

HANNAH AND HER SISTERS

by

Woody Allen

boy / boy

The film abruptly cuts to the long hallway in Mickey's parents' apartment.

In the foreground, a section of the living room can be seen, with a bureau holding a lamp and a framed photo. The hallway itself is crowded with pictures and a wall shelf. At the other end of the hallway, in the background, is another bureau, with candlesticks on top and a framed picture on the wall above. Mickey's mother stands in the front of this bureau at the hallway's end, screaming at the top of her lungs, holding her heart dramatically.

~~MOTHER~~

~~(crying)~~

~~Why? Oh, my God!~~

or V.O.

She sobs hysterically, staggering offscreen to the bathroom; she shuts the door. Mickey walks into view, in the living room, looking after his shocked mother, who continues to cry over the scene.

MICKEY

(overlapping and gesturing)

I don't understand.

(turning to his  
offscreen father)

I thought that you would be happy.

FATHER

(offscreen)

How can we be happy?

His father walks into view, carrying a teacup and a candy dish. He strides past Mickey towards the kitchen.

MICKEY

(following his father)

Well, because I never thought of God in my life. Now I'm giving it serious thought.

FATHER

(offscreen, in the kitchen)

But Catholicism? Why not your own people?

MICKEY

(gesturing at the  
kitchen door to his  
offscreen father)

Because I got off to a wrong foot

1/4

with my own thing, you know. B-b-  
b-but I need a dramatic change in  
my life.

FATHER

(offscreen)

You're gonna believe in Jesus Christ?

MICKEY

(gesturing)

I know it sounds funny, but I'm  
gonna try.

FATHER

(offscreen)

But why? We raised you as a Jew.

MICKEY

(shrugging)

So, just 'cause I was born that  
way... You know, I'm old enough to  
make a mature decision.

Mickey's father walks into view; he stands by the stove near  
the kitchen doorway, picking up a dirty glass and some bowls  
to clean.

FATHER

But why Jesus Christ? Why, for  
instance, shouldn't you become a  
Buddhist?

Holding the dirty dishes in his hand, Mickey's father looks  
at his son.

MICKEY

(gesturing)

A Bud--? That's totally alien to  
me. Look, you're getting on in  
years, right? Aren't you afraid of  
dying?

Mickey's father walks offscreen again, to the kitchen sink.

FATHER

(offscreen)

Why should I be afraid?

MICKEY

(loudly gesturing)

Oh! 'Cause you won't exist!

FATHER

(offscreen)

So?

2/4

MICKEY  
(gesturing)  
That thought doesn't terrify you?

Mickey's father walks out of the kitchen, past his son, to the living room.

FATHER  
(waving his arm)  
Who thinks about such nonsense?  
Now I'm alive. When I'm dead, I'll  
be dead.

MICKEY  
(following his  
father, gesturing)  
I don't understand. Aren't you  
frightened?

FATHER  
(offscreen)  
Of what? I'll be unconscious.

MICKEY  
(turning and walking  
down the hallway)  
Yeah, I know. But never to exist  
again!

FATHER  
(offscreen)  
How do you know?

MICKEY  
Well, it certainly doesn't look  
promising.

Mickey stops at the bathroom door at the other end of the hallway. He starts to pound it.

FATHER  
(offscreen)  
Who knows what'll be?

Mickey's father comes back on screen; he's carrying a plate of hors d'oeuvres and an empty glass towards the kitchen. He stops and looks down the hall at Mickey, who's now struggling to open the bathroom door.

FATHER  
(gesturing with his  
hands full)  
I'll either be unconscious or I  
won't. If not, I'll deal with it  
then. I'm not gonna worry now  
about what's gonna be when I'm  
unconscious.

3/4

MICKEY  
(pounding on the door)  
Mom, come out!

~~MOTHER  
(offscreen in the bathroom)  
Of course there's a God, you idiot!  
You don't believe in God?~~

V.O

MICKEY  
(sighing)  
But if there's a God, then wh-why  
is there so much evil in the world?  
(shrugging)  
What-- Just on a simplistic level.  
Why-why were there Nazis?

~~MOTHER  
(offscreen in the bathroom)  
Tell him, Max~~

V.O

Mickey, reacting, hits his forehead.

FATHER  
(offscreen)  
How the hell do I know why there  
were Nazis? I don't know how the  
can opener works.

Mickey starts pounding the door again as the movie cuts to:

4/4