

INT. CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

The hallway's a little crowded now with Apple employees lining the walls including JOANNA. They'll serve as an escort backstage but right now, coming down the hall toward STEVE is LISA. At 19 she's a beautiful young woman with a striking resemblance to her father. She's wearing a coat and has the same headphones around her neck that we saw her in when she was nine. She's nothing like a stereotypical teenager--she's without affect and only uses irony in very small doses. We're aware that she's ill at ease and self-protective and uncomfortable. She walks down the hallway which is lined with "Think Different" posters that have a picture of the iMac. STEVE watches her walk toward him--he's too worn out now to have a real confrontation with her but he'll be slowly forced into it. He takes his arm to move her to the side of the corridor and he does his best to speak privately while almost surrounded by people.

STEVE

(speaking quietly in Lisa's ear)  
I'm paying your tuition. Are you crazy? Of course I'm paying your tuition.

LISA

(quietly in his ear)  
I must have misunderstood when you said you weren't paying my tuition.

STEVE

You and your mom selling the house was a hostile thing to do and you (knew it).

LISA  
(over)  
She needed the money.

STEVE  
She always needs the money.

LISA  
She needs a doctor, she has a sinus infection.

STEVE  
She's had the same sinus infection since 1988.

LISA  
I'm gonna take care of my mother, I'm sorry if that  
angers you.

STEVE  
It does anger me 'cause you're a kid and it's not your  
job to take care of your mother.

LISA  
Is that how yours died?

STEVE  
(pause)  
When your mom is 90 and can't feed herself you can take  
care of her. But right now she's 45, perfectly  
healthy and can't feed herself. You're supposed to work  
hard in school and be 19 and that's it. I'll take care  
of your mother.

LISA  
Keep up the good work.

STEVE  
What the hell do you want from me?

LISA  
I was sent for.

STEVE

Look, I bought her a house for seven-hundred thousand dollars, it's worth twice that much today and she sold it for two magic rocks and a bowl of soup!

LISA

It was her house.

STEVE

She used that money to travel through Europe—

LISA

It was her money which you make her beg for.

STEVE

Oh don't talk to me about--going to Andy and asking him for the money. That was so off-the-charts over (the line, I can't even)—

LISA

(over--calmly)

I did not do that. Andy came to me.

STEVE

I'm callous 'cause I'm not sending a Gulf Stream to the Pasteur Institute to fetch the finest sinus specialists in all the land?!

LISA

Did I call you callous?

STEVE

She spends the money on antiques. And then sells them for a fraction of what she paid. And she does it with money I gave to her for you. You came to me hysterical when you were (13, asking if you could live with me)—

LISA

I wasn't hysterical.

STEVE

--because your mom was irrationally-

LISA

Thirteen was the second time I asked you.

STEVE

--screaming at you every day or not speaking to you for weeks at a time--the stress of her life as a spiritual healer-

LISA

I don't believe I said you're a bad guy but if I did I'm sorry.

STEVE

Something happened to you at school. Some first semester core class that all freshman are required to take, some-

LISA

I read Time.

STEVE

What?

LISA

I have internet access at school, I read an old copy of Time and I asked my mom some questions about my family history.

STEVE

That was... Time wrote a mangled piece of journal--you were never supposed to read that-

LISA

I had two different Harvard statisticians try to reverse engineer the equation you came up with to prove that 28% of American men could be my father.

STEVE  
Honey—

LISA  
My mother may be a troubled woman but what's your excuse?

(beat)

That's why I'm not impressed with your story, dad. It's that you knew and you didn't do anything about it and that makes you an unconscionable coward. And not for nothin' but "Think" is a verb making "Different" an adverb. You're asking people to "Think DifferentLY". And you can talk about the Bauhaus movement and Braun and simplicity is sophistication and Issey Miyake uniforms and Bob Dylan lyrics all you want, but that thing--

(pointing at one of the posters of the iMac)

--looks like Judy Jetson's Easy Bake Oven!

STEVE  
Hey!

LISA  
You're gonna start late!

STEVE  
You know what Lisa stood for?

LISA  
What?

STEVE  
The computer, the Lisa, you know what it stood for?

LISA  
I'm sorry I said that about the iMac, it's not what I really think.

STEVE

Behind my back, at the office, you know what it stood for?

LISA

Local Integrated System Architecture. I was five, why couldn't you just lie?

STEVE

I did. It stood for "Lisa. Colon. Invented Stupid Acronym."

(beat)

Of course

it was named after you, are you daffy! Local Integrated System Architecture doesn't even mean anything, of course it was named after you.

LISA

Why did you say it wasn't all those years?

STEVE

I don't know.

LISA

Why did you say you weren't my father?

STEVE

Honey...I honestly don't know.

LISA

That's a child's answer.

STEVE

I'm poorly made.

LISA

You can't start late. It's after nine.

STEVE

Yeah I don't care.

LISA

I don't get it.

STEVE

I know I didn't want to be yoked to your mom but—

LISA

That's just lame.

STEVE

I know.

LISA

And you can belittle my mother all you want but she always made dinner for me and she always took me to school.

STEVE

Feeding you and taking you to school is kind of the baseline of parenting, Lisa, it's actually a legal obligation. Don't devalue yourself like that, don't do that. But you're right, she did. And I didn't. I'm using "Different" as a noun, smartass. Like "Think Victory." Or "Vote Freedom."

LISA

Vote Freedom?

STEVE

I don't know. You're writing for the Crimson?

LISA

What?

STEVE

The Apple chapter of the Harvard Alumni Association tells me you're writing for the Crimson.

LISA

Yeah, a little bit. Essays.

STEVE

I'd like to read one.

LISA

Sure.

STEVE

No, I mean now, I'd like to read one of your essays now.

LISA

That's--c'mon, you've got to go on stage.

STEVE

Suit yourself but the iMac will not be launched until you give me one of your essays so the world is waiting for you.

LISA

It's not like I have one on me.

STEVE

Somewhere in that backpack is one of your essays. Dump the contents on the ground and if I'm wrong I'll buy you a Cabriolet.

LISA

I just spilled some...don't laugh at me.

STEVE

I'm not.

LISA

It hasn't been published yet, I just finished but it's a first draft and it reads like one.

LISA

Dad.



STEVE

Yeah.

LISA

Why don't you just read it after. You can give it your full attention.

STEVE

Okay. But you should know that the Bay Area is strewn with the broken spirits of people who couldn't handle my full attention.

LISA

Good luck.

STEVE

Okay.

I'm gonna put music in your pocket.

LISA

What?

STEVE

A hundred songs. A thousand songs. Five hundred songs. Somewhere between five hundred and a thousand songs. Right in your pocket. Because I can't stand looking at that inexplicable Walkman anymore. You're carrying around a brick playing a cassette tape. We're not savages. So I'm gonna put a thousand songs in your pocket.

LISA

You can do that?

STEVE

Mm-hm. All I have to do really is wipe out the record business as we know it and we'll be all set. You want to watch from backstage?

LISA  
Yeah.

STEVE  
This is the last semester you get  
to take dumb classes.

LISA  
I don't take dumb classes.

STEVE  
"History of Food"?

LISA  
I don't take "History of Food." And you gave me my  
Walkman, I like it.

STEVE  
Well cherish it 'cause it's not gonna be around much  
longer.

LISA  
Are you nervous?

STEVE  
You remember that painting you did here on the original  
Mac?

LISA thinks...and then shakes her head "no."

STEVE (CONT'D)  
(whispering)  
I do.