

CANDY

I tend bar, remember? Which means I can only work when the bar is open. People don't drink in the morning. Therefore, Lovett's isn't open in the morning.

REGINA

I don't see why you can't just get a real job.

CANDY

It is a real job! Dammit, Mother!

REGINA

Language, Candace!

WALTER enters from upstairs in bed clothes. He's the alpha male; CANDY and REGINA are competitive in his presence.

WALTER

What the hell's going on down here?

CANDY

He's using adult language, Mom.

REGINA

She was feeding the dogs again.

CANDY

Jeez, Mom!

WALTER

Dammit Candy, how many times do I gotta tell you to quit feeding those dogs? I spend good money on dog food that they won't eat because you keep feeding them raw hamburger.

CANDY

They like the hamburger. It's better for them. It's natural for them to -

WALTER

You can't feed raw meat to dogs. It gives them worms.

CANDY

Wild animals don't cook their food before eating it!

WALTER

Dogs aren't wild animals, and I'm not gonna have this argument with you again.

CANDY

Then can you both please just leave me the hell alone!

WALTER *assumes a threatening posture; CANDY gives ground.*
REGINA *seizes the opportunity ...*

REGINA

Candace! I will not tell you again -

WALTER

(Pointing to the ceiling)

As long as you're living under my roof, you'll follow my rules.

CANDY

(Pointing to the ceiling)

That's your floor. It's my roof, and I'd really appreciate a little respect.

(Backing off)

Please?

WALTER

Respect is something you earn. And you can call that your roof when you start paying your share of the mortgage payment. Until then, you'll do what you're told or you can get the hell out!

REGINA

Walter! Candace, Honey, he doesn't mean that. You know you have a home here as long as -

WALTER

Lord, Regina. You know as well as I do she's not going anywhere.

(Taking CANDY's chin in his hand)

Isn't that right, little girl?

CANDY

(Pulling away from WALTER)

Do what I'm told? I'm thirty-two! And I bust my ass for y'all helping Mom around the house, running her to the doctor every other day with her hypochondriac attacks -

REGINA

Oh, don't start that again! For heaven's sake, Candace -

WALTER

Your mother's illnesses are legitimate and you know it.

REGINA

Why would the doctors even see me if they weren't?

CANDY

I told you - because you have great medical insurance. You're like money in the bank for them.

WALTER

I don't know what the hell makes you think you're such a damn medical expert?

CANDY

It's common sense, Dad.

REGINA

If you had any common sense, we wouldn't have to keep having this same conversation over and over and -

CANDY

Dammit! Why do you insist on tormenting me like this? Why won't you just leave me the hell alone?

REGINA

Why won't you clean up your language, Miss Potty Mouth?

CANDY

Hell! Damn! Shit! Bitch!

REGINA

That's it! I'm finished! I'm not gonna stand here and listen to this!

(Exits upstairs)

CANDY

(Under her breath)

Thank you!

WALTER

Look at me.

(CANDY instinctively looks up at WALTER and assumes a submissive posture.)

I've had about all I'm gonna take from you, Little Girl. You better straighten your ass out or else. Do you understand me?

CANDY

(Mustering her nerve)

Or else what? You gonna turn me over your knee and whip my cute little ass, Daddy?

WALTER *steps very close to CANDY so that he towers over her. CANDY cowers before him.*

WALTER

You back-talking me?

(CANDY recoils shaking her head)

I'm warning you. I'm about outa patience.

CANDY

Yes, sir.

WALTER

(Turns to go)

And quit feeding those damn dogs.

(Exits upstairs.)

CANDY *composes herself. Once she's sure the coast is clear, she opens the closet door.*

COLIN

(A bit sobered up)

Holy shit!

CANDY

Now you understand what I was saying about them?

COLIN

Yeah. They are crazy.

CANDY

Tell me about it.

(Putting her arms around COLIN)

Don't worry, Baby. As long as we're quiet, they won't be back down tonight.

COLIN

Oh no, I don't think so. I think maybe I should go.

CANDY

What? No! Baby ...

(She tries to kiss him)