

PHRASES R3
LYNDSEY STORMER

INT. LIVING ROOM - EVENING

A MOM and DAD are sitting with their daughter LAURA and her new boyfriend ANDY.

MOM

Laura, honey we're so happy to meet your new boyfriend. He's a keeper.

DAD

He's alright, I guess. For a fancy New York English Professor.

They all laugh.

ANDY

It's been a pleasure, Mrs. Wilson. And you're alright too, Mr. Wilson. For a midwesterner.

They laugh again.

DAD

Ah, well, you know what they say: Anything west of east is mid.

They all laugh, except Andy who looks confused.

ANDY

Is...that a phrase?

DAD

(still laughing) Oh, maybe you don't have that one in New York.

Andy shakes his head, still confused.

DAD

Yeah, around here, we put our umbrellas on the RIGHT side of the mudroom.

They all nod pensively, except Andy.

LAURA

That's so true, dad.

MOM

Well said, honey.

ANDY

That's not a real saying.

LAURA

Andy...

ANDY

What? It's not.

DAD

(to mom under breath) Maybe if he didn't polish his brass on Tuesdays, he'd understand me better.

The mom laughs.

ANDY

Excuse me? What's that supposed to mean?

LAURA

Andy, just drop it.

MOM

Laura, I'm sorry to say this but your boyfriend is acting like the first band-aid out of the scissor factory.

ANDY

See? I don't even know if I should be offended by that because I have no idea what she just said!

DAD (angry)

Whadaya know! An English Professor that doesn't understand English! She SAID: you're treating us like a pair of French Pocket watches!

Andy looks baffled.

ANDY

I feel like I'm having a stroke. You're talking jibberish!

Dad stands, goes to the coat closet and grabs Andy's coat.

DAD

Alright, time for you to go. And don't let the door give you a hard time about your new haircut!

Andy jumps up and grabs his coat from Dad's hand.

ANDY

Oh yeah? Should I NOT do that? Well maybe I'll just eat brisket on a merry-go-round, because round these parts we hang our christmas lights upside down in the basement!

LAURA

Andy. You're not making any sense.

ANDY

I'M not making sense? Really Laura? I'M not making sense?

They all start yelling over each other and fighting.

LAURA

Everybody stop! Please! Mom, Dad, I love you. Andy, I love you. Can't we just drop this?

Andy looks surprised.

ANDY

You...love me? I love you too.

They hug. Mom and Dad calm down and smile.

DAD

Andy. I was really laminating your paper towels back there. It was uncalled for.

Andy winces subtly, but then regains composure.

ANDY

I think you're saying sorry. So, I'm sorry too, Mr. Wilson.

They shake hands. Andy turns to Mom.

ANDY

And you're right Mrs. Wilson, I was acting like the king of the scissor store or whatever.

Andy and Mom hug.

MOM

Apology accepted. You know, this reminds me of what grandma always used to say. I even put it on a pillow.

Mom runs to the other room and comes back with an embroidered throw pillow.

ANDY

(reading pillow) Home is where the water of life drips slowly into the hearts of our souls... that's not -

LAURA

Andy.

ANDY

You're right, let's just let sleeping dogs lie.

DAD

What the fuck does that mean?

BLACKOUT.

