

MRS STOCKMAN

(Whispering) I don't know. It's probably just a donation for the Academy's outdoor classroom or the bird watching equipment. Uncle Peter was just here. He wanted to talk to you. Did something happen last night that you didn't tell me?

PETRA

No. You read what I was going to say. I just changed it ... a little. *(Petra smiles and then goes to join the others.)*

Enter Petra
Start
(MRS STOCKMAN goes to the table to clear dishes and then notices the book bags and shoes in the doorway and is a bit annoyed)

HOVSTAD

Petra, how've you been? What's going on? Tell us about the School Board meeting last night.

PETRA

Oh ... later ... it's all good.

HOVSTAD

So, I have another favor to ask. I was wondering if you could look over another book review. I think it would interest you.

PETRA

Sure, send it to me. I guess you liked my comments on the last one.

CAPTAIN.

Are you just getting off work? Doesn't school get out at three?

PETRA

(Sipping her wine) 2:45 but that doesn't mean teachers do. I had two meetings, and I had to prep for tomorrow. I also need to take night classes. There's always so much work and everyone expects it to be "poof" done.

MRS STOCKMAN

(Enters with the book bags and sets them down by PETRA) Oh, like being me ... laundry, dinner, dishes "poof" done. Oh, I don't know how you carry these bags around. *(She goes back to the kitchen)*

CAPTAIN.

I don't understand why there is so much work when you're just teaching 5th graders.

PETRA

That's the problem no one does. But I love it ... but it's exhausting.

EILIF

(Still playing a video game) You've been cursed.

PETRA

Cursed?

EILIF

We have to do hard work to make up for our sins. Women are cursed more ... that's why it hurts when you have a baby.

PETRA

What! Where did you hear that?

EILIF

Sunday school. Adam and Eve. We had to color a picture of them being punished in the Garden of Eden and the teacher said that.

PETRA

That's not true!

EILIF

She gave us new colored pencils and she didn't like my picture because I colored the snake like a rainbow snake. She said I should have colored it black to show it was evil like a real snake. She said rainbows are beautiful and a sign of God's love and snakes aren't.

PETRA

Oh God! You know, in some cultures snakes are considered good.

EILIF

(His game ends and he turns around to look at Petra) The rainbow snake is a real snake. It's considered the most beautiful snake in America. Snakes are God's creatures too.

PETRA

Actually, that was a very creative choice. Sometimes evil lurks behind beauty. And if she didn't want a colorful snake, she shouldn't have given you a choice of colors.

BILL

I would have colored mine black with red eyes and fangs, *hissss*.

CAPTAIN

I would have colored mine like a Diamond Back. They're easy to identify. But, was it a snake? I thought it was a serpent.

MRS STOCKMAN

(Goes to the den) Okay, Eilif time to do your homework. *(Goes to the TV and puts away the video stuff)*

HOVSTAD

Eilif, do you want to work hard?

EILIF

I don't know. It depends what I'm working on.

HOVSTAD

What do you want to do when you grow up?

EILIF

Be an actor and be in a superhero movie.

CAPTAIN

Ah, fight for truth, justice, and the American way. I used to like superhero movies too, but I got bored because you always know who wins in the end.

EILIF

That's what I like about them. In real life evil wins.

PETRA

Oh no.

BILL

As an actor, you might have to kiss a boy and ...

MRS STOCKMAN

Okay, okay homework time. Please, let's go, now.

HOVSTAD

Oh, I was enjoying our conversation.

CAPTAIN

I was enjoying his video game.

MRS STOCKMAN

(Catches Captain chewing on something) Did you just eat one of those? *(She points to a dish)*

CAPTAIN

Yep. They are tasteless but crunchy.

MRS STOCKMAN

Those are dog treats. Oh gosh ... don't worry. They are all-natural. Eilif, give Thor a treat. He has been so good and quiet. Now, please c'mon upstairs! (*Eilif smiles at Cap and runs to the exit*)

CAPTAIN

(*He takes a sip from his stout*) They just need salt. Katrina, c'mon ... they look like crackers. Why are they in a nice bowl like that?

~~—————~~ Stop

PETRA

Mom, wow! Mom, how can you let them go to that Sunday school? What lesson did he learn? Lost in the translation. Evil won. That's why we have so much misogyny in the world. It's all Eve's fault. Eve made Adam do it. What if Eve just said, "Fuck off," to the devil.

MRS STOCKMAN

Petra!

HOVSTAD

Oh, that word is everywhere, even in the kid's music now.

PETRA

John Lennon used it in his lyrics. It's not new.

CAPTAIN

Imagine that!

PETRA

Well, I guess it's better to bring Eilif to Uncle Peter's church than to the Catholic Church anymore. You know I've found around here that other Christians view Catholics as cuckoo. But back east people just thought we were cuckoo for being Californians.

CAPTAIN

You flew the coop.

PETRA

(*She smiles*) You know, the real original sin is when men began believing they were superior to women ... the greatest injustice ...