

# 93%

By Olivia Ruiz

Cast:

**Elsie** - 13, 8th grader heading into 9<sup>th</sup>

**Scott** - 35, extreme drunk, janitor and teacher, sleeps during the day a lot, uses humor and sarcasm to hide his vindictive nature.

**Valerie** - Scott's wife, 29, teacher

**Baby Charlie** - 3 months old baby girl

## Scene 1

*(Open in Valerie and Scott's living room day time. Valerie, baby Charlie, and Elsie. Elsie is seated on the floor leaning on the couch feeding the baby. Valerie is seated on the couch folding laundry. Door to outside is SL and the bedrooms and kitchen are off SR. This piece is inspired by real events.)*

**Valerie:**

Hey, I'm making spaghetti tonight. Do you just wanna sleepover again, since I need your help tomorrow?

**Elsie:**

Yeah, lemme call my mom real quick.

*(Elsie passes baby to Valerie and comes DR to make phone call, the scene in the living room freezes, spot on Elsie.)*

**Elsie:**

Hey, so I know I've been here for like three days, but is there any way I can stay the night again? No, I don't need to get anything from the house, I brought extra clothes. Ok, bye, I love you.

*(Elsie returns to take Baby Charlie from Valerie, and Valerie continues folding clothes)*

**Valerie:**

What did your mom say?

**Elsie:**

She said it's all good, I can stay one more night but I need to go home tomorrow.

**Valerie:**

Thank you so much for helping out. Scott just sleeps all day.

**Elsie:**

No problem. I love being over here. Do you want me to put Charlie down for her nap?

**Valerie:**

Sure, you can bring her into our bedroom?

**Elsie:**

Yeah!

*(Elsie exits SR. Valerie continues folding laundry. Scott enters.)*

**Scott:**

*(joking awkwardly)*

Well, the little witch just woke me up.

**Valerie:**

I'm sorry, Charlie was sleepy. We just fed her her bottle and we had to put her down.

**Scott:**

*(sarcastically)*

Yeah, she totally had to sleep in the crib. No, it's *fine*.

**Valerie:**

Well, I didn't want to put her on the floor.

*(Elsie enters)*

**Elsie:**

Sorry, I tried to be really quiet.

**Scott:**

*(Jokingly)*

Well, next time just be really quiet.

*(Scott exits to kitchen)*

**Valerie:**

You're fine, love, he's just grumpy when he wakes up.

*(We can hear beer open O.S. Scott reenters. Pushes the unfolded laundry over and sits on couch. Valerie continues folding.)*

**Elsie:**

Since Charlie's asleep, do you want me to help you fold laundry?

*(Elsie starts without waiting for an answer)*

**Valerie:**

Oh, you don't have to do that.

**Elsie:**

It's no problem, I have nothing better to do.

**Scott:**

That's because hanging out with us is the best.

*(They continue folding in silence and Scott turns on the TV, which is DC. A COPS-like show is playing. The scene is a domestic violence dispute.)*

**911 Dispatcher on Television (VO):**

911 what's your emergency?

**Caller on Television (VO):**

There's a lot of yelling and shouting from my neighbor's house. I think I heard some glass shatter.

**911 Dispatcher on Television (VO):**

What's your location, sir?

**Caller on Television (VO):**

9178 Sunset Ave.

**911 Dispatcher on Television (VO):**

Alrighty we will send someone right over.

**Valerie:**

Can you turn that down, please? The baby is sleeping.

*(Scott lowers the volume)*

**Scott:**

Well she woke me up, soooo. Babe, I'm just kidding.

*(Baby crying OS. Valerie exits to get Charlie. Elsie and Scott sit in silence. Valerie returns with the baby, still crying.)*

**Valerie:**

Shhhhh! Sh sh sh. It's ok. Sh sh sh.

**Scott:**

Give her to me, I'll make her stop crying.

*(Valerie passes Charlie to Scott. The baby instantly stops crying.)*

**Scott:**

See, who loves their daddy, huh? That's a sweet girl. *(to Valerie)* I told you she loves me more than you.

**Valerie:**

It's not that she loves you more, it's just that you never hold her.

