

1 (TONY and LUKE confront their younger brother STEVEN
 2 about his unconforming attitudes about life.)
 3 STEVEN: (Plays the guitar, singing softly, almost to himself.
 4 After a moment, he notices TONY and LUKE watching
 5 him.) I didn't see you.
 6 TONY: I guess not.
 7 STEVEN: (Plays for another moment or two, then) What?
 8 TONY: Nothing.
 9 LUKE: You missed a raging party.
 10 STEVEN: (Not interested) Yeah?
 11 TONY: Yeah. It was great. You would have had a great time.
 12 Brianne was there.
 13 STEVEN: So?
 14 TONY: She asked if you were going to be there. I told her yes.
 15 We looked pretty stupid when you didn't show up.
 16 LUKE: She was waiting for you. It could have been your lucky
 17 night. Brianne is one hot chick.
 18 STEVEN: Great. Brianne doesn't give me the time of day at
 19 school and now she's waiting for me to show up at a
 20 party. I don't think so. I'm not into these casual mocs
 21 anyway.
 22 LUKE: When's the last time you got together with a girl?
 23 STEVEN: Why is it your business?
 24 LUKE: I'm just asking.
 25 STEVEN: And I'm not answering.
 26 LUKE: Because you've got nothing to say. You've never gotten
 27 together with anyone, have you?
 28 STEVEN: Why are we talking about this?
 29 TONY: He has. He's with Melissa all the time.
 30 STEVEN: She's just a friend.
 31 TONY: Well, what about Lisa?
 32 STEVEN: What about her?
 33 TONY: You've macked with her.
 34 STEVEN: No.
 35 LUKE: Everyone else has, why not you?

1 STEVEN: Because she's a friend. And I don't just get together
 2 for the sake of getting together with a girl. That's not my
 3 style. And I wouldn't talk about it anyway.
 4 LUKE: Sissy boy. You sit in this room or in the quad at school
 5 playing that damn guitar and doing nothing about it.
 6 What an idiot.
 7 TONY: Really. Steven, you are passing up a golden opportunity.
 8 STEVEN: What the hell are you talking about?
 9 LUKE: Chicks. They love guys who can sing and play the
 10 guitar.
 11 TONY: It's like the ultimate aphrodisiac.
 12 STEVEN: Get real.
 13 TONY: Don't you watch the girls when you play? They all
 14 gather around and sigh. You could do any of them. Even
 15 Brianne thinks you're cool when you sing.
 16 LUKE: But she comes back to her senses the minute you stop.
 17 She sees it's just Steven again, and she's back with a
 18 football player where she belongs. Not with some pansy
 19 "artiste."
 20 STEVEN: Get out of my room. Conversation's over.
 21 LUKE: We'll leave when we're ready.
 22 STEVEN: Do what you want. I'm ignoring you. (He plays for a
 23 while, then) Why are you guys staring at me? *Tyson Asound*
 24 TONY: I'm not staring. I'm watching.
 25 LUKE: Just watching.
 26 STEVEN: Watching what?
 27 TONY: Watching our brother turn into a sissy boy right in
 28 front of our eyes.
 29 STEVEN: Oh, jeez, here we go.
 30 LUKE: Where the hell were you tonight?
 31 TONY: We waited for you in the parking lot at school and you
 32 never showed.
 33 LUKE: What's up with that?
 34 STEVEN: Nothing is up with that. I didn't feel like going to
 35 some lame jock-infested drunken party.

