

INT. PARENTS' KITCHEN -- NIGHT

Mom stands at the counter, looking up at the cupboard doors. She opens one, looks around inside, moves a couple items and closes the door. She moves to the next door.

In sleeping pants and a threadbare Culture Club t-shirt Leo stumbles into the room. He rubs his eyes for a second, before focusing on his mother. Mom has her head in a cupboard, unaware of Leo's presence.

LEO

Hey, Mom.

Mom jerks her head out of the cupboard. She closes the door with an obviously forced nonchalance.

MOM

I didn't hear you get up. Everything OK?

Mom walks over to a coffee mug on the counter. Leo slides onto a barstool. He smiles sheepishly.

LEO

Yeah. Not used to going to bed this early. Whatcha doing?

MOM

Just ... well ... Your dad wanted a cup of tea.

LEO

It's what ... 10:30? Won't that keep him up?

MOM

Decaf.

Mom sits on a stool opposite her son.

LEO

What's Dad doing?

MOM

There's one of those awful war movies on. Guns, fighting ...

LEO

He loves his history channel.

Mom fiddles with the mug, and Leo watches her for a moment.

MOM

It's a Vietnam movie.

LEO

Yeah.

MOM

All night I've been trying to remember.

She sits, looking at the empty mug, turning it absently in her hands.

MOM (CONT'D)

He has such a fascination with those war movies. Has he ever told you about it?

LEO

About the movies? Yeah, we've watched some together.

MOM

No, about what he was doing during the war.

LEO

A little. Not much.

MOM

I wonder what he was doing then. He has such a fascination.

LEO

What he was doing? During Vietnam?

MOM

Oh, he's interested in World War 2 and the Revolution, but he gets so intense about that one. It must have been awful. I can't imagine what he went through. You haven't ever talked to him about it?

LEO

About the war? Not really. But ...

MOM

I just don't want him to think that I don't appreciate whatever it was that he had to do. What if he had to kill someone...

They sit in silence, both looking at the coffee mug in Mom's hands. Leo gets up, and begins looking through the cabinets. He eventually finds the tea in a cabinet across the kitchen from where Mom was looking earlier.

LEO

Let me take that, Mom.

Gently, he slides the mug out of his mother's hands. Mom watches him walk to the sink, fill the mug with water, put it in the microwave and start heating it up. Leo walks back over to his Mother. He opens the tea bag while they talk.

LEO (CONT'D)

You know, Dad wasn't in the war, Mom.

She looks up, surprised.

LEO (CONT'D)

There were a couple reasons.
(MORE)

LEO (CONT'D)

He was in college, so that got him out. Plus, you were pregnant with Lynn.

A blank look crosses Mom's face for a second. Then her eyes settle back on her now empty hands.

LEO (CONT'D)

It's OK, Mom.

The microwave beeps.