

Erica

Erica (35 years)

You had several happy years of marriage with Patrick. You were both overjoyed at the birth of your son **Mathias**. But it soon showed that there was something odd about his behaviour. He did not make eye contact, he did not start talking for a long time, he kept stacking things behind him, and he could not deal with any kind of changes. You were told that he has autistic personality. You coped with this quite well: you stayed at home with Mathias and started educating him yourself. And Mathias has been making a lot of progress lately: he can focus for much longer periods of time and he is much more independent.

However, your husband **Patrick** is not taking Mathias's situation that well. He was always a perfectionist and expected that his son would follow in his footsteps. He started spending a lot of time at work and you were left alone to take care of the child. Not that you don't like taking care of him, but you are sad that Patrick is not

there for you when you need him. You feeling a void growing in your marriage.

The only person who could cheer you up after your baby was diagnosed was your friend Claudia. After all, she had a similar fate: her baby daughter was born with an undiagnosable mental defect. You met in the maternity hospital, back when you still couldn't know how your children would turn out. When you both found out, you promised to each other that you would help and encourage one another. But in time, Claudia found that her daughter hindered her life too much and so when she was 7, she placed her in the charge of the state and started travelling around the world. You can't understand that and you keep reproaching her for it.

1. scene: Dinner

In the kitchen

*You're having dinner with your family and you're talking to your husband. Lately you're just not getting along that well. You are quite sad about it, but you try not to let it show. You're telling him about how Mathias has been making you happy lately. You suggest that you could **have a family weekend this week** and go somewhere together. The three of you have not been anywhere for a while.*

2. scene: Meeting

In the bedroom

3. scene: At Claudia's

In the kitchen

*You have a free afternoon after a long time. Patrick is looking after Mathias. You stop by your friend Claudia's place; you haven't seen her for a long time. You want to **talk to her about Patrick, brag a little bit about Mathias's progress and ask her about her daughter.***

4. scene: A new friend

In the bedroom

*You're lying in bed and you can't sleep. Patrick is gone again. You decide you could try the new operating system. **You enter the installation code into the computer.***

5. scene: At night

In the bedroom

6. scene: Confession

In the bedroom

You are having breakfast with your husband.

You decided to tell him about Robert.

7. scene: Sadness

In the bedroom

*You are lying in bed, feeling down. Patrick moved away today. You're feeling really lonely and you long for hearing Robert again. It is so strange to be talking to your OS and he understands you so well. **You would like to get to really know him too. It's a pity that you cannot see him or touch him...***

8. scene: At the door

In the bedroom

*You ring at Patrick's door. You brought Mathias to him for the night. You wrote the pre-arranged programme for him on a piece of paper (he can watch TV until 9, then he has a bath, brushes his teeth and Patrick will read a bit out of his favourite story from his book). **He has to keep to it.** Mathias is expecting it and he can't cope with change.*

9. scene: Babysitter

In the bedroom

10. scene: Limitations

In the bedroom

*Tonight you are home alone; Mathias is staying at Patrick's. **You approach Robert; you want to talk to him.***

11. scene: Declaration

In the bedroom

12. scene: Nostalgia

In the bedroom

13. scene: Clarification

In the bedroom

*You meet up over tea - you and Patrick. You need to talk together about all of this and decide how the two of you should go on. When you have spoken together for a while, **you will invite Laura and Robert to join the talk.***