

“CANON IN D MAJOR”

Written by

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Scene One: Int. Office – Day

1. MUSIC: JOHANN PACHELBEL: “CANON IN D MAJOR”: UP,
FADE UNDER DIALOGUE, AND STOP.

2. BEVERLY: I like to listen to classical music between sessions with my clients. Tell me, Edwin, have you been to a psychologist before?

3. EDWIN: Not professionally. I mean I’ve known psychologists.
(PAUSE) Nancy. I lived with her some years back. She was. She used to play that same piece by Pachelbel, “Canon in D Major,” whenever we were having sex.

4. BEVERLY: Your doctor said you were having crying jags—the one who referred you. She said you think your wife, Jennifer, was having an affair, and that you were very angry about it.

5. EDWIN: Yes. I found a bunch of text messages on her cellphone from some guy called Mike. On Jennifer’s cellphone. Not on Nancy’s, I mean. Your music has me a bit on edge. That was a long time ago. Nancy, I mean.

1. BEVERLY: Let's focus on Jennifer, your wife. Were the text messages sexually explicit?

2. EDWIN: Not exactly. There were so many of them. Short comments, like "Baby," and the names of places, like Whistler, and I think dates, like months. Places she'd been to, then.

3. BEVERLY: That doesn't seem very sexual. How is it you were checking on her text messages?

4. EDWIN: We were all at the pool. I went in to the kitchen to get a drink. Her cell phone was plugged in getting charged. It was vibrating on the counter. So I picked it up . . . and curious, I looked at it. Then I found all the other messages from Mike. I've never looked through her phone before. So, then I wrote down Mike's phone numbers from her directory. Then I went outside and said in a loud voice, "There is a text message there from Mike." Jennifer's sister, Ann, and Ann's husband and kids were also there.

EDWIN / CONT'D OVER . . .

1. MUSIC: "CANON IN D MAJOR": FADES IN AND OUT.

2. EDWIN (CONT'D): Where was I? (PAUSE) It was Sunday afternoon. Our neighbour, the guy next door—we live in an apartment block—was there too. This is where it gets hairy. (PAUSE) That music always makes me think of Nancy. Nancy.

3. BEVERLY: Are you calling me Nancy? It's Beverley. (OFF MIKE) The music? (PAUSE) You told everyone at the pool that Mike left text messages for Jennifer.

4. EDWIN: Right. So right away, Jennifer ran off to the apartment. Stan, Ann's husband, and the girls were playing around in the pool. Ann gave me a funny look, then. Barry, the guy next door, was sun tanning, lying on a lounge chair. This was in June, four months ago.

5. BEVERLY: How did Jennifer explain the text messages? Did she deny she was having an affair?

1. EDWIN: Not exactly. She told me that evening that she and Mike had been engaged after High School, and that he wanted to get to know her again after they reconnected at their High School reunion last year. I didn't go back to Ontario with her for that. Ann, Jennifer's sister, wouldn't tell me anything about Mike. But Jennifer didn't know that, although Ann never seems to say anything about that. That was the first time I heard that Jennifer had been engaged then. Everyone else must have known about it then . . . like, everyone in her family.

2. BEVERLY: I'm hearing a lot of "thats" and "thens" in what you are saying. How does Jennifer's sister have anything to do with her having an affair? Can you focus?

3. SOUND: A BICYCLE BELL FADES IN AND STOPS.

4. EDWIN: That's Jennifer now. She said she would join us here.
I always hear her bell before she arrives home after work.
She rides her bike to and from work, and rings it outside in the back lane when she arrives home.

1. BEVERLY: A bell? I don't have your wife scheduled today. What else did you do after Jennifer told you about Mike?

2. EDWIN: Right. And this is the part that involves my neighbour, Barry. I used the internet to check on the numbers, and when I called the text message number, I got Mike's work voice mail at the Ontario Provincial Police. He's a detachment commander there. And a few months after I had told them all at the pool that an OPP detachment commander was texting Jennifer, Barry was arrested at the scene of a gangland slaying with a gun and cocaine in his possession.

3. BEVERLY: Let me get all this straight. I need to know what you are saying. You told all of them that Sunday at the pool that Mike was an OPP detachment commander? Including Barry? (PAUSE) And later Barry, your neighbour, was arrested as a gangster? At a murder scene?

