

A script from



"In the Family"

by
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- What** A brother and sister reminisce about their childhoods and how their mom taught them about unconditional love.
Themes: Mother's Day, Moms, Family, Unconditional Love, Children
- Who** Ed
Jan
- When** Present
- Wear (Props)** Ed and Jan wear casual work-day clothes.
This script is set in a café. You can go as big or a small with this as you'd like.
Table
2 Chairs
2 Coffee cups
- Why** 1 Corinthians 13:7
- How** Keep the dialogue conversational and be careful not to drag. Keep the pacing up.
- Time** Approximately 5 minutes

Jan and Ed, a brother and a sister, meet for breakfast at a cafe. Ed is already seated at a table as Jan hurriedly walks up late.

Jan: I'm sorry I'm late. Carpool.
Ed: No problem. I ordered for you. French Toast. Sausage. Coffee. Did I get it right?

Jan: Bingo.

Ed: And you thought I never paid any attention to you.

Jan: *(Quizzing him)* So, what was my doll's name growing up?

Ed: *(Without hesitation)* Pearl. Always Pearl. It didn't matter if it was a baby or a Barbie. Pearl.

Jan: *(Still quizzing)* Okay, so what was my first boyfriend's name?

Ed: Pearl. *(After a "take")* Ryan. If I remember correctly, he had braces and very bad breath. And he didn't last long. Didn't measure up with Dad.

Jan: *(Laughs, remembering)* To put it mildly. *(After a beat. Transitioning)* So, how ya doing? Is work okay?

Ed: It's work.

Jan: You still dating that same gal? What was her name?

Ed: Laurie. Nope. That one didn't get too far. How about you? You doing okay?

Jan: Yeah, I guess so. The kids are driving me crazy sometimes.

Ed: How so?

Jan: Oh, just normal stuff. You know, pushing the boundaries.

Ed: Like what?

Jan: Like...like, I caught Rachel out in the back yard the other day, smoking.

Ed: No kidding? What'd you do to her?

Jan: I bought a pack of Camels and made her smoke the whole thing in one sitting. That cured her.

Ed: *(Laughs)* Yeah, I guess so. *(After a beat)* I don't know how you do it. If I was married and had kids I'd probably disown 'em the first time they messed up.

Jan: No you wouldn't.

Ed: Yes, I would.

Jan: You wouldn't, Ed.

Ed: Oh, yeah. Why not?

Jan: 'Cause they're your kids. You're not gonna disown your own kids. Look, do you remember what you were like when you were a kid?

Ed: Yeah. I was an angel.

Jan: You seem to be having a case of severely repressed memory. You were **always** in trouble.

Ed: Yeah, well...maybe a little.

Jan: **Always.** The time Mom caught **you** smoking. At ten. The time you flooded the basement. The time you shaved the cat. You were **always** in trouble. But, hey, you didn't pass some kind of entrance exam to get into the family, and you sure didn't pass one to **stay** in. You were just *in*. Why do you think that was?

Ed: Because I was so cute?

Jan: Yeah, right. You remember that time you set the back yard on fire?

Ed: I was experimenting with some matches.

Jan: Some experiment. You remember what happened?

Ed: I remember that Dad was out of town on business, so the spanking I got was milder than it would've been. That's about all I remember.

Jan: Well, I remember a lot more than that. I remember thinking, "Wow, this is it. This is finally it. Ed is now going to get sent to live with Aunt Karen. He's a goner." But this was so weird. I remember that after Mom spanked you, you were sitting there on the couch with her. And she hugged you and told you she loved you. And then she asked you why **you** thought she loved you. You told her, "Because I didn't set the house on fire too?" She laughed and she said, "Nope. I love you because you're my kid." Then she said to you, "Now, go on up to your room." After you left the room I sidled over to Mom. Nestled right up to her on the couch. I said to her, "Momma, why do you love **me**?" I just **knew** she was gonna say, "Because you're a good girl. **You** didn't play with matches like your bad brother Ed". But she said, "I love you because you're my kid. Now go on out and play."

Ed: It's amazing how much you remember.

Jan: It's amazing how much **you** forget. Anyway, that whole little episode really stuck with me. I mean, I couldn't have... explained it at the time, but now, as a mom myself, I think I get it. I was in, you were in, not because of what we did, but because of who Mom and Dad were. It's like knowing that almost **made** me want to do right.

Ed: *(Thinking)* Yeah, well, I guess it took awhile to have the same effect on me. *(After a beat)* Anyway, enough of these fond memories. What are we gonna do for Mom for Mother's Day?

Jan: Well, we could always buy her a pack of Camels and a box of matches.

Ed: Very funny.

Jan: You know what I think we oughta do? I think we oughta gather everybody up and just show up on her doorstep. Just show up.

Ed: You think that'd be good?

Jan: It would be good. Trust me. It's a daughter thing.

The End.

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