANGUISH, AND IS SEEN COMFORTING
AND LISTENING TO HER. A LOOK OF CONCERN COMES OVER HIM. AS
THIS IS HAPPENING, ELI IS SEEN LITERALLY RUNNING FROM THE
OFFICES, AROUND THE COUNTER, AND OUT THE ENTRANCE INTO THE
PARKING LOT TO GET TO HIS CAR.

INT. - THE HOSPITAL - THE SAME EVENING.

ELI IS SEEN ARRIVING IN THE HALLWAY OUTSIDE ABRAHAM'S ROOM.
MIRIAM IS ALREADY THERE, COMFORTING ABRAHAM'S WIFE ELEANOR.
HE APPROACHES THE ATTENDING PHYSICIAN.

ELI

(TO THE DOCTOR) Is he..gone?

DOCTOR

(NODDING) I am very sorry. He..may
as well be. If any of his vitals
are still working, they will only
last a matter of seconds..Again,
I'm so very sorry. (EXITS)

ELI RUSHES PAST ANY HOSPITAL STAFF IN ABRAHAM'S ROOM TO KNEEL
AT HIS BEDSIDE. HE GRABS ABE'S HAND, WHICH SEEMS TO GRIP BACK
JUST SLIGHTLY. ELI STARTS TO RECITE THE VIDUY, A SERIES OF
PRAYERS DESIGNED TO BE ADMINISTERED TO JEWS IN THE LAST
MOMENTS OF THEIR LIFE.

KNOWING WITH THESE PRAYERS, THE LESS TIME SOMEONE HAS, THE FEWER WORDS HE WILL HAVE A CHANCE TO RECITE, ELI IS PRONOUNCING THEM AS FAST AS HE CAN.

ELI
Ki malakhav yetzaveh lach,
lishmorkha b'chol d'rakhekha..

AS ELI SPEAKS THE PRAYERS, GOING THROUGH HIS MIND ARE MANY IMAGES OF HE AND ABRAHAM GROWING UP OVER THE YEARS. ENOUGH THAT IT IS MAKING HIM SOB, AS HE CONTINUES THE RECITATION. ALL OF A SUDDEN, ABRAHAM'S GRIP LOOSENS. REALIZING THIS, ELI SPEEDS THROUGH THE V-AL-KEN-NE-KAVEH, WHICH IS THE PRAYER JUST BEFORE THE FINAL SHEMA.

ELI (CONT'D)
V al kayn n kaveh l cho adonai
elohaynu, lir-os m hayroh b sif-eres
uzecho...

ELI THEN STARTS INTO, AND JUST FINISHES THIS PRAYER AS ABE'S HAND LOOSENS COMPLETELY.

ELI (CONT'D)
Adonai melech, adonai moloch,
adonai yim-loch l olom vo-ed...
(SLOWS UP).

ELI BOWS HIS HEAD, STANDS UP, AND WALKS OUT INTO THE HALL, WHERE ELEANOR AND MIRIAM AWAIT HIM. BUT NOW THEY HAVE BEEN JOINED BY RACHEL, ARI, ISAIAH, RABBI DAVID, RUTH, STUART, AND EVEN JUDITH EISENMAN. ELI WALKS OVER TO A NEARBY CHAIR AND SITS DOWN. COVERING HIS FACE WITH BOTH HANDS, HE GRADUALLY STARTS TO LOSE HIS COMPOSURE. AS HE DOES, IT SEEMS EVERYONE STARTS TO WELL UP, LOOKING TO EACH OTHER FOR CONSOLATION. ISAIAH HOWEVER, IS HAVING TROUBLE TAKING HIS EYES OFF OF ELI. AS HE WATCHES ELI'S ANGUISH, HE IS REMINDED OF THE PAIN HE FELT WHEN HIS COUSIN ISRAEL PASSED. HE IS SUDDENLY OVERWHELMED BY A GREAT SENSE OF SYMPATHY FOR THIS RABBI HE HARDLY KNOWS. ISAIAH ALSO REALIZES HE HIMSELF IS ALSO MOURNING ABRAHAM, A MAN HE HAD ONLY KNOWN FOR A FEW MONTHS, BUT HAD BEEN SUCH A GIANT INSPIRATION.

INT. - CRANE SHOT OF CHAPEL AT TEMPLE BNAI ELOHIM - THREE DAYS LATER.

THE CONGREGATION IS SOLEMN, AND THE CHAPEL IS VIRTUALLY STANDING ROOM ONLY. ABRAHAM'S FUNERAL SERVICE HAS BEEN WELL UNDERWAY. THERE IS A SLIGHT PAUSE, AS RABBI DAVID CONTINUES TO SPEAK.

RABBI DAVID

...I would also like to remind everyone that there will be a Shiva starting this afternoon at the Ascher residence. And will continue for the next 7 days from 10am-7pm. until it concludes on the following Thursday the 29th.

DAVID FINISHES, AND PROCEEDS TO SIT IN AN ADJACENT CHAIR. THERE IS AN UNDERCURRENT OF CHATTER, WHICH SUBSIDES WHEN RABBI ELI STEPS UP TO THE BIMAH.

ELI

(SOMEWHAT SLOWLY AND EMOTIONALLY) I would like to thank Rabbi David for also presiding officially, as it is normally my role. But today, I will be speaking on behalf of the Ascher family. And...not that I would ever shy away from either responsibility, I was just personally, maybe selfishly..hoping that this moment would not arrive until later..Much later..

HERE, ELI HAS TO PAUSE TO COLLECT HIS EMOTIONS. AND THEN CONTINUES.

ELI (CONT'D)

As a rule, it is presumed on an occasion like this..that someone in my position has..all the answers. Being one of the many spiritual leaders in the community, it is a major part of our role to provide comfort and guidance to our congregation. But right now, my difficulty is that the one who provided much of that same comfort and guidance to me, is no longer here.

ONCE MORE ELI PAUSES, AND THEN CONTINUES AGAIN.

ELI (CONT'D)

So today, with all humility, I am asking you to bear with me, because right at this moment, I am a bit overwhelmed.

ELI WELLS UP, AND AVERTS HIS GAZE FROM THE AUDIENCE TO LOOK DOWN TEMPORARILY TO TRY TO KEEP HIS COMPOSURE.

THIS ELICITS EMOTIONAL RESPONSES FROM MANY INDIVIDUALS - INCLUDING RACHEL, ARI, ISAIAH, BEVERLY, MO ROBINSON, AND EVEN CALVIN. ELI COLLECTS HIMSELF HOWEVER, AND CONTINUES.

ELI (CONT'D)

We have just lost a very valued and beloved member of our family in Abraham. And by that I mean he was a member of our Temple family and our Jewish community, along with our immediate family. As a matter of fact, some of you might have even known and loved him as if he were a member of your own family too. He definitely had that effect on people (MANAGING A SLIGHT SMILE). I knew Abraham Seth Ascher my whole life. He was infinitely more than a cousin to me. He was a mentor..He was the older brother I never had (SIGHS). And I would say quite certainly..that other than my precious and lovely wife..he was my best friend.

ELI NEEDS YET ANOTHER EMOTIONAL PAUSE.

ELI (CONT'D)

I could stand here for days and tell you entertaining stories.. (SLIGHT SMILE) very entertaining stories..of Abe's life. Again, if you knew Abraham, apart from that wonderful personality, you realized he had genuine affection for everyone and everything in his life.

ELI PAUSES HERE TO READY HIMSELF FOR THE SUBJECT OF ELEANOR

ELI (CONT'D)

But Abraham really only had one great love. And that has always been Eleanor.(PAUSES) When he talked about her, you could tell that, from the first day of his marriage, this was a man who was totally and completely committed to his wife. Those of you who have attended services here in the past are only too familiar with Abraham's legendary singing voice.

(MORE)

ELI (CONT'D)

Well I know for a fact that when he sang..the joy coming from him was due to the love Eleanor had inspired in him. No one could compete with her. Other than the people in his life, the only thing that even remotely came close, was his love of Music. And even then..somehow..he would include her. As a matter of fact, I can recall an instance years ago where he walked into my office, and actually rapped to me about needing to call her.

AT THIS, THERE IS ANOTHER UNDERCURRENT OF CHATTER, AND SOME SLIGHT AMUSEMENT IN THE CONGREGATION

ELI (CONT'D)

Yes..you heard me correctly. He rapped. (SMILES)

AS ELI MANAGES A SMILE, THIS COMMENT ACTUALLY ELICITS SOME SUBTLE PROGRESSIVE LAUGHTER..WHICH QUIETS QUICKLY.

ELI (CONT'D)

It was no secret that Abe loved all types of music. And although the literal playing of music is actually prohibited in traditional Jewish funeral services. I know he would want me to push the envelope a little..and give those of you who didn't know him well, a feel for that wonderful personality of his.

ELI TAKES A PARCHED PIECE OF PAPER FROM HIS SUIT JACKET POCKET, AND UNFOLDS IT.

ELI (CONT'D)

The day he recited it to me, I had to write it down. Because, I figured if I were to tell the story later, I wouldn't want to mess it up, even though it's not very long.

AT THIS, MANY IN THE CONGREGATION LAUGH, AND SOME AGREE.

ELI (CONT'D)

(QUOTING THE RAP) "I wish I were a little bit taller. I wish I was a baller..

(MORE)

ELI (CONT'D)
 Because I have a girl who is fine,
 I'm gonna call her."

THIS DRAWS A VARIETY OF REACTIONS. SOME RAPPED ALONG WITH ELI, SOME LAUGHED HYSTERICALLY, SOME WERE SURPRISED AND LAUGHED ANYWAY.

