

The Chronicle of Events of “A Not So Normal” Dutch Divorce 1998 – 2006 Rough Draft



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Version with names redacted: intended only for Mrs. A. Hendriks to clarify the events leading up to divorce, the divorce process, and the current state of affairs.

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The Storm in a Glass of Water - 杯水惊澜

In the year of 2006, the small country called the Netherlands, reached an official 1,000,000 registered divorced citizens, or 500,000 broken families. My own family fell into that statistical pool. During my stay in the country, I had briefly heard on the radio at least 5 occasions, where a man would kill his ex-wife, then his children and then himself. The news would be quickly swept under the carpets, like something unsightly the Dutch would not want to acknowledge. My personal experience would lead me to believe, that those men acted out of desperation. In the ebb of modernization where much effort was given to law reforms for Woman's rights, the scales of Justice are out of balance. During the 1950s, if a woman became pregnant, she was not allowed to work, which often made her reliant on her husband. One can see the logic in that previous social construction, as it gave the children one thing they deserve, and that is intensive care under at least one parent. Of course, this structure was removed with the hope that a woman would be able to leave an abusive relationship and survive alone if need be. The laws caring for the man's place in the family were not equally modernized. Every action has an equal and opposite reaction.

“Where the law is vague, the war begins.” Nearly three years had passed since my ex-wife had left residence with me to live closer to her parents. Her lawyer would play cat and mouse games to keep the judge from being able to make a final decision for our broken family to have normal visitation together. This ancient Roman saying has proven to be very true. In retrospect, I now think, that if you are in Europe dealing with an ex-spouse who is unwilling to compromise, or who is boxed mentally into a culture or environment that is punitive, it is best to have as detailed of a divorce arrangement as possible. In my case, I never imagined I should have spoke up in court and asked that 1 day be officially defined as 24 hours, because my ex-Dutch wife seemed to think she could interpret an interval of 1 day as being 8 hours on the Father-Children calendar.

No one wins in divorce; everyone loses. There may be varying degrees of losing, but certainly no one wins. The children have a right to have their losses minimized. If your Western lawyer proves to be playing games with your emotions, is not providing you with information you have a right to, or decisions of the court are not taking place in a timely matter, then quickly find a new lawyer so you can have equal quality time with your children. Do not walk away and assume it is best for your children. Within the pages of this book, you will see just how important you are for your kids, and if you are actually an aggressor in a divorce case, I hope what you read will help you understand that you must put your pride aside, think about your children, and give them equal time with your ex-spouse.

MANY THANKS

I want to thank the exceptional people who have supported me through this particularly difficult time, especially those that have exercised great patience where others would not. Because of these sorts of friends, what is still to this day a terrible experience for the members of my broken family; the light from a door left ajar can be seen. That doorway can open to a new and better life. Thank you for your nourishments over these bitter sweet years.

我要感谢，支持我走过这段特别艰难的岁月的人们，特别是那些极具耐心的人。因为这些朋友，使我在经历了源自于破裂家庭的磨难后，依然能够在黑暗中看到光明。这份光明照亮了我通往新的、更美好的生活之路。感谢你们在这段痛苦的岁月里给予我的关爱和支持！

Special thanks to the Scottish gentlemen Andrew Carnegie, who grew up from the modest position of telegraph operator to the wealthiest man of his time. In his time he bestowed gifts such as Public Libraries to the masses in the United States, thus providing seeds for those with initiative to excel on their own merits, and a fine example to those in the position to do the same. Carnegie believed that giving too much wealth to even your own children robbed them of their own motivation.

Dearest Albert Einstein, thank you for just being who you were and for having once said, "All things should be as simple as possible but no more simple than that." I wonder if when you were looking across the Milky Way, contemplating the concept of Dark Matter, did foresee that technological advances to decrease the labors of man, combined with seductive marketing departments would create a culture of people who expect over simplification in all aspects of their lives. Love requires effort and dedication, but the level of dedication is presently underestimated, denied, ignored or neglected in the mass of modern Westerners. That is of course not to say all Westerners are so, but pop-culture would like to have all worldly understanding wrapped tidy in the 3 lines of a Haiku poem. Terrorists, the lazy and the primitive want instant yes or no answers.

A hug for your hopes and a hug of empathy for all you children, mothers or fathers suffering. Oppressors always loose in the end, truth always remains, just stay true and focus on being the best that you can.

Finally, I never said it enough. I love you mom and dad, for always showing each other respect, for keeping it together despite the difficulties and for fighting the natural inclinations to cling to your offspring beyond their childhood, giving your children the freedom and necessary space to grow into young adults.

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PURPOSE:

This is basically a timeline of events that occurred during the demise of a marriage and family. It is listed here primarily to shed some light on the truth of events. After my ex-wife felt she had to divorce, her attitude and rationale would change extremely. I would become her nexus of all problems, and she would rewrite history to support her false allegations against me. I married her in part because she was a very determined young lady. I never imagined that her goals would turn against me.

My ex-wife currently asserts many untruths, trying to paint me as an alcoholic and someone of abusive nature, all to withhold normal visitation rights. I honestly do not know if she truly believes all that she has said. Her version of history is hers to govern. Certainly, her version of events has prolonged the divorce process into three years.

Yet, this latest bending of the truth is one that inspired me to write down the chain of events leading to and the process of divorce. This new story that Thasia is telling makes it appear that she accidentally became pregnant with our children, and that can undermine my children's self-esteem. It was Thasia's idea to become parents, we had an agreement that if we had one child, that we would have a second so that the children would have each other to grow up with and then she quit taking the birth-control pills her father had put her on at the age of 15. In my personal opinion, it seems irrational to me to say that you were unexpectedly pregnant after those three events.

I do not wish my children to believe they were unwanted because of this new story. Other than building up sympathy for her arguments against me, I can not see any benefit for Thasia in saying she was "undesirably" pregnant. Perhaps this timeline will to only clarify a few things about other issues, but also make her think about the broader spectrum of what her stories may affect our children.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE EARLY YEARS OF MARRIAGE

This is a brief over view of years leading up to chronicle of events of divorce. It does not cover every detail, but it does cover some important issues which had bearing on decisions made at the time, and gives a general background which seems to be masked or lost in the meditation minutes.

For me, at that time, the days I spent in France were one of the darkest of my life. The adjustment to the French culture and having to rely on your second language was taxing. Following a full time University curriculum left me mentally tired for the first two months. The cost of living was not sufficiently explained in the University's introduction, and I would soon find myself over budget, cutting costs everywhere I could. Not knowing that electricity bills were based on last year's usage, I shutdown all power, took cold showers and studied by the light of cotton balls burning in oil in a Coquille Saint-Jacques shells. I refused to give up in such grim circumstances. Fortunately, I met another young woman from Southern France who unabashedly had to cut financial corners to survive, and she guided me through the year's French survival course.

Under the normal curriculum of a French student, a secondary language was required. A German friend advised me to study English. I told him that I already knew sufficient English, and he told me that is precisely why he was going to chose German and get good grades. The grades meant nothing to me, as I already had a diploma. Russian, Hebrew and Arabic were already too advanced to join. From the languages that were at a beginner's level, I picked Dutch, simply because the Netherlands is situated at the mouth of the Rhine River and it houses one of the largest ports of Northern Europe. This also made a logical connection to my transportation studies. My studies in Dutch would prove to be further connected to my life in Le Havre. I sat next to a Danish woman, who showed me many of the logical similarities. For her, they were the same language with a different dialect. One of the two professors would also prove to have many similarities to my own life and we would become serious friends. Finally, 6 months later, in an unexpected turn of events, my American roommate would give up on her studies in France and a Dutch student needing a place to stay for her internship with an American shipping company would replace her. This Dutch student, Thasia, would become my "true love" and then my wife.

Everything seemed to fit, and fall easily into place. We had both agreed we wished to focus on our careers and not become parents. We had both studied International Business Administration and both chose French as a secondary language. Despite my crippled state of affairs, Thasia accepted me. We had known each other for 9 months before becoming intimate. I remember the day I saw a teenage photo of her at her parent's house. She was dressed up but carried a look of sadness, which reminded me of those blues that early teens get when they are trying to find their way in life. I thought about how I had been there before, and how I could surely help her.

She followed me back to America. I tried hard to arrange the paperwork for her to stay and work in the United States, without marrying her. I had always thought that a couple should have a sufficient amount of time to court and see each other's true selves before committing to a marriage contract. Thasia's parents would fly in from the Netherlands and change

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all of that. I never even had to ask her father's permission to marry her, as he suggested it first. Thasia's mother objected at first, but her father told her to hush and continued explaining that he felt it was for the best. Thasia was extremely enamored that evening, and I probably should have taken closer note and been more wary of the fact that her father had such an influence on her.

Before we married, I asked for a few promises, and one was that since at least one of us would always be living outside their culture and away from their own family, that we would never bring our family or friends into our own arguments. I did not realize it at the time, but Thasia as a child grew up highly protected. Her parents never disciplined her in accordance with the teachings of the British psychologist Dr. Benjamin Spock. When Thasia ran into disputes with the local children, she would run crying to her parents. Her parents would go so far as to physically discipline the neighborhood children. In retrospective speculation, I suppose this method of solving disputes became a habit for my ex-wife. Eventually she would break this promise, telling their mutual friends exaggerations or lies and even ask her father to mediate her argument with her husband.

After we were married, we could register Thasia to work in the United States. We stood in line from 5:00 in the morning until 11:00 to process her papers. At the desk she turned around and walked away, dropping the process. She wanted to attend her sister's wedding, and was afraid she would not get her Dutch passport back from the Immigration Services in time.

When Thasia left for the wedding, I had taken an easy job just across the street, so I could focus on getting Thasia situated into her life in America. It was not the sort of job I had studied for, which sort of put me into a flexible state looking for a job related to International Business. When Thasia left for the Netherlands, we had an agreement that she would look for a job, and if she found one more related to International Business than I had found, and then I would live in her country for 8 years. Then she would live in my country for 8 years, and with the experience, we would then decide which country we would best like to grow old in. After the children were born, she would assert that this agreement had no bearing on our relationship with our first relational therapist. Later, she would simply just deny that there was ever such an agreement.

Thasia found a job in the Netherlands. I fulfilled my promise, and moved to the Netherlands. The cultural adjustment was difficult. As soon as I could work, I took a fulltime job. It was hard on both of us, with Thasia having to drive to Breda train station to pick me up from a long day of work. Some nights she would have to travel even later, as I attended language courses. There was a time when Thasia felt that we lived too close to her parents. We soon moved to Breda, which gave me the ability to work on the Western coast without relying on Thasia. We could still drive 20 minutes and see her family on our free time.

Thasia took care of all the finances and administrative work in the beginning. That was purely logical, as the system of payments here is different than in other countries. I would look at the bank balances on occasion, and see that we were doing relatively ok. We were buying an apartment, and saving up a little money, which Thasia liked to use on vacations. After the birth of children, the income was sufficient, but there was far less room for elaborate vacations.

Thasia would later try and make it appear that I was not actively building up my life in the Netherlands, by pointing out that I refused to get a Dutch drivers license. For me, the concept of paying 2,500 Euros for lessons and tests for a license to drive in a country smaller than the state of Rhode Island which had a perfectly good public transportation infrastructure seemed ludicrous. Certainly, it seemed less sensible when we had an agreement to stay in the Netherlands for only 8 years. Of course, at the time, neither of us knew that promise was going to be broken.

Thasia known me for four years, and had been married to me for more than 2 years. She was fully aware of my idiosyncrasies before she proposed the idea of having children together.

By chance, to this point, I had never disagreed with any of the major structural decisions. Thasia was so excited about having children that I decided to step out of my personal concerns about being a good father. I had felt that many people underestimate the level of responsibility they have to their children and that their role as parents is very significant to the development of a child. These are concerns all consciences and reflective adults would have before starting their own family.

When Thasia was pregnant with our daughter, I decided to start working on acquiring a Dutch driver's license. Even if we had agreed to only stay in the Netherlands 8 years, if there was an emergency, I felt I should be able to legally drive to the aid of my family. At the same time, I bought my wife her first mobile phone, so if something happened, she could call for help.

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The adjustment from being lovers to parents is a difficult one. Most often humans replicate the activities of their parents as it seems like safe, tried and proven ground. We all want the best for our children so we often cling to what is known. Thasia replicated her parent's over-protectiveness, and at first I was unaware of the effects of her behavior on me. Gradually, Thasia became more and more protective, making me feel highly uncomfortable around my own daughter. I made the mistake of telling her she should spend some time with her mother. I thought that she would learn some basics about raising children and shed some of her fears. I was wrong. She spent more and more time away from the house. Still life between us was not extremely bad, and we worked on having a second child.

It was a perfect match, exactly what we had desired before Thasia was pregnant; one girl and one boy. The birth of my son was traumatic for Thasia, but nothing as terrible as how she would describe it after choosing for divorce.

Months after the birth of our second child Thasia's parents started giving her arguments for living closer to them. Thasia's younger divorced sister had taken residence in the house next to her parent's. Thasia's father had purchased that house for her, and I suppose Thasia's parents envisioned something similar for their eldest daughter. For two months, all conversations between Thasia and me lead to an argument for moving closer to her parents.

I explained a number of times that the logistics of living on the border of Belgium would make my work-week a nightmare while Thasia used our family's automobile and worked closer by. I also reminded her that from our own experience from previously living in Zundert, that her parents were too dominate to live that close. I would remind her that it would be similar to me asking her to live among a rural community of American farmers, which is an environment less receptive to indigenous outsiders, let alone foreigners. All these reasons and more would be accepted, until the next time she returned from visiting her parents.

After two months of all conversations leading to the same arguments, silence fell between us. This was the true kernel of our family's demise. The silence brought additional arguments and then eventually the threat of divorce at the dinner table on my son's first birthday. The two years of therapy afterwards would be an ever changing barrage of complaints, but the underlying problem of not being able to compromise on future living arrangements remained.

Out of the 3 therapists that Thasia and I saw, it was the one her father had referred us to who the quickest to offer divorce as the solution to our problems. It only took him two one hour sessions to decide so, and he was even a bit authoritative about his decision; saying that, "In the third meeting I would like to discuss divorce, as there is a right and a wrong way to do it". I found it very strange, because we had come to him to help us find a way to save our family.

This introduction to the chain of events lacks the embellishment of the relationship that Thasia and I had built up together. I know for certain that she loved me and that I loved her.

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1999

1999

June of 1998. It was just another visit to her parents, which the couple did fairly often. Thasia's parents rarely spoke directly to Keebler, so he would find something else to do, like make a fire in the winter, or this time, meditate by the pond. She had just come from watching her sister take care of her nephew.

Sitting in the backyard watching the large goldfish under the lily-pads of her father's pond, Thasia had a glow in her eyes. English was the primary language they spoke together. Thasia asked, "Are we sure we do not want to have a baby?" That is what the couple had agreed on before marriage. That they would focus on building up a career, but the exposure to watching her nephew growing would cause Thasia to flower with the desire to become a mother. A year later, she would say that it was a primal feeling that swept over her. That was about all the couple said about parenthood at that moment. Keebler had noticed the glimmer in her eye though, and knew that she really wished to be a mother.

Thasia's father, a Doctor, had given her anti-contraception pills since she was of the age 15. He was not the sort of man to leave anything to chance if he could control it. Thasia had been using that medication for about fourteen years. Keebler and Thasia had 2 weeks between their birthdays and had turned 29 years old the previous month of May. At that time, it seemed they were at least old enough to responsibly consider having children.

A few weeks later, Thasia would go further to say that it was her personal wish to have two children if they had one. Keebler asked her why she felt that way. Thasia commented that it would always be nice for them to at least have someone to grow up with. Keebler agreed with her logic, and added that on the macro-perspective at least they would only be replacing themselves, and not adding to the overpopulation of the planet. Keebler then told Thasia that she should stop taking the pill then, and after all, the artificial governance of your biorhythms could not possibly be as healthy as normal governance.

That following Winter, the two would be on vacation in Switzerland with Thasia's parents. Thasia had missed her period. They went together to the one of the pharmacies in Crans-Montagne, and purchased a "test de grosses" (literally in French; "a test of fatness", or in common English; a pregnancy test). The results of two tests were taken in Thasia's parents chalet, and they were both positive. Thasia did not tell her parents directly.

Note: Eight years later Thasia would claim she had become "undesirably" pregnant with the first of our children.

Aug 11

Kafirah is born. She was our first child. Keebler remembered seeing her cranial structure in the sonogram. The Dutch, from my experience, prefer not to divulge the sex of a baby. Many adhere to the idea that it should be a surprise when the baby actually is born. Keebler's intuition was that their first child would be a girl based on the space between her eyes and the way it ran to her nose; it reminded him so much of his wife.

As Kafirah grew, she would look more and more like her father's mother. Everyone on her mother's side would see it differently, because she carried blonde hair and blue eyes like Thasia's mother. She was absolutely adorable and a peaceful child after the first 2 months where she awoke every 2 hours needing a new diaper or food. In the beginning, Keebler would wake up in the night and go check his daughter. Regardless of if he

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got up or not, Thasia would always get up and follow him to his daughter's crib.

Thasia was very protective of her daughter. She would even lean over Keebler's shoulder while he changed the diaper and then yell at him if it appeared that the tape would touch his daughter's skin.

In the Netherlands, mothers are pampered unlike they are in the United States. They receive the attention of a woman trained in caring for babies, who, if you are fortunate, will even take care of the dishes and the boiling of bottle nipples. The first helper assigned to the family even gave advice about the fact that paper milk cartons could not be recycled like normal paper is.

