## **Story 1**

when my wife and I arrived at the Halloween party it was already Lively it was hard not to notice her fit physique

showcased by her tight jet black Catwoman outfit despite being a mom of two Alicia looks stunning sometimes I

forget just how attractive she is I on the other hand was dressed as a pirate

hot not really but not too shabby either Alicia gave me a quick kiss on the cheek

before mingling with other guests while I made my way to the drinks area where my friends were engaged in a heated

debate as I approached I realized they were arguing over the age-old question Hulk or Superman it struck me as a bit

silly considering the intellect in the room Superman was obviously the superior Choice nevertheless I decided to join

the debate drawing from my childhood spent immersed in Marvel and DC Comics confident in my expertise I hoped to

settle the matter once and for all however my arguments only fuel red the debate further turning the conversation

into chaos but that's what happens when you mix beer with grown men eventually we all agreed to table the discussion

opting instead to enjoy the abundance of beer and fun knowing Alicia wouldn't want to leave anytime soon I plan to

stay relatively sober she was already having a great time chatting with her best friend Susie who was also dressed

as Catwoman Alicia and Susie had been Inseparable since middle school despite being almost Polar Opposites in

personality they shared the same upbringing often jokingly speculating about being Switched at Birth however

they both detested that joke Susie was married to Dominic who was quite different from me in many ways while I

managed restaurants for a living Dominic worked with his hands though I wasn't as active in the gym as I used to be I

still maintained a decent level of Fitness for my boxing days in college Dominic however works at a nearby

Factory while I'm unsure of his specific role I know it entails heavy lifting for 8 to 10 hours daily he's practically a

gym rat resulting in a muscular physique unlike my neat short hair his is long and tied back in a ponytail complimented

by a beard giving him an aztech Warrior Vibe if Dominic resembles Drogo from Game of Thrones I'm more akin to Dawn

Draper from Madmen though I never truly warmed up to him I didn't dislike him either our connection was merely through

suszie my wife's best friend so our interactions were sporadic and never extended beyond that and tonight was no

exception sporting a Tarzan costume in chilly weather struck me as insensitive I couldn't help but perceive it as a

idiot move reflecting his tendency for such actions despite his flirtatious Behavior which often bordered on

inappropriate the women including Alicia seemed to find it more amusing than offensive this bothered me especially

considering su's apparent indifference while she occasionally playfully chided him there was no real reprimand

suggesting she took pride in his ability to attract attention as the night progressed and Dominic's inhibitions

lowered with drinks consumption his flirtatiousness became more pronounced regardless of the women's marital status

though some husbands may have been angered by his advances no one reacted perhaps out of fear intoxication or a

desire to avoid confrontation however I remained Vigilant ready to intervene if he

crossed a line with Alicia sensing my unease she approached me are you enjoying yourself Greg she shouted over

the music I nodded and took a sip of beer observing her move to the music standing beside me her attention shifted

to Tarzan silently appraising his physique unintentionally I felt a surge of jealousy as I sensed her desire it

bothered me who dresses as Tarzan in this weather Alicia snapped back to reality and faced me you know Dominic

sweetheart always craving the spotlight I chuckled but the taste of my beer suddenly soured Alicia noticed my shift

in mood are you jealous she asked jealous of him I don't need to strip

down to get attention I replied my tone defensive Alicia laughed it off of

course not honey she said turning her attention back to him as the night progressed and more drinks flowed

inhibitions waned Dominic and his loin cloth became less of a focus as I mingled with my genuine friends it

wasn't until later that I noticed Dominic making advances towards Alicia searching for her I found them in the

kitchen engaged in in carnal conversation my jealousy flared and Dominic retreated upon seeing me Alicia

sensing the tension greeted me with forced warmth hi darling I was just looking for you she hurriedly said in

the same place all night Alicia what were you two talking about you looked awfully cozy I asked my tone accusatory

she tried to dismiss it nothing happened Greg Dominic was just being his usual

flirty self she assured but my unease lingered I'm just a bit tipsy honey

don't worry she said patting my cheek before leaving for the rest of the evening

Dominic and Alicia kept their distance exchanging only Secret glances it was enough to unsettle me I needed a break

the beer was kicking in so I needed a bathroom break afterward I bumped into Dominic as if he trailed me got a

problem Greg he slurred his gaze menacing what I felt the surrealness of the moment he accused me of looking down

on him due to my wealth inciting superiority it puzzled me you're drunk Dominic go home before you say something

you'll regret I said moving past him regret what like sleeping with your

pretty wife he jabbed grabbing my attention I confronted him warning him to keep my wife out of his Twisted

thoughts he smirked dismissing them as memories not fantasies his words struck me like thunder ending the conversation

you're full of it I retorted less certain now then he made crude remarks about Alicia crossing a line enraged I

struck him the impact echoing through the drywall descending the stairs I found Alicia her tear filled eyes

confirming Dominic's claims Panic ensued as Dominic lay unconscious amid the

chaos Alicia approached me her question Frozen on her lips a glance told her I knew her teary eyes confirmed Dominic's

