

38. Working It

Topic: Two friends try to figure out how to get around a mom.

Cast:

RYAN: the mastermind, expert on manipulation

BJ: a willing student of Ryan's

- 1 *(Scene begins with the two BOYS sitting or walking Center*
 2 *Stage.)*
 3 BJ: You go ask her.
 4 RYAN: Why should I ask her?
 5 BJ: She likes you better than she likes me.
 6 RYAN: That's terrific. She's *your* mother.
 7 BJ: I know. That's why she likes you better.
 8 RYAN: Maybe, but she still yells at me.
 9 BJ: Not as loud as she yells at me.
 10 RYAN: All right, I'll ask her, but we have to formulate a plan.
 11 BJ: A plan?
 12 RYAN: Yeah. You just don't go up to a mom and ask her to
 13 do something huge. You have to work out a plan.
 14 BJ: All right. Any ideas?
 15 RYAN: OK. Let's see. What has she been bugging you to do
 16 lately?
 17 BJ: The list is long and complex, my friend.
 18 RYAN: Let's start with the most nagged-about thing.
 19 BJ: My room.
 20 RYAN: Yeah, it's always the room. Why do moms care so
 21 much about our rooms?
 22 BJ: Yeah, it's not like she ever has to go in there or
 23 anything.
 24 RYAN: Well, in your case, she probably fears for your life.
 25 BJ: Oh, ha ha.
 26 RYAN: So what particularly about your room is she upset with?

- 1 BJ: Have you seen my room?
 2 RYAN: Good point. You know, it's really the effort they want
 3 to see.
 4 BJ: Huh?
 5 RYAN: See, you don't really understand women like I do.
 6 BJ: Oh, here we go.
 7 RYAN: They don't really care what you *do*. It's that you
 8 make some sort of attempt, even if it's a lame attempt.
 9 BJ: So I don't have to really *do* anything, I just have to
 10 attempt?
 11 RYAN: Not exactly. You have to do *something*. Superficial
 12 stuff, you know. Move some of the big stuff, throw out
 13 the trash, you know. It will only take a few minutes to
 14 make it look like you made a huge effort.
 15 BJ: Oh, I get it. Just so she can see the rug.
 16 RYAN: Right, now you're getting it. Clear off enough space
 17 so that she can see the rug.
 18 BJ: Oh, and the laundry.
 19 RYAN: Great! Good idea. Ask her a question about her
 20 laundry so that she thinks you're planning on doing
 21 laundry. Don't ask for anything then, but just ask a
 22 question about how much detergent to use or
 23 something. That's a great touch.
 24 BJ: Should I offer to cook dinner or something?
 25 RYAN: Don't overdo it, BJ.
 26 BJ: OK, got it. You really think she'll fall for this?
 27 RYAN: Women, especially moms, are a sucker when they
 28 see their kids "shaping up."
 29 BJ: How long do I have to keep this up?
 30 RYAN: Just as long as it takes to get her in a good mood,
 31 and then you ask her.
 32 BJ: Won't she get mad or figure it out?
 33 RYAN: Sure, but what do you care? You'll already have what
 34 you want.
 35 BJ: You're a little scary, you know that?
 36 RYAN: Yeah. Ain't it great?