1 TONY: Then where were you?
 2 STEVEN: Here.
 3 LUKE: Here. All night? You just sat here?
 4 STEVEN: That's right. Playing my guitar.
 5 TONY: Why didn't you show up at Marshall's party?
 6 STEVEN: Because I didn't feel like it.
 7 TONY: You felt like staying home instead? Yeah, Steven, that
 8 makes tons of sense.
 9 LUKE: Hey, he's turning into more of a freak every day.
 10 STEVEN: Leave me alone, OK? *Steven David Agoston*
 11 TONY: No, I won't leave you alone. What the hell is your
 12 problem? I don't understand you at all.
 13 LUKE: I gave up trying to understand him.
 14 STEVEN: You never even tried.
 15 TONY: Try? Hell, I've been trying all my life. So has Dad and
 16 Luke. You're just weird.
 17 STEVEN: Why? Because I'm not a clone of my brothers and
 18 father? Because I'd rather read a book than run a race?
 19 Because I'd rather compose music than play football?
 20 LUKE: Because you'd rather sit alone with a guitar in your
 21 hands than sit in the dark with a woman in your arms.
 22 Now that's weird.
 23 STEVEN: Not every guy wants to mac down with any woman
 24 who happens to be near, you know. Not every guy in the
 25 world is like you...
 26 LUKE: True, "Mary Jane," there are those guys who don't
 27 really care for women.
 28 TONY: He likes women. Steven, you like women, right?
 29 LUKE: He'd rather be around his weirdo friends. All the
 30 fruits and nuts.
 31 STEVEN: What is your problem? Why is it that because I don't
 32 like sports, that I like art, music and theatre, I actually
 33 enjoy reading, why does that automatically give you the
 34 right to decide who and what I am?
 35 TONY: No one is deciding what you are.

1 LUKE: I am. He's a woman.
 2 STEVEN: Shut up, Luke.
 3 LUKE: You gonna make me? Come on, be a man. For once in
 4 your life, be a man. *(He pushes STEVEN.)*
 5 STEVEN: Stop it.
 6 LUKE: *(Mocking STEVEN)* Stop it. Stop it. *(Regular voice)* Is the
 7 fruit fly scared? Is the big bad jock brother scaring the
 8 little art boy?
 9 STEVEN: God, you get stupider every day.
 10 TONY: Luke, knock it off.
 11 LUKE: I'll knock it off when he starts behaving like a man.
 12 STEVEN: So I don't go to a stinking party or get drunk with
 13 you and your jock friends. That means I'm not a man?
 14 You're pathetic.
 15 TONY: Steven, listen, this isn't the first time you dogged us
 16 about going out. Why won't you do normal things?
 17 STEVEN: Like what?
 18 TONY: Well, for example, when was the last time you went to
 19 a football game?
 20 STEVEN: I didn't realize it was abnormal to be bored by
 21 football. Sorry. And I do go.
 22 TONY: When?
 23 STEVEN: When I don't have band rehearsal.
 24 LUKE: Ha! Band rehearsal. You and that band. A bunch of
 25 artsy fartsy weirdos who hide behind their guitars and
 26 keyboards at every party and dance they go to.
 27 STEVEN: We get paid pretty well to play, you know.
 28 LUKE: Big claim to fame—you pick up a quick hundred
 29 dollars to split between the four of you. When you gonna
 30 come out from behind that guitar and face the real world?
 31 STEVEN: And, please, Luke, tell me, what is the real world?
 32 LUKE: High school.
 33 STEVEN: Well, if you think high school is the real world then,
 34 thanks, but no thanks. You can keep it. A bunch of
 35 pseudo-macho males denigrating everyone who doesn't

