

# A

## Summer/Jesse/Pru

Summertime/Rigney - 13

TOM

I trust the government because it's *my* government. I elected them. If I don't like what they're up to, I can un-elect them.

SUMMER

Hear, hear.

TOM

The logical upshot? The government has no real authority over me, none whatsoever, because I'm the one in charge.

JESSE

Dad, the thing is, the people who proposed all this, whoever they are, I mean, somebody elected them, too.

TOM

Not me.

JESSE

Right, but in a different state, in a different district, people did. So there are sort of significant pockets, pockets of people, who agree with this.

TOM

But no one we know.

SUMMER

Except me.

# START

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JESSE

~~Only because~~ you don't understand the ramifications.

SUMMER

Ooh. "Ramifications."

JESSE

Why are you riding me?

SUMMER

Why you are being condescending? Again? Why can't I have my own opinion?

JESSE

Because the MRA is insane! If it passes, us going to the emergency room? It wouldn't even be legal.

SUMMER

You are not keeping on the sunny side of the street. Which is where I really need you to be.

JESSE

But we are facing something really serious here, and if we're nothing but rainbows and Pollyanna—

SUMMER

—Honey, I'm not asking you to be, I don't know, stupidly naïve, but we have an obligation to assume the best—

JESSE

—Not about this—

SUMMER

—especially because we know the situation, the population situation—and the MRA provides a solution.

PRU

And yet, here you are. Loaf in the oven.

JESSE

Well, okay, and it's not like we don't know that the last thing the world needs is another baby, but at the same time, we've thought about it a lot—

SUMMER

—and we don't mean biology, hormones or whatever—

JESSE

—no, exactly, we've really wrapped our minds around this.

SUMMER

And at the end of the day, it's our duty. To have this child.

~~TOM~~

~~Look, don't take this wrong, and I love you both, I can't wait to be a grandparent, but I fail to see how it's anyone's duty, given the world today and where it's heading—~~

JESSE

~~No, because what's happening, see, is~~ there's this whole sort of theory where if only the very educated and the very informed stop having babies—because we understand the consequences, because we choose to be responsible—then the only people having babies are the uneducated, the sort of, you know, the completely ignorant people, and then, well. It's like evolution backwards.

SUMMER

We become the United States of Cro-Magnon Idiots.

JESSE

Seriously. It's this whole *thing*.

PRU

So, what you're saying is that all of us right in this house, we're the best and the brightest.

SUMMER

Exactly.

PRU

I don't find that reassuring.

END

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SUMMER

This is not some out-there position. Everyone at school, all the teachers, all the parents—obviously, all the parents—I mean, they're convinced that if they don't have kids, the world will be populated by morons. Okay, not morons, because like, that's offensive and whatever, but if we as a group don't have babies, if we stop having babies—I mean, if nothing else, I'd be out of a job, right?

TOM

You will be anyway. For a while, at least.

SUMMER

I get three months off, paid—which the MRA supports.

JESSE

A last-minute, totally cynical amendment to get more votes.

SUMMER

Jesse? If we're really going to the hospital, could we maybe just go?

TOM

Can I point out, for the record, that your wanting to make use of a hospital does not exactly square with supporting the MRA.

SUMMER

Why shouldn't I take advantage of whatever resources I can while they're still available?

TOM

Because—because—

PRU

—It's pure hypocrisy, that's why.

*Summer, ready to defend herself, shifts position and winds up wincing in pain.*