

It's OK, really. *(To ETHAN)* Really. Could I have the turkey, Josh? *(JOSH hands the platter to her)*

~~begin~~

JESSICA

So you don't, you don't um...feel especially *connected* to it? I don't care one way or another you understand, it's just my - for lack of a better word - husband, you see, has developed a strong affinity for your dad's old neck of the woods.

RACHEL

What's going on here? What's the matter with you, Jessica?

JESSICA

Well, that's Josh's area of expertise - ask your son what's the matter with me - or any of you - he will have an endless catalogue of our failings as Jews or Americans or, or mammals.

ALEC

I admit it - this is way more fun than Thanksgiving at my folks house would've been.

RACHEL

Sweetheart, Jessica, honey, why don't -

JOSH

This won't work. You can't bait me.

JESSICA

Bait you? Are you kidding? Are you f - bait you for what? *(Real anger)* For what?!? What do you think can you offer me? What do you have to give besides contempt? Another of your endless lectures about history and the Jews or American foreign policy and the last days of the Rome? Maybe I'm being selfish again, though Josh, you're right, you're right as always. Why be selfish, why not treat everyone else to a taste of your disdain? Talk about how shallow and naïve our lives are. Give 'em the ol' firebrand New Zionist Rhetoric, you know - "Foreskin and seven years ago..."

RACHEL

Jessica.

ETHAN

He lectures me, too.

JESSICA

Has he hit you with the one about Jews who marry or *(glancing at BETH)* date out of the religion are essentially doing the same thing to the Jews as the Nazis?

JOSH

If you're trying to embarrass or hurt me you've hit me in the wrong spot– I am not going to apologize for my beliefs. To be a Jew is to be constantly attacked.

ETHAN

Oh please –

JOSH

Please?

JESSICA

No one's attacking Jews, we're attacking *you* – there *is* a difference. Have you really been listening to yourself all this time? I mean I understand why you have to make all these speeches, all these judgments, I understand it's your mind just trying to talk over your, your guilt. I get that, but I wonder sometimes if you do.

JOSH

*(Over "sometimes if you do.")* Stop your psychobabble – talk about superstition, that's your super – explain everything away with –

JESSICA

*(Over "explain everything away with")* Because what else could drown out that guilt that, that –

RACHEL

Guilt, Jessica, Josh doesn't have anything to be –

JOSH

*("Josh doesn't have anything to be –")* No! Don't you diminish, don't you –

JESSICA

What else could drown out that epic guilt, the guilt you feel other than by making everyone else just as flawed, come up just as short?

RACHEL

Jessica, what are you talking-

ETHAN

Call me a fucking Nazi. *(Standing now and gesturing to BETH)* Let's go, let's get going, sorry Mom.

RACHEL

Oh, Ethan, no no. Josh!

ALEC

No – we can't go *now*.

end