## **Story 1**

when John entered the house he heard familiar but unexpected sounds he didn't care why he came home early he was just

home he opened the door John it's not leave it Jon stepped forward causing

pumper to recoil Jon grabbed him by the thinning hair and yanked him back I want to destroy you Jon said quietly looking

him in the eye lift your chin you can't strike me I'll sue you screw you lift

your chin Jon's tone was calm and even hiding the anger beneath I swear to God I'll sue you do you know who I am do you

think I care pumper lifted his chin grimacing thinking he could take it Jon grinned and pounded his fist several

times oh my God John what did you do Brett I have a lot of questions for you but not now I need to leave before I do

to you what I did to him just remember screw you his voice was soft and threatening Jon didn't yell when angry

he spoke Softly making people strain to hear him John do you even know who he is

her eyes widened hands covering her mouth I'll tell you what I told him do you think I care how could you do that

in our bed screw you Jon walked down the hallway ignoring Maggie's please to stop

and talk leave me alone he left the house got in his truck and drove to the liquor store for bourbon he parked at

Walmart drinking straight from the bottle watching traffic when the phone rang he glanced at the screen and

ignored it Maggie kept calling and texting finally he answered hello John where are

you come home so we can talk we need to get past this it's over you mean Brett

no he woke up mad threatened you and left that's good to hear did you enjoy him again no never mind I don't care

John how could you ask me that I can't imagine asking that to the strumpet I married don't call again John where are

you he hung up and returned to his bourbon the next morning he felt the pain of sleeping in his truck he needed

coffee in a bathroom it was 7:30 a.m. he bought jeans and a shirt at Walmart then

changed in the truck at the office he found 37 messages 20 emails and three

missed calls all from Maggie Bob entered his office waving a hand what the hell

is this are you drinking it or bathing in it smells like maker Mark 2019 such a

good year John smiled bad day yesterday worse night he hung his head crap what's

up buddy Maggie unhappy if you show up smelling like that she'll be more pissed screw Maggie John looked at Bob you

never did that right you're kidding I did right before you tore my head off what's the matter I got back early she

was in my bed in my bed oh crap are you sure I stood in the doorway took a look

he showed his abated hand strike the crap out of him oh crap someone from the

law firm he wasn't answering questions when I left Softly Bob asked did you

destroy him no he's coming after me that bald prick it would have been better if you did a crime of passion now it's

premeditated you're screwed I know I loved her why his voice was anguished I

gave her everything loved her more than I thought possible why a tear rolled down his cheek have you asked her no I

don't want to talk to her you'll never get answers if you don't I know I don't want to know screw this I need to

disappear you're leaving we worked so hard on this place since we graduated don't give up I

can't afford to buy you out we'll figure something out I'm getting on a boat this afternoon I'll call you when I get there

John wait where are you going I won't know until I get there I'll call you

keep paying my salary if it gets unfair call me and we'll work it out I'll keep working on the design from the boat when

I'm settled I'll send my new bank account info for direct deposit Jon gathered what he needed and headed back

to his truck he stopped by the bank to set up a new account and grabbed a starter checkbook before dropping a note

to Bob and driving to the marina the dock was buzzing as he reached his 33t Grady White yacht it was 11.5 ft wide

with a small but spacious cabin and an upgraded 560g fuel tank the two Yamaha

350 motors made it fast he leaned back staring at the GPS screens calculating

distance fuel consumption and Provisions his route included stops in Virginia Beach Charleston Jacksonville Cape

Canaveral Fort Lauderdale and Nassau at a couple of hundred miles a day he expected to reach Nassau in a week or

two depending on the weather a storm from the Gulf could delay him but he hoped it would head north planning

helped distract him from his pain he needed to leave quickly fearing he'd be found before he could Escape once at Sea

he knew he'd be alone for a long time facing the dangers of solo travel his phone rang but he let it go to voicemail

the message read you have to talk to me don't just walk away from us this enraged him don't walk away from us had

she thought of that when she slept with pumper he called her John where are you I've been worried all night and day

where are you it doesn't matter I want answers John just come home and talk

please don't give up on us you already gave up remember the event at school that was a mistake I should have trusted

my intuition instead of my heart now I'm screwed John Maggie sat at her desk

staring at a photo of JN tanned and smiling while holding a fish he was always fishing or traveling for work

she'd traveled with him a few times but hated the places he went like Mountain Home Arkansas in monroville Alabama the

last time she joined him he was in the oil fields north of Guatemala and she was miserable she knew she was a

complainer grumbling while he worked in the heat he came back exhausted and she dragged him to parties he didn't want

her to work but she needed to stay busy she went to law school got her degree but settled for a pargal job she loved

the excitement of of the legal environment the big cases and the energy one day a junior partner called her into

his office Maggie was well-built and confident knowing her looks and personality made her a valuable asset

Maggie we have an interesting case that's being fast-tracked it's a land deal that needs City approval we need

someone willing to work over time are you interested sounds interesting where is it just outside Washington DC in

Maryland the zoning is correct so we only need City approval it'll take time and I need your help interested sounds

like fun she didn't quite understand how it happened late nights at the office led to dinner outings first a deli then

a nice restaurant then a club dancing was a fun escape John was away Monday through Thursday due home Friday she

knew the dance with Brett crossed the line it excited her that he wanted her giving him a little push wouldn't hurt

right we can't do this Brett we're married just not to each other Brett no

please not here John checked the weather it was calm enough to reach Virginia Beach he planned to refuel there then

head to Charleston avoiding Oregon Bay after a grocery run he shut down the engines pulled the ropes and left the

bay he glanced back at his truck feeling like he was leaving an old friend he set

the autopilot down the Chesapeake tethering the boat to the guest Dock and pulled out his phone 54 texts 30 emails

and five more calls from Maggie he had to deal with it John where are you you have to listen to me this

doesn't mean anything you're talking about our marriage no it meant you lied and our marriage is over when did it

start John please come home we need to talk I'm not coming home where are you

gone you won't find me you left town where did you go away you tore my heart

out J's voice broke screw you don't call me I'm dead to you goodbye John please

don't go please bye Maggie have a happy life Brett let's go John's gone and

Barb's not expecting me Maggie was shocked but followed Brett to his car during the ride home she checked her

phone feeling fear and anxiety she doubted again getting angry why was he always on the road or fishing she

decided she'd do it once and forget Jon would never know she went straight to the bedroom and woke up at 11:00 Brett

no we can't do this again come on Maggie you liked it shut up Brett it won't

happen again Maggie now that I've had you I don't know if I can work with you without more this could affect your job

