

# *The Map Of Your Future*

*by*

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Cast of Characters

FRANK:

16

TRACY:

30's

Place

Suburban home

Time

Evening

Setting: A nicely decorated suburban home but note that although it is “nice” it is not modern. The style of home is a make the most of what you have concept that comes from Tracy's decorating skills.

At Rise: Tracy watches television from her couch when her son Frank enters the home and heads straight upstairs to his bedroom.

*Frank enters the house and heads upstairs.*

**TRACY:** Woah, woah, where you going? No hello to your mother?

**FRANK:** Hello.

**TRACY:** Come back here...Frank? *Frank* get your ass back down here this instant.

*Frank comes back downstairs.*

**FRANK:** What? I just got home, I'm tired.

**TRACY:** What's wrong with you?

**FRANK:** I'm tired Ma, what?

**TRACY:** You're tired?

**FRANK:** Yeah!

**TRACY:** Something happen at work?

**FRANK:** It's bullshit, I don't want to do this stupid job anymore.

**TRACY:** What are you talking about? You just got this job.

**FRANK:** I like wearing sneakers, I don't like selling them.

**TRACY:** You don't like working at the pet store, you don't like working at the hardware store, you don't like working anywhere.

**FRANK:** People are annoying.

**TRACY:** You are getting paid for people to annoy you.

**FRANK:** That's not what it said when I filled out the application for the job.

**TRACY:** I thought by now you'd start showing some kind of responsibility.

**FRANK:** And look at this stupid uniform they make us wear.

**TRACY:** You can't wear your regular clothes, Frank.

**FRANK:** Why not?

**TRACY:** Because you aren't supposed to look like a customer, you're supposed to look like a worker.

**FRANK:** They itch.

**TRACY:** What?

**FRANK:** They itch and I sweat and I think I'm developing a rash.

**TRACY:** What rash?

**FRANK:** My neck and back.

**TRACY:** Let me see.

*Frank lifts up his shirt.*

You're all red.

**FRANK:** I told you.

**TRACY:** Wear a t-shirt underneath your work shirt.

**FRANK:** But it gets to hot.

**TRACY:** This place doesn't have air-conditioner?

**FRANK:** They do but I still get hot.

**TRACY:** It's your nerves.

**FRANK:** I'm not nervous.

**TRACY:** You are and you don't realize it, that's why your body is all inflamed.

**FRANK:** I'm not nervous, I just hate my job.

**TRACY:** Don't give me that.

**FRANK:** Is there any food in the house?

**TRACY:** You hungry?

**FRANK:** Yes.

**TRACY:** Why? I thought you were going to pick up food for yourself after work.

**FRANK:** I forgot.

**TRACY:** How can you forget you're hungry?

**FRANK:** Why do you keep arguing with me?

**TRACY:** Because I don't like what I see. Laziness! Come home, moping around like the lost soul with the long dropping face, all on account of working six hours at a sneaker store. Are you kidding me? I've been working since I was nine years old.

**FRANK:** Wasn't it illegal to work that young?

**TRACY:** It was different in my day. Kids were more responsible. Today, everything is handed to you and I'm not going to see you end up like some spoiled kid.

**FRANK:** But I'm not spoiled.

**TRACY:** That's right. That's why you will do well in your life.

**FRANK:** So I have to suffer?

**TRACY:** Suffer? You don't know the meaning of suffering.

**FRANK:** I just want to be left alone.

**TRACY:** No! Want to know when you can be left alone? When you can pay for your own place, pay for your own food, pay for your own way of life, that's when I'll leave you alone. As long as you're under my roof, there is no leaving you alone.

**FRANK:** Whatever.

**TRACY:** Don't whatever me, Frank.

**FRANK:** What do you want me to do, Mom?!

**TRACY:** WORK! Keep a job for longer than three days. I told you, I am not dishing out any more money, so you can take your girlfriend out for a good time, or go and do God knows what with your friends. That's it!

If you can't hold down a part-time job, you are shit out of luck, kid, cause the money tree has been chopped down.

