

Male Female drama

50+ 30+

CAROL

I want to get to know you.

BERNIE

And I want to get to know you. But that's not going to magically wipe out twenty years . . . ~~In which you were growing up, which you had to do anyway, and I was drunk . . . I don't mean to get stupid about it.~~

So let me ask you something - you don't mind if I get personal for a second, do you?

CAROL

What?

BERNIE

What I want to know is why all of a sudden you come looking for me. And it's not that I'm criticizing you.

CAROL

Why should I think you're criticizing me?
(PAUSE)

BERNIE

I mean, I could of come looking for you after you were twenty-one. Not that I was sure how you'd feel about seeing me . . . but you must of felt the same way? No. I mean, it must have been . . . I'm guessing . . . some kind of decision to all of a sudden come looking for me. How did you find me?

CAROL

Through the A.A.

BERNIE

And you just kind of decided, ~~and sent your husband over to meet me?~~

CAROL

Yes.

BERNIE

And why now?

CAROL

I felt lonely.

BERNIE

~~Oh. (PAUSE)~~

CAROL

You're my father.
I feel lonely (PAUSE)

BERNIE

Who doesn't?

CAROL

Do you?

BERNIE

Sometimes.

CAROL

I feel cheated. And, do you know what? I never had a father.

BERNIE

Carol . . .

CAROL

And I don't want to be pals and buddies; I want you to be my father. (PAUSE) And to hear your goddamn war stories and the whole thing. And that's why now because that's how I feel. (PAUSE) I'm entitled to it. Am I? Am I?

BERNIE

Yes.

CAROL

I am. You're goddamn right.

BERNIE

You know what the important thing is?

CAROL

What?

BERNIE

To be together. What's past is in the past . . . it's gone. You're a grown woman . . . I'm on the wagon, your mother's remarried. I got a good job, and there's no reason . . . I can't make it up to you.

CAROL

Do you have to work tonight?

BERNIE

I don't go to work on Sundays. But Sandy got sick so . . . ~~I was supposed to come in but I called Frank and he told me he'd get someone else to cover so I don't have to go in tonight.~~ You want to do something?

CAROL

Gerry was . . . he said he'd like it if we went out to dinner. Would you like that?

BERNIE

Yeah. I'd like that.

CAROL

We could go out by ourselves if you want.

BERNIE

No. It's a good idea I think. ~~And it's no big thing in any case, right?~~

CAROL

. . . We could go out, just the two of us.

BERNIE

Whatever you want. What you want, Carol, that's what we'll do.

END