

## BIG BROTHER

**JOSH:** Eighteen years old, getting ready to leave for college, but at the moment quite disappointed in his younger sister.

**CARRIE:** Fourteen years old, about to enter high school, she is a young woman waiting to happen.

**SETTING:** Carrie enters the room as Josh is packing his suitcase.

**CARRIE:** Has mom come in yet?

**JOSH:** Not yet.

**CARRIE:** Oh. I just wondered.

**JOSH:** I bet you did.

**CARRIE:** So, you haven't talked to her, huh?

**JOSH:** Not yet.

**CARRIE:** Are you going to?

**JOSH:** Talk to her? I would imagine so. After all, I am leaving for college and she is driving me to the airport. I would think that sometime between now and getting on the plane we will talk.

**CARRIE:** Yeah, I guess you will.

**JOSH:** Yes, I guess we will.

**CARRIE:** Are you almost packed?

**JOSH:** Do you really care?

**CARRIE:** Should I?

**JOSH:** I don't know . . . should you?

**CARRIE:** I guess not.

**JOSH:** Then don't hang around in my room getting in my way.

**CARRIE:** Fine. *(She leaves)*

**JOSH:** *(To the empty space)* Fine. *(He continues to pack.)*

**CARRIE:** *(Entering the room again)* This is yours. *(She hands him a sweater.)*

**JOSH:** *(Taking it)* Thank you.

**CARRIE:** I'm finished with it.

JOSH: That's fine.

CARRIE: It's a warm sweater.

JOSH: It always kept me warm.

CARRIE: You'll need it back east.

JOSH: Yes, it gets cold. *(He still has not looked at her.)*

CARRIE: Maybe I should put it on now.

JOSH: Why?

CARRIE: It's awfully cold in here.

JOSH: Who's fault is that?

CARRIE: Josh, I said I was sorry. I can't say much more than that.

JOSH: Well, that's too bad, because "I'm sorry" doesn't begin to cover it.

CARRIE: So, you're going to leave mad?

JOSH: Carrie, I'm not mad. I'm disappointed . . .

CARRIE: Oh, please . . .

JOSH: Not to mention a little scared.

CARRIE: Scared? What of?

JOSH: Of you, or should I say of what I can see you becoming?

CARRIE: What is that supposed to mean?

JOSH: Your actions at my going-away party last night. Your drinking for one thing.

CARRIE: Excuse me, big brother, but you downed more than a few beers yourself.

JOSH: Yes, but I am 18, you are 14. Therein lies the great chasm between us.

CARRIE: Josh, please don't go "college" on me. I hate when you talk that way. You sound like an ass.

JOSH: Then, I just won't talk to you, how's that?

CARRIE: OK, I'm sorry. I shouldn't have had anything to drink. But there's more to it, isn't there?

JOSH: You're darn right there is.

CARRIE: What?

JOSH: Glenn.

CARRIE: So what? I went for a drive with him. Big deal.

JOSH: He had been drinking.

CARRIE: He wasn't drunk. He wasn't even buzzed. He told me he just had a couple of beers . . .

JOSH: *(Finishing the sentence with her)* . . . couple of beers. Right. To Glenn, a case is a couple of beers. But that's not even the main point. The main point is Glenn himself.

CARRIE: I thought he was your best friend.

JOSH: I thought so too. But, now I don't know.

CARRIE: But why?

JOSH: Because he took my little sister out at 2:00 a.m. when she had been drinking too much. And I know his reputation. I've been on double dates with him and I know what he does with girls. He's a slime.

CARRIE: You always said he was cool.

JOSH: That was before he took my 14-year-old sister out.

CARRIE: We didn't go out. We went for a drive. As a matter of fact, he was telling me how much he is going to miss you . . . his best friend.

JOSH: And where were his hands during this conversation?

CARRIE: On the steering wheel. C'mon, Josh. Glenn thinks of me like his own little sister.

JOSH: That's why every time he comes over here he says "Incest is best."

CARRIE: He's just being funny.

JOSH: I don't like it.

CARRIE: So, is that why you got into a fight with him in front of everybody and called him those names? And yelled at me?

JOSH: Yes. That's why.

CARRIE: And it had nothing to do with the fact that you'd been drinking quite a bit yourself?

JOSH: I only had a couple of beers . . .

CARRIE: ...couple of beers. Uh huh.

JOSH: OK, so maybe I had too much to drink. But that isn't the point here.

CARRIE: What is?

JOSH: The point is, I'm leaving today. And you'll be starting high school in a few weeks.

