

JONATHAN. (Exploding.) NO, YOU STOP IT, I'M NOT DOING ANYTHING! OKAY? YOU'RE THE ONE WHO FUCKED HIM! I DIDN'T FUCK HIM! YOU FUCKED HIM! YOU WERE FUCKING MY BEST FRIEND, JENIFER! THREE MONTHS BEFORE OUR WEDDING. FUCK YOU! THAT'S COMPLETELY UNBELIEVABLE. HE'S MY BEST FRIEND. FUCK YOU! I COULD BE DEAD RIGHT NOW! FUCK YOU! (Jennifer looks at him for a long time and then crosses to the phone. She dials a number.)

JENIFER. (Into the phone.) Yes. Hello, I'm calling about ... Pardon me? ... Yes.

JONATHAN. I didn't mean it. Hang up.

JENIFER. (Into the phone.) Yes, I'm calling about a test result.

JONATHAN. Hang up. Please hang up.

JENIFER. (To Jonathan.) What are you going to do if something happens right now? (Into the phone.) Hello ... Yes, I'm holding.

JONATHAN. I lost control. Please, hang up. I love you. I don't want you to find this out right now.

JENIFER. (Into the phone.) Yes, hello ... Yes I'm calling about a test result ... Yes. (Checking the piece of paper.) L798. No, I'm sorry. L7998 ... Yes L7998 ... I know it matters, that's why I'm saying it slowly, and I don't need your attitude, all right. You're being critical and completely inappropriate. So just listen. L7998 ... Thank you.

JONATHAN. Jenifer —

JENIFER. (To Jonathan.) No. Don't say anything. That's all. (Long pause. Then into the phone.) Yes ... Oh. Thank you. (She slowly hangs up.)

JONATHAN. Jenifer?

JENIFER. I'm fine. I feel like I'm going to cry or something.

JONATHAN. Oh, God.

JENIFER. You see your whole life.

JONATHAN. Come here.

JENIFER. Flash before your eyes. Just like that. And you realize what it is. (Michael comes in the front door. His hands are covered with blood.)

JENIFER. Jesus, Michael, you're bleeding.

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END

MICHAEL. No! I'm okay. I'm not bleeding. If Jenifer says you are, you're bleeding.

MICHAEL. Shirley's bleeding. I'm not bleeding. The dog's bleeding. She got bit. One of the neighbors took her to the vet. Excuse me? (Long pause.) You told him.

JONATHAN. Can we all just calm down now, okay? We're just all having nervous breakdowns over here now.

JENIFER. I'm okay. They said I was okay.

MICHAEL. You called? Good. Everything's okay.

JENIFER. I should have waited. I'm sorry.

MICHAEL. Why are you sorry? Just be happy. I don't know why we were even worried about it.

JONATHAN. Michael.

MICHAEL. You should see Shirley. She got part of her leg taken off. It was horrible.

JENIFER. Do you want to call now?

JONATHAN. No. Come on, now stop it. What is the matter with you people? You just don't do that at a moment like this.

MICHAEL. What kind of a moment would you like, Jon?

JONATHAN. A calmer one.

JENIFER. I'm sorry.

JONATHAN. One that's a little more planned.

MICHAEL. We were trying to plan a moment, actually.

JONATHAN. I don't want to get into this now, Michael. I really don't think you want to start this right now.

MICHAEL. Thanks a lot, Jenifer. (Michael heads into the kitchen.)

JONATHAN. We'll be lucky not to end up on television the three of us.

JENIFER. You know if you called, it would feel really good to know you're okay.

MICHAEL. (Reentering, wiping his hands clean with a towel.) You do you know I'd be okay?

JENIFER. It will make you feel so much better, I swear.

MICHAEL. No, it will make you feel so much better, that's all. You want to know I'm going to be fine, and then you can go on with your life.

JONATHAN. I resent that.

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JENIFER. I don't know. We're supposed to call now.  
JONATHAN. But Michael doesn't know he's...?  
JENIFER. No. We're supposed to call them.  
JONATHAN. So you both took a test?  
JENIFER. Yes.  
JONATHAN. Because you thought it might be a possibility?  
JENIFER. Yes.  
JONATHAN. And it's ready today?  
JENIFER. Yes.  
JONATHAN. And you call them?  
JENIFER. Yes, you call.  
JONATHAN. And they tell you?  
JENIFER. It depends what ... Where's my purse? The number's in my purse. And a code. I have a code thing. I need for you to go to the gym.  
JONATHAN. Jenifer —  
JENIFER. I promised Michael we would call together. He didn't want to do this. I made him take this, and I need for you to go to the gym.  
JONATHAN. Calm down.  
JENIFER. I am very calm.  
JONATHAN. You're getting hysterical.  
JENIFER. I don't want you here when he comes back. He doesn't want you to know this.  
JONATHAN. Jenifer —  
JENIFER. I'm not hysterical.  
JONATHAN. Jenifer.  
JENIFER. What? (She finds the code in her purse.)  
JONATHAN. Will you listen to me?  
JENIFER. Oh God, I'm going to lose my mind.  
JONATHAN. Can you just sit down?  
JENIFER. No.  
JONATHAN. Fine. Just listen then. I'm not going to the gym. Okay? I'm talking calmly right now, but inside I want you to know I am not calm. I am far from calm. Okay? I am glad you're calm, but I am not calm.  
JENIFER. Stop patronizing me, I don't want you to patronize