ELI (CONT'D)
 (WITH A SLIGHT SMILE) You think it
 sounds strange coming from me? It
 feels even stranger repeating it to
 you.

THIS DRAWS MORE GALES OF LAUGHTER FROM THE CONGREGATION.

ELI (CONT'D)
 Apparently, he changed up the lyric
 to suit himself. But you see he
 again had his love..as his
 inspiration..

ELI GETS A BIT MORE SERIOUS AS HE CHANGES THE SUBJECT SLIGHTLY.

ELI (CONT'D)
 Those of us..and there are a lot of
 us..who have lost loved ones. We
 know only too well that we feel
 somehow..weaker..because of their
 sudden absence in our lives. I know
I feel that way right now. But
 maybe that is what leads us to
 realize an indisputable fact. And
 that is...that we are really all
 the same.

ELI PAUSES TO LET THIS SINK IN, EVEN MORE IN HIS OWN HEAD.

ELI (CONT'D)
 As much as we have different
 backgrounds, perspectives, even
 different motivations. This is why
 certain concepts, secular or
 religious, can apply so universally
 to all of us...whether we like it
 or not. There is a popular
 phrase..in Hebrew it is.."A·deef
 lei·hov u·lei·a·bed·may
 a·sher·uv·pam lo·lei·a·hov". Most
 of you would likely know it better
 in English as - "It is better to
 have loved and lost..(
 (MORE)

ELI (CONT'D)
 SOME IN THE CONGREGATION FINISH THE
 PHRASE ALONG WITH ELI)..than never
 to have loved at all..". Yes.
 Alfred Lord Tennyson...(NOTICING
 THE IRONY) Interesting middle name
 for guys like me..

ELI MANAGES A SHORT PAUSE HERE AS HE SMILES SOFTLY, AND THEN
 CONTINUES.

ELI (CONT'D)
 How many of us would choose not to
 have had the years with our loved
 ones, just so we could avoid the
 sadness we feel when they leave us?
 Think about that...I could not. As
 much as we miss Abraham..as much as
 I miss him..I could never give up
 the years I was privileged to have
 had him in my life..just so I would
 be spared the grief..with which I
 am currently struggling.

ELI HAS TO PAUSE AGAIN, AS HE ONCE MORE LOOKS DOWN SLIGHTLY
 TO MAINTAIN HIS COMPOSURE. THEN HE CONTINUES WITH THE WORD.

ELI (CONT'D)
 There is a verse in the Torah, it
 is Psalm 34, Verse 18 in the Old
 Testament. It reads "Yah·weh
 ka·ro·vv le·nish·be·rei-
 yov·shi·a'.dak·ke·'ei·ru·ach"
 ..It means "The Lord is near to the
 brokenhearted, and saves the
 crushed in spirit..". The Lord has
 bestowed great blessings on all of
 us. One of them is the gift of
 memory. We often take it for
 granted, but it really is amazing.
 There is no photograph in front of
 me...and yet I can picture an image
 in my mind, as clear as if it were
 there. There is no video playing on
 a screen, and yet I can experience
 an entire movie...(POINTING TO HIS
 HEAD) here...and (POINTING TO HIS
 HEART) even here.

ELI PAUSES YET AGAIN, AS IF HE IS CONTEMPLATING HOW TO
 TRANSITION INTO THE NEXT SUBJECT.

ELI (CONT'D)

And as I confessed earlier, it is at this concluding point in the service..that I have struggled with the most, these last few days. I am supposed to offer some sage advice, some consoling piece of wisdom...to ease the sting of having lost our loved one. Our Abraham...

ELI PAUSES ONE LAST TIME TO HOLD HIS EMOTIONS, AND THEN CHANNELS ABE.

ELI (CONT'D)

And ironically the best I can come up with..sounds like something he would say. And that is (PAUSES) That it's OK...(PAUSES A BIT LONGER) It is OK to like certain music, or to listen to certain recordings. It is OK to watch certain movies or TV shows. It's OK to visit certain places, or to fraternize with certain people. It's even OK to hold fast to inanimate objects, that might mean very little to someone else...but, along with (POINTING AT HIS HEAD AGAIN) those memories, can make it..so we can still somehow feel the presence of those we've lost. And yes...feel their spirit. (PAUSING ONCE MORE) If the love you have in your heart is pure for God, and for those around you..It is OK. Because as weak as we might feel at this moment, and during this journey...These things help give us the strength to be able to move forward...And to once again, eventually be as happy as we know our loved ones..would want us to be.

ELI STRAIGHTENS UP AND HOLDS HIS ARMS OUT TO HIS SIDES AS HE SUPPLIES A CLOSING BENEDICTION IN HEBREW.

ELI (CONT'D)

Yiv a lech ot cha hash losheem
v'tesh a ves milech hash losheem
v'tesh a yeh il penev a'lecha v'cha
nun esah ish losheem v'tesh a penev
a'lecha v'isha l'chas shalom.

(MORE)

ELI (CONT'D)
 (TRANSLATING, HIS ARMS STILL
 EXTENDED) May the Lord bless you
 and keep you, and allow His face to
 shine upon you, and be gracious
 unto you. And may the Lord lift up
 His countenance upon you...and give
 you peace. Amen.

THE SERVICE BEGINS TO BREAK UP. ELI IS BEING APPROACHED BY
 CONGREGATION MEMBERS, STANDING IN A SHORT, BUT INFORMAL LINE
 TO GET A TURN TO CHAT. MO, BEVERLY, AND ISAIAH QUICKLY MAKE
 IT TO THE FRONT.

MO ROBINSON
 Rabbi Newman? I am Moses Robinson,
 Isaiah Robinson's father. I am so
 very sorry for your loss--

ELI
 (GENUINELY) Thank you. It is an
 honor to meet you Pastor Robinson.
 I have heard quite a lot about you
 from Isaiah.

MO ROBINSON
 (SMILING) Well, it is a distinct
 honor for me as well Rabbi, may I
 say you are a captivating speaker
 sir. And I do trust Isaiah is
 continuing to live up to his
 responsibilities to the temple, and
 the authorities?

ELI
 (STILL CHANNELING A BIT OF ABRAHAM)
 Well thank you sir, yes. He has
 absolutely done everything he has
 been asked to do. And then - he
 has, in many instances, gone above
 and beyond. And I can tell you that
 it really has been an absolute
 pleasure to have him here.

MO ROBINSON
 (MILDLY BUT PLEASANTLY TAKEN ABACK
 BY ELI'S PRAISE) Well (LOOKING AT
 ISAIAH) that is extremely
 reassuring to hear--

ELI

Well..that is the consensus opinion
amongst the staff..and that is all
the way up to and
including..Abraham (SUBTLE SMILE AT
ISAIAH, MO, AND BEVERLY).

BEVERLY TAKES THE INITIATIVE AND STEPS FORWARD TO HUG ELI.

BEVERLY

(AS SHE HUGS HIM) I am so sorry
Eli..I know how much he meant to
you--

ELI

(AGAIN GENUINELY) Thank
you..Beverly. He meant quite a bit
to all of us.

UPON HEARING ELI SAY THIS - ISAIAH, WHO WAS NEXT TO GREET
ELI, IS SUDDENLY A BIT OVERCOME, UPON REALIZING HE IS ONE OF
THOSE PEOPLE ELI WAS DESCRIBING. AND THAT, COUPLED WITH
SEEING THE PARALLEL OF ELI'S SADNESS WITH HIS OWN GRIEF FOR
HIS COUSIN/BEST FRIEND, INDUCES HIM TO WELL UP ALMOST
UNCONTROLLABLY. HE STILL MANAGES TO RESPOND TO ELI'S
SENTIMENT HOWEVER.

ISAIAH

Yes sir..(SLIGHT SMILE..THEN
PAUSING TO SURVEY THE TASK OF
EXPRESSING WHAT HE IS COMPELLED TO
SAY NEXT) Rabbi Eli, I know this
gonna sound random..I mean coming
from me. But if...you're feelin it,
and you need to talk (TRYING TO
MAINTAIN COMPOSURE)..I just want
you to know..I'm around for you..I
got your back..

WITH THIS, ISAIAH STARTS TO GET TEARY AS HE EXTENDS HIS HAND
FOR ELI TO SHAKE. ELI SHAKES ISAIAH'S HAND CONVENTIONALLY
WHICH ISAIAH TURNS INTO A HAND HUG, COUPLED WITH A BRO HUG.

ELI

(SOFTLY..AFFECTED BY THE OFFER)
Thank you son..

AND SUDDENLY EMOTIONS ESCALATE FOR ISAIAH, AS HE HANGS ON TO
ELI AND WEEPS INTO HIS SHOULDER FOR SEVERAL SECONDS.

ISAIAH

(WHILE BURIED IN ELI'S SHOULDER)
I'm so sorry..Man!
(MORE)

ISAIAH (CONT'D)
The best people..why they gotta
leave so soon..sir...why?--

ELI
(PUTTING HIS HAND GENTLY ON
ISAIAH'S HEAD) I don't know my
friend...I wish I had all the
answers...

ELI ALLOWS HIM TO LET IT OUT, AND THEN PULLS BACK FROM THE
HUG AS BEVERLY BEGINS TO HUG AND HOLD ISAIAH'S SHOULDERS FROM
BEHIND.

ELI (CONT'D)
But they are still here (POINTS TO
ISAIAH'S TEMPLE)..and they are
still here..