1 conform to their personal standards of identification.
 2 LUKE: Who talks like that? Tony, tell me, who talks like that?
 3 Steven, who do you know that talks like that besides you?
 4 STEVEN: Like what?
 5 LUKE: "Pseudo-macho," "denigrating," and all that crap?
 6 Who are you trying to impress? Me?
 7 STEVEN: Just because I'm familiar with the English language...
 8 LUKE: Drop the superior show, my young friend, and let's
 9 remember who got the 1350 on the SAT, OK?
 10 STEVEN: Fluke.
 11 LUKE: Fluke *this*, little brother.
 12 STEVEN: Both of you just get out of my room.
 13 TONY: Why should we?
 14 STEVEN: Because I'm asking you to.
 15 TONY: We're not leaving until this is settled.
 16 STEVEN: What's there to settle? I'm different from you, so
 17 I'm weird. I'm different than most guys at school, so I'm
 18 not part of that "crowd" you hang with. I like music, I
 19 can paint, I can't catch a football, so I'm a fag. Hey,
 20 whatever, guys.
 21 LUKE: You said it, not us.
 22 STEVEN: Is that what you're afraid of, Luke? That I might be
 23 gay? Would it be such a horrible thing?
 24 LUKE: It would sure as hell explain a few things.
 25 TONY: Why are we even discussing this? You're not gay. You're
 26 not. (STEVEN looks at him blankly.) Are you?
 27 STEVEN: Would it make a difference?
 28 LUKE: It sure would with me. I don't want to be seen having a
 29 brother who's a fairy.
 30 TONY: Come on, Steven. This is a stupid conversation. It's not
 31 worth the trouble of even talking about it.
 32 STEVEN: I think it is. Luke is clearly upset at the idea. (He
 33 saunters over to LUKE and speaks in a hispy voice.) What's
 34 the matter, Lukey? Afraid I'll come on to one of your jock
 35 friends? You know, that Jonathan is really cute. Had my

1 eye on him a long time. Blond hair, grey-green eyes, big
 2 bulging biceps. Hmm-hmm-hmm.
 3 LUKE: (Grabbing him) Shut up!
 4 TONY: This isn't funny, Steven.
 5 STEVEN: (Squealing like a girl) Oooohh, let go!
 6 LUKE: (Stunned at the squeal, releases STEVEN.) God, you are
 7 such a creep. You make me sick.
 8 STEVEN: (Still hispy voice) Do I? Why? Because your brother
 9 might be more different than you thought?
 10 LUKE: You wouldn't be my brother anymore, that's for
 11 damn sure.
 12 STEVEN: (Normal voice) You're not serious.
 13 LUKE: Serious as death.
 14 STEVEN: What an ass. Tony, can you believe what you're
 15 hearing?
 16 TONY: (Quietly) Yeah.
 17 STEVEN: Did you ever hear anything so stupid and narrow-
 18 minded?
 19 TONY: I don't know.
 20 STEVEN: (Disbelieving) You, too?
 21 TONY: We shouldn't even be talking about this. I mean, come
 22 on. It's a stupid discussion about nothing.
 23 STEVEN: Would it be that big a deal, really?
 24 LUKE: If my brother was a gay boy? Hell, yes.
 25 STEVEN: Tony?
 26 TONY: You want me to lie?
 27 STEVEN: I can't believe this. So, you're saying that if I told you
 28 right now that I was gay, you'd disown me?
 29 LUKE: (Looking him straight in the eye) First, I'd beat the
 30 living crap out of you, and then I'd disown you.
 31 TONY: Come on, Luke. Don't get stupid.
 32 LUKE: You think I'm stupid? How do you think Dad would
 33 react, Steven?
 34 STEVEN: I don't know.
 35 LUKE: Get real. He'd hate it. He'd hate you. That's a fact and

1 you know it.

2 STEVEN: No, I don't.

3 TONY: I think you're going a little far.

4 LUKE: Like hell I am. What does Dad always call us? His men.
5 From the time we were little, we've been his men. Steve,
6 buddy, don't you know what a disappointment you are to
7 Dad by not playing football or soccer or baseball? How do
8 you think it makes him feel to see his youngest son pick
9 up a guitar or dance around on a stage rather than be on
10 a field?

11 STEVEN: He says he's proud of me. Last year, after the
12 musical, he said he was proud of me.

13 LUKE: That's what he said to your face. Tony, remember what
14 he said at intermission?

15 TONY: Shut up, Luke.

16 LUKE: Tell him what Dad said.

17 STEVEN: Tell me, Tony.

18 TONY: It was no big deal. He was making a joke.

19 STEVEN: If it's no big deal, then tell me.

20 LUKE: I'll tell him...

21 TONY: He said, "Remember when we used to go watch Steven
22 play Little League baseball? Now we go to watch my son
23 in a dress."

