

PRIVACY

by Japheth Gordon

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Mom is sitting in the couch when SHAYLA (15) enters.

MOM

There you are. So, anything new in your life?

SHAYLA

That's a question you ask an old friend you haven't seen in a while, not your daughter who spends every day with you.

MOM

I just want you to know that you can tell me anything.

SHAYLA

Remember when I said you act weird sometimes and you said "When do I ever act weird?" This is one of those times. (GRABS HER PHONE) Mom, were you on my phone?

MOM

What sweetie?

SHAYLA

My phone, just now when I went to turn it on, my messages screen was open. I definitely didn't leave it like that. Were you on it?

(LONG BEAT)

How would you even know my passcode?

MOM

(CONFESSING) It's your birthday backwards.

SHAYLA

Oh my god! You have no respect for privacy.

MOM

Because you keep hiding things from me! Like this Tyler guy who I didn't even know --

SHAYLA

-- This is so embarrassing. No one is supposed to read those texts... especially not my MOM!

MOM

How old is he?

SHAYLA

None of your business.

MOM

How old?!

SHAYLA

Why does that matter?

MOM

He mentioned going to work, which means he has a job, which means he's too old to be texting a fifteen-year-old girl!

SHAYLA

It's just texting! You're acting like I'm doing drugs or having sex. I haven't even had my first kiss so please... you of all people shouldn't be lecturing me.

MOM

What the hell does that mean?

SHAYLA

You got pregnant with me when you were still in high school and dad was twenty-two!

MOM

Which is why I don't want you to make the same mistake I did.

SHAYLA

'Mistake'? Nice.

MOM

That's not what I --

SHAYLA

Luckily, you don't have to worry about me making the same mistakes as you. I'm in three AP classes which means I'll be graduating early. Never been in trouble. Never missed a curfew. I have great friends because I'm a great judge of character. So either give me the trust I've earned or stay out of my life.