

SNEAKY

Written by

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FADE IN:

INT. BRIGHT LIVING ROOM - MORNING

Melanie sits on a large sofa drinking coffee, reading the newspaper. A big orange cat lolls beside her, purring. The sun shines in through the large windows and the room is bright and warm.

Janice spins into the room with a flourish.

JANICE

Hi mum. Whatcha dooooin'?

MELANIE

Oh just having a relax before starting the day. I have to take grandad to his doctor appointment, pick up the dry cleaning, and then go across town to Auntie Renee's to water her plants and feed Charlie. She'll be gone another week, I think. How about you, Honey?

JANICE

I dunno. Marcie and Angel thought it might be fun to see a movie. I don't suppose you'd lend me 20 bucks, would you? I've already blown my allowance for the month.

Janice sits down on the edge of the sofa and shrugs.

MELANIE

Well now, that depends ...

JANICE

On what? ... like I don't already know ...

MELANIE

... on whether or not you have your chores done - is your room clean?

JANICE

Yes.

MELANIE

Dishwasher empty?

JANICE

Yup yup.

MELANIE

Cat box cleaned? It's your week.

JANICE

Mo-ommmmma! Ewww!

MELANIE

I was really rooting for you, kid.
Any homework?

Melanie smiles fondly at her daughter - the love is plain on her face.

JANICE

Crap! I forgot I have a bunch of math to do.

MELANIE

Well it's early yet - the sooner you get at it the sooner you can go, right?

Janice grimaces, and pulls herself up to go off and do the chores she needs to do. She casts a sneaky, sideways glance at her mother before leaving the room.

INT. BRIGHT CLEAN KITCHEN - MID MORNING

Janice bounces into the kitchen where Melanie is just finishing up the breakfast dishes and putting the kitchen right.

JANICE

All done!

MELANIE

That was fast - sure you did ALL your math?

JANICE

I didn't have that much to do - and I need to ask about a couple of the questions on Monday - I don't get them.

MELANIE

Well all right then - well done!

Melanie reaches into her purse that is sitting on the counter and gives Janice \$25.

MELANIE (CONT'D)
(smiling)
Five bonus bucks for speed. Home by
ten, please.

JANICE
Thanks, mum! See you later.

Janice hugs Melanie quickly and hurries out the door. Melanie watches her daughter go, smiling proudly.

FADE TO:

INT. DIM ENTRY FOYER - EARLY EVENING

Melanie comes in the door carrying dry cleaning. She puts her keys on a table, and hangs the dry cleaning in a side closet.

The cat box is on the floor in the closet. Melanie notices that there is more litter in the cat box than usual. A quick examination reveals that Janice didn't actually clean it. Melanie raises an eyebrow in displeasure. She sighs, hangs up her coat and goes upstairs to change clothes.

INT. UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - EARLY EVENING

Melanie glances into Janice's room as she walks past the door, stops abruptly and backs up a step.

INT. JANICE'S ROOM - EARLY EVENING

Melanie walks into the room toward Janice's desk - there is math homework laying open. She looks suspiciously around and sees a telltale sock peeking out from the closet door.

Eyebrows raised in a look of concern, Melanie walks across the room and opens the closet door - to be greeted by a tall pile of Janice's things falling out of the closet and scattering across the carpet. She stands open-mouthed and disbelieving at first; and then she's angry.

MELANIE
(loudly)
Fifteen! She's FIFTEEN!!!

Melanie fumes out of the room, realizing she has been duped by her 15 year-old daughter.

FADE TO:

INT. ENTRY FOYER, LIGHTS ON - 10:05 PM

Janice comes in the door carrying a partial bag of popcorn from the movie theatre. She looks up, surprised.

We see Melanie's arm insistently holding out the cat box cleaning scoop.

Janice realizes she's been found out and looks properly guilty.

FADE OUT.