4. MUSIC: "CANON IN D MAJOR": FADES IN AND OUT.

1. EDWIN: Right. There's that music again! Are you doing that or is it coming from next door someplace? Do you know Nancy?
(PAUSE) Because I checked on Mike's numbers as soon as I saw the text messages. Were they using our apartment to bug Barry? I mean the OPP. That's why the thing with Barry is hairy. And what's with that music?
2. SOUND: A DOOR OPENS AND CLOSES. FOOTSTEPS.
3. That's Jennifer now coming up the hall. I hear that every evening when she comes home. She can verify all this.
4. BEVERLY: I'm not hearing any footsteps. Are you hearing things, Edwin? I don't know who you mean by Nancy! And who do you think is bugging your neighbour? I thought this session was about you and the affair you think your wife is having. If this has something to do with gangsters and violence I have to contact the police.
5. SOUND: KNOCKING ON THE OFFICE DOOR.

BEVERLY / CONT'D OVER . . .

1. BEVERLY (CONT'D): (MOVING OFF) I have to get this.

2. SOUND: _____ DOOR OPENING. MUFFLED WHISPERING.

3. (MOVING ON) These documents need my urgent attention.
Go on. I'll just peruse this . . . just a sec . . . weird.

4. EDWIN: Are they from the police? I thought I saw a uniform. I was sure it was Jennifer. Is she in the waiting room? Is that from the OPP? Is Mike going to lose his job? He was using police equipment to facilitate an affair with my wife. Is Jennifer still mad at me because I called her boss at the hospital about the affair? Jennifer said that the text messages I saw weren't even from Mike, but from some other OPP guys who wanted to know who Mike was calling? Why is the OPP investigating gangsters here in B.C.? Did they know that we were living next door to a gangster?

EDWIN / CONT'D OVER . . .

1. EDWIN (CONT'D): Why didn't the Vancouver police or RCMP tell us about it? She said they wanted to know what their boss was doing. Barry always seemed like a good guy. I thought he was always going out late at night because he worked in a restaurant. Susan, the woman he lived with, was nice too, except I wondered about her and her friends because of all the tattoos. I thought they were just trying to look tough. For a while there it seemed like Jennifer wanted me to befriend them, because she says I'm not congenial enough.

That's what happened with Nancy. I was too congenial with other women. That's why we broke up. We never married, Nancy and I. And technically we didn't live together because we maintained separate apartments, although we were together, constantly. (PAUSE) I was married before, though. That was with Dorothy, during my twenties. But I didn't break up with Dorothy because of Nancy. That was because of Penny and Kerrie and Sheri.

This is starting to sound a bit crazy, but it was spread over quite a while.

EDWIN / CONT'D OVER . . .

1. EDWIN (CONT'D):

Dorothy and I were married for five years. After we separated, I was essentially single for seven years. I lived in a number of cities, because of my work. That's why I was always hooking up with women and breaking up with them. Sometimes, I almost get nauseous thinking about them all.

2. BEVERLY:

(TOP) Edwin, I'm going to have to stop you there! You are rambling. You are here to talk about your feelings about yourself and Jennifer. These papers I just received are from Jennifer's doctor. She faxed them to me. Jennifer told her that she told you what she did. That she was up in Whistler with Mike last August and this May when she was organizing volunteers for the Winter Olympics. She wants you to be okay. (PAUSE) Are you bringing in your neighbour and his problems with the police, and Nancy, just to avoid dealing with Mike and Jennifer?

3. EDWIN:

I don't know why I am talking about that now. It seems to me that the thing with my neighbour can't be a coincidence.

EDWIN / CONT'D OVER . . .

1. EDWIN (CONT'D): And now when I think of Nancy, and how I screwed up there, I get depressed. I don't want to go through all that again. But maybe I will have to like them. Although this is starting to seem more like what happened to my first wife, Dorothy, and me. And I don't want that.

2. BEVERLY: You just confirmed that you are depressed. That's a start. You also seem rather angry. Angry and depressed.

3. EDWIN: Because . . . isn't that normal?

4. MUSIC: FREDERIC CHOPIN: "PIANO CONERTO NO. 1 IN E MINOR, OP. 11" FADES IN UNDER DIALOGUE.

5. BEVERLY: Our time's up, Edwin. I have another client coming in now. You need some medication for your depression. I'm going to recommend to your doctor that you have a referral to a psychiatrist, confirming her own assessment of you.

THE END