

WHO IS BETTY ANDREWS?

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DARK SCREEN

We HEAR the sweet voice of an under-achieving but sweet 12-year-old girl, BETTY ANDREWS.

BETTY (V.O.)

Every 12-year-old in the world is straddled with unrealistic expectations from role models who were sickening overachievers.

(beat)

You've all seen the young readers' books that fill the shelves of schools and public libraries. Who was Gandhi? Who was Rosa Parks? Who was Jesus? Who was Marie Curie? Who was Martin Luther King Jr.? My point is that if you're an underachieving unambitious kid like me, odds are you'll never see a "Who is" book named after you! History is a tough act to follow!

(beat)

And every kid my age is bound to make a simple mistake or two...

(laughs)

That kicks their butt into an unanticipated trajectory.

FADE IN:

INT. SCHOOL OFFICE - AFTERNOON

The school Counselor, MS. CARTER (50s-60s), sits up straight and tall as she reprimands TONY (40s; in plumber work clothes) and LISA ANDREWS (40s; in nurse's scrubs and white smock). Ms. Carter dresses like a strict schoolmarm. Outside the door sits sweet Betty in a cute outfit, listening to every word.

BETTY (V.O.)

While "Sweet Betty" awaits her trial outside the door, Sweet "Little Betty" uses her phone to record the conversation secretly.

Inside the office, Ms. Carter glares down at her copious notes. We see her prominent crucifix necklace

MS. CARTER

Hmmm. Tony and Lisa Andrews.

(looks up)

(MORE)

MS. CARTER (CONT'D)

I see this is the first time in my office in three years, but I assure you, it won't be the last.

TONY

Yes, Ma'am. I mean, No, Ma'am. We often call our daughter, "Sweet Betty."

Lisa pats Tony's hand.

LISA

Tony's trying to say, we can straighten this out, whatever it is.

MS. CARTER

I don't have to remind either of you about of Student Code of Conduct here at MacArthur Middle School.

Tony and Lisa glance at each other like scolded schoolchildren.

MS. CARTER (CONT'D)

Your daughter's behavior chart...

TONY

She has a behavior chart?

MS. CARTER

As does every student. It shows that she's well-behaved in class, and is a good example for other students. She always volunteers in food drives and playground cleanups.

(sternly)

I'm obliged to ask if your daughter has any learning disabilities or medical issues that...

LISA

(withholding anger)

Of course not! I got off the swing shift at the hospital for this meeting, Ms. Carter. What's this about?

Ms. Carter leans in and whispers.

MS. CARTER  
 Erections, Mr. And Mrs. Andrews!  
 Erections. The entire text of  
 Lysistrata is about men with  
 erections.

The parents turn to see their innocent-looking daughter sitting outside the door.

LISA  
 There must be some mistake...

Ms. Carter slams a Book Report entitled "Love thy Enemy" by Betty Andrews" on the desk.

Lisa picks up the report and scans it, puzzled.

LISA (CONT'D)  
 This is a report on a non-violent protest of war to bring her brother home from the Army. I agree with my daughter. Families shouldn't be separated. Older brothers are needed at home.

Lisa tosses the book report to Tony and glares at him.

LISA (CONT'D)  
 My husband thought it was a great idea for Charlie to join the Army for a couple of years to pay for college.

Tony glances at the book report and sits back relieved.

TONY  
 Thank God. I thought it going to be about pornography.

Lisa tries to hush Tony.

TONY (CONT'D)  
 You know, where people in the suburbs take "love thy neighbor" too literally.

LISA  
 Do you have a problem with Betty's report?

Lisa thumbs through the book report.

MS. CARTER

I do. The principal does, and the district does.

Lisa looks perplexed.

MS. CARTER (CONT'D)

Penises, Mr. Andrews, are woefully inappropriate material for sixth-grade themes.

LISA

We see bombed buildings and children's bodies on the news every night from war.

MS. CARTER

That is not the school's problem!

LISA

I don't see anything wrong with what she actually wrote. She said women should protest peacefully. That's all!

MS. CARTER

Look at the sources she cited! Her bibliography! Or should I say, her pornography!

Tony strains to read the bibliography.

TONY

Aris... Aristoph... Aristophanes?

LISA

From ancient Greece.

Ms. Carter stands and boils over in anger.

MS. CARTER

Smut is smut!

TONY

From 411 B.C. Is she in trouble for not using current source material?

MS. CARTER

That trash is nowhere to be found in our library.

Points angrily at Betty who quickly looks away as Tony and Lisa glance back, and then cower to Ms. Carter.

MS. CARTER (CONT'D)

She got the book online from some website called "mit," or s-m-u-t, as I see it.

LISA

I'm sure MIT is the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

MS. CARTER

I doubt the top engineers in the country would read that... that...

TONY

Can we ask her to do another report?

LISA

Using approved sources in your school library?

MS. CARTER

(glares at Betty and her parents)

They posted their reports online. Luckily, her instructor, Mr. Carter, deleted it immediately and notified me, but we didn't know how many students saw this trash online before it was deleted.

Ms. Carter yells so that Betty can hear her.

MS. CARTER (CONT'D)

You can't unring a school bell, Mr. and Ms. Andrews.

Lisa remains puzzled as she skims the book report.

LISA

I don't see the words penis or erection anywhere in the report...

Ms. Carter rips the report out of Lisa's hands and turns on the shredder behind her.

MS. CARTER

And you never will. The District Librarian has been sent the awful book to evaluate and then ban it.

She starts to shred the book report.

TONY

The book isn't banned now?

MS. CARTER

No, but it will be! The District Librarian is from Florida!

(glares at Tony)

I suggest you find the electronic copies of your daughter's filthy book and report, and destroy them. She'll get a great big "F" for this assignment!

TONY

That's a little harsh...

MS. CARTER

Good day, Mr. And Ms. Andrews.

Ms. Carter doesn't make eye contact as the parents exit and lead Betty away.

EXT. SCHOOL - CONTINUOUS

They hurry to the parking lot and to Tony's old truck that reads, "Andrews Plumbing." with the slogan, "Leave that sh\*t to us!"

BETTY

I can explain.

LISA

You'd better.

TONY

You sure set her off.

BETTY

First, I didn't read the whole pdf. It was like 31 pages long. Who has the time? I read a two-page summary I found on Google.

TONY

Ah, that's the Betty we've come to love.

Betty laughs as Tony laughs and nudges her.

TONY (CONT'D)

My advice, Betty is don't let a single book or other people such as the Carters, influence you to the point of becoming someone different.

LISA

(nudges Tony)

Better listen to him, Betty. It's unusual to get sound advice from your father!

They smile.

BETTY

All the summary said was that soldiers had erections. Big deal. I wasn't scarred for life.

LISA

I suppose not.

(laughs)

"Mit" -- that was hilarious. Of course, it was M.I.T.

BETTY

Yeah, I didn't know that either.

LISA

Jesus, Betty.

BETTY

That's what my Literature teacher called me. I told Mr. Carter that I didn't see any penises or erections in my report either. The kids around me were laughing like Hell.

LISA

Watch your language, Betty. Did you download the 31-page tome?

BETTY

Tome?

LISA

(angry)

The book! The pdf! Did you download the pdf? I'd like to read it.



TONY

Just do another book report when you get home. You have all weekend! Pick Huckleberry Finn.

LISA

That's a banned book now, dear.

Tony snickers and shakes his head in disgust.

BETTY

It's too late anyway. No late work is accepted. The teachers work nine to three at MacArthur, not like other schools.

TONY

As long as that's the last I see of her.

Betty checks her phone to see that she has 33 missed calls.

BETTY

(looks away, mumbles)

I don't think we'll be that lucky.

They hop in the truck and speed away.

INT. BETTY'S HOME, BEDROOM AND KITCHEN - EVENING

Betty enters the backdoor to the kitchen area with a smile. Lisa and Tony are playing cribbage. Lisa is drinking a cup of tea. Tony sips a beer.

LISA

How did your errands go?

BETTY

I fed Waldo, Mrs. Rupa's cat, because she's on vacation. And I walked Mr. Belloti's dog, Sherman, because Mr. Belloti is too old.

TONY

Do they pay you for your trouble?

BETTY

They offer to pay, but neither of them has much cheddar, so I say no.

LISA

Cheddar?

BETTY

Money.

LISA

Then that's kind of you, dear.

BETTY

I tell them it gets me out of homework and they laugh.

TONY

Good for you.

Betty takes a cookie from the cookie jar and runs out.

LISA

(yells)

You'll spoil your dinner.

BETTY (O.C.)

(laughs)

Hasn't happened yet.

INTERCUT BETWEEN AND KITCHEN

BEDROOM

Betty lays on her bed scrolling through her missed call list.

KITCHEN

Tony and Lisa clean up after dinner.

LISA

Sending her to her room won't accomplish anything.

TONY

She needed a time out for serious reflection.

LISA

You played right into her hand. This is the age when kids stop listening to their parents and they start getting advice from their friends or online!

BEDROOM

Betty is on the phone trying to contain her laughter and whispering to her friend, TINA (12).

BETTY

It was hilarious, Tina. Mrs. C-minus yelled and yelled at my mom and dad. I sent you the audio.

(pauses)

No, don't share it with anyone! I could get in even more trouble.

(pauses)

Yeah. My protest already started. I refused to do the dishes until Charlie comes home from the Army.

(pauses, angry)

Then I'll quit doing the dishes forever.

(pauses)

Oh, you don't have to do that. I don't want you to get in trouble too. But I gotta lotta texts to make. I may be up all night.

KITCHEN

TONY

Maybe you should have a talk with her about the birds and the bees.

LISA

(laughs)

With the Internet, I'm sure she knows a lot more than I did at age 12.

TONY

(snickers)

Or 18.

(beat)

Should we take away her phone?

LISA

I've read studies that parents who take their child's cell phone away are turning off the television, banning games, taking away their ability to talk with friends, and grounding them all at once.

Tony shrugs and Lisa gets in his face.

LISA (CONT'D)

It can lead to feelings of anxiety, social isolation, and even depression! We don't want that!

TONY

I guess not. She was happier before Charlie joined the Army.

LISA

She misses him dearly. So do I.

BEDROOM

Betty is on the phone.

BETTY

Do I know Diana Diablo? Is she at our school?

Betty listens for 15 seconds and then sits up in alarm.

BETTY (CONT'D)

The influencer? Leader of Diana's Disciples. Is this a joke? Why would she text me? How would she even get my number?

(listens)

Are you mental? I'm not texting her back. She's probably a bearded Russian whacko.

(listens)

Absolutely not, Tina! I'll Google her up myself. I gotta go!

Betty Googles "DIANA DIABLO" to see a busty, dark-haired woman in her 20s wearing a skimpy white, plastic outfit.

