

BABYSITTER

A man waits. a doorbell

Graham I'll get it [*he goes to the door*]

Hello Tom, come on in

Tom Hello Mr Emmers. It's cold tonight isn't it? [*Tom enters, carrying toys etc*]

Graham's wife, susan enters from upstairs

Susan Hello Tom

Tom Hello Mrs Emmers. It's cold tonight isn't it?

Susan Yes it is getting colder

Tom (TO SUSAN) They all tucked up then?

S Um...

Tom Hope they won't be waking up. I've got Dr No (HOLDS UP video). Have you seen it Mr Emmers?

G Yes

T Is it good?

G Yes. Quite gory

T Oh don't worry, I'll turn it straight off if the children come downstairs

G Yes. About the children.

T So, you off somewhere nice?

S Tom...

T Have you been to that new Thai place on Lower Road? The Masons went last Thursday. Said it was super. Think it was the Masons. Could have been the Harveys on Tuesday. I'm working for so many families now, I lose track.

G Tom, why don't you sit down

T What time you off then?

G Please Tom. Sit down

T OK (HE SITS DOWN) There we go. Sat down

G Thank-you (PAUSE). Susan...

BABYSITTER

S Now Tom, you've babysat for us for quite a few years now,
and you've always been reliable, punctual and trustworthy

T Thank-you Mrs Emmers

G In fact Tom you're probably the best babysitter we've ever
used

T I am the best

S Yes

T I am. It's a vocation Mrs Emmers. I'm not some teenage girl
who just does it to make money for Busted CDs. I'm 42. I
could make much more money doing other things, but I don't
because this is what the universe has called me to do.

G Yes, Tom, absolutely. And the "universe" is bang to rights.
You've a real gifting for it.

T So what's the problem? Have the children said something bad
about me?

S No Tom. The children have never said a bad word about you

T Good, because they are the most important consideration

G The thing is Tom, they have never said a good word about you
either

T Oh?

G In fact Tom they have never said anything about you
whatsoever

T Really? How come?

S Because, Tom (BEAT) we don't have any children

T What?

S We don't have any children Tom

T Of course you do. They are upstairs

G No Tom, they are not upstairs. We have never had any children

T I don't understand

S It was a joke, a practical joke, that has gone...a bit too far

T What?

BABYSITTER

G When you first came round and asked us if we wanted any babysitting doing, we thought it would be ... funny ... to say yes

T Funny?

S Yes, funny. We thought it would be amusing to book a babysitter even though we didn't have any children.

G You did such a good job we decided to ask you back the following week... and the one after that... and before long we didn't have the heart to tell you the truth

T Oh my goodness

S We're very sorry Tom, it was a mean trick

T This is awful!

G We feel dreadful about it Tom. Everybody does

T Everybody? What do you mean everybody?

S Everybody else on the estate that uses you

T What's it got to do with them?

G Tom. None of them have any children either

S Every single family you babysit for is childless

T No. You're wrong. What about the Clarkes?

G What about the Clarkes?

T They have a two-year-old

G Tom. Bernard and Maude are in their mid-80s

T So

G How could Maude possibly have a two-year-old son?

T An angel came to her in the night. After a game of bridge

S She made that up

T What! That's sinful. No, worse than sinful. It's evil

G (GETTING ANGRY) Now steady on Tom. We're not entirely to blame here. Don't you think you should have worked some of this out

BABYSITTER

S (TRYING TO CALM HIM) Graham

T What do you mean?

G What did Maude tell you her baby was called?

T Jesus

G Didn't that make you suspicious?

T No. Lots of babies are called Jesus

G Not in Leatherhead they're not

T Well what about Mr Harvey?

G What about Mr Harvey?

T His partner's pregnant with their second. How do you explain that?

S Tom. What's the name of Mr Harvey's partner?

T Gary

S Yes, that's right Tom, Gary.

T So

S Gary is a man Tom. They're homosexual

T So how come he is pregnant?

G He isn't pregnant Tom, he's fat. If he had been pregnant when you first met him he would have been expecting a baby for nearly 2 years

T That's not impossible, what about elephants. They are pregnant for nearly two years

G Tom are you seriously suggesting that Mr Harvey's gay partner, Gary, may be pregnant with a baby elephant?

T It could happen

G Oh for goodness sake

S Listen Tom. It has been a rotten thing to do for all this time and we feel really bad about it. If you can accept it, we have got you a gift to apologise and say 'no more lies'.

T: A gift? What kind of gift?

BABYSITTER

S Graham, do you want to go and get it
graham exits. awkward pause

T How's the new job going Mrs Emmers?

S Oh, very well thank-you Tom. I'm enjoying it

T It must be amazing. Being a fighter pilot

S It's pretty exciting

T Has Mr Emmers been playing any more snooker with Robert Mugabe

S The odd frame

T Is it the hall down by his unicorn farm?

S That's right. [Graham re-enters with a clear, empty plastic bag]
Ah Graham

G Here you go Tom. This is our way of saying sorry. It's a space helmet. Why don't you try it on.

TOM BEGINS TO PUT ON THE HELMET
[blackout – tom's PROBABLY]