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How to Talk to Your Child About Psychedelics

Written by

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

JAMES: 30s/40s. Any ethnicity. Male. Trip-sitting.

AMY: 30s/40s. Any ethnicity. Female. Tripping.

STACY: 16. Any ethnicity. Female. Responsible daughter.

SETTING:

JAMES and AMY'S living room.

TIME:

11pm ish?

CONTENT WARNING:

Drug use.

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The most standard and typical living room of JAMES and AMY.

JAMES and AMY sit on their couch.

JAMES reads from a novel.

AMY stares at the T.V., dressed only in a bra and underwear.

Her eyes are wide AF.

She is tripping hard, but quite content.

Silence.

JAMES turns a page.

Looks at AMY.

Returns to his book.

Silence.

AMY

This show.

This show is so good.

JAMES

You want me to turn the T.V. on?

AMY

No.

Never.

JAMES

Okay.

Silence.

AMY looks around.

She notices her breasts.

She stares at her breasts.

She takes her hands and just grabs her own breasts.

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She jiggles them.

Feels them.

Stops.

Without removing her hands:

AMY

Oh my god, gender is a construct.

JAMES

(Looking at AMY)

What's that?

JAMES stares at AMY, briefly taken aback at the sight of her with her hands straight-up on her breasts.

AMY looks back.

JAMES

You okay?

AMY

They wouldn't stop moving.

JAMES

Makes sense. You okay?

AMY

I'm so great. I love you.

JAMES

I love you too.

AMY

How are your tree pictures?

JAMES

Um, good.

AMY

Did she get out of the woods yet?

JAMES

Not yet.

AMY

That's okay. She will.

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I think so, too.

JAMES

JAMES returns to the novel.

Silence.

Off, the sound of a key in the front door.

The front door opens.

JAMES looks up, trying to confirm if the sounds are real or his imagination.

The front door closes.

Hey, guys. I'm home.

STACY (O.S.)

JAMES panics. Oh god, they're real.

Footsteps approach the living room as JAMES tries to put the book down to jump into action, but he can't find a place to put it.

STACY

(Entering)

Sorry for the surprise. I decided to leave early.

STACY stops.

JAMES stops.

AMY'S hands are still on her breasts.

Silence.

AMY

STACY. You're hoooooome.

STACY

Mom?

JAMES

Uh--

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AMY

You are my daughter you came out of me. You are part of me.
And I'm part of you.

STACY

Mom, what the fuck?

JAMES

Hey, language.

STACY

Dad? Why is mom basically naked?

AMY

I wanted to feel my skin.

STACY

Okay, should I go? I should go.

AMY

Nooooooo. Don't go. Your face is so shiny. It's so smooth,
Stacy.

STACY

Dad, what is going on?

*AMY also looks at JAMES for
the answer.*

JAMES

That's a great question, honey.

You're home unexpectedly.

AMY

You are! Oh my god, time is a construct.

STACY

Are you on drugs, Mom?

AMY

Yes.

Wait.

No.

No. Oh no. Oh no. Wait.

No.

Yes.

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AMY (cont'd)

Yes.

I took some--

I took--

I have consumed mushrooms. Containing psilocybin. They are part of me now.

JAMES

Look, it's not what you think.

STACY

Did you take some, too?

JAMES

No. I'm trip-sitting your mother.

STACY

Oh my god, this is bullshit.

JAMES

Hey. Language.

STACY

Really?! We're going to talk about me using language right now?

AMY

(In a whispered crone voice)

She has a point.

JAMES

I can explain.

STACY

Please do! I would love to hear the explanation for this, parents! I left a sleepover and came home early. Do you know why?

AMY

Yes.

JAMES

No, we don't.

AMY

No, we don't.

STACY

Everyone was getting drunk. Stupid drunk. Unsafe drunk. I had one beer. But you know what was in the back of my head,

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STACY (cont'd)

the whole time? The voices of my responsible parents. You made a sleepover with alcohol not fun. There were boys there! AND I LEFT. I DROVE MY BUZZKILL ASS HOME.

TO FIND...MY DAD WATCHING MY MOM BLITZED OUT ON FUNGI?

AMY

Sweetie, your father is a very fun guy.

STACY

COME ON, PARENTS. This is, like, everything you taught me not to do!

JAMES

That is a--that is an excellent point. And I will explain.

AMY

Ohhhhhhhhh, no. Oh this is so awkward, isn't it? I did bad. Bad Amy. Bad. Bad Amy.

AMY starts crying.

JAMES grabs a throw pillow and hands it to AMY for her to cry into.

AMY grabs JAMES' book instead.

AMY cries into the book.

JAMES

Honey...your mom's just been really stressed at work the past couple of months. We both thought it would be good for her. To unwind a little.

STACY

With mushrooms?

JAMES

Yes.

We've done them before.

STACY

When?

JAMES

Before you were born.

The camping trip, five years ago. They're not for me, personally. But in your mom's case, they work.

We're sorry for keeping it from you.

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STACY

...

AMY

(Coming up)

This pillow is wrong.

Oh, it's not a pillow it's your book!

*AMY dives back into the book,
crying more.*

STACY

This is working?

JAMES

Well, we didn't think you were going to come home early, did we? Kinda messed with the conditions, there, a little.

STACY

Clearly.

JAMES

I am proud of you. For being safe.

We both are.

AMY

(Still in the book)

So proud of you, Stacy!

JAMES

You know that--all the drinking, drugs, everything, we're on you about that stuff not 'cause it's always dangerous, but 'cause it can be, right?

STACY

Yes?

JAMES

You're still young. When you're older...you're usually better at using them with moderation. Safely.

STACY

So what matters is we don't abuse them?

JAMES

Exactly! Yes.

And as long as it's not cocaine or heroin. Don't--don't fuck with that shit.

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STACY

Language.

A moment.

STACY

This is still awkward as...this is the most awkward experience I think I've ever shared with you.

JAMES

Oh, same.

AMY

(Still in the book)

I feel too much now.

STACY

Mom, it's okay. I love you.

AMY

(Still in the book)

You do?

STACY

Yes, mom.

JAMES

We both love you. Very much. Everything's fine.

AMY

(Up from the book)

I BOTH LOVE YOU. We are such...family.

You don't think I'm a bad mom, do you?

STACY

No, mom. I don't.

AMY

Ohhh yaaaaaaay.

My eyes are wet but they're happy now.

STACY

Okay, I'm--going to go upstairs.

AMY

No, staaaaay.

(Re: the T.V.)

Let's watch the show.

Beat.

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STACY

The T.V.'s not on.

JAMES

You can go upstairs, honey.

STACY

Thank you.

AMY

James, will you get me a water?

STACY

I'll get it. Dad, you take care of mom.

AMY

That's so kind. We are such good parents.

STACY

Uh-huh.

STACY exits.

AMY

Oh no. I broke your book.

JAMES

It's all right, baby. I love you.

AMY

I love cheese. And you.

A moment.

Silence.

JAMES

Hmm.

Never would have thought little Kate Thompson could throw such a rager.

AMY

Mmm.

Beer.

JAMES

(A realization,
calling off)

You had a beer?! You're 16!

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STACY (O.S.)

(Calling back)

Mushrooms are illegal!

Beat.

JAMES

(Calling off)

Fair!

END OF PLAY.