

Matthew & Carrie (NO RULES pg 10-12)

MATTHEW. Carrie... are you okay?

CARRIE. What?

MATTHEW. Are you okay?

CARRIE. Am I okay?

MATTHEW. Yes.

CARRIE. Yes, of course I'm okay. I'm fine.

MATTHEW. Honey, I know that face – what's wrong?

CARRIE. Shush.

MATTHEW. Sheena can't hear us.

CARRIE. Would you keep your voice down?

MATTHEW. She's two floors up; she can't hear us. (*Calling.*) Sheena?

CARRIE. Matthew.

MATTHEW (*calling louder*). Sheena? (*There is no response*). See? I grew up in this house – I know what you can get away with: about seventy decibels. What's wrong?

CARRIE. Nothing.

MATTHEW. Carrie, she can't hear us.

CARRIE. Yeah, because five minutes through the door I manage to repel her up the stairs.

MATTHEW. What are you talking about? She went to check on Emma.

CARRIE. It was just a joke. It's a natural reflex: if you're going to give me a set-up, then I'm going to deliver a punchline. Anyone who tells me that Father Christmas arrived with a full sack last night is going to get the same answer: 'That's because he only comes once a year!'

MATTHEW. Oh that. That was funny.

CARRIE. Then why didn't she laugh?

MATTHEW. She did.

CARRIE. That was a fake laugh.

MATTHEW. Honey, I've known Sheena since I was eleven, she wasn't pretending.

CARRIE. Really?

MATTHEW. Honestly.

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CARRIE. Okay. I mean she married your brother so she must have a sense of humour.

MATTHEW. Carrie?

CARRIE. No, no I mean because he's funny. Not because he's funny peculiar, he's funny funny. And, you know, opposites attract so – not that she's not funny, I didn't mean she's not funny, she's, like, super intelligent, and, and intense... ly clever, so maybe it was just too childish for her, maybe I should aim a little higher?

MATTHEW. Honey, don't over-analyse it. Maybe she's tired? Her daughter's really sick; she's got a lot on her mind. Don't take it personally. Just be yourself.

CARRIE. Yeah but sometimes 'myself' is a bit much, you know, for some people. Should I rein it in a bit? You can tell me, I won't mind. I know how much your family means to you. I should tone it down a bit, shouldn't I? You can say.

MATTHEW. Well, it's not rocket science, Carrie, just don't be vulgar.

CARRIE. Vulgar? You think I'm vulgar?

MATTHEW. No, I don't think you're vulgar.

CARRIE. Then who does? Did your mum call me vulgar?

MATTHEW. No, no, I just meant that the things we joke about together aren't necessarily the things to joke about in front of my family. Not everybody has the same sense of humour.

CARRIE. Yes, hello, I know that. I paid a lot of money to learn all about that. Do I walk into your office and tell you how to be a lawyer?

MATTHEW. No, but you'd ask me to tone it down if I went to stay with your family and dispensed legal advice five minutes after walking through the door.

Beat.

CARRIE. Wow. Say what you really feel, why don't you?

MATTHEW. Carrie

CARRIE. You sure know how to make a girl feel better about herself.

MATTHEW. Honey, you just said I should be honest.

CARRIE. No, no, don't let me stop you. But on the subject of honesty, might I remind you, that if you wanted a wallflower for a girlfriend, you shouldn't have picked me!