Brett what would it take to make this stop I love my husband he would destroy us if he found out she started crying

one more time then I'll think it over damn you John what did I do wrong why wasn't I enough I loved her so much JN

decided to wait out a storm instead of risking rough Seas he bought a folding chair and sat watching people pass by he

couldn't stop thinking about Maggie and Brett the memories flashed in his mind tearing at his heart he remembered the

first time he saw her laughing in the student center her hair catching the light her natural smile and those ice

blue eyes she looked at him and smiled making him blush he gathered his things

thinking she was out of his league but their eyes met as he walked past hi hi

she's so cute and he's not brilliant but not creepy either I hope she remembers me I'll remember her a few nights later

he was at the frat house door The Keg was full hey I saw you at the G's Nest right he turned and saw her yeah I think

so why didn't you say hello I did say hi but you didn't stay and talk why I

didn't think you'd be interested he blushed you don't talk much do you not really you're making this hard you're

very direct he said smiling it's an art she flipped her hair laughing Jon fell

for that laugh again and decided he'd do almost anything to hear it more She's Out of My League I should leave now I

should go I have a test tomorrow wait what are you studying engineering I have

a test on thermodynamics I don't know what that is I like engineering because it has rules that can be creatively

applied I'm not sure what you mean she smiled expectantly here's the point if I

look at you from across the room you're at least a nine if you're smiling a 9.5

laughing a 10 I'm a five maybe a six she laughed don't date someone more than one

or two levels above you the lower rung will suffer I'm just that kind of person come on you don't believe that

absolutely I worship you convinced you don't walk on water to keep your shoes dry I'm obsessed with school or projects

that's just who I am he smiled and she found it cute almost boyish I'm also

absentminded and sloppy no you're not I just tolerate mesw well he smiled

blocking out the party noise you'd start smiling less and not laughing at all then some great guy would find you and

you'd think you deserve better eventually you'd hate me and I'd leave heartbroken we should skip to the end to

avoid the pain you're crazy she laughed in my mind we had a relationship and we

parted as friends have a good day have a happy life he whispered in her ear

goodbye my love and walked away she stood stunned watching him disappear into the darkness she tried to follow

but couldn't catch him 2 days later he was reading in the student center when she a bubbly blonde approached hi Mindy

this is my ex we were happily married for a while until he lost confidence and left hi X hi Mindy he doesn't even know

your name since you weren't married well we might as well have been what's your name if I'm going to Pine for a lost

love I should know your name John Maggie she shook JK's hand with a firm grip yet

her hands were incredibly soft they talked until it got dark noticing Mindy had left thanks for the the time Maggie

have a good weekend I'll be looking for you John if you asked me out I'd

probably say yes Maggie your 10 against my five won't work looks aren't

everything and you're definitely above a five now that I know how smart and sweet you are a 10 doesn't fit in my eyes

you're closer to a 10 don't sell yourself short you're tall muscular but not too much and you have a beautiful

face why do I scare you she looked at him noticing his unique brown eyes when

you laugh my heart gets lighter your smile makes my knees weak even when you talk about boring subjects I hang on

every word I do anything to make you laugh she laughed and he smiled thoughtfully you don't talk about your

problems and think about others that's irresistible I'm scared you'll break my heart someday and it will be my fault

did you just say you love me yes I have to go now see you later John wait she

called out as he crossed the room please don't make me beg just meet me for dinner tomorrow he hesitated then shook

his head I have a test Thursday morning how about Thursday night I can't Thursday but Friday works sure meet me

here at 6 she kissed him briefly and ran off he watched her through the window then noticed the guy next to him

laughing Softly You're Done kid she won he leaned back in his chair the rain

wouldn't stop feeling cold he went to the cabin crawled into bed and tears mixed with the rain on his face he

missed her terribly he vowed never to make the same mistake again John woke to

sunlight streaming in he made scrambled eggs and sat at the small table remembering how much it hurt to think of

Maggie he looked at his phone and saw messages from his sons Jimmy and Sydney he hated that they were involved in all

this Jimmy had just graduated and was working as an intern he called JN saying he didn't need monthly payments anymore

and wanted to be independent Sid a scholar working on his Doctorate loved the sea like John he joked with Sid

about studying ocean engineering knowing things rust in saltwater the thought brought the first smile to his face in

Daz hey Sid I saw you called hey Pops Where Have You Been I'm on vacation

traveling Mom's going crazy dad what happened you don't need to know buddy just know I need to get away for a while

mom wants to know where you are if I tell you you'll tell her please stay out of it Dad what did you do nothing just

know I'm out of town and we'll be in touch soon if you need anything call me leave a message if I don't answer are

you on a ship did you sail north or south yes I sailed North or South I have to go

I'll call you love you Sid love you too Dad Jimmy's call was predictable Dad

where are you what have you done mom is hysterical she's been calling me every hour what have you done I haven't done

anything go home you're acting like a child Jim don't take sides until you know the whole story I'm going away for

a while I'll call you sometimes if you can't tell me what you did stay out of it Jimmy's tone brought Jon out of his

thoughts anger surfacing I'll say it again Jimmy don't take sides until you understand then decide mom thinks you

have a girlfriend I'm traveling for work she can have the clothes the house the car no girlfriend never don't do this

Jimmy don't call me Jimmy my name is Jim you're acting like Jimmy let's not do

this again soon I got to run damn John always had a good relationship with both

boys but Jim was a mama's boy and an athlete JN was his chauffeur and coach

had a good relationship or so John thought he knew Sid would be patient but Jimmy would take sides quickly a weather

check between Virginia Beach and Wilmington North Carolina showed good sailing conditions he had 3 days of calm

seas before the next system in 3 days he should reach St Augustine then rest before heading to Palm Beach it was

going to be a long journey he set fishing lines followed the channel across the bay and hit the Open Sea

