

RS#2 – SHARON & ROBYN

Start



SHARON. What *did* you do?

(A beat. Okay.)

ROBYN. I took people's money.

SHARON. Like. You robbed them?

ROBYN. Yes.

SHARON. You mugged them?

ROBYN. No. I convinced them to give me their money.

SHARON. That doesn't sound illegal.

ROBYN. Under false pretenses.

I called them up. Old people. Mostly.

They could donate to save the whales or the orphans or the ozone layer. Whatever.

And they did.

And it all went to me.

SHARON. (*Horrified...but also impressed.*) You did that?

ROBYN. Yeah.

But that wasn't enough money.

So then I started telling people they'd won things.

People are a lot more willing to risk when there's tangible reward.

And to collect the prize, they'd have to provide information.

SHARON. Are you the Nigerians?

ROBYN. Sorry?

SHARON. All those emails from Princess whatsit

trying to store her millions in my whatever –

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were those actually from *you*?

ROBYN. Oh! No. I'm much more detail-oriented.

SHARON. But that's the general idea.

ROBYN. That's the general idea, yes.

(A beat as SHARON takes this all in.)

Do you want me to stop telling you?

SHARON. No,

go on.

ROBYN. ...So that happened for a while.

And it was actually substantially lucrative.

SHARON. What about your daughter??

Did she know?

ROBYN. We teach our children whatever skill sets we have, Sharon. Didn't you?

SHARON. You *taught* your *daughter* how to *scam* people?

ROBYN. She's the one who came up with the driver's license thing.

We started manufacturing fake IDs, and then she'd sell them at school.

But that wasn't until college.

SHARON. Your *daughter* is a *con artist*?

ROBYN. My daughter is an intelligent and resourceful young woman.

(A beat.)

SHARON. I don't know.

ROBYN. What.

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SHARON. What you said...before.

I don't know if I gave my son any kind of...
skill set.

ROBYN. He sounds successful.

SHARON. I think he might have done that *on his own*.
Or, worse, in spite of me.

We're not close.

ROBYN. Well. Amanda and I aren't close either.

SHARON. You *scammed* people together.

You were *con artists* together.

You were like Bonnie and Clyde, but mother and
daughter.

That's so... I don't know! Close!

ROBYN. We have to give our kids things, and they have
to reject those things.

At some point.

Amanda temps at a law firm now and she wears these
little power suits

and she tells everybody that her mother lives in another
country

so all of her boyfriends bring her home for the holidays
and their mothers are extra sympathetic because her
own is

so far away.

(A beat.)

SHARON. I'm sorry.

ROBYN. It's fine.

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SHARON. It's not fine.

(Beat.)

ROBYN. She doesn't think I can give it up. The lifestyle.

But I mean, I'm in *Iowa*. Talk about giving up.

SHARON. Hey.

ROBYN. Also, I sold pot. But you probably figured that out already.

SHARON. *(Wide-eyed.)* No, I didn't.

ROBYN. You didn't?

SHARON. No! How would I figure that out??

ROBYN. *(Genuinely impressed.)* Wow. What planet are you from?

SHARON. Iowa?

ROBYN. Wow. Iowa.

SHARON. Actually Illinois, though.

ROBYN. Right. I remember.

SHARON. Not quite the Land of Giving Up.

ROBYN. I was

 talking about me, not you

 maybe also you, but mostly me.

SHARON. You sold pot?

ROBYN. Not too often. Just because I don't really have a grow-house or anything.

 And growing pot for real, that's a commitment, it requires a lot of specifics.

 But I have definitely sold it. And that has also, sporadically, definitely been lucrative.

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SHARON. Did Amanda sell pot?

ROBYN. *(With some pride.)* She paid her way through college.

SHARON. Wow.

ROBYN. *(Really proud.)* And she has a green thumb, I mean I'm not bad with plants but she's got a real talent.

SHARON. *(Impressed.)* That's great.

ROBYN. It was.

(Beat.)

She refuses to talk about any of that now.

When we talk, which is not often, she wants to keep things “present tense.”

She says her therapist told her to do that.

And I'm like, what kind of a therapist refuses to speak in the past tense?

Things *happened*. They *accumulated*. We *became*.

Or the future, for that matter. *We will become*.

But no. Amanda says, “Today I am eating a sandwich. I am grocery shopping.”

She says, “We are avoiding conflict.”

(Half-beat.)

I don't think conflict is a bad thing.

SHARON. You know my son does that too

the present-tense thing

I don't know if anybody told him to do it

But I'll be like, “Remember when I visited you and it was so fun?”

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And he'll be like, "It's sunny today. It's cloudy today."

(A contemplative beat, then:)

What else did you do?

ROBYN. I mean, I did just a little bit of auto theft, but

SHARON. YOU WHAT.



End