

She Said...

Gerald Saul, 2008

"Gerald", she said, "Gerald, would you like a glass of water?" I heard what she was saying but I didn't really want to answer, considering the situation and the completely inappropriate timing. "Gerald, she said..." But the end was near and I could see it coming.

"Gerald", she said, "Gerald, what makes you wonder?" "Wonder about what?", I ask. "You know, stuff", she says, but I was watching tv and not paying attention. I might have thought to tell her about the dream I had where I could see atoms floating in the air in front of me, and I might have thought to ask about what makes her wonder, but instead I watched something that I've already forgotten.

"Gerald", she said, "Gerald, call me when you arrive. Call me so that I know that you are safe... that is, if it isn't too late". "Okay", I said, but when I arrived it seemed late-ish, but I knew that she would know that I had arrived okay. Lovers can sense this, just like in the movies.

"Gerald", she said, "Gerald, there's something in the mailbox that Susan is supposed to pick up. Can you make sure she knows where it is... Gerald?". "Yes", I say, "Yes, if she doesn't know where the mailbox is, I'll make sure she gets picked up." And I'm not sure I didn't mean it.

"Gerald", she said, "Gerald, they say that Madonna is running for congress so that she can find a new husband". "What are you talking about?", I said, "Who said that?". "They did", she said, "On the radio. I heard it in the car". "You know," I said, "most DJs barely finish high school. They are living in a perpetual twelve grade." "High school was the best time of my life", she said. "Yes", I thought, "unfortunately, that is true".

"Gerald", she said, "Gerald, come to bed so we can have some make-up sex. Some rough and tumble make-up sex". "Sure", I said, even though I didn't know we had made up. I wonder if I won?

"Gerald", she said, "Gerald, are you watching the Super Bowl tonight?". "No", I said, "that was on last week". "Are you watching the Stanley Cup?". "No", I said, "that's not on either. Why are you asking?". "I'm going out", she said, "I just wanted to know". "Maybe I'll come with you?", I said. "NO!", she exclaimed, "quit putting so much pressure on me." "Okay", I said, "I'll just ... watch the Super Bowl."

"Gerald", she said, "Gerald, go watch a movie for us to watch. Get a good one, not one of those ones that you like. "Okay", I said as I embarked to the store to rent something that she's already seen, to ensure a comfortable lack of surprise."

"Gerald", she said, "Gerald, did you buy eggs? Eggs so that I can bake you a birthday cake? I looked in the frig and I don't see them". "Yes", I said, "I bought them last night. They're probably in the car". "In the car?", she said, "in the freezing car? Why didn't you bring them in?". "I was tired", I said, "Am I supposed to do everything?". "I see your point, I'll be more supportive and understanding next time", I imagined her saying, even though she said nothing at all.

"Gerald", she said, "Gerald, what are you doing?" "I am thinking", I said, "thinking about computers, how they are getting slower every day, demonstrating their patience. This must be proof that they have artificial intelligence and are infinitely more patient that we are. They are purposely trying to drive us crazy and then they'll take over the world." "So you're just wasting time", she said. "Yes, I suppose so", I said, "if you say so".

"Gerald", she said, "Gerald, I don't want to talk about them anymore." "Why not?", I said, "because I'm going to win the argument?" "No", she said, "because they are evil, and we make ourselves evil by acknowledging their existence." "That's crazy", I said. "That's my last word", she said. "I'll add it to the list", I said, and sought in vain to find a topic not yet on it. "

"Gerald", she said, "Gerald, it's over. I'm breaking up with you. I don't ever want to hear from you again." ... "Gerald", she said, "Gerald, why haven't you called me? Called me to make up like you always do?" "Because you told me not to", I said, "and because I didn't want to." "So that's it then?", she said. "Yes", I said, "goodbye".

"Gerald", she said, "Gerald, hi, remember me? It's been a long time". "Yes", I said, "yes it has". "Are we okay?", she asked. "Sure", I said, "we're okay". "Good", she said, "that's a relief. I've been concerned about that." And nothing more could be said. We had said enough.