

Dad's New Friend

by: Japheth Gordon

EXT. PATIO - NIGHT

A BIRTHDAY PARTY with teenagers spread throughout the yard. Groups mingle. Older kids are drinking. Couples make-out. They all have on home-made paper crowns.

Steph (20's) and Dad (late 40's) walk over to where Jill is standing with a group of friends.

JILL

Dad! You came!

STEPH

(to Jill)

Hi. I'm Stephanie. But you can call me Steph. Or Stephy...

JILL

Dad, who's this?

DAD

Hey honey. I wanted you to meet Steph. She's...a friend.

STEPH

You must be Jill. I've heard so much...

JILL

Why's she here?

STEPH

I came to meet you. Great party, by the way. Love the hats.

DAD

I wanted you two to...I don't know.

STEPH

Ooh and we got you a little - here you go.

Steph enthusiastically extends a small gift bag with tissue paper to Jill.

STEPH

Happy Birthday!

DAD

Happy Birthday sweetie.

Jill looks at her dad - she's hurt and angry.

JILL
 Thanks.
 (beat)
 Is that it?

Jill starts to leave.

STEPH
 Oh.

DAD
 Jill...

JILL
 What is it dad?

DAD
 You're being rude.

JILL
 You're right. I don't want to be
 rude to your "*friend*". I wouldn't
 want your "*friend*" to think I don't
 like her.

STEPH
 (to Dad)
 Honey, I should...

JILL
 How old is she?
 (turns to Steph)
 Huh Stephy? How old are you?!

DAD
 Stop it!

Other's in the party start taking notice. It's awkward.

JILL
 I can't believe you chose her.

BEAT - Jill's heart-broken face transforms to steel. She
 faces her dad coldly with:

JILL
 Bye dad.