

CONCERN

by: J. Gordon

INT. KITCHEN - EVENING

MOM is laying out silverware for a family dinner. CALI crosses through with urgency.

CALI
Hi mom. Bye mom.

MOM
Wait. No dinner?

CALI
I'm supposed to be there like now.

MOM
You haven't had a real meal since I don't know when. C'mon. Sit. Eat.

CALI
(annoyed)
Uh, no thanks. Look, I had school all day, then a ton of homework and now I have to use these last hours of consciousness trying to focus on the one thing I actually care about.

MOM
You can't focus on anything if you haven't eaten. What did you have for lunch today?

CALI
What are you doing?

MOM
What do you mean?

CALI
I mean this. What is this? Normally you don't care what I do. Why are you so interested in what I'm eating all of a sudden?

MOM
I'm just worried about you.

CALI
(covering)
I told you, I'm fine.

MOM

You seem so stressed out. I know what it's like to be under all that pressure.

CALI

Oh yeah? When?

MOM

What?

CALI

When were you under pressure like this?

MOM

It's not...

CALI

'Cause I don't think you ever had to deal with the competitive world I do. It's easy for you to say "Just eat something", but you're not the one that looks like a fat cow compared to the rest of those girls.

MOM

Sweetie, you can always quit.

BEAT. Cali looks at Mom like "You don't get it." Then...

CALI

I'm late.

Cali storms off.