

MR. CARTER

She's gone for a walk. She

thinks it must be our fault.

STEVE

Fault, blame, guilt... its

nothing to do with any of that.

MR. CARTER

This is my life you're changing

forever. Your mother's life.

STEVE

And what about my fucking life.

MR. CARTER

How dare you use that word to me.

STEVE

It's only a word. Fuck, gay,

straight ... they're only words.

MR. CARTER

Christ, the thought of you in bed

with another man makes me feel physically sick.

STEVE

Did you ever imagine me doing it

with Linda? That alright was it? Reassuring to know our son was a real man. Bring a smile to your face did it?

His dad goes to hit him.

MR. CARTER

GO ON! Hit me! You won't be the

first and you won't be the last. Why? What are you all so scared of.

Mr. Carter sits and cries.

STEVE

Dad. I'm sorry you're hurt. And

I'm sorry Mum's ... But I'm not sorry that I'm ...

MR. CARTER

Your mother'll be in soon. I've

tried to tell her that there must be some mistake. I sat here waiting for you to come home, wanting, praying that you would say "Dad, its not true." Why didn't you Steven. Why couldn't you have lied.

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STEVE

Because I've been brought up by

you. And Mum. The two people I love more than anyone in the world. Because I want them to love me, the real me and not someone I pretend to be to keep their love. Because I'm sick of lying.

Front door slams.

MR. CARTER

Tell her you've thought if

through and you were just confused.

STEVE That word again!

MR. CARTER

What's wrong with you? Can't you

do even that much to help?

MRS. CARTER: (Entering)

I'm sure it's going to rain.

MR. CARTER

Yeah. He said it would. Michael

Fish.

MRS. CARETER I'd better fix supper.

MR. CARTER AND STEVEN I'm not hungry.

MRS. CARTER Cup of tea then?

MR. CARTER I'll do it. Steven's got

something to say to you.

STEVE

Mum, I ... I just ... Oh Mum!

He exits.

He breaks down in his mother's arms.

MRS. CARTER Oh baby. My baby.

STEVE

Mum, the last thing I wanted

was... and I'm so sorry if... (MORE)

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STEVE (cont'd)

Dad wants me to tell you that I'm

... and I AM! Now I AM CONFUSED. Please... please don't reject me.

MRS. CARTER We love you.

STEVE But Dad's so angry.

MRS. CARTER

He's confused too. When he was a young there was this man who was

a sort of friend of the family and invited your Dad round for tea. I can't remember what he said to your Dad's parents but they trusted him. Well, he was head altar server at the church. They were wrong to trust him. Because he... tried to... and your Dad managed to run away. But he was so scared that he didn't go home for hours. And when he did he got a terrible hiding for worrying his parents.

STEVE

He should have explained.

MRS. CARTER

He was ashamed. He thought it

was his fault.

STEVE

It wasn't. And now, well, this

bloke, he must have tried it with others since.

MRS. CARTER

Oh, I don't think so. He became

a priest. But you see, since then your Dad has had a hatred for people like that.

STEVE

I'm not like that. I'm...

MRS. CARTER

Son. I know things seem bad now,

but give yourself a chance. Mr Ayres suggested you go to the new sixth-form college after summer. Its lovely there. They don't wear uniforms, its more relaxed and its ... well, mixed. Maybe being at an all-boys school...

(MORE)

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SCENE 25

MRS. CARTER (cont'd) I mean, you don't know many girls. Things will sort themselves out.

STEVE

My God. My God. Why is no one hearing me?