

It was so great to hear from you today and it was such weird timing , he said . This is going to sound funny and a little strange , but you were in a dream I had just a couple of days ago . I'd love to get together and tell you about it if you're up for a cup of coffee , he continued , laying the trapped hes been planning for years . She was in a hurry . Not the standard hurry when you're in a rush to get somewhere , but a frantic hurry . The type of hurry where a few seconds could mean life or death . She raced down the road ignoring speed limits and weaving between cars . She was only a few minutes away when traffic came to a dead standstill on the road ahead . All he could think about was how it would all end . There was still a bit of uncertainty in the equation , but the basics were there for anyone to see . No matter how much he tried to see the positive , it wasn't anywhere to be seen . The end was coming and it wasn't going to be pretty . He was an expert but not in

a discipline that anyone could fully appreciate. He knew how to hold the cone just right so that the soft serve ice-cream fell into it at the precise angle to form a perfect cone each and every time. It had taken years to perfect and he could now do it without even putting any thought behind it. Nobody seemed to fully understand the beauty of this accomplishment except for the new worker who watched in amazement. She tried not to judge him. His ratty clothes and unkempt hair made him look homeless. Was he really the next Einstein as she had been told? On the off chance it was true, she continued to try not to judge him. Was it enough? That was the question he kept asking himself. Was being satisfied enough? He looked around him at everyone yearning to just be satisfied in their daily life and he had reached that goal. He knew that he was satisfied and he also knew it wasn't going to be enough. She looked at her little girl who was about to become a teen. She tried to think back to when the girl had been younger but failed to pinpoint the exact

she had become a little too big to pick up and carry. It hit her all at

once. She was no longer a little girl and she stood there

speechless with fear, sadness, and pride all running through her at the

same time. At that moment he had a thought that he never imagined he'd

considered. I could just cheat, he thought, and that would solve the

problem. He tried to move on from the thought but it was

persistent. It didn't want to go away and, if he was honest with

himself, he didn't want it to. He had done everything right. There had

been no mistakes throughout the entire process. It had been

perfection and he knew it without a doubt, but the results still

stared back at him with the fact that he had lost. It was that

terrifying feeling you have as you tightly hold the covers over you with the

knowledge that there is something hiding under your bed. You want to

look, but you don't at the same time. You're frozen with fear and

unable to act. That's where she found herself and she didn't know what to do

*next .*