

THE SETUP

This is the first appearance these two characters make in the play.

Unbeknownst to Gillian, a classmate named Alonzo is spray painting bits of her face on walls all over town as a romantic gesture.

Graffiti spray-painted on a brick wall. The graffiti art is a large human nose.

GILLIAN, a young woman in her late teens, a duffel bag slung across her back, walks past the nose.

Then she stops, turns back, and looks at it again. As if she recognizes it. She shakes it off and continues on her way.

As she leaves it behind, the nose passes into the dark as --

TAREK, a young man in his late teens, appears in a another pool of light - GILLIAN's destination.

TAREK

I was starting to worry. And you know I'm not one to worry.

GILLIAN

I told you they wouldn't stop me.

TAREK

So what took longer than expected?

GILLIAN

I said they wouldn't stop me, I didn't say they wouldn't try.

TAREK

They **are** your parents.

GILLIAN

Too little, too late.

TAREK

Mother or Daddy Dearest?

GILLIAN

Oh, both. It was a regular tag team match.

TAREK

You want to talk about it?

GILLIAN

Not much to tell. I let them know I'd call the police. He let me go because he knew I meant it. She let me go because she believes him over me.

TAREK

Ouch.

GILLIAN

Men are lucky.

TAREK

Where'd that come from?

GILLIAN

They can do whatever they want, and women just have to take it.

TAREK

How very 1950s of you.

GILLIAN

Hey, it's still the middle of the 20th century in my house, trust me.

TAREK

You're not "just taking it."

GILLIAN

I'm not my mother.

TAREK

You know what you're going to do?

GILLIAN

I was trying to wait out senior year and just get to college. Clearly that's not gonna work. So, the only thing left is to cut the ties, file for emancipation. But first I have to prove I can support myself.

TAREK

No. First you need to take a load off and settle in at my place. Mom's very 21st century. She microwaves everything. Or orders out.

GILLIAN

You're sure they're OK with this?

TAREK

They don't know all the details, but they know it's bad. So they're cool.

GILLIAN

Thanks for helping.

TAREK

Please. You're helping me. My having a girlfriend over to the house is making Mom practically giddy. Dad's even had "the talk" with me. Twice. Always saying at the end, "but I realize a young man has needs, so just take precautions if you do anything." They're going to be crushed when they discover you're just a "girlfriend," girlfriend.

GILLIAN

Well, a young man does have needs.

TAREK

But you're never going to be able to satisfy mine. No offense.

GILLIAN

None taken.

TAREK

Speaking of satisfying needs, however...

GILLIAN

Who is he this week?

TAREK
Same one as last week.

GILLIAN
Really?

TAREK
It's not polite to sound so surprised when you say that.

GILLIAN
Still unrequited?

TAREK
Not entirely.

GILLIAN
You're sure he's gay?

TAREK
As a goose. You should come take a gander.

GILLIAN
The new hangout.

TAREK
The Forest. Puts the gay and the friendly in "gay-friendly."

GILLIAN
Straight girls allowed in, too?

TAREK
Please. I go nowhere without my posse. The Forest understands.

GILLIAN
Just as soon as I'm resettled.

TAREK
Just the thing to soothe a displaced soul like yourself.

They head out, passing by the giant nose again.

TAREK (cont'd)
Hey, isn't that your nose?

GILLIAN looks. That's why it looked so familiar earlier. It is indeed her nose.

GILLIAN and TAREK look at the nose.