

# **LEARNING CURVED**

Written by  
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INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Lifelong friends ZACK and BEN (both 20s) sit at a table across from two beautiful women: VANESSA, who is Zack's girlfriend, and her best friend CLAIRE (both 20s).

Zack, Ben, and Vanessa listen on intently as Claire finishes telling a funny story.

CLAIRE

Then, my grandpa picks his butter knife up off the table--  
(lifts knife off table and points it at Ben)  
--points it at my Uncle Bill, and yells, "Shut up about the goddamn stuffing already!"

Everyone at the table erupts in LAUGHTER. Ben, who seems particularly smitten with Claire, laughs the longest.

BEN

Wow. That is definitely a Thanksgiving you'll never forget.

CLAIRE

If you think that story is funny, just wait until you hear the one about how my great grandma died in the middle of Christmas Eve dinner.

Again, more LAUGHTER.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

I'm totally serious!  
(standing)  
But I'll save that one until after I get back from the ladies room.

VANESSA

(standing)  
I'll join you.

ZACK

We'll be waiting.

BEN

With Christmas bells on.

Claire LAUGHS at Ben's dumb joke as she and Vanessa walk off.

ZACK

Man, what is it about women going to the bathroom together?

BEN  
(watching Claire go)  
Uh-huh.

ZACK  
I mean, I love you like a brother,  
but I have no interest in taking a  
dump next to you. No offense.

BEN  
(obliviously)  
Yeah. Dump.

ZACK  
(snapping fingers)  
Yo. Earth to Ben.

BEN  
(snapping out of it)  
Dude, Claire is fucking awesome.  
Why have you never brought her  
around before?

ZACK  
(realizing)  
Oh, no. No, no, no, no, no. Don't  
even go there, man.

BEN  
Why? Does she have a boyfriend?

ZACK  
No.

BEN  
Then what is it? I mean, she's  
funny, she's hot, she's smart....

ZACK  
Yeah, she's all those things.

BEN  
Then what?  
(beat)  
Oh, no. She doesn't have a dick,  
does she?

ZACK  
No, she doesn't have a dick. It's  
just that she....

BEN  
She what!?

ZACK

She doesn't know where her nose is.

BEN

She doesn't know where her nose is?  
What does that even mean?

ZACK

It means exactly what it sounds like. Supposedly, Claire's parents were awesome, and they raised her really well. But unfortunately, for whatever reason, they forgot to teach her where her nose is.

BEN

You're fucking with me, right? She doesn't know where her nose is. She's gotta be, what? Twenty-five?

ZACK

She's twenty-seven.

Beat, as Ben waits for a punch line. It doesn't come.

BEN

Nice try, man. Seriously, good one.

ZACK

I'm not kidding.

BEN

Bull. Fucking. Shit.

ZACK

Don't believe me? Okay. Guess I'll just have to prove it to you.

VANESSA (O.S.)

And we're back.

Vanessa and Claire return to the table.

ZACK

Hey, why do women always go to the bathroom together? You like pooping next to each other or something?

VANESSA

(sincerely)

No. We do cocaine together.

ZACK  
 (understanding)  
 Ah. Got it.

CLAIRE  
 So, is everyone ready for my dead  
 relative on Christmas Eve story?

ZACK  
 Actually, Claire, before you do, I  
 wanted to ask you a quick question.

CLAIRE  
 Sure. Shoot.

Unsure if he should do this, Zack hesitates a beat. He opens his mouth to ask the question, but is interrupted by--

BEN  
 Where's your nose?

Claire's eyes go wide; she looks like a deer in headlights.

CLAIRE  
 What?

VANESSA  
 (to Zack)  
 You didn't.

ZACK  
 I did.

CLAIRE  
 My... nose?

Claire slowly raises a hand, extends a finger, and points to--

ZACK  
 That's your ear.

She moves her hand to--

ZACK (CONT'D)  
 That's your *other* ear.

She moves her hand to her--

ZACK (CONT'D)  
 Chin.

And then her--

ZACK (CONT'D)

Eye.

