

MANNERS

Written by

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INT. GYNECOLOGIST WAITING ROOM - DAY

JOANNE (40s, typical southern belle mom) and her daughter LILY (17, alternative high schooler) are sitting next to each other in a semi packed Gynecologist waiting room.

Joanne is clutching her monogrammed tote-bag dressed in every pastel she could find in her closet. Lily's leg bounces her leg nervously as she stares at a cheesy inspirational poster on the wall next to a pregnancy diagram. Joanne nudges her daughter's arm and gives her a glare.

Lily reluctantly takes her headphones off her ears and puts them around her neck. She is dressed in all black with heavy black eyeliner to match.

JOANNE
How was school today?

LILY
(indifferently)
Fine.

JOANNE
Did you have college planners?

LILY
No.

Joanne turns to face her daughter and grabs her wrist.

JOANNE
You still need to fill out your
student profile.

Lily shakes her mothers hand off and crosses her arms.

LILY
Mom, I know.
(beat)
Can we please just not talk right
now?

There is a moment of silence. Joanne rocks back and forth in her seat and looks up, letting out a breath.

JOANNE
Gosh, this is taking a while.

LILY
Mom!

A MAN (50s, big teddybear type) sits down next to them looking at a magazine. Joanne searches her tote bag and pulls out a make up wipe. She hands it to Lily.

JOANNE
(quietly)
Here.

LILY
What is this for?

JOANNE
Can you please just wipe some of
that ink off of your eyes?

LILY
Mom, they are not going to be
looking at my eyes. They are going
to be looking at my vagina.

Joanne gasps as her hand covers her chest.

JOANNE
Lily Rose!

She glances at the man and then around the room to see if anyone else noticed.

JOANNE (CONT'D)
Manners.

LILY
What? I can't say vagina?

Lily's mouth curves up as she begins to talk louder, and louder with each word chanting

LILY (CONT'D)
Vagina, vagina, vagina, vagi...

The man glances back at the two women and gets up to pick another seat. Joanne looks over at Lily in anger.

LILY (CONT'D)
What? Why is he even here?

Joanne sighs.

JOANNE
I completed your application for
sorority recruitment in the fall.
Both your grandmother and I wrote
recommendations for you so you
should be a shoe-in.

Lily rolls her eyes and turns her back on her mother.

JOANNE (CONT'D)

You are a third generation Tri Del!
Plus, it's an amazing way to meet
friends. Do you know how excited
your grandmother was when I got a
bid?

LILY

(sarcastically)

Yeah and look how proud she is of
you now...

JOANNE

Excuse me?

Lily turns back to face her mother.

LILY

Just saying.

JOANNE

Okay so now you want to talk, young
lady? Let's talk.

Joanne stares around the room before grabbing Lily by the
wrist dragging her through the waiting room doors and into
the hallway.

LILY

Mom!

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Joanne flings Lily outside the door and starts yelling. Lily
matches her tone.

JOANNE

Do you know how much I have
done to make sure you have a
bright and happy future?! Ala-

LILY

Mom, OH MY GOSH please just
stop...
Stop talking for -

Joanne and Lily pause as someone passes them in the hallway
giving them a look. They then continue more quieter.

JOANNE (CONT'D)

(quietly)

Alabama is where I went and
where= I met your father. It
is how I got the life I have
today. Being a Tri Del was a
huge part of that!

LILY (CONT'D)

(quietly)

=I don't want your life! Why
wont you listen to me!.. Mom!
Just stop!

Joanne stops talking and purses her lips.

LILY (CONT'D)

I don't want to go to Alabama. I don't want your recommendations and I certainly do not want to carry on Grandma's stupid tradition. Do you realize how boring you are!

Joanne still angry, takes a step away from her daughter. Lily realizes that she may have gone too far but it's too late now.

JOANNE

Lily-

LILY

You wear, talk, gossip, and do the same things as grandma and all the other stay at home middle age white woman in Alabama.

JOANNE

Do not compare me to grandma.

LILY

Why not, it's like you both share the same brain of what perfect looks like. It's like your trying to suck all the originality out of me. You have this whole fucking version of me in your head.

JOANNE

Watch your mouth.

LILY

See! That! That's exactly what I'm talking about! You care more about how I sound than what I'm actually saying.

(beat)

Do you know how exhausting it is to walk into a room and immediately wonder what you're going to find wrong with me?

Her anger begins to crack. Joanne tears up, she is listening.

JOANNE

I didn't know you felt-

LILY

I like my eyeliner and my stupid music. I like my friends who you think are weird. And maybe I don't know what college I want to go to yet, or what I want to do with the rest of my life, and I'm sorry if that disappoints you-

Joanne suddenly laughs to herself. Lily stops and looks away thinking that her mother is laughing at her. Joanne collects herself.

JOANNE

I wanted to go to NYU.

Lily shocked whips her head whips towards her mother and opens her mouth to speak.

(beat)

JOANNE (CONT'D)

I know, I know, I hate New York, but it's only because I didn't go. I did theater all in high school and I wanted to continue in college but -

LILY

You did Theater?

JOANNE

My mom said it was silly and a waste of time, so I quit. I was pretty good, too. But I thought if I gave her what she wanted she would be proud, but no matter what I did -

Joanne tears up.

JOANNE (CONT'D)

I don't want you see me in the way I saw her.

(Beat)

LILY

Did you regret it?

JOANNE

Yes and no. I wouldn't trade you or your father for anything, but I do miss the rush of being on stage.

LILY
Im sorry mom.

JOANNE
Lily, I love you and you could
never disappoint me. Im sorry I
haven't been listening. If you want
to go out of state and do your own
thing I say, HELL ya!

LILY
(sarcastically)
Mom, Manners!

Joanne and Lily laugh.

JOANNE
How about we get through this, and
then you and I go to Capellini's,
order something horribly greasy,
and talk. I'll listen.

Lily smiles. Joanne walks towards the door but Lily doesn't
move.

LILY
Hey, Mom?

JOANNE
Hmm?

LILY
I'm scared.

Joanne grabs Lily's hand and squeezes it in hers.

JOANNE
I'll be with you the whole time.

INT. WAITING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The two woman open the door and walk into the waiting room.
Everyone is staring at them and they quickly go back to
looking at their phones and magazines.

A nurse comes out into the waiting room space

NURSE
Lily.

Joanne and Lily look at each other. Joanne brushes Lily's
hair out of her face with her fingers showing off her
eyeliner. They walk to meet the nurse.

END