

Not Quite the Easy Way

written by

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An overprotective mom learns to practice what she preaches after she "stalks" her son.

EXT. DESERT -HIGH NOON

A middle-aged man in western attire, ANGRY BILL, walks up to a woman, Annie, 40s dressed similarly. Annie is tied up.

ANGRY BILL

Well what's it gonna be, Annie. The  
easy way or the hard way?!

Without an ounce of fear, she responds

ANNIE

Well, you know me, Bill. I ain't  
never do nothin' the easy way.

Interrupted by an ALARM both characters look confused

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM -EARLY MORNING

The same characters from the DREAM are asleep in bed.

Waking from her dream, MOM, mid 40s, fell asleep with GLASSES and a BOOK, *CATCHING LIARS,CHEATS, and FRAUDS* on her. She looks at her undisturbed sleeping husband, BILL, quickly shuts off the ALARM CLOCK, and rolls out of bed.

INT. KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

MOM walks sleepily, pours a cup of coffee, pulls out her JOURNAL and BIBLE, and sits down. She draws in her journal artistically: "Proverbs 4:23 Guard your heart, for out of it spring the issues of life"

MOM closes the Bible and goes to wake up her teenage son, CHRIS, 17.

INT. CHRIS' ROOM -MORNING

Mom walks through Chris' room and notices his BIBLE.

MOM

(talking to herself)  
Bible! Hmmm...lets put you here.

She strategically places it near his ALARM CLOCK which isn't disturbing him and notices his open LAPTOP in his bed.

An ad with an unrealistically beautiful woman scantily dressed flashes a button "chat now".

MOM (CONT'D)  
Christopher!! What is that?!

Chris jumps out of bed as if in danger. The Bible gets knocked to the floor.

CHRIS  
What?! Spider?

MOM  
No. This

She dramatically points to the laptop.

CHRIS  
Seriously?! It's an ad.

MOM  
And what is it doing on your computer?

CHRIS  
I don't know, Mom, trying to seduce me.

MOM  
This is serious.

CHRIS  
Mom. I was sleeping.

MOM  
Things like this have a way of getting in and wrecking your life.

CHRIS  
Ok, mom. Getting ready for school now.

He gently guides his mother out of the room and partially closes his door. She peeks through the crack to see him close the laptop. She breathes a sigh of relief.

INT. CHRIS' ROOM - LATER

Chris is dressed and ready to go. He reaches for his Bible. It's not where he left it. He puzzled looks all over his room searching. Finally discovers it on the floor by the bed. He sits down to read.

A SHORT TIME LATER

Chris closes his Bible and MOM walks in.

MOM  
Hey you ready for school?

CHRIS  
Yep. Can I drive myself today?

MOM  
Of course

Chris looks surprised.

CHRIS  
Thanks, Mom. Good job.

INT. DOORWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Chris grabs his car keys and heads out the door. After he walks out Mom calls out to her husband.

MOM  
Honey, I'll be right back.

Mom grabs her keys and rushes out the door.

INT. MINI VAN - CONTINUOUS

Mom follows a couple cars behind Chris' car and comically tries to be unseen. Other parents honk and wave as she nears school. Chris doesn't seem to notice.

INT. HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Mom walks back into the house and hangs her keys. Her husband, BILL is eating breakfast with GRACIE, 4.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Mom walks into the kitchen and gives Gracie a kiss.

GRACIE  
Hi, Mommy.

BILL  
Where did you go?

MOM  
Oh, you know, just taking Chris to school.

BILL  
I thought you were going to let him  
go it alone today.

MOM  
He drove alone.

BILL  
But you???

MOM  
Just made sure he arrived safely.

Bill looks at her acknowledging the failed attempt.

BILL  
Well, Gracie and I are off.

Mom scoops up Gracie and gives Eskimo kisses.

MOM  
Have a great day at school today.

Mom puts her down and Gracie and Dad head out the front door.

Scenes of Mom's day start. She wipes the counters. She checks her email on her phone.

MOM (CONT'D)  
What? Your kidding me.

She clicks a link. Words on the screen "an hour later"

A KNOCK at the door startles her. She puts her phone down.