Given all the attention that Thasia was receiving from the State and family, Keebler resumed fulltime work, so he could save vacation days for later. Keebler also fell out of the pattern of getting up at night to go to his daughter's aid when she cried, but this was far less after the first two months.

The new demands on a man and a woman, just having graduated from being young lovers to responsible parents is amazing. Certainly the stress of this transformation has been a source of many broken families.

2001

2001

June 24

Sunday: Leslie is born. The previous day, Thasia had been sitting at her desk behind her computer, while Keebler sat in the living room. Thasia stood up, looking down at her thighs. Keebler followed her gaze and saw a gush of water hit the floor as Thasia broke water. Unlike the first birth, Thasia had hated being pregnant, and would complain that she had just wished it was over, and finally her moment had arrived. Keebler grabbed their things and walked her to the automobile. Thasia's labor was much more difficult this time. She walked around the hospital room, clutching her stomach, bent over. If Keebler came close to her, she would wave him away, wanting space. It Thasia's father would arrive later, and stand in the room with Keebler and his wife, just as he had done with the birth of Kafirah.

When Leslie appeared, Keebler was delighted. They had exactly what they had wanted when they agreed to have children; one boy, and one girl. It was if they were blessed with fortune, but the events following the birth that morning would help change something beautiful and hopeful into the "No Man's Land" between two opposing sides in an artillery war.

Keebler cut the umbilical chord, freeing his son from his mother. The large round, broken and bleeding placenta at the end of the chord was still lodged onto the walls of Thasia's womb. Thasia's father stood there nervously, while the mid-wife tugged a little at the umbilical chord and rubbed Thasia's stomach. Other nurses washed, weighed and covered our son, while Thasia laid with her legs still spread apart over a large blue sack which filled slowly with blood.

Keebler took a few photos of Leslie, but not nearly as many as he had planned, because he could feel the tension growing in the room. Thasia's father, Anthony, did not say anything to anyone. He respected the obstation's space to work. Later Keebler would learn that if the placenta stays in longer than one hour, then the situation could become critical for the mother of the new born child. Time crept slowly forward in the delivery

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room, approaching that critical hour. Anthony continued to say nothing, standing there with a worried look on his face. Thasia did not appear to be in pain, nor concerned, but she was tired of laying there, spread-eagled with her legs in the stirrups. Approximately 1.5 liters of blood and the umbilical chord had filled the fabric net dangling between Thasia's legs.

The mid-wife brought our son back for a feeding. As soon as my son began to suckle his first feeding on earth, Thasia's womb reacted and released the placenta. The nurses examined the surface of the sack that had once protected their son for deformities. After feeding, Thasia was ready for some sleep.

Keebler went home showered, slept for a while, and returned to the hospital in the morning. When Keebler walked in, Thasia was in a communal room with more paitences. She looked concerned, and told Keebler that she was going to take blood, otherwise her body would require about 4 months to produce the 1.5 liters she had lost. At least, that is what Thasia told Keebler.

Keebler remembered the Phase III testing his company back in America had done for the Federal Drug Administration's approval. The elixir, HRG-47, was composed of 5 different antibodies that attached to the non-mutating surface points of an AIDS virus. Unfortunately, it could only cleanse the viri floating through the blood stream. Only one virus needed to be lodged in the muscle tissues of a patient to make treatment further necessary. The control group of paitents needing this drug were just happy to see the spots disappear from their skin, and the aches and pains of their body to disapate to the point where they could walk again. Then Keebler thought about the 24 people in France that had been infected with AIDS from a bad screening of blood in the early 1990s. He then thought about his children, and how they needed a mother.

Keebler said to his wife, "Come home, I will take a few months off from work, and watch the children while you rest and heal naturally." Thasia refused, almost crying. Thasia's father was standing in the room, and he was an institutional thinker who supported the use of modern medicine over homeopathie. In fact, he scoffed at people who tried alternative medicines. Keebler then suggested to Thasia that she ask her doctor about hemoglobin-expanders (an oxygen carrying liquid which can substitute small amounts of blood and is commonly used by deep sea divers when they need to go below the depths where oxygen can still be carried in the lungs without becoming lethal). Tears welled up in Thasia's eyes, as she told her husband "No". Keebler was upset, because he was facing the chance of his wife, and the mother of his children coming down with AIDS, hepatitis or some other influence modern medicine might still not have discovered.

That moment in time would be another critical point. Likely, Thasia's father was insisting that she take the medical fast route to recover the blood, and he was not a man accustomed to dissension or different medical practices. Thasia did cry, knowing how her husband likely worried about her, and that would be one of the last times Keebler would feel like his feelings meant anything to his wife. After this incident, that moment in time would increasingly be warpped out of perspective by Thasia and her family. Her family, her lawyer, and herself would later even exaggerate that moment in court, saying that Thasia was in an medical emergency and make it sound as if Keebler had tried to stop the doctor from doing as Thasia wished.

Later, Keebler would learn that the option to use artificial blood is sparsely available in the Netherlands. Perhaps it is do to cost cutting measures, as the

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Dutch medical system is structured like the HMOs (Health and Medical Organizations) of the United States in their 1980s advent. If you want an operation with the use of blood-expanders, you need to go to Germany where they have more options, and thus also more experience with alternative medical practices, readily available.

Fortunately, everyone was physically fine after that traumatic experience. Keebler would slowly be losing his wife from that moment on, but not to AIDS.

2002

2002

April 7

Leslie goes to hospital in Breda for infection in his arm. The doctors, first diagnosis was meningitis (hersensvlies ontsteking).

Thasia's father, living 20 minutes from the hospital would drop by everyday. At least that is what Thasia reported at that time. Keebler would not get home often until 19:30 to 20:00, leaving little time for visitation, eating, washing and sleeping. When Keebler did come, Thasia would often erupt into anger. Perhaps it was her stress and worries about Leslie. Kafirah had not been ill as often as Leslie.

Keebler brought toys for Leslie on his second visit, and took photos to show his colleagues, and thank them for being understanding about him leaving work early to try and see his wife and son in the hospital. Each visit, Thasia became more and more dissatisfied, verbally attacking Keebler.

One day Keebler picked up their daughter, Kafirah, from her Grandparents and took her to the hospital to visit her mother. The two women went to eat supper together in the hospital cafeteria, while Keebler stayed with his son. They played with the toys he had brought earlier, and then something total unexpected was to happen.

Keebler had told Thasia that she was over protective of the children, and wanted her to stop worrying so much, because it was effecting her personality. Actually, Keebler had wanted her to come home, and sleep for a while in her own bed, but Thasia refused, wanting to stay day and night with Leslie. After that day, Keebler would never suggest that a child should be left alone in a hospital either.

Leslie was playing in his father's lap when his daddy looked down at his shirt. There was blood on his shoulder. Keebler wondered if he had cut himself. Then he saw more blood down on his abdominal region. He started to examine his son for the source of blood, and found that the intervenous plastic tube running from his son's right hand was filled with blood, and it was shooting out the end of the tube between him and his son. Some how the tube had broken off right before the tube's air-chamber area.

Keebler put his thumb on the end of the tube, to stop the bleeding, held his son in his arms, and walked over to the wall to press the red emergency button. The alarm could be clearly heard, but no one came. It was about 5 minutes, and he kept pressing the button, but no one came. Mothers would even use that button to get a new diaper and so response time was not often quick, but time seemed to go by painfully slow as Leslie became more and more restless.

Struggling to keep his thumb on the end of the tube, his son in his arms, and to get his mobile phone out of his pocket, Keebler was going to call his wife

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for immediate help. Keebler asked her politely to come back to the room and quickly. He did not want her to be too worried and overreact, so he didn't tell her about the blood pouring out of the broken tube. Thasia was angry, responding that she was busy eating with her daughter and would return when they were done. Then Keebler had to be more commanding and make Thasia see that it was an emergency by telling her Leslie was bleeding. Still, it took Thasia at least 5 minutes to come back to the room. When she had seen what had happened with her own eyes, she went for help personally.

Thasia came back with some nurses, male and female. What do you think their first reaction was? The assignment of guilt. "It shouldn't be possible," said the male nurse while examining the dangling tube, "these things are sealed in the factory." They were more concerned about how the hose could break instead of replacing it. Keebler had to bite his lip, while his son continued to squirm restless in his arms, leaving more blood on his shirt.

Note: Later, Thasia's recollection of those days while Leslie was in the hospital would only focus on her feeling that Keebler was never present. It was another small traumatic experience, which caused tension to build between the couple.

May 31 Thasia, unbeknownst to Keebler at the time, continues collecting information about divorce and how to sell the apartment. At the same time, Thasia is looking at living and working in America as an expatriate. These two considerations are extremely different from each other; breaking the family up and retreating to her parents' care, or trusting Keebler to provide his family a new life in the United States.

June 24 Monday, Thasia visits the, Ruthie von Clausewitz, Maatschappelijkwerker, comes home and introduces the idea of divorce in front of the children at the dinner table. Thasia's exact words were, "You know if we divorce, you will have to pay alimony!"

Keebler was surprised to hear that Thasia was so far as to consider divorce, and that in her introduction of the idea she did so in a threatening matter. Keebler, sitting in his chair, reacted in anger. He told Thasia she was threatening him as if she was unaware of her actions. Keebler tossed his plate to the ground. Looking around himself, he saw his children with a surprised look in their face. That was enough to calm the situation. Thasia said she would go to her parents and take the children. At that time, Thasia was spending an average of 4 days a week with her parents, and sometimes through the entire weekend. It was something that bothered Keebler very much, and he felt it was time she stopped running away to her parents with the children.

Thasia left the room for to start packing clothes in the bedroom. Keebler took his son out of his high-chair (tric-trac), and placed him in his crib (box). Kafirah walked up to her daddy and asked, "What is wrong with mommy?" Keebler sat down next to his daughter, and told her that "Mommy is just a little upset right now. You stay here, and watch your brother for me. I will go talk to mommy, and everything is going to be ok."

When Keebler entered into the bedroom, Thasia was packing a suitcase laying on their king-size bed. Her eyes were glossy with water. When Keebler entered the room, he told Thasia, "don't go." Thasia began shaking her head side to side, indicating the answer was "No", while she continued to load the suitcases.

Keebler continued to try to speak to his wife, but she was hypnotically

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saying nothing while packing her bags. Keebler wanted to reach his wife, and make her understand what she was doing was an extreme mistake. The idea of destroying the family, was really too much. What seemed like a good idea at the time was actually counter-productive. Keebler grabbed his wife's cheeks, and held her so she would not be able to keep shaking her head no. He asked her to look him in the eyes. There was no progress. Thasia was unreachable. Keebler returned to the living room to tend to the waiting children.

There was Kafirah in the living room. She could sense that daddy was not happy, so she hugged his legs. Keebler took his son out of the baby play-pen and sat with his children on the living room couch, awaiting Thasia's arrival with her suitcases.

Thasia left with the children to stay with her parents, and nothing further had been said.

Note: Not much later, Thasia would exaggerate this occurrence, telling everyone that she was "strangled" (or the Dutch word which indicates that she was forcefully denied the ability to breathe) by her husband. She would tell her parents this sometime before September, 2002, which was an assumption made in retrospect of events that happened that month at her parents house. The first time Keebler would truly become aware that Thasia had exaggerated the day's events to make it appear that Keebler had tried to physically harm her would be much later in divorce court proceedings. Thasia would hold to this exaggeration all the way to mediation in 2006, where it would even be recorded that Thasia said Keebler had thrown her across the kitchen. The later addition to the story may have been a typing mistake, or a misunderstanding, but that is how it would first be recorded.

June 28 Friday, Thasia returns alone to pick up clothes for a vacation she will be taking with her mother and children in Ouddorp, Zeeland.

July 7 Sunday, Thasia comes back from vacation in Ouddorp, Zeeland for a brief visit. I had written her an email about how I felt we really needed to resolve our conflicts & think more positively. Ruthie von Clausewitz cited the email as progress, and Thasia wanted to try again.

Note: At this time, Thasia's mother had given her advise that if she can save the marriage that she should.

July 15 Keebler takes one week off from work to spend time with the children, partly because Thasia felt that Keebler was not spending enough time with the kids.

July 25 Thasia moves 4,000 Euros from Keebler's income-bank account without asking or informing him before she did so. Thasia also did not tell him where the half of his bank's balance went to.

July 26 Thasia returns from a visit to her father with a form for a blood test for alcohol abuse (liver damage), which her father sent without seeing Keebler. Thasia quoted her father as saying, "It sounds like Keebler has withdrawal symptoms from alcohol".

Sept 4 Koen and Kristine, friends of the family, have their 4th wedding Anniversary.

Sept 14 Thasia's annual family day was held in Oudewater.

Sept 17 Tuesday: Thasia asks permission to spend the night at her parents, and signs

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- her emails with Love.
- Sep 26 Thursday : Leslie gets a BMR shot
- Sep 30 Monday : Leslie' last check-up with Dr. Veldkamp
- Sept 31 Keebler attempts to discuss and the idea of moving close to Thasia's parents with Thasia's father, Anthony. Anthony responds by saying, "You don't listen. You don't listen. You don't listen. You don't listen. You don't listen." Thasia waits in the next room, while her mother, Tiffaniek, gets involved with the argument. Tiffaniek yells about many small points of anger and accusing me of odd things, "You take the kids to Mc Donalds everyday!" Anthony would input a small agreement, and Tiffaniek would yell louder. Anthony saw this out of the corner of his eye, and continued to raise Tiffaniek's anger levels. Tiffaniek was holding a plate and motioned as if she wished to throw it at me. Keebler told her to throw it on the floor if she felt she had to throw it. Tiffaniek put down the plate and lunged at Keebler, placing her hands around his throat. Keebler fell back into a chair around the table, so as to make it difficult for Tiffaniek to reach him. Anthony then told his wife to calm down and "that is not how we will solve this".
- Oct 30 Thasia stays at her mother's house with the kids for her mother's birthday party. Thasia still signs her messages with love, and will pick me up Thursday morning for a therapy session.
- Oct 31 Thursday: In therapy, Thasia complains about an event two months prior, having been left behind while Keebler went and bought oil paint for his artwork. Keebler mentions that he asked her if it would be ok in advance, and that he felt like the issues of Thasia cited for her unhappiness were constantly changing. After the meeting, Thasia said, "So, shall we try for another month?"
- Nov 4 Thasia suggests a trip to Memphis, Tennessee to see family and reflect on our lives together. Keebler informs Thasia that all his vacation days have been used for relational therapy, which incidentally had not cost a vacation day as they were most often held on her days-off from work. After the November vacation to Belgium, only 2 vacation days would remain.
- Nov 5 Monday: Thasia suggests that Keebler leave the house when Kafirah is having a birthday party, or celebrate with her. Keebler says that he accepts his daughter assuming his mother's habit of celebrating birthdays, but felt that asking the father to leave the house was sending the wrong message to the children, that they should be intolerant and disrespectful of different cultures and ways of life. No family member should be made to feel alienated.
- Nov 13 Wednesday: Thasia goes out with work colleagues. It has been more than 4 months without sex in the relationship. Keebler finds a strange pair of man's underwear in his dresser, and becomes concerned with where they came from. Before leaving the children with Keebler, Thasia insists that if there is a problem to call her mobile.

When it is time for the children to sleep. Kafirah wants to say good night to her mother. Keebler calls, but Thasia does not answer. 30 minutes later, Keebler calls again, but still there is no answer. After a third call in 15 minutes, Keebler begins to feel that his wife is likely seeing another man, and thus explaining all the troubles in their own relationship. The initial problem had been the argument about moving close to her parents, which had subsided into silence between the two of the, and throughout the

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relational therapy, Thasia would always change her complaints. The source of the relational problems in her mind would constantly change, making it seem that there was a greater problem; something obscured from truth.

Thasia had seemed so sincere about being called in the case of an emergency. This was no emergency, just a daughter wanting to say good night to her mother, but why could she not pick-up the phone if it was a diner party at Humphrey's? Keebler puts the kids' jackets on, packs his son into the baby carriage and walks with the carriage by the restaurant to see if his wife is really there.

He was relieved to see Thasia through the large glass windows where she said she would be. Keebler was in the process of turning back for home when Thasia saw him through the window. She was infuriated to see him, and excused herself from the table. She came outside, and her husband told her that he had tried to call 3 times already, because Kafirah wanted to say good night. Thasia told him to wait for her on the street as she went back in to get her purse. Keebler realized that this was an awkward position for Thasia, so he stayed out of sight of her colleagues.

It was a bit chilly, not deadly cold as Thasia would later call it, so Keebler took them inside the near by café and ordered the children some chocolate milk. He kept smiling because he had been so worried that Thasia was seeing another man. Still this situation was going to cause more tension. Thasia called on the mobile and asked where he was. Later, Thasia would say that she had told Keebler to go home and that the children were only in their pajamas. Keebler said, just right around the corner. On the walk home together, Thasia complained about the situation, and Keebler asked about the strange men's underwear in his dresser draw.

