

## Modest Affairs

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Characters: Josh, Son | Betsy, Mother

Synopsis: Josh learns his negligent father will not support his sex change.

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Josh stands in the driveway. After a time, Enter Betsy. It's dusk.

Ma. JOSH

It's me. BETSY

Where you been? JOSH

I should be askn you. BETSY

What, dis my regular mornin. JOSH

Boy move outta my way so I could get some sleep. BETSY

Where duh fuk you been if you ain't been sleepn? JOSH

Ugh, you don't need to talk dat way. It's wrong. You're wrong. You can't do evrythng your way. And say evrythng you think. There are rules, you know. Evrybody's got em. When the world's one way you can't go the other. You'll just make things hard on yourself. Talkn dat way at your Mother. BETSY

Rules, ey? What are duh rules? Cause ain't nobody keepn em round' here? Where duh fuk is dad? JOSH

BETSY

You know where he is. You know where he is!

JOSH

I don't wanna know! You don't even wanna know.

BETSY

What's wrong with you?

JOSH

I'm in the wrong body! And I could tell by dat stupid look on ya face dat dad said no. Well fuk him! And fuk *no*! I'm uh make duh change witout em. I'm uh change evrythng for evrybody since evrybody keep changn shit for me.

BETSY

You make evrythng aboutchu. What'd you learn in church?

JOSH

Nutthn you ain't said before. You don't get it. Not everyone is like me.

BETSY

Okay. And how does that make you feel?

JOSH

I don't know. Big.

BETSY

Well, it should make you feel important.

JOSH

Ain't nutthn important bout' bein uh faggot.

BETSY

Look, deh gon talk. And deh ain't gon like it dat you different. Butchu gotta quit bein so loud bout' duh way you feel on the inside. And just-

JOSH

Hide, mama?

BETSY

Did I say hide?

JOSH

You ain't gotta say it. Do he still love me?

BETSY

You ain't gotta ask-

JOSH

What'd he say, Ma?

BETSY

Nutthn you wanna hear. He ain't say nutthn. He ain't say nutthn bout' cumn home. Or. Or givn us duh money. And we just gon have to live wit dat. We just live wit it! You oughta understand how to live wit bein different. Cause you ain't duh only one! I had to make sum changes dat ain't nobody agree wit; because wen I lookd around people were movn on. And deh didn't care bout' duh way I was feeln. If deh did. Deh didn't show it. I was seventeen wen we gathered evrybody around duh television set cause I was supposed to make my debut. And there I was cut from the scene for a younger, prettier, girl. And all you could see was duh back of my head. I met and married your father shortly after cause ain't nobody see me dead on duh inside. Don't nobody see what's happening on the inside of nobody. Deh only see what choices come after.