

KITCHEN TABLE
A Monologue
By Rachael Carnes

CHARACTER
JULIA, woman, wears a bathrobe over sweats. She hasn't showered.

SETTING
Her kitchen/home office/Elementary School/War Room.

TIME
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JULIA on the phone, and in a High School Zoom classroom, and monitoring her two children's Zoom school classrooms.

JULIA

It's so good to talk — How are you?

I'm making pancakes. For lunch, yeah. It's all they'll eat. Can't remember how to use a knife.

But these are gluten free — Almond flour or whatever, so they're "healthy"? What?

Just a sec.

That's enough syrup! Why did you do that? This is eight dollars a bottle! No, mommy's not mad.

Is it okay to start drinking yet? What time is it? Two? That's late for lunch. What is "lunch"?

Wait a minute. (*Yelling to next room.*) It's by the thing!

I'm back. Sure, you can watch "Paw Patrol" — Log out of third grade and start "Paw Patrol".

Just a minute. (*Yelling harder.*) I told you yesterday where it was! It's behind the big thing!

Hey! (*She pounds on the window.*) Get away from my spinach starts, you damn squirrels!

Sorry! Where were we? I'm growing a garden. It's very relaxing. YES. Mommy said damn!

Your show's not working? It does that spooling thing — That spinning beachball thing for a bit.

So, how's it going? Uh-huh. Wow. Gosh — Just a minute.

IT IS BEHIND THE BIG THING UNDER THE LITTLE THING. GET LOW! SQUAT!

I can't make it not spool. What time is it?

I'm "teaching". You okay?

WHAT? I CAN'T HEAR YOU! COME IN HERE IF YOU WANT TO TALK TO ME.

AP Chem. They're all cheating on a test right now —

I can see them in their "classroom" all cheating and what am I supposed to — Oh.My.GOD.

It's buffering! There's a lot of buffering in life and it's good you learn that early!

I'm opening the chat. Fingers all sticky. (*Typing*) NO MORE CHEATING. I SEE YOU.

It's all pass/no pass, anyway. I'm just glad they show up at all?

WHAT IS WRONG WITH YOU? WHY CAN'T YOU FIND YOUR OWN —

Mommy's sorry. Mommy was y-e-l-l-i-n-g.

Mommy is having a hard time emotionally regulating.

Mommy wants to laugh one minute and cry the next, HAHA!

See, the thing is, you expect Mommy to always be like Chase the German Shepherd Police Dog.

Or like Marshall, the Dalmatian Fire Dog. Those dogs can keep it together. But Mommy —

Sometimes, Mommy's feeling more like the Mayor's pet chicken, y'know?

Somedays, Mommy *really* relates to that stoner dog, Zuma.

But what I want to be — What I would give anything to be — For even an afternoon, is Sweetie.

That's right. I want to be the villain! I want to be in cahoots with the Princess of Barkingburg.

I want to snarl at everyone and stomp and flip a table!

(Typing) If you're going to cheat, do it in a private chat! This is chemistry!

SQUIRRELS! THAT'S MINE!

Huh? You couldn't find chives at the store? *Really?* I would love to cook overly complicated —

IF YOU ASK ME FOR ONE MORE THING I WILL CUT YOU!

Hm? Oh — My mute's been off this whole time. Cheers, kids! *(Stands on a table, sings.)*

Whenever there's a problem, 'round Adventure Bay,

Mommy and her team of pups will come and save the day!

Marshall, Rubble, Chase, Rocky, *Zuma*, Skye, Yay! They are on the way!

She climbs down from the table and leaves the meeting.