



**Dear Stop It Now! Helpline, I'm afraid my brother is grooming a child.  
September 10<sup>th</sup> 2019**

**Role Play Script One** (smoother ending): *Sarah (Mom) to Uncle Louis (Brother-in-Law)*

**Sarah (Mom):** Hey Louis, I need to talk to you

**(Uncle) Louis:** Why, what's up?

**Sarah:** Louis – I am really concerned right now...actually, I think I'm angry. I have always known that you love Emma, and that the two of you are close....but we have a serious problem. And I'm bewildered even! I've always thought you were great with kids, and I've trusted you. I do think that you want the best for Emma, and that's why I'm talking directly to you now.

**Louis:** What are you talking about? What the hell is going on?

**Sarah:** Look, Louis. Emma told me the other day that you forced a kiss on her – without her consent and against her will. She said she was trying to pull away, and you grabbed her and held her closer to you as you kissed her. That made her really uncomfortable. And then she shared the texts that you sent her, and I'm so glad she did. What she described – your behavior – it's *completely* inappropriate. It's criminal even. It crosses boundaries, it's unsafe – and those text messages - what were you thinking? That's just wrong.

**Louis:** Sarah, it's not what you think. I mean, I did kiss her. But I didn't mean to make her feel uncomfortable. I just know that she really loves me. I just kissed her cheek for god's sake. Why is that criminal? She kisses me every time I leave; this time was no different! I think she was just embarrassed because she's getting older, but you know how that goes. She's still a kid and I have to show her that it's normal for her to kiss her uncle, right?

**Sarah:** She does love you. She loves you like a niece loves her uncle. It is not ok to ever make someone kiss you. Ever. That's what makes it criminal. For real, it is a violation, assaultive even. We've taught that she never has to say yes to any type of touch if she doesn't want to, that is her right. You violated that.

**Louis:** I don't know what you want me to say Sarah. You're right. I guess I crossed a line here. But you know I would never hurt her.

**Sarah:** Louis, I want to believe that. But that's not the only thing: your text messages were beyond suggestive. What you wrote are things you would say to someone you're dating or something. You said you had feelings for her and wanted to sleep in her room - again, grossly inappropriate. I'm really not interested in why you said them, what you meant by them. It's my job as her mother to speak up and set limits when I hear about something that is putting her safety at risk.

For the time being, I would like you to take a big step back – do not contact her, period. That means texting too. If we are all together, I do not want you to approach her. I'm sorry that this seems harsh, but it's important right now. I'm grateful that Emma let me know what was happening, and that she felt uncomfortable. She was really upset. No adult should be talking to my daughter in a sexual way or forcing a kiss on her like that. I want her to know that we all – that means you too – respect her right to safety and will do everything we can to keep her world safe.

**Louis:** I do care about her...

**Sarah:** And Louis....I care about you. I really do. You're part of my family. I've known you to be a really good person, you go out of your way to help others. You're funny. We love you. And I'm wondering about what might be going on for you that's making you ignore boundaries and personal safety like this. Seriously – and I'm not saying this to threaten you, I just want you to get how serious and real this is. Emma is a minor, legally. So...maybe you'd consider reaching out to someone – like a therapist – to talk about what's going on.

**Louis:** This is so messed up. I can't believe that you would think that I would harm Emma. This is breaking my heart.

**Sarah:** And I'm sorry for that. That is not my intention. But please, think about talking to someone. This worries me.

**Louis:** I don't know, I don't know. I have to think about this. I would never do anything with Emma...but I feel really really bad that I scared her. That really isn't ok. I must've just misread everything.

**Sarah:** Luis – you're the adult. Emma is a kid. You need to be the one to be responsible for knowing what's right and wrong like this.

**Louis:** yeah yeah, I know.

**Sarah:** And again...this is a big. Not understanding that you were crossing a line could one day get you in a whole lot of trouble, plus hurt someone else. Like I said, I know that you're a good guy...I want to see you figure some stuff out.