- Nov 17 Keebler's father undergoes a hernia operation in the United States.
- Nov 18 Thasia continues to avoid sex, but her desire is not actually gone. This was the second day in the week that she was found masturbating in the shower.
- Nov 21 Thursday: 2nd meeting with Psychiatrist Happybrewers at 15:45. The therapist wants Thasia and Keebler to perform an exercise. Even days will go to one partner and the odd days will go to the other partner. The psychiatrist explained, "On your day, what you say the other will have to accept without argument". Keebler was pleased with the idea of having 50% say in the relationship for a while. Thasia saw his smile and asked the therapist, "What if Keebler wants sex? I have needs, just not for him." The therapist says, "Then you will need to have sex, no arguments". The therapist then turned his gaze upon Keebler and said, "You can also take her feelings into account". Both parties agreed to try the exercise and report back at the next session.
- Nov 25 to 29 Family vacation to Center Parks, Belgium. Keebler starts to think that maybe he should be more assertive, as it was a trait that Keebler saw in Thasia's father. Thasia might feel more at home if her husband displayed similar behavioral patterns to her father. In the automobile he plans his first day to go swimming with the family. Thasia objects and Keebler reminds her that it will be his day. Thasia says, "Happybrewers did not mean that."; making it clear that she was not going to try the exercise. Keebler never asked her for sex on that vacation, although later she would assert that it was an issue. During the vacation, Keebler bought juice for the children, on his day, and wished to put it into Thasia's back-pack. Thasia asserted that the juice boxes would be too heavy. Keebler offered to carry the back-pack, Thasia still refused, further making it clear that she did not want to continue with the exercise prescribed by the therapist.

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Dec 12 Thursday: Keebler and Thasia return to consoling with Ruthie von Clausewitz. Happybrewers had advised us to divorce in 3 meetings. Keebler felt that was too fast to make such a decision, and that he had no idea how bad we wanted to fix the problems. Keebler also did not trust Happybrewers as Thasia's father had referred him, and he felt there might be foul-play. Thasia writes, *"Hi Keebler, Something to hang onto? I just wanted to let you know that talking to Ruthie has given me confidence in the future again. I do realize that I was looking at everything in a very negative way. Sometimes it is very hard to stay positive through all the hurt and pain. But considering everything there has also been a lot of progress. I really hope we can make it as a family. We do have a lot too lose. Love, Thasia"*

Dec 17 Thasia wants to enroll in early afternoon water-aerobic classes. This is part of Thasia's new mindset; that she needs sometime for herself to reduce her own stress levels and she was so unhappy with her weight that she cited it as the reason for her lack of intimate desire. Keebler supports her on her plan to attend one of the three lessons per week, but Thasia is very angry because Keebler can not promise to be home directly after work. Keebler writes an email to explain that the Gorichem bridge often causes delays, but he will do his best. The relationship quickly takes another dip.

Email **Thursday, December 12, 2002 11:58 AM and older Inbox**
check

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2003

2003

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|--------|---|
| Jan 3 | Friday, Keebler watches the children while Thasia attends the Chassé theater, Breda, with her Aunt, Persephonie. This is part of Ruthie von Clausewitz's suggestion that Thasia is given more personal time so she can reduce her stress levels. |
| Jan 5 | Thasia researches single-parent issues and seeks advice about divorce. |
| Jan 9 | Thursday, Keebler and Thasia continue mediation with Ruthie von Clausewitz. |
| Jan 16 | <p>Thursday, 9:15 am. Keebler and Thasia continue mediation with Ruthie von Clausewitz.</p> <p>Notes: Thasia felt that the introduction of children gave her the right to negate promises previously made in the relationship. Ruthie von Clausewitz did not support that belief. Thasia was advised to do something about her lack of desire and affection. Thasia felt that she should focus solely on the children and that her relationship problems would solve themselves</p> |
| Jan 16 | Thursday, 3 rd 1-hour meeting with Happybrewers, who suggests after hearing how his assignment was carried out by the married couple, that Thasia and Keebler should divorce, and the next session we would discuss how to do it correctly. |
| Jan 20 | Sunday : Thasia insists that I watch Leslie while she goes to her sister-in-law's, Janneke's, birthday party. At Thasia's parent's house, Thasia's mother mentions whereabouts of her ex-boyfriend, Markus, in front of Keebler in the kitchen. How he now has a job with Phillips. Later Thasia's parents tell her that they had come to the United States not just to visit, but secretly to find a way to get her to move back to the Netherlands. |
| Jan 31 | <p>Friday : Using public transportation and walking in the snow after work causes Keebler to get a 24 hour flu, with a high fever. In addition to the effects of the weather, the stress levels cause Keebler physical ailments. Thasia is angry because Keebler is sick in bed, and refuses to check on him. Keebler speaks to his Aunt and Grandmother on the phone. His grandmother wishes to say hi to Thasia, but first asks, "Is she taking care of you?" Keebler tells her, "I haven't seen her all night". Grandmother responds, "Then do not bother, I already know how she feels."</p> <p>Note: It has been clinically proven that stress causes physical illness more in men than women.</p> |
| Feb 2 | Sunday : Thasia promises Keebler that she will take some action to overcome her sexual aversion for the 2 nd time. |
| Feb 20 | Thursday : Thasia was 100% sure she wanted a divorce before leaving for the meeting with Ruthie von Clausewitz. After a good mediation session, Thasia returned the photos she had stolen from Keebler's desk, and then the two of them started planning a vacation to Orlando, Florida. Late to work, Keebler starts a major project for all the clients; an Extranet. |
| Mar 22 | Orlando, Florida |
| Apr 4 | Nashville, Tennessee |
| Apr 22 | Keebler takes a business trip to Edinburgh, Scotland, for 2 days |

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- Apr 24 Thursday : Ruthie von Clausewitz
- Apr 25 Friday: I watch the children while Thasia goes to the theater with her Aunt, Persephonie.
- July 12 Saturday: The children and parents take a bike ride to the Beeksebergen swimming pool. While Thasia goes to the changing room, the children play slowly down the stairs about 4 meters away from the spot Thasia had left the children. Thasia is upset that Keebler and the kids moved. 2 days later, when Thasia asks Keebler, "Did you enjoy the weekend?", Keebler responds with, "Yes, I had a good time with the kids last weekend". Thasia reacted bitterly and interpreted Keebler's answer as a sarcastic remark.

Note: In this time period, Thasia focuses more on believing that her husband does not wish to spend time with his children. The source of this belief is still unknown, but was slowly adopted by Thasia as a given truth despite what occurred around her.

Keebler was certain he loved being with his children, and combated that accusation by explaining that it might not appear so because the over-protectiveness of the mother made him feel uneasy. Another point was that the children were with their mother visiting their Grandmother at least 4 days and nights a week, including weekends, which restricted his ability to spend time with his own children. Thasia would then digress into the past, reminding Keebler how he spent so much time behind the computer in the previous years. Keebler had stopped his time consuming obligations to online friends for more than a year at this point. The accusation that Keebler did not wish to be with his children would continue for months like a resounding mantra, as if it were meant to convince Keebler himself that it was true, "You do not want to spend time with your children". This methodology of repeating some idea or accusation until the other finally gave up trying to correct the statements was also a trait displayed by her father. Specifically, when he repeating five times to Keebler that he did not listen, and when he had held a two year old girl in the air and told her five times that she was stupid. The methodology was perplexing, blind and sometimes far from the truth, but it was also unrelenting, consistent and unalterable by deed or word, leaving one to wonder who they were actually trying to convince.

- July 17 Friday: Thasia goes alone to Doctor Livingston, to request a reference to a sexologist as suggested by Ruthie von Clausewitz. Keebler understood Thasia did not wish to go, and that usually such help was geared towards physical problems. Keebler promised he would attend meetings together with her if she wished not to be alone. It seemed like a good way to discover where the blockage was located. At least such a meeting could rule out some possible sources of the non-existent sex life they shared.

As time had passed in therapy, Keebler found himself constantly accused of thinking, being or behaving in some new fashion that was undesirable.

Dr. Livingston, the family doctor at the time, had the amazing insight to call the Psychiatrist Happybrewers to ask his opinion, and so Livingston says that if the relationship problems are solved, then sex would return. Thasia did not press to complete her promise to seek help as she was in agreement with Livingston. Thasia is frustrated with the fact that Keebler is disappointed that she was not willing to look further into closing the growing distance between them with emphasis on the obsolete sex-life and decides to divorce.

- July 21 Monday: Keebler suggest buying a 2nd hand automobile as backup for

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himself. Thasia does not approve of buying an automobile in the 350 Euro range.

July 30 Wednesday: Keebler accepts doing a divorce with a mutual lawyer, although he is personally against divorce. In the Netherlands, only one partner needs to want a divorce and it is legally possible to do so. Thasia and Keebler go to Dr. Vadder's office. A quick estimation of alimony comes to 364 Euros per month for the two children, and a normal visitation schedule is prescribed.

August 2 Saturday: Thasia suggests that the Keebler and the kids go to the beach together with the children. Thasia's brother, sister-in-law, and mother show up unannounced. Thasia had chosen not to share this information with Keebler in advance. Tension was high with Thasia's mother, but Thasia's brother was polite. Keebler asked him, "Do you think Thasia will ever come to peace and love me again?" His reply was, "I don't want to get in the middle of this", and he was respectfully right.

The children had a good time. During the drive home, Thasia tells Keebler, "Days like this, I want to stay with you". Subsequently, Thasia cancels the services of the **mutual divorce lawyer** Dr. Vadder. A few days later, when she received the bill, she called his office again and disputed the charges.

August 7 Thursday: Thasia rents an automobile for 110 Euros for a vacation with the children, her sister and her sister's son in Wissant, France; 14km. from Calais. Keebler spends the day composing a letter, in Dutch, to Ruthie von Clausewitz to explain the current relational developments.

Aug 8-9 Keebler collects gifts for his children and wife; sketchbooks and a small mirror for Thasia with a card attached explaining how we should see the beauty inside when we look at ourselves. Keebler orders a copy of the family automobile key, vacuums the auto, cleans the auto and fills it with gas even though he rarely had a chance to use it for himself.

Aug 23 Saturday: Keebler attends a Beach Volleyball party with his work colleagues.

Aug 28 Thursday: Thasia calls Keebler at his work before noon and tells him she is packing to leave. Thasia sounds like she is crying and says that leaving "feels wrong". Keebler tells Thasia, "don't leave until you are 100% sure. I don't want you to leave either. We can make this work..." Thasia continues packing clothes and the sound of the suitcase's zipper can be heard over the phone. Keebler has more trouble returning his focus on his work. Upon returning home, Keebler finds the house empty of family but the furnishings were not removed.

Aug 29 Friday: Thasia goes to the Chassé movie-theater with her mother and sister. Thasia leaves the children with Keebler to spend the night with him, as she returns to her parents that night to think about the divorce.

Aug 30 Saturday: Thasia moves back into the apartment with Keebler. It was the first night in nearly a half year since they had shared an intimate moment in the bedroom. The attentiveness to each others feelings was so exceptional; it rivaled the 2nd year they had known each other, when they had first become intimate.

Note: Unknown to Keebler, Thasia's father had been considering the purchase of a friends farm in order to maintain his new hobby of driving a horse drawn wagon. Prior to this time, Thasia was not fully supported with her move towards divorce. Her parents had not offered to directly buy her a

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house as they had done for her sister after her divorce. Her sister did have to help pay for the house, but it was in her father's name and gave her and her son right next door to Thasia's parents. Thasia had been looking for a house in her parent's village, expecting Keebler to become the co-owner, only 6 months after the birth of their second child. When it was obvious that Keebler was serious about not moving to her parent's village, Thasia continued to look consider purchasing a house on the Belgian border. Moving out officially on August 28, may have tipped the scales, making her father see an opportunity to pay for his farm while helping his daughter "in distress". Keebler did not think about all that, he only knew that his wife was back with their children, living with him and although there was still a light layer of tension there was a rebirth of sensual intimacy between them, unlike there had been since October 2001 (22 months).

- Sept 1 Monday: Kafirah's first day of school! Thasia and Keebler make love in the morning before taking her to the class room together. Kafirah is the only child in the class crying about being left in her new environment. Kafirah's teacher gave her special attention to ease the transition, and Keebler felt good about that.
- Sept 20 Saturday: Keebler takes Thasia out for dinner in a new dress he bought her. The entire month has been full of intimacy between the two of them.
- Sept 22 Monday: Keebler is now in the pattern of taking the children to school in a 400 Euro bike-cart every morning. He parks the wagon and his bike in front of the City Hall, and catches his bus to Utrecht. Leaving late in a workday costs about 2 hours travel time in the rush-hour traffic, and Keebler begins his 8 hour work day at 11:00 am, and lasting until 19:00 pm. His major project this week is automating internet-traffic over the back-up connection, and creating a fail-safe connection to the company's internal email server.
- Oct Thasia's parents come over for a cup of coffee and wish to make an offer to Keebler and Thasia. Anthony tells Keebler about his plan to buy a farm in Rijsbergen, which is 2/3rds the total distance from Breda and the small village where Anthony lives and works with his wife. Anthony talks about the space and how he wishes to raise horses on that farm. He said that it would be nice if Keebler and Thasia would move there instead of having to rent it out to 12 Polish migrant workers. That was likely intended to be a joke, to lighten the news that he was providing what Thasia wanted during the entire relational therapy; a house near her parents, and not just that, a playground with horses.

Thasia's parents had been told directly by Keebler a number of times that he did not wish to live in the country side. He had told them all the logical reasons, but never told them that he simply did not wish to live in a situation with a family such as their own who were bold, over-bearing and too directly involved in making decisions for his family. He had alluded to this once, trying to explain to Thasia's mother in her kitchen that there would be a day on which they would pass away, and he wanted to develop the skills of working together with his wife to make their own decisions before that happened. Naturally, such a serious issue which demands proper and tactful choices of words did not go over as well with moderately broken Dutch.

As Keebler had said no to this issue for over two years now, he saw no reason to even answer Thasia's parents that moment. Two days after the visit from Thasia's parents, with Thasia pressing for an answer, Keebler was faced with a major decision. He knew that Thasia's family had no intention to compromise. He also knew that living an additional 30 minutes

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from Breda would cause him at least an additional 4 hours of travel time every work-day. He would be dead tired by the weekend, and then likely asked to help like a farm hand. Horses were common where Keebler grew up, and he knew how much work they required. He knew that Thasia's father would be there nearly everyday. Keebler had been working since he was 14 years of age, paying his own way, choosing and paying for his own University studies, and to live on that farm was to take a time-trip back to when he was 13 years of age when self-governance was left to the parents. Then he would be surrounded by rural citizens, which isn't bad if you come from where they do, and behave similar to how they do.

On the positive side, there was that his wife would have her present demands satisfied and would probably rest for two years. The children would have experiences with horses, albeit not in the wide-open spaces nor in the manner of riding that they could have in the United States. Keebler felt that occasional weekend visits to Grandpa's farm would be just as good for the children's sake. An immediate save of the nuclear family was a positive, but given the methodology of acquiring their desires over the past two years, it looked like a step in the wrong direction. Thasia's family would have new demands thereafter after having grown accustomed to getting their way without compromise.

When Thasia did not receive her answer after 2 days, she resumed the pattern of behavior she had over the past 2 years. The renaissance of the argumentative years was earmarked by the patented behavior of rolling over in bed, facing away from Keebler, reading an article about falling in love, divorce, cooking, traveling or a review on vibrators in a monthly teenaged magazine donated by her younger sister and ignoring Keebler like he was too unsightly to be seen.

Keebler agreed to sell their house and move into a rental house as a temporary place to stay while they worked out the details of what to do with their lives.

Nov 13 Thursday: 10:00 in the morning, a real-estate agent from Hendrix Maakelardij visits Thasia about the sale of the house.

Thasia wants to discuss the second vacation trip to the United States. That trip was free, because they had agreed with the airline company to wait another night before flying. Keebler had been expecting everyone to go, but Thasia informed Keebler that she would not go, and further that the kids will not be allowed to go.

Thasia wants Keebler to baby-sit from 18:00 to 21:00 while she goes to see her parents.

