How NOT to Make Friends

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[Director’s note: the buzzer indicates a “do-over”; when it buzzes, the actors immediately return to their previous positions as if the preceding scene hadn’t happened]

(*Dan and Janet are sitting in two chairs; he notices her, takes a quick moment to psyche himself up, then walks over to her*)

Dan: Hey, uh, are you Jared’s mom?

Janet: Yes, I am.

Dan: I thought so! I’m Tanner’s dad. My name’s Dan. (*shake hands*)

Janet: Nice to meet you, Dan! I’m Janet.

Dan: So, is this your first PTA meeting?

Janet: Yes, it is.

Dan: (*trying to be casual and funny*) Yeah, I kind of guessed that from the dumb look on your face. Wait! I don’t mean you look dumb – just like you haven’t been here before. ‘Course, what do I know? Maybe you have ten older kids who have already graduated or something . . Not that you look old enough to have kids who have graduated . . and you certainly aren’t fat enough to have had ten kids! . . not that you have to be fat to . . um . . well . . (*eventually sputters to an awkward halt*)

**BUZZER**

Dan: So, is this your first PTA meeting?

Janet: Yes, it is.

Dan: Well, let me fill you in. (*starts point out people*) The lady with the big hair? She’s the one who really runs everything, including her mouth, so don’t tell her anything you don’t want the whole school to know. The woman beside her in the red sweater – she’s in charge of recruiting volunteers, so stay away from her at all costs. VERY obnoxious. That guy? With the combover? Biggest loudmouth you’ll ever meet – and I’ve seen some very meaningful glances between him and big-hair lady, if you know what I mean.

**BUZZER**

Dan: So, is this your first PTA meeting?

Janet: Yes, it is.

Dan: (*way too enthusiastic*) That’s AWESOME!!! Yeah!!! Go, PTA!!! (*she’s staring at him; awkward pause*) Yeah! . . Right . .

**BUZZER**

Dan: So, you’re Jared’s mom?

Janet: Yes, I am.

Dan: Yeah, Tanner’s told me all about him. He sounds like a real hell-raiser! I’m thinking you need some Jesus in your household, lady.

**BUZZER**

Dan: (s*he’s bored to death*) And then, my middle school years – they were awful. I was over the horrible Little League incident, but I still had this real sense of inferiority that I lived with daily, you know? So, the first day of sixth grade, I walk into my 1st hour class . . and of course, not only was half the team in there, but the teacher – now, he ended up being a really powerful influence in my life . .

**BUZZER**

Dan: So, you’re Jared’s mom?

Janet: Yeah.

Dan: He’s a cute kid. Yeah . . looking at your Jared, and my Tanner . . I’m thinking, you and I could make bee-yootiful babies together, eh?

**BUZZER**

Dan: So, is this your first PTA meeting?

Janet: Yes, it is.

Dan: Great! (*stands there, smiling awkwardly, shuffling around a bit, can’t think of anything else to say*)

**BUZZER**

Dan: So, is this your first PTA meeting?

Janet: Yes, it is.

Dan: Well, that’s great! I’ll look for you next time – we can sit together and get to know each other better. And maybe Jared would like to come over and play sometime. Or the two of them could do basketball together at the Y, you know? That’s on Tuesday nights. And then Wednesday nights, He could come with Tanner to this kids’ program at our church. And hey! You should come to church with me, sometime! Then you could try out my small group – we meet on Thursdays . . (*she checks her watch and gets up to leave, he keeps talking while she’s exiting*) and we do a service project once a month . . so, yeah – Tuesday night basketball at the Y? Sure! Maybe we’ll start there, okay? I’ll, uh, I’ll give you a call?