Betty's eyes open wide.

KITCHEN

Lisa looks at her iPad and informs Tony.

LISA

"Lysistrata" by Aristophanes was one of the most successful comedy plays of Ancient Greece.

TONY

How much trouble can you get in for a comedy?

LISA

(reading)

"Lysistrata" is the title of an antiwar comedy written in 411 B.C.E.

(MORE)

LISA (CONT'D)

The heroine leads the women of Greece in a campaign against the Peloponnesian War.

TONY

A peaceful protest, I hope. Like Betty's protest of not doing the dishes?

Tony stands and paces.

LISA

I have heard of this before. In community college. That woman, Lysistrata, convinces the women of Sparta to withhold sex from men who go off to war with Athens.

TONY

They just wanted their men home safely.

(sadly)

I think she's worried Charlie might not come home.

Tony hugs Lisa and collapses in a chair.

LISA

I hope you're right.

INT. BETTY'S HOME, KITCHEN - MORNING

Lisa and Tony eat bowls of cereal and stare at their phones. They are dressed as before.

Lisa gets a phone call and looks perplexed.

LISA

Rachel?

We hear the voice of Sam's mom, RACHEL ABRAMS (30s), a frantic woman.

RACHEL (V.O.)

Sam's mom.

LISA

Yes, I know you're Sam's mom. How is Sam doing?

Lisa stands and moves near Tony and puts the phone on speaker.

RACHEL (V.O.)

... and he refuses to pick up the dog poop in the backyard. He says he joined Betty's protest. What's this all about?

Tony holds back laughter and shrugs his shoulders.

LISA

I'm sure it's just kids being kids.

Betty walks in dragging her feet and rubbing her eyes. She wears sweat clothes with a pocket that contains her smartphone.

BETTY

It's not...

LISA

(interrupting)

Sorry, I have to run. I work the swing shift today so I'll call you tomorrow.

Lisa ends the call and glares at Betty.

BETTY

Sam texted me his mom was going to call you. I texted Sam to pick up the poop but he said no to me too.

Lisa's phone rings again. She looks at the caller ID.

LISA

(to Tony)

It's Tina's mom. I'm not going to answer.

(to Betty)

What have you done now?

The doorbell RINGS.

Betty races to the door first. Lisa and Tony are right behind.

Betty swings the door open to see Diana Diablo in the flesh, literally, wearing a skimpy white, plastic-looking outfit and a bright smile. Her white convertible sports car is parked at the curb. A young man (18) stands at Diana's side recording Diane and the Andrews family on a new iPhone. Diana has a small microphone on her lapel and wears white EarBuds.

DIANA DIABLO  
I'm Diana Diablo. That's right, I  
said Diana Diablo, the Double D,  
broadcasting live to Diana's  
Disciples, from small-town USA.

Tony looks up and down the road, sees no one, and then glares  
at Diana.

TONY  
What's this about?

Diana winks at her cameraman.

DIANA DIABLO  
We'll edit him out in post.  
(to Betty)  
Betty Andrews, nice to have you on  
our show. Your little protest has  
gained a lot of traction on the  
Web.

Lisa tugs back at Betty's sweatshirt but she doesn't budge.

BETTY  
(sadly)  
I just want my brother in the Army  
to come home.

Diana gets more excited.

DIANA DIABLO  
I know, girl. I know!  
(to the cameraman)  
The sheer innocence of this  
courageous young woman cannot be  
understated.  
(to Betty)  
How old are you, Betty?

BETTY  
Twelve.

Diana laughs in a good-natured way.

DIANA DIABLO  
I read your book report online, but  
I didn't have time to check your  
references...

BETTY  
(smiles)  
I know, 31 pages. Who has the time?

Lisa raises her hand.

DIANA DIABLO

Your mom read it? I heard it was full of male erotica. I hope I can get to it on the way home.

BETTY

It's not full...

DIANA DIABLO

Anyway, I've got to be going. I wanted you to know that I support your peaceful protest not to do the dishes and to end all wars!

(to the cameraman)

I want each and every one of Diana's Disciples to support this young woman's protest and spread the word.

Diane signals the cameraman to cut with a hand motion across her throat.

DIANA DIABLO (CONT'D)

We're out of this one-whore town.

Diana and the cameraman race to the sports car.

LISA

That's a one-horse town.

TONY

She never said to end all wars.

Betty waves.

BETTY

Goodbye.

TONY

She can't use that footage, Betty. You didn't sign a release.

LISA

She knows you're underage!

Betty checks her phone as she steps back inside.

BETTY

Twenty i-messages in the past two minutes?

(beat)

Make that thirty... uh oh!



EXT. BETTY'S HOME - LATER

A Sheriff's car pulls up to the Andrews home. A black Deputy (30s) steps out in full uniform with a tablet computer.

She RINGS the doorbell once.

Lisa answers the door to see the Deputy's badge.

LISA  
Hello. May I help you?

DEPUTY  
I'm Deputy, Shondra White. Is this the home Betty Andrews?

LISA  
(nervous)  
Yes.

The Deputy looks up and down the road.

DEPUTY  
May I come in?

LISA  
Yes, of course. My husband is out on a plumbing emergency, but how can I help you?

The Deputy enters and stands in the hallway.

INT. BETTY'S HOME - CONTINUOUS

Lisa slowly shuts the door behind the Deputy.

DEPUTY  
I'm afraid we received a call from Betty's Principal who has been inundated with calls about a certain video of your daughter, Betty, that has gone viral.

The Deputy shows a portion of the video to Lisa.

LISA  
What can we do?

DEPUTY  
First, I would install a doorbell camera immediately.  
(looks at notes on the iPad)  
(MORE)

DEPUTY (CONT'D)

If that nutcase publicity hound,  
Diana Diablo, found your house so  
quickly, other kooks will. Both my  
kids follow her like the High  
Priestess of Social Media.

LISA

Are we in some kind of trouble?

DEPUTY

The school reports that the phone  
recording device is full of  
outraged parents in Florida and  
Texas about online pornography, and  
local parents are complaining about  
some silly protest that your  
daughter started.

LISA

She did a book report...

DEPUTY

That was posted online, copied, and  
shared on social media.

LISA

My daughter didn't do that?

Betty enters from her room and freezes at the sight of the  
Deputy.

BETTY

Are you here to arrest me?

DEPUTY

No, dear. You must be Betty.

Betty nods 'Yes.'

DEPUTY (CONT'D)

But I'm required to respond to a  
formal complaint and ask you a few  
questions.

They sit in the family room. Betty and the Deputy share a  
couch, and Lisa sits in a chair.

DEPUTY (CONT'D)

This won't take long. Both of your  
names, please.

LISA

Lisa Benham Andrews.

BETTY  
Betty Carol Andrews.

DEPUTY  
Betty, have you been in any kind of  
trouble with the law before?

LISA  
Are you asking if she's ever been  
arrested?

DEPUTY  
Anything. Stopped for truancy,  
jaywalking, shoplifting?

BETTY  
What's truancy?

DEPUTY  
Skipping school.

BETTY  
None of those things.

DEPUTY  
Are you suffering from undue stress  
at home or at school?

Lisa stands and paces.

LISA  
This is ridiculous.

BETTY  
Nope. Except when my brother joined  
the Army, and getting called into  
Ms. Carter's office after my book  
report.

DEPUTY  
Are you taking medications, or have  
you seen a doctor or therapist...

Lisa angrily points to the door.

LISA  
No, and I'm afraid I'm going to  
have to ask you to leave.

The Deputy stands.

DEPUTY  
I'm trying to do my job.

Lisa guides the Deputy to the door.

LISA

Then charge my daughter with a  
crime or come back with a warrant.  
I've seen enough cop shows on TV.

The Deputy turns to Betty.

DEPUTY

You seem like a bright kid. All I'm  
saying is all your troubles might  
disappear if you do the dishes and  
call off this little protest of  
yours.

Lisa slams the door as the Deputy exits.

Lisa, angry, turns to Betty.

LISA

Get dressed in nice clothes. We're  
going to get an audience with your  
Principal.

BETTY

Nice clothes? It's Saturday. That's  
usually a PJ day!

LISA

Just do it, Betty. I have to figure  
out how this thing spiraled out of  
control. And I have to work at 3  
PM.

BETTY

Look up "influencers," Mom. You'll  
see.

Betty turns toward her bedroom, but her mom stops her.

LISA

I'll bite! What is an influencer  
and how do they work it?

Betty sits her mom down and pulls out her smartphone.

BETTY

An influencer who can sway over  
large audiences, usually on TV,  
radio, or the web.

LISA

Ms. Double-D uses the web.

BETTY  
Like an AK-47.

LISA  
Who are some other influencers?

BETTY  
Nano-influencers with 500-10,000  
followers might make \$10-\$100 per  
post.

LISA  
And the big-time influencers?

BETTY  
Much more thirsty.

LISA  
Thirsty?

BETTY  
Trying to get attention. Mega-  
influencers with half a million or  
more followers may get as much as  
\$10,000+ per post from various  
sponsors. It's big business. And  
movie stars are getting into it big  
time! Nobody listens to you if  
you're not a mega-influencer.

LISA  
How many followers does Diana  
Diablo have?

BETTY  
Sam texted me...

LISA  
(interrupting)  
Sam, the boy in your class who  
won't pick up the dog poop?  
(more surprised)  
Boys are texting you now?

BETTY  
Not boys. Just Sam.

LISA  
(perplexed)  
Oh. Just Sam.

BETTY

Sam texted that Double-D works on Instagram, TikTok, and YouTube, and then a bunch of dark websites too. She claims to have over a million followers.

LISA

Jesus, Betty! Why did you agree to talk to her?

BETTY

(angry)

I didn't. I was shocked. I got a text from somebody claiming to be her last night but I didn't respond. I'm not stupid. That's how some influencers work. They call it Shock and Awe Attacks.

LISA

So influencers spread crap like this, or any kind of crap, across the internet universe to make money no matter many lives are ruined!

BETTY

Exactly. That's lit, right?

Lisa stomps around like a madwoman.

LISA

What's lit?

Betty is excited.

BETTY

Amazing!

LISA

Go get dressed.

INT. SUV - MID-MORNING

Lisa remains in a sour mood as she drives toward the school.

They pass a mini-mall and Betty sees her classmate, SAM (12) a short, wimpy kid holding a small sign outside an Army Recruiting Office. Betty yells and points to the right.

BETTY

Mom! Stop!

Lisa slams on the brakes and looks to the right.

EXT. ARMY RECRUITING OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Lisa stops outside the office where, Sam, the sole protester sits near the door. He holds a small, handprinted sign in one hand that reads, "Love thy Enemy." He holds his phone in his other hand.

Betty leaps from the car and stands over Sam.

