

WHEN I GROW UP

by

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(Simple set. Perhaps two black boxes for the two characters to sit on, walk around, whatever. The two are representations of Max. Older Max is dressed as an adult. Younger Max, a kid (baseball cap backwards etc.) The two address the audience until noted other wise.)

LITTLE MAX

When I grow up, I'm gonna be president of the United States.

MAX

When I was a kid, I said I was going to President of the United States.

(beat)

I lied.

LITTLE MAX

When I grow up, I'm going to be an astronaut hero.

MAX

When I was a kid, I bragged that I would be some sort of hero. I'm not sure what kind of hero.

(beat)

What a moron.

LITTLE MAX

When I grow up, I'm going to--

(Max turns to Little Max)

MAX

Would you shut the hell up.

LITTLE MAX

I was just saying--

MAX

I'm really not interested any more.

(Beat)

LITTLE MAX

When I grow up, I'm going to be a patient and loving person. I'm going to be Superman and save the world.

MAX

No you're not.

LITTLE MAX

Yes I am.

MAX

No you're not.

LITTLE MAX

My mommy said that--

MAX

Your mommy's a stinking liar.

LITTLE MAX

My daddy said that I could be anything that--

MAX

Your daddy's favorite hobby is sucking malt beverage from little, tin cans.

LITTLE MAX

He likes to dance.

MAX

And dance.

LITTLE MAX

And sing with pretty ladies.

MAX

Mommy doesn't like that, does she?

LITTLE MAX

Mommy who?

MAX

You got that right.

LITTLE MAX

When I grow up--

MAX

News flash: You ain't ever gonna grow up.

LITTLE MAX
I'm not?

MAX
No.

LITTLE MAX
(starts to cry)
But Daddy says that--

MAX
Don't cry. Jesus. Believe me, you'll have plenty to
cry about later.

LITTLE MAX
(crying)
Big boys don't cry.

MAX
(starts to cry)
You dumb, little, bastard.

(Both build up to bawling, and then
back to sniffles.)

LITTLE MAX
Can I have a lollypop?

MAX
No.

LITTLE MAX
Snickers bar?

MAX
No.

LITTLE MAX
But Mommy said--

MAX
No.

LITTLE MAX
But Daddy said--

MAX

No.
(Beat)

LITTLE MAX

When I grow up, I'm going to become a self-loathing alcoholic who deceives himself as a lower case Don Juan who is compelled to beg the attention of various women because he can't keep the attention of any of the few he's dated. I'm gonna go bald early from a bad diet and hope to hell I can hang on to some piss-ant job not because it gives me any pleasure but because I'll need health insurance to pay for an ulcerous gut and a condemned larynx. I'm not going to be President of the United States, I'm not going to have a million dollars, and the closest I'll ever become to being a hero is by shooting my sorry, pathetic, ass in the head so those idiots who are foolish enough to love me won't have to suffer my presence any longer than is necessary.

(Little Max extracts a pack of cigarettes and a Zippo from his pocket, lights up, and exhales a cloud of smoke. Max watches, mesmerized.)

MAX

Didn't Mommy and Daddy say that would stunt your growth?

LITTLE MAX

(Deeper voice)
Mommy and Daddy can kiss my ass.
(Beat)

MAX

One day, when I grow up, I'm going to have the biggest house on the block.

LITTLE MAX

And that's a promise.

(Lights out.)