

What's wrong with you again?

**JESSICA** I suffer from asthma and I am allergic to a number of things including my father...

**JEFFERSON** Yeah, yeah I remember. I remember the medical bills anyway. Well kid, we've all got our problems. And mine is that I have more lines in this goddam play than in my last twenty movies combined.

**JEFFERSON** *holds up the text in which he has been marking up his lines with a yellow magic marker. He's trying to break the ice a bit.*

I'm scared Jessica.

**JESSICA** You don't sound it.

**JEFFERSON** Are you saying I can't do scared? Jefferson Steel can do scared.

**JESSICA** Yeah, all right Dad, I believe you.

**JEFFERSON** Now give me a break and show your father a little respect.

*He carries on marking the text with the pen as JESSICA effortlessly recites some lines from the play.*

**JESSICA AS CORDELIA** Good my lord, You have begot me, bred me, loved me: I return those duties back as are right fit, Obey you, love you, and most honour you.

*She bows ironically to him after these inappropriate lines.*

**JEFFERSON** That's more like it. But don't get any ideas. You are not going to be in the play.

**JESSICA** Why not?

**JEFFERSON** Because...

**JESSICA** Because I might show you up? I might embarrass you...by being good?

**JEFFERSON** Because I don't want this for you. You can do better. Become a brain surgeon - or a plumber. Do something more worthwhile than being...an actor.

**JESSICA** Not all acting has to involve explosions. Some of it can be about truth and emotion.

**JEFFERSON** Trust me, this business sucks. There are bad people out there - people who will exploit and humiliate a beautiful young girl like you. I know. I'm one of them.

**JESSICA** Well Dorothy doesn't seem to be a bad person.

**JEFFERSON** She's an amateur.

**JESSICA** She's sweet.

**JEFFERSON** No. She's very cold and uptight and English...

**JESSICA** Maybe she just doesn't like you.

**JEFFERSON** What's not to like? Everybody likes Jefferson Steel. It's in the contract.

**JESSICA** They didn't like you on the plane coming over. The movie was Ultimate Finality.

*Pause.*

**JEFFERSON** Which one?

**JESSICA** Ultimate Finality Three. It was sick.

**JEFFERSON** That's...good isn't it?

**JESSICA** Sick as in gross. The girl you kissed at the end could have been your granddaughter. People were booing. With headphones on. The guy next to me said you should be arrested.

**JEFFERSON** OK. I admit it, I admit it...it's the worst film I've ever been in.

**JESSICA** That's not true Dad.

**JEFFERSON** Thank you.