

The Provider

Cabria Brown

INT.LIVING ROOM-EARLY NIGHT

ARTHUR, a mid-thirties man, middle class, has long shaggy hair that is overdue of a haircut, wearing a business casual button up with grey slacks and close toed shoes that are too tight for him. Arthur walks through his front door and locks the door behind and sighs.

JUSTINE, a sixteen year old girl, who wears her high school basketball jersey, and jeans. Justine is the neighbor's teenage daughter babysits his children while Arthur is at work.

Justine walks over to the front door startling Arthur.

JUSTINE

Hey Art! How was work? and yes, the kids are already in bed asleep.

ARTHUR

(shocked)

Ooh Hey Justine.. sorry today was a looonnnng today. But you are a god sent, thank you.Work was.. exhausting as usual.

Arthur puts his suitcase on the ground and puts his keys on the kitchen counter then he plops on his couch in the living room to rest.

JUSTINE

Of course Art, working with those two are actually pretty good distraction. Especially because, I do have a game coming up and I've been in my head way too much lately.

Arthur nodded in agreement placing his fist on his cheek, but struggles to really comprehend as he begins to yawn.

JUSTINE

(jokingly)

Damn Art, work really got you this time, huh? Remember last time when you passed out in your car garage and I thought you were missing?

BEAT

We called the police and everything, just to find out you were here the whole time?

Justine laughs out loud.

ARTHUR

Yeah, I woke up to a bright ass flashlight in eyes and the police noise of the police banging on my car window. They thought I was doing a suicide attempt..

Arthur shakes his head and smirks to himself.

ARTHUR(CONT')

Yeah, that's the last time I park in my garage. I swear I didn't hear you calling my phone.. or anyone calling me.

BEAT

Oof, sorry Justine. How rude of me? Listen, thank you again. Let me give you your pay before I begin to dose off.

Arthur checks his pockets for his wallet and opens it.

ARTHUR

Ahh shucks, could I give the rest to your old man when I see him? I'm a bit short because of gas and groceries.

BEAT

I-I promise.

Arthur hands Justine a crumbled twenty dollar bill.

JUSTINE

(jokingly)

Yeah, no worries Art. Just make sure you tell my dad to give it to my this time. Because two weeks ago, he SWORE on my pet fish, Bubbles life, he never got it from you.

ARTHUR

(nervously)

Oh, really? That jokester. Yeah I'll em'..

Justine walks to the other couch in the living room to grab

her backpack and waves Arthur goodbye as she leaves the house.

JUSTINE

Alrighty! Thanks, Art I'll see you Friday!

ARTHUR

Have a great night!

The door shuts.

Arthur unbuckles his belt and unbuttons his shirt as he sinks into the couch closing his eyes only to be interrupted.

Milo, Arthur's five-year old son and a spitting image of his father tugs on his pant leg wearing Buzz Light-year pajamas.

Arthur opens his eyes and looks down.

ARTHUR

Yes? Milo?.. What happened bud?

MILO

Dad.. I had another nightmare.

ARTHUR

Aweee.. bud I thought we talked about being a big boy and how we can defeat our bad dreams?

Arthur picks up Milo to put him in his lap.

MILO

Yeah.. I told myself that before I bed. I said " I'm a big boy, nightmares beware", just like we practiced...

BEAT

It's just.. it was about Mom again.

Arthur looks at his wedding ring with sorrow as he is holding Milo in his lap.

MILO(CONT')

Dad, she looked so sad and I tried to hug her, but-but she disappeared when I walked up to her. I miss her, when will she be coming back?

ARTHUR

Hey bud.. remember we talked about Heaven?

MILO

Uhh.. yeah, it is a place where people who when their souls need a rest and they get to play with the clouds.

ARTHUR

Yes, exactly bud. That's where Mom is, so she can't really come back, but she never actually left. She is here watching us, and watching you.

BEAT

ARTHUR(CONT')

I can hear her now saying..

Arthur fixes his posture and puts a finger up as he talks mimicking his wife

"Arty, you better get my kids in that bed, my show is on and I already read them TWO bedtime stories"

Milo laughs.

MILO

Yeah, I guess I just miss her. Sometimes I wish I could go to heaven and visit her? Maybe that's why he is in my dreams, because she misses me?

ARTHUR

Bud.. it doesn't really work that way, but since Mom is visiting you in your dreams. I do think she does miss and is thinking of you. She is probably sad that she isn't able to see hug you too.

ARTHUR(CONT')

How about next time when Mom bops up in your dream, you ask her if she misses you and maybe she'll talk you and give you an even bigger HUG.. LIKE THIS!

Arthur wraps his arms around Milo and gives him a big

squeeze.

Arthur and Milo both laugh together harmoniously.

ARTHUR
Know you the rule, Milo. After you TWO
bedtime stories..

MILO
..That means it's TOO late to be up.

ARTHUR
Exactly, now you run along and head to
bed before Mom shows up in my DREAM
and whacks me upside my head.

Milo giggles.

MILO
Okay.. Goodnight Dad. I love you.

ARTHUR
Goodnight Bud and I will love you
forever and ever.

Milo runs off to his bedroom.

Arthur puts his hand over his mouth then silently cries.

INT. ARTHUR'S BEDROOM MIDNIGHT

Arthur changes into a white T-shirt and walks over to his
computer desk to search for more job opportunities.

After a few minutes of research, Arthur stops and drops his
head on his keyboard in despair.

ARTHUR
I want to keep that promise, I owe to
her.

Arthur raises his head and looks down at his wedding ring and
rubs his left hand tenderly.

ARTHUR
I want to keep that promise, I owe to
her.

ARTHUR
It's just raising these two are way
harder than I thought it would be and

I'm barely making it.

Arthur sighs and looks at his computer to see an unknown website that he never seen before.

ARTHUR

Huh? How did I?

Arthur tries to get out of the website by clicking out of it, but his computer screen is locked in place.

ARTHUR

Did I get hacked? What even is this website?

Arthur scrolls down on the website to see posts of people speaking in emojis and posts of younger women on the website in the nude.

ARTHUR

Oh it's just porn, thank goodness. Did Pornhub get an update?

BEAT

ARTHUR(CONT')

I haven't watched any porn since before I was..

Arthur's eyes look at his wedding ring and bits his bottom lip.

ARTHUR

Maybe.. I should partake, I don't have work tomorrow anyway and maybe I need a break.

Arthur scrolls to find the categories and hovers over the videos.

Arthur sees a category that caught his eye, EBONY and begins to watch a video with two black women kissing each other.

Arthur begins to open his pants and to grab his member as a commercial pops up about a way to make money by watching porn videos. The women in the ads were the same video in the porn he was watching.

ARTHUR

Hmm.. I mean I was looking for a job.