

MOO SHU 1 – DINNER

A Comedic Short

by

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Cast of Characters

SYDNEY: A sassy, sarcastic teenage girl.

SHARON: Sydney's Mom. Tired and stressed.

TOM: Sydney's dad. Easy-going peacemaker.

The present.

Time

SETTING: Simple kitchen. A table and a few chairs.

AT RISE: SHARON stands by the table looking through the mail.

SHARON calls offstage.

SHARON
SYD, would you set the table? (No answer) SYD?
(No answer) Sydney!

SYDNEY enters, ticked off

SYDNEY
What?

SHARON
Would you please set the table for dinner?

SYDNEY
You're not cooking anything.

SHARON
Dad's bringing home Chinese.

SYDNEY
Right. Friday night. Why can't we just eat out of the boxes? Then I don't have to do dishes.

SHARON
Be glad you have dishes to eat off of.

SYDNEY starts picking up plates and silverware. She angrily sets the table.

SYDNEY
All we need is a set of flippin' chopsticks.

SHARON
What's your problem?

SYDNEY
What do you think?

SHARON
You're the one who chose to break curfew.

SYDNEY
And, it was worth every minute of it.

SHARON
Good, then deal with it.

SYDNEY
Can I at least have my phone?

SHARON
Sure. Next Wednesday.

SYDNEY
I hate you.

SHARON
Yeah, I know, until you need money or want more shoes.

SYDNEY
Screw you.

SHARON
Excuse me?

SYDNEY
Silence, then starts to meltdown.

It's not fair! It's Friday night. It's our first home game. Jason's starting. I told him I'd be there. Jamie and Britt's parents never ground them for breaking curfew.

SYDNEY storms out.

SHARON
Shouting off stage.
They're drunks.

She sits down and opens a letter. TOM enters with a bag of Chinese take-out food.

TOM
Here we go, Friday night favs from The Wok Master.

SHARON opens the bag and takes a deep breath.

SHARON
Smells heavenly.

TOM stands behind her and rubs her shoulders.

TOM
Long week, huh?

SHARON
It's going to be a long life if Syd's hormones don't level out.

TOM
Again?

SHARON calls off stage to SYDNEY.

SHARON

Sydney, Dad's home.

She starts opening the boxes of food.

Mmm, fragrant beef. Smells nice and spicy. Sweet & Sour chicken, and...

She takes out a roll of Moo Shu skins.

What's this?

TOM

Those are for the Moo Shu.

SHARON

The what?

TOM

Moo Shu. Phil, at work, ordered it last week. Swears it's life-changing.

SHARON

Sydney! Dinner.

SYDNEY enters, pulls out a chair and sits down, then starts looking into the boxes.

SYDNEY

What's this?

TOM walks over and gives her a kiss on the cheek.

TOM

Hi Syd, how was your day?

SYDNEY

It's got stringy stuff in it. I'm not eating that. Any egg rolls?

TOM

I knew I forgot something. Sorry.

SYDNEY

Figures.

TOM

Next week.

SYDNEY

Whatever.

SHARON

Sydney, you're mad. I get it. But complaining and acting snippy aren't going to change anything.

SYDNEY

None of my friends have a midnight curfew on the weekend,
or get grounded if they come home a little late.

SHARON

3 am is not a little late.

*SYDNEY gets up and takes some food from
each box.*

SYDNEY

I'm going to my room.

She exits.

TOM

How old is she?

SHARON

13.

*TOM holds up his hand and begins to count
on his fingers.*

TOM

14, 15, 16, 17 18. Five years till college.

SHARON

Out of state?

TOM

I'm thinking Siberia.

*They both laugh. A happy, cheerful SYDNEY
enters with an empty plate, sets it down,
walks over and kisses Sharon on the
cheek.*

SYDNEY

Love ya' Mom. Hey, you guys wanna play Scrabble? I'll go
get it.

Sydney exits.

TOM

Huh, Phil's right. Never underestimate the power of Moo
Shu.

The End

