

GOING VIRAL

by

Brandon M. Crose

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www.brandoncrose.com

brandon.crose@gmail.com

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SETTING — A family room.

CHARACTERS — PARENT 1, PARENT 1, and CHILD. Any genders.

AT RISE — PARENTS 1 and 2 have sat CHILD down for a Serious Conversation.

PARENT 1

I bet you're wondering what this is all about, huh?

CHILD

I guess.

PARENT 2

Hey, you're not in trouble. So relax, huh?

PARENT 1

Well, ha ha, you're not in trouble. But we—

PARENT 2 gives PARENT 1 a hard look.

PARENT 1 (cont.)

Okay, no one's in trouble. This isn't about anyone doing anything wrong. It's just about a thing, where, um, sometimes—

PARENT 2

You're old enough now, and so responsible, and we, your parents, have decided, that, um—

PARENT 1

You're ready for something really special. Something we've been keeping safe for you until, until you were ready for it.
(nervous, to PARENT 2)

Okay?

PARENT 2

Okay.

With a flourish, they procure a tablet computer.

BOTH

Surprise!

CHILD

That's my tablet.

PARENT 2

But look what's on it, honey!

CHILD

(squinting)

“Face Book”? What’s that?

PARENT 1

It, ah, heh heh, well it’s something that was really a lot more popular back, back when you were small.

CHILD

(taking the tablet, reading)

That’s my name.

PARENT 2

It sure is!

CHILD

And pictures of me.

PARENT 1

Yeah!

CHILD

...Lots of pictures of me.

PARENT 2

Pretty much all of them.

PARENT 1

No, it’s all of them.

CHILD

So... you made this for me?

PARENT 1

Yes we sure did! This is your Facebook profile—it’s yours now. We kept it for you until you were thirteen.

PARENT 2

And we created it for you the day we took you home.

(swiping the screen)

See?

PARENT 1

Awww. Look at that widdle nose. Oops! Ha ha ha! Nakey one.

PARENT 2

Oh! And that’s when you peed—

CHILD

“113 people like this”? What people?

Long, awkward beat.

PARENT 1

Well, ahhhh, all of your friends.

PARENT 2

...See? There's Auntie Nicole, and Uncle Grambos... you were in preschool with that kid... I forget who that is...

CHILD

Wait, they can see these?!

PARENT 2

Noooo. Well... yes.

CHILD

ALL OF THEM?!

PARENT 1

But look how many friends you have!

CHILD

Are you... telling me that, that, that you documented every... single... moment of my life and put it on the internet?

PARENT 2

Well...

PARENT 1

Absolutely not. We are telling you that we, what we did is, so there's this profile? This is your profile. And we—

CHILD

Used it to share thousands of pictures of me with the whole world.

PARENT 1

...Yes. Technically we did do that.

PARENT 2

But there are also these cute status updates! This one got so many "likes."

(baby voice)

"Welcome to mah new crib. Ima throw a tantrum up in this!"

PARENT 1

Because you used to cry a lot.

PARENT 2

And you were in a literal crib.

CHILD

I see that. Anything else?

PARENT 1

Well, um, videos too.

PARENT 2

You had a Farmville account as well.

CHILD

Okay. So here's what I'm going to do. I am going to take this into my room. I'm going to look at all of this. I might scream. I might break things. But eventually I will come out, and when I do, then we will decide what your punishment should be. Is that fair?

PARENT 1

Yes, that is fair.

PARENT 2

Completely. Thank you.

CHILD

I want you to know that I'm not angry—just disappointed.

CHILD exits with tablet, slams door.

PARENT 2

That was anger.

PARENT 1

The tablet's still recording, right?

PARENT 2

Livestreaming.

PARENT 1

This one is going viral.

They high-five.

END OF PLAY