

BUBBLER BOY

by Japheth Gordon

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Dad sits at the counter when Steven (14) comes in.

STEVEN

'Sup dad?

DAD

"Sup"?

STEVEN

Yeah, you said we needed to talk
and it's urgent, so... 'Sup?

DAD

Steven, are you happy?

STEVEN

Uh... okay, this took a weird turn.

DAD

Because I feel like you're
searching for happiness.

STEVEN

Thanks for the advice Buddha. I'll
let you know when I find it --

DAD

-- What's this?

Dad holds a tiny glass pipe. Steven's face drops.

STEVEN

I don't know.

DAD

You don't know?

STEVEN

No. What is that? Where did it come
from?

DAD

It's a pipe for smoking weed - and
I found it in your closet.

(LONG BEAT)

I don't even know what to say to
you...

STEVEN

Look, don't freak out, okay?

DAD

When did you start?

STEVEN

'Start'? Jesus Dad, it's not like I'm some stoner. I've only smoked a few times.

DAD

I don't know what to believe.

STEVEN

Why? 'Cause you think I'm a liar now?

DAD

You *are* a liar. You lied about this!

STEVEN

Because I knew you would overreact! (BEAT) You used to smoke. I've seen the pictures of you and uncle Marty.

DAD

We weren't FOURTEEN! C'mon Steven, you're a freshman in high school. I don't understand why you're in such a hurry to grow up.

STEVEN

News flash dad, no one *tries* to grow up. It just happens... to everyone.

DAD

Not everyone.

STEVEN

I know Dad. The world is a messed up place and bad things happen. But I'm not Laurie. You can't keep treating me like a fragile little kid just because you're scared. I'll be in college in a few years. You can be the warden in my life and lock me away to keep me safe, or you can be my friend; someone I come to when I need advice... your choice.