

Where I Belong

(Mom walks down the stairs)

Hey mom, you're just the person I wanted to talk to. C'mon it'll just only take a minute. I promise you won't be late to work. Okay thanks, I appreciate it. Well see, I just wanted to talk to you about something. What is that something you say? I've heard some rumors around the family that you and Dad were planning to move. At first I believed them, and I got scared, but they couldn't possible be true.

They aren't true right? Oh, they are? But what, why, how? This has to be a joke. There's no way you and Dad would just decide to move without telling me. See but a discussion is still something I should be a part of. And if it was a discussion how did Uncle Joey find out before me? Did you just decide to tell everybody, except your own son? Lower my attitude? What attitude? I'm just confused as to why you and dad are planning to just pick up all of our belongings and dump it in the middle of nowhere.

Alright, mom, I didn't mean to get heated. I'm tryna have a civilized conversation. I'm not tryna start another argument. Got it mom, I'll listen this time. It's just, I don't get it. At the moment, life is going pretty well. High school is going good. This year has been way better than freshmen year. On top of that, the Steelers are at the top of the division. And dad is happy for once. What could be better.

You and Dad got a better job? Where? California? That's like a million miles away. That's a whole different world. Mom Mom, I'm not disappointed Mom, don't get me wrong, I'm happy for you and dad, but, what's wrong with your jobs out here? We have a roof over our heads, food on the table, clothes on our backs. Pittsburgh is all I've ever known, matter of fact, Pittsburgh is all we've ever known.

California is just hot weather, droughts, dirty water, and the Rams. Who likes the Rams? Here we have 4 seasons, clean water, and the greatest team to walk the Earth, the Steelers. We're season ticket holders. And And And...

Yes Mom, all those things are deal breakers. And what do you mean avoid something, I'm not avoiding anything.

It's just that how is Dad gonna survive in those neighborhoods over there? You know he always gets lost in large areas. And how are you gonna survive? With the amount of water you drink, you would drink all of the water left in LA.

And and, wait Mom where are you going. No mom don't go. Come back. Just for another minute. You want me to be straight? Positive? Well it's just that making friends is hard and I feel like I've really broken out my shell these past years. I've been doing really well socially and I've made some really good friends. Moving would just destroy all that progress.

Do you remember that one time when I went to the hospital because of that massive headache I had? Yeah (haha) that was the time where I threw up on the nurse and you could see the steam literally coming out of his ears. Oh snap, I do remember when you had to apologize and clean up the mess. That was hilarious. Well, do you also remember when Miles and Mary came over the next day and gave me a little cupcake and a "Get Well" card that the whole class signed? Yup, you gave him an earful because the cupcake had so much sugar in it. And we all know how you feel about sugar.

Well, that was probably one of the best days of my life, and it really showed that I had friends who cared and had my back. I would hate for that to all go to waste if we were to move.

I know you're running late now Ma, but, before you go, I just wanted to say that I understand moving out to California could have a lot of benefits, especially financially, but Pittsburgh is where we belong.