

SHROOMS

Written by

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November 28th 2023

Address  
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INT. BEDROOM - DAY

JENNIFER MAXWELL, 42, sits on her bare mattress in an empty and undecorated room. She stares at herself in the mirror, then gets up to lock the door.

She pulls out a suitcase from underneath her bed and opens it to reveal loads of cash.

She then walks into the bathroom connected to her room and pours all the cash in the bathtub.

She pretends to swim in the cash, then rolls around in it, and then rubs it all over her face and body, as the camera PUSHES IN on her face laughing.

EXT. GARDEN - DAY

SUPER: ONE YEAR BEFORE

It's a beautiful, sunny day out in a suburban New Jersey town, and Jennifer is wearing her big straw hat as she's gardening in her backyard.

She's crouched on her knees above her plants in her garden. She looks at peace as she digs soil, plants seeds, looks over at her flowers.

She gets annoyed when she sees that her Peony still isn't growing properly. She waters it a little bit, and then checks her watch to realize that she's late.

JENNIFER

Shit.

She gets up, takes her garden gloves off, and runs towards the house.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Jennifer is frantically slathering two pieces of bread with mayo, TV blasting in the background, as her mother, BARBARA, talks her ear off, only making her more stressed.

BARBARA

Jennifer don't do it like that.  
You're not putting enough care into it.

JENNIFER

I'm just spreading mayo on bread  
mom, it won't make a difference.

Jennifer turns her attention to the stairs.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)

Theo!

BARBARA

Yeah well see what Theo thinks when he has to eat these two uncared for pieces of bread for lunch.

Jennifer's daughter LILY, 21, enters from the living room.

LILY

Mom, what would think if I cut my hair this short?

She places her hands on her shoulders.

BARBARA

Why so short? Why are young girls doing everything and anything to avoid looking ladylike these days. Society is going down the toilet, I tell you. You're grandfather would certainly agree with me.

JENNIFER

Well dad's in prison, mom, I don't think we should be trusting his judgment. THEO!

THEO, 10, finally comes running down the stairs.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)

Finally, what was taking you so long, huh, doing your makeup?

BARBARA

Ah, and now little boys are putting on makeup I guess makeup. What's next, preaching to the anti-christ?

LILY

So anyone who wants to look pretty is automatically the anti-christ now?

Jennifer gives Theo his lunchbox.

JENNIFER

Mom, enough. (TO THEO) Here's your lunch, I made you a ham sandwich.

THEO

Again? You make me the same sandwich everyday!

BARBARA

(baffled)

Jennifer! Don't make him food he doesn't want to eat!

Jennifer is getting annoyed. Suddenly, Jennifer's husband BARRY, 46, walks in, wearing his work attire with perfectly coiffed hair.

BARRY

Someone's not eating? Who's not eating?

JENNIFER

No it's not that. (TO THEO) I'll make you something else next time but you have to go now the bus is coming.

She puts his backpack on his shoulders.

THEO

I can do it myself.

BARBARA

Oh Jennifer let the boy do it himself!

Jennifer gets a little more annoyed.

JENNIFER

(TO THEO)

Don't talk to your mother like that, okay, now give me a kiss.

Theo gives her a half hearted hug.

BARRY

What, no love for your old man?

Theo and Barry do their little handshake, Jennifer appears slightly jealous. Barry ruffles Theo's hair.

BARRY (CONT'D)

Alright big guy, have a good day at school, don't miss the bus!

Theo starts walking towards the door.

THEO  
Bye dad, bye mom, bye grandma.

BARBARA  
Goodbye Theo have a great day,  
don't let ANYONE force you to wear  
makeup.

Theo exits.

LILY  
Okay well I'm gonna going back to  
Rachel Maddow.

BARBARA  
Lily no, Rachel Maddow is not who  
you should be watching right now!

Their conversation dies down as they both go into the living  
room. Jennifer and Barry are alone in the kitchen now.

BARRY  
So I was thinking, you know how  
I've been really into collecting  
little boat figurines lately?

JENNIFER  
Have I noticed all the toys piling  
up and creating clutter in our  
room, yes, yes I have.

BARRY  
(not noticing her sass)  
Well I think I should take my new  
hobby and make something big out of  
it, you know? Something worthwhile.

JENNIFER  
Hobby? What hobby?

BARRY  
Boats!

JENNIFER  
Boats?

BARRY  
Yeah boats! I want to upgrade from  
boat figurines, and I want to buy a  
boat. A real boat!

Jennifer stands in silence for a minute, in disbelief.

JENNIFER

I- I don't know what to say, honey  
we can't just buy a boat. What  
would we even use it for?

BARRY

Well what do you think? Sailing,  
riding the waves, being a man of  
the ocean...

JENNIFER

You don't know how to do any of  
that!

BARRY

I can learn!

JENNIFER

You can learn how to be a man of  
the ocean??

BARRY

Yeah! If I buy a boat!

JENNIFER

Okay let's just talk about this  
later, I have a lot to do today.

BARRY

(in a condescending tone)  
What, the groceries?

Jennifer gives him a dirty look.

JENNIFER

Yes, Barry, I have to do the  
groceries to feed our children and  
my mother, and you Barry, I have to  
feed you. And then I have to clean  
OUR home, and pick up those toy  
boats you have lying around on the  
floor before I accidentally step on  
them again. And THEN I have to  
clean that goddamn natural pool  
that no one ever swims in, that you  
insisted we get, and by the time  
I'm done with all of that, I have  
to make dinner for everyone.

Barry, who was barely paying attention to most of what  
Jennifer was saying, perks up when she mentions dinner.

