

INTERVIEWER. Okay! I...you've been accepted. You've been accepted. You'll be enrolled in the fall semester upon hearing of your acceptance.

(The lights come back on. BEN turns the lights off. A tense moment, then...)

BEN. *(Switching back:)* Oh man! That's great! I can't even tell you how... I gotta call my mom. It was so nice to meet you.

(BEN cheerily leaves the room. The INTERVIEWER collapses into his seat.)

CONSPICUOUS

by Winter Miller

Characters

JOSEPH, a new father.

ANTHONY, his friend.

Scene

Anthony and Joseph are wandering in search of a daycare center, or so Joseph would have him believe.

(ANTHONY and JOSEPH walk a fairly deserted street in a residential neighborhood. ANTHONY carries a large radio. JOSEPH carries an open knapsack with a baby in it.)

ANTHONY. But see either way I make a profit because I got it for almost nothing and if I want to, I can use it for a few months and then sell it. It's just I have to get the junk that's in the battery area out, but otherwise it's in perfect condition, got one tiny scratch on the bottom that you wouldn't even see. I'm going to always ask for the store model, man, that's how you get this stuff for cheap. I get this green stuff out with like a knife or something and it looks new. I know it works, I made sure of that. I could probably make at least 40 bucks on it. Or maybe I could go around to electronic stores and buy the store models and then I could sell them on the street or wherever for a 300% markup, that's what I should do, make me a little money. Although I was thinking I could give it to my moms because she filled out all those forms for me and this could be kind of like a thank you, plus I would still get to use it. She would be impressed if I did that. Maybe I will do that and I can go back and get the next store model in a couple of months and start my resale business. But you know what she said—

JOSEPH. Anthony.

ANTHONY. What?

JOSEPH. Do you listen to yourself?

ANTHONY. No. I hear it when I say it I don't have to then sit there and listen to it again.

JOSEPH. Man, shut up. You're just jabbering.

ANTHONY. I was talking, I was telling you my business idea.

JOSEPH. You're talking about batteries and—

ANTHONY. Forget it man. I was thinking I would cut you in. But forget it.

JOSEPH. Can we just have silence.

ANTHONY. Where is this place?

JOSEPH. Down a little further.

ANTHONY. What's the number?

JOSEPH. The number?

ANTHONY. Of the place where we're going. What's with you man?

JOSEPH. It's just down there more.

ANTHONY. Are we lost?

JOSEPH. No. I said it's down there.

ANTHONY. But what's the number then?

JOSEPH. 690. Shut up.

ANTHONY. Where's Shawna at?

JOSEPH. What?

ANTHONY. Shawna?

JOSEPH. She's at work.

ANTHONY. You didn't tell me she got a job.

JOSEPH. She works at Wendy's.

ANTHONY. How long she been there?

JOSEPH. Two days.

ANTHONY. They still hiring?

JOSEPH. I don't know. Go ask.

ANTHONY. I like those hamburgers. Square. Frosties are good too. She get free food there?

JOSEPH. No.

ANTHONY. She come home with stuff though at the end of the night? Like the burgers and fries that didn't get eaten?

JOSEPH. (*Exasperated:*) I don't know.

ANTHONY. Okay. Never mind then. What's wrong with you?

JOSEPH. Nothing.

ANTHONY. I'm hungry.

(They walk in silence.)

ANTHONY. If you saw this in a store, how much you pay for it?

JOSEPH. I wouldn't.

ANTHONY. You in a pissed off mood. Where is this place? You said it wasn't that far. I'm carrying this around for like blocks... This is 304 and that's the end of the street so I don't know where you think the 600s are gonna be. This is a pain in the ass place for a daycare center to be anyway, who comes all the way out here for this?

JOSEPH. These people here use it.

ANTHONY. But why are you using it? Why can't your mom watch her?

JOSEPH. She's busy.

ANTHONY. How much does day care cost every hour?

JOSEPH. I don't know.

ANTHONY. They didn't say nothing over the phone, like it's ten dollars for the whole day or something?

JOSEPH. No.

ANTHONY. Is it one of those places where it's just like in somebody's house?

JOSEPH. Yeah.

ANTHONY. I saw this thing on the news about places that aren't licensed and the teachers were molesting all the kids. Sick, man. The boys and the girls. You better check this place out good if you don't know about it.

JOSEPH. Why you runnin' your mouth man? It's none of your business.

ANTHONY. That's just a park through there, the numbers stop here. You have a cross street for this place?

(JOSEPH sets the baby down on the sidewalk in the knapsack. He turns and walks back the way he came.)

ANTHONY. I have to get back and help my brother move his furniture. What are you doing?

(JOSEPH keeps walking.)

ANTHONY. Hey!

(ANTHONY looks down at the baby. He hurries off in the direction of JOSEPH.)