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2004

2004

- Jan 26 Monday: Keebler and Thasia both signed the **contract to sell the apartment** in Breda with real-estate agency, Hendrix Makelaardij. The actual transaction date for the sale of the apartment is set for circa 14th of September 2004.
- Feb 3 Tuesday: Thasia takes the children and spends the night with her parents.
- Feb 5 Thursday: Thasia takes the children to her sisters and goes out with her work colleagues.
- Feb 7 Saturday - Sunday: **Thasia entrust Keebler children to watch the children for the whole weekend**; Saturday morning until Sunday night, while she works on her father's farm where she intends to move. Keebler attends his first Kendo course on Saturday with the kids.
- Feb 13 Friday: Keebler attends his company's 5th anniversary dinner party in the evening. He notes that the event was fun, but he remembered only a year ago that his wife attended and they spent the night in a hotel in Utrecht.
- Feb 14 Saturday & Sunday: **Thasia leaves Leslie and Kafirah with their father** for the whole weekend while she works on her father's farm for Saturday and Sunday. Thasia does not even call to check on the children.
- Feb 21 Saturday & Sunday: **Thasia leaves Leslie and Kafirah with their father** for the whole weekend while she works on her father's farm. The children are starting to use more English vocabulary.
- Feb 23 Spring vacation [Voorjaars vakantie] Monday & Tuesday mornings, Keebler takes both children to day-care [kinderdagverblijf] instead of school.
- Feb 26 Thursday: Due to snow-blizzard and traffic congestion, Keebler decides not to go into work. Thasia takes the children to an indoor playground (Joopie, Breda) and then calls Keebler at home around 16:00 to report that she has become sick and was vomiting. Thasia wants to return to the apartment for rest, and asks Keebler to return to the indoor-playground with the kids. Upon returning, Kafirah plays in Styrofoam donuts and unknowingly fractures her arm when falling over, and then sleeps in the car on the way home. Keebler puts Leslie to bed. Kafirah wakes in the middle of the night and vomits on Keebler and then says, "sorry pappa". Keebler says, "It is okay baby", and then Kafirah throws-up again on daddy's shirt. Keebler changes Kafirah's pajamas, brings a pail to the bed-side, and puts her in bed next to her sick mother.
- Feb 27 Friday: Keebler wakes up vomiting and calls in sick to work. Feeling better by noon, he goes to work anyway and sets up 3 new workstations. Thasia calls Keebler at work and tells him Kafirah's arm is fractured and required a cast. Leslie wants one too.
- Feb 28 Saturday: **The children spend Saturday day and night alone with their father** while Thasia works on her father's farm. The Kendo Sensei said he would build a special corner for the children, but that he really wanted to teach Leslie.
- Feb 29 Sunday: **Thasia comes home for the first weekend in February**. Thasia informs Keebler that she changed her mind and would not be leaving the phone line in the apartment, but will transfer it to the farm for a 43 Euro

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- savings.
- Mar 1-4 Keebler finds an invoice for **movers moving on April 1st**. Thasia is angry that Keebler is opening mail. Thasia takes the children to stay with her parents for Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday while Keebler works.
- Mar 3 Wednesday : Keebler spends the night with work colleagues in Utrecht
- Mar 5 Friday: Thasia goes out to a dinner party with her work colleagues, leaving Kafirah and Leslie with Keebler.
- Mar 6-7 Saturday & Sunday: **Thasia leaves Leslie and Kafirah with their father** for the whole weekend while she works on her father's farm.
- Mar 12 Friday: Thasia packs a few things to move to the new farm. Keebler finds out that she has planned to take the whole following week off without telling him.
- Mar13 14 Saturday & Sunday: **Thasia leaves Leslie and Kafirah with their father** for the whole weekend while she works on her father's farm.
- Mar 16 Tuesday: Thasia sends a listing all the household belongings to Keebler's work email, and then calls later in the day asking him to note everything he wants to keep. Keebler tells her that he is at work and does not have time at the moment, but will look at it as soon as possible.
- Mar 18 Thursday: **THASIA MOVES** taking what she wants from Breda. Keebler buys a used automobile since Thasia chose to live on the Belgium border where public transportation is sparse. Returning from buying the used automobile, as Keebler turned the key to the apartment, Thasia called his mobile to tell him she had already moved. All of the belongings Thasia wanted she took without having come to an agreement. Everything which Thasia had not taken was placed in two piles; 1 on the living room couch, 1 pile filling the entire bathroom. Using his new automobile, Keebler drove to Ikea and bought a futon bed and clothing rack so he would have a place to sleep and put his clothes.
- Mar 19 Kafirah starts school in Zundert. Keebler is late to work because he must clear a path to the shower, and then he must search for his clothes.
- Mar 23 Kafirah asks mommy to call daddy and tell him she has just gotten a Baby-Born bicycle. Thasia confirms her unwavering desire to divorce.
- April 12 Monday: Keebler stays home from work.
- April 15 Saturday: Thasia keeps repeating that she wants the children back at 17:00. Keebler reminds her that in the court's minutes that her Lawyer insured the judge that the children would be guaranteed "a day" with the children. Still, Keebler says he will bring them back at 17:00, but that he does not agree with it.
- April 19 Thasia changes the children's dentist appointment at 15:50 to avoid seeing Keebler at the clinic.
- April 24 Saturday: Thasia continues to make a point of forcing Keebler to say he will bring the children back at 17:00, every time he picks up his children for visitation.
- April 29 Thursday: Rechtspraak (received by Mr. WRM Achteruit on 4 May 2004)

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YEAR ??? 2004

- April 30 To May 2 Keebler has an old pilot friend visit from Paris on Queen's Day. Sunday Keebler must return the children early in order to assure his visitor catches the plane back to Paris. Keebler is happy to have a witness when picking up and dropping off the children because the behavior appears to be more civil.
- May 8 Keebler and the children have a cut and paste party during their day of visitation. Keebler delivered requested documentation to his Lawyer's office on bike. Thasia had chosen to use her own lawyer and not a mutual lawyer.
- May 26 Keebler's first divorce lawyer sends a third bill, the previous two were for unperformed future work (voorschot), which seems odd to Keebler. The following weekend while picking up the children, Thasia mentions that she has already paid 5,000 Euros to her lawyer. Thasia's choice of choosing her own lawyer has already cost her about 7 times more money than the mutual lawyer Keebler and Thasia went to for a civil divorce (flitsscheiding), July 30, 2003. Keebler reviews the rationale, and assumes the only reason for this approach is because Thasia and/or her family wish to have more favor than what a mutual and fair divorce would offer.
- May 29 Saturday: Keebler goes to the Belgium versus the Netherlands friendly soccer (football) match. The costs were sponsored by Keebler's company.
- May 30 Sunday: Thasia demands that Keebler give her in writing that the children will be returned by 17:00 or she will not let them go with their father. Keebler points out to her that they've been coming back at 17:00 for a few weeks, and he still disagrees with the Gulden family's interpretation of what "a day" is promised by Thasia's lawyer in court. The children spend part of their 8 hour visitation writing on the balcony walls with blue chalk. The apartment resembles a make-shift base station in the wake of Thasia's secret departure two weeks ago.
- June 4 Friday: Keebler informs Thasia, via email, that he is too sick to properly watch the children on Saturday. In the same email, Keebler tries to explain how a fair and normal visitation is better due to costs of traveling, the stress placed on father and children when they rush to do something in only 8 hours, and that psychologically it is important that the children have a normal day with their father.
- June 8 Tuesday: **First court hearing for "Temporary Provisions"** (Voorlopige voorzieningen). The judge suggests mediation (bemiddling) to settle visitation scheduling and decides on 600 Euros / month based on incorrect figures of income. Previous estimations with Dr. Vadder were 346 Euros per month, based on real income. Keebler told his Lawyer that his yearly income (jaaropgave) was over inflated as two additional bonuses fell in the same year. Keebler had no right to these bonuses, and would not be receiving one this year. Keebler provided a signed document from his work, but his lawyer did not use it in court.
- June 11 Friday: Thasia calls Keebler on the phone saying she is apprehensive about visitation.
- June 12 Saturday: The children accompany Keebler on their day of visitation to the hospital to see a friend of Keebler's who just had an operation to remove their appendix.
- June 19 Saturday: Thasia denies the children visitation, saying that the kids are

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- going on vacation. Her notification was 3 days in advance. When asked what days she would trade to make up for the lost time, Thasia replies, "I heard that when I go on vacation, you just loose that day."
- June 21 Monday: Keebler visits an open-house showing in Den Bosch at 20:30. DirectWoning, apartment rental agents, in Breda, are not being helpful. DirectWoning in Rotterdam is very service oriented.
- June 27 Sunday: **Leslie turned 3 years old yesterday.** Keebler spends 8 hours with his children in the apartment in Breda.
- June 29 Upon finding out that the mutual Postbank account is going into negative numbers, Keebler struggles to find out what monthly expenses are being automatically withdrawn. Thasia refuses to give Keebler copies of their mutual bank account (Postbank 2470254) statements. Breda's tax office says they need a written request to stop automatic withdrawals from the mutual bank account. Thasia refuses to pay a share of the yearly city tax.
- July 3 Saturday: Barbeque with friends and an abundance of doctors and psychologists and lawyers who assert that every lawyer knows that the Dutch NIBUD system of alimony calculation is over inflated and used only as a bargaining tool between lawyers.
- July 17 Saturday: Visitation day had been switched to Sunday. Keebler had forgotten this and arrived Saturday morning. As per norm, Keebler started moving the children's car seats from Thasia's automobile to his own. Thasia called Keebler on his mobile and then hung up quickly. Keebler rang the door bell and Thasia called him again on his mobile to ask what he was doing. Keebler realized he was there on the wrong day, started moving the seats back to Thasia's car, and asked if he could say good bye to the kids as they were talking about daddy through the kitchen window. Thasia refuses to let the kids say hello. Keebler starts to drive away and Thasia calls again, this time she is threatening to call the police if Keebler does not leave. Keebler assures Thasia that it was a misunderstanding and that she does not have to over react. Leslie can be heard in the background asking, "**Why call the police?**" Upon pulling onto the main connecting street, Keebler sees Thasia's mother drive slowly by, likely responding to a phone call from Thasia.
- Iranian divorce:** Keebler walks in Ikea with friends and then attends a barbeque with them. Among them is an Iranian niece of the host, who at the age of 21 was visiting her British biological mother for the first time. The sadness and warmth between the mother and the daughter is extraordinary. The British mother had been living in Iran when she gave birth to her daughter. After the birth, the Iranian husband divorced her, and the courts decided that she was no longer allowed to see her daughter as she was a Christian. The mother had waited years to see her daughter. She had a feeling that she was meant to meet Keebler, and assured him that everything would soon become better for him and his children. Keebler imagined how terrible it must have been for her and her daughter all those years apart, but found it natural that the children would seek out their biological family even if governments try to separate them. Keebler wondered if Europeans, their laws, and their moral development were any better than the Iranian judge whose decision had separated a mother from her child based on cultural and religious differences.
- July 18 Sunday: Children spend 8 hours with their father: The few hours together they spend on the drive from Rijsbergen to Rotterdam to move a few boxes to the new apartment. They make an impression of Leslie' hand in plaster and then bathe before returning to the apartment of Breda. The strong winds

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in Breda had toppled many old oak trees, so the family went skateboarding and biking to take pictures among the wreckage. At the apartment they ate an Asian dish, and took a short nap before returning to their mother.

Keebler has visitors arrive early in the evening from Japan.

- July 19 Keebler goes to the office of Gimbrère Lenaerts Achteruit Advocaten, and discusses his dissatisfaction with his Lawyer's performance concerning giving the court a true picture of his financial status. Keebler considers looking for another Lawyer, but realizes. Keebler attends an open-house showing in Rotterdam, as the sale of the apartment in Breda is finalized in September.
- July 20 Keebler sends faxes to ASR Hypotheek Bank to request that automatic withdrawals (incasso) from Thasia and Keebler's mutual bank account are discontinued and mailed to him via Dutch-invoicing (acceptgiro), this because the Court of Breda decided that Keebler should be fully responsible for the monthly mortgage on the Breda apartment.
- July 21 Wednesday: After work Keebler attends an open-house showing of the apartment in Rotterdam which proved to be the only timely available housing for him, and where he would move in August.
- July 22
* need
name Thursday: 2nd Mediation session for "Temporary Provisions" (Voorlopige voorzieningen) to discuss visitation. Keebler uses a vacation day from work to attend. Thasia asserts she wants a normal visitation, but that she thinks Keebler is an alcoholic. Keebler offers to take a blood test in exchange for Thasia testing her hormone levels. Keebler wants to assure that Thasia's pragmatic steps towards divorce were not due to an imbalance. Thasia agrees to exchange tests. As Keebler addresses her concerns as being honest worries, Thasia feels she has convinced the mediator that it is a serious issue. In 15 minutes, when she realizes that Keebler is serious about taking the blood test, she withdraws her agreement and insists that Keebler take the exam, and even if the results are negative that Keebler will have to enroll in therapy for alcoholics. Keebler finds this irrational, unacceptable, and a way for Thasia to label her husband an alcoholic and/or to prolong the legal dispute and further deny the children visitation. This meeting was contractually signed to privacy, and thus not to be used in Court, but Thasia's lawyer would later try and assert in Court that Keebler had admitted to having a problem in Mediation.
- July 24 Saturday: Keebler, with the keys to his new apartment, measures floors in Rotterdam for cheap carpet.
- July 28 Wednesday: Keebler works from home via the internet, in order to have a meeting with his first divorce lawyer, Mr. Achteruit. Keebler requests that his lawyer send an official request to Thasia's lawyer for the mutual Postbank bank statements, and that Thasia drives the children for visitation half of the time to share the costs. Keebler asks Achteruit why he never gave him a copy of the alimony calculations (begrooting). Achteruit says that Keebler will receive a copy, but never does deliver it except for when the court made its decision.
- Keebler purchases the cheapest carpet for the Rotterdam apartment. Total costs were 75 Euros, which was really more than he felt he could spend at the time.
- July 30 Friday after work: Keebler takes a train to the Rotterdam apartment and lays as much carpet as he can before falling asleep on the mattress on the floor.

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- July 31 Saturday: Keebler spends 8 hours with his children. They play with their old toys in his unfurnished apartment.
- August 8 Sunday: Keebler attempts to drive his certified psychologist friend, Peggy, and the kids to the beach in Hoek van Holland. The roads are jammed and after arriving on the beach, calculations lead him to believe that they will only have 2 hours on the beach. Keebler calls at noon to ask Thasia if they could stay longer. Thasia responds with a "No", and Keebler says good bye as he doesn't want to beg in front of the kids or Peggy. 15 minutes later Thasia calls and offers another hour, and then wishes to speak to the children. A lesson is learned here, that you can tell your friends, even a certified psychologist, that "8 hours in a day is not enough time to spend a normal day with your children", but humans are not easily empathetic. People sometimes need to experience it in person before they truly understand. Peggy finally affirmed that she understood that 8 hours is simply unreasonable and causes undue stress. 45 minutes late than the normal return of the children, the kids go into their mother's house wearing the swimming suits that Keebler bought for them. Thasia never returns the swimming suits, and the following weekend even denies having had them.
- August 14 Saturday: Keebler and 3 of his friends assist him with the **move to Rotterdam**. The move was for larger boxes and household items, which he could not move in Keebler's spare time alone in the previous weeks.
- August 15 Sunday: Keebler picks up his kids and goes to the apartment in Breda. The kids eat cold-meat sandwiches, a common lunch in the Dutch culture, while he packs some remaining small items. They drive to the new apartment in Rotterdam. The children are restless because of all the new things happening in daddy's world, so they go together downtown Rotterdam, and daddy treats them to a Cola and a small shared portion of sushi. The children love trying to eat with chopsticks.
- August 16 Monday: In the weekly IT meeting, Keebler's employers wish to incorporate a Virtual Private Network. A competing company of system operators make a bid for a VPN solution. Keebler suggests Freeswan as a cost-effective alternative.
- August 19 Friday: **Keebler is fired from his work**. The news was given to him by his colleague, friend and shareholder of the company. He cries when he tells Keebler about the termination of his contract. Keebler had felt this was coming because of the recent mood in the office and because a number of colleague's contracts were not extended. The company had been given Golden Handcuffs from a contractual deal with Sara Lee, and required restructuring. Keebler's job was going to be farmed out to a third party. Keebler almost started crying with his friend, but then he thought about how much he had cried in the past 2 years over his dissolved marriage. He was tired of crying. He actually needed more time for his emotional wounds to heal, and tried to think positively about it. Perhaps this was the beginning of a completely new life, and should be seen as an opportunity, a Tabla Rassa, Clean Slate or Schoen Lei. Due to recent Dutch legislation, one can no longer simply accept the severance offer that their company gives them. The Dutch lawyers have secured another mandatory legal battle requiring their services. Legal action is mandatory because the Dutch unemployment office requires proof that you did not willingly stop work, but that you were fired. Thasia's lawyer, Miss Hassan, would later try and use this issue as a point in court, asserting that Keebler quit work to try and settle a lower alimony and that he was unfit for his work.
- August 21 Saturday: Keebler's company holds its annual beach volleyball. Despite the circumstance, Keebler drives to the beach and plays in the tournament

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August
22

against other advertising agencies. Keebler's legal labor counsel (arbeidsrechts advocaat) advises Keebler to continue going to work as per normal until the court has made its decision, maybe Keebler would keep his job, but at least he would not be conceived as accepting his severance package. My presence made some uncomfortable. It was certainly another difficult situational challenge. The other employees that had been verbally fired the same day stayed at home from work and did not attend the volleyball games.

Sunday: **Alimony causes stress. Keebler is unable to pay 600 Euros a month.** The apartment is not officially sold until September, and Keebler must also pay the full mortgage of the apartment in Breda. Thasia begins to verbally assault Keebler on these issues.

Upon picking up the children, Thasia spontaneously asserts that Keebler did not pay alimony after she left. Keebler reminds her that he had transferred **364 Euros** to the mutual bank account, this was the amount that was a normal alimony initial calculated by the mutual **divorce lawyer, Mr. Vadder**. Thasia still refuses to give copies of the mutual bank account statements. Even if Thasia wishes to deny that he paid her alimony in good faith before the court's decision, Keebler reminds her that he wants a "fair judgment. An unfair judgment will only cause us to return to court and have more costs to correct it". **Thasia says, "money is no matter to me. If you want to go back to court, that is fine with me."**

While playing in the bedroom, Keebler warns his children in English not to touch the Prickly Pear, which is a cactus commonly found and used as cattle fodder in Texas. It has an amazing hair-like fine needle which burns when in the skin. Leslie came running into the living room screaming with his hand shaking in the air. Keebler worries that Leslie had broken his arm, but on closer examination he sees that Leslie had played in the Prickly Pear cactus. With tweezers the needles are removed slowly, after which, Leslie passes out on his knees and face in the living room.

Upon returning the children in the afternoon, Keebler feeling very uncomfortable around Thasia and her family, leaves his automobile running in neutral with the parking brake on. This disturbs Thasia. She comments to the children about this, **"... heb ik een keer al aan papa vertelt, maar sommige mensen leren het nooit."** ("... I have told papa before, but some people never learn.") Keebler asks her to translate, so that she might evaluate exactly what she was doing in front of the kids. No more words were spoken and Keebler drove away.

August
28
August
29

Kafirah turns 5 years old.

Sunday: Exchanging the children for visitation, Thasia gives Keebler copies of some paperwork the Notary needs completed to sell the apartment. Departure was delayed 30 minutes as Leslie goes to the toilet. **Thasia takes photos of my car and license plates.** Thasia yells at Keebler for touching a pimple on Leslie's cheek. The children both tell daddy how much they love him that day. Upon returning the children, Thasia's mother and sister chide him about the children eating at McDonalds when they see the kids carrying the Happy Meal toys.