ELI POINTS IN A CIRCULAR MOTION TO ISAIAH'S HEART TO INCLUDE
THE STAR OF DAVID AROUND HIS NECK, AND SMILES SLIGHTLY.

ISAIAH
(SNIFFLING..NOW SOMEWHAT
EMBARRASSED BY HIS BREAKDOWN)
Sorry..

ELI
Ahh..it's okay...(LOOKING DIRECTLY
AT ISAIAH AND SMILES SUPPORTIVELY)
Believe me, I understand..(PAUSES,
THEN TO MO AND BEVERLY) Thank you
all so much for coming (HIS HAND UP
TO WAVE). Be safe going home.

INT. - IN THE ROBINSON FAMILY SUV - SAME AFTERNOON/EVENING.

MO IS DRIVING. BEVERLY IS IN THE PASSENGER SIDE. AND ISAIAH
IS IN THE BACK. NOT MUCH IS BEING SAID, UNTIL BEVERLY BREAKS
THE ICE.

BEVERLY
(CHECKING HER PHONE GPS) Hey..it
turns out the Ascher house is right
up the street, on our way home..so
do you two want to just stop by the
Shiva for a minute, and pay our
respects?

MO, BEING A BIT PREOCCUPIED, JUST NODS AND LOOKS OVER
QUICKLY. THEN BEVERLY LOOKS BACK AT ISAIAH, WHO IS BOWING HIS
HEAD, STILL COMING DOWN FROM HIS EMOTIONAL OUTBURST.

ISAIAH
Yeah Mom..that'd be cool.

MO CONTINUES TO PERIODICALLY CHECK ON ISAIAH IN THE REAR VIEW MIRROR, AS BEVERLY DOES THE SAME LOOKING OVER HER SHOULDER.

EXT. - THE ASCHER RESIDENCE - MINUTES LATER.

THE ROBINSONS PULL UP TO THE CURB IN FRONT. VARIOUS PEOPLE ARE SEEN FILING SLOWLY IN AND OUT OF THE HOUSE. ONE OF THEM IS RECOGNIZED BY ISAIAH AS RACHEL, WHOM HE HASN'T BEEN ABLE TO CONNECT WITH FOR AWHILE.

ISAIAH
(SOFTLY) Hey..Mom and Dad..would it be okay if I met you inside? I just saw someone I want to say hello to.

BEVERLY
(AS MO NODS KNOWINGLY) Sure sweetie...you okay?

ISAIAH
(STILL A BIT DISCONSOLATE) Yeah Mom..I'm okay--

ISAIAH GETS OUT OF THE CAR, AND MAKES A BEELINE TOWARD RACHEL. MO AND BEVERLY WATCH HIM, AND THEN MAKE EYE CONTACT WITH EACH OTHER. THEN MO'S GAZE DRIFTS BACK TO ISAIAH.

BEVERLY
Honey..What is it?

MOSES
(DEEP SIGH) Nothing...I'm fine--

BEVERLY
Excuse me..we have been married for 26 years. You are my best friend. I usually have a pretty good idea when something is bothering you--

MOSES
(PAUSING) I've never seen him show that much emotion...it is a little worrisome Beverly--

BEVERLY
Why? I think he needed to release that. I think he has been grieving Israel internally for a long time--

MOSES

But to open up that much, to a total stranger..I don't know if that is healthy..

BEVERLY

First of all, Rabbi Eli is not a total stranger..and I think the fact that Isaiah is seeing another person react emotionally to the same type of loss he has experienced. He just feels a kinship there--

MOSES

Beverly..with all due respect, listen to the words you are using. The good rabbi is not kin..it's not like he is a member of our family--

BEVERLY

(REALIZING MOSES' POSSIBLE MOTIVATION) Moses Robinson!..I don't believe what I'm hearing...The good rabbi said the same thing you say every Sunday. That we are all God's children. If I didn't know better, I'd say you were jealous!?

MOSES

(ALMOST INTERRUPTING) I am not jealous Beverly! Isaiah and I are two completely different people..I wouldn't expect him to naturally open up to me--

BEVERLY

(INTERRUPTING BACK A LA CLAIRE HUXTABLE) Oh Moses please! I swear you are the smartest man I know, but sometimes you can be so clueless. (LOOKING STRAIGHT AT MOSES) Moses Robinson, he is you. Look at the career path he's chosen..the way he addresses people..his ability to bring people together. My goodness, it is so plain and obvious to the rest of us!?

MOSES

(RELENTING A BIT) But Beverly..he doesn't open up to me like that--

BEVERLY

(INTERRUPTING) He was 18 when Israel died...Did it ever occur to you to open up to him..first?
(PAUSES AS MOSES IS SILENT) Honey, you are a wonderful pastor. Our congregation knows every day you open that chapel door - In you, they will receive as fine a spiritual guide as they will find anywhere. But what about those who are too afraid to knock, Moses? For all of them, it might make it a lot easier..if that door was already open.

BEVERLY GENTLY GRABS HIS HAND TO HOLD IT. MOSES PAUSES AS HE IS LOOKING OFF INTO THE DISTANCE AT FIRST, BUT THEN LOOKS AT BEVERLY, AND RESPONDS BY CLOSING HIS HAND OVER HERS AFFECTIONATELY...THOUGH STILL A BIT CONCERNED.

INT. - TWO WEEKS LATER. TEMPLE BNAI ELOHIM - LATE AFTERNOON.

RACHEL IS IN A STUDY ROOM DOING SOME ONE-ON-ONE TUTORING WITH ISAIAH. SHE IS SINGING/RECITING A HAFTARAH PASSAGE, AND HE IS REPEATING/CHANTING IT. RABBI DAVID IS FINISHING SOME PAPERWORK FOR ELI IN AN ADJACENT OFFICE. HE IS JUST CLOSE ENOUGH TO SEE AND HEAR THE ACTIVITY BETWEEN RACHEL AND ISAIAH.

ISAIAH

(SINGING/CHANTING) Kol ham mah ha
ha ar..Adonai tsiva oh ho
hoat..Elohay Yisra ay hay hay hay
el..Oh loh tay che (COUGHS A BIT)
he he hem..(STOPS AND LAUGHS WHEN
HIS VOICE CRACKS A LITTLE).

RACHEL

(LAUGHING ALONG) Yeah...But you were close! You are going to feel like you are getting ready to spit something up--

ISAIAH

(SMILING FEIGNING CONFUSION) Like a..loogie?--

RACHEL

(INTERRUPTING AND REPEATING THE TERM) A loogie..yes! (LAUGHING)

THEY BOTH HAVE A LITTLE LAUGH IN A PRETTY FLIRTATIOUS WAY. THIS CONTINUES TO DISMAY RABBI DAVID A BIT, WHO CAN'T SEEM TO HELP LISTENING IN, AND CONTINUES TO LOOK ON FROM THAT ADJACENT OFFICE. RABBI DAVID FINISHES HIS TASK, AND GETS UP FROM HIS DESK TO CARRY THE FINISHED PAPERWORK TO ELI'S OFFICE. ELI'S DOOR IS CLOSED, SO DAVID KNOCKS ON THE DOOR.

ELI
Come on in Rabbi..

DAVID COMES IN, AND SHUTS THE DOOR BEHIND HIM. ELI IS PREOCCUPIED, WITH HIS BACK TURNED, AS HE STUDIES SOME OLD FRAMED PHOTOS.

DAVID
I finished that survey form for the Board, Rabbi..

STILL A BIT PREOCCUPIED, ELI TURNS TO DAVID QUICKLY, AND THEN BACK TO THE PHOTOS.

ELI
Thank you David. (REALIZING SOMETHING AND POINTING AT DAVID)
Wait..that's right, you could use a ride to the train station today (LOOKING AT HIS WATCH)..in about thirty minutes, am I right?

RABBI DAVID
Um..yes sir. But I can always take an Uber--

ELI
(INTERRUPTING POLITELY) Nonsense..
I'll be happy to drive you David.

RABBI DAVID
Well, then...(SOMEWHAT AWKWARDLY)
Thank you. (PAUSING AND THEN CONTINUING) Anyway, I also included the questions regarding our Bnai Mitzvah Program like Stuart suggested..

ELI
Then I appreciate your help on that as well..Thank you. (MAINTAINING THE TOPIC) This session's Bnai class seems to be on track, yes?

RABBI DAVID
(PAUSING ALMOST DISAPPROVINGLY)
More or less..

ELI
(SENSING AN ISSUE..SIGHS SLIGHTLY)
More or less? Is there a problem?

RABBI DAVID
Well..we are about a little over
half way through, and we're doing
okay. (A BIT CONTRIVED SOUNDING)
But I just worry about the
commitment level with a few of
them..

ELI
(NODDING AND PAUSING SUSPICIOUSLY)
To whom are you referring David?

RABBI DAVID
(ALSO NOT WANTING TO BE OBVIOUS HE
STARTS WITH ANOTHER NAME)
Well..um...Hayley..

ELI
Mandel? Ah, She'll be fine. Her
older sister was the same way. And
then she showed up the day of..and
she was perfect--

RABBI DAVID
(TRYING TO BE SOMEWHAT COY) Then
there's...Isaiah..

ELI SMILES A BIT..KNOWING THIS MIGHT HAVE BEEN COMING.

ELI
(SIGHS SOFTLY) I thought he had
been coming along pretty well. He
has been showing up and helping
with our events like he is supposed
to - right? I mean...he is here for
extra help right now. (POINTING IN
THE DIRECTION OF THE STUDY ROOM)..

