

MEREDITH

Go on, go on.

(BAT BOY suddenly gets down on all fours and screams at the chicken. He appears to be trying to scare it out of his cage.)

SHELLEY

Mom, why is he screaming at the chicken?! Mom, make him stop! Ugh!

(MEREDITH removes the chicken from the cage. BAT BOY stops screaming.)

SHELLEY

SUCH AN UGLY BOY

MEREDITH

He's just different.

SHELLEY

LIKE A STINKY BONY RAT

MEREDITH

You wanted to keep him.

SHELLEY

I DIDN'T KNOW HE'D

LOOK LIKE THAT!

MEREDITH

Shelley!

SHELLEY

WELL, LOOK AT HIM

(Lightning flashes and thunder claps. MEREDITH and SHELLEY look up at the lights as they flash and dim. BAT BOY whimpers in his cage.)

MEREDITH

It's going to be quite a storm.

(MEREDITH takes out candles and lights them.)

SHELLEY
STUPID STARVING FREAK ...

MEREDITH
Shelley, that's not nice.

SHELLEY
DOESN'T HAVE THE
SENSE TO EAT ...

MEREDITH
We just haven't figured out what he needs —

SHELLEY
DROPPING DEAD RIGHT
AT MY FEET ...

MEREDITH
Shelley!

SHELLEY
WELL LOOK AT HIM ...

MEREDITH
(Tearing up.)
He's just ... tired.

SHELLEY
(To BAT BOY.)
THAT'S MY MOM
SEE, SHE CRIES
EVERY TIME A STRAY
DOG DIES

MEREDITH
Well, I feel bad for them.

SHELLEY
NO ONE CALLS;

MEREDITH
Sure they call ...

SHELLEY
NO ONE CLAIMS;