South definitely south on the open sea with autopilot on memory spun in his

head she says you're the best thing in her life sitting on a low wall Becky

called needing to talk Becky we had dinner twice a movie a picnic and a

barbecue we kissed a couple of times that's it he met Becky at a barbecue another perky blonde Maggie sorority

sister Maggie had given her his number I know but she says it was the best night of her life she's good for you just make

a move are you kidding are we in high school she wants more than occasional Saturday

last question why me I see guys chasing her all the time why me you're

good-looking funny smart and great at kissing you should open a kissing booth JN laughed I'll call her we can talk but

it has to be a relationship Becky laughed please call her she's moping because she hasn't heard from you does

she know phones work both ways she could have called me Becky glared I'll call her John met Maggie at the sorority

house door she was waiting on the stairs as he approached hi Maggie hi Becky how are you hi John she turned to Maggie

brushing her shoulder as if removing lint don't be late dear I'll be waiting upstairs she laughed and ran up the

stairs John can we talk sure here no too many eyes and ears let's walk as they

walked across the field and sat on a bench Maggie began John do you like me do you find me beautiful we covered that

before of course I want you every guy wants you what's the problem a poor stroke by and a guy leaned out nice baby

let's go for a ride John smiled and Maggie gave the guy the finger that's the problem Maggie every guy wants you I

need exclusivity I'm not competing for your heart John I'm not interested in anyone else hm when I saw you at

Bogart's last week it didn't seem that way holding hands with that guy he doesn't mean anything just a date

between friends why didn't you tell me I need exclusivity I can do that what

about when I have to travel for work will you wait for me John you're the only one I want I'll break up with the

other guys they're just friends Maggie I need trust once it's gone it's gone

forever John I promise I'll never lose your trust so we're officially in a

relationship JN blushed which Maggie found sweet yes John thank you they

walked around campus for hours ate lunch at the Student Center when they crossed the road Maggie Twisted her ankle and

would have fallen if John hadn't caught her crap that hurts Jon gently removed her tennis shoe it's not swollen can you

put weight on it letun get you to the ER John carried her to the ER and after a mild sprain diagnosis they walked out JN

carried her to his apartment placing her on the bed as he navigated the waves he thought about Maggie tears in his eyes

after refueling he parked for the night got a folding chair and sat on the deck with a bottle of whiskey John was too

hung over to sail the next day so he stayed on the yacht his phone vibrated until it almost fell off the table

finally he answered hello John where are you why don't you want to come home and

talk it's not my home anymore I'm not coming back John please don't do this please it's not don't say it didn't mean

anything it was just one time I hate being a cliche just one question why

John please I love you can we forget about this Maggie remember when we started dating you said you were

breaking up with with Tim but it didn't look that way this is worse you broke my trust answer my question why John it was

a mistake that's the first true thing you've said it ended our relationship our marriage and our happy home remember

John's anger grew along with the discomfort in his stomach haven't I always given you everything a house car

clothes jewelry I thought our life was good you never complained and now it wasn't enough he heard sobs through the

phone it's not you John it's me screw you why Maggie just tell me why John

come home tell me where you are and I'll come to you let's just talk no I need to know why I don't know John it just

happened if we can't figure out why how can we avoid it in the future I'm done goodbye Maggie please understand this is

the end no John he pressed the end button those early days of their relationship flashed back he should have

seen it coming she'd promised to break up with others but how many had there been the memories played like a movie

Her laughing with Tim holding his hand Jon stepped out of the Shadows hi Maggie

her face told him everything they'd promised exclusivity but this wasn't it John this is Tim nice to meet you Tim

extended his hand but JN didn't reciprocate sure it was good to see you Maggie JN turned and walked away wanting

to punch something but couldn't John wait sorry I don't have time Maggie was

torn planning to break up with Tim but hadn't yet Tim looked confused as Jon walked away who was that Tim asked

uncertainty on his face that was John I wanted to talk to you about him what do

you mean he's my boyfriend then why are you here with me I wanted to tell you face to face maybe over dinner I don't

blame him for being mad bye Maggie Tim wait John went to the library but

couldn't focus he gave up and went home hey you're here that girl you were talking about keeps calling every 20

minutes the phone rang I don't want to talk what should I tell her tell her I'm

not here and to stop bothering you what did she do run over your dog hello Ray

answered no he's not here I don't know where he is he's not here Ray hung up and smiled at John let's go get a drink

I'll buy the first three rounds Ray pulled Jon into bed late at night after listening to him talk about

Maggie once Jon got drunk enough he started sharing everything about how he met her their dates and his feelings Ray

was relieved when John finally calmed down a good drinking session couldn't cure everything but it helped John left

campus after his exam and spent the week at home with his parents his dad had gotten him into yachting with their 32

foot Nicholson yacht JN loved the Sea The Wildlife and cruising after dark with dolphins chasing the boat he loved

the night sky near the shore where stars were so bright he regretted not sharing this with Maggie Maggie was waiting for

him when they docked how did you find me I didn't want you to I looked for you

when Ry said you were gone I saw an envelope addressed to you I went to your house and spent the day with your mom I

told her what happened she said you'd be back today I was afraid I missed you she warned me not to expect a warm welcome

said you don't open up often but knew something was wrong it's not like you to drop out of school she was right I don't

want you here why not John I told you I was ending things I said it would take time did you sleep with him why are you

asking that no I didn't sleep with him not this time you know I'm not a maid we

agreed to be exclusive and I've kept that promise Tim didn't get that he left me in the restroom I never saw him again

John he's gone you're all I need please he was about to leave seeing you with him Hit me hard I'm not competing for

you Maggie it's either right or wrong if you love me you won't be with anyone else if I find out you are it's over I

came here to show I'm serious about us being exclusive it meant nothing I

understand how it looked and I'm sorry it won't happen again can we go back to

how things were please don't leave Maggie if you were honest I could maybe

get over it but finding out like that made it seem like you were hiding something I won't put up with that he

shook his head thinking if life would be better with or without her things had been cold between them but Maggie kept

trying and eventually Jon warmed up again their relationship began to grow Jon sipped the warm water why didn't I

get the hint has she been seeing others all this time was our marriage a farce

he got up prepared to head out to see again buying Provisions that night he struggled to sleep with questions

running through his mind the next morning he set off for Georgia then Florida and finally

