

Like Mother Like Son

Written by

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Based on true events

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SAM BERKE is a short, innocent looking 18 year old whose uniquely charming features masks his layered anxiety. He is dressed in a classic senior prom tuxedo.

MATT JACOBS is a tall 18 year old in a bold, white tuxedo. He may not be as cute as Sam but this ladies man is calm, cool, and collected.

Parents and family of both boys are taking photos of the two. The scene is littered with nature's colors in an elegant backyard.

MATT

Get ready for another hundred more of these.

SAM

Maybe one of them we can actually look like we know what we're doing in a tux.

MATT

Speak for yourself I feel great. How can they say no to me at the bar if I look this good?

SAM

Matt. There is no bar. It's fucking senior prom. It's basically a more expensive -- mom can you step back a little?

LORI BERKE is the 50 something mother of Sam. She wouldn't be caught dead without an extra clothing layer or one of her Betsy Johnson favorites.

LORI

Ugh I just wanted to get those smiles. I still can't figure out this camera yet.

Lori steps back towards the rest of the parents.

LORI

How's that? Good?

SAM

That's fine mom.

LORI

Sweetie do you want to take a break? You guys look antsy maybe we should take a minute inside.

SAM

Mom we actually should get going to the where the real photos are. I told Natalie we would be there soon.

LORI

Alright, calm down. (To other family) So antsy! (To boys) We'll stop now and I'll get the car ready.

Lori leaves the scene and rest of family is left to chatter.

MATT

You're just nervous about it. Don't worry, I'll take care of the drinks. You on the other hand should be more worried about pictures with Natalie, not me.

SAM

You know our photos will be fire.

MATT

Well yeah, because of her. Maybe she can boost your insta game up.

SAM

Alright well I'll post a photo.. Not because of my "insta game".I'll post because I think she's.. Well. It.

MATT

Oh ok! That's a way to put it. Are you going to make it official?

SAM

I'm thinking about it.

MATT

Real question is what does your mom think? Must be *kvelling* over her little jewish man having a girlfriend.

(CONTINUED)

SAM

Since when do you know yiddish.

MATT

Well if your mom wasn't enough it turns out my dates grandparents speak it. I heard if you impress them then that's already half the battle to a good night.

SAM

Right.. well I told my mom about Natalie but I didn't want to be attacked with questions. I sort of just said we're friends.

MATT

Wait so you're keeping mom on the sidelines?

SAM

What do you mean?

MATT

I mean, knowing you and your mom, you should let her know who's in charge of where this is going.

SAM

Look I know she's a little obsessive..but I'm fairly certain I can avoid motherly control. She's not on the sidelines. The game just hasn't started yet.

MATT

Alright well just giving you a heads up. Keep her out long enough, she might become coach.

CUT TO:

2

INT. CAR - DAY

2

Matt is in the back seat pouring small bottles of vodka into two inconspicuous containers fit for a coat pocket.

Sam sits in the passenger seat next to Lori on their way to the photos with the many other prom couples.

LORI

Do you have a breathe mint?

(CONTINUED)

SAM

No, do you need one?

LORI

No i mean for you! Go into the glove compartment.

SAM

Ugh, thanks.

LORI

You know i'm just looking out for you. You have that tendency and I know you'll be around your friend the whole night.

Matt glares at Sam at the sound of "friend".

SAM

Yeah I guess.

LORI

Well no one wants to have a date to have bad breath whether they're dating or not...Matt do you like your date?

MATT

Huh? Oh yeah, I really do. I wouldn't say we're dating just yet but I think it's better to take things slow. You know, be a mensch and not rush things.

LORI

(laughing) Aw Matt that's adorable. Does your family know your lucky lady?

MATT

Pretty much. I've introduced her before and she's been over for dinner.

3

EXT. PARK. - DAY

3

Just as Matt says his line, Lori pulls into the parking lot of a beautiful park. There are many photographs and kids in tuxedos.

LORI

Now see isn't that nice. I hardly even know Sam's date.

(CONTINUED)

SAM

Well we're here now, you can chat for a little bit if you-

LORI

Sam at least show me a photo so I don't embarrass myself.

SAM

Mom you can meet-

LORI

Just show me a couple photos I'd feel better if I knew your senior prom date with some more CONTEXT.

SAM

Alright, alright.

Sam begins to pull up photos on his phone to show.

SAM

This is us and our friends at our friend Michael's birthday.

LORI

Is she the blonde one?

SAM

No she's on the right. Light brown hair.

LORI

Oh. She's very pretty.

SAM

(smiling) Yeah i guess so.

Matt rolls his eyes. He nudges Sam and calmly asks.

MATT

Sam you want something to drink? Might get dehydrated if we stand in the sun in a tux for a while.