24 STEVEN: The show was *Sugar*. I had to wear a dress. That was
25 the point of the play.

26 LUKE: You didn't have to be in it. No one forced you.

27 STEVEN: No, no one forced me. But I did it and I loved it and
28 I was damn good.

29 TONY: No one said you weren't.

30 STEVEN: Hell, we got a standing ovation.

31 LUKE: Yeah, and I led it. I stood up to walk out and everyone else
32 thought I was standing to applaud. I was so embarrassed to
33 see my brother up on the school stage looking better in a
34 dress than most of the girls. I had to leave.

35 STEVEN: Tony? You felt the same way?

1 TONY: It was a little hard to face our friends.

2 STEVEN: Well, look at your friends. A bunch of drunken
3 slobs. Yeah, that's a group of people I want to impress.

4 TONY: You just don't get it, do you? Maybe Luke has a point.
5 Maybe you are more different than you want to admit.

6 STEVEN: I'm not afraid to admit anything. But I am certainly
7 not going to sit here and be judged by two people who
8 obviously have no respect for what I care about.

9 LUKE: So, are you gay or what?

10 STEVEN: What?!

11 LUKE: Answer the question.

12 STEVEN: I'm not answering anything. You've made up your
13 mind about who I am, so fine. No matter what I say or
14 what I do, because it's not exactly like you two and Dad,
15 then I'm a fag? Hey, if that's the way it is, then that's the
16 way it is.

17 TONY: Steven, you're not gay.

18 STEVEN: Maybe I am and maybe I'm not. Or maybe you have
19 your own doubts about your masculinity. Could that be
20 why you have to play the big jock all the time? Especially
21 you, Luke. You know, I've always wondered why it was
22 you spent so much time in the locker room. First one in
23 and last one out. All those sweaty guys, showering,
24 steaming, you seem to really enjoy that.

25 LUKE: It's not gonna work, Steve, so give it up.

26 STEVEN: What's not gonna work?

27 LUKE: Your little innuendos. I know who I am. I think you
28 have some doubts.

29 TONY: I have to agree with Luke, Steve.

30 STEVEN: I have no doubts about who I am. And I don't have
31 to justify what I do or what I like or who I like to a pair of
32 close-minded, conformist, insensitive assholes like you.
33 Now, get the hell out of my room!

34 LUKE: Fine. But listen to what I'm saying and trust that I
35 mean it. Whatever it is you decide you are, you do it after

1 you leave this house and you never share it with the
 2 family. I never want to know one way or the other. You
 3 got that?

4 STEVEN: You will never understand anything that isn't
 5 exactly like you. You won't even try.

6 LUKE: Nope. *(He exits.)*

7 TONY: Don't pay any attention to him. He may have gotten a
 8 1350 on the SATs, but he's not a bright boy.

9 STEVEN: Did Dad really make that comment about the dress
 10 at the musical?

11 TONY: It doesn't matter.

12 STEVEN: Did he?

13 TONY: Yeah. But he was kidding. It was a joke. He laughed.
 14 And he loved the show.

15 STEVEN: I guess.

16 TONY: Don't worry about it.

17 STEVEN: Yeah.

18 TONY: You OK?

19 STEVEN: Yeah.

20 TONY: OK. Well, I guess I'll just go now.

21 STEVEN: Tony...

22 TONY: Yeah?

23 STEVEN: Would it make a difference to you?

24 TONY: *(After a moment)* I don't know, Steve. But you are my
 25 brother, no matter what.

26 STEVEN: Thanks.

27 TONY: Play your guitar, kid. I like to leave my bedroom door
 28 open and listen to you. *(He leaves as STEVEN plays softly*
 29 *and sadly.)*

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Grandpa

(Scene for two women)