

27. Free Advice

CAST: (2M, 3F) ZACH, MADISON, CARLY, REBECCA, JOEY

SETTING: School cafeteria.

PROPS: Table, two chairs, tissues.

1 *(At rise MADISON is sitting at a table in the cafeteria. A sign*
 2 *taped to the table reads: 'Free Advice'. ZACH enters.)*
 3 ZACH: What's this? Free advice?
 4 MADISON: That's right. May I help you?
 5 ZACH: *(Looks around the room.)* Uh ... this is the cafeteria.
 6 MADISON: I know.
 7 ZACH: *(As if she doesn't know)* Where you eat lunch.
 8 MADISON: And have the opportunity to speak to a counselor at
 9 the same time.
 10 ZACH: Do the teachers know you're doing this?
 11 MADISON: Mrs. Harris and Mrs. Rodriguez have both walked
 12 by and smiled at me so I guess it's OK.
 13 ZACH: And you're doing this for free?
 14 MADISON: You read the sign. Free advice.
 15 ZACH: OK, Miss Smarty Pants, I'll try out your free advice.
 16 MADISON: *(Sits up straight.)* All right. How may I help you?
 17 ZACH: Well, I can't decide. Do I eat the Salisbury steak or the
 18 chicken nuggets?
 19 MADISON: That's not the type of advice I give.
 20 ZACH: Why not?
 21 MADISON: My advice is on more important issues.
 22 ZACH: Such as?
 23 MADISON: Such as boyfriend or girlfriend problems. Issues at
 24 home. Dealing with the death of a loved one.
 25 ZACH: So you can give me advice for dealing with my pet's
 26 death, but not figuring out what to eat?

1 MADISON: My advice ... listen to your instincts.
 2 ZACH: My instincts, huh? Well, half of my instincts are saying
 3 the Salisbury steak is gross and other half of my instincts
 4 is saying the chicken nuggets are a sorry excuse for
 5 feeding a growing teen. So you tell me, Miss Free Advice
 6 Person, what am I to do?
 7 MADISON: Go with the Salisbury steak.
 8 ZACH: The Salisbury steak? Why?
 9 MADISON: It looks good.
 10 ZACH: But I hate the Salisbury steak!
 11 MADISON: Then go with the chicken nuggets.
 12 ZACH: The chicken nuggets? Have you ever tried their chicken
 13 nuggets? They taste like rock nuggets!
 14 MADISON: Then dip them in ketchup.
 15 ZACH: But who wants to eat a rock hard chicken nugget
 16 smothered in ketchup?
 17 MADISON: *(Jumps up.)* Then don't eat! Just don't eat! There!
 18 That's my advice!
 19 ZACH: Gee, thanks a lot! That really helped. See if I come back
 20 to you for free advice again! *(Exits.)* *(MADISON takes a deep*
 21 *breath and sits down. CARLY enters, rushing to the table in*
 22 *a panic.)*
 23 CARLY: I need some advice! I mean, I really, really, really need
 24 some advice!
 25 MADISON: Absolutely. Why don't you take a seat and we can
 26 talk.
 27 CARLY: OK. *(Sits down.)* So here's my problem. How do I get
 28 Katlyn and Samantha to stop spreading rumors about
 29 me?
 30 MADISON: Well, first I suggest that you confront Katlyn and
 31 Samantha ... in a very nice way of course, and ...
 32 CARLY: *(Slams her hand on the table.)* Oh, I confronted them all
 33 right! But it wasn't in a nice way!
 34 MADISON: Then why don't you try it again, and this time ...
 35 CARLY: And say what? "Katlyn, Samantha, would you please

1 stop spreading rumors about me?"

2 MADISON: Why don't you try a different approach and ask

3 them why they're spreading rumors about you.

4 CARLY: Oh, I know why they're doing it! It's because they hate

5 me!

6 MADISON: Then maybe you should ask them why they hate

7 you.

