

*From Current Economic Conditions, by Don Zolidis, ©2011*

**From Current Economic Conditions**

ELAINE, 50s

LILY, 26

*LILY has lost her job and has moved back home with her parents. Her mother decides to give her some inappropriate advice.*

*(Lights change back to the bedroom. ELAINE enters with a lunch tray.)*

ELAINE

You didn't need that job anyway.

LILY

Thanks.

ELAINE

That was just practice. You need to get your interviewing skills up to par.

LILY

And apply for jobs that I have some hope of getting.

ELAINE

I wonder why they chose you anyway. I mean, did they see your resume? You were totally unqualified for that.

LILY

Thanks. That makes me feel a lot better.

ELAINE

Well this should make you feel better! Roast beef sandwiches! I even took the crusts off them.

LILY

Thanks.

ELAINE

For dessert: chocolate pudding.

LILY

Yum.

ELAINE

And milk. Low-fat. Do you want some potato chips?

LILY

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No that's okay.

ELAINE

Are you sure? I've got Pringles.

LILY

No I'm fine.

ELAINE

I stocked the refrigerator for you. Those little energy drink thingies that you like. And there's chocolate chip cookie dough ice cream if you're feeling depressed. Uh – let's see – I got some pears from the farmer's market -

LILY

Oh wow.

ELAINE

I've got your darks in the wash too.

LILY

Thanks.

ELAINE

No trouble!

LILY

I gotta say, it's kinda nice living at home.

ELAINE

That's so wonderful that you would say that.

LILY

You guys are being really nice.

ELAINE

The way I thought about it: this is a second chance for us, you know? To have that kind of great mother-daughter relationship I always dreamed about. We can talk about boys and dreams and just, you know, stuff. I just want you to be happy while you're here.

LILY

Thanks.

ELAINE

So is there a special guy out there?

LILY

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Nope.

ELAINE

You'll find one. Don't worry. In fact, do you remember my friend Carrie? Her nephew just moved to town – he's a lawyer –

LILY

I'm not gonna date a lawyer, Mom.

ELAINE

He does pretty well for himself –

LILY

You know why people go to law school? They can't think of anything else to do.

ELAINE

That's not true. Some people want to make a lot of money.

LILY

I don't want to be set up.

ELAINE

Don't worry about it. We'll just trump up a bogus legal concern for you and you can visit his office –

LILY

I'm not doing that.

ELAINE

All right fine. But if you change your mind –

LILY

I won't.

ELAINE

Forget I mentioned it. I know what we should do! Interview practice.

LILY

No that's okay I'm just gonna eat my lunch, if you don't mind.

ELAINE

This will be fun. I'll be like your career counselor. I could totally do that job. Do you want to be a career counselor?

LILY

Not even in the slightest.

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ELAINE

I did. And an actress. And a judge. But mostly a career counselor. Okay – let's do this.

LILY

Do what?

ELAINE

I want you to tell me everything you did in the interview.

LILY

I bombed the interview.

ELAINE

But how? I want details.

LILY

I just – I wasn't funny.

ELAINE

You're very funny. You used to always make me laugh when you were little. You still do. Just in a different way.

LILY

Forget it.

ELAINE

I know: Let's act out an interview. You be you and I'll be the interviewer. Oh I can do this. I was a really good actress.

LILY

I don't know, Mom –

ELAINE

No no no this will be good practice for you. This will be my office.

LILY

Fine.

ELAINE

What kind of job do you want to interview for?

LILY

Uh... businessperson?

ELAINE

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*Businessperson?*

LILY

Well, like, you know, I don't know, financial analyst.

ELAINE

Financial analyst?

LILY

What!

ELAINE

You have a degree in anthropology.

LILY

So! You can do that with any degree – this is my role play and I want to be a financial analyst!

ELAINE

Fine.

LILY

Damn.

ELAINE

Don't swear in an interview, it's not good form.

LILY

We haven't started the interview yet.

