

SCENE 8

VOLCANO

(meanwhile, back near the base of the volcano, BRICK and TAMMY are both looking at the ground)

TAMMY

I found one!

(she picks something up from the ground)

Nah, it's just a pop top that looked like a fingernail.

BRICK

J.D. musta been up here drinking his old beers.

(a beeping sound from Tammy's wristwatch goes off)

[SFX: beep from wristwatch]

BRICK (CONT'D)

What was that?

(TAMMY reaches into her backpack and takes out the bottle of carrot juice and sunflower seeds)

TAMMY

I have to drink three ounces of carrot juice and eat some sunflower seeds every three hours. I'm dieting.

BRICK

Why? You look perfect just the way you are.

TAMMY

(flirting)

Well, thank you. You're pretty cute yourself.

(goes to touch his hair)

I like how your hair kinda--

(as soon as she touches it)

TAMMY (CONT'D)

I'm engaged.

BRICK

What?

TAMMY

I'm getting married in six days. I'm sorry. I thought it would be fun to flirt, but I'm starting to feel guilty.

BRICK

But you're not wearing an engagement ring.

TAMMY

Yeah, my fiancé thinks jewelry isn't very practical so instead he got me an engagement TV.

BRICK

I'm a little bummed, but it makes sense you're with someone. You're cool, fun, pretty...

TAMMY

Thank you. That's very nice of you to say.

BRICK

Not just saying it...I think it.

TAMMY

I like the way you think.

BRICK

My mother doesn't. She thinks I'm stupid. Thinks I won't ever get a great lady if I can't have an ar-tic-ful-late conversation.

(BRICK pulls a piece of paper out of his pocket)

So she's always mailing me some of her favorite long words. But I always forget 'em before I get a chance to use 'em.

(reading)

Encavmaphobia. Fear of being burned.

TAMMY

Fear of being burned? That's one of your mother's favorite words?

BRICK

Oh, yeah. My parents know everything there is to know about fear. Fear sells insurance and that was all they ever talked about.

TAMMY

That sounds awful.

BRICK

My whole childhood was. All my parents ever did was fill me full of fear of what could go wrong. Brick, don't go up on the roof or you'll fall off. Brick, don't do drugs or you'll have horrifying flashbacks. Brick, tie your shoes or you'll fall off the roof again.

TAMMY

I bought shoes from a drug dealer once. I don't know what he laced them with but I was tripping all day.

(BRICK laughs)

That's not really true. It was a joke.

BRICK

Not just a joke. A pun. That's my favorite kind. And drugs aren't the only things I experimented with in high school. I was also addicted to the hokey pokey but thankfully I turned myself around.

(TAMMY and BRICK both start giggling at the ridiculousness of Brick's pun)

TAMMY

That's what it's all about!

(TAMMY and BRICK continue to laugh and giggle with one another--a true moment of connection)

BRICK

So, how about you? Did your parents burden you with any crippling anxieties?

TAMMY

No, they were always worried I would fall into the wrong crowd. But every time I hung out with the right crowd, I ended up turning them into the wrong crowd.

BRICK

Me too! I just wish my parents would accept me for who I am. It's not like I'm an axe murderer or a hedge fund manager.

#7 WE ARE THE PEOPLE OUR PARENTS WARNED US ABOUT

TAMMY

No you're not. You're a great guy. You're a bartender on a cool island. What did they expect you to be?

BRICK

I WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE BEEN A JESUIT PRIEST
OR A NAVAL ACADEMY GRAD
THAT WAS THE WAY THAT MY PARENTS PERCEIVED ME
THOSE WERE THE PLANS THAT THEY HAD
BUT I COULDN'T FIT THE PART
TOO DUMB OR TOO SMART
AIN'T IT FUNNY HOW IT ALL TURNED OUT

TAMMY

I GUESS WE ARE THE PEOPLE
OUR PARENTS WARNED US ABOUT

BRICK

I COULD HAVE WORKED THE RIGS WHEN THE MONEY WAS BIG
OR HOPPED A FREIGHTER SOUTH TO TRINIDAD
AND WHEN THEY TRIED TO SCHOOL ME WITH A COLLEGE DEGREE
I KNEW I WOULD NEVER BE A GRAD
SO I GOT A GUITAR FOUND A JOB IN A BAR
PLAYIN' ACID ROCK TIL I WAS NUMB
TELL ME WHERE ARE THE FLASHBACKS
MY PARENTS WARNED ME WOULD COME

(psychedelic lights fill the stage as a variety of INSURANCE SALESMEN dressed in 1960s-era clothing pop out of the ground...BRICK is not sure what is happening...are these the "flashbacks" his parents warned him about finally occurring)

BRICK (CONT'D)

Are you seeing these guys?

TAMMY

Seeing who?