RABBI DAVID
(ALLOWING THAT) Yes...but it's just
I think he treats that a little too
much like a social opportunity
sir--

ELI
(SIGHING..DEFENDING WHAT SEEMS TO
BE SOME BIAS) When I walked by,
they were working on his haftarah
portion..(?)--

DAVID
(RESPONDING DEFENSIVELY) Well
yeah..but they--

ELI INTERRUPTS DAVID, BUT RELATIVELY GENTLY AND ALMOST
CHANNELING ABRAHAM, IN A FIGURATIVE SENSE.

ELI
David..as Rabbis, just because
another does not comes to his faith
the same way we do, does not mean
his faith is not valid. There are
times in our lives where some of
the beliefs we have held onto, no
longer require our attention. And
this is because we know in our
hearts, they may no longer
apply..at all. And maybe they never
should have.

ELI PAUSES, THEN CHANNELS ABE SOME MORE..THE SAME WAY.

ELI (CONT'D)
How many 12-year-olds come through
our doors..that are no better
prepared than that young man
(POINTING AGAIN IN THE DIRECTION OF
ISAIAH). It's not like after all of
their training, every kid is
chanting Hebrew like Joshua on the
mount...are you hearing me?

WITH THIS COMMENT, DAVID NODS AND APPEARS AS THOUGH HE
ACCEPTS THIS DECREE, ALBEIT A BIT RELUCTANTLY.

RABBI DAVID
But she has to know, I mean she has
got to see--

ELI
(INTERRUPTING AND RAISING HIS
VOICE) And David!!...

GETTING HIS ATTENTION SUDDENLY, ELI ALL BUT REPRIMANDS HIM.
BUT HE TRIES TO WITH A BIT OF COMPASSION, CONSIDERING THE
SUBJECT AGAIN IS RACHEL.

ELI (CONT'D)
As human beings!...much as we want
to hold onto some people, and keep
them in our lives, the way we want
them.

(MORE)

ELI (CONT'D)
 We have to learn to trust what we truly know deep in our hearts..and our minds...when they are both telling us...(FIRMLY AND LOOKING DIRECTLY AT DAVID WITH HIS HAND OUTSTRETCHED) that we have..to...let go! (A LITTLE MORE COMPASSIONATELY)...Do you understand?

WITH THIS COMMENT, DAVID NODS, BUT LOOKS CRESTFALLEN, THEN LOOKS DOWN ALMOST SHAMEFULLY. MEANWHILE, ELI GLANCES AT A PICTURE OF HE AND ABRAHAM LONGINGLY..KNOWING HE IS IN THE MIDST OF HEEDING HIS OWN ADVICE. AND THEN HE LOOKS BACK AT DAVID.

ELI (CONT'D)
 (BREAKING THE PROLONGED TENSION)
 Come on son, Let's get you to the train station. I'll spring for a coffee on the way..

DAVID, ALTHOUGH DEJECTED, NODS AND TURNS TO LEAVE THE OFFICE WITH ELI.

RABBI DAVID
 (EXHALES) Thank you Rabbi...but if it is all the same to you, can we make it a beer?

ELI
 (NODS LAUGHING) Alright. But no drinking until you get home.

EXT. - TEMPLE ENTRANCE - EARLY EVENING.

RACHEL AND ISAIAH HAVE FINISHED UP THEIR STUDY SESSION, AND ARE WALKING AND TALKING, AS THEY HEAD TO THE PARKING LOT. THINGS ARE VERY POSITIVE.

RACHEL
 Can I ask you a question?

ISAIAH
 Yeah sure..whatever you want..

RACHEL REACHES OUT TO CAREFULLY HOLD ISRAEL'S STAR OF DAVID AROUND ISAIAH'S NECK.

RACHEL
 I heard this was your cousin's..
 (COMPASSIONATELY AND CAREFULLY) Is that why you wear it?

ISAIAH
(SLIGHTLY VULNERABLY)
Well...yeah..I mean--(HESITATES)

RACHEL
(SENSING SHE HAS OVERSTEPPED) Hey..
(MAKING SURE TO MAKE EYE CONTACT)
I'm sorry, I don't mean to pry--

ISAIAH
No no no it's OK..I'll tell you.
(PAUSES) It's just that most people
would think I'm trippin'--

RACHEL
(COMPASSIONATELY) Well I wouldn't..

ISAIAH
Yeah..I know...I mean I actually
told your father one day, and he
was real cool about it.

RACHEL
(SMILES) Well, like I told you, my
father is..well..my father. But,
like I said, he can definitely
surprise you.

ISAIAH
Well, like I told him - I started
out wearing it because it made me
feel..somehow..closer to him..

RACHEL
Israel..

ISAIAH
Yeah...and...

RACHEL
His spirit..

ISAIAH
Yeah!

ISAIAH MOMENTARILY ENJOYING THE IRONY THAT RACHEL UNDERSTANDS
LITERALLY JUST LIKE HER FATHER.

ISAIAH (CONT'D)
But the weird thing is that..ever
since I came here..I felt like..I
mean I know it's crazy..but like I
was being--

RACHEL

Like you were being led here..

ISAIAH

Yeah!...I know..it sounds so weird - right?...I mean, first it was Israel, and this star. And then the decision to come here. And then ever since I got here...Cantor Abraham...Man, here was this guy..I didn't even know him. But soon I was like..I love this dude. and everything he was saying to me..I was feelin' it. Even Rabbi David, and you, and your father. The more I studied..the more I felt...like you do when you come home. (JUST GETTING SLIGHTLY TEARY) I felt like I was home...I know...Crazy right?

RACHEL STARTS TO WELL UP HERSELF, AS SHE LOOKS AT ISAIAH, GENTLY SHAKING HER HEAD.

RACHEL

(SOFTLY) No...that's the way it's supposed to feel..

THEY BOTH BREAK THE EMOTION OF THE MOMENT A LITTLE BY CONTINUING TO START WALKING AGAIN.

ISAIAH

And then when Cantor Abraham (PAUSES AND SIGHS, BUT MAINTAINING HIS COMPOSURE THIS TIME)..left. I felt like...I can't just stop...Whether it was supposed to happen or not...it just wouldn't feel right if I didn't...finish it. Even if all the work is a little scary--

RACHEL

(GENTLY INTERRUPTING) Wait..you're not nervous about your Bar Mitzvah Service, are you?

ISAIAH

(EXHALES) Well I would be lying to you if I said I wasn't a little freaked out. (CHUCKLES)

RACHEL

See that's amazing. Because you always seem so cool.

ISAIAH

For real? (LAUGHS) That's cool of you to say Ray, but..being totally cool with this stuff..that ain't me--

RACHEL

(INTERRUPTING) Isaiah..You're gonna be awesome. You're doing great with the pronunciations and the trope..and (LAUGHING) you might be the best singer I think we've ever had (COVERS HER MOUTH AS IF SHE IS EMBARRASSED TO SAY IT).

ISAIAH

(REACTING TO HER PRAISE) Check you out! (SMILING AND LOOKING AT HER ADMIRINGLY)..But I'm gonna have to disagree with you though..

RACHEL STOPS WALKING, AS SHE THINKS HE IS SERIOUS.

RACHEL

(GENTLY) What?..Why?

ISAIAH STOPS WALKING, TO LET HER KNOW HE IS NOT SERIOUS.

ISAIAH

I am a just a vocalist..you girl, you are a singer..

RACHEL

(SIGHS) See? Now there you go again..

ISAIAH

(HALF LAUGHING) What?!

RACHEL

You always seem to know what to say to make someone feel special. Just like that first day in Songwriting class..You didn't even know me. And I was thinking.."Why is this guy being so nice to me?"

ISAIAH

For real?

RACHEL

Yeah...why were you?

ISAIAH
(SIGHS) Well, first of all, I don't like to see people embarrassed..and secondly..honestly? I thought you were really fly... (SMILES)

RACHEL
Wait (SOFTLY LAUGHING)..No...Guys that look as good you, do not seriously think I am fly..

ISAIAH
Well..(POINTING AT HIMSELF AND STEPPING UP CLOSE TO HER) this one does..

RACHEL LOOKS UP AT HIM AND STEPS FORWARD AS WELL. THEY KISS. THEN THEY PAUSE TO LOOK AT EACH OTHER. RACHEL GENTLY CHUCKLES.

RACHEL
Wait!...(SEMI-SARCASTICALLY REALIZING SOMETHING)

ISAIAH
What?? (CONFUSED A BIT)

RACHEL
Are we vibing?! (SMILES AGAIN SEMI-SARCASTICALLY)

ISAIAH
(LAUGHS) Yeah...We vibing (SMILES)--

SUDDENLY, A FAMILIAR VOICE ONCE AGAIN INTERRUPTS FROM A WAYS AWAY. IT IS DORIAN CALLING OUT TO ISAIAH AND APPROACHING RAPIDLY, AND RATHER AGGRESSIVELY. HE HAS BEEN WAITING FOR ISAIAH IN THE LOT, WHICH IS NOW ACTUALLY OUTSIDE THE ALLOWABLE GEOGRAPHIC RADIUS FOR HIS ANKLE BRACELET. AS DORIAN APPROACHES, ISAIAH GUIDES RACHEL SO SHE IS STANDING BEHIND HIM.

DORIAN LIL KIDD
Bruh, how you do me like this? We family...I told you to hit me back! (POINTING) Instead, makin' me come and find you with yo shepherd girl! You owe me that beat! Matter fact you owe me more than one now!--

RACHEL
(GROWING MORE NERVOUS) Come on Isaiah, let's just go..