BETTY

Sam, what are you doing?

SAM

(proud)

I've decided to join your protest.

BETTY

No body needs to join my protest.

It was just a stupid book report.

Lisa rolls down her window to listen in.

LISA

Hi, Sam.

(points to his sign)

That's sweet of you, but it's not necessary.

SAM

I know, Mrs. Andrews, but I remember a few weeks ago when two bullies at school shoved me against my locker and Betty was the only one who stopped them.

Betty turns to her mom.

BETTY

The seventh-grade bullies pick on him all the time and I wanted to do something.

LISA

I see.

SAM

And, now, that creepy Mr. Carter and Ms. Carter are picking on Betty and she's right and they are the bullies.

Lisa smiles at Betty.

LISA

I can't argue with that logic, Sam.

SAM

I'm going to protest at school on Monday.

BETTY

Sam, I don't think...

Sam stands to look into Betty's eyes very sweetly and interrupts her.

SAM

You told me that if you don't call bullies for their bad behavior, they keep doing it.

Betty freezes and looks at Sam in the eyes. They share a moment.

Lisa's eyes open wide.

LISA

You're right, Sam, but if they shoo you away from that door, you'd better get out of there. That's the U.S. Army you're up against. They're tougher than seventh-graders. And, Betty, we have to go.

BETTY

I'll see you at school, Sam. I don't know if I'll have a sign as nice as yours.

Sam admires his sign and smiles, as Betty returns to the car.

SAM

I made it myself.

BETTY

(yells)

Thanks, Sam. I hope it works! I miss my brother. Text me!

Lisa looks sadly at Betty and back at Sam before driving off.



INT. SCHOOL OFFICE - DAY

Ms. Carter sits at her desk with an unfriendly look. Lisa and Betty stand.

LISA

Thanks for seeing us, Ms. Carter.

MS. CARTER

It is Saturday!

LISA

Yes, sorry. Ms. Carter.

MS. CARTER

The Principal can't discuss the matter without his attorney present.

BETTY

What?

MS. CARTER

The school and District have received online threats of First Amendment violations, harassment, and possible willful destruction of evidence...

LISA

For shredding of the book report?

MS. CARTER

Theme. We call them themes. Anyway, these issues also have been raised by an attorney for Ms. Diana Diablo, this morning. She has an audio recording of my meeting with you in this office!

LISA

(glaring at Betty)

How could that have happened, I wonder?

Ms. Carter holds back her anger and looks away.

MS. CARTER

I have no idea.

(glares at Betty)

But I'm not taking the fall for my gutless husband or spineless Principal, I'll tell you that!

Lisa grabs Betty's hand.

LISA

Let's go, Betty. We've taken up too much of Ms. Carter's time. It's Saturday. I'm sure she has plans.

BETTY

Thanks for your time, Ms. Carter. I'm sorry for the trouble I caused.

EXT. SCHOOL - CONTINUOUS

Lisa walks quickly to the SUV. Betty struggles to keep up.

LISA

It's as if the entire world is making a mountain out of a molehill.

BETTY

(smiles)

On the plus side, I finally understand that expression that you tell Dad all the time.

LISA

I don't use that expression...  
(glances at Betty)  
I suppose I do.

Lisa chuckles as they get in the SUV.

INT. SUV - CONTINUOUS

Lisa buckles up and gets a call from "FATHER O'BRIEN" (60s). Lisa stares at the phone, bewildered

LISA

Father O'Brien?

Betty looks out the window as Lisa answers the call on speaker.

BETTY

What does he want?

Father O'Brien answers, unbeknownst to Betty.

BETTY (CONT'D)

From St. Michael's. We hardly ever go there anymore.

Lisa and Betty hear Father O'Brien laugh.

LISA  
Sorry, Father. Betty didn't know...

FATHER O'BRIEN (V.O.)  
Mrs. Andrews, Long time, no see.

LISA  
Sunday shifts at the hospital,  
Father...

FATHER O'BRIEN (V.O.)  
(interrupts)  
This is a courtesy call. Several  
parishioners have called me about a  
shameless charlatan named Diana  
Diablo who is trying to corrupt our  
young children...

LISA  
We met her this morning, Father.

SILENCE

FATHER O'BRIEN (V.O.)  
So the rumors are true?  
(darker tone)  
It's the first I've heard about  
these influencers! Brainwashing  
God's children. You're aware the  
name Diablo translates from Spanish  
to Devil!

BETTY  
(mumbles)  
I didn't know.

LISA  
(interrupting)  
This entire thing is blown out of  
proportion, Father, starting with  
Betty doing a book report on "Love  
thy Enemy."

The Father's tone changes immediately to sweet and kind.

FATHER O'BRIEN (V.O.)  
Then I assume the book was the  
Bible because Jesus was the first  
person to say that!  
(MORE)

FATHER O'BRIEN (V.O.) (CONT'D)

I love that passage from Matthew 5:44, "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor' and 'Hate your enemy.' But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you."

LISA

Yes, Father. And our little Betty only wants to bring her brother home safely from the Army.

Betty smiles.

FATHER O'BRIEN (V.O.)

(pompous)

Well, in that case, I, and the Church, stand side-by-side with Betty as long as the Bishop and Archbishop don't find out about it.

(softly)

And we hope to see you both and the family here more often at St. Michael's where our congregation is shrinking due to...

LISA

Yes, Father, I'm driving and shouldn't be talking on the phone. Gotta go, bye Father.

FATHER O'BRIEN

(warning them)

But stay away from that influencer! Come talk to me instead.

BETTY

Bye, Father O'Brien, thanks for your...

Lisa ends the call and starts the car.

BETTY (CONT'D)

Call.

EXT. ARMY RECRUITING OFFICE - NOON

On the way home, Lisa approaches the same Army recruiting office, but now Twenty People (all Gen Zers) have joined Sam's protest.

Many have professionally crafted picket signs that hit a broader array of issues: "Get out of Ukraine," "Stop Supporting Israel," "Punish Hamas," "Fight Global Warming," "Protect Women's Reproductive rights," "Respect Life," "Lower Drug Prices," along side Sam's "Love thy Enemy" sign.

Betty sees Sam sitting against the building in the same spot, but heavily obscured from the scene. Betty yells.

BETTY

Stop the car. We gotta rescue Sam.

Lisa pulls over and she and Betty jump out.

Betty beats Lisa to the back of the crowd and squirms her way to Sam.

The door opens to the Army Recruiting Office and a handsome SERGEANT (40) in full uniform steps out.

The crowd GRUMBLES.

SERGEANT

Hi, I'm Staff Sergeant Myers. I don't mind your little protest, that's your right, as long as you don't block the door.

The Sergeant looks down warmly at Betty and Sam, and smiles at Lisa as she joins them in her nurse's outfit.

SERGEANT (CONT'D)

Someone called our office just now and asked me to come out. I hope it was you.

The crowd CHEERS as Diana Diablo races up and slams on the brakes of her white sports car. She's dressed as before, and her sidekick takes video from the passenger seat.

DIANA DIABLO

Thank you all for coming. I see young Betty Andrews back there, peacefully protesting for the safe return of her brother, Charlie Andrews, stuck in the Army in some war somewhere.

The crowd CHEERS as Lisa, Betty, Sam, and the Sergeant look stunned.

DIANA DIABLO (CONT'D)  
(to her cameraman)  
Cut. Let's get this to the news  
outlets.

Diana waves as she drives off and the crowd CHEERS again.

The crowd disbands.

LISA  
(to the Sergeant)  
Betty, Charlie, and I have nothing  
to do with this protest.

Sam looks up to the Sergeant.

SAM  
(sadly)  
It was my idea.

The Sergeant looks down the road at the sports car.

SERGEANT  
You might have had a little help.  
She had that crowd wrapped around  
her finger.

SAM  
(enthusiastic)  
Wow! What a lady, huh? And that car  
was lit!

Betty glares at Sam who shuts up immediately.

BETTY  
I hope Charlie doesn't get in any  
trouble for this.

LISA  
He's in Basin Training.

The Sergeant's eyes open wide.

Lisa ushers Betty and Sam toward her car.

LISA (CONT'D)  
Let's get you kids home.

Sam holds his sign behind his back on the way to the car.

INT. SUV - CONTINUOUS

Sam sits in the backseat avoiding eye contact with Lisa via the rearview mirror and Betty in the front passenger seat.

LISA

Sam, you'll have to remind me where you live.

Sam looks away.

SAM

Can you drop me off at the gas station at Fourth and Walnut?

LISA

I think I know the one. It has a little convenience store.

SAM

That's it. My mom calls it an inconvenience store 'cause it's always out of bread and milk but never out of wine.

Betty and Lisa chuckle, but Betty turns seriously to her mom.

BETTY

What's a Staff Sergeant?

LISA

Every branch of the military has a dozen or more ranks for non-officers and officers. A Staff Sergeant is in the middle of the non-officers with lots of higher-ranking officials.

BETTY

What's Charlie?

SAM

(sadly)  
Probably a private, the lowest of the low.

LISA

Only if he passes basic training.

BETTY

Wow. That's worse than a nano-influencer.

LISA

Ha! I suppose that's right.

EXT. GAS STATION - EARLY AFTERNOON

It's a filthy old gas station in the worst part of town.

Lisa and Betty look around with worry as Sam unbuckles his seat belt.

He opens the door but doesn't close it.

SAM

I live a few houses down but this is fine. Thanks for the ride.

LISA

Are you sure you'll be okay?

SAM

(smiles)

I know everyone in the hood. I'll be fine.

(looks away)

See you at school, Betty.

BETTY

Thanks for protesting for Charlie today. Text me!

Sam shuts the door, folds his protest sign several times, and shoves it in his back pocket.

SAM

It was the right thing to do.

Sam turns and runs down the sidewalk.

Lisa drives off.

INT. SUV - CONTINUOUS

LISA

He seems like an honorable young man.

BETTY

He never says anything bad about anybody, even the sevens who bully him, and I think he come from the poorest family in school.



LISA  
Why do you say that?

BETTY  
He wears the same pants every day  
and has only two or three shirts.

LISA  
Maybe he doesn't care about the  
latest fashions.

BETTY  
They put him on the free lunch  
program after he kept coming to  
school with only an apple.

Lisa is speechless.

BETTY (CONT'D)  
It was the first time I noticed the  
real differences between the rich  
kids with designer clothes, the  
regular kids like me, and the poor  
kids like Sam.

LISA  
But he has a cellphone.

BETTY  
It's a burner. His uncle gave it to  
him.

Betty turns her head away and looks out the window.

BETTY (CONT'D)  
Today I realized that lots of  
people are stuck in classes. From  
students to teachers to the  
Principal to the District big  
shots. Army guys from privates to  
generals. Influencers from nano- to  
mega-influencers. And poor Father  
O'Brien worried about the Bishop  
and Archbishop above him.

