

# **The Kids Are Seeing Lavender**

**By Jerico Bleu**

## **CHARACTERS**

**RACHEL**-Female 30s. Forceful and frightened. Means well, but doesn't understand her ignorance.

**BEN**- Male 30s. Intelligent, shy at times. His drag persona is Carol Ofthabells, inspired by his love for Carol Burnette. He was recently accepted into a televised drag competition

## **SETTING**

Tennessee, present day. A small apartment.

*BEN and RACHEL stand in the doorway of BEN'S apartment. He is taken off guard to see her*

**RACHEL**

You gonna invite me in or we gonna keep doing this song and dance?

**BEN**

Of course. Come on in. I'm sorry, but you've caught me off guard.

**RACHEL**

I'm sure I have

**BEN**

If I had known you were coming I /would have prepared

**RACHEL**

Cut the bullshit

**BEN**

Excuse me

**RACHEL**

You heard me. Do you think I'm dumb?

**BEN**

Of course not

**RACHEL**

You must. You must think I'm the dumbest person on earth

**BEN**

Why would I think that?

**RACHEL**

Or maybe you think I don't watch television

**BEN** *realizing*

Oh

**RACHEL**

Oh? That's all you have to say?

**BEN**

I didn't realize it was gonna be televised when I auditioned. I never thought you'd see it

**RACHEL**

And that makes it ok?

**BEN**

I'm not ashamed

**RACHEL**

Well you should be. Jesus.

**BEN**

If this all you came here to do then you can just leave

**RACHEL**

Wanna know how I found out?

**BEN**

Hillbillies gossiping at the IHOP, I'm sure

**RACHEL**

Do you blame them? This little freak show is all anyone can talk about.

**BEN**

So I've pissed off a few good ol' boys. Nothing I'm not used to

**RACHEL**

What you're doing is dangerous

**BEN**

If it bothers you so much then don't watch

**RACHEL**

You think I'd watch this shit on my own? Kendall showed it to me.

**BEN**

Kendall saw?

**RACHEL**

Apparently. Last week I got a call from the principal telling me I need to come down to the elementary school immediately. They were concerned for Kendall's well being. Recently all he can talk about is how proud he is of his daddy for being on TV. How pretty his daddy is when he dresses like a woman. You should have seen my face when they showed me clips of you and the rest of people parading around in nail polishes talking about tucking your dick between your legs. Is that the image you want your son to have of you?

**BEN**

Kendall knows I'm gay. We had that conversation with him along time ago

**RACHEL**

Being gay is one thing, but dressing up like some tart on local television is another.

**BEN**

Kendall is a very intelligent boy. He knows that this is an art form.

**RACHEL**

The rest of the town doesn't see it as an art form

**BEN**

Maybe not the bigots you hang around

**RACHEL**

So, what? You wanna be a woman now?

**BEN**

I don't want to be a woman. You know that's not what this is.

**RACHEL**

How's Kendall supposed to know that? With all these terms out there. Gay, trans, gender non-confronting

**BEN** *correcting*

gender non-conforming

**RACHEL**

Whatever. How's a seven year old supposed to understand what the hell gender non-conforming means? I'm a grown ass woman and I don't understand it

**BEN**

And that's the issue. You don't understand. So stop using our son as a vessel for your own ignorance

**RACHEL**

So now I'm ignorant

**BEN**

If you think me putting on makeup somehow negatively affects the mental development of our son then yes you are ignorant

**RACHEL**

I've put up with this for long enough. I've been patient.

**BEN**

Here we go

**RACHEL**

I AM A VERY OPEN MINDED PERSON DAMMIT

**BEN**

Treating me as an equal doesn't make you some "enlightened individual." So stop acting like you deserve an award.

**RACHEL**

I DO deserve an award

**BEN**

Is that right?

**RACHEL**

Yes it is! I did everything I was supposed to. I found a good job. I got a husband. I had a kid. I should be enjoying the fruits of my labor right now, but I can't because you wanted to sleep with men.

**BEN**

I'm being true to myself

**RACHEL**

Well what good is that when you have to take down multiple lives to do so?

**BEN**

Are you still that angry with me?

**RACHEL**

I was a good wife to you

**BEN**

You were

**RACHEL**

Why couldn't you just pretend to be straight? We were happy

**BEN**

No we weren't. To continue a marriage based around convenience is a lie. It was bound to end.

*A beat*

**RACHEL**

If you wanna dress like a woman in your own time there is nothing I can do about that, but you're not gonna expose my child to your perversion.

**BEN**

What is that supposed to mean?

**RACHEL**

Continue in this competition and I'll see that you lose custody of Kendall

**BEN**

You would do that?

**RACHEL**

Its an unhealthy environment for him to be around

**BEN**

You know that isn't true. Don't let your anger affect our son

**RACHEL**

Let me know what you decide by noone tomorrow

**BEN**

I'm not cowering to your ignorance

**RACHEL**

Then I suggest you lawyer up.

**BEN**

It doesn't have to be this way

**RACHEL**

My hands are tied. Oh, a bit of advice. Stop wearing red. You're an autumn. It makes your skin look like shit.

*she exits*

End