8 CARLY: Oh, I know why they hate me!

9 MADISON: Why? Why do they hate you?

10 CARLY: *(Flips hair.)* Because I'm cute.

11 MADISON: And they feel jealous?

12 CARLY: *Duh!*

13 MADISON: Well, maybe if you tried acting nice and ...

14 CARLY: I'm not acting nice to them!

15 MADISON: Then they could see that you want to be their

16 friend.

17 CARLY: But I don't want to be their friend! I just want them to

18 stop talking about me! So, what do I do?

19 MADISON: Ignore them.

20 CARLY: I'm not going to ignore them! But what I'd like to do ...

21 *(Punches fist in palm.)*

22 MADISON: No, no! You can't do that!

23 CARLY: Then what do I do? You're the one with all the free

24 advice here!

25 MADISON: Well, I say you invite them over to your house so the

26 three of you can talk.

27 CARLY: *(Punches fist into palm.)* Invite them over to my house!

28 No way! But I tell you what I am going to do!

29 REBECCA: *(Enters.)* I need some advice.

30 MADISON: I'll be right with you. *(To CARLY)* Your aggressive

31 behavior will only make things worse! Not to mention this

32 ... *(Punches fist in palm)* will get you expelled!

33 CARLY: Well, Katlyn and Samantha need to quit talking about

34 me!

35 MADISON: I still say that you either ignore them or try to make

1 friends with them.

2 CARLY: And that's stupid advice!

3 REBECCA: I know what I would do.

4 CARLY: What?

5 MADISON: I'll be with you in just a moment.

6 CARLY: What would you do?

7 REBECCA: I'd go to the principal's office. That way, Mr. Fry will

8 call the girls into his office and gripe them out!

9 CARLY: Yeah!

10 REBECCA: And if he hears about it happening again, they'll get

11 into big trouble!

12 CARLY: That's a great idea! Thanks! I'm going to the office right

13 now to talk to Mr. Fry. Thanks! *(Exits.)*

14 REBECCA: Hey, she liked my advice!

15 MADISON: *(Not happy)* And how may I help you?

16 REBECCA: You know ... never mind. I think I'll just take my

17 own advice on this one.

18 MADISON: Well, wouldn't you like my opinion?

19 REBECCA: I guess.

20 MADISON: So, what's the problem?

21 REBECCA: OK, the problem is that my mother won't let me

22 date.

23 MADISON: Ah ... the old, "too young to date" problem.

24 REBECCA: And I totally disagree.

25 MADISON: Of course you do.

26 REBECCA: All my friends date.

27 MADISON: All?

28 REBECCA: Well, most of them.

29 MADISON: And you think you're mature enough to handle

30 going out unsupervised with a person of the opposite sex?

31 REBECCA: Oh my gosh! You sound just like my mother!

32 MADISON: I'm just trying to get you to see both sides.

33 REBECCA: Well, I want my mom to see my side!

34 MADISON: Your side makes her nervous. She's worried about

35 your safety.

1 REBECCA: My safety? My boyfriend's not an ax murderer!
 2 MADISON: Perhaps not, but he may not have the same morals
 3 as you.
 4 REBECCA: What does that have to do with going to see a movie?
 5 MADISON: Well, you just never know!
 6 REBECCA: Oh my gosh! I feel like I'm arguing with my mother!
 7 MADISON: Would you like my advice?
 8 REBECCA: No! But what is your advice?
 9 MADISON: Listen to your mother. Realize that she has had
 10 much more experience than you and she knows what's
 11 best.
 12 REBECCA: You know what?
 13 MADISON: What?
 14 REBECCA: Your advice stinks! *(Exits.)*
 15 JOEY: *(Enters, sniffing.)* I need some advice.
 16 MADISON: Of course. How may I help you?
 17 JOEY: It's Katy ... *(Grabbing a tissue and sobbing)*
 18 MADISON: And Katy is ... ?
 19 JOEY: My girlfriend. No! Make that my ex-girlfriend!
 20 MADISON: So your girlfriend just broke up with you? *(He nods,*
 21 *unable to talk.)* And you're heartbroken? *(He nods.)* And
 22 you feel like you can't go on without her? *(He nods.)* Have
 23 you ever heard the saying, "Time heals"?
 24 JOEY: What?
 25 MADISON: It takes time. So right now, you need to embrace
 26 your pain.
 27 JOEY: What? Embrace my pain?
 28 MADISON: Feel what you need to feel.
 29 JOEY: Feel what I need to feel?
 30 MADISON: Throw yourself down on the ground and cry if
 31 needed!
 32 JOEY: But I don't want to throw myself on the ground and cry!
 33 I want to feel better! No! What I want to do is get her back!
 34 MADISON: Are you speaking of revenge?
 35 JOEY: No, no! Get her back as in her take me back!