me.  
JONATHAN. Can I ask you a question? You slept with Michael?  
JENIFER. Yes.  
JONATHAN. When?  
JENIFER. In 1988.  
JONATHAN. In 1988? And this is why you think Emma's sick? I don't think Michael was even sleeping with men in 1988.  
JENIFER. He did.  
JONATHAN. But the doctors would have told us if they thought it was a possibility.  
JENIFER. They didn't know all the information.  
JONATHAN. But the chances —  
JENIFER. I know what the chances are.  
JONATHAN. It's been eleven years.  
JENIFER. It incubates —  
JONATHAN. I know, but the chances —  
JENIFER. I know what the chances are if you don't use ...  
JONATHAN. If you don't ... (Long beat.) We were married in 1988.

JENIFER. It was before. The last time was three months before.  
JONATHAN. The last time? (Beat.) All right, I don't think any of this is a problem. Okay? I think this has all been built up in your mind and before we all have a heart attack here, I think we should just call. So give me the number.  
JENIFER. I'm waiting for Michael. I have to ...  
JONATHAN. (Trying not to explode.) Jesus fucking Christ, Jenifer. You know, I'm trying to do the right thing here, but you're making this almost impossible. I'm holding on to it by a thread. Do you understand? By less than nothing.  
JENIFER. If you want to stay here —  
JONATHAN. This is my family! I'm about to snap. Really I am. (Trying to remain calm.) Yes I want to stay here. I want you to call. That's what I want you to do. I just want you and I to make this call together. I'm your husband. Michael is not your husband. You had no right to sleep with him, Jenny. God damn you, it's just completely faithless.  
JENIFER. Jonathan, please stop it.

JENIFER. Nobody thinks I'm perfect.  
 JONATHAN. Michael thinks you're perfect, and if I would just listen more, you wouldn't have such a miserable existence.  
 JENIFER. Jonathan, please.  
 JONATHAN. But if you checked the record, you'd realize you didn't do anything today to help me. You didn't listen. I finally have lunch with this monster, and you just sit there comatose. I thought you were dead.  
 JENIFER. Don't do this. You don't know what you're talking about.  
 JONATHAN. I know what I'm talking about. I know exactly what I'm talking about. Don't tell me I don't know what I'm talking about.  
 JENIFER. Will you please s-s-s-stop shouting. I-I-I ...  
 JONATHAN. These people will kill you, all right. They'll roll you up with seaweed. I need a little support system here. Why is it so hard for you to be friendly in front of one of the most important agents in Hollywood? Do I offend you so much —  
 JENIFER. It had nothing to do with you. I-I-I-I ... I'm sorry. I should have been more up.  
 JONATHAN. Did it ever occur to you he could have helped you? You want a life? Get a life. It was sitting right in front of you. Open mouth and talk. Nobody's going to give you an acting career.  
 JENIFER. I'm not asking anybody to.  
 JONATHAN. Then what do you want?  
 JENIFER. I-I-I ...  
 JONATHAN. What? (*She stops trying.*) What is the matter with you? You can't talk now? What? (*Beat.*) Fine you want to be a caterer be one. Be an optometrist. Just stop blaming me because you're a failure. I'm not responsible. And I'm not going to roll over and starve because you can't get out of bed in the morning. Say something. All right, fuck you. I'll go to the gym. You want to get rid of me, I'll go. (*He starts to gather his things.*) And I don't need the fucking card, I'll pay the ten fucking dollars.  
 JENIFER. Your fly's open.  
 JONATHAN. What?

