

**The Birds and the Bees and Brownies and...Sir Mix-A-Lot?
By: Keli Goff**

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Synopsis: Three parents turn to each other and a life coach to tackle their biggest fear: how to have the sex talk with their teens.

Character Breakdown

Kathy – a Life Coach

Gordon – a loving Dad

Debbie – a loving Mom

Patty – a loving Mom

Note: A Stage Manager will be needed to read the stage directions denoted in bold, as well as the voices of the teenagers in Scene 2.

Scene 1: A nondescript office. We see four people seated in various chairs in a semi-circle facing each other.

KATHY

Okay, so who wants to go first?

No one steps forward or raises a hand.

KATHY

Gordon, how about you?

GORDON

I really don't think mine is any good.

KATHY

I bet that's not true. [Pause]

Come on. Let's hear it.

GORDON

Okey dokey.

Gordon stands. He is holding a sheet of paper, glances down at it, clears his throat and begins.

“Roses are Red.

Violets are blue.

My therapist, life coach and girlfriend all told me I need to talk to you...”

[Pause.]

That's actually all I have so far.

KATHY

Okay. Well we all gotta start somewhere. Don't we?

GORDON

I actually had a crazy idea about props or maybe using puppets or something...but it didn't all quite come together before tonight so...

KATHY

That's okay. The poetry was a great start. Anyone have thoughts they'd like to share with Gordon?

PATTY

I like that it rhymed...you know that you did a poem. That's super creative.

DEBBIE

Yeah. Clever.

GORDON

Thanks. I know it wasn't very much...

KATHY

Great start and we all appreciate you going first this evening, Gordon. Don't we?

DEBBIE/PATTY (Crosstalk)

Yeah...Yep...

KATHY

So let's give a round of applause to Gordon.

There is a smattering of awkward but polite applause from everyone.

KATHY

Okay, who's next? Patty? Wanna go?

PATTY

Not really...I...

KATHY

Oh come on, we're all here to support each other.

PATTY

I'm a little nervous.

KATHY

No need to be nervous. In fact the most important thing is to just relax. If you want to do some breathing exercises first to warm up you can, or we can dive right in. Totally up to you. And don't worry about reciting the lines perfectly. Just talk to me like we're two people having a conversation. Like you're talking to family, remember? So relax, breathe, and don't forget, eye contact.

PATTY

Right.

KATHY

Okay, whenever you're ready.

Patty stands, also with a sheet of paper in her hands, closes her eyes, takes a couple of deep breaths, and then in the world's most painfully monotone voice begins.

PATTY

I want to start by thanking you for joining me today. Um....

She looks at her notes.

I cooked... I mean I baked you a plate of cookies...

She looks up – making intense eye contact-- then back at her notes again.

They're chocolate chip cookies with M&Ms...

She pantomimes offering a plate of cookies to Kathy. She then pauses and looks down at her script again.

PATTY

Because I know you like cookies....and brownies. So here are some brownies....

She pantomimes passing a plate of brownies.

PATTY

And here's a box of condoms too!

She pantomimes tossing a box of condoms.

Have a great day!

[Pause]

How was that?

KATHY

Well...your eye contact was great. Wasn't it great everyone?

DEBBIE/GORDON

Yeah....Definitely. Yeah...

PATTY

Oh dear. Did I do a terrible job?? It was terrible wasn't it?

KATHY

Now Patty, you know we don't use words like terrible here. This is a safe space and we want to focus on constructive feedback. So why don't we go around the group and talk about what worked in Patty's presentation before we move on to discussing opportunities for growth and constructive improvement ... Who wants to start?

GORDON

Well...speaking for myself you had my attention the moment you mentioned brownies, cause...well I love brownies, so I liked it.

PATTY

Thanks.

KATHY

Thank you Gordon. You have any thoughts Debbie?

DEBBIE

I second what Gordon said. I'm now craving cookies...and brownies...so two thumbs up.

Debbie gives a thumbs up sign.

PATTY

Thank you.

KATHY

Does anyone have any constructive suggestions for ways Patty might make her delivery more effective?

There's an awkward silence. No one raises a hand.

DEBBIE

Well I don't know if you need both cookies AND brownies. Maybe just one or the other.

PATTY

Thanks. That's a great note. Really helpful.

KATHY

Does anyone else have any feedback they'd like to share?

Okay. I have some thoughts but why don't we save those for later. But overall I want to commend you. I feel you're starting to find your voice and that's an important part of this process.

Okay last but not least, Debbie. Let's see what you got.

DEBBIE

So I want to start by saying that I heard everyone's notes from last time loud and clear and so I ripped up my old script and just started from scratch last night and I don't know if this works or not but I figured I would try it anyway because you told us to think outside of the box, no rules, just have fun with it so that's what I tried to do. Okay here goes.

Debbie clears her throat, closes her eyes and when she opens them she is like a woman possessed. She begins belting out the following to the tune of Sir Mix-a-Lot's "Baby Got Back" as if she's actually competing to take Sir Mix-a-Lot's job.