Nassau oh crap Maggie what am I going to do Maggie wailed to Becky I've lost him

I've lost everything Maggie why did you do this what were you thinking you gave up a 30-year relationship for an idiot

how will you explain that to the boys I'm not going to explain it how can I another bout of Tears she cradled her

face tears streaming down have you talked to them not really since I told them he left I keep calling to see if

he's contacted them he's only called Jimmy once and Sid hasn't said anything so to them Jon just left you for no

reason do you think they won't wonder if Jon did something wrong are you willing to let them think that and do nothing

you don't deserve him you know that right I was good I just stumbled you make it

sound like you slipped on a banana peel you slept with him in Jon's bed what were you thinking do you think Jon will

ever forget that Maggie looked at her understanding Dawning if you'd had fun

with him in the car and went home alone maybe but you brought him to Jon's bed and he found you how can you explain

that you broke the nicest guy I've ever met he was a coach gave everything to

you do you know how many women threw themselves at him he was always polite but firm no meant no and you threw that

away I have to do something Becky I have to show him I love him you can try but I'm not counting on you if you can get

him to talk if you can beg crawl and be the best wife ever it might liquidate

him and you have to deal with the boys if they blame him it's all over do you get that I've messed up everything he

has to talk to me he has to John was sitting on the cockpit floor a pump in his hand wearing uniform shorts and a

tattered t-shirt his tan had darkened under the Caribbean Sun hi I'm

Sarah hi Sarah without looking up he noticed a locking ring on the case if he

turned it it might come loose and he could unlock it what are you doing fixing the pump why it's not working

where does it go what's it doing it pumps water into the well okay now I know less than I thought

the sarcasm made Jon look up she had long blonde hair slim but not skinny with the sun behind her

he couldn't see her eyes but saw her smile and he instinctively smiled back there's a tank for the bait fish she

explained this pump takes water from the ocean and feeds it into the tank the water then overflows back into the ocean

keeping it fresh and oxygenated that way the bait stays alive it was the longest

conversation he'd had in weeks that was nice what was nice Sarah John asked you

explained it well not like I was stupid thank you you're welcome you don't talk much do do you not usually can I come

aboard and take a look Sarah can I help you with something I'm trying to fix my pump to go fishing I'm sorry if I'm

bothering you my parents thought swimming here would be good for me but it just reminds me of bad things Jon saw

the pain flash across her face if you want company I'm not the best choice I try not to think about bad things are

you here alone where's your family John shuddered the ex stayed home the kids

are grown you came here alone on this boat yeah I need to buy a new pump stop

by later if you want can I come with you where to buy a pump sure but I need to

stop by the provision store will you wait for me I need to tell my mom sure John watched her run to a 60-ft sailboat

she looked like she was in her early 20s a man peered out of the cabin and johon waved timidly the man didn't wave back

when she returned johon noticed she was actually in her early 30s with small crows feet and creases at the corners of

her mouth doar parents might if you come with me they're just overprotective I

didn't have the best time before we came here I'm sorry they walked in Silence the steel

drum music growing louder as they approached the marina office there was a tiki bar with a Sandy floor John asked

would you like a drink that would be nice are you sure you don't mind no I haven't talked to anyone in weeks what

do you need right now a glass of white wine JN smiled they sat at a table away

from the bar the afternoon Breeze picked up easing the summer heat so John how

long have you been here what's your story I went through a rough divorce and my parents brought me here to get away

they rented a boat to escape our problems she laughed a mix of musical and sad her teeth were dazzling White

and her eyes a soft green what's wrong with that they care about you a bad

divorce and I'm stuck on a boat with my parents who've been in love forever it reminds me of what I'll never have I

love them but it's hard a tear rolled down her cheek I'm sorry to dump this on

you I have to go Sarah please don't go I understand more than you think she can't

be old enough for all this John thought John I'm almost 30 it all came crashing down in 15 minutes I left and never went

back I'm so sorry are you divorced now too no didn't go through that process

have you talked to her what happened I talked to her a few times on the way here mostly questions from me not many

answers it took a week and a half to get here and I've been here almost a week Sarah leaned back and looked at Jon with

an expression of sadness it was the most caring look Jon had seen in months John

do you want to talk about it maybe someday but not now when are you coming home we have two weeks left but maybe

sooner dad had trouble steering and Mom and I don't know much to help your dad must be really frustrated John checked

his phone 23 unread messages he opened the marine weather app strong winds

tomorrow but the next day looks fun fine maybe we can take the boat out do you think your dad will let me help steer I

wouldn't want to hurt his feelings so maybe don't mention you know how to sail my dad had a 30-ft sailboat when I was

younger we sailed a lot it's not much different will you have lunch with us

tomorrow can you help my dad it would mean a lot to him Sarah looked both

excited and nervous I think we can work something out can we meet here at noon

oh John I'm sorry I understand what you're going through and here I am asking for help it's not fair it's okay

Sarah I don't mind the next day at noon John walked up to the dock and saw Sarah waving he shook the older man's hand

John Baker nice to meet you Ben Livingston Ben's smile didn't reach his eyes and he looked at Jon suspiciously

you sail yes sir my father had a 32ft Nicholson yacht we sailed instead of

doing other summer activities John this is my mom Beth Livingston

Beth looked like an older version of Sarah hi John thanks for meeting us Sarah told us you sail and Ben is

excited about getting out on the boat tomorrow we don't want to impose but it would be a big favor Ben and Beth asked

questions testing jonk sailing knowledge they knew more about him than he expected including his recent divorce

and struggles they understood he was an engineer out of touch with his office for almost 3 weeks and close to facing

the world again the schedule was set Jon lay on the bow of the boat feeling the

light Breeze and watching the calm water Sarah settled beside him looking at the sky penny for your thoughts John they're

not worth a penny I'll probably have to pay you you've made my dad happier than

I could have imagined he's better off than he thinks I just gave him

confidence what will you do now I think my break is ending I need to contact the

office sort things out with my kids and start dividing things with her stand by shouted Ben from the helm he in his

glory said Sarah as Jon rose with a rare smile it's good to see look at how your

mom is watching him a cloud passed over Jon's face I thought I had everything figured out sorry Jon adjusted the sails

ensuring they caught the wind and the main sail didn't flutter he noticed they were heading towards the harbor

realizing the day of relaxed sailing was ending he settled back on the sail bags

not looking forward to it I understand I went through this a year ago John whatever happens I'd like to to stay in

touch Sarah's heart pounded but John heard it I know it's not the right time

but you've reminded me there are decent people around she blushed glancing at him and quickly looking away decent men