SHE MOVES FROM BEHIND ISAIAH TOWARD THE TEMPLE ENTRANCE, BUT JUST IN FRONT OF DORIAN.

DORIAN LIL KIDD
Where you goin' Shorty? (GRABBING
HER ARM TO STOP HER)

ISAIAH INTERCEDES. RIPPING DORIAN'S HAND OFF OF RACHEL'S ARM AND GETTING IN DORIAN'S FACE.

ISAIAH
Hands off the lady (SARCASTICALLY)
Cuz!--

DORIAN LIL KIDD
(STEPPING CLOSER TO ISAIAH) Oh you
Gangsta now!?

ISAIAH
(STEPPING BACK IN BETWEEN DORIAN
AND RACHEL) Whatever..just keep
your hands off..my lady--

DORIAN LIL KIDD
Boy get out my face!

DORIAN SUDDENLY PUSHES ISAIAH, WHO BACKS INTO RACHEL, WHO HITS THE DECK. SEEING THIS, ISAIAH EXPLODES AND LUNGES BACK AT DORIAN TAKING HIM A LITTLE BY SURPRISE. THEY STRUGGLE WITH EACH OTHER, PUNCHES ARE THROWN, BUT ISAIAH IS THE ONE DOMINATING THE ACTION. HE WRESTLES DORIAN TO THE PAVEMENT, AND HE'S POUNDING ON HIM, AS DORIAN TRIES TO GET HIS LICKS IN.

INT. - INSIDE AT THE TEMPLE FRONT DESK - AT THE SAME MOMENT.

RUTH IS SUDDENLY NOTICING THE SITUATION ON THE VIDEO SURVEILLANCE MONITOR.

RUTH
Oh my God! (SHE STARTS DIALING THE
PHONE)...Hello!? ..Yes we have an
emergency! We need the police over
here immediately!..

EXT. - BACK AT THE FRONT ENTRANCE PARKING LOT, AGAIN AT THE SAME MOMENT.

ISAIAH SEEMS LIKE HE HAS DORIAN SUBDUED. IN A SHOW OF MERCY, HE STANDS UP AND TURNS TO ASSESS ANY PERSONAL DAMAGE TO RACHEL AND HIMSELF. AS HE DOES SO, DORIAN RISES TO HIS FEET. HIS FACE A BIT BLOODY, DORIAN THEN REACHES BEHIND HIMSELF FOR HIS 9MM PISTOL, AND HITS ISAIAH IN THE SIDE OF THE HEAD WITH IT.

ISAIAH FALLS TO THE GROUND ONTO HIS SIDE, RACHEL RUNS TO HIS AID. DORIAN POINTS THE WEAPON AT ISAIAH, AS HE QUOTES PACINO.

DORIAN LIL KIDD
 "Say hello to my little
 friend!" (BREATHING HEAVY) Didn't
 want it to be this way Cuz..But you
 brought this on yo self!--

JUST WHEN IT SEEMED DORIAN MIGHT FIRE THE WEAPON, AS IF FROM OUT OF NOWHERE, A LEFT HAND CURLS AROUND DORIAN'S WRIST AND TWISTS IT IN AN ALMOST SUPERHUMAN MANNER. ONE ROUND GETS FIRED INTO THE AIR, BEFORE THE GUN IS RELEASED FROM HIS FINGERS. HE IS FLIPPED TO THE GROUND ON HIS FACE, WITH HIS RIGHT ARM EXTENDED BEHIND HIM IN THE AIR BY NONE OTHER THAN RABBI ELI. HOLDING DORIAN'S RIGHT ARM UP WITH HIS RIGHT HAND, ELI CONTINUES TO KNEEL ON DORIAN'S LEGS AND TORSO SO HE IS UNABLE TO MOVE MUCH, LET ALONE GET UP.

ELI
 (TO ISAIAH AND RACHEL AS HE HOLDS
 DORIAN) Are both of you all right
 over there?

OUT OF BREATH, ISAIAH IS CHECKING THE SIDE OF HIS HEAD FOR BLOOD AND/OR INJURY.

ISAIAH
 Yeah (CHECKING HIS SCALP ALONG WITH
 RACHEL)...I think so...

DORIAN TRIES TO STRUGGLE AGAINST ELI'S HOLD, AND IS MET WITH A MORE AGGRESSIVE TWIST OF HIS ARM BY ELI.

DORIAN
 Ahhhhh! Yo Pig! This is police
 brutality money..I'm finna sue yo
 ass!--

ELI TIGHTENS HIS GRIP, MAKING DORIAN WINCE EVEN MORE

ELI
 (INTERRUPTING..ANSWERING DORIAN) I
 am neither a farm animal, nor a
 police officer young man. So I'm
 afraid such a lawsuit would likely
 be an exercise in futility--

DORIAN
 (STILL USELESSLY STRUGGLING) Ima
 git you Man!--

ELI APPLIES EVEN MORE PRESSURE ON DORIAN'S ARM. JUST ENOUGH TO KEEP HIM STILL.

ELI
 (RESPONDING) You know, for being
 such a tough guy, you really do a
 lot of whining (SMILING SLIGHTLY).
 I've demonstrated this hold on
 grandmothers that complain less
 than you do--

STARTING TO SMILE IN AMAZEMENT AT ELI, ISAIAH GETS TO HIS
 FEET ALONG WITH RACHEL. AT THAT MOMENT, CALVIN'S PULLS INTO
 THE PARKING LOT. NOTICING THE SITUATION, HE JUMPS OUT OF HIS
 CAR, RUNS OVER, AND AND STANDS IN FRONT OF ELI AND DORIAN FOR
 A SECOND.

CALVIN
 Snap!..Reverend E. don't play! A
 brother got to behave his self up
 in this bit--...uh..place.

CALVIN LOOKS OVER AT ISAIAH AND RACHEL, AND CHECKS IN.

CALVIN (CONT'D)
 Yo Ize...you good Boss?!

CALVIN GETS A THUMBS UP FROM ISAIAH AND A NOD FROM RACHEL,
 AND THEN NOTICES DORIAN WRITHING IN PAIN AND, STARTING TO
 DROOL.

CALVIN (CONT'D)
 Damn!...What you have for lunch
 bruh...Bar-be-que?

THE POLICE ARRIVE, AS DORIAN, WHO IS IN OBVIOUS PAIN AND IS
 STILL INCAPACITATED BY ELI, CONTINUES TO COMPLAIN. AT THE
 BIDDING OF DETECTIVE RUIZ, TWO UNIFORMED OFFICERS APPREHEND
 DORIAN, CUFF HIM, AND PUT HIM IN A SQUAD CAR. AT THE SAME
 TIME, DETECTIVE RUIZ APPROACHES ELI, AND INTRODUCES HIMSELF.

DETECTIVE RUIZ
 Good evening sir, (HOLDING OUT HIS
 HAND TO SHAKE) I am Detective
 Martine Ruiz of the Police
 Department.

ELI
 (SHAKES HANDS) Rabbi Elijah Newman.

DETECTIVE RUIZ
 Could you tell me what happened
 here?

ELI
 Well, I'm afraid the situation had
 escalated by the time I arrived--

DETECTIVE RUIZ
(INTERRUPTING AS HE NOTICING THE
CAMERA ON THE SIDE OF THE BUILDING)
Wait a minute. Forgive me Rabbi,
but (POINTING AT THE CAMERA) is
your video surveillance system
recording right now?

ELI
Uh Yes..I believe it is.

DETECTIVE RUIZ
Is there a way I can access that
footage somehow?--

RUTH WHO HAS FINALLY COME OUTSIDE, INTERJECTS..AND RESPONDS
BEFORE ELI CAN.

RUTH
(SMILING AT ELI AND PUTTING HER
HAND ON HIS SHOULDER AS SHE PASSES
HIM) I can help you with that,
Officer. Would you follow me
please?

DETECTIVE RUIZ
Absolutely. Thank you M'am.
(POLITELY EXCUSES HIMSELF) Rabbi?
(THEN FOLLOWS RUTH INTO THE
BUILDING).

INT. - THE TEMPLE RECEPTION AREA - A MOMENT LATER.

RUTH ESCORTS DETECTIVE RUIZ OVER TO HER DESK, WHERE SHE IS
ABLE TO PLAY BACK THE RECORDED VIDEO FOOTAGE OF THE ASSAULT
FOR HIM ON HER VIDEO MONITOR.

DETECTIVE RUIZ
Outstanding! Ma'am, is there a way
you could email me access to this
video file? (HE HANDS RUTH A
CALLING CARD WITH CONTACT INFO)

RUTH
Of course.

DETECTIVE RUIZ
Thank you..very much. (SMILES)

EXT. - THE TEMPLE FRONT ENTRANCE AGAIN - MINUTES LATER.

DETECTIVE RUIZ COMES BACK OUT OF THE BUILDING, AND WALKS PAST
THE SQUAD CAR WHERE DORIAN IS SITTING. DORIAN DECIDES TO TALK
SOME SMACK THROUGH THE OPEN WINDOW.

DORIAN
 Ain't you learned nothing man? You
 can't hold me. You know what I'm
 gonna do...

OPENING THE DOOR TO HIS UNMARKED CAR, DETECTIVE RUIZ PULLS
 OUT AN IPAD, OPENS IT UP, AND ACCESSES THE EMAIL RUTH JUST
 SENT HIM. UPON DOING SO, HE RETURNS TO THE SQUAD CAR WHERE
 DORIAN IS STILL CHIRPING.

