

THE DIARY OF A TEENAGE GIRL - Pascal, page 25

(Lights shift. Pascal sits at a little table eating pastry and drinking coffee. He has been talking for a while. Minnie joins him, as though she's been there all along)

PASCAL. I don't see you enough, Minnie. And that is unfortunate. I was your surrogate father for many years, after all. And the truth is, I still think about you often. Especially these days. I think it may have been a big mistake for me to move you out here from Philadelphia. And now, I'm afraid that your mother is doing a terrible job bringing up you and your sister. Just terrible.

MINNIE. Don't talk about my mom, please. You made us move to California. Whether you should have or not. And then you and Mom immediately decide to get divorced. Now mom doesn't have a job, so we might have to go back to Philadelphia whether we want to or not, and our lives will be disrupted and ruined and it's all your fault.

PASCAL. Your mother had something to do with it, too Minnie.

MINNIE. Yeah, but Gretel and I didn't.

PASCAL. Well, that's true. But I want you to know that I still love you. And I worry about you.

MINNIE. Why should I believe you?

PASCAL. Because I'm telling you...

MINNIE. But you're a sadist.

PASCAL. Minnie- you watch your mouth.

MINNIE. You used to chase the cat with a broom! You think you're better than everyone else.... Remember when you taught me to shake hands?

PASCAL. *(taking Minnie's hand in his)* Do it firmly, and look directly into the other man's eyes, thinking to yourself 'I'm better than you, you son-of-a-bitch.

(Pascal disappears. Lights shift)