

STICKY

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Setting:

One small table with white tablecloth to the floor, two chairs.

A YOUNG MAN (JIM) and HIS WIFE (Emily) are just finishing dinner in a restaurant, dawdling over coffee.

AN OLDER MAN (PHIL) walks in, looks around for the party he is meeting.

JIM spots the older man first.

JIM

Phil?

(stands)

I was just talking about you. This is my wife, Emily.

PHIL

(puts out his hand, looks embarrassed)

Pleased to meet you, Emily.

(Phil looks around the restaurant.)

PHIL (cont'd)

I'm supposed to meet an old friend. Oh, there she is over there. How was your dinner?

JIM

Good. I can't get over it. I was just telling Emily about this great guy who works in the cubicle next to me and in you walk.

PHIL

Yeah, well not for long.

JIM

(doesn't understand)

Pardon?

PHIL

I won't be next to your cubicle long. I'm moving up to Howard's job Monday.

JIM

No kidding. Well, congratulations. I'm going to miss you.

PHIL

Oh, hell!

(Phil ducks down under the table.)

PHIL (cont'd)

Is that the old man who just walked in?

(Jim looks around. He sits down to whisper to Phil under the table...)

JIM

Yes, it is.

PHIL

(curses)

What about the blonde at the table near the fountain?

(Jim looks around, sees the blond.)

JIM

She's checking her watch.

PHIL

Good. She didn't see me walk in. Just keep on talking.

(Jim looks anxiously at his wife.)

JIM

(gulps)

Well, dear... tell me about your day?

EMILY

(leans in to whisper)

What's going on?

PHIL

(under the table; whispers back)

Play along.

JIM

(to his wife)

Play along... dear.

EMILY

I think I should leave.

PHIL

(under the table)

No.

(The waitress (older woman) comes up to the table.)

WAITRESS

Will there be anything else, sir?

JIM

No, thank you. Just the check.

WAITRESS

Anything for the man under the table?

PHIL

(under the table)

No!

(Waitress leaves.)

EMILY

(whispers)

What's going on?

PHIL

(under the table; whispers...)

Let me know when the old man goes to the john.

JIM

(whispers)

How do you know he will?

PHIL

He always goes to the john. Prostate.

JIM

Oh. Uh... Phil... an older woman just came in and is walking over to the boss. And... I'm afraid that the boss has spotted me.

PHIL

(under the table; whispers...)

Don't stand up.

(Too late. Jim is standing.)

JIM

He's coming over.

EMILY

(to the man under the table)

Tuck your feet in.

(The older man tucks his feet inside the table.)

JIM

Wait. He wasn't waving to me. He was waving to somebody at another table and he's gone over to say Hi to them.

PHIL

What's the woman look like who's meeting him?

JIM

Older. His age.

PHIL

Yeah. His wife. My mother-in-law.

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JIM and WIFE

(in unison)

What?