

Museum of Class 3S

CAROL and FRANCIS stand on stage looking out at the audience, the stage is very bare except for a sign in the background that says “Open House TONIGHT” or “Welcome Parents”

CAROL

It’s kinda sweet.

FRANCIS

It’s a little creepy.

CAROL

No, they had all the kids draw their families, so the parents can see how their kids see them, it’s sweet. (*pause.*) Oh but all the families have that same blank smile kids draw. Maybe it is a little creepy. (*pause.*) It feels kinda like their judging us

FRANCIS

Let’s just find Jimmy’s.

CAROL

Is this it (*gestures to a “drawing”*).

FRANCIS

It says “Fred Jefferson” up in the corner, the key is that Jimmy’s drawing will say “Jimmy Harding” not “Fred Jefferson”

CAROL

Well it looked like Jimmy’s handwriting.

FRANCIS

Also there’s no dad in that picture.

CAROL

Oh that’s because Malcolm Jefferson got addicted to some kind of drug and his family left him.

FRANCIS

(*annoyed*) Why would you tell me an awful thing like that?

CAROL

You wanted to know about the dad.

FRANCIS

Yeah, well let’s not gossip at our son’s open house. I don’t want to here about these sad families (*pause*) Why isn’t the mom in this one?

CAROL

That looks like the Heffley's, Janet Heffley left their family and moved to Ohio, nobody knows why and Tim Heffley won't say a word.

FRANCIS

That's insane. What are people saying?

CAROL

Usual rumors. Drug addiction. Secret Lover. Secret other Family. Joined a Cult. Nobody knows for sure.

FRANCIS

Crazy...I didn't think she had it in her.

CAROL

It wasn't a shock. None of the other mom's liked her.

FRANCIS

I can see why. She sounds insane

CAROL

Trust me, she was.

FRANCIS

Good riddance, then..

CAROL

I found Jimmy's picture(*gestures to drawing*)It looks a little odd doesn't it.

FRANCIS

They all do.

CAROL

Yeah, but there's something off about Jimmy's, it just doesn't look like us.

FRANCIS

None of them look like people, (*gestures to another drawing*) most of these kids drew themselves as twice the size of their parents.

CAROL

It just doesn't feel right to me.

FRANCIS

You're making something out of nothing.

CAROL

I'm sorry but if-

FRANCIS

FRANCIS begins to sound more frustrated

You always do this, just appreciate our son's-

CAROL

Just let me have an opinion on-

FRANCIS

Okay calm down let's not make a scene here.

CAROL

Make a scene? You're the one who-

FRANCIS

I get it but we know people here and-

CAROL

Who cares? Who doesn't know we fight at this point.

FRANCIS

They're not fight-

CAROL

Here go again...

FRANCIS

No, don't dismiss me. I recently started reading a book on communication and it's very informative. I think you should read it. What we do are perfectly healthy verbal altercations. The difference between a verbal altercation and a fight is-

TIM enters

TIM

Why if it isn't the Hardings?

FRANCIS

Tim, good to see ya.

CAROL

Is that Tim Heffley? It's been forever.

TIM

Well, I haven't gotten out much, y'know since Janet left. *(Pause, but then suddenly acts very Jolly)* But I'm trying to change that.

CAROL

That's great, we're so happy you're getting out again.

TIM

Thanks, hope you don't mind if I stick around you guys tonight, I feel weird flying solo at these things, y'know ever since Janet left. Hold onto this one, Franky (*gestures to CAROL*) you never know when they're gonna leave ya.

FRANCIS

That's-

TIM

That's great, now where's my son's drawing.

TIM begins examining the drawings.

HA! That's my boy, he drew me at least twenty pounds thinner than I am, where's your-

FRANCIS

Hey, uh is that Mary Jefferson over there?

TIM

What about her?

FRANCIS

She's been awfully lonely since her husband, uh Maxwell-

CAROL

(*correcting*) Malcolm.

FRANCIS

Since her husband Malcolm left, she's been awfully lonely, maybe you could keep her company tonight if you know what I'm saying.

TIM

Oh ho ho. I know what you're saying, I haven't been seeing anyone, y'know since Janet left, but maybe tonight's a new beginning.

FRANCIS

Go get em tiger.

TIM gives a little growl and exits

I think see why Janet left, geez.

CAROL

What was that?

FRANCIS

What?

CAROL

The way you sent Tim away.

FRANCIS

He was making me uncomfortable, so I found an excuse to send him away.

CAROL

No, you wanted to keep Tim from seeing Jimmy's drawing. You think there's something wrong with it too.

FRANCIS

Okay, yeah, there's clearly something wrong there, but I didn't want you to do this.

CAROL

Do what?

FRANCIS

Freak out over something that isn't that big of a deal.

CAROL

I think this drawing is a big deal.

FRANCIS

How do we even go about finding out what he could be trying to say here.

CAROL

I don't know, is there anything on non-verbal communication in that book of yours.

FRANCIS

I'm not sure. I'm only on page twenty three.

CAROL

You're ridiculous.

FRANCIS

Whatever, using what I've already learned, I can improvise a way to decipher this.

CAROL

Maybe it's the room he drew us in.

