

LINDA

Go tell Lisa Burdick.

BECKY

You're going to want to hear about his. It involves you.

LINDA

What do you mean...?

Start

BECKY

Father Lovett's coming over to talk to mom and dad about you.

LINDA

...Why?

BECKY

It has something to do with the show-and-tell we had today.

LINDA

What...

BECKY

(very quickly) We were asked to bring in the best birthday present we'd ever received. I was going to bring in my Easy Bake oven, because Dad says those little chocolate cakes taste just like mom's, but I knew Lisa Burdick was thinking of bringing in her Easy Bake oven and I didn't want Lisa to think that I stole her idea and then I realized, oh my gosh, // what am thinking? I've got the best present anyone has ever—

LINDA

Get to the point!

BECKY

I brought in my cassette recorder! I didn't mean to get you in trouble, // honest! I would never—

LINDA

So you brought in the recorder, so what?

BECKY

Well...I was practicing my show-and-tell presentation, you know, holding up the manual and gesturing with my arms like Carol Merrill on "Let's Make A Deal." I was rewinding the tape and Father Lovett walked into the classroom.

*Father Lovett appears in full old-time priest garb. (Played by the actor playing Mike.)*

LINDA

(to the audience) The power of Father Lovett. Simply saying his name made him appear. Remember what I said about my dad impersonating people in my memories?

BECKY

(to the audience) And this isn't even her memory!

LINDA

(to the audience) That's how strong my father's personality was!

FATHER LOVETT

Hello, Rebecca. What have we here?

BECKY

It's for show-and-tell!

FATHER LOVETT

Looks like a complicated piece of machinery.

BECKY

No, Father, it's easy and really interesting because your voice sounds different than you think it does. I don't sound like me at all.

FATHER LOVETT

Really? Let me hear.

BECKY

(to Linda) I thought the last thing I recorded was Dad talking about bathrooms and how moisture is your enemy. I was wrong.

LINDA

What was the last thing you recorded?

BECKY

You. The conversation you had with me about puberty and the birds and bees...

*Pause.*

LINDA

That's, that's impossible. You didn't have your recorder. I remember, you—

BECKY

It was under my trench coat. I was practicing being a private dick on a case and recording my interrogation of a murder suspect. You were the murder suspect.

LINDA

Oh, my God, oh, my God, oh, my God...

BECKY

I pushed the button and the tape started to play....

*Becky pushes the button. We hear Linda saying: "I'll make it quick, like a piano dropping on your head. The man's penis becomes engorged with blood when he's aroused. He inserts the penis into the woman's bleeding hole // that we were just talking about. The man and the woman jiggle around—"*

*After the words "bleeding hole," Father Lovett attempts to stop the tape. Becky assists.*

FATHER LOVETT

Stop it! How do you stop it!!? How do you stop this thing????!!

BECKY

Right there, Father.

FATHER LOVETT

Where, where!!??

BECKY

That one, here, let me...

FATHER LOVETT

For the love of God stop this blaspheming machine!!!

*Becky turns it off.*

FATHER LOVETT

Was that your sister, Linda?

BECKY

Maybe.... (genius light bulb) I'm thinking of becoming a nun, Father! I want to devote // my life to the—

FATHER LOVETT

Quiet! I'm...I'm having trouble breathing.... Tell your parents I'll be paying them a call to talk about the corruption of their eldest daughter's soul.

LINDA

Where's the tape?!

FATHER LOVETT

Open that up...

*Becky does so.*

FATHER LOVETT

Give it to me.

*Becky gives him the tape.*

BECKY

He said it was...

FATHER LOVETT

Evidence!

*Father Lovett exits, yelling:*

FATHER LOVETT

Betty! Get me Mike O'Shea's address. Now!

LINDA

What...?!

BECKY

Oh, yeah, Betty Heckenbach volunteers in the office on Fridays. She pulled me out of recess and said, "What has your family done to Father Lovett!?" The bell rang and I ran.

**Stop**

LINDA

Oh, god, Betty Heckenbach.... If dad hears that tape he'll kill me!

BECKY

Uh-huh.

LINDA

He hates Father Lovett because Father Lovett thinks he's better than he is and lives in a big, fancy rectory with a hi-fi and a color TV and Father Lovett drives a Cadillac! If this ever gets out, mom and dad'll be the Julius and Ethel Rosenberg of Our Lady's parish. (to the audience) It might seem crazy to you, but the thought of Father Lovett playing that tape for my father made me think of suicide. I'm not kidding. I actually, really, on some deep-down level, cared what my father thought. Also, I didn't want him to beat the shit out of me.

*Jo and Terri enter carrying groceries.*