The Birds and the Bees and Brownies and…Sir Mix-A-Lot?
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The Birds and the Bees and Brownies and…Sir Mix-A-Lot?

**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 quirkier 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 soooo 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