

BAD JEWS

23

DAPHNA. I love your hair.

MELODY. Oh. Thank you.

DAPHNA. Great barrette!

MELODY. Thank you.

DAPHNA. I wish I had straight hair.

MELODY. It's pretty boring actually. I always wanted hair like yours. It's so much more interesting.

DAPHNA. What's that?

MELODY. What?

DAPHNA. On your leg.

MELODY. Where?

DAPHNA. Is that, like, a musical note?

MELODY. Oh, my tattoo. Yes. It's a treble clef.

DAPHNA. That's a music thing?

MELODY. Yes.

DAPHNA. It's huge!

MELODY. Yeah.

(beat)

DAPHNA. Pretty!

MELODY. Thanks.

DAPHNA. Did you get it because you love music?

MELODY. Yeah. I studied opera in college, and when -

DAPHNA. You did?

MELODY. That was my major, yes.

DAPHNA. You majored in opera? Wow.

MELODY. Yeah.

DAPHNA. Do you perform in Chicago, or...

MELODY. No, no, I work for a non-profit. CHS? Chicago Historical Society.

DAPHNA. I don't...

MELODY. It's kind of, it's an educational program for underprivileged local area high school students to expose them to the city's architectural past. They make you memorize that.

DAPHNA. Very cool. But so do you still sing then, or...

MELODY. No. Not really. No.

DAPHNA. So you have a background in architecture too,
or...

MELODY. Oh, no. I don't know anything about architecture,
actually. But I'm just an administrator there.

DAPHNA. Oh ok. Cool.

(beat)

I'm sorry, I'm confused. You studied opera, but you're
working at -

MELODY. At CHS, I know! I don't know, you know? I love
opera, and I love to sing, but when I thought about
trying to make a living doing that, it was just kind of so
unappealing to me? And like, depressing? Just waiting
so a million different people can tell you you're not
good enough. It wasn't for me. And I tried. I did the
whole audition thing. I went on, like three. Or two.
Two auditions, maybe? It was awful. So I decided to do
something else, but I got this tattoo, so I would always
remember how important music is to me.

DAPHNA. Did you think otherwise you'd forget?

MELODY. I mean, I just wanted -

DAPHNA. 'Cause you always have your name, right? To
remind you.

MELODY. It was really more symbolic, really, more than
anything I guess.

DAPHNA. What's your background?

MELODY. What do you mean?

DAPHNA. Where does your family come from?

MELODY. Oh. Delaware.

DAPHNA. Before that.

MELODY. Before what?

DAPHNA. Before Delaware.

MELODY. I mean, we've always been in Delaware.

DAPHNA. No you haven't.

MELODY. Actually yes we've always -

DAPHNA. Actually no you haven't *always* been in Delaware the only people who have *always* been in Delaware are Indigenous Delawareans but even they didn't start there even they crossed over the Bering Strait land bridge during the last ice age but if you look around Delaware if you actually opened your eyes and looked you probably wouldn't see too many of them right and why is that why is that well I'll tell you why that is the reason why that is and the reason why families like the one you come from can even live in Delaware is because all those Native peoples were SLAUGHTERED so people who look like you and pray like you and reproduce like you could grow up in peaceful suburban housing developments with bookshelves filled with the *King James Bible* and Nicholas Sparks novels and *Eat Pray Love* which is probably your favorite book but no Howard Zinn (am I right or am I right) so if your family has always

been in Delaware then actually the truth of the matter which we have to face unfortunately hard as it may be is that your family was more than likely major contributors and perhaps even leaders of the most atrocious genocide in American history which means you have the blood of genociders coursing through your veins right this very second but even if they did that they still had to come from somewhere so what I'm asking is where did your family come from before they moved to Delaware to perpetrate genocide?

MELODY. I don't want to have an argument.

DAPHNA. This isn't an argument, what are – we're talking.

MELODY. It doesn't feel like talking.

DAPHNA. We're talking. I'm just getting to know you, where you come from. I find it interesting. Really. Tell me.

MELODY. My Mom, I think my Mom is like, Dutch-Irish, maybe, and my Dad's side is German. And there's a little Scottish or Welsh in there too, I think.

DAPHNA. You think?

MELODY. But my family's – we're just American.

DAPHNA. Just American. Ok.

MELODY. But I really don't see why any of it matters, you know? Where people come from? People are just people.

DAPHNA. People are just people?

MELODY. Yes. People are people. It doesn't matter that you're Jewish or I'm –

DAPHNA. It doesn't matter that I'm Jewish?

MELODY. No.

DAPHNA. It doesn't matter?

MELODY. No.

DAPHNA. Well it matters to me.

MELODY. Ok.

DAPHNA. It matters to me very much.

MELODY. D: . . .