

"Daddy's Girl"

by

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FADE IN:

INT. SUBURBAN HOUSE - UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - NIGHT

From behind a closed door, a growly voice tells a fairy tale.

MOTHER -- 40s, housecoat, no makeup -- bustles up the stairs. She stops to catch her breath, listens outside the door:

GROWLY VOICE (OS)
"Who's been eating my porridge?"

She knocks. The voice falls silent.

MOTHER
Lauren? Are you still awake?

INT. LAUREN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

LAUREN -- 17, pretty, hair in childish pigtails -- sits up in bed against a mound of pink frilly pillows. She glowers as her mother enters, annoyed at the interruption.

Next to the bed, a large teddy bear, DENNIS, sits on a chair.

MOTHER
I wanted to catch you before you went off to sleep.

LAUREN
Dennis was just telling me a story.

MOTHER
I'm sorry, dear. I didn't mean to interrupt. But it's about this card.

She sits on the edge of the bed, pulls out a Valentine card.

LAUREN
That's mine! It's private. Where did you get it?

MOTHER
I need you to tell me who sent it.

LAUREN
It was anonymous.

MOTHER
(reads from card)
"I couldn't 'bear' to be without you. With the 'furry' best of my love, D." Lauren, we both know that Dennis didn't really send you this card. You wrote it yourself, didn't you?

LAUREN

No.

Lauren reaches out her hand and clutches the bear's paw.
Mother shakes her head, sighs.

MOTHER

Your father and I have been
talking. We both think you should
start seeing boys of your own age.

LAUREN

What if I don't want to?

MOTHER

Well, we think you should try.
It's unhealthy to carry on like
this.

LAUREN

I can't believe you're sitting
there... telling me...

MOTHER

We're only thinking of you, Lauren.
You know we are. We just don't
want to see you lonely.

LAUREN

I'm not lonely.

MOTHER

Promise me one thing: that you'll
think about what I said.

LAUREN

All right.

MOTHER

That's a good girl. We can talk
more about this in the morning.

She leans in, kisses her daughter.

MOTHER

Now kiss your father goodnight.

She takes the bear, holds it out. Lauren kisses it.

MOTHER

(stands up; to bear)
Come on then, Dennis. Let's get
back downstairs. Your favorite
show will be starting in a minute.

She exits with the bear.

THE END