MOM (CONT'D)  
You can't trust anyone anymore.

INT. DOORWAY - CONTINUOUS

She opens to a DELIVERY DRIVER asking for a signature. She looks at him suspiciously, signs for her package, and goes back inside.

INT. LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

She folds laundry and gets a child abduction ALERT on her phone. Follows a link. Hops on Social Media to make a post about it, gets distracted.

MOM  
It's too much. I just can't.

Mom tosses her phone onto the couch.

MOM (CONT'D)  
Wait I need my phone.

Mom dives after her phone then starts a WALL PILATES VIDEO on her phone.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM WALL - MOMENTS LATER

Mom is on the floor on her back, feet on the wall lifting her core in an uncomfortable stretch when a friend, JILL, calls.

JILL  
(speakerphone)  
Are you busy?

Mom is still attempting impossible core exercises.

MOM  
(forced)  
Nope.

JILL  
Did you hear about the Wilson's son? He's been sneaking out! Just got caught with some girl that's older than him.

Mom can't hold the difficult pose a second longer and falls to the ground

MOM  
(groans)

JILL  
I know, right?! You just can't trust people anymore. Listen, I gotta go call Linda. Any prayer requests?

MOM  
No.

Click. Jill hangs up abruptly. Mom drags herself off the floor and goes back to cleaning.

INT. CHRIS' ROOM - AFTERNOON

MOM vacuums in Chris' room. She sees the laptop. She vacuums with a worried expression on her face imagining the worst.

She gets an idea and goes and writes out Prov 4:23 on a sticky note and places it inside his laptop. She makes more notes and places them in strategic places all over the house.

INT. BATHROOM - LATER

As she's closing the mirror to the bathroom, Chris gets home.

MOM

Oh! Hi honey, you startled me.  
School got out early today! You  
drove home? Alone?

CHRIS

Yeah??

MOM

Just like you drove yourself this  
morning! Going to start dinner.

She walks away quickly.

CHRIS.

Ok, hopping in the shower.

Mom leaves and we hear the shower turn on.

INT. KITCHEN -A LITTLE LATER

Mom places food in the oven and closes it. She notices Chris' backpack in the other room.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Mom goes and picks up Chris's backpack and sees his phone.  
She picks it up and it starts RINGING in her hands.

She drops it, startled, and when she picks it up again,  
notices the name on the screen: "DELILAH"

MOM pictures while audience sees a shot of the girl from the  
dating ad. Mom screams!

MOM

Nooooooooo!!!!

Mom falls to the ground.

MOM (CONT'D)  
He's only a child. I've got to do something.

Mom hears the shower turn off and looks around frantically. She heads to the kitchen.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Quickly she drops Chris' phone into a canister of flour and closes the lid. She rushes over to the table and sits down. She writes out more sticky notes.

CHRIS  
Mom, are you ok? I heard a scream.

MOM  
(over the top fake)  
Oh, yes. I am fine.

CHRIS  
Can you call me real quick? I can't find my phone.

MOM  
Oh, I'm right in the middle of something, Honey.

Suddenly his phone rings in the distance. Chris looks at her puzzled. He searches around.

CHRIS  
Can I borrow your phone real quick?

Chris picks up her phone, dials, and walks away.

CHRIS (CONT'D)  
Oh, hey. Sorry. Can't find my phone.

Chris walks into his room and closes the door.

INT. OUTSIDE CHRIS' DOOR - CONTINUOUS

Mom walks up to the door and tries to listen in. She can't quite hear what they are saying.

Moments later she is back with plastic straws which she puts together as a makeshift periscope. She lays on the floor and attempts to feed it under the door when her husband walks in.



BILL

Hi, Honey.

Mom is startled. And stares up at Bill.

MOM

I have a very good reason for this.

Mom gets up, knocks on the door, and walks into Chris' room.

INT. CHRIS' ROOM - CONTINUOUS

MOM

Honey, Dad and Gracie are home.  
Time to eat.

Chris gives the thumbs up to Mom. To the person on the phone

CHRIS

Seriously? You don't mind? Thank  
you! I'll see you tonight.