BARRY

Oh speaking of dinner I'm gonna be late again tonight.

JENNIFER

Again?

BARRY

Yeah I'm sorry honey, it's that, that paperwork that keeps me up late all the time, the paperwork, yeah. But don't worry, I'll eat the leftovers!

JENNIFER

Oh well thank god for that.

Barry checks his watch.

BARRY

Oh look at that, the time is escaping me. I gotta good but, uhhh, we'll talk about more about this boat thing, alright?

Jennifer rolls her eyes.

JENNIFER

Yeah alright.

BARRY

Alright-y then, it's in the books! Goodbye honey.

He kisses her on the cheek and exits. Jennifer sighs.

INT. GROCERY STORE - LATER

Jennifer walks through the baking supplies section of the grocery store. She picks up a bottle of maple syrup that reads "UNICORN FLAVORED".

JENNIFER

(under her breath)

Huh yeah, let's pump our kids with MORE sugar, that'll do them good.

LISA

Jenny!!

Jennifer turns around. In comes happy go lucky LISA, 44, skipping over to Jennifer while pushing her shopping cart.

JENNIFER

Hey Lisa.

LISA

How are you doing? I haven't seen you at the PTA meetings for three weeks in a row now!

JENNIFER

I know, I'm sorry. I've had a lot on my plate recently, my mom moved in with us so that's been a lot to handle.

LISA

Oh girl trust me I understand, one time I went on a skiing trip in the Swiss Alps with my mother and by golly if I wasn't a good christian women I would say I wanted to shoot myself by the end of it hahahahaha!

Jennifer has a slightly concerned look on her face.

JENNIFER

(awkwardly)

Oh, hahaha.

LISA

That's why I only go on vacations with Rich now. No moms, no kids, just me and my man having some alone time, if you know what I mean, hahahaha!

JENNIFER

(sarcastically)

Oh, hahaha. No what do you mean?

LISA

(also ignoring her sass)

Rich and I just recently came back from the Peruvian Amazon where we took magic mushrooms amongst a tribe of fellow spiritual beings.

Jennifer suddenly seems interested in the conversation.

JENNIFER

Magic mushrooms? Wow, how was that?

LISA

OH MY GOD, Jenny it was just life changing.

(MORE)

LISA (CONT'D)

Simply life changing I mean I have never felt more connected to nature, to my body, even to womanhood after embarking on my journey to enlightenment. I mean I could honestly cry thinking about it.

JENNIFER

Well I certainly wouldn't mind some of that!

Jennifer seems to ridicule what Lisa is saying but with a slight hint of genuine interest.

LISA

Seriously though, it was a very mind opening experience that I got to share with my husband. You should watch that new documentary on Netflix about shrooms, it's really fascinating.

JENNIFER

Yeah I'll definitely check it out.

LISA

And you should start coming back to PTA meetings Jen, bring your mom if you need to! The girls and I miss having you around.

Lisa walks off as Jennifer takes in what she just said.

INT. KITCHEN - LATER THAT NIGHT

Jennifer is putting all the dishes into the dishwasher, when Barry finally gets home. Jennifer checks the time on the stove, it's 10:23.

JENNIFER

You're home.

BARRY

I'm sorry I'm late.

He kisses her on the cheek.

BARRY (CONT'D)

Any leftovers?

JENNIFER

Yeah, they're in the fridge. So listen I ran into Lisa today at the super--

BARRY

--I quit the firm today.

Jennifer chuckles.

JENNIFER

Oh no, we're gonna go broke! So anyways, Lisa was telling me she tried--

BARRY

I'm not joking, I quit my job. I'm so tired being a contract attorney.

Silence.

BARRY (CONT'D)

It's just hours and hours of stress and endless... dullness, I mean my god, all I ever do is review contract after contract I feel as though a part of who I am gets lost every time I read a new one.

Silence.

BARRY (CONT'D)

And I know it pays better than commercial litigation but, I was thinking, you know, at what cost? It's not worth wasting around all day, so I officially decided that I will pursue my dreams of being a boat specialist.

The mention of boats is what finally sets Jennifer off.

JENNIFER

YOU RUINED OUR ONLY SOURCE OF INCOME ON BOATS??!!?

BARRY

Well geez don't get all hysterical over it.

JENNIFER

Hysterical?? I'm being hysterical??  
I don't think I'm hysterical  
enough, Barry, why aren't you  
hysterical??

BARRY

Because it's exciting! This is a  
new start for our family.

JENNIFER

No Barry, you weren't thinking for  
our family, you were thinking for  
yourself. You had a dull job  
because you are a dull man, and you  
should have stuck with it. But no,  
you're too selfish to think of  
anyone but yourself. You're selfish  
and you're a quitter.

BARRY

(in a more serious tone)  
You were the one who quit on our  
child when you had an abortion.

Jennifer is in disbelief, she's at a loss for words. She  
storms out of the kitchen, slamming the door behind her.

INT. BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Jennifer is lying in bed, staring at the ceiling fan turning.  
The sound of Barry humming in the shower is heard. Suddenly,  
his phone on the bedside table dings, and Jennifer looks at  
it.

It's a text from someone named ANGIE that reads "THE GIRLS  
MISS YOU ALREADY" with a photo attached of her breasts.

Jennifer simply gets up, phone in hand, and enters the  
bathroom where Barry is showering. She runs the phone  
underwater in the sink.

BARRY (O.S.)

Hun, turn the water off, you're  
making the shower too hot!

Jennifer keeps the sink water on, opens the shower curtain  
where Barry is revealed with a confused expression, and  
throws the phone at his feet.

BARRY (CONT'D)

Ow! What the hell??