

FARM HOUSE – NIGHT

MAGGIE, ZIGGY

It's late and MAGGIE is working hard to contain her frustration as she and ZIGGY arrive home from the Police Station.

MAGGIE

(tight)

Are you hungry? Did they feed you in there?

ZIGGY

If you can call stale bread and water food.

MAGGIE turns to her daughter, taken aback.

MAGGIE

Seriously?

ZIGGY

(dry)

No Mum, not seriously.

MAGGIE can't help feeling a flush of annoyance.

ZIGGY (CONT'D)

That Kat chick –

MAGGIE

(correcting)

Senior Constable Chapman –

ZIGGY

(ignoring her)

– bought me a burger from Salt. It was pretty good. Almost worth getting busted.

MAGGIE's unimpressed.

MAGGIE

I don't think you realise just how close you were to being charged.

ZIGGY

Yeah, okay. Calm down.

MAGGIE

Actually, I think I've been incredibly calm, considering.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ZIGGY

(dry)
Email the pope. We have a new
saint.

And now MAGGIE loses it.

MAGGIE

You think I enjoy being called by
the police to come and collect you?
Having to come up with excuses, and
not for the first time I might add,
as to why my daughter was joyriding
around in a stolen car -

ZIGGY arcs up.

ZIGGY

Borrowed. Yeah, okay, I get it. I'm
an embarrassment -

MAGGIE

You're nineteen years old! When are
you going to grow up?
(at a loss)
What am I supposed to do with you,
Ziggy?

ZIGGY holds her mother's look, defiant.

ZIGGY

I don't know, pretend I don't
exist?
(off MAGGIE's look, bitter)
Don't act like you haven't thought
about it.

MAGGIE is stung.

A beat. Then, quiet.

MAGGIE

Go to bed.

Realising she's pushed her mum too far, ZIGGY hesitates,
feeling a pang of guilt. But MAGGIE snaps:

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

Now! Before I say something we'll
both regret.

She's only just holding back the tears and the fight goes out
of ZIGGY.

ZIGGY

(soft, remorseful)
Mum...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

MAGGIE

What? You want to twist the knife a little harder? Is that it?

A moment where they stare at each other. All that's needed is for one of them to make the first move...

... then the moment's gone.

ZIGGY

Thanks for picking me up.

Then she quietly exits.

The minute she's gone, MAGGIE slumps. Why does this have to be so difficult?

END OF SCENE