

Afternoon

by

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INT. LINDA'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - AFTERNOON

LINDA (40's and attractive) flips through a SKIN MAGAZINE of naked men. She stops on a picture of a naked "farmer" and smiles.

LINDA
(into cellphone)
Michelle, what would you do?

MICHELLE
I would talk to my daughter.

LINDA
Really?

MICHELLE
I'm sure it's just a phase. Has your daughter talked about boys?

LINDA
A lot. She says they suck....
She's only nine.

MICHELLE
Nine year old boys do suck.

LINDA
True.

A beat as Linda starts to take an interest in the magazine.

MICHELLE
Are you ready for my bible study tonight?

LINDA
My kid has good taste.... Bible study? I totally forgot.

MICHELLE
No problem. You have a lot on your mind.

LINDA
You have no idea.

Another beat as Linda flips to another page of another very fine looking guy.

MICHELLE
Sure. See you tonight.

Linda hangs up the phone. Suddenly, there's a KNOCK at the door.

LINDA
Who the hell is that?

Linda opens her fridge door and takes out a beer. She really needs it. She takes a quick sip and heads for her front door.

OUTSIDE

We see a PLUMBER (20's, muscular, and awkwardly handsome).

Linda opens the door and lets the Plumber inside to the

LIVING ROOM

PLUMBER
So what are we fixing today?

LINDA
My kids.

Linda takes another sip of her beer.

PLUMBER
I think I'm the wrong guy for the job.
(flirting)
But I'm good with my hands.

LINDA
You're not quite a carpenter.

PLUMBER
Come again.

Linda leads the plumber to the

BATHROOM

Where the toilet is overflowing. The floor is wet.

LINDA
It's plugged up.

PLUMBER
No shit.

LINDA
Maybe you should check.

PLUMBER
Check for what?

Linda smiles.

PLUMBER (CONT'D)
(smiling back)
I'll take care of it.

LINDA
Thanks.

Linda walks back to the

KITCHEN

The magazine lays open on the table showing a nude carpenter. Next to the magazine lays her bible. Which "Jesus" should she pick?

A beat.

She picks up the magazine and flips through some more pages. It's been a while.

PLUMBER (O.S.)
You really shouldn't flush condoms
down the drain.

Caught by surprise.

LINDA
Excuse me.

The plumber enters the kitchen with a dozen condoms in a plastic bag.

PLUMBER
Look for yourself.

Linda realizes the magazine is open in front of her. She quickly hides it. The Plumber catches a glimpse and smiles.

LINDA
That's good to know. What do I
owe?

PLUMBER

I'm not done yet. I have to grab a few things from my truck. I'll be right back.

LINDA

(flirting)

Thanks. Take your time.

What is she thinking? She hasn't felt this horny in a long time.

Linda continues to page through the magazine. It's been a very long time.

Linda's cellphone RINGS.

LINDA (CONT'D)

(into her cellphone)

Maggie. How have you been?

MAGGIE

I've been better.

LINDA

Tell me about it.

MAGGIE

Being divorced sucks.

LINDA

I thought women got all the money in divorces.

MAGGIE

Money doesn't get you laid. I'm old now.

LINDA

You're experienced.

MAGGIE

Nice. But how am I supposed to find someone when my kid is getting it on with my next door neighbor?

A beat and shift in conversation.

LINDA

For real?

MAGGIE

Yep. I found some naked pictures of her and condoms in my kid's dresser.

LINDA

I'm sorry. We can talk about this stuff at my bible study tonight.

MAGGIE

At bible study? Are you fuckin' insane?

LINDA

Maybe.

Linda takes another drink before tossing out her beer. Time for some more.

CRASH.

The plumber enters the kitchen.

PLUMBER

Sorry about that. Lid fell off the toilet.

Linda nods.

LINDA

Can I call you back?

MAGGIE

Sure.

Linda hangs up her phone.

LINDA

I didn't hear you come back inside.

PLUMBER

I try to stay out of my customer's way.

LINDA

Do you want a drink?

PLUMBER

Thanks. But I have more stops to make today. Maybe another time?

LINDA

(winks)
Maybe.

Linda's cellphone sings the song, "Girl's Just Wanna Have Fun." She sings to herself a few verses.

