

Nancy was running late to work, as normal. The kids were still in their pajamas and Dave was busy in the kitchen trying to finish packing John's lunch while simultaneously trying to get Sally to eat her cheerios. Running out the door Nancy kissed Dave and the kids goodbye.

Dave told John to go get dressed for school or else he would miss the bus. John slumped in his chair and eyeballed his backpack sitting by the garage door. John slowly got up from his seat and went up stairs, ten minutes later Dave was yelling for John to get a move on and when John didn't come down stairs Dave went upstairs to find him.

Dave, "Come on Johnny, you're going to be late."

John, "I can't go to school today, or ever again, dad."

Dave asked curiously, "Why not?"

John timidly said, "'Cause." as he played with a balled up piece of paper. Dave asked for the piece of damp paper and opened it up, it was a letter to him and his wife regarding John's school performance that needed to be read over, signed and returned to class to John's third grade teacher. The letter indicated that John's school performance was not meeting his teacher's expectations and his grades were slipping.

Dave asked, "Why haven't your mother and I seen this yet? You were sent home with this on Friday. Your mother is going to be furious."

John stared at the floor, soaked in shame. Dave asked, "Why are your grades slipping, we work on your homework every night together and it seems like you're getting along pretty well."

John said, "Well I got an A on my math quiz last month and all the girls made fun of me." He mumbled off his words and began to get teary eyed.

Dave, "Well those girls are just jealous because you're smarter than them."

"But that means they don't like me!" cried John.

"So you're purposively not doing well so the girls will like you?"

"Well maybe... They pick on me."

"Okay, well we will have a talk with your mother tonight when she gets home from work. But honey, this is how the world is. Women are intimidated when boys are smarter than them, you just need to find girls who like smart boys." Dave explained to his upset son.

Dave went to Nancy's office and typed up a message to send with John to school requesting they sit down and discuss John's grades. While in the office, Nancy's email was flashing with a message from their relator, their house being for sale Dave decided to check it hoping it was an offer on their house.

See you tonight, my love. Reservation at Bernies at 7. I left you a surprise in our room, go there first. I want you to wear it at dinner.

Eddie.

Dave reread the message 10 times before he could move. John stood at the door, "Dad, I missed the bus." Dave looked up from the screen and said, "Okay, I'll take you. I have to run errands today anyway." He printed out the letter to the teacher, signed it and packed up the kids. Dave went to the grocery store, the bank, ordered the Christmas cards and managed to get home by three to be home when John got home and to start dinner.

The entire day he saw the words from Eddie's email pounding in his head. He imagined Eddie's hands on his wife, them sitting at a table for two at Bernies, hand in hand, talking about

their days. He imagined the phone call he'd get from his wife at eight tonight, Nancy saying she got caught up with a client or in the office and that she wouldn't be home until after 10 and not to wait up for her. Dave decided to be proactive and call Nancy at the office, an advertising company in the city.

Her secretary Steve answered the phone, "Good afternoon, Nancy Higgins office."

Dave, "Hi there, Steve, its Dave. Is my wife in?"

Steve, "Oh hello, Dave, how are the kids? Yes, Nancy is here but she's on the other line with a client, after she's done I'll patch you through."

Dave, "Great, thanks. Well John is actually in a bit of trouble with school, that's why I'm calling. I'm surprised you aren't on leave yet with the baby coming so soon. When are you due again, is it December 15th?"

Steve, "December 17th, but this is baby number three for me and I can feel she isn't gonna be ready by then. I'm thinking she'll be a Christmas baby. I really want to name her Hope but the misses doesn't approve."

Dave, "Oh you know women, she'll come around. When I was pregnant with Sally, Nancy insisted we call her Lucile after her mother, how awful would that have been for a baby?"

Steve laughing, "Oh well I'm glad you got her to decide on Sally! It looks like Nancy is off the phone, I'll send you over to her now. Take care, give Sally a kiss for me."

Connecting the line through, "Hi honey, what's going on? You know I don't like it when you call me at work." Nancy sounded annoyed.

Dave, "Well I just wanted to tell you that our son's grades are slipping and I want to schedule a time for us to go in to see his teacher, Mr. Espinosa."

Nancy, more annoyed, said, "Okay, well if it's a scheduling question you can figure something out with Steve. Anything else?"

Testing the water Dave asked, "Have you heard from Eddie lately? I'm thinking we should think about getting a new relator."

Nancy calmly said, "You don't need to worry about that stuff, I'll deal with it. I will give Eddie a call this evening and see if we can get a few showings for the house in next week, just make sure it's presentable and the kids aren't running around again."

Dave tries to hide his uneasy stomach and says, "Right, of course, honey. Will I see you after dinner tonight?"

Nancy stumbles over her words for a second and says, "No, I am taking a few new clients out for drinks tonight and I probably won't be home until late. Tell the kids goodnight for me."

Click.

Dave sat at the kitchen table holding the phone. He sat there in silence debating what to do next. Sitting there at the kitchen table, a table him and Nancy have had for 7 years, in a house that he and Nancy have lived in together for 10 years. They used all their savings to buy that house; they had lived with Dave's parents after John was born until they bought that house, their first house together. Now they were selling the house, moving to something more luxurious because Nancy had been doing well at work and wanted something bigger and closer to the city. Dave sat there, the anger brewing. He didn't even want to move, he loved that house, his kids took their first steps and said their first words in that house. It was at this kitchen table that Dave announced to Nancy his second pregnancy. Nancy was the one who found Eddie the relator. And now she was sleeping with him.

End.