

"Lipstick"

W/W

Alice
Pepper

Alice smiles.

PEPPER

~~I dunno. Do you like it -- sucking
a guy?~~

ALICE

~~It's not my favorite thing, but if
you're going to live by the Golden
Rule...~~

PEPPER

~~Huh?~~

ALICE

~~You know, "Do unto others as you
would have them do unto you"~~

Pepper finally gets the innuendo.

PEPPER

(laughing)

~~Yeah, right. Sometimes I pretend
it's a Big Stick. Ya know, all
those yummy flavors?~~

ALICE

~~Or a Fudgsicle.~~

They laugh.

START

ALICE

(continuing)

But it's been such a long time
since it's even been an issue
around here.

PEPPER

So, you and Donald don't...?

ALICE

Lately, I go to the market more.

Alice opens her messy cosmetic drawer. Looks down at the same
old colors, sighs, picks one.

PEPPER

You know, I've heard that about
married people. I've never been
around them that much. None of my
parents were ever married.

Pepper puts on her lipstick -- a hot color.

ALICE

Life has a way -- of draining the romance out of you.

PEPPER

That's so sad.

Pepper blots her lips. They sparkle.

ALICE

That's a great color. I wish I could get away with something like that.

PEPPER

Why can't you?

ALICE

I'm a lot older than you -- a mother with responsibilities.

PEPPER

Who still has lips.

Pepper holds out the lipstick. Alice smiles, takes it.

PEPPER

(continuing)

I went to a make-up consultant once. She called lipstick the "billboard to your sexuality".

Alice applies the shocking pink to her lips.

PEPPER

(continuing)

Alice, I'm not smart.

ALICE

Pepper, don't say that.

PEPPER

But I do know about some stuff. And one of the things I know about is love. I'm sorta like a TV set picking up pictures between people. And what I see in this house is a lotta love being broken up by a lotta static. I know it gets kinda scary, but sometimes you gotta climb up there on the roof and adjust the antennas. Keep the reception open.

Alice likes her new lips.

ALICE
Pepper, whoever told you you
weren't smart, was stupid.

This time Pepper smiles.

CUT TO:

93 INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

93

The steaks are defrosting in the microwave. Donald pulls a couple of beers out of the refrigerator. Hands one to Jarvis.

JARVIS
Much obliged.

DONALD
My pleasure, Jarvis.

They clink bottles. The microwave BEEPS.

DONALD
(continuing)
What would Grandma Moody say about
this?

Donald opens the microwave's door.

JARVIS
She'd say no one can wait for
nothin' no more.

Donald takes the steaks out.

DONALD
She's right. You see, so few of us
get what we really want, we have
to instantly get what we think we
want.

Jarvis chooses not to go down this road.

JARVIS
Whaddya say we barbecue them
babies?

DONALD
(suddenly defensive)
Barbecue?

JARVIS
Nothin' like the flavor of a steak
cooked on an open flame. You got
one in the backyard, don't ya?