

YOUR FIRST TIME

by

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David Schreiber  
dave@davidshreiber.net  
davids@truedave.com

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Cast:

Jacob Oakes ..... Male,16.

Helen Porter ..... Female, 88. Jacob's great-grandmother.

Time:

The Present

Place:

A studio apartment in a retirement community.

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(Lights up on a studio apartment in a retirement home. Jacob enters, from right, through an open front door)

Oma? JACOB

Jacob? HELEN

Hi. JACOB

What are you doing here? Is something wrong? HELEN

No, I just thought I would visit. JACOB

Oh. Well, you should have called. But never mind. Come on in. Are you drinking coffee, yet? That pot just finished brewing. Or do you want milk? HELEN  
(Helen crosses to counter)

Milk is good. JACOB

I texted you.

You did? HELEN

About an hour ago. You remember what I showed you about checking it? JACOB

Yes. Yes, I do. But it's harder for me to hear than I thought it would be. Do you want some cookies? HELEN

Sure. I'll call next time. JACOB

So, what brings my favorite great-grandson here? HELEN

JACOB

Mom said I should visit sometime. We had the day off of school, so here I am.

HELEN

Do you like Lorna Doones? I've also got Oreos.

JACOB

I've never had them. Lorna Doones.

HELEN

Well then, you should try them. Always take the opportunity to try something new. Here you go.

JACOB

Thanks. I was thinking, maybe we could sort through those pictures you told me about?

HELEN

I'd love to. Did your mother say why she wanted you to come?

JACOB

No. She just said I should. Is something up?

HELEN

Eh...this and that. So...how is school?

JACOB

It's fine.

HELEN

(Puts two glasses and milk carton on table. Pours milk into one glass, leaving the other empty)

Are you still seeing that girl? What's her name? Ashy?

JACOB

Ashley. No. We broke up.

HELEN

Oh, my little angel. I'm so sorry.

JACOB

Yeah, well...

HELEN

Don't worry. You'll find someone new soon enough.

Not after...never mind.

JACOB

Not after what?

HELEN

Nothing.

JACOB

What is it? You can tell your Oma.

HELEN

Well...are you sure nothing's wrong?

JACOB

It's okay, Jacob.

HELEN

Promise you won't tell Mom and Dad?

JACOB

I promise.

HELEN

Well...Ashley and I were...fooling around.

JACOB

Having sex.

HELEN

Don't look so surprised. It's what 16 year-olds do.

JACOB

But...but...you...

HELEN

Jacob, I had seven children. I know what sex is. And I know what teenagers do.

JACOB

We were just fooling around. We didn't...well...

HELEN

It's okay.

JACOB

And she asked me to do something a little...uh...different.

HELEN  
You don't need to give me the details.

JACOB  
And I did. I wanted to make her happy! I wanted to—I'm an idiot.

HELEN  
No you're not.

JACOB  
She told everyone.

HELEN  
Oh.

JACOB  
She told everyone what we did!

HELEN  
That little hussy!

JACOB  
I loved her. And now...I don't know how I can live like this.

HELEN  
What do you mean?

JACOB  
What?

HELEN  
What do you mean you don't know how you could live?

JACOB  
It's just a saying.

HELEN  
You aren't thinking of...doing something foolish?

JACOB  
No. Why?

HELEN  
I mean it. Jacob, look at me. Look at me! Promise me, whatever happens, you won't hurt yourself.



JACOB  
Hurt myself?! I wouldn't do that.

HELEN  
I mean it.

JACOB  
No! I won't. Jeez. You really think I would?

HELEN  
Some of your relatives...it's not important.

JACOB  
Like uncle Michael?

HELEN  
How do you know about him?

JACOB  
I just hear things. Is it true I look like him?

HELEN  
No. Not at all.

JACOB  
But I once heard Mom say—

HELEN  
Never mind about that. Just remember: you're a smart, funny, handsome young man.

JACOB  
Yeah.

HELEN  
Keep on treating the women in your life well. Believe me, that will take you far.  
Harold—your great-grandpa—died a very happy man.

JACOB  
Okay...

HELEN  
(Remembering Harold fondly)  
Oh, Harold...

HELEN (cont.)

(Beat)

Don't let that hussy discourage you. As for school: it ends, and then you never have to see those awful people again. You'll be an adult, and you can do what you want.

JACOB

That's what everyone says.

HELEN

I'll confess...Life is tough, and I've wondered myself if it was worth it. On occasion.

JACOB

Really?!

HELEN

And now, what I wouldn't give for just another year.

JACOB

What do you mean.?

HELEN

That's what your mother should have told you. I...I need a drink.

(Gets up)

Your parents don't drink, do they?

JACOB

No.

HELEN

I had always hoped your mother would help your father be less uptight.

JACOB

Mom drank?

HELEN

Oh, just a little.

(Pours whisky into coffee)

I hate being old. This helps.

JACOB

Okay.

HELEN

(Sits. Drinks.)

Ahhh. All right. Your mother didn't tell you anything?

No. JACOB

Well...I need to have an operation. Next month. HELEN

Okay. JACOB

There's a cyst that...never mind. It's not important. HELEN

Oh. Does it hurt? JACOB

No. Not yet. HELEN

So...is that it? JACOB

The problem is that I'm 88 years old. And anesthesia is hard on 88 year-old. HELEN

What do you mean? JACOB

I mean, it wouldn't kill you. Would it? (Beat)

Oma? (Beat)

It might be all right, but... HELEN

Oh my God. JACOB

I'm sorry. Your parents should have told you. HELEN

You're not going to die. JACOB

Everybody dies. HELEN

JACOB

You're not going to die now! This is crazy. I had my appendix operation! I was fine!

HELEN

That's the difference between 16 and 88.

JACOB

But you can't!

HELEN

Jacob!

JACOB

What?!

HELEN

I need you to be strong.

JACOB

Why?

HELEN

Because this is difficult. And I need all the support I can get.

JACOB

But I'm just a kid!

HELEN

That's the problem, these days. Telling 16 year-olds they're little children. In my day, I knew 16 year-olds who lied about their age so they could fight in the War.

JACOB

But this isn't your day.

HELEN

I still need you to be strong.

JACOB

But...

HELEN

Please?

JACOB

I'll try.

HELEN  
Thank you. You're shaking.

JACOB  
I'm sorry.

HELEN  
It's all right. I have just the thing for that.

JACOB  
What?  
(Helen pours a little whisky into the second glass)  
Oma, what are you doing?

HELEN  
Have you ever had a drink before?

JACOB  
No.

HELEN  
I didn't think so. It's time you did. Here. We can have a toast. To adulthood: may you enjoy it as much as I did. And as much as Harold did.

JACOB  
Uh, no thanks.

HELEN  
Don't be silly. Drink up.

JACOB  
But I'm not twenty-one

HELEN  
Twenty-one. Another dumb idea. Drink!

JACOB  
I can't. Mom and Dad would be furious.

HELEN  
I know. Don't tell them.

JACOB  
But...well...

(Sips)

HELEN

Don't sip. All at once.

(Jacob downs the glass. Starts coughing.)

There we go. Congratulations, young man.

JACOB

That's...that's...disgusting!

HELEN

It always is, at first. It gets better.

JACOB

I'll take your word for it.

HELEN

But you never forget your first drink. And I want you to remember.

JACOB

Sure.

(Beat)

I'm not going to forget you Oma.

HELEN

Thank you.

JACOB

Ever.

(Lights down)

THE END