Claire moves her finger toward her nose--

ZACK (CONT'D)

(optimistic)

Oh--

--and then points to her philtrum (AKA the indentation on her upper lip, just below her nose).

ZACK (CONT'D)

(disappointed)

--no. So close though. Honestly, I thought you had it that time.

Claire then moves her finger back to--

ZACK (CONT'D)

And that's still your ear.

Frustrated and embarrassed, Claire stands up from the table and runs off CRYING. Vanessa stands--

VANESSA

(to Zack, angrily)

Why would you do that? You're such a fucking asshole!

--and then runs off after Claire.

ZACK

(calling after)

I'm sorry, but the man deserves to know that the woman he likes doesn't know where her nose is!

Zack and Ben sit in silence for a beat. Then--

BEN

That was the weirdest fucking thing I've ever witnessed.

(beat)

Still, thanks, man.

ZACK

You know I got you, bro.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

The world is filled with people like Claire.

CUT TO:

INT. OFFICE - DAY

A gaggle of OFFICE WORKERS mill about doing 9-to-5, daily grind shit: making copies, getting coffee, gossiping, etc.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Grown adults who, for whatever reason, missed out on one crucial childhood lesson.

Suddenly, TODD (41), a grown man rocking the business casual look, crawls through the office on his hands and knees. He's holding a stack of papers in his mouth.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Todd's parents never bought him a walker; they thought his crawling was just too cute to put a stop to.

Todd drops the papers at the feet of a COWORKER, who looks down at them as they scatter across the floor. He SIGHS.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

In their defense, a crawling one-year-old *is* adorable. But a crawling 41-year-old? Not so much.

CUT TO:

INT. MOVIE THEATER - NIGHT

BILL and SARAH (20s) are out on a date.

THEATERGOERS stare up at the screen as the film plays, but Sarah's head hangs down, her chin resting on her chest.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Sarah's parents didn't give her enough tummy time.

After a beat, Bill looks over and notices Sarah's hanging head. He grabs her chin and lifts her head up for her.

SARAH

Thanks.

CUT TO:

INT. GROCERY STORE (CHECKOUT AISLE) - DAY

VINCE (70s) patiently waits as a CASHIER (19) scans his items and a BAGGER (15) bags them.

CASHIER  
That'll be \$67.91.

NARRATOR (V.O.)  
Vince's parents only ever taught  
him two names while growing up.

VINCE  
(hands cash to cashier)  
Here, Mama.

The bagger places a bag of groceries into Vince's cart.

VINCE (CONT'D)  
(childlike)  
Thank you, Dada.

CUT TO:

INT. CAR - DAY

A family road trip is underway.

CARL (30s) drives while his wife, KAREN (30s), preoccupies herself on her phone. In the backseat, their son and daughter, PETER (6) and PENNY (10), blankly stare out their windows in boredom.

After a beat, Karen looks up from her phone and realizes--

KAREN  
Honey, you missed the exit.

Carl, whose concentration appears to be focused only on the road in front of him, doesn't respond. Then--

KAREN (CONT'D)  
Carl, I'm talking to--

Carl's stare turns into a grimace as his face turns beet red.

KAREN (CONT'D)  
(realizing)  
Oh, no.

NARRATOR (V.O.)  
And Carl here, well--

PETER  
(covering his nose)  
Dad shit his pants again.

KAREN

Peter!

Karen, Peter, and Penny frantically roll down their windows.

PETER

Dad *crapped* his pants again?

KAREN

Still not acceptable!

PENNY

(to Peter)

Pooped. Dad *pooped* his pants again.

PETER

(to Karen)

Dad poo--

KAREN

(screaming, gagging)

Enough!

NARRATOR (V.O.)

You get the idea.

CARL

(finishing)

Ahhh....

NARRATOR (V.O.)

And so, parents, just know that no matter how hard you may try to raise your children properly, odds are you're gonna miss something along the way.

Once again, Carl's face turns into a grimace.

PETER

(realizing)

He's not done!

Karen, Peter, and Penny stick their heads out their windows.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Just try to remember the big stuff.

THE END