Sept 5

Sunday: Keebler can not afford the gas to pick up his children. The cost of moving, the full cost of the mortgage, and the lawyers for divorce and labor laws had depleted his funds. He was in debt.

Keebler had called earlier that week to ask if she could deliver the children to the train station in Breda. The station is about 20 minutes from Thasia's father's farm. Keebler could afford the train ticket, but not to fill his car with gas. **Thasia refused to drive their children to meet their father,** citing

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that Keebler "... had chosen to move to Rotterdam and that it was therefore his own fault".

Note: **Thasia will cite these days in the next court hearing** as proof that Keebler does not care about his children and is not responsible about visitation, and she will continue to deny that Keebler told her that he did not have the money to pick them up.

Sept 9 Thursday: Thasia calls Keebler at work to inform him that her lawyer, Hassan, had contacted his lawyer, Achteruit and requested an agreement to have the unpaid alimony from August and September deducted from Keebler's share of the sale of the house on September 15th. If this is not agreed to, then the entire profits from the sale of the house would be locked into depot at the Notary's account, and any additional costs for the process would be allocated to Keebler.

Thasia asks Keebler if he is planning on staying in the Netherlands. Keebler responds simply, "yes". Thasia laughs at him. Thasia tells Keebler that **she wishes he would just disappear**. Thasia then accuses Keebler of trying to "rip me off!" Keebler mentions his concerns about the children and visitation. Thasia insists that she is being fair with visitation, and then says "I will be less fair if you want to play that way. If you want to play hard. I will play hard!" Realizing it was impossible to calm Thasia down, Keebler requested that she no longer call him at the office unless it only involved the welfare of the children.

Keebler wrote an email to his lawyer, asking if the alimony paid to Thasia in good faith, before the courts Temporary Arrangements (voorlopige voorzieningen) decision, could be applied to the amounts (1200 €) he was unable to pay, leaving Thasia an additional 220 €. If not, then of course the funds could be deducted from the profits accrued from the sale of the Breda apartment.

Sept 12 Sunday: Keebler is still unable to afford to drive to see his children. Thasia will not drive the children to the station.

Sept 14 Tuesday: Hendrix Maakelardij comes to the apartment for a final inspection. Keebler spends the morning dusting and vacuuming the house. The representative asks about the apartment keys. Thasia reportedly, had already delivered "all" her copies to the office, presumably 1. Keebler only carries one apartment key, and he forgets that he has one stored back in Rotterdam. He gives his one key to the representative. At the signing of the Notary's contracts, the representatives stop Keebler in the parking lot. The insist that there are still more keys missing. Keebler hears from Thasia that there are supposedly 5 keys in total. Keebler goes home, finds 1 extra key in his possession, and returns it in a signed and addressed envelope through the mail-slot of the real-estate agent. Keebler calls Thasia and reminds her that she had given her mother and aunt both separate keys. Replacement keys will cost circa 500 Euros. Thasia's family can not find the keys. Thasia insists that Keebler pay half the cost of replacement keys or his money will remain locked in depot.

Sept 20 Monday: Another divorce lawyer offers to accompany Keebler to a meeting with his lawyer, Achteruit, because the legal case appears to be getting out of hand. Keebler calls Achteruit with a list of possible dates in October and schedules a meeting in the evening.

Oct 21 Thursday: Meeting with Achteruit. Keebler explains his financial situation and lack of funds. Achteruit laughs in Keebler's face. Keebler insists that there the profits from the sale of the house, which are locked in depot be

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resolved.

- Oct 22 Friday: Mr. Achteruit reports that he wrote Thasia's Lawyer, Miss Hassan, to settle the profits and that they still wish to know the value both life insurance policies. The life insurance policy numbers 30.522728 and 60.550742 from Stads Rotterdam, which had been recently purchased such as the well known Hypotheker by the Dutch Fortis Bank, were lost in the transfer from office to office, and this information required months of effort to retrieve. Thasia had taken all the financial paperwork with her, and surely knew the estimated value of these policies.
- Oct 24 Sunday: This is the third weekend Keebler can not afford to pick up his children. Thasia offers no assistance in letting the children see their father.
- Oct 30 Saturday: Badghir calls Keebler and insists that he come to Breda with public transport and tells him that he will drive Keebler to pick up the children in the morning. Keebler's company transfers 993 Euros to his overdrawn bank account. This month's salary was paid late. The salary is abnormally low because Keebler had bought a laptop using the company's 2 year tax incentive to get Dutch citizens to use computers (pc privé programma), and the unpaid balance of that laptop was taken from his pay check.
- Oct 31 Sunday: **The children suffer because they feel their loyalties between parents are challenged.** Every child wants a mother and a father, and when those two important icons fight or say bad things about each other to their children; it is the adults that hurt their children.

Badghir, one of Keebler's friends, offered to drive to help pick up the children because of Keebler's financial delima. Picking the children up, Leslie and Kafirah were crying as if they did not wish to leave their mother. This came as no surprise as it had happened before, and Keebler had told Badghir about it previously. Badghir was still shocked at how abruptly the children would change their mood. As soon as the car had turned the corner of Thasia's driveway, and Thasia's family could no longer see the automobile beyond the bushy hedge, the kids started laughing and were soon singing "Smashing up a Baby Bubble Bee" with their father.

Katilin as difficulties doing the gesticulations to the song with her arm broken in a cast from falling off one of the 6 ponies on Thasia's father's farm. They all go to Badghir's house. Daddy draws a dragon and butterfly on Kafirah's cast. Thasia's family has a party that night, so she calls and asks to pick up the children early. Keebler tells her that she can come pick them up 3 hours early, if she will give that time back to them another weekend. Thasia agrees to this, but calls angry and flustered because she can not find Badghir's house anymore. The wife of the household tries to help inform her where to drive. Thasia begins to berate Keebler on the phone, prompting the wife of the household to remind her of her manners and that she is only trying to help Thasia. Upon hanging up, it is said, some people are born with "bloed van azijn" (vinegar for blood). When Thasia arrives Keebler assists in moving the children's car-stools to Thasia's car. Thasia revokes her promise in the street, and says that Keebler will not get those three hours back, because she had to drive to pick up the children.

- Nov 6 Saturday: Keebler is still unable to pick up his children due to lack of funds.
- Nov 7 Mr. Achteruit, Keebler's first divorce lawyer, is in New York City, running the New York Marathon, sponsored this year by the Dutch ING bank.
- Nov 8 Monday: Called P. van Wijer at the Van Opstal Makelaardij in Breda to

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request that she give me the amounts of the life insurance policies. Only one document for one of the two policies was sent for me to sign. The total of the two policies is estimated to be 7493.00 €, but half of it is placed in a mutual funds (belegings) portfolio, and the exact value will not be known until it is sold on the market.

Nov 11 Thursday: Keebler stops at his General Practitioner's (huisarts) office to pick up a copy of the blood and urine tests which he took one week before. These tests cover hard drugs, soft drugs and alcohol abuse for the past 4 months. That evening at 18:00 Keebler delivers Mr. Ruddie Achteruit the test results in the final meeting before the divorce hearing on November 15.

Nov 15 Monday: 10:30 the court hears the divorce case.

Thasia's arguments take the angle of alledging the Keebler is an unreliable alcoholic and that the children are in medical danger with their father. The later of the two is based on a combination of exaggeration and a lie. The lie is that Thasia was in a medically critical state (noodgeval) after the birth of our son, and that Thasia required a blood transfusion. Medical records from the Amphia Hospital in Breda will show this is not true. Further she asserts in court that Keebler tried to stop her from having a blood transfusion, which is also far from the truth. Thasia's lawyer attempts to support the first argument by asserting that Keebler had confessed to it in the previous visitation mediation (omgangsregeling bemiddeling). Keebler points out to Achteruit that the mediation was signed contractually as being private, and Mr. Achteruit interrupts Hassan's statement.

Hassan's letter of complaint (verzoek) states that the relationship between the children and the father is guaranteed by 1 day visitation per week. Thasia September as being a month where Keebler was not responsible about visitation, and does not volunteer information concerning the financial situation causing the lack of visitation. Thasia further goes on to reassert her concern that the children would not be safe spending more time with their father due to alcohol.

Achteruit addresses the judge and states that in his hand he "is holding the results to a alcohol related blood test. That the blood test results are signed by the doctor show that it is negative. By negative I mean that it is positive that Keebler is not an alcoholic". Thasia's lawyer, Miss Hassan, request that they receive a copy. Achteruit says that he will give her a copy of the Judge deems it necessary. The Judge continues paging through the letters of complaints and does not request a copy. Note: Achteruit's previous statement was not recorded in the courtroom's minutes. Instead, it was written simply that the defendant refused to relinquish information concerning if he was an alcoholic. The judge decides to allow Hassan's requests for a review by the Dutch Child Protection Services (Raad voor de Kinderbescherming).

The judge reads that the previous decision of 600 Euros per month for alimony will hold. Hassan mentions that her party was actually hoping to increase this amount to about 840 Euros per month. Upon hearing this, Achteruit puts his hand on the middle of the table between him and Hassan and motions repetatively downward as though he is petting a dog. Hassan sees this and discontinues her pursuit of increasing the alimony. Note: A hearing in the middle of the following March would be held between Hassan and Achteruit over the raising of alimony without it having been previously communicated to Keebler by his own lawyer. The two letters of complaint from Hassan and Achteruit concerning said hearing in March would disappear from Keebler's dossier (legal file) when it was transferred over to Keebler's second lawyer, Mr. Tom Manders.

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- Dec 10 Friday: One of Keebler's ex-colleagues comes down from Arnhem to visit him in Rotterdam. They are both discussing the legal settlement issues and the process of applying for unemployment benefits from the Dutch CWI office. Both are legally without their former job and monthly salaries by the end of the year. Severance pay has still not been paid out by the company. Keebler becomes very assertive about finding a new job.
- Dec 12 Sunday: Keebler spends 8 hours of the day with his children. Kafirah wants her own vriendenboekje (a book signed by friends with information about them) in Rotterdam. Keebler takes a photo of the neighbors' rabbit to start the book.
- Dec 19 Sunday: The children spend an inexpensive 8 hours of the day playing with their father at his home in Rotterdam.
- Dec 31 Friday: New Years Eve was spent in Dordrecht with Peggy the psychologist who just returned from business in Russia, and her married medical friends and their bilingual son Milosh. Badghir and his wife were also present. Keebler's Vietnamese friends were expecting him back in Rotterdam before midnight, so he departed before the party walked the harbors when the fireworks began. 2005, surely it must get better.

2005

Jan 2

2005

Sunday: Thasia does not want the children to visit their father. Thasia asserts that the children are on vacation and can not see Keebler, without saying where they are going. Note: this repeats after New Years of 2006 as well.

Jan 6

Thursday: Achteruit calls Keebler to say he has the court decision (beschikking). The court will grant Thasia divorce. Keebler will have to be reviewed by local Child Protection services and that alimony will stay at 600 Euros per month. Keebler explains to Achteruit that it can not be right, as he will only receive 70% of his previous monthly salary from the local unemployment benefits. Achteruit asserts that changing it will require another legal court hearing. Achteruit says that he asked Hassan to negotiate the division of the profits of the sale of the house, but that Hassan refused to discuss it as Thasia herself would not mandate negotiations.

Jan 7

Friday: A copy of the court's decision, dated December 15 2004 was delivered per post. In Dutch law, a decision can be reacted to within a set time, normally about 2 weeks. This would have made the last possible reaction date the 29th of December. Keebler was disturbed that Voorvaarts had delayed delivery after reading the court decision himself.

Hassan had managed some how to be recorded as stating (paraphrased in translation here:) "that it would not be in the best interest of the children to spend more than a day with the father... as previously agreed". There had been no such question asked of me and certainly no such agreement.

Thasia's request to have full-custody (eenhoofd gezin) was another reason the Judge had to enlist the services of the local Child Protection Agency (RvdK). The court requested the RvdK to return their findings by March 2005.

The idea of being researched by the Child Protection Agency was distasteful to Keebler, as he imagined that the children would also be drawn into these meetings and further feel pressure due to this legal battle.

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Jan 9 Sunday: The children and their father spend the morning in the Central Park of Breda, which was their old familiar playground back when their mother still lived with their father. The children became hungry, so Keebler took them back to Rotterdam and let them watch the movie, "The Incredibles", a story about a super-hero family trying to make it together, and where the bad people according to the daughter, Violet, were trying to destroy their parent's marriage.

Jan 11 Tuesday: Keebler turns in all his paperwork to the unemployment office.

Jan 14 Friday: Keebler fixes some loose wires in Leslie and Kafirah's electronic LeapPad learning book so it will be ready for them on Sunday.

Jan 16 Sunday: Upon picking up the children, Keebler is very uneasy and wishes to depart Thasia's fathers farm as quickly as possible. The children are playing out on the farm land and are wearing cover-alls. Thasia wants to take time and remove those clothes from the children. Keebler says it is ok to just let the children come as they are clothed at the moment and that he will return the cover-alls in the sack. Thasia yells at Keebler, repeating 3 times, "Calm down!", and finally, "if you do not calm down you will not take the kids at all!" Leslie looked up at his father wondering how he would behave in reaction to his mother's statement. Thasia's father and the children were present to hear this. Ankes father reminded her to remain polite.

Jan 22 The day is spent doing inexpensive fun stuff with the children, like watching old SpongeBob reruns, which the children never grow weary of. Saturday: Thasia calls to ask if I had heard about the weather forecast and that Sunday it was supposed to be bad. Keebler joked and asked if it was going to be as bad as the German port of Hamburg, which had flooded the previous week. Thasia simply said that snow was expected and that she felt it was in the children's best interest if I did not pick them up. Examining www.theweatherchannel.com while Thasia began to digress into her old distraction arguments about the past, asserting that Keebler was not responsible enough, Keebler points out that the snow, if any, was not expected to fall until after 16:00, an hour before the kids would return. Keebler offered to bring the children back to the farm immediately if the weather started to get bad. Thasia was angry and hung up.

Keebler thought about how to approach Thasia to assure her that everything would be ok. **Thasia called directly back, stating that if I did come, she would call the police.** You could hear **Leslie repeating the word police** in the background. Then Thasia hung up the phone again.

Keebler called his Dutch friend in Arnhem. He told him the situation, and asked him to explain how most Dutch people would culturally approach such a problem. He did not have a clue. Keebler called Thasia back, who did not answer the phone. Keebler left a message, explaining that he would stay in the area and not drive back to Rotterdam, even if the snow was not expected until late in the afternoon.

Thasia called Keebler back, insisting that he not come. Keebler asked if that day would be compensated and tried to explain that 8 hours a week was not enough as it was. Thasia digressed to asking why he had not paid alimony. Keebler explained that he did not volunteer to be laid off of work with 11 other colleagues, and that his share of the sale of the house was still locked up in depot at the Notary. Keebler drew back to the point asking if he could call the children in the morning and explain why he could not come see them. Thasia said that she was not the one preventing him from seeing his children. Keebler asked, "if it is not you, then who is?" Thasia finally

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agreed to visitation on Sunday as long as I stayed in the area. I told her I would not go farther than Breda. Thasia stated that if Keebler messed this one up, he would be in big trouble.

Jan 23 Sunday: Keebler picks up the children and goes to Breda with them. They walk around the closed city-centre and take photos. They play with the LeapPad learning book in their father's automobile. It is sunny, but cold. The children had no mittens, so they kept their hands tucked into their jackets. Their cheeks were rosy red in the cold weather. The children ask to go to daddy's house. Daddy tries to explain that he promised their mother that they would not go further than Breda and hopes that they learn the importance of a promise. Keebler fed them with the food he had packed in the car. This day may have been a good lesson for Keebler as well, as he realized the children were happy in the end just to spend time with their father. Money being tight, it might be a good idea to spend more of these "automobile-camping" weekends to save gas costs.

Jan 27 Thursday: Keebler calls Stichting Kinder Opvang Humanitas to assure that his former employer had informed them that there would be no subsequent payments for the subsidized help the father was paying for his children's day-care usage in Zundert. The last charge was for September - October for 235.54 Euros. An issue that the new financial officer of Keebler's previous employer attempted not to cover half the costs as previously agreed.

Keebler calls the **Child Protection Services (RvdK)** and they report that **there is no record** that they are supposed to investigate him. Keebler calls his Lawyer, who is still Mr. Achteruit, and informs him of this. Achteruit assures him that it is normal and that they have a lot of work. Keebler rephrases the statement, saying that it is not that the RvdK have not yet had time to review the case, it is that they are unaware of the case. Achteruit repeats that it is best just to wait. Keebler decides to wait 1 month, but finds his own lawyer to lack sufficient interest in the case where two children are involved.

Jan 30 Sunday: Jan Muldor, a fellow IT worker, and friend from Keebler's first job in the Netherlands came to visit him Saturday night. He accompanies Keebler to the farm in the morning to pick up the children. The day is spent with children, Keebler and his friend walking the local Museum district in Rotterdam.

Feb 6 Sunday: The children and their father car-camp near the old family apartment in Breda. Keebler had popped popcorn for his children and brought some books to preoccupy their time and a blanket to keep them warm. The three of them sat in the back of the car. Leslie kept looking out the back end and would say, "**wat als de politie komt?**" (What do we do if the police come?) Keebler assures Leslie that the police are there to protect and that we were not doing anything wrong, this did not stop Leslie from constantly watching for the police. Repeated offers to walk the kids downtown were rejected. Kafirah found that sitting in the back of the car was just fine.

Thasia calls Keebler after 20:00, asking what exactly happened that day. Keebler asks what she means. After Keebler's experience of not seeing his kids in September 2004, he did not trust Thasia to know that he was saving money by staying in Breda. That was not what Thasia was calling about. She asserted that **Leslie had been talking about the Police all night**, and wondered what happened.

