

anything you have to be me, or at the very least a doctor in Rob-ology. If you wanna find Landslide by Fleetwood Mac you have to know that I bought it for someone in the fall of 1983 and then didn't give it to them for personal reasons. But you don't know any of that, do you? You would have to ask me to--

The phone rings again. Rob picks it up.

ROB

Yeah?

MOM

Hi, Rob. It's your mother.

Rob deflates a bit.

ROB

Hi, Mom.

MOM

Everything all right?

ROB

Great. Super-fantastic.

MOM

How's the store?

ROB

So so. Up and down.

MOM

Your lucky Laura's doing so well. If it wasn't for her, I don't think either of us would ever sleep...

Rob holds his lips together with thumb and forefinger, but succumbs --

ROB

She left. She's gone.

MOM

What do you mean? Where did she go?

ROB

How would I know? Gone. Girlfriend. Leave. Not say where gone. Laura move out.

MOM

We'll call her mother.

ROB

She just called. She doesn't even know. It's probably the last time I'll ever hear her voice. That's weird, isn't it? You spend Christmas at somebody's house, you know, and you worry about their operations and you see them in their bathrobe, and... I dunno...

Silence.

ROB

There'll be another mom and another Christmas. Right?

Silence... More silence.

ROB

Hello? Anybody there?

THE SOUND OF SOFT CRYING

ROB

I'm all right, if that's what's
upsetting you.

MOM

You know that's not what's upsetting
me.

ROB

Well it fucking should be, shouldn't
it?

MOM

I knew this would happen. What are
you going to do Rob?

ROB

I'm going to drink this bottle of
wine watch TV and go to bed. Then
tomorrow I'll get up and go to work.

MOM

And after that?

ROB

Meet a nice girl and have children.
I promise the next time we talk I'll
have it all sorted out.

MOM

I knew this was going to happen.

ROB

Then what are you getting so upset
about?

MOM

What did Laura say? Do you know why
she left?

ROB

It's got nothing to do with marriage,
if that's what you're getting at.

MOM

So you say. I'd like to hear her
side of it.

ROB

Mom! For the last fucking time, I'm
telling you Laura didn't want to get
married! She is not that kind of
girl! To use a phrase. That's not
what happens now.

MOM

Well I don't know what happens now,
apart from you meet someone, you
move in, she goes. You meet someone,
you move in, she goes.

Silence. Rob busted.

ROB

Shut up, Mom.

Rob hangs up the phone. He fills up his glass again, takes
a swig, and slumps into a chair. If there was any wind left
in Rob, it just got knocked out. After a moment, he gets to
his feet, grabs his jacket and heads out the door.

CUT TO:

EXT. LOUNGE AX CLUB - LINCOLN AVE. - NIGHT

Rob comes down the street and gets in the short line to enter
the club. From inside he hears a GUITAR, playing a tune
that becomes familiar not only to Rob, but to us. When a
strong, lilting female VOICE begins to sing, we hear what it
is: "Baby I Love Your Way," by Peter Frampton.