

Nancy / Brian

Okay, I'm going to bed.

He gives her a long hug.

Then he starts to arrange his bed on the sofa.

NANCY. Your father has something on the side.

BRIAN. What?

NANCY. I want to say that outright
Because I feel like I'm getting blamed about all this and it's not fair.

BRIAN. What do you mean he has something on the side?

NANCY. What do you think I mean? A woman.

BRIAN. What?

NANCY. A girlfriend.

He has a girlfriend on the side.

Carla.

BRIAN. Carla?

NANCY. Yes. She lives in Vista View.

BRIAN. Vista View?

NANCY. It's the set of homes near the highway.

BRIAN. Near the highway?

NANCY. Why do you keep repeating everything I'm saying?

BRIAN. I'm having trouble understanding.

NANCY. I'm only telling you

Because he's saying I'm the one who suggested a divorce,

Which is true, in a way, but he's hardly blameless in the situation.

BRIAN. How did this...

How did they...

NANCY. Stand-up comedy class, at the rec center here.

Apparently she thinks he's a "real hoot."

He parades her around the rec room, the cafeteria, that kind of thing.

She's much younger.

A real floozy, you know the type.

Very provocative.

BRIAN. Uh-huh.

NANCY. And I think they "sext."

That's what you call it, right?

Sexting? Sending pictures?

BRIAN. Okay, Mom? Mom?

I actually don't think I can have this conversation with you.

NANCY. You're a grown man, Brian.

BRIAN. What's that supposed to mean?

NANCY. You're old enough to contemplate

The fact that your father sexts.

BRIAN. No, I know that. I just don't want to.

NANCY. You've certainly put us through enough.

BRIAN. Right. Okay.

not fair.

?

(*A bit colder now.*) Mom. I'm sorry this is happening.
If it even is happening.
It's, it's, it must be very embarrassing for you.
NANCY. More for him, I would think.
Carla.
He's not funny. He's not.
BRIAN. Well, this is good information,
And now I'm going to get him to stop.
NANCY. I'm not taking him back.
BRIAN. What do you mean?
NANCY. I'm not taking him back.
I love him—I mean I must on some level—
But I don't think I'm in love with him.
BRIAN. What does that even mean?
Of course you're not "in love" with him anymore.
That's not a feeling that lasts.
NANCY. That's a very depressing attitude, Brian,
And I think it explains why you're alone.
BRIAN. I'm only trying to say that...
Even if you don't feel fully "in love" right now...
Whatever that even means.
I think you can honor the time,
The memory of the time when you were.
I know you were.
Once.
I know it.
Weren't you?
NANCY. I suppose I was.
BRIAN. Of course you were.
NANCY. With Hal Barrow.
BRIAN. Who?
NANCY. Hal Barrow.
BRIAN. Who is that?
NANCY. He was my high school sweetheart.

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BRIAN. What are you talking about?

NANCY. Then he went away to college,
And then he joined the Peace Corps to pay for it,
And then he got a full scholarship to law school
And then he became a lawyer in Chicago.

He was very smart.

He's dead now.

Stroke.

I saw that.

On Facebook.

BRIAN. And you, what, you still think about this, this, this...
Hal person?

NANCY. I've always thought about him.

Sometimes I wonder

If I only married your father to try to get Hal out of my heart.

BRIAN. What?

NANCY. I know, it was silly, really.

Everyone knows that doesn't work.

BRIAN. You only married Dad because of, of, of—

NANCY. Hal.

BRIAN. I don't care what his name was—

NANCY. I'm not saying it was the only reason, it was just part of it.

Anyway, people get married for much less.

BRIAN. Right.

NANCY. But whatever got you into it, you try.

You go on.

You try to make the best of it.

You divide things up over time.

He'll have the soup. I'll have the salad.

Unless there's fries.

I'll have fries over salad but if the choice is soup or salad I'll have
salad over soup.

I find soup depressing, don't you?

It's so wet.

I like to chew.

BRIAN. Mom.

What you're saying is, it's not making any sense.

NANCY. So, then the years went by and finally, I thought, if I have a child, maybe.

Maybe that will help. So I had children.

Ben, and then you because I wanted Ben to have a companion.

And also I thought maybe at some point something will click

And my heart will do the things it's supposed to be doing.

But my heart never did.

And so then I just sort of... Gave up.

BRIAN. Gave up on...

NANCY. On getting out of love with him.

I probably still love him right now.

Hard to say.