LORI

That's great you came prepared Matt.

MATT

Thank you Mrs. Berke.

(CONTINUED)

Matt passes off the bottle to Sam. Sam gives the phone to his mother who has now parked the car. She Scrolls to the next photo.

LORI
Oh what's this one?

Sam stops before his first sip.

SAM
Oh we took a photo together. You know, since we're prom dates.

LORI
Oh you two look great, like a couple.

Sam stops again.

SAM
It's just a photo I wouldn't say were-

LORI
It feels so similar. She reminds me of myself. When I was 18.

Sam, finally getting to taste the drink, spits it right out.

MATT
(Softly) Shit. Might've made that one a little strong.

SAM
What? what do you mean? I can't-

LORI
I was very pretty in high school. I mean, before i met your father-

MATT
OH Mrs. Berke! I can't believe this but I forgot my date's corsage at your lovely home. I can't forgive myself if i come to my date empty handed. Is there any chance you could get it?

LORI
Oh my of course. Say no more. The drive wasn't even that far i'll be right back. Sam remember to use a mint!

Lori runs off to her car and the two boys are walking into the park.

MATT

She might have trouble finding it,
my date picked out her own
corsage.. now we can buy time to
pregame a little harder...Are you
ok?

SAM

I think I'm gonna throw up.

MATT

It was one sip dude pull it
together.

SAM

Did you not hear her?!

MATT

What?

SAM

She...my mom...says she looks like
Natalie.

MATT

Moms just say that to feel younger.

SAM

No she said that because she felt
it and yet she doesn't know i want
to date the same girl!

MATT

Speaking of which...

In walks NATALIE COLTON. She can level you with the softest
of smiles. She's in an elegant yet modest dress.

NATALIE

Sam!

SAM

Oh! Oh my god, Natalie. Wow.

NATALIE

Wow to you too. Glad you two could
finally make it.

MATT

We were waiting for the right point in the day where the sun hits the water.

NATALIE

Glad you brought your bullshit Matt, should be a fun night. Everyone is coming together for the big couples photo. Are you guys ready?

SAM

Yeah we'll be there in just a sec... We just spilled a little bit of a mixed drink so we don't want to come over smelling like alcohol.

NATALIE

Oh gotcha. Where's your mom? I wanted to let her know her lightweight of a son is in good hands.

Matt throws Natalie a casual fist bump

SAM

That was one time.

MATT

No its been that way your whole life. You just happen to find out by puking in Principal Gardner's bushes.

NATALIE

(laughing) Just don't drink too much before the venue photos. Come and find me when you're ready.

Natalie heads back in the direction she came from.

SAM

This is bad.

MATT

Calm down. First of all, you two look nothing alike. I mean, maybe the ears, and shape of the eyes.. but she's hot which means she's not your mom! You know Natalie. She's so cool, almost as cool as me. And your mom, well, enjoys buckling her seatbelt.

(CONTINUED)

SAM

I just, I don't know. Even the thought of it throws me off.

MATT

This may just be your nerves talking. It's prom, you like her, yadda yadda. Just take a big swig of this throughout the night and you should let go of it all.

SAM

Oy vey.

MATT

Oy vey is right. I need to find bubby. Just do what I said and we'll do just fine tonight.

Matt runs off and Sam takes a look at the small inconspicuous bottle and takes a big gulp.

CUT TO:

4

EXT. PARK - BY THE WATER/ PICTURESQUE LANDSCAPE

4

Sam is holding Natalie in the classic prom formation alongside other couples. Matt is on opposite side of the line.

NATALIE

Come closer Sam.

SAM

Sorry, I was leaving room for Jesus.

NATALIE

Funny, I heard he's at St. Francis' prom.

SAM

How's that?

NATALIE

Perfect. (Beat) Have you thought of a song you want to hear tonight?

SAM

Umm... What's that song by Elton John?

(CONTINUED)

NATALIE

He has more than one.

SAM

No the one. You know. Something about a ballerina.

NATALIE

Tiny Dancer! We sang that in the car to the beach. I love singing that song.

SAM

I think I love when Elton John sings it more.

NATALIE

Oh shut up. (beat) Where IS your mom?

SAM

What?

NATALIE

Your mom. I wanted to talk to her. From what it sounds like I'm surprised she didn't come.

SAM

Oh ummm...

Sam sneaks a look over at Matt, who gives him a casual wink. Sam then reaches for the bottle.

CUT TO:

5

INT. PROM BUS - EVENING

5

We have couples spread out sneaking casual drinks between each other. With no parents around, they can relax. At this point, Sam is drinking a bit more.