words call emergency Dominic's unconscious she cried screams echoed

from above but I stood there looking at Alicia searching for the woman I married honestly I didn't care about Dominic's

fate at that moment what the hell did you do to my husband a scream pierced the air behind me followed by fists

punching my back I dodged sus swings and someone pulled her away GR

what the hell Richard the party host questioned noticing the chaos ignoring him I faced Susie did you know your

husband slept with Alicia her silence spoke volumes confirming her knowledge Without Anger or denial she just looked

at me as if she knew everything Alicia's hand rested gently on my shoulder Greg

we need to talk but not here she said softly I turned to her unleashing a

surge of Rage unlike any I'd felt before it was so intense tears wed in my eyes a

release of emotion preventing me from exploding he woke up a shout echoed from above Susie hurried back upstairs my

anger began to fade as the gravity of the situation sank in what if I had eliminated Dominic in a moment of anger

I could face lifelong consequences even assault charges jeopardizing my hard-earned career over a drunken

mistake the same drunken mistake who slept with my wife Greg come on honey

letun get out of here we need to talk Alicia pleaded us no Alicia you're going home with your boyfriend and his wife

I'm leaving I retorted heading for the front door Alicia grabbed me in desperation Greg you can't leave me here

we're going home and we're going to talk do you hear me you're not leaving me behind she cried her face streak with

tears a mix of Fury and sadness it made no sense what she was angry about I

can't handle this Alicia don't go home I could end up in jail for assault I don't want to add domestic violence to the mix

damn you Greg damn you want to punch me go ahead coward at least you'll

acknowledge me damn itd be the first time you've touched me in weeks she jabbed her finger into my chest as her

anger escalated leaving me puzzled by its intensity she was the one in the wrong yet she was Furious is that it

because I don't cuddle you every night is that your lame excuse is that why you cheated with this idiot she didn't

respond verbally her defiant glare spoke volumes just so you know Alicia I earn a

living I don't have a husband to pay my bills maybe if you had a job you'd understand what it's like to come home

exhausted suddenly I remembered our audience hanging on every word like they were watching a movie Alicia was mocking

me poor Greg too tired for his wife yet finds time for adult movies maybe if you paid attention to your wife instead of

silicone Barbie dolls online she wouldn't confide in her friend about feeling neglected Alicia's voice

crescendoed fists clenched tears streaming down her face a mix of pain and fury it was the ultimate humiliation

I had no witty retort or comeback speechless I faced the judgmental stairs of our friends and neighbors shock

disgust sympathy and perhaps a hint of entertainment I had to leave Alicia's

cries of Despair echoed until I started the car and drove off into the night this story based on real events is not

from Greg's perspective but mine Richard the party host yes I have a hole the

size of Dominics next to my daughter's room writing from Greg's Viewpoint allowed readers to feel his anger and

humiliation my wife and I discussed it extensively it's like watching a train wreck you can't look away su's lack of

anger when Greg disclosed Alicia's affair with Dominic indicated she was already aware was it a Minaj atra or

another scenario frankly a Mina at TRW involving them would rival any adult movie how long had this been going on I

also noticed the exchanged looks between Alicia and Dominic at the party suggesting something more maybe I'm

overanalyzing but maybe not it was evident Greg was neglecting Alicia carnally perhaps in other aspects

too was this an excuse for her infidelity I doubt it does it explain why she cheated certainly women whose

advances are consistently rebuffed may be more tempted to have an affair especially if the husband shows interest

in other women or watches adult movies which can be seen as a form of betrayal by the way Alicia is incredibly

attractive in real life in my opinion any man would find her irresistible but this reinforces the saying saying that

for every beautiful woman there's a man tired of having love making with her The

crucial question is what happens next currently the four of them are keeping silent about the situation but it's only

a matter of time before it comes out while this story is based on true events I didn't witness everything and had to

take creative Liberties especially with Greg's inner thoughts I sympathize with him and the tough choices he faces

Alicia treated him unfairly regardless of her reasons I'm uncertain whether reconciliation or divorce is the best

path full disclosure I'm somewhat biased as Greg is a friend of mine and about Superman and the Hulk I side with Greg

Superman's powers like thermal vision flight and super speed would easily defeat the Hulk unless there's

Kryptonite involved but that's beside the point Mr Kiron they're calling you online one who is it Betty Mr Ford is

calling for you sir Greg Greg called me I've been trying to reach him since the Halloween incident until now he his wife

and their lovers remained silent but there have been so many questions how could something like this not happen the

public Showdown was so dramatic with elements of Love Making violence and betrayal and the Epic confrontation

between David and Goliath except this time Goliath had a glass jaw and wrote a check his drunk self couldn't cash and

David cashed it out of genuine hatred patch him through Betty um sir he seems

a bit upset well yes his wife did publicly humiliate him if he weren't upset I'd be concerned thank you Betty

