

Family Planning

Written by Ashley Nader

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[Two characters: Patty & Mike, newlyweds]

[Props: 1 x table, 2 x chairs, 1 x pen, 1 x note pad]

(Patty is busy making notes and drawing on her note pad. She looks at her watch.)

Patty: Mike! *(medium range in voice, gives a sigh and then does a scribble on her pad, starts tapping her fingers)* Michael Roger Maxwell!

Mike: *(walks onstage)* Easy, keep your knickers on.

Patty: I've been waiting for you for the last 5 minutes. Thank goodness it wasn't an emergency.

Mike: It's the semi finals of the soccer, it's an important match.

Patty: Of course it is! *(sarcasm)* If you do not give your full support to the team they might not win, your eyes glued to that TV is their only saving grace.

Mike: I don't expect you to understand. Can we do this later?

Patty: That's why we have the recording function on the decoder.

Mike: But then it's not live.

Patty: This is more important.

Mike: What's more important than the soccer?

Patty: Christmas lunch.

Mike: Christmas Lunch? It's August!

Patty: But if we don't plan now, it won't happen.

Mike: We can do it next year?

Patty: Don't be ridiculous. It will be a chance to show off the new house, we have enough space now to invite everyone.

Mike: Yeah, we do, but do we want to invite everyone? The fact that we used to live in a matchbox was quite a nice excuse not to invite everyone around.

Patty: You can be so boring sometimes. When was the last time we were all together?

Mike: *(begins to calculate)* Our wedding.

Patty: That long? (*shocked*) You mean I haven't seen your cousins in two years?

Mike: You're welcome.

Patty: They were well behaved and quite a lot of fun.

Mike: It's because they're Catholic, they know the wrath that will come upon them if they cause trouble in church.

Patty: The big man upstairs?

Mike: No, their mother. Aunt Carol would beat them black and blue. Put them in a bar and you'll be lucky if the walls are still up by the time they leave.

Patty: Our insurance is up to date, drama queen. I'm sure we'll survive.

Mike: Well then, I would limit it to one bottle of vodka.

Patty: So maybe I shouldn't invite cousin Jenny.

Mike: The one who has been sober for 6 months?

Patty: 5 months, 23 days and 6 hours. She's quite pedantic.

Mike: I remember she dressed up as cupid and chased everyone around the garden with rubber arrows.

Patty: It was Easter. Thankfully the kids were young enough to believe that it was the Easter Bunny's sidekick.

Mike: Well, we can't *not* invite her.

Patty: I know. We can invite her for Boxing day lunch, use the leftovers from the day before and put a lock on the liquor cabinet.

Mike: Good idea, we'll probably still be pickled from the day before and won't need to drink anyway.

Patty: Jenny is not as bad as your Nana June.

Mike: My Nana is a saint.