Sarah if only we'd met at another time later after lowering the sails Jon

docked the yacht and secured the ropes he turned off the diesel engine that was fun Ben thanks for a great day it

brought back good memories thank you son would you mind another day this week Ben

smiled hopefully his silver hair ruffling in the wind he looked genuinely happy I'd love to but I'll need to

adjust my schedule can I call you back sure just let us know I know Sarah will love it I'll love it too sir are you all

set or do you need help washing the boat I think the women are already on it but thanks Ben smiled and gestured for Sarah

and Beth to wash the deck I'll be off then have a nice evening Jon slid off the side onto the dock smiling I'm going

I feel like a British captain in wubby 2 he laughed at himself as he walked back to down deep crawling onto the boat

reminded him of his loneliness making him feel even more alone than before maybe he was starting to feel again

anger surged in him and he picked up his phone and turned it on for the first time in a while ignoring voicemails and

texts he dialed Bob's number holy crap you're alive John where are you I'm in

Nassau no crap how are you buddy you okay I'm still pretty pissed off Bob I

know I have a job to do while I'm here licking my wounds yeah John we've got a problem

with Alexander's account their valve and elbow keep failing can you design a fix

can we move the valve or eliminate the elbow do you have time to figure it out email me the plans and I'll take a look

I'll send you something by the end of tomorrow if you do that I won't feel so bad about your direct deposit tomorrow

hold my direct deposit for a day or two I need to divide things up square up my investments

she calls every day asking if I've heard from you can I tell her we've been talking as long as you don't say where I

am you can tell her we talked tell her I won't speak to her until she tells me the reason I've told her that but it

wouldn't hurt for her to hear it again how do I get in touch with you I've called your cell many times but I keep

getting voicemail I haven't turned it on I'll call you every day at 3:00 unless I'm fishing if I'm out I'll call you

when I get back John and Bob talked for over an hour about very ious projects equipment startup maintenance and

Personnel issues the normal conversation struck Jon after he hung up Dad where

are you this isn't funny mom is furious calling me every day Jim calls too what

happened ask Sid Sid I don't want to go into details it was bad and I don't see

us recovering mom said the cops are looking for you what did you do I slapped someone hard a few times but not

hard enough that doesn't sound good dad when are you coming home

I'm not sure I'll visit briefly I need to get things in order first where is that Dad not in the village I'll tell

you once things are settled with your mom and you can visit Jimmy's Furious he said your last conversation didn't go

well he wants to know what you did to Mom she won't tell us just cries a lot he'll get over it and so will she come

on dad just tell me what's going on please just know that I'm fine and I'll be back soon I'll let you know when I

get there maybe we can have dinner Christ will be happy to see you too Dad

tell her I said hi and I'll call her in a week or two John ended the call pulled out a chair and Uncorked a new bottle of

whiskey JN woke up to Sarah tugging on his arm come on John you need to go to bed you shouldn't be here not right now

I'm not a good person bull crap get up go to bed and we'll talk in the morning you know you're beautiful right in your

condition everyone is beautiful not everyone Sarah smiled as Jon stumbled

down the steps to the cabin she laid him on the bed pulled the covers over him and kissed his forehead as he began to

snore we'll talk in the morning John she watched him for a few minutes before quietly leaving the boat Jon woke up

trying to count his recent hangovers for some reason it seemed important John get

up I've got eggs and bacon for you John stumbled to the stairs and Sarah laughed

you did better last night yeah about last night was I an idiot if so I'm

sorry you told me I was beautiful and that you loved me if you meant it fine if it was bull crap

then yeah you're an idiot oh crap I'm sorry I mean yeah you're beautiful but I uh John I'm kidding relax but I'm going

to make you talk to me this morning can you dim the sun it's awfully bright JN

covered his face with his hands it's good for you vitamin D and all that so John what's wrong you really want to

know my full and crafty story pardon the language yeah I want to know what's eating you up inside John keeping it all

inside isn't healthy you know I caught her cheating with her boss you say caught but what do you mean

heard her talking saw her somewhere no I walked in on them it's a sight I can't forget oh crap what did you do I punched

him three times as hard as I could looked at her and left and have you talked to her since a couple of times on

the way here I told her I wouldn't talk to her again until she told me why she didn't answer so I haven't spoken to her

since you look like you're in pain can't you stop thinking about it you drink yourself into Oblivion every night I

loved her Sarah loved her with all my soul I cherished her your use of the

past tense seems final no chance of reconciliation none the luster is gone

we had an issue early on and I dealt with it but this I'll always remember that look it makes me doubt myself am I

not good enough bad and bed is he better Sarah laughed John men worry about size

more than women for most women it's emotional the mind is the biggest erogenous Zone then I must be lacking in

skill he was a little bald prick I know I'm not handsome but he wasn't much better don't underestimate yourself John

she told me that once didn't help much I should have known it would happen knew what how did you know I had a rule in

college never date someone more than two levels above you the one below always suffers here I was the bottom feeder

John if she's that high above you she must be stunning but don't forget she's a cheater are you sure it's over

absolutely I couldn't be more sure I don't know what to say I can't say anything John you don't want to hear

that everything will heal that there are more fish in the sea or any other cliche it hurts and only time can heal it I'm

sorry thanks Sarah a tear rolled down his cheek and Sarah felt the urge to

comfort him John when you get back on your feet would you find me I wouldn't mind being your friend I know now isn't

the time but later Sarah I have to go back to my rule you're out of my league

besides I'm going home next week and you'll be gone it's okay John I'll see you again I'm just asking for friendship