DORIAN (CONT'D)
 I'm already smiling for the camera.
 Yeah you know what I do..and you
 know what I'm gonna do--

DETECTIVE RUIZ INTERRUPTS DORIAN AS HE SHOWS THE VIDEO/AUDIO
 OF THE ENTIRE ASSAULT ON THE IPAD.

DETECTIVE RUIZ
 (SMUGLY) Yeah I would say you're
 gonna do about 1 to 5 minimum
 (SMILES) when the judge gets a hold
 of this...Dorian!!..

DORIAN STUDIES THE VIDEO OF THE ENTIRE ALTERCATION ON THE
 IPAD, INCLUDING ELI'S TAKEDOWN, AND ALL OF THE WHINING. ALL
 OF A SUDDEN DORIAN IS SILENT.

DETECTIVE RUIZ (CONT'D)
 You know what's funny Kidd? I don't
 see you smiling here. I wonder why
 that is? (WATCHES A BIT MORE UNTIL
 DORIAN IS SHOWN INCAPACITATED AND
 WHINING) Ooo maybe there?..no,
that's not a smile either.
 (MATCHING DORIAN'S EARLIER
 INFLECTION) Yeah! (THEN
 SARCASTICALLY AS HE LEAVES) Sit
 tight..Cuz!.

DETECTIVE RUIZ WALKS OFF AS DORIAN LOOKS DOWN, DEJECTED.

EXT. - BACK OUT NEAR THE FRONT ENTRANCE - THE SAME MOMENT.

ELI WALKS OVER TO ISAIAH, AS HE IS BEING WORKED ON BY A
 PARAMEDIC, BUT IS SEEMINGLY FINE. RACHEL EMBRACES HER FATHER.

RACHEL
 (HUGGING HER FATHER TIGHT) Thank
 you Daddy..

ELI
 (PUTTING HIS HAND BEHIND HER HEAD
 IN A FATHERLY WAY) You alright?

RACHEL NODS AND SMILES, AS ISAIAH MOVES TO SPEAK TO ELI.

ISAIAH

(TO ELI) Sir? I want to apologize for Dorian being here. I have been trying to avoid him. I guess he figured out where I was somehow. (PAUSES AND SIGHS) I will also understand if you..don't want me around Rachel..or you just don't want me around anymore at all?

ELI

(PAUSES AND SIGHS AS WELL) Well Isaiah, as much as I appreciate you saying that, I don't think this calls for anything quite that drastic. And I'm not sure there is anything you could have done..to prevent it. He seems like a young man who does what he wants, whenever he wants to.

UPON HEARING THIS, ISAIAH EXHALES, AS IF SOME WEIGHT JUST BEGAN LIFTING FROM HIS SHOULDERS.

ELI (CONT'D)

Besides, as far as I'm concerned, you were just one of our Bnai Mitzvahs defending the honor of his Cantor, and his home synagogue (SMILES).

WITH THIS COMMENT, AND FEELING VALIDATED BY THAT WORD 'HOME' ONCE MORE, THE WEIGHT ALMOST COMPLETELY DISAPPEARS. AS ISAIAH BREATHES DEEPLY AGAIN, LOOKING AT RACHEL. CALVIN THEN FEELS COMPELLED TO ASK AN OBVIOUS QUESTION.

CALVIN

Reverend, I gotta ask man--

ISAIAH, RACHEL, AND ELI (TOGETHER)

(CORRECTING CALVIN) Rabbi!!!

CALVIN

(REACTING TO THE TRIPLE CORRECTION)
Whoa!..Right...my bad...(POINTING AT THEM) What they said..

CALVIN MAINTAINS HIS ORIGINAL THOUGHT AS HE LOOKS UP AT THE TOP OF THE BUILDING.

CALVIN (CONT'D)
 (TO ELI) So is this like a Shaolin
 Temple or somethin'? Where'd you
 learn all them moves?

UNDERSTANDING CALVIN, BUT NOT COMPLETELY, ELI EXPLAINS.

ELI
 (PLAYING WITH CALVIN A BIT) Well
Alvin--

CALVIN
 (INTERRUPTING) That's Calvin...

ELI
 (RESPONDING) Right..what you said.

ELI PAUSES A BIT FOR A BIT OF COMEDIC EFFECT WHILE ISAIAH,
 RACHEL, AND EVEN CALVIN LAUGH, ELI CONTINUES EXPLAINING.

ELI (CONT'D)
 Growing up in Israel as young men,
 we are obligated to serve two years
 in the military. I had many members
 of my family already in the Mossad.
 So although my deployment was not
 always on the front lines, I did
 receive quite a bit of training
 with them throughout my career.
 That is, before I entered
 Rabbinical College..

ISAIAH
 (RESPONDING QUICKLY) Well, thank
 God for that (SMILES)

ELI
 Yes..I would say He usually does
 have something to do with it..yes
 sir (SMILES BACK)

JUST THEN, BEVERLY AND THE ROBINSONS ARRIVE. BEVERLY RUSHES
 OVER AND HUGS HER SON, PUTS HER HAND ON THE SIDE OF HIS FACE,
 AND ON THE BACK OF HIS HEAD TO ALMOST MAKE SURE HE IS
 ALRIGHT, AND THEN HUGS HIM AGAIN. MO LETS HER HAVE THAT
 MOMENT, AND TALKS TO ELI.

MO ROBINSON
 (EXTENDING HIS HAND TO SHAKE)
 Rabbi..I heard about what you did.
 And I don't know how to thank you..

ELI
 (SHRUGGING IT OFF) Pastor..(SHAKING HANDS) I only did what anyone else in my position would have done..

MO ROBINSON
 (SHAKING HIS HEAD SMILING) You are far too modest my friend. (PAUSES) But maybe we can get that coffee early next week, and talk about it?

ELI
 Absolutely, I would enjoy that. But if next week is anything like this one - Let's make it a beer.
 (CHUCKLES SOFTLY)

MO ROBINSON
 (LAUGHS GENUINELY OUT LOUD)
 Ha..ha..Fair enough sir. Fair enough. (SMILES AND PUTS HIS HAND ON ELI'S SHOULDER).

ELI WALKS AWAY WITH RACHEL TO MEET MIRIAM AND ARI, WHO HAVE JUST ARRIVED, AND ARE ALSO IN THE PARKING LOT. IN THE MEANTIME, MO IS TRANSFIXED ON BEVERLY STILL HUGGING ISAIAH, AS HE REMINISCES ABOUT ALL THE YEARS WHEN ISAIAH WAS MUCH YOUNGER. MO SMILES EMOTIONALLY TO HIMSELF, AS HIS GAZE STAYS ON ISAIAH.

INT. - THE ROBINSON RESIDENCE - LATER THAT EVENING.

ISAIAH IS IN HIS ROOM, SITTING ON HIS BED, WINDING DOWN. WHEN HE HEARS A KNOCK AT HIS DOOR.

ISAIAH
 (PRESUMING) It's open Mom..

TO ISAIAH'S SURPRISE, MO IS AT THE DOOR INSTEAD. THERE IS A BIT OF AN AWKWARD MOMENT, BUT IT DOESN'T LAST.

MO ROBINSON
 Can I come in? (GENUINELY POLITE) I apologize if you were expecting your mother...

ISAIAH
 No no..uh..it's just that she is usually...Uh..what I mean is..it's not that you never--

MO ROBINSON
 (INTERRUPTING KNOWINGLY AND
 MERCIFULLY) It's okay son..I
 understand. (SMILES SLIGHTLY)

ISAIAH
 (QUICKLY JUSTIFYING) Pops, I wanna
 explain about today. I didn't know
 that Dorian was---

MO ROBINSON
 (KNOWINGLY INTERRUPTING AGAIN, BUT
 IN A MUCH DIFFERENT TONE THAN
 ISAIAH IS USED TO) Isaiah..I need
 you to do your father a favor right
 now. I do want you to have an
 opportunity to say what you were
 about to say. But if you would
 indulge me, and let me say
 something first, I would appreciate
 it?..

ISAIAH REALIZES THAT THIS MIGHT BE THE FIRST TIME HIS FATHER
 HAS EVER SPOKEN TO HIM THIS WAY. HE IS PUZZLED, INTRIGUED,
 AND FLATTERED ALL AT THE SAME TIME.

ISAIAH
 (RESPECTFULLY) Yes sir...sure.

MO PULLS OUT A SWIVEL CHAIR, AND SITS DOWN IN FRONT OF
 ISAIAH.

MO ROBINSON
 Your mother and I received a form
 in the mail today, describing our
 role in the (PRONOUNCING IT
 CAREFULLY) "D'Var Torah" portion of
 your Bar Mitzvah service. (PAUSES)
 Well, as your mother began
 organizing her thoughts of what
 she'd like to say to you, I
 realized something...

MO PAUSES SLIGHTLY TO ARRANGE HIS THOUGHTS, LIKE A PASTOR
 WOULD.

MO ROBINSON (CONT'D)
 (LOOKING OFF AND THEN BACK AT
 ISAIAH) You know, I've been a
 pastor for so long.
 (MORE)

MO ROBINSON (CONT'D)
(SOFTLY CHUCKLES) Every day I help manage the spiritual lives of congregation members of all ages, and in every area imaginable. But as a father to you, your sister, and even Israel..like some parents, I might not naturally be as..useful to you..when you get to be certain ages.

MO PAUSES HERE, AND AS HE DOES SO, ISAIAH IS STRUCK BY HIS FATHER'S HUMBLE TONE. HE ALMOST FINDS IT INSPIRATIONAL.