LISA  
Not to mention the Cardinals and  
the Pope above them. It's the way  
of life since the earliest  
civilizations. There was always a  
caste system from the ruling  
classes to slaves; and men above  
women most of the time.

BETTY  
That's awful.

LISA  
Tell me about it. Guess where  
nurses are on the hospital totem  
pole? That's why I'm working the  
swing shift tonight!

Betty turns to her mom with conviction.

BETTY  
I won't be bullied and neither  
should you!

Lisa smiles.

LISA  
Good for you, dear.

Lisa glances over at Betty.

LISA (CONT'D)  
You asked Sam to text you. What was  
that about?

BETTY  
It's a step up from saying nothing,  
and a step below "call me."

LISA  
You asked him to text you two times  
today.

BETTY  
He didn't text me right away  
because he was shy, and it's polite  
to wait until you've been asked  
twice.

LISA  
I see. Is it the same for boys?

Betty looks away.

BETTY  
Mom, most boys are too stupid to  
wait for anything.

LISA  
I think you should call Sam...

BETTY  
Ewww! Stop talking!

LISA  
To thank him again for protesting  
for you.

Betty is busy texting.

BETTY  
(angry)  
Just stop talking! I'm meeting Tina  
at the library.

LISA  
What for?

BETTY  
My makeup theme. I've got to find a  
book that's not banned! Tina's  
going to help me and we can walk  
home together for a sleepover, if  
that's okay.

LISA  
Good for you. I like Tina. She's  
the smart one, right?

BETTY  
(snooty)  
Yes, Mom. All my friends are  
smarter than me.

Lisa rolls her eyes and drives to the library.

EXT. LIBRARY - AFTERNOON

Tina stands outside the library with a small backpack purse  
and an overnight bag, when Lisa drives up to let Betty out.

Tina smiles brightly as she tosses her overnight bag in the  
front seat.

TINA  
Hi, Mrs. Andrews. Thanks for  
letting me spend the night. My mom  
can pick me up tomorrow morning.

BETTY  
It may take us a while. I gotta  
look up some stuff.

LISA  
What are the big topics of the day?

BETTY

Just stuff, Mom. We'll let you know what we find out. Thanks for the ride.

Betty shuts the door with a forced smile and runs with Tina to the library door.

LISA

(yells)

I'll see you tomorrow after work and a little sleep!

The kids disappear into the library.

INT. LIBRARY - CONTINUOUS

A young female LIBRARIAN (20s) looks up from her tablet computer and whispers to Betty and Tina as they enter.

Tina is smitten with the librarian and whispers to Betty.

TINA

She's snatched.

The librarian smiles at Tina.

LIBRARIAN

Hi, You two look like you know what you're after, but I'm here if you have any questions.

BETTY

Where's the... older lady that's usually here?

LIBRARIAN

Ms. Wilson is off today. I'm Ruthie Holmes, a substitute from the downtown branch stepping in.

TINA

I'm Tina. This is Betty. We have to find Betty an easy short book that isn't banned.

The librarian points around the library.

LIBRARIAN

That's easy. Most of the books here aren't banned.

(whispers)

(MORE)

LIBRARIAN (CONT'D)

I tend to gravitate to the banned books, but they're not often short or easy.

The girls smile.

BETTY

Then I have to look some stuff up on the computer.

The girls race off to the Young Adult book area.

They look disgruntled at the large selection of Harry Potter, Goosebumps, and Diary of the Wimpy Kid titles.

The librarian sneaks up behind them and laughs.

LIBRARIAN

I agree. These are books your parents want you to read.

BETTY

I got in trouble for my last book.

LIBRARIAN

What was that?

BETTY

"Lysistrata." It had penises and erections in it.

The librarian's eyes open wide.

LIBRARIAN

By Aristophanes. One of history's first books on women's rights.

TINA

She got an F and got in big trouble with the counselor.

BETTY

They called in my parents.

The librarian scans the books on the shelves.

LIBRARIAN

Let me suggest something more age-appropriate, although I believe there are some V important lessons in "Lysistrata" for younger women too.

She finds the "Who was Gandhi?" and hands it to Betty.

LIBRARIAN (CONT'D)

This was my favorite book when I was your age.

Betty and Tina smile.

BETTY

Who was Gandhi?

LIBRARIAN

Mahatma Gandhi was born about 150 years ago in British-occupied India. He studied law in London but spent his life working to make India an independent nation with non-violent protests. And he won!

BETTY

(to Tina)

Like Sam's protest today at the Army office.

LIBRARIAN

This sounds perfect for you and your friends.

BETTY

We'll take it!

(reads the back)

International symbol of hope, peace, and freedom.

LIBRARIAN

(laughs)

Can't get in much trouble for that! I'll save you "Who Was Rosa Parks?" for the next time you want to get in trouble.

The girls look puzzled but laugh and race to the computers.

LATER

Betty and Tina are side by side on computers.

BETTY

I'm seeing if Father O'Brien was right about that "Love thy Enemy" stuff.

(types)

Matthew...

The quote and citation of (Matthew 5:43-44) quickly show up.

TINA

I heard Father O'Brien say that Jesus was the first person in the history of the world to say that! Before that, it was, "An eye for an eye."

BETTY

How do you know if that's true? That was like 2,000 years ago.

TINA

If Father O'Brien said it was true, then it's true!

BETTY

But how do you know for sure? Ms. Carter said Lysistrata was just about a bunch of men with erections.

TINA

I guess you'll have to read more than the two-page summary to find out.

BETTY

(giggles)  
We'll read it tonight!

The Librarian sneaks up from behind.

LIBRARIAN

I'm a history major at the university during the week. I couldn't help but overhear you about the Gospel of Matthew. It was written in the year 85 about 52 years after Christ was crucified.

TINA

He was a peaceful protestor and look what happened to him.

LIBRARIAN

(sad)  
I'm afraid Gandhi didn't fair any better. He was assassinated with three bullets in his chest at an interfaith prayer meeting in Delhi in 1948.

Silence.

BETTY

They didn't "Love thy Enemy."

LIBRARIAN

And in every war since. But I liked your question, "How do you know if a claim you heard is true or false?"

The Librarian points to the computer.

LIBRARIAN (CONT'D)

Thanks the biggest question we can ask ourselves after any claim. Just note that you have to check reputable and multiple sources, usually not social media.

BETTY

Reputable and multiple sources.

TINA

Got it!

LIBRARIAN

I'll be at the desk if you need me.

The Librarian walks slowly back to the front desk.

Betty and Tina gaze at her, their library books, and the computer.

BETTY

Let's get to work. First, we have to find a two-page summary of the Gandhi book and save it to my phone.

TINA

It's only 100 pages. Why don't you read the whole book?

BETTY

Who has the time?

Tina shakes her head in disgust while Betty searches online.

INT. BETTY'S HOME, FAMILY ROOM - EARLY EVENING

Betty and Tina burst through the front door with one book each. Betty holds "Who is Gandhi." Tina holds "The Fallacy Detective" by Nathaniel Bluedorn and Hans Bluedorn.



Tony sits in an easy chair sipping a bottle of beer and eating pizza. He watches TV with the volume low.

BETTY

We're home and starving.

TINA

Hi, Mr. Andrews, Thanks for having me over.

TONY

Pizza's in the kitchen.

(jokes)

I said I'd wait until you and Tina got here to take the first bite.

(rolls his eyes)

Like that would ever happen.

BETTY

We're taking the pizza upstairs to my room. We've got schoolwork to do!

The kids race to the kitchen.

A female NEWS COMMENTATOR (30s) appears with the screen behind her showing the protest at the Army Recruitment Office. Tony turns up the volume as he sees Lisa and Betty sneaking behind the crowd to get to Sam.

TONY

What the hell are you two...?

Tony turns up the volume, calls Lisa at the hospital, and puts his phone on speaker.

NEWS COMMENTATOR

... this is a video we received from an informed viewer showing 20 or more angry protestors...

TONY

Lisa, are you watching the news?

LISA (V.O.)

Yes! Nobody was angry!

TONY

Shhhhh!

NEWS COMMENTATOR

Apparently in response of a local twelve-year-old girl demanding that the Army discharge her brother who is a soldier in the United States Army protecting our freedom here and overseas.

LISA (V.O.)

Nobody said discharge!

NEWS COMMENTATOR

We've learned via our new tip line that the soldier's name is Charles Andrews.

Tony is shocked.

TONY (V.O.)

Charlie?

NEWS COMMENTATOR

I returned to that Army recruitment office to speak with Staff Sergeant Wayland Meyers who had this to say about today's outrageous turmoil.

LISA (V.O.)

There was no outrageous turmoil.

TONY

Shhhhh!

SERGEANT

It was a small group of well-intentioned citizens exercising their First Amendment rights to Freedom of Speech.

NEWS COMMENTATOR

It sounds to me like these shameless nutcases had no idea that freedom isn't free, that we have everything to owe to our hard-fighting men and women in uniform who ensure the very freedoms these losers are exploiting for their selfish ends.

Sergeant Meyers looks at the News Commentator like she's crazy. She steps in front of the Sergeant.

NEWS COMMENTATOR (CONT'D)

(loudly)

On behalf of me, our news station,  
and all of us patriotic viewers,  
we'd like to thank you for your  
service!

Tony turns away from the TV to glare at his phone.

TONY

That may have been broadcast all  
over the state. What if Charlie  
sees it, or worse yet, his  
commanding officers?

LISA (V.O.)

It was a small, peaceful demon...

Tony's phone RINGS.

TONY

Lisa, I gotta go. It's Charlie.

Tony switches the call to Charlie and just listens.

Tony paces family room.

TONY (CONT'D)

You're being punished with latrine  
duty every morning for two weeks  
and KP duty every night?

Tony listens.

TONY (CONT'D)

Sorry. It's all the fault of that  
evil attention-seeking influencer,  
Diana Diablo. I'll bet she leaked  
her video to news stations all  
around. Sorry, Charlie. I'll pass  
it on to Mom. She's on the swing  
shift tonight.

Tony listens. Then Charlie ends the call.

CUT TO:

INT. BETTY'S HOME, BEDROOM - SAME

Betty and Tina are on their stomachs on the bed with their  
phones next to them. They're reading "Lysistrata" and their  
phones are getting pinged every few seconds with "text  
messages."

BETTY  
It's a bunch of wives protesting.

TINA  
By not doing you-know-what with  
their husbands.

They try to ignore their phones but Betty surrenders to the most recent text from Sam. She reads it to Tina.

BETTY  
My mother saw you and your mom at  
the protest today on TV news just  
now. I'm in big trouble. Mom  
refuses to cook for me until I stop  
protesting.