**TRACY** (cont'd): I have to worry about your sister going to college now and I have my hands full with that.

You said you were gonna help me out by handling some of your own responsibilities. Can't even do that for me and I don't ask you for anything. I could be dead and buried tomorrow, what are you gonna do then? Huh?

You have no clue how to take care of yourself. Don't ever do a dish in the sink, can't take out the trash, mow the lawn, can't even run to the butcher to get cold cuts for your own damn school sandwiches.

I do everything for you kids. I work, I clean, I do it all! I have to be two parents and I'm sorry but you are old enough to work, make your own money and start living your life without mommy doing everything for you.

...I'm sorry things aren't easier for us and it's just me because you'd have more, but I didn't plan on your father dying! It wasn't what we had mapped out for your future. We had an entirely different map, for all of us...so different, so different...

I'm doing the best I can and when I see you acting miserable and trying to guilt me because you're working a measly six hours, I get fed up, fed up with everything.

I want you to rise to the occasion. I want to see you take pride in what you do. Hold your head up and be proud that you are healthy and can work and make some money for yourself to be independent.

**FRANK**: I'm trying.

**TRACY**: Try harder.

**FRANK**: My friends make fun of me. They came to my job today and were teasing me and stuff.

**TRACY**: Then they aren't really your friends.

**FRANK**: I'm there getting boxes of sneakers for them to buy and it got to me.

**TRACY**: Why?

**FRANK**: Cause I want to buy what they were buying and instead I felt like a servant to them.

**TRACY**: Did you earn a commission?

**FRANK**: Yeah.

**TRACY**: Then you came out on top.

**FRANK:** I look like an idiot and now everybody knows where I work and it's annoying.

**TRACY:** Good. Maybe you can increase your commission.

**FRANK:** You don't get it Mom, I don't fit in with them. I'm the outsider to them cause I have to work and they don't. I can't be really be down with anybody cause I'm not like them. We're different.

**TRACY:** Good.

**FRANK:** Why is that good?

**TRACY:** Because you are way ahead of them. Don't you see? You are learning how to invest time into creating money. They only know how to spend it, whereas you know how to earn it and in time you will learn how spend it on more than just the latest sneakers, because you will respect the value of a dollar. You know that saying, 'easy come, easy go'? Those are your so called friends. I don't want to say anything bad about them, I'm sure they are good kids and come from good families but you won't be so quick to spend your money when you know how hard it is to earn it and that's wisdom. Just because you are working a job, doesn't make you beneath anyone. We all have to work. All of us. Remember that. If they are laughing at you now, it's because you are two steps ahead of them and they know it.

**FRANK:** It's not that simple.

**TRACY:** It is. Let me put it to you this way. If we were rich, you bet your butt that you'd still be working at that sneaker shop. You know why?

**FRANK:** Why?

**TRACY:** Because I want you to grow as a person. You see this through. You work, make money and take pride in it.

I want you to become the man that I know you can become. I want you to call your own shots in life. You understand?

**FRANK:** Yeah.

**TRACY:** I don't have your father to pull his weight on things and I know, oh---it doesn't mean we can't still be a great family. I know your father is here with us, just not in the way we had imagined...

**FRANK:** Ma, I'll do the sneaker job, alright?

**TRACY:** I know you will. Don't let others ever make you feel less than who you know you are.



**TRACY** (cont'd): You will see, trust me. It's gonna feel so good to get your first check. Listen, I don't blame ya, I know it sucks, dealing with rude customers, people that don't look at you like a person, but it's good for you, it will help you grow a thick skin for life and you'll need that.

Life isn't a bowl of cherries, I can tell you that and the quicker you get out in this world and take it on, the faster you will get to wherever it is you wish to be. I don't want you working that job either, but look at the benefits of it. You make money and when you make some money, you can do things because you don't feel restricted. You can go out with your friends, take your girlfriend out, get thing for yourself, whatever it is, it will outweigh dealing with customers. It's not forever, it's temporary, you understand?

*Frank nods.*

You will thank me later, Frances.

**END OF PLAY**