

A Childhood Voice

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“Do not cry. If you cry, I will give you something to cry about.”

“Good girls don’t need to ask for help. They just do well.”

“Boys like girls who take care of themselves. No boy wants to date a girl who dresses like an orphan.”

“I raised you to be a lady, not some tramp.”

“I’d rather you be having meaningless sex than shooting up in the back of some stranger’s car.”

“I did not raise you to just have sex. You know how I feel about that.”

“Why would you need that? You have plenty of books.”

“Stop reading. Can’t you be in the moment?”

“Does somebody need an attitude adjustment?”

“It’s as if you’ve made it your life’s mission to make my life a living hell.”

“You are the one percent fail rate of birth control. I didn’t ask for you. I didn’t ask for this.”

“Why is it so hard for you to just listen to me?”

“Stop dressing like a whore. Where’s your self respect?”

“Do you really think you can fit into that? Get realistic about your size.”

“Stop crying.”

“There! Now you know what it feels like to be me. Now you know what it’s like to have someone try to ruin your life.”

“Why would you not want to be a doctor? You wouldn’t be good at much else.”

“I thought I told you to bite your tongue and learn to not speak unless spoken to at the table.”

“Just because you have a job doesn’t mean this money is yours. I raised you. I can take as much as I want; it’s only fair.”

“How am I supposed to be happy with you home? I don’t miss you when you’re away because you ruin everything when you’re back.”

“You don’t spend enough time with me. Why don’t you hang out with me?”

“All you ever do is sit in your room. Go make some friends.”

“I told you I don’t like your friends. Why do you keep hanging out with them?”

“Why are you always drunk?”

“Why won’t you have some wine with me?”

“You know how I feel about drugs. Anything is better than drugs.”

“You always smell like smoke. I told you no cigarettes in my house.”

“How am I supposed to trust you?”

“All you do is lie.”

“I didn’t ask for an explanation. I don’t want to hear it.”

“This house is a dictatorship, not a democracy.”

“You’re my princess.”

“Selfish, good-for-nothing bitch.”

“Come hug me!”

“You know I hate when you touch me.”

“I know you’re independent, and I’m so proud of you.”

“You can’t do anything the way you’re supposed to.”

“I love you.”

“Get out of my house.”