

Animal Crossing

written by

Josette McBride

Address  
Phone  
E-mail

INT. LIVING ROOM- DAY

DIANE- woman in her twenties, dressed business casual. Nice shirt, blazer. She faces camera, and sighs. It becomes clear that she's on zoom.

DIANE

So, Our quarterly reviews are in,  
and I can say, everyone is doing  
great.

The door creaks behind her.

DIANE (CONT'D)

I have to thank the sales team for  
that one. Seriously, I don't know  
how you do it.

Door creaks a little louder, JAKE comes stumbling in and falls over. JAKE is a grown man in Spiderman boxer shorts and a jersey. He is holding a Nintendo switch, and falls to the ground.

DIANE,

(Louder, ignoring Jake)

You guys can see that the decision  
to move online last year paid off.

Jake starts groaning and flopping over, similar to a fish out of water. He is right behind Diane now.

DIANE

(Increasing in volume)

Our profit margin-

Jake groans loudly and starts fake crying. Diane keeps talking, but Jake is growing louder and louder.

DIANE,

I'm sorry. My husband seems to be  
having problems.

Diane turns over to Jake.

DIANE

What? Babe, I'm on zoom.

Jake chucks a switch at her, Diane steps out of the way then calmly picks it up and moves it onto her desk.

DIANE (CONT'D)

What did we say about throwing  
things?

Jake mumbles something under his breath and turns over to his side, facing away from her.

DIANE (CONT'D)  
What did we say?

Jake stomps his foot.

JAKE  
It's not working!

DIANE  
Listening ears! Jake, what is our rule on throwing things?

Jake (makes I don't know noise)

DIANE (CONT'D)  
We said, that if you throw things you don't get them back until the end of the day. Remember?

JAKE  
But it's not working!

Jake makes a whining noise and shaking his body, fake crying.

DIANE  
What's not working?

JAKE  
(Makes incoherent babbling)  
But I don't- it's not woooooorking!

DIANE  
I know sweetie. I'm going to need you to use your words. What's not working?

JAKE  
Animal crossing! It's not working!  
I tried to get it and it kept logging me out- and it's not working!

Jake starts rambling and tearing up.

DIANE  
Can we wait for another 5 minutes and then I can fix it for you?

JAKE  
No! I want you to fix it now!

Jake gets up attempts to pick up phone charging and throw it, but instead hits himself. A beat. Jake stares at Diana, tears welling up. Diane stares back, no visible emotion. Jake bursts into tears, throwing himself on the floor and hitting it repeatedly, dramatically.

JAKE (CONT'D)

I'm hurt!

DIANE,

I know. This is why we don't throw things, you can hurt others and yourself.

JAKE

I'm hurt! Do you like me being hurt? I bet you do!

Jake tries to kick Diane while on the floor, but is out of reach.

JAKE (CONT'D)

Come here.

DIANE

Are you going to kick me?

A Beat.

JAKE

No.

Diane stays put. Jake looks at Diane, teary eyed and starts sobbing violently. Kicking the floor and flopping over, making babbling noises and shaking. Diane crouches down, to reach Jake's level.

DIANE

Babe, I know you're upset, but throwing a tantrum isn't going to make it better. I'm going to need you to stop crying before I do anything.

JAKE

I'm not crying!

Note: Jake is clearly crying. Diane just looks at him.

JAKE (CONT'D)

I'm not crying! I'm crying because I'm happy! See! I'm happy!

Jake manages a fake smile and laughs unconvincingly.

JAKE (CONT'D)  
I'm happy! Now fix it!

DIANE  
Is that how we ask?

Jake flops over and wiggles angrily. Diane waits patiently.  
Jake mumbles something.

DIANE (CONT'D)  
What did you say?

Jake mumbles something louder.

DIANE (CONT'D)  
Jake, we're going to have to use  
our words.

JAKE  
(Yelling)  
I said please! Jeez!

DIANE  
Don't take that tone with me. I'm  
trying to help you.

JAKE  
Well you're not doing a very good  
job!

Diane stands up and sighs.

DIANE  
Go to the guest room and don't come  
out until you're sorry.

JAKE  
I'm sorry! I'm sorry now! I don't  
have to go!

DIANE  
Yes you do. Just because you're not  
working doesn't mean I'm not.

JAKE  
But I'm sorry! What do you want me  
to do to prove it? I don't want to  
leave!

DIANE  
Three...

JAKE

I said I'm sorry! Fix and I'll  
leave!

DIANE

Two...

JAKE

I'm going! I'm sorry! I'm going! No  
need to count. I'm going!

Jake storms off and slams the door behind him. Diane turns  
back to the computer and sits back down.

DIANE

Sorry about that. Ever sense  
quarantine stated he's been acting  
like a brat.

CAMERA CUTS TO THE ZOOM CALL, THERE ARE FOUR OF THEM  
INCLUDING DIANE. ONE WOMAN IS BOUNCING HER HUSBAND WHO IS IN  
AN ONEZIE AND SILENTLY SOBBING, ON HER KNEE. ONE IS MUTED  
WITH A NAKED MAN RUNNING AROUND BEHIND HER, WITH HIS FACE  
PAINTED HALF RED AND WHITE WITH A NUMBER ON IT, AND ONE IS  
ALONE WITH HER CAT.

WOMAN WITH HUSBAND ON LAP

Oh, it's fine. Ever since the  
lockdown, Brian's been acting up as  
well.

WOMAN WITH NAKED MAN BEHIND HER

Tell me about it. Steve's been off  
the walls.

The door behind the third woman opens, and a woman with a  
wedding ring comes him, hands her a mug of tea and kisses her  
on the cheek.

THIRD WOMAN

That's weird. My wife and I are  
doing fine, all the extra down time  
has been great for our  
relationship.

JAKE RUNS IN, GRABS THE COMPUTER (THE CAMERA) AND THROWS IT  
ON THE FLOOR. IT CRASHES TO THE GROUND AND THE SCENE ENDS.

NOTE: THIS IS ALL FILMED AS IF THE  
WOMEN ARE LOOKING AT IT THROUGH ZOOM,  
SO ONLY ONE CAMERA.

