

WENDY, GARY, MOM, DAD, CB  
CHIP, KAREN

MOM:

Well, Wendy...? You owe us an explanation.

DAD:

Yeah, Wendy. Let's hear it.

CHIP:

I'm curious myself... having just proposed and all.

*Wendy is cornered. She takes a beat, then snaps. All the angst that she's bottled up for years all comes gushing out. For the first time she raises her voice.*

START

WENDY:

ALL RIGHT! ALL RIGHT! GARY AND I ARE  
DIVORCED!

*Mom gasps again. Dad and Karen are surprised. Chip is relieved.*

WENDY:

I'm sorry but we are.

GARY:

*(still loopy)* I keep telling you, Wendy, you can't keep lying. By God, you've got to tell 'em.

WENDY:

I just did!

GARY:

Oh. Good for you. How'd they take it?

MOM:

But why?

DAD:

Yeah, what did you do?

**WENDY:**

Me?! Why is it always me, Dad? Y'know, you're a big reason I'm so screwed up!

**DAD:**

Me?!

**WENDY:**

Oh, don't act surprised. You pick on me. You belittle me. You wouldn't let me go to Chuck E. Cheese when they had that grand opening and all the other kids got to go. So what if the pizza tastes like drywall? That wasn't the point. There was this ball pit thing that looked really fun and the whole second grade went but me.

*Gary is impressed Wendy finally is letting it out.*

**GARY:**

Woot woot! Look at you.

**WENDY:**

Shut up.

**GARY:**

*(cheerful)* Okay.

**DAD:**

I've never belittled you. Now stop being a whiny brat.

**WENDY:**

Oh, I haven't even begun. You do stupid things like lock yourself in my room for five months. Who does that who's not nuts? You're a grown man sleeping in a room with Johnny Depp posters on the wall and "Little Mermaid" sheets!

**DAD:**

(to Karen, downplaying) Looks like you're not the only one with "Daddy Issues."

**WENDY:**

And from now on stay out of there. You have no respect for my Barbies or my Cabbage Patch kids!

**CHIP:**

This is a side of you I've never seen.

**GARY:**

No one has.

**MOM:**

Can we get back to the divorce, dear?

**WENDY:**

Oh yes. The divorce. The shameful mortifying divorce—my ticket to eternal damnation. Or, as I like to call it, just another legal fee. In this case I was an idiot. I was so afraid to tell you that I paid Gary \$5,000 to pretend to still be my husband. Like you would throw yourself in front of the Pope mobile or something and it would all be my fault. I was saving that money to buy exotic fish!

**DAD:**

Brine Shrimp are exotic fish.

**WENDY:**

No, they're not! They're ants that swim!

**MOM:**

Why in the world would I react so drastically?

**WENDY:**

Because you haven't been miserable for just fifteen

years. You've been miserable for like thirty!

**GARY:**

Wow! Biggest secret so far.

**MOM:**

Shut up.

**GARY:**

*(cheerful)* Okay.

**WENDY:**

*(to Mom)* And if you're willing to suffer that long, then what a crushing disappointment I would be if I wasn't willing to do the same.

*Mom hugs her.*

**MOM:**

Oh, sweetie, it breaks my heart that you feel that way.

**WENDY:**

Thank you.

**MOM:**

Of course. Of course.

**WENDY:**

Then you're okay with it?

**MOM:**

God no. Not at all. But I'd still love you.

*Wendy SCREAMS in frustration.*

**GARY:**

*(wistful)* Where was that sound when we were married?

**WENDY:**

Do you all know what a burden this has been on me growing up? You two always fighting and me feeling I had to be the calm one, the rational one, the one who kept things from getting out of control. Well, I hated it! I've been taking Metamucil since I was eight!

**MOM:**

Honey, I... I feel awful.

**WENDY:**

*(reassuring)* Don't.

**MOM:**

I do. Is there anything we could do to begin to make it up to you?

**WENDY:**

I WANT A SISTER!

**KAREN:**

You have me.

**WENDY:**

I WANT A SISTER WHO'S NOT SMOKING HOT!

**KAREN:**

Oh.

**MOM:**

If there was any way without involving your father I'd do it in a second.

**WENDY:**

That's okay, Mom. And Karen, I'm sorry. I love you. And I realize it's not your fault. We all have

our crosses to bear, and yours just happens to be... insane beauty. But when I see you I have real mixed emotions because you've been such a good friend, but now that I'm single I'm thrilled you're in Africa! Oh, that was a terrible thing to say. *(to the others)* But all the other terrible things I said I MEANT!

**KAREN:**

No, no. I totally understand. And listen, the real reason I didn't become a Mean Girl is that I hated those stuck up prigs and wanted to be more like you.

**WENDY:**

Oh now I really feel terrible. But also great.

**CHIP:**

You don't have to be single, y'know?

**WENDY:**

Really, Chip? This is what you want? A raving crazy person who just blurts out whatever the hell she feels? Because this is me now. Badass and taking names!

**CHIP:**

Well... I—

**WENDY:**

And you have to stop calling me twenty times a day and sending me poetry. It's a very sweet gesture but a little creepy, and your poems, although lovely, all have mismatched motifs.

**CHIP:**

Okay, um... so not exactly a "yes" on the proposal.

**WENDY:**

I'm sorry. I just need time to think about it.

**CHIP:**

Right. And now, so do I. I thought you'd appreciate the attention. You'd see that no one could love you more, because no one in this jaded day and age would care enough to call his precious twenty times a day.

**KAREN:**

Seven guys are doing it to me now.

**END**

**GARY:**

What the heck is a "mismatched motif"?

**DAD:**

It's when the metaphors clash against the theme.

**WENDY:**

Wait a minute. How do you know that?

**DAD:**

When you're stuck in a room for five months you watch lots of "Jeopardy"!

**MOM:**

*(to Wendy)* You still haven't told us why you and Gary got divorced.

**WENDY:**

Y'know why? Because you'll take Gary's side. You always take Gary's side.

**MOM:**

That's not true.

**GARY:**

It is. You love me.