

Because I Said So

By Dana Hall

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Character

Paula- Female, mother of a 6-year-old boy.

Synopsis: Raising socially conscious kids is not easy especially in the climate we face today.

At Rise: Paula and her son are at a big box store when he sees the toy of his dreams.

I don't care if you are, "the only kid that can't have one." Because I said so -that's why.

(Reacts to son's response) I get that it's not 'real.' But the Automatic Foam Blaster 2000 is still a gun and it's still a 'No.'

It's ok to be disappointed honey- it seems silly to you- I get it. But when we make something dangerous into a toy it sends a message that guns are fun or cool or worse- *harmless*.

(Responding to her son) No, I'm not trying to ruin your life.

Can you sit down for a minute?

When you were just three years old a man used a *real* gun to hurt children in a building where they thought they were safe. It was very scary and it has happened in other places too. So, sometimes when people see fake guns it makes them remember those bad times when real guns were used to hurt people. I know it's a lot to think about. But to make it simple- Hurting people is wrong- weapons are dangerous, and these imitations seem harmless but guns aren't toys.

Do you understand?

(She responds to his nod.) Good.

Listen, I don't want you to stop having fun - I want you to use your imagination more.

Come on look at this thing. Sure, it's plastic and colorful but it has a *detachable scope*.

(She reads the back of the box.) "The scope puts your target in perfect view as you riddle off your rounds in rapid-fire." You're 6! I don't think a six-year-old needs to, "rain out the high-capacity magazine with fast and accurate impact." Do you? *(Reacting to his statement)*

No, it's not what 'boys' do! Where did you hear this nonsense? *(Catching herself getting frustrated)* Never mind- look, you know how much I love you right?

I don't want to have to ever worry about losing you. There are some moms out there that can't hold their kids because someone took them away by using a real version of this thing. I know what I'm saying may not be popular or cool or whatever but after these really sad things happen - *this*- just feels like a reminder of the bad times.

I know you're mad now and that's totally fine. I want you to be able to decide for yourself what feels right and not just do things because it's what the other kids are doing. And if you EVER see a real version of this thing you -never touch it. You hear me. Don't roll your eyes.

Someday you'll have a family of your own and you'll understand more.

But for now- put it back on the shelf, 'because I said so'.

-END MONOLOGUE-