

The Dress

INT. LARI'S ROOM

Lari and her mom, Mary Beth, are in the middle of an argument. Mary Beth is holding an evening dress.

MARY BETH
You are going!

LARI
I'm not!

MARY BETH
Young lady, you are going to that dance if I have to drag you there myself.

LARI
I'd like to see you try.

MARY BETH
Don't you dare speak to me that way.

LARI
Then stop calling me young lady. I'm a woman.

MARY BETH
(Aggravated) Please.

LARI
You were married when you were my age.

MARY BETH
I was stupid! Now put on this dress.

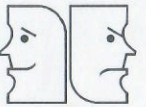
LARI
You have no respect for me.

MARY BETH
Why should I when you act like a child? Now put this on!

LARI
I'm not going!

MARY BETH
(Throwing the dress on the bed) Then forget it. I paid two hundred dollars for that dress but if—

LARI
You did what?



MARY BETH
I wanted you to look nice.

LARI
That's half your pay check. Take it back.

MARY BETH
I can't. It had to be altered.

LARI
Why?

MARY BETH
So it would look good on you.

LARI
You mean so it would cover my fat butt?

MARY BETH
You're not fat.

LARI
Look at me, I'm disgusting. You can't even buy a dress that looks good on me. And you wonder why I don't want to go.

Lari throws herself on the bed and starts to cry. Mary Beth sits down beside her and strokes her hair.

MARY BETH
Darling. You are not fat. You're beautiful. Your biggest problem is you don't know that yet. When I was your age, I didn't know it either. That's why I married the first guy who asked me out. I'm not going to let that happen to you. Now put the dress on. At least let me see how it looks.

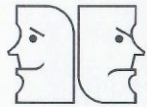
LARI
Okay.

Lari exits to put the dress on. Mary Beth sits on the bed.

MARY BETH
I was thinking you might want to wear my earrings.

LARI
(Off stage) Your good ones?

MARY BETH
My mother gave them to me for my first dance. She must have saved for a year. A teacher's salary wasn't as much as it is now.



Lari enters. She looks beautiful.

MARY BETH (cont'd)
(Lari takes her breath away) Oh my. Oh my, oh my.

LARI
Do I look okay?

MARY BETH
You look beautiful. (Handing her the earrings) Put these on.

LARI
I don't even have a date.

MARY BETH
Neither did Cinderella and remember she got best guy at the ball. Now let me get my car keys.

Mary Beth starts to exit.

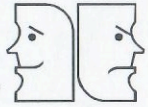
LARI
Mom.

Mary Beth turns around.

LARI
Thanks.

MARY BETH
You're welcome.

Mary Beth exits as Lari looks at herself in the mirror.



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