Feb 8 Tuesday: An old friend of Keebler's wants help putting up a FTP server in Zundert. Keebler agrees to help him, if he will be so kind as to help Keebler

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- put together bunk-beds for his children. Returning to Zundert with his friend in the evening, Keebler spent the night there. The next morning, Keebler stops early in Breda to pick up paperwork from the City Hall.
- Feb 11 Friday: Jan Muldor comes for another visit as he is working on a project basis in Rotterdam for their annual Film Festival.
- Feb 13 Sunday: Thasia does not allow the children to visit their father.
- Feb 17 Thursday: **Keebler calls the Child Protection Agency (RvdK) in Breda** at 076 525 5880. This is the second phone call. The representative recorded Keebler's mobile phone number, wife's maiden name, the children's residence in the city of Rijsbergen, the father's last name and finally the birthdates of the eldest child to search the database.
- The representative calls Keebler back after an extensive search and insists there was still no record from the Dec 15th court decision in their system. She had even called the Court of Breda, where their computer system did not even have a record of the procedural request to research if Thasia's demands for full-custody should be granted.
- Feb 18 Friday: Keebler takes a copy of the Court of Breda's December 15 decision to the Child Protection Services, accompanied by a witness and his neighbor to assure that the Raad voor de Kinderbescherming was aware, without a doubt, that the Court was expecting their response by March.
- Feb 20 Sunday: Leslie asks his father out of the blue. "**Waneer gaat mama and pappa het goed maken?**" (When will mommy and daddy make things right?) It is yet another reminder of how the children suffer in the time consuming legal proceedings and emotional tension between parents. Keebler had promised the kids they could ride their skateboards, but time had gotten away from them. Keebler put the skateboards in the automobile, and if there was extra time, he would let them skate just down the street from their mother's house. This plan did not work, because of course the children wished to show their mother how they can skateboard. This proved to be beneficial to the children, as mom helped Leslie on his skateboard and daddy helped Kafirah with hers. The children were exposed to the family working together for a brief 25 minutes, and they were so happy. Thasia asked if she could keep the skateboards for the week, and Keebler remembered what happened to the children's swimming suits on August 8, 2003 and told Thasia that it was better if he kept some toys for the children at his house. At 17:10, Thasia asked Keebler to leave. He packed the car and the kids waved good bye.
- Feb 21 Monday: Calling the Court House of Breda and Child Protection Agency, Keebler confirms that the Child Protection Agency was officially informed.
- Feb 27 Sunday: With snow on the ground, Keebler takes his children downtown Rotterdam to see the large skate park their father has found. Keebler decides to dedicate himself more to recording their 8 hours together with photos. This becomes a ritual. Kafirah keeps talking about going to Euro Disney. Keebler decides to ask Thasia if she is planning on going anytime soon. Thasia just looks at Keebler, with a smile, as if he was crazy and does not say a word.
- Feb 28 Monday: Keebler actively begins searching for a new lawyer in the Breda area. He finds that Thasia had actually done some serious shopping for her lawyer before deciding upon Miss Hassan. Kantoort Raetsluy te Breda regrets to say that they can not speak to Keebler, as they had already been approached by Thasia Gulden. This happens more than once.

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Baronie Advocaten promises to call back, but Keebler must call again a week later.

All Lawyers have a pattern of asking who the previous lawyer is, and why it is that Keebler wishes to depart from his services.

March 10 Thursday: The **Court of Breda held a hearing about raising monthly alimony to 968 Euros** per month, without Keebler's knowledge prior to the 22nd of March. This is the second time that Achteruit mails a copy of the Court decision 2 weeks later, and thus beyond the normal time to object to the Court's decision. This amount is impossible based on the salary of an unemployed father.

Keebler calls the Tax Office to ask for their training courses, as he has never filled out his own tax papers before. Last year, Thasia filed jointly against his will. The Tax Office says that he earned too much in the fiscal year to have rights to training. Keebler looks for a tax cheap tax adviser to help him.

March 13 Sunday: Thasia gives Keebler Xylometazoline HC1 1,0mg/ml for Kafirah's nose and Zambon Polymyxini B Sulfas 12/ml for her ears. Kafirah and Leslie are both looking tired and they have bags under their eyes.

March 14 Monday: Keebler finally finds another lawyer who will take his case and offers to help with legal insurance, Miss Cartmann of Baronie Advocaten. The first meeting is set for the 15th of March. Keebler calls Mr. Achteruit and tells him that his services are no longer necessary as his legal counsel. Achteruit says, "ok, all that is left is for you to pay the outstanding costs." Achteruit still says nothing about the court hearing held without Keebler's knowledge on the 10th of March.

March 15 Tuesday: Keebler attends the meeting with new divorce lawyer, Miss Cartmann. She says that she has called Mr. Achteruit, and that she was assured that alimony had already been decided, and that after the research of Child Protection Agency, the case was finished. She was sure it was not worth the time nor costs to move the case (overdragen) to her office. Keebler assured her that his impression of what Achteruit was saying that the case was not close to being over. Miss Cartmann basically revoked her agreement to become Keebler's lawyer, and walked him to the door. Achteruit laughed when Keebler called him back, and said, "you don't know how divorce works here, do you?"

March 20 Sunday: Keebler was 20 minutes late returning the children.

March 22 Tuesday: The **copy of the unannounced Court Decision of March 10 arrives** via post. Keebler is shocked to read that he was going to be minus more than 400 Euro's over his monthly budget due to this legal decree.

Thasia calls at 14:30 to say she will be taking the children on vacation, and so Keebler will not see them on Sunday the 27th of March. Thasia refuses to compensate that lost time to their children. Keebler has to be brief as he is about to have a job interview with a headhunter.

March 23 Wednesday: Keebler sends Thasia email requesting that she send written confirmation that she is taking the kids on vacation. This is due to Thasia's attempt to use September 2004's lack of money for gas as a sign in the Breda Courtroom that Keebler was irresponsible about his visitation with the children. Thasia does not respond to two phone calls.

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Keebler receives help from one of the leading families of the ABN Amro Bank. It was simple but effective information about finding a new lawyer. Keebler is lead to the legal firm of Holla Poelman Advocaten, et. al, with an office next to the Higher Court of the Breda Arrondissement (legal jurisdiction), in Den Bosch.

The lawyer that would be assigned his case would not be a woman, as he had actually been hoping for because most which are mothers actually do care about the children overall welfare, they tend to be more attentive to details than your average male and perhaps that is what I needed to combat the lies, and legal tricks coming from Thasia's legal side. Keebler was certain that anyone who took just a little time and was attentive could see the faulty logic behind the all the excuses used in the Court of Breda to prolong the Judge's decision and a normal divorce. If only he could find a lawyer that really cared about their own children, and could not be swayed by the injection of doubt and prejudices his ex-wife and her lawyer unrelentingly continued to promulgate. Keebler decided to give the assigned lawyer a try, because although it was a male he did have children of his own as well. The fact that he originally came from Breda, where Keebler had learned that all lawyers seem to have a somewhat symbiotic connection to one another.

Divorce is the work of a lawyer. All a lawyer needs to keep the flow of cash coming in is to keep one of the two ex-spouses in an elevated state of vindictive anger, so that they gladly relinquish their children's future University funds. Or promise them something attractive like "full custody", which for some sounds beguilingly like "full control", but is actually a very serious legal request, breaking the general norm of post-divorce status, and in general bad for your own children's welfare.

It would be a better world if people, lawyers or any other profession, were actually able to get a mother and a father beyond the disappointment, anger and malice. To make them see that divorce is not a panacea to their problems, and that they both will, if not for their own mental welfare, but at least for the children's welfare, need to accept the disappointment, learn to compromise and work together. Too bad the Child Protection Agency comes at the end of a divorce process, because at least they could tell the two parents what lays ahead of them. That their journey is not over simply by filing for divorce. Sure, you will see less of each other, but instead of sharing rent, you will both have to pay rent, and your children will have less of a chance to excel in the future. This is not only due to the additional financial burdens of living apart, but because your children learning via example will be less apt to compromise and take may tend to take total-destruction in a childish, emotional and irrational tantrum over a choosing a consensus.

Hopefully, there will be a change in the Western world soon. Many of the local Dutch teenage magazines seem to even glorify the idea of being a single mother. Granted, you should be proud of your single parents, but if you listen to the children's comments in one such article in the Flair magazine, her goal in life is already, "... to be a successful single mother."

To improve the foundations of families in the West would be more of a daunting task than selecting a lawyer you hoped you could actually trust to focus on the horizon while parrying in details of melee legal combat.

March 27 Sunday: **The children were not on vacation.** To assure that Thasia is not secretly trying to convince her father that I do not wish to see the children, nor to create more lies in Court, Keebler drives to the children's mother's house to check on them. The roads in Rijsbergen were closed, causing

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Keebler to arrive 15 minutes late. Thasia's father and the kids were riding away on a horse drawn carriage as Keebler drove by. Kafirah was waving, and Keebler took photos of them from his car. Keebler went to the door to ask Thasia if the plans for a vacation had changed. Thasia answered, saying that the children were tired, and they needed a brake. Keebler began to record the event on video tape. Thasia's father returned to the farm with the carriage, and told his daughter just to go back into the house and say nothing. Thasia's father asserted concerning the day's visitation that "als het niet afgesproken is, dan gat het niet door" (if it was not agreed to then it will not happen). Keebler reminds them in his broken Dutch that "door uw eigen advocaat is het in een beschikking opgenomen dat de kinderen een dag per week me hun vader heeft" (by way of your own lawyer, it has been recorded in a court decision that the children will have 1 day a week with their father). Kafirah runs to her daddy and hugs him. Thasia threatens to call the police. Leslie is paralyzed in the wagon but starts mutter the word police in Dutch. Thasia's father removes Kafirah from her father and puts her on the wagon, telling the former owner of the farm, Jacque, to ride away with the carriage. Kafirah's eyes were full of sorry, so Keebler filmed their Grandfather standing like a gate at the exit of the wagon to restrain the children, and followed them from a distance waving good bye. Keebler said in Dutch, "Maak je geen zorg Kafirah, het is okee, mamma wilt gewoon een beetje anders deze weekend doen" (Don't worry Kafirah, it is ok, mommy just wanted to do things a bit differently this weekend). Keebler then departed the farm without further incident.

March 29 Tuesday: Badghir is in the hospital for surgery after returning from Business in the United States. Keebler finishes the oil painting of a hotel roof in the Iranian desert, which he had commissioned, and brings it to his bedside as a get-well surprise.

Another of Keebler's friends who practices law offers to submit a report to the Dutch lawyers' guild known as the **Nederlandse Orde van Advocaten** if Keebler's new lawyer Mr. Tom Manders will provide a fair evaluation of Mr. Ruddie Achteruit's work on the divorce case.

March 30 Wednesday: First meeting with Keebler's new lawyer Mr. Tom Manders, of the Holla Poelman lawyers.

April 1 Friday: A Toga-gesprek (meeting) with another lawyer was canceled as Keebler hopes that Manders, being a father, would be more attentive to the needs of his children.

April 2 Saturday: Thasia insists that because of a theatrical play on Sunday that I take the children on Saturday instead, and then for only 6 hours so that Kafirah can have horse-riding classes late in the afternoon. Keebler tries to remind her that a fair visitation is in the best interest of the children.

April 5 Keebler and Thasia are officially divorced in the Netherlands. The decree from the court of Breda was filed in the registry of The Hague. This was never directly announced to Keebler by his lawyer. It first came to his attention in Thasia's email at the end of April. Thasia had calculated the rise from 600 to 968 Euros per month on a daily rate for the month of April, and wanted to be paid the difference in May.

April 6 Wednesday: finally Achteruit's financial accountant is in the office, Miss Jacobs, and Keebler reminds her of the two "voorschots" (financial deposits) should be deducted from the total bill for outstanding work.

April 17 Sunday: When picking up the children Thasia gives Keebler copies of the requested health insurance (medicare) policy numbers for the children, so

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that if he needed them he could get quicker assistance in a hospital. Keebler has to ask Thasia to give Leslie' Social Security Number (amerikans sofinummer) so Keebler can complete his American tax forms. Thasia wants to see in writing that it is necessary to have the numbers to file tax. Keebler brings documentation for the American tax office, but Thasia still does not assist in giving her nor Leslie' number over.

Keebler took his children to Kralingse Park, and took an easy stroll around 1/5th the lake. Keebler fed the children a hearty breakfast on the terrace of a windmill. They are really looking ill. They had bags under their eyes and were thinning out. Thasia would accuse this physical state on Keebler, stating that it was because he gave them too much candy during the 8 hours he had with them a week. Thasia was unaware that Keebler had already been giving the children chewable multi-vitamins since they started to look out of shape. Thasia's family insists that the children go to a Children's psychologist to see if they are ok. Keebler worries that this is just another attempt to steal full-custody or blame the father. Keebler voices his opinion saying that they children probably just need more rest and fewer activities, but he agrees to let them be reviewed by a child psychologist as long as he can meet the psychologist and is also informed about the findings.

April 20 Wednesday: As the Dutch on the average are sticklers for having everything in writing when it comes to termination of services, Keebler composes an official termination of services letter to his ex-divorce lawyer to assure that he is not still playing some roll in the divorce case.

April 22 Friday: Called Mr. Tom Manders to assure that he requested the social security numbers of my ex wife and son from Thasia's lawyer in writing.

Thasia calls to give Keebler the contact information about the Child Psychologist, Miss **Wilma Boom Orthopedagoge**, 076 542 0766 or 06 282 74766. Thasia also informs Keebler that she will be taking the children to EuroDisney in Paris on May the 7th and 8th, Thasia insists that Keebler's lawyer formally requests the social security numbers in writing, and that **Miss Hassan still recognizes Achteruit as his official lawyer**. This last statement sounds contrary to logic, as Thasia has said that the reason her lawyer was so rough and demanding was because of the tone that Achteruit had set by being impossible to work with.

The neighbors hold a barbeque.

April 23 Keebler is offered a one month project job in Gelderland via a temporary agency; however, Keebler is offered a long term job from another company, and says that he would rather not risk loosing the long term job to do a project based job.

April 29 Friday: 11:30 Keebler speaks to Achteruit's secretary who says that Keebler's legal file still has not been forwarded to his new lawyer, but Achteruit is working on it and should be done sometime next week. If that does not happen, the secretary asserts that she will call me back.

16:00 Thasia and Keebler have a mutual meeting in Prinsebeek, outside of Breda, with Mrs. **Boom Kinderpedagoge**, who discusses the process that she will take to examin the children.

May 1 Sunday: The children spent their 8 hours with their father downtown Rotterdam. Daddy bought his son a football and his daughter picked out a plush toy cat in a traveling cage. They both wanted to keep the toys for the week at their mothers. At first Keebler told them they should leave their toys at daddy's house so they would have something there, but then he

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- decided to take a risk with Thasia as long as the children promised to bring them back next week.
- May 10 Tuesday: Keebler called R. Achteruit's office again (see April 29, 2005) to find out the status of the transfer of his legal case to Mr. T. Manders. His secretary was not available, so Keebler left his phone number with the secretary so they could call him back.
- May 12 Thursday: 12:00 Keebler actually had to go directly to Achteruit's office to pick up his own legal file in Breda and deliver it to his new lawyer in Den Bosch. Before doing so, Keebler makes 2 copies of every page in the legal files.
- May 13 Friday: 9:30 Unemployment office reviews my efforts to find a new form of employment
- May 18 Wednesday: Miss Reneetje Toilkien of the Child Protection Agency (Raad voor de Kinderbescherming – RvdK) to arrange the first meeting on Tuesday 24 May 2005 at 9:30. Miss R. Toilkien says that Thasia reports that she is unsure if she will be able to make it to the first meeting. Finally, Keebler felt it very odd that the Court of Breda had lost his record, but fortunately the RvdK placed his review in the waiting-list as though it had been submitted on time.
- May 30 Monday: Keebler attends another meeting with the Unemployment office to be informed about the secondary step of reintegration into the work force. Keebler learns that there was a possibility to use an additional IR subsidy in order to improve his job skills while looking for employment. The Unemployment office does not volunteer this information, but there is a possibility to apply for it in a secondary round.
- June 1 Wednesday: Keebler draws the preliminary sketches to a piece with which he wants to both show is full ability to paint as a known classical painter, and to show the politics of divorce. He plays with the title, "Divorce a la Vaggio Carre ". Carre meaning square or abnormal in French, but also playing off of the name of the painter's lighting style that would influence this piece; Carravaggio.
- June 5 Sunday: Children were returned late this weekend due to a trip to Lelystad, to meet with the large group of divorcees, who consist of men, women and a number of children.
- June 7 Tuesday: Keebler has an interview with Amgen Europe, which is situated in Breda. This would afford Keebler better proximity to his children on the Belgium border and is an extremely well known pharmaceutical and food company in America.
- June 9 Thursday: Keebler spends the day developing a new conceptual art-form series, which he entitles Piñata Love. This particular bas-relief is of a pregnant mother with a boy fetus in her womb. This is one of the many paintings which Keebler is scrambling to produce while looking for gainful employment. Keebler has been promised a showing in a Rotterdam art gallery in November.
- June 12 Sunday: Keebler takes Kafirah and Leslie to the Red Bull Air Race, which is being held over the Rotte River in Rotterdam. The crowds were tremendous and Keebler was 15 minutes late returning the children.
- June 22 Wednesday: Keebler and Thasia JHP Gulden have their first meeting at the Child Protection Agency with Miss Reneetje Toilkien.