MO ROBINSON (CONT'D)
Along with your mother, I tried to raise the three of you to be independent, self-sufficient, and prepared for what the rest of your lives had to offer..Just like your grandparents did for me. But I see now that, just like your grandfather, once you got to that certain age, it seems I haven't continued to manage that balance very well. (AGAIN SOFTLY CHUCKLING)
And ironically, it's the same balance I seem to preach about every single week.

MO PAUSES AGAIN SLIGHTLY, BEING SOMEWHAT EMBARRASSED BY THIS.

MO ROBINSON (CONT'D)
(LOOKING AWAY) I was so intent on the discipline, that I forgot about the praise. I was so busy being scrutinizing,(SIGHS) at times I forgot to provide..compassion. (A BIT MORE DEMONSTRATIVE) I wanted so much to be a role model, I didn't concentrate enough on allowing your own special and individual uniqueness..to flourish, Isaiah..

MO THEN SLOWLY TURNS TO LOOK DIRECTLY AT ISAIAH. THEN CONTINUES.

MO ROBINSON (CONT'D)
And for that I want to apologize..truly..truly.
(MORE)

MO ROBINSON (CONT'D)
 (PAUSES SLIGHTLY AGAIN) Because even
 if I haven't said it enough..it's
 not as though I didn't have it in
 my heart to tell you...how proud I
 am..of the young man you have
 become. Of how you have risen above
 the adversity in your life, and
 found your own way..to yourself,
 and to your God. (SMILES AT ISAIAH
 PRIDEFULLY).

ALBEIT NOT EASILY, MO STANDS UP AND STRETCHES HIS LEGS.

MO ROBINSON (CONT'D)
 Oohh (HUMOROUSLY REACTING TO SOME
 CREAKY KNEES), it is not easy
 getting older son..(LOOKING AT
 ISAIAH) Apologies also for the long
 sermon...Now what was it you wanted
 to tell me?

ISAIAH BEGINS TO REPEAT WHAT HE INITIALLY STARTED TO SAY. BUT
 IS NOW FILLED WITH EMOTION. SO HE REPEATS IT, THIS TIME IN A
 MUCH MORE SUBDUED TONE.

ISAIAH
 Uhh..(SIGHING)..I wanted you to
 know..that I swear I didn't know
 Dorian was going to be there
 today--

MO ROBINSON
 (GENTLY INTERRUPTING) I know..

ISAIAH
 (TRYING TO CONTINUE THE THOUGHT BUT
 GETTING A LITTLE MORE
 EMOTIONAL)..and I've been trying to
 stay away from him--

MO ROBINSON
 (GENTLY INTERRUPTING AGAIN) I
 know..

ISAIAH
 (AGAIN, CONTINUING THE THOUGHT BUT
 GETTING MORE EMOTIONAL)..and I've
 been doing all my work--

MO ROBINSON
 (GENTLY INTERRUPTING AGAIN) I
know..

SUDDENLY ISAIAH MOVES FORWARD AND PUTS HIS ARMS AROUND MO.. WHICH SURPRISES HIM AT FIRST. BUT HE QUICKLY REALIZES THE IRONY, AND THE EMOTION IN THE MOMENT, AND HUGS BACK.

ISAIAH
(SOMEWHAT TEARFULLY) I love you
Pops...

MO ROBINSON
(ALSO WELLING UP A BIT) I love you
too Isaiah..so glad you're OK son.
(SOFTLY) Praise the Lord..

INT. - THE NEWMAN RESIDENCE. LATER THE SAME EVENING.

ELI IS IN BED, AND STARTS TO HAVE THE SAME NIGHTMARE AGAIN, OR AT LEAST IT STARTS OUT THAT WAY. HE IS BACK TO RUNNING TO TRY TO RETRIEVE THE SCROLL, AND HE IS BY HIMSELF. BUT THIS TIME, AS HE SEES THE SCROLL FLYING WAY OUT AHEAD OF HIM, HE ALSO SEES A FAINT LIGHT IN THE DISTANCE, AND HEARS A FAINT NOISE. AS HE GETS CLOSER, THE LIGHT GETS A LITTLE BRIGHTER, THE NOISE BEGINS TO GET LOUDER. RUNNING STILL, ELI STARTS TO SLOW DOWN BECAUSE HE NOTICES THE SCROLL FINALLY SLOWING TO A HALT UP AHEAD. GETTING CLOSER AND NOW WALKING, HE STARTS TO RECOGNIZE THE NOISE AS BEING THE SOUNDS AND MUSIC OF A CHURCH FUNERAL SERVICE (SMOKIE NORFUL'S "UMM GOOD" STARTS TO BE PLAYED). ONLY A FEW FEET AWAY, AS ELI REALIZES THE LIGHT IS ACTUALLY COMING FROM A PARTIALLY OPEN DOOR, THE SCROLL (A LA HARRY POTTER) QUICKLY TAKES OFF THE OPPOSITE WAY AND START TO ROLL ITSELF UP.

UNDAUNTED, ELI MAKES HIS WAY THROUGH THE OPEN DOOR INTO THE AISLE OF A FULLY ATTENDED, SECOND BAPTIST-ISH CEREMONY, COMPLETE WITH AN EMOTIONALLY CHARGED MUSICAL PRESENTATION, EULOGY, AND SERMON. NOBODY SEEMS TO NOTICE HIM, AS HE GETS CLOSER TO THE ACTION. HOWEVER ELI STARTS TO RECOGNIZE SOME OF THE FIGURES ON STAGE. MOSES ROBINSON IS AT THE PULPIT, SUBTLE TEARS STREAMING DOWN HIS FACE, AS HE FITS COMMENTARY IN BETWEEN MUSICAL PHRASES. A SUBSTANTIAL PRAISE AND WORSHIP BAND IS JAMMING TO MO'S LEFT, WHILE ISAIAH IS SINGING LEAD IN FRONT OF A LARGE CHOIR WITH A CONDUCTOR.

ELI FINALLY MAKES HIS WAY BETWEEN BOTH FRONT ROWS OF THE PUGH. HE CAN FEEL THE POWER OF THE PRESENTATION ON THE STAGE IN HIS CHEST. AND THIS ALONG WITH ALL THE EMOTIONAL TESTIFYING IN THE CONGREGATION, WHICH INCLUDES MIRIAM, ARI, RUTH, CALVIN, AND EVEN LITTLE MRS. EISENMAN. HE REALIZES THEY ARE ALL FEELING WHAT HE FEELS WHEN HE WORSHIPS. WATCHING ALL OF THIS RIGHT THEN, LISTENING TO THE MESSAGE OF "GOD IS GOOD", THE IDEOLOGICAL DIFFERENCES JUST DON'T SEEM ANYWHERE NEAR AS CONSIDERABLE ANYMORE.

SUDDENLY, ELI SPOTS RACHEL IN THE CHOIR. HAVING NORMALLY BEEN AVERSE TO SUCH AN IMAGE BEFORE - FOR SOME REASON NOW, HE IS CONTENT SEEING THE JOY EMANATING FROM HER AS SHE SHARES HER VOCAL GIFTS WITH THE LORD. ELI'S ATTENTION SUDDENLY TURNS TO THE VERY ANIMATED CHOIR CONDUCTOR, WHO IS CLEARLY ENJOYING HIMSELF AS HE BUSTS A MOVE WITH THE BEAT. ELI IMMEDIATELY RECOGNIZES HIS PROFILE. IT IS ABRAHAM. HE TURNS TOWARD ELI AND WINKS.

AT THAT POINT, ELI AWAKENS AGAIN. STILL A BIT SWEATY, HE LAUGHS GENTLY AS HE ALSO SHEDS A SINGLE TEAR. MIRIAM AWAKENS AS WELL RIGHT THEN.

MIRIAM
E!! (PUTTING HER HAND ON HIS SHOULDER) Oh Honey, did you have another one? You haven't had one in awhile right?

ELI DOESN'T ANSWER RIGHT AWAY, AS HE IS JUST TRYING TO DIGEST THE MOMENT.

MIRIAM (CONT'D)
Eli..are you alright?

ELI
(PAUSES - THEN SINCERELY) I love you Miriam..

MIRIAM
(VERY TOUCHED BUT STILL CONCERNED)
Ohh Honey..(HUGS HIM) I get so worried about you when this happens.

ELI
(STILL HUGGING MIRIAM) Don't worry Miriam, I think I'll be alright now. (HUGS HER A BIT TIGHTER) It's OK.

INT. - SIX MONTHS LATER. THE FRONT OF TEMPLE BNAI ELOHIM - TWO HOURS BEFORE THE BAR MITZVAH CEREMONY.

RABBI DAVID IS WALKING FROM A SIDE DOOR TO THE MAIN ENTRANCE. JUST THEN, A RENTAL CAR PULLS INTO THE TEMPLE LOT, AND INTO THE DROP OFF LANE NEXT TO RABBI DAVID. THE CAR STOPS, THE WINDOW ROLLS DOWN, AND A RATHER ATTRACTIVE AND INTELLECTUAL LOOKING WOMAN IN SUNGLASSES CALLS OUT TO HIM FROM THE DRIVER'S SEAT.

TALIA ROBINSON
 (WARMLY SMILING) Hi! So sorry to bother you, but I'm going to be attending the Bnai Mitzvah a little bit later today, and I was wondering if there was someone available to give me a quick tour?

ALWAYS A BIT AWKWARD WITH PUBLIC RELATIONS, DAVID PROVES SURPRISINGLY ADEQUATE AT FIELDING THE QUESTION.

