

Sheila & Bill Sides- 28 Feb

1 INT. SHANNON'S CONDO - EVENING

1

Shannon has her laptop open, making dinner as she FaceTime's her mother SHEILA (60s) in Tatamagouche, who's sitting at the dining room table working on a puzzle. Shannon's father BILL (60S) is in the background drying dishes.

Scene 1

SHANNON
(re puzzle box)
What's on the cover?

Bill holds the box to camera. It's of a Greek island village.

BILL
Mykanos.

SHEILA
(without looking up)
Santorini.

BILL
2000 pieces. I told your mother I'd
take her there when she's done.

Shannon notices the puzzle is already half-finished.

SHANNON
Looks like you'll be going tomorrow
then.

SHEILA
It's pretty easy.

BILL
(to Sheila)
You don't know how many pieces I've
hidden.

Shannon's phone rings.

SHANNON
Sorry, just a sec.
(to phone, brightly)
Hey, Joy! That's absolutely no
problem. Ah-mah-zing! You're the
best. Thanks and have a great
night! I will, Bye!!!!
(hanging up)
Ugh. Why do I always sound like
that?

SHEILA
Like what?

SHANNON
Cheery, upbeat.

BILL
I think it's nice.

SHEILA
Because you're scared.

SHANNON
What?

SHEILA
Of not being liked. You've always
been like that. Your father's the
same.

BILL
No, I'm not. People say I'm aloof.

SHEILA
(to Bill)
You talk to all the cashiers at
Sobey's, you talk to the mailwoman,
the garbage collectors.

SHANNON
It's kind of exhausting.

BILL
You find me exhausting.

SHANNON
No, I'm saying it's tiring for me,
being friendly.

BILL
I find it stimulating, engaging.

SHEILA
What if you tried being a little
less keen, more neutral.

SHANNON
I don't really do neutral.

SHEILA
That wasn't bad.

SHANNON
Really?

SHEILA

Just don't worry if people like you. It's out of your control.

SHANNON

Not exactly. If I tell you your neck's getting wrinklier, you're not going to like me.

SHEILA

Is it?

SHANNON

No. I mean, a bit.

Sheila examines her neck, stroking and flattening the skin.

SHEILA

Well, there's a difference between caring less and antagonizing your mother.

BILL

Be as friendly as you want, dear.

SHANNON

Whatever.

BILL

(to Sheila)

Now you've made her depressed.

SHANNON

No, that was my neutral voice.

SHEILA

It's better.

END OF SCENE