I'll handle it I awaited The Click indicating I was connected to Greg hey Greg it's Richard I've been trying to

reach you since I couldn't bring myself to say these words out loud ever since I found out about my wife sleeping with

that [ \_\_ ] yeah I needed some time to process everything Greg replied his voice still carrying the simmering anger

beneath his composed tone even over the phone his emotions were palpable

so do you want to talk about it I asked hearing a chuckle from him on the other end tinged with bitterness it almost

sounded like a snort why would I want to talk to you Richard huh buddy so you can broadcast it online does your little

story need a sequel are people dying to know what happened next to the guy who couldn't satisfy his wife can't your

eager fans just wait to see how my damn life unfolds fine he had read my narrative now Not only was he furious at

his cheating wife her deceitful friend and her caveman lover but he was also angry with me fantastic Greg and I were

high school buddies he played baseball I played football despite losing touch after school him off to college me

joining the Air Force we reconnected when I returned to our hometown years later he'd landed a management job at

Olive Garden I teased him about wasting his college degree but he persisted and quickly climbed the ranks eventually

becoming a district manager overseeing multiple restaurants earning almost as much as me now my dear friend was

seething at me not good Greg usually I i' crack a joke to diffuse tension but

in this case it would only make things worse I especially like the ending I began but he cut me off I had no choice

but to shut up and listen you know where I tucked my tail between my legs and ran off like a coward nice touch his words

dripped with sarcasm leaving me feeling like a terrible friend utterly defenseless Greg where are you we need

to talk I urged you know what's funny Richard I've suddenly become quite the popular guy these days

more so than ever before seems like everyone wants a chat with me must be my charming personality he quipped his

voice slurring slightly I could hear the clinks of liquid pouring into a glass Greg are you drunk I asked concerned no

Richard I was drunk an hour ago can't tell you who I am now he retorted sarcastically all right I admit it I was

a lousy friend but I'm here to make it right where are you Greg I said hastily

grabbing my coat and keys momentarily forgetting my work obligations screw you Richard not telling you where I am don't

you dare show up at this bar I'll mess you up if you do he warned before the line went dead but I didn't need him to

tell me I knew exactly where he was there were only a handful of bars in town worth going to and Greg had his

favorite at Mo's partly because he had a thing for the cute bartender there she was the type who could flirt and seem

unattainable at the same time which only added to her Allure yet despite her charm she wasn't busy when I walked in

my heart sank seeing Greg alone at the bar the sole Patron in the place checking my watch I realized it was just

past noon Karen the bartender greeted me with a wave her eyes showing concern does

this handsome guy belong to you she teased though her smile didn't quite reach her eyes I nodded subtly gesturing

for her to give us some privacy with a tilt of my head towards Greg it was all I managed before his fist connected with

my face sending me reeling and seeing Stars no wonder Dominic ended up in bad

shape before I knew it I was on the floor wiping blood from my lip as Greg glared down at me eventually he shook

his head and returned to the bar stool I picked myself up signaling to Karen to keep quiet as I made my way over to Greg

before he noticed me again she stood before us eyes wide as saucers as she started to approach I silently waved and

nodded signaling that it was all right in response she nodded back and resumed clearing tables now that that's settled

can we talk I asked mustering up courage as I sat down beside him he took another sip of his beer and shook his head off

the Record he quipped sarcastically I chuckled inwardly at least his sense of humor was intact anyway you really hit a

nerve there he said with disdain how's your relationship with your mom you've met her right yeah I still remember her

frisking me to make sure I didn't bring any forbidden stuff into her house we laughed about it later Greg recounted

taking another sip before meeting my gaze forgot God's sake Richard it was bad enough going through that then

reading about it and knowing all my friends knew it was me Greg I just pinned it down I never meant to

embarrass you and besides no one will even know it's you I tried to reassure both him and myself two cats Tarzan and

a pirate plus the pirate who tossed Tarzan into the wall how many damn Halloween parties do you think that's

happened at most of them are the same Greg looked like he wanted to punch me again you find this funny okay humor was

definitely not the way to go you're right Greg I was an idiot I genuinely

apologize for putting you in that spot well I'm not sorry for punching you he retorted I rubbed my chin and chuckled

you still punch like a girl no wonder you always got your backside kicked in boxing that seemed to break the tension

and it continued to thaw I managed to coax him away from Mo and into my car Karen shot me a grateful look and hugged

me as we left take care of him Richard he's going through a lot she said my jaw

was throbbing and beginning to swell but I got Greg out of there and that was what mattered

most the moment I secured him into my passenger seat he drifted off looking like he hadn't slept in days instead of

heading to his mom's I drove him to my place along the way I called another friend John how's it going Richie Rich

he greeted me cheerfully as he answered the phone Jon was one of those guys who still acted like he was in his 20s a

great guy though quite immature I emphasize very since most guys are at least a little immature he's the one who

sparked the whole Hulk versus Superman debate always the life of the party however none of the wives really want

their husbands to be under his influence he had a knack for bringing out the teenage troublemaker and his friends but

we all love him John I need your hand I found Greg at Mo might need some help

getting him into my place and settled in bed he's out cold damn glad you tracked

him down been looking for him all week after what that idiot did to him it's a miracle he didn't do something

