

DAUGHTER

A full-length play

by

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CHARACTER LIST

- ROBYN: Female, 16 years old. Adopted. Intelligent. Suburban, upper middle class.
- ALEXIS: Female, 16 years old. ROBYN's best friend. Smart. Suburban, upper middle class.
- BEVERLY: Female, mid-40's. Math professor. Adoptive mother to ROBYN. Upper middle class.
- JUSTIN: Male, 12 years old. ROBYN's younger brother and the biological son of ELI and BEVERLY. Well-intentioned but often misses the mark. Upper middle class.
- ELI: Male, mid-40's. Works in the pharmaceutical industry. Adoptive father to ROBYN. Upper middle class.
- MILLIE: Female, 32 years old. ROBYN's long-lost biological mother. A biker chick. She is from Arkansas. Lower class.

LOCATION: Princeton, New Jersey, 2011.

*Playwright's notes: Millie speaks with a Southern accent. The name "Danilo" in the script should be pronounced dan-ih-loh.

Act I

Scene I

SETTING: A teenager's bedroom. The bed is unmade, clothes are scattered on the floor. Technology that reflects a teen's life should be apparent in the room (ie. i-pod or Nano, Nook, chargers, etc.).

AT RISE: ROBYN sits cross-legged on her bed, typing on her laptop. Her friend, ALEXIS, is texting on her phone.

ROBYN

I wish I could just remember the name of this article. Do you even remember the name of the town? It was like in Washington or Oregon or something.

ALEXIS

You could IM Peter. He and Sam have Japanese immigration, too.

ROBYN

(typing)

Maybe. I doubt if they saw the article, though.

ALEXIS

I mean, it's not the end of the world if we don't find it. There's lots of other books we can use.

ROBYN

It's just that it would be such an interesting angle, you know? The town apologizing after so many years for their treatment of the Japanese. I mean, that's the stuff you can't find in history books yet, you know? No one else in the class would have it.

ALEXIS

Let's just look on SparkNotes. We'll find stuff there.

ROBYN

Fine. But don't let my mom see.

(ROBYN hands her the laptop)

ALEXIS

I thought she just said we couldn't use Wikipedia.

ROBYN

Wikipedia and SparkNotes now. All the Princeton professors are on a tear about them.

ALEXIS

That's so stupid. It's just for research.

(ALEXIS types. IM beep)

Oh, good. Peter.

(SHE clicks to look at the
IM)

Wait, this isn't him. I don't know who this is. It's for you. "Were you born in Ginger County, Arkansas, on September 17, 1995?"

ROBYN

What?

ALEXIS

That's a weird thing for someone to ask.

ROBYN

(looking at the laptop)

Millie Flowers. I don't even know who she is. I mean, the birth date is right but I was born in New Jersey.

ALEXIS

She probably just saw your birthday on your profile and thought you were someone else.

ROBYN

(typing)

Sorry. Wrong person. I was born in New Jersey.

ALEXIS

Millie. She sounds like she's seventy years old.

ROBYN

(IM beep)

Peter has no idea about the article. This is so frustrating. It was only last year or something.

ALEXIS

All right, fine, if you're so hell-bent on this article, let me go on Twitter and ask.

ROBYN

I can't believe I can't find it on the New York Times website.

(IM beep)

"Are your parents Beverly and Eli?"

ALEXIS

Woa, that's weird.

(beat)

Is that on your profile?

ROBYN

No.

(beat)

Oh! Justin probably has it on his. I've told him to adjust his privacy settings. He never listens!

(SHE starts typing)

ALEXIS

How is Justin on Facebook? Don't you have to be thirteen to be on Facebook?

ROBYN

You do?

ALEXIS

Yeah. And look, he said he's thirteen.

ROBYN

Oh, man! He knew that!

ALEXIS

And he has you listed as his sister. His settings are just wide open! This is why twelve year olds shouldn't be on Facebook. They just don't know how to do all the privacy stuff. That's why they have age limits.

ROBYN

I really wish I'd known about that. I would have told my parents months ago.

(typing)

Can we see her profile at all?

(beat)

Nothing.

ALEXIS

There's no information at all?

ROBYN

Just her name.

ALEXIS

Try Googling her. Maybe her name will pop up somewhere else.

ROBYN

(typing)

Millie Flowers. Hmm. Some florist shops. Maybe Millicent? Or Mildred?

ALEXIS

Yeah, maybe.

ROBYN

(typing)

Nothing. Just her Facebook page.

ALEXIS

(beat)

This is weird. I would stop talking to her.

ROBYN

I'm just going to tell her that she has the wrong person.

ALEXIS

But she can see who your family is right there on Justin's page. He doesn't have privacy settings on at all. She'll know you're lying.

ROBYN

So...maybe I ask her what she wants?

ALEXIS

Or you could just ignore her.

ROBYN

I could. But it just seems like a lot of weird personal information.

(typing)

Is there...something...I can...help you with?

ALEXIS

Sure. That sounds good. A little do you want fries with that but still okay.

ROBYN

(presses "send")

Okay.

(beat)

I have got to get Justin to get off Facebook. Ugh! Look! He put up more pictures of me from when we were little!

ALEXIS

Just de-tag.

ROBYN

I have been but he puts up more all the time. Maybe I'll de-friend him, too.

ALEXIS

Really? De-friend your own brother?

ROBYN

He's got all this information about me out there for...

(IM beep. ALEXIS peers over her shoulder)

ALEXIS

"I might be your birth mother"?

ROBYN

(long beat)

But I wasn't born in Arkansas. I was born in New Jersey. They adopted me in New Jersey.

ALEXIS

Is it possible that you were born in Arkansas, even if they adopted you in New Jersey?

ROBYN

I was born in New Jersey. We have to drive past the hospital to get to my grandparents' house.

ALEXIS

Do you know anything about your birth mom?