

# Laney Side

10P3

Mom... LANEY

I'm your Mopsy. (Pause) Who do you love? ELISE

You know. LANEY

Tell me. Tell me who you love. ELISE

I love you, Mom. LANEY

That's right. My little girl loves me, and I don't need anything else? Do I? Do I? ELISE

No. LANEY

(Elise sits up and starts to massage Laney's neck.)

ELISE  
And I'm going to start being less embarrassing. I am. Starting now, I am going to be the most un-embarrassing Mom ever. Your friends will always be welcome here, even the crazy religious kind. I'll bite my tongue, when they evangelize, I promise. I'll chalk it up to the hazard of moving South again. Even though I hate it. I'll bite my tongue, okay?

Start:

LANEY  
Okay. (Pause) If I tell you something, will you promise not to get mad?

ELISE  
What is it?

LANEY  
Promise you won't get mad.

ELISE  
Promise I won't get mad.

LANEY  
It's two things really.

ELISE  
You can tell me anything.

# Laney Side

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LANEY

I'm a lesbian.

(Elise stops massaging Laney's neck.)

ELISE

Really? Since when?

LANEY

Since tonight. And I've been saved. I'm a holiness lesbian.

ELISE

A holiness lesbian?

LANEY

Yes. I believe in the power of the holy ghost, and I kiss girls. And I didn't go to the dance, so I guess that makes three things you can't get mad about.

ELISE

You didn't go to the dance?

LANEY

No. I went to church with Maribel. And then I got saved. And then we kissed.

ELISE

You kissed Maribel?

LANEY

On the mouth.

ELISE

Laney...

LANEY

You promised you wouldn't get mad.

ELISE

I'm not mad. I'm sober. Suddenly, I'm sober.

LANEY

And I'm glad that I'm a holiness lesbian. I'm proud. If there were a holiness lesbian march, I'd march. It's a good thing.

ELISE

I didn't say it wasn't.

# Laney Side

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LANEY

But you wouldn't march, would you? You wouldn't march to support my lifestyle.

ELISE

Lifestyle? You have a lifestyle now? Where do you hear these things?

LANEY

I don't hear them anywhere. It's who I am.

ELISE

Laney, one evening is not a lifestyle.

LANEY

Don't try to make this not a big deal. It's a very big deal.

ELISE

Yes, it is a big deal, Laney. And I'm just trying to deal with it, so don't put on the dramatics. Come back to earth for a little while. I'm not oppressing you, I'm just taking it all in.

LANEY

Are you going to disown me?

ELISE

Laney, of course not. Be realistic.

LANEY

Don't say that! I hate it when you say that!

ELISE

Calm down. Look, if you're a lesbian, I'm fine with that. And if you want to join the holiness church of the redeemer, then I'm fine with that too, although admittedly less so. But I also think you're a little confused, because the pastor of the Holiness Church of the Redeemer is probably not going to be too happy about you kissing his daughter.

LANEY

She kissed me too.

ELISE

Fine. Whatever. I just think you need to give yourself a little more time, before you start making all these declarations, because you see, the Holiness Church of the Redeemer is not going to receive a fourteen-year-old, self-declared lesbian with open arms.

LANEY

I'm not self-declared. I just am. I'm a holiness lesbian and nothing is ever going to change that.

END

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