drastic John parked his Mustang behind my Taho in my driveway and together we tackled the task of moving 200 lb of

dead weight onto the couch in my basement not an easy feat after chatting for a bit he headed out with the promise

that I'd keep him updated being home early meant I had the house all to myself which was a rarity so rare in

fact that I found myself at a loss for what to do didn't want to step out in case Greg woke up disoriented so I fired

up the George Foreman grill for steak and baked some potatoes then I flipped through my cable sports package hoping

to catch a good game or at least some interesting Sports Talk settled on a documentary and dug into my meal it

wasn't long before my wife Nikki walked in with our kids in tow hey what brings you home so early she asked planting a

kiss on my cheek the kids scampered upstairs found Greg at Mo sosed as hell

brought him back here and laid him out in the basement I explained she looked hesitant are you sure that's a good idea

I don't want any drunken Antics in front of the kids heun be fine sweetheart I'll keep an eye on him I assured her feeling

her hand caress my cheek sending a shiver down my spine that's when she noticed the swelling Richard what the

hell did he do this I'm all right honey don't worry about it rich get him out of

here honey everything's under control the poor guy just found out his wife was cheating on him a few weeks back and it

happened so public he's on edge plus he's been dealing with it all alone I'm his friend he needed an

outlet for his penup anger and if that meant taking some hits I didn't mind besides my jaw is not as fragile as

Tarzan's maybe he should consider a different costume next year Nikki couldn't help but chuckle at that

watching Tarzan get his backside kicked by a pirate was pretty amusing I doubt Jane would approve yeah Tarzan

definitely got what was coming to him Dominic should spend less time pumping iron and more time hitting the bag Nikki

quipped or at least learn to dodge she added we shared a laugh once her Giggles subsided one thing I've always admired

about Nikki is her personality and sense of humor it's one of the reasons why I can't stay angry with her for too long I

headed downstairs to check on Greg his thunderous snoring assured me he was still very much alive albeit

functionally comos I slipped a pillow under his head when he let out a sound That Could Wake the Dead his drinks

breath could have knocked out a bull what the heck Greg I muttered the stench clinging to me I needed to step away a

few hours later a zombie-like version of my friend emerged from the abyss his bloodshot eyes screamed exhaustion and

distress as he shuffled around my kitchen Nikki shot me a silent warning that spoke volumes keep him in line or

he's out I approached him in the kitchen how you feeling buddy feels like my wife

cheated on me humiliated me in front of the whole neighborhood then ran me over with a truck at least your memory is

intact two out of three ain't bad his eyes narrowed my memory's fine I remember your damn story too remember

how you socked me in the face for it I rubbed my tender jaw that part seems

fuzzy might need a repeat just to be sure it's done there was no real venom in his words despite his talk of wanting

to punch me again I knew he wouldn't I've said it before but I'm really sorry

about that story Greg I didn't think it would reach as many people as it did and

I certainly didn't think you'd find out about it I was wrong people actually read it I even got a message from this

guy I know who heard about the party from someone and then read your story online who's this guy you don't know him

he's this loudmouth named Harry from Virginia I chuckled Harry Ina huh heard

of him nice guy once you get past his attitude by the way he's on my side and thinks you're an idiot too Greg said

grinning yeah well I'm sure he felt that way before reading the story I wrote about you I replied Greg nodded and

chuckled I gave him a friendly pat on the back which he didn't seem to mind confirming we were okay Richard why' you

have to paint me as a wimp did I really just bolt like that wimp Greg you took

the guy down in one punch I was half expecting you to bite his ear off if you boxed like that in college you'd have

been a champ no one sees you is weak screw you it's a skill I've still got

idiot he smirked and shook his head I really handed him his rear didn't I pride and laughter Blended in his voice

hell yeah bet your sweet rear you couldn't pull that off he teased nudging me nah might take me two hits I quipped

back unable to stifle a chuckle it was good to see Greg so what went down after

I split kept looking over my shoulder thinking I was headed to The Slammer well Greg after you bailed from the

Halloween party Alicia let out this whale like she was facing a firing squad and crumpled to the floor she sobbed

loudly like a broken Catwoman Nikki rushed to her Aid helping her up and leading her to the couch suie the other

Catwoman came down the stairs with her disgraced Tarzan holding his head as she guided him Alicia caught sight of them

and flew into a rage you idiot what did you tell Greg you've ruined my life you idiot Tarzan already battered by the

pirate now dodged Catwoman's claws while Catwoman hash to tried to intervene Alicia stop it cut it out Susie yelled

defending her husband hband Tarzan being saved by a woman from a woman only stoked his fire can this idiot embarrass

the jungle man any further you should have said something right you idiot couldn't take no for an answer what's

wrong with you the jungle man regarded Alicia's Fury with Detachment it was clear he hadn't grasped everything yet

The Knockout must have sobered him up he knew he'd caused today's pain Alicia I'm sorry I was drunk he said she stopped

attacking and collapsed to the floor again what do I do now Susie what do I do now back to Richard's Kitchen after

that they had to haul Dominic to the ER turns out he had a concussion he wanted to press charges but Susie and Alicia

talked him out of it Alicia pleaded with him not to she knew if you got arrested there'd be little hope of your return