I'd like to think we'll see each other again Sarah I'd like that very much on the flight from Miami to BWI JN was deep

in thought as the plane lifted off he saw down deep in Sarah's boat feeling sudden Melancholy memories of sailing

with a loving family flashed through his mind repl Ed by anger towards Maggie when he stepped off the plane Maggie was

waiting she looked thinner with bags under her eyes but still beautiful what are you doing here Bob

told me when you were coming please don't be mad at him John I'm so sorry please let me explain I'm not interested

until you explain why can you answer that I can try please yes or no Maggie I

I don't know John I asked myself why and how I could do this John please I love you only you please she began to cry

tears streaming down her cheeks too many words Maggie I've been traveling all day I'm tired I just want to check into a

hotel I'll call you before I leave but you have to understand please John forgive me please can't we forget this

come home Maggie you knew the rules we were a team no rivalry I thought it meant until death do us part but you

eliminated it we're done I have to go Maggie watched him walk away get into a cab and drive off John exclaimed Bob

when John walked into the office the next morning hello Bob it's good to see you the clients have been asking for you

they want you to help with the launch can you go to St Louis for a week or two I need to see a lawyer first I'll sort

out my finances and figure out what else needs to be done are you okay asked Bob putting his arm around jonk shoulders

Bob my head is clear but emotionally I'm dead I don't know if I'll ever get over this Jon picked up a framed picture of

Maggie looked at it and tossed it in the trash everything reminds me of her maybe

we should go our separate ways John you're the heart of this place I have a proposition for you once you're settled

in let's go out to lunch and talk I don't want to hear it Bob don't try to convince me to bring that cheating

strumpet back no way I'm not talking about her I'm talking about work Bob laughed as he left when I get divorced I

need to make sure she doesn't get a piece of the business I have a meeting with a lawyer tomorrow can you handle it

yes I think I'll turn myself in at the police station you'll fire me for misconduct and I'll be a consultant

after the divorce then she can only touch my Consulting fees I have to see a lawyer first do you think he'll press

charges I hope so we can negotiate I'll sue for alienation of affection moral

issues and more to convince him to drop the charges we'll figure out the details later I hate this John we built this

place together it's okay things will get back to normal noral well a new normal

I've got to run John how's it going Tim smiled extending his hand I've been better Tim I need help with personal

family criminal and business law what's going on a month ago I caught Maggie

with her boss oh crap where in my bed oh crap what did you do knocked him out and

left went to Nassau for a month just got back yesterday does she know you're back

yeah she met me at the airport I want a divorce can you prepare the papers or tell me who can I also need to deal with

the police I believe I'm wanted for assault let me make a few calls can you wait outside I think we can use this to

negotiate you should be fired for misconduct so she can't claim your share I didn't take pictures so it's my word

against theirs not sure if infidelity charges will stick okay let's get Mary and George

involved I don't know how I'll afford it though what's your fee John don't worry about it now we'll sort it out it's all

uncertainty charges hadn't been filed but being arraigned was humiliating Jon appeared

before the judge via video link with George next to him Mr Baker it says here you assaulted Mr Brett Garis striking

him several times how do you plead guilty but I didn't punch him in the head just in the face three times do you

admit to striking him are there extenuating circumstances yes your honor replied George please explain Mr Baker I

don't mean to be disrespectful but they were in the middle of in flagrante Delo your honor George interrupted thank you

George yes your honor they were doing it in my bed in my house a hint of a smile appeared on the judge's face and you

decided to punch him yes your honor my arm was hurting so I didn't think a fourth punch was warranted the state

appreciates your restraint Mr Baker you'll be in my courtroom in 2 weeks is that satisfactory Mr Hans yes your honor

replied George Mr Baker you've got the wrong guy Mr Garis is campaigning for state attorney and is very unhappy about

the costs of his emergency care and dental work due to the damage you caused if he's unhappy so is the district

attorney be prepared she smiled at John thanks your honor we'll be ready George answered for him oh and Mr Baker please

don't punch anyone else yes your honor you are released on your own recognizance don't leave the state Mr H

you're responsible for ensuring your client is in court at the appointed time you are free to go yes your honor he'll

be there as George and John left George muttered my God she smiled I've never

seen her smile before she seemed nice to me George she's never been called nice more like hung Harriet that'll be

interesting the next day John received termination papers by Courier stating that the partnership was dissolved on

moral grounds due to his arrest and pending sentencing he took the letter to Tim's office and tossed it away now

there was nothing left to do but wait the yacht was still in Nassau he couldn't leave the state and was

unemployed he drove to the bay in a rented car sat on the shore and watched the water until it was too dark to see

the next day at 11: a.m. as he sat in his hotel room the phone rang hello John

John please don't do this Maggie I told you I won't talk to you again until you give me a reason I didn't mean for this

to happen it just did we were working had a drink went dancing and then it just happened Maggie do you know how

much this hurts you ripped my heart out I thought we'd grow old together play with our grandchildren now it's all gone

JN slammed his hand on the table John please let me explain let me show you I

love you please meet me explain one try then you sign the papers and we move on

I'll have a lot of free time soon probably in jail oh my God John how did you get fired you were Partners moral

Clause if either of us is accused of a crime the company goes to the other I have a court date next week I won't let

him do it John I won't you don't have a choice are you still working with him please meet me let me show you I love

you her evasiveness didn't go unnoticed it's too late I just want to settle my Affairs and leave please just lunch we

can talk in a public place okay tomorrow at deluigi in little L noon okay John

thank you I love you don't say that and don't call me that ever again You've Lost That right okay John I'm

sorry he was sitting against the wall when she came in she looked as beautiful as she did in college though with a few

extra pounds and red eyes Maggie he didn't stand up as she approached No

hugs she asked with a strained smile no John you're so cold we've spent 30 years

together you had fun with another man in my bed how many times how long it was

only once John do you expect me to believe that I don't it was a mistake it just happened you make it sound like you

slipped on a banana peel you don't have to be rude John isn't that what Becky said John I'm so sorry I can't believe

you've lost your company are you going to fight it no it's in the contract just like the morals clause in your job I'm

going to sue him for alienation of affection and you're firm for not honoring the morals

Clause John you're just trying to hurt me I deserve it say whatever you want

and I'll take it just let me show you I'm sorry and that I love you remember

Tim in college that was your only chance yes you won't have another how would you

feel if you came home excited to see the love of your life and found him with someone else in your bed oh my God John

