

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

The living room sits empty. All is quiet in the house until-
CALVIN (14) enters. He rushes into the house shouting.

CALVIN
BRANDON! BRANDON?! Where are you?

Calvin looks behind the couch. He rushes through the room, looking down hallways, searching for his friend.

CALVIN (CONT'D)
Come on! Mrs. Schneebly got axed!
Murdered in her own home. I want to
be the first to break the story.
BRANDON!

Brandon's mother, TAMMY (30's), enters. She's wearing jeans and a t-shirt paired with a kimono to tie it all together. A big gulp cup in her hand.

TAMMY
(Talking with her hands)
What is with all the yelling?
Calvin, why aren't you in school?

CALVIN
I need to talk to Brandon!

TAMMY
Brandon should be at school too.

CALVIN
Riiight. Temporary lapse in
judgement, Mrs. J.

Tommy follows Calvin to the door, pulling him back into the room.

TAMMY
Not so fast. Why isn't my son in
school?

CALVIN
Off campus lunch.

TAMMY
Since when?

CALVIN
Last semester.

TAMMY
I'm not buying it.

Calvin loses his cool.

CALVIN
Okay, he skipped! Is that what you want to hear? He said he was coming home. I didn't know you were going to be here.

TAMMY
Of course I'm here. I'm always here. I am *trapped* here.

CALVIN
Please don't tell my mom. She'll take away my phone again. I am nothing without my phone. Anything you want to know. I'll sing like a canary.

TAMMY
Wow, you really crack under pressure.

CALVIN
It's anxiety related. Can I go?

TAMMY
Not yet. What were you shouting about?

CALVIN
Ehhhh.

TAMMY
(pressing him)
Calvin?

CALVIN
There was a murder on our block.

She gasps in shock. He gasps for breath. This is really taking a toll on him.

TAMMY
That's... That's...

CALVIN
Terrible, I know. Can I have a sip of your drink? My nerves are shot.

TAMMY

No, it's mah day wine. (Beat) This is amazing news.

CALVIN

Say what?

TAMMY

This is the most exciting thing that's ever happened in this neighborhood. Normally it's so safe and boring.

CALVIN

Isn't that a good thing?

TAMMY

Not for a stay at home mom, Calvin. Our lives are routine, routine, routine. Sometimes I walk to this window and I just get lost for hours, staring out at the world, waiting for something to happen.

CALVIN

This really feels like a conversation you should be having with your husband.

TAMMY

The most scandalous thing I've ever encountered was an elderly package thief.

While Tammy stares out the window, Calvin tries to escape. Tip toeing toward the door.

CALVIN

How does that work?

TAMMY

She was loading packages into her scooter basket.

CALVIN

The nerve.

Tammy turns to look at him. Calvin stops.

TAMMY

Why did you need Brandon's help?