FRANCIS

No, there's definitely something wrong with the people in it, with the way he drew us.

CAROL

The way he drew himself seems kinda off.

FRANCIS

Yeah, (*pause*) maybe we're just reading too much into this.

CAROL

I swear we aren't, if there's something wrong with the way he drew us, the way he sees us, I have to know.

FRANCIS

I think you're right, but this doesn't seem like the time or place, they'll probably send the drawings home soon, we can look at it then.

CAROL

If something's wrong we have to know now. What if-

FRANCIS

I get it, but I'm just saying that-

CAROL

You aren't listening if something is-

FRANCIS

You are not listening, all I'm saying is that if-

CAROL

His teacher's coming, act like we aren't fighting.

FRANCIS

For the last time, we aren't fighting we're just-

KAREN enters, Her outfit includes small spectacles with purple lenses, a large flannel, paint stained jeans and a scarf. FRANCIS and CAROL act like they were laughing

KAREN

What's going on over here?

CAROL

Oh, we were just laughing about uh...

FRANCIS

Politics!

CAROL

Yeah..Politics.

KAREN

Interesting, I assumed you were having marital troubles.

CAROL

Uh .. and who would you be?

KAREN

Oh, I'm the school's art teacher.

FRANCIS

Nice to meet you...Ms....

KAREN

Albertson. But you can call me Karen. It's weird when the adults call me Miss.

FRANCIS

Alright, it's good to meet you Karen.

KAREN

Also, it's weird since you two are old enough to be my-

CAROL

We get it.

KAREN

That's nice.

They stand in silence for a moment.

FRANCIS

So.

KAREN

So.

FRANCIS

How are you?

KAREN

(overdramatic) Good as I can be, trapped in this soul crushing atmosphere.

CAROL

Oh?

KAREN

A woman of my artistic talent, should not be trapped in this abysmal place.

CAROL

Your artistic talent?

KAREN

I am an artist of the highest caliber, but until the next renaissance, I'm doomed to stay here teaching these disgusting children. Tell me, which one is yours.

CAROL

Jimmy Harding.

KAREN

Ah yes, my finest student.

FRANCIS

Your finest student?

KAREN

Yes, my pride and joy. His art, there is a profound meaning with in it. He appears to scribble just like the other children, but it must be an act. I've spent hours examining his work, every scribble is purposeful, it's remarkable, there's meaning in every line.

CAROL

Oh well, what does this drawing mean.

KAREN

Pfft...You philistines would not understand one ounce of what this has to say. Come back when you've spent your life studying the old greats.

KAREN begin to exit.

FRANCIS

(In a whisper) We gotta do something, I think she knows what's up with the drawing.

CAROL

Are you sure, she seems full of it.

FRANCIS

She seems really smart to me-wait I have an idea. *(to KAREN, clearly improvising)* Remarkable the um, fluidity of his strokes remind me of uh Sebastian Bach.

KAREN turns around.

KAREN

Yes-exactly-have you studied the old masters, too?

FRANCIS

Yes all of them like uh...

CAROL

Leonardo, Donatello, Raphael, Michelangelo-

FRANCIS

Splinter, Shredder, the Krang, we know them all.

KAREN

Fascinating, so you see how Jimmy imitates the old master in such a-(*pause*) I had an idea for a new piece. I have to go to my studio, Room 2A. Thank you so much, this was an enlightening discussion.

KAREN exits.

FRANCIS

Well, she was no help.

CAROL

I married an idiot

FRANCIS

What'd you just call me?

CAROL

Sebastian Bach was a composer, not an artist.

FRANCIS

Music is a form of art.

CAROL

He wasn't a painter!

FRANCIS

Are you sure?

CAROL

Yes, I'm sure.

FRANCIS

Y'know the this reminds of chapter three of that communication book, I'm only halfway through this chapter but I get this gist. You always think you're right. The art teacher thought Sebastian Bach was a painter and she's really smart, she teaches art. I was the one that got her to stay, I was the one who got Tim to leave. You haven't done anything tonight. You can't even figure out what's wrong with the drawing.

CAROL

(sigh) I don't care about the drawing anymore.

FRANCIS

What?

CAROL

I'm just not interested.

FRANCIS

Great, let's move onto something else.

CAROL

No, I need to go for a walk.

FRANCIS

(chuckles) We drove here.

CAROL

Yeah, you can drive the car home, don't wait up.

FRANCIS

What are you talking about it, what did I do?

CAROL

Nothing it's just...

CAROL begins to exit without finishing her thought.

FRANCIS

What'd I do? Why are you angry? I've done everything right tonight. Frankly, I think I've been killing it lately.

CAROL Exits, FRANCIS goes after her
TIM enters and blocks his exit. TIM is wet.

TIM

Okay can you explain something to me, Franky. I go up to Mary Jefferson and give her some of the ol' Timmy razzle dazzle I used to woo Janet back in the day, and she throws a drink in my face.

FRANCIS doesn't respond

Hey, where's that wife of yours?

FRANCIS

She left.

TIM

Oof, been there. It's tough at first but you'll make it through this, I mean look how great I turned out. (*pause*) Hey, you got a towel.

END OF PLAY