I'm so sorry I wasn't thinking you weren't just seeing me in your head at that moment were you it hurts John pain

sucks doesn't it you want to feel pain try the boys calling and asking what you did wrong what did you tell them I I

didn't I just asked where you were her sobs made her words fragmented you have to take responsibility for your actions

until you do nothing will change I don't know if I'll ever get over it or trust you again I told you this would happen

back in college you're a 10 against my five I'm done if I don't end up in jail

in the next two weeks I'm out of here where did you go John I know you were on the boat I found your truck and took it

home it's in the driveway give it to one of the guys give it to Sid he hasn't accused me of anything I don't know

what's going to happen to Jimmy you think you think I have a girlfriend

Maggie's face went pale oh God no tears flowed uncontrollably I'm so sorry what

have I done you've ruined this family I don't believe you anymore John please

believe me it was just one time we came home from the bar and it happened you slept with him in my bed the most

vulnerable act you can do to another man in my bed anger flared again yes John

I'm so sorry I can't deal with this I'm getting out of here don't call or write me deal with the boys if they call me

I'll know you took responsibility I'll let you know if I don't go to jail if I end up in jail you won't be my only call

Jon stood up threw some money on the table and walked out Maggie reached for him but he brushed her off Mr Baker the

judge said I see you've taken responsibility for your actions you're driving a little fast but otherwise you

haven't broken the law she looked at the papers on her desk then at John do you

have any statements anything to say about your punishment your honor I'm sorry my actions brought us here sorry for

wasting your time I wish I could say I won't do it again but if I caught my wife he looked at George in flagrante

decto the judge smiled as George whispered yes that's right I'd be inclined to punch him again I'll try to

restrain myself Mr Baker are you working I was fired due to the morals Clause I'd

like to come back but it depends on day the court believes you made a bad decision under extreme stress I'm

treating this as a PBJ do you know what that means no your honor it means I'm

not declaring you guilty or innocent I'm giving you probation until sentencing this stays on your record for 5 years if

you commit another crime in the next 5 years you'll serve time for that crime and this one double or nothing

punishment can you behave yourself yes your honor it will help me restrain myself your attorney will have paper for

you to sign you're free to go thanks your honor JN turned to leave glanced back at the judge who smiled at him and

left the room the lawyers John and Bob sat at the table I can't believe it John

I've never seen her so easy on anyone before PBJ for assault is rare how will this affect our plan how do we protect

the business from Maggie John just go back to work if you don't we may not have a business left to

protect said Bob I'll keep working for the business Tim what if I go back as an employee not as a partner when this is

over Bob can promote me back to partner that could work let me review the partnership agreements see what

Provisions apply under PBJ you're not convicted but we need to follow the book

has she signed the papers no not yet Bob I'm going back to Nassau I'll work

remotely and figure out how to get her to sign I might head to St Louis next week are you sure John that you don't

have a way back no I'm done I just want to move on with my life JN walked down

the pier W the down deep and saw the empty spot where Sarah's boat had been a wave of melancholy hit him realizing she

was gone from his life he cherished the memories of their time together in the boat ride with her parents she was proof

that good loyal women existed Maggie watched Jon leave the restaurant feeling his pain like a weight on her chest she

struggled to breathe her hands shaking she wanted to hold him to make everything better as she had in the past

but she knew it was truly over she kissed Jon in Her Mind One Last Time feeling feeling his warmth as tears

flowed from under her sunglasses mom really are you kidding me Jimmy asked

you got caught in dad's bed do you know where he is no I tried calling but he won't answer I think Sid knows but won't

tell me Mom I'm so mad at you I can't believe you did this I still love you

Mom but I don't understand how you could do that to Dad I have to call him I hope he takes my call he's out of the country

mom he doesn't want to talk to you or Jimmy Sid answered the next call Sid please

make him talk to me give me another chance are you still working with that guy yes I have bills to pay a mortgage

find another job Mom unless this guy means nothing to you you're ready to leave the family if not the family will

leave you Sid why are you being so rude I'm not the one who screwed up Mom you

did oh my God I really screwed up didn't I Maggie hung up and sat at the kitchen

table her head in her hands Until Dark she moved to the bedroom and lay on the bed unable to understand why everyone

was so angry it was just one slip up she thought tears flowed as she hummed the

tune of a cheater song stuck in her head the storm crossing the Atlantic was the

fifth named storm of the Season expected to reach hurricane strength by the time it hit the Virgin Islands it would

impact Puerto Rico the Dominican Republic and possibly the Carolinas later in the week residents in the path

were advised to prepare for winds up to 140 mph and Storm surges of 4 to 7 ft

johon had 2 days to prepare for the storm he planned to tie up the down deep and noticed many boats had already left

for storage in the US he began tying down the remaining boats ensuring the ropes were secure but Loose enough to

withstand the storm Marina workers joined him hey what's up one asked trying to secure the boats before the

storm I need more and longer ropes and a dinghy would help why a dinghy I want to

stretch the Rope across to keep the boat off the dock and run a fishing line to stabilize them I'll get more rope what's

your name John yours Jose I think that's Spanish for John right he smiled and Jon

smiled back yeah I think you're right they shook hands and Jose brought five more men with him and a wheelbarrow full

of ropes they spent the day and a half tying the boats the sky was clear and the sound of waves echoed from the shore