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- June 23 Thursday: Interview with the IT Manager of Silliker International, a network of laboratories with microbiological and chemical test facilities for food related products. This job Keebler applied to a year previously and his first interview was at 13:00.
- June 24 Leslie turns 4 years old.
- June 26 Sunday: Children are returned from their 8 hour visitation with their father on time.
- June 29 Wednesday: Keebler and Thasia have another meeting with the local Child Protection Agency (RvdK). The representative of the RvdK suggests that this should be our last meeting. Thasia launches into an argument stressing that she feels that communication between her and her ex-husband is impossible. The representative, Miss Toilkien, states that she can see that communication is possible (paraphrased translation) “.. if you want to or not”. Thasia becomes so upset her hands are shaking in anger. Miss Toilkien suggests that Thasia seek professional help from a psychologist.
- June 30 Thursday: The Unemployment Office enlists the help of 3rd parties to assist in Keebler’s job search. Keebler attends a meeting with the a temporary job agency in Rotterdam.
- July 4 Monday: Keebler calls his new lawyer, Mr. T. Manders, who was in a court session at the time of the call, in order to postpone the appointment on the 5th of July. Keebler had a second interview with Amgen Europe, in Breda.

Mr. T. Manders had called and asked Keebler to come in person in order to discuss visitation scheduling with new information from Miss Hassan. In the subsequent meeting, there was actually very little to discuss about visitation, but more to discuss concerning child-support costs.

Hassan had wrote a letter accompanying Thasia's financial documentation, with a number of arguments for why the monthly costs child support should remain at the currently extraordinarily high amount of 968 Euros per month. Keebler had received a copy of this from Mr. T. Manders in the previous week. Keebler wanted his lawyer to be more assertive about reducing the alimony to a normal level, and so he prepared a list of to discuss with his lawyer on the 6th of June:

Hassan requests documentation from Keebler's legal counsel in regards to his unemployment, which was settled in court before the end of 2004. Hassan wants to know the monetary amount of the severance package, obtain contact information regarding Keebler's labor lawyer, and wants proof that Keebler did not voluntarily take a leave from work ("verwijtbaar onslag"). Hassan did not wish to base child-support figures on real income, while Keebler was unemployed. Hassan effectively stated that if Keebler's unemployment was voluntary, then the alimony calculations of the man should remain based on his income before unemployment.

NOTE: Hassan was also directly informed by a fax from Keebler in the beginning of the legal proceedings that he had recieved two yearly bonuses based on profits, to which he had no legal right and would not receive this year. These bonuses had made it appear that Keebler earned about 400 extra Euros per month than he really had, and all the funds had already been used on extensive vacations in the previous years. Mr. Achteruit had been upset about Keebler's direct communication to Hassan and informed him that Hassan had called him and refered to the fax a form of harassment.

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Hassan's second grief, section 13, stresses that Keebler still has money left over from the sale of the apartment in Breda where his previous family had lived. Keebler points out that Thasia had taken more than half the profits from the sale of the apartment, and felt that if such a statement was repeated in a letter of complaint to the court, that we should surely point out that Thasia had her fair share as well.

Regarding the costs of picking the children up for visitation, Hassan uses the logic that Keebler had moved to Rotterdam by choice, and so it should not be calculated into his monthly costs. Keebler points out to Manders that the source of his marital problems started when Thasia's family was pushing her to live on the Belgium boarder 20 minutes nearer to the her parents, and that Thasia had moved there via her own decision as well.

In addition to the reviewing Hassan's letter concerning future calculations of child support, Keebler asks Manders to officially request necessary governmental documents from Thasia and if he had found time to review Keebler's previous lawyer's performance, Mr. Achteruit.

Thasia had never given Keebler copies of the old mutual bank account, but that was no longer necessary, because Keebler had managed to get Internet access to the bank statements and printed them out for documentation. This time, Keebler needed Thasia's American social security number to file documentation in the United States. Thasia was demanding when she needed documentation, but seldom willing to share if Keebler needed the reciprocal, at least Hassan's written request would cover Keebler on certain legal issues, and place the responsibility on Thasia.

Manders says that he has not really had time to review Achteruit's performance, but that two documents are missing from the legal file; the letter of complaint from Hassan and the response from Achteruit regarding the hearing in March 2004, to raise the monthly cost of child-support. For Keebler it seemed that his ex-wife's lawyer and previous lawyer had their own private agreements behind their clients' backs. He wondered how deep the political roots in this case really were, and subsequently asked Manders if there was a possibility to request a different judge in subsequent hearings.

- July 5: Monday: Keebler holds his second employment interview with Amgen Europe, Breda. The interview goes relatively well, but the culture in the Dutch office seemed peculiarly conservative for having an authentic and signed Herman Brood print hanging in the meeting room.
- July 6 Wednesday: 14:00 Keebler meets with Mr. Manders (see the prepared points covered on July 4th). Keebler promises to deliver the 3 core case documents, which expose the reason for termination of employment was due to company restructuring. Keebler points out to Manders that under the current system of Unemployment benefits, that the monthly income statements from the CWI (Unemployment Office) was proof enough that Keebler had not willingly taken the status of being unemployed. NOTE: Keebler would receive a call from lawyer friends at the end of 2005 and hear that his previous employer had to restructure again, causing another series of lay-offs.
- July 12 Tuesday: Keebler holds his second interview with Silliker Netherlands. The Benelux director is French, and the interview is held in various colloquial languages; French, Dutch, English and Microbiology laboratory jargon.
- July 17 Sunday: At the end of the day, Leslie wants to show his mother the neck-tie that his father had bought for him. Thasia's family was hosting distant relatives from New Zealand in their Northern yard. Keebler introduced

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himself to all of the relatives and spent time discussing his University sport, Rugby, with one of the nephews. Leslie goes into the house to take his neck-tie off, kissing his father on the way in. Thasia leans out her backdoor and asks if Keebler had been to Church. Even though Keebler and the Children had simply spent the day together, Keebler felt it disappointing that Thasia had not taken their representative in the Child Protection Agency, Miss Toilkien's advice about agreeing to disagree. Keebler was speechless as he could not think of anything positive to say. When Thasia returned with the tie, she politely thanked Keebler for having the children back on time.

July 21 Thursday: 13:00 Thasia calls to request exchanging the visitation from Sunday to Saturday.

July 23 Saturday: The norm of exchanging the children at this time is still moving the children's car-seats from Thasia's automobile to my own. In the morning, this occurs without incident. Keebler fulfills his promise to get the children a gift of their choice from the toy store. The children spend an exhaustive amount of time picking out their gifts. Keebler calls Thasia to inform her that he will be circa 30 minutes late. Upon dropping off the children, the car-seats are moved, and Keebler carries the sleeping Leslie with his big new plastic dump-truck into the house. Thasia's aunt Persephonie is walking around the farm grounds with a bucket in her hand. She often helps her brother, Thasia's father, in her retirement. Entering the Thasia's father's farm-house for brief periods of time had also been fairly normal to this date. With Leslie laying on the livingroom couch, and Kafirah sitting on the floor with her new toy, Thasia asks if Keebler "had already read her email about taking the children on vacation next week". Keebler stated that he was too busy with his children to check his email, and then he calmly asked, "How long are you planning for this vacation?" Thasia responded with, "I think you better get out of my house." It seemed a bit of an extreme response to Keebler's question. It was Thasia's house, so Keebler kissed his daughter and followed Thasia outside the backdoor. The children were out of site, so he asked Thasia again. Thasia stepped around Keebler where he stood, walked into the house, and while speechlessly smiling at Keebler through the window she locked her back door. Keebler drove away, waving to Aunt Persephonie who was still working on the grounds.

Upon arriving at home, Keebler checks his email. There was no such email, so Keebler writes Thasia an email to inform her that he did not receive the email and to ask her to try and inform him about vacation plans in advance so he might also make better use of his time. Thasia writes an email back stating that she was sorry, she thought she had sent the email early. The rest of her email changes drastically in tone. Thasia asserts that Keebler had blocked her from entering her house, that he had started a fight in front of the children, and finally that he had vandalised her automobile and that she will be reporting it to the police. Finally she writes that the vacation would be 3 weeks. Keebler thinks little of the allegations, as he never touched Ankes automobile, there were witnesses outside while he was there, and Thasia had previously threatened to call the police more than 3 times. Keebler assumed it was a familiar digression and distraction from the fact that she would be denying the children visitation without compensation, yet another 3 weeks.

July 25 Monday: Miss Reneetje Toilkien, from the Child Protection Agency called to inform me that she had been ill for a week and would be leaving for summer vacation with her family. Keebler informs her that Thasia will be going on a three week vacation herself. The review by the Child Protection Agency will continue after the vacation period.

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Later that day, the Police station, near Thasia's father's house, called concerning a grievence filed by Thasia. It was alledged that Keebler had vandalised her automobile and the Police requested that Keebler come visit on Tuesday the 26th of July.

Keebler calls his lawyer to inform him about the accusations and incidents.
K?????

July 26 Tuesday: At the police station, Keebler listens to the officer as he reads Thasia's complaint. Keebler draws a picture for the police officer, so that he can see exactly how both automobiles had been parked last Sunday. After both versions of the events were recorded, the police officer had shown Keebler a photo of Thasia's car. Keebler had assumed that Thasia was exaggerating about a small scratch, but indeed her car had very large scratch above the rear left wheel. Keebler informs Agent Crowbar that he is surprised they had not met earlier, because things were going difficult with the divorce and Thasia often had recently threatened to call the police quite often. Agent Crowbar wants some examples. Keebler tells him about the day he forgot that visitation had been switched to Sunday and Thasia was upset that he had come from Rotterdam. The police officer laughs. Keebler chuckles, but then reminds him that through such experiences, his son has more fear of the police than believing that the institution is there to protect.

July 28 Thursday: Keebler refreshes his knowledge of Oracle Databases by installing a server on his Linux server. This is the same database used by the company which most appeals to him.

August 6 Saturday: Keebler watched how the funds were all siphoning to Thasia and the lawyers via unreasonable settlements followed by correctional court cases, and decided that he should have try and take a moment to enjoy the funds while he had them. The children were on vacation with their mother again, and Keebler needed to practice French again. Keebler and his Vietnamese friend look for an inexpensive manner to go to Paris, and book a bus tour for the following weekend. Keebler sends an email to his friends in Paris to inform them that they are coming. Unfortunately, Keebler's oldest Parisian friend, who is a licensed pilot and recently bought a private airplane, had to work in New York the previous week and will not be available for a visit.

August 12 On the trip to Paris, France, the buses and drivers swap at the Dutch-Belgian boarder in Hazeldonk. Emma, the tour guide, simply loved the bourgandy culture, wine, a meal, and intellectually stimulating conversations. She led the group to a restaurant at the foot of the Sacre Couer, in the Monmartre district. This was the restaurant that they would frequent every night of their stay in Paris. The meal and tour prices were included in the travel package. After the meal, Keebler and his friend climbed the steps of Le Sacre Coeur. From the entire vista, Keebler pointed out the modern museum, Le Pompidou, as the one place he definitely wished to revisit. Entrance used to be free, but over the years, the museum had gained popularity, and every separate exhibition required a ticket.

At 18:53 hours, Thasia calls Keebler from Rijsbergen, to inform him that they had just returned from Crans-Montagne, Switzerland, with their children. Thasia's father owns a chalet there, and often covers the cost of ownership by renting it out to friends of friends who wish to take a ski vacation in the Alps. He likely wanted to do some maintenance before the next winter season. Keebler told Thasia that he was in Paris, for the weekend and asked to say hello to the children really quick as he strolled

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through Antwerp Park (Parc d'Anvers).

August 19 Friday: Keebler drives a friend to the Rotterdam Airport for their flight with Transavia airlines to Berlin, Germany.

August 22 Monday: Keebler calls his new employee to confirm the meeting to review the contract. The head of Human Resources is sick, requiring a subsequent confirmation the following morning.

August 23 Tuesday: Keebler receives the contract to review, which he takes home and passes to his friend the labor lawyer to check for any pitfalls. Later she informs him that the contract pretty standard, and congratulates him on his new job.

August 24 Wednesday: Raad voor de Kinderbescherming's (Child Protection Agency) representative, Mrs. R. Toilkien, holds a meeting with Thasia and Keebler at 11:30. Thasia has brought a list of the points that she feels is important.

The argument about her inability to communicate with Keebler falls mute, as it had been previously discussed.

Thasia again reasserts that she "is afraid that Keebler is an alcoholic, and that she worries about the children." Keebler points out that he had already taken a bloodtest last November and that his lawyer had read the Doctor's conclusion in court. Thasia looks at Keebler and says that she "knows that you can go long periods without drinking." Toilkien then asks Thasia how she could ever say that Keebler is an alcoholic. Thasia digressed into the vagueness of saying, "because of incidents that happened in the past", and the argument was left at that.

Thasia's third point was to assert that the children are exposed to too many volital arguments (hoog lopende ruzies) when both parents are together. Mrs. Toilkien offers a solution here, and states that if both partners agreed, that the Child Protection Agency could appoint someone to be present when the children were exchanged. Keebler agrees to having a government appointed official present during the exchange of the children. It was not that arguments occurred everytime, but the children had seen too much since Thasia had moved to her father's farm and sought divorce. Thasia would usually blame Keebler for starting the any arguments that did occur. Keebler had noticed over the years, that if someone accompanied him to pick up the children, that the likelihood of an argument occurring was far less. Sure it was not ideal to have some stranger present in the exchange of the children, but to have a more respectable and civil experience when present with both their parents was for the greater good. Still, in order to have a representative of the Child Protection Services present during the exchange of the children, both parents had to agree to the appointed witness; Thasia refused the offer.

August 25 Thursday: Keebler calls, Mr. A.G.G. Voorhagen, of the Association of Home Owners (VVE) to assure that all outstanding utility costs for the apartment in Breda had been squared away.

Keebler receives another job offer, but this one is based on web technology; PHP and MySQL.

August 27 Saturday: Children spend 8 hours with their father: The few hours together they spend on the drive from Rijsbergen to Rotterdam They take the sculptures of their hands from the foam latex molds and place them into a frame, to commemorate to memory their age and the passing time.

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- August 28 Sunday: Thasia calls, being exceptionally polite. Kafirah has a new mobile phone, and she gives Keebler the phone number to it. She then proceeds to ask Keebler if he would be willing to help the children build a float covered in flowers for the annual Kindercorso parade in Zundert. That would mean that Keebler would be spending most of two days with their father for two weekends. It was very tempting to Keebler, but he was a bit paranoid about if there were any hidden agendas. Keebler asked to be given time to think about it, and then called his good friend and certified psychologist of 8 years, who was always good at being fairly objective. Keebler begged her to go with him for at least the first day, to be a witness and help break the initial tension if there was any. Keebler was happy when she agreed to come along. Thasia said bring Peggy along would also be fine.
- August 29 Monday: Early afternoon, Keebler goes to a meeting with his new employer, to deliver and sign documentation. After the children go to bed, Thasia calls, again being polite and friendly. Thasia discusses her plans for working on the farm and asks Keebler if he had any ideas. Keebler mentions that he has old thin floorboards that would be perfect for molding into the the curvature of a boat, and would pass by the kids' recent love for the story of Peter Pan.
- Sept 1 Thursday: Keebler's first day of work with Silliker International. From that point on, Keebler enjoys focusing on building a new career.
- Sept 25 Sunday: Keebler was 30 minutes late, due to not having a watch and loosing track of time.
- Oct 2 Sunday: Keebler was again late returning the children, this time more than an hour. The children loved harvesting all of Keebler's Habenero Peppers plants, which Keebler would later use to make his own hot-sauce, and post the recipe in the database he created for his private web-server. The kids and their father would then go outdoors to the Kralingsebos in Rotterdam. Those 8 hours went by very quickly.
- Oct 5 Wednesday: Keebler denies his neighbour's request to borrow his automobile while he is at work; they wish to take their pet rabbit to be spade. Kafirah calls her father to tell him that she is watching a video of Leslie and herself in the parade that mommy and daddy helped make possible. The lawyer, Mr. Manders, sends a list of dates for the hearing about improved visitation rights via e-mail.
- Oct 9 Sunday: Having missed so many days of visitation due to Thasia's vacations, et. al., even sickness would not keep Keebler away from his kids today. He picked them up, put on SpongeBob and lounged around with his kids. Kafirah kept bringing her daddy water. Returned the children to their mother on time.
- Oct 16 Sunday: Returned the children to their mother 10 minutes early.
- Oct 23 Sunday:
- Oct 25 Tuesday: Court hearing to reduce child support payments which had been increased to 968 Euros per month back in the secret court hearing of March 10. Overpaid alimony from the point of official divorce, April 5, 2005 was applied to future payments. The amount is still 200 Euros higher than the original mutual lawyer, Mr. Vadder, had calculated for a normal divorce.
- Oct 30 Sunday: Upon picking up the children and driving away, Keebler's son repeated something three times. Keebler kept asking him to repeat, because he did not understand where the thought could come from, nor did he believe what he was hearing; "Eerst moet je oma vechten." ("First you need

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to fight grandma.") Leslie had spent Saturday night at his grandparents. In the livingroom, Leslie blurts out that he wants to spend the night with his daddy, and not go back to the farm. Later, Leslie asks his father if he believes in God. When his father asks him what he thinks, he is afraid to respond. The day is finished by cleaning the kitchen together, and then driving into a traffic jam. Keebler calls Thasia to inform her that traffic would delay the return of their children.

