

Father's Day

By

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Cast of Characters

Levi:

A 12-year old boy

ACT I

Scene 1

Lights up. The stage is set in a church for a wake with a casket upstage. The stage is empty except for a 12-year old boy in a suit, LEVI, who sits in one of the pews facing the casket clutching a large picture frame to his chest. He notices the audience.

LEVI

Oh sorry, I didn't realize it was over-- I just-- I mean, are you here to...

He gestures to the casket.

LEVI

I hope you weren't waiting long; I should be going anyway.

He takes a step upstage before he is stopped.

(Don't go, what's your name?)

LEVI

What? Oh, my name is Levi, after my dad, but most people just call me Junior. He used to always tell me, (in a dad voice) "We're Levi's; tough like the jeans and shouldn't take no shit from anyone." I know that is a double negative and means I *should* take shit from anyone, but I wasn't going to tell him that. He didn't like that I went to school so much, said I was just wasting my time learning a bunch of shit I'll never use. I liked school because I got to make friends and learn tons of cool stuff about science and the world. Did you know that the adult human body has 206 bones but as a kid it has 300? It's cause they fuse together as you grow. I'm not really a kid anymore, but I'm not an adult either, so I don't know how many I have. My dad would always say, "You're not a boy anymore; you're a man now. You can't be such a damn pussy all the time". I'm here because of him. I miss him already.

There is a moment of silence as he looks back at the casket again.

LEVI

I don't know what to do now.

(What about your mom?)

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LEVI

My mom left a long time ago. They weren't married or anything and she always said she didn't want to be a mom anyway so she left. She just wanted to have fun, which I guess I can understand. She took almost everything when she left too: the TV, the stereo, all the movies, she even took the ceiling fans! Dad was pissed! She took all my stuff too but I always thought she was just setting up a nice room for me in her new house... But she never came back. Dad said there just wasn't enough meth in Glendale to keep her around. We would always joke that Mom used to "have the need, the need for speed!" He thinks all druggies are BDMFs.

(BDM-What?)

LEVI

Oh, uh...Broke-Dick-Mother-F--

Levi makes a sexual gesture with his hands.

LEVI

You get the idea. Dad's not perfect either, but he thinks that because beer is legal it's okay. One time we were hanging out on the porch and he gave me a beer, "drink it; puts hair on your chest." It was so gross! I was spitting it out and he was laughing at me and was like, "Don't be such a pussy, drink it like a man". You get used to it after a while I guess. He got pulled over a few times after drinking and now he has one of those breath things in his truck. It looks weird because the truck is so old and that thing is the nicest part of it! I liked it because I got to spend more time with Dad. He didn't stop drinking or anything but since then I got to go with him to Cactus Willy's. He'd have fun talking, drinking, and shooting pool and I'd get to sit at the bar, drink Shirley Temples, and try to play darts. When the night was over, I'd help Dad start the truck and we'd drive home. It was a lot of fun... until Sunday. We went to Willy's for Father's Day and people just kept buying us drinks. I drank so much I don't even wanna see another Shirley Temple! Dad was having a great time taking shots of Jager and talking about Nascar until we left. As we were going home Dad was pretending he was Dale Earnhardt and was driving real fast; just blazing through red lights and swerving all over. I was a little scared because we weren't wearing seat belts because Dad always said, "Seat belts are for pussies and babies" and I didn't want to be either. We were 2 blocks away from home when we ran another red light and this car comes out of no where! So Dad turns right to dodge it and then we lose control of the truck, swerving left and over-correcting right, then jumping the curb into a PetSmart parking lot only to plow head first into a street light. We began to float from our seats and crashed through

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LEVI (cont'd)

the windshield. As I soared through the air, underneath the glow of street lights and colored letters, all I could think was, "I always wanted a dog." That was the last thing I remember really.

There is another moment of silence

LEVI

I can't really blame him, accidents happen. I mean, it was my fault too for helping him start the car. We were just having fun and didn't think anyone would get hurt. It was Father's Day and I... I-- (Rising to tears) I just wanted to impress my dad, I wanted to help him, I wanted him to love me. I didn't want to be a pussy, I didn't want to be a boy anymore, I wanted to be a man!... Like my father.

Silence stillness. Levi collects himself.

LEVI

Sorry. I have to get going. Thanks for-- it was really nice talking to you. It's time for me to go now.

Levi straightens his suit and walks upstage to the casket. He takes a long look at the casket while running his hand along the side. Levi takes one last long look at the picture.

LEVI

Goodbye.

Levi sets the picture frame face-down before crawling into the casket. There is a moment of stillness before a man holding flowers enters. He places them on the casket and sets up the picture frame revealing a large portrait of Levi.

Blackout. End of play.