"I like safe sex and I cannot lie!
You other mothers can't deny!
When a girl walks by with an itty bitty waist
And a round thing in his face,
Your son gets sprung! Want to pull up tough
Cause he noticed that butt was stuffed...
Deep in the jeans she's wearing.
He's hooked and he can't stop staring!
My baby, wants to get with her...
And take her picture
He says, "Mama tried to warn me!"
But that butt she got makes me so —"

KATHY

THANK YOU DEBBIE! Why don't we stop there for now?

DEBBIE

But I wasn't done...

KATHY

I know. I know...And uh we all certainly appreciate the work you put into this but uh...
That was just...That was...

You know I think I need a minute to process...I think we all need a minute to process...

So why don't we do that. Let's sit here and process for a moment...before we say what we
actually think about...about what we just heard...

Kathy is speechless. They all are. They sit in silence for a moment...and then...

KATHY

You know what. I have a better idea. Before we give our feedback on Debbie's very enthusiastic performance, I feel like this might be a good moment for us to stop, take a step back and reflect on why we're all here.

[Pause]

So whoever wants to start...Just say what first brought you here.

GORDON

Well I came because I have a tough time connecting with my son. I used to connect with my dad and granddad over sports. But my son doesn't like sports. Actually he says the only competitive sport he likes watching is *Rupaul's Drag Race*. So I've watched it with him a few times. I gotta say for the record, a lot of those guys on that show are tougher and more competitive than the guys in the NFL. I mean I'd like to see Tom Brady "Lip Sync for his Life."

I think he –my son – has a guy he likes. You know REALLY likes. They've started hanging out a lot. But if I can't talk to him about everyday stuff, how am I supposed to talk him about sex? So with his mother gone, my girlfriend, suggested I sign up for this workshop. So I'm here.

KATHY

And do you feel that you've gotten better at talking with him since we started?

GORDON

Yeah. I mean, I still haven't had the actual talk with him about the birds and the bees yet. I know we're all still working here on finalizing exactly what we're all going to say when the time comes. But coming here and meeting other parents who are struggling to figure it out makes me feel like I'm not alone. And that's helped. It's helped a lot.

KATHY

That's great. What about you Debbie?

DEBBIE

What about me?

KATHY

Well how did your parents talk to you about the birds and the bees when you were your sons' age? I'm assuming they didn't perform a rap.

DEBBIE

You assume correctly.

My dad's actually a minister and I went to private school in a small town in the South. So...

KATHY

So?

DEBBIE

So our sex talk was really short. It basically consisted of:

"One day you'll get married. Call your mom the night before."

KATHY

How'd that make you feel?

DEBBIE

Well I'm paying YOU for a workshop to learn how to talk to my sons about sex so how do you think it made me feel? It made me feel...it made me feel totally unprepared. And you know internet was just getting started when I was my kids' age so...well I had a pretty steep learning curve. Frankly, it's a miracle I managed to figure out how to have kids at all.

People talk about how hard the first few years of parenting are. But honestly I'd trade changing 100 more dirty diapers or toddler tantrums to get out of having to have this very awkward conversation with my kids.

KATHY

Well you've told us what your parents didn't say. What do you wish they would have said?

There's a long silence.

KATHY

Let me ask a different question. When I assigned all of you this exercise and told you to begin writing out dialogue – no rules, no expectations, the quirkiest the better – that involved you initiating the topic of sex education with your kids, what were your biggest fears?

DEBBIE

Them ignoring me because I'm their mom and therefore by definition I'm uncool. That's why I thought a rap might be funny...but then I saw the horrified look on all of your faces and realized that it was bad funny not good funny.

GORDON

I'm just impressed you had the guts to do it.

PATTY

For what it's worth I actually love that song.

DEBBIE

You do?

PATTY

Yeah. Don't tell the other moms at the PTA.

They all laugh.

KATHY

Gordon, Patty what are your biggest fears?

GORDON

I'm not so good with words. So I just worry about saying the wrong thing. I don't want my boy thinking I'm judging him. I love him and I just worry that if when I'm trying to talk to him about how to be safe...if it comes out wrong I worry that he may feel I have some problem with him being gay and...well...I love him...so I just want to get it right.

KATHY

Patty?

PATTY

Look, I guess you could say I'm a bit conservative so even talking about this stuff...

[She whispers the word.]

..sex....

...with adults is not exactly easy for me. Even with my sorority sisters I've never been the kind of girl who gabs about that stuff. So frankly, talking about it with my daughter is like my biggest nightmare. And the older she gets, the less I feel like I know her. Last week she was into rap music so this morning I told her I heard a song by someone called Wiz Khalifa, that I really liked. She rolled her eyes, looked at me like I was an idiot and told me rap is lame and she's now into death metal and someone called The Weeknd.

First of all, what's death metal?

KATHY/DEBBIE/GORDON (Crosstalk)

Not sure. No clue...

GORDON

Who's The Weeknd?

DEBBIE/KATHY (Crosstalk)

Not sure. No clue.

