

Exasperated Fondness

By

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FADE IN

INT. LIVING ROOM. NIGHT.

The room is impeccable, and yet DAN (45) is hastily trying to sweep, mop and hoover at the same time.

He keeps glancing at the clock, getting worried.

DAN

Suze, how's that pasta coming?

Dan's teenage daughter, Suzie (17) walks out of the kitchen, rolling her eyes.

SUZIE

It would be a lot better if it were you making it instead. Why do I have to cook your surprise to Mum?

DAN

Because I'm not telling her you got back late. Don't let it burn.

Suzie sighs but walks back into the kitchen, jumping out of the way as her younger brother MIKE (8) runs through in his pyjamas, sliding along the newly washed floor.

MIKE

You missed a bit!

DAN

(looking around)
Where?

MIKE

In your room! There's petals all over your bed. So I put them in the bin for you.

DAN

What? No, they were a surprise for Mum!

MIKE

Why would she want flowers on your bed?

SUZIE

(coming out of the kitchen again)
Yeah, Dad - why?

(CONTINUED)

She smirks and watches as their father flounders.

DAN
Never mind, Mikey. Are you nearly
ready for bed?

MIKE
Why are you cleaning and making
surprises?

DAN
It's Valentine's Day.

MIKE
Oh. Is that when you have to be
really nice to Mummy?

DAN
I'm always nice to Mummy.

MIKE
She told me you were mean to her
when you first met.

The living room door opens and GAIL (45) smiles as she walks
in on the scene.

GAIL
Yes, Dan, if I recall, you said
something along the lines of, "You
know, you don't sweat much for a
fat bird."

Suzie laughs and shakes her head, taking Mike into the
kitchen.

DAN
I got nervous.

He realises she's smiling slightly and shakes his head.

DAN (CONT'D)
Happy Valentines Day.

GAIL
Happy Valentines Day.

They kiss.

FADE OUT