

JEAN - JULIE'S MOM

CHARACTER STUDY

Jean is mother to Julie who is Elizabeth's best friend. Jean and her husband have the average A-typical home in middle class America. She is a working mom who struggles to keep her home in order, average mostly quiet and shy daughter on course, and her marriage in order. She likes her daughter's friend Elizabeth although she hardly knows Elizabeth's mother or father since before their divorce they were pretty much at odds with arguments as Jean overheard Elizabeth report to Julie, and had never had them visit other than Elizabeth's mom Charlotte when the two girls were in Brownie's together. In fact, many times Jean would have to take Elizabeth with her and her daughter following some school function or Brownie event when Elizabeth's parents were either late or never showed at all.

Her and her husband are average folks, spend a moderate amount of time with their daughter and on occasion argue like Elizabeth's parents and at those times create an atmosphere of disquiet for quiet and somewhat withdrawn, Julie.

Jean fears that someday her marriage will end up like Elizabeth's parents although so far as she knows her husband hasn't cheated on her like Rob did Charlotte.

SCENE READ STUDY

In the scene below, Elizabeth's mom Charlotte has come to the door abruptly searching for her daughter and after asking Jean to speak to Julie to see if she can shed some light on where the child might be.

As the scene opens, the conversation has been in progress for about 3 or 4 minutes with Jean standing behind her daughter listening and Charlotte is discovering that the school's automated notification system had notified parents that there was a water main break and that students had been let out early and upon Charlotte not arriving on time walked part way home with Julie her best friend.

Charlotte is anxious, half worried, since her daughter is not picking up at home, according to her hadn't received the notice that the school's SAS automated system shows had received an entry of a 1 to indicate they received the message and is trying to learn from Julie the whereabouts of Elizabeth.

SCRIPT FOLLOWS.....

Charlotte stands in the doorway of Julie's house and Julie's mom, JEAN stands behind her daughter. They are already engaged in conversation. Charlotte is anxious.

CHARLOTTE
...so then let me get this straight
Julie. You and Elizabeth split
right over there...

Charlotte points to the spot where Elizabeth and Julie were last together.

CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)
And then you came to your house and
Elizabeth continued on the walk
toward the park. Does she walk
through the park when she walks
home?

JULIE
Yes ma'am.

CHARLOTTE
Even when it snows like this?

JULIE
Yes ma'am. She likes playing . .
well, walking in the snow.

Charlotte looks across the street then back at Julie who waits.

CHARLOTTE
So tell me Julie do you know why
she didn't wait for me at the
school?

Julie turns to her mother.

JULIE
Do I have to?
Julie's mom frowns and nods her head.

JEAN
Julie? You need to answer the
question.

Julie turns to Charlotte.

JULIE
Is she in trouble?

CHARLOTTE

I don't know Julie. You tell me?

JULIE

Is she going to get grounded?

CHARLOTTE

Julie just tell me.
Julie's mother turns her daughter
toward her.

JEAN

Julie, stop wasting time and tell
Elizabeth's mother anything you
know and stop stalling.

Julie frowns, turns to Charlotte and explains.

JULIE

Well ok. Well, she waited for a
while, then went to the office and
they said that you had gotten the
message, and I waited with her for
a while more after I called my mom
and my mom told me to walk home
since I have a key.

Julie turns to her mom and again receives a nod and frown.

JULIE

So, Elizabeth was telling me how
her dad isn't allowed to visit for
Christmas and all and how you were
upset with her over it and so she
said she was just going to walk
home since you were probably busy
at work and because she left her
bowl and cup out.

CHARLOTTE

Bowl and cup?

JULIE

Yeah. She said she forgot to put
them in the sink and so she was
glad she got to go home early and
put them in the sink before you got
home and got mad at her.

Charlotte shakes her head, pulls out her cell and calls home
again and while doing so continues conversing with Julie.

CHARLOTTE

So, you're saying that the two of you stood there talking for a little bit then she went on home?

JULIE

Yup. That's what happened.

CHARLOTTE

So then where is she?
Charlotte stands looking down at Julie.

JEAN

Julie are you telling us everything?

Julie turns to her mother with assurance.

JULIE

Yes mom. I swear.

CHARLOTTE

Look Julie. Elizabeth isn't at home, nor with my mother, nor my Ex. If you know where she is you have to tell me. She won't be in any trouble.

JULIE

I swear. That's what happened and I don't know any more, I swear. Julie's mom squats down, Charlotte leans in to listen attentively.

JULIE'S MOM

Honey. If there is anything else that happened or anything else you know you have to tell us. It's important. It's cold out there and Julie isn't home.

Julie nods her head.

JULIE

I swear that's all that happened and I don't know anymore.

Charlotte stands, looks across the street, back at Julie and Jean and pushes the door open and speaks behind her.

CHARLOTTE

Thank you for your help. Sorry to bother you.