

MINDY

I'll see you there before I have to pick up Tess from after care. 4 o'clock. Twenty minutes.

COLIN

Yes. Great!

Mindy rolls her eyes and grabs Tess's hand to go back into the mall.

TESS

You going on a date with Santa, mom?

Colin all alone stands there for a moment before starting to tap dance and feeling happy feet. He moves like Fred astaire with a big smile on his face as he puts the beard on and tops his head with the hat.

An elf comes up to him.

ELF

You ready, Santa? Got a big line out there.

COLIN

Let's do this, elf.

CUT TO:

42 INT. FREIDBERG HOME - KITCHEN - EVENING

Colin enters the kitchen and his mom has a fully prepared meal with two plates set for them. He gives her a kiss on the cheek and Maggie wipes it off.

MARGARET

I'm dying over here without my slims. For the love of god, please tell me you made it to the Wawa. Today is the last day of the offer.

Colin reveals three packs of slims from his jacket and tosses them onto the counter.

COLIN

I hate that you make me do this.

Margaret grabs a pack and places the other two in her stash jar as she unwraps and lights up a smoke. Colin opens a window.

MARGARET

This makes me happy, Colin. Be satisfied that you helped in that happiness. Are you hungry? There's pot roast and potatoes on the table.

COLIN

I'm starved.

Colin sits down and starts to prepare his plate. He gets up quickly from a poking item in his pant pocket. He pulls out the mall key ring with the cross that just left a mark on his right butt cheek and tosses them on the table.

COLIN

Damn cross.

He resumes preparing his plate. There is a long silence as he begins to eat. He looks back at his mom who is staring at him smoking a cigarette.

COLIN

Are you going to just stand there watching me eat, or are you going to join me?

MARGARET

How's the Santa business?

COLIN

It's good. Keeps me busy.

MARGARET

Have you heard from your lawyer?

COLIN

Not yet. They're still negotiating the settlement.

MARGARET

Your going to be a rich man soon.

COLIN

Well, first things first. We get you out of this place and find a clean home for you to start again.

MARGARET

Oh, Coll. I'm not going anywhere. I don't want to move. I'm tired.

COLIN

Mom, you can't live like this. It isn't healthy.

MARGARET

I like it. This is who I am. All my stuffs here. Your father's stuff.

COLIN

I know. I just worry about you. You could trip and fall. This place is all cluttered. You can't find anything.

Margaret opens her scissor drawer and pulls out her scissors.

MARGARET

I know where my scissors are.

Colin rolls his eyes and continues eating. Margaret slowly puts out her slim in the ashtray then makes her way to the kitchen table and sits.

MARGARET

Son.

COLIN

Yeah, ma?

MARGARET

I'm... sometimes I don't know who I am.

COLIN

I noticed. How do you feel now?

MARGARET

I feel clearer. But it comes and goes. That's why I have all those pills. But I don't think they're working anymore.

Colin stops eating and stares at her.

COLIN

What can I do for you mom?

MARGARET

Just...be. That's all anyone can do.

There is a long pause. Margaret stares aimlessly for a moment.

COLIN

Ok, mom.

They both start to eat dinner again silently.

CUT TO:

43 INT. FREIDBERG HOME - COLIN BEDROOM - EVENING

Colin is in his room alone observing himself in the mirror. He makes the decision to start working out.

COLIN

I gotta do something about this.

He is in his underwear and a tshirt as he gets down to do some sit ups. After doing a few he stops. Breaths heavy.

Then tries to do some more. After a second round. He gets up on his knees and starts doing push-ups. He gets about three done before resting on the floor face down. After a