TINA  
That's serious.

BETTY  
He texted again.  
(reads)  
I can make cereal and milk.

TINA  
Geez. His mom's protesting because  
he's protesting.

BETTY  
It's like Lysistrata but with food.

They HEAR Tony YELL from downstairs.

TONY (O.C.)  
Betty, can you come down here for a  
minute?

Betty motions for Tina to join her.

TONY (O.C.) (CONT'D)  
(yells)  
Alone!

Tina watches sadly as Betty trudges to the door.

BETTY  
Back in a minute.  
(beat)  
I hope!

LATER

Tina is reading "Who was Gandhi?" when Betty trudges into the room with a frown on her face. Betty whispers.

BETTY (CONT'D)

It was bad. Real bad.

TINA

It couldn't have been real bad, nobody was yelling or crying.

BETTY

We were sort of crying on the inside. His entire lecture was on the consequences of my actions.

TINA

That's brutal! What do you have to do?

BETTY

I have to do the second book report on Gandhi and apologize to the school Principal on Monday.

TINA

Put on your sad face for that one.

BETTY

I have to send a long apology text to my brother.

TINA

Why?

BETTY

His bosses in the Army saw the TV news. Charlie got in a bunch of trouble and has to clean bathrooms and wash dishes forever.

TINA

Jesus, Betty.

BETTY

Then, I have to apologize to the Army recruiter or drop off some cookies. I think I'll drop off some cookies because I think what the Army did to Charlie was stupid revenge!

TINA

Yeah, they didn't show him any love!

BETTY

Exactly.

TINA

Then what?

BETTY

My mom heard that Sam's mom stopped cooking for him. So, if I don't start doing the dishes again, they're going to stop cooking for me, and that includes to-go orders: pizza, doughnuts, burgers, the works!

TINA

Cereal too.

BETTY

No, like Sam, I get cereal and milk. No snacks. No dessert. Practically starvation.

TINA

Geez!

Betty shrugs her shoulders.

BETTY

We'll have to sneak down for cookies after he goes to sleep.

Tina looks at Betty like she's crazy.

TINA

I'm not giving up my protest until Charlie comes home!

BETTY

Did you get any interesting texts while I was in prison down there?

TINA

You got one from Sam.

BETTY

Did you read it?

TINA

Of course. Sam said he was sticking to your protest too. No doggie pooh pick up from him.

Betty smiles big.

TINA (CONT'D)

And he signed up to follow Diana Diabolo.

Betty's eyes open wide.

TINA (CONT'D)

I think he likes you. I think you should let him call you. YOLO!

Betty glares at Tina.

BETTY

Really? YOLO? You only live once? I've got a book report to write!

Betty grabs her tablet computer and hops on the bed.

TINA

Want me to tell you about Gandhi?

BETTY

Of course.

TINA

Then text Sam and tell him it's okay for him to call you.

Betty wrestles with Tina on the bed and they giggle.

BETTY

I don't know who's worse. You or my mom.

BACK TO:

INT. BETTY'S HOME, FAMILY ROOM - SAME

Tony hears the girls giggling.

TONY

(sarcastic)  
Sounds like she took it pretty hard.

(pauses)

She'll give up her silly protest.

(pauses)

Not if she's like her mother!

Tony stands and heads to the kitchen.

TONY (CONT'D)

I'd better hide the cookies.

INT. BETTY'S HOME, BEDROOM - SAME

Tina and Betty are on their stomachs on the bed. They giggle.

TINA  
You're crushing on Sam. Admit it.

BETTY  
(defensive)  
Like you and the librarian?

Tina pushes Betty's shoulder.

TINA  
Her clothes were sic.

Betty pushes Tina back and gives in.

BETTY  
Okay.  
(worried)  
What if he doesn't call?

TINA  
We won't know until you give him  
permission.

Betty stares at her phone.

BETTY  
I can't.

Tina starts texting.

TINA  
Then I will.

Tina's text reads, "B says U can call her."

SILENCE

Tina smiles as Betty is in agony waiting for her phone to ring.

Betty paces in her room while staring at her phone.

Finally, Betty's phone RINGS and she is elated.

BETTY  
It's Sam.

TINA  
No shit? Answer it! On speaker!



BETTY  
Hi, Sam. Nice of you to call.

Tina slams her palm to her forehead.

BETTY (CONT'D)  
I mean, Hi.

SAM (O.S.)  
Hi. Uh...? Am I on speaker?

BETTY  
Tina's here.

Tina slams her palm to her forehead again.

TINA  
Hi, Sam.

SAM (O.S.)  
Hi, Tina.

BETTY  
Hi, Sam.

Betty slams her palm to her forehead.

Awkward silence.

BETTY (CONT'D)  
Thanks for joining my protest. Or  
your protest because I wouldn't  
have thought to protest the Army  
Office.

Tina shakes her head in disgust.

SAM  
So does this mean I can call you?

They hear Sam's palm slapping his forehead.

TINA  
Sam? Could you hear us slapping our  
foreheads?

They hear Sam's palm slapping his forehead again followed by  
all of them laughing.

BETTY  
That's V funny!

They all slap their foreheads a few more times and burst out  
laughing.

LATER

Tina is asleep but Sam and Betty text each other. Betty smiles.

INT. BETTY'S HOME, KITCHEN - MORNING

Lisa trudges in the backdoor and kisses Tony who cooks bacon on the stove. She still wears her nurse's uniform (blue scrubs and a white smock). She's exhausted. Tony is dressed in his blue work clothes.

TONY  
How was work?

LISA  
(sarcastic)  
Great. Just great!

Lisa grabs a cup of coffee. She collapses into a seat at the kitchen table and reads a medical journal.

Tony gets a phone call and mumbles into the phone.

TONY  
Hello.

Betty walks in smiling with a two-page "theme" on Gandhi and plops it on the table. Tina is behind her with a guilty look.

Tony, unhappy, mumbles into the phone while flipping strips of bacon.

LISA  
Good morning, girls. Keep it quiet,  
Betty's dad is on the phone.

Betty's nose sniffs the bacon. Tina steps to the left to see the bacon sizzling.

BETTY  
I wrote a new theme on Mr. Gandhi.

LISA  
(suspicious)  
Did you read that entire book last  
night?

Betty shrugs her shoulders as Tina looks away.

BETTY  
I got the gist of it.

Betty gets two cereal bowls from the cupboard.

Tony sadly ends the phone call.

TONY

Okay. Thanks for thinking of me.  
Call me if anything else comes up.

Tony is perplexed as he whispers to Lisa while she reads Betty's two-page theme on Gandhi.

TONY (CONT'D)

It would have been time and a half  
on Sunday.

Lisa is unimpressed with Betty's theme and smirks.

LISA

You condensed a great man's  
lifelong struggle to a footnote. It  
doesn't seem fair to him or you.

Tina nods in agreement as Lisa slides the theme to Betty.

BETTY

They'll love it at school. It's not  
a banned book.

Lisa ignores Betty and turns to Tony.

LISA

Looks like you get to babysit and  
watch sports while I sleep.

Lisa gets up and glares at the cereal bowls.

LISA (CONT'D)

Really. Are you passing on Sunday  
morning bacon and eggs to eat  
cereal?

Betty doesn't make eye contact. Tina looks at Tony and Lisa sadly.

TINA

I guess so.

Lisa slams down the rest of her coffee.

LISA

I'll read the rest of "Lysistrata"  
when I wake up. Did you know she  
wasn't married?

BETTY  
I didn't pick up on...

LISA  
(interrupting)  
She had the least to lose by  
protesting and the most to gain  
when all those single men returned  
from the war!

She grabs her medical journal.

LISA (CONT'D)  
Please don't make any more trouble  
while I'm asleep.

Lisa exits.

Tony smiles at the girls, who shove in their cereal.

BETTY  
Dad, did you know that Mr. Gandhi  
defeated Great Britain with his non-  
violent protest?

Tony sips coffee and then glares at Betty.

TONY  
Did you know they made us watch the  
four-hour movie of Gandhi in high  
school history class?  
(laughs)  
My butt was so sore!

Tina, while chewing cereal, tries to change the subject.

TINA  
My mom says Betty can play at my  
house this afternoon if she goes to  
church with us this morning.

Tony glances at Betty who sloppily eats her cereal, and then  
smiles at Tina.

TONY  
Church might do her good. It's only  
an hour long, but it summarizes  
2,000 years of history and you  
might "get the gist of it."

BETTY  
Can I go, Dad? I'll donate the cans  
of food to the poor.

Tony looks behind him at the bacon pan.

The doorbell RINGS.

Betty grabs the two breakfast bowls and rinses them out quickly.

She grabs a plastic grocery bag and fills it with cans from the pantry.

TINA

That's my mom. Thanks, Mr. Andrews.

BETTY

Thanks, Dad.

The two girls exit fast.

TONY

Looks like I've got to do the dishes again!

EXT. CHURCH - DAY

Tina and her mom file past Father O'Brien at the church doors with smiles.

FATHER O'BRIEN

Thanks for coming.

Betty stops and puts out a hand to shake.

BETTY

Gucci, Father.

Father O'Brien's eyes open wide.

FATHER O'BRIEN

Gucci?

BETTY

Good job, Father.

FATHER O'BRIEN

Your Lisa Andrews' little girl. I saw you both on the news. That influencer of yours has caused quite a stir.

BETTY

Yes, Father. Who knew 'Love thy Enemy' was so popular?

Betty tries to walk away, but the priest steps in her direction.

FATHER O'BRIEN

It might be wise to avoid outside influencers.

BETTY

Yes, Father.

Betty takes another step, but so does the priest. His voice softens.

FATHER O'BRIEN

Betty, I could intervene on your behalf at your school. I golf with Principal Evans and I could tell him you overreacted to the call of our Lord asking us to "Love thy Enemy." You know, he was the first to say that 2,000 years ago!

BETTY

That would be great, Father.

Again Betty takes a step to leave but so does the priest.

FATHER O'BRIEN

I believe it was in the 1100s when Saint Bernard of Clairvaux first said, "The road to Hell is paved with good intentions."

BETTY

Yes, Father. I've got Gucci intentions.

Betty runs to Tina and her mother.

The priest looks at Betty perplexed.

Tina whispers to Betty.

TINA

I think what he meant was to be careful.

BETTY

(giggles)

I can't tell if he's for me or against me.

Betty shrugs her shoulders in earnest.

BETTY (CONT'D)  
Whose side would Jesus or Gandhi be  
on?

Tina laughs and pulls Betty toward her mom's car.

INT. BETTY'S HOME, FAMILY ROOM - SAME

Tony is watching sports on TV when he HEARS Lisa's phone ring  
in the kitchen.

He RACES to answer her phone.

INT. BETTY'S HOME, KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

The caller ID says "HOSPITAL."

