

MORVEN

Right, well I'll get a move on. I've gone cold sitting here. Where's my big boy?

RORY

Night Mum, thanks.

MORVEN

Night, Maddy. You look beautiful.

MADDY

Thank you Morven. Tonight's done me a lot of good -I really appreciate it.

*MORVEN gathers her belongings. MADDY goes to the open plan kitchen, spots the dinner she prepared untouched.*

MADDY (CONT'D)

Did he not eat his tea?

MORVEN

I decided to take him out for a treat. Took him to that cafe in your big supermarket down the road.

MADDY

What did he have?

MORVEN

You'll be cross with me.

MADDY

Of course I won't.

RORY

She will.

MADDY

Rory! What did he have?

MORVEN

Pizza with a side order of mixed vegetables.

MADDY

Mixed vegetables is good.

MORVEN

But he only ate the pizza.

MADDY

Right.

MORVEN

In fact, he picked the cheese off the pizza and left the rest. And then he had jelly and ice-cream but then as we were leaving, he spotted a chocolate rabbit so he had that as well.

MADDY

At tea-time? Morven...No wonder he was high as a kite at bedtime.

MORVEN

Sorry about the pizza. I was trying to persuade him to go for the fish fingers but it all got bit panicked in the queue.

MADDY

How come?

MORVEN

He needed a wee just as I was about to pay and I was carrying the tray with our meals and drinks on it. He was really desperate all of a sudden and I thought “Oh God, how do I get out of this muddle?” But fortunately a nice man in the queue behind us offered to take him. He hadn’t chosen his dinner yet so I took his empty tray and he took Joshua for a wee.

MADDY

What?

MORVEN

Joshua was excited that he’d get to go into the boys toilet instead of the Ladies with me.

MADDY (TO RORY)

Have you heard this?

RORY

Which man?

MORVEN

A nice man behind us. Probably a dad himself. Just a nice, kind man.

What’s wrong?

MADDY (TO RORY)

I don’t know what to...

RORY

Alright, calm down.

MORVEN

What have I said?

RORY

I think Maddy’s just worried that you let a man we don’t know/

MADDY

A stranger.

RORY

A stranger. Take Joshua.

MADDY

A newly potty trained three year old.

RORY

Yes, thank you, Maddy.

MORVEN

He was fine. He didn’t have an accident or anything. His pants and trousers were dry so the man must have helped him.

MADDY

Oh God.

MORVEN

And he’d definitely washed his hands because I asked when they got back.

MADDY

Rory!

RORY

Yeah, Mum, we don’t care about whether Joshua washed his hands. I mean, we do but. Who was the man?

MORVEN

Just a man. A nice man.

MADDY

A total stranger.

MORVEN

Joshua was fine. He gobbled up his dinner, giggling and/

MADDY

I'm going to wake him.

RORY

Don't wake him.

MORVEN

I'm sorry if I've done it wrong. It was all a bit of a panic. I was holding two trays with his meal and my meal and drinks, I've got my wallet out ready to pay. And when he needs to go, as you well know, you can't wait around.

RORY

I know Mum but/

MADDY

I'm going to wake him.

RORY

Please don't.

MADDY

Why's this guy offering to take a three year old to the toilet?

RORY

I don't know.

MORVEN

I think he was a Dad. Used to it.

RORY

Did he have kids with him?

MORVEN

No, but. You know, maybe he was working away from home or he's separated from his wife.

RORY

Did he say that?

MORVEN

He didn't say anything really. Offered to help. Helped. Said goodbye. That was all it was. Totally innocent.

MADDY

Lurking with no food on his tray at kid's tea time, just ready to leap into action.

RORY

Look we don't know/

MORVEN

I'm sorry. I didn't think/

RORY

Mum, it's fine. Joshua seemed fine?

MORVEN

Of course he did. He was his usual happy little self.

RORY

Ok. That's fine then. Next time, it'd be better if you just took him yourself. He's still little and you think the world is full of helpful people but believe me Mum, there's some evil shits out there.

MADDY

I'm going to wake him.

MORVEN

I wouldn't wake him, love. He was beyond himself at the end.

MADDY

So not his usual happy little self?

MORVEN

Sorry?

MADDY

How was he beyond himself? What was he doing? Was he crying?

MORVEN

A bit. But just that tired grizzly crying not anything/

MADDY

How can you be sure?

RORY

He cries at bedtime every night.

MADDY

But this isn't "every night", is it?

RORY

Look, Mum, why don't you get off. Thank you for tonight. I'll call you ok.

MORVEN

About the 18th?

RORY

We'll see.

MORVEN

Ok. Night love. Night, Maddy.

*MADDY doesn't answer. MORVEN leaves. A moment between RORY and MADDIE.*