

LET YOU DOWN DRET 1

Written by

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INT. UPSCALE LIVING ROOM - DAY

ARLEN, with tear stained cheeks, sits with his dad, PATRICK.

ARLEN

Why are you and Mom making me do this? I don't want to do this. I don't want to choose.

PATRICK

I know, bud. But the judge thinks you're smart enough to make this decision for yourself. I certainly do.

ARLEN

I know. And you're a really fun dad and you have a lot of cool stuff and you take me cool places but--

Arlen does his best to choke back the tears.

PATRICK

It's alright, kiddo. But what?

ARLEN

I just know your feelings are going to be hurt because...I choose Mom. And that makes me sad because I don't want to hurt you.

PATRICK

Ah, I see. Have you, uh, told Mom yet?

ARLEN

Not yet. I'm sorry, Dad. Please don't hate me. I didn't want to choose.

PATRICK

Don't cry, buddy. Arlen, I could never hate you. We'll still hang out and do cool stuff.

ARLEN

You're really not mad?

PATRICK

Not one bit. I'll always be there for you. I promise. I really, really promise.

This relieves Arlen and he calms down. A smile peeks through.

ARLEN

Alright. And I'll be there for you too, ok? I really, really promise.