

Happiness
By Todd Solondz

~~TIMMY (OS)~~

~~Die, Aunt Joy, Die!~~

FF =
Comedy

Arabian He makes the sounds of a firing laser gun.

TRISH

Timmy! Stop pretending to kill Aunt Joy

She tries to go after him, but he's already run off.

JOY

It's okay, Trish. He's just going through a phase. Leave him alone.

TRISH

I know, but...

JOY

(trying to make light)

It's okay, I'm strong enough.

TRISH

I blame it on cartoons. They are so full of violence. And what is with the people who are making cartoons. That's what you have to-

(suddenly realizes Joy is in tears)

Joy, Joy. What's the matter?

JOY

I don't know what it is, but I feel like there's so much hostility directed at me.

TRISH

Did another guy dump you?

JOY

No! I...oh, I feel terrible.

TRISH

Aww. Timmy didn't mean it.

JOY

No, I know...I know...I'm sorry. I- I'm overworked. That's all.

TRISH

It's okay. Because now maybe you'll listen to me.

JOY

What?

A weighty pause.

TRISH

You've got to eat red meat.

JOY

Oh, Trish...

TRISH

Oh, I knew how'd you'd react, but I'm telling you, it's true. I've been watching you, and well...My doctor says just once a month...

JOY

I know...

TRISH

Really. It's the best thing for your skin. It'll clear it all up.

JOY

What's wrong with my skin?

TRISH

Well, it's fine now, but in another few years... Please, Joy. You know I'm just speaking for your own good.

JOY

Oh, I know. I know. Thanks.

A tender moment. Trish and Joy hold hands.

JOY

I'm so happy.

TRISH

Are you really?

JOY

Being around you and the kids...

TRISH

Oh...And I'm so happy you're happy. 'Cause all this time I've been thinking you're so miserable.

JOY

Oh, Trish! That's too funny, when I couldn't be happier.

TRISH

It's just, what with your music career never really...

JOY

Oh, my career's fine!

TRISH

Oh, I know it will be! I just know it! And then you'll move out of Mom and Dad's...

JOY

Real soon!

TRISH

And you'll meet Mr. Right!

JOY

Oh, I will. Already I feel I'm off to a fresh start!

TRISH

That's right. Just because you've hit thirty doesn't mean you can't be fresh anymore.

Pause.

You know Joy, I've never told you this before, but now that we're older and I feel so bonded to you, well...the truth is - oh, I know this is going to sound horrible, but I just feel I have to be fully open with you, get beyond all the old barriers, the sibling nonsense - well, the truth is I always thought you'd never amount to much. That you'd end up alone, without a career or anything. Really, it's what we all thought. Mom, Dad, Helen...everyone...I'd always prayed we'd all be wrong, but you had always seemed so...doomed to failure. But now I see that's not true. There's a glimmer of hope for you after all. Oh, I know I'm repeating myself, but oh...

(tears well up)

I'm just really happy for you...