

Midlife written by Aric Grooms

Scene fades.

18. INT. BIG COMEDY CLUB - NIGHT

Brad is introduced and brought on stage. Begins his set.

BRAD

His set includes stories about the
basketball game with his dad.
Other things about his dad.

Scene pans to the audience. Lara is in the audience.

Mr. Cohen is in the audience with guests.

Jason and Kate are towards the back of the crowd.

Lara is visibly disturbed as the set progresses.

(Mr. Cohen and his friend point at Brad with a thumbs up when
the set is over)

19. INT. BRAD'S APARTMENT - MOMENTS LATER

Lara sits on sofa in silence. She's wearing what she had on
at the comedy club. Brad walks in from the bedroom after
undressing.

BRAD

You've been awful quiet. You okay?

LARA

What's wrong with you?

BRAD

Huh?

LARA

Onstage! What's wrong with you?

BRAD

What do you mean? They're just jokes.

LARA

No. They aren't. That's you up there. That's the way you really feel.

BRAD

What do you mean? It's just stories.

LARA

Yeah but they're different.

(Pauses. Looks out the window.)

You ask why I'm with you, right? It's because I know there's an amazing, one of a kind guy in there. You're kind. Warm. Hard working; loving. There are fleeting moments where you are honest and they are lovely.

(shift mood)

If you want to know what'll cause me to not be with you...

(While looking out the window)

It'll be because the only place to ever see that guy is in some dark and dingy comedy club that smells like piss and \$3 Cabernet.

BRAD

What are you saying?

LARA

I don't know.

BRAD

Lara?

LARA

You're a liar, Brad.

BRAD

I've never lied to you. Never.

LARA

Yes you have. You probably lie to me every day.

BRAD

What are you talking about?!

LARA

(pauses)

The basketball story? That just a joke? Did you make that up?

BRAD

No. That happened.

LARA

Then why didn't you tell me? Why didn't you tell me in the ride home from your dad's the day I met him and you talked about basketball?

(Getting animated)

Why do I have to learn about such a painful memory in a dark room surrounded by people we don't even know, Brad?

BRAD

Its not that big a deal.

LARA

You're lying again, Brad! It is a big deal. It's a huge deal for a 14 year old boy to get to the point of being equal to his father, then have that chance taken away!

(Stands up, walks to Brad)

Tell me it didn't hurt.

BRAD

It didn't. It doesn't.

LARA

Liar.

(Turns to go to the closet)

BRAD

Where are you going?

LARA

Look. I love you. I honestly do. But this isn't the relationship I want.

BRAD

What do you mean? I've given you everything I have!

LARA

No. You haven't. You've not given me you. Not the real you. Not all of you.

(Puts her coat on)

I want a relationship with someone I know that I know. And I know they want to know me.

BRAD

Are you leaving me?

LARA

I'm not leaving you. Not now. I don't know. I'm just leaving. I've got the Australia shoot next week so I'm flying out in a few days. I'm just gonna stay at my place until I leave.

BRAD

Lara. Why are you making a big deal about this? It's just a basketball game.

LARA

No, Brad. It's not. It's more. I don't know how you really feel about anything. I mean I know you sold real estate and made some money. You love the Bengals and Jim Beam. You'd eat pizza every day if you could. That's just stuff about you. I don't know you.

(moves towards Brad)

What about your divorce? You say it was amicable but she didn't seem so friendly when I met her. What about other people you've dated. You say there was no one else you ever loved. but is that even true? What about your parents divorce? What about the things I don't know that I don't even know I don't know?

(Sighs. Pauses)

BRAD

Huh? What's that even mean?

LARA

(angrily)

I don't know!!

(Pauses to catch her breath)

(MORE)

LARA (CONT'D)

Brad. I can't be with you if you
can't be honest with me.

BRAD

(Visibly shaken)

I can be honest.

LARA

You haven't been.

BRAD

I can change.

LARA

Most people don't. Not this far
down the road.

(Pauses)

I hope you can, Brad. I really do.
I truly love you.

(Kisses Brad on the cheek.
Walks out the door.)

Brad moves to the kitchen and sits at the bar. Scene drags
on. Brad finally gathers himself and walks out of the
apartment upset.

20. INT. OPEN MIC COMEDY CLUB - MOMENTS LATER

Brad walks into club looking angry. Sits at the bar. Mr.
Cohen sees him come in and walks over to him.