CARRIE: Yes. So?

JOSH: So, I'll be gone and Glenn will still be here.

CARRIE: For heaven's sake, Josh, he's a senior. I'm just some lowly freshman.

JOSH: And freshman girls are considered fresh meat by the senior guys. I know. I was a senior guy this last year, remember?

CARRIE: Are you saying you got together with a freshman girl? Who? Is it anybody I know?

JOSH: Let's just leave it at the fact that I know what the guys do . . . and how they talk. I don't want you to be the topic of any locker room conversation.

CARRIE: Who . . . come on, tell.

JOSH: Carrie, I'm very serious. Once a girl gets that kind of reputation, she's trashed her entire high school life. That isn't what you want, is it?

CARRIE: No.

JOSH: Then listen to me and trust what I am saying. Don't get into a car with Glenn.

CARRIE: Ever?

JOSH: Ever.

CARRIE: How about if he wants to give me a ride home?

JOSH: Only if it is still light out . . . even then, it makes me nervous.

CARRIE: Is he really that bad?

JOSH: Remember Michelle?

CARRIE: That tramp? Yes.

JOSH: Why do you call her a tramp?

CARRIE: Well, Glenn told me . . . oh.

JOSH: You see? You're not even in high school yet and you already know the gossip.

CARRIE: Oh dear.

JOSH: I told you.

CARRIE: How come, though, people talk bad about Michelle, but no one says anything but how cool Glenn is?

JOSH: I'll share this secret with you, but only because you're my baby sister and I am worried about you.

CARRIE: Yes?

JOSH: Men are pigs. Never forget that.

CARRIE: Even you?

JOSH: To some girl's big brother, yes, I am a pig. It's not a nice thing to admit, but puberty does strange things to a senior.

CARRIE: Men are pigs.

JOSH: Just keep saying that till I get home at Christmas. I'll escort you to the parties, but until I'm here to keep an eye on you, your freshman year should be spent on your studies.

CARRIE: Yeah, right.

JOSH: Well, at least promise to be home before midnight on the weekends.

CARRIE: That I can do.

JOSH: And stay out of Glenn's car.

CARRIE: How about Mikey's?

JOSH: When did he get his license?

CARRIE: Yesterday. He turned 16 last week.

JOSH: Still a dangerous age. But he's young enough to be somewhat fearful of my anger. OK, you can see him.

CARRIE: Thanks.

JOSH: And not a word of any of this to Mom. I don't think she could handle it well at all.

CARRIE: You've got my word on that one. *(She holds out her hand to shake.)*

**JOSH:** *(He hugs her.)* I'm gonna miss you, little girl.  
**CARRIE:** Me, too.  
**JOSH:** Carry this bag out to the car, I'll take the suitcase.  
**CARRIE:** Hey, Josh...  
**JOSH:** Yeah?  
**CARRIE:** Thanks for caring.  
**JOSH:** It's a dirty job, but somebody's got to do it.

## BREAKING UP IS HARD TO DO

**SANDY:** A nice girl . . . which may be her problem.  
**JIM:** The actor must remember that Jim is not arrogant, just confused about his feelings.

**SANDY:** *(From kitchen)* Jim, you want anything?  
**JIM:** *(In living room)* Just you. *(Shakes his head to himself.)*  
**SANDY:** Funny. Really, can I get you anything?  
**JIM:** No, I'm fine.  
**SANDY:** *(Entering)* Yes, you certainly are.  
**JIM:** *(Patting couch for her to sit.)* C'mon and sit with me.  
**SANDY:** *(Does)* I love you.  
**JIM:** I know.  
**SANDY:** *(After a moment of silence)* I know? That's an odd response to "I love you."  
**JIM:** I know.  
**SANDY:** The correct response is: "I love you, too."  
**JIM:** I know . . . *(Sighs)*  
**SANDY:** Why do I get the feeling I'm in for a lousy way to end this evening.  
**JIM:** I don't know . . . *(Quietly)* I do love you.  
**SANDY:** Why does that not sound very reassuring?  
**JIM:** What do you mean?  
**SANDY:** I love you. The way you said it. It sounded more like "I'm fond of you."  
**JIM:** Sandy, we've been together for almost a year. I think I've proven myself to be more than fond of you.  
**SANDY:** Yes . . . but . . .  
**JIM:** What?  
**SANDY:** Nothing.  
**JIM:** I hate when you do that.  
**SANDY:** I'm sorry.  
**JIM:** I also hate it when you say you're sorry all the time.  
**SANDY:** I'm sorry.