ELAINE

Okay – before we start –

*(ELAINE goes to unbutton one of the buttons on LILY's blouse.)*

LILY

What are you doing?

ELAINE

A little cleavage goes a long way. Just be thankful yours still hold up like that.

LILY

That's terrible advice.

ELAINE

Do it.

LILY

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Fine.

*(she unbuttons a button.)*

Happy?

ELAINE

Now go out there and come back in. But knock first. This is my office.

*(LILY walks out. She knocks.)*

Come on in!

*(ELAINE picks up a phone and talks into it.)*

Yeah. I know. Well that's what I'm saying Alan. Sell it and buy something else. What do you think we're running here, a charity?

*(LILY stands awkwardly. ELAINE motions for her to sit. LILY sits on the bed.)*

It's not my problem, Alan. You don't like it you can work for Greenpeace. Goddamnit it I will buy and sell you for lunch!

*(ELAINE hangs up.)*

Who are you?

LILY

Hi. Lily Booker. I'm here for the interview.

ELAINE

What interview?

LILY

For the financial analyst job?

ELAINE

Ohhhh. Hold on.

*(she picks up the phone.)*

Debbie why didn't anyone tell me I had an interview scheduled for today? Well how the hell am I supposed to check my Outlook Calendar? You think I have time to check my Calendar every day?! I make a lot of money for this company!

*(she hangs up.)*

LILY

Should I come back later?

*(ELAINE makes a big X with her arms and breaks out of character.)*

ELAINE

Buzz! No. Don't do that. You have to assert yourself.

LILY

By the way: are you a man or a woman?

ELAINE

Let's say a man. My name's Joe Pitt. That sounds like a banker. We'll just pretend you didn't

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say that last bit okay. Ready?

*(ELAINE breaks back into character.)*

Sorry about that. My secretary just puts crap on the calendar and I don't even know what it is half the time. So you want to be a financial analyst? Where's your resume?

LILY

Here.

ELAINE

Uh huh. Uh huh. What do you bring to the table?

LILY

Um...

*(ELAINE makes the big X again.)*

ELAINE

Bzz! Why did you hesitate? How do you not know that?

LILY

I don't know. I'm just –

ELAINE *(back in character)*

What do you bring to the table?

LILY

I'm a fast learner.

ELAINE

So.

LILY

So I'm adaptable.

ELAINE

What the hell does that mean?

LILY

Like if you throw me in any situation, I can figure things out. Like, say if the economy is collapsing and we have to burn all kinds of stuff so we don't get arrested – I could do that.

ELAINE

That might come in handy. What's your greatest weakness?

LILY

Sometimes I can be disorganized.

*(ELAINE buzzes her again.)*

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ELAINE

The answer to that question is always, “I work too hard. I can lose sight of my personal life because I work too hard.”

*(back in character)*

What’s your greatest weakness?

LILY

I work too hard.

ELAINE

Me too. But that’s why I make the big bucks.

*(she picks up her phone)*

Sell something!

*(She slams down the phone.)*

Why do you have your blouse unbuttoned like that?

LILY

What?

ELAINE

You trying to seduce me or something? This isn’t Hooters, sweetheart.

LILY

Well I just –

ELAINE

This is a serious business. If you want to play dress up you can go be a lawyer or something.

LILY

Mom!

ELAINE

Your Momma ain’t here.

LILY

Mom stop!

ELAINE *(breaking out of character)*

What?

LILY

You told me to unbutton the button.

ELAINE

And then I threw you a curveball. And you fell apart. You’re entirely too timid.

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LILY

Cause you're weird.

ELAINE

You think bankers don't behave like this?

LILY

What do you know about how bankers behave?

ELAINE

I watch movies. You have to have confidence. You have to come in like you're spitting fire at everyone. It's like the first day of pre-school.

LILY

Fine Mom. If I ever have an interview to be a financial analyst, I'll act like an insane lunatic, is that what you want?

ELAINE

I just want you to be happy. And get a job.

LILY

I'll get a job.

ELAINE

And remember what I said about the button.