John where will you stay during the storm Jose asked I'm hoping for a room at a nearby by Resort you'll stay with

me and my family it's safe we've been through many hurricanes without injury it's not big or fancy but it's fine

thank you Jose but I don't want to inconvenience your family Jose smiled his Crooked Smile you won't bother us

you'll stay with us he nodded and it was settled letun get the house ready JN entered Jose's house a simple cinder

block structure with a tin roof they had driven uphill which John found comforting the inside was dark but tidy

the main room was separated by a bead curtain JN heard an angry woman's voice from behind the curtain Jose rolled his

eyes and walked through leaving Jon standing there after a loud conversation that eventually quieted Jose returned

with a beautiful Hispanic woman in her 30s she had long dark hair and a curvy figure she extended her hand and Jon

shook it noticing her soft but callous fingers you're Jose's new friend she

asked in broken English with a strong Spanish accent yes ma'am I'm here to help are you staying for the storm yes

if you don't mind okay thanks ma'am you work I cook John followed Jose outside

they secured the windows with pieces of corrugated tin and neighbors joined in to help they moved from house to house

as the sky darkened and storm clouds gathered Jon was too busy to call his boys or worry about the down deep he

focused on giving the boats the best chance to survive the storm back at Jose's house they settled into canvas

chairs on the porch the woman brought two cold beers handed one to Jose and the other to John then silently went

back inside is she your wife Jose John asked Jose laughed loudly no John my

wife is dead this is Hermosa my sister-in-law she is beautiful isn't she

yes she is other men joined them on the porch accepting beers from Hermosa who

smiled for the first time in Jon's presence it was a beautiful smile Jon listened to their conversation

understanding only a few phrases he watched the sky dark and felt the wind pick up realizing the storm was

approaching he thought of down deep and felt he had done all he could to protect it and the community as the rain began

the men thanked JN and left one man hesitated then shook Jon's hand saying

thank you John for helping us today you're a friend aren't you yes we are friends you're welcome sir JN replied

the storm hit not as strong as predicted but still powerful the power went out as Jon slept on the couch Hermosa came out

from behind the curtain pointed to the couch and Jon got up to join her he put his arm around her as she snuggled in

they sat like that for hours her breathing even as she fell asleep Jon eventually dozed off too he woke to find

her looking at him with a mix of emotions she was breathtakingly beautiful Jose emerged saw them Shrugged

and asked K Pasa Aki Hermosa launched into a rapid explanation she said you helped her through the storm she was

scared and you held her she also said you were a perfect gentleman but I'm not sure if she's happy about that or angry

women you can't understand them can you no I can't John replied Jose are you

ready to go to the warf I need to check on the down deep Hermosa left to make breakfast are you hungry John we'll sit

on the porch okay John and Jose took their chairs to the porch and watched the neighborhood come to life Fallen

branches were dragged to the curb and yards were cleaned up Hermosa brought them plates of scrambled eggs with spicy

salsa and spiced beef it was the most delicious meal John had ever eaten John

and Jose pulled Fallen palm branches out of Jose's old Toyota pickup and prepared to leave Jon shook her Mosa's hand but

she pulled him into a hug and said Thank you in a strong Spanish accent Jon bowed

his head got into the truck and pressed himself against her the trip to the marina was quick with Jose swerving to

avoid debris at the marina they found one boat flooded and another damaged but the down deep was intact Jose's crew

arrived and got to work Jose thanked Jon for his help relieved they had weathered the storm better than expected Jose what

about the sunken boat are you helping Jon asked of course let's see what we can do they found the needed equipment

in the shed JN helped secure the airbags and ran the straps under the sunken boat the ancient compressor worked and the

boat began to rise they pumped out the water and by Nightfall The Marina was in good shape thank you John Jose said

pulling him into a hug are you coming with me JN asked thank you Jose but I'll stay on the down deep please thank

Hermosa for everything Jon started the generator on the down deep and charged his phone he had several messages from

Sid two from Jimmy and one from Maggie there was also a message from an unfamiliar number John I heard about the

storm and wanted to make sure you and the down deep were okay I'd love to hear back from you Sarah after assuring city

was okay he called Jimmy Jim hi I saw you called yes Dad dad Sid was really

worried about you I'm sorry Dad Mom told me what happened I'm sorry I blamed you

it's okay Jim I told you not to take sides until you knew the whole story I know Dad can you forgive her for the

sake of the family Jim I can't she destroyed my trust I can't go through that again Maggie sat with Becky worried

oh my god Becky he's out there in the boat I hope he's all right Maggie he knows what to do if anyone can get

through this it's John what are you going to do there was knock at the door Maggie answered it are you Margaret

Baker yes may I see some ID oh my God am I being served Becky he's really

divorcing me you've been served Maggie took the envelope sank onto the couch

and whispered no no no I'm so sorry it was just one time it didn't mean

anything Maggie it meant something to John 2 days after the storm John was on

the deck fixing the pump what are you doing asked Sarah standing there in a pink and white striped shirt Sarah what

are you doing here he walked to the side of the boat I heard about the storm I wrote you but didn't get a reply may I

come aboard let me get a chair where are you staying I'm glad to see you I don't

know where to stay yet the hotels aren't all open I came straight from the airport I'm sorry John that was

stupid what do you mean stupid I thought I'd never see you again I couldn't bear

the thought of you needing help I'm sorry John I shouldn't have come Sarah the time we spent together was special

you're an amazing woman let's figure something out Jose will help us it's okay John I just a tear rolled down her

cheek I'm going back to the airport let's talk to Jose first hold on John

leaned over kissed the top of her head and went to find Jose the next week John

and Sarah fished sailed relaxed on the beach and spent time getting to know each other when John left for St Louis

they flew to the mainland together over the following months they talked on the phone often John rented a house on the

island and set up an office he arranged with Bob to return to the office for a few days each month travel directly to

clients from Nassau and do his design work online Bob promoted John to shareholder and they opened an office

with five engineers and support staff working on island projects Maggie agreed to the divorce terms she kept the house

and they split the liquid assets equally Maggie sued the law firm for maltreatment resulting in pumper being

fired he struggled to find work and eventually left the area his claim against Jon was dismissed and Jon

received a settlement from The Firm which he set aside for future grandchildren Sarah and Maggie met one

sunny afternoon when Sid and Kristen along with Jim and Courtney visited JN

sat on the porch of his rented Bungalow rocking his first grandchild in a sturdy chair Maggie watched from the foot of

the porch stairs John I thought we were going to do this together I I'm so sorry it

really didn't mean anything to me Maggie it meant a lot to me it showed that what

we shared didn't matter to you it destroyed my trust and broke my heart I had to move on or die hey baby Sarah

said coming out with a tray of ice tea and a soft drink for the baby she looked at Maggie then at John and back at

Maggie hi you're so beautiful just like John said I'm Sarah Maggie's shoulders

slumped and A Tear rolled down her cheek I hope we can be friends Sarah said EXT in her hand hi Sarah I hope so too take

good care of him he deserves it you're a very lucky woman [Music] [Applause]