

Californication 1/4 (MSEL)

Dad

Married or not, that's one heck of a family you got there, kiddo.

Hank

I like to think so.

Dad

Can I give you a bit of advice?

Hank

Do I have a choice?

Dad

Look, I know things are crazy for you right now. I've been there, in my own way. Just don't go so far that you cannot find your way back. That's all I'm saying. Keep 'em close. Family comes first.

Hank

That borders on hysterical, coming from you.

Dad

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What, I was so bad? Your mother and I were together until the bitter end.

Hank

Bitter it was. I can't believe you're just going to sit there and pretend to be all noble about this shit.

Dad

If you've got something on your mind, kiddo, out with it.

Hank

You were always fucking someone else.

Dad

Your mother and I had a lot of problems. We were married young and we were not compatible in that way. You know what I mean?

Hank

Woah. I think I do. And I'd like someone to smack me over the head with a shovel right about now. Anyone.

Dad

I'm not proud of some of the things I do, but if I had to do it all over again, I'm not sure I would go at it any differently.

Hank

Why do you say that?

Dad

Because there's not a woman that I crossed paths with that I haven't fallen in love with, whether it was for ten minutes or ten years. What would have been better? A lifetime of denying all that? Your mother was into all that Catholic guilt shit, not me. Life's too short to dance with fat chicks.

Hank

All right, let me get this straight. The lesson here is "keep the family together and fuck around on the side if your wife doesn't want to blow you anymore". Is that it?

Dad

You watch it. I'm not so old that I won't kick the shit out of you.

Hank

Yeah. I remember that shit too.

Dad

Oh, so now I beat you. You know what the problem with your generation is? You think raising a hand to a kid is the same as child abuse.

Hank

I don't have it right in front of me, pop, but I think that's pretty much the textbook definition. Yeah.

Dad

Always the smart ass. Hey, it's your life. Yours to screw up if you want to. (pause) I was here a year ago. You were much happier then. And even happier the year before that. You're not going in the right direction. That's all I'm saying.