

WHAT THE DOG TOOK (B) 1

CLASS USE ONLY

KEVIN

What sign are you?

DAVE

What?

KEVIN

The zodiac. What sign are you?

DAVE

I'm a Cancer.

KEVIN

Drunks. Cancers are drunks.

DAVE

What's that supposed to mean?

KEVIN

My mother's a Cancer. Cancers are drunks.  
Jailbirds.

DAVE

I'm not a drunk. What do you mean,  
jailbirds?

KEVIN

My mom. I told you all about that.

DAVE

You never told me about... told me about  
what?

KEVIN

My mother. Fucking jailbird.

DAVE

What?

KEVIN

Always getting into some kind of shit. Drove  
a big station wagon. A Ford. A big old Ford  
station wagon.

DAVE

The kind with the wood grain trim?

KEVIN

Imitation wood grain trim. Used to drive me  
to school in it. Quite often she had already  
had some gin and tonics and occasionally she  
would hit a tree on the way. (continued)...

## WHAT THE DOG TOOK 2

KEVIN

All those ladies, all those mothers back then were like that. It was the seventies and they all drank like fish. Fucking jailbirds, all of them.

DAVE

You never told me about this.

KEVIN

Well, that's what happened.

DAVE

And she went to jail?

KEVIN

A few times. But she always got out to hit another tree.

DAVE

Did she get hurt?

KEVIN

Sometimes stitches. One time my head got a little bit gashed. No-one wore seat belts in those days, but that Ford was a Goddamn tank.

DAVE

Hey, man... I'm really... hey, that's really shitty.

KEVIN

Yeah, well, that was the way they did things back then.

DAVE

My mom didn't drink except at Christmas. But once she took some pills by accident and fell over in the Safeway. It was fucking scary.

KEVIN

She took pills by accident?

DAVE

That's what they told me. I don't know how she could've, though. I mean, it's not like they were mixed up with the vitamin C or anything.

KEVIN

What kind of pills?

### WHAT THE DOG TOOK 3

DAVE

We had this dog. Barney. Lab-Shepherd cross. He drooled all over the place, but we loved him. If you said shake a paw, he would.

KEVIN

So what about the pills?

DAVE

Barney had epilepsy. Sometimes he'd have these attacks and his legs would shake.

KEVIN

So what?

DAVE

So he took pills. Pills to control the attacks. If he started spazzing out you had to hold him down and pop three pills down his throat. Then you had to rub his neck and kiss his nose so he'd swallow. Half the time he'd spit it up and you'd have to do it again.

KEVIN

So... your mom... what, she took Barney's pills?

DAVE

That's what they told us.

KEVIN

She took what the dog took?

DAVE

Yeah, she took what the dog took.

KEVIN

Why would she do that?

DAVE

I don't know.

KEVIN

Did she have epilepsy?

DAVE

Not that I'm aware of.

#### WHAT THE DOG TOOK 4

KEVIN

So what happened, I mean, at the Safeway?

DAVE

Well, she was reaching for some Captain Crunch and she just fucking fell over. Took down a whole shelf of cereal and a bunch of granola. Everything landed all over her head.

KEVIN

Whoa. Lucky she wasn't in the canned soup aisle.

DAVE

The deli guy called 911 and they came and got her.

KEVIN

Did she drool?

DAVE

Who, my mom?

DEVIN

Yeah. I mean, if Barney drooled, maybe there was some kind of connection there.

DAVE

No, she didn't drool. She just lay there until they came and took her away. I was so scared I wet my pants. Ten years old and I wet my pants right there in the Safeway. I mean, I thought she was dead.

KEVIN

Yeah, I wish my mom was dead. What she put us through. Fucking jail bird.

DAVE

Mine died the summer before last. Heart attack. She was only 49, but she was real fat.

KEVIN

Sorry, man. You know...

DAVE

Yeah. Anyway, I'm a Cancer.