

"Offspring"

By

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INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

SHERRY and MIKE on their date. They're, say, a round of drinks and an appetiser into the evening, and things seem to be going well.

SHERRY
First album.

MIKE
That I bought?

SHERRY
With your own money.

MIKE grimaces.

SHERRY (CONT'D)
Is it that bad?

MIKE
...depends on how you feel about
The Offspring.

SHERRY laughs.

MIKE (CONT'D)
That's my secret shame. How about
yours? First album?

SHERRY
Jagged Little Pill.

MIKE
D'you hear how quickly you
answered? That's because you knew
you had a cool answer.

SHERRY
I was pretty cool! Then I hit
puberty, went to high school...

MIKE
Nobody has taste in high school. In
music. Or...

SHERRY

Oh. Bit of a wallflower?

MIKE

It's not because I didn't ask anybody. I didn't pine, didn't lurk.

SHERRY

Lurk?

MIKE

That's what music and movies taught us to do back then: lurk and persist until the dream girl notices you. But the moment I developed feelings for Sadie Yapp-- who used to copy my science homework once a week--I told her immediately.

SHERRY

And she rejected you?

MIKE

(nodding)

I listened to the Offspring.

Pause.

MIKE (CONT'D)

I looked her up on Facebook last year. Not doing so good. Two kids...

SHERRY

You don't like kids?

He shrugs.

MIKE

I mean, I like 'em fine. I'm a pretty cool uncle. But I love handing them back. How about you, do you want kids?

SHERRY doesn't answer.

MIKE (CONT'D)

Too early for that question?

SHERRY

I have a son.

MIKE
Right. That's cool.

A WAITER stops at the table to serve their dinner. MIKE tucks in, SHERRY doesn't.

SHERRY
Is it a problem?

MIKE
It's cool. I'm sure he's cool.

SHERRY
He is. He is cool.

MIKE puts down his fork.

MIKE
Sherry, I'm telling you: I don't mind that you have a kid.

SHERRY
A son.

MIKE
That's what I meant. It's great.

SHERRY
So you'd never want to have a child someday?

MIKE
I wouldn't say "never". It's just not priority. Did you always want children?

SHERRY
Yes.

MIKE
Cool. What's his name?

SHERRY
Jacob. Jake.

MIKE
I'd like to meet him.

MIKE resumes eating. After a moment, SHERRY begins to pick at her pasta.