

FDMAT 108 - Week 1

By Three Kids in a Closet

Liz Hughes and Preston Shewell

Jeff and Amanda cuddle on the sofa (it's ugly and from DI). Jeff is doing homework, tapping away on an old, scratched-up laptop. Amanda is nodding off.

JEFF
(contemplatively)
That's so long.

AMANDA
(groggily)
Hmph?

JEFF
If I get another job. If I work
another part-time job while I go to
school, it'll take an extra three
or four semesters.

Amanda nods slowly. Her phone buzzes softly, and she looks at it. There's a new text from her sister saying, "Want free pizza? Got extra from work." Amanda replies, "YASSS!!! That'll be a great surprise for Jeffrey." She puts down the phone.

AMANDA
I thought you were going to wait to
talk to the financial office before
we made a plan.

JEFF
Well, I already know I qualify for
a loan. I can get \$12,000, or
whatever it is.

In the next room, a baby, Jessica Ann, starts to fuss.

AMANDA
(getting up to check on the
baby)
But debt.

Amanda disappears, leaving Jeff on the couch, nodding and fidgeting.

JEFF
But debt...
(loudly)
But minimal!

Amanda returns with a fussy baby swaddled like a burrito, and she sits beside him.

(CONTINUED)

JEFF

Then I could be done in four semesters.

AMANDA

Well, we'd have to figure out exactly what we need to borrow so we don't have more debt than necessary.

Beat.

JEFF

Or I could pick up another part-time job. Longer to graduate. No debt.

AMANDA

(nodding)

That would help with the hospital bills...and diapers.

Jeff exhales deeply.

JEFF

(under his breath, nodding)

Oh...diapers.

Jessica Ann still fusses, and Amanda looks to Jeff for help.

AMANDA

Your turn.

Jeff stands and takes the child.

JEFF

(to the baby, bouncing her gently)

Shh, shh. You're okay, Jessie.

(to Amanda)

Is Lizzy still asleep?

AMANDA

For now.

She checks her phone, smiles briefly, and puts it away again, glancing at the door. Jeff rocks the baby.

JEFF

But if I decide I need a second job, I'd have to find one. No one's really hiring this time of year.

(pacing back and forth)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

JEFF (cont'd)
And I don't know how much I'd have
to make.

AMANDA
Well, I could take on a
couple more students.

JEFF
(still pacing)
No, you're barely getting three
hours of sleep as it is.

The live burrito in his arms squirms uncomfortably. He
switches her to the other shoulder.

AMANDA
(smiling)
Yeah, I didn't want to be the one
to say it.

A knock at the door. Amanda's face brightens instantly. She
holds out her arms.

AMANDA (CONT'D)
That must be my sister. Why don't
you get the door. I'll take Jessica
Ann.

Jeff hands her the baby and disappears to answer the door.

AMANDA (CONT'D)
(to the baby conspiratorially)
You know, problem solving is always
better when there's food.

JEFF
(from off screen, excitedly)
Food!