RABBI DAVID
 Yes (STRAINING A BIT TO SMILE) I understand. Well, our Temple Manager, and our Board President are the ones who handle the official tours. And unfortunately, neither one is on the premises at the moment. Um..maybe if you were to try them during a weekday, they could even discuss membership in more detail with you?

TALIA ROBINSON
 (DISAPPOINTED BUT STILL SWEET) Oh..I see. Well, as luck would have it, I actually don't live in this area. I just drove in for the day, and for the event. (TAKES OFF HER SUNGLASSES TO BE MORE POLITE) I am Talia Robinson..and you are..?

RABBI DAVID
 Rabbi David Rosenbloom..nice to meet you Talia--

TALIA ROBINSON
 (GENUINELY IMPRESSED) Oh wow..you're a Rabbi! Oh that's fabulous! If I may ask, where were you ordained?

DAVID, TAKEN ABACK A BIT BY THE QUESTION, STILL ANSWERS IT.

RABBI DAVID
 Well, I..I did my undergraduate work at Tufts University, and did my graduate degree at The Jewish Theological Seminary in New York.

TALIA ROBINSON
 (PROLONGING DAVID'S SENTENCE)..At 122nd and Broadway!
 (MORE)

TALIA ROBINSON (CONT'D)
 I know it very well Rabbi David. I did my both Masters and PhD programs at Columbia, right down the street. Actually, I had several faculty from the Seminary as professors, and guest speakers..they were wonderful. It is a wonderful school.(SMILING SINCERELY)

ALMOST A LITTLE OVERWHELMED BY TALIA'S REFRESHING PERSONALITY, RABBI DAVID KEEP HIS HEAD TO INDULGE HIS OWN CURIOSITY.

RABBI DAVID
 (ALMOST A GENUINE SMILE) Well, thank you..it definitely was for me. If you don't mind my asking, what did you study at Columbia?

TALIA ROBINSON
 I don't mind at all Rabbi, I love my work (PAUSES AND SMILES). At CU, I did my Masters in Sacred Theology, and my PhD in North American Religions..with a concentration in Judeo-Christian Studies.

RABBI DAVID
 Wow. Now that's a coincidence. One of my favorite classes was a ridiculously early morning Sacred Theology section. The professor I had used to say..that " it was the best time to study the subject..because--

TALIA IMMEDIATELY RECOGNIZES THE QUOTE, AND INTERRUPTS TO FINISH IT FOR DAVID.

TALIA
 ..Because God hasn't had his coffee yet!" (PAUSING TO SMILE) Wow, so you had Dr. Bruner too?! (DAVID NODS SMILING) Well we couldn't have been in the same class...but it is really such a small world, isn't it? Amazing!

TALIA AND DAVID, BOTH STILL VIBING A BIT OVER THE COINCIDENCE, GET BACK TO THE ORIGINAL CONVERSATION.

TALIA (CONT'D)

Well, listen Rabbi David, I don't want to take up any more of your valuable time. I was just hoping to maybe get a look at the Ark in the chapel, and possibly the Sukkah before the ceremony. But maybe I can just see it later--

RABBI DAVID, SUMMONING SOME FORTITUDE FROM DOWN DEEP WITHIN HIMSELF, TAKES SOME INITIATIVE.

RABBI DAVID

(POLITELY INTERRUPTING) You know what..Talía? I just realized. I actually could take a break right now if I wanted to (PAUSES)..It would be my pleasure to show you around...if you would like? (SMILES)

TALIA

(SMILING SINCERELY AND EFFUSIVELY) Really? That would be so wonderful, and so nice of you! (PAUSES). Just let me pull into a parking spot real quick, and I will come right over..(DRIVES AWAY SMILING).

TALIA PARKS, GETS OUT OF HER CAR, AND WALKS BACK OVER TO THE ENTRANCE TO JOIN DAVID.

TALIA (CONT'D)

Thank you so much again Rabbi David..

TALIA SHAKES HIS HAND, AND STARTS TO WALK WITH HIM INTO THE LOBBY.

TALIA (CONT'D)

(AS SHE ENTERS) And I promise I won't overstay my welcome. I don't wanna be like one of those guests on "The Bachelorette" that nobody wants to hang out with (LAUGHS).

AS TALIA IS ALREADY IN THE BUILDING, DAVID, WHO WAS HOLDING THE DOOR, IS INSTANTLY INTRIGUED.

DAVID

Wait..did you just say "The Bachelorette"?...I love that show.. (AND THEN ENTERS THE BUILDING AFTER TALIA).

INT. - TWO HOURS LATER. TEMPLE BNAI ELOHIM. CRANE MONTAGE OF THE DAY OF THE BAR MITZVAH..THE ENTRANCE..THE LOBBY..EVERYONE ARRIVING.

A MONTAGE - DISSOLVING SCENES OF THE CEREMONY BEGINNING..ELI PREACHING..RACHEL SINGING..AND BOTH BNAI MITZVAHS (ISAIAH AND JUDITH EISENMAN) SPEAKING. THEY HAVE TO AMUSINGLY KEEP MOVING THE MICROPHONE UP AND DOWN BECAUSE OF THE HEIGHT DIFFERENTIAL BETWEEN THE TWO.

DISSOLVE TO REACTIONS FROM THE CONGREGATION - THE CAMERA SLOWLY PANS TO INCLUDE MIRIAM, MO AND BEVERLY, ARI AND GINA, AND CALVIN AND NAOMI. ALL OF THEM ARE HAPPY AND SMILING.

AT ONE POINT IN THE SERVICE, DURING THE TRANSFER OF THE TORAH SCROLLS TO THE BIMAH, THERE IS A COLLECTIVE REALIZATION THAT THE REGULAR YAD (OR POINTER) THAT BOTH BNAI MITZVOT WILL USE IS MISSING. THERE IS AN OBVIOUS PAUSE IN THE ACTION. BUT WHILE ELI, RACHEL, ISAIAH, JUDITH, AND RUTH LOOK ON..DAVID IS SHOWN RUSHING TO HIS OFFICE AND BACK, AND THEN RELUCTANTLY TURNING OVER HIS PERSONAL YAD TO ISAIAH TO USE. THIS INDUCES A REACTIVE SMILE TO DAVID FROM RACHEL, RUTH, AND NOW TALIA.. NOW SITTING IN THE CONGREGATION. DAVID NERVOUSLY, BUT SINCERELY SMILES BACK.

IT IS THE LATTER STAGES OF THE CEREMONY. THE TORAH IS ON THE BIMAH AND BEING READ BY ISAIAH. RACHEL IS BY HIS SIDE, AND ELI IS STANDING BEHIND THEM. ALL OF A SUDDEN, ELI STARTS TO SEE HIS NIGHTMARE REALIZED AGAIN, AS THE SCROLLS START TO ROLL OFF THE BIMAH IN SLOW MOTION, THOUGH HE DOESN'T LITERALLY YELL "NO!"...IN HIS HEAD, HE IS FEELING IT AS HE QUICKLY LUNGES TO CATCH IT. HOWEVER, BEFORE HE CAN, BOTH RACHEL'S AND ISAIAH'S RIGHT HANDS GET TO IT FIRST TO CATCH IT. IN THAT SLOW MOTION MOMENT, ELI REALIZES HE CAN MAYBE TRUST THIS YOUNGER GENERATION TO MANAGE THE CHANGE AND CHAOS IN THE WORLD.

INT. - SAME DAY, JUST AFTER THE CEREMONY. A CRANE SHOT OF THE TEMPLE BNAI ELOHIM EVENT ROOM FOR THE POST-CEREMONY CELEBRATION.

IT IS MORE ON THE LOW KEY MODEST SIDE THAN THE USUAL. THE EVENT HOWEVER IS WINDING DOWN, AND GUESTS ARE DISSIPATING. ISAIAH, FLANKED BY RACHEL, APPROACHES ELI AND STANDS FACE TO FACE WITH HIM.

ELI
(SMILING) Well Isaiah, Mazel Tov young man. I am sure it is a relief not to have to be here five days a week anymore.

ISAIAH
 (GENUINELY) Actually, I am gonna miss that. But you will still see me around sir. This is my home synagogue.(SMILES AT BOTH ELI AND RACHEL)

ELI
 Well, I am positive I can speak for all of the teachers who contributed to your success today. You should be very proud of yourself son.

ISAIAH
 (SMILING AGAIN) Rabbi Eli..I don't think I could thank you enough sir (SHAKES HIS HAND, AND GIVES HIM A BRO HUG).

ELI
 Live and be well Isaiah.

ISAIAH
 Thank you sir..you too.

ISAIAH STARTS WALKING AWAY, HOLDING HANDS WITH RACHEL. BUT SUDDENLY STOPS WALKING..THINKING OF SOMETHING HE NEEDS TO SAY TO ELI. HE TURNS AROUND AND RAISES HIS VOICE.

ISAIAH (CONT'D)
 Rabbi Eli!! (GETTING ELI'S ATTENTION) Hadran Alaich sir!!..I will return to you..my teacher! (PROUDLY SMILES AS RACHEL GUSHES)

AT THIS, ELI SMILES BACK AND REACTS BY PUTTING HIS FIST OVER HIS HEART, AND WAVING. HE THEN WATCHES ISAIAH AND RACHEL TURN AND CONTINUE WALKING AWAY HAND IN HAND. AT WHICH POINT, ELI SUDDENLY THINKS OF SOMETHING TO SAY IN RESPONSE.

ELI
 Isaiah!! (GETTING ISAIAH'S ATTENTION - THEN SMILING AND POINTING) Holla at your Boy! :)

ENDING CREDITS