

ALEX. You really don't think it's weird?

GREG. What.

ALEX. About Judy.

GREG. Al, I think this whole *thing* is weird. You've been telling me it's a game from the beginning ... so ... she was strategizing.

ALEX. Yeah, the strategizing I get, but she was also talking about him like he's ...

GREG. What?

ALEX. I don't know.

GREG. I mean, he does like to play dress-up. That's not news. I don't *care*, obviously. But he's not exactly ... Johnny Basketball.

ALEX. Johnny what?

GREG. You know ...

ALEX. That's not an expression.

GREG. I know it's not. Look, she was trying to be helpful. How are you feeling? Physically?

ALEX. (*Shrugs.*) Fine. I threw up this morning. I think Jake might have heard me.

GREG. He say something?

ALEX. No ... But I'd just put his plate down when I felt it coming. And when I came back he was staring at his eggs. Sort of suspiciously. And he said, "Mommy, are eggs baby chickens?" Out of nowhere.

GREG. I wouldn't worry. (*Alex flips a page of her magazine, thinks.*)

ALEX. But it's not his *personality*. I think that's what bugged me.

GREG. Okay ...

ALEX. She was acting like I'd failed to mention some deep-seated part of / him ...

GREG. Al, listen

ALEX. And what time is it? We've been waiting / for almost ...

GREG. I don't know. But look, I think you're fixating.

ALEX. Greg, I'm not fixating.

GREG. It's normal that you'd rather think about this admissions nonsense than ... (*A nurse enters.*)

[REDACTED]

ALEX.

GREG. What time's your next session?
Not till four. I had a cancellation. It's fine. (*He takes her hand, kisses it. Alex thinks.*)

ALEX. I just think the fact that he likes fairy tales is not necessarily the most important thing worth talking about. He can multiply up to tens, he knows all fifty states on a map, I mean how many / kids his age —

GREG. But it wasn't just about describing *him*, right? She wants to show that we're super liberal and forward-thinking, that we love our son unconditionally —

ALEX. Which we do.

GREG. Of course we do. But there are parents who'd have — more of an issue. Believe me, I had a client last year, this guy whose teenage daughter started dressing like a man — Not that, you know — It was very different, but still. This guy was totally liberal, he was not religious, and he almost had a nervous breakdown. Rage, depression. I mean, can you imagine my father? If I'd ever made a skirt out of a bath towel? It was bad enough I couldn't catch a *baseball* —

ALEX. Okay, okay, fine. But suppose I do mention in the essay that Jake *loves* playing Cinderella, that we've got seven different *Cinderella* DVDs, the Disney version, the Rogers and Hammerstein, even the one with Brandy, and we're so proud of him for his strength to like what he likes and be his own person, and then he shows up for his group interview and they start saying, "Hey buddy, here are some Barbies! You wanna come play over here with all the *girls*?"

GREG. That's not gonna happen. And even if it did —

ALEX. I just think he should get a clean slate. I don't want to send him off to kindergarten *labeled* as anything.

GREG. I really don't think anyone's trying to label him. (*Alex flips a page of her magazine. A moment.*) What if we pitched it like ... Jake is not *limited* to ... trucks or whatever. That he likes all kinds of toys and games. Equal-opportunity. Our son walks into Toys R Us and he does not discriminate on the basis of perceived gender norms.

ALEX. (*Smiles.*) Maybe. (*Re: the magazine.*) Ugh.

GREG. What.

ALEX. Kate Middleton. Is also pregnant and worried. Things I could do without ... (*Greg half-laughs.*)

GREG. Did you tell her how you felt?

ALEX. Who?

GREG. Judy.

ALEX. No, I — didn't know what to say.

GREG. You guys are friends.

ALEX. We are, but it's weird now. She's the one brokering with the