**Scott:**

*(While gesturing to Elsie)*

Really?

**Valerie:**

I'm sorry, I didn't mean anything. I was just joking.

**Scott:**

Are we eating anytime soon?

**Valerie:**

Oh! I forgot, I'm supposed to make spaghetti! Let me go put the water on. Are y'all okay here?

*(Valerie exits to kitchen)*

**Scott:**

I saw you hanging out with Roger at the pool the other day.

**Elsie:**

Yeah?

**Scott:**

So, is he your boyfriend now?

**Elsie:**

No, he has a boyfriend, we're just friends.

**Scott:**

Oh, so he's like that? *(Laughs)*

**Elsie:**

What do you mean, "like that"?

**Valerie (OS):**

Are you two playing nice out there?

**Scott:**

Yeah. So, you're not dating anybody?

**Elsie:**

Nope.

**Scott:**

Why not?

**Elsie:**

Eh, no one's really interested in me and I don't really care.

**Scott:**

A pretty girl like you? You'll find a good man, someday.

**Elsie:**

*(Uncomfortably)*

Uh, do you want me to go put Charlie down for bed?

**Scott:**

*(Teasing her)*

Aren't you such a people pleaser?

*(Elsie exits with Charlie)*

**Scott (continues):**

That smells great.

*(Scott exits. We hear another beer can open. Lights fade to night time.)*

## **Scene 2**

*(After dinner. Elsie is asleep at the far end of the couch covered by a blanket, only her feet and calves exposed. Scott at the opposite end of the couch, feet on the coffee table. There are 8 empty beer cans on the coffee table, and 2 underneath it. Valerie is curled up against Scott. Charlie is still in the crib offstage. The TV is playing an action movie. We see the TV lights flickering and hear low sounds of a sword fight. Baby Charlie cries OS)*

**Scott:**

Elsie!

**Valerie:**

*(Notices Elsie sleeping)*

Shhhh. I'll get the baby.

*(Valerie exits. Scott takes his feet off the coffee table and slides down the couch to Elsie. He places her legs in his lap. She does not stir. He starts rubbing her feet and works his hands up her legs, above the blanket. She wakes up.)*

**Elsie:**

What are you- *(Scott covers her mouth)*

**Scott:**

Don't tell anyone.

*(His hand goes under the blankets. Blackout. Projection screen drops. Slide one up. Elsie stands DSR, with Scott and Valerie holding Charlie DSL)*

*Slide 1:*

*According to the Rape Assault Incest National Network, or RAINN, 93% of juvenile victims know their perpetrator. 59% are acquaintances. 34% are family members. Only 7% are strangers to the victim.*

**Elsie:**

Scott tells Elsie not to tell anyone about this, and she doesn't. If not for a future boyfriend who told her parents, no one would ever have found out. Elsie seeks to press criminal charges against Scott, but it never gets further than the grand jury.

*Slide 2:*

*Out of every 1000 sexual assaults, 995 will walk free. 230 are reported to the police. 46 are arrested. 9 cases get referred to prosecutors. 5 cases will lead to a felony conviction and 4.6 perpetrators will be incarcerated.*

**Elsie:**

There is no absolute way to prevent assault from happening, but you can educate your children about boundaries and consent. Teach your children that what happens to their body is their decision. Teach them never to keep body secrets. And most importantly, create open and honest conversations in your home.

*(Slide 3 up. Lights fade to black.)*

*Slide 3:*

*Hotlines:*

*RAINN (Rape Assault Incest National Network): 1.800.656.HOPE*

*Chicago Rape Crisis Hotline: 1.888.293.2080*

*National Domestic Violence Hotline: 1.800.799.SAFE*

*Text CRISIS to 741741 to connect with a free counselor.*

**Elsie (VO):**

RAINN (Rape, Assault, and Incest National Network): 1.800.656.HOPE

Chicago Rape Crisis Hotline: 1.888.293.2080

National Domestic Violence Hotline: 1.800.799.SAFE

Text CRISIS to 741741 to connect with a free counselor.

*(Projection out.)*

**End of play.**