

BUNNY. Well, when I was in high school, I played on the volleyball team. Bud and a bunch of his friends would come to every game - home and away. This one night, he and his buddies painted their chests to spell out "Tiger" - the name of our mascot. But then came the sweetest surprise. During the first time out, as we were walking toward the bench - he turned around, and he'd shaved a big heart and my initials in his back hair!

BETH. Nothing says romance like back-hair art.

VINNY. *(after a long pause)* I can hardly scratch my shoulder blades - I wonder how he reached back there to shave it?

BUNNY. Excuse me, girls - I've gotta make a little pit stop. *(She exits to the restroom.)*

VINNY. This is really great information I'm learnin' today. Maybe this'll help me get a date.

BETH. Let me give you some more valuable info, don't rob stores - prison is a lousy place to pick up chicks.

TRACY. Isn't this interesting?

BETH. Stories about the disgusting things our parents did to get each other's attention!?

TRACY. No - the way that we are working through the levels of H.C.I.S.

VINNY. Th' what?

TRACY. H.C.I.S. Hostage-Captor Identification Syndrome. I did a report on it last year and we are fitting the mold perfectly!

MRS. WAKOWSKI. What are you talking about?

TRACY. There's this psychological syndrome that associated with hostages and their captors and it's really interesting.

BETH. Now, I know why she has a 4.15.

TRACY. When a person is taken hostage, they go through various stages mentally. In the first stage: the hostages start to feel positive about their captors.

VINNY. That's nice.

TRACY. It's how they block out the notion that they might actually die!

AUNT ROSE. Lovely.

TRACY. In stage two, the hostages start to develop negative feelings toward the people whom are responsible for their rescue - especially if they are held for a long time. They feel let down and abandoned.

AUNT ROSE. Sounds like my marriage to Leo.

MRS. WAKOWSKI. It's fascinating that you remember all this.

TRACY. I love learning!

BETH. What is wrong with you?!

VINNY. What is the next stage?

TRACY. The third stage is the final one. It's where the captors begin to have positive feelings about their hostages.

VINNY. I don't think Tony's there yet.

MRS. WAKOWSKI. I'm pretty sure you're right.

VINNY. He's a good guy - today just didn't work out quite the way he had planned.

*(BUNNY returns from the bathroom.)*

BUNNY. What'd I miss?

MRS. WAKOWSKI. Tracy has been explaining - what do you call it?

TRACY. H.C.I.S. - the "hostage captor identification syndrome." It's a theory about how hostages and their captors start to identify with each other.

BUNNY. Like Vinny wantin' to know more about how Bud and I met?

TRACY. Exactly.

BUNNY. Wow - that's really interesting.

*(TONY appears in the doorway.)*

TONY. What's goin' on?

VINNY. Nothin' we're just talkin'.

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BETH + TRACY