

INT. LIVING ROOM -- DAY

Anita enters the house.

ELAINE (CONT'D)
Anita, is that you?

ANITA'S VOICE
Hey Mom! I already ate.

Mom moves to the living room to greet William's sister.
William peers into the next room.

ELAINE
You sure? I'm making soy cutlets.

The words "soy cutlets" sends a small shiver through the girl.

ANITA
I'm fine. Already ate.

William stands in the doorway now, watching, monitoring, as Mom moves closer to his sister. She sees something curious about her daughter.

ELAINE
Wait. You've been kissing.

ANITA
(too quickly)
No I haven't.

ELAINE
(peering at her lips)
Yes... yes, you have...

ANITA
No I haven't.

ELAINE
Yes you have. I can tell.

ANITA
(boldly)
You can't tell.

Mom steps closer and examines the lips even more carefully.
To her, everything is a quest for knowledge.

ELAINE
Not only can I tell, I know who it is. It's Darryl.

Anita is stunned silent. She turns slightly to look at herself in a hall mirror, searching for clues, implicating herself immediately.

ELAINE (CONT'D)

And what have you got under your coat?

This is the booty Anita didn't want to give up. Mom picks at the corner of an album cover now visible under her jacket. She withdraws the album. It's Simon and Garfunkel's Bookends.

ANITA

(busted)

It's unfair that we can't listen to our music!

ELAINE

(weary of the issue)

Honey, it's all about drugs and promiscuous sex.

ANITA

Simon and Garfunkel is poetry!

ELAINE

Yes it's poetry. It's the poetry of drugs and promiscuous sex. Look at the picture on the cover...

CLOSE ON BOOKENDS ALBUM COVER

Mom's fingers at the edges. We examine the insolent faces on Richard Avedon's classic album cover. Even Simon and Garfunkle look guilty under her scholarly inspection.

ELAINE (CONT'D)

... honey, they're on pot.

ANITA

First it was butter, then sugar and white flour.

(beat)

Bacon. Eggs, bologna, rock and roll, motorcycles.

Nearby, William squirms as he watches the gently escalating conversation. Anita glances at her brother. He silently urges her to downshift. She can't.

ANITA (CONT'D)

Then it was celebrating Christmas
on a day in September When you knew
it wouldn't be "commercialized."

ELAINE

That was an experiment. But I
understand -

ANITA

What else are you going to ban?

ELAINE

Honey, you want to rebel against
knowledge. I'm trying to give you
the Cliff's Notes on how to live in
this world.

ANITA

(simple and direct)
We're like nobody else I know.

These are the words that sting Mom most.

ELAINE

I'm a teacher. Why can't I teach
my own kids?

(pats chest)
Use me.

ANITA

Darryl says you use knowledge to
keep me down. He says I'm a "yes"
person and you're trying to raise
us in a "no" environment!

ELAINE

(immediately, can't help
it)
Well, clearly, "no" is a word
Darryl
doesn't hear much.