

## 52. A Tangled Web

**Topic:** Two girls discuss the downside of lying.

**Cast:**

MARCIE: easily picks up on liars and calls them on it

MARY: struggling to get herself out of her deception

- 1       *(Scene opens with MARCIE joining MARY On-Stage.)*  
 2   **MARCIE:** Hi, Mary.  
 3   **MARY:** *(Overly cheerful)* Oh, hi, Marcie. How are you?  
 4   **MARCIE:** Fine, fine. Um, what did you say you had to do last  
 5       Sunday so that you couldn't come to my recital?  
 6   **MARY:** *(Immediately uncomfortable)* Oh, it was my cousin's  
 7       birthday. The party was out of town.  
 8   **MARCIE:** Mmmhmmmm. How old is your cousin?  
 9   **MARY:** *(Pauses to think.)* Eight. I think.  
 10 **MARCIE:** Right. *(Slight pause and then she decides to speak her*  
 11 *mind)* You know, Mary, I don't appreciate your lying to  
 12       me.  
 13 **MARY:** *(Falsely innocent)* I'm not lying!  
 14 **MARCIE:** I know you didn't go to some birthday party on  
 15       Sunday. In fact, I know just where you were.  
 16 **MARY:** *(Still maintaining her innocence)* That's not true. I did  
 17       too go to the party!  
 18 **MARCIE:** You were at the mall with Tiffany Jacobs.  
 19 **MARY:** *(Emphatically)* I was not!  
 20 **MARCIE:** Mary, my brother was standing behind you in line  
 21       at the yogurt place.  
 22 **MARY:** *(Starting to get trapped)* I was not at the mall. He must  
 23       be mistaken.  
 24 **MARCIE:** You two were talking about Jason.  
 25 **MARY:** *(Much less confident in her ability to pull this off)* That  
 26       wasn't me.

- 1   **MARCIE:** It was. *(Angry, but more hurt than anything)* I hate  
 2       being lied to.  
 3   **MARY:** *(Still trying but losing steam)* It must have been  
 4       somebody that looked like me. I swear I wasn't at the  
 5       mall.  
 6   **MARCIE:** If you didn't want to come to my recital, you could  
 7       have just told me.  
 8   **MARY:** *(One last-ditch effort)* I'm telling you, your brother is  
 9       wrong.  
 10 **MARCIE:** I asked Tiffany.  
 11 **MARY:** *(Pauses.)* Yeah?  
 12 **MARCIE:** Why would you lie to me?  
 13 **MARY:** *(Pauses. Then suddenly has an idea)* Oh, he must have  
 14       seen me at night, long after your recital. We did go the  
 15       mall then, but that was after I got home from the party.  
 16 **MARCIE:** It was twelve thirty. He had to work at one so he  
 17       knows what time it was.  
 18 **MARY:** *(Trying to turn the tables)* What, is your brother like  
 19       your spy now?  
 20 **MARCIE:** Don't change the subject. Why didn't you tell me  
 21       the truth?  
 22 **MARY:** *(Sighs. Surrenders.)* I didn't want to hurt your feelings.  
 23 **MARCIE:** Well, they're hurt now.  
 24 **MARY:** *(Sincere but embarrassed)* I'm sorry.  
 25 **MARCIE:** You know, lying never accomplishes anything.  
 26 **MARY:** *(Disgruntled)* I know.  
 27 **MARCIE:** No, you don't. You lie all the time.  
 28 **MARY:** *(Affronted)* I do not!  
 29 **MARCIE:** You forget I was with you when you told your mom  
 30       on the phone that we were doing homework when we  
 31       were watching *Lost*.  
 32 **MARY:** *(Defensive)* She would have yelled at me.  
 33 **MARCIE:** And when you told Peter Becker you were going to  
 34       your grandmother's when you were really going out with  
 35       John Kramer.

1 MARY: John is way cuter.  
 2 MARCIE: And when you told Mrs. Winters you were up all  
 3 night with your sick dog and couldn't do your homework.  
 4 MARY: I could have a dog.  
 5 MARCIE: My point is, Mary, that you lie a lot and people  
 6 know it. Now no one trusts you.  
 7 MARY: (*Suspiciously*) What are you talking about?  
 8 MARCIE: Everyone knows you lie all the time. We only  
 9 believe about half of what comes out of your mouth. It  
 10 doesn't make for a very good friendship.  
 11 MARY: (*Getting offended*) That's not very nice.  
 12 MARCIE: (*Also hurt*) Well, lying isn't very nice either. It's like  
 13 saying you don't trust us.  
 14 MARY: What are you talking about?  
 15 MARCIE: If you had told me the truth, that you just didn't  
 16 want to come to the recital, but thanks for asking, that  
 17 would have been better than lying about it.  
 18 MARY: You would have been upset with me.  
 19 MARCIE: (*Trying to explain*) A little, but less upset than I am  
 20 now, knowing you lied. You should have just told Peter  
 21 that he was nice but no thanks, you didn't want to go  
 22 out with him.  
 23 MARY: (*Also trying to be understood*) That would have been  
 24 really hard. And it would have hurt his feelings.  
 25 MARCIE: You sound like you're worried about everyone's  
 26 feelings, but I think you just don't want to deal with  
 27 people giving you a hard time about what you do.  
 28 MARY: Well, who likes to be given a hard time? I'd rather  
 29 just put it off and the person may never know.  
 30 MARCIE: (*Reasonably*) Yeah, but how long did Peter chase  
 31 you and keep asking you out until Candice — not you, by  
 32 the way — told him you just weren't interested?  
 33 MARY: (*Quietly*) It was a few weeks.  
 34 MARCIE: Try months. That was just cruel. If you'd been  
 35 honest but nice, he would have been upset but at least

1 he would have moved on sooner.  
 2 MARY: I guess.  
 3 MARCIE: My mom says you never really *have* to lie. It just  
 4 takes some creativity.  
 5 MARY: (*Sarcastically*) Yeah, sure.  
 6 MARCIE: OK, say we're shopping and I try on a pair of pants  
 7 and they make my butt look huge. I know they do but  
 8 they're cute, so I ask you if they make my butt look big.  
 9 What do you say?  
 10 MARY: I say, "No, of course not."  
 11 MARCIE: Right. That *is* what you'd say. That's a lie.  
 12 MARY: What am I supposed to say? "Yes, Marcie, you look  
 13 like a cow."  
 14 MARCIE: No, but how about, "I liked the other pair better,"  
 15 or "I don't like them."  
 16 MARY: Then you'll know I think your butt looks huge.  
 17 MARCIE: But I already know it! Don't you get it? I wouldn't  
 18 ask if I didn't already know it.  
 19 MARY: Then why did you ask?  
 20 MARCIE: It's just what people do. But you really don't have  
 21 to lie. You just have to be creative.  
 22 MARY: This sounds exhausting.  
 23 MARCIE: Can't be as exhausting as trying to keep up with  
 24 the wild stories you invent.  
 25 MARY: Yeah, sometimes that does get a little sticky.  
 26 MARCIE: So, you wanna come over and watch the videotape  
 27 of my recital?  
 28 MARY: (*Pause.*) Not really.  
 29 MARCIE: (*Laughs.*) Very good. That was a test.  
 30 MARY: Phew. I thought you might go ballistic on me.  
 31 MARCIE: Yeah, I'll get to that. What do you have against  
 32 violin recitals?  
 33 MARY: Oh, I think I have to go wash my hair ...