1 MADISON: I see. Desperation.
 2 JOEY: Yes, I'm desperate!
 3 MADISON: Sending her a hundred text messages a day...
 4 JOEY: Make that an hour.
 5 MADISON: Begging.
 6 JOEY: Pleading.
 7 MADISON: Promising.
 8 JOEY: I'll change! I'll do whatever!
 9 MADISON: Has the stalking started yet?
 10 JOEY: Stalking?
 11 MADISON: Are you stalking her?
 12 JOEY: No! Well, not much. *(Looks over his shoulder.)* I mean, I
 13 know she's sitting over there with her friends. I mean, I'm
 14 keeping an eye on her, but not stalking.
 15 MADISON: Good, good. Because if you start stalking her, that's
 16 when it becomes serious.
 17 JOEY: So what do I do?
 18 MADISON: Well, first, do you know why Katy dumped you?
 19 JOEY: Because she needed space. Needed to breath. Needed a
 20 break. All those things.
 21 MADISON: Then you should give her just that.
 22 JOEY: What? But I want her back!
 23 MADISON: Begging and pleading will only have the opposite
 24 effect. So, you need to embrace your pain and avoid her
 25 completely.
 26 JOEY: But I don't want to avoid her! I want to beg for her to take
 27 me back! *(Gets on his knees.)* "Please, Katy, please! Please
 28 take me back!"
 29 MADISON: Won't work. I'm sorry.
 30 JOEY: How do you know? Maybe if I offered her a bouquet of
 31 flowers. *(Holds out his hands as if holding flowers.)* "Please,
 32 Katy, please! Please take me back!"
 33 MADISON: And are you willing to take the chance?
 34 JOEY: The chance?
 35 MADISON: The chance for more rejection?

1 JOEY: Of course I'm willing to take the chance! I dealt with it
 2 between classes last period! Except I didn't have any
 3 flowers. Yeah, right there in the hall, in the middle of the
 4 students rushing to their classes, I dropped to my knees
 5 and fell at her feet. "Please, Katy, please! Please take me
 6 back!"

7 MADISON: What did she do?

8 JOEY: Yelled at me and walked away.

9 MADISON: I see. Listen, you really need to pull yourself
 10 together.

11 JOEY: *(Stands.)* I can't.

12 MADISON: Think about having a little pride! You're too good
 13 for Katy!

14 JOEY: I am?

15 MADISON: You are! And you're glad she broke up with you!

16 JOEY: I am?

17 MADISON: You are! And you wouldn't take her back if she
 18 begged.

19 JOEY: Yes, I would!

20 MADISON: No, you wouldn't!

21 JOEY: OK. No, I wouldn't.

22 MADISON: It's a blessing in disguise.

23 JOEY: It is?

24 MADISON: It is! The tears are gone! The girl is gone! And you
 25 couldn't be happier!

26 JOEY: *(After a pause, he grabs a Kleenex.)* You know what?

27 MADISON: What?

28 JOEY: Your advice stinks! And you know what else?!

29 MADISON: What?

30 JOEY: I'm going over to Katy's table right now and I'm going to
 31 let her know how I feel!

32 MADISON: You'll be sorry.

33 JOEY: *(Pulls the poster off the table which reads "Free Advice")*
 34 And you need to change this!

35 MADISON: To what?

1 JOEY: Lousy Advice! *(Exiting)* Katy! Katy! Can't we work this
 2 out? Please take me back!

3 MADISON: *(Stands.)* I don't give lousy advice! *(Replaces poster.)* I
 4 think my advice is good!