LINDA (CONT'D)
 (into cellphone)
 Hey, hun. How's your day?

It's her HUSBAND.

HUSBAND
 It's been better. I'm gonna be running late tonight.

LINDA
 (sarcastically)
 Great.

A beat.

HUSBAND
 So you don't mind?

LINDA
 I miss you.

HUSBAND
 You to.

LINDA
 No, I mean I really miss you. You know what I mean.... Are you going straight to bed tonight?

HUSBAND
 Probably. It's been a long day. I'll catch some dinner on the way home.

LINDA
 Okay. But let's talk about the kids when you get home.

HUSBAND
 Sure.

LINDA
 I found a skin mag in the bathroom.

HUSBAND
 (proud)
 Really? Is it Jeremy's?

LINDA
 It has naked guys in it.

HUSBAND

Maybe not. I'll see you soon.

Linda hears a girl GIGGLE on the phone.

LINDA

Who was that?

HUSBAND

That's my new admin. She's full of energy. Youth. Must be nice.

LINDA

Is she blonde?

HUSBAND

I'll be home as soon as I can.

LINDA

Love ya.

Linda hangs up.

The plumber walks into the kitchen.

PLUMBER

All done.

LINDA

Great. How about that drink?

PLUMBER

I really shouldn't drink on the job.

LINDA

No. It's really okay.

Linda walks over to the sink and starts to wash two glasses. Water SPLASHES all over her. And she looks good wet.

PLUMBER

I really think I should be leaving now.

LINDA

What do I owe you?

PLUMBER

What?

LINDA

For the plumbing work.

PLUMBER
Oh, one hundred fifty.

LINDA
One minute. Let me get my check
book.

Linda writes the plumber a check, and as he's about to leave,
Linda grabs his arm.

LINDA (CONT'D)
Do you think I'm pretty?

PLUMBER
Huh?

LINDA
Really?

PLUMBER
Yeah, but I have to go. Other
houses to fix.

LINDA
Do you like me?

The doorbell RINGS.

PLUMBER
Shouldn't you get that?

Linda enters the

LIVING ROOM

And opens the door. In walks a cute, twenty-something carpet
cleaner named JULIA.

JULIA
I'm Julia.

Bitch. Whore.

LINDA
Lovely.

PLUMBER
Gotta run.

JULIA
(winks at Plumber)
Nice to meet you.
(MORE)

JULIA (CONT'D)
 (to Linda)
 So where do you want me to start?

LINDA
 The living room. Please don't
 knock anything over.

Linda returns to the kitchen and picks up the magazine. She makes her way upstairs to the

BATHROOM

She closes the door behind her, leaving us in the

HALLWAY

A long beat on the closed door.

LINDA (O.S.)
 Oh, my gawd.

And a LOUD KNOCK.

LINDA (O.S.) (CONT'D)
 Son-of-a-bitch.

The door swings open, and Linda runs down to the front door.

OUTSIDE

We see a KID (pre-teen) with his DAD (40's). Linda opens the door.

KID
 Would you like to donate to United
 Way?

Linda is fuming.

LINDA
 Sure.

DAD
 Thanks. He really appreciates it.

LINDA
 One minute. Let me get my pocket
 book.

Linda writes a check, hands it to the kid, and closes the door before the kid can say anything.

We follow her back up to the

BATHROOM

She picks the magazine off the floor and starts flipping the pages. With one hand, we see her start to unzip her skirt. We catch a glimpse of her underwear. She closes the door, leaving us in the

HALLWAY

Another long beat. We hear heavy BREATHING behind the door. But we also hear FOOTSTEPS running up the stairs.

JULIA (O.S.)
You're kids are home.

SALLY (pre-teen) and JEREMY (teenager) walk past us.

LINDA (O.S.)
Short day?

JEREMY
Short day.

SALLY
Isn't it great?

JEREMY
Where's dad?

LINDA (O.S.)
He's running late tonight.

SALLY
Can I use the bathroom?

LINDA (O.S.)
Sure. One minute.

The door opens and Linda walks out. Sally rushes inside.

She sees the magazine on the floor and grins. Linda looks horrified. Sally hands the magazine to Jeremy. This isn't the first time Sally has seen the magazine.

SALLY
Jeremy, please don't leave your magazine in the bathroom. It's disgusting.