

Aunt Jeannie

By

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**INT. PALMER KITCHEN - DAY**

HADLEY, 16, sits at the kitchen counter with her earpods in, her laptop open while she stares at her phone and sends the occasional text. The cool girl.

Her father, JERRY, (40's) at the dining table with a stack of bills and a calculator, looking upset.

Mom, KIM PALMER, 40s, on her phone, frazzled.

KIM  
(into phone)  
Okay, but I have another open house  
that day.

Kim ends her call.

JAKE (11), a small nerdy kid, wearing a Little League baseball uniform that is conspicuously clean, enters. He holds his cell phone that DINGS a few times.

JAKE  
(excited)  
You want to know how it went?

He unceremoniously drops his baseball gear on the floor.

KIM  
Oh, your game. How did it go?

Jake's phone DINGS again.

JAKE  
We won.

JERRY  
Great. How'd you do?

JAKE  
Coach used my line-up and batting  
order and said we wouldn't have won  
without my analytics.

JERRY  
Okay, but did you play?

Jake's phone DINGS again back to back.

JAKE  
You mean like actually on the  
field?

(CONTINUED)

KIM

What is going on with your phone?

JAKE

Coach is sending me links to all the teams in the Florida showcase.

Kim and Jerry look at each other confused.

JAKE

Miami, in two weeks? I told you!

Still nothing. Jake goes to the wall calendar and points to the weekend in question.

HADLEY

(looking at her phone)

He did tell you. You got all pissy about how much it was going to cost.

Jerry and Kim remember, embarrassed.

JERRY

You haven't looked up from that phone in about a year but you remember that conversation?

Hadley releases a fake smile.

HADLEY

It's called selective memory.

Kim turns to Jerry, rattled.

KIM

Well, I can't go, I'm in New York that weekend.

JERRY

Can you change it? I'm in New Orleans.

The look on their face is clear -- no way.

Jake watches the exchange, getting upset.

Kim and Jerry turn to him with a "I'm sorry, honey" look.

JAKE

The most cool thing the team ever does and I can't go?

JERRY

Look, Jake, your mother and I have responsibilities.

JAKE

But the team needs me.

HADLEY

Nah, the benches in Florida are already warm.

JERRY

Hadley! Not helping.

(to Jake)

Maybe you just skip this one.

Jake runs off, shouting.

JAKE

You are the suckiest parents.

A beat as Kim and Jerry sigh, apologetic.

KIM

Maybe we could get someone else to take him.

JERRY

Who? Your parents are on a cruise.

Hadley is typing a text message, doesn't even look up.

HADLEY

What about Aunt Jeannie?

Jerry scoffs, thinks it's a joke.

JERRY

Yeah, right.

Kim is on board.

KIM

Yeah, what about your sister?

JERRY

Are you serious?

Kim shrugs.

KIM

Why not? She's an adult... sort of. Besides, you said we should spend more time with family.

(CONTINUED)

JERRY  
I meant our family.

KIM  
What's the worst that can happen?  
(then)  
It's either this, or we have to  
tell Jake he can't go.

**INT. JEANNIE'S APARTMENT - DAY**

Boxes and crap all over the place, a lump of dirty clothes  
and take-out containers on the bed.

All that is surrounded by SOUNDS OF FIGHTING.

We pan to JEANNIE (40s), scruffy in a dirty t-shirt, holding  
an ASSASSIN in headlock. They are full at it -- struggling  
for their lives.

POUNING ON THE DOOR.

LANDLORD (O.S.)  
Jeannie, I know you in there.

JEANNIE  
Kind of busy.

Assassin starts to pass out from the headlock. He tries to  
struggle. His pistol goes sliding toward the door.

More POUNDING on the door.

LANDLORD (O.S.)  
You need to pay the rent!

JEANNIE  
Can you come back later?

LANDLORD (O.S.)  
Open this door right now!

Assassin passes out from the headlock.

MORE POUNDING.

Jeannie goes to the door and opens it.

JEANNIE  
Yeah, listen, I've got a job coming  
up. I need a few more days.

(CONTINUED)

LANDLORD

How stupid do you think I am? You told me that last month? I want you out!

JEANNIE

How about I let you hold something for security until I come up with the money?

Meanwhile, Assassin wakes up, shaking his head. He spots Jeannie by the door, not paying attention to him. Then he spots the pistol on the floor. He goes for it.

LANDLORD

I'm not running a pawnshop!

Behind the door, Assassin goes for the pistol when Jeannie smacks him with the door.

Landlord reacts, hears the thump.

LANDLORD

What was that?

As the Assassin goes down, Jeannie grabs the pistol and hands it to Landlord. He takes a step back.

LANDLORD

Now Jeannie...

JEANNIE

(studies the pistol)  
What? It's worth at least two grand.

LANDLORD

Is it loaded?

JEANNIE

No, it's not loaded.

She points the gun upward and pulls the trigger. It FIRES and a bullet goes straight through the roof.

JEANNIE

Okay, now it's not loaded.

She hands the gun to Landlord.

LANDLORD

This isn't rent money!

(CONTINUED)

JEANNIE

Why should I pay rent when you  
haven't fixed the leak in the roof?

LANDLORD

What leak?

JEANNIE

(points up)

That one. I'm pretty sure that's  
going to leak.

LANDLORD

You are the worst.

Landlord walks away. Jeannie closes the door. Just then her  
cell phone rings. She glances at the caller ID, surprised.

JEANNIE

(answers)

Jerry? Me? The same. Nothing  
exciting... Miami? No, that sounds  
great...

Assassin starts to wake up. Jeannie kicks him, knocks him  
out.

JEANNIE

(into phone)

Oh that? A cockroach...

Yeah, I'm in!

Jeannie ends the call, all excited.

JEANNIE

Now, where's my bikini?