Greg chuckled and shook his head in any case there's little hope left for this I sighed nodding sadly so Greg what

happened after you split all we heard was the rubber hitting the road and the Roar of your engine I wanted to chase

after you but my Tahoe was packed with other cars I feared you might crash you haven't responded to any of our calls

yeah well I needed to get away and think you know I couldn't wrap my head around it all our friends are looking at me

judging me I needed space so you headed to your mom's place it must have been

tough going back there yeah well life throws you curveballs sometimes the only way to deal with it is to do something

out of the ordinary Greg October 31st party crap damn it damn it these damn

women I sped recklessly along side streets leading out of town honestly I had no clue where I was going stop signs

speed limits traffic lights none of it mattered I drove like I was the only one on the road that mattered what's that

sound I glanced at the passenger seat recognizing Alicia's ringtone her lovely face illuminated my Android screen she

smiled at me a loving smile captured in time I remember taking this photo I was

so happy so full of love and adoration damn Li I fought the urge to

Chuck my phone out the window her picture on the screen lied to me if I answered the voice on the other end

would lie to me the cheerful Melody announcing her call was a lie lies she slept with Dominic maybe they even

kissed passionately excitedly damn it I bet the idiot loved it another man's

wife in his bed who did he think he was I was the one by her side when she was sick in the delivery room with her twice

promising to love her in sickness and health I devoted my life to her the persistent ringtone tormented me with

its falsehoods he paused for a moment then continued I shut it off and pulled

out the battery silence no more lies I drove aimlessly around the city my mind

on autopilot protecting itself from overload the images of tonight's events and worse the scenarios I imagined

between my wife and that idiot in the jungle were overwhelming my mind overclocking my processor reality hit me

when I gazed up and found myself parked in front of my parents garage I couldn't recall driving here it seemed my

subconscious guided me back to my childhood Abode cutting the engine I entered every child holds a key to their

parents home even if they vowed never to return well perhaps not every child but

in my case it was late the living room unchanged for decades greeted me in darkness the sofa coffee table lamp all

fixtures froze in time exactly as I remembered them Strangely I found solace in this

familiarity that night in one drunken conversation with a neanderthal everything changed in an instant I've

always been skeptical of stories where worlds shift in a blink except in tragedy this night turned me into a

Believer my entire understanding of life was upended by a single conversation

returning to my childhood home brought a sense of stability after an earthquake shatters buildings and fractures the

ground in such times people crave calmness stability was what I needed now

for the moment I was safe at home who's there my mom's voice rang out envisioning her wielding a baseball bat

ready to fend off Intruders it's me Ma Gregory yes suddenly the light flicked

on momentarily blinding me I squinted to Shield my eyes why on Earth are you skullking around in the dark trying to

give me a heart attack glad to see you too Mom as my eyes adjusted I faced an

elderly lady clad in Floral pajamas hair and curlers why are you here at this hour

and what's with the idiotic outfit straight to the point that's my mother in that moment I realized I was still in

most of my pirate costume my hat parrot and ey patch were long gone now I just

looked well like an idiot long story ma listen I'll be staying here for a while

the kids will leave tomorrow but I'll be back I'll fill you in but not in front of them okay I didn't ask her to stay

with her I simply informed her of my intentions this might appear odd to most but it's normal for us my family is in

what you'd call affectionate my dad is straightforward never saying more than necessary and expecting the same in

return hugs are brief I love you reserved for dire moments my parents were a perfect match both reserved in

affection how they even conceived me remains a puzzling mystery they were either destined to find each other or

destined to suffer alone all right Gregory you know where everything is I'm going back to bed my

mom's frail figure vanished around the corner her voice trailing and lock up

the next morning I checked my phone finding 29 missed calls 15 from Alicia some from Richard and a few from others

at the party I ignored them knowing they'd likely consist of people eager for gossip about the affair after a

restless night pain anger and confusion lingered I also wondered about the police what happened to Dominic after I

left did he go to the hospital press charges would I end up in jail I slipped

out of the house before my mom woke leaving a note explaining my departure if Alicia called Mom was instructed to

inform her I'd reach out when ready I parked near my favorite bar seeking Solace and strong drink to numb the pain

for the next couple of weeks I hid at my mom's only encountering Alicia when dropping off the kids or fetching

belongings our interactions were strained ending with her upset before leaving I overheard her talking on the

phone ears perking up as I listened if it had been the creep I would have lost it but it was Susie her half of the

conversation leaving me unsure if it was better or worse I divided my free time between my parents place and the bar

with Dad away on business it was just Mom and me oh joy deep conversations

weren't her thing though she listened attentively and offered support even if she didn't fully grasp the

situation I'd never discuss adult films with her especially after her warnings in my younger years about blindness and

hay Palms during my stay we spoke little I outlined why I was staying and she

listened but didn't press for details when she asked what I'd do next all I could do was shrug and admit I didn't

know you'll figure it out was her encouraging response we didn't revisit the topic oddly comforting it spared me

from endless retelling and emotional codling I was free to grieve in my own way taking all my sick and personal days

