

HELEN, ROY & BRUCE

ME AND HIM
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Shift to

MEDIUM ALISON

Dear Mom and Dad,
 Thanks for the care package. I was running out of granola bars so it came right in the nick of time. They sell a kind here that I swear is made of paste.

JOAN enters and gives MEDIUM ALISON the lesbian nod.
 Nothing else worth writing home about (har har). Al.
(To Joan) I can draw you some posters.

JOAN

Nah, we need 'em tomorrow night.

MEDIUM ALISON

I'll do it right now.

JOAN

Really?

MEDIUM ALISON

Just some simple drawing, right? Sure. *(Sits on her bed to sketch)* So you want it to say...

JOAN

We just need really good "No Nukes" posters.

MEDIUM ALISON

Right... Okay, so something like maybe...

JOAN

Oh, that's funny. That's really good.

MEDIUM ALISON

This? No. This is just quick and stupid.

START: *MEDIUM ALISON continues to sketch. Joan looks around her room.*

JOAN

Who's this in the photo?

MEDIUM ALISON

My dad.

JOAN

That's your dad?

MEDIUM ALISON

Yeah.

JOAN

He looks cool. Did he teach you how to draw cartoons?

MEDIUM ALISON

(Scoffs) Definitely not.

JOAN

Why's that funny?

MEDIUM ALISON

It's not funny, it's just, he's more... I don't know. *(Dismissive eye roll)* Refined.

JOAN

What does he do?

MEDIUM ALISON

A bunch of things, actually. He's a house restoration, historical society kind of guy, he's a high-school English teacher, he runs the // local-

JOAN

(Making a joke) Did you get to be in his class?

MEDIUM ALISON

(Earnest) I was, yeah.

JOAN

Really?

MEDIUM ALISON

Yeah.

JOAN

I was joking.

MEDIUM ALISON

Oh. Oh. Yes. What I was going to say is that, everyone in Beech Creek at some point is in my dad's English class, and he's known as a great teacher, so...

JOAN

Oh. Cool.

MEDIUM ALISON

Yeah. He sends me books. We talk about them.

JOAN

He sends you books to read on top of your schoolwork?

MEDIUM ALISON

Yeah.

JOAN

That's a little weird.

ALISON

(Realizing) Is that weird? That's really weird.

MEDIUM ALISON

Why?

JOAN

I don't know. Like, what books?

MEDIUM ALISON

Like... *(She hands her a book)*

JOAN

Colette??

MEDIUM ALISON

Yeah.

JOAN

Your father sent you Colette?

MEDIUM ALISON

Yeah. Why?

JOAN

I don't know. It's just... He's like the opposite of my dad. He's just like sending you lesbian books?

MEDIUM ALISON

No! I mean, yes, I guess Colette was a lesbian but-

JOAN

Oh, she was.

MEDIUM ALISON

Okay, but he sent it to me because he thought I'd be interested in the whole Paris... Arts... Bohemian... Scene.

JOAN

Yeah but he didn't send you a book about Toulouse Latrec, he sent you Colette. I think it's amazing that he's cool with you being a dyke.

MEDIUM ALISON

What? I don't think so.

JOAN

Oh, he's not?

MEDIUM ALISON

No. I don't know. Can we talk about something else?

JOAN

Sure. Why?

MEDIUM ALISON

Because - I have no idea how my parents feel about - I just figured it out myself.

JOAN

Oh.

MEDIUM ALISON

About two weeks ago.

JOAN

Huh. With who?

MEDIUM ALISON

With who what?

ALISON

(A wave of retroactive humiliation) Oh god.

JOAN

Who were you with?

MEDIUM ALISON

(Clueless, then getting it) Nobody. *Nobody!* Oh my god, I'm so embarrassed.

~~ALISON~~
(Fresh wave of retroactive humiliation) Oh god.

MEDIUM ALISON

I was in a bookstore.

JOAN

In a book store? Nice.

MEDIUM ALISON

(Clueless, then getting it) What? No!! Two weeks ago I was downtown and I wandered into the bookstore, I was just browsing around and I picked up this book-

JOAN

Ah, *Word is Out*.

MEDIUM ALISON

And I was like, Oh, interviews. This looks interesting. And then I was like, these people are all-
(Suddenly worried she doesn't know the right word) Uh...

JOAN

Gay?

MEDIUM ALISON

Gay. Yes. And then I was like, "Oh my god! I'm-"

MEDIUM ALISON

A lesbi-

JOAN

A dyke.

MEDIUM ALISON

Yes. A dyke. Yes. And I totally flipped out and shoved the book back into the shelf and I left. And then I came back the next day and bought the book. And then I came back the next day and bought all the other books in that section. And then I made myself go to the meeting at the Gay Union. And then, and then, it's now. Hi.

JOAN

Hello. That's a powerful book.

MEDIUM ALISON

It is.

JOAN considers kissing her. MEDIUM ALISON wonders whether she's about to be kissed.

END