

CHRIS. Yeah — hey — what's up —
BECKY. Oh, hi, you're here —
CHRIS. — Trying to study down there, you know? —
BECKY. Yes, I'm —
CHRIS. — Got midterms next week — full load — pressure's on,
big time —
BECKY. Yes, right —
CHRIS. — But hey — okay — I'm here now, so: Lay it on me.
BECKY. "Lay it on you?"
CHRIS. You needed something?
BECKY. I need you to pick up the pizza. Down at Angelo's.
Money in my purse. Dad'll be here soon. I'll make a salad.
CHRIS. I already ate.
BECKY. I told you I was ordering pizza tonight.
CHRIS. Yeah, but on the way home I was walking by Angelo's —
and it smelled good —
BECKY. You already ate there?
CHRIS. I was hungry. I was awake.
BECKY. But I got something special tonight — I had a coupon
— I ordered the —
CHRIS. (*Finishing her sentence.*) — The Double Ham and
Artichoke Supreme.
BECKY. How do you know that?
CHRIS. I saw the guy write it down.
BECKY. You were there when I called?
CHRIS. He was ringing me up. I saw him write your name down.
BECKY. And you couldn't sit there for twenty minutes and —
CHRIS. Not twenty minutes — more like thirty-seven to forty
minutes — because it's DEEP DISH —
BECKY. Okay, okay — but you couldn't call me and say, I'm right
here at Angelo's, Mom — I'll wait — read the paper — flirt with
some spoiled coeds — and then BRING OUR DINNER home
with you?!

CHRIS. I NEEDED TO STUDY.
BECKY. WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH YOUR LIFE?
(*Quick beat.*)
CHRIS. Huh?
BECKY. You're a twenty-six-year-old man —
CHRIS. I thought this was about pizza —
BECKY. — And you're still shackled up with your parents —
CHRIS. Oh, can we please not ...
BECKY. (*Overlapping.*) — And, hey, we love you to death but
when does a psychology student get around to all that stuff about

self-awareness and the unexamined life —

CHRIS. That's Socrates —

BECKY. — Okay, thank you —

CHRIS. — And that's philosophy, not psychology.

BECKY. — But when does a person *look in the mirror*, Chris?

CHRIS. Do you mean when will I self-actualize?

BECKY. Yes, maybe I mean that.

CHRIS. Most experts believe only a few people in history have ever self-actualized — like Plato, Gandhi, Einstein, maybe Bono.

BECKY. Okay — but at what point do you stop and realize that all your friends have grown up and moved on and *here you are without* —

CHRIS. That's perceptual constancy — the ability to recognize that an object or organism has not changed —

BECKY. Yes, that's what —

CHRIS. (*Overlapping.*) — Even though the surrounding stimuli — their physical characteristics, for example, *have* changed.

BECKY. And once someone recognizes this — this failure to *change along with their age and circumstance* —

CHRIS. I don't think the word *failure* is accurate —

BECKY. — At that point don't they — don't you think hey, maybe I better get out there and do something with my life?

CHRIS. (*Interested now.*) Have you been reading Erikson? His seminal work: *Childhood and Society*?

BECKY. Who?

CHRIS. Because what you're talking about is "generativity" — the term Erikson gives to the age at which a person has the impulse to become more productive, to do something worthwhile with their life.

BECKY. Yes! That's exactly what I'm talking about!

CHRIS. And in most cases this happens in middle adulthood — often right around your age, Mom —

BECKY. No, this is not about —

CHRIS. — And so now that we've got our terms identified, let's begin with general inquiry, for example: *Mom, what are you doing with your life?* ()

BECKY. ~~Mom. (Joe enters, saying)~~

JOE. ~~PIZZA. (— And out the huge pizzeria down in their midst, as light instantly shifts to the cubicle. Day.)~~

BECKY. (~~To audience~~) And right then I thought about Mrs. T.