

TWO: Well, I finally did it. I bought a couch.

ONE: In my next life I'm never going to have to get ready to do something. I'm going to do something you can just start doing without getting ready to do it.

TWO: I know what you mean. Guess what I did yesterday.

ONE: If you're a writer I guess you can just roll out of bed and sit down at the computer. Or use a pad and pencil. But it's not physical.

TWO: A cook is a little physical. If you're a cook you have to cut things up.

ONE: And sharpen the knives. I hate dull knives.

TWO: And clean up after. I guess after is a different story.

ONE: A bus driver is physical. Or a taxi or a truck and they don't have to warm up or get ready. They just jump right in and turn the key and off they go. That's what I want. In my next life. I did something to my neck. I must have done it in my sleep.

TWO: I bought a couch.

ONE: In my next life I'm never going to have to carry a bag full of dance clothes. I bet that's how I hurt my neck.

TWO: It's really beautiful.

ONE: Or maybe I did it in my sleep. I thought you said you wanted a couch but you couldn't afford it.

TWO: I couldn't. My mother.

ONE: I thought you're not talking to your mother.

TWO: She called me. Do you do sixteen of these little footsies?

ONE: No. I do eight. I used to do sixteen but not anymore. Eight's enough. So your mother called you.

TWO: Do you know if this is twelve or fourteen?

ONE: I wasn't paying attention. So your mother bought you a couch?

TWO: She called because next week's my birthday.

ONE: Oh, happy birthday. You want to have a drink or something?

TWO: She wanted to get me something and I should tell her what I want so she doesn't buy the wrong thing.

ONE: That's very sensible.

TWO: It's just like her. Passive aggressive. "Let me buy you something darling but you never like what I buy."

ONE: Well you don't.

TWO: Sometimes I do. I like my winter coat.

ONE: You picked it out.

TWO: I didn't. I just told her what store.

ONE: The only thing you didn't tell her was what color.

TWO: I thought she would know I want black. But I like brown too.

ONE: Okay. So you told your mother a couch.

TWO: Not altogether.

ONE: Wait a minute. I have to concentrate on this exercise.

TWO: A DAUGHTER OUGHTA
BE LIKE HER MOTHER
DRESS LIKE HER MOTHER
MY MOTHER THINKS
BROWN IS USEFUL
BLACK IS MORBID
A LITTLE LIPSTICK
NOT REDS, USE PINKS

A DAUGHTER OUGHTA
NOT WEAR THAT SWEATER
IT'S AN AWFUL SWEATER
AND IT'S AWFUL TIGHT
AND THAT'S AN AWFUL HAIRCUT
YOUR HAIR'S TOO SHORT
AND SHE DOESN'T LIKE TO SAY SO
BUT SHE'S ALWAYS RIGHT

ONE: So you told your mother you need a couch.

TWO: No, I told her I need something to sit on. And said did I want to meet her at the furniture store. ^{SH}

ONE: And you said?

TWO: Not really.

ONE: Not really is no.

TWO: I know how hard it is for her to get into the city and my rehearsal schedule is all over the place and my job and anyway she said why don't I go and pick out something and we could make a date for her to take a look at it.

ONE: So your mother is coming in to look at the couch? Does she know it's a couch and not a chair?

TWO: No and no.

ONE: Does she in fact think it's a chair?

TWO: I never know what my mother thinks. I need to put my leg up on the bar for a minute. Just move over a little. I told her it's something to sit on and then I thought maybe a couch is better in case of company. My mother understands that kind of thing. She understands certain kinds of rugs and dining room tables and couches. She also understands china and brass. I have to use the ladies. (EXIT)

ONE: MY MOTHER AT DINNER
CALLED MY NEW DRESS UGLY
I CALLED HER A BITCH
WE NEVER DISCUSSED IT
I WAS MY MOTHER'S DAUGHTER
NOW I'M MY DAUGHTER'S MOTHER
AND I'M SO MUCH LIKE MY MOTHER
WHO COULD HAVE GUESSED IT?

TWO: (ENTER) I forgot where I was.

ONE: Grande battement?

TWO: The couch.

ONE: So you bought it?

TWO: I have to tell her.

ONE: A bargain?

TWO: A floor sample. Guess how much?

ONE: Two seater?

TWO: Full size.

ONE: You have room for a full size couch?

TWO: I have to move some things.

ONE: Does it go with your colors?

TWO: Every cushion is different. All kinds of velvets. All golds and reds and it's gorgeous. Guess how much?

ONE: Did your mother say about what she wanted to spend?

TWO: We never got that far. Guess.

ONE: Fifteen hundred.

TWO: When was the last time you tried to buy a couch? I mean this is full size overstuffed gorgeous covered in all kinds of cut velvet and fringe and everything.

ONE: Twenty five hundred.

TWO: It's the kind of couch that'll last for a really long time because if a cushion wears out you can just recover it without recovering everything, you know?

ONE: Thirty five hundred.

TWO: Special floor sample sale. Plus tax.

ONE: You put this on your mother's charge?

TWO: Well that's what she said we would do so I did.

ONE: And it's not returnable.

TWO: A floor sample. The floor samples are not returnable.