

Matthew's phone rumbled. Someone was calling him. It couldn't be Celine because she was having lunch with David. It was probably Matthew's mom. He had spoken to her briefly on the phone yesterday. The conversation was as follows: "Hi" "Hi, I can't really speak right now." "I want to talk to you can you call me back when you have some free time" "Sure."

If he picked up the phone now he would be at fault for not calling her back, but if he ignored the buzzer he could call her later, when he got home, and say it was the first time that he wasn't busy. To make sure he was weighing the pros and cons of a real decision he checked the caller ID. His mom was calling. It wasn't a big deal. He had just forgotten to call. He didn't need to feel guilty or concoct excuses. He answered the call.

"You didn't call me back."

"I was about to. I haven't really had any free time to call since we last spoke."

"It's fine. I know you're very busy. I have to ask you something. "

"Oh no. What is it?"

"It's nothing bad. Don't worry. I shouldn't of said it like that."

"What is it?"

" I just wanted to know how you were finding living with Celine."

"It's fine."

"It was a big step moving in with her."

"Ya."

"You guys are getting really serious."

"Ya."

"Has she started to talk about having kids?"

"No she doesn't want to have kids now."

"But she does want to have kids and she does want to have your kids. I'm sure she's talked about having kids in the future."

"I mean. Not really."

"Really?"

"I guess she mentioned it once. "

"I knew she talked about it with you."

"It was just a passing remark. It wasn't a big deal."

"I hope you use a condom."

"We use condoms. She doesn't want to get pregnant."

"She doesn't want to get pregnant now, but she knows that if she were to get pregnant she'd have you locked down."

"She's not like that."

"You're a nice guy. She knows you hate men that leave children like your father. She knows if it comes to it, she can get pregnant and erase any uncertainty she might feel. She's not a bad person. Everyone wants to have security. I'm telling you so you know."

"She wouldn't do that."

"Not now. She thinks she's safe. You just committed to moving in with her. The next logical step in her mind following moving in together is getting engaged, then getting married, and then having a child. As long as you're following the agenda there's no reason for her to want to get pregnant when

she's still in her early 20's. It's when things are looking rough that she'll start to think about it. Maybe, not even consciously. Maybe it'll take the form of just being a little less careful. I don't want you to think that I think that she is a bad person because I don't. I just want you to remember that you can still leave. She's not pregnant."

"I don't want to leave."

"Don't tell her I've said any of this stuff. If you guys stay together I don't want there to be any bad feeling between us. If you guys stay together and get married I'm going to be supportive and I'll try my best to integrate her into our family. I'm sorry for bothering you at all, I just felt like I had to let you know that you still have the opportunity to leave. And if you leave now you won't have to feel guilty for abandoning her or anything because she's still young and will find someone else. I just want you to know."

"I want to be with Celine."

"If she hadn't begged you to move in, do you think you still would've?"

"I'm not sure."

"Just remember trying to keep a person from getting mad is not a reason to make a decision."

"I wanted to move in with her. I didn't just do it to appease her."

"That's good. It's just you're such an agreeable person. You deserve to be with someone who is agreeable and easygoing too."

"Ok I think I get how you feel."

"Please don't tell her I said anything like this. I don't think she's a bad person. I know she loves you a lot. It's just I don't like the way she feels she needs to talk for you sometimes. It's as if she thinks she understands what you want better than you're able to articulate."

"I don't think that's true."

"She came over for dinner once when you were still living at home. I made spaghetti and meat sauce. Jimmy was there too. Do you remember that night? She told me that you wanted some parmesan cheese for your pasta."

"I guess we've eaten a lot together so she's become accustomed to knowing how I like to eat pasta or something. It's not a big deal."

"You're my son. She thinks she knows you better than I do. She thinks she needs to tell me how you feel. How was that supposed to make me feel? Anyways you were living at home at the time and you certainly knew where the cheese was and could've gotten yourself."

"Ya I guess you're right. But I think you're making a bigger deal out of this than it was. She didn't mean anything by it. She probably wanted some cheese too and was just nervous and didn't want to be a burden so she said that I wanted some."

"If she wanted cheese, she could've asked for cheese. She wanted to ask for cheese for you because she thinks that she is the only one that understands you."

"This is silly."

"You don't care because you're easy going. You get that from me. She talked about other desires you had as well that night though."

“I don’t remember that.”

“She told me about the kind of apartment you wanted live in.”

“She was just trying to make conversation with you.”

“And she had no trouble digging up material. She didn’t ever seem to stop talking. She told me about the kind of bed you wanted to have.