

# Charlie Sc. 1 1/3

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CHARLIE

Are you overthinking now?

MR. SAM  
*(considering)*

Yes.

CHARLIE

Tell me.

MR. SAM

Well, I'm wondering whether or not I should be here. Your mother is ill, and the sight of me might make her angry or sad or worse. There really isn't a protocol when it comes to visiting someone after...you know.

CHARLIE

**START** Not you too!

MR. SAM

What?

CHARLIE

God, look at you! You can't even say it. Ill? She isn't sick.

MR. SAM  
*(lightly amused)*

Excuse me?

CHARLIE

I don't see the point in tip-toeing around the subject. I mean, if someone tries to kill themselves for attention, then obviously, we should talk about it. I see it as the solution to the problem. But Jenny doesn't feel that way. She's all, "Don't mention it to Momma. Be kind. Don't act like anything is different. Don't make her angry." She practically jumps out of her skin anytime I say suicide. I could make it more action-packed. I can say she tried to kill herself. I can be gentle and say she tried to take her own life, but she can't accept that Momma did this to herself! She thinks that saying the word; it'll like, give her the idea again. Whether we say it or not, she'll try, try, try again. She always does. And we never talk about it. You've heard that thing about insanity.

Mr. Sam nods.

MR. SAM

There really isn't a protocol when it comes to visiting someone after they've tried to commit suicide.

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CHARLIE

How dare you say that? I'm in such a sensitive state!

MR. SAM

What...? I mean, I thought-

CHARLIE

I'm kidding. I didn't take you to be that gullible.

MR. SAM

Well...I suppose it's that overthinking thing.

CHARLIE

Are you in love with my mother?

MR. SAM

I care for her.

CHARLIE

Caring and loving isn't the same thing.

MR. SAM

Well-

CHARLIE

Why didn't you come to her birthday party? Did you break up?

MR. SAM

No. I just...couldn't come. I was out of town.

CHARLIE

...?

MR. SAM

Your mother's birthday falls on the same weekend as my wife and I's anniversary.

CHARLIE

Not like you were gonna spend it with her.

I'm sorry.

Jenny tells me I have a terrible sense of humor.

MR. SAM

You're right. But I did want to go and apologize and all that.

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CHARLIE

What for?

MR. SAM

Married couple things.

CHARLIE

Momma says you are gonna marry her. Are you?

MR. SAM

I don't know. Do you want me to marry her?

CHARLIE

I don't know.  
How did your wife die?

MR. SAM

Like this.

Mr. Sam makes the universal facial expression for "dead" with his eyes closed and his tongue sticking out of his mouth.

A snort/laugh bubbles out of Charlie's mouth, as if the laugh surprises her as well.

Mr. Sam smiles at that. He finds it endearing.

MR. SAM

My Dad taught me that. Once upon a time.

CHARLIE

I would've liked your dad.

MR. SAM

Oh you wouldn't've. He was a terrible man.

CHARLIE

Oh. That sucks.

END

MR. SAM

*(smiling a little bit)*

It does suck.

Cockroaches

# Charlie Sec. 2 1/3

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JENNY

...?

SISSY

You just look like you don't roll around on the floor enough. You should roll around on the floor more.

JENNY

...thanks, Sissy. Maybe you should go to bed. Go lay in my room and get some sleep.

Jenny pushes Sissy towards her room. Jenny walks to Charlie's door and knocks loudly. Charlie swings the door open, annoyed.

CHARLIE

What.

JENNY

What the hell is wrong with Sissy?

CHARLIE

What?

JENNY

She is acting insane. Calling herself a feminist-

CHARLIE

Nothing wrong with that, but, okay.

JENNY

She is dancing in the middle of the night, and obsessing over that damned monster.

CHARLIE

Shit. Shit shit shit. Yeah no umm, I think she is taking Momma's medication. After you left, Sissy would have these night terrors and Momma couldn't handle it, so she gave her some -

JENNY

Pill bottle pillows. Shit.

CHARLIE

She probably just took one for bed.

JENNY

Does she normally get all agitated like that?

**START**

# Charlie Sec. 2 2/3

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CHARLIE

Like how?

JENNY

She was delirious. It was like she hadn't slept. She has some mighty strong feelings about the thirteen colonies.

CHARLIE

No way! She brought up the thirteen colonies?

JENNY

It was super weird.

CHARLIE

Nah, she's in American history this year. The thirteen colonies get her fired up. She hates the Nothern States man. I don't get it. I'm hoping the Civil War chapter will mellow her out a bit.

JENNY

She shouldn't be taking those.

CHARLIE

We all used to take them.

JENNY

I know, but...that wasn't okay. You should have called me.

CHARLIE

Okay, first of all, I have called you. Plenty of times, actually. And Momma wouldn't give them to us if they weren't safe.

JENNY

No. That's fucked, Charlie, and you know it.

CHARLIE

Oh stop pretending you care about Sissy.

JENNY

Excuse me?

CHARLIE

Sissy has always gotten on your nerves. You have literally never cared about her.

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JENNY

That isn't true!

CHARLIE

What do you even know about her?

JENNY

I took care of Sissy more than Momma and you combined. I changed her diapers, fed her bottles, bought medicine for her when she had that awful rash with my own money. I dressed her and played with her-

CHARLIE

Because you had to! She was a chore to you. And you resent her for it. Admit it. What have you and Sissy done together, just the two of you, since she was over the age of five?

JENNY

That isn't fair!

CHARLIE

And you left! You wanna talk about what's fucked? You just left and we didn't hear from you for months! Months! Just because you go to an IVY League school-

JENNY

I DON'T GO TO AN IVY LEAGUE SCHOOL!

CHARLIE

Oh my God? She admitted it! Did you hear that? MOMMA?! Wake up! Jenny finally admitted what she's been denying this whole fucking time! She isn't actually as good as she thinks.

JENNY

Shut up! You have always been so jealous of me!

CHARLIE

You'd like to believe that, wouldn't you? You aren't any better than the rest of us, Jennifer. You can work as hard as you'd like. At the end of the day, you are nothing but trash.

END

JENNY

I swear to God!

Jenny launches herself on top of Charlie, knocking her down, straddling her, and holding her hands above her head.

Cockroaches