

At the Diner with Dad

Walter Thinnes





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AT THE DINER WITH DAD

By Walter Thinnnes

CAST

FATHER: Mid 70's, quiet, attentive.

DAUGHTER: Mid 50's, harried, distracted.

WAITRESS: Any age, busy, friendly.

Place

A table, two chairs. As much diner motif as budget and time allows.

Time

Last week.

At Rise: FATHER and DAUGHTER sit at the table. FATHER wears an open shirt and sports jacket, comfortable. DAUGHTER is in a business outfit, sharp edges.

DAUGHTER: Now don't you worry. We'll get you there on time. Just need to get a bite to eat. You did say you hadn't eaten, right?

FATHER: Yes, I--

DAUGHTER: As soon as we can get a waitress. Sorry to rush you out of the house, but I have a lot to do today. I'll work around your appointment. You don't mind, do you Dad?

FATHER: No, I--

DAUGHTER: After I drop you off, I'll run a couple of errands and then--oh, Miss, can we place our order? (*WAITRESS enters and crosses to table*)

WAITRESS: Yes. Can I start you off with some coffee or juice?

DAUGHTER: We're in a bit of a hurry, we need to order right away. I'll have two eggs over easy, very runny, bacon, very crisp, no potatoes, whole wheat toast, two butters, four jellies please. Also a small orange juice and a coffee.

WAITRESS: And for you, sir?

FATHER: That sounds very good, maybe I can have-

DAUGHTER: No eggs, no bacon, Dad. You know that's not good for you.

FATHER: Oh, then maybe some pancakes and sausage.

DAUGHTER: No, Dad, no sausage. How about a nice half grapefruit?

WAITRESS: Okay, start with a grapefruit.

FATHER: I can't have grapefruit. Cholesterol medication.

DAUGHTER: All right then, how about some oatmeal? That actor on television is always talking about how oatmeal is good for your cholesterol. How about that?

FATHER: That sounds nice, and a coffee, please.

DAUGHTER: No, no coffee for you, Dad. You should have a nice glass of orange juice and how about a bran muffin?

WAITRESS: All right then, an orange juice and a bran muffin.

FATHER: I think I can do without the bran muffin, thanks.

DAUGHTER *(to WAITRESS)* Sorry about that, he can be a little picky. We're in a bit of a hurry this morning so please make sure these are quick.

WAITRESS: I'll put it in right away. *(WAITRESS exits)*

DAUGHTER: That's the problem with the world today. I told her I needed it quickly. She said she would put it in right away, not that she would bring it to us quickly, which is after all what I asked for. Maddening. Sometimes I think I'm the only one talking results, everyone else is making excuses.

FATHER: She seemed quite nice.

DAUGHTER: Quite nice is why she is nothing more than a waitress. *(DAUGHTER's cell phone rings)* Oh, what now? Just a minute, Dad. What does she want? *(DAUGHTER answers phone)* Yes, I have him here. No, if anything I was early, right Dad?

FATHER: Yes, I--

DAUGHTER: We just stopped by a diner to get a little breakfast. It's a nice treat, isn't it, Dad?

FATHER: Yes, I--

DAUGHTER: Of course, I'll get him to his appointment. I promised I would take care of this and I will, stop picking at me. (*WAITRESS enters with coffee cup and glasses*)

FATHER: That's very nice, thank you.

WAITRESS: You're welcome.

DAUGHTER: Dad, do you have the address of your appointment? (*WAITRESS exits. FATHER places paper on table*) Now let's see here, Dad. (*into phone*) Okay, yes this is no problem, I can drop him off there. (*pause*) Yes, drop him off. Dad, you don't need for me to wait for you there, do you?

FATHER: No need to--

DAUGHTER: There, you see, he'll be just fine. I can always swing back and pick him up. Dad, any idea how long this will take?

FATHER: Oh, I don't know--

DAUGHTER: Take a guess, dad. This is important.

FATHER: Oh, maybe about an hour--

DAUGHTER: Just an hour?

FATHER: Would an hour and a half be better?

DAUGHTER: Well if that's all...

END OF FREEVIEW

You'll want to read and perform this show!