MATT

So i told him: Mr. Gardner, I would love to help, but I don't think that cat's letting go!

Matt receives tons of laughter from his area. Natalie and Sam watch from a distance.

SAM

A real charmer isn't he?

(CONTINUED)

NATALIE

I love Matt. As his friend. But to be his date...Well I'm just glad I'm yours.

SAM

Really?

NATALIE

Really.

Natalie and Sam gently kiss. Natalie pulls back, almost abruptly.

NATALIE

Do you have a mint?

SAM

Huh?

Sam gets nervous, he checks his breath.

NATALIE

No for me! I don't want my breath to smell like alcohol when we walk in.

SAM

Oh, right. Sure.

Sam gives Natalie the mint and takes another big swig.

CUT TO:

6

INT BANQUET HALL - NIGHT

6

Sam is sitting down at his table checking his phone to see 8 missed calls from his mom along with texts that read:

Where are you? Sorry I couldn't make the photos

What is your table number? I want to see you and your date!

NATALIE

Wanna dance?

SAM

Oh I don't know I think the drinks are starting to hit me I don't want to look too sloppy.

(CONTINUED)

NATALIE
Oh come on you look great.

SAM
Oh alright.

Just as Natalie and Sam are walking to the dance floor, Matt comes up to Sam.

MATT
Hey we may have a situation.

SAM
What?

MATT
Your mom is coming here with the corsage.

NATALIE
Corsage? Who needs a corsage?

SAM
Oh god.

NATALIE
Sam what's wrong?

SAM
Oh god oh god oh god oh god. Not here, not now!

NATALIE
Sam you seem a little antsy, want to just get our photos taken now?

At that line, Sam runs off.

CUT TO:

7 INT. BANQUET HALL BATHROOM - NIGHT

7

Sam throws up in the nearest toilet. Matt comes in shortly after.

MATT
Couldn't find a bush?

SAM
I can't believe this.

(CONTINUED)

MATT

Look it'll be alright.

SAM

With my mom coming and Natalie right there I won't be able to get that weird freudian thing out of my head. What does the mean if I want to start dating someone who is like my mom?

In walks Principal Gardner

GARDNER

Had too much to drink there Sam?

MATT

Ah shit.

CUT TO:

8 INT BANQUET HALL - NIGHT

8

MATT

Yeah so Sam wasn't feeling well and I think Gardner might have just kicked him out.

NATALIE

Sam...

9 EXT: BANQUET HALL BALCONY - NIGHT

9

Sam is drinking a cup of water as he lazily leans over the balcony view. Walking towards him is Principal Gardner.

GARDNER

I took the liberty of calling your mother upon learning she was on her way. She should be here to pick you up shortly.

SAM

Sounds good.

From the door to the banquet hall comes Natalie and Matt.

MATT

Principal Gardner, I'm sorry about what happened but you have to believe me that it wasn't Sam's fault.

(CONTINUED)

NATALIE

It's his only senior prom and he
feels fine now Mr. -

GARDNER

Guys I know how you feel about your
friend but we have strict zero
tolerance policy and--

From the distance we hear:

LORI

Sam!

SAM

Alright, here we go.

GARDNER

Hello, Mrs. Berke, your son, as I
said over the phone, had -

LORI

I know, he felt sick and he
vomited. Did he tell you he was
recently treated for an allergy to
stearic acid?

GARDNER & SAM

What?

LORI

Yes, by mistake I gave him mints
today that had that exact
ingredient so i rushed over here to
give him medicine that would
counteract the reaction.

MATT

Looks like our friend here deserves
an honorable readmittance.

GARDNER

I do apologize Sam I didn't realize
your condition. You feel better now
and the rest of you have a good
night.

SAM

Wow, thanks mom. I didn't know you
could bullshit like that. Why did
you do that I thought you would be
crazy i got in trouble.

(CONTINUED)

LORI

Because I was your age once, I know how things can get. I may be your mom now, but I was 18 too.

NATALIE

Thank you so much Mrs. Berke, It's so nice to meet you. I'm Natalie.

LORI

You are even more stunning in person! Sam showed me your photos together and I couldn't help but think back to my prom.

NATALIE

Oh I'm sure you looked just as beautiful.

LORI

Well I don't want to keep you guys. Have a wonderful night you three. Make sure you bring back photos!

SAM

(to Natalie) On that note, are you ready?

With that line, the song Tiny Dancer begins to play from inside the ballroom. Natalie gives Sam a smile and says

NATALIE

Oh I think it can wait.

Sam smiles back and the two hurry back inside.

MATT

By the way Mrs. Berke, did you actually end up finding that corsage?

LORI

Were you actually trying to stay hydrated?

FADE TO BLACK

ROLL MAIN TITLE