I couldn't face anyone even though no co-workers were at the party living in a small town gossip spread like wildfire I

wasn't just dealing with infidelity it was public humiliation poor Greg too busy with obscene films to satisfy his

wife eventually I had to shut off my phone it kept ringing incessantly faces pleading for answers screw them all

whether the universe or Dominic's Pride intervened the cops never came it was intriguing to observe my friend's

Behavior they sent emails and even calls yet none visited my parents house I realized that when people are unsure

what to say they often avoid the situation altogether they weren't neglectful friends just unsure how to

help this silence both a curse and a blessing left me alone with my thoughts constantly to quiet the disturbing

images in my mind I sought solace in drinks at the bar with Karen becoming both my deity and my salvation the

hardest part about staying with my mother was being separated from my children it was self-imposed Exile but

it still stuned I knew seeing them meant facing Alicia akin to reaching a warm bed across a

half frozen lake so I drank even more to numb the pain it took Caren showing me a story caught cat wean penned by a friend

to break the cycle it mirrored my own Script featuring two catw women a pirate

that damn Tarzan Superman and Hulk the nerve fuming I dialed seven digits good

morning Mr kon's office this is Betty how can I help you today Richard today at Richard's place so what's the plan

with Alicia divorce separation give her a thrashing Greg chuckled sadly and stared at his plate do I have to choose

he quipped lacking enthusiasm I saw the agony etched on his face replaying Halloween's events in his mind her words

echoing like a broken record Greg I've got to ask you can tell me to buzz off if it's too personal but about that

adult film what did she mean Greg blushed shifting uncomfortably so what I

watch them occasionally not every day are you implying she doesn't or you don't he retorted defensively sure I

watched them but Alicia said you were viewing them instead of being carnal with her that's true buzz off Richard

it's too personal all right buddy fair enough but I just want to understand what went wrong you two seemed so happy

I never suspected a thing he gazed down at his meal while his Fork traced circles on the plate she just doesn't

get it rich what's she not getting Greg let his Fork drop and ran his hands over his face taking a deep breath was a side

tinged with sadness perhaps mixed with guilt I work 10 to 12 hours every day

sometimes even 5 days a week if I'm lucky when I get home I'm exhausted I'm stressed out I deal with irate investors

clients managers carnal molestation claims discrimination claims and everything in between it all falls on my

shoulders if something goes wrong at the restaurants like some customer claiming to have spotted a rat and demanding free

food I'm the one who has to handle it he paused Gathering himself to continue I

listened waiting for him to spill it all out Alicia requires a lot of foreplay I

mean a lot I have to spend 30 minutes just on foreplay then when she's ready we can start having physical engaging

she likes to change positions frequently on top of that she wants me to talk dirty to her throughout I love my wife I

really do and when I have the energy it's fantastic I know guys who complain that their wives are frigid

unimaginative or just want to get it over with Alicia is n of those but I

don't have the stamina to do this every night especially after dealing with all the crap I face during the day he paused

glancing away Rich sometimes I just feel better being alone I hate to admit it I mean every man dreams of a woman like

Alicia a passionate woman who genuinely enjoys love making I know I'm lucky to have her but I noticed his eyes starting

to Cloud over it's tough to reconcile the pain of marriage when you realize the part you played in your own troubles

I do so much for her for the girls I work my backside off to give them everything I didn't have as a kid my dad

was very Thrifty he only bought what I needed I want more for my girls and then

there's my wife and I enjoy spending time with them they're my whole world but sometimes I just wish I didn't have

to do something for someone else when I come home after dealing with all the crap at work sometimes I just want I

don't always want to be a dad or a husband or a boss I I think I missed a bit of that how long has it been since

you two were carnal I mean before the party he shook his head I don't know

rich I really don't know I didn't even realize so much time had passed I nodded

a flicker of understanding Dawning on me then I saw anger Flash in his eyes but

that doesn't give her the right to do what she did though Richard I didn't humiliate her in front of everyone I

didn't cheat on her she should have come to me with our issues why didn't she come to me I had to take a risk with my

next remark it was crucial to convey my point to him without seeming like I was taking her side maybe for the same

reason you never explained to her why you watch adult films communication can be tough especially if you don't realize

you need to say something in the first place how do you communicate your unhappiness to your spouse simply put

you say I'm unhappy touche things were escalating too much

usually at moments like this I'd crack a joke so I switched gear so Greg about my wall he caught on that

I was teasing him and grinned shaking his head call it even for this one idiot

I thought the punch in the face had evened things out not quite I chuckled seeing Greg as he was before Halloween

was refreshing even if it was fleeting fair enough that's when I noticed Nikki

standing in the doorway with a peculiar expression her eyes urged me to see her right away I left Greg to his meal and

approached her what's wrong dear here she glanced around nervously and Drew me closer to whisper somehow Alicia found

out Greg's here she's on her way damn John probably called her to vent or something stupid unknowingly gave away

