

THREE ITEMS AT A TIME SIDE

RITA

(in complete denial)

No. I don't want to hear it. You've got a wide selection of dresses here, just pick one and we'll go home.

CORY

I don't want to pick any of these, I don't want to wear a dress.

RITA

Is this because you're going with Hannah? You don't have to--

CORY

What if I want to wear a suit? And I want to pick out a tie, and have a boutonniere on my lapel, and a cummerbund--

RITA

Corrine, stop it. You're being ridiculous. Just because you're going with another girl doesn't mean you have to dress like a boy. Boys wear suits to prom, girls wear dresses, those are the rules--

CORY

Then I'm not a girl!

A heavy beat.

CORY (CONT.)

I--I don't know what I am, but it's definitely not *that*. Not ruffles on the skirt and fuschia beads on the front and fucking corsages / and

RITA

/ Language, please.

CORY

(beat)

I know that I'm not whatever it is you want me to be, and I'm sorry mom, but I don't think I can ever be that. I know you're disappointed and annoyed but. I've tried. I painted my nails every week for like, a year when I was 15, and I wore makeup, and I told you I liked wearing skirts and leggings and all these clothes that made me just *hate* my body. And I appreciate that you took me shopping, and you drove me from store to store, and you put up with my bullshit all day, but I can't wear one of these dresses. I can't do that to myself. I can't.

Beat.

I'm really sorry if this is hard for you to hear.

RITA

(after a long beat)

Does Hannah know?

CORY

We talked about it a few days ago.

RITA

And she didn't-- didn't think it was strange or... or...?

CORY

No. She said to send her a color swatch as soon as I pick out what I'm wearing.

A short beat.

She didn't mind. She loves me, mom.

A long beat. RITA processes this. CORY's eyes are pinned to RITA, trying to figure out what she's thinking.

RITA

(quietly, giving in)

Okay.

CORY stands there, frozen, still unsure if this is good or bad.

Go change back into your clothes. Let's go home and get some dinner, and tomorrow morning we'll go somewhere to get your measurements.

CORY

(quiet, still processing)

Really?

RITA

If that's really what you want to do.