JENIFER. There, I said something.  
 JONATHAN. Fuck you. What do you mean my fly's open? (*He checks it, and pulls it up.*) Are you crazy? You've been looking at my fly, open, all day?  
 JENIFER. I was looking at your underwear.  
 JONATHAN. You sat at The Ivy and watched my underwear? What is going on with you? Are you sick? Do you have a fever?  
 JENIFER. I don't want to talk to you anymore.  
 JONATHAN. You're crazy now.  
 JENIFER. I'm terrified now. I'm terrified.  
 JONATHAN. Why? And don't say I'm mean. I'm not mean. I'm just trying to get through the day here. I have a temper, I'm sorry, but this is life. I am in the real world. I am not going to apologize for protecting myself.  
 JENIFER. What difference does it make? There's nothing left of you to protect. You've killed everything in you worth saving. You're just a series of preemptive strikes. It's not self-defense. You're the monster now, Jonathan, there's no bigger prick than you. And in case you haven't noticed, I don't like standing in front of a lot of people and shaking. And that's what I do, I shake on stage, and sometimes I can't talk, which I guess you did notice. I stand there waiting for my line to come, knowing I won't be able to say it. And that can be a nightmare, that kind of doom. Really, that's what it is, impending doom, and I don't want to feel that anymore. I slept with Michael. I had sex with him.  
 JONATHAN. You did what?  
 JENIFER. You don't know me.  
 JONATHAN. You did what?  
 JENIFER. I'm afraid Emma's sick. I've been worried since January.  
 JONATHAN. (*Barely audible.*) Oh my God, Jesus Christ.  
 JENIFER. I don't know anything. I took a test. That's all I know. (*Jonathan very slowly sits down.*)  
 JONATHAN. (*Very cautiously.*) When did you take a test?  
 JENIFER. Monday.  
 JONATHAN. Jenifer, is Michael...? Do you know that Michael is...?

bringing tricks home for crack money and then fucking them in front of her daughter, got arrested. So Mariana stayed there alone, eating Spaghetti O's, until inevitably some crack addict beat the shit out of her. And now she's in the hospital. Of course, I know it was highly inadvisable and unprofessional for her to have stayed here. In the words of my supervisor, I'm a kidnapper.

JONATHAN. Wait a minute. This girl *lived* here? Did you know this?

JENIFER. She's in the hospital?

MICHAEL. She'll be fine. Fine. I didn't tell you, because there is nothing I can do. They won't even let me see her. (*Taking out his wallet.*) My gym card's in here.

JONATHAN. I don't want your gym card.

MICHAEL. Fine. I'm going to walk the dog.

JENIFER. He's just trying to save you money.

JONATHAN. I'm not going to the gym. Shut up. Will you please shut up.

MICHAEL. Don't. Don't say shut up to her. Don't treat her like that.

JONATHAN. I don't want to go to the gym right now.

MICHAEL. Just do as you're told. For once in your life, just do as you are told. People are trying to help you and you don't listen. (*Michael goes out the front door.*)

JONATHAN. (*Calling out to him.*) I'm sorry I took a fucking interest. I won't do it again. (*To Jenifer.*) What did I do?

*Jenifer picks up the phone and dials.*

JENIFER. Jon, sweetie, you just had lunch with him. Nothing's changed in 20 minutes. Hang up and go to the gym, okay? It's beyond your control now.

JONATHAN. (*Hangs up the phone.*) Thank you. I don't want to go to the gym. I want you to tell me why I can't call our phone machine and you can call home twice, sometimes three times a day. I want to know where you draw the line there. What are you doing?

JENIFER. I'm trying to find Michael's gym card.

JONATHAN. I'm talking to you. Why are you trying to get rid

of me?

JENIFER. I'm not trying to get rid of you.

JONATHAN. At the beach I was like fucking poison ivy.

JENIFER. I wanted some frozen yogurt.

JONATHAN. Okay, so you say, "I want some frozen yogurt," and then we walk over and buy some. You two don't have to vanish.

JENIFER. I'm sorry. I told you I was sorry a million times. I don't know what else you want me to do. We looked for you, honestly.

JONATHAN. Crap. You ditched me. You two have entered some ... What? Some sorority. It's like I'm not here.

JENIFER. Jonathan.

JONATHAN. Fine. (*Goes and gets a script out of his bag and begins to read it.*) Did you like Alan?

JENIFER. Who?

JONATHAN. Alan. David. Alan David my agent. We just had lunch with him.

JENIFER. Yes, I did.

JONATHAN. What did you like about him?

JENIFER. He's very nice. He's ... I don't know, he seemed very nice. He has a good sense of humor.

JONATHAN. He's not at all nice. As a matter of fact, he's an opportunistic little prick. He's an evil piece of shit without any sense of humor, and anybody who was half-conscious would see through his, "I'll have the iced tea. How do you like the Roy Lichtenstein in the lobby," like it was clean glass.

JENIFER. I don't know what you want me to say.

JONATHAN. JUST BE THERE WITH ME. I'm out here eating cilantro with these vultures, trying not to retch, because I'm trying to do something with my life. I do not like *Brute Force II* any more than anyone else does. But everything is not out of our control. Do you two understand that?

JENIFER. Jonathan, what kind of person do you want me to be? Because obviously I'm failing as I am.

JONATHAN. Oh, I don't think that's fair. I think everybody thinks you're perfect.