He looks up toward Heaven.

TONY  
Uh oh!

Tony grabs the phone and answers it.

TONY (CONT'D)  
Lisa's phone, but this is Tony, her  
husband.

Tony listens and looks toward their bedroom.

TONY (CONT'D)  
She got off the swing shift this  
morning and has only gotten two  
hours sleep...

Tony listens.

TONY (CONT'D)  
(sad)  
Uh-huh.  
(sadder)  
Uh-huh.  
(saddest)  
I'll wake her up and give her the  
message.

Tony ends the call and trudges to their bedroom.

EXT. TINA'S HOUSE - DAY

Tina's house is magnificent in an upscale neighborhood. Tina and Betty lounge on beach chairs out by the pool, sipping lemonade and eating cookies. Tina types away on her iPad.

TINA

Your protest made me think.

BETTY

(giggles)

I'm sorry.

TINA

The nightly news only covers ongoing wars, mass shootings, and plane crashes or train wrecks.

BETTY

Yeah, so?

TINA

There would be two fewer things to report if people didn't kill each other.

BETTY

Maybe they would have to cover good things. Happy things.

TINA

Exactly. I'm thinking about joining your protest.

BETTY

What would you give up? You have a maid, a pool cleaner, and gardeners.

TINA

I know, right? I have nothing to give up!

BETTY

(laughs)

That's awful.

They stare at the pool in silence.

Tina has an epiphany.



TINA

I know! I'll give up a good career.  
I'll tell them I want to be a  
philosopher when I grow up.

BETTY

You're Dad's a banker and your  
Mom's in the stock market. They'll  
go mad.

TINA

Exactly.

BETTY

What does a philosopher do?

TINA

I'm not sure. Mostly they sit  
around and think about things and  
evaluate claims that people make to  
see if they're true or false.

BETTY

That's all you do now!

TINA

I know, right? My parents will be  
furious!

The girls laugh. Tina keeps laughing when Sam wanders into  
the backyard. Betty stops laughing.

BETTY

(whispers angrily to Tina)  
You set me up!

TINA

Hi, Sam. Glad you could make it.  
We're chillin'.

Sam looks nervous and uncomfortable. He spends much of his  
time looking around in awe. He doesn't make eye contact with  
the girls.

SAM

Thanks for the invite.

TINA

I was telling Betty I was going to  
tell my parents I want to be a  
philosopher when I get old.

SAM

Huh?

BETTY

Mostly they sit around and think about things.

Sam laughs.

SAM

That's what I do all day in school.

TINA

I looked up "Love thy Enemy."

BETTY

What did you find out?

TINA

It's a great idea, don't get me wrong. But the idea goes back long before Jesus Christ.

BETTY

Father O'Brien was wrong?

TINA

Five hundred years before Christ, Guatama Buddha said much the same thing. And more than a thousand years before Buddha, the ancient Babylonians wrote, "Do not return evil to the man who disputes with you; requite with kindness your evil-doer... smile on your adversary."

BETTY

So Jesus said it better but not first. We should let Father O'Brien know.

(curious)

Who said, "The road to Hell is paved with good intentions" first? Was it the doggie guy...

(pauses to think)

Saint Bernard?

Tina types away on her iPad.

TINA

Let me check.

(reads)

There is no evidence that Saint Bernard, the doggie guy, as you call him, wrote that, but it's often misattributed to him.

BETTY

That means he didn't say it first,  
right?

TINA

They don't have proof.

BETTY

Huh? Father O'Brien should know  
that too.

SAM

What difference does it make who  
said something first? Love thy  
enemy is sic.

BETTY

Do you mean, lit?

SAM

(perplexed)

I don't know. I got a B-minus in  
slang.

TINA

Ha! Because they mean the same  
thing, cool or good.

Sam laughs.

SAM

You're PMO!

BETTY

Ha! Putting you on. You're funny,  
Sam. I like that.

SAM

You're courageous, Betty. I like  
that!

Betty is surprised and delighted.

Tina hugs Betty and they are giddy with excitement until  
Betty turns serious.

BETTY

What do you mean? Courageous?

Sam pulls out his phone and shows them a short clip from a  
national Sunday morning news show (the volume is low, but  
they get the drift).

SAM

Your protest was on a national morning TV show.

Betty's and Tina's eyes open wide. They freeze.

SILENCE

TINA

Everybody watches those shows.

SAM

You can clearly see Betty, Mrs. Andrews, and me at the protest.

BETTY

Maybe nobody saw it.

SAM

Millions of people watch those shows instead of going to the synagog, I mean, church.

Betty pauses and then turns sad.

BETTY

Millions? Uh-oh! I should text my mom... not I can't. She'll be asleep. I'll tell her tonight.

TINA

You'll be grounded for a week.

SAM

Or a month, but it's worth it right? Love thy enemy is the G-O-A-T, life-changing idea.

BETTY

You don't need to spell "GOAT," we know what you mean.

Sam laughs at himself.

SAM

That's why I got the B-minus in slang.

The girls laugh with him.

BETTY

We should see if Father O'Brien saw it too.

The girls walk quickly to the backyard gate.

Sam rolls his eyes and laughs.

SAM

What are you getting me into?

TINA

Betty wants to talk to Father O'Brien anyway.

BETTY

Yeah. Father O'Brien is probably worried sick about who said those things first. Better bring your iPad, Tina.

SAM

I've never met Father O'Brien and I'm not a member of his church. Maybe I shouldn't come with you.

BETTY

What's the worst that can happen?

SAM

(mumbles)

I don't know. Hiccups? A gas attack? Being struck by lightning?

INT. HOSPITAL ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE - SAME

Lisa trudges into the office to see stuffy DR. LEOPOLD (60) sitting up tall in his seat behind a huge, clean desk. He wears a gray suit, white shirt, and a red "power" necktie. He has an American Flag pin on his lapel. He has a shiny new laptop computer in front of him.

LISA

Hi, Dr. Leopold. Sorry, I'm late. I worked the swing shift and only got two hours...

DR. LEOPOLD

Do you know why you're here, Ms. Andrews?

Lisa takes a seat.

LISA

No.

DR. LEOPOLD

It seems a video of you attending a protest surfaced on today's morning show.

LISA

I haven't seen it, but I can assure you I wasn't protesting...

Dr. Leopold swings his laptop around and the video clearly shows Lisa at the protest at the Army Recruiting Office.

DR. LEOPOLD

You're wearing your hospital uniform...

LISA

I was picking up my daughter and her friend to take them home.

DR. LEOPOLD

Did you see one of the protest signs reads, "Lower Drug Prices?"

LISA

I didn't see any of the signs except one that my daughter's friend made that read "Love thy Enemy."

DR. LEOPOLD

I'm afraid that we have you in an easily identified uniform protesting for lower drug costs.

He stands.

DR. LEOPOLD (CONT'D)

That reflects poorly on our hospital.

LISA

I wasn't protesting. I was picking up my...

DR. LEOPOLD

I'm afraid I'll have to put you on administrative leave until we sort this all out.

Lisa stands.

LISA

Even the Army staff sergeant  
described it as citizens exercising  
their First Amendment rights...

DR. LEOPOLD

Which you may do.  
(harshly)  
Wearing civilian clothing and not  
your hospital uniform! Good day,  
Ms. Andrews.

Lisa glares at the Administrator before trudging out.

EXT. CHURCH - DAY

Father O'Brien slowly sweeps a walkway on the side of the church when Betty, Sam, and Tina stroll up the path giggling and pushing each other.

BETTY

We can't tell him about the  
national Sunday morning TV show.  
He'll know one of us missed church.

Sam raises his hand and the girls giggle.

Father O'Brien sweeps closer. Sam studies his black clergy shirt, white collar, black pants, black shoes, and a gold crucifix dangling around his neck.

Upon seeing Father O'Brian up close, Sam freezes and the girls walk right up to him.

BETTY (CONT'D)

Hi, Father. Got a minute?

FATHER O'BRIEN

For confession?

Tina laughs.

TINA

Good one, Father!

SAM

What's confession?

Father O'Brien's eyes strike Sam's eyes like a heat-seeking missile.

BETTY

No, Father, we haven't done anything wrong.

FATHER O'BRIEN

(chuckles to Betty)

What can I help you with? I've already made a call to that nice Principal of yours. We'll be meeting at the club later to practice our putting. I'll speak with him then on your behalf. "Love thy Enemy" is a great theme for a book report.

BETTY

Thank you, Father. They call them themes now.

FATHER O'BRIEN

What's that?

BETTY

The school calls book reports, "Themes."

FATHER O'BRIEN

They were book reports in my day.

TINA

Yes, Father.

BETTY

Yes, Father.

The priest turns to Sam. The girls don't move.

FATHER O'BRIEN

You're not in our congregation, are you, my son?

SAM

I'm from the other...

Betty elbows Sam.

SAM (CONT'D)

Side of town.

Father O'Brien smiles.

FATHER O'BRIEN

Things are quite different over there at St. Luke's Parrish.

Sam looks away and smiles.



SAM

They couldn't be more different,  
Father.

FATHER O'BRIEN

I take it that's not what you three  
came to talk to me about.

BETTY

Would you be upset to learn that  
Jesus wasn't the first person to  
say, "Love thy Enemy."

The priest stops sweeping and glares at Betty.

BETTY (CONT'D)

I mean, it doesn't matter who said  
it first as long as everyone does  
it, right?

FATHER O'BRIEN

It's not in the Old Testament,  
therefore...

Tina holds out her iPad for the Father to read.

TINA

We thought you should know.

FATHER O'BRIEN

Buddha? The Babylonians? What kinds  
of falsehoods are these?

SAM

They never even mention "Love thy  
enemy" at St. Luke's, but they're  
big on "Love thy neighbor."

Father O'Brien glares at Sam.

FATHER O'BRIEN

"Love thy enemy" is an important  
extension of "Love thy neighbor,"  
is it not?

SAM

(humble)

I love the idea, Father. That's why  
I joined Betty's protest! Some  
other religions don't believe in  
original sin.

(MORE)

SAM (CONT'D)

They think babies are born pure  
with the ability to choose either  
good or evil with their free will.  
That gives babies the benefit of  
the doubt.

The priest reddens in anger. Betty and Tina look away.

SAM (CONT'D)

I think we need the same approach  
to neighbors and enemies. Let's all  
give each other the benefit of the  
doubt that our intentions are pure!

BETTY

And non-violent!

TINA

And peaceful!

The priest pushes away Tina's iPad and continues sweeping.

TINA (CONT'D)

I'm sorry, Father.

BETTY

Me too, Father.

Sam looks away with a devious smile.

BETTY (CONT'D)

And we couldn't find proof that  
Saint Bernard said that other thing  
first. The road to Hell...