PATTY

He's actually pretty good. I googled him on my way here tonight. You should check him out.

Look, the only thing I feel like I know for sure is that she still loves it when I bake. No matter what's going on in her life, she still loves my cookies and brownies. So that's why I figured I'd try to bake my way out of the awkwardness of this conversation that I know I have to have, but am *really* terrified to have.

GORDON

Just so you know we all love your baking.

DEBBIE

Yeah. I had to go to the gym an extra day this week to work off those brownies you brought us last week.

PATTY

Thanks. [Pause]

So maybe if I bake you guys a bunch of brownies, you'd be willing to have this talk with my kid so I don't have to?

KATHY

That would defeat the purpose of you coming here.

PATTY

Okay, name your price, Kathy. I'm serious. I will write you a check right now because I don't think I can do this.

KATHY

You've all proven you can do this.

You've done the hardest part. You've managed to discuss sex and sex education in a healthy, respectful way with people who were strangers to you just a couple of weeks ago.

I think you're more ready than you think, to discuss it with the people you're closest to and who love you.

So why don't we work together pulling from everyone's ideas, to come up with the best way to talk to your kids.

PATTY/GORDON/DEBBIE

Okay...Great..Sounds good.

Scene 2: The following exchanges take place in Patty, Gordon and Debbie's individual homes. Each actor will face the audience/camera to indicate that they are each talking to their kids, one on one.

GORDON

Hey Shane, you have a minute?

DEBBIE

Hey you're home early. Wanna come sit with me for a few minutes?

PATTY

I know you had a big test today so I baked your favorite: brownies!

DEBBIE

I bought those cookies you like...

GORDON

I ordered from that Chinese place you like. I was kinda hoping we could talk over dinner before we watch *Rupaul's Drag Race*.

DEBBIE

Listen, I wanted to tell you that you're very uncool mom, bought a few tickets to that concert for that Weeknd guy I heard you and your friends talking about the other day. But, I need a few minutes of your time and attention.

GORDON

I was hoping we could talk.

DEBBIE

Yes the tickets are a bribe. How'd you get to be so smart, smarty pants?

PATTY

So...I know that as you get older I'm not always going to be the person you turn to for advice or to confide in, but I want you to know that I love you and you can always trust me and...and... Um... Do you want another brownie?

GORDON

Want another egg roll?

PATTY

You know what? I'm going to have a brownie.

DEBBIE

Here's the thing.

GORDON

Here's the thing.

PATTY

Here's the thing.

DEBBIE

I know it must feel awkward for you...

PATTY

Having your mom...

GORDON

Having your dad...

PATTY

...talk to you about the birds and the bees but...

DEBBIE/GORDON/PATTY

What do I mean by the birds and the bees?

PATTY
Um...

DEBBIE
Well you know...

GORDON
I mean... Well... what I'm trying to say is.

They go silent and then...

DEBBIE/GORDON/PATTY
It's time we talk about sex.

Offstage we hear the VOICE OF THE STAGE MANAGER AND KATHY depicting the teenage children of Debbie, Patty and Gordon:

Eeww mom! GROSS! Dad I am sooooo not having this conversation with you!

DEBBIE/GORDON/PATTY
Sit back down!

GORDON
Believe me this is just as awkward for me...

DEBBIE
...as it is for you. But...

PATTY
..But I love you. So we ARE having this conversation.

DEBBIE
Soon you'll be old enough to drive and...

PATTY
I would never let you get onto the freeway without knowing that I...

DEBBIE
...that I did everything in my power to make sure that you knew how to be safe out there.

PATTY/DEBBIE/GORDON
So that's why tonight I want to talk to you about being safe when it comes to sex.

PATTY
Can you stop with the eyerolls please?

DEBBIE

It would be nice if you could lose the attitude.

GORDON

Okay you know what?

DEBBIE

No talk, no concert tickets.

GORDON

No talk, no *Drag Race* tonight.

PATTY

If you walk away from this kitchen I will NEVER bake brownies again.

DEBBIE/PATTY/GORDON:

Glad I have your full attention.

GORDON

Now just like I don't expect you to be out on the road behind the wheel before you're old enough to legally drive....

PATTY

This is not a conversation about me telling you to...

DEBBIE

...go out and have sex.

GORDON

But soon you'll be in driver's ed...

PATTY

And I will be teaching you about being careful driving in bad weather...

DEBBIE

Or how to parallel park...

GORDON

This talk is just as important.

PATTY

This discussion is even more important.

GORDON/PATTY/DEBBIE

Because more than anything, I want you to know that I love you, I'm here for you and that you can always come to me when you need me.

PATTY

And part of loving you means...

GORDON

We ARE going to talk about the birds and the bees for a few minutes tonight.

DEBBIE

Either that, or...

PATTY/GORDON/DEBBIE:

...Or I can post a tik tok of me rapping “Baby Got Back” for all of your very cool friends to see.

[Pause]

PATTY/GORDON/DEBBIE:

Yeah. I had a feeling you’d want to talk instead.

End of play