**Louis:** Like I said, I just need to think about this.

**Sarah:** Of course, thank you Luis. We'll talk later.

**Role Play Script Two** (rockier ending): Sarah (Mom) to Uncle Louis (Brother-in-Law)

**Sarah (Mom):** Hey Louis, I need to talk to you

**(Uncle) Louis:** Why, what's up?

**Sarah:** Louis – I am really concerned right now...actually, I think I'm angry. I have always known that you love Emma, and that the two of you are close....but we have a serious problem. And I'm totally confused too. I've always thought you were great with kids, and I've trusted you. I do think that you want the best for Emma, and that's why I'm talking directly to you now. This is hard for me, but this is really serious.

**Louis:** What are you talking about? What the hell is going on?

**Sarah:** Look, Louis. Emma told me the other day that you forced a kiss on her – without her consent and against her will. She said she was trying to pull away, and you grabbed her and held her closer to you as you kissed her. That made her really uncomfortable. And then she shared the texts that you sent her, and I'm so glad she did. What she described – your behavior – it's *completely* inappropriate. It's criminal even. It crosses boundaries, it's unsafe – and those text messages - what were you thinking? That's just wrong.

**Louis:** Sarah, it's not what you think. I mean, I did kiss her. But I didn't mean to make her feel uncomfortable. I just know that she really loves me. I just kissed her cheek for god's sake. Why is that criminal? She kisses me every time I leave; this time was no different! I think she was just embarrassed because she's getting older, but you know how that goes. She's still a kid and I have to show her that it's normal for her to kiss her uncle, right?

**Sarah:** She does love you. She loves you like a niece loves her uncle. It is not ok to ever make someone kiss you. Ever. That's what makes it criminal. For real, it is a violation, assaultive even. We've taught that she never has to say yes to any type of touch if she doesn't want to, that is her right. You violated that.

**Louis:** I can't believe this. Are you friggin' kidding me?. I would never put Emma in any kind of risk, I would never hurt her.

**Sarah:** Louis, I want to believe that. But that's not the only thing: your text messages were beyond suggestive. What you wrote are things you would say to someone you're dating or something. You said you had feelings for her and wanted to sleep in her room - again, grossly inappropriate. I'm really not

interested in why you said them, what you meant by them. It's my job as her mother to speak up and set limits when I hear about something that is putting her safety at risk.

**Louis:** That's enough! You have the audacity to accuse me of wanting to – *what* – touch your daughter? [raises voice] You think I want to take her to bed and have SEX with her? After the countless hours I've spent taking her to games, being a friend to her, helping *you* out financially? I should have expected this...

**Sarah:** I'm sorry that you feel that way. And I'm sorry that you're so hurt. But at this time, I do not want you to contact her period. And that means no texting either. If we are all together, I do not want you to approach her. I'm sorry that this seems harsh, but it's important right now. I'm grateful that Emma let me know what was happening, and that she felt uncomfortable. She was really upset. No adult should be talking to my daughter in a sexual way or forcing a kiss on her like that. I want her to know that we all – that means you too – respect her right to safety and will do everything we can to keep her world safe.

**Louis:** You know what Sarah? You've got a really sick mind. I do have feelings for your daughter, but not like what you think. You think I'm a perv? You're the sick one. [Shakes head for a few seconds, then chuckles] You know what's funny? You can't stop me from texting your daughter. She knows I wouldn't do anything to hurt her.

**Sarah:** I would hope that you wouldn't go against our wishes, and if we need to – we will block your number. Even if you don't agree, I have always believed that you want the best for Emma...and right now – this is for the best.

And Louis....I care about you. I really do. You're part of my family. I've known you to be a really good person; you go out of your way to help others. You're funny. We love you. And I'm wondering about what might be going on for you that's making you ignore boundaries and personal safety like this. Seriously – and I'm not saying this to threaten you, I just want you to get how serious and real this is. Emma is a minor, legally. So...maybe you'd consider reaching out to someone – like a therapist – to talk about what's going on.

**Luis:** This is so messed up. I can't believe that you would think that I would harm Emma. This is breaking my heart.

**Sarah:** And I'm sorry for that. That is not my intention. But please, think about talking to someone. This worries me. It hurts me to have to end things this way, but it seems like you're pretty upset and we're not getting anywhere.

**Louis:** Fine, forget you...