The priest steps around them to continue sweeping.

FATHER O'BRIEN

It's a matter of belief.

BETTY

So, you see, Father, it's not  
important who's first...

The priest stops sweeping. He glares at the kids and then  
walks quickly back along the path.

FATHER O'BRIEN

If you want to be on your own in  
the world, so be it. I choose to be  
with God. I'll not speak to your  
Principal on your behalf. Good day  
to the three of you!

SAM  
 (whispers)  
 I feel like I got struck by  
 lightning.

Betty and Tina are smiling at Sam.

BETTY  
 (whispers and winks at  
 Sam)  
 Join the club.

Tina pats Sam on the back.

The kids giggle quietly while looking up at the church.

Diana Diablo's white sports car RACES down the street. She's driving it alone. Betty, Tina, and Sam turn to see it, but the priest does not.

INT. BETTY'S HOME, KITCHEN - SAME

Lisa trudges into the home, more tired than angry.

Sam has three hamburger patties on a plate and chops vegetables for grilling. He looks sadly at Lisa.

Lisa and Tony hug.

TONY  
 We got this!

She fights back tears.

Lisa listens to her phone as Betty trudges in and quietly lays three books on the table: "Lysistrata," "Who was Gandhi?," and "The Fallacy Detective."

BETTY  
 (picks up Lysistrata)  
 Tina's mom gave me this to give to  
 you, Mom.

Lisa's phone RINGS. The caller ID reads, "Rachel Abrams."

LISA  
 Hi, Rachel. I can't talk right now.  
 I need to speak with Betty.

TONY  
 So do I.

Rachel sounds angry so Lisa turns away.

LISA

You found Sam's protest sign and you're angry. I understand.

(listens)

It's your right not to love Hitler or terrorists. Thanks for calling, Rachel.

(pauses)

Yes, Betty heard you. She was standing right here. Goodbye.

Lisa rolls her eyes but can't get Rachel off the phone.

LISA (CONT'D)

I understand your situation, Rachel. I'm sorry.

Lisa ends the call.

Betty is stunned as Lisa paces on the verge of a mental breakdown.

LISA (CONT'D)

She's on good historical footing. The Christians fought several Crusades. World War II against that monster, Hitler. The Middle East today and every day for the past seventy-five years. I just don't have the strength to debate.

Lisa stops pacing and turns to Betty.

BETTY

(softly)

I think all killers are monsters.

Lisa ignores Betty and continues.

LISA

Then she told me

(in Rachel's voice)

Honestly, I don't know what's worse. Betty's getting expelled from school or Sam losing his only friend, you!

Lisa collapses in a kitchen chair. Tony and Betty race to hug her and sob.

TONY

While you were at your meeting,  
Betty's cowardly Principal called  
and politely suggested that Betty  
look for another school.

(sadly to Betty)

A school of choice, he called it.

LISA

The worst thing is that Betty and  
Sam are both being punished for  
following their hearts and speaking  
their minds.

Betty looks up at her parents and cries.

TONY

Cheer up, you two. I'm barbecuing  
hamburgers tonight. It's time we  
put the protests behind us and look  
forward.

Lisa stands and kisses Tony.

LISA

I'll eat after I get six more hours  
of sleep. Thanks, dear.

Lisa hugs and squeezes Betty.

LISA (CONT'D)

You, keep following your heart.

Lisa trudges off.

Betty hugs her dad.

BETTY

I'll have to think about it, Dad.

She grabs the three books from the table and runs to her  
room.

INT. BETTY'S HOME, BEDROOM - NIGHT

Betty sits up on her bed and is most of the way through the  
Gandhi book when Tony knocks on her door.

BETTY

Come in.

Tony enters with a tray with a bowl of cereal on it. Tony puts it on the bedside table with the lamp and a framed photo of Betty and Charlie smiling.

TONY

I guessed you would be reading.

Betty smiles at the cereal.

BETTY

Thanks, Dad. I love you.

Tony sits on the edge of the bed.

TONY

What are you learning?

Betty puts down Gandhi and picks up Lysistrata.

BETTY

I learned that Greek women were treated only a little better than slaves, their protest took a lot longer than I imagined, and that it was as much about women speaking up as much as ending a war.

TONY

Can I read it?

Betty hands it to him and smiles.

BETTY

Sure, but they have funny names.

Tony smiles.

TONY

Ah. Thanks for the warning.

Betty picks up the Gandhi book.

BETTY

I'm mostly through Gandhi's life and he and his people struggled more than I could ever imagine.

TONY

(laughs)

I remember the movie.

BETTY

I found myself reading slowly  
because I didn't want to see him  
killed at the end.

TONY

The greater the man or woman, the  
greater the consequences. Like your  
mother.

They establish eye contact and fight back tears.

BETTY

Did she get fired because of me?

TONY

A few days off. Administrative  
leave, they said.

Betty looks away.

BETTY

And I have to find a new school.

TONY

Let's see what tomorrow morning  
brings.

BETTY

I wish Charlie was here.

Tony looks sadly at the bowl of cereal.

TONY

I miss him too.

Tony kisses Betty on the top of the head.

TONY (CONT'D)

Don't stay up too late.

Tony is about to leave the room carrying "Lysistrata," when  
Betty calls to him.

BETTY

Dad, will Charlie have to kill  
people?

TONY

I hope not, Betty. I hear good  
people never fully recover from  
that.

Tony has a look of concern as he shuts the door.

Betty looks at the photograph of her and Charlie.

INT. BETTY'S HOME, KITCHEN - MORNING

It's a bright sunny day. Tony is dressed for work. Lisa is in a nice outfit and the kitchen table has four plates of blueberry scones.

Betty, dressed nicely for school, marches into the kitchen like a woman on a mission. She holds her new favorite books in her hand.

BETTY

Good morning. I have an announcement to make.

Tony and Lisa gather around.

BETTY (CONT'D)

I've been a little difficult lately.

Tony and Lisa nod, 'Yes.'

TONY

Which is why you're out of school until we can straighten this mess out.

LISA

We have a lunchtime meeting arranged with your Principal today.

She points to Gandhi's book.

BETTY

But no one said protesting was going to be easy. I've got to learn to be my own influencer and to explain myself better.

TONY

(upbeat)

Okay. That's a start.

LISA

And that's why I made all these blueberry scones.

Betty smiles and pulls up her iPad.



BETTY

The Principal and Ms. Carter are fifth on my list.

Betty's iPad list reads: (1) Librarian Ruthie, (2) Sam's mom, (3) Army sergeant, (4) Father O'Brien, (5) Principal and Ms. Carter, and (6) Charlie.

BETTY (CONT'D)

I've already texted Diana Diablo and her Double-D Disciples and told her I never wanted to see or hear from her again.

(threatening)

And that if she messed with me, my family, or my friends again, I will start a massive social media campaign to unfollow her with a viral vengeance.

Lisa's and Tony's eyes open wide.

Betty grabs a bowl of cereal which her mom notices with a sigh.

LISA

Okay. That's a great list. I'd be happy to drive you around. I'll handle the hospital later today.

TONY

I've got a leaky sink at one house, and a toilet that needs a new float at another. I'll meet you at school at noon.

Lisa kisses Tony who steals a scone as he leaves.

LISA

I saw that!  
(to Betty)  
Librarian Ruthie?

BETTY

I texted Tina for her last name. She never forgets anything!  
(looks away)  
You're right, Mom, she's my smart friend.

LISA

You're smart too, dear. I shouldn't have said that. I apologize.

Betty's phone gets a text message from Tina.

BETTY  
Ruthie Holmes.

Lisa gets excited as Betty shoves in cereal.

LISA  
Ruth Holmes? She's the daughter of  
the best lawyer in town.

BETTY  
I need to thank Ruthie. It's  
important to me. She understands  
me. She's the GOAT!

LISA  
The goat?

BETTY  
Greatest Of All Time!

Now Lisa looks away.

LISA  
I can call her mom's office and  
help hunt Ruthie down.

BETTY  
Thanks, Mom. You're the GOAT.

EXT. UNIVERSITY - DAY

Ruthie Holmes recognizes Betty who is sticking her head out  
of Lisa's SUV passenger window. Ruthie wears casual athletic  
clothes and a small backpack.

BETTY  
(whispers to her mom)  
That's my favorite librarian.  
She's snatched, Tina says.

LISA  
Snatched?

BETTY  
Looks good.  
(rolls her eyes)  
Geez, Mom.

Ruthie races to the window.

BETTY (CONT'D)

Thanks for meeting us. My mom made you a blueberry scone.

Betty hands Ruthie a scone which she bites immediately.

Ruthie and Lisa shake hands.

LIBRARIAN

I met your daughter at the library.

LISA

You had a major impact on Betty, in a good way. She's actually reading books now instead of stealing two-page summaries.

LIBRARIAN

(laughs)

I did the same up until my Freshman year. My mom says she never knew, but I think everyone did.

(to Betty)

What did you need to see me about?

Betty pauses to think for a few seconds and then holds up the book "Lysistrata."

BETTY

First, you were right about "Lysistrata." It was about women's rights.

LIBRARIAN

(laughs)

And not male body parts? Huh?

BETTY

Exactly. So why was the book banned?

LIBRARIAN

And the bigger question is, why are any books banned? I think it's because the people in power want you to believe what they believe.

BETTY

And discourage us from thinking?

LIBRARIAN

Sadly, yes.

Betty holds up, "Who was Gandhi?"

BETTY  
Why was he murdered?

LIBRARIAN  
For the same reason that people ban books.

Betty pauses to think and answers sadly.

BETTY  
They were afraid of his ideas.

LIBRARIAN  
Abraham Lincoln, Reverend Martin Luther King Jr., John F. Kennedy, Robert Kennedy, and the list goes on. Evil people killing ideas.

BETTY  
I have a lot of reading to do.

LIBRARIAN  
I reserved "Who was Rosa Parks" for you at the library.  
(winks at Betty)  
A book about Rosa Parks was banned in Florida!  
(glances at the university)  
I have to get to class.

Ruthie waves to them.

BETTY  
One last thing. I plan to pick my influencers carefully. I just wanted you to know that you're one of them.

LIBRARIAN  
I'm honored. See you at the library! And, thanks for the scone.

Ruthie smiles as walks away.

Lisa smiles and drives away.

EXT. SAM'S HOUSE - DAY

Lisa and Betty approach a dilapidated home in a poor neighborhood. Betty carries a large plate of scones.

Lisa rings the doorbell but doesn't hear it, so she KNOCKS on the door.

BETTY

Sam says she's home.

Rachel Abrams comes to the door with a walker. She's only 40 years old but she looks much older and frail.

RACHEL

Hi, Lisa. This must be Betty who Sam talks about all the time.

Betty hands her the scones.

