

PLAYER 2 (MOTHER JESSUP) SIDE 1

Mother Jessup enters.

MOTHER JESSUP

Hey! Could ya be a little louder? Dead people can't hear ya.

JOE

I've got news, Mother Jessup. I'm leavin' Farmtown and headin' to Big City.

MOTHER JESSUP

How you gonna buy a bus ticket? We don't have enough money to pay attention.

Joe pulls out the flier from his back pocket.

JOE

I won't need a bus ticket.

JERRY

(reading the flier)

*The Happy Family Fun Time Circus?* Now ya want to run away with those weirdos?

JOE

Heck no, but I can hitch a ride to Big City.

JERRY

No! I'm sorry. You cannot leave with that circus.

JOE

What do ya have against the circus? Every year you're always harpin' on 'em. Lighten up, Jer. They're clowns.

MOTHER JESSUP

Maybe now would be a good time to tell ya the truth about your father's death.

JERRY

Mother Jessup, I don't...

JOE

You both said he passed away peacefully in his sleep.

MOTHER JESSUP

We lied. You were too young to hear the truth. He was beaten and left to suffer a slow and agonizin' death on the side of a dirt road.

JOE

Who would do such a thing?

MOTHER JESSUP

The circus.

JOE

And to think I almost joined that merry band of blood-thirsty carnies. I'll kill 'em.

JERRY

Joe, it was years ago.

JOE

You knew about this?

JERRY

We were tryin' to spare you.

JOE

Spare me what? The truth? How could ya?

Joe exits away from the house.

MOTHER JESSUP

We gotta stop him.

JERRY

What do ya want me to do? You know how stubborn he is once he makes up his mind. Maybe we should tell him the whole story.

MOTHER JESSUP

The whole story? Did ya fall out of a tree? We ain't tellin' him the truth. That boy may not be the brightest, but he's right about one thing. He is special. More special than he knows. So what do ya do, ya ask me? Ya do what we've done since day one. Ya do whatever ya can do to protect him. 'Cause that's our job.

Mother Jessup exits.