

SPECIAL

1x08

I do blame you

2 actors

Woman/Man

Drama

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KAREN, 50, is waiting for her son RYAN, 30. She is dressed up for a party. RYAN is a gay man who is suffering from cerebral palsy.

RYAN arrives with a cheap cake from a supermarket. Two candles on the cake show 49.

RYAN

Mumsy! Oh my God, I am so sorry I'm late. Happy birthday.

RYAN kisses KAREN on the cheek.

RYAN

I just had the most insane day. I told everyone about my cerebral palsy, and Carey and I finally smooched.

KAREN

What do you mean? Who is "everyone"?

RYAN

At work. Oh, the article I wrote about my CP, I didn't actually write that. You see, everyone just assumed my limp was from my accident, and then I never corrected them.

KAREN

Oh my God... you lied to me.

RYAN

I lied to everyone.

KAREN

But why did you lie to *me*?

RYAN

I'm sorry, but... the point is that no one actually cared. Like, at all! And now it just feels like my life can finally start. You know? It's like I was in the closet about being gay, then I was in the closet about being disabled, and now, no more closets.

KAREN

(looking at the cake)

What is this? What happened to my triple berry?

RYAN

Oh, um, "Sweet Lady Jane" was closed, but this is supposed to be amazing. In, like, supermarket trash kind of way.

KAREN

You had one job to do, Ryan. One job. Just to pick up the cake I wanted.

KAREN starts to have a taste of the cake.

RYAN

I'm sorry.

KAREN

This is awful.

RYAN

What's wrong with you?

KAREN

Did it ever occur to you that you actually had to show up for me today?

RYAN

I'm here. And by the way, where's Phil?

KAREN

Phil dumped me. He said he didn't want to be in a relationship with someone else's asshole kid.

RYAN

Asshole?

KAREN

Yeah.

Beat.

RYAN

Ok. Well, then this *asshole* is leaving.

RYAN stands up and starts to leave. KAREN follows him.

KAREN

No, no, no. You are not done. I am not done with you. Look, I just - I

(CONTINUA)

KAREN (SEGUE)

just sabotaged my relationship with Phil because you were mad at me. And I didn't even think about it, I just ended it.

RYAN

I never asked you to do that! I don't know what to say, Mom. It takes two to be "co-dependent".

KAREN

Oh! Oh, I should have let you do things on your own. That would have been interesting to see how that worked. Okay. "Oh, Ryan, just take the bus to physical therapy. I am tired". "Ryan, go get fitted for your own leg braces. I want to get a manicure".

Beat.

RYAN

Wow. I had no idea my disability trolled you so hard. You know what? Why don't I just ask you to never do anything for me ever again?

KAREN

Oh. I would like that. I would like to see how you function in this world without an on-call maid.

RYAN

I'd like to see how well you function. Let's be real. If you're not helping me, you have nothing going on in your life.

KAREN

I did have something! I had - I had something just on my own that didn't revolve around you, and you ruined it.

RYAN

That is such bullshit! God! If you want to blame me for the reason why you're alone at 40 -

KAREN

I'm 50. I'm 50 today. You don't even know how old I am.

Beat.

RYAN

Mom, I'm sorry.

KAREN

I do blame you.

RYAN

Then go away. Leave me alone.

KAREN

No, wai. Oh, no, wait, Ry. I'm sorry. I didn't mean that. I just - look - I love you. I'm so sorry. I - I don't blame you. I didn't mean that.

RYAN

Yes. You did.

RYAN leaves.