

# JENNY Sc. 1 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

**START** 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?

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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.

JENNY

I swear to God!

**CND**

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

CHARLIE

No. I shouldn't.

JENNY

You shouldn't or you don't want any?

CHARLIE

I don't want any!

JENNY

Okay. Okay. Fine.

There is a measured silence between the two sisters as Jenny eats her dry cereal.

CHARLIE

What did you mean the other night?

START

JENNY

Hmm?

CHARLIE

When you said we owed Mr. Sam. What did you mean by that? He hasn't come by since, and...I'm just wondering what you meant by that.

JENNY

Why does he come here?

CHARLIE

To help out with Momma. I mean, they were practically engaged.

JENNY

Charlie.

CHARLIE

He wants to help us. He knows what it's like-living with someone like Momma-and he cares about her. About us.

JENNY

Has he...? He hasn't-like...

CHARLIE

Jenny. No. He would never. He's not like that.

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JENNY

I'm sorry, Charlie.

CHARLIE

Why...?

JENNY

He will. He will hurt you.

CHARLIE

No.

JENNY

He will. He used to do the same thing to me.

CHARLIE

What do you mean 'the same thing'?

JENNY

I liked it at first. The attention. He took such an interest in me. He made me feel like I had all this power.

CHARLIE

Jenny. No.

JENNY

I remember feeling guilty. Like I was betraying Momma. Like I had convinced him to want me. Like I was stealing him away from her, and bringing this awful thing out of him. And what did it say about me that I was doing that to him? Making him love me like that? Momma didn't see it. Or she didn't want to see it. I thought I had fallen in love with him.

CHARLIE

Why are you saying this?

JENNY

And then, all of a sudden, he just stopped. Stopped touching me. Stopped taking an interest. I surprised him one night. Snuck out and surprised him at home. I remember he looked so guilty. It was towards the end of the summer and I told him I wanted to continue visiting while I was in college. I kissed him. But by then, he couldn't. He couldn't fucking get it up.



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CHARLIE

Please.

JENNY

He said it was because I was leaving him. He couldn't stop imagining me with some 'college punk' who would take advantage of me and that disturbed him. I told him that wasn't true, and next thing I knew, we were fighting. I said some nasty things. I mean-I threatened him-and he got so frustrated, he just hit me right across the face. I was shocked and hurt and I knew. I knew his frustration had nothing to do with me leaving, and everything to do with my age.

CHARLIE

No.

JENNY

I was too old for him. And for a long time, I felt like it was all my fault.

CHARLIE

You're lying.

JENNY

I'm not.

END

CHARLIE

No. He isn't like that. Okay? You're doing the same thing I did with Momma. You are making him out to be some kind of monster, when all he wants, all he wanted was to protect you. I know how you are.

JENNY

Come on. You are too smart for that.

CHARLIE

No. I'm not the smart one, remember? I'm not smart and pretty like you. And that bothers you. It bothers you that he likes me, despite not being smart or pretty, right, Jenny?

JENNY

What? That isn't-that isn't at all what this is. I'm worried about you. I didn't think. I didn't think that me leaving would mean he would come after you. I'm sorry that he did, and I can't do anything about that.

CHARLIE

He didn't "come after me." He's silly and weird, but he is the only person who actually cares. And he wouldn't do that.