

Bill / Ben

Act 1 Scene 4b

Ben comes in from running.

BEN. Is that your U-Haul?

BILL. Yeah. What about it.

BEN. Where's Mom?

Bill looks around like:

How the fuck should I know.

The dog across the way barks sharply.

(Scanning the room.) You took your chair?

Where are you even taking that stuff?

Ben's Confronting
Dad

BEN. Y

Text me

Of a sex

BILL. I

He's like

BEN. S

BILL. I

BEN. I

BILL. ?

BILL. That's my business.

BEN. Okay, okay.

(Starting over.) I'm actually glad we have a quick sec here, um...

BILL. Uh-oh.

BEN. Nope, not going to be intense, just—
I actually had a quick check-in with Bri this morning
And, uh, he seemed pretty upset, but you know, that's Brian.

BILL. That's Brian.

BEN. Obviously, we all know that
Mom is the instigator of all this—

BILL. I would have slogged it out.

BEN. Right.
And now she's throwing around blame.

BILL. Typical.

BEN. And, and, and according to Brian,
She's got something stuck in her head
About a new friend of yours named Carla.

BILL. Who is that?

BEN. You don't know who that is.

BILL. No idea.

BEN. Okay, great.
'Cause Brian said that Mom said
You guys "sext."

BILL. What is that?

BEN. You send each other
Text messages
Of a sexual nature.

BILL. Brian is not a reliable narrator.
He's like your mother that way.

BEN. So you've never sexted with a "Carla."

BILL. Nope.

BEN. Do you even know a Carla?

BILL. Nope. Not that I know of.

BEN. You don't know a Carla that you know of.
Do you know a Carla that you don't know of?

BILL. Ben, for god sakes.

There's no Carla.

There's no sex messages.

You know I don't text.

I don't even know how.

BEN. Can I see your phone?

BILL. What?

BEN. Can I see your phone?

BILL. What phone?

BEN. Just show me your phone.

BILL. I don't even know where it is.

I hardly use the thing.

BEN. You don't have it.

BILL. Can we let this go?

Can I get off the witness stand please?

BEN. You're right you're right you're right.

I don't know what's wrong with me.

I'm under a lot of pressure and it's a very stressful time and...

Come on.

Come here, Dad.

You know, I think you're right,

I think Mom's imagination gets the best of her sometimes.

BILL. She was always a dreamer.

BEN. Still is.

BILL. Exactly.

BEN. Didn't mean to make you feel like I was cross-examining you.

BILL. No harm done.

BEN. Come here.

They hug.

Ben tries to feel in all of Bill's pockets for a possible phone.

They get in a weird tussle.

BILL.

Stop

BEN.

Ches

BILL.

BEN.

Give

Hanc

Dad?

Hanc

BILL.

No. M

BEN.

BILL.

We'll

BEN.

Do y

BILL.

You'r

BEN.

BILL.

Wha

BEN.

You l

BILL.

BEN.

You l

Neve

BILL. What the hell are you—
Stop that— // stop it stop it stop it, get off of me—

BEN. I felt it! I fucking felt it in your—
Chest pocket—give me that—

BILL. That is a box of Tic Tacs!

BEN. Fine, give me a Tic Tac.
Give me just one Tic Tac.

Bill does not.

Hand over the phone.

Dad?

Hand over the phone.

BILL. What am I, twelve years old?
No. No, I'm not handing over my phone.

BEN. GIVE ME THE FUCKING PHONE.

The dog across the way starts wildly yapping again.

BILL. Quiet down.

We'll be the talk of the entire neighborhood.

BEN. I would love to make you the talk of the neighborhood.
Do you want me to see if I can?

BILL. There's nothing on it anyway.
You're not going to find anything.

He hands the phone to Ben.

BEN. What's the password?

BILL. Our anniversary.

Ben types it in.

What's going on with your hands.

BEN. It's my eczema, Dad,
You know I get eczema when I get stressed.

BILL. Don't get it all over my phone.

BEN. You know what?

You know what?

Never mind.

Ben glares at his father.

He stares at the phone.
He looks into the mid-distance for a while.
He walks around.
For a while he has no idea what to do.

Okay. Okay.

So.

This is... Pretty disgusting.

BILL. Well, you looked, so.

BEN. Did you actually do all the things in these—

No, forget it forget it forget it—

BILL. It can't shock you.

You were in a fraternity.

BEN. This doesn't shock me.

The thing that shocks me is...

Not this it's...

BILL. What?

BEN. I just, I never realized how, like,
Completely full of shit you are.

BILL. It takes two to tango.

BEN. I mean you were...

You were...

You were a veteran, you signed up to go.

And work—

You worked your ass off—

And you were so hard on anyone who dared to falter—

BILL. I love your mother.

BEN. How can you say that?

Come on, you lied and now you're running away—

BILL. I do love her.

I do.

I always have and I always will.

BEN. Then I guess you've got a pretty fucked up idea of love.

Jess comes in, still in her robe.

Ben makes a decision.

JESS. Hi, what's // going on—

Act 1 Scene 4c