He hangs up. Mom is still standing there.

MOM

Tonight?

CHRIS

Me and some friends planned to get  
together to study at John's.

MOM

You need a ride?

CHRIS

Nope

INT. LIVING ROOM - LATER

After dinner, Chris heads out the front door.

DAD

Have a great time.

MOM

(to her husband)  
A great time, studying?

CHRIS

You guys mind if I get in a little  
late tonight? I wanted to see a  
movie after.

DAD  
No problem

MOM  
What movie?

Chris is already gone.

INT. KITCHEN - LATER

Mom cleans up after dinner and remembers the phone.

MOM  
Oh, no.

Mom pulls the phone out of the flour and sees a text from PETER a friend of Chris'. She looks around to make sure no one is watching and then opens the text. It reads, "Told you she wouldn't figure it out."

She is horrified. She bursts into the room where her husband plays a BOARD GAME with Gracie.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

MOM  
Bill. This is the last straw.

She has lost all good sense by this point.

BILL  
It wasn't me. Gracie ate the last cookie.

MOM  
I'm talking about this.

She shows him the phone.

BILL  
Oh, Chris forgot his phone and it's covered in???

MOM  
No. It's a text he got from Peter that says, "told you she wouldn't figure it out."

BILL  
Okay.

MOM

Can't you see what's happening? We are losing our son.

BILL

That's a leap.

Right then, Chris walks in.

MOM

Christopher! I found your phone and your text from Peter.

She hands Chris his phone and after reading the text he says

CHRIS

Mom, we need to talk. Dad. Gracie

Dad and Gracie stop playing and somberly face mom. Mom stands with arms crossed.

MOM

Exactly what didn't he think I would figure out?

CHRIS

It was a joke about another friend.

MOM

(not convinced)  
Oh, really?

CHRIS

Mom, you are out of control.

MOM

(scoffing)  
This is not about me.

BILL

Actually it is. Honey, this is an intervention...for you.

Mom motions to herself. She looks around at everyone.

MOM

Are you guys serious?! I'm not the one meeting girls online.

CHRIS

What?

MOM

Exactly. I know about Delilah.

CHRIS  
Delilah?

MOM  
Yes. The girl from the internet ad.

CHRIS  
Mom. This is exactly what I'm  
talking about. You're irrational.

Mom looks around starting to break.

GRACIE  
Mommy, this is a safe space.

MOM  
(desperate)  
Okay. Then who is Delilah?

CHRIS  
A girl helping me with math class.

Mom laughs out loud.

MOM  
"Delilah's" are not math nerds.

CHRIS  
Ok, mom. That's a bit judgy. You  
have been reading way too many  
crime books and kidnap stories and  
now, you think you can't trust  
anyone.

Mom is taken aback by this sudden awareness and rationale.

GRACIE  
Yes, Mommy, Social media is  
terrible.

CHRIS  
Oh, and the sticky notes.

MOM  
You noticed the notes?

CHRIS  
Mom.

Camera pans to sticky notes covering the room.

MOM  
I'm just trying to do what the  
Bible says.

CHRIS  
Stalk your kid?

MOM  
NO, I'm guarding your heart.

CHRIS  
I think we just found out what the  
problem is.

Mom looks around at everyone. And the sticky notes.

MOM  
I guess I might need to guard my  
own heart.

A knock at the door.

CHRIS  
There's my ride for the movies.

Chris opens the door to a short nerdy girl in glasses and a  
turtleneck.

CHRIS (CONT'D)  
Mom and Dad, this is Delilah.

Mom can't hold back a short gasp of laughter.

MOM  
Oh pardon me. Delilah!! You are a  
gem. Have fun you guys.

Mom motions to her own heart and waves goodbye.

Screen goes dark and words come up, "Later while sleeping"

CUT TO:

EXT. DESERT - HIGH NOON -DREAM

Dream resumes where it ended. Annie is tied up and looks up  
at Angry Bill. She loosens her ropes and steps out

ANNIE  
Actually, Bill, I'll take the easy  
way.

ANGRY BILL  
It ain't gonna be that easy, Annie.

ANNIE  
I know, but I gotta try.

