

JANET

Like I said, I heard you and I seen you, too. All those days when you pretended you had such a bad headache you couldn't come out your room. That's 'cause he had knocked you upside your head and your face was swollen. You didn't put on all that makeup to look cute. You were tryin' to cover up those black and blue marks. Well, if Lee ever lays a hand on me, -- I'll kill him!

Sarah turns around from the sink.

SARAH

Janet, now that's enough! I don't like that kind of talk. It's not showin' respect. After all, you are livin' in his house and he pays all the bills, young lady... Stepfather or not, he's still your daddy; the only daddy you've ever known since we moved here from Alabama.

Janet gets up from the table and gathers her school books.

JANET

As soon as I turn sixteen, I'm gon' get me a job after school, and then, I'll be payin' my own way. And, he's not my father! He's nothin' but a bum! A drunken bum!!

She rushes out... A few seconds later, Lee appears in the doorway, disheveled and rubbing his head. He loudly BELCHES.

START

LEE

What's her problem?!

Sarah gets a package of hamburger meat from the refrigerator.

SARAH

Oh, somethin' at school, I think.

LEE

I bet it's her period. Women always get evil when it's time.

Lee gets a beer out of the refrigerator and opens it.

LEE (CONT'D)

What did you take my beer for?

SARAH

You drank it, and spilled God knows how much!  
I better go clean it up 'fore them kids step  
all in it.

LEE

Yeah, they might think I just peed right there  
on the floor!

He laughs and takes a big gulp of  
beer. Sarah grabs a mop.

SARAH

You gon' be too full for dinner.

She passes by Lee to exit and he  
pats her on the buttocks.

LEE

A little beer never hurt nobody.

He takes another gulp, picks up  
the newspaper on the counter, sits  
down and browses through it.  
After a moment:

LEE (CONT'D)

What's for dinner?

SARAH (O.S.)

Sloppy Joes and french fries.

More than annoyed, he slaps the  
newspaper down on the table.

LEE

Sloppy Joes and french fries?! What kind of a  
meal is that for a man who's been slavin' all  
day?!

Sarah returns and puts the mop  
back in the corner.

SARAH

Well, I promised Janet that --

LEE

You cater to that girl too much! I'm the one  
whose ass you should be kissin'!

Sarah kisses him on the cheek...

SARAH

I do! All the time... I'll fix you some pork chops, okay?

LEE

That's more like it!

He picks the paper back up and reads while Sarah takes pork chops from the refrigerator and rinses them off.

LEE (CONT'D)

Man! These Mexicans have really gone taco! Now they want equal rights too! If they don't like it here, then they need to go back where they come from. Most of 'ems illegal anyway. We need to shut down the border and put the military on patrol. I betcha they'll stop comin' then!

SARAH

They're just tryin' to survive like the rest of us, Lee.

LEE

Then let 'em survive in their own country. They takin' away jobs from White people.

SARAH

Yeah. Now the Black people are complainin' 'bout that too.

LEE

Hell! Black people don't wanna work! They just get on welfare and we have to pay for it.

Sarah seasons the chops and drops them into the skillet of hot oil on the stove. They SIZZLE.

SARAH

Bein' poor comes in all colors, Lee. Sometimes you have a choice to stay that way, and, sometimes you don't.

LEE

Most of 'em choose not to choose at all.

He takes a swig of beer and skims through more pages...

SARAH

This inflation business is killin' everybody but the rich! Minorities get it first 'cause they always gettin' discriminated against.

LEE

Aw, niggers and Jews always yappin' 'bout how they suffered. Every time you turn on the TV, another lie 'bout the social injustice of slavery or the Holocaust. This is a White man's world and they damn well better get used to it. I'm sick and tired of all those "Look how they done did us wrong" stories bein' shoved down our throats.

SARAH

Maybe the world needs to be reminded so those things won't happen again. No matter what the color, all men die the same.

END

LEE

That's how we won this country! Those heathen Indians didn't know what to do with it no-way. I'm glad there's decent Whites who know how to fight for their rights!

SARAH

Their rights?! Is that what they call it? Murderin' innocent people? Lord, have mercy!

Joey runs in with Carrie Lee chasing close behind. He finds protective shelter behind Sarah...

JOEY

(laughing)

Mama, Mama!!

Carrie Lee balls up her fists at him.

CARRIE LEE

(furious)

You better let him go 'cause I'm gon' kill him!!!

Joey sticks his head out...

CARRIE LEE (CONT'D)

You ole fool!!

SARAH

Wait a just a minute, young lady. You the one that's gon' get killed!