

ROB

Consider it a gift.

TMPMITW

You're thinking about your lady-friend aren't you?

ROB

No, I'm not.

TMPMITW

You know, I loved a girl once. It didn't work out for me either. You and I, we're like kindred spirits.

(big smile)

Well, goodnight.

(sings as he goes)

You're just like me. Alone and sad...

(And he goes. ROB turns to the AUDIENCE.)

ROB

The Most Pathetic Man in the World has just called me his kindred spirit. I am disturbed to my very core. And this moment immediately becomes one of my all-time top five low points, the other four of which temporarily escape me.

(Suddenly the shop door is thrown open, and LIZ comes marching in like she always does.)

ROB

(sure he'll be called an asshole again)

Aw, Jesus. Liz, please don't. I'm not in the mood to —

LIZ

Laura's dad died.

ROB

(beat — stunned)

What?

LIZ

They thought he was doing better, but apparently he wasn't, so... And Laura's a mess, I just talked to her.

ROB

Wow. Okay.

LIZ

So...just giving you the heads up. In case you wanted to, I don't know, call her or something.

ROB

(beat)

Yeah, that might be a little awkward.

LIZ

Awkward.

ROB

Yeah, since we're...not together at all. I wouldn't want to...you know. I would feel weird.

LIZ

Well, we wouldn't want you to feel weird.

ROB

(knows where this is going)

Okay...

LIZ

He didn't die to inconvenience you, you know.

ROB

Shut up, Liz.

LIZ

If you don't want to be there for Laura, that's your business, but I am telling you right now, I'm done with this bullshit. I'm not holding your hand anymore, Rob.

ROB

Is that a promise?

LIZ

(getting really pissed now)

I swear to God, you act like everyone is a supporting actor in your life story. This is about Laura, not you. Not everything is about you.

ROB

That's not fair.

LIZ

Oh?

ROB

And don't fucking say "Oh" like that. I am not the bad guy, Liz. I'm not. Not all the time, at least.

LIZ

Rob—

ROB

No, I can either stick up for myself, or I can believe everything you say about me and end up hating myself every minute of the day. And maybe you think I should, but that's not much of a life, is it? I can't go on apologizing my whole life.

LIZ

(beat)

I think just the once would do.

(Silence. And then LIZ goes. ROB looks after her.)

#20B FUNERAL TRANSITION