

**JOHN SIDE**

Edited from pgs. 49 - 51 To be read as a monologue. The italicized dialogue is for context only.

**JOHN**

They changed the lock on my apartment. I had nowhere to go.  
I'll find a job.  
Ray -  
I'm sorry I lied.

*All I hear when you say that is another lie. Makes me question letting you around Natalie.*

Oh, please. When it comes to the kid the only person you should be concerned about is Ray Slinger - ordering her around like the family dog.

*I don't need you telling me how to raise my kid.*

Leaving her with your neighbor or ex-wife's housekeeper doesn't count as raising her.

*She's alive ain't she? Roof over her head? Food in her stomach?*

Oh -

*What?*

Nothing

*You fed her today, right?*

Yeah. She ate the last of the Cap'n Crunch.

*For lunch?*

We got distracted.

We got talking and I lost track of time. She's a smart kid. After about fifteen minutes I forgot there was even an age gap.

*'Cause there's not one.*

Well, someone needs to talk to her. It would seem she has a few things on her mind.

*Like what?*

Like thinking she's a boy.

*She's just looking for attention.*

Then give it to her. Better it come from you than her principal. If you're not comfortable talking to her, practice when she's not around. Come up with questions to ask at dinner. Like, "If you had any super power what would it be?" Or "What's your favorite animal?"

*You want me to talk to myself? If memory serves that's your thing.*

I want you to practice talking to your daughter. I do it. I hate talking on phones, so when I call someone I have a little conversation with myself first. "Hi, this is John Slinger, may I speak with Mr. So-and-so, please?"