

FDMAT 108 - Week 11

By Three Kids in a Closet

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INT. JEFF/AMANDA'S HOUSE - KITCHEN

Jeff and Amanda at the kitchen table playing Jenga. Jeff pores over his smartphone distractedly.

JEFF

This one says infant immunization definitely causes autism. It's a blog post, but it cites some scientific studies.

AMANDA

Can I see?

She stops what she's doing and looks at Jeff's phone.

AMANDA (CONT'D)

They have evidence, but I don't think it's very reliable.

She scans the article briefly.

AMANDA (CONT'D)

See, the p-value they give suggests the evidence isn't very strong.

JEFF

What is the thing that you just said?

AMANDA

The p-value.

(pointing at the screen)

See, it says $p=0.4928$. That basically means there's not enough evidence.

JEFF

Oh, that's good to know. Well, now I know what to look for.

AMANDA

Okay, but it's your turn.

Jeff hastily pulls out a Jenga brick and lays it on top of the tower, then continues researching while Amanda carefully maneuvers her own brick.

JEFF

What about this one? This is an academic journal with confusing words and everything. And it has a good p-value--I think.

(CONTINUED)

Amanda looks for a moment.

AMANDA

Yeah, this one looks good. Save that. We should look for evidence for the other side too.

JEFF

Is it my turn?

Without waiting for a response, he jabs a block out of its place and puts it on top. Both fall silent. Amanda carefully takes her turn, looking as if she's trying to avoid even breathing on the tower. Jeff continues researching.

AMANDA

Your turn, babe.

Jeff quickly removes a block. The tower sways precariously, but doesn't fall. It is now balanced on a single brick. Amanda reaches forward slowly. She pokes a block. The tower sways. She tenses.

JEFF

(grinning)

Just rip it out. It's like a band-aid.

Amanda switches to a different block, tests it, then carefully begins to slide it out.

The tower collapses with a crash. She clenches her fist and adopts the "dang-it" face. Jeff bursts into laughter.

INSTANT TO BLACK