

Taking the bait...

WILL

Why not religion, Dad?

EDWARD

It's rude to talk about religion.
You never know who you're going to
offend.

A beat.

WILL

Josephine actually went to the Congo
last year.

EDWARD

Oh, so you know.

INT. GROCERY STORE - NIGHT

Will shakes a shopping cart free from the pile-up while his
mother checks her list.

AT THE PRODUCE SECTION

Sandra starts to bag string beans.

WILL

Mom, would you say you understand
Dad?

SANDRA

Of course.

WILL

What I mean is, do you really know
what's going on in his head?

SANDRA

Yes.

WILL

How is that possible? I mean, you try to ask him a question and suddenly it's another one of his stories.

(decidedly)

You can't honestly say you know him.

SANDRA

Yes, Will, I do. And don't presume things you don't know.

She's more amused than annoyed, but Will is entering dangerous territory.

SANDRA

Would you say you understand Josephine?

WILL

Yes. But that's a different...

SANDRA

No it's not. It's exactly the same. Your father and I met, we dated, and we married -- we chose each other -- because we understood each other on some fundamental level. Just the same as you two.

She moves on to the carrots.

WILL

Josephine and I have a lot in common.

SANDRA

Yes, you both think William Bloom is a very smart man.

(beat)

The problem is, you only see me as your mother, and not as someone's wife. And I've been his wife longer than I've been your mother. You can't discount that.

WILL

True. But I've known him my whole life, and I don't feel like I know him at all. Or ever will.

With a look, Sandra acknowledges the stakes.

SANDRA

I know it's not easy. Just remember, he didn't choose to be your father and you didn't choose to be his son. You just ended up together. You could pick numbers out of a dark bag and it'd be just the same. If you ask me, it's a wonder parents and children can stand each other at all.

WILL

But I understand you, Mom. I always have.

SANDRA

Well, clearly you don't. But I'm not the mystery you're trying to solve right now.

INT. AT THE CHECKOUT - NIGHT

Reaching the CASHIER, Sandra hands over her coupons. Will is approaching with a Newsweek magazine.

Two checkstands over, an ATTRACTIVE BLONDE WOMAN in her 50's is getting her change. Though she's Sandra's generation, she