

Stepmom 2 – 1 (HM)

Jackie

Okay. "Limp dick" I know. What exactly is "snowblowing"?

Isabel

It doesn't matter. I didn't even explain it to her.

Jackie

Well, you're going to have to explain it to me, because I'm going to have to explain it to about twenty or thirty parents that are going to call in the next half-hour or so.

Isabel

Give them my number.

Jackie

No, I think they're going to want to talk to Anna's mother, thank you.

Isabel

What is it that you're worried about? Looking bad at the PTA?

Jackie

Are you defending what you did?

Isabel

Right to the ground.

Jackie

You put thoughts in my child's mind. You had her lie about that model.

Stepmom 2 – 2 (HM)

Isabel

And it worked like a charm.

Jackie

And you became a hero, and I became a schmuck. Basically, you taught my child that I am a loser who doesn't really care about her pain.

Isabel

That's not what I was trying to do.

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Jackie

Well, that's what you did. Did you think that I didn't have some dirty words for that little putz? That I couldn't figure out some low blows?

Isabel

You weren't passing them out.

Jackie

Well, I believe that when you're in a crisis you have an opportunity to learn something.

Isabel

That's deep.

Jackie

It was a lie. Winning without dignity or grace is not winning. She has to figure out who she is, so she can stand up to peer pressure, so that ... so that she can steer her own course.

Stepmom 2 – 3 (HM)

Isabel

She wasn't steering her own course. She was steering yours.

Jackie

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Oh. Well, that's what parenting is all about, little girl. They are pleading for you to tell them how to do the right thing. And sure as hell that's what you've done. And the next time something happens and the stakes are really high, she's going to look back on this and she's going to remember how easy it was and how good it felt.

Isabel

And she's going to stand up for herself. Dear God, what have I done?

Jackie

You have turned her into you.

Isabel

(Pause) That's what this is about, isn't it? That's all this is about.

Jackie

Oh, how would you know what this is about? You haven't been here from the beginning, worrying every minute of every day that the decisions you're making are going to shape the people that they're going to be. And you are not what I want my children to be.

Isabel

I don't want that either. But this isn't about me. Or you. It's about them. And believe it or not, I am trying. I do have their very best interests at heart, but I'm not going to stop being who I am and doing what I feel is right for them just because you don't approve.