Greg's location you need to intercept that woman at the Door Nikki Nikki raised her hands and shook her head rich

I'm not getting involved in this mess Greg needs to face this heun's been avoiding her for 2 weeks I felt

frustration Rising toward my wife she cheated on him haven't you forgotten that no I haven't I've got a damn hole

in the wall as a reminder I glanced at Greg who seemed oblivious to the impending Showdown what do you want me to do Nikki

her expression softened with resolve when she saw my determination to help my friend he has to handle this himself

babe you can be there for him as a friend help him through it but he can't run from it she patted my chest and left

I turned to prepare Greg for what was coming Greg I heard your conversation you can't exactly whisper she's on her

way he rubbed his chin and winced then his expression shifted to determination fine he said pushing away from the table

turning to me he met my gaze I'm ready to face this he declared with that he

rose and walked out of my back door Greg a beautiful sunset soft Hues painted the

pale Sky Serene and almost calming Greg honey the serenity shattered I didn't

respond to the alarmed voice signaling the arrival of my Unfaithful wife I didn't even turn to look at her my eyes

remained fixed on the sky above Alicia interpreted my lack of reaction as an invitation which in some sense she

wasn't entirely wrong about she settled beside me on Richard's back porch drawing her knees to her chest as if

seeking protection I've been searching everywhere for you honey she said

starting off in the worst possible way I've been in the same place all night I muttered deliberately echoing the exact

words I'd used when I found her cozying up to Dominic in Richard's Kitchen a couple of weeks ago she seemed seemed a

bit puzzled by my response Greg we need to talk she said and I nodded in

agreement from my side Vision I could sense her anguish I avoided looking directly at her face but it seemed like

a grim sight swollen eyes flushed cheeks a somber expression at least that's how her voice conveyed it I love you honey

it's a lie I cut her off Greg stop it Alicia just stop it you can't claim to

love me and then embarrass me the way you did airing our issues in public like that I would never do that to you what

are you talking about Greg you did this to me she said her voice Rising with anger you stormed down the stairs like a

madman in front of everyone you asked Susie if she knew I was sleeping with her husband right in front of everyone's

eyes if you wanted to talk privately you could have pulled me aside and yelled at me in the car but no you were the first

one to air out my business like that in a way she had a point I didn't see it

that way at the time I was blinded by rage okay Alicia I'll give you you that

but I didn't initiate this your damn boyfriend confronted me telling me all about your indiscretions in front of

other people I handled it the best I could I was Furious rightfully so could

I have handled it differently I paused to rein in my emotions but I didn't cheat with anyone I continued you didn't

have someone come up to you and rub my betrayal in your face I looked her squarely in the eyes the anger drained

from her expression replaced by remorse and guilt I know Greg she said Softly I

simply shook my head do you really think so Alicia do you really her eyes sparked again maybe you didn't physically betray

me Greg but you weren't present for me remember last night when I wanted closeness and you I shook my head it was

on my birthday I treated myself to some beautiful lingerie from Victoria's Secret it was so hot I indulged in a

fragrant bubble bath getting excited thinking about the night ahead I lathered my body with eucalyptus scented

lotion spent an hour doing my hair and makeup do you recall that night I did remember that night that was the day I

had to fire Frank he was my close friend one of my assistant managers back when I worked at olivegarden we'd become good

friends over the years when the allegations surfaced I stood up for him vehemently I was certain he wouldn't do

something so reckless but the girl had text messages damn text messages when

they emerged I was livid I was the one who promoted him I was the one who vouched for him and I was the one who

had to deal with it or they deal with me so needless to say I wasn't in the best

mood that evening but I didn't forget her birthday I made a reservation at her favorite restaurant all set for a nice

dinner but all Alicia wanted that night was dessert we went out to dinner for your birthday and then we made love that

night Alicia I recalled this she shook her head sadly we had love making Greg

you couldn't even enjoy it then when I tried to cuddle with you you pushed me away saying you were tired that's why I

gave you space her voice caught and she swallowed hard I knew she wasn't finished yet so I waited for her to

continue then I woke up in the middle of the night I saw you at your computer I saw you watching adult films and

pleasuring yourself the words came out forcefully and then she broke down her body trembled as she tried to cry

silently but to no avail I sat beside her speechless slowly I began to grasp

her perspective hearing her side of things open my eyes until tonight she was just a deceitful cheater now I

wasn't so sure who she really was I get it Alicia all right I took you for

granted but do you truly grasp this Greg do you comprehend How Deeply this devastated me can you fathom the pain of

realizing that at your best you're not enough to satisfy your husband I doubt you do after that I made a Packa with

myself to stop initiating lovemaking with you I wanted you to desire me but you never did so that's why you ended up

with Dominic did he make you feel like a woman she sniffled beside me and wiped

her nose on her sleeve yes Greg he and Susie did damn it Susie and I got drunk

once in high school something happened that night in the morning we were mortified we chocked it up to the drinks

and pretended it never occurred well over a decade later I found myself at her doorstep in tears a few weeks

