

The Dad Who Lived Under The Table

written by Jeremy Steel

Story by Jeremy Steel

June 21, 2020
First Draft

Made in Highland

1

INT. TABLETOP - DAY

1

Smart phone [TEXT TYPING] [TEXT SEND]. iPad kids game [GAME SOUND].

DAD

(O.C.)

I never meant to hurt you...never meant to neglect you...never meant for you to feel unwanted...

Coffee cup. Phone. Dad sips coffee. Cereal bowl. iPad. Daughter takes bite of cereal.

DAD

(O.C.)

I meant to build you up...I meant to help you to become the best you...or, at least, I wanted to...I haven't exactly put forth much of an effort.

More texts. More coffee. Dad sitting. More gaming, more cereal. Daughter sitting.

2

INT. UNDER THE TABLE - CONTINUOUS

2

Dad's face is visible under and through the legs of the table.

DAD

I am sorry that it never worked out between your mom and I. I am sorry that, because of this, you have to go back and forth. It's not fair to you and it is not your fault, but you suffer. Because of my actions and inactions, you suffer--you don't get the benefit of seeing a loving father and loving mother, loving together, lived out in front of you. You don't get that benefit, you don't get that example, you don't get that experience--my fault as your dad. (Pause) I'm sorry that I find it hard to talk to you, to explain things, to be there in the moment with you...I didn't experience that growing up and I'm passing that experience to you. I want to be a better teacher...I need to be a better example...I choose to be a better dad.

Made in Highland

Moment. [TEXT TYPING] [VIDEO GAME] [TEXT SEND] [SLURPING].

3

INT. TABLETOP - CONTINUOUS

3

Daughter playing video game.

DAUGHTER
(Eyes on the game)
What?

Dad texting.

DAD
(To the phone)
Huh?

Daughter looks up.

DAUGHTER
Did you say something?

DAD
(Again to phone)
I didn't say anything.

She continues to look at him. Then to his phone. She looks down. Then back to her game.

Dad pauses...he looks up at her. Beat.

DAD
I mean, yes, er, I wanted to say something.

He [CLOSES APPS] and puts his phone down to the side. He takes a bit of a breath.

DAD
I wanted to say, er, ask...what is your absolute, most favorite color in the whole-wide world?

Daughter pauses, [CLOSES APPS], puts iPad down and to the side. She looks up. A smile cracks a bit on her face.

El Fin.