BETTY

My mom made these and I wanted to apologize.

Rachel smiles.

RACHEL

No need. Sam had a long talk to me this morning... and he never talks much so I was quite surprised.

BETTY

What did he say?

RACHEL

He reminded me in a stern voice that he was raised to "Love thy neighbor" but that that wasn't good enough.

(leans to Betty)

He's never raised his voice to me before all this "Love thy Enemy" nonsense! I think he believes it would work! That everyone will suddenly throw down their weapons!

LISA

I'm so sorry.

Rachel spins to Lisa.

RACHEL

Don't be. I loved this new side of Sam. He's finally sticking up for himself! The big kids at school bully him something fierce!

(to Betty)

I've never seen Sam so happy.

(MORE)

RACHEL (CONT'D)

(whispers)

I think he's in love.

Betty's eyes open wide.

BETTY

He wants to walk me to the library  
next Saturday.

Lisa is shocked.

LISA

What?

BETTY

(looks)

We talk on the phone every morning  
and every night.

LISA

That's new!

RACHEL

You better stay at that school of  
yours. I'm sending Sam there as a  
school of choice because they have  
a better free lunch program and  
you're the only friend he has! Now,  
be off with you.

LISA

Thank you, Rachel.

RACHEL

Thanks for the scones. Sam will  
love them too.

As they turn and walk away, Betty turns her head.

BETTY

Tina likes Sam too. I think his  
protest made him more popular.

Rachel shuts the door.

RACHEL (O.C.)

Crazy kids!

Lisa and Betty smile as they stroll to the SUV.

INT. ARMY RECRUITING OFFICE - DAY

Staff Sergeant Myers sits behind a desk with a smile. He has one hand on the plate of scones. We join the conversation in progress.

SERGEANT

... so Betty was exercising her First Amendment rights -- and like muscles, if you don't exercise them, you lose them.

LISA

That's a nice way to look at it.

BETTY

But I don't like killing or war.

SERGEANT

Because you're a smart young woman. Believe me, as soon as everyone in the world takes up your challenge to "Love thy enemy," I'll be out of a job and the happiest man on Earth.

BETTY

I don't want to wait. War is stupid and I'm worried about Charlie.

SERGEANT

Your brother. I saw us on the news.

He turns to his laptop computer.

SERGEANT (CONT'D)

I looked him up. Basic training.  
(to Lisa)

Which means he hasn't selected or been assigned a specialty yet.

(whispers to Betty)

The Army has over 25 non-combatant roles in the Medical Corp, Intelligence...

BETTY

Intelligence. That's not Charlie.

LISA

But Medical Corps? He said he wanted to work on an ambulance crew someday.

Betty smiles and moves around the desk to hug the sergeant.

SERGEANT

He may have that option. Talk to him about it. All his options are online. They can't be guaranteed but...

Betty hugs him tight.

EXT. CHURCH - DAY

Father O'Brien sweeps the walkway again. He turns quickly when he sees Betty and Lisa approaching.

LISA

Father O'Brien? We brought you some scones.

He turns and sheepishly approaches them.

Betty hands him a small plate of scones.

BETTY

I'm sorry, Father.

FATHER O'BRIEN

Sorry for what, my child.

BETTY

I'm sorry that Jesus didn't say "Love thy enemy" first, but he did say it the best! It was the smartest and bravest thing anyone could say. It still is.

Lisa smiles proudly.

FATHER O'BRIEN

(chuckles, uncomfortably)  
I... I... looked it up. Those Babylonians were more advanced than I thought.

BETTY

And Buddha too.

FATHER O'BRIEN

(looks away)  
Yes, Buddha, too.

He bends down to Betty.



FATHER O'BRIEN (CONT'D)

You see, some of the things we are taught in our youth are more complicated than we realize. Some things we're told are a matter of faith.

BETTY

Yes, Father. I'm glad you looked things up. My Fallacy Detective book says we should look up everything!

Lisa tries to escort Betty away.

LISA

Thank you, Father.

Betty keeps talking as Lisa guides her back to the SUV.

BETTY

Detectives need evidence. Proof, right, Mom?

LISA

Yes, Betty.

Lisa moves Betty faster toward the SUV but Father O'Brien can still hear them.

BETTY

War is just plain evil, Mom. Kids being bombed and killed... before they can even ask questions.

LISA

Yes, dear. Let's go. We have to get to the school. It's almost noon.

Lisa and Betty reach the SUV when Betty's phone BUZZES with a text message.

BETTY

It's Diana Diablo. She says she loved my online book report on "Lysistrata" so much that she wanted the entire world to hear about it.

LISA

That's nice, I guess.

BETTY

She says I wanted the entire world to read it to, or I wouldn't have secretly taped the meeting with Ms. Carter, the book burner and mass shredder.

LISA

She's right about that. You have to apologize for that today.

BETTY

I guess so, but they should apologize too.

LISA

You can't expect others to apologize.

BETTY

Then Diana says there's too much cheddar to be made in war and that love thy enemy will never catch on. Giving her job security.

LISA

That's very cynical, but she might be right.

BETTY

What's cynical?

LISA

That's believing that people are motivated by self-interest and lack sincerity and integrity.

They hear a sports car horn HONK and see Diana Diablo turn the corner and RACES away.

BETTY

That's her.

EXT. SCHOOL - NOON

Betty and her mom see a large crowd of students outside the school with Tina and Sam front and center. Tina and Sam each hold up a sign that reads, "We want Betty!" The other students have their hands behind their backs. Two big boys (the bullies) stand at the far side of the group.

Tony drives up in his work truck and parks next to Lisa.

Betty, Lisa, and Tony walk slowly to the front door. The Principal and Ms. Carter exit the front door and gently push the students out of the way.

The students part down the middle and remain silent. All at once, they all pull out signs that read, "We Support Betty." The big boys, pull their "We Support Betty" signs out last, but they smile.

MS. CARTER

Put those signs away or...

The students smile and turn their signs around. They all read, "Love thy Enemy."

The Principal and Ms. Carter try to guide the Andrews family into the school but Betty runs to hug Tina and Sam.

Sam smiles big.

At the door, Ms. Carter turns to the students and yells.

MS. CARTER (CONT'D)

You made your point. Don't be late  
to class after lunch!

INT. SCHOOL OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

The Principal stands like a wooden soldier behind Ms. Carter who sits behind the desk like a judge.

MS. CARTER

Please sit down.

The Andrews family sits. Betty clutches her three favorite books and her new theme on Gandhi.

ELIZABETH HOLMES, ESQ, (50) steps into the office with a leather briefcase. She's wearing a "power suit" generally reserved for major court cases. She enters the office and stands stoically behind Betty.

ELIZABETH HOLMES

I'm Elizabeth Holmes, Attorney at  
Law. The Andrews are my clients.

(pats her briefcase)

I must warn you that once I open  
this briefcase there is no going  
back. My clients and I will not  
accept out-of-court settlements or  
plea deals.

The Principal's eyes open wide in fear.

BETTY

I'd like you to know that I was as surprised as anyone about what my friends did today, but I couldn't be more proud of them.

Betty holds up a copy of "Lysistrata."

BETTY (CONT'D)

It reminded me of the non-violent protest in "Lysistrata." I read the entire book last night, but it's only 31 pages long. I learned it was really about women's rights, which I'm sure Ms. Carter understands if she gets a lower salary than the Principal.

The Principal squirms. Tony, Lisa, and Elizabeth smile.

Betty politely hands Ms. Carter her new theme on Gandhi.

Ms. Carter doesn't reach out to take it.

Everyone HEARS Elizabeth pat her briefcase.

Ms. Carter picks up the theme.

Betty holds up "Who was Gandhi?"

BETTY (CONT'D)

I wrote my first draft after reading a two-page summary of the book on Google. But last night I rewrote my theme after reading the entire book. Spoiler alert, it's a tear-jerker. The most peaceful man since Jesus gets murdered.

MS. CARTER

I'm sorry, Betty. You know our school policy on late...

Elizabeth pats her briefcase as Betty stands.

BETTY

(calmly to the Principal)  
My first theme was on time, but it was shredded by Ms. Carter. We have witnesses.

Tony and Lisa raise their hands.

ELIZABETH HOLMES

I hear First Amendment violations,  
willful destruction of evidence,  
and women's rights violations on a  
theme titled what, Ms. Carter?

MS. CARTER

(sorrowfully)

"Love thy Enemy."

Elizabeth pats her briefcase and glares at the Principal and Ms. Carter.

ELIZABETH HOLMES

Don't make me open this briefcase.

The Principal whispers into Ms. Carter's ear before racing out the door.

Ms. Carter smiles, stands, and fist-bumps Betty.

MS. CARTER

Welcome back, Betty.

(winks)

I knew you could do it! You'd  
better hurry on to class, young  
lady.

Tony hugs Betty and shakes hands with Elizabeth. Lisa shakes hands with Elizabeth and then hugs Betty.

Betty races away to class, all smiles.

EXT. SCHOOL - CONTINUOUS

ELIZABETH HOLMES

That's a bright and curious young  
woman you have there.

TONY

How can we ever repay you?

Elizabeth taps her briefcase.

ELIZABETH HOLMES

Let me get to my lunch. It's all  
that's in here.

(to Lisa)

I'll stop by your hospital to have  
a brief word with Dr. Leopold.  
Expect to have your job back by  
this afternoon.

Lisa hugs her.

ELIZABETH HOLMES (CONT'D)

Have your daughter come to see me  
when she finishes law school.

Everyone laughs.

EXT. LIBRARY - DAY

SUPER: "Next Saturday."

Betty and Sam walk together toward the library. They smile at each other, but not at the same time.

EXT. ARMY RECRUITING OFFICE - DAY

SUPER: "One Saturday later."

Betty and Sam hold hands and smile at each other as they walk toward the Army office carrying hand-printed protest signs that read, "Love thy Enemy."

They quietly sit down close together and hold up their signs.

Moments later, Tina and her friend (female; 12) show up with fancier signs that read, "Love thy Enemy."

The Sergeant brings them each a small bottle of water.

They all smile.

Diana Diablo RACES by in her white sports car.

They all wave at her and she HONKS the phone.

BETTY (V.O.)

What did I learn?

(beat)

The most important things we can do in life are to love ourselves, love our neighbors, and love our enemies. If you're not being taught these things at home, in school, or from your friends, you'll just have to find them out for yourself.

(beat)

I never plan to be as famous as the women of ancient Greece, Buddha, Jesus, or Gandhi, but I hope when kids ask the question,

(MORE)

BETTY (V.O.) (CONT'D)

"Who is Betty Andrews?" they  
answer, "She's the kid who tried to  
teach other kids to "Love thy  
enemy" and end war forever."

FADE OUT.

**THE END**