

Side from Scene 15: For F2 (PAREN-TIST) and DADA

PAREN-TIST

So how are you managing this together?

MAMA

I feed him, dress him, chase him, take him to daycare, pick him up, invent every game to play until he's too tired to stand.

DADA

Then, I put him to bed.

MAMA

Unless he's working late.

DADA

Someone has to pay the bills

.

PAREN-TIST

It's important to be gentle with each other

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MAMA

Are you gentle-parenting me right now? I am shoved, pinched, hit, clawed, bitten, and knocked over 5,921 times a day by someone a quarter of my size.

PAREN-TIST

Tenderness is—

MAMA

No longer something I'm capable of for more than 12% of the day.

PAREN-TIST

Let me reframe. We need to figure out clear roles for each of you. Do you have time together?

MAMA

Yeah, like now.

PAREN-TIST

Like going to the movies or a nice dinner out?

(They shake their heads.)

PAREN-TIST

Connor is your first?

(They nod.)

PAREN-TIST

It's a major learning curve. You'll need strategies to take care of yourselves.

DADA

As in hiding under a blanket in the garage in my pajamas on Saturday while I avoid everyone?

MAMA

Or do you mean day-drinking on a Friday while the child takes a nap?

(Mama is getting comfortable on the couch.)

PAREN-TIST

Time alone, time together, and breaks from the daily routine to get out of the house.

(Mama closes her eyes. Opens them. Closes them. Opens them.)

DADA

We don't know how to take care of ourselves or each other.

PAREN-TIST

Priority number one, get intentional about taking care of yourselves - or else...

(Mama can barely keep her eyes open.)

MAMA

Or else what?

PAREN-TIST

Age three is nothing compared to four or five. If you don't create time now both individually and together. You won't make it to five, alive or together.

(Mama closes her eyes. She can't hear anything else.)

DADA

What should we do?

PAREN-TIST

Your assignment. Get a babysitter and take the night off. Have you ever heard of a sound bath?

DADA

You know, I have!

(Mama is sleeping. No one notices.)

PAREN-TIST

It's therapeutic, it's meditative. It will really reset you.

DADA

Great!

PAREN-TIST

Let me get you the flyer.