

(DRAFT 09 Apr 2021)

## **ONE OF THEM**

A Very Short Play  
By Craig Houk



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**CHARACTERS**

**MOM** Mid to Late 40s

**ANDY** Late Teens/Early 20s

**TIME**

Present.

**SETTING**

On the phone.

MOM

Hello?

ANDY

Hey, Mom.

MOM

Oh, hi. So, which one of my boys am I speaking to? You all sound the same to me.

ANDY

It's Andy. Your youngest.

MOM

Aw. My baby. What's wrong, sweetheart?

ANDY

No, Mom. No. Nothing's wrong.

MOM

You're calling, so something's wrong.

ANDY

No. Everything's fine. I just... Listen, I just have something that I need to tell you and Dad. And it's a little complicated. But it's also important, I guess.

MOM

Okay. Well, what is it?

ANDY

So, I uh... I'm sorry. I don't know why I'm so nervous.

MOM

There's no need to be sorry or nervous. Whatever it is, it'll be fine. Okay? So, just tell me.

ANDY

Okay. Well, I uh... I changed my major.

MOM

Changed your major? What do you mean? Changed it to what?

ANDY

To Theater. I'll still be minoring in Sociology, but I'm dropping Political Science.

MOM

Now, why would you do that, sweetheart? I thought you wanted to go to law school.

ANDY

Well, we had a bit of a Nixonesque moment, I guess, with the head of the department during one of my classes, and... well... you know what; it's a little hard to explain. So anyway, long story short, I don't think I want to be a lawyer anymore.

MOM

All right. Okay. Well, you've always been good onstage, I suppose. Entertaining to be sure. Relatively decent actor. But sweetheart, you're a terrible singer, so I suggest you steer clear of musicals.

ANDY

Thanks, Mom. Good advice. So, you're not upset?

MOM

No. Of course not. Why would I be? I mean, you'll be paying back the loan, so it's really your money...

ANDY

...That's an excellent point...

MOM

...And it's your life. So, you do what feels right for you. Okay? Whatever makes you happy, sweetheart.

ANDY

And what about Dad? You think he'll be upset?

MOM

Well, your Dad's watching the football game right now. I'll mention it to him during the fourth quarter. He'll be distracted, so I doubt he'll be alert enough to actually be disappointed. And honestly, Andy, when you said you had

something to tell us, I thought maybe you were going to say that you were one of them.

(Beat.)

ANDY

One of them? One of them what?

MOM

A homosexual.

ANDY

Ah.

MOM

So, this little declaration about you changing your major really isn't that distressing for us.

ANDY

Oh. Okay. Well, I am gay, Mom. Though I never really had any plans to tell you that or to come out to you in any official way. And honestly, I didn't think it was anyone's business anyway. I mean, it's part of who I am, but it's not everything I am.

MOM

I see. Well, it doesn't make a difference in any event because I'm your mother. I already knew. I've always known. I mean, I don't like it, but I knew you were homosexual, Andy. And listen, we don't have to debate it right now. We can certainly discuss it some other time. Until then, I'd like you to consider talking to someone, though. Okay? What do you think about that? Hm? Maybe a priest, or a psychologist, or a doctor? To perhaps sort things out. Or to maybe reconsider. To correct yourself, so to speak.

ANDY

Well, I'm not really interested in priests. But sure, I'd be into a doctor or a maybe a psychologist. I mean, the money would sure help. But you should also know that I'm a little particular, Mom. Dark hair, dark eyes, stocky build, hairy chest, confident, funny, intelligent, a bit of a nerd, meaningful well-placed tattoos...

MOM

..You're not going to take this seriously, are you, sweetheart?

ANDY

No, Mom. No, I'm not. Because I've got bigger problems.

MOM

Bigger than being homosexual?

ANDY

Much bigger.

MOM

Oh, really? Like what?

ANDY

Like what the hell am I going to do with a Theater major.

*(End of play.)*