afterward feeling like the most inadequate woman alive I went to her place I was so low so shattered I told

her I needed to get drunk and did the feeling of inadequacy started to fade but it never truly went away and how did

you end up in bed with her in glass Joe Dominic came home from work and found us completely wasted suie confided in him

about my issues he began telling me how beautiful I was how he desired me Susie backed him up mentioning our past in

high school he got excited and suggested we kiss we were so drunk that we obliged

it all began with a Playful Kiss but before I knew it things had escalated beyond control

how many times did you sleep with them she turned to gaze at the now darkened sky above us and whispered twice it

stung the drunken episode was bad enough I could eventually move past it but knowing she'd been with them again was a

whole other blow so at the party in the kitchen what were you and Dominic

discussing her eyes flashed with anger and a hint of guilt as she recalled it he was drunk complimenting my hot

costume and suggesting we go to their place for some fun I was worried someone might over here so I tried to hush him I

admitted my mistakes saying the three of us couldn't continue then he got a bit forceful pressing against me that's when

you walked over yes I gathered my lingerie in a pile wasn't that what you

said she nibbled her lip shaking her head I was Furious Greg seeing Dominic

pestering me like that just reminded me how little you valued me were you planning on heading to his place later

for some fun since he appreciated you she shook her head locking eyes with me no I was hoping you'd finally take the

initiative I chose the Catwoman outfit because I knew you loved Michelle Fifer in Batman Returns you once told me how

you fell for her because of that suit I saw the way you looked at me in it I saw desire in your eyes mine I almost

skipped the party altogether to get what I'd been yearning for I wish I had I hoped when we got home you'd take me and

then Dominic happened she spat his name out well none of this would have happened if you hadn't slept with him

why didn't you just talk to me Alicia she sadly shook her head again sniffing I don't know Greg I wish I did Lord

knows why I didn't well I guess there's enough blame to go around she turned to me hopeful so what now Greg I don't want

to lose you I love you so much i' do anything for us to get through this my

head swirled can we get through this can I forgive her knowing I played a part in our downfall leave the past behind I

don't know Alicia so much has happened it'll take a lot for us to start healing from this a glimmer of hope sparked

within her she wiped her tears gripping my hand please honey I'll do anything

just give me a chance to show you how much I love you I met her gaze sensing hope I began to feel it too it'd take

time but maybe we could mend each other if we both fought hard enough there might be a chance all right Alicia but

it'll take several steps first we need counseling it's necessary obviously we

have a lot to work through we need to learn how to communicate with each other she kissed my cheek embracing my neck

yes darling whatever you say secondly you need to cut ties with Susie That's

when I saw the light fade from her eyes feeling it dim in my heart what did you say I said you need to end your

friendship with Susie Greg why are you asking me to do this I reclined in my chair staring at her in disbelief

seriously Alicia you cheated on me with her and her husband what do you expect me to do just trust that it won't happen

again every time you're with her or talk to her do you realize what goes through my mind how can I heal if this wound

keeps getting salt rubbed in it she recoiled as if I'd struck her tears welling up in her eyes we locked eyes in

silence as second stretched into eternity you want me to choose between my best friend and my husband I I can't

do it Greg please don't make me words couldn't convey the agony that coursed through me at that moment strangely it

was worse than catching her in the axe this time there was no anger to mask it my heart constricted painfully crushed

by the weight of the realization that it was too much to bear the fact that she couldn't choose me over her best friend

was devastating a catastrophe of unfathomable proportions the woman I loved most didn't love me the same way I

wasn't her One and Only Love I shared her heart with another Dominic's irrelevant now I don't care about him

this is bigger Alicia but she couldn't sever her ties with suie the bond was

too strong rivaling her love for me she couldn't let it go even if it meant sacrificing our marriage sadly we

divorced less than a year later Alicia fought tooth and nail to prevent it even stooping to humiliating herself I never

imagined I'd see her Pride crumble like that she begged me at my workplace not to leave her embarrassing herself in

front of everyone I begged too it was a heart-wrenching plea that left everyone

uncomfortable even I secretly hoped I'd give her another chance but I couldn't bear the thought of her being around him

as long as she refused to relinquish her friendship in essence I was right no spouse should have to share a year later

the wounds still run deep there are no winners here we do our best for the kids avoiding putting each other down in

their presence yet many nights I've been a shoulder for Greg to cry on but there

was one silver lining this Halloween he brought a date to my party she wasn't dressed as Catwoman maybe she's just a

rebound not his next great love but finding someone new is still progress real life isn't about neatly packaged

endings it's a messy gradual healing process Alicia Dominic and Susie didn't

show up at the party they cut off contact with the rest of us Susie Remains staunchly by Alicia's side

accusing Greg of unfairness and trying to force an impossible choice in my view the choice wasn't impossible Alicia

simply didn't want to be married as much as a loving wife should she claimed she'd do anything but actions speak

louder than words she might have been willing to play the part of a love making slave or a doting housewife but

when it came to sacrificing something personally significant our marriage wasn't worth it to her in the end he's

better off without her [Music] [Applause]