

With this Ring

JIM

Whoa. Let's not get ahead of--

MOTHER

Honey this is the perfect place. All our friends are here. You still have some friends here, don't you? This is just the perfect place.

Where is Eduardo? They are usually so attentive--

JIM

Seriously, Mom? --C'mon. I haven't stepped foot on this place since Cotillion.

MOTHER

No... it hasn't been that long. I just know you left the nest and never came back. God only knows what they taught you at that college. But now you're here, and we can mend-- JIM Can I at least see it? Is it as big as I remember? *(She reaches down and pulls a box out of her purse. She sets it on the table, opening it.)*

MOTHER

Here it is. I cleaned it this morning, before I brought it here. Isn't it just gorgeous? A lifeguard whistle blows, distracting Mother. Jim reaches for the ring box. *(Mother blocks him and snatches the box up in her hand.)*

MOTHER

Oh, no you don't, first I want to hear about the lucky girl. Oh look, honey, there's Jessica. Did you know she is in med school? Going to be a doctor just like her daddy. So- yes - now where was I? Oh- yes, well. I am so happy this is happening and you want my ring. So happy for you and for her and isn't it so beautiful? Thank you, honey. This is such a gorgeous ring, darling. Ooh! Where do you think you will register? Please say Tiffany's!

JIM

It's about to pour. Can I just get it and we'll talk about it later?

MOTHER

Hold on now. I know deep down this is just what you and I need to get everything back to the way it used to be. I know you, honey. I know you reaching out to me wasn't just for this piece of jewelry. The fact that you're asking for something of mine tells me you are ready to come back. And I'm ready for you to come back. Everything that happened-- It's all-- It's all going to be fine - Goodness those clouds don't look good. Should we move inside?

JIM

I need to get going. Someone's waiting for me.

MOTHER

What? Who? Is Sara here? Go get her, honey!

JIM

It's not Sara.

MOTHER

Then who...? - What is going on? You can't leave just now. Look, everyone is moving inside. Goodness, I just don't like the look of these clouds. And oh - I want you to meet Ginger. She's right over there. *(She waves offstage)* Ginger! Ginger honey, can you get all of us a table inside?

JIM

Just stop this, Mom. I don't want to meet with Ginger.

MOTHER

What are you-

JIM

--You always said--always told me, when I wanted it, it was mine.

MOTHER

Yes of course. But what is the big hurry? Aren't you going to have lunch with me? I don't think--I'm not really dressed for it.

MOM

Honey you don't need a jacket for lunch. Stay. Please? I haven't seen you in ages. I want to catch up.

JIM

(Jim takes a deep breath, clearly frustrated) Mom. Help me out here. It's about to start pouring, and I'm on my bike, and there's somebody waiting, and--

MOTHER

A bicycle? Jimmy, what are you saying? You don't own a car? What has happened to you?

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JIM

It's a motorcycle Mom.

MOTHER

Jimmy those things are so dangerous.

JIM

Mom—

MOTHER

Jim, what exactly is going on?

JIM

The ring, Mom. It's - it's not for Sara. There is no wedding.