- Oct 31 Monday: Keebler's youngest brother turns 17 years old.
- Nov 4 Friday: Anniversary! Keebler's mother and father have been married for 35 years.
- Nov 13 Sunday: The roads between Rotterdam and Breda are a mess and they cause many delays in picking up and dropping off the children. Kafirah sprays cologne in her eye. Keebler rinses it out with his contact-lens saline solution, and then Kafirah passes out on the bed. Leslie is a bit whinny this day, and asks multiple times to return to his mother's farm. Keebler feels sorry for him, as he often seems torn between two worlds.
- Nov 14 Monday: Thasia sends a complaint via email, claiming that the crack in Keebler's car windshield is too dangerous for the children, and that she wants it repaired before she'll let the kids get into their father's car. Keebler finds the email the next day and writes a request to Thasia, that she will drop the children off at his house for a change.
- Nov 16 Wednesday: Another day of teleconferencing with America for creation of financial reports.
- Nov 17 Thursday: Keebler worked from home and repaired his cracked car windshield.
- Nov 29 Tuesday: Thasia calls to inform Keebler that "something came up" and that the children will not be able to visit him on the first weekend of December. Of course the Dutch celebration and predecessor to the American Christmas, Sinterklaas (Santa Claus) is held on the 5th of December. Keebler objects to Thasia denying their children visitation again.
- Dec 2 Friday: Thasia answers the many phone calls from Keebler and tells him that he will get the day of visitation back.

NOTE: Approaching the end of the year 2006, Thasia still has not refunded days of visitation that she took for her own convenience.

Thasia asks about Keebler's work and then yawns over the phone while he tells her about how his work is going. Keebler asks Thasia how her work is going. Thasia is unable to complete a full story about her work-life, and constantly has to cut off the topic as she feels she can not share that part of her life. Shell and BASF, the shareholders of her company, have sold their holdings to an American and Russian joint-venture. Thasia sounds a bit worried about this change. Keebler reminds her how flexible her company had been with her over the two years of relationship-therapy, and that the personnel had not changed, although the shareholders had.

- Dec 3 Saturday: Keebler drives early in the morning to airport in Frankfurt am Main, Germany, to pick up a friend who would be arriving from Taiwan.
- Dec 13 Tuesday: Hearing in the Court of Breda, in which originally, they were to review the advice of the local Child Protection Agency's report. Mrs. Reneetje Toilkien had written the court that there was no reason to allow

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Thasia to take full-custody of the children and that there was no reason to withhold a normal visitation schedule. Thasia's lawyer would push for the use of a Forensic Mediator and stay the Lower Court of Breda's official decision. Thasia's lawyer had actually tried to force Forensic Mediation in the previous hearing in the Appeals Court of Law. The presiding judge refused Miss Hassan's request, giving her a firm head-shake no indicating that there was no room for adding such requests in the spectrum of the law. This forced Hassan to require an agreement to try Forensic Mediation. Having spent the past years watching the lawyers play games, his ex-wife bend the truth and even go so far as to lie in order to build a stronger case to acquire what she wanted, finance of here untold amounts spent on every available process of law to stall any level of normal visitation and alimony, and almost 3 years of relational therapy about constantly changing complaints yet begun because of Thasia's determination to live closer to her parents, Keebler saw that he had lost more than finance, and that was the nonrefundable time together. Keebler simply wanted a decision from the Court of Breda for his children's rights to spend a normal amount of time with their father under a divorce, and then, if Thasia wanted to negotiate, seek mediation, all that would be fine if it was truly intended to be done in realms of a decent, fair and respectable manner.

Keebler's second lawyer assured him that for the long-term improvement in the relationship between his ex-wife that stalling the court decision and going into mediation would be the best manner. Keebler informs his lawyer that he was making that judgment based on the assumption that Thasia's proclaimed personal fears were credible, and that her true intentions were to move to the aegis of a normal divorce, but that Keebler felt that Thasia was simply trying to stall the truth. Keebler promises to hug his lawyer if mediation leads to a more mature and respectable visitation schedule between the parents.

Dec 17 Sunday: Joris throws an early party for his birthday on the 20th. Hau buys him a bottle of champagne and sends it to Joris via the neighbors; Arthur and Ester. Keebler & Hau spend their evening drinking tea and coffee with a British Professor of a Dutch University, Graham, who was raised both Christian and Buddhist. He tells about why he moved into Buddhism to the extent of also assuming a level of monk status. Politics, Calvinistic thought, history of the Free Dutch port located on the Thames river, adoption of children, the divorce process, post-divorce culture and family are high on the list of topics covered.

Dec 18 Sunday: Keebler is picking the children up an hour earlier because Thasia called to request that they be delivered to the Chasse Theatre for a children's showing. The children and their father spend the first hour together waiting on a train in Breda. During their trip to Rotterdam, Leslie looks up at the informational symbols on the wall. You know, the symbols that are supposed to be so simplified that they overcome language barriers, such as you see on public toilets. The symbol he addressed was of a man standing in Da Vinci's anatomical X form, with his legs straddled and a belt running diagonally over his body. Leslie stood up and replicated the stance depicted on the wall, turned around and said in Dutch, "Dad, you can't stand like this." Keebler laughed and told his son "no, they're saying they are sorry, but they do not provide safety belts in the train, could you please sit down." To pass the time, Leslie and Kafirah finish their SpongeBob Squarepants candies and get into a friendly fight together. Leslie manages to bang his head twice on the rounded train tables, which takes him out of the fight and brings some restfulness to the train ride's atmosphere.

After 8 hours together in Rotterdam, Hau traveled back to Breda with Keebler and his two children. Approaching the theatre, the adults discuss

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the fact that even though Thasia would likely have a childish reaction to seeing another woman with Keebler, it would be best if Thasia adjusted quicker to the world she had chosen, a world of divorce, living apart together. Hau mentions that she thinks deep down under all the lies and terrible things that Thasia has done during the past 3 years, that Thasia still loves Keebler, and just maybe Keebler still loves Thasia. Hau does not wish to be there when the two of them meet, and she heads downtown for a coffee to wait for Keebler. Keebler continues to the theatre with his son and daughter. His daughter looks up at him and inquires why Hau does not want to come along. Daddy tells his daughter, "Because Hau thinks that mommy still loves dad, and that daddy still loves mom. Hau does not want to stand between that." His daughter smiles, looks in her father's eyes and says, "but it's not true, right?" Keebler runs over all the lies he has seen in this divorce case, how Thasia actually appears to arrive at a state of believing her own lies, and then he wonders; what even matters between two people when one is caught in a state of impulsive lies, building a world to support the only thing that matters to them, their wants. Was Thasia ever really in love, or was that the first lie to herself on the road to get pregnant and attempt to usurp the children's father, and now her heart was living the truth? Keebler looked down at his daughter and said, "I don't know honey, I just don't know." Thasia had been pressing Keebler to take her own mental stance in impressing upon the children that their relationship was truly finished, but from Keebler's perspective, he knew he would not have the luxury of simply boxing up their relationship and putting it in the closet; not for the children's sake.

Dec 23 Friday: Administrative work for friends.

Dec 24 Saturday: Keebler's automobile had been damaged while parked in Rotterdam. Thasia's father had the nerve to inspect the automobile. Keebler tried to be friendly, showing how the damage might be worked out by himself, and Thasia's father's reaction was, "just leave it as it is, it's safe like that". These are the moments that remind Keebler of why he could not live on his father-in-law's farm. Sure, he was trying to be functional and caring, but Keebler had done body work on automobiles before, and knew he could make it better, if only he could find the time. Under the aegis of such a man, nothing could be done, everything you did would be only an extension of his opinion, unless you had the strength to deal with the verbal bombardments that follows going against his will.

Thasia requested that the children be returned an hour earlier. Keebler doesn't like the idea of her taking more from the very little and unfair amount of time they have together. In a compromise, Keebler says it will be fine if she picks the children up at the train station.

Keebler took his children to the new film release of "The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe". The story had originally been written by a British linguist, C.S. Lewis, which Keebler had read as a child. Later in life, Keebler would feel more of a bond with the writer, as he once wrote something that reminded Keebler of the pleasure of learning new and foreign concepts embedded in a language itself. In regards to the Finish language, most similar to Romanian on the family tree of languages, C.S. Lewis wrote, "It is like finding an old forgotten cellar of ancient wine."

Waiting for Thasia at the train station in Breda, Kafirah needs to use the toilet. They cross the street to a restaurant, and use the toilet, sit at a table and watch for Thasia to arrive. When Thasia arrives, and the children depart the restaurant with their father, Leslie suddenly bolts in the direction of his mother. He did not even look for automobiles before crossing the street, as his father continuously reminds him. It was a bus, full of people. The driver

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saw Leslie, but definitely gave him a scare he would never forget. Keebler felt weak in the knees, and leaned moved Leslie to the curb, as Leslie had frozen like a rabbit in the beam of headlights on a highway. Keebler asked him to promise never to run into a street again. Leslie looked up at his father, still in shock and promised him he would never do that again. From that day on, Leslie is more careful in the city limits, realizing the whole world is not like the country farm he spends most of his time on.

Dec 31 Saturday: Thasia calls and says that the children can not come visit their father. Keebler tries in vain to explain to her that 8 hours a week is not even enough time and that she had already denied the children enough visitation.

Distraught, and concerned that Thasia was not actually telling even her parents the truth, Keebler decided to call Thasia's family and assure that they are completely aware that Keebler does not agree with only 8 hours a week of visitation, and certainly feels that the continued denial of visitation is unfair to the children. Thasia's mother says she will speak to Thasia about the situation, but she's about to go shopping and needs to hang up.

Thasia called later, saying she wished to talk, and that they could meet at the station in Breda tomorrow at 12:15.

Jan 1 Sunday: New Years

Keebler had hoped the meeting would have lead to something more productive. Like a true ending of the persistent denial of visitation and an end to the stressful situation of fitting one day of visitation into 1/3rd of a day. It had only been a few weeks ago, December 5th, when Thasia had last denied visitation. Thasia just repeated her song and dance about being concerned about the children being around their father. No logic could penetrate her stance. Keebler mentioned that it had been about two years and the children had been fine with him. He reminded her that before she started trying to take full-custody in the Court of Breda, the children had been fine when they spent whole weekends alone with their father.

Jan 28 Saturday: Chinese New Year

It was a fairly cold night, full of rich foreign foods. Everyone was dressed in 3 piece suits and dresses. The conversation covered everything from Adam Smith to the modern Christian Democratic movement to life in China and Vietnam.

Early in the evening, Keebler began to come down with a chill which often accompanies the flu. He warned his escort that they should depart early, because he was not feeling to healthy. By the time Keebler arrived at home, he was running a high temperature and shivering from the cold. Sunday with the children would have to be canceled because of this illness, and Keebler would be laying in bed for 3 days straight as the flu passed.

Jan 29 Sunday: The children call their father to wish him well, a very sweet gesture that puts a smile on a father's face.

March 5 Sunday: Kafirah has a stomach ache and can not come on visitation. Keebler wants to pick up his son, as it would be good to spend some quality time alone with him, but Thasia refuses, saying that she doesn't want Leslie going alone. Keebler tries in vain to explain that it would be a good learning experience for him to be a bit more independent. Thasia still refuses visitation.

March 23 Thursday: Keebler uses a vacation day to attend the first mediation with the

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Forensic Mediator, which Thasia's lawyer, Hassan had pressed for back in the court hearing mid-December 2005. One quarter of a year had already passed before this next form of mediation would even begin. Forensic Mediation had apparently had come in fashion in the Dutch courts over the past 2 years.

More on Forensic Mediation as a practice.

Comments about the meeting.

April 5 Wednesday: Keebler worked from his company's offices in Rotterdam during the morning, as a new server needed to be installed there. In the afternoon, he road his bike from the Southern harbors, through Chinatown to his house in the North. He stopped off to buy bamboo shoots and rice, before continuing his journey. He worked the afternoon from home and then traveled took cook dinner with a friend in Den Haag. Keebler was adding authentic Indonesian recipes to his cooking repertoire and all in good company.

The lawyer's office called concerning the financing of the case.

April 11 Tuesday: The second Forensic Mediation meeting with Thasia and Mss. Hendriks, began late due to the divorced couple's mediation before them running overtime. This gave Keebler and Thasia a chance to talk.

Thasia voiced her grievance about the children being a bit late the previous weekend. Keebler reminded her that it was very difficult to do anything relaxed and normal in only 8 hours and asked her to sympathize a little if not empathize. Keebler informed Thasia that he was planning on sharing the costs with friends and car-pooling with the kids to Vollandam, Netherlands, the following weekend.

Notes on the meeting.

After the meeting, Thasia asked Keebler to wait on her downstairs in the parking lot. When she arrived she said to Keebler, "... you know there is no real visitation schedule decided by the court". Keebler reminded her that her lawyer had promised in court that the children were guaranteed one day a week with their father, and even though that had not been fulfilled by Thasia, it was in recorded in the Court's decision. Thasia denied that Keebler's statement was valid. Keebler asked Thasia, "So what exactly did you want to say to me? That you would even go further to reduce the visitation of the children?" Thasia smiled and simply replied, "Yes."

Keebler was a bit baffled why he was co-paying for mediation if Thasia's intentions were only to steal more time from her children and ex-husband.

Keebler went home and worked on his annual tax filings.

April 20 Thursday: 3rd Forensic Mediation meeting with Miss. Hendriks.

May 15 Monday: Keebler's children would be driven by their mother to The Hague, Netherlands, to meet with the mediator, Miss. Hendriks. Thasia's lawyer had listed questions concerning what the children knew about the divorce, how it had been told to them, and what sort of effects it might have had on them. Of course Thasia's allegation that their father was a full-blown alcoholic was also and issue that was taken into account.

Notes on meeting

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May 22 Monday: 5th meeting with Miss Hendriks.

Although Keebler had previously been calling his children when he could after work hours on Wednesdays, Miss Hendriks suggested trying Tuesdays. Hendriks wasn't aware that Keebler already called his children weekly when he could. She was also not aware that the children would behave differently if their mother was nearby. They would be more silly, rude and not really respond to a telephone conversation. Hendriks had been very modern and creative with ideas though. She had suggested video conferencing with the computer late at night, which actually would probably be better given the age of the children, their attention spans and communication skills on the phone. Nevertheless, calling at 15:45 in Tuesday afternoons proved to be next to impossible. In a common workday in the IT department, if any workprocess should stop, usually the ITdepartment is involved with a quick technical diagnosis and then administration of the cure for the paitences. To block out your own set time, strictly for your own needs, is next to impossible. In fact, calls can even come late at night, much like the life of a doctor.

May 28 Sunday: It was the weekend of Passar-allam (an Indonesian festivity of open markets) and Keebler and the children walked downtown through the local markets.

May 29 Monday: Keebler dropped off at his General Practioner for a form necessary to take a standardized group of blood tests, which together can give a reasonable insight to whether someone had been abusing alcohol over the last 4 months. Nearly 8 vials of blood were drawn from Keebler, squirming in his chair, just wishing they were done. Since Keebler had to go through this whole mid-evil bloodletting for the divorce related witch-hunt, Keebler decided to also do a screening for sexually transmitted diseases, and to get x-rays of his back as his arm had been showing signs of Repetitive Strain Injury (RSI, aka. Mouse-arm) since the beginning of the year.

Note: All blood related tests would show up not only negative, but smashingly in good health, but the photos of Keebler's spinal column would indicate that his work was taking a physical toll on his body.

June 2 Friday: Keebler schedules the morning off from work to visit his doctor exactly 10 days after the tests. The agreement made in the previous meeting with the Forensic Mediator was simply to come back with the results, and then submit those to a third-party doctor for a conclusion.

Later, an additional request from the mediator was made to have a conclusion drawn by the organization doing the test, and that the mediator would like to be able to have contact with the organization performing the analysis. This of course would increase the time, efforts and money involved in retrieving the information.

Emails from the Forensic Mediator would harp on the fact that Keebler did not want his private data being placed in Thasia's hands. Keebler would write the mediator, telling her that the clinical conclusion could be shared.

In the meantime, Keebler spent his evenings studying and translating every test. He wanted more opinions from Doctors he knew would never be made biased by all of his ex-wife's stories. The first conclusion to come in would be the one he would forward to the Mediator, along with a very lengthy document that he had written himself. It documented the time-lines for each of the 8 tests. The combined tests consist of long and short-term

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sensitivities, which would give an insight to the levels of alcohol consumed in the past 4 months.

It was fortunate for Keebler that he actually worked in a microbiological and chemical laboratory at the time, because there were many chemists of varying expertise to help discuss the translation of measurements, and get an increasingly good idea about how Keebler's results sat within the statistical bell-curve. This had been the second time that Keebler would take a blood-test knowing that it would prove to be negative. Keebler would still have to spend his time and money taking tests simply to document the incorrectness in the long-standing allegations of his ex-wife.

Keebler expected that even with physical proof that Thasia's stories were unfounded, that it would not matter to Thasia. This was because she had a chance at exchanging blood tests back on July 22, 2004, which she had agreed to, and then quickly revoked her promise when she realized that Keebler was quite serious about ending this issue. That and the fact that she had done only one thing in the 2.5 years of relational therapy to try and make their household more pleasant; not spending 4 days and nights a week with the children at her parents house, while ignoring all other therapeutically advise and exercises to mend the relationship. Even the Dutch Child Protection Agency would advise her to see a psychologist after she insisted that her allegations be taken for truth. In all likelihood, much like Keebler's experience with her father's manner of handling things, she would stand there repeating her story over and over as if to wish it into reality.

In the 2nd meeting with the mediator. Thasia kicked the leg of her table when she readjusted herself in the chair. The mediator looked up from her writing and looked initially in the direction of Keebler, and then at the top of her desk to see if anything was moved or disturbed. Her face changed, as if she had thought that Keebler had slammed hit her desk. Why did she not look at Thasia first?